

## **“Hello world!”**

by Phillip DeLee

Many programming language instructional books begin by having the reader write their first program to output that statement. It seemed like a good place to start as I begin my first foray into the pages of the Home Management newsletter. I have been working in the field of Information Technology since I graduated from college in 1987. I am also the father of eight children ranging from 4 to 20 years old. Over the past 24 years, we've seen the use of electronics and technologies expand from the business world into our homes; what was a small periodic diversion has become a serious consumer of our time each and every day.

We can be sure that this trend will continue. I am finding that I am forced to address issues regarding the purchase and use of technology because of the impact it is having on the daily function of my family. It is likely that if you are not experiencing this currently you will be. In this column I will be writing about those issues that I face and how I deal with them as cost effectively as possible. Hopefully you will benefit from reading about my experiences.

On the desk in our kitchen is a computer that everyone in the house is free to use for school work and occasionally for recreation if it is available. I have installed parental control software on it that effectively keeps those using it out of harm's way. But, in their Junior year of high school, my three oldest daughters were issued laptops by their school which they use at home. I do not worry about them intentionally misusing the Internet but I know that inadvertently they can fall prey to phishing attacks, spyware, lewd images, and a host of other problems that anti-virus programs will not catch. The real issue is how do I filter out insidious Internet content to all Internet enabled devices in my home which can include game consoles, iPods, TVs, friend's iPods, and this list continues to grow.

As I contemplated where to begin, it took me about a microsecond to decide. The solution is to use a service called OpenDNS, which stands for Open Domain Name System. When a domain name, such as [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), is typed into the address bar of a browser, it needs an IP address in order to know where to find the specified web page. The IP address is supplied by another computer called a name server, using the DNS. A well chosen DNS does a marvelous job of filtering internet traffic from all known internet threats to your home network and will make the Internet a *much* safer place.

There are 50 filter categories to choose from. It is fast, reliable, easy to set up, and keeps a two week history of websites visited for your review. And IT'S FREE. Visit the website [www.opendns.com](http://www.opendns.com) and at the bottom under Solutions select “For Households” and follow the directions. You will need to create an account so that you can choose what you want filtered. Then you will need to change the IP address on your router for the DNS and you're done! Once it is set up you will have put to rest one serious parental technological concern.

Peace!

Phillip

*Phillip DeLee is a graduate of Notre Dame with a degree in Management Information Systems, a field he has been working in since 1987. He and his wife Montique, an HMR Counselor, are the parents of 8 children ranging in age from 4-21years old. His articles will appear in the newsletter*

*on a regular basis, and are designed to help the average adult gain a better than average understanding of the world of computer technology and its impact on our quality of life.*