

Digital Copy Protection

U.S. Representative Rick Boucher, D-Va., continues to publicly announce his concern attempts to prevent consumers from duplicating their CDs may be in violation of the law. Details at dgl.com/itinfo/2002/it020313.html.

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Free Security Analyzer

Microsoft has released a analysis tool that helps users keep tight reins on the security of their Windows 2000 (Win2K) and Windows XP (WinXP) systems.

The Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA) searches for security vulnerabilities in Win2K and WinXP systems such as missing security patches, incorrectly installed hotfixes, password lapses, and zone misconfigurations. MBSA is available for free from Microsoft's website. Details at dgl.com/itinfo/2002/it020409.html.

Better Battery Technology

Rayovac Corp. announced the development of a new rechargeable battery that will recharge in 15 minutes or less.

Rayovac's patent-pending I-C3 technology™ (In-Cell Charge Control) integrates charging control in the battery rather than in the charger.

The new batteries last up to 400 percent longer than regular alkaline cells. Details at dgl.com/itinfo/2002/it020319.html.

Privacy Evolves

A new survey of U.S. commercial Internet sites suggests that online privacy practices and policies are "continuing to evolve, and, by at least some criteria, to improve," especially regarding sharing of information with third parties and the use of third-party cookies, Web-based tracking devices that create records of pages visited on a user's hard drive. The report was released today by The Progress & Freedom Foundation, a Washington, DC think tank. Details at dgl.com/itinfo/2002/it020327.html.

Faster DVD Burners

Sharp and Mitsubishi Electric have developed more powerful laser diodes, the components that produce the beam of light used to read and write data from DVD disks.

The 100 milliwatt pulse lights, about 40 percent more powerful than current technology will allow a doubling of recording speed for DVD recordable and rewritable drives. Expect the new drives in a few weeks. Details at dgl.com/itinfo/2002/it020418.html.

Web Site Security Assessment & Certification

Foundstone, Inc., a provider of online security assessments and vulnerability testing, announced a real-time security seal for Web sites.

Based on continuous, technical assessments, Foundstone's seal of approval affirms the certified site is undergoing recurring vulnerability testing and is proactively protecting data on the site from being inadvertently released. Details at dgl.com/itinfo/2002/it020312a.html.

Legal E-Mail

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled yesterday that legal documents could be e-mailed to an offshore company with no physical address. Details at dgl.com/itinfo/2002/it020321.html.

IT SWAT Team

Congress will vote to create an IT worker exchange program to share public & private talent. Details at dgl.com/itinfo/2002/it020320.html.