



CYBER CORNER: Obscure Phrases May Make You LOL

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There are lots of things you can say about obsessive computer users — maybe they are a little nerdy, or a little condescending when it comes to computer neophytes or that they are prone to Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. However, one thing I must give them credit for — they are a creative bunch.

As I was researching Internet terms to define in my latest Cyber Corner column, I stumbled across several words or phrases describing Internet issues, users or Web sites that made me smile, chuckle or LOL (laugh out loud, in non-computer slang).

I quickly decided that instead of defining a list of dry, widely-used Internet terms, I would collect the slang terms and phrases that tickled my fancy the most, and share them with you today. If I didn't include your favorite, feel free to send me an e-mail or comment, and I'll keep it in mind for next time.

- Moved to Atlanta — I found this one rather clever. According to Webopedia.com, "moved to Atlanta" is used to describe Web pages that disappear, leaving the "404 File Not Found" error message to greet users. The telephone area code for Atlanta, Ga., is 404, so, as Webopedia says, "Web pages that produce 404 errors are said to have "moved to Atlanta." I couldn't find an origin for this phrase, although I would love to know who first made the connection.
- Richard Petty syndrome — NASCAR fans may or may not be amused by this term, which equates the overuse of advertisements from partners or sponsors on a Web site to the flashy, logo-covered jumpsuits of NASCAR drivers, according to Netlingo.com.
- Id10t error — Who knew the tech support guys in your office were referring to you this way? An id10t (eye-dee-ten-tee) error is "technical support shorthand used to describe a common computer error caused by a user who has 'no idea about what they are doing,'" according to Webopedia.com.
- Anticipointment — I included this term because I think it's a word that can be easily integrated into our everyday lives. It merges the words 'anticipation' and 'disappointment' to describe the feeling one gets when he is anticipating something, but is disappointed at the same time because he knows it will fall short of expectations, or that there is something better beyond what he is anticipating. Webopedia says, "In computing, the term describes those who are eagerly anticipating the price drop on technology products to make them affordable, but at the same time are disappointed knowing a better product is on the horizon." Webopedia attributes this term to editor Hank Roberts in an online conference in 1995.
- Dead tree edition — Or, computer jargon for "print." Netlingo defines dead tree edition as, "The paper version of a publication available in both paper and electronic forms." So, if you are reading this column in the print version of The REPUBLICAN & Herald, you're reading it in the 'dead tree edition.' As a side note, according to Webopedia, "any printed manual or documentation that is freely available online is called treeware."

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