

Learn to operate and maintain a computer

By Jmax

All it takes is a warm body and a willing spirit!

I retired and moved to The Villages in June, 1997. My previous experience with computers was with specific programs built for the clinical laboratory, Quicken and a couple different word processors. I had no previous experience with the internet. Most of what I know about computers now, I learned since about August 1997. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? You can too if you're willing to spend the time and make the effort.

Here are a few tips that helped me. I went to the Windows Explorer and double-clicked each and EVERY yellow folder. I had no idea what most of them were. I would then scroll down the right side of the page where the files were listed and any file that was named README, I doubleclicked to bring it up and printed it

When I went away on a trip, this 3 ring binder went with me along with my Windows for Dummies and AOL for Dummies. I read these, highlighted them and turned corners down for things that I would try when I got home.

Yes, I was scared to death at first to do anything, for fear I would destroy this expensive 'toy', my computer . Often, I couldn't make it do what I wanted it to do. So I would click the X at the top right corner to get out and read some more, ask more questions.

I learned to look for each program's tutorial by bringing up the program and then clicking on HELP and typing in tutorial or just scrolling down the list of the HELP indexes. Often I found items that "clicked" with my memory so I would click on that help word and read about it. Much of the time, I didn't understand it. Later these bits and pieces begin to fall into place.

These are just a few of the things that I did to reduce that learning curve quickly that is part of every learning experience. I am still learning new things every day, but it does requires effort and time. Learning has always been an exciting adventure for me.

I hope some little tidbit here will help you in your learning experience and encourage you to help others with what you've already learned. My motto is "to learn and pass it on".

God speed.

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