

**Event: CNET News Discussion and Question Forum at Cnet
Second Life Bureau
Date: January 23, 2007, 11 a.m. SLT/PST, 2:00 p.m. EST
Guest Speaker: Brewster Kahle, Second Life: Brewster Acronym
Host: Daniel Terdiman, CNET News, Second Life: GreeterDan
Godel**

**[11:00] GreeterDan Godel shouts: ok...let's get started folks
[11:00] GreeterDan Godel shouts: I want to welcome you all to
the CNET theater.
[11:00] GreeterDan Godel shouts: thank you for coming, and
thanks especially to our esteemed guest, Brewster Acronym,
aka Brewster Kahle of teh Internet Archive
[11:01] Brewster Acronym shouts: thank you all for coming
[11:01] GreeterDan Godel shouts: brewster, to start, and for
our audience members and CNET readers who may not know a
lot about the Internet Archive, can you explain what it is and
its mission?
[11:02] Brewster Acronym shouts: yes, the internet archive is
out to help build the library of alexandria version 2
[11:02] ivan Supply gave you FIREPLACE PAAAARTY time !.
[11:02] Brewster Acronym shouts: with the goal of providing
Universal access to all knowledge
[11:02] Brewster Acronym shouts: we wont do it all ourselves,
but we are part of the open ecology that could make this dream
come true
[11:02] Brewster Acronym: *end*
[11:03] GreeterDan Godel shouts: can you say a little more
about what this means, practically?
[11:03] GreeterDan Godel shouts: how will you manifest this
mission?
[11:03] Brewster Acronym shouts: The idea is to start with teh
published works of humankind... all books music video
webpages software
[11:03] Brewster Acronym shouts: and make it available to
every person anywhere at anytime,
[11:03] Brewster Acronym shouts: and forever.
[11:04] Brewster Acronym shouts: turns out, this is doable. we
started with archiving the web in 1996
[11:04] Brewster Acronym shouts: by taking a snapshot ever 2
months of all publicly accessible webpage and holding onto it.
[11:04] Brewster Acronym shouts: we then make the
"wayback machine" out of these pages allowing anyone to surf
the web as it was**

[11:05] Gav Leigh: what about copyright issues

[11:05] Brewster Acronym: this collection is now about 85 billion pages and about 1.5 petabytes in size. (million gigabytes)

[11:05] Brewster Acronym shouts: then we moved on to books music and video.

[11:05] Brewster Acronym shouts: I will get to copyright in a minute if that is ok.

[11:06] Greeter Dan Godel shouts: that's fine

[11:06] Brewster Acronym: the cool thing is that you could put all the published works on hard drives and not cost more than a city library

[11:06] Brewster Acronym shouts: and it would not be bigger either

[11:07] Brewster Acronym shouts: with that goal in mind we set out to do this-- how within the law, funding, technical structures that we could use

[11:07] Brewster Acronym: we made it a non-profit, and we are in San Francisco.

[11:07] Brewster Acronym: We built cluster computers and spun it off as a company (called the petabox)

[11:07] Znetlady Isbell is Offline

[11:08] Brewster Acronym shouts: we work with great lawyers, the us copyright office, the library of congress, the american library association and all to make sure we are in the tradition of a library

[11:08] Brewster Acronym shouts: and we are having a great time.

[11:09] Brewster Acronym: so far we have lots of web pages, 30k movies, 100k audio recordings (check out the concert recordings in the live music archive)

[11:09] Brewster Acronym: and now digitizing books at a fast rate.

[11:09] Brewster Acronym shouts: we find that people like the idea of a library in the digital world.

[11:09] Brewster Acronym shouts: *end*

[11:09] Greeter Dan Godel shouts: so how about the copyright issue? How do you deal with that?

[11:10] Gav Leigh: that's my question

[11:10] Brewster Acronym shouts: We have been working through the copyright issues slowly.

[11:10] Brewster Acronym shouts: some successes and some setbacks.

[11:10] Gav Leigh: that doesn't make sense

[11:10] Gav Leigh: if someone owns the site you cant copy it
[11:10] Brewster Acronym shouts: lets take the web...
[11:10] Gav Leigh: i.e wikipedia
[11:11] Nite Zelmanov: Haha, CAN copy it. Which seems to be your objection, Gav. :)
[11:11] Brewster Acronym shouts: we followed the basic structure of the search engines and the opt-out system for doing the first level archiving.
[11:11] Brewster Acronym shouts: we respect robots.txt and if folks write to us not wanting to be archived, then we take them out.
[11:12] Gav Leigh: but you have allready copy it
[11:12] Nite Zelmanov: Gav, so so you each time you visit it
[11:12] Nite Zelmanov: so do
[11:12] Brewster Acronym shouts: so the web worked in an opt-out system, and allows people to retroactively take their site out of the wayback machine.
[11:12] GreeterDan Godel: folks...can you please hold off on the comments for now?
[11:12] Brewster Acronym shouts: so far, this approach, has been working
[11:13] Brewster Acronym shouts: we are handling other media types differently.
[11:13] Brewster Acronym: for instance in the music case, we were introduced to the tape traders by an intern.
[11:13] Brewster Acronym shouts: we offered unlimited storage and unlimited bandwidth forever for free.
[11:13] Brewster Acronym shouts: for their recordings.
[11:14] Brewster Acronym shouts: these are recordings of "trader friendly" bands. a tradition started by the grateful dead
[11:14] Brewster Acronym shouts: but posting on a website did not seem enough like trading, so we asked permission of the band and posted the results.
[11:15] Brewster Acronym: we now have over 2k bands and over 36k concerts and we get about 30 new concerts a day.
[11:15] Brewster Acronym shouts: pretty nifty.
[11:15] Brewster Acronym shouts: so we are trying different things in different situations.
[11:16] Brewster Acronym shouts: with software, packaged software, we were told by our lawyers that the DRM would pose a problem under the DMCA
[11:16] Zenny Carpathea: ?DRM, DMCA
[11:16] Brewster Acronym shouts: so we got great help from some pro-bono lawyers to get an excemption from the

copyright office to allow us to rip software and break the copyprotection for achvial puproses.

[11:17] Brewster Acronym shouts: this is painful, but so far so good.

[11:17] Brewster Acronym shouts: we can now use help on doing the archiving if there are any volunteers.

[11:18] Brewster Acronym shouts: books, we are starting with out of copyright, and wanting to move to Orphan Works then Out of Print works then finally in-print.

[11:18] Brewster Acronym shouts: the out of copyright is going well... we digitize at 12k books a month and have 100k on the site now for free use and download

[11:18] Brewster Acronym: the orphan works is moving along, but we just had a setback.

[11:19] Brewster Acronym shouts: larry lessig brought a suit on our behalf "kahle v gonzales"

[11:19] Brewster Acronym shouts: to allow orphan works to be on the digital library shelves.

[11:20] Brewster Acronym: but alas the 9th circuit of appeals rejected it yesterday. sigh. I think we may need some more net saavy folks to become judges.

[11:20] Brewster Acronym shouts: but there is a law pending in congress to help with orphan works

[11:20] Brewster Acronym: i think they are a bit distracted with other issues, though :)

[11:20] Brewster Acronym shouts: *end*

[11:21] GreeterDan Godel shouts: let me ask you this: In each aspect of what really seems like content battles, there are opposing sides. Who are the natural "enemies" of the Internet Archive?

[11:21] GreeterDan Godel shouts: if there are any?

[11:21] Brewster Acronym shouts: Hum.

[11:21] Brewster Acronym shouts: everyone seems to like the idea of preservation of cultural materials.

[11:22] Brewster Acronym shouts: but folks are nervous about disruptions in commercial practices that are just now getting formed

[11:22] Brewster Acronym shouts: libraries and publishing, however, have always existed in parallel.

[11:23] Brewster Acronym: what happened is that some overzelous copyright laws got passed with heavy lobbying from folks like disney

[11:23] Brewster Acronym shouts: and these are screwing things up-- I think of it as collateral damage.

[11:24] Brewster Acronym shouts: instead of keeping must mickey mouse or just the profitable works under copyright for longer, they fundementally

[11:24] Brewster Acronym shouts: changed the structure of copyright. so the problem we find mostly is not that we are stepping on toes, is that we run the risk of stepping on a legal landmine from a previous war.

[11:25] Brewster Acronym shouts: *end*

[11:25] GreeterDan Godel: i see

[11:25] GreeterDan Godel shouts: you talked about Kahle v. Gonzalez. Can you say a little bit more about the case, and about the result?

[11:25] Brewster Acronym shouts: There is one thing taht could change the world

[11:25] GreeterDan Godel shouts: and were you surprised by the result?

[11:26] Brewster Acronym shouts: oh, yes, lets go back to the case for a minute

[11:26] Brewster Acronym shouts: I am disappointed by the results of the case so far.

[11:26] Brewster Acronym shouts: but fundementally this is an issue for the supreme court and the congress: what kind of world do we want in the digital era

[11:27] Brewster Acronym shouts: do we want to have libraries like we grew up with: ones with old and new books available to those that go to the library

[11:27] Brewster Acronym shouts: or do we want only the stuff that corporations are currently peddling to be available and nothing else.

[11:27] Gav Leigh: its not as simple as that

[11:27] Sammy21 Yip: sorry

[11:27] Brewster Acronym: of course people want the library, but how do we do that in such a way it does not sink an industry.

[11:28] Brewster Acronym shouts: libraries worked because they were a pain to go to.

[11:28] Brewster Acronym shouts: so instead of going to a library for new books often enough they went to book stores.

[11:28] Brewster Acronym shouts: also, libraries spend 3-4 billion each year on publishers products.

[11:29] Brewster Acronym shouts: so how do we build a digital environment an ecology that works to have new owrks get created and paid for,

[11:29] Gav Leigh: Boo!

[11:29] Brewster Acronym shouts: preserve them long term, provide access to underprivaledged,

[11:30] Brewster Acronym shouts: provide differnet kind of access for scholarship and journalism, all in the new world. Yes it is not simple. but it is important.

[11:30] Brewster Acronym: *end*

[11:31] GreeterDan Godel shouts: so...you're a member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation board. What do you see as the EFF's mission going forward? Can it make a real difference?

[11:31] Brewster Acronym shouts: There is something else that might make sense to bring up

[11:31] GreeterDan Godel: ah, please

[11:31] Brewster Acronym shouts: and that is the book scanning projects that are going on

[11:31] Brewster Acronym shouts: it is great to see more books being scanned, especially the hard to find ones

[11:31] GreeterDan Godel shouts: yes...i was going to ask you about that.

[11:31] Brewster Acronym shouts: these have been cared for for decades by our libraries

[11:32] GreeterDan Godel shouts: well, first...can you describe that project?

[11:32] Brewster Acronym shouts: at the cost of billions of dollars

[11:32] Brewster Acronym shouts: There are a couple of major scannign projects in this country: Google is leading one and a large group of libraries and archives are working together on another

[11:33] Brewster Acronym shouts: the second is the Open Content Alliance

[11:33] Brewster Acronym shouts: in the OCA we want to keep the public domain public domain.

[11:33] Brewster Acronym shouts: so that if a book has passed into the public domain that the digital version is not locked up again as a copyrighted work or worse.

[11:34] Brewster Acronym: there are otehr projects that are putting perpetual restrictions on what can be done with digitized public domain works.

[11:34] Brewster Acronym shouts: a bit scarey from my point of view.

[11:35] Brewster Acronym: so we need help keeping the libraries open and unencumbered by new restrictions on public domain works.

[11:35] Brewster Acronym shouts: we have been able to scan books for a total cost of 10 cents a page, so about 30 dollars a book

[11:36] Brewster Acronym: and for that, the book is scanned, matched with a catalog record, ocr'ed, put into a pdf for downloading, and put online in 2 continents for access.

[11:36] GreeterDan Godel shouts: why the cost? Is that labor costs?

[11:36] Brewster Acronym shouts: what we really need is more folks to want this done or want to scan themselves.

[11:36] GreeterDan Godel shouts: so this could become a sort of open-source project?

[11:37] Brewster Acronym: the cost is scanning equipment, labor, processing and storage. we have gotten foundation support (sloan foundation) to cover the R&D

[11:37] Brewster Acronym shouts: We hope it becomes a large scale open-source project. we need lots of help. with 100k books

[11:37] GreeterDan Godel shouts: let me ask you this: What is your favorite book that you've gotten scanned?

[11:38] Brewster Acronym shouts: we have a pretty good start. we would like help in making these more accessible in new and different ways. I will be working on that this coming year.

[11:38] Brewster Acronym: We just scanned a first edition of Flatland by abbott

[11:38] Brewster Acronym: it is beautiful.

[11:38] GreeterDan Godel shouts: how so?

[11:38] Brewster Acronym shouts: I also like the illustrated childrens books. these are coming from UCLA's great library

[11:39] Brewster Acronym shouts: we are scanning in color, for starts, so it does not look like a fax

[11:39] GreeterDan Godel shouts: what are the oldest that have been scanned by your team?

[11:39] Brewster Acronym shouts: we are trying to be respectful of the book.

[11:39] Brewster Acronym shouts: we just got a 100-dollar-laptop, one of the very first batch.

[11:40] Brewster Acronym shouts: this last weekend a volunteer friend dan aronson hacked up a simple viewer

[11:40] Brewster Acronym shouts: and we put the Owl and the Pussycat book by lear on it

[11:40] Brewster Acronym shouts: it looks great!

[11:40] GreeterDan Godel shouts: ooh...exciting! What's your take on that project? Can it really change the world?

[11:40] Brewster Acronym shouts: I passed it around at a talk at the commonwealth club last night. this could be a great future: open books on an open laptop

[11:41] Brewster Acronym shouts: when I got to hold the 100-dollar-laptop in my hand I had one of those

[11:41] Brewster Acronym shouts: experiences that does not happen very often: this is important.

[11:42] Brewster Acronym shouts: the organization is non-profit, first of all.

[11:42] Brewster Acronym shouts: the goal is great and it *has* to be open to succeed. it is bottom up built for linux and openness.

[11:42] Brewster Acronym shouts: we are a library for the machine, so we hope to have millions of new users in the coming year.

[11:43] Brewster Acronym shouts: I am very interested in the rise of the technical non-profits. very interesting things happening there

[11:44] Brewster Acronym shouts: where the new products out of big companies are getting more locked down and closed all the time. even apple's new iphone will not support new apps.

[11:44] Brewster Acronym: *end*

[11:44] GreeterDan Godel shouts: Let me ask you a question about teh Internet Archive. How is the project distributed around the world? Where are the servers?

[11:44] GreeterDan Godel: for, say, egypt?

[11:45] Brewster Acronym shouts: we have our servers in san francisco.

[11:45] Brewster Acronym shouts: safely tucked on top of the san andreas fault line

[11:45] GreeterDan Godel: aha!

[11:45] Brewster Acronym shouts: what happens to libraries is they are burned, and

[11:45] Brewster Acronym shouts: they are usually burned by governments.

[11:46] GreeterDan Godel shouts: yes, lukas chadbourne (from the audience) wanted to know how it's all protected against disaster

[11:46] Brewster Acronym shouts: so we are working to build an "international library system" of a few great libraries

[11:46] Brewster Acronym shouts: that have exchange agreements. our first

[11:46] Brewster Acronym shouts: was the library of alexandria in egypt, and they got a full copy of what we have and vice versa.

[11:46] Brewster Acronym shouts: they are scanning arabic books

[11:47] Brewster Acronym shouts: we are just starting to work with the European Archive in Amsterdam

[11:47] Brewster Acronym shouts: they have a partial mirror and looking for funding and help.

[11:47] Brewster Acronym shouts: it is an exciting time and scary time. hard drives fail all the time, people screw up. governments make bad calls.

[11:47] Brewster Acronym: *end*

[11:48] GreeterDan Godel shouts: let's take some audience questions.

[11:48] GreeterDan Godel shouts: jimmyjet fossett asks: What about end-user privacy? Has Google and others archiving made this pretty much moot?

[11:49] Brewster Acronym shouts: privacy is too important to write off. we have to fight to maintain it.

[11:49] Brewster Acronym shouts: personally, I am quite concerned with these very large companies keeping data taht is not theirs forever.

[11:50] Brewster Acronym shouts: these very large companies are in some legal system with some government and that government can get this information when they want it.

[11:51] Brewster Acronym shouts: we are also susceptible to problems. we try to be a good citizen by saying exactly what we are doing and why and have the issues aired in the public sphere.

[11:51] Brewster Acronym: I can not say everyone will agree with what we and other non-profits are doing, but our motivations are specifically civic oriented so I hope it turns out better than

[11:51] Brewster Acronym shouts: some of what we are seeing out there.

[11:52] Brewster Acronym shouts: *end*

[11:53] GreeterDan Godel shouts: Rik Riel asks: What's your opinion on the potential threats of ISPs throttling certain content (i.e. violating Net Neutrality)?

[11:53] Brewster Acronym shouts: It is a huge and important issue

[11:53] Brewster Acronym shouts: a way to frame it

[11:53] Brewster Acronym shouts: is that in the 80's the battle was over the "transport layer"

[11:54] Brewster Acronym shouts: basically arpanet/internet VS the phone companies

[11:54] Brewster Acronym shouts: we, in the open world, made huge wins and companies prospered and all sorts of things went great.

[11:55] Brewster Acronym shouts: the battle in the 90's was at the software level: browsers protocols etc.

[11:55] Brewster Acronym shouts: basically it was the open world of the Web vs the closed worlds of AOL and lexis/nexis

[11:55] Brewster Acronym shouts: again, we made huge wins there.

[11:56] Brewster Acronym: yes, the dominant browser was closed source, but it talked the open protocols.

[11:56] Brewster Acronym shouts: and the great progress of firefox, linux, ubuntu give reason for hope at that layer.

[11:56] Brewster Acronym shouts: the 2000's is the battle at the content layer: open or closed.

[11:57] Brewster Acronym: itunes is a loser in this view

[11:57] Brewster Acronym shouts: drm, central control, etc.

[11:57] Brewster Acronym shouts: google's restrictions on the books they are scanning is a lose on this front

[11:57] Brewster Acronym shouts: so we need real help to build an open content layer that is not centrally controlled.

[11:58] Brewster Acronym shouts: wikipedia is a great example of a win.

[11:58] Brewster Acronym shouts: but now we are seeing new attacks on fronts we thoguht we won: most particularly the transport layer.

[11:59] Brewster Acronym shouts: the phone companies have all gotten back together again to amke their monopoly. in the ultimate thumbing of the nose they are calling it ATT!

[11:59] Brewster Acronym shouts: and they are at their old tactics again. so we have to fight light nuts to keep the transport open, the software open, and the content open.

[12:00] Brewster Acronym: it is good for the public and it is good for businesses. it is jsut not good for monopolies, and that is a good thing in most people's views.

[12:00] Brewster Acronym: we need help and vigilance. dont go down the drm path. watch out for your cell phone-- it may not be the device you think it is.

[12:01] GreeterDan Godel shouts: I've asked this question of several other guests here. But how do you think a Democratic Congress will change the Internet content landscape, if at all?

[12:01] Brewster Acronym shouts: contribute to open source and open content projects at the same time you are serving your employers or yourself. it is great to see these models working all around.

[12:01] Brewster Acronym: gee.

[12:01] Rik Riel: /Thanks for your response! . both VOIP and virtual worlds might be losses soon.

[12:01] Brewster Acronym: the DMCA was passed during Clinton.

[12:02] Brewster Acronym: the 1976 copyright act, I believe, was passed under carter.

[12:02] Brewster Acronym: Oh, yes... the new internet protocols are closed: IM and VOIP.

[12:02] Brewster Acronym: not sure about virtual worlds.

[12:02] Znetlady Isbell is Online

[12:03] Brewster Acronym: "Open" is good for business as well as the public. Nice when that happens.

[12:03] Brewster Acronym: On the democratic congress-- it will be up to us to shape this thing, and do not underestimate the power of lobbies money.

[12:03] Brewster Acronym: *end*

[12:03] GreeterDan Godel shouts: AlexisJ Onmura (from the audience) asks: which new technology (if the Internet Archive had the opportunity to try) do you think can do what stone has done for ancient civilizations, long time storage

[12:04] GreeterDan Godel: last question

[12:04] Brewster Acronym shouts: cool question

[12:05] Brewster Acronym shouts: lets see-- you can make a durable print-out on something like stone and the like, but I would like to argue for something else

[12:05] Brewster Acronym shouts: if you look at the world as a whole since writing started in sumeria, there

[12:05] Brewster Acronym shouts: has been an up and running civilization somewhere.

[12:06] Brewster Acronym: so I believe we can have long term storage AND access (which is key) by building a set of International Libraries in different jurisdictions

[12:06] Brewster Acronym: that have active trade agreements. When one melts down, then when they come back up the others can and are motivated to rebuild it.

[12:07] Brewster Acronym: if this were in place, I could sleep.

[12:07] Brewster Acronym: *end*
[12:07] Rik Riel: /i.e. LOCKSS?
[12:07] Brewster Acronym: good start
[12:07] GreeterDan Godel: terrific. Well...thank you so much, Brewster, for taking the time to do this.
[12:07] Rik Riel: WOOT!!!!
[12:07] GreeterDan Godel: It's been a pleasure having you here. And thanks to everyone for coming and listening and asking good questions
[12:08] You: Thanks Brewster and GreeterDan!
[12:08] Brewster Acronym: Thank you all. great fun. If folks are in San Francisco, and free on fridays for lunch, we have an open lunch.
[12:08] Rik Riel: thanks for coming Brewster!
[12:08] Rik Riel: Thanks for backing up the net!
[12:08] Nite Zelmanov: My question didn't get in. You said you needed volunteers for scanning and indexing. How do you sign up?
[12:08] Brewster Acronym: Come join for lunch or make something worth preserving.
[12:08] GreeterDan Godel: i think Nite wanted to know if everyone who helps you has to be in San Francisco, or if they can be elsewhere?
[12:08] Nite Zelmanov: that too
[12:08] Brewster Acronym: please write to info@archive.org
[12:10] GreeterDan Godel shouts: anyway...as I said at the beginning, if you would like to hear about future interviews here at CNET, please join the CNET Networks group