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BRIGHTWEBS TIPS

Gerri's Computer Newsletter

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When is a virus not a virus?

I often get a frantic call from a student or client that their computer is infected with a virus.

The anti-virus software has popped up and said a virus was detected.

But real viruses don't announce themselves. If you get a warning that a virus was detected, it means your anti-virus software is doing its job—detecting and deleting the bad nasties for you.

Whatever antivirus software you

use (you are using one, aren't you?), use a different brand's online screening tool to check for missed problems.

If you're using AVG, try Symantec's online virus scanner, or Trend Micro's for a cross-check.



Some signs of virus infestation are a sluggish system, pop-up error messages with odd names,

your computer turning itself on, or shutting down suddenly.

The basic rules are **DON'T open mail** from strangers, don't open attachments in email from friends either unless you're expecting them, keep your virus definitions **up-to-date**, make sure your system is patched and **get a 2nd opinion**.

If you find you do have a virus, call me and I'll help.

cool tools on your system

USING THE LINKS TOOLBAR

I think the Links toolbar is one very cool tool. Mine just keeps accumulating links, since I'm a pack-rat.

First, is your Links toolbar visible? It may be a single word up in the right hand corner of your browser toolbar, with only a single line in front of it. If so, **right click on it and left click on Lock the Toolbar**. This unlocks it, like a light switch.

You'll notice your links bar is still tiny, but it has a little | to the left side of it. Move your mouse pointer over this line until it turns into a <—>, then click down with the left mouse button and hold the button while you drag the toolbar down below the other bars. You'll notice that it has a bunch of Mi-

crosoft links including Free Hotmail and a button labelled Customize Links. Click on that one and read what it says, then check here next month for tips on how to organize it and even create folders of other links on it.

FIXING RED EYE ON A PHOTO

Do some of the subjects in your photos have 'red eye'? Did you know you can use Paint to fix the red eye effect on a digital photo? Open Paint (**Start> Programs> Accessories> Paint**) and then open your photo from the File menu. Click on **View> Zoom> Large Size**. Your photo will look enormous (you can Zoom to 800%). Pick the colour closest to the rest of the eye, then use the smallest size paintbrush tool to colour just the dots of red. Turn

on the grid if needed for finer control. Go back to normal size with **View > Zoom > Normal Size**. See your help file for more details.

GERRI'S FAVORITE LINKS FOR THIS MONTH

Symantec's online scan

<http://tinyurl.com/do09>

Trend Micro's online scan

<http://tinyurl.com/2xis>

Microsoft's Customize Page

<http://tinyurl.com/eu8t>

Check out hoaxes

<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/s/spammers.htm>

Removing spyware

<http://safer-networking.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS TIPS I'VE PICKED UP ALONG THE WAY

MAKING TEXT LOOK BIGGER

Remember that the Zoom command changes the size of what you see on the screen, but it does not change the physical size of what you're viewing. If you print it, it will still be at the original size. Think of it as bringing the paper closer to your nose.

OPEN A NEW WINDOW

Sometimes on the Internet, you don't want a new link to open in the same window. Try **right-clicking on the link**. From the pop-up menu choose: "**Open Link in New Window**." You can read the link then close the window and go back to the original window. This is also handy for those pages that open with no address or button bar. When opened in a new window, both will be visi-

ble.

HANDY KEYBOARD SHORTCUT
Highlight the URL in the address bar quickly by **holding down the ALT key and tapping the letter D**. Now either just start typing and what's there will be erased and replaced by what you type, OR hit the Delete key if you like to type into a blank line.

NO FREE LUNCH—ROUND TWO

Think that "free" software download was such a great deal? You probably also downloaded and installed spy ware that tracks your surfing habits or even actively reports stuff about you back to the mother ship. Spybot Search & Destroy will clean the scum out of your system. Find it at <http://safer-networking.org/>

On-site support

So you took a computer class and then at home found your computer doesn't look like the lab computers?

Would you like some one-on-one help?

I make house calls. My fee is \$30 per hour and an hour of my time can save you days of frustration.

I can help you install software or new hardware too. If I can't solve your problem I have trusted experts I can call on for you.



Give me a call at 604-773-6107 and tell a friend.

Thanks,

Gerri

GLEANINGS FROM THE TECH NEWSLETTERS

From **DAN GOOKIN'S WEEKLY WAMBOOLI SALAD**—April 18 2004

Q: Are any cookies are unsafe to delete? In other words, if I delete the cookies on my PC, will anything bad happen or can I get into trouble somewhere?

A: There is nothing wrong with deleting a cookie -- any cookie. As with files you download, I consider cookies to be files you created. When you visit a web page, it's your visit that creates any cookies the page saves. As such, feel free to delete them.

No cookie is vital or required to run your computer system. The worst thing that happens when you delete a cookie is that a web page may forget any personal information you've entered.

For example, when I visit Yahoo Mail, it remembers who I am because I keep my Yahoo cookies. If I deleted Yahoo's cookies, I'd have

to log in every time I visited.

GETTING THOSE WINDOWS JUST THE RIGHT SIZE—From the Cnet newsletter

Is there an easy way for Windows to always maximize a window size when I launch an application? Windows has forgotten my settings.

The simple way is to:

1. Open a program (such as Internet Explorer).
2. **Maximize** the window using the Maximize button in the top-right corner.
3. Hold either **Shift** or **Ctrl** on your keyboard and close the application window by pressing **X** or **File > Close/Exit**.

THE LINK MAY NOT BE DEAD—from Jim McGinn's "Computers For Older Adults" Newsletter, at <http://www.mcginnovation.com>

Remember when checking links on the Internet, that sometimes they don't work, because a computer may be down, or there may be too much traffic on part of the Internet. So, if a link doesn't work, try it again a few hours later, or the next day.

AND A RELATED NOTE FROM GERRI

Also try backtracking on the link—erase from the right hand edge of the link back to the previous / and see if the next level up has a link to the page you're trying to get to.

Look at the link at <http://www.brightwebs.com/library.htm> for an example. If you erase library.htm, you will still be on the Brightwebs site.

Happy Computing.

See you in May.

Gerri