



NEWS BLOG EVENTS RESEARCH VIDEO AWARDS

TOP STORIES FINANCE INTERNET CLEANTECH COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA COMPUTING BIOSCIENCES SECURITY MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

Obsolescent home collection

on 31 July 2000, 22:00



by [Niall McKay](#)

Robert Doerr runs [Robots Wanted](#), a kind of retirement home and hospice where old robots can while away their last days in a loving environment. Mr. Doerr, a 32-year-old network engineer from St. Clair Shores, Michigan, has had an unquenchable passion for robots since he was in high school. "Our electronics teacher, Buzz Dehooge, set us the task of building a Hero 1 robot from a \$1,300 kit," he says. From that moment on, Mr. Doerr has spent most of his free time restoring and looking after old robots for himself and other enthusiasts that he meets online. "It's like a full-time job," he says. "It easily eats up about 40 hours a week." His little retirement home now has about 100 residents but only 50 are in full health; the rest were cannibalized for parts. "Some of the robots I get are in boxes in bits, so I have to figure out what's missing," he says. "I got an Arctec Gemini Autonomous Robot that had no power-supply board." So he borrowed one from a friend, used it as a pattern, and built a new one from scratch.

Does he have a favorite? Not really. Like a proud father, he loves them all. But he has a weakness for those with interesting personalities. Personalities? "Well, it's mostly just what I project onto them," he admits. "But the Androbot looks like a little person, and it's very friendly." The Hubot has a television screen in its head, and when you flip on the power it displays a face and says things like "I am ready to serve you." The Hubot also will automatically dock with its battery recharger and say, "Boy, I really get a charge out of this."

So what do the robots do? Not much. Mostly, they just sit around and spout nonsense. But they do look cute.

Write to niall.mckay@redherring.com.

Topics: [Home](#), [Obsolescent](#), [Collection](#)



COMMENTS

No comments on this article.

ADVERTISEMENT

FEEDS

[rpc](#)
[opml](#)

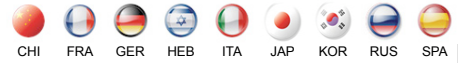
RSS for this group

- [All Articles](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [News](#)
- [Events](#)
- [WIKI](#)
- [Custom RSS feeds](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

SEARCH

GOOGLE TRANSLATIONS FOR RED HERRING



RED HERRING'S GLOBAL VC 100



The Global 100 VC Winners

For the first time and after many weeks of evaluation, Red Herring is proud to announce the following 100 VC firms from around the Globe have won the 2009 Global VC 100. [Click here](#) to find out who the lucky winners are.



The World's Top VCs

Red Herring is busy searching for the top 100 global venture capital firms. The 200 finalists have been announced. Please [click here](#) to see the best 200 performers from over 30 nations.

RED HERRING 100 EVENTS



Red Herring 100 Europe, Berlin, Germany

The Red Herring 100 is a mark of distinction and prestige. Only 200 companies are chosen as finalists from across Europe. The 100 Winners have been announced. [Click here](#) to see the lucky winners.



Red Herring 100 N. America, San Diego, CA

The Red Herring 100 is a mark of distinction and prestige. Only 200 companies were chosen as finalists from a pool of thousands. The 100 Winners were announced at the award ceremony. [Click here](#) to see all the winners.

RED HERRING'S BLOG

[Strolling Along to a Different iTunes](#)

Can Amie Street break Apple's download dominance?

[HIT: Where Healthcare Meets Tech](#)

The buzz surrounding healthcare IT provider, Cerner

[Listen Up](#)

Able Planet's new headset offers up solid aural vibes.

[Gmail BETA, See You Lata](#)

Google's gmail loses its "BETA" label.

[Bada Bing, Bada Boom?](#)

Microsoft's Bing.com gets some traction in online search, according to the numbers in from ComScore.

[Calpers to Pump up PE Stake](#)

The nation's largest pension fund is mulling a 40 percent increase in its private equity investments.

[Peripheral Madness](#)

The living room is a jungle of plastic and wires – I say enough already.

[Wii Storage Ups Strong Bad Sales](#)

One company is feeling the love because of Nintendo's Wii storage solution: Telltale's Strong Bad.

[Amazon Sells Xbox Live Games](#)

No more leftover points—buy XBLA games off Amazon.

[GDC 09 Keynote: What About Wii?](#)

Satoru Itawa's keynote touched on both systems, but it seems like the Wii got the short end of the stick.

[Steam Vaporizes DRM and Piracy](#)

Steam's added anti-piracy measure does away with DRM.

<p>FINANCE</p> <p>Allegis' Ackerman: U.S. Innovation 'Stalling'</p> <p>AT&T Unleashes MMS for iPhone</p> <p>A123 IPO Juices 40 Percent</p>	<p>INTERNET</p> <p>Allegis' Ackerman: U.S. Innovation 'Stalling'</p> <p>Rubicon to Buy Others Online</p> <p>Intuit Takes Mint.com for \$170M</p>	<p>CLEANTECH</p> <p>A123 IPO Juices 40 Percent</p> <p>Index Ventures: Envy of Industry</p> <p>Accel: No. 1</p>	<p>MEDIA</p> <p>Allegis' Ackerman: U.S. Innovation 'Stalling'</p> <p>Top 100 Global Venture Capitalists</p> <p>HP's Earning Fall 19 Percent</p>
<p>COMPUTERS</p> <p>Allegis' Ackerman: U.S. Innovation 'Stalling'</p> <p>AT&T Unleashes MMS for iPhone</p> <p>A123 IPO Juices 40 Percent</p>	<p>COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Allegis' Ackerman: U.S. Innovation 'Stalling'</p> <p>A123 IPO Juices 40 Percent</p> <p>Rubicon to Buy Others Online</p>	<p>BIOSCIENCES</p> <p>Index Ventures: Envy of Industry</p> <p>Accel: No. 1</p> <p>Medsphere Injected With \$12 Million</p>	<p>SECURITY</p> <p>Top 100 Global Venture Capitalists</p> <p>HP's Earning Fall 19 Percent</p> <p>Cisco Engulfs Tidal Software for \$105M</p>

