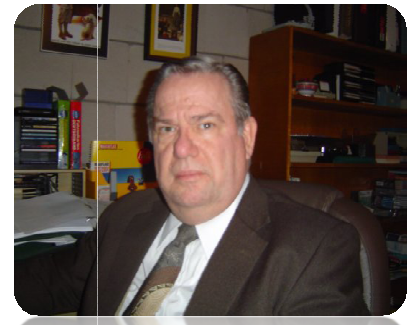




'Bent Miles

"My Two Cents"

January 2008



Why Do We Buy His Product Before It Is Finished?

By Archie L. Tucker
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Ever wonder why only a few of the folks have most of the world's money? They have the money because, they are salesmen or thieves or both. They are the same folks you don't want to make deals with because they always seem to be able to skin you in a trade. They always seem to want the deal less than you, so you take less than you want because you want the deal.

Let us consider Bill Gates. He may not be the only one, but he is the only one I know of, who can sell the public something that is not ready for the market and convince us to fix it at our own time and effort, later; after he has already been paid for it. Don't believe me? Then how about all versions of windows? How many repairs, fixes, or as they call them, patches come out after the original release of every version?

That brings me to his latest; Vista! While there are a lot of bells and whistles to attract folks, how many of us would have bought it if there were another out there that was compatible with all of our programs and software? Are we given a choice as to what operating system we want when we buy a new computer? No, not if we want the new one to interface with and be compatible with the software programs and other computers for which we have already spent hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Just the other day my hard drive froze. I was ready to have a new hard drive put in. However, my wife insisted that I should let the six year old computer stay down and buy another. She reasoned a new one would be faster, have more storage capacity and being newer, it'd be better.

Who am I to argue with such sound reasoning? And, as usual, my wife was right. I do enjoy the new speed and storage space. However, I'm having to learn windows all over. Having a new computer, I decided it would be good to buy the 2007 version of office. Now, I'm having to learn Word all over again. The few, very few, other programs that came in the package, I don't use enough to be too familiar with them so they are not an issue.

For the past five years I've had a biking program that I use to plan my bike trips all around Germany. You can only imagine how distraught I felt when I was met with an incompatibility message when I tried to install it on my new computer.

I've been using FrontPage for five or so years to publish this site. When I installed it, I saw no reason to have to activate it since; it was sold before the time Bill Gates came out with this aggravating control measure. But, I got to noticing that more and more of the functions were not working. When I finally did what the control freak Gates wanted, my program started functioning as it should.

Since I could no longer use my main computer to plan my bike trips, I decided to connect an older pc with the program installed to my desktop. You guessed it; it was incompatible with Vista.

Today, Christmas day, I tried to connect my Hitachi video cam to my computer to view my grandson's Christmas. Yep, incompatible.

So far, any software that was not Bill Gates software has been incompatible. If I had it all to do over, I'd install a new hard drive and save my \$1000.00 for a bike. It seems Microsoft and HP are aware of this issue; but, what are they doing to correct it? If you know, please tell me.