



See?.....I Told You So!

By Nostradamus Varanus

Are you listening to me? Here is the first step toward phasing out the hard drive as we know it. (I didn't include a picture here.) I wrote about it in previous issues of this newsletter. Here is a quote from TechRepublic:

"Samsung's Spinpoint A1 40GB hard drive comes in the Compact Flash II card form factor. It measures 1.7x1.4 inches and is 5 millimeters thick and can store up to 40GB of information. Samsung expects this form factor to take off with MP3 players, other portable media players, digital cameras, ultramobile PCs, and smartphones."

And this is a quote from the forum that accompanied the announcement:

"The first picture is a conventional drive in a very small format. The second picture is a SSD/Solid State Drive which is essentially a drive made of flash memory. No moving parts, much longer life and faster. The limitation currently is in capacity. (See side bar.) The biggest ones I've seen in retail are 80GB. From writer R.L. James, IT Department Manager, Location: Toronto, Ontario "

We all know that the hard drive is a weak link in the PC. Although it seems to be very reliable, we all know of the common adage "It is not a question of *if* the hard drive fails; it is a matter of *when* it fails."

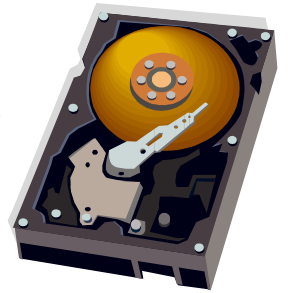
I really don't worry about it since I use a backup system that will preserve all of my writings, the completed issues of the CCMV newsletter, The Club Connection, and the addresses of all my mistresses. *Just not taking any chances.*

I think the size of the PC when we have SS (Solid State) memories will be about the same, but since the volume of the SS device would be smaller, the heat would be generated in a smaller volume, thus calling for much better thermal transfer of heat.

We would no longer have the annoying hum of a hard drive motor interfering with the beautiful music available because of broadband.

Side Bar (March 25, 2008)

NothingButSoftware.com now is selling a 16 GB flash drive. Watch these columns for the inevitable march toward the extinction of the platter hard drives! Just like the internal combustion engine which is so sophisticated now that you cannot service it yourself any more,



so goes the hard drive. This little flash drive has gone from 128 KB storage capacity to 16 GB in a matter of a year or so. And it hardly changed in size. It is amazing! (These pictures are not to scale.)



Editor's Comment:

These two articles are not things you can take advantage in using your computer. It is of interest to all of us because it portends of things to come, even in our lifetimes. Nothing remains static. Our landfills prove it.

I was going to give you a follow up on Autoruns but I did not get around to it I decided to give you some things that you can 'sink your teeth in' and apply it to your daily computer operations. I've taught a lot of old people on how to use their computers and by far File Management causes the most problems.

When I go into a student's house I note the condition of the housekeeping and try to ascertain how they manage their computer files. Is there a correlation? The sloppier the house the more orderly their computer files are. Why?

Maintaining an orderly house is a far cry from maintaining an orderly computer. I've concluded that the house is a tangible environment and the computer is not. The basic native human trait required for each environment is decidedly different.



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*Take a look .
There is a lot of
good information
on our Web Site.*

Meeting

Time, Days 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

Print From Web Page

By F. Varano

Some web sites are made up of frames and just hitting the print icon may not print what is desired. Simply click anywhere inside the frame, no need to highlight, and this will tell the software which frame you want to print. Frames can be hidden so just click once on the information you want then click the print icon.

You can also select the desired frame by clicking file, print, and selecting from the "Print Frames" menu.

It pays to look over the web page for the words "Print View" or something that implies that there is provision for you to print the information you would really like. This is particularly true on sites that have recipes or an instruction that you need to print to be able to work from it. The Print View may appear at the beginning or the end. So look for it to make it easy for you.

Sometimes you want to send someone an article that appears on the web-page. If you absolutely insist on sending the article only, it is best to copy the article as best you can including advertising boxes into a Word Document. You can delete the extraneous stuff in Word and even format it to your heart's content.

However, if you wish to send the actual website, then it is best to go to the Address bar, point to it to highlight it, right click on it, then left click on copy. Now you can merely paste the 'link' in your email that you are sending. This is by far the most efficient and fastest way to do it.

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Inside The Computer

By F. Varano

I am not talking about the hard drive or CPU on the Mother Board. I am talking about the talking that goes on inside of the computer as a result of what you do with the mouse and keyboard actions.

There was a time in the early days of computers when the programmer had to be real specific in the instructions he gave to the computer. And there was no mouse. He had to type numbers. It was Assembly language.

Later developments allowed the programmer to type letters also and some words which were converted to numbers by a converting language.

As the computers became more complicated the language was simplified. And today many of the computing programming languages use words that closely describe the programming elements. As a matter of fact programmers use English to describe what they want the program to do and then write it in programming language. Let me cite one silly example.

For each number that I count from 1 to 5, I want you to pick the pockets of each passerby and put his money in separate bins so that I can add it up to see how much I have. (Look, I warned you that it was silly.) Well, here is what a programming statement (in C++ language) would look like.

```
For (Count=0; count <5; count++)  
{Print (How much loot did you get this  
time?");  
PickThePocket(" %f", &value);  
Total +=value;}
```

The statement *PickThePocket*, is not a valid one; I just made it up to make the statement silly too. What I want to illustrate is that, although the programming language is still complicated it still is much more simple and less prone to errors than using just numbers. Notice that there are actual English words used and note also that the programmer can actually write out in English what he wants the computer to do.

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Because the computer is a completely electronic device, it needs a structured language so that everything it is given can be interpreted by the computer as a viable task. If the programmer makes a mistake the program is designed to inform him that he made a mistake. It can be a syntax error or statement error. Even a semicolon is meaningful. However, like SpellCheck, certain errors can slip through. As a result a program can create problems.

You often see in the software that you buy that there are upgrades, service packs, new visions, etc. to the software. At the time of writing the program, it is impossible to foresee all the conditions under which a software will operate. Programs are sent out to the field in Beta versions so that exposure to the user environment will bring out the bugs through user feedback. These mistakes are indeed called 'bugs.'

Now, let me use an analogy using humans. Let's say that you say to your husband, "Go to the store and get a loaf of bread." Believe it or not, he is programmed to first say "Yes, dear." Then he gets in the car and drives off to get a loaf of bread. Because he is a human (and defective as all husbands are) he can make errors. In the store he gets side tracked and picks up a jar of pickled pigs feet too.

If you want to debug the program in him you would also add, "And buy *only* a loaf of bread!" And you could add, "Or else!" Of course, he could also stop at a bar on he way home and booze it up. But enough of the silly analogy. You can see that to program him completely you'd have to tell him in complete detail exactly what he must do every step of the way just to "Get a Loaf of Bread."

Yet, *everything* you see on your screen, *everything* that your computer does, is a result of the programmer's programming statements.

Finally, let me ask all of you, do you really think that man will ever create any device with artificial intelligence that even remotely resembles that defective husband?





Monthly Income and Expenses	
3/1/08 thru- 3/31/08	
Chet Hartley, Treasurer	
Income (\$)	
Contributions	93.00
Interest	6.51
Shareware/Freeware Sales	30.00
Textbook Sales	20.00
Rebate	30.00
Total Income	179.51
Expenses (\$)	
Church Usage	250.00
Insurance	0.00
Newsletter expenses	22.41
Lab Expenses	8759.79
Total Expenses	9032.20
Income less expenses	\$ 8852.69

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window. This discussion may seem trivial to you experienced Word users but bear with me. When I am asked for help on the computer it is very often in the matters of file management for even experienced users.

The first time you save a file **My Documents** will appear in the **Save in:** box as in the picture. If you save the file to an existing folder in **My Documents**, that folder will appear in the **Save in:** box. That is true also if you save the same file or another file in the same session. It is wise to always pay attention to what is in the **Save in:** box before you save. You can waste a lot of time tracking down a 'lost' file.

That little arrow (triangle) at the end of the **Save in:** box brings up a hierarchy of files and folders that exists on your computer now. You can choose any other folder from that list to save your file. It is best to put your file in a folder in **My Documents**. If **My Documents** is not in the **Save in:** box, you can click on the first icon that is to the right of the black triangle to bring it up. **My Documents** will then appear in the **Save in:** box.

If a folder within a folder, within another folder appears in the **Save in:** box, click repeatedly on the second icon. Each click on the icon enters the next higher level folder in **Save in:** box. Specifically three clicks returns you to **My Documents** in the **Save in:** Box.

The third icon pertains to the Web. If you have the **Save As:** window open and you are looking at all the folders but you need to get rid of one, select it then click on the X, the fourth icon.

The fifth icon is very useful. Imagine that you created a file and that you need to put it in a folder but none of the existing ones is suitable. So create one here with that icon. Click on it and then name it. BUT! *Be sure that you put that folder in the **Save in:** box.*

The sixth icon allows you to change how the files and folders in the **Save As:** window are displayed. See the little black triangle to the right of it? Click on it and it will give you several options on how to display the contents of the **Save As:** window. Personally, I use the **Details** display. A big splattering of icons uses too much window space. I can read through a lettered list of list of files and folders much faster than wading through a bunch of icons.

I am going to skip the last item in the list and it is not an icon. Click on the little black triangle to the right of Tools and read what it says. I'll talk about that at another time in the context of another subject.

File Management Problem: Saving Files

By F. Varano

When you click on **File** and **Save As**, you are given a generous opportunity to name and put the file someplace where you can find it in the future. Pay attention to the **Save in:** box. What folder is in that box is where your file will end up. Usually it defaults to **My Documents** but a trap arises when you have previously saved a file and the **Save in:** box has a different folder in it, usually some folder in **My Documents**. If you click the **Save** button without paying attention to what you are doing, you will be putting the file in a different place and later you will not know where it is. That is how you 'lose' a file.

But you really didn't lose it for it is still in the computer. You just don't know where it is. What is even worse, you forgot the file name. If you followed my file naming suggestion of a previous issue, you'll know what the name is. If you didn't you don't know what to search for. In that case I'll give you a tip on how to find it in a separate article. The **Save in:** box may have a different folder in it. And your file may end up in the wrong place.

There are a lot of things you can do in the **Save As:** window. (In MSWord 2003.) Look at Figure 1 below which is the top of the **Save in:**

Figure 1
Part of the Save As
window.

