



CROSSTALK

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Software Pie

With appreciation and apologies to Don McLean . . .

A long, long time ago
 I can still remember how that PC used to make me smile
 And I knew if we got a chance
 We could make those pixels dance
 And maybe we'd be happy for a while
 But February made me shiver
 With every program he'd deliver
 Bad news on the Altair
 It just didn't seem fair
 I can't remember if I sighed
 When I read about his legal slide
 But something touched me deep inside
 The day the software died
 So ... {Refrain}
 Refrain
 Bye-bye, Mr. Microsoft Guy
 Got his product preloaded
 And I still don't know why
 And them Redmond boys were eating ham on rye
 Singin' Bill is just a regular guy
 He even stuck his face in a pie

Did he write BASIC stuff
 And did he have faith in DOS enough
 If Allen told him so
 Do you believe in point 'n click
 Can GUI save your carpal tick
 And can you teach me how to surf real slow
 Well, I know that you're in love with DOS
 'Cause I saw you sell it to the boss
 He had no clue to choose
 Man, I dig those IBM blues
 He was a lonely teenage techno-geek
 With a gift for fancy market speak
 But I knew it was tongue-in-cheek
 The day the software died
 I started singing ... {Refrain}
 Now for 10 years we've been on PCs
 Still DOS grows fat on our CDs
 But that's not how it used to be
 When Gates brawled with the Apple King
 In a coat worn since he was 13
 And cash that came from you and me
 Oh, and while the King was looking down
 Gates stole his thorny crown
 The courtroom was adjourned
 No software was returned
 And while Netscape geared up on the Net
 The Redmond boys began to sweat
 Their next move would set their debt
 The day the software died
 We were singing ... {Refrain}
 I met a girl who runs Outlook
 And I asked her to fix my address book
 But she just smiled and turned away
 I went down to the sacred store
 Where I'd run Outlook once before
 But the man there said the program wouldn't run
 And in the streets the users screamed
 The managers cried, and the hackers dreamed
 The servers were all chokin'
 The firewall had been broken
 And the two men who had the most,
 Bill the kid and Paul the ghost
 They built their mansions on the coast
 The day the software died
 And they were singing ...
 Bye-bye, Mr. Microsoft Guy
 Got his product preloaded
 And I still don't know why
 And them Redmond boys and their long hippie hair
 Singin' this will be the day that we cry

—Gary Petersen, Shim Enterprises

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