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The stimuli previously available only in four separate devices are now integrated into one unit and delivered simultaneously through preset or user-created programs. The combination of light, sound, electrical and magnetic impulses is the most practical and powerful way to unlock human potential.
MUTANT GARB!

These remarkable torso garments are called *T-shirts* and are made from the woven fiber of a Terran plant called "cotton." Their superior construction ensures a useful wearing life well into the next millennium. The front of the garment features a symbolic representation of a female Homo Sapiens Sapiens, one of Earth's primates. Send us $10 and specify "L" or "XL" and agents of the US Federal Government will deliver one of these black-on-white mutant garbs to your abode.

boING-boING PO Box 12311 Boulder CO 80303
With a five-hundred dollar computer, you can create a cipher that a multi-megabuck CRAY X-MP can't crack in a year. Within a couple of years, it should be economically feasible to similarly encrypt voice communications; soon after that, full-color digitized video images. Technology will have made wiretapping obsolete! More generally, it will have totally demolished government control over information transfer.

The most promising of these encryption schemes seems to be the RSA algorithm, after Rivest, Shamir and Adelman, who jointly created it. It involves some reasonably heavy mathematics (prime numbers, modulo arithmetic, the “little Fermat theorem”) to formally establish, but the gist is that if one is provided with the product of two very large primes, where to the numerical parameters which will permit anyone to send me an encrypted message, while keeping secret a third parameter so that no one but myself can decrypt such a message. The previously difficult step (exchanging cypher keys in person) has been eliminated. Some people who would find it impossible or inexpedient or dangerous to physically meet may still reliably exchange encrypted messages—each party having selected and disseminated his own two public parameters, while simultaneously maintaining the secret of his own third parameter.

Another benefit of this system is the notion of a “digital signature,” to enable one to authenticate the source of a given message. By performing an extra encryption step involving my secret parameter—and requiring the receiver to
Thanks for the latest 2 issues of bOING-bOING. They came out really fast! Maybe too fast, since I was a little disappointed in #3 - too much computer and "futurist" talk for my taste, plus the comics were either reprints or just sorta lame. (What about your own comics?)

Peter Bagge
Kirkland WA
Specializing in “nerd culture,” which of the following is the name of one of Time’s Best Blogs of 2010?

A: Boing Boing
B: Snap Snap
C: Zap Zap
D: Bang Bang
SELF HELP BOOKS WE'D LIKE TO SEE
by Stephany Aulenback

I'm not sure I want advice at all. But if I do, I want advice that tells me everyone else is the problem. And if the experts must advise me to change, then let the change require self-indulgence rather than self-discipline. I want easy! I want superficial! I want fun! I want self-help books that make me feel superior:

Ten Stupid Things You Can Do and Not Mess Up Your Life
Controversial psychotherapist Dr. Laura Schlessinger reveals her very short list of pleasurable and silly behaviors it *might* be okay to engage in, including posing for naked photos, carrying around a mute lap-dog, and barking. But don't blame her if this backfires on you. Dr. Laura is quick to point out, "You've made your beds, people!" (Don't worry, it is okay to blame whomever you're sleeping with.)

Anthony Robbin's Awaken!
Anthony Robbins, the nation's leader in the science of getting rich, tells you exactly how to make millions and live the life of luxury. Why wait? Start thinking rich and you'll be there before you know it!
Thursday, June 15, 2000

Visit Port Watson, is about a freedom-lovers' island in the Pacific. I loved this when I first read it around ten years ago, and my friends and I prayed that it was true.

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Wednesday, June 14, 2000

W. Heath Robinson was a UK cartoonist who drew crazy inventions, sort of like Rube Goldberg. (Thanks hoppersw@cf.ac.uk)

Laff In The Dark has articles and pictures of old funhouses and "darkrides." I love the smell of darkrides.

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Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Great article about polish artist Stanislaw Szukalski by Jim Wiesner.
Friday, December 21, 2001

2002: The Carpetbaggers Go Home. I've written an editorial for O'Reilly about the coming golden age of Zen acceptance of online unreliability.

The first time many corporate silverbacks saw the Internet, they came to the conclusion that the way to commercialize the thing was to carve out managed pockets of sanity in the anarchy. Consumers have been bred to expect consistency, cultivated for it by generations of Madison Avenue Mafiosi, and changing the expectations of consumers back to unbranded chaos is not an option at this late date -- it'd be like trying to breed chihuahuas back into wolves. Instead, you change the environment to meet consumer expectation, sit back, and open the checks.

After all, it's just a little order imposed in the chaos, right? How hard can it be?

Link Discuss
posted by Cory Doctorow at 17:54 permanent link to this entry

The Ragtime Ephemeralist, a print publication "Devoted to the Preservation and Dissemination of Articles and Items Relating to Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century Popular Music" has Chris Ware's mind-bogglingly talented hand all over it. Link Discuss
Sunday, February 09, 2003

Gershenfeld pulls down the pants of ubicomp
Here's a transcript of Neil Gershenfeld's mindblowing talk about ubiquitous computing from last year's Doors of Perception conference. I know some of Neil's grad students at MIT and I've seen some of this stuff in action. It's great, futuristic smart-matter stuff, a peek at what a world of programmable stuff would look like.

...a lot of the things we make we need to connect to the net, and they are not really computer peripherals, they need to be citizens of the net. So this is a few years of evolution in the internet, each of these is a complete website, just done simpler and simpler as we really understood how to do that. So we thought that's great, I can make a complete website for a dollar and this little thing, we'll put it everywhere, we'll put it in light bulbs, door knobs, we'll fill the world with that. We thought that was a good idea. Until we thought a little bit more, and once again if those things work in any way like this one, it leads to a fairly distopian vision of the future: like if you wake up in the morning, and you are greeted by "Your house has crashed".

Now, a step after that is making conventional chips and pouring them out; painting them: we have realised we can paint the computer itself. We've developed a range of printing technologies; so this, for example, is an electronic ink you can print, it has the contrast mechanism of ink on paper, but you can change it after you put it down. This is a printed semi-conductor, that lets you print; this is a printed mechanical structure; this is a printed piece of paper that can move another piece of paper, your desk, and clean itself up; it was made out of this.

Link Discuss (via Blackbelt Jones)
posted by Cory Doctorow at 16:04 permanent link to this entry

Boris Artzybasheff illos
Two very nice monochrome retro-futuristic images by Boris Artzybasheff. Link 1 Link 2 Discuss (via Viridian List)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2004

Jim Flora book is here!
I got my copy of The Mischievous Art of Jim Flora, by Irwin Chusid (Fantagraphics 2004), a couple of days ago, and have been admiring it greatly.

The press release about the book describes his work better than I can:

In the 1940s and ’50s, James (Jim) Flora designed dozens of diabolic cover illustrations, many for Columbia and RCA Victor jazz artists. His designs pulsed with angular hepcats bearing funnel-tapered noses and shark-fin chins fingering cockeyed pianos and honked lollipop-hued horns. In the background, geometric doo-dads floated willy-nilly like a kindergarten toy room gone anti-gravitational. He wreaked havoc with the laws of physics, conjuring up flying musicians, levitating instruments, and wobbly dimensional perspectives.

Up until this book, my exposure to Flora's work has been limited to several smallish reproductions in a book about album cover art, a record cover I bought at a garage sale, and Irwin Chusid's web site about Jim Flora.

I already thought Flora was one of the greatest illustrators ever, but I wasn’t prepared to have my mind blown all over again. This 11” x 10” book has hundreds of large, clear, bright reproductions of Flora’s work, and Chusid has done an amazing job of compiling a bunch of great stuff about Flora, including interviews with other illustrators who worked with him.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2005

Signing off for 2005: Thank you, dear reader.

Feliz Año Nuevo. Much gratitude to you for visiting our humble blog. I hope you'll come back when the calendar strikes aught-six. Image: Maria Magdalena, shot inside a church in Antigua, Guatemala (2004 / Xen).
Sacred Game Boy

This youngster toured the world with his Game Boy in hand. Here he is in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, touching the Game Boy to the Stone of Unction, allegedly where Jesus's body was prepared for burial. Visitors often rub things on the stone to pick up some of the, er, magic.

Judging by the little fellow's devilish grin, I'd bet he's not a believer.

Related FM Sites:
Who's Dated Who »
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Video Symphony
Digital Media School
Accredited school trains you in video production, audio editing and motion graphics. Job placement services for program grads.

ArtSmart - The Hurricane Poster Place!
Over 100,000 posters and original art to choose from! Free shipping on 3+

Best 10 Web Hosting
Expert Independent Reviews: By Webmasters

More on publishing and "okay sellers"

Regarding last week's post on publishing's relationship to "okay sellers," Tor Editor Patrick Nielsen Hayden adds, "What Teresa was trying to get at, and she's absolutely right, is that while book publishing may be greatly driven by our need for bestsellers, in the same way that many American policies are "driven by" our national need for easy access to petroleum, we don't in fact spend every second of every day wandering around in a frenzy obsessing about how to sell more books."

posted by David Pescovitz at 07:33:27 PM 
permalink | blogs' comments
HOWTO Make a steampunk mouse

POSTED BY CORY DOCTOROW, APRIL 18, 2008 4:00 AM | PERMALINK

Here's a great in-depth build report from a steampunk mouse project in Custom PC:
Wired's robotic spider gallery
Lisa Katayama at 3:33 PM Monday

spider_robot_5a.jpeg

Wired.com has a fun gallery of robotic spiders and critters. This one, created by Stanford mechanical engineer Sangbae Kim, was based on a cockroach. It has an aluminum chassis, an electronic motor, and a power-transmission system that allows it to move up to about seven and a half feet per second.
Kids' toy hacking workshop at Toronto Maker Faire

Cory Doctorow at 7:53 pm Fri, Sep 20, 2013 • 0 • SHARE

Andy (from Toronto's excellent Makerkids) sez, "Toronto's Mini Maker Faire is back on after a 2 year gap! MakerKids is very excited to be a part of it, and we're running Toy Hacking all weekend and a Robot Battle Arena on Sunday. Bring your own battle robot, or customize one of ours on site! There are all kinds of other maker activities and projects on display at the Faire. come check it out!"

Read the rest

This Day in Blogging History: The WELL bought by its users; History of NYC Internet community; Living off the suburban land

Cory Doctorow at 7:43 pm Fri, Sep 20, 2013 • 0 • SHARE

One year ago today