

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

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Text Messaging Crime Solvers!!

Inaugurated last month by the Boston Police Crime Stoppers Division, the department deployed handheld Research In Motion LLC **BlackBerries** to Crime Stoppers staff members so they could pick up incoming text messages -- even when away from their desks. **Anonymous calls and text messages to Crime Stoppers go to a third party that forwards the crime information to police while protecting the identity of the person who sends the information in.**

Officer Jones said, "I really believe that we need to get to the younger generation," Jones said. "They're out there [where crime is happening]. They're part of the problem and part of the solution. We feel we need to get to these younger adults who have to live with this war of gang violence."

"With the increased awareness of the tip line and the added option of sending a tip by text message, we hope that those who have always wanted to do the right thing, but have not spoken up for fear of reprisal, will help us," Boston Police Commission Ed Davis said in a statement. "We need information. We need help ... **text the word "TIP" to CRIME -- 27463.**"

The number of tips that come in annually varies, he said, with an average of 100 incoming tips per day, including duplicate reports of crimes. The number of tips peak in the summer, when crime volume is highest, per Boston Police Officer Cecil Jones, the commander of the Crime Stoppers unit.

One recent tipper reported drug sales activity, including information on one drug delivery suspect that detailed the vehicle he drives, license plate numbers and even the location of a Dunkin Donuts store where the suspect regularly stops to eat.

Kudos to Boston -- the first known city in the nation to give its citizens the ability to submit an anonymous tip from their phone by text message. The **Crime Stoppers** tip line (1-800-494-TIPS) has been in place in Boston for over a decade, but is mostly used by persons over 30!

For more information, interested parties can call the BPD Press Office at (617) 343 4520. -editor

Scroll
Down for
rest of May
issue!



Global \$\$
Exchanges!

paying for
goods or services

while in another
country...



I am traveling to a foreign country soon and with that in mind attended a 'virtual seminar' on Global ePayments. Apparently, it is generally inadvisable and often dangerous to use a debit card when *not* in the United States.

The transaction *failure rate* AND likelihood of *fraud* is much higher with debit cards or bank transfers than with VISA or MASTERCARD, per **CyberSource**.

Over 15,000 businesses use CyberSource electronic payment processing and Credit Card Fraud Management solutions, including half of the companies comprising the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

MP3 - digitally inferior!

The music contained in a MP3 file is only **10% or LESS of that on the original CD.** Digital music has been seriously compressed by eliminating data that computer analysis seems redundant. In a nutshell, we are sacrificing audio quality for portability and in spite of the technologists in the studio who are fastidiously dedicated to generating high quality sound, we, the public, are settling for less.

Artificially produced music in the form of electronic files is becoming the primary way people listen to music. Over **a billion files** are **traded every month over the Internet.**

And in this corner. **Billboard's** director of charts, Geoff Mayfield, claims that more pricey **Music video interactive [MVI] discs** may *replace* CD's, as the *interactive discs* boast many multimedia features not seen in their compact ancestors. These CD's have ringtones, wall-paper, MP3's...something for everyone! With its increased storage capacity, superior sound and interactive capability, many industry players see a potential to revitalize sagging physical album sales.

To be honest, I remember listening to rock'n'roll in the 50's & 60's on cheap plastic transistor radios, and it was great! We didn't jog, but we *did* bop.

Any way you cut it, music is HOT! **Broadcast Music, Inc.® [BMI]** will distribute more than \$732 million in royalties for its 2006-2007 fiscal year to the songwriters, composers and copyright owners it represents. This rise in revenues is due to the successful licensing of music across a **diverse range of media**, including growth in foreign markets. Due to **digital distribution**, BMI's **overhead dropped to 12.7 percent**, the lowest in the company's history.

Over the past year, **BMI** licensed almost **500 new digital media properties** and reached long-term agreements with several major web services. The non-profit-making corporation collects license fees from businesses that use music, which it then distributes as royalties to the musical creators and copyright owners it represents.

BMI posted record-setting revenues of more than **\$839 million**, up seven percent from the prior year and that does not include Landmark Digital Services™, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary.

Digital Life, Death ;-(

Find a need and fill it. Three web services will do *just that*. To come to grips with your own mortality, visit '**The Box Ladies Club.**' They will help you put together a death & disaster-planning box, liberating you from worry.

Second is the '**You Departed**' online service that automatically sends emails with personal messages, photos, videos, estate and insurance information and copies of documents and anything you'd want your family to have if you were to suddenly die. Clients can have multiple holders of the login information including password and a key, who are entitled to unlock your information when the time comes...

Third, is a social network for those in bereavement called **Respectance** that incorporates community into the healing process by creating a communal grieving space where families and friends can share memories of loved ones who have passed or meet others dealing with similar situations. **Users can:**

- . Create profiles
- . Create tributes to a loved one
- . Upload favorite photos and videos
- . Leave memories on a tribute page
- . Create personalized video clips
- . Form groups around a cause or loved one
- . Share experiences through blogs

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