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**Next Meeting
Wednesday
6th April 2005
7 PM Demonstration of
New Games
8PM Demonstration of
New British Census Sites
on the Web**

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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Ron's Ramblings

Well as they say "Tempus Fugit" but it seems like Tempus is fugiting a lot faster these days. The way Time is flying art the moment the Show will be on us before we can blink.

Are YOU doing your bit by designing posters and handouts, visiting potential exhibitors etc? Don't leave it all to the Committee.

Can you think of a Computer or Technology related business that may exhibit at the Show? If so, see one of the Committee and get copies of the three documents

1. Invitation to Exhibit
2. Map of Archers Manor showing sites
3. Information for Exhibitors.

Judy has a list of possible exhibitors who have been approached, anyone you may think of not on that list is a target!! **GO GET 'EM**

Later on we will be asking for volunteers to man the LCG and OPEN sites. You do not have to be there all day, and we will try to make it as interesting as possible. Help will be required also on the Friday to set up the sites and arrange the LCG and OPEN stalls.

Another task that has to be done is putting out Road Signs and their subsequent retrieval. This can be done by teams of Driver and Putter Upper (to use a technical term)

Launceston Computer Group
SOFTWARE LIBRARY
 Dated 1st Apr 2005

Family History Online
 Next Classes
Wednesday April 13th
1 pm to 3.30 pm

OPEN Session Times
 All sessions are held at the venue at
 Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

DISK 1000 - Your Library on Disk

Have you received your copy of Disk 1000? The disk holds a complete listing of programs available in our PC shareware library. This disk is free of charge to all new members. (will be available on CD soon!)

DISK COPY PRICES - CLUB MEMBERS \$1.00 per disk

Disk Prices - Box of 25 = \$12.00 Members Only

CD Prices - Box of 10 = \$10.00 Members Only

Julie Hjort, Shareware Librarian

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY

The Shareware Library is available in-between meetings from the following person. Please telephone first to arrange a suitable time.

The library is also available at the venue - Studioworks most Wednesdays 9am to 3pm. Email:

opencomputingtas@hotmail.com

LAUNCESTON

Julie Hjort Phone 6344 5686

Flat 2, 115 Penquite Road, Newstead

Email: jhjort@intas.net.au

Monthly Workshops

Graphics – Advanced

Paint Shop Pro 7

Next class

Wednesday April 20th

1pm – 3.30 pm

\$4.00 fee - Numbers limited to 8 please register on noticeboard or call **OPEN** on

0413 698.610

Wednesday April 27th
9 am to 12 noon

\$4.00 fee Numbers limited to 8 people

Please register on noticeboard

***** NEW CLASS *****

Learn the basics of **Adobe Photoshop** with tutor
Mark Greenhill
Wednesday April 20th
10 am to 12 noon

Graphics – Level 1

This class will be held every month and is aimed at those people who are new or know little about manipulating graphics.

\$6.00 Fee Includes programs and cost of printing tutorials.

Next Class Wednesday
April 13th (9 am to noon)

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Mobile Phone Number is now available to all those wishing to contact OPEN during working hours. The number is

0413 698 610

Please pay for private calls made *from* this phone

Standard Sessions (All sessions \$4.00)

Monday	10 am -12	E-Learn & Basics
Monday	1pm – 3pm	Basics & Beyond
Tuesday	10am – 12	PC & Mac Support for Beginners
Tuesday	1pm – 3pm	Intro to E-Learn & Beginners
Wednesday	9am –12	2 nd Step Tuition (see special sessions)
Wednesday	1 pm – 3.30 pm	2 nd Step Tuition (see special sessions)
Thursday	10 am – 12	E-Learn & Beginners
Thursday	1pm - 3pm	PC & Mac, Revision
Friday	10am -12	E-Learn
1 st & 3 rd Sat	9 am - 12	NT Camera Club

Special April Sessions

Wednesay 6th April	9 am –12 pm	Tutor Tuition
Wednesday 6th April	1 pm onwards	OPEN Meeting
Wednesday 13th April	9 am –12 pm	Paint Shop Pro (PSP7) Level 1
Wednesday 13th April	1 pm – 3.30 pm	Family History
Wednesday 20th April	10 am –12 pm	Adobe Photoshop
Wednesday 20th April	1 pm – 3.30 pm	Graphics PSP7 (Advanced)
Wednesday 27th April	9 am –12 pm	Family History
Wednesday 27th April	1 pm – 3.30 pm	Print Artist Greeting Cards

OPEN NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2005



(Continued from page 3)

**What's Happening at OPEN
Next Monthly Meeting
6th April 2005 at 1.00 pm**

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

Where does the time go? Another month has passed by with the major activity in March being the enrolment and induction phases for E-Learn.

Graphic artist Mark Greenhill will conduct his second **Adobe Photoshop** session on **April 20**, with the March session seeing a few of our tutors 'going back to school' for this new class.

X X X X VIRUS X X X X

During March one of our computers was 'infected' with several 'nasties'. The result was that the computer has been unavailable for use, and some of our tutors have spent several hours working on the problem.

We are assuming that the infection was accidental, but advise members to be very careful when responding to pop-up messages that appear on the screen.

The creators of viruses can be quite devious. If you have any doubts on what action to take when confronted by 'pop-ups', please ask one of the tutors.

Dennis Murray

**SPECIAL EVENING SESSION
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
L.C.G. Get-Together
Wednesday April 6th.
7 pm – 9.30 pm**

A general information session for those who find it difficult to attend day-time sessions.

**NORTHERN TASMANIAN
CAMERA CLUB**

The 'Camera Club' will be conducting two meetings at OPEN during April, with the first scheduled for **Saturday, April 2nd** and the second two weeks later on **Saturday, April 16th**.

If you are interested in learning more about digital cameras and related subjects contact Kai Johnson on 6326 2358.

Free Copy of Newsletter

Don't forget to submit your Email address if you wish to receive the LCG/OPEN newsletter via Email. If you have not yet received the newsletter via Email tell your tutor.

E-Learn

E-Learn sessions are in full swing and most 'students' have completed the induction phase. There have been a few hiccups and one or two major belches but most of our student-members are now progressing well.

Tutor Profile : Eleanor Horder

Eleanor's computing interests keep her very busy! In addition to conducting E-Learn and Computerised Embroidery classes at OPEN, she serves as a volunteer tutor at the School For Seniors and often participates in OPEN's Graphics classes as a student.

First Computer Experience

Was as a student at the School for Seniors in 1999, then completed the E-Learn course at OPEN in 2002.

First Computer Bought

Was a 'Windows 98-powered' computer purchased at the same time that Eleanor started at School for Seniors.

Current Computing Interests

Eleanor's voluntary tutor duties are obviously the major focus of her computing activities, but she does find some time to put her computerised embroidery skills into practice at home.

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

Judy Hall advises that **British Census information** for the years 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901, is now available on the Internet on a 'pay-per-view' basis, Contact Judy for more details. Looking a little further into the future a '**Family History Faire**' will be held at Westbury on August 27, 2005.

The central device

Peter Carter

In the early 1960s the first minicomputers, led by the Digital Equipment Corporation PDP-8 (Programmable Data Processor), appeared, and soon became popular with smaller firms, universities, and so on. But they were still transistor and magnetic core machines at first, and although they were compact compared to earlier machines, they were nevertheless substantial pieces of machinery: www.pdp8.net/.



Later version of the PDP-8. This is just the CPU, without disk drive, terminal, etc.

DEC's later products were the PDP-11, and the VAX series. One more device was needed before computers could become the appliances they are today: the microprocessor.

Intel

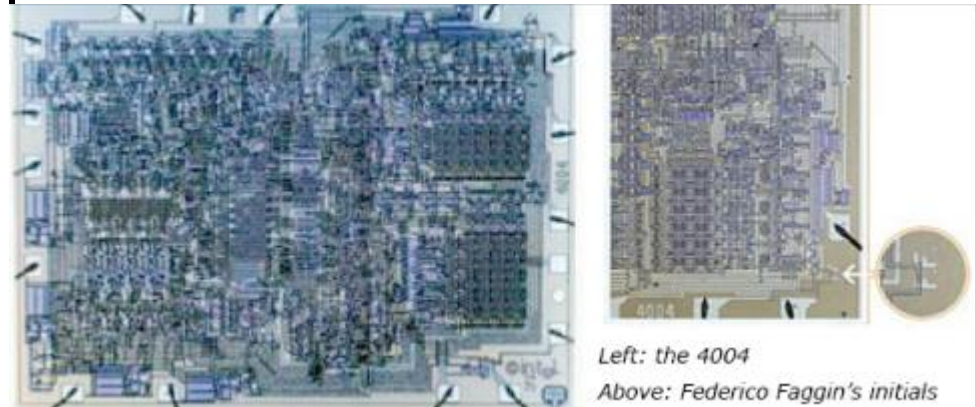
Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce founded Intel (integrated electronics) in 1968, and began work on memory chips. By 1970 they were producing 1Kb (1024 bits) chips. The days of magnetic cores were numbered.

In 1969 a Japanese calculator manufacturer asked Intel to develop a set of chips for a new series of programmable calculators. Here the story becomes interesting, because the official history (Intel's version) and reality differ. Most histories credit the invention to Marcian E (Ted) Hoff, but the team was led by Federico Faggin, who did the detail design work and initial testing. It is his initials that were on the first versions of the chip. Intel's engineers realised that a general-purpose logic chip, working like the central processor of a computer, would make the design of the calculator simpler. The

different versions could have different programs, in ROM, to suit their needs.

The first microprocessor was a four bit device containing 2250 transistors, and known as the 4004. Faggin was home very late one night in January 1971 after excitedly testing the first examples. Intel was later able to buy rights to the 4004 from Busicom, and began marketing it to other users. By 1972 Intel had an eight bit processor in production, the 8008, superseded two years later by the 8080. These devices were sufficiently powerful to control many machines: many US traffic light controllers have 8080s in them, for instance.

In 1974 Faggin left to found his own company, ZiLOG, www.zilog.com/, releasing the Z80



Left: the 4004

Above: Federico Faggin's initials

eight bit processor in 1976. Intel virtually wrote him out of its history.

By the mid 1970s Intel had several competitors, and several firms, including DEC, considered making real computers based on them but rejected the idea.

The first microcomputers

Jonathan Titus was a graduate student in chemistry when he read

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about the 8008, and realised that he could build a computer around it. He bought the chip (\$120), and by late 1973 had a prototype working. The Mark-8 as he called it, became known when it featured in the July 1974 issue of *Radio- Electronics*.

Ten thousand people bought instruction booklets, and perhaps two thousand machines were built. It was a very basic machine: 256 bytes of RAM and no keyboard or monitor. Programs were entered by toggle switches, and results appeared on a set of LEDs.

In January 1975 *Popular Electronics* published the first part of an article on the MITS Altair 8800, www.vintage-computer.com/altair8800.shtml, a similar machine to the Mark-8, but with the 8080. It was designed by Ed Roberts and two engineers, partners in a part-time firm based in a garage. They were swamped with orders.

What the Altair needed was a proper programming language, such as BASIC. Paul Allen and William Gates offered to write an interpreter, a task they completed in six weeks. MITS was Microsoft's first customer.

By now, others were offering machines with better features, and MITS, and IMSAI with its similar machine, faded away. Among the competitors were Commodore Business Machines, Heathkit, Radio Shack, and a small business named Apple.

Apple Computer Company

Stephen G Wozniak was a self-taught engineer who worked for Hewlett-Packard. In 1971 he met Steven P Jobs, six years younger, and an electronic hobbyist. Together, they made 'blue boxes', devices to enable free long-distance phone calls. After leaving school, Jobs went to work for Atari, designing video games.

Woz joined the Homebrew Computer Club, a group enthused by the Altair. He then paid \$20 for an eight-bit microprocessor, the 6502 made by MOS Technology, wrote a BASIC interpreter, and designed a machine around it, with suggestions from Jobs.



Right: The world learns of the Mark-8

Below: The Altair 8800



He demonstrated it to the club, and tried to interest Hewlett-Packard.

H-P could see no market, and declined, but Jobs began a search for buyers, finding one in a computer shop run by another club member. With Ron Wayne, the two Steves formed a partnership on 1 April 1976 to sell Apple I computers. They borrowed money to make the machines, built in the Jobs garage, and sold about 175 of them.

Finance was a problem, one that worried Wayne, who sold his interest in Apple and left. The problem was solved by 'Mike' Markkula buying in and arranging credit.

By 1977, Woz had designed the Apple II, and Apple was really in business... <apple2history.org/>

Apple I, in a home-made case. Users had to supply keyboard and monitor



The microcomputer revolution

After the Apple II, there came a flood of competing products, particularly after the 1981 introduction of the IBM PC. No longer were people tied to remote mainframe computers: the processing power was on their desks. Microprocessors found their way into many electronic devices, controlling processes in business and industry, and in the home and leisure.



The two Steves, Woz (left) and Jobs, with an Apple I



Apple II (the later IIe version)



Two competitors, TRS-80 (left) and Commodore PET. This TRS-80 has the expansion unit and disk drive. The PET had a ghastly keyboard and tape drive. Later Commodore machines, Vic-20 and C-64, were better, but were still abominable to program

Moore's law

In 1965, Gordon Moore noted that the number of transistors that could be fabricated on a given area of silicon was doubling every twelve months, an observation that became known as Moore's law. The pace has slowed a bit, with the number doubling every eighteen months, and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Microprocessors have considerably increased in power since the 4004 — from four, to eight bits, then 16, 32, and now 64 — with clock speeds now in the gigahertz range. The latest scheme, the Cell chip, comes from IBM, Sony and Toshiba. It has a core processor based on the PowerPC, with eight attached processor units (APU), working together to provide the processing power for the next

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generation of computing devices.

What's a computer?

We're left with this question: what is a computer? It's a device for processing information, by following an algorithm. It may be a general-purpose machine like the Mac, or it may be dedicated, such as automatic washing machines, programmable sewing machines, microwave ovens, mobile telephones, automobile fuel injection systems, mobile phones...

Anything with a keypad is almost certain to be a (dedicated) computer. With the microprocessor, computing has become all-pervasive.



Apple's original logo, designed by Ron Wayne. Text around the edge reads 'Newton... a mind forever voyaging through strange seas of thought... alone'

From Apple Sauce March 2005

HOW DO YOU SAVE YOUR DOCUMENTS?

It's something we might take for granted but my eye caught this message from an Office Watch reader:

John R writes:

"I label folders by topic and sub-topic and files by using the date of origin in the year/month/day sequence, i.e. this one is reference 050315. The beauty of this is, it keeps things in chronological order which matches my memory. Of course as the year changes, I create a new sub-folder with the date (or month if it is a busy topic), ie 0503. I then relabel any incoming files by their date of origin so they slot neatly into the sequence, that is before or after my related file."

John has one way to arrange documents that suits him. It made me wonder how other readers choose to organize their documents.

Do you save them under 'My Documents' or some other 'root' folder

How do you create folders / sub-folders?

Do you have a document naming system or just whatever come to mind?

Do you make use of Word document properties (under File | Properties | Summary or Custom)?

Do you let documents accumulate over the years?

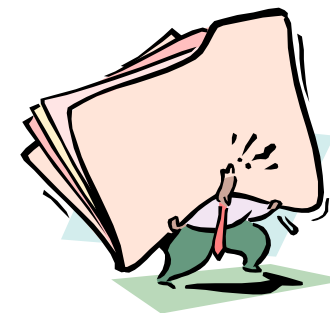
Do you delete or archive old documents occasionally

SHORTCUT OF THE WEEK

Jump straight to the File | Open dialog box by simply pressing:

Ctrl + F12

From Office Watch



Newbie Club Tutorials etc

Tutorial: "How To Clean Out Your Litter"

What can you do with the various icons spread out like dew drops across your computer screen? Do you really need all 67 of them? Probably not. So let's clean up a bit, shall we?

Icons are of course representations of the actual program. Not all icons however represent the actual physical location of the program they refer to. This particular breed is known as the shortcut icon.

You can safely DELETE shortcut icons. You know it's a shortcut when you see a small arrow in the lower left corner of the icon. Also, you can double check yourself by RIGHT clicking any icon, looking at its PROPERTIES and you'll see if it's a shortcut or not.

Every item that makes up the stuff you see on your computer screen (called "objects" in techie-speak) has associated properties. Just as there are properties of a pencil (it's cylindrical in shape, made of wood, has an eraser, etc.) there are properties of computer files. (Their size, the date they were created, where they live on your hard drive - called the "path" - etc.)

So which icons can you safely remove?

Well, here's a list of what you CAN'T remove.

1. My Computer
2. Network Neighborhood
3. My Documents
4. Recycle Bin

(Actually, you can even remove the above, but that's even more advanced, and you have to use a special program to do it.)

Now, if you delete an icon, you'll receive a warning message if you're about to delete a program. So if you know nothing more than "I want to save anything Windows tells me is a program" and you just started highlighting icons and pressing the Delete key, you could safely remove anything that WASN'T a program. (You "highlight" an icon by clicking on it.)

You can really clean up your desktop this way, and if you have stuff you

REALLY want on the desktop, you can always create a shortcut - a NEW shortcut, fresh and useable - at any time. This is explained in Windows for Newbies, along with 50 other basic tutorials, along with dozens of tips and tricks. More on that here: <http://newbieclub.com/wfncopy>

Tutorial: "Get Organized - or Lose Your Stuff"

One of the biggest problems facing new computer users is losing stuff. The computer is like a bottomless pit -- you can just keep adding info to it, and if you aren't careful, you'll never find anything!

The whole concept of "My Computer", "My Folders", "My Stuff", and "My Music" is pretty easy to understand, right? We can all relate to it. It's mine! Use this to your advantage.

Create new folders in the My Documents folder. Name them whatever turns you on. "My Recipes". Or how about "My Downloads" or "My Newbie Club Newsletters". (You may want to save your newsletters in a file in your email client, of course.)

Want to access something at any time? Just open My Documents, and there are all of your folders, smiling up at you, labeled and ready for service. If you download music, there's already a folder named "My Music". Create new folders inside, to organize yourself.

The computer is the ultimate organizer. And it's the ultimate servant.

Now, how do you create new folders? Open My Documents and look at the Menu line... you should see the word "File". Click File, point to New with our cursor, and click Folder. It'll be right at the top.

You'll see a new folder appear, with its name area all blank and blinking, ready for you to start typing. Type a name... spaces are fine, and the name can real long if you want. The limit is right at 254 characters... maybe 255. The precise number escapes me.

Once done, click off the folder, and the name is set. And you're done. Now you can store your stuff there whenever you're ready.

So clean up you desktop without fear of loss. Then redecorate by changing the wallpaper to something that goes with the new Spartan look. Details here: <http://newbieclub.com/wallpaper> Tutorial: "How To Get Back A Deleted File"

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HELP - I've deleted a file by mistake but I still need it!

Have you ever done that? Sure you have. If haven't you eventually will. But all is not lost and neither is your file ...

Try this...

Open WINDOWS Explorer.

Open Recycle Bin,

OR Double click on the Recycle Bin icon on your desktop.

Locate the file you want to retrieve and click on it.

Go to 'File' at top toolbar

Click 'Restore'

The file is restored to it's previous place on your hard drive.

So whenever you delete something and send it to the recycle bin, wait a while - a day, a week, a month until you're sure you definitely don't need it. If you do, then you can retrieve still retrieve it.

Tutorial...."Stuff About Your Task Bar"

The Taskbar a critical component of Windows, so lets turn it inside out.

The Taskbar (at the bottom of your screen) contains the following items:

The Start menu button Minimized applications (programs) Quick launch toolbar System tray

And each is explained below.

The taskbar can be resized to contain as much or as little as you want, or hidden from view entirely.

To hide it ...

Right click a blank area of the taskbar

Select Properties.

Tick the Auto hide check box

Click Apply. Then click OK to put the dialog box away.

The bar will slip down into the nether regions of your monitor, and will be available for viewing when you run your mouse cursor to the bottom of your screen.

Just uncheck the box you checked to make it stay put.

-----**"How To Move Your Task Bar"**

You can move the taskbar to any of the four sides of your monitor screen. How? Click and drag.

Click on the Bar and hold down your button. Then Draaaaag it to the new position and release your mouse button. Bingo!

As you drag, you won't see anything at first. Then suddenly, the bar will flip up to its new location.

Try it. You'll like it. You can always move the bar back to the bottom again.

Is there a shortcut to move the taskbar? Sorry, there's not, since the taskbar cannot have the focus directly. It's what's on the taskbar that receives your focus, not the bar itself

Tutorial"Stuff About Your Start Menu"

The Start Menu on your Task Bar is where you start. Kind of like turning the key in the ignition for the first time.

However, more advanced users know that the Start menu is really a messy place, because there's so much packed into the Start menu you'd need an entire book to explain it all.

There are two regions to the Start menu - the upper and lower.

The upper region is above the Programs item, and you can modify what appears there. You can't do much with the appearance of items below the Programs item.

Just like the desktop, the Start menu is actually a folder on your hard drive, located in

\Windows\Start Menu.

Anything you add or remove from the Start Menu folder will show up in the actual Start Menu under the Start button.

Quickly access the Start Menu folder by RIGHT clicking the Start button and selecting Open or Explore. If you select Open, you'll see the folder view. Select Explore, and you'll see the tree view. (No - not a forest - an expanded menu!)

The easiest way to add an item to the Start Menu is to drag an executable file (that's a file that ends with the file extension ".exe" like an ebook or

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software) directly into the \Windows\Start Menu\Programs folder.

A shortcut (along with its icon, of course) is created on the Start Menu.

Tutorial...."More Stuff About Your Start Menu"

Rearrange items on the Start Menu by dragging them up or down the list of items. Or drag them right into or out of the menu itself. In fact, the tip above can be circumvented in Windows 98 with a drag of the mouse.

Here's how to actually accomplish it.

Drag a program over the Start button, and hold it there for about two seconds.

The Start Menu opens in living color. Continue to hold the item being dragged until you find a place to put it on the menu. Then let go, and it will be inserted appropriately.

You can load up the Start Menu with all kinds of stuff, or reduce what's there to nothing but the basics that came with your computer when it was new.

Anything you drag to the Start Menu will only be created as a shortcut! If you want the actual program to reside there, you'll have to hold down the Shift key while you do your drag and drop operation. This moves the object instead of making a shortcut to it.

The idea is that moving something takes it out of its original location and puts in a new location. Shortcuts aren't real moves. They're, well, they're shortcuts!

If you want to copy an item to the Start Menu, which would simply duplicate it, you can hold down the Ctrl key while doing the drag-drop routine.

Yes, you can drag a folder full of shortcuts to the Start Menu. This is very useful. It will create a flyout menu you can point to and select from with one click.

For example, create shortcuts in a folder named "Com" (short for communication) that point to your word processor, your web browser, and your email program.

Then drag this folder to the Start Menu. When you run your mouse cursor

over it, you'll see the items listed for access. Think about how you can make this work for whatever it is you want

Tutorial; ---- "Page Not Available - What Gives?"

How many times have you clicked a link to visit a Website, and all that came up onto your screen was a page saying the requested page was not available. Or just simply '404 error'?

Many people assume that the page does not exist. Someone's made a typo. Some fool has messed up!

Well that's not always the case.

I know you're not interested in the techie reasons for this happening, but sometimes if you click 'Refresh', the page will load for you.

You'd be surprised at how often you'll be successful.

If that doesn't work, try returning later and see if it loads.

And sometimes you may find that a page is taking aaaaages to load. The bar in your taskbar is crawling across at a snail's pace, and you feel your eyes beginning to grow heavy and your chin slowly drops closer to your chest.

It is NOT recommended that you squirt lubricating oil into the back of your PC. However, the burning smell *will* keep you awake whilst you're staring at a black screen.

It's better to try clicking 'Stop' and refresh the page. Sometimes the page loads almost instantaneously.

Why? Coz it's technology, that's why:-)

From Newbie Club Insider 220 &221



Don't fall for PC scan scams

By Brian Livingston

Thanks to massive publicity about the subject, computer users are now widely concerned that their machines might be infected with "spyware" programs. These applications monitor users' activities and perhaps transmit to a hacker the users' passwords and other confidential information. But many Web sites that claim to "scan your computer" to detect spyware are, in fact, spreading spyware themselves.

In one of the latest examples, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission announced on Mar. 11 that Spyware Assassin, a \$29.95 program sold by MaxTheatre Inc., was promoted by bogus pop-up windows. These windows falsely claimed, "You have dangerous spyware virus infections on your computer. Click OK to install the latest free update to fix these errors."

The FTC said that if a computer user clicked OK, a phony "local scan" then reported that spyware has been found, displaying a phony list of supposedly infected files and folders. Both the original message and the "local scan" reported problems even if the computer was free from infections, the FTC said.

The federal agency persuaded the U.S. District Court in Spokane, Wash., where MaxTheatre is based, to issue a temporary restraining order. The site is now shut down.

This kind of scam is now so common on the Web that it's generating its own macabre jokes. One wag suggested in a Slashdot posting that, if the FTC really got serious, we'd soon see the following story:

n "The Federal Trade Commission has shut down Microsoft, alleging the company participated in fraudulent practices with its Windows and Office software, which purportedly gave the illusion of an operating system and/or increased productivity at work, even though no improvement was done and in most cases, the user machine would stop working correctly after a day. The company's site then offered the user a \$30 product to enhance security, which the commission reports 'didn't do a thing.' "

Impersonating a cleanup service

All kidding aside, the number of bogus programs that now pose as "antispyware" applications is enormous and still growing.

Eric Howes, a security researcher who has published numerous tests of cleanup programs (as described in our Feb. 24 and previous newsletters), has found more than 100 examples of disreputable applications on the Web.

He maintains a detailed list of Rogue/Suspect Antispyware Products on a page at Spyware Warrior, an informational site. The rogue's gallery includes such programs as "SpyDeleter," a product promoted, according to an FTC complaint, by Sanford Wallace, formerly a well-known spammer. The FTC sought a

restraining order against Wallace and a related company, Seismic Entertainment Productions Inc., last October.

In many cases, according to Howes' listings, rogue programs actually install browser home-page hijackers and open a back door to install other software. Many computer users are understandably fearful of online threats and click OK to cleanup offers, without first questioning the source of the "alert." This is one more thing to guard against on the Web.

Unfortunately, some legitimate security companies also offer online scans to detect malware on PCs. Although these companies mean well, I can't recommend such scans at this time. Even if the company produces a fine software product, any remote scan is subject to false positives. In other words, the scan might detect something on a PC and incorrectly label it malware. If the company then offers to sell a product to clean up the system, it can be accused of engineering the false positives, just as the FTC charged MaxTheatre of doing.

A much better approach is for computer owners to purchase low-cost but effective security programs to clean up their systems and then protect them from further infections. We include a summary of the top-rated programs in our Security Baseline section, below.

Important: Please note that my recommendation against Web scans of PCs does not apply to vulnerability detection sites, such as the excellent Shields Up! service provided by Steve Gibson of the Gibson Research Corp. This service, with your permission, examines a PC's network connection to determine whether or not it has "open ports" that can be exploited by hackers. Since the testing mechanism needs to be outside your network in order to conduct such vulnerability assessments, Shields Up! provides a valuable service that cannot easily be performed by software you install.

Let's call it spyware if it qualifies

I wrote in the Feb. 24 newsletter that the distinction between "spyware" and "adware" was meaningless. Since all such programs generate revenue or something else of value for their promoters, they should all be called adware, I said. This would preclude authors of such programs from saying, "Our product is not spyware, it's adware, which is fine." Programs that control any aspect of your PC without your full knowledge and consent are always a severe security risk and should not be tolerated. (I have always stated that "ad-supported software," where the ads are displayed within an application's primary window, as with Opera and Google, are fine.)

I now believe I shouldn't have dissed the term "spyware" so much. The public has come to fear "spyware" because of saturation coverage of the problem in the mass media. For this reason, I'm dropping my objections to the term and the newsletter

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

will use "spyware," "adware," "malware" and other terms as appropriate. Howes has written to me that definitions of spyware are actually becoming a burden on consumer advocates such as himself. He now feels that the more specific a definition is, the more it may be a trap:

- n "I'm really skeptical at this point that we ever will come up with a term for this kind of software that everyone can live with. The problem is that once you come up with a term and that term becomes even remotely tainted or even hints that the software is in any way undesirable, the people whose software you're trying to hang that term on are going to object.
- n "Just one year ago the industry was pushing the 'spyware=bad / adware=good' distinction. Now many of these same companies don't even want to be associated with the term "adware," so tainted has that term become.
- n "I actually think the right approach now is to push people to stop getting hung up on the precise word(s) you use to name the software, which leads only to useless definitional disputes that the bad guys exploit to wriggle out of your term, and focus on the practices and behaviors of the companies and the software."

Howes provided the most far-reaching analysis of the various problems we face — and terms to describe them — in a paper he submitted to the FTC last year. At that time, he thought a better catch-all term would be "junkware." I recommend his paper to everyone interested in this subject.

The problem isn't ads, it's remote control

Unfortunately, the issue of pop-up ads (which are bad enough) has confused the main threat facing us. It isn't a **display of ads** that makes a program malware. It's the fact that the application has (1) **the ability to run commands on the infected PC**, or (2) **download new versions of itself** (which may have negative features), or (3) **download entirely new programs** that aren't in the best interest of the computer owner.

The fact that a PC user is **giving control of the machine to someone other than its owner** is the heart of the matter.

If I were writing laws about this, I'd prohibit software that can "morph" its code once installed, except under strict conditions. I believe all such software should be removed automatically by security programs. The user should then be able to see a log of what was removed, and should be able to undo some of the uninstalls, in some cases.

As I noted on Feb. 24, the license for the iSearch Toolbar, an adware program, says it may "without any further prior notice to you... install software from iSearch

affiliates; and install Third Party Software." There is absolutely no reason for a legitimate software company to claim the right to install on your PC other programs from other companies, which you may never have heard of. I believe there's an enormous financial incentive for adware makers to sell access to their network of PCs to questionable characters. With this temptation, I believe it's only a matter of time before seriously nasty programs are installed everywhere, making them stronger than the defenders. (At some point, say, they may collectively launch a massive DDoS against the servers of Symantec, McAfee, and other security firms. Some such attacks have already begun. Numerous malware programs alter a PC's Hosts file so attempts to connect to security firms' sites fail. These alterations are stopped by installing the leading antispyware apps, which are shown in our Security Baseline section, below) That's why I believe all computer users should eradicate this stuff now, and that ISPs should start checking for and eradicating it, too.

Don't use P2P software that installs spyware

I've written previously that file-sharing software usually tries to install spyware. I noted on Jan. 27, for example, that Grokster alone could install as many as 15 separate adware programs.

If you insist on using such peer-to-peer applications — which open connections in your PC that have their own serious security risks — I urge you to read Ben Edelman's Unwanted Software Installed by P2P Programs.

Edelman, a respected researcher who is a Ph.D. economics candidate at Harvard University, shows the junk you can accumulate from file-sharing applications. Of the five programs he tested, only LimeWire was free from adware. (Edelman discloses that LimeWire has a consulting relationship with him. I believe his results are trustworthy none the less.)

In future issues of the newsletter, I hope to publish a list of Web sites that actually do provide useful PC scanning services without any hint that they might use false positives to sell products. This is an extremely difficult topic to research, because such sites may change at any time, making guarantees difficult. All I can say is: Watch this space.

From Windows Secrets 25 March 2005

More Newbie Club**Tutorial... "How To Print Out Your Address Book"**

Your Outlook Express address book is great for looking up details of your contacts at the click of a button.

But it can be time consuming copying them by hand in to your 'old fashioned' diary. Here's how to print it out ...

Open your Address book (This is similar for MS Outlook too).

Click File.

Print.

A screen opens up with a variety of options and selections. You can choose to print your whole address book, or just selected parts of it. Just experiment to see the results.

Business card; Prints out the info you would normally find on a business card such as name, company, phone number, email address.

Memo; All of the stored information will be printed.

Phone list; Home, business, fax numbers etc will be printed.

----- **How To Customize.**

There's also a very handy facility for customizing the style of printout you can produce.

Click Properties.

Select paper size, orientation etc to suit the style of the permanent paper file you wish to produce.

----- **Additional Help;**

Anything you're not sure about on these screens can be explained by ...

Click on the Question mark (?) in the top right of the window.

Then click on the instruction you're not sure about.

A small window opens up with an explanation of what that particular function will achieve.

As I said, it's just a question of experimenting until you achieve the results you want. You can't break anything and all it costs is a little paper and ink.

Tutorial ... "How To Stop Your Printer in Mid Stream"

Have you ever made a mistake when printing something from your PC and tried to stop that darned printer from churning out a further 247 pages of

printed material that you KNOW needs changing??

Seems to have a life of it's own doesn't it? I think it may have!

Actually there's not a lot you can do to stop it from printing - but here's a few suggestions ...

Double-click on the Printer Icon in the bottom right hand corner of your task bar. It only appears when you start printing.

A Status Box appears where you can read the print jobs being processed.

That is - the jobs your PC have sent to the printer.

This list of jobs is created on your hard drive and it's called a Print Queue.

This list -or queue- is 'spooled out to your printer as and when your printer is capable of accepting more pages into it's memory. It does it that way because your PC has MUCH more memory than your printer.

This dialogue box allows you to cancel print jobs and even rearrange them if you wish.

Yeah right - that's the brilliant theory!

You see, your PC has much more memory than your printer, so to save you waiting for ever for a document to print, your PC sends - spools - as many pages as your printer's memory can handle. And when your printer's memory 'empties' a little, more data is sent from your PC.

Sooooooooo...

When you suddenly change your mind and tell your PC to STOP printing, your printer still has a memory full of printing instructions and carries on.

Even if you shut down your PC, sometimes the print queue reappears when you reboot. That feature was specially built into your PC by a sadistic Windows Programmer one particularly boring afternoon.

Unfortunately, pulling your hair out and screaming naughty wards at your PC has no effect.

So turn off your printer instead. Leave it a few seconds and turn it back on. USUALLY that solves it - but those stoopid machines don't always do as they're told!

Tutorial "How to Print Your Screen

All Newbie Club Tutorials contain Screen Captures. That's a copy of the contents of a screen which can be copied to a document, or even printed as

a hard copy.

To print a web page you can always use the commands File/Print. But if you want to print exactly what's on the screen, this is how you do it. There's key on your keyboard called 'Print Screen' or Print Scrn or Prnt Scrn. But when you press that, your PC doesn't just print the screen. No no - too easy by far:-)

Windows 'captures' the whole of your screen content to a temporary area or buffer. You need to paste the contents of this buffer, the image of the screen, to any program on your PC that can handle graphics.

So you could paste it into Paint, WordPad, Word or similar.

Press Prnt Scrn key,

Open your application (like Word) - hold down the Cntrl key and press V.

Or use the pull down menus in your top toolbar and select

Edit/Paste,

and the image of the screen will magically appear on your screen.

This includes everything - any open windows, title bars and other stuff that was on the screen when you pressed the key.

Now then ...

If you only want to copy the contents of the active window and not everything else on the screen, then make sure you hold down the Alt key when you press Prt Scrn.

Then past in the same way as described above.

If you want to print a hard copy of your selection just use your normal print function to do so.

Practice it and save them in a new folder. You never know when a screen capture will come in handy on a rainy day:-)

Tutorial ... "How To Email To A List FAST"

If you send a lot of emails to the same person, or group of people, you can do it quickly and painlessly by placing a shortcut on your desktop.

This may appear complicated, but like most techie stuff, if you follow these instructions step by step, all will become clear.

Please note, this works with Outlook Express. Other email clients will differ.

Let's assume you want to set up a shortcut to send emails to John, Betty, and a copy to Cindy, plus a blind copy to Harry. Their email addresses **MUST** be already entered in your Address book. Minimize all open windows to reveal your Desktop (see Tutorial 3 above) **RIGHT** click on an empty area of your Desktop.

Select **NEW**

SHORTCUT.

Go to the 'Command Line' box and type in ...

Mailto:john;betty?cc=cindycindy&bcc=harry

Note, Mailto is followed with a colon (:), and the other names are followed with a semi colon (;), a question mark (?) or ampersand (&)

Click **NEXT**

Type in the name of your shortcut.

FINISH.

Now double click on your shortcut icon and see what happens ...

Magic!

Try it with any names you wish just to see how it works. Or even copy and paste the above example straight in to the 'Command Line' box.

----- **Even Better**

Once you get used to doing this you can go a stage further and automatically enter the Subject title and even the message itself like this ...

Mailto:john;betty?cc=cindycindy&bcc=harry&subject=Meeting&body=

Next meeting is Monday night at 8pm

(Note, the above line may be broken, so remember that if you are copying and pasting it just to try out, first of all ensure it is all on one line before you copy it. Or else type it out **CAREFULLY** by hand.

----- **How To Change the Information**

If you want to modify the details ...

RIGHT click on the shortcut icon and select **PROPERTIES**.

Modify at will, and click **OK**.

While you're there you can change the icon design by clicking on 'Change Icon' *From Newbie Club Insider 219*

How Long Will Digitised Data Last?

Horst Neumann

How long are those floppy disks or CD-Roms on which you're storing your important documents going to last? Will you, or anyone else be able to make use of them 15 or 20 years from now?

In 1982, software pioneer Jaron Lanier created a video game called *Moondust* for the very popular Commodore 64 personal computer. Fifteen years later when asked by a museum to display the game, he couldn't find a way to do it – until he had tracked down an old microcomputer of exactly that brand, type and age, along with a joystick and video interface that would work with it.

Would this have been a problem if Lanier had originally published a game in a book? Probably not. Books have been around since about 1453, when Johannes Gutenberg developed the printing press and used it to print 150 copies of the Bible in Latin. Some of these Gutenberg Bibles still exist and are still readable if you can read Latin.

Digital storage has a serious problem: It isn't as long lived, as older forms of data storage. Today's books printed on "permanent" (low acid, buffered) paper may last up to 500 years. Even books printed on cheap paper will still be readable.

By contrast data stored on diskettes, magnet tape and optical disks is subject to two hazards. Short life span of storage media: The storage media themselves have a short life expectancy, and often the degradation is not apparent until it's too late. The maximum time seems to be 50 years, the longevity of a high-quality CD-ROM. Some average - quality CD-ROMs won't last 5 years, according to tests run at the National Media Laboratory.

The magnetic tapes holding government records, which are stored in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., need to be "refreshed" - copied on to more advanced tapes - every 10 years. Hardware and software obsolescence: As Jaron Lanier found out even when tapes and disks remain intact, the hardware and

software needed to read them may no longer be available. Without the programs and computers used to encode data, digital information may no longer be readable.

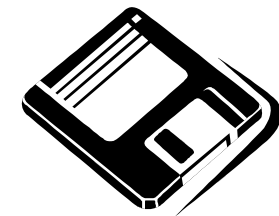
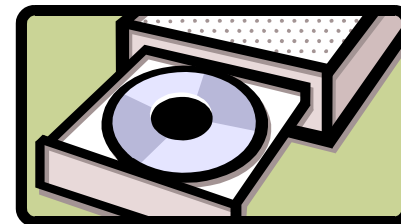
Eight-inch floppy disks and drives, popular as recently as a dozen years ago, are now virtually extinct, one writer points out, and their 5 1/4 inch successors are rapidly disappearing. Optical and magnetic disks recorded under non-standard storage schemes will be increasingly useless because of the lack of working equipment to read them.

What about the personal records you would store on your own PC, such as financial records, inventories, genealogies, and photographs?

New York Times technology writer Stephen Manes has a number of suggestions.

1. Choose your storage media carefully. CD-R disks are probably best for archiving, especially if you also keep a paper record.
2. Keep it simple. Store files in a standard format, such as text files and uncompressed bitmapped files.
3. Store data along with software that created it.
4. Keep two copies, stored in separate places preferably, cool and dry environments.
5. Use high-quality media, not off brands.
6. When you upgrade to a new hardware or software product, have a strategy for migrating the old data.

From ACT Apple March 2005



Trojan gets the mobile phone message

By Matt Hines, Special to ZDNet 08 March 2005

Antivirus researchers are investigating a new Trojan horse that could prove to be a more pervasive threat to mobile phones than Cabir.

The malicious software, dubbed "CommWarrior" and described as a virus by some antivirus companies, takes aim at the version of the Symbian operating system running on Nokia Series 60 handsets. F-Secure, SimWorks International and other security providers issued reports about the threat Monday. CommWarrior attempts to spread by sending messages via Bluetooth wireless connections and Multimedia Message Service--different from the Cabir virus, which only used Bluetooth to proliferate. MMS, a mobile technology for sending text messages that can also include images, audio or video, is built into devices from Ericsson, Motorola and others.

CommWarrior, however, only affects Nokia Series 60 phones. As MMS can be used to send text messages worldwide, it has a greater reach than the short-range Bluetooth and so could be forwarded more rapidly, researchers said.

"At its best replication speed, Cabir can only spread as quickly as planes fly," said Mikko Hypponen, antivirus research director at Finland-based F-Secure. "But MMS viruses are more comparable to e-mail worms like Bagle, MyDoom, Sobig and others. An MMS threat can travel around the world in hours, so in that regard, it's much more dangerous."

A representative for United Kingdom-based Symbian said the company is aware of the problem and researching the threat with Nokia and its security partners. Nokia could not be immediately reached for comment. CommWarrior infects the telephone directory software in the Nokia handsets. It randomly selects one directory profile at a time and sends a copy of itself to that person. It can be sent to any kind of wireless gadget or computer, but if that device does not run the Symbian Series 60 software, it will not be infected. A recipient also has to accept and download CommWarrior in order for the Trojan to launch itself.

The Trojan uses more than 20 different messages to try to lure users into

opening its file, including text designed to look like legitimate software updates from Symbian, or even pornographic photographs.

CommWarrior has been seen in the wild since the beginning of this year, Hypponen said. An element of the program that causes it to sleep for an undetermined period of time before attempting to spread itself may have helped slow its distribution, he said.

Researchers have noted two versions of the threat thus far, with the only major difference in the strains being the overall file size. Hypponen said there is some Russian-language text hidden inside the files, a clue that the threat may have been developed in that region.

An individual claiming responsibility for creating the threat has made it available for download via a Web site. The site offers no further information about the purported writer of the Trojan.

Based on a lack of consumer reports on the attack, researchers believe that CommWarrior has yet to infect a large number of devices. One reason for the relative dearth of infections may be that the Trojan is trying to send itself to large numbers of landline phones, as it cannot differentiate between mobile and traditional phone numbers.

From ZDNet Australia



Important Careers

A woman named Emily renewing her driver's license at the Transport office was asked by the clerk to state her occupation. She hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself. "What I mean is," explained the clerk, "do you have a job, or are you just a?"

"Of course I have a job," snapped Emily. "I'm a Mum."

"We don't list 'Mum' as an occupation..... 'housewife' covers it," said the clerk emphatically.

I forgot all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation, this time at our local police station. The Clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high sounding title like "Official Interrogator" or "Town Registrar."

"What is your occupation?" she probed.

What made me say it, I do not know... The words simply popped out.

"I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations." The clerk paused, pen frozen in midair, and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly, emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire!

"Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?"

Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing programme of research, (what mother doesn't), in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out).

I'm working for my Masters, (the whole bloody family), and already have four credits, (all daughters).

Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree.?) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money."

There was an increasing note of respect in the girl's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door.

When I got home, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted

by my lab assistants-ages 10, 7, and 3. Upstairs, I could hear our new experimental model, (a 6 month old baby), in the child-development programme testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt I had triumphed over bureaucracy!

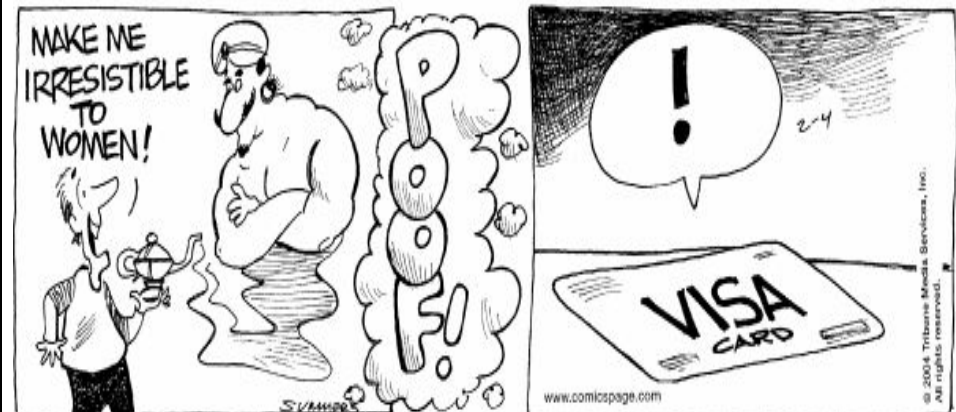
And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than "just another Mum."

Motherhood.....What a glorious career! Especially when there's a title on the door.

Does this make grandmothers "Senior Research Associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations", and great grandmothers "Executive Senior Research Associates"??? I think so!!! I also think it makes Aunts Associate Research Assistants".

Please send this to another Mum, Grandmother, Aunt, and other friends you know

Another of those emails from Don Hevey my cousin (Where does he get them?)



@ One message – many people.

Don't use TO or CC for sending to groups of people who don't know each other. These days that is considered poor email etiquette. That's because everyone who gets the email can see the email addresses of all the other recipients which could be considered a breach of privacy these days.

There's a more serious concern to do with spam and viruses. There are many email worms that search an infected hard drive for email address to send infected emails. Those worms can check not just the contacts list but also the history of received emails for new targets. This doesn't really apply when you're sending messages to a small group of people who know each other, but caution is polite and prudent when the receivers are a disparate group who don't know each other.

If you send a email with a large TO or CC list to an infected computer then all those recipients are in the firing line to a new round of nasties.

Better to use BCC – Blind Carbon Copy - but this has its own disadvantages – messages with BCC's are more likely to be considered spam. Emails sent directly to one person are, contra wise, less likely to be marked as spam.

BCC is quick and usually quite efficient. The BCC receivers should not see the email addresses of their compatriots (just anyone in the TO or CC fields).

We have heard the urban myth that the list of BCC recipients is actually hidden in each copy of the message and can be found by worms. This is plain wrong and looking at the message header on a BCC received message would show. The BCC recipients are stripped out when the email is relayed to each individual mailbox.

In these spam paranoid days the better option for sending the same message to many people might be a mail merge. The last few versions of Office have been able to use Word to create an email message then send it out individually to each recipients with a single TO address in each one. You can get fancy and add personalization to each message (including the

persons name in the message text etc) but for many emails that's not necessary

@ Don't send credit cards by email

In selling the Desktop Search Handbook online we've struck a few people who have sent their credit cards to us over email. These people apparently trust us and while that's gratifying I must beg and implore all of you to never, ever give your credit card details over email.

It doesn't matter if you are sending credit card numbers to your sainted maiden aunt – don't do it.

You might trust the person you are sending the credit card number to but you can't be sure that's the only person who will read the email. There's a possibility, however small that the email could be intercepted (it's quite possible to 'sniff' at emails looking for the tell-tale patterns of credit card numbers).

Better not to take the risk – never include the credit card numbers in an email. You can send an email order, print it out and fax a copy of the message with the credit card numbers on the fax copy. Or arrange to call and give the numbers over the phone.



A Modern Parable

In the beginning, God covered the earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach combined with an abundance of green, yellow and red vegetables. He did this so that Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then, using God's bountiful gifts, Satan created Dairy Queen and Tim Horton's. And Satan said: "You want hot fudge with that?" And Man said: "Yes!" And Woman said: "I'll have one, too...with sprinkles."

And lo and behold they gained 10 pounds. And God created the healthful yogurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair.

And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane, and combined them. And Woman went from size 2 to size 14.

So God said: "Try my fresh green garden salad."

And Satan presented crumbled Bleu Cheese dressing and garlic toast on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast.

God then said: "I have sent you heart-healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them."

And Satan brought forth deep-fried coconut shrimp, butter-dipped lobster chunks, and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter.

And Man's cholesterol went through the roof. Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with potassium and good nutrition.

Then Satan peeled off the healthful skin, sliced the starchy centre into chips and deep-fried them in animal fats adding copious quantities of salt.

And Man packed on more pounds. God then brought forth running shoes so that his children might lose those extra pounds.

And Satan introduced cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering light and started wearing stretchy lycra jogging suits.

God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and the 99-cent double cheeseburger.

Then Satan said: "You want fries with that?" And Man replied: "Yes! And super size 'em!" And Satan said: "It is good."

and Man and Woman went into cardiac arrest. God sighed...and created quadruple by-pass surgery. Satan chuckled and created Medicare & The Health Care System. Here endeth the parable....

