



## Collision Industry Shop Bytes

August 15, 2011

The Nebraska Auto Body Association is planning to conduct another [labor rate survey](#) shortly. NABA had conducted a number of collision industry surveys in the past but this will be the first statewide survey to validate labor rates. NABA invites your comments and suggestions before forwarding the [labor rate survey](#) to the NABA board for approval.

To reduce product development costs General Motors announced that it would cut the number of its car platforms by fifty percent. GM CEO Dan Akerson said that "More of our components will be common, and more of our vehicles will be on global architectures. GM said that total number of vehicle architectures would be reduced from thirty to fourteen by 2018. The move will streamline operations, reduce parts inventories and result in overall cost reductions.

Personal computers may soon go by the way of the vacuum tube and the manual typewriter, according to IBM's Chief Technology Officer Mark Dean. Dean helped design the first IBM PC and now sees a future in small, connected mobile devices including tablets and smartphones, a development that has security experts worried. ATT is among the companies developing new security platforms to deal with mobile threats including a swelling tide of malware. Ed Amoros, chief security officer at AT&T said, "Mobile security is the 'next frontier' for our continued effort to mitigate cyber-threats and to help protect customer' information."

Chrysler is working on forming an alliance with China's Chery Automobile Co. to manufacture small cars for the U.S. and global markets. In addition, Chrysler and NASA are collaborating on projects to adapt technology developed for space exploration to modern automobiles. "The investment in NASA technologies has led to hundreds of applications here on Earth for several decades now, and this collaboration with Chrysler promises to continue that tradition," said Mike Coats, director of NASA's Space Center in Houston.

What does Defcon and Black Hat mean to you? More than you might think. Defcon and Black hat are annual conventions where federal agents and military intelligence personnel mingle with hackers, geeks, innovators and troublemakers to learn about vulnerabilities and safeguards to protect private and public data against breaches such as the recent malware attack against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee which compromised social security numbers belonging to thousands of students, faculty, and staff. The mixture of federal agents and the hacking community underscores the governments concern over cyber security. The Department of Homeland Security's held its own annual cyber security conference in Nashville, TN. The conference included seminars about cloud computing and intrusion protection.

Lower prices at the pump may be an unexpected benefit of the recent U.S. credit downgrade and the accompanying financial fluctuations that followed. Analysts at the American Automobile Association explained that a \$10 drop in crude oil would net motorists a 25-cent saving per gallon. Analysts say the price per gallon in some areas may dip below \$3.00.

A computer system is being developed that allows state enforcement agencies to conduct real-time truck inspections at highway speeds. The system has captured the interest of the New York State Department of Transportation and is receiving State funding. The new system may ultimately further the development of other drive-by vehicle inspection systems or inspections done while passing through a toll station. Inspection results may be relayed by mail or electronic means.

Join the Nebraska Auto Body Association  
<http://www.nebraskautobody.com/filedownloads/memberap1&2.pdf>

*Information in this news capsule is obtained and condensed from sources believed to be accurate and reliable but readers should consult with an appropriate business professional before acting on information contained herein. Information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of NABA, its leadership or management. Summary prepared by Norbert Zaenglein.*