



My turn.....

Henry Winokur, Editor, (editor@patacs.org)



It's November already?? You probably know that **Windows 11** was officially released last month. Because there are no new or really compelling features in **11**, pundits are calling it **Windows 10.1**. From my perspective, and I haven't tried it, it just looks prettier. I don't know if my desktop computer can be upgraded and I'm not worried. **Windows 10** will be around until at least October 2025. I hope I will be, too. 😊

At the same time, **Office 2021** also made its appearance. It is what is known as a “year version”. It has a set price and a static feature set. Unlike earlier year-versions (2019, 2016, 2013, etc.) it only has a 5-year support cycle (the others are 10 years). For years, the macOS version of Office trailed the year-version of the Windows versions by a year or so. That is no longer the case—they're all caught up.

PATACS Groups.io is seeing a fair amount of traffic, these days. If you have a problem you want help with or even if you don't, it's a good way to stay in touch with the Club and the membership. If you haven't already, I'd say “come and join us”.

Personal news: grandson #3 is on the way. He'll live with #2 and parents in Brooklyn, NY. Yes, we're excited! Other news: I am changing to a *mirrorless* camera. I've shot single lens reflex—SLR-type cameras—all of my life, but it's now time to move up to mirrorless. A cousin asked me how to make a camera “mirrorless” and my answer was: “take out the mirror-mechanism and the pentaprism (that big chunk of glass that sits above the mirror and turns the image right-side-up and forward) and replace it with a tiny TV screen that gets its feed directly from the sensor. Simple”—but of course, it's not!

Mea Culpa: I forgot to thank **Barry DeMaio**, one of last month's proof readers. Barry, you are now “thanked”! 😊

And a couple of new features starting this month:

- 1) A **Letters to the Editor** column. It's something I've wanted for awhile. If you have comments or anything else, send them to editor@patacs.org. (Don't be *shy*.)
- 2) Before I joined the Board of Directors (**BoD**), I didn't know what they did. Do you? I didn't think so. Now we'll have a short paragraph on what the Board of Directors did in the meeting closest to our publication date.

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Editor's note: I tried to make this a "hot" link list, but for reasons unknown, it just didn't work.	

Board of Directors Report:

The Society's Board of Directors meets each month (via Zoom) to plan and review activities and authorize expenditures. They review written reports submitted by the Treasurer, Membership Chair, APCUG Representative, and the previous month's meeting minutes. The Society President provides comments on current issues and all attendees are given the opportunity to question/comment on each report received.

Recent discussions entailed the semi-annual election of At-Large Directors (entire slate approved), preparation of the 2022 Fiscal Year Budget, and the establishment of an ad-hoc committee to address recommendations in the previous biennial financial audit. Recurring topics include Newsletter preparation/status, future programs (long and short form), ***the continuing need for a Program Chair***, and a new location for the Pizza Sig.

Letters to the Editor:

Apple's September announcements introduced new iPhones/iPads and a new Apple watch, creating buzz and immediate lust among some for all-things-new. A better approach is caring for and using devices—Apple's and others—until they no longer work, lack essential function, or can't take new software updates. My wife's and my iPhone 6s and 6s Plus work now as well as when we bought them in January, 2016—and just both received iOS 15. Their cameras aren't as capable as those on newer models—but they're more than adequate. I expect they won't take iOS16 next September, so that will be incentive to replace them to allow receiving functional enhancements and security patches. Getting almost seven years use from them softens their cost. I'll follow a similar approach with our iPads: my wife's is a generation behind mine, so it will fall off software updates first. When that happens she'll inherit mine

and I'll have the newest model. Take advantage of Apple's supporting its devices for many years and avoid making Apple unnecessarily richer.

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###

Windows 11

By Joel Ewing, President Bella Vista Computer Club
president (at) bvcomputerclub.org
www.bvcomputerclub.org *Bits & Bytes*, September 2021



The Windows 11 official launch date was October 5, 2021. That means new PCs created after that date will probably come with Windows 11 installed. In addition, after that date, computers running Windows 10 will be eligible for a free upgrade to Windows 11 **IF THE HARDWARE IS SUPPORTED BY WINDOWS 11.**

Things are somewhat confused at this point because the PC Health Check tool that was supposed to check for hardware compatibility failed almost all older machines and was withdrawn. Yet, those who signed up for the Windows 11 Insider program to test the pre-release version of Windows 11 were able to install and run Windows 11 on many of those "unsupported" machines. Also, some CPUs that were not originally on the acceptable CPU list have since been added, even though some did not seem to support all the latest hardware security features. For greater details, see

[How the hell is Microsoft already screwing up Windows 11 this badly? | PC Gamer](#)

Microsoft has also recently released (August 27) updated information on supported hardware [Update on Windows 11 minimum system requirements and the PC Health Check app | Windows Insider Blog](#), but this list is probably still incomplete.

So basically, the current supported hardware information for Windows 11 from Microsoft lacks completeness. Microsoft, at this point, is not promising to provide updates, security-related or otherwise, if Windows 11 is installed on hardware that is not listed as supported. Some users have found that Windows 11 still appears to function on hardware not on the supported list – for now – but some attempting to update Windows 11 on an unsupported platform have received messages advising them they must revert and re-install Windows 10. So, it would

appear that upgrading to Windows 11 on a PC hardware platform that is not on the officially supported list may appear to work after installation but does involve a risk that problems could surface with future updates.

The hardware requirements are related to support for Trusted Platform Module (TPM 2.0), Secure Boot, CPU support of HyperVisor-protected Code Integrity (HVCI), Virtualization Based Security (VBS), and Mode Based Execution Control (MBEC), and at least some of this seems related to a need to meet DoD security requirements. Unfortunately, MS does not go into details about which of these features are absolute requirements and which ones, if absent or down-level, might degrade security or stability but be no worse than running Windows 10 on the same platform. Thus, the real question for many with older hardware not yet on the "supported" list—as yet imperfectly answered—is not whether the hardware provides full support for all the new security features of Windows 11, but whether Windows 11 will run at least as reliably and securely as Windows 10 on the same hardware.

Another issue with older hardware is that MS wants vendors to have a more secure design for device drivers. This is good news for reliability but bad news for those with older motherboards or older external devices. Unfortunately, many vendors concentrate on drivers for current hardware and eventually stop supplying driver updates for their older device models. As a result, it's possible replacement could eventually be required for some of your older external devices like printers, scanners, etc. Initially, the older device driver code model will be supported under Windows 11, but at some point, only the new driver code design model will be allowed.

The good news is that an older PC running Windows 10 does not become obsolete or need an immediate upgrade with the introduction of Windows 11. Update support will continue for Windows 10 until October 14, 2025. However, it does mean that if you are running hardware that does not officially support Windows 11, or external devices with device drivers the vendor doesn't update for Windows 11, you may need to start planning to replace that hardware before the Windows 10 End-of-Support in late 2025.

Change for the sake of change is a pain. Still, this change, and the possible forced hardware upgrade it may imply, does appear to be motivated by a desire to make systems that are more resistant to damage by malware and damage from poorly-written vendor device drivers. Anything that makes life more difficult for the creators of malware is goodness in the long run.

###

3D Printing

by Jeff Wilkinson, President

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

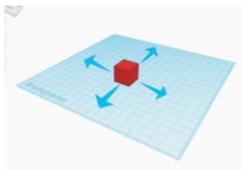
<https://www.scsccl.com> clearmeadows11 (at) I.com



Recent articles extolled the advantages of 3D printed houses, so I thought it might be time to take a look at what all the fuss is about. 3D printers have been around for a while now, and a few club members have them and have created some very interesting and useful items. To support the growing demand of small business customers, some UPS stores now offer 3D printing services. Industrial applications grow every day, and volume manufacturing is now a reality. Meanwhile, rapid prototyping is still an efficient and practical tool used in product development.

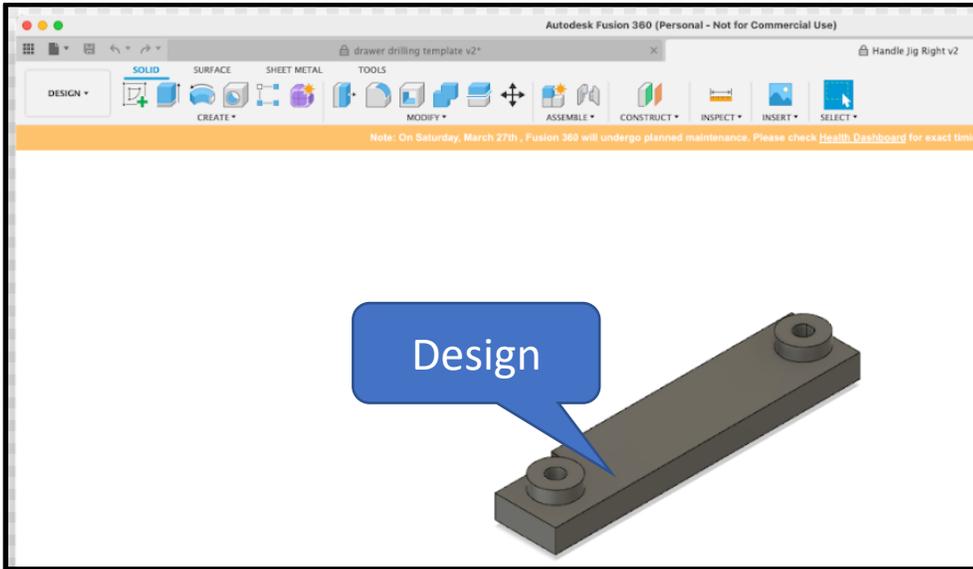
3D printing is an additive process, with material deposited in successive layers. Using a computer allows for the creation of a three-dimensional item. Plastics and metal alloys are the most commonly used materials, but the 3D-printed house takes it a step further with concrete.

An outgrowth of printing as we know it, where ink is laid down on a substrate, generally paper, in a thin layer, 3D printing lays down material in successive layers building up the height. Thus, 3D printing saves material over a subtractive process such as milling, sawing, and shaping by removing material in a manufacturing environment. Instead, materials can be laid down precisely by the computer-controlled “print head.”



The 3D printing process begins with a design. Beginners and hobbyists can use a program such as [Tinkercad](https://tinkercad.com), a browser-based application that allows you to create and then export your design as a .STL or .OBJ file compatible with 3D printers. The file is then “sliced” or split into hundreds or thousands of layers; this is done with software. Your sliced file is now ready to be sent to your printer.

The setup and calibration of the printer are very important, and the time to print is a function of the complexity of the part. One of our club members recently designed and built some jigs to locate and drill holes for new cabinet hardware. Each jig took just over 2 hours to print using ABS plastic filament. The result is a useful tool pictured below.

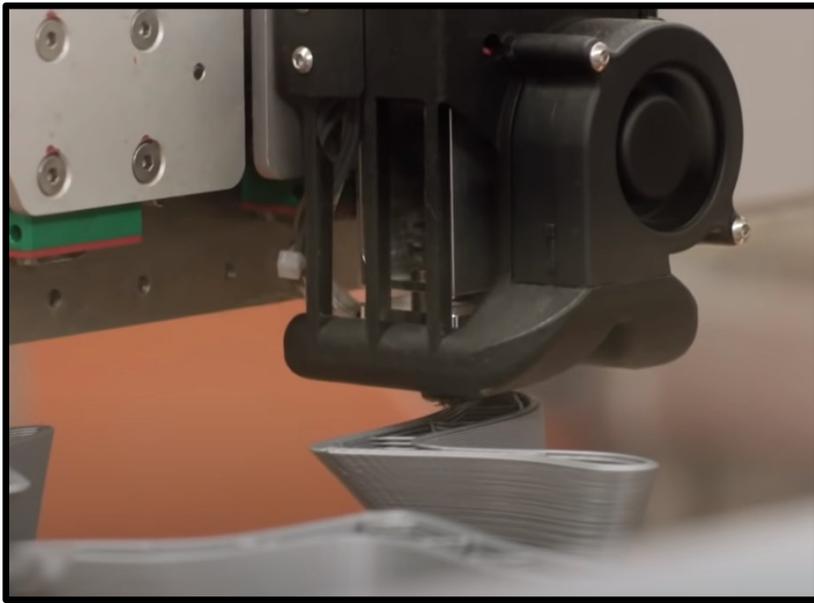


Jig on cabinet door



Holes drilled and new hardware successfully installed

Custom jig to locate and facilitate drilling of holes to mount new cabinet hardware.



Melted plastic filaments being applied layer by layer

Of course, a 3D printed house is more complicated, although it only takes days to make at a fraction of the cost of conventional construction.



The 3D printing eliminates over 20 manual, labor-intensive processes such as siding, framing, and sheathing and allows completion of a 1900 square foot house in about 48 hours of print time spanning 8 – 10 days.

As technology moves forward and new techniques are used in more applications, more uses are continually discovered.

A hobbyist can get into 3D printing for under \$500 and use it to create jigs and tools that can be used for all sorts of practical purposes – or maybe to create unique shapes for the fun of it!!

More information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHSYEH133HA>

###

Ashampoo® PDF Pro 2 – Create and Open PDFs

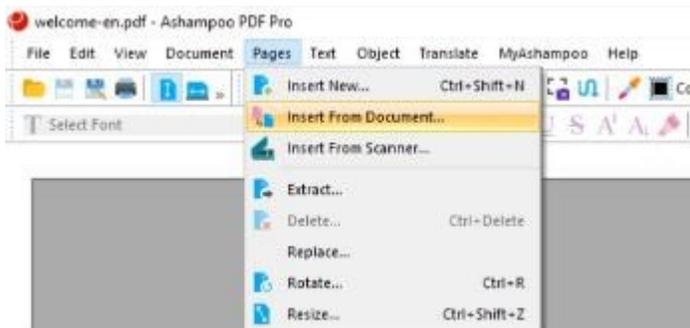
By Jasmine Blue D’Katz, Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts www.lcace.org
jj1450xl (at) yahoo.com

I have been using Adobe Acrobat for several years to save documents to PDF format and create text-filled forms. Along with Acrobat, I’ve used a few other Optical Character Recognition (OCR) programs like ReadIRIS and ABBY FineReader PDF to read and convert typed, handwritten, or printed text images into machine-encoded text, whether from scanned documents, photos, or a document.



Recently, I have had problems with ReadIRIS giving out-of-memory errors when I load a scanned file, so I decided to try something new. I ran across an article about Ashampoo PDF Pro 2, which claimed to be the complete solution to manage and edit your PDF documents. Like the other programs, I will be able to convert, edit, merge, and protect my PDFs, create perfectly sized documents that are readable on any device, and use encryption to protect them.

I have used Adobe Acrobat to create a form for the club applications, and Ashampoo PDF Pro is ideal for creating fill-out forms. It takes only a few clicks to add interactive elements, like selection lists, checkboxes, or input fields, to my PDF form. These forms can then easily be filled out using a standard PDF reader.



Convert documents into Word or other formats.

Another feature of Ashampoo Pro is the mature OCR engine that converts scanned characters into computer-editable text. The program also features seamless file exchange with Word.

Although I have not found a need for the security features of encrypting a file, Ashampoo PDF Pro 2 uses up to 256-bit AES encryption to allow PDF Pro 2 to secure my documents.

Additional security can also be set by allowing a second (more secure) password to be set.

Ashampoo PDF Pro 2 for home use grants a single license that can be used for up to three PCs. The program was initially priced at \$69.99, but I recently found it for \$19.99 or at [Amazon](#) for \$29.99.

This program has been easy to use with its well-designed interface. In addition, there is a great website that provided me with comprehensive Q&A, which has handled questions that I have had.

All in all, a great PDF editing tool at a great price!

[Ashampoo® PDF Pro 2 – Best PDF Software & PDF-Editor for PDF files](#)



###

Advantages of New Wi-Fi Standards

By Joe Callison, Author, GEEK FREE & FOR~GO (For Geeks Only) blogs; Convener, Senior Techies SIG Seniors Computer Club of Greater Kansas City <https://kcsenior.net/> sencommemberoo (at) I.com

Wi-Fi technology and the routers and Wi-Fi adapters using it have advanced a lot in recent years. It is difficult to explain the nuances of Wi-Fi technology without getting geeky, so bear with me a little as I attempt to explain some of the terminologies as simply as I can.

The IEEE 802.11 standards for Wi-Fi have used letters to designate each new generation of design, with **b**, **a**, **g**, and **n** being the most well-known by consumers as the first four generations. The next generation to appear was **ac**, which was a confusing change in the naming sequence, so it is often referred to simply as Wi-Fi 5 or 5th generation Wi-Fi. The first generation is designed to take full advantage of new technology that was started but not fully implemented in the **n** or 4th generation. Both take advantage of 2.4GHz and 5GHz frequencies to provide more and faster channels.

Still, the capability of using multiple inputs and multiple outputs (**MIMO**) to communicate with a device for even faster or more reliable communications was only standardized under Wi-Fi 5. In addition, **MIMO** could be used to electronically change the antenna beam pattern of the router to focus the signal in the direction of the device it was communicating with. Wi-Fi 5 standardized the method of communication between the devices and the router to enable interoperability of the router with all brands of Wi-Fi 5 adapters that support this “beamforming” technology instead of proprietary designs that depended on buying matching equipment from one supplier.

To use beamforming technology (which may go by various names by different brands) with multiple devices simultaneously, **multi-user MIMO (MU-MIMO)** is required, with the number of antennas and radios supported designated as 2×2 or 3×3 or 4×4 for 2, 3, or 4 simultaneous data streams with Wi-Fi 5. Each **MU-MIMO** data stream can also be multiplexed (divided up) into up to 3 data streams to provide concurrent single data streams to a total of anywhere from 2 to 24 devices depending on the number of **MU-MIMO** data streams supported by the router. Non-MIMO communications can connect more total devices with the router, but they take turns, one at a time for each frequency, instead of having simultaneous access to the router.

The newest Wi-Fi standards for consumer products are designated with an “**ax**” and referred to as Wi-Fi 6 or 6th generation Wi-Fi and support up to 8 simultaneous **MU-MIMO** data streams. In addition, there is even an enhanced Wi-Fi 6 called Wi-Fi **6E** that adds 6GHz frequency antennas and radios for even more and faster channels of communication. For more information on Wi-Fi 4 through **6E**, see the following links:

[What Is Wi-Fi 6E? | PCMag](#)

[I standards explained: I 4 vs I 5 vs I 6 \(minim.com\)](#)

[Buying a new router? Understand these Wi-Fi basics first - CNET](#)

For links to articles on the best routers for 2021, see the following:
(**Editor’s note:** or do a search on “best wireless routers in 2021”)

[The Best Wireless Routers for 2021 | PCMag](#)

[The 8 Best Routers To Flood Your Home With Wi-Fi \(popularmechanics.com\)](#)

Why might you need a new router? If your current router is several years old; and you are planning to use a 4K or 8K smart television or streaming video device, or you have many different devices using your router at the same time (the average U.S. home has over ten

devices that may be in use), or you are concerned about your router security, or if you or your grandkids are gamers or cryptocurrency miners, then you should probably consider buying a new Wi-Fi 6 router.

At this time, there are not many 6GHz devices utilizing **6E**, and the routers and adapters can get expensive. Tests on **6E** capable routers that are currently available do not show many advantages over Wi-Fi 6. You would probably benefit more from a router with two 5GHz antennas than a router with one 5GHz and one 6GHz. This may change in another year, or two and prices should become more reasonable as more **6E** hardware becomes available.

Remember that to take full advantage of these new routers, you will need Wi-Fi adapters that use the same Wi-Fi standards and features, such as **MU-MIMO** as the router. Adapters are available for upgrading laptops and desktops to the new standards, but other devices without USB ports that can support Wi-Fi adapters, like phones, are not upgradeable. They will still work fine with the new routers. In addition, your internet service speed must be high enough to make a meaningful difference in performance with a faster router. You probably will not see much of a speed gain unless you have at least 300Mbps internet service, but speed alone may not be the reason to replace your old router.

###

Nemo (File Manager for Linux Mint)

By Cal Esneault, Cajun Clickers past president and leader of many Open-Source Workshops & SIGs May 2021 issue, CCCC Computer News www.clickers.org office (at) clickers.org

Mint is a Linux distribution based on Ubuntu. The Mint team typically customizes key utility applications to support its goal of stability and user-friendliness. Three examples are shown below.

Menu Name	Program name	Funciton
Update Manager	Mintupdate	Safely install software
Files	Nemo	File manager
Text editor	Xed	Edit text files

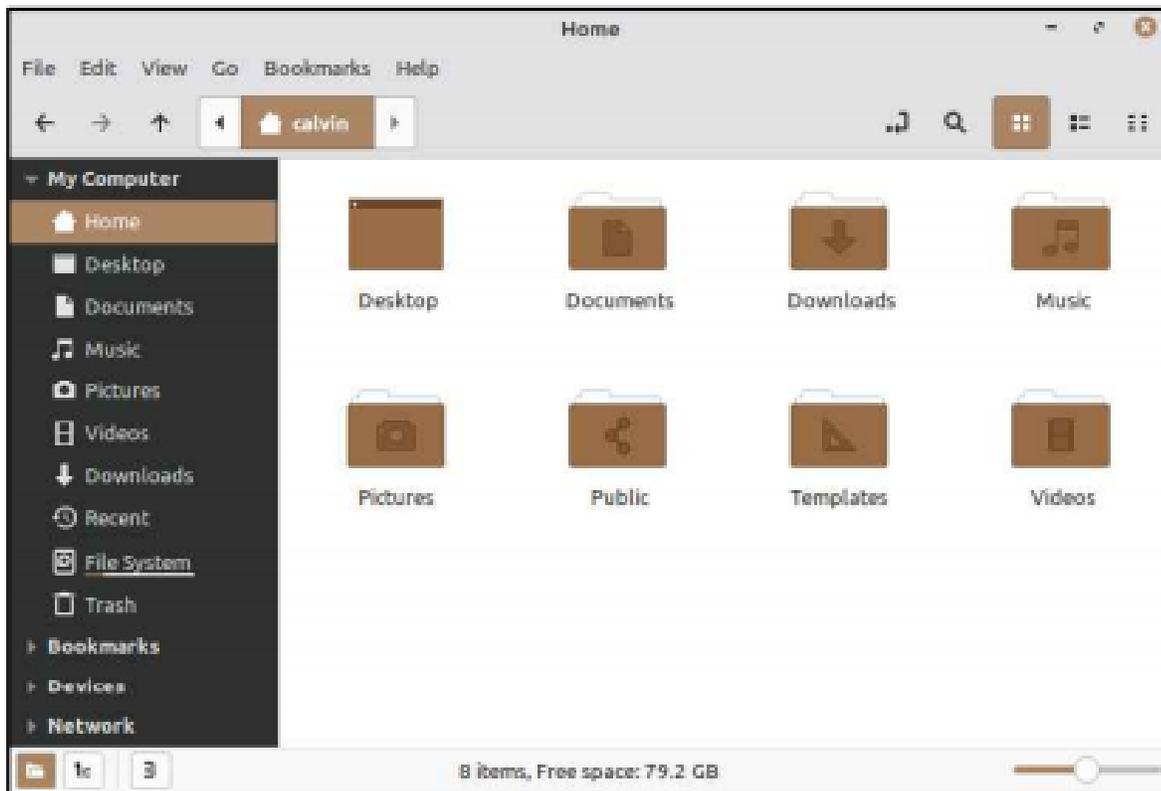


Nemo, the file manager, began around 2012 as part of the development of the Cinnamon Desktop, a project launched to avoid the use of Gnome 3 Shell.

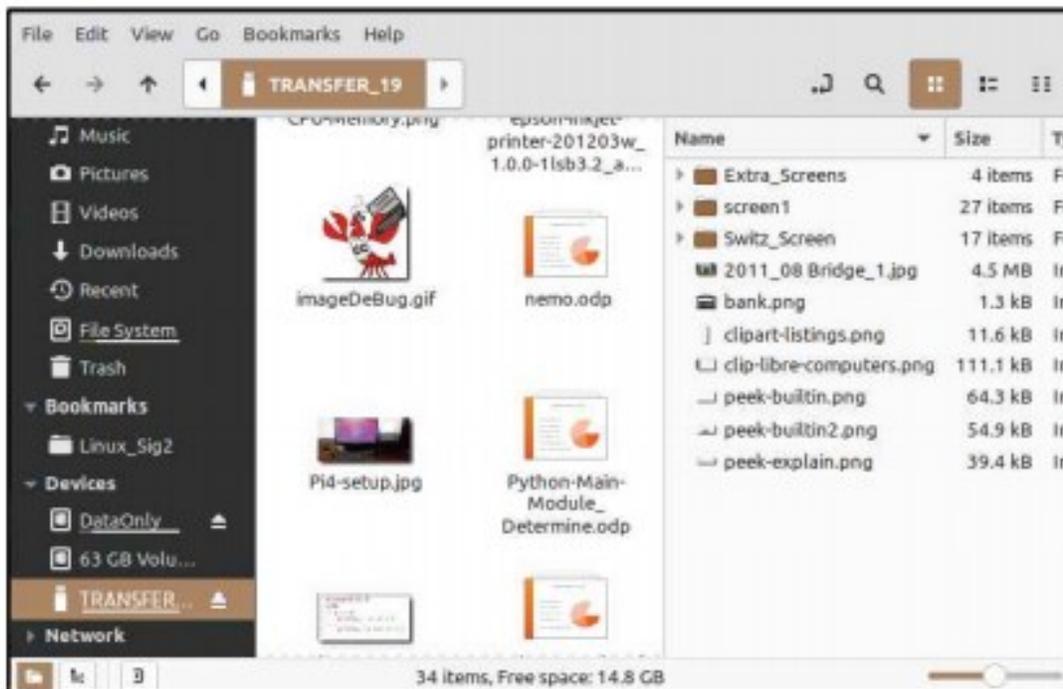
Nemo is a “fork” of Nautilus, the Gnome file manager. Experienced Linux users often manage files using the command line. See an example of the “terminal” approach below.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
calvin@calvin-Latitude-E6430:~$ ls
Desktop  Downloads  Pictures  Templates
Documents Music      Public   Videos
```

Average users, however, prefer the Graphical User Interface (GUI) that **Nemo** provides. Following is an example of the same directory listing referenced above but displayed by **Nemo**. The left-side pane provides easy navigation among parts of the overall file structure. The files can be listed in a variety of ways. Here, icons are used. Other options include a detailed list view and a compact list view just showing names.



To facilitate moving files around, **Nemo** offers an “Extra Pane” view (shown below). The listing on the left is in icon view, while the listing on the right is the detailed view. In addition, files can be moved back and forth between folders using the drag-and-drop method.



There are many more features available to enhance your file organization. For example, you can add “bookmarks” to the navigation pane to speed your access to frequently used file areas.

###

Editor’s Note: I am a big fan of Brian Krebs (www.krebsonsecurity.com) and this is from his blog: The excitement is building for the **2021 Bankrupting Fraud Summit!** This year’s free, virtual summit will deliver two days of inspirational and interactive discussions with the brightest cybercrime prevention experts.

Tune in to hear keynote speaker Brian Krebs and Arkose Labs CEO, Kevin Gosschalk, for a fireside chat about the current state of cybercrime, surprising trends to track, and first-hand stories from the field that you’ll remember for years to come.

Register for the virtual summit now! <https://www.krebsonsecurity.com/arkoselabs/>

###

Is your mouse walking instead of running? (from the Editor)

If it feels like your mouse is “dragging its feet”, maybe it is. If your mouse is “optical” meaning it is lit up on the bottom, you don’t need a mouse pad. *Using one will only slow the mouse down and cause you to work harder.* If you work on a clear glass-topped table, use a piece of normal 20 lb. printing paper as your mouse pad. All you want to do is give the light something to “see”. While you’ve got the mouse upside-down, you might see 4 “footpads”...one in each corner. Scrap off any accumulated crud and make sure the pads are

clean. Once you do that, the mouse will be back to its old, run-free-self. Check it now-and-then to make sure it's clean.

###

Shortcuts of interest:

Windows 10 Powertoys, explained: <https://www.howtogeek.com/665780/all-microsofts-powertoys-for-windows-10-explained/>

Microsoft Defender Antivirus review: <https://www.pcmag.com/reviews/microsoft-windows-defender-security-center>

Set up & Customize Windows 11: <https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/how-to-set-up-customize-windows-11-installation>

Access Win10's startup folder: <https://www.howtogeek.com/754239/how-to-access-the-windows-10-startup-folder/>

Which Apple pad to buy: <https://www.pcmag.com/news/apple-ipad-vs-ipad-air-vs-ipad-mini-vs-ipad-pro-which-tablet-should-you>

Apple Watch 7: <https://www.pcmag.com/news/apple-watch-series-7-launches-with-larger-display-improved-durability-and>

7 steps to prepare you iPhone for iOS 15 update: <https://www.makeuseof.com/steps-prepare-iphone-ios-15-update>

Apple faces Class action suit over cracks in M1 Screens:
<https://www.pcmag.com/news/apple-facing-m1-macbook-cracked-screen-class-action-lawsuit>

Best word processor for Linux—5 compared: <https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/best-word-processor-linux>

Stable v. bleeding edge version of Linux: <https://www.makeuseof.com/stable-vs-bleeding-edge-linux-distros>

How to FaceTime with Android: <https://www.makeuseof.com/how-to-use-facetime-on-android>

3 ways to scan & digitize old photos: <https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/best-ways-scan-old-photos>

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The next issue will be in about 7 weeks—mid-December, 2021

PATACS, Inc.
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First Class

AFFIX
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POSTAGE

TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

As our monthly meeting schedules start to revert to pre-pandemic types, be sure to check the web site (below) for up-to-date information. Meeting time & locations listed below are either *Zoom-only* (Z) or Hybrid (in-person & Z) marked by an (H).

General Meeting in Arlington	7:00 – 9:00 PM	1 st Wednesday	H
Board of Directors Meeting	7:00 – 9:00 PM	3 rd Monday	Z
Fairfax General Meeting	12:45 – 3:30 PM	3 rd Saturday	Z
Technology & PC Help Desk in Arlington	7:00 – 9:00 PM	4 th Wednesday	H

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PATACS Event Information

Call 703-370-7649 for Meeting Announcements

Web site: <https://www.patacs.org>

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