

PATACS/OPCUG
3rd Saturday, January 19
 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute,
 4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032-1028

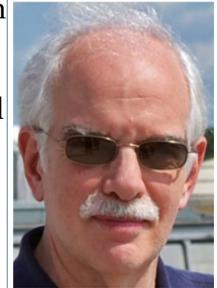
Meeting 1:30 PM



What is a Router and Why Do I Want One?
 Presented by Gabe Goldberg

The electronic box conneced 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 above question and help understand 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. As a technology writer, editor, and consultant, he's written for many consumer and industry publication and audiences from consumers to computer professionals.

Paul Howard
Nominee for
APCUG Don Singleton
Volunteer of the Year award
Page 5

PRESIDENTIAL BITS
 Paul Howard, director2@patacs.org

Happy New Year! Thanks for being a member of our Society, which is dedicated to helping each other learn about and use personal computers and related technologies. You can help us help you - Kathy Perrin - editor@patacs.org - would like to know what kinds of articles you'd like to see in our *Posts* newsletter. Please drop her an email. And we're always looking for member-written articles for our publication - why don't you sub-

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-mit something about a new program, phone app, or technique you've discovered?

We're very fortunate in being able to draw on articles from organizations like ours across the country that are members of APCUG - the Association of Personal Computer User Groups.



APCUG's Judy Taylour gathers and packages articles from groups in the so-call PUSH collection four or five times a year, that's sent to editors like Kathy. In addition, Judy's arranged reprint permission from at least seven internet columnists for use of their material in the *Posts*, and other APCUG group newsletters.

You can find back issues of our newsletter at <https://www.patacs.org/newsletter.html>

A good place to start is the 'Tech Resources' block on our website's menu (blue box, top left-hand corner of most pages).

The first link is for our Email Chat / Discussion list. This resource is a great way to easily access the knowledge of other members: <https://www.patacs.org/patacsdisclist.html>

Another link goes to a list of vendors, services, and training resources which you may find helpful: <https://www.patacs.org/vendrecpat.html>

At the top of each of these pages is a link to a PDF file of maintenance tips prepared by Jim Rhodes you'll find of help in keeping your computer running well.

Tom's Tech-Notes

Review: The Amazon Fire Stick, a Plug-in Streaming Device for Internet TV Services
Tom Burt, Vice President, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club, NVn

The Gigabyte Gazette www.scscclb.com/tomburt89134 (at) cox.net



Overview

During the mid-July "Amazon Prime Day" sales, Mrs. Burt and I ordered an Amazon Fire Stick device. It was on sale for half price - \$19.99.

At that price, we figured what have we got to lose? The Fire Stick device plugs into an HDMI port on your HDTV and then, after some simple setup steps, connects to the Internet via your Wi-Fi router. It turns your HDTV into a "smart" TV. It comes with all the usual apps for streaming TV services like Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, Pandora and, of course, Prime Video.

The Fire Stick regularly sells for \$39.99 at Amazon.com. You can find details and specs at: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00ZV9RDKK/ref=fs_ods_fs_smp_tk.

Included with the Fire Stick is a compact, easy-to-use remote that includes a microphone that allows you to talk to Amazon's Alexa to control the Fire Stick with your voice. This article will discuss our experience after about a month of use.



Plugs into TV HDMI port (HDMI extender recommended for best Wi-Fi reception)

Continued Page 3

Setting Up the Fire Stick

The package contains the Fire Stick itself, the remote, a HDMI extender cable, two AAA batteries and a power / adapter cord. The power cord has a micro USB jack on one end that plugs into the Fire Stick and a regular USB connector on the other end. The regular USB connector plugs into a USB socket on the small power adapter.

I plugged the Fire Stick into my HDTV's HDMI 2 port, using the HDMI extender cable for better clearance. (My DirecTV receiver is connected to the TV's HDMI 1 port.) I first tried plugging the USB connector of the power cable into my Samsung HDTV's USB jack, but found that the USB jack wasn't putting out enough power. So, I used the power adapter and plugged it into a surge protector next to the HDTV.

I used my Samsung HDTV's remote to select HDMI 2 as the Input Source. That gave control of the screen to the Fire Stick.

Next, I put the two AAA batteries into the Fire Stick's remote and then let the remote find the Firestick. From there, I followed the on-screen prompts to connect the Fire Stick to my Wi-Fi router.

To use the Prime Video service, you must be an Amazon Prime subscriber and you must log in with those account credentials. For other paid services like Netflix, you need an active account and, the first time, will need to enter your account credentials for the service.

Using the Fire Stick Our Samsung HDTV already had "smart features", but the performance of the apps was spotty with very slow connections and frequent dropouts and pixilation. I think the TV's internal Wi-Fi components were not powerful enough to do a good job.

By contrast, the Fire Stick has been amazing – quick connections with rock solid and very clear pictures and clean, clear sound. It's Wi-Fi is 802.11ac, which my Netgear home router supports. I've had no trouble with dropped signals and we don't see any buffering

The Fire Stick remote is easy to use with a ring in place of the four arrow keys. It's light and small enough to fit any hand comfortably. The Fire Stick is very responsive to clicks on the remote.

I've tried the remote's Alexa voice control, which work well for searching. However, typically we use the navigation ring to click around. The on-screen graphics are eye-friendly, and the navigation is easy to use. When I want to see what's available on a service like Prime Video or Netflix, I still favor using my desktop PC because the mouse and keyboard are more efficient for navigating. When I find something of interest, I add it to my watch list for that service and then it's easy to get to on the Fire Stick.

Fire Stick Apps Unlike my Samsung TV's "smart" limited apps which don't get updated, the Fire Stick is designed to let the user decide which Apps are installed –with hundreds to choose from, in addition to the pre-installed on the Fire Stick. Also, many games can be downloaded and installed. With 8 GB of storage, it's possible to have many Apps installed. With a built-in web browser, you can also install the Firefox browser so, you can go to any website that has streaming content and watch it, even if there's no specific App for it. Here's a link to an article from FireStickTricks.com listing 20 recommended paid and free Apps: <https://www.firesticktricks.com/amazon-fire-stick-apps.html>

Prime Video Now since we've subscribed to the Amazon Prime service; we're also able to get the Amazon Prime Video service at no extra charge. It features many movies and TV series, also some great original content. This summer "House, MD" series and the Prime original "Bosch" series featuring Titus Welliver. The offerings get updated frequently. The streaming video quality is great, and the content is all "on demand." And, if you doze off, you can go back and watch it again.

Conclusions We're quite happy with the Fire Stick. I'd definitely recommend it if you don't already own an Apple TV or Roku device, which offer similar functionality. The Fire Stick is far better than the built-in "smart" features of my Samsung HDTV. As a vehicle for "cord cutting" the Fire Stick is interesting because it can access so many content sources. Among its available Apps is one for "DirecTV Now," which is a streaming version of DirecTV that currently costs quite a bit less than the satellite version, There's also an App for Sling TV, which is another streaming service that offers a lot of "cable" channels at very low rates.



John Krout receiving APCUG photography award from Gabe Goldberg. The 2nd place Landscape winning photo by John Krout in the APCUG 2018 National Photo Contest. To see to this and John's 1st place larger photos with additional information, go to <https://www.patacs.org/patacsphotos.html>





Nominee for Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year

**Paul Howard, President
Potomac Area Technology
and Computer Society**

Brief explanation of why you feel your group's nominee should receive the Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year award.

Paul's the forever energizer bunny of multiple DC -area groups. He's been steadfast volunteer/officer/director of WACUG and NCTCUG — which merged to form PATACS — for decades. When he became WACUG President long ago, he rescued the group from slow demise, even with the presence of other outstanding volunteers. He was an asset at APCUG's combined BOD/BODA meeting at the At-Sea conference. He's the always -available volunteer-of-last-resort when essential things must be done.

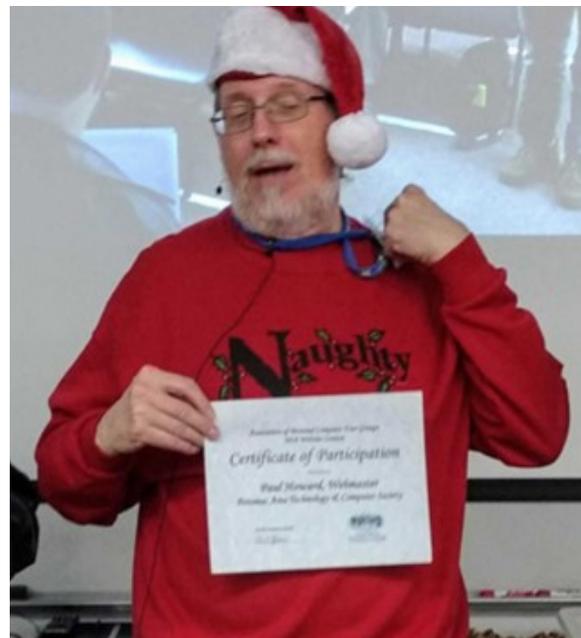
Describe how your volunteer has made a difference to your group. For example: Show specific examples of your volunteer's roles and responsibilities.

When WACUG/NCTCUG became less self-sufficient, Paul played a key role in initiating the merger and shepherding it to completion, through all the details of reconciling differing organizational documents, dealing with multiple (state/federal) reporting requirements, understanding differing practices regarding meetings and newsletters, and (perhaps most challenging) patiently accommodating the two groups' somewhat clashing cultures.

He's been/done treasurer, director, general handy-man, go-to guy to get things done, A/V and meeting setup, meeting program arranger, etc. Everything! He not only wears many hats, he wears them with grace, discipline, and perseverance.

Paul arranged for WACUG (and continuing with PATACS) to meet with the OLLI PC User Group — OPCUG — a part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, where Paul's a director. This provides PATACS with a stellar meeting site, tremendous infrastructure support, additional financial resources, a steady meeting turnout of 40-75, and a great source of new members (since OLLI has 1000+ members).

A WACUG colleague commented, "For all the work Paul has done and all the general good humor and informativeness he conveys, this would be a well-earned honor for him."



Adblock Plus extension for the Chrome web browser by John Krout, PATACS member

At the December meeting of PATACS/OLLI in Fairfax City, a question about blocking ads in web browsers was discussed.

Since I had already installed an ad blocker for the Chrome web browser several months ago, and found it to do a very good comprehensive job, I mentioned that during the meeting.

I decided to explain how to download and ways to install the ad blocker in this article.

WHY CHROME?

I used the Firefox web browser for many years but I found its implementation of multiple pages ran very slowly. So I switched to Chrome several years ago and I have been very happy using it; each tab in a Chrome window is implemented in a separate process, and if one tab freezes, the others can continue without being blocked by the frozen tab

First of all, if you do not already have the Chrome browser installed, then you need to download and install it. Here is the URL for doing that. You can go to the URL using *any* browser:

<https://www.google.com/chrome>

That web page has a single button for downloading the Chrome installer. Click on that button. Run the installer after downloading it.

The rest of this article assumes you are running Chrome on a desktop or laptop machine. There are separate ways install Chrome extensions on tablets and smart phones.

WHY DID I WANT TO BLOCK ADS?

I have been using FIOS at home for more than a decade. I used Verizon's own mail web site to access an email account I had set up on verizon.net, part of the bundle of services I got with FIOS. Recently Verizon, the home of FIOS, decided to reduce redundancy in its various parts, so it ended

access to the verizon.net site and directed its FIOS customers to access their email accounts via its AOL subsidiary. When I used the AOL webmail site, I learned that every time I read and closed an email, the AOL site showed me a full-page ad. I had to close the ad just to see my mail inbox again. The old Verizon.net site did not do this, and I found this AOL behavior very obnoxious.

So I decided to do something about it. My kids told me about the Adblock Plus extension for Chrome, so I tried it. It completely eliminated the unwanted AOL ads and lets me see my inbox immediately when I read and close an email. AOL does not seem to figure out what I have done, or else it decided not to care, maybe because I am a paying customer of Verizon. There is a side effect.

I also read my free Yahoo email account using Yahoo's web site. Yahoo's site showed ads constantly on the right side of the inbox. After installing Adblock Plus, those ads are gone. Yahoo figures out what I have done and displays a popup window begging me to whitelist Yahoo, meaning tell the extension to allow ads delivered by that web site.

I have not done that, and the popup shows up when I first display the inbox, so I click on the X to close the popup, and enjoy my email. Ironically, Verizon now owns Yahoo! as well. I guess that Yahoo has no way to know I am a paying customer. There are some ecommerce web sites that are basically 100% ads. Examples that I use fairly often are Amazon, MicroCenter, Staples, and various photo store web sites. Adblock Plus does not block those sites. I can continue to use them as I wish.

CHROME EXTENSIONS FOR DESKTOPS AND LAPTOPS

Chrome has a consistent method for installation of various add-ons to expand the browser's capabilities. Chrome calls these add-ons *extensions*.

Continued Page 7

An example of an extension is the ability to view PDF documents within the browser window. As you might guess, that extension is called Acrobat. Another example is the ability to view Office spreadsheets, doc files and slide decks in the browser. Those two are extensions, one for each file type.

HOW TO FIND CHROME EXTENSIONS ON THE WEB

How can you find Chrome extensions? Here is the URL: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions> for you.

For purposes of the following screen captures, I uninstalled Adblock Plus from Chrome so that I could show you how to download and install it.

In Illustration 1, you can see the page produced when you click on the URL above. Notice that the page has a search capability, which I circled for you.

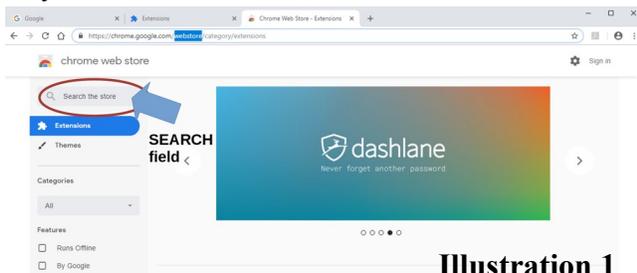


Illustration 1

If you know the name of the extension you want to find, type it in that search field.

To prepare Illustration 2, I typed Adblock Plus into that search field, and clicked on the search button. The illustration shows you the results of the search. Notice the button to the right of the Adblock Plus description, which I circled. It says Add to Chrome. Click on that button

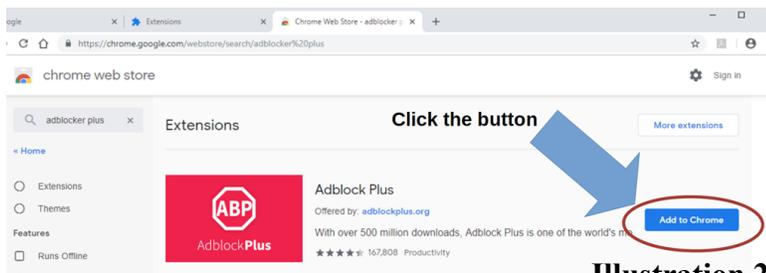


Illustration 2

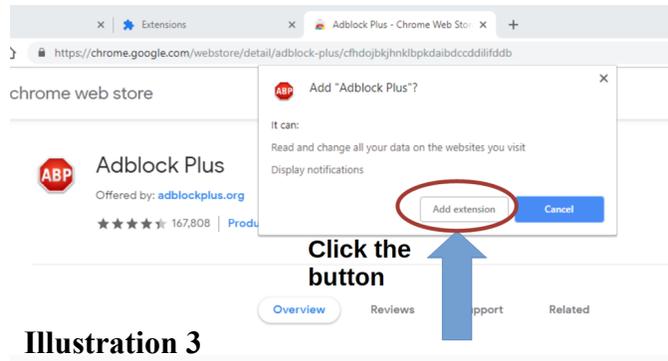


Illustration 3

In Illustration 3, you can see that a cautionary popup appears. It tells you a bit about what Adblocker Plus does. You have to be a bit careful at this point in the process. The popup includes two buttons, Add Extension and Cancel. The default choice, highlighted, is Cancel. If you tap the Enter button on your keyboard, you will cancel the installation of the AdBlocker Plus extension. Instead, to confirm the installation, tap the Add Extension button.

That is literally all it takes to download and install the Adblock Plus extension in the Chrome browser. Once you have done that, the Chrome Web store will display a Success report as shown in Illustration 4 (page8)

Now let's say you shut down the computer, it is a day later, and you have started up the computer and started the Chrome browser. How can you tell that Adblock Plus is ready to work for you? Take a look at Illustration 5 (page 8). The red icon in the upper right corner of the Chrome browser says ABP, and appears when Adblock Plus is installed. If you see that in your Chrome browser, then Adblock Plus is working for you.

Unsolicited ads are an old story, predating the Web. The term junk mail was likely invented before I learned to read and write. The US Postal Service now survives for the most part by delivering junk mail.

Unsolicited ads mostly waste our time, and Time is more than money. Time is all we have to spend with our families, our friends, and the

Continued Page 8

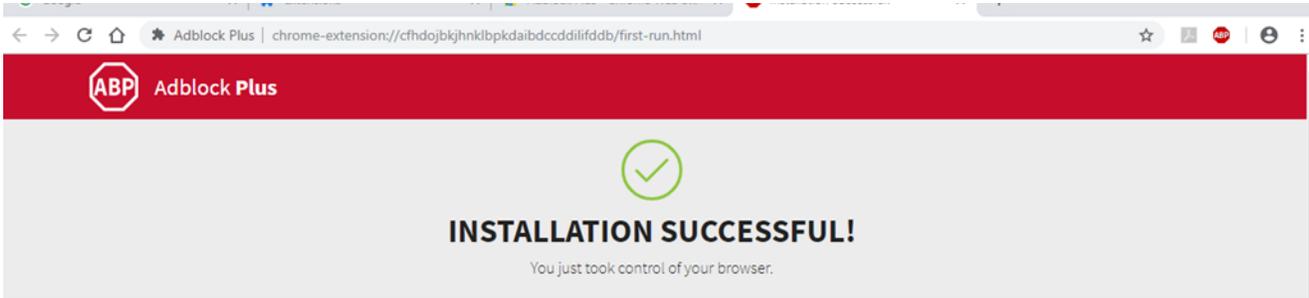


Illustration 4

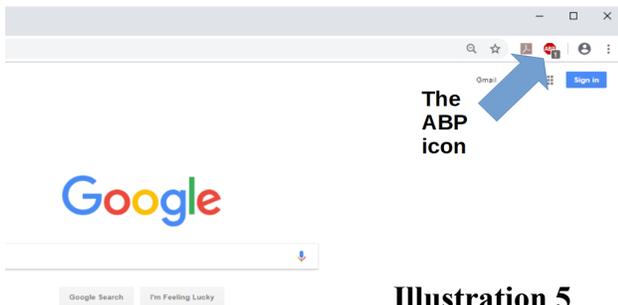


Illustration 5

How to stay on course when scrolling up & down a web page

By John Krout, PATACS member

At the December 2018 PATACS/OLLI meeting in Fairfax City, a question was raised about scrolling up and down a web page: why does the browser sometimes suddenly revert to the top of the page?

This experience, no doubt familiar to many of us, has to do with pointing device behavior. With a normal mouse or track ball, you click and hold the button down on the vertical scroll bar on the far right of the web page, and then drag the scroll bar up and down.

While doing that, often you are intently reading the visible portion of the web page, and not watching the mouse pointer. I run into this a lot when examining the CNN.com home page. It is easy to let the mouse pointer drift slightly right or left. When the pointer moves off the vertical scroll bar, the web page automatically reverts to the top of page. This much I explained at the meeting.

Another member proposed a solution, one that I had not previously thought of, and I think it is a

This much I explained at the meeting.

the other people we care about. And our time is not unlimited. For the most part, computers allow us to get many parts of life taken care of quickly and efficiently.

Adblock Plus gives us back some of the time we would otherwise waste.

very useful solution: obtain a trackball or mouse with a vertical scroll wheel.

Instead of moving the pointer in the familiar way, simply rotate the scroll wheel. Up and down the page goes, very reliably, with no drift.

Now, if the problem described above is unfamiliar to you, then read no further. The rest of this article is a brief survey of products you may wish to know about if the problem is one you would like to solve.

After the meeting, I took a look on the Web at mouse and trackball products including such a wheel. They are not very expensive.

This is not a recommendation or a review. I just want to show you the bottom of the price range and some options.

From here on I focus on products available from Amazon because of the small commission paid to PATACS by Amazon when you use the link to Amasitezon appearing on the PATACS.org site. .

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and you spend money on Amazon. The sum total of that income to PATACS from Amazon was a few hundred dollars last fiscal year for the club - equivalent to 20+ additional dues-paying PATACS members, far more than I expected, and is why the club offers you that opportunity.

I used this search on Amazon: *mouse with scroll wheel*. Then I sorted on low price to high price. On Amazon, I found there are USB scroll wheel mice for less than \$10, and wireless and bluetooth scroll wheel mice for less than \$20. All provide a wheel on the top of the mouse, equally accessible for right handed and left handed use. You will see many such products, even in a choice of colors. I happen to use a USB trackball for my desktop computer at home, partly because the open space on my desk is often not sufficient for moving a mouse around. So I also looked at trackballs equipped with a scroll wheel. I used this search on



Why Bother With a Dashboard Camera by Kathy Perrin

On a dark evening a delivery driver for a Chinese restaurant hit a pedestrian in an intersection with a stop and go light. The poor pedestrian was in such pain and called the police.

The police arrived. The delivery driver said the light was green. Two witnesses said that the driver, who was driving alone, went through a red light. The injured pedestrian, who was still

Amazon: *trackball with scroll wheel*. Then I sorted low price to high price. It happens that several such trackballs exist. USB trackballs with scroll wheel start at less than \$25. Logitech tends to put the scroll wheel on top and the ball on the side, which means it is difficult for lefties. If you prefer a track ball mouse designed specifically for left-handed use, look up “*ambidextrous dexugn*” or “*left-handed track ball mouse*.”

I found an interesting innovation from Kensington, the trackball brand I have been using has been very useful. Their trackball scroll wheel is in fact a ring around the centered trackball. Incidentally, in that same set of Amazon search results, I also found keyboards with a trackball and scroll wheel built in. As you might guess, these are more expensive than standalone trackballs, but if your desktop real estate is extremely limited, the all in one keyboard may be of interest to you. Also, many have found these devices are most helpful in resolving carpal tunnel and hand-use issues.

in such serious pain, had been consistent in the details throughout the experience.

After the pedestrian and the witnesses finished describing the incident to the police, the delivery driver offered to clarify the situation. She said that her dashboard camera would show the police officers exactly what had happened.

All of a sudden the poor, injured pedestrian who had been in such pain, experienced an amazingly abrupt recovery and said that he thought he would be fine after all.

Unfortunately in a situation like that, there usually is inadequate evidence that the pedestrian was deliberately dishonest.

More and more people are finding that your dashboard camera can be a very wise investment.

Please share your experiences and your recommendations of the best brands and features.

Are there other “gadgets” you would recommend? Send email to [editor\(at\)patacs.org](mailto:editor(at)patacs.org)

ANDROID SMART PHONE SCREEN CAPTURE METHODS

Conclusion of a 4 part article series

By John Krout, PATACS member

Recently I contributed two articles on methods for capturing and annotating Windows computer screen captures, which enables you to write illustrated newsletter articles or prepare slide decks for club meeting presentations describing whatever you do using your computer. Part 1 covered PowerPoint annotation methods, and part 2 covered LibreOffice Impress annotation methods.

Part 3 of this article series covered screen capture methods for iPhone devices.

This article concludes the series: Android smart phone screen capture techniques.

The Android screen image capture methods stores each image as a JPEG image file on the Android smart phone. These JPEG files are stored in sub-folder DCIM/screenshots.

You can transfer Android screen captures from DCIM/screenshots to your computer and then insert the JPEG image files into PowerPoint or LibreOffice Impress, annotate those screen captures, and save the slides for a presentation or export each slide as a JPEG or PNG for inclusion in articles.

The following directions and illustrations are specifically for the Android 8 operating system. I used my Samsung Galaxy S7 phone, but I learned about the methods using web sites that were not focused specifically on the Galaxy S7 or the Android 8 OS. The default capture method should work on later Android smart phones, but I have not investigated whether or not the more advanced methods work on earlier versions of the Android operating system.

THE DEFAULT CAPTURE METHOD

Hold down the Power and both Volume buttons at the same time. Wait for the screen to blink briefly. You may also hear something like a camera. Your screen image is now saved as a JPEG image file

in DCIM/screenshots. Samsung smart phone users also have the option of holding down the Power button and the Home button at the same time. This may be a bit easier, holding down two buttons instead of three.

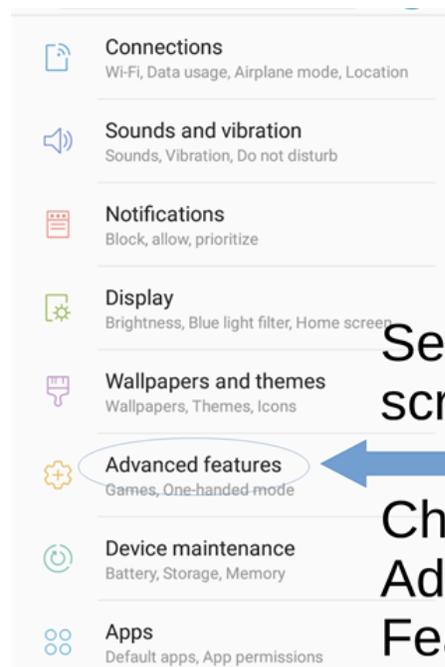
I admit I had some difficulty holding all three buttons or even two buttons concurrently to capture a screen image. The phone thought I tapped the Power button first, so it turned off the screen I was trying to capture.

There are at least two other ways to do a screen capture on an Android smart phone. These might be useful if the Home button closes the screen you are trying to capture.

THE PALM SWIPE CAPTURE METHOD-

This method enables you to capture a screen by moving the edge of your palm including your little finger across the screen, from right to left or vice versa.

Open Settings, as shown in **Illustration 1**.



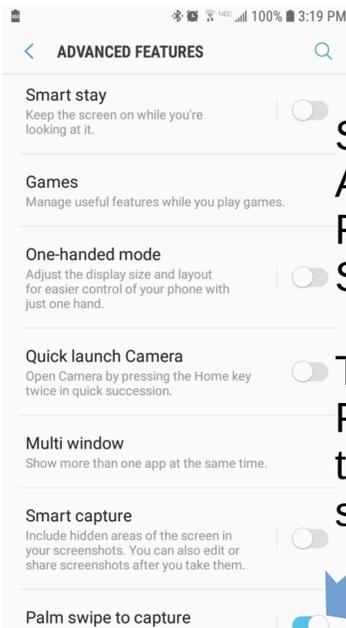
Settings
screen:

Choose
Advanced
Features

Continued Page 11

In the Settings screen, select Advanced Features. That screen appears, as shown in **Illustration 2**.

In Advanced Features, you will find an on/off



Settings/
Advanced
Features
Screen:

Turn on
Palm Swipe
to Capture
switch

switch for Palm Swipe to Capture. Tap the switch and it turns on. Tap the switch again and it turns off. That's all you need to do to enable and disable the Palm Swipe capture method.

Screen images captured using this method are also stored in DCIM/Screenshots.

This Palm Swipe method works well for me. I can imagine that some hands might be too large or too small for this method.

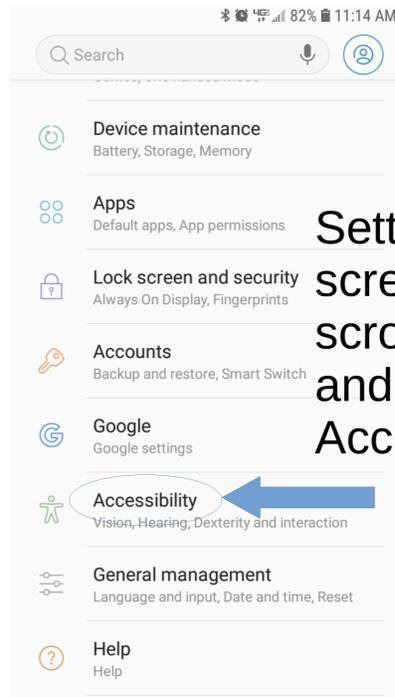
But wait, there's more.

THE FLOATING BUTTON CAPTURE METHOD

This method enables you to create a floating button on the Android phone screen. That button appears on all screens of the smart phone. The button contains a scrollable menu including Screen Shots. Tap the button, select that choice in the menu, and you capture a screenshot of the current screen.

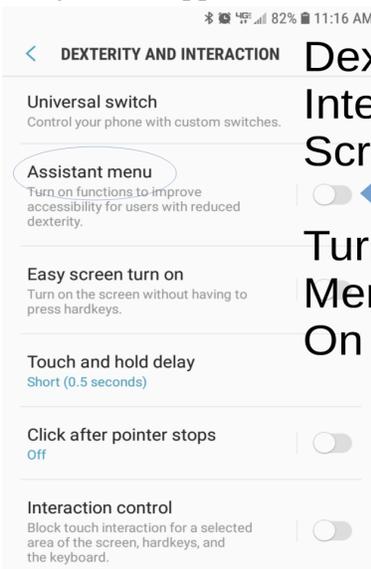
Sometimes the floating button appears in a less than ideal location, maybe atop an icon. You can press and drag the floating button to any other part of the screen.

After learning of the AssistiveTouch method for iPhones, I explored Settings for a similar capability in Android phones. My phone runs Android OS version 8, and a floating button is what I found. It is not quite as convenient as the floating button for iPhone, but it does the job. Here's how to activate the floating button method: Open Settings. The Settings screen is much longer than you can see initially. Scroll down and find the heading Accessibility, as shown in **Illustration 3**.



Settings
screen:
scroll down to
and select
Accessibility

Scroll down to and tap Accessibility. The Accessibility screen appears, as shown in **Illustration 4**.



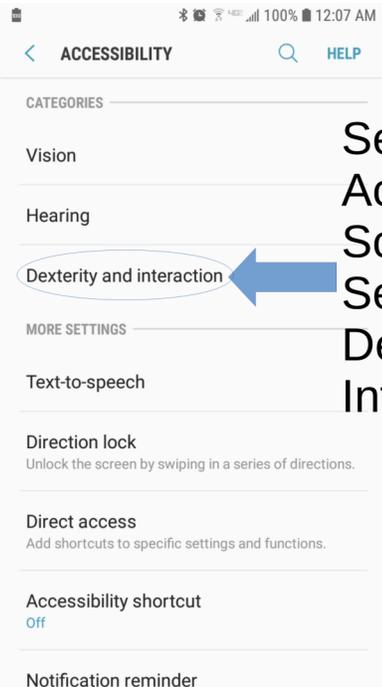
Dexterity and
Interaction
Screen:

Turn Assistant
Menu switch
On

Continued Page 12

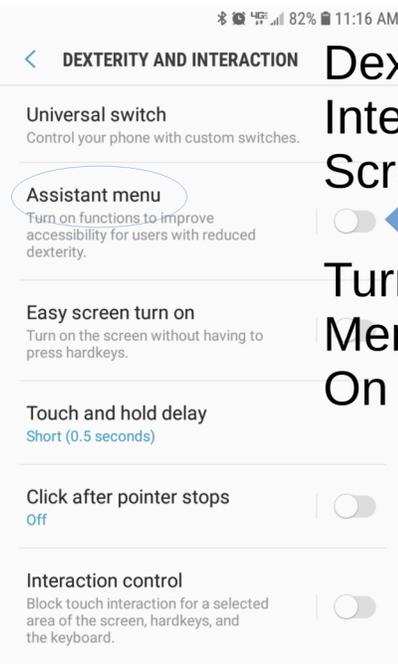
Scroll down to and tap Accessibility. The Accessibility screen appears, as shown in **Illustration 4**.

Tap Dexterity and Interaction. The Dexterity and Interaction screen appears, as shown in **Illustration 5**.



Settings/
Accessibility
Screen:
Select
Dexterity and
Interaction

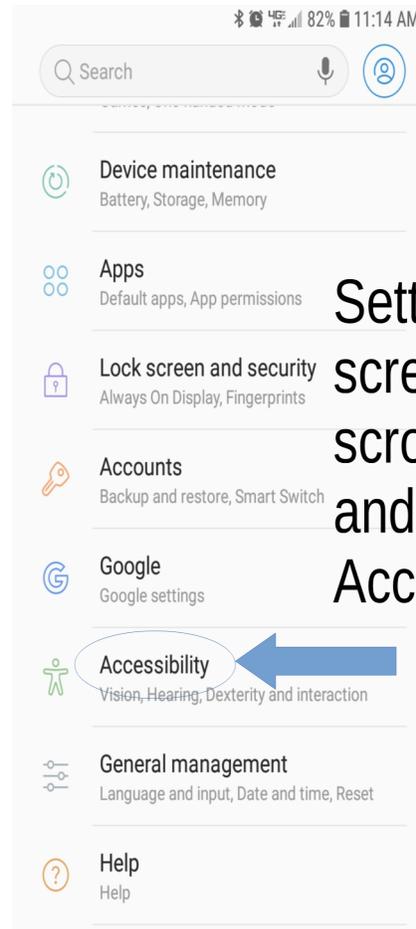
Tap on the Assistant Menu on/off switch, to turn it on. A dialog window will warn you that some interactions with the phone will change. Tap the Turn On button. <end of floating button activation>



Dexterity and
Interaction
Screen:
Turn Assistant
Menu switch
On

After doing that, you will see a translucent floating button on the Android screen. Initially it is on the right near the bottom of the screen, as shown in **Illustration 6**. Note that I circled the floating button in red to make it easier to identify. That red circle is NOT part of the floating button and will not appear on your Android phone.

The one little constraint in this Floating Button method is that the screen capture image will not include the floating button or the scrollable menu. The illustrations 6 through 8 of this article were shot as photos using my corporate iPhone camera, pointed at the Android phone screen. That approach enabled me to depict the floating button and the scrollable menu. Tap the floating button and Accessibility Menu 1 appears as shown in **Illustration 7**. Note that at the bottom of the menu, there are left and right arrows and the phrase “1 of 2”.



Settings
screen:
scroll down to
and select
Accessibility

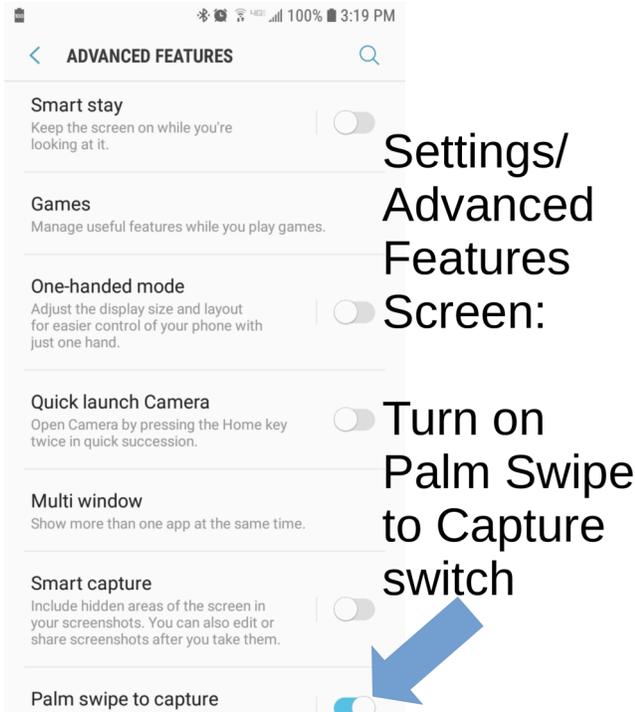
Illustration 6

Illustration 7

Continued Page 13

This indicates that the menu is in two parts, and you can tap an arrow to move between the two parts.

Menu part 1 of 2 does not contain the Screen Capture icon, so tap an arrow to scroll to Menu part 2 of 2, and there you can see the Screen Capture icon in the upper right corner, as shown in **Illustration 8**.



And from now on, when you tap the floating button, the Accessibility Menu 2 will show up first, so you can easily access that Screen Capture icon. It does that because you used Menu 2 most recently.

If you happen to put your phone in your pocket with the screen turned on, there is a chance that your pocket will press the floating button and take a screen capture.

I usually activate the floating button only when I am prepared to make screen captures immediately.

After making the screen captures, I deactivate the floating button.

THE IMAGE FILE TRANSFER METHOD-
This is how you can transfer screen capture images from your Android phone to your computer.

First, connect your Android smart phone to a computer.

Second, pull down the top menu on the smart phone to enable file transfer between the phone and computer. This menu appears when you press the top line on the phone, the one showing the time of day and the network connections.

On my smart phone running the Android 8 OS, the top menu.

In my case, the menu defaults to File Transfer, which is precisely what I want to accomplish. Previously, when I used the Android 7 operating system on my smart phone, the menu contained a list of options with no default, and I had to choose File Transfer from that list.

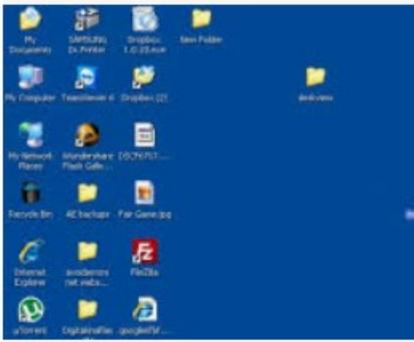
After that, use the computer to open Windows Explorer or the Apple equivalent, click on the phone icon, navigate to that DCIM/Screenshots folder on the phone, and copy the screen image file from that folder to your computer.

CONCLUSION

Aside from teaching, the screen capture methods are also very useful when you experience a problem or error on your smart phone.

You can capture the problem report or error message as an image file on your smart phone, and then use that image file for later reference when you seek help from say a club member or when you research the problem on the Web.





Tech Talk Cure Desktop Clutter

By Joe Isaac,
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If you have more than four rows of icons on your desktop, you probably have too many for efficient use. Desktop icons should only be something used often.

The icon idea is to put a program or project up front, so you don't have to spend a lot of time looking for it. Quick access is the key!

If you have several dozen icons there, the ability to find something quickly is much less likely. We usually start with just a few, but they tend to grow in number as we install a new program. Every program writer thinks his/her program is the absolute most important one, so they hang another icon on your desktop.

So here is what I recommend you do. Look over the icons on your desktop and identify the ones you haven't clicked on in weeks or maybe months.

Right click somewhere on your Desktop. Select NEW, then click on FOLDER, name the new folder Misc. or Stuff. Then hit Enter.

Now, left click and drag your least used icons into this one folder. Leave only the frequently used icons in view. Those rarely used icons are still available to you should you need one of them.

Get to work! You will be glad you did!



Hello, Members

By Gabe Goldberg <Director10@patacs.org>

Four members of PATACS Board of Directors met on Sunday, December 30 to assemble PATACS Post newsletters (you didn't think this was done by Santa's elves, did you?). As I applied address labels I noticed how few names I could match with people I knew.

While PATACS is fortunate to meet together with OLLI members, it means that out of the typically 30-50 monthly meeting attendees, only some are PATACS members. Since PATACS has about a hundred members, that means that most don't attend meetings.

PATACS benefits from all members, and people belong for diverse reasons. But it would be interesting and very helpful to Board members knowing why more members don't attend meetings and (especially) what might be more enticing to non-attendees (e.g., different topics? Different meeting location/time/day? more social time?). I'd love to hear member thoughts --
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PATACS Information

Monthly Circulation: 100

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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.

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Free Admission Bring a Friend!

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X 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 |
|-----|--|-----|---|------|-----|--|
| 29 | 30 | 1 | 2
7-9 pm
Arlington
Program | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
7-9pm
Online Zoom
Meeting | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 12:30-3:30pm
Fairfax
General
Meeting |
| 20 | 21
7-9pm
Board
Meeting
Arlington | 22 | 23
7-9 pm
Arlington
Tech & PC
Help Desk | 24 | 25 | 26
March
Newsletter
Articles Due |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |