News from the ASD...

WeTransfer

In case you missed it in our Christmas edition, we have setup a WeTransfer site which is free for all our members to use, to send and receive large files - up to 2GB per transfer. It's a lot simpler and cleaner than a lot of the alternatives and **doesn't** require an account, display adverts, make you wait or download software to access the files. Files are held on-line for 4 weeks and you receive an email when your files are downloaded by the recipient.

You can access it here:
https://asd.wetransfer.com
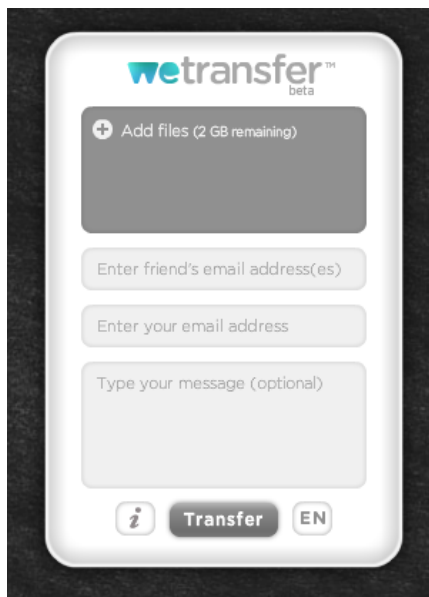
News

DiGiCo unveils UB MADI computer sound-card
Well known for it's digital consoles, DiGiCo has moved into new territory by unveiling it's UB MADI device. The device plugs into the USB 2.0 port on a Mac or PC computer and provides 48 channels of MADI in and out for that computer. Until now, there have been very few options for sound cards with more than 16 digital outputs and even fewer that

don't require installation into a PCI slot. The device uses the SD7-derived FPGA, providing low latency and the prospect of expandability and upgrades in the future.With a list price of £750 the UB MADI significantly lowers the entry point of MADI connectivity, and allows easy connection of computers without PCI and PCIe slots.

http://www.digico.biz/docs2/products/UB_MADI.shtml

PlayFadePause show control for iOS

Developer and LD, Richard Williamson has created the PlayFadePause application for times when budget or resources won't stretch to a computer based show control system, and as an alternative to CD/MD players. The app offers the ability to play back multiple audio files at the same time, with settings for volume, pan, start and end points, and simple looping. Fade and Pause cues can also be added to the cue list, with Go button control from the app and follow-on's as required. Audio files can be added directly to the device using iTunes File Sharing, or using any files in the iTunes library. It's available on the iTunes App Store for £2.99. PlayFadePause homepage
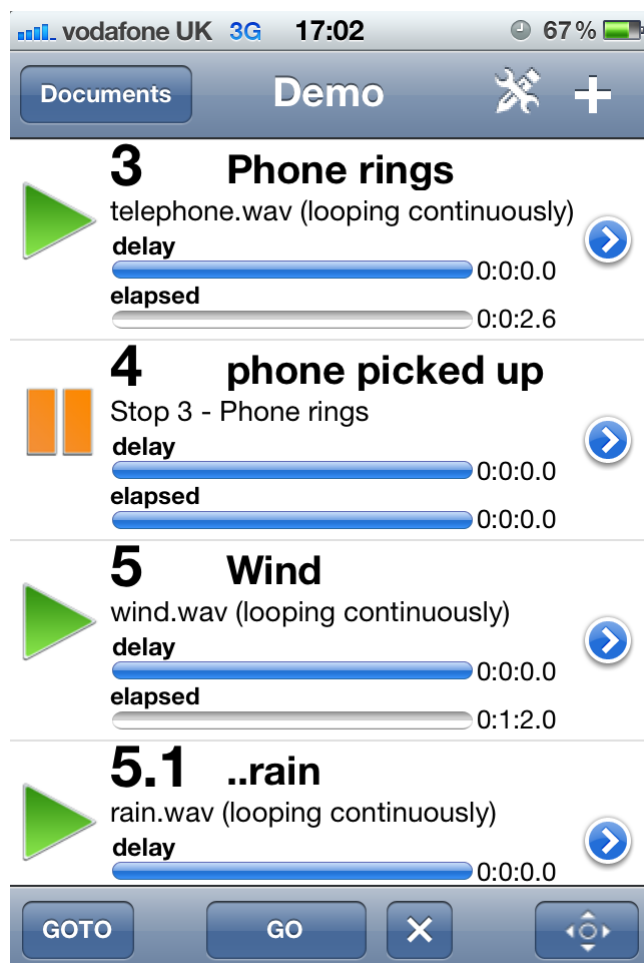
News from NAMM: iOS abounds

Numerous products are being announced at this year's NAMM show in Anaheim. The focus is very much on incorporating iOS devices into music and audio products, particularly to control mixing consoles: the Mackie DL1608, a 16 channel mixer which uses an iPad for **all** it's faders and knobs (and another 9 iPads can be deployed wirelessly to ring out monitors and for musicians to control their own foldback) - the DL1608 product video also wins the craziest promotional video ever award!; the Behringer ix3242USB which integrates an iPad into the control surface alongside more traditional controls; one of the quirkiest product releases is the Line6 StageScape M20d, which introduces a visual mixing concept replacing faders with a touchscreen interface, and featuring "brightness" and "punch" paameters on an XY touchscreen pad to simultaneously change multiple dynamics and equalisation controls. It's not aimed at the pro audio market but has a distinct Minority Report feeling of how the future might look. Other releases include the Akai MPC Fly which is like a traditional MPC but using an iPad 2 for it's display. The IK Multimedia iRig Pre gives your iOS device an XLR input with phantom power; the Tascam iU2 audio interface provides dual phantom powered XLR inputs, MIDI In and Out, and SPDIF outputs. One has to wonder about the longevity of these products given Apple's proclivity to re-design their iDevices every other year! But a trend is certainly visible... Mackie's promo video for the DL1608 is certainly worth a look too...

Many pro-audio announcements were made at NAMM, including: Aviom Pro16 personal monitors | AKG IVM4500 IEM system | Avid Venue SC48 Remote system | DPA d:fine dual headset mount | Sennheiser entry-level XS wireless mics | Shure ULX-D digital radio mics | Yamaha DXR & DXS loudspeakers | Yamaha MGP analogue mixers

Sounds of the sea: Listening to the ocean floor

The BBC reports on a new website, www.listentothedeep.com, allowing visitors to 15 underwater listening stations around the world. The article also contains sound clips of the March 2011 Japanese earthquake as well as the usual whales singing!
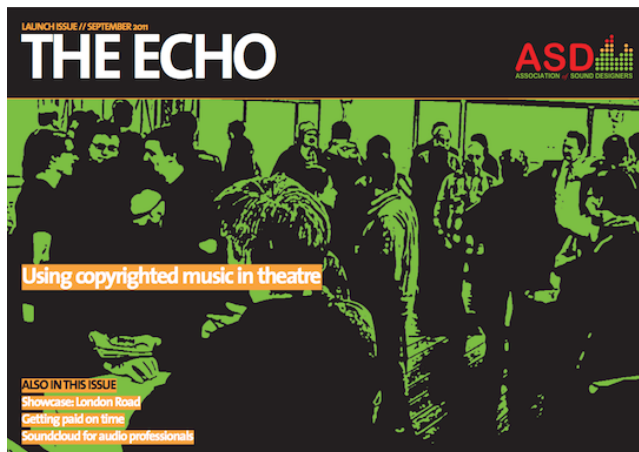
Procedural Audio: Interview with Andy Farnell

DesigningSound.org publish an interesting interview with sound designer Andy Farnell, discussing the merits and state of play of procedural audio. For those unfamiliar, procedural audio may well feature heavily in the future of sound design: rather than create the sounds of a helicopter by stitching together different recordings of a helicopter, one would have a computer model of a helicopter that would emit the correct sounds given certain parameters you feed into it, such as engine speed and distance away.

Back Issues

All our past issues of The Herald, and PDF versions of The Echo magazine, are archived here:
http://www.associationofsounddesigners.com/echoarchive

Issue 2 of the Echo will be hitting your letterboxes in early Feb (unless you opted not to receive a paper copy)