

## **Outsourcing My Memory**

by

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Although I have developed this wonderful ability to process enormous amounts of information as I have grown older, I retain very little of it. My brain you see does not have enough memory in its hard drive. Even worse, it seems that I am unconsciously erasing some of my allocated recall space and reformatting it so that I can dedicate more brainpower to logical thinking and Steeler playbook strategies.

My absent-mindedness reached new heights when I woke up one morning and put two contacts in my right eye. I had somehow forgotten that I had just put the first one in. My fellow employees joke about my forgetfulness but they don't realize it's only because I am thinking too hard on their behalf. If only I didn't have to think so hard, I could dedicate more space to memory.

However I have recently made an amazing new discovery that has helped me to overcome this handicap. My memory disorder has been artificially improved through the miracle of science. I may never have to remember anything again.

My story begins in a bank. I work for one. In case you are unfamiliar, banks are conservative organizations that have to maintain records for something like 100 years. It seems like we have rooms full of old information. Thus as I was looking a place for some equipment, it occurred to me that we needed a computer solution that would allow us to take boxes and boxes of old information and convert them into tiny bits and bytes of computer images.

I had proposals from many software companies but they were all terribly expensive. The technology was there but the price wasn't right, that is until I bumped into Randy Harper a few months ago. Randy is the founder and owner of American Micrographics in Monroeville and serves on the Federal Reserve Board of Cleveland. Randy's company specializes in warehousing information.

I was explaining my dilemma to him when he said, "Ray, some kid wrote a program you can grab off the Internet for \$100 that has revolutionized everything. You are going to love it. Come visit me and I'll make you a believer." If anyone else had told me about this, I would've dismissed it as nonsense. But Randy's reputation was excellent. Therefore I was not surprised when he showed me this amazing software that was better than advertised.

I raced back to work with Randy's software and for less than \$200 I bought a keyboard with a scanner. I began to image one page and then another and then another until I had spent my entire day imaging all the pages in my desk drawer. There was nothing left in my desk. "This is great," I said to myself.

Then it occurred to me. Why don't I simply outsource my memory? I went home and gathered up all the personal information I had. Along with the usual names, addresses and phone numbers, I scanned pictures, famous sayings, doggy birth certificates and their medical histories, articles, stories, college ID's and even bad report cards. After I was through, I realized I no longer had to remember anything except my name.

Let me explain how this works. Suppose someone asks me what my favorite color is. Within seconds, I can access my palmtop computer and go into my imaged file cabinet. I then peer into the virtual "miscellaneous" drawer and mouse my way down to the file folder that reads "favorite colors". I then find the page with my name which is the one thing I have to remember. It is there that I can see that my favorite color is red, I mean blue.

Of course people with a good memory will always be able to deliver their answer more quickly than my keystrokes. However, at least I will be giving out good information, relieving me of the embarrassing, customary answer, "I don't know". Remember, it's not speed but accuracy that counts or is it the other way I around.



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