

## December PATACS/OPCUG meeting

Our **Saturday, December 12** meeting will be held at OLLI / Tallwood (Previously announced venue change is postponed to summer 2016 with construction project changes). **Note: The meeting is the 2nd Saturday of December.**

### Presenter: Abby Stokes

**“Is This Thing On?” Navigating the Digital World** – The digital divide widens with the rapid pace of new innovations and gadgets. What is out there and how it might benefit you can be lost in all the tech talk. Should you buy a tablet or a computer? Stick with your PC or move onto an Apple? How do you maximize your searches and why on earth do people want to share on Facebook? Abby helps “digital immigrants” (those baby boomers and beyond not born with a keyboard and mouse in hand) understand what everyone is talking about and how to decide what might work best for them. Abby Stokes has taken on the role of the Johnny Appleseed of Technology crisscrossing the country to help Digital Immigrants conquer their fear of technology. Abby has single-

their fear of technology. Abby has single-handedly helped a quarter million Digitally Challenged people cross the Digital Divide and Divide and get online. She’s visited more than 20 states, 120 public libraries, over 100 senior centers/ computer clubs and has hosted webinars across the country. **Big Bonus:** Abby will stay to join us at a post-meeting outing at Bernie's Deli on Route 123.



### Learn 30 for December 12th

**Mobile Apps For Organizing Information**  
 There are lots of mobile apps that claim to be great organizers of information. Do any really do it well? Stan Schretter will illustrate some of issues facing mobile users and why it still may be necessary to augment even the best mobile apps with the PC version to get the best results.

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## Musings of an Apple Tyro

December 2015

Lorrin R. Garson

### iPhone 6S and 6S Plus:

On September 25<sup>th</sup> Apple released the iPhone 6S and iPhone 6S Plus. The major improvements of the iPhone 6S over the iPhone 6 are as follows:

New front and rear cameras (12 megapixels)

Faster processors for improved performance

More memory

A stronger metal body

Always-on Siri

Improved video

Improved Touch ID

New 3D touch

The latest iOS 9 operating system

The newer models are slightly thicker and heavier (~10% over the iPhone 6 and 30% over the iPhone 5 and 5S). Battery life is little changed from earlier models.

The iPhone 6S is priced at: \$649 (16 GB), \$749 (64 GB) and \$849 (128 GB). The iPhone 6S Plus is priced at: \$749 (16 GB), \$849 (64 GB) and \$949 (128 GB).

See <http://bit.ly/1VZoiED> for a 7-minute video that compares the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6S.

See <https://www.apple.com/iphone-6s/> for a description of features from Apple.



Apple released OS X El Capitan, the new Mac operating system, on September 30<sup>th</sup>. This is not a major or revolutionary release but a collection of new features, fixes and performance improvements. Highlights of El Capitan are:

Improved general performance

Improvements to Spotlight search

Enrichments to Mail

Notes has been completely rewritten

Enhancements to Mission Control

Minor additions to the Safari browser

Several enhancements to Photos

Split View—display two applications side by side. (Windows has had this feature for years!)

A new system-wide font called San Francisco

Maps with Transit View (public transportation in select cities)

See <http://www.apple.com/osx/whats-new/> from Apple.

See <http://tcn.ch/1Nj7TIP> for a good description.

See <http://cnet.co/1RQbOP5> for a good review from *C/NET Magazine*.

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## New Apple Computers:

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Apple announced two new iMacs—a new 22.5-inch iMac with Retina 4K display and a 27-inch iMac with Retina 5K display. These new desktop computers also have faster CPUs and graphics cards.

The 21.5-inch iMac has a 3.1 GHz quad-core i5 processor (Turbo Boost up to 3.6 GHz), integrated Intel Iris Pro Graphics 6200, 8 GB RAM, and a 1TB hard drive. Two lesser performance 22.5-inch models are also available.

The 27-inch iMac has a 3.3 GHz quad-core i5 processor, a dedicated AMD Radeon R9 M395 GPU, 8 GB RAM, and a 2 TB Fusion drive.

Both 22.5-inch and 27-inch models can be configured with higher end CPUs, more RAM and other upgraded hardware at the time of purchase. Also two lesser performance 27-inch models are available. For details see <http://www.apple.com/imac/>.

## New Magic Accessories:



Apple also announced three new Magic accessories. See <http://www.apple.com/magic-accessories/> for details. All three accessories have built-in rechargeable lithium-ion batteries.

A new Magic Keyboard (\$99) with Bluetooth connectivity and a lower profile for more precise typing.

The Magic Trackpad 2 (\$129) with Apple's new "Force Touch" with 29% larger surface area.

The Magic Mouse 2 (\$79).



## New iPad Pro:

This new iPad, to be made available in November, has several new features and enhancements over the current iPads.

A 12.9-inch tablet, which is 78% larger than the iPad Air 2.

A new A9x 64-bit CPU.

Weight 1.57 pounds, which is bit heavy.

Side-by-side viewing for two apps.

10 hours of battery life.

A new stylus ("The Pencil") specifically made for the new iPad.

A new keyboard especially for the iPad Pro, called "The Smart Keyboard".

See <http://cnet.co/1NOQjj2> for details.



## Microsoft Office 2016:

Finally an updated version of Office for Mac has arrived; Office 2011 was getting long in the tooth. This widely used suite of programs was released for OS X on July 9, 2015 for Office 365 subscribers. The perpetual licensed version (aka "Stand Alone" version) for OS X and Windows

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was released on September 22, 2015. The Mac version features an updated user interface that uses ribbons, support for Retina Display, and new sharing features for Office documents. However for Outlook 2016 for Macs, there is very limited support for synchronization of collaboration functions outside of basic email.

Apparently the perpetual licensed product is only offered for a single Mac (or PC) and not for multiple machines in a family. Two versions are available: (1) Office Home & Student (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote) for \$149.99 and (2) Office Home & Business (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and Outlook) for \$229.99.

See <http://bit.ly/1NOQpae> for information on pricing and an explanation of the difference between Microsoft Office 2016 (perpetual license) and Microsoft Office 365 (software rental).

For information on Office 365 availability and prices see <http://bit.ly/1jOykMt>.

Note, at the time this article was written (October 2015) OS X El Capitan and Office 2016 were seemingly incompatible with regular crashes of Outlook, Excel and Word. For example, see <http://bit.ly/1khhAhi>. Probably (hopefully!) this serious deficiency will have been resolved by the time you read this.

### Interesting Internet Finds

**Steve Costello, Boca Raton Computer Society**  
**editor@brcs.org** <http://ctublog.sefcug.com/>

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members. The following are some items I found interesting.

*How to Protect Your Android Phone from*

*Stagefright Exploit* [https://](https://www.maketecheasier.com/protect-android-stagefright-exploit/)

[www.maketecheasier.com/protect-android-stagefright-exploit/](https://www.maketecheasier.com/protect-android-stagefright-exploit/)

If you use an Android phone and MMS, you should read this post and follow the recommendations if you are vulnerable.

*How "Silent Calls" Lead To Identity Theft*

[http://askbobrankin.com/](http://askbobrankin.com/how-silent-calls-lead-to-identity-theft.html)

[how-silent-calls-lead-to-identity-theft.html](http://askbobrankin.com/how-silent-calls-lead-to-identity-theft.html)

Bob Rankin explains how the scams work and how to protect yourself.

*The Different Types of Malware, and What You Should Look Out For*

<http://www.pcmec.com/article/the-different-types-of-malware-and-what-you-should-look-out-for/>

This article explains about some different types of malware, and what you should look out for to recognize them and protect yourself.

*Site Security IS Content Security*

[https://](https://www.plagiarismtoday.com/2015/09/24/site-security-is-content-protection/)

[www.plagiarismtoday.com/2015/09/24/site-security-is-content-protection/](https://www.plagiarismtoday.com/2015/09/24/site-security-is-content-protection/)

If you run a Wordpress site, this post is a must read.

*How to Check Your Router for Malware*

<http://www.howtogeek.com/227384/how-to-check-your-router-for-malware/>

This HowToGeek article tells you how to check your router for malware, as well as how to enhance your security. Your PC is not the only device that can get malware.

*Prevent Someone Else from using Your Wireless Internet Connection*

<http://www.online-tech-tips.com/computer-tips/secure-wireless-connection/>

If someone else is using your wi-fi connection there could be security issues. This article tells how you can make sure only those you have authorized can use your connection.

Continued From Page 12 intuitive smart device browsers, functioning almost identically to its desktop cousins. One advantage of Chrome when used on multiple platforms is the simple and concurrent availability of bookmarks, history and other content if the user has a registered Google account, which will automatically synchronize the content across all of the user's devices.



A very popular European browser rapidly gaining market share in the U.S., which runs on multiple platforms including Android and iOS phones and tablets, is Opera Mini. Comparatively compact in size compared to many of its competitors, Opera Mini offers a feature on the opening display it calls "Speed Dial" which displays thumbnail images of the bookmarks or websites most frequently visited, which can be rapidly opened. Likewise, multiple open tabs can be displayed simultaneously providing for instant switching between those tabs.

Opera Mini also offers another feature which potentially saves many users money on data costs, as it can compress downloaded data and content by as much as 90%. For those who often download large amounts of music, videos, or other content, Opera Mini offers a helpful feature which displays the volume of saved data, as well as the space available for additional downloaded material. While extremely feature rich and compact, in my own anecdotal experience with Opera Mini on my devices is that it appears to load websites slightly slower than some of its competitors, but its strong advantages typically offset this minor speed issue.

Opera Mini is available for iOS devices from iTunes, while the Android version is available on the Google Play Store. The larger version of Opera (not "Mini") is available for Android only.

One way that some of the lesser known browsers compete with the "big boys" is by offering additional features, most notably enhanced security or parental controls. The Puffin browser screens search results from the major search engines and filters the content for safety, security, and privacy

With an assortment of alternative browsers available for both iOS and Android phones and tablets, there may be no need to use the sometimes inferior web browsers that typically come factory installed on our devices. All of these browsers listed may be worthy of consideration.



### 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>.)



Thank you very much to Geof Goodrum for taking his time to write the excellent articles on our previous meetings. Ed.

### If You Missed It

By Geof Goodrum, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society

December 2015 Issue, PATACS Posts

[www.patacs.org](http://www.patacs.org)

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### October 17, 2015 (Fairfax)

Steven Wertime began the meeting by asking members to respond to the recent email survey about interests. In particular, we encourage your ideas for meeting presentation topics and leads on speakers to invite. Steven and Gabe Goldberg also summarized the benefits of PATACS membership, including the meetings, newsletter, PC clinics, and the social relationships established. Gabe mentioned that a member gave him a replacement printer and additional paper tray when he mentioned at a meeting that he was having problems with his printer.

We were also proud to present member Rita Gustin with the award certificate and SD memory card that she won in the APCUG Photography contest. A complete list of winners (including group newsletters and websites) is posted at <http://apcug2.org/2015-newsletter-photo-and-website-contests-begin-july-10-2015/>.

PATACS Election Board Commissioner Mel Mikosinski announced the election results for the slate of Directors to a two year term, specifically Roger Fujii, Gabe Goldberg, Mel Goldfarb, Geof Goodrum, Charles Throneburg, Nick Wenri, Steven Wertime, and Henry Winokur.

### Learn "5": TrueCrypt by Lorrin Garson

Lorrin Garson discussed the security issue with the TrueCrypt disk encryption utility (also summarized on page one of the November PATACS Posts) and why it is time to switch software. Lorrin's recommendation is to switch to VeraCrypt

open source software (<https://veracrypt.codeplex.com/>), though he now uses encryption feature built into the Disk Utility for Apple OS X. Gabe Goldberg suggested CipherShed (<https://ciphershed.org/>), and BitLocker ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BitLocker\\_Drive\\_Encryption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BitLocker_Drive_Encryption)) for full-disk encryption, though Lorrin prefers to encrypt only files and folders for sensitive information like financial and medical records, not the entire disk. Bill Walsh prompted Lorrin to recount his "International Trip of Woe" when Lorrin's laptop was stolen in Barcelona, Spain, but sensitive information on the laptop was protected with TrueCrypt. Wikipedia has a list of disk encryption software at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_disk\\_encryption\\_software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_disk_encryption_software).

Whatever encryption method you use, use a secure password. Steven Wertime asked for suggestions remembering passwords. Lorrin stores his passwords in a Microsoft Word file within an encrypted folder, and he commits the encryption password to memory. One audience suggestion was to use the Open Source KeePass password management utility (<http://keepass.info/>). Another was to use a spreadsheet instead of Word, as a spreadsheet can organize entries more easily (Note: some spreadsheet applications can encrypt files).

When asked about using encryption with the Quicken financial application, Lorrin replied that the encrypted folder would appear as a Windows disk drive when saving Quicken files. Another question was how to know if an encrypted file was accessed. In short, you don't know (in retrospect, check the access and modify timestamps in file properties). Gabe explained that encryption is just one line of defense, others include your network firewall.

The discussion drifted to other security topics, including email phishing, spoofed email addresses, and how to check for malicious web links in email. Given the level of discussion, Gabe suggested an open discussion about security at a future meeting.

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## Learn 30: Home Automation

by Roger Fujii

Roger Fujii talked with us about several technologies available to program and remotely control your home environment, a reprise of the presentation he gave at the Arlington meeting. Although sometimes termed “Smart Home,” Roger said that these technologies provide simple functions, so are not really smart, but also explained that a “scene controller” provides a programmed group of actions. Some of the functions include turning appliances and lights on/off, dimming lights, setting thermostats, locking/unlocking doors, opening/closing curtains/blinds/drapes, and monitoring sensors (motion, open/closed doors, flooding). The oldest X10 technology ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X10\\_\(industry\\_standard\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X10_(industry_standard))), which controls remote modules with signals through AC power wiring, is unreliable, slow, and not secure (e.g., control signals may leak between apartments). Most new systems use radio frequencies, not signals over power lines. Newer technologies include Z-Wave (<http://www.z-wave.com/>), ZigBee (<http://www.zigbee.org/>), X10-compatible Universal Powerline Bus (<http://www.smarthomeusa.com/universal-powerline-bus/>), and Belkin’s WeMo (<http://www.belkin.com/us/Products/home-automation/c/wemo-home-automation/>), but they don’t work nor interfere with each other (i.e., a different remote control is required for each technology). Some control modules such as locks may require batteries, while others use AC power.

An audience member mentioned the Philips Hue remote control LED lighting that have adjustable color and brightness (<http://www2.meethue.com/en-US>).

Although these devices can be expensive, you can start with just a few items to automate for convenience and add more later.

Roger mentioned the VeraMate app (<http://www.veramate.com/>) to control Z-Wave devices remotely from Apple iPhones and iPads.

There was discussion about similar devices for elder care (e.g., remotely monitoring activity of aging parents). Some of the functions overlap with home automation, but elder care is different. The home automation devices aren’t designed for remote elder care, and privacy is important.

## Expert Q&A Panel

Gabe Goldberg, Tom Gutnick, Nick Wenri and Henry Winokur answered questions from the audience.

Q: Broderbund/Parsons Technology Address Book is no longer supported. How can I import the address book data?

A: Check whether Parsons can export to a file format that other programs can use. Gabe said, “Google is your friend!” [For example, one useful search result is [https://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/windows\\_7-windows\\_programs/unable-to-install-parson-technology-address-book/fca2305e-f9b6-4f43-86b0-9f6cbf83c08c?auth=1](https://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/windows_7-windows_programs/unable-to-install-parson-technology-address-book/fca2305e-f9b6-4f43-86b0-9f6cbf83c08c?auth=1)]

Q: What have been user experiences with Apple’s iOS9?

A: Can’t tell the difference, but there are many new features. Software updates can be scheduled. There has not been bad news about the upgrade so far. Tom Gutnick performed an upgrade one week ago with no issues. The upgrade takes about one hour.

Q: How do you get rid of unwanted email (spam)? Cox is the Internet provider.

A: If you are using a web browser to access email (i.e., webmail), this is dependent on the Cox spam filter. Henry uses Microsoft Outlook as an email program, which has a good spam filter. Another tip is not to click on an unsubscribe link in email unless the sender is a known reputable organization.

Q: Do you recommend using Microsoft Outlook?

A: The email program is a matter of preference. There was a brief discussion of webmail vs email programs. If you are happy what you have, stick

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Gabe forwards email to his Apple iPad email address if he wants to click a link in the email, as he believes the iPad is more robust. Henry recommended using two factor authentication if you use a webmail client.

Q: Microsoft Windows was set to update automatically, but why were some updates not applied?

A: Roger said that some patches are not offered for some machines. Henry suggested that some software won't install until the machine is rebooted.

Q: Any recommendations on programs to backup the system? Those designed for external hard drives are outdated, but newer programs are cloud-based.

A: Tom said backups depend upon your comfort and paranoia levels. It is dangerous to rely on any single backup mechanism. Files you care about should be backed up in multiple different places. There have been failures with cloud vendors, hard drives, flash drives, etc. Henry recommended backup software from <http://www.2brightsparks.com/>, which backs files up to just about anything. Anything backed up to the cloud should be encrypted. Nick noted a risk that cloud vendors could discontinue service. Gabe said it was important to test restore capability to be sure it works before you need it. Henry also noted that some backups use proprietary backup format, but 2brightsparks uses the native file format. Shadow (image) backups are not file backups. Windows 7 and later has a backup/restore function under the Control Panel. Gabe noted that a Windows Restore Point is different, as it backs up system configuration files only. Thumb drives are not reliable backup media; Tom said that you could alternate between two thumb drives, but should purchase an external hard drive for backups.

Q: Why did Apple's Siri voice assistant email appointment information to unintended recipients?

A: Gabe said that Siri sometimes uses the wrong email address. Roger suggested checking Apple calendar notification settings.

Q: What is the best way to add a DVD drive to a laptop?

A: Buy an external USB DVD/Blu Ray drive for about \$30.

Q: How do you transfer a downloaded copy of Microsoft Office from an old computer to a new laptop?

A: Henry said that probably this is not going to work very well, but he has not tried it. An option is to switch to the Office 365 "rental" model and always have latest version (<https://products.office.com/en-US/>). Tom suggested that Office might be downloaded to the new laptop using the original license key.

Q: Can you use Office 365 offline?

A: Henry said you can continue to use Office 365 offline, but Tom warned that the default settings are to store files on the cloud.

Q: Can you install Microsoft Windows 10 without a Microsoft online account?

A: Tom said that Microsoft does not make it easy; you must dig for the options. Example search result: <https://miketabor.com/installing-windows-10-without-microsoft-account/>. However, the Cortana voice assistant requires access to an online account for access to contacts, etc. Tom said that Windows 10 requests access to a lot of data, so you must decide whether to trust it with access to your online accounts or not. Gabe said it is a good rule not to cross-connect one account to another account (e.g., LinkedIn).

Q: How can you prevent Microsoft Windows updates from downloading installation files for Windows 10?

A: It is automatically checked under optional updates. Henry said that unwanted optional updates can be disabled and hidden. Tom noted that Microsoft adds a Windows 10 installation icon on system tray; but Henry said that system tray icons are customizable (i.e., the installation icon can be removed).

Q: A person who used Microsoft Office 2010 has a new system but does not want to pay the annual fee for Office 2016 (presumably pre-installed). What to do?

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A: Tom said Office 2010 can be installed on the new system using the original Office 2010 license key.



Q: A person was concerned with sharing personal information with LinkedIn and even OLLI. Is this being paranoid?

A: Gabe is not aware of any problems with LinkedIn, besides an issue with LinkedIn using address book contacts to invite new users to the service. Tom is more concerned about FaceBook. Just be judicious about personal information that you share. Henry added that he will not share his address book information with web sites.

Q: Is there any place to go for detailed information about app permissions?

A: Henry repeated that “Google is your friend.” Apps may not run if you refuse the requested permissions. Geof Goodrum noted that the new Android OS 6.0 “Marshmallow” release allows the user to choose which app permissions to allow.

Q: Where is information about operating system processes (i.e., process names in the Windows list of system processes)?

A: Books are available about operating system internals, but an online search can be useful.

Q: Is it worth syncing a cell phone directly with a PC?

A: Tom does it and said it depends upon convenience. A participant commented that his laptop webcam was hacked and all devices were compromised, so his recommendation was not to sync.

Q: Any recommendation about Windows registry cleaner programs?

Gabe declared the panel a success, and Steve Wertime thanked the panel members for making

it so. PATACS expects to host more expert panels in the future.

A: Henry said that Windows includes the regedit utility, but it is best to leave the registry alone. Gabe said that there are lots of registry utilities. There are two schools of thought: don’t mess with the registry vs cleaning/optimizing the registry makes the system faster. Henry suggested the PC Decrapifier (<https://www.pcdcrapifier.com/>) to remove programs that you don’t want. CCleaner (<https://www.piriform.com/ccleaner>) was recommended as a good registry cleaner that does not go too far.

Gabe declared the panel a success, and Steve Wertime thanked the panel members for making it so. PATACS expects to host more expert panels in the future.



## HELP!!!

I am in the process of writing a newsletter on the history of PATACS. Fortunately Paul Howard, Geof Goodrum, and Gabe Goldberg have provided excellent material of their experiences. Everyone else has told me that this is an organization of “wonderful, kind, helpful individuals” —which is both fine and true.

However, additional details/stories of your experiences will make this a special edition which we will all treasure.

You can all feel free to email me at [editor@patacs.com](mailto:editor@patacs.com). If you prefer, I am more than happy to contact you and write up the details for you. I look forward to hearing from many of our members very soon. Thank you.

Kathy Perrin, Co-Editor

**Try a Different Browser on your  
Android or iOS Device**  
by Ira Wilsker

## WEBSITES:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet\\_Explorer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Explorer)

<http://heavy.com/tech/2015/09/top-5-best-free-web-browser-internet-firefox-chrome-apps-for-iphone-android/>

<https://play.google.com/store/search?q=browsers%20for%20android&c=apps>

<https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/android/>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chrome-web-browser-by-google/id535886823>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.android.chrome&hl=en>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.mozilla.firefox>

<http://www.extremetech.com/internet/92558-how-browsers-make-money-or-why-google-needs-firefox>

<http://www.investopedia.com/stock-analysis/2012/how-do-internet-browsers-make-money-goog-msft-yhoo1227.aspx>

<http://www.dolphin.com>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dolphin-web-browser-fast-internet/id452204407>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mobi.mgeek.TunnyBrowser&hl=en>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chrome-web-browser-by-google/id535886823>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/opera-mini-web-browser/id363729560>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.opera.mini.native&hl=en>

Now that smart devices, including smart phones and tablets, have arguably become the most widely used devices now in use to surf the web, it may be time for those users to consider an alternative browser, rather than the one that came factory installed on their devices. As has typically happened on desktops and laptops regardless of the operating system, the default internet browser is the one that tends to be most widely used, as many users are either unaware or reluctant to try another browser. On my former long running radio show, I was frequently asked about browsers other than those installed by the manufacturer, and my answers were always the same: Yes, you can have more than one browser installed; Yes, you can use more than one browser; No, they will not interfere with each other; and Yes, most browsers will import the bookmarks (favorites), cookies, passwords, and other pertinent information from the original browser.

Not surprisingly, the Microsoft Internet Explorer became the world's most widely used browser not because it was the best, but simply because it was installed as an integral part of Windows on virtually all Windows computers (now replaced by "Edge" on Windows 10 machines). Likewise, Safari became the most widely used browser on Apple computers much for the same reason, that it was included with the operating system. As more computer users became aware that there were potentially better browsers available, almost always free, people began downloading and installing them. As new "alternative" browsers started to become more popular, pundits started widely publishing reviews of them, computer clubs started demonstrating the non-OEM browsers, and millions of users had a form of epiphany regarding browsers. Many of these "third party" internet browsers had

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distinct advantages over those that were factory installed, mostly in the terms of speed, security, and features lacking in the "OEM" browsers.

There were only a very few early graphical browsers that worked decently on the newly organized "World Wide Web" in the early 1990's, the most successful of which was Mosaic, a browser which I faithfully used until it was no longer supported or updated. In 1995, a full 20 years ago, Microsoft licensed the code of Mosaic, and produced its own ubiquitous browser, originally named "Microsoft Internet Explorer", and later renamed just "Internet Explorer"; it was first included with the "Plus" add-on package for Windows 95. From 1995 until this year (2015), Internet Explorer was included as the default browser on almost all builds and flavors of Windows up to and including Windows 8.1; until recently, the copyright and credits statement on Internet Explorer still recognized its roots as being from Mosaic. Because of the enormous numbers of the Windows operating systems that were sold, Internet Explorer became the most widely used browser, hitting a peak of 95% in 2002 and 2003, and then having a steep decline in market share as often superior browsers attracted more users. Now, Windows 10 includes an integral and totally new browser "Edge" as its default browser, but almost all of the major competitors to "Edge" are transitioning to bring their competitive advantages to Windows 10.

Now that many of us are using phones and tablets running Android or iOS as our primary web connection, with only a relatively small portion of smart devices running Windows, Blackberry, Symbian, Firefox OS, and other operating systems, the battle for browser market share has substantially heated up. Android, which still has the lion's share of the smart device market, is a product of Google, which more than coincidentally publishes the Chrome web browser, the factory default on many of the Android de-

-vices. To a lesser extent, some purveyors of Android products have chosen to use an alternative, somewhat proprietary, and almost generic browser as the web access default for purely commercial reasons, rather than Chrome, which is also generally available for free. Owners of Apple iOS devices have mostly been satisfied with Apple's integral Safari browser, which is obviously Apple's entry in this crowded marketplace.

Many may wonder why so many different software publishers are investing so much time and money creating and upgrading so many different browsers; the answer is simple, in that browsers can be a "cash cow" generating massive amounts of revenue to the publisher, even though almost all browsers today are given away for free. What may not be so obvious to users when they browse the web is that each advertisement displayed generates revenue, some of which is paid to that particular website developer, along with a small share (fee, or commission) paid to the browser publisher. Another major generator of revenue to the browser publishers are known in the industry as "Search Royalties", generated whenever someone uses a search engine most notably Google, but also Yahoo!, Bing (Microsoft), Ask, and other search engines. If users will pay careful attention, they may notice that on most browsers, the initial default search engine on those browsers is Google, who has been known to "give incentives" (pay handsomely) to the browser publishers in order to be the top or default search engine. When a search is done on the Google search engine, revenues are generated for Google, and Google pays a "Search Royalty" to the browser publisher, except for its own Chrome browser, where Google pockets the search revenue generated without sharing any with another browser publisher. As an example, Mozilla, the publishers of the very popular Firefox browser, have received hundreds of thousands of dollars in "Search Royalties" as payment from Google whenever a Fire-

Continued Page 12

user does a search on Google. Of course, Google generates tremendous revenues from its search engine from advertising, paid rankings and listings, and other fees collected. The other search engines such as Yahoo! and Bing earn revenues and pay royalties in much the same way; if someone used Internet Explorer to do a Yahoo! search, Yahoo! would pay a royalty to Microsoft. The number of browser to search engine combinations is enormous, but each combination generates huge revenues for both parties.

With the absolute explosion of smart devices, and the commercial desire to make a profit (or just cover costs, as Mozilla is technically a "non-profit"), the browser wars have intensified in the phone and tablet battlefield. My personal favorite browser is Firefox, which I have running as my primary browser on my Android phone and tablet, as well as all of my desktop and notebook (laptop) computers running Windows. While fans can argue over browsers just as they do over sports teams or pickup trucks, I happen to like Firefox. On each of my devices, regardless of operating system, Firefox is frequently updated to include security and performance enhancements, as well as to add new features. Firefox can be easily configured to "synch" between devices, such that a webpage opened on one device can be opened or continued on another device, and bookmarks (favorites) and passwords can be seamlessly shared on all of my devices. In terms of compatibility, Firefox has versions that can run well on most operating systems, but has never publically released a fully functional version that will run on iOS, making Firefox non-competitive in the iPhone and iPad market.

There are several other excellent browsers that will run well on both iOS and Android devices, often performing better and more securely than the native application installed by the device or operating system maker. With some dispute and controversy from Apple fans, many of the comparative reviews of Apple's popular Safari browser

often falls short of many of its competitors when run on the same devices. Since many people have multiple smart devices running different operating systems, it may also be a convenience to run the same browser on these different, but otherwise incompatible devices, which would allow the user to transparently share bookmarks and other content. Continued Page 5

One alternative browser that I have installed on several devices is the Dolphin browser (dolphin.com), aptly named because it is both intelligent and sleek, and has builds that run very well on both Android and iOS devices. Among browser users, Dolphin may have some of the most ardent and loyal supporters who have been known to hype and brag about their favorite browser. While many of the features among the competing browsers are somewhat in common, the Dolphin browser allows the use of gestures on the screen as a way to execute commands. One quick example is drawing the letter "N" with a finger or stylus on the Dolphin screen to open a "New" tab. Many preset gestures are included in Dolphin, and custom gestures can be easily programmed. A simple tap on a webpage can indicate that that page or news item is to be shared on social media, such as posting a news story on the user's Facebook account with just a tap of a finger.

As it is apparently capitalizing on its immense name recognition in order to maximize its revenues, Google, the parent of the Android operating system, also produces a very capable browser for Apple products. While incorporated into almost all Android products by design, Chrome is also becoming popular among iOS users and is available from iTunes at [itunes.apple.com/us/app/puffin-browser-free-fast-flash/id472937654](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/puffin-browser-free-fast-flash/id472937654).

Considered as one of the fastest browsers, Chrome is also one of the most powerful and

**PATACS Cash Flow Report  
FY '15: 10/1/14 - 9/30/15**

**Revenues**

Pizza SIG Cash Donations	734.00
Donations by Check	580.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$1,314.00</b>
<b>Non-Profit Assistance Reimbursement</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>Membership Dues</b>	<b>2325.00</b>
<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>95.34</b>
<b>Amazon Commissions</b>	<b><u>554.60</u></b>

**Total Revenues** **\$4363.94**

**Expenses**

Insurance - Liability & Personal Prop.	475.00
Legal - VA Corporation Fee	25.00
APCUG Dues, Non-Profit Assistance	175.00
Donation – Friends of OLLI	<u>250.00</u>
<b>Total Administrative</b>	<b>\$925.00</b>

**Membership / PR – Printing** **\$48.76**

Door Prizes	156.43
Meeting Hall Expenses	
Webinar Services Expenses	349.40
Meeting Equipment	<u>13.46</u>
<b>Total Meetings &amp; Other Svcs</b>	<b>\$519.29</b>

Newsletter Assembly	173.78
Newsletter Postage	564.00
Newsletter Printing	<u>1549.22</u>
<b>Total Newsletter</b>	<b>\$2,287.00</b>

**Web Site – Domain / Hosting** **\$29.55**

**Total Expenses** **\$3809.60**

**Results from Operations** **\$554.34**

Prepared 10/14/2015

**PATACS Annual Financial Report,  
Fiscal Year 2015**

**By Paul Howard, Treasurer**

PATACS's fiscal year concluded on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Society is in excellent financial condition. Results from Operations reflect a \$554.34 surplus from operations.

Donations are vital to the fiscal soundness of the group. Member generosity accounted for 30 percent of our income. These donations received were \$147 less than in FY 2014. Amazon commissions via our website links were \$554.60, \$83.14 more than last year.

Member donations were received this year from: Goldfarb, Graham, Howard, K. Johnson, Korbeck, Loew, Lowe, Mabudian, Marginot, Mikosinski, Pafford, Schmidt, Weeks, Wertime, Willard, and Vestrich.

PizzaSIG donors include: Fujii, Garson, Goldberg, Howard, Mabudian, Mikosinski, Schmidt, Throneburg, Walsh, Wenri, and Vestrich. Pizza SIGs were sponsored by Paul Howard and Bill Walsh. They each picked up the entire check for a meal session, while the attendees donated the amount of their bill to the club.

PATACS is financially sound because of prudent planning and fiscal restraint. Membership stands at 100. Our “rainy day fund” was established many years ago, and is held in interest-bearing accounts. Interest yields on insured deposits are disappointing, but will continue until the Fed changes its low interest rate policies.

Newsletter printing expenses have doubled on a monthly basis for the second half of the year, reflecting the board's decision to have the printer assemble, staple, and fold the 70 copies of the newsletter mailed out.

**Continued Page 14**

Our reconciled account balances within our Quicken accounting system at the close of the fiscal year (September 30th) were: Checking Account \$4951.63; Interest Checking - \$11,630.81; CD account: \$1112.89.

This Annual Treasurer's Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2015 was approved by the Board of Directors of PATACS on 10/19/2015. The account balances noted above are based on on-line and email queries of our banks – statements for all accounts as of the 9/30/2015 close of the fiscal year have not yet been received. On that basis, the balances and the Cash Flow Report below are certified as correct.

Paul Howard, Treasurer James Rhodes, President

The “organizational documents” area of our web site contains additional information about the user group’s financial operations, including prior years' Financial Reports for comparison purposes.

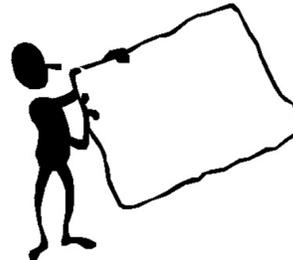
### Practice Makes Perfect

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

Learning to use a new device can take time because it always takes practice. Sometimes that practice requires trial and error. So here are some tips to get you through.

Trial and error can be frustrating. For instance when working with Siri, Google Now, or Cortana, you might have to try several different ways of saying things to find the one that is understood the best. For instance, if Siri is giving me directions and I want her to stop, I have to say “end navigation”. She simply doesn’t understand other similar command like “stop navigating”. Not only do you have to try different things, but you also have to remember which one worked.

Learning to use a new device can take time because it always takes practice. Sometimes that practice requires trial and error. So here are This is a great exercise for your mind, but if you don’t want to give your brain too much of a workout, you can always jot down the commands to help you remember. Whatever you do, don’t get frustrated, everyone has to do this with new devices.



### 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 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@patacs.org)



## PATACS Information

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# First Class

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## December 2015 PATACS Event Calendar

Call (703) 370-7649 for meeting announcements

Scan the QR code at left or enter <http://www.patacs.org> to visit our web site

Free Admission Bring a Friend!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7-9pm Arlington General Meeting	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 7-9pm Online Zoom Meeting	10	11	<b>12</b> <b>12:33:30pm</b> <b>Fairfax Gen- eral Meeting</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 7-9pm Arlington Board Meeting	22	23 7-9 pm Arlington Technol- ogy and PC Help Desk	24 Christmas Eve	 25 Christmas	26 February Newsletter Articles Due
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Arlington: Carlin Hall Community Center  
 5711 4th Street South

Fairfax: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
 4210 Roberts Road