

**C**omputer use among superintendents grows each year, but it still appears to be less than 50 percent of the total group. Superintendents are notorious for not being eager to jump on new technology until it has been thoroughly tested by their peers. But personal computers have been around for nearly 30 years, so it's time to accept them as an integral part of what we do.

Computers have had their largest effect on irrigation controllers. The first users muddled through MS-DOS commands and navigated the directories to program their systems.

The rapid evolution of software design now has superintendents simply pointing and clicking to select everything from run times to reports.

Beyond irrigation systems, however, superintendents have been considerably slower to embrace the computer as a daily management tool. I estimate that only 30 percent to 40 percent of the superintendents are online and computer literate. PC technology shouldn't be something that superintendents fear.

The number of superintendents using computers rises annually, as the average age of superintendents drops and younger superintendents with computer training fill the ranks. If those superintendents of the baby-boomer generation want to survive, they need to take the plunge into the world of modern technology. If they do, they'll be able to take advantage of all the bells and whistles available to promote their knowledge and experience.

However, many superintendents refuse to get with the program, and I think I know why. I give you the ...

## Top 20 Reasons Superintendents Don't Use Computers.

- 20.** Carl Spackler solved his problems without a computer.
- 19.** You can't erase paper records with a single keystroke.
- 18.** Superintendents think Pentium III is a post-emergent herbicide and that Pentium IV is the latest version containing a surfactant.
- 17.** Computers don't talk back, but they don't always obey your commands either.

# Why We Don't Use Computers

BY JOEL JACKSON



WE CAN'T  
DOWNLOAD  
VIRUS AND  
WORM  
PROTECTION  
TO THE GREENS

- 16.** Paper records not affected by power failures or lightning strikes.
- 15.** They'd rather get sunburned than carpal tunnel syndrome
- 14.** Superintendents think RAM is a Dodge pick-up truck.
- 13.** The equipment tech can't fix a computer glitch with a hammer and a can of spray paint.
- 12.** Superintendents would rather rev up a piece of equipment than boot it up.
- 11.** They can't download virus and worm protection to the greens.
- 10.** They think a hard drive is a two-day car trip to a conference (or a 220-yard tee shot over water).
- 9.** The boomer generation can't even program its VCRs, let alone run Microsoft Office '98.
- 8.** Superintendents would rather spend budget dollars on Milorganite than megabytes.
- 7.** Most superintendents took Turf 101 in college, not Typing 101.
- 6.** For most superintendents, it takes more time to enter records using the hunt-and-peck typing method than to write it down.
- 5.** Superintendents think the DeskJet is a portable aerifier.
- 4.** Superintendents think a version upgrade means going to a Ford Explorer from an F-150.
- 3.** E-commerce may be available 24/7, but superintendents would miss grapevine gossip and free lunches under the old system.
- 2.** Software and computer operating systems change more often than the green chairman changes his mind.  
*And the No. 1 reason superintendents don't use computers:*
- 1.** After 10 hours on the golf course, you'd rather go home instead of going to a home page.

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