
P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

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**Slashdot, the Web's Largest Technology Lifestyle and News Site,
Launches Political News and Commentary Section**
*Award-winning community-based site offers alternative source
of political coverage for audience of 4 million*

October 5, 2004, Fremont, CA—Slashdot®, part of the OSTG (a subsidiary of VA Software Corp. NASDAQ:LINUX) network and the leading technology-focused news and discussion site, has announced the recent launch of politics.slashdot.org, a new section dedicated to providing alternative political news to its technically-inclined audience. Taglined “Politics for Nerds. Your Vote Matters,” the new section gives Slashdot’s passionate and information-hungry audience access to political news and articles that may go underreported or ignored in other media, and provides a forum for vigorous debate and commentary. Slashdot, known as the “digital water cooler,” is a non-partisan, independent site dedicated to covering technology, science, and cultural news.

Slashdot has always covered topical and sensitive technology-focused issues—including privacy concerns, spam laws, the economy, and technological advances in government and the military. With the addition of politics.slashdot.org, the site now features coverage of political news as it happens. Recent coverage on the site includes separate in-depth interviews with Libertarian Party candidate Michael Badnarik, and Green Party candidate David Cobb. Additional coverage of little-known or underreported stories, such as the blocking of overseas ISPs from a federally-funded voter assistance site, enables the audience to get news to which they might otherwise not have access.

“We have a vocal, politically-active audience looking for alternative views of this election, without media ‘spin’,” said Rob Malda, creator and director of Slashdot. “Slashdot itself historically was only able to cover politics when it directly intersected with our traditional 'News for Nerds' subject matter. The creation of politics.slashdot.org lets us take our hyper-active discussion forums and apply them specifically to the election.”

“Adding political news to Slashdot gives the audience more of what they’re already getting: coverage of topical and timely issues that directly impacts their lives,” said Patrick Ferrell, General Manager of OSTG.

“Our readers are extremely interested in this type of information, and have shown their interest by generating over one million page views in the first month alone.”

Visit <http://politics.slashdot.org> for more information.

About Slashdot

Voted the “Number One Technology Blog” from a recent [Forbes’ poll](#), Slashdot has been breaking and making headlines since 1997 by delivering news and commentary about emerging technologies and their cultural implications, including Open Source and IT, as well as biotechnology, space exploration, and politics. Slashdot editors post news items throughout the day and encourage audience commentary and review. Frequently, sites highlighted on Slashdot experience “the Slashdot effect”—intensive traffic spikes lasting up to two days. One of the fastest growing IT Web sites, Slashdot’s page views have increased 41% year-over-year, and unique visitors have increased 23% year-over-year.

About OSTG

OSTG (Open Source Technology Group), formerly known as OSDN, is the cornerstone of the Open Source movement and the leading online network for IT managers and development professionals. OSTG’s technology-focused sites include Slashdot.org, SourceForge.net, ITManagersJournal.com, NewsForge.com, Linux.com and freshmeat.net. OSTG also owns ThinkGeek.com, the leading retailer for innovative technology products, and the MediaBuilder network, featuring AnimationFactory.com, a leading online-image content provider. The network serves more than 250 million page views and 16 million unique visitors a month. OSTG is a wholly-owned subsidiary of VA Software Corp. Find out more about OSTG at www.ostg.com.

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