

... and the winner is ...

As 2005 draws to a close, the *technobabble* team has been carefully considering this year's contenders for a range of awards for services to and around technology and data. The competition has been tight but we are proud to announce our winners ...



Award for Innovation goes to Cody Ford who, with his team at ChurchStreet Technology, developed software that can reconstruct shredded documents, including those shredded as thin as 1 millimetre, thwarting many businesses involved in litigation that attempt to destroy vital documents.



Award for Revenge goes to an angry NTL customer who, after being put on hold for over an hour, stumbled across the access code to change NTL's customer service message and recorded his own in its place *"Hello you are through to NTL customer services ... We don't give a **** about you, basically, and we are not going to handle any of your complaints. Just **** off and leave us alone. Get a life."*



Literary award for Services to Bookworms goes to Google which, in its quest for world domination, launched an online library allowing users to access books online that are out of copyright and also enabling them to search for and buy other books.



The 'Access all Areas' award goes to the Freedom of Information Act which, in its first 6 months, led to 35,406 requests being received by local authorities and to requests for information ranging from the location of speed cameras to the cost of the wallpaper at Number 10.



Award for Shopping goes to Chip and PIN which, despite criticism, has led to a drop in UK fraud losses by almost a third in the first 6 months of the year. The scheme is now in its final roll out phase with Valentine's Day 2006 being the deadline for cardholders to have to remember their PIN.



Award for Perseverance goes to Michael Durant who, having pursued his fight against the Financial Services Authority to get access to information has been refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords and is now looking to the European Court of Human Rights claiming breach of his right to a fair trial and right to respect for private and family life under the European Convention on Human Rights.



Posthumous award for Dedication goes to a South Korean, known only by his family name, Lee, who, having lost his job due to his obsession with computer games, died after playing online multiplayer game, Starcraft, virtually non-stop for almost 50 hours.



Fastest Finger First award goes to text messaging which, in 2005, cemented its place amongst the most popular means of communication with noted activities including: exam boards reporting a sharp rise in cheating teenagers who tried using SMS to get answers to exam questions; its invaluable use in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster which allowed messages to get through when mobile signals were too weak to sustain voice calls. With British firm, Staellium, having developed a new service which destroys sensitive messages 40 seconds after being read, the famous and, of course, the TXT exposed infamous will be celebrating this award.



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Bulletin Board

Christmas Office Hours ...

Our office will be closed as follows:
23 December - closed from 1pm
26 December
27 December
2 January

PLEASE NOTE: Not all of the commercial team lawyers will be in the office over the holiday period. If you know that you will need specific assistance during this time, please make direct arrangements with your usual adviser.

Contact Lynne Carrick-Leary for more information at marketing@james-chapman.co.uk

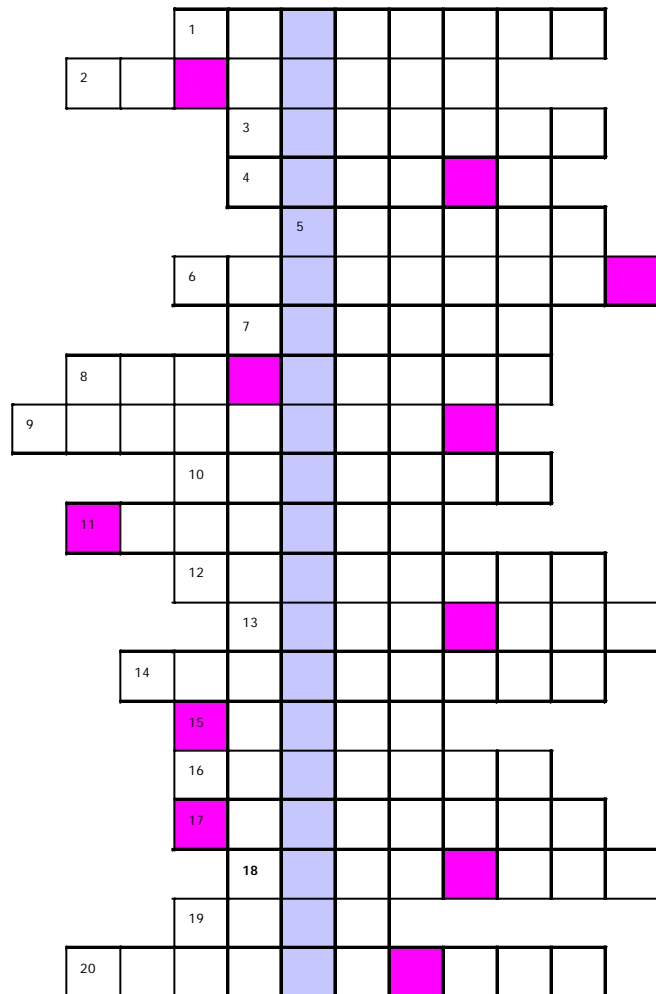
Editor's Chat Room

It's been a great 2005 for all of us here in the technobabble team and we are grateful for all the good things our readers have said about our newsletter. The circulation list has grown in the last 12 months by over 300 per cent and the light and chatty format seems to have gone down well. We are always pleased to hear from you about things that you'd like to see in future issues and hope you'll continue to enjoy technobabble in 2006. In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and we'll see you all again in the New Year.



technobabble Christmas clueword ...

All of the answers to our cryptic clueword are related to technology and data matters. The blue boxes spell out a new piece of legislation that came into force earlier this year and, if you rearrange the letters from the pink boxes from your answers, they spell something festive.



- 1 Sick, confused horse sent abroad
- 2 Shorten the agreement
- 3 Fishing with crossed lines
- 4 Waiter processes your requests
- 5 Some French complain about personal data - so does Michael
- 6 Europe can be persuasive about Mickey Mouse's online activities
- 7 Sam and Alice hide the editor
- 8 Find the programmer's code and let someone else look after it
- 9 Mad hopper in trouble in July
- 10 Sharing knowledge about an account is not allowed
- 11 Permissions given for novice to start science puzzle
- 12 Afro stew supports the business operation
- 13 Featherweight item brought in from elsewhere
- 14 Tiny and cuddly supplier of Office equipment
- 15&16 Three blokes make a law firm
- 17 Imprison Spielberg's creation on the web
- 18 Baggy tie holds millions of characters
- 19 Eve's new age temptation
- 20 Redesign the only cog using computers