

The really incredible...

The really incredible thing it is I'm dictating via voice and not text messaging. Really neat!. listen

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The Dick that broke the Genii's back?

It's now old news, but on 1/13/2008 at 12:20 PM Richard Kaufman announced that the Genii Forum would no longer be public, but available to subscribers only. He's given nothing but vague reasons from what I've read - it's his forum and he's free to do with it as he pleases. Non-subscribers will be able to view but not post.

I've been very impressed with his very noble attempts to treat those that buy Genii at a magic shop fairly. I don't know him, but I suspicion he has a very high level of integrity. I just wish he weren't so publicly crabby. I can't believe that's good for business.

OK - call this pure speculation, because that is what it is, but on the same day Kaufman made the announcement, he published this *Apology to Thomas Wayne* earlier in ther day:

In a now-deleted thread I made several remarks concerning Thomas Wayne. One of these was that he threatened a moderator on this Forum via e-mail. Unfortunately the hard drive on the computer on which this e-mail was stored has crashed, so we no longer have the e-mails to prove it. Subsequently I deleted that portion of my message.

However, I also stated that Thomas Wayne is "mentally ill." Since I am not a trained health care professional, I cannot use that phrase since it insinuates a trained opinion.

Thomas Wayne's ill-mannered behavior resulted in his expulsion from the Genii Forum, so you may draw your own conclusions from that.

Coincidence?

Take care.....




Pursuit Of Magic Web Site

I had written a fairly lengthy post welcoming Steve Pellegrino back to the blogging world, but before I posted it his site disappeared.

Does anyone know if this is permanent?



Something for every magician that uses a computer

 I'm slow to pay for software. Before I buy anything I check freeware and Open Source availability and generally find something as good, if not better, than the commercial offerings.

Really - REALLY, this is not a function of being cheap. I have issues with many software developers after years of taking it where software was never meant to go.

Anyway, one piece of software that I did buy was FeedDemon - the best, in my opinion, RSS reader in existence. FeedDemon was written by Nick Bradbury, the author of the cartoon Dexter, as well as some other neat software such as Homesite.

I would hope that anyone reading blogs and other feeds has some sort of reader / aggregator. I found FeedDemon the most practical and reasonably intuitive.

Yesterday, the owner of FeedDemon, Newsgator announced FeedDemon is now free. Along with the announcement, they released an improved version that looks very nice. There's also a Beta version that integrates with Outlook. I've been playing with it today and really like it.

I've purloined, from Nick's blog some reasons to use FeedDemon:

1. Most web-based readers (NewsGator's being an exception) can't subscribe to secure feeds. I don't know about you, but that's a show-stopper for me - I have a number of password-protected feeds that I absolutely have to keep track of.
2. Web-based readers can't access "behind-the-firewall" feeds. For example, we have an internal server which runs [FogBugz](#), and I'm subscribed to several FogBugz feeds which alert me to problem reports and inquiries regarding my software. I can't add these critically important feeds to a web-based reader.
3. Most web-based readers offer no offline support, and even when they do, offline reading is still far better in FeedDemon ([this screencast](#) shows why). FeedDemon doesn't just download your articles so you can read them offline - it can also prefetch the images they contain and the pages they link to, enabling you to browse the web without an Internet connection. Your web-based reader can't do that. This is one of those features that you don't think you'll need - until you do.
4. Many desktop readers are full-fledged web browsers, complete with access to your favorites, tabbed browsing, etc. In fact, FeedDemon **is** my web browser - I rarely use an external browser anymore. If you haven't used a browser that's also a powerful RSS reader, you're missing out.
5. If you live in Microsoft Outlook, you can use an RSS reader like [NewsGator Inbox](#) which integrates with Outlook, complete with flagging,

indexing, filtering, archiving, and all the other features Outlook power-users rely on.

6. Desktop readers have access to local resources, enabling a slew of features that aren't available in web-based readers. For example, desktop readers can integrate with your favorite blogging client, or [download podcasts and copy them to your iPod](#) or WMP device. [NetNewsWire](#) even integrates with iPhoto, Twitterrific, Mail, and iCal.
7. Desktop readers give you a choice about which feeds to keep completely private. Want your reading habits regarding a subset of your FeedDemon subscriptions kept completely on your local computer? Just put them in a folder that's not synchronized.
8. And of course, speed is often another benefit. Web app performance has become a **lot** better over the past few years, but we're not at the point where JavaScript in the browser can compete with native performance ☐

I believe you'll find the small time you must invest to adopt FeedDemon worth the effort.

Take care.....



Henry Ford had it wrong

Henry Ford had it wrong:

01/11/2008

I read this quote today from Henry Ford:

You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.

Obviously, Hank never made it to the Magic Cafe!



Steve Martin / Earl Scruggs video

I just picked up Steve Martin's autobiography. What a funny, inventive guy.

As I've told people for so long, he was doing this schtick for 14 years before Saturday Night Live "discovered" him.

Anyway, it has nothing to do with magic, but I just posted the You Tube video of Ear Scruggs, Steve Martin and a lot of greats doing *Foggy Mountain Breakdown*.

Magic in its own way.

Take care.....

