



**On the cover:** This composite image from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory shows a bright flare (white) and coronal mass ejection (filament) on the Sun on August 31, 2012.

IMAGE: NASA / GSFC / SDO, MODIFIED BY PATRICIA GILLIS-COPPOLA

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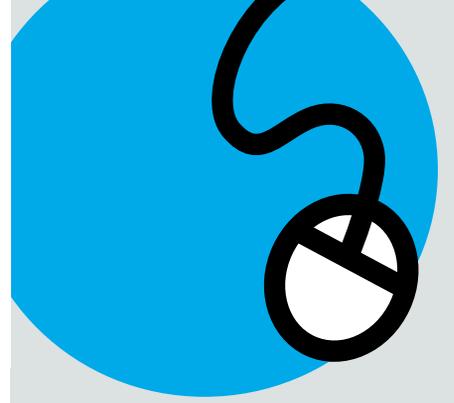
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