

For Active
People
Ages 60+



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Cyberspace News

Daily Text Messages Exceed 4 BILLION

The latest figures from the cell phone industry's trade association show that, during 2009, most indicators were up, including the number of U.S. subscribers, the average monthly bills, data traffic, and even the number of cell towers.

Text messaging soared. During the first half of 2009, users sent about 740 billion text messages. That's about 4.1 billion per day, or nearly 17 texts per day by everyone with a data-capable phone.

That total was about double the number seen in the first half of 2008, when "only" 386 billion text messages were dispatched.

The figures gathered by the industry group CTIA (the Wireless Association, formerly known as the Cellular Telephone Industries Association) cover about 96 percent of the U.S. cell phone industry. They show that in 2009 the number of subscribers rose about 5 percent over 2008, to

276.6 million.

As texting rates rise, the average call length has been falling dramatically.

The figure had been fluttering around the 3-minute mark for the latter half of the decade, peaking at 3.13 minutes in 2007, when Americans were at their most talkative. It then slumped by nearly a quarter to 2.43 minutes in 2008, and then by nearly as much again in 2009, to 2.03 minutes

Through it all, the carriers are making more revenue. The average user's monthly bill rose two percent in 2008, to \$49.57, although that was still below the pre-1995 high-water mark of \$49.94. (Before 1995, fewer than 20 million people had cell phones and monthly bills averaged well over \$50.)

Apparently, we Americans have much to say!

Source: www.livescience.com

Free And Fun

Come to our **Computer Fun Meetings, which are free and open to everyone, whether you're a WACC member or not.**

Meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 11:30AM to 1PM.

Just For You

Cyberspace News is now archived on the WACC website. There you can see prior issues of CN, full issues of the newsletter between April 2007 and October 2009 as well as selected articles from other issues.

In some articles, additional important material is included (for instance, information obtained after publication).

Just go to www.wacci.net and click the "Archives" button along the left side.

Snoop Out Snopes

The web has a lot of truthful, useful information. Unfortunately, it also contains a lot of malarkey. And, some of the most reputable people you know may send you well-intentioned information that is not true.

To find out if something is fact or fiction, check out www.snopes.com. This site is especially good for finding out if a virus warning is true or a hoax.

It's also an amusing site when you see what kinds of misinformation people pass along. For example:

- A *false* claim that a federal judge has ordered President Barack Obama to prove his eligibility for the presidency in court on 1/26/10.
- A *false* claim that a man stuck in a cat door without

his pants was mistaken for a work of art.

- The country of Finland banned Donald Duck because he wears no pants (true, the duck doesn't wear pants; *false*, the country did not ban him).
- A *false* report that McDonald's is the world's largest purchaser of cow eyeballs.
- A *false* claim that an Oregon county health services department hired a Klingon interpreter to assist psychiatric patients who speak no other language.

Special thanks to Bill Shapiro for sending in the Snopes website.



How To Clean Almost ANYTHING

You never wonder how to clean something until it's dirty. The next time you're faced with this dilemma, take a moment from staring at whatever is soiled and log onto the website www.howtocleanstuff.net. It's filled with information on how to clean just about anything.

One really nice thing about this site is that it doesn't automatically send you running out to

buy chemicals you may not need. For example, the authors may tell you to start with vinegar and then work your way up to more toxic cleaning methods only if the simple stuff didn't work.

Put this site in your "Reference" box!

Thanks to George Morris for coming clean on this site!

A Teachable Moment

A friend sent me this very high-tech answer to an age old question.

“Daddy, where did I come from?” a little boy asked his father. The father answered, “Well, son, your mom and I first met in a chatroom on Yahoo. I set up a date via email and we met in a cyber-café. We sneaked into a private room where your mom agreed to a download from my hard drive.”

“As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a fire-wall. It was too late to hit the Delete button. Nine months later a little Pop-Up appeared that said,

‘You’ve got male.’”



Valentine’s Day Poems

So you’ve been together for what seems like light years and now you’re facing *another* Valentine’s Day. What’s a spouse to do? Turn to the Internet, of course!

Make your own card and insert a verse from the website www.love-poetry.net. There you will find the words of English poet, Paul Curtis. He has some very serious poetry, but also some humorous poems. Here’s a sample from the latter category:

Anything By George

George arrived home from work one night

To find the house bathed in candlelight

His wife Julie Draped on the sofa sexily

Wearing very little and smiling seductively

She swung her long stockin’ed legs to the floor

And walked slowly to George by

the door

In her silk camisole she looked very sexy

Her dark nipples were aroused, he could see

"Tie me up," she purred, "and you can do anything."

So George tied her up and then he went bowling

Or you could try the site www.itsbullfrog.com with poems by David Axton. It contains gems like:

I’m not worthy of your love,
You’re far too good for me,
I’d climb a mountain range for you,

Now what about my tea?

And...

I love your lips and your eyes so bright,

I even love your cellulite.



Hey YOU!

Here’s *your* chance to participate in **Cyberspace News**. Do you have some favorite websites? Not search engines, like Google or Bing, but sites you rely on for information and/or entertainment. Share them with your fellow WACC members!

Just email them to me at:

jjldliv@hotmail.com.

I’ll check them out and print them in an upcoming issue of **Cyberspace News**. Please include your name (so that I can give you credit for the submission) and kindly reference the title of your email as **WACC** (so I know it’s not spam).

I want to hear from *you!*



Tech Trends To Expect In 2010

Here are some technology trends you might want to watch out for this year:

3-D
You've seen more and more movies advertising that they're in 3-D. That push will continue into the home as firms attempt to get you to put 3-D capable screens and content into your home.

Connected TV
Like it or not, the Internet is a part of life and more companies are making TVs that connect to the Web and bring you Internet-powered widgets and applications to your TV. That means that almost anything you can do on your computer (or smart-phone) you'll be able to do via your television.

Source:
www.livescience.com

Beloved Traditions Or Marketing Plans

Here are how some beloved traditions came about courtesy of the website

www.mentalfloss.com:

1. *Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer*

Rudolph sprang from the mind of Robert May, a copywriter for Chicago's Montgomery Ward department store. May wrote and illustrated the poem (that later became the song) for the store's holiday coloring book in 1939. But Rudolph's future was threatened when store execs realized that the animal's big, glowing honker might put off consumers, because red noses were often associated with alcoholics. Luckily for May, shoppers embraced the story wholeheartedly. A whopping 2.4 million copies of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer were given out at the store that Christmas.

2. *Diamond Engagement Rings*

Before the 20th century, engagement rings were strictly luxury items, and they rarely contained diamonds. But in 1939, the De Beers diamond company changed all of that when it hired ad agency N.W. Ayer & Son. The industry had taken a nosedive in the 1870s, after massive diamond deposits were discovered in South Africa. But the ad agency came to the rescue by introducing the diamond engagement ring and quietly spreading the trend

through fashion magazines. The rings didn't become de rigueur for marriage proposals until 1948, when the company launched the crafty "A Diamond is Forever" campaign. By sentimentalizing the gems, De Beers ensured that people wouldn't resell them, allowing the company to retain control of the market.

In addition to diamond engagement rings, De Beers also promoted surprise proposals. The company learned that when women were involved in the selection process, they picked cheaper rings. By encouraging surprise proposals, De Beers shifted the purchasing power to men, the less-cautious spenders.

3. *Valentine's Day Candy*

Greeting-card companies didn't invent valentines. Candy suppliers, on the other hand, were very much behind the idea of giving out Valentine's Day candy. In 1892, Confectioners' Journal endorsed persuading customers that candy was better than "cheap, grotesque" valentines. The floodgates were opened, and by 2004, consumers were buying more than 35 million heart-shape boxes of candy each year.

