



Me and My Gizmo!


They get better and better ...

Yes, technology certainly seems to have got you in its grip. Dr John Gilbody is likely to strike a resonant chord with many readers. Incidentally, this was received by e-mail...

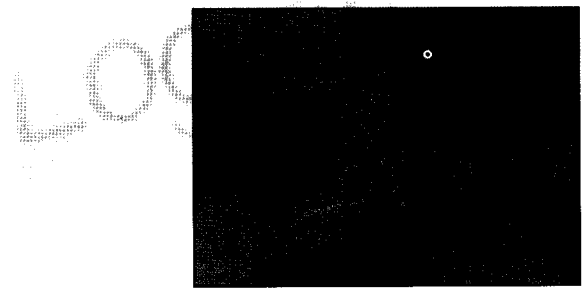


E-MAIL

Oh yes, I love e-mail. Nothing makes me happier than sending a trivial message to hundreds of colleagues in the blink of an eye (try doing that by fax!). Who cares that most recipients will probably give it little attention. Maybe if I put a nice logo and different font colours on the next batch? It is so much more satisfying to spend five minutes constructing beautiful prose to send to my secretary than to have a mere ten seconds of real-time communication with her. Nothing helps to while away the hours grid-locked on the M25 better than receiving e-mails onto my notebook. I won't miss anything happening in the company because everyone copies everyone else in on their e-mails - the ultimate way to gain peace of mind. Of course, once my "filter bot" has deleted all "non-essential" e-mails, there won't be any left, so no time wasted there! Ah yes. Won't be long for my next data fix, though, as my "search bot" busily trawls the web looking for nuggets of drug information, which it can then... e-mail to me, of course. Proudly I look at my e-mail file on the network drive to see how much bigger it is than anyone elses. With new 32-bit technology I can attach literally gigabytes of multimedia factfood to my humble ASCII message - together with the odd virus (made that little bit easier with Windows 98), but, hey, that's what firewalls are for! With developments in push-pull Internet technology I can be e-mailed as soon as the FDA web site has updated itself. What, three more words? Now that's useful.



After a relaxing holiday, what better way to combat techno-withdrawal than by wading through 50 e-mails waiting for me in my in-box - assuming that my ever-decreasing concentration span can cope, of course. When Christmas comes I look forward to sending hundreds of self-extracting e-cards, and listening to that pleasingly annoying rendition of "Jingle Bell" play as one by one everyone in the department checks their e-mail! I bet they've never seen that before.... At lunchtimes I fill the network bandwidth with live video-streaming coverage of the latest Bill Gates interview about global domination - I mean, standardisation. Wow. And I haven't even started videoconferencing from my PC yet, and sending voice (and video!) e-mails. I must remember to e-mail my VCR to tape the football, and send my shopping list to the Tesco web site. And now that we're all switching to Powerpoint presentations, I can e-mail them to my colleagues before the meeting (to save paper, naturally). Never mind that I'll have to wait 30 minutes before I can log on due to network congestion (I must e-mail the helpline about that), but once we've upgraded our modems and converted to optical (and satellite!) communication systems, I am sure that all of our problems will be over ...





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