PATACS/OPCUG

3rd Saturday, August 15
The Carrington Event

Presented by Brian Slawski

In the summer of 1859, an especially powerful storm on the surface of the sun unleashed effects experienced across the span of the earth. The Carrington Event, as it's now commonly known, not only transfixed public attention, but also elicited greater understanding of the relationship between the earth and the sun, and of the risks that solar storms can pose to electrical infrastructure. This eclectic talk discusses not just the Carrington Event itself, but also the physical phenomena involved, the historical and scientific context in which the event occurred, and the implications of the event for the present day.

Brian Slawski serves as Vice President and Programs Chair of the Burke Historical Society. In his day job, he's worked as a utility patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office since 2007. Before joining the Patent Office, he worked in Charlottesville as an engineer for a start-up developing a new vapor deposition process. He holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Virginia.

"Routine Computer Maintenance"
By Lorrin Garson

Is routine maintenance necessary? How often should it be done? Should backup be part of regular maintenance? What about software updates? Do you need anti-malware software, and does it need recurring attention? How full is your disk drive and does that matter? Is your computer running hot and so what? What about those dust bunnies, ventilation and cable discipline? Do you need to lubricate the bearings in your hard drive? Should you replace your old computer if it still works? And if none of these words seem to make much sense at all yet, fortunately we can always count on Lorrin to explain so clearly that we will happily leave the meeting with much greater awareness.

What the Heck is That, and Why Didn't I Do This Before?
by Greg Skalka
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The world is full of interesting things. As an engineer, I am usually in the habit of analyzing everything I see. Occasionally I will find something I cannot quite figure out initially, but often with a little help, it may make sense.

We all at times get in the habit of doing things a certain way. Even when it has become inconvenient or more costly, we often stick to our old ways despite having considered better solutions. It sometimes takes reaching a tipping point before we decide to try a new method, and often later wonder why it took us so long to change.

What the Heck Is That?

I love little tech gadgets. I buy a lot of little (meaning relatively inexpensive) things just on speculation, thinking that they might be useful. If they are not, at least I will have probably learned something. I am especially attracted to items on sale or that appear to be a bargain.

I buy a lot of USB Flash memory devices - after all, who cannot use more digital storage capacity? I have bought all sorts and styles of USB drives. Some have caps over the USB type A male connector for protection. Some act like a ball-point pen - the connector is concealed in the case and slides out for access. Some are large and some are tiny, not much bigger than the USB connector. I have some that are made of metal, though most have plastic bodies. Some have swivel covers, and some have no cover for the connector at all.

I bought one a while back that I thought was unique - a Patriot Stellar Lite 32 GB MicroUSB / USB 2.0 Flash Drive. (Photo 1)

Illustration 1
Photo 1: Patriot Box

Illustration 2
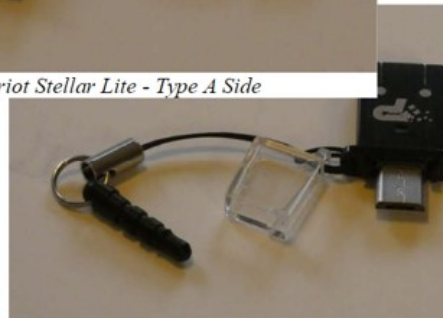*Photo 2: Patriot Stellar Lite - Type A Side*

Photo 3: Patriot Stellar Lite - Micro Side
Illustration 3

It has a standard USB type A on one end and a USB micro on the other (Photos 2 and 3). It was advertised to work with both PCs (the standard type-A end) and Android mobile devices (the USB micro end), assuming the mobile device supported USB OTG (On-The-Go).

I bought this drive thinking I could easily transfer files between my computers and I seldom use my Android tablet at all. It is too big to carry around, and at 9" is too small to be comfortable for a lot of reading. With the touchscreen, it is too difficult to use for extensive writing, and adding a Bluetooth keyboard and mouse results in the equivalent of an underpowered netbook (remember those?) with some assembly required. My tablet really only served as a gateway device to my Chromebooks and smartphone.

I love my Chromebooks; they are lightweight, small but big enough to be useable, fast booting, and are great as an internet access device. They don't have much internal storage as I only buy the original, inexpensive kind (those new Chromebooks with large screens, powerful processors and lots of storage are just Chrome OS laptops), so I need to keep SD cards and USB Flash drives with them. Since that Patriot Stellar Lite drive was small and provides less of a lever to catch and break off when plugged in, I assigned it to Chromebook duty.

That is when I began thinking - what the heck is that little peg on the cord that came with the drive?

The cord obviously keeps the cap for the USB micro side from getting lost, but what is with the funny peg? It kept getting in the way under that side of the Chromebook.

Photo 4: Peg in the way

I was almost going to cut it off when my wife mentioned what it must be for. She suggested it would plug into the head-phone jack, and thus retain the drive when it was unplugged.

Photo 5: Peg v Headphone Plug comparison

I tried this, and it worked (at least for the USB port on that side of the Chrome-book).

Photo 6: Stellar Lite in Chromebook

I tried it on my smartphone and it worked as well. (I do not know if it is a necessity, but it must be what the manufactur-er of the Flash drive intended.

Photo 7: Stellar Lite in Smart Phone

Mystery solved!

Why Didn't I Do This Before?

I started regularly reading the newspaper at a young age. I have subscribed to the local paper since moving to San Diego in 1982. While I still get news from the radio and television, the news-paper has always been a trusted source, a familiar format, and my favorite way to stay informed. When internet news came along, I was ahead of many in questioning how accurate and factual the information was.

I do not often get to read books (or technical manuals, like Mr. Scott from the original Star Trek) for entertainment, but I try to keep up with the newspaper. I am too busy in life right now to succeed in this, however, and am usually days or weeks behind the current issue. Others might dis-card the paper after a day or so without reading it, but I find much more value in it than just the headline stories. I usually get all the front-page news I need in the little bit of local and national evening TV news broadcasting my wife has on when I get home, or on the radio during my com-mute. It is the more timeless articles of local, re-gional, and national issues in the newspaper that I find of most interest. The comics have always been worth the price to me as well.

While I have never had any real problems with the quality or content of the product, it is the price that has given me the hate in my love-hate relationship with the newspaper in the last few decades. Long ago the subscription was a fixed, advertised amount per period that had only rea-sonable increases over time. Then the newspaper appeared to adopt the pricing philosophy of the cable and satellite TV industry, not "what the market will bear," but what I will call "whatever the individual customer will bear." In this busi-ness model, customers don't all pay the same price, and pricing is often not well advertised. Low introductory offers are available for new customers, but these rates soon increase until customers complain or cancel. Customer loyalty seems to be an undervalued trait.

$$$ I'm fine with reasonable price increases over time, in line with the general cost of living, but I still have a spreadsheet I generated in 2014 that showed I'd seen a 140% increase in my newspaper subscription cost over the prior three years. Calling and complaining got it reduced by 25%. Then I spoke with a friend in another part of town that got the same paper by paying 1/2 what I did. This price battle with the newspaper went on for years, but there was not much I could do since I had no acceptable alternative.

Though reading the paper was something I enjoyed, it was also a source of household discord. My wife is much like Mary Poppins (practically perfect in every way), and though she did read the newspaper (at least some of the time), she did not like the way I read it. She felt that once the sun had set on an edition it should be discarded; my piles of weeks-old papers were clutter to her. She blamed the newspaper ink on my hands for grime-marks on the kitchen table (where I read), the nearby furniture, and the walls near light switches. With no children or dogs in the household any longer to blame, I had to be the culprit. The physical paper was also a nuisance when we traveled, as we had to arrange for a neighbor to collect it each day (I didn't want to stop the paper temporarily and let unscrupulous newspaper employees know our house would be vacant). I also had to go out on the driveway each morning and hopefully pick it up (and then call to complain when it was not there).

I had looked at the newspaper's web site as a digital alternative, but a hodgepodge of articles you have to search through is not what I wanted for getting my news. I wanted the same curated experience I got from the print paper, so a PDF version of the published paper would be the only acceptable digital substitute. Even then I was not sure I would be satisfied without the physical part of the newspaper experience.

Finally, after another price increase and another reading of the riot act about my piles of papers from my wife last fall, I seriously investigated the digital edition of the newspaper (it was included in our paper subscription anyway). I found you could read a reproduction of the paper on their web site (with a viewer I found less than ideal), and you could also download a PDF version. With the digital-only subscription costing 1/4 of what we were paying for print, I finally was motivated to cancel the paper version and went digital-only. No more trips to the driveway (or to the neighbor's after a vacation), and no more late (or wet) papers or tips to a delivery person.

Unfortunately, I've yet to figure out how to download the PDF version from their site successfully with a Chromebook. I now download on a Windows computer to my small USB Flash drive and read them on my Chromebook at the kitchen table (or wherever). The papers can pile up on my Flash drive without my wife complaining of clutter. She says the household grime level has gone down as well, but I am suspicious of the sudden improvement, which may just be coincident with cleaning for the holidays. I have heard it said (probably by a woman) that men are bears with clothes, so I may be accused of having my hand in the honey jar yet in the future.

I have tried reading the PDF paper on my smartphone, but it is way too difficult on the small screen. I have to scroll around to show only a small segment of a column on the screen to satisfy my old eyes With the Chromebook, I can read when viewing the full-page width, and can still enlarge a bit more if necessary one day (something not possible with real paper).

I've found I've adapted well to reading the PDF newspaper on my Chromebook and now don't miss the paper version at all (though I might when my stock of old papers I lay out when cleaning my bike chain is used up). Digital technology has improved my life yet again. I suspect I will still have to watch my subscription charges carefully, but it will, in any case, be a lot less than for having a real paper delivered and is better for the environment. With the digital-only subscription, I now look back at my physical paper days and wonder why I didn't do this before?

**Virtual Meetings –
How To Get Together -
Without Getting Together**
**By Phil Sorrentino,
Contributing Writer,
The Coputer Club
June 2020
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Under normal condiUnder normal conditions, we'd probably be looking forward to a meeting where we get together with friends, but during these coronavirus days, it's better to get together without getting together. In fact, staying at least six feet apart is encouraged bUy everyone at all at all levels of authority. Fortunately there's Video Chatting, or is it Video conferencing? I used to think there was a difference. I thought of Chatting as one person to one person, and Video Conferencing as one person to many, as in making a presentation to a group of people. But now it seems like Video Chatting or Video Conferencing are used almost interchangeably. So what is the current thinking? One definition provided is, "Chatting is a form of conversation between two or more members over the internet." So Video Chatting would be a conversation between two or more members employing video-capable devices, over the internet; but that sounds like video conferencing. Definitions and terms may not be very important here, what's really important is the fact that we can interact with others using video-capable devices, over the internet (sounds like client-server technology to me). And, conveniently, these devices can be computers, tablets, or smartphones from any manufacturers.

Video conferencing or chatting is being used for a variety of reasons like Team meetings (The Computer Club Board of Directors just had their first virtual BOD meeting while everyone was social distancing in their own homes.), Webinars, where there's no interaction between attendees other than a textbox, One-on-One training and support, job interviews, attending religious ceremonies (we had just attended church on Sunday in our living room) and
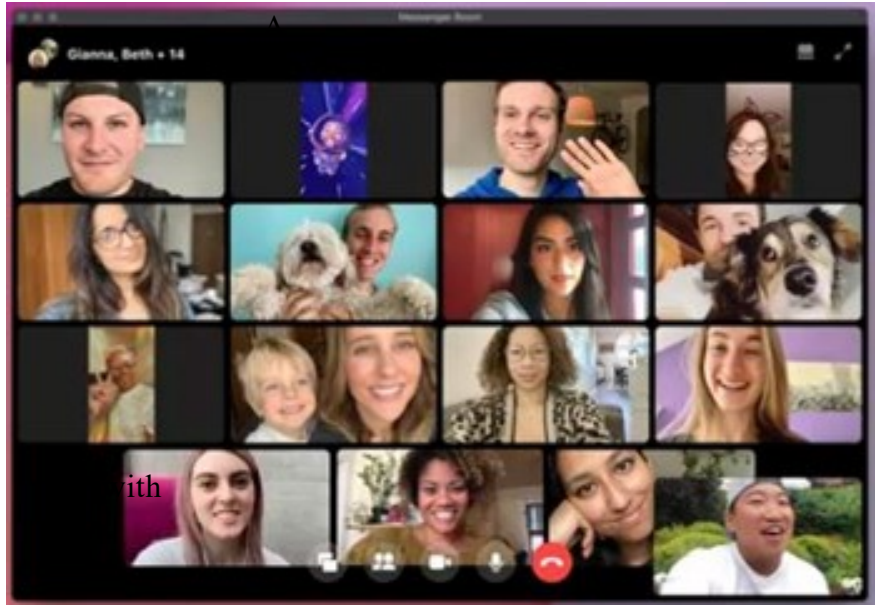
even telemedicine wlhere you and a doctor interact via video conference..

Typical PC Video Conferencing Screen

Video conferencing allows people who are in different geographic locations to communicate by providing live audio and visual connections between them. Video conferencing technology includes audio and visual aspects, so the following are the components of a typical Video conferencing setup: Internet connection (Ethernet, Wi-Fi), Displays (laptop, desktop monitor, smartphone), cameras and microphones (webcams with built-in microphones), speakers (built-in or external speakers), and video conferencing software.

Fortunately, there are a lot of Video Chatting/Conferencing software options available today. Things were not as available a few years ago when I started having a video conference with three college friends. We were spread out in the US in four separate states. I was here in Florida, one friend was in South Carolina, another friend was in Tennessee, and the fourth was in Arizona, so we had to deal with different time zones. At that time, the only practical/free application that we knew of, and could afford, was Skype. So we used Skype, once a month, every month for almost a year. Initially, it took up to a half-hour to get everyone set up and communicating, but by

the time we stopped conferencing we had gotten it down to only a couple of minutes of preparation. From what I've seen lately, Skype seems to be a whole lot easier to use now.

But nowadays you have a lot of choices. Skype, which has been around since 2003, is still a good choice. Other fairly well-known choices are WebEx, GoToMeeting, Zoom, Facebook, and WhatsApp. Some other, possibly less known, choices are Microsoft Meet, Google Hangouts, Jitsi Meet, and BlueJeans. And don't forget Duo and Facetime, which were initially intended for smartphones, though they say that under certain conditions they can work with appropriate computers. Duo is available for Android and Apple devices while Facetime is available only for Apple devices. Some of these Video Conferencing choices are free, some have a free version and some have only paid versions. Having an account or a subscription (if there is a cost) allows you to set up and initiate a conference; there is usually no cost for attendees. Zoom has been in the news lately, once (positively, for its increase in stock price because so many people have been using it, and once negatively for its poor security and the infamous "Zoombombing." (In fact, some companies have prohibited employees from using Zoom.) Some of the security concerns revolved around the choice of certain defaulted settings. These default choices have recently been changed to improve certain aspects of security, but the main security problem is the fact that communication between devices is not encrypted. Maybe this will be changed in the future.

If you are trying to decide which video conferencing software might be best for you, there are a few things to consider. Cost is always an important consideration, especially if it is only going to be used for your personal use. If the software is used in a business it might be easier to handle the monthly expense. Next, the number of participants may also be important, especially if you have a large number of people to communicate with. The free versions will probably have lower maximums. There may be a time limit for meetings, especially with the free version. Screen sharing, which may or may not be available, is the ability for one person to have their desktop or a specific window shown on all of the participant's screens. This allows a presenter to show everyone the same information, like the slides of a PowerPoint presentation. Some packages may offer an amount of "free cloud storage" along with the software. That may be useful for sending large files (larger than could be sent in an email) to the meeting participants. This may also be useful if you intend to do cooperative document development. Messaging between participants during the meeting is

Text Messaging

the ability to send a short "text like" message to all of the participants, allowing inter-participant communications. Messaging may be desirable for large presentations. Having a permanent record of the meeting, for future review, may also be important, so you may want a "Recording" feature. Some software might have Calendar syncing which is the ability to interact with certain calendars and allow meetings to be automatically put on the participants' calendars. Whiteboard capabilities allow the participants to interact with programs, documents, and images, a feature that may be only needed for business meetings. Security is always a concern and increased security probably comes with increased cost.

So, whenever you can, take advantage of Video Teleconferencing and your Windows PCs, Apple PCs, Android, and Apple mobile devices to help you get together without getting together.

Open Source Lab
GIMP 2.10
By Cal Esneault , Former President of
CCCC and leader of many
Open Source Workshops & SIGs
April 2020 issue, CCCC Computer News
www.clickers.org
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The GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP), is an open-source image editor suitable for touching up photos or drawing original creations. GIMP has a long history (started in the 1990s) and has continually been improved to become a very powerful and sophisticated tool.

Even version numbers (2.0, 2.2, 2.4, etc.) indicate stable versions, while odd version numbers are for developmental releases. Early in 2018, GIMP 2.10 was issued. This was long-anticipated since the previous stable version, 2.8, was over 6 years old. Unfortunately, this version was too late to be included in the Ubuntu and Linux Mint repositories, so users of these would need to go to the GIMP website to get the latest release.

I downloaded and installed GIMP 2.10 on my Windows PC (yes, GIMP is cross-platform). The first thing you notice is the dark theme and symbolic icons installed the default. Compare the previous 2.8 icons with the new set as shown below.

GIMP 2.8 default icons
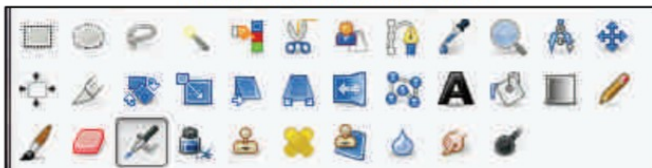
GIMP 2.10 default icons
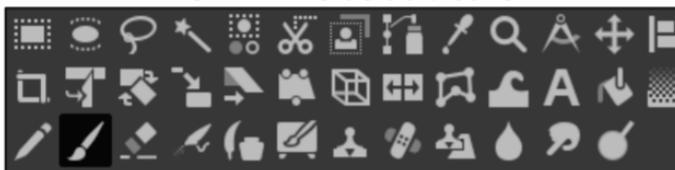
Originally, GIMP had multiple isolated activity windows, but GIMP 2.10, like GIMP 2.08, has a single-window mode that is similar to the inter-face for Photoshop. Following is a screenshot of GIMP with the main toolbox on the left, the image of interest in the middle, and a tool options panel on the right.

GIMP has the ability to have "layers," and the example shown illustrates how this can be used to superimpose text on the image to indicate its location.

Experienced photographers often shoot in a "raw" image mode. Raw files must be preconditioned using a separate editor. GIMP 2.10 cooperates with two excellent raw editors – Darktable and RawTherapee. As noted by others, I could only get GIMP to behave on my Windows 10 system using Darktable.

Under the hood, the big change was further improvement of the GEGL (Generic Graphics Library) processing engine. For now, this gives deeper color bit depth and better HiDPI (High Dots Per Inch) support.

The new icons are also a part of the process to give sharp icons on HiDPI monitors. Improved multi-threading makes better use of the multiple cores in modern CPUs.

The full implementation of GEGL is a prerequisite for adding non-destructive editing (planned for v3.2). Color space workflow is improved, and native color management is now available.

There are numerous other advancements in this major release that should be of great use to serious photographers. Be sure to read the complete set of release notes to find out details on how to improve your creative work.

Customize the Recent Apps List on Samsung Galaxy Phones and Tablets
Make the phone suit your needs, rather than fitting your needs to the phone's default behavior
#### by John Krout, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS)

You can change and improve some aspects of the appearance and behavior of your Galaxy device using Samsung apps available from the Galaxy store. Read on for why and how. One of the most useful and most frequently used management tools in the Android OS is the ability to identify all apps currently running, and to stop apps you do not currently need to run. The Android OS allows you to run several apps at the same time, and copy and paste from one app to another. To do that, you need some way to *switch* from or to each of those running apps.

THE RECENT APPS LIST

Illustration 1

The bottom left hand button on the phone screen, depicted as three vertical lines, shows all the running apps. See **Illustration 1 (at right)** which is a screen capture with the running apps button circled in red. A tap on the button displays the **Recent Apps** list. The list has some very valuable features. In one way, the name **Recent Apps** is misleading. The list shows *all* apps running on your phone or tablet, whether you launched the app today or three months ago.

When that button is tapped, the default depiction of the **Recent Apps** displays a reduced size image of the full screen for each app. You can see that default form of the **Recent Apps** list in **Illustration 2 (at right)**. The default list shows one app, and at most fractions of two others on the sides. The display is a scrollable list, and you can scroll by swiping left and right. There is another important reason for accessing that **Recent Apps** list. *The more apps you run concurrently, the faster the phone battery is depleted*. So the Recent Apps list provides a way for you to end any app you do not need to use immediately: simply swipe the displayed app up or down, and that causes the app to exit.
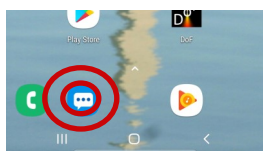
Years ago, when I was using an iPhone 5, I had no idea that I had multiple apps running. One day the iPhone 5 was heating up in my pocket for no obvious reason. I researched the matter and learned how to display the Recent Apps list: tap the main button twice quickly. In that list on the iPhone, scrolling was also left to right, and individual apps could be ended by swiping the app up or down, if I recall correctly. The implication is that the user action to switch to another app *does not end the app*; instead, the app remains in the running apps list and can continue to keep the phone's central processing unit (CPU) quite busy, therefore using up battery power quite quickly. I had more than 60 apps running that day, and I ended them all. The phone cooled rapidly after that.

And I learned *why* apps continue to run: for rapid switching, and for cut and paste. To switch to an app, simply tap that app in the **Recent Apps** list. That method works on both iPhones and Android phones. It is also true for both types of phones that apps continue to run and chow down on your phone battery, whether or not you can see them on the normal screen, unless and until you terminate them in the **Recent Apps** list.

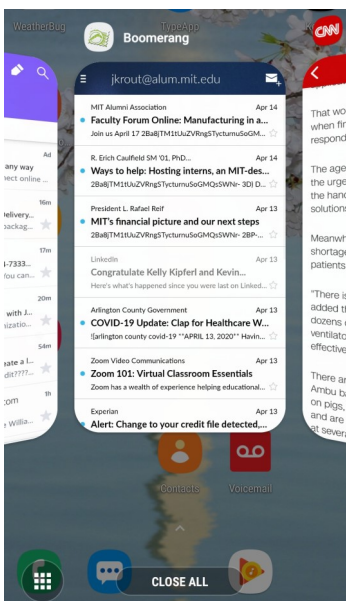**HOW TO KILL ALL THE RECENT APPS AT ONCE** On Samsung Galaxy Android phones, when you display the **Recent Apps** list, there is also a button at the bottom of the Recent Apps list, prominently labeled *Close All*. You can see the default running app display and the *Close All* button in **Illustration 2 (at left)** The *Close All* button is a major convenience when the phone heats up while idle.

Illustration 2

To cool the phone, just shut down all the apps. If it is necessary to keep running say 3 apps, and shut down maybe 15 or 20 others, scrolling through the list to perform that triage takes some time. I found myself in that situation often enough that I began wishing for a way to see more running apps on one screen.

And my wish came true, I found another way to display the list, a way to make the names of several running apps visible on the screen. That alternative display approach speeds up that triage effort quite a bit.

You can see that alternative list format for the running apps list in **Illustration 3 (above)**,   a screen capture including nine apps. There is no X to click on to end each running app; instead, to end an app, you simply drag its name to the left or right. To switch to an app in the list, just tap its name. The ***Close All*** button remains available. The list may be longer or shorter depending on your phone model and its screen resolution.

To switch to an app, simply tap it in the list. Of course, if more than nine apps are running, then you can swipe up or down in the list display to see more.

HOW TO MAKE THE RECENT APPS LIST DISPLAY CONFIGURABLE That customization and many others are made available from Samsung itself through its **Galaxy Store** for apps. A series of related apps must be installed. Samsung Galaxy phones and tablets include the Galaxy Store app, and that app enables you to install the two apps from Samsung that enable customization of the Recent Apps list format.

The top of the heap for this purpose is a Samsung app named **Good Lock**. That app provides
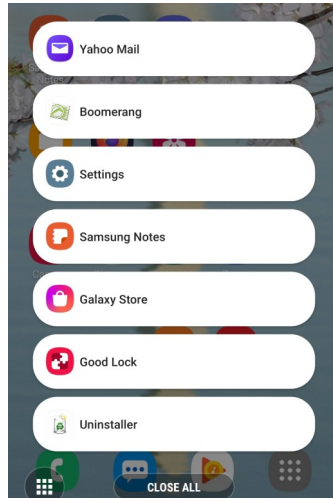
access to a variety of other Samsung customization sub-apps, and those sub-apps that can be enabled or disabled through the **Good Lock** app.

The Samsung Galaxy S10 phone came with Android 9 operating system (OS) installed. A few weeks after I bought that phone, the Android 10 OS was made available, and I installed that. I checked the Galaxy Store in December 2019, a week after Android 10 was installed on my Galaxy.

At that time, the sub-app I wanted, **Task Changer**, had not yet been updated to work with Android 10.

This is not surprising. App development teams all over the world have to wait to release their updates for any new version of the Android OS until the OS is actually available. Although Google, not Samsung, is the Android OS publisher, for each Android OS release Samsung customizes the OS for Galaxy phone and tablet hardware. Then the Samsung app teams have to wait until the Galaxy version of the Android 10 OS is available.

As of February 2020, Samsung has updated the **Task Changer** sub-app for the Android 10 OS, and that version of the sub-app contains the customizations I wanted.

INSTALLATION OF GOOD LOCK AND SUB-APPS At that point, I started the **Galaxy Store** app, and found and installed **Good Lock**. Using the Galaxy store to find, review and install apps is very similar to using the Google Play app store. I ran that **Good Lock** app; the app screen is shown in **Illustration 4 (following page)**. In the **Good Lock** app, I tapped on the sub-app I needed for customizing the running app list, **Task Changer**, and the Galaxy Store reopened and displayed the **Task Changer** app. I installed that **Task Changer** app. After that, I stopped and restarted the **Good Lock** app. The Task Changer sub-app showed in the **Good Lock** app screen as *installed*, as you see in **Illustration 4.**

Neither the **Good Lock** app nor the **Task Changer** app can be moved to Micro SD card storage from the internal storage on the phone.

Good Lock
Redesign your Galaxy

QuickStar
Customize your special Quickpanel.

Task Changer
Task Changer with new style.
Installed

Clockface
Pick a clock style you like!

MultiStar
Enjoy enhanced Multiwindow experience.

NavStar
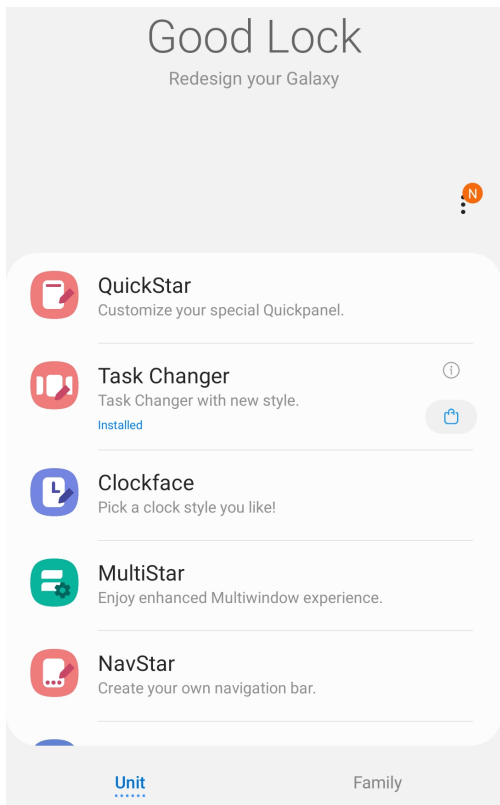Create your own navigation bar.

Unit   Family

Illustration 4

CONFIGURA-TION STEPS
In the **Good Lock** app screen, I clicked on the installed **Task Changer**. The **Task Changer** screen opened. You can see that screen in **Illustration 5 (at right)**. I clicked on the heading *Layout Type*; that action displays a menu of display choices.
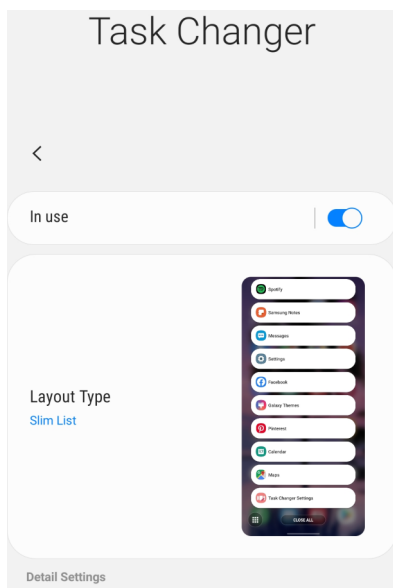
Task Changer

In use 🔵

Layout Type
Slim List

Detail Settings

Illustration 5

You can see the display choice menu in **Illustration 6 (at right).** I chose *Slim List* to produce the running apps list version shown in **Illustration 3 (page 9)**

I tried out the other list format choices in that **Task Changer** Layout Type menuby setting each using **Task Changer** and then tapping the app list button. *Carousel* is the default display
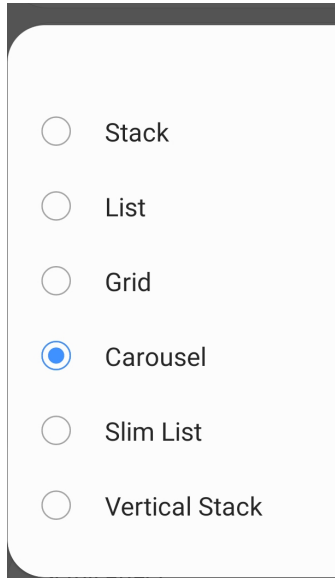
○ Stack

○ List

○ Grid

◉ Carousel

○ Slim List

○ Vertical Stack

Illustration 6

made available by the Android OS *without* **Good Lock** and **Task Changer**; it is identical to the unmodified Recent Apps list shown in **Illustration 1**. *Slim list* makes more app names visible than any other choice in the menu. The other choices provide a horizontal stack of screen images, a vertical stack of screen images, and six micro-tiles of screens

FINAL THOUGHTS I am not here to claim that my choice, *Slim List*, for the running apps display is the best for you. I am simply describing why I chose it, and how to make the choices available. You can choose the best option to suit your own needs.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: John Krout has provided many insights on use and configuration of iPhones and Android phones during PATACS meetings and in *PATACS Posts* articles. He has demonstrated how to create, install and use custom ringtones, and how to work around a loose charging cable connection on a smart phone. He has written about methods to capture and annotate smart phone screen images for documentation and presentation slide decks. After a long career as a software developer using C and C++ for various federal government large scale multi-server systems, and later working as a tech writer, John retired in March 2020.

Storage Cloud
By Dan Douglas, President,
Space Coast PCUG, FL
April 2020 issue, The Space Coast PC Journal
www.scpcug.com
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This month I'll be taking a look at cloud storage and what that means. The mystery of what is the 'Cloud' is actually very simple. On the internet, each accessible device has an IP address assigned by the Internet Service Provider (ISP) that connects that device to the internet. This internet address is then shared among the many servers worldwide that link all internet paths together. This is how you can access a given PC or Server that provides services such as a web site.

The SCPCUG web site, for example, is actually on some PC that no one in the club has ever seen, likely based in the company facilities of the company that we pay to 'host' our web site. So, when you use a browser to access www.scpcug.com, your ISP (Spectrum or AT&T, most likely in our county), refers to the Domain Name servers (DNS) to locate the actual IP address to go to, to request the web pages for the SCPCUG.

Now when it comes to cloud storage, the process is quite similar. The app that you use to perform cloud backups or copies of your files, like Dropbox, Apple iCloud, Microsoft OneDrive, Google Drive, etc., connects to the target PC for that service across the internet and then proceeds to do whatever you have instructed the app to do. For example, I use OneDrive to backup all of my personal files on my home PC. The app is associated with my personal Microsoft account, which is required to use OneDrive services. That way my data is accessible to only my Microsoft account, from whatever app is requesting it. I have a OneDrive app on my iPhone as well as on all oth-

er Windows 10 PCs. As long as I log into that app with the correct credentials of my Microsoft account, I can access the files stored in my account.

Each remote PC is, in essence, just like your PC, except it has much more data storage available to it. enough data storage to create a directory or folder for each user that has an account for that service. In reality, it is not one PC but rather a cluster of PCs or servers that appear as one logical server to provide cpps accessing the storage. Email works in a similar manner, where each Email account (email address) has its own storage directory and is accessible only when the correct credentials are used (email address and password). A few years ago, many email servers would limit the size of your email storage, as storage was relatively expensive. Now, with storage being so much cheaper, your email provider either has increased your storage limits or has removed restrictions altogether. This may depend on whether you pay for your email account or if it is free.

When it comes to my personal preferences for cloud storage, I like OneDrive as I'm a Microsoft partner and the ease of accessing OneDrive can't be easier in my situation. DropBox and Google Drive both offer some nice features if you are part of a company where multiple users may need to access common files frequently and keep changes to those files in sequence.

No matter what your choice may be, the important thing to remember is to backup your data somewhere! Cloud storage makes it easy and automatic, which I've learned is the key to having good backups in place.

If you have suggestions for topics that you would like to see explained, please let me know!

Fresh Squeezed Review
It's All In The Mind, Y'Know
By Frank Petrie
https://ympnow.com
Phranky (at) mac.com

Elevate is a new type of cognitive training tool designed to build communication and analytical skills. Elevate has been selected by Apple as the App of the Year. Since launching in May 2014, Elevate has been downloaded more than 25 million times on the App Store and Google Play.

The first thing that you'll notice is that the exercises are challenges yet simultaneously feel like games. Not in a Mario Bros. sense but sophisticated. This owes in great part to the different and inventive UIs for each exercise. And they challenge you more as you grow more proficient in any particular category.

You pay close attention to what and how much you eat and drink. You work out religiously several times per week. How often do you exercise your grey matter? Three years ago, I found there's an app for that. I've have been dutifully using it ever since and the app keeps getting better and better. I thought it well worth a revisit.

Elevate (https://www.elevateapp.com) runs your brain through a range of exercises from grammar to math and all variations in between. There are dozens of exercises with a game-like quality that will keep on challenging you, raising the bar as you improve your skillset.

You can customize your daily training focus, choosing between 3 to 5 games from a stable of 35+ games. If you'd like, you can measure your performance against yourself and others. Immediately, it doesn't take long to separate your weaknesses from your strengths.

Elevate collaborated with an independent research company and an independent analyst in four key skill groups.

Elevate users trained using our app during a four-week period, after which the Elevate users and the control group took identical post-tests. Our analyst found that Elevate users improved 69% more than non-users, and the more they played Elevate, the better their results.

Our analyst found that Elevate users improved 69% more than non-users, and the more they played Elevate, the better their results.

Over time, I have found that my strength lies in grammar but (although not terrible) I need to work on my mathematical aptitude.

Example: One of the math challenges has you calculate the average of two numbers, at first. As you become more proficient, the app ups you to three numbers, and then four. Then they toss you a curve. Instead of just whole numbers, they figure decimals into your calculations.

The one math exercise that I felt had the most interesting twist was Subtraction. I struggled at first but the app points out the easiest method to obtain the correct answer after it has detected a pattern to what you're doing wrong. What was fascinating was that for the first several months, the equations were laid out vertically, like this:

```
1945
-732
```

It was easy to concoct methodologies to arrive at your answer speedily. But then came the twist. Once you became proficient with this arrangement, they then presented the equations horizontally:

$$1945 - 732 = ?$$

Surprisingly, it tossed me for a loop. I had to ditch all of my previous visual cues and start anew. You wouldn't think it would be that hard but it was returning to square one.

I have recently discovered another category: punctuation. The first exercise dealt with commas, when they should be removed and where they should be added.

The same can be said for their grammar exercises. They'll provide you with two sentences with a word or two missing. You're presented with the choice of two options to complete the sentences. But once you've become competent at spotting the correct or incorrect phrase competence at that level, the options are upped to three.

Another grammar exercise requires you to decide whether a phrase is correct or not. In the beginning, they highlight the phrase to make it easier to focus on. Once you have proven agile at recognizing a phrase is proper or improper, they then remove the highlighting and you have to focus on the entire paragraph.

At the end of each exercise, Elevate tells you how your performance ranked overall of all the times you trained with that exercise.

After a session of five games, you will receive a brief overview of how you are progressing in those categories, how you compare to all Elevate users in a specific topic such as grammar, and how many consecutive days you have completed.

All in all, Elevate is a challenging collection of exercises that will help you achieve your top form mentally. And the developers keep on introducing new ones.

Elevate is available for free on the iOS store. There are in-app purchases [various subscriptions](https://apps.apple.com/US/app/id875063456#?platform=ipad) you can purchase. Unfortunately, you're told the fees but not which apply to which devices or their duration (one month, one year, lifetime, etc.).

Still, if you are as serious about staying in shape mentally as physically, I still encourage you to give Elevate a bash. You'll bash it at least twice if you're smart or want to be.

MANY APCUG GROUPS TO SHARE THEIR ZOOM MEETINGS NATIONALLY

Thank you to APCUG for taking their time, effort, and skill to organize this exciting offering—one of our many member benefits!

Over 20 APCUG groups, including PATACS, are sharing their online Zoom meetings with other group members. The the link to the PDF document with national APCUG group names, time zones, meeting day(s), etc which will be updated as more groups decide to share their meetings: https://apcug2.org/tech-things-to-learn-while-sheltering-in-place/:

NOTE: When asking to attend a group's meeting, include your name and the name of your user group. Please make sure your Zoom name matches the name you send the group in the request as it will be matched to admit you into the meeting from the Zoom waiting room. Please don't wait until the last minute to ask to attend a meeting.

This gives all APCUG members the generous opportunity to share the offerings of many groups with many differing areas of interest and expertise.

FREE!

More info at:

https://apcug2.org/?
s=virtual+technology+conference+

To enjoy the information
when it fits your schedule.

Genealogy Research Online
By Frank Fota, Secretary & APCUG Rep,
Fredericksburg PCUG, VA
FPCUG Notes for April 2020
www.fpcug.org
Fotafm (at) gmail.com

Well, the coronavirus has us isolated at home instead of at work. Some people, so I've heard, are tackling tasks they've deferred for the proverbial "rainy day." I've often said to myself that I would scan that box of photos I rescued from my departed uncle's home before its contents were sold at an estate sale. I intend to distribute the images to my relatives. The issue is … identifying the people in the photos. Genealogical research can be a tedious task. Just such a task for a time like this. If you are interested in creating a family tree, or simply learning more about your ancestors, there are many websites where you can conduct genealogical research. Some of these websites are interactive and allow you to share photos and communicate with distant relatives. Bob Rankin at AskBobRankin.com provides a list of useful sites for Genealogical research:

1. Ancestry.com – perhaps the best-known website for genealogical research. It is a subscription-based service that costs $199/year or $99 for six months. A 14-day trial will allow you to evaluate the service. For an additional fee, the "World Explorer" package adds the ability to search internationally.

2. Cyndi's List – is a free, "…categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet. Over 335,000 genealogical sites are linked from this website.

3. Family Search – is run by the LDS Church. It provides access to over a billion records worldwide at no cost. The LDS Church also provides personal assistance and access to some of the paid sites via local family history centers. A local family history center is located at 20 Boscobel Road, Fredericksburg, Virginia

4. Roots Web – is the oldest and perhaps the largest genealogy site on the internet. The Roots Web site has genealogy search engines and message

5. USGenWeb – provides lists of genealogy resources by state and county.

6. WorldGenWeb – is similar to USGenWeb. Bob Rankin says, "WorldGenWeb is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the free use and access of public domain genealogical information."

Mr. Rankin notes several other websites and the resources that are provided in the article linked

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OPCUG / PATACS Saturday Meetings

In person meetings are not currently being held due to COVID-19. Join us on ZOOM.

1:000 – 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.)

Meeting Information and Agenda

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

See: https://.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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 **7-9pm Online Program By Zoom**	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 **7-9pm Online Program By Zoom**	13	14	15 **1-3:30om General Meeting By Zoom**
16	17 **7-9pm Board Meeting By Zoom**	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26 **7-9pm Tech&PC Help Desk**	27	28	29