

FCR Tech Tips



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480.860.8008
800.943.2245

April Fools

Have you ever played a prank or had one played on you during April Fool's Day? Have you ever wondered why we play pranks on people on the first day of April?

After a lot of internet research, I can not pinpoint the origin of **April Fool's Day** or All Fool's Day. Apparently no one knows the exact origin of this silly tradition but there are some theories of how it came to be. There is one theory that stands out more than the others.

Around 1582 in France, the calendar was reformed under Charles IX. The Gregorian calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved from March 25 through April 1 (New Year's week) to January 1. Back then, communication traveled slowly and it took several years before many people were informed of the change.

There were also people that didn't like the change and rebelled by celebrating New Year's on the last day of the former celebration, April 1. These people were considered "fools" by the rest of the population and were the subject of ridicule and sent on "fool errands"; they would receive invitations to nonexistent parties and had other practical jokes played on them.

April Fool's Day is a busy day on the internet. There are all kinds of fake stories and tricks floating around in cyberspace. Last year Youtube.com played their own trick by turning their entire site upside down...literally. Everything looked normal on the home page but if you clicked on a featured video the entire webpage would appear upside down on your computer screen.

Another funny prank was the Norwegian web browser, Opera, which put out an instructional video on how to control web surfing with face gestures instead of your mouse. This prank basically got internet users making funny faces at their computers in an attempt to control what was on the screen.

To see these and the rest of the 2009 top ten internet April Fool's pranks visit the [Fox News website](#).



Do Not Use Your 'F1' Key

This is not an April Fool's Prank

Maurycy Prodeus, an internet security researcher, discovered a vulnerability a few weeks ago that could allow an attacker to install malicious software on the victim's computer if the 'F1' key is used while surfing the internet. Microsoft's advice, for now, is to steer clear of the 'F1' key while surfing the web.

This is considered a medium versus high security risk because the 'F1' key is required to activate the attack. For the attack to occur, the user must be using Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Server 2003 and Internet Explorer 7 or Internet Explorer 8.

If you absolutely must use the 'F1' key, a simple workaround is to use another web browser such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari until Microsoft releases a security patch (which could take up to a few weeks).

Visit Techworld.com [here](#) to read more detail about this internet security flaw.



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Contact Information

Phone | 480.860.8008

Toll Free | 800.943.2245

Fax | 480.860.6342

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