



Five Secrets of the IT Cognoscenti

1. “Don’t panic.”
2. “When all else fails, read the directions.”
3. “Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow.”
4. “Power corrupts, and PowerPoint corrupts absolutely.”
5. “Think globally (about the net), act locally (as a node).”



1. Avoiding Panic in the First Place

- ❑ Do Realistic Testing
- ❑ Walk the Possibility Tree
- ❑ Back Up
 - The Chicago Rule
 - The Three Copy Rule
 - The 10k Rule
 - The Low-Tech Rule
- ❑ Create Naming Conventions

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"Don't panic." -Douglas Adams



2. What If It's Already too Late?

- ❑ Prepare Yourself Like a Pro
- ❑ Use Your Senses
- ❑ Ascertain Who Is Talking to You
- ❑ Report Problems
- ❑ Failure Is a Teaching Opportunity

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"When all else fails, read the directions."

-unknown help desk worker



3. Two (Or More) Heads Are Better than One

- ❑ Test with Live Users
- ❑ Monitor and Improve
- ❑ Avail Yourself of the Advantages of ICT
- ❑ Get Attitudinal Feedback Also

"Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow."

-dubbed Linus' Law by Eric S. Raymond

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4a. Reasons to Use PowerPoint

- ❑ Reduce the Time You Spend Drawing or Writing in Class
- ❑ Reduce Student Writing or Drawing in Class
- ❑ Give Students a Structure for the Lecture
- ❑ Give Yourself a Reminder of Key Topics

4b. These Are NOT the Point of PowerPoint

- ❑ Reduce Student Need to Come to Class
- ❑ Reduce Student Need to Pay Attention in Class
- ❑ Reduce Your Preparation Time

"Power corrupts, and PowerPoint corrupts absolutely."

-Hal R. Varian

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5. The Philosophy of Open Systems

- ❑ Openness as a Design Principle
- ❑ Make Unforeseen Connections
- ❑ Double Taxation
- ❑ Blackboard and Its Brethren
- ❑ Get Involved in Local IT Governance

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-Charles Hofacker

