NEW AGE COMPUTER CLUB

Bits-and-Bytes

Newsletter

Online

Val Scarcia
Editor
mrval@rcn.com

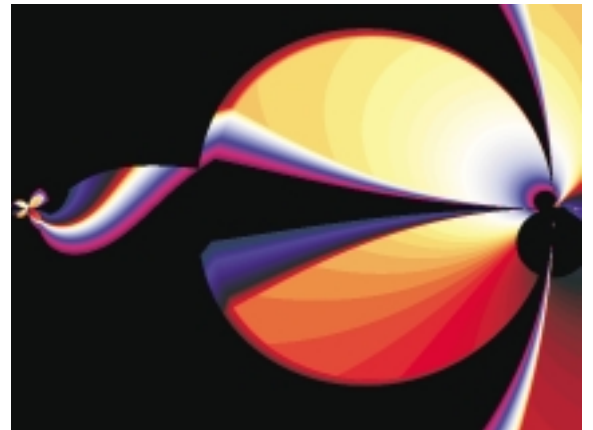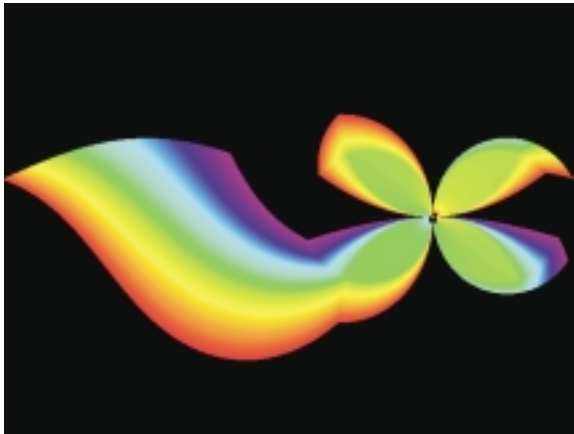# SEPTEMBER 2001 EDITION

NACC
Allentown, Pa.

New Age Computer Club

Bits & Bytes Newsletter

NACC On The Internet :

Website: http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit
Newsletter (PDF) Online: http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit/NewAge3.pdf
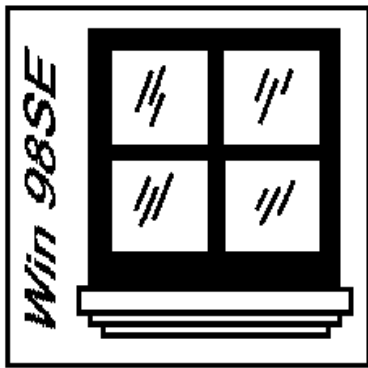
Why The New Age Computer Club (NACC) Is Free
by Val Scarcia, Editor
mrval@rcn.com

I have been editor of many newsletters, and I am glad to be affiliated with the NACC and its openness. Since we can offer everyone a FREE newsletter, we do not require dues. Dues originated with most clubs to pay for the costs of newsletters. However, with the advent of the Internet, this has all changed. We offer our members a FREE color newsletter monthly that is easily downloaded from our website in standard PDF (Portable Document Format). Many senior citizens on fixed incomes who are retired today are not looking for additional annual expenses such as dues. We have not created appointed officers and treasurers to collect and justify dues. We do not try to remind our members how much we are doing for them, since we are all equal.

The NACC has FREE access to many professional meeting places which include libraries, churches, schools, etc. All our members have individual talents. Many are professional college graduates who are certified in scientific areas and teaching. Many have taken post graduate college courses and hold advanced degrees as well.   Some are hobbyists, many are successful businessmen, many are past successful officers of other clubs and groups. We do not believe the meeting place is the most important thing for our club.   The most important ingredient is the content of the material, and how it is approached and explained. We are not trying to build grandiose temples or shrines around us. Good meetings begin anywhere.

In addition to our successful diner meetings, I have obtained the Whitehall Library for us starting on September 19, 2001, which also includes the first Wednesday of the month for the rest of this year.   This area lends itself to demonstrations and input. Please send us articles of interest of your choice for publication in our color electronic NACC newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thru the Window Pain !!
by John Scott

This month with the help of Scot Finnie's online newsletter I'll lay to rest my thoughts on the imminent release of Window's XP. Two questions arise do I need XP anything and should I upgrade my computer for it. Scot Finnie has a free online newletter to carry over from the demise of Windows Magazine.

Read the neater website version of Scot's Newsletter!
http://www.scotfinnie.com/newsletter/10.htm
Find the great Winmag.com content you've been missing on the Scot's
Newsletter website: http://www.scotfinnie.com/newsletter/wmlinks.htm

SCOT'S NEWSLETTER August 8, 2001 -- Vol. 1, Issue No. 10 by Scot Finnie

PRODUCT ACTIVATION IS MICROSOFT'S BIG WINDOWS XP MISTAKE

"Microsoft has just released a technical bulletin about Product Activation that you should probably read if you have lingering questions on the subject (link opens .DOC file):

http://www.microsoft.com/piracy/basics/activation/windowsproductactivationtechnicalmarketbulletin.doc

Microsoft's Product Activation answers site: http://www.microsoft.com/piracy/basics/xp_activation.asp

Just as the software maker is beginning to wrap up development of Windows XP (I'm predicting the OS will finalize at the end of this month), Senators, privacy groups, and competitors are doing their level best to halt or delay the new operating system…………. For the first time in over 15 years of writing about Microsoft products, I find myself agreeing not with Microsoft, but with the forces loosely aligned against it.

Oddly, though, it isn't any of the above that's irritates me most about Windows XP; it's Windows Product Activation that has me on edge. …………. I've seen enough by now to stop pulling my punches about the copy-protection scheme. Product activation is bad idea because it has the potential to significantly erode the end-user experience. It introduces numerous opportunities for frustration. We're not talking inconvenience; we're talking outright slam-your-fist-into a-wall frustration.

I ran into just one example recently. ………………………… That's why I strongly dislike Microsoft's product activation. Because, while on the surface it sounds like it'll be fine, in practice it is going to cause numerous difficulties and mounting frustration. Far more than Microsoft is so confidently predicting.

I think Windows XP is going to wind up being the best version of Windows ever. I really, really like it. **But I'm beginning to think it won't be the version of Windows I use on my primary PC**. Because who needs the Product Activation aggravation? Not me. And keep in mind, I'm a reviewer. They send me the bits for free. Microsoft hasn't thought this through. Maybe others will find they can live with WPA, but I doubt I ever will. It's just too much of a big brother thing for my taste. There's a reason why Central Point Software's Copy2PC thrived back in the 1980s. It's because people hate copy protectionespecially people who are honest. Because copy protection is a pain in the butt. And Windows Product Activation is no different. In fact, it may be worse.

A couple of weeks ago, as I pondered Windows XP with Product Activation, I asked myself. But what alternative do we really have? Well, maybe Linux is a partial alternative."

All I can say is AMEN! Js.
Next month I'll continue with upgrades: the senseless and the sensible from a PCWorld column by Contributing Editor Stephen Manes.

TAXING THE INTERNET.
by Don Terp
dmterp@enter.net

© 2001 Don Terp

From the early days of Internet usage, governments small and large have tried to find a way to tax it. Locals complained that their sales tax revenue was being depleted by e-commerce, long before it was called e-commerce.
They had to blame low revenue on something and the Internet was handy.

Five years ago, this October (1996), Congress came up with a bill that prevented the taxing of Internet commerce for the next five years.
Typical of our governments, they delayed the inevitable, the need to make a decision one way or another.

So, this October, the issue of e-commerce taxes will again rear it's ugly head and we'll have another debate between very expensive legislators who know little of where they speak, particularly on e-commerce.

Looking at the still fledging e-commerce situation shows that there is hardly enough money being transacted to talk about, and with the current downturn, there will be even less.

These legislators are planning a head. They talk about 2003 and beyond. I guess they know that the recession/depression will be over by then and e-commerce will again take it's rightful place in the order of things.

Some "experts" are saying that there can never be a universal sales tax on Internet commerce. When you think of the number of taxing authorities in every state, and the complexity of the sales tax structure (each municipality has it's own code), making the national sales tax structure equitable is going to be a nightmare.

The heavy lifting on this one has been taken over by the state and federal taxing authorities, the ones who gave us that tax code that no one understands. The dilemma is how to determine the tax and how to collect it. It's no easy task.

Each state and each municipality has its own tax structure, no two the same. One town charges a tax on movie tickets, sports events and public lectures where a fee is charged. (yes you can buy movie tickets on the Internet), another doesn't. One town charges a tax on all retail purchases, another excludes food, medicines (prescriptions) and other items that suit their fancy.

It's a mix of rules and regulations that everyone is very protective of.. Just the administration of collecting and remitting local sales taxes would be a totally impossible task, even if the proper amount to charge could be determined..
During the 2000 presidential election, John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, went around stating that he would get a bill passed that excluded the Internet from all taxes forever, if he was elected. Well, as we all know, he wasn't elected, so that commitment is down the drain.

Interestingly, most of the e-commerce comes from the rural areas of our country. These are people who don't have easy access to well stocked stores, so even the higher prices and shipping charges appeal to them. It's either pay that price or do without.

One of the early mail order companies was Sears Roebuck (later to be known as SEARS). Sears even sold precut houses mail order at one point. This was well before sales taxes appeared on the scene.

Although, some municipalities might need additional funds. most do not. They are all upset because there's a chance that some money that they think is rightfully theirs is disappearing.

E-Commerce will grow, once they work the bugs out of the process. Hopefully it will grow tax free.

So, call or write your congressman and let him/her know how you feel about taxing the Internet. You can use www.google.com to locate his address and phone number if you don't know the inside tricks.   If you don't know who he is, you can find that with google too.

Here are a few web sites that you might find interesting. They all pertain to e-commerce taxing and what is being done about it.

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/fc/Business/Internet_Taxes_and_Regulation/-
The above YAHOO site is the master. You can find plenty there and it's kept up to date.
 http://www.efairness.org/

My Mother Taught Me
Ed Farabaugh, farabaug@ptd.net

My mother taught me to APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE
-
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside -
I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me RELIGION -
"You better pray that comes out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL -
"IF you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock
you into the middle of next week."

My mother taught me LOGIC -
"Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT -
"Make sure you wear clean underwear in case
you're in an accident."

My mother taught me IRONY -
"Stop crying or I'll give you something to cry
about."

My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS -
"Shut your mouth and eat your dinner."

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM -
"Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about STAMINA -
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

My mother taught me about WEATHER -
"It looks as if a tornado went through your room."

My mother taught me how to solve PHYSICS PROBLEMS -
"If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming toward you,
would you listen then?"

My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY -
"If I've told you once, I've told you a million
times - don't exaggerate!"

My mother taught me about the CIRCLE OF LIFE
"I brought you into this world - I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION-
"Stop acting like your father."

My mother taught me about ENVY -
"There are millions of less fortunate children in
the world that don't have wonderful parents like you."

   THANKS MOM--

      This message was printed on recycled electrons.
         Ed Farabaugh
   /^^\   Fleetwood, Pennsylvania USA
   ô¿ô   farabaug@ptd.net
   (~)   farabaugh@worldnetdaily.com
   |||| ICQ #169083
         World Wide Pagerwwp.mirabilis.com/169083

Phone Scam
Monica Pease, mpease@enter.net

PLEASE PASS ON TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW

I received a telephone call last evening from an
individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service
technician who was conducting a test on telephone
lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch
nine(9),zero(0), the pound sign (#), and then hang up.
Luckily, I was suspicious and refused.

Upon contacting the telephone company, I was
informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting
individual full access to your telephone line, which
enables them to place long distance calls billed to your
home phone number. I was further informed that this
scam has been originating from many local
jails/prisons.

I have also verified this information with UCB Telecom,
Pacific Bell, MCI, Bell Atlantic and GTE. Please
beware. DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE. The GTE
Security Department requested that I share this
information with EVERYONE I KNOW. PLEASE pass
this on to everyone YOU know. If you have mailing lists
and/or newsletters from organizations you are
connected with, I encourage you to pass on this
information to them, too. After checking with Verizon
they said it was true so do not dial (9),zero(0), the
pound sign # and hang up for anyone.

Reasons why the English language is so hard to learn!!
Clarence Snyder, W3PYF@aol.com

1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
2) The farm was used to produce produce.
3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to
present the present.
8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes .
10) I did not object to the object.
11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13) They were too close to the door to close it.
14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18) After a number of injections my jaw got number.
19) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
20) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
21) How can I intimate my most intimate friend?

We Mourn The Passing of Common Sense
"Harry Traugott" bvgk45a@mail.com

We Mourn The Passing...

Today we mourn the passing of an old friend, by the name of Common Sense.
Common Sense lived a long life but died from heart failure on the brink of the millennium. No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories and offices, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness.

For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, the early bird gets the worm, and life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adults are in charge, not the kids), and it's okay to come in second. A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including body piercing, whole language and "new math", and drug abuse. But his health declined when he became infected with the "If-it-only-helps-one-person-it's-worth-it" virus.

In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing regulations. He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies, reports of six-year-old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student.

It declined even further when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but cannot inform the parent when the female student is pregnant or wants an abortion.

Common Sense had to bow his head when many Senior Citizens spent their money on cruises, trips to casinos, and fun excursions and then cried they had to make a monthly decision between buying food or needed prescription medications.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports.

Finally a woman who was stupid enough not to realize that coffee is hot and was awarded a huge payout caused Common Sense to finally throw in the towel. As the end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments, regarding questionable regulations for asbestos, low flow toilets, bicycle helmets and mandatory air bags.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

Two stepbrothers survive him My Rights and Ima Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

IM viruses opening a new can of worms; USA Today REPRINTED FROM: USA Today   AUG 16, 2001 ARTICLE ID: 836   by Janet Kornblum
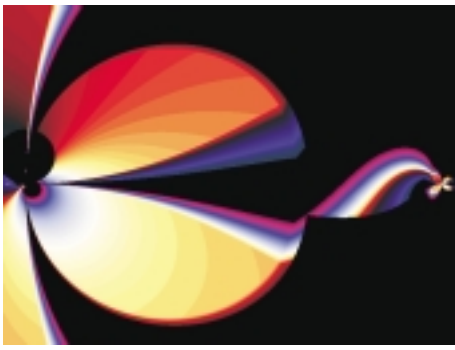
The worms go in, the worms go out . . . and now getting the electronic pests in e_mail attachments isn't the only thing we have to worry about. The latest development on the virus front is worms that crawl in via attachments to instant messages.   Microsoft's MSN Messenger, the only IM system affected so far, posted a warning this week after getting reports that worms were active in its system. "If you start seeing these things, you definitely want to keep (users) on the alert," says MSN director Bob Visse.
 The first IM worm (called w32.Funnyfiles. Worm) was reported this spring; two more (w32.Choke. Worm and w32.Annoying. Worm) have hit since. Any system that allows attachments is potentially at risk.   So why just MSN? "Once you start seeing successful worms, word spreads," and copycats target the same system, says Vincent Weafer, director of the Symantec AntiVirus Research Center. He adds that another reason MSN has been targeted could be "a lot of anti_Microsoft bias" on the Internet.   A worm gets into your PC when you open an attachment in an IM __ perhaps a picture or, in the case of the choke worm, a game called ShootPresidentBUSH.EXE. Titles are incendiary because most virus writers are "teens looking for publicity," Weafer says. He adds that there's no photo or game, just the worm. While damage from IM worms appears minimal, if you open the attachment, you may lose chat pals. Some worms spew out annoying smiley faces; all try to send themselves to everybody on your buddy list.
Symantec AntiVirus Research Center _ www.sarc.com States want authority to tax Web sales The National Conference of State Legislatures is calling on   Congress to give them the authority to collect sales taxes directly from companies doing business on the Internet. "The states would like Congress to give us the mandatory authority to collect sales taxes from remote sales," said Neal Osteen, the organization's director of commerce. In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Quill Corp vs. North Dakota that a remote seller must have a presence in a state before incurring sales and use tax collection responsibility.   Under the Constitution's commerce clause, it said states cannot collect sales taxes unless given the authority by Congress. NCSL members also expressed concern about the welfare of so_called "Main Street" businesses which are hurt by the ability of out_of_state   Internet companies to sell without collecting sales taxes, which in   some states run as high as 6.5 percent. Many states also allow the addition of local and special district sales taxes, which would prove to be a nightmare if Internet retailers were forced to collect those taxes as well. The current moratorium on Internet sales taxes, which was part of the Internet Tax Freedom Act of 1998, is scheduled to expire on Oct. 21. And some members of Congress are suggesting that the moratorium be made permanent or extended on a long_term basis.

Fry's buys assets of Egghead.com Financially troubled Egghead.com, a software and digital hardware company, has entered into an agreement to sell its assets to Fry's Electronics, a privately held technology sales operation. The agreement comes amid Egghead's official filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. At one time a large chain of software, computer hardware and consumer electronics stores, Egghead shut its stores and expanded aggressively online during the dot_com boom only to find that sales failed to reach a critical mass. Egghead.com will continue to operate its business under Bankruptcy Court supervision pending close of the sale; with Fry's expected to operate the www.Egghead.com site. Fry's Electronics is a privately held chain of computer and software stores based in San Jose, Calif. Fry's enjoys near cult_like status on the West Coast, with its San Jose store known as a mecca of sorts among the hard_core techie crowd who were liable to appear at any hour of the day or night looking for equipment. In add 20 percent of e_services to survive
According to a study by Gartner Inc. only 20 percent of e_services providers will survive industry consolidation by 2004. The group said enterprises implementing e_services should be wary of vendors that may fall prey to mergers, acquisitions and outright   business failure. One of the chief contributors to market consolidation is that less than 45 percent of vendors offer solutions that provide three or more critical e_services components. Even those vendors often lack integration between the critical components. The study notes that by 2004, the surviving 20 percent of e_services vendors from the 2001 market will have acquired or implemented new components, enabling them to provide a complete and integrated solution. A related Gartner study points out that only 15 percent of e_services implementations will successfully balance enterprise and customer needs by 2003. Today's e_business suites will be outdated and ready for replacement within the next two to three years.

FRACTALS

Fractals   August 18, 2001
by Bill Pryor

One of the most interesting concepts resulting from the development of computers and PCs is the concept of fractals. A fractal is a unit of self-similarity, where the smaller or microscopic part resembles the whole. The mathematics to this idea is simple. Fractals work by a property called incursion or iteration, where the results of a simple equation is fed back into the same basic equation with a new value continuously. Before computers, this idea existed in the minds of mathematicians, but had no practical purpose, since one would have to sit there and plug in numbers millions of times to produce continuous answers of graphical points in a "loop." The most famous fractal equations are the Mandelbrot and Julia sets. Before computers, these sets really had no meaning and were more theoretical than anything, and would appear in a mathematics textbook as a blob on a page. **Computers have defined and created fractals**.

There is no question in my mind that in 1961 the **first simple computers changed mathematics** when the emphasis on fractal sets used the iterative power of a computer. Although mathematicians at this point would like to say they knew what was going to happen, and they are the basic reason fractals exist, is nonsense. Fractals really exist from the technological development of CPUs, RAM, pixels, etc., and the everyday programming everyone takes for granted now in a PC.

The reason I have been so interested in fractals is really the amazing beauty, shapes and colors they produce. Once I see beauty like this, I am going to understand it in my own way, in my own terms. I have used fractals in my design work for years. Fractals are excellent for producing graphics and effects in layout and design work for brochures, magazines, webpages, etc.

From this iteration principle Chaos Theory was born when people like Lorentz in 1961 rounded off six-place decimal fractions to three, and saw their output results change drastically. Chaos Theory is the idea of trying to take disorder and create some basic pattern of understanding or order; since fractals have self-similarity in their structure and composition, they are used to measure shore lines, coastal regions, clouds, etc. Long range weather forecasting would include Chaos Theory. Some dreamers even think they can use Chaos Theory to predict the outcome of the stock market.

Even the idea of fractal compression is a logical outgrowth, since a fractal is an iteration of self-similarity, you can create an algorithm or recipe to compress a picture much like JPG or GIF. Some people and companies have patents on this iterative idea.

 I will cover and discuss fractals, Mandelbrot and Julia sets, Chaos Theory, iteration and incursion, graphing of simple functions, imaginary numbers, how colors are assigned to fractal shapes. How to use fractal generators to produce your own fractals, colors, and designs. How different mathematical equations produce different fractals. Why fractals as we know them never existed before PCs. How computers have changed mathematics. How to use fractals in design and layout work. How Mandelbrot now known as the "Father of Fractals" really borrowed his ideas from the Julia set written in 1890. How Julia and Mandelbrot sets are related. What is a complex number? What is a real number? Why do mathematicians use imaginary numbers? What is a graph? What are the x and y components in fractal equations?

Fractals are cool!

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

The Butterfly Effect
by Bill Pryor

August 14, 2001

Can the flapping of a butterfly's wing in India cause a hurricane in Texas? The answer to this question is known as the butterfly effect. The "butterfly effect" named and discovered by Dr. Edwin Lorentz, a meteorologist at MIT, is an example of **how computers have changed the field of mathematics.**

The butterfly effect is the idea that in a chaotic system, a very small change to the system applied at a certain point in time makes the future change in a very dramatic fashion. Something as small as a butterfly flapping its wings now might affect the weather system on a global scale six months in the future.

In 1960 Lorenz tried to model the weather. He wrote simplified equations and solved them on a primitive computer. Believe it or not, his output did behave a lot like real weather.

One day, Lorenz tried to continue a run he'd done the day before. He restarted it halfway through. He put in a number from the first run. The output started out just the way it had the day before. Then it began to diverge, drastically.

The equations were the same. The starting point was the same. But the results were different. Lorenz checked his computer, first he thought a vacuum tube was bad, but it wasn't. He checked his arithmetic. Nothing had changed. Same equations, but on subsequent days the results diverged.

There was one difference, however, but how could it matter? Lorenz rounded off the fourth decimal place of the starting number on the second day. Instead of using .501147 he used .501. So he stopped and reflected. All weather predictions do what his program just did. You can predict the weather for the day after tomorrow. Stretch that to a week, and your prediction always departs from reality.

The implication was staggering. We've always presumed that if you barely change a cause, you'll barely change the effect. Suddenly, Lorenz saw that the weather would utterly change if you started things out just a little differently.

No wonder real weather is so unpredictable! Weather obeys physical laws. But if you change one breath of air, those laws will become a wholly different story.
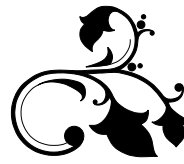
Meteorologists began talking about the Butterfly Effect. The idea was that if a butterfly flaps his wings in Beijing in March, then, by August, hurricane patterns in the Atlantic will be completely different.

Not long after that day in 1960, the scientific world began changing.   Perhaps all kinds of problems we can't solve are strange just because we can never state them accurately enough. This was the beginning of chaos theory.

Lorenz had taken the first step on the road to showing that our world is far more chaotic than we dreamed. For generations engineers and scientists have been predicting things. But we've only predicted those things that are predictable -- the breaking load on beams -- the thrust of a rocket. This is known because these equations were linear mathematical equations and obeyed cause and effect relationships. The equations that represent long term weather are basically chaotic and are sensitive to very minute changes.

And weather, of course, is just one face of the larger things we all want to know, but which we never shall predict. Somewhere in the world, a butterfly will always flap its wings and alter our age old craving to predict our own future.

Fragile Operating Systems
by Don Terp, dmterp@enter.net

© 2001 Don Terp

As I started to write, this my ENTER KEY froze and wouldn't do what ENTER KEYS do. After trying two other applications I realized that the only solution was to go all the way out, shut down, and start over. In addition, the TYPEOVER selection takes on a mind of its own and I have a lot of fun getting that to work in Microsoft Word.

I immediately thought of all of those poor souls who are buying the latest in "Jim Dandy" computers for $799, including a "Free Printer." They are expecting their new computer to work like their electric toaster, their TV, their vacuum cleaner or any other household appliance they have.

It will work for the first six months or maybe less if they put another application on the hard drive. Thank heaven that, living in Allentown, I am not in the recognized loop of "fix it" people they can call on at 4:00 AM, when their recently purchased computer (any make) locks up.

There are advantages to not being too visible when it comes to problems of this nature. Computer store owners have refused to give out their home phone numbers, or have changed over to unlisted numbers to get some sleep.

As was obvious, my problem with the ENTER KEY was not an application problem, it was an operating system problem, The TYPEOVER selection is an applications problem (Microsoft WORD). They do spread their errors around (good ole Microsoft).

The longer your have your computer the more of this sort of stuff you get. Sort of built in obsolescence. Very short built in obsolescence.

The life of a new system is about three years, or less. After that the untrapped errors become so prevalent that it's impossible to be productive. You can live with the time wasting "go out and come back in" technique or buy a new one and start the cycle all over again..

There is going to be a critical mass of very unhappy people out there when they find that they've been taken, and their $799 purchase becomes junk over night.

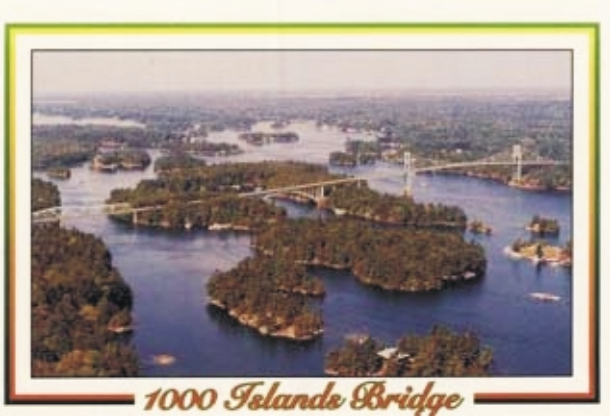OH Boy, here comes the government, again!!. GATES ASKED FOR IT!.

THE PERKS OF BEING OVER 60....
Joanna Broder <bcjoanna@qwest.net>

THE PERKS OF BEING OVER 60....

1) Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2) In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3) No one expects you to run into a burning building.
4) People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5) People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6) There's nothing left to learn the hard way.
7) Things you buy now won't wear out.
8) You can eat dinner at 400 p.m.
9) You can live without sex but not without glasses
10) You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
11) You get into a heated argument about pension plans.
12) You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it.
13) You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
14) You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into   the room.
15) You sing along with the elevator music.
16) Your eyes won't get much worse.
17) Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
18) Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the National Weather Service.
19) Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember   them either.
20) Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
21) People can't remember who sent you this list.

1000 Islands Five Hours from Allentown, Pa.

1000 Islands Bridge

If you would like to get away to a beautiful spot at the last minute, head for the 1000 Islands. Just an hour and a half from Syracuse NY, Fran and I drove there in about 5 hours. It is like Europe in our back yard! During the week, it is about $70 a night in Alexandria Bay, NY; only a few miles away, we went over the bridge into Canada and stayed at Gananogue Canada for $55 U.S. dollars. Great exchange rate in Canada for US visitors. Was about $1.50 for every US dollar! We had a great time!

Boldt Castle 1000 Islands, Alexandria Bay, N.Y.

August 23, 2001

We like the artful design of the Chrysler PT Cruiser which fuses modern style into retro design--so we bought one!

Miscellaneous E-mails

From"Charles Erb" <charlie7@enter.net>
To<bill@sos-prod.com>
SubjectSuper
DateSun, 5 Aug 2001 123025 -0700
X-MailerMicrosoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1

WOW! the new (NACC website) sight is GREAT you guys really outdid yourselves. I'll be
downloading. See you on the net or maybe even in person at one of the meets.
Charlie Erb   Allentown PA

Tobill@sos-prod.com, francespryor@hotmail.com
SubjectGameBoomers Adventure Games Recommendations 2001
Ccfjanlis@ptd.net

Recommendations for PC adventure games from my favorite website

http//www.gameboomers.com/GB_recommends_2001.htm

Sue o)

From"Scott A. Scheirer" <reebok2@starmansion.com>
To"Bill Pryor" <bill.pryor@verizon.net>
SubjectReVal Scarcia NACC Meeting Place WHITEHALL LIBRARY
DateMon, 13 Aug 2001 222047 -0400
X-MailerMicrosoft Outlook Express 5.50.4522.1200

just a little tidbit here, for anyone that's heard of high speed wireless internet by ricochet, As of august 8th it is no more.
Ricochet's parent company, metricom has gone chapter 11.

Frommrval@rcn.com
To
DateWed, 15 Aug 2001 102719 -0400
SubjectNot everybody knows...
Prioritynormal
X-mailerPegasus Mail for Win32 (v3.12b)

          Not everybody knows...

Not everybody knows...

A two-year test by the American Heart Association found that only
7 percent of nudist camp residents suffered from high blood
pressure compared to a national average of 17 percent. -)

Most snakes can go without eating for an entire year.

Most monkeys are nearsighted.

Hockey is called "shinney" in Scotland.

There are 88 keys on a piano - 52 white and 36 black.

...but you do!
--

How To Build An Atomic Bomb
by Bill Pryor, bill@sos-prod.com

If it's raining out, and you have nothing to do, you might want to check out an interesting site on the World Wide Web which has all the documentation and diagrams on how to build an A-bomb, by Outlaw Labs, UC Berkeley. This is one of the first sites I ever ran into on the WWW a few years ago when I typed "A-bomb" into an Infoseek Search Engine. And Vo-la..................documentation at your finger tips that you can save as a file, or print right out on your printer. With this information, you can relive the top secret "Manhattan Project," go over some nuclear theory, and imagine yourself as Teller or Einstein, or maybe even Lon Chaney, Jr., or Boris Karloff.

Wouldn't it make a neat 9th grade science project? Or a Christmas stocking stuffer to a bright inquiring mind? The realization is that in a networked Information Age there are no secrets. Everything seems to become everyone else's business. However, some secrets are more devastating than others, and this common knowledge is the problem.

(Outlaw Labs: http://dbsun3.kaist.ac.kr/~ihjung/atombomb/nuc_bomb.html)

The Jobless World

Bill Pryor, Unplugged

It does not take any insight to realize millions of people are losing their jobs to computer automation. Week after week we hear of hundreds and thousands of people who are being let go in the name of corporate efficiency. The 40,000 people being laid off by AT&T, and many regional phone companies, "are facilitated, one way or another, by new software programs, better computer networks and more powerful hardware", as stated in the Wall Street Journal. Thousands of bank tellers are losing their jobs to ATM machines which are open around the clock, even on holidays, and do not require any coffee breaks or company benefits. The automated office using PCs and networks, has drastically reduced the number of secretaries and office personnel needed. In the music industry thousands of musicians are without work having to compete with keyboards and synthesizers. In the graphics industry many people have been put out of work who are not using computer programs like Quark Express, PageMaker, CorelDraw, and Adobe Photoshop. In the field of education, our country's 152,000 librarians are growing increasingly concerned over computer data systems that are able to search, retrieve, and electronically transmit books and articles over the Super Information Highway in a fraction of the time spent in performing the same tasks with human labor. Robots, telecommunications, and other information technologies are replacing human beings in nearly every sector. Factory workers, secretaries, receptionists, clerical workers, salesclerks, bank tellers, telephone operators, librarians, wholesalers, and middle managers are just a few of the many occupations destined for virtual extinction. In the United States alone, as many as 90 million jobs in a labor force of 124 million are potentially vulnerable to displacement by automation.

The Information Age is here. While earlier industrial technologies replaced the physical power of human labor, substituting machines for muscle and brawn, the new computer-based technologies are replacing the human mind itself-- substituting software for employees, the new "thinking machines" work around the clock. In the coming years new and more sophisticated technologies are going to bring civilization closer to a near workerless world. In the manufacturing, agriculture, and service sectors, machines are quickly replacing human labor, and promise a nearly automated economy by the mid-twenty-first century. The wholesale substitution of machines for workers is going to force every nation to rethink the roles of human beings in society. Redefining the roles of millions and millions of people in a society absent of formal employment is going to be a major issue in the coming century. Loss of work is loss of identity in the old work-ethic America we know. Can a society exist without work? Will this be the end of civilization as we know it, or will this be a blessing for us to do other things with our new leisure time?

For those interested, I would like to recommend the book **The End Of Work** *by Jeremy Rifkin* which relates to the current impact of automation.

We hope you have enjoyed our Newsletter