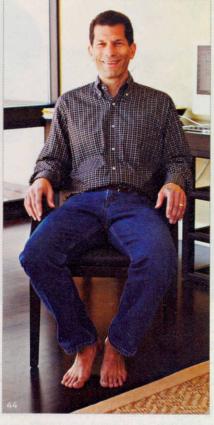


spectrum

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TREAD LIGHTLY

A soldier watches his step in Iraq [top left]; Jon Rubinstein starts a new life, post-iPod, as executive chairman of Palm [right]; and spores evolve into space invaders in the year's hottest computer game [bottom left].

COVER:

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN.
THE SPUT-SECOND TIMING
OF THIS IMAGE OF A HUGE
IED BLAST SUGGESTS THAT
AN INSURGENT TOOK THE
PHOTO. WE ADDED THE SOAN
LINES FOR EFFECT.

TOP LEFT: MICHAEL KAMBER THE NEW YORK TIMES, REDUX: MARK RICHARDS, ELECTRONIC ARTS COVER STORY

22 COUNTERING IEDs

The U. S. military has spent billions in search of technological countermeasures to improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. The fact that successes have been few doesn't mean it's time to quit. By Glenn Zorpette

32 ENGINEERING SPORE

A wild menagerie of beasts is put to the evolutionary test in this eagerly awaited—and sophisticated—new game. *By David Kushner*

38 BEYOND SILICON'S ELEMENTAL LOGIC

Key parts of microprocessors and other digital ICs may soon be made of gallium arsenide or other III-V semiconductors. *By Peide D. Ye*

44 FROM PODFATHER TO PALM'S PILOT

As Steve Jobs's loyal hardware chief, Jon Rubinstein launched the iPod. Now, as executive chairman of Palm, he's working on a new handset, and he's got his sights set on Apple. *By Tekla S. Perry*

UPDATE

7 SUBMERSIBLE ROBOT GLIDERS Defense contractors are spanning up

Defense contractors are snapping up the technology to build propellerless underwater robots. *By Erico Guizzo*

10 VIRTUAL REALITY FOR INJURED ATHLETES

11 QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY BY SATELLITE

12 A NEW SEARCH FOR E.T. BEGINS

13 THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MAGNET

14 THE BIG PICTURE
A solar-powered wonder wheel.

OPINION

5 SPECTRAL LINES

Synthetic biology and new softwareprogramming approaches take a turn at *Fortune*'s Brainstorm Tech meeting.

6 FORUM

More reader reactions to our special issue on the singularity.

16 REFLECTIONS

Engineers, of all people, should be good at prediction. We're not. By Robert W. Lucky

DEPARTMENTS

3 BACK STORY

4 CONTRIBUTORS

CAREERS

17 Grad school may cost you more than you think. By Prachi Patel-Predd

THE ENGINEERING LIFE

18 Why are so many jihadis engineers? Two academics think they know. *By Susan Karlin*

19 BOOKS

How the Internet makes unorganized organizations possible. By Bruce Schneier

20 Danica McKellar—actress, mathematician, and author—strikes again with a new book. *By Susan Karlin*

21 TOOLS & TOYS

A tale of two kids, a 27-inch monitor, and a mysterious electrical current. By Sherry Sontag

56 THE DATA

Sure, most hacking is done by hackers, but the devils are in the details. *By Prachi Patel-Predd*