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The KIT — Knowledge & Information Technology
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📷 Claude Baudoin

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➔ Remember Google Gulp?

"At Google our mission is to organize the world's information and make it useful and accessible to our users. But any piece of information's usefulness derives, to a depressing degree, from the cognitive ability of the user who's using it. That's why we're pleased to announce Google Gulp (BETA)™ with Auto-Drink™ (LIMITED RELEASE), a line of "smart drinks" designed to maximize your surfing efficiency by making you more intelligent, and less thirsty."

Yup, that was one in a long line of April Fool's jokes by Google, this one from 2005. For a complete list of such Google jokes and hoaxes over the years, [click here](#).

➔ Cloud Privacy in the Public Sector

The Cloud Standards Customer Council (CSCC) held a Summit on Cloud Privacy as it applies to the public sector on March 26 in Reston, Va. The following presentation slides are now available on the CSCC's Web site:

- [Understanding the Difference between Security and Privacy](#), by Mel Greer (Lockheed Martin)
- [Cloud Privacy and Information Governance from Both Sides: Emerging Trends in Law and Public Policy out of the Private and Public Sectors](#), by Jason Baron (Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP)
- [Government Access to Cloud Data: Updating The Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA)](#), by Harley Geiger (Center for Democracy and Technology)
- [Privacy for Healthcare Data in the Cloud: Challenges and Best Practices](#), by Sarbari Gupta (Electrosoft)
- [When Security, Privacy and Forensics Meet in the Cloud](#), by Michaela Iorga (NIST)

The presentations were followed by an interesting panel with representatives from Dell, Software AG, Electrosoft, and a cloud computing consultant, moderated by Claude Baudoin. The session was unfortunately not recorded, but [let us know](#) if you would like to see the annotated "seed" questions prepared for the panelists.

➔ ACM Updates Two TechPacks

ACM TechPacks are curated collections of materials (articles, conference papers, etc.) that form a learning package on a given topic in computing. They are available to ACM members at no additional cost beyond the $99 annual dues (less for students and retired professionals). ACM has just updated two of its TechPacks:

- [Cloud Computing](#)
- [Enterprise Architecture](#)

You can read the introduction to each TechPack without being a member, but you will need your ACM username and password to access the actual materials.
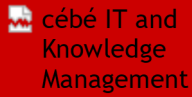
Cloud Security Webinar Replay

The March 17 webinar presenting version 2 of the *Security for Cloud Computing* guide from the CSCC is now available for replay on the CSCC's YouTube channel. Speakers include John Meegan, Chris Dotson and Mike Edwards (all of IBM), as well as Claude Baudoin.

CyberAttack Against GitHub

GitHub has evolved from a repository for open-source code to a collaboration site used by many cross-organization projects to share technical deliverables. For example, some Object Management Group task forces use GitHub (together with action item tracking tools like JIRA) to share models, taxonomy fragments, etc. GitHub also stores links to copies of Web pages censored in China, in an attempt to help Chinese citizens gain access to the banned content. It is suspected that this is why it was hit, *apparently by Chinese authorities,* in a massive distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack starting on March 26.

Seen Recently...

"How are standards like toothbrushes? Everyone has one, but no one wants to use somebody else's."
"How is adopting a standard similar to committing a murder? You need both a motivation and an opportunity."
-- Trudy Curtis, Chairperson, Professional Petroleum Data Management (PPDM)
at the Standards Leadership Council Public Forum on March 19 in Houston