



LKN Keeping You Informed

August 2009 Issue

August 31

**Cotton battle Brazil vs USA.** *Business Week*

The Geneva-based WTO had already decided in favor of Brazil's claim that U.S. subsidies for cotton violate global trading rules. On Aug. 31, the WTO issued its ruling on how much the U.S. can be penalized.

[Full article](#)

**Brazil's state control for new oil discovery.** *Business Week*

Brazil has a new plan to exert more state control over massive offshore oil finds and funnel profits to the people. Thirty years ago, more than 85% of Brazil's oil came from foreign sources. However today, it is a net exporter.

[Full article](#)

August 30

**Gabon votes in new president.** *CNN.com/world*

Voters in the western African nation of Gabon went to the polls Sunday to elect a successor for President Omar Bongo. Africa's longest-serving ruler, Bongo, 73, suffered a cardiac arrest while being treated for intestinal cancer at a hospital in Barcelona, Spain.

[Full article](#)

**GM China and FAW joint venture.** *Business Week*

China is a key growth market for GM, which is expanding despite its difficulties in the U.S. market. General Motors China and state-owned automaker FAW Group Corp. launched a 2 billion yuan to make light-duty trucks and vans.

[Full article](#)

August 29

**AIG plane leasing executive may bid for business.** *Business Week*

The head of the aircraft leasing company owned by the financial services company American International Group is reportedly talking about buying a part of the business.

[Full article](#)

August 28

**Japan, US relations threatened with new president.** *NPR*

DPJ campaigned to create a foreign policy that is more integrated with its East Asian neighbors and more independent from the United States. While the strong U.S.-Japan relationship is not fundamentally threatened, a victory for the DPJ presents a different stance from the more conservative LPD, which has generally supported U.S. political and economic goals around the world.

[Full article](#)

**Japan's new leader.** *Business Week*

After 54 years of almost unbroken rule, Japan's Liberal Democratic Party government has been expelled from office. "The result of this election is very severe. We have to accept the result and think clearly about where we go from here," Prime Minister Taro Aso said.

[Full article](#)

**ExxonMobile to outsource in India.** *Business Week*

World's biggest oil company, ExxonMobile is talking with Indian technology firms and vendors to outsource several IT contracts. Large outsourcing customers are seeking to reduce their operational costs by up to 30% and Indian technology firms are set to gain from increased offshoring of application development, maintenance, and support.

[Full article](#)

**New frontier for India IT companies.** *Business Week*

Enterprises are beginning to understand the value of IT investments beyond mere cost-cutting and are using IT to enhance business performance. International collaboration for offshore support catapulted India to the forefront of the IT world, making it a premier outsourcing destination.

[Full article](#)

**Honduras' presidency to be determined.** *CNN.com/world*

Honduras' de facto president is willing to resign and let ousted President Jose Manuel Zelaya back into the country, as long as Zelaya gives up his quest for leadership. The Organization of American States sent a delegation to Honduras to promote the San Jose Accord, which seeks an end to the political turmoil and the return of Zelaya to office.

[Full article](#)

August 27

**APEC Free Trade Agreement in serious discussion.** *APEC.org*.

Key business leaders of the Asia Pacific region have agreed that it is now time for APEC to take more decisive actions towards establishing a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) in view of the financial crisis and the stalled Doha Round negotiations.

[Full article](#)

**Cash for toys?** *Business Week*

This is a marketing campaign, such as Cash for Clunkers, to entice consumers to purchase new items. Consumers can bring their used high chairs, strollers, cribs, and such to Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us stores nationwide and get 20% off the cost of a similar new item from 16 manufacturers.

[Full article](#)

**Argentina farmer tax exemption strike.** *CNN.com*

Argentine farmers will begin a weeklong strike on grain and beef sales Friday in protest of a presidential veto that blocked tax exemption to farmers facing severe drought conditions. Argentina is one of the world's leading exporters of soybeans and corn, but U.S. futures markets for these commodities were unaffected Thursday.

[Full article](#)

**Russia corruption: barrier to global economic powerhouse.** *Business Week*

It is clear that Russia needs to add anti-corruption to the long list of issues it must tackle to be considered a global economic powerhouse. Russia's culture of corruption may simply be too deeply entrenched for the country's leadership to tackle on its own. However, help might come from two unlikely rescuers: the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

[Full article](#)

**Harley-Davidson in India.** *Business Week*

India is the world's second-largest motorcycle market. "Given the rapid development of India's economy and physical infrastructure, this is exactly the right time to bring the world's greatest motorcycles to one of the world's largest motorcycling nations," said Mark Levatich, Harley's chief operating officer.

[Full article](#)

**L-3 Communications receives US Army contract.** *Business Week*

Under the contract, MPRI will provide the army with services including engineering, information assurance, logistics, acquisition support, training and strategic communications.

[Full article](#)

**UBS may be target of Swiss tax probe.** *Business Week*

UBS may have settled its civil case with U.S. authorities, but other Swiss banks could now be the target of America's crackdown on tax evasion. "It is possible that the IRS will ask for more data on U.S. customers at other Swiss banks," Michael Ambuehl told Bloomberg. With this, Swiss banks also are becoming more reticent towards U.S. clients.

[Full article](#)

August 26

**Google in the Hawaiian language.** *CNN.com/technology*

Wedge between Hausa and Hebrew, Hawaiian is one of more than 125 "interface languages" now available on Google. For Hawaiian educators, the addition of Hawaiian is a small step toward legitimizing a language that is considered "critically endangered" by the United Nations.

[Full article](#)

**Zara expands in Asia.** *Business Week*

Zara's parent company, Inditex, has set Asia as a top priority for its expansion with stores in countries throughout the region. Thanks to new agreements with local companies, Inditex may be able to solve some of the problems related to entering Asia.

[Full article](#)

**Yahoo buys the Arab site Maktoob.** *Business Week*

The purchase gives Yahoo command of one of the most visited online news portals in the Arab world, with business, finance, games, blogging, and other sites that reach an estimated 16.5 million people. Yahoo says it will translate its home page, e-mail, and instant messaging services into Arabic but plans to keep Maktoob's local flavor mostly intact.

[Full article](#)

August 25

**Argentina legalizes private use of marijuana.** *CNN.com/world*

The unanimous ruling makes Argentina the second Latin American country in the past four days to allow personal use of a formerly illegal drug. "It seems quite clear that drug policy based primarily on interdiction and enforcement has failed," said Robert Pastor, a Latin America national security adviser for President Jimmy Carter in the late 1970s. "Therefore, it's natural for people to stand back and ask, 'Is there a better way?' "

[Full article](#)

**Foreign dislike McDonald's Japanese Ad.** *Time.com*

In a country known for its small foreign-born population and restrictive immigration and naturalization policies, the new envoy for McDonald's Japan is creating a stir among non-Japanese residents. Foreign Residents and Naturalized Citizens' Association of Japan, Arudo Debito considers the characterization of a "clumsy sycophantic 'nerd' " an embarrassment.

[Full article](#)

**Florida population drops with home prices.** *Business Week*

Florida's population, which has been rising year after year since the end of World War II, fell for the first time this year, according to the demographers

at the University of Florida. Florida's speculative building boom was driven by the idea the retiring baby boomers and new immigrants would create steady demand for the condos towers rising from Miami to Jacksonville.

[Full article](#)

**Anheuser-Busch ceases college promotion.** *Business Week*

Anheuser-Busch InBev is dropping its "Fan Cans" promotions from communities around the country where colleges have complained that the effort, which sells cans of Bud Light in school colors, promotes underage drinking and infringes on trademarks. The nation's largest brewer started the program earlier this month for its flagship Bud Light brand, where sales have been suffering amid the recession. The brand could see its first sales decline in 27 years.

[Full article](#)

**Sony e-book reader's wireless download.** *NPR*

Sony Corp. plans to offer an e-book reader with the ability to wirelessly download books, injecting more competition in a small but fast-growing market by adopting a key feature of the rival Kindle from Amazon.com.

[Full article](#)

August 24

**Israel energy independence.** *Business Week*

Huge natural gas reserves off the country's central and northern Mediterranean coast are 16% bigger than estimated just one month ago. Energy experts reckon this once energy-poor country now has enough natural gas to meet its needs for the next two decades and may transform itself into an energy exporter.

[Full article](#)

**British and Libya trade improves.** *Business Week*

Britain's trade with Libya could soar following the release of the Lockerbie bomber. Most of the companies already exporting to Libya are involved in supplying industrial machinery and engineering services such as Bewater, and oil companies such as BP.

[Full article](#)

**Accenture partners with a start-up.** *Business Week*

Accenture has teamed up with Bug Labs, a New York startup, to offer hardware and software packages unique to each customer. The advantage for would-be customers is that the hardware can be tailored to fit an individual company.

[Full article](#)

August 23

**Sugar prices reflect a commodity rife with regulation.** *Business Week*

The Agriculture Dept. estimates the world market will produce some 160 million tons of sugar from 2009 to 2010. Many of the top-producing countries enforce trade barriers and quotas that skew prices, supply, and demand internally and globally. The price of the most active world raw sugar futures contract soared.

[Full article](#)

August 22

**S. Korea President Lee receives message from N. Korea.** *CNN.com/asia*

The verbal message delivered by the delegation expressed Kim's hope for improved relations with South Korea. "After meeting with several people (in the South), I felt the imperative need for North-South relations to improve," Kim told the Seoul minister during a photo session with him and his staff.

[Full article](#)

August 21

**Solar cellphones launched in developing countries.**

*CNN.com/technology*

Kenya's biggest mobile phone company, Safaricom Ltd., launched the nation's first solar-charged phone this month. Only about 1.3 million of Kenya's 37 million people are connected to the national electrical grid, said Migwi Theuri, a spokesman for Kenya Power and Lighting Co.

[Full article](#)

**Microsoft vs iPhone.** *Business Week*

Canalys senior analyst Pete Cunningham, said: "Apple has revolutionized the smart phone sector, leapfrogging more experienced rivals." However, there is opportunity for rivals to target Apple's weak spots, such as the high cost of the iPhone and the restricted selection of operators due to its exclusive tie-ups in many countries.

[Full article](#)

**Musicians look for pay in MP3 music.** *NPR*

Napster helped launch a revolution that turned the music industry on its head, allowing file-sharing fans to swap music on the Web. Record labels have blamed this phenomenon for a steep drop in CD sales. Attorney Don Passman says if fans keep this up, the quality of music will go down because no one will be able to make a living as a professional musician.

[Full article](#)

August 20

**EU-wide tax database.** *Business Week*

The European Commission has proposed a potentially controversial system to boost fight against tax fraud by allowing national authorities to directly access taxpayer data in other countries. The idea is to prevent "carousel"

fraud over value added tax (VAT), which occurs when someone gets VAT-free goods in one country and sells them on VAT-included terms in another state, but disappears before paying the tax.

[Full article](#)

**Dairy industry in trouble.** *NPR*

The price of raw milk paid to farmers has dropped to its lowest level in 40 years. "Depends on how long the bankers will work with us. If we want to put up everything we've worked 40 years for, we can hold out a little longer. But do we want to?" Shorty Miller says. "I don't think the American public realizes where the milk comes from. Or what they're going to do if we don't have fresh milk."

[Full article](#)

**Swiss government sold its stake in UBS.** *Business Week*

The Swiss government has sold its multi-billion dollar stake in UBS AG, a day after concluding a deal that appears to end the bank's yearlong tax-evasion battle in the United States. The 332.2 million mandatory convertible notes were sold to unidentified institutional investors in Europe, North America and the Middle East.

[Full article](#)

August 19

**No more plastic bags sold in Mexico City.** *CNN.com/world*

Government's amended ordinances on solid waste now outlaw businesses from giving out thin plastic bags that are not biodegradable. Mexico City becomes the second large metropolitan area in the Western Hemisphere to outlaw the bags.

[Full article](#)

**Myspace buys Facebook's iLike app.** *Business Week*

MySpace officially announced its acquisition of music startup iLike on Wednesday. There are no plans to disrupt the use of iLike on Facebook or any other sites. "This marriage has to do with a distributed Web and how it is the Web can serve our users in a more distributed way," said Owen van Natta, a former executive of Facebook.

[Full article](#)

**Putin's limited options to restore growth.** *Business Week*

The Central Bank, by giving out money left right and center, will compensate for the lack of funds in the economy caused by the drastic reduction in the petrodollar revenue. By creating money, the Russian authorities will create a real demand for goods. Supply will inevitably react to this demand. However, Putin criticized Russian bankers harshly for providing loans to entrepreneurs at excessively expensive rates.

[Full article](#)

August 18

**South Korea President Kim passes.** *CNN.com/asia*

Kim served as president from 1998 to 2003, and in 2000, he won the Nobel Peace Prize for fostering better relations between North and South Korea. "Broadly speaking, his place in history is going to be a positive one," said Brian Bridges, a political science professor at Hong Kong's Lingnan University.

[Full article](#)

**Honduras, Argentina relations suspended.** *CNN.com/world*

Honduras suspended diplomatic relations with Argentina on Tuesday in retaliation for having its ambassador expelled from Argentina last week. Most countries in the world, such as the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the European Union have denounced the coup and demanded that Zelaya be restored to power.

[Full article](#)

**Gateway and Compaq gain high rankings in satisfaction survey.**

*Business Week*

In a poor economy, some budget PC brands are finding its customers happier than ever, according to this year's installment of the American Customer Satisfaction Index. "My guess is price has something to do with it," said Claes Fornell, director of the National Quality Research Center.

[Full article](#)

**Rent blockbuster movies on Motorola cell phones.** *Business Week*

Blockbuster's alliance with Samsung Electronics America Inc., announced last month, will allow customers to rent movies with their remote control on Samsung's latest high-definition TVs. This is the first step into mobile video and is its latest effort at chasing down the customers that have abandoned its traditional video stores.

[Full article](#)

**Too busy to shop? Go to JCPenney.** *NPR*

With 1,100 stores in nearly every part of the country, Penney's knows a good deal about the retail industry. It opened its first store in Herald Square last month and things had to be done differently. One challenge was how to provide the kind of fast service demanded by New York consumers, not a group known for patience.

[Full article](#)

August 17

**Dreamworks partners with Reliance BIG Entertainment.**

*CNN.com/entertainment*



Spielberg and Snider found themselves in need of financial partners last year when he cut ties with Paramount Pictures and began rebuilding DreamWorks into an independent studio. "Our partnership with Stacey and Steven is the cornerstone of our Hollywood strategy as we grow our film interests across the globe," said Anil Ambani, chairman of India's Reliance BIG Entertainment.

[Full article](#)

**Discovery of government 1971 Memo.** *CNNPolitics.com*

President Richard M. Nixon and his Brazilian counterpart, Emilio Medici, in 1971 discussed ways their countries could work together to overthrow the socialist government of Salvador Allende in Chile. "We must try and prevent new Allendes and Castros, and try where possible to reverse these trends," Nixon said. Medici said he was "happy to see that the Brazilian and American positions and views" were so close.

[Full article](#)

**Kid's internet.** *CNN.com/technology*

Kids ages 2 to 11 make up nearly 10% of all online users but not all the content is appropriate viewing for this demographic. Products from Web sites and browsers to parental filters and search-tracking software have been designed to help parents make the Web safer for young children.

[Full article](#)

**Fiat 500 to be manufactured in Mexico.** *Business Week*

Fiat 500 will be built at Chrysler's plant in Toluca, Mexico, which also builds the Chrysler PT Cruiser and Dodge Journey. Mexico has trade agreements with the European Union, Brazil, and Asian countries like Thailand that keep import taxes low for cars, says Michael Robinet, vice president of CSM Worldwide.

[Full article](#)

**VAT decreased in France by more than half.** *Business Week*

The drop in VAT is expected to make dining more affordable to both French citizens and tourists. "Since the beginning of last year, the number of people going out to restaurants in France has dropped by 20%," says Jean-Pierre Chedal, the president of Synhorcat.

[Full article](#)

**Dell smart phone sold in China.** *Business Week*

China Unicom, the country's second-largest wireless carrier, is in talks with Apple Inc. about selling the iPhone in China.

[Full article](#)

**GM makes more global alliances.** *Business Week*

The company has set up a corporate planning and alliances group headed by Group Vice President John Smith. A memo expressed, "Alliances are an

important market access strategy for General Motors already, and more activity of this type can be anticipated, which makes for a good fit."

[Full article](#)

August 16

**Affects of auto industry to Mexico economy.** *Business Week*

Mexico is expected to turn in the worst economic performance of any major Latin American nation this year. That's largely because Mexico sends more than 80% of its exports to the U.S., where demand has collapsed.

[Full article](#)

**Iran nominates women to cabinet.** *NPR*

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad pushed ahead with preparations for his next term by announcing he will nominate three women to join his new Cabinet. If confirmed, they would be Iran's first female ministers since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

[Full article](#)

August 14

**Industrial production shows increase.** *Business Week*

Production from America's factories, mines and utilities rose more than expected in July, with the first gain in nine months driven by increased output from auto companies. Sales also jumped in response to the government's Cash for Clunkers program, which provides consumers up to \$4,500 for trading in old cars.

[Full article](#)

**AIG Finance sells to Hong Kong and India.** *Business Week*

"We strongly believe that the acquisition will benefit us in the growth and diversification of our consumer loan portfolio, and will serve as an excellent platform for growing our credit card business," said Charles Ma, president and chief executive officer of CCB (Asia).

[Full article](#)

August 13

**Growth in German and French economies.** *CNN.com/world business*

Many economists said they expected the eurozone to swing back to growth in the second half of the year, although they also warned that unemployment, fragile bank lending and an end to stimulus spending still may challenge European economies.

[Full article](#)

**The future: wallet equal to mobile phone.** *CNN.com/technology*

Analysts say that within five years, mobile phones in the United States will be able to make electronic payments, open doors, access subways, clip coupons and possibly act as another form of identification.

[Full article](#)

**China to buy Argentine YPF.** *Business Week*

YPF is the leading oil exploration and refining company in Argentina, with a 60% market share. According to media reports in Argentina and the U.S., CNPC and China National Offshore Oil Corp. CNOOC are offering \$17 billion for the acquisition of 84% of YPF. That would be the largest-ever overseas acquisition for a Chinese company.

[Full article](#)

**Muslim discrimination in France with the Burquini?** *NPR*

The issue of religious attire is a hot topic in France, where burqas or full-body coverings worn by Muslim fundamentalists are in disfavor. Officials said they banned the woman's use of the Islam-friendly suit at a local pool because of France's pool hygiene standards.

[Full article](#)

August 12

**Defeat of piracy in China for the U.S. through WTO?** *Business Week*

Import barriers on products like DVDs and reading materials violate WTO protocols, as do restrictions that prevent foreign suppliers from distributing their own products in China. U.S. companies are hoping that greater access to the Chinese market will help combat the huge piracy market in that nation.

[Full article](#)

**Remittance decrease in Latin America.** *CNN.com/world*

The remittances that emigrants send back to Latin America and the Caribbean, an important component of the gross domestic product for many countries in the region, will decline more than 10% this year. The loss of remittances to Mexico, combined with factors such as oil production and exports, is having a significant effect on that country's economic outlook.

[Full article](#)

**Sears offers toys for retail purchase.** *Business Week*

Toy retailers have faced a rocky road in the recession, with both KB Toys and FAO Schwarz filing for bankruptcy protection. "Sears Toy Shops offer parents a new, convenient option to shop for toys, in the mall, just in time for the holiday season," said Dev Mukherjee, president, seasonal and toys for Sears Holdings.

[Full article](#)

**Not measuring outsourcing impact in Europe?** *Business Week*

A survey found that only 8% of respondents were confident they knew what their company spends on outsourcing in terms of time and money, and fewer than half (43%) bother to measure the financial impact of the outsourcing contracts they commission.

[Full article](#)

**Clearwire adds Huawei as WiMax vendor.** *Business Week*

CTO John Saw said that Huawei was selected for Clearwire's network because it is the first vendor to make a multicarrier, four-transport base station that will provide extra capacity and streamlined deployment. Clearwire has said that by the end of 2010 it wants to cover 120 million POPs.

[Full article](#)

**U.S. military plan causes trouble for Colombia.** *Time.com*

The U.S. will be given basing rights on at least seven Colombian army, navy and air force facilities. The intention is for the U.S. to fly P-3 Orion and AWACS surveillance planes from these bases to monitor Colombia and the eastern Pacific. This has created some controversy in Venezuela and Chile.

[Full article](#)

August 11

**Guinness Success in Nigeria.** *CNN.com/world*

Nigeria now drinks more Guinness than Ireland, making it the second-biggest consumer in the world, after Britain. A success story like Guinness in Nigeria highlights the potential for trade and foreign investment in Africa that U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke about last week when she addressed an African trade convention in Kenya.

[Full article](#)

**Bermuda and its tax haven in trouble?** *Business Week*

The tourism industry, which accounts for about 6% of gross domestic product, has been whacked by the global economic downturn. The country's long-term economic health is pending anti-tax-haven legislation in Washington that could limit the ability of U.S. companies incorporated in Bermuda to shelter overseas profits.

[Full article](#)

**Sony's Wireless E-reader.** *CNNMoney.com*

"Wireless is a great feature and it's something that has really appealed to the early adopters of eReaders. However, while we will soon provide a wireless option, it's not something we're ready to talk about today," they said at the time.

[Full article](#)

**China economy cools with decreased lending.** *CNN.com/world business*

Exports and imports declined in July from a year earlier for the ninth consecutive month, underscoring the need for the government to maintain its domestic investment-led stimulus. Exports were down 23% from a year earlier, while imports fell 14.9%. Exports though were up a seasonally adjusted 5.2% month-on-month, with imports rising 3.5%.

[Full article](#)

**AIG financial products unit sells.** *Business Week*

The sale represents "a significant milestone in the ongoing process of winding down" the financial products division's business, said Gerry Pasciucco, the unit's chief operating officer.

[Full article](#)

**Facebook acquires Friendfeed.** *CNN.com/technology*

"Facebook and FriendFeed share a common vision of giving people tools to share and connect with their friends," FriendFeed co-founder Bret Taylor said in a release. It's well-known that Facebook tried hard to acquire Twitter, which would've been a far more significant acquisition than FriendFeed, and was turned down.

[Full article](#)

August 10

**Free internet at coffee shops, an idea of the past?** *KTVU.com*

Jason Paul told KTVU many people are abusing the coffee shop's free internet access by taking seats and spending nothing. There are simply too many internet surfers and not enough latte drinking, paying customers.

[Full article](#)

**Ecuador's Correa re-elected.** *CNN.com/world*

Correa, a leftist ally of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, has faced criticism for defaulting on billions of dollars in bonds and increasing the state's grip on the economy. Correa has accused the media of being manipulated by business interests opposed to his government.

[Full article](#)

**USA, Mexico discuss drugs and immigration.** *CNNPolitics.com*

Canada, Mexico, and the USA depend on their borders being safe and secure, Obama said, adding that he supports "orderly and legal" migration, while respecting the American tradition of welcoming immigrants.

[Full article](#)

**Toshiba to make Blu-ray.** *Business Week*

"In light of recent growth in digital devices supporting the Blu-ray format, combined with market demand from consumers and retailers alike, Toshiba has decided to join the BDA," it said, referring to the Blu-ray association.

[Full article](#)

August 9

**Walmart in India.** *Time.com*

It is called Best Price Modern Wholesale, in collaboration with Wal-Mart's Indian partner Bharti Enterprises, in order to get around the country's rigid foreign investment restrictions. Kalia, a customer says, "This store has certainly expanded my range of choice, but it's just one more store where I buy supplies from. I still get better prices and more convenience shopping at my usual suppliers'.

[Full article](#)

**Gulf OPEC cuts compliance.** *Business Week*

A senior Kuwaiti oil official says the compliance by Gulf OPEC members with the cartel's production cuts has been over 90%. Oil prices have improved to around \$71 a barrel following OPEC's decision to cut production by 4.2 million barrels from September levels.

[Full article](#)

**Lax credit policies in China.** *Business Week*

Beijing, the world's third-largest economy, will stick to its "relatively relaxed monetary policy" and a "proactive fiscal policy" The economy continues to be challenged by plunging demand for Chinese exports and challenges in boosting domestic demand.

[Full article](#)

**Microsoft Office's Chinese rival.** *Business Week*

Evermore Software, based in the eastern Chinese city of Wuxi, has for years offers a software suite that looks very similar to Microsoft Office but costs less. Its combination of applications into one window is appealing to businesses, but the company needs to do more marketing to attract private sector users, said Emily Bian, a senior analyst at IDC China.

[Full article](#)

August 7

**Autolib: Electric car sharing in Paris.** *Business Week*

Autolib will deploy 2,000 electric cars that customers can pick up and drop off at rental stands around the city. Advocates say the system would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 22,000 tons a year while improving traffic congestion as fewer Paris residents would need to own cars.

[Full article](#)

**Bertone's takeover of Fiat.** *Business Week*

Fiat is the controlling stake-holder in Chrysler following the automaker's Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. Bertone now is expected to take part in the development and styling of some of Chrysler's models, including ideas about future Chrysler brand models.

[Full article](#)

**Skype reprogrammed?** *Business Week*

eBay may build a replacement for its current system for Skype, however it will have the daunting task of upgrading software for the 480 million people who use Skype. "I assume they would ask every user to upgrade to a new client," Jeff Bonforte says. "If they're forced to do it in a day or week or month it's incredibly difficult and you run the risk of losing 10% to 30% of your user base over night."

[Full article](#)

**OAS sends delegation to Honduras.** *CNN.com*

A delegation of foreign ministers from six nations including Costa Rica and Argentina, has been chosen to travel to Honduras next week to try to restore deposed President Jose Manuel Zelaya to power.

[Full article](#)

**Clinton in Zimbabwe.** *CNN.com/world*

Clinton on Friday stood by South Africa's much-criticized quiet diplomacy with neighboring Zimbabwe. "South Africa is very aware of the challenges in that country," Clinton said, referring to Zimbabwe. "South Africa is deeply involved in trying to complete adherence to the global political agreement."

[Full article](#)

**Korea and India trade deal.** *Business Week*

South Korea and India signed an agreement, giving Korean companies better access to India's 1.2 billion consumers and opening Korea's job markets for Indian engineers and other workers. It will abolish or cut tariffs for 90% of Indian goods exported to Korea and 85% of Korean products shipped to India in terms of value.

[Full article](#)

**Internet usage in Europe.** *Business Week*

With 114 million subscribers, the EU is the largest world market for fixed broadband access. Half of European households and more than 80% of European businesses have a fixed broadband connection. The biggest increases in regular internet use were seen in Ireland, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania, Italy, Cyprus, Romania, and Portugal.

[Full article](#)

**Increase of German exports in poor economy.** *Business Week*

Germany enjoyed a 7 percent jump in exports in June. Some see this as just the first bit of good news for Europe's largest and predominantly export-driven economy.

[Full article](#)

**Merck buys Schering-Plough.** *Business Week*

Buying Schering-Plough boosts Merck's sagging pipeline of drugs in development, gives it a sizable biotech unit and creates a dominant player in

vaccines. It allows the new company to slash costs, jobs, and to maintain profits as the industry deals with increasing generic competition and the unknown impact of health care reform

[Full article](#)

August 6

**Clinton visits Kenya with economic growth in mind.** *CNNPolitics.com*

Clinton met with government leaders and attended the African Growth and Opportunity Act conference, an annual meeting that aims to bolster trade and investment between the United States and African countries. "The fact is Kenya has not fulfilled its economic promise," Clinton said. "I believe it has not realized a functioning democracy."

[Full article](#)

**Sprint, Samsung's biodegradable phone.** *Business Week*

Several manufacturers have made "green" phones, but they have generally been bare-bones devices. The plastic of the casing of Samsung's phone is 40% corn-based and the phone's charger lights up when the phone is fully charged, to remind the owner to unplug it to save electricity.

[Full article](#)

**HP and Japanese wireless market.** *Business Week*

Hewlett-Packard is planning to sell portable, Web-connected computers that can tap Japan's cellular networks without requiring users to be locked into a contract with a wireless operator. It could end up rewriting the rules in Japan's wireless industry.

[Full article](#)

**Pepsi's music label in China.** *Business Week*

Instead of having to pay big bucks to established artists to feature in its ad campaigns, Pepsi's QMusic, can create its own Chinese rock stars. Harry Hui, will be the CMO behind Pepsi's highly successful marketing effort in China, who has strong experience in the recording industry.

[Full article](#)

August 4

**North Korea release U.S. journalists, improve U.S. relations.**

*CNN.com/asia*

The U.S. journalists who had been detained by North Korea are traveling back to the U.S. with former President Clinton after being pardoned. Clinton conveyed a message from President Obama "expressing profound thanks for this and reflecting views on ways of improving the relations between the two countries."

[Full article](#)

**Iraq government controls internet.** *Business Week*



The Iraqi government has decided to crack down on Internet service providers and ban sites that incite violence or carry pornography. The plan to strengthen government control of content and usage will require Internet cafes to obtain licenses that are subject to government review and cancellation if compliance requirements are not met.

[Full article](#)

August 3

**Whirlpool's newest ideas.** *Business Week*

Today, the maker of such brands as Whirlpool, Maytag, and KitchenAid has formalized a process to sort through the thousands of ideas that, at any one time, are percolating up from product groups, new business development teams, and i-mentors who have been deployed throughout the organization to identify promising ideas.

[Full article](#)

**Ahmadinejad sworn into presidency.** *CNNworld.com*

Ahmadinejad won his second term, however, the results, surprising to many Iranians and political analysts, prompted sometimes violent demonstrations across the country as thousands took to the streets to protest. Additionally, Iranian opposition leader Mir Hossein Moussavi has called the results a "fraud."

[Full article](#)

**Bosch to buy Aleo Solar.** *Business Week*

Stuttgart-based Bosch will acquire 39.4% of Aleo's shares for euro46 million, making it the biggest shareholder in the Oldenburg-based company. Bosch is known for its automotive and industrial technology, but has been moving into the solar energy field. It acquired Ersol Solar Energy AG last year and set up a solar energy division.

[Full article](#)

**European capitalism adopted in the U.S?** *NPR*

While the U.S. style of lightly regulated, dynamic capitalism has been ascendant since then, Yergin says the pendulum is swinging back toward a less volatile (slower growing, more stable) European model, with more government involvement in the economy.

[Full article](#)

**Sales Tax Holidays cancelled.** *NPR*

The sales-tax holidays cover items from clothing to sports equipment and computers. Some are questioning the wisdom of providing the tax breaks when so many states are cutting services and searching for ways to fill budget gaps, but the holidays are extremely popular with consumers.

[Full article](#)

August 2

**Obama focuses on behavioral targeting of internet ads.** *Business Week*  
Obama appointed FTC Chairman, Jon Leibowitz to create a different practice found no less harmful to consumers: delivering ads to individuals based on the Web pages they visit and searches they carry out. Behavioral targeting has become more prevalent as it gets easier and cheaper to use software to track online behavior.

[Full article](#)

August 1

**FCC questions AT&T, Google, and Apple.** *CNNMoney.com*  
iPhone users learned that Apple had formally rejected the Google Voice application and was systematically removing from the App Store any Google Voice-related apps that had already been approved.

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