

Google It

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Basics

By the Numbers

The February 20 issue of *Time* magazine has an interesting article on Google both as a company and the people behind Google. Page 44 has some tips plus I have some of my own.

If you want to track a package just type the tracking number for the shipping service. I have done this on UPS, FedEx and USPS and it worked. When my motherboard went nuclear I learned the ropes.

Is your flight on time? Enter the name of the airline and the flight number. Actually, I much prefer to go right to the airline home page.

Mathematical calculations, including metric conversions, can also be done. For example, enter “2 + 3 =” and not only will you get the correct answer but you will be invited to learn more about the calculator and search the web for “2 + 3 =”. Even though I have resisted learning the metric system I do not use the calculator feature. Also, page 38 of *Time* shows one of the Google engineers using a laptop with a pocket calculator velcroed to the lid of the laptop.

Search for Answers, not Questions

I like this tip from *Time*.

“Type in ‘The distance between Boston and Los Angeles is’ not ‘How far is Boston from L.A.?’”

Google Lite – IRS Intranet

Still no Google for the IRS Intranet.

Researchers of the world arise!

In the misnamed “Employee Engagement” meetings we are being asked to identify obstacles to productivity.

Most of the major obstacles are under the control of the folks in Washington. The lack of a Google Enterprise search engine is a good example.

This brings home the point that our IRS executives design and control the systems that in turn control productivity.

Google looks for the exact phrase you typed in. The Google engineers are enabling the search engine to understand questions and this is a work in progress.

Thanks *Time*.

Not Too Basic

I have more passwords than I can count. Honestly, I do not know how many I have.

Enter a password into Google. If you get a hit, get a new password. You want a password that is a unique combination of numbers, letters and symbols (if symbols can be recognized in the password prompt.)

If you have any tips or suggestions feel free to send them to me at: nteumlp@gmail.com