



Electronic Brain Solutions

We are already in the 2nd quarter!

- Clean Your Jets!
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- Location, Location, Encryption.
- Unsupported Friday!

More information about these articles and more at: www.endcomputerproblems.com

ELECTRONIC BRAIN SOLUTIONS

“Brain Waves”

We are in business for and because of you!

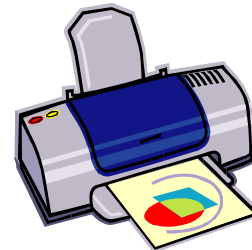
Clean Your Jets!

Almost anyone who has owned an ink-jet printer has had a bad printout at one time or another.

We are going to help you prolong the life of your printer and print cartridges, and in the process, save you some money! Ink jet printers are priced lower than ever before, but the cost of maintaining them and purchasing ink can be astronomical.

Your first step on your path of printer maintenance is to make sure that the print heads on the cartridges or printer are not clogged. The most common cause of clogs is under-use. To keep the print heads

from clogging, make sure you are printing something at least once a month. Ideally, you should print something in color (if your printer does color) and in black and white. That way, you make sure that ink does not dry up on the print heads.



Giving the inside of the printer a shot of compressed air every month ensures that it will stay free of debris.

Sometimes you can practice the best printer maintenance in the world and still wind up with some clogged print heads. Like most of us, you aren't perfect and can stray away from the best care. There is hope! You have a few options to clean your print heads. Many ink jet printers have a built in function to clean

Your second step of printer maintenance is also fairly easy. It will take an investment of approximately \$7 on a can of compressed air to blow out any paper, dust or ink particles that can jam the moving parts inside the printer.

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Keep Tabs On Your Tabs.

Many of us now use Firefox as our main browser in order to cut down on Spyware and to be more secure in general.

However, Firefox does more than just display web pages. With the help of some “add-ons” you can do some very innovative things.

The add-on (also called an extension) that we are going to discuss today is “tab preview” and has been a great addition to Firefox.

With tab preview you, can

mouse over your tabs (multiple websites open in one browser) and generate a small thumbnail preview of the whole website so you know exactly what tab you want to go to.

This can save you time - especially if you have multiple tabs open. You no longer have to try to remember what page is connected to what tab.

To download this extension, look on our website under the “downloads” link!

SAY WHAT?

Many people today own an Ipod or other type of MP3 player. These are great devices for listening to your favorite songs on the go, but they can cause a serious health concern. Playing your audio files too loud over headphones can and is seriously causing long term hearing loss for countless consumers.

The Mayo Clinic has several suggestions on how to listen safely. One is that you should not play your music over 60% of the max volume. Another is that if people around you can hear the music, it may be too loud. Check out these tips and more on our website. And do yourself a favor and turn it down!

Clean Your Jets (cont.)!

clogged print heads. Be careful when using these, because they can use up a lot of that precious ink. Also make sure to check your manual: some printers will try to clear print heads as soon as they are powered on. You can also try to clean the print heads yourself.

Most print cartridges today have the print heads built into the cartridge, so when you buy a new cartridge, you automatically get a clean print head. However, you don't want to pay \$15-



\$50 for a new cartridge if you don't have to. Various sources on the internet suggest cleaning your cartridges manually with isopropyl alcohol. Check with your printer manufacturer to make sure that this doesn't void the warranty.

Another way to save a few dollars is to use less ink each time you print. Most printers have a feature that will allow you to print a draft copy. Do this when you are not printing photos or a presentation. Sometimes the difference in quality is

hardly noticeable. To draft print, right click on your printer under "Printers and Faxes", and go to "Properties". Somewhere under that heading should be a print quality setting that you can lower to "draft" or a lower resolution. While you may not see a huge difference in the products you print, you'll be extending the life of your cartridge.



Using the above steps should give some life to your printer and to your wallet!

"However, you don't want to pay \$15-\$50 for a new cartridge if you don't have to."

Location, Location, Encryption.

Imagine this. You are in the airport. You set your laptop bag down so you can take a quick drink out of the water fountain. You stand up, reach for your laptop bag, and it's gone!

If the idea of losing your laptop or more importantly, the data on that laptop, makes your stomach do back flips, then you need to take steps to protect your files.

There are many ways to safeguard your computer and its data.



You can get a low-jack system for your computer which sends out an alert as soon as your computer is connected to the internet. You could also install a program that allows you to call into a service and flag your computer as stolen. Once your computer is connected to the internet, all the files on that machine are wiped out.

These measures are great if someone connects your computer to the internet. However, if they are just looking for information (credit card numbers, social security numbers,

etc...) and don't connect to the internet, how can you protect your files? A safe choice is data encryption.

Windows XP has this service built right in. Right-click on a file or folder and select "Properties". On the "General tab", click "Advanced". Select "Encrypt Contents to Secure Data" and click "OK". Click "Apply", and select your options.

This will keep your files encrypted on your hard drive and make it much more difficult for someone to try and steal your information.

Unsupported Friday.

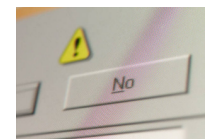
June 30th, 2006 brought an end to Microsoft's support for Windows 98 and Windows ME. What does this mean for you? This means that Microsoft will no longer offer public phone support for any Windows 98 or ME related problems. Microsoft is also discontinuing any security updates for these products.

If your next question is "What can I do about this?", look no further, some of the following suggestions will help keep you computing.

First, don't panic. You can still find valuable information on the web regarding support for 98 and ME, (and you can always continue to look to EBS to support these systems.)

Second, consider upgrading. Microsoft is discontinuing support for 98 and ME in hopes that people will upgrade to Windows XP. This might be a good idea because Windows XP will continue to receive security updates and it will be able to fix any security

holes quickly, whereas 98 and ME will not.



With a quick call to EBS, we can determine if you need / can upgrade your computer to Windows XP. You don't want to wait until your computer's lack of security is exploited.

You can also check our website for links to support documents, Microsoft's website, and other helpful information on the web.