



The Paper Modem

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A guy was typing away at his home computer, when his six- year-old daughter sneaked up behind him.

Suddenly, she turned and ran into the kitchen, squealing to the rest of the family, "I know Daddy's password! I know Daddy's password!"
"What is it?" her sisters asked eagerly.

Proudly she replied, "Asterisk, asterisk, asterisk, asterisk, asterisk!"

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



The difference between genius and stupidity is; genius has its Limits

— Albert Einstein



All The Rage: Gone Phishing

By Secure Enterprise and Robert G. Moskowitz

Every few years, something happens that convinces us old-time Internet users that newbies should be required to obtain a license before they get an e-mail account. First there were the rampant violations of Netiquette that drove us crazy. Then there was the careless opening of attachments that spread harmful viruses. Nowadays it's Spam, and worse--phishing Spam. P.T. Barnum was right: There are more than enough gullible people out there to keep the Spam epidemic alive.

If the flood of junk mail were limited to classic money cons and great deals on obsolete software, its impact on corporations would be limited to the time it takes for users to clean up their inboxes. This is in no way a trivial cost to a corporation, but Spam has recently taken an even nastier, more expensive turn: phishing. A phishing attack is a scam that trick users into disclosing personal data such as credit-card

numbers, passwords or Social Security numbers. (For more information, see the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Alert.)

The latest phishing scammers pose not as representatives from your financial institution, but as software-provider representatives. The sender assumes the guise of your favourite software supplier and urges you to "click here for emergency patch." Presto, you've just been Trojaned.

This is a real problem for IT. No matter how good the filters are, Spam will inevitably get through. Education is the only effective counter to Barnum's theory. Every teacher knows you need tests, rewards and punishments to educate people. Set up your own internal phishing server, and periodically test users to see who bites, then focus on this group with educational programs.

Yes, it's time to license our e-mail users. Perhaps if no one talks to the spammers, they'll go play in someone else's pond.

Submitted by: Greg Wilson

Life before Computers

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3 ½ inch floppy
You hoped nobody found out!
Compress was something you did to garbage
Not something you did to a file

And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for a while!
Log on was adding wood to a fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to your commode!
Cut - you did with a pocket knife
Paste - you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Ability is of little account without opportunity—Napoleon Bonaparte

Search engine tricks to find things faster

David Schalk – Canada.com (copyrighted)

Imagine yourself in an enormous library that contains books covering every topic imaginable. The books line the shelves, but they are not sorted in any particular order. To make matters worse, the large staff of librarians doesn't talk to each other or use a standard system for organization and indexing.

We would never face this dilemma in a "real" library, but we face it every day when we try to find information on the Internet. If you remember, a few months back I wrote about search engines (how to find and be found online), but I thought it would be fun to discuss some of the tricks you can use to help make your searches not only more effective but also more efficient.

It's no secret that two-thirds of all people accessing the Internet cite finding information as one of their primary uses. But did you know that this same number of users also cite the inability to find the information they seek as one of their primary frustrations?

In 1999, various sources estimated that there were about 800 million publicly accessible web pages. While in 2001, Google.com indexed over 1.3 billion web pages through its service – quite a number indeed (I'm sure this number has grown exponentially since that time). Because of this, finding relevant information in a reasonable timeframe is becoming more and more difficult.

We all use search engines, from Google.com to Altavista.com, to find the information we are looking for. The trouble is that because of the vast size of the web, we usually end up getting pages upon pages of results that aren't relevant to what we are actually trying to find. A lot of people don't realize that there are some very simple tricks you can use to narrow your searches and help you find what we are looking for much faster. Using these tricks on a regular basis can literally save you hours of time over the course of each week.

Your ability to find the information that you seek is directly related to how precise the information that you type into the search box is. The bottom line is that poorly typed searches return poor results.

For example, if you want to find out information about Microsoft Office XP, be specific and search specifically for "Microsoft Office XP," not just "Office", "XP" or "Microsoft".

To make your searches even more precise you have to learn what many people refer to as search engine math. By using the + symbol, – symbol and quotation marks you can really start making your searches work for you.

The Power of +

Use the + symbol when you want to make sure the search engine finds pages that have all the words that you enter, not just some of them.

For example, let's say that you want to

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I have learnt that I am me, that I can do the things that, as one might put it, me can do, but I cannot do the things that me would like to do— Agatha Christie

(Continued from page 3)

find information about computers in schools. Typing the search "+computers +schools" will only return page results that have both the word "computers" and "schools" in the same document.

Looking at our previous example, let's say that we were specifically looking for tips on using Microsoft Office XP. We could type our search like this:
+Microsoft +office +XP +tips.

The Power of –

There are many times when you want your search to find pages with one word on them but not another word. This is where the – symbol can be a big help. Use the – symbol whenever you are getting too many results that are not related to what you are looking for.

For example, let's say that you want to find sites relating to the topic "chalk". However, when you search for "chalk" you keep getting pages from my company's home page (www.chalk.com). You might try typing your search "chalk –dave".

This will eliminate most pages that relate to my company or me. I tried this on excite.com and my results included a company that makes sidewalk chalk and a page telling you what to do if you ingest chalk. Mentions of my company had all but disappeared from the search results.

Phrase Searches

By putting phrases in quotation marks you can tell a search engine to give you pages that only contain words in the order you typed them.

In a previous example we were looking for tips about using Microsoft Office XP. By using a search with the + symbol we found articles that contained the four words "Microsoft", "Office", "XP" and "tips". The trouble is that we might have found an article that gave tips for switching from Microsoft Office XP to another program. Not tips about using the program itself.

By typing the phrase "Microsoft Office XP tips" in quotation marks, we are narrowing our search to pages that contain that phrase exactly as typed. This will obviously return even more accurate results than just using the + symbol.

Combining Tricks

All of the tricks I mentioned above can be used together so you can really start controlling what search results you are given.

Let's say you wanted to learn about why (for the sake of this article) July 4th is such a big deal to our US neighbors. Typing the search "independence day" will no doubt return lots of different pages including special events, history and information about the movie of the same title.

Here's a more useful way of finding what we want: "independence day" +history –movie.

This search will limit our search to sites that use the term "Independence Day" and "history" and filter out most pages about Independence Day the movie.

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The first requisite for success is the ability to apply your physical and mental energies to one problem incessantly without growing weary.—Thomas A. Edison

As you can see it's not hard to start making your searches on the Internet more useful and more effective. By using the techniques mentioned here, you will spend more time learning and less time

searching, an Internet experience that you will no doubt find more useful at work and home.

Submitted by: G. Bulger



VS



Keep your Google mania in check!

What would it take to do a search on the Web using something other than Google?? It is an intriguing question given Google Inc's impending initial public offering, which could raise \$US\$3-billion.

With so much cash in the bank to make acquisitions and work on new search engine technologies, Google could put a stranglehold on the market – in much the same way as Microsoft Corp, owns the operating system world with Windows.

However, what many people seem to have forgotten amid the hype surrounding Google's IPO is that its hold on the search engine market

is far from airtight.

While Google's biggest assets are that it has great technology and a world-class brand, there is a good chance that someone, somewhere is building a better mousetrap that could become a Google killer. Before this notion is dismissed, it is important to remember that Google came out of nowhere.

After it was created by Sergey Brin and Larry Page, Google slowly gained a following amongst grassroots Internet users – mostly techies willing to try anything new and cool. As the buzz grew, the media got onto the Google story and then it exploded into the mainstream, where it became the de facto search engine for the masses.

Who's to say there isn't another Google out there?? Who's to say a couple of smart software developers aren't working on a search engine that takes the best of Google and enhances it to make something better?? For investors clamoring to get a piece of the Google IPO, this should be one of your biggest fears.

Sure, the IPO will be a roaring success. There is not doubt Google stock will skyrocket after it starts trading and most likely trigger another high-tech financing boom. Mr. Brin and Mr. Page will be celebrated as the Internet's most successful entrepreneurs while investment firms will say a silent prayer to Google each night as new business rolls in the door.

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There are some people who live in a dream world, and there are some who face reality; and then there are those who turn one into the other.—
Douglas Everett

While I hate to break up a great party, particularly when everyone is having such a great time, it is important not to get too caught up in the Google-mania. Anyone who thinks a particular firm or product is unassailable is mistaken. There may be exceptions such as Wal-Mart but the truth is every company has its weaknesses.

Google's ability to stay on top of the search engine business hinges on management's willingness to take financial and strategic risks. With US\$3-billion in the bank, Google could buy a promising search engine to enhance its technology and eliminate potential competitors, or it could be even more aggressive and branch out into an entirely new online business such as dating, travel or e-commerce.

In fact, Google may have little choice but to be bold because there are many companies with ambitious search engine plans.

Yahoo! Inc, for example, wants to regain its one-time hold on the search engine. With the acquisition of Inktomi and Overture for about US\$2-billion, Yahoo has assembled the major components it needs to get back in the game. Microsoft also is working on its own search engine and recently launched a beta version of a new MSN toolbar which lets users search the Web from a small window on a Web browser.

A company you might start hearing more about in the coming months is **Dipsie Inc.**, which is building a search engine it claims will include 10 billion Web pages by later this year – three times more than what Google offers. There is no surety that Dipsie will become a threat to Google or even emerge as a viable search engine player but it is the kind of rival that should keep the good folks at Google and investors

awake at night.

What Dipsie is trying to do is develop search technology that does a better job of retrieving and presenting data. It aims to index many parts of the Web that Google or Inktomi don't. While Dipsie's technology is complex, in simple terms it will use semantic based analysis to produce searches featuring content and context.

Jason Wiener, Dipsie's founder, is realistic that knocking off Google is a huge challenge. He realizes being a little bit better than Google will not be enough to make Dipsie a relevant rival. Dipsie needs to be several magnitudes better. "If we are 5% better, I should just work at Starbucks and make some lattes", he says. If imitation is the best form of flattery, Dipsie's business and marketing plans are an indication Google has a lot going for it. Mr. Wiener said for example, Dipsie plans to create a buzz by using 100,000 people to use a trial version of its technology. It will also use guerrilla marketing tactics and hired the public relations firm that worked on the successful NutraSweet campaign.

Give Mr Wiener, who has been out on the road trying to raise money, credit for taking a run at Google. For anyone who bothers to read Google's IPO prospectus, it will be a disservice if the company and its CEO Eric Schmidt fail to include information about potential threats posed by Dipsie, Yahoo and Microsoft. There is competition out there even if few people acknowledge it.

*Submitted by: Allan Forrest
Financial Post, January 2004.*



The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their right names. —
Chinese proverb



Welcome to the world of viruses, where you can get the blame for someone else's infection

You're minding your own business, and one day you get e-mail from someone you've never heard of, and they're asking you to stop sending them e-mail. Or worse, they're angry. Or worse yet, they accuse you of sending them a virus! But you don't know them, you've never heard of them, and you know you've never sent them e-mail.

Welcome to the world of viruses, where you can get the blame for someone else's infection. And there's worse news to come. Before I get to that, though, there is always a small possibility that your e-mail account has been compromised. The solution there is simple: change your password immediately. That should prevent someone who's using your account for malicious purposes from continuing, assuming you've chosen a good password.

But these days that's not the most common cause for the situation I've described. Viruses are. And what's worse, there's almost nothing you can do. The MyDoom/Novarg virus which recently ran rampant is a great example. The virus infects someone's machine, and then looks in the e-mail address book on that machine, and e-mails a copy of itself to everyone it finds.

What it also does is forge the "From:" address for the e-mail that it sends. What does it use to forge the address? Why the addresses in the address book, of course. So an infected machine will send e-mail to everyone in the address book, looking as if it was sent by other people in that address book, even though it was not.

Let's use a concrete example: Peter's machine gets infected with the MyDoom virus. In his address book are entries for friends Paul and Mary. Paul and Mary have never met, have never exchanged e-mail, and do not know each other - they each just know Peter. The virus on Peter's machine will send e-mail with the virus to Paul looking like it came from Mary. Paul may wonder who the heck this Mary person is and why she's sending him a virus, but she was never involved.

If you're in Mary's place, you can see that it would be frustrating to be accused of something that you had nothing to do with and have no control over. For the record, your e-mail address may end up in the address books of people you don't know as well.

Various e-mail programs will automatically hold on to additional e-mail addresses that were included on e-mail you received, or possibly from e-mail that was forwarded. Viruses have also been known to use other sources of e-mail addresses, or even forward them around as the virus spreads. What that means is that the simple "friend of a friend" example I used with Peter, Paul, and Mary, while simple and certainly possible, is not the only way your e-mail could show up in a forged "from" line.

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It's kind of fun to do the impossible- Walt Disney

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What's important here is simply this: one way or another, e-mail viruses lie about who sent them.

If someone accuses you of sending a virus-laden e-mail, and you are positive you did not, then you have very little recourse other than trying to educate them about how viruses work. Point them at this article if you like. But be clear: you're not necessarily infected, nor is the person who received the mail claiming to be

from you. It's some third party who is. (And identifying that third party is difficult - this is why virus writers use this technique.)

And of course be sure that you're not going to get infected yourself: don't open attachments from people you don't know, and make sure you have an up-to-date virus checker and virus definitions file.

Submitted by: Greg Wilson

Spotting Fraudulent Web Sites

By Parry Aftab, InformationWeek

Advice from Those in the Field

I sought the assistance of members of the Internet Society's IETF list in trying to come up with better tips on avoiding phishing and spoofing schemes.

Dean Anderson, who owns and runs an ISP in Boston, explained the basics best, so I want to share his tips with you.

EBay, the FTC, Citibank, and consumer-advocacy groups advise to make sure you're using a secure server connection. Dean comments on the wisdom of that tip and holes that can be exploited by the con artists.

"When you connect to a secure Web site, you can examine the SSL Certificate for the site, usually by clicking on the 'lock' symbol on many browsers," he says. "People should learn how to do this and make it a habit of doing so when they connect to secure sites, so they recognize when something changes.

"Unfortunately, like other components of

scams, the certificate might have a similar-sounding name. You think you've got (e.g., PayPal.com), but you got paypal-business.com. The certificate (we assume for argument) really does belong to an entity called paypal-business.com, but is paypal-business.com the same as PayPal? You don't know.

"The best thing to do is start from (e.g.) paypal.com from your account statement, etc., and examine the site certificate. Then you have a good chance that it's not spoofed. But it is only a chance, as it could still be spoofed in various ways. There are lots of scenarios for this, but here's one: Your computer could be infected with a virus which installed a Web proxy, and then the attacker sends you a message to go update your stuff. You type in paypal.com, but your infected browser goes to the fake site instead. When you try to view the certificate, your infected browser shows you the real certificate information. You can't easily know this didn't happen. But examining the certificate is a good practice.

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History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon—Napoleon Bonaparte

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"So there are things to do that will make the con artist's job harder, but you can't make it impossible to be conned. Hopefully, the police will be able to track down the con artists, and by doing so, will deter others. "There's no perfect system, so we can't give any assurances that there is a perfect system. Nor is the case

that if you do or don't do certain things, you can't be victimized. The best we can do is tell people to use their common sense, so they aren't victimized by the lowest grade of con artists."

Submitted by: Greg. Wilson

"No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive." - Mahatma Gandhi



Reboot

There are four engineers traveling in a car; a mechanical engineer, a chemical engineer, an electrical engineer and a computer engineer. The car breaks down.

"Sounds to me as if the pistons have seized. We'll have to strip down the engine before we can get the car working again", says the me-

chanical engineer.

"Well", says the chemical engineer, "it sounded to me as if the fuel might be contaminated. I think we should clear out the fuel system."

"I thought it might be an grounding problem", says the electrical engineer, "or maybe a faulty plug lead."

They all turn to the computer engineer who has said nothing and say: "Well, what do you think?"

"Ummm, perhaps if we all get out of the car and get back in again?"

Submitted by: Y. Bulger

NOTE TO MEMBERS:

Submit all Computer related items for sale to ybulger@shaw.ca



Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open—Sir James Dewar, Scientist

News—Previous Meetings

OUR GAMING EVENING

A very different meeting, eh!! On Tuesday, (17th) the Discovery Computer's group, Gerald Huppertz, Charles Wood and Rory Gallacher gave us an introduction to Gaming. And what an introduction it was!! Maybe I should only speak for myself when I say how the presentation showed me uses of the PC I had never dreamt of before.

The three presenters came with their PC's and a pile of wiring and proceeded to set up and connect to the Club projector. Aply assisted by Gordon Hussey, I might add. When all the preliminaries had been completed, the screen lit up with a tank battle!! It was most realistic and the view changed from the ground forces to the helicopters and back quickly. Charles Wood was the narrator, giving us information about what was happening and which of the three PC's was providing the action at that moment.

He then continued to describe the PCs being used and the different components they had fitted to give the performance that we were seeing on the screen. All were "high-end" units and when asked, Charles said that "an entry level PC for serious gaming would cost in the \$1500 range"; this could go up quite a lot to the \$5000 level!! There are a number of gaming groups that communicate their skills over the Internet. Our three presenters are members of such a group and participate in championships with fellow enthusiasts all over the world. Their group has the website address of brothersof-war.com where information is available. For members interested.

Again, our thanks to Discovery Computers for a most entertaining evening.

Submitted by: Allan Forrest

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP VERSION 7

Our first monthly meeting in February drew a very good crowd, in fact it was one of the largest groups we have had for some time. This was all the more welcome when the presenter is one of our own members.

Steve Wawrykow was demonstrating Adobe Photoshop Version 7. He worked through a number of examples to show us what the program was capable of doing. There were many features in the program, some of which were subtle.

In contrast, for example, the movement of a

horizontal bar from left to right was very finely graded. This gave great flexibility in selecting the precise result required. The presentation was sprinkled with questions from the members and Steve was hard pressed at times to answer them all.

The time went by very quickly and he was not able to cover all the features of the program by any means. However, he has said he is willing to "have another go" in the near future. Many thanks Steve, for a very full and interesting evening.

Submitted by: Allan Forrest



Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something—Plato

TIPS & TRICKS



Disable Debug Script Error Notice

If you're using Internet Explorer 6 and are bugged by the popup asking if you want to debug script errors, you can prevent the annoy-

ance by clicking on:

Tools|InternetOptions|Advanced tab. Check Disable Script Debugging and remove the check from Display A Notification About Every Script Error. Click OK and close IE. The popup is no longer.

Submitted by: Greg Wilson



Desktop Cleanup Wizard

If you don't want the wizard to run automatically every two months.

1 Open **Control Panel** click on **Display**

2 Click on the **Desktop tab**, click **Customize Desktop**

3 Clear the Run **Desktop Cleanup Wizard every 60 days** check box if you don't want the wizard to run automatically every two months.

Submitted by: Greg Wilson



Spell Checker For Outlook Express

This is a free program, made to allow people to use a Spell Checker in Outlook Express. This is a stand-alone application that incorporates into

Outlook Express.

The purpose of this program, is to supply for free the ability to use Spelling in OE, without the need to purchase other software, such as MS Word, Works, or Office -

<http://www.geocities.com/vampirefo>

Submitted by: Greg Wilson



A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject. - Sir Winston Churchill



What's on in March

March 10th—Gary Korpan—Astronomy

March 16th—Fred Horn—Q & A—Windows XP

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you have a website that you would linked to the club web site please notify Gordon Hussey of the URL.

Beagle Virus Hunts Email Addresses— Feb 29th, 2003

Fast-spreading worm could be work of malicious spammers.

The Beagle (or Bagle) worm has been unleashed, and it's spreading across the Internet quickly. Though it won't necessarily damage your PC, it will pilfer your hard drive for email addresses, potentially harvesting them for spammers bent on selling the data to other email marketers. Tonight on "Tech Live," we'll bring you the very latest on Beagle (aka Bagle), and tell you how to get rid of the worm if it claws its way into your machine.

As always, don't open attachments Beagle, officially W32.Beagle.A@mm, began appearing en masse over the weekend, and has earned itself "high" rankings on Symantec's security response [wild](#) and [distribution](#) threat metrics. The worm arrives looking like a test email from a system administrator, and includes an attachment with any number of random names.
Graham Cluley

<http://www.sarc.com/avcenter/venc/data/w32.beagle.a@mm.removal.tool.html>

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



The End.