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Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Stepping in it

Getting a new computer is like getting a new windshield in your car. The old one was good enough.

In my office I have a desktop model, at home I am a laptop guy. For most of my laptop years I have had HPs. A year or so back my HP got “bulgeitis” (a progressive condition due to “battery bulge” eventually breaking the case).

My computer guy, on seeing the bulge, said its days were numbered.

So I ordered another HP. Stick with a winner I figured.

By the time it arrived the bulge had broken one of the hinges; but still worked; just open and close carefully!

I ordered an HP with a white keyboard (so I thought). I figured black letters on white background was good enough for Johannes Gutenberg so it is good enough for me.

So what do I get? A silver keyboard with backlit keys (useless).

Look for machines with white keyboards? Good luck.

What to do?

Order white paste on letters from some outfit in Poland.

Eventually they arrive. I spent half a day pasting them on.

Ready to roll, save for the fact that I do not have enough ports to accommodate my connections (should have paid more attention to that when ordering!).

So I order “port cheaters” from Amazon.

Almost immediately I note the wireless mouse only works when it wants to. So I Googled for help (obviously others had the same problem). You find stuff but it is not in English. So I ask my Geek daughter for help. She does whatever Geeks do. Says it is fixed (Geeks are good at pronouncements) and 10 minutes later I have a dead mouse again.

After a couple weeks of trying to revive dead mice, I switch to a wired mouse. No more dead mice, but now I have wires all over the place. The mouse connection is solid but the system loses its web connection about a half dozen times a day.

Again I turn to my Geek daughter. The thing with her, she is smarter than me, a lot when it comes to computers, and has the patience of Job (as opposed to me with the patience of Attila of the Huns).

She tries what Geeks do, but the problem remains. After three-four weeks I order a new laptop – a Dell (“Dude, you are getting a Dell”; remember the ad?).

I got it a few weeks ago. You guessed it. It has a black keyboard. Poland here I come.

The wireless mouse works (usually).

Anybody want a barely used HP laptop?