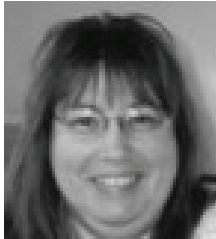




THE PREZ SEZ...



Happy October! Falling back into the swing of all things normal, autumn finds us settling back into our routines after vacations and the hot summer weather. It also means the holidays are coming up and thoughts of computer related gift buying. Time to start checking out the sales flyers in the Sunday newspaper. Not sure about what you should buy? CCMV meetings are a great place to bring your questions. Before you buy something you will be unhappy with, come to our meetings early and chat with our members to see if they can help you make your decision. Our motto is "Friends Helping Friends" and that's exactly what we try to do.

In that spirit, I recently received an email from someone from North Carolina. This gentleman found our website and wrote to me asking if we could help. He is in search of a particular part for a laptop and is willing to buy the whole laptop if anyone has one. The part he is looking for is: the main connector/circuit board from a Seagate Momentus 80GB ATA-100 Laptop Hard Drive (Model ST980815A - RK). So, if you have a used ST980815A-RK laptop drive that he could purchase, he would be most appreciative. You can contact George Woollums at gwoollum@bellsouth.net and tell him you heard about him from CCMV in California!

I wish you lots of treats, a minimum of tricks and a happy and fun Halloween.

Joannie



TOP SECRET Revealed Here *By (Agent) Frank Varano*

Now here is the scenario: You bought a device, say, for example a bulkritch for XP and and you paid \$ 280 for the gizmo, a bulkrit. It uses a USB2 connection to your computer. When you bought you didn't give a thought to the fact it needs USB2 connection. You were so eager to buy it and it was on the discount table too. On the way home you start to worry about the connection and you almost side swipe a car in the next lane.

Here is what you should have done before you jumped in the car to get suckered in to get such a good deal for a brand new bulkritch.

You should have opened the System Properties dialog box. (Figure it out yourself how to get there, I'm so mad.) And when you get there click on the Hardware tab and then the Device Manager button. Of course, you knew this anyhow. Expand the USB Controllers branch.

If you see the words Enhanced USB Controller, you got it made and you can use the bulkritch. But if it says USB Controller, you're out of luck. Take the bulkritch back. But you bought it on the discount counter? Huh?

At least you now know all about USB. But you want to know what is a bulkritch? Well, don't feel bad; let's put it this way. I bought one too and I am still trying to figure out what it is. But I know how to plug it in! It was such a big bargain. So I un plugged it and put on the shelf with the zgradilator I bought some time ago. (But I know how to plug that in too.)



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Meeting Time and Place

2nd and 4th Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Seventh-day Adventist
Church
29885 Bradley Road
Sun City, CA

That Day Has Finally Arrived

By Frank Varano

You know by the title that I am not going to be serious. I am a nut at heart and this is a story dear to our hearts. All of us in the CCMV are old. Well, relatively. Relative to the population at large. Many of us are large too. Around the middle. Around the butt. Or I should say hanging off the butt. Some of us are even fatheads. And that has a bearing on explaining my experience.

You see, I bought a flat panel display. You know, those thin panels that you can actually carry *even* if you have a big belly or big butt. I'm 88 now and I have to watch what I lift. It is enough that I carry an inner tube full of lead around my waist. I even got rid of a bunch of credit cards to lighten my wallet. I switched from a belt to a string. I shave daily to keep from getting round shouldered. You see, I did all of that in anticipation of having to move that colossal monster, my 17 inch CRT monitor.

Yep, the day has finally arrived. There I stood, tenderly caressing my new flat panel in my arms. I gave it a kiss on the On/Off butt button while resting it on my inner tube. I looked at the big 17 inch monitor and thought of how to get it off the desk where it has rested for many years. I shuddered to think of what lay underneath that monster. But the a moment of truth has arrived. I gently placed my new flat panel display on my chair, and told it affectionately to stay there. I reached over the keyboard to grab the monster but realized that I need a place to put it. "Think again, Frank," I thought. I don't want to stumble across the house to the garage carrying that big fat monitor not knowing where to put that thing when I get there wherever 'there' is. And I needed a clear path to get there too

I brought my sturdy cart from the kitchen and wheeled it to the computer den close to the desk so that all I had to do is to grab the monitor, turn my body 96.8 degrees and rest it on the cart. You see I didn't go to college for nutt'n. I wrote the plan down on paper so as to not to forget it. I am getting old, you know. I took a deep breath, reached out, grabbed the monitor and lifted it 2.8 inches, and Oh, Oh, I need to unplug it too. Back to the drawing board. I wrote that down on the instruction sheet so as to not forget it and crawled on the floor to unplug both power and signal cables. .

Then I grabbed the monitor again, lifted it gently 4.2 inches and rotated my body 42.9 degrees but I didn't realize how deep that monitor was and I couldn't see the back end which knocked over my coffee cup with that fresh coffee in it. There I stood rotated to 48.9 counterclockwise from the initial setting of 0.02 degrees with a 50 pound monitor in my arms with a hot left foot. It was like swimming across a river in the tropics with crocodiles all around and your foot itched.

There's no turning around now. I finished the rotation maneuver precisely 96.8 degrees. Now I couldn't see the bottom of the monitor or the top of the cart. There were rails on the cart and my hands already were pressing against them. I let go. The monitor plunked down a few inches to the top of the cart but with such a force that a cart wheel collapsed. What did you say about the 'best laid plans of mouse and keyboards'?

That Day page 3

That Day page 2

I carefully three-wheeled it to the hall next to the garage door and left it there. "I am going to worry about that at another time," I said to myself. You see, being old and alone I also talk to myself a lot. I went back to the desk, looked at where the monitor was and I was appalled. I saw a half eaten garlic breadstick, a long lost note from my mistress. (I am 88 you know.) (I can do anything I want now.) (Or, I can want anything now.) (I said 'want' not 'get'.) Aha! So that is where the password list disappeared to! And now I have two USB Hubs!

The layer of dust was appalling. I am a lousy housekeeper. I never dust anything until I can write my name in Old English font like this in the dust:

Frank Varano

The writing was so beautiful that I didn't want to remove the dust. I finished off the garlic stick and vacuumed the dust sentimentally. I was thinking of having an open-house to show off my clean desk. Naturally, I connected up the flat panel, started the computer and started also a brand new era in computing in my house.

The Brat: Yahoo Messenger With Voice By Frank Varano

With this software you can talk to anyone else on a computer for free and you can also dial an ordinary phone for money. It is a neat program, a lot like Skype. I use it occasionally. You certainly need broadband to use it effectively. BUT!

This software is like a little brat. You know what I mean when I say brat. If you are unfortunate enough to load Yahoo Messenger With Voice (YMWV), it will embed itself in the Configuration Utility of your computer. Well, so what? A lot of programs are there that you want to start with the computer. When YMWV is in the Configsys, it will start with your computer and there is nothing you can do to close it until it has completely loaded up. It doesn't pay any attention to any clicking on those little Xs in the upper right corner of each window that it opens in the process.

And when it is finally loaded (in spite of everything you do to kill it), then and then only can you start killing it. One by one you can X out each Yahoo window ... and there are several. Here's the rub: after you X out each window and you get to the last one, it has the gall to ask you "Do you really want to quit?" By that time you are ready to use the hammer on the Enter key to say OK. "Aha!" you say, "I got rid of that SOB." Oh, yeah?

It has loaded. Look at that little red orange face in the Tray, grinning at you annoyingly. Here is where you get the last crack at it. You right click and slam down the Exit. Again it has the gall to ask if you really want to quit it. Other than all of this YMWV is a nice program, useful to use instead of the telephone.

It is like a brat, however. No matter how many times you say NO it still doesn't pay any attention to you. It is still in Configsys and it will haunt you the next time you start your computer.

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How many times ... ?

By Frank Varano

Remember the times you launched IE and for some reason you did not get connected to the Internet your home page?) You got: "This page cannot be displayed." That would make a title for a musical Internet Balad. I can hear the computer breaking out in song on seeing this.



. Why not? You have all kinds of sounds available to you for the various events that take place in your computer. I use them extensively. In particular, when the computer makes a goof, I have a sound of breaking glass to let me know that it wasn't me, but the computer. (You've seen the scene in movies where a toast is drunk and the participants throw the champagne glasses into the fireplace?)

Any how, that's not what my story is about. I was at Tech Republic and I came across a way to deliberately launch IE but not to the Home page.

Here's the two-step procedure:

Right-click the Internet Explorer icon on the very top of the Start menu and select Internet Properties.

Click the Use Blank button in the Home Page panel. Now you'll see the command *about:blank* appear in the Address text box.

To enable this option, click the OK button. Now tell me, why would you do this anyway?

Did You Know?

By F. Varano

In MS Outlook, normally you enter an address in the To: box by finding the address in your Address Book. And you do this by typing a few letters of the last name (assuming that your entries are sorted by last names). MS Outlook finds the address, then you click To: and the address appears in the To: box of the email. Yeah but!. Did you know that if you type the first few letters of the last name *directly* in the To: box of the email, the Address Book will replace it with the Display name?

Of course, you must have your Address Book entries done right in the first place. Unfortunately many are very sloppy about entering names and addresses in the Address Book.

It was suggested that I include a little humor in my Newsletter, so here's a sample of what I have:

A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me \$4,000, but it's state-of-the-art". "Really", answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?" "Twelve thirty"

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Treasurer's Report for 2006
By Chet Hartley
Monthly Income and Expenses
10/1/2005 through 9/30/2006

INCOME:

Contributions	\$910.90
Bank Interest	\$21.27
Shareware/Freeware Sales	\$331.50
Textbook Sales	\$975.00
Tuition	\$1,850.00
Total Training Income	\$2825.00

Total Income \$4,088.67

EXPENSES:

APCUG Conference Fees	\$100.00
Association Dues	\$50.00
Bank Charges - Unassigned	\$10.60
Bookkeeping Expenses	\$4.23
Church Usage	\$2,300.00
Newsletter Printing	\$174.00
Insurance	\$640.00
Miscellaneous	\$30.00
Fees	\$284.00
Textbook Purchases	\$889.03
Tuition Refund	\$50.00
Web Hosting	\$180.00

Total Expenses \$4,712.16

Income less expenses -\$623.49