

## OOPS! NO CHANGE to Fairfax Meeting Location

At the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, we announced a temporary change to the Fairfax meeting location due to parking lot construction at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). We just learned that the construction is delayed.

The November and December meetings in Fairfax will continue at the OLLI location.

We apologize for the confusion.



## TrueCrypt Critical Bug

Lorin Garson, a former user of the TrueCrypt utility to encrypt stored files, brought our attention to this article about a critical bug in TrueCrypt: <http://www.engadget.com/2015/09/30/trucrypt-critical-security-flaws/>. As TrueCrypt is no longer maintained by the original developers, users should migrate to one of the Open Source software projects that forked from TrueCrypt. VeraCrypt (listed in the Open Source Software of the Month in this issue) is compatible with TrueCrypt and has been patched for the critical bug noted in the article.

## Upcoming Meetings

Refer to the PATACS Event Calendar on the back cover or <http://patacs.org/mtgdetpat.html> for meeting time and location.

## November 21, 2015 (Fairfax)

### Learn 30: Backup Your Computer—with Emphasis on Macs

Presented by Lorin Garson

### Identity Theft: Are You Prepared?

Presented by David L. Haase

Hardly a week goes by without news of some hacker stealing thousands, or even millions, of credit card numbers, addresses, birth dates and Social Security numbers from banks, retailers and even the U.S. government. Whole nations—think, China, North Korea and Russia—are vacuuming the most intimate details of Federal workers' lives.

Identity theft is the new big-money crime of choice for anyone with loose morals and a laptop.

Are you the next victim? What CAN you do? What SHOULD you do? What WILL you do?

Former investigative reporter and digital consultant David L. Haase will address these questions with real-life, practical solutions. This presentation is not meant to scare you (although it will); it's meant to prepare you (and it will)!

David has advised individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations and advocacy campaigns about how to navigate the Internet efficiently, effectively and safely for 20 years. In the last decade, he has served as the lead social media and content executive at two boutique digital

*(Continued on page 2)*




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Upcoming Meetings.....	1
August Fairfax Meeting Recap: Programming, Windows 10.....	2
September Fairfax Meetings Recap: Photo Apps, Nutrition.....	3
Musings of an Apple Tyro: El Capitan, Caps Lock, Parallels.....	6
Open Source Software: Money Manager Ex, VeraCrypt.....	8
Amazon Underground Apps.....	10
How to Set Windows 10 Security and Privacy Options.....	13
JCA SeniorTech Training.....	14
Micro Center Clinic Schedule.....	14

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*(Continued from page 1)*

consulting firms headquartered in the Washington, D.C., metro area. He is now principal of David L. Haase Communications, LLC ([www.DLHcom.com](http://www.DLHcom.com)).

### November 25, 2015 (Arlington)

#### Technology & PC Help Desk

Extended Question and Answer session; discuss topics of interest, share knowledge and get help with technology issues.

### December 12, 2015 (Fairfax)

#### Learn 30: Apps for iOS and Android

Presented by Stan Schretter

#### Is This Thing On?

Presented by Abby Stokes



#### If You Missed It

by Geof Goodrum

Director, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society  
Director1(at)patacs.org

If you can't make a meeting in person, remember that members can participate in meetings remotely and for free via Zoom teleconferencing (see <http://zoom.us/>, for Apple® OS X® and iOS, GNU/Linux®, Google Android™ and Microsoft® Windows®). Details are provided in e-mailed meeting announcements.

Remember: you must be physically present at the end of the meeting to be eligible for door prizes.

### August 15, 2015 (Fairfax)

We had many first time guests from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at our August meeting, and six participants on the Zoom videoconference. While the Learn 30 tutorial session went well, on-site technical difficulties getting both sound and video working together during Bill James' live online demonstration of just-released Microsoft Windows 10 meant we lost some attendees early, but eventually we got this working. One of the members on Zoom was able to share the APCUG presentation with the others who were on Zoom (thank you!).

In the meantime, for those looking for information on Windows 10, PATACS President Jim Rhodes has been using Windows 10 and can

provide information at Arlington meetings. Local libraries are also offering Windows 10 books.

#### Learn 30: Programming for Non-Programmers by Lorrin Garson



Lorrin Garson gave another entertaining and informative introduction to software programming that did not assume any programming experience. Lorrin covered topics including reasons for writing programs, what computer languages are with samples of the simple "Hello World" program in several computer languages, and additional details on the history of 'C' and Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code (BASIC) languages. Lorrin also talked about Integrated Development Environments (IDE) that provide tools to assist in writing software, including Microsoft's Visual Studio and Apple's Xcode. Lorrin provided some guidance on how to start programming, and recommended some computer languages for first-time learners.

A PDF file of Lorrin's presentation is posted on the PATACS Recent Meetings web page (<http://patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>).

#### Q&A Session



Q: When would be a good time to install Windows 10? Another participant mentioned a temporary lost connection to Microsoft Outlook after declining a pop-up prompt to upgrade.

A: Paul Howard recommended Bob Rankin's articles (<http://askbobrankin.com/windows10/>) if you are thinking about installing Windows 10.

Q: Where is the web link to give PATACS credit from Amazon purchases?

A: Paul attempted to demonstrate the link on the PATACS home page, but it did not work. Amazon recently changed the setting, so Paul will fix it.

Q: Why can't I login to the OLLI web site using Windows 10 and Microsoft's new Edge web browser?

A: Edge is not compatible with all web sites, so if it fails, try another browser.

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Q: Are there any problems running the Mozilla Firefox web browser with Windows 10?

A: No, Firefox supports Windows 10.

Q: Are Windows 10 applications available?

A: There are downloadable applications, but applications are not on physical media (yet). There were reports that Intuit's Quicken financial application was not working with Windows 10, but others said it does (see <https://qlc.intuit.com/questions/1195636-quicken-premier-2015-on-windows-10>). Another person reported that Windows 10 did not support an older printer. The recommendation is to check with the printer vendor to see if Windows 10 printer drivers are available. If not, reinstall the latest drivers.

### **Presentation: Windows 10 by Bill James**

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) will post the complete video on their YouTube channel when it is available (see <http://apcug2.org/apcug-2015-summer-virtual-tech-conference-vtc16/>). What follows are some summary points from Bill's video presentation.

Microsoft Windows 10 is available in Home and Pro editions, both 32 and 64 bit. Home edition users cannot elect what updates to install. Users of the Pro edition can defer upgrades, select automatic and scheduled restart options and can control updates to Microsoft Office. A DVD player application is not included, but will be added in a few months via Windows Update.

Bill covered how to find the traditional Control Panel: use Search box in lower left "Ask Anything," click and type in "control panel," then click on the search result at top of screen. Bill covered tools to change the display, switching various notifications on and off, and changing default program features.

For current users with Windows 7 or 8, Bill said it is a "no brainer" to update to the latest version as no functionality is lost. There should not be any hardware issues upgrading. However, upgrading from Vista requires a clean install.

Upgraders have thirty days from date of installation to roll-back to their previous operating system.

Bill discussed other features including the traditional taskbar, multiple desktops (a feature from GNU/Linux), switching windows with or without a mouse (Windows key + Tab), the new Edge web browser (Internet Explorer is still available), which can import favorites from other browsers. Bill demonstrated Edge Web Notes to annotate/highlight a web page, cut and paste into a document, and printing web pages without web page headings. The Action Center controls online activity, news, Cortana (voice-enabled assistant) and system notices. Quick Note brings up Office OneNote. Bill demonstrated keyboard shortcuts for Cortana, search options, settings menu (Windows + i), and windows placement (Windows + [arrow keys]).

In response to audience questions, Bill demonstrated privacy settings for location and to control what apps can use location information (noting that if the general setting is turned off, each app has location access turned on by default).

### **September 12, 2015 (Fairfax)**

This was a special meeting to accommodate the schedule of Chris and Jim Guld of Geeks on Tour (<http://geeksontour.com/>).

Chris and Jim have been presenting Technology Seminars to groups and clubs since 2005, traveling the country in their RV. The GeeksOnTour.com website features tutorial videos, a free newsletter and free seminar handouts. Geeks on Tour also host a weekly online show live on Sundays with recordings available on YouTube.



*(Continued on page 4)*

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GeeksOnTour.com is free, but member supported at \$68 for one year access to the tutorial videos.

### **Presentation: Picasa and Google Photos by Chris and Jim Guld**

Chris and Jim focused on features of the Google Photos web application (<https://photos.google.com/>) for Google Android, Apple iOS and web browsers (Google Chrome recommended), but also demonstrated Google's free Picasa application for Microsoft Windows. Google Photos offers free unlimited cloud storage for "high-quality" photos (recommended for cameras up to 16 megapixel resolution) and 1080p videos, or 15GB cloud storage for high-resolution photos. Google wants to be home for all your photos online, as do other companies trying to get you to spend your time on their site. Google Photos has a unique feature that uses face recognition to automatically group photos of individual people even with age progression from baby to child. Google Photos has some basic photo editing features. For those using the mobile app, Google Photo Assistant will alert and give option to remove older, backed up photos from device. For those using a web browser, Google provides a Desktop Uploader application for MS Windows and Apple OS (<https://photos.google.com/apps>) to upload photos from the computer (or connected camera) to the Google Photos account.

The Google Picasa application (<http://picasa.google.com/>) provides photo management and limited editing on local PC storage. Picasa can find and eliminate duplicate photos, and copy and move photos from camera. As Picasa is just a tool to manage photos, the photo files are in a PC folder on the hard drive even if the Picasa software is removed. Picasa can add captions to favorite photos, included in metadata of file. Picasa has a unique capability to generate a collage from photos. Picasa has a built-in capability to upload photos to Google Photos. Cameras must connect to the computer to upload photos to a Google account.

Q: Does Google store all photo metadata?

A: Yes.

Q: Is Google Photos compatible with Windows 10?

A: Yes, because Google Photos is a web application, not installed software.

Q: What are the privacy implications?

A: Google Photos is ad-supported. Read the Terms of Service. But photos are private, connected to your Google account.

Q: What about targeted ads?

A: That is part of service (targeted ads can be disabled in Google account privacy settings). The Guld's opinion is that the benefits outweigh the concerns.

Q: Once a photo is in the cloud, can it be deleted?

A: Yes, but it stays in trash for sixty days. If concerned, don't put content online.

Q: Does Google Photos import tags created somewhere else?

A: Tags stored in photo metadata are retained.

Q: Is there anything that Picasa can do that Google Photos can't?

A: Collages, captions (stored in photo metadata), and text overlays.

Q: Better to keep original photos for editing instead of "high-quality" photos on Google?

A: Do not delete originals. Back those up on other media, too.

Q: Can photos be copied to an online blog?

A: Put the photo in a Google public album, then link to the photo in the blogger application.

### **September 19, 2015 (Fairfax)**

#### **Q&A Session**

Q: Why won't a large Microsoft Word 2010 document autosave to the C drive?

A: This is difficult to diagnose, but try Save As on a copy of the document to see where Word is saving it.

Q: How was the Apple iOS9 upgrade experience?

A: Stan Schretter said he did not experience any problems with the upgrade.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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### Learn 30: Exploring Mobile Apps for Photography by Stan Schretter

Stan Schretter reviewed mobile apps suited for travel photography. Although Stan focused on the Google Android apps, he noted that the same apps for Apple iOS sometimes work differently.

Stan has a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera, and likes to save pictures in Raw (camera native internal storage) and JPEG (lossy compressed) formats. On his Android device (Google Nexus 7), Stan uses a microUSB adapter to import files (read-only, use the SD card lock switch) from the camera's SD card with the Nexus Media Importer app (<http://homesoft.info/nmi/>, \$3.99). Stan cautioned that the app icons can be misleading – an icon with an arrow moves files, deleting them from the SD card if the card is not locked.

Stan said that one improvement with Apple's new iOS9 update is it allows multi-selection of files by dragging finger across the photo thumbnails.

Stan likes to use the QuickPic app (<http://alensw.com/en/>, free) to review and delete photo files.

Stan recommended the Perfectly Clear app (<http://www.athentech.com/>, \$2.99) to apply image corrections to batches of image files. Stan demonstrated settings adjustments to control the applied corrections, but in practice uses the default settings.

Stan uses Google's Snapseed app (<https://plus.google.com/+Snapseed/about>, free) for additional image processing (the Gulds also recommended this editing app at the 12 September meeting). There are some differences between the iOS and Android versions of this app. Snapseed offers very powerful, non-destructive photo editing (but only until saved in the Android version).

Stan noted that the Google Photo app seems to work the same on both iOS and Android devices. However, he noted a quirk that Apple iOS9 seems to rename files during transfers over WiFi.

Stan's briefing in PDF format is on the PATACS Recent Meetings web page (<http://patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>).

### Small Changes, Big Impact! Change Your Patterns, Change Your Life by Jennifer C. Katt

Jennifer Katt is a Certified Personal Fitness Trainer and Weight Management Specialist at Surround Fitness (<http://www.surroundfitness.com/>) who talked with us about nutrition and healthy eating, particularly the "No-Diet" approach to nutrition.

Ms Katt said that diets don't work—change your behavior patterns instead. The body uses food more efficiently when dieting, which is not desired to lose weight. People typically gain back more weight after dieting.

Imitate the habits of those who have lost weight and kept it off. Ms Katt recommended My Fitness Pal (<https://www.myfitnesspal.com/>, free) as one of the better apps. The point is not to count calories but be aware of what you are eating. Initially, it is a pain to track your eating, but it becomes a habit and is not time consuming. My Fitness Pal can recall previous meals for quick entry. Ms Katt also recommended <http://www.fooducate.com/> as a very useful web site and free app with healthy, substitute foods.

Ms Katt also recommends using a pedometer or fitness tracker to monitor resting heart rate, activity level, steps, and sleep. She reported that studies found the Body Media Fit, FitBit, Zip, and FitBit1 were the most accurate.



Other tips include moving healthy foods to eye level in refrigerator and making healthy snacks available—make the easy choice the healthy choice.

(Continued on page 6)

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There are many more healthy eating recommendations in the briefing materials linked on the PATACS Recent Meetings web page. However, here is a summary.

- Become a label reader. Real food should be the first ingredient.
- Track what you eat.
- Move and stand more.
- Eat breakfast.
- Eat smaller meals more frequently.
- Start a strength training program.
- Become a morning person.

Q: Is it ever too late to start?

A: No.

Q: What about honey as a natural sweetener, organic foods, etc?

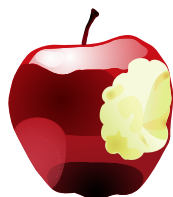
A: Natural food is not necessarily better. Honey is still sugar. An audience member commented that a study did not show benefits of organic foods. There is an environmental benefit, though.

Q: What about potatoes?

A: Prefer brown rice and sweet potatoes, avoid white rice and white potatoes, as starches break down more easily. Eat food whole. Potato skins are good (“fiber packaging”).

## Musings of an Apple Tyro

by Lorrin R. Garson  
Potomac Area Technology and  
Computer Society  
newslettercolumnist(at)patacs.org



## Another Security Threat

PCWorld has reported a security threat that can impact many types of computers regardless of operating systems (including Windows, OS X, Linux, etc.). See <http://bit.ly/1NnaMe4> for details. This Web-based attack works against DRAM by flipping bits (0 to 1 or 1 to 0).

Apparently DDR3 DRAM, which is currently used by virtually all our computers, is vulnerable whereas DDR4 chips may be less so. See also <http://bit.ly/1FvomnT> and <http://bit.ly/1KBAew2>. What to do? Be aware of

this threat and keep an eye open for reports of attacks and solutions. Presumably OS X El Capitan is not susceptible to this threat.

## OS X El Capitan

The first beta of El Capitan was released on July 9, 2015 and will be available free to the public later this year, probably about the time you read this article. This beta release can be downloaded from <http://apple.co/1g6W7oQ>, but be aware using a beta release is truly at the bleeding edge. The publicly released version will inevitably be somewhat different. In fact, you may want to wait a few months after the public release to install El Capitan. Here are the major features of El Capitan as gleaned from discussion of the first beta release:

Apple Mail is getting a major upgrade. Better integration with Calendar and Contacts. Most important, performance when used with slow Internet connections is improved. This has been a major shortcoming of Apple Mail for a long time.

Mission Control has been revamped. Each window will have its own thumbnail. Previously all windows from an app would be stacked together. Mission Control is mostly used by power users.

A new split-screen interface. Two different apps can share a full-screen, one on the left and the other on the right. Microsoft windows has long had this feature and Apple has lagged behind.

Enhancements to Spotlight. Spotlight has long been regarded as an excellent tool to retrieve information. With El Capitan Spotlight can also access weather, stocks, sports, city public transit information and Web video. There is now support for natural-language queries such as “Documents I worked on last week” and “What’s the weather like today.” For more information see <http://bit.ly/1i9GwH2>.

Notes is upgraded. This app is very popular with Mac users. With this release you can easily create checklists and Notes makes better use of iCloud.

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

Safari (version 9) is tweaked. Pinned Sites has been introduced, which is sort of a bookmark on steroids. Audio from videos can be easily muted.

Photos is improved. Editing of image data, individually and in batches, is improved. Albums can be sorted by date, title, etc.

Overall improved performance. Seemingly apps launch 40% faster and switching between apps takes half the time of Yosemite.

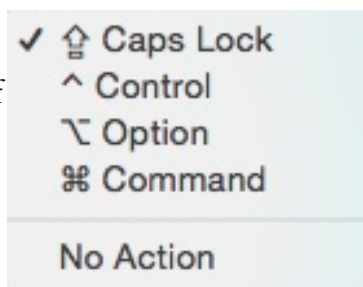
For more information see MacWorld, September, 2015, pp. 68-78.

### Disable the “caps lock” Key

Are you frustrated because you inadvertently turn on the “caps lock” key and then discover you’ve been typing all upper case letters for the last, say, 10 minutes? It’s easy to inactivate the “caps lock” key as follows:

1. Left-click on the Apple icon in the top-left of the Menu bar located at the top of the monitor.
2. Select “System Preferences...”.
3. Left-click on the “Keyboard” icon.
4. Left-click on the “Keyboard” tab.
5. Left-click on “Modifier Keys...” located in the lower right corner.
6. In the row “Caps Lock” left-click on to display the pop up window shown below.
7. Left-click on “No Action” then left-click on the “OK” tab.

Note that the default setting is “Caps Lock”, which sets the “caps key” to act normally. If you find turning off the “caps lock” key bothersome you can go through the above procedure and reset it to the default by left-clicking on “Caps Lock”. Also note you can turn the “caps lock” key into an additional “control”, “option” or “command” key, although this could be confusing.



### Parallels Desktop for Mac

Is there some software you must use that runs only in Windows, but you are primarily an Apple computer user? Consider buying Parallels Desktop for Mac at <http://bit.ly/1UDUOvf>. Parallels is a mature product in its 11<sup>th</sup> edition. The “standard” version is available for a one-time \$79.99 purchase whereas the Pro and Business editions are available for an annual subscription of \$99.99.

Quoting Wikipedia (see <http://bit.ly/1VKLpEF>), “Parallels Desktop for Mac is a hardware emulation virtualization software, using hypervisor (aka virtual machine monitor or VMM) technology that works by mapping the host computer’s hardware resources directly to the virtual machine’s resources. Each virtual machine thus operates identically to a standalone computer, with virtually all the resources of a physical computer. Because all guest virtual machines use the same hardware drivers irrespective of the actual hardware on the host computer, virtual machine instances are highly portable between computers. For example, a running virtual machine can be stopped, copied to another physical computer, and restarted.”

The current version of Parallels provides support for El Capitan. See <http://bit.ly/1QIGdDM>.

See <http://bit.ly/1FvqoUU> for an extensive description and review.

Boot Camp is an alternative to Parallels, which is software from Apple. Windows 7, 8.1 and 10 are supported. See <http://apple.co/1EQZKEN> for more information. Also see <http://bit.ly/1K3Y9h5> for additional information. You will also need to purchase a copy of Windows from Microsoft, see <http://bit.ly/1JPcij9>.

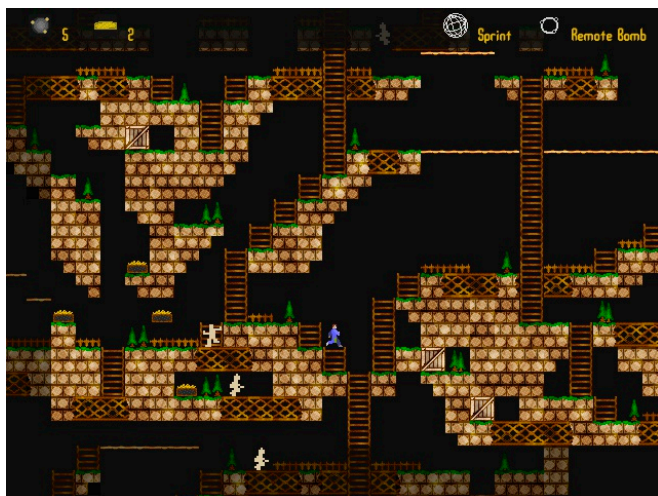
VMware Fusion 8 and VMware Fusion 8 Pro are other alternatives; see <http://vmw.re/1KYyg7H>. VirtualBox 5.0 is yet another alternative; see <http://bit.ly/1LUTMZs>.

## Open Source Software of the Month: November 2015

by Geof Goodrum

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**A Lode Runner Story** – v0.9.5. <http://pygame.org/project/2439/>. Free Microsoft® Windows® executable, Python code for other platforms by Mike Doty. “A Lode Runner Story” begins with the core gameplay from the 1983 Brøderbund classic Lode Runner. As in the original, you must navigate various levels, attempting to dig through the ground and acquire gold while evading the bad guys who want to kill you.



On top of the classic gameplay is a number of popular RPG elements. The game features a nonlinear quest and dialogue system. As you explore the world, you will have an opportunity to talk with the various non-player characters (NPCs) that populate the game.

As you converse with people in the game, you will gain various quests and objectives. The dialogue responses you select during those conversations will determine your reputation and, in time, the path your story will take. Different conversational approaches will yield different rewards, and at times even entirely different quests!

In exactly the same way, many quests will present you with the same freedom of choice. If a citizen asks you to retrieve a special item for you, will you retrieve the correct item, or will you

bypass it in favor of a more interesting item that you like better? Furthermore, if you do take the “correct” item, will you agree to return it to the citizen, or will you ultimately decide to keep it for your own use?

The game’s inventory/item system allows you to make continued modifications to your player throughout the game. Some items might grant you a speed increase; others might lengthen the duration of the holes you dig in the ground. Higher-level items will mix and match various attributes, even! As you play through the game, you will have the ability to experiment, to learn which item combinations give you the best chance to complete each puzzle and elude the bad guys.”

**fre:ac** – v20150725. <http://sourceforge.net/projects/bonkenc/>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X®, FreeBSD and GNU/Linux® by Robert Kausch. fre:ac is a free audio converter and CD ripper for various formats and encoders. It features MP3, MP4/M4A, WMA, Ogg Vorbis, FLAC, AAC, and Bonk format support, integrates freedb/CDDb, CDText and ID3v2 tagging and is available in several languages. Features include:

- Converts between MP3, MP4/M4A, WMA, Ogg Vorbis, FLAC, AAC and Bonk formats
- Integrated audio CD ripper with freedb/CDDb support
- Easy to learn and use, still offering expert options when you need them
- Portable application to install on a USB drive and run everywhere
- Completely free and open source without any ads or other malware

**Kernel Source** – v4.2.3. <http://www.kernel.org/>. Free GNU General Public License source code for GNU/Linux by Linus Torvalds et al.

**Money Manager Ex** – v1.2.2. <http://www.moneymanagerex.org/>. Free GNU General Public License source code and

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X®, Google Android™ and GNU/Linux® by Nikolay, Lisheng, James, Stefano, Pat, Gabriele, et al. Money Manager Ex is a free, open-source, cross-platform, easy-to-use personal finance software. It primarily helps organize one's finances and keeps track of where, when and how the money goes. It is also a great tool to get a bird's eye view of your financial worth.

Money Manager includes all the basic features that 90% of users would want to see in a personal finance application. The design goals are to concentrate on simplicity and user-friendliness - something one can use everyday. Features include:

- Intuitive, simple, fast, clean
- Checking, credit card, savings, stock investment, assets accounts
- Reminders for recurring bills and deposits
- Budgeting and cash flow forecasting
- Simple one click reporting with graphs and piecharts
- Import data from any CSV format, QIF

- Does not require an install: can run from a USB key
- Non-Proprietary SQLite Database with AES Encryption
- International language support (available in 24 languages)
- Android app can sync with desktop via Dropbox (optional)

**VeraCrypt** – v1.15. <http://sourceforge.net/projects/veracrypt/>. Free Apache License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Mounir Idrassi. VeraCrypt is a free disk encryption software brought to you by IDRIX (<https://www.idrix.fr>) and based on TrueCrypt 7.1a.

It adds enhanced security to the algorithms used for system and partitions encryption making it immune to new developments in brute-force attacks. It also solves many vulnerabilities and security issues found in TrueCrypt.

This enhanced security adds some delay ONLY to the opening of encrypted partitions without any

(Continued on page 10)

### Below: Money Manager Ex Transaction View

Account View : ANZ: Mastercard									
View All Transactions		Transaction Filter							
Account Bal: \$-1,750.00		Reconciled Bal: \$-1,750.00		Diff: \$0.00		Displayed Bal: \$-1,750.00			
Date	Number	Payee	Status	Category	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance	Notes	
✓ 31-10-2013	[Internet]	Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone	150.00		-8,350...		
✓ 31-10-2013	#1868	< NAB: Savings	R	Others		625.00	-7,725...		
✓ 31-10-2013	[Internet]	Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone	150.00		-7,875...		
✓ 31-10-2013	#1868	< NAB: Savings	R	Others		625.00	-7,250...		
✓ 31-10-2013	[Internet]	Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone	150.00		-7,400...		
✓ 30-11-2013		< NAB: Savings	R	Mastercard:Repayment		625.00	-6,775...		
✓ 30-11-2013		Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone/Internet	150.00		-6,925...		
✓ 30-11-2013	#1914	< NAB: Savings	R	Others		625.00	-6,300...		
✓ 30-11-2013	[Internet]	Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone	150.00		-6,450...		
✓ 30-11-2013	#1914	< NAB: Savings	R	Others		625.00	-5,825...		
✓ 30-11-2013	[Internet]	Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone	150.00		-5,975...		
✓ 30-11-2013	#1914	< NAB: Savings	R	Others		625.00	-5,350...		
✓ 30-11-2013	[Internet]	Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone	150.00		-5,500...		
✓ 31-12-2013		< NAB: Savings	R	Mastercard:Repayment		625.00	-4,875...		
✓ 31-12-2013		Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone/Internet	150.00		-5,025...		
✓ 31-12-2013	#1960	< NAB: Savings	R	Others		625.00	-4,400...		
✓ 31-12-2013	[Internet]	Utility Provider	R	Home:Phone	150.00		-4,550...		

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performance impact to the application use phase. This is acceptable to the legitimate owner but it makes it much harder for an attacker to gain access to the encrypted data.

VeraCrypt can mount TrueCrypt volumes. It also can convert them to VeraCrypt format.

### **Amazon Underground Offers Paid Apps for Free**

by Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

<http://amazon.com/underground>

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?ie=UTF8&docId=1003016361>

<http://www.amazon.com/Amazon-com-Amazon-Underground/dp/B004GJDQT8>

<http://www.ecommercetimes.com/story/82440.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3217042/How-thousands-Android-apps-FREE-Amazon-Underground-offers-paid-games-without-app-purchases.html>

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/08/26/amazon-underground-is-an-android-app-store-with-only-actually-free-apps/>

<http://www.greenbot.com/article/2976413/android-apps/amazon-underground-fights-back-against-freemium-with-app-and-game-giveaways.html>

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/amazon-underground-offers-thousands-dollars-free-apps/story?id=33356677>

<http://mobile.pcmag.com/software/59247-amazon-underground-offers-apps-that-are-actually-free>

Amazon, the online marketing powerhouse best known for its general merchandise, groceries, digital books, and streaming media has now entered a somewhat new market. While Amazon has had an online app store since 2008, with hundreds of thousands of paid and free Android

apps, Amazon recently announced a new Android app and a feature on its website offering a wide selection of normally paid apps for free; according to Amazon, eventually more than ten thousand normally paid apps will be available for totally free download, including free future updates. Not so strangely missing from the competing ubiquitous Google Play Store, this new app with the moniker “Amazon Underground” is available directly from Amazon by connecting to [amazon.com/underground](http://amazon.com/underground) from the Android device. This new Amazon app combines features from the traditional Amazon shopping app as well as the existing Amazon App Store, but also provides the user with access to the expanding catalog of otherwise “premium” (paid) apps labeled by Amazon as “Actually Free”.

Amazon is able to offer these otherwise paid apps for free because Amazon has come up with a creative way to compensate the developers for the revenue lost by giving away otherwise revenue generating apps. Amazon pays the developers a fee based on the actual use of the apps by the users, and plans on offsetting the cost by attracting more customer to its other more traditional products. Another nice feature of these “Actually Free” apps is the fact that in exchange for direct compensation from Amazon, the developers also waive the typical in-app purchases, as well as the traditional upfront charges to use their products. Since there are generally no costs involved whatsoever to download and use these otherwise paid apps, the Android user now has the ability to download potentially thousands of premium utilities, games, and other apps that otherwise would have borne a significant cost. Amazon claims that each Android user can access over \$10,000 worth of apps “Actually Free” using its new Amazon Underground service. Google is apparently unhappy with this potentially strong competition from Amazon, and does not list the Amazon Underground app on its Google Play Store, thus requiring the download of the Amazon Underground app directly from Amazon.

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In order to allow the Android phone or tablet to download the Amazon Underground app directly from Amazon, many users may have to modify a security setting on their device; this is accomplished by opening “Settings”, then “Security”, then “Unknown Sources - Allow installation from non-official apps.” While this is a legitimate security setting intended to prevent the user from installing possibly dangerous apps from illicit unofficial sources, it can also prevent the installation of apps from other legitimate sources such as Amazon. When “on” this otherwise legitimate security setting only allows apps downloaded from the official Google Play Store to be installed, giving Google a potentially unfair competitive edge vis a’ vis Amazon. It has been rumored in the blogs that this otherwise legitimate security concern may also restrict competition, which has supposedly attracted the attention of federal regulators, but there has been nothing official published, and there is no confirmation, only unsubstantiated speculation that this may be happening. It is up to the user to decide to allow or prevent apps to be installed from other than the Google Play Store; in order to install the free apps downloaded from Amazon Underground, this setting needs to be on “allow”.

Users may find the selection of apps available from Amazon Underground that are “Actually Free” to be quite attractive. Popular games, including several of the “Angry Birds” series, which normally generate revenue for the developers through the “in app purchases” of coins or other game tokens carry the following statement when downloaded from Amazon

Underground, “This app and its in-app purchases are actually free.” Productivity and utility apps, such as the Microsoft Office compatible commercial office suites, including “Docs to Go” and “OfficeSuite Professional 8”, state in the product description that not just is the app totally free to download (many are in the \$10 range on the Google Play Store), but states in the product details section “In-App Purchasing (Free with Amazon Underground).” For those of you (or your kids) who may have run up large bills while playing many of the popular games, you

may find the same games that you have been playing and paying for are shown in the Amazon Underground app store as “Actually Free”, and what were “in-app purchases” are now free!

While the Amazon Underground apps can be automatically sent to the connected device from the browser based versions of the basic Amazon website, most Android users will probably use the integral Amazon Underground

app to directly download and install the listed apps. The new Amazon Underground app, which incorporates all of the other more traditional Amazon products and features plus apps into this single app, has a slightly different appearance than the better known Amazon shopping app, which still remains fully functional as a shopping app, but lacks the Underground connection. While the icon for the more traditional Amazon shopping app is the well known blue and white shopping cart, the new Amazon Underground icon is a black and orange shopping cart design that simply says “Amazon”. When downloaded and installed, the new Amazon Underground app

INTRODUCING  
**underground**

Everything from the regular Amazon shopping app for Android... and more

- Over \$10,000 in paid apps, games and in-app items that are now FREE
- Unlimited FREE lives, levels and upgrades
- Tens of thousands of movies and TV shows
- More benefits to come

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Continued from page 11)*

and icon replaces the older Amazon shopping icon.

To quickly find the latest listings of the “actually free” apps, open the Amazon Underground app, tap on the three parallel line menu icon on the top left corner of the display to open the detailed menu, then tap the down arrow on the right of the “Apps & Games” line in the menu, and then tap on “Underground Apps & Games”. The screen will now show a series of featured apps and games, divided into self explanatory categories. Among the categories displayed, each of which can be “slid” to the left to display more apps in that particular category, are “Featured actually Free Apps and Games”, “Actually Free Kids Apps & Games”, “Apps & Games Biggest Savings”, “Actually Free Productivity & Lifestyle”, “Top Amazon Underground Apps”, “Recommended for You”, and “All Underground.” On the top right corner of each category is a link that says “See All” which will open another page displaying a lengthy list of all of the “Actually Free” apps under that category.

The category titles are reasonably self explanatory, and do not require any articulation to disclose their contents. In the “Actually Free Kids Apps & Games” are dozens of popular kids games that have also appealed to many adults, including several of the Angry Birds series; I have one adult acquaintance who has been a regular player of one of these Angry Birds games, almost to the point of an expensive addiction; while still somewhat addictive, the exact same game downloaded and installed from Amazon Underground would not bear any of the substantial cost that she has been paying for the same game elsewhere. In her case, the statement on the game app page “In-App Purchasing (Free with Amazon Underground)” would be a big money saver for her, as well as those concerned about their kids racking up large game app bills. While possibly appealing to a more mature audience, the more adult oriented game apps such as the slot machine apps, “Deal or No Deal”, and other similar game apps from Underground

can waste just as much time as the same apps downloaded from the Google Play Store, but will not have the associated fiscal costs of playing them, lessening the burden these games can place on the individual.

I will admit that as attractive as many of the games are, I am not a gamer. The Underground apps that most appealed to me, which I downloaded and installed from Amazon Underground were in the “Actually Free Productivity & Lifestyle” category. Pleading guilty, I had previously been using one of the office utilities that I downloaded from the Google Play Store, but did not take advantage of its advanced features because of the cost of the “In-App Purchases” which would enable the enhanced functionality of that app, with each additional function costing from \$2 to \$10. After seeing the identical app on Amazon Underground without all of the extra fees, I uninstalled the app from the Google Play Store, and then downloaded the same app from Amazon Underground; I now have the complete functionality of that utility without any additional expense! In this “Productivity & Lifestyle” group are several complete office suites that are fully compatible with Microsoft Office products, PDF utilities, comprehensive photo and video editing suites, map and road routing apps, financial and budgeting apps, weather apps, calendar and task managers, password managers, music synthesizers, workout helpers, and other useful apps.

This is not a short term promotion being offered by Amazon, as Amazon has stated that this new “Underground” service will not just remain available, but will be greatly expanded to offer many more apps than just those currently listed. With hundreds of “Actually Free” apps now available, and potentially thousands more to be added in the foreseeable future, the Google Play Store may face some serious competition from Amazon Underground in the lucrative market for paid apps. The users of paid apps downloaded from Google may find the same Amazon

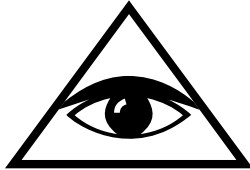
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Underground “Actually Free” apps which also waive the infamous “In-App Purchase” fees most attractive. Move over Google; there is a new sheriff in town.

## How to Set Windows 10 Privacy & Security Options

by Sandy Berger  
CompuKISS  
www.compukiss.com  
sandy (at) compukiss.com



Windows 10 has many Security and Privacy options that you can quickly and easily change. In fact, you have more control over these options in Windows 10 than you do in most other operating systems. Want to get started? Just follow these simple instructions.

Once Windows 10 is up and running, you can still set many of the Security and Privacy options. Just click on Start and go to the Settings, then click on the Privacy control panel icon.

You will see a long list of options and you can turn each of these off if you like.

In the Privacy area you can even quickly turn off the camera, microphone, and location information. And you can stop sending some information to Microsoft. Click on “Manage my Microsoft advertising and other personalization info” and you will get more information on how that works and also get the ability to turn off targeted ads.

Actually Windows 10 gives you more control of the privacy options than most other operating systems. As far as privacy goes, Windows 10 is no better or worse than many of the other operating systems that you use on your other connected devices. Yet, if you use Windows 10, you should check out the Privacy and Security options.

## Help Wanted: Meeting Speakers

Finding presenters for our meeting programs is difficult—your help in the effort to enhance the value we all receive from PATACS membership would be greatly appreciated!

Please consider speaking to your friends at an Arlington or Fairfax meeting. We’d love to feature your take on a smart phone or tablet app. A presentation on these or other topics of interest to you would undoubtedly be welcomed by your PATACS colleagues. We have space in our schedule for 15, 30, 60 and 75 minute discussions—what are you waiting for?

We also have ready-made paragraphs you could use in e-mail communications to help us find speakers. Contact: [director2\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:director2(at)patacs.org)



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## Special Membership Promotion



Current members who bring a new member to the organization will receive a six month extension of their membership. New member is defined as someone who has not

been a member in the thirty-six months prior to month of received application. The new member should list your name as the ‘source’ of their membership on the application form (pick up at meetings or download from

<http://patacs.org/membershipat.html>).

## JCA SeniorTech Training

JCA SeniorTech Computer Centers offer diverse senior-friendly (50+) technology classes (personal computers, tablets, smartphones, online security, etc.). Offerings include beginner and intermediate computer classes in Windows 7, Windows 8, Excel, iPad and iPhone, email, photos, and social media.

SeniorTech is a service of the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA). Within the limits of its resources, JCA serves people of all faiths and from all walks of life.

For additional information about SeniorTech courses, call 240-395-0916 or 703-652-1512. A course catalog is available for download at <http://www.accessjca.org/programs/technology-training/>.

### Washington DC Area Training Locations

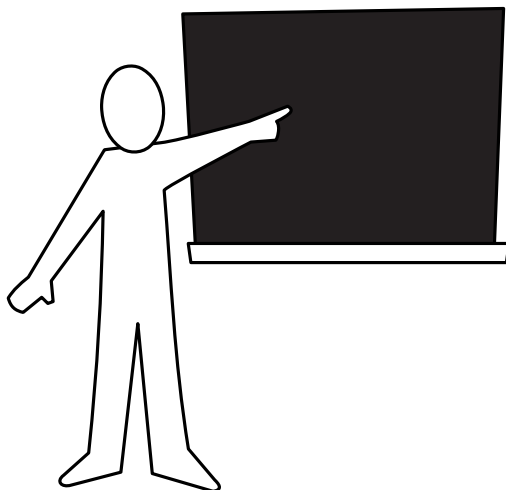
Asbury Methodist Village, 409 Russell Ave,  
Gaithersburg, MD, 301-987-6291

JCA Bronfman Center, 12320 Parklawn Drive,  
Rockville, MD, 301-255-4200

Microsoft at Westfield Montgomery Mall, 7101  
Democracy Blvd, Bethesda, MD, 301-765-3080

Microsoft at Tysons Corner, 1961 Chain Bridge  
Rd, McLean, VA 22102, 703-336-8480

Crystal City Shops, 1750 Crystal Drive, Suite  
1638B, Arlington, VA, 703-941-1007  
<http://va-seniortech.org/>



## Micro Center® In Store Clinics

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Micro Center stores host free events called “In Store Clinics.” The clinics cover a wide range of topics. All Micro Center store locations follow the same schedule of topics.

A link for store locations is at the top center of the home page, [www.microcenter.com](http://www.microcenter.com). For those in the Washington, D.C. area, the only store in Virginia is in the Pan Am Plaza at 3089 Nutley Street, Fairfax, VA 22031, phone (703) 204-8400, and the only store in Maryland is in the Federal Plaza at 1776 E. Jefferson #203, Rockville, MD 20852, phone (301) 692-2130.

Micro Center Clinics are held on most weekends, except during holidays. The same topic is usually presented on both Saturday and Sunday. Topics may change and clinics may be cancelled without notice. Please verify the schedule with the store before leaving and register online for e-mail updates (<http://www.microcenter.com/site/stores/instore-clinics.aspx>).

Signing up in advance reserves a seat, recommended as space is limited. This can only be done at a store, either at the Tech Support or Customer Support area.

### October – November 2015 Schedule

Start Time is 2pm local unless otherwise stated.

Oct 24 & 25: 3D Printers

Oct 31 & Nov 1: Windows® 10

Nov 7 & 8: Wireless Networking

Nov 14 & 15: Mac OS-X Tips & Tricks



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## November 2015 PATACS Event Calendar

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> -1 hour End Daylight Saving Time 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Election Day 	<b>4</b> 7-9pm Arlington General Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veterans Day 7-9pm Online Zoom Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Sadie Hawkins Day	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7-9pm Arlington Board Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Name Your PC Day	<b>21</b> 12:30-3:30pm Fairfax General Meeting
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7-9pm Arlington Technology & PC Help Desk	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving Day 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> January Newsletter Articles Due
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Cyber Monday					

Arlington: Carlin Hall Community Center  
 5711 4<sup>th</sup> Street South  
 Arlington VA 22204

Fairfax: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
 4210 Roberts Road  
 Fairfax VA 22032