



THE BUSSLINE

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

Vol. 113 No. 10

Newsletter of the Central Florida Computer Society, Inc. [Non-Profit, 501(c)3]

November 2013

Mark Schulman Returns to Enthrall us with his Knowledge of Email Encryption and Security

Sunday, November 17: Mark Schulman, a favorite of CFCS audiences, speaks to us this Sunday about email encryption, inbox security and how to send files securely.

BTW, CFCS still has no Program Chair. We need a volunteer for that job. How about YOU? Many of the speakers are suggested by board members who are constantly on the lookout for talent. Someone just needs to coordinate the effort by making an occasional phone call or sending an email. Make a difference so we can continue to bring you new and interesting meetings! Query any board member if you are even remotely interested.

Sunday, December 15: Jim Guld of Geeks on Tour . Topic: Google Maps, Google Earth

Sunday, January 12: The January CFCS general meeting will be held on the second Sunday of the month to accommodate our speaker, Gene Barlow. The date is January 12. The meetings in January, February and March will be held at the Orlando Day Care Center on Dot Circle.

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 by Hewie Poplock, former president of both CFCS and FACUG, and author of Hewie's Views and Reviews. Hewie 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 ver-

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sions 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.

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!

Don't forget to list your items for sale on CFCS' new SIG!

Officially classified as a Special Interest Group (SIG) chaired by Mike Ungerman (whose brainchild it is), OUR NEW sig is actually a new Google Group email feature that will allow members (only) to post any items they may have for sale or items that they would like to purchase or trade. Similar to the existing CFCS Tech-SIG and CFCS iSIG groups, members of the group may send an email to the group address, and it will be sent out to other members either as an immediate email or as a daily digest of emails from that day.

Membership in the group is limited to CFCS members only, so we won't be getting spam listings. Any members desiring to take advantage of an offer or request will be doing so between themselves. CFCS is not a party to the transaction, nor a mediator if there is a dispute over an item or payment. There are no restrictions as to what a member may post to sell, so perhaps it's time to clear out that garage, back room, attic, etc. You can even announce a garage sale if you want to get rid of a lot of stuff!

To join the group, click or enter this URL into your browser:

http://groups.google.com/group/cfcs_for-sale_wanted?hl=en

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 conjointly 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 it meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month,* by invitation. To register go to <https://apcug.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/event.pl> Choose Virtual Photo SIG June 2013. * **The Virtual Digital Photo SIG is on hiatus and will return in February 2014.**

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.

*** except next month, when it will meet on Thursday, Dec. 19, because of a conflict with Santa Claus.**

There will also be no BUSSLINE during December.

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 64 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](http://www.cfcs.org) and the Florida Macintosh Users Group [http:// www.flmug.com](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](#).

You are invited to the Annual FLMUG December Party!

Join us on Thursday, December 12, for the annual FLMUG December Party!

This year's party, held at the usual place (ScanDesign, 999 Douglas Avenue, Altamonte Springs), will feature lots of good food, good company, and plenty of door prizes.

As usual, we'll invite members from various computer/tech groups in the area, such as InDesign, Windows (CFCS), MacLegal (our host!), Linux and iOS. The event is potluck, so check the alphabetical guide to see what you should bring.

The party starts at 7:00 pm, but show up as early as 6:30 to get your food and a good seat.

See you there!

A-D Side Dish (Vegetable)

E-G Main Dish*

H-L Dessert

M-O Main Dish*

P-Z Salad (Green or Pasta)

***If you bring a vegetarian dish, please mark it as such. When you RSVP, indicate what you will bring. Thanks. (eMail Arvin by Dec. 5 if you plan to go, so he can give them a count of our members.)**

president@cfcs.org

Scan Design

999 Douglas Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL (map)

Take the elevator to the third floor. If you walk up the staircase, just go up one level, since the ground floor is the second floor. Text Mark at [masked].



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 (with discounts for CFCS members!). You can reach him at smwallner@gmail.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! or look for it on the CFCS Website if it is not in the BUSSLINE. This particular one has some changes, so please read carefully.

Regarding your bringing items to either the General Meeting or my own SIG for me to get to a recycler, that is unfortunately a thing of the past.

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 work or 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. 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 IV computers or faster. They don't have to work. We can fix them.

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

Address: PO Box 520084,
Longwood, FL 32752

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 same by e-mail to treasurer@cfcs.org.

- ☐ 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 8.
- ☐ Mice, keyboards and speakers and video, network and sound cards.
- ☐ Hard Drives greater than 40 GB (We will SECURELY CLEAN all HDs)
- ☐ CD/RW and DVD/RW Drives
- ☐ Memory DDR2 & 3, 256 MB or above
- ☐ Microsoft Office software
- ☐ Cash (any denomination!)

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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
PO Box 520084, Longwood, FL 32752

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.

This issue was created using Microsoft Office 2003 and MS Publisher 2003 Edition. ☐

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Proofreader: CFCS BoD	
Distrib:	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

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

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 us at 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 ; which is greatly appreciated! They offer 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, Mon. through Fri.. 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 both items that DO and DO NOT work, they also 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.alassets.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 exceptions 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 large quantity of items. 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 any of the 3 Refresh Computer Stores. Locations are found on the Refresh web site at <http://refreshcomputers.net/>. No appointment/phone

2013 FACUG Computer User Group Cruise

Royal Caribbean's 5-Star Independence of the Seas

Saturday, December 7 - Sunday, December 15, 2013

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 STILL OPEN

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

call is needed for these small drop offs.

2) Best Buy Stores - NEW INFO! All local stores; no need to contact them first. All items above; all at NO CHARGE, limited to three items per visit. **There are no longer ANY exceptions for CRT Monitors or TV's. There no longer is any maximum size, or fee!**

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/> 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; , Florida 32750

HOURS: - Saturday, :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. Seminole County's Solid Waste Management Division Customer Service Team at 407-665-2260 for more information.

5) 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.) are details on the locations.

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

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

Windows 8 Needs a Touchscreen

By Hewie Poplock



Love it or hate it, Windows 8 is here. If you are buying a new computer, especially a notebook PC, it will come with Windows 8 or 8.1. Unless you purchase an all in one desktop, you probably will not get a touchscreen monitor for a desktop. Without a touchscreen, Windows 8 is not much better than using Windows 7. Yes, there are some security benefits and other upgrades, but as an end user, you will be using it just like you would use Windows 7.

Touchscreens for the desktop computer are not cheap. Many are \$270 - \$900, but a few small screens (15") are available for about \$150 and there are many very large screens for tens of thousands of dollars.

I have seen some all in one desktop computers with touchscreens in the \$700-\$1300 range. Most laptops with touchscreens are available in that same \$700-\$1300

range. When looking for a laptop there are several things to consider besides the price. If price is your first consideration, be careful that you are getting a touchscreen. Most of the deals I have been seeing look enticing, until I realized that they are not touchscreens.

Do not consider purchasing a laptop/notebook without a touchscreen, unless it does not have windows 8 or above and you do not ever plan to move past Windows 7. Other than that, the touchscreen is a must on a laptop. After that look at the other specs. Determine what you are going to use the computer for. That will be the basis as to the CPU that you choose, memory, hard drive storage, whether you get a SATA hard drive, and SSD drive, or a combo setup. The cheaper systems usually have minimum specs or below. A new laptop or desktop should have at least 1 USB 3.0 input.

There are many great deals for laptops, but if an advertisement does not say it is a touchscreen, it isn't. I recently purchased a refurbished laptop that I am very happy with. Purchasing a refurb has some considerations. Usually the warranty for those units are quite limited and may only be 30 or 90 days. The one that I purchased has almost a year left on the warranty. If you use an American Express or Discover credit card, you probably have an extended warranty through the credit card. It's worth checking. Many times they give an additional warranty time of double the original up to a year.

Purchasing an extended warranty negates any savings by purchasing a refurbished unit and can be expensive, so I never purchase that insurance, which is a big profit center for the salesperson and the store.

Switching to using the touchscreen instead of the mouse has been a challenge on my laptop. However, using the touchscreen makes it so much easier to use.



Have a Blast!

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY EMAIL!
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!



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.

Musings by Stan

by Stan Wallner,
CFCS President Emeritus



A Couple of Health-related Issues!

A) A new, EASY Site for Insurance Info & ORDERS That WORKS!!

Gary Bigel sent me this email. I was very impressed at how efficient and easy to that it is to use. Gary agreed to let me publish it here. I've since made some changes - "Try it and you will be very AMAZED that it will let compare plans and costs if you need to make a change in Insurance Plans or were dropped by your current insurance company, as some 3.5 Million people have been! AND, this WORKS - you can compare and actually buy through references provided - NO EXCHANGE NEEDED! Again, feel free to pass this along to anyone, specially younger folks you know ...

I do not know why the government does not use a front end like this site to solve the existing Insurance Exchange website problems they are now experiencing.

This site works just fine in determining Health Insurance Options by Age and Zip Code! You do **NOT** need to supply any personal data

to access the site. It does not ask for name, address, social security number, bank account info, etc. You can input any age, family size, and annual income you desire to test its results. Results will include any subsidies that are available at the income level you used. Rates and Contact Phone Numbers for the insurance companies are provided. Try it and you will be impressed! www.thehealthsherpa.com

B) FREE Hearing Aids From FL State Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation (If You Qualify)

I know at least 6 people who've gotten free hearing aids through them over the years, including me; someone else tipped me off to this, so I am just passing it along. It might be useful if you do not have a 'spare' \$5,000 or \$6,000 laying around. DO feel feel to share this info with anyone you think could use.

As far as I know, there are no age limits, either way; as I understand it, you just have to be both a) employed, employable, and /or looking; and b) not retired.

The theory, I'm told, that it is cheaper for the state to pay for these than to pay for unemployment. You'll have to convince them that having the hearing aids will help you keep or get a job... I do not think there are any real income level requirements.

The process now starts with an orientation. Here is the info for Seminole County where one is held every Tues & Thurs at 8:45 am at their Casselberry Office, no appointment or phone call needed, just show up:

917 Semoran Blvd. Unit 12B - Indian Hills Plaza Casselberry, FL

32707-5632

Phone: (407) 262-7428.

I'm sure it's different for other counties - here is the link for their addresses and phone #'s:

http://www.rehabworks.org/office_directory.shtml

You'll have to fill out a 2 or 3 page form, and do an interview. IF they approve you (and it may take months), THEN you contact a hearing aid provider who accepts and works with Voc Rehab. I am not sure they all do. All of the costs, both for the equipment, fitting, etc., are then covered by the State.

The chap and provider I'm really happy to recommend is Ed Pitre at Harmony Hearing Centers of America 715 Douglas Avenue (ONE SENIOR PLACE) Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 407-949-6737 EPitre@fixmyhearing.com)

He recently did an exceptional job of programming and helping me get a pair of 'inherited' but orphan set of aids that no-one else wanted to touch for me (not Voc. Rehab.), but at a reasonable cost. Harmony has been around for a while, is expanding, with 6 local offices - fixmyhearing.com for their locations, etc. I get nothing for this recommendation, but please do mention my name if you call them. Do not bother at Voc. Rehab. - they have no idea who I am.

Call or email me if any more info needed.

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 (with discounts for CFCS members!). You can reach him at smwallner@gmail.com or 407-862-2669.



Sanford store is located at 1617 WP Ball Blvd. in the Marketplace of Seminole Town Center (407-688-7627). Near Target; between Bright Now Dental & Firehouse Subs

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 non-sale items for CFCS members, and 10% on service for CFCS members

Recover Deleted Files From Most Media

by Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-data-recovery-file-undelete-utility.htm>

<http://www.piriform.com/recuva>

<http://www.powerdatarecovery.com>

<http://www.cgsecurity.org/wiki/TestDisk>

<http://4r-soft.com/undelete-navigator/>

<http://www.pandorarecovery.com/download/>

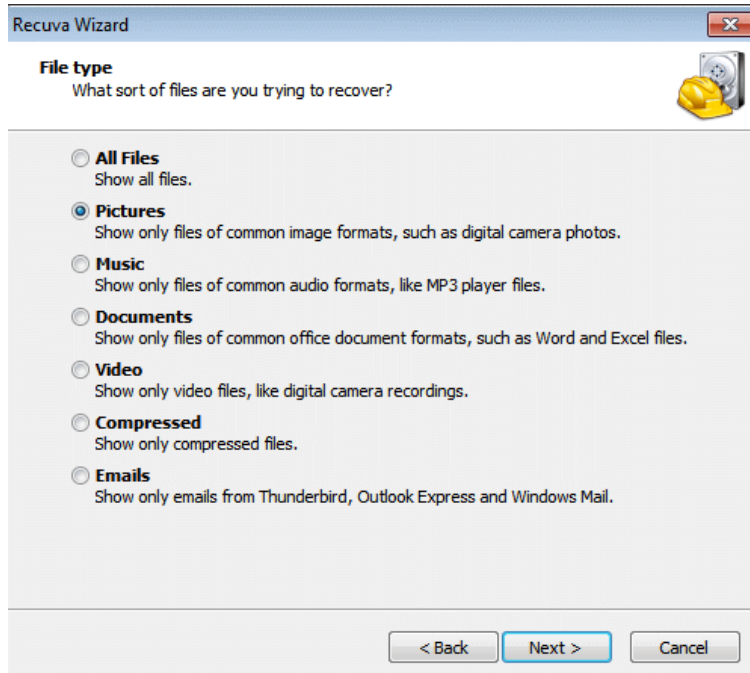
<http://seriousbit.com/undeletemyfiles/>

<http://www.undelete360.com>

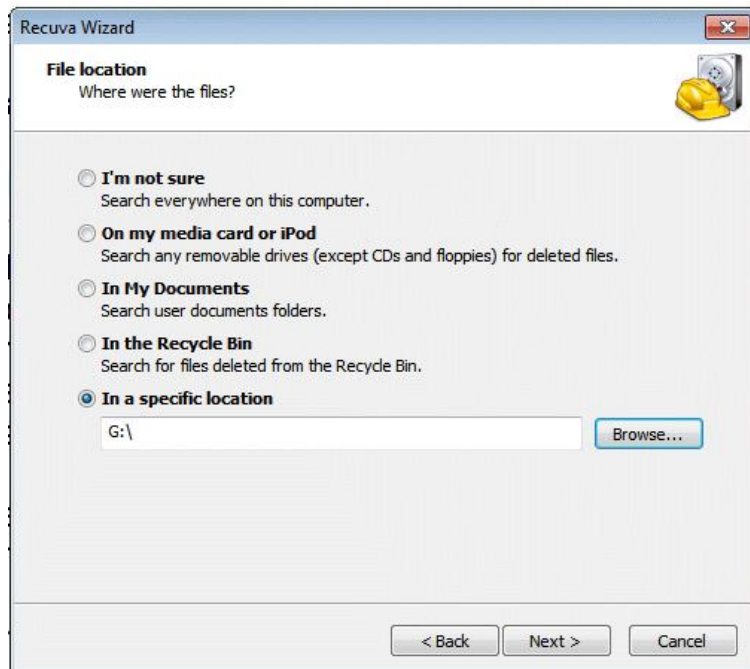
<http://www.ubcd4win.com>

As happens all too often, I get a frantic phone call for help from someone who has a dire computer problem. Recently these desperate calls for help involved computers hijacked by Russian extortionists, malware infested computers, computers failing to boot, and a myriad of other problems. Last Friday, I received a call from a highly distressed reader who had accidentally deleted photos of her granddaughter's birthday party from her digital camera. "They were just simply gone" she cried to me. She explained that while reviewing the images stored on the memory card using the camera display, she "... must have pressed the wrong button..." and deleted the photos. "Are they gone forever?" she asked.

Her problem, accidentally deleting files from a hard drive, flash drive, or memory card is amazingly common. Often embarrassed by our own foibles, we may prefer to either quietly suffer the consequences, or try and do something to recover the deleted files. In her case, once she calmed down enough to follow spoken instructions, I walked her through the process. Over the phone, I instructed her to download one of my favorite free recovery utilities, Recuva (www.piriform.com/recuva), and install it on her computer. Since the lost files were on a memory card in her digital camera, and not on her hard drive, there was no risk of accidentally overwriting the files that she wanted to recover. Connecting her digital camera to the computer via its provided USB cable, her computer identified the memory card as a drive, assigned the memory card a drive letter (G: in her case), which allowed her to view it in Windows Explorer (or any other file manager). She ran Recuva, and I told her to click on "Next" a few times until she got to a window

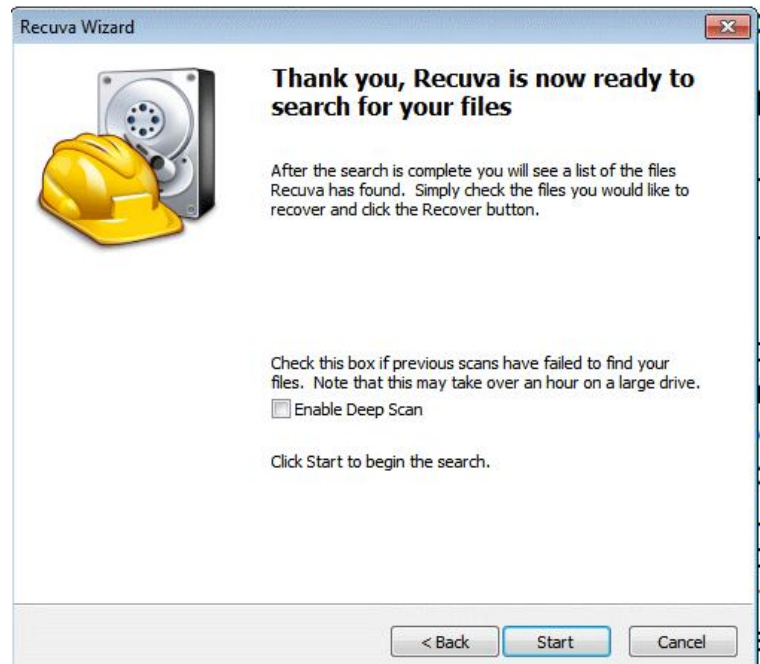


headed "File Types" and suggested that she click on "Pictures"; clicking again on "Next" opened a window "File Location", where I instructed her to click on "Browse" and then select the "G:" for her camera memory card. The next window started the search, which in



a matter of seconds displayed the filenames of her deleted photos, with an adjacent checkbox to select those she wanted to recover. If she moved her cursor over the photo file name, a popup displayed the size of the file, and the likelihood of a successful recovery; since she had not overwritten any of the photos with additional photos, as they had been freshly deleted, Recuva labeled each of the photos as having an excellent chance of recovery. She checked all of the checkboxes, and clicked

the "Recover" button. Recuva recommends that deleted files not be re-written to the same device that they were originally deleted from, so she selected a directory on her hard drive as a destination, rather than possibly overwriting deleted files on the original media. Within just a few seconds, all of her precious grandbaby photos were recovered, along with an admonishment from me to back up all of her critical photos and other files. After copiously repeated thank you's, she had her precious photos back. Total elapsed time from my answering her



phone call to hanging up on a now happy grandmother was under five minutes.

While Recuva may be one of the most popular deleted file recovery tools available, and generally has an excellent reputation and reviews, it is not the only decent deleted file recovery utility available. The mega-software review website, Gizmo's TechSupportAlert.com has several reviews and recommendations for file recovery utilities at techsupportalert.com/best-free-data-recovery-file-undelete-utility.htm. While all of the recovery utilities listed can be downloaded for free to PCs (one of the top rated utilities has limited recovery capabilities in the free version, but unlimited recovery in the paid version), some offer additional versions for specialized purposes. Since there is a risk of overwriting desired deleted files on a hard drive, making them difficult or impossible to recover, I often recommend downloading and installing the portable version of a file recovery utility to a flash drive or bootable CD, rather than installing it to the hard drive. If the deleted files are on another device, such as the digital camera example above, there is no significant risk installing the utility to the hard drive.

Piriform

For Home For Business Download Support Partner Company

Home Products **Recuva**

Recuva
File Recovery

Accidentally deleted an important file? Lost something important when your computer crashed? No problem! Recuva recovers files deleted from your Windows computer, Recycle Bin, digital camera card, or MP3 player. And it's free!

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Products

- CCleaner
- CCleaner Network Edition
- Defraggler
- Recuva
- Speccy

Email Newsletter

When installed to, and run from a flash drive or CD, there should be nothing written to the hard drive, which may hinder the recovery of the deleted files. As a matter of personal practice, when I run Recuva or another file recovery utility from a USB flash drive, I select that USB drive as the destination for the recovered files, so as not to possibly damage any original files. For heavy duty recovery of a hard drive that has had a large number of deleted files that may need to be recovered, my choice is to use a bootable CD, rather than booting the computer into Windows; Windows constantly writes files to the hard drive, and not loading Windows may enhance the probability of recovering deleted files. The free bootable CD utility from Ultimate Boot CD for Windows (ubcd4win.com) includes a version of Recuva that can recover most recoverable deleted files from a hard drive without risking overwriting them.

Some of the many other free deleted file recovery utilities, all of which offer varying degrees of strength and power, include Gizmo's top rated MiniTool Power Data Recovery Free Edition (powerdatarecovery.com).

MiniTool® Power Data Recovery 6.8
User-friendly yet free Windows data recovery software

Over one million users

[BUY NOW](#) [DOWNLOAD](#)

MiniTool® Power Data Recovery Free Edition - Free to recover 1 GB data

Enhanced scan & recovery data engine with automatic error correction. **ADP**

The newly-upgraded Power Data Recovery 6.8 is added with support for dozens of RAW file types including *.mkv, *.3g2, *.wv, *.wrf, *.pps, *.dps and 4096-byte-sector-based hard drive. Unlike other data recovery software, MiniTool Power Data Recovery is an all in one data recovery software for home and business users. It can recover deleted data from the Windows Recycle Bin, restore lost data, even if the partition is formatted or deleted, restore data from a corrupted hard drive, virus infection, unexpected system shutdown or software failure. It supports IDE, SATA, SCSI, USB hard disk, memory card, USB flash drive, CD/DVD, Blue-Ray Disk and iPod. MiniTool Power Data Recovery contains five data recovery modules - Undelete Recovery, Damaged Partition Recovery, Lost Partition Recovery, Digital Media Recovery and CD & DVD Recovery. Each data recovery module focuses on a different data loss scenario.

[How to recover deleted files from FAT32 partition?](#)

MiniTool Power Data Recovery

5 Star Rating:

★★★★★



Gizmo's Freeware award as the best product in its class!

- Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Very intuitive interface, great recovery times, best recovery ratio.
- Free to recover 1 GB data
- <http://www.powerdatarecovery.com/>
- <http://www.powerdatarecovery.com/download.html>
- 6.6 5.60 MB 32 bit but 64 bit compatible
- Feature limited freeware
- A portable version of this product is available but not from the developer.
- 486 or Pentium-class processor IDE/SATA/SCSI hard drive 64MB RAM (128 MB recommended) Windows 2000/XP/2003/Vista/2008/7/8 100 MB of free space A second hard disk is recommended for recovery. Supports all the 64bit Windows.

Recuva

5 Star Rating:

★★★★★

- Runs as a stand-alone program on a user's computer
- Easy to use interface, good recovery times.
- Lacking some features available to Mini Tool.
- <http://www.piriform.com/recuva>
- <http://www.piriform.com/recuva/download>
- 1.47.948 3.64 MB 32 bit but 64 bit compatible
- Unrestricted freeware

Though awarded as "Gizmo's Freeware award as the best product in its class!", as it is very fast, and has the highest recovery rate of any of the products tested by Gizmo's group of volunteer testers, the free version of MiniTool Power Data Recovery can only recover 1 GB data, which is normally enough for most users. Those who choose to use this utility to recover more than 1 GB of data will have to purchase the commercial version for \$69.

Ranked number two on Gizmo's list of tested and recommended file recovery software is Recuva, as mentioned above. Recuva is unrestricted freeware, and can recover an unlimited number of files. In addition to the PC downloadable version, as mentioned above, Recuva is also available in a free portable version that can be run from a USB flash drive, or from a bootable CD as part of the included suite of utilities on the free Ultimate Boot CD for Windows.

There are also several other free undelete utilities available which were not included in the Gizmo ratings, but have received top ratings from other online services. One particularly noteworthy is Pandora Recovery (pandorarecovery.com), which was top rated and recommended by another service that I routinely follow, MakeUseOf.com. I have used Pandora Recovery many times and it works very well on all of the media types that contained deleted files. Pandora Recovery would be a worthwhile addition to any software library.

(Continued on page 13)

Another utility for recovering deleted files that has been well regarded in several of the technical blogs is UndeleteMyFiles Pro (seriousbit.com/undeletemyfiles), which calls itself, " ... a free professional <sic> tool to recover accidentally deleted files from hard disks, USB flash drives, CF and SD cards and other storage media. Free - Absolutely free, no joke." A full featured recovery utility, UndeleteMyFiles Pro offers a File Rescue Wizard, Media Recovery, Deleted File Search, Files Wiper, and a Mail Recovery Wizard. While the program itself works well, some of the English spelling and grammar used in the program is not up to domestic standards, as the program was written in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

UndeleteMyFiles Pro

UndeleteMyFiles Pro is a **free** professional tool to recover accidentally deleted files from hard disks, USB flash drives, CF and SD cards and other storage media.

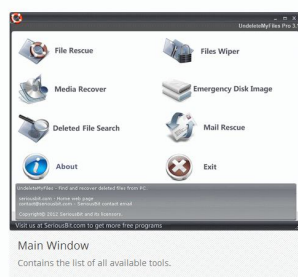
Restore Your Deleted Files For Free

UndeleteMyFiles is a quick and easy way to find and recover deleted media and digital devices. It employs a simplified two-step process that enables you recover any files that used to reside on your system.

Features:

- > File Rescue Wizard - a quick and easy way to find and recover deleted files.
- > Media Recover - Recover media files in a couple of easy steps.
- > Deleted File Search - Specialized filters that allow you to find specific deleted information.
- > Files Wiper - Allows you to delete any files permanently without any chances of recovery.
- > Mail Rescue - Mail Recovery Wizard.
- > Free - Absolutely free, no joke.

Download v3.1.0, 1.3 MB



For those who like variety, another popular and free recovery program is Undelete 360 (undelete360.com). According to the publisher, "Undelete 360 can recover files deleted from computer hard drives, USB/thumb drives and memory sticks, the memory cards used in cameras, smart phones, and other devices, pen drives, and more. The program supports both file recovery and folder recovery." With a small but loyal following, Undelete 360 is the utility of choice to recover files and entire folders that were deleted. A program written in Russia, where it

is a top-rated utility, this program is also popular in Europe as well.

There are still several other decent and free deleted file recovery utilities available, and a search on any of the many download services will result in lists of them, often along with a review and some user commentary and ratings. As with most other utilities, I have found that if one utility is unable to recover targeted files, that sometimes another utility may be able to complete the task.

Apps for Windows 8: What can they do for me?

By Phil Sorrentino, Past President,
Sarasota PC Users Group, FL
July 2013 issue, PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
philsorr@yahoo.com

Apps are what make Mobile devices -tablets and phones- so useful. So, what Apps should I have on my mobile device? Well, Microsoft has provided a starter set of Apps, at least for its tablets and laptops, as part of Windows 8. It is a basic set that allows a (new) user to immediately start taking advantage of their mobile device. Most of these Apps are general in nature, but other Apps, more specific to a task, are available (mostly for free) at the Microsoft Apps store. All of the Apps that you have heard of are there for the taking (downloading): Skype, Netflix, Angry Birds, SugarSync, etc.

Here is the collection of Apps that come with Windows 8, in a list prioritized by my particular feeling of usefulness. The first three may be all you will ever use.

Desktop - This tile, or App, gets you to Windows, as you knew it. All of the Windows 7 capabilities

(with the exception of the old “Start” button) that you are comfortable with are here. If this is all you’re looking for, click here and never come back.

Internet Explorer - A portal to the Internet, though the User Interface is a little different than you are used to. But, if all you want to do is surf the web, this can get the job done.

Store - This App connects you to the Microsoft Store where you can download all the Apps (and some other software programs) that can run on Windows 8.

The next few Apps are certainly useful, but you might find other Apps at the “Store” to satisfy your particular needs.

Calendar - A very simple calendar App to help you schedule and keep track of events.

Maps - A great way to view your surrounding geography. Input an address or point of interest and see it plotted on a map, with turn-by-turn directions, if needed.

SkyDrive - An App that connects you to Microsoft’s portion of the “cloud.” It provides 7GB of free on-line storage. It can be a central location for files you want to access from any of your computers and/or a good place to backup your important files. It can also be used to allow you to share big files with others.

Mail - A very basic Mail App that allows you to send and read your mail.

Messaging - An App that allows you to chat with your friends. If your friends use a different chat network, you’ll probably want to download an App specifically for that network.

Photos - An App that helps organize and view all of your pictures. It collects and organizes pictures from folders and from the on-board camera.

Music - An App that lets you collect, organize, and listen to your favorite music. Music will also let you stream music for free. It also lets you get to Microsoft’s new “Xbox Music” service.

(“Xbox”, seemingly, has nothing to do with the Xbox gaming system.)

Video - This App helps organize, and allows you to view, all your videos. It also provides an entrance to Microsoft’s TV and movie stores.

Bing - Microsoft’s search capability. Try to “Bing” something; if it’s out there, Bing can find it. “Bing it on.”

People - An App that provides a centralized Address Book for all of your cyber social acquaintances. A centralized place to keep all those email addresses, mailing addresses, social media names, phone numbers, and pictures.

Weather - This App provides a color weather map, including a five-day or hour-by-hour forecast for your location or a location of your choosing.

Finance - A “Finance News” App that includes stock market activity and financial news that can be customized to your own portfolio.

News - A News App that includes Sports, Finance, and Travel. This App combines articles from many websites like The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. It scrolls horizontally and feels much like a newspaper.

Sports - A Sports magazine App that includes sports articles from many news sources.

Travel - A Travel magazine App. Travel articles from many news sources and pictures of Featured Destinations.

Games - An App that connects you to Microsoft’s “Xbox Games on Windows” store.

Camera - An App to control the onboard camera. Good for video chats and creating photos for sharing.

The 20 Apps that are included can give a new Windows user a good idea of what Apps are, what they can accomplish, and how to basically control them. Smartphone and tablet users are probably more familiar with the whole App concept. Once you are familiar with the idea of Apps, you will probably want to go to the Microsoft App Store and get (install) Apps that might help you take advantage of your mobile device. When you get to the App store you will find that there are many categories and there are many Apps in each of those categories. Because computer software (read that as Desktop) has been around for almost 30 years, there are established standards like Microsoft Office for Office applications, Adobe Photoshop for photo activities, Acronis for backup, and Adobe for PDF readers. The world of Apps is very new and standards are only now being established. So, it is hard to put together a list of App stan-

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dards, but from my recent experience let me leave you with a short list of some very good, free Apps to add to your collection. You might want to give some of them a try. To get to these Apps, click on the “Store” App on the start screen and you will be greeted by a display of Available Apps. Websites change, frequently, so things might be a little different by the time you read this, but currently, there are suggestions for “Top Paid”, “Top Free”, and “New Releases”. Click on the category of your choice (Games, Entertainment, Photo, Sports, etc.) and see the available Apps.

A click on “Spotlight-Top Free” yields a list of the Spotlitged top 100 free Apps. In the list you will find:

Skype- for video chatting

YouTube player- for watching YouTube videos

Netflix- for Movie streaming (if you have an account)

Yahoo Mail- for Yahoo mail accounts

CNN- for news and weather

Google Search –if you prefer Google to Bing

Microsoft Solitaire Collection- for Solitaire enthusiasts.

In addition to the Apps that are included in the major categories, you can also search for a particular App. This is done using the Search feature that is part of the Charms bar. To get to the Charms bar, click in the lower right corner of the screen. Search is the top icon, the one that looks like the magnifying glass. Click on it, and then type in the name of the App you are looking for. This will result in a search of the “Store” Apps. When, or if, you see the App listed, click on it and it will be available for installation. You might want to try the following Apps:

Evernote- for note taking

IMDB- for movie and TV information and

Dropbox- for an additional storage location in the cloud.

Microsoft’s Store is a lot newer than the Google Playstore (Android) or the Apple iTunes store (iOS). If you are familiar with an App from either of those stores, you may find that that App is not available at the Microsoft store, yet. Check back in the future, it might be available then. Microsoft’s App developers have had less time to create versions that work on the Windows 8 platform, but I’m sure they are working on them.

As you can see, Apps cover a lot of territory and can help you accomplish many things, from simple note tak-

ing to video chatting, and video entertainment. Apps turn your computer into all the things you expect from a modern digital programmable computer- your home PC.

CD-R and DVD+–R Longevity: How Long Will They Last?

By John Langill, Newsletter Editor, Southern Tier Personal Computing Club, NY

August 2013 issue, Rare Bits

jlangil1@stny.rr.com

Although there are today many data storage alternatives, I’m sure that there are many such as me who in the past stored various kinds of information on optical media, CD-Rs in particular. To cite just two examples; I have scanned hundreds of family slides, organized the digital images, and saved them on CD-Rs. Similarly, I did the same with several hundred of digital photos from my two-month visit with my son and daughter-in-law in Australia in 2003. The purpose of doing so was to have a convenient form in which archive the digital images and to share them with other members of the family; while at the same time conserving space on the hard-disk—then a more precious commodity than it is today.

Thinking back 10 or more years, one may recall that a single CD-R then offered a relatively large data storage capacity in a form that could be easily and inexpensively mailed anywhere in the world—something that could not be accomplished via the Internet or with other “portable” media at the time.

While acknowledging that the images stored on these CD-Rs—and others even older—could now be transcribed to another medium, I confess that I’m reluctant to devote the time and effort to doing so at this point. Accordingly, the durability and life-expectancy of the CD-Rs that I created 10, 20, and even 30 years ago, has become an increasing concern.

In the early ‘90s when the first CD-R discs were introduced manufacturers said the media had a data life in excess of 40 years. In the late ‘90s when the first DVD-R discs appeared on the scene producers proclaimed a data life of at least 100 years. However, in the time since their introduction it has been discovered that these early discs are susceptible to media “rot” (i.e., “bit rot”) that can eat your information—audio, video, or data—in as little as two years after it is written. (According to

(Continued from page 15)

research fairly recently conducted by J. Perdereau, CD-Rs may have an average life expectancy of not more than 10 years—*Journal de 20 Heures*, March 2008.)

Because CD-R and DVD+R media is used to archive nearly everything today, it does make one worry; especially if these discs are the only repository in which your precious, and irreplaceable, family memories—photos and movies—as well as vital family, personal, and company data/documents are stored.

So where does the truth lie? Somewhere across the complete spectrum.

Most people who successfully burn a disc believe they have quality media. Unfortunately that only tells you the disc will be compatible (able to be played) in the vast majority of CD or DVD players. More importantly all better quality CD and DVD burners include technology called over burn/under burn protection making “coaster production” a thing of the past. The basic construction of both disc technologies enable you to burn your data in a very precise, very controlled manner.

Test Options

There are only two foolproof ways of proving the data life of the discs you use:

- Write a few CD-Rs or DVD+Rs, then wait about 25-50 years and check if they still hold the correct data.

- Use a CD/DVD analyzer that is specially designed to retrieve very accurate information about your media and your data after accelerated aging in test chambers where the discs are subjected to excessive temperature and humidity tests.

The first is typically impractical. Nonetheless, from personal experience I can attest to the fact that the first CD-R I ever burned—selections from a vinyl LP album—plays just fine and the music still sounds great 25 years later. However, I have also had some CD-Rs become unplayable in just a matter of months. Fortunately, such occurrences have been few.

The second provides only theoretical limits and doesn't take into consideration how you use, handle, and store the media. However, even assuming proper handling, temperature and humidity can adversely affect the data-life of even quality media.

Between the CD-R discs produced in the early 1980s and today's double-layer DVD+R discs there has been

considerable progress in write performance, capacity, quality, and cost.

Following the test procedures of the International Standards Organization (ISO), quality media manufacturers have been able to predict data-life spans ranging from 50-200 years. But keep in mind there are wide differences between low-budget media manufacturers and quality media manufacturers. In addition variations in manufacturing methods, materials and processes/procedures can dramatically affect the data life of the media you use.

Or as auto manufacturers like to say... “Your mileage may vary.”

Understanding Your Discs

It isn't vital that you understand the construction of CD-R or DVD+R media to produce a quality disc that can be read years from now any more than you need to understand the internal combustion engine to drive a car. But understanding the difference between quality and cheap media may help you avoid losing family photos or videos later on.

Most people consider DVD+R discs little more than overgrown CD-Rs but, while they are similar, they are also quite different. In particular, the grooves are narrower and more closely spaced and the structure (pattern) of “pits” and

“lands” is very much smaller with a DVD+R in order to enable a greater data storage capacity. Precision is very critical.

Writable CD-R and DVD+R discs start with a piece of polycarbonate substrate into which very precise grooves are molded to guide the tracking of the laser beam. A dye layer is then precisely applied to the substrate followed by a reflective layer and one or more protective layers. A few of the leading media manufacturers have initiated the policy of applying two very resistant layers for added data protection when the discs are used, handled, and stored.

Because of the faster read/write performance users now expect, leading manufacturers have developed new stamper technology for optimum groove (storage area) shape and ultra-precise molding technology. The molding is critical when the media must withstand being rotated at extremely high speeds during the write process—up to 52x for CD-Rs, and 8x to 16x for DVD+Rs. The engineering margin that was once reserved for

manufacturing tolerance has been used for data capacity instead, leaving no tolerance for manufacturing; for these discs to be truly compliant with the Orange Book standard, the manufacturing process must be perfect.

Media Problems

The quality of your media is directly related with the time the media will last without losing information. As you can see there are a number of areas where manufacturers can shave a few cents in the overall cost of the media and areas where production can go amiss to dramatically shorten the data life of your stored information.

There are conflicting claims and consumer beliefs on which media is best for data retention of 30, 50, 100 years—green, gold, or blue dye; and gold or silver reflective layer. It is somewhat immaterial today. Manufacturers of quality writable discs have developed significantly improved, more sensitive and more stable dyes, and better reflective materials that virtually eliminate data loss during high-speed read/write processes and enhance long-term reliability.

CD and DVD rot (i.e., bit rot) is not the problem today that it was with earlier LaserDiscs because the media use different dye technologies to store data and make it much less susceptible to that kind of degradation. The truth is that deterioration arising from delamination and oxidation is the greater problem.

Delamination and oxidation usually occur at the outer edge of the disc and are often the result of the adhesive not being properly applied and cured during the production process. This usually happens when price-oriented manufacturers use equipment that is 2 to 3 generations old and the least expensive materials possible.

When it does happen the laser is unable to read the data on the reflected layer. It is usually caused by:

- Oxidation when air comes in contact with the reflective layer
- Galvanic reaction between the layers and coatings
- Chemical reaction caused by impurities in the disc's adhesive or aluminum coating.
- Excessive heat and humidity are known to accelerate and exacerbate delamination and oxidation.

The Real Culprit

If you have purchased quality media from a quality manufacturer, you are still not assured of 50-100 years of data life! The greatest danger to the data longevity of your personal, family, and business information is you

alone; that is, by the way you handle and store your discs. The environment—temperature and humidity—can stress the materials. Gravity also can bend and stress the discs. Fingerprints and smudges can do more damage than scratches.

But by following a few Do's and Don'ts you can ensure your precious family and friend pictures, movies, family records, and business files have the maximum data life.

Do not

Touch the surface of the disc.

Bend the disc... especially when removing it from its case as this can cause a fine crack to develop at the rim of the hub-hole which will render the disk useless. This is a particular problem with DVDs.

Store discs horizontally for a long time (years).

Open a recordable optical disc package if you are not ready to record.

Expose discs to extreme heat or high humidity.

Expose discs to rapid temperature or humidity changes.

Expose recordable discs to prolonged sunlight or other sources of UV light.

Write or mark in the data area of the disc (the shiny side that the laser "reads").

Clean in a circular direction around the disc.

Do

Handle discs by the outer edge or the center hole.

Use a nonsolvent-based felt-tip permanent marker to mark the label side of the disc.

Keep dirt or other foreign matter from the disc.

Store discs upright (book style) in original jewel cases that are specified for CDs and DVDs.

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1) near UCF, 2) on 434 near 17/92, 3) in the Villages.
Details at refreshcomputers.net/

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Return discs to their jewel cases immediately after use. Because the label side is more delicate and susceptible to damage, I recommend storing any CD or DVD disc label-side down in its jewel case.

Leave discs in their spindle or jewel case to minimize the effects of environmental changes.

Remove protective wrap only when you are ready to record data on the disc.

Store in a cool, dry, dark environment in which the air is clean—relative humidity should be in the range 20% - 50% (RH) and temperature should be in the range 4°C - 20°C (approx. 40 to 70°F).

Remove dirt, foreign material, fingerprints, smudges, and liquids by wiping with a clean cotton fabric in a straight line from the center of the disc toward the outer edge.

Dampen the cloth with a lens cleaner to clean your discs. Dry with photo lens tissue. For tough problems use Windex or a similar glass cleaner, diluted dish detergent, or rubbing alcohol. Rinse and dry thoroughly with a lint-free cloth.

Check the disc surface BEFORE recording.

Reliable Medium

There is a lot of cheap CD-R and DVD+-R media that has marginal quality. For some applications like games, quality isn't critical. For irreplaceable, vital data like family photos, special events, vacations, and family/friends memories quality does matter. If you are backing up mission-critical data on your home or business computer, quality matters. Then it is important to select a brand of media that will keep your data safe, secure and available for years to come.

Quality and low prices just don't seem to mix!

The next step to long-term data reliability is to handle and store the media with the respect your data deserves.

Web Tracking Monitors our Every Move

Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

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Web tracking has gotten completely out of hand! The government is snooping on everything we do. On top of that, sharing of information between companies for ad-

vertising purposes has reached a level of alarming sophistication. Here's my story about what they do and how they do it.

Times have changed quickly in the Internet world. It used to be fun to visit a website and be presented with an ad about some new product or service that I found interesting. I fully realized that they chose what they presented to me by scanning the information that had been gathered about me from my previous Web searches and Web browsing, but it didn't really bother me.

Today, however, was an eye-opener for me. Today I realized just how invasive that Web tracking has become. This morning I looked at a skirt that was on sale at the J Jill website. During my browsing session I looked at the skirt several times.

Here's the eye-opener. That afternoon, I when I was doing some research, I was struck by the fact that the same skirt was featured in two prominent J Jill ads. These ads were on the Associated Press website, which had nothing to do with J Jill or with clothing.

In my morning shopping I also looked at some Web services. In the afternoon, I was shown ads for one of the Web service that I had looked at in the morning. Of course, the Website that showed me the ads had nothing to do with Web hosting.

This all has to do with advertising and the sharing of information. When you visit a website that website knows your IP address. It also has a record of the web browser you used, the time of your visit and what you looked at. All shopping sites do this. Search engines like Google also keep track of this type of information. In addition, they track everything you search for. They can also see which website you visit when you leave their website. Search engines, including Google, retain this information for some time.

When we are on the Internet, we are constantly being categorized, identified, and targeted. All of the data from multiple visits and multiple searches is congregated to give a pretty good representation of who you are. On top of that this information is shared by all of the search engine or website's advertising, marketing, and tracking partners and affiliates. That is how the skirt that I was looking at showed up on a totally unrelated website.

All of this is done in the name of advertising and it follows the American way of advertising. Remember when television transmissions were totally free, supported

only by advertising? Well, although we pay for both the Internet service and the device that we use to access the Internet, many things on the Internet are free. These include programs and services like Internet browsers and search engines.

They offer us free stuff, but they either have direct ads or they have deals with others who are advertisers. They also use small, almost invisible single pixel graphic images called web beacons to scan computer and cookie log files to analyze people and to target purchasers. The information that they gather cannot identify us personally, but it can tell them a lot about our preferences, surfing habits, and purchasing behaviors.

I don't mind direct ads but unfortunately, the advertisers and their partners and affiliates have become more and more invasive. Technology is being used to predict and to affect consumer behavior. A few years ago, when a website said, "Welcome back Sandy", it felt comforting to have the site recognize me. Now, however, the targeting is becoming so accurate that it feels artificial, intrusive, and even a bit eerie.

Add that to the fact that the American government has been gathering the telephone and Internet records of millions of citizens, and you will agree that WE HAVE A REAL PROBLEM!!

What I Would Change If I Were In Charge

**By Jim Cerny, Director,
Sarasota PC Users Group, FL
July 2013 issue, PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
jimcerny123@gmail.com**

Yes I am a big fan of technology. I enjoy it. To me, my computer devices (including my tablet and phone) and the things they can do for me are totally amazing. Computers are also very complex. I believe the day has long past when one person can know everything about them. I certainly am not anywhere close to that. But having used computers for a number of years, I am still totally amazed at some of the design decisions that are made about these devices and the software (programs, apps) they use. Do the designers sit around a table and say "Ok, let's do it that way, the users will figure it out."? Does there ever seem a real reason why they do the things they do? Do they ever trial their designs with real

people like us?

I don't mean to be rude -- maybe just a bit amusing. Here is my "top ten" list of the things I would change if I were in charge:

10. Computer buttons on a device would be a different color from the rest of the device. I would like to be able to clearly see the buttons or switches, especially as the devices get smaller and smaller.

9. When I move or copy a file from one place to another, I would have a pop-up box appear that says "You have successfully moved (or copied) file X to folder Y." That way I could catch a mistake if I dropped it into the wrong folder. If other users are so confident that they would never move something to the wrong place, they could turn off this feature.

8. When updating software, I would keep the most-used commands in the same place in the window. For example, when updating an email program, I would not move the "write" command box from one side of the screen to the other, nor change its color from blue to red, nor change the word "write" to "compose" or "create."

7. I would have the "help" searches recognize the words most users would enter in the "help" search, not just the words the program designers decided to acknowledge. Maybe the software uses the term "font color", but some people may search help for "letter color" or "text color."

6. Finding seldom used commands or options should be easier to find and not removed out of sight because I haven't used them lately.

5. All companies that take my money should have a live person whom I can talk to on the phone in a reasonable time.

4. Companies which use an automatic answering system (a computer voice that answers the phone and asks you questions, also known as a "phone robot") MUST make their own management employees call their own number and go through the same "telephone tree" that their customers go through. And they should all do it at least once every three months because they must "please listen carefully as our options have changed!"

3. If I give an answer to a telephone answering robot, I should not have to answer the same question again from a real person who finally gets on the line to help me.

2. When writing a new version of software, I would initially make it look like the old version and gradually help the user transition and learn as they use the new version.

And now (drum roll please) my number 1 thing I would change:

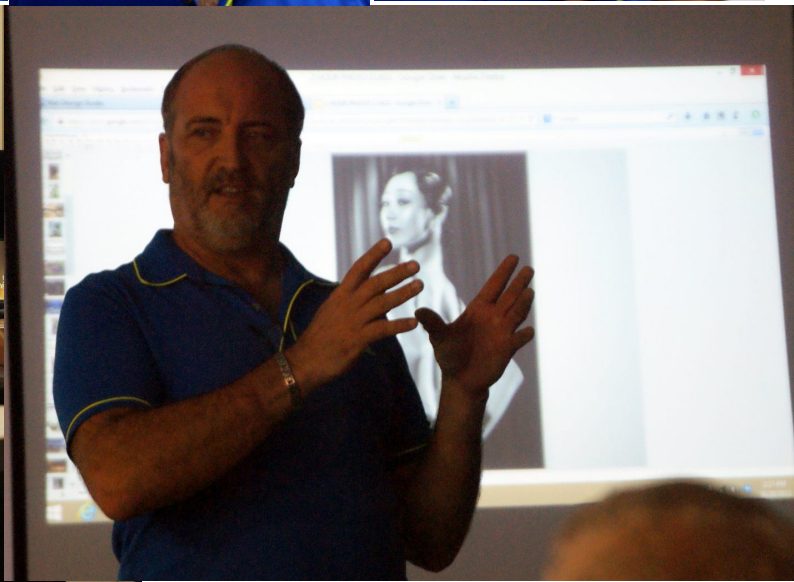
1. Company employees who finally help me on the phone should be knowledgeable of their own company's web page and the information on it! Yes, be-

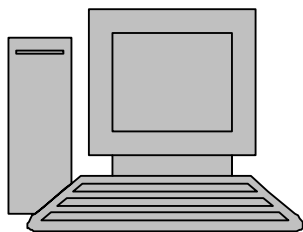
lieve it or not, you can constantly negotiate totally different deals and prices in person, on the phone, and on the Internet – all with the same company.

Well, I guess no world is perfect. And I am sure you have your “top ten” list too. If any of you get a call from a company asking for your opinion on any of these things, please let me know. For some reason no one calls and asks me. Maybe it's because of my “telephone tree” answering message they have to listen to first.

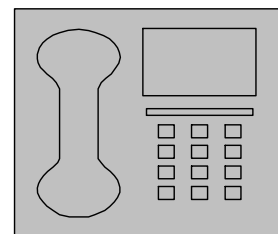
October 2013 General Meeting







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

MS Office Products:

MS Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook and Access

Doug Gabbard (e-mail only)

Dougga@gmail.com

Security

Arvin Meyer 407-327-3810

Access-sig@cfcs.org

Networking - Home or Office

Doug Gabbard e-mail only

Dougga@gmail.com

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

kris.hestad@surfdogs.com

WinZip

Arvin Meyer 407-327-3810

Access-sig@cfcs.org

Wireless Routers

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
at Jackson Hewitt General Meeting Windows SIG 12:30p ■ Win SIG 2p ■ General Mtg	1505 E. Colonial 7p ■ iPhone SIG		Details at cfcs.org 7p Virtual Photo SIG CANCELLED		November 2013	

24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Casselberry Denny's 7p Tech-SIG				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 1 DEADLINE for Newsletter copy	2	3	4 Casselberry Denny's 7p BoD meeting	5	6	7

December 2013

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Office, Access, Security SIGs 7p ■ New Horizons CANCELLED			

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
at Jackson Hewitt General Meeting Windows SIG 12:30p ■ Win SIG 2p ■ General Mtg	1505 E. Colonial 7p ■ iPhone SIG		Details at cfcs.org 7p Virtual Photo SIG CANCELLED	This month only Casselberry Denny's 7p Tech-SIG		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	Jan 1 DEADLINE for Newsletter copy 7p BoD meeting	2	3	4

January 2014

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Office, Access, Security SIGs 7p ■ New Horizons CANCELLED			

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Details at cfcs.org 7p Virtual Photo SIG			

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
at Jackson Hewitt General Meeting Windows SIG 12:30p ■ Win SIG 2p ■ General Mtg	1505 E. Colonial 7p ■ iPhone SIG					

26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
		Casselberry Denny's 7p Tech-SIG				DEADLINE for Newsletter copy

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

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.

PARKING is FREE!

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

