

to play. Play a game, experiment with a new program, or try out a new language. Do something fun. This kind of broad approach makes it easy for people to learn new technologies at a pace that is comfortable for them.

By now you are probably wondering, what has this got to do with fire suppression? A lot. Like it or not, technology is making its way into fire suppression. Programmable alarm systems have been around for some time and some companies have that one guy who can program panels. But new technologies like Amerex Strike and Ansul Red are turning pipefitters into programmers.

In addition to wrenches, pliers, and screwdrivers, toolkits are being fitted with voltage meters and laptops. Tablets and smartphones are being used more and more for collecting inspection information. But are they being used as efficiently as possible?

Before you hand a tech a laptop and tell them to plug in, take the time to enhance their skillset. Let them play. Just as Solitaire taught people how to use a mouse, it can also teach someone to become comfortable with a laptop glidepad or the difference between a click and a doubleclick.

Playtime shouldn't be limited to field technicians, either. Office staff can benefit from playtime, as well. Many clerical, accounting, and managerial staff members often receive little or no technical training. I speak to people every week (old and young) who do not know that there is more than one way to run a program or that the lack of an icon on the desktop does not mean that the program is not installed.

So, to all those people who think you can't teach an old dog new tricks... GAME ON! ■

Copyright © 2021 by Denis Perreault, all rights reserved.

Denis J. Perreault of Flash-Soft, Inc. has over forty years of computer programming and consulting experience. Denis is the developer and trainer of FlashPoints SuppressionCAD for wet and dry chemical fire suppression.



INNOVATIONS

EVERGREEN Blind Penetration Seals

Kitchen fire suppression installers no longer need three arms to install hood penetration seals. UL Listed penetration seals installed from *one* side of the hood *only* are now available, saving valuable installation time...



EVERGREEN TOOL COMPANY

900 Elm Street • Peshtigo, WI • 54157

phone: 715.582.0973

sales@evergreentool.com

www.evergreentool.com



STAY IN TOUCH!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

@NAFEDorg

