THIS & THAT

by
Bob Lunaburg

I have been asked often, lately, by a rash of *Keep It Clean* students in our Computers4Seniors classes about cleaning computer monitor screens. Because of the increased number of folks (mainly ladies - I wonder why?) who want to know, I thought it would be appropriate to describe the process here. Also, I found a Web Site (Compu-Kiss - http://www.compukiss.com/sandyclassroom/tutorials/article914.htm) that does a bang up job of describing this, and lots of very interesting stuff. That web site author and owner, Dave Berger, gave us permission to reprint the following from his Web Site.

"Clean the Screen

"After I clean my glasses, I am always amazed by how much more clearly I can see. The same is true of the computer screen. In everyday use, it accumulates dust, dirt, and fingerprints. An occasional cleaning is definitely in order. The correct way to clean your monitor depends on the type of monitor you have. Here are a few tips for the two most common types of computer screens.

"While it is not necessary to turn the monitor off to clean it, this can be a good idea. When the monitor is off, you can see the smudges and dirt better, and you can be sure that you won't burn out any electrical components if water or cleaning liquid is inadvertently dripped onto or into the monitor. By the way, if liquid is ever dripped onto a monitor, you should turn it off immediately and allow it to dry completely before turning it back on.

"CRTs

"Those big chunky CRT monitors have glass screen which are easily cleaned. The important thing to remember is that you don't ever want to spray any liquid directly on the screen. Instead, spray the cloth with water or a mild window cleaning solution then wipe the screen. You can use the same damp cloth to clean the entire monitor case, as well. If you prefer, you can also use moistened paper towels to clean CRT monitors, You will be only cleaning the outside of the monitor case and screen. Never open the monitor casing which contain electric voltage that can cause a shock.

"Flat Panel LCDs

"LCD monitors are often called flat panel monitors because they are flat and thin. These are the types of screens that are used in most laptop computers, and they are also becoming very popular for desktop computers. LCD screens are softer than CRT glass screens, so they require some extra tender loving care. Keep your fingers and sharp objects away from these screens since they are susceptible to damage and scratches.

"Use a soft dry cotton cloth to remove fingerprints and smudges from the screen. If this does not completely remove the dirt and splotches, use a small amount of isopropyl alcohol on the cleaning cloth that has been dampened with water. (A small amount of vinegar can be substituted for the isopropyl alcohol.) Again, spray the liquid on the cloth and never directly onto the screen. Do not use paper towels on an LCD screen as they can scratch the screen. Never use ammonia, ammonia-based cleaners, or strong cleaners which can cause the surface to yellow and become brittle.

"It is good to have a special clean cloth that is dedicated to use on the LCD screen. Don't pick up any old rag, as dirt particles in the rag can scratch the surface of the screen. Special LCD cleaning cloths are available and can be an excellent investment.

"The best cleaning method is to stroke the cloth across the display in one direction, moving from the top of the display to the bottom.

"Why not make cleaning your computer monitor a part of your spring cleaning, as well as a part of your regular cleaning routine? It will allow you to see more clearly, for sure."

Dave Berger includes keyboard cleaning suggestions on his Web Site also. There's a link on his Web Site to that information. I suggest you read it too.

Now, hopefully, I have eased some of the stress some us have been experiencing when we view our computer monitor through dirt and grime darkly…oh my dear, he waxed poetic there.

"Stick to computers Bob." Someone in the back row says. "Leave the poetry to those better equipped for it."

Okay.