

2008 Q3 link clearance: Microsoft blogger edition

 devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20080930-01

September 30, 2008



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It's that time again: Sending some link love to my colleagues.

- [James O'Neill](#) tells a story about [a very strange design for an award from the British Safety Council](#).
- [The Security Vulnerability Research & Defense blog](#) contains “bonus information” about security bulletins. Think of it as the director’s commentary track.
- Yes, we know things are rainy in Seattle, but [the mountain’s name is pronounced ray-NEER](#) even though it does look like something else.
- [John Guin](#) confirms: “[All the stories you hear about tech support calls are true. All of them.](#)”
- [Eric Lippert](#) reminds us that [string hashes are not for cryptographic purposes](#).
- [Mark Brown’s Virtual Earth Blog](#) pays a visit to [the people who fly the UltraCam](#), that thing that gets those high resolution aerial images. See the software they use to control the camera, and if you ask nicely, they might even take you for a ride. Mark also has [a nice picture of the UltraCam itself](#).
- On [The Debugging Toolbox](#), Roberto Farah takes a break from cooking up [PowerDbg scripts](#) to show some [fancy tricks you can play with the dv command](#). Plenty of other debugging tips on that site, so check it out. [Doug Stewart](#) has his own [collection of links to debugging resources](#).
- [Michael Howard](#) goes into more detail about [what sort of heap corruption is treated as fatal if you set HeapEnableTerminationOnCorruption](#). Of course, this list may change as new types of corruption-detection are added, but it’s a start.
- [Terry Zink](#) blogs about the world of email spam, including a massive [18-part series on backscatter](#).
- Dennis Middleton, the self-proclaimed *NTFS Doctor*, explains [why the Size on disk and Used space appear to disagree](#).
- The [Environment](#) folks have their own blog for computing and the environment, titled [Software Enabled Earth](#). [Nick Mayhew](#) calls out [some of his favorite parts](#).
- The [Live Search Webmaster Center Blog](#) introduces you to the basics of [seeing how Live Search crawls your site](#) and what steps you can take to help it do a better job.

- [James Whittaker](#) tackles the thorny question, [If Microsoft is so good at testing, why does your software suck?](#)
- [Better than epoxy](#): [Chris Chalmers's e-Discovery](#) covers new group policies to give administrators better control over USB thumb drives.
- [Adrian Vinca](#) has shared a personal programming project written just to learn about XNA, but it sounds useful in its own right: [Zune Clock 1.5](#). ([Earlier versions](#) also available.)
- [Alfred Thompson](#) helps us [find old Office commands on the new ribbon](#).
- [Tom Mertens](#) [points to an instructional video showing how to write your own Windows Live Messenger agent](#). Now I'm tempted to write one, even though I have nothing for my agent to do... (Smarter people than me have created a .).
- [The Office Natural Language Team](#) explain [how you can remove a word from Office's speller dictionary](#). Earlier this year, there was also an article in the local newspaper on [the day-to-day decisions by the people who maintain the list of words in the spell-check dictionary](#). Bonus reading: [A run-down of the process](#), and [reader feedback](#).
- [Scott Hanselman](#) shares [the history of the Windows Template Library \(WTL\)](#).
- [Joseph Conway](#) explains [what the WINSXS directory is, and why it's so huge](#).
- If you aren't subscribed to the [Engineering Windows 7](#) blog, then stop right now and go subscribe. I'll wait.

Okay, you're back. There's bucketloads of awesome stuff in there, in particular Ryan Haveson's second follow-up on [high DPI](#) points out why vectors don't solve everything.

[Raymond is currently away; this message was pre-recorded.]

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