

# Australian Information Technology

MAY 2008

Courtesy: Mel Hill, AFP



*The Hon. Bob Debus MP, Minister for Home Affairs*

## Cyber weapon against child predators

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) received a high-tech boost in the fight against child predators and paedophiles with the launch in March of an online tracking system by Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Bob Debus MP, and AFP Commissioner, Mick Keelty.

Developed and donated by Microsoft, the technology known as the Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS) is a unique software tool that enables the AFP to work with law enforcement agencies throughout Australia and around the world, to share and track information relating to online child exploitation and abuse.

The implementation of CETS by the AFP is the result of a recommendation put forward by the Australasian Police Child Protection Committee (APCPC), which consists of state, territory and New Zealand Police, along with CrimTrac and the Australian Crime Commission. The AFP is working closely with the APCPC to implement CETS throughout Australia.

Microsoft Senior Vice President, Brad Smith, said law enforcement officials across the world have repeatedly told Microsoft that processing the massive amounts of evidence they come across is challenging. "With so much information and data to process, connecting the dots is a difficult job. Imagine trying to connect those dots across different cities, states, countries and law enforcement agencies – CETS was developed to tackle this very issue," Mr Smith said.

"Child exploitation is a global problem without borders and as such requires a globally coordinated response," Mr Smith said.

*Left to Right: Mr James McCormack, Australian High Tech Crime Centre; Commissioner Mick Keelty AM, Australian Federal Police; Mr Brad Smith, Senior Vice President, Microsoft; Ms Julie Inman-Grant, Regional Director, Internet Safety and Security, Microsoft*



Courtesy: Mel Hill, AFP

Source: The Sun Herald, 23 March 2008



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## Matt Bai: Politics and Technology Forum

Next month Microsoft Australia will be hosting Mr Matt Bai, national political writer for the *New York Times Magazine*, who is currently covering the 2008 US presidential campaign and maintaining a political blog on the New York Times Web site.

His book on Democratic politics, *THE ARGUMENT: Billionaires, Bloggers, and the Battle to Remake Democratic Politics*, was published by the Penguin Press and attracted significant media attention including NPR's *Talk of the Nation*. His book has been described by Michael Tomasky, editor of Guardian America, as "one of the most fascinating underreported, and misunderstood political stories of the Bush era", and is honoured in both the 2005 and 2006 editions of *The Best American Political Writing*.

Matt Bai provides valuable insights into the rise of political movements in the Internet age and, specifically, examines whether new forms of information technology are changing, fashioning or simply replicating political debate and trends.

Matt Bai is the keynote speaker at Microsoft's *Forum on Politics and Technology* taking place in the Hyatt Hotel, Canberra on Wednesday, 25 June.

For further details regarding his visit and to register for the Forum, go to: <http://blogs.msdn.com/augovtaffairs> (Event ticket code is BAI)

*Mr Matt Bai, national political writer for the New York Times Magazine*

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# Format Approved



*Greg Stone  
Chief Technology Officer,  
Microsoft Australia*

**“Anyone is able to create software that can leverage this format”**

*Greg Stone,  
Chief Technology Officer,  
Microsoft Australia*

## More choice for all of us

Last month the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) received the necessary votes to introduce a new standard in file formats – Open Office XML (OOXML). ISO is a global network of national standards institutes from 157 countries. It has a current portfolio of more than 17,000 standards for business, government and society.

After more than 14 months of intensive review, the proposed OOXML standard received extremely broad support. More than 85 percent of all voting national body members support standardisation, well above the 75 percent requirement for formal acceptance under ISO rules.

So what is this all about? Around four years ago, Microsoft was faced with a dilemma. The immensely popular Office suite of productivity tools was the preferred option for users, and yet more and more customers were seeking ways to streamline work by making information from many sources available at the same time and place.

Technology advances like Web Services that uses a text-based language to standardise communication of diverse data were allowing information to be brought together in a consistent format. However, user-friendly access to this information remained a big challenge – often requiring multiple screens and programs to be open at once and users clicking between them.

Customers basically wanted to carry on using their Office Outlook mail and calendar or Office Word document, simply pull the information that they needed directly into Office, and then send that document on its way as part of a work process. Although it sounded easy, it was in fact extremely difficult and one of the main stumbling blocks was the way Office stored information that described the contents of a document. This made it almost impossible for large line-of-business systems such as HR and Finance and Planning applications to recognise and deal with information in document format.

Microsoft was challenged to fundamentally rethink its approach to supporting information workers.

This led to the construction of a completely new file format that could support the new generation of interoperability and information access so desperately needed. Documents would no longer just be shared amongst humans, but now also with a vast array of computer systems all using different technologies, but all able to understand the human readable XML language underlying the file format's design.

Standardising the format itself, then, became a natural step because the information in the files was no longer restricted to use by Microsoft Office, but would now traverse many non-Microsoft technologies as well. So started the journey to offer up the new Office file formats to the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) culminating in an announcement last week that the OOXML File Format specification had been accepted as an ISO Standard-IS29500.

So what does this mean for consumers, business, government and the IT ecosystem as a whole?

Firstly, it opens up a range of solution opportunities for everyone. Now that Microsoft has given over the full details of how Office stores information in its files, anyone is able to create software that can leverage this format. It means that information stored from now on in this human readable format remains immune to changes in technology in the future. You will still be able to access your files and documents in 50 or 100 years from now.

Since OOXML file format utilises the latest advances in technology, it now requires less space to store the same information. It's also more secure and more flexible.

Most importantly, the accreditation of Microsoft's OOXML format as ISO Standard-IS29500 means that, for the first time, the future of your most familiar information, Office documents, will now be determined by the countries that comprise the Joint Technical committee and ISO.

**Want to have your say?**

**Go to <http://blogs.msdn.com/avgovtaffairs>**

## Did you know?

- The free, downloadable add-in for Microsoft Office Word enables for the translation of millions of OOXML documents into DAISY XML, the lingua franca of the globally accepted Digital Access Information System (DAISY), standard for digital talking books.
- Hundreds of independent software vendors and platform providers around the world – such as Apple Inc., Corel Corp., Sun Microsystems Inc., Microsoft and Novell Inc. – are developing solutions using OOXML that offer real value for IT users around the globe.
- OOXML supports communication in more than 100 languages, and the ability to write characters from left to right as well as vertically.

## Australian trade delegation visits Microsoft Research and Development in Israel

A senior Australian trade mission focusing on technology and innovation visited Microsoft's Research & Development Centre in Herzeliya on 29 April 2008.

The delegation organised by the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce was led by the Hon. Evan Thornley MP, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Premier on the National Reform Agenda and Innovation.

The facility is one of Microsoft's four strategic regional development centres, and home to some of the world's most innovative technologies. Along with the core research and development incubation activities, the Centre also serves as an anchor to the Venture Capital industry and the start-up community, facilitating technology and business cooperation between the industry and Microsoft's product groups.

The delegation, greeted by Moshe Litchman, Corporate Vice President of Microsoft, included representatives from The University of Melbourne, The University of Sydney, Monash University, Victoria University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, and the Victorian Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. Further information regarding the trade mission can be found by visiting <http://www.aicc.org.au/>



*Left to Right: Mr Sassoon Grigorian, Manager, State Government Affairs, Microsoft Australia; The Hon. Evan Thornley MP, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary; Mr Moshe Litchman, Vice President, Microsoft Israel*

Courtesy Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce



*Dr Jackie Huggins AM  
Co-Convenor, Options for  
the future of Indigenous  
Australia, 2020 Summit*

## Listen UP! Indigenous Forum

Microsoft Australia and its Indigenous partner, Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, hosted an Indigenous Forum called *Listen UP!* on 10 and 11 April at the Australian Museum.

The Forum provided an opportunity for discussion between business, government and indigenous groups on how best to engage with, and support aspirations of, indigenous communities, with

particular focus on youth, education and employment. Representatives in attendance included Dr Jackie Huggins AM, Co-Convenor in the Australia 2020 summit; indigenous groups; government agencies; and corporate organisations, and discussion was facilitated by Jeff McMullen, host of *Difference of Opinion* on ABC Television.

Key findings of the Forum were discussed at the Australia 2020 summit. Addressing Forum participants, NSW Minister for Fair Trading, Youth and Volunteering, the Hon. Linda Burney MP said: "Australia needs a new partnership between government, the First Peoples, business, and NGOs with solutions based on respect, understanding and honesty."

**"Australia needs a new partnership... based on respect, understanding and honesty."**

*Hon. Linda Burney MP,  
NSW Minister for Fair Trading,  
Youth and Volunteering*

## Training teachers for 21st century schools

NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Training, Ms Virginia Judge MP, earlier this year supported the nomination of Ms Daisy Kokkalis, Principal of Ashfield Boys, High School, and Ms Angela Lyris, Strathfield Girls, High School's new Principal, who took part in a workshop in Perth as part of Microsoft's Partners in Learning (PiL) initiative.

Microsoft's Partners in Learning (PiL) program has been developed in consultation with Australian teachers, academics and curriculum professionals, and supports the integration of digital technology learning in classrooms.

Ms Angela Lyris, Principal of Strathfield Girls High School, said: "I found the workshop extremely useful as it gave me the opportunity to reflect and think about the challenges that lie ahead as we try to help our students develop the essential knowledge, skills and values they will need for this 21st century."

NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Training, Ms Virginia Judge, said: "The course is endorsed by the Department of Education and Training as one of the professional development opportunities to support the lemma Government's Connected Classrooms program. To date more than 70,000 Australian teachers have participated in the Partners in Learning (PiL) program and this training has had an associated impact on more than 1 million students."



*Ms Virginia Judge MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Training, with Ms Angela Lyris, Principal, Strathfield Girls High School.*



## IPAA National Conference 2008

Microsoft Australia is proud to sponsor this year's Institute of Public Administration of Australia National Conference 2008 titled *The future of public service: striking the right balance*, which will be held at the Crystal Palace Convention Centre in Sydney's iconic Luna Park complex from 18 to 20 June 2008. The main conference will be held on 19 and 20 June with an Academic Day on 18 June. Further information regarding the conference and program can be found by visiting <http://www.ipaa2008.org.au/>

## Microsoft Australia launches Employee Citizenship program

Earlier this year Microsoft Australia officially launched the company's Employee Citizenship program targeting its 750 staff. The new program includes paid volunteer leave, workplace giving and software donations.

NSW Minister for Volunteering, the Hon. Linda Burney MP, met with Microsoft's partner charities who set up information kiosks at the launch, to help employees identify volunteering and workplace giving opportunities.

The charities included: The Smith Family, Cancer Council, WWF, SIDS for Kids, Father Riley's Youth Off the Streets, Create Foundation, Starlight, Yarreen Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation, Inspire Foundation and the Australian Senior Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA).

Ms Burney said: "This is the first time I have had the privilege of playing a role in a corporate employee volunteering program." She added: "I also want to commend the charities here today for their willingness to work with Microsoft for the common good."

Mr John Galligan, Director of Corporate Affairs, said: "Microsoft Australia believes the corporate sector can

play a significant role in fostering and encouraging Australians to volunteer."

In 2007, Microsoft Australia donated \$22 million worth of software to more than 1,500 Australian charities and not-for-profit organisations through the company's Unlimited Potential Software Donation program and with the support of the staff software donation program. For further information regarding Microsoft's donation program, visit [www.microsoft.com.au/donations](http://www.microsoft.com.au/donations)



Left to Right: Mr Mark Jaksetic, Microsoft Australia volunteer; Mr John Galligan, Director, Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Australia; The Hon. Linda Burney MP, NSW Minister for Volunteering



Left to Right: Mr Rob Pyers, Principal, Dimboola Memorial Secondary College; The Hon. Julia Gillard, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Mr Gary Schultz, Teacher; Ms Felicia Brown, National Academic Programs Manager, Microsoft Australia

## Teachers and the Digital Education Revolution

Last month, Minister for Education, the Hon. Julia Gillard MP attended the Dimboola Memorial Secondary College Conference in Victoria, which brought together teachers wishing to integrate information communication technology (ICT) into their curriculum, with particular emphasis on the use of interactive whiteboards.

The College is part of Microsoft's Partners in Learning (PiL) program, which supports the professional development of teachers and the integration of digital technology learning in classrooms.

Dimboola Memorial Secondary College offers ICT access through the use of laptops, interactive whiteboards, digital photography and video, podcasting, vodcasting and student mobile phone technology.

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