



XEROX TOUTS ERASABLE PAPER - SMART DOCUMENTS

Xerox has developed paper that can be reused after printed text automatically deletes itself from the paper's surface within 24 hours.

A single piece of paper can be reused up to 100 times for black and white printing. The paper contains specially coded molecules that create a print after being exposed to ultraviolet light emitted from a thin bar in a printer. The molecule can readjust itself within 24 hours to its original form to delete the print, or heat can readjust the molecule instantly.

Xerox scientists also demonstrated technologies to make documents more intelligent by providing a deeper meaning to text and images. This is done by cross-referencing similar data and images mined off the internet and incorporating other sources like e-mail messages and corporate networks.

Source: Computerworld
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticle-Basic&taxonomyName=storage&articleId=908097&taxonomy=188&instrc=kc_top

LEAF CLIPPINGS COULD BECOME VACCINES

University of California, Davis researchers have developed a technique to turn harvested plant leaves into custom protein factories by injecting them with a microbe that carries the gene that produces the desired protein. The plant cells could make many kinds of proteins, such as antigens for rapid production of vaccines against new viruses.

Source: Science News
http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/31646/title/Leaf_clippings_as_protein_factories

HOW CONVENIENT

Convenience stores pump an estimated 75 percent of all gasoline in the U.S. The industry's 140,000-plus stores rang up \$151 billion of merchandise located inside the stores in 2005.

Source: National Association of Convenience Stores report.

WILL "SUPER-BUGS" OUTLAST US?

Bacteria may eventually prove to be Earth's greatest evolutionary success story. While humans scramble to arm themselves with new antibiotic weapons to fight deadly microbes, we are likely to lose the war in the long run, according to Lester A. Mitscher, a University Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Miracle drugs like penicillin have saved countless lives, especially during World War II, but the downside is that, because these antibiotics were deemed so safe and effective, they were over prescribed, giving the target microbes the opportunity to evolve their way around the weapons aimed at them, Mitscher notes in the JOURNAL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS.

Drug-resistant "super-bugs" like MRSA (Methacillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) are making headlines as hospitals become breeding grounds and patients become all-too-available victims.

Mitscher urges drug corporations to develop antibiotics that not only kill the immediate microbial enemies, but also inhibit their ability to mutate. This would allow patients' own immune systems to help battle infections. Unfortunately, he notes, the economics of the pharmaceutical industry has slowed the pace of antibiotic discovery that could achieve these goals.

Source: University of Kansas
www.news.ku.edu/2008/april23/antibiotics.shtml

NEW TYPE OF PULSATING WHITE DWARF STAR DISCOVERED

On May 1st University of Texas at Austin astronomers, confirmed their prediction of existence of a new type of variable star, with the help of the 2.1-meter Otto Struve Telescope at McDonald Observatory. The discovery was announced in Astrophysical Journal Letters.

Source: PhysOrg.com
<http://www.physorg.com/news128859855.html>

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CELLPHONES USED FOR MEDICAL IMAGING

University of California at Berkeley researchers have developed a technique for transmitting medical images via cell phones. The cell phone, hooked up to the data acquisition device (breast tomography sensor, x-ray or MRI machine, etc.), would transmit the raw data to a central server, where the information would be used to create an image. The server would then relay a highly compressed image back to the cell phone, where the doctor could view it on the cell phone screen.

Source: ZDNET
<http://blogs.zdnet.com/mergingtech/?p=908>

NANO PRODUCTS GOING MAINSTREAM

Nanotechnology is churning out new consumer products at a rate of three or four a week, according to the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies.

There are now more than 600 nano-products in the project's registry, including nanowhiting toothpaste (containing calcium peroxide nanoparticles), automotive parts using nanocomposites, and even golf clubs made with nanotech-derived materials.

The biggest category for nanoproducts is health and fitness items, such as cosmetics and sunscreens, which represent 60% of the products in the inventory. Sales of products incorporating nanotechnology reached an estimated \$88 billion in 2007 and could reach \$2.6 trillion by 2014, according to Lux Research.

Public perceptions about risks—real and perceived—can have large economic consequences. How consumers respond to these early products in food, electronics, health care, clothing, and cars is a litmus test for broader market acceptance of nanotechnologies in the future.

Source: Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
www.nanotechprojects.org

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