

Digital Hollywood

Script pitching has been replaced by **dot-com deal** pitching in la-la land. VC meetings are very, very hot. "You need to have a dot-com deal so that a star can talk about it at cocktail parties" one Agent was quoted as saying.

Social Security payments to be delivered to the "unbanked" electronically

Last year, the U.S. Treasury pushed a program to send pension checks, veterans' benefits, & social security payments directly to bank accounts.

The estimated 10% of households who are outside of the mainstream financial system, are the "unbanked" who pay their bills with money orders or cash.

Most of these are workers of modest means or older people living on Social Security who typically cash their checks at check-cashing facilities.

Coming to the rescue is a new, lost-cost Electronic Transfer Accounts program (ETAs). ETAs save the government money \$\$ because it's much cheaper to pay electronically than to mail paper checks. ETAs cost @ \$3.00/mo. and are to be used for cash withdrawals only. Goto www.eta-find.gov for a list of the 600 banks that have agreed to provide them.



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Digital Seas International

Renaissance Cruises' fleet of passenger ships will offer onboard Internet Cafe's using a high-speed Internet Protocol satellite network by the Maritime Telecommunications Network. URLs:

<http://www.digitalseas.com>

<http://www.mtnsat.com>



Digital Dilemma

The National Music Publishers Assoc, [sheetmusic] the Harry Fox Agency, Inc. [lyrics] and Williamson Music [both] effectively put an end to a 'lyrics' site [25,000 -30,000 visitors/month] by sending a certified letter to the ISP that is hosting www.digitaltimes.com/lyrics.

In response to reader requests, the lyricsmaster spent a great deal of time going to the public library, with no remuneration whatsoever, to get the freely available words to songs for people unable to locate them on their own.

The Silicon Valley law firm of Grellas & Associates is handling the case for Digital Times®.

Going to Mecca?



SEYBOLD

Attendance at this years Expo at Moscone Center in S.F., Calif. August 29-31- appears to to be disappointing, as you can see from this photograph taken at noontime on opening day.

Over the years, Seybold has been the premier Conference and product showcase for print and web publishing.

In **1994**, **Jonathan Seybold** stated that the "**document is no longer tied to the paper. The paper is disposable. We as a society are going to think of paper as a viewing medium.**"

Look for features and editor's assessment of SeyboldSF in our September issue.

News of the Weird

Urban Cool Network, the General Services Administration and GS Planet is putting together an electronic kiosk project that will make it possible to review your Social Security benefits or apply for political asylum at your local library or shopping center...

BARTER

Digital Times® has addressed Trade and Barter at our website for several years now.

Inter@ctive Week reports that barter is now a \$65 billion per year business and that approximately 400,000 businesses swap goods and services annually.

http://www.digitaltimes.com/Commerce/Trade_Barter/barterorgs.html

Bartering is commonly used by radio stations, publishers, print shops, hotels and resorts I bartered with my dentist last year for her professional services in exchange for mine!

-editor

Digital MLM

You've heard of **pyramid schemes**, right? Also referred to as "**viral marketing**," where friends get other friends to sign up.

A company called **Quickdot.com** simplifies talking to "your inner circle group" by means of their Internet communications service that melds instant messaging, email and Post-it notes.

Users can create a group and "**spam**" their friends, family members or business associates. A typical message might be "Are you available for a party ..." or whatever.

Business people are using the service to post reminders or sales leads to each other. The site has registered over 4 million users.

Digital Rights Management

Or *DRM* is the buzz phrase for a digital commerce company called MaSSIVE Media Gp.

The Group plans to help content providers and advertisers create new business models.

Their digital commerce platform is designed to create environments in which consumers have to pay for content.

After September trials the company plans to shift into high gear.

... ICANN Considering Accusations Against Domain Registrar Network Solutions

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, (**ICANN**) has been hit with complaints that expired domain names are being 'held' by registrar Network Solutions, who announced plans this summer to enter the domain name resale market.

Although there are 19 million domain names registered, the most desirable are those ending in .com. Competitors estimate that Network Solutions is keeping 1 to 3 million expired .com names. The company claims they are entitled to do so to recover unpaid registration fees.

<http://www.digitaltimes.com>

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