



\$3.00

THE WYSIWYG

December 2014

Volume 26, Issue 10

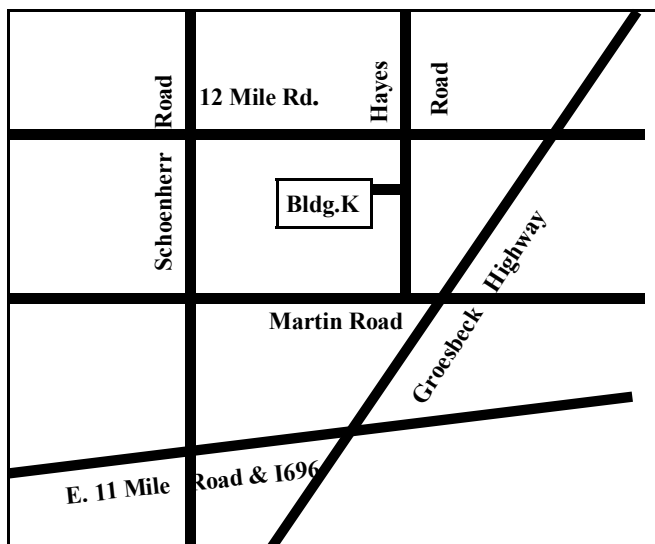
STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY DEC 2 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: Meeting Topic Not Finalized At Time Of Publication

NOVICE SIG Meeting:

December 16

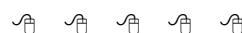
6:45 at the

**Clinton-Macomb
Public Library**

(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
SIG	Jack Vander-Schrier
Welcome & check-in desk.	Jim Waldrop
Web Site	Don VanSyckel
Web Watch column	Paul Baecker

2013 SHCC Officers

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

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

DECEMBER 2014

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

FEBRUARY 2015

3 - SHCC – Main Meeting
 4 - COMP meeting
 8 - SEMCO meeting
 ? - Novice SIG

JANUARY 2015

6 - SHCC – Main Meeting
 7 - COMP meeting
 11 - SEMCO meeting
 20 - PC SIG

MARCH 2015

3 - SHCC – Main Meeting
 4 - COMP meeting
 8 - SEMCO meeting
 ? - PC SIG

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

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Jack Vander-Schrier	586-739-5952	jvanders@comcast.net

(Call Jack after noon)

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



Hey, it's December and almost Christmas. Then it's good bye 2014, but this is a month away. Another thing that continues to zip along is technology. There are so many new interesting items available today to help us enjoy life, expand our horizons, and help us accomplish things we need to do. The problem is that the easier it is for us to do things, the easier it is for the crooks to do things.

It strokes our egos to have a lot of 'Friends' or followers but let's face it. Does anyone really need to know what I had for lunch or any of the other details for my life that I can't even remember tomorrow? Don't give up your real life friends. They're the ones who will bring you soup when you're sick or help you when you need any extra hand. On-line friends might be a nice supplement but should never get in the way of real life friends.

Although there are exceptions, real life friends won't go on shopping sprees with your credit card. They won't empty your bank account. Agreed, sometimes real life friends can be a pain but there's little in life that's worthwhile that doesn't have a cost.

Cancelled Meetings

The weather can be a problem this time of the year, as we have already seen so far. It may be necessary to cancel a meeting sometime. Our cancellation policy and method is described on this page to the right. In all our recent WYSIWYGs, the notice appears at the end of page 9, and noted in the table of contents on page 1.

The method relies on e-mail. If your e-mail address changes, you will need to let the secretary know, so that any cancellation notices can reach you.

Get out there, say "Merry Christmas" to people and enjoy the season. Then when the wind blows and the snow flies, cuddle up with your PC and enjoy your online friends. Everyone doesn't need to know that you're so glad to be getting away from the snow and going to Florida (house will be empty) or that you're going to the movies tonight (again house will be empty).

I realize this is probably the most unconventional column I've written for the President's Pen. I can attribute it to the med's. I've had a really bad cold for over a week. Most years I don't get any colds so this is particularly hard hitting. I will be totally over this by the meeting so don't worry. See you Tuesday night.

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.

Door Prizes for Nov.

None available in November. However, drawings were held, and the following 3 people will go first for the selecting of door prizes in December:

Walter Jendhoff

Warner Mach

Mike Galat

Need to be present in December to participate.

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SHCC Post Office Box

After 9-11 some of the rules have been changed concerning post office boxes. These changes are intended to make it more difficult for persons using post office boxes to remain anonymous, at least to the post office. If you send anything to the club's PO box don't put a person's name on it. It's OK to use titles such as President, Treasurer, and such. If you use a person's name, your mail will sit at the post office until that person can get to the post office with ID and claim the mail. This just slows down your mail and inconveniences the addressee.

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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.

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Learning About Computers

by Richard Durand, Wisconsin All-computer User Club, WI
www.wauc.us rgdurand@yahoo.com

One thing I have found out the hard way is that sometimes knowledge just has to be demanded. On a number of occasions, I have paid good money for educational classes, showed up and patiently waited to be filled up with the useful knowledge I was seeking, and when the class was over, I had more questions than when I started.

Or, don't you just love how this happens? Software companies provide pages and pages of printed safety and warranty information and then for instructions one gets something like, "When the Install screen appears, follow the prompts." What do the prompts mean? How does one decide which of the offered alternatives to select? Blank out. Or has anyone ever said to you as a new computer user, "Oh, just download such and such a program for that"? I have heard this myself and managed to download what was suggested and then found myself flummoxed. Why isn't anything happening? Oh, you're saying the downloaded program has to be installed first. Now, how do I find what I downloaded, which downloaded file is for installing, what drive and folder should the program be installed to, how is the installation carried out, how should it be set up, how does the program work, etc.? The questions can just cascade.

These are probably the most extreme examples that can be cited but the point is that one must be aware that

this can happen and when it does, one must be prepared, however tedious and frustrating it may become, to obtain step-by-step detailed instructions. The answers may be in manuals or computer books or in the "Help" file or from telephone tech support, and sometimes from another computer user or club member.

And if the answers are things you already know and/or are not helping, make sure you identify exactly what you are trying to find out and keep looking and asking questions. In the search for knowledge, be demanding both of your sources and of yourself.

And if you are the one helping someone else with a computer situation, try to find out how much he already knows and then give step-by-step instructions as detailed as seems necessary. There is much technical background knowledge that is just not worth pursuing for the average computer user.

But if you pick your battles and can narrow down what you really need to know, usually in the way of detailed instructions, you can concentrate your efforts and go all out to get what you need to know.

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Image Processing Software

by Dick Maybach, Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ

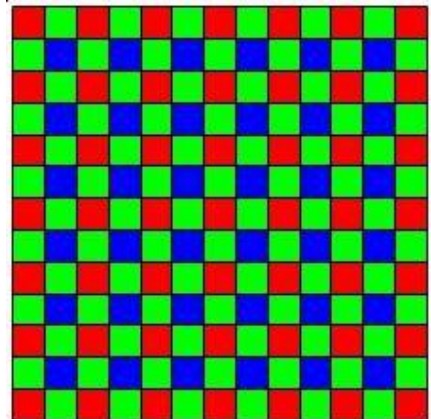
www.bcug.com n2nd@att.net

Adobe's decision to charge a subscription fee for Photoshop has inspired some photographers to look for alternate solutions, in particular those available for

free. Before you jump down this particular rabbit hole though, make a rational assessment of your needs. Photoshop is a highly refined program with a large user base and shelves of well-

written books, and this one program does almost every photo processing task. If you are a professional or a serious photographer, its new subscription fee may not be a large item in your photo budget. By comparison, its free replacements are more limited, and you will probably need several different ones to cover all the tasks that Photoshop does. Each will have its own different, and possibly idiosyncratic, user interface, and probably the only documentation will be help files (or maybe not) and Internet papers of varying quality. If you enjoy exploring new territory without a GPS, and have some time to learn, this can be a fascinating adventure; if not, just pay the Photoshop fee or switch to another commercial application with acceptable pricing.

This article will discuss software to retouch images. Before diving into the programs, let's look at the overall process. Your digital camera captures an image as an array of blue, green, and red dots called pixels, where typically each pixel is captured as a 12- or 14-bit word. We call this unprocessed form a raw image, and high-end cameras can store images in this form. If you were to look at most digital camera sensors under a microscope, you would see something like the figure below, although with many more col-



ored squares (typically well over a million), one for each pixel. This array of filters is called a *Bayer filter array*, after the Kodak engineer who invented it. The array covers the sensor, with the result that about half the

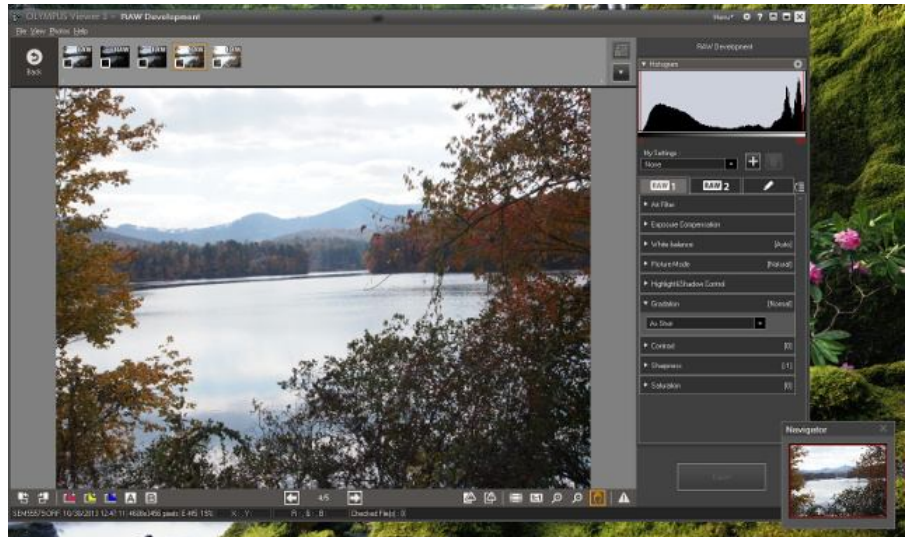
pixels are sensitive only to light in the green portion of the spectrum, a quarter are sensitive to red, and a quarter to blue.

Usually, the camera converts the raw image into one where each pixel contains three colors, each stored as an 8-bit byte, and performs compression to reduce the number of stored bytes. The result is a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) file, and all cameras make this form available. Although convenient, JPEG images have lower quality than do raw ones. For snapshots, taken with good lighting and presented on a computer display or as a small print, the lower quality of JPEG is imperceptible to most people. For pictures taken in poor light, those needing a lot of retouching, those presented in large formats, or those viewed by critical audiences, you must be quite careful about how you transform a raw image to the final product. The process of converting a raw image to JPEG or its equivalent is called developing, as opposed to later work, such as removing red eye, which is called retouching. When most people use "Photoshop" as a verb they mean "retouch."

As your first step in looking for a Photoshop alternative, look at what you already have, in particular, the photo-processing software that most likely came on a DVD included in the box with your camera. If you are a casual photographer, it probably does more than you need, usually including color correction, cropping, special effects, and possibly panorama creation and raw development, and because it has been tuned to your particular camera, it will probably automatically correct for lens distortion and other defects. (However, if your camera has a removable lens, it may not correct the distortion of all lenses from other manufacturers.) Even if you've been using Photoshop, try this software and see if it doesn't meet all of your important needs. Windows and OS X also have photo software, and such programs as Picassa (Windows), PhotoScape (Windows, Mac), Paint.net

(Windows) are also available. These are all worthwhile programs, with features beyond image processing, such as organizing your collection and publishing on-line albums, but the program bundled with and tuned to your camera probably can do a better job of image processing.

The screen-shot below shows a raw image being processed by Olympus



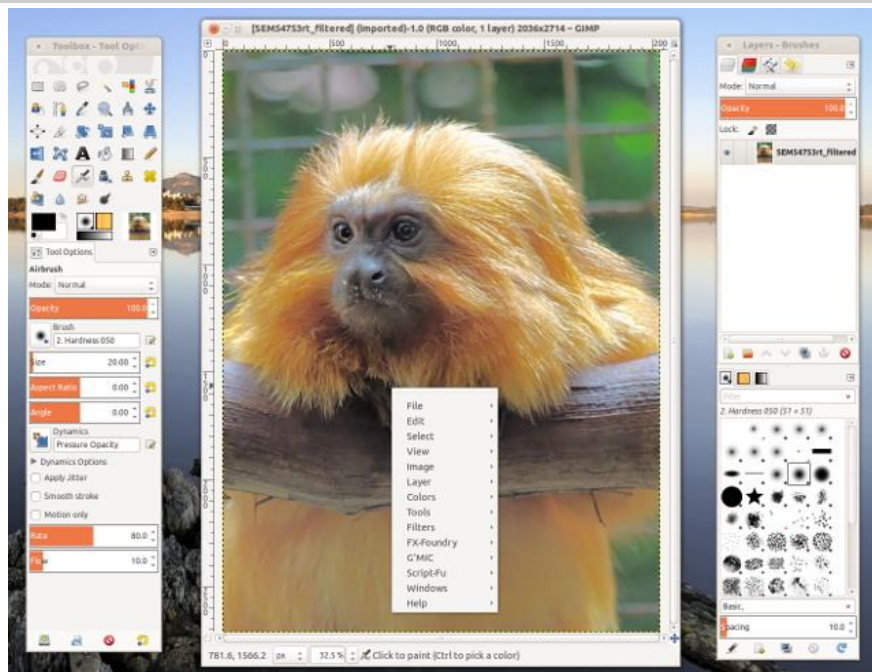
Viewer 3, which is bundled with their enthusiast cameras. Your software is most likely not the same, so I won't discuss the details, except to say that it is sufficiently capable to satisfy all but the most rabid amateur photographer. Because Olympus knows their cameras' limitations well, their software does an excellent job of correcting for lens distortion and vignetting. It also has features for images with high dynamic range and for creating panoramas.

The GNU Image Manipulation Program or GIMP (<http://www.gimp.org/> for Linux, OS X, and Windows) is the closest free program to Photoshop, with a comparable range of features. Like Photoshop, GIMP is designed both for photographic image processing and also creating computer art. Also like Photoshop, it has a bewildering number of add-ons, ranging from invaluable to useless. GIMP's main use for photographers is retouch-

ing (replacing an overcast sky with one having scattered clouds, removing red-eyes, patching in heads from several group shots to get one where everybody has their eyes open, and the like). However, it does have a serious flaw; it uses 8-bit arithmetic for all its processing. (The developers promise to incorporate 16-bit arithmetic in the next version, but its release is not yet scheduled.) This means that you

should do as much processing as possible before handing off an image to GIMP. For example, if you begin with a raw file, make your exposure adjustments, color corrections, dynamic range adjustments, distortion corrections, sharpening, and noise reduction in a raw processing program with at least 16-bit fixed, or preferably 32-bit floating point, arithmetic.

The screen-shot at the top of the next page shows the default GIMP display with three separate windows, two containing tools and the center one the image. The menu in the image window resulted from a right mouse click; it provides access to all the tools, as only the most-used ones appear in the tool windows. If you prefer, you can configure GIMP to use a single window. Unlike most other free image-processing programs, there are several good GIMP books available, and using the program effectively requires that you study at least one of these.



There are many other free digital photo applications besides GIMP, and an Internet search using “image processing software” will reveal dozens of alternatives, both free and commercial. Finally, while Photoshop can develop raw files, GIMP cannot. Programs that can handle this important step, in particular, RawTherapee and LightZone, will be looked at in future articles..

References

- Montabone: Beginning Digital Image processing Using Free Tools for Photographers – provides a good overview several photo tools, although the book is less helpful than it could be as all the example images are in black and white.

- <http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/> – contains many very valuable tutorials on photography and image processing. If you check only one photo Web site, this should be the one.
- Lecarme and Delvare: The Book of GIMP – is a reference for the current version of GIMP.
- Goelker: GIMP 2.8 for Photographers – concentrates on using GIMP as an image processor.

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Local search

Go to Google Local and enter the area you want to search and the keyword of the place you want to find. For example, typing: shoe stores would display shoe stores in the area.

Phone number lookup

Enter the area code and the other seven numbers to display the name and address associated with that phone number.

Find weather and movies

Type "weather" or "movies" followed by a zip code or city and state to display current weather conditions or movie theaters in your area. You will get the weather for the next four days. When you type movies followed by the zip code will give you a link for show times for movies in that area.

Track airline flight and packages

Enter the airline and flight number to display the status of an airline flight and its arrival time. For example, typing United 2344 will display the flight information if available.

Google can also give a direct link to package tracking information if you enter a UPS, FedEx or USPS tracking number.

Translate

You can translate text that you type in as well as a web page. I have used this a few times to let renters in my condo know about a meeting. Use the Google Language Tools.

Pages linked to you

Type “link” followed by your URL to see what other web pages are linking to your website or blog.

Find PDF results only

Add fileType: to your search to display results that only match a certain file type. For example, if you wanted to display RTF results you would type for example “Windows short cuts” file type: RTF would show files that were in RTF. Searching for manuals? File Type: PDF would help you along.

The Tip Corner

by Bill Sheff, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, Pennsylvania
www.lvcg.org nsheff@aol.com

Google Tips

Many of us use Google as a search engine. Others use it for mail and many other neat programs, so here are a few tips you might not know about.

Definitions

Type define followed by the word you want the definition for. For example, typing: define mountain would display the definition of that word.

Calculator

Use the Google Search engine as a calculator by typing a math problem in the search. For example, typing: 100 + 200 would display results as 300.

Stocks

Just type a stock symbol and get a stock quote.

OK! On to some other tips. This one comes up quite often, so here goes:

Speeding Up Your PC

We all experience times when the computer starts slowing down. Usually, the biggest culprits are the things that sneak into your computer such as spyware, adware and other computer threats that are unwittingly downloaded along with other content while online. It happens to us all.

A good place to start is to clean Your Computer's Windows Registry. Don't try and do it manually.

Use a program that is set up for that. One that many of us use is CCleaner. There is a free version and does a lot more than just the registry. Errors, spyware and orphan file pointers build up over time. Some like to clean the registry daily, but I personally only use it about every other week. Go through the settings. For example, you can clean out your cookies, but before you do you can list the ones you want to keep such as cookies to special sites. You won't believe the difference that it makes.

CCleaner will also remove temporary files and other files that get added on and slowly clog your system. This program will also empty your Recycle Bin.

I don't know about you, but I collect programs like rocks rolling down the mountain side. It is very easy to download a program that sounds like the answer to a maiden's prayer, but after a month and you still don't use it, scrap it. Another way is to keep the

install file on a separate external drive that you can then plug in to install a program you want to use, delete it after a while, but still have the install program.

Another tip. Reduce the number of icons on the windows screen. They do take up resources and can slow the machine down. Rather than just deleting them, you can segregate by type; such as audio/video, utilities, etc, and then put each category in its own folder. I don't know how much this will speed up your computer, but it certainly will clear a lot of clutter.

Defragging your hard drive is another speeder-upper, however most newer machines automatically defrag on a periodic basis. But perhaps a couple of times a year go into Applications and do a defrag while you drink a cup of coffee.

Finally, Get rid of a virus

As stated above, not only viruses but Trojans, worms, and other malicious programs can also slow down a computer. Even if you uninstall a program or delete a malicious program sometimes something can remain in the registry, which can also affect the speed. Sometimes malicious software can install itself again after deletion.

So:

1. Install a good registry cleaner or maintainer and run it. (CCleaner as mentioned above.
2. Install a good antivirus product and perform a full scan. (Install AVG free or AVAST free and Malwarebytes.
3. Install a good fire wall.

Since the way a virus infects a computer is through subterfuge, as the virus is usually hidden in seemingly harmless files, documents or programs, it is imperative for you to remove the virus as soon as you discover that your computer is infected. If the virus is not quickly removed, it can cause incredible damage to your system. Microsoft has a tool (Microsoft Malicious Software Removal Tool) free for Windows users to remove virus threats and to disinfect the computer system.

To find some other possible software that you can use, Google "Virus removal," or "malicious file removal" and do some research.



Should You Use The Drivers Windows Provides Or Download The Manufacturer's Drivers?

Hardware drivers are the software that allow your operating system to communicate with your hardware. Windows includes built-in drivers and automatically downloads new ones to make setup easier, but device manufacturers also provide their own driver packages.

The default drivers Microsoft provides are stripped down and a bit older, but they're written by your device manufacturer and not Microsoft themselves. They're often good enough, but some-

times you'll want the complete package or a driver Windows can't provide.

Drivers 101

Manufacturers write drivers for their hardware and provide them directly to you. If you buy a complete PC or laptop, it will come with the manufacturer's drivers integrated. You may even get a driver CD containing drivers you can install on your computer. The latest versions of these drivers are also available or download from the manufacturer's website. For example, if you

have a laptop, all the drivers for your laptop's hardware will be available on the manufacturer's website - find the downloads page for your specific product model. If you build your own desktop PC, you'll find hardware drivers for each component on each manufacturer's website.

To ensure hardware works as well as possible, Microsoft doesn't force you to install drivers from your manufacturer before hardware will work. Windows itself includes drivers, and new drivers can be automatically downloaded from Windows Update. Some components also have standard, "generic" drivers. For example, when you connect a USB drive to your PC, Windows uses standard USB mass storage device drivers. Manufacturers don't have to create their own drivers for USB devices, mice, keyboards, computer monitors, and certain other types of peripherals.

How Microsoft Provides Drivers

Drivers are integrated into Windows itself, which is why the latest versions of Windows will provide the best out-of-the-box hardware support on newer hardware. For example, if you installed Windows 7 on your PC and a piece of hardware didn't work immediately, you might have to download drivers for that hardware component from its manufacturer's website and install them manually. If you installed Windows 8.1 on that same PC, everything might work out of the box because Windows 8.1 come with more modern drivers.

When you connect a device to your PC, Windows attempts to automatically configure it and install the appropriate driver. By default, Windows will check Windows Update for a driver if no drivers exist on the PC. Microsoft also distributes updated drivers via Windows Update, so you can get any necessary driver updates from there instead of hunting them down.

How Manufacturer-Provided Drivers Are Different

The driver packages Windows automatically installs are different from the ones your device manufacturers provide. The core drivers are created by your device manufacturer and provided by Microsoft after they go through Microsoft's WHQL (Windows Hardware Quality Labs) testing to ensure they're stable.

However, Microsoft provides these drivers in stripped-down form. For example, when you get drivers for NVIDIA or AMD graphics cards from Windows Update, you're getting a driver package without the NVIDIA Control Panel or the AMD Catalyst control panel. Connect a printer and the automatically provided drives won't include the printer's control panel. Plug in a wireless mouse and it will work immediately, but you'll need the manufacturer's control panel if you want to view the mouse's battery level or customize what the buttons do. However, you may not always want these hardware utilities.

The versions of the drivers Microsoft provides are also a bit older. Microsoft doesn't update these drivers as frequently, so your device manufacturer may have newer versions on their website. However, using older drivers often isn't a problem. We don't recommend updating hardware drivers — this can introduce problems. The one exception is graphics drivers, where you do want the latest versions of your graphics drivers if you play PC games.

How to Update Your Graphics Drivers for Maximum Gaming Performance

If you install Windows on your PC or insert a new hardware device and it works out of the box — great! If everything is working properly, you probably don't need to install hardware drivers. Some device manufacturers may even recommend against installing their hardware driver pack-

ages on modern versions of Windows like Windows 8, as Windows already includes the necessary drivers.

There are some cases where you will want to get drivers from your manufacturer.

If You Play PC Games:

Install the latest graphics drivers directly from NVIDIA or AMD if you play PC games. Not only do these packages include tools that will help you configure your graphical settings, but newer versions will also improve performance.

Install manufacturer-provided driver packages when you need some kind of included hardware utility. For example, you may want to know how much ink is left in your printer. If this isn't displayed on the printer itself, you may need the printer manufacturer's control panel to see this information.

You probably don't need the latest version of a driver. In some rare cases, a bug may be fixed in the latest version and you'll need to install it from your manufacturer's website.

Download hardware drivers from a device's manufacturer if Windows can't automatically detect and install the hardware. Windows isn't perfect and can't automatically configure every piece of hardware.

If You Have an Issue: Install the driver package from your manufacturer if a hardware device seems to not be working properly. It may seem buggy or just slow.

This will probably be controversial advice. Many geeks swear by installing all the manufacturer-provided drivers after they install Windows on their PC — motherboard chipset, network, CPU, USB, graphics, and everything else. But we're not using Windows XP anymore. Modern versions of Windows have improved.

Installing your manufacturer's drivers often won't be necessary. Your computer won't be faster just because you regularly update your hardware drivers, and it also won't be slower just because you're using drivers that are a few versions old. Graphics drivers are the one big exception here.

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"There's more information available now than ever before. I can only block out so much of it."

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

Miscommunication

Wife texts husband on a cold winter's morning:

"Windows frozen, it won't open."

Husband texts back:

"Gently pour some lukewarm water over it."

Wife texts back 5 minutes later:

"Computer really buggered now."



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

Hours of preparation with clever twists and turns are reduced to rubble in this 12-minute 500,000 dominoes video.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAqGcLaE5III>

Infographic shows how to be a Google power user.
<http://neomam.com/old-portfolio/how-to-be-a-google-power-user/>

Create unique drawings by reflecting or diffusing the central light source on the left, and an exposure slider button on the right.
<http://zenphoton.com/>

Collection of motorcycle road racing videos – fast as 175mph.
<http://www.youtube.com/user/lockk9/featured?spfreload=10>

Search for a movie by exploring through over 50 feelings.
<http://flickseeker.com>

Explore the world. How many places can you identify?
<http://geoguessr.com>

Exploration of lost civilizations, sacred writings, ancient places, unexplained artifacts, scientific mysteries and more.
<http://www.ancient-origins.net>
Amuse yourself with quotes from such ‘intellectuals’ as Mark Twain, Robin Williams, dozens more. Browse by topic or author.
<http://www.brainyquote.com>

Extensive collection of free MS Word templates (also compatible with other Office document preparation alternatives).
<http://www.wordtemplatesonline.com>

LibreOffice Extensions are tools that can be added or removed independently from your installation of the main program. Hundreds of extensions and templates here.
<http://extensions.libreoffice.org>

“Installing Extensions in LibreOffice” – downloadable .pdf document.

http://www.libreoffice.org/assets/Uploads/EN_Documents/Installingextensions.pdf

Automotive news – crash testing, recalls & investigations, tire safety, car seats, more. Has a safety recall been authorized for *your* vehicle?
<http://www.safercar.gov>

‘Crazy Circle Illusion’. – movement within a circle.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAqGcLaE5III>

Over 900 legacy arcade games to play online. If a coin is needed, see the buttons in upper left corner of the webpage to “insert coin” and choose a player.
<https://archive.org/details/internetarcade>

Social networking website geared to motorcycle enthusiasts, especially owners of Victory and Indian motorcycles. Of particular interest is the Gallery section.
<http://www.thevog.net>

National Bureau of Economic Research -- private, non-profit, nonpartisan research org dedicated to promoting greater understanding of how the economy works. Search for reports on ‘Aging’ or ‘Retirement’ by searching those topics, along with others. Subscribable newsletter.
<http://www.nber.org>

Mass Surveillance is the focus of this 6-part investigative documentary series examining who is watching whom and why. (Note: This video series link is being *hosted* on YouTube by PressTV, Iran’s English-language news organization.)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ri0bCmlQ7c&index=1&list=PL_IllrxhtPNDmGs7t15ICvmw9zwHp2AS

NOTE: Many of the links in the digital newsletter connect to the Internet if clicked. For those that do not, copy the link into your browser, and reach the web site that way.

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.