



JIMS VIRTUAL WORLD

A NEWSLETTER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Google exploring digital newsstand

Google Inc has approached several magazine publishers about creating a digital newsstand, in a move that could open a new front in the Internet company's rivalry with Apple Inc, according to a news report.

The digital newsstand would provide a way for media companies to sell versions of their publications designed for tablet PCs and smartphones based on Google's Android operating system, according to a story in the Wall Street Journal on Sunday, citing anonymous sources.

Google has discussed the venture with publishers including Time Warner Inc's Time Inc unit, Conde Nast and Hearst Corp, and has told some publishers it would take a smaller cut of revenue than the 30 percent that Apple typically takes from iTunes sales, the report said.

Google has also offered to provide publishers with certain personal data of customers who purchase the digital versions of their publications.

The report said that Apple is also planning several changes with its iTunes online store, including making it easier for publishers to sell subscriptions -- in addition to single issue sales -- as well as the possibility of sharing more customer information with publishers.

Representatives of Google and Apple were not immediately available for comment.

The report said that the timing of Google's digital newsstand remains vague and that it's possible the venture might not materialize at all.

Last month, Google, the world's No.1 Internet search engine, began selling digital books through an online store, entering a market dominated by Amazon.com Inc, and intensifying its competition with Apple, which also sells electronic books for its iPad tablet.



Microsoft Windows vulnerable to new type of attack

Some versions of Microsoft Corp's Windows operating system are vulnerable to attack from hackers exploiting a flaw in the software that could allow them to remotely take control of a personal computer.

The software giant warned of the problem on Tuesday in a special alert. It said it has yet to develop software to plug the hole in Windows or to figure out a workaround to the problem.

Microsoft said it is not aware of any attacks that tried to use the vulnerability, which involves the way Windows renders graphics on versions of Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2003 and Windows Server 2008.

The problem does not affect Microsoft's most-recent PC operating system, Windows 7, and its newest operating system for servers, Windows Server 2008 R2.