

‘Everything’s all out of whack’

What to do when your email isn’t looking the way it should

One complaint that I get fairly often from frustrated callers, relates to how the computer displays email messages in the inbox.

For instance, sometimes I get a caller who “can’t find a thing” in his email because “everything’s all out of whack!” or maybe they’ve opened their “Sent” folder and “everything’s all kerflewey!” whatever that means!

Once I get connected and able to see what the caller is looking at it usually becomes clear. In the case of the email (I get at least a call a month on this one!) it usually comes down to how the messages in the inbox are sorted. This setting isn’t supposed to change on its own so when it does spontaneously change to a different sort order, it can create all sorts of confusion.

Typically, an email user will keep their inbox sorted by when the messages arrive, either in ascending or descending order meaning the newest message appears at the top or the bottom of the list. The list just keeps getting larger with the most recent right at eye level and older messages further back in the list.

But what happens when the sort order



gets changed to something like “Subject” or by “Size?” Well then the list doesn’t make any sense at a glance! Sure the most recent message might be at eye level but where’s the message from five minutes ago? It’s a mess!

Well in the case of the email inbox, this is pretty easy to correct. I’m looking at Microsoft Outlook’s email inbox right now and, although other email clients like Yahoo, Gmail and AOL are slightly different, the mechanics are close enough that what applies to Outlook should apply to all of them. At the top of my Outlook inbox I see a series of column headers. Rectangles with words like “From,” “Subject,” “Received,” “Size,” and “Category.” Each of these rectangles sits at the top the stack of email messages over the fields that go along with each email message. The “From” rectangle is the column header for

the “From” field of the emails and if you look down the stack of emails under that column header, you’ll see all of the email addresses of the people who sent the emails. That’s the “From” column. To the right of these senders email addresses you’ll see the “Subject” for each message again in a nice column. To the right of that, each email message has a date and time stamp of when it arrived in the inbox (“Received”) and next to that each email message comes with a size listed. This also lines up in a nice column with the word “Size” in the column header.

But one of these column headers is not like the others! My inbox is sorted by the date and time in descending order meaning my most recent email come in at the bottom of the list. If I want to look at older messages I have to “scroll up.” When I look at the column header above the date and time column, I see that the “Received” column header has a little “up arrow” just to the right of the word received. This little arrow is the indicator that tells me the entire email inbox is currently being sorted by date. And changing the sort order is so easy and simple that it can (and does!) happen accidentally. To change the sort order, all

you have to do is click any of the other column headers and, when you do, the whole list will shuffle to the new sort method and the little arrow will move to the column header that you set it to.

For instance, in my outlook inbox if I go and click the “Subject” column header, all of the messages suddenly shuffle and the little arrow moves to the “Subject” column header. If I look down the list of email messages I’ll notice that the entire inbox is now listed alphabetically by subject!

If I click the “From” column header, all of the email messages in my inbox shuffle and arrange themselves alphabetically according to the senders email address and the little sort indicator arrow moves to the “From” column header.

This is important to know. As I mentioned earlier, this is the kind of setting change that is so easy to make, one wrong click just as the mouse is passing over a column header can instantly rearrange your whole inbox! Knowing where to click when this happens just might help.

Sean McCarthy fixes computers. He can be reached at 888-752-9049 or help@ComputeThisOnline.com (No Hyphens!)

Where are your tax dollars going?

Perhaps consideration could be given to non-profit agencies that assist seniors in need

Over the past month, I have watched the Brevard Cultural Alliance (BCA) cat and mouse game with our county commissioners regarding funding for local arts groups. Was there ever any doubt that the decision would once again enter the main ring for further discussion? I knew in my bones that the first round was not a done deal, that the subject would be revisited.

While I am not a fan of every event supported by the BCA, cultural organizations should be funded, as they bring in revenue and attract tourists and residents to the Space Coast. In addition, it should be noted that these events exist for the enjoyment of the participants—an import-



ant fact.

While the attack on the BCA grant was being formulated and put in motion, a similar attack was made on a one-million-dollar grant that helped support several nonprofit agencies. These agencies assisted seniors and others in need, often providing them with the very means of survival.

Consider for a moment a man 70 years old, living in a truck. His wife is in a hospital, waiting for room in a rehab center. After he visits her, the man then goes home...home to a truck. I am not going to go into the hows and whys of this situation, I will only say that such things do happen, more than you may realize. My main concern is the act of the county commissioners to use this money for other budget items.

Organizations that serve single women and children, homeless people, hungry families, and seniors living in cars and sleeping in the woods all have a right to some help from our tax dollars. It seems ridiculous when five people – our commis-

sioners – who have a highly paid county staff to accurately inform them of the need, make some of these poor decisions that adversely affect the lives of many. Can we do better?

Of course we can. It does not take a Harvard Law School graduate to see when our tax dollars are being wasted. It does not take the same type of person to see when decisions are being made for political gain.

Joe Steckler is president of Helping Seniors of Brevard. Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at www.HelpingSeniorsOfBrevard.org, or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

Scopes

From page 9

risks as long as you have someone to pull you back if you go a bit too far.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

A romantic adventure may prove the catalyst for change in your life, Virgo. Many exciting prospects are ahead if you allow yourself to get swept along

in the momentum of your feelings.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Unchecked anxiety can lead you down a slippery slope, Libra. It’s not easy facing new situations, but worrying about things before it is necessary will not do right now.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you are no stranger to psychic feelings. This week you know what a loved one is thinking and want to help this person out in any way you

can.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you cannot control the world or others’ behaviors. All you can do is control how you react to situations. Don’t be sidetracked by noisy distractions in the days ahead.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you have been making pleasure and play time your priority of late. It’s now time to get down to business. Own up to your responsibilities.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Unraveling old patterns or actions will be good for you right now, Aquarius. If you can’t do it on your own, work with a friend or therapist to get to the root of any issues.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, think about collaborating with others to bring out the best in yourself. In fact, you might find any group activity transformative. Don’t shy away from these ventures.

Out & about

FRIDAY, OCT. 27

“GHOST IN THE GRAVEYARD” - A showing of “Ghost In The Graveyard” will be at Surfside Playhouse, 301 Ramp Road, Cocoa Beach on Friday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. Includes question-and-answer session with writer/director Charlie Comparetto. Tickets: \$12. Go to app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=199779.

FRIDAY, OCT 27 & SATURDAY, OCT. 28

HALLOWEEN PLAYS - New works by The Playhouse Playwrights, Historic Cocoa Village Playhouse, 300 Brevard Ave., Cocoa on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 & 28, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12. Go to cocoavillageplayhouse.com/boxoffice/tickets.

OCT. 27-NOV. 11

MUSICAL EVENTS AT PINEAPPLES - Pineapples EGAD, 1434 Pineapple Ave., Melbourne. Through Nov. 11: The Linkin Park Tribute featuring Nirvana, Saturday, Oct. 27, 7 to 11 p.m.; Out of this World Halloween Party, Sunday, Oct. 28, 8 to 11:55 p.m.; Soul Night with The Savants of Soul, Friday, Nov.

3, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.; Saturday Night Stand-Up with David Jolly, Saturday, Nov. 4, from 8 to 11 p.m.; The Slackers featuring Dunies, Monday, Nov. 6, 7 to 11 p.m.; Lovesong Presents Nightmare Before CUREmas, Friday, Nov. 10, 7 to 11:30 p.m.; ZeeCeeKeely & The Rise, Swell Smashers, Saturday, Nov. 11, 8 to 11:55 p.m. Tickets: \$10-\$20. Info: www.pineapplesegad.com/entertainment.