

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."



# The Catch of the Day



Learn To Fish the vast ocean of computer know-how!

## My Love/Hate Relationship with Technology *by Kathy*

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Have you ever slammed your fist on the keyboard and screamed "I hate computers!" I feel your pain. Yes, really: I may be a "geek," but I'm no stranger to intractable tech troubles (and tantrums). Allow me to shed my computer-expert skin for a minute so we can commiserate about my top computing gripes.

**Upgrades & Obsolescence.** Because technology advances so quickly, it has become common thought that computer products become obsolete nearly the instant you buy them. Though I believe technology is only obsolete when it fails to meet your daily needs, that doesn't stop software from continually being changed — and not always for the better. Sometimes I think it might be nice for the pace to slow down a little to let everybody "catch up".

**Error Messages.** While error messages can be helpful when a problem arises, most of them make little to no sense. Either they're too complex or unhelpfully vague. Sometimes they're condescendingly polite. "I explore.exe has encountered a problem and needs to close. We are sorry for the inconvenience." Yeah, me, too.

**Viruses, Spyware, and Spam.** The internet sees tons of abuse by malicious computer hackers. It saddens me that nowadays one can't use a Windows computer on the Internet without a suit of armor consisting of anti-virus software, anti-spyware software, and junk mail filtering. Such is the world, I suppose; but I hope to see technology advance to drastically reduce the spread of computer "disease."

So what do I *like* about computers? I'm a huge believer in technology's ability to increase our personal efficiency, despite its shortcomings. And though sometimes a little help is needed, most of the problems can be overcome to get stuff done. That's worth enough that I'm willing to struggle so you don't have to.



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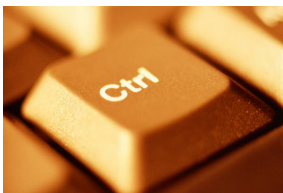


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## Shortcut of the Month (brought to you by the letter ...)



Increase efficiency with keyboard shortcuts!

### "Get Out!": The Escape Key (Esc)

Some people are always looking for an easy way out. On computers, there is one. Say you accidentally press the "Print" button on the menu, and the Print Options window opens up. However, you didn't really want to print. You could press the Cancel button to exit it, but a slightly faster way is to press the **Esc** key. **Esc** can be used to leave any window that gives you a "Cancel" option. It can be used beyond just options windows, so try it other places, too.

## The Random Resource

...because your computer isn't just for computing

Have you ever "racked your brain" for a particular phrase or expression? The Idiom Dictionary ([idioms.thefreedictionary.com](http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com)) can help you find it. For example, search for the word "straw" and find idioms like "the straw that broke the camel's back" and "grasping at straws." (Thanks to subscriber Daniel M. from the Bronx, NY for submitting this Random Resource!)

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