



LKN Keeping You Informed

January 2010 Issue

January 29

Samsung takes HP's position as biggest tech company by sales. *CNN.com*

Electronics has overtaken Hewlett-Packard as the world's biggest technology company by sales, a sign of how strongly some South Korean companies have bounced back from the economic downturn. Samsung is the world's leading maker of memory chips and liquid crystal displays. It is second only to Nokia in mobile handsets. Some 48% of the company's equity is held by foreign investors.

[Full article](#)

U.S. invests \$8B in high speed train system. *CNN.com*

President Obama announced that the federal government will spend \$8 billion developing a nationwide high-speed train system, which is an investment the White House says is needed to help spur long-term economic growth. The program "will help accelerate job growth in an economy that is already beginning to grow," Obama said. More than 30 rail manufacturers have agreed to establish or expand U.S. operations if they are hired to work on the high-speed rail network,

[Full article](#)

Recall could affect Toyota's position as #1. *CNN.com*

The way in which Toyota handles the recall of millions of vehicles will determine whether it retains its position as the world's biggest car manufacturer. With cars being ordered back to dealerships across the United States, Europe and China because of potential problems with accelerator pedals, Toyota must now act openly and rapidly to retain consumers' loyalty and persuade them that reliability and safety is not being sacrificed.

[Full article](#)

Muslim world created the world we live in today: Museum exhibit. *CNN.com*

Along with the first university, and even the toothbrush, it is among surprising Muslim inventions that have shaped the world we live in today. "1001 Inventions" is now an exhibition at London's Science Museum. Hassani hopes the exhibition will highlight the contributions of non-Western cultures, such as the Muslim empire that once covered Spain and Portugal, Southern Italy and stretched as far as parts of China to present day civilization.

[Full article](#)

AT&T to invest \$2B in mobile network. *CNN.com*

COO John Stankey said AT&T plans to spend between \$18 billion and \$19 billion in 2010 upgrading its wireless and backhaul networks to handle the onslaught of new traffic. This is roughly \$2 billion more than the company had invested in the previous year. This investment will make sure it keeps up with the growing demand from new smartphones and other 3G data devices, such as the Apple iPad, on its network.

[Full article](#)

January 28

Toyota recall spreads across borders. *CNN.com*

Toyota's crisis over cars with malfunctioning accelerators spread to Europe. The world's largest carmaker described the problem as "rare" and said it would not disrupt its European production. It advised customers worried about the problem to contact its service division as it prepared to issue recall instructions. The vehicles affected by the suspension made up 70% of Toyota's sales in December in the US, its largest market.

[Full article](#)

Abu Dhabi Fund woos Asian investors to Africa, Middle East. *Business Week*

The Abu Dhabi-based fund manager is looking to team up with asset managers including units of "large banks," and "quasi sovereign and sovereign names" that also offer it access to investment opportunities in Asia. The government-controlled fund manager, which wants to manage more third-party money, is betting on growth in other parts of the Middle East and Africa as the debt crisis in Dubai hurts sentiment toward the Gulf.

[Full article](#)

Bernanke gets second term as U.S. Fed Chairman. *Business Week*

Bernanke was confirmed by the U.S. Senate today for a second term as chairman of the Federal Reserve. He overcame opposition from lawmakers who said he failed to head off the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and then overstepped his authority by participating in rescues of firms including New York-based insurer American International Group Inc. and Citigroup Inc. During a second term he will need to head off efforts by lawmakers to lift a ban on congressional audits of monetary policy and strip the Fed of bank supervisory powers.

[Full article](#)

BNY Mellon Corp may acquire PNC Financial. *Business Week*

Bank of New York Mellon Corp., the world's biggest custody bank, is in talks to buy PNC Financial Services Group Inc.'s global investment-servicing unit. The acquisition would add about \$2 trillion in assets administered for mutual-fund clients and hedge funds to the \$22.3 trillion BNY Mellon currently oversees. BNY Mellon has used acquisitions to grow its custody business, doubling the assets it oversees over the past five years.

[Full article](#)

January 27

Nike and Partners Launch the Green Xchange. *Business Week*

Nike formally launched the Xchange at a CEO breakfast in Davos. The Xchange is a Web-based marketplace where companies can collaborate and share intellectual property which can lead to new sustainability business models and innovation. Ten organizations have already signed on. The Xchange is the first step in a journey towards more sustainable innovation, and the more companies that get on board, the faster we'll all make progress.

[Full article](#)

Social media giants survey their growth. *CNN.com*

The great and good from the world of social media met at Davos and agreed their medium still hasn't reached its full potential, with one speaker joking that the really cool stuff wouldn't happen "until we're dead." This is a frightening prospect when one considers how much our digital and real lives have blurred already. Seven of the 15 most trafficked Web sites in the world are social sites, according to George Colony of Forrester Research, a technology specialist.

[Full article](#)

Sarkozy backs Obama in bank reform. *CNN.com*

French President Nicolas Sarkozy threw his weight behind Barack Obama's bank reform plan as he delivered his keynote speech at the 40th World Economic Forum at Davos. Last week Obama proposed the biggest overhaul of Wall Street since the 1930s, with a plan that included limits to the size of banks and restrictions on riskier trading. The controversial reforms could force the restructuring of some of the biggest names in U.S. finance, including JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs.

[Full article](#)

January 26

Fugitive Ex-Guatemalan leader captured. *CNN.com*

Ex-Guatemalan President Alfonso Portillo, facing money-laundering charges in the U.S., was captured Tuesday on a farm on the Guatemalan coast. The U.S. indictment charges Portillo with embezzling tens of millions of dollars in public funds, "a portion of which he then laundered through bank accounts located, among other places, in the United States and Europe."

[Full article](#)

French burqa ban. *CNN.com*

French lawmakers recommend that Parliament pass a resolution on the partial ban. Such a resolution, if passed, would not make the wearing of a full veil or burqa illegal, but it would give public officials support when asking people to remove it. More than half of French people support a full ban, according to a recent opinion poll. The Ipsos poll for Le Point magazine found 57% of French people said it should be illegal to appear in public wearing clothes that cover the face.

[Full article](#)

Sun executives planning to leave after Oracle buyout. *Business Week*

Sun Microsystems Inc.'s top executives, including Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Schwartz and Chairman Scott McNealy, will leave after the \$7.4 billion buyout by Oracle Corp. Schwartz, McNealy, Chief Financial Officer Mike Lehman and other members of the executive team won't be offered positions at Oracle. Oracle, which has made about 60 acquisitions since January 2005, hasn't retained the CEOs of large companies it has bought. Those include the \$10.3 billion takeover of PeopleSoft Inc., the \$5.85 billion acquisition of Siebel Systems Inc. and the \$8.5 billion purchase of BEA Systems.

[Full article](#)

Has Twitter peaked? *CNN.com*

Compete, a Web analytics firm, says Twitter, the microblogging site's number of visitors hasn't changed much since June and that its roughly 22 million visitors in December was about 770,000 fewer than its highest number, which was in August. The company and some analysts say that this leveling of popularity shouldn't be viewed as a failure, because the people who use Twitter are using it more than ever. comScore's Lipsman suggests Twitter's recent stagnant numbers look anemic largely because its growth in early 2009 was so astronomical.

[Full article](#)

Spyker buys Saab. *Business Week*

General Motors reached a deal with Spyker Cars NV to sell the Swedish carmaker. The deal is reportedly worth about \$500 million. The sale comes after a year of trying to peddle Saab. One deal with Swedish sport car specialist Koenigsegg AB had already fallen through. GM was so certain that a buyer wouldn't be found that they even sent two advisors in to start liquidating the company. Assuming the sale closes, the company will be called Saab Spyker Automobiles but will still use the Saab brand.

[Full article](#)

January 25

GM gets permanent CEO and pays off loans. *CNNMoney.com*

General Motors' chairman and acting CEO Ed Whitacre will become permanent CEO. Whitacre also announced that GM would pay back all of its government loans, in full, by June. Whitacre would not say when the automaker will have an initial public offering, which would allow the government to begin selling off its majority stake in the automaker while regaining some of the other money invested in GM as it came out of bankruptcy.

[Full article](#)

BHP, Rio Tinto investigated for Australian Iron Ore venture. *Business Week*

BHP Billiton Ltd. and Rio Tinto Group face a European Union investigation into whether their Australian iron-ore joint venture curbs competition. Regulators will probe whether the deal between the world's second- and third-largest iron-ore

producers is a restrictive business agreement. BHP and Rio say the 50-50 venture, combining mines, rail, ports and workforces in Western Australia's Pilbara region, will save them at least \$10 billion.

[Full article](#)

January 24

Journalist test meaning or reliability of social media. *Business Week*

To show that the information that comes through social media like Twitter is unreliable, a group of journalists has apparently agreed to "prove" how useless these tools are by locking themselves in a farmhouse for five days and reporting only news they receive through Twitter and Facebook. The reality is that no single source is ever enough, whether it's Twitter or a phone call from a source at City Hall. Social media hasn't changed that.

[Full article](#)

Anti-Chavez TV channel dropped. *CNN.com*

Venezuelan cable television providers dropped Radio Caracas Television on Sunday that has been critical of President Hugo Chavez, citing violation of broadcast laws. Chavez has accused RCTV of violating broadcast laws and supporting a botched coup against him in 2002. Before it lost its license in 2007, it had been on the air for 53 years and was one of several private broadcast stations that openly criticized the government.

[Full article](#)

January 22

Sprint Nextel's Ad spending increases. *Business Week*

Sprint Nextel's ad spending might have hiked 40% in 2009 over 2008, according to Jan. 22 report from Sanford C. Bernstein analyst Craig Moffett and TNS Media Intelligence. It now adds up to 4.4% of Sprint's revenues, which is double the level of its peers. While Sprint is struggling to retain its subscribers, Verizon Wireless, which actually slashed its ad spending 7% last year, has managed to grow its customer base. While ad spending by U.S.'s six largest wireless carriers declined steadily throughout 2008, it jumped 4.3% last year, Moffett estimates.

[Full article](#)

Starbucks get a facelift, especially in the UK. *Business Week*

Two years ago Starbucks had lost its way, but after the return of the group's founder, Howard Schultz, to the chief executive's chair, and a round of heavy cost-cutting measures and store closures, the ubiquitous coffee chain is back on its feet. Starbucks has closed branches in areas Mr Schultz describes as not being in a "demographic sweet spot," by which he means poorer locations. In the UK, the company has also started sourcing all its espresso coffee, which it uses in its lattes and cappuccinos, from Fairtrade. It is also launching new store formats, which it says is in response to customer feedback.

[Full article](#)

China, Google, and cyber attack charges. *CNN.com*

Five years ago, Google agreed to allow some censorship by China, in exchange for the right to operate in that country's massive emerging technology market. The company now says censorship and the hacking of Chinese dissidents' Google e-mail accounts have prompted it to reconsider. "China has its own national conditions and cultural traditions," Ma said Friday. "China regulates the Internet according to laws, which is in consistent with worldwide norms."

[Full article](#)

Peru currency futures tax to curb trading. *Business Week*

Peru's tax on foreign investors' profits from short-term currency futures will dry up trading in the sol. The 30% tax on contracts maturing up to 60 days, which takes effect today, is part of changes to a decree issued last month that included a capital gains tax on stocks. The central bank has purchased \$1.4 billion in the foreign-exchange market this year in a bid to stem the sol's gains, compared to the \$1.3 billion it bought in all of 2009.

[Full article](#)

January 21

China GDP grows 8.7% in 2009. *CNN.com*

China's economy grew by 8.7% in 2009, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. "In the face of severe impact brought about by the global financial crisis in a century and the most complicated domestic and international situations, the (government) sized up the situation, made scientific decisions, and headed the whole nation united as one to surmount the difficulties of our time," said Ma Jiantang, director of the National Bureau of Statistics. "It stopped the remarkable decline ... and China became the first to emerge (from the recession)."

[Full article](#)

Supreme Court eases restrictions on corporate campaign spending.

CNN.com

The Supreme Court has given big business, unions and nonprofits more power to spend freely in federal elections, a major turnaround that threatens a century of government efforts to regulate the power of corporations to bankroll American politics. "When government seeks to use its full power, including the criminal law, to command where a person may get his or her information or what distrusted source he or she may not hear, it uses censorship to control thought," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority. "The First Amendment confirms the freedom to think for ourselves."

[Full article](#)

January 20

Microsoft files suit against TiVo. *CNN-net.com*

Microsoft filed suit against TiVo for infringing on two Microsoft patents as a way of defending its partner, AT&T, which is currently involved in a legal dispute with TiVo over the same technology. TiVo sued AT&T and Verizon in August over the "time

warping" function in both companies' digital video services. AT&T uses Microsoft's video platform for its U-Verse TV IPTV service.

[Full article](#)

The New York Times to begin charging its web viewers. *CNNMoney.com*

The New York Times will begin charging readers to view content on its Web site beginning in 2011. Through its new "metered model," readers will be able to freely view a set number of articles per month, but after reaching that monthly limit, they will have to pay a fee. Print subscribers will continue to have free access to NYTimes.com.

[Full article](#)

Apple may drop Google on its smartphones. *Business Week*

Apple is considering replacing Google as the default search engine on its iPhone with Microsoft's Bing. Apple will probably get more money from Microsoft and it would cut Google off from some of the search data that's the lifeblood of its business. Several disputes between Apple and Google over data sharing escalated last year.

[Full article](#)

January 18

Positive outlook for Hong Kong Disneyland. *Business Week*

There's still hope for Hong Kong Disneyland. A big expansion is in the works, with three new "lands" scheduled to open in 2014. That \$450 million project should go a long way toward solving the attendance problem, since Hong Kong Disneyland now is the smallest of the Disney parks and there's just not enough to do.

[Full article](#)

Ringback tones take over cell phones ringtones. *CNNMoney.com*

"People used to talk on their cellphones," says Frank Dickson, vice president of research at technology analyst group In-Stat. "We've become a text-centric society, which takes away from talking, which takes away from ringtones." In the past two years the average number of text messages sent by each U.S. cellphone user has more than doubled, to 584 texts per month from 218 per month. In that same period the average number of calls has decreased almost 15%. Therefore music executives think ringbacks eventually could outsell ringtones. Ringback tones are popular outside the U.S., and because ringback tones are delivered over the phone network, the music is harder to pirate than ringtones, which can be illegally downloaded onto devices.

[Full article](#)

January 17

China, Russia to consider sanction on Iran. *Business Week*

China and Russia agreed today to consider imposing tougher United Nations sanctions on Iran to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons, European Union political director Robert Cooper said. He says the six nations that met today are

"concerned" by Iran's "insufficient" cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and refusal to agree to further meetings. The group agreed that Iran's response to an Oct. 1 proposal to enrich uranium needed for a reactor that produces medical isotopes was "inadequate."

[Full article](#)

January 15

Johnson and Johnson recall 2010. *CNNMoney.com*

The maker of several over-the-counter drugs, including Tylenol, Motrin and Benadryl, announced a broad-based recall of these and other drugs Friday after receiving complaints of an "unusual moldy, musty or mildew-like" odor. The recall drew the FDA's wrath on Johnson and Johnson for not reacting quickly to customer complaints and its failure to fix the problem. The company has struggled to resolve the issue since it was first reported in 2008.

[Full article](#)

Chile, out of ideas to move economy forward. *Business Week*

Chile's ruling coalition has run out of ideas for driving growth in South America's most stable economy after 20 years in power, said the chief economic adviser to Sebastian Pinera. "Chile used to grow at double the rate of the rest of the world and now we are growing less than the world," Felipe Larrain, the likely choice to be finance minister if Pinera wins, said in a phone interview in Santiago. "These people have run out of steam and run out of ideas and are consumed by internal struggles."

[Full article](#)

January 14

Disney seeking Netflix Block in Starz Pact. *Business Week*

Walt Disney Co. is in talks with Liberty Media Corp.'s Starz that may limit the movie channel's ability to provide films online to Netflix Inc. Starz seeks access to Disney films for as many as five years on its cable channel, as well as continued digital rights, said the people, who asked not to be named because the talks are private. Disney wants viewers watching Starz movies online through companies such as Netflix to pay more for what the studio considers a premium channel.

[Full article](#)

Censors back on Google as China defends Internet actions. *CNN.com*

An attack on Google resulted in the theft of intellectual property from Google, and attackers routinely gained access to the e-mail accounts of dozens of activists, albeit not through the Google network, according to David Drummond, senior vice president of corporate development and chief legal officer for Google. As a result of the attacks, Google has decided to stop the "self-censorship" of its Google site in China and may shut down its site and its offices in China, Drummond said.

[Full article](#)

Hershey bids for Cadbury. *CNN.com*

Hershey is preparing a counter-bid to Kraft's hostile £10.4 billion (\$16.9 billion) offer for Cadbury, according to people familiar with the matter. A Hershey bid would be welcomed by Cadbury, which is resisting Kraft's approach. Although Cadbury has not solicited a "white knight" bid from Hershey publicly, the confectioner has made clear that it would prefer Hershey to Kraft.

[Full article](#)

January 13

Volkswagen: the new #1 auto manufacturer. *Business Week*

In November, for the first time, VW built more cars than its Japanese rival. Toyota still sells more each year, but VW has closed the gap to less than 1.5 million cars. Quality continues to be an issue for VW in the U.S., but Toyota is the one suffering negative headlines after a series of embarrassing recalls. CEO Winterkorn's most ambitious plans are in the U.S., where he aims to double sales by 2012.

[Full article](#)

Is IBM still the patent giant? *Business Week*

No one beats IBM on patents. For 17 years running, Big Blue has been granted more U.S. patents than any other applicant, raking in an unprecedented 4,914 in 2009. Nonetheless, a study conducted for *Bloomberg BusinessWeek* by Ocean Tomo, a Chicago intellectual property consulting firm, concludes that IBM's collection of U.S. patents over the past five years ranks only eighth in value. No. 1 is Microsoft, which ranked third, with 2,906 patents issued last year.

[Full article](#)

Google quits censorship of Google China. *Business Week*

On Jan. 12, Google announced it will stop censoring search results on its Chinese site, Google.cn, in response to what the company calls "highly sophisticated" hacking of its Web site from China and the infiltration of Gmail accounts of human-rights activists in China and other countries (Google.cn is hosted inside China; English-speaking Chinese can read Google.com, but Chinese authorities censor it as well.)

[Full article](#)

January 12

Bolivia nationalizes railroads. *CNN.com*

Bolivia plans to take back the nation's railroad system in 2010, 14 years after selling its trains and tracks to the private sector. "This will be a very strong investment because we are talking about a recuperation of the old route and also a new east-west line to transport essential iron," Delgadillo said. Last year, Bolivia completed the nationalization of its oil and gas industry, a process that leftist President Evo Morales began shortly after taking office in January 2006.

[Full article](#)

Gundlach Doubleline files to open three bond mutual funds. *Business Week*

Jeffrey Gundlach filed to start three bond mutual funds through DoubleLine Capital LP, the Los Angeles-based investment firm he created after being dismissed last month as chief investment officer for TCW Group Inc. The proposed funds: DoubleLine Total Return Bond, Core Fixed Income and Emerging Markets Income, will each invest 80% of assets into debt securities, according to a registration statement filed today with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

[Full article](#)

January 11

Google builds a new browser. *Time.com*

After years of dominating search on the Web, Google is looking to change the way we go about surfing it. A little more than a year ago, it launched the beta version of Google Chrome for Windows. It was simple, clean and fast. In December the company released Chrome for Mac and Linux, which helped catapult the browser past Safari in total market share. It now trails only Firefox and the ultimate preloader, Explorer.

[Full article](#)

Venezuela military to monitor consumer good pricing. *CNN.com*

In the wake of his decision to devalue Venezuela's currency, President Hugo Chavez said he would put the military on the streets to ensure that business owners don't raise prices. A devaluation makes foreign products relatively more expensive for domestic consumers, discouraging imports.

[Full article](#)

Josipovic: Croatia's new president. *CNN.com*

Ivo Josipovic won the runoff election Sunday for Croatia's presidency, a spokesman for the election commission said. Josipovic is a law professor and classical music composer, had earlier garnered the most votes in the first round of voting. His campaign focused on cleaning up corruption in government.

[Full article](#)

La Go Go's growth reflects China consumer spending power. *Business Week*

By offering prices as much as 25% less than international retailers Esprit and Mango, La Go Go parent Ever-Glory International Group Inc. is transforming itself from a supplier to Levi Strauss & Co. into a Chinese fashion chain. The retail unit's sales climbed 153% in the third quarter from a year earlier. China's consumers remain largely spared from the global economic crisis: Gross domestic product will expand 9% this year, the most among major developing markets, according to the International Monetary Fund.

[Full article](#)

India's Eiffel Tower, a tribute to the French. *CNN.com*

India's British past stands imposing in some of its most splendid buildings. But the country is erecting a tribute to its French connection to attract tourists. A former French colony tucked along India's southeastern coast is building its own Eiffel Tower, a small version of the massive Paris monument.

[Full article](#)

North Korea wants peace treaty talk. *Business Week*

North Korea said talks on a peace treaty to end the technical state of war on the Korean peninsula should begin this year and called for the removal of United Nations sanctions before negotiations on its nuclear program begin.

[Full article](#)

January 10

Kenya drought causing hunger problems. *CNN.com*

Recent rainfall has brought new vegetation to parts of Kenya that haven't seen rain for years, but aid workers say it's too little, too late to undo the damage caused by years of drought. Kenya is experiencing its worst drought for a decade, according to Peter Smerdon of the UN World Food Program (WFP), with parts of the country having gone for four years without rain.

[Full article](#)

Venezuela 3-Tiered Currency System may lead to inflation. *Business Week*

Venezuela's 27% annual inflation rate is already the highest among the 78 economies tracked by Bloomberg. President Hugo Chavez, struggling to stem an outflow of dollars and rein in a budget deficit, has adopted a multiple-tiered exchange-rate system that fueled corruption, food shortages and inflation in the 1980s. The three-tiered rate system mirrors the failed policy the South American country implemented after a collapse in its biggest export, oil, led to devaluation in 1983 that Venezuelans call "Black Friday." Chavez, who said the weaker currency will stimulate economic growth, runs the risk of creating an inflation surge and swelling corruption, said Harvard University's Ricardo Hausmann.

[Full article](#)

January 9

Venezuela Bolivar value cut 50% by President Chavez. *Business Week*

Venezuela devalued its currency by half yesterday, the first such action since March 2005, as President Hugo Chavez seeks to pull the economy from recession amid falling oil revenue. "This is to boost the productive economy, to reduce imports that aren't strictly necessary and to stimulate exports," Chavez, 55, said in comments on state television. "We need to stop being a country that only exports oil."

[Full article](#)

January 8

Ecclestone bids for Saab. *CNN.com*

Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One racing mogul, has emerged as a potential savior for Saab Automobile after teaming up with Genii Capital, a Luxembourg-based private equity fund, to bid for the ailing Swedish carmaker. Genii's expression of interest came less than a month after it agreed to buy a majority

stake in Renault's Formula One racing team and the fund said its strength in the automotive sector gave it the capabilities to turn Saab round.

[Full article](#)

Argentina fires central bank head. *CNN.com*

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's decree on Thursday removed Central Bank President Martin Redrado from his post for "misconduct and dereliction of duty by a public servant," the state-run Telam news agency reported.

[Full article](#)

Sony jumps on gadget rebound opportunity at CES. *Business Week*

Electronics makers are trying to emulate the success of the iPhone and the Kindle, which helped pioneer new product groups and boosted profit at Apple Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. Consumer- electronics sales slumped 7.8 percent in the U.S. last year as manufacturers cut prices and shoppers sought out bargains, according to the Consumer Electronics Association. Gadget makers are betting 3-D TVs and touch-screen tablet computers will revive consumer demand for pricier electronics, with Sony Corp. and Samsung Electronics Co. among those squaring off to win sales.

[Full article](#)

Toyota adds North America CFO. *Business Week*

Toyota is working to rebound from a record loss in its fiscal year that ended in March and a 20 percent U.S. sales drop in 2009, the biggest since 1961. The Toyota City, Japan-based automaker last year named company veteran Yoshimi Inaba to lead improvements in North American operations. Unlike in Japan, Europe and China, the automaker's North American operations are managed by three companies: Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. in Torrance, California; Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America Inc. in Erlanger, Kentucky; and Toyota Motor North America Inc. in New York, the holding company that also handles corporate affairs and investor and government relations.

[Full article](#)

Yahoo CEO gives herself a grade of B minus. *Business Week*

Carol Bartz, who marks her one-year anniversary as CEO next week, is striving to keep Yahoo's 15-year-old site relevant in an era of Twitter and Facebook. Yahoo's sales have fallen for four straight quarters, and its stock trailed the Nasdaq Composite Index in the past year. Bartz expects Yahoo's sales and profit to grow in 2010 as it makes acquisitions and improves products.

[Full article](#)

January 7

Wi-Fi Direct to alleviate network congestion. *Business Week*

The Wi-Fi Alliance, an industry group that includes Intel, Marvell Technology Group, and dozens of other electronics companies, was at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas to tout a new technology called Wi-Fi Direct as a way to relieve

bottlenecks in wireless networks caused by increased use of mobile devices to access the Internet.

[Full article](#)

Un-branding the Starbucks brand. *CNN.com*

It takes years of brilliant business strategy to build a global brand. And love it or hate it, Starbucks is one of the most recognizable coffee products around. So why would the Seattle-based behemoth want to un-brand its powerhouse name, logo and taste? A Seattle outlet of the Starbucks chain has been rebranded as 15th Avenue Coffee and Tea. And there's nothing Café Misto about it. Most certainly, your java and milk in this corner café will be called, quite simply, Café au Lait, as the rest of the un-Starbucked world knows it.

[Full article](#)

The My Ford Touch System. *Business Week*

Ford Motor Co. plans to bring social networking, Web browsing and iPod-style thumb controls into 80 percent of its models by 2015 as automakers woo consumers with communications features. A touch-command system will be available this year in the Lincoln MKX, Ford Edge and Ford Focus models.

[Full article](#)

AMR to raise bid for Japan Airline Corp. *Business Week*

AMR Corp.'s American Airlines is considering boosting its offer to invest in Japan Airlines Corp. by several hundred million dollars to keep the Asian carrier in the Oneworld alliance. A possible sweetening of the proposal may signal that the effort to woo Japan Air is heating up as the money-losing airline studies plans from American and Delta Air Lines Inc. Delta is "willing and able" to raise more capital to keep its offer competitive, President Ed Bastian said

[Full article](#)

January 6

Breaking the language barrier. *CNN.com*

Communications technology has shrunk the globe, but there remains one large boundary to all this togetherness: language. "We have a web page interface, where you type in a URL and it automatically translates the web page for you," Salim Roukos, chief technology officer for translation technologies at the company's T.J. Watson Laboratory in New York said.

[Full article](#)

Intel's role as gateway to Internet threatened by phone chips. *Business Week*

Qualcomm Inc., Marvell Technology Group Ltd., and Freescale Semiconductor Inc. are among the chipmakers demonstrating new kinds of Internet devices at this week's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. Their goal: persuade consumers to ditch their Intel-powered personal computers as the primary way of going online.

[Full article](#)

Europe angry over Iceland bank veto. *Business Week*

Iceland's president stunned his nation yesterday by refusing to sign off on a plan to repay £2.3bn owed to the British taxpayer, reigniting a major diplomatic row with London and leaving Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling mortally embarrassed at the latest twist in the saga of Reykjavik's banking meltdown.

[Full article](#)

Mexico yield curve to steepen. *Business Week*

Mexico's yield curve probably will steepen early this year as the government sells more debt to finance a growing fiscal deficit, Morgan Stanley said. The government predicts the budget gap will reach the equivalent of 2.8% of gross domestic product next year, fueled in part by sliding production at state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos. That would be the country's widest deficit since 1989, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co.

[Full article](#)

January 5

Nestle opens factory in Zimbabwe. *CNN.com*

Nestle, one of the world's largest food companies, has reopened its factory in Zimbabwe after receiving assurances from the government that its business will not be interfered with again, an official with the Swiss-based company said.

[Full article](#)

Ford, Toyota, and Honda sales show gain. *Business Week*

Ford Motor Co., Toyota Motor Corp., and Honda Motor Co. posted U.S. sales gains in December that beat analysts' estimates as the industry showed signs of stabilizing after its worst year in almost three decades.

[Full article](#)

China accused of piracy by Cybersitter LLC. *Business Week*

China was accused of piracy in a lawsuit filed by a California software maker, which said the Green Dam Youth Escort filtering software installed on personal computers in the country infringes its copyright. "This lawsuit aims to strike a blow against the all-too-common practices of foreign software manufacturers and distributors who believe that they can violate the intellectual property rights of small American companies with impunity without being brought to justice in U.S. courts," Greg Fayer, a lawyer representing Cybersitter said.

[Full article](#)

Dubai tower renamed after \$10 billion UAE donation. *Business Week*

Dubai renamed the world's tallest building in honor of the ruler of Abu Dhabi less than a month after receiving a \$10 billion lifeline from the neighboring emirate that defused a financial crisis. "Sheikh Khalifa is one of the U.A.E.'s symbols," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed al-Maktoum, chairman of Dubai's Supreme Fiscal Committee and an uncle of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

[Full article](#)

A new deal for Nestle. *Business Week*

For Nestlé, 2010 has already been a very good year. On Jan. 4, the global No. 1 food company sold its 52% stake in eye-care products maker Alcon Inc. to Swiss pharmaceutical group Novartis, for \$28 billion. On Jan. 5, Nestlé announced it would acquire the U.S. frozen-pizza business of Kraft Foods for \$3.7 billion.

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Google's Nexus One Mobile Smart Phone. *NPR.com*

Google Inc. will sell its own mobile phone in an effort to protect its online advertising empire as people increasingly surf the Web on handsets instead of personal computers. The Nexus One escalates Google's budding rivalry with former Silicon Valley ally, Apple Inc., which has sold more than 30 million iPhones in the past 2 1/2 years.

[Full article](#)

January 4

Ryanair accused of "puerile." *CNN.com*

Ryanair rejected strong criticism from Britain's top business regulator, who accused Europe's largest airline of "puerile" tactics in the way it adds credit card fees on to advertised fares. "Ryanair fails to understand why it was singled out for these inaccurate criticisms by Mr. Fingleton, when its charges policies are copied by high fare UK airlines," it said in a statement.

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Success: Beer in China. *CNNGo.com*

"When we first opened, I was repeatedly told there was no good market for beer in China, especially here in Shanghai," says Rudy Wimmer, who recently opened a second branch of his Belgian beer bar, [Kaiba](#), barely a year after the first. "But I've since seen a table of six Chinese guys ganbei their way through forty bottles of Samuel Smith's Imperial Stout!"

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The most innovative Consumer Electronics Show in history. *CNN.com*

If you like bold predictions, here's one, courtesy of the president and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association, which hosts the massive Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, this week: "In my 28 years of attending the CES and participating in it and being a part of it and running it for most of that time, I can honestly say there will be more innovation at this show than any one in history," Gary Shapiro said.

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Credit Suisse targets Indonesia. *Business Week*

Private banks including Credit Suisse AG and Julius Baer Group Ltd. are expanding in Indonesia as political stability and economic growth persuade the rich to keep more money in the world's fourth-most populous country. That's posing a challenge for wealth managers in Singapore, where Merrill Lynch & Co. and Capgemini SA have estimated Indonesians held more than \$90 billion in 2006. At a time when private banks are shifting their focus to faster-growing markets in Asia, Indonesia's richest people are accumulating wealth more rapidly than anywhere in the region outside China.

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PDG Falls, Leading Brazil Builder Drops, on Stake Sale. *Business Week*

PDG Realty SA Empreendimentos & Participacoes fell the most in two months, leading a slump among Brazilian homebuilders, after the company's biggest shareholder said it may sell its entire stake in a secondary offering. "The shareholders are getting out, so either they see something better to invest in or really they think that the shares are well-priced," said Cristiano Hees, real estate analyst at Brascan Corretora in Rio de Janeiro.

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