



Information Communications Technology Newsletter

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Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility
Improving the quality of life of disabled persons through ICT.

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Software of the month

++ PDFTK – The PDF Toolkit

If PDF is electronic paper, then pdftk is an electronic staple-remover, hole-punch, binder, secret-decoder-ring, and X-Ray-glasses.

Pdftk is a command-line tool for doing everyday things with PDF documents. Keep one in the top drawer of your desktop and use it to:

- Merge PDF Documents
- Split PDF Pages into a New Document
- Decrypt Input as Necessary (Password Required)
- Encrypt Output as Desired
- Fill PDF Forms with FDF Data and/or Flatten Forms
- Apply a Background Watermark
- Report on PDF Metrics such as Metadata, Bookmarks, and Page Labels
- Update PDF Metadata

- Attach Files to PDF Pages or the PDF Document
- Unpack PDF Attachments
- Burst a PDF Document into Single Pages
- Uncompress and Re-Compress Page Streams
- Repair Corrupted PDF (Where Possible)

Pdftk allows you to manipulate PDF easily and freely.

Download PDFTK from official site at <http://www.accesspdf.com/article.php/20041130153545577>

Contributed by: Stanley M. Debono

pdftk
the pdf toolkit

Website of the month

++ A-for-Adventure

A-for-Adventure is a non-profit site dedicated to providing essential information about adventure games. The hope is to provide easy access to this information. The site aims to provide information for every commercial and freeware adventure game ever released.

More information about the educational use of adventure games is available on the FITA website at www.knpd.org/mittsfita/dokumenti/adventuregamesineducation.pdf

*Contributed by: Stanley M. Debono
Sources: Adventure games in education by Cavallari, Hedberg and Harper (1992, 2008)*

Articles

++ Accessible Passwords

This article reports on yet another longer article by Nigel Stanley's '[Are Tricerion revolutionising passwords?](#)'. It describes a technology that is an improvement on the standard user id and password security.

The concern one may have with any new technology is that it may create a new barrier to accessibility. Given that Tricerion SafeLogin is based around identifying pictures I was immediately worried, how could a person with a vision impairment use the system?

To understand the technical detail of the solution you must read Nigel's article but the basic user interaction is described here:

- The user navigates to the log on screen which asks for the user id.
- Based on the user id the system replies with a 'keypad' with a picture on each key. The set of pictures is different for each user and the order is different each time the user logs on.
- The user then identifies the pictures in the order of his password.

This is a very attractive solution to many people without any major disability, it is easy to use and the passwords are easy to remember. Moreover it would seem to be an improvement for some disability groups. People with dyslexia often find recalling a string of letters in the right order difficult. Using a short story to recall the right pictures is likely to be much easier. Young children, people with learning disabilities and people who use a different alphabet will all find pictures easier. It is also possible that people with Alzheimer's will find picture stories easier to recall than traditional passwords.

Initially it looks as if the solution precludes its use by people who have limited or no vision, if they cannot see the pictures clearly how can they identify the right keys? Tricerion has created solutions for these people.

The key to the solutions is that the system sends a keypad based on the user id. This does not have to be a set of pictures it could be anything else. It can therefore be customised to be accessible to the particular user. It may be a small modification such as increasing the size or contrast of the keys to accommodate users with limited vision. It could be a set of sounds that are played to the user, the user then picks out the sounds of their password, or should I say pass-sounds.

Tricerion have a prototype of pass-sounds technology working.

This still leaves a small group of users who are deaf-blind unsupported. It would appear that they could be supported by the system sending them a 'keypad' made up of a set of words that would be available on the Braille display. The user can then identify the correct words. This may not seem as secure as the picture keypad but as the number of deaf-blind users is small it is unlikely that the hackers will identify them or target them. It should be sufficiently strong to deter the casual user.

It certainly appears that SafeLogIn is potentially accessible to all and therefore it should be considered by anyone wishing to improve the security of their system.

Source: Bloor Research

++ iPhone remote termination

Apple apparently can disable App Store software remotely on your iPhone 3G. The iPhone calls home and poof the application is removed.

MacRumors.COM notes that Apple has come under fire for removing App Store software without notification and the ability to simply deauthorize apps already installed on an iPhone is worrisome. iPhone Atlas points out that Jonathan Zdziarski found Apple's



blacklist in a forensic analysis of the iPhone 3G.

Is this something to be outraged about? Yes, it's creepy that iPhone can phone home and deactivate your apps, but the risk-reward is clearly in Apple's favor.

What is the risk to Apple? They deactivate apps and annoy customers. Impact: Minimal. iPhone customers will stick.

- Reward: By having this deactivation "feature" Apple garners some enterprise credibility. Yes, it's Digital Rights Management (DRM) run amok, but if you are a company you like a little remote wiping action.
- Reward: Apple has some control over security. QuickTime and Safari are not the most secure applications ever written. Apple is a big target. And a malicious app disguised as a legit piece of software could Brick (make useless) a lot of iPhones. That's a dangerous scenario for Apple.
- Reward: Apple has a reputation to maintain. Apple is a walled garden. You get integrated hardware and software and a great interface. Apple controls everything. That's part of the deal. If blacklisted applications were to diminish the Apple experience with crappy software a lot of the company's efforts would be wasted.

Add it up and the reward category wins 3 to 1 over risk. Now Apple could revise its blacklist after complaints, but assuming the company doesn't abuse its privileges the remote nuking capability may not be such a bad idea.

Source: PC Weekly

++ Google Knol vs Wikipedia

Google Knol, Mountain View's answer to Wikipedia, launched last week and, while it can't yet match the volume of articles on Wikipedia, its focus on accountability and ownership makes it a better choice for students and teachers.

Consider the article on asthma by John Fahy. According to the knol (a knol, according to Google, by the way, is a unit of knowledge), John Fahy is a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Google notes that this has been verified and a quick search for Fahy turns up his biographical site at UCSF. Try getting that information at Wikipedia about one of the authors.

I've always been a fan of Wikipedia. The amount of information available on the site is extraordinary, free, and usually a fairly accurate starting point for research or quick answers to questions. However, it has no accountability other than a community that can edit and comment on an article. Knol, on the other hand, removes contributors anonymity and gives students the ability to verify sources of information.

Will it be able to grow as quickly as Wikipedia? Probably not; plenty of people with subject matter knowledge simply aren't willing to put their names and faces on the web. Is it an inherently more reliable tool that can improve students' research capabilities? I think it is. It will be interesting to see how this competition shakes out over the next school year.

Source: ZDNET News

Question Box

++ Firefox Keyboard Shortcuts

Navigation

Back	Alt+Left Arrow or Backspace
Forward	Alt+Right Arrow
Home	Alt+Home
Open File	Ctrl+O
Reload	F5 or Ctrl+R
Reload (clear cache)	Ctrl+F5
Stop	Esc

Current Page

Go to Bottom of Page	End
Go to Top of Page	Home
Move to Next Frame	F6
Move to Previous Frame	Shift+F6
Page Source	Ctrl+U
Print	Ctrl+P
Save Page As	Ctrl+S
Text Size: Decrease	Ctrl+-
Text Size: Increase	Ctrl++
Text Size: Restore	Ctrl+0

Editing

Copy	Ctrl+C
Cut	Ctrl+X
Delete	Delete
Paste	Ctrl+V
Redo	Ctrl+Y
Select All	Ctrl+A
Undo	Ctrl+Z
Search	Ctrl+F
Find Again	F3
Find Previous	Shift+F3
Web Search	Ctrl+K

Windows & Tabs

Close Tab	Ctrl+F4
Close Window	Alt+F4
Move Tab Left (when focused)	Ctrl+Left Arrow
Move Tab Right (when focused)	Ctrl+Right Arrow
New Tab	Ctrl+T
New Window	Ctrl+N
Next Tab	Ctrl+Tab
Open in New Tab	Alt+Enter
Previous Tab	Ctrl+Shift+Tab Ctrl+Page Up
Restore Recently Closed Tab	Ctrl+Shift+T
Select Tab (1 to 8)	Ctrl+(1 to 8)
Select Last Tab	Ctrl+9

Tools

Bookmark All Tabs	Ctrl+Shift+D
Bookmark This Page	Ctrl+D
Bookmarks	Ctrl+B
Caret Browsing	F7
Downloads	Ctrl+J
History	Ctrl+H
Clear Private Data	Ctrl+Shift+Del

Miscellaneous

Full Screen	F11
Select Location Bar	F6
Select or Manage Search Engines (when Search Bar is focused)	Alt+Up Arrow or Alt+Down Arrow or F4

Credits

FITA's services are made possible thanks to the support of the following funding partners.

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