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April 18, 2011
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WHITE SCREEN OF DEATH:

Have you ever been minding your own business on the computer when the screen turns white? No, not black or even blue. White. I have only witnessed this once. It was just this past week. A client of mine, Barb, was having some minor problems that needed adjusting when all of a sudden her screen went white. It seems there is a software calamity that what fighting for dominance. After much investigation, the problem lied in the system tray. That is the group of icons by your clock that must boot up each time you turn on your computer. They remain running unless you manually disable them. Beware of the accumulation of icons that like to be part of your start up. Whenever a newly installed program has a check box or asks you if you would like it to be part of your startup, SAY NO. Removing any of them is a pain. You would have to access the files that are associated with the startup and trudge through some indescribable words to choose the correct function. Good luck with this. If you delete the wrong thing you may disable your computer. If you are concerned, right-click and exit, stop or disable programs that are in your system tray you are suspicious of. They will reappear each time you restart your computer but at least they won't be fighting each other. Play nice kids!

DROPBOX:

Dropbox is a free (for up to 2 GB of data) application that creates what looks like a virtual folder on your computer, but is in reality a web storage facility. Once installed it looks like any other folder on your computer and can be used the same way. In addition, it can be used as a virtual folder on more than one computer, thus allowing users to store files for use no matter where they are (and qualifies it as a "cloud" app). Follow the directions to download and install the application; the only information you'll have to provide is a valid email address; once it finishes installing you'll find what looks like a new folder on your computer. In short, you save and retrieve files from the Dropbox folder in exactly the same way you would for any other folder on your computer. To set up Dropbox on another computer, once again go to the Dropbox site, but this time during the installation when it asks you if you've already got an account with them, say yes, and give your same email address. Doing so will allow you to access the same "virtual" drive/folder from the other computer in exactly the same way as you would a regular folder on that computer. Dropbox also allows you to share files or folders with other Dropbox users, using the same virtual folder you started with, but to make that happen, you need to first log into Dropbox using the e-mail address and password you gave when downloading and installing Dropbox. Dropbox is a well known and established web cloud application and has been praised by many in the press for its simplistic, easy to use design, and has become a favorite of users in a very short time. It currently has over 4 million users and is growing rapidly. You can always purchase more storage or even get credits for having friends join in. I love this for having some files available where ever I go. No need to remember which flash drive you saved something in. I remember when 2 gigs of storage was huge.

I MAKE HOUSE CALLS:

I will come to your home or office to help you with almost any predicament including REPAIRS and upgrades. I have an endless amount of patience and knowledge. I offer a 20% discount on my hourly rate for those aged 60 and over. Give me a call at 419-318-9112. References are always available upon request. Don't forget to sign up for my FREE NEWSLETTER at OhComputerTraining.com. Subscribers will get added hints, tips and exciting new web-links.

Janis Weber, B.A., owner of Ohio Computer Training, is a professional computer instructor at UT, Lourdes, and MCCC. E-mail any specific questions or comments to jwpctutor@gmail.com or contact her for assistance at 419-318-9112. Public classes are listed on her website: www.OhComputerTraining.com.
Private tutoring and repairs are a just phone call away.