

Offset	Topic
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Intro</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading of Edward Lee's paper               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Jon's feedback last week</li> <li>• Thorough criticism of the problem with threads</li> <li>• Multiple threads are non-deterministic</li> <li>• Too difficult for programmer to predict program state</li> <li>• Well cited</li> <li>• Offers some positive ideas for better approaches</li> <li>• Mostly coordination languages</li> <li>• Additional language or added language semantics</li> <li>• Describe when and how threads coordinate</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
03:34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Listener Feedback</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments from Randal Schwartz on web site               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perl does JIT parsing, doesn't keep re-parsing</li> <li>• Parrot uses bytecode, supports compile and interpreted mode</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bruce Barr               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macros are totally scripting</li> <li>• Recorders are not unique</li> <li>• My favorite text editor, vim, supports recording, macros</li> </ul> </li> <li>• David Ward               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a free Microsoft option</li> <li>• Nothing wrong with Microsoft scripting</li> <li>• Be careful with Access, though</li> <li>• In the past hasn't been a good multiuser database</li> <li>• Good to get some exposure to other tools, even if you go back to MS</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
17:32 17:51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Security Alerts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another RFID encryption scheme cracked               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.eetimes.com/rss/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=207000946&amp;cid=RSSfeed_eetimes_newsRSS">http://www.eetimes.com/rss/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=207000946&amp;cid=RSSfeed_eetimes_newsRSS</a></li> <li>• Scheme used by NXP's Mifare Classic</li> <li>• Cracked by CCC along with researchers at UVA</li> <li>• Break is thorough, allows reading, writing cards and cloning, creating new ones</li> <li>• Uses 48-bit encryption</li> <li>• Doesn't appear to have been updated since market introduction in mid-nineties</li> <li>• Vendor doesn't plan to withdraw product</li> <li>• Will communicate findings with customers</li> <li>• Has stronger encryption available, tripe DES and AES</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Offset

## Topic

19:47

- Sees it as the decision of the implementer to change up
- Lower encryption is probably cheaper
- Vendor would rather see a cheap sale than out pricing themselves
- Not doing implementers any favors
- Biometrics hacking tool
  - <http://feeds.engadget.com/~r/weblogsinc/engadget/~3/263482389/>
  - Research shared at Black Hat Amsterdam
  - By Matthew Lewis of Risk Management
  - Biometric data isn't encrypted between scanner and server
  - Requires physical access to network
  - Highlights attack is possible, though
  - Tool acts like a key logger, but for biometric credentials
  - Can sniff, identify and capture credentials
  - Access may get easier in retrofits, as existing IP networks are re-used
  - Tool can be placed on an existing host on a network
  - IP based access control is being pushed by larger players
  - Research so far has been on fingerprints
  - Should generalize to other types of biometrics
  - Lewis wants vendors to improve
  - Suggests answer is as simple as encryption on the wire
  - Wonder, though, at the capabilities of the scanners
  - Do they have enough processing power to do secure encryption?
  - If not, cost of adding may have negative affect on price, adoption

23:28

### • News

23:42

- More on Mozilla Weave for synch, collaboration and mobile
  - <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080331-mozilla-wants-to-put-firefox-in-the-cloud-and-your-pocket.html>
  - First saw this back in December last year
  - Weave provides storage, sync for Firefox
  - Already supports bookmarks, history
  - Does so securely, all user data is encrypted
  - Working on a third party API
  - Eventually extension developers will be able to use it
  - Includes a server specification, uses webdav
  - Transport to client uses JSON, a JavaScript serialization specification
  - Next steps are sharing data between users
  - Think social networks though this sounds like it could be more useful
  - Like that they are concentrating on permissions aspect
  - Could make mobile more compelling
  - Memory improvements in Firefox 3 make it a serious mobile option

27:33

- Experience of moving seamlessly between desktop, mobile could be killer
- Mobile plans are earlier and ambitious
- Want to improve usability, keep it secure, not have to distort content
- Weave may be more likely to succeed
- Only serious competitor is Google Gears, uptake of which has been slow
- Mobile will be harder, perception that Firefox is bloated
- Participation in mobile space may net improvements in Opera, WebKit
- More focus on Firefox's priorities in response
- Creative stops user support of their under supported product
  - <http://feeds.boingboing.net/~r/boingboing/gadgets/~3/261334203/creative-stops-hacke.html>
  - Creative's driver support specifically for Vista has been bad
  - Their excuse is the sound system in Vista is poor
  - Has left customers out in the cold
  - A modder, Daniel\_k, reverse engineered the drives
  - Re-enabled features Creative wasn't supporting under Vista
  - Creative did not do anything, at first
  - Apparently only reacted after he started taking donations
  - In the forums where this has unfolded someone from Newegg has responded
  - Claims the online reseller will be boycotting Creative
  - Unconfirmed if that thread is legit
  - Reverse engineering, in a clean room, is legal
  - Not sure of the rights of Creative when he starts taking money
  - I've certainly seen third party drivers, even donation ware
  - Used one with my old PB for its trackpad
  - That was not after market, but isn't too different
- The modder's side of the Creative story
  - [http://feeds.wired.com/~r/wired/topheadlines/~3/262120523/daniel\\_k-who-fi.html](http://feeds.wired.com/~r/wired/topheadlines/~3/262120523/daniel_k-who-fi.html)
  - Thorough detail on what he did
  - More important, on what he found about how Creative enabled, disabled features
  - Creative probably more made that he reversed their control scheme
  - Donations were not directly for drivers, just to support his work generally
  - He thinks that was wrong, I disagree
  - He admits he is working no hardware, features he won't use
  - OK to accept donations from people who benefit

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33:39

- Can't speak to the ALchemy changes, but suspect if the limits were arbitrary, Creative was unfairly punishing customers
- Daniel would have worked with Creative if they had approached with more courtesy
- Creative is allowing to accept donations, just doesn't want him unlocking premium features
- Creative backs down
  - <http://techdirt.com/articles/20080403/234719746.shtml>
  - Creative restored forum posts it formerly removed
  - Claims the issue was other company's property
  - Again, if reverse engineered, how was Daniel distributing "their property"?
  - May have been a legit mistake they are honestly trying to make up for
  - Claim to support Daniel, others
  - Remains to be seen, could be trying to play it both ways
- Lawyers subpoena code, text messages
  - [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/30/nyregion/30text.html?\\_r=3&th&emc=th&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/30/nyregion/30text.html?_r=3&th&emc=th&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)
  - During the RNC, protests of scale were launched
  - They were coordinated via SMS
  - Messages flowed through technology developed by Instituted for Applied Autonomy
  - <http://www.appliedautonomy.com/>
  - Group interested in how technology can enable self determination
  - Excellent example of hacktivism
  - NYC Law Department identified author of TXTmob
  - Tad Hirsch, doctoral student at MIT
  - Action arose out of dozens of suits by people arrested in wake of protests
  - City consolidated suits, police feel these are the exception to largely peaceful actions
  - Hirsch's lawyers contesting the subpoena, explaining it is too vague, overboard
  - Hirsch is dedicated to protecting free speech, privacy rights of users
  - System clearly was used well beyond just protester coordination
  - Reporters definitely used to follow action
  - Law enforcers were probably monitoring
  - Ironic since TXTmob was in some ways a response to law enforcement acting to forestall larger, more organized protest
  - The service allows smaller, more fluid organization, roaming protests
- Why US engineers do not participate in public policy
  - [http://www.eetimes.com/rss/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=207001226&cid=RSSfeed\\_eetimes\\_newsRSS](http://www.eetimes.com/rss/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=207001226&cid=RSSfeed_eetimes_newsRSS)

36:24

## Offset

## Topic

- Assumes little or no US engineers work in government
- Not sure this assumption is valid, author is in SF on west coast
- Here in DC, much involvement, usually through contractors
- Implies that danger of espionage, treason may be chilling
- Cites work of UVA researcher
- Research contrasts predominance of engineers in Chinese government to lawyers in US
- Thinks difference in mindset is telling
  - Lawyers think short term fixes
  - Engineers think long term solutions
- Limits policy interaction to legislation
- Consider advisory roles but thinks influence too limited
- Example of NASA directors during height of space program
- Cites other academics who speak to psychological, sociological factors
- Describe mind set as introverted, arrogant, logical
- Engineers may see social problems as outside scope of technical solutions
- Researchers suggest engineers may have other skills to offer
- Article only cites immigration, visas
- Wish they had explored more, like long term planning, resource management
- Think cultural differences may factor in
- In countries that more strongly equate engineering with professional success
- May net closer affinity to political power, activism
- Article disappoints in it considers mostly engineers perspective
- Cultural considerations limited to issues of alignment
- What about limits on opportunities?
- Engineers have run, recently, but clearly stacked against them
- Campaign finance, appealing to potential constituency
- Is influence outside of direct participation really that limited?
- US ACM publishes many position papers
- Researchers like Felten, Schneier weigh in on critical issues like e-voting
- Agree that US engineers need to be more politically aware, active
- Disagree that this article is a good motivator
- Doesn't suggest any good ways forward, fixates on foreign circumstances

43:13

- **tail -f**

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- Latest in making available cases
- Ruling in Elektra v. Barker

## Offset

## Topic

- <http://feeds.arstechnica.com/~r/arstechnica/BAaf/~3/261648106/20080331-new-ruling-may-grease-the-wheels-of-riaa-litigation-machine.html>
- Elektra v. Barker case has ongoing for over two years
- Considered one of the most serious evaluations of the issue
- Judge allowed RIAA is viable, that defendant offered to distribute
- Didn't necessarily accept making available theory but did reject defendant's motion to dismiss
- Essentially admitted RIAA case has merit
- von Lohmann of EFF characterizes ruling as well reasoned but unfortunate
- Case will proceed to court unless defendant settles
- Confusing ruling, to me, which may not really affect the contours of making available question
- EFF analysis of the ruling
  - <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2008/04/offering-distribute-distribution-says-elektra-v-barker-ruling>
  - Takes issue with considering publication, distribution the same
  - Clarifies how different definitions expand, narrow scope respectively
  - Doesn't mean question of making available is settled
- More on making available theory
  - <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2008/04/making-available-distribution-says-court-london-sire-v-doe>
  - Atlantic v. John Does 1-21, now known as London-Sire v. Doe
  - Opposite ruling from Barker
  - Another ruling based on very thorough examination
  - Still, like Barker case allowing case to proceed
  - Also, unfortunately, may not affect question much
  - Like Groklaw article a bit back, case law still being made

48:08

### • Outro

- Contact me
  - Email to [feedback@thecommandline.net](mailto:feedback@thecommandline.net)
  - Web site at <http://thecommandline.net/>
  - IM to [command.line@skype](mailto:command.line@skype)
  - Listener comment line is 240-949-2638
  - del.icio.us tag is "for:cmdln"
  - <http://twitter.com/cmdln>
- I'd like to thank [libsyn.com](http://libsyn.com) for AAC hosting and Wouter de Bie for MP3 hosting
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