Title of Session: TechLeaders Roundtable – Computer Resolutions for 2004
Moderator: Jennifer Wagner
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Room: On Tap Cafe

JenW: well I am excited about this session -- but we will wait a couple more moments for stragglers, if that's okay
JenW: Keiki -- Sheree -- ready for intros??
BJ nods to Jen...might have one more person joining us, Jen
JenW: Great
JenW: Remember this session is on COMPUTER RESOLUTIONS FOR 2004
JenW: I hope we have a great deal of dialog and great ideas
JenW: but -- grins -- NO pressure at all
KeikoS: Oh, I am Keiko Schneider. Rather slow. I teach ESL and Technology in Albuquerque, NM
JenW: and Keiko, remind me -- don't you work with some company or tech job kind of thing
BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In
ShereeR: Oh dear, I am Sheree and I am an artist / art educator in St. Petersburg Florida. I teach K-12 severely emotionally disturbed students.
KeikoS: Jen, I run my business and part of it is to teacher train regarding technology.
JenW: great!!!
KeikoS . o O (thanks for remembering)
JenW: I am Jennifer Wagner -- Tech Coord in Corona, CA.
JenW: deciding whether to branch off on my own in 2004 with technology
JenW: so Keiko -- I admire you!!
JenW: OK -- Drum Roll
JenW: Welcome to the Last Tech Round Table of 2003
KeikoS claps loudly
JenW: It's been quite a year in my lab -- and I am sure in your classrooms as well
JenW: but with 2004 looming ahead of us -- its time to make those resolutions
JenW: and if you allow me -- I would like to type 10 resolutions I recently read in a magazine regarding using Technology
JenW: and then -- hopefully, we can add more to this list
JenW: everyone ready
KeikoS nods
JenW: these are from Mr. Modem -- a writer for the Smart Computing Magazine
JenW: 1. Keep my antivirus current and updated
JenW: anyone agree???
AndreasUK joined the room.
JenW: welcome Andreas
AndreasUK: hai Jen
JenW: this is the Tech Roundtable meeting
AndreasUK: yes. just start? this is my first time.. can I join?

JenW: yes, we are just starting

JenW: We are going to be discussing Resolutions for 2004

JenW: Our first resolution is

JenW: 1. To keep antivirus software current and updated

KeikoS nods solemnly

JenW: which is so true -- I don't know about you -- but unfortunately TWICE this year I have gotten hit pretty hard by viruses

AndreasUK: okay   any recommendations?

JenW: On virus software??

AndreasUK: I am quite lucky that I only got hit once, by the Worm Blaster but I can get it off my system quite okay

JenW: RESOLUTION #2 -- Use a firewall

JenW: is anyone else out there using DSL or Cable??

AndreasUK: nope

KeikoS: Cable here.

JenW: then you know you really want to protect WHAT and WHO can have access to your computer

JenW: Keiko -- do you use a firewall

AndreasUK: what does cable or DSL related to Firewall?

KeikoS: I have a wireless router that works as a firewall.

JenW: Andrea -- if you use cable or DSL -- your internet can always be on - thus allowing traffic to flow to your computer

JenW: with dial up -- such as AOL -- you can turn the internet off and on (when you sign in and out)

JenW: Keiko -- do you turn off your router ever??

KeikoS: Ummm, no.

JenW: smiles -- just wondering

AndreasUK: oo.. okay. so the availability cause higher threats..

AndreasUK: you can try a small firewall for the PC Keiko

JenW: I just started doing that -- when I am not on the internet -- but it's personal preference

JenW: yes, Andreas, very true -- with full connectivity -- you do have more possible problems

AndreasUK: I found out that even when our university use firewall, but threats can come from within the network.

JenW: Keiko -- I had Norton's Internet Security, and Zone Labs, and Win XP Firewall, and my router for a while

JenW: grins -- but when I am in Tapped In -- I have to turn my firewall off

KeikoS: Mine is called Airport

JenW: Keiko -- so you are a MAC user

KeikoS: Yeah, you had to do that to do Japanese. Ever since then, I didn't see the need to switch.

KeikoS: Although I do need a Windows laptop

AndreasUK -) firewall does cause a lot of problem in connection using specific port such as the Tapped In's chat. I am using Tiny Firewall and Norton Personal Firewall, they are configurable.

JenW: LOL -- I shall loan you mine whenever you wish to use it
KeikoS: REALLY?!?
JenW: Okay -- ready for #3 -- and I would like your input on this
AndreasUK: okay
KeikoS awaits
JenW: (sure Keiko -- if I make it to NM, you are free to borrow it)
JenW: #3 -- Remove programs that you are no longer using
KeikoS grins big time
JenW: what do you think about that resolution??
KeikoS: Oh, why? You must have 120GB HDD
JenW: grins -- brag brag brag
AndreasUK: yes.. why? harddrive is cheaper now
JenW: I am unsure why -- that's why I asked your opinion
AndreasUK: I guess it save space..
JenW: it was just in the list of Tech Resolutions and I wanted your input
KeikoS: Humm, if uninstalling doesn't cause any prob...
JenW: I have many programs I seldom use -- but love it that they are there when I need them
AndreasUK: and certainly make less entry in the firewall access list.
AndreasUK: yup.. me too
AndreasUK: you never know when you need them
JenW: With bigger harddrives, I wonder if that resolution will change next year
JenW: OK -- onward
JenW: #4 -- Don't waste money on utilities that promise to do the impossible
JenW: Grins -- did you ever fall for one of those??
AndreasUK -D
JenW: <----has been duped once or twice
KeikoS: Hummm.
AndreasUK: really? like what?
JenW: I purchased a program called MailWasher -- and it was good -- very good
KeikoS: I wanna know the impossibles, to.
JenW: but then I learned how to use MESSAGE RULES in outlook which does the same thing
AndreasUK: oo..that hurts
JenW: Keiko -- I think the impossibleness would be to make your internet faster
JenW: or to allow you to travel anonymously
KeikoS: There are a lot of small applications out there to do rather unimportant things.
AndreasUK: LOL yeah, bandwidth is a big problem here.
KeikoS . o O (just my opinion)
AndreasUK: I experience that not PC apps, but for my PPC apps.
SusanR joined the room.
JenW: Keiko -- like AVG –it's a free virus program - and its great!!
JenW: Hi Susan!!!
AndreasUK: I then realized there are so much freeware for it.
SusanR: Hi Jen
JenW: I went PlugIn Happy with Paint Shop Pro for a while

JenW: had to buy EVERY plug in there was
KeikoS grins at Jen
JenW: and -- also -- the Windows Plus programs -- those were an unnecessary purchase
JenW: Okay -- I think you will all like this next one
JenW: #6 -- Back up -- Back up -- Back up -- OFTEN
JenW: sooooo -- tell me how often you back up your computer???
AndreasUK: easier to say than done
AndreasUK: especially with bigger hard drive
KeikoS: This should be closer to the top!
JenW: I myself am very anal -- and back up all my documents EVERY Saturday morning
JenW: and now it's a habit
KeikoS: My HD died in May. Luckily when I was on the road and every time I travel, I back up everything as if I am losing everything tomorrow.
AndreasUK: how much time do you think it is needed to backup a 120GB drive?
JenW: Andrea -- are you backing up the drive or just your documents??
JenW: I never back up the entire drive
KeikoS: I back up my 40GB to my external 40GB using firewire (slower than USB2 I understand)...
JenW: but I own all my software
AndreasUK: Just the document.. I have a document folder and put everything there.
JenW: Andrea -- I would say minutes then
KeikoS: And it is durable, maybe 30-40 minutes?
JenW: grins -- my 40gb harddrive has 9gb only on it
KeikoS: I back up my entire desktops (all my stuff is in there) and applications.
JenW: so -- I will allow you to be more knowledgeable on this
KeikoS: Oh, and user
AndreasUK: well I usually archive all the documents like one a month and write those to CD for permanent backup..
KeikoS: Good idea.
JenW: aren't CD-R's just the coolest thing
KeikoS: I don't burn CD anymore since I get external drives
JenW: Keiko -- can you run your computer from either drive
AndreasUK: otherwise I replicate some working documents between my PC and notebook.
AndreasUK: ya, but External Drives' Disk is more expensive isn't they?
KeikoS: I have THREE external drives
KeikoS: One with OS9 from last Dec.
AndreasUK: wow..   talking about hungry for space.
JenW: Okay -- new resolution for Jen -- buy an external drive disk
KeikoS: One with my backup before my HD dies in May
JenW: Okay before we move on --
AndreasUK: haha.. what external drives do you use keiko?
JenW: KEIKO -- we have to know
JenW: how much space do you have ALTOGETHER
KeikoS: I have hard drive from old puter and just put casing on

KeikoS: Not much, 10 + 40+ 40

AndreasUK: oo okay.. why not buy a cartridge?

JenW: so its Andrea with 120??

KeikoS: cartridge?

AndreasUK: here they sell a cartridge where you can enter a hard drive (standard size) and insert in

JenW: Keiko -- do you do lots of graphics, video, or music??

AndreasUK: such as those in enterprise servers

KeikoS: That is what I am talking about, cartridge= casing

AndreasUK: no.. I have 40GB in notebook and 40GB in PC/

KeikoS: I do graphics and audio, but I am not that space hungry

JenW: ahhhhhh -- I was having harddrive space envy

JenW: Okay -- onward to #7

AndreasUK: but it is not external, the cartridge can be mounted inside the PC casing. so you can just slide the hard drive in and out (it has it's own reel).

KeikoS: My graphics are all 72 dpt and audio are .mp3

KeikoS grins

JenW: NEVER -- and I mean NEVER -- forward a forward of an email to anyone -- EVER!!

KeikoS: Oh, I see. I like it portable and external.

ShereeR: Oh my, I have movies that are huge (Gigs!)

AndreasUK: yup..

JenW: do we all know how to copy paste???

KeikoS grins at Sheree

AndreasUK: hehe. I got that a lot FWD: FWD: FWD: FWD...

JenW: it must be Sheree with the 120gb hard drive??

KeikoS chuckles

JenW: the bad thing about Forwarding Forwards???

ShereeR: I have just about that with internal and external hd

JenW: anyone know???

AndreasUK: mmm.. I don't know how to archive movies effectively.. what we do in my office is write to CD

KeikoS: Oh, Fwd keeps the attachment

JenW: anything else

AndreasUK: we produce .. like 100 archive CD every 3 months

JenW: think about your privacy

ShereeR: I keep originals on an external HD, but always make CDs tool

KeikoS: Well Fwds retains more info than replying and change the address.

ShereeR: too.

JenW: yes, if someone forwards a forward it carries your email address

KeikoS: One time there was a inner script for Eudora or something and ...

JenW: to everyone it is forwarded to

KeikoS: I needed to Fwd to run it.

JenW: and if ANYONE on the list is a email address buyer -- well then they just harvested your email address

KeikoS: Fwd doesn't bother me so much than multiple MIME in digest messages.

JenW: AND if ANYONE on that list uses AOL, Yahoo, MSN, Hotmail -- then those companies have just harvested your EMAIL ADDRESS as well

AndreasUK: well it depends.. if it is a social emails and I am forwarding to someone not related to the group. I normally remove the other groups' email address.

KeikoS grins at Jen

JenW: anywhere that email goes to -- if your email is part of it -- you have lost your privacy (perhaps)

KeikoS: I am giving up on that already.

AndreasUK: in the case of business email, usually we need the email address so we know where the original email come from.

JenW: Keiko -- GOOD FOR YOU!!!

KeikoS chuckles

AndreasUK: ..:-)

MeganHe joined the room.

JenW: And anyway -- forwards of forwards are so impersonal!!

KeikoS: Hi, Megan

JenW: Hi Megan

JenW: okay -- we are almost done

JenW: #8 --

JenW: its a NEVER NEVER

KeikoS holds breath

SusanR listens intently

AndreasUK: ..

JenW: NEVER open an attachment unless you are expecting it -- and if you are -- run a virus check anyway

JenW: anyone get the Paypal attachment lately??

AndreasUK: yup..DEFINITLY that safe lifes

AndreasUK: and headache

KeikoS: Paypal attachment?

AndreasUK: nope.. what is paypal?

KeikoS: I got something from Amazon looking place.

KeikoS: Paypal lets you pay stuff for online.

KeikoS: Kind of like online wallet

KeikoS . o O (which I stay away from)

JenW: there is a email going out to Paypal customers letting them know that within 5 days their account will be closed

JenW: UNLESS they click on the attachment

JenW: but its not from PAYPAL

AndreasUK: oo nope.. but I get a lot of worm virus email back a couple of month past.

KeikoS: Amazon was similar deal

JenW: I got 35 in 1 day

KeikoS: WOW

AndreasUK: wow

ShereeR: That kind of stuff is for stupid people.

JenW: I run Norton's virus and it checks my email

KeikoS: On holidays coming closer, I get more spams lately

JenW: Sheree -- yes, but the stupid people just keep on sending them!!!

JenW: and not all people are as computer savvy as us!!!

KeikoS: Only few are real virus and my computer doesn't budge.

SusanR: 150 in one day!!!

JenW: <grins>

AndreasUK: check the virus list in the symantec virus lab.. it helps.

JenW: Susan -- WINS!!!

AndreasUK: anybody needs the links?

JenW: I know AVG virus has an email scan for free

JenW: http://www.grisoft.com/us/us_index.php

ShereeR: I have Norton AntiVirus and it works like a charm

AndreasUK: I think suggesting to the mail admin to install the antivirus in the smtp or mail server also helps.

JenW: www.symantec.com for another checker

AndreasUK: http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/

JenW: I also have ALL my attachments divert to an attachment folder in my mail box

KeikoS: neat stuff, Jen

JenW: and I can check them there

JenW: okay   2 more -- and we are done

AndreasUK: ok

JenW: I like #9 -- mainly because I don't follow it

JenW: as well as I should

JenW: #9 -- Embrace the philosophy, if it ain't broke -- don't fix it....and stop tweaking my system when its running well

AndreasUK: oo yaaa.. that is hard

KeikoS: I totally agree.

AndreasUK: the tempation   LOL

JenW: grins -- how many times have I needed that update -- and then the computer doesn't work as well anymore

JenW: Grins -- I see nods of agreement!!

KeikoS: I know too many who are just ready to jump in every time something new comes.

AndreasUK: well I guess I should have follow that too, but I like to try this and that..

JenW: well the new Win XP almost forced you to upgrades

JenW: Andreas -- I got into beta testing for a while --

KeikoS: Guys, just dedicate ONE computer you play with.

JenW: made a few interesting developments with my computer

KeikoS: I am sure you have many, right...

KeikoS: Just make one unusable, not many...

AndreasUK: I use my office PC for testing.. actually some beta are quite good.. and free.

JenW: But its true Keiko -- I test drive things on the SCHOOL computer first before I try it at home

AndreasUK: but like Keiko said, some make my life miserable

KeikoS: smart move, Jen

JenW: yup

JenW: and since we need time to chat on YOUR RESOLUTIONS

JenW: here is #10

KeikoS: I am sure this doesn't apply for average users

JenW: Take the time to learn 1 new program!!! or learn more about a program you already are using!

KeikoS: Hummmmmmmm.

JenW: most people only use 10% of a programs capability

KeikoS: Which, Jen?

AndreasUK: yes.. anybody know how to make table of content in word?

JenW: or -- if you wish -- learn 1 new skill

KeikoS: 1 new program or more in depth?

JenW: Keiko -- tis up to you!

KeikoS contemplates heavily

AndreasUK: surprisingly not many know..

JenW: Andrea -- I teach Word and Advanced Word and don't even know how to do that

KeikoS: I sure don't.

AndreasUK: don't know?

AndreasUK: oo

ShereeR: I know how because I was working on my Ph.D.

KeikoS: There you go, Sheree.

JenW: claps for Sheree!!!

AndreasUK: well.. as long as you keep everything using the style in word then TOC is done automatically

ShereeR: On good way to learn more about any program is to try to teach someone else.

AndreasUK: yes, agree with Sheree

ShereeR: That pushes you to learn more and more to keep up with your student

JenW: okay -- we have 6 MINUTES -- so what are YOUR resolutions for TECHNOLOGY USE in 2004!!

KeikoS thinks deeply

JenW: <---likes Keiko's attitude

AndreasUK: mine is DOWNSIZE

JenW: LOL -- can you elaborate on downsizing

ShereeR: My resolution is to STOP buying so much stuff and use what I already have

JenW: Sheree -- I would agree

KeikoS: Maybe stop sending message from my dog?

KeikoS: meaning not playing with email sender identities?

JenW: I don't need the newest RollerCoaster Tycoon just because it came out

AndreasUK: similar with yours Jen, use as few as apps as possible.. try to find the apps that are more efficient for work. the more apps the more headache.

JenW: LOLOLOL -- Keiko -- you don't!!!??!?!?!

ShereeR: Get rid of the NEED to be the first on my block to have the newest and latest tech stuff

SusanR: To take one or two programs and explore them in depth...maybe even consult the manual

JenW: LOL Susan -- yup, I agree

JenW: and Sheree -- that's gonna be a hard one, I bet

JenW: anyone wishing to learn a new Operating System in 2004???

KeikoS: I wish I could reduce my budget for being online, but since it is my business, it is hard.

AndreasUK: .
AndreasUK: New OS?
JenW: Change from a PC to a Mac??
KeikoS: I want a new laptop with 10.3!
AndreasUK: unless the one I use hangs, no way.
JenW: or try Linux?? Anyone brave for that??
AndreasUK: new laptop would be good..
AndreasUK: Linux already try

AndreasUK: not on the notebook of course
JenW: Andreas -- good for you -- I am not brave enough
AndreasUK: oo btw, if anyone like to try new stuff on their PC
AndreasUK: you can use a simulator
JenW: and unfortunately, I like Microsoft too much to go to Linux. I have gotten sloppy with Microsoft programs.
AndreasUK: VMWare have a simulator that can simulate a computer
KeikoS: Woo, Andreas...
AndreasUK: you can install 3 simulation machine as if you have 3 PC
JenW: NO WAY
KeikoS chuckles
AndreasUK: specify different IP for each
KeikoS: You are nuts!
JenW: I can't juggle 1 very well
AndreasUK: and specify different hardware for each (as long as you have the real one on the real machine)
AndreasUK: I use that to test a server that requires 3 party.. so one is the real PC, and 3 simulation
JenW: you would have to straightjacket me on that one
AndreasUK: one running Win2000 2 other 98 other Linux
AndreasUK: heheh LOL neat ya?
KeikoS lost her words
JenW: <---is stunned as well
AndreasUK: each simulation will take 8MB to 16MB out of your RAM
ShereeR: It is very difficult to change your ways. I am "bilingual". I use Mac and PC everyday, but I still have a big problem with changing from classic Mac OS to Mac X. For some reason, it is a more difficult change for me than it was to go back and forth from Mac to PC.
AndreasUK: as long as you have large RAM in the real machine you can do it quite okay.
JenW: what is Mac x??
KeikoS: Sheree, recent Classic is really no longer like OS9...
AndreasUK: Mac 10
AndreasUK: X = 10
AndreasUK: is it?
JenW: sorry, I feel like a DUH now

ShereeR: OS X is ten

JenW: I like the graphics on the desktop

JenW: for Mac's

AndreasUK: I never try a Mac before.. most people here use PC. although the graphic is stunning I was told.

JenW: and FORGIVE ME -- but I think Mac's are cute

JenW: cuter than PC's

AndreasUK: oo yes, cute definitely

AndreasUK: the design

KeikoS grins

ShereeR: I love all computers, but I like Mac for art stuff and PCs for general stuff.

JenW: WOW -- can you believe it -- we have made it through another HOUR of Tech Round Table

JenW: Sighs -- our last of 2003

ShereeR: YEAH

BJ: The next Tech Leaders discussion will be next year...January 20

SusanR: System X is alot more stable; fewer system crashes, Sheree

JenW: Yes, and the topic will be …????????????????

KeikoS: What a fun conversation, thanks!

AndreasUK: ..

JenW: Grins -- I have no idea

JenW: any suggestions??

AndreasUK: what is the topic? I hope I can join again cos the time is quite odd for me

JenW: Andrea -- is it tomorrow -- the 17th of December where you are???

AndreasUK: 7:00am is quite.. mm.. unusual for me LOL.. I will try though.

ShereeR: Well, I don't have that many system crashes to begin with in Classic. My main problem with X is that a lot of my programs won't work and it is a pain to keep switching back and forth between OS.

KeikoS: Since new year's resolution is about often being fit...

JenW: GRINS -- I know what we should discuss!!!

AndreasUK: I am in Indonesia.

JenW: go ahead Keiko

KeikoS: I see, OS9 takes over.

KeikoS: Lean mean slim tech use?

KeikoS: Don't take my word, I won't be able to be here.

KeikoS sighs

JenW: hmmmm -- that's a thought

KeikoS: frugal computing

JenW: how about a MAC / PC comparison

JenW: not pros and cons

SusanR: ...yes

JenW: as much as just understanding how to do things in each

AndreasUK: mobile and mobility is an interesting topics too

JenW: like copy /paste is different

AndreasUK: so many topics

JenW: Hmmm -- mobility could be fun

KeikoS: Macs are so much Windows like and Windows are so much Mac like these days.
ShereeR: Jen right now, a lot of programs are getting to the point of being almost identical in each platform
JenW: and we DO have to discuss Internet Identity Protection
JenW: and No Child Left Behind
SusanR: Sheree, I keep one computer on Sys 9 and the other on X; that works for me
JenW: and INTERNET 2
AndreasUK: yes.. I just tested GRPS connection from PDA through cellphone to the internet.. cool.
KeikoS: Internet 2, cool.
JenW: Andrea -- you are sooooo high tech
ShereeR: I just keep mine on 9 and forget X.
AndreasUK: not really, I just well.. like I said.. like to try things
JenW: WELL, everyone – it's been great fun!!!
JenW: HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL
KeikoS: It has been!
AndreasUK: okay..
KeikoS: Thanks so much, Jen. Have a safe and happy holiday!
JenW: Have a wonderful new year!!!
JenW: and see you in 2004!!!!!
ShereeR: Happy Holidays to all of you too!
AndreasUK: see you all next year.
AndreasUK: is it snowing there?
SusanR: Thank you Jen.
JenW: <----off to find where her new laptop is!!!
JenW: Good Night!!