
Subject: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 26 Jun 2018 10:31:32 GMT

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Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

Yankland and its politics is increasingly irrelevant on a day-to-day basis to the rest of the world (Trump and Clinton the only candidates?????), so is anyone here interested in computers?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 26 Jun 2018 12:26:17 GMT

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Originally posted by: AndyW

On 26/06/2018 11:31, Gareth's Downstairs Computer wrote:

- > Yankland and its politics is increasingly irrelevant on
- > a day-to-day basis to the rest of the world (Trump and
- > Clinton the only candidates?????), so is anyone here
- > interested in computers?

Says the guy who just started the thread on Trump and Korea...

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Tue, 26 Jun 2018 19:00:02 GMT

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On 2018-06-26, Gareth's Downstairs Computer

<headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

- > Yankland and its politics is increasingly irrelevant on
- > a day-to-day basis to the rest of the world (Trump and
- > Clinton the only candidates?????), so is anyone here
- > interested in computers?

+++++

--

greymaus.ireland.ie

Will Rant for Food

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 26 Jun 2018 19:55:43 GMT

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Originally posted by: nobody

On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 11:31:32 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Yankland and its politics is increasingly irrelevant on
> a day-to-day basis to the rest of the world (Trump and
> Clinton the only candidates????), so is anyone here
> interested in computers?

Cleaning out my shed, I just unearthed some boxes of my old Tandy Color Computer stuff. A few intact examples (1 through 3, and I think an MC10) plus a bunch of peripherals, cables, tapes, disks, reference manuals. Been at least 20 years since I put power to any of it.

Part of me wants to say how awesome it all was. And it did get me started. I first learned to program the MC-10's slightly funky BASIC, so deeply baked-in that the keywords had keyboard shortcuts in hardware. Seems weird now.

Then there was Color and Extended BASIC, then 6809 assembler. Hacking hardware to add RAM where Tandy never meant for RAM to go, overclocking to nearly 2MHz (!), burning custom DOS EPROMs, letting the smoke out more times than I care to admit. But the fact is that all of this wasn't very shiny after all...sure, it got me started, and at the time it was all I could afford, but I didn't know what else I was missing. Nostalgia is funny.

By the time I had hardware that could run OS-9, I'd begun to have access to x86 type PCs, and that was pretty much the end of that phase. It would take many more years before I started to learn about OSES that could do amazing things like run two programs at once.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 26 Jun 2018 20:08:31 GMT

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Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 26/06/2018 20:55, Scott wrote:

> On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 11:31:32 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer
> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:
>

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> access to x86 type PCs, and that was pretty much the end of that
> phase. It would take many more years before I started to learn about
> OSes that could do amazing things like run two programs at once.
>

I was never really interested in such machines, having a low-level interest in electronics, and was very much not-invented-here when it came to others' software, although I did have an Oric and an Atmos which were a pain in the bum because the colour on the VDU was controlled by in-line groups of pixels. Did a bit of machine code programming (NOT assembler :-() which meant every so often inserting a sequence of 3 NOPs in case of having to patch in a jump to sort a problem.

That low-level interest at the moment is trying to fathom out how to select each of the 4 processors in the RPi3 A53 implementation.

Early in my career, all systems came with a complete hardware manual including all the registers in I/O, so these days feel a little bit lost / swimming out of my depth / fighting blind when so little info is around today.

The Small Computer Handbook for the PDP8/E was a good example of an

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 05:55:33 GMT

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Originally posted by: AndyW

On 26/06/2018 20:55, Scott wrote:

> On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 11:31:32 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer

> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

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> all of this wasn't very shiny after all...sure, it got me started, and
> at the time it was all I could afford, but I didn't know what else I
> was missing. Nostalgia is funny.

I was the same with an Acorn Atom, it also could be overclocked to 2MHz
by the addition of a physical switch, some wires and careful soldering
and a capacitor or two.

I still have it and a second one I bought on impulse on ebay but never used.

....and yes Nostalgia is funny. I loved my Atom and loved playing games
and programming it (with a built-in assembler you could do a lot with a
few kB) But I fired it up recently and it is not a good experience.

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 07:10:57 GMT
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On 2018-06-27, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:
> On 26/06/2018 20:55, Scott wrote:
>> On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 11:31:32 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer
>> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:
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>>> Yankland and its politics is increasingly irrelevant on
>>> a day-to-day basis to the rest of the world (Trump and
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> and programming it (with a built-in assembler you could do a lot with a
> few kB) But I fired it up recently and it is not a good experience.
>

You can never go home!

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 08:11:19 GMT
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Originally posted by: AndyW

On 27/06/2018 08:10, maus wrote:
> On 2018-06-27, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:
>> On 26/06/2018 20:55, Scott wrote:
>>> On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 11:31:32 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer
>>> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>>
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>> and programming it (with a built-in assembler you could do a lot with a
>> few kB) But I fired it up recently and it is not a good experience.
>>
>
>
> You can never go home!

I think a lot of people who get misty eyed over old computers have never tried to go back and use them.

I used to use a prime system at university and I was in awe of it.

I had the chance to use one a few years ago and it is rubbish. Similarly I dug out an old CP/M machine and it is not at all as much fun how I remembered it.

I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.

Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program to compile and popping off to the pub.

Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 08:36:58 GMT

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Originally posted by: Neil Thompson

On Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 10:11:23 AM UTC+2, AndyW wrote:

> On 27/06/2018 08:10, maus wrote:

>> On 2018-06-27, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

>>> On 26/06/2018 20:55, Scott wrote:

>>>> On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 11:31:32 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer

>>>> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> > Yankland and its politics is increasingly irrelevant on

>>>> > a day-to-day basis to the rest of the world (Trump and

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> to compile and popping off to the pub.
>
> Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.
>
> Andy

You say that as if popping off to the pub while a compilation happens is a bad thing...

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 08:56:31 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 06:55:33 +0100, AndyW wrote:

> I was the same with an Acorn Atom, it also could be overclocked to 2MHz
> by the addition of a physical switch, some wires and careful soldering
> and a capacitor or two.

And the PC/XT motherboard (I managed to buy a PC Portable brand new for a bargain price).

Solder one jumper on the motherboard (I actually fitted a proper header and jumper). Insert a 74LS158 in the socket on the motherboard. Then replace the second two rows of 64kb chips with 256kb chips.

Result: 640kB actually on the motherboard - no extra wait states.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 09:11:45 GMT

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On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 01:36:58 -0700 (PDT)

Neil Thompson <albiorix@gmail.com> wrote:

> You say that as if popping off to the pub while a compilation happens is
> a bad thing...

It is when you discover that five minutes after you left it spat
out a syntax error.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

C:\>WIN

The computer obeys and wins.

You lose and Bill collects.

| Directable Mirror Arrays

| A better way to focus the sun

| licences available see

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 09:34:52 GMT

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On 27 Jun 2018 09:01:24 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> Couldn't agree more. I worked with MUMPS for a couple of years and loved
> it. I recently found and installed a Linux port of it, and thought it
> was junk.

It would be a very sad thing if things in the computing world
weren't much much better than they were thirty years ago given the way the
underlying technology has been improving.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

C:\>WIN

| Directable Mirror Arrays

| A better way to focus the sun

The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 09:59:06 GMT
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Originally posted by: Neil Thompson

On Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 11:30:06 AM UTC+2, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 01:36:58 -0700 (PDT)
> Neil Thompson <albiorix@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>> You say that as if popping off to the pub while a compilation happens is
>> a bad thing...
>
> It is when you discover that five minutes after you left it spat
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>
> --
> Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
> C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
> The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
> You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Hehe. True. It was worse though when we submitted our compilations on punch cards and only got the errors and listings back a day later. We used to check every card before submission. Ah, the days when machine time was expensive and programmers were cheap :-P

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 10:44:24 GMT
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On 27 Jun 2018 10:04:38 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-06-27, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>> It would be a very sad thing if things in the computing world
>> weren't much much better than they were thirty years ago given the way
>> the underlying technology has been improving.
>
> There's much that hasn't changed, though. It just got faster.

Sure but faster like the difference between a bicycle and a

scramjet.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 10:48:56 GMT
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Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 27/06/2018 10:34, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:
> On 27 Jun 2018 09:01:24 GMT
> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>
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> underlying technology has been improving.
>

Even sadder were those subscribers to a folklore group to castigate old times.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 11:35:39 GMT
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Originally posted by: nobody

On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 21:08:31 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer
<headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

> controlled by in-line groups of pixels. Did a bit of machine code
> programming (NOT assembler :() which meant every so often inserting
> a sequence of 3 NOPs in case of having to patch in a jump to sort
> a problem.

I did that once or twice, though mainly as an exercise. If the 6809 had microcode it was on a level I didn't understand, so in my case it was more like manual assembly than actual machine coding.

- > Early in my career, all systems came with a complete hardware manual
- > including all the registers in I/O, so these days feel a little bit lost
- > / swimming out of my depth / fighting blind when so little info is
- > around today.
- >
- > The Small Computer Handbook for the PDP8/E was a good example of an
- > informatie manual!

In a sense I think tech's complexity has outpaced my ability to keep up with it. The 6809 assembly handbook was about this >-< thick, something you could leaf through in a few hours and get the gist of it, if not all the details. The 8086 book was maybe twice as thick, or a bit less. Then the 286, 386, 486, 32 then 64 bits, on and on until I though I was back in the AS/400 lab with its entire wall covered in books. It gets to the point that sane people back away and adapt to using prefab tools that digest all this arcana and present it in neat, usable, pre-digested libraries.

I used to write libraries, back when I was crazy enough to get away with it. Now I just use others' libraries, which must mean I've gone sane. How boring is that?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 12:21:15 GMT

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On 27 Jun 2018 11:49:27 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-06-27, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>> On 27 Jun 2018 10:04:38 GMT

>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>>

>>> On 2018-06-27, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>>

>>>> It would be a very sad thing if things in the computing world

>>>> weren't much much better than they were thirty years ago given the

>>>> way the underlying technology has been improving.

>>>

>>> There's much that hasn't changed, though. It just got faster.

>>

>> Sure but faster like the difference between a bicycle and a

>> scramjet.

>
> Sure, but when I peered over the shoulders of my colleagues across the
> aisle, yes, they were running tcp3270 sessions on PCs instead of gigantic
> 3270 monitors, but ISPF/TSO looked *exactly* the same as it did 43 years
> ago when I saw it for the first time.

I'd like to hope it's a case of "if it ain't broke don't fix it",
but it's probably inertia.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
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The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 12:46:20 GMT
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Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 27/06/2018 12:35, Scott wrote:

>
> In a sense I think tech's complexity has outpaced my ability to keep
> up with it.

Been reading through the A53 / Aarm64 documentation off and on
for a few months; might finally get around to powering the RPi3 :-)

Still looking for the instructions that deal with controlling the
various CPUs, of which there are 4.

But, generally, all the facilities of the A53 are within my experience
except for SIMD and cryptography, so still hoping.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 15:16:55 GMT
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On 2018-06-27, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

> I think a lot of people who get misty eyed over old computers have never
> tried to go back and use them.
> I used to use a pr1me system at university and I was in awe of it.
> I had the chance to use one a few years ago and it is rubbish. Similarly

- > I dug out an old CP/M machine and it is not at all as much fun how I
- > remembered it.

Last year I cleaned the rat droppings out of my IMSAI, re-formed the electrolytics, and powered it up. Unfortunately, the boot EPROM has suffered bit rot. Someday, in my copious free time (hah!), I'm going to find the BIOS listing and an EPROM programmer (and cobble together that hack that lets you use a 2716 in place of a 2708, which is almost impossible to find or program these days) and get CP/M running.

- > I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
- > Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.

Not to mention emulations that would run rings around those old machines.

- > Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program
- > to compile and popping off to the pub.

I remember that. Two consumer-grade reel-to-reel tape units with hacked motor circuits, fed by a surplus Bell 202 modem - and a TTY35RO for a printer.

- > Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.

Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 15:16:56 GMT

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On 2018-06-27, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

- > On 27 Jun 2018 09:01:24 GMT
- > Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
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- >> was junk.
- >
- > It would be a very sad thing if things in the computing world
- > weren't much much better than they were thirty years ago given the way the
- > underlying technology has been improving.

And then there's Windows...

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 16:54:42 GMT

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On Wed, 27 Jun 2018, AndyW wrote:

- > I was the same with an Acorn Atom, it also could be overclocked to 2MHz by
- > the addition of a physical switch, some wires and careful soldering and a
- > capacitor or two.
- > I still have it and a second one I bought on impulse on ebay but never used.
- > ...and yes Nostalgia is funny. I loved my Atom and loved playing games and
- > programming it (with a built-in assembler you could do a lot with a few kB)
- > But I fired it up recently and it is not a good experience.

>

In the nineties, and early 2000s, I was finding lots of neat old computers. Well, someone gave me their old Apple II, but then I got a IIGS, an Amiga 500 and there were certainly others I could have bought cheap, like that Macintosh II or the Mac SE/30. Someone gave me a pair of Sun 3/50s, but it would have cost me to get the needed peripherals to put them in operation.

These were all computers I lusted after in some way when they were new. But I never did anything with the Apple II, I had enough nostalgia to keep it around but I didn't feel like spending the time to get good at it, and even then it wouldn't be like a recent computer. It's the same with the others, probably more so because they were less familiar.

I used a Radio Shack Color Computer (II and then later a III) until late 1993, when I was given a broken Mac Plus (the connector to the deflection coils was intermintent). So I stuck with the CoCo longer than many. I would have liked to stick with Microware OS-9, but the optinos were too expensive, it was Radio Shack that made that OS cheap. The Mac Plus was kind of a step backwards, since I had to get a hard drive to use it, and while it was more advanced, the resources went into the graphics, so it wasn't so much faster than my previous computer, and didn't really do anything that the CoCo couldn't, though finally I had a "mainstream" computer, albeit behind the times.

I used "older computers" because that's what I could afford or scrounge up. I miss the days when there was a variety of computer types and operating systems, but I don't want to go back. I finally got a computer "good enough" to run Linux in mid 2001, it was a long wait, and that fulfills my interest in computers as an end in itself. I don't need to run Linux, or a quad core computer running at 3.4GHz with 8gigs of ram, but I had the money two years ago and moved up because I could.

39 years ago, when I got my first "home computer", it was an end in itself, in part because with only 1K of RAM I couldn't use it for anything much in practical terms. So I spent time exploring computers. It wasn't until 1984 and my third computer that I had enough of a system to actually do things, which meant writing. My needs are pretty simple, but I like running the full system with Linux because it costs me nothing in terms of learning.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 17:01:31 GMT

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On Wed, 27 Jun 2018, AndyW wrote:

> On 27/06/2018 08:10, maus wrote:

>> You can never go home!

>

>

> I think a lot of people who get misty eyed over old computers have never
> tried to go back and use them.

Maybe for many, but there are small groups who are really into the old computers, not just collecting, but using them. Actually, they are more likely sticking with computers they started with when they were current. It's nostalgia, but it's not anti-technology, they generally do have more recent computers. But they are the ones who keep the software available or improve it, and create and buy new upgrades. It's not a minor thing to them. I can sort of grasp it all, but I can't get as excited.

>

> I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
> Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.

> Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program to
> compile and popping off to the pub.

>

I first tried C on a Radio Shack Color Computer, I guess by then it was the III maybe with 512K or RAM (I may not have had the upgrade when I got C) and only 2 5.25" floppy drives.

It was painful, and I had no other experience to compare it to. I'd type in a program, leaving endless errors since I was just starting, and it would take it's time to compile even a short program, and then a long stream of error messages. I soon gave up on C.

But yes, even on a 1GHz computer with 512K or RAM circa 2005, I tried C again and it was snappy. A short program would compile in no time, it was like running a BASIC program on a 1MHz computer. It makes so much difference.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 17:07:21 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wed, 27 Jun 2018, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

> On 2018-06-27, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

>

>> I think a lot of people who get misty eyed over old computers have never
>> tried to go back and use them.

>> I used to use a pr1me system at university and I was in awe of it.

>> I had the chance to use one a few years ago and it is rubbish. Similarly

>> I dug out an old CP/M machine and it is not at all as much fun how I

>> remembered it.

>

> Last year I cleaned the rat droppings out of my IMSAI, re-formed the
> electrolytics, and powered it up. Unfortunately, the boot EPROM has
> suffered bit rot. Someday, in my copious free time (hah!), I'm going
> to find the BIOS listing and an EPROM programmer (and cobble together
> that hack that lets you use a 2716 in place of a 2708, which is
> almost impossible to find or program these days) and get CP/M running.

>

>> I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
>> Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.

>

> Not to mention emulations that would run rings around those old machines.

>

>> Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program
>> to compile and popping off to the pub.

>

> I remember that. Two consumer-grade reel-to-reel tape units with hacked

> motor circuits, fed by a surplus Bell 202 modem - and a TTY35RO for a printer.
>
>> Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.
>
> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.
>
When they had the SF Worldcon here in 2009, I wrote somewhere about it.
It included something like "the future is better than anticipated, but not
nearly as good". I should look up the exact quote. IN some ways
anticipating the future was exciting, living it is less so, even if we
have so much more gadgetry than anyone imagined.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 17:59:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 13:01:31 -0400, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net>
wrote:

> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018, AndyW wrote:
>
>> On 27/06/2018 08:10, maus wrote:
>
>>> You can never go home!
>>
>>
>> I think a lot of people who get misty eyed over old computers have never
>> tried to go back and use them.
>
> Maybe for many, but there are small groups who are really into the old
> computers, not just collecting, but using them. Actually, they are more
> likely sticking with computers they started with when they were current.
> It's nostalgia, but it's not anti-technology, they generally do have more
> recent computers. But they are the ones who keep the software available
> or improve it, and create and buy new upgrades. It's not a minor thing to
> them. I can sort of grasp it all, but I can't get as excited.
>
>>
>> I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
>> Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.
>> Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program to
>> compile and popping off to the pub.
>>

> I first tried C on a Radio Shack Color Computer, I guess by then it was
> the III maybe with 512K or RAM (I may not have had the upgrade when I got
> C) and only 2 5.25" floppy drives.
>
> It was painful, and I had no other experience to compare it to. I'd type
> in a program, leaving endless errors since I was just starting, and it
> would take it's time to compile even a short program, and then a long
> stream of error messages. I soon gave up on C.
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> But yes, even on a 1GHz computer with 512K or RAM circa 2005, I tried C
> again and it was snappy. A short program would compile in no time, it was
> like running a BASIC program on a 1MHz computer. It makes so much
> difference.
>
> Michael

I fired up my Amiga A3000 around 10-12 years ago. I worked fine.
Couldn't get on the Internet though. No external modem, and likely no
dial-up available. But it did other things I wanted to do.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 18:58:14 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 27 Jun 2018 18:22:31 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-06-27, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>
> [35 lines snipped]

>
>> anticipating the future was exciting, living it is less so, even if we
>> have so much more gadgetry than anyone imagined.

>
> And it is being used in ways that would have made Big Brother wet himself
> with pleasure.

The bit that would delight Big Brother is the way that so many are
choosing to reveal all.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 20:16:17 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> writes:

- > I think a lot of people who get misty eyed over old computers have never
- > tried to go back and use them.
- >
- > I used to use a pr1me system at university and I was in awe of it.
- > I had the chance to use one a few years ago and it is rubbish. Similarly
- > I dug out an old CP/M machine and it is not at all as much fun how I
- > remembered it.

I got my first computer, an Osborne I, in '87. With a background in hard science but only the briefest encounter with computers (Fortran, IBM 1620, 1964), I was tickled to be able to write my own programs in BASIC, Z80 assembler. and C. Spent a year in larval mode.

- > I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
- > Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.
- > Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program
- > to compile and popping off to the pub.

Just so. But I'm really happy that I spent 5 years with Osbornes. I learned how computers work deep inside on a simple platform and with more detailed documentation readily available than today. I would never have grovelled through the complexity of the modern CPU, compilers, USB details, memory management etc. etc. if I'd started with what I now use every day -- GNU-Linux, X, P4 or newer CPU etc. -- and would remain irritated over my own ignorance.

- > Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.

Well, I do occasionally use an emulator to play Civ I under MS-DOS 5. I guess that qualifies as "visit".

--

Mike Spencer

Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 20:41:40 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Scott <nobody@example.org> wrote:

- > On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 21:08:31 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer
- > <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

>
>> controlled by in-line groups of pixels. Did a bit of machine code
>> programming (NOT assembler :-() which meant every so often inserting
>> a sequence of 3 NOPs in case of having to patch in a jump to sort
>> a problem.
>
> I did that once or twice, though mainly as an exercise. If the 6809
> had microcode it was on a level I didn't understand, so in my case it
> was more like manual assembly than actual machine coding.
>
>> Early in my career, all systems came with a complete hardware manual
>> including all the registers in I/O, so these days feel a little bit lost
>> / swimming out of my depth / fighting blind when so little info is
>> around today.
>>
>> The Small Computer Handbook for the PDP8/E was a good example of an
>> informatie manual!
>
> In a sense I think tech's complexity has outpaced my ability to keep
> up with it. The 6809 assembly handbook was about this >-< thick,
> something you could leaf through in a few hours and get the gist of
> it, if not all the details. The 8086 book was maybe twice as thick, or
> a bit less. Then the 286, 386, 486, 32 then 64 bits, on and on until I
> though I was back in the AS/400 lab with its entire wall covered in
> books. It gets to the point that sane people back away and adapt to
> using prefab tools that digest all this arcana and present it in neat,
> usable, pre-digested libraries.
>
> I used to write libraries, back when I was crazy enough to get away
> with it. Now I just use others' libraries, which must mean I've gone
> sane. How boring is that?
>

I enjoyed (enjoy) writing the runtime library for Iron Spring PL/I. So far
I haven't tried to do particularly fancy coding, I'm more concerned with
getting things right, with the optimizations later. Lately I've been
working on the preprocessor, which has its own set of challenges.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 20:41:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
> On 27 Jun 2018 11:49:27 GMT

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>
>> On 2018-06-27, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>>> On 27 Jun 2018 10:04:38 GMT
>>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>>>> On 2018-06-27, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>>>>> > It would be a very sad thing if things in the computing world
>>>>> > weren't much much better than they were thirty years ago given the
>>>>> > way the underlying technology has been improving.
>>>>>
>>>>> There's much that hasn't changed, though. It just got faster.
>>>>
>>> Sure but faster like the difference between a bicycle and a
>>> scramjet.
>>
>> Sure, but when I peered over the shoulders of my colleagues across the
>> aisle, yes, they were running tcp3270 sessions on PCs instead of gigantic
>> 3270 monitors, but ISPF/TSO looked *exactly* the same as it did 43 years
>> ago when I saw it for the first time.
>
> I'd like to hope it's a case of "if it ain't broke don't fix it",
> but it's probably inertia.
>

A lot of stuff has been done behind the scenes, such as popup menus if you want them, to provide a more GUI-like environment.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 20:41:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:
> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018, Charlie Gibbs wrote:
>
>> On 2018-06-27, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:
>>> I think a lot of people who get misty eyed over old computers have never
>>> tried to go back and use them.
>>> I used to use a pr1me system at university and I was in awe of it.
>>> I had the chance to use one a few years ago and it is rubbish. Similarly
>>> I dug out an old CP/M machine and it is not at all as much fun how I
>>> remembered it.

>>
>> Last year I cleaned the rat droppings out of my IMSAI, re-formed the
>> electrolytics, and powered it up. Unfortunately, the boot EPROM has
>> suffered bit rot. Someday, in my copious free time (hah!), I'm going
>> to find the BIOS listing and an EPROM programmer (and cobble together
>> that hack that lets you use a 2716 in place of a 2708, which is
>> almost impossible to find or program these days) and get CP/M running.
>>
>>> I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
>>> Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.
>>
>> Not to mention emulations that would run rings around those old machines.
>>
>>> Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program
>>> to compile and popping off to the pub.
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>> I remember that. Two consumer-grade reel-to-reel tape units with hacked
>> motor circuits, fed by a surplus Bell 202 modem - and a TTY35RO for a printer.
>>
>>> Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.
>>
>> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.
>>
> When they had the SF Worldcon here in 2009, I wrote somewhere about it.
> It included something like "the future is better than anticipated, but not
> nearly as good". I should look up the exact quote. IN some ways
> anticipating the future was exciting, living it is less so, even if we
> have so much more gadgetry than anyone imagined.

When you imagine it you swoon over all the great stuff the future will
bring, but tend to ignore the problems. Few imagining today's "social media"
probably considered the privacy problems and the proliferation of
advertising.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 20:42:54 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

nobody@example.org (Scott) writes:

> In a sense I think tech's complexity has outpaced my ability to keep
> up with it.

You are not alone.

> The 6809 assembly handbook was about this >-< thick,
> something you could leaf through in a few hours and get the gist of
> it, if not all the details. The 8086 book was maybe twice as thick, or
> a bit less. Then the 286, 386, 486, 32 then 64 bits, on and on until I
> though I was back in the AS/400 lab with its entire wall covered in
> books. It gets to the point that sane people back away and adapt to
> using prefab tools that digest all this arcana and present it in neat,
> usable, pre-digested libraries.

Even people who might be expected to know how something works are content to whap a software package into a server and never know exactly what it's doing or what they've done.

When the ISP from which I get my dialup service changed the company that provided them which actual physical service -- servers, data lines and so on -- the new guys just whapped in (presumably recognized, well-known) software packages. This broke both the existing password database and the PPP authentication protocol. After breaking through the "restart Windoes" stupidity of the front-line support, talking to the putative techies who actually ran the servers, I was never able to learn from them what the problems were. Some inadvertent remarks from them and a lot of my own time reading arcane crap allowed *me* to fix or work around their problem.

Wrfhf, I'm an artist, a blacksmith and gardener but the alleged pros are now so far removed from basics that I have to reconstruct what they should know from scratch and deduce what they should think of effortlessly. Shpx.

Okay, it's a minirant. 'Cause I'm presently engaged in yet another such encounter with Inter.net & Fibernetics. Their telecom line is broken so I should reboot my computer. Grumble.

--
Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 20:56:21 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 17:42:54 -0300, Mike Spencer wrote:

- > nobody@example.org (Scott) writes:
- > Okay, it's a minirant. 'Cause I'm presently engaged in yet another such
- > encounter with Inter.net & Fibernetics. Their telecom line is broken so
- > I should reboot my computer. Grumble.

So glad my ISP is intelligent. Ring up and ask for tech support and they put you through to a real techie.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:
<http://www.mirror-service.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-27, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

- > When they had the SF Worldcon here in 2009, I wrote somewhere about it.
- > It included something like "the future is better than anticipated, but
- > not nearly as good". I should look up the exact quote. IN some ways
- > anticipating the future was exciting, living it is less so, even if we
- > have so much more gadgetry than anyone imagined.

We have lots of gadgets, just not enough of the right ones.
Where's my jet pack?

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.
X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.
/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Andreas Kohlbach](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 21:12:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 12:59:50 -0500, JimP wrote:

- >
- > I fired up my Amiga A3000 around 10-12 years ago. I worked fine.
- > Couldn't get on the Internet though. No external modem, and likely no
- > dial-up available. But it did other things I wanted to do.

I seem to recall you need a certain OS (3.9?) to have a TCP/IP stack to natively connect to the internet.

--

Andreas

My random thoughts and comments

<https://news-commentaries.blogspot.com/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 21:21:37 GMT

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On 2018-06-27, Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:

> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 12:59:50 -0500, JimP wrote:

>

>> I fired up my Amiga A3000 around 10-12 years ago. I worked fine.

>> Couldn't get on the Internet though. No external modem, and likely

>> no dial-up available. But it did other things I wanted to do.

>

> I seem to recall you need a certain OS (3.9?) to have a TCP/IP stack

> to natively connect to the internet.

I ran AmiTCP on 3.1 - first with dialup, then as a full-fledged network device once I added an A2065 Ethernet adapter.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 21:32:55 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Rob Morley

On 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> We have lots of gadgets, just not enough of the right ones.

> Where's my jet pack?

>

Here's your bicycle with electronic gear shifting. :-)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 22:47:40 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 17:12:56 -0400, Andreas Kohlbach
<ank@spamfence.net> wrote:

> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 12:59:50 -0500, JimP wrote:

>>

>> I fired up my Amiga A3000 around 10-12 years ago. I worked fine.

>> Couldn't get on the Internet though. No external modem, and likely no

>> dial-up available. But it did other things I wanted to do.

>

> I seem to recall you need a certain OS (3.9?) to have a TCP/IP stack to

> natively connect to the internet.

There might be an internal modem for it, or an Ethernet card, but I
used a 16.xK dial up modem. Not sure what happened to the modem. That
was several moves ago. I don't remember what version of AmigaDOS I had
on it, maybe 4.x

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2018 23:30:49 GMT

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On Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 4:11:23 AM UTC-4, AndyW wrote:

> On 27/06/2018 08:10, maus wrote:

>> On 2018-06-27, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

>>> On 26/06/2018 20:55, Scott wrote:

>>>> On Tue, 26 Jun 2018 11:31:32 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer

>>>> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> > Yankland and its politics is increasingly irrelevant on

>>>> > a day-to-day basis to the rest of the world (Trump and

>>>> > Clinton the only candidates?????), so is anyone here

>>>> > interested in computers?

>>>>

>>>> Cleaning out my shed, I just unearthed some boxes of my old Tandy

>>> and a capacitor or two.

>>> I still have it and a second one I bought on impulse on ebay but never used.

>>> ...and yes Nostalgia is funny. I loved my Atom and loved playing games

>>> and programming it (with a built-in assembler you could do a lot with a

>>> few kB) But I fired it up recently and it is not a good experience.

>>>

>>

- >>
>> You can never go home!
>
>
> I think a lot of people who get misty eyed over old computers have never
> tried to go back and use them.
> I used to use a pr1me system at university and I was in awe of it.
> I had the chance to use one a few years ago and it is rubbish. Similarly
> I dug out an old CP/M machine and it is not at all as much fun how I
> remembered it.
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> I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
> Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.
> Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program
> to compile and popping off to the pub.
>
> Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.

I think a lot of nostalgia is based on fond memories of our youth or days gone by, generally not a longing to actually regularly use old technology. For instance, I miss working with punched-card equipment, but would not want to do it every day. I would not want to have to key in a program on an 029; I'm too spoiled by terminals.

However, in some cases people do miss a simpler time where things seemed less confused and goals more clearly defined.

In any event, in my humble opinion, most folks working in computers aren't very nostalgic.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 00:30:47 GMT

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On 2018-06-27, Rob Morley <nospam@ntlworld.com> wrote:

- > On 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT
> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
>
>> We have lots of gadgets, just not enough of the right ones.
>> Where's my jet pack?
>
> Here's your bicycle with electronic gear shifting. :-)

Help! I'm stuck at an intersection and I can't get it out of 10th gear until it manages to find a wifi hotspot and download

the latest update.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 03:04:17 GMT

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Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>

>> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

>>

>>> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.

>>

>> When they had the SF Worldcon here in 2009, I wrote somewehre about

>> it. It included something like "the future is better than

>> anticipated, but not nearly as good". I should look up the exact

>> quote. IN some ways anticipating the future was exciting, living

>> it is less so, even if we have so much more gadgetry than anyone

>> imagined.

New Year's day, 1949. Did Dick have his radio watch by then?

<http://home.tallships.ca/m Spencer/temp/tracy.jpg>

> When you imagine it you swoon over all the great stuff the future

> will bring, but tend to ignore the problems. Few imagining todays

> "social media" probably considered the privacy problems ant the

> proliferation of advertising.

Gee, I dunno. Swoon? I got a computer as soon as I could afford one,

actually by trading fancy metalwork for an obsolete one because fancy metalwork isn't, in my neck of the woods, a way to get heaps of cash.

Oh, and a modem pretty early on, too. And Wikipedia is just great for subjects that nobody's having bunfight or in a personal snit over.

But all the new gadgets? Most of them leave me cold. After every browser upgrade (or Emacs upgrade, for that matter) I spend a lot of time figuring out how to disable all the new features. I was getting pretty good with a 35mm SLR but now I'm reduced to the equivalent of ny 1955 Brownie Hawkeye or else a pricey camera that takes 10 minutes

and good eyesight just to set up all the options for a shot.

I guess I should get a cell phone pretty soon. Old guy, y'know, can no longer be sure of walking home from anywhere in any weather and all the pay phones are gone. Digital house? Um, will it chuck another bolt of wood into the kitchen range or replace the leathers in my hand pump when needed? My electric toaster is 115 years old, gets used daily in summer. Don't think I need a digital one.

--

Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 03:13:25 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> writes:

> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 17:42:54 -0300, Mike Spencer wrote:

>

>> nobody@example.org (Scott) writes:

>> Okay, it's a minirant. 'Cause I'm presently engaged in yet another such

>> encounter with Inter.net & Fibernetics. Their telecom line is broken so

>> I should reboot my computer. Grumble.

>

> So glad my ISP is intelligent. Ring up and ask for tech support and they

> put you through to a real techie.

Yes, nice isn't it? We have *two* ISPs. I mentioned the problematic one by name lest word get back to the *other* one that I was slagging them. At other one, Tallships.ca, I can phone the sys admin or get quick email response. Problems go away or at least are correctly identified and attended to.

Why two ISPs? Long, mostly boring story that can be papered over with the convenient phrase from Unix documentation: "...for historical reasons..."

--

Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 03:36:36 GMT

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Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

> On 2018-06-27, Rob Morley <nospam@ntlworld.com> wrote:

>

>> On 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT

>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>

>>> We have lots of gadgets, just not enough of the right ones.

>>> Where's my jet pack?

>>

>> Here's your bicycle with electronic gear shifting. :-)

>

> Help! I'm stuck at an intersection and I can't get it out of

> 10th gear until it manages to find a wifi hotspot and download

> the latest update.

Hee hee hee...giggle. Just so.

And as all that stuff is proliferating, the analog stuff is quietly going away. I need some parts for my rototiller engine. It's only 46 years old but the company that made the engine, a major economic pillar of its community in its day, is so long out of business that the factory building has been made into a community historic site. And the tiller company has been sold, borged, merged and sold again, has no interest in supporting old products.

It's getting to be commonplace that when I go to the hardware store, nobody under 50 has even heard of the thing I want to buy. The old guys may remember seeing the product but not for mumble years. Waterglass? Cheap fireproof stickum handy if you do stuff with open flames. Never heard of it. Is there an app for that? :-\

--

Mike Spencer

Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 06:24:45 GMT

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On 2018-06-28, Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:

>

> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

>

>> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>>

- > I guess I should get a cell phone pretty soon. Old guy, y'know, can
- > no longer be sure of walking home from anywhere in any weather and all
- > the pay phones are gone. Digital house? Um, will it chuck another
- > bolt of wood into the kitchen range or replace the leathers in my hand
- > pump when needed? My electric toaster is 115 years old, gets used
- > daily in summer. Don't think I need a digital one.
- >
- >

Further report on the Gemini, like most smartish phones it needs to be recharged every day. The JCB phone that I have has never run out of charge (I charge it on Fridays), will only store a few messages (!) and does not trouble me.

Some years ago the people I am associated with sold a Land Rover Defender. Checking now, what people are looking for restored ones is about 50% more than that one cost new. At the moment a small tractor (MF135) will, restored, will cost you 5 times what they cost new in 1960

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 07:25:49 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: nobody

On 27 Jun 2018 17:42:54 -0300, Mike Spencer
<mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:

- > Even people who might be expected to know how something works are
- > content to whap a software package into a server and never know
- > exactly what it's doing or what they've done.

Voodoo administration. I actually get paid for something like that, but it involves expensive industry specific software with all kinds of DRM that's deliberately dense and not made to be understood. It's scary that I can keep things working without really understanding how, and scarier still that this meager knowledge is somehow valuable enough to earn me a living wage. I can't tell if my job's at risk because I can't explain what I do, or if I'm safe because nobody else can figure it out either.

My ISP recently had the opposite problem. A young admin wrote some custom scripts to get specific web server behavior, and unsurprisingly broke some other things. 500s popping up where no 500s had any business happening. I pointed out that the desired behavior was built into the base web server and just needed to be turned on in the config file. Surprise, it works fine that way. I mean, it's Apache...if what you want to do isn't already in there, you need to think harder about what you want to do.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 15:15:49 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wed, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:

>
> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:
>
>> On 2018-06-27, Rob Morley <nospam@ntlworld.com> wrote:
>>
>>> On 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT
>>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
>>>
>>>> We have lots of gadgets, just not enough of the right ones.
>>>> Where's my jet pack?
>>>
>>> Here's your bicycle with electronic gear shifting. :-)
>>
>> Help! I'm stuck at an intersection and I can't get it out of
>> 10th gear until it manages to find a wifi hotspot and download
>> the latest update.
>
>
> Hee hee hee...giggle. Just so.
>
> And as all that stuff is proliferating, the analog stuff is quietly
> going away. I need some parts for my rototiller engine. It's only 46
> years old but the company that made the engine, a major economic
> pillar of its community in its day, is so long out of business that
> the factory building has been made into a community historic site. And
> the tiller company has been sold, borged, merged and sold again, has
> no interest in supporting old products.
>
> It's getting to be commonplace that when I go to the hardware store,
> nobody under 50 has even heard of the thing I want to buy. The old
> guys may remember seeing the product but not for mumble years.
> Waterglass? Cheap fireproof stickum handy if you do stuff with open

> flames. Never heard of it. Is there an app for that? :-\

>

There used to be small stores that had been around "forever" and still run by the original owner, or a descendant. There was no liability to keeping the old stuff around, so you could go there, someone would know about the old stuff, and it was still around.

But a lot of those places are now closed, the owner dying or the rent getting too high, and no small stores taking over the territory, just those big box stores. But also there was that US ruling where old stock couldn't be written off, so keeping the old stuff wasn't just a matter of having a big enough basement.

All the local electronic parts stores that I went to as a kid starting in 1971 are gone. They had old stuff because they'd been around that long. But the area where a bunch of them were has long been redeveloped, sort of the same situation as "Radio Row" in New York City. But also changing needs made those old stores less viable, fewer people wanting tube era parts, while the stores never fully adapted to solid state parts.

There is one exception, though when I went there a few years ago, it had totally been remade and while maybe the parts are behind the counter, on view was a lot of consumer equipment and accessories. It used to be an "electronic supermarket", grab a basket at the door and go down the rows taking the parts from the bins as you needed. A lot of surplus too, not military but consumer.

There used to be a guy who called himself "Mr. Fixit" and they dealt with the repair of old stuff (oddly, not just appliances and electronics but furniture and other things), but even they moved out of that field. For a while there were places that stayed in their field, but it was like a consolidation, you'd have to go across town to get to them and everyone knew about them, but even those remaining places are mostly faded.

Every so often I read about people finding such stores, they'd closed down but the owner had kept things intact, paying the rent (or maybe owning) the property) until he dies and it's a goldmine of old stuff. So in the antique radio hobby, people find places like that and come home loaded when the stuff is finally cleared out. Or someone finds a stock of old toys because they were left in the back of some old store now being cleared out.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 15:21:05 GMT

On Wed, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:

>
> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> writes:
>
>> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018 17:42:54 -0300, Mike Spencer wrote:
>>
>>> nobody@example.org (Scott) writes:
>>> Okay, it's a minirant. 'Cause I'm presently engaged in yet another such
>>> encounter with Inter.net & Fibernetics. Their telecom line is broken so
>>> I should reboot my computer. Grumble.
>>
>> So glad my ISP is intelligent. Ring up and ask for tech support and they
>> put you through to a real techie.
>
> Yes, nice isn't it? We have *two* ISPs. I mentioned the problematic
> one by name lest word get back to the *other* one that I was slagging
> them. At other one, Tallships.ca, I can phone the sys admin or get
> quick email response. Problems go away or at least are correctly
> identified and attended to.

>
The Tall Ship people must be annoyed that someone claimed the URL for an
ISP, leaving the Tall Ships in need of some other URL. Kind of like USR
taking the name to sell modems, and never a robot in sight (unless the
ones putting the modems together).

It was out of my hands, but since 2012 there's been high speed here, so
I'm not with my third ISP. When I signed up there, one of the owners
dropped by with the form, and waited while I filled it out, it was the
second oldest ISP in town. Most of those small ISPs are gone, either out
of business or bought up by a bigger fish. I actually am still with that
ISP, not for access but for my webpage and email, and if I'm stuck I can
use shell access there.

Most of those old ISPs are gone, some just got too big, and that's where
we've lost that personal aspect.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 15:33:09 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-28, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:
> On Wed, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:

>
> It was out of my hands, but since 2012 there's been high speed here, so
> I'm not with my third ISP. When I signed up there, one of the owners
> dropped by with the form, and waited while I filled it out, it was the
> second oldest ISP in town. Most of those small ISPs are gone, either out
> of business or bought up by a bigger fish. I actually am still with that
> ISP, not for access but for my webpage and email, and if I'm stuck I can
> use shell access there.
>
> Most of those old ISPs are gone, some just got too big, and that's where
> we've lost that personal aspect.
>
> Michael

It might cause idiotic gossip to start again, but in case anyone has been trapped in the tundra, Bill Clinton and a ghost writer have produced a book. Universally plonked, "The President is Missing", now, one at a time.

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 16:20:48 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 28/06/2018 16:15, Michael Black wrote:

>>
> There used to be small stores that had been around "forever" and still
> run by the original owner, or a descendant

Here in Chippenham, Wilts, England we've only recently lost our "Four Candles" hardware shop where we could buy loose nails by the pound.

I'd been a customer of Denton's for 40 years, and the shocking thing is that Homebase opening a hundred yards away probably put them out of business, only for Homebase to be shutting down now.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 16:31:54 GMT

Originally posted by: JimP

On Thu, 28 Jun 2018 11:15:49 -0400, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

> On Wed, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:

>

>>

>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

>>

>>> On 2018-06-27, Rob Morley <nospam@ntlworld.com> wrote:

>>>

>>>> On 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT

>>>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> > We have lots of gadgets, just not enough of the right ones.

>>>> > Where's my jet pack?

>>>>

>>>> Here's your bicycle with electronic gear shifting. :-)

>>>

>>> Help! I'm stuck at an intersection and I can't get it out of

>>> 10th gear until it manages to find a wifi hotspot and download

>>> the latest update.

>>

>>

>> Hee hee hee...giggle. Just so.

>>

>> And as all that stuff is proliferating, the analog stuff is quietly

>> going away. I need some parts for my rototiller engine. It's only 46

>> years old but the company that made the engine, a major economic

>> pillar of its community in its day, is so long out of business that

>> the factory building has been made into a community historic site. And

>> the tiller company has been sold, borged, merged and sold again, has

>> no interest in supporting old products.

>>

>> It's getting to be commonplace that when I go to the hardware store,

>> nobody under 50 has even heard of the thing I want to buy. The old

>> guys may remember seeing the product but not for mumble years.

>> Waterglass? Cheap fireproof stickum handy if you do stuff with open

>> flames. Never heard of it. Is there an app for that? :-\

>>

> There used to be small stores that had been around "forever" and still run

> by the original owner, or a descendant. There was no liability to keeping

> the old stuff around, so you could go there, someone would know about the

> old stuff, and it was still around.

>

> But a lot of those places are now closed, the owner dying or the rent

- > getting too high, and no small stores taking over the territory, just
- > those big box stores. But also there was that US ruling where old stock
- > couldn't be written off, so keeping the old stuff wasn't just a matter of
- > having a big enough basement.
- >
- > All the local electronic parts stores that I went to as a kid starting in
- > 1971 are gone. They had old stuff because they'd been around that long.
- > But the area where a bunch of them were has long been redeveloped, sort of
- > the same situation as "Radio Row" in New York City. But also changing
- > needs made those old stores less viable, fewer people wanting tube era
- > parts, while the stores never fully adapted to solid state parts.
- >
- > There is one exception, though when I went there a few years ago, it had
- > totally been remade and while maybe the parts are behind the counter, on
- > view was a lot of consumer equipment and accessories. It used to be an
- > "electronic supermarket", grab a basket at the door and go down the rows
- > taking the parts from the bins as you needed. A lot of surplus too, not
- > military but consumer.
- >
- > There used to be a guy who called himself "Mr. Fixit" and they dealt with
- > the repair of old stuff (oddly, not just appliances and electronics but
- > furniture and other things), but even they moved out of that field. For a
- > while there were places that stayed in their field, but it was like a
- > consolidation, you'd have to go across town to get to them and everyone
- > knew about them, but even those remaining places are mostly faded.
- >
- > Every so often I read about people finding such stores, they'd closed down
- > but the owner had kept things intact, paying the rent (or maybe owning)
- > the property) until he dies and it's a goldmine of old stuff. So in the
- > antique radio hobby, people find places like that and come home loaded
- > when the stuff is finally cleared out. Or someone finds a stock of old
- > toys because they were left in the back of some old store now being
- > cleared out.
- >
- > Michael

American Pickers on History finds these, or gets phone calls, from time to time. Grand pa, or great grand pa, died and now there is all this old stock, still in the original boxes.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 16:52:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-28, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

- > The Tall Ship people must be annoyed that someone claimed the URL for an

- > ISP, leaving the Tall Ships in need of some other URL. Kind of like USR
- > taking the name to sell modems, and never a robot in sight (unless the
- > ones putting the modems together).

Susan Calvin must be steamed...

- > It was out of my hands, but since 2012 there's been high speed here, so
- > I'm not with my third ISP. When I signed up there, one of the owners
- > dropped by with the form, and waited while I filled it out, it was the
- > second oldest ISP in town. Most of those small ISPs are gone, either out
- > of business or bought up by a bigger fish. I actually am still with that
- > ISP, not for access but for my webpage and email, and if I'm stuck I can
- > use shell access there.

That's how I hang on to my e-mail address. It's just too good to give up.

- > Most of those old ISPs are gone, some just got too big, and that's where
- > we've lost that personal aspect.

Yup. Now almost everyone is something like `jdoe247@monopoly.com`.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at `ac.dekanfrus` if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 16:52:40 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-28, Mike Spencer <`mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere`> wrote:

- > But all the new gadgets? Most of them leave me cold. After every
- > browser upgrade (or Emacs upgrade, for that matter) I spend a lot of
- > time figuring out how to disable all the new features.

Or downgrade back to something that works. Stan Kelly-Bootle coined the term "sidegrade" for these not-really-upgrades.

- > I was getting pretty good with a 35mm SLR but now I'm reduced to the
- > equivalent of ny 1955 Brownie Hawkeye or else a pricey camera that
- > takes 10 minutes and good eyesight just to set up all the options
- > for a shot.

I took some pretty decent underwater photos with my Nikonos V.
Then I tried a little digital camera and found I had no more TTL

metering, a crappy strobe that scared fish away with its preflashes, and an autofocus that insisted on focusing on what it wanted, rather than what I wanted. And that's when I retired from underwater photography.

- > I guess I should get a cell phone pretty soon. Old guy, y'know, can
- > no longer be sure of walking home from anywhere in any weather and all
- > the pay phones are gone.

Flip phones are still available. Keep your eyes open.
You don't need to get an electronic ankle bracelet.

- > Digital house? Um, will it chuck another bolt of wood into the kitchen
- > range or replace the leathers in my hand pump when needed?

No, but the TV will report to all and sundry just what you're watching and when you watch it. And the fridge will do the same for your food. Big Brother, thy name is Google.

- > My electric toaster is 115 years old, gets used
- > daily in summer. Don't think I need a digital one.

Hear, hear.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 16:55:10 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-28, Gareth's Downstairs Computer

<headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

- > On 28/06/2018 16:15, Michael Black wrote:

- >

- >> There used to be small stores that had been around "forever" and still
- >> run by the original owner, or a descendant

- >

- > Here in Chippenham, Wilts, England we've only recently lost
- > our "Four Candles" hardware shop where we could buy loose
- > nails by the pound.

- >

- > I'd been a customer of Denton's for 40 years, and the shocking
- > thing is that Homebase opening a hundred yards away probably

> put them out of business, only for Homebase to be shutting down now.

"Our work here is done."

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

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/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 17:48:05 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 28 Jun 2018 16:52:40 GMT

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> Yup. Now almost everyone is something like jdoe247@monopoly.com.

They get their email from Hasbro ?

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

| Directable Mirror Arrays

C:\>WIN

| A better way to focus the sun

The computer obeys and wins.

| licences available see

You lose and Bill collects.

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [scott](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 18:06:14 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

> On 2018-06-28, Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:

>

>> But all the new gadgets? Most of them leave me cold. After every
>> browser upgrade (or Emacs upgrade, for that matter) I spend a lot of
>> time figuring out how to disable all the new features.

>

> Or downgrade back to something that works. Stan Kelly-Bootle coined
> the term "sidegrade" for these not-really-upgrades.

>

>> I was getting pretty good with a 35mm SLR but now I'm reduced to the
>> equivalent of ny 1955 Brownie Hawkeye or else a pricey camera that
>> takes 10 minutes and good eyesight just to set up all the options
>> for a shot.

>
> I took some pretty decent underwater photos with my Nikonos V.
> Then I tried a little digital camera and found I had no more TTL
> metering, a crappy strobe that scared fish away with its preflashes,
> and an autofocus that insisted on focusing on what it wanted, rather
> than what I wanted. And that's when I retired from underwater photography.
>
>> I guess I should get a cell phone pretty soon. Old guy, y'know, can
>> no longer be sure of walking home from anywhere in any weather and all
>> the pay phones are gone.
>
> Flip phones are still available. Keep your eyes open.

For that matter, so are cheap unlocked androids. And you can use them as just phones (disable data, never connect to wifi).

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 19:20:55 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> writes:

> The Tall Ship people must be annoyed that someone claimed the URL for an
> ISP, leaving the Tall Ships in need of some other URL.

They still have tallships.COM. We have .CA. Never heard that the
(late) founder of tallships.ca ever got any flak.

> Kind of like USR taking the name to sell modems, and never a robot
> in sight (unless the ones putting the modems together).
> [snip]

--

Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 19:50:15 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 8:31:33 PM UTC-4, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

> On 2018-06-27, Rob Morley <nospam@ntlworld.com> wrote:

>

>> On 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT

>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>

>>> We have lots of gadgets, just not enough of the right ones.
>>> Where's my jet pack?
>>
>> Here's your bicycle with electronic gear shifting. :-)
>
> Help! I'm stuck at an intersection and I can't get it out of
> 10th gear until it manages to find a wifi hotspot and download
> the latest update.

"Beep beep, beep beep, his car went beep beep beep".

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 19:52:14 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-28, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com < Hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com > wrote:

> On Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 8:31:33 PM UTC-4, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

>

>> On 2018-06-27, Rob Morley <nospam@ntlworld.com> wrote:

>>

>>> On 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT

>>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

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>>>

>>> Here's your bicycle with electronic gear shifting. :-)

>>

>> Help! I'm stuck at an intersection and I can't get it out of

>> 10th gear until it manages to find a wifi hotspot and download

>> the latest update.

>

> "Beep beep, beep beep, his car went beep beep beep".

applause

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 19:53:24 GMT

On 28 Jun 2018 18:31:09 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-06-28, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>> On 28 Jun 2018 16:52:40 GMT

>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>

>>> Yup. Now almost everyone is something like jdoe247@monopoly.com.

>>

>> They get their email from Hasbro ?

>

> *applause*

>

> I'm talking to a local community broadband supplier about getting

> 1Gbps symmetrical fibre to the premises. I asked whether they provide

> an email forwarding service, to which their reply was "go to Google".

With 1G symmetrical I'd be inclined to go for DIY, but then I went for that with 70/6 LTE with backup MX from junkemailfilter.com (they do free MX backup to get more data for their paid spam filtering service).

> In fact, their reply to everything was "go to Google".

Bleat.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

| Directable Mirror Arrays

C:\>WIN

| A better way to focus the sun

The computer obeys and wins.

| licences available see

You lose and Bill collects.

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 20:41:33 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On 28 Jun 2018 18:31:09 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-06-28, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>> On 28 Jun 2018 16:52:40 GMT

>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>

>>> Yup. Now almost everyone is something like jdoe247@monopoly.com.

>>

>> They get their email from Hasbro ?
>
> *applause*
>
> I'm talking to a local community broadband supplier about getting
> 1Gbps symmetrical fibre to the premises. I asked whether they provide
> an email forwarding service, to which their reply was "go to Google".
>
> In fact, their reply to everything was "go to Google".
>
> More stuff for Google to spy on.
>
> :o(

I use duckduckgo.com, but they say they don't track... I have wondered if that is true or not.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 20:43:52 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Thu, 28 Jun 2018 20:53:24 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot
<steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 28 Jun 2018 18:31:09 GMT
> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>
>> On 2018-06-28, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>>> On 28 Jun 2018 16:52:40 GMT
>>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
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>> *applause*
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>> I'm talking to a local community broadband supplier about getting
>> 1Gbps symmetrical fibre to the premises. I asked whether they provide
>> an email forwarding service, to which their reply was "go to Google".
>
> With 1G symmetrical I'd be inclined to go for DIY, but then I went
> for that with 70/6 LTE with backup MX from junkemailfilter.com (they do
> free MX backup to get more data for their paid spam filtering service).
>

>> In fact, their reply to everything was "go to Google".
>
> Bletch.

My brother-in-law called his ISP for tech support, to get back online.

The morons told him to go to their web page.

His reply was, "How can I get to your web page, if I cannot get online?"

Repeat, rinse, repeat.

He got the corporate office on his cell, and told them the problem.
Presto. His Internet connection came back up.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2018 23:58:18 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Thu, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:

>
> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> writes:
>
>> The Tall Ship people must be annoyed that someone claimed the URL for an
>> ISP, leaving the Tall Ships in need of some other URL.
>
> They still have tallships.COM. We have .CA. Never heard that the
> (late) founder of tallships.ca ever got any flak.
>
I'm teasing, but it's interesting that someone used the name for an ISP.

We were supposed to get some tall ships here last summer for the 150th, but either they never showed up, or no proper announcements. I know I went to The Old Port at one point, and never found a ship that was supposed to be in town.

For about three years a decade back, we had an actual "Tall Ships Festival" in the fall, but it was clear the ships were available because they were at some other event elsewhere, so might as well stop here in Montreal. Then it stopped, no explanation. We're back to random ships sometimes appearing, and usually I read about them in the paper after the fact.

We did get the Viking Ship two years ago (it was a re-creation, sailed over from Norway or Denmark), I went down and I could see it

but they weren't open to visitors that day, and I never got back.

The Old Port here used to have a page about visiting ships, but I never find when tall ships are in port.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 00:45:17 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: nobody

On Thu, 28 Jun 2018 15:43:52 -0500, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:

> My brother-in-law called his ISP for tech support, to get back online.
>
> The morons told him to go to their web page.
>
> His reply was, "How can I get to your web page, if I cannot get
> online?"

There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza....

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 07:01:30 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-28, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:
> On 28 Jun 2018 18:31:09 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>
>> On 2018-06-28, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>>> On 28 Jun 2018 16:52:40 GMT
>>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
>>>> Yup. Now almost everyone is something like jdoe247@monopoly.com.
>>>>
>>> They get their email from Hasbro ?
>>
>> *applause*
>>
>> I'm talking to a local community broadband supplier about getting
>> 1Gbps symmetrical fibre to the premises. I asked whether they provide
>> an email forwarding service, to which their reply was "go to Google".
>>

>> In fact, their reply to everything was "go to Google".
>>
>> More stuff for Google to spy on.
>>
>> :o(
>
> I use duckduckgo.com, but they say they don't track... I have wondered
> if that is true or not.

Very unlikely. Try to search for "dynamite, fuse, etc" and see what happens. Actually, get a timer going and report back here how long before the Stasi arrive,

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 09:06:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 29/06/2018 01:45, Scott wrote:
> On Thu, 28 Jun 2018 15:43:52 -0500, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>> My brother-in-law called his ISP for tech support, to get back online.
>>
>> The morons told him to go to their web page.
>>
>> His reply was, "How can I get to your web page, if I cannot get
>> online?"
>
> There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza....
>

Bring back the radio show, Children's Favourites, from 10 till 12 noon on Saturday mornings!

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 10:19:45 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:

>
> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:
>
>> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:
>>
>>> On Wed, 27 Jun 2018, Charlie Gibbs wrote:
>>>
>>>> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.
>>>
>>> When they had the SF Worldcon here in 2009, I wrote somewhere about
>>> it. It included something like "the future is better than
>>> anticipated, but not nearly as good". I should look up the exact
>>> quote. IN some ways anticipating the future was exciting, living
>>> it is less so, even if we have so much more gadgetry than anyone
>>> imagined.
>
> New Year's day, 1949. Did Dick have his radio watch by then?
>
> <http://home.tallships.ca/mspencer/temp/tracy.jpg>
>
>> When you imagine it you swoon over all the great stuff the future
>> will bring, but tend to ignore the problems. Few imagining today's
>> "social media" probably considered the privacy problems and the
>> proliferation of advertising.
>
> Gee, I dunno. Swoon? I got a computer as soon as I could afford one,
> actually by trading fancy metalwork for an obsolete one because fancy
> metalwork isn't, in my neck of the woods, a way to get heaps of cash.
> Oh, and a modem pretty early on, too. And Wikipedia is just great for
> subjects that nobody's having bunfight or in a personal snit over.
>
> But all the new gadgets? Most of them leave me cold. After every
> browser upgrade (or Emacs upgrade, for that matter) I spend a lot of
> time figuring out how to disable all the new features. I was getting
> pretty good with a 35mm SLR but now I'm reduced to the equivalent of
> my 1955 Brownie Hawkeye or else a pricey camera that takes 10 minutes
> and good eyesight just to set up all the options for a shot.

Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good possibility no one will want it. I want to cry. That camera took wonderful pictures, even with my limited knowledge of appropriate settings, but dead-tree pictures are in the past now.

I think you can get good digital SLR cameras, but the cost is about the same as a good film camera, you're paying for the optics.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 10:19:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Thu, 28 Jun 2018 11:15:49 -0400, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net>
> wrote:

>
>> On Wed, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:

>>
>>>
>>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

>>>> On 2018-06-27, Rob Morley <nospam@ntlworld.com> wrote:

>>>>
>>>> > On 27 Jun 2018 21:11:20 GMT
>>>> > Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>>> >
>>>> >> We have lots of gadgets, just not enough of the right ones.
>>>> >> Where's my jet pack?

>>>> >
>>>> > Here's your bicycle with electronic gear shifting. :-)

>>>>
>>>> Help! I'm stuck at an intersection and I can't get it out of
>>>> 10th gear until it manages to find a wifi hotspot and download
>>>> the latest update.

>>>
>>>
>>> Hee hee hee...giggle. Just so.

>>>
>>> And as all that stuff is proliferating, the analog stuff is quietly
>>> going away. I need some parts for my rototiller engine. It's only 46
>>> years old but the company that made the engine, a major economic
>>> pillar of its community in its day, is so long out of business that
>>> the factory building has been made into a community historic site. And
>>> the tiller company has been sold, borged, merged and sold again, has
>>> no interest in supporting old products.

>>>
>>> It's getting to be commonplace that when I go to the hardware store,
>>> nobody under 50 has even heard of the thing I want to buy. The old
>>> guys may remember seeing the product but not for mumble years.
>>> Waterglass? Cheap fireproof stickum handy if you do stuff with open
>>> flames. Never heard of it. Is there an app for that? :-\

>>>
>> There used to be small stores that had been around "forever" and still run
>> by the original owner, or a descendant. There was no liability to keeping
>> the old stuff around, so you could go there, someone would know about the
>> old stuff, and it was still around.

>>

>> But a lot of those places are now closed, the owner dying or the rent
>> getting too high, and no small stores taking over the territory, just
>> those big box stores. But also there was that US ruling where old stock
>> couldn't be written off, so keeping the old stuff wasn't just a matter of
>> having a big enough basement.
>>
>> All the local electronic parts stores that I went to as a kid starting in
>> 1971 are gone. They had old stuff because they'd been around that long.
>> But the area where a bunch of them were has long been redeveloped, sort of
>> the same situation as "Radio Row" in New York City. But also changing
>> needs made those old stores less viable, fewer people wanting tube era
>> parts, while the stores never fully adapted to solid state parts.
>>
>> There is one exception, though when I went there a few years ago, it had
>> totally been remade and while maybe the parts are behind the counter, on
>> view was a lot of consumer equipment and accessories. It used to be an
>> "electronic supermarket", grab a basket at the door and go down the rows
>> taking the parts from the bins as you needed. A lot of surplus too, not
>> military but consumer.
>>
>> There used to be a guy who called himself "Mr. Fixit" and they dealt with
>> the repair of old stuff (oddly, not just appliances and electronics but
>> furniture and other things), but even they moved out of that field. For a
>> while there were places that stayed in their field, but it was like a
>> consolidation, you'd have to go across town to get to them and everyone
>> knew about them, but even those remaining places are mostly faded.
>>
>> Every so often I read about people finding such stores, they'd closed down
>> but the owner had kept things intact, paying the rent (or maybe owning)
>> the property) until he dies and it's a goldmine of old stuff. So in the
>> antique radio hobby, people find places like that and come home loaded
>> when the stuff is finally cleared out. Or someone finds a stock of old
>> toys because they were left in the back of some old store now being
>> cleared out.
>>
>> Michael
>
> American Pickers on History finds these, or gets phone calls, from
> time to time. Grand pa, or great grand pa, died and now there is all
> this old stock, still in the original boxes.
>

However, Shark Tank in Computerworld had a bit about a widow wanting to
sell some computers her husband had bought several years ago and never took
out of the boxes. She couldn't believe they were only scrap now.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 10:19:47 GMT
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Gareth's Downstairs Computer

<headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

> On 29/06/2018 01:45, Scott wrote:

>> On Thu, 28 Jun 2018 15:43:52 -0500, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:

>>

>>> My brother-in-law called his ISP for tech support, to get back online.

>>>

>>> The morons told him to go to their web page.

>>>

>>> His reply was, "How can I get to your web page, if I cannot get

>>> online?"

>>

>> There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza....

>>

>

> Bring back the radio show, Children's Favourites, from 10 till 12 noon

> on Saturday mornings!

>

I still have fond memories of sitting in front of the huge Philco listening to the " Story Lady." Sirius has a channel that airs old radio plays. Interesting - my spell checker doesn't like "Philco."

--

Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 11:30:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 29/06/2018 11:19, Peter Flass wrote:

>

> Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good
> possibility no one will want it.

BTDGTTS

2 OM10 bodies, complete set of lenses and flash unit.

Estimated value now, from other ebay adverts?

About £30 :-(

What could be useful is a digital back to replace the 35mm film in old cameras!

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 17:26:39 GMT

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On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 6:19:46 AM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:

- > Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good
- > possibility no one will want it. I want to cry. That camera took wonderful
- > pictures, even with my limited knowledge of appropriate settings, but
- > dead-tree pictures are in the past now.
- >
- > I think you can get good digital SLR cameras, but the cost is about the
- > same as a good film camera, you're paying for the optics.

I gave up film when Kodak stopped developing it. I was finding the cost of buying film going up, plus harder to find the type I wanted. I got a digital SLR.

Admittedly, I miss my film camera, though generally, the digital can do more (like easily adapt to different light sources, motor drive, good auto focus/auto exposure, time/date stamp, and instant view.)

I think film handled high contrast situations better than digital.

A friend offered me his old Nikon F, a real classic, but I realized I'd have no use for it and it would just gather dust, so I declined.

Note--last time I checked, the chain drugstore still sold Tri-X, even though Kodak no longer makes processing chemical or print paper.

Kodak also has a Kodachrome magazine:
<https://www.kodak.com/US/en/kodachrome/default.htm>

However, I tried finding still film on their website but couldn't.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 17:32:20 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 6:19:48 AM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:

> Gareth's Downstairs Computer

> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

>> On 29/06/2018 01:45, Scott wrote:

>>> On Thu, 28 Jun 2018 15:43:52 -0500, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> My brother-in-law called his ISP for tech support, to get back online.

>>>>>

>>>> The morons told him to go to their web page.

>>>>>

>>>> His reply was, "How can I get to your web page, if I cannot get

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>>>>>

>>>> There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza....

>>>>>

>>>>>>

>> Bring back the radio show, Children's Favourites, from 10 till 12 noon

>> on Saturday mornings!

>>>

>>>>

> I still have fond memories of sitting in front of the huge Philco listening

> to the " Story Lady." Sirius has a channel that airs old radio plays.

> Interesting - my spell checker doesn't like "Philco."

<https://books.google.com/books?id=VUEEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA1&dq=life%20philco&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

<https://books.google.com/books?id=700EAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PP1&dq=life%20philco&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [scott](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 18:16:02 GMT

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hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

> On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 6:19:46 AM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:

>

>> Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good
>> possibility no one will want it. I want to cry. That camera took wonderful
>> pictures, even with my limited knowledge of appropriate settings, but
>> dead-tree pictures are in the past now.

>>>

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>> same as a good film camera, you're paying for the optics.

>>>

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> the cost of buying film going up, plus harder to find the type

> I wanted. I got a digital SLR.
>
> Admittedly, I miss my film camera, though generally, the digital
> can do more (like easily adapt to different light sources, motor
> drive, good auto focus/auto exposure, time/date stamp, and instant
> view.)
>
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>
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> I'd have no use for it and it would just gather dust, so I declined.
>
> Note--last time I checked, the chain drugstore still sold Tri-X,
> even though Kodak no longer makes processing chemical or print paper.
>
> Kodak also has a Kodachrome magazine:
> <https://www.kodak.com/US/en/kodachrome/default.htm>
>
> However, I tried finding still film on their website but couldn't.
>

I've got about 8 unexposed rolls of Kodak ASA100 sitting in the fridge that I don't know what to do with.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 18:21:15 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Fri, 29 Jun 2018, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 6:19:46 AM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:
>
>> Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good
>> possibility no one will want it. I want to cry. That camera took wonderful
>> pictures, even with my limited knowledge of appropriate settings, but
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> Admittedly, I miss my film camera, though generally, the digital
> can do more (like easily adapt to different light sources, motor
> drive, good auto focus/auto exposure, time/date stamp, and instant

> view.)
>
> I think film handled high contrast situations better than digital.
>
> A friend offered me his old Nikon F, a real classic, but I realized
> I'd have no use for it and it would just gather dust, so I declined.
>
It's like "antique computers", now you can grab all kinds of SLRs with lenses for a pittance, but there's a lot less reason to use them.

I've been tempted, but then I think about the cost of film and developing, and I remember why I mostly stopped taking pictures before I got a digital camera.

What I find interesting is that so long as you don't need a high megapixel count, there are lots of interesting digital cameras around. I got a Canon three years ago for \$20, not sure what it was at the time except it had 12x or 20x zoom. I thought it might be a DSLR, but it wasn't, but it was an expensive model at the time, so probably the optics are better than average. One can screw on an additional lense, though I suspect those would be expensive due to limited supply.

I have an earlier Canon, I paid three dollars for it, and the specs are nothing great, but it was aimed at a more professional market than consumers, so it's better than average.

People just don't want them because they are now "old" nad aren't 20MPs.

Two years ago I did see an early Sony digital camera, one that saved to a floppy disc, I was tempted but wasn't sure of the price, me not willing to spend a lot on a camera I wasn't intending to actually use. I already have an early Apple digital camera, no plug in memory, no display of what the camera sees, and the pixel count really low, though that's a plus since the memory is relatively small. YOu need a serial port to get those pictures off the camera. Not useful at all now, but I paid a few dollars so it's worth having for the novelty.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 20:28:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Fri, 29 Jun 2018 15:49:01 -0400
Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:

> On 29 Jun 2018 07:01:30 GMT, maus wrote:

>>
>> On 2018-06-28, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> I use duckduckgo.com, but they say they don't track... I have wondered
>>> if that is true or not.
>
> I get way different search results when using Google here. Google's
> results are closer to what I am searching for.

Which is why I use startpage - which is basically a Google proxy
so as far as Google is concerned I'm a tiny fraction of a searcher in
the Netherlands with seriously eclectic interests. Startpage also claim not
to log anything.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 21:08:13 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-29, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
> On Fri, 29 Jun 2018 15:49:01 -0400
> Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:
>
>> On 29 Jun 2018 07:01:30 GMT, maus wrote:
>>>
>>> On 2018-06-28, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> I use duckduckgo.com, but they say they don't track... I have wondered
>>>> if that is true or not.
>>
>> I get way different search results when using Google here. Google's
>> results are closer to what I am searching for.
>
> Which is why I use startpage - which is basically a Google proxy
> so as far as Google is concerned I'm a tiny fraction of a searcher in
> the Netherlands with seriously eclectic interests. Startpage also claim not
> to log anything.
>
I would doubt that any of them do really not log anything

Years ago, I was standing at a counter demanding to see my records.

Eventually, after hearing that I would have to pay for printing them ("Yes"), come back next weel, when they would be ready("No."), the big bull of the pampas arrived out to speak with me.

"We can show you most of the records, not all."

"Who decides what I can see?."

"I do."

I have heard of a child doctor absently writing on the child's record as he made reassuring sounds to the Mother. The nurse standing by his side saw he had codes, as so.

SM. Stupid Mother

VSM Very stupid Mother

ISM Incredibly stupid Mother

That had to stop when the patients got real access to their records.

Night, All.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie

Will Rant for Food

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Fri, 29 Jun 2018 23:47:58 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

> On 2018-06-28, Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:

>

>> But all the new gadgets? Most of them leave me cold. After every
>> browser upgrade (or Emacs upgrade, for that matter) I spend a lot of
>> time figuring out how to disable all the new features.

>

> Or downgrade back to something that works. Stan Kelly-Bootle coined
> the term "sidegrade" for these not-really-upgrades.

Yeah. I'm running a risably old Emacs and even older Linux. Soon be forced to update kernal/system, driven by ubiquitousness of HTTPS and

latest TLS crypto. Old libc doesn't support the browsers new enough to do the crypto. Hacking kernel code is above my job grade.

>> I was getting pretty good with a 35mm SLR but now I'm reduced to the
>> equivalent of ny 1955 Brownie Hawkeye or else a pricey camera that
>> takes 10 minutes and good eyesight just to set up all the options
>> for a shot.
>
> I took some pretty decent underwater photos with my Nikonos V.
> Then I tried a little digital camera and found I had no more TTL
> metering, a crappy strobe that scared fish away with its preflashes,
> and an autofocus that insisted on focusing on what it wanted, rather
> than what I wanted. And that's when I retired from underwater photography.

Pits.

>> I guess I should get a cell phone pretty soon. Old guy, y'know, can
>> no longer be sure of walking home from anywhere in any weather and all
>> the pay phones are gone.
>
> Flip phones are still available. Keep your eyes open.
> You don't need to get an electronic ankle bracelet.

Yes indeed. RSN. :-)

>> Digital house? Um, will it chuck another bolt of wood into the kitchen
>> range or replace the leathers in my hand pump when needed?
>
> No, but the TV will report to all and sundry just what you're watching
> and when you watch it. And the fridge will do the same for your food.
> Big Brother, thy name is Google.

An upside to dialup net: The fridge can't call home surrepetitiously.

>> My electric toaster is 115 years old, gets used
>> daily in summer. Don't think I need a digital one.

Thinko, sorry. The toaster is only 105 years old. 1913 model. Should I have used a calculator i.o. mental arithmetic? :-\

> Hear, hear.

--

Mike Spencer

Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 03:00:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> writes:

> On Wed, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:

>

> [big snip]

>

>> It's getting to be commonplace that when I go to the hardware store,
>> nobody under 50 has even heard of the thing I want to buy. The old
>> guys may remember seeing the product but not for mumble years.
>> Waterglass? Cheap fireproof stickum handy if you do stuff with open
>> flames. Never heard of it. Is there an app for that? :-\

>

> There used to be small stores that had been around "forever" and still run
> by the original owner, or a descendant. There was no liability to keeping
> the old stuff around, so you could go there, someone would know about the
> old stuff, and it was still around.

>

> But a lot of those places are now closed, the owner dying or the rent
> getting too high, and no small stores taking over the territory, just
> those big box stores.

I was just a year or two too late to get parts for my aging tiller.
There was a business like that in Truro, NS that was a dealership for
TroyBilt. I had long counted on his having that back room full of
decades worth of parts. But he got old, sold ths biz and the new guy
said, "What is all this crap?" and sent it to the the scrapyard.

There used to be an industrial supply biz in Halifax that had
evernthing: every type of file that Nicholson ever made; rolls of a
dosen kinds of gasket material; rolls of a dozen kinds of wire mesh;
babbit metal and putty; ever fastener you ever heard of and some you
haven't, stuff I couldn't identify but the geezers knew where and what
everything was. Shelves to the ceiling, piles in the corners. They
had a forge and fab shop, too. Heaven.

Went in one day, found a single young guy in a room with nothing but
waist-high retail display tables. Nothing whatever there that I
couldn't buy in a dozen or more supply shops all over NS. And the
young guy was *proud* and *boasting* that he had gotten rid of all
that old crap -- got \$5,000 for all those Nicholson files -- and now
had a nice, tidy modern business. Just like all the others. All the
others were easier to get to and had better parking. RIP.

> Every so often I read about people finding such stores, they'd closed down
> but the owner had kept things intact, paying the rent (or maybe owning)

- > the property) until he dies and it's a goldmine of old stuff. So in the
- > antique radio hobby, people find places like that and come home loaded
- > when the stuff is finally cleared out. Or someone finds a stock of old
- > toys because they were left in the back of some old store now being
- > cleared out.

I happened on such a 2- or 3-generations family hardware store of that sort having a close-out sale nearly 50 years ago. Bought stuff I reckoned I'd never see again, even if I would never need it. Some things I'm using about now for the first time. Broom maker's needle. Or have always been the only person I know that has some. Special files for sharpening brace bits.

Sic transit gloria mundi.

--

Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 03:12:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

nobody@example.org (Scott) writes:

- > On 27 Jun 2018 17:42:54 -0300, Mike Spencer
- > <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:
- >
- >> Even people who might be expected to know how something works are
- >> content to whap a software package into a server and never know
- >> exactly what it's doing or what they've done.
- >
- > Voodoo administration. I actually get paid for something like that,
- > but it involves expensive industry specific software with all kinds of
- > DRM that's deliberately dense and not made to be understood. It's
- > scary that I can keep things working without really understanding how,
- > and scarier still that this meager knowledge is somehow valuable
- > enough to earn me a living wage. I can't tell if my job's at risk
- > because I can't explain what I do, or if I'm safe because nobody else
- > can figure it out either.

Yow. Sounds like a science fiction story. My febrile imagination says neither you nor any coworkers you know have any idea what the business does. You go to work on a private windowless subway car so you don't even know where it is. Once a week there's a long rant over the PA system in a language you can't identify, full of alien clicks and sibilants. And just once, you found what looked like a surgical instrument for getting at the midbrain dropped behind the trash can in

the men's room.

No? Oh, well, must be weird anyhow.

--

Mike Spencer

Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 07:23:38 GMT

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On 2018-06-30, Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:

>

> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> writes:

>

>> On Wed, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:

>>

>> [big snip]

>>

>> the property) until he dies and it's a goldmine of old stuff. So in the
>> antique radio hobby, people find places like that and come home loaded
>> when the stuff is finally cleared out. Or someone finds a stock of old
>> toys because they were left in the back of some old store now being
>> cleared out.

>

> I happened on such a 2- or 3-generations family hardware store of that
> sort having a close-out sale nearly 50 years ago. Bought stuff I
> reckoned I'd never see again, even if I would never need it. Some
> things I'm using about now for the first time. Broom maker's needle.
> Or have always been the only person I know that has some. Special
> files for sharpening brace bits.

>

> Sic transit gloria mundi.

>

What is happening here (.ie) is that a lot of the small stores just closed
and could not be viably reopened during the Crash. People are renting them
now shortterm, run them for a while, see if it could pay. There is nothing
as depressing as sitting in a car in a town center, with everything boarded
up. All gone to the Malls, which will will decompose as Amazon takes over.

For myself, I love Amazon, being partly disabled. I can still get all
sorts of books, wirelessly.

--

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 08:07:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Brian Reay

On 29/06/2018 18:26, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 6:19:46 AM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:

>

>> Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good
>> possibility no one will want it. I want to cry. That camera took wonderful
>> pictures, even with my limited knowledge of appropriate settings, but
>> dead-tree pictures are in the past now.

>>

>> I think you can get good digital SLR cameras, but the cost is about the
>> same as a good film camera, you're paying for the optics.

>

> I gave up film when Kodak stopped developing it. I was finding
> the cost of buying film going up, plus harder to find the type
> I wanted. I got a digital SLR.

>

> Admittedly, I miss my film camera, though generally, the digital
> can do more (like easily adapt to different light sources, motor
> drive, good auto focus/auto exposure, time/date stamp, and instant
> view.)

>

> I think film handled high contrast situations better than digital.

>

> A friend offered me his old Nikon F, a real classic, but I realized
> I'd have no use for it and it would just gather dust, so I declined.

>

> Note--last time I checked, the chain drugstore still sold Tri-X,
> even though Kodak no longer makes processing chemical or print paper.

>

> Kodak also has a Kodachrome magazine:
> <https://www.kodak.com/US/en/kodachrome/default.htm>

>

> However, I tried finding still film on their website but couldn't.

>

>

I still have the kit to do BW processing (it was something I taught our children) and some 35 mm cameras, including a couple of CRFs. I get the urge every now and then to load up a film etc but the whole process is just so tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite

quick- but getting the improvised darkroom ready etc.

--

Suspect someone is claiming a benefit under false pretences? Incapacity Benefit or Personal Independence Payment when they don't need it? They are depriving those in real need!

<https://www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 08:25:07 GMT

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On 30 Jun 2018 07:23:38 GMT

mausg@mail.com wrote:

- > What is happening here (.ie) is that a lot of the small stores just closed
- > and could not be viably reopened during the Crash. People are renting them
- > now shortterm, run them for a while, see if it could pay. There is
- > nothing as depressing as sitting in a car in a town center, with
- > everything boarded up. All gone to the Malls, which will will decompose
- > as Amazon takes over.

Thankfully there's far less of that in the rural areas. The small shops are still here and Malls are rare outside of the larger cities.

My village has two busy food shops, an excellent hardware shop that in the last decade has only failed me two or three times, a pharmacy, a post office, a couple of hairdressers, a decent mechanic, a really good tyre place (it might pay to drive from Dublin to buy four tyres from him), a few pubs, a bookie and of course a big creamery (erm agricultural supplier).

The nearest town (not counting a seaside town which is also in good shape for what it is) sports *two* thriving builder's merchants a decent supermarket and a plethora of useful small shops most of which have been there for decades. There are a couple of spots which permanently hold the latest computer or phone repair service.

The nearest big city (Limerick) OTOH is a mess, but hey it's Limerick - Tralee and Killarney are both in good shape with busy centres.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

C:\>WIN

The computer obeys and wins.

You lose and Bill collects.

| Directable Mirror Arrays

| A better way to focus the sun

| licences available see

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 12:36:39 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 09:07:41 +0100, Brian Reay wrote:

> I still have the kit to do BW processing (it was something I taught our
> children) and some 35 mm cameras, including a couple of CRFs. I get the
> urge every now and then to load up a film etc but the whole process is
> just too tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite
> quick-
> but getting the improvised darkroom ready etc.

When I was at school, I got into making black and white transparencies,
using normal black and white film. Great fun, and used a lot of that in a
school project. Had the kit for years.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 12:55:01 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

> On 2018-06-27, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:
>
>
>> Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.
>
> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.

I'm glad that I have a modern, powerful and inexpensive computer with
which to discuss all the computing equipment and software I used in the
past. :-)

I've used some pretty amazing hardware and software in the past (amazing
for the time), but what we have now is also really amazing and is
inexpensive.

You can buy a cheap laptop or desktop computer and run Linux or FreeBSD on it and have computing resources I wouldn't even have thought to dream of back when I got started.

Of course, as more capable hardware and software has been made available to us, it has also become available to those who would exploit us.

Perhaps we should really be nostalgic for the days when we had more privacy?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 13:06:34 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

>
> Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good
> possibility no one will want it. I want to cry. That camera took wonderful
> pictures, even with my limited knowledge of appropriate settings, but
> dead-tree pictures are in the past now.
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> I think you can get good digital SLR cameras, but the cost is about the
> same as a good film camera, you're paying for the optics.

I'm still using some of the lenses I bought in the '70s for a Nikon SLR. I use them with a Nikon digital SLR.

The lenses also work on the Nikon F I inherited from my father and that he bought in the '60s.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 13:11:59 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On 30 Jun 2018 07:23:38 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-06-30, Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:
>>
>> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> writes:
>>

>>> On Wed, 28 Jun 2018, Mike Spencer wrote:
>>>
>>> [big snip]
>>>
>>> the property) until he dies and it's a goldmine of old stuff. So in the
>>> antique radio hobby, people find places like that and come home loaded
>>> when the stuff is finally cleared out. Or someone finds a stock of old
>>> toys because they were left in the back of some old store now being
>>> cleared out.
>>
>> I happened on such a 2- or 3-generations family hardware store of that
>> sort having a close-out sale nearly 50 years ago. Bought stuff I
>> reckoned I'd never see again, even if I would never need it. Some
>> things I'm using about now for the first time. Broom maker's needle.
>> Or have always been the only person I know that has some. Special
>> files for sharpening brace bits.
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>> Sic transit gloria mundi.
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> What is happening here (.ie) is that a lot of the small stores just closed
> and could not be viably reopened during the Crash. People are renting them
> now shortterm, run them for a while, see if it could pay. _There_ is nothing
> as depressing as sitting in a car in a town center, with everything boarded
> up. All gone to the Malls, which will will decompose as Amazon takes over.

Took a walk through the local mall the other night. Sears gone, Macys
(2 big stores) gone, Hallmark's gone, Hot Topic is gone, American
Eagle's gone, all the restaurants are gone, what's left is local
businesses, cell phone kiosks, one of the jewelers, Target, and the
theater.

It's not all Amazon's doing though. Fact is that I shopped those
stores while they were there as much as I shopped Amazon, and until
someone comes up with really standardized sizing, buying clothes on
Amazon is a crapshoot. And now I compare Best Buy and Micro Center
with Amazon before I buy--often Best Buy beats Amazon, and sometimes
Micro Center beats both by enough to pay for gas and Mass Pike tolls
to run up to Boston.

> For myself, I love Amazon, being partly disabled. I can still get all
> sorts of books, wirelessly.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 13:17:49 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 09:06:34 -0400, Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:

> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

>

>>

>> Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good
>> possibility no one will want it. I want to cry. That camera took wonderful
>> pictures, even with my limited knowledge of appropriate settings, but
>> dead-tree pictures are in the past now.

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>> I think you can get good digital SLR cameras, but the cost is about the
>> same as a good film camera, you're paying for the optics.

>

> I'm still using some of the lenses I bought in the '70s for a Nikon
> SLR. I use them with a Nikon digital SLR.

>

> The lenses also work on the Nikon F I inherited from my father and that he
> bought in the '60s.

The big change in lens mounts for most manufacturers wasn't related to going digital, it was related to incorporating autofocus, which requires some way to adjust the lens focus under electronic control. Most of the current mounts predate digital by several years.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 13:18:02 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> writes:

>

> All the local electronic parts stores that I went to as a kid starting
> in 1971 are gone. They had old stuff because they'd been around that
> long. But the area where a bunch of them were has long been
> redeveloped, sort of the same situation as "Radio Row" in New York
> City. But also changing needs made those old stores less viable,
> fewer people wanting tube era parts, while the stores never fully
> adapted to solid state parts.

In my area, there was one section of town where there were a number of electronics parts stores, several of which carried a lot of surplus parts.

Then the local baseball team blackmailed the city into building a new field and they condemned the whole neighborhood where the parts stores were.

So now we have a baseball field I never go to, and the parts I had so much fun with are gone.

(I stopped going to baseball games after the bastards went on strike. In fact, I no longer pay any attention to the various Sports, Inc. events. If I go to a game it's Little League or Peewee Football, or games at the local high school. Everything else is just too commercial.)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 13:55:47 GMT

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On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 08:55:01 -0400

Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:

> Perhaps we should really be nostalgic for the days when we had more
> privacy?

Privacy isn't that hard just don't use the internet :) Works just as well with today's multi-gigahertz machines as it did with a 4MHz Z80.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 14:31:41 GMT

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On 2018-06-30, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 30 Jun 2018 07:23:38 GMT

> mausg@mail.com wrote:

>

>> What is happening here (.ie) is that a lot of the small stores just closed
>> and could not be viably reopened during the Crash. People are renting them
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> shops are still here and Malls are rare outside of the larger cities.
>
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> in the last decade has only failed me two or three times, a pharmacy, a
> post office, a couple of hairdressers, a decent mechanic, a really good tyre
> place (it might pay to drive from Dublin to buy four tyres from him), a few
> pubs, a bookie and of course a big creamery (erm agricultural supplier).
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> The nearest town (not counting a seaside town which is also in
> good shape for what it is) sports *two* thriving builder's merchants a
> decent supermarket and a plethora of useful small shops most of which have
> been there for decades. There are a couple of spots which permanently hold
> the latest computer or phone repair service.
>
> The nearest big city (Limerick) OTOH is a mess, but hey it's
> Limerick - Tralee and Killarney are both in good shape with busy centres.

Puck fair coming up?

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Just_Another_Grumpy_Old_Man

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 15:16:26 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 30 Jun 2018 14:31:41 GMT
mausg@mail.com wrote:

> Puck fair coming up?

Mid August usually <checks> 10th-12th this year - the 400th.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 15:17:14 GMT

On 2018-06-29, Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:

> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:
>
>> On 2018-06-28, Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:
>>
>>> My electric toaster is 115 years old, gets used
>>> daily in summer. Don't think I need a digital one.
>
> Thinko, sorry. The toaster is only 105 years old. 1913 model. Should
> I have used a calculator i.o. mental arithmetic? :-\

No, keep those brain cells working. Gotta stay on your toes...

--
/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.
X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.
/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 16:42:22 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-06-30, mausg@mail.com <mausg@mail.com> wrote:

> What is happening here (.ie) is that a lot of the small stores just closed
> and could nt be viably reopened during the Crash. People are renting them
> now shortterm, run them for a while, see if it could pay. _There_ is nothing
> as depressing as sitting in a car in a town center, with everything boarded
> up. All gone to the Malls, which will will decompose as Amazon taakes over.

Around here, even the smaller malls have increasing numbers of boarded-up shops. With the exception of Sears, it's mostly the small independent businesses. Travel is becoming quite boring - no matter where you go, it's the same set of big-box stores. No variety.

Now Main Street's whitewashed buildings and vacant stores.
Seems like there ain't nobody wants to come down here no more.
They're closing down the textile mill 'cross the railroad track.
Foreman says these jobs are going, boys, and they ain't coming back
To your home town.
-- Bruce Springsteen

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.
X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.
/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 16:49:39 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Brian Reay

On 30/06/2018 13:36, Bob Eager wrote:

> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 09:07:41 +0100, Brian Reay wrote:

>

>> I still have the kit to do BW processing (it was something I taught our
>> children) and some 35 mm cameras, including a couple of CRFs. I get the
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>> just to tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite
>> quick-
>> but getting the improvised darkroom ready etc.

>

> When I was at school, I got into making black and white transparencies,
> using normal black and white film. Great fun, and used a lot of that in a
> school project. Had the kit for years.
>

Prior to going to Uni, I had a gap year working as a Lab Tech in a school. One of the interview questions was "Could you set up a darkroom." I'd never done any developing etc before but, working on the principle I could read up on it (this was before the internet) I said yes. I got the job. A few trips to the local library etc and all was well.

--

Suspect someone is claiming a benefit under false pretences? Incapacity Benefit or Personal Independence Payment when they don't need it? They are depriving those in real need!

<https://www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 17:50:38 GMT
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On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 2:16:04 PM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:

- > I've got about 8 unexposed rolls of Kodak ASA100 sitting in the fridge that I
- > don't know what to do with.

Unless they are Kodachrome, there are still places that develop film, especially color print (C-41) film. You might as well take some pictures.

Hint: Many places offer an optional CD along with the prints. I suggest that, as it makes emailing or retouching your pictures easier.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 17:54:22 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 4:08:09 AM UTC-4, Brian Reay wrote:

- > I still have the kit to do BW processing (it was something I taught our
- > children) and some 35 mm cameras, including a couple of CRFs. I get the
- > urge every now and then to load up a film etc but the whole process is
- > just to tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite
- > quick- but getting the improvised darkroom ready etc.

While Kodak no longer makes chemicals, other companies do, such as Ilford. For instance:

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/Darkroom-Equipment/ci/4942/N/4288586562>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 17:56:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 9:12:03 AM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

- > It's not all Amazon's doing though. Fact is that I shopped those
- > stores while they were there as much as I shopped Amazon, and until
- > someone comes up with really standardized sizing, buying clothes on
- > Amazon is a crapshoot. And now I compare Best Buy and Micro Center
- > with Amazon before I buy--often Best Buy beats Amazon, and sometimes
- > Micro Center beats both by enough to pay for gas and Mass Pike tolls
- > to run up to Boston.

buying clothing is frustrating. Old Navy seems to run very large, their stuff swims on me. But other makers are too small.

I'm still pissed at Staples/IBM for their too-small S/360 t-shirt which they wouldn't exchange, even though they admitted it was sized wrong.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 18:13:27 GMT

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On Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 9:17:53 AM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

>> I'm still using some of the lenses I bought in the '70s for a Nikon
>> SLR. I use them with a Nikon digital SLR.

>>

>> The lenses also work on the Nikon F I inherited from my father and that he
>> bought in the '60s.

>

> The big change in lens mounts for most manufacturers wasn't related to
> going digital, it was related to incorporating autofocus, which
> requires some way to adjust the lens focus under electronic control.
> Most of the current mounts predate digital by several years.

Nikon went to a lot of trouble to maintain compatibility with older lens on new cameras. Nikon had one major change some years ago (to AI) for exposure metering and very old lens needed a mod. But moderately old lens (1980) will work on their digital cameras, some even will work automatically.

One nice thing about staying with Nikon was that I was able to reuse my protection-filters and some other accessories, so there was some savings there.

As an aside, I took a few slides of our S/360 and 90/30. Now I wish I had a lot more detailed stuff. But the K64 slide film was slow for indoor work and my early camera was limited which made it difficult (a rangefinder can't get in as close as an SLR).

In hindsight, I wish I got into photography and had a good camera back in high school. We had a shopping district and it'd be great today if I had done a photo study of the stores--the merchandise, décor, shoppers, owners, etc. I also wish I had shots of our Teletype and cord switchboard (although there are many generic shots of them.)

One challenge back then was that films were slow and to do anything decent without flash one had to lug around a tripod and set up a shot with time exposures; this was all quite cumbersome. Further,

in taking a shot of an active business, the owner might not object to quick snap, but would to a tripod blocking the aisle. I remember our operator allowing me to get in to take a _quick_ shot of the S/360 console, and explicitly telling me to get in and out quickly so as not to disrupt her work.

To do color, one would need an FLD filter for the fluorescent lighting. To do good b&w, one would need a full darkroom to make their own prints. That all could get costly. Photography was fun, but it wasn't a cheap hobby.

One nice thing about my DSLR is that it shoots good quality 800-speed pictures, adjust for any light source, and can do good quality b&w as well as color. I think the cost of that, adjusted for inflation, was cheaper than my film SLR.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 18:58:35 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

- > Took a walk through the local mall the other night. Sears gone, Macys
- > (2 big stores) gone, Hallmark's gone, Hot Topic is gone, American
- > Eagle's gone, all the restaurants are gone, what's left is local
- > businesses, cell phone kiosks, one of the jewelers, Target, and the
- > theater.
- >
- > It's not all Amazon's doing though.

Private equity fund does a leveraged takeover of a retail chain. Dumps the debt onto the biz, flogs discernable assets, finds away to unload, leaving the chain with the debt, stripped of assets and with its internal structure and supply chain mangled.

--

Mike Spencer

Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 19:06:29 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On 30 Jun 2018 16:42:22 GMT, Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-06-30, mausg@mail.com <mausg@mail.com> wrote:

>
>> What is happening here (.ie) is that a lot of the small stores just closed
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>
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> Seems like there ain't nobody wants to come down here no more.
> They're closing down the textile mill 'cross the railroad track.
> Foreman says these jobs are going, boys, and they ain't coming back
> To your home town.
> -- Bruce Springsteen

Sears nearest me looks like a ghost town... and that is with the employees in there.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 19:57:29 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 10:54:22 -0700 (PDT), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> On Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 4:08:09 AM UTC-4, Brian Reay wrote:

>
>> I still have the kit to do BW processing (it was something I taught our
>> children) and some 35 mm cameras, including a couple of CRFs. I get the
>> urge every now and then to load up a film etc but the whole process is
>> just so tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite
>> quick- but getting the improvised darkroom ready etc.
>
> While Kodak no longer makes chemicals, other companies do, such as Ilford.
> For instance:
>
> <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/Darkroom-Equipment/ci/4942/N/4288586562>

So? He didn't say he couldn't get chemicals, he said setting up the darkroom was a pain in the butt. Maybe you are (a) not a photographer or (b) some rich flake who can afford a permanent darkroom in his house, but for the rest of us we have to block off all light leaks in the room and then set up the enlarger and the trays and whatnot. The room has to have running water which means either the bathroom or the kitchen, and the bathroom usually doesn't have enough counter space so by default it's the kitchen. And once you're done you have to take it all down again.

>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 20:46:32 GMT
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Originally posted by: nobody

On 30 Jun 2018 00:12:45 -0300, Mike Spencer
<mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> wrote:

>
> nobody@example.org (Scott) writes:
>
>> Voodoo administration. I actually get paid for something like that,
>> but it involves expensive industry specific software with all kinds of
>> DRM that's deliberately dense and not made to be understood. It's
>> scary that I can keep things working without really understanding how,
>> and scarier still that this meager knowledge is somehow valuable
>> enough to earn me a living wage. I can't tell if my job's at risk
>> because I can't explain what I do, or if I'm safe because nobody else
>> can figure it out either.
>
> Yow. Sounds like a science fiction story. My febrile imagination
> says neither you nor any coworkers you know have any idea what the
> business does. You go to work on a private windowless subway car so
> you don't even know where it is. Once a week there's a long rant over
> the PA system in a language you can't identify, full of alien clicks
> and sibilants. And just once, you found what looked like a surgical
> instrument for getting at the midbrain dropped behind the trash can in
> the men's room.

Well, my job takes place at a public institute of higher learning. If there's a PA system there, it doesn't work, but aside from that I can't say much else with any real confidence. The sunshine outside seems real enough most days.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Alfred Falk](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 21:42:30 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote in news:fppqg7F4m0fU7@mid.individual.net:

> On 2018-06-30, Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
>
>> Travel is becoming quite boring - no matter where you go, it's the
>> same set of big-box stores.
>
> Try going abroad, instead!
>
> [https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319 .jpg](https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319.jpg)

For a while longer. They have Walmart and 7-11 in China.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 21:51:46 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sat, 30 Jun 2018, JimP wrote:

> Sears nearest me looks like a ghost town... and that is with the
> employees in there.
>
Sears in Canada died last year. I can't remember if it was a bankruptcy or they just decided to shut down. On the other hand, apparently Toys 'R Us is doing okay here, so it will remain after the US operation shuts down (if that hasn't happened already).

Then there was Target. A big announcement they were moving to Canada, some years in advance. They bought the rights to the stores of an existing chain, which slowly closed down over a few years. Then a wait while Target renovated the stores. About a year later they announced they were closing in Canada, it would take too long to be profitable.

They should have thought of that before they started. I was still looking for where things were, the nearest store was just a bit over a year old. It takes time to adjust. They claim people had too much expectation, from going to the US along the border and buying there, but I'd never been in the place before they opened in Canada. I'd go looking for something in the flyer, and couldn't find it, either because it wasn't in stock, or I was still trying to find where things were.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Alfred Falk](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 21:55:07 GMT

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Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote in
news:fpmflvFgpucU3@mid.individual.net:

> On 2018-06-29, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

> [38 lines snipped]

>

>> Getting ready to sell my Olympus in a garage sale, and there's a good
>> possibility no one will want it.

>

> I'm afraid so. I traded in all my OM stuff a few years ago and went
> Nikon, vowing never to spend another penny with Olympus, because they
> stiffed their loyal OM customers when they went digital by changing the
> lens mounting system, unlike Nikon, where decades old lenses can still
> be used (with limitations) on digital bodies. I got a few pounds for 2
> OM2 bodies and a number of lenses that probably cost me many hundreds
> of pounds.

>

>> I want to cry. That camera took wonderful
>> pictures, even with my limited knowledge of appropriate settings, but
>> dead-tree pictures are in the past now.

>

> Yep. Get used to it!

>

>> I think you can get good digital SLR cameras, but the cost is about
>> the same as a good film camera, you're paying for the optics.

>

> Precisely.

>

> I saw someone using a portable CD player yesterday. Haven't seen one
> of those for years, either.

Saw some in a store just last week. I was a little surprized. My almost
30-year-old son prefers one over his iPod because it's a lot easier to
replace the CD than to delete stuff to make room on his iPod.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 22:39:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 21:42:30 -0000 (UTC), Alfred Falk
<aefalk@telus.net> wrote:

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote in news:fppqg7F4m0fU7
> @mid.individual.net:

>
>> On 2018-06-30, Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>
>>> Travel is becoming quite boring - no matter where you go, it's the
>>> same set of big-box stores.

>>
>> Try going abroad, instead!

>>
>> [https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319 .jpg](https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319.jpg)

>
> For a while longer. They have Walmart and 7-11 in China.

In looking at Japanese vending machines for sodas, bottled water, and various caffeine drinks, I found out there are 7-11s in Japan to. With better food and much greater variety.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 22:40:00 GMT

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Originally posted by: JimP

On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 17:51:46 -0400, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net>
wrote:

> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018, JimP wrote:

>
>
>> Sears nearest me looks like a ghost town... and that is with the
>> employees in there.

>>
> Sears in Canada died last year. I can't remember if it was a bankruptcy
> or they just decided to shut down. On the other hand, apparently Toys 'R
> Us is doing okay here, so it will remain after the US operation shuts down
> (if that hasn't happened already).

The last US Toys 'R Us closed about 2 days ago.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2018 23:04:49 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 21:42:30 -0000 (UTC), Alfred Falk
<aefalk@telus.net> wrote:

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote in news:fppqg7F4m0fU7
> @mid.individual.net:
>
>> On 2018-06-30, Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
>>
>>> Travel is becoming quite boring - no matter where you go, it's the
>>> same set of big-box stores.
>>
>> Try going abroad, instead!
>>
>> [https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319 .jpg](https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319.jpg)
>
> For a while longer. They have Walmart and 7-11 in China.

There may be Walmarts in China but I understand that they are not doing very well. The strategy of moving in and undercutting the locals worked fine in the US, but in China they are high priced and provide poor service, so why would the Chinese shop there?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Gene Wirchenko](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 02:36:00 GMT

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On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 17:39:00 -0500, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:

[snip]

> In looking at Japanese vending machines for sodas, bottled water, and
> various caffeine drinks, I found out there are 7-11s in Japan to. With
> better food and much greater variety.

I follow soranews24.com which has articles about life in Japan. Among the things that they cover are food products. Some of them are quite interesting, and konbini (convenience stores) are active in this.

Sincerely,

Gene Wirchenko

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Gene Wirchenko](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 02:41:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 17:51:46 -0400, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018, JimP wrote:

>> Sears nearest me looks like a ghost town... and that is with the

>> employees in there.

>>

> Sears in Canada died last year. I can't remember if it was a bankruptcy

> or they just decided to shut down. On the other hand, apparently Toys 'R

> Us is doing okay here, so it will remain after the US operation shuts down

> (if that hasn't happened already).

I remember the local coverage about the local (Kamloops, British Columbia) store closing. I had not been in one for decades.

> Then there was Target. A big announcement they were moving to Canada,

> some years in advance. They bought the rights to the stores of an

> existing chain, which slowly closed down over a few years. Then a wait

> while Target renovated the stores. About a year later they announced they

> were closing in Canada, it would take too long to be profitable.

It was supposedly a big deal when they opened locally. I could rarely find anything I wanted. It replaced a Zellers which I got a lot of clothes at.

> They should have thought of that before they started. I was still looking

> for where things were, the nearest store was just a bit over a year old.

> It takes time to adjust. They claim people had too much expectation, from

> going to the US along the border and buying there, but I'd never been in

> the place before they opened in Canada. I'd go looking for something in

> the flyer, and couldn't find it, either because it wasn't in stock, or I

> was still trying to find where things were.

I tried to buy plain black MacGregor's Happyfoot socks. It seems they carried any MacGregor's but the basic stuff. Their clothes seemed to be mainly for teens. It did not take long for me to give up on them.

They could not even handle job applications. Their Website complained that I had not filled in a required field. I looked again, even checked the code: the field in question was not there!

Sincerely,

Gene Wirchenko

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charles Richmond](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 08:17:19 GMT

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On 6/30/2018 9:41 PM, Gene Wirchenko wrote:

>
> [snip...] [snip...] [snip...]
>
> They could not even handle job applications. Their Website
> complained that I had not filled in a required field. I looked again,
> even checked the code: the field in question was not there!
>

Damn you, Gene Wirchenko, for *not* filling out the omitted fields!!! ;-)

--

numerist at aquaporin4 dot com

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 10:59:09 GMT

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Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018, JimP wrote:
>
>
>> Sears nearest me looks like a ghost town... and that is with the
>> employees in there.
>>
> Sears in Canada died last year. I can't remember if it was a bankruptcy
> or they just decided to shut down. On the other hand, apparently Toys 'R
> Us is doing okay here, so it will remain after the US operation shuts down
> (if that hasn't happened already).
>
> Then there was Target. A big announcement they were moving to Canada,
> some years in advance. They bought the rights to the stores of an
> existing chain, which slowly closed down over a few years. Then a wait
> while Target renovated the stores. About a year later they announced they
> were closing in Canada, it would take too long to be profitable.
>
> They should have thought of that before they started. I was still looking
> for where things were, the nearest store was just a bit over a year old.
> It takes time to adjust. They claim people had too much expectation, from

> going to the US along the border and buying there, but I'd never been in
> the place before they opened in Canada. I'd go looking for something in
> the flyer, and couldn't find it, either because it wasn't in stock, or I
> was still trying to find where things were.
>

It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store. It's nice that everywhere in the country the Target layouts are similar. With a few differences I can walk into any Target and go right to what I want. (some stores seem flipped left-right, and some locate the grocery section differently).

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 11:27:03 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Brian Reay

On 30/06/18 18:54, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> On Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 4:08:09 AM UTC-4, Brian Reay wrote:
>
>> I still have the kit to do BW processing (it was something I taught our
>> children) and some 35 mm cameras, including a couple of CRFs. I get the
>> urge every now and then to load up a film etc but the whole process is
>> just so tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite
>> quick- but getting the improvised darkroom ready etc.
>
> While Kodak no longer makes chemicals, other companies do, such as Ilford.
> For instance:
>
> <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/Darkroom-Equipment/ci/4942/N/4288586562>
>
>

For no special reason other than the place I first bought my chemicals from sold them, I used to use a brand I'm sure was called Johnson. (Not sure re spelling, I've not bought any for years.) They made a range of chemicals, as I recall compatible with the common films and papers around at the time. I've no idea if they are still in business. The chemicals were, marginally, cheaper than the more famous brands. Kentmere springs to mind for papers. (This was in the mid 70s).

When I showed my children, I used own brand chemicals from one of the large high st stores, which I think has since gone under.

I should dispose of the enlarger etc, it is just taking up space. I doubt I will use it again.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 11:36:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Brian Reay

On 01/07/18 12:13, Huge wrote:

> On 2018-06-30, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018, JimP wrote:

>>

>>

>>> Sears nearest me looks like a ghost town... and that is with the

>>> employees in there.

>>>

>> Sears in Canada died last year. I can't remember if it was a bankruptcy
>> or they just decided to shut down. On the other hand, apparently Toys 'R
>> Us is doing okay here, so it will remain after the US operation shuts down
>> (if that hasn't happened already).

>

> Sears never operated in the UK,

A pity really, they were an amazing company- although I understand they are not quite what they were.

When I used to spend a lot of time in the US on business, I often visited the local Sears. Their DIY section was a marvel compared to UK stores at the time.

When we bought this house, the garage door opener was a Sears one. How it worked on 240V was a mystery, I assume they made a 240V version. It must have lasted 20+ years. It was still working when we replaced the door with a roller one. Only servicing was a bit of grease now and then.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 11:46:26 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 11:00:52 +0000, Huge wrote:

- > We bought the usual fizzy drinks from them,
- > but also ice cream and hot coffee in a can (surprisingly good).

For a while, you could buy 'hot' coffee in a can in the UK, back around the late 1990s. It wasn't really hot, but warm enough. Cold can, you depressed a thing on the bottom and it heated up.

It never really caught on, but I always kept a couple in the car.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 11:47:03 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 12:27:03 +0100, Brian Reay wrote:

- > For no special reason other than the place I first bought my chemicals
- > from sold them, I used to used a brand I'm sure was called Johnson. (Not
- > sure re spelling, I've not bought any for years.)

Yes, we had that. I think I still have some Johnson equipment (developing tank etc.) somewhere.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 14:03:30 GMT

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On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 06:59:09 -0400

Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

- > It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store.

Some stores, particularly supermarkets rearrange the layout from time to time so that you can't just go straight to the stuff you want but have to look and wind up buying things that you would otherwise not notice.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 14:31:17 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 01/07/2018 15:03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 06:59:09 -0400

> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

>> It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store.

>

> Some stores, particularly supermarkets rearrange the layout from
> time to time so that you can't just go straight to the stuff you want but
> have to look and wind up buying things that you would otherwise not notice.

>

A bit like LIDL, then, where the centre aisle is full of bargains that you didn't know you needed when you went in, and which you'll never use anyway :-)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 14:51:11 GMT
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Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 03:17:19 -0500, Charles Richmond
<numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

> On 6/30/2018 9:41 PM, Gene Wirchenko wrote:

>>

>> [snip...] [snip...] [snip...]

>>

>> They could not even handle job applications. Their Website

>> complained that I had not filled in a required field. I looked again,
>> even checked the code: the field in question was not there!
>>
>
> Damn you, Gene Wirchenko, for *not* filling out the omitted fields!!! ;-)

Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination. They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the application.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 15:24:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 06:59:09 -0400
> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
>> It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store.
>
> Some stores, particularly supermarkets rearrange the layout from
> time to time so that you can't just go straight to the stuff you want but
> have to look and wind up buying things that you would otherwise not notice.
>

Or wind up getting mad that you can't find the whatzits that you walk out without buying anything.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 16:25:26 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On 1 Jul 2018 10:57:13 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-06-30, Alfred Falk <aefalk@telus.net> wrote:
>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote in news:fppqg7F4m0fU7
>> @mid.individual.net:
>>
>>> On 2018-06-30, Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>>
>>>> Travel is becoming quite boring - no matter where you go, it's the
>>>> same set of big-box stores.
>>>
>>> Try going abroad, instead!
>>>
>>> [https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319 .jpg](https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319.jpg)
>>
>> For a while longer. They have Walmart and 7-11 in China.
>
> We went to Japan for a holiday last November. They have 7-11 there. Like
> so many things in Japan (*), it's the same as at 'home', and yet
> weirdly different. I'd wager that American 7-11's don't sell gyoza
> or onigiri. And although the Japanese ones sell fried chicken, it's
> both completely different from and much, much better than American
> fried chicken. And talking of fried chicken, I'd wager they don't
> do this in the USA, either;
>
> https://4.bp.blogspot.com/--XLxUGOS2NQ/WGsgO986bpl/AAAAAAAAMkl/h1Gn_k5DmbEcWhcyVUCuSpGmB-AM2sALgCLcB/s1600/christmas.jpg
>
> (* It was brilliant, BTW. We loved it. One of the two countries in the
> world of the many I've visited that I'd like to go back to.)

Yes, you have to make a reservation for Christmas KFC.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 16:29:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On 1 Jul 2018 11:46:26 GMT, Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:

> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 11:00:52 +0000, Huge wrote:

>

>> We bought the usual fizzy drinks from them,
>> but also ice cream and hot coffee in a can (surprisingly good).

>

> For a while, you could buy 'hot' coffee in a can in the UK, back around
> the late 1990s. It wasn't really hot, but warm enough. Cold can, you
> depressed a thing on the bottom and it heated up.

>

> It never really caught on, but I always kept a couple in the car.

The Japanese vending machines have blue lights under the cold cans,
and red lights under the hot cans. When the air temperature/seasons

change, they increase/decrease the appropriate items available.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Andrew Swallow](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 17:36:43 GMT

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On 01/07/2018 15:51, J. Clarke wrote:

> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 03:17:19 -0500, Charles Richmond

> <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

>

>> On 6/30/2018 9:41 PM, Gene Wirchenko wrote:

>>>

>>> [snip...] [snip...] [snip...]

>>>

>>> They could not even handle job applications. Their Website
>>> complained that I had not filled in a required field. I looked again,
>>> even checked the code: the field in question was not there!

>>>

>>

>> Damn you, Gene Wirchenko, for *not* filling out the omitted fields!!! ;-)

>

> Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.

> They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce

> them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the

> application.

>

Possible. An alternative explanation is that computer programmers are machine people where as the personal departments are full of people people who act like salesmen. The combination does not mix.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 19:16:19 GMT

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On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 15:31:17 +0100

Gareth's Downstairs Computer

<headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

> A bit like LIDL, then, where the centre aisle is full of bargains that

> you didn't know you needed when you went in, and which you'll never

> use anyway :-)

I have a lot of stuff (mostly power tools) from those rows in one or other of the Teutonic Twins that gets used frequently - but then I

buy stuff from there because I want it and the price and three year guarantee go down well.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 19:19:52 GMT

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On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 12:32:44 -0500

Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> wrote:

> On 7/1/2018 9:03 AM, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

>> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 06:59:09 -0400

>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>

>>> It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store.

>>

>> Some stores, particularly supermarkets rearrange the layout from

>> time to time so that you can't just go straight to the stuff you want

>> but have to look and wind up buying things that you would otherwise not

>> notice.

>>

> But you can trust that the milk will be diagonally farthest from the

> entrance, so that if you go for milk you have to walk past as many

> other products as possible. (Yes, I once managed a food store.)

Strangely the supermarket I use for the bulk of my shopping has the milk pretty much dead centre in the rearmost set of aisles, it's the hot food counter that occupies the position you describe. Presumably more people come in just for hot food than just for milk.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 19:30:53 GMT

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Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 18:36:43 +0100, Andrew Swallow
<am.swallow@btinternet.com> wrote:

> On 01/07/2018 15:51, J. Clarke wrote:
>> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 03:17:19 -0500, Charles Richmond
>> <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:
>>
>>> On 6/30/2018 9:41 PM, Gene Wirchenko wrote:
>>>>
>>>> [snip...] [snip...] [snip...]
>>>>
>>>> They could not even handle job applications. Their Website
>>>> complained that I had not filled in a required field. I looked again,
>>>> even checked the code: the field in question was not there!
>>>>
>>>
>>> Damn you, Gene Wirchenko, for *not* filling out the omitted fields!!! ;-)
>>
>> Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.
>> They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce
>> them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the
>> application.
>>
>
> Possible. An alternative explanation is that computer programmers are
> machine people where as the personal departments are full of people
> people who act like salesmen. The combination does not mix.

Sorry, but things like being unable to accept a zip code that starts with zero or demanding that the applicant fill out a field that is not present until he gives up and tries it on a different web browser are on the programmer, not the personnel department.

Of course programmers who belong to the cult of a particular browser and don't consider incorrect operation when accessed using a different browser to be a defect are another part of the problem.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 20:42:33 GMT
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Originally posted by: Chris

On 06/30/18 22:55, Alfred Falk wrote:

>>
>> I'm afraid so. I traded in all my OM stuff a few years ago and went
>> Nikon, vowing never to spend another penny with Olympus, because they
>> stiffed their loyal OM customers when they went digital by changing the
>> lens mounting system, unlike Nikon, where decades old lenses can still
>> be used (with limitations) on digital bodies. I got a few pounds for 2
>> OM2 bodies and a number of lenses that probably cost me many hundreds
>> of pounds.
>>

My brother had an OM2, sweet little camera, but didn't feel as robust as the Nikkormat when I went to buy new around 1975. Brighter finder though. Still have the Nikkormat, still works perfectly, but bought a used D700 body a couple of years ago which meters fine in manual mode, with all the decades long lens collection. Still haven't tried an auto focus lens, but who needs it ?.

Canon changed their lens mount as well, but many times over the years...

Chris

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 20:56:02 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Chris

On 07/01/18 12:36, Brian Reay wrote:

>
> When I used to spend a lot of time in the US on business, I often
> visited the local Sears. Their DIY section was a marvel compared to UK
> stores at the time.
>

Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ?. Half the price of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find at John Lewis or Selfridges...

Chris

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 20:58:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

There are things to be nostalgic for. When a Video Display Terminal cost \$15,000, then, strange to relate, it had a better quality keyboard than today's computers usually do.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Gene Wirchenko](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:40:20 GMT

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On 1 Jul 2018 10:57:13 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-06-30, Alfred Falk <aefalk@telus.net> wrote:

>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote in news:fppqg7F4m0fU7

>> @mid.individual.net:

>>

>>> On 2018-06-30, Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>>

>>>> Travel is becoming quite boring - no matter where you go, it's the

>>>> same set of big-box stores.

>>>

>>> Try going abroad, instead!

>>>

>>> [https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319 .jpg](https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/indian-street-scene-13234319.jpg)

>>

>> For a while longer. They have Walmart and 7-11 in China.

>

> We went to Japan for a holiday last November. They have 7-11 there. Like

> so many things in Japan (*), it's the same as at 'home', and yet

> weirdly different. I'd wager that American 7-11's don't sell gyoza

> or onigiri. And although the Japanese ones sell fried chicken, it's

> both completely different from and much, much better than American

> fried chicken. And talking of fried chicken, I'd wager they don't

> do this in the USA, either;

>

> https://4.bp.blogspot.com/--XLxUGOS2NQ/WGsgO986bpl/AAAAAAAAMkl/h1Gn_k5DmbEcWhcyVUCuSpgmB-AM2sALgCLcB/s1600/christmas.jpg

>

> (* It was brilliant, BTW. We loved it. One of the two countries in the

> world of the many I've visited that I'd like to go back to.)

Apparently, KFC scored quite a coup with creating a Christmas chicken dinner tradition in Japan, and many Japanese think it is a NAM tradition.

Sincerely,

Gene Wirchenko

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Gene Wirchenko](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:41:57 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 10:51:11 -0400, J. Clarke

<jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

[snip]

> Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.
> They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce
> them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the
> application.

Could be.

I was filling out an application for Safeway once. After about six screens -- maybe seven -- I gave up on the interrogation.

Sincerely,

Gene Wirchenko

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:52:26 GMT

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Originally posted by: Chris

On 07/01/18 21:58, Quadibloc wrote:

> There are things to be nostalgic for. When a Video Display Terminal cost \$15,000, then, strange to relate, it
> had a better quality keyboard than today's computers usually do.

Agreed, the best ones had a hall effect sensor under every key and associated magnet. Cherry iirc and still have one of those removed from a Honeywell batch terminal decades ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and their clicky over center spring action. Used to love those.

Everything was better engineered years ago, but is that a sign of advancing years, or just that the world is full of crap product these days ?...

Chris

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [John Levine](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 22:22:00 GMT

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In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>, Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:

> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and
> their clicky over center sping action. Used to love those.

IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but they're good.

<https://www.pckeyboard.com/>

--

Regards,

John Levine, johnl@iecc.com, Primary Perpetrator of "The Internet for Dummies",
Please consider the environment before reading this e-mail. <https://jl.ly>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 22:37:47 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:56:02 +0100, Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:

> On 07/01/18 12:36, Brian Reay wrote:

>

>>

>> When I used to spend a lot of time in the US on business, I often
>> visited the local Sears. Their DIY section was a marvel compared to UK
>> stores at the time.

>>

>

> Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the
> states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ?. Half the price
> of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find
> at John Lewis or Selfridges...

The first pocket calculator I ever saw I saw in May-Cohens in Jacksonville, Florida. IIRC it was about 500 bucks for a basic 4-function. I have a vague recollection that it was a Sharp but also that it had red LEDs which isn't consistent with any Sharp model of that era.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 22:39:39 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 22:22:00 -0000 (UTC), John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:

> In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>,
> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
>> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and
>> their clicky over center sping action. Used to love those.
>
> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but
> they're good.
>
> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>

It's not just the design. They are the IBM keyboard operation, that was spun off as part of Lexmark and then Lexmark spun it off in turn.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 22:55:35 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 22:22:00 +0000, John Levine wrote:

> In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>,
> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
>> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and their clicky
>> over center sping action. Used to love those.
>
> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but
> they're good.
>
> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>

I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is - I'm typing this on it!

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 23:13:38 GMT

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On Sun, 1 Jul 2018, Quadibloc wrote:

> There are things to be nostalgic for. When a Video Display Terminal cost
> \$15,000, then, strange to relate, it had a better quality keyboard than
> today's computers usually do.

>
That's a point. My OSI Superboard II had a keyboard on board, and it was a proper keyboard. The Radio Shack Model 100 portable had a good keyboard too. Not all did, the Atari 400 and the Radio Shack COLOR Computer (even the III model wasn't perfect). But you could also get lots of surplus keyboards, and with some work patch them in to replace the "bad" keyboards.

I'm not sure I gave it much thought at the time. Keyboards got even cheaper but they got not so great.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 23:26:56 GMT

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Originally posted by: Chris

On 07/01/18 23:55, Bob Eager wrote:

>
> I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is - I'm
> typing this on it!
>

No concept of *design life* or planned obsolescence back then. Still have a nos IBM keyboard, says TPE on the front badge, but has a 9 pin D on the cable and a sheet saying only for use on the IBM PC-AT. From memory, the AT keyboards had a din plug on the cable, but maybe mistaken...

Chris

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2018 23:47:26 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 00:26:56 +0100, Chris wrote:

> On 07/01/18 23:55, Bob Eager wrote:

>

>

>> I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is - I'm

>> typing this on it!

>>

>>

> No concept of *design life* or planned obsolescence back then. Still

> have a nos IBM keyboard, says TPE on the front badge, but has a 9 pin D

> on the cable and a sheet saying only for use on the IBM PC-AT.

> From memory, the AT keyboards had a din plug on the cable, but

> maybe mistaken...

No, you are correct. The AT (as with the XT and the PC) had a 5 pin DIN plug. I still have some DIN to PS/2 adaptors.

The keyboard cost £130, but that's less than 50p a year...

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 00:36:34 GMT

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Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 19:13:38 -0400, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018, Quadibloc wrote:

>

>> There are things to be nostalgic for. When a Video Display Terminal cost

>> \$15,000, then, strange to relate, it had a better quality keyboard than

>> today's computers usually do.

>>

> That's a point. My OSI Superboard II had a keyboard on board, and it was

> a proper keyboard. The Radio Shack Model 100 portable had a good keyboard
> too. Not all did, the Atari 400 and the Radio Shack COlor Computer (even
> the III model wasn't perfect). But you could also get lots of surplus
> keyboards, and with some work patch them in to replace the "bad"
> keyboards.
>
> I'm not sure I gave it much thought at the time. Keyboards got even
> cheaper but they got not so great.

And now there's a spectrum of them available. Right now I'm using a
clicky tactile backlit Logitech that is intended for gamers. It
wasn't cheap but it feels good and can even run macros on its onboard
processor.

>
> Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 07:19:35 GMT
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Originally posted by: AndyW

On 27/06/2018 21:16, Mike Spencer wrote:

> Well, I do occasionally use an emulator to play Civ I under MS-DOS 5.
> I guess that qualifies as "visit".

I still play that on DOSBOX. It is still a great game although I
regularly beat it I never manage to get a high rating.

I also still play the original Bard's Tale, X-Com and Amberstar on emulator.

Those are the games I keep returning to. Modern platforms are so far
ahead in terms of graphics, speed and sound but some games have to be
played in the original form.

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 07:28:20 GMT
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Originally posted by: AndyW

On 01/07/2018 21:58, Quadibloc wrote:

- > There are things to be nostalgic for. When a Video Display Terminal cost \$15,000, then, strange to relate, it
- > had a better quality keyboard than today's computers usually do.

Nothing beats a proper mechanical keyboard with an individual switch per key as opposed the the flexible membrane, conductive pad and PCB pad modern keyboards.

My son bought me a mechanical keyboard on Christmas and I was ecstatic.

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 09:01:16 GMT

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On 2018-07-01, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:

- > There are things to be nostalgic for. When a Video Display Terminal cost \$15,000, then, strange to relate, it
- > had a better quality keyboard than today's computers usually do.

I visited the Victoria Albert many years ago. Most of the people were looking at a classic car that was near the Entrance, years later, I was at the Smithsonian, where people were around a classic car, etc.

The classic computers would be More interesting for the ideas involved, rather than the hardware.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie

Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 11:18:43 GMT

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On 2 Jul 2018 09:01:16 GMT

mausg@mail.com wrote:

- > I visited the Victoria Albert many years ago. Most of the people were
- > looking at a classic car that was near the Entrance, years later,

> I was at the Smithsonian, where people were around a classic car, etc.

There was a classic car rally nearby recently so I went along to look - it's hard to realise that the cars I lusted after in my 20s are considered classic cars now.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 12:20:19 GMT

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Originally posted by: Chris

On 07/01/18 23:37, J. Clarke wrote:

> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:56:02 +0100, Chris<xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk>

> wrote:

>

>> On 07/01/18 12:36, Brian Reay wrote:

>>

>>>

>>> When I used to spend a lot of time in the US on business, I often

>>> visited the local Sears. Their DIY section was a marvel compared to UK

>>> stores at the time.

>>>

>>

>> Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the

>> states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ?. Half the price

>> of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find

>> at John Lewis or Selfridges...

>

> The first pocket calculator I ever saw I saw in May-Cohens in

> Jacksonville, Florida. IIRC it was about 500 bucks for a basic

> 4-function. I have a vague recollection that it was a Sharp but also

> that it had red LEDs which isn't consistent with any Sharp model of

> that era.

Most of the early calculators did have led displays, as did digital watches fwir, with lcd coming in much later. The first 4 function here cost around 25.00 ukp, which was a lot of money at the time, but later had a TI Programmer, useful for assembler programming etc. Both of those had led displays, as did the HP, but HP were early leaders in led display tech. Fwir, the HP25C cost me around 180 usd, but was

earning a lot of cash at the time. Still have it, still works fine and in regular use, even though the batteries have been replaced several times by now...

Chris

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 12:41:52 GMT

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Originally posted by: Chris

On 07/02/18 00:47, Bob Eager wrote:

> On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 00:26:56 +0100, Chris wrote:

>

>> On 07/01/18 23:55, Bob Eager wrote:

>>

>>

>>> I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is - I'm

>>> typing this on it!

>>>

>>>

>> No concept of *design life* or planned obsolescence back then. Still

>> have a nos IBM keyboard, says TPE on the front badge, but has a 9 pin D

>> on the cable and a sheet saying only for use on the IBM PC-AT.

>> From memory, the AT keyboards had a din plug on the cable, but

>> maybe mistaken...

>

> No, you are correct. The AT (as with the XT and the PC) had a 5 pin DIN

> plug. I still have some DIN to PS/2 adaptors.

>

> The keyboard cost £130, but that's less than 50p a year...

So wonder what the keyboard I have was used on ?. Part number is 100A519, Date: 09 Jul 1987, FSCM: 1GZ84. The IBM Badge on the front says "TPC Keyboard IV" and has a 9 pin D at the cable end, 4 pins used, but the enclosed sheet says "for use only on IBM PC-AT". Perhaps a special for some system or other, but not quite standard. Don't even remember where I got these from. Decades worth of collection in store, which i'm trying to clear out this year, just keeping the best to restore and experiment with...

Chris

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 12:48:01 GMT

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On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 13:20:19 +0100

Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:

> Most of the early calculators did have led displays, as did digital
> watches fwir, with lcd coming in much later.

I only recall two LED watches, one was a stupendously expensive
Pulsar one (very early digital) the other the Sinclair Black Watch.

The early reflective LCDs had a problem with the electrodes
migrating from one side to the other, basically electroplating. It turned
out to be necessary to use a pretty well balanced AC to make them last.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

| Directable Mirror Arrays

C:>WIN

| A better way to focus the sun

The computer obeys and wins.

| licences available see

You lose and Bill collects.

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [scott](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 14:07:03 GMT

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hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

> On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 2:16:04 PM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:

>

>> I've got about 8 unexposed rolls of Kodak ASA100 sitting in the fridge that I

>> don't know what to do with.

>

> Unless they are Kodachrome, there are still places that develop

> film, especially color print (C-41) film. You might as well take

> some pictures.

It's Kodak Gold 100 color film. Box says develop before 12/2005.

It's probably not worth the effort to shoot it up - All my
old Minolta lenses are now used with my Sony DSLR and I'm
not sure where the film body is anymore.

>

> Hint: Many places offer an optional CD along with the prints.

Yeah, I did that back in the day. The resolution was pretty sucky. Probably

better now...

> I suggest that, as it makes emailing or retouching your pictures easier.

I've got a negative scanner that gives good results, albeit with more work.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [scott](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 14:14:46 GMT

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Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> writes:

> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 22:22:00 +0000, John Levine wrote:

>

>> In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>,

>> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:

>>> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and their clicky

>>> over center sping action. Used to love those.

>>

>> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but

>> they're good.

>>

>> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>

>

> I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is - I'm

> typing this on it!

>

Personally, I've always (since the ASR-33) disliked noisy keyboards. I'm perfectly happy with the modern quiet keyboards (I just wish they'd use more durable keytop decals...).

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 14:44:18 GMT

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On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 14:14:46 GMT

scott@slp53.sl.home (Scott Lurndal) wrote:

> Personally, I've always (since the ASR-33) disliked noisy keyboards. I'm

> perfectly happy with the modern quiet keyboards (I just wish they'd use

> more durable keytop decals...).

Some (like this Rapoo) have double shot moulded keycaps. I rather like this keyboard it has a really short travel reminiscent of an 029, not

sure what the mechanism is but it's several years old and still going strong.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 15:36:29 GMT
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On 2018-07-02, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
> On 2018-07-02, Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
>> On 07/01/18 23:37, J. Clarke wrote:
>>> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:56:02 +0100, Chris<xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk>
>>> wrote:
>>>
>>>> On 07/01/18 12:36, Brian Reay wrote:
>>>>
>>>> >
>
> The first electronic calculator I ever used had Nixie tubes. I still have
> my Father-in-Laws mechanical desktop calculator. It weighs about 20lb and
> is powered by a hand-crank on the side.
>

There was a photo of one in the National Geographic in the late 1940's, I remember that the article was a test of such US machines against a skilled Japanese abacus operator, the abacus man won easily.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 15:40:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On 2 Jul 2018 15:36:29 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>> On 2018-07-02, Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
>>> On 07/01/18 23:37, J. Clarke wrote:
>>>> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:56:02 +0100, Chris<xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk>
>>>> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> > On 07/01/18 12:36, Brian Reay wrote:
>>>> >
>>>> >>
>>
>> The first electronic calculator I ever used had Nixie tubes. I still have
>> my Father-in-Laws mechanical desktop calculator. It weighs about 20lb and
>> is powered by a hand-crank on the side.
>>
>
> There was a photo of one in the National Geographic in the late 1940's, I
> remember that the article was a test of such US machines against a skilled
> Japanese abacus operator, the abacus man won easily.

Many stores when I was a kid had the mechanical calculators. An abacus would easily out do them I think due to the slowness of the mechanical linkages. I did see a few people who were very fast with one of the mechanical calculators.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Alfred Falk](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 16:03:44 GMT
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Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote in
news:alpine.LNX.2.20.1806301746550.25856@thrush:

> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018, JimP wrote:
>
>
>> Sears nearest me looks like a ghost town... and that is with the
>> employees in there.
>>
> Sears in Canada died last year. I can't remember if it was a
> bankruptcy or they just decided to shut down. On the other hand,
> apparently Toys 'R Us is doing okay here, so it will remain after the
> US operation shuts down (if that hasn't happened already).

Sears Canada was hollowed out. It was bought by an investment fund which proceeded to pay itself dividends and huge management fees even though it was losing money. It also sucked money out of the pension fund. (Canadian laws are rather weak in this regard.) "Ooops! We're bankrupt! we'll have to pay ourselves millions just keep us around for the wind-down. Too bad about the

employees pensions..."

- > Then there was Target. A big announcement they were moving to Canada,
- > some years in advance. They bought the rights to the stores of an
- > existing chain, which slowly closed down over a few years. Then a wait
- > while Target renovated the stores. About a year later they announced
- > they were closing in Canada, it would take too long to be profitable.
- >
- > They should have thought of that before they started. I was still
- > looking for where things were, the nearest store was just a bit over a
- > year old. It takes time to adjust. They claim people had too much
- > expectation, from going to the US along the border and buying there,
- > but I'd never been in the place before they opened in Canada. I'd go
- > looking for something in the flyer, and couldn't find it, either
- > because it wasn't in stock, or I was still trying to find where things
- > were.

I never went into a Target, but I did read about their troubles. It seems like the planners never quite realized what it means to be operating in a different country.

When Walmart moved in to Canada about 20 years ago, it ran into problems. Among those being that Canadian shopping preferences are not identical to their American neighbours. (See! we don't even spell the same.) However they figured things out and survived, even without my business.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 16:12:59 GMT

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On 2 Jul 2018 15:36:29 GMT

mausg@mail.com wrote:

- > There was a photo of one in the National Geographic in the late 1940's, I
- > remember that the article was a test of such US machines against a skilled
- > Japanese abacus operator, the abacus man won easily.

Arthur Clarke made good use of that article in his short story "Into the Comet", little did he know that well before the time we get to do things like that everybody would be carrying a pocket computer several times more powerful than needed for the task - but calling it a phone and using it as a camera.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

C:\>WIN

The computer obeys and wins.

You lose and Bill collects.

| Directable Mirror Arrays

| A better way to focus the sun

| licences available see

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [scott](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 16:58:01 GMT

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Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> writes:

> On 2018-07-02, Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:

>> On 07/01/18 23:37, J. Clarke wrote:

>>> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:56:02 +0100, Chris<xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk>
>>> wrote:

>>>

>>>> On 07/01/18 12:36, Brian Reay wrote:

>>>>

>>>> >

>>>> > When I used to spend a lot of time in the US on business, I often

>>>> > visited the local Sears. Their DIY section was a marvel compared to UK

>>>> > stores at the time.

>>>> >

>>>>

>>>> Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the

>>>> states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ?. Half the price

>>>> of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find

>>>> at John Lewis or Selfridges...

>>>

>>> The first pocket calculator I ever saw I saw in May-Cohens in

>>> Jacksonville, Florida. IIRC it was about 500 bucks for a basic

>>> 4-function. I have a vague recollection that it was a Sharp but also

>>> that it had red LEDs which isn't consistent with any Sharp model of

>>> that era.

>>

>> Most of the early calculators did have led displays,

>

> The first electronic calculator I ever used had Nixie tubes. I still have

> my Father-in-Laws mechanical desktop calculator. It weighs about 20lb and

> is powered by a hand-crank on the side.

I have a working Burroughs C3661 programmable calculator which

has a 16+2 digit nixie tube display on my desk. Mid 70's vintage

(actually made by one of the Japanese manufacturers).

Have several Burroughs 9-column adding machines, circa 1910 vintage, including

one (5 column) that my great grandfather used in his general store. All

working (abeit most of the ribbons need re-inking).

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 17:10:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 15:22:02 +0000, Huge wrote:

- > The first electronic calculator I ever used had Nixie tubes. I still
- > have my Father-in-Laws mechanical desktop calculator. It weighs about
- > 20lb and is powered by a hand-crank on the side.

I have a working one with Nixie tubes right here.

My first pocket one was a four function Casio with LED 7 segment display, December 1993.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:
<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 17:54:08 GMT

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On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

- > On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 13:20:19 +0100
- > Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
- >
- >> Most of the early calculators did have led displays, as did digital
- >> watches fwir, with lcd coming in much later.
- >
- > I only recall two LED watches, one was a stupendously expensive
- > Pulsar one (very early digital) the other the Sinclair Black Watch.
- >

I think the first were LED, but there was an article in Popular Electronics for building a digital watch, 1973 or 74 I'd guess, and I'm pretty suer it was an LCD readout. Knid of an exception at the time.

I got a TI LED digital watch in 1976 or 77, they'd just gotten reasonably priced, so no more than fifty dollars for me and probably lower. It was plastic cased, a shift to a more consumer oriented product. I had it in my pocket for some reason, and it fell out while I was mowing the lawn and the watch went through the lawn mower, and didn't survive. I guess it iddn't last much more than a year. But by then prices had dropped a lot, so I could get a TI LED watch in metal case for less, a clearance item.

It was the same watch, except for the case. I kept it, and about five years ago I finally got a new battery for it, but in putting in the battery, something came off, and I'm not sure how it goes back, assuming it just fits in. So there it sits, I don't care other than liking the novelty of wearing it in public.

I think I mentioned it here in the past, one of Alistair Maclean's later books had someone pressing the button on his watch, I don't think enough context for it to make sense for someone who didn't live through that period of LED watches. But of course, it was a brief period in retrospect, by 1980 I'd moved to a Casio LCD watch.

Though, I've been thinking about how Alistair Maclean's books were so popular at one point, and all those movies made, and they've mostly disappeared now.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 17:59:02 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 2 Jul 2018 09:01:16 GMT

> mausg@mail.com wrote:

>

>> I visited the Victoria Albert many years ago. Most of the people were

>> looking at a classic car that was near the Entrance, years later,

>> I was at the Smithsonian, where people were around a classic car, etc.

>

> There was a classic car rally nearby recently so I went along to

> look - it's hard to realise that the cars I lusted after in my 20s are

> considered classic cars now.

>

The Gordon Bennett one is on a circuit inside Co. Kildare, was on a while ago for this year. The real classic cars. There is another group which has a lot younger cars, and I am told there is considerable snobbish resentment between the two groups

Group 2 has rallies in Durrow, Co. Laois, where there is space to look at the cars.

(Looking at the Gordon Bennett event, and contemplating why that race took place in Ireland, it could not take place in England at the time because they had a rule for a short time, that a person would have to walk in front of cars with a red flag.) I am told.

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:07:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, Alfred Falk wrote:

> Sears Canada was hollowed out. It was bought by an investment fund which
> proceeded to pay itself dividends and huge management fees even though it was
> losing money. It also sucked money out of the pension fund. (Canadian laws
> are rather weak in this regard.) "Ooops! We're bankrupt! we'll have to pay
> ourselves millions just keep us around for the wind-down. Too bad about the
> employees pensions..."

>
I remember a series of changes which in themselves meant nothing, but in retrospect did. They renovated the Sears I went to, for the worse, even apart from the disruption that probably lost customers. They shifted from having a cash in each department to a more centralized cash, though at least not near the doors. They shrunk the tool department, not that I counted on that section but I did check it every so often, and eventually it disappeared. I think they tried towards the end to be more upscale, when all I wanted was fairly standard and generic pants and socks and such. Like the other department stores, they became little more than a clothing outlet. I keep getting a Bay gift card at Christmas, which was great at Zellers, but there's very little at The Bay that I want to buy. They don't even sell cashews anymore.

> When Walmart moved in to Canada about 20 years ago, it ran into problems.
> Among those being that Canadian shopping preferences are not identical to
> their American neighbours. (See! we don't even spell the same.) However
> they figured things out and survived, even without my business.

>
>
I guess I'm lucky, in almost downtown Montreal a lot of these chain stores require a deliberate trip. When Ikea came to town decades ago, it was nearby, a smaller version, but they've long moved to the suburbs. There was no downtown Canadian Tire until about 1990, which is now long in the past, but it was a big thing at the time, I'd barely gone into one until then. But Walmart was a deliberate trip, and I think I avoided it for some time, no real reason. I did go in a few times, and found it a real

mess, things just dumped all over the place. Yes, messy customers, but not enough staff to put things back. So there was a big gap but recently I have gone in a bit, mostly for some food items, but it's only when I happen to be nearby.

When Mountain Equipment Coop came to town fifteen years ago, they built from scratch, a nice ecologically sound building, but right in the middle of a shopping area, the buildings all separate but something you deliberately drive to. An odd place for an outdoor store. It's only a two hour walk, each way. I think they've realized the issue, since now there is a "boutique" store kind of downtown, with a limited number of items, and less outdoor than the market they are going after these days kind of urban who wants their stuff.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:18:22 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 01/07/2018 20:16, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 15:31:17 +0100

> Gareth's Downstairs Computer

> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

>> A bit like LIDL, then, where the centre aisle is full of bargains that

>> you didn't know you needed when you went in, and which you'll never

>> use anyway :-)

>

> I have a lot of stuff (mostly power tools) from those rows in

> one or other of the Teutonic Twins that gets used frequently - but then I

> buy stuff from there because I want it and the price and three year

> guarantee go down well.

>

Being from Deutschland, their prices are certain to rise after Brexit.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:19:38 GMT

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On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 6:59:10 AM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:

- > It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store. It's nice
- > that everywhere in the country the Target layouts are similar. With a few
- > differences I can walk into any Target and go right to what I want. (some
- > stores seem flipped left-right, and some locate the grocery section
- > differently).

A discount department store closed, and the building was bought by another chain. They totally redid the interior. When it opened, I kept trying to find departments where they used to be, but everything was redone. Further, the old store had a second floor and a basement, while the new store was just on one floor. The escalator/stairwell section was removed. For me, it was a bit disconcerting at first.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:27:44 GMT

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On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 12:30:04 PM UTC-4, JimP wrote:

- > The Japanese vending machines have blue lights under the cold cans,
- > and red lights under the hot cans. When the air temperature/seasons
- > change, they increase/decrease the appropriate items available.

NYC and Phila had a restaurant chain, Horn & Hardart, that provided good quality food in vending machines known as the Automat. It was generally fresh food, frequently reloaded by people in the back of the machines. Very popular in its day.

Many small office buildings or college campuses have only vending machines, some with hot canned items and cold sandwiches. One wonders if the sandwiches are fresh or left for a few days. Not very appetizing. Other places have a microwave to heat up a canned item.

Some railroads, trying to save money, replaced their dining cars with such vending machines. Passengers hated them and it hurt patronage.

Personally, I don't mind well maintained and stocked vending machines for things like soda or snacks, but I don't like the idea of buying real food in them. Vending machines do have the advantage of always being open 24/7, important for people in I.T. who often work odd hours.

My college had batteries of vending machines in its lounges. They didn't sell real food, but snacks, candy/cake, and coffee and soda. The vending machine operator took good care of the

machines and had reasonable prices. On cold mornings, the coffee machines were very popular.

On a recent visit to the campus, I was surprised to see that the machines were gone and replaced by a human in a cart selling the same sort of things. A rare example of a human replacing a machine.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:35:32 GMT

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On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 3:30:56 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

>>> Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.
>>> They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce
>>> them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the
>>> application.

>>>

>>

>> Possible. An alternative explanation is that computer programmers are
>> machine people where as the personal departments are full of people
>> people who act like salesmen. The combination does not mix.

>

> Sorry, but things like being unable to accept a zip code that starts
> with zero or demanding that the applicant fill out a field that is not
> present until he gives up and tries it on a different web browser are
> on the programmer, not the personnel department.

>

> Of course programmers who belong to the cult of a particular browser
> and don't consider incorrect operation when accessed using a different
> browser to be a defect are another part of the problem.

While the programmers bear some blame for the above, the personnel department is the ultimate end user and they bear final responsibility. They are the ones who should've thoroughly tested the application before using it, and to have ensured that applicants of various backgrounds can fill it out.

Years ago, in designing a personnel mainframe system, various managers (database and end-user) insisted that the telephone number and social security were required field of a certain size and format. The problem was that back then some people didn't have phone numbers or even social security numbers (rare, but it happens and needed to be accommodated.)

Further, some people were applying from other places, and their

phone number didn't follow the standard 10 digits. (again, rare, but had to be accommodated.)

I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:37:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 02/07/2018 16:22, Huge wrote:

>

> The first electronic calculator I ever used had Nixie tubes. I still have
> my Father-in-Laws mechanical desktop calculator. It weighs about 20lb and
> is powered by a hand-crank on the side.

I have such an Odhner (sp?) and at one time was au fait with the algorithm to extract a square root!

These things were more expensive than a typewriter and yet less capable than the cheapest 4-function calculator given away today in cornflake packets.

Mechanical division? Essentially long division by repeated subtraction until the bell rang for overflow, at which point, add one turn back in, shift the carriage and carry on subtracting.

The best such calculator to have in your possession to impress all and sundry is the one looking like a pepper grinder, the Kurta.

ISTR that Kurta was a prisoner of the Nazis in WWII and worked out the whole thing in his head during his incarceration without any paper to make notes!

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:40:16 GMT

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On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 4:42:34 PM UTC-4, Chris wrote:

> On 06/30/18 22:55, Alfred Falk wrote:

>

>>>

>>> I'm afraid so. I traded in all my OM stuff a few years ago and went
>>> Nikon, vowing never to spend another penny with Olympus, because they
>>> stiffed their loyal OM customers when they went digital by changing the
>>> lens mounting system, unlike Nikon, where decades old lenses can still
>>> be used (with limitations) on digital bodies. I got a few pounds for 2
>>> OM2 bodies and a number of lenses that probably cost me many hundreds
>>> of pounds.

>>>

>

> My brother had an OM2, sweet little camera, but didn't feel as robust as
> the Nikkormat when I went to buy new around 1975. Brighter finder though.
> Still have the Nikkormat, still works perfectly, but bought a used D700
> body a couple of years ago which meters fine in manual mode, with all
> the decades long lens collection. Still haven't tried an auto focus
> lens, but who needs it ?
>
> Canon changed their lens mount as well, but many times over the years...

The Nikkormat was a damn good camera.

My Nikon DSLR has a manual metering mode, but the camera isn't designed to use that as the primary method to meter. So, metering manually is cumbersome. I've found that automatic metering works as well or even better.

One mistake I made in buying the new system was getting a telephoto lens without the stabilizer. In bright light the lens works just fine, but in low light, especially when I want to freeze movement, a low shutter speed leads to blurriness I wouldn't have with stabilization. A tripod doesn't help when I want to freeze motion.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:43:13 GMT

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On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 4:56:03 PM UTC-4, Chris wrote:

> Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the
> states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ? Half the price
> of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find
> at John Lewis or Selfridges...

In old the days, department stores, even in the branches, sold a very large variety of goods. Our branch Gimbels had a nice art, book, toy, and scouting department.

Some specialty departments were leased. That is, they were operated

by a contractor. To the customer, it all looked like one store.

As time went on, the remaining department stores gave up on a lot of that staff. Several gave up on appliances and electronics, unable to compete with the specialty big box stores.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:52:07 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 10:07:04 AM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:

> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

>> On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 2:16:04 PM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:

>>

>>> I've got about 8 unexposed rolls of Kodak ASA100 sitting in the fridge that I

>>> don't know what to do with.

>>

>> Unless they are Kodachrome, there are still places that develop

>> film, especially color print (C-41) film. You might as well take

>> some pictures.

>

> It's Kodak Gold 100 color film. Box says develop before 12/2005.

>

> It's probably not worth the effort to shoot it up - All my

> old Minolta lenses are now used with my Sony DSLR and I'm

> not sure where the film body is anymore.

I know a lot of photographers who have old film in the fridge or freezer. I might have some Ektachrome Tungsten buried in the freezer. (if I find that, it's being trashed, too old.)

Keeping film chilled extends its life. But I have no idea how much; I have no idea whether your 2005 print film would still be good. Since they can correct for a lot of errors in printing, it might be usable (of course, if you no longer have the camera...)

>> Hint: Many places offer an optional CD along with the prints.

>

> Yeah, I did that back in the day. The resolution was pretty sucky. Probably

> better now...

In 2005, the resolution was decent and the CD was a big help in emailing out my pictures.

>> I suggest that, as it makes emailing or retouching your pictures easier.
>
> I've got a negative scanner that gives good results, albeit with more
> work.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 18:59:54 GMT
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On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 11:40:54 AM UTC-4, JimP wrote:

> Many stores when I was a kid had the mechanical calculators. An abacus
> would easily out do them I think due to the slowness of the mechanical
> linkages. I did see a few people who were very fast with one of the
> mechanical calculators.

when I took accounting, a basic mechanical adding machine would've
been a huge help in doing the cycle-closing entries.

When printing calculators became reasonably priced, I got one.
Big help, though later a spreadsheet replaced it.

In LIFE magazine, several manufacturers advertised their adding
machines and even calculators. They were still expensive, though,
\$120 in 1953 was serious money.

[https://books.google.com/books?id=gUYEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA16&dq=life%20burroughs%20adding%20machine&pg=PA16#v=one page&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=gUYEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA16&dq=life%20burroughs%20adding%20machine&pg=PA16#v=one%20page&q&f=false)

In the same issue there is an ad for a GE window air conditioners.
They also cost some serious money back then. But on a day like
today, I would buy one!

[https://books.google.com/books?id=gUYEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA16&dq=life%20burroughs%20adding%20machine&pg=PA5#v=one page&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=gUYEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA16&dq=life%20burroughs%20adding%20machine&pg=PA5#v=one%20page&q&f=false)
(Side note--back then, many houses did not have wiring strong enough
to support the large current draw of an a/c unit. Blowing fuses
was common.)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 19:06:35 GMT
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On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 12:58:03 PM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:

- > Have several Burroughs 9-column adding machines, circa 1910 vintage, including
- > one (5 column) that my great grandfather used in his general store. All
- > working (abeit most of the ribbons need re-inking).

FWIW, here is a 1913 Burroughs ad:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=elgEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA2&dq=rotarian%20burroughs&pg=PA2#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Here is an article on William Seward Burroughs.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=qloEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA336&dq=rotarian%20burroughs&pg=PA336#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 19:24:32 GMT

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On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 11:35:32 -0700 (PDT)

hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

- > While the programmers bear some blame for the above, the personnel
- > department is the ultimate end user and they bear final responsibility.
- > They are the ones who should've thoroughly tested the application before
- > using it, and to have ensured that applicants of various backgrounds
- > can fill it out.

This very definitely - too many people think that acceptance testing is a formality. If you're dealing with bespoke software designed for a poorly understood and documented process (that's all of them) it is an absolute necessity and should be done as early as possible.

At a PPOE I was part of a team building tools for another team building online versions of journals, right at the start we told that team that they had to perform acceptance testing because we were pretty sure it did what we thought they wanted but only they could tell us if it was good enough. Instant push back - No you have to deliver tested software.

It took a while but we eventually got the point across that we *couldn't* perform acceptance testing of our own work and expect to find the places where we hadn't understood the requirements properly.

After the first release revealed several such places the one who had been most vehement in insisting that we did the testing took it upon himself to organise the acceptance testing and set up a *superb* acceptance testing regime that stayed for the seven year lifespan of the system.

- > I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow
- > for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.

Yet another one is assuming that every address in the world has one and making it a mandatory field. Until very recently there were no postcodes (zipcodes or any other kind of address codes) in Ireland.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 19:25:26 GMT
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On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 19:18:22 +0100
Gareth's Downstairs Computer
<headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

> On 01/07/2018 20:16, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:
>> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 15:31:17 +0100
>> Gareth's Downstairs Computer
>> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>
>>> A bit like LIDL, then, where the centre aisle is full of bargains that
>>> you didn't know you needed when you went in, and which you'll never
>>> use anyway :-)
>>
>> I have a lot of stuff (mostly power tools) from those rows in
>> one or other of the Teutonic Twins that gets used frequently - but then
>> I buy stuff from there because I want it and the price and three year
>> guarantee go down well.
>>
>
> Being from Deutschland, their prices are certain to rise after Brexit.

Not here in Ireland - ain't the Euro great!

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 19:28:31 GMT

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On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 13:54:08 -0400

Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

> I got a TI LED digital watch in 1976 or 77

I'm pretty sure I never saw one of those which is a little surprising since by brother-in-law was working at TI at the time (I had huge but strange stocks of TTL). I suspect they didn't make it across the pond.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith		Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN		A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins.		licences available see
You lose and Bill collects.		http://www.sohara.org/

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 19:37:13 GMT

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hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

> Years ago, in designing a personnel mainframe system, various
> managers (database and end-user) insisted that the telephone
> number and social security were required field of a certain size
> and format. The problem was that back then some people didn't
> have phone numbers or even social security numbers (rare, but
> it happens and needed to be accommodated.)

>

> Further, some people were applying from other places, and their
> phone number didn't follow the standard 10 digits. (again, rare,
> but had to be accommodated.)

Just so. Coercively imposed stupidity. But when the alternative to a simple <FORM... construct is 7,000+ lines of javascript with the attendant heterogeneous opportunities for error or oversight, you may not be much, if any, further ahead.

> I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow
> for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.

Hah. Yes. Our postal codes aren't "zip" codes, just as our superhighways aren't "interstates".

Canada Day was nice. Happy 4th, y'all. ;-)

--

Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 19:38:51 GMT

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On 2 Jul 2018 17:59:02 GMT

mausg@mail.com wrote:

> The Gordon bennett one is on a circuit inside Co. Kildare, was on a while

Woah there! From early childhood onwards I recall my father using "Gordon Bennet" as a stand in for swearing without ever knowing who or what it referred to from time to time over the decades I have asked people (usually after hearing them use it as he did) without ever learning anything. I even tried googling it once or twice, fruitlessly.

For me this is a half century old minor mystery, thank you muchly for mentioning it.

So it was an early motor race run in Ireland, presumably named after an early racer or race organiser ? Do you know more ?

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [scott](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 19:39:57 GMT

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hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

> On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 12:58:03 PM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:

>
>> Have several Burroughs 9-column adding machines, circa 1910 vintage, including
>> one (5 column) that my great grandfather used in his general store. All
>> working (abeit most of the ribbons need re-inking).

>

> FWIW, here is a 1913 Burroughs ad:

> <https://books.google.com/books?id=elgEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA2&a>

mp;dq=rotarian%20burroughs&pg=PA2#v=onepage&q&f= false

That's similar to the two that I have. I have the stand for one of them.

The one pictured has more columns - the leftmost columns on those machines sometimes had day-of-week symbols, or other accounting related symbology.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:01:31 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 15:43:34 -0400, Andreas Kohlbach wrote:

> On 1 Jul 2018 22:55:35 GMT, Bob Eager wrote:

>>

>> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 22:22:00 +0000, John Levine wrote:

>>

>>> In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>,

>>> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:

>>>> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and their clicky

>>>> over center sping action. Used to love those.

>>>

>>> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but

>>> they're good.

>>>

>>> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>

>>

>> I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is - I'm

>> typing this on it!

>

> What OS are you running?

The keyboard started out with DOS. Then OS/2. Now FreeBSD.

But it's on a KVM that is also attached to a (rarely used) Windows system.

Why?

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:03:43 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 02/07/2018 20:25, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 19:18:22 +0100

> Gareth's Downstairs Computer

> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

>> On 01/07/2018 20:16, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

>>> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 15:31:17 +0100

>>> Gareth's Downstairs Computer

>>> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>>

>>>> A bit like LIDL, then, where the centre aisle is full of bargains that

>>>> you didn't know you needed when you went in, and which you'll never

>>>> use anyway :-)

>>>

>>> I have a lot of stuff (mostly power tools) from those rows in

>>> one or other of the Teutonic Twins that gets used frequently - but then

>>> I buy stuff from there because I want it and the price and three year

>>> guarantee go down well.

>>>

>>

>> Being from Deutschland, their prices are certain to rise after Brexit.

>

> Not here in Ireland - ain't the Euro great!

>

Caught short? No need to spend a penny, just euronate :-)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:24:03 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 2 Jul 2018 17:59:02 GMT

> mausg@mail.com wrote:

>

>> The Gordon bennett one is on a circuit inside Co. Kildare, was on a while

>

> Woah there! From early childhood onwards I recall my father using

> "Gordon Bennet" as a stand in for swearing without ever knowing who or what

> it referred to from time to time over the decades I have asked people

> (usually after hearing them use it as he did) without ever learning

- > anything. I even tried googling it once or twice, fruitlessly.
- >
- > For me this is a half century old minor mystery, thank you muchly
- > for mentioning it.
- >
- > So it was an early motor race run in Ireland, presumably named after
- > an early racer or race organiser ? Do you know more ?
- >

A lot more, fascinating man. I think it was his father that caused the Spanish-American war to sell more newspapers.

There was the story of the younger man having an arranged marriage, he visited a bar on the way to see his intended, then arrived, the family was unready for him, left him in the front room for a while the girl was having a spray job, so when she arrived in the front room, Gordon was relieving a need into the fireplace. He left the US in shame and never returned.

The race was one of the first in the UK, the redflag order was in effect in GreatBritain but not in Ireland.

Oh, the newspaper group had a correspondent in the UK reporting on European affairs called Karl Marx

All the above is from personal accounts of the race and the man. May bo be true, but what the hell.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:37:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:
> In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>,
> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
>> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and
>> their clicky over center sping action. Used to love those.
>
> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but
> they're good.
>
> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>

>

Prices seem to have come down a little. I have one on my primary machine; I love the reassurance of the "click" to let me know I actually pressed the key - something that the virtual keyboard on this iPad doesn't offer.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:37:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 13:20:19 +0100
> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
>
>> Most of the early calculators did have led displays, as did digital
>> watches fwir, with lcd coming in much later.
>
> I only recall two LED watches, one was a stupendously expensive
> Pulsar one (very early digital) the other the Sinclair Black Watch.
>
> The early reflective LCDs had a problem with the electrodes
> migrating from one side to the other, basically electroplating. It turned
> out to be necessary to use a pretty well balanced AC to make them last.
>

I think I had a Timex or two. The LEDs gobbled power but, remember, you had to push the button to activate the display.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:37:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 2 Jul 2018 15:36:29 GMT
> mausg@mail.com wrote:
>
>> There was a photo of one in the National Geographic in the late 1940's, I
>> remember that the article was a test of such US machines against a skilled
>> japanese abacus operator, the abacus man won easily.

- >
- > Arthur Clarke made good use of that article in his short story
- > "Into the Comet", little did he know that well before the time we get to do
- > things like that everybody would be carrying a pocket computer several times
- > more powerful than needed for the task - but calling it a phone and using
- > it as a camera.
- >

But not very good at any of those tasks. (Maybe "good enough", I guess)

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:37:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

- > On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, Alfred Falk wrote:
- >
- >
- >> Sears Canada was hollowed out. It was bought by an investment fund which
- >> proceeded to pay itself dividends and huge management fees even though it was
- >> losing money. It also sucked money out of the pension fund. (Canadian laws
- >> are rather weak in this regard.) "Ooops! We're bankrupt! we'll have to pay
- >> ourselves millions just keep us around for the wind-down. Too bad about the
- >> employees pensions..."
- >>
- > I remember a series of changes which in themselves meant nothing, but in
- > retrospect did. They renovated the Sears I went to, for the worse, even
- > apart from the disruption that probably lost customers. They shifted
- > from having a cash in each department to a more centralized cash,
- > though at least not near the doors. They shrunk the
- > tool department, not that I counted on that section but I did check it
- > every so often, and eventually it disappeared. I think they tried towards
- > the end to be more upscale, when all I wanted was fairly standard and
- > generic pants and socks and such. Like the other department stores, they
- > became little more than a clothing outlet. I keep getting a Bay gift card
- > at Christmas, which was great at Zellers, but there's very little at The
- > Bay that I want to buy. They don't even sell cashews anymore.
- >
- >
- >> When Walmart moved in to Canada about 20 years ago, it ran into problems.
- >> Among those being that Canadian shopping preferences are not identical to
- >> their American neighbours. (See! we don't even spell the same.) However
- >> they figured things out and survived, even without my business.
- >>

>>

- > I guess I'm lucky, in almost downtown Montreal a lot of these chain stores
- > require a deliberate trip. When Ikea came to town decades ago, it was
- > nearby, a smaller version, but they've long moved to the suburbs. There
- > was no downtown Canadian Tire until about 1990, which is now long in the
- > past, but it was a big thing at the time, I'd barely gone into one until
- > then. But Walmart was a deliberate trip, and I think I avoided it for
- > some time, no real reason. I did go in a few times, and found it a real
- > mess, things just dumped all over the place.

That's what initiated my dislike of Walmart, plus the fact that they drove so many mom-and-pops out of business. Since then I have found some neat and organized Walmarts, but they seem to be the exception.

- > Yes, messy customers, but not
- > enough staff to put things back. So there was a big gap but recently I
- > have gone in a bit, mostly for some food items, but it's only when I
- > happen to be nearby.
- >
- > When Mountain Equipment Coop came to town fifteen years ago, they built
- > from scratch, a nice ecologically sound building, but right in the middle
- > of a shopping area, the buildings all separate but something you
- > deliberately drive to. An odd place for an outdoor store. It's only a
- > two hour walk, each way. I think they've realized the issue, since now
- > there is a "boutique" store kind of downtown, with a limited number of
- > items, and less outdoor than the market they are going after these days
- > kind of urban who wants their stuff.
- >
- > Michael
- >
- >

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:37:42 GMT
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- <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:
- > On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 4:56:03 PM UTC-4, Chris wrote:
 - >
 - >> Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the
 - >> states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ?. Half the price

>> of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find
>> at John Lewis or Selfridges...
>
> In old the days, department stores, even in the branches, sold a very
> large variety of goods. Our branch Gimbels had a nice art, book,
> toy, and scouting department.
>
> Some specialty departments were leased. That is, they were operated
> by a contractor. To the customer, it all looked like one store.
>
> As time went on, the remaining department stores gave up on a lot
> of that staff. Several gave up on appliances and electronics, unable
> to compete with the specialty big box stores.
>

Penny's is now - since about a year - selling appliances. I have no idea
how well they're doing.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Andreas Kohlbach](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 20:47:34 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2 Jul 2018 20:01:31 GMT, Bob Eager wrote:
>
> On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 15:43:34 -0400, Andreas Kohlbach wrote:
>
>> On 1 Jul 2018 22:55:35 GMT, Bob Eager wrote:
>>>
>>> I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is - I'm
>>> typing this on it!
>>
>> What OS are you running?
>
> The keyboard started out with DOS. Then OS/2. Now FreeBSD.
>
> But it's on a KVM that is also attached to a (rarely used) Windows system.
>
> Why?

Just curious.

I wonder if you can run CPM-86 on it and get hold of a newsreader and

gain internet access somehow.

--

Andreas

My random thoughts and comments

<https://news-commentaries.blogspot.com/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:05:14 GMT

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Originally posted by: Radey Shouman

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

> On 2 Jul 2018 17:59:02 GMT

> mausg@mail.com wrote:

>

>> The Gordon bennett one is on a circuit inside Co. Kildare, was on a while

>

> Woah there! From early childhood onwards I recall my father using

> "Gordon Bennet" as a stand in for swearing without ever knowing who or what

> it referred to from time to time over the decades I have asked people

> (usually after hearing them use it as he did) without ever learning

> anything. I even tried googling it once or twice, fruitlessly.

>

> For me this is a half century old minor mystery, thank you muchly

> for mentioning it.

>

> So it was an early motor race run in Ireland, presumably named after

> an early racer or race organiser ? Do you know more ?

I'm not at all sure about the motor race, but believe that "Gordon Bennett" as an expletive was inspired by this character:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Gordon_Bennett_Jr.

a second generation newspaperman, famous partly for sending Stanley to find Livingstone, and for some poor impulse control on social occasions.

--

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:11:21 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 16:47:34 -0400, Andreas Kohlbach wrote:

> On 2 Jul 2018 20:01:31 GMT, Bob Eager wrote:

>>

>> On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 15:43:34 -0400, Andreas Kohlbach wrote:

>>

>>> On 1 Jul 2018 22:55:35 GMT, Bob Eager wrote:

>>>>

>>>> I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is - I'm

>>>> typing this on it!

>>>

>>> What OS are you running?

>>

>> The keyboard started out with DOS. Then OS/2. Now FreeBSD.

>>

>> But it's on a KVM that is also attached to a (rarely used) Windows

>> system.

>>

>> Why?

>

> Just curious.

>

> I wonder if you can run CPM-86 on it and get hold of a newsreader and

> gain internet access somehow.

Eh? I'm talking about a keyboard...

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:22:27 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 4:56:03 PM UTC-4, Chris wrote:

>

>> Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the

>> states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ?. Half the price

>> of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find

>> at John Lewis or Selfridges...

>
> In old the days, department stores, even in the branches, sold a very
> large variety of goods. Our branch Gimbels had a nice art, book,
> toy, and scouting department.
>
Yes, and slowly the books went, and the stereo/tv department and I think
one department store here had a photo department, something I'd not
thought of in a long time. Even the remaining downtown department store
dropped its toy department for at least a year, though I notice it was
back this past Christmas. So department stores have become less
"department" and more "clothing and some furniture" than in the past.

> Some specialty departments were leased. That is, they were operated
> by a contractor. To the customer, it all looked like one store.
>
One long running store here, it was a "chain" only in the sense taht they
had a store or two elsewhere, maybe thirty years ago went that route.
They did end up with a good book store in there, though that's gone and
I've not been inside in a long time. But they made a big deal about the
change, so we knew.

One of the early computer stores, I think it was Stan Veit's store, opened
up within a larger "hobby Mart" or something like that. It's probably a
good idea, a way to start out without investing as much. We ahd a complex
downtown, other places have had similar things, a ground floor with a
bakery a fish place, a fruit and vegetable place, etc. Small fast food
sort of places on the third floor, except they weren't all chains, and
then a floor of boutiques, fairly small spaces which could easily be
reconfigured. I assume rent wasn't too high, and it was a good place to
try out your product or whatever. They even had space that was rented out
short term, for seasonal things. But at some point they started
renovating and it went on "forever" and it never recovered. The
building's still there, but the only thriving businesses are at street
level, with access from the street. Inside it's dead.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:29:58 GMT
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On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 11:35:32 -0700 (PDT)
> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
>
>> While the programmers bear some blame for the above, the personnel

- >> department is the ultimate end user and they bear final responsibility.
- >> They are the ones who should've thoroughly tested the application before
- >> using it, and to have ensured that applicants of various backgrounds
- >> can fill it out.
- >
- > This very definitely - too many people think that acceptance
- > testing is a formality. If you're dealing with bespoke software designed
- > for a poorly understood and documented process (that's all of them) it is
- > an absolute necessity and should be done as early as possible.
- >
- > At a PPOE I was part of a team building tools for another team
- > building online versions of journals, right at the start we told that team
- > that they had to perform acceptance testing because we were pretty sure it
- > did what we thought they wanted but only they could tell us if it was good
- > enough. Instant push back - No you have to deliver tested software.
- >
- > It took a while but we eventually got the point across that we
- > *couldn't* perform acceptance testing of our own work and expect to find
- > the places where we hadn't understood the requirements properly.
- >
- > After the first release revealed several such places the one who
- > had been most vehement in insisting that we did the testing took it upon
- > himself to organise the acceptance testing and set up a *superb* acceptance
- > testing regime that stayed for the seven year lifespan of the system.
- >
- >> I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow
- >> for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.
- >
- > Yet another one is assuming that every address in the world has one
- > and making it a mandatory field. Until very recently there were no
- > postcodes (zipcodes or any other kind of address codes) in Ireland.
- >

I think I've still run into US webpages that don't do Canadian postal codes. I know some of the US tv networks have a "find a local station" and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal code.

A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just doesn't want to parse things properly. Phone numbers have a standard format, but a lot of places expect you to just put in the string of numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.

If I need to type in a bank card or similar number, the forms often want the numbers without spacing, while the spacing makes it easier to ensure you've typed it right. Getting spaces out of the way shouldn't require

any real effort on the programmers part.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:40:57 GMT

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Originally posted by: JimP

On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 14:41:57 -0700, Gene Wirchenko <genew@telus.net> wrote:

> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 10:51:11 -0400, J. Clarke

> <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> [snip]

>

>> Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.

>> They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce

>> them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the

>> application.

>

> Could be.

>

> I was filling out an application for Safeway once. After about

> six screens -- maybe seven -- I gave up on the interrogation.

>

Yeah I applied for shelf stocker. I told the manager the screening was tougher than my Navy background check. He was proud of it. I got asked 3 sets of questions, all basically the same thing worded differently. I asked a relative about it, degree in counseling, and I was informed the criminals know how many wrong answers to get on the integrity questions, before an alarm is triggered by the computer. Its the honest people who have a tough time with the questions.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:42:13 GMT

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Originally posted by: JimP

On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 12:18:43 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 2 Jul 2018 09:01:16 GMT
> mausg@mail.com wrote:
>
>> I visited the Victoria Albert many years ago. Most of the people were
>> looking at a classic car that was near the Entrance, years later,
>> I was at the Smithsonian, where people were around a classic car, etc.
>
> There was a classic car rally nearby recently so I went along to
> look - it's hard to realise that the cars I lusted after in my 20s are
> considered classic cars now.

There is some sort of Classic Car fest in the Fall in the Biloxi, MS area. Lots of display cars, lots of stop and go traffic to.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:44:26 GMT
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Originally posted by: JimP

On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 17:12:59 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot
<steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 2 Jul 2018 15:36:29 GMT
> mausg@mail.com wrote:
>
>> There was a photo of one in the National Geographic in the late 1940's, I
>> remember that the article was a test of such US machines against a skilled
>> japanese abacus operator, the abacus man won easily.
>
> Arthur Clarke made good use of that article in his short story
> "Into the Comet", little did he know that well before the time we get to do
> things like that everybody would be carrying a pocket computer several times
> more powerful than needed for the task - but calling it a phone and using
> it as a camera.

One of my relatives likes to ask someone if they are using a radio or a phone ? They reply cell or phone. Then he asks them where the wires are ?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:49:31 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 11:27:44 -0700 (PDT), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 12:30:04 PM UTC-4, JimP wrote:
>
>> The Japanese vending machines have blue lights under the cold cans,
>> and red lights under the hot cans. When the air temperature/seasons
>> change, they increase/decrease the appropriate items available.
>
> NYC and Phila had a restaurant chain, Horn & Hardart, that provided
> good quality food in vending machines known as the Automat. It
> was generally fresh food, frequently reloaded by people in the back
> of the machines. Very popular in its day.
>
> Many small office buildings or college campuses have only vending
> machines, some with hot canned items and cold sandwiches. One wonders
> if the sandwiches are fresh or left for a few days. Not very
> appetizing. Other places have a microwave to heat up a canned item.
>
> Some railroads, trying to save money, replaced their dining cars
> with such vending machines. Passengers hated them and it hurt
> patronage.
>
> Personally, I don't mind well maintained and stocked vending
> machines for things like soda or snacks, but I don't like the
> idea of buying real food in them. Vending machines do have
> the advantage of always being open 24/7, important for people
> in I.T. who often work odd hours.
>
> My college had batteries of vending machines in its lounges.
> They didn't sell real food, but snacks, candy/cake, and coffee
> and soda. The vending machine operator took good care of the
> machines and had reasonable prices. On cold mornings, the coffee
> machines were very popular.
>
> On a recent visit to the campus, I was surprised to see that the
> machines were gone and replaced by a human in a cart selling
> the same sort of things. A rare example of a human replacing
> a machine.

I saw Automat in movies long before I encountered one, but I did eventually in the late 1950s.

I remember either the Three Stooges or the Marx brothers working or getting food from an Automat in one of their short movies.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 23:12:15 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, JimP wrote:

> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 11:27:44 -0700 (PDT), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

>

>> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 12:30:04 PM UTC-4, JimP wrote:

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>>> and red lights under the hot cans. When the air temperature/seasons

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>> was generally fresh food, frequently reloaded by people in the back

>> of the machines. Very popular in its day.

>>

>> Many small office buildings or college campuses have only vending

>> machines, some with hot canned items and cold sandwiches. One wonders

>> if the sandwiches are fresh or left for a few days. Not very

>> appetizing. Other places have a microwave to heat up a canned item.

>>

>> Some railroads, trying to save money, replaced their dining cars

>> with such vending machines. Passengers hated them and it hurt

>> patronage.

>>

>> Personally, I don't mind well maintained and stocked vending

>> machines for things like soda or snacks, but I don't like the

>> idea of buying real food in them. Vending machines do have

>> the advantage of always being open 24/7, important for people

>> in I.T. who often work odd hours.

>>

>> My college had batteries of vending machines in its lounges.

>> They didn't sell real food, but snacks, candy/cake, and coffee

>> and soda. The vending machine operator took good care of the

>> machines and had reasonable prices. On cold mornings, the coffee

>> machines were very popular.

>>

>> On a recent visit to the campus, I was surprised to see that the

>> machines were gone and replaced by a human in a cart selling

>> the same sort of things. A rare example of a human replacing

>> a machine.

>

> I saw Automat in movies long before I encountered one, but I did

> eventually in the late 1950s.

>

> I remember either the Three Stooges or the Marx brothers working or

> getting food from an Automat in one of their short movies.

>

One of the department stores downtown had one, right up to around 1975. When I was a kid we'd go there, it was on the same floor as the toy department, visit Santa Claus in December, then have a meal at the automat. Lots of fun, even if I only remember having a hotdog there. I'm not sure if it was technically an automat, it was the only one I ever saw so I don't know if the real thing was different.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 02 Jul 2018 23:54:00 GMT

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Originally posted by: Chris

On 07/02/18 19:40, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> The Nikkormat was a damn good camera.

Still is, but there is no more Kodachrome :-), though Kodak have recently re introduced Ektachrome. Usually shoot Fuji Provia 100 when in film camera mode, but all reversal film is getting more difficult to find, expensive + processing cost isn't cheap now either.

>

> My Nikon DSLR has a manual metering mode, but the camera isn't designed
> to use that as the primary method to meter. So, metering manually
> is cumbersome. I've found that automatic metering works as well
> or even better.

In fact, the D700 is natural in manual mode, like an F or F2, but you never have to put film in it. Also has something they call adaptive D lighting, which afaics, compresses each end of the curve and helps with blowing out the highlights. Old model, but FF and waited years to buy it, until the market became stable and prices low enough s/h to be affordable, just.

>

> One mistake I made in buying the new system was getting a telephoto
> lens without the stabilizer. In bright light the lens works just
> fine, but in low light, especially when I want to freeze movement,
> a low shutter speed leads to blurriness I wouldn't have with
> stabilization. A tripod doesn't help when I want to freeze motion.

>

One of the things I like about digital is the wide range of iso, so you always have choices as to aperture and speed. The always carry camera here is an old Lumix, which has stabilisation and tele up to 500mm+ 35mm equivalent. Around 50 ukp s/hand and always just works...

Chris

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 01:54:47 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 13:20:19 +0100, Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:

> On 07/01/18 23:37, J. Clarke wrote:
>> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:56:02 +0100, Chris<xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk>
>> wrote:
>>
>>> On 07/01/18 12:36, Brian Reay wrote:
>>>
>>>> When I used to spend a lot of time in the US on business, I often
>>>> visited the local Sears. Their DIY section was a marvel compared to UK
>>>> stores at the time.
>>>>
>>>> Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the
>>>> states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ?. Half the price
>>>> of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find
>>>> at John Lewis or Selfridges...
>>>>
>>>> The first pocket calculator I ever saw I saw in May-Cohens in
>>>> Jacksonville, Florida. IIRC it was about 500 bucks for a basic
>>>> 4-function. I have a vague recollection that it was a Sharp but also
>>>> that it had red LEDs which isn't consistent with any Sharp model of
>>>> that era.
>>>>
>>>> Most of the early calculators did have led displays,

True that but all the early Sharps I can find have green, not red.

> as did digital
> watches fwir, with lcd coming in much later. The first 4 function
> here cost around 25.00 ukp, which was a lot of money at the time, but

> later had a TI Programmer, useful for assembler programming etc. Both
> of those had led displays, as did the HP, but HP were early leaders in
> led display tech. Fwiv, the HP25C cost me around 180 usd, but was
> earning a lot of cash at the time. Still have it, still works fine and
> in regular use, even though the batteries have been replaced several
> times by now...
>
> Chris

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 01:56:06 GMT
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Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 16:37:41 -0400, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com>
wrote:

> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>> On 2 Jul 2018 15:36:29 GMT
>> mausg@mail.com wrote:
>>
>>> There was a photo of one in the National Geographic in the late 1940's, I
>>> remember that the article was a test of such US machines against a skilled
>>> japanese abacus operator, the abacus man won easily.
>>
>> Arthur Clarke made good use of that article in his short story
>> "Into the Comet", little did he know that well before the time we get to do
>> things like that everybody would be carrying a pocket computer several times
>> more powerful than needed for the task - but calling it a phone and using
>> it as a camera.
>>
>
> But not very good at any of those tasks. (Maybe "good enough", I guess)

Mine works fine as a phone and is a better camera than my old
Polaroid.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Richard Thiebaud](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 04:47:37 GMT
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> Phone numbers have a
> standard format, but a lot of places expect you to just put in the
> string of numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.

>

Phone numbers in the U.S. have a standard format. In other countries they don't.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:20:23 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com < Hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com > wrote:

> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 12:30:04 PM UTC-4, JimP wrote:

>

>> The Japanese vending machines have blue lights under the cold cans,
>> and red lights under the hot cans. When the air temperature/seasons
>> change, they increase/decrease the appropriate items available.

>

> NYC and Phila had a restaurant chain, Horn & Hardart, that provided
> good quality food in vending machines known as the Automat. It
> was generally fresh food, frequently reloaded by people in the back
> of the machines. Very popular in its day.

One of PDQ Bach's works unearthed by Peter Schickele was "Concerto for Horn and Hardart". He invented an obscure instrument called the "hardart" to make it all come together.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:20:28 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> Have you not seen the series of "Falsehoods programmers believe about ..."
> web pages? I commend them to the house.

>

> <https://github.com/kdeldycke/awesome-falsehood>

Good one. Thanks.

> In particular, there are American programmers whose heads I would
> cheerfully bang together for not realising that the rest of the planet
> exists, and that there are people who have no ZIP code, whose postcode
> is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose
> house has no number, or that number is not integer, and on and on and
> on.

At the top of my list of Famous Last Words is "Oh, don't worry about that; it'll never happen." In my experience, "never" is usually about six months.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:20:30 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

> I think I've still run into US webpages that don't do Canadian postal
> codes. I know some of the US tv networks have a "find a local station"
> and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do
> watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't
> entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal
> code.

I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require you to enter your zip code. We Canadians are screwed, unless we remember whatever trick you can use (something involving just the numeric digits in your postal code plus some sort of filler, but I don't remember exactly). I'm always a bit nervous about buying gas in the States.

> A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last
> in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just
> doesn't want to parse things properly. Phone numbers have a standard
> format, but a lot of places expect you to just put in the string of
> numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.

Since we went to 10-digit dialing, I no longer use parentheses. Since in properly written text a parenthetical expression can be omitted (parentheses and all) and still be grammatically correct, it sort of made sense to write a phone number (npa)nxx-ssss so you could omit the area code in places where 7-digit dialing is available. If all 10 digits

are mandatory, npa-nxx-ssss makes more sense.

- > If I need to type in a bank card or similar number, the forms often want
- > the numbers without spacing, while the spacing makes it easier to ensure
- > you've typed it right. Getting spaces out of the way shouldn't require
- > any real effort on the programmers part.

This is one of my pet peeves.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:20:31 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

> On 27/06/2018 21:16, Mike Spencer wrote:

>

>> Well, I do occasionally use an emulator to play Civ I under MS-DOS 5.

>> I guess that qualifies as "visit".

>

> I still play that on DOSBOX. It is still a great game although I

> regularly beat it I never manage to get a high rating.

>

> I also still play the original Bard's Tale, X-Com and Amberstar on emulator.

>

> Those are the games I keep returning to. Modern platforms are so far

> ahead in terms of graphics, speed and sound but some games have to be

> played in the original form.

Now I have to get my CP/M box working. I spent a lot of happy hours playing Ladder, a sort of Donkey Kong clone using ASCII characters on a 24x80 cursor-addressable terminal.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:20:38 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, Radey Shouman <shouman@comcast.net> wrote:

> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

>

>> On 2 Jul 2018 17:59:02 GMT

>> mausg@mail.com wrote:

>>

>>> The Gordon bennett one is on a circuit inside Co. Kildare, was on a while

>>

>> Woah there! From early childhood onwards I recall my father using

>> "Gordon Bennet" as a stand in for swearing without ever knowing who or what

>> it referred to from time to time over the decades I have asked people

>> (usually after hearing them use it as he did) without ever learning

>> anything. I even tried googling it once or twice, fruitlessly.

>>

>> For me this is a half century old minor mystery, thank you muchly

>> for mentioning it.

>>

>> So it was an early motor race run in Ireland, presumably named after

>> an early racer or race organiser ? Do you know more ?

>

> I'm not at all sure about the motor race, but believe that "Gordon

> Bennett" as an expletive was inspired by this character:

>

> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Gordon_Bennett_Jr.

>

> a second generation newspaperman, famous partly for sending Stanley to

> find Livingstone, and for some poor impulse control on social occasions.

Thanks for the history lessons. I remember hearing "Gordon Bennett" used as a mild oath on the TV series Red Dwarf, and always wondered what it meant.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:45:40 GMT

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On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 17:29:58 -0400

Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

- > A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last
- > in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just
- > doesn't want to parse things properly.

Parsing names is difficult - not least because the family name does not always come last but also because when the name consists of five words which are forenames and which are surnames - does it make a difference if some of those words are von or ibn or al or ... ?

One wonderful name parsing example I recall from the time I had to do it was:

Lord John Earl.

Title, forename and surname guesses please. In fact it was

Surname: Lord
Forenames: John Earl

No title at all.

- > Phone numbers have a standard format,

You know that thing of Tannenbaum's about standards - it applies to phone numbers, there's at least one standard format for each country.

- > but a lot of places expect you to just put in the string of
- > numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.

Sensible if you are going to take phone numbers from any country.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:50:01 GMT

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On 2 Jul 2018 21:21:13 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

- > In particular, there are American programmers whose heads I would

- > cheerfully bang together for not realising that the rest of the planet
- > exists, and that there are people who have no ZIP code, whose postcode
- > is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose
- > house has no number, or that number is not integer, and on and on and
- > on.

Not having a street name or number is a good one - it applies to most of the rural addresses in Ireland.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:52:21 GMT

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On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:56:06 -0400

J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

- > Mine works find as a phone and is a better camera than my old
- > Polaroid.

Mine is a better camera than the real one in one important respect, it is always in my pocket when I need it rather than languishing in a drawer at home.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:

>> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 3:30:56 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

>>>

>>>> > Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.

>>>> > They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce

>>>> > them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the
>>>> > application.
>>>> >
>>>>
>>>> Possible. An alternative explanation is that computer programmers are
>>>> machine people where as the personal departments are full of people
>>>> people who act like salesmen. The combination does not mix.
>>>
>>> Sorry, but things like being unable to accept a zip code that starts
>>> with zero
>
> [23 lines snipped]
>
>> I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow
>> for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.
>
> Have you not seen the series of "Falsehoods programmers believe about ..."
> web pages? I commend them to the house.
>
> <https://github.com/kdeldycke/awesome-falsehood>
>
> In particular, there are American programmers whose heads I would
> cheerfully bang together for not realising that the rest of the planet
> exists, and that there are people who have no ZIP code, whose postcode
> is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose
> house has no number, or that number is not integer, and on and on and
> on.
>

Why confine the above to programmers..

I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
passport to go to New Mexico..

PS, that was yesterday, might have changed by this PM

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 06:59:08 GMT
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On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 17:05:14 -0400
Radey Shouman <shouman@comcast.net> wrote:

- > I'm not at all sure about the motor race, but believe that "Gordon
- > Bennett" as an expletive was inspired by this character:
- >
- > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Gordon_Bennett_Jr.

Thank you, the same person as associated with the motor race it seems (at least the fireplace story is in common).

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 07:01:49 GMT
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- On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:
- > On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:
 - >
 - >> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 11:35:32 -0700 (PDT)
 - >> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
 - >>
 - > and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do
 - > watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't
 - > entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal
 - > code.
 - >
 - > A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last
 - > in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just
 - > doesn't want to parse things properly. Phone numbers have a standard
 - > format, but a lot of places expect you to just put in the string of
 - > numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.
 - >
 - > If I need to type in a bank card or similar number, the forms often want
 - > the numbers without spacing, while the spacing makes it easier to ensure
 - > you've typed it right. Getting spaces out of the way shouldn't require
 - > any real effort on the programmers part.
 - >
 - > Michael
 - >

I have got by quite well by entering `000000' as post code entry.
We had no post codes in (.ie) until recently

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 07:53:16 GMT
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On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 6:20:21 AM UTC-6, Chris wrote:

- > Most of the early calculators did have led displays, as did digital
- > watches fwir, with lcd coming in much later.

FCVO "early". Early electronic calculators - not pocket ones - often used Nixie tubes.

When it comes to pocket calculators, some early ones used LED displays, while the cheaper early ones used vacuum fluorescent displays instead. LCD indeed came much later.

John Savard

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 08:25:10 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 3 Jul 2018 07:01:49 GMT
mausg@mail.com wrote:

- > I have got by quite well by entering `000000' as post code entry.
- > We had no post codes in (.ie) until recently

I used to put EIRE in as a postcode whenever the form would accept it, that usually didn't look *too* strange when printed on an envelope.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 08:31:42 GMT

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Tue, 03 Jul 2018 04:48:31 +0000, Huge wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:
>
> [50 lines snipped]
>
>> If I need to type in a bank card or similar number, the forms often
>> want the numbers without spacing, while the spacing makes it easier to
>> ensure you've typed it right. Getting spaces out of the way shouldn't
>> require any real effort on the programmers part.
>
> s/ +//g;
>
> This drives me crazy. Banks print stuff with spaces (or in the case of
> branch sort codes, dashes) and then the same banks won't accept those
> numbers formatted in the way they originally provided them. Grrrrrr.

Worse still. I have one of those 'key' pads to validate transactions.

It spits out numbers with a space in them (because it's a generic device). If I key that in as displayed, I am told to retype it without the spaces!

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:
<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 09:15:02 GMT

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On 3 Jul 2018 08:31:42 GMT

Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:

> Worse still. I have one of those 'key' pads to validate transactions.
>
> It spits out numbers with a space in them (because it's a generic
> device). If I key that in as displayed, I am told to retype it without the
> spaces!

Yep got one of those too, some incompetent even bothered to put a note beside the form field saying 'without spaces' and code to complain if they were there instead of writing code to remove them or setting the field to ignore them.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 09:39:44 GMT

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Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>

>> I think I've still run into US webpages that don't do Canadian postal
>> codes. I know some of the US tv networks have a "find a local station"
>> and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do
>> watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't
>> entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal
>> code.

>

> I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require
> you to enter your zip code. We Canadians are screwed, unless we remember
> whatever trick you can use (something involving just the numeric digits
> in your postal code plus some sort of filler, but I don't remember exactly).
> I'm always a bit nervous about buying gas in the States.

>

>> A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last
>> in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just
>> doesn't want to parse things properly. Phone numbers have a standard
>> format, but a lot of places expect you to just put in the string of
>> numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.

>

> Since we went to 10-digit dialing, I no longer use parentheses. Since
> in properly written text a parenthetical expression can be omitted
> (parentheses and all) and still be grammatically correct, it sort of
> made sense to write a phone number (npa)nxx-ssss so you could omit the
> area code in places where 7-digit dialing is available. If all 10 digits
> are mandatory, npa-nxx-ssss makes more sense.

>

>> If I need to type in a bank card or similar number, the forms often want
>> the numbers without spacing, while the spacing makes it easier to ensure

>> you've typed it right. Getting spaces out of the way shouldn't require
>> any real effort on the programmers part.
>
> This is one of my pet peeves.
>

Most of editing the input should be standard. Even the worst programmer should be able to download a piece of free code and plug it in. I get the feeling that everyone does their own, badly.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 09:39:46 GMT
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Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
> On 2018-07-03, Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
>> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:
>>
>>> I think I've still run into US webpages that don't do Canadian postal
>>> codes. I know some of the US tv networks have a "find a local station"
>>> and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do
>>> watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't
>>> entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal
>>> code.
>>
>> I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require
>> you to enter your zip code.
>
> Ah, yes. Those. My Mum's favourite gas station has them, so I am unable to
> buy her gas.
>

Cash usually works :-)

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 09:46:28 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 17:29:58 -0400
>> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:
>>
>>> A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last
>>> in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just
>>> doesn't want to parse things properly.
>>
>> Parsing names is difficult -
>
> s/difficult/impossible/
>
>> not least because the family name does
>> not always come last but also because when the name consists of five words
>> which are forenames and which are surnames - does it make a difference if
>> some of those words are von or ibn or al or ... ?
>>
>> One wonderful name parsing example I recall from the time I had to
>> do it was:
>>
>> Lord John Earl.
>
> Tee hee.
>
>> Title, forename and surname guesses please. In fact it was
>>
>> Surname: Lord
>> Forenames: John Earl
>>
>> No title at all.
>>
>>> Phone numbers have a standard format,
>>
>> You know that thing of Tannenbaum's about standards - it applies to
>> phone numbers, there's at least one standard format for each country.
>>
>>> but a lot of places expect you to just put in the string of
>>> numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.
>>
>> Sensible if you are going to take phone numbers from any country.
>
> I wrote \$(MEGABANK)'s group standard on the validation of names and
> addresses on web sites. This stuff is all very close to my heart. The
> only possible global standard for phone numbers is "anything you
> like". Slightly better is the ITU standard.
>
>

A "standard" is that when you write a name surname-first you use a comma. "Lord, John Earl" is easy to parse. If someone can't be bothered to use a comma they deserve anything they get back. OTOH, given a string of names without punctuation it's largely impossible to parse.

--

Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 09:51:23 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 3 Jul 2018 09:25:14 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 17:29:58 -0400

>> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>>

>>> A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your

>>> last in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure

>>> someone just doesn't want to parse things properly.

>>

>> Parsing names is difficult -

>

> s/difficult/impossible/

I got to around 90% correctly parsed as assessed by a manual check (one great thing about doing stuff for the Inland Revenue - there are people to do things like assess 10,000 results by hand). The source data was a list of bank account titles, so we had companies, partnerships, "Dowe Cheatam and Howe executor to S Pratt", "Some Village Mother's and Toddler's Club" and similar junk to handle as well as names. We did have the advantage of being able to select the parsing rules based on where the data came from so conventions could be embedded in them otherwise it would indeed have been impossible.

Needless to say the parser was a somewhat unusual bit of code and not a set of YACC rules or similar - the summary I wrote described it as an ambiguity tolerant parser for noisy data - even the lexer part generated ambiguous results.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

C:\>WIN

The computer obeys and wins.

You lose and Bill collects.

| Directable Mirror Arrays

| A better way to focus the sun

| licences available see

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 09:55:49 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 3 Jul 2018 09:11:37 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> I have always assumed it to be a euphemism for "Gor blimey", itself
> a corruption of the oath "God blind me."

For some time I suspected that Warren Mitchell or johnny Speight might have invented it for Alf Garnett.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 10:10:20 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 05:46:28 -0400

Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

> A "standard" is that when you write a name surname-first you use a comma.
> "Lord, John Earl" is easy to parse. If someone can't be bothered to use a
> comma they deserve anything they get back. OTOH, given a string of names
> without punctuation it's largely impossible to parse.

True enough but one thing we found on that project was that we got better results by ignoring commas and relying instead on the convention used by each data source. All too often the comma was in the wrong place or missing thus guaranteeing a misparse if you depended on it.

We had a similar experience with postcodes whether provided in the source data or added by a postcoding service - they were wrong often enough that a good address parser and matcher (also not a simple piece of code - I found it easiest to think of it as implementing a virtual postman) did a better job than trying to find the delivery point in a list of entries under the postcode.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 10:36:51 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Tue, 03 Jul 2018 10:15:02 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On 3 Jul 2018 08:31:42 GMT Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:

>

>> Worse still. I have one of those 'key' pads to validate transactions.

>>

>> It spits out numbers with a space in them (because it's a generic
>> device). If I key that in as displayed, I am told to retype it without
>> he spaces!

>

> Yep got one of those too, some incompetent even bothered to put a
> note beside the form field saying 'without spaces' and code to complain
> if they were there instead of writing code to remove them or setting the
> field to ignore them.

NatWest?

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 12:21:08 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 3 Jul 2018 10:36:51 GMT

Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:

> NatWest?

Ulster - both owned by RBS of course.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 12:26:16 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
> On 2018-07-03, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>
> [40 lines snipped]
>
>>> I wrote \$(MEGABANK)'s group standard on the validation of names and
>>> addresses on web sites. This stuff is all very close to my heart. The
>>> only possible global standard for phone numbers is "anything you
>>> like". Slightly better is the ITU standard.
>>>
>>>
>>
>> A "standard" is that when you write a name surname-first you use a comma.
>> "Lord, John Earl" is easy to parse. If someone can't be bothered to use a
>> comma they deserve anything they get back. OTOH, given a string of names
>> without punctuation it's largely impossible to parse.
>
> I suggest you go and read;
>
> <https://www.kalzumeus.com/2010/06/17/falsehoods-programmers-believe-about-names/>
>
> And then contemplate the implications of the fact that web sites are
> generally accessible from all over the world.
>

There are always outliers. If you can have a system that takes care of 90% you're doing good. We're not worried about having our websites accessed by Hottentots or Klingons. My guess is that most or all of Europe, all the Americas, and large parts of Asia (China, Japan) have first names and family names, all expressible in some version of a Unicode Latin alphabet. I am aware of many of the points covered in the link, but Prince, were he still alive, would just have to adopt something other than a squiggly as a name, unless he could get Unicode to add it.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 12:38:51 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 08:26:16 -0400

Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

- > There are always outliers. If you can have a system that takes care of 90%
- > you're doing good. We're not worried about having our websites accessed by
- > Hottentots or Klingons.

Right up until the moment it puts you at the sharp end of a discrimination lawsuit (Klingon lawyer <shudder>).

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith		Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN		A better way to focus the sun
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You lose and Bill collects.		http://www.sohara.org/

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Elliott Roper](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 12:55:28 GMT

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On 3 Jul 2018, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote

(in article<20180703105123.a0718febb5b6e1907ea525e4@eircom.net>):

<bulk snippage>

- > I got to around 90% correctly parsed as assessed by a manual check
- > (one great thing about doing stuff for the Inland Revenue - there are
- > people to do things like assess 10,000 results by hand).

Aha! Do you know who did the egregious self-assessment and RTI software for HMRC? For the former, a swift flick under the ear for decades of inconsistent requirement of 0, 0.00 or leave a field blank, and the latter for the childish chorus of Python 2.7 progress every time it forces the user into a software update in the middle of doing a payroll return.

Oh, all right. It is nitpicking. The overall design has been getting better.

--

To de-mung my e-mail address:- fsnospam\$elliott\$\$ PGP Fingerprint: 1A96 3CF7
637F 896B C810 E199 7E5C A9E4 8E59 E248

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 13:05:46 GMT

On 2018-07-03, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>> On 2018-07-03, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>>

>> [40 lines snipped]

>>

>>>> I wrote \$(MEGABANK)'s group standard on the validation of names and

>>>> addresses on web sites. This stuff is all very close to my heart. The

>>>> only possible global standard for phone numbers is "anything you

>>>> like". Slightly better is the ITU standard.

>>>>

>>>>

>>>

>>> A "standard" is that when you write a name surname-first you use a comma.

>>> "Lord, John Earl" is easy to parse. If someone can't be bothered to use a

>>> comma they deserve anything they get back. OTOH, given a string of names

>>> without punctuation it's largely impossible to parse.

>>

>> I suggest you go and read;

>>

>> <https://www.kalzumeus.com/2010/06/17/falsehoods-programmers-believe-about-names/>

>>

>> And then contemplate the implications of the fact that web sites are

>> generally accessible from all over the world.

>>

>

> There are always outliers. If you can have a system that takes care of 90%

> you're doing good. We're not worried about having our websites accessed by

> Hottentots or Klingons. My guess is that most or all of Europe, all the

> Americas, and large parts of Asia (China, Japan) have first names and

> family names, all expressible in some version of a Unicode Latin alphabet.

> I am aware of many of the points covered in the link, but Prince, were he

> still alive, would just have to adopt something other than a squiggly as a

> name, unless he could get Unicode to add it.

>

The late Mumar (q|k|g)adaffi had his name written down in laatin using one of the variations. Some Chinese that have lived in West for a while had switched to having the family name las.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie

Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 13:13:11 GMT

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On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 3 Jul 2018 10:36:51 GMT

> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:

>

>> NatWest?

>

> Ulster - both owned by RBS of course.

>

It is?.. AFAIK, the first 4 numbers of a credit card identify the bank, so I used to hve problems in the UK wth CCs, the suspicious people the other end would say, Thats not an Ulster bank card, it a Natwest one, and refuse it.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie

Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 13:56:47 GMT

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Originally posted by: drb

> In particular, there are American programmers whose heads I would
> cheerfully bang together for not realising that the rest of the planet
> exists, and that there are people who have no ZIP code, whose postcode
> is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose
> house has no number, or that number is not integer, and on and on and
> on.

Years ago when we lived in Costa Rica, addresses were mostly of the form "250 meters south of <landmark>." Deal with _that_, interweb.

A few examples from a current wiki:

Heredia, 50 oeste de la entrada principal de la UNA
(Heredia (town), 50 west of the principal entrance of the UNA)

1 km al oeste y 500 norte de Zona Industrial Zeta, complejo de bodegas a mano derecha.

(1 km west and 500 north of the Zeta Industrial Zone, warehouse complex on the right)

De la antigua pulpería La Luz, Los Yoses, 75 norte, casa de 2 pisos on verjas negras
(From the old [i.e. probably not there any more] corner store called La Luz, Los Yoses (town), 75 north, two story house with black gates)

De

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 13:58:27 GMT
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Originally posted by: drb

> At the top of my list of Famous Last Words is "Oh, don't worry about
> that; it'll never happen." In my experience, "never" is usually about
> six months.

A friend ran the campus firewall for a while. Something about the old AOL IM protocol was tripping a bug. Vendor support said something about "one in a million". Friend did a quick math, and replied "so, about every 17 seconds on my network."

De

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 14:33:44 GMT
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On 3 Jul 2018 13:13:11 GMT
mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>> On 3 Jul 2018 10:36:51 GMT
>> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:
>>
>>> NatWest?
>>
>> Ulster - both owned by RBS of course.
>>
> It is?..

Yep.

> AFAIK, the first 4 numbers of a credit card identify the bank,

The first 6 digits identify the issuer, the last digit is a checksum and there are allowed to be up to 12 digits between them (I've never seen more than 9 and one of my cards has 8) for the account number.

Yep I've written card handling software in my time.

> so I used to hve problems in the UK wth CCs, the suspicious people the
> other end would say, Thats not an Ulster bank card, it a Natwest one,
> and refuse it.

Just been playing a bit with binlist.net - 4319 31/2 are Ulster,
4319 5/6/7 are RBS in Ireland 4319 44 is BOI, 4319 45/6 is RBS, 4319 47 is
AIB, 4319 48/9 are RBS.

I'm starting to wonder how much of Irish banking RBS is involved
with.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 14:36:30 GMT

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On Tue, 03 Jul 2018 13:55:28 +0100

Elliott Roper <nospam@yrl.co.uk> wrote:

> On 3 Jul 2018, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote
> (in article<20180703105123.a0718febb5b6e1907ea525e4@eircom.net>):
> <bulk snippage>
>> I got to around 90% correctly parsed as assessed by a manual check
>> (one great thing about doing stuff for the Inland Revenue - there are
>> people to do things like assess 10,000 results by hand).
>
> Aha! Do you know who did the egregious self-assessment and RTI software
> for HMRC?

Not a chance I contracted for them around 1990 when they were the
Inland Revenue and had bad things to say about the heavy mob in Customs and
Excise responsible for VAT, I was gone from the country before those two
merged into HMRC - but I'll bet it was *interesting* on the inside, that
would have been quite a culture clash.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
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You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 15:08:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 4:00:12 AM UTC-6, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On 3 Jul 2018 09:11:37 GMT
> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>> I have always assumed it to be a euphemism for "Gor blimey", itself
>> a corruption of the oath "God blind me."

> For some time I suspected that Warren Mitchell or johnny Speight
> might have invented it for Alf Garnett.

And here I thought it was from "God blame me", with "blame" a euphemism for damn.

John Savard

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [scott](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 15:16:07 GMT
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J. Clarke <jjclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 16:37:41 -0400, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com>
> wrote:

ly.

>>>

>>> Arthur Clarke made good use of that article in his short story
>>> "Into the Comet", little did he know that well before the time we get to do
>>> things like that everybody would be carrying a pocket computer several times
>>> more powerful than needed for the task - but calling it a phone and using
>>> it as a camera.

>>>

>>

>> But not very good at any of those tasks. (Maybe "good enough", I guess)

>

> Mine works find as a phone and is a better camera than my old
> Polaroid.

I think that's what's called _damning with faint praise_.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [scott](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 15:18:56 GMT

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Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

> On 2 Jul 2018 21:21:13 GMT

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>

>> In particular, there are American programmers whose heads I would
>> cheerfully bang together for not realising that the rest of the planet
>> exists, and that there are people who have no ZIP code, whose postcode
>> is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose
>> house has no number, or that number is not integer, and on and on and
>> on.

>

> Not having a street name or number is a good one - it applies to

> most of the rural addresses in Ireland.

Even in the US, house numbers are not a required portion of the address. For many years, mine was RR (Rural Route) 3, and later RR 3 Box 578R.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 15:36:01 GMT

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Originally posted by: JimP

On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>> On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:

>>> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 3:30:56 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

>>>>

>>>> >> Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.

>>>> >> They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce

>>>> >> them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the

>>>> >> application.

>>>> >>

>>>> >

>>>> >Possible. An alternative explanation is that computer programmers are

>>>> >machine people where as the personal departments are full of people

>>>> >people who act like salesmen. The combination does not mix.

>>>>

>>>> Sorry, but things like being unable to accept a zip code that starts
>>>> with zero
>>
>> [23 lines snipped]
>>
>>> I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow
>>> for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.
>>
>> Have you not seen the series of "Falsehoods programmers believe about ..."
>> web pages? I commend them to the house.
>>
>> <https://github.com/kdeldycke/awesome-falsehood>
>>
>> In particular, there are American programmers whose heads I would
>> cheerfully bang together for not realising that the rest of the planet
>> exists, and that there are people who have no ZIP code, whose postcode
>> is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose
>> house has no number, or that number is not integer, and on and on and
>> on.
>>
>
> Why confine the above to programmers..
>
> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
> passport to go to New Mexico..
>
> PS, that was yesterday, might have changed by this PM

I thought it was a joke until I found out it actually happened. A US high school teacher can get maps for free from the Department of Education in the US. You download each one, and print out copies of each states and the map for the United States. One who lived in New Mexico was denied the downloads, she called to find out why and was informed she would have to go through her embassy with the United States to get them. She tried to tell the idiot that she and the school was in the United States. They didn't believe her.

It did eventually get straightened out. No follow up on what happened to the moron at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. Probably got a promotion.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 16:03:51 GMT
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Originally posted by: JimP

On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 10:15:02 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot
<steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 3 Jul 2018 08:31:42 GMT
> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:
>
>> Worse still. I have one of those 'key' pads to validate transactions.
>>
>> It spits out numbers with a space in them (because it's a generic
>> device). If I key that in as displayed, I am told to retype it without he
>> spaces!
>
> Yep got one of those too, some incompetent even bothered to put a
> note beside the form field saying 'without spaces' and code to complain if
> they were there instead of writing code to remove them or setting the field
> to ignore them.

A few I have encountered would let me type the CC number in with
spaces, but only allow the form to accept a maximum number of
characters. So, I had to take out the spaces as otherwise the number
wouldn't fit. No warning, no explanation, nothing there.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [scott](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 16:49:59 GMT
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JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:
> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 10:15:02 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot
> <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>
>> On 3 Jul 2018 08:31:42 GMT
>> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:
>>
>>> Worse still. I have one of those 'key' pads to validate transactions.
>>>
>>> It spits out numbers with a space in them (because it's a generic
>>> device). If I key that in as displayed, I am told to retype it without he
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>> note beside the form field saying 'without spaces' and code to complain if
>> they were there instead of writing code to remove them or setting the field
>> to ignore them.
>
> A few I have encountered would let me type the CC number in with
> spaces, but only allow the form to accept a maximum number of
> characters. So, I had to take out the spaces as otherwise the number

> wouldn't fit. No warning, no explanation, nothing there.

The one that really bugs me, is the United Airlines website. The login username and password fields forbid pasting.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 17:39:13 GMT

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On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 3 Jul 2018 13:13:11 GMT

> mausg@mail.com wrote:

>

>> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>>> On 3 Jul 2018 10:36:51 GMT

>>> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:

>>>

>>>> NatWest?

>

> The first 6 digits identify the issuer, the last digit is a

> checksum and there are allowed to be up to 12 digits between them (I've

> never seen more than 9 and one of my cards has 8) for the account number.

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> Yep I've written card handling software in my time.

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>> so I used to hve problems in the UK wth CCs, the suspicious people the

>> other end would say, Thats not an Ulster bank card, it a Natwest one,

>> and refuse it.

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> Just been playing a bit with binlist.net - 4319 31/2 are Ulster,

> 4319 5/6/7 are RBS in Ireland 4319 44 is BOI, 4319 45/6 is RBS, 4319 47 is

> AIB, 4319 48/9 are RBS.

>

> I'm starting to wonder how much of Irish banking RBS is involved

> with.

>

The British have moved a large amount of RBS shares/debt recently. A bit reassuring. I am sitting here at the moment wondering if England is 'the old enemy' or 'our nearest neighbour', I suppose it depends on who wins!

(World Cup, to Leftpondians.)

--

greymaus.ireland.ie

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anne & Lynn Wheel](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 17:55:56 GMT

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mausg@mail.com writes:

- > It is?.. AFAIK, the first 4 numbers of a credit card identify the
- > bank, so I used to hve problems in the UK wth CCs, the suspicious
- > people the other end would say, Thats not an Ulster bank card, it a
- > Natwest one, and refuse it.

longer list

<https://www.bindb.com/bin-list.html>

note, other drift, interchange fee charged merchants is made up of charges for the "issuing bank" (credit card), "merchant bank" (for merchant that accepts card) and "network" (where the "issuing bank" and "merchant bank" are different and need the network to transmit the transaction between merchant and issuing). "On-us" transactions don't have the "network" fee (where the "issuing bank" and the "merchant bank" are the same).

this is motivation for "co-branded" card ... with merchant name also on the card ... use "co-branded" card at the associated merchant reduces the cost for the merchant (since they will be "on-us" transaction).

it use to be that the card associations were non-profit operations that provided the interchange network (connecting merchants and issuing) and publicity (and part of the interchange fee was to cover the cost of operating the interchange network). Consolidation, outsourcing, etc had resulted in over 90% of transactions being done at one of six datacenters ... that had direct network connections ... and very few transactions continued to flow over the card association networks ... but the card associations continued to charge network fee ... in part because the card associations change to "for profit" operations.

There have been some number of big legal battles on eliminating paying the network part of interchange fees ... when the transactions no longer transition over card association network (somewhat using the excuse that the definition of "on-us" transactions only mentioned that it applied when issuing and merchant bank were the same ... just assumed that it met that transaction didn't flow of card association network).

They other threat to card association profits was the rise of internet. Their network was just part of the rise of "value added networks" in the "60s" and "70s" ... but the advent of internet manage to obsolete nearly

all of the VANs during the 90s ... exception primarily was the card association network. The card associations legal maneuvers have been to get their piece of every transactions ... whether it flows over their networks or not ... and would even prefer to the "on-us" exception eliminated.

other trivia: one of the reasons for changing the name of the airline control program (ACP) to transaction processing facility (TPF) was the use of ACP by non-airlines (card associations and others) for their network transaction and routing processor (also change from ACP being free software and TPF being charged for)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transaction_Processing_Facility

the above says card association "authorization" ... but authorization is a function of the issuing bank. card association does provide an optional "stand-in" function if it is unable to contact the issuing bank for transactions routed thru their network ... however it won't actually have access to the account credit limit ... just some "BIN" associated rules.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Payment_card_number

slightly related, 23june1969 unbundling announcement started to charge for (application) software, SE services, etc (they managed to make the case that kernel/system software still be free).

past unbundling posts

<http://www.garlic.com/~lynn/submain.html#unbundle>

The future system effort in the 1st part of 70s, was going to completely replace 370 & completely different. Internal politics was shutting down 370 activity ... and the lack of new 370 products during this period is credited with given clone processors market foothold. FS posts

<http://www.garlic.com/~lynn/submain.html#futuresys>

The rise of clone processors is then credited for change to starting to charge for operating system (kernel) software.

other trivia: I had done bunch of stuff (scheduling, page replacement, path length optimization, disk scheduling, etc) as undergraduate in the 60s, which was picked up and including in IBM's CP67. In the transition from CP67 to VM370, lots of stuff was dropped and/or greatly simplified. All during the FS period, I continued to work on 370 stuff (even ridiculing FS activities). When FS imploded, the mad rush to get stuff back into the 370 product pipelines contributed to selecting lots of my stuff for release. A large package of my stuff was selected as guinea pig to starting to charge for kernel software (and I got to spend a lot of time with lawyers and business people on kernel software charging policies).

scheduling posts

<http://www.garlic.com/~lynn/subtopic.html#fairshare>

page replacement posts

<http://www.garlic.com/~lynn/subtopic.html#wsclock>

--

virtualization experience starting Jan1968, online at home since Mar1970

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 17:56:42 GMT

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On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 3:30:23 PM UTC-4, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 11:35:32 -0700 (PDT)

> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

>

>> While the programmers bear some blame for the above, the personnel
>> department is the ultimate end user and they bear final responsibility.
>> They are the ones who should've thoroughly tested the application before
>> using it, and to have ensured that applicants of various backgrounds
>> can fill it out.

>

> This very definitely - too many people think that acceptance
> testing is a formality. If you're dealing with bespoke software designed
> for a poorly understood and documented process (that's all of them) it is
> an absolute necessity and should be done as early as possible.

I had a few end-users who were very thorough acceptance testers.
They were tough, but in the end it was a win-win for because
they asked very good questions and checked for all sorts of
possibilities.

> At a PPOE I was part of a team building tools for another team
> building online versions of journals, right at the start we told that team
> that they had to perform acceptance testing because we were pretty sure it
> did what we thought they wanted but only they could tell us if it was good
> enough. Instant push back - No you have to deliver tested software.

>

> It took a while but we eventually got the point across that we
> *couldn't* perform acceptance testing of our own work and expect to find
> the places where we hadn't understood the requirements properly.

>

> After the first release revealed several such places the one who
> had been most vehement in insisting that we did the testing took it upon

- > himself to organise the acceptance testing and set up a *superb* acceptance
- > testing regime that stayed for the seven year lifespan of the system.
- >
- >> I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow
- >> for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.
- >
- > Yet another one is assuming that every address in the world has one
- > and making it a mandatory field. Until very recently there were no
- > postcodes (zipcodes or any other kind of address codes) in Ireland.

Unfortunately, some mailing software now makes many assumptions and changes addresses to what it thinks they should be. The problem is that it's wrong. I regularly get mail intended for someone on a street with a name that sounds like mine (and I suspect vice versa).

However, I can't believe that a number of cities use the same street name repeatedly. For instance, the main street through a development will be called Smith Street, but the offshoot cul de sacs will be called Smith Place, Smith Plaza, Smith Court, etc. In Queens, NY, there are a few sections where there is 50th Street that intersects with 50th Avenue. To me, that is very confusing.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:03:46 GMT

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On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 3:39:58 PM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:

- > The one pictured has more columns - the leftmost columns on those machines
- > sometimes had day-of-week symbols, or other accounting related symbology.

I was sharing some of the 1950s Burroughs machines with a friend who was an accountant. He noticed that for front (corporate) office tasks, there weren't enough columns; there were certain tasks that required detail numbers, not rounded up to millions.

I checked the ads and found that almost all the machines had the same number of columns. However, in the fine print, I noticed Burroughs offered special machines with more columns, as well as machines that figured with fractions or other units. So, if someone was working with, say, volume measure, the machine would break a gallon down into quarts, pints, cups, and ounces. Undoubtedly a lot of industries had a specialized need for certain kinds of units, not to mention overseas monetary systems.

Actually, it probably wasn't all that hard to customize, just use a different counter wheel and keytops.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:07:13 GMT
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On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 4:37:43 PM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:

>> As time went on, the remaining department stores gave up on a lot
>> of that staff. Several gave up on appliances and electronics, unable
>> to compete with the specialty big box stores.

> Penny's is now - since about a year - selling appliances. I have no idea
> how well they're doing.

I think Sears still has appliances. Don't know about electronics.

Indeed, I believe in the past, one of Sears' strengths was its hard goods--appliances and hardware and auto, more so than fashion.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:15:22 GMT
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On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 5:50:36 PM UTC-4, JimP wrote:

> I saw Automat in movies long before I encountered one, but I did
> eventually in the late 1950s.
>
> I remember either the Three Stooges or the Marx brothers working or
> getting food from an Automat in one of their short movies.

If memory serves, Doris Day and Audrey Meadows did a film which opened with Meadows giving out free food at the Automat. It might have been this one:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/That_Touch_of_Mink

(Also, Doris Day may have done a film where she was hired to work in data processing and made a mess of things. It might have even been the above.)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:22:59 GMT

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On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 7:54:01 PM UTC-4, Chris wrote:

- > One of the things I like about digital is the wide range of iso, so
- > you always have choices as to aperture and speed. The always carry
- > camera here is an old Lumix, which has stabilisation and tele up to
- > 500mm+ 35mm equivalent. Around 50 ukp s/hand and always just works...

For years I shot only slide film, but only because color print film was more expensive and slide film was of higher quality. I was thrilled when Kodachrome 200 came out.

However, Kodak came out with 400/800 speed Ektachrome. The quality was poor. Then they came out with 400/1000 speed Kodacolor print film and the quality was pretty good. Further, the price of developing and printing day and turnaround time got faster; while slide film service seemed to decline*. I was very rarely projecting and sharing my slides, so I transitioned to print film and was happy.

One thing that was inconsistent was light source color correction in color printing. Sometimes they (Kodak lab) did a great job correcting for tungsten light, but other times they did nothing. Likewise with fluorescent light.

Some people did their own color printing, either from negatives or slides, and of course there one can control it themselves if they had a good enlarger. (I knew someone who did Cibachrome and got good results). But color processing required strict tolerances.

* Kodak had a massive slide processing lab in Fair Lawn NJ. I believe it has all been demolished and redeveloped for something else. So it goes.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:28:38 GMT

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On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 12:47:38 AM UTC-4, Richard Thiebaud wrote:

- >> Phone numbers have a
- >> standard format, but a lot of places expect you to just put in the
- >> string of numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.
- >>

- >
- > Phone numbers in the U.S. have a standard format. In other countries
- > they don't.

US phone numbers are standardize now and have been for a number of years.

But it took a heck of a long time for the Bell System and Independents to convert each and every exchange nationwide to the standard format, as well as go to 100% dial. Even in the 1980s, there were still a few obscure locations that were manual.

I think I previously posted the 1971 telephone directory for Santa Catalina Island which was a manual exchange, and numbers ranged from 2 to 4 digits plus an optional party line suffix. They were the last to be converted in the Bell System, circa 1982. By the late 1970s, business computers were commonplace. How would they have handled that?

In the personnel application I mentioned, we had applicants from all the over country. Someone easily could've come from a obscure place with a non standard phone number.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [usenet](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:34:45 GMT
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On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 15:57:29 -0400, J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 10:54:22 -0700 (PDT), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
>> On Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 4:08:09 AM UTC-4, Brian Reay wrote:

>>> I still have the kit to do BW processing (it was something I taught our
>>> children) and some 35 mm cameras, including a couple of CRFs. I get the
>>> urge every now and them to load up a film etc but the whole process is
>>> just to tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite
>>> quick- but getting the improvised darkroom ready etc.

>>>> While Kodak no longer makes chemicals, other companies do, such as Ilford.
>>>> For instance:

>>>>> <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/Darkroom-Equipment/ci/4942/N/4288586562>

>>>>>> So? He didn't say he couldn't get chemicals, he said setting up the
>>>>>> darkroom was a pain in the butt. Maybe you are (a) not a photographer
>>>>>> or (b) some rich flake who can afford a permanent darkroom in his
>>>>>> house, but for the rest of us we have to block off all light leaks in

> the room and then set up the enlarger and the trays and whatnot. The
> room has to have running water which means either the bathroom or the
> kitchen, and the bathroom usually doesn't have enough counter space so
> by default it's the kitchen. And once you're done you have to take it
> all down again.

Some people put spare bedrooms and/or bathrooms in their basement. Some people have rec rooms with a wet bar. A close relative realized one of their childhood dreams and built a darkroom in the basement. And they were neither rich nor a flake.

People who regularly need to set up a temporary darkroom in their home will quickly streamline the process. Someone who only occasionally develops and prints film would very likely find it a PITA. And once you mix the solutions, they have a limited shelf life.

Film photography was not necessarily an expensive endeavor. Like so many activities however, it could certainly absorb as much money as one cared to throw at it.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:35:24 GMT

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On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 2:23:36 AM UTC-4, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

> Since we went to 10-digit dialing, I no longer use parentheses. Since
> in properly written text a parenthetical expression can be omitted
> (parentheses and all) and still be grammatically correct, it sort of
> made sense to write a phone number (npa)nxx-ssss so you could omit the
> area code in places where 7-digit dialing is available. If all 10 digits
> are mandatory, npa-nxx-ssss makes more sense.

You are correct. But out of force of habit, I still write (311) 555-2368 rather than 311-555-2368. Young-uns like to write 311.555.2368 . I don't know where that format came from, but I won't use it.

As an aside, my office is in a location which still has seven digit dialing for local calls. However, if one dials the area code the call still goes through.

When I first got a cell phone years ago (analog days), I could dial a seven digit call. I don't think that works now.

As an aside, some of the key pioneer area codes which once covered a large area have now shrunk down to a tiny space due to splits.

For example, 213 in Los Angeles and 201 in northern New Jersey.

Some years ago New Yorkers vied to keep a 212 area code and not get one of the new ones, but now I don't think people care.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:36:30 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> (Also, Doris Day may have done a film where she was hired to
> work in data processing and made a mess of things. It might have
> even been the above.)

>

In "Glass Bottom Boat" she works for some research lab, and I have some vague memory of a computer in there. She sometimes plays a mermaid for her father's tour boat, but someone thinks she's a spy.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:38:27 GMT

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On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 3:00:10 AM UTC-4, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> Not having a street name or number is a good one - it applies to
> most of the rural addresses in Ireland.

I think in the US a lot of rural addresses or plain building names were assigned a numerical street address to satisfy the computers in the post office and emergency service.

For instance, many schools and office buildings were addressed as "Smith & Elm Streets". Now they have "1254 Smith St" even when the building takes up a city block.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 18:41:02 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> However, I can't believe that a number of cities use the same
> street name repeatedly. For instance, the main street through
> a development will be called Smith Street, but the offshoot
> cul de sacs will be called Smith Place, Smith Plaza, Smith Court,
> etc. In Queens, NY, there are a few sections where there is
> 50th Street that intersects with 50th Avenue. To me, that is
> very confusing.

>
That's what postal codes are made for. Not so useful if out walking or
diving, but to get the mail there, there's enough definition to make sure
it doesn't go astray, though of course it does. The mail carrier still
has to make surer that the 16 on the envelope is for the house at 16 on
this street, rather than the next street over (this happens a fair number
of times recently).

I've filled out forms only to be told "that address doesn't exist", the
software checking a database, which indicates it's not a road like I
always have known it, but a "chemin".

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:00:15 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 05:46:28 -0400

> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

>> A "standard" is that when you write a name surname-first you use a comma.

>> "Lord, John Earl" is easy to parse. If someone can't be bothered to use a

>> comma they deserve anything they get back. OTOH, given a string of names

>> without punctuation it's largely impossible to parse.

>

> True enough but one thing we found on that project was that we got

> better results by ignoring commas and relying instead on the convention

> used by each data source. All too often the comma was in the wrong place or

> missing thus guaranteeing a misparse if you depended on it.

>

Forty years ago, and I admit that it was a long time ago, I subscribed to
a magazine, and it seemed to take a long time so I wrote them. And I made
the mistake of putting my ham callsign after my name. When the magazine
came, I got two issues per month for a year. One was to me, the other was
to "Michael VEZBUW" (I can't remember if that was all caps. So they
changed "VE2BVW" to something sort of resembling a name. It couldn't be a

number in there, so they changed it to a Z, I haven't figured out why they changed "V" to "U" but one sort of sounds like a name, the other doesn't

They didn't check files to see if I'd sent money for this account. They didn't check the address to see if there was a magazine already headed here. They didn't even check the rest of the name to see if there was a match. They checked the name, no match, they "fixed" the name" and then sent me a free subscription. My friend was happy to get the extra copy each month.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:16:40 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Quadibloc wrote:

> On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 6:20:21 AM UTC-6, Chris wrote:

>

>> Most of the early calculators did have led displays, as did digital

>> watches fwir, with lcd coming in much later.

>

> FCVO "early". Early electronic calculators - not pocket ones - often used Nixie

> tubes.

>

> When it comes to pocket calculators, some early ones used LED displays, while the

> cheaper early ones used vacuum fluorescent displays instead. LCD indeed came much

> later.

>

"Early calculators once the price became reasonable used LED displays".

But yes, "early" in this case meant pocket calculators. "Consumer" calculators might also be acceptable.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:23:15 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

>>
>>> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 11:35:32 -0700 (PDT)
>>> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
>>>
>> and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do
>> watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't
>> entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal
>> code.
>>
>> A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last
>> in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just
>> doesn't want to parse things properly. Phone numbers have a standard
>> format, but a lot of places expect you to just put in the string of
>> numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.
>>
>> If I need to type in a bank card or similar number, the forms often want
>> the numbers without spacing, while the spacing makes it easier to ensure
>> you've typed it right. Getting spaces out of the way shouldn't require
>> any real effort on the programmers part.
>>
>> Michael
>>
>
> I have got by quite well by entering `000000' as post code entry.
> We had no post codes in (.ie) until recently
>
That reminds me of doing something like that at one point, I had to enter
a field, but it wasn't relevant, so I put in something bogus. And it was
"valid".

Of course, if I need a zip code to find out what local station carries a
given network, a bogus number in that field won't get me a result.

This reminds me of using lynx, the text only browser, for a long time.
And at some point I started getting a new error code when trying to use a
site. It seemed the server software was rejecting lynx. So I tried other
user agent headers, and they all worked fine. I think even a blank there
was fine, but the software very much rejected lynx.

A lot of this seems oversight, someone not realizing the world is bigger
than what they see, so they forget others might do things differently.
But rejecting a specific browser (which is different from rejecting all
browsers except a certain one or few) is incredibly discriminatory. "We
know about your browser, and we won't let you in."

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:27:33 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 21:56:06 -0400

> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>> Mine works find as a phone and is a better camera than my old

>> Polaroid.

>

> Mine is a better camera than the real one in one important respect,

> it is always in my pocket when I need it rather than languishing in a

> drawer at home.

>

And you get the pictures back right away. All I ever had was a 35mm viewfinder camera, and after a few years of using it, I gave up. I wan't taking enough pictures to get good, I might want some photos but not want to waste the rest of the roll of film so it would sit around, and then the expense of developing. I take pictures of all kinds of odd things, simply because it costs me nothing, and yes, I always carry my camera with me now. I can film some odd cloud formations, and take a picture of that cactus I just bought to record how small it is now. No need to copy down some notes, just take a photo.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:38:19 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>

>> I think I've still run into US webpages that don't do Canadian postal

>> codes. I know some of the US tv networks have a "find a local station"

>> and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do

>> watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't

>> entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal

>> code.

>

> I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require

> you to enter your zip code. We Canadians are screwed, unless we remember

> whatever trick you can use (something involving just the numeric digits

> in your postal code plus some sort of filler, but I don't remember exactly).

> I'm always a bit nervous about buying gas in the States.

>

I don't drive. Is this because they need your zip code, or just a way of keeping track of a customer? The one zip code I remember was "03458", I think I've got that right, the zip code for 73 Magazine in Peterborough Nh, which of course was also the original zip code for Byte.

>> A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last
>> in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just
>> doesn't want to parse things properly. Phone numbers have a standard
>> format, but a lot of places expect you to just put in the string of
>> numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.

>

> Since we went to 10-digit dialing, I no longer use parentheses. Since
> in properly written text a parenthetical expression can be omitted
> (parentheses and all) and still be grammatically correct, it sort of
> made sense to write a phone number (npa)nxx-ssss so you could omit the
> area code in places where 7-digit dialing is available. If all 10 digits
> are mandatory, npa-nxx-ssss makes more sense.

>

>> If I need to type in a bank card or similar number, the forms often want
>> the numbers without spacing, while the spacing makes it easier to ensure
>> you've typed it right. Getting spaces out of the way shouldn't require
>> any real effort on the programmers part.

>

> This is one of my pet peeves.

>

Sometimes it takes some effort to figure out what I've done wrong. I
press enter, and sometimes it looks like nothing happened, until I notice
a "all * fields require data" and even then, it may take me a while to
figure out what I didn't do right.

I'm expecting some money from the government. So I've been checking the
CRA sit. I am really impressed with how they set that up. If you have a
bank account that you could access online, then that works to verify who
you are to the federal site. You have to have some other bits, but
"whatever was on line 40 of your income tax return", something very
unlikely to be available to others. Added security comes from phoning or
emailing the CRA, and they mail you back (to the address on your income
tax) a code. You don't need that code after the first time, it's just
another level of security.

It all just seems very well thought out, security without having to go
down in person, and no major hurdles to it.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:48:06 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Huge wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>

> [50 lines snipped]

>

>> If I need to type in a bank card or similar number, the forms often want
>> the numbers without spacing, while the spacing makes it easier to ensure
>> you've typed it right. Getting spaces out of the way shouldn't require
>> any real effort on the programmers part.

>

> s/ +//g;

>

I think the first time I saw an explanation of parsing was to get rid of unwanted spaces in a BASIC interpreter or maybe an assembler. It's a so very basic building block that I can't believe they can't be bothered parsing out the spaces.

> This drives me crazy. Banks print stuff with spaces (or in the case of
> branch sort codes, dashes) and then the same banks won't accept those
> numbers formatted in the way they originally provided them. Grrrrrr.

>

If the spaces weren't there, you'd lose track of where you were. And then that happens when you double check what you've typed in, you get lost because the spaces aren't in what you've typed.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:51:25 GMT

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Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

> I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require
> you to enter your zip code.

Good Lord, why? I'm inclined to think I'll never try to enter the US again. The current policies at the border are a deterrent and anywhere I'd want to go would be within the 100 mile "constitution-free zone" as well. But zip code for gas? People with no fixed address don't drive? Oh, well, maybe they don't have credit

cards, either? I've pumped gas for a living and can, if prodded with a pointy stick, write programs for computers but operating a randomly selected self-serve gas pump sometimes defeats me.

- > We Canadians are screwed, unless we remember whatever trick you can
- > use (something involving just the numeric digits in your postal code
- > plus some sort of filler, but I don't remember exactly). I'm always
- > a bit nervous about buying gas in the States.

The big Canadian Tire chain requires a phone number before they'll accept a defective item for return. Used to be I (among others) would just give them the store's own number that's prominently posted near the service desk. Now desk personnel have been officially clued by management and refuse to accept that number. Lesson is, I suppose, to keep bogus phone number, US zipcode, CAN postal code, maybe SS/SI number etc. on hand.

--

Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:53:25 GMT

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On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Richard Thiebaud wrote:

>> Phone numbers have a standard format, but a lot of places expect you to
>> just put in the string of numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.
>>

>
> Phone numbers in the U.S. have a standard format. In other countries they
> don't.

>
>
Okay, I was wrong there. But a phone number for most of my life was a 'standard' format. Until about twenty years ago, the only time an area code mattered was from someone out of town. That did change, I remember having to reprogram my modem to always send the area code, but it's relatively recent.

Some of what makes a standard is common use. That doesn't help people elsewhere, but it can still be jarring when there's change. I've also noticed that sites where I've had to enter a phone number have varied, one I was just using expected you to enter ten digits, but they had the decency to add the brackets and the dash as you were typing, which solves the issue I brought this up for, that the brackets and the dashes help you

to make sure you've entered the number right. Maybe less so for a phone number, but certainly those credit card or bank card numbers, nobody memorizes those and they need the spaces to keep track of where they are.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:56:44 GMT

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On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, J. Clarke wrote:

> On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 13:20:19 +0100, Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk>
> wrote:
>
>> On 07/01/18 23:37, J. Clarke wrote:
>>> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 21:56:02 +0100, Chris<xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk>
>>> wrote:
>>>
>>>> On 07/01/18 12:36, Brian Reay wrote:
>>>>
>>>> >
>>>> > When I used to spend a lot of time in the US on business, I often
>>>> > visited the local Sears. Their DIY section was a marvel compared to UK
>>>> > stores at the time.
>>>> >
>>>>
>>>> Bought my first HP calculator (25C) from Sears NY while working in the
>>>> states in 1977. I mean, HP calculators in a dept store ?. Half the price
>>>> of the same thing in the UK, but not the sort of thing you would find
>>>> at John Lewis or Selfridges...
>>>
>>> The first pocket calculator I ever saw I saw in May-Cohens in
>>> Jacksonville, Florida. IIRC it was about 500 bucks for a basic
>>> 4-function. I have a vague recollection that it was a Sharp but also
>>> that it had red LEDs which isn't consistent with any Sharp model of
>>> that era.
>>
>> Most of the early calculators did have led displays,
>
> True that but all the early Sharps I can find have green, not red.
>
Were green available that early? I can't remember. Red LEDs showed up at a reasonable price, though maybe that had something to do with readability. But I can't remember if I had orange LEDs before green, I thought there was a pause, and I have a vague memory of orange LED readouts but not of green, until much later (on a clock radio in the

eighties). I was buying surplus but circa 1974, there were some pretty bad green and orange single LEDs around.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:58:31 GMT

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Originally posted by: JimP

On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 15:38:19 -0400, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

>

>> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>>

>>> I think I've still run into US webpages that don't do Canadian postal
>>> codes. I know some of the US tv networks have a "find a local station"
>>> and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do
>>> watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't
>>> entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal
>>> code.

>>

>> I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require
>> you to enter your zip code. We Canadians are screwed, unless we remember
>> whatever trick you can use (something involving just the numeric digits
>> in your postal code plus some sort of filler, but I don't remember exactly).
>> I'm always a bit nervous about buying gas in the States.

>>

> I don't drive. Is this because they need your zip code, or just a way of
> keeping track of a customer? The one zip code I remember was "03458", I
> think I've got that right, the zip code for 73 Magazine in Peterborough
> Nh, which of course was also the original zip code for Byte.

Its supposedly a security thing, but an incredibly dumb one in my opinion.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Michael Black](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 20:02:25 GMT

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On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, Dave Garland wrote:

> On 7/2/2018 4:29 PM, Michael Black wrote:

>
>> A lot of forms require you to put your first name in a box, and your last
>> in another box. Maybe there's logic to that, but I figure someone just
>> doesn't want to parse things properly.
>
> Well yeah, but there are places where some people only have one name, or the
> full name is half a dozen words. The last name may or may not be a family
> name.
>
> But if you have only one name, won't the site say 'you missed a field'?

If I'm entering a contest, can't the name just be as I typed it, not broken down into bits to fit a database?

I can see some need for the separate boxes, but not all the time. If I'm giving them my name for a contest, or to send me some coupons, they probably don't care which is my first or last name.

Even the boxes sometimes are "last name" and "first name" in that sequence, which for a North American company seems backward, a place for error on the part of the person typing in their name. Yes, allowing for diversity matters, but there's also the expectation of the user, tamper with that and it makes it harder for them.

Michael

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 20:05:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

> On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:
>
>> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 12:30:04 PM UTC-4, JimP wrote:
>>
>>> The Japanese vending machines have blue lights under the cold cans,
>>> and red lights under the hot cans. When the air temperature/seasons
>>> change, they increase/decrease the appropriate items available.
>>
>> NYC and Phila had a restaurant chain, Horn & Hardart, that provided
>> good quality food in vending machines known as the Automat. It
>> was generally fresh food, frequently reloaded by people in the back
>> of the machines. Very popular in its day.
>
> One of PDQ Bach's works unearthed by Peter Schickele was
> "Concerto for Horn and Hardart". He invented an obscure

> instrument called the "hardart" to make it all come together.

Ah, fond memories. On a 7th grade field trip to NYC, we noshed at the Horne & Hardardt on 42nd near Grand Central. Now, AIUI, long gone.

Similar note: I ate at a Pixley & Ehlers numerous times when I was hanging out in and around Chicago circa 1960. With a Greyhound stopover in Chicago in '76, I strolled over to the location for lunch, only to find a wrecking crew inside, busy tearing up the signature white tile floor and demolishing fixtures. Had lunch in new-model sandwich bar next door. No tables, no class, no fun. RIP P&E.

--

Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 20:15:13 GMT

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Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

> One wonderful name parsing example I recall from the time I had to
> do it was:

>

> Lord John Earl.

>

> Title, forename and surname guesses please. In fact it was

>

> Surname: Lord

> Forenames: John Earl

>

> No title at all.

Sirje Smith. Neighbor, an Estonian woman married to a Mr. Smith. [1]
Ended up in at least one database as "Sir J. Smith".

[1] Name changed. Not smith but another common Anglo name.

--

Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 20:35:39 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 15:56:44 -0400
Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

- > On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, J. Clarke wrote:
- >
- >> True that but all the early Sharps I can find have green, not red.
- >>
- > Were green available that early? I can't remember. Red LEDs showed up

Early green displays were vacuum fluorescent displays, cheaper than LEDs for a while but there were some medium nasty voltages behind them which some took the extra expense to avoid. It wasn't long before the falling LED prices killed them.

- > at a reasonable price, though maybe that had something to do with
- > readability. But I can't remember if I had orange LEDs before green, I

Red, yellow and green LEDs were all around in the 70s, but the efficiency fell off with increasing frequency so for most purposes red was the obvious choice. Blue LEDs were a long time coming and the inventors of good ones landed a Nobel for their efforts.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 21:45:03 GMT
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Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

- > On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 05:46:28 -0400
- > Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
- >
- >> A "standard" is that when you write a name surname-first you use a comma.
- >> "Lord, John Earl" is easy to parse. If someone can't be bothered to use a
- >> comma they deserve anything they get back. OTOH, given a string of names
- >> without punctuation it's largely impossible to parse.
- >
- > True enough but one thing we found on that project was that we got
- > better results by ignoring commas and relying instead on the convention
- > used by each data source. All too often the comma was in the wrong place or
- > missing thus guaranteeing a misparse if you depended on it.
- >
- > We had a similar experience with postcodes whether provided in the

- > source data or added by a postcoding service - they were wrong often enough
- > that a good address parser and matcher (also not a simple piece of code - I
- > found it easiest to think of it as implementing a virtual postman) did a
- > better job than trying to find the delivery point in a list of entries
- > under the postcode.
- >

When I worked for the New York State Legislature I found that the mailing lists were extremely accurate in placing each address in the correct legislative district. Forget zip codes, in some cases different floors of an apartment building might be in different districts. In other cases blocks might be split between districts, etc. when it's important to you, you try to get it right.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 21:45:03 GMT
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- <mausg@mail.com> wrote:
- > On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
 - >> On 3 Jul 2018 13:13:11 GMT
 - >> mausg@mail.com wrote:
 - >>
 - >>> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
 - >>>> On 3 Jul 2018 10:36:51 GMT
 - >>>> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:
 - >>>>
 - >>>> > NatWest?
 - >>
 - >> The first 6 digits identify the issuer, the last digit is a
 - >> checksum and there are allowed to be up to 12 digits between them (I've
 - >> never seen more than 9 and one of my cards has 8) for the account number.
 - >>
 - >> Yep I've written card handling software in my time.
 - >>
 - >>> so I used to hve problems in the UK wth CCs, the suspicious people the
 - >>> other end would say, Thats not an Ulster bank card, it a Natwest one,
 - >>> and refuse it.
 - >>
 - >> Just been playing a bit with binlist.net - 4319 31/2 are Ulster,
 - >> 4319 5/6/7 are RBS in Ireland 4319 44 is BOI, 4319 45/6 is RBS, 4319 47 is
 - >> AIB, 4319 48/9 are RBS.
 - >>
 - >> I'm starting to wonder how much of Irish banking RBS is involved

>> with.
>>
>
> The British have moved a large amount of RBS shares/debt recently. A bit
> reassuring. I am sitting here at the moment wondering if England is
> `the old enemy' or 'our nearest neighbour', I suppose it depends on
> who wins!
>
> (World Cup, to Leftpondians.)
>
>

Walking downtown today passed a sports bar with large crowd singing "God Save the Queen" (loudly) and guy walking around in a kilt. Can I assume the British are still in the mix?

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 21:45:04 GMT
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<hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:
> On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 3:30:23 PM UTC-4, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:
>> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 11:35:32 -0700 (PDT)
>> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
>>
>>> While the programmers bear some blame for the above, the personnel
>>> department is the ultimate end user and they bear final responsibility.
>>> They are the ones who should've thoroughly tested the application before
>>> using it, and to have ensured that applicants of various backgrounds
>>> can fill it out.
>>
>> This very definitely - too many people think that acceptance
>> testing is a formality. If you're dealing with bespoke software designed
>> for a poorly understood and documented process (that's all of them) it is
>> an absolute necessity and should be done as early as possible.
>
> I had a few end-users who were very thorough acceptance testers.
> They were tough, but in the end it was a win-win for because
> they asked very good questions and checked for all sorts of
> possibilities.
>
>
>
>

>> At a PPOE I was part of a team building tools for another team
>> building online versions of journals, right at the start we told that team
>> that they had to perform acceptance testing because we were pretty sure it
>> did what we thought they wanted but only they could tell us if it was good
>> enough. Instant push back - No you have to deliver tested software.
>>
>> It took a while but we eventually got the point across that we
>> *couldn't* perform acceptance testing of our own work and expect to find
>> the places where we hadn't understood the requirements properly.
>>
>> After the first release revealed several such places the one who
>> had been most vehement in insisting that we did the testing took it upon
>> himself to organise the acceptance testing and set up a *superb* acceptance
>> testing regime that stayed for the seven year lifespan of the system.
>>
>>> I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow
>>> for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.
>>
>> Yet another one is assuming that every address in the world has one
>> and making it a mandatory field. Until very recently there were no
>> postcodes (zipcodes or any other kind of address codes) in Ireland.
>
> Unfortunately, some mailing software now makes many assumptions
> and changes addresses to what it thinks they should be. The
> problem is that it's wrong. I regularly get mail intended for
> someone on a street with a name that sounds like mine (and I suspect
> vice versa).
>
> However, I can't believe that a number of cities use the same
> street name repeatedly. For instance, the main street through
> a development will be called Smith Street, but the offshoot
> cul de sacs will be called Smith Place, Smith Plaza, Smith Court,
> etc. In Queens, NY, there are a few sections where there is
> 50th Street that intersects with 50th Avenue. To me, that is
> very confusing.
>

Phoenix seems to do this a lot: 48th st, 48th place, 48th way, etc. Even worse, a street will run for a few miles and dead-end, only to pick up again a bit later, so a number like 28050 Tumblewood St. tells you very little about where the house is located.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 21:45:05 GMT

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Questor <usenet@only.tnx> wrote:

> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 15:57:29 -0400, J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

>> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 10:54:22 -0700 (PDT), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

>>> On Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 4:08:09 AM UTC-4, Brian Reay wrote:

>>>>

>>>> I still have the kit to do BW processing (it was something I taught our
>>>> children) and some 35 mm cameras, including a couple of CRFs. I get the
>>>> urge every now and then to load up a film etc but the whole process is
>>>> just so tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite
>>>> quick- but getting the improvised darkroom ready etc.

>>>

>>> While Kodak no longer makes chemicals, other companies do, such as Ilford.

>>> For instance:

>>>

>>> <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/Darkroom-Equipment/ci/4942/N/4288586562>

>>

>> So? He didn't say he couldn't get chemicals, he said setting up the
>> darkroom was a pain in the butt. Maybe you are (a) not a photographer
>> or (b) some rich flake who can afford a permanent darkroom in his
>> house, but for the rest of us we have to block off all light leaks in
>> the room and then set up the enlarger and the trays and whatnot. The
>> room has to have running water which means either the bathroom or the
>> kitchen, and the bathroom usually doesn't have enough counter space so
>> by default it's the kitchen. And once you're done you have to take it
>> all down again.

>

> Some people put spare bedrooms and/or bathrooms in their basement. Some people
> have rec rooms with a wet bar. A close relative realized one of their childhood
> dreams and built a darkroom in the basement. And they were neither rich nor a
> flake.

>

> People who regularly need to set up a temporary darkroom in their home will
> quickly streamline the process. Someone who only occasionally develops and
> prints film would very likely find it a PITA. And once you mix the solutions,
> they have a limited shelf life.

>

> Film photography was not necessarily an expensive endeavor. Like so many
> activities however, it could certainly absorb as much money as one cared to
> throw at it.

>

>

The Americans had a number of scenes with Philip or Elizabeth setting up
their secret basement darkroom and developing some stuff.

--

Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 21:45:05 GMT

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Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

>

>> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>>

>>> I think I've still run into US webpages that don't do Canadian postal
>>> codes. I know some of the US tv networks have a "find a local station"
>>> and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do
>>> watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't
>>> entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal
>>> code.

>>

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>> in your postal code plus some sort of filler, but I don't remember exactly).
>> I'm always a bit nervous about buying gas in the States.

>>

> I don't drive. Is this because they need your zip code, or just a way of
> keeping track of a customer? The one zip code I remember was "03458", I
> think I've got that right, the zip code for 73 Magazine in Peterborough
> Nh, which of course was also the original zip code for Byte.

I thought it was a double check to prevent use of a stolen credit card.

--

Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 22:05:33 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-03, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

> <mausg@mail.com> wrote:

>> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>>> On 3 Jul 2018 13:13:11 GMT

>>> mausg@mail.com wrote:

>>>

>>>> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
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>>>> >> NatWest?
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>>> The first 6 digits identify the issuer, the last digit is a
>>> checksum and there are allowed to be up to 12 digits between them (I've
>>> never seen more than 9 and one of my cards has 8) for the account number.
>>>
>>> Yep I've written card handling software in my time.
>>>
>>>> so I used to hve problems in the UK wth CCs, the suspicious people the
>>>> other end would say, Thats not an Ulster bank card, it a Natwest one,
>>>> and refuse it.
>>>
>>> Just been playing a bit with binlist.net - 4319 31/2 are Ulster,
>>> 4319 5/6/7 are RBS in Ireland 4319 44 is BOI, 4319 45/6 is RBS, 4319 47 is
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>>>
>>> I'm starting to wonder how much of Irish banking RBS is involved
>>> with.
>>>
>>
>> The British have moved a large amount of RBS shares/debt recently. A bit
>> reassuring. I am sitting here at the moment wondering if England is
>> `the old enemy' or 'our nearest neighbour', I suppose it depends on
>> who wins!
>>
>> (World Cup, to Leftpondians.)
>>
>>
>
> Walking downtown today passed a sports bar with large crowd singing "God
> Save the Queen" (loudly) and guy walking around in a kilt. Can I assume the
> British are still in the mix?
>

Bad game, good result.

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Joe Makowiec](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 22:22:20 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 03 Jul 2018 in alt.folklore.computers, Michael Black wrote:

> If I'm giving them my name for a contest, or to send me some
> coupons, they probably don't care which is my first or last name.

Sure they do. It's easier to compare your name against other databases for data mining purposes.

--

Joe Makowiec

<http://makowiec.org/>

Email: <http://makowiec.org/contact/?Joe>

Usenet Improvement Project: <http://twovoyagers.com/improve-usenet.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 23:34:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Tue, 03 Jul 2018 15:11:35 -0400, Andreas Kohlbach wrote:

> On 2 Jul 2018 21:11:21 GMT, Bob Eager wrote:

>>

>> On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 16:47:34 -0400, Andreas Kohlbach wrote:

>>

>>> On 2 Jul 2018 20:01:31 GMT, Bob Eager wrote:

>>>>

>>>> On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 15:43:34 -0400, Andreas Kohlbach wrote:

>>>>

>>>> > On 1 Jul 2018 22:55:35 GMT, Bob Eager wrote:

>>>> >>

>>>> >> I bought an IBM one in 1989, and it was in daily use. Still is -

>>>> >> I'm typing this on it!

>>>> >

>>>> > What OS are you running?

>>>>

>>>> The keyboard started out with DOS. Then OS/2. Now FreeBSD.

>>>>

>>>> But it's on a KVM that is also attached to a (rarely used) Windows
>>>> system.

>>>>

>>>> Why?

>>>

>>> Just curious.

>>>
>>> I wonder if you can run CPM-86 on it and get hold of a newsreader and
>>> gain internet access somehow.
>>
>> Eh? I'm talking about a keyboard...
>
> I understood you have a 1989 IBM PC running accessing the usenet.
> Nothing about any keyboard.

No, it's a 1989 keyboard connected to about the fifth machine I'd had since then.

--
Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:
<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Dan Espen](#) on Tue, 03 Jul 2018 23:54:46 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> writes:

> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:
>
>> I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require
>> you to enter your zip code.
>
> Good Lord, why?

The ZIP code is required by credit card companies.
Pretty sure they only do it when the card is being
used away from your normal haunts.
Hard to be sure, I live in NJ so if I'm using self-serve
I'm out of state and I'm entering my ZIP.

It's a thin layer of extra security, if someone steals your card, they
need to know your ZIP code.

> I'm inclined to think I'll never try to enter the US
> again. The current policies at the border are a deterrent and
> anywhere I'd want to go would be within the 100 mile
> "constitution-free zone" as well. But zip code for gas? People with
> no fixed address don't drive?

I think you just dived off the deep end.

--

Dan Espen

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 00:58:33 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 17:45:05 -0400, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Questor <usenet@only.tnx> wrote:

>> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 15:57:29 -0400, J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

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>>>> > just to tedious. Not so much the actual processing - that is quite

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>>>> For instance:

>>>>

>>>> <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/Darkroom-Equipment/ci/4942/N/4288586562>

>>>>

>>> So? He didn't say he couldn't get chemicals, he said setting up the

>>> darkroom was a pain in the butt. Maybe you are (a) not a photographer

>>> or (b) some rich flake who can afford a permanent darkroom in his

>>> house, but for the rest of us we have to block off all light leaks in

>>> the room and then set up the enlarger and the trays and whatnot. The

>>> room has to have running water which means either the bathroom or the

>>> kitchen, and the bathroom usually doesn't have enough counter space so

>>> by default it's the kitchen. And once you're done you have to take it

>>> all down again.

>>

>> Some people put spare bedrooms and/or bathrooms in their basement. Some people

>> have rec rooms with a wet bar. A close relative realized one of their childhood

>> dreams and built a darkroom in the basement. And they were neither rich nor a

>> flake.

Sure, it can be done if you own the house and if it's big enough to

dedicate a space to the darkroom.

Digital is vastly more convenient.

>> People who regularly need to set up a temporary darkroom in their home will
>> quickly streamline the process. Someone who only occasionally develops and
>> prints film would very likely find it a PITA. And once you mix the solutions,
>> they have a limited shelf life.

There's only so much streamlining you can do, especially when there is a spouse involved.

>> Film photography was not necessarily an expensive endeavor. Like so many
>> activities however, it could certainly absorb as much money as one cared to
>> throw at it.

>>

>>

>

> The Americans had a number of scenes with Philip or Elizabeth setting up
> their secret basement darkroom and developing some stuff.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 01:09:54 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>> On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:

>>> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 3:30:56 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

>>>>

>>>> >> Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.

>>>> >> They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce

>>>> >> them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the

>>>> >> application.

>>>> >>

>>>> >

>>>> >Possible. An alternative explanation is that computer programmers are

>>>> >machine people where as the personal departments are full of people

>>>> >people who act like salesmen. The combination does not mix.

>>>>

>>>> Sorry, but things like being unable to accept a zip code that starts

>>>> with zero

>>

>> [23 lines snipped]

>>
>>> I suspect a common screwup by US programmers is failing to allow
>>> for Canadian zip codes, even if they allowed for Canadian provinces.
>>
>> Have you not seen the series of "Falsehoods programmers believe about ..."
>> web pages? I commend them to the house.
>>
>> <https://github.com/kdeldycke/awesome-falsehood>
>>
>> In particular, there are American programmers whose heads I would
>> cheerfully bang together for not realising that the rest of the planet
>> exists, and that there are people who have no ZIP code, whose postcode
>> is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose
>> house has no number, or that number is not integer, and on and on and
>> on.
>>
>
> Why confine the above to programmers..
>
> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
> passport to go to New Mexico..

You do, now, if you're going to fly.

I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
state.

>
> PS, that was yesterday, might have changed by this PM

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 01:12:47 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 15:45:02 -0500, Dave Garland
<dave.garland@wizinfo.com> wrote:

> On 7/3/2018 1:07 PM, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
>> On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 4:37:43 PM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:
>>
>>>> As time went on, the remaining department stores gave up on a lot
>>>> of that staff. Several gave up on appliances and electronics, unable
>>>> to compete with the specialty big box stores.
>>
>>

>>> Penny's is now - since about a year - selling appliances. I have no idea
>>> how well they're doing.
>>
>> I think Sears still has appliances. Don't know about electronics.
>>
>> Indeed, I believe in the past, one of Sears' strengths was its hard
>> goods--appliances and hardware and auto, more so than fashion.
>>
>>
> In the past indeed. But the vulture capitalists have got the carcass
> almost picked clean now.

There's no vulture capital involved in Sears.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Alfred Falk](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 03:58:31 GMT
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Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote in
news:alpine.LNX.2.20.1807021356110.28477@thrush:

> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018, Alfred Falk wrote:
>
>
>>
> I guess I'm lucky, in almost downtown Montreal a lot of these
chain
> stores require a deliberate trip. When Ikea came to town
decades ago,
> it was nearby, a smaller version, but they've long moved to
the
> suburbs. There was no downtown Canadian Tire until about
1990, which
> is now long in the past, but it was a big thing at the time,
I'd barely
> gone into one until then. But Walmart was a deliberate trip,
and I
> think I avoided it for some time, no real reason. I did go in
a few
> times, and found it a real mess, things just dumped all over
the place.
> Yes, messy customers, but not enough staff to put things back.
So
> there was a big gap but recently I have gone in a bit, mostly
for some
> food items, but it's only when I happen to be nearby.
>

- > When Mountain Equipment Coop came to town fifteen years ago, they built
- > from scratch, a nice ecologically sound building, but right in the
- > middle of a shopping area, the buildings all separate but something you
- > deliberately drive to. An odd place for an outdoor store. It's only a
- > two hour walk, each way. I think they've realized the issue, since now
- > there is a "boutique" store kind of downtown, with a limited number of
- > items, and less outdoor than the market they are going after these days
- > kind of urban who wants their stuff.

Interesting. In Edmonton, MEC was on the edge of downtown in an old Safeway supermarket, and were there for 25 years or more. Now they have moved out to a "Power Center" of the sort you describe.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 04:18:50 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 9:36:22 AM UTC-6, JimP wrote:

- > I thought it was a joke until I found out it actually happened. A US
- > high school teacher can get maps for free from the Department of
- > Education in the US. You download each one, and print out copies of
- > each states and the map for the United States. One who lived in New
- > Mexico was denied the downloads, she called to find out why and was
- > informed she would have to go through her embassy with the United
- > States to get them. She tried to tell the idiot that she and the
- > school was in the United States. They didn't believe her.

- > It did eventually get straightened out. No follow up on what happened
- > to the moron at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.
- > Probably got a promotion.

Hey, maybe while that error was active, people living in Baja California could have downloaded the maps!

John Savard

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 04:56:52 GMT

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On 2018-07-03, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

- > There are always outliers. If you can have a system that takes care of 90%
- > you're doing good. We're not worried about having our websites accessed by
- > Hottentots or Klingons. My guess is that most or all of Europe, all the
- > Americas, and large parts of Asia (China, Japan) have first names and
- > family names, all expressible in some version of a Unicode Latin alphabet.
- > I am aware of many of the points covered in the link, but Prince, were he
- > still alive, would just have to adopt something other than a squiggly as a
- > name, unless he could get Unicode to add it.

I suspect that TAFKA (The Artist Formerly Known As) Prince couldn't swing it. Thus he reverted to his original name, becoming (TAFKA)^2 Prince.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 04:56:53 GMT

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On 2018-07-03, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

- > Phoenix seems to do this a lot: 48th st, 48th place, 48th way, etc. Even
- > worse, a street will run for a few miles and dead-end, only to pick up
- > again a bit later, so a number like 28050 Tumblewood St. tells you very
- > little about where the house is located.

Then there are cities like San Francisco, where house numbers start at 1 at the end of the street - no matter where that is - rather than fitting into an overall grid. If two parallel streets a block apart don't start in the same block, house numbers won't line up. This makes it hard for a tourist to find his way around - you can't just say, "Well, I'm in the 1500 block X street and I'm looking for 15xx Y street," and you walk the block to Y street and find yourself in the 2300 block. Grrr...

It could be worse, I suppose - like in London, where streets change their names every few blocks and the house numbers start over each time...

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
\/ I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.
X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.
/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 06:29:48 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 4 Jul 2018 04:56:53 GMT
Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> It could be worse, I suppose - like in London, where streets change their
> names every few blocks and the house numbers start over each time...

That's not just in London, that's most of Europe.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 07:02:23 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-04, J Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

>

>> On 2018-07-02, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>>> On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:

>>>> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 3:30:56 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

>>>>

>>> Have you not seen the series of "Falsehoods programmers believe about ..."

>>> web pages? I commend them to the house.

>>>

>>> <https://github.com/kdeldycke/awesome-falsehood>

>>>

>>> In particular, there are American programmers whose heads I would

>>> cheerfully bang together for not realising that the rest of the planet

>>> exists, and that there are people who have no ZIP code, whose postcode

>>> is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose

>>> house has no number, or that number is not integer, and on and on and

>>> on.

>>>
>>
>> Why confine the above to programmers..
>>
>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>> passport to go to New Mexico..
>
> You do, now, if you're going to fly.
>
> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
> state.

As always, check with the Germans. They are proposing somethin like
'checking centres' at border crossings.

(Don't call such things 'resting areas')

>>
>> PS, that was yesterday, might have changed by this PM

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 09:40:49 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
> On 2018-07-03, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>> <mausg@mail.com> wrote:
>>> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>
> [26 lines snipped]
>
>>> The British have moved a large amount of RBS shares/debt recently. A bit
>>> reassuring. I am sitting here at the moment wondering if England is
>>> 'the old enemy' or 'our nearest neighbour', I suppose it depends on
>>> who wins!
>>>
>>> (World Cup, to Leftpondians.)
>>>
>>>
>>
>> Walking downtown today passed a sports bar with large crowd singing "God
>> Save the Queen" (loudly) and guy walking around in a kilt. Can I assume the

>> British are still in the mix?
>
> I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this time around;
> I haven't seen a single moment of it.
>
>

Me either.

--

Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 12:26:54 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 08:55:01 -0400
> Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:
>
>> Perhaps we should really be nostalgic for the days when we had more
>> privacy?
>
> Privacy isn't that hard just don't use the internet :) Works just
> as well with today's multi-gigahertz machines as it did with a 4MHz Z80.

I wasn't think of simply using the Internet. I was also thinking of how so many more entities are collecting data about us now, and how readily accessible that data can be.

Much of the privacy that we took for granted years ago no longer exists. You can't even walk to the store in some areas without your presence being noted by any number of systems.

You certainly can't go to a political or religious rally anymore and expect to remain anonymous. You can't even stop to listen to someone on a soapbox haranguing people in the park without the possibility that your presence will be noted and recorded.

I've seen a number of demos of how good facial recognition is, and I've heard of projects to use a person's gait or other characteristics to identify them if their face isn't visible.

None of this is news, but it is becoming all-pervasive and I see many

possibilities for abuse.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 12:39:55 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> writes:

> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Richard Thiebaud wrote:

>

>>> Phone numbers have a standard format, but a lot of places expect

>>> you to just put in the string of numbers, no brackets around the

>>> area code, etc.

>>>

>>

>> Phone numbers in the U.S. have a standard format. In other countries

>> they don't.

>>

>>

> Okay, I was wrong there. But a phone number for most of my life was a

> "standard" format. Until about twenty years ago, the only time an

> area code mattered was from someone out of town. That did change, I

> remember having to reprogram my modem to always send the area code,

> but it's relatively recent.

I have seen software recently that assumes that all phone numbers will be of the format (212)555-1212

212-555-1212 or 212.555.1212 won't work, nor will phone numbers from countries other than the US and Canada. (I'm probably wrong here by only listing the US and Canada, but I'm not sure right now what other countries use numbers that look like that.)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 12:48:54 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

> On 3 Jul 2018 08:31:42 GMT

> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:

>
>> Worse still. I have one of those 'key' pads to validate transactions.
>>
>> It spits out numbers with a space in them (because it's a generic
>> device). If I key that in as displayed, I am told to retype it without he
>> spaces!
>
> Yep got one of those too, some incompetent even bothered to put a
> note beside the form field saying 'without spaces' and code to complain if
> they were there instead of writing code to remove them or setting the field
> to ignore them.

I am not a good or prolific programmer, but I have definitely told others over and over again about what Jon Postel said: "be conservative in what you do, be liberal in what you accept from others."

It's actually a pretty good rule for life in general. (I am not implying Right-wing or Left-wing here...)

I think of it as "Do what you say, but make some allowances for other people who don't do or say as you do."

Sometimes making allowances for what other people say is difficult though. :-)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 13:12:34 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 03/07/2018 22:45, Peter Flass wrote:

>
> Walking downtown today passed a sports bar with large crowd singing "God
> Save the Queen" (loudly) and guy walking around in a kilt. Can I assume the
> British are still in the mix?

The so-called Brit National Anthem does not represent the nation. It represents only the Norman Invaders and their religion. Its first line mentions the two great cancers on the face of humanity, religion and monarchy; the cancers that have been responsible for death and destruction since time began.

Perhaps unsurprising considering the shabby behaviour of ALL MPS who, having scabbled to be elected by the people, swear allegiance to the monarchy?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 14:34:42 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Kerr-Mudd,John

On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 13:12:34 GMT, Gareth's Downstairs Computer
<headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

> On 03/07/2018 22:45, Peter Flass wrote:

>>

>> Walking downtown today passed a sports bar with large crowd singing

>> "God Save the Queen" (loudly) and guy walking around in a kilt. Can I

>> assume the British are still in the mix?

>

> The so-called Brit National Anthem does not represent

> the nation. It represents only the Norman Invaders

> and their religion. Its first line mentions the two

> great cancers on the face of humanity, religion and

> monarchy; the cancers that have been responsible for death and

> destruction since time began.

>

> Perhaps unsurprising considering the shabby behaviour

> of ALL MPS who, having scabbled to be elected by the

> people, swear allegiance to the monarchy?

>

>

>

I understand at least 1 MP managed to swear some other form of allegiance
to satisfy his conscience. (Tony Benn?)

--

Bah, and indeed, Humbug.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 15:30:14 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Tue, 03 Jul 2018 19:54:46 -0400, Dan Espen <dan1espen@gmail.com>
wrote:

> Mike Spencer <mds@bogus.nodomain.nowhere> writes:

>

>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

>>

>>> I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require
>>> you to enter your zip code.
>>
>> Good Lord, why?
>
> The ZIP code is required by credit card companies.
> Pretty sure they only do it when the card is being
> used away from your normal haunts.
> Hard to be sure, I live in NJ so if I'm using self-serve
> I'm out of state and I'm entering my ZIP.
>
> It's a thin layer of extra security, if someone steals your card, they
> need to know your ZIP code.

I haven't had to use it on trips, just local. I doubt its usefulness
as a security thing.

>> I'm inclined to think I'll never try to enter the US
>> again. The current policies at the border are a deterrent and
>> anywhere I'd want to go would be within the 100 mile
>> "constitution-free zone" as well. But zip code for gas? People with
>> no fixed address don't drive?
>
> I think you just dived off the deep end.

No, more a practical matter. A zip code for gas is silly. Along with
the illegal activities, done by US government employees, along the
border.

There are illegals from Europe who get caught from time to time. Its
not mentioned much though. The tribalism is angled towards non-whites
who want asylum.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 15:32:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Tue, 03 Jul 2018 21:09:54 -0400, J. Clarke
<jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:
>
>> On 2018-07-02, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>>> On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:
>>>> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 3:30:56 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

>>>>
>>>> > >> Online job applications, I am convinced, are a test of determination.
>>>> > >> They want people whose desire to work for them is sufficient to induce
>>>> > >> them to figure out how to work around all the deficiencies in the
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>>>> > >>
>>>> > >
>>>> > >Possible. An alternative explanation is that computer programmers are
>>>> > >machine people where as the personal departments are full of people
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>>>> > Sorry, but things like being unable to accept a zip code that starts
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>>>
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>>> is not numeric, whose 'phone numbers do not fit into the NANP, whose
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>>>
>>
>> Why confine the above to programmers..
>>
>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>> passport to go to New Mexico..
>
> You do, now, if you're going to fly.
>
> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
> state.

New Mexico is a state of the United States since about 1912. Why would a US citizen need a passport to go there ?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 15:35:06 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 21:18:50 -0700 (PDT), Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:

> On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 9:36:22 AM UTC-6, JimP wrote:

>

>> I thought it was a joke until I found out it actually happened. A US
>> high school teacher can get maps for free from the Department of
>> Education in the US. You download each one, and print out copies of
>> each states and the map for the United States. One who lived in New
>> Mexico was denied the downloads, she called to find out why and was
>> informed she would have to go through her embassy with the United
>> States to get them. She tried to tell the idiot that she and the
>> school was in the United States. They didn't believe her.

>

>> It did eventually get straightened out. No follow up on what happened
>> to the moron at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.
>> Probably got a promotion.

>

> Hey, maybe while that error was active, people living in Baja California could
> have downloaded the maps!

>

> John Savard

Anything is possible. I don't know what the form required back then. A teacher downloaded one copy, and then printed however many they needed for all of their students. History and Geography are the ones I think of when I heard about this.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 15:42:36 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 08:26:54 -0400, Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:

> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

>

>> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 08:55:01 -0400

>> Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:

>>
>>> Perhaps we should really be nostalgic for the days when we had more
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>
> Much of the privacy that we took for granted years ago no longer
> exists. You can't even walk to the store in some areas without your
> presence being noted by any number of systems.
>
> You certainly can't go to a political or religious rally anymore and
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> a soapbox haranguing people in the park without the possibility that
> your presence will be noted and recorded.
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> I've seen a number of demos of how good facial recognition is, and I've
> heard of projects to use a person's gait or other characteristics to
> identify them if their face isn't visible.
>
> None of this is news, but it is becoming all-pervasive and I see many
> possibilities for abuse.

Back in the 1970s I was watching day time television, which I stopped
doing not many years after that, and they were talking about security
cameras.

One police officer on the show talked about how they had arrested, and
the guy wound up being convicted, based on his walking pattern. The
camera's focus ability didn't work well. But the microphone was very
good. From the sound, and the visual of him walking, they managed to
get his walking pattern and use it for identification. Most likely it
has improved since then. The officer said it was about 70-75% accurate
back then.

Casinos in the US have been using face recognition for years to help
them spot grifters and others who come in to steal. Last I heard
anything about it, the FBI, etc. were very interested in the software.

Before the software, the casinos used 3-ring binder with photos,
names, descriptions, etc. in them of the grifters, pickpockets, etc.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 16:24:11 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 21:18:50 -0700 (PDT), Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca>

> wrote:

>

>> On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 9:36:22 AM UTC-6, JimP wrote:

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>>> I thought it was a joke until I found out it actually happened. A US
>>> high school teacher can get maps for free from the Department of
>>> Education in the US. You download each one, and print out copies of
>>> each state and the map for the United States. One who lived in New
>>> Mexico was denied the downloads, she called to find out why and was
>>> informed she would have to go through her embassy with the United
>>> States to get them. She tried to tell the idiot that she and the
>>> school was in the United States. They didn't believe her.

>>

>>> It did eventually get straightened out. No follow up on what happened
>>> to the moron at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.
>>> Probably got a promotion.

>>

>> Hey, maybe while that error was active, people living in Baja California could
>> have downloaded the maps!

>>

>> John Savard

>

> Anything is possible. I don't know what the form required back then. A
> teacher downloaded one copy, and then printed however many they needed
> for all of their students. History and Geography are the ones I think
> of when I heard about this.

>

A better question is why this was restricted in the first place. A fear
that foreigners are going to use up our supply of bits? A fear that the
Russians will download them and use the information in their invasion
plans?

--

Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Joe Pfeiffer](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 16:46:59 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:
>>
>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>> passport to go to New Mexico..
>
> You do, now, if you're going to fly.

I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.

> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
> state.

Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Dan Espen](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 18:51:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> writes:

> On 2018-07-04, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:
>> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:
>>
>>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:
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>>>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>>>> passport to go to New Mexico..
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>> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever
>> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
>> complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.
>>
>>> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
>>> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
>>> state.
>>

>> Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major
>> highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.
>
> We got stopped driving into California from (?) Nevada, IIRC. Something
> to do with agriculture.

Fruit flies were in the news as a threat to California agriculture
for quite a while. Good to see the government doing the needed job that
businesses can't do.

--

Dan Espen

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Dan Espen](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 18:54:32 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:

> On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 08:26:54 -0400, Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com>
> wrote:

>

>> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

>>

>>> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 08:55:01 -0400

>>> Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:

>>>

>>>> Perhaps we should really be nostalgic for the days when we had more
>>>> privacy?

>>>

>>> Privacy isn't that hard just don't use the internet :) Works just
>>> as well with today's multi-gigahertz machines as it did with a 4MHz Z80.

>>

>> I wasn't think of simply using the Internet. I was also thinking of how
>> so many more entities are collecting data about us now, and how readily
>> accessible that data can be.

>>

>> Much of the privacy that we took for granted years ago no longer
>> exists. You can't even walk to the store in some areas without your
>> presence being noted by any number of systems.

>>

>> You certainly can't go to a political or religious rally anymore and
>> expect to remain anonymous. You can't even stop to listen to someone on
>> a soapbox haranguing people in the park without the possibility that
>> your presence will be noted and recorded.

>>

>> I've seen a number of demos of how good facial recognition is, and I've
>> heard of projects to use a person's gait or other characteristics to

>> identify them if their face isn't visible.
>>
>> None of this is news, but it is becoming all-pervasive and I see many
>> possibilities for abuse.
>
> Back in the 1970s I was watching day time television, which I stopped
> doing not many years after that, and they were talking about security
> cameras.
>
> One police officer on the show talked about how they had arrested, and
> the guy wound up being convicted, based on his walking pattern. The
> camera's focus ability didn't work well. But the microphone was very
> good. From the sound, and the visual of him walking, they managed to
> get his walking pattern and use it for identification. Most likely it
> has improved since then. The officer said it was about 70-75% accurate
> back then.
>
> Casinos in the US have been using face recognition for years to help
> them spot grifters and others who come in to steal. Last I heard
> anything about it, the FBI, etc. were very interested in the software.
>
> Before the software, the casinos used 3-ring binder with photos,
> names, descriptions, etc. in them of the grifters, pickpockets, etc.

Interesting.

In small towns everyone knows you.
This photo ID stuff has parallels to living in a small town.

--
Dan Espen

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 18:59:41 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On 4 Jul 2018 17:02:14 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-04, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:
>> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:
>>
>>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:
>>>>
>>>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>>>> passport to go to New Mexico..

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>>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.
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>> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly
>> thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that
>> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever
>> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
>> complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.
>>
>>> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
>>> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
>>> state.
>>
>> Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major
>> highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.
>
> We got stopped driving into California from (?) Nevada, IIRC. Something
> to do with agriculture.

Yeah, California has been doing that for probably 100 years. They have had crops fail they said was due to insect pests, and plant diseases, brought in from other states.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 22:23:48 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 10:46:59 -0600, Joe Pfeiffer
<pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:
>
>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:
>>>
>>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>>> passport to go to New Mexico..
>>
>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.
>
> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly
> thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that
> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever
> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
> complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.

Didn't say it was a confusion. Some states have gotten waivers that are good until 2020 at the latest.

>> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
>> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
>> state.

>
> Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major
> highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.

So how is the US different from Russia?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 22:24:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 14:51:35 -0400, Dan Espen <dan1espen@gmail.com>
wrote:

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> writes:

>
>> On 2018-07-04, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:
>>> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

>>>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

>>>>> >
>>>>> >I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>>>>> >passport to go to New Mexico..

>>>>>>
>>>>>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.

>>>>>>>
>>>>>>> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly
>>>>>>> thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that
>>>>>>> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever
>>>>>>> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
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>>>>>>>>
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>>>>>>>> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
>>>>>>>> state.

>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>> Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major
>>>>>>>>> highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.

>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>> We got stopped driving into California from (?) Nevada, IIRC. Something

- >> to do with agriculture.
- >
- > Fruit flies were in the news as a threat to California agriculture
- > for quite a while. Good to see the government doing the needed job that
- > businesses can't do.

Californica has had the fruit police since some time in the '60s.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 23:01:31 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Pabst Blue Ribbon

AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

- > I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
- > Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.

I guess we've all been spoiled by that. But I suspect that just low resolution and beeping sounds are enough to cause pleasing state of nostalgia.

I'm not a gamer, but while browsing web I see ads and discussions about games every now and then. In last several years there were quite few successful titles that can be called "retro games". They are native Win/Lin/Mac programs running on x86_64, but visually they're very close to what was state of the art back in the days of Commodore, ZX Spectrum, and other 8-bit home computers. Of course, new games are different than the titles of 1980's, they more like something one would call "close enough". But people actually like it! I suspect main audience is people in their 30's or 40's who played old games when they were kids and just want to feel the nostalgia, and simple visual/audio experience works for them even though they were spoiled by GHzs of CPU speed and mega-mega pixels of screen resolution.

So maybe that's all what nostalgia is? Video/audio experience?

- > Compilation time of a few seconds is not the same as setting the program
 - > to compile and popping off to the pub.
 - >
 - > Nostalgia is a lovely country until you go there and visit.
 - >
 - > Andy
 - >
 - >
 - >
-
-

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Jul 2018 23:01:32 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Pabst Blue Ribbon

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.

Lol! That's quotable.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 00:37:43 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 23:01:31 GMT, Pabst Blue Ribbon
<pabst@blue.ribbon> wrote:

> AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

>

>> I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and

>> Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.

>

> I guess we've all been spoiled by that. But I suspect that just low
> resolution and beeping sounds are enough to cause pleasing state of
> nostalgia.

>

> I'm not a gamer, but while browsing web I see ads and discussions about
> games every now and then. In last several years there were quite few
> successful titles that can be called "retro games". They are native
> Win/Lin/Mac programs running on x86_64, but visually they're very close to
> what was state of the art back in the days of Commodore, ZX Spectrum, and
> other 8-bit home computers. Of course, new games are different than the
> titles of 1980's, they more like something one would call "close enough".
> But people actually like it! I suspect main audience is people in their
> 30's or 40's who played old games when they were kids and just want to feel
> the nostalgia, and simple visual/audio experience works for them even
> though they were spoiled by GHzs of CPU speed and mega-mega pixels of
> screen resolution.

>

> So maybe that's all what nostalgia is? Video/audio experience?

I am also on a paper and pencil rpg forum. People there went nuts over
the 8-bit games that have come out again. They do remember them, and

are happy to be playing them again. Several people posted about the 8-bit consoles they still had. The discussion got them to get them out and try them again. After that, they compare the old and new versions of the games.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Joe Pfeiffer](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 00:45:08 GMT

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J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

> On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 10:46:59 -0600, Joe Pfeiffer

> <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

>

>> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

>>

>>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

>>>>

>>>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>>>> passport to go to New Mexico..

>>>

>>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.

>>

>> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly

>> thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that

>> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever

>> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start

>> complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.

>

> Didn't say it was a confusion. Some states have gotten waivers that

> are good until 2020 at the latest.

In the context of someone relating that a lot of people in the US think you need a passport to travel to NM due to confusion about whether we're a state, you pointed out that at one time a NM resident needed one to fly (well, you actually said you needed a passport to fly to NM -- but I'm assuming you meant something that was actually true). If you didn't mean the context to carry over, you should have specified that it wasn't due to confusion.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 02:02:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 18:45:08 -0600, Joe Pfeiffer
<pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

>

>> On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 10:46:59 -0600, Joe Pfeiffer

>> <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

>>

>>> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

>>>

>>>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

>>>> >

>>>> >I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a

>>>> >passport to go to New Mexico..

>>>>

>>>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.

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>>> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly
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>>> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
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> fly (well, you actually said you needed a passport to fly to NM -- but
> I'm assuming you meant something that was actually true). If you didn't
> mean the context to carry over, you should have specified that it wasn't
> due to confusion.

You need one to fly from Connecticut to Massachusetts unless you have
one of the approved driver's licenses.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anne & Lynn Wheel](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 02:06:56 GMT

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re:

<http://www.garlic.com/~lynn/2018e.html#5> Computers, anyone?

little more recent drift:

Visa, Mastercard Near Settlement Over Card-Swipe Fees; Visa, Mastercard and a number of banks that issue debit and credit cards including JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Bank of America would pay the merchants around \$6.5 billion

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/visa-mastercard-near-settlement-over-card-swipe-fees-1530193694>

--

virtualization experience starting Jan1968, online at home since Mar1970

Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?

Posted by [John Levine](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 03:24:09 GMT

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In article <01vqjd5qebsuqadg0681nhfae88c6pqqp7@4ax.com>, J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

>> In the context of someone relating that a lot of people in the US think
>> you need a passport to travel to NM due to confusion about whether we're
>> a state, ...

> You need one to fly from Connecticut to Massachussetts unless you have
> one of the approved driver's licenses.

The TSA keeps threatening that, but in fact they've only tried to enforce it in American Samoa which is too poor to comply and has no voting representative in D.C.

--

Regards,

John Levine, johnl@iecc.com, Primary Perpetrator of "The Internet for Dummies",
Please consider the environment before reading this e-mail. <https://jl.ly>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 06:20:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: AndyW

On 05/07/2018 00:01, Pabst Blue Ribbon wrote:

> AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

>

>> I have been spoiled by GHz of speed, GB of memory, TB of disk space and
>> Mega-mega pixels of screen resolutions.

>

- > I guess we've all been spoiled by that. But I suspect that just low
- > resolution and beeping sounds are enough to cause pleasing state of
- > nostalgia.
- >
- > I'm not a gamer, but while browsing web I see ads and discussions about
- > games every now and then. In last several years there were quite few
- > successful titles that can be called "retro games". They are native
- > Win/Lin/Mac programs running on x86_64, but visually they're very close to
- > what was state of the art back in the days of Commodore, ZX Spectrum, and
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- > titles of 1980's, they more like something one would call "close enough".
- > But people actually like it! I suspect main audience is people in their
- > 30's or 40's who played old games when they were kids and just want to feel
- > the nostalgia, and simple visual/audio experience works for them even
- > though they were spoiled by GHzs of CPU speed and mega-mega pixels of
- > screen resolution.
- >
- > So maybe that's all what nostalgia is? Video/audio experience?

I am coming to think that a lot of nostalgia is simply remembering when things were new and exciting. Nostalgia is remembering how it used to make me feel.

A lot of older games that I used to play in the 80s I absolutely loved but now they do nothing for me. At the time they were cutting edge and I think that was what I was remembering. Now they are not so new they have no impact, like hearing a joke over and over, it is never funny as the first time (except for 4 candles; that never gets old - for non-Brits it is a sketch in a comedy show based on misunderstood accents. Consistently voted the top comedy moment in UK polls).

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 06:23:30 GMT

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Originally posted by: AndyW

On 04/07/2018 10:40, Peter Flass wrote:

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>> On 2018-07-03, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>> <mausg@mail.com> wrote:

>>>> On 2018-07-03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>>

>> [26 lines snipped]

>>

>>>> The British have moved a large amount of RBS shares/debt recently. A bit
>>>> reassuring. I am sitting here at the moment wondering if England is
>>>> `the old enemy' or 'our nearest neighbour', I suppose it depends on
>>>> who wins!
>>>>
>>>> (World Cup, to Leftpondians.)
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>> Walking downtown today passed a sports bar with large crowd singing "God
>>> Save the Queen" (loudly) and guy walking around in a kilt. Can I assume the
>>> British are still in the mix?
>>
>> I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this time around;
>> I haven't seen a single moment of it.
>>
>>
>
> Me either.

<AOL> Me too!!!11!1!! </AOL>

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 06:33:03 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: AndyW

On 05/07/2018 01:37, JimP wrote:

> I am also on a paper and pencil rpg forum. People there went nuts over
> the 8-bit games that have come out again. They do remember them, and
> are happy to be playing them again. Several people posted about the
> 8-bit consoles they still had. The discussion got them to get them out
> and try them again. After that, they compare the old and new versions
> of the games.

Ditto re RPG. I still have my original D&D and AD&D, Traveller etc.

The only old games I still play are RPGs such as The Bard's Tale
(Spectrum) and Amberstar (Atari).
I still have a regular (well once a year is regular, it's just not very
frequent) D&D game that has been going since the 80s.

What was the conclusion of old vs new games?

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [usenet](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 07:01:46 GMT

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On Tue, 03 Jul 2018 16:49:59 GMT, scott@slp53.sl.home (Scott Lurndal) wrote:

> JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:

>> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 10:15:02 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot

>> <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>>

>>> On 3 Jul 2018 08:31:42 GMT

>>> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:

>>>

>>>> Worse still. I have one of those 'key' pads to validate transactions.

>>>>

>>>> It spits out numbers with a space in them (because it's a generic

>>>> device). If I key that in as displayed, I am told to retype it without he

>>>> spaces!

>>>

>>> Yep got one of those too, some incompetent even bothered to put a

>>> note beside the form field saying 'without spaces' and code to complain if

>>> they were there instead of writing code to remove them or setting the field

>>> to ignore them.

>>

>> A few I have encountered would let me type the CC number in with

>> spaces, but only allow the form to accept a maximum number of

>> characters. So, I had to take out the spaces as otherwise the number

>> wouldn't fit. No warning, no explanation, nothing there.

>

> The one that really bugs me, is the United Airlines website. The login

> username and password fields forbid pasting.

How so? Do they really trap ctrl-V? What about shift-Insert?

(Everybody remembers ctrl-Insert, shift-Insert, and shift-Delete, right?)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [usenet](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 07:02:01 GMT

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On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 08:26:54 -0400, Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:

> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

>> On Sat, 30 Jun 2018 08:55:01 -0400

>> Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:

>>> Perhaps we should really be nostalgic for the days when we had more
>>> privacy?
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>> Privacy isn't that hard just don't use the internet :) Works just
>> as well with today's multi-gigahertz machines as it did with a 4MHz Z80.
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> I wasn't think of simply using the Internet. I was also thinking of how
> so many more entities are collecting data about us now, and how readily
> accessible that data can be.
>
> Much of the privacy that we took for granted years ago no longer
> exists. You can't even walk to the store in some areas without your
> presence being noted by any number of systems.
>
> You certainly can't go to a political or religious rally anymore and
> expect to remain anonymous. You can't even stop to listen to someone on
> a soapbox haranguing people in the park without the possibility that
> your presence will be noted and recorded.
>
> I've seen a number of demos of how good facial recognition is, and I've
> heard of projects to use a person's gait or other characteristics to
> identify them if their face isn't visible.

Facial recognition has intolerably high failure rates for minorities, in part because the "training" data sets do not have sufficient examples.

I am waiting for big, floppy hats to become a widespread unisex fashion trend.

Or we could all become Juggalos.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Mike Spencer](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 07:12:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

> On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 14:51:35 -0400, Dan Espen <dan1espen@gmail.com>
> wrote:
>
>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> writes:
>>
>>> We got stopped driving into California from (?) Nevada,
>>> IIRC. Something to do with agriculture.
>>
>> Fruit flies were in the news as a threat to California agriculture
>> for quite a while. Good to see the government doing the needed job
>> that businesses can't do.

>
> Californica has had the fruit police since some time in the '60s.

At least 1947. Wew were moving to California and the border guys compelled my dad, then 52, to remove all our possessions from the car and a trailer so they could be inspected for banned fruit.

--
Mike Spencer Nova Scotia, Canada

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 08:33:10 GMT
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On 4 Jul 2018 09:23:25 GMT
Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this time
> around; I haven't seen a single moment of it.

So far the only intrusion it has made is that I've noticed a few balls on packaging and I was asked recently if I was going to watch 'the match' - a reply of 'what match' conveyed the appropriate degree of disinterest, I honestly did not and do not know who was playing in 'the match'.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 08:36:23 GMT
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On Wed, 4 Jul 2018 11:13:32 -0500
Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> wrote:

> Indeed. Apparently getting a couple dollars' worth of gas is the way
> one checks to see if the stolen credit card you have has been reported
> yet.

That would seem to be a tailor made way of getting caught at it,

most filling stations take pictures of number plates to catch fill and go thieves.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 08:39:48 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 4 Jul 2018 09:16:50 GMT
Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> We had a "tame" banknote trader we used to give new stuff to for testing.
> He enjoyed it and if anyone could break it, he could.

At one PPOE we had someone who could break pretty much anything just by trying to use it - the talent lasted about two years before she became sophisticated in the ways of computers and stopped being able to do it.

--

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Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 08:55:05 GMT
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On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 08:26:54 -0400
Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com> wrote:

> I've seen a number of demos of how good facial recognition is, and I've

Facial recognition is pretty good - when the set of possible matches and the population checked are both small, it gets less good pretty fast at scale. People have similar problems, try a search for 'eyewitness error'.

> heard of projects to use a person's gait or other characteristics to

> identify them if their face isn't visible.

Yes gait recognition can be and I think has been used to track an selected person's progress automatically but I very much doubt it could be used to identify an individual.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
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You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 09:20:58 GMT

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Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

>

>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

>>>

>>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>>> passport to go to New Mexico..

>>

>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.

>

> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly
> thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that
> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever
> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
> complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.

Arizona was in the same situation, but they caved too. The "real id" license can be used instead of a passport for travel to Canada and Mexico.

>

>> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
>> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
>> state.

>

> Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major
> highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.

>

They just wave you through, though, unless you seem suspicious. I'm don't recall them asking for a license, though they may have - it was getting late in the day and I was tired.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 09:20:59 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
> On 2018-07-04, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:
>> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:
>>
>>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:
>>>>
>>>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>>>> passport to go to New Mexico..
>>>
>>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.
>>
>> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly
>> thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that
>> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever
>> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
>> complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.
>>
>>> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
>>> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
>>> state.
>>
>> Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major
>> highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.
>
> We got stopped driving into California from (?) Nevada, IIRC. Something
> to do with agriculture.
>

They've done this for decades. It's illegal to bring agricultural products into Cali, presumably without a permit and an inspection. They're trying to prevent the spread of insects and plant diseases.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 09:27:45 GMT

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Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 05/07/2018 00:01, Pabst Blue Ribbon wrote:

> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
>
>> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.
>
> Lol! That's quotable.
>
>
>

As is ...

It's bad luck to be superstitious

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 09:48:08 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 05/07/2018 09:33, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On 4 Jul 2018 09:23:25 GMT
> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>
>> I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this time
>> around; I haven't seen a single moment of it.
>
> So far the only intrusion it has made is that I've noticed a few
> balls on packaging and I was asked recently if I was going to watch 'the
> match' - a reply of 'what match' conveyed the appropriate degree of
> disinterest, I honestly did not and do not know who was playing in 'the
> match'.
>

Football supporting is a pursuit of the brain-dead.

Do your own activities!

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 10:01:58 GMT

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Originally posted by: Kerr-Mudd,John

On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 23:01:32 GMT, Pabst Blue Ribbon <pabst@blue.ribbon> wrote:

> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>

>> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.

>

> Lol! That's quotable.

>

>

>

It's old.

<https://quoteinvestigator.com/2013/07/06/nostalgia-is-not/says-1959>.

--

Bah, and indeed, Humbug.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 11:27:06 GMT

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On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 23:01:32 GMT

Pabst Blue Ribbon <pabst@blue.ribbon> wrote:

> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>

>> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.

>

> Lol! That's quotable.

Goes along with "The future was never like this."

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

C:>WIN

The computer obeys and wins.

You lose and Bill collects.

| Directable Mirror Arrays

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| licences available see

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 11:38:34 GMT

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On 2018-07-04, J Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 10:46:59 -0600, Joe Pfeiffer

> <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

>

>> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

>>

>>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

>>>>

>>>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a
>>>> passport to go to New Mexico..

>>>

>>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.

>>

>> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly
>> thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that
>> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever
>> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
>> complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.

>

> Didn't say it was a confusion. Some states have gotten waivers that
> are good until 2020 at the latest.

>

>>> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
>>> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
>>> state.

>>

>> Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major
>> highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.

>

> So how is the US different from Russia?

At the moment, a cheaper place to visit.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie

Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 11:45:24 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Thu, 5 Jul 2018 03:24:09 -0000 (UTC), John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:

> In article <01vqjd5qebsuqadg0681nhfae88c6pqqp7@4ax.com>,
> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> In the context of someone relating that a lot of people in the US think
>>> you need a passport to travel to NM due to confusion about whether we're
>>> a state, ...
>
>> You need one to fly from Connecticut to Massachusetts unless you have
>> one of the approved driver's licenses.
>
> The TSA keeps threatening that, but in fact they've only tried to
> enforce it in American Samoa which is too poor to comply and has no
> voting representative in D.C.

Connecticut and Massachusetts have a common state line. If someone demanded I show a passport to travel from one to another, I would think they were crazy.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 11:50:32 GMT
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Originally posted by: JimP

On Thu, 5 Jul 2018 07:33:03 +0100, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

> On 05/07/2018 01:37, JimP wrote:
>
>> I am also on a paper and pencil rpg forum. People there went nuts over
>> the 8-bit games that have come out again. They do remember them, and
>> are happy to be playing them again. Several people posted about the
>> 8-bit consoles they still had. The discussion got them to get them out
>> and try them again. After that, they compare the old and new versions
>> of the games.
>
> Ditto re RPG. I still have my original D&D and AD&D, Traveller etc.

I stil have my d&d beige/brown booklets, and my 1e ad&d books. I added Traveller a few years ago. Haven't ha a chance to play them this century though.

> The only old games I still play are RPGs such as The Bard's Tale
> (Spectrum) and Amberstar (Atari).
> I still have a regular (well once a year is regular, it's just not very

> frequent) D&D game that has been going since the 80s.

>

> What was the conclusion of old vs new games?

I haven't paid much attention as my sisters and I went to the arcade back then. Tempest and Centipede were our faves. Back around 1990 I bought a cd with centipede on it, and it almost ruined my computer. Not sure why, I don't think it was the early form of DirectX that caused the hiccups.

The discussion on the forums has been going on for around a month or two now.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Joe Pfeiffer](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 15:19:27 GMT

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Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

> On Wed, 4 Jul 2018 11:13:32 -0500

> Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> wrote:

>

>> Indeed. Apparently getting a couple dollars' worth of gas is the way

>> one checks to see if the stolen credit card you have has been reported

>> yet.

>

> That would seem to be a tailor made way of getting caught at it,

> most filling stations take pictures of number plates to catch fill and go

> thieves.

I can't remember the last gas station I was at that didn't require prepayment.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Joe Pfeiffer](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 15:22:48 GMT

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Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

> Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

>> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

>>

>>> On 3 Jul 2018 06:58:36 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

>>>>

>>>> I remember a thing about a lot of US people thinking they need a

>>>> passport to go to New Mexico..
>>>
>>> You do, now, if you're going to fly.
>>
>> I've got several "that's not a state" stories. But the passport to fly
>> thing wasn't a confusion, it was a threat held over all the states that
>> refused to implement the Real ID requirements. I don't think that ever
>> actually went into effect (I don't remember for sure); we did start
>> complying with Real ID so it is at least not true now.
>
> Arizona was in the same situation, but they caved too. The "real id" license
> can be used instead of a passport for travel to Canada and Mexico.
>
>>>
>>> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
>>> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
>>> state.
>>
>> Yeah. You already have to go through border checkpoints on major
>> highways within 100 miles of the Mexican border.
>>
>
> They just wave you through, though, unless you seem suspicious. I don't
> recall them asking for a license, though they may have - it was getting
> late in the day and I was tired.

Where "suspicious" has meant in one occasion my daughter being accused
of being a Russian spy (yes, she was born here -- no non-US accent)...

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 15:42:55 GMT

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On Thu, 05 Jul 2018 09:19:27 -0600

Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

>

>> On Wed, 4 Jul 2018 11:13:32 -0500

>> Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> wrote:

>>

>>> Indeed. Apparently getting a couple dollars' worth of gas is the way
>>> one checks to see if the stolen credit card you have has been reported
>>> yet.

>>

>> That would seem to be a tailor made way of getting caught at it,
>> most filling stations take pictures of number plates to catch fill and

>> go thieves.
>
> I can't remember the last gas station I was at that didn't require
> prepayment.

Interesting there are a few here that switch to prepay at night and one I know of that's prepay all the time but most are fill and pay with cameras.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 19:13:50 GMT
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Originally posted by: JimP

On Thu, 05 Jul 2018 09:19:27 -0600, Joe Pfeiffer
<pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

>

>> On Wed, 4 Jul 2018 11:13:32 -0500

>> Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> wrote:

>>

>>> Indeed. Apparently getting a couple dollars' worth of gas is the way
>>> one checks to see if the stolen credit card you have has been reported
>>> yet.

>>

>> That would seem to be a tailor made way of getting caught at it,
>> most filling stations take pictures of number plates to catch fill and go
>> thieves.

>

> I can't remember the last gas station I was at that didn't require
> prepayment.

Debit/credit cards info is given to the gas pump system, then you pump and the final amount is deducgted/added to the credit card. To me, 'prepayment' means going inside the station and paying the cashier an estimated amount.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 19:38:48 GMT

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On 2018-07-05, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:
>
>> They just wave you through, though, unless you seem suspicious. I'm don't
>> recall them asking for a license, though they may have - it was getting
>> late in the day and I was tired.
>
> Where "suspicious" has meant in one occasion my daughter being accused
> of being a Russian spy (yes, she was born here -- no non-US accent)...

Why are elephants green?

So they can hide on pool tables.

Have you ever seen an elephant on a pool table?

See how good the camouflage is?

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 19:38:48 GMT

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On 2018-07-05, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On Wed, 04 Jul 2018 23:01:32 GMT
> Pabst Blue Ribbon <pabst@blue.ribbon> wrote:
>
>> Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
>>
>>> Nostalgia ain't what it used to be.
>>
>> Lol! That's quotable.
>
> Goes along with "The future was never like this."

The past is dead, the present sucks, and even the future
isn't what it used to be.

ObComputer:

You shouldn't anthropomorphize computers. They don't like it.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 21:00:16 GMT

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Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Thu, 05 Jul 2018 20:39:34 +0000, Huge wrote:

> OTOH, I can't remember the last gas station I was at that required
> prepayment.

Indeed. It is very rare in the UK. I just know of one - which I have used a few times since it opened. But that's because it is basically unstaffed - and is also run by Costco.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Joe Pfeiffer](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 21:15:13 GMT

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JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:

> On Thu, 05 Jul 2018 09:19:27 -0600, Joe Pfeiffer

> <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

>

>> Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

>>

>>> On Wed, 4 Jul 2018 11:13:32 -0500

>>> Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> wrote:

>>>

>>>> Indeed. Apparently getting a couple dollars' worth of gas is the way

>>>> one checks to see if the stolen credit card you have has been reported

>>>> yet.
>>>
>>> That would seem to be a tailor made way of getting caught at it,
>>> most filling stations take pictures of number plates to catch fill and go
>>> thieves.
>>
>> I can't remember the last gas station I was at that didn't require
>> prepayment.
>
> Debit/credit cards info is given to the gas pump system, then you pump
> and the final amount is deducgted/added to the credit card. To me,
> 'prepayment' means going inside the station and paying the cashier an
> estimated amount.

If they require my credit card before I can pump the gas, that's prepayment enough for me. Even if it doesn't fit your definition, it is equally effective at preventing drive-offs.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 21:37:29 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 05/07/2018 20:38, Charlie Gibbs wrote:
> On 2018-07-05, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:
>
>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:
>>
>>> They just wave you through, though, unless you seem suspicious. I'm don't
>>> recall them asking for a license, though they may have - it was getting
>>> late in the day and I was tired.
>>
>> Where "suspicious" has meant in one occasion my daughter being accused
>> of being a Russian spy (yes, she was born here -- no non-US accent)...
>
> Why are elephants green?
> So they can hide on pool tables.
> Have you ever seen an elephant on a pool table?
> See how good the camouflage is?
>

Why have elephants got Big Ears?
.... Because Noddy won't pay the ransom money.

How do you get down from an elephant?

.... You don't .You get it from a duck.

I bought my friend an elephant for his room.

He said thanks.

I said, don't mention it.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charles Richmond](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 22:13:56 GMT

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On 7/5/2018 2:38 PM, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

> On 2018-07-05, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

>

>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

>>

>>> They just wave you through, though, unless you seem suspicious. I'm don't

>>> recall them asking for a license, though they may have - it was getting

>>> late in the day and I was tired.

>>

>> Where "suspicious" has meant in one occasion my daughter being accused

>> of being a Russian spy (yes, she was born here -- no non-US accent)...

>

> Why are elephants green?

> So they can hide on pool tables.

> Have you ever seen an elephant on a pool table?

> See how good the camouflage is?

>

No, no... Elephants are green so they can *sneak* across pool tables without being seen...

How can you tell if there is an elephant in the closet with you???

You can smell the peanuts on his breath... ;-)

--

numerist at aquaporin4 dot com

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [scott](#) on Thu, 05 Jul 2018 22:58:39 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

usenet@only.tnx (Questor) writes:
> On Tue, 03 Jul 2018 16:49:59 GMT, scott@slp53.sl.home (Scott Lurndal) wrote:
>> JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:
>>> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018 10:15:02 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot
>>> <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>>>
>>>> On 3 Jul 2018 08:31:42 GMT
>>>> Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> > Worse still. I have one of those 'key' pads to validate transactions.
>>>> >
>>>> > It spits out numbers with a space in them (because it's a generic
>>>> > device). If I key that in as displayed, I am told to retype it without he
>>>> > spaces!
>>>>
>>>> Yep got one of those too, some incompetent even bothered to put a
>>>> note beside the form field saying 'without spaces' and code to complain if
>>>> they were there instead of writing code to remove them or setting the field
>>>> to ignore them.
>>>
>>> A few I have encountered would let me type the CC number in with
>>> spaces, but only allow the form to accept a maximum number of
>>> characters. So, I had to take out the spaces as otherwise the number
>>> wouldn't fit. No warning, no explanation, nothing there.
>>
>> The one that really bugs me, is the United Airlines website. The login
>> username and password fields forbid pasting.
>
> How so? Do they really trap ctrl-V? What about shift-Insert?
> (Everybody remembers ctrl-Insert, shift-Insert, and shift-Delete, right?)
>
> ctrl-V, what's that?

Middle-button paste (X11).

Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 01:02:16 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Thu, 5 Jul 2018 03:24:09 -0000 (UTC), John Levine <johnl@taugh.com>
wrote:

> In article <01vqjd5qebsequadg0681nhfae88c6pqqp7@4ax.com>,
> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> In the context of someone relating that a lot of people in the US think

>>> you need a passport to travel to NM due to confusion about whether we're
>>> a state, ...
>
>> You need one to fly from Connecticut to Massachusetts unless you have
>> one of the approved driver's licenses.
>
> The TSA keeps threatening that, but in fact they've only tried to
> enforce it in American Samoa which is too poor to comply and has no
> voting representative in D.C.

CT and MA have both signed on and have the approved licenses. Don't have an approved ID you don't fly. Passport is one approved ID, enhanced driver's license, which requires that you show either a passport or a birth certificate when the license is issued is another. Regular old driver's license doesn't cut it.

Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [John Levine](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 02:08:49 GMT
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>> The TSA keeps threatening that, but in fact they've only tried to
>> enforce it in American Samoa which is too poor to comply and has no
>> voting representative in D.C.
>
> CT and MA have both signed on and have the approved licenses.

Right.

> Don't have an approved ID you don't fly.

Wrong. Please see the sentence quoted above.

R's,
John

--

Regards,
John Levine, johnl@iecc.com, Primary Perpetrator of "The Internet for Dummies",
Please consider the environment before reading this e-mail. <https://jl.ly>

Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 02:19:29 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Fri, 6 Jul 2018 02:08:49 -0000 (UTC), John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:

>>> The TSA keeps threatening that, but in fact they've only tried to
>>> enforce it in American Samoa which is too poor to comply and has no
>>> voting representative in D.C.

>>
>> CT and MA have both signed on and have the approved licenses.

>
> Right.

>
>> Don't have an approved ID you don't fly.

>
> Wrong. Please see the sentence quoted above.

Statements on USENET are not evidence. If you think I am wrong then show me with evidence.

Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [John Levine](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 03:03:01 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <jcktjd1a14qjpc8mrnu20t44j4k41c4v2n@4ax.com> you write:

>>>> The TSA keeps threatening that, but in fact they've only tried to
>>>> enforce it in American Samoa which is too poor to comply and has no
>>>> voting representative in D.C.

>>>
>>> CT and MA have both signed on and have the approved licenses.

>>
>> Right.

>>
>>> Don't have an approved ID you don't fly.

>>
>> Wrong. Please see the sentence quoted above.

>
> Statements on USENET are not evidence. If you think I am wrong then
> show me with evidence.

Honestly, I don't care what you think, but I fly commercial several times a month so I am not totally unfamiliar with what the TSA actually does.

Have you seen people from CT or MA turned away by the TSA? Let us know.

--
Regards,
John Levine, johnl@iecc.com, Primary Perpetrator of "The Internet for Dummies",

Please consider the environment before reading this e-mail. <https://jl.ly>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 04:08:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: nobody

On Thu, 5 Jul 2018 09:39:48 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot
<steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 4 Jul 2018 09:16:50 GMT

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>

>> We had a "tame" banknote trader we used to give new stuff to for testing.

>> He enjoyed it and if anyone could break it, he could.

>

> At one PPOE we had someone who could break pretty much anything

> just by trying to use it - the talent lasted about two years before she

> became sophisticated in the ways of computers and stopped being able to do

> it.

Cue the story about Heathkit drawing from the secretarial pool to test their kit assembly instructions. Each tester was good for only so many tests, until they became good enough to begin working around errors.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 06:47:48 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: AndyW

On 05/07/2018 12:50, JimP wrote:

> I stil have my d&d beige/brown booklets, and my 1e ad&d books. I added

> Traveller a few years ago. Haven't ha a chance to play them this

> century though.

1st edition. Wow. I have AD&D and 2e D&D.

>> What was the conclusion of old vs new games?

>

> I haven't paid much attention as my sisters and I went to the arcade

> back then. Tempest and Centipede were our faves. Back around 1990 I

> bought a cd with centipede on it, and it almost ruined my computer.

- > Not sure why, I don't think it was the early form of DirectX that
- > caused the hiccups.

Ahhhh Tempest. Loved that game, the spinner was surprisingly tactile, like the tuning dial in old valve radios. I wasted a lot of money in that Tempest machine.

I built a Raspberry Pi based MAME cabinet but it has a button and joystick panel. I need to add a spinner so I can play Tempest properly..... and a trackball for Marble Madness... and three extra joysticks for Gauntlet....

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 11:19:21 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

- > On Monday, July 2, 2018 at 10:07:04 AM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:
- >> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:
- >>> On Friday, June 29, 2018 at 2:16:04 PM UTC-4, Scott Lurndal wrote:
- >>>> I've got about 8 unexposed rolls of Kodak ASA100 sitting in the fridge that I
- >>>> don't know what to do with.
- >>>>
- >>>> Unless they are Kodachrome, there are still places that develop
- >>>> film, especially color print (C-41) film. You might as well take
- >>>> some pictures.
- >>>>
- >>>> It's Kodak Gold 100 color film. Box says develop before 12/2005.
- >>>>
- >>>> It's probably not worth the effort to shoot it up - All my
- >>>> old Minolta lenses are now used with my Sony DSLR and I'm
- >>>> not sure where the film body is anymore.
- >>>>
- >>>> I know a lot of photographers who have old film in the fridge
- >>>> or freezer. I might have some Ektachrome Tungsten buried
- >>>> in the freezer. (if I find that, it's being trashed, too old.)
- >>>>
- >>>> Keeping film chilled extends its life. But I have no idea how
- >>>> much; I have no idea whether your 2005 print film would still
- >>>> be good. Since they can correct for a lot of errors in printing,
- >>>> it might be usable (of course, if you no longer have the camera...)

>

I have used a fair bit of old B&W film that had been in the freezer for about 30 years and it worked just fine. A lot of it was Efke, but there was Kodak, Ilford, and Ferrania film as well. Luckily I also had some notes on how to develop the stuff I wasn't familiar with.

There was a bunch of Kodak 4x5 infrared film that was also 25-30 years old and it worked well too.

Some Kodak color instant film didn't survive as well. Polaroid B&W roll-film (3 1/4 x 4 1/4 like was used by the 110) was mostly ok, although the fixative or whatever it was in the little canisters with a wiper inside had turned to goo.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 15:50:15 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-06, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

> On 05/07/2018 12:50, JimP wrote:

>

>> I stil have my d&d beige/brown booklets, and my 1e ad&d books. I added
>> Traveller a few years ago. Haven't ha a chance to play them this
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>> I haven't paid much attention as my sisters and I went to the arcade
>> back then. Tempest and Centipede were our faves. Back around 1990 I
>> bought a cd with centipede on it, and it almost ruined my computer.
>> Not sure why, I don't think it was the early form of DirectX that
>> caused the hiccups.

>

> Ahhhh Tempest. Loved that game, the spinner was surprisingly tactile,
> like the tuning dial in old valve radios. I wasted a lot of money in
> that Tempest machine.

Me too. I finally posted high score at the local arcade.

I heard there was an invisible level, but I never got that high.

> I built a Raspberry Pi based MAME cabinet but is has a button and
> joystick panel. I need to add a spinner so I can play Tempest

> properly..... and a trackball for Marble Madness... and three extra
> joysticks for Gauntlet....

I'd love to play Tempest again. I got hold of the ROMs out of an actual machine, as well as schematics. The only thing I need to get is a round tuit.

As for Marble Madness, I could see whether my Amiga still fires up...

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltptyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.

/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 15:50:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-05, Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

> On 7/5/2018 2:38 PM, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

>

>> On 2018-07-05, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

>>

>>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

>>>

>>>> They just wave you through, though, unless you seem suspicious. I'm don't

>>>> recall them asking for a license, though they may have - it was getting

>>>> late in the day and I was tired.

>>>

>>> Where "suspicious" has meant in one occasion my daughter being accused

>>> of being a Russian spy (yes, she was born here -- no non-US accent)...

>>

>> Why are elephants green?

>> So they can hide on pool tables.

>> Have you ever seen an elephant on a pool table?

>> See how good the camouflage is?

>

> No, no... Elephants are green so they can *sneak* across pool tables

> without being seen...

>

> How can you tell if there is an elephant in the closet with you???

>

> You can smell the peanuts on his breath... ;-)

Q: How can you tell if there is an elephant in the oven?

A: There are footprints in the lemon meringue pie.

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)

\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

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/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 17:03:06 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 06/07/2018 16:50, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

> On 2018-07-05, Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

>

>> On 7/5/2018 2:38 PM, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

>>

>>> On 2018-07-05, Joe Pfeiffer <pfeiffer@cs.nmsu.edu> wrote:

>>>

>>>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

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>> without being seen...

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>>

>> You can smell the peanuts on his breath... ;-)

>

> Q: How can you tell if there is an elephant in the oven?

> A: There are footprints in the lemon meringue pie.

>

The elephant is a funny bird,

It flits from bough to bough.
It makes its nest in a rhubarb tree
And whistles like a cow.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:24:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 9:09:58 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:

> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
> state.

They're headed in that direction, slowly, step by step.

A lot of intrusiveness is justified due to "security".

One method is the new digital drivers licenses which the feds is pushing hard on all the states to use. A few states have been reluctant, and the feds have let them have it.

I suspect in a few years all automobiles will be built with an embedded identifier box like EZPASS, except it will be universal. It will be built in and not removable or alterable by the owner.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:28:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 3:54:20 PM UTC-4, Michael Black wrote:

> On Tue, 3 Jul 2018, Richard Thiebaud wrote:

>
>>> Phone numbers have a standard format, but a lot of places expect you to
>>> just put in the string of numbers, no brackets around the area code, etc.

>>>

>>

>> Phone numbers in the U.S. have a standard format. In other countries they
>> don't.

>>

>>

> Okay, I was wrong there. But a phone number for most of my life was a
> "standard" format. Until about twenty years ago, the only time an area
> code mattered was from someone out of town. That did change, I remember
> having to reprogram my modem to always send the area code, but it's

> relatively recent.

Old Hertz and Avis ads lists the phone numbers for their garages as:

Boulder City, NV, "4"

Jackson, Wyoming "9"

Hyannis, Mass "22"

Clifford, AZ, "Airport" (no number).

In the U.S. in the 1950s, most telephone numbers outside large cities were only five digits.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:32:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 5:00:06 PM UTC-4, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> Red, yellow and green LEDs were all around in the 70s, but the
> efficiency fell off with increasing frequency so for most purposes red was
> the obvious choice. Blue LEDs were a long time coming and the inventors of
> good ones landed a Nobel for their efforts.

In the late 1970s, Bell Telephone began to use LED's instead of incandescents for indicator and illumination lamps in Trimline, Princess, and multi-line phones. Two big advantages were low power and long life (at a time when a repairman had to be sent out to replace a burned out lamp.)

Early installations of Princess and Trimline sets required a tiny transformer plug-in. Later LED units no longer needed that.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charles Richmond](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 7/5/2018 4:05 AM, Huge wrote:

> On 2018-07-05, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>> On 4 Jul 2018 09:23:25 GMT

>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>>

>>> I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this time

>>> around; I haven't seen a single moment of it.

>>

>> So far the only intrusion it has made is that I've noticed a few

>> balls on packaging and I was asked recently if I was going to watch 'the

>> match' - a reply of 'what match' conveyed the appropriate degree of
>> disinterest, I honestly did not and do not know who was playing in 'the
>> match'.
>
> Good man.
>
> I happened to be driving through a nearby town about 08:30 a couple of
> weeks ago and was pulled over by a policewoman standing by a sign saying
> "Police Drink-Drive Check Point" (Yes, they are allowed to do this.) She
> said something along the lines of "Did you know an extra 15,000,000
> pints of beer are drunk each day when the football is on?". To which
> my reply was "What football?" She says "The World Cup! Didn't you know?"
> in an incredulous tone. My reply "Nope. Don't care. Not interested."
>
> She breathalysed me anyway. Zero.
>

It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is *waste*
on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally involved in
this crap... having fist fights and harming each other. Insane! Do
something educational or useful !!!

--
numerist at aquaporin4 dot com

Subject: Re: rah, rah, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [John Levine](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 22:09:10 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

> It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is *waste*
> on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally involved in
> this crap... having fist fights and harming each other. Insane! Do
> something educational or useful !!!

I take it you've never been to a college football game in the U.S.

--
Regards,
John Levine, johnl@iecc.com, Primary Perpetrator of "The Internet for Dummies",
Please consider the environment before reading this e-mail. <https://jl.ly>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 23:36:36 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 14:24:50 -0700, hancock4 wrote:

- > On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 9:09:58 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:
- >
- >> I'm wondering when they're going to start putting checkpoints at the
- >> state borders and requiring that you show a passport to leave the
- >> state.
- >
- > They're headed in that direction, slowly, step by step.
- >
- > A lot of intrusiveness is justified due to "security".
- >
- > One method is the new digital drivers licenses which the feds is pushing
- > hard on all the states to use. A few states have been reluctant, and
- > the feds have let them have it.
- >
- > I suspect in a few years all automobiles will be built with an embedded
- > identifier box like EZPASS, except it will be universal.
- > It will be built in and not removable or alterable by the owner.

In the UK there are so many ANPR cameras that it is almost reaching that point.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:
<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 23:46:33 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-06, Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

- > It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is *waste*
- > on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally involved in
- > this crap... having fist fights and harming each other. Insane! Do
- > something educational or useful !!!

Yes, come here and write a pro-Microsoft posting...

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.

X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.
/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Fri, 06 Jul 2018 23:46:33 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-06, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:

> On Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 9:09:58 PM UTC-4, J. Clarke wrote:
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>
> I suspect in a few years all automobiles will be built with an
> embedded identifier box like EZPASS, except it will be universal.
> It will be built in and not removable or alterable by the owner.

It's already here.

<https://www.wired.com/2011/09/onstar-tracks-you/>

<https://www.techdirt.com/articles/20170116/09333936490/law-enforcement-has-been-using-onstar-siriusxm-to-eavesdrop-track-car-locations-more-than-15-years.shtml>

--
/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
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Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 01:11:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Fri, 6 Jul 2018 03:03:01 -0000 (UTC), John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:

> In article <jcktjd1a14qjpc8mrnu20t44j4k41c4v2n@4ax.com> you write:
>>>> >The TSA keeps threatening that, but in fact they've only tried to
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> Honestly, I don't care what you think, but I fly commercial several

> times a month so I am not totally unfamiliar with what the TSA

> actually does.

>

> Have you seen people from CT or MA turned away by the TSA? Let us know.

I've never seen one not have an approved ID.

Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?

Posted by [John Levine](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 02:14:32 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <lo40kdl5bkfoj7pp68n77r798ghnc7q62u@4ax.com>,

J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:

>> Have you seen people from CT or MA turned away by the TSA? Let us know.

>

> I've never seen one not have an approved ID.

FYI, Massachusetts has a waiver. They only started issuing real-id licenses in late 2017 so all Mass licenses older than that are not real-id compliant.

Nonetheless the TSA still accepts them all. It's a total crock. I can't wait to see what they do with NY licenses, some of which say real-ID and some don't.

--

Regards,
John Levine, johnl@iecc.com, Primary Perpetrator of "The Internet for Dummies",
Please consider the environment before reading this e-mail. <https://jl.ly>

Subject: Re: unreal ID, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 04:28:04 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sat, 7 Jul 2018 02:14:32 -0000 (UTC), John Levine <johnl@taugh.com>
wrote:

> In article <lo40kdl5bkfoj7pp68n77r798ghnc7q62u@4ax.com>,
> J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> Have you seen people from CT or MA turned away by the TSA? Let us know.
>>
>> I've never seen one not have an approved ID.
>
> FYI, Massachusetts has a waiver. They only started issuing real-id
> licenses in late 2017 so all Mass licenses older than that are not
> real-id compliant.

The accept MA because there is a waiver. When the waiver expires
things might change.

>
> Nonetheless the TSA still accepts them all. It's a total crock. I
> can't wait to see what they do with NY licenses, some of which say
> real-ID and some don't.

New York also has a waiver.

Subject: Re: rah, rah, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charles Richmond](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 05:08:17 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 7/6/2018 5:09 PM, John Levine wrote:

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>> on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally involved in
>> this crap... having fist fights and harming each other. Insane! Do
>> something educational or useful !!!
>
> I take it you've never been to a college football game in the U.S.
>

College football in the US is similar to the World Cup... but seems to garner *less* wide spread insanity than the World Cup. IMO college and pro football is also a waste...

--
numerist at aquaporin4 dot com

Subject: Re: rah, rah, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 06:16:28 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sat, 7 Jul 2018 00:08:17 -0500
Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

> College football in the US is similar to the World Cup... but seems to
> garner *less* wide spread insanity than the World Cup.

Well the US is smaller than the world and is involved in the World Cup but no other country is involved in US college football. Also the World Cup is only held once every four years[1] in order to ensure a good build up of madness.

[1] Far too often IMHO, holding it only in years divisible by four that are not leap years seems about right to me.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 06:46:59 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-06, Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:
> On 7/5/2018 4:05 AM, Huge wrote:
>> On 2018-07-05, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>>> On 4 Jul 2018 09:23:25 GMT
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> on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally involved in
> this crap... having fist fights and harming each other. Insane! Do
> something educational or useful !!!
>
>

England are onstage tonight!

The question is, will the team that beats Russia (a very moderate team) make it to the airport before they are lynched?.

What idiot put on the Japanese back that was about .6 of the height of the Belgian forward that he was marking.

My idea of a normal world is one that Brazil wins the World Cup, and the US sulks in the corner.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: rah, rah, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 06:48:05 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-07, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On Sat, 7 Jul 2018 00:08:17 -0500

> Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:
>
>> College football in the US is similar to the World Cup... but seems to
>> garner *less* wide spread insanity than the World Cup.
>
> Well the US is smaller than the world and is involved in the World
> Cup but no other country is involved in US college football. Also the
> World Cup is only held once every four years[1] in order to ensure a good
> build up of madness.
>
> [1] Far too often IMHO, holding it only in years divisible by four that are
> not leap years seems about right to me.

Perhaps, but can you imagine now much madness could be built up by 2100?

--
/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
\/ I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.
X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.
/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: rah, rah, was Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 07:13:51 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 7 Jul 2018 06:48:05 GMT
Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>
>> [1] Far too often IMHO, holding it only in years divisible by four that
>> are not leap years seems about right to me.
>
> Perhaps, but can you imagine now much madness could be built up by 2100?

Yep but it's nothing that a Louis Wu style sabbatical won't cure,
if I'm still around I should be due for one about then.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: rah, rah, was Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 08:18:05 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-07, Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>

>> On Sat, 7 Jul 2018 00:08:17 -0500

>> Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

>>

>>> College football in the US is similar to the World Cup... but seems to

>>> garner *less* wide spread insanity than the World Cup.

>>

>> Well the US is smaller than the world and is involved in the World

>> Cup but no other country is involved in US college football. Also the

>> World Cup is only held once every four years[1] in order to ensure a good

>> build up of madness.

>>

>> [1] Far too often IMHO, holding it only in years divisible by four that are

>> not leap years seems about right to me.

>

> Perhaps, but can you imagine now much madness could be built up by 2100?

>

My opinion is that the present World order will have collapsed by 2030, so enjoy before that.

I read a book back in the early 80's called something like "Will the Soviet Union survive till 2000?". It seemed incredible, but it collapsed years before that.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie

Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 10:40:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Kerr-Mudd,John

On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT, Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

> On 7/5/2018 4:05 AM, Huge wrote:

>> On 2018-07-05, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>>> On 4 Jul 2018 09:23:25 GMT

>>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>>>
>>>> I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this
>>>> time around; I haven't seen a single moment of it.
>>>
>>> So far the only intrusion it has made is that I've noticed a
>>> few
>>> balls on packaging and I was asked recently if I was going to watch
>>> 'the match' - a reply of 'what match' conveyed the appropriate
>>> degree of disinterest, I honestly did not and do not know who was
>>> playing in 'the match'.
>>
>> Good man.
>>
>> I happened to be driving through a nearby town about 08:30 a couple
>> of weeks ago and was pulled over by a policewoman standing by a sign
>> saying "Police Drink-Drive Check Point" (Yes, they are allowed to do
>> this.) She said something along the lines of "Did you know an extra
>> 15,000,000 pints of beer are drunk each day when the football is
>> on?". To which my reply was "What football?" She says "The World Cup!
>> Didn't you know?" in an incredulous tone. My reply "Nope. Don't care.
>> Not interested."
>>
>> She breathalysed me anyway. Zero.
>>
>
> It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is
> *waste* on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally
> involved in this crap... having fist fights and harming each other.
> Insane! Do something educational or useful !!!
>
>

It's better than full-scale war, IMO.

--
Bah, and indeed, Humbug.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 10:46:11 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Kerr-Mudd,John

On Sat, 07 Jul 2018 06:46:59 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-07-06, Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

>> On 7/5/2018 4:05 AM, Huge wrote:
>>> On 2018-07-05, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>>>> On 4 Jul 2018 09:23:25 GMT
>>>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> > I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this
>>>> > time around; I haven't seen a single moment of it.
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>>> 15,000,000 pints of beer are drunk each day when the football is
>>> on?". To which my reply was "What football?" She says "The World
>>> Cup! Didn't you know?" in an incredulous tone. My reply "Nope. Don't
>>> care. Not interested."
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>>> She breathalysed me anyway. Zero.
>>>
>>
>> It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is
>> *waste* on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally
>> involved in this crap... having fist fights and harming each other.
>> Insane! Do something educational or useful !!!
>>
>>
>
> England are onstage tonight!
> The question is, will the team that beats Russia (a very moderate
> team) make it to the airport before they are lynched?.
> What idiot put on the Japanese back that was about .6 of the height
> of the Belgian forward that he was marking.
>
> My idea of a normal world is one that Brazil wins the World Cup, and
> the US sulks in the corner.
>
>

3pm GMT+1 (aka BST)

Sweden v England 15:00
Russia v Croatia 19:00

If Russia don't win overall I'll be amazed. It's all a show. There are some mighty big egos astride the world stage.

--
Bah, and indeed, Humbug.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:06:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> writes:

> On 7/1/2018 9:03 AM, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:
>> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 06:59:09 -0400
>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>
>>> It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store.
>>
>> Some stores, particularly supermarkets rearrange the layout from
>> time to time so that you can't just go straight to the stuff you want but
>> have to look and wind up buying things that you would otherwise not notice.
>>
> But you can trust that the milk will be diagonally farthest from the
> entrance, so that if you go for milk you have to walk past as many
> other products as possible. (Yes, I once managed a food store.)

That's always been a general rule. Dairy is usually in the far corner, and fresh meat and a bakery (if there is one) will be at the back of the store as well.

However, a large grocery store that opened near me a few years ago also has a small cooler with milk and eggs in it right near the main entrance, and right next to the express and self-serve checkout lanes. (Beer and liquor are close by as well.)

I don't know if this is something they're experimenting with, or a new trend, etc. The store is part of a large chain, and I've been in a couple of their older stores in other areas, and they don't have anything like this.

I was thinking about grocery stores a few days ago and remembering that when I was a kid there were quite a few grocery store chains (some local, some regional or national) with stores in my area. (A&P was the one my mother liked the best.) Now there are far fewer, much larger stores, almost all of which are owned by one chain.

This particular store has a wider variety of products than you used to see in grocery stores when I was younger, but the level and quality of service seems to be lower. If you can find an employee, they never seem to know anything about the products or even what the store carries.

I go out of my way to shop at another store that's locally-owned and offers better service. They seem to have better quality meat, produce, and bakery as well. I also like the fact that, if I ask for something they don't have, they offer to get it for me and to give me a call when it's in.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:09:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 07/07/2018 12:06, Bud Frede wrote:

>
> I go out of my way to shop at another store that's locally-owned and
> offers better service. They seem to have better quality meat, produce,
> and bakery as well. I also like the fact that, if I ask for something
> they don't have, they offer to get it for me and to give me a call when
> it's in.

The worry in Brit at the moment is that Brexit will price Lidl and Aldi out of the market, and the big players, Sainsasdmorrtescwaitmns will no longer feel honour bound to keep their prices down.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:16:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

> On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 6:59:10 AM UTC-4, Peter Flass wrote:

>
>> It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store. It's nice
>> that everywhere in the country the Target layouts are similar. With a few
>> differences I can walk into any Target and go right to what I want. (some
>> stores seem flipped left-right, and some locate the grocery section
>> differently).

>
> A discount department store closed, and the building was bought
> by another chain. They totally redid the interior. When it
> opened, I kept trying to find departments where they used to be,
> but everything was redone. Further, the old store had a second
> floor and a basement, while the new store was just on one floor.
> The escalator/stairwell section was removed. For me, it was
> a bit disconcerting at first.

Escalator memories...

When I was a kid, there were a pair of department stores downtown in the city I lived in. In one of the stores, the escalators from the 1st to 2nd floor were fairly new, made of stainless steel and glass, and were quite wide.

The escalators from the 2nd to the 3rd floor were older-looking, and they were faced with all stainless steel. They weren't quite as wide either.

From the 3rd to the 4th floor, the escalators were old and the mechanisms encased in wood. They were also very narrow and you could only go up in single file.

I was quite sad when the malls wiped out the downtown stores and their history. I still miss the wooden escalators too. :-)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Gene Wirchenko](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:19:33 GMT

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On 3 Jul 2018 09:21:18 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

[snip]

> I tried to buy a friend of my mothers a gift token from Red Lobster for
> having done her a favour.

>
> Nope. Won't accept an address outside the USA.

>
> I should start a "Hall of Infamy" about these things.

I moved to the USA in 2005. I tried to enter a change of address on one of my credit cards. The Website would not accept a non-Canadian address. A support person actually had the gall to tell me that I should get my bill sent to a Canadian address and get it forwarded. (Wonderful for not getting bills on times.) I asked for a final bill and terminated the card instead.

Sincerely,

Gene Wirchenko

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:28:53 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sat, 7 Jul 2018 10:40:16 -0000 (UTC)

"Kerr-Mudd,John" <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:

> It's better than full-scale war, IMO.

Damning with faint praise.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:37:28 GMT

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On 2018-07-07, Kerr-Mudd,John <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:

> On Sat, 07 Jul 2018 06:46:59 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

>

>> On 2018-07-06, Charles Richmond <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

>>> On 7/5/2018 4:05 AM, Huge wrote:

>>>> On 2018-07-05, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>> My idea of a normal world is one that Brazil wins the World Cup, and

>> the US sulks in the corner.

>>

>>

>

> 3pm GMT+1 (aka BST)

- >
- >
- > Sweden v England 15:00
- > Russia v Croatia 19:00
- >
- > If Russia don't win overall I'll be amazed. It's all a show. There are
- > some mighty big egos astride the world stage.
- >
- >

I remember '66, I was charged with removing my uncle from a Republican pub. He had, like a lot of Irish, served both the British and Republicans, was catcalling the Republicans for cheering England. I was nudging him towards the door. He whispered, "I'm over 70, they wont hit me.", to which the answer was "I'm not."

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:42:02 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

- > On Sunday, July 1, 2018 at 12:30:04 PM UTC-4, JimP wrote:
- >
- >> The Japanese vending machines have blue lights under the cold cans,
- >> and red lights under the hot cans. When the air temperatire/seasons
- >> change, they increase/decrease the appropriate items available.
- >
- > NYC and Phila had a restaurant chain, Horn & Hardart, that provided
- > good quality food in vending machines known as the Automat. It
- > was generally fresh food, frequently reloaded by people in the back
- > of the machines. Very popular in its day.

I was in one of their Automats once when I was a child and we took the train up from New Haven to visit my grandmother in Brooklyn.

I'm not sure where the Automat was, but that was the day we visited the Bronx Zoo, so it was probably somewhere between Sheepshead Bay and the Zoo.

I was 4 then, but I do remember the wall of doors that dispensed food and opening one to get a slice of pie. As soon as I closed the door, a new dessert rotated into place and I realized that I could see people behind the wall moving around. My grandmother explained that was how the food got behind the little doors. :-)

The other thing I remember was coffee was dispensed from a spigot or faucet that looked sort of like a swan's neck. Were they gold-plated or gold-colored?

This was also the trip when we went to the World's Fair, which is how I know I was 4.

I don't remember if I saw the picture phones or not, but I do remember that the Bell building looked like a giant phone. (I guess it would have been a 1500 since those were new then.) I sort of remember playing with some sort of phone exhibit where you could talk on the phone, but the memory isn't very clear after all these years.

I did finally see picture phones about 10 years later at the Smithsonian. :-)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:49:11 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Bob Eager <news0007@eager.cx> writes:

> On Sun, 01 Jul 2018 12:27:03 +0100, Brian Reay wrote:

>

>> For no special reason other than the place I first bought my chemicals

>> from sold them, I used to used a brand I'm sure was called Johnson. (Not

>> sure re spelling, I've not bought any for years.)

>

> Yes, we had that. I think I still have some Johnson equipmwent

> (developing tank etc.) somewhere.

The equipment I inherited from my father was mostly Edwal brand for tanks and trays, etc. I also have some stainless steel tanks for 35mm and I want to say they're Honeywell?

The first tank I bought for myself was from Jobo and had one spool that you could adjust from roll film (120 and 620) down to 35mm. It worked with film from the Instamatics too. I later bought another reel and was

able to do 2 rolls of 35mm at the same time. Boy did that make me feel like I was hot stuff! :-)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 11:58:44 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> writes:

> In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>,
> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
>> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and
>> their clicky over center sping action. Used to love those.
>
> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but
> they're good.
>
> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>

They're really not that expensive compared to other keyboards with discrete mechanical switches. They're also pretty well-proven technology and may well last as long as the original Model M's did. (I know people who are still using their Model M's.)

Another good choice right now is the MK Typist keyboard. They're good quality and not too expensive.

https://mechanicalkeyboards.com/shop/index.php?l=product_detail&p=3526

The buckling-spring switches on the Unicomp (pckeyboard.com) keyboards feel really good, but they're also quite loud. I use one at home, but at work I have a keyboard with Cherry MX Brown switches. They don't feel quite as good to me, but they're still far superior to most of the membrane switch keyboards, and they don't annoy my cow-orkers.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 12:14:34 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

- > On Mon, 02 Jul 2018 14:14:46 GMT
- > scott@slp53.sl.home (Scott Lurndal) wrote:
- >
- >> Personally, I've always (since the ASR-33) disliked noisy keyboards. I'm
- >> perfectly happy with the modern quiet keyboards (I just wish they'd use
- >> more durable keytop decals...).
- >
- > Some (like this Rapoo) have double shot moulded keycaps. I rather
- > like this keyboard it has a really short travel reminiscent of an 029, not
- > sure what the mechanism is but it's several years old and still going
- > strong.

There are a number of materials used for keycaps, and a number of ways of putting the legends on them.

The most durable legends are on double-shot keycaps. They mold them in two steps, with two different colors of plastic. (Or mould and colour if you prefer. hehe) Some are even molded with two different types of plastic. (Like PBT caps with translucent PBM legends for backlit keyboards.)

I prefer keycaps made out of PBT since they're more durable. They don't wear and get shiny and slippery as fast as ABS keycaps do. (ABS is much less expensive and is what most keyboards use.)

The MK Typist keyboard I mentioned in another post has double-shot PBT keycaps. The Unicomp (pckeyboard.com) keyboards also mentioned elsewhere in this thread have PBT keycaps too. However, the legends are put on with the dye sublimation process.

Dye sublimation basically melts the plastic where the legend is being applied and infuses the dye into it. It's almost as durable as double-shot.

There are a few other ways of putting legends on, but the most common and least expensive is pad printing. When you see a keyboard where the legends have worn off the commonly-used keys in a few months, they were probably pad-printed.

PBT is evidently harder to mold well than ABS, and double-shot PBT is supposed to be really difficult and requires expensive machinery to produce. Because molding, especially in intricate shapes, is more difficult with PBT, the caps and legends may be a bit less fancy than some caps made with other materials or processes.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 12:34:09 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

> John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:

>> In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>,

>> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:

>>> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and

>>> their clicky over center sping action. Used to love those.

>>

>> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but

>> they're good.

>>

>> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>

>>

>

> Prices seem to have come down a little. I have one on my primary machine; I

> love the reassurance of the "click" to let me know I actually pressed the

> key - something that the virtual keyboard on this iPad doesn't offer.

I hate onscreen virtual keyboards. I find them very hard to type accurately with. Part of that is probably because I have large hands and thus fingertips. I tried using a stylus in the past, but modern smartphones and tablets don't have a good place to store a stylus, so I kept misplacing it.

I used to use Palmpilot PDAs and I had an alternative virtual keyboard called the Fitaly keyboard. I found that I was able to be very fast and accurate when using that with a stylus. I was far faster than anyone I saw who tried to use the pseudo-handwriting input (I think it was called Jot?).

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 12:43:44 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> writes:

> On 01/07/2018 21:58, Quadibloc wrote:

>> There are things to be nostalgic for. When a Video Display Terminal cost \$15,000, then, strange to relate, it

>> had a better quality keyboard than today's computers usually do.

- >
- > Nothing beats a proper mechanical keyboard with an individual switch
- > per key as opposed to the flexible membrane, conductive pad and PCB
- > pad modern keyboards.
- > My son bought me a mechanical keyboard on Christmas and I was ecstatic.

I have always been willing to spend some money on my keyboard, my mouse, and my monitor. I feel they're the things I interface with directly, so they heavily influence the overall experience of using a computer.

Given my limited budget, I prefer to save some money by buying less powerful CPUs and graphics cards, as long as I have a good keyboard, mouse, and monitor.

It has turned out that a good keyboard, mouse, and monitor tend to last a long time, so I don't have to replace them as often as I would less expensive ones.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 12:58:38 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bob Eager

On Sat, 07 Jul 2018 07:58:44 -0400, Bud Frede wrote:

- >> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but
- >> they're good.
- >>
- >> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>
- >
- > They're really not that expensive compared to other keyboards with
- > discrete mechanical switches. They're also pretty well-proven technology
- > and may well last as long as the original Model M's did. (I know people
- > who are still using their Model M's.)

Like me! As I said elsewhere, I got this one in November 1989 and have used it daily. And the legends on the keycaps are as good as new.

--

Using UNIX since v6 (1975)...

Use the BIG mirror service in the UK:

<http://www.mirrorservice.org>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 13:05:44 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 07/07/2018 13:23, Huge wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, mausg@mail.com <mausg@mail.com> wrote:

>

> [21 lines snipped]

>

>> I remember '66, I was charged with removing my uncle from a
>> Republican pub. He had, like a lot of Irish, served both the British
>> and Republicans, was catcalling the Republicans for cheering
>> England. I was nudging him towards the door. He whispered, "I'm over
>> 70, they wont hit me.", to which the answer was "I'm not."

>

> Sometime in the late 70's/early 80's I was in the Tally Ho pub in North
> Finchley and someone came round with a collecting tin, asking in a strong
> Irish accent "for our brave lads in Ireland". They weren't talking about
> the British Army. I put 50p in the tin and left ASAP, since I wanted to
> keep my kneecaps.

>

>

High time that the spiteful mistake in 1926 of dividing Ireland was sorted out.

Much as Uganda exiled all its Asians, the Irish could exile those of Scottish descent, especially if members of the tendentious Orange Orders.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 13:40:14 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> writes:

> On Mon, 2 Jul 2018 13:54:08 -0400

> Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:

>

>> I got a TI LED digital watch in 1976 or 77

>

> I'm pretty sure I never saw one of those which is a little
> surprising since by brother-in-law was working at TI at the time (I had

> huge but strange stocks of TTL). I suspect they didn't make it across the
> pond.

I remember seeing ads for the Pulsar and Sinclair watches you mentioned earlier. IIRC, they were in Scientific American magazine.

I never owned either, but I did have a TI LED watch in the early '70s. The first set of batteries only lasted a couple of weeks and by the second set I had grown tired of pressing the button to see the time. I think I never got a third set of batteries and went back to an older watch with hands. (What we now call an analog watch.)

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 13:46:46 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Bud Frede

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> writes:

> On 2018-07-02, Michael Black <mblack@pubnix.net> wrote:
>
>> I think I've still run into US webpages that don't do Canadian postal
>> codes. I know some of the US tv networks have a "find a local station"
>> and I can't put in a Canadian postal code, maybe deliberate, but we do
>> watch US tv. I would think they could figure out that someone hasn't
>> entered random characters and then check to see if it's a valid postal
>> code.
>
> I've found a number of U.S. self-serve gas stations whose pumps require
> you to enter your zip code. We Canadians are screwed, unless we remember
> whatever trick you can use (something involving just the numeric digits
> in your postal code plus some sort of filler, but I don't remember exactly).
> I'm always a bit nervous about buying gas in the States.

You can always pay the cashier inside, rather than paying at the pump. I've never been asked for my zip code when paying inside (which I do sometimes if I need to get something in addition to gas).

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 15:23:16 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-07, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
> On 2018-07-07, mausg@mail.com <mausg@mail.com> wrote:

>
> [21 lines snipped]
>
>> I remember '66, I was charged with removing my uncle from a
>> Republican pub. He had, like a lot of Irish, served both the British
>> and Republicans, was catcalling the Republicans for cheering
>> England. I was nudging him towards the door. He whispered, "I'm over
>> 70, they wont hit me.", to which the answer was "I'm not."
>
> Sometime in the late 70's/early 80's I was in the Tally Ho pub in North
> Finchley and someone came round with a collecting tin, asking in a strong
> Irish accent "for our brave lads in Ireland". They weren't talking about
> the British Army. I put 50p in the tin and left ASAP, since I wanted to
> keep my kneecaps.
>
>

One of Keane's grandparents is from Connamara, Letterfrack, I think.
Could play for Ireland. 62 ninutes, looking good.

Your advice above is sensible. Make sure you have a clear path to the
door.

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 16:15:47 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Sat, 07 Jul 2018 08:34:09 -0400, Bud Frede <frede@mouse-potato.com>
wrote:

> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:
>
>> John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:
>>> In article <phbieo\$1noi\$1@gioia.aioe.org>,
>>> Chris <xxx.syseng.yyy@gfsys.co.uk> wrote:
>>>> ago. Of course, let's not forget the first IBM PC's and
>>>> their clicky over center sping action. Used to love those.
>>>

>>> IBM sold the design to these guys. The keyboards aren't cheap but
>>> they're good.
>>>
>>> <https://www.pckeyboard.com/>
>>>
>>
>> Prices seem to have come down a little. I have one on my primary machine; I
>> love the reassurance of the "click" to let me know I actually pressed the
>> key - something that the virtual keyboard on this iPad doesn't offer.
>
> I hate onscreen virtual keyboards. I find them very hard to type
> accurately with. Part of that is probably because I have large hands and
> thus fingertips. I tried using a stylus in the past, but modern
> smartphones and tablets don't have a good place to store a stylus, so I
> kept misplacing it.

Just a comment but the Samsung Galaxy Tab A with S-Pen has an internal storage slot for the stylus. This limits the size of the stylus though so it's not all that comfortable to write with. I believe that the Galaxy Note has a similar arrangement.

The Surface Pro has a magnetic attachment for the stylus, however it's not very secure (I suspect they do that to sell more styli).

> I used to use Palmpilot PDAs and I had an alternative virtual keyboard
> called the Fitaly keyboard. I found that I was able to be very fast and
> accurate when using that with a stylus. I was far faster than anyone I
> saw who tried to use the pseudo-handwriting input (I think it was called
> Jot?).

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [tutu](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 17:06:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sat, 07 Jul 2018 14:05:44 +0100, Gareth's Downstairs Computer wrote:

> On 07/07/2018 13:23, Huge wrote:
>> On 2018-07-07, mausg@mail.com <mausg@mail.com> wrote:
>>
>> [21 lines snipped]
>>
>>> I remember '66, I was charged with removing my uncle from a
>>> Republican pub. He had, like a lot of Irish, served both the British
>>> and Republicans, was catcalling the Republicans for cheering England.
>>> I was nudging him towards the door. He whispered, "I'm over 70, they
>>> wont hit me.", to which the answer was "I'm not."
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>> Sometime in the late 70's/early 80's I was in the Tally Ho pub in North
>> Finchley and someone came round with a collecting tin, asking in a
>> strong Irish accent "for our brave lads in Ireland". They weren't
>> talking about the British Army. I put 50p in the tin and left ASAP,
>> since I wanted to keep my kneecaps.

>>

>>

>>

> High time that the spiteful mistake in 1926 of dividing Ireland was
> sorted out.

>

> Much as Uganda exiled all its Asians, the Irish could exile those of
> Scottish descent, especially if members of the tendentious Orange
> Orders.

Send them back to Scotland, Gareth?

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?

Posted by [John Levine](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 17:10:12 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <phqds4\$o2g\$1@dont-email.me>,

Gareth's Downstairs Computer <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

> High time that the spiteful mistake in 1926 of dividing Ireland
> was sorted out.

>

> Much as Uganda exiled all its Asians, the Irish could exile those of
> Scottish descent, especially if members of the tendentious Orange
> Orders.

Impressive to see that nothing has changed since the 1700s.

The Ulster counties affirmatively opted to leave the Free State in 1922, but I suppose that if you reclassify the people you don't like as unpersons, that didn't happen. It certainly didn't happen in 1926.

--

Regards,

John Levine, johnl@iecc.com, Primary Perpetrator of "The Internet for Dummies",
Please consider the environment before reading this e-mail. <https://jl.ly>

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 17:28:51 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-07, John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:

- > In article <phqds4\$o2g\$1@dont-email.me>,
- > Gareth's Downstairs Computer <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:
- >> High time that the spiteful mistake in 1926 of dividing Ireland
- >> was sorted out.
- >>
- >> Much as Uganda exiled all its Asians, the Irish could exile those of
- >> Scottish descent, especially if members of the tendentious Orange
- >> Orders.
- >
- > Impressive to see that nothing has changed since the 1700s.
- >
- > The Ulster counties affirmatively opted to leave the Free State in
- > 1922, but I suppose that if you reclassify the people you don't like
- > as unpersons, that didn't happen. It certainly didn't happen in 1926.
- >
- >
- >

The expulsion of the Asians from Uganda weakened the country, as did the xpulsion of the Hugenots crippled France.

--

greymaus@ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charles Richmond](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 18:37:03 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 7/7/2018 6:28 AM, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

- > On Sat, 7 Jul 2018 10:40:16 -0000 (UTC)
- > "Kerr-Mudd,John" <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:
- >
- >> It's better than full-scale war, IMO.
- >
- > Damning with faint praise.
- >

Of course there is always something worse. his kind of thinking is how US conservatives convinced themselves to vote for Trump.

If you are implying that the World Cup fixation prevents spending emotions that lead to war, I would contend that the World Cup disputes are just a "warm up" exercise for the next war!!!

--
numerist at aquaporin4 dot com

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charles Richmond](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 18:40:52 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 7/7/2018 6:06 AM, Bud Frede wrote:
> Dave Garland <dave.garland@wizinfo.com> writes:
>
>> On 7/1/2018 9:03 AM, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:
>>> On Sun, 1 Jul 2018 06:59:09 -0400
>>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>>
>>>> It always takes time to figure out the layout of a new store.
>>>
>>> Some stores, particularly supermarkets rearrange the layout from
>>> time to time so that you can't just go straight to the stuff you want but
>>> have to look and wind up buying things that you would otherwise not notice.
>>>
>> But you can trust that the milk will be diagonally farthest from the
>> entrance, so that if you go for milk you have to walk past as many
>> other products as possible. (Yes, I once managed a food store.)
>
> That's always been a general rule. Dairy is usually in the far corner,
> and fresh meat and a bakery (if there is one) will be at the back of the
> store as well.
>
> However, a large grocery store that opened near me a few years ago also
> has a small cooler with milk and eggs in it right near the main
> entrance, and right next to the express and self-serve checkout
> lanes. (Beer and liquor are close by as well.)
>

Did the conveniently located dairy case... have a sign that read:

FRESH MEAT AND DAIRY At BACK OF STORE

???? ;-)

"While the barber shop is being painted,

customers will be shaved in the rear."

--

numerist at aquaporin4 dot com

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 23:11:54 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Kerr-Mudd,John <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:

> On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT, Charles Richmond

> <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

>

>> On 7/5/2018 4:05 AM, Huge wrote:

>>> On 2018-07-05, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>>>> On 4 Jul 2018 09:23:25 GMT

>>>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> > I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this

>>>> > time around; I haven't seen a single moment of it.

>>>>

>>>> So far the only intrusion it has made is that I've noticed a

>>>> few

>>>> balls on packaging and I was asked recently if I was going to watch

>>>> 'the match' - a reply of 'what match' conveyed the appropriate

>>>> degree of disinterest, I honestly did not and do not know who was

>>>> playing in 'the match'.

>>>

>>> Good man.

>>>

>>> I happened to be driving through a nearby town about 08:30 a couple

>>> of weeks ago and was pulled over by a policewoman standing by a sign

>>> saying "Police Drink-Drive Check Point" (Yes, they are allowed to do

>>> this.) She said something along the lines of "Did you know an extra

>>> 15,000,000 pints of beer are drunk each day when the football is

>>> on?". To which my reply was "What football?" She says "The World Cup!

>>> Didn't you know?" in an incredulous tone. My reply "Nope. Don't care.

>>> Not interested."

>>>

>>> She breathalysed me anyway. Zero.

>>>

>>

>> It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is

>> *waste* on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally

>> involved in this crap... having fist fights and harming each other.

>> Insane! Do something educational or useful !!!

>>
>>
>
> It's better than full-scale war, IMO.
>

The games should be run like a Mayan ball game - the losers are sacrificed.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 23:11:55 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Gareth's Downstairs Computer

<headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:

> On 07/07/2018 13:23, Huge wrote:
>> On 2018-07-07, mausg@mail.com <mausg@mail.com> wrote:
>>
>> [21 lines snipped]
>>
>>> I remember '66, I was charged with removing my uncle from a
>>> Republican pub. He had, like a lot of Irish, served both the British
>>> and Republicans, was catcalling the Republicans for cheering
>>> England. I was nudging him towards the door. He whispered, "I'm over
>>> 70, they wont hit me.", to which the answer was "I'm not."
>>
>> Sometime in the late 70's/early 80's I was in the Tally Ho pub in North
>> Finchley and someone came round with a collecting tin, asking in a strong
>> Irish accent "for our brave lads in Ireland". They weren't talking about
>> the British Army. I put 50p in the tin and left ASAP, since I wanted to
>> keep my kneecaps.
>>
>>
>
> High time that the spiteful mistake in 1926 of dividing Ireland
> was sorted out.
>
> Much as Uganda exiled all its Asians, the Irish could exile those of
> Scottish descent, especially if members of the tendentious Orange
> Orders.
>

Who have only been there for the short time of, what? 500 years? Short in Irish time, I believe.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Sat, 07 Jul 2018 23:11:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

<mausg@mail.com> wrote:
> On 2018-07-07, John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:
>> In article <phqds4\$o2g\$1@dont-email.me>,
>> Gareth's Downstairs Computer <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>> High time that the spiteful mistake in 1926 of dividing Ireland
>>> was sorted out.
>>>
>>> Much as Uganda exiled all its Asians, the Irish could exile those of
>>> Scottish descent, especially if members of the tendentious Orange
>>> Orders.
>>
>> Impressive to see that nothing has changed since the 1700s.
>>
>> The Ulster counties affirmatively opted to leave the Free State in
>> 1922, but I suppose that if you reclassify the people you don't like
>> as unpersons, that didn't happen. It certainly didn't happen in 1926.
>>
>>
>>
>
> The expulsion of the Asians from Uganda weakened the country, as did
> the xpulsion of the Hugenots crippled France.
>

Like the expropriation of the whites in Rhodesia.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 07:28:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-07, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
> <mausg@mail.com> wrote:
>> On 2018-07-07, John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:
>>> In article <phqds4\$o2g\$1@dont-email.me>,
>>> Gareth's Downstairs Computer <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com>

wrote:

>>>> High time that the spiteful mistake in 1926 of dividing Ireland
>>>> was sorted out.

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>>>> Scottish descent, especially if members of the tendentious Orange
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>>> 1922, but I suppose that if you reclassify the people you don't like
>>> as unpersons, that didn't happen. It certainly didn't happen in 1926.

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>

>> The expulsion of the Asians from Uganda weakened the country, as did
>> the xpulsion of the Hugenots crippled France.

>>

>

> Like the expropriation of the whites in Rhodesia.

>

Add in jews in Nazi Germany.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Andreas Eder](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 09:08:03 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On So 01 Jul 2018 at 15:03, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> Some stores, particularly supermarkets rearrange the layout from
> time to time so that you can't just go straight to the stuff you want but
> have to look and wind up buying things that you would otherwise not notice.

That doesn't work with me. It gets me so annoyed, that I usually don't
buy anything, then.

'Andreas

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 09:14:37 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Kerr-Mudd,John

On Sun, 08 Jul 2018 07:28:32 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>> <mausg@mail.com> wrote:
>>> On 2018-07-07, John Levine <johnl@taugh.com> wrote:
>>>> In article <[phqds4\\$o2g\\$1@dont-email.me](mailto:phqds4$o2g$1@dont-email.me)>,
>>>> Gareth's Downstairs Computer
>>>> <headstone255.but.not.these.five.words@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>>> > High time that the spiteful mistake in 1926 of dividing Ireland
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>>>> >
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>>>> like as unpersons, that didn't happen. It certainly didn't happen
>>>> in 1926.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>> The expulsion of the Asians from Uganda weakened the country, as did
>>> the xpulsion of the Huguenots crippled France.
>>>
>>
>> Like the expropriation of the whites in Rhodesia.
>>
>
> Add in jews in Nazi Germany.
>
>

Don't mention the Turk massacre of Armenians and Kurds. Ah no-one did.

--
Bah, and indeed, Humbug.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 10:17:22 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 8 Jul 2018 09:16:13 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> Yes, Ghod forbid that people should be forced to live in a country
> they don't want to, eh?

Oh wouldn't it be nice if living in a country of your choice was a universal right.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 10:18:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 8 Jul 2018 09:15:10 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>> The games should be run like a Mayan ball game - the losers are
>> sacrificed.

>

> I could go for that.

Can we use them for elections too ?

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [mausg](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 12:10:14 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-08, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>> Kerr-Mudd,John <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:
>>> On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT, Charles Richmond
>>> <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:
>
> [29 lines snipped]
>
>>>> It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is
>>>> *waste* on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally
>>>> involved in this crap... having fist fights and harming each other.
>>>> Insane! Do something educational or useful !!!
>>>>
>>>>
>>>
>>> It's better than full-scale war, IMO.
>>>
>>
>> The games should be run like a Mayan ball game - the losers are sacrificed.
>
> I could go for that.
>

The Columbians, the more honest, south American (:!)) ones tried that a few years ago. Didn't work.

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 12:13:21 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-08, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
> On 8 Jul 2018 09:16:13 GMT
> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>
>> Yes, Ghod forbid that people should be forced to live in a country
>> they don't want to, eh?
>
> Oh wouldn't it be nice if living in a country of your choice was a
> universal right.
>

A traveller in Ethopia noted a few years ago, that all the people he

met wanted to go to the US, not the grungy places tha such migrants finish up, but somewhre in the suburbs.

--

greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 14:08:07 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 8 Jul 2018 10:46:38 GMT

Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-08, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>> On 8 Jul 2018 09:16:13 GMT

>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>>

>>> Yes, Ghod forbid that people should be forced to live in a country

>>> they don't want to, eh?

>>

>> Oh wouldn't it be nice if living in a country of your choice

>> was a universal right.

>

> Wouldn't it.

>

> Or better yet, can I combine the best bits of various countries and

> live in the result?

Now there's a thought.

> (TBH, it would likely be some combination of Canada and Japan...)

I'd go for a combination of Canada and Ireland - but then I like the Irish weather.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith

C:\>WIN

The computer obeys and wins.

You lose and Bill collects.

| Directable Mirror Arrays

| A better way to focus the sun

| licences available see

| <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 15:12:51 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Sat, 7 Jul 2018 19:11:54 -0400, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Kerr-Mudd,John <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:

>> On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT, Charles Richmond

>> <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

>>

>>> On 7/5/2018 4:05 AM, Huge wrote:

>>>> On 2018-07-05, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

>>>> > On 4 Jul 2018 09:23:25 GMT

>>>> > Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

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>>>> >> I believe so. I've done quite well with my World Cup viewing this
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>>>> >

>>>> > So far the only intrusion it has made is that I've noticed a

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>>>> > balls on packaging and I was asked recently if I was going to watch

>>>> > 'the match' - a reply of 'what match' conveyed the appropriate

>>>> > degree of disinterest, I honestly did not and do not know who was

>>>> > playing in 'the match'.

>>>>

>>>> Good man.

>>>>

>>>> I happened to be driving through a nearby town about 08:30 a couple
>>>> of weeks ago and was pulled over by a policewoman standing by a sign
>>>> saying "Police Drink-Drive Check Point" (Yes, they are allowed to do
>>>> this.) She said something along the lines of "Did you know an extra
>>>> 15,000,000 pints of beer are drunk each day when the football is
>>>> on?". To which my reply was "What football?" She says "The World Cup!
>>>> Didn't you know?" in an incredulous tone. My reply "Nope. Don't care.
>>>> Not interested."

>>>>

>>>> She breathalysed me anyway. Zero.

>>>>

>>>

>>> It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is
>>> *waste* on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally
>>> involved in this crap... having fist fights and harming each other.
>>> Insane! Do something educational or useful !!!

>>>

>>>

>>

>> It's better than full-scale war, IMO.

>>

>

> The games should be run like a Mayan ball game - the losers are sacrificed.

Years ago I read a short story where the entire planet was in conflict, but it was done as a movie.

The 'players' wore uniforms of their countries. Say, an Infantry company was tasked with blowing up a road block. They would have a movie scene where they played it out like a movie. The explosives used were minimal. But the judges would decide if the company of soldiers did a good job or not.

If they did a good job, their country gained territory. If they messed up the 'first and only take' of that scene, their country lost territory.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 15:48:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On 8 Jul 2018 12:10:14 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:

> On 2018-07-08, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>> On 2018-07-07, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>>> Kerr-Mudd,John <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:

>>>> On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT, Charles Richmond

>>>> <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:

>>

>> [29 lines snipped]

>>

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>>>> >

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>>>>

>>>

>>> The games should be run like a Mayan ball game - the losers are sacrificed.

>>

>> I could go for that.

>>

>

> The Columbians, the more honest, south American (:!)) ones

What are you on about? What makes South Americans "more honest" and more honest than _who_ and about _what_?

- > tried
- > that a few years ago. Didn't work.

If you are referring to the murder of Andres Escobar, that took place in Col_o_mbia.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 16:14:26 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

<mausg@mail.com> wrote:
> On 2018-07-08, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:
>> On 8 Jul 2018 09:16:13 GMT
>> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>>
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>>> they don't want to, eh?
>>
>> Oh wouldn't it be nice if living in a country of your choice was a
>> universal right.
>>
>
>
> A traveller in Ethopia noted a few years ago, that all the people he
> met wanted to go to the US, not the grungy places tha such migrants
> finish up, but somewhre in the suburbs.
>

Usually their kids end up in the suburbs.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [mausg](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 16:23:34 GMT
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On 2018-07-08, J Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> wrote:
> On 8 Jul 2018 12:10:14 GMT, mausg@mail.com wrote:
>
>> On 2018-07-08, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>>> On 2018-07-07, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>>> Kerr-Mudd,John <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:
>>>> > On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT, Charles Richmond
>>>> > <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> [29 lines snipped]
>>>
>>>> >> It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is
>>>> >> *waste* on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally
>>>> >> involved in this crap... having fist fights and harming each other.
>>>> >> Insane! Do something educational or useful !!!
>>>> >>
>>>> >>
>>>> >
>>>> > It's better than full-scale war, IMO.
>>>> >
>>>>
>>>> The games should be run like a Mayan ball game - the losers are sacrificed.
>>>
>>> I could go for that.
>>>
>>
>> The Columbians, the more honest, south American (:!) ones
>
> What are you on about? What makes South Americans "more honest" and
> more honest than _who_ and about _what_?
>
>> tried
>> that a few years ago. Didn't work.
>
> If you are referring to the murder of Andres Escobar, that took place
> in Col_o_mbia.
>
>

Well, better than DC. Just kidding.

--
greymaus.ireland.ie
Will Rant for Food.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 17:15:03 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 08/07/2018 13:17, Huge wrote:

- >
- > But then, if you live in some impoverished, disease ridden, festering
- > shithole under the boot-heel of a fascist dictator

Liverpool under Auntie Teresa?

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 17:57:32 GMT

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On 2018-07-08, JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> wrote:

- > On Sat, 7 Jul 2018 19:11:54 -0400, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com>
- > wrote:
- >
- >> Kerr-Mudd,John <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:
- >>
- >>> On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT, Charles Richmond
- >>> <numerist@aquaporin4.com> wrote:
- >>>
- >>>> It amazes me how much time, resources, broadcast effort, etc. is
- >>>> *waste* on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally
- >>>> involved in this crap... having fist fights and harming each other.
- >>>> Insane! Do something educational or useful !!!
- >>>
- >>> It's better than full-scale war, IMO.
- >>
- >> The games should be run like a Mayan ball game - the losers are sacrificed.
- >
- > Years ago I read a short story where the entire planet was in
- > conflict, but it was done as a movie.
- >
- > The 'players' wore uniforms of their countries. Say, an Infantry
- > company was tasked with blowing up a road block. They would have a
- > movie scene where they played it out like a movie. The explosives used
- > were minimal. But the judges would decide if the company of soldiers
- > did a good job or not.
- >
- > If they did a good job, their country gained territory. If they messed
- > up the 'first and only take' of that scene, their country lost
- > territory.

Then there was the Star Trek episode _A Taste of Armageddon_...

--

/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.
X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.
/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 17:57:32 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2018-07-08, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
>> Kerr-Mudd,John <notsaying@invalid.org> wrote:
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>>> On Fri, 06 Jul 2018 21:58:12 GMT, Charles Richmond
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>>>> *waste* on the fool World Cup!!! How can people get so emotionally
>>>> involved in this crap... having fist fights and harming each other.
>>>> Insane! Do something educational or useful !!!
>>>
>>> It's better than full-scale war, IMO.
>>
>> The games should be run like a Mayan ball game - the losers are sacrificed.
>
> I could go for that.

Well, there was that Colombian goalie who was murdered for an own goal...

--
/~\ cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid (Charlie Gibbs)
\ / I'm really at ac.dekanfrus if you read it the right way.
X Top-posted messages will probably be ignored. See RFC1855.
/\ Fight low-contrast text in web pages! <http://contrastrebellion.com>

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 20:36:20 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3:14:38 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:

> Don't mention the Turk massacre of Armenians and Kurds. Ah no-one did.

Huh? Don't you mean the Turk and Kurd massacre of Armenians?

John Savard

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Sun, 08 Jul 2018 20:38:05 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 4:30:04 AM UTC-6, Ahem A Rivet's Shot wrote:

> On 8 Jul 2018 09:16:13 GMT

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>> Yes, Ghod forbid that people should be forced to live in a country

>> they don't want to, eh?

> Oh wouldn't it be nice if living in a country of your choice was a

> universal right.

It would be nice if being able to leave the country you live in were a universal right, but it would be horrible if being able to enter the country you wanted to live in was a universal right.

John Savard

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Gene Wirchenko](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 00:03:54 GMT

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On 7 Jul 2018 12:19:26 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, Gene Wirchenko <genew@telus.net> wrote:

>> On 3 Jul 2018 09:21:18 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>>

>> [snip]

>>

>>> I tried to buy a friend of my mothers a gift token from Red Lobster for

>>> having done her a favour.

>>>

>>> Nope. Won't accept an address outside the USA.

>>>

>>> I should start a "Hall of Infamy" about these things.

>>

>> I moved to the USA in 2005. I tried to enter a change of address

>> on one of my credit cards. The Website would not accept a
>> non-Canadian address. A support person actually had the gall to tell
>> me that I should get my bill sent to a Canadian address and get it
>> forwarded. (Wonderful for not getting bills on times.) I asked for a
>> final bill and terminated the card instead.
>
> Many programmers need reminding what the first 2 letters in WWW stand for.

I am more inclined to that it was a business decision. It made it cheaper to send statements. I just happened to be an outlier who was affected by it. (Not that high a percentage of people change countries.)

My U.S. credit had a submittal address in Florida. I was in Washington state. A lower chance of someone I know working for the credit card company and me colluding and a better chance of the payment being late.

Sincerely,

Gene Wirchenko

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 06:29:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Kerr-Mudd,John

On Sun, 08 Jul 2018 20:36:20 GMT, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:

> On Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3:14:38 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:
>
>> Don't mention the Turk massacre of Armenians and Kurds. Ah no-one did.
>
> Huh? Don't you mean the Turk and Kurd massacre of Armenians?
>
> John Savard

Erm yes. Sorry.

--
Bah, and indeed, Humbug.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 07:17:06 GMT

Originally posted by: AndyW

On 06/07/2018 16:50, Charlie Gibbs wrote:

> I'd love to play Tempest again. I got hold of the ROMs out of an
> actual machine, as well as schematics. The only thing I need to
> get is a round tuit.

The round tuit you need is a SpinTrak (with flywheel for extra momentum)
Expensive but worth it for that unmistakably undefinable tactile feel of
the spinning mass.

Add a Spintrak to piMame and some woodwork and you have a full arcade
cabinet for Tempest.

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 07:21:37 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: AndyW

On 07/07/2018 13:19, Huge wrote:

> On 2018-07-07, Gene Wirchenko <genew@telus.net> wrote:
>> On 3 Jul 2018 09:21:18 GMT, Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:
>>
>> [snip]
>>
>>> I tried to buy a friend of my mothers a gift token from Red Lobster for
>>> having done her a favour.
>>>
>>> Nope. Won't accept an address outside the USA.
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>> I moved to the USA in 2005. I tried to enter a change of address
>> on one of my credit cards. The Website would not accept a
>> non-Canadian address. A support person actually had the gall to tell
>> me that I should get my bill sent to a Canadian address and get it
>> forwarded. (Wonderful for not getting bills on times.) I asked for a
>> final bill and terminated the card instead.
>
> Many programmers need reminding what the first 2 letters in WWW stand for.

Many programmers need to realise that "English(US)" is not the only version of English out there.

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 07:30:35 GMT

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Originally posted by: AndyW

On 08/07/2018 00:11, Peter Flass wrote:

> Who have only been there for the short time of, what? 500 years? Short in
> Irish time, I believe.

To be fair though, many of the Scots came from Ireland as invading Scotii in late Roman times so Ireland can send the Scots back to Scotland but then we would have to send a lot of those back to Ireland where they came from.

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 17:20:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On Mon, 9 Jul 2018 08:30:35 +0100, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

> On 08/07/2018 00:11, Peter Flass wrote:

>

>> Who have only been there for the short time of, what? 500 years? Short in
>> Irish time, I believe.

>

> To be fair though, many of the Scots came from Ireland as invading
> Scotii in late Roman times so Ireland can send the Scots back to
> Scotland but then we would have to send a lot of those back to Ireland
> where they came from.

>

> Andy

Weren't the Scots who became Scot-Irish mercenaries imported to Ireland to help with some clan warfare hundreds of years ago ?

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Mon, 09 Jul 2018 19:17:58 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Monday, July 9, 2018 at 12:29:09 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:
> On Sun, 08 Jul 2018 20:36:20 GMT, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:
>> On Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3:14:38 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:

>>> Don't mention the Turk massacre of Armenians and Kurds. Ah no-one did.

>> Huh? Don't you mean the Turk and Kurd massacre of Armenians?

> Erm yes. Sorry.

Ah, well: given contemporary history, it's easy to mix that up. In fact, some Armenians are expressing sympathy for the current plight of Kurds in Turkey despite the past history.

John Savard

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 10 Jul 2018 06:08:11 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: AndyW

On 09/07/2018 18:20, JimP wrote:
> On Mon, 9 Jul 2018 08:30:35 +0100, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

>
>> On 08/07/2018 00:11, Peter Flass wrote:

>>
>>> Who have only been there for the short time of, what? 500 years? Short in
>>> Irish time, I believe.

>>
>> To be fair though, many of the Scots came from Ireland as invading
>> Scotii in late Roman times so Ireland can send the Scots back to
>> Scotland but then we would have to send a lot of those back to Ireland
>> where they came from.

>>
>> Andy

>
> Weren't the Scots who became Scot-Irish mercenaries imported to
> Ireland to help with some clan warfare hundreds of years ago ?

There was a lot of transfer between the Scots and Irish over the centuries, the populations sloshed north and south. They are only 12 miles apart so the journey is not long.

Andy

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 10 Jul 2018 13:45:01 GMT

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Originally posted by: JimP

On Tue, 10 Jul 2018 07:08:11 +0100, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

> On 09/07/2018 18:20, JimP wrote:

>> On Mon, 9 Jul 2018 08:30:35 +0100, AndyW <Andy@nojunqmail.com> wrote:

>>

>>> On 08/07/2018 00:11, Peter Flass wrote:

>>>

>>>> Who have only been there for the short time of, what? 500 years? Short in

>>>> Irish time, I believe.

>>>

>>> To be fair though, many of the Scots came from Ireland as invading

>>> Scotii in late Roman times so Ireland can send the Scots back to

>>> Scotland but then we would have to send a lot of those back to Ireland

>>> where they came from.

>>>

>>> Andy

>>

>> Weren't the Scots who became Scot-Irish mercenaries imported to

>> Ireland to help with some clan warfare hundreds of years ago ?

>

> There was a lot of transfer between the Scots and Irish over the

> centuries, the populations sloshed north and south. They are only 12

> miles apart so the journey is not long.

Thanks for the info.

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [usenet](#) on Tue, 10 Jul 2018 18:36:08 GMT

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On Thu, 5 Jul 2018 09:39:48 +0100, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On 4 Jul 2018 09:16:50 GMT

> Huge <Huge@nowhere.much.invalid> wrote:

>> We had a "tame" banknote trader we used to give new stuff to for testing.

>> He enjoyed it and if anyone could break it, he could.

>
> At one PPOE we had someone who could break pretty much anything
> just by trying to use it - the talent lasted about two years before she
> became sophisticated in the ways of computers and stopped being able to do
> it.

Even within this group, Ms. Huizenga's propensity for stumbling over problems that no one else ever encountered is known and well-deserved. That's why she was in charge of the TOPS-10 monitor installation procedure and documentation. If there was a way to screw it up, she would find it.

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 10 Jul 2018 22:46:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:
> On Monday, July 9, 2018 at 12:29:09 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:
>> On Sun, 08 Jul 2018 20:36:20 GMT, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:
>>> On Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3:14:38 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:
>
>>>> Don't mention the Turk massacre of Armenians and Kurds. Ah no-one did.
>
>>> Huh? Don't you mean the Turk and Kurd massacre of Armenians?
>
>> Erm yes. Sorry.
>
> Ah, well: given contemporary history, it's easy to mix that up. In fact, some
> Armenians are expressing sympathy for the current plight of Kurds in Turkey
> despite the past history.

The enemy of my enemy is my friend.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 11 Jul 2018 01:43:28 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On Tue, 10 Jul 2018 18:46:07 -0400, Peter Flass
<peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:

>> On Monday, July 9, 2018 at 12:29:09 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:
>>> On Sun, 08 Jul 2018 20:36:20 GMT, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:
>>>> On Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3:14:38 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:
>>
>>>> > Don't mention the Turk massacre of Armenians and Kurds. Ah no-one did.
>>
>>>> Huh? Don't you mean the Turk and Kurd massacre of Armenians?
>>
>>> Erm yes. Sorry.
>>
>> Ah, well: given contemporary history, it's easy to mix that up. In fact, some
>> Armenians are expressing sympathy for the current plight of Kurds in Turkey
>> despite the past history.
>
> The enemy of my enemy is my friend.

You mean like the US and the Soviet Union were.

I've seen another version of this--"When choosing an ally, two questions are crucial, can he shoot and will he aim at my enemy".

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 11 Jul 2018 07:54:29 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Gareth's Downstairs Computer

On 10/07/2018 23:46, Peter Flass wrote:
> Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:
>> On Monday, July 9, 2018 at 12:29:09 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:
>>> On Sun, 08 Jul 2018 20:36:20 GMT, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote:
>>>> On Sunday, July 8, 2018 at 3:14:38 AM UTC-6, Kerr-Mudd,John wrote:
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>>>> > Don't mention the Turk massacre of Armenians and Kurds. Ah no-one did.
>>
>>>> Huh? Don't you mean the Turk and Kurd massacre of Armenians?
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>>> Erm yes. Sorry.
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>> Ah, well: given contemporary history, it's easy to mix that up. In fact, some
>> Armenians are expressing sympathy for the current plight of Kurds in Turkey
>> despite the past history.
>
> The enemy of my enemy is my friend.
>

With the celebrations of the centenary of the riffRAF, will they also

celebrate in a couple of years, their bombing of civilian villages in Iraq in a deliberate ploy to discourage the rebellion, a campaign conducted by the later notorious squadron leader Bomber Harris?

Subject: Re: old grudges, Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anne & Lynn Wheel](#) on Sun, 15 Jul 2018 19:34:23 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

J. Clarke <jclarke.873638@gmail.com> writes:

> You mean like the US and the Soviet Union were.

>

> I've seen another version of this--"When choosing an ally, two

> questions are crucial, can he shoot and will he aim at my enemy".

recent thread elsewhere

"WWII was won with British intelligence, American steel and Russian blood"

https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/27eufq/wwii_was_won_with_british_intelligence_american/

on the other side, John Foster Dulles played major role in German industry and military from the 20s up through the early 40s ... as agent for wallstreet banks and major

The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World War

[https://www.amazon.com/Brothers-Foster-Dulles-Allen-Secret-e book/dp/B00BY5QX1K/loc905-7](https://www.amazon.com/Brothers-Foster-Dulles-Allen-Secret-e-book/dp/B00BY5QX1K/loc905-7): Foster was stunned by his brother's suggestion that Sullivan & Cromwell quit Germany. Many of his clients with interests there, including not just banks but corporations like Standard Oil and General Electric, wished Sullivan & Cromwell to remain active regardless of political conditions.

loc938-40: At least one other senior partner at Sullivan & Cromwell, Eustace Seligman, was equally disturbed. In October 1939, six weeks after the Nazi invasion of Poland, he took the extraordinary step of sending Foster a formal memorandum disavowing what his old friend was saying about Nazism

.... snip ...

June 1940, Germany had a victory celebration at the NYC Waldorf-Astoria with major industrialists. Lots of them were there to hear how to do business with the Nazis

<https://www.amazon.com/Man-Called-Intrepid-Incredible-Narrative-ebook/dp/B00V9QVE5O/>

Later 5000 industrialists from across the US had conference (also) at NYC Waldorf-Astoria and in part because they had gotten such bad reputation for the depression and supporting Nazi Germany, they approved a major propaganda campaign to equate capitalism with Christianity, part of the result by the early 50s was adding "in god we trust" to money and "under god" to the pledge of allegiance.
<https://www.amazon.com/One-Nation-Under-God-Corporate-ebook/dp/B00PWX7R56/>

later John Foster Dulles (during McCarthy era) has been quoted that he wasn't building up Germany because he making enormous amounts of money from it, but so that Germany could stand as counter to communism.

--

virtualization experience starting Jan1968, online at home since Mar1970

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Niklas Karlsson](#) on Mon, 06 Aug 2018 15:52:20 GMT

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On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com < Hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com > wrote:

>

> NYC and Phila had a restaurant chain, Horn & Hardart, that provided
> good quality food in vending machines known as the Automat. It
> was generally fresh food, frequently reloaded by people in the back
> of the machines. Very popular in its day.

In the Netherlands there is an Automat chain operating to this day, known as FEBO.

Niklas

--

Lithospheric flight paths typically result in extremely high drag coefficients, often quite a bit in excess of design parameters.

-- Rick Dickinson

Subject: Re: Computers, anyone?

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 07 Aug 2018 13:05:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: JimP

On 6 Aug 2018 15:52:20 GMT, Niklas Karlsson < Anksil@yahoo.se > wrote:

> On 2018-07-02, hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com < Hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com > wrote:
>>

>> NYC and Phila had a restaurant chain, Horn & Hardart, that provided
>> good quality food in vending machines known as the Automat. It
>> was generally fresh food, frequently reloaded by people in the back
>> of the machines. Very popular in its day.

>
> In the Netherlands there is an Automat chain operating to this day,
> known as FEBO.

>
> Niklas

I saw a short video on you tube a few months ago about an Automat on
one of the Netherlands Islands in the Carribbean Sea.
