

The Law and Harry Potter

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Without getting into the debate about whether this is the beginning of a new decade or the end of the current decade, I think 2010 looks to be a very interesting year for technology. As the first column for the year, I thought I would again make some predictions for the year ahead.

Predictions for 2010:

1. Cloud computing use will explode.

Storing data and using applications over the internet will become the norm. If you use GoogleDocs, this is a good example of both storing data and online applications. The biggest risk to growth will continue to be security, but this is largely an issue which needs to be better understood rather than an insurmountable problem. Cloud computing is one of the key pieces to the puzzle of being truly mobile.

2. eReaders and Netbooks converge.

Very exciting to see the first examples of devices combining both an eReader with eInk display and a Netbook. eReaders don't seem to have taken off like they should have and it is probably convergence that is the main reason. Users want the

"one device": one device to rule them all. As we travel more and more the luggage can start to resemble the inside of Dick Smith's. A combined eReader/Netbook may be just the thing that catapults eBooks into the mainstream in 2010.

3. iPhone will continue to lead the way.

In 2010 the iPhone will become even more integrated with business applications as well as everyday life. It will be used to access corporate data with as much ease as it is used to control home appliances. There will be other devices that follow suit, but the iPhone will continue to lead the pack.

4. Social computing (eg Facebook, Linked-In) will drive a new approach to corporate knowledge management and collaboration.

I mentioned in my predictions last year the separation between social and professional lives in social computing. Increasingly the maintenance of two separate "identities" is becoming a chore, and some people are not bothering at all.

I think that social computing will

be increasingly used by corporate entities as a key tool for knowledge management and collaboration.

Initially, this might occur through the creation of a corporate social computing environment (e.g. a Corporate Facebook) which will over time integrate with the popular social computing platforms such as Facebook. Social computing will see a convergence of social and professional environments: one webpage that lets you interact with your friends, socially and your colleagues, professionally.

There is always a lot happening in technology and 2010 looks to be an interesting year.

The Law and Harry Potter

Seriously!

The Carolina Academic Press has published a new book titled "The Law and Harry Potter". The magical world created by JK Rowling captured in eight books, published in dozens of languages and made into blockbuster films. This money-making machine is a cultural phenomenon but what has it to do with the law? Apparently enough to generate a

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22 chapter, 422 pages book and attract the interest of law professors and academics as contributing authors.

Some chapter titles that caught my attention:

- Harry Potter and the Half-Crazed Bureaucracy;
- Moral Choice, Wizardry, Law and Liberty: A Classical Liberal
- Reading of the Role of Law in the Harry Potter Series;
- The Persecution of Tom Riddle: A Study in Human Rights Law;
- Hogwarts, the Family, and the State: Forging Identity and Virtue in Harry Potter;
- Harry Potter and the Development of Moral Judgment in Children;
- Harry Potter and the Image of God: How House-Elves Can Help Us to Understand the Dignity of the Person; and
- Gringotts: The Role of Banks in Harry Potter's Wizarding World.

Link: <http://www.cap-press.com/isbn/9781594606458>.

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