

Freitag, 15. August 2014

Blackphone and F-Droid for Business Use

I've since long been uncomfortable with all the extra software that came shipped with my various Android devices, in particular the phones. Mostly, because I felt it's a lot of stuff I do not need and have no idea what it's actually doing - but it certainly was not designed to protect my privacy. Also, I realized that at least on a Sony device I once had, it was eating up a lot of space and battery. But, aside from flashing the phones with e.g. CyanogenMod and not installing the Play store and the various Google apps, well, there was not much one could do. This has somehow changed for me with the Blackphone, which advertises itself as a security- and privacy conscious phone, built on the Android platform. Blackphone does not come with Google applications (Gapps) like the Play store, Youtube, Maps etc, so for finding and installing applications, you are somewhat on your own. I also feel that installing the Google apps onto such a device would, in the light of the Snowden revelations (e.g. this one), pretty much invalidate any additional privacy or security one might have gained with the Blackphone, so even if Gapps were available, I would quite certainly not install them.

I am using the Blackphone as my business phone, i.e. I need the phone as a phone of course, and calendar and contact sync, sometimes navigation services to orient myself in the right directions when visiting e.g. a new client, and comfortable access to my tickets for Deutsche Bahn and the like. I also admit being fully guilty of using Twitter, and, well, sometimes Facebook on my business phone, and looking up stuff in the Wikipedia on a regular basis. Oh, and I want to use Firefox as my browser, period.

The challenge was - how do I do that without access to the Play Store and its applications, and I tried as best as I could, being a big fan of FLOSS, to get along just with the Free (as in speech) applications provided in the F-Droid app store.

To make it short: While certainly losing a bit of comfort here and there, I can work well using only FLOSS. My choices, from F-Droid, are such:

Navigation and Maps: Well; you really can't beat Google Maps in terms of simplicity and availability. But OpenStreetMap (OSMAnd~) does the trick as well, with the additional benefit of being available off-line, although I find the GUI pretty complicated and hard to use. That aside, there is GApps Browser, which allows you web-based access to most of the Google services, so when you're online, that provides an interface to Maps that is slightly less comfortable than what you're used to from the App, but still usable and very useful. It also gives you, after login of course, web-based access e.g. to Calendar.

Calendar: Well, that's really the biggest problem: I have a very busy schedule, and I need to visually digest a lot of information from several calendars (e.g. business and family matters) when looking at the weekly or monthly view. You only get so far with the standard Calendar application, AND Blackphone does not permit to sync with Google accounts (so no Google calendar access). I have access to my business schedule, which comes from an OpenExchange server, so that's fine for getting through the day, but for creating new appointments (which I often have to do on-the-fly), I still currently have to use another device, like the Laptop or a tablet that has non-free software on it. I think the only solution to this is to get away from the Google calendar e.g. to OwnCloud (that can be synced without Gapps), and live with the less-great visual presentation of the stock Calendar. That calendar migration remains to be done, but I am sure it's possible.

Contacts: No surprise here, stock Android applications work just fine, and so does sync with Exchange (OpenXchange in my case)

Wikipedia: The Wikipedia App is available, no problem

Firefox: Is FLOSS, so available.

Social Media: For Twitter, I am pretty happy with Twidere, which has a nice GUI and is very functional. For Facebook and the like, I never used the app anyway, to me that's always been spyware - so I access via browser and log out after, which of course works just fine with Firefox.

Deutsche Bahn tickets: Well, I realized the DB Tickets and DB Navigation apps are not strictly necessary - there also is a browser-based interface available that does pretty much the same, only a bit less comfortably, and tickets can be sent as MMS onto the phone. So, finally, no app needed, the browser does the trick

Banking: same story - works fine in the browser, no app necessary, but I simply did not realize that before. It should be noted that I only use online banking on the phone to look at my accounts, not for any transactions, so if there are limits there, I would not have realized them.

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

So - that's my experiences as far as Apps are concerned; of course, YMMV. I will blog a bit more about the Hardware of the Blackphone and my experiences in the daily business use, and about the purchase and shipment process and my overall impressions with the device. But not today :)

Geschrieben von David in Democrazy, English, Techstuff um 18:09

Freitag, 30. September 2011

Zitat des Tages

I refuse to believe corporations are people - until Texas executes one.
-- gelesen auf dem FB-Profil eines Bekannten

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Zitate um 19:59

Freitag, 19. November 2010

Israel "IZ" Kamakawiwoʻole - Somewhere over the Rainbow

Schön.

Geschrieben von David in English, Musik, Visual um 16:24

Samstag, 14. August 2010

Zitat der Woche

No one's screaming at men that they're about as likely to start the next Facebook as I am to wake up tomorrow a dead ringer for Penelope Cruz. And I think that matters, and I think it's worth saying again: We put a lot of pressure on men to build empires and to get rich doing it. And men process this deeply, and it can be as insidious as a young woman's obsession with being thin. And we don't talk about it. We don't actively discourage men from feeling this way.

Sasha Pasulka in ihrem Blog. (Danke an Herrn R. für den Link)

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, The Power of Equality um 11:59

Montag, 16. November 2009

Modest Mouse - Float on (live)

Geschrieben von David in English, Musik, Visual um 07:13

Mittwoch, 22. April 2009

The Crisis of Credit

The Crisis of Credit Visualized from Jonathan Jarvis on Vimeo.
..via Prozesse visualisieren.

Geschrieben von David in *Democrazy*, English, Netzwelt, Visual um 11:28

Montag, 20. April 2009

Schwerstabhängig

Hm. Ist schon wieder ein Weilchen her, daß ich das erste seiner Bücher gelesen habe, und zufällig war es auch noch ein Dave Robicheaux-Roman: James Lee Burke, der wahrscheinlich genialste Krimi-Autor der USA. Er hat inzwischen nicht weniger als siebzehn Romane mit seinem Protagonisten Dave Robicheaux veröffentlicht, den ersten 1987 und den letzten 2008.

Burke schreibt wirklich wunderschön, und weit mehr als nur Krimis. Er beschreibt ganz nebenbei in fast schon poetischen Worten die landschaftliche Schönheit von Louisiana (und manchmal auch Montana), und erzählt viel über die Geschichte dieses Stücks Erde, in der viel Gewalt und Rassismus steckt. Robicheaux ist, wie viele der Gestalten in den Büchern, ein Cajun, also ein Angehöriger der frankophonen Minderheit Louisianas. Viele Details, vom Essen bis zum französisch durchzogenen Vokabular (I had a demitasse of coffee and beignets at Caf  du Monde in New Orleans), zeichnen vor dem geistigen Auge ein wahrlich unglaubliches Bild von diesem Fleck Erde.

Robicheaux ist jemand, den man eigentlich gar nicht mgen kann: Ex-Alkoholiker mit einem Hang zu Gewalttatigkeiten, kampft er oftmals mehr mit sich selbst als mit den Mrdern und anderen Verbrechern, auf die er Jagd macht. Aber gerade dieses immerwahrende innere Ringen, das bei weitem nicht immer Happy-End-taugliche Ergebnisse erzeugt, ist es, was ihn so authentisch, so nachgerade faszinierend macht.

Ich jedenfalls bekenne hiermit ffentlich: Ich knnte jeden Tag ein Robicheaux-Buch lesen und bekame davon trotzdem niemals genug. Tatsachlich habe ich das letzte wirklich in weniger als 24 Stunden durchgelesen und mich dann verflucht, weil ich nicht an neuen Stoff kommen konnte ;) Der Mann hat es tatsachlich geschafft, mir richtig Lust auf eine USA-Reise zu machen(!)

Warum ich das so offen preisgebe? Nun, ich habe jetzt, wie ich leider feststellen mute, wirklich ausnahmslos alle seine Robicheaux-Bucher gelesen (und noch einige der anderen dazu). Das eine oder andere habe ich mir sogar aus England kommen lassen, weil hierzulande vergriffen. Wie dem auch sei - jetzt ist wohl leider kalter Entzug angesagt.

Eines der Bucher ist brigens vor kurzem in low-budget-Manier mit Tomy Lee Jones verfilmt worden: In the Electric Mist with Confederate Dead, als Film nur In the Electric Mist betitelt, lauft noch in ein paar Kinos. Wie so blich fehlen dem Film viele der das Buch eigentlich erst so wunderbar machenden inneren Monologe und Nebenhandlungen, so da ich ihn zwar gerne gesehen habe, aber eher, um ein bischen mehr von der Landschaft zu sehen. Wen die Geschichten interessieren, der sollte lieber lesen.

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Literatur um 13:57

Samstag, 13. Dezember 2008

Michael Moore - Senate to Middle Class: Drop Dead

Senate to Middle Class: Drop Dead
Friday, December 12th, 2008
Friends, They could have given the loan on the condition that the automakers start building only cars and mass transit that reduce our dependency on oil. They could have given the loan on the condition that the automakers build cars that reduce global warming. They could have given the loan on the condition that the automakers withdraw their many lawsuits against state governments in their attempts to not comply with our environmental laws. They could have given the loan on the condition that the management team which drove these once-great manufacturers into the ground resign and be replaced with a team who understands the transportation needs of the 21st century. Yes, they could have given the loan for any of these reasons because, in the end, to lose our manufacturing infrastructure and throw 3 million people out of work would be a catastrophe. But instead, the Senate said, we'll give you the loan only if the factory workers take a \$20 an hour cut in wages, pension and health care. That's right. After giving BILLIONS to Wall Street hucksters and criminal investment bankers -- billions with no strings attached and, as we have since learned, no oversight whatsoever -- the Senate decided it is more important to break a union, more important to throw middle class wage earners into the ranks of the working poor than to prevent the total collapse of industrial America. We have a little more than a month to go of this madness. As I sit here in Michigan today, tens of thousands of hard working, honest, decent Americans do not believe they can make it to January 20th. The malaise here is astounding. Why must they suffer because of the mistakes of every CEO from Roger Smith to Rick Wagoner? Make management and the boards of directors and the shareholders pay for this. Of course that is heresy to the 31 Republicans who decided to blame the poor, miserable autoworkers for this mess. And our wonderful media complied with their spin on the morning news shows: "UAW Refuses to Give Concessions Killing Auto Bailout Bill." In fact the UAW has given concession after concession, reduced their benefits, agreed to get rid of the Jobs Bank and agreed to make it harder for their retirees to live from week to week. Yes! That's what we need to do! It's the Jobs Bank and the old people who have led the nation to economic ruin! But even doing all that wasn't enough to satisfy the bastard Republicans. These Senate vampires wanted blood. Blue collar blood. You see, they weren't opposed to the bailout because they believed in the free market or capitalism. No, they were opposed to the bailout because they're opposed to workers making a decent wage. In their rage, they were driven to destroy the backbone of this country, not because the UAW hadn't given back enough, but because the UAW hadn't given up. It appears that the sitting President has been looking for a way to end his reign by one magnanimous act, just like a warlord on his feast day. He will put his finger in the dyke, and the fragile mess of an auto industry will eke through the next few months. That will give the Senate enough time to demand that the bankers and investment sharks who've already swiped nearly half of the \$700 billion gift a chance to make the offer of cutting their pay. Fat chance. Yours, Michael Moore
MMFlint@aol.com
<http://www.michaelmoore.com/>

Geschrieben von David in Democracy, English, The Power of Equality, Zitate um 12:33

Dienstag, 14. Oktober 2008

Gabriella Cilmi - Nothing's Sweet About Me

Edit: Nur zur Klarstellung - es ist die Musik, die mir gefällt. Das Video finde ich unter aller Würde.

Geschrieben von David in English, Musik, Unmut um 06:53

Freitag, 10. Oktober 2008

Direct Impact

..da war wohl jemand ziemlich sauer...

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Film, The Power of Equality um 07:24

Montag, 29. September 2008

Michael Moore - The Rich Are Staging a Coup This Morning

The problem is, nobody truly knows what this 'collapse' is all about. Even Treasury Secretary Paulson admitted he doesn't know the exact amount that is needed (he just picked the \$700 billion number out of his head!). The head of the congressional budget office said he can't figure it out nor can he explain it to anyone. And yet, they are screeching about how the end is near! Panic! Recession! The Great Depression! Y2K! Bird flu! Killer bees! We must pass the bailout bill today!! The sky is falling! The sky is falling! Falling for whom? NOTHING in this 'bailout' package will lower the price of the gas you have to put in your car to get to work. NOTHING in this bill will protect you from losing your home. NOTHING in this bill will give you health insurance. Health insurance? Mike, why are you bringing this up? What's this got to do with the Wall Street collapse? It has everything to do with it. This so-called 'collapse' was triggered by the massive defaulting and foreclosures going on with people's home mortgages. Do you know why so many Americans are losing their homes? To hear the Republicans describe it, it's because too many working class idiots were given mortgages that they really couldn't afford. Here's the truth: The number one cause of people declaring bankruptcy is because of medical bills (<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/02/business/02insure.html>). Let me state this simply: If we had had universal health coverage, this mortgage 'crisis' may never have happened.-- Michael Moore, in an email that arrived today

Geschrieben von David in Democracy, English, The Power of Equality um 11:42

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Samstag, 27. September 2008

The foreseeable future..

Geschrieben von David in English, Visual um 14:16

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Dienstag, 22. Juli 2008

The foreseeable future..

Geschrieben von David in English, Visual um 06:28

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Mittwoch, 18. Juni 2008

Enfin, ca y est

The Wine team is proud to announce that Wine 1.0 is now available. This is the first stable release of Wine after 15 years of development and beta testing. Many thanks to everybody who helped us along that long road! Herzlichen Glückwunsch!

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Techstuff um 07:33

Freitag, 6. Juni 2008

The foreseeable future..

Geschrieben von David in English, Visual um 15:06

Dienstag, 20. Mai 2008

The foreseeable future..

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Visual um 15:39

Freitag, 9. Mai 2008

Next-Generation Outsourcing

Geschrieben von David in English, Visual um 21:05

Samstag, 19. April 2008

Michael Connelly - Trunk Music

With hindsight, I guess I should at least have tried to read the Bosch novels in a chronological order. Many of the not-so-important characters of any of the novels reappear later or earlier in other books. Well - too late. At least I now know how one crucial part more about Harry Bosch and Eleanor Wish's ill-fated relation. Aside from that, as expected a compelling story I could not help but read pretty much cover-to-cover.

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur um 07:07

Freitag, 18. April 2008

Michael Connelly - Lost Light

A plot as well-desigend as any of the Bosch cases, but this one even more thrilling with Bosch acting on his own, having retired from the LAPD.

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur um 08:04

Freitag, 4. April 2008

Michael Connelly - City of Bones

Another of the all famous Harry Bosch crime novels, and as well-written as expected. My biggest problem with Connelly is that once I start I have big trouble putting his books down, so I usually read from cover to cover. Sadly, with City of Bones being rather small (~400 pages), that meant only one evening of pleasure ;)

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur um 17:53

Montag, 31. März 2008

The foreseeable future..

Geschrieben von David in English, Visual um 19:55

Donnerstag, 27. März 2008

Wierd AI Yankovich - Ebay

Geschrieben von David in English, Musik, Visual um 07:10

Dienstag, 25. März 2008

Barack Obama - A More Perfect Union

Geschrieben von David in English, The Power of Equality, Visual um 17:04

Donnerstag, 20. März 2008

Philip Gourevitch - we wish to inform you that tommorrow we will be killed with our families. Stories from Rwanda.

Gourevitch should be awarded a Nobel prize for non-fiction. Definetly one of the most striking books I have ever read.

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur um 06:35

Mittwoch, 19. März 2008

Nick Hornby - Slam

A classic Hornby - beautiful, funny, sad, well-written.

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur um 07:51

Donnerstag, 13. März 2008

Jon Grisham - The Broker

Ganz nett, durchaus spannend, kann man lesen.

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Literatur um 08:11

Montag, 10. März 2008

Michael Connelly - The Concrete Blonde

Absolut genial, ich konnte’s kaum mehr weglegen. Harry Bosch at his best!

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Literatur um 09:13

Mittwoch, 13. Februar 2008

Sue Townsend - The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole

Classic. Just like all the other Adrian Mole books, always worth recommending.

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur um 07:01

Montag, 11. Februar 2008

Dan Fesperman - The Prisoner of Guantanamo

Interesting read, entertaining and suspenseful, but not half as **anti robust methods**; as implied on its reverse side.

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur um 07:06

Montag, 21. Januar 2008

4th Euro-Africa ICT Group Meeting

The START project, also known as the EuroAfrica-ICT initiative, is supported by the European Commission (DG Information Society and Media), and aims at connecting sub-Saharan Africa and the European Union for ICT partnerships under the FP7 EC research funding programme. The project is implemented by a consortium led by Sigma Consultants

through its Orionis division and two key African Institutes

specialising in the ICT field, the Meraka Institute of the CSIR (South

Africa) and the Panos Institute West Africa (Senegal). The 4th group meeting of the EuroAfrica-ICT initiative is going to take place in Brussels, Belgium, on January 31. I'm looking forward to meeting a lot of interesting people there, among them Santhi Kumaran (Head, Dept. of Computer Engineering & Information Technology, Kigali Institute of Science & Technology, Rwanda) and Serge Ferré (Vice-President, Nokia Europe). Registration seems to be still open, just in case you're interested ;)

Geschrieben von David in English, ICT4D um 07:26

Dienstag, 8. Januar 2008

applied mathematics

Why do analysts earn so much money?

From physics one should know: (1) Power = Work / Time
Common wisdom has it: (2) Time is Money
and: (3) Knowledge is Power.

Inserting (2) and (3) into (1) and resolving with respect to Money gives:

Money = Work / Knowledge

If the Knowledge goes to zero, the Money will go to infinity, regardless of the Work! -- gefunden auf der Website der Süddeutschen Zeitung (Witz 82)

Geschrieben von David in English um 22:23

Freitag, 21. Dezember 2007

Greatest Conversation Ever[tm]

Geschrieben von David in English, Visual um 07:13

Donnerstag, 20. Dezember 2007

Moby - Run On

Geschrieben von David in English, Musik, Visual um 19:21

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Mittwoch, 19. Dezember 2007

Everything comes down to poo

...mit dem geilsten Zitat des Tages: All across the nation we trust in defecation

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Film, Musik, Visual um 20:01

Sonntag, 9. Dezember 2007

Gnarf

Seit heute: Neuer Fahrplan der DB. Toll: Der TGV Est Europeen verkehrt jetzt öfter und auch bis München. Gestern stand deswegen auch ein TGV im Hauptbahnhof, mit Trauben an Neugierigen drumherum, die das Teil besichtigen wollten. Nicht toll: Die Fahrplanauskunft von bahn.de weiß davon nichts und hat nur Verbindungen mit dem üblichen Umsteigen in Stuttgart und einem ICE bis dahin im Angebot. Auch doof: Die Ticketpreise steigen, die Bahncard wird sogar noch schneller teurer als die Tickets, und auch die Reservierung ist zukünftig selbst online nicht mehr unter 2 EUR zu haben.

Geschrieben von David in English um 12:55

Dienstag, 30. Oktober 2007

The Day the Routers Died

..mit Dank an Herrn P. ;)

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Netzwelt, Techstuff, Visual um 20:24

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Freitag, 31. August 2007

Quote of the week

I think it's time you tell me where we stand
You've been taking my love
We've been breaking the law
You better start making my love
Because I'm in need of a miracle -- The New Radicals: In need of a miracle

Geschrieben von David in English, Musik, Zitate um 17:23

Freitag, 3. August 2007

Aus gegebenem Anlaß II

..die Frage hab ich mir in letzter Zeit auch öfter gestellt..

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Musik, Visual um 00:25

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Freitag, 22. Juni 2007

Number of the day

512(Internet connectivity bandwidth for Rwanda, measured in kilobit per second, as of 2004. The country had a population of ~9 million people and around 2900 subscribers at the time.)

Geschrieben von David in English, ICT4D, The Power of Equality um 06:28

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Mittwoch, 20. Juni 2007

Webchat on Africa

Following the G8 summit in Germany, Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, will be available to answer questions on Africa in a live webchat on Thursday 21 June at 10:30am.

Geschrieben von David in English, ICT4D, The Power of Equality um 22:03

Montag, 18. Juni 2007

e-Government Webcast on June 19

Live webcast on National e-Government Strategies: Designing for Success will take place on Tuesday, June 19 from 9:00 - 11:30 am EST. This special event is presented jointly by the World Bank's e-development thematic group and the Development Gateway Foundation, in partnership with USAID and USTTI. A panel of experts and practitioners from India, Singapore, U.S., World Bank and the USAID will convene to address the process of designing successful national e-Government strategies. For more information, access this page, or go directly to the webcast at 9 a.m. EST (== UTC-5).

Geschrieben von David in English, ICT4D, The Power of Equality, Visual um 19:46

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Montag, 4. Juni 2007

Quote of the day

In an atmosphere of privatization, they privatized the atmosphere. -- aus dem Freitag von letzter Woche

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Zitate um 21:00

Samstag, 19. Mai 2007

HOWTO transcode videos for the Nokia E61 using Linux

For people bored during long journeys by train or elsewhere, it's sometimes nice to have something to relax with you, such as, say, some brain-dead TV series on your mobile phone. It is possible to transcode ordinary videos so they can be watched on an E61, using the following ffmpeg command:`ffmpeg -i C_S_I__Miami.mpg.mp4 -f 3gp -s 320x240 -vcodec mpeg4 -acodec aac C_S_I__Miami.3gp`You may also specify a few more parameters, such as audio sampling rate (-ar 32000), audio bit depth (-ab 16) or audio channels (-ac 1) to fine-tune the coding process, in order to gain quality or save memory. The resulting file can be transferred onto the device via bluetooth (for the patient) or via a card reader (faster but more work). Personally, I find the screen of the device too small to really enjoy watching anything, but as there are apparently quite some people who watch movies on their (not greater) ipod's display, I leave that decision up to you.

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 08:13

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Samstag, 12. Mai 2007

Quote of the day

I analogize for the inconvenience. -- somebody posting on wine-devel

Geschrieben von David in English, Zitate um 08:02

Sonntag, 18. März 2007

The perfect match

Read any woman's magazine and you'll see the same complaint over and over again: men - those little boys ten or twenty or thirty years on - are hopeless in bed. They are not interested in foreplay; they have no desire to stimulate the erogenous zones of the opposite sex; they are selfish, greedy, clumsy, unsophisticated. These complaints, you can't help feeling, are kind of ironic. Back then all we wanted was foreplay, and girls weren't interested. They didn't want to be touched, caressed, stimulated, aroused; in fact, they used to thump us if we tried. It's not really very surprising, then, that we're not much good at all that. We spent two or three long and extremely formative years being told very forcibly not even to think about it. Between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four, foreplay changes from being something that boys want to do and girls don't, to something that women want and men can't be bothered with. [...] The perfect match, if you ask me, is between the Cosmo woman and the fourteen-year-old boy.-- Nick Hornby, in High Fidelity

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur, Zitate um 02:02

Freitag, 16. März 2007

Quote of the day

Paleoclimatic information supports the interpretation that the warmth of the last half century is unusual in at least the previous 1300 years. The last time the polar regions were significantly warmer than present for an extended period of time (about 125,000 years ago), reductions in polar ice volume led to 4 to 6 metres of sea level rise.-- IPCC WGI Fourth Assessment Report, Summary for Policymakers, p. 10

Geschrieben von David in English, Science um 07:02

Freitag, 19. Januar 2007

Boolean expression of the week

!(XX)

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Unmut um 14:55

Freitag, 29. Dezember 2006

OGV - Ordi de Grande Vitesse

Wine build complete.real 11m33.341suser 19m49.142ssys 1m11.824s

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 20:01

Donnerstag, 28. Dezember 2006

Inside the Chaos

Arrived in Berlin yesterday, and about to join the yearly meeting of geeks, nerds, hackers, and other life forms: the 23C3 is up and running, and as often before, I will participate. This time for the first time with my own Laptop :-| hope I manage to squeeze a little more out of its batteries than I was before when traveling. 2.5h is an unacceptable joke for a Centrino machine.

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 11:35

Montag, 11. Dezember 2006

Laptop needed

It's getting clearer every day: I desperately need a new laptop. My old P4-2GHz simply is not suitable for most of the tasks I need to do when working on the road - too noisy, HDD too small, no USB 2.0 (!), no WLAN, no Bluetooth etc. pp. Now, I'm searching for a new device, and I'm totally stuck. I decided to compile a list of definitive requirements, so if anybody thinks him/herself able to provide me with some idea where to find a laptop to match those, I'd appreciate it. Here we go: Update: After some helpful information (see comments - thanks!) and some research, everything seemed to boil down to the following potential candidates:

Samsung R65-Pro T5500 Boteez, 1 GB, Core2duo 1,66 GHz, SXGA+, ca 4.5 h, NVIDIA ca 1600 EUR

Asus A3FP-8015P, CoreDuo 1,8 GHz, 1GB, 100 GB, SXGA+, ca 1200 EUR

Asus F2J-5D009P CoreDuo 1,6 GHz, 1GB, 120 GB, ATI
IBM Thinkpad R60 (UL1DXGE) Core2Duo 1,8 GHz, 6 h(!), ca 1300 EUR

..and as the latter one (IBM) is available with 2 GB RAM, as Core2Duo, for a pretty attractive price, I have made a decision :) Details will follow after Xmas. Display resolution of 1400x1050 would be good, but more than 1280x800 is a definitive requirement. I also want to avoid "shine glare" displays and similar crap, if possible. CPU Intel Core2Duo Battery about 4h lifetime should be enough HDD 120 GB or greater Network WLAN, Bluetooth GPU ATI preferred, but not a must RAM 2 GB DVD-/CD-ROM DVD Burner, speed == don't care Noise Silent! I don't want to hear the device when doing non-CPU-intensive tasks like surfing the web or writing mails. Some fan noise when compiling the kernel or Wine is OK, though. Other Must be Linux compatible. I strongly prefer manufacturers giving me the possibility not to buy any MS license with the laptop. Brand My old machine is an ASUS, and I was pretty happy with them. Samsung seems attractive, too, and I keep hearing good things about Acer. I will keep an open mind towards other brands, though.

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 15:29

Freitag, 22. September 2006

Traveling geek

Made this picture at Starbucks at Stansted airport, shortly before boarding my plane back to Germany after Wineconf. Luckily, I managed to avoid Heathrow, but still, security procedures are totally crazy. I had to throw away some pharmaceuticals (gels) because I didn't have a prescription from a doctor with me (who has?). Queuing for a good 25 minutes, they finally even make you take off your shoes for x-raying. Oh, and my (not really big) laptop bag was too big for their strict hand luggage rules, so I had to check it in. That's why there's a portable harddrive on that table, containing my /home directory ;)

Geschrieben von David in *Democrazy*, *English*, *KurzGedanken*, *Visual*, *WineConf* um 10:52

Mittwoch, 20. September 2006

Pun of the week

Chicken feather condomsmake your cock-a-doodle-doo(seen in a pub in Reading, England)

Geschrieben von David in English, KurzGedanken, Zitate um 06:10

Dienstag, 19. September 2006

Wineconf 06 Pictures

Finally got back from this year's Wineconf in Reading, England, and managed to put some of my pictures online. More info to follow this week, but I'm too busy right now to write much more ;) BTW, there's a group photo to be enjoyed at winehq.org.

Geschrieben von David in English, WineConf um 11:08

Samstag, 9. September 2006

Busy week

Had a busy week, and the next of the same kind (even worse) is already approaching. I'll be traveling a lot, starting from tomorrow, when I'll take a train to Munich, in order to work there for the LiMux team and another client. Vacation time in this case means double work and two additional "night shifts"; for me, so I expect to be pretty exhausted until thursday in the late afternoon, when I'll move on to Stuttgart. Early friday morning will see me taking a plane from Stuttgart to London Stanstead and then further (by train) to Reading, where Wineconf 2006 is going to take place next weekend. Hopefully the GPG key signing party I am trying to set up there will see a few more participants than the exactly zero that have registered by now ;-) I shall be back in Germany late Monday evening. So, not much time for blogging, but expect a few things about Wineconf on the weekend of 16/17th of september. Maybe even with color pictures[tm] ;-)

Geschrieben von David in English, WineConf um 10:25

Dienstag, 6. Juni 2006

Summer of Code and Wine

Well, it seems the Wine project has finally published its accepted candidates for the Google-sponsored Summer of Code stipends. What makes me very happy is the fine print: Two of the seven students come from Tübingen, which means - just like last year - a 100% success rate for our applicants and - even better - a 100% increase in participants ;-)

Geschrieben von David in English, Netzwelt, Techstuff um 10:33

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Donnerstag, 13. April 2006

Ta ta ta ta trust meee

As part of my eternal quest for mobile applications usable via WAP and my phone, I was pleasantly surprised that OpenBC offers a PDA/mobile phone compatible access portal (mobile.openbc.com), too. Big disappointment followed quickly, though, as it seems my phone's browser knows nothing about Thawte certificates and thus refuses the SSL connection :-/ Anybody know how to handle that problem (or how to import root SSL certificates into) with a Samsung SGH-D500? I tried again with a SonyEricsson K600i, which warned me that the authenticity of the site couldnt be verified, but allowed me to continue nonetheless. I've already filed a report with the support team. Let's see what they say ;-)

Geschrieben von David in English, Netzwelt, Techstuff, Unmut um 15:27

Mittwoch, 29. März 2006

Voll un-evil

You Are 10% Evil

You are good. So good, that you make evil people squirm.
Just remember, you may need to turn to the dark side to get what you want!

How Evil Are You?(via Andi)

Geschrieben von David in English, Netzwelt um 08:44

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Montag, 23. Januar 2006

My inner European..

Your Inner European is Spanish!

Energetic and lively.

You bring the party with you!

Who's Your Inner European?

Geschrieben von David in English, Netzwelt um 07:32

Mittwoch, 4. Januar 2006

Canon Pixma iP1500 under Ubuntu Linux

It's great that, finally, I managed to find a good printer that works reasonably well under Linux. It's even better that, while I bought it and was awaiting its shipping, Canon decided to finally provide an own Linux driver for it - the BJC 8200 (?) CUPS driver worked fine before, but direct support is always better. However, I don't like having to fiddle around for hours with log files, debug messages and the like to finally find the cause of a strange problem: The printer LED blinked a few times every time I tried to print something, but that was it. No output, no printing, no error message. Very helpful. All this was due to a permission problem. /dev/usb/lp0 was 660 root:lp, and that should have been fine, as the cupsd runs as lp group. It seems that under SuSE - the flavor of Linux the drivers were originally made for - things are a little different, so the driver expects full writing permissions onto the device. Which doesn't work under Kubuntu, so nothing gets actually sent to the printer, and with the driver not expecting to fail in that state of its proceedings and thus not reporting (!) the error, it was a bit harder than necessary to find out about it. chmod 666 is evil, but in this case it solves the problem. Oh my.

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff, Unmut um 10:00

Dienstag, 3. Januar 2006

Have gun give food

It's been a few weeks since I am somewhat back to what was once a fun sport I liked very much: Reading papers. That, plus my newly revived interest in other areas of research, is why I have a pile of interesting scientific publications lying around waiting to be archived. The first of that series shall not be left unknown to the kind readers of this blog, so I created a new category "Science" which will serve as a dwelling place for posts related to .. well, guess what ;) Anyway, the paper I shall point to today is called "Have gun give food: Agriculture, Nutrition and Civil Wars in Sub-Saharan Africa". Its author is Alexander Moradi, who until recently was located here in Tübingen, Germany, but now seems to have moved abroad. Essentially, he takes a very different approach than the usual ones to explain and even predict the outbreaks of civil wars in certain african countries. My understanding is that this kind of conflict is traditionally explained using fancy political theories, but they are, well, say, still being developed. However, Moradi uses some hard facts in an empirical model to analyze and predict outbreaks of civil wars mostly using nutrition as a key factor. The stunning part is that apparently some of his predictions turned out - sadly - to be correct.

Geschrieben von David in English, Science, The Power of Equality um 12:46

Freitag, 9. Dezember 2005

Richard North Patterson - Conviction

Does the acronym AEDPA mean anything to you? Do you have an good idea how the U.S. Supreme Court works? Ever wondered why it takes so long from a death sentence to execution in the US judicial system? I surely would have answered most of these questions with a “No”, and frankly these topics seem rather dry and difficult to dig into to me. However, having only recently finished reading “Conviction”, a more or less despair-induced buy on a long weekend, I do feel somewhat puzzled by the complexity of the many issues closely linked to the death penalty in the USA. Along the lines of the invented case of the Price brothers, both having been sentenced to death, and the pro bono lawyer of one of them trying to save him from execution only weeks before the final date, Patterson provides very insightful information wrapped into a stunning read. To start with, even when finding evidence that would have sufficed for acquittal in the original trial, but that has been raised - and inefficiently so - by e.g. an incompetent lawyer, you are not even entitled to a new trial if the original one did not violate the very basic formalities demanded by the constitution. That might strike you as wierd, but be assured, that’s by far not the only thing of that kind that will occur to you when reading the book. Patterson himself is a lawyer and seems to have done profound research in order to get the facts right. It’s not the right book to read when you’re seeking for easy entertainment, but I don’t think that was supposed to be its purpose.

Geschrieben von David in Democrazy, English, Literatur um 17:10

Mittwoch, 7. Dezember 2005

Barcelona Youth Hostel

I've been wanting to post that since a very long time, but I never made it. Well, that's gonna change: During my summer vacation, I had a stay of several days in the marvelous city of Barcelona. Having made oh-so-many bad experiences with youth hostels pretty much all over Europe, I was somehow sceptical when booking there. However, my time at the New Youth Hostel (Alberguinn) were better than anything I would have ever dared to imagine. The place is pretty modern, and - very important in my opinion - clean. That applies in particular to the toilets and the bathrooms. Them being cleaned on a daily basis makes me think that state's gonna last for some time ;) The breakfast included with the price suffices very well for a solid start into the day, and the kitchen allows for fun cooking sessions using moderately priced ingredients from any of the supermarkets nearby. The community room in the entrance is just great - huge TV, plenty of books, free internet (Ubuntu-based!). Plus, the personel is very friendly and helpful, and fluent in english, spanish and french. It's just a great place to stay, all but expensive, and it being close (but not inside) to the very center of Barcelona makes it a definite recommendation. Oh, if you wanna hear about the only downside I managed to find: For breakfast, better buy your own jam - at least if you think you like other flavors than strawberry ;-)

Geschrieben von David in English um 13:24

Sonntag, 27. November 2005

After the promise

Via Fefe's blog, I stumbled across a very interesting paper: Brückner, H. and Bearman, P.: After the promise: The STD consequences of adolescent virginity pledges, 2005, Journal of Adolescent Health, 36, p. 271-278. I take myself the liberty of quoting parts of the abstract: Results: Pledgers are consistently less likely to be exposed to risk factors across a wide range of indicators, but their STD infection rate does not differ from nonpledgers. Possible explanations are that pledgers are less likely than others to use condoms at sexual debut and to be tested and diagnosed with STDs. Conclusions: Adopting virginity pledges as intervention may not be the optimal approach to preventing STD acquisition among young adults. Apparently, pledgers are also much more likely than non-pledgers to have anal and oral sex, and not to take precautions like using condoms. The paper is a very interesting and enlightening read, and is available online in PDF format

Geschrieben von David in English, The Power of Equality um 11:46

Dienstag, 25. Oktober 2005

Back to life

Folks, this is to let you know that thanks to me being the proud proprietor of a mouse and a keyboard that look as astronomic as their price I am again able to type and use a computer in a productive way without any pain. Which also implies that my forced abstinence from blogging is now over - hooray! Tonight I'll have another Tandem session that I am sure will be just as delightful as the ones I already had. Aside from the usual smalltalk, we'll exchange some puns - a genre I admit I like very much. Like this one: He drove his expensive car into a tree and found out how the Mercedes bends. (Updated with picture due to popular demand ;)

Geschrieben von David in English, Site-News um 18:26

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Mittwoch, 24. August 2005

Kaputt

Liebe Leute,dank einer Sehnenscheidenentzündung bleibt dieses Blog bis auf weiteres erstmal ziemlich still. ...a cause d'une tendinite, ce blog restera plutot tranquille pour quelque temps....I'm suffering of TSV, thus this blog will remain pretty silent for some time.

Geschrieben von David in English, Français, Site-News um 12:26

Mittwoch, 3. August 2005

Ken Follet - Whiteout

It's sadly been a very long time since I read really as much as I'd like to. The last book I finished - The Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell & Dustin Thomason - I bought in April and didn't manage to read through until July. This time, I managed to acquire and read a book within less than a week. It really seems I'm recovering ;) Ken Follet obviously is a quite well-known and successful author, although I have never read any of his books (yet). This one is set in a biotech laboratory, in which a anti-virus drug is developed and in the process tested against several of the most lethal viruses on earth. Of course, there's a security breach, and the story evolves around the consequences. Follet also elegantly embeds some erotics, love, human error, and very ordinary family quarrels into his plot, and does not get lost in the tempting possibility of just relying on the high-tech setting to create tension. The book is never boring, not on a single page, and was very nice to read and follow. It's not perfect, but it makes for good amusement on a long Sunday afternoon. Whiteout has 472 pages and is available as paperback from Pan Books and costs about 7 €.

Geschrieben von David in English, Literatur um 17:32

Blog Export: truc de ouf, <https://trucdeouf.emeto.de/>

Sonntag, 31. Juli 2005

Finally managed to do the long-overdue upgrade of my blog's underlying software (Serendipity). As usual, everything worked like a charm.

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 16:51

Sonntag, 10. Juli 2005

You know for sure..

... that you've worked too much when you realize that you haven't read a single (fiction) book since April, it's now July, and you even haven't finished yet the one you started four months ago, although you remember you liked the story.

Geschrieben von David in English, KurzGedanken, Unmut um 22:15

Dienstag, 14. Juni 2005

Wine und die Softwarepatente

Auf der WineConf 2005 hatte ich die Gelegenheit, viele Wine-Entwickler persönlich kennenzulernen. Einer von den engagiertesten, der Kanadier Dimitrie Paun, erläutert in einem Interview, wie Software-Patente das Wine-Projekt (und GCC) unlängst zu einem Verzicht auf ein wichtiges Feature gezwungen haben. Konkret geht es um das sogenannte Structured Exception Handling, auf das Borland ein Patent hält.

Geschrieben von David in Democrazy, Deutsch, English, Unmut, WineConf um 19:34

Dienstag, 31. Mai 2005

USB 2.0 PCI card under linux

Today, I bought a PCI USB 2.0 adaptor card, investing about 14 EUR. This wasn't quite as easy as it sounds, as I obviously am somewhat the only person on earth who wants to run such equipment under Linux. Thus, no shop was able to inform me whether or not their particular card would run under a 2.6 kernel - until today. The friendly guy at the K&M shop in Reutlingen looked up all that info on the internet for me. So now I own a new piece of hardware that is called "Longshine PCI USB2.0 Card" (to be found on the package) or "NEC USB 2.0 PCI Host Adaptor" (title of the manual). It is equipped with a NEC 720101 chipset that provides four USB 2.0 ports (two hubs), runs flawlessly under a 2.6.11-ck7 kernel, and provides enough power to spin up my portable HDD, which is a very useful feature indeed :) Another piece of hardware I can recommend on.

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 17:46

Sonntag, 1. Mai 2005

Total fertig, aber happy und zufrieden...

WineConf 2005 has wrapped up. Everyone had a great time, albeit pretty tired. We have a bunch of people that really helped out and it's amazing how many people worked on a pretty seamless event. Mr. Ulrich Gemkow with the University of Stuttgart put together the venue and organized the local student organization, Fachschaft Elektrotechnik und Informationstechnik (pictured above). Finally, the Wirtschaftsförderung Region Stuttgart, David Gumbel with ITOMIG, and Jeremy White of CodeWeavers provided a bunch of behind the scenes support, including financial help. Thanks everyone!(mehr Info gibt es hier)

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Netzwelt um 23:39

Mittwoch, 6. April 2005

Firefox binaries non-free

Bernhard Reiter discovered a disturbing property of the binary packages of the popular open source browser Firefox. As he writes on fsfe-discussion, quoting from an interview with Richard Stallman: The Firefox binaries distributed by the Mozilla developers, like all their binaries, are not free. To use Firefox as free software, you have to build it yourself from the source code.[..] It seems that Firefox binaries are covered by an end user license agreement that might even not allow redistribution and they contain proprietary code for error reporting: Talkback. Andreas Foerster did some investigation, and came up with even more disturbing results. What is certain, however, is that while you might think you're using a free, open source browser, you may in fact simply be using a non-free, non-open product.

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 00:06

Freitag, 1. April 2005

Wicked Things II - GeNToo

It seems that the level of madness (which is somewhat isomorphic to “fantasy”) in IT has no upper bound. The latest highlight is a project that makes a somewhat stripped down version of Gentoo Linux run on a Microsoft Windows NT Kernel using the Windows Services for Unix layer. I haven't tested it (and I don't plan on doing so), but the project leader is Patrick Lauer, who's also a Gentoo developer, so there's obviously some level of determination in there ;) While that's all incredible... there's a tiny detail: Today is April 1, and the Gentoo community is known to have a good sense of humour. So I dare say this is probably the same kind of idea that is behind the global “warez” USE flag that was proposed on gentoo-devel today ;-)

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 15:52

You scored as Islam

You scored as Islam. Your beliefs are most similar to those of Islam. Do more research on Islam and possibly consider taking the shahadah and officially becoming a Muslim, if you aren't already.

Despite the actions of some - who go against the teachings of Islam - Islam is a religion of peace; the word “islam” means “peace through submission to God.” “Muslim” means “one who submits to God.” Islam is the third of the three Abrahamic faiths, and it shares much with Judaism in Christianity; its differences are the acceptance of Muhammad as the last and final prophet, and the oneness of God - in other words, that Jesus, though he was a revered prophet, was not in fact God, and only one God exists. Apparently the Taliban could not read (though their name means “students”), because the Quran states that men and women are equal as believers, and that all believers should be educated and seek knowledge. Modesty in dress and behavior is required in Islam for both men and women to preserve the values of society and move the emphasis from superficial appearance to intelligence, knowledge, and God. Islam71%atheism63%agnosticism54%Satanism50%Buddhism50%Paganism42%Christianity33%Hinduism29%Judaism17%Which religion is the right one for you? (new version)created with QuizFarm.com

Geschrieben von David in English um 11:03

Mittwoch, 30. März 2005

Extreme Eastwood

Extremism is so easy. You've got your position, and that's it. It doesn't take much thought. And if you go far enough to the right, you meet the same idiots coming around from the left. Clint Eastwood, in an interview with Time Magazine, on March 7, 2005.

Geschrieben von David in English, Zitate um 23:44

IP over voice over IP... gee!

It's been a while since I installed VMWare under Linux to run Windows 98 in order to develop an VB based application for a client. I was soon becoming desperate with the Windows UI -- (almost) exclusively) mouse-based interfaces suck! Frustration grew, productivity dropped, so what to do? In my misery, I found a simple solution for me, the Unix freak [tm]: I installed the Linux API emulation layer software Cygwin on that Windows, thus easing my pain running my favorite Linux applications under Windows under VMWare under Linux..I was quite certain that nobody sane in his mind would ever do such conceptually ridiculous things. I was wrong ;-)[via isotopp]

Geschrieben von David in English, Techstuff um 22:25

Montag, 28. März 2005

Drei Sprachen, ein Blog

Es juckt mich ja schon eine ganze Weile in den Fingern, endlich mal etwas konsequenter auf Englisch und auf Französisch zu bloggen. Völlig idiotisch die Idee, Einträge mehrsprachig zu machen - ich bin doch nicht blöd[tm]. Darum gibt's jetzt die neuen Kategorien Deutsch, English und Français, in die ich in Zukunft jeden Eintrag je nach Sprache sortieren werde. Abo per RSS ist dann für jede Sprache ganz dolle easy. Weil ich aber auch faul bin, gibt's diese Information jetzt (mit einem verstohlenen Seitenblick auf Google ;) eben doch in allen drei Sprachen hier, damit's auch wirklich jede(r) checkt. Ausnahmsweise, natürlich - versprochen! Eh ben, désormais il existent les trois nouvelles catégories Deutsch, English et Français, dans lesquels je vais mettre mes textes dans ce blog ici, pour que l'on puisse les abonner facilement en utilisant les flux RSS de ces catégories. I have added the new categories Deutsch, English and Français, which I will use for tagging my articles as being in a certain language. Thus, following all content on this blog in a certain language is easy as pie - just select (or subscribe to) the language category you are interested in.

Geschrieben von David in Deutsch, English, Français, Site-News um 23:58

Symmetry in Faces

I recently participated in an online research project on individual factors influencing facial preferences. After answering a questionnaire, I was shown pairs of faces. I had to select one of them as being more attractive (or equally attractive ;) than the other. The majority of people find symmetric faces more attractive. However, it seems that my preferences really are somehow different (surprise, surprise). If you're interested in a scientific perspective on your own preferences, the experiment is available online.

Geschrieben von David in English, The Power of Equality um 11:28