

# IBM MID~DERANGED USER GROUP

FOR ABUSERS OF THE IBM AS/400 COMPUTER SYSTEM

## April <sup>FOOLS</sup> 1998 Newsletter

### April Meeting:

#### Meeting Format Changes

It has become increasingly more difficult to get to our monthly user group meetings because of the terrible traffic problems caused by all of the freeway construction. Even our user group president, David Larsen, wasn't able to make it to our meeting last month because of traffic. (And his office is just down the hall!) So we have met as a presidency and decided to change the format of our monthly meetings.

Starting this month we will have virtual user group meetings using the internet. Using the latest videoconferencing technology we will be able to bring the meetings to you using your internet browser. On Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am just point your browser to [www.slcusergroupmeeting.com](http://www.slcusergroupmeeting.com). We will have a live video and audio feed from our speaker. After the presentation you will be able to click on the "Refreshments" icon which will display a beautiful full color image of donuts and juice.

Our special guest speaker will be **Dr. Zwilinsky R. Romonowski**, president of *Data Waste Management, Inc.* We have all dealt with computer data for many years. Our companies produce billions and billions of bytes of data every year. As the data has grown we have had to implement Database Management Systems, then DataMarts and now huge Data Warehouses to store all this data. Dr. Romonowski will speak on the topic of **Data Disposal**. His presentation will cover the following topics:

- Basic data disposal
- Hazardous waste data disposal techniques
- Data recycling and reclamation
- Awareness of illegal data dumping
- Government and EPA rules on waste data storage and disposal

Dr. Romonowski's company offers a full data disposal service which can provide a data dumpster at your location with a monthly pickup and disposal. You won't want to miss this presentation.

### March Meeting Highlights

We appreciate **Lou Gerstner**, Chairman and CEO of IBM, for coming and speaking to us at our March meeting. If you didn't make it to this meeting you really missed out. His

topic was **AS/400 Future Directions**. Lou outlined some of the future plans for IBM:

- **Plans to Acquire Nintendo Corporation** – Lou let the cat out of the bag that IBM is in the process of acquiring Nintendo Corporation. In an attempt to shake the reputation that the AS/400 is old technology and to lure the younger generation to IBM products, IBM plans merge the AS/400 and Nintendo 64 into the same box using the new IPCN64 card that will plug into the AS/400. This will give users the ability to process payroll and play space invaders at the same time.
- **AS/400 Reset Button** – In order to better compete with the growing competition from PC NT Servers, IBM plans to install a reset button on the AS/400 and change all error message text to read "General Protection Fault – Press RESET."
- **Doritos and Jolt Cola on the AS/400** – Last month IBM announced that Dominos will run natively on the AS/400. This announcement was met with such enthusiasm from programmers that IBM has issued a statement of direction to enable Doritos and Jolt Cola to run natively on the AS/400 to compliment Dominos.

### Basic Tips for Driving in Metro Salt Lake City

Because the user group has changed to virtual meetings over the internet you no longer have to make that monthly trip to Murray City. We realize, however, that some of you still have to commute to work. We have included here some basic driving rules to help you safely travel to and from our the office:

- 1-- Under no circumstances should you leave a safe distance between you and the car in front of you no matter how fast you're going. If you do, the space will be filled in by somebody else putting you in an even more dangerous situation.
- 2-- Large SUV drivers think they're immortal. (especially if they have 4WD); don't succumb to the temptation to test this theory.
- 3-- The faster you drive through a red light, the smaller the chance you have of getting hit.
- 4-- Never get in the way of a car that needs extensive body work. (Remember no-fault insurance, he might not have much to lose, you do.)
- 5-- Construction signs tell you about road closures immediately after you pass the last exit before the traffic begins to back up.

6-- The new electronic traffic warning system signs are not there to provide useful information, just to make Salt Lake look high-tech.

7-- Speed limits are arbitrary figures, given only as suggestions and apparently not enforceable in the metro area during rush hour.

8-- Just because you're in the left lane and have no room to speed up or move over doesn't mean that a Salt Lake driver flashing his high beams behind you doesn't think he can go faster in your spot.

9-- Please remember that there is no such thing as a shortcut during rush-hour traffic in Salt Lake.

10-- Learn to swerve abruptly. Salt Lake is the home of high-speed slalom driving thanks to UDOT, which puts potholes in key locations to test drivers' reflexes and keep them on their toes.

11-- It is traditional in Salt Lake to honk your horn at cars that don't move the instant the light changes. This is a drag race isn't it?

## How To Install Software in 12 Steps

1. Examine the software packaging until you find a little printed box that explains what kind of computer system you need to run the software. It should look something like this:

### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

2386 PROCESSOR OR HIGHER

628.8 MEGAHERTZ MODEM

719.7 MB FREE DISK SPACE

3546 MB RAM

432323 MB ROM

05948737 MB RPM

ANTILOCK BRAKING SYSTEM

2 TURTLE DOVES

NOTE: This software will not work on your computer.

2. Open the software packaging and remove the manual. This will contain detailed instructions on installing, operating, and troubleshooting the software. Throw it away.

3. Find the actual software, which should be in the form of either a 3.5-inch floppy diskette or a CD-ROM, located inside a sealed envelope that says: LICENSING AGREEMENT:

"By breaking this seal, the user hereinafter agrees to abide by all the terms and conditions of the following agreement that nobody ever reads, as well as the Geneva Convention and the U.N. Charter and the Secret Membership Oath of the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks and such other terms and conditions, real and imaginary, as the Software Company shall deem necessary and appropriate, including the right to come to the user's home and examine the user's hard drive, as well as the user's underwear drawer if we feel like it, take it or leave it, until death do us part, one nation

indivisible by the dawn's early light,... finders keepers, losers weepers, ..."

4. Hand the software to a child aged 3 through 12 and say, "(Name of child), please install this on my computer."

5. If you have no child age 3 through 12, insert the software in the appropriate drive, type "SETUP" and press the Enter key.

6. Turn the computer on, you idiot.

7. Once again type "SETUP" and press the Enter key.

8. You will hear grinding and whirring noises for a while, after which the following message should appear on your screen:

The Installation Program will now examine your system to see what would be the best way to render it inoperable. Is it OK with you? Choose one, and be honest:

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+-----+ +-----+
| YES | | SURE |
+-----+ +-----+
```

9. After you make your selection, you will hear grinding and whirring for a very long time while the installation program does who knows what in there. Some installation programs can actually alter molecular structures, so that when they're done, your computer has been transformed into an entirely new device, such as a food processor.

At the very least, the installation program will create many new directories, sub-directories, and sub-sub-directories on your hard drive and fill them with thousands of mysterious files with names like "puree.exe," "fester.dat," and "doo.wha.."

10. When the installation program is finished, your screen should display the following message:

CONGRATULATIONS -- The installation program cannot think of anything else to do to your computer and has grown bored. You may now attempt to run your software. If you experience any problems, electrical shocks, insomnia, shortness of breath, nasal discharge, or intestinal parasites, you should immediately \*!(@\$)%@&\*^)\$\*!#\$\_\$\*^&

11. At this point your computer system should become less functional than the federal government, refusing to respond even when struck with furniture.

12. Call the toll-free Tech Support Hotline # listed on the package and wait on the line for a representative, who will explain to you, in a clear, step-by-step manner, how to adopt a child aged 3 through 12.

## Microsoft Acquires the Catholic Church

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- In a joint press conference in St. Peter's Square this morning, Microsoft Corporation and the Vatican announced that the Redmond software giant will acquire the Roman Catholic Church in exchange for an unspecified number of shares of Microsoft common stock. If the deal goes through, it will be the first time a computer software company has acquired a major world religion.

With the acquisition, Pope John Paul II will become the senior vice-president of the combined company's new Religious Software Division, while Microsoft senior vice-presidents Michael Maples and Steven Ballmer will be invested in the College of Cardinals, said Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates.

"We expect a lot of growth in the religious market in the next five to ten years," said Gates. "The combined resources of Microsoft and the Catholic Church will allow us to make religion easier and more fun for a broader range of people."

Through the Microsoft Network, the company's new on-line service, "We will make the sacraments available on-line for the first time" and revive the popular pre-Counter-Reformation practice of selling indulgences, said Gates. "You can get Communion, confess your sins, receive absolution - even reduce your time in Purgatory - all without leaving your home."

The deal grants Microsoft exclusive electronic rights to the Bible. "The Jewish people invented the look and feel of the holy scriptures," said Rabbi David Gottschalk of Philadelphia. "You take the parting of the Red Sea - we had that thousands of years before the Catholics came on the scene." But others argue that the Catholic and Jewish faiths both draw on a common Abrahamic heritage. "The Catholic Church has just been more successful in marketing it to a larger audience," notes Notre Dame theologian Father Kenneth Madigan.

Gates described Microsoft's long-term strategy to develop a scaleable religious architecture that will support all religions through emulation. A single core religion will be offered with a choice of interfaces according to the religion desired. "One religion, a couple of different implementations," said Gates.

## AS/400 Tips and Techniques

**Q: Several months ago I upgraded from GirlFriend 6.0 to Wife 1.0 and found that it's a memory hog leaving very little system resources for other applications. I also recently noticed that Wife 1.0 is also spawning Child-**

**Processes which are further consuming valuable resources. No mention of this particular phenomenon was included in the product brochure or the documentation, though other users have informed me that this is to be expected due to the nature of the application. Not only that, Wife 1.0 installs itself such that it is always launched at system initialization where it can monitor all other system activity. I'm finding that some applications such as PokerNight 1.3, BeerBash 2.5, and PubNight 7.0 are no longer able to run, crashing the system when selected (even though they always worked fine before). At installation, Wife 1.0 automatically installs undesired Plug-Ins such as MotherInLaw 5.8 and BrotherInLaw Beta release. As a consequence system performance seems to diminish with each passing day. HELP! What do I need to do to straighten this mess out?**

**A:** Just be patient. Wife 2.0 is now in Beta and should be released soon. Some features that will be included in the upcoming Wife 2.0:

- A "Don't remind me again" button
- A Minimize button
- A clickable "no-sound" feature under Options
- An uninstall shield feature that allows Wife 2.0 to be installed with the option to uninstall at anytime without the loss of cache and other system resources.

I myself decided to avoid all of the headaches associated with Wife 1.0 by sticking with GirlFriend 2.0. Even here, however, I found many problems. Apparently you cannot install GirlFriend 2.0 on top of GirlFriend 1.0. You must uninstall GirlFriend 1.0 first. Another annoying problem - all versions of GirlFriend continually pop up annoying messages about the advantages of upgrading to Wife 1.0.

\*\*\*\*\* BUG WARNING \*\*\*\*\*

Wife 1.0 has an undocumented bug. If you try to install Mistress 1.1 before uninstalling Wife 1.0, Wife 1.0 will delete MSMoney files before executing a self-uninstallation.

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**APRIL FOOLS!**