
Subject: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Sat, 22 Feb 2020 19:20:19 GMT
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This NBC show is about a special unit of the Chicago Police.
It is part of the Mike Post family, and related to
the L&O and Chicago series.

When hunting a suspect, they use computers a lot. They
dig up fingerprints, facial recognition*, DMV files,
FBI files, military records, and bank records. It seems
they manage to get all sorts of data very quickly.

I don't know the criminal justice system, but I suspect
a lot of that stuff takes longer to dig up, especially
if a search is required.

Anyone watch the show?

*Which misidentified a suspect and resulted in his death.

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 23 Feb 2020 14:53:58 GMT
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Originally posted by: JimP

On Sat, 22 Feb 2020 11:20:19 -0800 (PST), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> This NBC show is about a special unit of the Chicago Police.
> It is part of the Mike Post family, and related to
> the L&O and Chicago series.

>
> When hunting a suspect, they use computers a lot. They
> dig up fingerprints, facial recognition*, DMV files,
> FBI files, military records, and bank records. It seems
> they manage to get all sorts of data very quickly.

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> I don't know the criminal justice system, but I suspect
> a lot of that stuff takes longer to dig up, especially
> if a search is required.

>
> Anyone watch the show?

>
>
> *Which misidentified a suspect and resulted in his death.

Didn't watch that one. I did notice over the years that there were changes in how info was obtained.

One show the cops bragged about getting fingerprints and a photo on a criminal. They had a cylinder that was scanned at high speed and the information sent down a telephone line. Not sure if it was a fax or not. Probably late 1950s.

--
Jim

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [danny burstein](#) on Sun, 23 Feb 2020 15:30:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In <88455f9afsl9g7qus12uo9ot18e4p99i1k@4ax.com> JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:

> One show the cops bragged about getting fingerprints and a photo on a
> criminal. They had a cylinder that was scanned at high speed and the
> information sent down a telephone line. Not sure if it was a fax or
> not. Probably late 1950s.

That puts them way behind Professor Pepperwinkle in The Adventures of Superman (the one, real, and only; accept no imitations).

In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter, which can send people over telephone wires...

--

Knowledge may be power, but communications is the key
dannyb@panix.com
[to foil spammers, my address has been double rot-13 encoded]

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Sun, 23 Feb 2020 17:46:57 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

> In <88455f9afsl9g7qus12uo9ot18e4p99i1k@4ax.com> JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:
>
>> One show the cops bragged about getting fingerprints and a photo on a

>> criminal. They had a cylinder that was scanned at high speed and the
>> information sent down a telephone line. Not sure if it was a fax or
>> not. Probably late 1950s.

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> in The Adventures of Superman (the one, real, and
> only; accept no imitations).
>
> In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,
> which can send people over telephone wires...
>

I'm looking forward to that, too, but line noise might be a problem.

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Sun, 23 Feb 2020 18:26:22 GMT
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On Sun, 23 Feb 2020 10:46:57 -0700
Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

> danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

>> In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,
>> which can send people over telephone wires...

>>
>
> I'm looking forward to that, too, but line noise might be a problem.

To say nothing of recordings and conference calls.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [danny burstein](#) on Sun, 23 Feb 2020 18:33:57 GMT
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In <20200223182622.086d7d68cf7b4a4bb0b9b296@eircom.net> Ahem A Rivet's Shot

<steveo@eircom.net> writes:

> On Sun, 23 Feb 2020 10:46:57 -0700

> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>> danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

>>> In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,

>>> which can send people over telephone wires...

>>>

>>

>> I'm looking forward to that, too, but line noise might be a problem.

> To say nothing of recordings and conference calls.

or... [mini spoiler]:

The Bad Guys [tm] are trying to escape by dialing themselves out to something like Alaska.

Superman races the signal over the wires, pulls the cable pair off the telephone pole somewhere in the middle of nowhere, holds it near the ground, and Poof, they appear...

--

Knowledge may be power, but communications is the key

dannyb@panix.com

[to foil spammers, my address has been double rot-13 encoded]

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 23 Feb 2020 19:05:09 GMT

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Originally posted by: JimP

On Sun, 23 Feb 2020 18:33:57 +0000 (UTC), danny burstein

<dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

> In <20200223182622.086d7d68cf7b4a4bb0b9b296@eircom.net> Ahem A Rivet's Shot

<steveo@eircom.net> writes:

>

>> On Sun, 23 Feb 2020 10:46:57 -0700

>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

>>> danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

>
>>>> In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,
>>>> which can send people over telephone wires...
>>>>
>>>
>>> I'm looking forward to that, too, but line noise might be a problem.
>
>> To say nothing of recordings and conference calls.
>
> or... [mini spoiler]:
>
> The Bad Guys [tm] are trying to escape by dialing themselves
> out to something like Alaska.
>
> Superman races the signal over the wires, pulls the cable
> pair off the telephone pole somewhere in the middle of
> nowhere, holds it near the ground, and Poof, they appear...

That old 'Superman flies faster than light speed' thing.

Don't remember that episode though I do remember the one with the guy
who had a marble machine that could turn things upside down.

--
Jim

Subject: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [danny burstein](#) on Sun, 23 Feb 2020 19:20:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In <25j55fd9oio7530l0mljcfkaafos06d55n@4ax.com> JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:

>>>> danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:
>>
>>>> > In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,
>>>> > which can send people over telephone wires...
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>>>> I'm looking forward to that, too, but line noise might be a problem.
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>>> To say nothing of recordings and conference calls.
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>> out to something like Alaska.
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>> Superman races the signal over the wires, pulls the cable

>> pair off the telephone pole somewhere in the middle of
>> nowhere, holds it near the ground, and Poof, they appear...

> That old 'Superman flies faster than light speed' thing.

Well, it's not quite that fast. While the "speed of light" is 186k mph, more or less, that's NOT the speed at which the actual photons, or in the case of wires, electrons (more or less) travel.

(also, of course, the speed inside a wire is less than in vacuum, or air...)

Think of a 100 foot long (filled) garden water hose with the valves closed (shut).

If you open up the sprayer but keep the wall faucet closed, nothing's going to flow (modulo some leakage..)

The second you open (turn on) the wall faucet, the water will start spraying onto the garden.

However, the actual water leaving the wall might not get to the outlet for 30 seconds or so.

Ditto with electrical wiring. When you start "pumping" (term used loosely) electrons at your end, the fella over in Alaska will immediately (more or less) see the change. But the actual electrons (term used very, very, loosely) are only traveling at (clickety click, mumbo jumbo) 3 meters/second. Yeah, I was surprised at how low that number is... [a]

[a] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speed_of_electricity

--

Knowledge may be power, but communications is the key
dannyb@panix.com

[to foil spammers, my address has been double rot-13 encoded]

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Dan Espen](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 00:03:44 GMT

danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> writes:

> In <25j55fd9oio7530l0mljcfkaafos06d55n@4ax.com> JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:

>

>>>> > danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> > > In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,

>>>> > > which can send people over telephone wires...

>>>> >

>>>> > I'm looking forward to that, too, but line noise might be a problem.

>>>>

>>>> To say nothing of recordings and conference calls.

>>>>

>>> or... [mini spoiler]:

>>>>

>>> The Bad Guys [tm] are trying to escape by dialing themselves

>>> out to something like Alaska.

>>>>

>>> Superman races the signal over the wires, pulls the cable

>>> pair off the telephone pole somewhere in the middle of

>>> nowhere, holds it near the ground, and Poof, they appear...

>

>> That old 'Superman flies faster than light speed' thing.

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> Well, it's not quite that fast. While the "speed of light"

> is 186k mph, more or less, that's NOT the speed at

> which the actual photons, or in the case of wires,

> electrons (more or less) travel.

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> (also, of course, the speed inside a wire is less than

> in vacuum, or air...)

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> Think of a 100 foot long (filled) garden water hose with the

> valves closed (shut).

>

> If you open up the sprayer but keep the wall faucet closed,

> nothing's going to flow (modulo some leakage..)

>

> The second you open (turn on) the wall faucet, the water

> will start spraying onto the garden.

>

> However, the actual water leaving the wall might not get

> to the outlet for 30 seconds or so.

Yep, but the water starts shooting out right away.

> Ditto with electrical wiring. When you start "pumping"

> (term used loosely) electrons at your end, the fella
> over in Alaska will immediately (more or less) see
> the change. But the actual electrons (term used
> very, very, loosely) are only traveling at (clickety
> click, mumbo jumbo) 3 meters/second. Yeah, I was
> surprised at how low that number is... [a]
>
> [a] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speed_of_electricity

That's sort of misleading, looking at the movement of electrons.
As that page points out, the signal is really zipping along:

50%–99% of the speed of light,

--

Dan Espen

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [danny burstein](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 00:07:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In <r2v3t0\$7hm\$1@dont-email.me> Dan Espen <dan1espen@gmail.com> writes:

> Yep, but the water starts shooting out right away.

yabbut, not the water at the beginning (wall side)
of the hose.

Hence the people squeezing into the phone wire will
be moving pretty slowly...

However, once they get to the microwave link...

--

Knowledge may be power, but communications is the key
dannyb@panix.com
[to foil spammers, my address has been double rot-13 encoded]

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Dan Espen](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 00:40:15 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> writes:

> In <r2v3t0\$7hm\$1@dont-email.me> Dan Espen <dan1espen@gmail.com>
> writes:
>
>> Yep, but the water starts shooting out right away.
>
> yabbut, not the water at the beginning (wall side) of the hose.
>
> Hence the people squeezing into the phone wire will be moving pretty
> slowly...
>
> However, once they get to the microwave link...

Well, the trick would be to send the people as a signal. Sending just the electrons doesn't really accomplish much.

--
Dan Espen

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Bob Martin](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 06:45:30 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 23 Feb 2020 at 19:20:35, danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:
> In <25j55fd9oio7530l0mljcfkaafos06d55n@4ax.com> JimP <solosam90@gmail.com> writes:
>
>>>> > danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> > > In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,
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>>> Superman races the signal over the wires, pulls the cable
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>>> nowhere, holds it near the ground, and Poof, they appear...
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> Well, it's not quite that fast. While the "speed of light"
> is 186k mph, more or less, that's NOT the speed at

186k miles per *second*

- > which the actual photons, or in the case of wires,
- > electrons (more or less) travel.
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- > (also, of course, the speed inside a wire is less than
- > in vacuum, or air...)
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- > Think of a 100 foot long (filled) garden water hose with the
- > valves closed (shut).
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- > If you open up the sprayer but keep the wall faucet closed,
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- >
- > [a] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speed_of_electricity
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- > --
- >
- > _____
- > Knowledge may be power, but communications is the key
- > dannyb@panix.com
- > [to foil spammers, my address has been double rot-13 encoded]

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [danny burstein](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 06:47:52 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In <hbh9oaFI9jpU1@mid.individual.net> Bob Martin <bob.martin@excite.com> writes:

>>>> >> danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

>>>>
[snippppppp]

>>> That old 'Superman flies faster than light speed' thing.

>>
>> Well, it's not quite that fast. While the "speed of light"
>> is 186k mph, more or less, that's NOT the speed at

> 186k miles per *second*

Ouch, double ouch. You're of course absolutely right.

Thwack. Slap. Crunch!

--

Knowledge may be power, but communications is the key
dannyb@panix.com
[to foil spammers, my address has been double rot-13 encoded]

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 16:45:20 GMT
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Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:

> On Mon, 24 Feb 2020 06:47:52 +0000 (UTC), danny burstein wrote:

>>
>> In <hbh9oaFI9jpU1@mid.individual.net> Bob Martin <bob.martin@excite.com> writes:

>>
>>>> >>>> danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

>>>> >>

>> [snippppppp]

>>
>>>> > That old 'Superman flies faster than light speed' thing.

>>>>
>>>> Well, it's not quite that fast. While the "speed of light"
>>>> is 186k mph, more or less, that's NOT the speed at

>>
>>> 186k miles per *second*

>>
>> Ouch, double ouch. You're of course absolutely right.

>>
>> Thwack. Slap. Crunch!

>
> Damn, use metric in both cases. ;-)

>

> 300 million meters per second. Easier to remember.

Not really, when you've learned 186,000 miles/sec. Metric is overrated ;-)

--

Pete

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 17:04:18 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: nobody

On Mon, 24 Feb 2020 09:45:20 -0700, Peter Flass
<peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:

>> 300 million meters per second. Easier to remember.

>

> Not really, when you've learned 186,000 miles/sec. Metric is overrated ;-)

Metric has its uses, but there's nothing magical about it. Mostly anyone who crows about its decimal nature just hasn't thought about it enough (the Babylonians were right). I've spent my life in the USA so I'm comfortable with Imperial, but my time has overlapped with the time of internationalization, so I'm (nearly) equally comfortable with metric. Both share the disadvantage of being invented by humans trying to impose some kind of order on a natural world that simply refuses to cooperate.

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 19:42:03 GMT

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On Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 9:54:41 AM UTC-5, JimP wrote:

> On Sat, 22 Feb 2020 11:20:19 -0800 (PST), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

>> This NBC show is about a special unit of the Chicago Police.

>> It is part of the Mike Post family, and related to

>> the L&O and Chicago series.

>>

>> When hunting a suspect, they use computers a lot. They

>> dig up fingerprints, facial recognition*, DMV files,

>> FBI files, military records, and bank records. It seems

>> they manage to get all sorts of data very quickly.

>>

>> I don't know the criminal justice system, but I suspect
>> a lot of that stuff takes longer to dig up, especially
>> if a search is required.
>>
>> Anyone watch the show?
>>
>>
>> *Which misidentified a suspect and resulted in his death.
>
> Didn't watch that one. I did notice over the years that there were
> changes in how info was obtained.
>
> One show the cops bragged about getting fingerprints and a photo on a
> criminal. They had a cylinder that was scanned at high speed and the
> information sent down a telephone line. Not sure if it was a fax or
> not. Probably late 1950s.

Here's a Wikipedia on wirephotos
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wirephoto>

It was big for newspapers and law enforcement years ago.
Both AT&T and Western Union offered transmission.

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 19:47:00 GMT
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On Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 12:46:58 PM UTC-5, Peter Flass wrote:

>> In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,
>> which can send people over telephone wires...
>>
>
> I'm looking forward to that, too, but line noise might be a problem.

And in the 1950s, the long distance toll charges would be steep.
Perry White would not approve.

Side note: the actor who played Perry White also was on
the Maltese Falcon as an official, giving Bogart a hard
time. Only time I ever saw him on anything else.

Also, interesting how the TV show reflected the 1950s.
Superman protected "truth, justice, and The American Way!".
Never did quite understand exactly what "The American Way"
was, but it sounded impressive.

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 19:52:32 GMT
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On Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 10:30:28 AM UTC-5, danny burstein wrote:

> That puts them way behind Professor Pepperwinkle
> in The Adventures of Superman (the one, real, and
> only; accept no imitations).

I liked the TV show as a kid, but more recently in reruns didn't care for it as much. Too campy, too unbelievable. Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen were always doing stupid things that put themselves in danger. They never caught on to Clark always disappearing yet getting the story first.

I like Highway Patrol, but we lost the local outlet of that rerun network.

I don't think we get Superman anywhere now. MeTV is always tinkering with its schedule.

Did Professor Pepperwinkle, or anyone else, ever use a computer or punched device?

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 19:56:26 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Monday, February 24, 2020 at 12:04:18 PM UTC-5, Scott wrote:

>> Not really, when you've learned 186,000 miles/sec. Metric is overrated ;-)
>
> Metric has its uses, but there's nothing magical about it. Mostly
> anyone who crows about its decimal nature just hasn't thought about it
> enough (the Babylonians were right). I've spent my life in the USA so
> I'm comfortable with Imperial, but my time has overlapped with the
> time of internationalization, so I'm (nearly) equally comfortable with
> metric. Both share the disadvantage of being invented by humans trying
> to impose some kind of order on a natural world that simply refuses to
> cooperate.

I never understood why time wasn't converted to metric. Would've been so much easier to have a ten hour day than 24, as well as decimal sub units.

Also, I never understood the point of centigrade. Temperature doesn't get converted to different units, so what is the advantage of having freezing and boiling at 0 and 100?

Our time clocks recorded the minutes in decimal which made it easier to calculate.

Burroughs made adding machines which could use a variety of fractions.

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [danny burstein](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 20:01:07 GMT
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In <2a236a4c-1043-4929-abc3-cc305ee54da3@googlegroups.com> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

> On Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 12:46:58 PM UTC-5, Peter Flass wrote:

>>> In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,
>>> which can send people over telephone wires...
>>> =20
>> =20
>> I=E2=80=99m looking forward to that, too, but line noise might be a probl=
> em.

> And in the 1950s, the long distance toll charges would be steep.
> Perry White would not approve.

> Side note: the actor who played Perry White also was on
> the Maltese Falcon as an official, giving Bogart a hard
> time. Only time I ever saw him on anything else.

He was one of the industrialists who were at that Big Meeting where the Feds called all the Captains of Industry together during The Great Patriotic War and ask them for help in building an atomic bomb. Documented in the movie "The Beginning or the End".

Aside from some obligatory Hollywood love stories and jingoism, it's a pretty good representation of what went on.

--

Knowledge may be power, but communications is the key
dannyb@panix.com
[to foil spammers, my address has been double rot-13 encoded]

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 20:05:16 GMT
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On Mon, 24 Feb 2020 11:56:26 -0800 (PST)
hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

> Also, I never understood the point of centigrade. Temperature
> doesn't get converted to different units, so what is the
> advantage of having freezing and boiling at 0 and 100?

A lot more reproducible than 0 is the freezing point of sea water
and 100 is blood temperature.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 20:38:33 GMT
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On Monday, February 24, 2020 at 3:01:08 PM UTC-5, danny burstein wrote:
> In <2a236a4c-1043-4929-abc3-cc305ee54da3@googlegroups.com> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com
writes:
>
>> On Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 12:46:58 PM UTC-5, Peter Flass wrote:
>
>>>> In "The Phony Alibi" he develops, yes, a transporter,
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- > where the Feds called all the Captains of Industry together
- > during The Great Patriotic War and ask them for help
- > in building an atomic bomb. Documented in the movie
- > "The Beginning or the End".
- >
- > Aside from some obligatory Hollywood love stories and
- > jingoism, it's a pretty good representation of what
- > went on.

That particular movie had an awful lot of Hollywood jingoism, too much, IMHO.

Indeed, in my opinion, most representations of the Manhattan Project were lousy. In reality, it was a lot of prodding tedious hard work and tremendous personal sacrifice. Given the oppressive atmosphere imposed on everyone, I'm surprised they actually succeeded.

Gen. Groves managed to piss off so many people that his military career was ruined after the war. He was lucky Remington Rand picked him up. As best as I can tell, it was a make-work ceremonial job with a nice salary and a house in Connecticut.

As an aside, I saw a new book on the history of espionage. It listed several Russian spies that previously were kept secret.

There was a recent TV show on this, but I thought it was lousy.

I still feel sad about the two scientists who died after the war experimenting with radiation. Since the war was over, there was no need to take that kind of a risk*.

I think a good writer could do an "Inside Box 1663" that would honestly reflect what went on in Hanford, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and elsewhere.

* I also still wonder if the hundreds of thousands of scientists and production workers of the Project suffered ill effects from radiation exposure, likewise their descendants. I know a few key scientists, like Fermi, died relatively young

from unusual cancers. But back then and for years after, industrial America was full of dangerous stuff on the job and in the air and water, and no one knew.

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 21:14:02 GMT

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<hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:

> On Monday, February 24, 2020 at 12:04:18 PM UTC-5, Scott wrote:

>

>>> Not really, when you've learned 186,000 miles/sec. Metric is overrated ;-)

>>

>> Metric has its uses, but there's nothing magical about it. Mostly

>> anyone who crows about its decimal nature just hasn't thought about it

>> enough (the Babylonians were right). I've spent my life in the USA so

>> I'm comfortable with Imperial, but my time has overlapped with the

>> time of internationalization, so I'm (nearly) equally comfortable with

>> metric. Both share the disadvantage of being invented by humans trying

>> to impose some kind of order on a natural world that simply refuses to

>> cooperate.

>

> I never understood why time wasn't converted to metric. Would've

> been so much easier to have a ten hour day than 24, as well

> as decimal sub units.

>

> Also, I never understood the point of centigrade. Temperature

> doesn't get converted to different units, so what is the

> advantage of having freezing and boiling at 0 and 100?

Why not 100 degrees in a circle?

--

Pete

Subject: Manhattan District, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [danny burstein](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 22:34:23 GMT

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In <b240f6b4-eb78-41eb-86af-3c3a62e6ea01@googlegroups.com> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

[snip]

>>> Side note: the actor who played Perry White also was on

>>> the Maltese Falcon as an official, giving Bogart a hard

>>> time. Only time I ever saw him on anything else.

>>

>> He was one of the industrialists who were at that Big Meeting

>> where the Feds called all the Captains of Industry together

>> during The Great Patriotic War and ask them for help

>> in building an atomic bomb. Documented in the movie

>> "The Beginning or the End".

>>

>> Aside from some obligatory Hollywood love stories and

>> jingoism, it's a pretty good representation of what

>> went on.

> That particular movie had an awful lot of Hollywood jingoism,

> too much, IMHO.

> Indeed, in my opinion, most representations of the Manhattan

> Project were lousy. In reality, it was a lot of prodding

> tedious hard work and tremendous personal sacrifice. Given

> the oppressive atmosphere imposed on everyone, I'm surprised

> they actually succeeded.

> Gen. Groves managed to piss off so many people that his military

> career was ruined after the war. He was lucky Remington

> Rand picked him up. As best as I can tell, it was a

> make-work ceremonial job with a nice salary and a house

> in Connecticut.

> As an aside, I saw a new book on the history of espionage.

> It listed several Russian spies that previously were kept secret.

> There was a recent TV show on this, but I thought it was lousy.

Are you referring to

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan_\(TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan_(TV_series)) ?

Hey, it had Rachel Brosnahan and (clickety click) Katja Herbers!

> * I also still wonder if the hundreds of thousands of

> scientists and production workers of the Project suffered

> ill effects from radiation exposure, likewise their descendants.

> I know a few key scientists, like Fermi, died relatively young

> from unusual cancers. But back then and for years after,

> industrial America was full of dangerous stuff on the job

> and in the air and water, and no one knew.

Something you'd appreciate (seriously), and that I wish
could be documented:

Back in 1965 I took a tour of Kodak Park, Rochester, and they showed us the photographic film manufacturing area.

(Remember Back In The Day when.. companies would show off their production lines?)

So we're in a very dim hallway, overlooking a large factory floor, that has just barely visible marker lighting for minimal safety 'cuz film, of course, is light sensitive.

The guide explains that part, of course, and also describes the super clean environment they need. He added that they had Geiger Counters on the air vents, and that if they detected any radiation from the Nevada tests (remember back then these were often open air) they'd route the air through extra filters to keep the fallout away from the film.

Eyup. Worried about the film. Not about the people...

Kind of like Flint. GM noticed that the bad water was corroding their engine parts, so they ran a new pipeline to bring in Detroit water.

But no one cared about the people.

(Until Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, of course).

--

Knowledge may be power, but communications is the key
dannyb@panix.com
[to foil spammers, my address has been double rot-13 encoded]

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Gerard Schildberger](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 22:39:43 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Monday, February 24, 2020 at 1:56:27 PM UTC-6, hanc wrote:
> On Monday, February 24, 2020 at 12:04:18 PM UTC-5, Scott wrote:
>
>>> Not really, when you've learned 186,000 miles/sec. Metric is overrated ;-)
>>
>> Metric has its uses, but there's nothing magical about it. Mostly
>> anyone who crows about its decimal nature just hasn't thought about it

>> enough (the Babylonians were right). I've spent my life in the USA so
>> I'm comfortable with Imperial, but my time has overlapped with the
>> time of internationalization, so I'm (nearly) equally comfortable with
>> metric. Both share the disadvantage of being invented by humans trying
>> to impose some kind of order on a natural world that simply refuses to
>> cooperate.

>
> I never understood why time wasn't converted to metric. Would've
> been so much easier to have a ten hour day than 24, as well
> as decimal sub units.

Time was converted to decimal (which might be thought as metric) during
(or just after) the French Revolution (in the start of 1792). A day was
divided into ten decimal hours, each decimal hour into one hundred
decimal minutes, and each decimal minute into 100 decimal seconds.

There were 100,000 decimal seconds per day. It was NOT very
popular with the citizens. I think it lasted about five years before
its use was dropped.

> Also, I never understood the point of centigrade. Temperature
> doesn't get converted to different units, so what is the
> advantage of having freezing and boiling at 0 and 100?

Temperature gets converted all time time (to different scales).
Celsius <--> Fahrenheit <--> Rankine <--> absolute <--> kelvin
and a host of others. Not all temperature scales are in degrees.

Celsius (old name was centigrade, but was renamed because centigrade
was used in measuring angles --- 1/100 of a grad, 400 grads (or
gradians to a unit circle), so the-powers-that-be rename degrees
centigrade to degrees Celsius. I learned degrees centigrade in grade
school and high school. By the time I got to college, it was degrees
Celsius. ... Yeah, I'm almost older than dirt.

I have written a computer program to convert all the different types
of temperature scales (that is, all those temperature scales that
I could find, who knows how many have been lost to history and disuse):

absolute
Amonton
Barnsdorf
Beaumur
Benart
Bergen
Brissen
Celsius
Cimento

Cruquius
Dalence
Dalton
Daniell
de la Hire
de la Ville
Delisle
Delisle old
de Luc
de Lyon
de Revillas
Derham
Derham old
de Suede
De Villeneuve
Du Crest
Edinburgh
electron-volts
Fahrenheit
Fahrenheit old
Florentine large
Florentine magnum
Florentine small
Fowler
Frick
gasmark
Goubert
Hales
Hanow
Hauksbee
Jacobs-Holborn
kelvin
Leiden
Newton
Oertel
Planck
Rankine
Reaumur
Richter
Rinaldini
Romer Rømer Roemer
Rosenthal
Royal Society
Sagredo
Saint-Patrice
Stufe
Sulzer
thermostat

Wedgwood

Note that some of the above temperature scales can be spelt with diacritical marks.) There are also alternative spellings for quite a few temperature scales.

Note that Lord Kelvin's name is NOT capitalized when referring to degrees kelvin. I am not certain about the various capitalizations (or not cap) for some of the de and du names.

Gerard Schildberger

-
- > Our time clocks recorded the minutes in decimal which made it
 - > easier to calculate.
 - >
 - > Burroughs made adding machines which could use a variety of
 - > fractions.

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 2020 23:11:08 GMT

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On 2020-02-24, Gerard Schildberger <gerard46@rrt.net> wrote:

[a truly amazing list of temperature scales]

- > Note that Lord Kelvin's name is NOT capitalized when referring to degrees
- > kelvin.

<nit>

Also, it's not "degrees kelvin" but simply "kelvin".

</nit>

--

/~\ Charlie Gibbs | Microsoft is a dictatorship.

\ / <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> | Apple is a cult.

X I'm really at ac.dekanfrus | Linux is anarchy.

/\ if you read it the right way. | Pick your poison.

Subject: Re: Manhattan District, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage

Posted by [Peter Flass](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2020 00:35:54 GMT

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danny burstein <dannyb@panix.com> wrote:

> In <b240f6b4-eb78-41eb-86af-3c3a62e6ea01@googlegroups.com> hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

> [snip]

>

>>>> Side note: the actor who played Perry White also was on
>>>> the Maltese Falcon as an official, giving Bogart a hard
>>>> time. Only time I ever saw him on anything else.

>>>

>>> He was one of the industrialists who were at that Big Meeting
>>> where the Feds called all the Captains of Industry together
>>> during The Great Patriotic War and ask them for help
>>> in building an atomic bomb. Documented in the movie
>>> "The Beginning or the End".

>>>

>>> Aside from some obligatory Hollywood love stories and
>>> jingoism, it's a pretty good representation of what
>>> went on.

>

>> That particular movie had an awful lot of Hollywood jingoism,
>> too much, IMHO.

>

>> Indeed, in my opinion, most representations of the Manhattan
>> Project were lousy. In reality, it was a lot of prodding
>> tedious hard work and tremendous personal sacrifice. Given
>> the oppressive atmosphere imposed on everyone, I'm surprised
>> they actually succeeded.

>

>> Gen. Groves managed to piss off so many people that his military
>> career was ruined after the war. He was lucky Remington
>> Rand picked him up. As best as I can tell, it was a
>> make-work ceremonial job with a nice salary and a house
>> in Connecticut.

>

>> As an aside, I saw a new book on the history of espionage.
>> It listed several Russian spies that previously were kept secret.

>

>> There was a recent TV show on this, but I thought it was lousy.

>

> Are you referring to
> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan_\(TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan_(TV_series)) ?

>

> Hey, it had Rachel Brosnahan and (clickety click) Katja Herbers!

>

>> * I also still wonder if the hundreds of thousands of
>> scientists and production workers of the Project suffered
>> ill effects from radiation exposure, likewise their descendants.
>> I know a few key scientists, like Fermi, died relatively young

- >> from unusual cancers. But back then and for years after,
- >> industrial America was full of dangerous stuff on the job
- >> and in the air and water, and no one knew.
- >
- > Something you'd appreciate (seriously), and that I wish
- > could be documented:
- >
- > Back in 1965 I took a tour of Kodak Park, Rochester, and they
- > showed us the photographic film manufacturing area.
- >
- > (Remember Back In The Day when.. companies would show
- > off their production lines?)
- >
- > So we're in a very dim hallway, overlooking a large
- > factory floor, that has just barely visible marker lighting
- > for minimal safety 'cuz film, of course, is light sensitive.

These days, of course, someone would pull out his phone and take a picture — oops, there hoes another batch of film.

- >
- > The guide explains that part, of course, and also describes
- > the super clean environment they need. He added that they
- > had Geiger Counters on the air vents, and that if they
- > detected any radiation from the Nevada tests (remember
- > back then these were often open air) they'd route the
- > air through extra filters to keep the fallout away from
- > the film.
- >
- > Eyup. Worried about the film. Not about the people...
- >
- > Kind of like Flint. GM noticed that the bad water
- > was corroding their engine parts, so they ran a new
- > pipeline to bring in Detroit water.
- >
- > But no one cared about the people.
- >
- > (Until Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, of course).
- >
- >
- >

--
Pete

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 25 Feb 2020 15:09:06 GMT
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Originally posted by: JimP

On Mon, 24 Feb 2020 11:42:03 -0800 (PST), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
> On Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 9:54:41 AM UTC-5, JimP wrote:
>> On Sat, 22 Feb 2020 11:20:19 -0800 (PST), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
>>> This NBC show is about a special unit of the Chicago Police.
>>> It is part of the Mike Post family, and related to
>>> the L&O and Chicago series.
>>>
>>> When hunting a suspect, they use computers a lot. They
>>> dig up fingerprints, facial recognition*, DMV files,
>>> FBI files, military records, and bank records. It seems
>>> they manage to get all sorts of data very quickly.
>>>
>>> I don't know the criminal justice system, but I suspect
>>> a lot of that stuff takes longer to dig up, especially
>>> if a search is required.
>>>
>>> Anyone watch the show?
>>>
>>>
>>> *Which misidentified a suspect and resulted in his death.
>>
>> Didn't watch that one. I did notice over the years that there were
>> changes in how info was obtained.
>>
>> One show the cops bragged about getting fingerprints and a photo on a
>> criminal. They had a cylinder that was scanned at high speed and the
>> information sent down a telephone line. Not sure if it was a fax or
>> not. Probably late 1950s.
>
> Here's a Wikipedia on wirephotos
> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wirephoto>
>
> It was big for newspapers and law enforcement years ago.
> Both AT&T and Western Union offered transmission.

Yeah, wirephotos. Apparently helped catch a few criminals.

--
Jim

Subject: Re: Manhattan District, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage

Posted by [hancock4](#) on Wed, 26 Feb 2020 19:34:34 GMT

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On Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:34:24 PM UTC-5, danny burstein wrote:

- > Back in 1965 I took a tour of Kodak Park, Rochester, and they
- > showed us the photographic film manufacturing area.
- >
- > (Remember Back In The Day when.. companies would show
- > off their production lines?)

Yes, those tours were fascinating. Even got free samples (like a free loaf of bread after a tour of the commercial bakery). Companies were proud of themselves and had whole units of tourguides and literature.

- >
- > So we're in a very dim hallway, overlooking a large
- > factory floor, that has just barely visible marker lighting
- > for minimal safety 'cuz film, of course, is light sensitive.
- >
- > The guide explains that part, of course, and also describes
- > the super clean environment they need. He added that they
- > had Geiger Counters on the air vents, and that if they
- > detected any radiation from the Nevada tests (remember
- > back then these were often open air) they'd route the
- > air through extra filters to keep the fallout away from
- > the film.
- >
- > Eyup. Worried about the film. Not about the people...

Yep. A 1950s text on steel making spends time addressing the corrosive atmosphere around a steel plant. Here too, not worried about the effect on the workers, but rather the impact on steels that had a special surface finish to them--they didn't want them getting pitted or marred from atmospheric corrosion.

Other texts talk about impact on electrical devices. Sometimes crap in the air would react would surface materials and cause electrical or electronic issues.

- > Kind of like Flint. GM noticed that the bad water

- > was corroding their engine parts, so they ran a new
- > pipeline to bring in Detroit water.
- > But no one cared about the people.
- > (Until Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, of course).

A steel plant was dumping nasty scaling acid in the river which caused problems downstream. Even in the limited standards of the past it was still a violation. But the steel company just ignored letters from the health department.

This was common in the US steel industry. When the EPA was created in the 1970s and got some teeth, the steel industry finally was forced to address some of its worst pollution abuses. In some cases the cost was too much to clean up an old plant so it closed down.

I have mixed feelings about that. On the one hand, I don't like to see jobs and industry shut down. But on the other hand, some of the pollution was very nasty--we don't want nasty acid in our drinking water, or air do dirty and corrosive it ruins our car finishes.

One tough issue is that while the US cleaned itself up quite a bit from 50 years ago, part of the solution meant simply offshoring the mess. That is, poor countries elsewhere in the world now do our dirty work, poisoning themselves. Out of sight out of mind.

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Wed, 26 Feb 2020 19:38:15 GMT
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On Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 10:10:42 AM UTC-5, JimP wrote:

- >> It was big for newspapers and law enforcement years ago.
- >> Both AT&T and Western Union offered transmission.
- >
- > Yeah, wirephotos. Apparently helped catch a few criminals.

see

[https://books.google.com/books?id=jUMEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA36&dq=bell%20telephone%20wire%20photo&pg=PA36#v=onepage &q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=jUMEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA36&dq=bell%20telephone%20wire%20photo&pg=PA36#v=onepage&q&f=false)

and

Subject: Re: Manhattan District, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Thu, 27 Feb 2020 20:05:08 GMT

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On Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:34:24 PM UTC-5, danny burstein wrote:

- > The guide explains that part, of course, and also describes
- > the super clean environment they need. He added that they
- > had Geiger Counters on the air vents, and that if they
- > detected any radiation from the Nevada tests (remember
- > back then these were often open air) they'd route the
- > air through extra filters to keep the fallout away from
- > the film.
- >
- > Eyup. Worried about the film. Not about the people...

Here's a 1956 technical article on the effects of corrosion on electrical units.

<http://massis.lcs.mit.edu/telecom-archives/archives/technical/western-union-tech-review/10-2/p052.htm>

Funny thing: apparently air at the seashore is rough on things because of the salt content. But my parents used to say that salt air was healthy, they liked visiting the seashore for that reason (indeed, hoped to retire there).

Subject: Re: Manhattan District, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 28 Feb 2020 14:48:44 GMT

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Originally posted by: JimP

On Thu, 27 Feb 2020 12:05:08 -0800 (PST), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:

- > On Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:34:24 PM UTC-5, danny burstein wrote:
- >
- >> The guide explains that part, of course, and also describes
- >> the super clean environment they need. He added that they
- >> had Geiger Counters on the air vents, and that if they
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>
> Funny thing: apparently air at the seashore is rough on things
> because of the salt content. But my parents used to say
> that salt air was healthy, they liked visiting the seashore
> for that reason (indeed, hoped to retire there).

When I got aboard ship, a DDG, I was told to forget what I had learned in electronics tech school because aboard ship there were major differences due to salt water corrosion.

--
Jim

Subject: Re: Manhattan District, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Fri, 28 Feb 2020 20:30:30 GMT
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On Friday, February 28, 2020 at 9:50:09 AM UTC-5, JimP wrote:

> When I got aboard ship, a DDG, I was told to forget what I had learned
> in electronics tech school because aboard ship there were major
> differences due to salt water corrosion.

Did the motion of the ship impact the operation of electrical and electronic equipment?

I had a tour of a Coast Guard ship tied up at dock. It still had some vertical movement even at rest.

Subject: Re: Manhattan District, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 28 Feb 2020 23:57:13 GMT
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Originally posted by: JimP

On Fri, 28 Feb 2020 12:30:30 -0800 (PST), hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com wrote:
> On Friday, February 28, 2020 at 9:50:09 AM UTC-5, JimP wrote:

>
>> When I got aboard ship, a DDG, I was told to forget what I had learned
>> in electronics tech school because aboard ship there were major
>> differences due to salt water corrosion.
>
> Did the motion of the ship impact the operation of electrical
> and electronic equipment?

Some items it did. Our guns if fired in a specific direction would pop
relays in certain gear, shutting them off.

The big problem was the salt air.

> I had a tour of a Coast Guard ship tied up at dock. It still
> had some vertical movement even at rest.

The DDG I was on bobbed around a bit when a tug boat, etc. went by in
the channel not far away.

One year there was a DDER, a destroyer escort radar picket ship, tied
up on the other side of the pier. A tug went by in the channel. We
bobbed a bit. They bounced around like a storm at sea, bounced off
the pier, they had to hang on for dear life to stay upright and not
get tossed off their ship.

We asked them if they were okay, and they said that was nothing. It
was bad out on the ocean. We just looked at each other and decided the
ship we were stationed on wasn't so bad afterall.

--
Jim

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 2020 14:30:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: Thomas Koenig

Scott <nobody@example.org> schrieb:
> On Mon, 24 Feb 2020 09:45:20 -0700, Peter Flass
> <peter_flass@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
>> Andreas Kohlbach <ank@spamfence.net> wrote:
>>> 300 million meters per second. Easier to remember.
>>
>> Not really, when you've learned 186,000 miles/sec. Metric is overrated ;-)
>

> Metric has its uses, but there's nothing magical about it.

I remember standing in a chemical plant in the US. The people had conversion tables for units of volume on a note on the wall.

Why?

Well, the tanks they had were rated in cubic foot, and the pumps were rated in gallons per minute.

Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5 gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank is empty?

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 2020 14:33:38 GMT

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Originally posted by: Thomas Koenig

Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> schrieb:

> Why not 100 degrees in a circle?

There is the "gon" (400 degrees to the circle).
Of course, artillery uses 6400 mils, which gives you roughly 1 m per 1000 m (so, $2 \cdot \pi + 6.4$).

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 2020 15:25:52 GMT

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On Wed, 4 Mar 2020 14:30:56 -0000 (UTC)

Thomas Koenig <tkenig@netcologne.de> wrote:

> I remember standing in a chemical plant in the US. The people
> had conversion tables for units of volume on a note on the wall.

>

> Why?

>

> Well, the tanks they had were rated in cubic foot, and the
> pumps were rated in gallons per minute.

and might have been imported from the UK just to add to the fun.

- > Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5
- > gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank
- > is empty?

First check the 'made in' label on the pumps, then swear loudly when it said "China" and look carefully in the specs to find out which gallons were meant.

--

Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 2020 16:40:19 GMT

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Originally posted by: nobody

On Wed, 4 Mar 2020 14:30:56 -0000 (UTC), Thomas Koenig
<tkoenig@netcologne.de> wrote:

- > Scott <nobody@example.org> schrieb:
- >> Metric has its uses, but there's nothing magical about it.
- >
- > I remember standing in a chemical plant in the US. The people
- > had conversion tables for units of volume on a note on the wall.
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- > pumps were rated in gallons per minute.
- >
- > Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5
- > gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank
- > is empty?

Would it be easier to talk about moving 28,315 liters at 18.9 LPM?

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Ahem A Rivet's Shot](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 2020 17:51:12 GMT

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On Wed, 04 Mar 2020 16:40:19 GMT

nobody@example.org (Scott) wrote:

> On Wed, 4 Mar 2020 14:30:56 -0000 (UTC), Thomas Koenig
> <tkoenig@netcologne.de> wrote:
>

>> Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5
>> gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank
>> is empty?

>
> Would it be easier to talk about moving 28,315 liters at 18.9 LPM?

Yes it's only one sum to do and no risk that it might have been
22.7 lpm that was meant by 5 gallons per minute. Of course the metric
designers might well have gone for a 30,000 litre tank and a 20 lpm pump
because they like round numbers too and when they use them everyone wins.

--
Steve O'Hara-Smith | Directable Mirror Arrays
C:\>WIN | A better way to focus the sun
The computer obeys and wins. | licences available see
You lose and Bill collects. | <http://www.sohara.org/>

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 2020 18:01:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2020-03-04, Scott <nobody@example.org> wrote:

> On Wed, 4 Mar 2020 14:30:56 -0000 (UTC), Thomas Koenig
> <tkoenig@netcologne.de> wrote:
>

>> Scott <nobody@example.org> schrieb:

>>> Metric has its uses, but there's nothing magical about it.

>>
>> I remember standing in a chemical plant in the US. The people
>> had conversion tables for units of volume on a note on the wall.

>>
>> Why?

>>
>> Well, the tanks they had were rated in cubic foot, and the
>> pumps were rated in gallons per minute.

>>
>> Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5
>> gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank
>> is empty?

>
> Would it be easier to talk about moving 28,315 liters at 18.9 LPM?

Sheesh. Give him 2.54 centimeters and he'll take 1.609 kilometers.

--
/~\ Charlie Gibbs | Microsoft is a dictatorship.
\ / <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> | Apple is a cult.
X I'm really at ac.dekanfrus | Linux is anarchy.
/\ if you read it the right way. | Pick your poison.

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 2020 19:02:21 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2020-03-04, Ahem A Rivet's Shot <steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On Wed, 04 Mar 2020 16:40:19 GMT
> nobody@example.org (Scott) wrote:
>
>> On Wed, 4 Mar 2020 14:30:56 -0000 (UTC), Thomas Koenig
>> <tkoenig@netcologne.de> wrote:
>
>>> Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5
>>> gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank
>>> is empty?
>>
>> Would it be easier to talk about moving 28,315 liters at 18.9 LPM?
>
> Yes it's only one sum to do and no risk that it might have been
> 22.7 lpm that was meant by 5 gallons per minute. Of course the metric
> designers might well have gone for a 30,000 litre tank and a 20 lpm pump
> because they like round numbers too and when they use them everyone wins.

Whew. I still remember the saga of the Gimli Glider, the Boeing 767 that ran out of fuel but fortunately was able to glide to an abandoned airport where it was landed with no injuries. An error in conversion to metric during refueling resulted in not enough fuel being added for the flight. In addition, the fuel gauges failed, which meant the crew could not detect the error (at least until the engines flamed out).

Shortly afterwards, a cartoon appeared showing one of the refueling staff kneeling on the wing of an airplane with a dipstick, calling out to one of the passengers on board: "How many feet in a liter?"

--
/~\ Charlie Gibbs | Microsoft is a dictatorship.

\ / <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> | Apple is a cult.
X I'm really at ac.dekanfrus | Linux is anarchy.
/\ if you read it the right way. | Pick your poison.

Subject: circular measure [was Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage]
Posted by [Rich Alderson](#) on Wed, 04 Mar 2020 22:05:19 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

> <hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com> wrote:

>> Also, I never understood the point of centigrade. Temperature
>> doesn't get converted to different units, so what is the
>> advantage of having freezing and boiling at 0 and 100?

> Why not 100 degrees in a circle?

The 360 degrees/circle standard was established by the Sumerians, who used base 60 in their mathematics. Easily divided by 3, 4, 5. Anything that's stood for 5500 years is good enough for you.

--

Rich Alderson news@alderson.users.panix.com
Audendum est, et veritas investiganda; quam etiamsi non assequamur,
omnino tamen proprius, quam nunc sumus, ad eam pervenimus.
--Galen

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [hancock4](#) on Thu, 05 Mar 2020 19:03:06 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 9:30:57 AM UTC-5, Thomas Koenig wrote:

> I remember standing in a chemical plant in the US. The people
> had conversion tables for units of volume on a note on the wall.
>
> Why?
>
> Well, the tanks they had were rated in cubic foot, and the
> pumps were rated in gallons per minute.
>
> Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5
> gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank

> is empty?

We had to do those kinds of problems in school to learn measuring units, conversion, and practice our long division.

Most calendars have a page in the back with all sorts of conversion units.

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 06 Mar 2020 15:04:25 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: nobody

On Wed, 4 Mar 2020 17:51:12 +0000, Ahem A Rivet's Shot
<steveo@eircom.net> wrote:

> On Wed, 04 Mar 2020 16:40:19 GMT

> nobody@example.org (Scott) wrote:

>

>> On Wed, 4 Mar 2020 14:30:56 -0000 (UTC), Thomas Koenig

>> <tkoenig@netcologne.de> wrote:

>>

>

>>> Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5

>>> gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank

>>> is empty?

>>

>> Would it be easier to talk about moving 28,315 liters at 18.9 LPM?

>

> Yes it's only one sum to do and no risk that it might have been

> 22.7 lpm that was meant by 5 gallons per minute. Of course the metric

> designers might well have gone for a 30,000 litre tank and a 20 lpm pump

> because they like round numbers too and when they use them everyone wins.

It was stipulated to be sited in the US, so chances are that the pump is rated in US gallons and not UK. There would be a rating plate that says so.

In practice, I speculate that if you don't have time to look at the rating plate on a howling fluid pump that's going to cost thousands of dollars if it runs dry in the next few minutes, then you don't have time or presence of mind to do simple arithmetic in your head regardless of what units you have, therefore there's a cheat sheet taped to the wall.

Subject: Re: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 2020 19:19:53 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: David Leshner

hancock4@bbs.cpcn.com writes:

> I like Highway Patrol, but we lost the local outlet
> of that rerun network.

I liked the fact that when Broderick Crawford mashed the mike
button, you could hear the dynamotors wind up.

--

A host is a host from coast to coast.....wb8foz@nrk.com
& no one will talk to a host that's close.....
Unless the host (that isn't close).....pob 1433
is busy, hung or dead.....20915-1433

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Sun, 29 Mar 2020 18:10:42 GMT
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On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:33:39 AM UTC-7, Thomas Koenig wrote:

> There is the "gon" (400 degrees to the circle).

I had never heard of the "gon", but I had heard of that unit being called the
"grad". In fact, I think I even saw one pocket calculator that allowed you to
switch the trig functions from degrees to radians or grads.

John Savard

Subject: Re: circular measure [was Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV
series--computer usage]
Posted by [Quadibloc](#) on Sun, 29 Mar 2020 18:15:16 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 3:05:20 PM UTC-7, Rich Alderson wrote:

> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

>> Why not 100 degrees in a circle?

> The 360 degrees/circle standard was established by the Sumerians, who used

> base 60 in their mathematics. Easily divided by 3, 4, 5. Anything that's
> stood for 5500 years is good enough for you.

On Barsoom, the circle is divided into 300 parts. That's why a karad is 2,339 feet, as recorded in Thuvia, a Maid of Mars... and not 1,949 feet, as Burroughs wrote in A Fighting Man of Mars when he forgot that, and divided the equatorial circumference of Mars by 360 instead.

John Savard

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Jorgen Grahn](#) on Sun, 29 Mar 2020 19:06:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sun, 2020-03-29, Quadibloc wrote:

> On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:33:39 AM UTC-7, Thomas Koenig wrote:
>
>> There is the "gon" (400 degrees to the circle).
>
> I had never heard of the "gon", but I had heard of that unit being called the
> "grad". In fact, I think I even saw one pocket calculator that allowed you to
> switch the trig functions from degrees to radians or grads.

My 1980s calculators from Casio all had that: a deg/rad/grad button.
I never had reason to use the last one.

/Jorgen

--

// Jorgen Grahn <grahn@snipabacken.se>
\X/ snipabacken.se> O o .

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Sun, 29 Mar 2020 22:33:45 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Originally posted by: J. Clarke

On 29 Mar 2020 19:06:24 GMT, Jorgen Grahn <grahn+nntp@snipabacken.se>
wrote:

> On Sun, 2020-03-29, Quadibloc wrote:
>> On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:33:39 AM UTC-7, Thomas Koenig wrote:
>>
>>> There is the "gon" (400 degrees to the circle).

>>
>> I had never heard of the "gon", but I had heard of that unit being called the
>> "grad". In fact, I think I even saw one pocket calculator that allowed you to
>> switch the trig functions from degrees to radians or grads.
>
> My 1980s calculators from Casio all had that: a deg/rad/grad button.
> I never had reason to use the last one.

It was an attempt at a metric degree--100 degrees in a right angle,
400 degrees in a circle.

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Alfred Falk](#) on Mon, 30 Mar 2020 03:23:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca> wrote in
news:218f0d10-af3a-451e-a825-8f98b15c3712@googlegroups.com:

> On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:33:39 AM UTC-7, Thomas Koenig wrote:
>
>> There is the "gon" (400 degrees to the circle).
>
> I had never heard of the "gon", but I had heard of that unit being
> called the "grad". In fact, I think I even saw one pocket calculator
> that allowed you to switch the trig functions from degrees to radians
> or grads.
>
> John Savard

I have a TI-30 calculator from 1977 IIRC that has a DRG key (still works,
too.)
I also have a much newer (ca. 2000)Canon calculator with a DRG key.

Subject: Re: circular measure [was Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV
series--computer usage]
Posted by [John Varela](#) on Tue, 31 Mar 2020 01:26:01 GMT
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On Sun, 29 Mar 2020 18:15:16 UTC, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca>
wrote:

> On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 3:05:20 PM UTC-7, Rich Alderson wrote:
>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:
>
>>> Why not 100 degrees in a circle?

>
>> The 360 degrees/circle standard was established by the Sumerians, who used
>> base 60 in their mathematics. Easily divided by 3, 4, 5. Anything that's
>> stood for 5500 years is good enough for you.
>
> On Barsoom, the circle is divided into 300 parts. That's why a karad is 2,339
> feet, as recorded in Thuvia, a Maid of Mars... and not 1,949 feet, as Burroughs
> wrote in A Fighting Man of Mars when he forgot that, and divided the equatorial
> circumference of Mars by 360 instead.

Getting on topic: When I used to work with digitized radar data, the
circle was divided into 4096 Azimuth Pulse Units.

--
John Varela

Subject: Re: circular measure [was Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV
series--computer usage]
Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Tue, 31 Mar 2020 03:28:55 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 2020-03-31, John Varela <jv919a.nospam@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Sun, 29 Mar 2020 18:15:16 UTC, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca>
> wrote:
>
>> On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 3:05:20 PM UTC-7, Rich Alderson wrote:
>>
>>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:
>>>
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>>>
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>> divided the equatorial circumference of Mars by 360 instead.
>
> Getting on topic: When I used to work with digitized radar data, the
> circle was divided into 4096 Azimuth Pulse Units.

This discussion wouldn't be complete without mention of the "mil", which
NATO defines as 1/6400 of a circle. Other jurisdictions use slightly
different values, but they're all pretty close to one milliradian, i.e.

$\arctan(1/1000)$. They're used in firearm sights.

--
/~\ Charlie Gibbs | Microsoft is a dictatorship.
\ / <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> | Apple is a cult.
X I'm really at ac.dekanfrus | Linux is anarchy.
/\ if you read it the right way. | Pick your poison.

Subject: Re: circular measure [was Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage]

Posted by [John Varela](#) on Tue, 31 Mar 2020 18:01:12 GMT

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On Tue, 31 Mar 2020 03:28:55 UTC, Charlie Gibbs
<cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> On 2020-03-31, John Varela <jv919a.nospam@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>> On Sun, 29 Mar 2020 18:15:16 UTC, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca>

>> wrote:

>>

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>>> divided the equatorial circumference of Mars by 360 instead.

>>>

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>> circle was divided into 4096 Azimuth Pulse Units.

OK, that was almost 60 years ago. It has come to me that they were actually Azimuth Change Pulses. ACPs, not APUs. Produced in the radar pedestal as the sail rotated. 4096 of them in a circle.

> This discussion wouldn't be complete without mention of the "mil", which

> NATO defines as 1/6400 of a circle. Other jurisdictions use slightly

> different values, but they're all pretty close to one milliradian, i.e.

> $\arctan(1/1000)$. They're used in firearm sights.

All that is after my time.

--

John Varela

Subject: Re: circular measure [was Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage]

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Tue, 31 Mar 2020 18:19:34 GMT

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Originally posted by: Brian Reay

On 31/03/2020 02:26, John Varela wrote:

> On Sun, 29 Mar 2020 18:15:16 UTC, Quadibloc <jsavard@ecn.ab.ca>

> wrote:

>

>> On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 3:05:20 PM UTC-7, Rich Alderson wrote:

>>> Peter Flass <peter_flass@yahoo.com> writes:

>>

>>>> Why not 100 degrees in a circle?

>>

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>> circumference of Mars by 360 instead.

>

> Getting on topic: When I used to work with digitized radar data, the

> circle was divided into 4096 Azimuth Pulse Units.

>

6400 mils is used by the military, in particular the artillery. 1 mil is the angle subtended by 1m at 1km.

There is, of course the 'true' mil or milliradian, 6283 ($2 \cdot \pi \cdot 1000$) to the circle, based on the radian.

There is also the gradian, which is 1/400 of a circle, so 100 to the right angle. I believe it is used in surveying in some places.

Subject: Re: circular measure [was Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage]

Posted by [Charlie Gibbs](#) on Tue, 31 Mar 2020 19:26:48 GMT

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On 2020-03-31, John Varela <jv919a.nospam@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Tue, 31 Mar 2020 03:28:55 UTC, Charlie Gibbs

> <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>

>> On 2020-03-31, John Varela <jv919a.nospam@gmail.com> wrote:

>>

>>> Getting on topic: When I used to work with digitized radar data, the

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>> $\arctan(1/1000)$. They're used in firearm sights.

>

> All that is after my time.

Depends on where you were, I guess. The one time I encountered mils was at a militia camp in 1969.

--

/~\ Charlie Gibbs | Microsoft is a dictatorship.

\ / <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> | Apple is a cult.

X I'm really at ac.dekanfrus | Linux is anarchy.

/\ if you read it the right way. | Pick your poison.

Subject: Re: circular measure [was Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage]

Posted by [John Varela](#) on Wed, 01 Apr 2020 18:03:46 GMT

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On Tue, 31 Mar 2020 19:26:48 UTC, Charlie Gibbs

<cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

> On 2020-03-31, John Varela <jv919a.nospam@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>> On Tue, 31 Mar 2020 03:28:55 UTC, Charlie Gibbs

>> <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:

>>
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>>
>> All that is after my time.
>
> Depends on where you were, I guess. The one time I encountered mils
> was at a militia camp in 1969.

I was only talking about digitized surveillance radar technology that dates from the 1950s. Modern radars may have narrower beams and use a finer azimuth measure; I wouldn't know about that.

--
John Varela

Subject: Re: Superman, was: Chicago P.D. TV series--computer usage
Posted by [Bernd Felsche](#) on Sun, 26 Apr 2020 10:54:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Charlie Gibbs <cgibbs@kltpzyxm.invalid> wrote:
> On 2020-03-04, Scott <nobody@example.org> wrote:
>> On Wed, 4 Mar 2020 14:30:56 -0000 (UTC), Thomas Koenig
>> <tkoenig@netcologne.de> wrote:
>>> Scott <nobody@example.org> schrieb:
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>>>> Metric has its uses, but there's nothing magical about it.
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>>> I remember standing in a chemical plant in the US. The people
>>> had conversion tables for units of volume on a note on the wall.
>>>
>>> Why?
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>>> Well, the tanks they had were rated in cubic foot, and the
>>> pumps were rated in gallons per minute.
>>>

>>> Now, assume you have a 1000 cubic foot tank which you empty with 5
>>> gallons per minute, that gives you how many hours before the tank
>>> is empty?

>> Would it be easier to talk about moving 28,315 liters at 18.9 LPM?

Maybe easier to guesstimate than 25,000 pounds at 4.7 GPM

> Sheesh. Give him 2.54 centimeters and he'll take 1.609 kilometers.

1.609344 km ... except for mariners and aviators

--

/\" Bernd Felsche - Somewhere in Western Australia

\ / ASCII ribbon campaign | For every complex problem there is an

X against HTML mail | answer that is clear, simple, and wrong.

/\ and postings | --HL Mencken
