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Something to Think About -- A Haunted Computer?

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Something to Think About— A Haunted Computer?

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Sometimes I sneak into my work area earlier than usual to understand the nature of my computer. When I leave in the afternoon, I shut the computer down and expect it to remain down until I arrive at 7:30 AM. To my surprise, the computer is dancing with lights that enunciate its name — **Dell**, before I come in. Even at seven, the lights are frolicking across the screen. I think if there was a second screen, they would be talking to each other. How is this machine cranking up so early by itself, when I shut it down at night? Well...this is a small problem, so I ignore it and sign in for the day. One annoying problem is that incoming messages I save to one file appear in another file more often than I wish or can control. What's that about? On occasion, I hit the button to save a message and it has disappeared completely. Is that normal? Then, there are those days when the computer decides to stop in the middle of everything I am doing. I try all the escapes, controls, deletes, and whatever is on the keyboard, but nothing and no combinations work. It just stares at me! Other people come and try their magic, but their sorcery doesn't work either. I do other non-computer activities and eventually return to my chair to find that the computer has cleared itself and is functioning again. Viruses and Trojans come and go...and yet the computer defies everyone. It has a definite personality and likes to play games. I'm just not sure I have time to do that while trying to get my normal work done.

You know, this reminds me of a computer back in the eighties that I used to visit in our communal computer room. Sometimes serials have specific convoluted search methods for finding them on **OCLC**, at least it did in those days. Well...I spent a little time sitting in front of the computer trying to design that specific search pattern when I looked up and saw on the screen, "Message unclear." Not wanting to have my mind read any further, I got up and left the room without the search being done. When I returned to our unit so quickly, I was asked why. I answered, "That computer reads my mind. If I go back in there, I'll use another computer instead. No way do I want computers trying to find my path before I locate it myself!"

Now, my desk phone takes messages and sometimes hides them. I'm supposed to get a red light, but sporadically that doesn't happen. Funny thing is, my mobile phone picks and chooses my messages that are available and others I can get a week later if the phone releases them. I'm beginning to think that machines have a lot of fun with me. One of my cars years ago blew a plug and we had to grind down a dime to make it run. I've had toasters that used to throw the completed toast a couple of feet in the air. This problem might be inherited, as my mother's pressure cooker blew its jig-gler and spewed pea soup all over the kitchen ceiling. Her sewing machines used to throw fits and the kitchen

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Tweets are truly open to everyone. People you don't know will find you. So, be forewarned. Don't post anything that you aren't willing for everyone in the world to see.

I plan to use this **Twitter** account in the same way I do this column, highlighting new technologies and their applications within libraries. If you have any ideas, feel free to tweet me. I'd love to hear from you.

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stove my Dad picked out for my Mom never would work right for her, too hot/too cold/intermittent?

What do you think? Are there rogue machines that cause difficulties in our lives or are there explanations that will some day make sense of all this? Is it me? I have had problems in my youth wearing watches with metal straps. They die of magnetism early in life and no changing of batteries or any other mechanism will make them work on my wrist. The best I could do in those days was a plastic coated watch or a pocket watch, hence the jeans I used to wear in the 70's. Do you have problems with some machines...unexplainable ones? I have decided that a little pat on the head of my illustrious dancing computer goes a long way to having it work properly. I say goodbye and hello in the morning, try a little conversation during the day, and give it recreation time doing Majhong at lunch. We are testing out a workable contract. How about you? My coworkers say I have a haunted computer, but I think it's just lonely. Perhaps we may have some kind of bad triangle in my corner of the room? Do you have some technology in your office with problems? I'm not sure whether to think too long or hard about this one! 🌿

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