

Party, Party, Party



PATACS/OPCUG

Details of Fairfax Meeting:

August 19th, 2017
3rd Saturday

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute,
 4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032-
 1028

Light Lunch in Annex
12:15 PM

APCUG Virtual Tech Conference
Track 2 in TA1
Track 1 in TA2
1 PM -



Meetings	page 1	Smart Community Networks Challenge	page 8
Future Meetings.....	page 3	Musings of an Apple Tyro.....	page 9
Fantastic Opportunity	page 3	In Case You Missed It.....	page 11
Open Source Software of the Month.....	page 4	Email With Many BCC's	page 13

1:00 pm – 1:50 pm ET

VTC Track: 1
Pi-hole

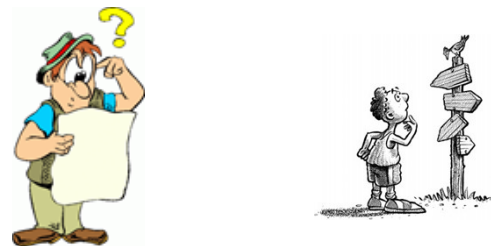


Don Arrowsmith, President, Philadelphia Area Computer Society

Pi-hole is a LAN-wide ad blocker that runs on a Raspberry-pi. If you're sick of ads all over the web pages you look at, tired of auto-starting audio and video ads, and disgusted at pop-up and pop-under ads every time you click a link, then you need a Pi-hole. It will eliminate all of those annoyances from every device on your LAN without having to make any configuration changes to those devices. The software is free and runs on a Raspberry Pi, a small, inexpensive system about the size of a deck of cards. If you have been wanting to learn more about hardware like this, it'll also be an educational tool. I'll run through the entire process of getting the software and hardware, installing everything, integrating it into your network, and maintaining it.

VTC Track: 2

GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) – Why You Shouldn't Get Lost!

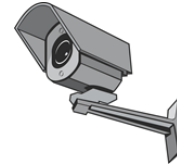


Presenter: Bill Hobbs, Member, Modesto PC Users Group

This presentation includes information about GPS and other systems. He goes over GLONASS, Galileo, etc., history, signals, accuracy, and errors involved in the global navigation systems. In addition, he will demonstrate how to calculate location and time using a very simplified system.

2:00 pm – 2:50 pm

VTC Track: 1
Home Automation Security



Presenter: Bill James, Vice President, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

Are you worried about home automation devices listening in on your conversations? Wonder if your devices can be hacked and don't know how to keep them from being hacked? Many smart-home devices are designed to be easy to use but don't come with a ton of security features – what should you do? Bill will answer these questions and more in this presentation, maybe making it a little bit easier to take the first step to automate your home and get a better price for it when you sell.

VTC Track: 2

Chromebooks are for Seniors



Presenter: Ron Brown, Program Coordinator, Silvercom Computer & Technology Club

Are you looking for a computer that isn't complicated to use? How about one you can't ruin by making a mistake from the keyboard? No maintenance, malware, trojans, and viruses, no subscription cost and it's always up-to-date with web technology? The Chromebook is for you!

Continued Page 3

3:00 pm – 3:50 pm

VTC Track: 1

Finding Tech Information

on Medium.com

Presenter: Kathy Jacobs, President, Pasco Area Computer User Group

Medium is a large site for writers and readers. The platform is built to make it easy to share stories about almost anything. This presentation will introduce you to the basics of Medium's interfaces (app and website) via the introduction to some of the best tech publications on the site. You will also learn:

- How to search for publications, articles, and writers on topics of interest to your club
 - Navigating the 3 basic kinds of articles in the Medium universe: Stories, responses, and series
 - Tagging on Medium
 - Writing responses that will get read
- Connecting with authors and publication editors

Future Meeting Topics:

September 16th Geof Goodrum: 23andme
Learn in 30: Lorrin Garson - Bike Riding for
Techies and Others

October 21st Fairfax County On-Line Library
Services

November 18th John Acton: 3D Printing -
What's It All About?

December 9th Rob Pegoraro

January 20th Paolo Amedeo: Viruses

February 17th Jay Castillo: Preserving Digital
Assets

March 17th Lorrin Garson: Peter Piper Picked
PowerPoint

April 21 Joe Kissell-Take Control of Your
Digital Legacy

VTC Track: 2

Ideas for Revitalizing Your Computer Club

Club Presenter: Judy Taylour, President, SCV Computer Club

Is your group suffering from?

- Officer / leader burnout
- One, two, or three officers are in charge of everything
- They have done everything for years
- Lack of volunteers
- Reduced membership
- Same person / people always give presentations
- Presentations don't meet members' needs
- Newsletter editor retired – no one wants to learn a desktop publishing program
- Webmaster moved away – no one knows how the website works

This presentation offers ideas you might want to try to revitalize your group.



Fantastic opportunity!

Thank you very much to Paul Howard for taking his time to put all of this information online!

Check our recent meetings page for videos of Saturday meetings since 9/2014! Now you can see the meeting content of meetings you have missed and also refresh your memory of content you have already heard. This is very good!

<http://patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>

Open Source Software of the Month

By Geof Goodrum, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society

www.patacs.org linux (at) patacs.org

```

Terminal
Fichier Édition Affichage Terminal Aide
>dar -l test -q -K aes:toto
Warning, the archive test has been encrypted. A wrong key is not possible to detect, i
t would cause DAR to report the archive as corrupted
Archive version format          : 08
Compression algorithm used      : lzo
Scrambling or strong encryption used : yes
Sequential reading marks       : present
Catalogue size in archive      : 102715 bytes
User comment                    : N/A

Archive is composed of 6 file(s)
File size                       : 104857600 bytes
Last file size                  : 35121922 bytes
Archive total size is          : 559409922 bytes

CATALOGUE CONTENTS :

total number of inode : 3555
saved inode           : 3555
distribution of inode(s)
- directories        : 521
- plain files        : 2986
- symbolic links     : 46
- named pipes        : 2
- unix sockets       : 0
- character devices  : 0
- block devices      : 0
- Door entries       : 0
hard links information
- number of inode with hard link          : 0
- number of reference to hard linked inodes: 0
destroyed entries information
  0 file(s) have been record as destroyed since backup of reference

```

DAR – v2.5.11. <http://dar.linux.free.fr/>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® macOS™, FreeBSD and GNU/Linux® by Denis Corbin. DAR (Disk ARchive) is a command-line backup and archiving tool that uses selective compression (i.e., not compressing already compressed files), strong encryption, may split an archive in different files of given size and provides on-the-fly hashing. Features include:

- Archiving/backup,
- Integrated compression (gzip, bzip2, lzo, xz/lzma) and encryption,
- Public key encryption (PGP) and strong encryption (AES, twofish, blowfish, serpent, camellia),
- Sliced archive in files of requested size,
- Arbitrarily large file backup and archive creation,

Continued Page 5

- Full/incremental/differential/decremental backup,
- Handle any type of inode (directory, plain files, special devices, symlinks, named pipes, sockets, doors...),
- Hardlink support for plain files, special devices, softlinks, named pipes,
- Sparse file detection and restoration,
- Extended Attributes support (including Linux ACL and MacOS X File Forks),
- Fast restoration of files even from compressed and/or encrypted archive,
- Support for tape (sequential reading mode),
- Table contents isolation for use as differential backup or if archive corruption occurred,
- On-the-fly MD5, SHA1 or SHA512 hash file generation for each archive slice,
- Hooks for user's scripts between slices,
- Hooks for action before and after saving user defined directory of file (suitable for live database backup),
- Detection of file change during backup, possibility to retry a failed file up to a given number times,
- Archive merging with default or fine tunable overwriting policy,
- Dry-run execution mode,
- User comments in archive header,
- Archive reslicing without decompression or decryption,
- Backup/restoration over ssh or netcat, Integrated archive protection and repair using Parchive.
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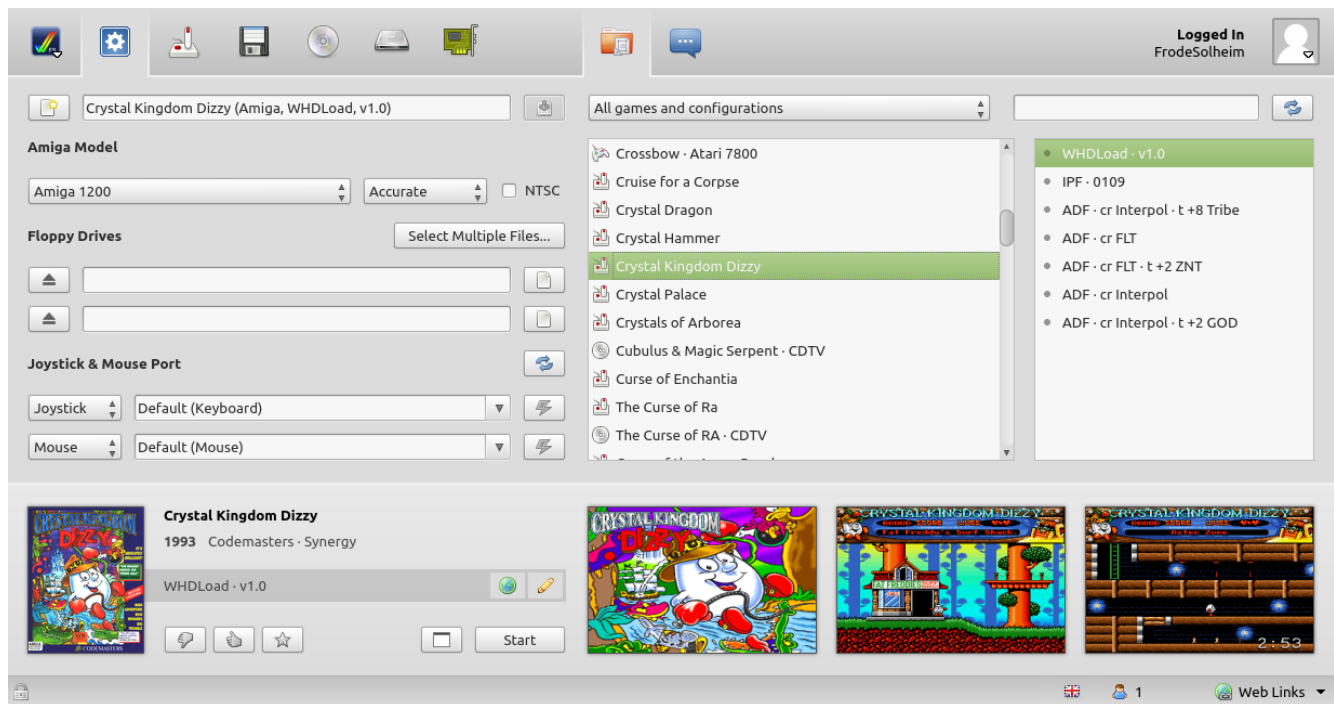


FS-UAE – v2.8.3. <https://fs-uae.net/>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® macOS™, FreeBSD and GNU/Linux® by Frode Solheim. FS-UAE is an Amiga personal computer emulator based on the excellent emulation code from WinUAE currently developed and maintained by Toni Wilen, which again builds on the work by the earlier authors of the original UAE and WinUAE. An Amiga Kickstart ROM image is required (copied from an Amiga computer, or available for purchase/download from <http://www.amigaforever.com/>)

Features include:

- Emulates A500, A500+, A600, A1200, A1000, A3000 and A4000 models, but you can tweak the hardware configuration and create customized Amigas
- Configuration GUI,
- Joystick and Gamepad support,
- 50Hz (PAL) and 60Hz (NTSC) Video Synchronization,
- Scaling and Video Output Options,
- Cross-Platform Online Play,
- PPC Accelerator Support,
- OpenRetro Game Database integration and support for archived game software.

Continued Page 6



Rigs of Rods – v0.4.7.0.
<https://rigsofrods.org/>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows® and GNU/Linux® (older release for Apple® macOS™) by the Rigs of Rods Community. Rigs of Rods is a 3D construction kit and simulator.



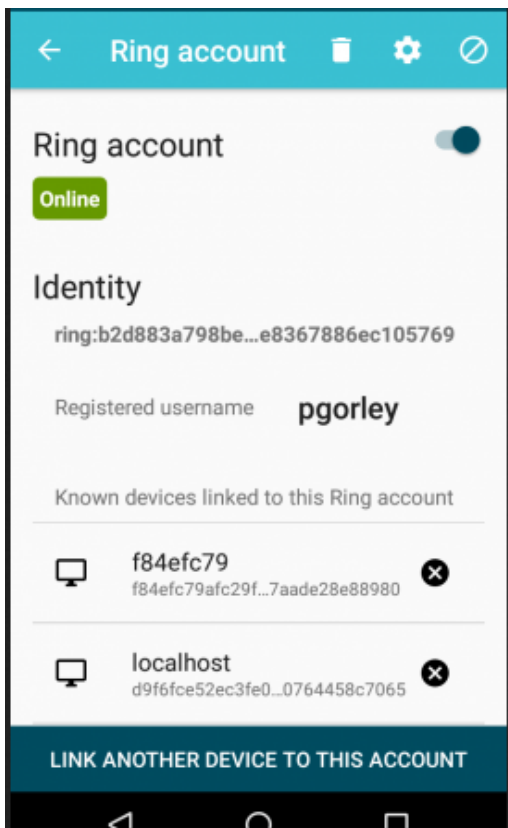
What makes Rigs of Rods different to most simulators is its unique soft-body physics: vehicles, machines, objects, etc. are simulated in real-time as flexible soft-body objects, giving the simulation an extremely accurate behavior that entirely depends on the physical construction of the vehicles or objects you create. .



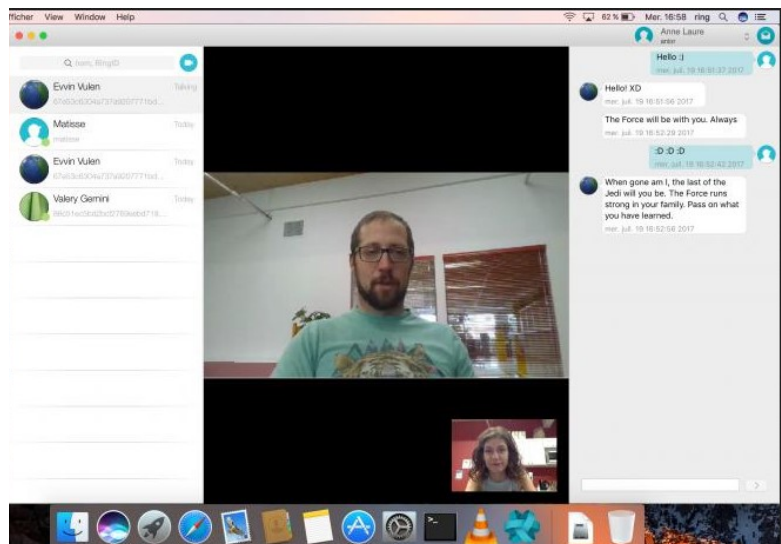
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Features include:

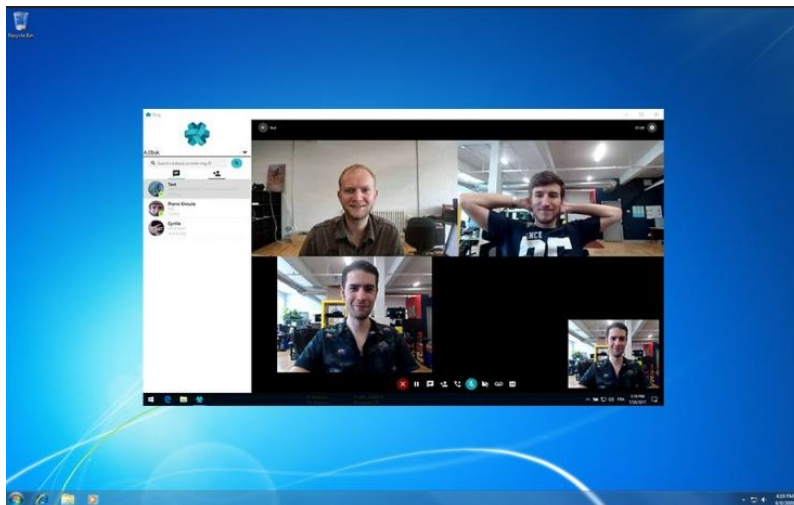
- Soft-body physics. Objects according to their weight distribution, construction, and/or suspension (in the case of vehicles).
- Advanced flight model based on blade element theory. It allows the accurate simulation of any airplane, based entirely on its physical dimensions and wing air-foils, similar to X-Plane.
- Accurate buoyancy model based on elemental pressure gradients, enabling boats with complex hulls to move realistically in the swell.
- Basic support for dual-core processing. More multithreading and CUDA support is planned.
- Basic support for scripting using AngelScript.
- Based on the OGRE Graphics Engine.



Ring – v1.0. <https://ring.cx/en>. Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® macOS™, Google Android™ and GNU/Linux® by the Savoir-faire Linux Community. Ring is a free, open source communications platform alternative to Microsoft Skype, featuring fully encrypted and distributed network communications to protect your privacy. No personal information is required to obtain Ring ID, calls are free (not including your Internet service), and SIP (software phone) is also supported.



Continued Page 8



Features include:

- Encrypted Audio, HD Video, and Instant Messaging communication (ICE, SIP, TLS),
 - Screen sharing and conferencing (Win32 and GNU/Linux),
 - Support of an Ethereum blockchain as a distributed public user database,
 - Distributed communication platform (OpenDHT),
- Platform support on GNU/Linux, Windows UWP (Windows 10 and Surface), Win32 (Windows 7, 8 and 8.1), and macOS (10.10+) and Android (4.0+).

Smart Community Networks Challenge



Do you or someone you know have a **big idea** that can help make the Internet more accessible, resilient, and healthier?

Prizes of up to \$400,000 will be awarded for solutions that address the two questions below:

Smart Community Networks Challenge: 34 million people in the U.S. — 10% of the country's population — lack access to high-quality Internet connectivity, a number that jumps to 39% in rural communities and 41% on Tribal lands. How can

we leverage existing infrastructure to provide robust wireless Internet connectivity in communities that need better access?

Example: A neighborhood wireless network where the nodes are housed in, and draw power from, disused phone booths or similarly underutilized infrastructure.

Off-the-Grid Internet Challenge: When disasters strike, millions can lose access to connectivity when it's needed most. How can we leverage wireless technology to keep people connected to each other and to vital information sources in the aftermath of a disaster?

Example: A backpack containing a hard drive, computer, battery and Wi-Fi router. The router provides access, via a Wi-Fi network, to resources on the hard drive like maps and messaging applications.

Ready to get started? Visit <https://wirelesschallenge.mozilla.org> to learn more about the Challenges and enter the competition.

Musings of an Apple Tyro

By Lorrin R. Garson, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society
 newslettercolumnist (at) patacs.org

New Apple Computers:

Apple held its annual 2017 World Wide Developer's  Conference on June 5-9 in San Jose, California. Finally, Apple has introduced several new computers as summarized in Table 1 below. See Apple's Web site (<https://www.apple.com>) for complete details.

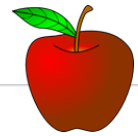


Table 1: New Apple Computers

Model	Display	Processor	Memory	Storage	Graphics	Price	Comments
MacBook	12-in. Retina	1.2 GHz Intel Core m3, 1.3 GHz Intel Core i5 & 1.4 GHz Intel Core i7	8 or 16 GB 1866 MHz LPDDR3	256-512 GB PCIe SSD	Intel HD Graphics 615	\$1,300 to \$2,000	2 lb. Battery up to 10 hrs.
MacBook Pro 13-in.	13-in. Retina	2.3 GHz Intel Core i5 & 2.5 GHz Intel Core i7	8 or 16 GB 2133 MHz LPDDR3	128, 256, 512 GB or 1TB PCIe SSD	Intel Iris Plus Graphics 640	\$1,300 to \$2,600	3 lb. Battery up to 10 hrs.
MacBook Pro 13-in. With Touch Bar	13-in. Retina	3.1 & 3.3 GHz Intel Core i5 & 3.5 GHz Intel Core i7	8 or 16 GB 2133 MHz LPDDR3	256 or 512 GB or 1 or 2 TB PCIe SSD	Intel Iris Plus Graphics 650	\$1,800 to \$2,700	3 lb. Battery up to 10 hrs.
MacBook Pro 15-in With Touch Bar	15-in. Retina	2.8, 2.9, 3.1 & 3.5 GHz Intel Core i7	16 GB 2133 MHz LPDDR3	256, 512 GB or 1 TB PCIe SSD	Radeon Pro 555 or Radeon Pro 560	\$2,400 to \$4,200	4 lb. Battery up to 10 hrs.
iMac 21.5-in.	LED backlit	2.3 GHz Intel Core i5	8 or 16 GB 2133 MHz DDR4	1 TB HD or 1 TB Fusion Drive	Intel Iris Plus Graphics 640,	\$1,100 to \$1,500	Ports: 4 USB-3, 2 Thunderbolt3 (USB-C), Ethernet, SDX Card
iMac Retina 21.5-in.	Retina 4K	3.0 & 3.4 GHz Intel Core i5 & 3.6 GHz Intel Core i7	8, 16 or 32 GB 2400 MHz DDR 4	1 TB HD, 1 TB Fusion Drive or 256 or 515 GB or 1 TB SSD	Radeon Pro 555 & Radeon Pro 560	\$1,300 to \$3,000	Ports: 4 USB-3, 2 Thunderbolt3 (USB-C), Ethernet, SDX Card
iMac 27-in.	Retina 5K	3.4, 3.5 & 3.8 GHz Intel Core i5, 4.2 GHz Intel Core i7	16 to 64 GB 2400 MHz DDR4	1, 2 & 3 TB Fusion Drive, 256, 512, 1 or 2 TB SSD	Radeon Pro 570, Radeon Pro 575 & Radeon Pro 580	\$1,800 to \$5,300	Ports: 4 USB-3, 2 Thunderbolt3 (USB-C), Ethernet, SDX Card
iMac Pro	27-in. Retina 5K	8, 10 and 18 Core Xenon	32, 64 & 128 GB 2666 MHz DDR4 ECC	1, 2 & 4 TB SSD	Radeon Pro Vega 56 or Radeon Pro Vega 64	TBD	Available in December



Continued Page 10

free

Detect language ▾



English ▾

Enter text

Translation

Google Translate:

Google Translate is a free multilingual machine translation service (over 100 languages) that's been around since 2006. It's used with Google Chrome, of course, but also can be used with Firefox and Safari. Google Translate can be used to translate entire Web sites into a chosen language as well as documents (Word, PDFs and others). Machine language translation software has markedly improved in recent years. For more information see <http://bit.ly/2rGiFXv>. For example, using Google Translate, the above paragraph was translated from English to German:

Google Translate ist ein kostenloser mehrsprachiger Übersetzungsdienst (über 100 Sprachen), der seit 2006 dabei ist. Es wird natürlich mit Google Chrome verwendet, kann aber auch mit Firefox und Safari verwendet werden. Google Translate kann verwendet werden, um ganze Webseiten in eine ausgewählte Sprache sowie Dokumente (Word, PDFs und andere) zu übersetzen. Die Maschinenübersetzungssoftware hat sich in den letzten Jahren deutlich verbessert. Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter <http://bit.ly/2rGiFXv>.

The German translation was then translated back into English to give: "Not too bad, but "der seit 2006 dabei ist" is lost going back to English."

Google Translate is a free multilingual translation service (over 100 languages) It is of course used with Google Chrome, but can also be used with Firefox and Safari. Google Translate can be used to translate entire web pages into a selected language as well as documents (Word, PDFs, and others). Machine translation software has improved significantly in recent years. For more information, see <http://bit.ly/2rGiFXv>.

Introducing Windows 10 S

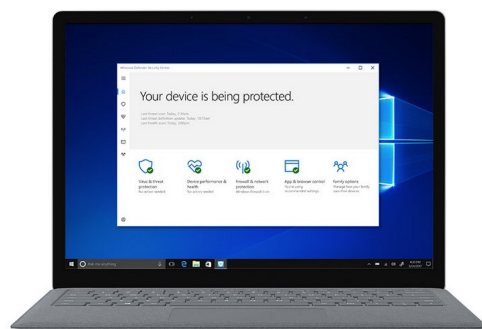
Streamlined for security and superior performance.

How is Windows 10 S Like macOS?

Microsoft has implemented Windows 10 S as a way for students (and schools) to improve security. It's no surprise students will experiment and try all kinds of things that often create security problems, work and expense for support staff. Windows 10 S will only allow apps to be downloaded from the Microsoft Store. Apple's macOS has long been criticized as being "a closed and controlling environment"—sort of like Windows 10 S, although macOS does allow installation of apps not found in Apple's App Store. Of course, with Windows 10 S, there is a trade-off between security and function. With 10 S you cannot install Windows Console, Cmd/PowerShell, Linux or any functions that run outside the [UWP sandbox](#) and the secure runtime infrastructure. Probably the most serious downside to Window 10 S is that it will be difficult (impossible?) to encourage kids to code without access to low-level functions. This is in direct contrast to Apple's Swift Playgrounds on the iPad that was established to encourage and teach children how to code. See <http://bit.ly/2qVWWtA> and <http://bit.ly/2qW5T6f>.

Your device is being protected.

Last threat scan: Today, 2:34am



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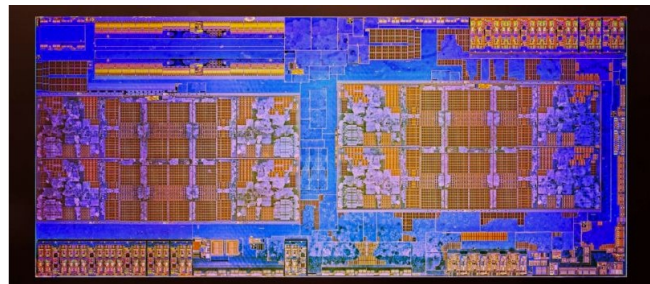
Thwarting WannaCry with Linux:

By now you will have heard much about WannaCry ransomware that has struck older versions of Windows. An article in *PCWorld* (see <http://bit.ly/2r3UIGW>) suggests that Windows be run as a virtual machine under Linux to prevent malware infections. Doing so puts Windows in its own sandbox. Incidentally, Apple's macOS (formerly called OS X) has long been run atop a modified FreeBSD (Berkeley Software Distribution), an open source version of Unix.

Thus, Linux and macOS have their roots in Unix initially developed at Bell Laboratories starting in 1969.

AMD's 16 Core, 32-Thread CPU:

For those interested in high-end CPUs, AMD has announced the Threadripper CPU, which will be available sometime this summer. If you do things like high quality video editing, gaming, or run numerous simultaneous applications, this may be the CPU for you. The price is likely to be above \$1,000. For more information see <http://bit.ly/2rlV66h>.



If You Missed It

By Geof Goodrum, Potomac Area

Technology and Computer Society www.patacs.org Director1 (at) patacs.org

Remember if you are unable to attend in person 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.



June 17, 2017 (Fairfax)

Q: I received an email notice that my account was compromised and to provide personal information. I use Yahoo! email with Verizon Internet service. What should I do?

A: This is typical email spam and attempted identity theft. You can usually forward such

emails to the email account "abuse@<provider>" or you can mark the email as spam in the email software, which can improve the software's ability to recognize spam. AOL has better spam filters than Verizon. Also, don't trust the sender's email address, as it can be faked ("spoofed"). [For spam in Yahoo! Mail, see <https://www.lifewire.com/report-spam-message-yahoo-1174467>.]

Comment: I was in the middle of editing a document, and approved installation of a Windows update, which took hours to complete.

A: Downloading the update depends upon the speed of your Internet connection. One web site to test Internet connection speed is <http://www.speedtest.net/>. [Another good test site is <https://www.dslreports.com/speedtest>, which does not require the Adobe Flash player.] application is a separate Microsoft product (<https://products.office.com/en-US/outlook/>) not included with Windows 10. Continued Page 12

Q: Can phone calls be blocked? I use Verizon Internet and phone services.

A: Yes! See Judy Taylour's presentation today about one option. [If you have Verizon FiOS, also see <https://www.verizon.com/Support/Residential/phone/homephone/general+support/fios+voice+service/ad/129036.htm>. For traditional phone service, see <https://www.verizon.com/support/residential/phone/homephone/calling+features/call+block/call+block.htm>.]

Comment: I received three scam phone calls recently about my computers having a virus.



[See <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0346-tech-support-scams> for what to do if this happens to you.]



Comment: Windows 10 has something that seems to be a duplicate of Outlook, but it is not Outlook.

A: Microsoft has a free Outlook online calendar and email website (<https://outlook.live.com/owa/>), and Windows 10 includes an email client (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/17198/windows-10-set-up-email>). The actual Outlook application is a separate Microsoft product (<https://products.office.com/en-US/outlook/>) not included with Windows 10.



Learn in 30: Nomorobo, Fighting Robo Calls Presented by Judy Taylour, APCUG

Paul Howard introduced Judy Taylour, who presented remotely from her home in California via Zoom teleconference. Paul noted that Judy is "one of the priceless assets of the user group community" who filters user group newsletter articles and makes them available to the community.

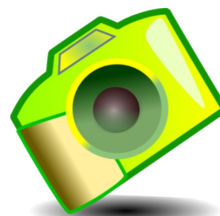
Judy's presentation was about unsolicited phone calls and how to stop them. A video and PDF file of her presentation slides are available from the PATACS Recent Meetings web page, <http://www.patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>.



Photography as a Retirement Hobby Presented by Dan Feighery, PATACS

Member Dan Feighery shared his photography expertise with the group, covering many basic photography terms and concepts, and shared several eye-popping examples of his work and how he did it.

A video and PDF file of his presentation slides are available from the PATACS Recent Meetings web page, <http://www.patacs.org/recmtgspat.html>



Why Does Email With A Lot of BCC'ed Recipients Bounce?

By Leo Notenboom



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

BCC is good for many things. Sending to many people at once isn't really one of them. Using Outlook I send 10 emails per day with 50 addresses in the BCC area. When sending to Australian addresses (where I live) I had no trouble. Now I am trying to send to addresses in USA, sourced the same way as the Australian addresses. However, with these USA addresses I am getting an absolutely huge number of bounced emails. What could cause this?

To me, the real question isn't "Why are your emails to the U.S. bouncing?"

The real question is, "Why do your emails to Australian addresses work?"

Let me explain why I look at it that way. BCC is good for some things

BCC (Blind Carbon Copy), the ability to send an email to someone without their email address appearing in the header, is useful for many things.

- It's a great way to make sure your boss is included on an email to someone else, without that someone else seeing that you've done so.
- It's a great way to protect recipients from exposing their email addresses to one another, or to spammers — for example, when forwarding humor.

Unfortunately, it's also a great way to send spam. BCC is not good for lots of recipients.

Sending the same email once to 50 recipients is a lot easier than sending 50 individual emails.

Sending that email using BCC — including all 50 recipients on the BCC line, so they can't see each others' email addresses — seems like a polite and sensible thing to do.

The problem is, spammers do this. As a result, long BCC lines, or the same message going to multiple BCC'ed recipients on the same destination service (say five of your 50 are all @hotmail.com email addresses), are a couple of the many factors considered when judging whether or not your email is likely to be spam.

To me, 50 is excessive. I'm surprised your local email delivery succeeded without problems; I'd expect some of those recipients to have flagged your email as spam. It's possible they did, but you didn't hear about it, since all that happened was your email was placed in a spam folder without a bounce notification back to you.

Now, it's important to realize it's not all-or-nothing. Using BCC doesn't automatically mean your email will be treated as spam. It's just one factor — perhaps even a small one — of hundreds used in aggregate to make a measured guess as to whether or not a message is spam.

So right now, we have three possible strikes against your message:

- It uses BCC.
- It's going to "a lot" of email addresses all at once (as seen by the sending server).
- It may be going to "several" email addresses on the same domain all at once (as seen by the recipient domain's mail server). When you started sending overseas, that added one more strike:
- It's coming from another country (as seen by the recipient email server).

It's possible you were on the bubble, and that last point was enough to push you over for some number of your recipients.

The right solution: The right solution is to send 50 individual emails, each explicitly addressed "To:" one of your recipients.

Continued Page 14

That's a lot of work to do yourself. Fortunately, there's software for that: mailing list software. This is the same kind of software I use to send my newsletter to nearly 60,000 readers each week.

This is the same kind of software I use to send my newsletter to nearly 60,000 readers each week.

When my newsletter is sent, the service sends **60,000** individual emails. Each message stands on its own, each is explicitly sent "To:" one recipient, and no BCC is used at all.

This is what services like MailChimp, AWeber (my choice), and others are all about: getting email delivered. Some, like MailChimp, even have free tiers. "1"



That's my recommendation as the "right" solution: use a mailing list service for anything over 10 to 20 recipients that you plan to email regularly. The other alternative that might be worth considering, depending on your situation, is a Yahoo! or Google group. While this often exposes members to one another, these services are also set up to distribute email messages to large numbers of members.

One caveat

The email address you're sending from matters. The email domain (the @hotmail.com part) matters the most.



One characteristic of spam — and in turn a mark against you — is if email claims to be "From:" one address, but it's being sent by mail servers completely unrelated to that address.

For example, my email newsletter comes "From:" my email address @askleo.com, but it's being sent by email servers @aweber.com. That's a strike against me.

In my case, it's a strike I can avoid by also saying elsewhere, "Aweber.com is allowed to send email on behalf of askleo.com." 2

If you're sending from an email address on a free service, like yahoo.com, you don't have the ability to make that kind of statement. Further, the owners of some domains — again, specifically, yahoo.com — can say "If you see email from a Yahoo.com email address that's not coming from a yahoo.com server, treat it like spam." What this means is that you can't easily use mailing list services if you're attempting to send "From:" a free email address.

The solution here — again, if you plan to do this regularly and find you're sending "from" a domain that has this issue, like yahoo.com — is to get your own domain. Just as I own "askleo.com", you can own "yourveryowndomainname.com". When you do so, the email services you use can help you permit them to send email on your behalf, and not have it seen as a strike against you.

.BCC is good for many things. Sending to many people at once isn't really one of them. Reprinted with permission, see end of article for licensing. 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

Footnotes and references

1: Email, and particularly spam detection, has become incomprehensibly complex. What that means is that yet another of the hundreds of factors might include whether or not you're using a free tier at a mailing list service. Paying money to send email, by using a paid provider or tier, implies more legitimacy, and can sometimes be a factor in your favor. It might be worth it to pay for it.

2: Specifically, the SPF record in the DNS entries for askleo.com includes this information. put your own address in the To: field and use Bcc: exclusively to address your message."

PATACS Information

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

President, Registered Agent, Internet Services..Paul Howard, 703-860-9246, president(at)patacs.org
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6	7	8	9 7-9pm Online Zoom Meeting	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 12:15- 3:30pm Fairfax General Meeting
20	21 7-9pm Arlington Board Meeting	22	23 7-9 pm Arlington Tech & PC Help Desk	24	25	26 October Newsletter Articles Due
27	28	29	30	31		

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