



THE WYSIWYG



\$3.00

October 2014

Volume 26, Issue 8

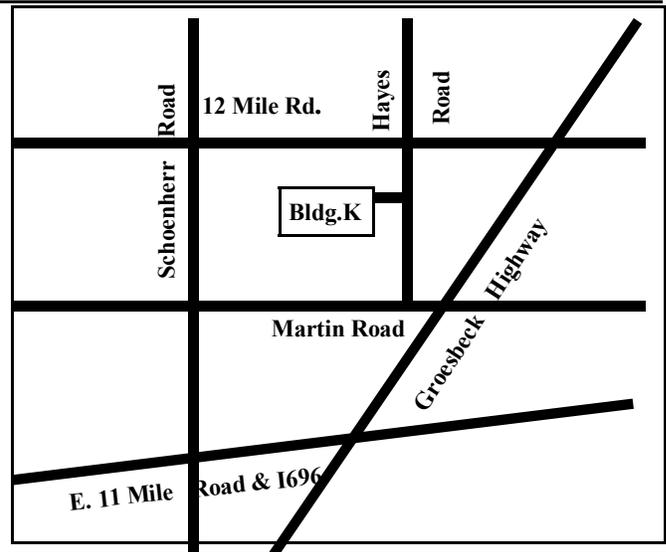
STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY OCT 7 7:30PM

**Macomb Community College
South Campus
14500 E 12 Mile Road, Warren
John Lewis Community Center
(Building K)
(Enter from Hayes Road)**



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This Month's Main Meeting Topic:
"NSA Revelations Deconstructed" by Dan Diebolt - a computer engineer

NOVICE SIG Meeting:

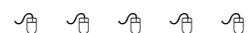
**October 21
6:45 at the
Clinton-Macomb
Public Library**

(see page 3)

(The SIG will plan to meet every other month, at this location, if people continue to attend.)

Clinton-Macomb Public Library

The Library (Main Branch) is located at 40900 Romeo Plank Road in Clinton Township, on the east side of Romeo Plank, south of 19 Mile and Cass Roads, at the intersection of Romeo Plank and Canal roads (south-east corner).
(Tel. 586-226-5000.)



Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before deciding to become a member or not. Meetings include the main meeting and SIG. July and August don't count since there is no main meeting. Membership includes admission to all SHCC functions and the newsletter. Membership is open to anyone. It is not limited to the residents of Sterling Heights.

DUES: \$25/YEAR

CLUB ADDRESS: PO Box 385, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385
CLUB E-MAIL ADDRESS: Info@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org
CLUB WEB PAGE: http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

Resource People:

Family Tree	Rick Schummer
Firefox	Don VanSyckel
FoxPro	Rick Schummer
General Computer Questions	Jack Vander-Schrier
Hardware	John Rady
MS Publisher	Rick Kucejko
MS Word	Rick Schummer
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer

SHCC Coordinators:

Associate Editor	Rick Schummer
Door prizes	Sharon Patrick
Greeter for visitors	Lindell Beck
Newsletter publisher	Rick Kucejko
Windows SIG	Jack Vander-Schrier
Program Coordinator	Jerry Hess
Publicity	Patrick Little
Resource People	open
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Welcome & check-in desk.	Jim Waldrop
Web Site	Don VanSyckel
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(Call Jack after noon)

2013 SHCC Officers

V. President: Mike Bader
 Treasurer: Paul Baecker
 President: Don VanSyckel
 Secretary: Rick Kucejko

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

OCTOBER 2014

- 7 - SHCC – “NSA Revelations Deconstructed” by Dan Diebolt - a computer engineer
- 1 - COMP meeting
- 12 - SEMCO meeting
- 21 - Novice SIG

DECEMBER 2014

- 2 - SHCC – Main Meeting
- 3 - COMP meeting
- 14- SEMCO meeting
- ? - Novice SIG

NOVEMBER 2014

- 4 - SHCC – Main Meeting
- 5 - COMP meeting
- 9 - SEMCO meeting

JANUARY 2015

- 6 - SHCC – Main Meeting
- 7 - COMP meeting
- 11 - SEMCO meeting

Other Computer Clubs:

As a member of SHCC, you can attend meetings of other clubs where we have reciprocating membership agreements, at no charge.

Computer Club of Marysville and Port Huron (COMP)

Time: 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM
 Place: Mackenzie Bldg, Room 201, St Clair Community College, Clara E McKenzie Library-Science Building, 323 Erie St.
 Port Huron, MI (810) 982-1187
 Web Page: http://www.bwcomp.org
 Reciprocating: Yes

South Eastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO)

Time: 2nd Sunday at 1:30PM
 Place: Altair, 1820 E Big Beaver Road, Troy, MI 48083 (248) 840-2400
 Web page: http://www.semco.org
 Reciprocating: Yes

The OPC (Older Persons Commission) Computer Club

Time: Every Tuesday at 10:00
 Place: OPC in Rochester 248-656-1403.
 Web page: www.opcseniorcenter.org go to "Activities - Programs", then to "OPC Computer Club" for club information.
 No cost for residents to join or attend meetings. \$150 fee for non-residents, (full facility usage) or \$1 per meeting.
 Reciprocating: No

Newsletter submissions are due 10 days before the club meeting, but the earlier the better. They should be sent to :

WYSIWYG Publisher
 5069 Fedora, Troy, MI 48098

OR at the e-mail addresses: newsletter@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

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The President's Pen

by Don VanSyckel



Last month I wrote about using migrating to USB 3 from USB 2. I advanced the idea that no matter how cheap the price, don't buy any more storage, either hard drives or thumb drives, that have USB 2. Go with the units that have USB 3. I'm not suggesting you throw all your USB 2 stuff in the trash. In fact things that don't generate much data or things you use infrequently are fine on USB 2. For instance, your mouse generates small amounts of data so USB 2 or USB 3 won't matter. A scanner you use once a month to scan 5 receipts won't save a lot on USB 3. On the other hand, if you scan tens of items a day, every day, a scanner on USB 3 will save time because the data will move to the PC in a fraction of the time.

The real time savings is in using storage devices. Their purpose is to read data and supply it to the PC and to write data from the PC. Here USB 3 shines over USB 2 or does it? After writing this column last month I had the need for a large thumb drive so I started shopping. The good news is there are quite a few USB 3 devices. The bad news is there's a bit more to keeping the speed up than just the USB interface.

Every USB peripheral moves data based on three things:

- 1) the ability of the PC to supply (write) and digest (read) data to and from the peripheral device.
- 2) the ability (speed) of the interface to transfer the data.
- 3) the ability of the peripheral to digest (write) and supply (read) data from and to the PC.

For the purpose of this discussion, I will assume that the PC's ability to supply and digest data far out performs that of the other two, #2 and #3 above. So data transfer between the PC and peripheral is limited by either #2 or #3.

When you enter into a USB 2 versus USB 3 discussion the focus tends to be on the interface. The USB speed dominates the decision. If you have shopped any peripherals with USB 3 you might have noticed exactly what speed the USB runs at. If they specify speed as a number they all state "up to xxx bits per second". The better USB thumb drives will list in the specs a read rate and a write rate. The read rate is always slightly higher than the write rate. I was surprised that thumb drives in some cases differed by 5 to 10 times in speed from one model to another.

I found the PNY Turbo USB 3.0 Flash Drive family to be among the fastest at a reasonable price per gigabyte. Also Micro Center that supports SHCC with presenters, carries this brand.

Remember, the new USB 3 devices you buy are usable with your current system's USB 2 ports. Then you're all set when you get a new computer that has USB 3 ports.

On a different note, the PIG SIG has ended. While I enjoyed the conversations and sampling one of the specials that Travan's always offered, there aren't enough people attending regularly for reservations and all to continue. Possibly we'll try it again some time in the future.

See you Tuesday at MCC.



If your e-mail or mail address changes, please e-mail: secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

Novice SIG

The NOVICE SIG will hold its first meeting on Tuesday October 21 from 6:45pm to 8:45pm at the main branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, located at the corner of Romeo Plank Rd. and Canal Rd. in Clinton Township. If you have a laptop, consider bringing it along, if you have specific questions about your system. Your laptop can be projected onto the wall for all to see as we attack your concern. All are welcome to attend.



Last Month's Meeting

Last month SHCC member Paul Baecker presented "SHCC WYSIWYG Web Watch Live". Paul always finds interesting web sites to include in his presentation. From utilities to entertainment, there was a little bit of something for everyone.



Door Prizes for June

Walter Jendhoff won a flash drive

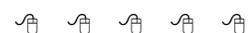
James Waldrop won a power strip

Bernard Defazio won an Upgrade and Repair PC book

Ed Zaremba won filler paper

Sharon Patrick won an I-photo manual

Rick Kucejko won a Linux Command Line book



Club Officer Election Announcement

It is time to re-elect our officers. Here is the process, the jobs, and responsibilities:

The nomination process is simple. You can nominate yourself or have another person nominate you for one or more of the offices. All the offices (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) are elected for a one year term starting in January and completing in December. Nominations are taken in October and just before the elections in November. You must be a member to be nominated or to nominate someone.

The elections are usually held at the regular meeting closest to November 1st. The easy way to remember this is that we hold our elections on the same night as the local and national elections are held, in years when there is a national election.

Only members of the SHCC can vote. The elections are held during the business portion of the meeting. The person with the majority of the vote for the office is the winner, for each office.

The jobs of each office are flexible. Some are defined, some change from office to office depending on the officers' capabilities and availability. In reality the president makes sure the meeting topics are set, the speakers are prepared, writes thank you notes to presenters and door prize contributors, runs the regular club and officer meetings, takes phone calls from potential members and sends information to them, audits the monthly treasurer report and membership databases, tracks door prizes, and handles most of the publicity issues for the club. The WYSIWYG column is optional, but a great forum to pass along information to the members. The president also makes sure that the different coordinators are appointed and do

their jobs. The President enforces the constitution and Club's policies. The president does whatever things cannot be done by anyone else. The key to this job is delegation. The more the president delegates the less there is to do.

The Vice President has the catch all job. So far to date the vice-president has not had to step in for the president, and there have not been any state funerals that they have had to attend. This is an important job. The person must be flexible and be prepared to run the regular and officer meetings if the president cannot attend. This officer usually picks up a project or two during the year to lift the burden from other officers. Presently the vice president arranges for our meeting speaker, but help is available as needed.

The Secretary maintains the membership database which is tracked in an Access database. The secretary audits the treasurer report to make sure that the membership money collected matches the membership counts in the database, print the mailing labels for WYSIWYG mailing and the main meeting, and maintains several reports such as a membership list. The secretary

makes sure that sign-in table materials needed at each regular meeting are there before the meeting, and before people start showing up.

The Treasurer maintains records for all the money taken in and paid out from the Club's checking account. The SHCC currently uses Quicken to track the funds and generate reports for the officers. The treasurer also audits the membership counts. The treasurer makes reports to the officers at the officers meeting and four times a year to the Club's membership. All the receipts are collected and maintained by the treasurer.

All the officers attend the officer meeting that takes place during the week after the club meeting. It starts at 7:30PM; time and date and location are flexible to the liking of all officers.

We hope everyone considers this invitation, this call to service. It is some work, and can be a lot of fun. Normally it takes 3 to 5 hours a month (give or take a few hours) outside of the meetings. The president's job might take a little more, but remember that delegation can reduce the burden. If you have any questions concerning the duties, feel free to give any of the officers a call.



Bitcoin – A New Currency?

by Phil Sorrentino, The Computer Club, Inc., Sun City Center, FL
www.scccomputerclub.org/ philsorryahoo.com

Bitcoin is basically a payment system. It provides the ability to transfer some type of value from a payer to a payee. (There are no physical coins, only entries in a software ledger.) If you have been monitoring the news with your tablet or laptop, or you have been reading the daily papers, you probably already know a lot about Bitcoin.

(Mostly negatives lately, I suspect.) But the interest here is mostly on the technology. Bitcoin uses fairly complex peer-to-peer software technology and operates with no central authority (or banks). (It reminds me of the operation of the Bit Torrent file sharing networks, only "value" files are being transferred instead of "entertainment" files.) I must say, up front, that I am

not a proponent of this type of software currency. With the current levels of computer security, I feel that there is too much opportunity for problems, like hacking, spoofing and down-right dishonesty. However, progress will probably move this technology forward. I must also admit that I missed some major changes like MySpace, and Twitter, so my opinion of Bitcoin should probably be taken with a grain of salt. The idea of a digital currency, convenient and untraceable, and far from the oversight of governments and banks, has been an interesting software technology topic since the beginning of the Internet.

Bitcoin is a network of computers running Bitcoin software. The Bitcoin network manages the transactions and the issuing of bitcoins. All this is carried out collectively by the network participants. Bitcoin is open-source. Nobody owns or controls Bitcoin, yet anyone with the proper software can take part in its operation. Proponents say that “through many of its unique properties, Bitcoin can enable uses that could not be accomplished by any previous payment system,” but I’m not sure what that really means. Bitcoin is not the only peer-to-peer based digital currency, but it is certainly the most notable. Peercoin and Primecoin are also mentioned in the literature, and in fact a research team at Johns Hopkins computer lab is developing a similar digital currency called Zerocoin. Maybe this type of currency will really be in our future.

Bitcoin, as a new currency, was created in 2009 by an unknown person using the name Satoshi Nakamoto. Satoshi Nakamoto, it is said, is almost certainly a pseudonym for the actual individual, or individuals. Transac-

tions are made with no middle men, meaning no banks. There are no transaction fees and no need to give your real name. Some internet merchants have begun to accept Bitcoins. Supposedly, you can use bitcoins to buy things on the internet like web hosting services. There are even indications that you can buy everyday items like pizza using bitcoins. Because bitcoins are used to transfer wealth, people can send bitcoins to each other using their computers, or mobile phone, or tablet apps. It is supposed to be similar to sending cash digitally. Bitcoins can be used to buy merchandise anonymously, a characteristic that has certainly caught the interest of the government. In addition, international payments are easy and cheap because bitcoins are not tied to any country, country’s currency, or subject to any regulation. (But the lack of regulation may actually encourage volatility and add risk to the value of a Bitcoin in the future, so this may not be as good as it sounds.) Small businesses may like bitcoins because there are no, or very low, fees. Some people have even been buying bitcoins to have as an investment, hoping their value will appreciate. But bitcoins have been extremely volatile, not really like an investment, but more like a speculation similar to a roulette bet at a casino.

Bitcoin employs the use of very complex peer-to-peer software technology, along with software cryptography. Bitcoin is called a cryptocurrency, because it uses cryptography to control the creation and the transfer of bitcoins among the users. Bitcoin uses public-key cryptography in which pairs of cryptographic keys, one public and one private, are generated. (A

cryptographic key is a piece of information that specifies a particular transformation of plaintext into ciphertext, and vice-versa.) A collection of keys is called a “wallet”. A Bitcoin transaction transfers bitcoin ownership to a new individual. A coded alphanumeric string is created from the use of the individual’s public key. The corresponding private key is then used to decode the transaction. Only the correct private key will complete the transaction. Additionally a digital signature is checked for validity. (A digital signature is a mathematical scheme for demonstrating the authenticity of a digital message or document.) Private key protection is critical for Bitcoin security, because anyone with the correct private key can spend all of the bitcoins sent to that individual. Security is of paramount importance for the success of Bitcoin. Theft of bitcoins has occurred on numerous occasions and the practical day-to-day security of bitcoins remains an on-going concern.

Bitcoins are stored in a “digital wallet,” which exists either in the cloud or on a user’s computer. The wallet is a kind of virtual bank account that allows users to send or receive bitcoins, pay for goods, or save their money. Bitcoin wallet software has been implemented in several programming languages for personal computers, mobile devices, and as web applications. At the most basic, a wallet program generates and stores private keys and communicates with peers on the Bitcoin network. Unlike bank accounts, bitcoin wallets are not insured by the FDIC. Although each bitcoin transaction is recorded in a public log, the names of buyers and sellers are never revealed, only their wallet IDs

are recorded. This lets users buy or sell items without anyone having the ability to trace the transaction back to them. This is why it has become the currency of choice for online illicit activities.

Bitcoins can be obtained in exchange for products, services, or other currencies, or by a process called “mining.” Bitcoins are actually created by the mining process. People compete to “mine” bitcoins using computers to solve complex math problems. In other words, Bitcoin’s mining operation consists of the network of its users’ computers solving complex mathematical problems. I’m not sure how this really works, but as a result of the effort to solve the problems, at preset intervals, an algorithm releases new bitcoins into the network. The interval is said to be 25 bitcoins every 10 minutes, with the pace of bitcoin generation halving in increments until around the year 2140. This automated pace is meant to ensure regular growth of the monetary supply without interference by third parties, like a central bank, (of which it is thought might lead to hyperinflation).

Bitcoins can be bought and traded on an “Exchange” website, however the most prominent exchange site “Mt. Gox,” has just recently “gone dark,” and is not to be found online. Another exchange, “SecondMarket,” was about to go online, but the apparent collapse of Mt. Gox may delay, or even eliminate the possibility of any new exchanges.

Because the bitcoin transactions are anonymous, there can be a dark side to this technology. Bitcoin has been the subject of government investiga-

tion due to its ties with illicit activities. In 2013 the FBI shut down the website, Silk Road, which came on line in 2011, as the first, or one of the first, websites to use Bitcoin for anonymous purchase of all sorts of illegal products and services. The acceptance of only the digital currency, Bitcoin was meant to add an additional layer of anonymity to buyers and sellers. As of September, 2012, the Silk Road site had over 10,000 listings for drugs including heroin, cocaine and LSD. Silk Road was shut down by law enforcement officials last year. This February Federal officials announced a grand jury indictment of the man accused of creating the online drug marketplace. He is in law enforcement custody, and could be behind bars for the rest of his life. He is charged with engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise, computer hacking, money laundering, and operating a narcotics conspiracy. (Sounds a lot like hacking, spoofing and downright dishonesty, to me.)

Bitcoin as a form of payment for products and services has seen

growth, because merchants have an incentive to accept the currency because transaction costs are lower than the 2 to 3% typically charged by credit card companies. Commercial use of Bitcoin, illicit or otherwise, is currently small compared to its use by speculators, which has been the cause of bitcoin’s price volatility. No one knows what will become of bitcoin. It is mostly unregulated, but that could change. Governments are concerned about taxation and their lack of control over the currency. Maybe the government will take a more active role in the development of a digital currency, but I think the government is happy with its own dollar based currency. It’s not clear if Bitcoin will be in our future, but it does look like we will have some form of digital payment technology when we get there.

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author’s permission for publication by APCUG member groups.



I Want It Now!

by *Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA*
www.uchug.org president@uchug.org

This may sound like the utterance of a tantrum-happy young child, but it also seems to be the mantra of the modern computer and technology user. Our popular culture today is all about instant gratification, and this is spilling over into our technology. Everyone wants instant access to information, communications, finance and commerce wherever they are and no matter what they are doing. While this is a rather tall order, tech companies are doing their best to grant us this wish. We are getting more connected and intercon-

nected all the time. While this can provide great benefits, increasing our knowledge and security and saving us time and money, it can also be detrimental to us in many of the same ways. Are we trading away important aspects of our lives like privacy and individuality for speed and convenience?

The engine that drives all the increases in convenience in our lives is the Internet. Computers and tablets are powerful devices but are of relatively little use if not connected to the Inter-

net. The Internet is the connection medium through which all our modern communications and access to information flow. The telecommunication (phone) system was once the most powerful and far-reaching network in the world, but its demotion can be seen in the low percentage of time that the typical smart phone user spends in voice calls. The average smart phone is now being used mostly to check email, monitor social media, play games and provide directions, functions which utilize the Internet. Our desire for increased connectedness and higher connection speeds continues to be met by our service providers, be they cable, telecom or cellular. The promises of online conveniences like streaming entertainment, security camera monitoring and video conferencing cannot be met without broadband Internet connections that are always live. Remember the days when you had to wait until the home phone line was free so you could use your modem to make your dial-up Internet connection? A down or even slow connection is now exasperating to the individual and death to a business. Today almost anyone in the United States can have a broadband connection. Cable companies have upgraded their systems, the phone companies have added fiber and the cellular providers have upped their "G's" or generations in data networking capabilities. Even those living off the beaten path in rural areas outside the reach of cable can get broadband through satellite connections, using technology developed by our local company, Vi-aSat. All this capability comes at a price, however.

Naturally users were not satisfied to be connected only at home, so our tech industry gave us laptops to travel with. We wanted more portability, so they gave us Wi-Fi, tablets and smartphones. All this new stuff meant we had to buy more hardware (often of multiple kinds for multiple needs) and probably also get a cellular data plan. Now most connected folks pay around \$100 combined for home broadband

and cellular data, and even more for a family. Though connection speeds keep increasing, so too do rates for service. Comcast buying Time Warner Cable can't be good for consumer costs. And we in this country pay more and get less bandwidth than a lot of other countries. Some countries may not have good water or sewer systems, but even the poor there have cell phones and five bars. We are getting Google Fiber in an additional 34 major U.S. cities soon, however (but still not in San Diego; I want it now!).

We couldn't get online while onboard, so the airlines are rolling out more in-flight Internet access (for a price). Google knew we'd find tablets and smartphones were not convenient enough, so they developed Google Glasses, and others are working on their own wearable computing devices. Our homes and appliances will soon be connected to the Internet (the IoT, or Internet of Things), so we can monitor our homes remotely and have our fridge tell us when we are low on milk. What these new devices will cost us in privacy and other social and civil issues is yet to be determined.

We wanted instant access to our money and finances, and so the banks gave it to us. Now we can get cash anytime from an ATM machine, make purchases without cash by using credit or debit cards and get instant access to our account information at any time. If we want to deposit a check right now, we don't even have to drive to a bank branch or ATM. We can now just take a photo of the check with our smart phone and deposit it through a banking app.

With all of our financial information available online, it was just a matter of time before criminal elements took notice. Now you have to protect and remember lots of unique and complex passwords for all the banking, e-commerce and other online accounts you use, so you can keep your money and identity safe. Unfortunately it is not only in your hands to protect. Fi-

nancial institutions and merchants that store your information on their computers can be targets for data theft. There is a lot the institutions could do to increase security, like multi-factor authentication and smart chip credit cards, but these things cost money. A few things they have been doing to help prevent fraud are useful but put the onus on the account holder. Most bank and credit card companies encourage their customers to set up alerts on their accounts to help flag suspicious transactions. I have set these up on my accounts and find them very useful.

I have my credit cards alert me, through an email and/or a text message, when a purchase is made without the card being presented to the merchant, as in an online purchase. This can help alert you to fraudulent account activity as soon as it happens. My Visa card is set up to send me an alert when a gas pump purchase is made. I use this card often at a particular low-cost gas station and am amazed at how quickly I am notified. After I swipe my card, enter my zip code and press the Enter button on the pump, I can't count to five before I feel my cell phone vibrating in my pocket with a text informing me of the transaction and location. That is pretty cool!

When we want to purchase something, we want it now. E-commerce has allowed the shopper to buy a much wider array of products online than is typically available in neighborhood stores, often at much lower prices. The one advantage for brick and mortar stores is the instant gratification of walking out with your purchase. Online merchants are working hard to minimize delivery time, offering one or two-day delivery for a premium. Amazon's Prime service provides two-day delivery for many items for an annual subscription fee. Amazon knows we want even more and is looking at using predictive algorithms to pre-position products you are likely to purchase in local warehouses and is even working on 30-minute delivery

of small items by autonomous flying quadcopters. I can't wait (but I'll bet it won't be cheap).

Taco Bell is working to fulfill our desire for fast food right now. They plan to introduce a mobile ordering system later this year. Through their mobile app, already tested in five locations in Orange County, customers can place an order with the closest Taco Bell location and pay through their phone with credit or gift cards. The order can be picked up in-store or at the drive-through window, and the app will use GPS location to let the store know when the customer is near, so the order is ready and freshness is maintained. I'm not sure I want Taco Bell to know how far I am from their restaurants. Other chains are working on mobile apps of their own.

There goes more of our privacy in exchange for quick eats. When we want to watch a movie, we no longer have to wait to buy or rent a DVD (or Blu-ray) or go to a theater. We can watch our entertainment streamed to our computer, tablet or smart phone the instant we want it, in almost any location we choose. We can easily stay connected with our friends through social media like Facebook, allowing us to share our activities and see what everyone else is doing. Unfortunately, when watching other things happening becomes too convenient, doing things yourself can get pushed aside and lots of time can be spent in watching the Internet world go by, with little to show for it.

When we miss our far-away loved ones, we can not only speak to them, we can also see them, and at reasonable costs. The Internet has brought us VoIP, or voice over Internet Protocol, and along with it lower rates (often free) for long distance phone calls. Programs like Skype provide video calls at reasonable costs. And for those of us that can't wait until the afterlife to converse again with our deceased loved ones, a new start-up, Eterni.me, promises to help. Through

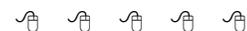
access to a dead person's online interactions (chat logs, social network information, emails), they claim to use artificial intelligence algorithms to construct an avatar or virtual person that the living can interact with. It could be like online chat with a dead person. To satisfy our need for instant interactions with help lines and tech support, companies are working on similar avatars with artificial intelligence (even more intelligent than Siri). When we need to talk to a person right now, the avatar would be there and not even require a salary. It would be good if they got to the point where I could not tell if I was talking with a person or a machine. It would be bad if they got to the point where I could not tell if I was talking with a person or a machine.

All these advances in convenience and quick access come at the cost of our data security and privacy. We can get quick answers to all our questions, get directions and compare products online, but we must realize that the Technology, computers and the Internet will continue to try to provide

what we want (though perhaps not what we need), as long as there is profit in it somewhere for someone. Hopefully we can learn to use these advances for the betterment of ourselves and others, appreciate them, and not become like spoiled children crying "I want it now!"

Google and Bing and merchants are all keeping track of what we are asking for and about. Seeking online information about sensitive topics or items might create undesirable associations in the data they hold about us. And while a lot of tech jobs have been created due to the Internet, there have also been some job losses. Just ask the former bank tellers, video rental clerks, encyclopedia salespersons and retail store workers that lost their jobs due to the effects of the Internet.

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"You hacked into the school's computer system to give yourself an 'A,' so you're getting an 'F.' But, I will give you extra credit for your tech skills."

This cartoon was reprinted with permission from the "How To Geek" online newsletter, available online at newsletter@howtogeek.com

Now We Have A High Tech Way To Get To Know Your Neighbors

by Sandy Berger, CompuKISS
www.compukiss.com sandy@compukiss.com

Do you remember when neighbors knew each other and a neighborhood was a tight-woven community? Well, I do and I miss that. So today I'll tell you about a new, high-tech way to get to know your neighbors.

We don't know our neighbors like we did when I was a kid. We stay inside our air conditioned homes and keep to ourselves. But it doesn't have to be that way.

We can use technology to bring us back to those by-gone days when neighbors joined to form a close-knit community. This can be easily done with a new web service called Nextdoor (www.nextdoor.com). Nextdoor lets neighbors get in touch with each other again. It is a free and private social network for neighborhoods.

The first member from the neighborhood is called the Founding Member. To use this website, he or she defines the neighborhood boundaries and gives the neighborhood a name, both of which can be edited in the future, if necessary. The Founding Member can then start inviting neighbors to join. Each member must verify their address. A neighbor who is a verified member of that specific Nextdoor neighborhood can vouch for, and invite another neighbor to join. Accepting such an invitation will allow them to join Nextdoor as a verified member. Each neighbor uses their real name and must verify their address in order to join. Not only is your private information never shared, but it is not accessible by search engines.

Nextdoor launched in 2011 and now has over 12,000 neighborhood groups represented. They have communities in all 50 states. According to its co-

founder and CEO, Nirav Tolia, they add about 40 or so neighborhoods each day.

Nextdoor lets you share useful stuff with the folks in your immediate vicinity. You can use it for stopping burglars and for spreading crime warnings for the area. You can use it to learn about illnesses, deaths, and other times when a neighbor might need a meal, a ride, or just some moral support.

You can also use Nextdoor for advice about contractors and baby-sitters. You can use it as a mini-Craigslist where you can sell or buy things without dealing with strangers. You can use it to plan a block party or to invite neighbors to an impromptu get together. If your area were to ever encounter a weather-related disaster like a tornado, Nextdoor could be an invaluable asset.

Why don't you try it in your neighborhood?

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

Member Classified Ads

Send any classifieds to the WYSIWYG Publisher at the club's PO Box, or to his e-mail address posted on page 2 of the newsletter.

Ads are available to SHCC members and are limited to computer related items for non-commercial purposes. There is no charge for members classified ads.

Presenters Wanted

The officers invite any member to make a presentation at the main meeting.

If there is some software you have been using and think others may be interested as well, or there is a computer topic you would like to present to other members, please call or e-mail Don VanSyckel. Making presentations is not that difficult. The hour goes by before you know it and there is always enough material to cover in a software package so that the hour is easy to fill.

If there is a topic you are interested in or something you would like demonstrated, please see any of the officers. They are always interested in what the members would like to see.

SHCC Emergency Cancellation

The Sterling Heights Computer Club might find it necessary to cancel an event if the weather gets bad enough. All members of SHCC have an email address. One of the SHCC officers will send an email to the addresses SHCC has on file alerting members to the event cancellation. Decisions will not be made before 4:00 PM and decisions will be made by 6:00 PM for the regular 7:30 PM meetings. If weather is questionable an email confirming that the event is NOT cancelled might be sent, so please carefully read any SHCC announcement about events. If your email is broken, call an officer. Don't leave a message, but instead call another officer if you don't talk to someone live. It is your responsibility to keep the email you have listed with SHCC current.

WYSIWYG WEB WATCH (www)

by Paul Baecker webwatch@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org



This column attempts to locate sites containing valuable, amusing and free content, with no overbearing pressure to purchase anything. Send your favorite entertaining, helpful or just plain useless sites (a description is optional) to the e-address noted above, for inclusion in a future WYSIWYG issue.

Collection of Alt codes by category such as foreign language, bullet, drawing, math, currency, arrow, more. <http://usefulshortcuts.com/alt-codes>

Personal technology blog that publishes descriptive how-to posts and guides also has a YouTube channel with related videos with emphasis on Androids and iPhones. <http://www.youtube.com/user/guidingtechvideos/>

If you choose to (carefully!) overclock the processor in your computer to achieve a higher level of performance, use this free torture-test tool to test the stability of your over-clocked PC. <http://www.mersenne.org>

Play over 200 free games online. <http://www.greatdaygames.com>

Online text, document, website, and e-mail translation service. Enter text to be translated on website or upload as a document. (Keep your security in mind.) <http://www.worldlingo.co.uk>

Fifteen hundred templates to use with open-source Office applications (LibreOffice, OpenOffice). <http://templates.openoffice.org/en>

View details of the human body via anatomy systems or body regions. Watch the 'tour' video. <http://www.innerbody.com>

Need a new PSU (Power Supply Unit) for your computer? This website helps calculate the correct component for your particular build. <http://extreme.outervision.com/PSUEngine>

An 'incredibly fast dictionary'. <http://definr.com>

Food comparison tool that compares the nutritional data of two food items to see which food best suits your healthy eating goal. <http://www.twofoods.com>

Photos from various U.S. air shows and historic forts and sites. <http://www.warbirdsandairshows.com>

3D moon lander simulation. Looks simple, but is it? <http://seb.ly/games/moonlander3d/>

Inside a guy's head - an interactive MRI brain scan explorer. <http://abstractnonsense.com/mri/>

Established to uniformly exhibit a large set of speech accents from a variety of language backgrounds. Native and non-native speakers of English all read the same English paragraph and are carefully recorded. 1970 different language/accent samples from which to choose. <http://accent.gmu.edu/>

How to build a computer. (You know you always wanted to.) <http://www.howstuffworks.com/how-to-tech/build-a-computer.htm/printable>

Download a free customizable daily planner template.

<http://andreadekker.com/my-daily-routine-free-printables/>

Elephant jokes. http://www.autofish.net/site/guestbook/elephant_jokes.html

Can't reach a website? Is the site down or is it just an issue with your computer? Check the website server status and history. Troubleshooting tips here, too. <http://www.isitdownrightnow.com>

Click your state on the map to find estate sales, tag sales, auctions, and other types of estate liquidations in your area. <http://www.estatesales.net>

View 3D animations of jet engine, handgun, car engine, cheetah running, more. <http://animagraffs.com>

Forum presents Q&A and tutorials to configure and control your Windows 8 OS. <http://www.eightforums.com>

Collection of police and emergency vehicle photos. <http://www.policecarwebsite.net>

Three 3D putting games and a b-bicycle challenge. <http://www.dampgnat.com/games>



World Wide Web Column on the Club Web Site

Check out the WebPageReviews section on the club's web site. You can see past web sites reviewed in this column on our club web page. They are arranged into various key word categories to help locate a specific site.

