



<http://www.witwomen.org.au/>

Conference

2005 ACS Canberra Conference: IT in Government

ACS Canberra Conference this year will offer you a unique and invaluable opportunity to know what's hot amongst CIO in Government.

Ann Steward, CIO of AMIGO, Jonathan Palmer, CIO of ABS, Graham Fry, CIO of AG, Cheryl Hannah, CIO of DIMIA, Rozanne Frost, CIO of CSIRO will speak on key IT projects and what's hot in their areas. Steve Bittinger of Gartner, Rob Thomsett and Edward Mandla, ACS President will share with us their views in IT and its future.

National Convention Centre, Friday, 4 November, 2005. Registration fee ranges from \$50 (student), \$75 for ACS members to \$120 for non-members.

http://www.acs.org.au/act/2005_conference/acs_act_conf_2005.htm

AsiaConnect: Maximising Asia Skills

You are invited to AsiaConnect: Maximising Asia Skills, a conference bringing together senior representatives from a range of sectors and Asia-interested professionals, graduates and students to explore how to maximise Australia's Asia skills. It is an absolute must for anyone interested in working with or in Asia.

Keynote Address: The Honourable John Brumby MP, Treasurer of Victoria. Businesses represented on panels: ACIL Australia, Asia Pacific TV, BHP Billiton, Boston Consulting Group, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ericsson, Hudson, Intrepid Travel, Leightons Holdings, Lonely Planet, Orica Mining, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

18 November, Sofitel Melbourne, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne, \$95 General; \$55 Students (lunch included), 8.00am to 5.30pm.

Contact Lucy Moore (03) 8344 3589 or see <http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/asiacconnect/index.html>

The 10th Australian Workshop on Requirements Engineering (AWRE)

The main objective of AWRE series is to provide a forum to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in software and system requirements to exchange ideas and experiences and to collaboratively explore a range of topics of shared interest.

Early bird registration will end on 4th November. Registration Fees for ACS members is \$200. Venue: Deakin University, Melbourne

<http://lamp.infosys.deakin.edu.au/05awre/>

News

Apache encourages female coders

A 'welcoming environment' is being created to spur more women into get involved in Apache projects

The Apache Software Foundation (ASF) is hoping to increase the participation of women in its open source projects by setting up a new mailing list.

Jean Anderson, who works on the Apache Derby database, said on Monday that the list would provide "a supportive, encouraging forum to help women become more involved in ASF projects".

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/software/developer/0.39020387.39214398.00.htm>

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The vanity version of the iPod nano is expected to be part of the introduction of a number of next-generation products including an iPod with video capabilities, according to AppleInsider, an Apple-focused web publication.

<http://www.redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=13945&hed=Apple%e2%80%99s+Madonna+iPod§or=Industries&subsector=EntertainmentAndMedia>

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CompTIA rolls out futureproofing initiative

The Computer Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) yesterday launched a skills and career development initiative dubbed IT Pro to track and inform members of changing trends in terms of career development or hot IT skills.

Danika Bakalich, CompTIA ANZ regional director, said the initiative is like a navigation tool that identifies current skills required in the workplace.



IT Pro, which was launched in Sydney by IT Minister Senator Helen Coonan, was born out of a vendor steering committee - made up of Cisco, Apple, Microsoft, HP, IBM, Symantec, Oracle and Sun - established in 2003 to understand the impact vendor training and certification has on the IT industry, and how to improve skill sets

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=420604989&eid=-257>

Dine in geek heaven with Dyne:bolicll

Multimedia producers and artists will have the power to fully customise their own tailored GNU/Linux environment on a bootable CD with the release of Dyne:bolicll by the end of the year. That is the aim of core developer, Jaromil, who says the new system will give users unprecedented flexibility and control.

Aimed at multimedia producers, artists, activists, and content creators, the Dyne:bolic multimedia platform on a bootable CD offers a vast range of software for multimedia production, streaming, 3-D modelling, photo editing, Web browsing and publishing, peer-to-peer file sharing, and networking.

It also includes games and a world navigator. Dyne:bolic is capable of automatic clustering - joining the CPU power between any other Dyne:bolic on the local network.

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1693674882&eid=-301>

Lonely? Meet Virtual Boyfriend

It's not just for the lonely anymore. A virtual boyfriend is now available for women who are looking for a companion in the online world. The service, called Virtual Boyfriend, allows women to create a virtual boyfriend who can chat, flirt, and even have a virtual date with them. The service is available for free and is a great way for women to meet new people and have fun in the online world.

<http://www.redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=13889&hed=Lonely?%20Meet%20Virtual%20Boyfriend>

Skills the message for IT medium

The days are long gone when IT jobs could be won on just the strength of technical skills, says 53-year-old Catherine Lang, an information systems lecturer at Swinburne University's School of Information Technology in Melbourne. Now, she says, IT graduates need communication skills to complement technical skills.

"They need to be able to communicate on all levels: in groups, presenting to peers, written communication, and report writing," says Ms Lang, who is incorporating these skills into key subjects in the IT curriculum with the aim of producing well-rounded graduates.

Ms Lang's experience in lobbying for research grants taught her the importance of presentation skills. "Everyone wants the money. It's very competitive, and you need to present a convincing argument."

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/next/skills-the-message-for-it-medium/2005/10/24/1130006035840.html>

Survival Tactics For Women In FOSS, part 1

Surviving in the often rough-and-tumble FOSS world can take a bit of study and practice. It's not a place for the timid and fearful. But then, no place is, so you might as well gird your loins and stride boldly forth, because the rewards are huge. Whatever you are interested in- coding, system administration, network administration, documentation, bug finding, bug-fixing, or learning to be a skilled user - there is a place for you.

You'll find some of the best brains in computing to hang out with and learn from, and a lot of fine humans who are fun and interesting. And no matter what level you are, you'll be able to teach others.

This is where the action is, not back in the stodgy, protectionist proprietary world, where even your thoughts are considered corporate property.

<http://laxer.com/module/newswire/view/45774/>

Survival Tactics For Women In FOSS, part 2

Part 2 is a partial resource guide, a list of women-oriented tech communities. Doubtless there are more, so feel free to add your recommendations in the discussion. These are great places to connect with other women in computing, to socialize, to get job and professional tips, and to get help and encouragement for everything from workplace and personal issues to technical help.

For most of these groups the goal is not to provide a safe shelter to hide in and never come out, but to help women develop the skills and support to cope with everyday challenges, and achieve their goals.

If you are scratching your head and going "What is FOSS?" it stands for Free and Open Source Software. This encompasses an entire computing universe: Linux, the GNU Foundation, the Open Source Initiative, and even Open/Free Hardware.

<http://laxer.com/module/newswire/view/46012/index.html>

Women to promote open source in Africa



The third Women's Electronic Network Training (WENT) Africa event will take place in Uganda in December. The focus for the event is the promotion of awareness and support for free and open source software (FOSS) in women's organisations in Africa.

Hosted by APC-Africa-Women, WENT Africa's workshops are designed to help African women's organisations utilise information and communication technologies in social development and policy advocacy.

The Kampala, Uganda event, which runs from 5 to 10 December, follows a FOSS for Women workshop in the SADC region, which was hosted by Women'sNet in 2004.

<http://www.tectonic.co.za/viewr.php?id=678>

Women valued for technology roles

A woman who uses a robot dog to get others excited about technology and its potential as a career has been named best woman in technology for her work.

Jackie Edwards, a lecturer from De Montfort University, won the overall prize at the inaugural Blackberry Women and Technology Awards on Thursday. Hundreds of women gathered in London to celebrate their achievements.

The awards were aimed at recognising women's significant professional contribution in fields of technology. Even though women make half of the UK's overall workforce, the number employed in technology industries fell from 27% in 1997 to 21% in 2005, according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/4384432.stm>

Women worse off under proposed IR changes - 07/10/05 - Desley Boyle

The Federal Government's proposed changes to industrial relations will significantly disadvantage women workers and their families, according to an open letter today from all State Government Ministers for Women. Queensland Women's Minister Desley Boyle said: "Under the proposed new federal system, the rights of working women to security of employment, to protection against summary dismissal and to fair procedures, will no longer exist".

"Any reduction in wages will make it economically unviable for some women to work, particularly low income earners who are sensitive to the relationship between child care costs and take home pay," Ms Boyle said. The Ministers noted the majority of women were already worse off under individual or Australian Workplace Agreements as they were less likely to have access to family-friendly provisions, such as flexible starting and finishing times or certainty of work hours. Currently, women on AWAs earn 70 per cent of the average earnings of men on AWAs, compared with women covered by Awards who earn 83 per cent of men's average earnings.

"As Ministers representing the interests of women, we know the depth of concern being expressed by Australian women over these changes. We seek assurances from the Federal Government that working women will not be worse off under a changed industrial relations system, in particular that women will not be asked to choose between family friendly conditions and pay levels under the proposed changes," the Ministers said.

Media contact: 3227 8819

ACM

Bring on the Geekettes

Maclean's (10/25/05); Bourette, Susan

New research continues to support the belief that environment is more likely to determine the success of an individual in math and sciences than chromosomes. Although research presented at the American Sociological Association meeting in Philadelphia in August showed women were well represented in the fields of health and education, experts believe girls would pursue science-related fields more if it were stressed to them that science is another practical way to help people.

As a result, over the past decade educators have worked to fine-tune the way they teach and their curriculum to ensure that girls continue to remain interested in science. Universities are setting up multidisciplinary programs that allow students to take hard science courses as well as other subjects. In Ontario, engineering programs have added biology, which is a popular subject among girls, to the list of course options, and they are also promoting the humanistic values of engineering to high school students.

http://www.macleans.ca/topstories/education/article.jsp?content=20051024_114041_114041

Female Equation

Washington Times (10/03/05) P. B1; Widhalm, Shelley

There are fewer women professionals in the math and computer science fields because fewer female college and university students are pursuing studies in those areas. Jill Landsman, with the Technology Student Association in Virginia, attributes this downward trend to a lack of female role models.

Mary Jean Harrold, with the National Science Foundation's Advance program, says girls taking computer science classes may perceive a computer science career as socially isolating and personally unrewarding. National Alliance for Partnership Equity executive director Mimi Lufkin thinks such views are nurtured by the competitive environment of computer science classes and their emphasis on theory and individual performance rather than practical application and teamwork, while additional discouragement can come from the media and parents.



<http://www.washtimes.com/metro/20051002-093823-4290r.htm>

K-12 Programs Draw Girls to Science

EE Times (10/17/05) No. 1393, P. 1; Riley, Sheila

To help overcome the proportionate absence of girls in engineering, MathWorks is sponsoring an after-school robotics club for fifth grader girls where, in teams of three, they design a robotic device to improve handicapped access. That the environment is all female helps the children feel like they are not in competition with boys, and the project is also appealing because it makes them feel like they are helping others.

The program is just one of many throughout primary and secondary education around the country aimed at boosting the participation of underrepresented demographic groups in math and science. At the forefront of such initiatives is the nonprofit Project Lead the Way (PLTW), which develops pre-engineering courses for middle schools and high schools.

<http://www.eetimes.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=172301205>