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Y2K COUNTDOWN

by Gary North



[Senator Bennett Praised for Y2K Work](#)

This story, published Feb. 2, comes from the Deseret News. [[continue](#)]

[Koskinen Assesses Y2K in Retrospect](#)

This is from the United States Information Agency (Jan. 27). [[continue](#)]

[Highway Emergency Phones in New York State Died on Jan. 1](#)

This is bad news for motorists. [[continue](#)]

[NSA Computer Down for Four Days. Not Y2K, Says NSA](#)

The National Security Agency's computer was down for four days. [[continue](#)]

[Don McAlvany on Y2K](#)

This detailed report by Don McAlvany is worth reading. It's important on Russia/China analysis. [[continue](#)]

[Refinery Explosion in Montana](#)

Odd, how refineries seem to be having trouble these days. [[continue](#)]

[Emergency Communications System To Be Replaced: Not Compliant](#)

Shawnee County, Kansas, hasn't exterminated the Y2K bug, according to a Jan. 26 article from the Topeka Capital-Journal. [[continue](#)]

[BP Has Problems Because of Refinery Glitch](#)

The headline says all, even though it's a misprint. Force majeure means "act of God -- not responsible." [[continue](#)]

[Accounting Problems Reported](#)

This is from AccountingWEB (Jan. 26). [[continue](#)]

[OPEC Slowdown and Just-in-Time Inventory Policies Have Created a Crisis](#)

The winter weather is not the only cause of the heating oil crisis. It's a supply crisis. Higher oil prices will create inflation index problems for the Federal Reserve System. The stock market is reacting negatively. [[continue](#)]

TODAY'S EDITORIAL

by Rod Amis



[Interview: Joe Matheny, Immersion New Media - Part 1 of 2](#)

Tuesday -
22/Feb/2000

Joseph Matheny, founder and CEO of [Immersion New Media](#) has been something of a legend in the multimedia arena of San Francisco/Silicon Valley for almost a decade now. During his three years with Adobe Systems, Matheny went from being the Webmaster of their Internet Products Division to being the company's Web Strategy Manager. He is author of the new book *Why DVD? A Meat and Potatoes Guide for the Uninitiated*, and has appeared on both CNet TV and CBS Marketwatch.

[[continue](#)]

CURRENT SURVEY:

Look at emerging technologies like DVD...

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10%

Is okay, but shouldn't overshadow core business computing issues.

30%

Shows vision, we'll be using this in a few years.

40%

Is off the mark.

20%

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[SUMITOMO CONSORTIUM TO USE DIGITAL SATELLITE FOR E-COMMERCE](#)

- Asia Pulse

Sumitomo Corp. (TSE:8053) will along with a broadcasting firm and a home appliance maker launch e-commerce operations using images transmitted by digital satellite signals, company officials said Monday. The firms will set up a consortium for this purpose in autumn, with an eye to a possible launch of the venture in spring 2001. [[continue](#)]

[PHILIPPINES CERTIFIES BILL ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE](#)

- Asia Pulse

Business transactions conducted through the Internet are expected to be guided by a legal framework soon, with the move by the Malacanang, the presidential palace, certifying as an urgent measure a bill on electronic commerce (e-commerce). [[continue](#)]

[WebDeities, Inc. Named Microsoft Certified Solution Provider](#)

- Business Wire

WebDeities, announced today that it has been named a Microsoft Certified Solution Provider (MCSP). Microsoft Certified Solution Providers are independent companies that receive resources and training directly from Microsoft to help them solve business challenges across industries for customers worldwide using Microsoft technology. MCSPs include many types of companies, such as systems integrators, custom application developers, application service providers, business consultants and training organizations that provide corporate customers with a varying range of services. Key service areas for MCSPs are the development and implementation of commerce, knowledge management, business operations and infrastructure solutions. [[continue](#)]

[SBC's to buy Sterling Commerce for \\$3.9 billion](#)

- A&G Information Service

SBC Communications Inc., the largest phone operator in the U.S., said Tuesday it has agreed to acquire Sterling Commerce Inc. for about \$3.9 billion in cash as the San Antonio, Tx.-based company boosts its position in the electronic-commerce arena. [[continue](#)]

[Autobytel.com Inks Deals with Three More Insurance Providers](#)

- PR Newswire

Autobytel.com (Nasdaq: ABTL), the company that controls nearly 50% of all online car-buying purchases, today announced that its comparative quoting auto insurance system will now offer real-time quotes through three additional insurance providers, eCoverage, Esurance, and Avomark Insurance Company* or one of its affiliates. [[continue](#)]

[Netopia and Macworld Partner to Bring E-commerce to the Largest Online Community of Macintosh Users](#)

- Business Wire

Mac Publishing, L.L.C., publisher of Macworld, the leading Macintosh monthly and largest Macintosh portal and Netopia, Inc. (NASDAQ: NTPA) a leader in providing DSL Internet equipment and e-commerce Web platforms to small and medium size businesses, today announced the launch of Netopia's "no assembly required" E-Stores and Web sites on www.macworld.com providing an inexpensive, yet robust solution for the legions of Macintosh small business owners who want a Web and e-commerce presence. [[continue](#)]

[US Interactive Forms Alliance With Commerce One for Portal Design](#)

- Business Wire

U.S. Interactive Inc. (Nasdaq:USIT), a leading Internet professional services company, today announced that it has been named the first Commerce One (Nasdaq:CMRC) premier partner focused specifically on portal design and user interface development. [[continue](#)]

[medibuy.com and drugstore.com to Create a Co-Branded e-Commerce Marketplace for Home Healthcare Procurement](#)

- Business Wire

medibuy.com Inc., a leading e-commerce solution for healthcare supply procurement, and drugstore.com(TM) inc. (Nasdaq:DSCM), a leading Internet site for health, beauty and wellness products, have entered into a definitive agreement to develop a co-branded e-commerce marketplace targeted at the home healthcare market. [[continue](#)]

[B2B E-commerce To Become More Global - Gartner](#)

- Newsbytes News Network

Revenues derived from the North America market dominated business-to-business

(B2B) electronic commerce in 1999. However, Gartner Group, Inc. [NYSE:IT], a global business technology advisor, says that by 2004, the business-to-business market will become much more global. [[continue](#)]

[Fujitsu To Take Full Control Of E-Commerce Firm Glovia](#)

- Newsbytes News Network

Japan's Fujitsu Ltd [TOKYO:6702] will up its interest in El Segundo, California-based business applications and e-commerce solutions firm Glovia International LLC to 100 percent, as part of its continuing focus on providing Internet business solutions to multinational corporations. [[continue](#)]

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by Rod Amis

Joseph Matheny, founder and CEO of [Immersion New Media](#) has been something of a legend in the multimedia arena of San Francisco/Silicon Valley for almost a decade now. During his three years with Adobe Systems, Matheny went from being the Webmaster of their Internet Products Division to being the company's Web Strategy Manager. He is author of the new book *Why DVD? A Meat and Potatoes Guide for the Uninitiated*, and has appeared on both CNet TV and CBS Marketwatch.

When the opportunity arose to chat with Joe about his new DVD research and development firm, I leaped for it. I believe you will see why as I share our conversation here. Joe brings an energy and excitement to his work which even comes across on the page.

ITMJ - Joe Matheny, thanks for taking the time to talk with ITMJ. Let's start with why IT managers would be interested in DVD technology. What is the potential here?

MATHENY - Let's start with the what's of DVD and then move on to the why's. In my book, *Why DVD? 2000* I point out a few of the what's. DVD is two things. Number one, it's the storage medium. As I say in *Why DVD*:

"The foundation of DVD technology is incredible storage capacity (the media) coupled with interactive video (the medium). A single CD-sized DVD disc has enough storage space for the text of 20,000 novels, 100,000 digital photos, seven hours of CD-quality stereo audio or a high-resolution version of a theater-quality feature-length film. This enormous capacity makes DVD the ideal platform for a broad range of applications, particularly multimedia."

Now that alone is pretty revolutionary. But wait, there's more! DVD is also a random access video specification. DVD uses as its assets, full screen capable, MPEG-2 (broadcast) video, and most theater quality sound formats, like Dolby 5.1 Surround, DTS, et cetera, combined with a "command-wrapper" that makes it interactive and random access.

What does this mean, really? Think of it this way: DVD ROM is the final stepping-stone to a fully interactive (on-demand) rich video experience.

What's lacking in CD ROM? Video and Disc space. What does DVD have that CD ROM doesn't have? Video and disc space. What's the new mandate with some of the

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recent media mergers? "Get your assets online, now!"

If you're a broadcast or feature film facility, your new marching orders are "go thee online and prosper."

What better way to repurpose your existing (and expensive) assets than to author an interactive, on-line, immersive experience version that leverages the best of DVD (the rich video) with the best of the connectivity world (transactive and immediacy)?

As an artist, it's what I've been waiting for my whole life. As an IT business man, it's what I've been waiting for my whole life.

ITMJ: So I'm not a whole industry, just a single IT Manager. What's in it for me?

MATHENY: If you're an IT manager, think of the training possibilities alone, not to mention the really cool B-to-B applications that you could build.

Not to blow any single horn here, but if you're really interested in this stuff go get the Microsoft Interactive Toolkit and look at some of the examples! (You'll need a DVD ROM drive, of course).

You could, for example, have a multi-chapter movie about installing switching equipment. As the student watches each chapter, they could be prompted to take an online test. Using any number of profiling methods (score being an obvious one) you could either allow or disallow the student access to the next chapter. In other words, if they fail the test on chapter one, you could require them to retake it and pass it before unlocking access to chapter two.

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

Comments, suggestions? [E-mail Rod](#).

DAILY EDITORIAL SURVEY

Look at emerging technologies like DVD...

- Is something I'd like to see more of here.
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Submit Your Answer

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Matheny, Immersion
New Media - Part 2
of 2**Wednesday -
23/Feb/2000

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Is already exploding around us.

0%

Needs more years of development before
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100%

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The winter weather is not the only cause of the heating oil crisis. It's a supply crisis. Higher oil prices will create inflation index problems for the Federal Reserve System. The stock market is reacting negatively. [[continue](#)]

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[HP provides support for new home shopping and delivery service](#)

- M2 Communications

Hewlett-Packard Co (HP) is providing consulting, hardware and outsourcing services to Anew!, a new home shopping and delivery service due to be launched in Q3 2000. [[continue](#)]

[BT: UK businesses can now instantly roll out electronic procurement globally, conduct online auctions and purchase from companies overseas with help of BT; BT announces implementation of Commerce One MarketSite 3.0, Comm](#)

- M2 Communications

The BT MarketSite electronic procurement system, licensed from Commerce One, can now offer businesses even bigger cost, labour and time savings due to recent product enhancements. Businesses can now instantly rollout the new purchasing system globally. They can now purchase from the biggest global online business to business trading environment incorporating Japan, Asia and Australia and conduct online auctions. [[continue](#)]

[COMPUTER ASSOCIATES: Computer Associates InoculateIT and eTrust solutions protects ebusinesses against Windows zombie attacks; CA anti-virus and intrusion detection software foil latest "hack attacks"](#)

- M2 Communications

Computer Associates International, Inc. (CA) today announced that Internet users can protect their Windows 95 and 98 computers from participating in cyber attacks against eBusinesses. Versions of Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) tools, similar to those used against leading eBusinesses, have been adapted to exploit widely used Windows computers and are believed to be in the wild. The DDoS tools are allegedly similar to the Trinoo and Tribal Flood Network tools, which were used this month in "zombie attacks" - that disrupted business at eBay, E*Trade, Amazon.com, Yahoo!, and other Internet powerhouses. [[continue](#)]

[Network Associates to Participate in U.S. Department of Commerce Meetings To Ensure Infrastructure Security for Financial, Utility and Other Critical Industries Leading Security Company Continues Partnership With Priva](#)

- PR Newswire

Network Associates (Nasdaq: NETA), today announced its ongoing commitment and participation in events related to the Partnership for Critical Infrastructure Security (PCIS), an organization formed in December 1999 in response to a decree issued by President Clinton. Representatives from private industry and government agencies will meet today for the first working session since the PCIS was created to discuss key issues relevant to the infrastructure security of the financial, utility and other key industries. [[continue](#)]

[Buy.com Selects AltaVista Search Engine to Power E-Commerce Sites](#)

- PR Newswire

AltaVista Company, the premier global Internet search provider at <http://www.altavista.com>, majority owned by CMGI Inc. (Nasdaq: CMGI), today announced that Buy.com has licensed AltaVista's search engine software to power all nine of the Buy.com online stores. In an agreement with AltaVista Business Solutions, Buy.com will deploy AltaVista's fast and scalable search technology in order to meet its customers' growing demands for an enhanced shopping experience. Customers will be able to rapidly search and locate products in Buy.com's nine online stores. Terms were not disclosed. [[continue](#)]

[Concur, Nortel Networks, SAFECO, and Microsoft Join Forces to Deliver World's Largest eCommerce Trading Network](#)

- Business Wire

Concur Technologies (Nasdaq:CNQR), Nortel Networks (NYSE:NT)(TSE:NT), and SAFECO (Nasdaq:SAFC) announced today a strategic alliance to create the first global leveraged buying eCommerce trading network for the small and mid-size business (SMB) market. [[continue](#)]

[Microsoft Announces Relationship With BroadBand](#)

- PR Newswire

Microsoft Corp. (Nasdaq: MSFT) today announced a strategic relationship with BroadBand Office Inc., a leading national provider of next-generation communications services, to integrate advanced applications solutions for BroadBand Office customers across the country. [[continue](#)]

[Exodus and OpenSales Sign Alliance Partner Agreement](#)

- Business Wire

OpenSales, Inc., the leading open source e-commerce application company, today announced it has joined Exodus Communications'(TM) (Nasdaq:EXDS) Alliance Partner Program. [[continue](#)]

[TheLinuxStore.com Offers Kingston 128MB ValueRAM for \\$119](#)

- Business Wire

EBIZ Enterprises Inc. (OTC BB: EBIZ) the leading source for Linux(R) products, technical support and community services, Wednesday announced that they have entered in to a distribution agreement with Kingston(R) Technology Co. Inc. allowing TheLinuxStore.com, a wholly-owned division of EBIZ, to distribute state-of-the-art Kingston(R) products. [[continue](#)]

[Judge Undercuts Microsoft Defense](#)

- Associated Press

The decision on whether the Microsoft Corp. violated U.S. antitrust law now rests with the trial judge, following a contentious final day of courtroom arguments and the judge's own blunt rejection of an important legal defense for the software company. [[continue](#)]

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ITMJ: I downloaded your pdf. file on DVD and what you have to say there makes a lot of sense. But isn't this technology a threat to the film industry as large as MP-3 has been to record companies?

MATHENY: Not at all. The film industry, unlike the record industry, has actually been the first to embrace DVD. If not for the deep pockets and vision of the studios all this might not be happening as quickly as it is.

The record industry is finally coming around on MP-3, as well. The murmur in the rank and file is, "We're going on-line". Think about the implications of some of the recent mergers. Think about the "broadband" hoo-ha going on as we speak.

Sure, any IT person with a modicum of knowledge knows that DSL and cable modem are not really "broadband" in the sense that neither is a pipe capable of pumping any kind of decent resolution video on demand. Also, the same people know that the current IT infrastructures are not sufficient to withstand such an onslaught of traffic requirements.

So, that being said, where are we? We are at the very head of the convergence point of media. We're kind of standing on the threshold. Personally, I like it here, it feels like a frontier. Like the early days of the BBS and then Internet movements. We have a method for delivering rich video with connectivity and interactivity built in. It's called WebDVD.

When the infrastructure is finally in place and working, we simply point everything from DVDPlayer.OBJ to VideoSource.OBJ and then of course eventually to FooPipe.OBJ (whatever the two-way all comm-pipe becomes).

So, record companies are sitting on a gold mine! They have all this video, which was good PR but didn't actually

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produce a profit in and of itself. They have MP-3s to sell. They now have the perfect medium to repurpose the videos and sell MP-3s and merchandising. Think about it! A Web-enabled DVD ROM of music video with Web connections to MP-3s, merchandising, and other artists on the same labels...ad infinitum! This is gonna rock! (Pun intended).

ITMJ: Okay, it's a given that the large entertainment companies already have the inventory, but --- as you mention --- there are "murmurs among the rank and file." You have artists like rapper Ice T, for example, setting up their own Web and music production companies. These people are murmuring that they want part of the action, monetarily, and they want to bring their MP-3s, CD and eventually DVD directly to their fans via the Web. Your thoughts?

MATHENY: Taking off my WebDVD software hat for a moment and putting on my other favorite hat, that of an independent media producer, I totally concur.

The low cost of DV, NLE editing tools, DVD authoring tools, et cetera allow for the independent producer to create and distribute totally interactive, high quality projects.

The convergence of all this media at a low cost will only help to take the control of quality interactive media from the hands of the Lucases and Spielbergs of the world and empower the "Billy Bob in the Basement" crowd.

The world's largest distribution channel is virtually free. Namely, the Internet. I think both the music and film industries are starting to concede that they can't continue to impede or delay the inevitable. They are in fact scrambling not to get left behind, having ignored the obvious for so long.

Anyone can produce and distribute an MP-3. We're just now at the point where the same can be said for WebDVD. Expect to see more and more "written for DVD" and "direct to DVD" projects hitting the shelves (I know I have one in the works).

It will be similar to the home video explosion and the direct-to-video houses like Pacific Arts (Mike Nesmith) that sprung up as a result of that market exploding. Remember how groundbreaking "Elephant Parts" was for its time? We haven't seen anything compared to what we will see in the next two years when it comes to inventive, original, written for interactive/movie/Web/desktop hybrids.

Comments, suggestions? [E-mail Rod](#).

DAILY EDITORIAL SURVEY

The application of advanced multimedia tools in Internet space...

- Is already exploding around us.
- Needs more years of development before being deployed.
- Is 3 - 5 years out as commonly deployed technology.
- Is a pipe dream.

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Is already exploding around us.

0%

Needs more years of development before being deployed.

100%
Is 3 - 5 years out as commonly deployed technology.
0%
Is a pipe dream.
0%
Number of Votes: 2

Discussion Forum	
1 Comment	<input type="button" value="Post Comment"/>

DVD by johnm_44 23 Feb 2000 16:45:32 GMT
<p>Rod,</p> <p>Good piece.</p> <p>The discussion just confirms that unless the record industry changes it's tune and it's cost structure they are going to be imploding. The RIAA is struggling against a tide of consolidation that the Internet has started worldwide in all industries. Why should AV media be any different?</p> <p>Why should an Ice-T, Neil Diamond, Tanya Banks, et. al. share their profits? If they can set up their own production companies and use the internet as the distribution medium they cut out the Warner Bros, Sony, etc. And where does the shift got to? Artist-Portal-Consumer. Ironically AOL might be a bigger winner as a channel partner than the oldline record companies in the new order.</p> <p>The AV industry will need to reevaluate their entire cost structures in light of the new methodologies. Value add will be more critical than physical plant.</p> <p>More articles on this please!</p> <p>JohnM</p>

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