

## the newsletter of Tarragon Solutions

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### Solutions!

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### Microsoft's June patches include critical fixes for IE and Excel

The regular "patch Tuesday" fix release for June from **Microsoft** includes 10 security bulletins for 34 vulnerabilities, including fixes for 'critical' vulnerabilities in Microsoft Office Excel and Internet Explorer. These exposures put users of Windows and Office at risk of full system compromise and we do **strongly recommend** that you ensure all your computers have the patches installed as soon as possible. If a PC is not set to automatically install Windows Updates, watch for the Updates Available notification and act immediately!

**Adobe** are also racing to fix critical vulnerabilities in Flash v10, Adobe Reader v9 and Adobe Acrobat v9; the fix for Flash is expected June 10th and for Reader and Acrobat by the end of June. It is important to apply these fixes as soon as they are issued but **please beware** of scam emails, purporting to be from Adobe, which offer a link to "download an updated version of Adobe Reader". If in doubt, call Tarragon!

In the meantime, Adobe say it is possible to protect Acrobat v9 and Reader v9 from the exposure by disabling the file that contains the vulnerable code. The workaround requires a change to the Adobe program library so, if you would like to follow this advice, please get in touch with Tarragon for help.

Please contact us if you require further information or assistance in installing the fixes.

### Apple introduces the iPhone 4



My admiration for the iPhone is well-established and may have been mentioned once (or twice!) before in **Solutions!** Already a really nice to use and effective phone, the new iPhone 4 brings major improvements in function and usability.

The first thing you'll notice about iPhone 4 is a change of look. Gone are the tapered edges of the iPhone 3G/3GS, replaced by a slimmer, squarer design, the case being edged by a stainless steel band. This is not just for aesthetics; the steel band is part of the aerial and, in theory at least, will greatly improve the Wi-Fi and 3G reception capability. The iPhone 4 is 34% thinner than its predecessors but, at 137 grams, does weigh 3 grams more.

The main changes are under the covers, of course.

The phone is powered by the Apple A4 chip (same as in the iPad) which carries the main processor, a graphics processor and memory. Because of this, Apple claims the iPhone 4 can process data more quickly yet use less battery than the 3G/3GS. The battery itself is bigger, so when coupled with the improved processor and display, Apple claim the iPhone 4 gives 40% more talk time.

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## Apple introduces the iPhone 4 (continued from Page 1)

The technology used in the iPad is also evident in the iPhone's new display; it has a resolution of 960x640 pixels which, in the 3.5inch screen, gives the iPhone a better definition (326 pixels per inch) than you would find in most magazine printed images! Also enhanced are the contrast and viewing angle of the display.

The iPhone now has two cameras, one forward and one back facing. The main (rear) camera is now 5 megapixels and it has improvements which should allow for better photos in normal and low light conditions. There is also an LED flash to assist with lighting.



The new forward facing camera is high-resolution video capable which makes it ideal for video calls and conferencing as well as for taking video footage.

One of the revolutions introduced by earlier iPhones was a set of accelerometers which allowed the phone to detect movement, spawning all sorts of novel applications. The accelerometers have now been joined by a built-in gyroscope, meaning movement may be tracked to a very high precision. Coupled with the rear camera and the built-in GPS and compass, this allows for the possibility of a navigation application that shows mapping information overlaying the real world as seen by the camera.

All these hardware features are backed by a new version of the operating system, iOS 4 (slightly easier to say than the old "iPhone OS" name!).

Not forgetting that the iPhone is, first and foremost, a telephone, Apple have added a second microphone for noise cancellation, meaning clearer phone calls. I wonder if it will be able to cancel the sound of a police siren passing close by?

In total, the iPhone 4 has over 100 new features and looks like it will set the bar yet higher for other smartphone manufacturers who, once again, will have to play catch-up - although there are some very good models available (e.g. HTC Desire & Legend) and the Blackberry remains (for the moment, at least) the phone of choice for business users.

The iPhone 4 is scheduled to be available in the UK from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

## Entangled Light Emitting Diodes

They may sound like your Christmas lights when you get them down from the loft in December but, in fact, they could be the future of computers.

For years, scientists have been saying (and you may have heard) that the current silicon-chip based computer technology is reaching its limits. To build *really* fast computers, they say, will require quantum technology.

Quantum, if you didn't already know, is the branch of physics that allows physicists and mathematicians to say whatever comes into their heads without fear of contradiction, because other physicists and mathematicians don't understand it either. However, it apparently really does have a use in computing although actually building a quantum computer is still a long way off. One of the problems is that creating the necessary entangled light (yes, I know) has been possible only by using crystals and high-powered lasers, not very practical for your average netbook.

Last week, though, scientists in Cambridge made a major breakthrough by modifying the ubiquitous and cheap LED technology to create entangled light. Simply inserting a nanometer-scale region of semiconductor into an LED turns the conventional current into entangled light. Well, maybe it's not quite as simple as that but this advance does mean that mass-production of ELEDs should be possible and that really would bring quantum computers a lot closer.

Please let us know what you think of [Solutions!](#) - email [solutions@tarragon.co.uk](mailto:solutions@tarragon.co.uk)