



**CourseCast of the Week – December 8, 2008 – Episode 78**

**Key Topics:**

- Social Networks Connect
- Free Internet
- News Briefs

**Talk About It:**

1. What is Facebook? What will Facebook Connect allow Facebook users to do? What benefits will the companies receive for connecting with Facebook? (Social Networks Connect)
2. Discuss the implications for having a national broadband policy. What are the key benefits? Risks? (Free Internet)

**Explore Technology:**

1. Visit the following web sites and compare features: free Open ID; Friend Connect; Facebook Connect. Which site stands out the most? Why? (Social Networks Connect)
2. What is a plugin? What precautions should you take before installing a plugin? Why? (News Briefs)

**Think Critically:**

1. Do you think the Internet should be free? Why or why not? What do you think could be done to make the Internet more accessible to the US population? Are there any drawbacks to a free Internet? (Free Internet)
2. China is requiring its Internet Cafes to install government-developed operating systems that can keep a closer watch on what citizens and Internet cafe owners do on the computers. NewsFactor reports that, "A congressionally created commission has warned that China is stealing vast amounts of sensitive information from government and corporate computer networks in the U.S., including those of the nation's top defense contractors." What are your thoughts? (News Briefs)