



John Larsen <theclaw56@gmail.com>

A letter from Dad: 30 Jan 2012

John Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

Sun, Jan 29, 2012 at 10:15 PM

Reply-To: john@larsen-family.us

To: Phillip Larsen <phillip.larsen@myldsmail.net>

Cc: Joyce Larsen <joyce@larsen-family.us>

Hello Dear Phillip,

First I will tell you the saga of the Thousand Dollar Postit. This is what I wrote to go along with the pictures I put on my website. I've attached the corresponding pictures.

When I came to work Friday morning, Jan 27th, I had no idea that I would be spending three hours trying to remove a Postit note. I also didn't expect to put a gash in my forehead.

We have a Sun Workstation as the repository for all of our source code and build environments. This workstation is backed up everynight onto 300 GB tape cartridges over a SCSI bus. The pictures below show the tape drive and several views of tape cartridges. You see the bottom of the cartridge in picture 545.

When the cartridge is inserted into the tape drive a matching gear rises from beneath the cartridge and mates with the toothed wheel on the bottom of the cartridge. A motor drives this wheel clockwise and counter clockwise to position the tape. When the cartridge is first pushed into the drive it is locked in place and an internal mechanism grabs the end of the tape and feeds it through the head mechanism on spools tape onto an internal spool in the tape drive.

Well, to keep track of when the tape was last used there is a Postit that is normal stuck to the case the cartridge is stored in. Unfortunately, this time the Postit happened to be stuck to the bottom of the cartridge and the tape was inserted into the machine before this was realized. Uh oh. You can see this in picture 546. Now the Postit was inbetween the tape drive's toothed drive wheel and the wheel in the cartridge. The tape could be pulled into the tape drive onto the internal spool, but it couldn't be rewound into the cartridge. Pushing the eject button resulted in more tape being pulled into the tape drive and the drive finally stopping with all the front panel lights blinking, indicating a failure.

What to do?

It took two expensive engineers, one technician, and the Director of Manufacturing three hours to finally get the Postit out of the machine. We had to sacrifice the tape cartridge in the process. Given the hourly rates involved I figure this Postit cost about \$1000. The good news is that this did solve the problem! We were able to get the tape drive working again. That was very important because all our intellectual property is backed up to those cartridges.

Now, the picture of me was taken a couple days later. Notice the bruising and gouge in my forehead. It just so happens that there was a shelf attached to the wall above the tape drive. It was positioned exactly in the right place so that when I leaned forward to look into the tape drive that I would hit my forehead on the very sharp corner. I did this three times before it finally drew blood. I just didn't learn! Even after I put a bandaid on the wound I hit it a couple more times. I couldn't slide the tape drive forward because the SCSI cables didn't have any slack. I also didn't want to disconnect anything.

The End.

The last picture is of me standing beside the Chevy Volt. This is some of what I wrote to go along with that picture on our website.

It was interesting driving the Volt. A fully charged battery has about 30 to 35 mile range. My commute is exactly 28 miles door to door. The battery takes almost 12 hours to charge when plugged into 120 VAC. It only takes 4 hours when plugged into 240 VAC. At work there is a charging station with a dedicated parking spot and cable. The picture below shows the charging cord plugged into the Volt. The range also drops if the temperature is cold. Battery efficiency drops off. The gas engine kicks in when it gets colder just to warm up the battery. If the battery runs down all the way then the gas engine takes over and runs a generator that drives the wheels.

The car handles very nicely and is quite responsive. The pillars are all very thick and reduce visibility. The built in satellite radio is nice. At \$45,000 it is more money than I would spend on a car.

The End.

This has been a very busy weekend. The seminary students that attend in our building came to the special "100 years of seminary" satellite rebroadcast at church this evening at 6:00 PM. Of course, I was the one to set up the LCD projector for that just like I did last week when Merrimack watched it. The message was good. One thing they showed was an interesting timeline of the seminary program starting in 1912 with 70 students and spreading through most of the world in 2012 with 375,500 students. That is an amazing thing.

Saturday was another Stake YM/YW activity. It was a talent show. I was the "go to" guy for that event as well. I set up the projector and computer for the internet so they could show videos and Family History stuff. I also got all the sound equipment setup for the talent show part of it all. A young man from Keene ran the board. All in all, I'm the "go to" guy for all this stuff. I enjoy doing it, but sometimes it almost gets to be too much. There were between 170 and 200 people at the talent show.

After the talent show Joyce and I went to the Van Uiters' for a benefit dinner raising money for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The dinner was awesome and then they had an auction for desserts. Each person had a paddle with a number on it. Bishop Nelson was the auctioneer and did a great job. Sister Hann and I kept bidding on an apple dessert back and forth. The price got up to \$30 and I dropped out. Later I got a piece of vanilla cake with raspberry filling and home made ice cream for \$18. Joyce had the high bid for some chocolate brownie. I was prepared to go even higher. In the end our "bill" for the evening was \$82, but I actually donated \$100 through the website. We support cancer research.

Saturday morning we finally had a band rehearsal! That's the first time we got together since last April 15th when we did the gig at church. We still don't have a lead singer, but we went through a bunch of songs anyway. I sang lead on some of them when I wasn't playing sax parts. It was great to get together again and actually play some of the new songs that I've worked on for so many months. We'll be getting together again this coming Saturday. However, the week after that I'll be in Egypt again. I leave on Thursday, Feb 9th, and will probably be there for a week again like last time. This time, though, the main purpose of the trip is to demo our optical encryptor, the 72B, the product that I've been working on for 5 years. Maybe I'll get to try out some of my very limited arabic.

Let's see.... last Tuesday I did my shift at the temple working in the laundry. I took a half day of vacation to do that. I like having already done it then I don't feel any guilt when they start asking at the last minute for people to cover a shift knowing that I already have. Your Mom has signed up for 3 shifts through the year. That's something she can do because she has the blessing of being a stay at home Mom.

Oh... Saturday we picked up the Saturn from Hanson's. It cost more than I thought I was going to pay. When I talked with him on Monday they said about \$450 for everything. It ended up being \$618. :: shakes head :: I don't know. In the last year we only put about 2000 miles on the car. However, all of those miles were when other cars were in the shop. That has happened several times. The Saturn needed two new tires, a belt tensioner, a tie rod, a front end alignment, new spark plugs. There is no rust on the car, so that isn't an issue. Dennis said that it will be ready for an inspection sticker come March. So, I spent more than I wanted to, but hopefully it will

keep running. That way we can have Julia learn to drive a stick. It does feel good to have all the cars back again. It looked a little strange only having the van in the driveway.

Well my dear son, it is getting late and I'm tired and need to get to bed. I trust that things continue to go well with you and that the Lord is watching over you and blessing you in your righteous desires.

Love,

Dad

ps. Elder Jones got transferred and was replaced by Elder Godfrey. He seems like another outstanding missionary. Both he and Elder Stephens only have 4 months left on their missions. Elder Jones only has six weeks. Time passes quickly. Be diligent!

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John R Larsen <john@larsen-family.us>

<http://larsen-family.us>

6 attachments

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178K

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231K

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236K

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