

Digital Times is a "for eCommerce newsletter reporting on the development and/or availability of interactive products and services."

w w w . d i g i t a l t i m e s . c o m

Facebook Family Feud!

Numbness. Inability to move. Frantic call to Insurance company's Nurse Hot Line. Call to 911. Crazy, careless ride in Medic Alert van. Emergency Room at hospital. Additional hospitalization. What started out as a 'date' evening with my husband on the 1st day of the month turned into a bona fide nightmare that is not yet over.

Back in the day, long before Facebook, [BFB] if and when a health emergency or anything of major importance occurred I would telephone a family member or two and ask them to call everyone else. During the past five years my extended family circle includes hubby's 4 grown children, plus my 5, = 9 immediate children, plus my sister, his aunt, sister and our grandchildren.

This was the process utilized 3 years ago when he had heart surgery. Unfortunately, his condition and circumstances were grossly understated by the person in his family 'doing the calling.'

A year ago my grandson asked me to join Facebook so we could keep in touch. I did, and asked my children to do the same. Most of them did. Some of my husband's grandchildren are on FB, as well.

Getting back to our date. After enjoying Russell Crowe in the movie Robin Hood at a neighborhood casino, my husband and I went to the bar. I observed that the bartender was having a slow night and focusing on him; hubby apparently had too many shots of a rare, 12-year old single malt scotch for as we walked away, he fell. Security came immediately. They made him comfortable in a wheelchair and his son met me at the house. We put Earl to bed.

In the morning, however, he had excruciating pain in his neck and shoulder. I called a neighbor to help me sit him up. That attempt ended in failure due to extreme pain. I called 911. There was no skull fracture but to this day, hubby has numbness in his fingers, arm(s), neck pain, shoulder pain, dizziness, equilibrium problems, etc. He cannot lie flat enough for an MRI, yet he needs an MRI.

For my iPhone & I, FB was the perfect solution to keeping family informed as to the initial incident and our progress all along the way. Hubby's relatives were incensed, however, that I posted personal information about him at all. Some of them suddenly initiated 'Friend Requests' to see what I was writing. My husband's condition became secondary to anger over what I simply refer to as 'my personal FB blog.' 7 Weeks later, some of his relatives remain upset with me to the extent that it has fractured relationships between us...my children and grandchildren, however, were regularly informed and very appreciative.



Facebook [FB] gained nearly 8 million members in May ...

I really don't like to talk on the telephone much any more. Not only does my mind wander, but I generally think of all the things I should be doing. ...

Texting messages from my iPhone, answering email over the Internet and leaving comments on FB is soooooo easy and *seems so right*. I would never pick up the phone and call 22 people long-distance to discuss how my day is going, for example...yet, I am very happy to be privy to how my friends and family are, by the simple act of logging in.

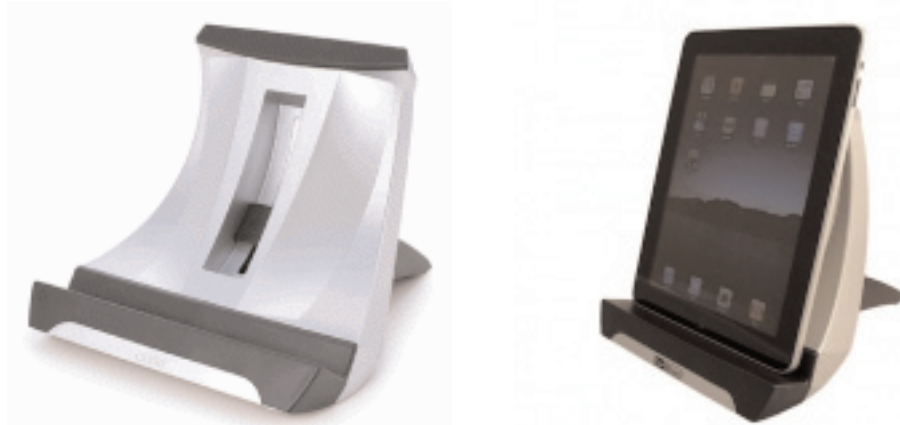
Apparently, 41% of Americans have FB accounts as do 44% in the U.K. and 48% in Canada. A statistic from CNN indicates that there are a half billion FB accounts worldwide resulting in a net worth of \$15 billion.

I'm not the typical FB user as I don't play games like FarmVille, FrontierVille, Happy Aquarium, etc. etc. but will admit to 'buying' virtual gifts now and then ;~)

Scroll
Down for
Page 2

Continued
from Page 1

iPad--- Recliners!



Apple has done it again. By that, I mean succeeded where Microsoft Tablet PC's failed. At numerous tradeshows over the years I witnessed Keynote Speaker Bill Gates on stage, lovingly holding a tablet PC, a product that failed to get off the ground. In April 2010, the much-touted and perhaps ill-termed **iPad** became available to gadget-minded consumers. Over 3 million have been sold already.

The above photos are images of an iPad and/or eReader stand by



I came across a review of this product by Techware Labs.

Periods ranging from 2 minutes to 4 hours were spent using the device at different angles to see how the adjustable recliner device affected use, wear, and functionality. To quote: "Initial use of the Recliner immediately proved its worth as an accessory that iPad owners need. I was able to use the iPad longer without becoming weary from holding it up and my consumption of reading material increased as did my ability to use other applications like the Calendar, Mail, and Notes. I additionally found multi-tasking to become much easier. Other benefits included the ability to use dictation and web browsing easier as well as a general increase in speed of manipulation of all applications due to being hands free as it has the ability to rotate its screen to match your use. Varying the angle of the Recliner is achieved through the use of a large plastic thumbscrew located behind the support bracket. This proves to be both good and bad. It is bad in that this method is simultaneously the most difficult to change and requires you to remove your eReader or iPad and turn the Recliner over in order to change the angle. Additionally the use of a thumbscrew also makes it impossible to change the angle on the fly and difficult to find the right angle for viewing. You should keep this in mind if you feel you will be changing the angle often."

The information contained in Digital Times is a combination of original editorial content and information pulled from wire services, research and various online resources.

Tradeshows

.NAB
.CES
IFA



In 1978 I attended industry tradeshow **IFA**, the world's largest consumer electronics trade show in Berlin, West Germany [as it was referred to at the time.] As many of you know, Digital Times was conceived during a 1994 Seybold tradeshow in San Francisco.

Most of the world's new and exciting interactive products and services are rolled out at these electronics industry shows.

This year: **CES**: the focus seemed to be on 3D, HiDef everything, gaming, digital automotive, healthcare gadgets & smart-phones...

NAB [Nat'l Assoc. of Broadcasters]. This show was held in Las Vegas in April in conjunction with DigitalVision and DigitalSignage. Many events were held, including the finale of an **INTERNATIONAL FILM COMPETITION ... Michael J. Fox** received a **NAB distinguished service award**.

IFA 2010 – 3-8 September, Berlin, Germany.

<http://www.digitaltimes.com>,
.net, .org, .ws, .us, .cc, .biz, .tv
.info, .mobi., .tw, .asia

Digital Times®, founded in 1994, is an "eCommerce publication reporting on the development and/or availability of interactive products and services."
Sandra Knowles Kinnaird,
Founder & Editor