

Crap Shoot: The Next Sewer Crisis

By **DEREK FUNAYAMA**

By the time you read this, there should plenty of sun to go around. Trade winds and mauka showers are making their presence felt. Some of us, however, may still be recovering from the rains back in March and the subsequent sewage spills.

Meteorologists document these weather events and compared them to similar events, which allows them to get a sense of weather frequency and calculate the chances of the next occurrence. For instance, the March event can be considered a 50-year event since something similar happened in the 1950s. That does not necessarily mean it will happen again 50 years from now, but it statistically suggests the potential outcome, like a baseball player's hitting average.

A city's infrastructure depends upon progress in engineering since humans moved from hunter-gatherers to early agrarian societies. Engineering involves the understanding of why things fail or breakdown. We want buildings, roads, and other public works to continue working, however, no matter how well something manmade is constructed, it may come apart, spring a leak, or fall.

Knowing that instances of destruction may occur within a city's infrastructure, continual knowledge is needed to make improvements so that what we build will be better (we hope). Civil engineers should have a good estimate on the integrity and longevity of city structures above and below ground. In essence, the better the construction, the longer it remains. This allows them to get an idea of when significant repairs and replacements are needed.

Sewers and wastewater treatment are an essential part of a city's infrastructure. I leave what goes down the drain to others who take care of such things, following the "out of sight, out of mind" adage. Unfortunately, given what happened in March, we could not ignore the situation. The breach in the sewer line in Waikiki spewed a lot of you-know-what into the Ala Wai. At the time, it was either muck in the streets or the canal.

This fallout raised glaring questions about whether this event could have been prevented. Honolulu was warned that sewer pipes in the area were long overdue for upgrades just last year! The news was out there for a decade. We didn't need an extreme event to cause change. The cliché "if

it ain't broke, don't fix it" was followed and in the end, this was a very telling decision.

What went wrong? Murphy's Law is written all over this, and the City and County of Honolulu was hoping to hold out until who knows when. The blame has to fall on the city for failing to maintain the system. Yes, sometimes the contractors make mistakes or do shoddy work, but I'm not saying that's what happened here. Like any consumer, investigating who does the work should precede any work done.

When making home improvements, we want to spend the minimum and get the most. You could do-it-yourself or hire licensed contractors to do it. Either way, as the homeowner, it's important to determine what it takes to do it right the first time. And, regardless if the improvement is done right, the long-term maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner.

By the same token, the onus of infrastructure upkeep is squarely on the City and County of Honolulu. The engineers may design it and workers may have installed it, but the responsible party is those at Honolulu Hale. Harsh? Not when forewarning



was given years back. It's a like a high school term paper assignment—waiting until the last minute only produces less than stellar results. Well, only this time it's not as quaint as that, especially when people expect the basic services to be in order, sight unseen.

While this is fresh in our minds, what about Kapolei? Are our sewers up to the task? Engineers know about how long the things we take for granted should last under "normal"

circumstances. The near biblical deluge showed that just because we're on the leeward side doesn't exclude us from troubled pipes. Mother Nature doesn't play favorites.

Good or bad, Waikiki had an option of a last resort to divert the sewage. Where in Kapolei is it going to go if the same thing were to happen? Sewers in Honokai Hale and

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Dawn's Databytes

By **DAWN SANDERS**

Here are some tips and tricks that will save you time. I hope you find these useful!

Browsing Links

If you are getting tired of using your mouse to scroll long web pages for hyperlinks, simply use your [Tab] key to scroll down the web browser page or [Shift]-[Tab] to scroll back up the page.

Corel WordPerfect

Automate Document Saving
If you want to save your work frequently, you could force WordPerfect to save the current file as you type without having to remember to press a special key or clicking a toolbar button or menu item. A logical point to trigger a "File Save" with a reasonable frequency is pressing the period (".") key. You can do this with a simple macro. Here's how:

Open a new document, click Tools, Macro, Macro Toolbar, go to the bottom of the document after all codes,

and then type these two commands into the document:

```
Type(".")
FileSave
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Click on "Save & Compile" on the Macro Toolbar to save the macro to your default macro directory or folder. Give the macro a recognizable name, such as "Period+Save.wcm."

Finally, assign this macro to the period key on your default keyboard. Then, every time you press the period key, the macro will play and type a period, and save the file. If the file has not yet been saved, it will pop up the File Save dialog to allow you to name the file first.

Microsoft Word

Stop the Bulleted or Numbered List
If you are creating a numbered or bulleted list and need to enter lines of text without the numbers or bullets, simply press [Shift]-[Enter] key combination after the last bulleted or numbered item. To continue the bulleted or numbered list, simply press

the [Enter] key.

Sorting Your List

Many people think you have to copy your list into Microsoft Excel to sort, but here is how it's done in Word. Highlight the names, addresses or list you wish to sort, go to the Table menu, select Sort, Ascending or Descending, then click OK.

Microsoft Excel

Close all Workbooks at Once
If you have multiple workbooks open and are in a hurry to close them all, holding the [Shift] key down, go to the File menu and select Close All.

Stop the Out of Control Scrolling

When you want to select down to row 50, and all of a sudden you are scrolled down to row 1000 out of the range of your data, here's a method of selecting cells that will help you avoid all that scrolling. First, click in the cell that will be the top left corner of your range. Next, use the scroll bars to scroll until you can see the cell that will be the bottom-right corner. Finally, hold down your [Shift]

Software Tips and Tricks

key and click in the bottom-right cell.

Spot-check Worksheet Formulae

This is a great way to spot-check your worksheets for formula errors. When you have a complicated worksheet that has gone through many revisions, it is likely that some errors will creep in that may not be so obvious on the surface. A good habit to get into is periodically viewing your formulas to ensure they are correct.

First, save your worksheet file. Next, to quickly display your formulas, press [CTRL]-[=]. The single quote is on the same key as the tilde ("~"). Don't use the key with the double quote. Finally, press the same key sequence return to the normal view.

As you look down a column that is supposed to contain identical formulas, incorrect formulas will stand out like a sore thumb.

Happy Computing!
Dawn



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