



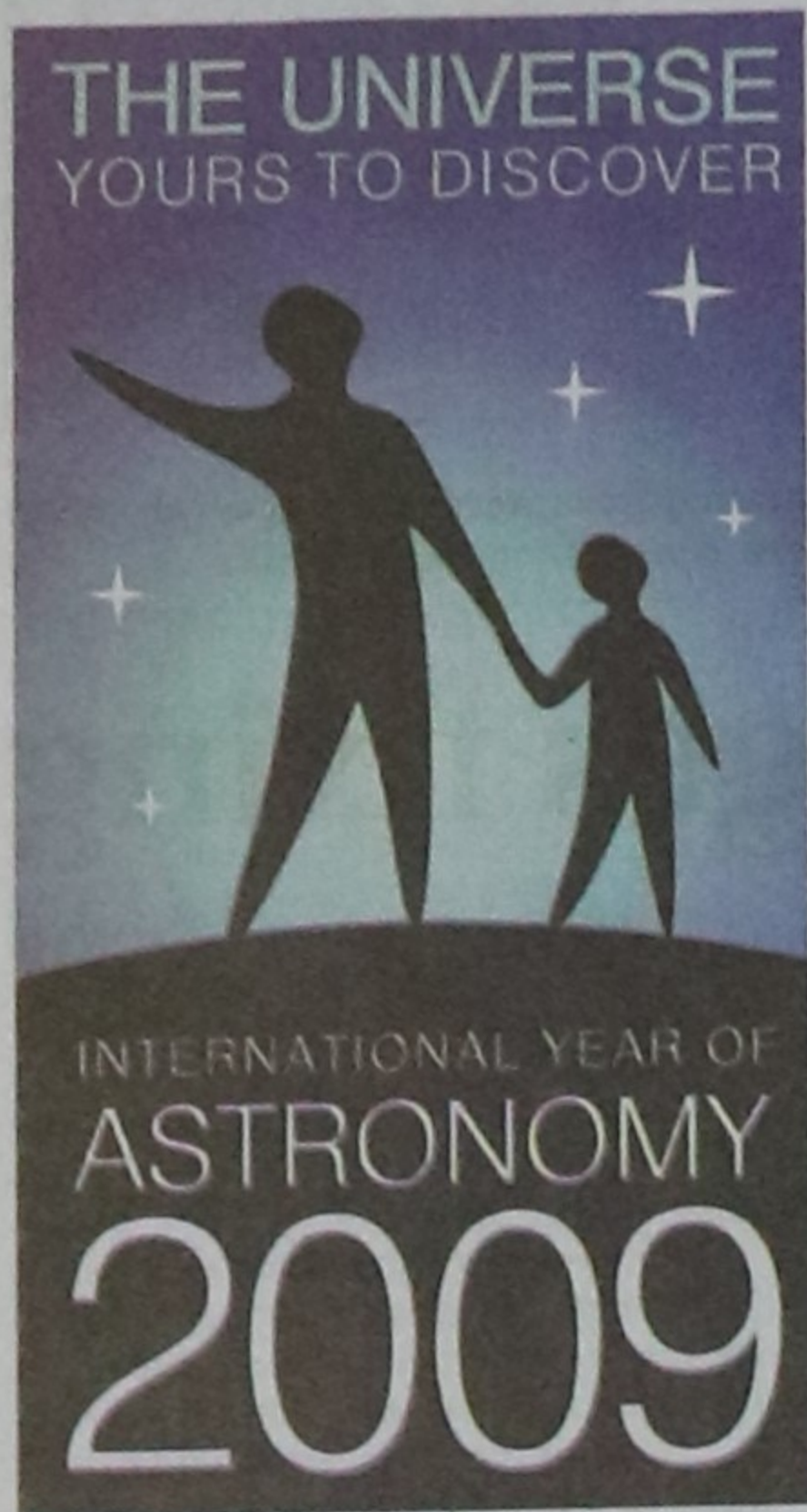
Mbone

Mbone (short for "multicast backbone") is an experimental backbone for IP Multicast traffic across the internet. Since most internet routers do not yet support IP Multicast, the Mbone has evolved to connect multicast-capable networks over the existing internet infrastructure. It is anticipated that the Mbone will eventually become obsolete as more routers understand and forward IP Multicast traffic, which is a standard feature in IPv6. Mbone is currently of practical use for shared communication such as videoconferences or shared collaborative workspaces.



TECHSPOTLIGHT

Sci-Tech 2009: What to look forward to



MAHDIN MAHBOOB

2009 promises to be yet another promising year for the world of Science and Technology. 2009 has already been declared the 'International year of Astronomy' and many other high tech gadgets, automobiles and electrical appliances, due to hit the markets all through the year, promises a great year ahead of us.

We at StarTech, tried to find out what 2009 promises us and the following is a sneak peek of the year ahead of us:

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 is a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery.

The vision of such a declaration is to ensure everyone realizes the impact of astronomy and other fundamental sciences on our daily lives, and understand how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society. IYA2009 activities will take place locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. National Nodes have been formed in each country to prepare activities for 2009. These nodes will establish collaborations between professional and amateur astronomers, science centres and science communicators to prepare activities for 2009. Already now, 135 countries are involved and well over 140 are expected to participate eventually.

To help coordinate this huge global programme and to provide an important resource for the participating countries, the IAU has established a central Secretariat and an IYA2009 website (www.astronomy2009.org) as the principal IYA2009 resource for all interested.

Cell Phone as Credit Card!

Behold! If you happen to live in Canada, by Mid-2009, you can wave your mobile phone for the ultimate freedom to purchase all you need at supermarkets, restaurants and anywhere else for that matter. Visa (International Credit Card Company) and Rogers Wireless (Canada) have come

together for the next phase of the mobile phone payment pilot, which will ultimately allow Canadians the flexibility to make purchases securely at the point of sale with a wave of their mobile phone. The customer phase of the mobile phone payment pilot is expected to launch in mid-2009, following a brief employee pilot.

Designed to be a fast and convenient way for customers to pay for small purchases, pilot participants will be issued specially-equipped mobile phones that can simply be waved at Visa payWave-enabled checkout readers at select retail stores and quick-service restaurants in Toronto's downtown core.

As part of the pilot, Motorola mobile phones outfitted with Near Field Communication (NFC) contactless chips will enable customers to make purchases using the Visa payWave feature just as they would with a contactless RBC Visa card. The functions tested in the pilot will include the

landscape changed, making those who were marginalized early on were subsequently placed in the perfect position to dominate an entire industry. Could the same thing happen to Africa? Definitely, the mobile phone market here is proving to be successful beyond most expectations just five years ago. Other industries are also predicting growth in 2009.

Cumulus Solutions for Developing Countries 'The cloud' is an elusive technological beast that happily thrives in the world of billion dollar data centers in the west. But there are currently about three billion people untouched by the internet across Asia, South America and Africa. Look for a number of CDN(Content delivery network)'s to try to penetrate these emerging markets by offering mobile services, alternative energy powered data centers and hyper-local hosting solutions.

Innovations in Water Technology

The one resource that the world needs more than anything else on the planet is being strained by over population, pollution, and global warming. Researchers speculate that in 2009, we'll see a tipping point of innovations in water technologies. Whether it's simple solutions like the Water Cone (<http://www.watercone.com/product.html>) or more advanced things like Max Water (<http://www.waterunlimited.com.au/>).

Predictions On Google

ZDNet's Garrett Rogers: Google's Chrome browser will grab as much as 15 percent of the browser market as it begins being preinstalled on new PCs. Google will also see solid financial gains as its sharemarket value is likely to soar high.

- Psychic Celia: Google's going to grow three times bigger. "There's a company that'll get involved with Google that will make it go that much higher this year. It will be a company that advertises."

- Psychic Shaun: Google's growth is going to slow -- unless it finds the right new idea. "They need to come up and do something that's going to knock it out of the ballpark."



secure delivery and storage of account information to the mobile phone and the security of mobile payments at retailers.

African Industry Boom

Africa is by definition an outlier. It's a whole continent that, for the most part, is completely decoupled from the world economy and subsequently peoples expectations of what it can contribute. People here are looked at as offering very little, if anything, to the world community especially when it comes to technological innovation. 25 of the poorest nations on the planet are all in Africa and the world economic crisis is only compounding that fact. What this means is the world isn't paying attention to Africa...at all. It's up to Africans to capitalize on this underestimation. Malcolm Gladwell, in his most recent book OUTLIERS, writes about jewish lawyers who were the industry outcasts of the early twentieth century in New York. Fast forward a few years and the entire

TECHNEWS

2funmail.com

Bangladeshi gaming portal

STARTECH DESK

ATTENTION, Attention, Attention!!! All Bangladeshi gamers; there is a great news for you. A Bangladeshi gaming portal "2funmail.com" has just been launched for all the online gamers.

There are lots of games you can play on this site. The games have been classified into six different categories -- action, arcade, sports, strategy, racing and puzzle.

Within these six categories; there are 120 highest-rated games you can play with your counter-part over the internet.

The site is not only a gaming portal, but also you can get all the latest and hottest news of the gaming world. You can get all the game-related updates and features in this site.

A "Game Review" link is also available where you can get all the reviews of the

recent popular games. You can also get all the information about the latest and upcoming games in the "Hot news games" portion.

Moreover, the site has opened a window of opportunity for the game-creators" as you can upload your own games on this website.

There is also a forum for the users where you can share your views with other gamers around the globe. At the same time, you can also rate the games you played.

While playing you can also enjoy all the latest music of Bangladesh and the rest of the world through "2fun Pod" anytime you log on to this site.

But remember, whatever you do you have got to register and become a member, before you can make the most of this experience.



TECHNEWS

Koobface virus making rounds on Facebook: McAfee

AFP, Washington

A New Variant Of a virus known as Koobface is making the rounds on the Facebook social network, a security software firm warned this week.

McAfee Inc., in a company blog posting on Wednesday, said the virus, known as a worm, was being spread in the form of a message with a subject line along the lines of "You look just awesome in this new movie."

When users click on the message it informs them their Flash player is out of date. They are then prompted to download or open the file flash_player.exe, a new Koobface variant.

McAfee said Facebook, which has more than 120 million members, was purging the spammed links from their system "but with dozens of Koobface variants known to exist, the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better."

"The safe-computing practice created more than 10 years ago still applies today, which is not to open any unexpected email attachments, even if they are from someone you know," McAfee said.

McAfee said the motivation behind the virus appears to be to steal search results from a Facebook user's visits to such sites as Google, Yahoo, MSN and Live.com to enable fraud.

Internet news agency CNET quoted Facebook representative

Barry Schnitt as saying the worm has been around since August although the variant seen this week is new.

"Only a very small percentage of Facebook users have been affected and we're working quickly to update our security systems to minimize any further impact," he said.



PHOTO TECH



3G WATCH PHONE

This handout photo released on December 29, 2008, by LG Electronics shows its new watch-shaped mobile video phone "3G watch phone" model. The model has a touch-screen dialling system with a camera and a speaker built in to enable users to make video calls with high-speed downlink packet access.

PHOTO: AFP

TECHNEWS

Microsoft's Zune players freeze on New Year's Eve

AP, San Francisco

Happy New Year from Microsoft Corp.: Your Zune is dead.

Thousands of Microsoft's Zune media players the software company's answer to Apple Inc.'s iPod unexpectedly conked out Wednesday and showed users an error message, prompting references to "Y2K for Zunes." The problems appeared when people tried to start up their devices.

Frustrated users lit up Microsoft's online support forum for Zunes with more than 2,500 messages by Wednesday afternoon.

Late Wednesday, the Redmond, Wash.-based company said the outage affected only the 30-gigabyte Zune models and was caused by a problem with their internal clock. Microsoft expected the problem to clear up as the clocks ticked over to Jan. 1, though users will have to jump through some hoops to get their Zunes back to normal, including letting the batteries die down completely before the devices will restart successfully.

The crash of so many Zunes at once drew comparisons to the Y2K program-



ming problem that stoked fears about a widespread computer meltdown in 2000 when the machines ticked over to

the new millennium. Zunes have popularity compared the iPod, which owns nearly three-quarters of the MP3 market, compared with Zune's single-digit market share, according to statistics from the NPD Group. But some users are fiercely loyal, and newer Zunes have gotten positive reviews.