(Approx. 1205 words)

Scams and Viruses

Last month I inadvertently typed in the wrong password for my AOL account, and could not get in. You would think I would go to "Keyword Password Reset", but for some reason I googled aol help. A site that appeared to be AOL connected me to a tech with an Indian dialect. Although I explained that all I wanted to do was reset my password, he told me that I had a problem and wanted permission to take over my computer to "clean it up". Brrr! That was close. It seems that more and more hackers are finding ways to get our information. So beware. I then did go to Password Reset and was back in in a matter of minutes.

If you ever discover that your C: drive appears blank and all your icons are missing, don't despair. Even though your antivirus program has cleaned a virus from your computer, it appears some viruses can leave behind some unwanted results. One such virus is the Windows 7 Recovery virus, which will hide your files in an attempt to make you pay to remove the virus. Try this tip which seems to work.

Click the Start button in the lower left corner of your task bar. Type cmd in the search box at the bottom of the menu and press Enter. If you're using Windows XP, click Run and type cmd into the Run box.

Then type attrib -s -h -r c:/*. * /s /d and press Enter to execute the command. After a few minutes it will finish executing the program. You can then close the command prompt window and check your desktop. The hidden files have been restored. By changing the c: drive to the name of a flash or other drive the tip should work.

Print part of an email or other text?

At a recent meeting the question came up. "How can I print a portion of an email?" Here are a couple of ways of achieving this.

One way is to highlight the section of the email you'd like to print. Select copy and paste to a word document. This method is good if you want to do some editing of the text.

Another method is to highlight what you want, right click, select PRINT. When the print dialog box comes up, in the "Print Range" box, place a check mark in the box that says "SELECTION". Finally, highlight what you want, right click and select PRINT PREVIEW. Select the "As laid out" option click the drop-down button, and click 'As selected on screen' and you will see only the selected portion of text, ready to print. That will print out just what was highlighted.

Use Google Now for Quick Calculations
Need to calculate a tip. On your Android phone tap the Google Now Widget and tap the microphone or say Okay Google. You can then ask Google to calculate by asking, "What is 18 percent of Forty two dollars?" Google now will then calculate your tip. You can also ask it many other questions such as what is the circumference of the earth?

Removing Duplicate Files
If you are like me, if something interests you, you copy and save it to your computer. Or you work on a project and have a bunch of duplicate files. There are many duplicate file programs available. There are some specifically made for music files, other for pictures and the old standby text files.

If you have some time and want to clean up some bloat down load Duplicate Cleaner. There are two versions a free and a commercial free. Try the free version before you decide to buy. You might find the free version is more than adequate.

Microsoft Update
In 2014 Microsoft issues an update for Windows Vista, 7, 8 and 8. 1, and then issued a warning for Windows users to uninstall them. The updates with the problems are KB2982791, KB2970228, KB2975719 and KB2975331.

To see if you have them on your computer go to Programs and Features and choose View installed updates and search for the above numbers by typing them in the search box one at a time. If you find one choose Uninstall. After you have checked for all the above and uninstalled any that you have found restart your computer.

Some users have reported problems restarting or even seeing the BSOD (Blue Screen of Death). The link has been removed and a fix is probably out now.

Windows Recovery
Fortunately, when Windows 10 comes out (which is free to all Win7 and above operating systems) they will be installing a refresh and rest function which will do away with updates and also the need for recovery images. Not needing the recovery points could save between 4 and 12 Gbs of space. Another nice perk is that you will not have to reinstall updates if you do have to recover your system for some reason.

Batch Renaming of Files
For years I used to use Batch renaming when I downloaded my pictures from my camera. But I haven't used it for quite a while until last week when I was reviewing my picture folder and realized I had to get rid of the cryptic file names the camera uses to something a human can understand. It is really very simple. Just highlight all the files, Right click choose Rename. You can name it anything and the batch file will number the files for you. Before you start put the cursor on the first file in the list. This also works with folders.

How to Speed Up Windows

Periodically it seems a good idea to discuss speeding up your computer. There are lots of reasons why computers start creeping along, so we will hit on a few of them, and maybe one or two might be of interest to you.

For example Win8. 1. Every once in a while the computer freezes up. I was very upset until I realized what the problem was. Too much stuff going on and not enough memory. I am hoping that Win10 fixes the problem, but until I know for certain let's take a stroll down computer memory lane. So the first thing to do with Win8 is get the start menu back. Too much activity which uses up memory resources of which most computers do not come with enough of. (There are a lot of add on programs that will do the job such as Classic Shell and 8 Start button, and I believe that Pokki has even been installed on a recent version of 8.)

A computer's memory can only do so much. So the more memory the more tasks that can be accomplished.

1.   Check for viruses, Trojan horses, malware, cookies, root kits, etc. I recommend having CCleaner, Malwarebytes, and Avast on your computer and running them at least every other week.

2.   Stop unwanted programs from starting up when you turn on the computer. CLICK START > RUN > now type "MSCONFIG" and click ok or hit enter: