

2011 mid-year link clearance

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Another round of the semi-annual link clearance.

- [James Michael Hare](#) has a very well-written blog on programming in C#/.NET, with tips, tricks, and discussion.
- News flash: [People at sporting events enjoy drinking alcohol](#).
- [Microsoft Excel: The Program's Designer Reveals the Secrets Behind the Software that Changed the World 25 Years Ago](#).
- [Microsoft Confirms Comic Sans Serif Has Taken Its Own Life](#).
- [Microsoft Helps Army Avoid 'Death by PowerPoint'](#). Dave Karle helps the Army improve their presentation skills. [Modern Presenter](#) is his blog.
- The confusingly-named [Messenger Connect](#) provides interfaces to various Windows Live services, such as [reading a user's content on SkyDrive](#). Check out the [Interactive SDK](#).
- Prepare to be dazzled by the Internet as it existed in 1996: [The promotional web site for the movie Space Jam](#) is still up! I think they hired Geocities to design that site.
- On the subject of Warner Brothers, here's [a careful analysis of what could very well be the greatest baseball game ever played](#). I mean, how often do you see Einstein's Theory of Relativity applied to baseball?
- On the subject of close analysis of fictional sporting events, [Deadspin applies basketball metrics to determine the strategic lessons learned from The Fresh Prince of Bel Air](#).
- [Should I change my password?](#) checks if your email address is one known to have been compromised. Just for fun, type `billg@microsoft.com`. (Hey, Bill, stop spending so much time on Gawker and get back to work!)
- [Beethoven's 5th Symphony arranged as a salsa](#). You thought you'd never seen the day: [A drummer reading music!](#)
- Cheap amusement abounds in [Seattle Bubble's](#) redundantly-named [real actual listing photos](#). (Related: [See, I fixed it](#).) My favorite is the [Guess what's amiss](#) quiz. Once you've been alerted to the issue, you start noticing it wherever it appears. Related: [Detrimental Listing Photos](#).
- [Superconductivity illustrated via flashmob dance](#).

- Artist R. Luke DuBois studied the text of online personal ads from around the country to produce *A More Perfect Union* which (among other things) renders heat maps of the United States based on prevalence of words in those personal ads. I did not expect West Virginia to be a hot spot for kinky. Another part of the project labels cities by the word they use most often. In Washington, Seattle is *Heartbreak*, Redmond is *Email*, and Bellevue is *Cigarette*. (Cigarette?)
- How many Science Scouts badges do you qualify for?
- The transparent office.
- *And that's why you should learn to pick your battles*, sent to me by KC Lemson. (Warning: NSFW language.)

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

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