Dragon Droppings

I'm sure that large flying creatures that breathe fire don't exist, so why do I keep finding dragon droppings in my computer files?

Ever since Microsoft contrived to sell computer users something we should have had for nothing-- an operating system, I've been rather resentful toward their products. An OS should come embedded in the machine's ROM when you buy it. Otherwise it's like buying a car without wheels. Atari's OS was built in, and it never malfunctioned or had to be replaced because of a disk error.

Many years and many flawed but expensive versions later, Microsoft finally decided to give us a free upgrade. Naturally, that invited a lot of suspicion and paranoia. What are they up to? As it turns out, though, it's not bad. I choose to interpret it as an apology for all those years of crashes and frustration.

I've done 4 upgrades to Windows 10, 3 at work and one at home on my secondary computer. All have gone well, though there were a couple of tricks necessary that I will pass on. My Windows 7 machine had plenty of drive space, but the upgrade interface told me my "system" drive was too small.

 It didn't explain that very well, or offer a solution, so I did some research. It was referring to the small backup/restore partition. on the drive. Mine was only 29 megabytes, which Win 7 was happy with, but 10 wanted about 350. The third-party site recommended a free repartitioning utility. It enabled me to lop off about 320 mb from the front of my C partition and stick it on the system one. Once that was done, 10 went in just fine.

Two of the Win 8.1 computers at work were of the tiny HP form, about the size of an ashtray. They have only a 40 gigabyte solid state drive, not much of which is left as free space. Windows 10 complained that it needed an extra 9 gigabytes to make the switch while saving the 8.1 configuration.

Unlike my Win 7 experience, Microsoft had a workaround suggestion: insert a USB drive with at least 9 gb. I did that, and the upgrade continued successfully. I saved the resulting files to another, bigger computer drive just in case they are needed.

Windows 10 seems no slower than 7 or 8, and gets rid of most of the annoying screens that 8 featured. It also has something new to windows, borrowed from Linux: alternate virtual desktops, or workspaces. Switch between them with Windows-key+tab.

As I've mentioned, I prefer using my Linux system, Ubuntu Mate 15 currently. I keep a Windows system going just for a couple of CD-based games I've had for years.

--cosmicrat 10/9/2015