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The KIT — Knowledge & Information Technology

Issue No. 88 - 15 January 2013

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→ **Windows 7 or Windows 8 ?**

Sébastien Lehnerr, Real-Time Technology Product Manager at Schlumberger, called out an apparent contradiction between two of the Cutter 2013 predictions summarized in Issue No. 87. On the one hand, Mitchell Ummel said that enterprises will resist moving to Windows 8, while Curt Hall was forecasting the rapid adoption of smartphones and tablets as enterprise platforms.

To be fair to Mitchell, my summary of his position, constrained by space, omitted his remark that organizations that rely heavily on mobile devices would indeed be the ones willing to deploy Windows 8. Therefore, he would agree with Sébastien, who wrote: *"enterprises wanting to speed up adoption and support of tablets [will] probably move to Windows 8 Pro (and associated tablets) earlier rather than later. Personally I see that as a serious trend for 2013."*

→ **Coursera Adds More Offerings**

The number and diversity of free online university courses continues to grow. This month and next, Coursera is launching 60 new courses, ranging from calculus to philosophy. In December, they reached 2 million registered students worldwide (but they don't say how many dropped out in the middle of their first course).

→ **c♦b♦'s Claude Baudoin to Teach for NExT**

NExT (Network for Excellence in Training), a Schlumberger company providing professional courses primarily for the Oil & Gas industry, will offer two courses by Claude Baudoin:

- Knowledge Management (4 days) currently scheduled on May 14-17 in Calgary, Alberta
- Advances in Information Technology for Oil & Gas (3 days), May 20-22 in Calgary

We invite you, especially if you are in the O&G industry, to look at the programs and enroll. If you are interested in having these courses delivered in another city, please contact NExT or let us know.

→ **The Internet of Things Consortium**

The Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas is always a focus of geek attention early in the year. The attention is not always good: this year's technology announcements have been eclipsed by the CBS/CNET scandal, in which CBS dictated to CNET that its "Best of CES" award could not go to Dish, with which CBS is fighting in court; the editorial arm-twisting resulted in mass resignations from CNET.

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But back to technology: the new "Internet of Things Consortium" was announced when the show opened on January 7. The intent is to facilitate integration of devices into the network, leading to what the founders call "a richer fabric of intelligent devices." Sorely lacking in the initial fanfare, however, is a serious mention of security issues that need to be solved (so that, for example, you can trust that your thermostat or lighting system won't be hacked into revealing that your house is empty). Let's hope the consortium talks about a *secure* fabric next time.

→ RoMIE

Piotr Mirowski, an ex-colleague from Schlumberger now at Bell Labs, sent us [this video](#) of his RoMIE robot, with a note:

"Here is a robot I programmed at Bell Labs to explore buildings, locate itself and build radio signal maps for mobile geolocation."

→ Seen Recently...

"Time to Stop Forgiving Cloud Providers for Repeated Failures."

-- Title of Andi Mann's [blog entry](#) for January 7

"Not convinced the average enterprise is as good as cloud service providers."

-- Bernard Golden (@bernardgolden), tweeting in response

"There don't appear to be statistically significant studies about private enterprise data center availability. I doubt too many enterprises are going to publicly disclose their ACTUAL data center performance stats."

-- Bryan Beal (@bryanrbeal), also in response to Andi Mann, in what became a rather tense tweetfight