



Gigglebytes: High Tech Surveying

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I had a strange dream, but when I awoke, I couldn't dwell on its meaning because I was compelled immediately to import some breakfast and coffee to fuel my operating system. Then I headed down to the office to review and implement my daily business plan. My staff meeting revealed a plan that called for a survey with topography of a standard site, so I gathered my accessories and embarked to the field.

Upon encountering the desired location I executed the standard programs of monument reconnaissance and site evaluation. With these completed satisfactorily, I installed the total station and backsight and implemented Stage II of my three-stage plan.

I was in mid-routine, gathering data, when my programming was suddenly infected with some sort of virus. I couldn't be certain of its origin, but it was definitely affecting the ease and speed of the processing. I initiated a virus scan that quickly isolated the virus and produced a possible solution. In fact, I was surprised upon delineating the solution process that I had had any trouble at all discovering its origin.

The simple solution was to export the coffee that had been imported earlier that morning; however, an immediate solution site wasn't available. You see, my LAN location was in the middle of a subdivision inhabited by miniaturized processors, each installed with video capabilities. The immediacy of the problem was developing rapidly so I was forced, as we all are sometimes, to re-evaluate my priority list. By defining a step-by-step process for eliminating the virus I was able to determine that a change of venue was in order. However, with all those miniature processors activated in the neighborhood without any motherboard guidance system in place, I would be forced to uninstall the surveying equipment and then re-install it upon my return. This is usually an unacceptable alternative, but in this instance I felt it to be the more prudent pathway since the alternative could quickly and easily result in lost or damaged equipment.

Time was of the essence, so as project manager I made a management decision to proceed with the uninstall/re-install process even though it would cause considerable time delays, possibly even resulting in a total systems failure if the virus couldn't be expunged within the allotted time slot. As luck would have it, I was successful in eliminating the virus and further protecting my systems from additional infections, the details of which I will spare the reader.

The re-install process was completed without incident and I continued with the data collection. I decided to implement a simultaneous background program of routine diagnostics to avoid any future reoccurrences. While engaged in the data collection I had been multi-tasking, noting areas of unique interest and/ or difficulty. One such area involved canine subroutines within the network so I made a calendar note to be certain to install a firewall prior to executing those subroutines.

Following the data collection, Stage III of the plan needed to be initiated. Stage III generally begins with a diagrammatic phase of site description. However, because of the earlier encounter with the canine subroutines I

was forced to reconfigure my parameters and download some spam ... literally. You know, the mystery-meat-in-a-can stuff. I've found no better way to re-route that kind of subroutine.

With the canines temporarily isolated I was fortunate enough to accumulate all the necessary measurements and dimensions before the spam was de-activated, allowing the subroutines free access to the ethernet once again. I must admit that I was relieved that a reboot (Ctrl-Alt-Del) was not necessary.

Following a final inspection/walk through I once again uninstalled the accessories and performed a full systems backup of my hard drive, zipped my files, and closed down all programming prior to departure.

As I double-clicked the icon to refresh my home page I was struck with the idea that this had been just another day at the office. I would have to be sure to let the folks on the newsgroup know of all the megabytes stored in RAM/ROM ... for ASCII ... search engine ... Mega-Gigahertz ... C R A S H!!!!

I wonder if I lost any data? I can probably wait to check once I'm back at the office, don't you think?

Oh yeah! My dream last night was that I was an actual computer. Spooky huh?

About the Author



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