

**PATACS/OPCUG**  
**3rd Saturday, June 16**  
 Meeting 1:30 PM  
 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute,  
 4210 Roberts Rd.,  
 Fairfax, VA 22032-1028

**THANK YOU!**

**Thank you!**

**By Kathryn Perrin, editor PATACS POSTS**

Thank you to Paul Howard, Mel Mikosinski and Lisa Ferrett who produced our newsletters for several months. After years as our editor, I took a very welcome break, Now it is fun again.

Do consider that a very small number of volunteers carry all the responsibilities of leading PATACS. Also, do consider that offering a small amount of time each month so you can make a major difference.

You need not be a “tech know it all.” When I started volunteering, it required extreme patience from our very kind volunteer leaders—sometimes it still does. With expert guidance, I started editing the newsletter and, later I could write write articles—the result of the kindness and skill from many.

Don’t wait for someone else (anyone else) to volunteer. Determine your area of interest and the amount of time you choose to be available. You will find it very rewarding to make a difference.

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**Learn in 30:**  
**Two GPS Watches and**  
**a Security Camera**  
**Presented by Lorrin Garson**

This short talk is about three new digital gadgets. So, what is a GPS watch and why would anyone want one-or two? What kind of information do GPS watches provide? Aren't security cameras for banks and malls? What is the link between a and digital watch? Come find out!



**Comparing Microsoft PCs**  
**& Apple Computers**  
**Presented by Lorrin Garson**

## MAC vs PC



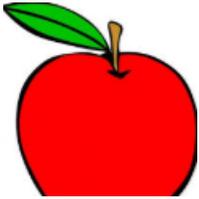
For many years PCs running Microsoft’s Windows and Apple computers running their proprietary operating system have been the topic of debate. Which is least expensive, has the best operating system, has the best performance, best user interface, display, support, applications software, ad nauseam. These issues and others will be discussed.

Don’t expect a resolution to the debate, but hopefully the most important issues for adopting one environment or the other will be identified.

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## Basic iPhone Skills

By Jim Cerny, Forum Leader, Sarasota Technology User Group, Florida  
November 2017 issue, Sarasota Monitor-  
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The iPad by Apple is becoming more and more popular. It is really a full computer that is easily portable and so helpful for many every-day tasks, communication, entertainment, etc. Having taught many iPad classes, here is a list of the BASIC skills every iPad user should know. If you would like more information on any of these, please ask Google! By the way, these tips are helpful for the iPhone as well:

1. You should know and have written down your Apple ID Account and password (so you can purchase and download apps, even free ones). Also, if you use a “passcode” to access your device, write that down too!
2. Verify that your iPad is on Wi-Fi or not. Touch Settings and see that Wi-Fi should display the network name or ID if you are connected or “not connected” if you are not.
3. Check for any software (apps) updates. See if there are any numbers on your “App Store” icon. If so, touch icon and download the updates.
4. Organize your apps icons on your screens. Touch and HOLD on any icon until they all vibrate. Now you can DRAG any icon to any place on any screen. Drag icon to left or right edge of screen to place on another screen. (Note the small white and gray dots toward the bottom of your screen shows the number of screens you have.) Let up finger to place icon. Hit HOME button to exit the “vibrating” mode and get back to normal.
5. Getting a new app: Open the “App Store” icon and enter a search word or two in the “Search” bar at the top of the screen. Try it! (golf game, maps, movies, puzzles, news, etc. are all samples of search words, try your words).
6. Before downloading or trying a new app: In the App Store, touch any app to learn more about it.
7. To DELETE an app you no longer want, touch and HOLD the app icon until it vibrates. Touch the small “X” that appears in the upper left of the icon and your app will be deleted from your device. If there is no “X” you cannot delete the app. Sorry, you do not get your money back if you purchased the app.
8. Close previously used apps from memory. Double-click the home button and your previously opened app pages will appear on the left side. Drag UP each app to remove it from memory.
9. Turn your iPad completely off periodically by HOLDING down the off/on button until “Slide to power off” appears. Then do it. HOLD the off/on button down until a white apple appears to turn on your iPad after a power-down.
10. Know some basic symbols such as for Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, battery, airplane mode, and the “busy” rotating symbols.
11. Backup your important apps on iCloud. In Settings, touch your name/account, then touch “iCloud” (it has your account name under it), in the list that appears, turn “ON” the iCloud for each app, such as Contacts, Calendars, Notes, etc. These will be backed up for you on iCloud.
12. Adjust brightness. In Settings, touch “Display and Brightness”. I like using “AutoBrightness” so I have that turned on.

Learn something NEW about your iPad often. Talk to friends, take a class, and, most important, use the Safari app that comes with your iPad or ASK GOOGLE (you can download the Google app for free).

Here are some sample questions to ask: How do I stop my iPad screen from rotating? How do I change the text size on my iPad? What is Bluetooth on my iPad? How do I use Google Earth on my iPad? I hope this will help you enjoy your iPad even more! Good luck!



**Review: TouchLock ...**  
 by **George Harding, Treasurer,**  
**Tucson Computer Society**  
**April 2018**  
[www.aztcs.org/](http://www.aztcs.org/)  
 actuary110 (at) yahoo.com



Security is important for us all, but even more important when you have to physically secure something. When you park your bike, you want to see it there when you return. A good lock is essential.



TouchLock is a good lock, one that cannot be easily defeated. It is an electronic device controlled by an app on your cell phone or other device.

The big selling point for this lock is that it can be controlled biometrically. You can easily lock it in the usual manner by pressing the hook on the lock into its hole. Unlocking it can be done in two ways.



The company provides an app that may be used to unlock by Bluetooth. Bluetooth is a short distance wireless technology used today by many devices to avoid connecting wires.

The app requires you to register as administrator, then setting unlock and administrator passwords. Once these are set, you can unlock using the app with either the fingerprint touch or the password.

Additional users may be added by downloading the app onto the user's phone. Control is accessed by entering the admin password.

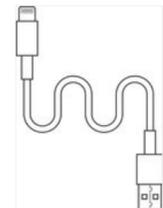
The lock contains a battery that may be recharged using the included cable via USB. The company says the battery will last a year without recharging.



The lock is a heavy duty piece of hardware with an LED light on its front surface and a micro-USB slot for the charging cable. There is no key slot or combination wheel. It is all controlled by the app.



The TouchLock comes with the lock, charging cable and a heavy-duty cable for threading through a bike's spokes and frame.



There are several versions of the TouchLock, varying both physically and by decoration.

TouchLock by Bio-Key  
[bio-key.com](http://bio-key.com)  
 Price \$50



## Working with Apps on Windows 10

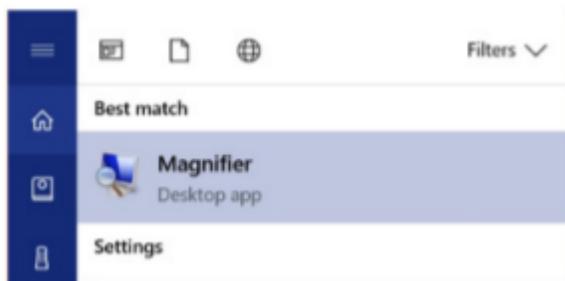
By Rosita Herrick, Windows Corner, Sarasota  
Technology Users Group  
December 2017 issue, STUG Monitor-  
www.thestug.org hrosita (at) aol.com

Frequently, either when I am teaching or when I prepare one of the Windows 10 Corner articles, I use a few apps that are distributed with the operating system and are available to any user. At that time, I am always asked how to start these apps. In this last article for 2017, I decided to describe these apps, in addition to some keyboard shortcut keys and right click options that enable me to navigate the operating system faster and easier.

1. To start the Magnifier, just enter the name in the Cortana search box.



At the top of the display, a link shows up. By clicking on it, the app is started.



Another option is to quickly open the Magnifier by using the keyboard shortcut, Windows key with the plus sign (+), to zoom in and Windows key with minus sign (-) to zoom out. Use Windows key and Esc to exit the magnifier.

You can use the Magnifier knowing just these three shortcuts, but there are actually a few more options.

When the magnifier starts, a small box is being displayed where you can change some options.

One problem is that sometimes it disappears before you can select additional options.

If that happens, close the magnifier by pressing the Windows key and the Escape key and restart it.

Clicking on the Views caret displays the magnification option.



I usually keep the Lens option selected so that I can move the area magnified with the mouse.



The next app I use is the Sticky Notes.

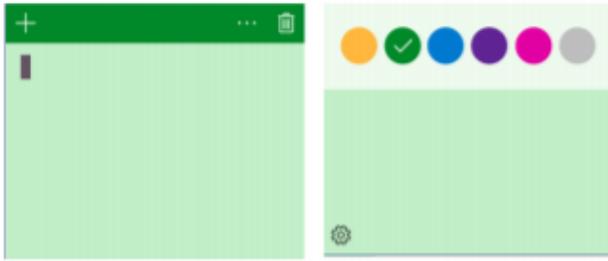
I believe most of us have used a sticky note to remind us of something we need to do, something to buy or just something like a specific keyboard shortcut and/or a reminder to call a friend.

Again, to start Sticky Notes, just type the name of the app in the search box. And then click on the displayed link.

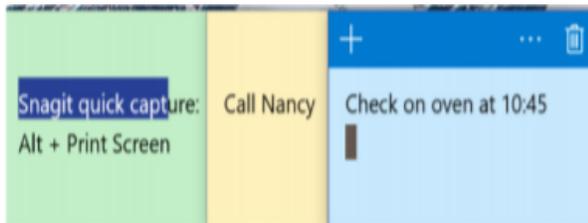
Once Sticky notes is started, a blank square shows on the screen. There are very few options to this simple app.



Continued Page 5



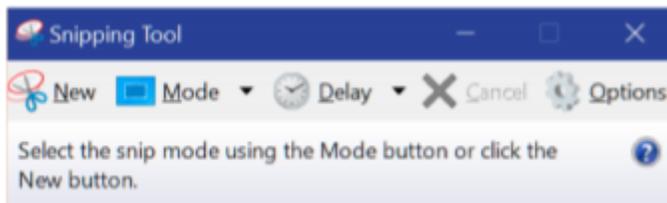
Clicking on the 3 dots displays the option to change the color of the note. As you can see, green is selected. In the first insert, there is a cursor. You can type any comment you want on the note. It stays on your desk until you click on the trash icon to delete it. Also, clicking on the + sign will display another note. The notes can be stacked next to each other either vertically or horizontally.



3. Last, but not least, is the Snipping Tool. Again, enter Snipping tool in the search box. The link displayed looks like this:



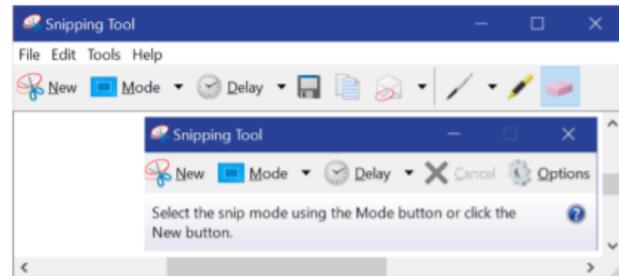
And the starting windows looks like this:



The snip mode can be Free-form, rectangular (shown as a square), Window snip and Full-screen snip. Clicking on the Options icons shows different ways the snipped area can be treated, and, for touch screens, there is a box where the user can select the color of the snip border. To start the snip, click on the New icon. The screen

start the snip, click on the New icon. The screen will become less sharp and a cross will appear where the mouse cursor was, and the user can just frame the area to extract.

Here is the result of snipping the tool's display:



Check the File, Edit, Tools and Help tab to work with this app. By the way, you can make notes on the snip by using the pen or highlighter icon, and if you don't like the result, you can erase it by using the eraser.

Here are the YouTube URL's for these three apps.

Snipping Tool: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRu2exEPFiI>

Magnifier: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFNPye9urw>

Sticky Notes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvNsNh1QXbg>

Now to the keyboard shortcut keys: A right click on the Windows icon in the lower left corner of the status bar will bring up a list of links to system options, such as starting the Task Manager, Command prompt, Shutdown or Sign up.

+E will start the File Explorer.

+P will display project options

+D will display the Desktop (without close active apps)

Win+L will display the logon screen (I use this one when I must leave the computer in a common area).

I hope these writings make your use of Windows 10 more enjoyable.

## Mastering Line and Paragraph Spacing in Word

By Nancy DeMarte, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Sarasota Technology User Group, Florida  
 December 2017 issue, Sarasota Monitor  
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If you are a long time Word user, you probably have had at least one bad experience with setting the space between lines of text or paragraphs. Maybe you began typing a document and found that the space had increased mysteriously from your last document. Or when you tried to copy a paragraph from one document to another, the line spacing changed during the transition. Microsoft must have heard the complaints, because in recent versions of Word, the tools for managing spacing have increased and improved.

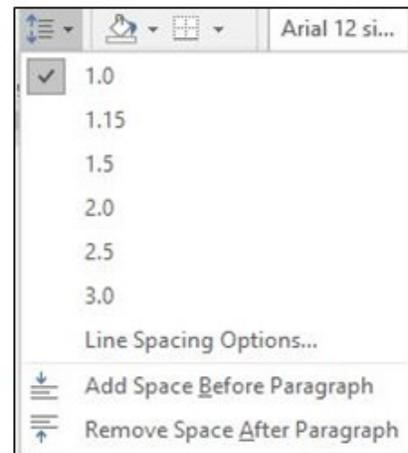
In Word version 2003 and earlier, the Normal or default style properties were Times New Roman font, size 12 points (Points are based on font height.), left justified, with no space between lines or before paragraphs, and 4 points after paragraphs. Beginning with version 2007, however, a new Normal style was introduced which had a different font and smaller font size. (See chart below) Many users had problems with this change. The smaller-sized font was hard to see. The extra space between lines and paragraphs reduced the amount of text that a page could hold. In response to the concerns, Microsoft made another change beginning with Word 2013. This version reduced the space between lines to 1.08 and the space after paragraphs to 8 points, as shown in the chart.

Word Version	Body font & size in points	Points between lines	Points before paragraphs	Points after paragraphs
2003	Times New Roman 12	0 (single-spaced)	0	4
2007, 2010	Calibri 11	1.15	0	10
2013, 2016	Calibri 12	1.08	0	8

To meet the continuing needs of Word users, Word 2016 offers several choices of tools to help users set up their own spacing settings. Five of them are described below:

1. Beginning with Word 2007, a Line and Paragraph spacing icon was added to the Paragraph group on the Home tab. This tool lets you make manual changes to the spacing of selected text or whole documents.

When clicked, the menu offers several pre-set line spacing amounts as well as Line Spacing Options, where a precise number of points between lines can be set. This tool also gives a quick, one-click way to add or remove space after or before paragraphs.



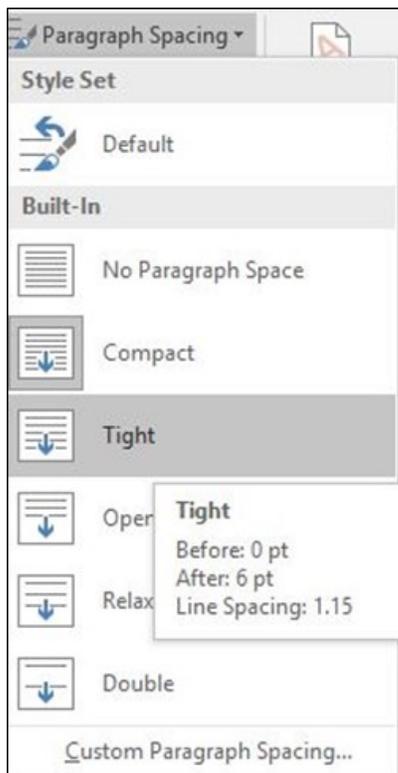
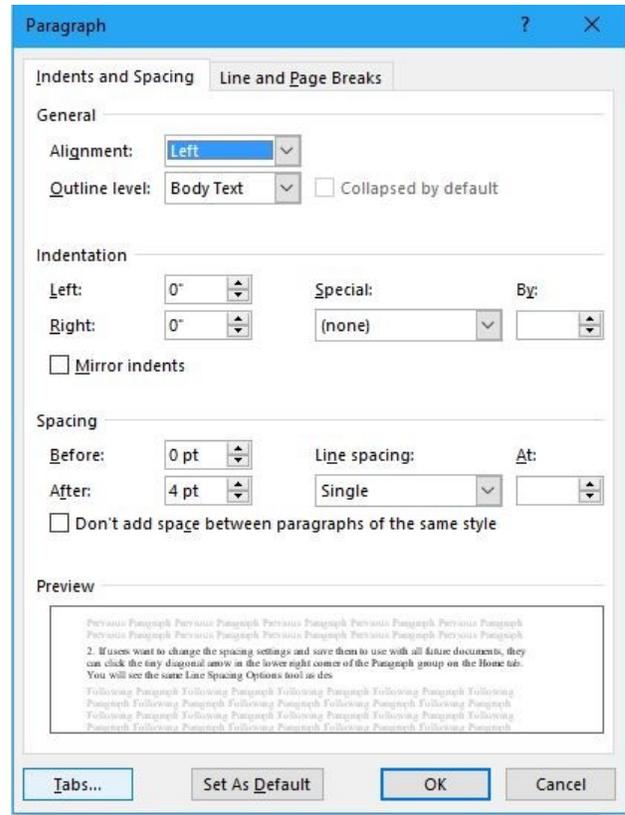
*Line and Paragraph Spacing tool menu*

Continued Page 7

2. If you want to change the spacing settings and save them to use with all future documents, you can click the tiny diagonal arrow in the lower right corner of the Paragraph group on the Home tab to open the Paragraph dialog box.

Choose spacing options using the dropdown menus, then click the “Set as Default” button, and then the button to save these/changes for the current document only or for all future documents.

Then click OK. All new documents will have that spacing pattern until you change it.



3. In this fast-moving age, it isn’t surprising to find new tools which let you create both line and paragraph space settings with a single click.

You will find a tool, called Paragraph Spacing, on the Design tab, which is a new tab in Word 2016.

It offers a few choices, each of which includes a setting for spacing before and after paragraphs and another for space between lines.

Hovering your mouse pointer over one of the options reveals its exact settings, as shown.

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4. The Design tab offers another new feature which lets you choose a Style Set to apply to a whole document. Style Sets contain all the style elements: Fonts and font sizes for titles, headings, and body text, as well as line and paragraph spacing. By opening a document and moving your mouse pointer over the choices, you can preview how they would affect your document. Notice that among the style sets are Office 2003 and 2010.

If you want to make your chosen Style Set your permanent style, click the “Set as Default” arrow in the green circle to the right of the Style Sets.



Figure 1 Document Style Sets on the Design tab (Word 2016)

5. If all you really want to do is to return to the basic, single-spaced Word format, Microsoft recently added a single-spaced template. You will find it in the top row of the first screen you see when you open a new Word 2013 or 2016 document.

The more we eliminate the little annoyances in applications, the smoother our computing will be.



## Special Membership Promotion

Members who bring a “new” member to the organization will receive a 6 month extension of their membership. The new member—an individual who has not been a member in the 36 months prior to the month of the received application. - should list you on the application form.

It is your choice to pay for their membership at a meeting, send a check, or the new member can pay for their membership. Consider that it can be a gift to both you and the new member. It is a very nice gift and a relatively inexpensive way to encourage greater technology awareness. This can give the new member the opportunity to explore a year of PATACS membership and then decide if they choose to continue their membership.

Think birthday, Christmas, and it can be a very thoughtful “Thank You” to someone.

Consider, not just “I will see you at the meeting,” but offer to pick up the new member for their first meeting. :)

**BACK TO BASICS: Taking Photos on your iPad and iPhone**  
 The “Camera” and “Photos” apps By Jim Cerny, Forum Leader, Saratoga Technology User’s Group January 2018 issue, STUGMonitorWww.thestug.org jimcerny123 (at) aol.com



Your iPhone and iPad are just great for taking photos. Both devices come with the camera app already installed and it is very easy to use. Touch the app, point your device, make sure it is on the

regular “photo” (not video or other setting option) and hit the large white circle to take your photo. After you have taken a photo, it can be found on your device by going to the photos app and looking in the “camera roll” album. That is really all there is to it, but there are even more fun options to play with.

Your device really has TWO cameras, one on each side (front and back) of the device. There is one facing away from you and one facing towards you (to take “selfies”). When using the camera app, touch on the gray circle that has a camera image on it with two circular arrows. This will change the camera to front or back view. Before you take your photo, look for a yellow rectangle which will show you what part of the view is the target of the focus. You can zoom in by touching the screen with two fingers and moving them together. Zooming out (once you have zoomed in) is done by spreading the fingers apart. Wait a moment for the camera to focus before taking your photo.

There are several options for taking photos and new releases of iOS will bring more! Your camera app can also take time-lapse, slo-mo, videos, “square” shaped photos, and pano (panorama) photos. The flash option (a circle with a lightning bolt) can be selected for “on”, “off”, or “auto”. The “HDR” button will take several photos with one click and make one higher quality photo. The HDR option uses more memory per photo. Learn more about this option before you use it.

The “live photo” option (the round button that looks like a target with concentric circles) will take about a 3-second mini-video (with sound) with one touch of the photo button. Your mini-

video will consist of several frames from which you can pick one for the best photo. Or, you can just keep the “live photo” as well. Live photos take up more memory on your device. There are several options to play with your live photos too, look for them on Google or YouTube. This is another option that will be well worth your time to learn more about.

In the PHOTOS app you should always review your camera roll album on your device and delete photos you do not want. I think it is best to delete them before you put or “tag” them into an “album”. Albums in the photos app help you organize your photos on your device. You could think of an album as a “folder” (a Windows term) but all your photos on your device will always be in the camera roll album. When you put a photo into an album, you are just “tagging” that photo with that album name. Thus, you could have the same photo in multiple albums, but the photo is only in one place in memory – on the camera roll. If you delete a photo from your camera roll, it can be deleted from ALL albums. But if you delete a photo from an album you will be given a choice to delete the photo OR to simply remove it from the album.

Also, the photos app that comes with your iPhone or iPad comes with a really great selection of options you can play with to have fun with photos. Try changing the color, cropping, contrast, and many more. In addition to all these options (provided free in the “camera” and “photos” app on all iPads and iPhones) you can download any of hundreds of other apps that work with photos.

As with all these fun photo options I recommend that you “Ask Google” or YouTube to learn more about them. If you like to keep things simple, just use the normal “photo” option and keep the HDR and “live photo” options off. But these options can provide you with much photo fun and effects. Why not learn about them? Now give me a nice smile, I want to take your picture.



## Power Strip Versus Surge Protector— Which Do You Need?

By Tim Elder, Treasurer, Canton Alliance  
Massillon User Group, OH

February 2018 issue, The Memory Map-  
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These two devices are quite similar in appearance, but they are definitely not the same. If what you need is an extension cord with multiple outlets, a power strip will work fine because it acts as an extension of the wall outlet but does not add any protection capabilities. It will have multiple outlets, probably an on-off switch, which can disconnect all outlets at once, and maybe a circuit breaker or fuse. But if you are connecting to a computer, TV, home theater, or other electronics, a power strip will NOT be fine, because it cannot protect your expensive electronics from power line surges; for this you need a surge protector, sometimes called a surge suppressor or surge diverter.

An electrical surge is an intense very short duration voltage spike.



A surge protector does its “magic” by means of built-in electronic components which quickly cut the power when an electrical surge comes through the mains (this is a British term which works well for the electrical distribution grid—the system bringing electrical power into the building) or from electric motors within the house which can reflect surges back through the wiring. In order to work properly, a surge protector must be connected to a grounded outlet. A surge protector will cost more than a similar-appearing power strip.

## READ PACKAGE LABEL VERY CAREFULLY

The difference in capabilities of the two devices will be found on the packaging, and on the back of the device if the packaging has already been removed. Power strips and surge protectors will often be placed near each other on the store shelves; so, make sure you read the readin’ to make sure you get what you need. A surge protector is generally, clearly labeled as such, but its capabilities can vary considerably.

Surge protectors are rated by the amount of electrical energy they can absorb, either all at once or bit-by-bit; this will certainly be advertised on the packaging. Suggested specifications to look for, which can be misleading if you are not paying attention, include: 2000 joules where more is better; and, sometimes listed, response time which is usually in nano-seconds, shorter is better.

## EXPIRATION DATE

How do you know how much of this protection is left? The number of joules is like a reservoir, but you can’t tell how much has been used already. Thus, a surge protector should be replaced, say, after 5 years; after this it can serve as a power strip. Since our memories are fickle, put a self-adhesive note on it saying when it was installed.



A surge protector will likely have a pilot light to tell you when the connected items are protected from line surges. If this light goes out or changes color, the surge protector has given its life to protect whatever was connected. It will have to be replaced. But this pilot light is not foolproof, meaning that it can give false assurance.

Continued Page 11

## BUY EXTRA OUTLETS

When purchasing a surge protector, be sure to get more outlets than you think you need and remember that transformer plugs can block adjacent outlets. Also remember that a surge can come in over phone or cable wires; look for connections for these if your setup uses them.

## CONNECTORS FOR PHONE AND CABLE WIRES

Many surge protectors also have USB charging ports. Labeling should also include a United Laboratories seal. When I was checking the stores, the price varied from \$10 to \$60 depending on the number of outlets, the number of USB charging ports, and the joule capacity which ranged from 500 to 4350. The selection at Staples was much better than at Walmart.

## USB CHARGING PORTS

As with the protection pilot light, a surge protector is not foolproof, and you probably do not want to gamble with Mother Nature. If an electrical storm is approaching, you should shut down the computer, then turn off the surge protector switch or unplug it. Anytime the power goes off suddenly for any reason, your first move should be to turn off the surge protector switch to stop the risk of a surge when the power comes back on.

## UPS (UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY)

If you want even more protection than a surge protector offers, consider a UPS.

(Uninterruptible Power Supply.) These offer a battery backup which provides a few minutes to properly save files and shut down the computer. They can also smooth any bumps in the incoming electrical supply; this capability is called AVR, Automatic Voltage Regulation. A surge protector can be purchased to protect the whole house from external surges, but these must be installed at the service entrance with the supply disconnected. An electrician is recommended.

## Securing Android

By Dick Maybach, Member, Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ  
January 2018 issue, BUG Bytes  
www.bcug.com n2nd (at) att.net

Your PC remains at home behind locked doors, accesses the Internet through a firewall, and has its software updated regularly, but none of this is true of your Android device. If you haven't thought about its security, you are overdue to begin. We obtain PC software updates directly from the software vendors, e.g. Microsoft issues these for Windows. Google releases monthly security updates for Android, but the only end users that get them are owners of Google Nexus and Pixel devices. All others receive them through their device vendors and usually get them much later, if at all. To see the date of your last security update, go to Settings, then About phone (probably the last item). Figure 1 shows the lower part of the resulting screen. (This is for a Motorola G<sup>4</sup> using Android 7; screens on other configurations may differ.)

This shot was taken in November and shows that the latest security update had been made in June, which was not reassuring (although I did receive the September update later in November). Many security professionals believe that keeping software up to date is the most important security measure, more so than using anti-virus software.

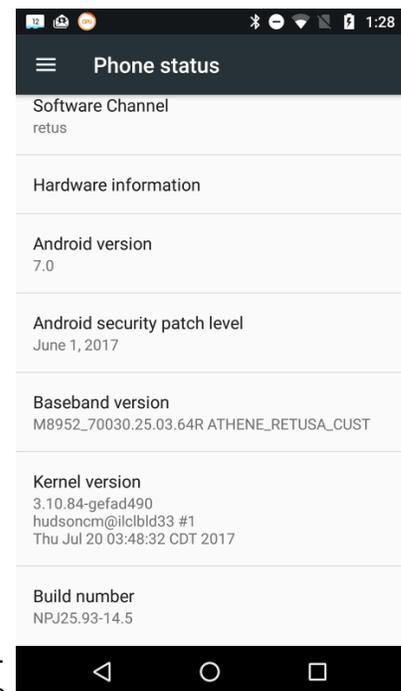


Figure 1. About Phone Screen

Continued Page 12

That your Android phone is subject to damage and loss, probably runs on software with known vulnerabilities, and lacks protection from Internet aggressors are beyond your control, but there are things you can do to reduce your risk.

Be sure your phone is protected by going to Settings passhen Security and enabling screen lock; a password here is more secure but less convenient than a PIN. Don't use None or Swipe, as these make your device fully accessible to anyone who picks it up. I don't care for the Smart Lock features as they unlock your phone for extended periods. Making passwords visible isn't as dangerous as it sounds, as it displays the only last character you enter and only for only a short time. I find it greatly reduces errors when entering passwords. I haven't encrypted my entire device because all my sensitive data is encrypted separately. Figure 2 shows

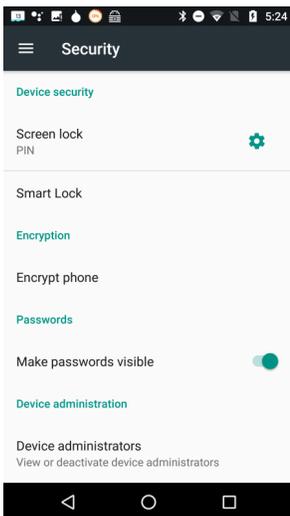


Figure 2 shows the upper portion of the security screen.

Sanitize your browser favorites, especially if you sync them with your PC over the Internet. Review all your favorites. (With Firefox, open the menu, select Preferences, then Security, and finally Saved Logins...; for other browsers check the Internet.) Delete any, such as banks, that are sensitive, and the next time you log into one with a password, your browser will offer to save it. Select "Never for this site," or the equivalent.

Use a password manager that stores its data in an encrypted database and use a non-trivial password for it. I like KeePass2Android Password Safe by Croco Apps, as it uses the same database as KeePass, KeePassX, and KeePassXC, which are available for Linux, OS X, and Windows.

You can transfer the database file among all your devices. Because it's encrypted, you could sync it using a cloud service, but I prefer not to so expose it. Keep all your sensitive information here, passwords, PINs, account numbers, passport numbers, etc.

To get to Figure 3, I opened KeePass2 and selected the Adafruit entry. Then when I launched Firefox and opened the Adafruit location, it displayed a keyboard icon in the bottom menu bar. I selected this and then selected the KeePass keyboard, which added a second lower-menu bar. Now placing the cursor in the Username box and tapping the User button (in the second lower-menu bar) causes KeePass to enter the

Figure 3 shows Firefox on a site's login page with KeePass2Android active.

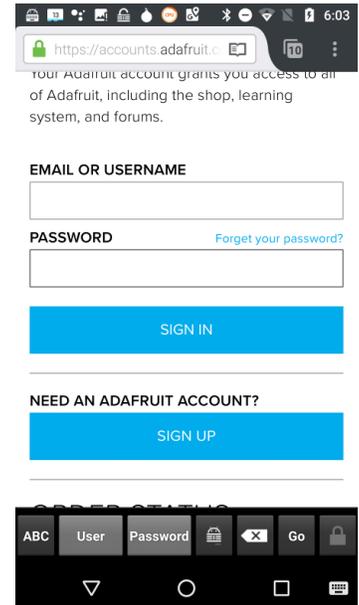


Figure 3 shows Firefox on a site's login page with KeePass2Android active.

name in that box. Then placing the cursor in the password box and tapping the Password button does the same for the password. (Of course, I had previously entered the Adafruit information, its URL, my username, and my password, in KeePass.) All this takes longer to describe than to do.

Be careful when using public wi-fi, as with readily-available software anyone on the same network can view every packet you send and receive.

Fortunately, Tor is available for Android, and you should use it whenever you access the Internet using a public wi-fi hot spot. Install the app "Orbot: Proxy with Tor" from Everyone, which will ask that you install "Orfox; Tor Browser for Android, "also from Everyone.

Orbot is a proxy that enables access to the Tor network, and Orfox a secure browser that uses Tor.

When you use these, a wi-fi snoop will see only encrypted packets and won't know where they are going or from where they are coming.

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Figure 4 shows the opening Orbot screen. (While we're considering networks, don't ever set your device up as a portable hotspot, which makes it a server.)

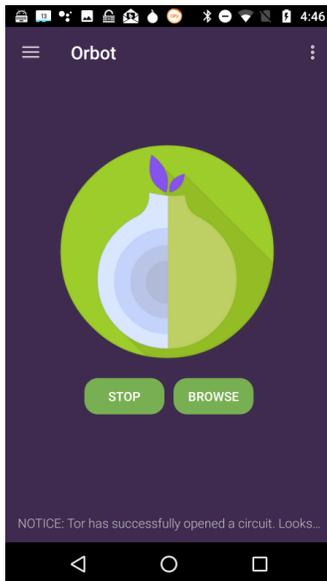


Figure 4. Orbot Opening Screen.

Because of its vulnerability, an Android device is not a safe place to store data. Don't keep anything in it, unless its encrypted, that you wouldn't write on a post-it stuck to the roof of your car. Encrypt anything sensitive, such as passwords and banking information, and as soon as it's convenient, copy your new data to a PC. Although it's not a security issue, be cautious about purchasing copyrighted items encumbered with Digital Rights Management (DRM) features. Some can be used only on a single device, which means if your phone is lost or damaged, you also lose these. See my December 2017 article (available at <http://www.bcug.com>) for sharing data among Android devices and computers.

Every app you install adds potential security vulnerabilities, and many consume resources even when they appear not to be running. Their icons clutter your screen, making it difficult to find other apps, and their files fill your storage space. Your device can become less usable with each visit to the Play Store. Google is a large, technically competent organization, with procedures that ensure that Android is a high-quality, secure product. However, this isn't necessarily true of app developers, whose competence is unknown. Google performs security audits on all Playstore apps, and your risk of installing malware is just 0.05 per cent if download apps from only there, compared to an overall infection rate of 0.71 per

cent. That an app is popular doesn't mean it's well-designed or safe. Take a disciplined look at your app collection and remove all you don't use regularly. This is one of the most important security measures you can take.

Some apps add considerable risk. For example, some checkbook programs require linking to a bank account, and anyone now accessing your phone could potentially also access your bank account. If you really need this feature, you must secure your phone with a secure password, e.g. one that is long and difficult to guess, which of course will make using the device less convenient.

If you keep your Android data synced with your home computer, you can be casual about backing it up. Nevertheless, backing up may be good insurance if it also backs up your installed apps, since if you lose your phone, you could reinstall them on a new one.

Be sure Google Play Protect is operating by going to the Google Play Store app, selecting the menu (the icon at the left of the menu bar), and then Play Protect; the Scan device for security threats item should be turned on. See Figure 5.

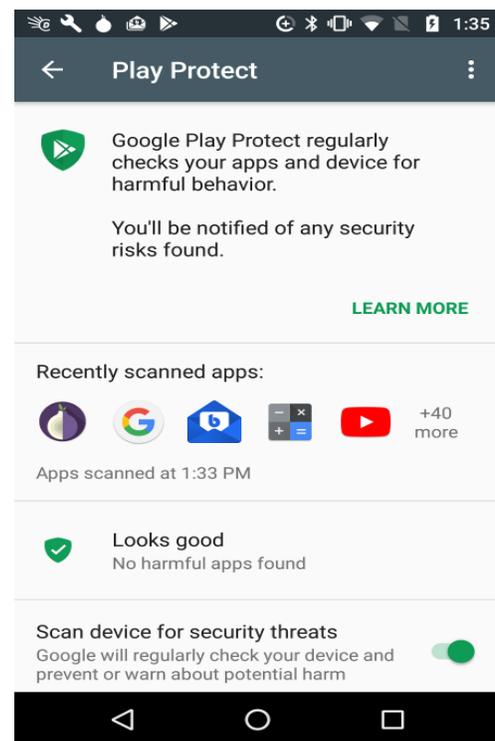


Figure 5. Google Play Protect Screen

Continued Page 14

This checks apps as you download them and periodically scans your device for threats. I don't think other anti-virus programs are needed. Android is less vulnerable than Windows, although "less vulnerable" is not the same as "invulnerable." If you keep your device synced with your home PC, and protect any sensitive data with encryption, you haven't much at risk. That

an anti-virus vendor would like to sell you an app doesn't mean you need one. If your device is lost, you can use Google's Android Device Manager service to help you find it and to safeguard its data. Go to <http://www.google.com/android/devicemanager> and log in with your Google password. The eventual result will be the screen in Figure 6.

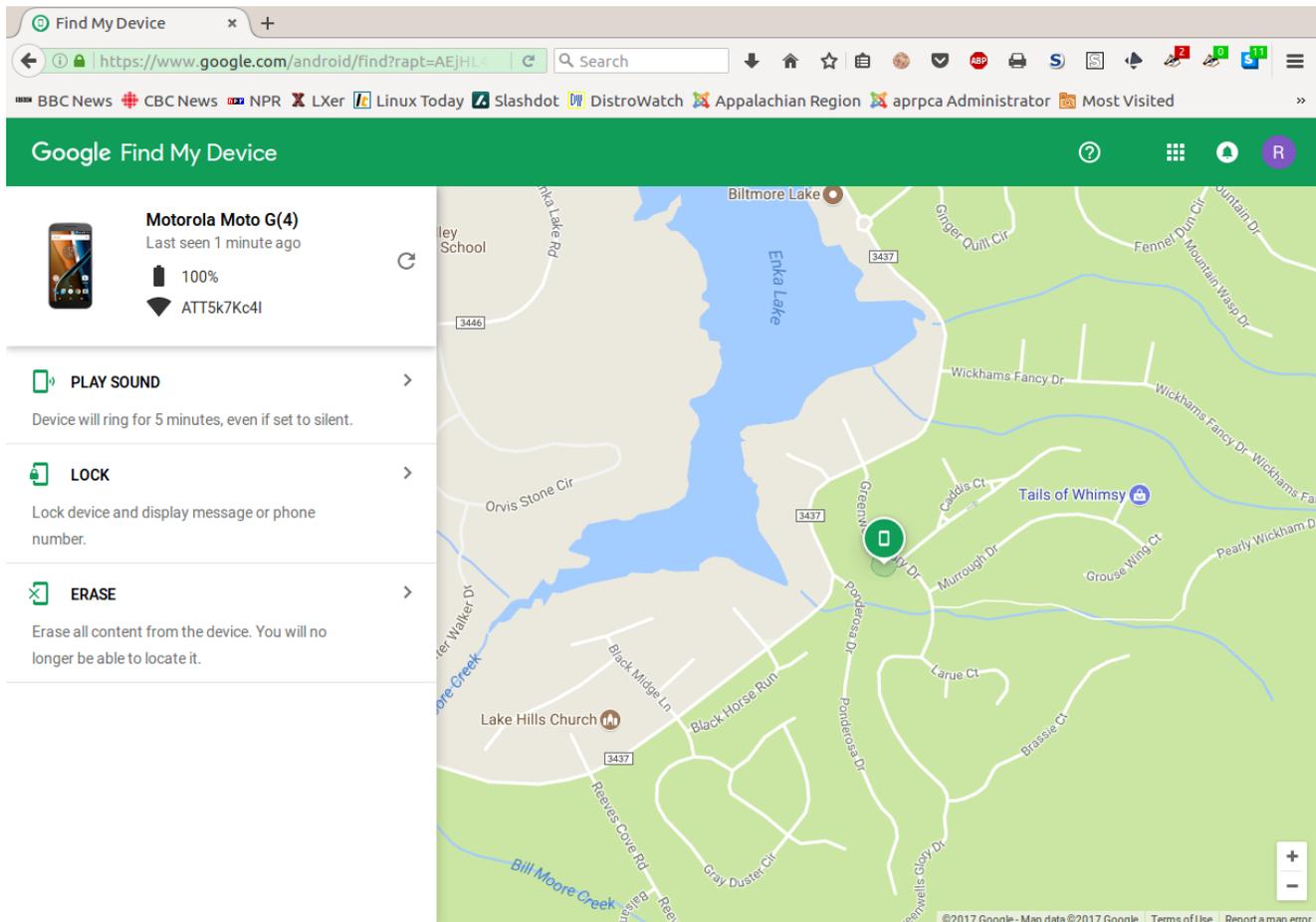


Figure 6. Google Android Device Manager.

This shows you the location of your lost device and gives you the options to have it make some noise (in case its misplaced), lock itself (if you expect to get it back), or wipe its memory (if you think it's gone forever).

The last two won't get your phone back, but they will prevent whoever has it from using it or accessing your data. Note however, there is no way to undue the last.

With these few simple precautions you can significantly reduce the risks of losing your Android device. For more information on Android security see <http://source.android.com/security/>



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					1`	2
3	4	5	6 7-9 pm Arlington Technology and	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 7-9pm Online Zoom Meeting	14	15	16 12:30-3:30pm Fairfax General Meeting
17	18 7pm Arlington Board Meeting	19	20	21	22	23 August Newsletter Articles Due
24	25	26	27 7-9 pm Arlington Tech nology and PC Help Desk	28	29	30