

By Paul J. Raine

Technically Speaking...

“**B**eware the Ides of March” were the immortal words ignored by Julius Caesar. Perhaps he ignored the warning because the Roman calendar of Ides, Nones & Kalends was simply too confusing? Computers can be confusing, but this column makes an attempt to simplify your life by answering your most pressing computer questions. However, answers are only given with an accompanying question. Please send your questions to: mbj@mail.michbar.org

In case you're wondering, the Ides of March is simply March 15th—coincidentally, the deadline for the June issue of this publication. Technically Speaking... will not be published next month, but will return in June. In the meantime, beware the Kalends of April!

Q. How do I prevent pop-up ads from appearing on my computer while navigating the Internet?

A. Some Internet service providers offer pop-up blocker software. Google has a free “ad zapper” in its toolbar that does the same thing—and sounds like a bug frying on a bug zapper when the ad is deleted. Go to www.google.com and click on Google Services and Tools, then scroll down to Google Tools, and click on Google Toolbar (or go directly to <http://toolbar.google.com/>). You can easily download the Google Toolbar but first carefully read the privacy options to determine how much information about the web pages you visit you want to have sent to Google. If you still want to view pop-ups on a particular site you visit often, there is a way to enable selective sites so pop-up windows are allowed to launch. If you are really “zap-happy” you



will enjoy the toolbar's running total of how many pop-up ads have been blocked.

—Anthony Targan

Pseudonymous asks:

Q. A colleague wondered why his new computer (running Microsoft XP) no longer prints the screen when the “Print Screen” button is pressed.

A. The Print Screen key copies the contents of the screen to memory. If you'd like a hardcopy from your printer, just use the “paste” function in your favorite word processing program and then print it from there. You can also paste the captured image by holding down the <shift> key and pressing the <Insert> key.

Please e-mail any questions for consideration to mbj@mail.michbar.org. ♦

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