

● BARGAIN BUYS

Camilla an eBay lover

Prince Charles' wife, Camilla, has been revealed as an eBay addict.

Charles let slip that Camilla is a fan of the internet auction site and often snaps up bargain knick-knacks and gifts for Tom and Laura, her two children from her first marriage.

The Duchess of Cornwall has been clicking for savings since the early days of the website.

The revelation came after a conversation between the Prince of Wales and eBay's co-founder, Jeff Kroll.

● FOUL FOWL

Hissy fit over chook dinner

Chinese authorities will stop restaurants serving chickens bitten to death by poisonous snakes and cooked up as a supposedly detoxing meal.

The dish, served by a small number of restaurants in Guangdong and Chongqing, has generated controversy.

A video showing a cook holding a snake and forcing it to bite a live chicken until it dies has been circulating online.

"This, at the very least, is an irregular way of slaughtering poultry," an official said.



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● FACEBOOK FOLLOWS

It's first in, best address

Hanna Mills

Facebook will follow Twitter and MySpace's lead and allow users to have a URL address that features their name.

Technology experts said that Facebook had no choice but to introduce customised URLs, commonly known as vanity URLs, to compete with the short and easy-to-remember URLs of competitors Twitter and MySpace.

Current URLs, like <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=7929175>, would simply become www.facebook.com/janedoe.

Facebook is expected to make an official announcement this week.

Aussie web guru Lucio Ri-

beiro said it was a question of survival for Facebook, with vanity URLs becoming Twitter's secret weapon.

"It's not just that users like them and it makes telling people your profile name easier. Twitter has started to become the online identity provider of choice," Ribeiro said.

Technology sites are abuzz with the news, after reports Facebook polled users on whether they would pay for a vanity URL.

Justin Smith, founder of independent blog Inside Facebook, said implementing vanity URLs would be a big challenge.

"Presumably, Facebook wouldn't let users register trademarked terms or generic words, like 'lasvegashotels'," Smith said.

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