

## Querystring Hacking with PHP

PHP and Standards: `arg_separator.output`: A few months ago, I went ballistic on querystring arguments. I rambled on about how I hate them and go to ridiculous lengths to avoid them. I think I'm somewhat insane in this respect. Well, I found out today that PHP can be set to parse the querystring differently using the "`arg_separator.input`" ini setting. You could have it use semi-colons or whatever, and it would correctly parse the querystring into the `$_GET` array. However, I can't see a setting to change the key/value separator, which must have to stay the equals sign. Anyone else know how to change that...you know, just so we can make our apps completely non-standard?

## The Israeli Industrial Espionage Scandal

Computer spy scandal rocks Israel's business community: A hacking scandal is unfolding in Israel involving such salacious elements as an unpublished novel, a bitter divorce, personal defamation, and industrial espionage. Good read. The virus allowed the person to control the computer, make changes to its programs, monitor everything it contained and raid it for information &mdash; all without leaving any hint of the virus's existence. Investigators also discovered that the same person had sold the "Trojan Horse" to three of Israel's largest private investigation companies, which used it to illegally collect data for their corporate clients. [...] Last week's arrests included executives from a major satellite television company, suspected of spying on a cable television rival; two cell phone companies suspected of eavesdropping on a mutual rival; and the Israeli importer of Volvos and Hondas, which is suspected of spying on the company that imports Audis and Volkswagens.

## New Bluetooth Crack

Happy Friday: Cryptographers have discovered a way to hack Bluetooth-enabled devices even when security features are switched on. The discovery may make it even easier for hackers to eavesdrop on conversations and charge their own calls to someone else's cellphone. "Our attack makes it possible to crack every communication between two Bluetooth devices, and not only if it is the first communication between those devices," says Shaked. Check out the time required to pull this off: They show that once an attacker has forced two devices to pair, they can work out the link key in just 0.06 seconds on a Pentium IV-enabled computer, and 0.3 seconds on a Pentium-III. "This is not just a theoretical break, it's practical," says Schneier. Via New Scientist.

## Dilbert and Freeware

Dilbert Comic Strip Archive - Dilbert.com: Today's Dilbert is a cute reference to freeware/shareware/open source software and how too many companies have issues with it.

## Google's Sitemap Protocol

Sitemap Protocol: Google just released this today. It's like `robots.txt`, except that it shows search engines (well, just Google right now, but others will follow...) how to get to URLs on your site that are not linked from other pages. Actually, you can put all your URLs in

this file, if you want &mdash; it can be up to 10MB &mdash; or 50,000 URLs, after gzip compression. The Sitemap Protocol allows you to inform search engine crawlers about URLs on your Web sites that are available for crawling. A Sitemap consists of a list of URLs and may also contain additional information about those URLs, such as when they were last modified, how frequently they change, etc. Now the rush comes for content management systems to include the automatic generation of this file as a feature. I predict Movable Type will be first, since it's just another index template. Someone could probably write the template in a couple of minutes. See the comments of this post for a discussion about the pros and cons of the "use-it-if-you-find-it" theory behind robots.txt-like files (such as this one).