Innovations

Did You Know?

- The first St. Patrick's Day parade didn't take place in Ireland, but actually in New York City.

- Green is associated with St. Patrick's Day because it is the color of spring, Ireland and the shamrock.

- Leprechauns are also associated with St. Patrick's Day, although the only reason they are is because they're Irish.

How To Turn Your Computer Luck Around

"This computer is driving me CRAZY!!!"

Have you ever shouted at your computer because it froze up, crashed, and caused you to lose work? Have you ever whacked it with your hand, kicked it, or smashed the keyboard out of frustration?

If so, you're not alone. Problems with a computer, cell phone or other gadget can be so frustrating that it has been called "computer rage" by some psychologists, and it's on the rise.

How Violent Do They Get With Their Computer?

According to a recent poll, three quarters of computer users have admitted to shouting, swearing, or committing acts of violence towards their computer (for the record, we think the number is much higher).

While some simply curse the darn thing, others have admitted to hitting it until their hand bled or throwing it across the room.

5 (Cheap) Ways To Make Old Computers Faster and More Reliable

#1. Add Memory. One of the most inexpensive and effective ways to improve a computer's performance is to install more RAM (random access memory). This will speed up the applications installed on your computer and allow you to open and run more programs simultaneously.

#2. Upgrade The Processor Or Add A Graphics Accelerator. If you are just looking for a little more "zoom," upgrading the processor or installing a graphics accelerator will give your computer the ability to process information faster and improve its

overall speed.

#3. Perform Regular Maintenance On Your Servers and Desktops. Computers, like cars, need regular maintenance to perform at top speed and reliability. At a minimum, you should run ScanDisk and the Disk Defrag Utility on your machines once a month. This will make your applications and files load and run faster.

#4. Run A Spyware Scan Once A Week. One telltale sign that your computer

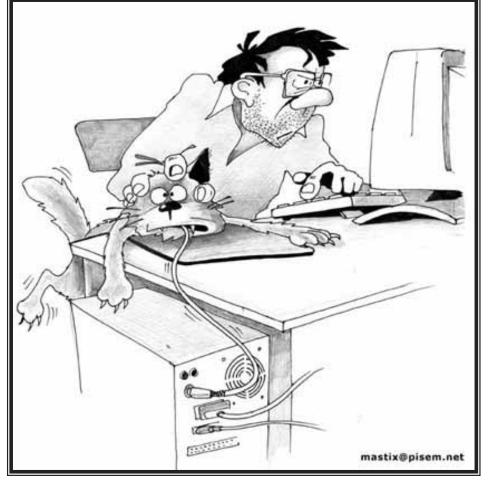I|T|S

INTELLIGENT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

How To Turn Your Computer Luck Around...

One computer user was quoted as saying, "You feel so helpless. All you can do is sit there and watch the stupid thing freeze up and there isn't a darn thing you can do about it. The error may only cause a few minutes delay, but it feels like a lifetime when you're in a hurry to get things done."

Deadlines are missed, work is lost, customers angered - all because of computer trouble. And the vast majority claim that problems like this happen on a consistent basis.

It's Not Just The Computer Causing Stress

Apparently, technical problems are only the start of most peoples' anxiety. Many report that they are further angered by the time and *process* it takes to get the problem fixed, and some employees claim computer problems are their #1 source of at-work anxiety and stress.

IT related problems further compound employee dissatisfaction since it often forces them to work late or take work home. If you are an employer, take note: your unstable computer network could be elevating your employees' anxiety and job dissatisfaction levels, not to mention interfering with their productivity.

Thanks to our Managed Service Plans, we have helped dozens of clients end "computer rage" at their company. There are two ways we accomplish this:

First, our 24/7 monitoring helps us detect and prevent problems before they show up. Your system runs faster, has fewer problems, and users aren't constantly having to deal with system errors. We also keep your security patches up-to-date, we prevent spyware, viruses, and hackers from invading your network, and we make sure you have a reliable backup of your data. This basic maintenance is critical to the speed and performance of your computer network.

Second, getting help is MUCH easier and faster when you are a Managed Service Plan customer. Our secure software allows us to remotely log in to your network to diagnose and resolve most problems on the spot. No more waiting around for a technician to show up!

Sign Up Today And Get Your First Month FREE

Since it's St. Patrick's Day, we want to "spread the wealth" by giving you the first month of service FREE. You'll discover how our Managed Service Plan will make you love your computer network.
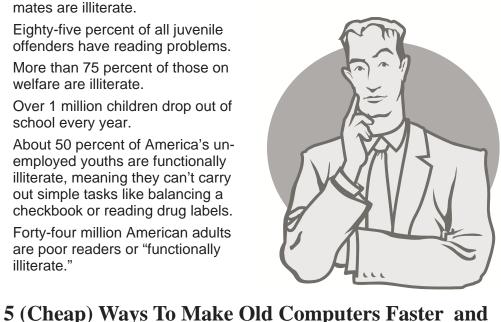

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Surprising Statistics About Reading:

According to The Literacy Company and Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics…

« Over 50 percent of NASA employees are dyslexic. They are actually sought after by the organization because they have superb problem-solving skills.

« More than 20 percent of adults read at or below the fifth-grade level; this is well below what they need to earn a living wage.

« Nearly three out of five prison inmates are illiterate.

« Eighty-five percent of all juvenile offenders have reading problems.

« More than 75 percent of those on welfare are illiterate.

« Over 1 million children drop out of school every year.

« About 50 percent of America's unemployed youths are functionally illiterate, meaning they can't carry out simple tasks like balancing a checkbook or reading drug labels.

« Forty-four million American adults are poor readers or "functionally illiterate."

« Twenty-one million Americans can't read at all; one-fifth of high school graduates can't read their diplomas.

« One-third of high school graduates never read another book for the rest of their lives.

« Forty-two percent of college graduates never read another book.

« Seventy percent of Americans haven't visited a bookstore in five or more years.

« Fifty-seven percent of new books

5 (Cheap) Ways To Make Old Computers Faster and More Reliable...

(Continued from page 1)

is infected with spyware is slow, unstable performance. Spyware sucks up your system's resources to carry out its evil intent, slowing down your computer and even causing it to freeze and crash.

#5. Disable Or Remove Unnecessary Programs Running In The Background. Many computers have pre-installed software programs that use up system resources and slow down your computer.

While these recommendations will certainly speed up your system, they aren't a miracle cure for a seriously out-of-date computer network. If your computer or network constantly crashes, freezes up, or runs painfully slow, then it's time to give us a call for an upgrade

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Inquiring Minds...

What is a Phishing Filter? Why Should I Turn it On?

Internet Explorer 7 offers dynamic security protection to help keep you safe online. Most users are unaware of how much personal, traceable data is transmitted with every click of the mouse while they are browsing the web and most online users are likely to have trouble discerning a valid website from a bogus copy. A technique used by many malicious website operators to gather personal information is known as phishing — masquerading online as a legitimate person or business for the purpose of acquiring sensitive information (e.g., a credit card or social security number).

Developers of phishing and other malicious activities thrive on lack of communication and limited sharing of information. Using an online service that is updated several times an hour, the new Phishing Filter in Internet Explorer 7 consolidates the latest industry information about fraudulent websites and shares it with you to proactively warn and help protect you while you browse.

The Phishing Filter is turned on by default when you first use Internet Explorer 7. For Phishing Filter options, including turning it on or off, reporting a suspicious site to Microsoft, and more, go to the Tools menu in the upper-right toolbar, and select Phishing Filter.

What are RSS Feeds? Why or When Should I Use Them?

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. RSS feeds are a way for website owners to easily distribute a list of headlines, update notices, and content to a wide number of people on the web. Most people are interested in many websites whose content changes on an unpredictable schedule. Examples of such websites are news sites, travel sites, community information pages, medical websites, and weblogs. Repeatedly checking each website to see if there is any new content can be very tedious.

With new integrated support for RSS in Internet Explorer 7, you can easily discover, subscribe to and read RSS feeds directly in the browser. You can have personalized sports, news, or shopping feeds delivered directly to you.

In Internet Explorer 7, you can read the feed directly in the browser, scan for important stories and get a description of the content. You can also subscribe to a feed with a single click, a process that is very similar to adding a website Favorite.

Reprinted Courtesy of Microsoft Corporation

7 Natural (Inevitable) Laws

- Repairs: After your hands get coated with grease, your nose will itch.

- Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

- Telephone: When you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal.

- Logical Argument: Anything is possible if you don't know what you're talking about.

- Traffic: As Soon as you change lanes, the other lane will go faster.

- Shopping: When you find a product you really like, they stop making it.

- Silence: A closed mouth gathers no feet.