

Musings of an Apple Tyro

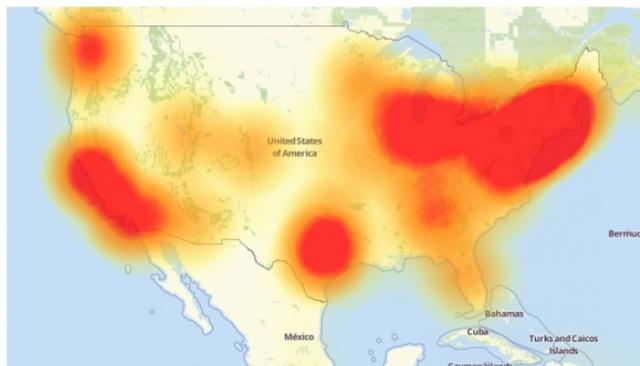
by Lorrin R. Garson
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including IoT appliances. The event even made the news in Time magazine (November 7, 2016, pp. 7-8) No doubt we can expect many more such attacks that impact all of us.

Massive Denial of Service Attack on October 16, 2016

This is old news, like a newspaper being used to serve fish and chips, but it provides an excellent example of how IoT devices (Internet of Things) can be used for nefarious purposes. On October 16th last year a massive and sustained Internet attack was launched from CCTV video cameras and digital video recorders that seriously impacted Twitter, Amazon, Tumblr, Reddit, Spotify, Netflix and others. See the map below from KrebsOnSecurity at <http://bit.ly/2elPtAB>. Once again this is a reminder for us to change default IDs and passwords on all our devices,



A depiction of the outages caused by today's attacks on Dyn, an Internet infrastructure company. Source: Downtetector.com.

Cancelling Auto-renewal of Subscriptions

Within iTunes, many (most?) subscriptions to magazines and various apps require automatic renewal as a condition of purchase. Auto-renewal can be a real turn-off and an annoyance. Check the video <http://bit.ly/2fCZqpW> for how to cancel automatic renewal on macOS and iOS devices.

Apple Unveils New MacBook Pro

On October 27th last year, with the usual drama, Apple released a new MacBook Pro. To quote from <http://apple.co/2fq6a9z> "Apple today [October 27, 2016] introduced the thinnest and lightest MacBook Pro ever, along with a breakthrough interface that replaces the traditional row of function keys with a brilliant, Retina-quality Multi-Touch display called the Touch Bar. The new MacBook Pro features Apple's brightest and most colorful Retina display yet, the security and convenience of Touch ID, a more responsive keyboard, a larger Force Touch trackpad and an audio system with double the dynamic range. It's also the most

(Continued on page 2)



Musings of an Apple Tyro: macOS Sierra, iOS 10.1.....	1
Fixing Broken Windows.....	3
Upcoming Meetings.....	5
If You Missed It: HD Sentinel, Voice Recognition.....	6
Open Source Software: LibreOffice, Tux Paint, VeraCrypt.....	9
Synchronize Mail, Contacts, Calendar, Notes.....	11
PATACS Opportunities.....	13
APCUG Resources: Fall VTC and Annual Meeting Presentations.....	13
JCA Training & Micro Center Clinics.....	14

(Continued from page 1)

powerful MacBook Pro ever, featuring sixth-generation quad-core and dual-core processors, up to 2.3 times the graphics performance over the previous generation, super-fast SSDs and up to four Thunderbolt 3 ports.” Initial reports are quite positive; see <http://bit.ly/2fiB8Tp>, <http://bit.ly/2eJla00>, and <http://bit.ly/2eJmOPV>. Of course not everyone is enthralled with the new MacBook Pro; see <http://bit.ly/2eJuNwx>. Unfortunately, no news about new iMacs or the Mac Pro.

macOS 10.12.1 Released

On October 24th Apple released macOS 10.12.1 to the public. This release is the first update to macOS 10.12 (Sierra), a major release that was made available to the public on September 20th. This update is largely one of bug fixes. See <http://bit.ly/2dDu04y>.

iOS 10.1 Released

Also on October 24th Apple released iOS 10.1 to the public. This provides Portrait Mode for the iPhone 7 Plus a number of other new features and bug fixes for all iOS based devices. See <http://bit.ly/2eKNHDz>.

watchOS 3.1 Released

On October 24th Apple released watchOS 3.1 to the public. This release is reported to include a critical fix for Apple Watch Series 2 that may have prevented the watch from being fully charged, performance improvements and several bug fixes. See <http://bit.ly/2f11jiX>.

tvOS 10.0.1 Released

Finally, on October 24th Apple released tvOS 10.0.1, which is the first update to tvOS 10 since its launch in early 2016. This release is largely one of bug fixes and tweaking performance. See <http://bit.ly/2eLAdsc>.

IBM Deploys 1,300 Macs per Week

Since June 1, 2015, IBM has deployed over 90,000 Macs, 48,000 iPads and 81,000 iPhones. IBM

continues to deploy 1,300 Macs per week. In terms of internal calls for assistance, “...27 percent of the PC tickets generated by employees required a desk-side visit by IT staff, and only 5 percent of the Mac tickets needed personal assistance.” See <http://bit.ly/2eyB3wp>. IBM’s experience with Apple computers is consistent with the general belief that Apple computers require significantly less support than Windows-based PCs.

Apple Computers Less Expensive than Windows PCs?

It is a commonly held perception that Apple computers are significantly more expensive than comparable Windows PCs. Recently Fletcher Pevin, Vice President, Workplace as a Service at IBM, has commented that Macs may be more expensive to initially purchase, but over a four-year period they are significantly less expensive. See <http://bit.ly/2fWGdmw>. Of course this may not be the case in the home environment, which is much different from a commercial operation.

Obsolete Windows Software Bites the Dust

Inevitably, with any operating system, there are deficiencies that are compensated for by third party software. Frequently, such software becomes redundant as subsequent versions of operating systems address those deficiencies or include new functions. As to be expected, this has happened with Windows 10. See <http://bit.ly/2erk4aU> for “10 Beloved PC Programs Windows 10 Renders Obsolete.”

Microsoft Surface Studio

This new device announced on October 26th is an interesting product that may compete with Apple’s aging Mac Pro first introduced in August 2006. While there have been incremental improvements in the Mac Pro over the years, it is in need of substantial refresh. Both the Mac Pro and Surface Studio are workstations aimed at the professional, commercial market; these are not home computers. Both the Surface Studio and

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Mac Pro start at \$2,999. For details on the Surface Studio see <http://bit.ly/2fHTudH>. It will be available in early 2017. Also see <http://bit.ly/2fHZFju>.



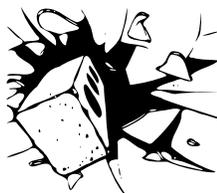
Microsoft Surface Studio

Also, Dell has announced it will release a competing product called Smart Desk (working title) in 2017. See <http://bit.ly/2fWFuBC> and <http://bit.ly/2fHS4Q3>.

Users Abandoning Microsoft Edge

Microsoft's Web browsers have not been held in high esteem for many years, largely because of security issues. The new Microsoft Edge browser, which replaced Internet Explorer in Windows 10, is now facing increasingly stiff competition. See <http://bit.ly/2eo4gJG> for "Another 40 million people bolt from Microsoft's browsers as mass exodus continues."

Fixing Broken Windows How to use the MS Start Menu Troubleshooter, and the MS Windows 10



Anniversary Upgrade in-place repair option

by Roger Hillson

Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society

Windows 10 has improved since its initial release, and the Windows 10 One-Year Anniversary Update is now available. If you have Windows 10, this update may already have been installed automatically. In this article, I recommend that

you also create a Windows 10 disc and/or USB stick, and keep it available for trouble shooting. That's because a hidden feature of the Windows 10 Anniversary Update is the option to do a Windows 10 "repair install" by performing an "in-place upgrade" *without* having to reinstall all of your user-installed application programs.

First, I will discuss the common Windows 10 Start Menu problem, and list some recommended fixes from Microsoft and Windows forums. Then I will explain how to do an in-place Windows 10 upgrade, a process I found necessary when I encountered the Start Menu problem—again!—that even Microsoft's custom *Start Menu Troubleshooter* couldn't fix.

The Start Menu Problem

This problem has become quite notorious with the advent of Windows 10. This problem presents when you click on the Windows icon in the lower left of the task bar—and exactly nothing happens. There's no Start Menu. The bank of metro tiles do not appear, and neither does a list of available apps (programs.) Sometimes you can still right-click on the Windows icon and see a list of options, but even this feature can disappear. There are many possible causes of this problem with varying degrees of lethality. Two that I have actually experienced included an early incompatibility between Windows and Dropbox (I deleted Dropbox), and the chronic re-occurrence of the disappearing start menu problem whenever I received an update from Dell on one of our two Inspiron laptops. The solution in the latter case was to re-register the Window apps. Instructions for performing the latter, as well as several other Start Menu repair procedures, can be found here:

(A) <http://www.thewindowsclub.com/windows-10-problems-issues>

More recently, Microsoft has released a tool that will attempt to fix problems with the Start Menu and/or Cortana. The 'start menu troubleshooter' can be downloaded from Microsoft directly, and run from your desktop:

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

(B) <http://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/12385/windows-10-troubleshoot-problems-opening-start-menu-cortana>

Should this repair fail, or if some other apparently unrecoverable Windows 10 problem presents, then you may wish to consider doing a Windows 10 repair in-place.

The Windows 10 Anniversary Update [One-year anniversary]

You may have already automatically received the Windows 10 Anniversary Update on your PC. To tell, look at your update history on the control panel and see if:

Cumulative Update for Windows 10 Version 1607 for x64-based Systems (KB3189866)

is listed under *Settings/Windows Update/Update history*. If this update has not been installed, you can click on *Settings/Windows Update/Check for Updates*, and find out if MS is waiting to install it. Even when this update has been installed, I suggest creating a DVD or USB stick copy of the update, for reasons that I will explain next.

When a serious problem occurs with Windows, it is sometimes necessary to actually reinstall the operating system. Until recently, this meant resetting the PC: Windows would be reinstalled, *but all of your non-Windows apps and settings would be deleted*. This option is still available in Windows 10, even after installing the anniversary update. From the sign-in page (but prior to signing in), press the *shift* key while selecting restart by clicking on the circular power icon on the lower right of the page. Click on *Troubleshoot/Reset this PC*, and you will now have the option of reinstalling Windows at the cost of deleting all of your personal applications and settings, although your personal files will be left alone. Lucky you!

A much better option is to use the Windows option “repair install with in-place upgrade” in the Windows 10 Anniversary Update. An excellent tutorial can be found at:

(C) <http://www.tenforums.com/tutorials/16397-repair-install-windows-10-place-upgrade.html>

There are two ways to do this repair:

1. Create an ISO DVD or USB installation media
2. Use the Media Creation Tool.

After a recent series of Window crashes (Blue Screen of Death), the start menu on my Dell Studio XPS 435 T/900 workstation locked up again. I first tried options (A) and (B) above. None of the suggestions on (A) worked. When I ran the ‘start menu troubleshooter,’ the program blithely informed me that key functions in the Windows 10 operating system were not installed, and the start menu troubleshooter could not execute. In other words, my Windows 10 operating system had become so corrupted, the *Start Menu Troubleshooter* itself could not execute. Initially I had planned to reset my PC—which would have deleted all of my application programs and settings in the process. Fortunately, I first found out about the recent ‘repair in place option’ discussed on URL (C) listed above.

The Media Creation tool probably provides the easiest and friendliest approach for repairing Windows 10 in place; instructions for using this tool are given on the URL cited. I myself decided to create and run the ISO (ISO 9660-compliant disc image) DVD directly, rather than using the Media Creation tool, because I did not want to be dependent upon the Windows OS being downloaded from a remote server during the course of the repair. A USB installation media would also have worked. Here are the steps I followed using the ISO DVD—for more detailed instructions, see URL (C):

To download the ISO file, go to:

(D) <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10ISO/>

1. The page will say: “You can use this page to download a disc image (ISO file) that can be used to install or reinstall Windows 10. The image can also be used to create installation media using a USB flash drive or DVD.”

(Continued on page 5)

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2. Download the ISO image file to disc. The file size is 4.07GB. The name of the file (for 64-bit machines) is: Win10_1607_English_x64.iso
3. Burn the ISO image to a DVD. Insert a blank DVD in your optical drive. In Windows 10, you can then right-click on the downloaded ISO image, then select 'burn to disc'.
4. Do not try to boot from this disc. Insert the disc in the DVD drive, then open the disc from within the Windows file explorer, and click on 'setup'. A sequence of menus will follow.
5. As the process proceeds, you will come to an option to retain your non-Windows applications and documents. Make sure this option is selected in its checkbox, and this selection should be the default option. Be very careful at this step. If the option to retain your programs is NOT checked, Windows 10 will be reinstalled, *but every single user-specified application program will be deleted.*
6. It required about 4-5 hours to upgrade (i.e. repair in place) my Dell Studio XPS 435 T/900 workstation. This PC had previously been upgraded to Windows 10, but now had a broken start menu.
7. I also updated two 64-bit Dell Inspirons; both were already at Windows 10 also. In one case the process hung, with a perpetually spinning disk of asterisks appearing on the screen. I powered off the machine using the power switch, and turned it back on. The update 'remembered' where it was, announced that it was 75% of the way through the updates, and finished cleanly.

I have read that there is a final hidden advantage to the Windows 10 Anniversary Update. If you haven't yet upgraded to Windows 10, this still provides a way to do so 'for free'. I haven't tried this myself.

As an aside, I have since found that the source of the repeated crashes on my Dell Workstation, was the presence of several defective memory cards. Every time the system crashed, Windows

would attempt to recover automatically during start up, and I believe the operating system on my hard drive became corrupted during one of these many attempted recoveries. I isolated and replaced 3 faulty memory cards (DIMMs – Dual Inline Memory Modules), and my workstation has been stable since.

Upcoming Meetings

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

January 21, 2017 (Fairfax)

Learn in 30: Apps for Language Learning by Leti Labell

Are you trying to learn a new language, or trying to regain the language you learned in high school? Or, perhaps you're just trying to remain fluent in a language you've already learned. In any case, there are literally hundreds of apps for your smartphone or tablet to help with your language training. How can you tell which apps are useful, and which ones are a waste of time? Leti Labell will discuss a variety of language apps, giving the pros and cons, and comparing the features. She will also perform demonstrations of her favorite apps.

Leti Labell is an OLLI member and PATACS member with a lifelong love of computers. She has an MS in computer science, and is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP). She retired in 2014 from a long career in software development and general project management in the telecommunications industry and as a contractor to the federal government. Leti is currently learning to speak Italian, using many iPhone apps as well as a variety of other methods.

Presentation: Audio for Everybody by Tom Gutnick

If you have a computer, you've got much of what you need for a recording studio. Want to know how to create a podcast, or convert your vinyl or cassette collection to digital? We'll start by looking at the fundamentals of digital audio, then explain hardware such as microphones,

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

demystify MP3 files, and finally show how you can use Audacity for audio editing. Audacity is free open-source software, available for Windows, Linux, and MacOS. It is widely used because of its rich feature set and relative ease-of-use.

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. He first learned about audio engineering at his college radio station, and now uses his computer-based home recording studio for projects such as producing radio advertising spots.



January 25, 2017 (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

Director, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society
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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 emailed meeting announcements.

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

November 19, 2016 (Fairfax)

Paul Howard welcomed one guest from Washington Apple Pi (<http://www.wap.org/>) and another guest who heard about the meeting from

the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's "news blast." About a dozen people attended remotely via Zoom, which was a record for remote attendance! Paul announced that we have meeting presenters lined up through January, but we are still looking for input and leads on presenters.

Q&A Session

Comment: An attendee said he downloaded Apple's Sierra operating system upgrade for the Mac



(<https://www.apple.com/macOS/sierra/>), but it was a disaster and he needed to contact Apple technical support. His advice was don't be in a hurry to upgrade. On that note, Paul Howard chimed in that installing software updates to the OLLI video conference system required the Microsoft Internet Explorer web browser, but did not support the version provided with Windows 10, so they had to find a PC running Windows 7 and the correct browser version. The video conference system used for our meetings is now up to date.

Q: How do I sync messages between systems using an Apple Macintosh PC? A message sent on one machine does not go to the other.

A: Gabe Goldberg noted that there are many permission settings required to synchronize properly on Apple's "iDevices." Gabe advised checking that settings align on all of the devices and iCloud (<https://www.apple.com/icloud/>).

Comment: One participant reported a PC screen popped up that appeared to be from Microsoft, which warned that closing windows would cause a loss of data. However, he found this scam described online (e.g., <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/safety/online-privacy/avoid-phone-scams.aspx>) and was able to close the web browser without a problem.

Q: Why does my Apple Macintosh keeps advising installation of MacManager?

A: This could be a scam.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Q: I have Windows 10 and a Samsung Android smartphone. Windows 10 software update states that a Samsung update is available to install Windows 10 on the phone. Is this a wise thing to do?

A: This might be referring to the Windows 10 synchronization app for Android devices. [If you want to synchronize information between your phone and Windows PC, it might be useful.]

Q: What is the Windows Anniversary Update?

A: This is Microsoft's software update to version 1607 of Windows 10, which addresses weaknesses and security issues [but privacy settings changed and should be reviewed. See <https://www.extremetech.com/computing/233499-how-to-lock-down-windows-10-anniversary-update-to-protect-your-privacy>]. The AskWoody web site (<https://www.askwoody.com/>) is a good resource for information. [Microsoft's press release is at <https://news.microsoft.com/2016/06/28/microsoft-announces-windows-10-anniversary-update-available-aug-2/>.]

Learn in 30: Monitor and Protect Your Data by Ray Parker

Our guest speaker was Ray Parker, who recalled that the first hard drive he worked on was a 27 megabyte drive on a mainframe computer.



Ray polled the audience on how many had experienced hard drive failures, and how many of those received warnings before the hard drive failed. Hard drives can fail with little to no warning, resulting in PCs that won't boot and unrecoverable files.

What devices are we talking about? Hard drives, Solid State Drives (SSDs), basically any storage device with firmware. Ray quoted vendor statistics for hard drives: an Annual Failure Rate (AFR) of 5.1% at 18 months, and 11.8% after three years. The more expensive drives are not necessarily more reliable. SSDs provide much

better performance, but tend to fail with no warning. Although SSDs have limited write cycles (i.e., the number of times data can be saved to a location on the drive), they still last nearly 19 years with typical consumer use.

All modern drives have built-in Self Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology (SMART), which monitors and stores information about the drive health on the drive itself. However, Microsoft Windows does not make it easy to find this information. HD Sentinel (<http://www.hdsentinel.com/>) is commercial software that monitors drive health. HD Sentinel runs on Windows NT to Windows 10. There is a portable version that runs from a USB thumb drive, and a free command line version for Linux. [A free open source command line alternative for GNU/Linux, Windows, and macOS is 'smartmontools' (<https://www.smartmontools.org/>).]

Ray provided a tour of HD Sentinel features. The Overview tab identifies drives with performance and health, which should be at 100% for healthy drives. HD Sentinel also keeps a record of previous scans and charts trends (such as drive temperature). The SMART tab lists monitored drive attributes. The Information tab lists drive model and firmware version. The Performance tab keeps a count of data read from and written to the drive since installation of the HD Sentinel software.

Ray advised adjusting the configuration options (5-10 minutes) after installing HD Sentinel. Options include language and unit settings, sound and display options (alarms), email messages, and update test report. Email configuration allows HD Sentinel to email drive status reports, useful if you monitor computers that belong to friends or other family members. There is also a "Panic" backup configuration to trigger a file backup program (not included) when HD Sentinel detects drive errors.

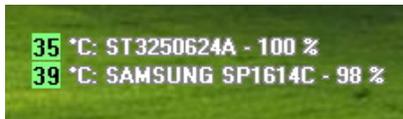
While the above features are available when running the HD Sentinel application, most of the

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time HD Sentinel runs in the background and displays a small icon in the system tray that indicates drive temperature and whether the drive is okay (example below).

Ray also praised the technical support from Janos Mathe, the developer of HD Sentinel.



Q: Do hard drives still exhibit sector failures?
A: No, modern drives automatically remap bad sectors.

Comments: an audience member used a free download utility from hard drive vendor Seagate, which fixed an issue with his drive. [SeaTools? <http://www.seagate.com/support/downloads/seatools/>]

Ray said the utility may have run a drive surface test to find errors. Formatted drives use 80-90% of available drive space, and reserve space to make a copy of data when there are errors.

Q: What if the HD Sentinel drive report shows a problem?
A: Run the drive test. You can send the report to the vendor for a recommendation on what to do.
Q: Do you have any experience using HD Sentinel with SSDs?
A: Ray uses HD Sentinel on his wife's system with a 512GB SSD, and also on USB drives. However, don't do read/write tests on SSDs, but the read test forces the drive to re-evaluate its status, which can improve the SSD.

Ray's presentation slides are available to download in PDF format on the PATACS Recent Meetings web page (<http://patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>).

Presentation: Make Your iPad, iPhone, or Android Smartphone Work for You by Cherie Lejeune

Our guest speaker Cherie Lejeune got involved in computing in the early 1980s and currently helps

seniors with technology. She believes that active gaming and virtual reality (VR) will be all that we are talking about in a few years. She noted that Google just released an amazing VR version of Google Earth (<https://vr.google.com/earth/>).

Cherie asked how many use voice command on their smartphone; only a few did. She provided a handout ("Voice Command for iPhone, iPad & Android Devices," PDF available from <http://patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>) and showed how voice can be used with demos of the Siri agent available on iPhone (5 and later) to make phone call and play "Amazing Grace." Artificial Intelligence (AI) will engage us with information that we want, need or find interesting. On the iPhone, go into Settings and find Siri, where you can change Siri's accent and gender. Cherie also sent a text message to her son with voice command only, which she finds easier than using the screen keyboard. Voice commands can also be used to send tweets, go to Facebook, and schedule calendar events. Google Android has similar functionality.



An audience member commented that he uses an Apple iPad but users should be aware of the Siri privacy notice (<https://www.apple.com/privacy/approach-to-privacy/>). Cherie said that her only privacy concern is about financial information, as Apple already has access to Siri's information sources (e.g., contact list).

An audience member asked how to edit text dictated into Siri/iPhone. Cherie demonstrated the microphone icon on the screen keyboard to enter text by voice, then tap to edit. Cherie also confirmed that the notes can be categorized.

Cherie also demonstrated Amazon's Echo appliance with the Internet-enabled Alexa voice recognition system (\$179.99, <https://www.amazon.com/echo/>). She noted that it was good product for bothering a significant other. Voice commands must be



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

preceded by addressing “Alexa” [the owner can change this], but Alexa will respond to anyone’s voice. As with the earlier demo of Apple Siri, Cherie asked her Echo to stream “Amazing Grace” from the Internet and noted the high sound quality. Similar Amazon Alexa products include Tap, a portable Bluetooth/WiFi speaker, and the Dot, a small puck-like device, all of which respond to voice commands to deliver news, Internet search information, control connected devices and play music. The audience noted that the Amazon Fire TV Stick (<https://www.amazon.com/firetvstick/>) for streaming video to TVs is also voice-enabled. Cherie recommended the Amazon Prime service (<https://www.amazon.com/prime/>) for best prices, special offers, free shipping, and streaming video programs.

Google is now competing in the same space with the Google Home voice recognition appliance, and provides color choices (\$129, https://store.google.com/product/google_home).

There are apps to control home devices like lights. Gabe Goldberg related an anecdote that someone was able to turn off a neighbor’s alarm system with their own iPad and Siri while they were in the house [perhaps this story? <https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2016/09/22/siri-opens-smart-lock-to-let-neighbor-walk-into-a-locked-house/>], so Gabe recommended being careful about what devices you connect.

Cherie fully supports using features built into phones to make it easier to do things that you want to do. She talked about “active gaming” and referenced the work of Dr. Adam Gazzaley, University of California, San Francisco (<http://gazzaleylab.ucsf.edu/>) to use games to treat Alzheimer's and dementia, and referenced VR for treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) [e.g., <http://ict.usc.edu/prototypes/pts/>] and the application of games in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Regarding VR apps, Gabe Goldberg mentioned Google Cardboard (<https://vr.google.com/>)

and the New York Times app (<http://www.nytimes.com/marketing/nytvr/index.html>). Cherie does not recommend Cardboard and prefers the Oculus Rift (<https://www3.oculus.com/en-us/rift/>). [Note that Google Cardboard uses your existing smartphone and is free/cheap compared to the Rift (\$599.99 and up), which is a dedicated VR device.] Cherie warned that some VR can cause seizures at certain ages. [See <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/mar/19/long-term-effects-of-virtual-reality-use-need-more-research-say-scientists.>]

Additional materials from Cherie’s presentation are also posted in PDF format on the PATACS Recent Meetings web page.

Open Source Software of the Month

by Geof Goodrum

Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society
[linux\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:linux(at)patacs.org)

DisplayCAL – v3.2.2. <https://displaycal.net/>.

Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® macOS™ and GNU/Linux® by Florian Höch. DisplayCAL (formerly known as dispCALGUI) is a graphical user interface for the display calibration and profiling tools of Argyll CMS, an open source color management system. Color management ensures that scanners, monitors and printers accurately reproduce colors from images and cameras.

Calibrate and characterize your display devices using one of the many supported measurement instruments, with support for multi-display setups and a variety of available settings like customizable whitepoint, luminance, tone response curve as well as the option to create accurate look-up-table ICC profiles as well as some proprietary 3D LUT formats. Check the accuracy of profiles and 3D LUTs via measurements.

LibreOffice – v5.2.4.

<http://www.libreoffice.org/>. Free Mozilla Public License source code and executables for

(Continued on page 10)

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Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by The Document Foundation. LibreOffice is a powerful office suite; its clean interface and powerful tools let you unleash your creativity and grow your productivity. LibreOffice embeds several applications that make it the most powerful Free & Open Source Office suite on the market: Writer, the word processor; Calc, the spreadsheet application; Impress, the presentation engine; Draw, the drawing and flowcharting application; Base, the database and database frontend; and Math for editing mathematical equations. LibreOffice native document standard is OpenDocument, but includes filters to import and export a wide variety of document file formats, including Microsoft Office, Adobe PageMaker, Corel WordPerfect, PDF, and many legacy formats. LibreOffice has localization (menu support) for 110 languages with writing aids for over 140

languages, and supports macros, document templates and over 1,000 program extensions.

Tux Paint – v0.9.22. <http://www.tuxpaint.org/>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X®, FreeBSD and GNU/Linux® by Bill Kendrick et al. Tux Paint is a free, award-winning drawing program for children ages 3 to 12 (for example, preschool and K-6). Tux Paint is used in schools around the world as a computer literacy drawing activity. It combines an easy-to-use interface, fun sound effects, and an encouraging cartoon mascot who guides children as they use the program.

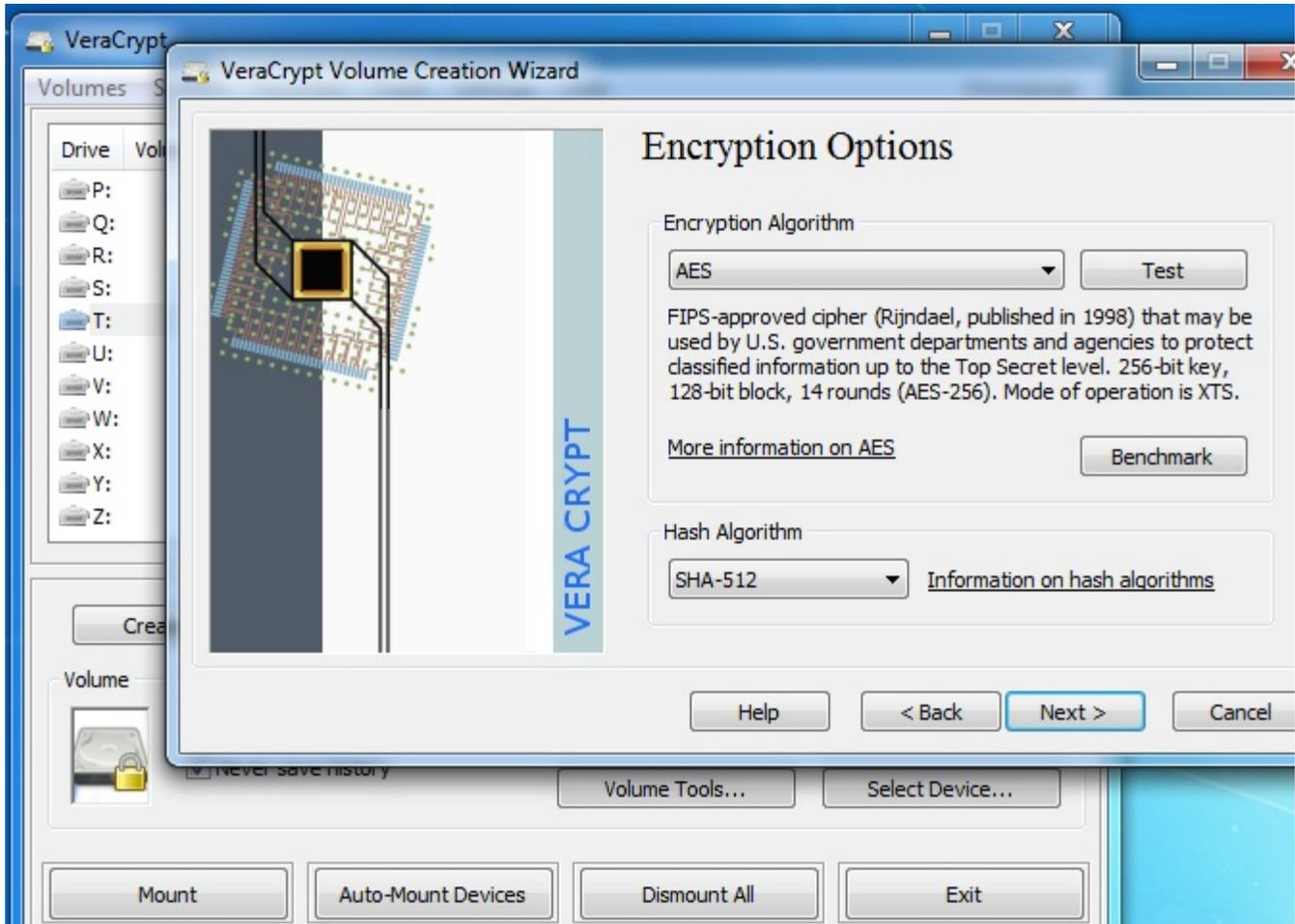
VeraCrypt – v1.19. <http://sourceforge.net/projects/veracrypt/>. Free Apache License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Mounir Idrassi. VeraCrypt is free disk encryption software

(Continued on page 11)

Tux Paint Starter Scene with Stamps and Sparkle Effects



Your image has been saved!



VeraCrypt Creation of an Encrypted Volume

(Continued from page 10)

brought to you by IDRIX (<https://www.idrix.fr>) and based on TrueCrypt 7.1a.

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

This enhanced security adds some delay ONLY to the opening of encrypted partitions without any performance impact to the application use phase. This is acceptable to the legitimate owner but it makes it much harder for an attacker to gain access to the encrypted data.

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



Synchronize Mail, Contacts, Calendar, Notes on Your Devices

by John King

SIG Leader/Instructor, Intro to Computing Class

June 2016 issue, GGCS newsletter

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Many people have more than one computer these days: a desktop computer at home, a notebook or tablet for when you are away, and a smartphone. You can use each of these devices to:

- Send and receive e-mail.
- Check and record information about your contacts, the people you interact with.
- Add or check appointments on your calendar.
- Make or consult to-do lists or notes.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

However, for them all to be fully useful, you have to be able to access the same e-mails, contact information, calendar appointments, and notes on every device so they are always available wherever you are.

The Windows 10 Mail, People, Calendar, and OneNote apps make synchronizing this information on your computers and phone easy, free, and automatic. All you have to do is use the same Microsoft account (a Microsoft e-mail address and password) to log onto all your Windows 10 devices and be connected to the Internet.

You can receive an e-mail on your desktop computer and reply on your notebook or phone. If you delete the message on your tablet, it will be deleted on all your devices.

You also can add an appointment to your calendar on your phone, and it will appear on your calendar on your desktop and notebook computer. Add a new contact in People on your desktop computer, and it will be with you on your notebook, tablet, and phone.

In addition, apps for Microsoft Mail, People, Calendar and OneNote are available for Android phones, iPhones, and iPads, so you can stay in sync on those devices also. Windows 10 phones have all these apps, but few Windows 10 phones are in service.

You can even make the Microsoft Office version of Outlook 2016 synchronize your mail, contacts, and calendar on all the Windows 10 computers, notebooks, and tablets where you install it. To accomplish this, you must log onto each device with the same Microsoft account and make your Microsoft e-mail account the first e-mail account you add to Outlook. This makes Microsoft Office 365 Home for five computers a good deal if you prefer the Outlook 2016 interface for mail, contacts, and calendar.

An important requirement makes this syncing work. The first email account in the Mail app must be the Microsoft e-mail account that you

will use to log onto all the devices you want to keep in sync.

This first e-mail account controls syncing and cannot be changed or deleted. No Delete option exists for it.

Here's the key point: The e-mail address and password that you use when you initially set up Windows 10 becomes the first e-mail address in Mail. Therefore, you must use the same Microsoft e-mail address and password (the same Microsoft account) when you initially set up Windows 10 on each computer and phone on which you want to sync your Mail, People Calendar, and OneNote apps.

For these reasons and more, you should have a Microsoft e-mail address and password (a Microsoft account) before you set up a new Windows 10 computer or upgrade to Windows 10.

To create your Microsoft account, go to www.outlook.com and sign up for an e-mail account. If you already have a Hotmail, MSN, or outlook.com e-mail account, you can use that.

Use this e-mail address and password, your Microsoft account, when you set up and first logon to all your Windows 10 devices. You have nothing to lose and a lot to gain by doing this.

If you change your mind and do not want to use your Microsoft account to log onto your computer, you can change to a local account at any time.



Help Wanted: Meeting Speakers

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

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

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



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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.

APCUG 2016 Fall Virtual Technology Conference (VTC22) Presentations Online

PDF copies of presentations from the November 2016 VTC are available online at

<http://apcug2.org/apcug-2016-fall-virtual-technology-conference-vtc22/#>, including:

- What to Do When Your Computer Will Not Boot by Francis Chao
- Staying Safe Online by Pam Holland
- Windows 10 Features and Annoyances by Jeri Steele
- Find a Grave by Ken & Sue Bixler
- 25 Awesome iDevice Tips by Diane McKeever
- Must-Have Android Apps by Bill James.

Videos from past APCUG VTCs are hosted on YouTube on the APCUGVideos Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/APCUGVideos/videos>).

APCUG 2016 Annual Meeting Presentations Online

Many presentations and a few videos from the Annual Meeting are also available online at <http://apcug2.org/presenters/>, including:

- iPad Purchase, Initial Experience, Evolution, Bonding — and iPhone by Gabe Goldberg
- Windows 10 - Privacy, Protection, Performance by Elliot Stern

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

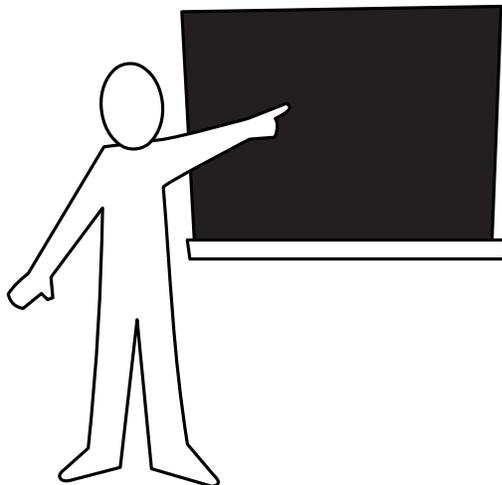
Asbury Methodist Village, 409 Russell Ave,
Gaithersburg, MD, 301-987-6291

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. 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.

January 2017 Schedule

To Be Announced. Visit the Micro Center Clinic web site for the latest information.



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January 2017 PATACS Event Calendar

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 	2	3 Festival of Sleep Day 	4 7-9pm Arlington General Meeting	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 7-9pm Online Zoom Meeting	12 HAL's Birthday 	13	14
15 National Hat Day 	16 Martin L King Day 7-9pm Arlington Board Meeting	17	18	19	20 Inauguration Day 	21 12:30-3:30pm Fairfax General Meeting
22	23	24	25 7-9pm Arlington Technology & PC Help Desk	26 Spouse's Day	27	28 March Newsletter Articles Due
29	30	31				

Arlington: Carlin Hall Community Center
 5711 4th Street South
 Arlington VA 22204

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