

IEEE
Spectrum

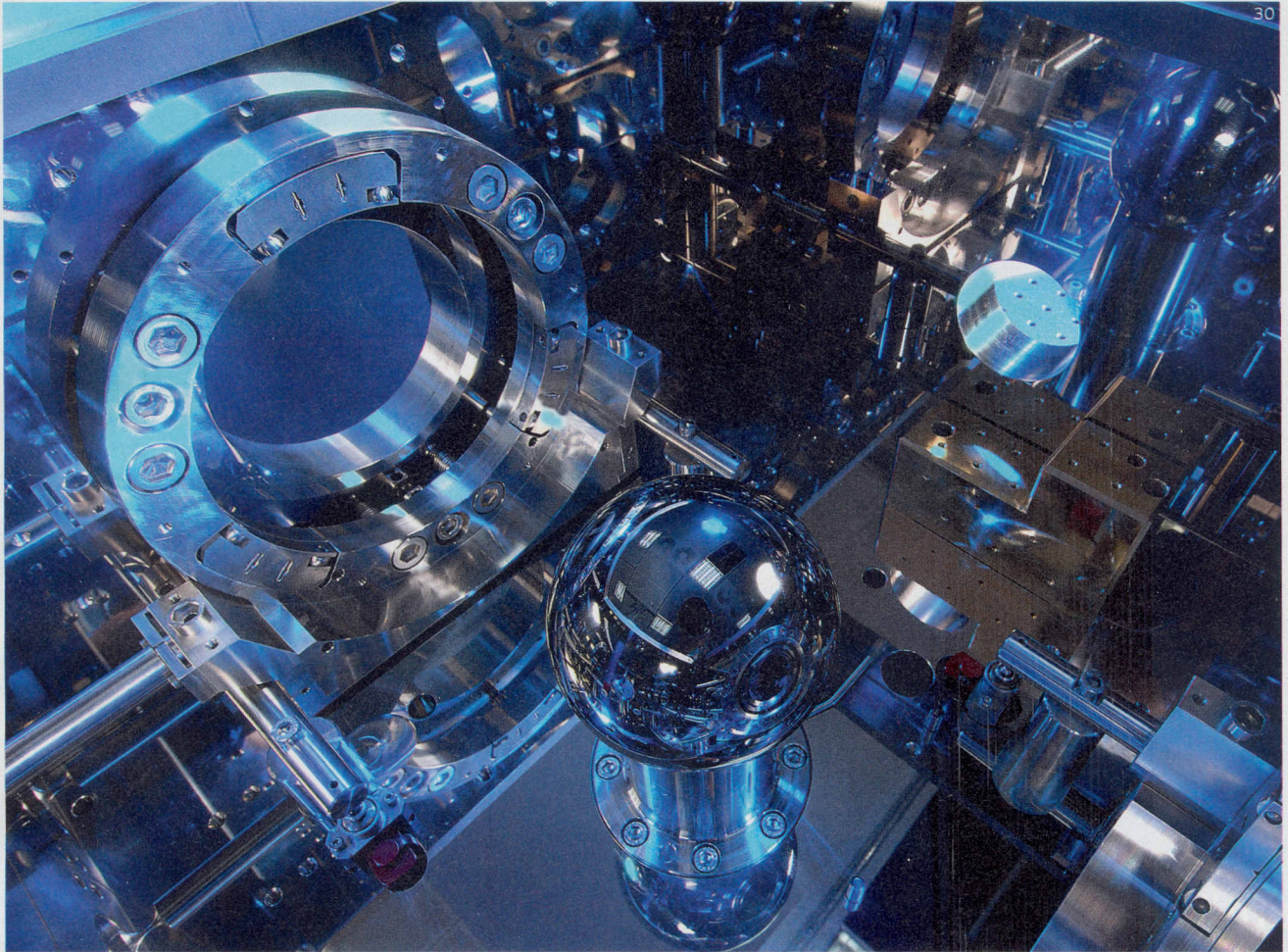
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HOW STANFORD PRESIDENT JOHN L. HENNESSY
IS USING THE INTERNET TO REMAKE ACADEMIA



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COVER STORY

24 RISK TAKER



The 2012 IEEE Medal of Honor goes to Stanford University president John L. Hennessy, who boldly predicts the end of the lecture hall and the coming age of online education.

By Tekla S. Perry

30 CONSIDER THE KILOGRAM

The kilogram is the only base unit in the International System of Units that's still tied to a physical artifact, but two ambitious efforts could soon change that.

By Rachel Courtland

36 THE DAWN OF HAIKU

Great software need not die a slow, unsupported death just because its maker goes belly-up. That at least is the thinking behind the open-

source effort to create the Haiku operating system. Incredibly, after 11 years, a volunteer crew is close to pulling it off.

By Ryan Leavengood

42 FOCUSING ON EVERYTHING

Lytro has just started selling the first "light-field" camera for consumers. The device and others like it promise to revamp how we think about the creative act of taking a picture.

By Mark Harris

COVER: GABRIELA HASBUN; THIS PAGE: TOP: PHYSIKALISCH-TECHNISCHE BUNDESANSTALT; BOTTOM: GABRIELA HASBUN