

## BITS & BYTES

If I only could only impart one choice bit of wisdom, this would be it. Paste this on your computer. It takes 3000 volts of electricity for people to feel a shock of static electricity. However, it only take **15 volts to fry a computer chip!** Whenever you want to plug or unplug anything into/out of your computer, make sure it is turned OFF! Even if the device you are plugging in is turned off, like speakers to a sound card, you can still damage the speakers, the sound card, or the system. USB devices are the exception to this rule.

## TEKQUESTIONS

In Vol 1 Nbr 1 we talked about Spyware. Here is an important update regarding the spyware included with KaZaA. KaZaA allows you to deselect the included spyware at install time, but it doesn't tell you about is the hidden Spyware from Brilliant Digital, installed as the b3d projector. This program is dormant until Brilliant Digital wakes it up remotely and starts it's own peer network using your resources without permission. Simply uninstalling the b3d projector does not remove the spyware. Here are the steps for getting rid of all the software that shouldn't be there.

1. In the Windows Control Panel, select an option called "Add/Remove Programs." One of the options will be "b3d Projector." Highlight this and click the "Change/Remove" button. You may get a message that the uninstall has been successful. Search your computer for a "BDE" folder, which most likely will be found in the "WinNT" or "Windows" directory. In this folder will be a file called "bdeclean.exe". Run this to finish the first part of the process. Delete the BDE folder. *Caution:* An unrelated piece of software called Borland Database Engine also creates a BDE directory. If you think you may have this software installed, or if there is any confusion whatsoever, do not delete this directory.

2. In the "Temp" directory (this will normally be found inside the "Windows" or "WinNT" directory) is a folder called "Brilliant." This contains many files. Delete the entire folder.

3. After performing steps 1 and 2, you will need to locate and remove some additional Brilliant Digital files that have been placed in critical system-level computer directories. CAUTION: Deleting the wrong files could interfere with the normal functioning of your computer. These files will most likely be in the "WindowsSystem" or "WinNTSystem32" folder:

bdedownloader.dll bdedata2.dll bdefdi.dll bdeinsta2.dll bdeinstall.exe bdesecureinstall.cab  
bdesecureinstall.exe bdeverify.exe bdeverify.dll ( Find all these files and delete them to rid your system completely of the b3d projector )

## TEKNOTES

The most common way to contract a computer virus is to open an E-mail attachment. Even though we know we shouldn't do that, every once in a while we may forget. Now there is a free download that makes it almost impossible to accidentally get a virus. Newer viruses run as scripts, and ScripTrap intercepts a wide variety of scripts attempting to run on your computer, including JavaScript, VBScript, Word documents that could contain macro viruses, and even dangerous files that attempt to launch when you open your E-mail. ScripTrap warns you of the danger and makes sure you really want certain scripts to run. When you try to run a potentially dangerous script, an interface pops up asking, "Are you sure you want to run this program on your computer?"

The pop-up can be annoying, but not as bad as letting a virus run loose. Download from <http://keir.net/scriptrap.html>

## SURF'S UP

Anyone like to cook? Any budding Emeril's around? Here are some sites that may interest you.

Back of the Box Recipes ( <http://www.backofthebox.com> ) - The intro page states "If you like to eat, you're at the right place! We have hundreds of favorite Brand Name recipes and we're adding more everyday. Whether you are looking for a gourmet meal or a quick microwave snack you will find it here."

If you are fan of Food TV - Emeril, the Iron Chef, Graham Kerr, etc... - this is your site. Recipes, tips, schedules, the works. BAM! <http://www.foodtv.com>

A great time waster, or a font of knowledge - you decide. <http://home.nycap.rr.com/useless/> It's billed as "Stuff you never needed to know, but your life would be incomplete without."

## SPECIALS

*Games & Business too!*

300 watt Mid Tower ATX Case, ECS P4VXAD VIA 8753 SOCKET 478 Motherboard, 256MB DDR RAM, nVidia GeForce Titanium 4xAGP Video w/64 MB DDR RAM, Creative Labs Sound Blaster Audigy (OEM), Altec Lansing AVS500 5 pc Speaker System, PCI 56K v90 Host Modem, 10/100 Ethernet, Floppy Drive, 40 GB 7200 rpm Hard Drive, CD RE-WRITER/DVD COMBO 12x8x32 (OEM), Logitech Internet PS/2 Keyboard, Logitech PS/2 2 Button Optical mouse w/Wheel

Pentium 4 Processor Pricing - 1.6GHz \$ 1,500. 1.8GHz \$ 1,650. 2.0GHz \$ 1,935.00

(Monitor, Operating System, PST, GST extra)

## BUILD YOUR OWN SYSTEM

Selecting the case for your system helps decide how much growth your system can have. The number of exposed drive bays - 5.25 and 3.5 inch - determine how many devices the user can access. Internally, there must be enough 3.5 inch drive bays to accommodate as many hard drives as you want to add. Depending on the purpose of the system, you may be happy with one, or need as many as 7+ if you are thinking of a server.

Cases, it seems are made by every company, but not all cases are alike. Here is where price plays one of the most important roles. The old adage is true, You get what you pay for. The more expensive, the better the construction. Typically cases costing \$ 50.00 or less can be twisted without much effort. Cases beginning at \$ 100.00 keep their shape and don't bend. Additionally, more expensive cases will have rounded edges inside the chassis so you won't cut yourself working on the inside. Aluminum cases and Coloured cases are more expensive, but like a car, you pay for show. You can even get see through Plexiglas panels. These cases don't stand up any better, or make your system run faster, but they do make a statement.

Cases generally have three components: The exterior shell, or cover; the chassis or the part everything bolts to; and the power supply. And not all cases come with power supplies. With processors getting faster, and the desire for more devices, a 300 watt power supply is the smallest any system should have. In addition to cooling a system using the power supply, that is generally not enough. Make sure there are places to add at least two additional fans to the system for air circulation.

Devices that you want to have in most systems today include DVD, CD ReWriter, CD ROM, Zip or Jaz drive, Tape Drive, Floppy Drive, Audio Live Drive, at least one hard drive. With the advent of extremely large hard drives, one is generally enough unless you are building a server or want the redundancy of a RAID system.

You must also make sure there are enough spaces for fans to help keep the system cool while operating.

If your case doesn't come with a power supply, one of the best third party power supplies available is the Enermax with dual fans for added cooling and redundant backup in the event one fan fails. Expect to pay \$ 70.00 + for a third party power supply.