

Re: Question about General Relativity

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.physics/2006-05/msg01335.html>

- *From:* "Edward Green" <spamspamspam3@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 13 May 2006 08:32:31 -0700
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jmfahciv@xxxxxxx wrote:

I think one of the problems is an aspect of this medium which is ASCII. This medium works because it is only ASCII; so this plus does have a great minus at the same time.

Yes, I always thought that was a great strength of the medium. I was particularly excited, many years ago, when I found I could log into my school's IBM mainframe via a dial-up account from a terminal emulator on my Commodore 128. The tech at the computer center said "you might have better luck from an IBM PC", not understanding the universality of the terminal emulator/dial-up account idiom. After this, and discovering USENET, I had visions of all the world's educated but technically disposed dialing into local hosts with obsolescent PC's running terminal emulators, all diving into the great democratic sea of universal text.

Well, it doesn't seem to have worked out that way. I suppose one flaw in my vision is that even with discarded PC's, you still need electricity, telephone lines, and a local host. Still, these things would seem to be available in -- is the "second world" the right nomenclature?

Ah... but I am illustrating the law which I immodestly hope may bear my name: all threads among old USENET salts will ultimately devolve to discussions of obsolete computer technology. I'm also writing like an old man. Interesting. What is the "old man" (not "Old Man") style? I think it is the methodically correct if plodding use of language, perhaps conditioned by years of pitfalls and misunderstandings, and the decision to stop cavorting to avoid falling into old mire pits. The person afraid to fall into more pits is, apparently, an old fogey.