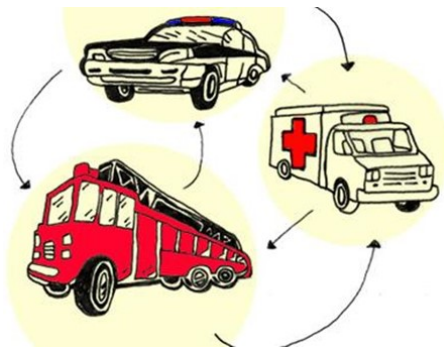## PATACS/OPCUG February Meeting

Our **Saturday, February 20** meeting will be held at OLLI / Tallwood (Previously announced venue change is postponed to summer 2016 with construction project changes).

Technology Behind The 911 Call

The speaker will be a 10 year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department currently stationed at the Mason District Police Station.

Every day the Fairfax County Police 911 dispatch centers receive calls for help from citizens. Do you ever wonder what happens when that call is placed? Officers responding to these calls can arrive on the scene in a matter of minutes and need as much information as possible prior to stepping out of their cars. This presentation will take an inside look at what happens when a citizen dials 911. We will follow the call through the cell tower, to the call taker, all the way to the officer's in car CAD (computer aided dispatch system). Advances in technology which allow law enforcement to quickly and efficiently respond to these calls will be discussed with success stories shown from the Fairfax County Police's Helicopter Unit.

Learn 30 for February 20 Raspberry Pi

By Alan Day

The first digital computer that Alan Day was allowed to touch — in 1965 — was a DEC PDP-5 where the boot loader had to be toggled in using a switch register. He is particularly interested in moving information between the Windows, Mac OS X, linux, and iPad IOS platforms.

When the Raspberry Pi — a credit card sized computer that uses SD memory cards as primary storage and costs about $30 became available in the US — he bought one so he could keep in contact with the linux world. He can access it from Mac OS X, Windows, linux, & iPad. His most recent project is the Raspberry Pi Zero (the $5 computer) announced Thanksgiving Day 2015.

He serves as webmaster for the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Friends of Wolf Trap, Friends of Fairfax Archeology, & as Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Supervisor of Communication. He uses open-source applications to support these websites.

Alan is a Life Senior Member of IEEE, has been engaged with the Northern Virginia Linux Users Group since about 1998, & is a member of the Washington Apple Pi — the Apple users group. He retired from the CIA in 2003 and SAIC in 2012.

Musings of an Apple Tyro
February 2016
Lorrin R. Garson

MacKeeper Users Exposed:

If you use MacKeeper, you may want to get rid of this particular bit of scareware. KrebsOnSecurity (see http://krebsonsecurity.com) reports that 13 million MacKeeper users have had their usernames, passwords and other information breached. At best MacKeeper is controversial but more likely it is simply intrusive, hard-to-get-rid-of malware. See http://bit.ly/1Idph3f for information on how to eliminate MacKeeper from your computer.

Apple Magic Mouse Disconnecting:

If you query Google or Bing about Apple's Magic Mouse disconnecting you will find many descriptions of problems and solutions. Let me relate my recent experience with my mouse frequently (every 10 minutes or so) disconnecting from my iMac computer. Fortunately, I also use a Magic Track Pad so I can reconnect the mouse without too much drama, but the disconnects are still very annoying. Since my iMac uses a Bluetooth keyboard and track pad, it seems logical that the disconnects are related to the mouse and not Bluetooth per se. In searching for a solution I tumbled on to the suggestion "just remove the battery cover and use the mouse without it". That did the trick. If I put the cover back on, disconnecting resumes. I also found a suggestion that slightly bending the battery cover solves the problem. Perhaps the cover interferes with Bluetooth transmission or bending the cover prevents the batteries from being intermittently disconnected. Neither explanation is very compelling. It's just plain weird! I wonder if the new Magic Mouse 2 has the same problem, but there is no battery cover to manipulate on this device.
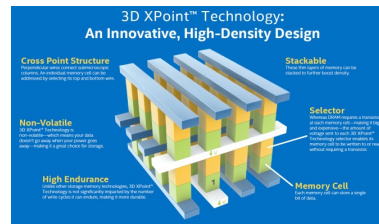
Microsoft Windows Turns 30:

Microsoft introduced the Windows operating system in November 1985, which was an important milestone in the development of computer technology. See http://bit.ly/1QRjyBo for an excellent historical overview. Also see http://bit.ly/1mrQJ3i for an extensive discussion in Wikipedia.

USB Turns 20:

While on the topic of birthdays, the ubiquitous USB (**U**niversal **S**erial **B**us) is also celebrated. See http://bit.ly/1lWR4eu for an interesting story of how this standard came to be.

Much Faster Memory and Storage Coming:

Intel and Micron have developed a new technology called Optane (not related to octane or any other hydrocarbon), which can be 10 times denser than DRAM and 1,000 times faster than current flash storage. This technology is based on memory cells in a three-dimensional configuration called 3D Xpoint. When will memory and storage devices show up with this technology? Probably late 2016 and it will be comparatively expensive. See http://bit.ly/1OAVPRk and http://zd.net/1Pb7sRR.

Battery Pack for iPhone 6 and 6S:

Apple now offers a battery pack, which Apple calls "Smart Battery Case". The price is $99. Apple claims up to 18 hours of Internet use and 20 hours of video playback time. You may find various references to this accessory being called "the hump" because of its shape. See http://apple.co/1YmplVA.

A significant number of attacks are attributed to nuisance applications such as adware and potentially unwanted or misleading applications.

Symantec reported that the amount of Mac OS X malware has been trending upwards over the past five years, but such malware is still small in terms of overall numbers.
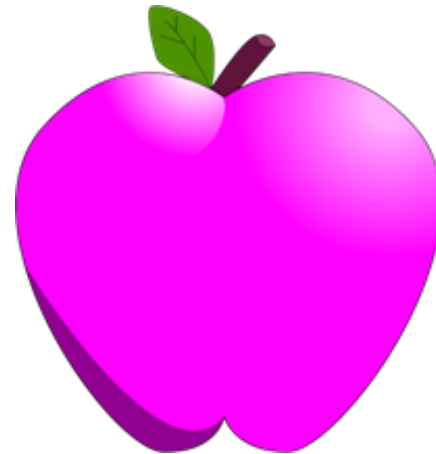
The amount of iOS malware discovered remains quite small. Many threats are designed to take advantage of jailbroken phones, thus allowing root access to the iOS file system and manager.

Keep in mind that Symantec is not an impartial bystander. The company is in the business of selling software to mitigate against malware.

Vulnerable Routers:

If you're thinking of buying a new router, you may want to think twice about buying it from Ubiquiti. To quote from Krebs Security (http://krebsonsecurity.com) in an item entitled "The Lingering Mess from Default Security" (November 15, 2015), "Last week, researchers in Vienna, Austria-based security firm SEC Consult released data suggesting that there are more than 600,000 vulnerable Ubiquiti routers in use by Internet service providers (ISPs) and their customers. All are sitting on the Internet wide open and permitting anyone to abuse them for these digital shakedowns. Also see http://bit.ly/1NXuDju. Fortunately, Ubiquiti routers are not very popular in the U.S.

What to Expect from Apple in 2016:

Apple is always secretive about its future products, but here are a few new things that may appear in 2016. Of course, predictions and rumors often prove wrong.

A new Apple watch, i.e., Apple Watch 2, perhaps around April.

The iPhone 7

Intel Skylake processors in Apple computers this spring.

Possibly a refreshed Mac Pro. It has been two years since the current design first appeared.

New 13" and 15" MacBook Air computers, perhaps at the WWDC in June.

An updated OS X release (version 10.12) probably in the Autumn.

An updated iOS (version 10) also probably in the Autumn.

Refinements of Apple Pay and Apple Music.

A live TV streaming service.

See http://bit.ly/1T6iwAM, http://bit.ly/1TUmQTL and http://bit.ly/1Pb8rRV.

If You Missed It
By Geof Goodrum, Potomac Area Technology
and Computer Society
February 2016 Issue, PATACS Posts
www.patacs.org
Director1 (at) patacs.org

December 12, 2015 (Fairfax)
Paul Howard welcomed attendees to the meeting, and thanked Gabe Goldberg and Steven Wertime for helping to line up future meetings. Paul also requested comments from those who participated in the December 2nd meeting held at the Microsoft Store in Tysons Corner Center (https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/locations/va/tysons-corner/tysons-corner-center/store-10). PATACS is interested in scheduling future Arlington meetings there (Stan Schretter requested a presentation on Microsoft's Surface Pro 4, and a recent update indicates this topic is planned for a meeting on March 2nd). Newsletter co-Editor Kathy Perrin also requests that members submit their user group stories for a special issue of the newsletter.

After the break, Gabe presented APCUG newsletter contest participation certificates to Kathy and Geof Goodrum, and welcomed invited guests from the Washington Apple Pi user group (http://www.wap.org/).

Learn 30: Mobile Apps for Organizing Information by Stan Schretter OPCUG member Stan Schretter presented an overview of the Evernote app (https://evernote.com/) for organizing all types of information. Evernote is available for Google Android and Apple iOS, as well as Apple OS X and Microsoft Windows operating systems.

Stan recommended the technology training videos from http://www.lynda.com/ (access is free to the George Mason University community, including members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute). One of the video tutorials that Stan previewed was "Up and Running with Evernote with David Rivers."

Evernote functions as a digital notebook to capture, store and index information including text, images, recorded audio, web site bookmarks and clippings from web sites, with the capability to synchronize information across devices (e.g., PC, tablet, smartphone). Once entered, the information can be tagged and searched, and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) can recognize text in images.

Some examples of practical uses for Evernote include storing pictures of business cards, recording accident information, product labels, receipts and checks, saving documents for future reference, archiving prescription information, storing online passwords and online registration info (portions can be encrypted for security), recording whiteboards and slideshows, saving audio recordings of your thoughts, and archiving tweets by linking   your Twitter account.

Evernote information is organized into Notes (single items), Notebooks (to organize collections of notes), and Stack (a group of notebooks stored together). Evernote is limited to 250 notebooks and each stack counts against the limit as an additional notebook.

The first step is to set up an Evernote account on the website. There are free and pay (Plus and Premium) editions. Stan described some of the additional features in the pay editions, including searches inside PDF and attached files, Note size and storage limits, offline access to Notes on mobile devices, access to Note history, passcode lock on mobile devices, presentation mode, forward email to Evernote, business card scanning and priority support via online chat [see https://evernote.com/pricing/].

The desktop app stores Evernote files on the local disk and on Evernote's

cloud storage. The free mobile app stores files on the cloud, but the pay editions allow local storage on the mobile device, which is useful when Internet access is not available. Stan uses the Premium service primarily for this feature. While Stan finds the mobile app very useful, the PC desktop is the only place to edit everything.

Evernote supports add-ons for additional functionality. Stan recommended downloading and installing the free Web Clipper add-on (https://evernote.com/webclipper/) to capture and annotate web pages in Evernote, and proceeded to demonstrate some of the options. Stan is using a new add-on to scan images from his mobile device to a PDF file.

Q: Have you compared Evernote to similar apps?
A: Not really [Microsoft OneNote and Google Keep were mentioned; Wikipedia has an extensive feature comparison at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_notetaking_software].

Q: What is your experience with the encryption feature?
A: Stan has not used it since he doesn't keep sensitive information on his phone.
Q: Who owns Evernote?
A: Stan has not looked into it, but it is an important consideration if the company is bought [Evernote Corporation owns Evernote. Read the Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy]. Stan does not worry about Evernote storage in cloud, as he keeps a local copy of the Evernote files on his desktop. [After Stan's talk, I was asked about Evernote options for the GNU/Linux operating system. Linux desktop users can access Evernote through a web browser, but Wikipedia lists unofficial third---party clients for Evernote at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evernote#Unofficial_clients, including several for Linux. The Wikipedia feature comparison article cited previously also lists other note software that works natively with GNU/Linux.] party clients for Evernote at -.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evernote#Unofficial_clients, including several for

Linux. The Wikipedia feature comparison article cited previously also lists other note software that works natively with GNU/Linux.]

Q&A Session

Below are some of the audience Questions and Answers during the meeting.

Q: What is Microsoft's Surface Pro 4?
A: Gabe Goldberg will post a link to an article with information on the PATACS mailing list.

Q: Any opinion on low-end laptops?
A: One suggested manufacturer was Acer (http://us.acer.com/), but a Chromebook (https://www.google.com/chromebook/) should be considered depending upon the expected use. The price range is $400-500 for most; laptops with Intel Core i5 processors are more like $550-600. However, also consider refurbished one or two year old high-end laptops available at significant discounts [e.g., http://pcretro.com/collections/laptops].

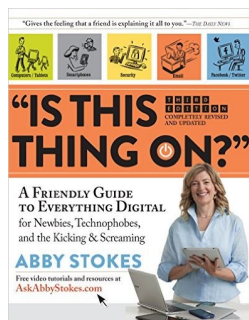Q: Is there a way to convert audio cassettes to MP3 digital audio files?
A: Search the Internet for devices to do this. [Converters cost under $20. C/Net has an article on how to do this using existing equipment and free software at http://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-turn-a-cassette-tape-into-mp3s/. There are also how-to videos on YouTube.]

Q: Why doesn't a battery in a five year old laptop doesn't hold a charge, even with a new battery? The laptop works with AC power.
A: The speculation was a problem in the battery charging circuit within the laptop [repair or replace?].

Lesson Learned: An audience member reported a good experience using an extended service contract on a tower PC that he bought eighteen months ago. He purchased three years of Best Buy Geek Squad support for $100. He took the PC in for service when it was getting slower. The technicians found and fixed corrupted Microsoft software and two instances of malware.

.

Presentation: Is This Thing On?
Navigating the Digital World by Abby Stokes

Abby Stokes, author of "Is This Thing On?," vis-ited us to give a wide-ranging talk about how to navigate our digital world, which is changing all the time. Abby started with a quick survey of at-tendees about the age of our computers [I recall that most had computers three to five years old] and use of social media [I recall many used Face-book, not as much for other services]. Abby said that she is not an early adopter, but waits for tech-nology to mature.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recom-mends being on computer for no more than forty minutes (twenty minutes for children) before tak-ing a ten minute break. It is easy to spend too much time on a computer.

Abby observed that most people probably visit only ten websites per week. However, she recom-mended that you keep yourself pliable by trying other websites, and provided a handout list of over two hundred web sites to review (http://askabbystokes.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Over_200_Recommended_Websites.pdf). Abby also suggested that we may not be maximizing the power of online searches, and provided some examples of Google searches, including a search "botanical garden" -rose +orchid to search for web pages that mention botanical garden (words used together between quotes) and orchid but not rose [more information at https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/2466433]. An attendee mentioned the commercial ads in search results. Abby said she ignores the "sponsored" and sidebar ad links. Another at-tendee asked if Abby knew how to constrain the search by date.

Abby didn't believe this is an option, but the search can be refined by time [see http://googlesystem.blogspot.com/2013/01/custom-date-range-tips-for-google-search.html].

Abby explained that a notebook computer is the same as a laptop computer, but netbooks are dif-ferent. Netbooks are designed to be lighter and more portable, but do not have a media (DVD, CD) drive. However, don't feel compelled to buy something portable if you are happy with a desk-top PC layout (separate keyboard, mouse, monitor and case).

Abby talked about the evolution of personal com-puters, and observed that technology changed sig-nificantly when everything went wireless/WiFi. If you have a cable modem and router from your In-ternet Service Provider (ISP), make sure it in-cludes a wireless network for your guests to use.

Abby also explained the difference between WiFi and BlueTooth: BlueTooth provides a wireless connection between devices (e.g., mouse and a PC), while WiFi provides a wireless connection between a device and the Internet. Abby also warned about the security risks of using public WiFi access, particularly at airports.

Abby talked about tablets as the transition be-tween eBook readers and smartphones, and noted that there are less expensive options to the Apple iPad that do the same things.

She also recommended putting a passcode on smartphones and tablets (see video on Abby's website at http://askabbystokes.com/2015/01/protect-you-and-your-smartphone/). Screen key-boards are not suitable for typists; Abby has a cov-er for her tablet that features a built-in Bluetooth keyboard.

As for buying a device, Abby observed that less portability is usually less expensive. There are three things to consider: cost, look, and feel. For these reasons, Abby is not a fan of buying technol-ogy for another person.

Go to a store and look at the screen with your own eyes. Touch the device to see if it really works as desired. As to why buy a tablet, the answer is the larger screen.

Abby prefers to use a headset with her phone, and noted that the earbuds included with Apple iPhones have a built in microphone useful when making calls (the earbuds may be buried in the phone's packaging, so be careful not to throw them away).

Abby provided a handout of 100 free apps worth checking out (http://askabbystokes.com/wp-content/uloads/2014/12/100_Free_Recommended_Apps.pdf). One of the more unusual she mentioned was Charmin's app to locate nearby restrooms (http://www.charmin.com/en-us/charmin-relief/sitorsquat).
Regarding Social Networking, Abby cited a quote, "On the Internet you can be anything you want. It's strange that so many people choose to be stupid." Digital natives are those under forty who grew up using digital technology. Older people may be more judicious about their use of social media. There can be helpful things on Facebook (e.g., news, special offers). The ability to share experience is a revolution, but this is a phenomenal tool that should be treated with respect. Do not breach your own privacy limits - you are the gatekeeper privacy limits. A rule of thumb is the "Front Door" Test: before sharing, would you be comfortable putting the information on the front door of your home? And only post vacation pictures after you get home.

Abby suggested "Go Retro." She breaks out postcards, stamps, and stationery as a valuable way to really connect with younger relatives, who may never have communicated that way.

Abby sold and signed copies of the new edition of her book "Is This Thing On?" during the meeting, but it is also available for download on Apple iTunes and Amazon Kindle. For more information that could not fit in the book, visit Abby's free web site http://askabbystokes.com/home/. The site also hosts resources for teachers and librarians, video tutorials with written instructions, and sign-up for her email newsletter.
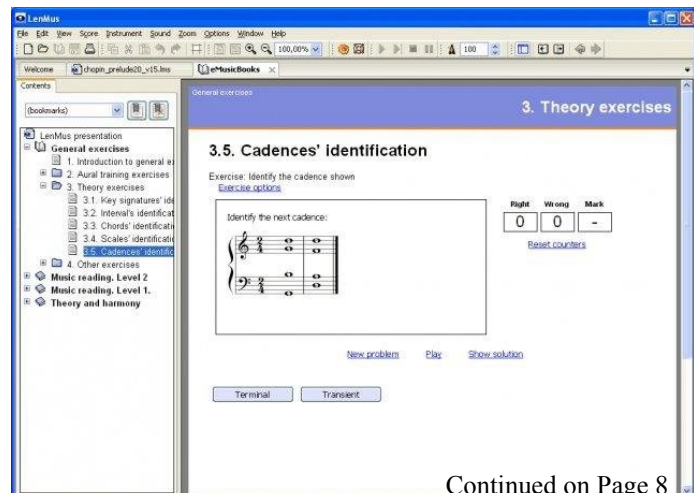
Open Source Software of the Month

By Geof Goodrum, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society

February 2016 Issue, PATACS Posts
www.patacs.org   linux (at)patacs.org

Kernel Source – v4.3.3. http://www.kernel.org/. Free GNU General Public License source code for GNU/Linux by Linus Torvalds et al.

LenMus – v5.4.1. http://lenmus.sourceforge.net/mws/noticias. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows® and GNU/Lin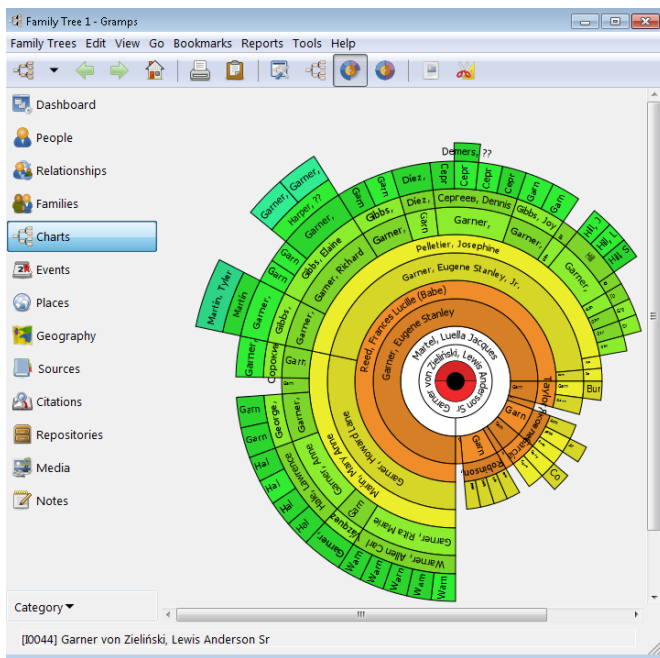ux® by Cecilio Salmerón. LenMus is a free program for learning music. It allows you to focus on specific skills exercises, on both theory and aural training. The different activities can be customized to meet your needs. It includes a score editor.

Gramps – v4.2.1. https://gramps-project.org/. Free GNU General Public License source ode and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Don Allingham and the Gramps Team. Gramps is a genealogy program for Linux, Windows, Mac, and FreeBSD that allows you to easily build and keep track of your family tree. It supports the GEDCOM standard, allows fine grained privacy controls and can generate many different types of supports the GEDCOM standard, allows fine grained privacy controls and can generate many different types of reports (descendant trees, graphs, connection diagrams, ...)

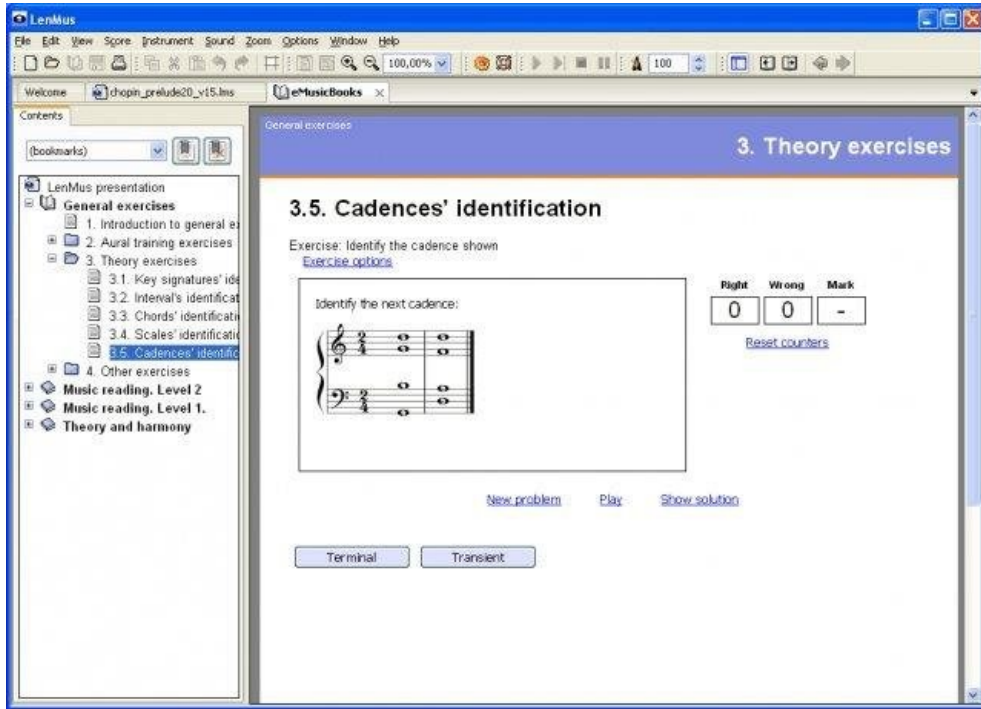Charts - Descendant Fan Chart

Displays graphical trees for the selected person

Features include:

- Gramplets - A dashboard to help you monitor the progress of your research. A variety of widgets provide quick analysis of your data and more.
- People - A list of every individual in your records featuring birth/death dates and more.

- Relationships - A summary of the active person's parents, siblings, spouses and children.
- Families - A list of every family group featuring parent names, relationship status and, if applicable, marriage dates.
- Ancestry - A graphic representation of the active person's ancestry featuring photos and birth/death dates.
- Events - A list of every event in your records featuring descriptions, event types, dates and places.
- Places - A list of every place in your records featuring place names and location details.
- Geography - An interactive map view highlighting places associated with one person, a group of people or all people in your records.
- Sources - A list of all sources referenced in your records featuring authors and publication details.
- Citations - A list of all citations referenced in your records featuring quality, date, volume and page.
- Repositories - A list of source repositories referenced in your records featuring web addresses, physical addresses and email contact information.
- Media - A list of all photos, videos and other media referenced in your records featuring thumbnail preview, media type and more.
- Notes - A list of all text notes included in your records featuring note type and preview.
- Geography - An interactive map view highlighting places associated with one person, a group of people or all people in your records.
- Sources - A list of all sources referenced in your records featuring authors and publication details.
- Citations - A list of all citations referenced in your records featuring quality, date, volume and page.
- Repositories - A list of source repositories referenced in your records featuring web addresses, physical addresses and email contact information.
- Media - A list of all photos, videos and other media referenced in your records featuring thumbnail preview, media type and more.
- Notes - A list of all text notes included in your records featuring note type and preview.
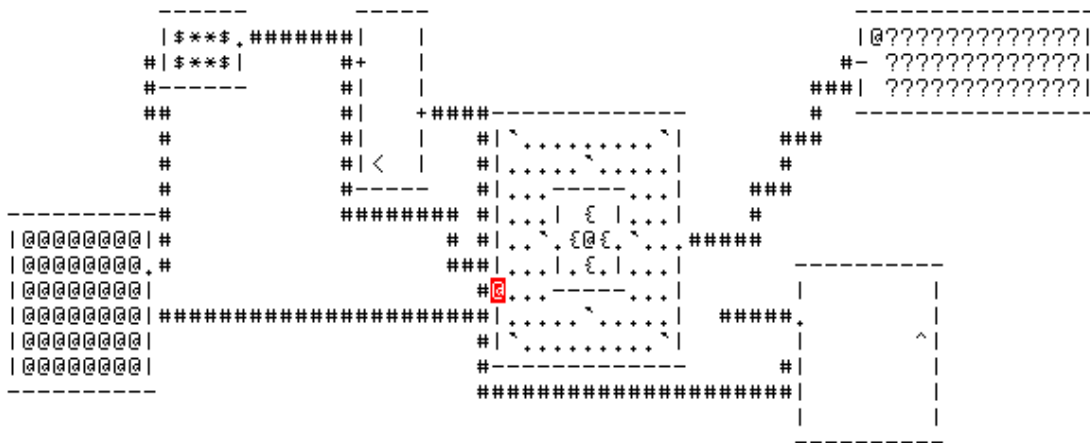
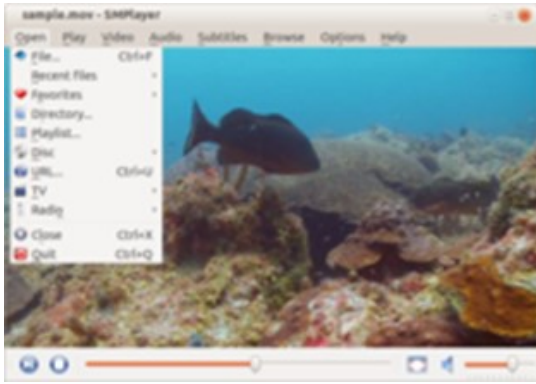**LenMus** – v5.4.1. http://lenmus.sourceforge.net/mws/noticias. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows ® and GNU/Linux® by Cecilio Salmerón. LenMus is a free program for learning music It allows you to focus on specific skills and exercises, on both theory and aural training. The different activities can be customized to meet your needs. It includes a score editor.

NetHack – v3.6.0. http://www.nethack.org/. Free NetHack General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by the NetHack Dev-Team. First released in 1987, NetHack is a single player dungeon exploration game that runs on a wide variety of computer systems, with a variety of graphical and text interfaces all using the same game engine. Unlike many other Dungeons & Dragons-inspired games, the emphasis in NetHack NetHack is on discovering the detail of the dungeon and not simply killing everything in sight - in fact, killing everything in sight is a good way to die quickly. Each game presents a different landscape - the random number generator provides an essentially unlimited number of variations of the dungeon and its denizens to be discovered by the player in one of a number of characters: you can pick your race, your role, and your gender. This is the first official update of NetHack in twelve years, and features a number of "foundational changes" to support future development.

This is the main window

Thumbnail generator

SMPlayer – v15.11.0. http://smplayer.sourceforge.net/. Free GNU General Public License source codes and executables for Microsoft® Windows® and GNU/Linux® by Ricardo Villalba and redxii. SMPlayer is a free media player for Windows and Linux with built-in codecs that can play virtually all video and audio

One of the most interesting features of SMPlayer: it remembers the settings of all files you play. So you start to watch a movie but you have to leave... don't worry, when you open that movie again it will be resumed at the same point you left it, and with the same settings: audio track, subtitles, volume…

Other features include:

Support for YouTube.
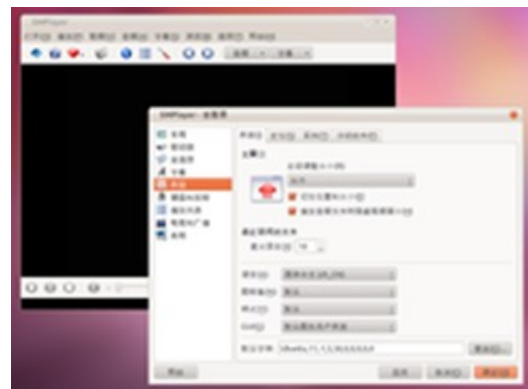Many video and audio filters are available
Complete preferences dialog
Possibility to search and download subtitles from opensubtitles.org
Thumbnail generator
Video equalizer
Skins
Seeking by mouse wheel
Multiple speed playback
Audio and subtitles delay adjustment
New! Now it supports mpv as well

Matroska embedded subtitles

The Preferences Dialog

More than 30 translations available

Microsoft Upgrading Windows 10
May "Automatically" Upgrade Windows 7 and 8.1 to Windows 10

By Ira Wilsker
Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX Radio & Talk Show Host
wilsker@sbcglobal.net

Websites:

http://www.techrepublic.com/article/massive-windows-10-update-could-turbo-charge-windows-7-machines-says-microsoft/

http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-10/upgrade-to-windows-10-faq

http://www.techrepublic.com/article/five-ways-microsoft-plans-to-get-you-to-upgrade-to-windows-10/

www.zdnet.com/article/windows-10-growth-sluggish-as-windows-7-windows-8-users-stick-with-their-os/

http://www.zdnet.com/article/my-biggest-problem-with-windows-10-stability/

https://netmarketshare.com

http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsofts-big-windows-10-goal-one-billion-or-bust/

http://gs.statcounter.com/#desktop-os-ww-monthly-201508-201510-bar

http://www.zdnet.com/article/dont-let-the-grinches-put-you-off-windows-10/

Introduction   Several months ago, Microsoft offered millions of users of Windows 7 and 8.1 a free online update to the then newly released Windows 10.

While Microsoft has claimed that as many as 110 million Windows 7 and 8.1 users did accept the free offer to upgrade to Windows 10, Microsoft has also expressed some concern that as many as a billion other Windows 7 and 8.1 users have not yet upgraded to Windows 10. According to several published reports, Microsoft has expressed concerns that the rate of Windows users upgrading from the older versions of Windows to Windows 10 has slowed, and this decline in the rate of people upgrading to Windows 10 may cost Microsoft substantial potential revenues.

Windows 10 Growth Sluggish According to an article published on ZDnet in November (zdnet.com/article/windows-10-growth-sluggish-as-windows-7-windows-8-users-stick-with-their-os), the results of upgrades to Windows 10 during the month of October had slowed compared to previous   months

Despite heavy promotions and the springtime appearance of the "Get Windows 10" icon in the system tray of countless Windows computers running Windows 7 or 8.1, the rate of increase in Windows 10 usage has slowed.

Windows 10 growth sluggish as Windows 7/8.x users stick with their OS

The monthly desktop operating system usage share figures are in from NetMarketShare and they show that Windows 10 growth is slowing down as Windows 7 and Windows 8.x users stick with their operating system.

In October (2015), the number of PCs running Windows 10 was a paltry 7.94%, up 1.31% from the 6.63% rate tallied the month before (September),

In September the rate of Windows 10 upgrades was 1.42%, slightly greater than the following month of October, documenting that the rate of increase of Windows 10 upgrades has been slowing.

Microsoft has not been as successful as they had hoped in getting people to upgrade their PCs from earlier versions of Windows to Windows 10, as the proportion of desktop PCs running Windows 7 in October was well over half at 55.71%

In the first week of December, 2015, according to the website NetMarket-Share.com, considering the early holiday sales of PCs, the rate of desktop PCs running Windows 7 increased slightly to 56.11%, and the number of PCs running Windows 10 was up to 9%, but this 9% number includes both PCs upgraded from earlier versions of Windows as well as the sales of new PCs with Windows 10 factory installed.

Despite the lamentations expressed by many of the users of Windows 8.1 about the foibles of that operating system, Windows 8.1 users have apparently not flocked to Windows 10 to the degree that Microsoft has apparently wanted.

According to the article on ZDnet, referencing the October figures, "Windows 8 and 8.1 users just aren't migrating at all (cumulative the usage share for this OS is at 13.22 percent, down only 0.10 of a percentage point)."

Despite the pronounced efforts of Microsoft to get users of Windows 7 and 8.1 to take advantage of the free upgrade to Windows 10, there is still significant resistance in the PC community to the upgrade.

While some users of earlier versions of Windows are inherently resistant to change, being relatively happy with the current functionality and performance of Windows 7 on their computers. ZDnet and other online publications have expressed mixed results with PCs upgraded from Windows 7 or 8 to Windows 10, an attitude common among individual users who have performed the upgrade.

It is also useful to note that an unknown but probably sizeable number of users who did indeed download the Windows 10 upgrade who went on to perform the upgrade decided to go back to Windows 7 or 8 taking advantage of a little known feature of the Windows 10 upgrade process that allows users to roll back their Windows 10 upgrade to their earlier operating system, and option only available to upgraders for a finite number of days, typically 31, after the upgrade.

The rollback can be accomplished by clicking on the Start button, then Settings, "Update and Security", and finally "Recovery can be accomplished by clicking on the Start button, then Settings, "Update and Security", and finally "Recovery and Uninstall Windows 10". If all works as it should, the PC should be restored to its prior operating system.

Windows 10 Instability　Earlier this fall, in September, ZDnet published an item, "My biggest problem with Windows 10: Instability", by Mary Jo Foley (zdnet.com/article/my-biggest-problem-with-windows-10-stability)

In this article, Ms. Foley summarized her Windows 10 experience as, "Windows 10's strength -- its comprehensiveness -- is also its biggest weakness. Too many moving parts are making for an unstable computing experience for me."

While many users were delighted with Windows 10 after their upgrade, this article reflects the results and frustrations that many individual users experienced following the upgrade to Windows 10.

Microsoft has been well aware of the concerns expressed by many Windows 7 and 8 users over such factors as boot time, privacy, reliability, speed, complexity, and other issues which discouraged users from upgrading to Windows 10 (zdnet.com/article/dont-let-the-grinches-put-you-off-windows-10). (zdnet.com/article/dont-let-the-grinches-put-you-off-windows-10).

November 2015 Windows 10 Major Update To help overcome these objections by millions of users who have not taken advantage of the free upgrade to Windows 10, as well as to address issues of performance and other concerns of Windows 10 users, Microsoft recently released a major upgrade to Windows 10.

In a recent article in TechRepublic, dated November 12, and written by NIck Heath: "Massive Windows 10 update could turbo charge Windows 7 machines says Microsoft. The first major update to Windows 10 hits today - with Microsoft promising great things for those upgrading from Windows 7,

as well as significant new features for business users." (techrepublic.com/article/massive-windows-10-update-could-turbo-charge-windows-7-machines-says-microsoft).

This new update to Windows 10 is a huge download of slightly less than 4GB, and is claimed by Microsoft to speed up the PCs' boot time by up to 30%, making Windows 10 boot faster than the Windows 7 which had previously been running on the same machine.

According to Jeremy Korst, general manager of the Windows and Devices team at Microsoft, "There's a bunch of things under the hood that we've improved with this update to make it an even better experience."

Windows 10 Automatic Upgrade Microsoft has indicated a desire that the improved features, performance, compatibility, and stability of the upgraded Windows 10 will help convince Windows users who have not yet upgraded to Windows 10. Microsoft has planned some strong encouragement for those users, because in early 2016, Microsoft will start to "push" the upgrades of Windows 10 to PCs still running Windows 7 and 8.1.

Starting in 2016 (the exact official date has not yet been published, but a variety of commencement dates have been suggested), Windows 7 and 8.1 will automatically begin installing the upgraded Windows 10 after a user confirmation during the conventional Windows update process   .

According to Jeremy Korst, "(T)he customer will have the ability to delay it for some period", that "period" being unspecified. As with the previous, more voluntary upgrades, the user may be able to restore his prior operating system within 31 days of installing the free upgrade to Windows 10.
Jeremy Korst continued, "We'll be taking customer feedback throughout this process and the intent really is to make the upgrade even easier for customers."

This corroborates an earlier article (October 30) by Nick Heath in TechRepublic (techrepublic.com/article/five-ways-microsoft-plans-to-get-you-to-upgrade-to-windows-10).

This article, "Five ways Microsoft plans to get you to upgrade to Windows 10" explains that Microsoft, "(In order) To achieve its goal of getting one billion people onto Windows 10, Microsoft is getting more forceful in how it pushes Windows 7 and 8.1 users towards its new OS."

Primarily this will occur when Windows 10 automatically begins installing itself as a

"Recommended Update", which means that the majority of Windows users who have the default "Install Updates Automatically" setting will transparently have Windows 10 installed.

Microsoft has stated that users will need to confirm the installation before it begins, but it is well known that most users blindly "OK" Microsoft's   recommendations.

Being aware that many internet users have metered or limited access, Terry Myerson, Microsoft's executive VP of the Windows and Devices Group, says that "(Users) have the option of turning off automatic updates" but does not recommend that they do turn off automatic updates due to, " ... the constant risk of internet threats".

Microsoft will also make it easier for those who want to initiate the upgrade to Windows 10, rather than wait for the updates that will be pushed to them; the "Get Windows 10" icon in the system tray will soon get an "Upgrade Now" option, which will immediately start to download the huge upgrade file, and commence the upgrade process.

Multiple PC Upgrades   For those who may have multiple PCs which they would like upgraded to Windows 10, will shortly find that the process has been made much easier.

Microsoft has released its "Media Creation Tool" which can create an image file that can be installed to a USB flash drive or a DVD disc, and then used to upgrade multiple machines without having to download the huge file to each of the PCs.

This "new and improved" single image file will be able to upgrade PCs to an appropriate flavor of Windows 10, including 32 and 64 bit versions, as well as the Home or Professional versions of Windows 10, all from that single image file.

This image file can also be used for a "clean install" of Windows 10 provided the user has a valid   Windows   license.

Conclusion   The new year 2016 will be an interesting one for Windows PC users still using Windows 7 or 8.1. I expect some users to be happy with the new, somewhat "forced" upgrades to Windows 10, while many others to complain loudly. Happy new year, Windows users.

BOCA BITS
JANUARY 2016

By Charles Flum Director,
Boca Raton Computer Society
cflum1@comcast.net

My Digital Photography for Seniors
Jason R. Rich
Que Publishing ©2016
ISBN 780789755605

Introduction
There are many seniors who are technologically challenged as they did not grow up with all the gadgets available to us today. Computers, phones, tablets, digital cameras, all have a learning curve. This book is an introduction to the wonderful world of digital photography, aimed at seniors, but applicable to anyone just starting out.
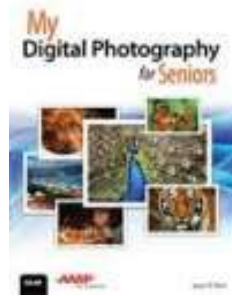
Review
Rich's main emphasis is on using the camera in your phone or tablet. He barely touches on stand-alone digital cameras. The assumption seems to be, if you are just starting out, you are not going to buy an expensive cam-era, rather you will use the one already in your pocket or in your carrying bag.

He reinforces this opinion in the title of his first chapter, "Getting Started with Digital Photography Using Your Mobile Device".

The next two chapters give a basic overview of how to take photos under varying conditions using your mobile device.

He gives specific step-by-step instruction for both the iPhone and Android devices throughout the book. With one exception, this reviewer feels he is clear in his instructions and on target.

On p. 85 Rich states, "Taking a candid shot of one or more people is relatively easy, as long as you (the photographer) are positioned in the right place at the right time and you don't interfere in any way with the person or people you're photographing." In the reviewers experience, it is very difficult to take a candid photo that captures the exact moment wanted. It takes patience and a bit of luck (right time and right place) to capture a great candid.

How to transfer photos from your phone or tablet to your computer, editing your photos on your mobile device or computer and how to organize your photos on these devices are covered in the next six chapters.

Various ways to share your photos, via email, online, a digital diary, printing from a service or your own printer, and making a photo book round out the next six chapters.

The book is lavishly illustrated, each written step in a process is numbered and shown on the illustration what button you need to push or swipe in your device to accomplish the task.

The detail is fabulous for a newbie. Others, who are more experienced, can scan the steps to reinforce their knowledge.

Conclusion
There are hundreds of books explaining photography, none which this reviewer has seen which is as complete as Rich's book is for the newbie.

It is a very easy read. It can be read cover to cover, or you can read the specific chapters which interest you. A welcome addition to books for the beginner.

PATACS Information

PATACS, Inc.   201 S. Kensington St. Arlington VA 22204-1141
Club Information call: 703-370-7649   Web Site: www.patacs.org

President:... ...... Jim Rhodes, 703-931-7854, president(atpatacs.org
1st Vice President:.. Ron Schmidt, 301-577-7899, director11(at)patacs.org
2nd Vice President, Membership Chair:..…... Mel Mikosinski, 703-978-9158, director4(at)patacs.org
Secretary, Meeting Setup:..................................... Bill Walsh, 703-241-8141, director14(at)patacs.org
Treasurer, Registered Agent, Internet Services Paul Howard, 703-860-9246, director2(at)patacs.org
Director, APCUG Liaison:.. Gabe Goldberg, director10(at)patacs.org
Vendor Liaison:.. Volunteer Needed
Director, Linux Support:................................ Geof Goodrum, 703-370-7649, director1(at)patacs.org
Directors: Charles Throneburg, Steven Wertime, Roger Fujii,
            Mel Goldfarb, Nick Wenri, Henry Winokur
Windows Support:.. Jim Brueggeman, 703-450-1384, windows(at)patacs.org
Newsletter Editors:... GeofGoodrum & Kathy Perrin, editor(at)patacs.org
Columnist:.. Lorrin Garson, newslettercolumnist(at)patacs.org
Publicity…………………………………… Henry Winokur

Posts is an official publication of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society
(PATACS), a Virginia membership corporation. PATACS is a tax exempt organization under section
501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are gratefully received and tax deductible.
Posts provides news, commentary and product information to PATACS members. Products or
brand names mentioned may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. The
contents of articles herein are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent
PATACS, the Board of Directors, nor its members. The authors provide photographs and screen images. Public domain clip art are from openclipart.org and www.wpclipart.com.

E-mail article submissions and reprint requests to editor(at)patacs.org
Membership Policy: Membership dues are $30.00 (U.S.Funds) per year, with a $15 surcharge for
international mail. Membership in PATACS includes membership in all SIGs, access to the software
libraries, and subscription to the Posts published 12 times per year in print by US Mail and PDF download by Internet. Applications may be obtained at any club meeting, by downloading from http://
www.patacs.org/membershippat.html, by calling one of the officers or board members, or by writing to
the club. A sample newsletter, membership application and related information may be obtained by enclosing $2 (for US addresses only) and mailing your request to the membership address. Please do not
send cash by mail. Payment and applications may also be submitted at any meeting, or mail to:
PATACS Membership, 4628 Valerie CT, Annandale VA 22003-3940.

Advertisement Policy: Ads are accepted from members for non-commercial purposes at no charge.
Copy should be sent to the Editor in the same format as article submissions. Ads are accepted from
commercial advertisers at the rate of $40 per full page, per appearance, with discounts for multiple insertions. Smaller ads are priced accordingly. Payment for ads must be made in advance of appearance.
Advertisers must supply a permanent address and telephone number to the editor.

Reprint Policy: Permission to reprint articles from the PATACS Posts is given to school, personal computer club, and nonprofit organization publications, provided that: (a) PATACS Inc. receives a
copy of the publication; (b) credit is given to the PATACS Posts as the source; (c) the original author is
given full credit; and (d) the article author has not expressly copyrighted the article. Recognition is one
means of compensating our valued contributors.

PATACS, Inc.
201 S. Kensington St.
Arlington VA 22204-1141

First Class

TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2016 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	3 **7-9pm Arlington General Meeting**	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 **7-9pm Online Zoom Meeting**	11	12	13
14	15 **7-9pm Arlington Board Meeting**	16	17	18	19	20 **12:30-3:30pm Fairfax General Meeting**
21	22	23	24 **7-9 pm Arlington Technology and PC Help Desk**	25	26	27 **April Newsletter Articles Due**
28	29 **Leap Year**					

Arlington: Carlin Hall Community Center
5711 4th Street South

Fairfax: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
4210 Roberts Road