

PATACS/OPCUG

3rd Saturday, August 18

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

Meeting 1:30 PM



**What's a Router and Why
 Do I Want One?**

Presented by Gabe Goldberg

The electronic box connected between your ISP's wall connection and your home network is almost certainly a router (providing Ethernet ports and WiFi access), or perhaps it's a router with added capabilities (e.g., modem converting ISP connectivity to Ethernet). You're hardly alone if you haven't given it much thought, since it likely "just works", year after year. But routers are complex devices: in fact, they're computers running operating systems and applications! They're therefore worth informed decisions about selection and configuration, and need occasional software updating or replacement to fix problems, improve performance, and (especially) close security exposures. This presentation will answer the question posed above and help understand and exploit router features.

Bio: Gabe's enjoyed serving as APCUG Region 2 Advisor for longer than he can remember. In that role, he's liaison for APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups) to groups in NJ/DE/MD/DC/VA/NC/WV/PA. He evangelizes for user groups, believing that user groups are an antidote to feeling alone with technical activities, challenges, problems, and triumphs.

He supports many national and local user groups. He served as Director of (Meeting) Programs for Washington, DC-area CPCUG, when it was one of the oldest and largest United States PC user groups, where he organized and chaired the Internet SIG. In addition, he served on User Support Team for CPCUG's domain and on CPCUG's Board Of Directors. He was founding member and director of several local user groups, and held volunteer management jobs in an international IBM user group. He's given hundreds of presentations to these and other groups and conferences. He facilitated and helped exploit donations of commercial hardware and software to user groups. He's presently Director and APCUG Representative for PATACS, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society <<http://patacs.org/>>.

As a technology writer, editor, and consultant, he's written for many consumer and industry publication and audiences from consumers to computer professionals. He worked for a small software company as VP of Technology and Business Development, responsible for product planning, evolution, and development, along with documentation and customer support.

He also worked in the leading-edge data center of a federally chartered not-for-profit consulting organization where he developed widely used software tools aiding other installations' mainframe use; before that he designed and developed operating systems at IBM.

Gabe shared responsibility for AARP's online Computers and Technology Web site and forums; before that, he co-hosted America Online's advanced Internet forum. He volunteers with his county's law enforcement and for other community organizations.

Meetings	page 1	Location—Where Are You?.....	page 8
Freshly Squeezed Reviews	page 2	APCUG Virtual Conference.....	page 10
Browsing Incognito.....	page 4	Making Room on a Full Hard Drive	page 13
Saying Goodbye to Cable	page 7	Be Prepared.....	Page 14

Freshly Squeezed Reviews Thumbs Up, Downie

By Frank Petrie

TMC-NLC (at) yahoo.com



If you love collecting video or audio media from the internet for your personal use, this is the app of your dreams.

When on the internet, we barely scratch the surface of all the media that is out there to feast on. Personally, I have become addicted to rare sound clips, bootleg sound clips, and occasionally I find obscure movies or television programs.

In the last year, I have come across a wealth of material on YouTube. From rare songs that were on indie label albums that I lost long ago, isolated tracks from Queens' vocals, Jimmy Page lead riffs to the full version of the theme from The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson.

To capture these gems, it used to take a plethora of steps involving several pieces of software and you had to think through everything thoroughly to achieve results that were very good. Fortunately, some developer felt my pain.

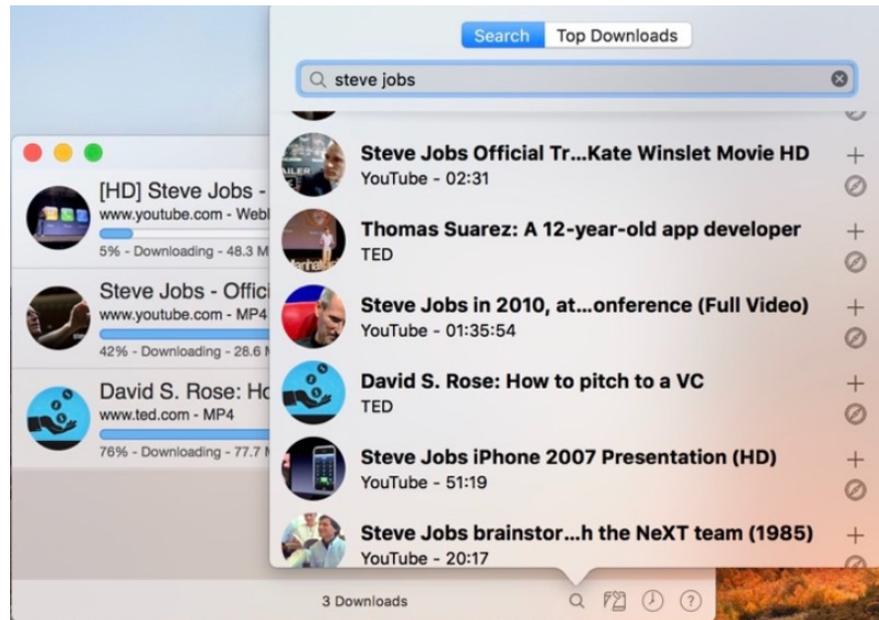
Downie lets you download from YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, Instagram, and over 1,200 other websites. If there's video content on a web page, you can trust Downie to save it onto your Mac.

If you don't need the entire video file, Downie can save only the audio track from that file. Or, if you want all your videos in the MP4 format, you can set Downie to convert them automatically.

Using [Downie] (<https://software.charliemonroe.net/downie.php>) is a breeze. Select a video to download. There are then several ways to proceed; you can drag and drop the link into the app, install the Downie

icon in your dock, or use File\>Open URLs ... from the Menu Bar.

If you'd rather, you can type your search query into the app's search field and it will promptly locate the video for you. Even if there's text or other content on the page, Downie will detect the video and save it for you.



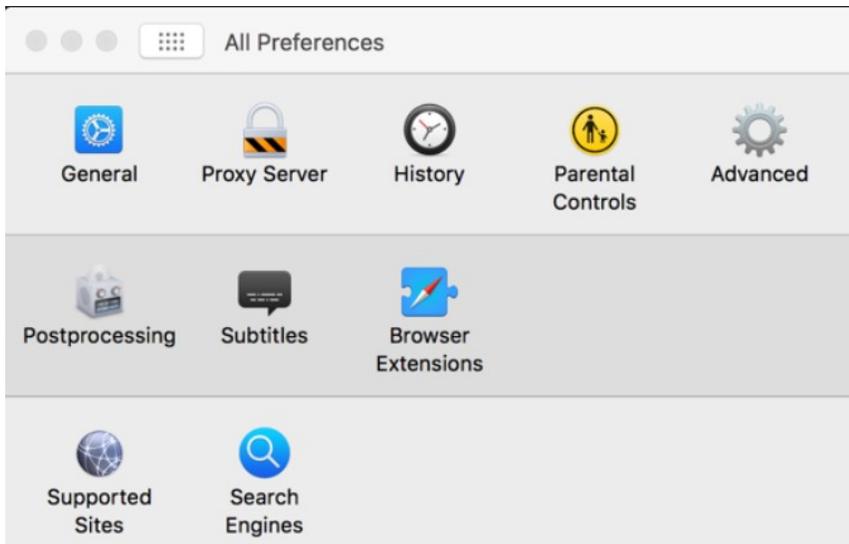
You can download high-quality, high-definition videos from across the web. Downie can even handle 4K resolution YouTube videos! And for those requiring Accessibility, it also downloads Closed Captioning.

But suppose, as in my case, you don't want the entire video but merely the audio? Downie can save only the audio track from the selected file. If you'd prefer all your videos in the MP4 format, you can set Downie to convert them automatically by going to Settings in the Menu Bar. There you can quickly choose None, Convert to MP4, Extract Audio Only, or Send to Permute for post-processing (more on that later).

Downie is extensively customizable. Go to Preferences and the panel has anything that you would want to access. You can go through the usual General settings, but you can choose your browser's extension, set Parental Controls, and skim the multitude of websites that Downie works with.

The most fascinating feature that I found was one of the small icons located in the

Continued Page 3



lower right corner of the main window. It's labeled Search and Top Downloads. Search is self-explanatory.

But Top Downloads is the equivalent of what's trending on apps like Twitter. An amazing number of downloads to choose from! (NOTE: This is where Parental Controls will come in very handy. Particularly Tumblr videos ...)

I've been using Downie for a couple of weeks now and with every use I find another valuable feature. And it's usually an indispensable feature, it inevitably led to another one. It feels like I'll be learning new features for months on end. But I love it! You can even set Downie to perform downloads while you sleep so you don't clog up your bandwidth while working on other projects during the day.

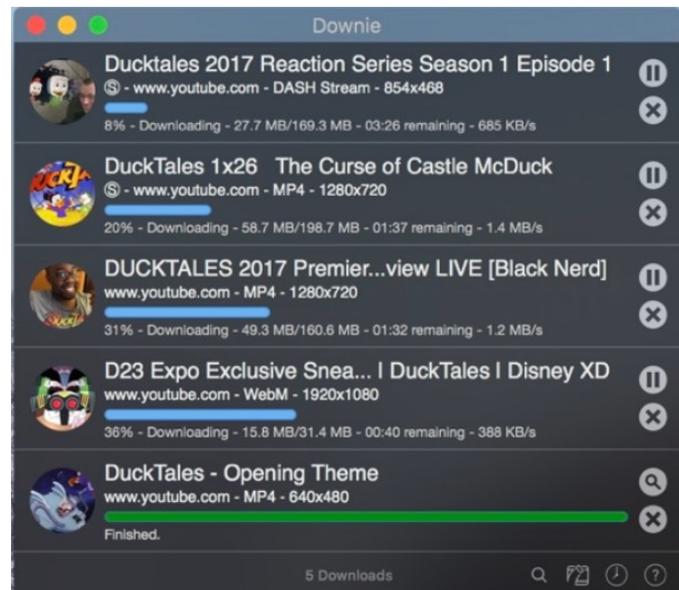
Files are downloaded in their own pane. When finished downloading, they were sent, at least in my case, to my Downloads folder. In fact, you can have the app send your downloads directly into your iTunes library. And as I said earlier, I'm sure I'll stumble upon another feature that lets me customize that.

Apparently, Charlie Monroe isn't sleeping nights

Downie is updated about once a week with new features, sites supported, etc. Extensive support on their website and through their Menu Bar. Post-processing is achieved with [Permute] (<https://software.charliemonroe.net/permute.php>), another of Charlie Monroe's creations.

Downie seamlessly integrates with Permute, a powerful media converter. To convert the video, you've just downloaded to a different format or stitch parts of it into one file just send it to Permute and pick it up in that app.

So, as an example, you can convert formats to enable you to achieve the ideal file size to fit as many video and audio downloads onto your iPad or iPhone as is possible.

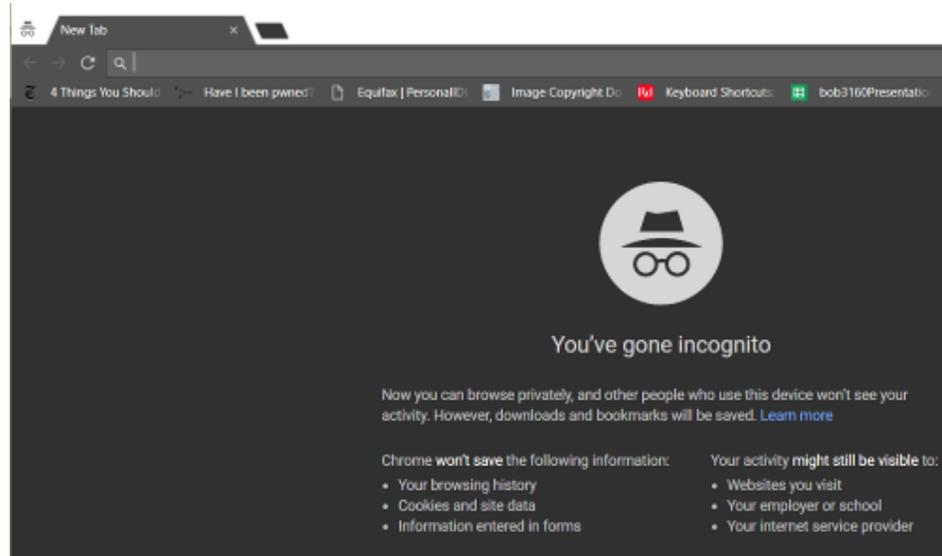


As addictive as this will become, remember one caveat. If not for your personal use, make sure that you have consent from the copyright holder before downloading copyrighted content.

Downie can be found in your [Setapp] (<https://setapp.com>) folder or purchased for USD \$19.99 on [Charlie Monroe Software's website] (<https://software.charliemonroe.net/index.php>). And you can bundle Downie and Permute for USD \$24.99 and save USD \$5.00.

Of course, there is a [free trial] (<https://software.charliemonroe.net/downie.php>), as well. So, give it a bash.

©2018 Frank Petric



Browsing Incognito

By Mary Phillips, Secretary, ICON, MO

April 2018 issue, THE ICON-Newsletter www.iconusersgroup.org

Mary(at)iconusersgroup.org

Are you tired of your browser keeping track of the sites you visit on the Internet, so it can send you ads in which it thinks you're interested? Every browser I know of has an option for "In Private" browsing. Private browsing ensures that your internet history and activity are removed as soon as you close all private windows. This includes browsing history, Items in cache, items in cache, and cookies.

After being closed, a private tab or window cannot be recovered from the recently closed list in the tab menu.

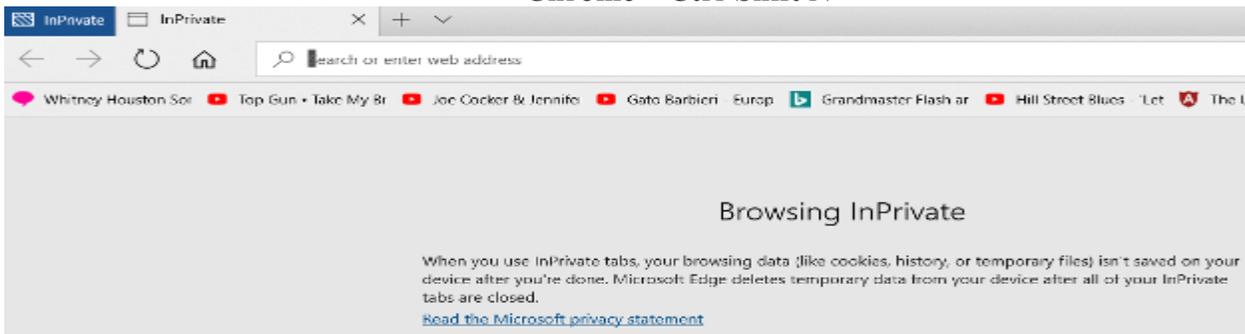
While private windows do not leave any record of the websites you visit, if you deliberately save data, for example if you save an item to your Speed Dial, save a password or download a file, it will still be visible after the window is closed.

Shortcuts

- Google Chrome - Ctrl-Shift N
- Mozilla Firefox - Ctrl-Shift-P
- Avast Secure Browser – Ctrl-Shift-N

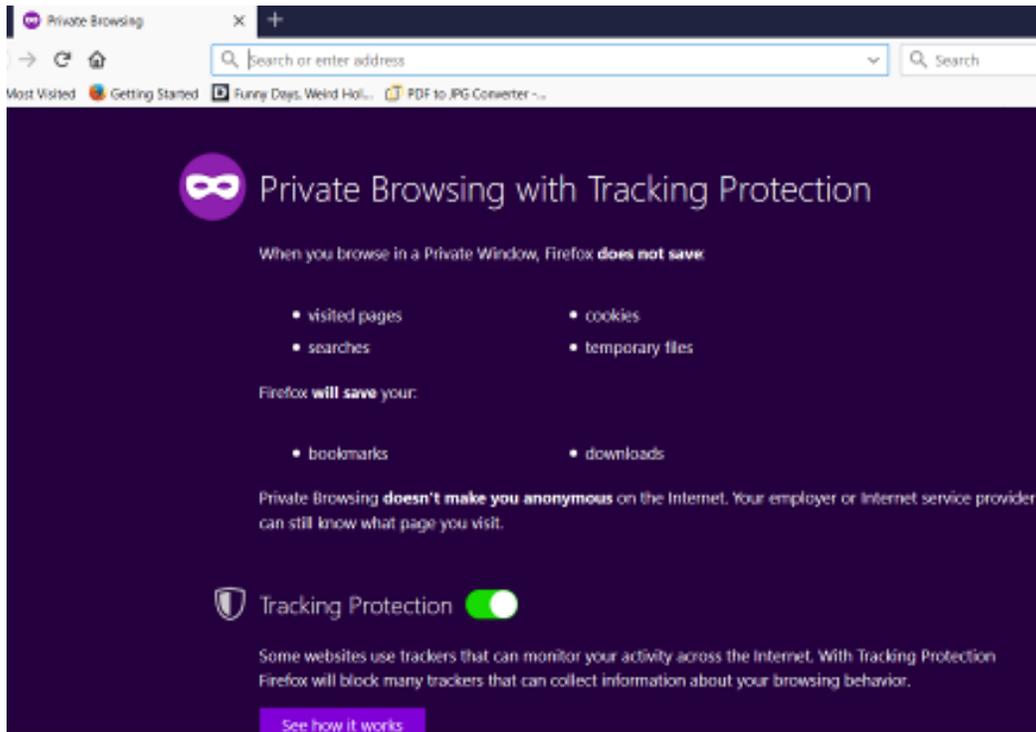
- MS Edge - Ctrl-Shift-P
- Opera - Ctrl-Shift-N
- Internet Explorer - Ctrl-Shift-P

Chrome – Ctrl-Shift N

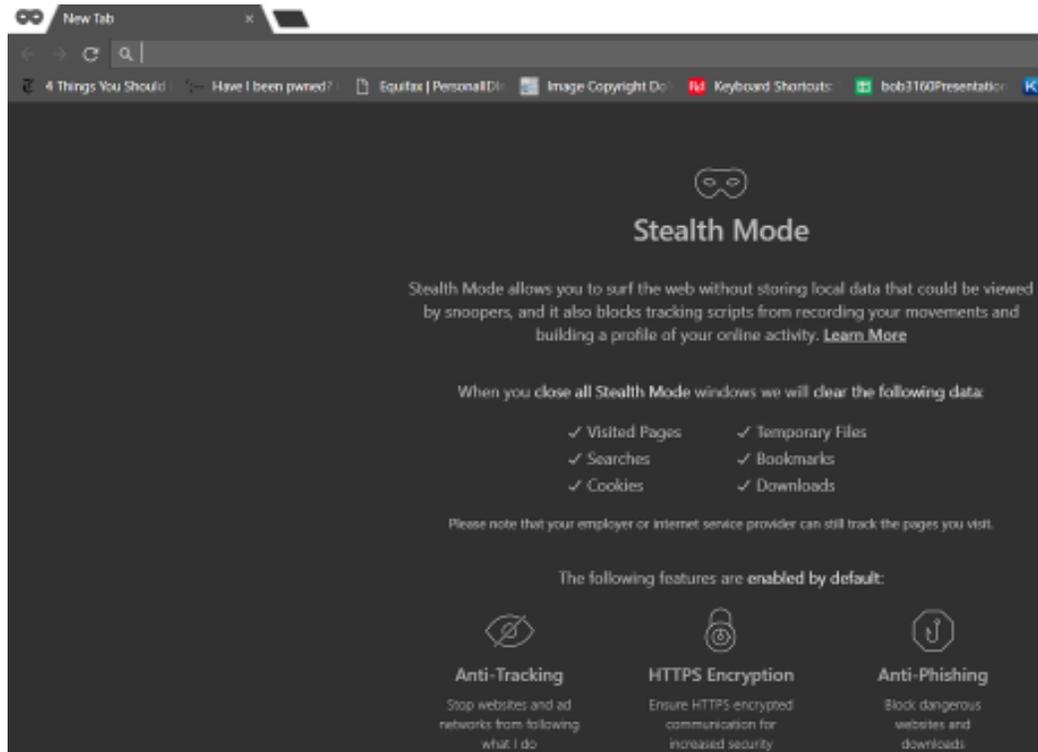


Continued Page 5

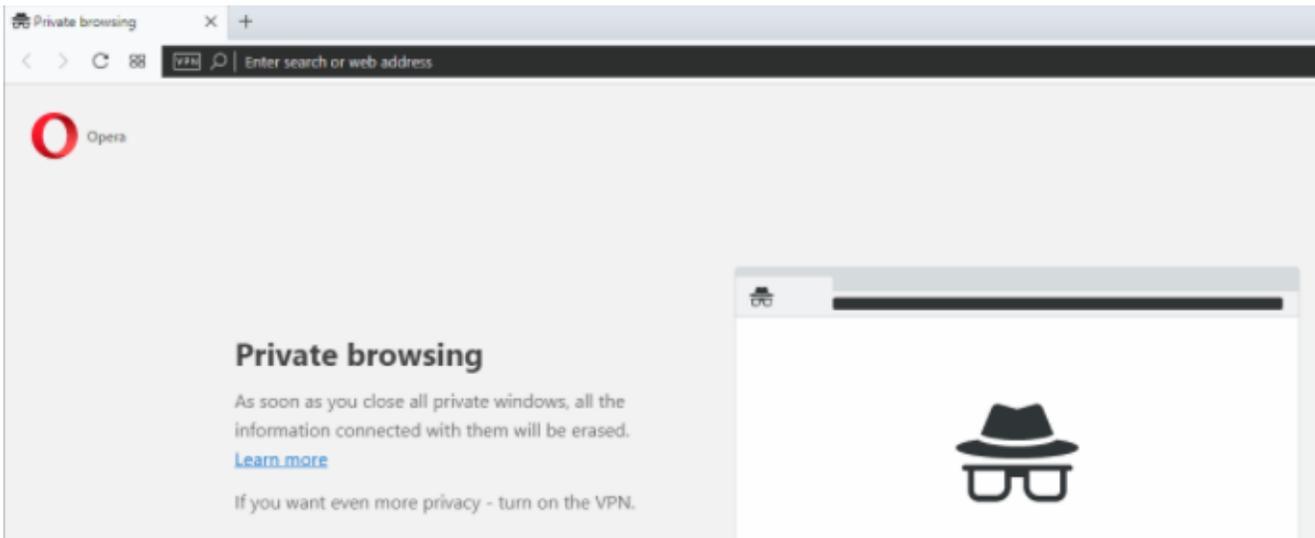
Firefox - Ctrl-Shift-P



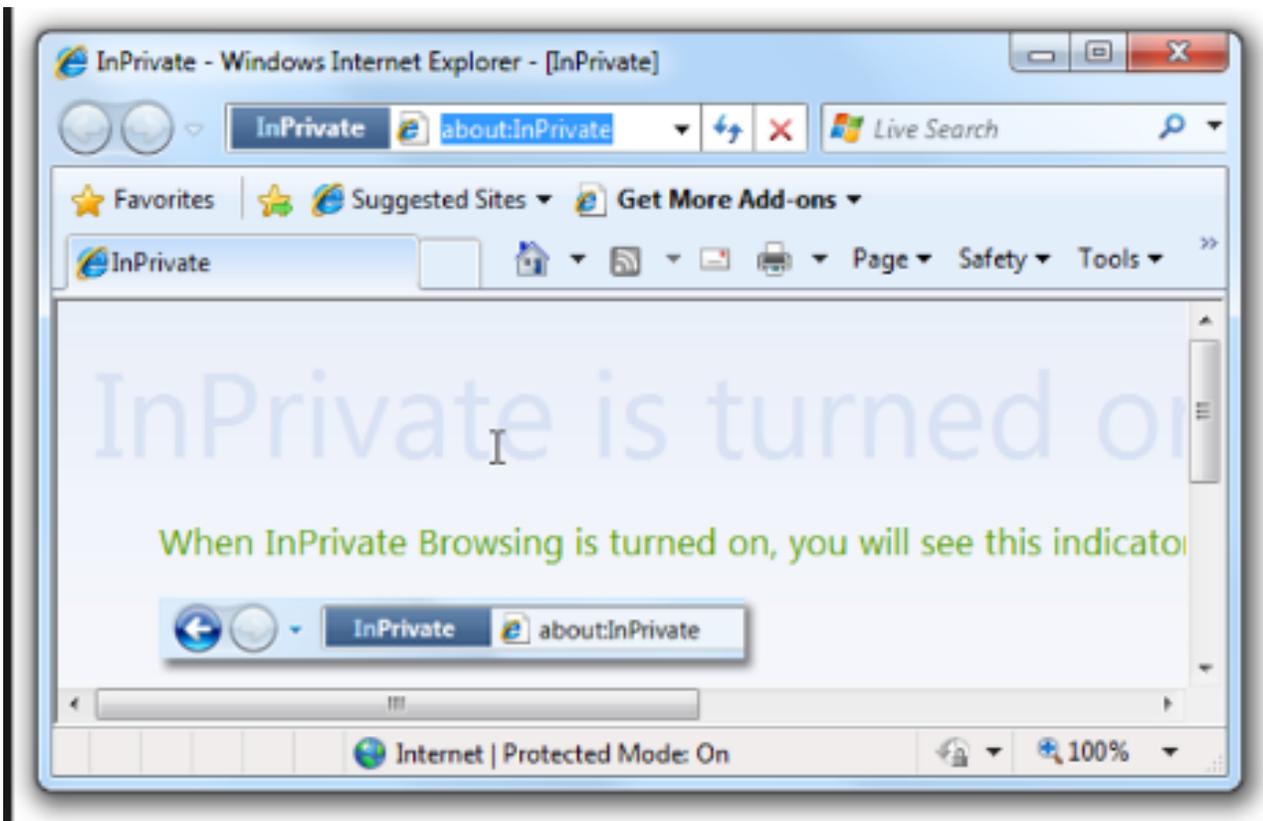
Avast Secure Browser – Ctrl-Shift-N

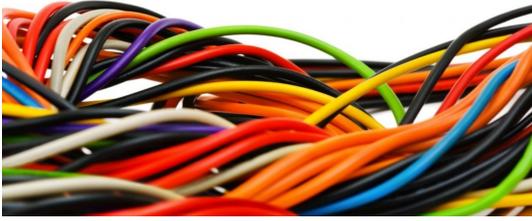


Opera - Ctrl-Shift-N



Internet Explorer - Ctrl-Shift-P





**Review: Tech Night, March 2018
Saying Goodbye to Cable**
By Paul Stackhouse, Member,
Central Kentucky Computer Society
April 2018 issue, CKCS newsletter-
www.ckcs.org
newsletter (at) ckcs.org

On the subject of “cutting loose of cable TV, CKCS long-time member Paul Stackhouse found there was a full house of members and guests interested in the subject.

It is clear that the climbing cost of cable service has caused hundreds, or maybe thousands of Lexingtonians to look for lower cost options.

Paul offered four questions one should answer to decide if leaving cable TV is for you.

1. DO YOU WATCH NON-BROADCAST CHANNELS?
2. WHAT CHANNELS DO YOU WANT TO KEEP/LOSE?
3. WHAT STREAMING SERVICE SHOULD I CHOOSE?
4. DO YOU (ALREADY) HAVE A STREAMING DEVICE?

To cut costs, Paul primarily suggested two options to consider.

- (1) Getting an antenna and watching TV over the air or
- (2) Paying for a monthly streaming service using internet from your internet service provider, delivered through your smart TV or another device.

In answering question 2, if you generally watch just local TV channels for news, local sports, and network programs they offer, and you are not into national sports or specialty channels, then watching ‘over the air’ is for you. Best, it is the least expensive.

Remember the days of rabbit ears to receive TV signals? Newer and better antennas that you can hang almost anywhere can easily access 25 plus local channels in the Lexington area (more or less depending on your location) will provide you high definition signal on modern TVs. It involves a one-time cost about \$30 for the antenna, and no monthly bills.

If, however, you watch lots of sports, cooking and home improvement shows, cable news, movies, or other cable-only networks you can still save money by getting your TV over the internet. There are three things you need.

- (1) You still must purchase your internet connection from a local provider such as Spectrum, Windstream, etc. Super high-speed internet is not necessary, in most cases 15 Mbps (megabytes per second) or higher is sufficient.
- (2) You need to subscribe to a streaming service like Hulu, YouTube TV, SlingTV or others to provide you the channel package that includes the channels you commonly watch. There are about a dozen of these, so some homework will be required.
- (3) If you don’t already have a smart TV, or network connectable Blu-ray player, you’ll need to purchase a device to convert the internet (network) signal back into a TV (HDMI) signal. This selection requires some shopping to get the unit you like to match the streaming service that carries the channels you want. Like offering from Apple (AppleTV), Amazon (FireStick TV), Google (Chromecast), or the platform agnostic Roku just to name a few of a dozen or more out there to consider.

All of the devices are just a one-time purchase; any ongoing costs are for the streaming service to which you subscribe to watch TV through the device..

Continued Page 8

If you wish to record shows to watch later, many services offer the ability to record your programs ‘in their cloud’ which you can pick a time to watch. It’s like having a cable box DVR, but they have the box, not you.

Do the research: Choose the channels you want to watch, choose the streaming service that offers those channels, and choose a device that allows you to run that streaming service.

Note: Firestick (an Amazon device) won’t play YouTube TV (a Google brand) and Chromecast (a Google device) won’t play Amazon Prime video; while Apple or Roku will play either. When you cut the cable, you should find it simpler and less expensive than you might think.



Reference documents:

Choosing a service that carries the channels you want:

<https://www.techhive.com/article/3211536/streaming-services/best-tv-streaming-services.html>

Deciding among various streaming devices

<https://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-streaming-players,review-2140.html>



WHERE ARE YOU???

WHERE ARE YOU???

WHERE AM I???

Location – Where are you now?
 By Phil Sorrentino, Technical Thoughts,
 Sarasota Technology Users Group
 May 2018 issue, STUMonitor
www.thestug.org [philsorr\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:philsorr(at)yahoo.com)

Location, Location, Location has been the real estate mantra for a very long time, indicating how important location is to the value of a property. This reference to location is to a fixed location. The location in question here is that of a mobile communicating device, such as your smartphone, the location of which may be constantly changing, as it would be if you are driving down a major interstate like I-75. Even if you are not flying down an interstate, your location can still be changing as you walk down the street to visit a neighbor. So, with your location possibly changing, how does your smartphone know where you are? And for that matter, how do the Apps on your phone know where you are at any given time?

First, why is your location important, anyway? One reason may be that you are using an App on your smartphone to find the location of the nearest restaurant. The App you are using to locate these restaurants needs to know where you are, so it can calculate the distance from you to the restaurants in its database and give you a list of nearby restaurants, usually ordered by increasing distance away from you. Or, you may want to navigate from one place to another, using directions from a mapping App on your phone (which is similar to how a dedicated GPS device in your car operates). For this kind of navigation, you need a precise location so the App can determine where you are on the map and give you directions to get you to your destination. (Or it may have to give you corrections; you may have heard “recalculating!” if you were using an older GPS device.) The precision is necessary to make sure you are in the right place for upcoming turns or lane changes. As you

Continued Page 9

GPS probably know, the Global Positioning System (GPS) is the only way you can get this kind of precise location. GPS is a space-based radio navigation system owned by the United States government and operated by the United States Air Force. It provides geolocation (geographic coordinates) and time information to a GPS receiver anywhere on the Earth where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. There are 24 satellites in the GPS constellation. GPS, as a government project, was started way back in 1973, and became fully operational in 1995. The US government currently claims 4-meter (approximately 13 feet) accuracy for civilian GPS (but there are many variables involved that might affect this estimate).

Your location, or more precisely, the location of your smartphone, can be determined by one of three ways. GPS, as described above, is the first and the most precise method. It is the only way to determine location if you intend to navigate using a mapping/navigation App. The second way, which is much less precise, is via the Internet Service Provider (ISP). This is the way location can be determined if you are using Wi-Fi, in your own home or some other Wi-Fi location. (Of course, this location will be fixed; not subject to change.) The ISP knows approximately where you are because it knows where the ends of the cables that carry the internet to you are, and where the Access are geographically

ISP

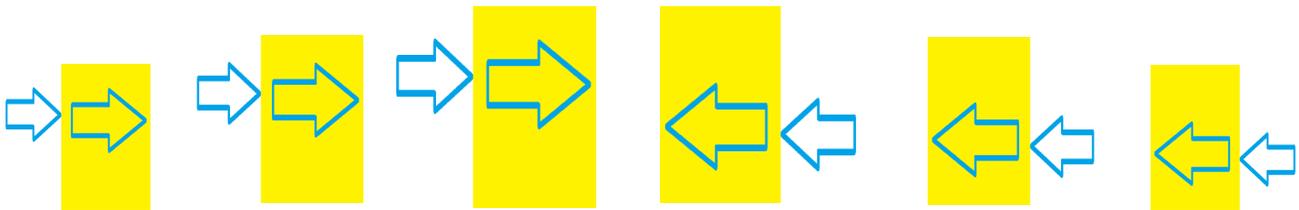
IP

ADDRESS

located, along with the IP addresses that have been assigned. This technique may give a precision of maybe 75 meters (approximately 250 feet) or a few blocks in a relatively populated area, but this may be all the precision needed to find the nearest restaurant or gas station.

The third way to determine your location is used when you are actively using the cell phone towers. The precision of the measurement of location in this case is only around 600 meters (approximately 1/3 of a mile), but it is accurate enough for normal cell phone system operations. The cell phone system needs to know your location constantly because it must track your smartphone's transmitter's signal. It needs to know where your phone is, so it can electronically aim its antenna at your phone. Yes, when you are using the cell phone towers, your device's every move is being tracked. Without tracking, the cell phone tower would not be able to keep your device connected when you pass through the tower's area, and it would not know when to hand-off your connection to the next cell tower. (Remember the cell phone system is a collection of contiguous areas, each around a central cell tower, so if you travel down the interstate far enough, you will go out of one cell tower's area and into the next cell tower's area. At this point your connection must be moved to the next cell tower for you to continue your connection without interruption while travelling into the second cell tower area.)

Now that you know the three methods of location determination, you can more easily determine how to set the "Location" setting on your smartphone. As an example, on an Android device (OS 7.0), go to settings and then Location. Here you can set the Mode to "High accuracy", "Battery saving", or "Device only". High accuracy will use all the possible methods, Battery savings will use all but GPS, and Device only will only use GPS (the mode to use when navigating). If you are not navigating, then it is probably a good idea to use the Battery savings mode because the GPS receivers in your device use a lot of power, so it will affect your battery life, but if you need GPS accuracy then use either of the other modes. On an iPhone, you can turn Location Services on at Settings-Privacy-Location Services, and you can individually control which apps and system services have access to Location Services data. Knowledge is power, location is very important.





**FREE 2018 SUMMER VIRTUAL
TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (VTC)
SATURDAY, August 18
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET / 12:00 – 3:00 CT
11:00 – 2:00 MT / 10:00 – 1:00 PT**

Attend APCUG's August 18, 2018 Virtual Technology Conference (VTC) from your own home, invite some of your members to join you, or have a Technology Tailgate Party with your club members!

You only need to register once; you do not need an Eventbrite account to attend the conference. Before the VTC, you will receive an email with directions and links for attending both conference tracks. You can attend using your computer or tablet with Zoom software. The sessions are 50 minutes in length and offer attendees the opportunity to ask questions via a chat window.

Make sure you have the latest version of Zoom for your device. "Zoom Client for Meetings - The web browser client will download automatically when you start or join your first Zoom meeting and is also available for manual download here."

<https://zoom.us/download>

When you attend the conference, please sign in with the user name and e-mail address you used to register for the VTC.

[Register at Eventbrite](#)

For detailed information about the presentations, including the presenters' bios click [here](#).

If you would like further information or have questions, please send an email to virtualconferences@apcug.org

TRACK 1

1:00 PM ET

What's New with Chromebooks in 2018

Ron Brown, Program Chair, Silvercom Computer and Technology Club

This presentation will give a brief history of the Chrome OS and look at new Chromebook laptops, Tablets and Chromeboxes for 2018.

2:00 PM ET

Tech Tips and Apple Tech Tips on APCUG's Website

Jere Minich, Lake-Sumter Program Chair; APCUG Advisor, Region 5

on APCUG's website.

Continued Page 11

Jere will share his sources for getting the info that is on Jere's Tech Tips and Apple Tech Tips.

3:00 PM ET

Digital Afterlife

Phillip "Phil" Bock, President, Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

With the myriad opportunities that the Internet provides, we are likely to have many online accounts. We are also likely to accumulate lots of documents, photos, music, videos and other digital files on our computers, external drives and cloud storage accounts. What happens to those digital accounts and files if we become incapacitated or die? How do we make our wishes known, and who will carry them out?

The Internet also allows us to live on (digitally) after our death, by leaving digital accounts open and available to friends and family and/or by enrolling in services which specialize in communicating posthumously on our behalf.

Interested in learning more about our digital afterlife? Phil Bock will take us through an overview and suggest sources we can turn to for more information and assistance.

TRACK 2

1:00 PM ET

Digital Terrorism and Hate 2018

An update on the continued use of Internet technology by extremists.

Rick Eaton, Senior Researcher, Simon Wiesenthal Center

The web has become an increasingly popular place for hate groups to congregate, and in many ways hide in plain sight, using the latest trends in technology to communicate, organize and add members. Rick's presentation focuses on what has become a critical global frontier in the marketing of hate and terrorism. The troubling increase in sophistication

terrorism. The troubling increase in sophistication that extremists are demonstrating in spreading their messages online and the need for a coalition of corporations, parents, educators, non-profit organizations, and governments that can empower young people to mobilize in fighting hate.

2:00 PM ET

Linux and the ham radio "Internet"

Orv Beach, Training Chair, Southern California Linux Expo; Technical Specialist, American Radio Relay League

Digital mesh networking is one of the fastest growing modes in amateur radio. With the recent capability of moving wireless access points into the uncrowded adjacent ham radio bands, the ability to create a linked ham "Internet" has become feasible. The network is growing by leaps and bounds, and can provide services such as text messaging, webcams, video chat email, and VOIP (both dial-up and chat channels). All these services can run on Linux computers.

3:00 PM ET

Evidence Based Medicine

Dr. Garry Sexton, President, Greater South Bay User Group

The goals of this presentation are to explain Evidence-Based Medicine, how to evaluate information, the strength of studies, the number needed to treat, how to make it useful, and websites that can help.

2. Recognize a volunteer in your group for the Don Singleton 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award

Do you have a volunteer who is using his/her skills and experience to make a significant difference in your group? APCUG is seeking nominations for the Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year award which recognizes the importance of volunteers to APCUG's member groups. More information in Reports; nominations begin August 15 through September 30.

Continued Page 12

3. Digital Photo, Newsletter & Website Contests

If you have a great newsletter, website, or members who take digital photos, let's show the world. Don't miss this opportunity to get some recognition for your group! Contest submittals begin August 15 through September 30; more information in Reports.

4. 2018 Q3 Reports

Reports has many ideas for your club. It's fun to read a newsletter and see that a group is trying out something new they read about another group doing – in Reports.

Advisors are your communication link with APCUG.

APCUG is not a part of, nor a representative of any manufacturer, product, reseller, dealer, consultant, or business. The organization does not endorse any product, etc. As a member of APCUG, you have received this e-mail to inform you of updates, changes, or special news and information. Our policy has always been to send e-mail messages only to announce such information, and we will continue to honor this policy. APCUG will not share your e-mail address. If you no longer want to receive these e-mails, please reply to the sender. Thank you for being a member of APCUG.

--

Gabe Goldberg APCUG Region 2 DC/DE/MD/NJ/
VA Advisor ggoldberg@apcug.org
3401 Silver Maple Pl Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 204-0433

<http://www.apcug.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/APCUG>

<http://twitter.com/apcug>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/apcugvideos>

MacRecycleClinic

The MacRecycleClinic (MRC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit service organization in Silver Spring, Md. They refurbish and recycle newer (Intel-based machines that can run at least OS 10.11) Macintosh computers back into the community and hold a Monday night clinic for Mac owners weekly. <http://www.macrecycleclinic.org/site/>

Making Room on a Full Hard Drive

By Hewie Poplock, Member,
Sarasota Technology Users Group
May 2018 issue, STUGMonitor-
www.thestug.org Hewie (at) Hewie.net

I was starting to panic. My C-Drive on my main computer was becoming unsafe as I was using up all its free space. The drive is a 240GB SSD card. I was down to 8GB free. I also have a 1 TB hard drive that is dedicated to data and designated as D-Drive.

As I saw the shrinking drive develop, I changed the default locations for such items as Documents, Downloads, Videos, & Pictures to the D-Drive. Other than Windows and programs (Apps), there is not much else on the C-Drive. The D-Drive is about 2/3 full, with about 275GB free space. The only other data that is still moveable is Evernote data which is about 7.5GB on the C-Drive, and, through its software, it can be moved to the D-Drive.

The computer was built for me over 3 years ago and originally had Windows 8.1 as the OS. AO-MEI Recovery software was installed in its own 30GB partition. Since I have never needed this now outdated program, I should be able to delete the program and use that space as part of the C-Drive.

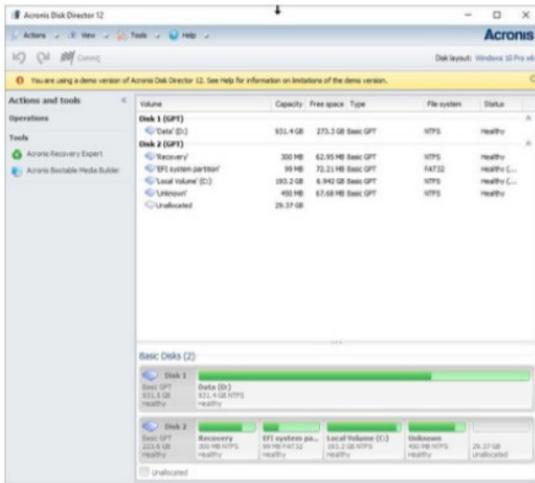


Figure 1

I double-checked with my vendor, SmartGuys Computers, in Sanford, Florida. They said I could uninstall the recovery software and, using Windows Disk Management, add that partition to the C- Drive. They were mostly right. I was able to uninstall the software and unallocate the 30GB partition, but Disk Management would only add that 30GB if it was adjacent to the current 193GB C-Drive. It was not. There was a 455MB partition between them. Disk Management does not move partitions.

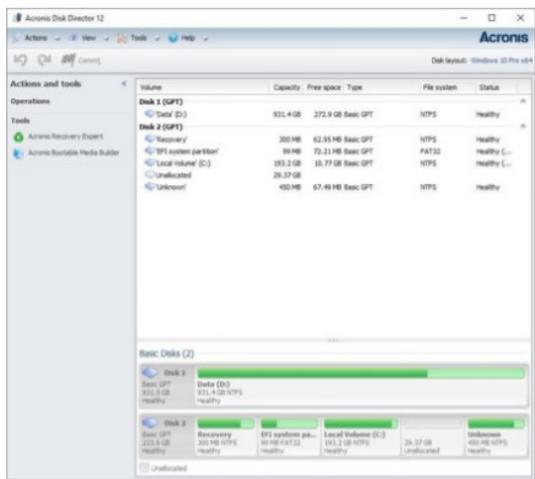


Figure 2

After attending User Group presentations by Gene Barlow [<http://ugr7.com>] over many years, I recalled that Acronis Disk Director should accomplish what I needed to do. My first chore was to completely back up my system. I used Acronis True Image 2018 and backed up an image of both my C-Drive & D-Drive (240 SSD & 1TB HD). I did so BEFORE removing the recovery software and unallocating that partition. I then downloaded and installed the trial version of Acronis Disk Director & its documentation to see if it would do the job. It looked like I needed to do 2 steps, but it would work. I then purchased the software from Gene Barlow, as he has special User Group member pricing. I had the key to register the software within a few hours of the purchase.

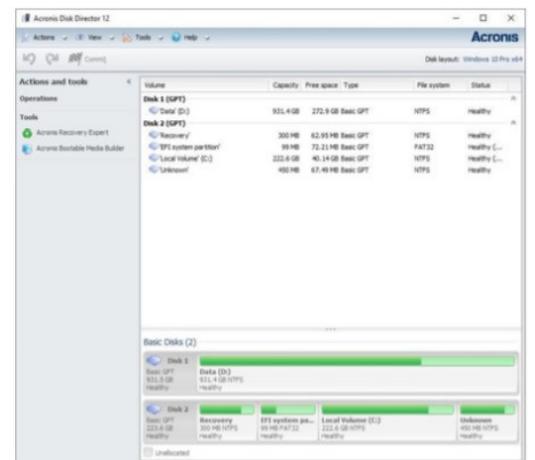


Figure 3

The first step was to move the 450MB partition to the end of the drive and make the 30GB unallocated partition contiguous to the C-Drive. Following the directions, this was an easy step and the move was successful.

I am not sure if the 455 MG space was needed, but looking at some articles, it appeared that there usually was an empty recovery partition at the beginning and end of a boot drive. So, I left it.

The next step was to expand the C-Drive to include the 30GB unallocated space. This step was easy to set up, again following directions in the user guide. It took only seconds, and now I had 40 GB of free space on my C-Drive.

My next step is to do an image backup of the SSD drive so that I have a current backup. I will not overwrite the last backup, but save a new one, just in case I have some issues appear. After that, I will move the Evernote files and change its default to the D-Drive. I now will have enough room on my C-Drive to do the next major Windows 10 upgrade and have some room to install some new apps as needed or wanted.

The author of the following article writes of a recent experience of an incorrect charge on his credit card.

Have you had any experiences of incorrect charges or “Spam” attempts to you? What advice would you give to help others avoid similar experiences?

It could make a most interesting discussion. (ED.)

Security Tips for April

By David Shulman, WPCUG Weekly Update editor, intergroup liaison, and a co-organizer of the WPCUG Meetup page. April 2018 issue,

WestchesterPCNews www.wpcug.org
wpcug.d_shulman (at) yahoo.com

Are the headlines, describing one security breach upon another, causing you to pay attention? As a result, this column has been added to the newsletter.

Those little packets marked “do not eat” or the capsules protecting medicine have an important use if you act now. Did you ever accidentally wet the remote control for your car or TV? Ever wet your phone? NOW is the time (before the damp spring) to make sure to dry and keep the packets safe and dry in freezer quality plastic bags. You can dry used packets in a 180-degree oven. When a wet accident occurs, wipe the electronics dry, open a new bag that fits, place those packets and the device inside, and seal. The next day you will hopefully have a working item.

URGENT!!!

Facebook scam! (not just Facebook). Do you get messages URGING immediate action? A message circulating REQUIRES immediate action to protect the number of “friends” you can have. It urges that you take some action NOW (like endorsing the message or posting it on your wall). SCAM! Sometimes the message asks for access to your address book or to forward it along or to respond. Unless you are sure of the truth TAKE NO ACTION! Do NOT divulge personal information!

Network hijacking is rampant. PLEASE use a long, complicated password (everywhere). On your network, the least you can do is to place a label under your router with the password in case you need it in the future. Change default passwords.

WAIT 72 HOURS!

WHY?

Advice from the WPCUG president: Pierre has a strategy for securing his portable devices. If a major software release is announced, wait 72 hours before installing it. If there is an issue, other people will find it, NOT YOU. Minor upgrades are another story. Install them IMMEDIATELY. There are serious hardware and software issues currently being addressed by manufacturers. Stay alert!



Facial recognition is being used by police in China. So—you have no plans to go there and don’t care? BULLETIN—The facial characteristics that identify you as unique can be recorded and retained. This technology is going to have tremendous impact going forward and

not just in China. In the U.S., scanners mounted on cars or in the street can read thousands of license plates per hour. Drive around a city block in Manhattan more than a certain number of times and your car will be flagged by a computer. Stay tuned. The automatic toll readers have created havoc.

Your author recently was charged for a trip from Albany to New York City on the NY State Thruway in error! Actually, it was a trip from exit 16 to Westchester. It took two months to correct! I would not have looked at the bill but had to change my credit card. CHECK ALL YOUR BILLS!



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](mailto:president(at)patacs.org)
1st Vice President:.....Ron Schmidt, 301-577-7899, [director11\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:director11(at)patacs.org)
2nd Vice President, Membership Chair:.....Mel Mikosinski, 703-978-9158, [director4\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:director4(at)patacs.org)
Secretary, Meeting Setup:.....Bill Walsh, 703-241-8141, [director14\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:director14(at)patacs.org)
Treasurer:.....Ruth Ruttenberg, 703-511-9028 [treasurer\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:treasurer(at)patacs.org)
Director, APCUG Liaison:.....Gabe Goldberg, [director10\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:director10(at)patacs.org)
Vendor Liaison:.....Volunteer Needed
Directors: (<http://patacs.org/boardpat.html>)..... Roger Fujii, Gabe Goldberg, Mel Golfarb, Leti Labell, Jim Rhodes, Melvyn Sachs, Charles Throneburg, Nick Wenri, Steven Wertime
Windows Support:..... Jim Brueggeman, 703-450-1384, [windows\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:windows(at)patacs.org)
Newsletter Editor:.....Kathy Perrin, [editor\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:editor(at)patacs.org)
Columnist:.....Lorrin Garson, [newslettercolumnist\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:newslettercolumnist(at)patacs.org)
Publicity..... Volunteer Needed

Posts is an official publication of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), a Virginia membership corporation. PATACS is a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are gratefully received and tax deductible.

Posts provides news, commentary and product information to PATACS members. Products or brand names mentioned may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. The contents of articles herein are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent PATACS, the Board of Directors, nor its members. The authors provide photographs and screen images. Public domain clip art are from openclipart.org and www.wpclipart.com.

E-mail article submissions and reprint requests to [editor\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:editor(at)patacs.org)

Membership Policy: Membership dues are \$30.00 (U.S.Funds) per year, with a \$15 surcharge for international mail. Membership in PATACS includes membership in all SIGs, access to the software libraries, and subscription to the Posts published 12 times per year in print by US Mail and PDF download by Internet. Applications may be obtained at any club meeting, by downloading from <http://www.patacs.org/membershipat.html>, by calling one of the officers or board members, or by writing to the club. A sample newsletter, membership application and related information may be obtained by enclosing \$2 (for US addresses only) and mailing your request to the membership address. Please do not send cash by mail. Payment and applications may also be submitted at any meeting, or mail to: PATACS Membership, 4628 Valerie CT, Annandale VA 22003-3940.

Advertisement Policy: Ads are accepted from members for non-commercial purposes at no charge. Copy should be sent to the Editor in the same format as article submissions. Ads are accepted from commercial advertisers at the rate of \$40 per full page, per appearance, with discounts for multiple insertions. Smaller ads are priced accordingly. Payment for ads must be made in advance of appearance. Advertisers must supply a permanent address and telephone number to the editor.

Reprint Policy: Permission to reprint articles from the PATACS Posts is given to school, personal computer club, and nonprofit organization publications, provided that: (a) PATACS Inc. receives a copy of the publication; (b) credit is given to the PATACS Posts as the source; (c) the original author is given full credit; and (d) the article author has not expressly copyrighted the article. Recognition is one means of compensating our valued contributors.

PATACS, Inc.
 201 S. Kensington St.
 Arlington VA 22204-1141

First Class

TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AFFIX
 FIRST
 CLASS



AUGUST 2018 PATACS Event Calendar

Call (703) 370-7649 for meeting announcements

Scan the QR code at left or enter <http://www.patacs.org> to visit our web site

Free Admission Bring a Friend!

Arlington: Carlin Hall Community Center

5711 4th Street South
 Arlington, Virginia 22204

Fairfax: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

4210 Roberts Road
 Fairfax, Virginia 22032

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 7-9 pm Arlington Tech & PCHelp Desk	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 7-9pm Online Zoom Meeting	16	17	18 12:30-3:30 pm Fairfax General Meeting
19	20 7-9pm Board Meeting Arlington	21	22 7-9 pm Ar- lington Tech & PC Help Desk	23	24	25 October Newsletter Articles Due
26	27	28	29	30	31	