



THE BUSSLINE

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

Vol. 113 No. 3 Newsletter of the Central Florida Computer Society, Inc. [Non-Profit, 501(c)3]

April, 2013

Glen Coffield from Smart Guys Computers is Sunday's Speaker

Sunday, April 21

Smart Guys Computers started as a small [home based business](#) originally named GEC Computer Consultants back in 1995. The primary focus was to diagnose and repair home computers and to refurbish off lease business computers. The business rapidly grew and a "store" was opened in 1997 in the air conditioned building of the Sanford Flea World.

The company name was changed from [Cheap Guys](#) Computers to reflect our devotion to selling computer systems and performing repairs for less than the major companies. The business continued to grow and with the falling prices of components brand new systems became the majority of the business and very little refurbished product was offered.

In the last few years as computers became a commodity and the discount stores started selling computers like toasters we embarked in a new direction. In 2010 we will complete the transition to Smart Guys Computers. Our emphasis will be on IT solutions, on-site services, specialty computers, and corporate IT management and maintenance. We are downsizing our retail presences and increasing our offerings of services directly to the customer and will maintain several of our locations but their primary function will be as service centers for those that want to bring their computers in and have them worked on by knowledgeable professionals.

Smart Guys Computers is proud to be an A+ accredited member of the Better Business Bureau and a record of no unresolved complaints after 15 years in business.

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24. Meeting Directions to the monthly general meeting

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Support our Advertisers. Tell them you saw their ad in the CFCS Newsletter!

Tuesday, April 30

Last Day to register for early bird discount on FACUG cruise (See pg. 7)

Sunday, May 19, 2013

Bob Gosticha will speak on the subject of protecting yourself, your computer and your identity .

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.

The VIRTUAL DIGITAL PHOTO & VIDEO SIG lead has been assumed by Hewie Poplock and and it meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, by invitation. To register go to <https://apcug.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/event.pl>

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 discuss 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 Florida United Safety Council, 1505 East Colonial Drive, Orlando FL 32803. This building is located across from the Publix on Colonial Drive in the Colonialtown section of downtown Orlando. They have secured WiFi and vending machines are available. The iSIG meetings cover the products that use the iOS, which includes the iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch. 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 iOS user, and a technologist and consultant to [The Walt Disney Company](http://www.waltdisney.com).

Please note that the iSIG no longer 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. Stay tuned to the eBlast (cfcs.org) for details each month.

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 I11 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 SECURE 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-orl.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, 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 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 located at 5014 Forsyth Commerce Road, #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) A1 Assets (www.a1assets.com) is the parent company of Refresh Computers. Their address is 1100 Charles Street, Longwood, FL 32750. They have both drop-off and pickup services available. If there is a large quantity, they can pick up for you, but there may be a fee, depending upon the quantity and quality of the items.

Most items are free of charge to drop off. The only ex-

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

ceptions are CRT Monitors and TV's at \$3.00 per item under 21 inch. Larger TVs and monitors could be as much as \$10 each.

An appointment for drop off at Charles Street is not needed, but is not a bad idea if dropping off a truck load. The Phone number is: 407-339-7030.

If you only have a small quantity of items (1 to 4 items) you may drop them off at one of the Refresh Computer Stores. Locations are found on the Refresh web site at <http://refreshcomputers.net/>. An appointment/phone call is not needed for small drop offs.

#2 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

(Continued on page 6)

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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Proofreader: CFCS BoD

Distrib: Stephen Constant

Advertising: (Needed)

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:**



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)!

#3 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!

#4 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.

#5 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

CFCS By-Laws Finally up for Vote

Your CFCS Board of Directors has been working diligently on revising the By-Laws to better reflect the needs and practices of our long-lived society. In case you had not noticed, CPM is dead, along with floppies, film cameras, and tape drives. Likewise some items in our By-laws, mostly cosmetic and grammatical, but a membership vote is necessary nonetheless.

To read the proposed changes, follow either link below. You will find two columns, the left containing the current By-laws, the right containing those proposed. The vote will take place on April 21, at the General Meeting.

<http://www.cfcs.org/index.php#bylaws>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/dmko6iwyjzstcfs/By-Laws%20%20Revised%20in%20January%20and%20Febuary%202013%20-%20NOT%20APPROVED.pdf>

2013 FACUG Computer User Group Cruise

Royal Caribbean's 5-Star Independence of the Seas

Sailing from Fort Lauderdale, calling on Philipsburg, St. Maarten; Basseterre, St Kitts; San Juan, Puerto Rico and Labadee, Haiti then returning to Fort Lauderdale.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN



The early-bird refund is \$55 per conference attendee until April 30th. This offer is valid only till April 30, 2013.

9-day/8-night [Caribbean cruise](#) as low as \$654.67
The Technology Conference@Sea registration fee is \$95/person for members of a FACUG or APCUG club (\$120 for non-members) and also \$95 for the second person in the cabin, who need not be a club member. More at facug.org

10 Ways Your Smartphone Camera Can Make Life Easier

By Guy McDowell, Writer,
MakeUseOf.Com

February 22, 2013

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/10-ways-your-smartphone-camera-can-make-life-easier/>

<http://goo.gl/LB6u1>

"Does your phone have a camera on it?" said no one since 2005. Nobody even asks how many megapixels your phone's camera has anymore. With the ubiquity of smartphones today and the resolution of the cameras they have in them, why does anyone even sell a point-and-shoot digital camera anymore? All you need is a decent smartphone to take your vacation pictures and click a button to upload them to Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr, wherever.

1. Take a Picture of Your Kids

Yes, those of us blessed with the fun-sized versions of ourselves take pictures of our kids constantly. We do this so we can see them grow, and remember those moments that we seem to only cherish after the fact. Those pictures are almost priceless.

However, it is your children that are priceless. If you are going to a big outing, perhaps an amusement park, or even the mall, take a picture of them. Don't say you did this in case they get lost or abducted - that would just create unnecessary fear. Take the photo as if you were

just capturing the moment they arrived at your recreation destination. Now you have a photo of exactly how they look and what they are wearing on that day. Even if they should just happen to wander to the toy section in the store, you can share that photo with store workers or security guards to help find them. This tip alone will make your life easier and less stressful.

2. Where Did These Come From?

If you need to take something apart to try to repair it, use your phone camera to take a picture of the item BEFORE you get after it with a butter knife. Take pictures at every stage of the disassembly. Now you have something to guide your reassembly efforts and jog your memory as to where each part belongs. Plus, should you feel the desire to share your handiness on the Internet, you have documentation of what you did. You never



Lake Mary store is located in the Oaks at Lake Mary shopping center, at 3005 W. Lake Mary Blvd.

The new Apopka store is in Victoria Plaza, at 1087 W. Orange Blossom Trail. (407-814-3935) This is just past the 429, in the same Plaza as the Harbor Freight. Both open 9-7 Mon.-Sat. Closed Sundays

5% discount on most items for CFCS members!

know, you might be the first person to find an easy way to fix something and help someone else.

3. Why I Was Late For Work

Recently, where I live was hit by a winter storm named Nemo. Which was a good name for it, because after all the snow fell and the winds drifted over anything that stood still, you would have a hard time finding anything. Our one car sat through the storm, dutifully waiting to be driven until today. When I went out to the car, I knew I would have to shovel around it and maybe put some traction sand down. That went all fine and dandy, but backing out over the rest of the driveway proved difficult. The car slid on the ice and ended up in a bit of a snow bank. So, I took pictures. Yes, that's my car in the picture. I got to work on time, but had someone questioned me, I could show them what I was up against.

4. Can You Tell Me What Your Computer is Doing?

Many of us are familiar with the Print Screen button and using screen capture software, and may have even used them to document a computer issue. Those tools are fine for systems that are functioning properly. Then there are those systems that just won't let you do anything. Take a picture of the screen and e-mail it from your smartphone to whomever is trying to help you with your computer. Instantly, they will see what you see. (Yes, that's my computer screen.) With that information, the rate at which they can fix the problem has just increased rapidly. This tip applies to just about any malfunctioning device really.

5. Nice Layout. Too Bad About the Lighting. If you're a budding photographer, use your phone to take pictures of potential subjects at different times during the day, or even the year. Take pictures of your subject from different angles and different distances or viewpoints. This will help you to understand how the natural lighting and environment affects your subject.

6. But Mark and Spencer Has This Item for 5p Less!

People are finally getting a little smarter about their shopping habits and not willing to just pay whatever the store wants. Your smartphone camera can go a long way in helping you to negotiate a lesser price. Of course, there are the fancy apps that allow you to use the camera to scan barcodes or QR codes and compare prices at different retailers. Unfortunately, those only work on items with codes that actually have information in the application's database. But if you can take a picture of the item

showing its price, you now have proof you can use with that store's competitor to get the price that you want.

7. What Was The Phone Number For That Car For Sale? Most people buy used cars, and many buy them from someone who just wants to sell their car. So when you're out and about looking at cars, take pictures of it with the cellphone. Take pictures of the 'for sale' sign so you have the name and number to call and any other information written on it. Take pictures of as much of the car as you can including dents and dings. That will help you in negotiations. You might come to a tentative deal on the phone, then show up later and the car has a new ding. Now you can prove that it does and push lower.

8. It Wasn't Like That When I Sent It Recently we shipped a friend's car out west. The shippers broke the spoiler on the car. Had we thought to take a picture of the car before they loaded it, we could have made our friend's life easier. They could have easily shown that the car was fine before it went on the truck. This little trick can apply to ANYTHING that you ship. As another example, some manufacturers now take pictures of each shipment before it goes out the door. You can see the waybill, bill of goods and the items in the shipment. This protects them, and you, from things going missing.

9. Ibid Are you a college or university student? Are you doing lots of research in the reserved or special collections? Whip out the cell phone, take pictures of the relevant pages as well as the ISBN, Cover and the Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication page. Now you can use that information to properly annotate and document your research, at your leisure. The book called, "Wireless Networking in the Developing World" is a good read, look it up. Man, I wish I had that when I was in school. Back then photocopies were sometimes as much as 50 cents a piece and you can't photocopy a lot of the ancient texts that I used.

10. How Did That Get In There? Kids put weird things in weird places. Two of those places are the nose and ears. With the cellphone's flash on, you can use the camera function almost like a scope to see what they've done now. Of course this works for adults too, if there's maybe an ear infection or an abscessed tooth. It's your camera. Where you put it is up to you!


But wait, there's more... We could go on all day about different ways to use your smartphone camera to make your life easier or simpler.



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.

Don't have a mirror handy while trying on fab hats?
Take a picture!

See something you'd like to get your spouse, but
you're not sure if they'd like it? Take a picture!

See someone driving a car and reading a book at the
same time? Take a picture!

Trying to lose weight and need to keep a food log?
What do you think you should do? Yes, take a
picture!



CFCS Treasurer Carlton (Jay) Jacobs Resigns

Carlton (Jay) Jacobs, who has been a most effective treasurer for CFCS, is resigning as of July 1. As Jay himself put it, “My decision to “retire” on July 1, 2013 was purely for personal reasons. I have enjoyed every minute of my time, both as a member of the Board as well as being your Treasurer and Membership Chair. It has been both interesting and exciting, and yes, sometimes frustrating, to be a member of the BOD going back to the Ed Mitchell days and as the Treasurer since the James Thompson days, and as Treasurer/Membership Chair since the Richard Colley days. I’ve seen the Society go from a “bankrupt” Organization to an Organization that is on a solid financial footing, even while reducing the membership dues by 44.4%. I have taken great pride in the accomplishments of the Society over the last 7 ½ years, but at 77 years old, it’s time to step aside and let the younger, brighter minds take over.”

As for length of time in each position I have held on the BOD, I have served on the Computer Society Board since 2006 (7 ½ years) and as Treasurer since 2007 (6 ½

years) and as Treasurer/Membership Chair since 2008 (5 ½ years). In addition, I was on the BOD during the Betty Travis and Cory Dunham years (2001-2002)."

The CFCS Board of Directors especially, and the membership, both owe a great debt of gratitude to Jay, as he has done a superb job in every endeavor for which he has volunteered in our society. (Jay was also instrumental in encouraging me to return to the group, after my absence of several years.)

If you are saying to yourself, "Wow, what can I do to help fill the void he leaves?" The answer is VOLUNTEER, for at least part of his job. If one person will take on the job of keeping the books and writing the checks, another could volunteer to take attendance at meetings and hand out prize tickets and membership cards. Please do your part, so your society can continue functioning as well as it has under Jay's efforts.

The treasurer's position includes the use of a top of the line laptop provided by the club.



While Jay was in his corner, all was right with the CFCS!

On the Shelves Now - New Technology Replacing Old Standbys by Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/technology/article/Research-firm-PC-sales-plunge-as-Windows-8-flops->

4424529.php

<http://windowsitpro.com/windows/it-s-official-pc-sales->



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<http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2013/04/12/the-pc-is-dead-and-these-2-stocks-may-be-too.aspx>

<https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/devices/features-different.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ssd>

Recently, I was one of several presenters at the Taylor Career Center's Business and Technology Summit. My topic was on the new computing technologies currently on the market that are making the existing technologies obsolete.

According to published reports, during the first quarter of 2013, PC sales (desktop and laptop) dropped 14%, while tablet and smartphone sales soared. Some of the blame for the decline in PC sales has been the lack of widespread acceptance of Microsoft's new Windows 8 operating system, as well the fact that tablet computers are generally less expensive and more portable than traditional laptops and desktops. With over a billion smartphones expected to be sold this year, along with 200 million tablets, many users have decided to forgo purchasing a new PC. Sales of PCs this year are predicted to be about 300 million, down from 353 million in 2012, and far less than Microsoft's "hoped for" 400 million PCs sold in 2013. "This is horrific news for PCs," said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis. "It's all about mobile computing now. We have definitely reached the tipping point."

Some pundits are predicting the slow demise of such traditional giants as HP, Dell, and Microsoft as smaller upstarts continue to erode their market shares with newer, less expensive technologies that also add

Looks like a laptop, feels like a laptop but...

Chromebooks are a new type of computer designed to help you get things done faster and easier. They run Chrome OS, an **operating system** that has multiple layers of security, cloud storage, and the most popular Google products built-in.



enhanced portability. On the hardware side, HP and Dell are far behind the curve when it comes to technological replacements for the traditional desktop and laptop computer, while Microsoft has not captured much market share with its builds of Windows 8 intended for the portable market. As has been typical, Apple, with its successful iPad series of tablets, tends to be a leader in the introduction of new technologies. A growing threat to the established and traditional software operating systems, best represented by Microsoft's Windows and Apple's iOS, is Google's Android operating system, which has garnered a 75% market share of the operating systems of smart devices, including phones and tablets. Even giant chip maker Intel is feeling the sting, as most of the PCs utilize Intel chipsets, and a decline in PC sales ultimately impacts Intel. In terms of the new portable smart devices becoming so popular, Intel is but a

bit player, with many feisty small chip makers picking up a growing share of the CPU chip market with their sales to smart device manufacturers.

A visit to any of the local big box stores will clearly show the increasing market share of tablets and other smart devices, as they devote more shelf space to the smart devices, and much less shelf space to the more traditional laptops and PCs.

One feisty new player in the hardware market is none other than powerhouse Google, which has introduced a line of relatively low cost but highly portable devices that combine the portability of a tablet with the convenience of a traditional laptop or notebook PC. As thin as half-inch, and weighing only a few pounds, these new devices are being marketed as "Google Chrome-

HP Pavilion Chromebook

The 14" Chromebook

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- Boots up in less than 10 seconds
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Only: \$329.99



books", which retail for as little as \$199, and have screens typically larger and more readable than most tablets. Unlike most common tablets, Chromebooks have a traditional keyboard and are in a form similar to a laptop. Using Google's Chrome operating system, these Chromebooks are complete and ready to run out of the box, without the need to purchase additional software. For those who want even more software, thousands of free apps (applications) are available from Google's Chrome Web Store. Included in all Chromebook models are Google Docs, which can create, read, and write office documents (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, etc.) from and to almost all other major software formats, including Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.). Other included apps are a variety of music, voice and video utilities. Chromebooks include "Google Drive", highly secured data centers with file storage service that stores files safely online, without the need to create backups of critical files. Data files can be accessed from anywhere, and are safe and recoverable even if the Chromebook is lost or damaged.

In terms of security, Chromebooks do not require any additional security software as they use multiple layers of protection providing a "defense in depth" that is generally considered safe from malware, viruses, and other threats. At boot, Chromebooks perform a rapid



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self-check to verify that the system is secure and free of malware; any necessary security updates are automatically downloaded and installed, meaning that Chromebooks always have the latest security features and updates.

Many users find the boot time of traditional PCs to be somewhat aggravating, often taking several minutes; the typical Chromebook can boot in as little as 10 seconds, making its features and apps almost instantly available. Also, many PC users fail to install operating system upgrades as well as software updates; Chromebook users do not have that problem as Chromebooks automatically update themselves and their installed apps for free; there is never a need to purchase or manually install updates and software upgrades with a Chromebook. All Chromebooks are Wi-Fi equipped, and several models offer optional wireless connections through Verizon, with 100 MB of data per month for free. All Chromebooks include an interesting feature, "Google Cloud Print" which can print to many printers without the need for connecting cables.

Chromebooks are currently manufactured by Acer, HP, and Samsung, with other makers soon to have Chromebooks of their own. At present, Chromebooks are available locally at Best Buy, and online from Amazon, TigerDirect, Newegg, Best Buy Online, and HP's online store.

Another new technology which is being used to make smart devices and laptop computers more rugged as well as extending their battery life is the "SSD" or "Solid State Drive". Now built-in to many newer laptop and desktop computers, as well as available for installation into almost all other laptop and desktop computers, the new SSDs are much smaller in physical size, have no moving parts, require less power to operate, do not emit a lot of heat, are silent in operation, have very fast access times, and are generally far more rugged than more traditional hard drives. A typical SSD is very small and light in weight, typically measuring about 4 inches long, by 2.8 inches wide, by 0.4 inches thick, and weigh about three ounces; some are as small as 1.8 inches wide, while some are about the same package size as a 3.5 inch hard drive. Many newer laptops and desktops incorporate an integral mounting for these SSDs, and inexpensive (about \$7 - \$10) adapters are available to mount SSDs into most other laptop and desktop computers. Some newly manufactured PCs

(Continued on page 13)

utilize a hybrid system with an SSD drive containing the operating system and other frequently accessed files, and a traditional hard drive for extended storage capacity; these hybrids often boot much faster than similar PCs can boot with a common hard drive.

Even though prices have dropped considerably in the past year, and prices are projected to continue to drop in coming years, they are still generally more expensive than traditional electromechanical hard drives, and offer less storage capacity, even though some SSDs are available with terabytes of capacity.. It is expected that as storage capacity increases, and prices drop on these SSD devices, the common electromechanical hard drives may go the way of floppy discs, and disappear from the marketplace due to obsolescence.

Considering the "gee whiz" factor when 5.25" floppies replaced 8" floppies, which were in turn replaced by 3.5" floppies; when early 10MB hard drives were scarce and terribly expensive; when colorful flat wide-screen monitors replaced older monochrome CRT monitors; when the first smart phones appeared on the market; when laptops first out-sold desktops; Pocket PC's; Palm Pilots; and other technological wonders appeared, they were greeted with vigor, and then disappeared down the trashcan of history. Do not get too attached to your Windows (or Mac) desktop or laptop with your hard drive, as they too may soon be relegated to functional obsolescence as were our Commodore 64, TI 99/4A, Atari 800, Adam, Amiga, VIC-20, TRS-80, and other popular computer types that we loved during yesterday. Get ready to say hello and welcome new technologies and devices, as the future is already here today.

The Demise of the Digital Camera

By Jerry Schneir, Member, Los Angeles Computer Society, California

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editor@lacspc.org

I probably should have used one more adjective in the title, "inexpensive", so that the title would have read "The Demise of the Inexpensive Digital Camera". You only have to look around you at any party or gathering and see that the majority of the picture taking is being done by the guests with "smart phones". Relatively few cameras appear at these gatherings, so you might ask

why? What has happened? What is happening to fuel this dramatic change?

By some estimates, smart phones account for over 50% of the cell phones in use today, and those smart phones all have built in cameras. And within the last couple of years, the cameras in those smart phones are getting much, much better. To prove my point you only have to look at two new products to be announced, one from Nikon and the other from Nokia, one a camera company the other a phone company.

The Nikon S800c combines a camera with Wi-Fi capability, even internet browsing. It will not be long before a phone is added to that device. Nokia on the other hand created a phone, the 808c Nokia PureView Pro which combines a phone with new digital technology. It dispenses with the usual scaling/interpolation model of digital zoom used in virtually all smartphones, as well as optical zoom used in most digital cameras, to vary the magnification and field of view. This new technology which is already in use by Sony in some of their more advanced cameras (Sony NEX F3), allows zooming without any lens elements changing positions. And amazingly enough, the results are really fantastic.

More and more camera manufacturers are equipping their cameras with the ability to transfer images from the camera to a phone, iPad type device or a computer directly, no wiring required. As phone manufacturers start to incorporate this new technology into their phones, the need for people to have both a smart phone AND a camera diminishes. Many manufacturers, aware of the missteps of Kodak in failing to recognize the change in technology (film to digital) and the eventual destruction of the company, are moving quickly to rearrange their product offerings.

What will be showing up in the marketplace are more mid to high end cameras with fewer and fewer low end cameras. The reasoning is pretty simple, the camera phones, as good as they are getting, are still a very long way from producing images as good as those from the mid to high end range of cameras. If you take a close look at the camera offerings of today you may note the changes that are taking place right now.

Digital SLR cameras are moving in two price directions, up and down. Canon/Nikon/Pentax/Sony are locked in a battle in both the high end professional/ semi – professional/dedicated amateur lines at one end and the

beginner/intermediary dSLR camera lines. However, this is an area that has fragmented greatly; new camera designs along with new technology are resulting in smaller and lighter cameras capable of producing results equal to that of their bigger cousins. I can hear the verbal challenges now to that statement, but I am noticing more and more pros/semi-pros using this newer technology and reaping the benefits of fewer backaches from the lighter, pounds lighter equipment. These stark changes were brought about by the “mirrorless interchangeable lens cameras. In some circles these are referred to as CSC (compact system cameras) or ILC (interchangeable lens cameras) or EVIL (electronic viewfinder interchangeable lens cameras). Cameras in this mirrorless grouping are the Fuji X-Pro 1, the Sony alpha and NEX family of cameras, the Nikon J1/Vi cameras, the just announced Canon EOS M cameras, the micro four-thirds (mFT) line of cameras such as the Olympus OM-D5 and Panasonic GX1, and of course the entirely different Ricoh line of interchangeable lens AND sensor cameras.

In addition to those camera groupings another new collection of cameras has appeared, the large sensor fixed lens cameras such as the Canon G1 X and the Sony RX 100 along with the Fujifilm X10 and X100. I can see some questions arising about what constitutes a large sensor. To my way of thinking, sensors in the size range of 1/1.7 and larger meet that criterion, but just barely. But wait, the camera companies are also introducing more mid- to high-end point and shoot cameras such as the Panasonic FZ200, Pentax X5, Canon SD500, Nikon P7700, and Fuji SL300.

But if you look, you will see relatively little effort or money being spent on the inexpensive line of cameras, those retailing for \$200 or less. What you are seeing is product renaming with a change in camera color but very little in the way of any new features. What also appears to be happening here is that as the new models appear the older models are marked down substantially. As an example, Olympus Pen LP-2 was \$550 or more. It can now be had for about \$300 while the even older version, the LP1 is still around and going for a bit under \$300 and those are prices with the kit lens. The Fuji S4500 came out at about \$300, but today it can be bought for under \$200 and it came out in January of this year.

The economic downturn of the last few years certainly has played a part in the changing face of digital photography, making it less lucrative to introduce middling to low cost cameras and to focus on the mid to upper range of cameras with special features, such as better video,

longer zoom ranges, great low light and high ISO ability. You will also be seeing a move away from the traditional CCD sensor to the CMOS and BSI-CMOS type sensor since these are far better suited to video and low light photography.

One other very bad thing is happening and that is the increase in camera complexity. I hear it almost every week from my students, “I can’t understand the manual (if there is even one included), there is no index or the index is vastly incomplete, the booklet uses abbreviations without ever defining them, they seem to assume I know something when I do not, they don’t explain a feature or how to use that feature.” I have long maintained that the instructions are written by people whose native language is NOT English and may not even be photographers.

This is a most interesting period in photography. Image quality and the ability to use high ISO settings or shoot in dim light has never been better. Cameras, at least the mid to high price cameras, have more features and generally perform much better. The next five years will see very significant changes in the photographic landscape, stick around, you may even like what you see.

Improve Your Facebook Privacy and Security

by Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/safety>

<https://www.facebook.com/security>

[https://www.facebook.com/security/](https://www.facebook.com/security/app_268616169836752)

[app_268616169836752](https://www.facebook.com/security/app_268616169836752)

<http://techland.time.com/2013/04/04/facebook-privacy-settings-guide/>

<https://www.techsupportalert.com/content/seven-tips-improve-your-security-facebook.htm>

<https://www.techsupportalert.com/content/protect-your-online-privacy-terrific-new-chrome-extension.htm>

<https://www.techsupportalert.com/content/probably-best-free-security-list-world.htm?page=0,13>

<http://www.makeuseof.com/pages/download-the-very-unofficial-facebook-privacy-guide>

<http://www.daniel-puscher.de/fpw/>

<http://newsroom.fb.com/Key-Facts>

However we personally feel about it, Facebook has become enormously popular. According to Face-

Privacy Settings and Tools

Who can see my stuff?	Who can see your future posts? Close You can manage the privacy of things you share by using the audience selector right where you post. This control remembers your selection so future posts will be shared with the same audience unless you change it. What's on your mind? <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Only Me"/> <input type="button" value="Post"/> Remember: This is the same setting you find right where you post, and by changing it here, you've also updated it there.						
	Review all your posts and things you're tagged in Use Activity Log Limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends of friends or Public? Limit Past Posts						
Who can look me up?	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Who can look you up using the email address or phone number you provided?</td> <td>Friends</td> <td>Edit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do you want other search engines to link to your timeline?</td> <td>Off</td> <td>Edit</td> </tr> </table>	Who can look you up using the email address or phone number you provided?	Friends	Edit	Do you want other search engines to link to your timeline?	Off	Edit
Who can look you up using the email address or phone number you provided?	Friends	Edit					
Do you want other search engines to link to your timeline?	Off	Edit					

book's Key Facts page (newsroom.fb.com/Key-Facts), Facebook has, "More than a billion monthly active users as of December 2012. ... 618 million daily active users on average in December 2012. 680 million monthly active users who used Facebook mobile products as of December 31, 2012." These numbers are impressive, indicating extreme growth in Facebook utilization, since its introduction in 2004. One issue facing Facebook, as well as many other social networking and online services, is the privacy and security of its users. Sadly, the small percentage of the global population that wants to commit a variety of cybercrimes against innocent individuals have found that social networking services are a fertile hunting ground, and Facebook is no exception.

Facebook is well aware of the risks that its users face on a regular basis, and actively revises its system and policies in order to mitigate the risks to its billion users. While Facebook does what it can to secure its system, Facebook users must proactively choose the appropriate security settings offered by the service, engage

in safe online practices, and have appropriate security software installed on their computers or other devices. Users must be cognizant of several facts when they post anything on a social network, such as Facebook; first, nothing posted online is totally private, and regardless of selected settings, it is always possible for others, including those with illicit intent, to access post-

ings. On Facebook, anytime a user clicks on a "Like" button, some of their personal information is gathered by the "liked" page, and can be used for a variety of purposes as the users' data can be collected and catalogued. Also be totally aware that once something is posted online, it is effectively forever available, even after being deleted by the user. Facebook may become a virtual diary that may be accessed later by potential employers, social acquaintances, government agencies,



privacyfix

Share Like Follow FAQ Read Privacy

Who can see your Facebook profile?

Get Privacyfix for Firefox

Get Privacyfix for iOS and Android COMING SOON

Google

Your Facebook profile on Google

Web Images Maps Shopping Videos More Search tools

About 1,230 results (0.22 seconds)

Your Facebook Profile on Google Search

www.facebook.com/you
March 9, 2013
Your name, picture, hometown and other data available for data miners and other snoops? ...

Facebook's default settings allow your profile to be seen beyond your friends, indexed in Google and used in ads.

Privacyfix makes it easy to control who sees your profile and how it can be used.

(Continued from page 15)

and others for both totally legitimate purposes and dangerous dishonest use.

In the initial registration process of becoming a Facebook user, personal information including name, email address, and other information was provided to Facebook. People join Facebook primarily as a medium of communications, with the simple ability to locate other users and have them locate you on the Facebook network. Users need to determine who can find their personal information and contact them, and then set the Facebook privacy settings accordingly. Personal listings access may be restricted by the user by selecting one of the privacy settings that can allow everyone to locate the user, approved friends, or even a "friends of friends" that provides a geometrically larger universe of potential friends. While many users take pride in their huge number of friends on Facebook, often using the large number of friends as a form of status symbol, that also means that the same huge group of friends is more likely to include users who may pose privacy and security threats to the user.

Facebook users can easily access and modify security settings by opening the account control menu by clicking on the "gear" icon on the top right edge of the Facebook menu bar, and then selecting "Privacy Settings". This opens the "Privacy Settings and Tools" which controls who can see your posts and look up your personal information. Once the "Privacy Settings and Tools" window is open, the left margin of that webpage offers additional security controls that the users should make use of. Under the "Timeline and Tagging Settings" the user can control who can post on their timeline, who can view the users' timeline, and can control the tagging and posting of images and posts.

Some Facebook users are unfortunately the victims of cyber stalking and cyber bullying; the "Blocking" menu icon on the left margin opens the "Manage Blocking" window. It is here that the user can create a "Restricted List" which controls who specifically can see information and posts. From this location unwanted users can be blocked by entering their name or email address, which means that the person blocked can no longer be your friend on Facebook or otherwise interact with you. Using a similar, simple procedure, the user can easily block app requests or event invites from other specific users or groups. Individual apps can be stopped from contacting you and accessing your non-public information on Facebook.

Facebook itself offers substantial privacy and security assistance and information that users may use in order to improve their security and safety while on Facebook. Facebook has a "Family Safety Center" at facebook.com/help/safety where users can get a wealth of information including tools and resources, teen and family safety, Facebook resources for parents, information that teachers can use to teach online safety, and additional information on Facebook safety, security, and privacy. Facebook also offers detailed safety, security and privacy tips and related information on its page at facebook.com/security/app_268616169836752.

There are currently several third-party utilities and resources available that can help implement appropriate privacy and security settings on Facebook. On my primary computers I have Trend Micro's Titanium Maximum Security installed which offers as one of its features a Facebook privacy utility that is implemented by clicking on the "Check My Privacy" button. Trend Micro then runs a utility which checks and verifies all of the privacy settings, displaying any potential privacy threats; in my Facebook account, Trend Micro found one privacy threat suggesting that I turn off the "Instant Personalization" feature on my "App Settings" menu. Other similar utilities are available as browser plug-ins and include Facebook Privacy Watcher for Firefox (www.daniel-puscher.de/fpw/), Privacy Fix for Firefox and Chrome (privacyfix.com/start), and others. The popular technical support websites all have some form of Facebook privacy and security information. While somewhat dated, the Dallas based MakeUseOf website offers a free download (registration or "Like" required) of its 52 page "The Unofficial Facebook Privacy Manual" from its website at www.makeuseof.com/pages/download-the-very-unofficial-facebook-privacy-guide

Gizmo's TechSupportAlert.com website offers several sources of Facebook privacy and safety information. One such webpage, "Seven Tips To Improve Your Security On Facebook" is available at techsupportalert.com/content/seven-tips-improve-your-security-facebook.htm; another Gizmo directory of comprehensive Facebook (and other social media) safety information is included in its master security directory, under the "Online Services - Social Media Privacy" heading at techsupportalert.com/content/probably-best-free-security-list-world.htm?page=0,13

By implementing the privacy and security recommendations of the above web pages and software utilities, Facebook users may greatly enhance their privacy and safety while utilizing Facebook, one of the world's primary social media networks.

Giving Internet TV a Try

**By Gene Olson, Member, ICONPCUG,
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The ICON Graphic
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After getting the Cable bill, I wanted to reduce the rates by having Internet TV (and cutting out Cable). After reading about "Satellite Direct", which seemed like it was better than other Internet TV software – I bought it. It cost \$50 over the Internet. I would NOT recommend using a regular credit card.

PROS:

- It does give you a lot of channels.
- Lots of channels are in English.
- They do provide music channels.
- The quality on most channels is great.
- Some channels are the same channels on Cable TV.
- It has a nice menu to select Video by country.
- It has a nice ability to Search Video from any country.
- The channel changing is fairly quick.
- Even some of the foreign channels are in English (Brazil TV had the Beatles in English).
- It does have the ability to get some channels from HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, etc.
- It's better for a person who knows foreign languages to get other country channels.
- Lots of channels are from Satellites.
- The one-time \$50 fee is not bad to try the product, get connected to Internet TV and without a monthly charge.

CONS:

- It does not allow you to install it on any other computer (even one you own).
- It didn't provide as many channels as they indicated (3500).
- Many channels are from foreign countries.
- Some channels don't load.

I can't get all the channels that I can get on Cable TV.

Some channels have software in front of it that you have to get around.

Some screens are blank.

Some channels are slow (requiring 10 seconds to connect).

Some content on some channels repeat.

Some channels are not online all the time (understandable for other countries in a different time zone).

Some channels the audio runs, but the video stops, and/or the video jumps.

Not good if you only know English (like me) and there are many foreign language channels.

It seems the same advertisements are on multiple channels – seems to be from "Satellite Direct."

Once installed, the software wants you to upgrade to their PREMIUM PACKAGE at \$5/month.

I read an Internet review that some Internet TV software overflows the buffer and downloads viruses and malware to your computer. They were right, after three days – I had a Trojan on a computer that never gets viruses and is not used for the Internet. I will now have to run constant full Virus Protection scans on my computer more often.

REVIEW: The software could be written a lot better, without viruses, without advertisements, without distracting screens. They don't tell you what you get with \$5/month more premium package. I would not recommend it, primarily because of the viruses. But if you do use it, use on a spare computer (one that you can reformat).

Gene

Have you disabled or removed Java from your computer?

**By John Pearce, President, Pikes Peak
Computer Application Society, CO
February 2013 issue, Bits of Bytes
<http://ppcompas.apcug.org/>
jlpinet@comcast.net**

Oracle seems to be having one security problem after another with Java. Last fall, it was reported that Java 7

Update 7 had problems but that Java 6 was safe (no security problems). Oracle released Java 7 Update 8, Update 9, and Update 10 all of which had security problems. The latest security problem seems to affect both Java 6 and 7. Java 7 Update 11 is available for download. Apparently this fixes a few problems but not all of them. The status of a patch for Java 6 is unknown.

While some tech gurus (Kim Komando for one) recommend completely removing Java from your computer, the Department of Homeland Security is recommending disabling the Java plug-in in your browser(s). You can find a bunch of links by using the search term `homeland+security+java` in most any search engine. Homeland Security's recommendation leaves Java available in case any desktop applications might need it.

The current crop of malware exploits security flaws in Java that allow the download of the malicious payload if you simply visit an infected website. The malware download may happen so quickly you don't notice it and there is no security pop-up to warn you, either.

What to do, what to do?

Several tech writers have suggested disabling Java in your primary browser and leaving it enabled in a separate browser that is used only to access web sites that require Java. I have done a little checking using some of the websites in my bookmarks and found that disabling Java has no impact on the websites I visit most often.

The only website I found in my bookmarks that uses Java is the speed test at <http://dslreports.com/speedtest> and the site has alternatives to Java available. I didn't have any problems because the websites I checked use Java script, which does not have security issues as Java does. I rarely use Internet Explorer but decided to disable Java in IE anyway.

Android Phone Tips & Tricks

By Sandy Berger, Compu-KISS
www.compukiss.com
sandy@compukiss.com

Android phone and tablet users will find their devices more customizable than Apple devices. That's a good thing, as long as you know some of the basics. And I am

here to help you with that.

Today, I will focus on phones running Ice Cream Sandwich because it currently has the most widespread use. This is Google's stock Android 4.0 operating system. There are several other Android versions currently in use. Also, be aware that each phone manufacturer modifies the Android software with its own custom interfaces. Because of all this, what you see on your phone may be slightly different from the following instructions.

As with the iPhone, Android devices use three basic finger movements:

Tap -- quickly touch a icon, button, or word.

Double-tap -- quickly touch the item twice.

Press and hold -- press and hold your finger on the word, icon, or picture for two seconds.

Newer Android phones have three buttons on the bottom of the phone. Some older phones have four. While these can be physical buttons, on most newer phones they are not raised buttons. Instead, they are simply areas of the black bottom bezel that are marked with icons. Often these are referred to as soft buttons.

There is a slight difference between these buttons depending on whether there are three or four buttons. There is always a home icon that looks like a house and an icon that look like a back arrow which is the back button. On four-button phones there may also be a menu button and a search button. Newer phones, however, have no Search button. You will also see that the Menu button has been replaced with a combination Recent Apps/Menu button. This button is usually simply called the Recent Apps icon.

Use Your Face to Unlock the Phone

The Android operating system has some great features. One is the ability to unlock the phone with your face. Yes, with Android, you can unlock the phone just by putting it in front of your face. You simply access the Settings and look under Security for a place to set it up. There are step-by-step instructions. Once complete, just hold the phone up in front of your face to unlock it. Don't worry; you can set up a pin number in case the phone doesn't recognize you. In my testing, however, it worked seamlessly. One caveat: If you wear glasses,

make sure that you tilt your head so that there is no glare on the glasses when you open the phone. Also, although I took my security picture without glasses, my phone recognizes me with one pair of glasses, but will not recognize me with my thicker-frame glasses. Face unlocking is a new security option for Android 4.0. It doesn't work in previous versions.

When the phone is locked

Like on the iPhone, you can jump directly to the camera, and manage your music without unlocking the phone. You can also check for messages.

Add Widgets

With the iPhone every app is the same size and they are not interactive. One of the best things about Android is that you can embed live content directly to the home pages through resizable interactive widgets. Widgets show current information. For instance, they let you see the weather and time, play music, look at stocks, and more — right from the home screen, without having to launch apps.

To add a Widget, go to the home screen where you want the widget to appear. Press and hold any blank area of that screen. Tap on Widgets, and then scroll through the choices by swiping from side to side. When you find one you like, just tap and it will appear on the chosen screen.

Recent apps

Press and hold the Recent Apps button to scroll through the recently used apps. Tap on any app to switch to that app.

Working with apps

When you are using an app, the Recent Apps button works more like a Menu button or like a right-click on a computer. Tapping it gives you a list of things you can do with that app.

Take a Picture of the Screen

Press the volume down button and the on/off (sleep) button at the same time and a picture of whatever is on your phone's screen will be saved to the picture Gallery. This may take a little practice because you must be sure to press them simultaneously. When you do it right, the

screen will flash and you will hear a sound like a shutter snapping. If the Gallery is not on any of your pages, you can find it by pressing the Home icon then tapping the all apps icon, which is the icon at the bottom middle of the screen (a square with 16 dots in it).

Save Web images

It is very easy to copy any pictures you see on the Web. Start your Web browser and look around a little. When you see a picture that you would like to save, just press your finger on the picture and hold it for a second or two. A menu will appear. Choose "Save Image" and the image will be added to your picture Gallery.

Organize apps

After you have used your phone or tablet for a while, you will find that you accumulate so many apps that you can't find anything. That's when you need to put your apps in folders. It's easy with Android. Just press and hold on any app. Then drag it on top of another app. When you release your finger you will see both apps in a folder. Tap on that folder and you can give it a name or you can add more apps or drag apps out of the folder. Be sure to create folders with useful names like News, Games, Productivity, Cooking, etc.

Create a useful shortcut

The shortcuts option in Android is especially amazing. You can create a shortcut on your screen that represents a person, a navigation destination, bookmarked web page, or more. Just press and hold a blank area of the screen where you want your shortcut to appear and choose Shortcuts from the menu that appears. Then choose Direct Dial, Bookmark, Book, Person, Navigation, or any other app you see on the screen. Name the shortcut and provide any other necessary information and the shortcut will automatically appear on your chosen page. I have a shortcut labeled Home. If I am in an unfamiliar area and I need directions to get back home, I just press that icon. There are many other uses for these shortcuts, as well.

Who's Driving this Bus Anyway?
By Dave Helmer, Past President and
Co-Founder, Computer Users' Group of
Greeley, CO
March 2013 issue, Random Access

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When is the last time you worried about having the latest drivers for your computer? Ever? Never? Yeah, me too. Most people just don't give it any thought beyond the initial install of a new piece of hardware, but manufacturers tend to release new drivers all the time. Even your motherboard manufacturer sometimes releases updates. Mouse drivers, NIC drivers, USB bus drivers (there's probably a joke there somewhere, but it escapes me), hardware that no one ever thinks of in their computers, that may not be running the most current drivers. And really, why should you care? Mostly because those little outdated drivers might be the cause of some significant computer problems.

For the most part, I'm a firm believer in the old "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" approach to system maintenance, but on more than one occasion, one or another of my systems will BSoD* for no apparent reason. Microsoft's pathetic approach to a diagnostic simply tells you that the problem may have been caused by an outdated driver. Well, duh ... Which one? Yeah, yeah, I know that BSoD's don't exist in the newer operating systems. But when a computer does a hard reset while you're in the middle of an hours-long project, does it really matter what you call it?

Keeping those drivers current is a nightmare, because no one really keeps track of the manufacturers and driver release numbers for everything in every computer they own. No one. Well, no one I know, or would want to know I suspect. I am usually doing good to keep my video and sound card drivers current, and yes, I do use discrete hardware plugins on my desktop systems. Motherboard sound and video is just not good enough for some of the things I use my computers for, although it is getting better all the time.

The good news is that there is a solution to this problem! Why else would I be writing this article? Actually, there have been a number of solutions to this problem over the last decade or so, but I have found none as user-friendly as a little freeware program called SlimDrivers, available at www.slimwareutilities.com. A recent article in MaximumPC magazine introduced me to this cloud-based utility for keeping drivers current, and it blew me away when I tried it.

Download the installer from the website listed above. Note that there are two other free utilities they offer as well, one of which, SlimCleaner, I am currently playing around with. Run the installer and when it's fully loaded, hit the big button labeled Start Scan. It's just about that easy. (Do be careful when accepting the install, as they will try to install AVG Security Toolbar into your browser, not a bad thing, but if you're not into AVG you might not want to have it auto-installed.) SlimDrivers then goes out and uses "Crowd-sourcing to spider and aggregate millions of devices" to find drivers. In English, that means it checks the hardware driver versions on your computer, matches them against the latest versions available online from the manufacturer, and presents you with a list of drivers for which updates are available. For those concerned, SlimWare Utilities is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, which means it should play very well with Windows. I've successfully used it on systems running Win8, Win7, Vista and WinXP, and was very satisfied with its ability to locate updated drivers on all 4 platforms. You are given the option to set Restore points before any new drivers are installed, and you can un-install or restore drivers from within the program.

At this point, the shine wears off a little bit, because you can only select one driver at a time to update. The drivers seem to download very slowly, and to be honest I end up wondering if SlimDrivers is choking my download speed as a way of enticing me to upgrade to their paid version (DriverUpdate, \$29.97/one year license), or if I am just being paranoid. And seriously, for freeware? I can take the wait. I haven't been able to discover whether or not that one license would cover all my systems, or if I need a separate license for each computer. Guess which one I would pay for... After each update, you are advised to restart your computer, and although you probably don't really "have" to do so each time, I certainly recommend it. This of course adds to the frustration of time being consumed.

Has it prevented any more BSoD's on my systems? Too early to tell, but I feel a lot more comfortable knowing that I am running the latest versions of hardware drivers on my computers. This program delivers, with a clean,

Be a smart guy. You could pay your yearly dues to CFCS simply by making computer related purchases at Smart Guys Computers. Buy a laptop, or less, get free dues!

easy-to-use (and understand!) interface. Learn more about it by visiting their website, www.slimwareutilities.com, and give it a shot.

*Blue Screen of Death. If you don't remember those, you probably have not been using a computer for very long.

Amazing Tale of a Satisfying Call to Tech Support . . .

**By Judi Shade, Mac Monday Volunteer,
Hilton Head Island Computer Club, SC
February 2013 issue, The Islander**

**www.hhicc.org
newsletter@hhicc.org**

I recently acquired a Dell laptop with Windows 7 to start working on a database project that only could only be accessed on a PC and used through Internet Explorer. The database program also required that I be able to print various pdf files, Word files and screen shots. Since I am a long-time computer user (PowerMac), I also have two HP printers -- an older, very reliable LaserJet and an equally old HP All-in-One. Neither printer has WiFi capabilities, but both are USB printers.

Thinking this would be easy, I ran a USB printer cable from my HP LaserJet P2035n directly to my laptop and the printer icon appeared in the devices window along with a big yellow triangle telling me I had the infamous 'issue' problem and would I like to "troubleshoot." "Of course," I told the machine and lo and behold, the little Dell that couldn't, came back and said "sorry, Charlie, there is no driver available for your antique printer."

Funny thing though, on HP's own web site, the driver not only exists, but I had already easily downloaded it. But, it would not install. I did not want to buy a 3rd printer and I needed to print desperately -- paperwork was backing up. So even though I knew HP's customer support reputation from years back (prefer a trip to the dentist than to be on hold button hell with HP),

I went to HP's web site again for Tech Support and surprisingly (?) HP has outsourced tech support. BUT, and this is a big but, to a company that can actually do technical support for all kinds of software and hardware.

So I punched in the 877 number and got "Sam" in New Delhi who listened to my tale of woe and whose first question was, "If you own a Mac, why would you ever

get a PC?" That is honestly what he said! Anyway, he assured me he and "Michael" could make my old HP printer work perfectly with my Dell. Thirty-five minutes (and \$149.99) later, my printing problems were resolved. There were programs on the hard drive that had to be activated and some removed in order for Windows 7 to allow a driver from an 'old' HP printer to be used.

Even though I paid slightly more for the call than the cost of a newer, inexpensive printer, I do not end up with 3 printers on my desk and my LaserJet prints nice and fast and reliably.

Anyone with an old HP, I would encourage you to use the new HP Tech Assist number (the company is called Upquake Technical Services) to bring extended life to your printer or any other device you may have. Sam and Michael were both excellent!

Sam and Michael were much better than the old Help Desk.

Playing Well in Sandboxie

By Mike Ungerman

Link: <http://bit.ly/143sacJ>

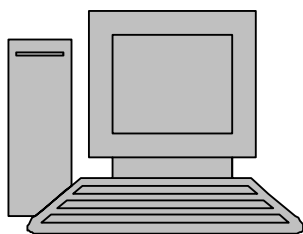
Sandboxie is a unique security product based on the principle of sandboxing. In simple computer terms, a sandbox is an isolated environment for running programs. The environment will be exactly like the real system, the only difference being it's isolated from the real system. This technique is also being used in other programs, such as Google Chrome, and some of the antivirus software. Inside Sandboxie, the programs will run normally, like they do outside the sandbox, but whatever changes are made, stay inside the sandbox, and the actual system remains unaffected by those changes.

Let's say you are running a web browser in Sandboxie. Everything will be done in the normal way, you can click on links, visit sites, and download files etc, but, it will all take place in an isolated environment. Therefore, even if you go to a malicious site, or click on a malicious link, or even download a malicious file, the actual system will not be affected.

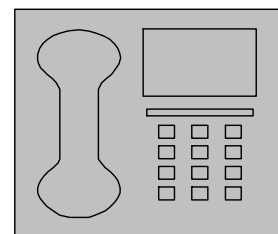
Now suppose while surfing inside Sandboxie, you click on a malicious link, and start seeing signs of malware infection, and/or the antivirus alerts you about it, all you have to do is, delete the contents of Sandboxie. That's it. The malware will be gone, and the system will remain safe, since the malware was not able to come out of Sandboxie. Nothing can come out of the sandbox environment until you allow it.

Visit Musings from Mike at:

<http://musings-from-mike.blogspot.com>



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

Ken Larrabee 407 365-2660 anytime

KLarrabee@cfl.rr.com

DOS

Stan Wallner 407-862-2669 5 pm-7 pm

smwallner@yahoo.com

Kris Hestad 321-459-2755

kris.hestad@surfdogs.com

Hardware

Ken Larrabee 407-365-2660 anytime

Stan Wallner 407-862-2669 5 pm-7 pm

smwallner@yahoo.com

MS ACCESS

Arvin Meyer, MVP 407-327-3810 7 pm - 9 pm

Access-sig@cfcs.org

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Doug Gabbard (e-mail only)

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SQL-Server

Arvin Meyer 407-327-3810

Access-sig@cfcs.org

Windows

Hewie Poplock 407-362-7824 5 pm-7 pm

hewie@hewie.net

Kris Hestad 321-459-2755

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WinZip

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	Apr 1 Newsletter copy due	2	3 Denny's Casselberry 7p BoD meeting	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Office, Access, Security SIGs 7p ■ New Horizons	11	12	13
14	15 1505 E. Colonial 7p ■ iPhone SIG	16	17 Details at cfcs.org 7p Virtual Photo SIG	18	19	20
21 at Jackson-Hewitt 12:30p ■ Windows SIG 2p ■ General Meeting	22	23 Casselberry Denny's 7p Tech-SIG	24	25	26	27

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	May 1 Denny's Casselberry Newsletter copy due 7p BoD meeting	2	3	4
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26	27	28 Casselberry Denny's 7p Tech-SIG	29	30	31	Jun 1 Newsletter copy due

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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