Wotogo Thunder

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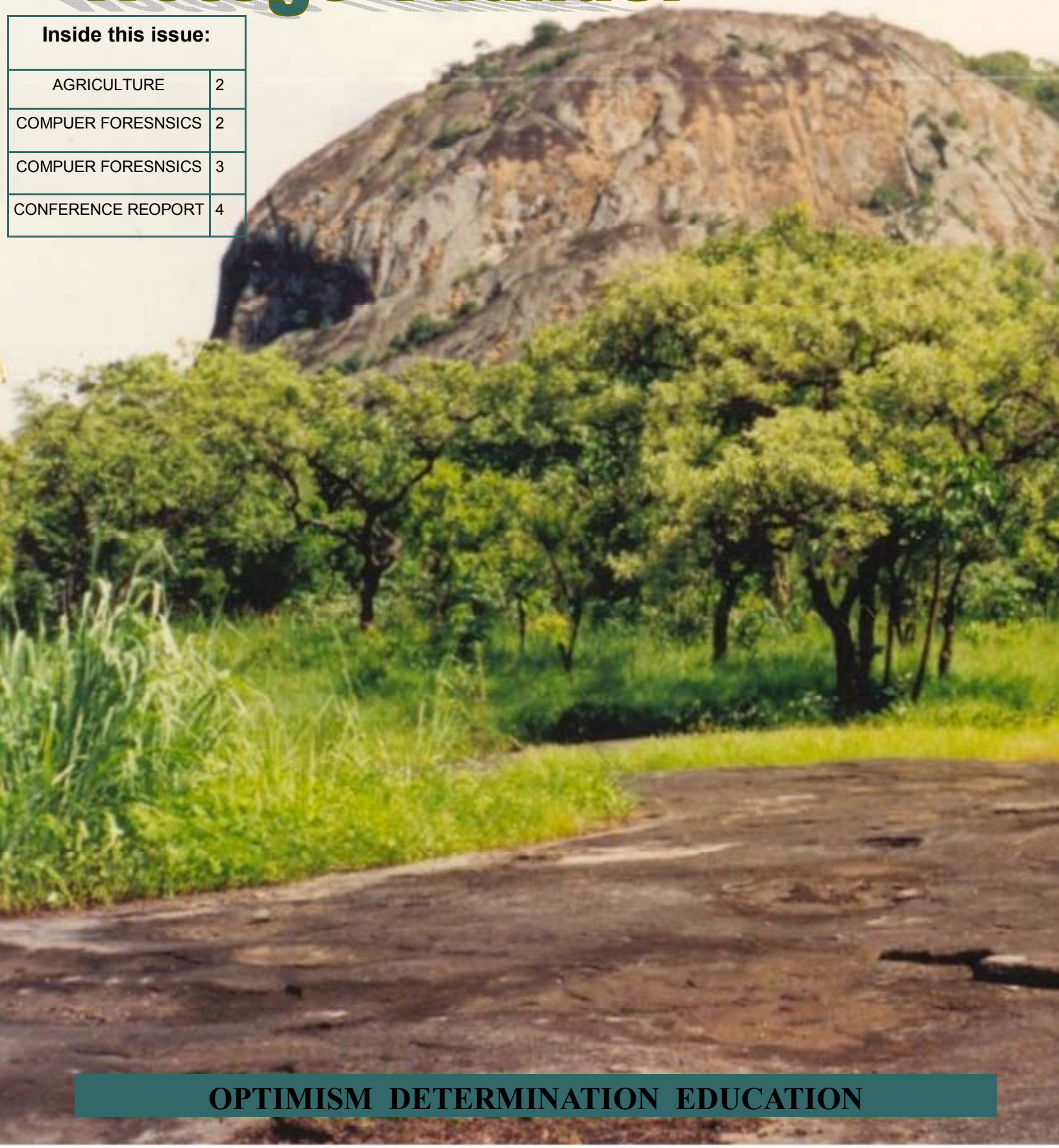

OPTIMISM DETERMINATION EDUCATION

INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY WITH SIMPLE TOOLS

By Martin L. Mikaya, M.D.

Do you ever wonder why our people have done certain tasks such as *wowogu, karandu and 'boja* the same way for centuries? I mean each one is a back - breaking job done by hand in the same inefficient way except for *wowogu* in which a wooden tool called *longo'do* is used. Needless to say, productivity is low while medical problems such as chronic back pain, tetanus and other infections abound.

I would like to suggest and recommend that we encourage our people to adopt some simple, but more efficient and, therefore, productive ways of doing subsistence farming. Instead of using a *longo'do* , a small hoe with a long handle which allows the farmer to stand should be used for breaking up clods. This method allows the farmer to do more work while saving his back. Let the *longo'do* have a place of honour in our museum of traditional farm implements.

A crude experiment on my little garden showed that a rake is ten to twelve times more efficient in clearing debris and twigs. I am sure we have people capable of making either wooden or metal rakes in our community. This simple tool can increase our agricultural productivity by at least ten times while protecting our hands from thorns, splinters and potential infections.

Changing the traditional way of doing the last task mentioned, *'boja*, or weeding may be more difficult because it requires planting all crops in rows.

Our people prefer to sow certain seeds such as millet, sorghum and sesame at random. I know from experience that pulling weeds from a field of millet is a tedious, tough job. Planting all crops in rows allows a farmer to use a hoe between the rows for weeding. The occasional weed can then be pulled by hand.

Finally, both men and women can perform these tasks. I, personally, never felt that participating in these tasks was a threat to my masculinity. It is possible to be more productive, efficient and healthy without any sophisticated machinery. I urge you to make those small changes today in order to reap huge benefits in the near future.

BASICS IN COMPUTER FORENSICS

By Dedi Matayo
BS – Computer Information Science
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Computer forensics is a specialized and fast growing field of investigation. Recent years have seen the expansion of discovery from traditional paper discovery to a search of computer records. This is the result of the increasing use of computer technology combined with the belief that valuable evidence can be found on computers in addition to evidence existing in paper form. This article seeks to answer the question, "What is computer forensics" and to provide a brief overview as to why that "**delete key**" sitting in your keyboard "doesn't delete" a thing through the lens of forensic examiner.

So, what is computer forensics? As many of you know, the term "computer forensics" is associated with a relatively new class of crime. Essentially, computer forensics is used to describe the study of computer and storage devices for the purposes of obtaining legal evidence. The key element is that this evidence must be capable of being used in legal proceedings. Computer forensics involves the recovery of lost, damaged, hidden or password-protected data from a computer system after the system has crashed, been effected by a virus, or because of accidental, deliberate or malicious file corruption or loss. As such, computer forensics can be described as the scientific process of preserving, identifying, extracting, documenting and interpreting data held on electronic storage media.

Like other disciplines, every computer forensics examiner applies a set of methods and procedures for all examinations. During an investigation/ analysis, the methodology in which computer forensics specialist follows can be summarized as follows: acquiring evidence without altering the original; authenticating that the recovered evidence is the same as the original, and analyzing the data without modification.

The first thing a computer forensic examiner does is make an exact copy of all hard drives and disks using a combination of computer forensics software and hardware. The software images/mirrors the entire devise including the slacks (the space left between the end of a file and the end of the cluster in which the file resides) and

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unallocated spaces in your drive. For example, if your drive has three operating systems (Linux, UNIX and Windows), it copies the exact same thing. Software programs such as Encase, automatically recovers deleted documents, emails and graphic images and displays them in an easy to read format. Each file's date and timestamp is displayed, making it easier to assemble a timeline related to when the file was created, saved or viewed. For example, if you burn, copy or move data into CD, thumb drive or your external hard drive at 2pm today, an examiner will know.

That said, let's turn the page into why that delete key doesn't delete anything through the streets of computer forensics. The reason is, file information is maintained in a directory so your Operating Systems (Eg: Windows 2k, XP, Vistas, Linux, UNIX and the old 98/DOS) can find it. All that the "delete key" does is erases the file's reference information (or erases the directions or road to get to the file) in your hard drive so your Operating System platform can't find it but the data is still there, untouched. That's what those "file recovery" programs (such as AccessData, Encase, Linkeys for Linux etc) look for: data in blocks that the directory says no to all the existing Operating Systems. So, if you keep your personal, financial, medical, or business information on disks (your system drive or also referred to as C drive), simple deletion isn't enough to protect the data when disposing the equipment. Besides, you may become a victim of identity theft.

When the FBI visits the home of that bad boy they confiscate his computer right? Do they really want the computer? Nope. All they really want is his System hard drive. The rest, such as the monitor, case, motherboards…are junk to them. Your System drive (C drive, local drive) is where your applications are installed, where your OS (for Operating Systems) is installed and that's what is of interest to them. They can just pop the hard drive out and walk away but they have SOP (Standard Operations Procedures) or rules of engagements to follow. All those email exchanges between Queen Araba and King Lasuba will all be recovered in short and less time, albeit, from experience. If some files are locked using password, an examiner can run what is called PRTK (for Password Recovery Toolkit) and he or she will see that password displayed, then use it to log into file/s etc.

What then is the magic? You may not know that your disk drive has a built-in system called "Secure Erase" which is used to wipe your data completely. Secure Erase is simply a set of commands embedded in most ATA drives. Now if this is so wonderful, why haven't you heard of it before? This is because it has been disabled by most motherboard BIOSes (acronym for **B**asic **I**nput/**O**utput **S**ystem). In a nutshell, BIOS is a built-in software that determines what a computer can do without accessing programs from a disk . On PCs , the BIOS contains all the code required to control the keyboard, display screen, disk drives, serial communications, and a number of other miscellaneous functions . Secure Erase is nothing but a loaded gun aimed right at all your data to overwrite every single track on the hard drive. That includes the data on"bad blocks", the data left at the end of partly overwritten blocks, directories…everything dude. Murphy's Law is still in force but hey, if you know enough to read Storage Bits, then you're smart enough to not play with Secure Erase until you need to. Secure Erase isn't alone, there are some software that you can also use but you have to know what you're doing.

Alternatively, you can apply physical destruction to your hard drive. This works well but you better smash it damn good because there are companies out that specialize in fixing damaged hard drive. They open it to pieces and replaces damaged parts in an attempt to restore that data. Building back your hard drive is expensive and an ordinary guy may not bother picking up a disposed damaged hard drive. Companies will do it especially if they want crucial data in that hard drive.

With the increased use of computers in society, the necessity of electronic evidence in litigation has increased. Valuable evidence can be found on computers which enable legal professionals to produce evidence which had previously been lost, destroyed, hidden or deleted. While there are disadvantages associated with computer forensics, the advantages are far greater. As a final note, if you're using an office PC/laptop, pay attention to what you load in there. Remember that deleting doesn't erase or wipe your information. I won't use it for my sensitive personal information, including pictures… but I will use it to download other things, including songs from places such as limewire.com etc. Free by the way, try it out. The reason is, your intranet (your in-house company network) is much faster than what you have at home, regardless of how much you pay.

Coming up next is, "Putting Your PC together". What you need (the parts) and what you don't need. Is it necessary or the road to Wal-Mart is heaven to saving dimes and nickels.

OPTIMISM DETERMINATION EDUCATION

SEATTLE KAKWA YOUTH CONFERENC REPORT

By LaSuba Paul.

Over the July 6, 2007 weekend, Kakwa Youth held a Conference in Seattle Washing. This event was the first of its kind in the United States of America and was attended by youth and the Kakwa Community at large. Members came prepared to tackle four main topics that were thought to be the most pertinent to the greater Yei. These topics are: the role of youth in Diaspora, building a permanent resource center, and both the security and land concerns in Yei. Throughout a series of long, intense workshops, members honed their specific recommendations on these topics. Members were invited to join small discussion groups in order to explore each issue more fully. What they discovered were how interconnected these issues were.

In the following recommendation summaries, you will find how security and land issues are linked and affect each other and the role of youth in Diaspora among other things. At the end of the weekend, a keynote speech was delivered by a Kakwa elder and mentor in Diaspora, Dr. Martin LoMikaya, who also was one of the active participants in the conference. This report is just a summary of what took place during that one day conference..

The Challenges Ahead

⇒ Many conflicting concerns were raised regarding land and security issues. Many examples of Kakwa cold blood killings were shared and many court cases regarding Kakwa land issues were shared as well. The challenges were frustrating and of significant impact to the youth in Diaspora. Participants pointed fingers to Government officials and particularly to members of the Kakwa community in GOSS government for failing to address the security and land crises

⇒ Kakwa Youth acknowledged that their generation has no established foundation; youth in Diaspora are assimilating easily to other cultures and young ones do not speak the Kakwa dialect.

⇒ Kakwa Youth are also aware that education is their best chance for succeeding in life as adults. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that education is a top concern for Kakwa youth members. Many acknowledge that youth lack the needed support to achieve their educational goals, whether it be completing high school or attending college. As it stands, many youth have difficulty graduating from secondary school, let alone moving on to higher education.

Resolutions

⇒ Participants identified a need to establish a permanent centre in greater Yei for young people to develop social network, organize sports and outdoor traditional activities. The center would also serve as a local health center and provide computer cafe (communication center)

⇒ A five member committee was elected comprising of Amule Benjamin, Battali Baraba, LaSuba Paul, Mawa Joseph and Seme Longoro to conduct a world wide fund raising campaign. Kakwa parents are also encouraged to teach their children the Kakwa dialect.

1. Kakwa Youth call upon all Kakwas world-wide to donate $250 within a ten month period towards building a permanent structure in the greater Yei – deadline is May 2008.

⇒ Participants call upon Kakwa members serving in the GOSS to do a better job of protecting its citizens particularly the Kakwas and ensure that the cold blood killings end immediately and indefinitely.

⇒ Participants also call upon all the chiefs and sub-chiefs to protect the Kakwa land of its sons and daughters in Diaspora as well as those that are within the country.

Conclusion

Youth participants ended the conference with one thing in mind: continued forward progress to establish the youth ground work for its grass root activities toward development. The conference was a special opportunity for youth to gain an overview of what needs to be done and to work together to tackle it. The youth hope to reach out to colleagues around the world to recognize their creativity and innovation.

About the Thunder

Wotogo Thunder is a publication issued quarterly. The next issue is coming out in January 2008. If you are interested to write a short article that can benefit the community, please send them my way. The contact information is below.

Contact information:

Phone: (801) 364-2811
Email: rsimbe@yahoo.com
Skype: rsimbe