



THE BUSSLINE

(BUSSLINE is the term for the complex multi-functional circuitry on a computer motherboard, a PC's heart.)

Vol. 112 No. 5 Newsletter of the Central Florida Computer Society, Inc. [Non-Profit, 501(c)3] July, 2012

FREE STUFF for your computer!

Sunday, July 15

FREE STUFF is the topic for our regular meeting this Sunday at Jackson Hewitt, at which Tom Ault, #1 Director of CFCS, will enlighten us with his years of research to find "FREE STUFF" for his, and your computer. We are not sure if any of the free stuff is hardware, or software only, or websites offering free advice on keeping your CPU roaring, virus free, and the envy of all your friends. But, like you, we are eager to attend Sunday's CFCS meeting for an exciting program, as usual.

Earlier on the same day of each presentation, the WINDOWS Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting is held. The WinSIG always meets at 12:30 pm, and is hosted this month by Mike Ungerman, former president of both CFCS and FACUG, and blogger extraordinaire. Mike will start at 12:30, just before the CFCS General Meeting. If you use or plan to use Windows, these discussions, demonstrations, and Q&A sessions will be of immense value to you. Geared to intermediate level Windows users, tips, tricks, and information on all versions of Windows are discussed. An e-newsletter is sent periodically with meeting information and links discussed at the meeting. You need not attend both meetings, but many members do. Non members are always welcome. Sign up for the free e-newsletter at cfcs.org.

Mike Ungerman will fill in for Hewie and talk on aspects of internet security and safe surfing. We all want to be sure that our surfing is as safe as it can be: so hackers won't get our personal information for ID theft, and that we get to the web site we want to and not a clone somewhere in a third world country. We will revisit the subjects of Domain Name Service and

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to some extent how to set up your computer and router for better security.

Bring your questions about Windows or any computer questions to be fielded by a room full of computer enthusiasts. The questions will be answered during the Windows SIG or during the "Askit Basket" portion of the main meeting. We even have a few lurking Mac owners, and when we turn off the lights to better view the presentations, you may notice the glow of numerous iPods in the crowd. CFCS was the first to put the 'YOU' in USER-friendly!

August 19 General Meeting: Our speakers for the Aug. 19, 2012 meeting will be David Leavitt, CEO, and Jonathan Sullivan, Network Engineer, of Refresh Computers (They have one store in Longwood, another near UCF, and a third in The Villages). Many of you have heard them on WDBO on Sunday afternoon at 1:00. They'll tell us what they offer in the way of goods and service in their stores, and show us some cool tricks on keeping our computers clean!

When David Leavitt read a copy of the BUSSLINE which Stan had sent him, David was a bit surprised Stan's Recycle Bin did not mention A1 Assets, Inc. as a great place to drop off electronics for recycling. A1 Assets (www.a1assets.com) is the parent company of Refresh Computers and is the largest recycler of electronics in Central Florida. Mr. Leavitt says they are listed with the state and federal EPA and are ISO 14001 and R2 compliant for recycling. You can read all about them on their website.

Their address is 1100 Charles Street, Longwood, FL 32750. They have both drop-off and pickup services available. Most items are free of charge to drop off. If there is a large quantity, they can pick up for you. They service many of the major companies and government agencies in Florida and the Southeast.

Refresh Computers also offers a free tech support hotline for anyone needing help with their computer or internet setup. Their technician will give you 15 to 20 minutes of their time over the phone FREE OF CHARGE. They help about 70% of callers with their issues and it never costs you a dime and you didn't have to bring in your computer to someone. Refresh Computers also repairs all makes and models of computers and laptops, as well as iPhones and iPad screen replacements and repairs. Refresh Computers has 9

vehicles in their fleet and boasts a service area from Melbourne to Lakeland and from Daytona to Ocala (and all places in between) for any business or home related network or computer repair or setup. Refresh Computers also offers telephone service (including local telephone numbers, toll free numbers) and telephone equipment at the best prices with the best service anywhere. Let them look at your phone bill to show you how much they can save your business. Residential service is also available.

At the meeting they'll also discuss how they can get involved with helping us recycle responsibly - we'll have the details in next month's "Recycle Bin." And, they'll fill us in on their free tech support hotline for anyone needing help with their computer or internet setup. To prepare for next month's meeting, be sure to listen to their "Refreshing" radio show at 1:00 pm each Sunday on WDBO.

OUR OTHER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG)

The ACCESS, MS OFFICE, and SECURITY SIGs meet conjointly on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm at the New Horizons Learning Center at 1221 Lee Rd. Arvin Meyer, a Microsoft MVP (Most Valuable Professional), (and current CFCS president), leads the SIG. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cfcs-access> This is a combination of three separate SIGs which now meet alternately for the duration of Arvin's presidency. They will resume separate meetings when he leaves office and/or publishes his upcoming book.

The GRAPHICS/PHOTO SIG lead has been assumed by Hewie Poplock and will be presented in an open online forum on an announced schedule. (Sign up for the free e-newsletter at cfcs.org.) E-mail: graphic-sig@cfcs.org

The TECH DISCUSSION SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm at the Casselberry Denny's at 436 and Oxford Rd. SIG leader is Stan Wallner, President Emeritus.

This SIG is a non-structured, open conversational group for CFCS members, that has no specific topic or speaker, but is simply a round table discussion. It is not an advanced group, but a place for people to come and dis-

cuss various tech subjects, such as new products and technologies, hardware, software, web-related, etc.

Bring in articles from magazines, newsletters, unusual problems/situations that have arisen, questions, etc. Also, new or ailing devices or notebook pc's are welcome, either for "show and tell" or discussion or demo of situations.

A screen and projector are available, but not always there. If you want it to demo something, please E-mail: tech-sig@cfcs.org a day or 2 ahead.

Another feature of this SIG is the Tech-SIG Yahoo Group mail. We now have 57 people communicating through this, with tips and tricks, "Ask-It Basket" type questions, etc. Also, a second, on-line VIRTUAL meeting of the TechSIG is being experimented with on the second Tuesday of each month. Co-hosted by Mike Ungerman and Stan Wallner, it may attract a long distance audience. Stay tuned to the e-Blast for times and details - it is not yet permanently scheduled, but will be announced in the e-BLAST and on the Tech-SIG Yahoo Group mail. If you are not on that list and want to be, please E-mail: tech-sig@cfcs.org

The iSIG meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at *Denny's on Lee Rd & I-4*. The iSIG meetings cover the products that use the iPhone OS, which includes the iPhone, iPad, and iPod. This is a combined effort of the Central Florida Computer Society <http://www.cfcs.org> and the Florida Macintosh Users Group <http://www.flmug.com>. Other groups are invited to participate. Attendees are consumers, developers, consultants, and publishers, who find common interests and discuss how to handle topics from both the consumer & the developer perspectives. The SIG leader is Sean Kane, Certified Apple Technical Coordinator, long-time Mac and iPhone user, and a technologist and consultant to Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida.

Please note that the iSIG meets at the Denny's on Lee Rd in Orlando. The Tech-SIG and the Board of Directors meetings continue to meet at Denny's on 436 & Oxford Rd in Casselberry.

**Back by popular demand:
"bring a friend day" Sunday**

The Recycle Bin

by Stan Wallner,
President Emeritus, CFCS



Stan, a CFCS member since 1984, has served in many offices over the years, and is now on the BOD as President Emeritus. Separately, he is a local IT consultant, "PC Doctors Make House Calls," offering his services on-site, at your office or home - for PC and Laptop Upgrades, WiFi, Networks, Virus & Spyware removal, Troubleshooting both hardware & software, at reasonable rates (discounts for CFCS members!). You can contact him at smwallner@yahoo.com or 407-862-2669.

This is a MOST important issue regarding our environment, and can't be over-emphasized! It is an area that is changing frequently, so please keep reading this column regularly! This particular one has a LOT of changes, so please read carefully.

Regarding your bringing items to either the General Meeting or my own SIG which we did when we had Orlando Recycles. They would pick them up at my place, which is unfortunately a thing of the past. They can't do that anymore, and I can't take the items to them - just too far, both in time, gas costs, etc.

So, here is what I suggest you all consider for the various types of items, which I have sorted into two categories:

Category "A" - Primarily For Monitors, Printers, Scanners that still work, and PC's that are repairable, with exceptions as noted:

#1 Missionary Computer Fellowship; "MCF"

We'd been told last year that they were shutting down, but they didn't. We just got these details - they are still rebuilding PC's, sending over 40,000 overseas over the years, and also providing them to local people in need:

"What we need:

- Volunteers to work on computers. No experience needed - we will train you!
- Pentium II1 computers or faster. They don't have to work. We can fix them.
- Monitors less than 10 years old, especially flat

- screens. They need to work. We don't fix monitors.
- Currently working printers and scanners.
- Any Windows operating systems from Windows XP to Windows 7.
- Mice, keyboards and speakers and video, network and sound cards
- Hard Drives greater than 40 GB (We will SE CURE CLEAN all HDs)
- CD/RW and DVD/RW Drives
- Memory DDR213 256 MB or above
- Microsoft Office software
- Cash (any denomination!)

How can we help you?:

Are you a missionary or involved in a mission?
 Are you a church group or a non-profit?
 Could you use a computer system or repair of an existing computer system?

If so, please call (407-422-9265) or email us (info@mcf-ork.org). Donations can be brought directly to 725 West Central Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32805, on Tuesday or Thursday (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.). This is west of I-4, near North Parramore Ave and West Washington Street.

#2 Southeastern Data, at 142 Park Road, Oviedo, FL 32765
 (Off Alafaya Trail, just north of E. McCulloch Road);
 phone 407-971-4654.

They've been very helpful in allowing CFCS members to drop off most recyclables with no service charge, for quite some time; greatly appreciated!

SE Data offers free recycling with the exception of monitors and terminals with cathode ray tubes, CRTs and terminals which are \$3.00 each. TVs with cathode ray tubes need to be evaluated, but most are \$0.60/lb. Displays with LCD/LED screens are accepted at no charge and most likely can be purchased, working or not. You can come by anytime, but a heads up call would be appreciated for large loads. **Also, do let them know you are involved with CFCS.**

SE is also a great place to pick up parts and accessories,

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal invoices will be e-mailed from treasurer@cfcs.org approximately thirty (30) days prior to your membership expiration. Invoices will be snail mailed to members for whom there is no e-mail address in the membership database and to those members whose e-mail was returned to treasurer@cfcs.org for any reason. Please help us by adding this address to your contacts list and setting your spam filter to let our message get to your inbox. We do not share your e-mail address with others (We hate that too!), but it is necessary for full participation in the Society, including receiving your newsletter.

Members will be requested to renew their membership by paying dues on time. Dues may be paid by cash or check at the meeting, by PayPal at <http://www.cfcs.org/membership/membership.php> or by mailing a check to:

CFCS

**204 Larkwood Drive Ste 100
 Sanford, FL 32771-3643**

If you do not receive a renewal invoice, lose it or have questions about your dues and or membership status, please inquire at the sign-in table or send an e-mail to: treasurer@cfcs.org.

Membership Cards: A new membership postcard with the membership card included for the next year will be distributed at the meeting following your renewal. The Cards will be mailed to those members who request

and they accept trade-ins against purchases and they will even outright purchase your components. Their hours are 8:00 am til 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Southeastern Data is ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001:2004 certified and offers shredding of hard drives, tapes, optical media, cell phones and small electronics at their facility and on site. And, since they will do also accept items that DO NOT work, they do truly fit in both Category "A" AND "B!!"

#3 Orlando Recycles, Inc.

They have changed their policies in that they will no longer be able to provide us with any revenue, and will no longer be able to pick up materials from my house. They are still a viable place to recycle, and there is no charge to you for items like CRT's, TV's.

They are at located at 5014 Forsyth Commerce Road,

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THE CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPUTER SOCIETY is a charitable, scientific and educational, nonprofit organization, founded in 1976 and incorporated in 1982 to encourage interest in the operation and development of computers through meetings with free exchange of information and educational endeavors.

Newsletter: The CFCS Newsletter © 2008 is the official newsletter of the Central Florida Computer Society, Inc. It is published every month by CFCS for the purpose of keeping members and others informed of computer-related news and activities of the Society. Circulation: 25,000.

Mailing Address:
 CFCS
 204 Larkwood Dr., Suite 100
 Sanford FL 32771

Membership: CFCS membership includes participation in the Society's activities and subscription to this Newsletter.

Annual Dues Schedule:

Individual	\$ 25
Extra family member	15
Student (Full time).....	15
Corporate membership.....	100*

*Includes free business card ad

Members are responsible for sending a change-of-address notification (including e-mail) to: membership@cfcs.org.

Gifts to CFCS are welcome, and because of the Society's nonprofit tax status, are tax deductible.

Meetings: CFCS meets each month on the 3rd Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the **Jackson Hewitt Training Center, 2221 Lee Rd. Winter Park, FL**. The Jan. Feb. and Mar. meetings are held at another location. Guests and the general public are invited to attend. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) within the Society meet regularly. See Special Interest Groups listings on pages 6 & 7.

CFCS Web site: www.cfcs.org

Editorial: Articles for publication in the CFCS Newsletter should be *emailed* to the Editor at: editor@cfcs.org. Please use Microsoft Word format, Times New Roman font, 12 point, if possible. The deadline for submitting articles is the first of each month.

Articles by authors other than directors of CFCS and the Newsletter staff do not necessarily reflect the policies or sanction of the Society. Unless otherwise indicated, articles in the CFCS Newsletter may be reprinted in newsletters of other nonprofit organizations, without permission, provided credit is given.

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CFCS Newsletter Advertising

Computer ready rates, for one time insertion, whether in the Printed or Electronic Edition:

Full Page	\$200.00*	Quarter Page	\$75.00*
Half Page	125.00*	Business Card	25.00*

Advertising deadline: the first day of month of issue. Electronic copy is required.
 All ad copy and correspondence should be sent by email to: advertising@cfcs.org
 Annual Rates, Paid in Advance, for 12 insertions, with a minimum of 2 Printed Editions: Full Page \$1200 Quarter Page \$450
 Half Page 750 Business Card 150
 *Does not include Back Page; please inquire if interested

Interested in making a difference?
Then volunteer with CFCS! The programs and benefits that members receive would not exist without members also volunteering. There are vacancies for a Program Chair/Coordinator, Education Chair and Advertising Chair. Please contact Arvin Meyer, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. president@cfcs.org

CFCS is associated with both International & Florida User Group Associations:




www.apcug.net

#4, Orlando, FL, 32807, just off Forsyth, about 1/2 mile east of 436 and south of Colonial. Their hours are from 9:30 to 5:30. You do not need to call them. You can take things on your own - just go there. No need to say you are involved with CFCS; just leave your items with them if they are open. AND, you can even go when they are closed - they have an outdoor Drop Box there, always open and available! Since they do also accept items that DO NOT work, they do truly fit in both Category "A" AND "B!!"

#4 Goodwill. They have recently changed their policy, and WILL now accept WORKING Monitors including CRT's if not too old, Printers, Scanners, PC's, DVD, CD or Hard Drives at all of their locations, including the manned Trucks around town.

#5 Salvation Army. They also accept WORKING Monitors including CRT's if not too old, Printers, Scanners, PC's, DVD, CD and/or Hard Drives at all of their locations.

They do not sell them in their stores, but Auction them off at their W. Colonial location, every Mon, Wed, and Fri, at 9:00 am, along with other various items that either did not sell or are damaged.

#6 Vietnam Vets. They also accept WORKING Monitors including CRT's if not too old, Printers, Scanners, PC's, DVD, CD and/or Hard Drives at all of their locations. They do sell them in their stores.

Category "B" - Scrap Only - For Monitors, Printers, Scanners that DON'T work, PC's that are too old, and/or NOT repairable, etc.

#1 Best Buy Stores. All local stores; no need to contact them first. All items above; all at NO CHARGE, limited to three items per visit. The only exceptions are CRT Monitors or TV's. First, there is a maximum size of 32", and there will be a fee of \$10.00 each. However, they do immediately return the \$10.00 to you in the form of a Cash Card! You can go to www.bestbuy.com/ recycling for more info, or CALL '24/7' 1-888- BEST BUY (1-888-237-8289)!

#2 Recycling Directory: <http://earth911.com/> This is a directory containing information for recycling over 240 different products that are free for consumers. There are over 127,000 locations and programs that people can search to find local recycling and disposal resources.

Thanks to Mike Ungerman and Hewie Poplock for sending this to me - includes County places, and for example - Staples, many others, by ZIP. It is thorough! (However, what is not mentioned on this site, for example, is that Staples just mentioned CHARGES \$10 EACH for any PC, Printer, CRT or LCD, even Hard Drive! Only small items, such as mice and keyboards are free. So I would say 'caveat emptor' applies! Call or go first, as I did!

#3 Seminole County Residential Electronics recycling:
<http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/envsrvs/solidwaste/electronics.aspx>

Where can I recycle my e-scrap?

The Seminole County Solid Waste Management Division accepts e-scrap at the Central Transfer Station's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Facility. The e-scrap is accepted during regular working hours.

1950 State Road 419; Longwood, Florida 32750
HOURS: Monday - Saturday, 7:30am - 5:30pm, (except certain holidays)

Who can recycle e-scrap?

The electronics recycling program is available for all residents of Seminole County for e-scrap generated in your home. This service is FREE OF CHARGE for residential households. Contact Seminole County's Solid Waste Management Division Customer Service Team at 407-665-2260 for more information.

#4 Orange County Electronic Waste Disposal

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/YourLocalGovernment/CountyDepartments/Utilities/ElectronicWasteDisposal.aspx>

Electronic equipment from your home can be recycled. Examples of electronic equipment include: Computers, Televisions, VCRs, Fax machines, CD players, Stereos. These items are accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Orange County Landfill Monday through Sunday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and the McLeod Road Transfer Station on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. This free service is available to eligible Orange County residents.* An attendant is present at the facility to assist with unloading.

For more information about disposing of electronic

equipment, please call the Solid Waste Hotline at 407-836-6601 or send an e-mail to Solid.Waste@ocfl.net.

*Eligible participants include residents of unincorporated Orange County and the cities of Apopka, Ocoee, Orlando, Windermere, and Winter Garden only. Proof of residency required. (We have no idea why Winter Park, Maitland, and other cities are not included.) Here are details on the locations.

Orange County Landfill; 5901 Young Pine Road; Orlando, FL 32829; 407-836-6600

McLeod Road Transfer Station; 5000 L.B. McLeod Road; Orlando, FL 32811; 407-245-0931

A Tablet Love Affair

By Roger Carlyle, Member,
Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA
May 2012 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News

www.clickers.org
ccnewsletter@cox.net

Last year, like many folks, I thought Tablets were just a passing fad – used mostly by people who liked to play games, get recipes, or do online shopping. I was from the old school and staunchly declared that nothing could replace the desktop or laptop computer.

Any other form of computers were mere toys. Then it happened ever so subtly. I was slowly exposed to the Tablets. First seeing news media use them on national news shows and then an occasional Apple geek using them at local coffee shops. Curiosity got the best of me and I found myself reading more and more about Tablets. First on the internet and then seeing advertisements in local newspapers and on websites such as CNET, ZDNET, Newegg, etc. As I user of an iPod I soon realized the power and versatility of the Tablet . . . and I fell in

love and I wanted one.

After reading numerous tablet reviews and talking to several different tablet brand owners, I settled on getting an iPad 2 (lousy timing on my part - - the New iPad was released three weeks after I purchased my iPad 2). Mostly because at the time Apple was the clear leader in Tablet technology and the number of Apps available for the iPad.

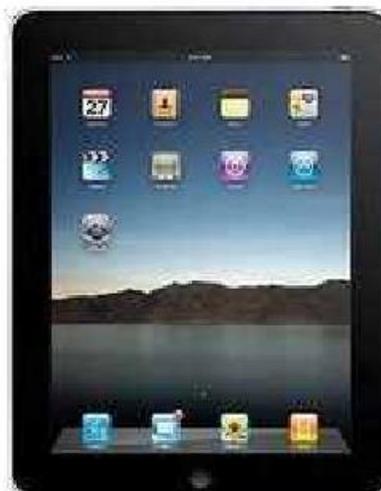
Another reason for choosing the iPad was for its 10" screen size. I wanted the larger screen for viewing videos and typing with the onscreen keyboard is much easier than on the smaller Tablet screens. Right out of the box it was love at first sight. I turned it on and found the initial setup to be very easy to use. Even a very novice computer user would find the setup and initial operation easy to follow.

I soon found myself settling into my plush reclining easy chair where I began exploring all the Apps available at the App Store. A large variety of Apps are free or .99¢ at the App Store. I was soon exploring the Internet, using email, taking pictures and making movies all with my new found tablet. I literally could not find anything that

I could not do on my new Tablet that I did on my desktop computer. As a matter of fact there were things I could do on the Tablet that I could not do with my desktop. The only thing I go back to my desktop PC for is where heavy keyboard usage is required, such as producing the Cajun Clickers newsletter or doing intensive input into an Excel spreadsheet, etc.



Samsung Galaxy 5.1



Apple iPad

Has owning a Tablet changed my life? Yes! I rarely get out of my plush recliner to go to my desktop PC. I do online shopping, check bank accounts, send videos to my distant friends and relatives, view live radar weather reports, read newspapers such as the Advocate, find recipes for my wife, read eBooks, and much, much more with my new iPad Tablet. And I can take it with me anywhere I go.

Based on personal experience and from the reviews I've read recently, my choice for a Tablet would be either the New iPad or the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1. Both are top performers and get five star reviews.

"And the Oscar Goes To . . ."

Making a Good Video

By Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
 April 2012 issue, Drive Light
www.uchug.org
president@uchug.org

I've discovered it is a lot harder to make a good video than it is to take a good photograph. It is definitely a lot more work.

For the most part, the majority of the effort involved in taking a good photograph occurs before the picture is taken. While some augmentation and enhancement can occur after the exposure, through the marvels of digital photo editing, much of the merit of a photo comes from basics like subject, composition, focus and lighting. While photo editing software can enhance a photo, perhaps making a good picture great, it can only go so far in fixing a poor photograph.

In making a great video, once you have captured the action, your work typically has only begun. In spite of all the star-centric hoopla surrounding the Academy Awards, have you ever noticed that the majority of the awards don't go to performers, but to creators.

There are only a few categories of awards given to actors and actresses. The majority go to writers, directors, film editors, cinematographers and designers of sound, sets, costumes and effects. In a lot of movies made today, most of the work is done after the filming is over. The difference between raw footage and polished final product is much greater for video than for still photography, indicative of the amount of post processing work usually required. As with photography, however, it is still hard to turn poor exposures into a good final product.

I got my first still camera in 3rd grade, taking black and white film photos. In the 40-something years since, I learned to take decent photos (at least by my standards) using mostly slide film, where there was no chance for corrections after the exposure. I've had a digital camera for eleven years, but still don't typically edit or enhance my pictures after taking them. I've spent more time making digital corrections on the slides I have

digitized, to fix the effects of film aging and imperfections, than on any of my recent digital photos.

Growing up, my family never had a movie camera. A neighbor friend my age got access to their family's old 8 mm movie camera, and he and I made a two-reel epic titled "The History of Aviation". Through careful planning and filming, we came up with a pretty impressive movie for a couple of grade school kids, though we probably destroyed most of our collections of model airplanes in the process (in addition to scorching the underside of his family's metal patio cover during our "reenactment" of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima). I'd love to see that film again, if it still exists.

When my wife and I had kids of our own, my in-laws gave us one of the early shoulder-mounted video cameras (it was so big and heavy, you had to rest it on your shoulder), which recorded directly on VHS tape cartridges.

It recorded some of the early moments in our children's lives, but being analog tape, the results were of mixed quality and could not be edited. We still have some of those 20-year-old tapes around (we should digitize them), but unfortunately I think a few were taped over at some time in the past. Later, we bought a smaller handheld camcorder, which used the smaller VHS-C tapes and was more convenient to take on family outings. These too would not be editable unless digitized.

My very first digital camera had a primitive video capture capability of 320 x 240 with no audio, which was about half the 704 x 480 equivalent resolution of the camcorder NTSC video, but was much more convenient to carry. It still resulted in only video snippets of our lives being captured. Even after graduating in 2007 to a new digital camera with 640 x 480 video and sound, I only shot occasional video clips, and never tried to find a way to edit and combine them into a coherent video feature.

For my birthday late last year, my wife surprised me with a Panasonic SD40 HD video camcorder. It records HD video (1920 x 1080) in the AVCHD (Advanced Video Coding High Definition) file format. Depending on the card size, it can store hours of video on an internal SDHC memory card.



GET MORE out of taxes!

Now you can with Jackson Hewitt® Tax School.

When you enroll in the Jackson Hewitt Basic Income Tax Course, our trained instructors will teach you to prepare individual income tax returns. Some of our students even go on to find jobs at Jackson Hewitt Tax Service® offices.*



*Enrollment in, or completion, of course is neither an offer nor a guarantee of employment. Additional training, experience or skills may be required. Most offices are independently owned and operated.

Call 888-282-1040 for information.

One of the first things I learned about shooting HD video with this camcorder is that I'm going to need more hard drives. I think I shoot a lot of digital photos, sometimes hundreds per month. Using my 12 Megapixel camera, this averages 5 MB per photo, I'm generating around 0.5 GB of new photos per month (assuming 100 photos), or 6 GB per year. I first used my new camcorder in earnest during family festivities on Christmas Day, and managed to fill up the 8 GB SD card that came with the camcorder that day.

If I hold my filming down to 16 GB of video per month, that means I'll generate nearly 200 GB of video data every year. How am I going to store it all?

The second thing I learned about shooting HD video is that not every computer can easily play it. I normally use my XP laptop PC to copy my still photos from memory cards to hard drive and to view them, so I plugged in the SDHC card from the camcorder. Unfortunately, I could not view the .MTS AVCHD video files with any program on that computer. When I put the SD card in my wife's new Windows 7 laptop, I was able to play the files with Media Player. Score another one for Windows 7.

To make the 45 minute video on computer upgrading that was shown at our meeting last month, I started by shooting 51 video segments, totaling 5.7 GB. These included the introductions and descriptions I gave, the scenes of dis-assembly and modification of the computer, and the screen shots of the computer showing the results. A tripod proved essential in filming the scenes where I was talking, as I had to work with a film crew of only one (me). The camcorder's display can be flipped around to allow the subject of the video to see how they look onscreen. The tripod was also used in most of the shots where I was working on the computer, since it usually took two hands to do the work. I would set up the tripod and camcorder to give a good view of the hardware, and then start filming. I was not watching what was being filmed, but just made sure my activities stayed within what I understood was the field of view.

One of the filming mistakes I made was in sometimes not allowing enough "lead in" and "lead out" time at the beginning and end of the scenes. Excess footage can be trimmed, but you can't easily make more footage after filming is done.

I started shooting scenes before determining what program I would be using to edit the video, so I was not

sure what editing capabilities I could count on. I was not sure the program I would use could add titles, so I printed titles on paper and held them up in front of the camcorder. I later found titles could be added using software, but not with the flexibility of my paper signs.

Although I had a couple of commercial video editing software packages available to install, I decided to initially try the editing software that came with the camcorder, Panasonic's HD Writer LE 1.0. I installed it on my wife's laptop to make sure I'd have enough horsepower to do the video editing quickly.

I found the software would not recognize the raw video files I had copied from the SD memory card to the computer's hard drive. To use the captured video with this program, I had to connect the camcorder to the PC with the provided USB adapter cable and download the files from the camcorder through the program. The program had all the basic features I had seen in other video editing software. It allowed clips to be combined on a timeline, with a number of choices for transitions between scenes. Scenes could be edited for length, and basic titles could be added.

I chose the least flashy transitions and put the video segments together one by one. Because of the brief lead-ins I had shot, I could not add much in the way of additional titles, but fortunately the signs I had filmed worked well. I was concerned that 45 minutes might be too long without a break, so I split the video into two 22 minute segments, allowing an intermission in between.

The program could convert the finished video to several different resolutions on DVD or Blu-Ray discs for playing on home players or computers.

I'll try using one of my fancier video editing programs with this camcorder one day, but I found the Panasonic-provided software could turn out a good video.

Since making a coherent video out of the filmed segments I made was not too difficult, I'll probably try to make similar edited videos for all the events I film.

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Book Review

Focus on Lighting Photos

By Rosemary Lloyd, President,

Big Bear Computer Club, CA

www.bigbearcc.org

rosemary@sugarloafpc.com

Excellent photographs gain much of their impact from the way the subject is lit. Focus on Lighting Photos is a unique how-to book that includes many pictures and diagrams. It demonstrates how light can be used to create the mood that the photographer wants to project. This is the latest of six books in the 'Focus on' series about photography.

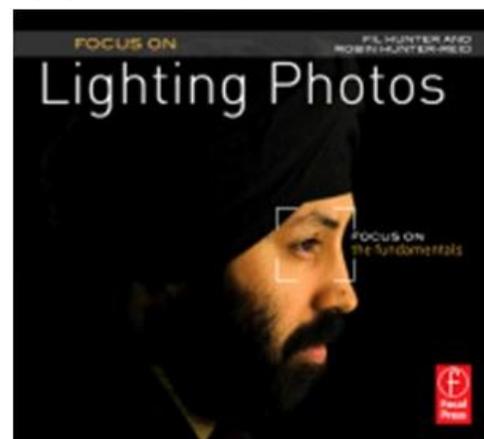
The first half of the book looks at different methods of putting light on the subject. Different ways of controlling the direction, intensity and color of the light are thoroughly covered.

The explanations are easy to understand. Concepts are demonstrated by series of photos of the same subject with different lighting. Diagrams supplement the written explanations. I find the use of progressively more intricately lighted pictures, of the same subject, very helpful. That technique enabled me to understand concepts better.

In the latter part of the book, the authors focus on methods for lighting diverse subjects. They deal with people, metal, glass and motion. The chapter on lighting for portraits goes into some detail on types of equipment.

They discuss how to make some of the tools yourself.

The target audience is hobbyists. Fil and Robin emphasize that you do not need to spend a lot of money on photo equipment. Once you have a camera and a flash, you can



shoot fine photographs with only a few other tools. In fact, they recommend borrowing or making your own items until you find yourself using them enough to justify buying.

Focus on Lighting Photos seems to be geared for readers who are somewhat familiar with photography in general. I would say intermediate level. However, there is a very good glossary of the photo terms used. If you have not taken a photo class, it is fairly easy to follow along.

The writing style is informal, clear and precise. I really enjoyed Focus on Lighting Photos. The techniques it presents are exciting and inspiring. It is a fairly easy read.

Focus on Lighting Photos
Hunter, Fil and Reid, Robin
Focal Press, 2011, 200 pages
\$19.95, ISBN 978-0-240-81711-8
User Group Discount 40%

Book Review – Mastering Landscape Photography: Learn By Video

By Mark Mattson, Editor,
Computer Users of Erie, PA
June 2012 issue, Horizons
www.cuerie.com
cuerie1@verizon.net

This was somewhat of a different book review than all the others. Not only is it a book, it is also a complete video workshop on a DVD.

The book itself is a 28 page supplement to the DVD training videos. It presents supplemental materials that enhance the learning experience of the DVD. There is also a Glossary of terms at the end to clarify anything you may not be sure of.

The DVD is actually the star of this package. Produced by Austrian-based Video2Brain, it is one of their newest offerings in their series of training packages (release date of this title is December 31, 2011).

Your instructor for the video lessons is noted landscape photographer Phil Hawkins, who has shot many stunning images in and around the Yosemite area, as well as other subjects during his career (you can check his website at <http://philhawkinsphoto.com/>).

The workshop is comprised of four hours of High Definition video, all of which are accessed via the software player developed to make your learning experience smooth and seamless.

When you first open the DVD, you are presented with the user interface, which looks like this:

On the left side of the screen is the navigation area, where you can launch specific sections of the training, or choose to play all the videos in sequence. The central area is the video playback window, while the right side contains links to supplemental items.

The video quality is excellent, with saturated colors and high production standards throughout. You can choose to view the videos in the small window, but use the full screen view...you can lose yourself in the view, and almost think you're on location.

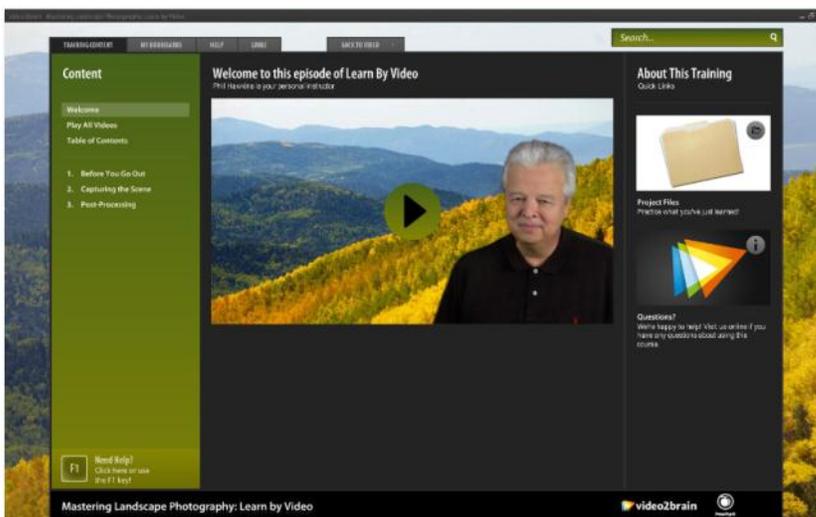
The lessons are divided into three main sections:

1. Before You Go Out
2. Capturing the Scene
3. Post Processing

The first section covers the basics needed for successful landscape photography. Phil covers such details as choosing a good tripod, setting your camera for the best quality images, choosing the best lenses, and other vital information.

Capturing the Scene will teach you how to photograph for the best quality images. Topics covered in this section include how to read the histogram, exposure considerations, panoramic image capture, and others.

The final section, Post Processing, presents infor-





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Step 3
Order your Ink and Toner Products

Help us raise money by purchasing Your Ink & Toner products from our New On-line store

Save 20% to 30% on your Ink & Toner purchases and support our organization. Please check out our new Ink & Toner store

Every ink & toner product you buy in our store, earns money for our organization.

Thank you for you Support

mation on processing your images to further increase the quality of your captures. Here you will learn how to process your RAW files, workflow basics, and other topics. You will even learn how to process images for HDR. The key word to most of the processes covered here is that less is better. That is why you want to get it as close to a finished look in the camera when shooting your photos. Thus the need to view the entire disc, paying attention to all sections, particularly the first two. The less processing you need to do on your images to achieve the final print, the better.

Each section also contains a short Test Yourself section, where you can test your knowledge on what you've learned in each section.

Another advantage the interface gives you is the ability to bookmark sections of the disc you want to refer to at later times. Thus you can refer to sections of the disc you enjoy most, without having to search for them.

Mastering Landscape Photography: Learn By Video is available direct from the publisher, Peachpit for \$27.99.

As a member of CUE, you are eligible for the usual 35% discount when you buy from them (this brings it down to \$18.19). This is lower than what Amazon.com charges, so you can save yourself about \$8 when buying from Peachpit. Go to www.peachpit.com to purchase.

Is this video worth the purchase? Definitely, especially if you are hooked on landscape photography, either as a hobby, or a way to make an income. The techniques and information presented are well worth the purchase price, and give you a solid basis to build upon in the future, as your skills improve and grow.

Even though the author lives in the western US (California), the information would apply just as well to anywhere in the world. True, certain locales would require some adaptations or modifications to what is presented here (such as shooting techniques for snowy locations), but you would learn those by experience and growing your knowledge over time.

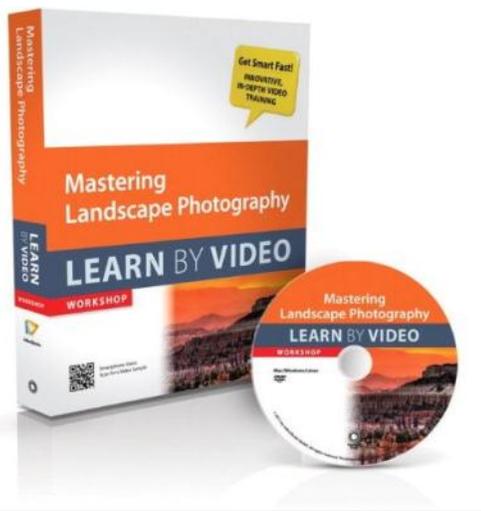
If you want to learn landscape photography, this is an excellent place to start your journey.

How to find Twitter's hidden options

By Linda Gonse, Editor/Webmaster, OR-COPUG (Orange County PCUG), Calif.
April 2012 issue, Nibbles 'n Bits
www.orcopug.org
editor@orcopug.org

More people are using the Twitter social networking site and finding out that they like the mini-blog that allows them 140 characters to say whatever they want to say. But, there is more to Twitter than tweeting (posting a comment).

A new Twitter user might not realize there are options that are hidden, unless a user knows how to find them hidden in plain sight.



For instance, hovering over a tweet will reveal links that might not be found anywhere else.

What's more, depending on the type of tweet the hidden options will be different.

For instance, if I am just looking at my tweet on the page and not hovering the cursor over it, I only see the time or date when it was written in the upper right-hand corner.

If I hover my cursor over the tweet, however, hyper-linked options — Reply, Delete, Favorite, Open — appear on the same line as my name at the top of the tweet, but in the right corner in green text.

I can click on Reply to the person who posted the tweet. I can Delete the tweet. This option is only available to the person whose tweet is posted. In other words, only I

will see the Delete link for my tweets. And, only I can delete my tweets. I can mark it as a Favorite—it won't be cycled out of my timeline, but parked in a permanent area on my Profile page for favorite tweets when I want to reference it again. Finally, I can Open the tweet to read replies that others have had to this specific tweet.

← Reply 🗑 Delete ★ Favorite · Open

If I hover my cursor over someone else's tweet the options are Reply, Retweet, Favorite, and Open. There's no Delete.

← Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite · Open

Clicking on the Open hyperlink allows the tweet to expand when other tweets are associated with it. The expanded tweet will also reveal if other people have favorited your tweet or retweeted it.

This is a recent innovation at Twitter. It is now possible to view your tweets in a thread, including replies to another person in their open threads. It is very convenient to view the conversations that are revealed, because there may be several hours, or sometimes days, between a tweet being posted and replies to it.

The Open link automatically changes to a Close link. You can collapse all the tweets again, except the original tweet, when you have finished reading them.

Cut & Paste to and from a Thumb Drive

By Gordon Giles, Committee Member, Perth PC Users Group, Australia
April 2012 issue, AXESS, Magazine of the Perth PCUG
www.perthpcug.org.au
gorgil51@perthpcug.org.au

Here are some handy hints on how to copy or paste files to and from a thumb drive.

1. Plug your thumb drive into the USB port. It's important you use the same port for each item you plug in your



Linda Gonse @lgonse

So Dad, how do you like the new iPad I bought you? Don't let the foreign language throw you off. wimp.com/dadipad/

28 Mar



2. If you are using Windows Explorer, then open the folder containing the file you wish to place on the thumb drive.

3. Right mouse click on it and select Send To.

4. Click on the thumb drive in the list and the file you want will be copied on to the thumb drive.

Note: If you have several files to send to the thumb drive then just open the folder, use the CTRL key and the “C” key to highlight everything in that file and follow steps 1 to 4.

If you find you don’t want all the files you have highlighted then hold down the CTRL key and click on the files you don’t want they will no longer be highlighted and will not be copied onto your thumb drive.

Utilising this method will send all the selected files to the main directory of the thumb drive.

If you have a complete folder to post to the thumb drive then follow steps 1 to 4 but just send the entire folder.

Cutting and Pasting from thumb drive to desktop.

1. For this insert the thumb drive and using Windows Explorer open up the thumb drive.

2. Select the required folder or files and with them highlighted hold down the CTRL key and then hit the “C” key. This places the files on to the clipboard. Then go back to the folder on your main computer.

3. Select the area you wish to put the information in and paste by holding

down the CTRL key and hit the “V” key and a copy of the selected files from your thumb drive will be placed on the selected area on the main computer.

Handy Key Strokes

- CTRL+C Copies to the clip board.
- CTRL+V Sends copy of selected files and folders to selected area.
- CTRL+X Will delete the selected file or folder.
- CTRL+Z In MS Word and some other programs will



Linda Gonse @lgonse

Close

Everyday news is becoming stressful. It makes me feel responsible for righting the wrongs. Then I realize I have no power to do that.

1 FAVORITE



8:08 PM - 24 Mar 12 via web · Details

Reply Delete Favorite



Jon Jones @dvwhat

20h

@lgonse "News" as we know it today has 2 priorities: manufactured urgencies and deadlines. Actual news ???...what's that?

device as drivers are associated with ports as well as peripherals.

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backspace the last move.
 Sorry it will not replace an accidental file/folder deletion.

For accidental file deletion go to your recycle bin select the file and click on the restore tab. It will place it back exactly where it came from.

DID YOU KNOW!

That Thumb Drives can also be known as:

- USB Flash Drive
- Thumb drive
- Finger stick
- Memory stick
- Pen drive
- Disk-on-key
- Jump drive

```

C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\hewie>cd C:\Users\hewie\Music\iTunes\Mobile Applications
C:\Users\hewie\Music\iTunes\Mobile Applications>_
    
```

I did some searching and did not find any help. Someone should write an app for that. I still use iTunes to sync, so iTunes does maintain a folder with all of the apps that I use. It is stored in C:\Users\[your Windows User Name]\Music\iTunes\Mobile Applications. I had to go to a dark, well hidden area in my brain to recall some old DOS commands to quickly create a list.

```

C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\hewie>cd C:\Users\hewie\Music\iTunes\Mobile Applications
C:\Users\hewie\Music\iTunes\Mobile Applications>_
    
```



**Hewie's Views
 and Reviews**
By Hewie Poplock,
CFCS, APCUG
<http://www.hewie.net>

Here is how I did it. Click the Windows Start Button and type in "cmd" and hit Enter. This opens a DOS window. At the command prompt, type the following line, but substitute your Window's user name where indicated.

```

cd C:\Users\[your Windows User Name]\Music\iTunes\Mobile Applications
    
```

**How to Share Your
 List of Apps
 for your iPhone and iPad**
 By Hewie Poplock, APCUG Director; VP,
 Central Florida Computer Society
<http://www.hewie.net>

I want to share a list of the Apps I have downloaded and installed on my iPhone and iPad. I can find such a list in iTunes under Library/Apps. However, there is no way to save or print that list. I can also see my apps on the iPad by going to the Apps Store app and looking at "Purchased," but again, there is no way to have a list to share.

```

C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
12/07/2011 01:30 PM 10,582,140 Walgreens 3.0.2.ipa
12/21/2011 04:44 PM 13,433,892 Walmart 1.0.2.ipa
12/07/2011 01:43 PM 20,282,123 Waze 3.0.1.ipa
12/07/2011 01:30 PM 11,526,600 WeatherRadio 1.4.ipa
12/04/2009 01:50 AM 853,184 WebMag.ipa
01/08/2012 07:46 PM 7,748,243 Website Mag 2.2.ipa
11/11/2011 12:22 PM 1,791,681 Weekly Ads 1.3.2.ipa
01/08/2012 07:46 PM 6,588,927 WFTU-9 1.7.1982.ipa
08/04/2011 03:40 AM 4,512,352 Wi-Fi Finder 2.9.2 1.ipa
10/14/2011 11:32 AM 8,832,966 WiFi HD Free 1.1.ipa
10/26/2011 10:36 AM 3,360,019 Winn-Dixie 1.1.ipa
08/04/2011 11:43 AM 207,672 WunderMap 1.1.ipa
12/21/2011 04:41 PM 4,875,920 Yahoo! 2.1.2.ipa
12/04/2009 01:50 AM 2,748,832 Ziibii.ipa
12/21/2011 04:39 PM 17,921,364 Zinio 2.2.1.ipa
179 File(s) 2,150,064,603 bytes
2 Dir(s) 405,177,647,104 bytes free

C:\Users\hewie\Music\iTunes\Mobile Applications>_
    
```

Note the space immediately after "cd".

This will change the folder. If you type "dir," you should get a directory listing, which includes all of your apps. Once you know that you have the information, at the command line, type "dir>app.txt"

```

C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\hewie>
    
```

and a file will be created with your list. You can now copy that file, "app.txt" anywhere to print, share, or edit. I went one step farther. I made a copy of the file and then edited out everything but the list. I then opened Excel and told it to open the edited text file. It placed all of the info in columns. I deleted all of the columns except the file names and saved it. I now have a file with a list of just the app names that I have downloaded for my iPhone and iPad.

It sounds more complicated than it actually is. I am not sure how this would work if you are using the cloud for your syncing.

Are you ready for some Windows 8 on your desktop?

By Barney Babin, Cajun Clickers Computer Club (LA) member and instructor for XP, Vista Workshop and Windows 7

April 2012 issue,

Cajun Clickers Computer News

www.clickers.org

ccnewsletter@cox.net

Now that Windows 8 Consumer Preview is a reality, you can download it and “play” with the latest and greatest from Microsoft. Just remember, this is a beta version; so everything that you see, or don't see, is subject to change when all of the customer feedback is analyzed by the Microsoft folks. Also, vendors have not developed many drivers for the beta version; so the goodies that you normally use, including printers, may be inoperable in one way or another.

With that said, you can still get a feel for what is coming – and it is definitely a change. If you are currently using a Smartphone, Tablet, or play games on Xbox, then you're going to feel much more comfortable with the new Metro dashboard than someone who has never seen such a thing before. Basically, everything you associate with a computer is changing, including the Start Menu, how you shut down your computer, etc.

The following are my observations from downloading, installing, and using Windows 8 Consumer Preview since its release. It is by no means an in-depth look at all of the options. <http://tinyurl.com/7rnq15l>

First, go to [http://www.microsoft.com/windows/8](#) and download the Windows 8 Consumer Preview Setup which will verify that your computer and the associated programs on your computer are compatible with Windows 8.

Once this process is accomplished, you are offered the option of downloading either the 3.8gb ISO file (will require much time for such a large download) that allows you to burn a DVD of the program, or you can download a file that runs from a bootable

USB drive that has a minimum size of 4 GB, which will be optioned for boot during the process. This option allows folks without a DVD player to load the system from a bootable USB drive.

Once you do this, install the system – but not on your main system by updating to Windows 8! Remember, this is a prerelease and many things will change before the Windows 8 final edition is released. You can make a separate partition on your hard drive and install it there, or run it in a virtual machine on your existing operating system. If you choose the separate partition option, which was my choice, you will be dual booting to either the native system on your computer or to Windows 8, which gives you full processor and RAM capabilities in Windows 8 and, in my opinion, makes your testing phase more realistic. (Ed Walker says, see how to dual boot Win7 & Win8: <http://goo.gl/UUFfg>)

The installation procedure gives you a choice of which system is declared default. If you change your mind later, you can easily change the default system by going to the start menu in Windows 7 and typing msconfig. This will bring up the msconfig window. Go to the boot tab, highlight the operating system that you wish to be default and then click the “Set as Default” button. You will see the Default OS designation move to that operating system. If you look on the middle right of this tab you will see the default timeout delay time of 30 seconds, which you can change to a lower time if you desire. Close the window. The next time you restart your computer the default program will be highlighted and will activate after the timeout period, unless you press the Enter key to speed up the process.

The first and most start ling thing you notice is the Metro UI has the word Start at the top left corner, there is no taskbar with its normal start button on the left hand side, and no desktop or icons – just rectangles with Apps

listed in them.

Since there is no start menu on the desktop, there must be no convenient way to search your computer, right?

– but wait, there is an unbelievably cool way. In the Start or Metro location, without clicking anywhere with the mouse, just start typing what you would like to do or search on your keyboard; and Voilà, you are switched to the app window and the choices from your search are shown! But, there are also other ways to get there (and depressing the Windows logo key on the keyboard is no longer an option). You can depress the Windows Logo key+F and the Start sidebar on the right side of the screen appears. If you're a mouser, move your mouse to the extreme bottom right side of the screen; and a similar looking sidebar, called the “Charm” will appear with the search logo at the very top. The Charm area also has your system settings that allow you to tailor Windows 8 to your liking.

Notice on the start page that one of the apps listed is the Desktop, which looks almost like the classic Windows 7 desktop, but still has the start button missing because you are now in Windows 8 environment. All of your Windows 7 functions, keyboard shortcuts, etc., work just fine here and most of the keyboard shortcuts also work fine on the start page, or any other page in Windows 8. When you are at the desktop, just depress the Windows Logo key on the keyboard to toggle back to the Start page. You can also move your mouse to the bottom left corner of the screen and a start screen thumbnail will appear. Left click here and you will go back to the start page. You can also click the Start icon in the Charm area on the right.

If you right-click on an unused area of the start page, a bar at the bottom has an icon that allows you to view all of your installed items plus what you see on the start page. This is the best way to find items (Apps) in Windows 8 without using search.

So, how do you shut down Windows 8 since there is no start button to click? The easiest way is to depress CTRL-ALT-DEL, look on the bottom right for the power logo, right click and choose your option. You can also move



the mouse to the right side of the screen, access the charm area, click settings, and the power icon will be in the area at the bottom. Click it, and you will be offered sleep, shutdown, or restart.

While this is by no means an in-depth article, you will now be able to navigate in Windows 8, install

the programs you need, and shut down or restart the system to gracefully exit Windows 8.

Go forth and conquer!

Interesting Internet Finds

**By Steve Costello, President/Editor,
Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida
May 2012 Boca Bits
<http://about.me/sefcug>
brcssefc@earthlink.net**

In the course of going through the more than 200 news feeds in my Google Reader, 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 April 2012.

(Long URLs shortened with the Google URL shortener <http://goo.gl/>)
Deciphering the Power Label on Your A/C Adapters
<http://goo.gl/6ljEj>

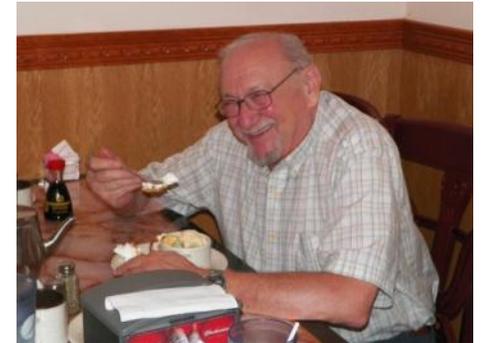
The Best Free Portable Apps for Your Flash Drive Toolkit
<http://goo.gl/JtJio>

Best Free Android Apps
<http://goo.gl/XyQr6>

Webinar #11 - Mastering your own domain
<http://goo.gl/xSyyZ>

How to Pick the Perfect Laptop
<http://goo.gl/whLEM>

The Great Hewie Poplock Birthday Bash– So important it had to be held in two venues: Ichigo Ichi & The Elks Club! A good time was had by all.



Hewie Poplock has for years been one of the Most Valued Players in the Central Florida Computer Society, and state and national.

Selecting a Digital Camera Jerry Schneir, Member, Los Angeles Computer Society June 2012 issue, User Friendly www.lacspc.org editor@lacspc.org

As a teacher of digital photography I am often asked for help by a student who is trying to select the “perfect” camera. It is very hard to tell someone that there is “no one perfect camera”. What meets your needs today may not be great for tomorrow. I try to tell them that the most important thing about any camera is the six inches behind the camera, the photographer.

Having said all that, there are some things that make

one camera a much better choice than another, regardless of the expressed needs of the potential buyer. Just remember to keep in mind that the camera you need for your trip to Africa is vastly different than what you need as you walk through a street market in Rome Italy. You also need to come to grips with how much you are willing to spend, how often you are willing to replace a camera, and how much time are you willing to put into an attempt to master, to understand, and to “play” with a camera.

There are some general features you should look for in any new camera. Unfortunately, this means I have to be a bit technical and you will have to spend some time digging out the details on any camera you are thinking about. So here goes:

Sensor Size

Most point and shoot (P&S) cameras, those you can stick in a shirt pocket or pocketbook use the same size sensor called the 1/2.3" which measures 6.17 x 4.55 mm. However, more and more, you may be seeing some cameras using larger sensors such as the 1/1.7", 1/1.8", and even a 2/3". The larger sensors, the 1/1.7 or 1/1.8, or 2/3 inch offer much better low light performance, the pictures tend to be sharper, tend to have less noise or grain. Don't confuse 1/2.3" with the 2/3", they are very different in size, the 2/3" is much larger and therefore much better.

Sensor Type

The sensors that use a CCD type sensor are old school. They do produce reasonably good pictures but cannot keep up with the newer CMOS when it comes to movie making. Another type of CMOS sensor is called a BSI-CMOS and that is really the best of the lot, especially if you want to make high def movies or do a lot of photography in very low light.

Number of Pixels

With cameras that have the small sensors, more is NOT better. Look for cameras that have only 10-12 MP. More pixels, 14-24MP is only an advantage for cameras that have larger sensors, such as those found on the Nikon V1/J1, the Canon G1 X, the Sony NEX 5N or NEX 7, or the Fuji X10 or X100.

Zoom Range

Most, but not all cameras have optical zoom ranges from 3x to as large as 36x or more. What that zoom range really means is the "difference" from the widest angle to the greatest amount of zoom. As an example, a 10x optical zoom for a camera with a lens that has a wide angle of 28mm is 10x28 or 280mm. All these measurements are in 35mm film terms. For most purposes, that is an ample zoom range. Some of the cameras do not have any zooming whatever, others only have 3 or 4x optical zoom. Disregard or ignore any digital zoom values.

Widest Angle

This is a very important feature for anyone trying to take pictures in a street market setting or at a party or in any crowded situation. The SMALLER the starting number the greater the wide angle of the camera. A 36mm wide angle is not good, a 28mm lens is very good, but a 24mm one is even better. Taking pictures in confined spaces works better with the wider angle lens, you get

more of the picture without having to step back. However, as the lens angle gets bigger, wider, more encompassing, distortion starts to rear its ugly head. Straight lines get bent and the results are not always pleasant.

Maximum Zoom Range

One might think that a large amount of maximum zoom would be good, very good, but there are penalties to pay for that long a zoom range, size and weight are two of the more important penalties. There are cameras with zoom ranges up to 18x optical that can still fit into a shirt pocket. Of course, these cameras do weigh more. But as you start going over 10x optical zoom the need for some type of viewfinder becomes much more important. At over 18x optical, the lack of any viewfinder would prevent me from buying the camera. There are attachments that can be screwed into the tripod hole of a camera that mimics to some extent a viewfinder. Check the website for ClearViewer (www.clearviewer.com/) to see if they have a device for your camera.

The lack of a viewfinder for the longer end of the zoom range cameras really spells trouble. Camera shake becomes a real problem even for those cameras with very good image stabilization (I.S.).

Aperture or F Stop

The smaller the number the better the camera performs in dim or subdued light. In an attempt to keep camera prices down and camera size small, most cameras do not have a "fast or bright" lens. A "fast or bright" lens is one that lets in a lot of light very quickly. This allows for a fast shutter speed which allows the photographer to capture fast moving events. This is very important if you are taking pictures from a moving vehicle or of very fast moving subjects or action. The other advantage to a bigger lens opening is the shallow depth of field (DOF) that such a lens is able to provide. Objects in front of or behind the subject are blurred when shooting with a large lens opening, a nice way of visually isolating your subject.

Most zoom lenses have two stated aperture values. One for the widest angle and one for the maximum zoom. The aperture at the widest angle generally ranges from f2.8 to f3.8. A lens with a f2.8 aperture at wide angle admits almost double the amount of light in a given time as one with a f3.8. At the other end of the zoom you will generally find aperture values of f5.5-f5.6. This means that for a given shutter speed the lens at maximum zoom

can only let in about 1/4-1/8 of the light at maximum aperture. Thus at maximum zoom you have to use shutter speeds 1/4-1/8 that used when at maximum wide angle. If your camera can properly expose a scene at 1/250 of a second at maximum wide angle (24-28mm), you would need 1/30 to 1/15th of a second at maximum zoom, thus subject movement and camera shake become a greater problem. Another problem occurs because almost all of the point and shoot cameras require fairly bright settings to focus quickly and an f stop of f5.6 just doesn't do well, especially in dimmer light.

Image Stabilization (IS)

Most cameras have image stabilization (IS) of some type. The better ones use either a moveable element in the lens, called OPTICAL IS or a movable SENSOR. Neither of these help when the subject is moving or you are moving, like in a vehicle. A few use other things like increasing the sensitivity of the sensor to light in order to use faster shutter speeds to minimize subject or camera motion. Some use a combination of different IS systems. The combination version has problems which are best avoided if possible. Some cameras allow you to turn off some parts of the IS very useful in your camera has multiple means of stabilizing the camera.

Viewfinders

Most cameras in the P&S family of cameras do NOT have any type of viewfinder. It is only when you get to the more advanced cameras or the super-zoom cameras that you can find an electronic viewfinder (EVF). Viewfinders are very nice to have but are almost impossible to find in most of the P&S type cameras.

LCD

The brightness of the LCD and the size contribute to the ability to use the camera in bright light and can either make the camera easy to use or a big pain you know where. Generally the more pixels or dots in the LCD the better, but unfortunately there are exceptions. You must evaluate the camera for ease of use in bright light. Some LCDs articulate, i.e., they move up and down or swivel around. That is generally a very desirable feature and can help when shooting in very bright light. Some LCDs are touch screen. You can point to an object displayed in the LCD and the camera will use that as a focus point. You may be able to control various camera settings using the touch screen. Not everyone likes touch screen LCDs, if a camera has that feature, check it out, use it, some are easier to use than others.

There are two other points to consider, but these can only be evaluated by actually handling the camera. And even then, the pluses and minuses may escape notice unless you have handled a lot of other cameras.

Camera Speed

This is not something you will find in any chart. What I am specifically referring to is how fast does the camera "grab" focus, how fast is the camera ready to take another picture, how fast is it ready to go to take a picture when turned on, how fast does the camera respond to menu commands?

Controls

Menu system - Some cameras allow the photographer to make a lot of choices, some treat the photographer as not at all interested in the finer points of photography. What I mean here is your not letting the camera make all the choices. If you always shoot in the AUTO mode, then the ability to set the aperture or shutter speed is unimportant. But, if you are thinking about getting more involved in photography then it is something to consider

It is impossible to list some features that may be very important to some people, things such as built-in GPS or the various movie formats available. Prices are constantly changing, generally downward from when the camera was first introduced. Read reviews both by various websites and by the users of the cameras. My three favorite places to look are DPReview, CameraLabs, and ImagingResources. Steve's Digicam is also a good information source.

Have a Blast!

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY E-MAIL!

All meetings and speakers are subject to change, and late alterations are always possible. To keep completely on top of events, log on to CFCS.org and subscribe to our weekly e-mail update, the E-Blast!

**Back by popular demand:
"bring a friend day" Sunday**

Memories of Yestermeeeting



Smartphone Shootout



Arvin prefers the old way.

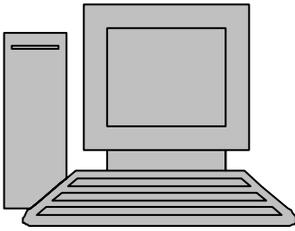


The Presenters

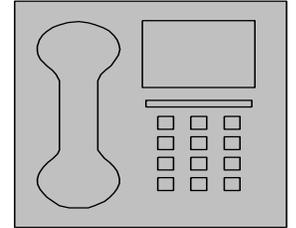


The Winners





HelpLine



HelpLine is a **free** service to members of CFCS only. The following volunteers have offered to field questions by **phone or via e-mail** with software and hardware problems listed below. Please be considerate of the volunteer you are calling.

As a **free** service, you should not be asked to pay for help or be solicited for products or services. If anything to the contrary occurs, please contact the HelpLine coordinator immediately. Their names will be removed from the list.

Additional volunteers are needed in some existing categories and for new categories. If you are interested, please contact the HelpLine coordinator at e-mail: helpline@cfcs.org

Please Note - This is a service for CFCS MEMBERS ONLY

HelpLine Listings

Digital Photography & Video

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KLarrabee@cfl.rr.com

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Stan Wallner 407-862-2669 5 pm-7 pm
smwallner@yahoo.com

Kris Hestad 321-459-2755
kris.hestad@surfdogs.com

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July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Newsletter Copy Deadline	2	3	4 CFCS BoD Denny's Casselberry	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Access, Office, Security SIGs: New Horizons, 7pm Lee Rd.—	12	13	14
15 12:30 pm Windows SIG 2pm General Meeting	16 iPhone SIG, Lee Rd. Denny's, 7 pm	17	18 Virtual Pho- to SIG. Details at cfcs.org	19	20	21
22	23	24 Tech SIG Denny's, Casselberry 7 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CFCS BoD Denny's Casselberry	2 Newsletter Copy Deadline	3	4
5	6	7	8 Access, Office, Security SIGs: New Horizons, 7pm Lee Rd. Denny's	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Virtual Pho- to SIG. Details at cfcs.org	16	17	18
19 12:30 pm Windows SIG 2:00 pm General Meeting	20 iPhone SIG, Lee Rd. Denny's, 7 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Tech SIG Denny's, Casselberry 7 pm	29	30	31	

DIRECTIONS TO MONTHLY MEETING

Our meeting building is at the intersection of Lee Road and Turner Rd. The meeting is in the building behind the one on the corner of Lee and Turner. Turn North on Turner, left into the parking lot, and drive behind the office building in the rear of the parking lot. You will see a sign: **Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance**. Plenty of parking is nearby, and the meeting room is just inside, making it accessible for those with special mobility equipment.

SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS based on your starting point.

From I-4, exit at Lee Rd., drive East 1/2 mile to Turner Rd. and turn left onto Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From Apopka/436 area, go south on 441 to

Lee Rd., Go about 2 miles, past I-4, then turn left onto Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From the SouthWest, take John Young to Lee Rd. as above, turn left on Turner and left again into the first parking lot. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

From Hwy 17-92, drive to Lee Rd, turn West, then go 8/10ths of a mile to Turner Rd. and turn right. Drive to the rear of the rearmost building and look for the Jackson Hewitt delivery entrance.

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