



M. Sullivan Web Newsletter

Newsletter 14
June/July 2012

Dear Mary,

Ah, summer is here and the living is easy. Well, it is at least more cheerful!

I'll be busy with visitors at the end of the month and enjoying a connection free cottage from the 6th - 8th August. So please give me any urgent updates before then.

Enjoy the sun and the BBQ and be careful out there!

Mary

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Website of the Month



Join Our Mailing List!

Burn Note

You hear all the time that you have to be careful because everything you write online, be it email, posts, tweets, are in cyberspace forever. Right?

Well, there is a site that enables you to send notes to people that self destruct as soon as they have read them. Either they have a timer, and disappear at an allotted time, or are gone as soon as you close the page. They aren't able to be retrieved again.

This isn't an email, you get a link sending you to your note on a page. This way you can truly have a private conversation as the site doesn't back up their servers, and in fact, keeps them cleared.

What would you use it for? Well, you can send someone a password knowing that they can write it down, but it isn't able to be intercepted by anyone else.

Check it out at burnnote.com

Million Short

Don't you get annoyed that when you want to search for something

[Pauline Bradshaw](#) is an artist that follows the traditions of the old masters. She works in oil and was recently honoured by having a painting accepted to hang in a show at the Louvre in France.

Pauline has a new site now that showcases her beautiful paintings and has a carousel type image gallery that allows for views of her paintings by rolling your mouse over a thumbnail! Check it out!

Stop this Capcha madness!



Don't you hate those Captcha things you often have to fill out to verify that you aren't a computer?

What is my reaction on seeing the above? "Are you kidding me?"

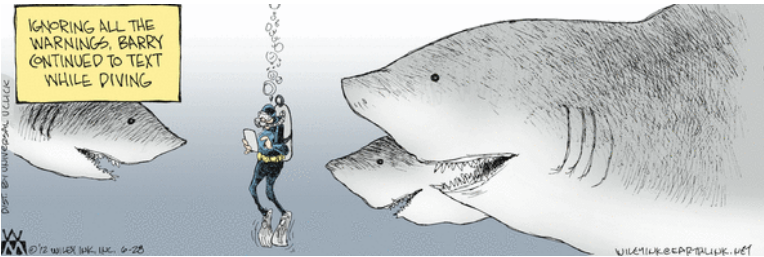
I often have to refresh them on certain sites a couple of times before I can actually read what they say!

There is now a new idea that is catching on. It is from the site [Are you a human?](#) and it uses visual games that don't take any longer than the letters and numbers you often get.

Examples that I played? Put the toppings on the pizza. You have a selection of mushrooms, meatballs some shoes and some money. You quickly know to put the mushrooms and meatballs on the pizza and you have verified you are human. Another was "put the animals on the ground" (they were floating). I grabbed a chicken and a rabbit and dragged them to the bottom of the screen. Easy.

Hopefully you will see these more often and it will be more fun to prove you are a human!

Texting Safely



Keep 'em Busy this summer

There are a lot of communities that are promoting the idea that computers are here to stay and we should know more of how they work. The programming especially. Well, if you have the time, there are some program and physical tools out there that can help you learn some basic stuff, and is a great idea for the kids in your life (or the kid in you!).

[Scratch](#) works like Lego in that you take individual blocks and put them together to build much bigger structures. With Scratch, you can take bits of code from the Scratch program and learn programming without making the mistakes that bog down programmers. One letter out of place can make it not work. With Scratch, the code is included in blocks, and you place them together to create interactive stories, games, art etc. It's a programming language that that start you off learning code.

[Adafruit Industries](#) works on the hardware end of the spectrum. You can purchase items like the [Littlebits Starter Kit](#), with modular electronics that snap together with tiny magnets to create circuits. Rather than having kids sitting all day just playing video games, here they can be creating something themselves and maybe decide that they like electronics! Or try the [Discover Electronics Kit](#).

with a common name, you often get the first page of searches from sites like Facebook, Amazon etc? What if you could get rid of the first 1 million sites and get to more obscure ones without spending a day going through all the pages?

Now you can!

[Million Short](#) is a search engine that allows you to remove the first 100, 1000, 10,000 all the way up to one million sites from the results of your search. If nothing else it may allow you to find obscure sites you normally wouldn't get to see!

Magic of doing one thing at a time.

I can't count the number of times people have told me recently how busy they are and how they are increasingly feeling that they have far too much to do.

Mostly it is because we are all juggling many things at one time, as well as having no defined starting or stopping point to our work days.

Did you know that by juggling many tasks at one time, you are lengthening the amount of time it takes to finish just one of those jobs by 25%?

How do we improve this?

Tony Schwartz recommends

1. **Do the most important thing first thing in the morning.** Give yourself 60 - 90 minutes of uninterrupted time, with no distractions. Have a clear stopping time and you'll be more productive. Then take a short break before

Keep 'em Safe too



You want to make sure you know what your kids are doing online and the website [Web Aware](#) gives you the knowledge of what they are using the internet for, and how you can protect them from bullying, risk of predators, or just using it too much!

[Safekids.com](#) is another site that gives parents a guide to what the risks are as well as tips for safety on line as well as for their cell phone. The author Larry Magid, also publishes information and reports quite frequently.

Tubifi

I attended a webinar a few months ago about the company [Tubifi](#). This company creates wonderful videos to market your product or company. You can put it on YouTube, or on your own website. Normally, videos that are shot using brand new footage can cost thousands of dollars. What Tubifi does is use archived stock footage and the idea that you discuss with them, to put together a polished, professional video often in just 2 or 3 days for sometimes as little as \$5,000. WHAT? you say? Yes, for a small company with only one person, that still is a lot of money, but for a company that wants to elevate themselves into looking more professional, it is quite reasonable. Check out their [case studies](#) here. [Here is a great video](#) with wonderful footage.

However, if you want to save even more money, you can go to sites like

[istockphoto.com](#), [T3Media.com](#), [clipcanvas.com](#), [shutterstock](#), [gettyimages](#). But don't forget, you have to put it all together, and sound or music is extra!

Art Bomb? More like Art Success!



It is so hard for artists to find a venue for their art, and if you love art, sometimes it is hard to see different art, or know what is going on in the art scene.

[ArtBombDaily](#) is a new site (only a few months old) that you can sign up for. You get one email every day with a new piece of art from an emerging artist. If you like the piece and want to buy it, you bid on it. If you win the bid, you get the art. At the end of the day, if no one has bid on the piece, then the artist takes it home again. So far they are doing this in Toronto, but plan to expand into other cities.

What a great idea for artists and the art loving public alike!

Face Blast



Artist [Tadao Cern](#) has [105 faces on his gallery](#) at the moment that they were blasted with compressed air.

They are pretty darn funny. If you like that sort of thing.

There's an app for ... well everything!

There are apps being developed every day. Some that are silly and some that are amazing.

moving on.

2. Give yourself scheduled times to think long term.

Rather than constantly jumping on each new task as if it is urgent, let yourself continue with the task at hand.

3. **Take real and regular vacations.** By real, he means don't take your cellphone or laptop with you to work on stuff while you are on holidays.

Another tip I have tried to incorporate is to look at my emails first thing in the morning and then not again until after lunch. This way I am not interrupting myself from what I am doing, to answer yet another email. It's hard but then I won't have to invent a machine that turns off the world while I catch up! I know I could make a fortune, but I just don't have time!

Source: [Harvard Business Review](#)

File under "Duh"

[P&G To Lay Off 1,600 After Discovering It's Free To Advertise On Facebook](#)

Internet news

You've heard that what goes on the internet is there forever? Well, politicians have more to fear with the new site [politwitter.ca](#). You can filter out tweets by level of government, party and even just look at the tweets that they deleted!

Comic Sans gets no respect

Comic Sans is too funny

I've read about apps that you can use to point at things (for example flowers or trees) and it will identify what it is "that's a dandelion, dummy". Okay, it will likely be as polite as your GPS is when you don't take it's suggestion. But this type of app is handy if you are in a field of poison ivy!

MyVoice

Developers are now working on an app that will translate sign language into the spoken word. Called [MyVoice](#), so far it is only able to recognize the signs for four words, but it has given them the excitement of knowing that it will work. While researching this further, I stumbled about another app also called MyVoice that does a similar service for people suffering from other speech disabilities such as autism or stroke. Check out the other [My Voice](#) here.

Source:

[Toronto Star](#)

Camera with descriptions

I heard a podcast recently about a camera that instead of taking a photograph, prints out a little slip of paper with a description of what it sees. "What rubbish is that?" I thought. "that's all we need is another device that wastes resources and the paper it prints" However, the developers see a very useful component to this, a camera that could automatically tag the things you take images of. I'm sure most of you have thousands of photos on your computer right now and are still in the numbering format that your camera assigns. What help is that when you go to look for a certain photo you took of a tree (for example). This new technology could be built into either your camera or into software on your computer. Now that is useful!

That's it for this month

Don't forget that you can forward this newsletter to anyone you think would be interested.

If you would like your website featured, or have anything you'd like me to introduce, or answered, please feel free to [email me](#).

Mary Sullivan
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On the day where particle physicists were supposed to be basking in the glory of their discovery of a new particle, which could be the long-sought for Higgs boson, what were people tweeting about? The fact that they had used the Comic Sans font in their presentation. Oh the embarrassment. It is apparently the typeface loathed by designers everywhere. Some tweets were disparaging "They used Comic Sans on the Higgs boson powerpoint presentation... there is no hope for mankind" to the sensible "Everyone complaining that the Higgs boson slides had Comic Sans in them can shut up and go find their own fundamental particle" and the sublime "What if our very DNA is written in Comic Sans...What then font snobs?"

What then indeed.



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