



# THE BUSSLINE

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

Vol. 114 No. 2

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

February 2014

## The Computer Electronics Show Brought to CFCS by Mike U. and Hewie P. (Swag included)

**Sunday, February 16:** As noted last month, Mike Ungerman, former CFCS president and Man about Vegas, attended the Consumer Electronics Show in Vegas, while Hewie did so virtually, thanks to the magic of the internet. Each will enlighten us about what they learned. Mike has promised to share with us some of the swag he collected at the show, while Hewie has cause to swagger about all the money he saved by not shelling out for airlines and hotels.

If you are subscribed to the Tech-SIG email feed, you have seen a lot of the highlights of CES as shared by both Mike and Hewie, but the best is yet to come. Being at Sunday's meeting should be the next best thing to experiencing CES yourself.

For a preview, go to:

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

where Mike has included many articles and photos of CES, and

<http://hewie.net/> where you will find the many useful articles that Hewie alludes to during his monthly Windows SIG for this group. Don't forget to follow the link from there to his blog.

**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

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### The Inside Stories:

#### 3. Presidential Column

#### 4,5. CFCS Details, phone numbers, Member Renewal

#### 4. Musings by Stan

#### 6. Hewie Returns

#### 7. Tip Corner

#### 9. Protecting Computer Privacy

#### 13. Hacked Smart Appliances

#### 17. Google Translate

#### 22. Helpline: Numbers to call for help

#### 23. Calendar for the next few months

#### 24. NEW Directions to the monthly general meeting

Windows users, tips, tricks, and information on all versions of Windows are discussed. An e-newsletter is sent periodically with meeting information and links discussed at the meeting. You need not attend both meetings, but many members do. Non members are always welcome. Sign up for the free e-newsletter at [cfcs.org](http://cfcs.org).

Sunday's Windows SIG topics:

- \* How I changed Hard drives & up & running quickly & easily
- \* How I determined which driver caused a Blue Screen of Death (BSOD)
- \* Windows 7 & 8 Tips about Memory Dump Files
- \* Tweaks available in Ultimate Windows Tweaker for Windows 8.1
- \* Some Things that Every Windows PC Owner Must Do
- \* Windows Sysinternals

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 iPads 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](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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).

## 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](mailto:smwallner@yahoo.com) or 407-862-2669.*



Recycling is a MOST important issue regarding our environment, and can't be over-emphasized! It is an area

that is changing frequently, so check for this column regularly! When there are changes, we will print them. Meanwhile, check the website at [cfcs.org](http://cfcs.org) for the column as it ran in the last issue of the BUSSLINE.

## Yearly Elections Held Sunday Jan. 12

Elected to office at last month's meeting were the following:

President - Jack Pearson

Vice President - Stan Wallner

Treasurer - None elected, but a candidate (TBA) is in training.

Secretary - Bess Mac Connell

Director - Forrest Cheek

Congratulations to all the winners, and congratulations to the CFCS for gaining another year of excellent leadership!



Thank you for Electing me as the President of CFCS for 2014. We are going to have a very exciting year. Our Board of Directors is shaping up well. Hewie Poplock is The new Program Director & was appointed to the BOD, at the BOD meeting of Feb 5th.

We are working on getting a new Treasurer, I think that will be resolved shortly.

We are going to have some GREAT speakers at the meetings again this year.



Hewie, Ted and myself attended a meeting for Orlando IX, Tech Conference set for Oct 2015 in Orlando, and I will advise the membership more about it as planning goes on.

We are looking at a getting a new Place to meet starting in April 2014, since Jackson Hewitt will not be available this year.

We also will be working on some new projects to increase our membership in 2014.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me at – superj25@hotmail.com, or call me at 407-880-7339 (Home #).

Jack Pearson – President CFCS



A) WOW - A new, FREE Anti-Virus Program that WILL Coexist with your current Anti-Virus Program!!

We've talked about this topic several times at the Tech-SIG - You can have as many Anti-Spyware origrams on

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal invoices will be e-mailed from [treasurer@cfcs.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@cfcs.org).

your PC because they do not conflict, but only ONE Anti-Virus program, and only One Firewall because they DO conflict.

Well, I just got this from Graham Cook: Free virus removal for Windows - Komando Tip of the Day

"Sophos Free Virus Removal Tool for Windows can run with other antiviral software, and can pick up threats that your antivirus can miss. It's a great backup for a stubborn program that your antivirus can't handle alone.

Cost: Free; System: Windows; Link:

[sophos.com/en-us/products/free-tools/virus-removal-tool.aspx](http://sophos.com/en-us/products/free-tools/virus-removal-tool.aspx)"

I am familiar with Sophos - usually more enterprise, big system, and not free. I have downloaded it, and run on 3 PC's. It found one trojan on one PC, and the other two were clean.

(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.

**THE CFCS 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](mailto: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 **location described on page 24..** 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](http://www.cfcs.org)

**Editorial:** Articles for publication in the CFCS Newsletter should be *emailed* to the Editor at: [editor@cfcs.org](mailto: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 2013 Edition. ☐

### Board of Directors

President	Jack Pearson	407-880-7339	<a href="mailto:president@cfcs.org">president@cfcs.org</a>
Vice Pres.	Stan Wallner	407-862-2669	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@cfcs.org">vicepresident@cfcs.org</a>
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SIG Chair	Ken Larrabee	407-365-2660	<a href="mailto:sigs@cfcs.org">sigs@cfcs.org</a>

### Chairpersons and Coordinators

Special Interest Groups	Ken Larrabee	407-365-2660	<a href="mailto:sigs@cfcs.org">sigs@cfcs.org</a>
APCUG	Hewie Poplock		<a href="mailto:apcug@cfcs.org">apcug@cfcs.org</a>
Education	(Open)	(e-mail only)	<a href="mailto:education@cfcs.org">education@cfcs.org</a>
FACUG	Arvin Meyer		<a href="mailto:facug@cfcs.org">facug@cfcs.org</a>
Hardware Manager	Arvin Meyer	407-327-3810	<a href="mailto:hardware@cfcs.org">hardware@cfcs.org</a>
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### Newsletter Committee

Editor: Robert Black	
Associate Editor:	
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](mailto: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 Jack Pearson, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. [president@cfcs.org](mailto:president@cfcs.org)**

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



[www.apcug.net](http://www.apcug.net)

No conflict with Avast, AVG, and Total Defense AV programs on all PC! Seems like a good addition for my toolbox, so decided to pass along here.

B) Notes from Reviewing a June, 1985 issue of the CFCS BUSSLINE.

I have just started working on a project I have wanted to do for some time. We have a great record of all the Past Presidents by year on our Website, but nothing at all about all the other Officers, meeting locations, etc. I have decided to see if I could not go through the collections of old BUSSLINES that I have, and make a spreadsheet listing those. It will probably be too big to publish, but I will make it available by some link, probably Drop-Box, and will post that link here. As I started setting things up, I used the June 1985 issue, and found the following points interesting. Here they are:

1) The IBM-PC\MSDOS SIG where I first went and met Charlie Burge, Bill Vermillion, Ray Zimmerman, Dave Gardner, Gordon Finley, Kent Cady, ..., was being held at the Kane Furniture on E. Colonial. It was run by a Nick Konya, whom I do not recall.

2) It was only 3 double sided pages, with one page devoted to the mailing label and an ad. One full page was devoted to local BBS's. It was mentioned there were over 250 members! AND, there were NO Directors!

3) There was "Welcome to the Following New Members" that was 1/2 page, complete w/ 4 lines per each (there were 10) w/ phone #'s, addresses, O/S, ...

4) There was a "Condolences" article - 'Condolences are expressed to Hal Osborne and his family on the recent passing of his mother.' (And, we'd always thought this had never been done. Must have been decided later.)

5) There was also a "GET WELL SOON" article - "Best wishes for a fast discovery of members Tom White and Nick Princz recuperating from surgery, and to John Neel who was hospitalized to stabilize a recurring heart condition." (I knew John; good guy, lived a block from Gordon F., and the heart failed soon after.)

Well, that is all for now; I'll keep you updated.

*Stan, a CFCS member since 1984, has served in many*

*offices over the years, and is now Vice President. 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.*

## Quick Windows 8 shutdown

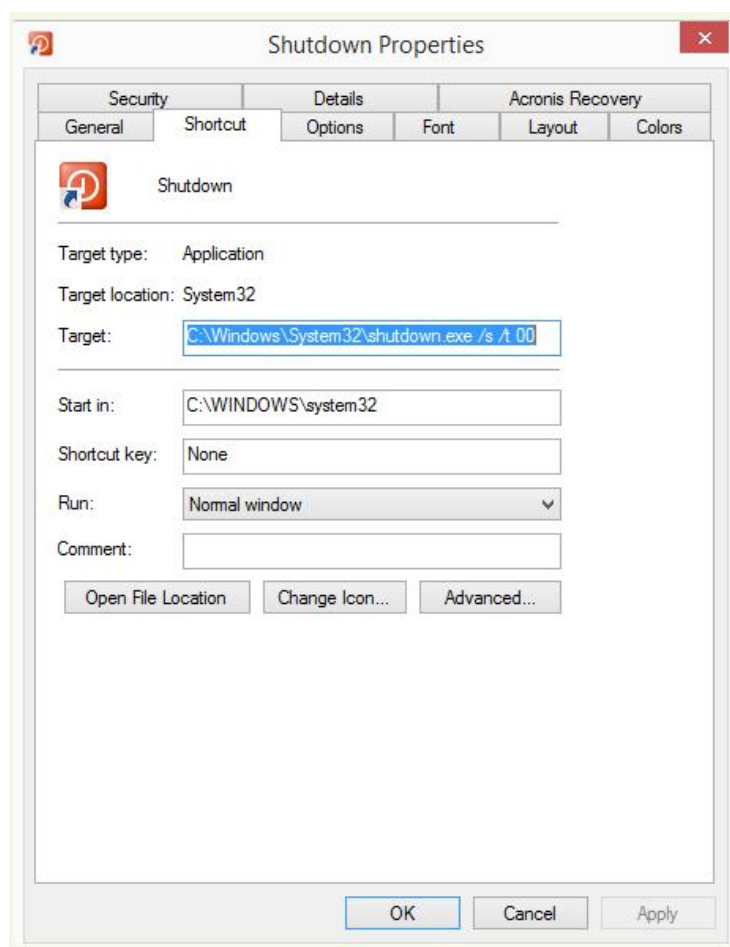
By Hewie Poplock



Shutdown

Shutting down Windows has always been a series of steps and longer than needed. Windows 8/8.1 made it worse, not better. I have searched for ways to make it a one-button step and found it. I have created a shortcut on the desktop with a target of "C:\Windows\System32\shutdown.exe /s /t 00"

When I click on the button, Windows 8/8.1 shuts down. That is the way it should work. Copyright 1995-2011 Hewie Poplock <http://hewie.net/content/quick-windows8-shutdown>



## Mike U. Returns from CES

Mike Ungerman, who was attending CES in January, was sending regular reports to the TechSIG, and will report his venture to our group at February's monthly meeting.

He will also contribute some SWAG which he picked up for us, to our drawing table on Sunday, Feb 16.

Mike also has a couple of boxes of used tech that he will bring as well. Some of it may be free, with anything deemed especially worthy also added to the drawing table.

He spent the last day of CES at the Venetian hotel (with the smaller vendors and displays), picking up more SWAG which you will not want to miss out on, so BE AT Sunday's meeting!

Mike also had dinner with Greg Smith (some of you will remember him) who flew down from Alaska for the great Seafood Buffet at the Rio, a mainstay of Mike's visits there.

## The Tip Corner

**Bill Sheff, Novice SIG Coordinator,  
Lehigh Valley Computer Group, PA  
November 2013 issue, The LVCG Journal  
[www.lvcg.org](http://www.lvcg.org)  
[nsheff@aol.com](mailto:nsheff@aol.com)**

### Buying a Computer

The holidays are nearly upon us, and some of us are considering purchasing a computer either as a gift or for ourselves. So usually one of the first questions is: which PC brand is best? Some swear by a particular brand, and there is probably an equal amount swearing at it. Let's consider the fact that every PC consists of different parts, even within the same brand or model. So let's look at what we should be considering in the purchase of a new computer. (For the purpose of this discussion I am leaving the choice of PC or Apple to the reader. Much can be said for either choice.)

**Value!** Before we decide on a price range we should consider what we want in a computer and then we can

compare prices among various brands that are providing the same items within the "box."

### So first off, do we want a Laptop or Desktop?

This used to be a simple choice. Laptops offered mobility, but sacrificed a lot of performance.

Today many laptops, while sometimes being slightly slower than similarly priced desktops, offer more than enough performance for more than just everyday tasks. With a desktop you can always add additional cards, but outside of an ability to increase memory there are not too many add-ons for a laptop. If you decide that you want the portability and convenience of a laptop, it should have a good screen since it is not easily replaceable. And while you are at it, consider what size screen fits your need. Today, not only can you get very large monitors, you can also get monitors that are touch sensitive (like a cell phone). Additionally, today's memory should be between four to eight GB depending upon how much graphic editing you plan to do, but you do not need any ram over 16 GB.

The increase in speed over 8GB is negligible. For normal use four GB of ram should be sufficient to handle most programs including the threshold needed for the operating system.

### OK! Let's look further under the hood.

On a PC you should have a 400 Watt power supply to cover any additional cards you might require.

**Laptops provide sufficient wattage.** Today's hard drives are usually 7200 RPM so do not settle for the older 5400 RPM models. Most DVD drives have been upgraded to read Blu-ray, but you don't want to have to pay extra to be able to record Blu-ray. Also, do you want or need a light scribe disk burner to be able to print labels on the special light scribe disks?

**Today's processors have greatly improved.** Look for the Intel I3 (or higher) or an AMD A6 (or higher). I would suggest you do not use the older Celeron, Pentium or AMD E or X2 series.

**Ports.** I can only suggest you cannot have too many ports. A minimum of four to six USB2 ports should be the minimum. Also see if there is a firewire port and for sure an HDMI port for video transfer.

Most laptops provide a pcmcia card slot which allows



adding many useful options. Also both usually have slots to slide in memory sticks.

**Motherboards.** Almost all motherboards offer video and audio on the board. I have found that except for gaming where you need higher speed graphics the on board audio and video are quite sufficient.

### **Warranty & Support**

Pay careful attention to the warranty and support policies, because they are getting more complicated than ever. Many companies offer various levels of in-home, mail-in or even local repair.

If your warranty is “mail-in after 90 days for a period of 1 year,” it means if anything goes wrong hardware-wise, you’ll need to mail the computer in. You may wait up to two weeks to get it back.

Buying from a local computer shop can often result in faster service and better component choices (to reduce service costs), but may cost you a bit more initially. Since most computers work pretty problem-free after a brief burn-in period; there are some who suggest that additional warranties are not price effective.

Finally, while not readily apparent, tech support from the various brands should be a consideration when choosing a brand.

### **Reinstall your operating system**

When you purchase a new computer you normally do not get any restore disks to reinstall the hard drive to its original condition in case of a virus or failure. Sometimes they suggest you make a copy of the restore disks and keep them safe. Often they suggest you can restore directly from the partition “D” drive for Vista or Win 7. The “D” drive is a “restore partition” which holds the recovery programs. This partition costs less to make than it does to manufacture restore discs. This is good if you cannot locate the restore disks at a crucial time.

If you feel you want to restore from a restore partition, and you can, back up your computer, at least all the files and data you want to save. You probably could do a “non-destructive” restore that will allow you to keep all of your files intact, but it’s always better to be safe than sorry.

All HPs and Dells manufactured within the past five years include them, as do most other computers these days. You can check for the restore partition by clicking START and then COMPUTER. What you’re looking for

is labeled “restore” or “recovery”.

Next, click START and then enter “recovery” into the search box. Click on RECOVERY MANAGER.

When you run the recovery manager, you’ll see a screen with various options.

If your problem is that one of the original programs that came with your computer has become corrupt, you use SOFTWARE PROGRAM REINSTALLATION. MICROSOFT SYSTEM RESTORE will close the recovery manager and launch Microsoft’s system restore program to fix broken Windows. The final option here is REALLY the final option. SYSTEM RECOVERY is for when your system has become hopelessly corrupt and you need to start from scratch.

COMPUTER CHECKUP will check your system for errors and problems. If you’re not sure what’s wrong, this might be a good place to start.

RECOVERY MEDIA CREATION allows you to make the external disks you should have made when you turned your computer on for the first time. These disks are in case there was a total hard disk failure. You can take out the damaged drive and put in a new one and reinstall the programs.

Try and make those disks before the total hard disk failure. Once you have those disks made put them where they won’t be lost or forgotten. Also on the screen mentioned above is a RECOVER REPORT which is pretty self-explanatory. Finally there is a REMOVE RESTORE PARTITION option on the screen.

Once you have restored your operating program be prepared to wait while all the updates get installed.

### **What Do I Do With a Flash Drive?**

I really didn’t know if I had to put in a tip like this, but once in a while we have to go back to basics just in case there are a few of us out there who are newbies, or just confused.

A USB flash drive is sometimes called a jump drive or memory stick. (A thumb drive is slightly different because they have a write-protect feature). In either case the drive is simply a data storage device just like a floppy disk, or even a hard drive. Unlike a hard drive it has no moving parts. It draws power from the USB port on



your computer. There are other USB drives that are actually spinning hard drives and sometimes include external power plugs. USB ports can be located in the front or back or even both on a desktop, and usually on the sides of a laptop or all-in-one.

Once you put the drive into the port, the computer will recognize it as a removable drive and assign it a drive letter.

Now you can copy or move items to the drive, the way you would copy to a floppy or transfer to another file or folder. You can add new folders to the drive and do practically any other action that you can do with a regular drive.

It is a good idea to click the Safely Remove Hardware and Eject Media icon in your system tray to avoid any possible loss of data. This is not too important with the solid state flash drives, but is important with any USB drives that are spinning.

Besides having the ability to hold a lot of data, USB drives can also be used for creating a bootable USB drive and even putting many apps on it to keep some data from having to be installed on your computer.

# Protect Your Computing Privacy with East-Tec Utilities

by Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

<http://www.east-tec.com>

<http://www.east-tec.com/company>

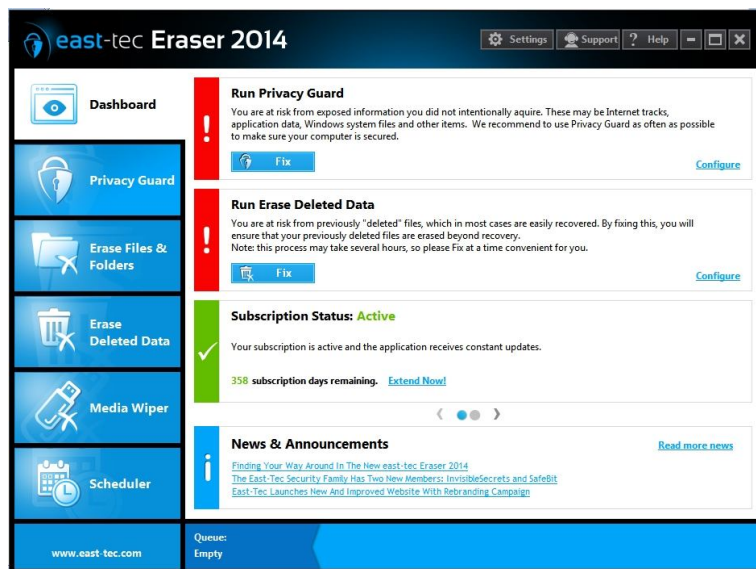
<http://www.east-tec.com/eraser/>

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<http://www.east-tec.com/eraser/download/> Free Trial software

<http://www.east-tec.com/disposesecure/>

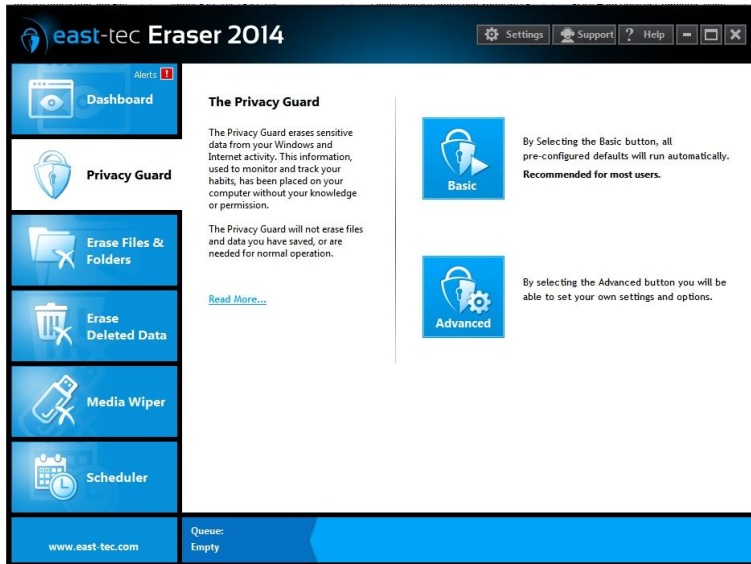
I was recently given the opportunity to thoroughly test a product that I was unfamiliar with. This product is East-Tec Eraser 2014 ([east-tec.com/eraser](http://east-tec.com/eraser)). At first, I was



skeptical about using a paid (\$29.95 for a one year license) commercial product to perform privacy related computer tasks that I had previously performed with a variety of free or other commercial software utilities that I already owned. My first impression, later proven inaccurate, was, "Oh great, another privacy protecting utility!" as there are already a plethora of other similar utilities on the market. After experimenting with East-Tec Eraser, my skeptical first impression proved to be unfounded, as this practical utility worked extremely well, combining the functions of several other utilities, both paid and free, into one convenient and coordinated package.

After downloading my copy of East-Tec Eraser 2014 directly from the publisher's website, a 11MB download, it installed smoothly with minimal intervention by the user. About the only item to select during the install was the default language (automatically defaulted to the PC's host language, which was "English" on my computer), with the total installation completing in under a minute. I entered my registration serial number by clicking on the "Support" button on the top-right of the Eraser window, and then selecting the "License Center" where the serial number could be entered; the online activation process, which verified my serial number, took only a few seconds. The basic license is for a one year period.

East-Tec Eraser 2014 opens a physically attractive and pleasant looking window, defaulting to the "Dashboard" menu. The Dashboard menu offers the user the choices of running "Privacy Guard", "Erase Deleted Data", check on the status of the license subscription, read news

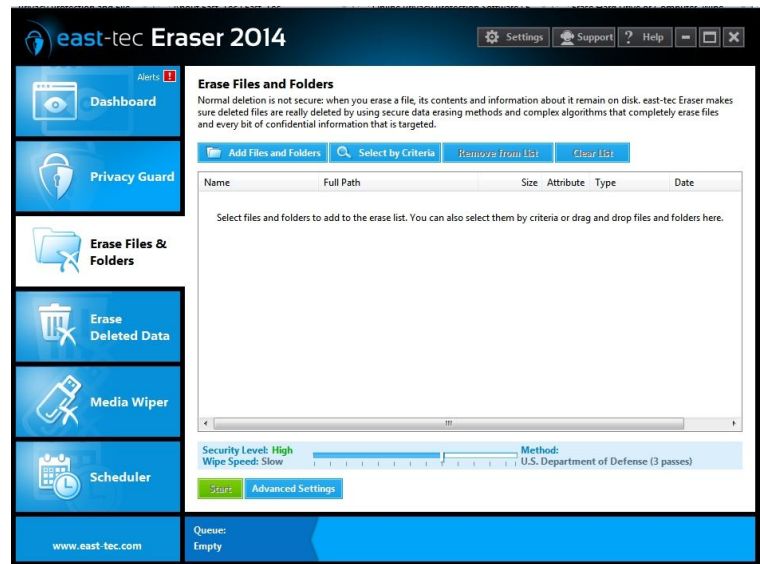


and announcements, and to update the program, if updates are available. The "Privacy Guard" module can be initiated by either selecting it from the Dashboard, or from the menu on the left side of the window. The Privacy Guard module is fully customizable, easy to understand, and can be run automatically or manually. The user may select any combination or all of the "internet tracks" for deletion that were left on the computer while on the internet, including web histories (websites visited), unwanted cookies, chat logs, deleted email messages, temporary and cache files, the Windows swap or paging files, the Recycle Bin, and other forms of internet tracks and debris. While East-Tec Eraser 2014 may remove a huge number of

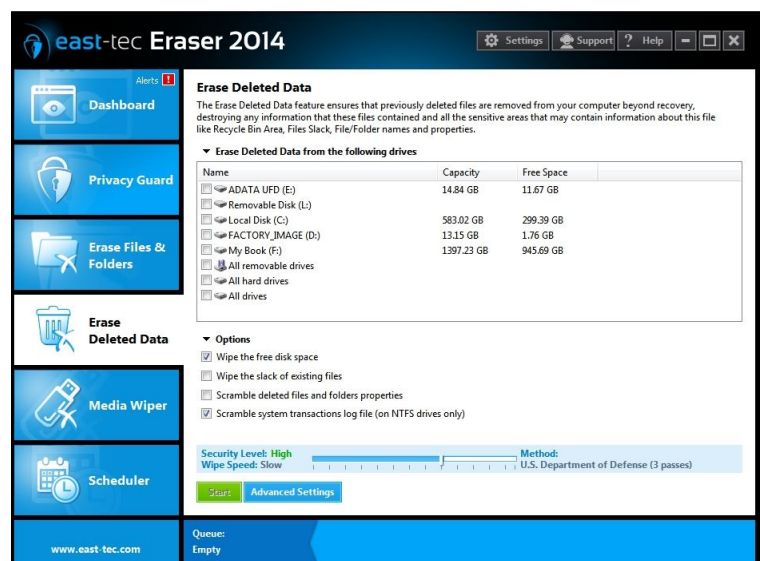


"internet tracks" that may pose a risk to privacy and security if these "tracks" are utilized by an unauthorized user, Eraser is explicitly designed not to delete any intentionally saved data or files, and will not harm any

critical system files.



One especially intriguing feature available in each of the modules, including the Privacy Guard, is the "Security Level" which determines the fate of any deleted items. Many users are unaware that when items or files are simply deleted, they remain on the hard drive and are fairly easy to recover unless they are overwritten, either during normal read-write sequences, or intentionally overwritten with random data. Some of the better readily available file recovery utilities can often recover enough file fragments from simply deleted and overwritten files, that the deleted files can likely be recovered and read. Several of the competing products do not securely delete files, making these files likely recoverable by a knowledgeable and skilled technician. There are many totally legitimate reasons why a computer user would want to render deleted files unrecoverable, such





Force Cryptologic Support Center AFSSI-5020, and commercial data destruction standards such as the Bruce Schneier Algorithm and the Peter Gutmann Method. Unless required by regulatory or contractual information security (INFOSEC) standards, the user can balance the need for security with the need for speed (time), as some of the most secure deletion methods can take substantial amounts of time, as they may overwrite the data in excess of 35 times.



"wiping algorithms" based on one or a combination of government or international security standards. Eraser is fully compliant with the data destruction standards required by many of the government agencies. By default, Eraser utilizes the US Department of Defense DOD 5220.22-M standard for secure file deletion, which includes three high security passes which write randomly generated characters, compliments of the randomly generated characters, and a randomly generated data stream, all of which overwrite the tracks and sec-



tors of the hard drive that contained the originally deleted data. Other user selectable data wiping standards include the Russian GOST P50739-95, the German VSITR, the U.S. Navy NAVSO P-5329-56, U.S. Air



The other modules, including the Erase Files and Folders (drag and drop unwanted files and folders to the Eraser window), Erase Deleted Data (deleted files and folders from the hard drive and other connected writable media), and Media Wiper offer the same secure file deletion options mentioned above, along with a noteworthy proviso; "Note: This process may take several hours, so



## Recent Reviews &amp; Recognition

**Soft32**

"If you want to be online, then you need to do something to protect yourself. This is why I really like security applications like east-tec Eraser 2014. This Windows-based security application could just save your bacon, and your private data."  
(January 2014)

**Softpedia Excellent Editor's Review Award**

"The intuitive interface and default configuration set are enough to get rookies started. Experienced users may fiddle with advanced settings and modify the behavior of each erasing component."  
(December 2013)

**BetaNews**

"The hundreds of programs that it supports are now organized into logical categories such as Applications, Browsers, News and Email readers and - highlighting newly supported features in version 11 - Windows 8 Apps."  
(November 2013)

**PC & Tech Authority**

"east-tec Eraser is a supremely powerful privacy tool which can quickly and securely cover your PC tracks ... so preventing others from spying on your computing activities."  
(August 2013)

**PC Advisor**

"Eraser 2013 offers advanced data erasure, and can greatly improve data security and PC performance."  
(August 2013 Print Issue, page 122)

**V3.co.uk**

"With standards that exceed the U.S Department of Defense criteria for the permanent erasure of digital information, it's a fair bet that this program will easily meet all your requirements for safe and secure data removal."  
(June 2013)

**PC Actual**

"An efficient utility, with advanced features, that fulfills its mission very well. Easy to use thanks to the different assistants; effective operation; has the ability to automate the cleaning process."

please Fix at a time convenient to you." I tried several of the secure deletion standard methods and algorithms, and found some very discernible time differences, based on the size of the files and folders deleted, and the type of data destruction selected. Small individual files chosen for secure deletion could be "wiped" fairly quickly, usually within a few seconds, regardless of the complexity of the method selected to overwrite the files. As I tried the different security wiping methods on several identical sacrificial folders that I created, each containing copies of the same large video file, the speed of the different secure deletion methods became quite apparent, ranging from only a few minutes for the lower level security methods (still adequate for most users), to 36 minutes for the highest security file scrubbing method available in Eraser. One factor that I noted while conducting these several file destruction experiments; my "HD Sentinel" hard drive monitoring utility displayed a steadily increasing temperature of the hard drive utilized for this experiment, as the hard drive was working harder with each subsequently more complex file destruction

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French Ministry of Defence (DRM)  
EADS Astrium (space company)  
1 x Business Partners (Eraser)

## Protect Your Online Privacy

east-tec Eraser 2014 offers you the online privacy protection you are looking for by erasing files stored without your knowledge or approval, like Internet history, Web pages and pictures from sites visited on the Internet, unwanted cookies, etc. [Read More](#)

## Erase Beyond Recovery

Normal deletion is not secure: when you delete a file, its contents and information remain on disk. east-tec Eraser 2014 destroys beyond recovery every bit of confidential information that is targeted. This way, your privacy protection is ensured and no one will be able to recover your data. [Read More](#)

## Clean Your Favorite Browsers

east-tec Eraser 2014 works with all your favorite browsers and can securely erase files that contain your Internet history, visited web pages and images, address bar locations, unwanted cookies, and much more. Your online privacy is protected with east-tec Eraser 2014! [Read More](#)

## Clean Your Favorite Programs

Erase files permanently and clean the traces of over 250 popular software programs, Browsers, MP3/Audio/Chat Software, Productivity Software, Entertainment Software, Security Software, Peer2Peer/News, Email Readers and more. [Read More](#)

## Erase Deleted Data

Deleting a file using the Windows operating system does not remove the file contents from your hard drive. It simply prevents you from accessing the file.

east-tec Eraser 2014 offers online privacy protection and cleans activity traces from over 250 third-party programs and the list is constantly growing every day:

7-Zip  
ACDSee  
Ad-Aware  
Adobe Acrobat  
Adobe Flash Player  
Adobe Photoshop  
Adobe Reader  
Any Video Converter  
Avast Antivirus  
AVG Anti-Virus  
BitTorrent  
Camfrog Video Chat  
Corel PaintShop Pro  
Download Accelerator Plus  
DivX Player  
Dropbox  
FormatFactory  
GOM Media Player  
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Internet Explorer  
IrfanView  
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Kaspersky Internet Security  
ManyCam  
Maxthon Browser  
Microsoft Office  
Microsoft Outlook  
mIRC  
Mozilla Firefox  
Mozilla Thunderbird  
Norton 360  
Norton Antivirus  
Norton Internet Security

process. It seems credible that an older hard drive, not in top condition and not properly cooled, could possibly suffer from problematic overheating if very large files were destroyed by the more complex selections.

In addition to deleting internet tracks, along with unwanted files and folders, East-Tec Eraser 2014 includes a "Media Wiper" module which is intended to securely wipe the data from removable media devices of up to 64GB capacity. As with the other modules, the level and degree of secure file destruction can be easily selected by the user. This module is not intended to wipe entire hard drives or hard drive partitions, but is only intended to be used on removable media, such as USB flash drives and other forms of flash memory cards and devices. It should be noted that securely wiping the data from a removable media device, such as a USB flash drive, or a memory stick such as those used in cameras, phones, and MP3 players, does not destroy the device, but only destroys the data on that device. I experimented with the Media Wipe module on a few old USB flash drives as well as on memory cards from an old cell phone and an old digital camera, after verifying that any old data was securely backed up on another device. As before, based on the capacity of the media, and the level of security selected, the time to complete the wipe process varied considerably. One old 512MB USB flash

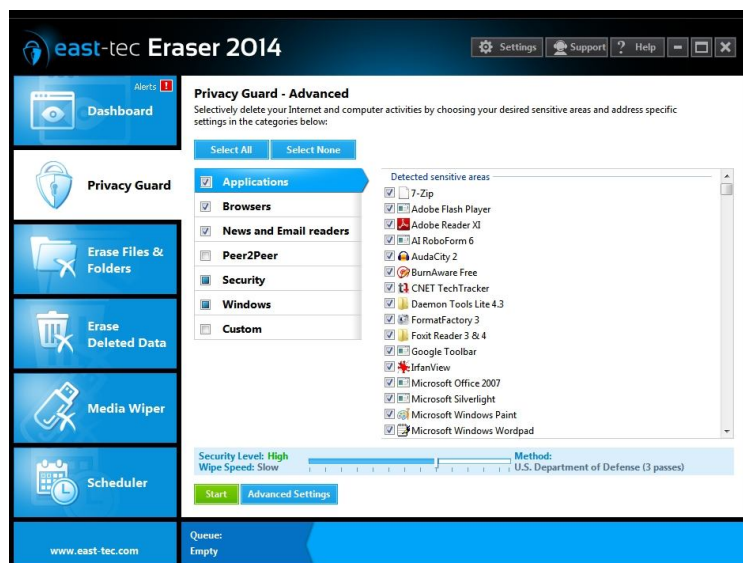
(Continued on page 13)



drive did not open after a high level wipe, when inserted into the USB slot on my desktop, but a fast format, using another utility, restored the old flash drive to health in a matter of seconds. If the user desires to securely wipe a hard drive, such as one that is being disposed, sold or donated, either just as a hard drive or as a component in a complete PC, East-Tec offers a \$15 utility, Dispose Secure 5 ([east-tec.com/disposesecure](http://east-tec.com/disposesecure)), which is explicitly designed for that purpose.

East-Tec offers some other interesting security utilities at reasonable prices. Also available, in addition to the Eraser 2014 and Dispose Secure 5 mentioned above, are a pair of utilities that can encrypt file contents, documents and emails (Invisible Secrets 4, \$30), and another that can create encrypted virtual drives, effectively hiding entire directories and folders (SafeBit 2, \$30).

With all of the concerns about cyber privacy expressed among segments of the population, these East-Tec utilities may be beneficial to help prevent data snoops and identity thieves from accessing our sensitive files, folders, and devices.



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## Smart Appliances, New Target for Hackers, Already Compromised

by Ira Wilsker

### WEBSITES:

<http://www.proofpoint.com/about-us/press-releases/01162014.php>

<http://www.latimes.com/business/technology/la-fi-tn-refrigerator-hacked-internet-of-things-cyber-attack-20140116,0,5757808.story>

<http://thehackernews.com/2014/01/100000-refrigerators-and-other-home.html>

<http://www.engadget.com/2014/01/17/internet-of-things-hacked-malicious-email-phishing/>

<http://rt.com/usa/hack-refrigerator-home-appliances-747/>

<http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/24493674/smart-refrigerators-and-tvs-hacked-to-send-out-spam-according-to-a-new-report>

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/alltechconsidered/2014/01/16/263111193/refrigerator-hacked-reveals-internet-of-things-security-gaps>

<http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=15929&page=1>

In recent years, I was a regular attendee of the massive, annual, Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held in Las Vegas. A few years ago, one category of items that most piqued my attention were the smart appliances. These smart appliances were early generations of major appliances that incorporated a functional computer in their design that offered the consumer a multitude of benefits. While many of the items demonstrated at the CES events that I attended were functional prototypes, some of the appliances are now making their way into the retail market.

Sometimes called "internet connected appliances", these smart appliances incorporate a small flat screen monitor, often a touch screen, that is somewhat similar to the common tablet computers that are readily available and often inexpensive today. Most of these internet connected appliances utilized the existing Wi-Fi connection, now common in many American homes, to communicate over the internet with the outside world. Almost all of these internet connected smart appliances used early versions of Google's Android or Microsoft's Windows operating systems. One company displayed major household appliances, such as a washer and dryer pair,

that had a Wi-Fi connected touch screen not just to control the selection of functions, but also reported to the consumer such information as operating condition, malfunctions, service information, recalls, and other important facts about the appliances, utilizing the display along with emails and text messages to the consumer. Service calls could also be scheduled on the integral touch screen for any routine maintenance or repairs, with the device itself informing the technician of the problem and any required replacement parts before he leaves his shop for the consumer's home.

I was especially impressed with a prototype refrigerator that had a dedicated computer imbedded in it that was Wi-Fi connected, performed functions similar to the washer and dryer previously mentioned, plus added a UPC code reader to the functionality. The consumer could scan the UPC code of a grocery item with the device's reader, and create a printable shopping list. What was even more exciting was connecting the refrigerator via Wi-Fi and the internet to a simulated supermarket; the shopping list was printed in the order that the scanned items would be found in the supermarket aisles, or the order could be sent to the supermarket, with the desired groceries being carted by market employees for pickup or delivery. The simulated supermarket displayed its current ad on the device when requested, recommended sale items for selection or substitution, created digital coupons which could automatically be credited at time of purchase, and would otherwise save the consumer time and money.

These smart appliances are not some figment of science fiction, but are already appearing in peoples' homes. A quick visit to the store or website of any major seller of flat screen televisions will make abundantly clear the wide assortment of smart TV's currently for sale. These TVs are intended to connect to the home's broadband internet connection either via Ethernet (common networking cable), Wi-Fi, or direct internet connection provided by the cable or satellite providers. Web based services from the likes of Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Streaming Media, YouTube, and other digital content providers can already be received seamlessly on many of the TVs already in use and in the stores. These internet connected TVs currently available have substantial computer power built in to them, and run mostly on variations of existing operating systems from Apple, Google (Android), and Microsoft. as well as a few proprietary operating systems.

With the introduction of internet connected smart appliances, it was inevitable that someone would find a way to hack into them for nefarious purposes, which indeed has happened recently. In the past few days the media has been rife with stories of hacked smart appliances, mostly refrigerators, that have been incorporated as "zombies" in a "botnet" or cluster of purloined or hijacked smart devices, and used to send out massive quantities of spam and phishing (attempted identity theft) emails.

In a published claim by the security company Proofpoint, ([proofpoint.com/about-us/press-releases/01162014.php](http://proofpoint.com/about-us/press-releases/01162014.php)), released on January 16, 2014, "Proofpoint Uncovers Internet of Things (IoT) Cyberattack - More than 750,000 Phishing and SPAM emails Launched from 'Thingbots' Including Televisions, Fridge". In their press release announcing the discovery of this form of cyber attack, Proofpoint stated that it " ... has uncovered what may be the first proven Internet of Things (IoT)-based cyberattack involving conventional household 'smart' appliances. The global attack campaign involved more than 750,000 malicious email communications coming from more than 100,000 everyday consumer gadgets such as home-networking routers,

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### Refrigerator among devices hacked in Internet of things cyber attack



A smart refrigerator by Samsung is on display at the 2014 Consumer Electronics Show. (David Becker / Getty Images)




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## Beware the fridge? Hackers targeting 'smart' home appliances

Published time: January 17, 2014 03:47

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Reuters / Bogdan Cristel / Files

Security researchers have discovered the first broad Internet-of-Things cyberattack, targeting household gadgets and appliances, including at least one refrigerator.

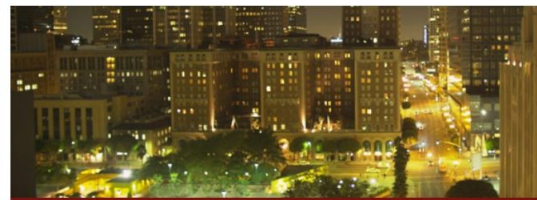
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Proofpoint, a vendor that offers data protection services, said Thursday it had uncovered an

connected multi-media centers, televisions and at least one refrigerator that had been compromised and used as a platform to launch attacks. As the number of such con-

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## Proofpoint Uncovers Internet of Things (IoT) Cyberattack

More than 750,000 Phishing and SPAM emails Launched from "Thingbots" Including Televisions, Fridge

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – January 16, 2014. Proofpoint, Inc. (NASDAQ: PFPT), a leading security-as-a-service provider, has uncovered what may be the first proven Internet of Things (IoT)-based cyberattack involving conventional household "smart" appliances. The global attack campaign involved more than 750,000 malicious email communications coming from more than 100,000 everyday consumer gadgets such as home-networking routers, connected multi-media centers, televisions and at least one refrigerator that had been compromised and used as a platform to launch attacks. As the number of such connected devices is expected to grow to more than four times the number of connected computers in the next few years according to media reports, proof of an IoT-based attack has significant security implications for device owners and Enterprise targets.

Just as personal computers can be unknowingly compromised to form robot-like "botnets" that can be used to launch large-scale cyberattacks, Proofpoint's findings reveal that cyber criminals have begun to commandeer home routers, smart appliances and other components of the Internet of Things and

nected devices is expected to grow to more than four times the number of connected computers in the next few years according to media reports, proof of an IoT-based attack has significant security implications for device owners and Enterprise targets."

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## Proofpoint Uncovers Internet of Things (IoT) Cyberattack

More than 750,000 Phishing and SPAM emails Launched from "Thingbots" Including Televisions, Fridge

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(Continued from page 15)

Later in the same report, Proofpoint reported that cyber criminals have started to hijack soft targets in consumers' homes, including "... home routers, smart appliances and other components of the Internet of Things" turning these intelligent devices into "thingbots" for the purposes of sending spam emails, committing identity theft, and a variety of other malicious activities. Proofpoint explains that these early generation smart appliances are "soft targets" because they were not designed and built with strong security measures in place, making them easily vulnerable to attack and hijack. These smart devices are especially attractive to miscreants for targeting because they do not typically incorporate the level of security widely utilized by more established technologies, including PCs, laptops, and tablets. These new smart devices are especially vulnerable to attack because

they are poorly configured in terms of security, and often incorporate only factory default passwords; the default passwords have been widely circulated in hacker circles, and since similar devices often have the same default passwords, if one can be hacked into, they all can be hacked into. Also because these smart, internet connected devices have insecure default passwords, there is no need to use more traditional malware methods, such as trojans and viruses, to compromise those devices. At present, there is no readily available method or software that can secure these smart internet connected devices, such as there is security software and hardware available for PCs, tablets, and laptops.

The "thingbots" that Proofpoint uncovered was monitored by Proofpoint from December 23, 2013 to January 6, 2014. During this two-week period, waves of spam

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## Proofpoint Research: Internet of Things (IoT) Cyber Attack Security

In January 2014, Proofpoint researchers discovered proof of a much-theorized but never before seen Internet of Things (IoT) cyber-attack. Proofpoint has observed what we believe to be an industry first of devices, including some home appliances (TVs, a refrigerator), sending malicious email spam.

As our researchers were analyzing email-borne threats, they observed a recent cyber attack campaign where more than 25 percent of the malicious email (over 750,000 messages) came from things that were not conventional laptop or desktop computers, but rather members of the Internet of Things: "Thingbot" net\*





emails were often sent in bursts of 100,000, about three times a day. Of all of the spam emails monitored during this time, about one-fourth were sent by this "Internet of Things" consisting of the purloined multi media centers, internet connected smart TVs, home routers, and at least one internet connected refrigerator. Each device connected to the internet has an IP (Internet Protocol) address that identifies it to the internet; in this deluge of spam and other malicious emails, no more than 10 emails were sent at any one time from any individual device, making them difficult to block by traditional anti-spam blocking methods. Since such a small number of emails were sent at any one time from any compromised smart device, users would not likely have noticed any decline in device performance. If these same devices were to be used (as they still may be used in the future) for launching any massive, crippling "DDoS attacks" (Distributed Denial of Service attacks) used to shut down targeted internet servers and websites, then the users may notice a distinct decrease in performance of their devices, as their internet connectivity may be heavily used for nefarious purposes.

According to Proofpoint, this "Internet of Things", or IoT is massive, and increasing at a very rapid rate, compounding the massive degree of cyber threats that these devices may pose when compromised. In its posting on the problem, Proofpoint stated, "IoT (Internet of Things) includes every device that is connected to the internet - from home automation products including smart thermostats, security cameras, refrigerators, microwaves, home entertainment devices like TVs, gaming consoles to smart retail shelves that know when they need replenishing and industrial machinery - and the number of IoT devices is growing enormously. IDC predicts that more than 200 billion things will be connected via the Internet by 2020."

While these internet connected smart devices hold great promise to consumers and businesses, and become even more widely used than they are today, both the manufacturers of these devices and third party security vendors must devise a way to secure them from attack and hijacking. Just imagine if your internet connected home security system is hijacked allowing burglars unfettered access to your house; your smart home thermostat is hijacked by cyber vandals while you are away from home, and either make the home very cold or hot, especially during a freeze or heat wave; hijacked smart refrigerators run at improper temperatures, causing damage or destruction to the contents inside; microwave ovens cook for unintended times and power; and other potential un-

intended consequences of having insecure technology in our homes and businesses.

In order not to kill their extensive and growing market, it is inevitable that the makers of these "Internet of Things" devices will soon devise a way to secure these useful products.

## Google Translate

By Bill Crowe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,  
Sarasota PCUG, FL

October 2013 issue, PC Monitor

[www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org)

[editor@spcug.org](mailto:editor@spcug.org)

Google Translate is a simple mobile translation tool that supports more than 60 languages, and even speaks some of your translations aloud. With its dead-simple interface and variety of input options, it's perfect for pumping out translations in a pinch. To use Google Translate, select your input and output languages, then choose a method for entering your text. You can type text using your mobile device's keyboard or say the words aloud. The translation will appear quickly and in some cases it will speak the words in the translated language. The only drawback for this iPad/iPhone application, at this time, is that you must have an internet connection to use it.



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# Interesting Internet Finds

**By Steve Costello, President / Editor,  
Boca Raton Computer Society  
October 2013 issue, Boca Bits  
[http://sefcug.com/  
president@brcs.org](http://sefcug.com/president@brcs.org)**

In the course of going through the more than 200 news feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some items I found interesting during the month of October 2013.

How risky will it be to keep running Windows XP?  
<http://askleo.com/how-risky-will-it-be-to-keep-running-windows-xp/>

POP vs. IMAP: What Do They Mean and Which One Should You Use?  
<http://www.ilovefreesoftware.com/31/windows/pop-vs-imap.html>

Talk to your Navigating Device: Android or iPhone  
<http://geekson tour.tv/2013/08/talk-to-your-navigating-device-android-or-iphone/>

Can You Really Be Anonymous Online?  
<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/can-you-really-be-anonymous-online/>

Why You Don't Need an Outbound Firewall On Your Laptop or Desktop PC  
<http://www.howtogeek.com/172349/why-you-dont-need-an-outbound-firewall-on-your-laptop-or-desktop-pc/>

How To Use the New Google+ Photo Editing Tools  
<http://www.groovypost.com/howto/google-plus-photo-editing-tools/>

Where to Donate Your Used Tech  
<http://www.wonderoftech.com/where-to-donate-your-used-tech/>

How to Keep Your Internet Usage Private [INFOGRAPHIC]  
[http://socialmediatoday.com/socialbarrel/1765451/  
online-privacy-how-keep-your-internet-usage-private-infographic](http://socialmediatoday.com/socialbarrel/1765451/online-privacy-how-keep-your-internet-usage-private-infographic)

How to View and Work on Google Drive Files When

You're Offline

<http://www.guidingtech.com/24186/google-drive-offline/>

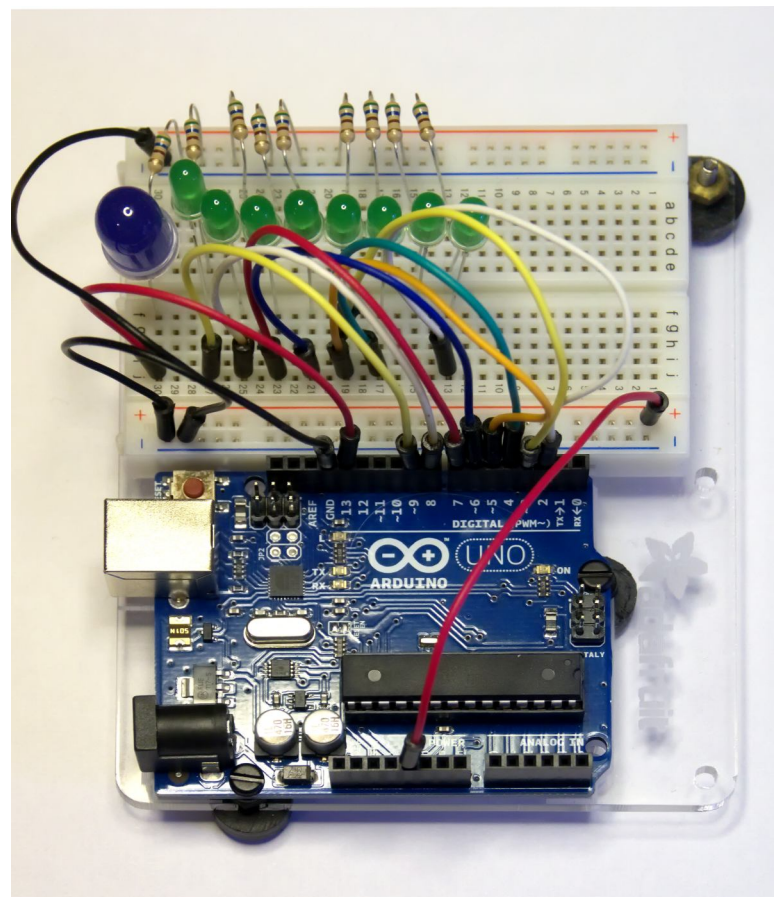
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Most Fridays, more interesting finds will be posted on the Computers, Technology, and User Groups Blog:  
<http://ctublog.sefcug.com/>

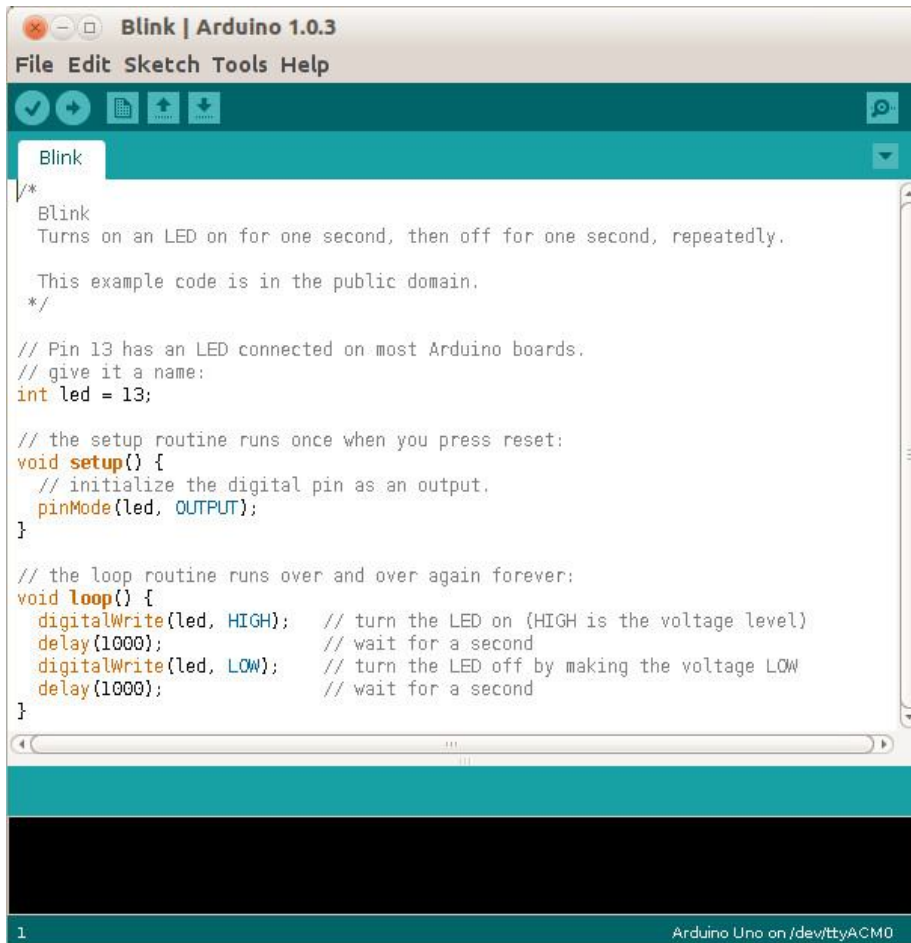
## Tiny Computers

**By Dick Maybach, Member, Brookdale  
Computer Users' Group, NJ  
November 2013 issue, BUG Bytes  
[www.bcug.com](http://www.bcug.com)  
[n2nd@att.net](mailto:n2nd@att.net)**

Personal computers are vital appliances for most of us. We use them to balance our checkbooks, calculate our taxes, communicate with friends and family, store our memories, and keep us informed. This is much different than when they were first introduced, when we felt free to perform experiments using them that today are unthinkable because of the risk of losing valuable data. As a result, we have the ironic situation that as our PCs become more and more complex, we know less and less about them. A solution is to acquire a smaller and simpler computer just to play with. Ideally, it won't take up much space on our crowded computer desk and will be cheap to replace if something goes horribly (or wonderfully, if you're adventuresome) wrong.







The screenshot shows the Arduino IDE interface with the 'Blink' sketch loaded. The menu bar includes File, Edit, Sketch, Tools, and Help. The toolbar has icons for opening, saving, and running. The sketch text area contains the following code:

```

/*
  Blink
  Turns on an LED on for one second, then off for one second, repeatedly.

  This example code is in the public domain.
  */

// Pin 13 has an LED connected on most Arduino boards.
// give it a name:
int led = 13;

// the setup routine runs once when you press reset:
void setup() {
  // initialize the digital pin as an output.
  pinMode(led, OUTPUT);
}

// the loop routine runs over and over again forever:
void loop() {
  digitalWrite(led, HIGH); // turn the LED on (HIGH is the voltage level)
  delay(1000);             // wait for a second
  digitalWrite(led, LOW);  // turn the LED off by making the voltage LOW
  delay(1000);             // wait for a second
}

```

The status bar at the bottom indicates '1' and 'Arduino Uno on /dev/ttyACM0'.

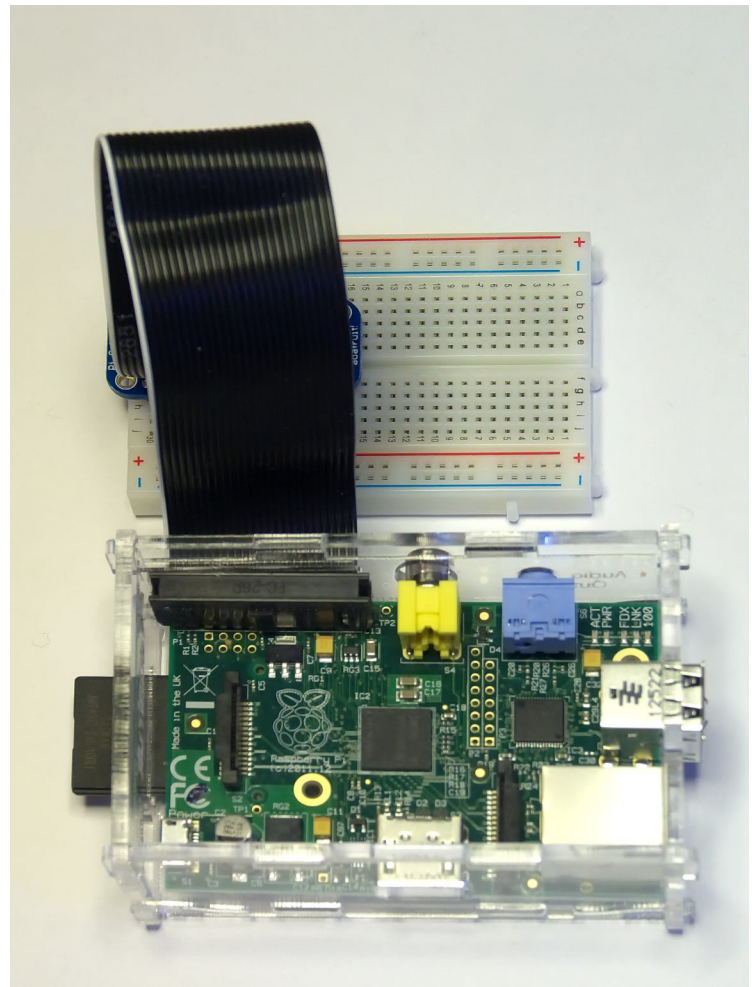
used as a circuit element, and many experimenter's kits are available to get you started. These usually include an Arduino, a breadboard, and a collection of jumpers and electronic parts, e.g., LEDs, switches, motors, and sensors. Make an Internet search, and you will certainly find many interesting products and projects. My favorite vendor is Adafruit, but it has many fine competitors.

Getting started with the Arduino is quite easy. Go to their home page, <http://www.arduino.cc/>, and download the Integrated Development Environment (IDE), which is available for Linux, Mac OS X, and Windows. (Linux users can also find it in their repositories.) Connect an Arduino board to a USB port and start the IDE. As you may be able to tell from the screenshot, the Arduino uses a variant of the C programming language. The example here is the program blink, which just cycles an LED on and off. This is the equivalent of the classic "Hello World" program that is almost every C programmer's first effort.

The Arduino's capabilities are quite modest – typically the processor runs at 16 MHz, has about 20 I/O pins (some analog, some digital), and is equipped with 32 kbytes of EEPROM (for programs) and 2 kbytes of RAM (for data). Normally, you would use the Arduino just to control the hardware and send any data it collects to a PC for analysis. To make this easier, consider using the Processing language on your computer, available at <http://processing.org/>. It's very close to what the Arduino uses and has an almost identical IDE.

There are dozens of these tiny computers, but here I'll talk about just two, the Arduino and the Raspberry Pi. Both are supported by active on-line communities, both are described in several books, both are open source, which means you are free to make any changes you like to their software, and both are cheap – less than \$50. (Although you will probably pay more for a complete starter or experimenter's kit.) Both were developed by educators, the Arduino in Italy and the Raspberry Pi in the UK, for the purpose of helping people learn about computers and computing. However, the two are quite different. The Arduino is really a controller, about as smart as your washing machine, and its inputs and outputs are Voltages on its pins. It runs only one program at a time, and once started, runs it forever. As you use an Arduino, you'll be learning programming and electronics. The Raspberry Pi is a real computer that runs Linux and comes with a full complement of PC software, including a Web browser. Its inputs and outputs are a keyboard, mouse, graphical display, and Ethernet and USB ports. As you use the Raspberry Pi, you'll learn programming, networking, and operating system operation and configuration.

The Arduino (<http://www.arduino.cc/>), like the Raspberry Pi, is about the size of a credit card. In the photo below, the Arduino is the blue card in the foreground. Normally, it's programmed and powered through the USB connector at the rear of the left edge. Once, a program has been loaded, it can be powered via the black connector at the front of the left edge (for example by a 9-volt battery). This unit illustrated is mated to a solder less breadboard, on which you can build circuits just by pushing component leads into its holes. Jumpers connect the breadboard with the Arduino's input/output pins along its front and rear edges. The Arduino is almost always



You should be able to get started using only information available from the Internet, but if you prefer a book, look at *Getting Started with Arduino* by Massimo Banzi. Many others are available, some for the beginner and others describing advanced projects.

While the Arduino is a simple controller, the Raspberry Pi, <http://www.raspberrypi.org/>, is a real computer that uses the Linux operating system. The kit I purchased (from Adafruit) included a clear plastic case and a solder less breadboard, but many projects won't need the latter. The Pi has two USB ports (silver connectors on the center right), an Ethernet port (silver connector on the front right), a HDMI port for the display (silver connector on the center front), a power connector (micro USB connector on the front left), a SD connector for storage (a SD card protrudes from the case on the left), a collection of ports (connected to the breadboard by a black ribbon cable at the left rear), an analog video port (yellow connector at the rear), and a stereo audio jack (blue connector at the rear).

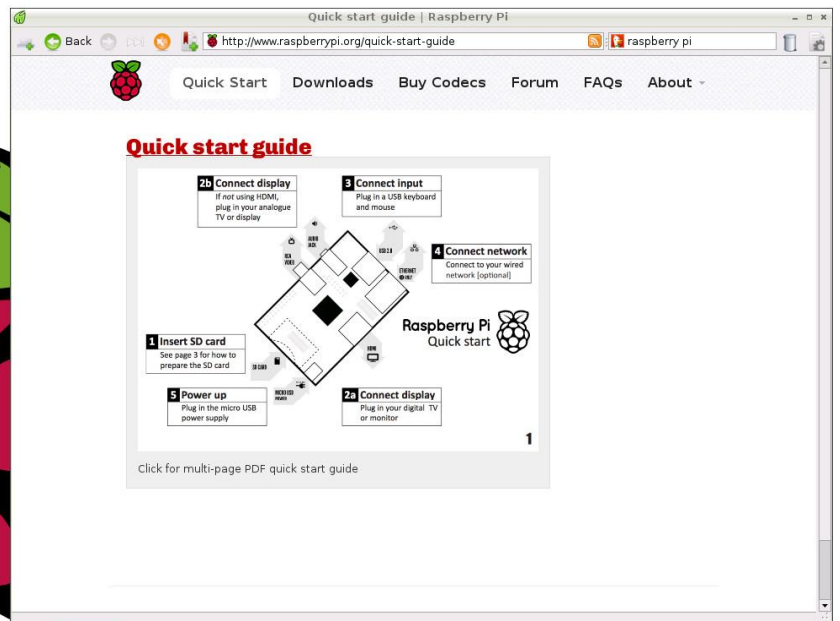
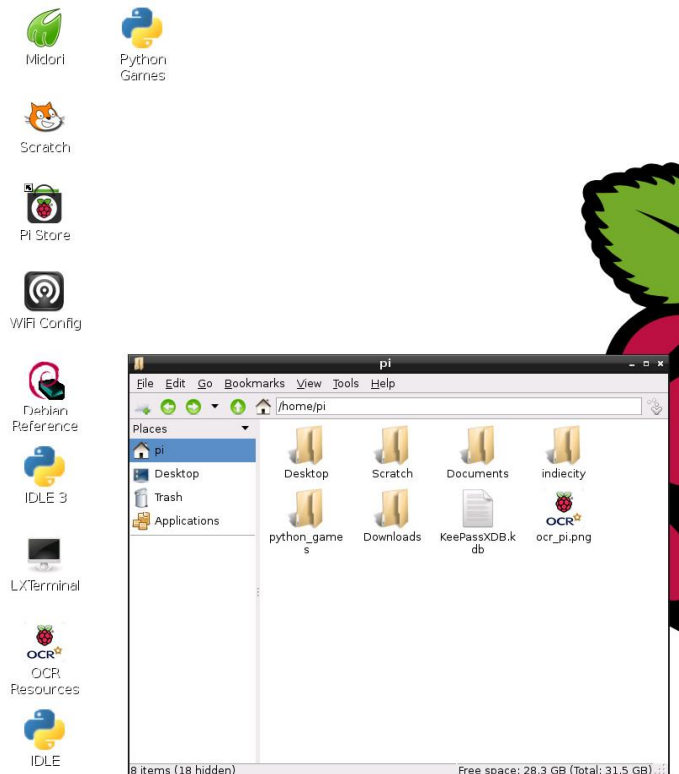
The Raspberry Pi is more powerful than the Arduino, with a 700-MHz ARM CPU and 512 Mbytes of RAM. (These specs are for the model B. The model A is much less capable and costs only a few Dollars less.) The processor is not Intel compatible; however, its overall performance is similar to a 300MHz Pentium 2, but with much better graphics. Clearly, it isn't an acceptable replacement for any modern home computer. However, it does act like a (slow) PC, as you can see from the screen-shot below, which shows the desktop with windows open for the Internet browser and file manager.

Getting a Raspberry Pi running is more involved than with the Arduino. Although it's powered through a USB port, PC USB ports can't supply enough current; you will need either a cell phone recharger or a powered USB hub. Be careful of cell phone rechargers though; many cheap units can't supply the current they claim. The safe approach is to purchase one from the vendor from

whom you buy your Pi. You will need a USB keyboard and mouse; if you don't have an extra set, they are quite cheap. Hopefully, you have a HDMI display, either for your PC or a flat-screen TV; if not, you could try an old analog TV set, but its resolution will be poor. Finally, connect any USB peripherals through a powered hub, rather than ask the Pi to power them. I bought a no-name 10-port hub that had good user reports on Amazon, and it can also power the Pi. Finally, unlike the Arduino, which comes with its control software installed, you must supply the SD card for the Raspberry Pi and install Linux and its applications on it. This requires a SD card burner, and unfortunately many on the market aren't up to the job. Again, purchasing one from your Pi supplier is the safe approach.

As with the Arduino, you can probably get started with the Pi using only what you learn on the Internet, but there are also numerous books. The project has published *Raspberry Pi User Guide* by Eben Upton. There are numerous others, as well as magazine and Internet articles. I've seen descriptions of a media center, an Internet radio, a time-lapse camera control, a network file server, a firewall, and a wireless access point. (Many of these don't require a keyboard, mouse, or display once they are running, so you could disconnect these for use elsewhere once the project is on line.) You could even connect an Arduino to a Raspberry to obtain a portable sophisticated hardware control and data processing system.

Both these devices are ideal for experimenting. No matter how badly you screw up the software, you can just download a new program to your Arduino or reburn the SD card on your Raspberry Pi. Even if you manage to fry the electronics, you can replace either card for less than \$50. Both are wonderful platforms for introducing electronics and computers to young people. There are many Arduino projects that can be completed in less than an hour, including building the circuit and writing the program. The Raspberry Pi software includes Scratch, a programming language for children that builds animated graphics with sound, and Python, a more sophisticated language for older kids and adults.







The crowd gathers around our January speaker, Gene Barlow.



Hansmartin congratulates Jack on winning the presidency.



Ted ~~has~~ counts the ballots.



Glenn congratulates Bess on her narrow win.

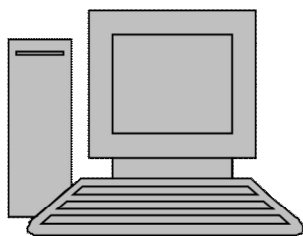


Gene Barlow tells everyone to backup one or two steps.

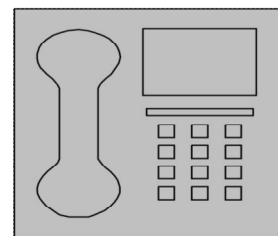


Everyone celebrates after the election.





# 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](mailto: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](mailto:KLarrabee@cfl.rr.com)

### DOS

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

[smwallner@yahoo.com](mailto:smwallner@yahoo.com)

Kris Hestad 321-459-2755

[kris.hestad@surfdogs.com](mailto:kris.hestad@surfdogs.com)

### Hardware

Ken Larrabee 407-365-2660 anytime

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

[smwallner@yahoo.com](mailto:smwallner@yahoo.com)

### MS ACCESS

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

[Access-sig@cfcs.org](mailto:Access-sig@cfcs.org)

### MS Office Products:

MS Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook and Access

Doug Gabbard (e-mail only)

[Dougga@gmail.com](mailto:Dougga@gmail.com)

### Security

Arvin Meyer 407-327-3810

[Access-sig@cfcs.org](mailto:Access-sig@cfcs.org)

### Networking - Home or Office

Doug Gabbard e-mail only

[Dougga@gmail.com](mailto:Dougga@gmail.com)

### SQL-Server

Arvin Meyer 407-327-3810

[Access-sig@cfcs.org](mailto:Access-sig@cfcs.org)

### Windows

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

[hewie@hewie.net](mailto:hewie@hewie.net)

Kris Hestad 321-459-2755

[kris.hestad@surfdogs.com](mailto:kris.hestad@surfdogs.com)

### WinZip

Arvin Meyer 407-327-3810

[Access-sig@cfcs.org](mailto:Access-sig@cfcs.org)

### Wireless Routers

Kris Hestad 321-459-2755

[kris.hestad@surfdogs.com](mailto:kris.hestad@surfdogs.com)

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2	3	4	5 Casselberry Denny's 7p BoD meeting	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Office, Access, Security SIGs 7p ■ New Horizons  May be cancelled. Check eBlast for details.	13	14	15
16	17 1505 E. Colonial 7p ■ iPhone SIG	18	19 Details at cfcs.org 7p Virtual Photo SIG  May be cancelled. Check eBlast for details.	20	21	22

General Meeting  
moved to Orlan-  
do Day Nursery.  
See map on next  
page.

# February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25 Casselberry Denny's 7p Tech-SIG	26	27	28	Mar 1 DEADLINE for Newsletter copy
2	3	4	5 Casselberry Denny's 7p BoD meeting	6	7	
9	10	11	12 Office, Access, Security SIGs 7p ■ New Horizons  May be cancelled. Check eBlast for details.	13	14	15
16	17 1505 E. Colonial 7p ■ iPhone SIG	18	19 Details at cfcs.org 7p Virtual Photo SIG  May be cancelled. Check eBlast for details.	20	21	22
	24	25 Casselberry Denny's 7p Tech-SIG	26	27	28	29
30	31	Apr 1 DEADLINE for Newsletter copy  NO FOOLIN'	2 Casselberry Denny's 7p BoD meeting	3	4	5

General Meeting  
moved to Orlando  
Day Nursery. See  
map on next  
page.

# March

**Orlando Day Nursery  
626 Lake Dot Circle  
Orlando, FL 32801**

**CFCS Meeting Place for January through March of 2014**

