

[the best things in life are free](#)

December 2005

Monthly Archive

[Tech & Thoughts](#) 30 Dec 2005 05:20 pm

[2006 IT Predictions](#)

Read Paul Graham's essay on [procrastination](#) the other day... I think this would classify as *Type B* procrastination.

Good procrastination is avoiding errands to do real work.

That's what I'm talkin' about... of course I'm not doing it right now, but whatever.

Everyone else is doing it, so here's my predictions of things that will happen in the IT world in 2006. Most are pretty modest, but hey, I'm new at this :-).

1. RSS Probably the most obvious... RSS is going to gain in popularity. It will progressively be used by more applications and web sites... and hopefully a decent RSS feed reader will be released.

2. Ajax For those who don't know what ajax is, think google maps. 2006 will be the second coming of Javascript... ajax definitely has potential when used properly, but people are going to start throwing javascript everywhere again with little regard for people who use [certain other browsers](#).

3. Identity Management You probably currently maintain a separate username and password at every site you visit, wouldn't it be nice to just have a single "identity" that you would take with you to every website? This is what I mean by identity management, and it will really begin to pick up steam in 2006, especially once firefox includes single sign-on as a [feature in 2.0](#)

4. \$100 Computer [The \\$100 computer](#) being developed by *One Laptop per Child* will either undergo significant delays or have major design flaws and won't be released in 2006, hopefully by the end of 2007.

5. Dell Desktop Linux Support Dell will finally start selling and supporting Linux on their desktop computers.

6. Web 2.0 If you haven't heard the term already... you will in 2006. Of course... now you've heard the term just by reading this blog. Is that self-fulfilling or what?

7. DRM Non-techies will start to know what that acronym means, and they aren't going to like it. A large thanks to Sony on this one.

8. Wiki Wikis will continue to take over documentation and publishing. Kiss your word documents and boring content management systems goodbye and say hello to collaborative documentation with wiki. This time next year, as many people who know what a blog is and have used one by now, will know what a wiki is, and have used it.

9. Podcasts Even more people will hate the term “Podcast”.

10. Procrastination If you’re still reading this, then you’re *type a* procrastinating.

[Comments \(2\)](#)

[Food & Thoughts](#) 23 Dec 2005 08:45 pm

[Best Beer of 2005](#)

As some might remember, my [new years resolution for 2005](#) was to try a greater variety of beer. Well I think I was pretty successful. So here’s my take on the best and most memorable beers I had this year. Unfortunately I didn’t actually review any of these beers while drinking them, so the descriptions are all from memory.

Best Beers - All Around

Naramata Nut Brown Ale - This beer from *Cannery Brewing* in Penticton is my number 1 beer this year. I first had it in October while I was there for my cousins wedding. I believe it’s called “Nut Brown” both because of its brownish orangy colour and it’s slightly nutty taste. A well-balanced beer overall. My biggest complaint is the weak head.

Fat Tire Amber Ale - If you happen to find yourself in the states sometime, give this beer a try from *New Belgium Brewing* in Colorado. It’s a beautiful looking beer (heck, even the bottle was pretty cool looking), nice head, and a nice orange amber colour to it. The beer tastes as good as it looks and leaves you pondering the taste after every sip.

Best Lager

A good lager is hard to come by, but there is one that I’ve found this year that really sticks out above the rest. *Natureland Organic Lager* from *Pacific Western Brewing* in Prince George. An average head and mouthfeel with a nice bready aroma. I’d recommend this beer at a summer BBQ with homemade burgers. Mmmm... burgers.

Best Wheat

Good wheat ales seemed easy to come by this past summer *Granville Island Hefe Weizen* always seems to be pretty decent. But the **best** wheat (or witbier) I had this year was easily *Hoegaarden Original White Ale*. This beer is brewed in Belgium. Don’t be fooled by the likes of Stella Artois and other wannabe Belgium beers, Belgium does actually have some great beer, this being one of them. It’s pours a cloudy yellowish with very fruity aromas. An awesome drink on any hot summer day.

Worst Wheat

I think I also need to put in a note here about the most dissappointing wheat ale I had this year. Generally produces very drinkable beers, I was dissappointed with this years *Shaftebury West Coast Wheat Ale*. Lacking almost any head this beer also had a poor hop balance with too much of an almost grass-like flavour. Hopefully the Shafte can pull this beer together for next year.

Best Cream

This one goes to R & B Brewing. All I remember about their *Raven Cream Ale* was that it was very

smooth, probably with some caramel malts. I still have yet to find this one in a liquor store, but it went very nicely with the pizza I had at Incendio.

I would also recommend the *Shaftebury Cream Ale* this year. Enjoy with a piece of chocolate to enhance the flavours even further.

Winter Ales

Despite what you may think, *Winter Ale* is not actually a type of beer, though many beers do have “winter” on their label. *Shaftebury Winter Nights* and *Granville Island Lions Winter Ale* pop to mind. The Shaftebury is actually a Black and Tan which is a style of beer that you mix a light and dark beer. In this case, their cream and porter. The Granville Island is actually an [English Dark Mild Ale](#). It’s got a bit of vanilla aroma, and I’m guessing some chocolate malt. It’s definitely an original tasting beer. And I think I’ll have to go poor myself one right now...

Porters, Stouts, and Everything Else

I’d like to comment further on porters and stouts, unfortunately I don’t feel that I’ve had enough variety this year to write any thoughts on these. Perhaps next year. Though if you can find one *and* you like chocolate, give a chocolate porter or stout a try this winter. And if you can find a place that carries *Phillips Chocolate Porter* pick one up for me, I haven’t been able to find it in liquor stores yet.

Weirdest Beer

You better brace yourself before you have a *Rodenbach Grand Cru* if you haven’t had many Belgium beers. This beer is supposedly aged in oak barrels for two years. Very sour and I wouldn’t recommend it with pizza, but I’d definitely recommend giving it a try if you want something different. Note that this is a very highly rated beer by beer experts.

[Comments \(2\)](#)

[Uncategorized](#) 13 Dec 2005 11:25 pm

[On the 12th day of Christmas](#)

Can you believe it? 12 days till Christmas. I should start doing some shopping this weekend I guess. Graham and Carla will both be back from their respective countries on the opposite side of the world so it’ll be good to party with them again. I’ll be hanging with Marty for a bit too... we figure if we plan a camping trip for the summer right now, people might actually be able to book some time off for a bit if they’re down with the idea.

Man, this blog has been pretty stale for quite a while now... I’ve gotta start doing some more interesting things. Hmm... how lame is it that I want to do more interesting things to make my *blog* less lame?

[Comments \(4\)](#)

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