



Your Keyboard: 'Dirtier Than a Toilet'

In recent studies by U.K microbiologists, they have found that your keyboard can be contaminated with harmful bacteria, such as E.coli and Staphylococcus Aureus. Below is the article that features on the BBC news UK website.

Some computer keyboards harbour more harmful bacteria than a toilet seat, research has suggested.

Consumer group "which" said tests at its London offices found equipment carrying bugs that could cause food poisoning. Out of 33 keyboards swabbed, four were regarded as a potential health hazard and one harboured five times more germs than one of the office's toilet seats. During tests in January this year, a microbiologist deemed one of the office's keyboards to be so dirty he ordered it to be removed, quarantined and cleaned.

It had 150 times the recommended limit for bacteria - five times as filthy as a lavatory seat tested at the same time, the research found. The equipment was swabbed for bugs, such as those that can cause food poisoning like E.coli and staphylococcus aureus.

Should somebody have a cold in your office, or even have gastroenteritis, you're very likely to pick it up from a keyboard

Dr Peter Wilson
Consultant
microbiologist.



Dr Wilson, a consultant microbiologist at University College London Hospital, told BBC Radio 5 Live sharing a keyboard could be passing on illnesses among office workers.

"If you look at what grows on computer keyboards, and hospitals are worse, believe it or not, it's more or less a reflection of what's in your nose and in your gut," he said.

"Should somebody have a cold in your office, or even have gastroenteritis, you're very likely to pick it up from a keyboard."

"Which" said one of the causes of dirty keyboards was users eating lunch at their desk, with crumbs encouraging the growth of Bacteria. Poor personal hygiene, such as not washing hands after going to the toilet, could also be to blame, it said

Story from BBC NEWS: Check out http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/7377002.stm

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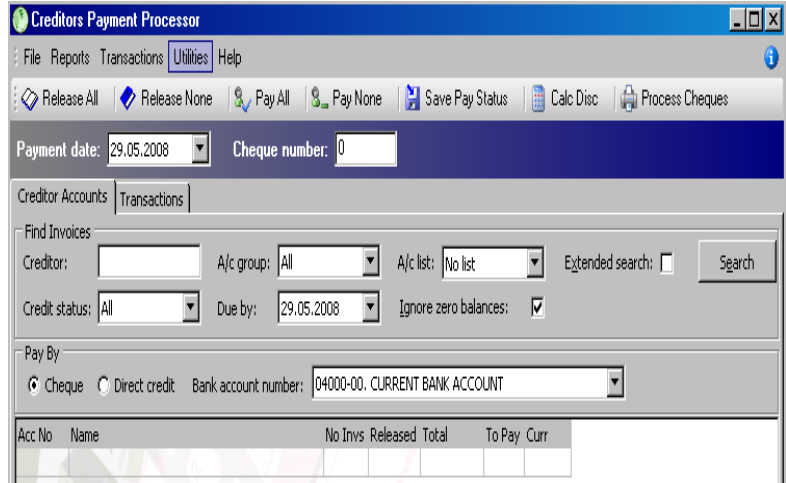
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