



The newsletter for the  
East Tennessee  
Biomedical Association



# Newsletter

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Data Storage**

**Lumalive  
Fabric**

## **Some Hewlett Packard Positives**

by Randy Bueckman

**H**ewlett Packard has had its difficulties lately with illegal spying on employees and board members. I guess they felt justified because company secrets have been leaking out of the company at an alarming rate. This may have been one of those secrets. But it has been reported in the news and I felt it might just have an impact on our profession!

I remember years ago telling my brother that no one should ever need a computer with a 1 MB hard drive. After all, DOS didn't take up much room and applications were small. You would be able to hold billions of documents or spreadsheets on such a large hard drive and no one would remember what each one was. Well I was wrong of course but this new device really brought home how wrong I was.

HP has developed an inductively coupled chip the size of a grain of rice that will hold 4MB of data. That is several thousands of times more data than current RFID technology. It is also faster than RFID technology at 10Mbps transfer rate. About its only drawback is distance. You must be fairly close to read the chip compared to RFID.

Distance could also be a benefit though. Imagine a medical device with these chips imbedded into the function switches. Then the operator scans a switch with a PDA or other device. A video clip plays giving the function of the button - or at 4MB perhaps a complete operators training video.

What about a pharmacy bottle with the chip imbedded? You could record audio MP3 files giving directions on when and how to take the medication, who the medication is for and other redundant statistics that would greatly eliminate medication errors. Or have a built in schedule that would import into the scanning device that would notify the patient or staff when the next dose is required. Or both...

There are so many applications with this massive storage that it boggles the mind. As innovative as Biomedes are, I am sure you can come up with some very creative ideas for using this new technology!

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# On The Lighter Side...

by Randy Bueckman

If you have small children (or grandchildren) you may have heard of Teletubbies. They have been somewhat controversial in that one of the um... creatures is supposed to be male but carries a pink purse. But that is not the purpose of this article.

If you have ever seen the PBS show, you may not understand it (at least I don't) but each creature has a television screen imbedded in its tummy. At some point in the show, this screen begins televising videos sent in by viewers. Boy, I just realized I know way too much about this program...

To get to my point, Philips has developed a fabric called Lumalive. You can see pictures and a video by following this link: <http://www.research.philips.com/newscenter/archive/2006/060901-lumalive.html> With future resolution improvements, you too may one day be able to show videos on your tummy!

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October 10, 2006

6:30 PM

ETBA Membership Meeting at  
East Tennessee Children's Hospital

[www.etch.com](http://www.etch.com)

Food will be provided by East Tennessee Children's Hospital and will be available at 6:30 PM. The roundtable discussion will begin at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there...



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## Inside:

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