

David And Goliath

With apologies to God and Verity Stob

Cleaning out my time machine the other day after its latest trip into the 21st Century I found this strange faded manuscript lying under a table in the corner. The wide availability of the Authorised Version of the Bible on the internet over the years has obviously had an impact on common English usage. Maybe you can make some sense of it?

It was in the days before zero-zero, when men did use com-pew-ters for doing all manner of clever tricks with payrolls, prophet and loss accounts and behold even amusing gaymes (at least some strange personnes did find them amusing), before the appearance of the Bug which did cause wailing and gnashing of teeth and made such awful cries to go up across all the lands of the Earth, the Bug called Millennium. For verily they did not look to the Lord for their guidance, but to the one called See Plus-Plus and even to the hated and despised Cow-Boll, and...

And verily I digress. In those days of com-pew-ters there was much need in every land for the services of the tribe of Software Developers. In the land of Engle there did live one of this tribe named David (who was actually a refugee from the land of Ire, which accounteth for the strange accent). And David beheld the fruits of the sons of Kahn and tasted especially of the fruit called Del-Phee. And David was sore smitten and did swear "All my life I shall now use only the fair Del-Phee and remain faithful to her."

So David worked many hours with the fair Del-Phee, till his beautiful wife and his beautiful children did declare "Yea, we have almost forgotten what thou lookest like, we are sore jealous of the fair Del-Phee!" And David replied, "Fear not! For I have had a *vision* from the Lord, and He did show me a picture of a nice big house in the country and verily the house and the driveway and yea even the garden shed was made of pure *Gold!* And the Lord said to me 'If thou keepest working with the fair Del-Phee a bit longer all this shall be yours and thou shalt have many days of leisure with thy beautiful wife and thy beautiful children. And by the way, here's a little idea for something that your brothers and sisters in the tribe of Software Developers would find sore *helpful* and would readily pay a few bob for..."

After much blood and sweat and not a few tears, David had taken the little idea of the Lord and turned it into a nice little app. And verily it was a little app that just about all the sons and daughters of the tribe of Software Developers would find very handy, for it would go a long way to keeping the tribes of the Ew-Sers off their backs. And the sons and daughters of the tribe of Software Developers did read about David's app in the book *Developers Review*, and the book did say "Behold, this *helpful* little app of David's is a bit of all right, you could do worse than go forth and get yourself a copy." And the sons and daughters of the tribe of Software Developers did wonder and say to themselves, "Let us go to the merchants in the marketplace and demand from them the little app of David, for verily it is clean and mean and getteth the job done quickly!"

To cut a long story short, the merchants did sell many of the little app of David and verily he did rise amazingly in the sales charts. And David was very happy. And David's beautiful wife did kiss him and say "Well done, dear, I always believed thou couldst do it."

But far away in the land that is called the States of the Ewe-Nighted the sons of the house of Goliath did look upon the work of the hand of David and say "What a cotton-picking shame, this is a darn sight easier to use than our big app and verily it costeth a whole lot less too!" And out of the throng of the house of Goliath a small man with a twisted face and sly grin did sidle forward and say to the lord of the house of Goliath "Pssst! I can fix that so-and-so David for you, no problem." And the heart of the lord of the house of Goliath did warm to the small man with the sly grin and he said "Tell me your name, and your plan."

"My name," said the sly-grinned one, "is Law-Yer and I am of the tribe of Rip-Off. If thou lookest at the name

of David's little app and the name of our big app thou wilt find there is a vague similarity and I reckon we can threaten to sue David for trademark infringement and verily he will be finished." And the lord of the house of Goliath said "Vague similarity! That seems to be overstating it a bit: dost thou really think the court will wear it?" And Law-Yer did reply "Who cares? David can't afford to come to court anyway." And the lord of the house of Goliath did smile a big smile and said unto Law-Yer "Yea and amen brother! Go forth and write a nasty threatening letter unto David and soon we shall be shut of him." And the lord of the house of Goliath did laugh a big laugh for he thought he'd got David fixed.

But the lord of the house of Goliath did reckon without the sons and daughters of the tribe of Software Developers, for they were not quite so daft as they had been in the days when they were writing Cow-Boll programs with two digits for the year...

And the sons and daughters of the tribe of Software Developers did hear the story of David from the book of the prophet Eye-Tekk. Yea, great was the weeping and gnashing of teeth in the house of Goliath when the sons and daughters of the tribe of Software Developers found out what a lousy bunch the sons of the house of Goliath were. (Actually, the sons of the house of Goliath were probably ok, but their hearts did get perverted by the words of the evil Law-Yer.) No longer did they go to the merchants in the marketplace and cry "Here is my credit card number, give me now of the goods of the house of Goliath, for I have heard they are a goodly crowd and their products are beautiful to behold". For they said amongst themselves "Verily, if the house of Goliath dealeth with competitors in such a nasty and underhand way we shall take our credit cards elsewhere". For the prophet Eye-Tekk had revealed unto them the true name of the house of Goliath, and it was called...

*[The remaining few words of the manuscript are very faint, probably due the strong energy flux during re-entry to 1998. However, after I've had chance to computer enhance this portion I should be able to decipher it. If necessary I'll put the addendum onto our website and in the next issue. I can tell you that the name does **not** begin with the letter **M**.]*