

## Steve Was Right, Again

If you read the Walter Isaacson biography of Steve Jobs, we learned that Steve had a strong animus against Adobe, Inc. It was partly technical, but seemed more personal at the time. The Technical part was Steve's disdain for Adobe Flash (see Sidebar), and the Personal part was he felt betrayed by Adobe when Adobe turned their backs on cooperating with Apple on fonts. A giant "Font Fight" resulted with lots of legal wrangling.

I have written about Flash previously: here's a short recap: Steve hated Adobe Flash so much, he banned it from being included into the iPhone or iPad. This caused a lot of grief and backlash from some Apple purchasers, but Apple held fast. Good Call.

Subsequent events have proven Steve was right – at least on the technical side of things. Adobe Flash has proven to be a technical, security, and power-grabbing blunder. The link below leads to an article that describes the continuing discovery in early 2015 of major security flaws in Adobe Flash, a product that dates back 30 years to the "dawn of the web". These flaws are so serious as to allow a hacker full and complete control of your computer, and that includes PC's and Mac's.

<http://www.networkworld.com/article/2882751/microsoft-subnet/jobss-revenge-flash-piles-up-the-zero-day-exploits.html>

**Yet, many major websites remain completely dependent upon Adobe Flash in order to work.** The largest dependency is YouTube – nearly 100% of the movies on YouTube need Flash to work. No Flash, No Movie. Same is true for Netflix, Amazon, PBS and other major online video streaming services.

These vulnerabilities are difficult to patch and fix if you have one computer at home, but think about businesses and schools that have hundreds or thousands of computers to keep updated. Believe me, as a network administrator, it is a royal pain-in-the-you-know-what to keep hundreds of computers updated. That's just Flash: there's also Java updates (another security nightmare): **don't even get me started on Java updates.**

So what's the fix? HTML 5, the newest web page programming language removes the need for Adobe Flash (and maybe Java too), but it takes time to re-program, re-test, and rollout a completely new website. So the fix is at hand, we just have to wait for sites to be reprogrammed and for Adobe Flash to fade away... Good Riddance.

-John Becker

### What is Adobe Flash?

In the early days of the web, web pages were purely black-and-white text on a white background. No icons, menus, or pictures. No movies, sounds, or animations. Nothing but text and the new-fangled "hyperlinks". That was it.

Adobe, seeing an opportunity to spice up the web, created an add-on product named "Adobe Flash" that provided the programming code to add all the things we take for granted now (movies, sound, buttons, animations, etc.) that make the web entertaining and easy to use.

Web developers flocked to it, and soon the explosion of color, sounds and movies (think of YouTube) helped make The Internet what it is today.