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### Seti@home 'Failure'?

From: John Tenney <[mainorg@yahoo.com](mailto:mainorg@yahoo.com)>  
Date: Sat, 12 Jun 1999 23:11:53 -0700 (PDT)  
Fwd Date: Sun, 13 Jun 1999 14:42:43 -0400  
Subject: Seti@home 'Failure'?

When I joined the SETI@home project (downloaded the program and began running it on my computer) I was close to 100% sure that I would not detect an "alien intelligence" on my \$1200.00 computer. I was interested in being involved in a project wherein hundreds of thousands of like-minded individuals could cooperate together with a single goal, (no unimpressive feat, you usually can't get two people to agree on which movie they'd like to rent). As a matter of fact over the course of the past 20 days I realized that I do belong to a minority of people involved with the SETI@home project.

My computer is on and running 24 hours a day everyday, and before SETI@home the majority of the time when I wasn't using for research it just sat idle literally "doing nothing." But after I downloaded the program for SETI@home my computer was no longer a \$1200 paperweight, it was doing something, whether it was doing correctly or as predicted did not matter to me, at least it was doing something.

Now when I read newspaper articles about the "failures" of the SETI@home project, how disenchanted people are with it, how much of a waste of time and energy it is, I'm left wondering a few questions.

1. Did everyone expect to find "extraterrestrial intelligence" on his or her computers?
2. Was there something else more "important" that your computer could have been doing while it ran it's screensaver SETI program?
3. Is a project a failure when it unites 500,000 people from all over the world to achieve a common goal?
4. So is that it does everyone give up because we still haven't found "Extraterrestrial Intelligence?"

I agree with some of the critics points such as, SETI@home should have been more up front about the trouble that they were experiencing; but none the less I'm still glad that they tried and will continue trying. I support them in their effort and applauded them for the success they and WE have already achieved.

Thank you  
Rev. John E.L. Tenney  
Co-Founder Michigan Anomalous Information Network  
<http://members.tripod.com/~mainorg>

UFO UpDates has a SETI@home team, visit their webpages at:

<http://memebrs.tripod.com/~ufoseti>  
and  
<http://www.spookyfox.freeuk.com>

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