

PATACS/OPCUG Joint Meeting Saturday, March 17 Meeting 1:00 PM

Peter Piper Picked PowerPoint Presented by Lorrin Garson

PowerPoint, nearly 31 years old, is by far the dominant presentation software. It is a major component of Microsoft Office along with Word and Excel, and perhaps Outlook. Originally designed for business group presentations, its use has widely expanded beyond this. Often it is criticized that it should be used less, differently, better, or not used at all. Nevertheless, PowerPoint is a very useful tool but not a substitute for a well thought-out, prepared and presented lecture. If a presentation is trash, don't blame PowerPoint! The major features and functions of PowerPoint will be presented—using PowerPoint of course.



Learn in 30: To Be Announced

Things You Might Not Know About Daylight Saving Time

It is Daylight Saving Time, not Daylight Savings Time

Though in favor of maximizing daylight waking hours, Benjamin Franklin did not originate the idea of changing the clocks, only changing sleep schedules.

Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. was not intended to benefit farmers. It was first introduced in 1918 as a wartime measure. It has been urban entities such as retail outlets and recreational businesses that have championed daylight saving over the decades.

Not everyone in the United States springs forward and falls back. Hawaii and Arizona - with the exception of the state's Navajo Nation - do not observe daylight saving time, nor do the many U.S. territories. Some Amish communities also choose not to participate. (Around the world, only about one-quarter of the world's population, in approximately 70 countries, observe daylight saving.

Source: <http://www.history.com>

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Quicken 2018 Review

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Having gone through a lot of issues with Quicken over the course of the last year, I thought I'd bring you my "report".

The first thing to know is that Quicken is no longer owned by Intuit. Intuit has other financial products, but Quicken was sold to a group of investors. Those investors have, IMHO, made sizeable and mostly welcome changes to Quicken—some things Intuit should have done years ago, but didn't.

Quicken 2018, unlike previous versions is a "subscription" product (like Microsoft Office 365), and Quicken, the company, is trying to get everyone to move to it, which makes sense. If you're a Quicken 2015 user, it's time to update, as support ends on 4/30/18. Likewise, Quicken 2016 will go out of support on 4/30/2019 and Quicken 2017, will go out of support on 4/30/2020.

One of the new things is that there is now Mac version equivalents to the Windows versions, which can only be a good thing for Mac users.

There are 4 versions of the Windows product. I'm not going to rehash all of their features here. You can read about them on Quicken's web page at www.quicken.com: The first is the Starter edition, which is the simplest and least expensive of the 4. But in my view it doesn't do much, and barely scratches the surface of what Quicken is capable of. Each version after the Starter edition adds more features based on the "product ladder". Check out the web page for specific details to the different packages.

What I will clue you in on, is that if you want to pay your bills electronically, you can. Quicken will work with some banks nicely, but not all—don't ask me how I know. If your bank doesn't

support direct bill payment (such as Capital One Bank), you can sign up with Quicken Bill Pay (QBP).

Even though the QBP web site (www.quickenbillpay.com) says it only takes a few days to get signed up, that isn't (based on personal experience and comments from the folks I'm in contact with at Quicken) correct. It can take 2 weeks or more, and you have to stay on top of them. That is, if you haven't seen 2 small deposits in your bank account within 2 weeks you need to follow up with them. For some reason, when I attempted to do it, the emails they were sending me were getting lost in the Ether. It took the intervention of QBP Support to get things squared away.

While Deluxe is the most popular version, according to Quicken's web site, if you plan to use QBP, you should opt for either the Premier or Home & Business edition. Those 2 editions include Bill Payment for free, which is a very substantial savings over the course of a year.

Quicken does run sales of its products from time to time or you can often find it less expensively on line. My favorite shopping bot is www.google.com/shopping. Another good place to check for lower prices is Ebay.

Following up with some additional info about Quicken Bill Pay: It turns out that once the first account has been registered with Quicken Bill Pay, subsequent accounts (even from different data sets) are approved immediately upon registration. The 2nd account I registered was at the same bank as the first one, and perhaps that's why it was instantaneously approved. I suspect that if one were to try and set up a 2nd account at a different bank, then it'll take at least 2 weeks for the required "monkey business" to be done.

Henry operates PC.HLP Computer Consulting in the DC area, teaches computer classes in the Windows realm, and is an avid photographer.

Is your cell phone CDMA or GSM? – Should you care?

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The short answer to the second question is “probably no,” but there are some benefits from knowing the differences that may help you decide which cell phone provider or cell phone to choose. The answer to the first question depends on your cell phone provider. CDMA and GSM are the two basic technologies used in modern digital cellular networks, which are then used by mobile phones. These two technologies are very different. The difference is much more than the difference between a Ford and a Chevy. It’s more like the difference between a gas-powered car and an electric vehicle; they both do the same thing, they get you to your destination, but the internal workings are very different. You can’t use a CDMA phone on a GSM network (and vice versa), just like you couldn’t use the gas engine from the gas-powered vehicle to run an electric vehicle. So, if you are on a CDMA network, you need a phone with CDMA radio-telephone circuitry, and if you are on a GSM network, you need GSM circuitry in your phone. So, which phones have what, may be a question you will have to answer when signing up for your next cell phone plan.

Although there are many places to buy a cell phone, in the United States there are only four major cell phone networks. (US Cellular is actually a fifth, but much smaller network.) The four are Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, and T-Mobile, and they are evenly divided by the technologies used. Verizon and Sprint use CDMA and AT&T and T-Mobile use GSM. (US Cellular uses CDMA.) CDMA stands for Code Division Multiple Access and GSM is

short for Global System for Mobile (*Communications*), both of which are terms used to represent the collection of many radio-telephone technologies that comprise the two different systems. CDMA actually describes the technology that is used to keep separate all the data channels that use the same wireless frequency band. Whereas GSM is the name of a standard used to describe the protocols used in digital cellular networks. But then, what is in a name? A rose, by any other name, would still be a rose. By the way, most of the world outside the US uses GSM, so if you need to use your phone over-seas, it will probably have to be compatible with GSM. This is another example of how an open standard can dominate over a proprietary product (think Android over iOS). GSM is an open standard, developed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, whereas CDMA is a proprietary technology developed and owned by Qualcomm. (Just to be complete, GSM uses a Time Division technique for keeping channels separate.)

Another difference you may be already be aware of, is the SIM card, or Subscriber Identity Module. GSM uses a removable SIM card as a container for customer information. CDMA does not typically use a SIM card. The SIM card is an integrated circuit chip that is intended to securely store the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) number and its related cryptographic key, both of which are used to identify and authenticate subscriber devices. It’s much easier to change phones on GSM networks, because of the removable SIM card. Just take the card out, put it into another phone, and the new phone now has your number. CDMA networks use a different technique to identify and authenticate subscriber devices. CDMA uses a network-based database. The phone information must be put into a “white list” database, that is then used to control access to the network. If you have a CDMA phone with a SIM card, it may be there to support foreign GSM networks and

the phone may be called a “world phone” (which may be good to have if you travel a lot). You may also find a SIM card in a newer CDMA phone. It may be there to support the newer faster 4G LTE networks, because SIM cards are part of this new standard. Where did 4G LTE come from? you might ask. Well, so far, we haven’t said anything about network speed and that is what 4G LTE refers to.

Most current networks operate at a 3G speed, which translates to a data rate of around 1-2Mbps. 3G has been in use since about 2003. The G only indicates Generation. The 4th Generation or 4G provides an almost 10 times increase in speed, so 4G will move data at around 10Mbps. The LTE indicates “Long-Term Evolution”, which is a standard for high-speed wireless communications for mobile phones and devices. LTE is the upgrade path for both GSM and CDMA networks. (By the way, 1G was for analog cell phones and 2G was for early digital cell phones.) So now many phones have the appropriate hardware and software that enable them to operate on both 3G and 4G networks of their specific type of network, GSM or CDMA. The cost of a phone that can operate on the 4G network will be higher than a phone that can operate only on the 3G network. (There are many technical details defining and describing the 3G and 4G and even the future 5G standards but I have simplified things so as to not get bogged down in those voluminous and sticky details.)

All of the four major networks have 4G, so if money is not an issue, a 4G phone would be advisable. Also, if you spend a lot of time on the web or regularly stream video, 4G might just be worth the extra phone cost. So, in general, if you expect to transfer large amounts of data, 4G is definitely worth it, but keep in mind that it is very easy to go over your data plan limit when you are working at the higher speed. Finally, if you want to future-proof your phone, get a 4G phone. 4G is only going to get better because that is where network operators

are spending their money. Also realize that a 4G phone is backward compatible and will operate on 3G and even 2G networks. You still might consider only a 3G phone if you don’t have a need for the faster data rate of 4G, and/or you use it mostly for voice. Also, if you live in an area that doesn’t have 4G yet, the 3G phone might be just fine. So, in the long run, you should probably care about the network type so you can make an informed decision the next time you have to buy a phone or phone plan.

Chromebooks for Seniors

by Rich Davis, Communications Director,
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Chromebooks are laptops that use Google’s operating system. They are quite inexpensive as compared to a Windows or Apple machine. My newest Chromebook is 15” and was \$129.00 as a refurbished item.

I had a back injury some years ago when I heard about Chromebooks as they had just been rolled out. The critics slammed them as being quite useless. I seemed to be drawn to them after reading a lot about how they work. This looked like a good computer to me. I decided to challenge the critics and make this my main machine if I could. I would be able to spend some time learning as I was laid up.

One drawback that the critics named was storage. My first Chromebook had only 18gb of hard drive. I had a Gmail account and found that I had 15gb of space for free. I could also add an SD card to give me much more. Also, when you buy a Chromebook you get an extra 100gb of online storage for free for a couple of years. Another, or maybe equal to the first was that you had to be online to use your Chromebook. I always am so that didn’t bother me. Improvements have made the Chromebook useful offline as of now.

The third obstacle was that you couldn't load software.

True, but instead we use apps that are downloaded. In my opinion, they are better than software. Some of the apps are not as robust as a complete software suite. But, hey, I have slowed down with work and the apps work fine for me. Also, Google sets up a drive in the cloud, which means on their servers, for the user. Included is a software suite almost as good as Microsoft Office and compatible with it.

Once I got the knack of using my Chromebook I never looked back. Updates take a few seconds. The laptop starts in 7 seconds. The battery life is about 10 hours. I can watch Netflix movies, Skype, Email, create documents and slideshows, and much more. There is no need for antivirus software.

It is perfect for me. Did you know that 70 percent of schools use Chromebooks because of their price and functionality eclipsing iPads and Windows machines for students? So, the critics were dead wrong. They didn't give something new a fair chance. A couple of years ago my grandson, 14, told me how cool my Chromebook was. I sure was proud of my decision to go with my gut and try something new.

Wayne's Computer Class Tips

By Wayne Johnson, Instructor, Golden Gate Computer Society, CA
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Wayne's computer class is held the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. Three topics at a recent class included:

Cheap smartphone

A cheap smartphone was discovered, the Android Motorola Moto G4. Only \$150, yet highly rated by Cnet and PC Magazine. Its 32GB internal

memory can be expanded to 128GB for all your photos and videos. It can charge six hours of power in 15 minutes with "TurboPower." It utilizes "NFC."

NFC—what dat?

NFC raised many eyebrows, as in "What the heck is it?" Attendees' eyes widened after discovery of what "near-field communication" is and does with a "tag" disc.

Usually a smartphone is used to communicate with another electronic device such as a small disc with a microchip or maybe a cash register. The "tag" disc can be programmed with a string of commands to set your phone settings or do something like set the alarm. You just wave your device near the "tag" disc.

An analogy might be a macro or batch file (remember those?). "Mobile Wallet" is on its way into the mainstream, and you guessed it—NFC.

Still not clear? See this YouTube video, "[Top 5 NFC Features: Explained](#)." It's cool.

Malware attacks beyond your computer

Malware is attacking DVRs, TVs, routers, and other IoT devices. The bad guys can conceivably alter the device. When shopping, consider the security track record of the company. Maybe buying the cheapest router could turn expensive.

So, what is "IoT" ...the Internet of Things. These IoTs encompass hardware (pacemakers to automobiles to baby monitors), software, service, and the data. Home automation is an integral part of IoT.

PS: One last tip I didn't mention in class yet: I like the way this browser extension, called Priceblink, works on Firefox. It finds the best price when you are shopping. I've loaded it on to my desktop.

Kretchmar's Korner

Can You Beat the Bots?

By David Kretchmar, Computer Hardware Technician,

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When tickets for a musical I wanted to see (Book of Mormon) went on sale at the Smith Center's website, I immediately went on line to buy tickets. I was surprised to learn that only a few scattered seats remained, even though tickets had only been on sale for a few hours. Yet ticket scalpers had plenty of seats available - for double or triple their original selling price.

When the play returned to the Smith Center last year I went on online the minute as soon as tickets were available (12:00 A.M.) and I could score 4 tickets for great seats (about 5th row center orchestra) at a reasonable price, but I noticed many good seats had already been sold. How could this be, I wondered?

The answer is, of course, Bots; they are software robots that enter multiple orders, sometimes many thousands of times instantly, for scarce items. Often popular items such as show, and sporting event tickets, popular electronics, and hot children's toys are the target of Bots.

Since the dawn of the Internet, scalpers have been using shopping Bots to scoop up online ticket sales within seconds of their being offered. They then sell the tickets for huge markups. Often shoppers will place orders and tickets will disappear from their virtual shopping carts before they can check out.

Congress acted to stop ticket scalping by passing the Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016 AKA the Bots Act of 2016, but the new regulations apply only to event tickets. The popular East Village and then Broadway play Hamilton is credited with helping to precipitate the legislation. The Broadway show sold out more

than a year in advance, and \$200 face value tickets were going for \$800, shutting out even members of Congress.

This holiday season Shopping Bots will again be used to snatch up hot toys and electronics as soon as they become available online. Then they will only be available on sites such as eBay, or maybe Craig's list where they will be sold at inflated prices. But if your grandchild just must have the latest incarnation of a certain toy (remember "Tickle Me Elmo" a few years ago), the outrageous price will often be paid rather than having to deal with a very disappointed kid.

Many vendors have attempted to limit the power of shopping Bots with software programs, with limited success so far. Vendors identify Bots by their Internet

IP address, but Bots have learned to disguise these. Bots can also pay in a variety of way to obscure the fact they are Bots. In this cat and mouse game of vendors vs. Bots the Bots have usually eventually been successful.

Some vendors are having some success addressing the issue. Adidas, the sports shoe manufacturer, has initiated a new program called Confirmed. This App lets a buyer reserve and pay for shoes online, then pick them up in person at a retailer (you go brick and mortar!). You might have noticed some online sellers require potential buyers to put an item in their virtual shopping cart before the price is revealed. This is partially designed to prevent shopping Bots from zeroing in on a good price and blocking out retail buyers.

You can do some things to prevent Bots from stealing your successful on line buying experience. Learn what the suggested retail price of an item is before you shop, and don't pay any more. The biggest way to defeat scalpers is to shop early. And good luck with that toy.

Back to Google Earth

By Len Nasman, Webmaster, Bristol Village Computer Club, OH Newsletter

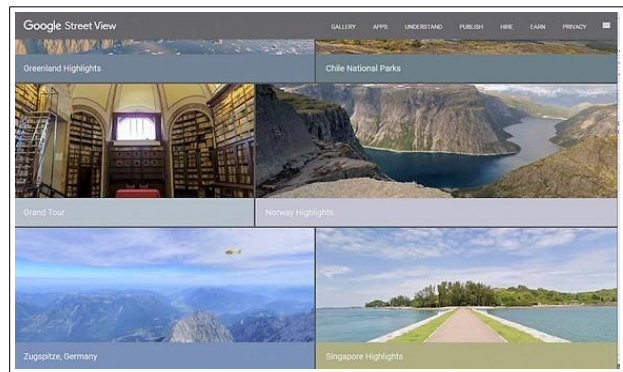
<http://bvres.org/bvcchome.html>

Webmaster (at) bvres.org

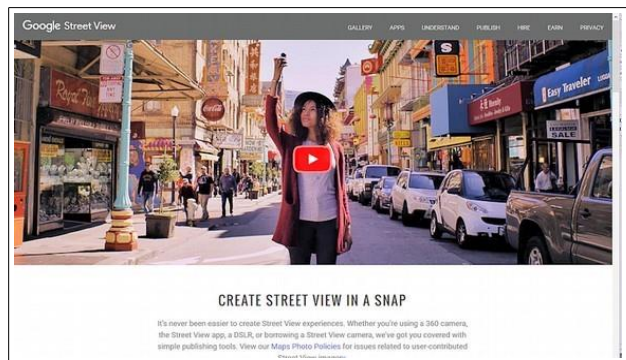
There seems to be no end to the global data base available through Google Earth. To start with, here is a [link](#) to a video that explains how Google Earth 3D images are created. I was surprised to learn that the 3D images of buildings are generated from pictures taken from airplanes.



The [Google Street View](#) image collection continues to expand with pictures taken from cars, carts, back pack cameras, and even underwater cameras.



Now Google has increased their data collection efforts by allowing regular folks to add to the collection using something called [Snap](#). You can take your own pictures and add them to the Google Earth database. You can even use 3D cameras (now available at consumer level prices) to add dynamic 360-degree views.



An interesting tool that has important implication for historical record keeping and scientific analysis is [Google Timelapse](#). Using [Google Earth Engine](#) you can scroll through 22 years of aerial photos and see how the landscape of an area has changed. This is useful in everything from urban growth studies to glacial movement analysis to forest coverage studies.

I have looked at the Timelapse aerial photos of the woods I grew up in near Kane, PA, and found it a bit depressing. The area of our ‘secret fishing crick’ that used to require a several mile hike through unmarked forest has been destroyed by numerous oil wells and access roads. You might be amused by checking Time lapse photos of your places of interest.



Are your iPhone and Android photos really backing up to the cloud?

Tech tips and news from TechMoxie to you
Pam Holland, President and Instructor
<http://www.techmoxie.com>

Some things to check...

We have long recommended that our clients



make sure that photos on mobile devices are backing up to the

cloud. That way if anything happens to your phone, your photos are safe. Most often, phones are set up this way, so it is infrequent for us to find a problem. But it is important to know that *most mobile devices are set up to back up only when connected to Wi-Fi and do not back up over data.*

Why is this significant? Those vacation pictures you take over the course of a week at the beach may not get backed up until you return home and your phone is again connected to your home's Wi-Fi. And now that unlimited data plans are much more common people are connecting their phones to WIFI less frequently – even while at home.

Here are some tips:

- If you are an iPhone user, know that your photos will *only* back up over Wi-Fi and while the phone is charging. Apple does not have an option to back up over data. So, try to connect your iPhone to Wi-Fi overnight if you are traveling.
- If you are an Android user, you have the option to back up over data as well as Wi-Fi. But this must be enabled in your Cloud settings.
- For iPhone users especially, consider using a second back up app that permits back up over data. We have started using Google Photos which offers unlimited photo storage if you are willing to store photos at “high resolution,” not “full” resolution. If you want full resolution, Google offers 15 gb free storage and additional storage for a fee. Google Photo settings can be adjusted to back up over data.
- No matter where you store your photos, check periodically to make sure they are truly being stored as you intend. Log into your iCloud account, for example, and see if your photos are indeed there.
- Be careful when deleting photos! If you delete a photo from your device, it will delete from the cloud and other devices. For example, if you delete from your iPhone, the photos will be deleted from other devices connected to the cloud like your laptop or iPad.

Device Power Options

By Jim Cerny, Forum Leader, Sarasota Technology Users Group, Florida
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On – Off – Shutdown – Sleep – What are all these power options? Today our computer devices usually have several choices for “power”, even the “off/on” switch does more than just turn your device on or off! Many devices today – especially devices that use batteries – give us more choices about how we use the power we have available. One of the best ways to learn the options for your device is to use Google – enter “power options for my iPad” for example. You will be surprised at what is available. Here we will look at the usual basic power options used by most devices (iPads, iPhones, Windows computers, laptops, etc.).

The main power button, the one you use to turn your device “on” or “off”, is really only putting

the device in or out of “sleep” mode. Sleep mode uses very little power and allows your device to keep your recent activity in memory, so you can easily resume where you left off when you return (by hitting the same button to turn it back “on”). This is a good thing for most devices, especially phones, because you will still get incoming calls and messages, etc.

To turn your iPad or iPhone device completely off (also known as “shutdown” or “power off”) you need to HOLD DOWN the off/on button until you see “slide to power off” on the screen. Slide where indicated and your device will be completely off. You will use NO battery at all and you will NOT be able to get a call, text messages, or alarms until you turn it back on. To turn your iPad or iPhone back on from “power off” you need to HOLD DOWN the off/on button until you see a white apple on the screen. Release the button and wait for your device to power up. Other power settings for your iPad or iPhone are in “Settings” then “battery” or “Display and Brightness”.

For Windows computers and laptops, touch (or left-click) on the “Windows” button at the far left of the taskbar and then touch the power icon symbol (a circle with a short vertical line at “noon”) and then select “shut down”. To turn your Windows computer back on, just hit the start button. A complete shutdown or power down is good for your device because when you power it back up it does a good check of everything to make sure all is working as it should.

Laptops have several more power options. You can find these options in the control panel or enter “power” in the search box to find “power and sleep settings”, or ask Google how. Here you can adjust your settings as to how long (minutes) your screen stays on with no activity before going to sleep. But you can also select power options for when your laptop is running on the battery or plugged into the power outlet. You can also select what happens when you close the

lid of your laptop. (When my laptop is at home it is connected to a large monitor screen, so when I close the lid of my laptop, I want it to “do nothing”). The “restart” option will shut down your Windows computer and then boot it back up right away.

Other possible options for devices include what to do when your battery gets low on power, adjusting the brightness of your screen, even slowing the speed of your device. There seems to be an option or setting for just about anything these days. You need not concern yourself with most of the power options available unless you are using your device many hours a day and frequently see the “low battery” message. Another easy solution to being low on power is to buy and charge up an external power pack. This can come in handy for long airline flights when you will not be able to plug in to recharge your device. But then again, maybe putting yourself into “sleep mode” could be for the best anyway!



The “power” icon



The “settings” icon



The “settings” app icon for iPads and iPhones



The “battery” icon showing power level

The Tile

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Do you spend as much time looking for your keys or your phone as I do? I've been able to solve this



problem using a Bluetooth tracker known as a Tile and an app on my smartphone. The Tile is a small device about 1-inch square and ¼ inch thick. Here's how it works. I attached a

Tile to my key ring. The app in my phone can see the keys and keeps track of their location. When I can't find my keys, I can make the Tile ring from my phone if it is within 100 feet. If I have my keys and have misplaced my phone, I can make my phone ring from the tile on my keys even when it is on silent. I use the ringing feature a lot.

If my phone gets out of range of the tracker, the app records the physical location that the keys were last seen. Later, when I'm looking for my keys, the app can give me the address and mark on a map where I left them.

I have a Tile tracker attached to my USB drive that I am constantly leaving in someone's house or the lab after I repair a computer. When I discover that I've misplaced my USB drive, the app can tell me where I left it.

I was traveling in Western Scotland last year. We were on one of those tours where we made several stops that day. I left my pack, which had a tracking Tile, at the restaurant where we ate lunch, but I didn't realize that until later that afternoon when we were many miles away. The app told me the exact address where I had left it. I was able to call the restaurant and they were nice enough to mail the pack to a place where I could pick it up a few days later.

I keep a tracking Tile in my luggage when I travel. Using the app, I can tell when my luggage is approaching baggage claim.

Another incredible feature of these Tiles is that if the item has been stolen or isn't where you last saw it, you can select "Notify When Found" in the app. When any other Tile user passes close to your missing item, you'll automatically be notified of its location. This feature works 100% anonymously and automatically to protect your privacy. I was traveling from Montreal to Milwaukee and my luggage didn't make it. I reported it lost to the airline and selected "Notify When Found" in the app. After a few frustrating days, when the airline finally shipped my luggage to Milwaukee, someone passed by it that had the app and I was notified the luggage was in Milwaukee before the airline could even notify me. There are 10 million Tiles in use, so it is no wonder that someone passed by my luggage.

Can you tell I'm sold on these things? The cost is 4 Tiles for \$70. The website is www.thetileapp.com. Also, they are an excellent gift.

No Personal Privacy

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I want to share (1) something to think about as we enter this time of "no personal privacy;" (2) a very useful program for keeping your PC applications up-to-date; and (3) a fun website for displaying street views of houses.

1. My wife was reading a book on her Kindle and was getting close to the end. She wanted to finish the book, so she cloistered herself in the snug family room chair and had at it. After about half an hour, she finished the book and explained that it really was a great book and she

really enjoyed it. A moment or two later, her cell phone made the noise for an incoming email and she reached over and read it. It was from Amazon and it asked her how she liked the book that she just finished. That was so spooky! It really made us feel like our privacy had been compromised. I'm a very strong proponent of technology advances and all the good things that it can bring, but this just seemed like too much and too close.

A couple of days later, she started another book, read a few chapters and had to put it down as things get busy around the first of the month. Sure enough, after a couple of days, she gets an email from Amazon asking, "how's it going." Guess she wasn't reading enough and needed to be prodded. Now, I don't know what you think of that intrusion, but I find it really disturbing. Guess we'll have to get used to it or take the Kindle offline.

2. An important part of being safe online is keeping your computer's software up-to-date. Outdated software often contains security exposures that can provide hackers access to your computer. Outdated software can also be buggy and have performance issues which are usually fixed with a newer version of the software. Unfortunately, if you have lots of different programs this is an onerous task.

Patch My PC Updater will make patching your PC easy. It is free and keeps over 165 apps up-to-date on your computer. It is an easy way to update or install any of these programs on to your computer.

When you open Patch My PC Updater, it will scan your system for outdated programs. It will show programs that are outdated in Red, programs that are updated in Green, and programs that are

not installed in Black. With one click you can easily do all your updates. You can download Patch My PC from <https://patchmypc.net/download>.

3. On a more fun note, I've been sharing a website called www.showmystreet.com. When you go to the site, you get a box where you can type in an address. It's a simple interface that lets you display almost all locations. Just start typing the location's address and the background Google Map is updated in real-time. Like any other regular Google Map, you can drag the map, zoom in/out, and select the following views: map, satellite, hybrid, and terrain. Wherever available, Show My Street will automatically display the Google Street View of the address. Type the address one character at a time and watch the location that it displays. It's amazing. The views can be directly shared on Twitter and Facebook. You can also obtain a direct URL to the view and share it with your friends online.

Be careful out there!

THESE ARE A FEW OF MY
FAVORITE THINGS

BY Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group
Drive Light <http://www.uchug.org>
president (at) uchug.org

*Raindrops on roses
And whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favorite things
(from "My Favorite Things," by Oscar Hammerstein / Richard Rodgers)*

In *The Sound of Music*, Maria (played by Julie Andrews in the film version), a nun turned governess, sings of her favorite things to her seven young charges. I wonder how her list might be different if the story was set today, rather than immediately before World War II. Maria's list is of simple things; would today's Maria include tech items like smartphones and Facebook likes in a more modern list?

What would a list of today's favorite technology items look like? And what constitutes a favorite? Is it something you enjoy (like 3D movies) or are merely dependent on and addicted to (perhaps smartphones)? Rodgers and Hammerstein provided some guidance in their lyrics:

*When the dog bites
When the bees sting
When I'm feeling sad
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so bad*

So, if I were to make a list of some of my favorite tech things, it would need to contain things that make me smile and feel happy (perhaps even after being bitten and stung). They don't have to be tremendously useful (raindrops on roses aren't), but should have few negative connotations. That can be a high hurdle for a lot of our technology, as it seems there is a downside to most of the tech we know and love. Some of the things that would not make my list because of this include:

Smart phones - While it is remarkable to carry access to the internet in your pocket (assuming you have a big enough pocket), these devices can also enable a lot of anti-social behavior. Smartphone addiction is real - the fear of being without your smartphone is called nomophobia. In spite of being one of the most popular devices and being in practically everyone's hands, we are forced out of a concern for safety to enact laws prohibiting their use while driving.

Twitter - While I'll admit I don't use it, it would seem to be a fun and useful way to communicate. It appears to be a poor way for a President to communicate.

Drones - Quadcopters seem fun; I'd like to try one sometime. I've seen some that can fly by themselves, even unskilled pilots could use them, and are pre-programmed to follow you and take photos and video. Unfortunately, they are sometimes used to invade privacy and interfere with fire crews and commercial aviation, and so now require regulation.

Facebook - What could be wrong with a way to stay in communication with friends and relatives, and share personal information and photos? Unfortunately, its use can become an addiction, it can be a tool for bullying and it can be poor at protecting that personal information.

Email - Another great way to communicate easily, quickly and inexpensively, until your inbox gets filled up with spam, your email account is hacked and you click on a malicious link in a phishing email.

If you look at Maria's favorite things, they are all pretty innocent and non-controversial, even by today's standards. None of them would be subject to laws, regulations or prohibitions (as long as the brown paper packages tied up with string are not left unattended in a public place, and your doctor does not recommend limiting your intake of schnitzel or strudel). With all this in mind, a few of the favorite tech things I might pick to sing about are:

Maps - I've always been fascinated with maps. I used to collect AAA road maps and have bought all sorts of map software, including Microsoft Streets & Trips and DeLorme Street Atlas USA. Now map software programs are pretty much obsolete, as Google Maps and Google Earth now provide all the maps you could ever want online. Satellite photography and street mapping /

imaging provide accurate, detailed and up-to-date map information previously unavailable.

GPS - The Global Positioning System was developed by the U.S. military to better locate warfighters and guide munitions, but the signals from its constellation of satellites are available to any user receiver on earth for accurate location and time. It provides the “you are here” to enable easy navigation for any means of travel. The Europeans are currently launching their own constellation of Galileo satellites to complement the U.S. GPS system, the Russian GLONASS and Chinese BeiDou systems. I own at least six discrete GPS receivers (handheld, car-mount and USB), though now most people get their GPS directions through their smartphones.

Office / productivity software - For someone like me, an engineer that can barely handwrite my name (even my printing is not so great), the ability to write quickly and legibly with a word processing program is wonderful. There is no way you would have ever read a column from me without it. With my technical and math orientation, spreadsheets are so useful and actually fun.

Google searches - With all the information available on the internet, it takes a good search engine to sift out what you want. Though there may be concerns about your browsing information being used to sell advertising, Google is still the king, and it lends its name (Googling) to searching the web for good reason.

Digital music - Though vinyl records are making a bit of a comeback, digital music is now the only way to go for portability and streaming. I may not have as much interest in music as I did as a teen, but I appreciate that I can listen to my MP3 files anywhere.

USB Flash drives - When you can have 128 GB of USB3 storage in your pocket (and a small pocket at that) for under \$30, it is remarkable.

And these drives just keep getting larger (in capacity) and cheaper.

Chromebooks - These are so useful for most users’ computing needs. They are light, fast booting, long running (on battery), low cost and great if what you need is mostly web surfing, email and word processing.

Star Wars - It was 40 years ago this Memorial Day weekend that this remarkable movie was released. Three George Lucas trilogies, two Disney movies, a cartoon series and untold numbers of books and other merchandise items later, Star Wars has become part of our tech culture. I was at the Reagan Library a few weeks ago and was reminded that it also informally lent its name to the SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative) missile defense system proposal that was a factor in the ending of the cold war and collapse of the Soviet Union. To me, Star Wars is just great entertainment that inspires real technology and scientific discovery.

*Gigabyte Flash drives and
boxed sets of Star Wars
Chromebooks and Fitbits and
Amazon Prime stores*

*Searches with Google (don’t switch me to Bing!)
These are a few of my favorite tech things*

*When the web’s slow
When my screen’s blue
When it’s filled with ads*

*I simply remember my favorite tech things
And then I don’t feel so bad
(Apologies to R & H)*

Talking to Your Computer

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Introduction

Do you talk to your computer? I don't mean swearing at it because it doesn't do the thing you want it to do. You should be able to have it find desired files on your computer, remind you to go to a doctor's appointment, play your favorite music, or even convert a certain number of kilograms to pounds.

How do you get your PC to do those things by voice commands alone?

You will need to configure Speech Recognition on Windows 10. You start this by getting into Control Panel (for example and typing the words Control Panel into the search box on the left side of the Task Bar.) You then are given several options to choose from, one of which will be "Ease of Access." Click on that and you are taken to a page which offers the options "Ease of Access Center" and "Speech Recognition."

When you click on Speech Recognition, you are taken to a window where you will click on the option for "Start Speech Recognition." That takes you to a "Set up Speech Recognition" page where you again click on the tab at the bottom right for Next.

You are now taken to a page where you specify the type of microphone you will be using. When you click the Next button, read the information on the page and then continue.

After you perform the actions of setting up your microphone click Next again. You will be instructed to read the following text aloud, "Peter dictates to his computer. He prefers it to typing, and particularly prefers it to pen and paper." After reading that aloud, you can click on Next again, read the information on that page, and then

again on the next page. You will be taken to a page where the title is Set up Speech Recognition, and you now choose one of the two options of Enable document review or Disable document review, which you choose between depending upon your concern for privacy.

After clicking Next again, you are taken to a page where you pick an activation mode: manual activation mode or voice activation mode. After that you are taken to a page where you can view or print the voice commands you can use. Then you move on to a page where you can choose to Run Speech Recognition at startup. Finally, you are taken to a page where you can choose between Start tutorial and Skip tutorial, and the differences between the uses of each option is explained, and this ends the setup phase.

Now you can control the computer with your voice.

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