

PATACS/OPCUG Saturday, June 18 Meeting 1 PM

Windows 10: To Upgrade or Not To Upgrade Tom Gutnick



Actually, that is more than one question. Microsoft's deadline for free upgrades is looming (July 29), so we'll give you the information you

need to make an informed decision. Why might you want to upgrade? Should you upgrade your particular system? What steps should you take in preparation for the upgrade? And how can you mitigate the learning curve after the upgrade? You may well have more questions, and we'll address those too.



Tom Gutnick has worked in the computer industry for most of his adult life. He started out as a programmer, has managed software development projects and data centers, and has worked as a system performance analyst and information security analyst. Now, through Sunny Banana IT Consulting, he helps small businesses and home offices that don't have their own IT departments. He also teaches personal technology at Arlington Adult Education and information technology at Northern Virginia Community College.

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PC Clinic: Hands-On Help for Your Computer June Meeting

See page 3 for specific guidelines on how to receive the greatest benefit from the PC Clinic. This is an excellent opportunity for each one of us to have any problems detected and suggestions of any needs of improvements..

(Continued Page 3)

PROGRAM TOPICS

What meeting topics would you like? If you are typical, you haven't shared a list with our leadership AND like other human beings—they do not excel in mind reading. We can all help them by sending information in an email to info@patacs.org Share the level of information you would like, how you want to use the information, and even a potential presenter.

I would like to learn more about making cassette tapes into CDs and the old videos into DVDs. How can we record from the internet? What “gadgets” or software are available? What are the “rules” about what is allowed? Not allowed?

What are the basics of the different social media tools? What are the purposes, strengths, and weaknesses of each?

Make your own list, share it in an email, and you will probably find that many others are also interested in the topics on your list. Enjoy. 😊



Clearing Some Financial Clutter with Your Computer Special to PATACS

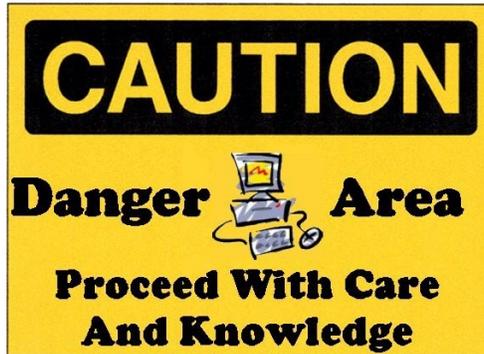
Most of us have reached the point in life where we recognize the need to simplify and declutter. Talking about it tends to be easier than doing it - thus the proliferation of outfits that will help you pitch out all the 'stuff' you really don't need any more - "Just point" says the radio ad, and "poof" it will disappear.

If, like me, you participated in a 'payroll savings plan' at work, you might have a pile of US Savings Bonds squirreled away in your safe deposit box, or under your mattress. So, take 'em to the bank and cash them in, or wait until they stop earning interest? In the current low-rate environment for savings accounts, a stack of bonds in my inventory, issued from 9/89 to 10/97 are providing a range of yields between 5.04 and 3.9% - so hanging on until they stop earning interest after 30 years might be a reasonable approach.

But, how to deal with the 'clutter' of those old paper bonds? (Any issued currently are held electronically by the Treasury Dept.) You can create an account at Treasurydirect.gov, then click on the Manage Direct tab, and create a Conversion Linked Account. You're then able to enter the serial numbers and issue dates of your bonds, create a manifest, and mail your bonds to the Treasury's Retail Securities Site



CYBERCRIME



and mail your bonds to the Treasury's Retail Securities Site

The 'SB Wizard' program will allow you to make appropriate notations in your inventory listing when you cash out your bonds.

**Thank you to the author
of this excellent article. ED.**

in Minneapolis. They'll convert them to electronic form, and 'store' them in your Conversion Linked Account. (Conversion staff backlogged, working nights and weekends - may take 6-8 weeks to complete process.)

Years ago, I used a freeware program to track the values of my bonds. Along the way, Treasury adopted the program, (can't find any history about that in a search but) called 'Savings Bond Wizard' which you can download and install on your computer to keep an inventory and value your bonds. Hint: If you 'print' the bond manifest mentioned above using CutePDF or a similar PDF creation tool, you can copy and paste the bond serial numbers from the manifest file to Savings Bond Wizard.

The 'SB Wizard' prints nice inventory reports, constantly updates the values as interest is credited, and will let you know when a bond has reached the point of 'no more interest credited.' At that point, or earlier, you can use the TreasuryDirect site to send the money to your bank account via electronic funds transfer. You will have to pay taxes on the accrued interest in the tax year when you cash your bonds.





PC Clinic: Hands-On Help for Your Computer June Meeting

Guidelines (Revised 01/2016)

Clinic Services Limited to Dues-Paid Members of OPCUG & PATACS, Only!

1. Please call the PATACS AnswerLine (703-370-7649) and advise what kind of problem you'll be seeking help with. Also, please send email with that information to [pc_clinic\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:pc_clinic@patacs.org).

2. Hours from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. Services are free, on a "users helping users" basis, and available only for user group members of PATACS and OPCUG. **Any donations received from appreciative parties will be directed by their request to the clubs' door prize funds, donations to the group treasury, or, for OPCUG members, to Friends of OLLI for the benefit of OPCUG.**

3. PATACS and other user group experts will help attendees resolve problems with their computer systems. Software and hardware assistance will be available for Windows PC and Linux computers

A clean house is a sign of a broken computer.



4. **PATACS & OPCUG disclaim all responsibility for any problems or data loss that may arise resulting from hardware or software assistance rendered.** PATACS recommends that a backup of all personal data files be performed prior to bringing the system to the clinic, if possible. Repairs will not be performed without the attendee's consent.

5. Attendees seeking assistance must bring in all hardware, software, and documentation necessary

for proper diagnosis / repair or upgrade. **Generally, in cases involving the CPU and associated hardware / software, this will entail bringing in the system unit, power cords, cables, software, upgrade hardware, and hardware/software documentation.** We have available flat panel monitors, keyboards, and mice. If your problem is related to your video display, you should bring your monitor and associated cables, so we may eliminate those as a source of the trouble.

6. Attendees seeking Operating System installations should call the PATACS AnswerLine (703-370-7649) and reserve time in advance. All other assistance is on a first-come, first-served time availability basis. Late arrivals will be informed at the door whether sufficient time remains to assist them; inquire at the clinic before bringing equipment into the building.



7. PATACS can non-destructively repartition hard drives on Windows systems for installation of additional Operating Systems. Again, please call to arrange - these can be lengthy!

8. Freely distributable GNU/Linux distributions will be installed free of charge on systems having CD-ROM drives. Attendees who want other Operating Systems installed must bring original copies of the software on appropriate media with them.

9. PATACS will provide the necessary hardware and software tools for most common repairs and upgrades. Please call the PATACS AnswerLine (703-370-7649) in advance if your system repair or upgrade will require specialized tools.



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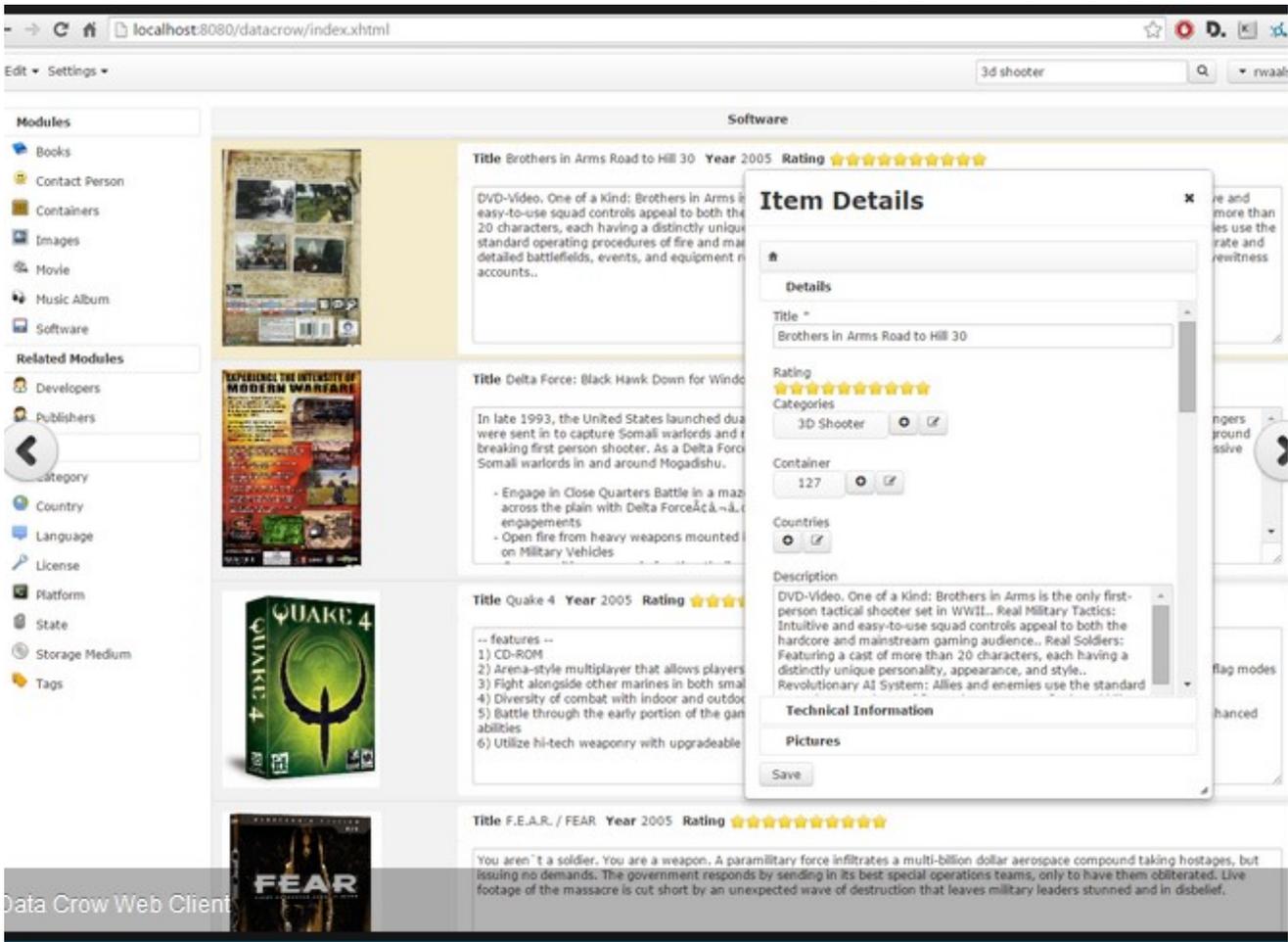
Open Source Software of the Month

By Geof Goodrum, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society
www.patacs.org linux (at) patacs.org



Data Crow – v4.1. <http://www.datacrow.net/>. Free GNU General Public License and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Robert Jan van der Waals. Data Crow is a free, open source media cataloger and organiser, a multi-purpose tool that helps you to manage a huge amount of data in a single place. It is powered by an intuitive, customizable user interface and has an impressive amount of features (see page 5).

Although, the program comes with a few standard modules that allows you to organize your movies, books, contacts, containers, images, media, music albums, software, users, there is no limit regarding the amount of modules. Advanced users can create their own module such as the one listed on official homepage for “stamps”: there is a documentation available for those who wish to create their own module. The software is written in Java programming language.

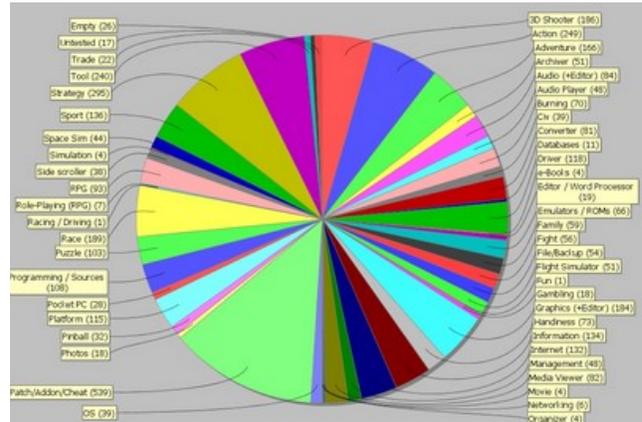


Continued Page 5

Features include:

- cross-platform including portable version
- completely customizable software
- excellent cataloger/organizer for movies, audio, software, books, photos, stamps etc.
- documentation for creation/export of new modules
- loan administration feature
- retrieve online info from well-known services such as IMDB, Amazon, MusicBrainz and import data from popular multimedia formats: AVI, XVID, MP3, DIVX, MP4, OGG, PNG, JPG, and others
- advanced reporting available in PDF and HTML
- support for multiple languages such as English, Spanish, German, French, Italian and Dutch

clean app: no adware, spyware, bundles or anything like that



Online Book search

Search Settings

Search for:

Server: Default (dutch) Find Stop

Card View Table View

Na een verschrikkelijke vakantie bij zijn gemene oom en tante gaat Harry Potter naar de tweede klas van Zweinsteins Hogeschool voor Hekserij en Hocus-Pocus. Maar alleen al om daar te komen blijkt een ware heksentoer te zijn, waarbij een vliegende auto Harry en zijn vriend Ron uitkomst biedt. Na alle avonturen van vorig schooljaar denkt Harry zich rustig aan zijn lessen Toverdranken, Verweer tegen de Zwarte Kunsten en zijn favoriete sport Zwerfbal te kunnen wijden. Maar dan hoort hij een mysterieuze.....

Title	Harry Potter 7: Harry Potter en de Relieken van de Dood	Category
Authors	J.K. Rowling	Rating
<p>Harry staat voor een duistere, gevaarlijke en haast onmogelijke taak: hij moet de overgebleven Gruzielelementen van Voldemort opsporen en vernietigen. Nooit eerder voelde Harry zich zo eenzaam en onzeker over zijn toekomst. Maar het is aan hem om de kracht te vinden om de zware taak goed te volbrengen. Om zonder angst of aarzeling aan zijn lange, zware reis te beginnen, moet Harry eerst zijn veilige omgeving verlaten... In deel 7, het alleraatste deel in de Harry Potter-serie, geeft J.K. Rowling.....</p>		

Opn Add Item(s) Clear Close

Event Log

- Successfully parsed result [Harry Potter 7: Harry Potter en de Relieken van de Dood]
- Successfully parsed result [Harry Potter en de geheime kamer Deel 2]
- Successfully parsed result [Harry Potter & De Steen Der Wijzen Deel 1]
- Successfully parsed result [Beatrix Potter en Pieter Konijn]
- Successfully parsed result [Paulus Potter schilderijen, tekeningen en etsen]
- Successfully parsed result [Der minnen loep van Dirc Potter]

Continued Page 6

Kernel Source – v4.5.2. <http://www.kernel.org/>. Free GNU General Public License source code for all platforms by the Linux community.

PhotoFilmStrip – v2.1.0. <http://www.photofilmstrip.org/1-1-Home.html>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Jens Göpfert. PhotoFilmStrip creates movies out of your pictures in just 3 steps. First select your photos, customize the motion path and render the video. There are several output possibilities for VCD, SVCD, DVD up to FULL-HD. The effect of the slideshow is known as “Ken Burns.” Comments of the pictures are generated

into a subtitle file. Furthermore an audio file can be specified to setup the background music for the slide show.

In contrast to other projects, PhotoFilmStrip has the capability to render the slideshow in Full-HD (1920x1080) resolution. [Screenshots at <http://www.photofilmstrip.org/3-1-Media.html>]

Warzone 2100 (See page 7.)was originally developed as a commercial game by Pumpkin Studios and published in 1999, and was released as open source by them in 2004, for the community to continue working on it.

The screenshot shows the top part of the PhotoFilmStrip website. It features a black header with a white filmstrip border. The text "PhotoFilmStrip" is centered in a large, bold, orange font. To the right, there are small links for "de" and "en". Below the header is a navigation menu with four items: "Home", "Features", "Media", and "Download", all in blue text. Under the "Media" link, there are sub-links for "Screenshots" and "Demo Video". A short paragraph of German text is visible below the sub-links.

Demo Video

PhotoFilmStrip Demo Video - Guitar.avi



Continued Page 7

Welcome to Warzone 2100!



Warzone 2100 – v3.1.5. <https://wz2100.net/>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Per I Mathisen, Christian Ohm, buginator, vexed, and cypr. In Warzone 2100, you command the forces of The Project in a battle to rebuild the world after mankind has almost been destroyed by nuclear missiles.

tree with over 400 different technologies, combined with the unit design system, allows for a wide variety of possible units and tactics. Warzone 2100 was originally developed as a commercial game by Pumpkin Studios and published in 1999, and was released as open source by them in 2004, for the community to continue working on it.

The game offers campaign, multi-player, and single-player skirmish modes. An extensive tech



Musings of an Apple Tyro June 2016 Lorrin R. Garson



Potential Invasion of Privacy: Troubleshooting Your Printer:

The FTC has warned a dozen app developers against using audio monitoring software from SilverPush. SilverPush, from an Indian company, allows apps to surreptitiously monitor TV viewing habits of people who have downloaded these apps with SilverPush imbedded. These questionable apps are available from the Google Play store. Unfortunately, the apps are not identified. See <http://bit.ly/1TUohW5> and <http://1.usa.gov/1R3B6Lf> for more information.



Does your printer stop working once in awhile? You know, out of paper, empty ink cartridge, paper jam, etc. But beyond the obvious, see <http://bit.ly/1Uio12Y> for possible solutions to more difficult problems.

Millions of Android Devices at Risk:

It has been a bad spell for users of Android based devices. Android's mediaserver and multimedia library, Stagefright, is once again a risk threat. Security problems with Stagefright had been repeatedly reported and patched by Google in 2015. The new threat pertains to devices running Android versions 2.2 through 4.0 and 5.0 and 5.1. Apparently the greatest threat is for Google's Nexus 5 with stock ROM, and with some modifications for HTC's One, LG's G3 and Samsung's S5. See <http://bit.ly/1R8T0c2>.



Oh So Retro!

Optical storage (CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, etc.) is quickly fading from home computers. Apple no longer offers optical disk drives in its computers, although you can still buy external drives from Apple. Along comes Sony offering massive Blu-ray drive systems called Everspan (Figure 1) to data centers for archival storage of data that is little changed over time. Everspan can store up to 181 petabytes (1 PB = 1000 TB = 10^{15} bytes) of data in a system up to 55 feet in length with hundreds of Blu-ray-like drives. Sony offers a 100-year warranty on the storage medium. With the continuing, rapid change being made in digital storage, it's hard to imagine this technology will be viable for 10 years, let alone 100 years.



Figure 1

See <http://bit.ly/1MaqQRe> and <http://onforb.es/1R5rxZ1>.



ICANN to Rescind Control of the Internet:

Until now, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (<https://www.icann.org>)) has maintained control of key technical Internet functions. With the international expansion of the Internet, that oversight will likely be turned over to an international body in September 2016. See <http://bit.ly/1TQBn6J> and <http://bit.ly/1PdDRUM>. Also see *The Economist*, March 5, 2016, pp. 55-56.



Viewing Files in El Capitan:



The Finder in OS X El Capitan offers four basic ways to view your files: (1) icon view, (2) list view, (3) column view and (4) cover flow view. Within those four ways there are numerous ways to arrange those files. It can be a bit confusing. However, it may be worthwhile learning more about this topic. See <http://bit.ly/1R02qtW>.

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Easy Access to a Folder:

Is there a folder (directory) you frequently access that's buried deep within a file structure? For example, I have a folder called "Apple--Information" that I frequently access. It's three levels down from my "Documents" file. You can easily write an AppleScript that will take you directly to such a folder. Here's how you do it:

1. Go to the "Utilities" folder and double-click on "Script Editor.app".
2. Be sure "AppleScript" is selected near the top left of the window displayed, not "JavaScript".

Key in the the four lines shown in Figure 2 starting with "tell application "Finder""[1].

1. Left-click on the "hammer" icon to compile the script.
2. Left-click on the "triangle" icon next to the "hammer" to run the script.
3. If you wrote the script correctly... there you are!

On the menu of "Script Editor" at the top of the desktop, select "File" then "Save". When prompted, name the file something meaningful and save it to the Desktop, or wherever you think appropriate.

Figure 2

From this point on whenever you want to access that remote folder, double-click on the named, saved script and left-click on the "triangle" icon next to the "hammer".

You now know how to program a computer! You can do many more things with AppleScript by just writing a set of instructions. To be truthful, it isn't quite that easy, but AppleScript is a simple "baby" computer language unique to Apple computers. There are numerous books written on how to use it.

[1] Obviously, you would use the name of your hard disk, your user name, and the folder you wish to access with each level of folders separated by a colon. The example here is specific to the file structure on my iMac. If you want to also open another folder, put in another line "open the folder..."

The Future of Computing:

The Economist (March 12-18, 2016, p. 44ff.) has an excellent article entitled "After Moore's Law: Double, Double, Toil and Trouble". As implied by the title, it's about Moore's Law slowing down—taking more than two years to double the power of computer chips. It's an interesting read.



From PATACS.ORG



Leti Labell's slides from Saturday's Learn 30 on 'Recipe Management Software' has been posted on the website: <http://patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>

A 'Windows 10' references page was added to the website, and is accessible from the 'Tech Resources' menu item, and links from the home page, site map, and bottom of page navigation links. Your suggestions for additions will be very welcome. See the page here: <http://patacs.org/patwindows10.html>



Learn about 'Digital Spring Cleaning' for All Internet Users: <http://us1.campaign->



archive1.com/?u=1cfc376f9f35e50eaea6eb1e0&id=effaa5dc77

See a **Digital Spring Cleaning Checklist:**

<https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/resources/digital-spring-cleaning-checklist>

Windows PC users who have the **Apple QuickTime video player** installed should uninstall it immediately to prevent its exploitation by hackers, says Apple, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, security experts at Trend Micro, and anyone else you may ask. See:

http://askbobrankin.com/quick_uninstall_quicktime_for_windows.html

If You Missed It

By Geof Goodrum, Potomac Area Technology
and Computer Society
www.patacs.org
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.

April 16, 2016 (Fairfax)

Paul Howard welcomed guests and members of the OLLI PC Users Group (OPCUG) and PATACS ("Pay Taxes" with respect to the date). This meeting included three guests who are Apple Mac users, possibly due to cross-promotion of meetings with Washington Apple Pi (<http://www.wap.org/>).



Paul marked Volunteer Month by recognizing Mel Goldfarb (PATACS Board Member, coordinator for OPCUG, door prizes and facility clean up), Leti Labell (OPCUG membership), Linda Randall (OPCUG Treasurer), Geof Goodrum and Kathy Perrin (PATACS newsletter editors), Bill Walsh (PATACS Secretary and meeting setup), Lisa and Don Ferrett (meeting refreshments and clean up), Mel Mikosinski (video conferencing, and financial management). Paul also recognized PATACS Board members Nick Wenri and Steven Wertime, and thanked Gabe Goldberg, Steven Wertime, and Mel Goldfarb for identifying meeting presenters. In turn, Steven Wertime recognized Paul for facilitating meetings (and being PATACS Treasurer, webmaster, meeting coordinator, and more).



Speaking of which, Paul added a page to the PATACS website with links to useful Windows 10 resources

(<http://www.patacs.org/patwindows10.html>). Acknowledging the end of Microsoft's free Windows 10 upgrade offer on July 29th (<https://www.microsoft.com/EN-US/windows/windows-10-upgrade>), Tom Gutnick will provide upgrade advice Fairfax PATACS meeting on June 18th. Paul also reminded us to use the Amazon link on the PATACS home page if making purchases on Amazon.com, as this results in a donation to PATACS, which is useful in offsetting increased newsletter processing costs.

Q&A Session

The following is an exchange during the Questions and Answers session during the meeting.

Q: Why doesn't Gmail work on my Apple iPad while it works on my desktop?

A: If you use the Verizon FiOS mail handler app, it sometimes requires that the iPad be physically turned off and on again. [If using a browser, try installing the official Google Gmail app from iTunes, <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/apple-store/id422689480>] If that doesn't fix the problem, get free hands-on help at the Apple Genius Bar or free workshops at the Tysons Corner Apple Store (<https://www.apple.com/retail/tysonscorner/>).

Recipes Learn 30:
Recipe Management
Software by Leti Labell

Leti Labell started her Learn 30 session with some background about herself. She loves cooking and collecting recipes. When she Googled her name, she found that others have posted her recipes in multiple languages.

Continued on Page 11

Leti's presentation is posted on the PATACS Recent Meetings page (<http://patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>), and includes a list of recipe websites. Most recipe sites have common features such as a search box, and many have a place to save favorites (i.e., a "recipe box"). Some sites have mobile apps, but, as you might expect, the apps are limited to recipes on that site. All of the sites are setup differently. Leti said that Food Network.com is a good site, and The Kitchn.com (not a typo) is a favorite, but does not have a recipe box. Other sites on Leti's list include Epicurious.com, Cooking Light, Real Simple, Eating Well, Big Oven (with over 350,000 recipes, iPhone app), All Recipes, and Food.

However, Leti's #1 site to find recipes is Google search. Leti demonstrated entering 'tumeric' and 'quinoa' in a search to find recipes using those ingredients. However, she focuses her attention on search results linked to sites from her list.

Leti found a website (<http://cookbook-recipe-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>) that ranked 2016 Cookbook and Recipe Software. MasterCook was listed best, but other highly rated programs include Now You're Cooking and Paprika Recipe Manager.

Leti demonstrated Paprika Recipe Manager on multiple platforms (mobile apps are priced at \$4.99 and versions for Microsoft Windows and Apple OS X at \$19.99, <https://paprikaapp.com>). The user interface is a little different on each; Leti preferred the app on Apple iPhone (web import) over the Amazon Kindle Fire. The license allows installation of the app on up to three systems [the website states, "Note: this only applies if you have purchased a license key for the Windows version of Paprika and want to install on multiple PCs. It does not apply for other versions of Paprika."]. The Paprika app features Cloud Sync, easy importing of recipes from web sites, custom categories (which allows multiple categories for a recipe), smart grocery lists, interactive recipes, and tools to help you cook and plan meals. The Cloud Sync feature allows your recipes, grocery lists, etc. to be shared across the app on your devices. Paprika also features a built-in web browser with a button to import recipes from web pages, but recipes can also be entered direct-

-ly. Tools include scaling ingredients to the desired serving size, integrated timers, and tracking progress by tapping each step in a recipe.

Leti demonstrated how she keeps recipes organized in Paprika. She was able to list her collected recipes by country of origin (e.g., Ethiopia, Thailand), and showed that recipes imported from a web page include the source website link. Recipes can be shared via email. Recipe items can be selected and manually entered to add to a grocery shopping list. Items can be added to a meal calendar to create a complete meal plan. Recipes can be searched by name, ingredient and source. There is a field for nutritional information, but nutritional information is not calculated automatically (Leti mentioned that the "Now You're Cooking" software has some of these features, and connects to the USDA site [<https://ndb.nal.usda.gov/ndb/foods?>]). In response to a question, Leti suggested that printed or photographed recipes can be added into Paprika if first converted to a digital text document with an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) application [i.e., scan or photograph the recipe text, run OCR software (not included with Paprika) to generate a text file, then manually cut & paste the recipe information into Paprika].

"Now You're Cooking" software has some of these features, and connects to the USDA site [<https://ndb.nal.usda.gov/ndb/foods?>]). In response to a question, Leti suggested that printed or photographed recipes can be added into Paprika if first converted to a digital text document with an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) application [i.e., scan or photograph the recipe text, run OCR software (not included with Paprika) to generate a text file, then manually cut & paste the recipe information into Paprika]. When asked if there was any tool to make shopping in the store more efficient, Leti mentioned that she uses the AnyList app for Apple iPhone/iPod Touch and web (<https://www.anylistapp.com/>), which can be set up to organize a shopping list by grocery store aisle and food category. She syncs this list with the app on her husband's phone to coordinate shopping. The Safeway store app (<http://www.safeway.com/ShopStores/Get-Connected-Mobile-Apps.page>) has aisle information for its stores.



BOCA BITS

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 during the month of March 2016.

How to Use Google Maps Offline (Without Internet) on Android and iOS

<http://www.nirmaltv.com/2016/02/29/use-google-maps-offline-without-internet-on-android-and-ios/>

I have been using Google Maps on my android, but sometimes end up without internet. This post shows how to prepare for those times.

How to Make YouTube Videos Loop Continuously

<http://www.online-tech-tips.com/google-softwaretips/loop-youtube-videos-continuously/>

If you need to continuously loop a YouTube video, like maybe before a meeting, check out this post from Online Tech Tips to learn how.

How to Choose a USB Wi-Fi Adapter for Your Laptop

<http://www.howtogeek.com/243330/how-to-choose-a-usb-wi-fi-adapter-for-your-laptop/>

Is your laptop Wi-Fi broken, or not capable of your new routers' 802.11ac speed? This HowToGeek will help you find a USB adapter that will solve the problem without hefty repair fees.



How to fix the dreaded Google Cloud printer offline issue

<http://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-to-fix-the-dreaded-google-cloud-printer-offline-issue/>

Most Fridays, more interesting finds will be posted on the *Computers, Technology, and User Groups Blog*:

<http://ctublog.sefcug.com/tag/interesting-internet-finds/>

The posts are under Creative Commons licensing.



A True Story of a Computer Scam and How to Avoid It Happening to You

<http://www.wonderoftech.com/computer-scam-microsoft-windows/>

picture-if-guidelines-After you read this, you will be much more aware of these types of scams. This story shows that even tech savvy people can be scammed.



Pros And Cons Of Going Cable TV Free

<http://www.pcmec.com/article/pros-and-cons-of-going-cable-tv-free/>

More and more people are talking about going cable TV free, though I am not one of them, as it is included in my maintenance fees. This post from PCMech will prove helpful for others considering it though.

You Can Use a Picture If: Guidelines for Image Copyrights

<http://thevisualcommunicationguy.com/2016/03/24/you-can-use-a-picture-if-guidelines-for-image-copyrights/>

Do you use Google Cloud Print? If so sooner or later you are going to have a printer go offline. This TechRepublic post has the solution. (Note: This has worked for me.)

This post has an infographic that can help you decide if you can legally use a picture for your blog, newsletter, presentation, or whatever. And, if it is under a Creative Commons license, what each of those mean.



From APRIL 2016 BOCA BITS
It Pays to be Skeptical
By Leo Notenboom

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Leo A. Notenboom has been playing with computers since he was required to take a programming class in 1976. An 18 year career as a programmer at Microsoft soon followed. After retiring in 2001, Leo started Ask Leo! in 2003 as a place for answers to common computer and technical questions.

If we could all be just a little more skeptical, we'd be safer, and the internet could be a more trustworthy place.

Or, it could be legitimate.
 What do you do?

Unable to deliver package, details attached...

You've probably received email – important-looking email – that indicates there's a package on its way to you, and the details are in an attached file.

Perhaps your online email provider has detected a problem with your account, and you need to check something by clicking on the conveniently provided link.¹

I've even received email from Paypal indicating that access to my account had been "limited" because of suspicious activity. I needed to log in to provide additional information – once again, using the provided link.¹

In each case, the sender wants you to trust them and take whatever action they've recommended in their message, be it examining the contents of an attached file, clicking a provided link to their web site, or even replying to the email with sensitive information.

Abusing your trust in this manner is currently one of the most effective ways to distribute malware.

And yet, each one of those scenarios could, in some cases, also be legitimate.

And yet, each one of those scenarios could, in some cases, also be legitimate.

What do you do?

I'm from Microsoft, and we've detected....

You're working on your computer one afternoon and you get a phone call from someone who says they work for Microsoft, and they've detected that your computer is causing many errors on the internet. They offer to walk you through some steps to show this to you, and indeed, there do seem to be lots of unexplained errors right there on your computer.

Then they offer to fix it for you, if you'll just go to a site and type in a few numbers that they recite to you.

Those errors are pretty scary looking, and you certainly don't understand them.

What do you do?

What you do: get skeptical

Skeptic: a person who has or shows doubt about something – Merriam Webster

If there were one skill I could magically impart to my Ask Leo! readers ... hell, on the entire technology-using, internet-loving universe – it would be the skill of healthy skepticism.

I don't mean that you believe nothing and trust no one. I mean simply that you question before you believe, and ask before you trust.

In each case, it's critical that you not blindly trust the information presented to you. In each case, you must question whether or not the person or company at the other end of the message actually has your best interests in mind. Is the story they're telling accurate? Verifiably accurate? Do you know – beyond a doubt – that they are who they say they are?

If the answer to any of those questions is "no", or even "I'm not sure", then stop. Stop and take whatever additional steps make sense to confirm that what you're being told is legitimate.

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It might mean some internet research, calling them back, or asking a trusted friend or resource for their opinion.

But if you aren't sure, *question everything*.

Be more skeptical: it's one skill that can help prevent disasters before they happen, and keep you and your technology safe.

Nullius in verba

"Take nobody's word for it."²

It's more than just technology

Naturally, my plea for being skeptical and that you "question everything" is about far more than just the technology you have sitting in front of you.

As I've written about before, an amazing amount of information we're shown each day is completely bogus – or at least nuanced and presented in such a way as to cause you to believe that things are other than they truly are.

Add to that our natural tendency to believe that which supports what we already believe (known as the "echo chamber"), and it's exceptionally easy to be misled and misinformed.

The solution remains the same:
Be skeptical.
Question everything...
...even things you already believe are true.

Read more:

- Just what is 'common sense'? – 'Common sense' is frequently suggested, often missing and rarely defined. I'll take a look at some of what I feel are the characteristics of common sense.

- Stop spreading manure – Perhaps most importantly, stop believing it.

- How the internet is breaking journalism (and what it means to you) – When it comes to journalism and other information that you read on the internet, there's a very strong argument that things are seriously broken. The result is that we all need to be more vigilant than ever to separate the truth from

falsehood and recognize what's important as opposed to what's popular.

- Is the internet just full of scams? – Many advertisements of computer products include promises that they can't keep, or know that they won't keep. By making things seem much worse than they actually are they attempt to entice – or even scare – you into purchase tools you simply don't need.

Footnotes and references

1: I've actually received this scenario legitimately, which really surprised me. Of course, most are scams of some sort.

2: Nullius in verba, besides being the motto of The President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge, is also a very fancy way of saying "question everything".

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