



CourseCast of the Week – September 1, 2008 – Episode 64

Key Topics:

- Northwestern Fights P2P
- Kindle Textbooks
- News Briefs

Talk About It:

1. What is P2P file sharing? What did Northwestern develop to fight illegal P2P files sharing on campus? Why did they implement this strategy? Would this strategy work on your campus? (Northwestern Fights P2P)
2. Have you ever used an e-book reader? How difficult is it to read? To make notes? What are some benefits of having your textbooks in one digital package? What are some disadvantages? Does price difference matter to you? Would you prefer e-books or bound books? (Kindle Textbooks)

Explore Technology:

1. Logon to the Internet to learn about open-source software. What criteria must the open-source software comply with? Can you find examples of open-source software besides Northwestern? (Northwestern fights P2P)
2. Research Beta software. What is Beta software? How do you know that a software release is a beta version? Why do companies release beta software? What are some problems that you should expect to experience with Beta software? How can you become an Internet Explorer 8 Beta tester? (News Briefs)

Think Critically:

1. Several articles in today's News Briefs deal with privacy—Google "Street View," California hackers, and IE 8 better controlling private information. Do you think technology invades your privacy? What should be done to curtail technologies that invade your privacy? (News Briefs)
2. How do you feel about the fact that NASA has discovered a computer virus on notebook computers aboard the International Space Station? What could that mean for security purposes? What should be done to prevent this from happening in the future? (News Briefs)