

## Musings of an Apple Tyro

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### More Information about Time Machine

Time Machine is used for backup by many (most?) people using Apple computers. However, that application provides rather sparse information about what’s going on. Want more information? Open the Console, which is in either the Applications or Utilities folder, depending on the version of OS X. The right three columns will display processes that have been run. The Time Machine process is called “backupd.” Key backupd (no quotes) in the search box of Console, then start up Time Machine, noting the time in the Menu bar so you can view the processes for that specific instance of backupd.

In Figure 1 (next page) are shown the processes associated with Time Machine for a specific manual backup starting at 1:57:27 pm. It takes some experience to comprehend the displayed information. However, with experience you will gain the ability to know when something is amiss even if you don’t understand all information provided—and that is valuable.

## Seagate 10 TB Hard Drive

If you need a large and fast hard disk drive, Seagate’s Barracuda Pro 10 TB might fit the bill. PCWorld reports that this 3.5-inch, 7,200 rpm drive is miserly on power consumption and reads and writes data at 243 MBps and 229 MBps, respectively. The drive is priced at \$579.98.

See <http://bit.ly/2ctR6l1> for more information.

## People Holding on to iPhones Longer

Last year people traded in their iPhones every two years. By 2018 that’s expected to increase to three years. The chart in Figure 2 is from <http://read.bi/2cAjPNY>.

## Apple’s New File System

Next year, or perhaps sooner, we can expect a new proprietary file system for Apple computers. It’s called APFS (Apple File System) and will replace the current HFS+ file system. HFS+ was introduced by Apple in January 1998 as a replacement for HFS (Hierarchical File System), which came along in September 1985. APFS will be used by macOS, tvOS, iOS and watchOS. It is designed for SSD and flash storage. It is crash-protected and HFS+/HFS compatible. Apple will provide an in-place HFS+ to APFS converter so that HFS+ devices will not have to be reformatted. OS X Yosemite and earlier versions

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1:57:27 PM com.apple.backupd: Starting manual backup
▶ 1:57:27 PM com.apple.backupd: Backing up to /dev/disk2s1: /Volumes/LRG's iMac Back
1:57:28 PM com.apple.backupd: Will copy (Zero KB) from LRG's External Drive
1:57:28 PM com.apple.backupd: Will copy (11.8 MB) from Macintosh HD
1:57:28 PM com.apple.backupd: Found 224 files (11.8 MB) needing backup
1:57:28 PM com.apple.backupd: 2.7 GB required (including padding), 889.26 GB avail
▶ 1:57:28 PM com.apple.backupd: Copied 1 items (Zero KB) from volume LRG's External
▶ 1:58:05 PM com.apple.backupd: Copied 324 items (11.8 MB) from volume Macintosh HD.
1:58:08 PM com.apple.backupd: Created new backup: 2016-08-26-135807
1:58:09 PM com.apple.backupd: Starting post-backup thinning
1:58:09 PM com.apple.backupd: No post-backup thinning needed: no expired backups e
1:58:09 PM com.apple.backupd: Backup completed successfully.
```

Figure 1. Time Machine backup process log

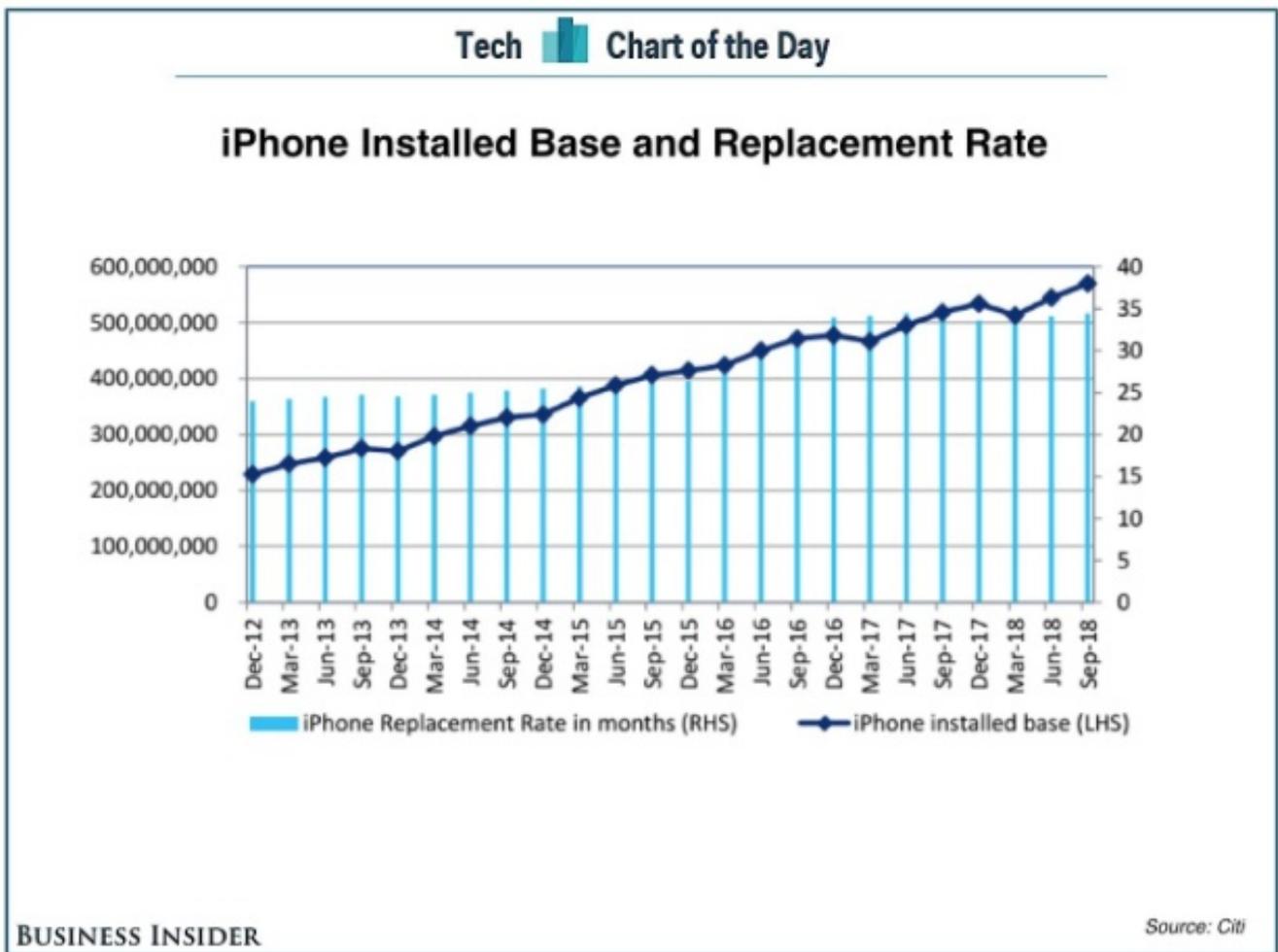


Figure 2. People are holding on to iPhones longer

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of the operating system will not be able to use APFS. APFS will be available, and be the default file system, in 2017. Presumably MS-DOS (FAT) formatted disks will still be readable by both Apple and Windows machines.

See <http://tidbits.com/article/16584>, <http://apple.co/2cgZGug> and <http://apple.co/2ctW4og>.

See <http://apple.co/2cgZGug> for a 36-min video.

### Internet of Things and Security

As the Internet of Things (IoT) expands there is increasing awareness and discussion about the security of such devices. In fact, there is a general sense that IoT devices are inherently insecure. Our son had me load an app on my iPhone that would open and close the garage door to his home so we could enter his house while he was away. Of course he gave me the password to make this app work. Is the password encrypted as it's sent over a cell phone radio signal or via the Internet? I don't know. It's been tempting to open and close his garage door several times at 2:00 am from our home in Vienna, but I've resisted that evil impulse.

According to an article in The Economist (June 11, 2016, pp. 65-66), IoT is rather slow to catch on in the U.S. Surprisingly, it seems that only 6% of homes here have installed an IoT device and by 2021 that number will have increased to only ~17%.

For some insight on IoT see <http://bit.ly/2caL7oC> and <http://bit.ly/2cLAYUX> and <http://bit.ly/2cqvaRy>.

### Snoop-proofing Your Mac

See <http://bit.ly/2cAMg9t> for interesting guidance on securing your Apple computer. If you follow all the suggestions your machine will be quite secure but probably significantly crippled. To quote from this article, "...but be very careful once you make changes outside System Preferences. Seriously, you have been warned."

### Beware of MacKeeper

I think the best that can be said of MacKeeper (<https://mackeeper.com/>) is that it's very controversial. Before installing this software search the Web for reviews of this product. See <http://bit.ly/2czFXpX> for Wikipedia's description of the software.

See <http://apple.co/2cpWpXe> and <http://bit.ly/2d0QrNA> for negative reviews.

See <http://bit.ly/2cqzX5o> for information on uninstalling MacKeeper and other products.

### Apple's New Corporate Headquarters

Apple is building a new facility in Cupertino, California on One Infinite Loop (where else?). Construction began in late 2013 and is expected to be completed late this year or early 2017. The facility will have 2.8 million ft<sup>2</sup> of office space and house about 12,000 to 13,000 employees. There are 3.7 miles of curved glass and 700,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of solar panels. The site is on 176 acres and has 7,000 trees and 15 acres of grassland. Cost? \$5 billion.

See <http://bit.ly/2cpZBli> for a 4-minute video. Also see <http://bit.ly/2cM1LgV> and <http://for.tn/2cqAC6V>.

### Upcoming Meetings

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

### November 19, 2016 (Fairfax)

#### Learn in 30: Hard Disk Sentinel to Monitor and Protect Your Hard Drive by Ray Parker

Hard Disk Sentinel is a powerful tool for monitoring hard drive health. See Gabe Goldberg's write-up in the October 2016 issue of **PATACS Posts**.

Guest speaker Ray Parker will provide:

- An explanation of the Hard Disk Sentinel default configuration and what that will get you.

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- Examples of a few custom configuration and notification options, such as notifications with e-mail or with messages on the local network.
- General Q&A.
- Reference sources for those who might wish to learn more on their own.
- Detailed information about the terms of the licensing discount extended to APCUG member groups: **Through December 24, 2016, PATACS members can purchase the five-copy lifetime family license for \$32, a 40% discount from the list price of \$53; enter Coupon Code XYZZY when ordering from the product website (<http://www.hdsentinel.com/>).**

Ray Parker has been a Hard Disk Sentinel customer since January 2014.

### **Presentation: Make Your iPad, iPhone, or Android Smartphone Work for You—Voice Commands and Using your Camera/Video and Text Features by Cherie Lejeune**

Cherie Lejeune, owner of High Performance Aging, will teach some techniques how to use voice commands and other accessibility features on your devices to take notes, read e-mail, add dates and appointments to your calendar, and more. Using voice commands is especially helpful if you have difficulty seeing the small keyboards or buttons on your devices. Some familiarity with the basic functions on your device is important for this session (like turning your device on and off!) and please bring your device if you have one.

Cherie Lejeune, a resident of Northern Virginia for 12 years, has for the last 25 years been a marketing, content and applications, technology specialist. She will tell you the common thread to her life's work has been passionately shaping information and making it work to sell, represent, integrate and get traction for products, services, for both profit and nonprofit businesses. One of her recent assignments was a contract with NARFE to put all chapters on Facebook and how to keep it "fresh" and, to attract new members. Her volunteering includes nonprofit groups, like Northern Virginia Aging Network, she is the Chair of Fairfax county's 50+ Neighbor to Neighbor initiative and, is a officer of several local and national

organizations. But her "real passion" says Ms Lejeune, revolves around "quality of life" issues dedicating much volunteer and professional time to use technology to help cognitively impaired seniors adding, "nothing beats that level of satisfaction."

### **November 23, 2016 (Arlington) Technology & PC Help Desk**

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



### **If You Missed It**

by Geof Goodrum

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If you can't make a meeting in person, remember that members can participate in meetings remotely (and at no additional charge beyond Internet connection service) via Zoom teleconferencing. See <http://zoom.us/> for Apple® macOS™ and iOS, GNU/Linux®, Google Android™ and Microsoft® Windows® clients. The Zoom meeting link is provided in e-mailed meeting announcements.

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

### **September 17, 2016 (Fairfax)**

George Mason University completed reconstruction of the OLLI parking lot in time for the September meeting, and the improvements



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are significant. Besides resurfacing, newly painted spaces and handicapped parking, the new curbing and drainage will prevent water intrusion into the building foundation. There are also stairs and a new ramp with handrails to make the facility more accessible (see photo).

PATACS held the Fall celebration event with food served in the Social Annex thanks to our volunteers. However, the food is not free, so remember to feed the tip jar when you visit.

The PATACS Election Commissioners distributed ballots by e-mail on August 31<sup>st</sup> for election of PATACS officers at the Annual Meeting in October. Hopefully, you remembered to submit your ballot, or cast your ballot in person.

Leti Labell leads the PATACS Newsletter Committee and provided an update. Newsletter printing and distribution are PATACS' biggest expense. The Committee distributed an online newsletter survey to members, and Leti provided paper forms at the meeting for those who might have missed it or had technical issues with the online form. There will be a random drawing at the October Fairfax meeting for one of the survey respondents to receive an additional six months of PATACS membership.

Gabe Goldberg summarized the benefits of PATACS belonging to the APCUG, and encouraged members to attend the APCUG Annual Conference in Las Vegas from October 21 to 23 for a series of technology presentations, including a keynote by author Abby Stokes. There is a reduced room rate, and several meals are included in the conference package.

Newsletter Co-editor Kathy Perrin thanked Roger Fujii for his help getting her Windows PC running again so she could complete work on the August newsletter.

### Q&A Session

Q: Has anyone used Apple iOS 10 or purchased an iPhone 7, yet?

A: No, but the iPhone 7 comes with Apple



adapters. Lorrin Garson mentioned that iOS 10 has the usual rash of problems reported as with any new release (*Ed.* there was an early issue with some phones that has since been patched, see <http://money.cnn.com/2016/09/13/technology/apple-ios-10-bricks-iphones/index.html>).

Q: Has anyone received notice that Microsoft's e-mail is changing.

A: No.

There were various comments about Microsoft Windows 10.

- Bill Walsh reported that it was taking him awhile to install the Windows 10 Anniversary Update.
- There are problems with the Start menu on a workstation. Microsoft has a tool to fix the Start menu ([http://aka.ms/diag\\_StartMenu](http://aka.ms/diag_StartMenu)), but it did not fix the problem.
- The Windows 10 update ISO is useful for Windows recovery (see <https://goo.gl/VBNwfk>).
- There was a report of problems getting into Gmail with Windows 10.
- There were comments about the changing Windows desktop ("hasn't decided what it will be when it grows up") and privacy concerns.
- Paul Howard reminded members to visit PATACS' Windows 10 resources web page (<http://www.patacs.org/patwindows10.html>).

### Presentation: Social Media for the Non-Tweeter by Pam Holland

Guest speaker Pam Holland started a business called TechMoxie (<https://tech-moxie.com/>) to help adults with technology. She also writes a newsletter for the site, with an upcoming issue about "Staying safe online." She said that three TechMoxie customers received pop-up alerts including audio warning about malware on their computers and ended up giving their credit card numbers and control of their computers to scammers.

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Pam noted that social norms are changing with technology.

She referenced a documentary, *Twinsters* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2980626/>), available on Netflix about identical twin sisters who were separated at birth and found each other only through social media, as one lived in Paris and the other in New Jersey. Together they used the Kickstarter online project funding site to raise money to make the movie.

So what is Social Media? Social media is a website or app that allows users to form an online community. Ms. Holland surveyed meeting attendees about who is on Facebook and Twitter. She finds that 20 to 40% of audiences are on at least one, even in non-technology groups.

Social media also affects our vocabulary. The 2015 Oxford word of the year was an emoji  (<http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2015/11/word-of-the-year-2015-emoji/>). Other words introduced by social media include tweet, blog, trending, viral, and selfie.

What is it all about? Social media is accessed from a web browser or via a mobile app, though there is more focus on apps now. For example, photos can be posted to Instagram only from the app, not via the desktop PC web browser. Most social media web sites also want you to set up an account with them, but some allow you to view content without an account. Some sites also allow login using another social media account, but Pam prefers to keep social media accounts as separate as possible vs linking them.

Pam enjoys sharing information, and noted that social media is the modern version of meeting to socialize with friends at the water cooler. Engaging on social media is a great way to stay connected, and family news and business information is frequently shared via social media before formal announcements.

Users can personalize their social media public profile. Pam provided a screenshot of her Facebook profile as an example. She noted that

an old boyfriend contacted her after she created a public Facebook page. Pam also mentioned that it is possible to create a number of different accounts on Twitter, e.g., public and private, business and personal.

Social media sites differ in the way people interact. Pam said that Facebook is mutual, as both parties can control what information to share. However, Twitter and Instagram is unilateral (others can “follow” your social media posts). Each site also has slightly different (unwritten) customs and etiquette, so it is worth watching how others use the site before engaging.

Privacy settings on the site determine who can see your content: public or friends only. Pam recommended reviewing the settings periodically as they can change, especially when new features are added.

Pam toured some of the social media services.

 Vine (<https://vine.co/>) is a site to post short video loops, and many sign up just to watch them. One unique feature is the original poster is able to append to an existing video, which can be used to create stop-motion type animations. One girl was paid for use of a funny cat video that she posted on Vine.

Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/>) is a site for sharing photos and videos designed to be used with a smartphone app. You can follow online posts by friends and strangers, and friends can indicate posts they like and post comments. There are different ways to copy photos online, and Instagram provides tools to edit your photos.

Gabe Goldberg asked whether sites filter out metadata (text information including location and time) embedded in photo files, which may be more information than the poster wants to share. Gabe also noted that there is facial recognition technology that can identify people in photos. Pam said that social media sites are better about stripping out metadata, but this is a reason to check the site’s privacy settings.

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 Pinterest (<https://www.pinterest.com/>) is a site that allows registered users to “pin” items from the Internet, photos, and videos to a virtual bulletin board for other registered users to see. Pam likes to knit, and was able to search for postings about knitting, but there are posts covering lots of topics of interest. Leti Labell said that she searches for recipes on Pinterest. However, you can’t see content on the site without a Pinterest account. Another member noted that you can save posts of interest in your account. Pam added that Pinterest does not sell your email address to third parties, and browsing the site is completely private. The business model is based upon advertising and sponsored posts.

 Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/>) is a site that helps you keep up with people you care about, such as those who have moved away. Pam noted that some people overshare; not everyone is interested in every detail of daily life. There is an etiquette of accepting/ignoring requests to be a friend and share information. It is not like email where a response expected. Leti said that some people assume all friends follow postings, which is not true. Facebook feeds are not like email. Older posts may not be visible. Pam also commented on “unfriending,” especially during election cycles when people begin to push their views! Unfriending does not notify the person who is being unfriended. You can also unfollow someone, while remaining a friend. Facebook also has groups (secret and public) for people with common interests, which is another way to stay connected. There was a comment that security settings are not obvious, and people have posted using false identities. Pam said to be suspicious of posts as with email, and there is a button to report suspicious posts.

Ravelry (<https://www.ravelry.com/>) is a site for knitters that is useful for sharing patterns.

Pam also talked about the concept of crowdsourcing—i.e., social media with an “ask.”

Pam showed an example of a crowdsourced web animation project using over 50,000 contributed car drawings (<http://www.thesinglelanesuperhighway.com/>). Another example is the online Virtual Choir (<http://ericwhitacre.com/>) using video submissions. Gabe noted that crowdsourcing contributors often get something in return for their support.

 Twitter (<https://twitter.com/>) is known as a “micro-blogging” site for brief message posts (“tweets”) limited to 140 characters (the original limit to cell phone text messages). Tweets may contain web links (which are automatically shortened), a photo, or video. Pam explained the use of hashtag (keyword identified with a # prefix) and provided examples. You can search for tweets with hashtags (which are not case sensitive). An account is not needed to view tweets, but is useful, and you can personalize your personal Twitter page. Each account has a Twitter Name or Handle with an @ prefix (e.g., “@Nationals” for the Washington Nationals baseball team). With an account, you can set up a feed of tweets from people or organizations you are interested in following by clicking the “Follow” button on their page. Retweeting is a term for sharing a tweet from others in your personal feed. Tweets are harder to keep up with than Facebook feeds. Twitter is used for live tweeting current events including breaking news, communicating with businesses, researching subject matter, and maintaining a social connection. Gabe found Twitter most useful for filing complaints with businesses that monitor Twitter, as responses were very quick. Pam also cited an example getting help from Verizon (<https://twitter.com/Verizon> or @verizon) with an Apple iPhone 6 with a full email mailbox. Another example: Pam got an answer about an incident response at a parking garage by tweeting the Montgomery County (Maryland) Fire and Rescue Service (<https://twitter.com/mcfrs> or @mcfrs).

## Open Source Software of the Month

by Geof Goodrum

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### Blobwars: Metal Blob Solid – v2.0.

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/blobwars/>.

Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, FreeBSD®, Apple® macOS™ and GNU/Linux® by Hans de Goede, Guus Slipen, Stephen Sweeney and Parallel Realities. Metal Blob Solid is a 2D platform game, the first in the Blobwars series. You take on the role of a fearless Blob agent, Bob, whose mission is to infiltrate various enemy bases and rescue as many MIAs as possible, while battling many vicious aliens.



Features include:

- Over 25 missions
- More than 8 hours of gameplay!
- 4 difficulty settings
- Large levels with different environments, such as water, lava, ice and slime
- Use a variety of different weaponry, including machine guns and laser cannons
- Multiple objectives
- Great music from DJ Sjors, Ambick, SinQ and LizardKing
- Jetpack and Aqua Lung items to find
- Optional blood and gore
- Boss Battles!
- Joypad support with configurable controls

- Configurable keyboard support
- Level replay value - Return to previous levels to rescue all MIAs and optional objectives

### GraphicsMagick – v1.3.25.

<http://www.graphicsmagick.org/>. Free MIT and other Open Source license source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, FreeBSD®, Apple® macOS™ and GNU/Linux® by Bob Friesenhahn, Glenn Randers-Pehrson and the GraphicsMagick Group. GraphicsMagick is the Swiss Army knife of image processing. It provides a robust and efficient collection of tools and libraries that support reading, writing, and manipulating an image in over 88 major formats including DPX, GIF, JPEG, JPEG-2000, PNG, PDF, PNM, and TIFF.

GraphicsMagick supports huge images and has been tested with gigapixel-size images.

GraphicsMagick can create new images on the fly, making it suitable for building dynamic Web applications. GraphicsMagick may be used to resize, rotate, sharpen, color reduce, or add special effects to an image and save the result in the same or different image format. Image processing operations are available from the command line, as well as through C, C++, Lua, Perl, PHP, Python, Tcl, Ruby, Windows .NET, or Windows COM programming interfaces.

Features include:

- Convert an image from one format to another (e.g. TIFF to JPEG)
- Resize, rotate, sharpen, color reduce, or add special effects to an image
- Create a montage of image thumbnails
- Create a transparent image suitable for use on the Web
- Compare two images
- Turn a group of images into a GIF animation sequence
- Create a composite image by combining several separate images
- Draw shapes or text on an image

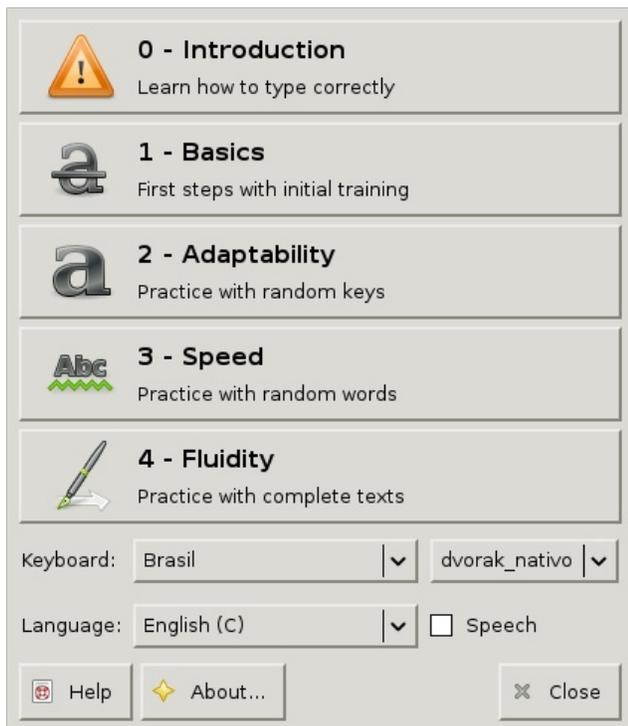
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- Decorate an image with a border or frame
- Describe the format and characteristics of an image

**Kernel Source** – v4.8.5. <http://www.kernel.org/>. Free GNU General Public License source code for all platforms by the Linux community.

**Klavaro Touch Typing Tutor** – v3.02. <http://klavaro.sourceforge.net/>. Free GNU General Public License source code for Microsoft® Windows®, FreeBSD®, Apple® macOS™ and GNU/Linux® by Felipe Castro (executables for older versions are available from third-party sources). Klavaro is a touch typing tutor that supports customizable keyboard layouts.



Features include:

- Internationalization: ar bg bn ca cs da de el en\_GB eo es eu fi fr gl hu hr it kk ky nb nl pa pl pt\_BR ru sl sv te uk ur vi wo zh\_CN (if you want to translate to another language, please read the instructions for translation)
- Ready to use keyboard layouts: “qwerty”, Dvorak, “qwertz”, “azerty”, “jtsuken”, Colemak, AlphaGrip5
- Keyboard layout editor: configure the key

positions and save the result in a simple text file. If your keyboard isn’t shown above, you can create it.

- Basic course: a basic type of course is available for memorizing the keys positions on the keyboard. It is supposed to be independent from keyboard layout, by the generation of random character sequences to be followed by the student.
- Adaptability exercises: these exercises use all the keys randomly, so that you can practice using all the keyboard. It's named adaptability exercise because it develops the capacity to adapt your typing skills to any kind of strange words that may appear in some texts.
- Velocity exercises: one achieves velocity on typing when the environment is well known, or, when the words come from one's own language. That’s why these exercises focus on velocity. And even if your language isn't supported by the application, you still can indicate texts in any language to include the words contained there.
- Fluidness exercises: with these exercises, one works typing complete paragraphs, with good sense sentences. Typing errors aren’t accepted: the user must correct them with the backspace key before being allowed to go on. Special attention is given to the typing rhythm, which must be as uniform as possible. Just like the velocity exercises, this one can load any text files, independent of language.
- Progress charts: at the accomplishment of each exercise, some characteristics of your performance are saved and can be shown graphically. Thus, you can easily observe your learning progress (or regress).
- Including other texts: facilities to import text and use them with the advanced modules (velocity / fluidness). You can launch a dialog to select a local file of the system; you can paste text already copied to the clipboard; and more, you can select, drag and drop text at the entry box in the bottom of the tutor window.

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Sweet Home 3D: Plan, Aerial and Photo Renderings

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This two last facilities work, for example, with text selected in your browser, from any preferred page of yours.

- Semi-online contest: for the last training module (fluidness), there is a scoring scheme to rank users accordingly to their touch typing skills. The ranking is done only locally, for users in a shared machine, or it may be enabled to send the local data to a web server, where they will be processed and a global ranking will be publicly available. Then the program would be running as an “online” game.
- Clean graphical interface: when learning to type correctly, one must not get the attention off the exercises. So, it isn’t recommended to have dozens of gauges measuring velocity, errors, time, etc; nor a virtual keyboard floating in front of the student: he/she must memorize the key positions by the tact, not visually. Hence, Klavaro’s interface started simple and will remain like that for all of its lifetime.

**NAS4Free** – v10.3.0.3-2964.

<http://www.nas4free.org/>. Free NAS4Free (BSD) License bootable ISO image by Daisuke Aoyama, Michael Zoon, Michael Schneider et al. The NAS4Free operating system can be installed on virtually any hardware platform to share computer data storage over a computer network (i.e., turn an old PC into a secure network file server). ‘NAS’ as in “Network-Attached Storage” and ‘4Free’ as in “Free and open source”, NAS4Free is the simplest and fastest way to

create an centralized and easily-accessible server for all kinds of data!

NAS4Free supports sharing across Windows, Apple, and UNIX-like systems. It includes ZFS, Software RAID (0,1,5), disk encryption, S.M.A.R.T / email reports, etc. with following protocols/services: CIFS/SMB (i.e., Windows network file system), Samba AD, FTP, NFS v4, TFTP, AFP, RSYNC, Unison, iSCSI, UPnP, Bittorrent, Syncthing, VirtualBox and noVNC, Bridge, CARP (Common Address Redundancy Protocol) and HAST (Highly Available Storage).

This can be managed by an easily configurable web interface.

**Sweet Home 3D** – v5.2.

<http://www.sweethome3d.com/>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® macOS™ and GNU/Linux® by Emmanuel Puybaret and eTeks. Sweet Home 3D is an interior design application that helps you to quickly draw the floor plan of your house, arrange furniture on it, and visit the results in 3D.

Features include:

- Draw walls and rooms upon the image of an existing plan, on one or more levels
- Drag and drop doors, windows and furniture from a catalog onto the plan
- Update colors, texture, size and orientation of furniture, walls, floors and ceilings
- View all changes simultaneously in the 3D view from any view point

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- Create photorealistic images and videos with various light sources
- Import additional 3D models and export the plan in various standard formats

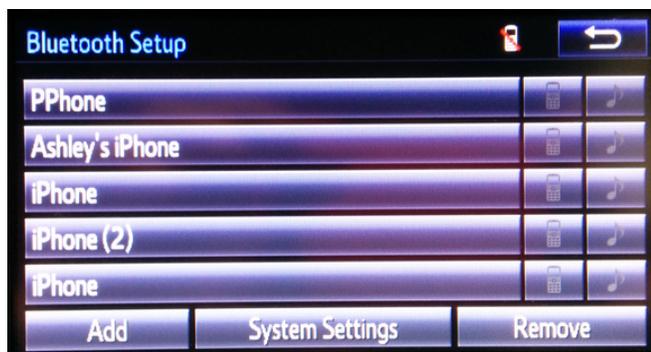
## Lessons in Rental Car Privacy

by Geof Goodrum

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Have you used a GPS navigation unit or a hands-free phone Bluetooth connection in a rental vehicle? If so, did you remember to clear your information from the vehicle before you returned the car? It's not terribly surprising that many people don't.

Below are a couple of photos I took of the display



panel from a relatively new (6,500 miles) Toyota Corolla rental. The first shows a list of phones that previous drivers paired with the car's built-in Bluetooth feature. The second photo shows an example from one of the listed phones, giving the owner's phone number and the unique device address of the phone (partially blurred to



protect the guilty). The car's system also keeps the call history, and I have seen complete contact

lists stored on some vehicles.

GPS navigation units, built-in and portable, also keep a history of locations searched for and visited. Very convenient, but probably not information you want to share with the next renter of the vehicle.

Wouldn't it be entertaining to give a previous renter a call and have a chat with them about places they went and people they know? Would you like to get that call from a complete stranger?

If you use these features, take some time to clear the system memory when you return the vehicle. The rental company is not going to do this for you. In the case of the Toyota Corolla that I rented, I removed individual phones from the phone list, but also found and used a system reset option to remove all private data from the system (which also removed the preset radio settings).

Don't forget that this also applies to any other vehicle that you use, such as a personal vehicle you borrow, lend, trade-in or sell.

## Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality Explained

by Sandy Berger

Compu-KISS, [www.compukiss.com](http://www.compukiss.com)  
Sandy (at) compukiss.com

If you want to be up-to-date in the high tech world you need to understand the terms VR and AR. They are both amazing technologies that are quickly moving into our everyday world.

### Preface

It has always been a joy to be transported to a different time and place. The Greeks, Romans, and American Indians did this for their listeners by telling wonderful stories. These story tellers transported their listeners to alternative realities. With radio we were immersed in tales like Fibber McGee and Molly where we could listen and vividly imagine being right in the

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McGee's home. Then came movies, television, and gaming devices. These devices totally immersed us in their stories.

Now we have moved on even farther into other realities and amplified realities with two newer technologies: Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR).

### Virtual Reality Explained

Virtual Reality replicates an environment that lets you see and feel like you are in another world. This is generally done by wearing goggles which put a screen in front of your eyes to show you that new world. Some of these VR devices have built-in audio and vibrations and other haptic feedback that help to make the new world feel quite real.

Many have immersive 360 degree visual capabilities so you are completely surrounded by the new world. Often you can interact with that new world as when you might play a VR game. This new storytelling technique is totally immersive since you are completely pulled into the world inside the headset.

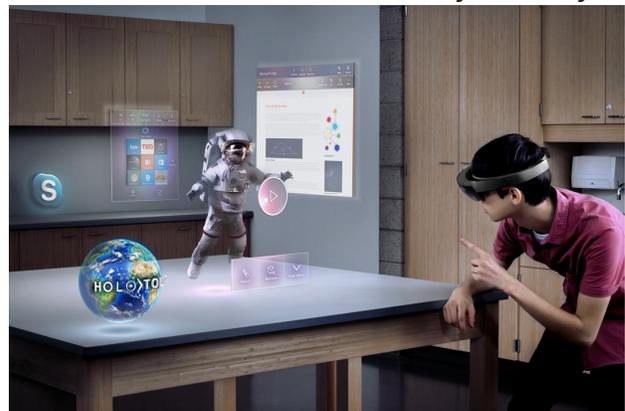
Dedicated VR devices started reaching the market in 2016. Samsung and Oculus have recently released their first everyday consumer product, the Samsung Gear VR headset. At \$99 it is well-priced, but must be paired with a newer Samsung Galaxy smartphone to make it work. Other VR devices like the Oculus Rift and the HTC Vive and start at \$599 and require a powerful PC to work. Sony will soon release their PlayStation VR (photo below) at \$399.



### Augmented Reality

Augmented Reality is another way to look at a different world. Instead of replacing the current reality with an alternate reality as VR does, AR adds to our current reality. So with AR, you can still see the real world around you, but certain things in your world are augmented. With AR, information about the real environment and its objects is overlaid on the real world. For instance, a nurse wearing a pair of AR glasses would be able to see everything in the room exactly as it really is. However, when he or she is ready to insert an IV into your arm, the veins in your arms would be totally visible.

AR technology is sometimes accomplished with goggles, like VR, but there are also AR applications that use lightweight glasses or partial glasses. There are also small handheld AR displays, digital AR projectors, and even contact lenses that project AR information. Several companies, including Google, are working on lasers that send information directly to the eyes.



Microsoft is working on a HoloLens AR headset that will work with Windows 10. Google is still working on their Google Glass project, which will now focus on the workplace.

With AR you can interact with it through gaze, voice, and/or hand motions. If you saw the movie *Minority Report* and remember Tom Cruise moving information around in the air you have seen an accurate depiction of an augmented reality device.

When *Minority Report* came out in 2002, it was very futuristic. Now that future is already here.

## Help Wanted: Meeting Speakers

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

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

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



## Shopping on Amazon.com? Don't Forget PATACS!

If you shop online at Amazon.com, don't forget to start each session by clicking the Amazon link on the PATACS home page, then continue shopping on Amazon as usual. Doing so earns PATACS a 4 to 6.5% commission on your purchase at no additional cost to you.

Thank you for supporting your user group!

## PATACS Email Discussion List



Join the PATACS members-only email list to discuss topics of mutual interest, ask and answer questions, share resources, convey news, and increase our sense of shared community with fellow members.

Visit <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/PATACS-b/info> for more information.

## 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>).

## APCUG Resources

PATACS is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), a worldwide organization that helps technology user groups by facilitating communications between member groups and industry vendors.

## Fall 2016 Virtual Technology Conference

Attend the FREE conference on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from the convenience of your own home! All you need is your computer, tablet, etc. and Internet access. For more information and registration, visit <http://apcug2.org/apcug-2016-fall-virtual-technology-conference-vtc22/>.

The agenda includes two simultaneous webinar tracks starting at 1 PM ET.

### Track 1

“What to Do When Your Computer Will Not Boot” presented by Francis Chao, Member, WINDOWS usERS User Group, CA

“Windows 10 Features and Annoyances” presented by Jeri Steele, President, Bowling Green Area Minicomputer User Group, KY

“25 Awesome iDevice Tips” presented by Diane McKeever, Author, 101 Amazing Computer Tips

### Track 2

“Staying Safe Online” presented by Pam Holland, President and Instructor, TechMoxie

“Find a Grave” presented by Ken & Sue Bixler, Members, East-Central Ohio Technology Users Club

“Must-Have Android Apps” presented by Bill James, Vice President, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

## JCA SeniorTech Training

JCA SeniorTech Computer Centers offer diverse senior-friendly (50+) technology classes (personal computers, tablets, smartphones, online security, etc.). Offerings include beginner and intermediate computer classes in Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10, Excel, iPad and iPhone, email, photos, and social media.

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

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

### Washington DC Area Training Locations

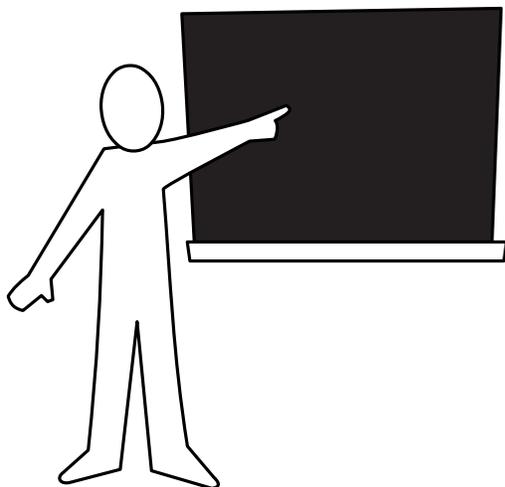
Asbury Methodist Village, 409 Russell Ave,  
Gaithersburg, MD, 301-987-6291

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

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

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

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



## Micro Center® In Store Clinics

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

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

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

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

### November 2016 Schedule

Nov 05 & 06: Build Your Own

Nov 12 & 13: Mac OS X Tips & Tricks

Nov 19 & 20: Windows® 10 Basics

Clinics will resume in January 2017



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## November 2016 PATACS Event Calendar

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

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

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