

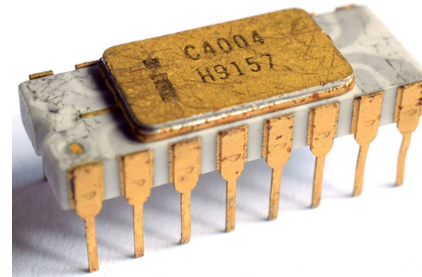
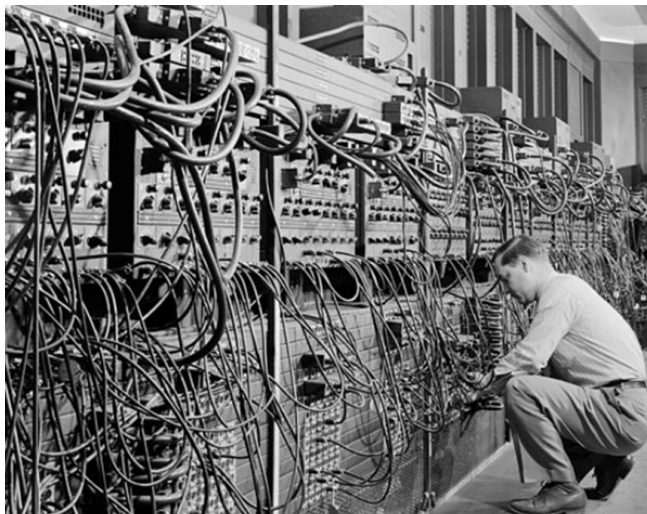
PATACS/OPCUG
3rd Saturday, April 18

Physical Meeting Canceled
Session via Zoom - Meeting Access
Will Be Sent via Email

History of Computers:
How We Got Here; Part 1

Presented by Lorrin Garson

The technology of our modern computers goes back to the early 19th century with most of the advancements occurring in our lifetime. You will learn how weaving, mathematics, the telephone and cryptology played important roles and how the basic laws of chemistry and physics apply. Contributors to the development of computers include mathematical geniuses and hippies, aristocrats and the poverty stricken, men and women, party animals and several disparate technologies.



No one person or group invented the computer. Our computers are the creation of many interesting people and several disparate technologies.

Lorrin Garson had a long career in technical publishing of chemical information. His presentations to our computer groups are famous for their thorough research and clarity in explaining topics such as cryptography, encryption of personal data, cloud storage and the origins of personal computers.

Thank you very much to Leti Labell, John Krout, Henry Winokur, Andy Schoka, Gabe Goldberg, Bill Walsh, Paul Howard, and all of our dedicated, skillful, and persistent volunteers who have endured many challenges to develop the offering of our PATACS meetings through Zoom — all of this very graciously and patiently without constantly informing us that it required learning much more than they ever really wanted to know. It made a wonderful difference for all during this challenging time in our world. Thank you to all of you for your time, effort, and caring.

This is the perfect opportunity for each of us to contact one of the officers listed on page 15 and find a way to help – for those who are technical experts and for the many of us who are not.

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ANDROID APPS AND CARD STORAGE

Save some internal storage space on your smart phone or tablet by moving apps to microSD card storage. Some other apps can be configured to store their data on card storage. You can use the extra internal space to install more apps.

By John Krout, PATACS member

Most Android smart phones and tablets sold in the United States have a slot in which a microSD card can be placed to expand the flash memory available in the device. Such cards can often increase the total storage available on the device by a factor of two or more, at the low cost of a modern microSD card.

For instance, my old Samsung Galaxy S7 phone had 32 gigabytes (GB) of flash memory storage internally. I had over 50 GB of music files, and another 6 gigabytes of digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) photos, plus roughly a dozen 48 megapixel scans of 35mm slides I shot during the film era. All that data could not fit in the phone's internal memory. So I bought a 128 GB microSD card and put that card in the phone. The result was a total of 160 GB storage.

That same microSD card is now in my new Samsung Galaxy S10 phone. I add photos and music occasionally. As it happens, the S10 from Verizon Wireless includes 128 GB of flash memory. So my total, with the added microSD card, is 256 GB.

I admit that 128 GB of internal storage provided in the S10 smart phone sounds like a sufficient amount. Let's take a look at that assumption.

Over time, data types become more bulky. That trend has been going on since computers were invented. Nobody in 2003 expected that DSLRs could ever produce 20 megapixel images, but now even inexpensive DSLRs produce 20 megapixel images, and the most expensive DSLRs produce 50 megapixel images. My S10 phone

would be able to record sharp and clear videos on phones, but most new phones shoot 1080P videos, and each of those video files typically occupy several gigabytes of storage.

My S10 camera app is smart enough to produce panoramic images, a super wide image created by panning the phone across a scene. I tried a simple one. The image file was 40 megapixels. That is a prime example of a new and bulky data type. Videos take up even more storage.

All of those modern forms of data occupy huge quantities of storage on the phone. And over time, apps inevitably grow in functionality and physical size. It pays to be prepared for all that.

WHERE DOES THAT CARD GO IN THE PHONE?

These days, to conserve physical space and parts count in ever-thinner phones, the microSD card slot is often stacked atop the white SIM card. Both are accessed through the SIM card cover on the edge of the phone. That was true in both the S7 and my new Samsung Galaxy S10. Other phones may provide an accessible battery compartment in which the SIM card and microSD card stack are placed.

In short, if you do not know where the card goes, then read your phone manual. If you have lost or discarded the manual, you can download a PDF of the phone manual from the phone maker's web site.

Illustration 1 (below) is a composite of two photos depicting the card covers on my Samsung Galaxy 10 and my Samsung Galaxy Tab A, along with the Galaxy S10 card cover key.



Continued Page 3

On the Galaxy Tab A, the slot is in the middle on the right side, and the volume up and down button is above the slot cover, closer to the top of the tablet. The slot cover has an indent on the upper left. Simply pull that indent out, using say tweezers, and the cover swings away to reveal the card slot.

The Galaxy S10 card slot cover is not labeled. It is on the top edge of the Galaxy S10 phone. To open a card slot cover that has that tiny hole, like the S10 card cover, use the key that was provided with the device, or use a safety pin. Press into the hole, and the cover unlatches. The cover and the tray within are spring loaded and will pop out. Note that there is another hole on the top edge of the Galaxy S10, but that other hole does not have the outline of a card cover around it.

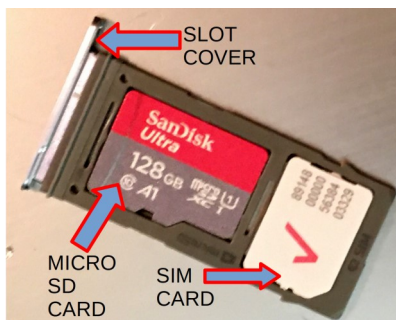


Illustration 2 (at left) shows the microSD card and the white SIM card on the card tray of my Galaxy S10. I turned off the S10 phone, unlatched the card cover, and

ejected the carrier tray for the SIM card and the microSD card from the phone to take the photo. In older devices, there may be separate edge covers for SIM and microSD card slots.

If you unlatch a cover and there is a white card inside, that is the SIM card. Some older phones have the card slots inside the battery compartment.

In a tablet like my Galaxy Tab A that does not use the phone network, the slot will hold only a microSD card, since a SIM card is needed if and only if the tablet accesses the phone network.

Always insert a microSD card with the gold contact edge going in first. MicroSD card slots are carefully constructed to prohibit inserting a mis-oriented card. If the card won't go in the slot, flip it over and try again.

WHAT CAN THAT CARD CONTAIN?

Any type of data that can be stored on a hard drive can also be stored on flash memory in a microSD card.

I have mentioned photos and songs. I also use the phone to take photos, record a few videos, and record voice memos.

And I carry around many manuals in PDF form, including manuals for my car, my cameras and camcorders, and my phone itself, as well as downloaded PDF maps of trails in most Virginia State Parks. I keep all of those on the microSD card.

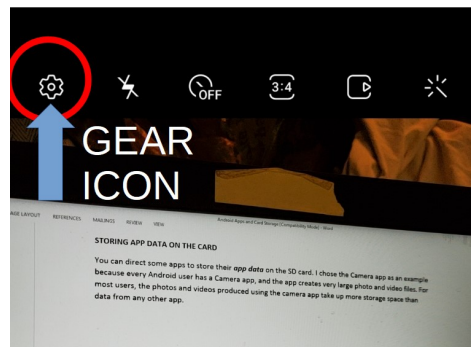
STORING APP DATA ON THE CARD

You can direct some apps to store their *app data* on the SD card. I chose the Camera app as an example because every Android user has a Camera app, and the app creates very large photo and video files.

Typically most owners use that app often. For most users, the photos and videos produced using the camera app take up more storage space than data from any other app.

Note: These screen captures were done with the Android 11 OS. The techniques are quite similar for the Android 10 OS, and I believe they were somewhat similar for Android 9 and Android 8.

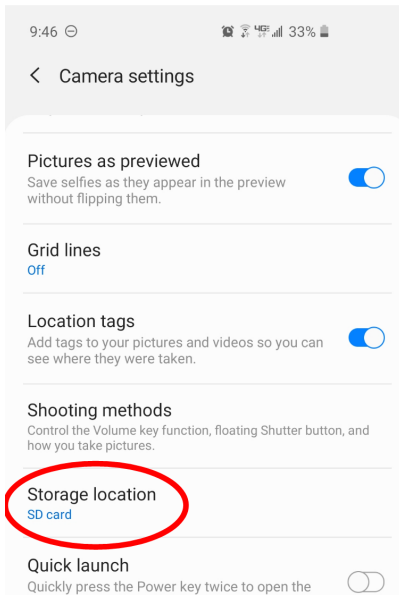
I set the S10 **Camera app** on the Galaxy S10 to record photos and videos on the microSD card.



At the top left corner of the screen, tap the gear icon to access Camera Settings. That tap

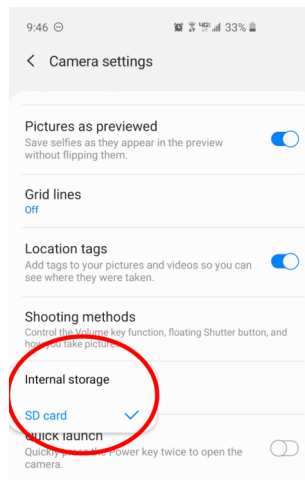
opens the Camera Settings page.

Continued Page 4



At the top left corner of the screen, tap the gear icon to access Camera Settings. That tap opens the Camera Settings page. Scroll to the bottom of that page and find a heading labeled Storage location, shown in **Illustration 4** (at left).

Tap that heading to change storage to the card. A popup menu appears, as shown in **Illustration 5** (at right). It contains only two choices. Select "SD card" to change storage to the card. The Camera app chooses or creates its own data folder on the microSD card, called DCIM. You will find your photos in a sub-folder of DCIM. Mine are in a sub-folder of DCIM called Camera.



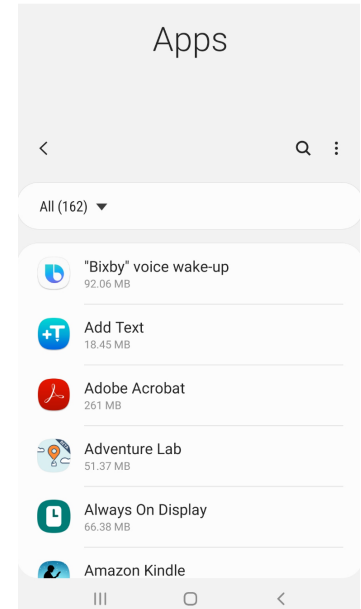
WHICH APPS CAN BE MOVED TO THE CARD?

Also, some *smart phone apps can be stored on a microSD card*, rather than on device internal memory. Back when phones only contained 16 GB or 32 GB of internal flash memory storage, it was easy to fill up the internal storage with apps and the database for each app, moving apps to the card helped manage scarcity of available storage space. If your device already has many apps on it, identifying the apps that are eligible to be moved to the microSD card is not

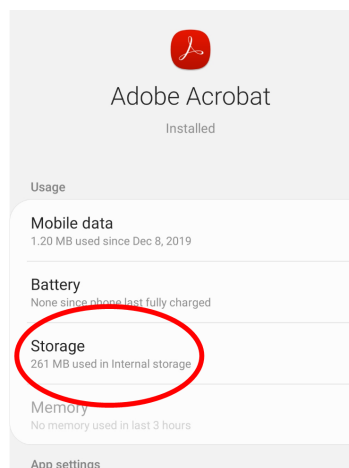
very easy. You have to examine each app individually, one by one, in Settings. Here is how to do that examination using the Android 10 OS on the Galaxy S10 phone.

Open the Settings app. On that Settings app screen, scroll down to the Apps heading. Tap that heading.

You will see a list of apps on the device, in alphabetic order. You will see the total number of apps on the device at the top left. The top of my list as of March 2020 is shown in **Illustration 6** (at right).

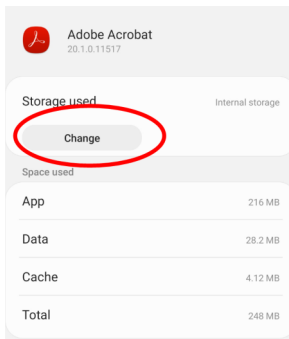


Some apps can be moved to card storage, and some cannot. The difference is apparently due to some source code requirements that the app developer can choose to include or not include. In my case, out of 150+ apps, I found 19 that allowed relocation to card storage. I called that group the *eligible apps*.



In the Settings list of apps, tap the app name. An app-specific info page appears. See for example the app info page shown in **Illustration 7** (at left) In the app info page, tap the Storage heading. That is an app storage usage page.

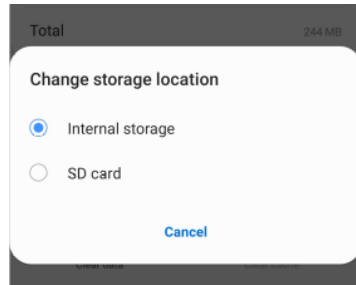
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See for example the Adobe Acrobat storage page shown in **Illustration 8**. The Change button is circled for emphasis. If the app cannot be moved, the Change button will not be present on the page.

HOW TO MOVE AN ELIGIBLE APP

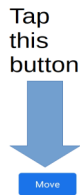
As you might guess, the actual move begins by tapping the Change button. When you tap the button, a popup menu



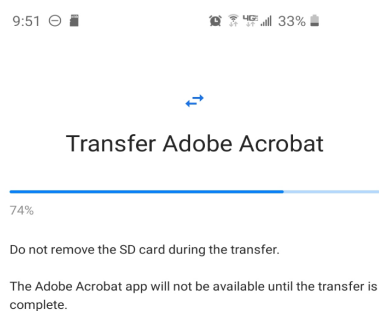
appears with two pushbutton choices: internal storage or SD card. That popup menu is depicted in **Illustration 9** (above right).



Select SD card. A new Export screen appears as shown in **Illustration 10** (at left). It includes a Move button in the lower right corner, and a < symbol (back button) below that. Tap Move to start the process, or the < symbol to avoid the move and go back to the App page.



Tap the Move button, and the Transfer page appears. It includes a fuel gauge reporting move progress. That page is shown in **Illustration 11** (at right).



I chose a very large app, Adobe Acrobat, as my first to move to card storage. The app itself occupies over 200 megabytes, so the move work took quite some time. Smaller apps take less time.

I have found no performance or loading speed penalty for moving apps to the microSD card, and I did not expect to see either. The reason is that apps are stored initially in the device's internal flash memory storage. That storage is not any faster than the microSD card.

Once moved to card storage, the Change button remains available, so you can move apps back to internal storage at any time.

THE APPS I MOVED

Remember, the phone reported that the list in my case included 150 apps. It turned out that 19 were eligible, about 12% of the total.

From my viewpoint, it took a long time to inspect each one and move the eligible ones. I think the Android Settings app could be improved to make this process a bit more efficient, by including a list option to show only apps eligible for a move.

Here is the list of eligible apps on my Galaxy S10 phone:

- Adobe Acrobat Reader, c:geo, CNN, DSLR Remote Plus, eFax, Freece II (by Mobilityware), Locus Map, Netflix, Photoshop Express, QR Code Reader Pro, Redbox, Roku remote control, Reversi Free (by AI Factory), Spider solitaire (by Mobilityware), Sudoku (by Genina), USAA, Venmo, VLC, ZOOM

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: John Krout is a former president of the Washington Area Computer user Group (WAC), and has been writing on personal tech issues since the early 1980s. After his tenure at WAC, that club merged with another to form the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS). John has provided many insights on use and configuration of iPhones and Android phones during PATACS meetings and in PATACS Posts articles. After a long career as a software developer using C and C++, now John is a tech writer for the Thales Group, supporting the use of that company's advanced automatic finger identification systems by a major federal agency.

PC Organization

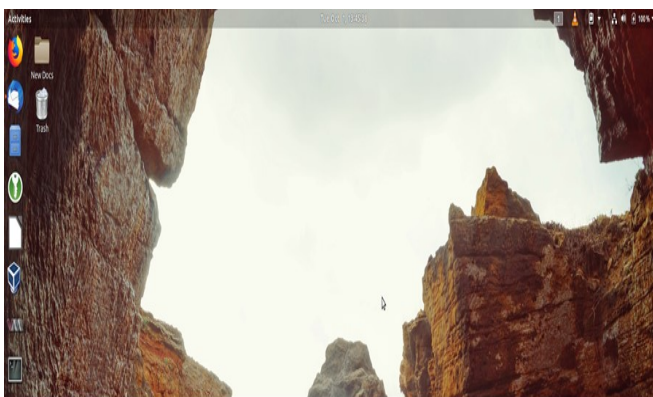
**Author: Dick Maybach, Member,
Brookdale Computer User Group, NJ
www.bcug.com n2nd (at) att.net**

We are cursed by the low cost of modern disks, on which we can store several terabytes for under \$100. As a result, our PCs often hold thousands of files, hundreds of e-mail messages, and dozens of applications, often making it difficult to find what we want. Organizing the information on a PC after several years of use is such a daunting task that it's easy to put off. Instead, treat getting organized as a goal, realizing that you'll probably never reach, but as you make progress, you'll find you're getting more efficient.

Application Menu Bar — Space here is precious, so I reserve it for my most-used programs, about a dozen. To access the others I use the Windows key (), then type a character or two to see a short list, one of which is almost always the one I want. Often, even this isn't needed, as a double-click on a filename will launch the appropriate application, or a right-click will give you a choice of alternative ones. This is usually faster than searching a cluttered menu bar or desktop.

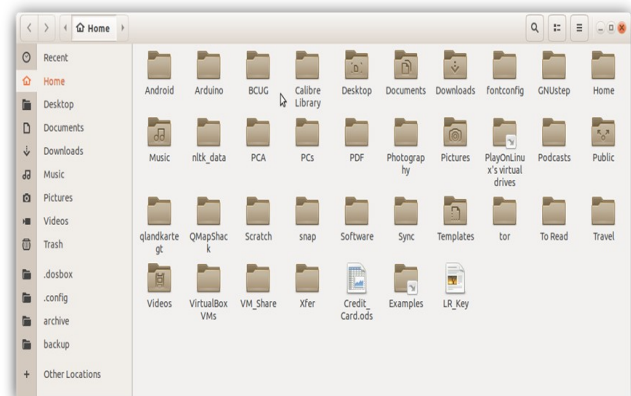
Desktop — I prefer to keep mine clean, and it now holds just two icons, the trashcan and one folder (my equivalent of a to-do list). I often have several windows open and would have to move or minimize these to access icons on the desktop. Keeping them elsewhere speeds up my work; see Figure 1 below:

A Barren Desktop



File System — We all use a hierarchical structure of folders in which we store our files. Storing is the easy part; it's the retrieval that's difficult. Using descriptive folder and file names will help greatly, although this may take some adjustment if you began using PCs in the DOS days, where you were limited to maximums of eight characters for file names and three for extensions. I find it useful to have an archive folder where I move files and folders that I seldom need but haven't worked up the courage to discard. Your Windows File Explorer can help you identify candidates for deleting. Configure it to sort the files by their creation date, with the oldest shown first, and to display them as a list so you can see their creation dates, which will help you find old files that are no longer useful. My approach here is much like that for my desktop and menu bar; almost every file is in a directory with very few loose ones in my home folder; see Figure 2 below.

Home Folder



Mail — Most of us also keep our messages far too long with the result that our inboxes are overflowing. You can create folders and even sub-folders within your in-box with descriptive names, such as Orders, Travel, Finance, and Medical. The great majority of messages should be deleted immediately. Review your messages and discard those that are no longer useful such as reservations for completed trips. Many others are valuable for only a short time; I periodically delete all that are over a year old (and yet my inbox contains hundreds.)

Continued Page 7

Favorites — I keep only my most-used few on my browser menu bar. The rest are organized in folders, so I can quickly find what I need. Here too, you should perform house cleaning and delete those that [are](#) obsolete or unused. Our interests change over time, and some sites that we used to check every day now just clutter our list. Many browsers provide a cloud service that synchronizes the favorites on all your devices, which greatly eases the job, assuming you use the same browser everywhere, of course.

Media — You may use specialized applications to store and retrieve photos, songs, and the like. Often, these can create playlists that access the files in the order you prefer, without having to duplicate or move the files. I prefer to keep my **MEDIA FILES** media files on my disk rather than in the cloud, although this means that I have to back them up. I also prefer to organize my media files

using the file manager, although this means I have to rename them to make them appear in the correct order.

Some years ago I used a photo organizing application for this, and when its vendor discontinued it, I lost several slide shows. I still had the photos, but they weren't in a logical order and were no longer associated with the title slides.

Passwords — I consider a password manager application essential. This organizes them into folders and stores them in an encrypted database. Some also can store associated information, such as PINs, security questions and answers, and URLs. They also can generate strong passwords, which removes the temptation to use the same one on different accounts. I have no idea what most of my passwords are, but I don't need to as they are available on my PC and cell phone, once I enter the database password (about the only one I do know). I use KeePassXC, <https://keepassxc.org> which is available for all operating systems, and there is a compatible variant for Android. As a result, my passwords are always available, but still secure. Figure 3 (above right) shows the application. I

application have items in the Internet category, and I should split it up to make them easier to find.

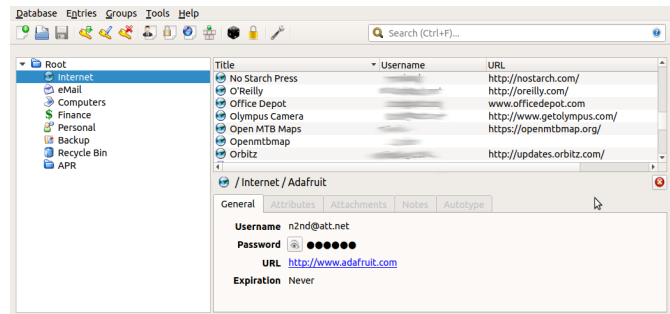


Figure 3. KeePassXC



Each major topic is a separate file, and each is organized like a folder tree. Unfortunately, it has no cell-phone equivalent, but I can export the notes as a PDF for display on my cell phone. **Figure 4** (above) shows my notes file for this article.

Notes: — We all make notes, and keeping track of them can be difficult. Organization is personal, and what I find efficient may frustrate you. I use CherryTree, <https://www.giuspen.com/cherrytree/>, which stores both formatted text and images and is available for Windows and Linux. I keep some only a short while, for example, while I gather information for an article, but some I retain and modify for years, for example, those on photography and PC operation. Pay attention to how you spend your time, and to the ten percent rule. “We spend 90 percent of our time on 10 percent of the tasks.” Perhaps you can change how you store things, or there may be an application to make retrieval faster.



System Monitoring Tools

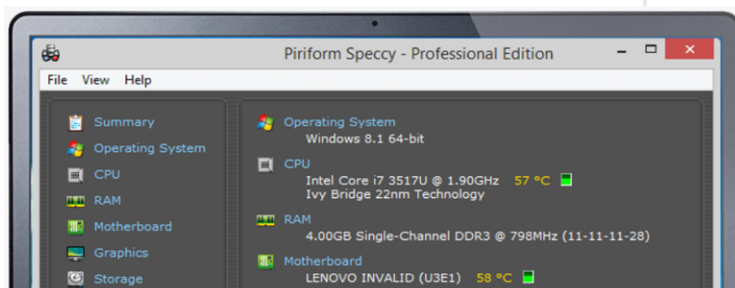
Author: Frank Fota, Newsletter Editor, Fredericksburg PCUG, VA

November 2019 issue, FPCUG Notes

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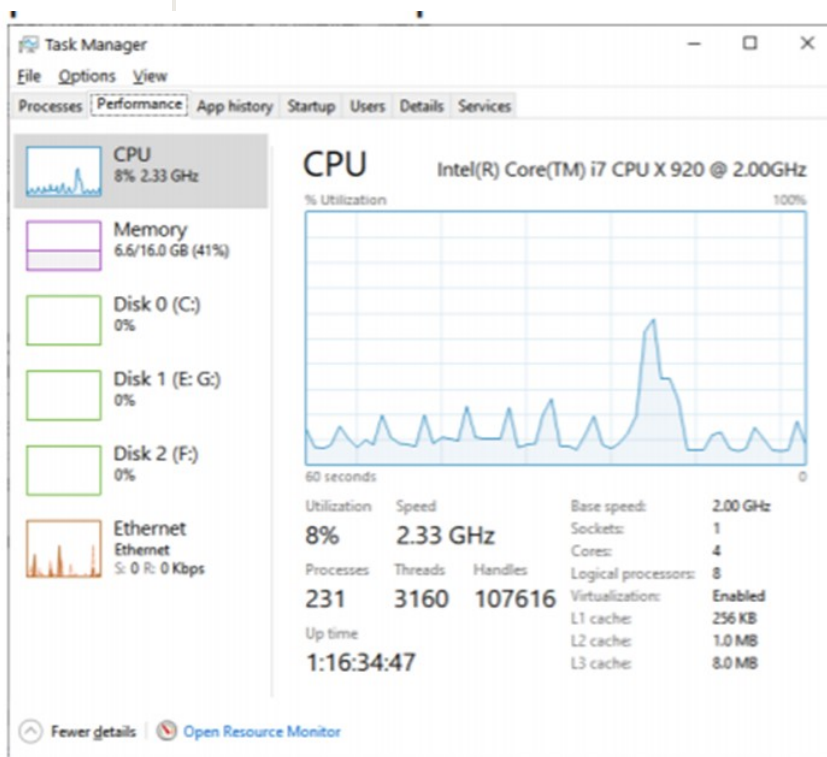
Have you ever wanted to view the impact a program has on your computer's performance? A quick internet search reveals that there are other many monitoring tools available. Some are freeware and others require payment. Resource monitoring tools are also bundled with system utilities (e.g., Norton Utilities®). Microsoft Windows has a "Resource Monitor" that can be run from a Command Prompt or via the search box by typing, "perfmon.exe." Windows Resource Monitor is extensive but, difficult to configure. A quick look at resources can be found, however, by opening the Windows Task Manager (i.e., Ctrl-Alt-Del then click on Task Manager). Click on the Performance tab in Windows Task Manager and it's easy to see the effect that a program has on CPU, Memory, Disk, or Network performance.



Speccy®.

If you need more details about the hardware on your PC (e.g., the effect a program has on CPU or GPU core temperatures), I recommend Speccy®. Speccy® is written and published by Piriform (now owned by Avast); the same company that developed CCleaner®. According to Jeffrey Wilson, Lead Analyst for PC Magazine, "This utility serves up a wealth of data about your PC's operating system, attached peripherals, memory, storage, and much more."

If you are looking for a program that will overlay hardware statistics on top of a running game, you can install MSI's Afterburner program. It's compatible with both Nvidia and AMD's Radeon graphics cards.



[MSI Afterburner®](http://www.msi.com/Afterburner)

Just two of the many examples showing results of generous volunteers sharing their time and skills.

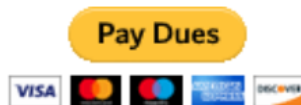
Did you know that videos and presentation slides of most PATACS Saturday meetings are available on the PATACS website's 'Recent Meetings' page? Go to: <https://www.patacs.org/recmtgspat.html> and scroll down for links.

Did you know that Now you can become a member or renew your membership electronically (Thank you Roger!)

Special Membership Promotion

- Members who bring a new member to the organization will receive a 6 months' extension of their membership. The new member should list your name as the 'source' of their membership on the application form. (New member - one who has not been a member in the 36 months prior to month of received application.)

**'Submit' Button on Form Transmits Member Information to PATAC
'Pay Dues' Button Links to PayPal for Electronic Payment Activity**



**For Credit Card or E-Pay via PayPal
Click (Pay Dues) button above**



From the Editor

These are just some of the many examples showing the importance of our dedicated volunteers, showing how important it is that EACH person find a way to contribute some time to PATACS — whether you are a technology expert or (like most of us) are not. Help is needed in many ways.

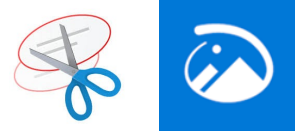
One of the most often heard comments is how kind and thoughtful members are to each other. Do find ways that you can make a difference to PATACS. Our members are wonderfully generous in helping and sharing their skills—both technical and nontechnical..

Windows FREE Snip and Sketch Tool is new and replacing the old

Author: Jim Cerny, Forums Coordinator
December 2019 issue, STUG Monitor-
www.thestug.org
jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

The new Windows “Snip and Sketch” tool was part of the Windows 10 October 2018 update. This tool is intended to REPLACE the old “Snipping Tool” of previous Windows editions. But they (Microsoft) did something to actually help us users this time – they kept the old tool! So you can play and learn the new Snip and Sketch and keep the old Snipping Tool too! Maybe they learned not to force users into using updated or changed apps right away – we need time to adjust and learn, right? Everything you could do in the old Snipping Tool you can do in Snip and Sketch, plus you get a few more tools and options. Thankfully these new additions are easy to see and use, and they can be ignored if you do not want to use them. Microsoft promises more options to come. Be sure to search Google for videos on how to use Windows Snip and Sketch! I am including here only the basic options. Click on the Windows logo in the lower-left corner of your desktop and you will find Snip and Sketch in the alphabetical list of apps that appear. It is not inside the Windows Accessories folder of apps (where the Snipping Tool still remains). I recommend dragging this app to your desktop screen to always keep it handy. But you can also open it anytime by holding down the Windows key + Shift key + S on your keyboard. Upon opening the app, your whole screen goes gray and you will see the small controls rectangle at the top. Here you select HOW you want to select what you want to snip or capture. From left to right you can select a rectangular area, freeform selection, the entire window, or your full screen. If you select the rectangle, you drag your mouse on the screen to select whatever you want. As soon as you release your mouse – presto, your selected image has been captured and saved on the clipboard to do with whatever you want! You can open a Word document for example, place your cursor where you want, and “paste” your clip right in your document. Or you can open the Windows Paint app and you can “paste” it there if you want to do more editing. At the same time that your snip is placed on the clipboard, you will

also see a message stating that you can edit, draw, or markup your selection. Click to do that and Snip and Sketch opens in its own window with its own menu of options. Various easy marking tools are available for you to play with and try. There are highlighters and markers, and clicking on the down arrows will open things like color choices, etc. Once you have “sketched” on your “snip” you can save it as a “.jpg”, “.png”, or “.gif” format by clicking on the old floppy disk save icon and selecting the file type you want. The new Snip and Sketch is easy to use and very helpful for saving and sketching on any image on your screen for any purpose. Why not give it a try?



Cleanup for the NEW YEAR 2020
By Jim Cerny, Forum Coordinator
January 2020 issue, The STUG Monitor
www.thestug.org
jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

It’s time to give your Windows computer a good look and clean out all the junk! I bet most people clean out their garage more often than their computer. Sure you can run apps that delete stuff and you should do that regularly. But to start the New Year I am talking about going over ALL your files on your C-drive and your emails as well. Deleting the files you no longer want or need will not just free up some space (does anyone really care about space anymore?) but will make your backups run much more quickly and you will be able to find things so much more easily. Trust me on this – make it your new year’s resolution! So here are my tips on what to look at to delete those unwanted files.

1. BEFORE YOU START deleting files, why not back them up first? Use a small portable drive (a “thumb” drive that plugs into your USB port) and copy everything you want to it. You should do this monthly anyway.
2. USE WINDOWS EXPLORER and go through ALL your folders and look at all your files. You need only look into the folders you save files in – such as Documents, Downloads, Music, Pictures, and Videos. You can SORT the

Continued Page 11

list of files in a folder by DATE, so you can look for those old files easily and delete them. You can delete multiple files at one time by left-clicking the first file you want to delete, then holding down the “Ctrl” (control) key while you click on other files. When you let up on the Ctrl key you will have selected multiple files. Or you can hold down the “Shift” key when left-clicking on the second file and all files in-between will be highlighted.

Then you can hold the Ctrl key and unselect or select items.:ED)

3. DO NOT DELETE A FOLDER without looking inside it and seeing everything in it. Deleting a folder will delete all files and other folders in it. Look before you delete.



4. DELETING FILES AND FOLDERS FROM YOUR C-DRIVE will put them in your Recycle Bin, so you need to delete them from there too. If you delete files from an auxiliary drive (such as a USB “thumb” drive) they will NOT go to your Recycle Bin.

5. PHOTOS – Go through all your photo files, every photo, and delete the ones you do not want. Each photo is a file. Get a small portable drive and put all your photos on it and then delete them from your C-drive. Copy them to another device for backup. Or, use “Google Photos” and put them all there – it’s free and really nice.

6. BANKING – Review ALL your charge or debit cards and cancel those you no longer need or want. [Ed. First check if it would result in lowering your credit rating.] Review ALL AUTO-payments. Are you still auto-paying for a service you do not use? Lots of people do not stop their auto-payments when they should.

7. CONTACT LIST – Do you have more than one contact list? Review ALL contacts, delete all those old contacts you no longer need, and make one list. Cut the cord.

8. APPS and programs – delete those apps you no longer use.

9. OLD CDs? -- Do you still have any old CDs? Copy them to a portable drive and throw them away. Yes, you can copy music and other files too.



CHANGE

10. REORGANIZE – Now that you have deleted a lot of files, review the folders you have remaining and reorganize what you are keeping. Delete old folders you no longer want and create new and more meaningful folder names and move the files into them. You can change file and folder names using Windows Explorer.



11. BOOKMARKS – Review your bookmarks (web page shortcuts) and “tabs” on your web browsers and delete the ones you no longer use.



12. EMAIL – Review all your saved email folders and delete the ones you no longer need. How many emails are in your Inbox? More than 50? You may be able to set your email option to automatically delete old emails for you.



Maybe this is a bit much to do in one session, so just pick one at a time. And give yourself a nice reward for doing it! You will thank yourself the next time you think “Where did I put that file?!”

Interesting Internet Finds
- January 2020
 By Steve Costello
 scostello (at) sefcug.com

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members. The following are some items I found interesting during the month of December 2019.

How To Clear Browser Cache In All Web Browsers

<https://www.fossmint.com/clear-your-browser-cache/>

There are times when the browser cache needs to be cleared. This post gives clear instructions on how to do it in Google Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Edge, Safari, and Opera.

Exercises For Computer Users And Office Workers – Nerd Fitness

<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/exercises-for-computer-users>

As a computer user, I sometimes forget to get enough exercise. If the same is true for you, check out this post for some quick and easy suggestions to keep fitter.

Do You Need A 4K HDMI Cable?

<https://www.techhive.com/article/3330376/do-i-need-a-4k-hdmi-cable.html>

Just get a 4K TV for the holidays? Check out this post before going out to spend lots of money on a special 4K HDMI cable.

5 Ways to Get In-Car Wi-Fi for Internet Access on the Go

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/internet-car-wifi/>

Some cars come with in-car wi-fi. If yours doesn't and you want everyone able to access to the internet, check out this post for some ideas.

How To Encrypt A Flash Drive Without Bitlocker

<https://www.techtricksworld.com/how-to-encrypt-a-flash-drive-without-bitlocker/>

If you want to encrypt a flash drive and don't have a version of Windows that includes Bitlocker, check out this post for some alternative methods.



USB Flash Drive vs. External HDD And SSD: Which Is Best For You?

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/usb-flash-drive-vs-hdd-vs-ssd/>

Are you confused about which of these you should be using? If so, check out this post that explains the advantages and disadvantages of each.



How To Secure Windows 7 After End Of Support

<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/secure-windows-7-after-end-of-support>

I know there are a lot of you that will continue to use Windows 7 after the end of support. If you are one of them, like me, check out this post to keep secure.

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A Recent Scam Experience

By Jeff Wilkinson, President, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club, NV
December 2019 issue, The Gigabyte Gazette
www.scsc.org
Clearmeadows11 (at) gmail.com

Recently I received the “Social Security” scam call, the recorded message informing me that I should call an 800 number because my account was about to be suspended. I decided to play along and see what the suspected scam pitch was; since I was 99.99% sure that Social Security doesn’t call you.

I called the 800 number, exclaimed my surprise that there was a problem and breathlessly asked what the problem was. The responder, “Officer Ronald Smith” explained, in an almost unintelligible accent, that he was a senior investigator and I should get a pencil and paper and write down his name and badge number, which he proceeded to give me. He then went on to outline the “problem” which included seven bank accounts opened under my social security number. He said the accounts had been used for money laundering and an investigation was underway with an arrest warrant about to be issued. In addition, there were multiple credit cards also under my social security number which had been linked to illegal activity.

“Officer Smith” then asked if these were my accounts. Upon my answering No, he explained he needed to know how many bank accounts and their approximate balance and how many credit cards I had and their credit limits. I responded with fictitious information of course. He advised me that this conversation was being recorded and I was repeatedly told to listen to his instructions very carefully. When I told him in a frightened, exasperated voice that the accounts he described were not mine, he wanted the local police department phone number so he could call to see if we could clarify some additional information. I gave him a fake phone number and he put me on hold; he came back a short time later and said that the number I gave him was incorrect!

“Officer Smith” then told me I could get the number from the yellow pages or Google and said he would wait while I looked it up. When I asked why *he* didn’t have it, he exclaimed he did but was not allowed to give it to me. I looked up the num-

ber in the city I had claimed to live in and gave it to him; he again put me on hold and returned a couple of minutes later. He said he had a senior investigator on his other line, and she would be calling me. I was to put him on hold when she called. Then my phone rang! The call was from the number I had provided which was the number of the Palo Alto, CA police department! “Officer Smith” told me to put him on hold and to add the new caller to the conversation.

Throughout this entire 22-minute ordeal he had not yet asked for any money or access to my computer. I was tempted to continue the charade, but the language barrier became intolerable along with the level of minutia, so I ended the calls. Almost immediately my phone began ringing from an unknown 800 number, over and over until I blocked the number. I believe the ploy was to obtain my information such as date of birth, address and social security number so they could steal my identity.

Although I didn’t get far enough to determine the full scam, I was very surprised that they added so much credibility by calling me back and “spoofing” (faking the Caller ID) of the actual police department number I had provided and they had checked!! As we know, spoofing a phone number occurs often on junk and scam calls. This specific trick could cause a reluctant mark to falsely think they were maybe being too cautious. The scammer may attempt to retrieve your date of birth, name, address and partial social security number by asking throughout the conversation for you to verify the information. With those items, it is possible to initiate a change of address and phone number with Social Security and then redirect your direct deposit to a different bank.

Having repaired two cases of scammers gaining access to computers that week, one which was able to gain bank information and withdraw a four-figure sum of money from a retiree, I was interested in experiencing the actual pitch. It can’t be stressed enough that allowing remote access to your computer from random phone calls, emails or web page screens is to be avoided. Also do not release any personal information to unknown callers no matter how official they attempt to sound, with so much information available in the public domain many times only a small amount of additional information is needed to initiate an identity theft.

Interesting Internet Finds

February 2020

Steve Costello

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In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members. The following are some items I found interesting during the month of January 2020:

How to Make Gmail Your Default Windows 10 Email Client

<https://www.techjunkie.com/gmail-default-windows-10-email-client/>

I know I don't want Outlook to be my default email on Windows 10, so as soon as I saw this post, I followed the instructions and now have my Gmail account as the default.

Word Pad

The Wonders Of Wordpad –

By Cyn Mackley

<https://cynmackley.com/2020/01/15/the-wonders-of-wordpad/>

You don't have to go out and buy a word processing program or learn a whole office suite just to write simple documents if you have a Windows operating system.

The Wordpad program is built right in. Cyn explains some of the basics

What Is Creative Commons & Explanation Of Each License

<https://www.online-tech-tips.com/computer-tips/what-is-creative-commons-explanation-of-each-license/>

Every once in a while I like to remind anyone who blogs, edits a newsletter, or wants to use information or photos, that there is a legal way to do so.

There is a great amount of good information and images available for use under Creative Commons licensing. Check out this post to learn more.

How To Upgrade From Windows 7 To Linux

<https://www.howtogeek.com/509508/how-to-upgrade-from-windows-7-to-linux/>

With the last Windows 7 updates being January 14, 2020, there are probably some of you still wondering how to replace Windows 7. This post does a good job of showing how to upgrade to a Linux operating system.

(Note: I ended up getting a new Windows 10 Home desktop, upgrading my Windows 7 Home laptop (4GB RAM) to Windows 10 Home, and setting up my old Windows 7 Home desktop (2GB RAM) as a dual boot Linux Mint 19.3 desktop to be able to still use some older Windows software, yet still be able to securely access the internet when necessary via the Mint O/S.)

The Best Antenna Set Up For Cord Cutters

<https://thestreamingadvisor.com/the-best-antenna-set-up-for-cord-cutters/>

There seems to be more and more interest in cutting the cord these days. If you are thinking about going with an antenna, you should check out this post first.

Is A Microsoft Office Subscription Worth It?

<https://askleo.com/microsoft-office-subscription-worth/>

If you have moved up to Windows 10 and thinking about Microsoft Office, check out this post from Leo Notenboom before making the final decision. Leo talks about cost factors in this post.

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OPCUG / PATACS Saturday Meetings

Meeting Information and Agenda

12:30 – Social time in Coffee Room and Annex

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

Please silence phones.

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

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

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

2:00 – 3:20: Featured Presentation

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

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

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

See: <https://www.patacs.org/clinicpat.html>

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

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

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

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

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First Class

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April 2020 PATACS Event Calendar
 Call (703) 370-7649 for Meeting Announcements
 Visit Our Web Site: <http://www.patacs.org> Free Admission Bring a Friend!

Arlington: Carlin Hall Community Center
 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 7-9 pm Program by Zoom	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 7-9 pm Online Zoom Meeting	9	10	11
12	13 7-9 pm Board Meeting by Zoom	14	15	16	17	18 12:30-3:30 General Meeting by Zoom
19	20	21	22 7-9 pm Tech & PC Help Desk by Zoom	23	24	25 May Newsletter Articles Due
26	27	28	29	30		