



Advent Resource

P.O. Box 1740, San Pedro, CA 90733-1740

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IN THE NEWS

Data from
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Cell Phone Distraction

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of drivers consider dialing a cell phone to be very distracting, according to the *J.D. Power and Associates 2001 Automotive Emerging Technologies Study*. However, "They want information that will help them while driving without increasing their level of distraction," suggests Jeff Taylor, senior manager at *J.D. Power and Associates*. Most of the drivers surveyed said they would prefer to receive information by using an in-vehicle personal assistance service [such as the OnStar communication service offered by General Motors Corp. on many of its vehicles and some other brands], that can be activated by pushing a button. "When they need information, they appreciate features such as roadside assistance, vehicle diagnostics advice, and real-time traffic and navigation information," Taylor said. **Implication:** With the growing number of automotive technologies, Taylor recommends that manufacturers match the right features with the right audience. "We continue to see strong interest among parents for options that keep children entertained in the vehicle. While manufacturers have heavily promoted rear-seat entertainment in compact vans, there is a small and growing audience for this technology in many other vehicle segments, particularly in SUVs."

OnStar Enhances Voice Application

General Motors Corp.'s OnStar unit has expanded its relationship with General Magic, a Sunnyvale, CA-based voice software and services firm, to provide voice application development and maintenance services for OnStar's Virtual Advisor, which provides handsfree voice access to Web-based information services in vehicles. Virtual Advisor gives subscribers voice access to e-mail, stock quotes, weather updates and news such as sports, financial headlines as well as world coverage.

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Joint Venture Launched *KeyRegister Security and Management System*

Advent Resources Inc. is very pleased to announce the general release of the *KeyRegister Security and Management System*. This effort is a joint venture between *KeyRegister Systems Inc.*, headed by Fred Jenkins of Newport Beach, California, and *KeyRegister Technical Services Inc.*, an Advent Company. *KeyRegister* is represented by independent distributors from across the United States. These Distributor Agencies are responsible for the marketing and installation in their assigned territories. You will find their names and contact information at <http://www.keyregister.net/contact.shtml>.

Fred's group, *Key Register Systems Inc.*, has also taken the responsibility for the design and manufacture of our new security drawer. This ground up, patent pending design gives the system the ability to control up to 250 keys, or other storable assets, in a managed environment. The Software engineering and technical support is handled by *KeyRegister Technical Services Inc.*, an Advent affiliated company. All software development, engineering and technical support are headquartered at the Advent data center in San Pedro, California.

Innovation

Design of the system was a fresh page approach. The existing systems in the market place were designed over 10 years ago before the invention of the Internet, networking, and modern database availability and even before graphical user interfaces were used.

Fred Jenkins of *Key Register* points out: "Our goals have been to design software which was user friendly, reliable, stable, fully featured and flexible. These systems are used by people who may have limited language skills and education and therefore must be very intuitive and easy to use. We also determined that multi lingual capabilities would be very important."

Network Flexibility

The final design incorporates the Red Hat Linux operating system, for stability, and a graphical user interface for ease of use. The system is network ready and is incredibly reliable in a standard tcpip Ethernet network environment both over local areas and wide areas.

All aspects of possible enterprise networking have been designed into the system. Administration and reporting is available from

any PC workstation connected to the network. Any changes in admin, from adding users to adding vehicles; from modifying user set ups to adding new models, is done once and then shared throughout the networked systems. They are flexibly configurable. For example, clusters of *Key Register* machines can talk to just their own related machines in service, while another cluster of networked machines can share data for new and used cars. The system also has the all-new *Key Register Laser Trac* bar code control system. All weather Bar Code labels are printed from the system and then applied to the vehicle windshield. The vehicle assets are then scanned every day along with their parking location. The Palm Pilot based *Symbol Laser Gun* is downloaded to the *Key Register* system which updates vehicle location and prints a series of exception reports which helps tighten the control on possible missing assets.

Future Applications

Mr. Jenkins also points out: "The automotive vertical market is just the first of several focus markets for us. Our build plan includes versions of our system for managing the issue of controlling business assets in the multi family housing market, the military market, the fleet and trucking market, manufacturing of vehicles, boats and RV's, schools, hospitals, prisons and many others. There is a broad need in these area's as well and we are excited about these possibilities."

For additional information on *Key Register*, we invite you to visit our web site at www.keyregister.net or call Fred Jenkins at (877) KEY-8725 or Tim Gill at 310-241-1500.

Power User of the Month


Michelle Spencer

Used Cars Accounting Clerk, Pflueger Honda

We honor **Michelle Spencer**, the Used Cars Accounting Clerk at **Pflueger Honda** in Honolulu, Hawaii, as our Power User of the Month. Even though Pflueger has an excellent system administrator in Matt Goodman, Matt can't be everywhere at once. So Michelle is quite willing to help out on technical support matters. She acts as our eyes and hands there whenever we ask, and for that we are most appreciative. It's evidently mutual, because Michelle says she loves their Advent system, "It has made my life so much easier!" Because you are a pleasure to work with, you sure make our life easier. Thanks, Michelle!



Advent Welcomes


Advent is pleased to welcome the following additions to our growing client family: **Caliber Pontiac** in Norco, California, **Superior Nissan** in City of Industry, California, **Security Chevrolet** in Vista, California, and **Yuba City Toyota Lincoln Mercury** in Yuba City, California. Finally, from Honolulu, Hawaii, we are pleased to add to our roster **Pflueger Used Car Center**. We welcome you all and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship. 

Canada –Good Things

Culled from a Long List

Our good friends in the Great White North having just celebrated Canada Day, we were reminded of the many and varied things that make Canada so *special*. So, we asked our neighbors, what exactly do Canadians have to be proud of? Here is their reply

- ✓ The size of our footballs, football fields and one less down
- ✓ Baseball is Canadian
- ✓ Lacrosse is Canadian
- ✓ Hockey is Canadian
- ✓ Basketball is Canadian
- ✓ Apple pie is Canadian
- ✓ Mr. Dress-up kicks Mr. Rogers ass
- ✓ Tim Hortons kicks Dunkin' Donuts ass
- ✓ In the war of 1812, started by America, Canadians pushed the Americans back...past their 'White House'. Then we burned it... and most of Washington, under the command of William Lyon McKenzie who was insane and hammered all the time.
- ✓ Go figure... Canada has the largest French population that never surrendered to Germany.
- ✓ We have the largest English population that never ever surrendered or withdrew during any war to anyone, anywhere.
- ✓ Our civil war was a bar fight that lasted a little over an hour. The only person who was arrested in our civil war was an American mercenary, who slept in and missed the whole thing...but showed up just in time to get caught.
- ✓ We knew plaid was cool far before Seattle caught on.

- ✓ The Hudsons Bay Company once owned over 10% of the earth's surface and is still around as the worlds oldest company.
- ✓ The average dog sled team can kill and devour a full grown human in under 3 minutes.
- ✓ We still know what to do with all the parts of a buffalo.
- ✓ We don't marry our kin-folk.
- ✓ We invented ski-doods, jet-skis, velcro, zippers, insulin, penicillin, zambonis, the telephone and short wave radios that save countless lives each year.
- ✓ We ALL have frozen our tongues to something metal and lived to tell about it.
- ✓ BUT MOST IMPORTANT!....the handles on our beer cases are big enough to fit your hands with mitts on.
- ✓ And finally, our elections only take one day.
Altogether now:
OOOOohhhhhh Canada!! 

Art and Technology

Bulletin Board

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Quite a red letter day in the Advent Resources Almanac! Michelle and Carlous are the proud parents of a baby girl! No, we don't know what Amber weighs yet, but mother and child are doing just fine (and we know Carlous is jiggy with that).

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Brett Geweke leaves us today to return home and start moving up the ladder (quickly, we suspect) at his family's dealerships. We really appreciate the outstanding work he did for Advent. We wish him well and you know where to reach him if you ever want to talk.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Finally, Advent is 13 years young today! Sorry, you folks in the field couldn't have some cake to celebrate with us. Have a round on us.

It's a Zen Kinda Thing

In Japan, it is said, they have replaced the impersonal and unhelpful Microsoft error messages with Haiku poetry messages. Haiku poetry has strict construction rules -- each poem has only 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the third. They are used to communicate a timeless message, often achieving a wistful and powerful insight through extreme brevity. Here are a few selected actual error messages from Japan.

☞

Your file was so big.
It might be very useful.
But now it is gone.

☞

A crash reduces
Your expensive computer
To a simple stone.

☞

Yesterday it worked.
Today it is not working.
Windows is like that.

☞

First snow, then silence.
This thousand-dollar screen dies
So beautifully.

☞

Program aborting:
Close all that you have worked on.
You ask far too much.

☞

Windows NT crashed.
I am the Blue Screen of Death.
No one hears your screams.

☞

The Tao that is seen
Is not the true Tao-until
You bring fresh toner.

☞

Stay the patient course.
Of little worth is your ire.
The network is down.

☞

Three things are certain:
Death, taxes and lost data.
Guess which has occurred.

☞

You step in the stream,
But the water has moved on.
This page is not here.

☞

Having been erased,
The document you're seeking
Must now be retyped.

☞

Serious error.
All shortcuts have disappeared.
Screen. Mind. Both are blank.... 