

PATACS/OPCUG

3rd Saturday, August 17
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute,
4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032-1028

Meeting 1:30 PM



**Digital Literacy:
 TV and Beyond -
 Presented By
 Douglas Povich**

Digital Literacy is the set of skills needed to survive in the Information Age. Becoming digitally literate requires an understanding of the vast and ever-changing array of information sources, how to manage or cope with technology delivering the information and how to make sense of the huge amount of information that we are subjected to each day. Television, radio, newspapers, magazines, social media and, of course, the internet are increasingly important sources of information necessary to our daily lives. The Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services will discuss how to evaluate the information sources and delivery technologies available today with a goal toward helping you to effectively use technology to find, identify, critically analyze, and use information in the digital age.

Douglas Povich is a Management Analyst in the Communications Policy and Regulation Division of Fairfax County's Department of Cable and Consumer Services where he works on cable TV, media and technology issues. Before joining the County in 2017, Doug practiced telecommunications and technology law for over thirty years.

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Presidential Bits

By Paul Howard, PATACS President

In June, with the assistance of Arlington County Parks and Recreation staffers Carly Moser and Nakish Jordan, PATACS was given permission to move our AV storage cabinet to the first floor of Carlin Hall. This is a dramatic improvement for meeting setup and tear down, eliminating the need to navigate the steep stairs to the second floor. We're extremely grateful to these folks, and for the help and support we've had from Arlington County staff and our friends with the Glencarlyn Citizens Association since we began meeting regularly at Carlin Hall in the summer of 1986. I recently came across newsletters from 1993, when we were holding five meetings a month at the Hall.

In the same batch of nostalgia, I found a printout of pictures of a meeting on February 27, 2002. Those pictures are posted on the historical archive of the NCTCUG.ORG website. We were hauling 7 CRT monitors up and down the stairs for each meeting, connecting them to a VGA signal distribution box that could output to eight displays at a time. The caption notes "Attempting to load Windows XP Professional on the demo computer: A four-meeting exercise in futility! Don't try if your machine's > 2 yrs old !!"

Don't remember how that was resolved, 'tho there are hints it may have required a new computer. From the pictorial record, it seems we kept lugging those monitors up and down the stairs until acquiring a projector jointly with WACUG in the spring of 2004.

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Learn In 30

More Power To You – Presented By John Krout

This is a sequel to John's February 2019 presentation on Power Banks, which are portable hand held batteries with USB sockets for charging devices such as smart phones and tablets.

This presentation will focus on charging laptop computers and USB devices while in cars, airports and even airplanes.

You learn about and see a variety of inexpensive solutions for both AC power and USB power in cars, abundant AC and USB power from a single AC socket in airports, and even the beginnings of a portable AC solution for laptop recharging on airplanes.

SILENCE YOUR VIRTUAL KEYBOARD: How and Why By John Krout, PATACS member

A Washington Post article published on June 7, 2019 reported that malware for smart phones and tablets may listen in when you type on a virtual keyboard, using the sounds produced by key taps to determine, for instance, your passwords.

No such malware has been reported, but a university security research group explored the possibility and found such malware was feasible.

Although the article did not mention it, this suggests an analogy to "shoulder surfing", the term referring to someone who watches over your shoulder as you type.

A person sitting nearby could simply use an audio recording app to record sounds when you type, and then convert the sounds when you type, and then convert the sounds to keystrokes later. Call it *Audio Surfing*.

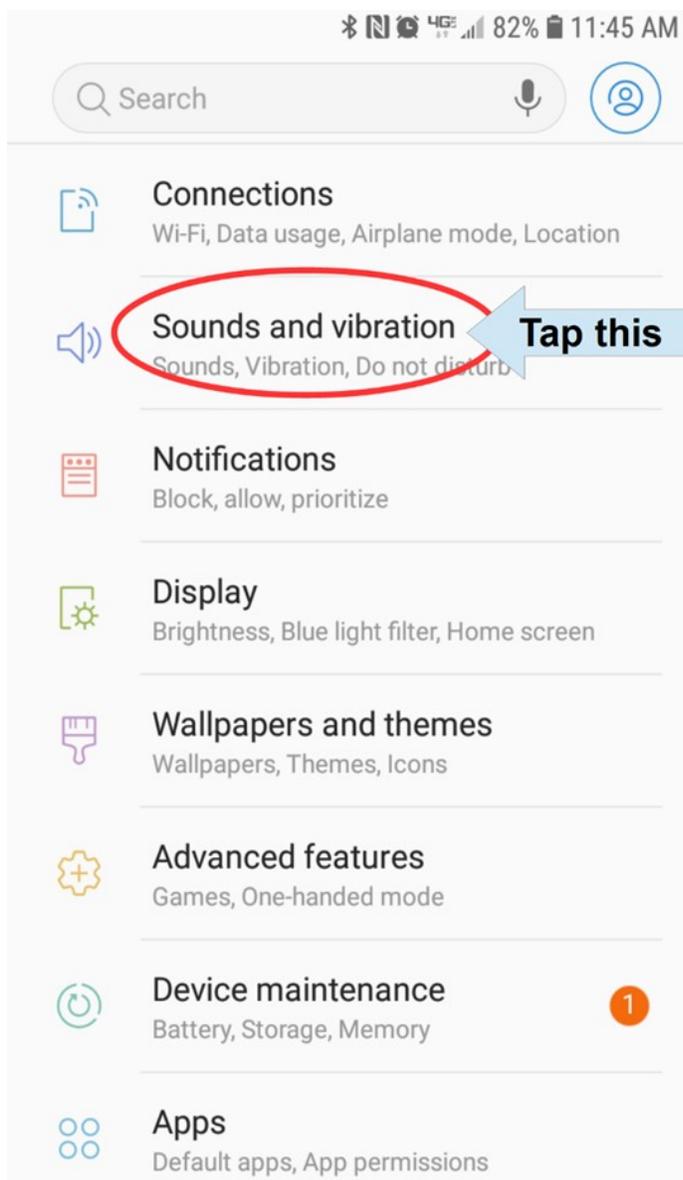
This could be a personal security concern in any public place, especially any crowded place.

The Washington Post article led to me investigate how to silence my smart phone virtual keyboards.

An Android phone Example

On my **Samsung Galaxy S7**, running Android OS version 8, I opened Settings, as shown in Illustration 1, and tapped Sounds and Vibration. .

Illustration 1



Continued Page 3

Another screen appeared, as shown in Illustration 2 below.

There I clicked on Volume, and another screen appeared, as shown in Illustration 3 at right.

There are four different volume controls on that screen: Ringtone, Media, Notifications, and System.

Ringtone obviously covers ringtones, and Media covers videos and audio. Notifications covers apps notifying you of events, such as arrival of a new text message.

Each line shows the current volume setting by the position of the large dot. All the way left is Muted, and all the way right is Maximum Volume.

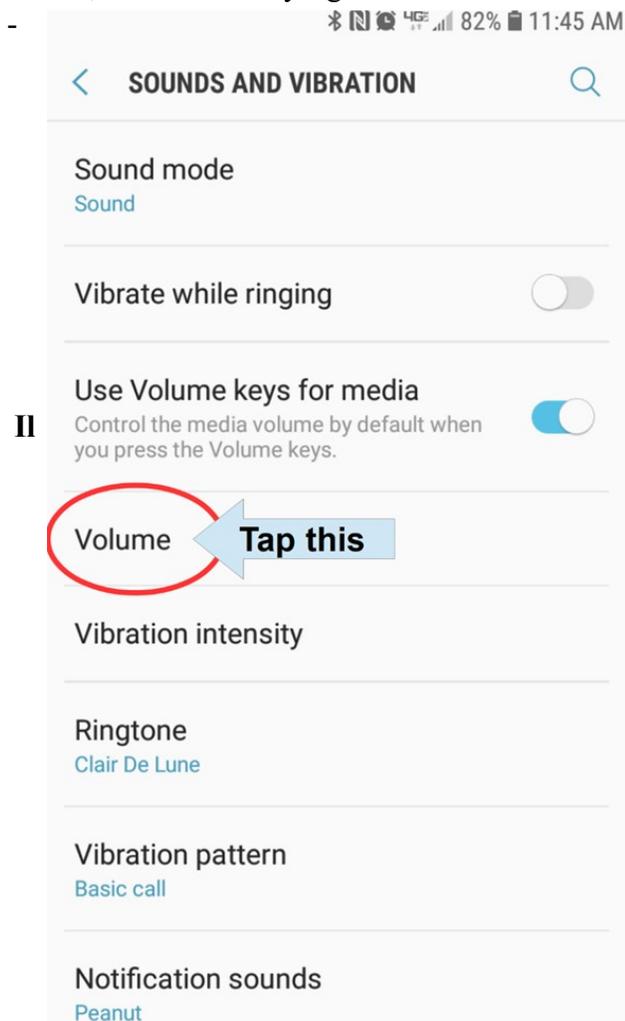


Illustration 2

ume. You can Tap and Drag each button to the right or left.

I did not have a good idea of what System covered, but I tried muting System by sliding the large dot on that line all the way to the left. Sure enough, when I muted the volume for System, and tested my keyboard by typing a memo, the keyboard sound was completely silent.

System volume covers other things too. For instance, normally a sound is made when creating a screenshot, like I did for each of the illustrations, but muting System sounds eliminated the screenshot sound too.

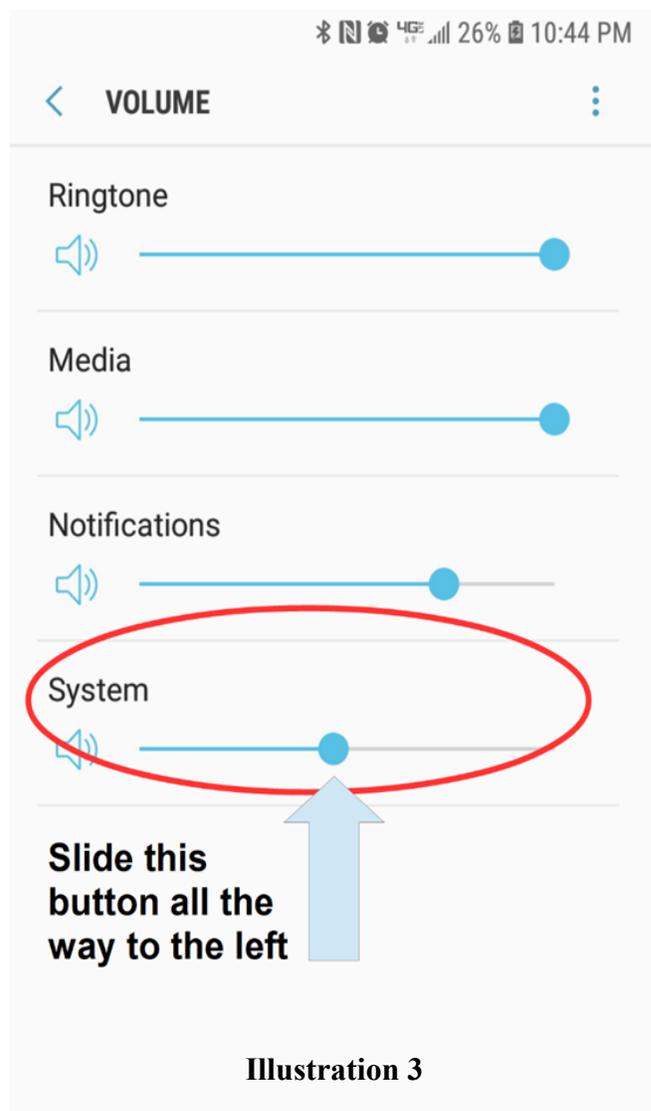


Illustration 3

Continued Page 4



Illustration 4

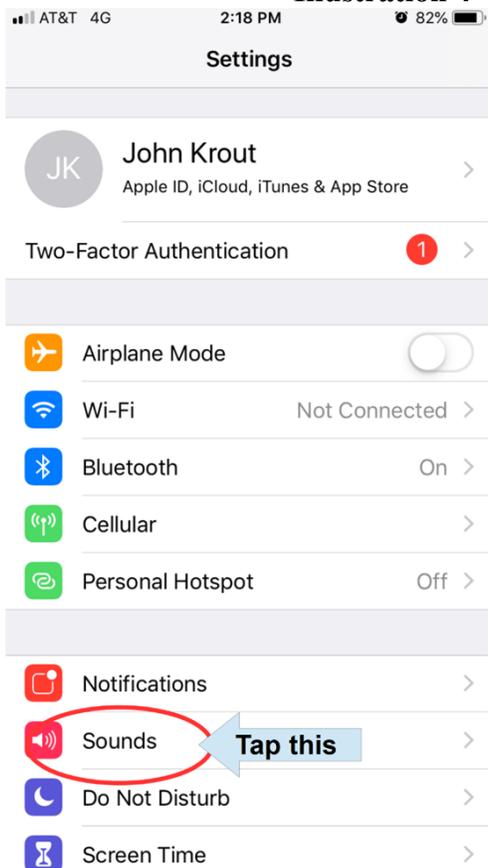


Illustration 5

An iPhone Example

On my iPhone 6s, running iOS 12.2, I opened Settings, as shown in **Illustration 4 on left**, and in that screen I scrolled down to Sounds, a shown in **Illustration 5 on left**, I tapped Sounds, and a new screen appeared, as shown in **Illustration 6 below**.

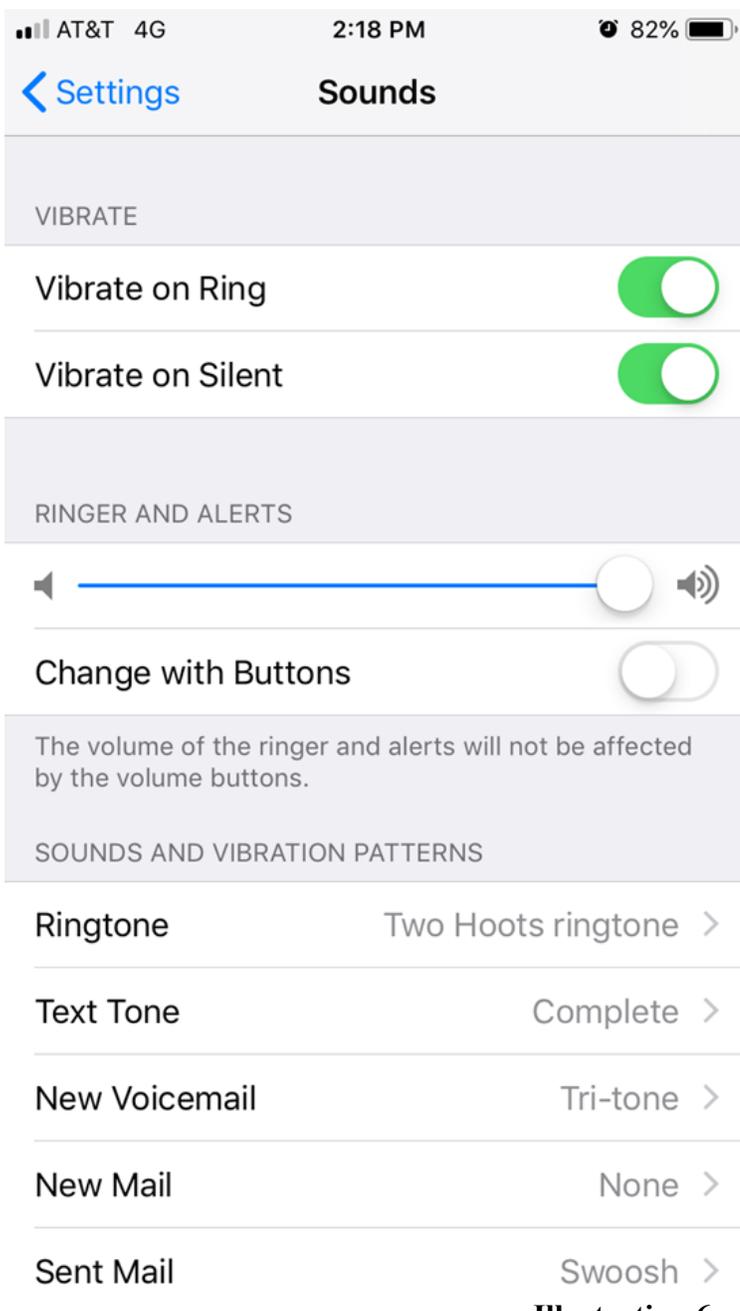


Illustration 6

Continued Page 5

An iPhone Example

Scrolling down to the bottom of the Sounds screen, as shown in **Illustration 7 below**, I found that a switch for Keyboard Clicks was On by default. I turned it off by tapping the switch.

After that, I tested the effect of turning off that switch by typing a memo. Sure enough, I found that the keyboard definitely no longer made a sound.

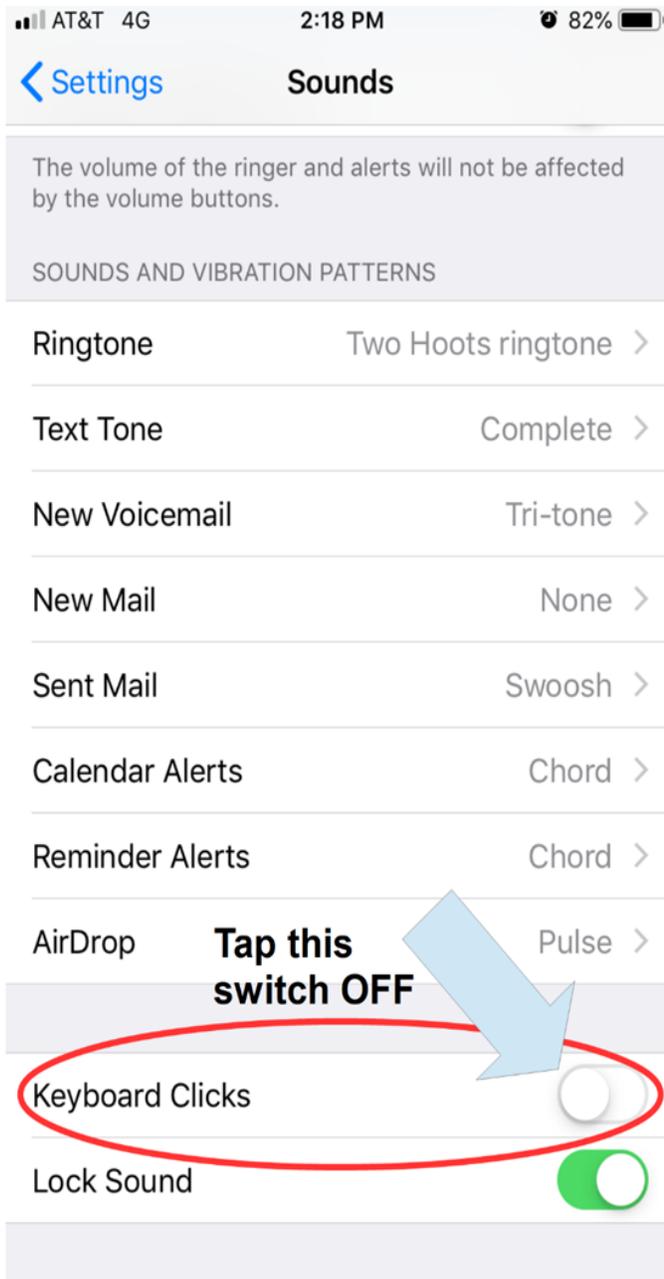


Illustration 7

Is this a realistic security concern?

And now, a critique of the Washington Post report. As best I can tell, the default virtual keyboards on both of my smart phones do not make an individual sound for each key. For instance, the E key does not sound different from the K key to me. I could be wrong; like many over the age of 60, my hearing is not what it once was, so maybe the sound is in fact unique for each key on a virtual keyboard. Alternative virtual keyboards are available in the app stores for Apple and Android. There may be alternate virtual keyboards that do indeed produce a unique sound for each individual keystroke, so that the E key sounds different than the K key. If those alternatives exist, I suggest that you disable the keyboard sound as described above. If the alternative keyboard allows you to silence it by its own configuration, then you can do that to still make other Android System sounds audible.

A far riskier behavior

Another thought: using assistants such as Siri or Alexa or Cortana to dictate verbally an ID or/or password verbally offers a much more significant risk: malware and audio surfers can overhear you and understand your ID and password exactly.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: John Krout has been using personal computers since the late 1970s, and remains fascinated by all the uses, good and bad, of personal computers and their younger siblings, portable computing devices. He was a president of the Washington Area Computer User Group (WAC), a predecessor of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS). He is a frequent contributor to PATACS Posts and has occasionally presented demos at PATACS meetings. He works now as a technical writer for the Thales Group, a major maker of automated fingerprint identification systems, supporting the use of that hardware by a major federal agency. He hopes to retire soon; that won't change his interests, though it might change his budget for new tech.

Two Ways to Add Style to a Word Document By Nancy DeMarte, 1st Vice President, Sarasota Technology Users Group, FL www.thestug.org ndemarte (at) verizon.net

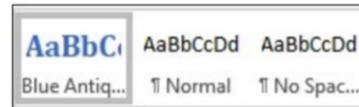
Microsoft Word is loaded with features that give style to documents. “Style” in this case means modifying the look of text and paragraphs. To do this, many users change the font or font size, add effects like bold or color and maybe change the space between lines. These changes are made one at a time and can be time-consuming. Plus, you’ll have to do it again the next time you want that style. There are tools, however, that add style in easier and more coordinated ways. The first one is on the Home tab > Styles group. This gallery contains what could be called “Style Parts” because they add style to parts of documents like titles and headings. The other style-adding feature is the Document Formatting group on the Design tab. This gallery lets you apply a group of stylistic features to a document all at once. These are called “Style Sets.” Here are a few tips for using Style parts and Style sets.



"More" icon

Style Parts: The Styles group on the Home tab offers several styles which can be applied to parts of documents or used to create a special kind of document, like a company or club logo. To see the entire

Styles gallery, click the More icon at the right end of the Styles group. Let’s say you have a document with headings above each paragraph, as this article has. You would like to give them a different appearance from the rest of the text. To preview how some options would look, select your first heading and move your mouse pointer over the styles in the gallery to see how they change the heading. When you find one you like, click it to apply the style to the first heading. But what about all the other headings in your document? This is where Format Painter can help. Select the heading to which you just applied a style. Then double click Format Painter on the Home tab > Clipboard group to keep Format Painter enabled. Drag your mouse across each of the remaining headings to apply the same style as the first one. When done, click Format Painter once to turn it off and save the document. I created and applied a style to the headings in this article as an example. It has a different font, font size, and color from the rest of the text.



Styles Gallery with new Style

the gallery. This is when you can change a gallery style or make your own. To create a new style and add it to the gallery for future use, open a document and select a heading. Using the tools in the Home tab > Font group, make your changes. With the newly styled text selected, click the More icon and then click ‘Create a Style’ to open the ‘Create New Style from Formatting’ box. Give the new style a name that relates to its features and click OK. Your new style will appear in the Styles gallery. I named my heading, “Blue Antique Heading,” based on the font I used. If you don’t find your new heading style in the gallery, click the More icon again, click Apply Styles and then click the new heading style name. Now you should see it in the gallery.

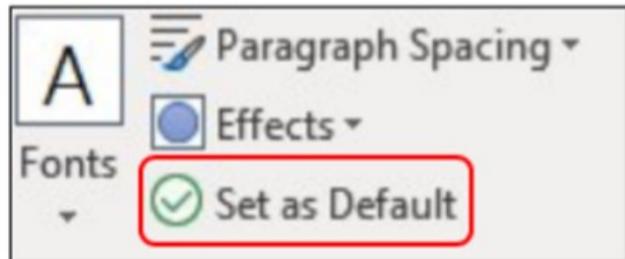


Part of the Style Sets Gallery

Style Sets: You can apply a group of style features to a whole document at once using Style Sets. This includes features on the Home tab in the Font and Paragraph groups. In Word version 2013 and later, Style sets are found on the Design tab. Open this tab and click the More icon at the right end of the Document Formatting group to see the built-in style sets. Preview how these would look on your document by clicking anywhere in the document and moving your mouse pointer slowly over the gallery. Click a set to apply it to your document. If you change your mind, remove the style by clicking the Undo icon (a left-curving arrow at the top left above the ribbon) or pressing Ctrl+Z on the keyboard.

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For those with Word 2007 or 2010, the steps differ a bit. Click the Home tab, and in the Styles group, click Change Styles, then point to Style Set. Preview it the same way as described above. Then click a style set to apply it to your selected document.



Style Set as Default: The default style set in Word is called Normal. This means whenever you type in a blank document, all the features of the Normal style set will be used.

If you wish to modify the Normal style, make your changes, but give it a new name, which will leave the Normal style set intact.

We do this so it doesn't cause a problem when you open older documents. Microsoft has changed its Normal style properties over the years. (For example, Arial was at one time the default font; now it's Calibri.)

You can choose any Style set to become the default. First, apply all the features you want. Then preview how it would look and add it to the Document Formatting gallery.

Finally, click its gallery thumbnail, and click "Set as Default" which appears at the right end of the Document Formatting group.

Now all new documents will be formatted according to your default Style set. You can change the default style at any time.

The way to master Styles is to start small, such as applying headings or titles using the Styles gallery on the Home tab.

After Microsoft changed the default line spacing from 1.0 (single space) to 1.15, I created a style that was single-spaced. That was the only change I made to the Normal style, but it comes in handy when I want to save space.

. Is the CPU the PC Shopping Key?
News and/or opinion from Paul Baecker,
Editor, Sterling Heights Computer Club MI
WYSIWYG www.shcc.org
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With the pending demise of all Microsoft support on January 14, 2020 for what is possibly their best operating system to date (Windows 7), many users will be shopping for a new PC as one of their solutions. Another solution could be to install Linux onto that Windows 7 PC as a 'dual-boot' configuration, so that the user can safely surf the web using the Linux boot option, but still maintain the Windows partition with needed Windows applications (just don't go web surfing with it).

If a new PC is the choice, how to go about it? Well, I look at buying a new computer sort of like buying a new car (or SUV if we believe the trends). What is the first thing about a new vehicle that we think of? I'd say it's the engine. You can select a 4-cyl or 6-cyl or hybrid or electric motor. But once you buy it, can you return to the dealer and switch it if you have second thoughts? Nope. I look at this akin to choosing a PC with a particular

CPU. Generally, you can't switch the CPU (OK, you extreme tekkies, this column isn't for you!) once you make your purchase. You can usually increase the RAM or switch from an HDD to an SSD, and such things that enhance the PC's performance, but you're stuck with the CPU performance that came with that sparkling new PC.

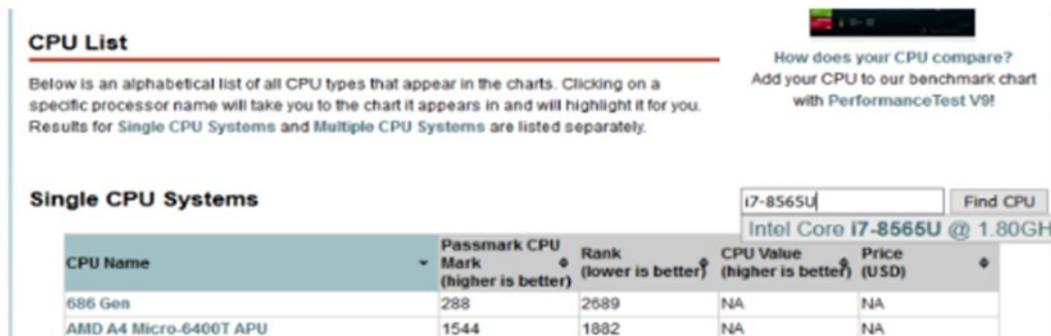
When you see 5 PCs on the store shelf, all with the same price, how to choose? How to select the 'right' PC, despite what the over-anxious salesperson might push you into buying? A little homework, that's how.

The www.passmark.com web site is your new pal. It compares relative performance among over 2700 CPUs from Intel and AMD. AMD is Intel's primary PC CPU competitor, and a CPU brand certainly worth considering (the two manufacturers keep leapfrogging over each other with new CPU technologies —

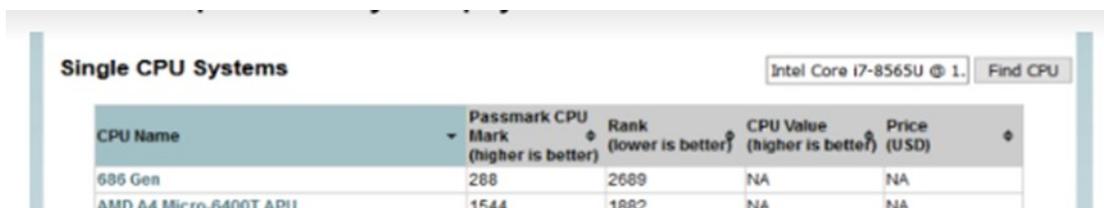
Intel just advertises more, and you pay for that treat). The site also has other hardware benchmarking features (RAM, video cards, drives, much more), but we'll stick to CPUs in this article.

- To check the overall performance of a CPU on passmark.com (which is a FREE site), you do this:
- Go to www.passmark.com
- Select Benchmarks from the menu and then down to CPU Benchmarks.
- Click on the "Search for your CPU model" selection.
- The heading will be "CPU List". Below that, "Single CPU Systems."
- To the right of that, there is an empty box, with a "Find CPU" button next to it. This is where you'll enter the CPU model for which you want a ranking.

For example, a PC you're interested in contains an "Intel Core i7-8565U Processor at 1.8GHz" processor. Copy/paste the processor model (in this case, "i7-8565U") into that box (without the quotes). A greyed box will open, listing all of the processors that pertain to that model (for example, there could be something like an i7-8565UX model, too). It will list all of the CPUs in the same model family. For this 8565 CPU, there is only one model. The site is a bit finicky. You need to enter the proper CPU ID including a dash — for example, like i7 (for Intel) or A10 (for AMD), and then the model number, usually with a dash between them — in order for the site to display it. Keep trying — you'll get the hang of it quickly.



Click on the selection to get it entered in full in the box that was previously empty. It'll look like this:



Then you can click on the Find CPU button, and you'll see the resulting ranking:

CPU Name	Passmark CPU Mark (higher is better)	Rank (lower is better)	CPU Value (higher is better)	Price (USD)
Intel Core i7-8550U @ 1.80GHz	8300	451	NA	NA
Intel Core i7-8559U @ 2.70GHz	12364	206	NA	NA
Intel Core i7-8565U @ 1.80GHz	9067	387	NA	NA
Intel Core i7-8650U @ 1.90GHz	8826	413	NA	NA
Intel Core i7-8665U @ 1.90GHz	8770	420	73.70	6400.00*

Continued Page 9

So, the CPU in this PC is ranked 387 for overall performance among about 2700 listed CPUs. Remember that "1" is the CPU with the highest overall performance (you can click on "Rank" at the top of the listings to see everything in performance order — you can sort on any of the columns there). A ranking above 400 is pretty darned cool these days and will all-but-promise you a high-performing PC for many years to come.

This web site has many other features, but in my opinion, this CPU-performance ranking is the most useful to typical PC shoppers. The site can also compare up to three CPUs at a time. Clicking on any of the CPUs in the list will display windows with additional qualities — power consumption, number of cores, clock speeds, pricing (which changes day-to-day), and more.

Blocks and Bits An Introduction to Blockchain

By Joan Grace, Publicity,
Northeast Ohio PC Club

Nybbles & Bytes

www.neopc.org

Blockchain is a distributed, decentralized, public ledger. (Investopedia) In simple terms, if you consider a standard database, it's like a pile of credit cards on the floor of a bank vault; with blockchain, it's as if each credit card were in a safe deposit box inside the bank vault.

Blockchain is a growing list of records, called blocks, which are linked using cryptography. Each block contains a cryptographic hash of the previous block, a timestamp, and transaction data. By design, a blockchain is resistant to modification of the data. (Wikipedia)

Blockchain technology promises to transform finance the way the internet transformed communication.

Blockchain is the technology that runs Bitcoin. There have been technologies similar to Blockchain, but none of them combined all the three features of Blockchain: Peer-to-peer Network, Cryptography, and Proof of Work.

In addition, blockchain technology can be used in other applications as well; e.g., tracking votes, registering auto titles, managing medical records.

So, when you visit a store (or a retail web site) and observe so many PCs available to your wallet, consider making notes of the various CPUs in PCs in your price range. Peruse their overall performance on this site.

Also consider upping your price range just a bit to get a much-higher-rated CPU, knowing that later you can alter those other PC components to enhance that PC (RAM, drive, etc.).

Then go shopping. Some stores offer a return period with a full refund (avoid stores with so called 'restocking fees'!!!), so that you can test drive your new digital toy at home, particularly useful since you really cannot put any PC to the test in a store.

Just ask about it.



Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency, a form of electronic cash. It is a decentralized digital currency without a central bank or single administrator that can be sent from user to user on the peer- to-peer bitcoin network without the need for intermediaries. (Wikipedia) Bitcoin is world's first revolutionary cryptocurrency and a digital payment system. There are other cryptocurrencies as well.

Cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security between individuals, and for anti-counterfeiting measures. This means users must reach a consensus about cryptocurrency's value and use it as an exchange medium. A defining feature of a cryptocurrency, and arguably its biggest allure, is its organic nature; it is not issued by any central authority, rendering it theoretically immune to government interference or manipulation.

Blockland: Cleveland is building a blockchain technology ecosystem; Blockland is a group of civic and business leaders working on making Cleveland a tech hub. The Blockland initiative exists to educate and promote real-world blockchain applications, while establishing and leading a blockchain ecosystem with support from private, public and philanthropic individuals and organizations to:

Continued Page 10

Educate - Provide for an emerging workforce and leaders in blockchain technology.

Lead - Demonstrate innovation and real-world application of technology in the Midwest.

Establish - Create a local ecosystem where partnerships leverage blockchain technology.

Using a Web Browser

By Jim Cerney, Forum Leader, The Sarasota Technology Users Group, FL

The STUG Monitor

www.thestug.org

[jimcerny123 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jimcerny123@gmail.com)

Have you heard of Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Firefox, or Safari? Well, they are all Internet Browsers – apps (programs or software) that allow you to see web pages and cruise the internet. No computer should be without one! Windows computers come with Microsoft Edge included for free, but the others are free as well.

Do not confuse a web browser with a search engine. A search engine, such as Google, is a web page that you use to search the internet for something – and you can get to Google on any browser. All web browsers will do the same things, maybe in slightly different ways, and it is up to you to pick the ones you like to use. Here are some tips and information for using any browser:

1. You need internet access to use a browser. If you do not have internet access and try to use it you will get a message that you are not connected.
2. Use the “search/address bar” to enter either text you want to search the internet for OR a web page address (like www.thestug.org). The browser will determine if you are doing a search (not entering a valid web address) and will use the default search engine to do the search and display your results. Firefox, for example, will use Google by default as its search engine. Most browsers will allow you to change the default to another search engine in “settings.” If you enter a valid web page address you will “go to” and see that web page.
3. The “search/address bar” displays the web page address of the page you are looking at. You can highlight and copy this address to paste it in a document, email, etc.

Promote - Blockchain has incredible potential to be inclusive in serving the greater good.

Part of the effort involves a proposed real estate deal that would create a space dedicated to housing start-ups and coders, nick-named the City Block.

4. As you browse the internet and click on different things, new web pages will be displayed – and you are creating a “chain” of web pages. Not every “click” will create a new web page in the chain, some may create a new “tab,” for example. Use the “left and right arrows” to go to previous web pages (left) or to web pages you have already viewed (right).
5. The little “house” or “home” icon will take you back to your starting web page.
6. The menu of options, including “settings,” “help,” and more is displayed by clicking on the three lines (called a “hamburger”) or three dots in a vertical line.
7. TABS – those things on the top row of your browser (or near the top), are used to create a new “window.” You may think of a tab as if you opened another session of your browser. As you click on different links sometimes a new tab will be created for you. Tabs can be helpful if you learn how to use them. Create a new tab by clicking on the plus sign “+” at the right end of the tab row. It is easy to return to a web page by clicking on the tab. In your browser settings it is possible to have a set of tabs opened and ready for you when you open the browser.
8. SETTINGS – Can provide the many options, help, and defaults for your browser. Most browsers will have a video of how to use it and will describe what each setting option does.
9. By all means go to Google and ask, “How do I use Google Chrome” (or any browser you prefer) to see videos and help. Take a few minutes to learn more about your browser!
10. FAVORITES or BOOKMARKS will let you create a list of all your favorite web pages. You can organize this list any way you like, including creating “folders.” Clicking on a bookmark may or may not create a new “tab.”

Continued Page 11

11. History, cookies, and other records are created by all browsers. Look in settings and ask Google about the options for your browser to turn off these things or to delete them. Usually it is a good thing to delete your history upon exit-

Let's Be Safe Out There

By Matt Batt, President,
The Computer Club, FL

<https://www.scccomputerclub.org>
mbatt453 (at) gmail.com

We've all heard about all the hackers and the data breaches that have happened to so many online sites. We shudder when we hear the names of the sites. But, what we don't know is if our own email address and passwords were actually compromised.

There is a website, haveibeenpwned.com, that has collected the information published by hacked companies when they disclose those email addresses that have been compromised.

This website has been operational for five years, gets about 60,000 visitors a day and seems to be a safe site to use. Its purpose is to provide the general public a convenient way to see if their private information has been leaked or compromised.

When you bring up the haveibeenpwned.com site, you are greeted with a field to type in your email address and instructions to "Check if you have an account that has been compromised in a data breach."

It is safe to type in your email address. You aren't disclosing any information that isn't all over the web already.

After you type in your email address and click on "pwned?", you will either get Oh ho – pwned! Or Good news – no pwnage found! If you have been part of a breach, you will see a description of each breach along with the date of the breach and what was compromised.

In my case, my email address and password were compromised in the Adobe breach of 2013 and in the Zomato breach in May of 2017. It suddenly seemed like a really good idea to change my password.

ing your browser session. Learning is good for you. And learning how to use your browser opens up more ways to learn using the internet. Enjoy your potential.

You can select an option for the site to notify you if your email address shows up on any new list of breaches email addresses. When you select "notify Me" from the page menu, you'll get to prove you are not a robot and you'll be sent a verification to confirm that you are real.

If you discover that you have been breached, do change your password on that email account. Also, if you use that same password on other accounts, change them also.

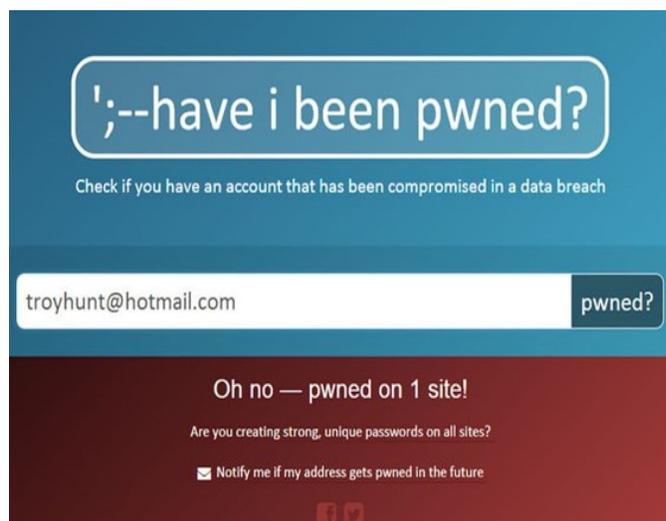
"Let's be careful out there!"

How to know if you've been hacked Worried you've been hacked? Use these sites to find out and protect yourself

By Tyler Lacoma, Digital Trends

The best way is to find out if your security has been compromised as soon as possible so you can take personal action, which is where data breach detection websites come into play.

These sites allow you to securely search through the latest hacked data to see if any of your sensitive information is at risk. We've rounded up four of the best for you to use based on your security needs, so let's dive in.



Continued Page 12

works hard to track down breaches, verify them as legitimate, and nab data so you can check it out. You can read more about site runner [Troy Hunt and his thoughts on the business here](#).

Once you log onto the site, you'll be greeted with a basic search bar and a list of the latest and largest breaches. Just type in your email or username, and the site will search the breached data and show-case any red flags. You can also search more sensitive breaches, but only if you take the time to verify your email address. There's also an option to deep link straight to a particular account, so you can instantly bring up results for one particular email address if you plan on doing a lot of repeated searches.

It's a simple tool that still allows for some customization as needed. Moreover, it's obvious that Hunt really cares about this sort of white hat work, as well as educating users on the dangers of data breaches

Password Managers
Windows 10 Forum,
By Dave Gerber,
Sarasota Technology Users Club, Florida
www.thestug.org
[davegerber1 \(at\) verizon.net](mailto:davegerber1@verizon.net)

A question about Password Managers came up during the Windows 10 Forum at the July STUG Meeting so I thought I'd share some info common to all of the best known and reputable programs ...
 Dave Gerber

Password managers are the most recommended tool by security experts to protect your online credentials from hackers. But many people are still hesitant to use them. Here's why password managers are safe, secure, and your best defense against password-hungry cyber criminals.

What is a password manager?
 Think of it like a safe for your passwords. When you need something inside the safe, you unlock it. Password managers work the same for your online credentials.

You create a single, super-strong password, which acts like a key. Install the password manager app on your phone, computer, browser, and other devices. Your passwords are securely stored inside it. Anytime you need to log in to an account, unlock

your password manager and retrieve your login info.

With website vulnerabilities and security incidents on the rise, many people have grown to mistrust a tech tool to manage their passwords. What if the password manager gets hacked?

Reputable password managers take extra steps to lock down your info and keep it safe from cyber criminals.

A good password manager:

- Doesn't know your master password (so hackers can never steal it)

- Encrypts all your data

- Does not store any of your data on their servers

- Can generate strong, secure password

No privacy tool can completely guarantee your online safety. Even the most elaborate lock can be broken into. Yet we still lock our doors to our houses and cars.

The alternative to using a password manager is to rely on your own memory to remember all your credentials. This inevitably leads to recycling passwords or using variations — a bad habit that hackers love.

Password managers can be such an effective security tool because they help us improve bad habits. With a password manager installed on your computer and phone, it's a lot easier to take your logins everywhere so you can use unique, strong passwords on every account.

Password managers don't store all your credentials together in one place. Any data you store in a password manager — passwords, logins, security questions, and other sensitive info — is securely encrypted. Even if the password manager gets hacked, cyber criminals would not be able to see your logins.

The only way to access your data is with a single master password that only you know. You use this password to unlock the manager on your computer, phone, or other devices. Once it's unlocked, a password manager can fill in your logins to websites and apps.

Our memories sometimes fail us. Ever clicked a “forgot password?” link? It’s very common to use variations of the same password to make them easier to remember. With a password manager, you don’t need to remember any of your credentials. It can be installed on all your devices and will auto-fill your passwords for you. Once you get in the habit of using one, you’ll no longer have to worry about forgetting your credentials.

Sure, it takes time to log all your credentials in a password manager. But you don’t need to do it all at once. You can always start small and change just a few passwords at a time. Try installing a password manager and creating new, unique passwords for the websites you visit most frequently. Over time, as you log in to other sites, you can add others.

Research Before Online Shopping

**By Richard Durand, President,
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As the old saying goes, “When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping.” Here in the 21st Century, we don’t have to be as tough to be shopping because now a lot of shopping can be done online. In terms of placing orders, methods of payment, shipping, etc., I really don’t have anything to contribute. But the browsing and research necessary to make a selection has been radically transformed and enhanced in a lot of unexpected ways. Here are a few. One of the nice things about going to an old-time store was to be able to pick up and inspect an item. That was a plus for in-person shopping, though maybe not enough if the item was sealed and/or shrink wrapped. Something I discovered that I found to be much, much more useful and better was to do a search on a potential selection in the YouTube search box, and add this word, “unboxing.” Then, click on one of the search results and watch a video on the selection. Oftentimes, the video will be done by a store salesman with not only product knowledge but practiced communication skills that he will use to describe things understandably. He’ll hold up the contents one by one and identify them for you. It just might help.

Another useful online research technique is to look at the reviews for an item on Amazon. From what I’ve seen, Amazon allows just about anyone, not just the pros, but actual users and customers, to compose and upload a review of just about any item posted. The reviewer has to give a rating from one to five stars and then has space for further explanations. Many leave only very terse comments, if any, but there are a surprising number who offer long stories and multiple reasons for their ratings. These authors seem to have acquired a purpose in

life of informing the rest of the world about their experiences with a product or a company’s customer service. Personally, I’ve got better things to do, but I’ll gladly take advantage of the reviews of others.

And the one final method of research, which is blatantly obvious, but still worth mentioning, is to just enter a product name or even just a general category, such as “scanner” or “RAM,” into the box of a browser search engine, such as good old Google, and add this word, “reviews.” There might be lots and lots of search results, some of which might prove to be very useful. One I like to see is something along the lines of “What to look for in a ? (whatever).” Or there might be a result along the lines of “Top ten headsets, or widgets, or whatever.” Even if there is no worthwhile product to select, such searches might reveal some very important information, such as what critical attributes to look for, what price range to expect, and what local establishments have this type of product available.

For me, positive or negative reports are less important than the information provided. Something that’s praised to the skies might not be what I’m looking for, and something else that’s condemned in a review might be just what I need. Numerical ratings are just opinions, at best, starting points, and are secondary. The internet empowers one to make up one’s own mind about shopping and about a lot of other things, so one might as well use one’s own mind. And if enough of us do our online shopping with these methods, I am convinced that the vendors will be motivated to improve in price, quality, and customer service. For them, it’s getting more and more competitive. And for us, all of this can be done from one’s own computer, tablet or smartphone.

Happy shopping!

Your opinions about the philosophy of the article below??? (ed.)

Internet of Things Data Tracking

By Jeff Wilkinson, Present, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club, NV
 igabyte Gazette www.scs-cc.com pres.scsc (at) gmail.com

Table 1: IoT Units Installed Base by Category (Millions of Units)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2020
Consumer	3,963.0	5,244.3	7,036.3	12,863.0
Business: Cross-Industry	1,102.1	1,501.0	2,132.6	4,381.4
Business: Vertical-Specific	1,316.6	1,635.4	2,027.7	3,171.0
Grand Total	6,381.8	8,380.6	11,196.6	20,415.4

Source: Gartner (January 2017)

As I continue to delve into the ramifications of targeted marketing and how it might affect us in our everyday lives, I'm diverted to the Internet of Things (IoT). A little research on IoT and how data from seemingly innocuous devices could be collected and used, proved enlightening, with a tremendous amount being written on this subject.

How will this data flow through the various collection systems? Will data be captured in real time or transmitted in anonymous batches? How will it be used, and who will have access to the purportedly anonymous data sources? Devices supplying data could include fitness wearables, various accessories in cars, IoT equipped appliances, such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, health trackers, Smart TV's, security cameras and devices, web connected eyeglasses, and the list goes on.

IoT devices will outnumber the world's population this year for the first time.

A recent study indicated that over half of those surveyed would be willing to receive some ads.

This, of course, indicates that some form of data tracking is needed, not only of our computers and phones, but of the fitness monitors used to track our physical activity, the refrigerators monitoring our supply of milk, or the processor in our new car monitoring our driving!

Much of the data can be used for non-nefarious purposes, such as product improvement and future product development. But will some of this data be used to extrapolate future drug health care needs, based on current fitness monitor feedback data? Will this data find its way into

insurance actuarial tables? And, of course this data will be used for more fine grain targeted marketing? The management of this data has, in fact, spawned new companies who will monetize this valuable data. It will be another learning experience, as hopefully the public is able to decide what is acceptable and what is not.

On the plus side, IoT can help create Smart Homes and improve machine efficiency, such as heating and cooling devices. IoT can be used in wearables for security and identification, health monitoring and reporting, smart retail and inventory control, optimization of farming, and supply chain activities, to name a few.

Many positive things come out of the use of IoT data, such as Rolls Royce using this data, along with artificial intelligence (AI), to create business benefits to customers and improve their products. They have created "Data Innovation Cells" which use collected data to test new ideas to improve performance, maintenance cycles, and safety, and develop product improvements. It is certain that data from IoT connected devices will unlock efficiencies, spawn innovation, and lead to meaningful insights of all kinds!

So, the IoT is actually being used in numerous positive ways, and engineers are just beginning to see all the potential benefits. Of course, putting sensors and retrieving feedback from every process can result in an overabundance of data, which may or may not prove useful. While all of this can be viewed as an overwhelming invasion of privacy, it can also be looked at as an exciting step forward and a world full of new opportunities, with positive outcomes around every corner!

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PATACS Information

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OPCUG / PATACS Saturday Meetings**Meeting Information and Agenda**

12:30 – Social time in Coffee Room and Annex

In June and December, a PC Clinic / Tech Help session is run concurrently with the meeting from 1 PM in the Annex.

1:00 – 1:05: TA-1: Meeting Start – Introductions, Announcements

See: <https://www.patacs.org/clinicpat.html>**Please silence phones.**

1:05 – 1:19: Q&A – detailed responses may be deferred to post-meeting communication.

With the concurrence of presenters, meeting sessions are webcast using the Zoom.us cloud meeting service.

1:20 – 1:50: 'Learn in 30' Presentation

1:50 – 2:00: Break in Coffee Room / Annex

Dues-paid members may 'attend' from remote locations, using the meeting number information provided on the PATACS website.

2:00 – 3:20: Featured Presentation

3:20 – Door Prize Drawings (usually 3) for each group. Eligibility - group members only.

Please see:
<https://www.patacs.org/mtgdetpat.html#3rdsat>

3:30 – Adjourn (Expect some flexibility in scheduled times. Order may be varied to accommodate scheduling needs of our valued presenters.)

Need more information about Zoom?
Contact: webinarhosts@patacs.org

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 Visit Our Web Site: <http://www.patacs.org> Free Admission Bring a Friend!

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 X 5711 4th Street South
 xxxxxx Arlington, Virginia 22204

Fairfax: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
 4210 Roberts Road
 Fairfax, Virginia 22032 x

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