

THE LEECH

SYNDROME

At one time or another most of us have gotten a software program off a board just because it's new. You know, the kind of program that few people use, but you get it anyway. That is what I call the leech syndrome...a syndrome that I, as much as anybody, have been a victim of.

It all starts with a couple people posting about something on a board. "Hey do you have Stratavision 3D? I've been looking everywhere for it!" or something of the sort. I know that some people may have to use this program, but many do not, nor do they know how. Keep in mind that is just an example, but the point is that there arises a need to "get in on" what they are talking about. So you spend a long time downloading the program, and it sits on your drive for a while gathering magnetic dust. In many ways, this is wasteful:

- 1) Other people can use the BBS while you are spending time downloading this

- 2) It takes up space one way or another on your HD or disks at home
- 3) Waste of time and download credit, and the sysop's time

What you should do before doing this, is post a few questions about the software your interested in. Ask yourself afterwards "Do I need it?" "Will I use it more than once every 3 months?" "Am I really interested in this program?" "Am I going to upload this somewhere else so that other people who need it can get it?". If you answer yes to any of these, then it's most likely worth the download. If not, go on to other things. I can give you an example of something I downloaded that I didn't really have a need for.

I got HyperCard 2.0 beta something or other: I knew I wasn't going to do much with it, but I thought it might be impressive if I had it. It turned out that I asked several sysops about uploading it, and they either already had it or didn't want it.

Then there brings up the point of "software collecting", which I enjoy as much as the next guy. It is kind of nice to know that you have a program for anything should the need arise, but just try to think ahead in terms of "Am I going to make a hypercard stack that requires HyperCard 2.0b25?" or "Do I want to or need to render a Stratavision image in the near future?" If you ask yourself that more often, you'll probably save yourself, and many others a lot of time and trouble.

Before ending, though, I should note that there are certain people that are more exempt from this than others. Of course high speed users are more justified in downloading more, seeing as how their transfer times are drastically reduced...but

I'm talking about people who get something new and big from another board right when it comes out so that they can pass it on to other boards in which people might use it.

It might seem that I'm rambling on to some people, but some of you know what I'm talking about, so I urge you to think before you leech.