

End Note

Hey, What Happened?

Getting a little tired of enthusiastic colleagues and competitors showing you their new websites or some hopping Java app that they've just added to a Web page? One way to get everyone else's fingerprints off your computer screen is to try a little shock therapy.

Next time someone rushes into your office or onto your back deck at home with a loud salutory, "Oh, man, you gotta see this!", let them dial up the site. Be polite as you note the Web address, and offer a few "Very Nices." As soon as their attention is diverted, dial up one of the dialect translators available online, and enter their Web page address for translation. What will reload will be their page with text by Elmer Fudd, or a Valley Girl, or Mr. T, or Pig Latin, Cockney slang—there are many choices.

Now call your friend back to the monitor, mount a little concern in your demeanor, and ask, "Is the text *supposed* to look like that?"

With any luck, no one will be able to explain what happened to their page on your machine. That should create a Pavlovian aversion for typing in anything on your computer.

The Dialectizer by Samuel Stoddard is at www.rinkworks.com/dialect/, and it offers Elmer Fudd, Swedish Chef, Redneck, Jive, Cockney, Moron, Pig Latin, or Hacker. Links to other translators are at the bottom of Dialectizer page. The Valley Girl translator is at www.80s.com/Entertainment/ValleyURL/. ■

