

ELEMENTAL

COMPUTER WORDS





**IN
SEARCH OF
THE
ELUSIVE
YETI
BY NICOLE**

How did we come up with the name "Yeti Technologies?" People ask us this quite frequently. Not just our clients, either. Bankers,



OLD YETI TECH LOGO

doctors, just about anyone Wayne encounters when he's in one of his Yeti shirts.

First things first. For those who don't know, "yeti" is another name for the Abominable Snowman, a mythological snow creature not unlike its North American cousin, Bigfoot. Now that we've cleared that up, you might be wondering what a "yeti" has to do with computer stuff. Short answer-nothing. The name Yeti Technologies came from a brainstorming session between Wayne and me way back

September 2007, Issue No. 2

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From the Desk of Wayne...



Thank you, thank you, thank you.... This month we celebrate a huge milestone - our 10th year in business! It's been an amazing journey. There have been a lot of hours, a lot of all-nighters, even a few tears. But we never once wanted to quit. We love what we do, and we appreciate the trust you've put in us. Thanks for choosing us for your computer and network needs. Here's to the next 10 years together!

when we decided to set out into the wonderful world of entrepreneurship. Yeti was a word that just sort of hit me. It was short and distinctive and seemed like it lent itself well to logos and marketing materials. But in reality, it doesn't really mean anything. We just kind of liked it, and it stuck.

Not the most interesting tale ever told, but it certainly has served us well for the past ten years.

As a special ten-year celebration bonus for our customers, somewhere in this issue is a clue to win an instant prize. All you have to do is find the clue and be the first person to follow the instructions. Good luck!

Some other fun facts about Yeti Technologies:

- Our original logo was taken from an actual photo of an actual yeti footprint!
- Our current logo was designed as a Father's Day present for Wayne because he really wanted his shirts to have yetis on them.
- Some of our clients think that Yeti is our last name, and will call Wayne "Wayne Yeti" to this day.

So there it is. The story of how we put the "Yeti" in "Yeti Tech."



Yeti Tech Reaches 10 Year Milestone!

By Nicole

You don't make it ten years in business without a lot of help. We would like to take a few inches of Newsletter space to thank all the people who have offered us support and assistance over the past decade.

First, we must acknowledge Angelo and Margaret Barr for giving us the initial capital (and advice and moral support) back in the early days of Yeti Technologies. When we started Yeti, we didn't have bad



The Yeti Mobile under 2 feet of snow

Julio Edwards is not only a tech/newsletter guru here at Yeti/ECW, he is also an old friend and client. Over the years, he has provided us with a multitude of referrals, has assisted with capital during our expansion period, and even offered his filmmaking talents to video our wedding (his wife, Star, an accomplished harpist, provided the music).



Basement office in Littleton

credit, we had NO credit, and the Barr's were kind enough to let us use and abuse their credit while we established some of our own.

We would also like to recognize Dan Sillars and Iva Lou Bailey. Their company was our first "official" client, and they have been with us ever since. In addition, we need to thank Dave Johnston for being one of our biggest supporters and cheerleaders.



Wayne's desk years back

Most of our long-time clients know Wilma Keach. She wrestled with our books and stretched our dollars until they begged for mercy. She was with us when we worked

out of our house, and she and her husband, Jon, helped us pull carpet and sling paint on the walls of our first retail storefront. Wilma is now retired from Yeti Tech and Elemental Computer Works and enjoying the peace and quiet of life in the mountains.



The Yeti Tech Garage Office
before (above) and after (below)



We already thanked Julio, but we need to also thank Marilyn for manning the phones, deciphering the schedule, and keeping us all in line, and Keith for chasing around after Wayne onsite and working his fingers to the bone in the shop so that Wayne can get home at a decent hour for a change.

Last, we need to thank all of you who referred your friends, family and businesses to us. Because of that, we never needed to market ourselves or advertise.

And, finally, a big THANK YOU to all the clients who have been with us since 1997. We hope to see you all in 2017! Here is a list of the customers that have been with us from the 1st year till now.

10 Year Yeti Tech Customers

- Arapahoe Utilities and Infrastructure
- Argus of Colorado
- Art of Gold
- Harry Brown - Federal Security Associates
- Brian & Mary Yaklich - LePeep Cinderella City
- Mary Ann & Stephen Conner
- Data Connect Corporation
- Dave Johnston - Johnston Tax & Accounting Services
- Denver District Attorney's Office
- Double T Balancing
- Gloette Hess
- Dan Sillers & Iva Lou Bailey
- Jim Kenney
- Stephen & Laura Jones
- Kathleen Stowers
- Lakewood Country Club
- Lynda Tarufelli
- Mechanical Systems Analysis
- Mike Kinneer
- Neil Jones
- Reggie Williams
- Roy Miles
- Steve Siegel & Family
- Bob & Erin Vaughan
- Jack Young, Rocky Mountain Financial Management

I Remember When . . .

by Nicole

. . . we put two desks in the 2nd bedroom of a small 2 bedroom house and waited for the phone to ring.

. . . we stayed up all night building forty systems for a certain government agency. We got to watch The French Connection, the French Connection 2, AND CHiPs!

. . . Nicole took on a contract job assisting to build an enormous website for an Internet-based university. She was up until 4 and 5 AM for many days, but she learned an awful lot about HTML!

. . . Wayne's legendary '78 Trans Am broke down in Boulder on his way to a client's house. That same client was kind enough to retrieve Wayne from the side of the road and let him work at his house until a ride home could be arranged.



AJ and Wilma

. . . our pick-up truck couldn't make it up the very long, steep and icy driveway of a client's house, so we had to haul her

computer, monitor and accessories up that long, steep, icy driveway the old-fashioned way. She decided not to buy the computer.



The original Wayne, 10 years ago

. . . Wayne drove home in the year's worst blizzard, at 1AM, from a client's house in Ward to Littleton, in the aforementioned 2-wheel drive pickup. (We have since sold that truck.)

. . . Wayne stayed at a certain home health care agency all day, all night, and all of the next day after a major server crash.

. . . Wayne worked on a server crash for a certain infrastructure company SOLID from about 10AM Friday till 9AM Monday - no breaks or sleep.

. . . we walked into a little shop with threadbare carpet, stained walls, broken lights and ceiling tiles, and imagined a place called Elemental Computer Works.

. . . we wrote invoice #1 to a couple that lives east of Parker.

. . . we went 3 years without a vacation

A Decade of Change

by Ken Polsson

Things move fast in the world of computer technology. Here are just a few things that have happened in the industry over the past ten years.

1997

- Hewlett-Packard announces the HP 200LX handheld computer, with 4 MB RAM, priced at US\$599.
- Compaq Computer introduces the Presario 2100 computer. It features 132 MHz Cyrix MediaGX processor, 15-in monitor, 24 MB RAM, 2 GB hard drive, 33.6 kbps modem, 8X CD-ROM drive. Price is US\$999.
- US Robotics begins shipping new 56 kbps modems.
- US Senator Orrin Hatch holds a hearing in Microsoft's alleged antitrust activities, questioning Bill Gates, Scott McNealy of Sun Microsystems, and Jim Barksdale of Netscape Communications. Bill Gates admits Microsoft's contracts with Internet content companies are barred from promoting Netscape's browser.

1998

- Desktop PCs sold in US with Intel processor: 70%
- Microsoft reaches a deal with the US Department of Justice, in which Microsoft will hide the Internet Explorer icon on Windows 95.
- The Fox Broadcasting Company airs The Simpsons TV show in the US. A personal computer is used to access the Internet over 28.8kbps modem. Bill Gates appears, offering to buy out a competing Internet company. Instead of actually buying the company, two of his goons trash the office.
- 3Com introduces the Palm III handheld computer. It features Palm OS 3.0, 2 MB RAM, 2 MB ROM, infrared port, 2.4 x 2.4 inch 160 x 160 pixel backlit LCD monochrome touch-screen display, serial port, stylus, six buttons. Size is 4.7 x 3.2 x 0.7 inches; weight is 5.7 ounces; price is US\$399.
- The US Department of Justice and twenty state attorneys general file a lawsuit against Microsoft, charging the company with violations of the Sherman Act: exclusive dealing and unlawful tying, monopoly maintenance in the operating system market, and attempted monopoly of the browser market. The suit seeks a preliminary injunction for Microsoft either to offer Windows 98 without Internet Explorer, or bundle Netscape Navigator as well.

1999

- At Macworld Expo, Steve Jobs announces the release of new iMac computers in five bright colors. Each includes 266 MHz PowerPC G3 processor, 32 MB RAM, 15-inch monitor, and 6 GB hard drive. Price is US\$1199.
- Sierra releases the Half-Life computer game for Windows-based computers in the US. (In 2001, PC Gamer magazine calls it the best computer game ever.)
- Intel announces the Pentium III processor. Initial speeds are 450 and 500 MHz. The processor introduces 70 new Streaming SIMD Extensions (SSE). Each processor has a unique identity code that can be accessed over the Internet. Code-name for the processor during development was Katmai.
- Families of victims of a school shooting in Paducah, Kentucky, file a lawsuit in US District Court seeking US\$130 million. The suit is filed against movie, Internet, and computer game companies including Nintendo, Sega, and Sony. The suit alleges games such as Nightmare Creatures, Doom, Quake, and Mortal Kombat negatively influenced 14-year-old Michael Carneal who killed three and wounded five at his high school.

2000

- Y2K!!!
- Maxis releases The Sims game for the PC. (Almost one million copies sell in the first two months.)
- Microsoft announces its next consumer operating system will be called Windows Me, short for Windows Millennium Edition.
- In San Francisco, California, Microsoft unveils the Windows 2000 operating system. Upgrade price is US\$189 from Windows 95 or Windows 98, or US\$129 from Windows NT. (1.5 million copies are sold in the first two months.)
- U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Jackson issues his Conclusions of Law, ruling that Microsoft acted illegally to protect its operating system monopoly, and used its monopoly position to attempt to monopolize the market for Web browser software.
- Bill Gates states that Microsoft will file an appeal of the ruling of Judge Jackson.
- The computer virus "Love Letter" infects personal computers around the world in about six hours. A total of 55 million computers encounter the virus, with 2.5 to 3 million becoming infected. Estimated

cost of downtime is US\$8.7 billion.

- Nvidia releases the GeForce2 MX video card.

2001

- The US Surgeon General's office releases a report: "Youth and Violence: A Report of the Surgeon General". It concludes that media influences play a low role in contributing to youth violence.
- Microsoft announces that Office 10 for Windows will be called Office XP, and that its next Windows operating system will be called Windows XP. The 'XP' name is short for 'experience'.
- Microsoft officially releases Windows 2000 Service Pack 2. The update fixes over 500 software bugs.
- Apple Computer launches its first retail store, in McLean, Virginia.
- Quote by Microsoft chairman Bill Gates: "For things I do today, the computer is often confusing."

2002

- Microsoft begins selling routers for home networking
- QuakeCon 2002 is held in Mesquite, Texas, over four days, hosted by id Software. About 3000 gamers attend. id Software presents Doom III. Overall Quake III champion is LeXer, winning US\$20,000. Team champion is the Doctors, winning US\$25,000 for the Return to Castle Wolfenstein competition.
- The CBS TV network airs the 48 Hours Investigates show. The computer game EverQuest is presented as addictive and dangerous.

2003

- The Slammer worm (also called Sapphire or SQL Hell) begins spreading across the Internet, exploiting a flaw in Microsoft SQL Server 2000, infecting personal computers around the world. Within ten minutes, the worm has reached 90 percent of the Internet, infecting over 75,000 machines. Within another thirty minutes, one-fifth of Internet data packets are infected.
- Logitech ships its 500 millionth mouse pointing device.

2004

- The Sasser worm is first noticed on the loose, affecting Windows 2000 and Windows XP. The worm crashes and reboots computers, replicating itself to other computers. Millions of computers are quickly affected worldwide
- Research In Motion announces the BlackBerry 7290 handheld computer in the US. It features

GSM/GPRS wireless networking, color screen, 32 MB flash memory, 4 MB SRAM, Price is US\$149.

2005

- The Computer Industry Almanac releases an estimated count of personal computers in use around the world: total 820 million, USA 223.81 million, Japan 69.2 million, China 52.99 million, Germany 46.3 million.
- Intel releases the 64-bit Pentium 4 630, 640, 650, and 660 processors. Speeds are 3 GHz, 3.2 GHz, 3.4 GHz, and 3.6 GHz, respectively. They feature 2 MB level 2 cache, 169 million transistors, 135 mm² die size, 90-nanometre fabrication, Enhanced SpeedStep technology, Execute Disable Bit, EM64T 64-bit extension instructions, 800 MHz front-side bus. Prices are: US\$224, US\$273, US\$401, and US\$605, respectively, each in 1000-unit quantities.
- Intel releases the 64-bit 3.73 GHz Pentium 4 Extreme Edition processor. It features 2 MB level 2 cache, 169 million transistors, 135 mm² die size, 90-nanometre fabrication, Enhanced SpeedStep technology, Execute Disable Bit, EM64T 64-bit extension instructions, 1.066 GHz front-side bus. Price is US\$999 in 1000-unit quantities.

2006-present

- Intel announces it is dropping the 25-year old "Intel Inside" campaign and the 37-year old Intel logo with dropped "e". The new logo is lowercase "intel" in an oval, with tag line "Leap ahead".
- Apple Computer introduces the first iMac computer with an Intel processor. It features 2.0 GHz Intel Core Duo T2500 processor, 1 GB RAM, 250 GB hard drive, 128 MB ATI Radeon X1600 graphics card, dual-layer DVD+/-RW drive, Mac OS X 10.4.4, 20-inch wide-screen LCD, AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth 2, iSight camera, USB, FireWire, audio, Ethernet. Price is US\$1699.
- Palm introduces the Treo 700w handheld computer. It features Windows Mobile operating system, 60 MB storage, 1.3 megapixel camera, tiny keyboard, and color screen.

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www.islandnet.com/~kpolsson/comphist/

This is the secret clue mentioned on the first page of this newsletter: The first person to fax a piece of paper with their name, phone number and email address to 303-703-3078 with the secret word on it (you have to guess it) wins a special prize.

HDMI : a new connection for computers

By Wayne & Julio

Our custom-built computers are always on the leading edge of technology. We recently started offering a very exciting custom notebook: the Santa Ana SR12. Among the cool stuff incorporated in this notebook is the Intel P965 "Santa Rosa" chipset (the highest-performance available anywhere), Biometric "fingerprint reader" login, and Wireless N. This is also our first notebook with an HDMI port. Not many people know what HDMI is, so hopefully this article will help.

HDMI stands for High-Definition Multimedia Interface. It was designed to carry the audio and video signals from DVD, Satellite and Cable boxes to High-Definition TVs. HDMI is an improvement on a technology originally developed for computers: DVI (Digital Video Interface). Many of you have a DVI connection on your computer or monitor. DVI was developed from a need to bring a higher level of image and color quality to computer displays. Instead of the digital to analog conversion previously available, DVI allowed a straight digital input to the monitor.

HDMI benefits

- HDMI carries both video and audio signals over one cable.
- The HDMI interface is much smaller than the DVI connection, let alone DVI plus audio connections.
- HDMI allows for increased color depth. Previously, 24-bit color was the highest available color output. This was called "True Color" because the human eye has difficulty distinguishing different shades of color above this level. But with HDMI, monitors can display 32 bit or even 48-bit color.
- HDMI can be used with a converter cable or adapter to enable it to work with DVI connections; so you don't have to get a new monitor to plug into your neat new HDMI connector on the computer.

So, should you buy a computer with HDMI? Basically, the people who should consider HDMI are those that are planning to use their computer with a home theater setup. However, if your computer comes with HDMI standard, consider it a nice bonus.

HDMI advantages over existing analog interfaces such as composite, S-Video and component video

- Quality HDMI transfers uncompressed digital audio and video for the highest, crispest image quality.
- All Digital HDMI ensures an all-digital rendering of

video without the losses associated with analog interfaces and their unnecessary digital-to-analog conversions.

- Low-cost HDMI provides the quality and functionality of a digital interface while also supporting uncompressed video formats in a simple, cost-effective manner.
- Audio HDMI supports multiple audio formats, from standard stereo to multi-channel surround-sound.
- Ease-of-use HDMI combines video and multi-channel audio into a single cable, eliminating the cost, complexity, and confusion of multiple cables currently used in A/V systems.
- Intelligence HDMI supports communication between the video source (such as a DVD player) and the DTV, enabling new functionality.

Learn more about HDMI at these sites:

Wikipedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HDMI

HDMI.org

www.hdmi.org

HDMI Tutorial

www.pacificcable.com/HDMI_Tutorial.htm



High-Definition
Multimedia Interface Port

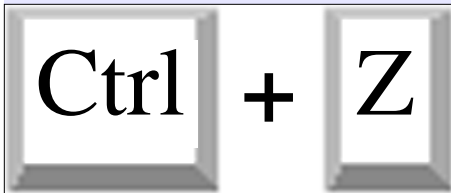
Photo source: www.tomshw.it

Time Saving Tips - Shortcut Keys

By Keith

So once again I'm here to teach you a couple of interesting shortcuts to make your life easier. If you read the last newsletter you remember we learned about copy and paste. This time we are going to learn a couple more favored key combinations: Undo and Repeat (also called Redo from time to time).

To make the keys being pressed that much easier to understand, I will surround individual keys with the square brackets "[" and "]". So the Enter key would simply be [Enter].



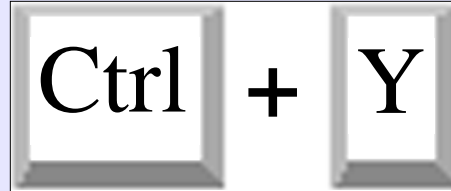
Control + Z will undo the last command in most programs

[CTRL][Z] and [CTRL][Y] are a couple tools that have made people jump for joy. If you are like me you may have made a couple mistakes while copy and pasting. A classic example is to have an entire document you want to copy selected and then hitting [C] before you are holding [CTRL]. The end result of this mistake is all of your text gone to be replaced by a lower case "c". Undo is here to be your friend and correct that mistake. To ask our friend Undo for help we simply hold down [CTRL] and press [Z]. Some Windows programs will allow you to undo multiple mistakes. Some will only allow you to undo that last one. That is up to the individual programs themselves.

Let's say that you were formatting a document and trying differ-

ent things to make it look nice. After getting half way through you realize that you don't like some of your more recent changes. Using Undo multiple times you accidentally pass where you wanted to stop. Rather than have to go through the steps again to make those formatting changes, you could use the Repeat option. To do this, hold down [CTRL] and then press the [Y] key.

These two key combinations are a life saver and I am sure you will find them useful. I've used each of those key combinations at least 3 times during the typing of this article. That includes our previous friends copy and paste.



Control + Y will repeat the last command in most programs

That's all I have for you in this article. These are just a couple shortcut keys. You may notice on the menus at the top of most programs that it says "Ctrl + Z" or "Ctrl + Y" behind the options for Undo and Repeat. Those are the shortcut keys to those options. Some keyboards even have the shortcut keys listed along the bottom edge of the keys on the keyboard, some with coded symbols. It's worth the time to get to know shortcut keys for commands you use often. It will save you time and not having to repeat work is always a plus in my book. Till next time, enjoy.



Cool
Compact
Efficient
Quiet
the X-A
from
Elemental
Computer
Works

It's called the X-A, (X for 10, A for Anniversary) and it is perfect for anyone looking to surf the web, work on documents, or even for a home server to store a bunch of data

or act as a print server. How about a homework computer for the kids? It can also be a great media center computer, running MythTV. Add a second network card and it can be a great fire-wall router.

The X-A comes standard with Ubuntu 7.04 Linux, including everything you need to be productive. With Ubuntu Desktop Edition you can surf the web, read email, create documents and spreadsheets, edit images and much more. If needed, you can upgrade to Windows Vista Basic or XP Home for \$99 more.

The C3 Processor is very energy efficient - it draws about 5 watts of power, with a peak of 8.5 watts. This represents about 1/3 to 1/2 of a typical CPU's usage. This will help you save

For our 10th Anniversary, we are making available a new computer for only \$249 including everything except a monitor. With a 17" LCD Flat Panel, the price is \$399

money on your energy bill, especially for systems running 24x7.

It also runs very cool, so it requires only a passive heat sink to cool it! And since there is no CPU fan, it is a very quiet computer.



Specifications:

Via C3 Processor - 800 MHz + 512MB RAM (Optional 1GB for \$20) + Asus Motherboard and Chassis + DVD-ROM (Optional DVD Burner for \$12) + Seagate Barracuda 80GB 7200 RPM Hard Drive + Logitech Keyboard and Logitech Optical Mouse + 133MHz Front Side Bus + 2GB Max Memory + Expansion Slots: 1 PCI Expansion Slot + 2 x IDE ATA 100 ports + 2 x Serial ATA 150 ports + Integrated VIA UniChrome 2D/3D Video + Integrated Analog Devices AD1888 6-Channel Audio + 10/100 LAN + 1 x 3.5" internal bay + 1 x 3.5" external bay + 2 x 5.25" external bays + 2 x Front USB ports + 1 x Front IEEE 1394a Firewire port + Front audio jacks + PS/2 Keyboard and Mouse + 1 x Serial port + 1 x Parallel port + 2 x Rear USB + 1 x RJ45 + Rear Audio jacks + 1 x Game / MIDI Port + Dimensions 7.1" x 10.8" x 11.8"

Tech Support By Wayne



This month, we focus on our recent experience with Targus.

Targus is a major provider of computer accessories and peripherals, especially for notebooks.

A long-time customer purchased a new custom Santa Ana SR12 notebook, and wanted a docking station to go with it.

We have been selling a neat product for this: The Targus ACP60-US, which is a docking station/port replicator that uses the Express Card slot to provide external digital surround sound audio, video up to 1600x1200, Gigabit Ethernet, Parallel, Serial, and powered USB 2.0 ports.

Almost from the start, the customer was having problems with the unit. We tried some things that could have made a difference, but nothing did.

We were going to replace the unit, but Targus had released a new driver set. The drivers went from a version of 1.07 all the way to 2.02, which is a very substantial upgrade. This was perfect - we would try the new drivers and see if we had better success with them.

I downloaded the file from the Targus website. However, when we tried to run the file, we received an error stating that the zip file was corrupted. We tried to download and install again only to get the same result. Obviously, something had gone wrong when Targus uploaded the file to their servers.

I figured Targus would be able to either direct me to a different download location, email the drivers, or reload an uncorrupted file to their server. I placed a call to Targus tech support.

My call was directed to what I assume was a call center in India. This is not normally a problem for me - I have better luck communicating with the people there than most it seems. However, in this case, I had a very hard time understanding what the Indian lady was saying, and a harder time getting her to understand

what I wanted her to.

After several minutes of "I'm sorry, could you repeat that", and telling my story in as many different words and ways as I could think of, I eventually got the point across to her. After she understood what I wanted, she put me on hold because she needed to check with someone. When she came back on, the answer was that we had to try again tomorrow. I double-checked that there was no one else I could talk to, and then hung up.

The customer was not in dire need of the docking station, and so he agreed to try and re-download the file the next day. I setup a link to download the file on his desktop and left.

The customer tried the file the next day - with the same results. He kept trying every day for about a week. Finally - a day short of one week, he had success. Or at least we thought....



He downloaded the file and ran it. It unzipped successfully! He then ran the setup program from the unzipped files. Trouble again! The setup ran normally for awhile, and then asked for us to insert disk two. Of course, since this was a download, there was no disk two. The customer called me for help. I connected remotely to the computer, thinking that I just needed to tell the program where to find the setup file it was looking for on disk two.

I examined the files that had been unzipped, but the file was not there. I re-ran the unzip process from the original file - same result. Targus had not packaged the needed file in the zip file. Strike two, Targus....

A couple days later, we downloaded the file again. This one was more promising because it was about 12MB, as compared to 4.5MB for the file we downloaded before. This one allowed the setup to complete successfully.

Unfortunately, after all this, the customer is still having problems with the docking station. I am taking a replacement out to him this week.

Elemental Computer Works Presents
Monthly Computer Classes with Wayne
Starting Wednesday October 17th, 6-7:30 PM

Seating is limited - to sign up today call 303-703-3077

This class will focus on Anti-Spyware and Anti-Virus programs
Free for ECW & Yeti Tech customers who purchased desktops or notebooks within the last year or \$49 per person otherwise



Tid Bytes

Computers and electronics in the news - by Julio

Indian Tech Support

As you may remember, in late 2003 Dell cancelled its corporate tech support contract with



India, due to customer complaints about the lack of responsive service.

Photos of the phone lines your tech support calls go through in India

Customers said the Indian techs were good at listening and explaining that they understood

why customers were angry, but they were not very good at fixing the problems. Since corporate customers make up about 85% of Dell's consumer base, Dell didn't have much choice



but to respond to the complaints and sever the connection to India. If you've ever had to call



India for tech support, this is what the phone lines look like that your call may be going through.

Sugar Battery Runs Sony Walkman

Remember last year when Sony (and many other computer companies) recalled about a million Sony laptop batteries due to reported spontaneous fires? Well, there were actually only a couple of fires reported, but the batteries did seem to get way too warm for normal use. Apparently Sony is now trying to redeem itself with a new battery that runs on sugar. Maybe if it gets too hot we can throw it on our cereal or our iced tea?



Battery on the left, sugar on the right, woman in the middle

The new battery works by breaking down the sugar and turning it into electricity. Enzymes digest the sugar and the anode extracts electrons from the glucose. The electrons flow from the anode to the cathode, creating the energy. The way Sony explains it, the battery "generates electricity from carbohydrates (sugar) utilizing enzymes as its catalyst, through the application of power generation principles found in living organisms." This could be the first green (bio friendly) battery on the market and has great implications for ridding our landfills with the current blight of corroding batteries.

You can watch an interesting video of how the battery the works (with no sound) at <http://www.sony.net/SonyInfo/News/Press/200708/07-074E/index.html>

Computer Humor from the Web

Improve Your Computer Vocabulary

Analog: Hors d'oeuvre, usually made from cheese and covered with crushed nuts

Backup: Opposite of go forward

Batch Processing: Making a lot of cookies at once

Binary: Possessing the ability to have friends of both sexes

Bit: 12 1/2 cents, six of these make a dollar.

Branch: If watered, it will grow into a computer club (see computer club)

Buffer: Programmer who works in the nude

Bug: 1. Programmer's term for a feature 2. An elusive creature living in a program which makes it incorrect.

Note: the activity of "debugging" or removing bugs from a program ends when a programmer gets tired of doing it, not when all the bugs are removed

Character density: The number of very weird people in the office, divided by the floor space

Computer: A device designed to speed and automate errors

Computer Club: Used to strike computer forcefully upon receiving error messages

Coding: An addictive drug

Compile: A heap of decomposing vegetable matter

Compiler: Noah Webster (1758-1843)

Console: What one does to a depressed computer

Cursor: An expert in 4-letter words

Dump: A system programmer's work area

Feature: Hardware limitation as described by a marketing representative

Hardware: The parts of a computer which can be kicked

Keyboard: An instrument used for entering errors into a system

Language: A system of organizing and defining error messages

Loop: See loop

Machine-independent Program: A program which will not run on any machine

Microcomputer: One millionth of a computer

Null String: The result of a 4-hour database search

On-line: The idea that a human should always be accessible

Password: The nonsense word taped to your terminal

Performance: A statement of the speed at which a computer system works. Or rather, might work under certain circumstances. Or was rumored to be working about a month ago

Printer: Johann Gutenberg (1400-1468)

Quality Control: Ensuring that the quality of a product does not get out of hand and add to the cost of its manufacture or design

Strategy: A long-range plan whose merit cannot be evaluated until sometime after those creating it have left the organization

The Oldest Profession

There was a doctor, a civil engineer, and a computer scientist sitting around late one evening, and they got to discussing which was the oldest profession.

The doctor pointed out that according to Biblical tradition, God created Eve from Adam's rib. This obviously required surgery, so therefore that was the oldest profession in the world.

The engineer countered with an earlier passage in the Bible that stated that God created order from the chaos, and that was most certainly the biggest and best civil engineering example ever, and also proved that his profession was the oldest profession.

The computer scientist leaned back in her chair, and with a sly smile responded, "Yes, but who do you think created the chaos?"

Undocumented Error Codes

WinErr 001: Windows loaded - System in danger

WinErr 002: No Error - Yet, give it time

WinErr 003: Dynamic linking error - Your mistake is now in every file

WinErr 004: Erroneous error - Nothing is wrong

WinErr 005: Multitasking attempted - System confused

WinErr 007: System price error - Inadequate money spent on hardware

WinErr 008: Broken window - Watch out for glass fragments

WinErr 009: Horrible bug encountered - God knows what has happened

WinErr 00A: Promotional literature overflow - Mailbox full

WinErr 00B: Inadequate disk space - you need to spend more on hard drives

WinErr 00C: Memory hog error - More Ram needed. More! More! More!

WinErr 00E: Unexplained error - Please tell us how this happened

WinErr 010: Reserved for future mistakes by our developers

WinErr 013: Unexpected error - Huh ?

WinErr 013: Expected error - Dooh!

WinErr 014: Keyboard locked - Try anything you can think of

WinErr 018: Unrecoverable error - System has been destroyed. Buy a new one

WinErr 019: User error - Not our fault. Is Not! Is Not!

WinErr 01D: System crash - We are unable to figure out our own code

WinErr 01E: Timing error - Please wait. And wait. And wait. And wait

WinErr 01F: Reserved for future mistakes of our developers

WinErr 020: Error recording error codes - Additional errors will be lost

WinErr 079: Mouse not found - Please click the left mouse button to continue

WinErr 678: This will end your Windows session. Do you want to play another game?

WinErr 683: Time out error - Operator fell asleep while waiting for the system to complete boot procedure.

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