



TRN

Technology Research News

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TRN Ne
for Web
print publ
and new:

April 17/24, 2002

Add ingredients, shake and serve

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Small electronic devices worthy of James Bond might one day be built like the fictional spy's favorite cocktail -- shaken, not stirred. Researchers at Harvard have come up with a way to make components literally fall into place. This and other self-assembly techniques could lead to cheaper electronics and new devices like odd-shaped displays.

[Full story](#)

[Odds not hopeless for new Web sites](#)

The structure of the Web may have a lot to do with how easy it is for a new site to set up shop. The latest model shows the new guys on the block have a chance -- depending on what they're trying to sell.

[Content scheme banishes browser plug-ins](#)

Matching content to the right software could be a thing of the past if a digital content scheme catches on. It's all about context.

[Polarized light speeds messages](#)

Spinning light beams around a glass ring could be a good way to speed up telecommunications.

[File compressor ID's authors](#)

The key to zipping files is weeding out redundancies, which means finding patterns. The pattern recognition capability of common file compression programs turns out to be useful for automatically distinguishing

The second law of thermodynamics says that isolated systems -- like the universe -- can't get more disordered. It takes energy to increase order. In an isolated system there's no net gain of energy. Although living beings are highly ordered arrangements of molecules, there is no net gain of order because they're generating the energy that produces the disorder.

fact

quote

"In the case of the Internet, we've built a network that is most able to withstand failures and attacks. In the case of disease, the other hand, we often want to actively disrupt the network process."
-David Pennock, NEC Research

between, say, Spanish and French, or even Shakespeare and Beaumont.

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