



## *Big Bits and Bytes*

In the old days I couldn't look at my medical records, much less have copies of them.

That has changed. I have a box full of copies of blood tests and sleep studies and doctors' letters and other papers that may someday give clues to the next step in my health management.

Computers can make this so much fun!

Last month I had a dental emergency. My family dentist patched it up, and from him I have one little old-fashioned x-ray of the affected area.

A friend persuaded me to get a second opinion on how to treat it from her dentist. Wow! With some amazing imaging tools Dentist 2 took x-rays and pictures of my whole mouth. Then he told me that I had a whole lot more problems than I ever imagined.

Of course I asked him for my images, and he said they would email them. In due time a file arrived that claimed it had an attachment. But I could not find it, until I went to Webmail, where I found it. The size of the whole message was 11.6 MB, with one attachment called winmail.dat. I saved it to my computer. Windows Vista had no clue what to do with it. An internet search discovered that it is a feature of Outlook. An article in the [New York Times](#) shed light on the issue. Since I did not feel comfortable asking Dentist 2 to change his Outlook settings and resend, I found a winmail.dat reader, [Winmail Opener](#). After an entertaining morning, I finally had my images so I could see them!

I got a reference from my doctor and made an appointment with Dentist 3. I thought I would just forward the webmail email. After all, it was still sitting on the servers at Sprint, and should go. But no! There is a 10 MB limit on messages. A frantic chat with a Sprint tech finally elicited a reference to [YouSendIt](#).

YouSendIt is a service that lets you send huge files, up to 2 GB. It worked swiftly and well.

Unfortunately Dentist 3 couldn't manage winmail.dat files either, so I wound up sending the images as jpg attachments. We'll see what he says, at least he has all the pictures.

Isn't technology wonderful?

May you have a happy and healthy New Year and find just the right technology to meet your needs throughout 2012.

