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30 Years of Spam:

If you think all that junk mail known as spam is annoying, consider that the first spam email went out in 1978. A fellow by the name of Gary Thuerk is credited for sending the very first spam e-mail. He was involved in the early version of the Internet, ARPANET, and he wanted to invite about 400 other researchers to a demonstration. He says that his reasoning for doing it was because these people were so hard to reach over the phone, and he knew they would receive a cyber-message much faster. He admitted that he received a lot of complaints, but he also got a lot of people to attend the demo. Those invitations eventually resulted in upwards of 12 million dollars in revenue for Gary's employer, Digital Equipment. Does he accept the blame for today's inundation of spam? No, he doesn't. In fact, he says to blame him for spam e-mail is like blaming the Wright Brothers for your lost luggage. By the way, today, Gary Thuerk doesn't even list his e-mail address on his business card. I wonder why?

Setting Rules in Outlook:

The best way to keep track of emails that you want to keep is to create a folder for each topic or person. You can even create a RULE that will automatically move an email from a particular person or URL to a preset folder. First click on a specified email that is in your INBOX. Under TOOLS, click RULES. Choose NEW RULE and browse through the options available. Click on NEXT and pick under which condition you want this rule to run. In step 2 you will apply this rule to the highlighted email. Click finish and ok. Next time an email comes in from the same source, the rule you set will go into action. These instructions are for 2007, but earlier versions have the same capabilities but with somewhat fewer options.

Instant Messages:

Instant messaging is just that...a private conversation between two people that no one else can see. Some programs allow more than two people to participate. AIM is AOL's version that you use even if you are not a subscriber. GOOGLE TALK, YAHOO and WINDOWS LIVE MESSENGER are the other popular ones. You will have to go to each website to download their software. It is quick and easy and pretty much self-explanatory. If you have web camera, it should be capable of seeing and hearing your audience anywhere in the world. Price and brand does not matter.

Basic Training:

The Catherine Eberly Center for Women on the campus of UT offers basic computer training at very reasonable prices. This is a non-credit series of 5 classes that focus on the novice user. Classes are forming now! My next class is June 10 - July 8. Call 419-530-8570.

Next Issue: Explaining basic software.

Janis Weber, owner of Ohio Computer Training, is a personal computer instructor. E-mail questions or comments to jwpctutor@gmail.com. Contact her for personal or group training at 419-885-4255. Visit www.ohcomputertraining.com for archived articles and upcoming classes.