



## LKN Keeping You Informed

### May 2009 Issue

May 31

#### **10 ways Twitter will change business.** *Time.com*

Twitter can be used with ease on both PCs and mobile devices. It also limits users to very short messages of 140 characters or fewer; therefore it has become one of the largest platforms in the world for sharing real-time data.

[Full article](#)

May 29

#### **U.S. Treasury Secretary Geithner goes to China.** *Business Week*

China is worried the U.S. spending policies will lead to inflation and dilute the value of China's more than \$1 trillion in U.S. assets. Beijing is pushing for a larger international role for its currency the renminbi, which would weaken the global role of the U.S. dollar.

[Full article](#)

#### **Has corruption disappeared in Russia yet?** *NPR*

Corruption is so rife among law enforcement and government officials that President Medvedev couldn't tackle the problem even if he really wanted to.

[Full article](#)

#### **U.S. President Obama to guard online security.** *CNNPolitics.com*

Tackling the economic crisis cannot be done without ensuring the safety of online activities, Obama said.

[Full article](#)

May 28

#### **Books on Demand.** *NPR*

"Our technology now makes it possible for the printed page to move as rapidly as the electronic page," CEO Dane Neller.

[Full article](#)

#### **Time Warner lets go of AOL.** *CNNMoney.com*

During the past several years, as AOL has steadily lost subscribers for its dial-up Internet access business, it has made several attempts to focus on Internet advertising.

[Full article](#)

**Microsoft's new Bing.** *CNNMoney.com*

Bing is a search engine to replace its current Live Search product. Microsoft hopes it will provide users with a more streamlined, focused approach to search.

[Full article](#)

May 27

**North Korea violates international community.** *CNN.com/asia*

Clinton said North Korea has chosen to violate "specific language of the U.N. Security Council resolution 1718" and "abrogated obligations it entered into through the six-party talks."

[Full article](#)

**Worry over Venezuela's free press.** *CNN.com/world*

The United Nations and the Organization of American States said Saturday they are worried over Venezuelan government statements about an independent TV station that has criticized President Hugo Chavez.

[Full article](#)

**The Future of Opel.** *CNN.com/world business*

The German government is expected to discuss bridge financing that would keep Opel running while an investor is sought. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has two priorities for Opel: to protect jobs and to spare German taxpayers.

[Full article](#)

**Vive Mexico campaign.** *TravelWeekly*

"I invite every Mexican to show the international tourists that visiting our country is a great experience; that Mexico is not only a beautiful country but is also strong and capable of facing the toughest adversities, and that we are waiting them with open arms in our beaches, cities, and towns, " Mexico President Calderon.

[Full article](#)

May 26

**U.S. and China partnership on North Korea?** *NPR*

The nuclear and missile tests force the Obama administration to try to rally a strong response from U.S. allies to what the president denounced as "a blatant violation of international law."

[Full article](#)

**Egypt FM Gheit comments on U.S. President Obama.** *NPR*

Egypt plays a key role in trying to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Aboul Gheit says he wants to see the U.S. plan for the region, and calls the two-state solution critical.

[Full article](#)

May 25

**Peace in Israel and Palestine?** *NPR*

Maen Areikat, the chief of PLO Mission in Washington DC, talks about the future of peace negotiations, now that there is new leadership in America and Israel.

[Full article](#)

May 24

**Petrochina buys Singapore Petroleum.** *Business Week*

PetroChina said it intends for the company to become a platform for its "international strategy and to provide a broader foundation and stable path for development."

[Full article](#)

May 23

**New Credit Card laws.** *Business Week*

It outlaws some of the industry's most contentious billing practices. Card companies, for instance, will no longer be able to raise interest rates on card holders' existing balances until the borrower is 60 days behind in payments.

[Full article](#)

**Communism in Nepal.** *CNN.com/asia*

Madhav Kumar Nepal was elected as new Nepalese PM. He is a former general secretary of the Communist Party, but had resigned after the party made a poor showing last year against another Communist movement.

[Full article](#)

May 22

**Craigslist to charge fees?** *Business Week*

Evidence of the surging popularity of Craigslist revives questions about the company's reluctance to make money from online ads by charging fees for classified ad placement. It also provides context for the friction between eBay and Craigslist over increasing competition between the two companies

[Full article](#)

**Gazprom: the Russian giant.** *CNN.com/world business*

If the Soviet Union promoted its interests through satellite states and military prowess, Russia today flexes its might on the global stage through its vast oil and natural gas fields. And no company exemplifies this more than [Gazprom](#).

[Full article](#)

**Cuba and U.S. immigration talks.** *CNNPolitics.com*

"We intend to use the renewal of talks to reaffirm both sides' commitment to safe, legal and orderly migration, to review recent trends in illegal Cuban migration to the United States, and to improve operational relations with Cuba on migration issues," State Department spokeswoman Heide Bronke-Fulton.

[Full article](#)

May 21

**Barter clubs in Argentina.** *CNN.com/world*

The La Matanza Barter Club in the working-class Buenos Aires neighborhood of Isidro Casanova is one of more than 100 in Argentina. They provide a service for people who are short on cash by helping them make ends meet.

[Full article](#)

May 20

[Full article](#)

**AT&T and Verizon Wireless Netbooks?** *Business Week*

Cell-phone penetration in the U.S. is approaching 90% of the population. To avoid a slowdown in sales growth, both cellular giants are getting into a new game: personal computers.

[Full article](#)

**Buy a laptop from a phone company.** *CNNMoney.com*

H-P, the world's largest computer maker, says it's selling about the same number of computers as a year ago, but getting a lot less money for them. In the midst of all that, wireless carriers are poised to shake up PC retail.

[Full article](#)

**Obama asks, what is a sustainable economic model?** *CNNPolitics.com*

"How do we create sound fundamentals on issues like education, on health care and energy, and the innovation that's required around these various areas, so that moving forward, we don't find ourselves in an unsustainable economic model?"

[Full article](#)

May 19

**Virtual currency and gifts.** *CNN.com/technology*

"They can't eat the cake. It is an image -- the thing that it represents," said Santiago Martinez. "You can send the feeling of that cake that you want to send."

[Full article](#)

**Palm v. iPhone June 6.** *CNNMoney.com*

The Pre was first unveiled in January by Palm chairman Jon Rubinstein, one of Steve Jobs' closest aides for nearly 16 years. His device bore a resemblance to the iPhone.

[Full article](#)

**Reverse of "Brain Drain."** *NPR*

Amid the global recession, the Indian economy is still relatively strong, and many Indians living in the United States miss the cultural experiences of India. Many young immigrants are deciding that the economic opportunities are better back home.

[Full article](#)

**Morocco campaigns against Shiite Minority.** *NPR*

Morocco states Iran is trying to spread its Shiite faith in largely Sunni Morocco. The campaign comes amid flaring sectarian tensions in Middle East and North African states.

[Full article](#)

**Developed countries still the leaders.** *Business Week*

Developed countries still enjoy considerable advantages in economic competitiveness whether based on the quality of their infrastructure and educational systems or the sophistication of their business laws and bureaucracy.

[Full article](#)

May 18

**Google and Apple, antitrust problems?** *CNNMoney.com*

President Obama's top antitrust official, Assistant Attorney General Christine Varney, last week announced the reversal of a Bush-era policy that had weakened the government's ability to take on monopolies.

[Full article](#)

**Haiti appoints Clinton as Special UN Envoy.** *NPR*

Clinton is popular among many of Haiti's poor because as president in 1994, he used the threat of military force to oust a dictatorship in the Caribbean nation.

[Full article](#)

**World Bank to assist Zimbabwe.** *CNN.com/world*

Zimbabwe is facing a major economic and humanitarian crisis. The country has sought more than \$8 billion from international sources to rescue an economy that has been in recession for almost a decade now.

[Full article](#)

**Russia pipeline South Stream Project.** *Business Week*

By 2015, the pipeline will pump natural gas from Russia to Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, and Greece to Austria and Italy. This agreement represents a diplomatic coup for Russia that may determine the source of Europe's energy.

[Full article](#)

**Investment opportunities in India.** *Business Week*

The victory of a coalition led by a recharged Congress Party, which won 262 of 543 legislative seats, brings the promise of long-awaited economic reforms, reduced corruption, and a younger, more vigorous leadership.

[Full article](#)

May 17

**Next chapter of Sri Lanka civil war?** *NPR*

The decades-long civil war in Sri Lanka may finally be over. The government has declared victory over the rebel Tamil Tigers and the Tigers have conceded defeat.

[Full article](#)

**Restaurant of the future.** *NPR*

"This is a living laboratory," says Rene Koster, co-founder and manager of the restaurant. "Every day we could have a project ongoing. And the people that come here are not aware if there's a project ongoing or not, basically because they don't see it.

[Full article](#)

May 16

**India government remains.** *NPR*

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Congress party remains in government. P.M. Manmohan is described as a "non-political P.M." and brings stability to India.

[Full article](#)

**Jon Huntsman appointed as China Envoy.** *NPR*

"He was asked by the president to serve in a major diplomatic post, in a mission with a country most important to our economy, in dealing with Iran, Pakistan and North Korea. Jon is uniquely qualified and thus you don't turn your nation down," Huntsman advisor, Weaver said.

[Full article](#)

May 13

**Pope in Bethlehem Endorses Palestinian Homeland.** *NPR*

Pope spoke in the shadow of the massive concrete barrier that divides Israelis and Palestinians. The high-profile visit provided a forum for

Palestinians to vent their rage over the Israeli occupation, and Pope Benedict said he understood their frustration.

[Full article](#)

**E.U. fines Intel for Monopoly practices.** *NPR*

The European Commission says Intel broke EU competition law by exploiting its dominant position with a deliberate strategy to keep AMD out of the market.

[Full article](#)

May 12

**Legal migration from Egypt to Europe.** *Business Week*

Egypt appears to be aimed at offering an alternative to young Egyptians contemplating a dangerous, illegal journey across the Mediterranean to Italy to flee grinding poverty, high unemployment and rising prices at home.

[Full article](#)

**Intel and antitrust laws.** *Business Week*

The U.S. government will "take a new tack" toward redressing monopolistic practices and wield active antitrust enforcement in response to the "economic distress" that can result from uncompetitive markets,

[Full article](#)

**Japan and Russia in nuclear cooperation.** *Business Week*

The two countries have signed several economic accords. "Russia has set itself the ambitious task to restructure the economy," Putin said, adding the move "is expected to change Russia's image, not only Russia's economy."

[Full article](#)

**New engine may replace popular Google.** *CNN.com/technology*

Some sites, like [Twine](#) and [hakia](#), will try to personalize searches, separating out results you would find interesting, based on your Web use.

[Full article](#)

May 11

**Venezuela government takes over 39 oil contractors.** *Business Week*

The companies affected include Zulia Towing and Barge Company, Gusteca, Premeca, Seatech, and Terminales Maracaibo providing service in Western Venezuela.

[Full article](#)

**Google, trademark infringement?** *Business Week*

Starting June 4, marketers in about 200 countries will be allowed to purchase rival trademarks as keywords to trigger display of "sponsored search" ads on Google.

[Full article](#)

**Tsingtao to be purchased by Fashu.** *Business Week*

Chen Fashu, has agreed to buy a 7% stake in Tsingtao Brewery from Anheuser-Busch InBev for \$235 million. Once the sale goes through, InBev will have completely cashed out of China's largest brewery.

[Full article](#)

May 10

**Indonesia presidency update.** *CNN.com/asia*

Polls and analysts favor Yudhoyono, who is known as "Mr. Clean," because of his anti-corruption efforts. He also has gained popularity for his handling of the 2004 tsunami recovery and the country's battle against terrorism.

[Full article](#)

May 7

**Russian factories escape Soviet-era.** *Business Week*

Andrey Gartung believes the global economic crisis offers an opportunity to boost productivity. This year he is adding new product lines, ordering every department to trim costs by 15%, and asking workers to ferret out waste.

[Full article](#)

**News Corp to charge for online content.** *CNN.com/world business*

News Corporation-owned newspaper Web sites may start charging users for access within a year in a move which could shake-up the culture of freely available content.

[Full article](#)

**VW and Porsche merger.** *CNN.com/world business*

Porsche had been aggressively trying to take over Volkswagen, building a 51% stake in the company with ambitions to raise the stake to 75 percent. Management boards of Porsche and Volkswagen had agreed in principle for the creation of an integrated car manufacturing group.

[Full article](#)

**Geely to buy Saab and Volvo.** *Business Week*

A deal with either Saab or Volvo would help Geely get a leg up on its domestic rivals. The Swedish carmakers could provide superior technology and marketing know-how, and could also provide Geely with an eventual platform from which to sell into Western Europe.

[Full article](#)

May 6

**Zuma is South African president.** *CNN.com/world*



The parliament is dominated by members of Zuma's party, the African National Congress, and the vote was widely expected.

[Full article](#)

May 5

**Twitter and Apple combo.** *Business Week*

Apple isn't a particularly strong player on the Web, therefore Twitter would bring a strong Web development team with a proven record for building successful products.

[Full article](#)

**Fiat to buy GM Europe.** *CNN.com/world business*

The new company would become one of the largest car manufacturers in the world behind Toyota.

[Full article](#)

May 4

**Saudi Arabia refuses money to IMF.** *NPR*

International Monetary Fund were counting on the world's wealthiest countries to boost their IMF contributions. Saudi Arabia could afford to increase its IMF contribution. As the world's No. 1 oil exporter, it has a huge trade surplus and more than \$300 billion in foreign reserves.

[Full article](#)

**Africa: New Colonialism.** *Business Week*

Over the past few months, Saudi Arabian investors have paid \$100m for an Ethiopian farm where they hope to grow wheat and barley, adding to the millions of acres they already own in the war-ravaged country, as well as in neighboring Sudan.

[Full article](#)

**Army coup in Nepal.** *Business Week*

"The army chief was removed because he failed to give satisfactory explanation on why the government orders were ignored," information minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara.

[Full article](#)

**Missouri to remove cap on interest rates.** *Business Week*

Missouri and Alabama currently are the only states limiting the interest they can earn from local banks on time deposits.

[Full article](#)

**No Pepsi Bottling and Pepsi Co merger.** *Business Week*

The \$6 billion proposal for Pepsi Bottling and PepsiAmericas would have let PepsiCo control about 80 percent of its total North American beverage

volume.

[Full article](#)

**Colorado sales tax on cigarettes.** *Business Week*

The Colorado Senate passed a measure on Monday that would charge state sales tax on cigarettes for the next two years. The tax is 2.9 percent, which would mean an extra 15 cents on a \$5 pack of cigarettes.

[Full article](#)

**Gold value increases.** *Business Week*

The dip in the dollar aided the gains in gold, which is used as a hedge against inflation and a weak greenback.

[Full article](#)

May 3

**Martinelli wins Panama.** [Prensa.com](#)

"According to the ballots counted so far, you are the undisputed winner of this race," Tribunal President Erasmo Pinilla told Martinelli. The news was greeted with absolute silence at Partido Revolucionario Democratico (PRD) campaign headquarters on Avenida Mexico

[Full article](#)

May 1

**Hulu expands its market.** *NPR*

In addition to Fox and NBC, Disney joins [Hulu.com](#) by placing its TV content on the internet site.

[Full article](#)

