



Apple Blossom Computer Club  
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group



May '08  
still only  
**\$2.00**

The

# ROSE BYTER

## Next Meeting

**May 15, 7 PM**

**Pine Grove**

**Community Church  
1729 Buckhorn Rd**

## Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 7 P.M.
2. Intro's of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New biz (&MPV door prize)
5. Program: Dave Archer's latest movie and how he produced it.
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

## mactricksandtips

by **Jim McClellan**  
<mcclellan@charter.net>

The other day I was just reading the May issue of Mouse Droppings and ended up at <http://www.mactricksandtips.com/search/label/Terminal>. Actually I checked out mactricksandtips.com first and then found the bit on Terminal.

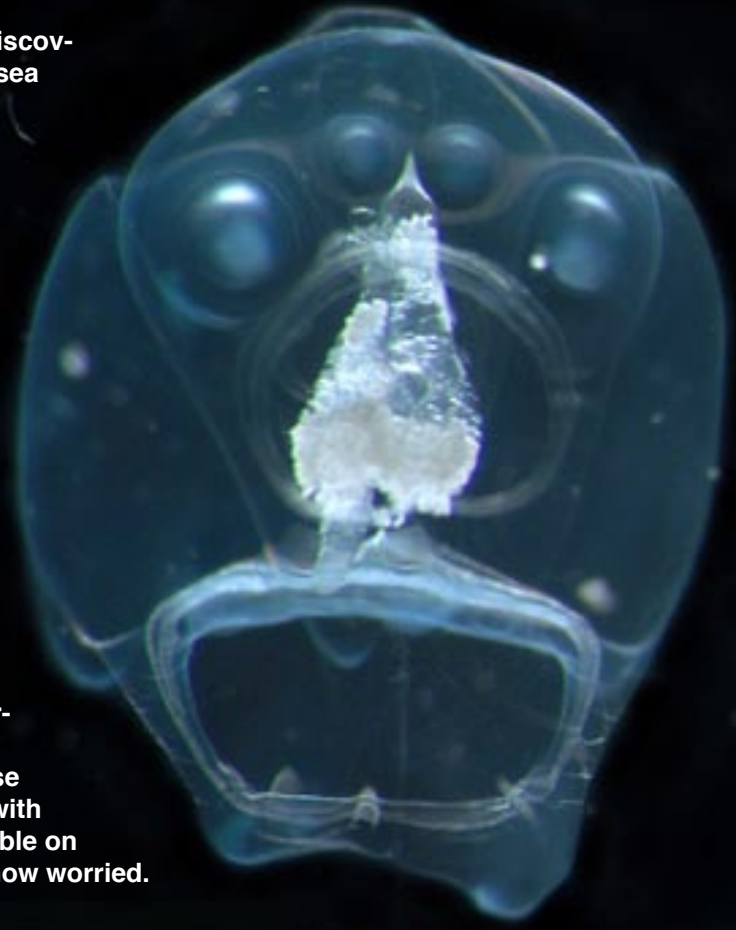
Since I have learned that Terminal can do things on my iBook G4 much easier than I used to do them, I have been trying to learn how to use it. Thus, my reason for checking out Terminal in Mac Tricks And Tips. This site shows 50 things you can do in Terminal. I tried a few but enjoyed checking them all out.

One tip that I learned from our ABCC Guru (Walt) is to open Terminal and  
**2 -->**

## From Scientology to

by **Dave Archer** <dave@davearcher.com>

Recently discovered deep sea jelly fish. I missed my calling. I wish I could deep dive and discover these animals too. I hope they stay safe. I read somewhere that Japanese fishermen are going to use drag nets with miles of cable on them. I'm now worried.



Fellow Members,  
Only two YouTubes this time.

The following two URLs really *got* me because fifteen years ago my daughter joined Scientology and spent fifty thousand dollars of her grandmother's money there in less than a year. We looked into it at the time and ended up considering the whole mess simply, a crime.

So, these little movies hit me upside the head twice.

One: I had never seen anything like this in the history of the net, realizing it was something that could only be happening today, that the power of the phenomenon had nothing to do with Scientology.

The **Apple Blossom Computer Club** (ABCC) is an Apple Computer Inc., registered Macintosh and Apple ][ family user group. The ABCC publishes *The RoseByter* newsletter monthly which is posted to each paid up member and reciprocating user groups. ABCC participates in user group newsletter content exchange. The ABCC also maintains a WWW site at:

<http://www.abccmug.org>

## Membership

Just \$20/year! Send with your name, snail- & e-mail address & phone to:  
ABCC  
13748 Lookingglass Rd.  
Winston, OR 97496

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<mcclellan@charter.net>

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Jim McClellan

### Web Master

Jim McClellan

### AppleScript Guru

Jack Webster <jackw@rio.com>

### Newsletter Editor

Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>

Send your stories and newsletter ideas to the Editor, Walt Pawley, at <walt@wump.org>. Plain text files are preferred, sent within the body of an email message or as an attachment. Mail physical media to:

**676 River Bend Road  
Roseburg, OR 97470**

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## <-1 mactricksandtips

then input **df** and press RETURN. This shows how much free space in real terms and as a percentage is available on the computer's drives. I hadn't realized how full my laptop had grown in a relatively short time. After

**<-1 YOUTUBYTER** Two: it was one heck of a "follow the story moment" for me.

This stuff is recent, all happening now, and represents a particular power of the net that is about to blow the socks off the world. **Anonymous** represents thousands of people around the world who have evidently come together on the net to attack Scientology, perhaps the most litigious "church" in the world. Unbelievable. I instantly groked they could be attacking anything and the implications were stag-

1. This YouTube is most recent, from **Anonymous**: to **The World**. This means you ... ha!

<http://YouTube.com/watch?v=iEGcsqr4F1M>

2. This YouTube is the **first** warning from **Anonymous** to **Scientology**.

<http://YouTube.com/watch?v=JCbKv9yiLiQ>

— —

**Dave Archer -- <http://www.davearcher.com> (541) 440-0002**

**Dave Archer Studios, 1541 Buckhorn Road, Roseburg, OR 97470**

**DAVE ARCHER STORE - <http://www.cafepress.com/davearcher>**

compressing some files with "Create Archive" under the File menu on my desktop, and transferring some others to an external hard drive, I trashed others to get me about 20% free space rather than the 5% I was using before.

The article in last month's TRB about Terminal was based on a question I had for Walt about how to delete a lot of files from the trash really fast. I have used that technique several times since the article was published. It seems easier to remember how to do things if I repeat them several times over a week or two. Yes, I am getting older!

If you are like me and having problems occasionally with your Mac, why not write a description of the problem for the next issue of the TRB? Just use one of the addresses in the notice at the left.

I really feel others have similar problems and either ignore them or try to solve them and sometimes create larger problems down the line. Maybe

gering. As a "kick off," Anonymous hackers stopped all traffic to Scientology's websites for a few days, then rescinded! Amazing.

Anonymous had their first call to action, the picketing of Scientology Centers recently, and drew 9000 masked protesters worldwide. Fascinating.

Scientology has responded with their own hackers and disinformation campaign on YouTube. And now, you know rest of the story.

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the problem is you don't know what software to use. Or maybe you don't know there might even be some software to accomplish what you want to do. Personally, I have faced each of these issues! Please don't hesitate and either email another ABCC member or our TRB editor for assistance. Yes, I said email not call. By emailing there is a record that others can use to also learn how to solve the problem! This is probably the main strength of ABCC!

Over the years I have heard a few complaints about The RoseByter and how it contains things other than Mac items. If members write articles or even questions, this helps the editor write about what members really want to read!

Oh yeah, in the first paragraph I mentioned mactricksandtips.com. This my first experience with this web site. If you have used it and found it either a helpful or unhelpful site, how about an article about your experience?

# Wired For Support



Have you ever wondered exactly what it's like for those people who answer the telephone for computer support?

**3**



“This is in India, where more people work for Microsoft answering support questions than live in the United States.”



# Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

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## My Favorite Star Trek

I recently read a bit about Virgin Media beginning a crackdown on illegal downloading of music in the UK. They are inviting other media moguls (ie. other members of the multi-billionaire club) to join in and assist. As has been the case for as long as I can remember, the claim is that these companies must stop the loss of billions of dollars in revenue due to illegal downloading. This troubles me for a couple of reasons. If these companies were actually losing that money, it should be a very nice tax deduction. Now, I'm not privy to the tax returns of these people but I'd not be all that surprised if they managed to offset a massive amount of income because of this "loss." **One has to wonder whether this "loss" will continue even after piracy is defeated.** Then there's the other part of this. At least in my addled mind, in order to incur loss in this manner, the presumption is that all the copies downloaded illegally would result in retail sales. This is a surmise I can't quite swallow. Indeed, were it a mountain, I don't believe one could breathe the air at its peak. I suspect the real revenue loss is comparatively minuscule. Moreover, I also suspect that much of this pirated material catalyzes actual sales. After all, few of us like buying our pigs in pokes—we like to have some idea of what we're blowing our bucks on. The pirate will talk about the booty with others. Word of mouth is strong advertisement.

Last month I mentioned the notion what we might be becoming some-

thing of a cargo cult, ie. a population of creatures using things in their environment without a clue how those things work. In previous notes, I've pointed out that radiating cancer cells with "antennas" bound to their surfaces is a good way to kill them. Well, tonight **I got a taste of cargo cult evidence on the CBS Nightly News.** It seems a fellow in Florida has "cured cancer." Sadly, as the story developed, it pointed out more and more of the problems with this "invented" cure. Now, I'm not really making light of this man's efforts. He's got a cancer which will most likely kill him pretty soon and he's done a lot of work and spent a lot of money to do it. But basically all he's done is make a tunable microwave oven designed to heat nanoparticles rather than water molecules. We still haven't got a handle on how to get the nanoparticles to play nice and attach to just the cancer cells. This is not out of the question at all. It's just hard to do right now. For example, the therapy that's keeping my lymphoma in check uses a technique like what's needed. But it still doesn't *just* get to the cancer cells. It gets to all my B-cells, cancerous and otherwise. And it doesn't need any radiation—harmless or otherwise. It lets the immune system do the killing. So the real issue is figuring out some method of quickly creating masses of antibodies that target only the cells of interest and that carry a means of those cells' destruction—like a tunable antenna or a molecule readily identified by the immune system as "enemy." While there's some evidence that most cancers seem to have characteristics that can be cataloged, a big benefit in that cures could be prepared ahead of time; it's a big catalog, at the very least.

I stayed up Sunday night to watch a program named "King Corn." I'd not expected to do this but a quick view

caught my interest. The program is based on the concept of two guys growing an acre of corn in Iowa and then following it to the places it's used. The results are, for me, less than comforting. First, **the bulk of the corn grown in Iowa you would not want to eat**—at least directly. It's almost all a certain variety that is used because it creates a great deal of starch and is resistant to a certain pesticide that other corn is not resistant to. Why? Well, because of government sponsored efforts to create big businesses. OK, so that's just my take on the subject. But, good evidence to support my surmise is presented, though they don't really come right out and say it themselves. I don't think having agribusiness giants need necessarily be a bad thing. It just seems to work out that way in practice. I believe it's a greed issue but that's just my personal opinion. The excuse is the same thing one always hears: we demand it. I don't think most of us do demand what this small coven of government and industrial moguls are providing. In our household, we make an effort to avoid a good deal of it. We don't get crazy about it but we gravitate away from packaged foods and corn fed beef. These things must be the staples of lots of diets simply because such enormous amounts of directly useless corn is grown and fed at toxic levels to beef, which are kept alive and growing fat by massive doses of antibiotics, while packed into giant feed lots like fly larvae on a small, rotting carcass.

If you're like me, you need to use spectacles to see any detail at some distance. In my case, it's up close—typical, as I understand, of old eyes. Eyes are not static things and typically get worse the older they get—also like mine. Recently researchers at Xceed Imaging in Israel have created an EDOF coating for lenses that may provide a much wider range of correction than is currently avail-

## <--Water Blogged Wump

able. It's an optical "trick" with EDOF meaning "extended depth of focus." Supposedly, you'll actually be able to buy spectacles and contact lenses with EDOF coating in just a few months.

I'm presently watching a PBS program on the future of automobiles. One of the things that keeps coming up is "renewable energy." Here's the thing that bothers me about **"renewable energy": there is no such thing.** Well, at least as far as we currently understand physics. It's a fundamental principle of thermodynamics. The hypsters chanting the "renewable energy" mantra are really saying that it's energy that doesn't have any of the "bad" properties of what we now use, meaning fossil fuels. This is utter nonsense. That's not to say that changing our infrastructure away from fossil fuel use would not have effects we might like. But there is no such thing as "safe" energy use. It's quite likely, I believe, that if we manage to increase the amount of energy available to individuals, the results of its use will continue to accelerate environmental change in a direction that can force catastrophic population collapse. Such collapse is likely in any case but may occur sooner than later if technology manages to continue keeping us "fat, dumb and happy."

TV commercials are making me wonder about what's happened to our morals. For example, an Acura commercial extols the virtue of starting companies and selling them, one after another. Perhaps I'm missing something here but **this sounds like a typical sort of con.** It's apparently now considered ethical, even desirable, business behavior. Of course, they must just be advertising to the 0.001% of the population that does this sort of thing on the "up and up" (or so they'd have you believe ... but that's a different story). On TV. Riiiiight, those people wouldn't miss their favorite sitcom on network TV. But that wasn't the commercial that set me off. It was

a commercial in which some woman claimed that she was never so beautiful as when there was an expensive, glittering rock attached to one of her fingers. I didn't know beauty worked that way. You are still you, whether you're covered in the finest raiment adorned with rare metals and rocks, wearing a diaper, or even a suit made of clear blue sky. Does the diamond ring make the woman more beautiful? Well, if you think so, I guess it does ... for you. As for me, I suspect I'll keep trying to see the beauty in things as they are.

Researchers at Georgia Tech Research Institute and Indian Head Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center have developed an explosive technology that can be incorporated into integrated circuits. The high precision of this sort of fabrication is viewed as a means of improving the reliability of munitions. I find that a somewhat curious goal. Last time I checked, it was pretty common for WWII surplus 30-06 ammo to be used by some guys around here who like **turning cars into metallic swiss cheese with machine guns.** They didn't complain of duds. I can imagine a number of other uses, however. How about 17 calibre explosive bullets? Or, electronics that kills itself if operated by an unauthorized person? The chips themselves would explode from within. Great for keeping secret stuff from being found out. Or, millimeter diameter rockets? They could be packaged in "clips" of 1,000 about 1.4 inches square or belts of perhaps 10,000, not eject any cartridge and still have explosive tips. Fired electronically, they could literally "spray" a target or be fired as slowly as desired. By programming the detonation point in the trajectory, collateral damage could be reduced.

Talk about selling FUD (for the truly uninitiated, that's Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt)! My FUD alarm began clanging about the time I read, "Subject: The clock is ticking for XP: Plan Vista migration now," on the email. Curious, I clicked the link and was

presented with a page to see the webcast that I'd missed at "air" time. I clicked the "go" link and was immediately stopped by a need to "log in." I rather wish I'd had the good sense to remain stopped right there but I plunged ahead, filling out the usual form full of irrelevant data. I eventually get to a page where I can "attend" the "webcast" (a Flash file). The gist of things became immediately apparent. They claim: It takes 20 months for an organization to segue from Windows XP to Windows Vista. Soon hardware vendors will not provide XP installed on their products. Moreover, about a year after that, all XP support will cease. **I guess Micro\$hapht's profits aren't quite up to their liking**—time for hammerlock persuasion. I find it curious that what amounts to our whole country feels the necessity to be constantly pouring money into "new" operating systems, especially Micro\$hapht's. I'm not all that happy with the Apple approach either, for that matter. But at least they try to have an excuse like new hardware to run it on. Much of what's "new" in Windows has more to do with protecting Micro\$hapht's monopoly than it does with facilitating people to get value from computers it runs on. Windows is like a black hole, sucking everything in its proximity to ultimate doom. Signing up to witness the webcast was a bit like stepping into a black hole too. They don't have an account-delete function, as far as I can tell. Perhaps it's a bit like some of the casinos that hide the doors and clock from view once you're inside.

Some years ago, I'd never have thought that one day surfing the 'Web would become an actual job. These days there are legions of people who may work under titles that don't come right out and say so, but they're basically paid to surf the 'Web. This is not the aimless curiosity that once typified 'Web surfing, but more like trying to find just the right persons, places and/or things to meet some often only nebulously defined

## <--Water Blogged Wump

conditions. Some of the stuff I do is that kind of 'Web surfing. Of course this is taking place because the 'Web is the place to be. Unfortunately for us all, the majority of people designing the presentations of company data on the web are the very same people who'd be making presentations in magazines, etc. They are marketeers. **Well, somebody has to do it.** It would be nice, however, if the "sales professionals" who craft the 'Web sites had a few clues about what the sites' subjects really are and what one needs in the way of information to make choices that might just fit those blurry conditions. But sales people pride themselves on being able to "sell anything." Yeah, right. That's why I need a larger version of a picture that doesn't show important aspects of a component when I click on the smaller image of the component in the same orientation. That's why I need to download the PDF "specifications" for a component that is essentially just the same brochure page that was imaged to make the 'Web page, both of which are essentially useless. That's why I need to download the 100 MB full catalog to see whether there's a particular parameter that some component might just have ... only to find that they don't provide that data. Then there are the "sales professionals" themselves. While not a blanket indictment, in frustration at trying to buy a company's product, I've contacted their office, only to find that there's no one there who knows anything about what they sell ... buy they'll be happy to take your order if you have a valid credit card and the part number you're trying to get them to help you with ... if you'll call them back next week.

Got a big hard drive to back up? Perhaps you'll be able to do that to the tune of **1 TB (1,000 GB) on a single CD sized hunk of plastic.** Developed by Mempile of Isreal, it's supposedly going to be on the market "real soon now" and will be "cheap." Of course, I don't know how they plan to price

either the media or the drives that do the reading and writing, but "cheap" is almost always not what most of us think it is for new products coming to market. Since the TeraDisc holds over 200 times what a single DVD does, it will most likely be at least 200 times more expensive—say \$50 to \$100 a pop. If the drives are similarly priced, they'll be at least \$8,000. This kind of thing is a tad outside my budget (as Foghorn Leghorn is fond saying, "That's a joke, Son"). The TeraDisc uses something referred to as two-photon recording to put 200 layers separated by 5  $\mu\text{m}$  into a single, clear platter. The web site at <http://www.mempile.com> has some more data, though not all that much. One thing that intrigues me is the ability to record in a volume. Perhaps the "memory crystal" is not too far off. One can imagine a MEM deflector chip scanning a laser around in a block of plastic without the need to spin this "crystal." It should be interesting to see how this plays out.

Do you buy medicines because they're "clinically proven" to cure or ameliorate whatever's buggin' you? If you do, why? What does the phrase "clinically proven" mean? Actually, it does not mean much, if anything. I suppose that for most people the phrase conjures up notions of scientific trials resulting in statistical data in which a larger percentage of the people who took their medicine got better than those who didn't. But even if this is the case, does such a result constitute proof of efficacy? I guess that depends mostly on your interpretation of the word "proof." From the mathematician's point of view, proof is essentially a symbolic computation of a statement from a field of other statements of known truth value by using the rules of logic. Such proof, when arrived at, is unquestionable (which, of course, endears the mathematician to mankind at large almost as much turkey vultures). **For the mathematician, 12 good men and true saying a defendant is or is not guilty does not**

**constitute anything like proof.**

It doesn't stop the minions of law from describing such conjectural results as being proven, however. But to really squeeze all the truth from the word "proof" takes a marketeer. Placebos are clinically proven to cure cancer (hey, not *all* of the patients died right away) from the mouths of some enterprising sales professionals. If it's not "clinically proven" that a medicine increases the risk of early demise, then it must be good for something ... like making money, perhaps. Thus it becomes "clinically proven" that it's the greatest thing since Carter's Little Liver Pills. I find it curious that one of our most respected professions is fraught with so much flimflam. Medicine has been beset with very successful charlatans for a long time. Sadly, we seem unwilling to learn that truth and such charlatanism (legally referred to as puffery) is practiced on an unprecedented scale these days.

One of my very favorite bits of writing is Douglas Adams' Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. It's been movies, TV series, radio programs, but the really great thing is reading it. It's just full of really great ideas. However, **one that has bothered me for a long time is the propulsion system for The Heart of Gold spaceship, the Infinite Improbability Drive.** There was a narrative in which Douglas attempted to describe how the IID worked. I did not find it plausible but rather more platitudinal ... not that my background in physics is deep enough to generate a real critique. But today I was musing about something that led me to think about tunneling. Tunneling is the part of physics that describes how Schrodinger's cat escapes from the box it's trapped in. Tunneling is more practically that phenomenon which occurs by design on a small scale in things like transistors. Such tunneling is all around us. It's even in us. It occurred to me, probably mostly from a lack of real understanding of Quantum Mechanics, that tunneling could **7 -->**

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## That Bane of the Macintosh User

I was recently asked whether there is some way to extract first names, last names and other data from HTML files, ie. 'Web pages. Like a lot of things people talk about, this question is, in general, largely meaningless ... as stated. Without something to key a process, names are no different from any other text, in general. But people don't bother stating what they really mean most of the time. So, I asked to see the specific problem.

As I suspected, the HTML file in question, had a table in it that provided structure that could be parsed. This means there was regular structure to the data that could be exploited to transform it meaningfully into another format. There lots of ways this sort of thing can be done. Since this column is about using Terminal, I'll stick to that but editors like BBEdit can do much of the work in a similar way.

To start with, open Terminal and something like this should result:

```
Last login: Sun Apr 27 12:21:05 on ttyp3
Welcome to Darwin!
```

The first thing one needs to do is take a look at what sort of data they've got to work on. I typed "`less`" at the prompt and dragged the HTML file's icon onto the Terminal window until the window highlighted and dropped it. Then I hit the RETURN key. It looked like this:

```
hal:~ wump$ less /Users/wump/Desktop/
chambermembers.html
```

This command presents a screen full of crud in which I found that the line terminations were carriage returns (^M



or cr or \r) characters. Worse, I also saw (actually after several false starts) that the line endings were scattered willy nilly through the data including in the middle of HTML tags. So, the first order of processing was to get rid of all the line endings by replacing them with spaces and then reinstalling line endings in places that make some sort of sense. Here I typed "`cat`", did the drag and drop and proceeded to type the rest of the line.

```
hal:~ wump$ cat /Users/wump/Desktop/
chambermembers.html | tr "\r" " " | tag1
> x1
```

The `tag1` function is something I wrote myself to put HTML files into a sort of standardized format. Clearly it doesn't handle all the stuff that it can take to do the job, but I still find it handy to put HTML tags one on a line (and if you want a copy, let me know). Again, I checked to see that it did something like I was expecting using the `less` command.

```
hal:~ wump$ less x1
```

Now I checked to see how complex the problem is likely to be by noting how many tables are in the file. I also checked for matching table endings.

```
hal:~ wump$ grep -ib <table x1
349:<table>
```

```
hal:~ wump$ grep -ib <\/table x1
13926:<\/table>
```

The next step could have been done in a number of ways in Terminal. I am fond of Perl for this sort of thing because it has very strong regular expression and good general computational facilities. So, I did this:

```
hal:~ wump$ perl -ne 'exit if <\/table/
;print $_ if $x;$x=1 if <table/' x1 > x2
```

It's a little tricky in that by ordering the internal steps **8 -->**

### <--Water Blogged Wump

explain the IID. The tunneling notion is about the probability distribution of systems being in allowable states. The theory supposedly claims that these states exist in superposition — all of them exist together and the probability distribution is about how frequently various states are sensed. One might well posit that there's some minuscule but finite probability that you are standing on a planet in a distant system. All you need to do to travel from here to there, then, is to pick the right sample. BTW, as I was writing this, I had to reassess my opinion of Douglas's explanation of the IID. The fact that all the states

are thought to exist in superposition seems very much the same sort of thing as that, in the Infinite Improbability field, the Heart of Gold was everywhere in the Universe at once. I need to have a cup of really hot tea ...

I just heard yet another of the frequent Dannon Activia yogurt commercials. **It claimed that it "strengthens the immune system,"** something that's most probably not easy to quantify. Thus I'm "skeptical", shall we say. Besides, having a "strong" immune system can backfire. For example, I have Myasthenia Gravis, an autoimmune disorder in which one's immune system makes antibodies that attack the muscles' control molecules.

Not satisfied with overdoing one thing, I also have non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, also an immune system disorder where things get out of hand. Too "strong" an immune system can kill you. I suppose I should point out that I'm neither fan nor foe of yogurt, but, come on, Bifidus Regularus™? Sounds like something invented by that well known microbiologist, Biff. What is it "clinically proven" to do? Well, if you eat enough Dannon Activia every day, it will "...help with slow intestinal transit...", according to their 'Web site. Yeah, I suspect that with or without Biff's help, sucking down a carton of yogurt every day will probably keep one's insides pretty well lubricated.

**<--7 Dread Terminal** of the Perl code, one can leave just the table rows, so no further corrections are necessary. The **-ne** flags tell Perl to execute the code between the ticks (foot marks or “'”) for each record in the file **x1**. The first clause, exits the procedure if it finds the table’s ending tag. The second clause echos the record that was input if the variable **\$x** is true (not zero or null). The third clause turns on output by changing the value of the variable **\$x** from its default (a “false” value) to 1 (a simple “true” value) if it sees the beginning of the table. And, once again, the results are checked visually by using **less**.

```
hal:~ wump$ less x2
```

Now we needed to convert the form of the file from one tag or data item per line into a form where each line is a record so the fields that go with one another are on the same line.

```
hal:~ wump$ tr -d "\n" < x2 | perl -pe 's/<\/tr.*?<tr.*?>\/\n/g' - > x3
```

This time the **tr** function deletes all the line endings in the data of file **x2** as it passes the result to Perl. The Perl flag **-pe** is just like **-ne** but adds a tacit output of the **\$\_** variable on every cycle. The code executed substitutes (that’s what the **s** before the **/** stands for) a newline (**\n** - usually a linefeed) character for the adjacent end-of-row and beginning-of-row, **</tr><tr>**, HTML tags. The **.\*** bits are to skip over any dross included in the tags.

Similarly, the following substitutes TAB (**\t**) characters for intercolumn separating HTML tag pairs, **</td><td>**. But there’s one added little gimmick to complete the work. The second substitution then removes any remaining tags. There are **<tr>** and **</tr>** tags at start and end of the data and **<td>** and **</td>** tags at the start and end of each line.

```
hal:~ wump$ perl -pe 's/<\/td.*?<td.*?>\/\t/g;s/<.*?>\/g' x3 > x4
```

The file, **x4**, is now a TAB delimited text file ready to import into pretty much any sort of data base or spreadsheet program ... except for a few minor issues, perhaps. One is that the file may contain things like **&amp;**, which

## Coming Soon to an ABCC Near You!

For a change, we have a couple of meeting dates planned more than five minutes in advance!

First, there’s July’s meeting, on the 17-th, at the Dogwood Motel for an afternoon of frolicking by the North Umpqua River with burgers, dogs and pot luck.

Then, for August 21, we get to tour Creative Images Printing where they

should have a brand new, high capacity printing press that can print more than one job at the same time. Hey, that’s just in time to get the political flyers out.

While we currently have nothing on the schedule for the June meeting, we could drop in a Bangkok West for a social get together and a good meal. Or, perhaps you have some notions? Don’t keep them to yourself!

is HTML for an ampersand (&). Another potential issue is that the records are delimited by linefeeds that may not be recognized by whatever you’re trying to import the data into as line endings. The **tr** or **perl** commands can deal with such issues easily. A bit more vexing can be the need to have the right file type and creator codes associated with the file. Both these things are non-existent on **x4** as it was developed. Sometimes all it takes is adding “.txt” to the file’s name to get a program to “see” the file as one it can open/import. But sometimes you may need to use **/Developer/Tools/SetFile** to give the file old style type and creator codes (there are other programs to do this as well, such as FileBuddy).

Did I do all this just like it reads? Not really. One of the reasons for using the sequence of “x” files is that from step to step, the results are conserved. I often try many times to get from one step to the next by reading **man** pages and twiddling gibberish of the command lines to get things to work. But, once you have the file to import, you can toss the intermediates. And, if you have this very same thing to do over and over, you can eliminate the intermediates altogether and make a command to do the job like

```
#!/bin/sh
tr "\r" " " | tag1 | \
perl -ne 'exit if /<\/table/;print $_ if $x;$x=1 if /<table/' - | \
tr -d "\n" | perl -pe 's/<\/tr.*?<tr.*?>\/\n/g' - | \
perl -pe 's/<\/td.*?<td.*?>\/\t/g;s/<.*?>\/g'
```

though you’d probably want to “gussy it up” a bit with some conditionals to test for arguments and that sort of thing.

## unClassifieds

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