

2009 year-end link clearance

 devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20091231-01

December 31, 2009



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Time for the semi-annual link clearance.

- [The decade according to 9-year-olds](#). (Technically the decade doesn't end until next year, but try convincing anybody to care.)
- The online [Dilbert strip finder](#) does a full-text search on Dilbert comics, for those times when you want to find a particular comic. For example, [a search for minivan](#) quickly turns up the famous *I'm gonna write me a new minivan* comic. (Related: [Text of every Dilbert from 1995ish to 2002](#), plus some books.)
- [Know Your Meme](#) painstakingly explains whatever it is that's taking the Internet by storm.
- [The Seattle Fire Department blog](#), a mix of safety tips, special events, and coverage of some local fires. Sort of a user-friendly version of the [fire department incident log](#).
- [Fantasy Kids Resort](#), a Japanese indoor park for children which is more of a fantasy for paranoid parents: Membership requires ID, there are security cameras everywhere, and the play areas are filled with anti-bacterial sand.
- [Crimereports.com](#) lets you browse the police blotter for around 400 communities in the United States. The *Seattle Times* has [a special page for Bellevue](#).
- *The Wall Street Journal's* [Number Guy](#) looks at [what "Kills 99.9% of germs" really means](#).
- The [directed graph of language unintelligibility](#).
- Setting up automatic payments is easy. [Stopping them is hard](#).
- [How to get on television without losing your dignity](#).
- Have a shoebox, some aluminum foil, and some coaxial cable? Then you have most of the ingredients necessary to [build a digital TV antenna](#).
- [How MySpace came to be](#) and why it's intentionally disorienting. [Facebook's and MySpace's audiences split along social lines](#).
- Even though I have good friends on both sides of the aisle (or perhaps because of it), [this picture never fails to crack me up](#).
- [How to get rid of your old cell phone](#).
- WMI Explorer, one of the [SAPIEN Community Tools](#) is a fantastic way of explorer the WMI namespace, so you know what to plug into [the standard WMI script template](#).

- The light switch so complicated it comes with a 42-word sticker explaining how to use it. I bet it won an award. My favorite comment: “I actually have a house full of these great switches and I’ve been looking for these instructions.” My solution: A standard on/off switch with a vertical slider next to it to control brightness. It turns out that the boolean+slider is not new; people have been using this type of control for decades.
- Fakes and Phonies: The shadowy world of art forgery. A long *New York Times* article also goes into the document forgery that makes the art forgery seem legitimate.
- Andy Warhol was a pack rat, and his junk pile is an archivist’s gold mine.
- I suspect there aren’t quite so many listings on these types of sites nowadays.
- A working Difference Engine is on display at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California for a limited time, after which it will go into the private collection of Nathan Myhrvold, who paid for its construction.
- Peter J. Morris shares with us the source code to the infinitely profitable program. By an amazing coincidence, I wrote this exact same program too! (I called mine `/.COM .`)
- If the roles had been reversed, this would’ve made Slashdot, “Microsoft intentionally crashes competitors to prevent them from implementing the same feature.” Instead, it’s just another day in compatibility land. (Related: Google Apps Sync intentionally disables Windows Desktop Search. In both cases, the problems were ironed out.)
- There’s still time for eligible nonprofit organizations to request copies of Windows 7 Professional Upgrade and Windows 7 Enterprise Upgrade.
- You can once again drag and drop into console windows in Windows 7 thanks to some nontrivial retooling of how console windows are hosted.

And, as always, the obligatory plug for my column in TechNet Magazine:

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