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Editors Psychobabble  
Off the Lip

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A couple notes of compatibility:

This magazine has currently moved from DocMaker to Ackrowbat. This gives us more design flexibility and allows more platforms to read it, but it also makes it harder to view. The viewer program that you need to read this, is a huge, bloated, self-important application that you have to download. They still are having problems with the font issues, and installation isn't as easy as it should be. But it appears to be something that will continue to be supported and thus, get better. Maybe someone will write a killer self-contained document format someday. If that happens, we'll probably hop over to that. But nothing new has happened with DocMaker, and I don't see any kind of all-in-one HTML in the works. So PDF is as good as we can manage right now.

The pictures and such contained herein always look best on a 21", 24 bit screen. If you don't have one (or, actually two would be better), then do the best you can. Due to the set page size of this format, printing produces more predictable results. But don't kill a tree if you don't have to. We like it to stay mostly digital.

**Parental Discretion Advised**  
**This document contains language adult in nature and the viewing parties should act accordingly.**

# Psychobabble?

Out  
To  
Lunch

Our other editor has been a bit busy...and so he will  
have to wait until next issue to put down his usual  
comments that we know and love.

# Off The Lip here...possibly ready to rant..you never know...stranger things have happened

Hello.. I'm going out of my mind. See, it's this mixture of absolutely nothing, and everything in the world that is going on at once that does it to me. If I could have a nice balance of the two, I'd probably be happy for more than a few skittish moments at a time. Whenever I laugh (and I laugh a lot, believe me), it's usually an insane laugh. The kind of laugh that jolts people, and makes them look over and mutter, "Jeez..what's wrong with him?". You wanna know what's the matter with me? Huh? Well...I can't tell ya, cause I DON'T KNOW!!! AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! So bite my frooples you garglin shnootle pat.. If I knew, then maybe I could make everything aaalll better. And life would just be a big cup of warm and lumpy marmalade... Mmmmm

So maybe, you're in stitches

And what a cup of better butter it would be. I can just imagine it..but then, I can imagine a lot of things. Doesn't mean they'll actually ever happen. I think we should all get at least one trip to that fantasy island place..if for nothing else than to hear that tattoo guy yell that the plane is arriving. Sometimes we just, need that. And sometimes, it's hard to tell the difference between needs and wants. We just know that we feel them...

So now you might be thinking, things are hard to read. Well, people are harder to read sometimes too. There's nothing that says, you've got to put a period here, or, make this uppercase. People do flaky things. And they don't make sense so much of the time. And, it's all up to you to try and deal with it.. Make the most of it.. or just even make anything of it....baby.

Trapped...we all feel trapped sometime or another. The question is, what do we do? Ask ourselves? Push ourselves? Help ourselves? Torture ourselves? Play with ourselves? Suppress ourselves? Forget ourselves? Maybe even lose touch with ourselves...

What I think we do most though, is suppress ourselves. Where we should be doing what we've always aspired to be doing, we're instead trapped in our situations, lessening our personalities and our very lives to the point of abject boredom. Count how many times day in and day out, that you are so mind numbingly bored with what you're doing that you contemplate driving a tank (or better yet, a battle-cruiser) through the building and out into the great unknown beyond the horizon... Probably adds up pretty quick. Because, we humans..we people of the civilized world, are frequently grown into lives that are not exactly beneficial toward the happiness, well-being, and social sanctity of the occupants therein. Like a rat in a cage, a mouse in a maze, or a job with noholidays, you're locked into a boxy world. A cold, boring, unkind world. Sharp and dirty, with bright colors all where they shouldn't really be.

Maybe you need more reasons to press on, to reach whatever it is that your after, maybe you only need one. But the reasons in themselves, just might be the only things that are really the most important. So don't forget that.....many people do. Too many people do..

# We Need Money

Okay, before you go saying “Well I’d love to give you lots of money you crazy kids you, but I don’t have enough to spare fo-” so hold it right there.. We’re not asking from those not terribly well off or in any way demanding it. We want money from the big fish. Yeah..those capitalistic tyrant tycoons of big business. The faceless corporation, the government bureaucracy...

We want money from those people that could very easily afford to give the meager (relative to the sums that cross their desks every day) amounts that we’d be slobberingly happy to receive. So then you ask, “But, what about your thing of being angst ridden starving artists, and-” yeah yeah yeah...well, we’re tired of being starving all the fucking time. And I’ve had enough angst to last me to the next century (which isn’t actually that far away...all things being so relative). As far as the art thing, hey, call it what you will (as long as you don’t use the descriptor ‘like country music’).

“Okay then,” you ask “if all that is so, then who are you going to get all this money from? Isn’t everyone doing badly? Corporations going bankrupt, government shut-downs, massive lay-offs.. Even the big guys are falling on hard times.” My reply, is simply “Bull-fucking-shit...”

The government has plenty of money. Remember all those taxes that are always being sucked out of your pay checks? Well, all that money actually goes somewhere. And with the amount of over-population in this country, that adds up to taxes from a LOT of people. Hence, a lot of money. Funding troubles they say? Look at which areas are being hit: National Parks, Postal Service, Health Care, Environmental Agencies, Education, Human Resources... Translation? Piss-ant. The defense department is the real budget hog. Not only is there the widely publicized face value budget, but there is also a ‘secret’ budget that the military is allowed to spend, whether it’s really necessary or not. The military was actually given an even bigger percentage of the budget recently (this, in the middle of everything else going on), a budget where percentage marks are measured in millions of dollars. “What about all the base closures?” you say. Big whoopity, that merely lowers their operating costs. They just ship all the people and equipment to other bases (cheaper bases), increasing the populations of those. Lower cost of living, more people to control under one roof. In business terms that’s called consolidating your workforce..

Which brings us on to the other side of the coin. Big business. Chapter 13 and layoffs you say? Liquidating assets and increasing profit margins I say. They don’t do it because they have to, they do it because they get more money than they ever did before that way.. And with this current climate of musical jobs, they have the perfect excuse to do so. This is the opportunity they’ve been waiting for to can everyone but a skeleton crew, and fill what they need to with under-qualified people that are willing to work their asses off for reduced pay and no benefits because they consider themselves lucky to even HAVE a job at all (and many

times, lucky to make it all the way to U.S. soil without being shot in the head). Big business is doing just fine.. Take a look at the bank accounts of the CEOs, not the workers, or even the general managers.

“So” you then ask after a moment of thought, “why would everything be wonderful if they gave their money to you?” Well, because we would DO something with it! It wouldn’t just sit around in a bank somewhere being useless. We’d take it and make things, invent things, improve things. If we couldn’t help directly we’d introduce a forum of communication to allow those that could, to do so. We’d make things to better the world, spread knowledge, inspire.... Because all it’s doing now, is being shifted back and forth from one rich person to another like some immense hippopotamus of value, being used as an authority to control different masses of people. What’s the point of control if you don’t make anything better? Shit if I know..but they’re doing it right this very minute.

Making decisions that effect YOUR life in ways you can’t even know without direct investigation. Yes it’s sick, and far more perverse than anything you’d likely see in a porno shop. But it’s also true. And like a bad case of ‘roids, it’s only getting worse.

“So what can I do to counteract this rash of inhumane behavior and devolution into a 3rd world country?” you ask, oh so eloquently. Sorry..can’t help you there. If I knew I’d be doing it. I’d be in a different place...a happy place.. (eyes glazing over, sighing slowly in another all too frequent day dream) Umm...but I’m not there, I’m here. And I’m not too pleased about it. If you want to piss me off, remind me how old I am, and list all the things I’ve not been able to do by this time in my life. It’s sure to gain you at least a sour glance. “But dude,” you say, getting into the hip generation X swing of the conversation “you control your own destiny.” you continue, though now starting to sound a little like some character in star wars “Forge your own road, go out into the world and attain those goals you long for.”

“Great..” I say, “step on the little people. At every level of so called success, you’re only fighting against, and edging out, the little fish in the sea of civilization. Even if you reach the top, the big cheese of a huge-ass company, you’ll still have virtually no effect on the other cheesy people at the helm of economic powers so big you need a pie chart to be able to fathom the amount of money, people, and parts of the world they own.

“Uh huh..” you say, distracted for a moment by the word ‘fathom’ conjuring mental images of ships and submarines..metric verses U.S... “But if no one can ever effect them, and no one likes what they’re doing, how do they come to power? How do they stay in power? There’s only a few of them, and lots of us.” True, but the thing of it is, that’s the trick. Not only do they completely lack the regard for other people. They also have the ability, to convince the cattle-like public that what they’re doing IS what everyone wants... You see? Even if it’s a complete lie, it still works long enough for all the people to agree with them, and in many cases fear them (because they’re the authority, that controls the authority.. You piss them off, you get an estranged appendage of the law breaking down your door to knock your ass back in line). So they DO have the general

public on their side. Even if the public doesn't know what they're agreeing to. So the only way to effect them, would be to get EVERYone to be on your side. That doesn't happen easily though. Their fingers of control which are wrapped around us all..are very practiced, very established, and very hard to beat. They like being in power, and are going to stay in power as long as they can. They're good at it, and they know it.

It's the only thing they ARE very good at...it's their life. So if you go making a stink that diametrically opposes the ideals of the established...establishment, then you'll not only be going against the top dogs, but all the nation of citizens that moo in the same direction. And that's not a very friendly place to be. You may be right, but it won't do you any good. Truth has amazingly little to do with the influencing groups of people.

"Well...that sucks." you summarize. Heheyeah..exactly. So that's why I..we, us..need money. Not just the like, \$2 we suggest sending as a carrot to continue making the mag.. But, a lot of money. The kind that has so many zeros between the first digit and the period you lose track counting if you don't go by groups of three. We need doners like...a phone company, an oil company, the pentagon..to give us just, a shit-load of money. That would give us the ability to do something. The ability to do what we want...because guess what. What we want, is for everyone's lives to be better in some way. I really don't, fundamentally understand what the corporate heads, military leaders, and political elite want. It's quite the baffling thing. But it's certainly not what we want, and I know it's definitely not what I want.

I mean, sure it'd be fun to charter a jet to Tahiti and repeatedly engage your secretary in copulation on the beach. But not at the expense of others. I don't take lightly to walking on the backs of the poor. It's just not a nice thing to do, any way you look at it.

Think about it yourself.. Wouldn't you instead of busting your butt at work all the time for too little money/happiness/free-time, rather spend your days working with others to solve problems, explore new worlds, produce things and ideas for the betterment of humanity (and even, the world as a whole)..all of this without having to constantly worry about covering your own ass? Keeping you and anyone you hold dear fed, clothed, and sheltered? I think we all would. But getting there is the hard part. The machine that is society is not geared in that direction. It's purpose is for something else..something, which I've not yet deduced. I've come to the conclusion that it's fueled by money (a word which much of the time can be supplemented with 'greed'). But beyond that I'm a bit stumped. So maybe if we get a ton of money..I can fill in the other blanks, and get the machine re-gearred for everyone, not just them.

The word "GRRIN" is rendered in a bold, 3D, metallic font. The letters are thick and have a reflective, chrome-like surface. The 'G' is particularly large and stylized, with a rounded, almost circular shape. The 'R' and 'I' are also thick and blocky. The 'N' is the tallest letter, with a sharp, pointed top. The overall appearance is that of a heavy, industrial-style typeface.

And now, a poem...  
~~And now, a poem...~~  
And now, a poem...

## *Space for my Eyes...*

And one day the rain came as the metaphors kept falling from the sky... The words changing shape until they formed one sea - And the words were no longer separate entities...

So, we travelled the skies, once known to the world, to reach up into space... where we found quiet isolation in dreams in our closed eyes... Imagination flared and I sought to find my ground...  
My holy ground...

And I laughed and thought, "Is this what I am?". So I escaped from that realm and became one with practicality... Meshing and losing myself with the world... But I understood too much... And I fought unconsciously until my strength was gone...

And suddenly I couldn't stand up any longer... The water broke and caught me up in its river... I let myself be carried and the noise - the noise drowned out their thoughts... their laughter... their wonder... the anger from those that held me - and then let go...

And all was quiet... The soft rumble of the sea swayed me... And the mist healed my senses...  
I opened my eyes...  
I reached out my hand...  
and touched space.

- Prasad

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# Shareware Fonts and Techie Crap...

Well..this time, I think I'll go for a different approach on this section. Shareware? Well, there are plenty of lists of those everywhere, so why bother saying the same things over with different words? Fonts? Well...we can't really embed them..not in this format anyway. Sure, you can do that in envoyage (and sure, they were first to come out with a viewer plug in for netscapade)..but I mean, who the hell uses onvoy?

Instead I'll just focus on the techie crap, one aspect of the techie crap. Operating Systems (or OS's as they're O so frequently referred to..people sure love to abbreviate things). If you have a computer, you also obviously have, an operating system running on it, that allows you to like...do shit. Before we go any further though, I'd like to say that yeah, I know about the frequent OS wars the people have, saying, "My system's better than your-" SHUT THE FUCK UP.... jeezz.. I mean, if you're happy with your system, then good. You deserve it. But people are different, and everyone should realize that instead of trying to brainlessly, endlessly, pointlessly flame someone else that chooses a different type of system.... End, of line.

Now, on to the interesting part. The future. While the future (well, the good parts anyway) take too long to get here, we can write about them NOW. And even make silly little pictures (and in many corporate cases, concept videos) to go along with our theoretical ideas. So now, some of \*my\* ideas, for you guessed it, operating systems. First off, low-level changes..in other words, mediocre but obviously a bit difficult changes to things currently common in most OSes.

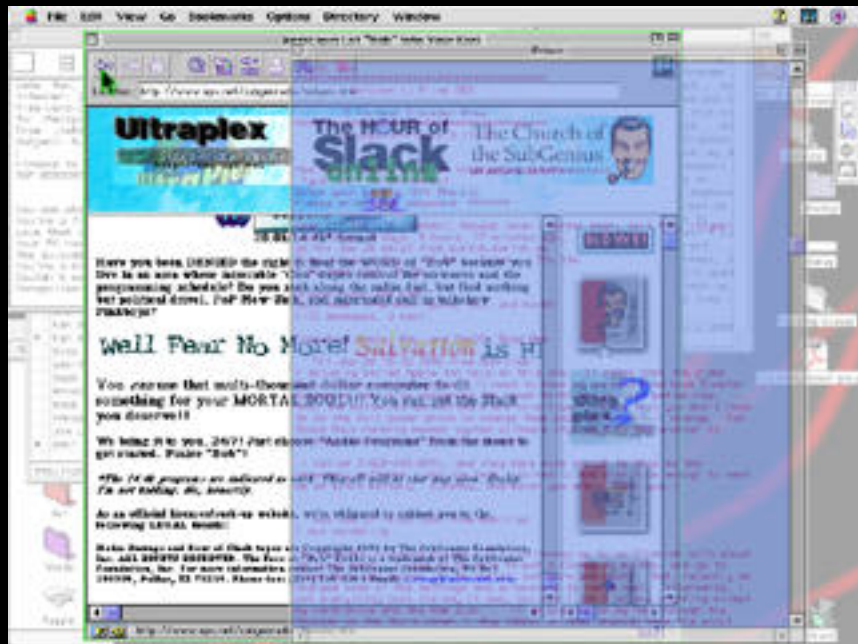
First off, text. That's what is probably used the most by far of anything on every computer in the world (and no, your nintendo doesn't count). With today's faster processors and graphics systems, it's definitely possible to increase the general readability of all text on the screen. One thing that would do this, is soft text. I'd use the word anti-aliased, but there are other forms of smoothing graphics, some of which might be better than that method. But the principle is the same, if you make the text not so pixelly, it will be a hell of a lot easier on your eyes.

Another thing that would go hand in hand with this, is smooth scrolling text. To see what I mean, take something with a large amount of text (a text document, something on a command-line bbs, or just anything displays smallish text that travels around the screen), and scroll it. As it's going by, try to read it... It isn't very easy is it? It goes in jumps. Going faster or slower just changes the jump rate. It's enough to wonk your eyes out after a while.. There has GOT to be a better way. Whoever makes a fluidly scrolling text engine for the OS that every application can tap into, will make me and hopefully a lot of other people, very happy. The best thing, would be self-screen-optimizing text with sub-pixel control, used for both static display and scrolling around (in any direction of course). But then hey, that would be the best thing. I won't tell you the next best thing, because I don't want that.. I want the BEST thing dammit. That's one of the things that always pisses me off about almost every industry on the planet. They make things little micro-midgy-jumps. Making something just a LITTLE bit better every time, when they could actually make things a shit-load better every time (sorry about the rise in my use of words considered profane when it's not even necessary or called for, but it gets the point across with more impact... plus, I'm probably going through a mood or something..have to get it out somewhere...). It's all because of this petty greed thing. It runs the world.. But anyways, that would be the thing for text, that would make systems feel... Different. Evolved, from the primal punch-card behemoths of the earlier years in electronic computing.

The next thing that would make things easier to deal with, is application transparency. I don't just mean document-centric file creation, I mean the actual way that the windows on the screen are drawn in relation to each other. If we all had the graphics systems driving the Impact workstations, then my complete idea would be a little closer to fruition. Because the complete idea is going beyond a 2d imagery system, to a 3d graphical environment. Your display.. your files, programs, peripherals, and anything else having to do with the computer, would be in a sizable, 3 dimensional space. Traditional 2d graphical applications would be contained inside their own panel, existing to themselves as running on a regular system. But to you, they'd be one of many panels. Sizable and arrangable, with variable transparency to see through to the other applications and/or documents you have open. Like it or not, we see in three dimensions. And those of us that don't have two dimensional personalities, FEEL in three dimensions.. So it's important to me anyways, to have this kind of thing be common in the years to come.



Right away though, current computers would be capable of just the transparency part. Something like this is already done on the AV Macs, where the NTSC input from whatever video source is projected



through the other application windows, appearing as a ghost image floating in your screen. But that's the only extent of it though. For that kind of thing to be really useful, you'd need to combine that with cursor focusing found in X11, to make the window your doing stuff in appear the clearest of view while still being able to see all the others. Why you ask? Because there's never enough damn screen space. Even if I COULD afford one of those 42 inch monitors with a zillion pixels, I'd still run out of screen space.. Maybe I'm just special that way, but I think other people run out too often as well. And it would be a good idea to adapt the OS to deal with it even if we DO get bigger monitors in the future.

After that, there's the question of bottlenecks/stability and configurability. All too often, things come to a halt. Either something screws up, or you've screwed it up. This can be as drastic as a program crashing your system, or just an operation that hogs your processor. Somewhere in between, would be say, a file copy that gets clonked somehow..and so your stuck, unable to tell it to cut it the fuck out...Because it'll sit there forever waiting for the next command come into the processor. If you know it's never going to arrive, then you have to do something unkind. You have to kill that process somehow. And often the only way to do it, is your friend and mine....el ka-bong.

There's got to be a better way for this. If our programs get screwy, we should be able to easily tell them to shut up whenever we want them to. They shouldn't have the power to lock up our system. We should have the power to tell the computer to stop, pause, or kick the ass of any program to get it moving again when it's not really doing what it's supposed to.

Related to this, is the subject of configurability (to get programs behaving the way you want them to). All of us like to customize our systems at least a little bit. And it's time the OS makers started including more options for this kind of customization. I say, include a bunch of shareware with the OS (distributed on CD of course) and pay the programmers for every copy shipped. Because, for those of us that like to dick around with little system utilities that alter the behavior of our computers in ways the creators never intended, this our only way. We have to connect to some kind of net or board, and get these things. Without them, our systems are rather drab, and aren't very adaptable. So if we're paying these outrageous prices for our hard drives to be filled up with these new bloated versions of operating systems, we should at least get some extra software that the OS designers didn't have the time or talent to make themselves.

And lastly (for the time being), the issue of optimization. Things take too long, require too much oomf, and take up far too much space. Something amazing has to be done in the area of dynamic compression. As computers get faster, the ability to use that speed to squish data in and out of ram should be increasing. But for the most part, it isn't. Files are getting bigger, programs are getting bigger..and yes, operating systems are getting bigger. You know of course what happens to things when they get too big...they crumble under their own weight. They are the instruments of their own demise. They make the big kack. They become the hairball in the throat of life. Large and unmanageable, they're destined to become the fossils on display that young children marvel at behind a roped barrier.

So if compression was built in, on a basic level native to all operating systems, then we wouldn't be having to think about that multi-terabyte drive that we're going to have to be buying in a few years. You may ask yourself.. Why would you need a multi-terabyte drive? Answer: to hold Microcoughed Word of course..and that's WITHOUT the tutorial files.

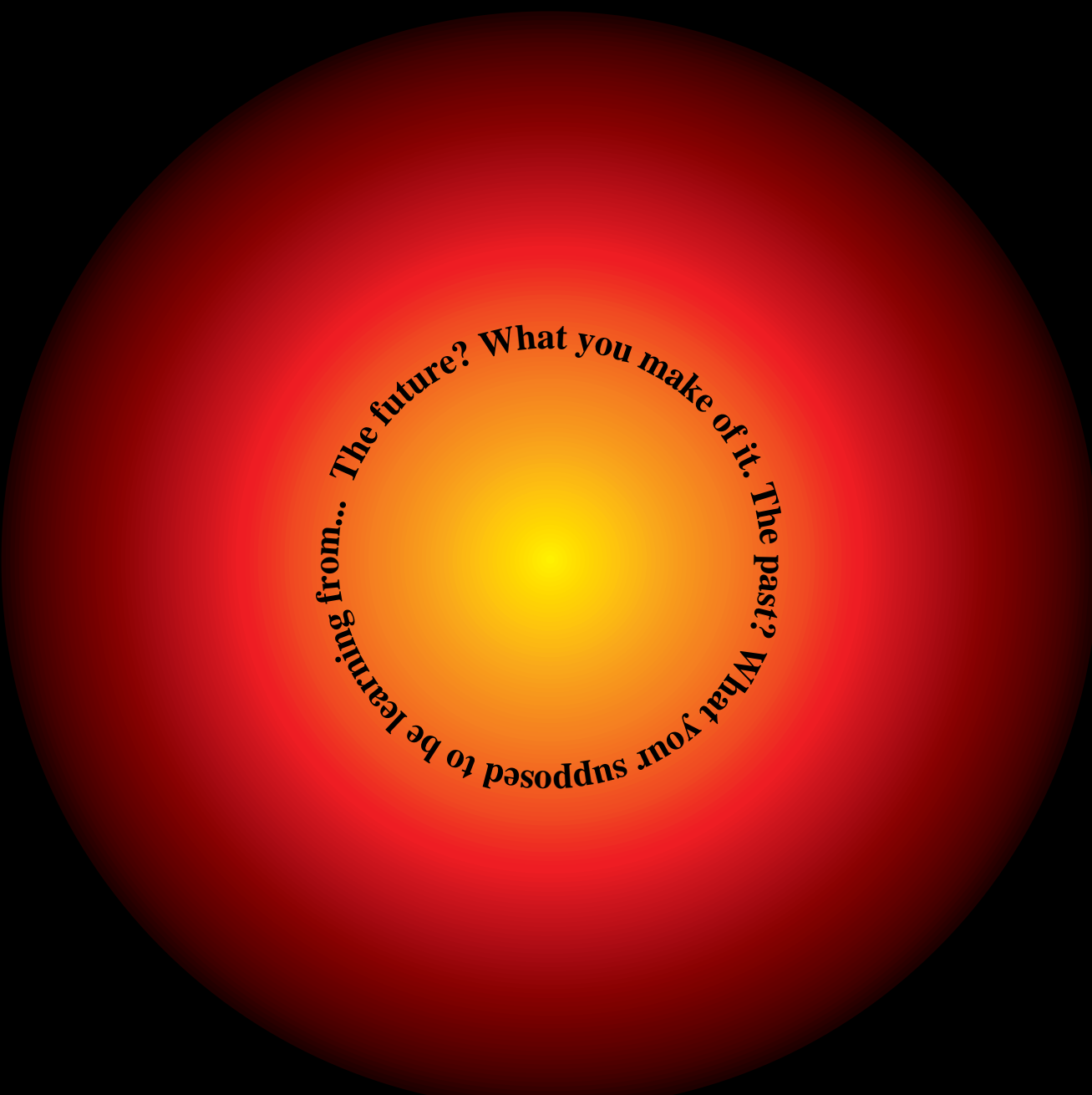
But not just compression in the traditional sense, but at the disk and ram level too (and I don't mean driver level compression..that's been known to screw up). I mean like the way files are stored. Both open and closed. Formatting a big drive for example with only one large partition, makes it so that the sectors are huge. And so if you put a bunch of little tiny files on there that are smaller than the sectors, you won't get to use that extra blank space between the end of the little file, and the end of the sector. Sucks doesn't it? The only way to combat that at the moment, is to format the drive to show up as several smaller drives, which each have smaller sectors. Annoying? Yes! But there's no other way to deal with it besides combining the little files into a great big file. And there's currently no really easy, system level support for this. You have to do it by hand, with a third-party product.

A way to handle it right away (without redoing the way every hard drive in the world works), would be to have the system recognize files that are smaller than the sectors on the disk, and shmush them together on a part or parts of the disk into a single file..a file that would be transparent to the user (seeming to be many different files, anywhere in the directory tree), but would free up a ton of space and appear as a single file as far as the drive is concerned.

Similar to this, is the problem of too many damn files that belong to the operating system. Depending on the OS in question, there can be a TON of files in there. All slowing down your access time and needlessly filling up your drive. We need the files that we're obviously going to have installed for some function or group of functions that we want to do, to be, one file. OOP not only allows you to have separate files be included as the main thing in memory, it allows for separate source to be compiled into a single file. So...like, use both parts of that. It'll turn out cool, believe me.

And then, there's another biggie, redundancy. Too many things all have the same parts in them. They usually do essentially the same thing, but they of course, think theirs is the best. Well they can't ALL be the best, so some decision has to be made... The programs need to learn to get along, using the same resources that they all have in common, provided by the system (or more likely, by eachother). That way the thing..whatever it is that they use, only takes up space once. Otherwise it'll start getting like if...hehe..if for the internet, web servers could only handle one connection at a time. You'd need a separate server for every person connecting to your site. That would hardly be economical.. But it's the way most software is made right now. Fortunately there are a few exceptions in the OS world, but not enough to make all the big software companies do what they really should.

Well, that concludes this small narration on the directions OSeS should go in the near and far futures. I could go on about other specifics, but I'd probably give myself RSI..and won't EVEN go into hardware...that's a whole nother..realm. One that is too vast and talk-aboutable to touch upon, on this here techie page.



The future? What you make of it. The past? What your supposed to be learning from...