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Kingdom e-News

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Should You Fix It Yourself?

It's an old Chinese proverb. 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 proverb, of course, is meant to apply to more aspects of living than catching a fish. Take computer repair, for example...



There are pros and cons to the computer fix-it-yourself approach. Techs will point out that DIY-ers can innocently and enthusiastically work themselves into a tangled mess solvable only by professional help and large sums of money. Time – or the lack of it – is an issue as well. Perhaps you would find it more prudent to pay a fee for professional repair instead of adding yet another project to your plate.

On the other hand, knowledge is power, right? If you fix your computer successfully, you have learned something! You have also probably saved yourself some money. In hard economic times like these, with gas prices going out the roof, we are all looking for ways to keep up with expenses.

What it really comes down to is an honest assessment of your level of computer skills and whether the machine itself intimidates you or not. It doesn't hurt to make an attempt at repair, if you are willing to withdraw and admit it when it's time to bring in the big guns. After all, discretion is the better part of valor. By the way, Shakespeare claims that proverb, not the Chinese!

When your discretion points you to a professional, Kingdom Technology Solutions can ease the pain with their Remote PC Diagnostics and Repair. The entire procedure is performed over your broadband connection where your computer sits, so there is no need to unplug, disconnect, and haul. With a cost of only \$29, Remote Diagnostics offers a viable alternative to taking on the role of DIY tech. If we can't fix the computer remotely, we'll credit the \$29 toward an In-Store or an Onsite repair.

So how can the aspiring computer do-it-yourselfer get started? Head over to web sites that were created to help users diagnose and treat computer problems. Microsoft offers two options that are helpful. The sites are quite similar; in fact, it's a bit confusing since the names are so much alike.

The Microsoft Fix It Solution Center, [://support.microsoft.com/fixit/](http://support.microsoft.com/fixit/), is about as easy as it gets. Begin by choosing a program, although that is optional. The choices here cover...everything...Windows, Internet Explorer, Xbox and Zune, Excel and Outlook, SQL Server and Sharepoint. Next you will select a problem from a drop down box. Once a selection is made, you will be able to view or run solutions to your problem. You may choose a short article that includes numbered directions or click on an app that will actually fix the malfunction for you.

Many times, DIY techs turn to Google or another favorite search engine for repair help. The method here is to type the problem into the search box and explore the results that are returned and best fit your situation. This can be time-consuming and tedious.

The second Microsoft option, the Fix It Center Online, gives you answers that are relevant and personalized for your device, showing you only what pertains to your hardware and software. The Center, [://fixitcenter.support.microsoft.com/Portal/](http://fixitcenter.support.microsoft.com/Portal/), scans your PC and devices to detect the hardware and software being run, and then keeps track of the devices and settings.

The Fix It Center Online finds and fixes many common PC problems automatically. It also helps prevent new problems by proactively checking for known issues and installing updates. It's easy to use, with wizards, automatic troubleshooters, and system scans that can help even if you aren't sure what the exact problem is. The Fix It Center also is useful for preventive care, keeping your PC running smoothly and automatically downloading the latest solutions.

The Center lets you choose the settings and level of automation, conforming to how you want to manage your devices. Recordkeeping features of the Center allow you to have a documentation of all the updates and repairs made on each device.

You can use any computer with an Internet connection to get started with Fix it Center Online. Download the Center client and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the setup. The download is as simple as clicking a button. You will have to set up an account and register so a profile can automatically be created and stored especially for you.

Click, click, fixed!

AskTech Support Tip

LCD computer monitors and other LCD screens are easy to damage and need careful maintenance from time to time. If you discover scratches, permanent marker or ink on your screen, turn to your bathroom cabinet for help. White toothpaste will save the day – or at least improve the situation! Make sure the toothpaste is actually of the paste variety. Do not use gel toothpaste.

You will need a microfiber or other soft cloth, which you should dampen with a small amount of water. Add a pea-size amount of toothpaste and lightly smear it around the cloth. Rub the toothpaste on the screen in a circular motion. Be careful not to rub too hard or you may remove some of the surface coating. When the damage is removed, use a soft, barely damp cloth to wipe the toothpaste from the screen. Finish by spraying the screen with an LCD-safe electronics surface cleaner.



Sites to See



[://www.supercook.com/](http://www.supercook.com/)

Super Cook

Supercook is a search engine that finds recipes you can make with only the ingredients you have at home, allowing you to make full use of what is in your refrigerator and pantry. You begin by adding the ingredients you have on hand to a box on the home page that stores them in your virtual kitchen. Items may be deleted if you run out. Super Cook promises that the more ingredients you add, the better your results will be. Many of the site's recipes come from professional chefs. The recipes are broken down into four categories – All, Starters, Entrees, and Desserts. If you like a recipe, you can save it to your free account. The site also recommends

ingredients that will allow you to make a greater variety of recipes and adds them to a printable grocery shopping list.

[://www.whitehouse.gov/taxreceipt](http://www.whitehouse.gov/taxreceipt)

Your 2010 Taxpayer Receipt

Would you like to know where and how your tax dollars are being spent? In his State of the Union Address, President Obama promised that this year, for the first time ever, American taxpayers would be able to go online and see exactly how their federal tax dollars are spent. Just enter a few pieces of information about your taxes, and the taxpayer receipt will give you a breakdown of how your tax dollars are spent on priorities like education, veterans' benefits, or health care. A link offers viewers an opportunity to share their thought about the taxpayers receipt.

[://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm](http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm)

Beekeeping Naturally

If you have an interest in bees and beekeeping as a hobby or small business, you'll find this site full of useful information. The site owner, Michael Bush, offers tips and illustrates ways to deal with the current problems of beekeeping, including colony collapse. Topics include basic beekeeping, scientific studies, equipment, wintering, pests, and even beekeeping math. Bush gives his own opinions on the ins and outs of bee culture in his comments on the Ten Commandments of Beekeeping. He has also added an FAQ and a dozen Powerpoint presentations on apiculture originally given to a beekeeping society.

[://secure.logmein.com/products/free/](http://secure.logmein.com/products/free/)

Log Me In Free

Log Me In is a free app that allows you to remotely connect to a computer (or computers) through a web browser. You can then see and use that computer as if you were sitting in front of it – from anywhere, as long as you have a computer and Internet access. An iPad app is also available, although it is not free. The plugin, a simple install, must be set up on both your computer and the computer you intend to access remotely. This app would be especially handy if you have a relative or friend who often asks for your help with their computer issues or need to access your home PC when traveling. NOTE: Log Me In is solely an item of interest which we bring to your attention. Kingdom Technology Solutions does not sell or endorse this product.


[://www.ifoundyourcamera.net/](http://www.ifoundyourcamera.net/)

I Found Your Camera

A lost camera could mean a roll of film with two or three dozen snapshot memories has disappeared from your life. More often than not today, the loss of a camera means that a memory card with possibly hundreds of photos is missing. This web site was created to help. Based in Canada, the site offers to act as the liaison between the loser and the finder. No fees are charged. The pictures come from as far away as Japan, Ireland, Australia, Iceland, and Dubai. Dozens of found cameras and orphan pictures have been returned to their owners, as improbable as the odds may be. To date, 5,898,714 users have visited the site. New photos are posted on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Online Backup



Kingdom is proud to partner with  to offer you Online Backup. Safeguard the things that matter to you and never lose an important file again. Call Today! Fulton: 877-556-1233 - Auxvasse: 800-487-4811. We can also be reached at [@ktis.net](mailto:ktis@ktis.net).

- Easy online backup of your photos, music, documents, and more.
- Safe and secure 128-bit SSL encryption: the same protection technology used by banks today.
- Automatic and reliable. Built to set it and forget it, or you can schedule specific times to back up and Online Backup does the rest.
- Fast, efficient backups. After the initial backup is complete, Online Backup only backs up files that have been added or changed, making subsequent backups lightning fast.
- Multiple PC use. Install Online Backup on an unlimited number of computers and share your storage quota among multiple machines. You can even view and restore from computer to computer.
- Retention and version history of your files for easy recovery from unintended deletions or changes.
- Bandwidth throttling allows you to limit Online Backup's use of your Internet connection to suite your needs.
- 24/7 Support. Phone, Chat, and E-mail support is included at no extra cost.
- Works with Windows XP, Vista and 7

PRICES

- 50 GB of Storage - \$7.95 a month
- 250 GB of Storage - \$17.95 a month

Mini-Tutorial: Sticky Notes in Windows 7

In 1968, Dr. Spencer Silver, a chemist at 3M, developed a "low-tack", reusable, pressure-sensitive adhesive. For five years, Silver promoted his invention within 3M without much success. In 1974, a colleague of his, Art Fry, came up with the idea of using the adhesive to anchor his bookmark in his hymnal at church. The idea was developed; ultimately becoming the Post-It Notes we all know and love. The peripheries of computer screens everywhere are littered with these useful bits of paper.



Enter Windows Sticky Notes, the virtual version of a Post-It Note. Sticky Notes do everything their real-world counterparts do. Write a list, jot down a reminder. It's easy.

When Sticky Notes is launched, a blank note appears on the desktop. Drag the note anywhere you want, and then start to type your note. As you type, the note will automatically increase in length up to a certain point and then a scroll bar will appear. You also have the option of resizing the note to any dimensions you wish.

- To create a new sticky note:

1. Open Sticky Notes by clicking Start.
2. In the search box, type Sticky Notes.
3. Click Sticky Notes in the list of results.
4. To create additional notes, click the New Note button or press Ctrl+N.

- To delete a sticky note:

1. Click the Delete Note button.
2. In the Sticky Notes dialog box, click Yes.
3. You can also delete a note by pressing Ctrl+D.