



# KINGDOM

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

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Kingdom e-News

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## Down on the Farm

**B**een farming long? There are 83 million people in the world who can reply “You bet I have” to that question. They are the gamers who play the social networking, browser-based game FarmVille, and over 32 million of them farm every day.

In June 2009, FarmVille became available as a Facebook application, and its first farmers began to manage their virtual farms by planting, growing, and harvesting crops and raising livestock. By December 2009, Farmville had become more popular than Twitter, surpassing that Internet sensation in only a few months.

FarmVille is a product of Zynga, a company founded in 2007, whose mission is to connect people through games. Zynga’s library of social games are free and accessible for everyone to play, embracing virtual worlds from the kitchen in CafeWorld to the castaway desert paradise of Treasure Isle to the seamy environs of Mafia Wars. It’s all a matter of where your fantasies take you.



In order to play FarmVille and most of Zynga’s other games; the gamer must have a Facebook account. Facebook boasts 300 million users, and is, of course, very social. It is that combination which has helped make Farmville the most played game in the world. FarmVille users make up over 20% of total Facebook users and are over 1% of the world’s population. A whole new audience has been introduced to videogames.

In spite of this popularity, Farmville is still in beta testing stage. Game enhancements and modifications are constantly being added, and Zynga admits that things will go wrong

and bugs will pop up. This, in fact, is true, but it does little to dampen the ardor of FarmVille-addicted players.

FarmVille is played in real-time, and the basic game is simple and easy to learn. Prompts guide the player through the beginning stages of play. The first chore the farmer takes on is the creation of a customizable avatar. The initial farm property consists of six plots of land, two are growing crops and two are ready for harvest. With a starting cache of two different forms of currency, rookie farmers head to the fields.

Play moves along as the farmer plants seeds, which grow into crops, and can then be harvested to earn farm coins. Animals and trees can be purchased and are harvested for profits. Buildings, decorations, and vehicles are also available for purchase. The player earns experience points (XP) by purchasing items and through regular tasks such as plowing, planting and harvesting. Earning XP increases the player's "level", unlocking more items to purchase. Most commodities can be bought with farm coins, although some must be purchased with farm cash, both of which can be earned or purchased from Zynga. As a farmer progresses, farms may be expanded for a payment of farm cash or farm coins, allowing more room for farming, animals, and decorations.

Gamers can invite their friends to join FarmVille and become their neighbors. Neighbors are an advantage - the more neighbors the better. Farmers visit each other and help out on neighboring farms to earn money and experience points. Acquiring more neighbors also entitles farmers to expand the size of their farms. Gifts of animals, trees, and decorations can be sent to both neighbors. In turn, neighbors will return the favor and send gifts back. A remarkable degree of civility and politeness reign in this virtual world.

Other features keep the game interesting. A variety of ribbons are available representing the achievement of a different set of tasks. Yellow, white, red, and blue will yield a reward of farm coins and experience points for the farmer's efforts. Tasks may include sowing seeds, petting cats, and setting up fences. There are over 100 ribbons to earn, and more are added as new features expand the game.

Besides earning ribbons, farmers can complete collections of items of varying rarities. Collections may consist of butterflies, tools, bugs or other objects. They are found by performing farming tasks or may be gifted to the player by their Farmville neighbors. On completion, each collection may be turned in for farm coins and experience points.

Recently co-op farming came to FarmVille. Players choose from projects that can't be completed by an individual farmer, so they must form cooperatives to accomplish the tasks. Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals are awarded to teams that are successful in task completion within stated time limits, and winning teams gain bonuses in the form of farm coins, experience points, and unique items.

Additional game enhancements are planned and promise to keep play from becoming stale. Regular updates celebrate holidays, the seasons and events like the Super Bowl and the Olympics. In FarmVille, it seems there is always something entertaining around the

corner. In fact, farmers have been known to become obsessive about their game, and FarmVille has been mentioned on the Dr. Phil Show as problematic because of its addictive qualities.

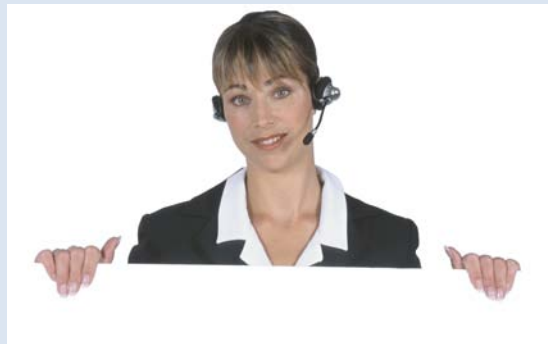
Addictive concerns aside, in Zynga's case social gaming means more than entertainment. It means social conscience, and Zynga demonstrates that at [zynga.org](http://zynga.org). Their slogan "Transforming the world through games" sums up their philosophy. The impact of combining 180 million players a month in positive contributions to humankind can be significant. Zynga gamers have raised more than \$3 million for several international non-profits since [Zynga.org](http://Zynga.org) launched in October 2009. Players have donated money and purchased virtual social goods in various Zynga games that have benefitted earthquake victims in Haiti, contributed to school lunch programs for children and created a revolving fund for women in Haiti.

For detailed instructions on how to access Farmville go to [://zynga.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1149/~/~how-to-access-farmville](http://zynga.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1149/~/~how-to-access-farmville). And, as they say, "Happy Farming!"

## Ask Tech Support

**Question: What are the proper steps in shutting down a frozen computer?**

**Answer:** Try the steps listed below when your computer locks up, but keep in mind that mouse and keyboard input are often ineffective when these issues arise. Your best defense is saving your work frequently. If there is a crash you will be able to recover the data from the last point saved.



1. Try to access the Start menu and use Shut Down. If you can do this, click on Restart or Turn Off. Save your work when prompted to save your work.
2. If you cannot access the Start menu, try to use the keyboard command CTRL+ALT+DELETE, holding down all three keys at the same time. If this is successful, you will get the Windows Task Manager. Click on the Shut Down tab, then choose Restart or Turn Off.

If you don't get the Windows Task Manager, try using the CTRL+ALT+DELETE command two times in succession. This should shut down your computer and restart it again.

3. If your computer has a Restart button on the front of the computer, then try pushing the Restart button instead of using the keyboard commands. When the computer restarts, it may perform diagnostic functions since the computer was not shut down correctly.
4. If the previous steps are not successful, shut off the computer from its main on off switch. Wait a few minutes and restart it manually. It may perform some diagnostic functions when starting.
5. If all of the above steps fail, remove the power supply cable or if you have a laptop remove the battery for a minute or two. That should reboot your frozen or crashed computer and let you re-start Windows.

## Sites to See



[://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124251060](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124251060)

The Jobs of Yesteryear: Obsolete Occupations

A multimedia article from National Public Radio illustrates occupations that have become casualties of technology. A few of you may remember one or two – or recall your parents speaking of them. Some are menial; all seem quaint by today’s standards. Elevator operator, typesetter, pinsetter, cigar roller and lector, each were jobs by which livelihoods were made and families supported. Using photos, interviews and text, the article gives us a peek into a world gone by.

[://www.fcc.gov/cgb/broadband/broadbandquiz2.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/broadband/broadbandquiz2.html)

FCC Broadband Quiz

The Federal Communication Commission brings you a little quiz to check out your knowledge of broadband Internet. It’s even possible to learn a thing or two while you complete the interactive multimedia, multiple choice test. When you have finished, you’ll receive a printable certificate that shows you’ve completed the Broadband Deputy Program.

[://www.exploratorium.edu/gardening/index.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/gardening/index.html)

The Science of Gardening

“Like all great endeavors, gardening is both a science and an art.” True to the quote, this website brings you both. The site is divided into three sections, Feed, Control, and Bloom. Each contains articles, videos, and interactive material with interesting and sometimes quirky topics like “Pete’s Savage Garden – Exploring the Deadly World of Carnivorous Plants” or “Subzero Gardening – Tour a Hydroponic Greenhouse in

Frozen Antarctica”. Other subjects include soil science, biodiversity, and garden lore. The site is nicely done with attractive art and graphics that put you in the mood for getting out in the garden.

[://www.kitchentablecomputers.com/index.php](http://www.kitchentablecomputers.com/index.php)

**Kitchen Table Computers – How to Build Your Own Personal Computer**

This illustrated, step-by-step guide will instruct you in simple language how to build a computer from scratch. The site covers getting started, components, software, assembly and other material. Building your own PC has multiple advantages and results in a machine that is truly “personal”, built exactly the way you want it to fit your computing needs.

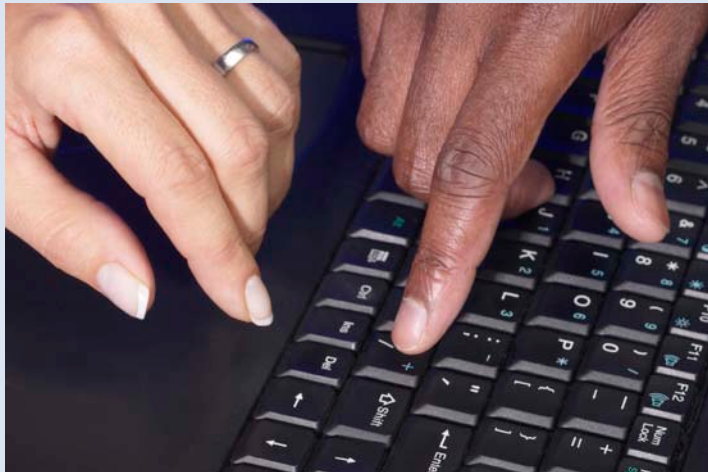
[://www.daytipper.com/Default.aspx](http://www.daytipper.com/Default.aspx)

**DayTipper**

This site, based on the premise that everyone is an expert on something, offers folks an opportunity to share tips, information, advice, and ideas with the global community. If you have a tip that is insightful, helpful, and original, DayTipper will publish it. You write the content, and if they like the tip, they will pay you \$3. Content is added to the site every day that has helped someone before. Categories include family, finance, health, transportation, and recreation. Sign up to receive a free daily tip in your email.

## **Mini- Tutorial: Copy, Paste and Cut**

Copy, paste and cut are probably the most useful commands the average computer user can master. These procedures are truly timesaving, simple to learn and will make you feel like the most savvy of computer pros.



### **The Copy and Paste Commands**

1. Place the cursor directly to the left of the first letter of the first word you want to copy.

2. Hold down the left mouse button and drag the cursor to the last letter of the last word you want to copy. The material should now be highlighted. Release the mouse button.
3. Hold down the Ctrl key and at the same time press the C key on the keyboard. This will copy the highlighted information. Release the Ctrl and C keys.
4. Place the mouse cursor in the spot you want to add the copied text.
5. Hold down the Ctrl key and press the V key. This will paste the text into its new home. Release the Ctrl and V keys.

Couldn't be easier, right? When you held down the Ctrl and C keys, you told Windows to copy the highlighted information to what is referred to as the "clipboard". The computer uses the clipboard to store text or even images temporarily so they can be pasted in other places in a document, on other pages, and in other applications. The information will stay on the clipboard until you copy something else or shut down the computer. In the meantime, the same text or image can be pasted into one or more places, while still appearing in its original location.

### **The Cut and Paste Commands**

Cut and Paste is similar to Copy and Paste, however, the original text or image is deleted from its original location and placed in a new position. The directions are identical; just replace the Ctrl-C command with Ctrl-X.

In most programs, the copy, paste, and cut commands can also be accessed by going to Edit on the menu bar.



## **RUNNING OUT OF ROOM? Let the K-Force Help**

- **ADD A NEW HARD DRIVE**
- **ADD AN EXTERNAL DRIVE**

**\$39 ON SITE/\$19 IN-STORE**

**PRICE INCLUDES INSTALLATION WITH BUNDLED SOFTWARE.  
HARD DRIVE PURCHASED SEPARATELY.**



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**B**ecome a Kingdom fan on FaceBook, Twitter with us, and check out our new blog at [.kingdomteclo.wordpress.com](http://kingdomteclo.wordpress.com). We plan to write about a lot of different subjects, some serious and some not-so-serious. Most of all, we want these new ways of communication to be friendly, relaxed and informative. We'll be talking about our telephone and Internet services, new technology, and legislation pending in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. You'll also find tips and tricks on managing your phone and online services with a large helping of news about our company and from our communities. Join us – you never know just what you'll find!