

My Computer Crashed...Again! - By Stan Southwick



Your PC ran into a problem and needs to restart. We're just collecting some error info, and then we'll restart for you. (0% complete)

During this COVID-19 stay at home order, I seem to be spending more time sitting in front of my computer. Things I used to do outside the office are now done in front of a computer screen. I have noticed an increase in computer related down time reported by our work-at-home employees. I don't know if the increase in computer crashes is a ratio of the increased time I spend in front of it or if my computer just enjoys messing with me.

At a computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, 'If FORD had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon.'

In response to Bill's comments, FORD issued a press release stating: If FORD had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics: For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash...twice a day. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single 'This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation' warning light. The airbag system would ask 'Are you sure?' before deploying. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car. You'd have to press the 'Start' button to turn the engine off.

There would probably be less frustration if our computers were as reliable as our cars...but it would cost us a lot more to use them.

"Is it plugged in? Have you tried turning it off and then on again?"

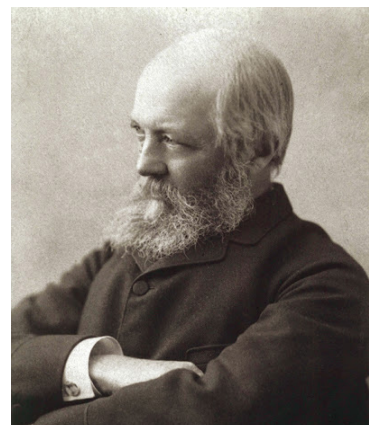
Every IT Professional Ever

Favorite Flora:

Yucca rostrata - By Jon Marenfeld



Over the past couple weeks I've visited a few local nurseries looking for ideas for my own yard and one plant kept catching my eye. If you have the room in your yard and want a definite statement plant look no further than Yucca rostrata, commonly known as a Beaked Yucca or Big Bend Yucca. Native to the Chihuahuan Deserts of northern Mexico and west Texas this tree-like yucca is slow growing and typically is single trunked but can occasionally branch. Yucca rostrata has upright stems, narrow gray-blue foliage, and can grow to about 12-15 feet tall. The 2 foot long stiff, slightly waxy, pale bluish-green leaves form dense rosettes on top of the stout stems. The rostrata of Yucca rostrata means 'beaked' and references either the beak-shaped flower buds or the appendages on the fruit. The Beaked Yucca is sometimes confused with the more common Yucca rigida (Blue Yucca) but the Beaked Yucca has somewhat less sharp and stiff leaves.



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Care of Yucca rostrata is easy. Plant it in full sun or partial shade in rocky well-drained soils. Because the Mojave Desert is more arid than the Chihuahuan Desert it is recommended to deep water it monthly from spring through fall. The deep watering will also enhance its spring flowering cycle and help it maintain good foliage character. Plant it with other cacti and succulents and intermix them with boulders for a stunning xeriscape.