

Re: Will computers ever be as simple and reliable as a refrigerator

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From: mattlubric (mattlubric_at_discussions.microsoft.com)

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Thank you. I understand everything you've said. But it wasn't my intention to compare computers to refrigerators. What I was asking was will computers ever BE safe from the bored 8 to 25 year olds? Can you envision software that operates, in effect, much like "System Restore" and that cleans out all the junk not just each time a machine is turned on, but as you're surfing or importing website data?

Sure, there are spam blockers, adware blockers, spyware blockers, etc. etc. etc. and all the crap these things are designed to counter is continuously evolving and adapting such that the countermeasures have to keep pace. It's evolution personified as a an adaptation of electrons rather than sex cells.

But Stephen Wolfram's ideas [A New Kind of Science] seem to offer a possible path to understanding the complexity inherent in the problem. All software writers who aren't in the 8 to 25 year old bracket or who aren't one of the greed barons think no differently about what they're doing—the code they write—than these same idiots. It's not a matter of who can write more clever code. I doubt too that the problems—the spam, the viruses, the hacking and hijacking—aren't really all that complex. (After all, they're being written by 8 to 25 year olds!) You can't fix a problem using the same kind of thinking that created it. And virus code writers and anti-virus code writers all think the same way... IN the same way. It requires a whole new way of thinking to see through the complexity and to see that the complexity is IMPLIED, but it's not necessity inherent.

"...it is in principle possible to construct a cellular automaton that emulates a practical computer in its entirety." [ANKOS, pp 663] Maybe what Bill Gates should do is ask Wolfram to explain simplicity.

Thanks again.