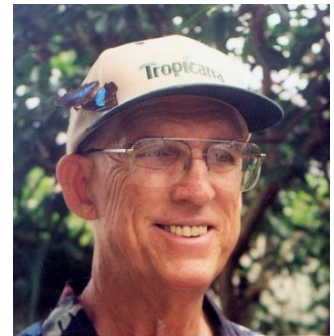




Fall Newsletter



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Jules Porchey - The Computer Man

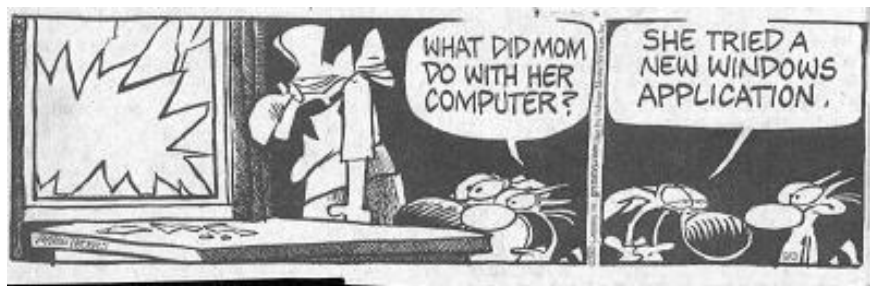
October 2002

Welcome to another edition of my Tips Newsletter - Something that I prepare for my clients that I hope will provide some useful information, while providing some tips for using your personal computers, some interesting and sometimes fun things to and occasionally a short warning about things that bad people are attempting to do to those of us who use the internet and e-mail.

Contact Information: E-mail: thecomputerman8@yahoo.com Web Site: www.thecomputerman.biz

I have added a page to my web site at www.thecomputerman.biz where you can find all of my past and present newsletters so you can refer to them at any time you wish, or tell your friends about them too....

How about a little humor to start this edition...



OK, now to the "serious" stuff...

ALERT:

Virus Hoax

"I am repeating this one because it is still going around and I have had several calls about it. Feel free to copy this and send it to anyone you know who has received the fake virus warning to let them know it is not true."

There's another virus hoax going around. This one tells you to find and delete a file called:

jdbgmgr.exe

Don't delete it! It's a Java debugging file (some Java applets may not work correctly without it). Although it's not the most important file on your computer, it's still probably best to leave it intact.

This gets passed around by an e-mail that warns the file is a "dormant" virus and automatically activates on a certain date. It also claims that anti-virus software can't remove it. Big time hoax.

Why is this a tip off?

If the file is a virus and on your computer, then Anti Virus software can get it. Think about it, if you can find the file, then your Anti Virus software can too. If it was really a problem, it would alert you.

Remember, just because it's in a forwarded e-mail, doesn't automatically make it true.

About Virus Protection for your computer:

Here you get the usual warning (again) to protect your computer from virus programs that can be a nuisance or worst case destroy programs and data on your computer and render it virtually useless.

I find that in some cases it is assumed by computer users that since "I have a virus protection program on my computer" I am protected from virus problems.

This is not necessarily so. You must keep your virus program up to date. The virus program, if it is never updated, can only protect you from viruses that were in existence when you obtained the original program. Hundreds of new viruses are created each month. This means that unless your virus protection program is fairly new and can update itself automatically, you must contact the company that provided your virus program and obtain their up to date virus protection files on a regular basis. For most of us that is at a minimum of once a month. Better that you do it weekly if you do a lot of internet and email on your computer. For most programs this is a free service that comes with the purchase of the program. Most anti-virus services must be renewed for a fee on an annual basis.

If you have questions about how to go about updating your virus program, or need help purchasing one feel free to contact me and we can set a time for me to come and help you with it.

In today's world virus protection is very important to your computing safety.

Now for an additional note:

Some of the newest viruses and trojan worms now have the ability to "turn off or disable" your antivirus program so they can get into your computer and do their work!

So...you may know that you have an anti-virus program on your computer and also that it is up to date with the virus detection data, BUT...it may be disabled and you had not noticed it.

How to check this on your computer:

Most all of the virus protection programs that I know about place a little icon (picture) in your system tray when it is active and running and protecting your computer. This system tray is the little area of pictures in the extreme lower right corner of your computer screen. You can place your mouse on the icons there (don't click) and a line of text will appear that tells you what that icon represents. Users of Windows XP operating system may have to click on the little button in the system tray to expose some of the hidden icons that are there. See the photo that shows the button....



If you do not see anything there for your antivirus program, chances are that a virus has turned it off and that virus or worm is resident on your computer.

● Some Helpful Information:

Surge Protection

You have a surge protector on your computer. But now you want to know, should you have gotten one that you can use with your phone lines as well? Is that really necessary?

It's actually good advice. When we think of power surges, we tend to picture power line problems. Well, telephone wires can also carry a dangerous surge into your computer. I've repaired (and seen) more than a few computers that were damaged due to telephone line power surges.

Most people don't know it, but phone line surges are more likely to cause damage than power line surges. Why? Your computer's power supply acts as a built in surge protector. Even if a surge gets through your regular surge protector, the power supply may be able to keep it from doing any damage.

That's not to say that you shouldn't have a good surge protector. There have been lots of computers damaged because they didn't have a surge protector between them and the wall outlet.

Finally, when you buy a surge protector, try to find something better than those little power strip things. Although they are better than nothing, they are notoriously unreliable and most won't tell you when they are no longer protecting your equipment. One good surge and your protection is gone - but they continue to function as a power strip. Most computer and electronics stores can sell you a good quality surge protector.

Here's a little tip my AOL friends might check out.....

Question:

Is there a way to make AOL Instant Messages a bit more instantaneous?

Answer:

Yes...

Simply hold down the Control button and hit Enter after you have finished typing and away your message goes.

Question:

Can you use the same technique in AOL e-mail?

Answer:

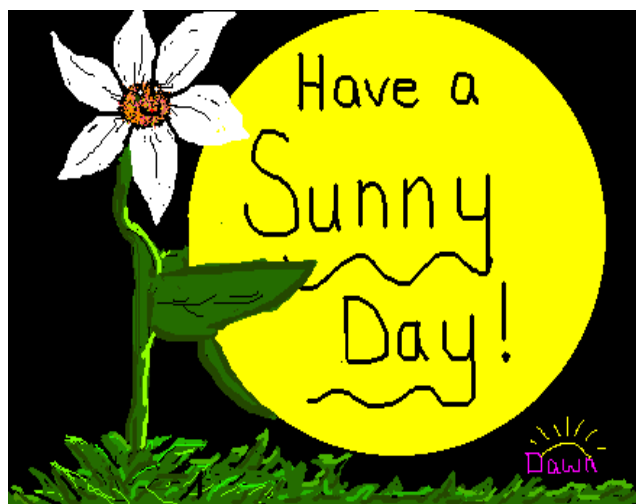
Yes...

When sending an e-mail, you can also use the same mouse-less feature. Ctrl+Enter will send your e-mail off to its eager recipient.

Most users never use their "WinKey" (those two keys between the ALT and CTRL); but they can come in handy! Here's how:

Key combination:	Result:
[WinKey]	This will pop up the Start Menu
[WinKey] + [E]	Opens Windows explorer
[WinKey] + [R]	Opens the window that lets you execute files
[WinKey] + [F]	This will show the find dialog box
[WinKey] + [Ctrl] + [F]	This will show the "find computer" box
[WinKey] + [M]	Minimize all open windows
[WinKey] + [Shift] + [M]	Restore minimized windows
[WinKey] + [Tab]	Shifts through the taskbar buttons, press [Enter] next
[WinKey] + [F1]	Shows windows help
[WinKey] + [Pause]	Shows the system dialog box
[WinKey] + [D]	Minimize / Restore all windows

Here are some neat photos you can save to use in your email messages if you are so inclined...



How about Halloween fun too?



More Halloween animated photos....



E-mail Hoax

If you get something in your e-mail that you're not sure is truth or a hoax warning, check it out with the site below. They have a search engine that will help you quickly determine what's real and what's not. Additionally, it's a cool site to browse through.

Search the Archives for "email"

<http://www.urbanlegends.com/>

Tip:

So you need to find someone's long distance phone number?

How about a free lookup on the web?

Go to:

www.teldir.com

and look it up....

The "Keyboard Shake"

How many of you know about the "keyboard shake?" It's purpose is to remove crumbs, paper particles, etc., from (mostly) between the keys of your keyboard. Here's how to do it: hold up the keyboard about a foot above your desk, turn it upside down, and...shake!! You'll be amazed at the "stuff" which drops out of your keyboard!

Question? What's the quickest way to close multiple open programs and shut down my computer?

Answer: Alt-F4 - Each time you press ALT-F4 another program will close, and finally you'll get the "Shut Down window." Then just hit the Enter key to shut down! Pros can close 4 open programs and shut down in less than 6 seconds!



Skip The Recycle Bin

(Use this one with caution...you could hate yourself in the morning)

Every now and then you need to *really* delete a file. Right now!

Well, most people delete the thing, then go to the recycle bin and remove it from there. It works, but there's a better way. (AND MORE DANGEROUS WAY IF YOU ARE NOT CAREFUL)

Next time you are **100% sure, without a doubt, for certain**, that you want to delete a file, hold your **Shift** key down while you delete. The file will be deleted from your computer - skipping the Recycle Bin completely.



Ever want to increase your browser's font size?

Do you find the text on some Web pages too small to read? If so, you're in luck because there's a very easy way to customize the font size to your liking with Internet Explorer 5.0 and higher. All you need to do is open your browser and choose View | Text Size.

Then, select a size from Text Size submenu. While the default is Medium, you can choose from the other options (Largest, Larger, Smaller, and Smallest) depending on your preference. Once you make a selection, the Web page you're viewing will immediately change to reflect the new font size you just chose.



Web Page tip:

When on the Web and looking at a lo-ong page (many screens worth), and you're looking for some specific information, try CTRL + F; it opens a search window where you type what you're looking for and your cursor will stop at the first instance it finds.

F3 will take you to each subsequent instance.

Now for some interesting things to do on the internet....

Click on the blue underlined lines (links) to quickly go to these web sites...

NOTE: If any of these web sites require your computer to have the "Java Virtual Machine" installed, you can get it here..... <http://java.sun.com/getjava/>

[Calculators](#)

Oh no, not another educational link! Well, sure some calculators are for school, but some can be for fun. At this site, you'll find both.

The top five serious Calculators are:

Interactive Periodic Table
Tax Calculator
Scientific Calculator
Interest Calculator
Driving Distance Calculator

The top five fun Calculators are:

Typing Test
Typing Test 2
Ancient Chinese Birth Chart
Planetary Age Calculator
Pig Latin Converter.

There are many more! So check it out!

<http://www.myparentime.com/calculators/calculators.shtml>

[Does It Work? Archive](#)

This is a site that archives the articles of Karl Rundgren. He's the guy that tries out those "As Seen on TV" products and lets you know if they really, truly work.

So before you buy you might want to read these articles. Here are some of the products you'll find tried and tested:

Out'n Clean
Perfect Pancake
E.Z. CD Scratch Remover
Mystic Tan
Hairgami
Universal Inkjet Refill Kit
Hair off Mitten
Pro Trim Paint Roller
Fix A Flat
Turbie Twist
Nicoderm CQ
OxiClean

That's not even a third of the list. Check it out!

http://www.krbctv.com/diw_archive/

[Mini Putt-Putt](#)

Need some relaxation? Can't sneak out for a game of golf? Are you secretly addicted to golf video games? Well, this will certainly fill your craving. And for those of you, like me, who just like to go out putt-putting, this is great.

Putt your way through all 18 holes and have your score calculated for you. Playing this reminded me why I don't keep score normally. Enjoy a little game of Putt-Putt today!

<http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~pyang/flash/miniputt.swf>

[Passenger Ships of the Great Lakes](#)

The Marine Historical Society of Detroit, Michigan, proudly brings you this site on the passenger ships of the Great Lakes. For those living on one of the Great Lakes there is a certain pride in the industry that once thrived here, and still partially does. Plus, this site has fabulous pictures of ships.

Choose from a list of different ships and then be whisked to the next page that is complete with a picture of the ship, information on its make, and the ship's history.

My favorite here I think is the Tashmoo. It's sleek design appeals to me. So take this trip into history and enjoy these lovely ships.

<http://www.mhsd.org/passenger/>

[Daily Planners](#)

Run out of Daily Planners? Or just looking for free ones that you can print? Well if so, this is the site for you. You can print out everything from a grocery list to a list of important numbers. All completely ready to be filled full of your personal, pertinent information.

My favorites to print out here are the To Do List, Daily Appointment Sheet, Monthly Bills, and Software list. I especially like the software list because it has an area for the title, registration number, and password.

I realize the web site is "women" oriented, but heck - Guys need lists too, right fellows?

Another site that will help save you time. Check it out!

<http://www.digital-women.com/daily-planner/>

[AnyWho](#)

Here's a handy one! Need to find someone? Check out AnyWho. Just type in the fields you know and it will attempt to find the person or business you're searching for. It doesn't always work, but who knows, you may find your long lost Uncle Fred.

<http://www.anywho.com/>

[Household Recipes](#)

Want to impress someone? Want to find out how to get those nasty stains out? Or how to clean the chandelier you were hanging from all day?

Well, this site has all that and more. At Household Recipes, you can learn all those secret recipes to make cleaners, repellents and all those other recipes grandma would never give you. Here you can find the recipes for: Air Freshener, Lavender Linen Water, Leaf Preservative, Bug Spray, Plant Food, Rabbit Repellent and much, much more...

<http://www.recipegoldmine.com/house/house.html>

[Pop Cap Games](#)

Need a little fun to spice up your life? Well here at Pop Cap games you'll find exactly that – FUN. These games are FREE and easy, load right in your browser for hours of entertaining delight. Better yet they're Java games so you don't need any plug-ins or have to download anything to enjoy them.

There are at least thirteen free addictive games. A couple of good ones are:

Alchemy – Where you turn the board from lead to gold using rune symbols.

Diamond Mine – Where you swap gem positions to make matches.

But there are many more. So take a gander and enjoy!

<http://www.popcap.com/>

[Mini Clip](#)

Oh I know, it pains you to see it, another game site. If you enjoyed Pop Cap's games, you'll really love Mini Clip. For some Friday fun why don't you try Acno's Enegizer – that's the game I'm currently addicted to. For those of you at work, if you need some stress relief try Paintball.

The other favorites you can enjoy are Flashman, Park a Lot II, Grid Iron, or Blobs. Mini Clip is definitely a really cool, really free game site, enjoy, and let the games begin.

<http://www.miniclip.com/Homepage.htm>

[Welcome to America](#)

Welcome to America has most of the welcome signs in each state, information on that state, and much more.

It also comes with easy viewing options, you can either use the side bar to travel through the site state by state or you can use the navigation at the top to travel through different sections. I found the side bar was easier because you seem to get all the information at once.

So go ahead and check out these fabulous signs, I think my personal favorite was Hawaii because it's huge sign saying Aloha. Enjoy!

<http://welcometoamerica.us/>

[SimSlots](#)

You can play slots for free, there are nine slots on the main page, and then you can go through the free slot pages to play different ones. Your favorites might be the [Candy Store](#), which is on the main page, and the [Pirates](#), which is on the fourth free slot page.

Now, the slots on the main page are the ones where you can submit entries into their monthly prize drawing. I don't bother with that cause I'm just not a believer in sweepstakes and the like; however, the site gives you fifty credits to start and when you run out you just hit add credits and you get fifty more. I know you want to ask how much this costs to play... Well, that's the best part!

It's free. So have fun, sit back, relax, and enjoy.

<http://www.simslots.com/>

[An Atlas of the Universe](#)

Have you ever wondered what the universe actually looks like? Now you can with the Atlas of the Universe.

The page contains nine different maps to give you an idea of what the universe actually looks like. The nine maps start with the nearest stars and then move outward farther and farther away from the Earth. You can even see the negative version of these maps. And there's even a glossary to explain some of the terms used on the page. Have fun with your look into the galaxy.

<http://anzwers.org/free/universe/>

[Wonder Screens](#)

Welcome to the site where you can download free wonder screens!

You're probably wondering what a wonder screen is. Well, it's an active desktop wallpaper, for lack of a better description. There is a further explanation on the site's sidebar.

The best part is that it's all free. Click the preview link to see the screen before you download it. You will also find a FAQ running along the side bar. You can also download free stationary from this site. Enjoy!

<http://thundercloud.net/activescreens/>

Here is a list of Web sites that may well be useful and/or interesting.

Sarasota, Florida website

Everything you want to know about Sarasota restaurants, movies, attractions, accommodations, etc.

www.4sarasota.com

Ancestor's Attic

This web site has a lot of information to help you get started and continue searching for your family tree

<http://members.aol.com/Tuffsearch/Genealogylinks.html>

And now....the rest of the story....

[Paul Harvey – The Voice of the Millennium](#)

If you prefer radio broadcasts for your news, you can get that here too. A very informative site, give it a gander.

<http://www.paulharvey.com/>



Some AOL Time Saver Keystrokes:

Want to move around AOL quicker and easier? Here are a few time savers to help you along...
(Hold the Ctrl key and press the letter key once and let go of both keys to complete the action)

- Ctrl+G - Find another member's profile
- Ctrl+I - Send an Instant Message
- Ctrl+K - Keyword
- Ctrl+M - Write Mail
- Ctrl+L - Locate another AOL member
- Ctrl+N - Open Notepad
- Ctrl+O - Open Documents
- Ctrl+P - Print
- Ctrl+R - Read Mail
- Ctrl+S - Save a file in your documents

[Kewl Box Games](#)

A while back I told you about a game called Santa Balls, (formerly Elf Bowling). Well, now you can check out more games by Kewl Box. At this site, you'll find Braving the Elements, Sketchy Snow Sledding, Frenz, and many, many more. Two of my favorites were...

Flip the Mix - You have to match M&M's and beat Red's score. Flip the M&M's by color so that you have at least a match of three. This one is as addicting as Gems.

Star War Villains Swappers - This is a puzzle game where you have to swap pieces of the puzzle until you solve it. Your goal is to do it in the fewest moves.

You can download the games from the web page to play anytime on your computer, or play them online by choosing the link you want to use. It takes a while for the game to load the first time you play it.

Sit back relax and play some games. Enjoy!

<http://www.kewlbox.com/games/index.cfm>

[Terra Fly](#)

Are you ready to explore a digital earth? Well at Terra Fly, you can do just that. Type in the address and be ready to soar.

Using Satellites to view the world you get a nice image of where you are while you fly. Flying on this site is free, but there may be a charge if you actually want to order the picture you are seeing. Please read the frequently asked questions on the site to get the full details.

I viewed my house and was surprised at all the different things in my town that I recognized from the air, looking down on my house was strange. It's like viewing the world from the window of an airplane except there's no plane. Enjoy your bird's eye view of the world!

<http://www.terrafly.com/>

[Net Cooks](#)

Welcome to Cyber Soup, where you'll find tons of recipes from all over the World Wide Web. I didn't think I could find any more fabulous cooking sites, but I did. Unlike some of the other sites that I've run this one is an international recipe database. You can get recipes here from all over the world.

I also really loved the conversion table that they had built into the sidebar - be sure to try it out.

I'm sure you'll love their international cooking links, as well as their easy interface for finding that elusive perfect recipe. Happy Cooking!

<http://www.netcooks.com/>

[Corn Field Maze](#)

It's that time of year again! Fall is slowly coming upon us and so are the cornfield mazes. Corn Field Mazes, you say? Yup, this site will tell you all about these strange things. You can even find a cornfield maze near you.

From this site you can visit different sites about cornfield mazes, check out mazes in the news, visit a maze, or learn how to make your own. Definitely a strange site, but with tons of interesting things to see and do. Check this one out for some autumn fun... Enjoy!

There is one in Ocala, FL that might be a fun trip for you to take, but hurry, they aren't open very long in the Fall.

<http://www.cornfieldmaze.com/>

[Bad Fads Museum](#)

Welcome to the Bad Fads Museum where you can take a look at all the bad fads of the past. This site is divided into four central units: Fashion, Activities, Collectibles, and Events. Follow an alphabetical listing of bad fads in Fashion and you'll experience every thing from Afro's to Zubaz. Are these a blast from your past?

Upon entering this site, I was most fascinated by what activities were considered to be bad fads. There I found 3D movies, unicycles, fallout shelters, and hacky sack just to name a few. Go experience all the bad fads provided. This one was unique!

<http://www.badfads.com/home.html>

[The Movie Mom](#)

Another fabulous site to help make sure you know everything about the movies and videos your children are seeing. This site features reviews for children ages 2-18 and slogan that reads "Helping Families share great movies, great times, and great conversations".

A nice feature on this site is that it easily divided into sections, for better and faster navigation. Are you interested in New Releases, or an old favorite rental? Don't know when it came out or what section you can find it in? Use the search engine. Whatever the case, there are well written reviews on the movies that your children want to see.

<http://www.moviemom.com/>

[Better Grammar](#)

Is it your or you're? Its or it's? Bare or bear?

If you've ever wondered about proper word usage, here's a site that can help. They have an excellent collection of common grammatical errors that you can browse through.

<http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/>

[Fun Trivia](#)

I wanted a fun way to challenge my mind. So I went surfing around and found Fun Trivia. What does it entail? Lots and lots of trivia question for you to answer and keep your mind sharp.

With thousands of trivia puzzles, and question for you to solve, you'll never get bored. You can even think of your own trivia questions and make up your own puzzles for people to solve.

Yes, you do have to register, but it's free. You pick an I.D. and a password, fill in your full name (or make one up), your city, your country, and your e-mail address. Then you enter the member's area where you can play and create to your hearts content.

You won't get bored here, enjoy!

<http://www.funtrivia.com/>

[Screen It!](#)

Finally, what parents all over have been looking for - a way to read reviews for films, DVD's, and music written specifically to let you know what your children might be seeing or hearing. The easy way to decide if a film or album is appropriate for your children to view or hear.

This site is divided into sections by genre such as: New Movies, All Movies, New Videos, All Videos, DVD, and Music. Choose the area you would like to view, then read the review on the subject of your choice. It goes through each selection and allows you to review every aspect of the movie or song to then make an informed decision as to whether it is appropriate for your child.

It even tells you how likely it is that your child will want to see or hear the piece in question. Check it out!

<http://www.screenit.com/>

Finally -This one might come in handy for the Holiday Season:

[Candy Usa](#)

Do you have a sweet tooth? Well if so, you can visually feed it at this site. Learn how to make candy crafts, read candy statistics, find candy recipes, as well as candy trivia. Read up on Nutrition and Health information where they answer such questions as:

"Is my candy safe?"

And cover topics like:

"Psychology" foods, Chocolate Does Not Raise Cholesterol, and Snacks, Chocolate, Candy and Kids, and many more. Check out this very tasty eye candy.

<http://www.candyusa.org/>



The above items submitted for your consideration by:

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P.S. I would like to ask for your assistance in getting referrals. Perhaps you already know of someone who could benefit from my services? I would be pleased and grateful if you would give them my number.

Personal Computer Training, Beginner to Advanced, Internet and Email, Software Programs, Finance and Stock tracking, Digital photos and Cameras, Web Site Creation Assistance, Special Projects, Buying Assistance, System Setup and Installation
Software Installation, Troubleshooting Assistance, Internet Connection Installation

"Senior Friendly" Services

Learn how to use your computer to do the tasks that you want to do. Call Jules Porchey "The Computer Man" at 927-1428

