



CourseCast of the Week – March 24, 2008 – Episode 41

Key Topics:

- A New Model for Purchasing Music
- Google Expands Spreadsheet Tool
- Wireless Spectrum Auction Closes
- Microblog your Class
- News Briefs

Talk About It:

1. Have you ever downloaded music? Which service did you use? How easy or difficult was it to download music? How much did you pay for the music? Do you think access to unlimited music will entice customers to purchase devices and cell phone plans? (A New Model for Purchasing Music)
2. What is a spreadsheet? Give some examples of popular spreadsheet packages. For what applications would you use a spreadsheet? (Google Expands Spreadsheet Tool)

Explore Technology:

1. Access Google's free online spreadsheet. Compare the basic features of this spreadsheet to Microsoft® Excel. Which spreadsheet do you prefer? Why? What other online tools have you used to replace traditional software? (Google Expands Spreadsheet Tool)
2. Visit at least two microblogging sites. Read some of the articles about Professor Parry's experience. How does microblogging differ from blogging? Try microblogging your friends or classmates. (Microblog your Class)

Think Critically:

1. Review Dr. Block's argument in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. Do you think the Internet and gaming addiction can be a type of mental disorder? What experiences support your thoughts? (News Briefs)
2. How do you feel about the possibility of avatars being able to predict and manipulate the behavior of human players? Are there benefits to this? What are the risks? (News Briefs)