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GAINING SHARE

The Mozilla Firefox Web browser now commands almost 9 percent of the global browser market, according to OneStat.com. Internet Explorer still has almost 87 percent of the market, and Apple's Safari is in third place, with just over a 1 percent share.

WINDOWS OVERHAUL

Microsoft has confirmed that the next major release of Windows, code-named Longhorn, will arrive in a prerelease version this summer. The company has also handed out a developer preview version, designed to speed the arrival of new hardware device drivers. Fast systemwide searching and graphics and interface enhancements are in the works, as is a new document format called Metro, which will—as Adobe's PDF does—let you print, view, or archive files without the program they were created in. Look for our upcoming review of the beta at www.pcmag.com.

VIDEO VAULT

The Google Video service (<http://video.google.com>), which lets you search TV content and get closed-caption text, has now added Animal Planet, CNN, Discovery Channel, Travel Channel, and other cable channels to its growing list of providers.

FAST TRACKED

Ultra wideband (UWB) wireless technology is seeing fast, widespread development, and Microsoft recently joined the WiMedia Alliance, one of the largest industry consortiums overseeing UWB. UWB promises wireless speeds above 500 megabits per second.

FACE-OFF

If passed, a bill pending in the Florida legislature would require online dating companies to indicate clearly on their sites whether or not they provide background checks on their users (True.com already does), allegedly to identify predators and felons. Internet firms argue that the spread of the practice would impose new liabilities on many services that have nothing to do with dating. "By imposing government regulation on a wide swath of Internet companies, you end up hurting the Internet instead of the criminals," says NetCoalition General Counsel Markham Erickson.