

Cool Stuff Issue #2

I've been accused of being a bit long winded and it is true I have a lot to say. So today I just want to briefly highlight a few cool things that might make you say hmmm...

Skype Communication



Since we are all under a heavy budget crunch this year, Skype offers a way to make communication a lot less expensive. For mobile business people this is the way to go. Imagine free long distance to 34 countries for only \$10 per month. Include with that an online phone number, voicemail, call forwarding, text messaging and video!

Skype to Skype calls are free, but to call land lines the calls are 2.1 cents per minute. You can pay-as-you-go or pay a monthly subscription to get all of what Skype has to offer. If you are really on a budget you can get the Skype software downloaded to your computer for free. If your friends and colleagues do the same you can enjoy the free Skype to Skype service.

Is your small business going global? Skype might be your best communications partner. Go to the [Skype web site](#) to learn more. They have all kinds of telephony solutions.

Zoom in On a World So Small

Just when thought that you have seen everything now you can take a good look at your loose change or see if you need a better conditioner for your hair. While this isn't a new technology it is a fun thing that you can do with your computer. There are a bunch of USB Microscopes on the market from kids toys to laboratory grade. They range in price from \$100 to \$5000 respectively. However you can get a nice one from \$200 - \$500 for an interesting side hobby.

USB Microscopes are plug and play and easy to use. They usually come with software that helps you capture stills or video.

Great for stamp and coin collectors as well as the burgeoning entomologist. When shopping for one of these here are some features to consider: Is it USB powered?, Does it contain it's own led light source?, Does it produce high resolution images?, Can it record video? and lastly how powerful is it?




In my estimation, I think that 400x is a good starting place for power. This allows you to see a hair follicle like a tree branch and the tip of your finger like the grand canyon. If you are on a budget the 100x resolution will allow for good insect examination. With more power comes more cost in terms of lenses.

There are several place to find these including Amazon. Here is a list of top places to do your research.

- [ProScope HR](#)
- [Sunrise Dino](#)
- [PC Gears](#)

The ProScopeHR shown here has been featured on the show CSI.

What is Everyone Twittering About

 Actually they are twittering about nothing. And if nothing is all you are into then let me turn you on to [Twitter](#). Twitter is an online service that enables you to broadcast short messages to your friends or “followers.” It also lets you specify which Twitter users you want to follow so you can read their messages in one place.

Do you have an interesting life? Maybe you should share it! Twitter is a FREE service if you have absolutely nothing to do. When you signup, use your real name so that your friends can find you. You can also upload a picture so that users



can see who they are twittering with. If you select the “Protect my updates” box, people won’t be able to read your Twitters unless you authorize them. You’ll have more fun if you leave this box unchecked.

You can connect to Twitter via mobile phone or Instant Messenger. However, be careful about Twittering, It would not be wise to let people know that you have left your house for the weekend on 1234 Mock Ave. Messages are called “Tweets”. I know...it gets more cornier...

When you sign in it’s just like any other Web 2.0 social site. You get bloggy looking page and you know the drill - get your friends to sign up. There are also browser and web gadgets so that nobody misses a second.

Public figures and Twitter celebrities will have more followers than friends. People who want to watch more than participate will have more friends than followers. People who just use Twitter to communicate just within their own social group will have roughly the same number of friends and followers.

Born out of the blogger age, Twitter keeps your followers informed to the minute every time you input an update.

**Here are some celebrity
Twitterists:**

- [John Edwards](#)
- [Cali Lewis](#)
- [Robert Scoble](#)
- [Leo Laporte](#)
- [Dave Winer](#)
- [Amber Macarthur](#)
- [Janina Gavankar](#)

**Here are some fake celebrity
Twitterists:**

- [Bill Clinton](#)
- [Steve Jobs](#)
- [Darth Vader](#)
- [George Bush](#)
- [Paris Hilton](#)
- [Bill Gates](#)
- [Condi Rice](#)
- [Pee Wee Herman](#)
- [Lord God Almighty](#)

Is there a Web Topic that you would Like to Read About?

As you know I can go on and on about web related matters. However, I would like to know what matters to you on your web journey. Let me know by contacting me [here](#).

Posted on June 2nd, 2008 by Karl Knelson