

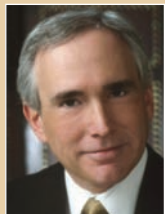
BY TOM MIGHELL

TECHGEAR



Lost your cell phone again? No worries if you have your phone's address book saved on the **Spark CellStik** (\$40). This device connects directly to your phone and captures your address book, which you can then transfer to your PC or another phone.

WEBLINKS



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MostlyClassical.com

This Internet radio station has no conversation — just soft music that is perfect for the office. It really helps me keep my focus while working on a brief or preparing for trial.

ClassicFM.com

This may be the best radio station in the world. The announcers have interesting personalities, and they chose a broad, but accessible, selection of classical music.

ForwardMovement.org

Frankly, busy lawyers have difficulty finding the time to read the Bible. This website follows the lectionary used in many Catholic and Protestant churches. In only a few minutes each day, the reader can read the entire Bible over a three-year period. Also, the short commentaries are well written.

ESPN

<http://sports.espn.go.com>

This site is great for keeping up with all of the scores and stats. It even gives you real-time results so that you can keep track of several games at once.

The Official U.S. Time

www.time.gov

This is particularly helpful when setting all of the clocks and watches in the home during the transition to/from daylight savings time.

refdesk.com

This is a great source of information about a lot of subjects.

Web 2.0 — The Next Generation of the Internet?

It was bound to happen. Legal professionals are finally becoming comfortable with using the Internet for research and to better serve their clients, and now it has to go and change. Well, not really. But the Internet is definitely evolving — the new technology is being called “Web 2.0” — and it is already making the Internet more interactive for users.

If you have used the new Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com>), you've already experienced a part of Web 2.0; the ability to literally grab hold of the map and drag it in any direction you want is pretty cool, isn't it? The technology at work here is called AJAX (for the techies out there, it stands for Asynchronous JavaScript and XML), and it changes the way browsers like Internet Explorer interact with Web pages. With Web 1.0, when you click on a link on a page, the page had to “reload,” and send the requested information (images, text, etc.) to your computer. With Web 2.0, that's no longer necessary — the Web pages are constantly refreshed, and there's no more waiting.

Another Web 2.0 term is API, which stands for “application programming interface.” In plain English, it's software that allows anyone to integrate these Web 2.0 applications with other applications, or build new functionality on top of an application.

Here are some examples of how this works: Web developers create applications that pull information from different sites and display them on one page. One site

is **MapSexOffenders.com**; it uses Google Maps as well as sex offender sites all over the country to display maps of the locations of offenders in a particular area. Earthquakes in the Last Week (www.speakeasy.org/~endico/maps/usgs.html) uses data from the U.S. Geological Survey to depict the location and severity of earthquakes all over the world.

Here are just a few of the many examples of sites that take advantage of this interesting new technology:

Find Cheap Gas (www.mywikimap.com) — Just plug in your zip code, and the map will display the cheapest gas in your area.

Start.com — Microsoft's new Web portal, Start, wants to be your home page; you can view top news, business, sports, and weather, plus information from weblogs and RSS feeds. It's extremely customizable.

Google Traffic/Weather Map (<http://traffic.poly9.com>) — This site uses Google's maps to display current traffic and weather for any city or zip code.

Planzo.com — an online calendar, notebook, and to-do list application that you can share with others.

Writely (www.writely.com) — an online word processing application that allows you to create and share documents from any computer.

For those of you who are just getting the hang of Web 1.0, don't worry — Web 2.0 won't be overwhelming you any time soon. But it's definitely a big leap for the future of the Internet.

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