

\$3.00

THE WYSIWYG

October 2018

Volume 30, Issue 8



STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY Oct. 2 7:00 PM

(doors open at 6:30 PM)

Baker College
34950 Little Mack in Clinton
Township

Located at the southeast corner of
Little Mack Avenue and 15 Mile Road
(Enter at the main entrance on Little Mack Ave.
The meeting room is then straight ahead.)



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This Month's Main Meeting Topic:

**Eric Malcom
will present
"WordPress"**

**Nominations for 2019
club officers this month
and next month**

Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before deciding to become a member or not. 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	open
MS Publisher	Rick Kucejko
MS Word	Rick Schummer
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer

SHCC Coordinators:

Associate Editor	Rick Schummer
Associate Editor	Paul Baecker
Door prizes	Don VanSyckel
Greeter for visitors	Jim Waldrop
Newsletter publisher	Rick Kucejko
Program Coordinator	Mike Bader
Publicity	Patrick Little
Publicity	Phil Reynaud
Resource People	open
Welcome & check-in desk	Jim Waldrop
Web Site Admin	Don VanSyckel
Web Watch column	Paul Baecker

Contact Information:

Paul Baecker	586-286-2314	webwatch@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org
Mike Bader	586-447-6683	mdbader@flash.net
Bernie DeFazio	586-864-6558	berniede1@wowway.com
Rick Kucejko	248-879-6180	rick@kucejko.com
Patrick Little	586-264-1497	pblittle@wideopenwest.com
Phil Reynaud	586-268-6586	philrey@gmail.com
Rick Schummer	586-254-2530	rick@rickschummer.com
Don VanSyckel	586-731-9232	don@vansyckel.net
Jack Vander-Schrier	586-739-5952	jvanders@comcast.net
Schrier (Call Jack after noon)		

2018 SHCC Officers

President: Don VanSyckel
 Secretary: Rick Kucejko
 V. President: Mike Bader
 Treasurer: Bernie DeFazio

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

OCTOBER 2018

2 - SHCC Eric Malcom will present "WordPress"
 3 - COMP meeting
 14 - SEMCO meeting

DECEMBER 2018

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

JANUARY 2019

8 - SHCC Main Meeting
 2 - COMP meeting
 13 - SEMCO meeting

NOVEMBER 2018

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
 Reciprocating: Yes

South Eastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO) (new location)

Time: 2nd Sunday at 1:15PM
 Place: Bloomfield Township Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
 Web page: <http://www.semco.org>
 Reciprocating: Yes

Royal Oak Computer Club

Time: Every Wednesday at 12:30
 Place: Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center
 500 Marais Ave. Royal Oak, MI 48073
 248-246-3900
 Reciprocating: No

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

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The President's Pen by Don VanSyckel



This month is the second meeting at the new location of Baker College Clinton Township. Everyone seem to make it to the new room without difficulty. The Community Room that we meet in is next to the Student Center. In the back of the Student Center is a vending area. There are numerous items available. Once you pick up the items you want, there is a self check-out that takes credit cards. I'm not sure if cash is accepted.

Things worked out OK with the new location but there were a couple of bumps. First it took a couple of minutes to figure out how to navigate the college's security software on the Internet connection. Then when the connection was made, our presenter Paul Baecker, couldn't get into the Amazon seller's account to demonstrate his presentation.

So while Paul worked on getting the account to log in, I did any impromptu discussion of several technical topics. Mostly about cutting the cord and using alternative source for media content, via the Internet, which has historically been delivered via cable TV. Another topic was multi-level account authentication, such as the one Amazon uses which was giving Paul trouble. Paul was supposed to get a code texted to his cell phone, and this never happened.

I also have had issues with multi-level authentication. The system wanted to send a code to me to log in with. My choices were:

- 1) Text to my home phone
- 2) Call to my home phone
- 3) Call to my work phone

- 1) My home phone doesn't get text.
- 2) My home phone has a feature to eliminate nuisance call requiring the

caller to enter a number which the system speaks to the caller. The automatic system calling with the code of course couldn't navigate this.

3) My work phone is at work and I was at home.

I tried #2 first and then remembered the caller challenge. Then I tried #3. I called my work voice mail and sure enough the code was there, but apparently I had waited too long to retrieve the code and enter it. I did it again and immediately called my work voice mail and entered the code. The system took it and I was logged in. What a nuisance, but I guess the added security is worth it.

Back to Paul. He finally gave up on logging into the Amazon Sellers account and presented Amazon selling from the buyers perspective. It turns out Amazon was having issues with a number of their sellers' accounts during that time period, and everything was fixed the next day. So we'll have Paul back to do the rest of the Amazon selling presentation another month.

This month Mr. Eric Malcolm will present "Word Press". Word Press is a many faceted program used to build and operate web sites. Come learn what's behind many of the web sites you use.



Member Ads

Ads are available free to SHCC members, and are limited to computer related items for non-commercial purposes. Any ad shall be a maximum of twelve newsletter lines of text.



Door Prizes

Door prize drawings are held at regular club meetings. The winner's circle for September included:

Ralph Osinski won a CD/DVD case

Warner Mach won a ream of paper

Sharon Patrick won a ream of paper

James Waldrop won a flashlight

Martee Held won a powerstrip

Ed Durham won DVD's

Bill Kramer won DVD's

Mike Bader won a monitor

Ed Zaremba won a universal tablet case



Last Month's Meeting

Last month we were pleased to have SHCC member Mr. Paul Baecker present "Amazon's Web Site From A Seller's Point Of View". Unfortunately the Amazon web site log-in process had some issues getting Paul logged in for part of the presentation. The Amazon selling that was covered was very informative and interesting.



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

Club Officer Election Announcement And Officer Duties

It is time to elect our officers. Here is the process, the positions, and responsibilities:

The nomination process is simple. Any member is eligible to run for any office. You can nominate yourself or have another member nominate you for one or more of the offices. All the offices (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) are elected in November for a one year term, January through December. Nominations are taken in September, October, and November before the elections. The elections are held at the regular November main meeting.

Only SHCC members can vote. The elections are held during the business portion of the meeting. The person with the majority of the votes for an office is the winner for that office. A person can only hold one office at a time.

The jobs of each office are flexible. Some are defined, some change from office to office depending on the officers' capabilities and availability.

The president is ultimately responsible for everything but being responsible doesn't mean the president has to do it all or even should. Delegation and management is all a part of the president's duties. The president makes sure the meeting topics are set, the speakers are prepared, runs the regular club and officer meetings, audits the monthly treasurer report and membership databases, tracks door prizes, and monitors most of the club's activities. It is not as busy as it sounds. 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 vice president has the catch-all job. The person must be flexible and be prepared to run the main and officer meetings if the president cannot. This officer usually picks up a project or two during the year to lift the burden from other officers. The vice president arranges for meeting speakers, but help is available as needed.

The secretary maintains the membership database which is tracked in an Access database (SHCC owned). 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, prints a report for member check-in at the main meeting, and maintains several reports such as a membership list. The secretary mails out dues notices, and mails out the monthly WYSIWYG. (Preparing the WYSIWYG is not the secretary's responsibility, but instead is the duty of the newsletter editor.). The secretary makes sure that sign-in table materials needed at each regular meeting are there early before people start arriving.

The treasurer maintains records for all the money taken in and paid out from the club's checking account. The SHCC currently uses Quicken (SHCC owned) to track the funds and generate reports for the officers. The treasurer also audits the secretary's membership counts. The treasurer makes reports to the officers at the officers' meeting and four times a year to the club's membership. The treasurer is responsible to get all SHCC funds into the checking account and responsible to generate checks for all expenses.

All the officers attend the officers' meeting that takes place during the week after the main club meeting. The date, time, and location are flexible to the agreement of all officers. Historically these meetings have been at 7:30PM on the Monday or Tuesday after the regular meeting.

We hope everyone considers this invitation; this call to service. It does involve some work but can be a lot of fun. Normally it takes a few hours a month beyond the main and officers' meetings. The president's job takes more, and how much more depends on delegation. If you have any questions concerning the duties, feel free to contact any of the officers.



Your Router's Two IP Addresses

From the Ask Leo Newsletter
<https://askleo.com>

I was completely unaware that your router has two IP addresses.

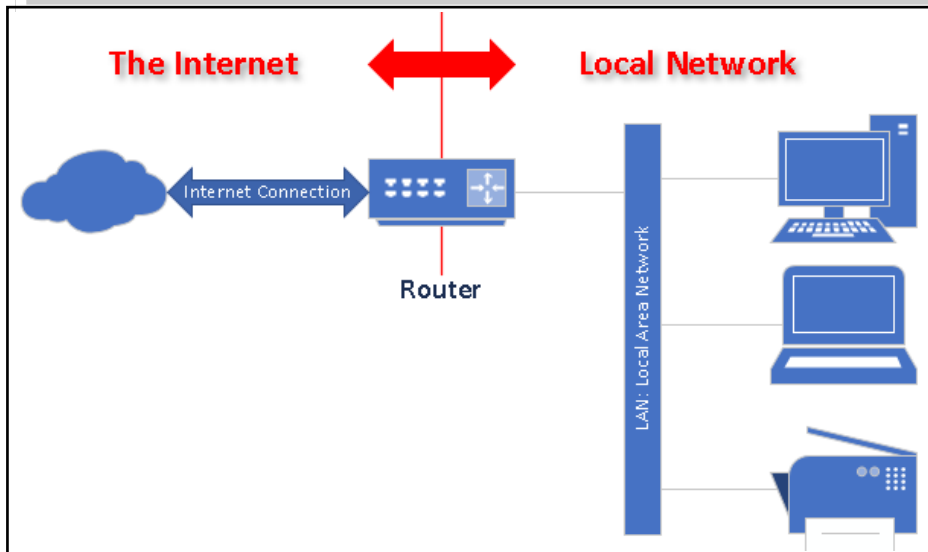
Indeed it does. It's an important part of understanding how information travels between your computer and the Internet services you use.

It's also important to know when asking questions and interpreting answers.

Your router's primary job

Routers perform many different functions, but their primary role, at least in the home, is to act as a gateway to the Internet.

You can think of your router as having two "sides": one side is connected to the Internet, and another to all of your computers and other devices. The router sits in-between, passing data traffic back and forth.



The Internet side is a connection provided by your ISP. All traffic to and from Internet sites and services travel over this connection.

The “local” side, often referred to as a LAN, for Local Area Network, consists of all of the devices connected to the network at your home or place of business. Be it through a wired or wireless connection, these devices connect not to the Internet, but to your router, through which the Internet is made available.

The router's two networks

These two networks — the Internet on one side and your local network on the other — are completely separate. That data crosses between them is only due to the workings of your router, which is connected to both.

Two different networks imply two different IP addresses.

On the Internet side, your router is typically assigned an IP address by your ISP when it boots up or first connects. This is your “true” Internet address. You can see what yours is by using several online services, or by consulting my article, [What's My IP Address?](#)

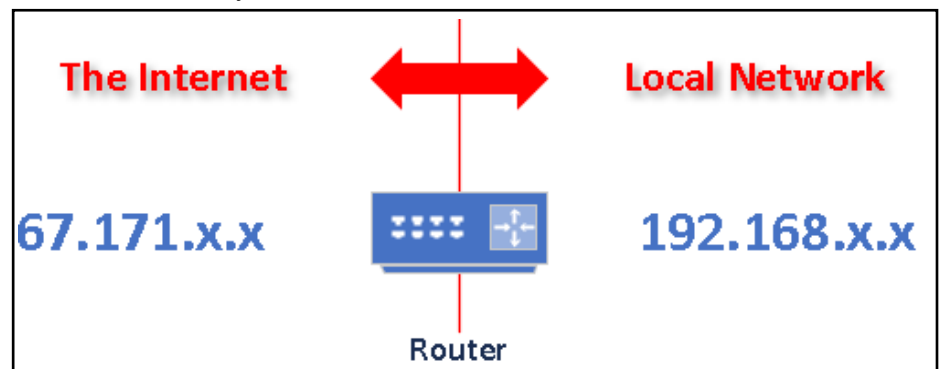
On the local side, your router is configured to use a specific IP address: often something like 192.168.1.1, 10.1.10.1, or some-

thing similar. You can see what yours is by running the command “IPCONFIG /ALL” in a Windows Command Prompt and looking for the Default Gateway address.

```

Lease Expires . . . . . : Tuesday, August 7, 2018 2:37:
Default Gateway . . . . : fe80::481d:70ff:fee0:d7ad%10
                        10.1.10.1
DHCP Server . . . . . : 10.1.10.1
DHCPv6 IAID . . . . . : 100670530
  
```

The number using periods as the separator — it's IPv4 address — is the IP address of your router.



Your router's other job

Another job performed by your router is to manage the local network.

When the router connects to the Internet, it requests an IP address, which is then provided by the ISP. This is your *Internet* IP address. You very likely have only one of these, and it's assigned to your router.

When your computer (or other device) connects to your local network, it also requests an IP address. This IP address is provided by your router. It looks a lot like the router's own local IP address, though the last two numbers will be different. This is that computer's local IP address. Each device connected to the local network has its own unique local IP address.

When a device on your local network wants to communicate with a device on the Internet, it is the router's job to “translate” between the two types of addresses. In fact, that's what it's called: Network Address Translation, or NAT. NAT makes it appear as if all of your devices (each with a unique local IP address) are coming from the same Internet IP address — be-

cause they are. All the traffic going to and from the Internet is handled by your router through its Internet-side connection and IP address.

Determining the IP address

As we've seen above, there are two ways to see the two different IP addresses:

- Using an online service (or page like my [What's My IP Address?](#) article) will tell you

the *Internet* IP address of your router. When someone asks you for your IP address — say when trying to diagnose an issue you're having in accessing a website — this is the number you provide.

- Using the “ipconfig” command in a Windows Command Prompt will tell you the *local* IP address of that computer. In practice, you rarely need to know this one, except perhaps when diagnosing local network connectivity problems.

Specific IP addresses

One final note: a “local” IP address begins with either:

- 10.x.x.x
- 172.16.x.x through 172.31.x.x
- 192.168.x.x

You will never see these addresses on the Internet. They are called “non-routable” IP addresses and are reserved exclusively for local networks. That's how, if you provide the wrong kind of IP address to your support person, they can tell immediately and ask you for “the other one.”

This article is republished, with permission, from the Ask Leo! Newsletter.



Don't Buy Identity Theft Insurance

by David Kretchmar, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club NV
www.scsccl.com tomburt89134@cox.net

It was about a year ago when Equifax announced that a data breach exposed the sensitive personal information of 143 million Americans. As a part of its mitigation, Equifax offered consumers a year of free credit monitoring. This offer ended in January 2018, but not to worry, for just \$12.95 a month you can pay Equifax to monitor your credit reports.

This is a breathtaking bit of corporate chutzpah; first Equifax fails to secure many millions of individual's data files (including probably yours) and now that they have proven to be untrustworthy they want to charge a monthly fee to assure you your data has not been compromised. I would just say NO!

LifeLock

LifeLock is the most heavily advertised consumer data protection service that is offered by Symantec, a cyber security company that also provides the Norton Security Suite.

LifeLock premiered in 2005; you might remember the commercials at that time featuring LifeLock CEO Todd Davis revealing his Social

Security number to the public. LifeLock failed to disclose that Davis' identity was stolen at least 13 times during the advertising campaign. LifeLock brushed off critics, claiming that LifeLock prevented Davis' identification from being stolen many other times, thereby proving the value of LifeLock.

LifeLock attempts to frighten consumers by saying: “Considering everything you do online, data breaches and companies that sell your information, it's easier than ever for criminals to steal your identity. They can open accounts, buy properties, and even file tax returns in your name. There's a new victim every two seconds, so don't wait to get protection!”

But, of course, LifeLock has the answer: Note that LifeLock does not offer a family plan; LifeLock coverage for a married couple is well over \$50 a month. LifeLock does offer a 11% discount when a couple enrolls.

So, What Do You Get for Your Money?

Sadly, very little, except for a false sense of security. If you are the victim of identity theft, most institutions will absorb the cost and charge you nothing. The few consumers who do suffer monetary damages rarely lose more than \$200.

Go to LifeLock's website and you will notice that “Not all transactions at all accounts monitored” is written everywhere - on the website, as the signature to their emails, at the bottom of their site next to any disclaimer asterisk - basically giving them an out in case anything ever happens to one of your accounts.

A close reading of all of LifeLock's service and reimbursement “guarantees” discloses so many exceptions and conditions that they are essentially worthless.

LifeLock's Legal Woes

The Federal Trade Commission in 2015 asserted that LifeLock violated a 2010 settlement by continuing to make deceptive claims about its identity theft protection services, and by failing to take steps required to protect its users' data. In late 2016 LifeLock paid consumer damages of over \$100,000,000.

In documents filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, the FTC charged that LifeLock failed to live up to its obligations under the 2010 settlement and asked the court to impose an order requiring LifeLock to provide full redress to all consumers affected by the company's order violations.

The 2010 settlement stemmed from previous FTC allegations that LifeLock used false claims to promote its identity theft protection services. The settlement barred the company and its principals from making any further deceptive claims. It required LifeLock effectively safeguard personal data it collected from customers and required LifeLock to pay \$12 million in consumer refunds.

How Can I Protect Myself?

The Equifax and LifeLock primary service is nothing you can't do much better yourself. If you think someone has stolen your identity, you can contact each of the four major credit bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, Equifax, and the newer Innovis, and place an electronic security freeze on your credit. The freeze is good until you lift it and should prevent any new accounts from being opened. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agency from releasing the consumer's credit report or any information from it without the express authorization of the consumer. You can temporarily lift the freeze if you want to open new accounts.

There is no charge for a security freeze if you are a victim of identity theft. To get a free security freeze you should first file a police report or (much more easily) create an Identity Theft Report at:

www.identitytheft.gov/Assistant#what-to-do-right-away

This FTC site is easy to navigate and has some good information on what to do after an identity theft.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Don't buy identity theft insurance from Equifax, LifeLock, or any of the other outfits selling this "protection". The best way to protect yourself against loss is to keep an eye on your own bank, credit card and brokerage accounts and statements. Download your annual free credit reports yourself, safeguard your passwords, and skip the fees.

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



probably not one widely available to those who are not ACM members: A research library at a major university should have access to it in either hard copy or digital form, but it is not a publication one would expect to find at a public library.

I will attempt to summarize the major points of that article.

The argument presented is that cryptocurrencies are simply not satisfactory as a substitute for conventional currencies: they are by design grossly inefficient and involve risks and costs that cannot be resolved. Most of these problems only impact users of Bitcoins, but some impact society as a whole.

Inefficiencies

New Bitcoins are created by a computational process that requires a significant amount of computational time on a computer, which costs the creator in terms of computer hardware and power costs. The difficulty of the process is designed to keep the supply of Bitcoins less than the demand, so the tendency is for the value of 1 Bitcoin to increase over time. To keep things in balance, as the value of a Bitcoin increases, the difficulty of the generation algorithm also increases. The net effect is that the Bitcoin network currently is estimated to consume more power than the country of Ireland, and Bitcoin creators (called "miners") spend about 1/3 of each Bitcoin produced just to pay for their power bills. This does not scale well in a world with serious energy-based environmental problems.

There are limits in the Bitcoin design on the size of transaction blocks and the rate at which transaction blocks can be processed. This imposes limits on the number of transactions per second that can be processed. When the transaction rates approach the global volume limits, only those willing to pay unreasonably high auction-based transaction fees will get their transactions processed. If the transaction processing rate could be increased enough for it to

Problems With Cryptocurrencies

by Joel Ewing, Bella Vista Computer Club, AR
www.bvcompclub.org/ president@bvcompclub.org

There has been much hype about cryptocurrencies in general and Bitcoin in particular. Enough so, that BVCC had a recent presentation on the topic, with one of the conclusions being that as an investment Bitcoin is highly speculative and should be limited to what one can afford to lose. The price of 1 Bitcoin by design tends to increase, but there have been events that have also caused prices to drop rapidly. The block chain technology on which Bitcoin is built is finding many useful applications, but the long-term prospects for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies is less certain.

An article in the June 2018 edition of *Communications of the ACM*, a professional computer science publication of the Association of Computing Machinery, on "Risks of

Cryptocurrencies" by Peter G. Neumann, gives a much more negative view of the future of cryptocurrencies. It points out several technical reasons why it is unlikely that cryptocurrencies will ever become a wide-spread payment system. This publication is



compete with credit card usage, then each node in the Bitcoin network would have to store many gigabytes of additional data per day, all of which would need to be searched to validate each new transaction, resulting in spiraling costs to process future transactions – yet another aspect of Bitcoin that does not scale well. Credit card systems easily support thousands of times the transaction rates of Bitcoin and have done so for years, because it is not necessary to potentially search all past transactions of all customers just to determine if a new transaction is valid.

Risk of Loss

An owner of Bitcoins has two choices, to store his Bitcoins in a “wallet” on his own computer, or to store them on one of a relatively small number of Bitcoin Exchanges. Both choices have been subject to losses, even by computer-savvy individuals, either lost through direct theft, lost as a side effect of hardware or software failures, lost because the encryption key that allows access has been lost, or lost by paying for fraudulent services in Bitcoin. If your Bitcoins are lost through an unwise transaction or by someone stealing your key, there is no recourse because unlike credit cards, Bitcoin transactions are irreversible. If lost because you lost your key or because your digital currency tokens were lost, you are also out of luck. Major failures or thefts have occurred on Bitcoin exchanges. Typically, those types of events are also associated with loss of confidence and massive drops in the value of Bitcoin.

Problems Using Bitcoin for Payments

Legitimate businesses that offer goods and services for Bitcoin currency don't want to deal with the volatility of Bitcoin value, so they typically use some service to adjust their prices dynamically based on the current value of Bitcoin in some real currency, and as soon

as they receive payment, convert the funds to real currency. This means that although the Bitcoin transactions themselves are outside of government control, all government must do to tax or restrict Bitcoin usage is to focus on the services that convert between official currency and Bitcoin.

The fact that Bitcoin transactions are by design irreversible makes them incompatible with all other forms of electronic payment. This means if you exchange Bitcoins for an electronic currency payment of some kind, even after verifying the electronic payment was credited, you have no guarantee that the electronic payment won't be reversed later as fraudulent. If payment is reversed, you have lost the Bitcoins you sold because that transaction can't be reversed. Any service that allows electronic payment in exchange for Bitcoins is similarly at risk: either they must defer delivery of purchased Bitcoins for days, or risk being the victim of a massive fraud attack.

Limitations of a Distributed but Unregulated Cryptocurrency System

In theory, having the Bitcoin ledger maintained on many different servers was supposed to make the system trustworthy by decentralizing the data with each site being validated by the others. In practice, the consolidation of mining into less than 10 entities, self-chosen by their willingness to consume electric power, means that only a majority of that small group effectively controls the Bitcoin system. The value of Bitcoin is simply what people are willing to pay, which makes it vulnerable to sudden collapse if there is a loss of confidence and a drop in demand. Because there is no regulation, there are many Bitcoin scams, both security schemes and Ponzi schemes, to entrap the unwary.

That fact that exchanges are totally unregulated means that it is not uncommon for one to collapse

from theft, fraud, or incompetence with loss of many Bitcoins from the exchange.

Another obvious downside of cryptocurrency is that its apparent anonymity and irreversibility of transactions attracts those with criminal intent. If you are the victim of a fraud, you can't identify who defrauded you and can't get your Bitcoins back. If cryptocurrency makes it easier for criminals to launder money and harder to bring them to justice, that is bad for society as a whole.

Anonymity is Not Absolute

The perceptions that all Bitcoin transactions shield the identities of all parties to the transaction is not 100% true. While it is true that the actual names of the individuals involved in a single Bitcoin transaction are hidden, the fact that all transaction history is visible, and a unique code represents the same individual, means that associations can be deduced. The transaction history also includes Internet IP addresses, which may significantly limit the possible real names associated with the transaction, especially since even non-fixed IP addresses from an Internet Service Provider may remain unchanged for months and narrow the search to a single street address. If Bitcoins are used to purchase physical goods from a vendor, the vendor must know a physical shipping address. Large transfers between Bitcoins and real currency may leave other currency audit trails that can be correlated to Bitcoin transactions. Those techniques may be sufficient to establish the actual names of parties to a Bitcoin transaction.

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Backing Up A Machine That Won't Boot

From the Ask Leo Newsletter
<https://askleo.com>

Here's the scenario: all is well, you're getting lots of work done on your computer, when all of a sudden it crashes. No idea why — it just crashes.

What's worse, it won't reboot. Maybe it just hangs on boot, maybe it says the drive isn't found, maybe there's something else interfering.

To make matters worse yet, you stand to lose all that work you were doing, because it hasn't yet been backed up. Your most recent work seems to be locked up inside a hard drive you can't access.

There may be a way to back it up before dealing with the crash.

The technique

The approach is rather simple: boot from something else — a USB stick or CD/DVD that has a backup program on it, and see if that backup program can make an image of the hard drive to an external drive.

I have to say "if" because depending on exactly what's caused the crash to begin with, your hard drive may or may not be accessible. If the drive itself has self-destructed, for example, chances of getting at it are pretty slim without the aid of an expensive data recovery service. On the other hand, if the problem is a simple software issue, or even some other kind of hardware-related failure, there's a reasonable chance that a backup program will be able to copy the disk before you attempt further repairs. Think of this technique as simply another tool in your toolbox to pull out when things go south.

Getting bootable media

The first step will almost certainly require that you use a different computer. If you have only one — the one that's not working — you may need to borrow a friend's.

The approach I prefer is to download and install the free editions of either Macrium Reflect or EaseUS Todo. (Naturally, if you're borrowing a machine, you'll need the owner's permission to do so.) Then, using the installed tool, create what they refer to as an "Emergency Disc", "Rescue Media", or similar term. You'll need to create it on a media that your problematic machine can boot from, so choose a USB stick or CD as appropriate.

We think of these rescue discs as being used to *restore* backup images to a machine. What most people don't realize, though, is that they contain a copy of their respective backup programs, so they can also *create* a backup, which is exactly what we want to do.

Booting from the rescue media

Now you'll take this bootable rescue media to the machine that won't boot normally and attempt to boot from it.

Unfortunately, this is the step with which I can help you the least. How you configure your computer to boot from a USB stick or CD is different from machine to machine. It probably involves typing a special keystroke as the machine starts up to enter a BIOS or UEFI configuration utility, and making changes to the boot order in that utility. Check your machine's documentation or manufacturer's support site for the exact steps required.

And yes, this does make one very important assumption: the problem your machine has is not so severe as to prevent accessing the configuration or booting at all. If all you get when you try to boot your machine is a black screen with no errors at all, check the connection to your display device just in case,

but it's possible that this technique may not work for your situation.

Making a backup image

Once you successfully boot from the rescue media, the corresponding backup program will run automatically.

Attach your external hard drive if you haven't already. This is where you'll place the backup image you'll be taking.

Take the steps in your backup program to create a backup image of your computer's hard drive. The steps, of course, vary depending on the backup program you've selected.

There is a potential roadblock here as well: if the problem with your computer prevents your hard disk from being visible to the backup program, you may not be able to back it up. You'll need to try a different technique if this happens.

Now that you have an image

Assuming you were successful, you can now proceed to do two important things:

- On another machine, use that backup image to extract the important files you might otherwise have lost. (And maybe back them up while you're at it.)
- Repair your computer without the need to preserve the hard drive contents. This could include using repair tools to fix improper settings, reinstalling the operating system from scratch, or even replacing the hard drive completely.

By taking an image of the machine in its failed state, you've given yourself options without the fear of data loss.

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Review Of A Club Meeting: Scams, Fraud & ID Theft

Review compiled by Joe Durham, Quad Cities Computer Society, IA

At a recent club meeting, Cpl. Hank Jacobsen of the Dav-
enport (IA) Police Depart-
ment Crime Prevention Unit pre-
sented guidance for living in the 21st
century and protecting ourselves
from criminals out there who now
use technology to advance their ne-
farious schemes.

In recent months, the story of crimes
has become a bit more prominent
on TV. Hank described the rash of
car thefts that have occurred in our
area. These thefts have been com-
mitted by kids 12 – 15 years of age.

The three pillars of crime were ob-
served by these kids:

- 1) Desire
- 2) Ability
- 3) Opportunity

We don't have control of points 1 &
2, but we do have control of point 3.
It is required of us to always lock our
cars. The responsibility is on us. He
reminded us not to leave any im-
portant items in view in our cars: our
smart phones, our key fobs, our
purses, our laptops or our garage
door openers.

These kids operate in groups and
go down the street trying cars. If it is
locked they just move on. It is a
waste of time. They look for the one
car that is unlocked and go from
there. Once they find that car they
can open your garage door if the
door opener is there, or steal your
laptop if it is on the seat. Once in the
garage they have access to every-
thing there, and usually have access
to the home from the garage via the
unlocked access door and they con-
tinue their way of theft. So, it is a
simple act: lock your cars, and take
away item 3, opportunity.

In the electronic world how do you
deny criminals the way of opportuni-
ty? First do not share any unsolicit-
ed personal information with any-

one. This means emails, over the
phone, at your door.

Hank mentioned that are times
when you do submit personal in-
formation: apply for a mortgage,
medical insurance, opening a
bank account. In these instances,
you are submitting the information
not the other way around.

He described that much of our
personal lives are discoverable on
the Internet: our names, and our
mailing address. However, thieves
are looking for that key that will
unlock your funds. And this key is
your social security and Medicare
number.

So, do not carry these cards with
you at any time. If organizations
and institutions need this data
they now usually will ask you ver-
bally for the last four digits of your
number.

Another item not to carry with you:
personal checks. Thieves will of-
ten work together. One person will
distract you while another will take
just one check from your check-
book. Once they have that they
have your account number and
bank routing number. It is now
easy for them to go to a bank
drive-up, and make a small cash
deposit with this access. Banks
usually don't ask for an ID on de-
posits. Next the thieves will
"spontaneously" note that they
need some cash for something
and then make a large withdrawal
with that same information.

Hank noted that now telemarket-
ers will spoof local area code
numbers to make you think that a
call is local. If you don't recognize
the number, don't answer it. If it is
someone you know, or a party
that is legitimately inquiring, they
can leave a message on your an-
swering machine. Like locking a

car. Just don't answer. Please
hang up. The thieves are fishing
for that one person to accept their
call and give you the information.

If you do lose your credit card, call
your credit card company right
away. You are only liable for \$50 if
reported promptly. The credit card
company will gladly issue you a
new card and freeze your old one.

Hank did not recommend the use
of debit cards. These cards are
essentially cash from your account.
If something goes amiss, you are
out that money and cannot get it
returned.

As he described the safe use of
credit cards, Hank mentioned that
in our area and across the country
there are credit card "skimmers"
that are placed, usually on unat-
tended ATM machines.

These skimmers will capture your
credit card information and contain
a camera to record your password
access. Once the bad guys have
this information they can do what-
ever they wish.

His advice, in this case, was to
frequent places that monitor their
ATM use: your bank, for example.
If you do have to use an unattend-
ed ATM machine, gently but phys-
ically tug at the ATM entry box. If a
skimmer is attached it will often
come lose and you can stop right
there before you do further dam-
age to your personal finances.

The state of Iowa requires that a
seal be affixed to ATM entry
points. If you see a broken or loose
seal, that is an indication that
something is amiss. Don't use it.

Do not use a simple easy to re-
member password: like 1234, your
pet's name, etc. Hank mentioned
that you can Google commonly
used passwords and you can be
sure that the bad guys do it too. If
you use a common one, your ac-
count is compromised.

He recommends that you use a password safe program that has one main password that you remember, and then it creates complex passwords for each online site you visit.

Additionally, you can protect your online Identity by requesting a free credit report from the three major credit reporting agencies. He advises that you use a different request from one every four months. The firms are Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian. Here is the government website to accomplish this goal: <https://www.usa.gov/credit-reports>

For your personal effects and electronic devices, you can additionally protect yourself by making a list of all the serial numbers. Hank mentioned that all pawn shops are required to submit serial numbers of items committed to their stores each day to the police department.

The QCS would like to thank Hank for his fine presentation. By using a bit of common sense, to stop and think before responding, and apply his practical tips, we can prevent ourselves from becoming another victim of crime.

Be Prepared

Addendum to Cpl. Hank Jacobson's Remarks

Submitted by Jim Buche, QCS Director at Large:

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc.

You will know what you had in your wallet and all the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know. As everyone always advises, cancel your credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll-free numbers and your card numbers

handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily. Immediately file a police report in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one). But here's what is perhaps most important:

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS#. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit that was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen.

Two tips from the Los Angeles Police Department: If the theft is not in your local police department's jurisdiction, file another report with your PD when you get home.

Also, create a script of exactly what happened so when you call / e-mail to report the theft to various organizations, you don't forget something critical and the reports are all the same.

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



Use Speech To Control Your PC And Compress Text

*by Nancy DeMarte, Sarasota Technology Users Group, FL
www.spcug.org ndemarte@Verizon.net*

Many modern devices have digital voice personalities that can help you find things or complete tasks. Some of these even have names, like Siri for Apple devices, Alexa for Amazon Echo, and Cortana for Windows. Microsoft Office and Windows 10 have added or upgraded speech features that provide both text to speech and speech to text. Speak is a new feature that helps you proofread what you have typed by listening to the computer read it aloud.

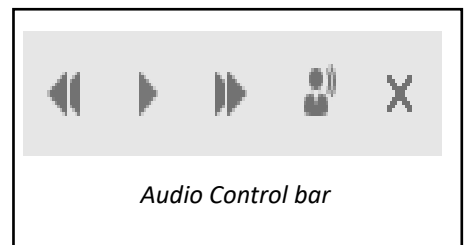
For example, if I'm typing a Word document and want to see if my wording is smooth and accurate, I can use "Speak" to hear how it sounds. The Speak feature is also found in other Microsoft apps - Outlook, PowerPoint, and OneNote.

To use 'Speak,' click anywhere in a document. Then click the Review tab on the ribbon. In the Speech group, click 'Read Aloud,' which opens an audio control bar.

Click the right-pointing single arrow, then sit back and listen. You can choose a male or female voice by clicking the setting icon which resembles a person on the audio bar.

Windows Speech Recognition (WSR):

Windows has had a speech recognition feature for several years. This tool lets a user dictate into a microphone without the use of a keyboard



or mouse and have his or her speech translated into text. It can be used to compose articles, write letters or emails, fill out forms, or complete other writing tasks. You can also use WSR to perform the basic functions of a computer, like opening an app, selecting a word, showing a list of commands, and adding

punctuation. Originally, it was difficult to set up, but the current version is much easier to configure and use. Learning to use WSR is especially worthwhile if your typing skills are weak.

You must have a microphone before setting up Speech Recognition. I found that a set of headphones with a microphone attached works very well. While it is also possible to find a Windows microphone in the MS store, a headset or free-standing mic is recommended.

Once you have a microphone plugged into your computer and turned on, it's time to locate and set up Speech Recognition. In Windows 7, click Start > All Programs > Accessories > Ease of Access > Speech Recognition. In Win 10, type 'Speech' in the Search box and choose the best match, Speech Recognition, which opens the Speech Configuration window, pictured at the bottom of this page.

Speech Configuration Window

There is a wizard (set of steps) to help you with setup. Click "Start Speech Recognition" to start the wizard. It will take you through all the steps in the order in which they are listed.

First, you will set up the microphone for correct placement and volume setting.

The speech tutorial consists of two short video tutorials that demonstrate the two main uses for speech recognition: "How to use WSR to get around your computer" and "How to use dictation with WSR". These are worth watching more than once.

In "Train your computer," you practice reading text aloud so that WSR can learn your vocal inflections, accent, and tone. This makes the transition from speech to text more accurate.

The last step is to print a few pages of valuable commands that WSR recognizes, a handy list.

While no speech recognition tool is perfect, the Windows version does a pretty good job, and setup is an easy, non-threatening process.

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

SHCC Post Office Box

There are rules affecting mail sent to our club post office box. These rules 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.








VISIT THE SHCC WEB SITE:
<http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org>

SHCC Emergency Cancellation

Sterling Heights Computer Club meets at Baker College In Clinton Township. We will meet if Baker College is open and will not meet if Baker College is closed. Baker College closure is announced with other school closings on many local TV and radio stations and on their web site. 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. If your email is broken, call an officer; and don't leave a message. Call another officer if you don't talk to someone live. It is your responsibility to keep the email address you have listed with SHCC current.



Configure your Speech Recognition experience

-  **Start Speech Recognition**
Start using your voice to control your computer.
-  **Set up microphone**
Set up your computer to work properly with Speech Recognition.
-  **Take Speech Tutorial**
Learn to use your computer with speech. Learn basic commands and dictation.
-  **Train your computer to better understand you**
Read text to your computer to improve your computer's ability to understand your voice. Doing this isn't necessary, but can help improve dictation accuracy.
-  **Open the Speech Reference Card**
View and print a list of common commands to keep with you so you always know what to say.

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. Club members are encouraged to submit favorite sites (a description is optional) to the e-address noted above, for inclusion in a future WYSIWYG issue. Also check the SHCC web site

(“Web Page Reviews”) for previous gems.

The Chris Notap YouTube channel is all about cool random stuff that you never knew. It helps you use your noggin for more than just a hat rack. It's all about inventing, building, being creative and learning how to fix stuff.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/chrisnotap/>

How one of the founding fathers of visual comedy builds a gag. (8-min. video)

<https://vimeo.com/146442912>

Bugs galore in the July 2018 Microsoft patches led to an unprecedented (and unexplained) re-release of everything, and a complete takedown of KB 4018385. Note to self: Who's testing this stuff?

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3289787/microsoft-windows/microsoft-yanks-buggy-office-2016-patch-kb-4018385-republishes-all-of-this-months-patch-downloads.html>

Protect yourself by looking up all domain access requests of Firefox extensions before you install them.

<https://www.ghacks.net/2018/07/10/look-up-all-domain-access-requests-of-firefox-extensions-before-installation/>

Why are upload speeds so much slower than download speeds on the Internet?

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/upload-speeds-slower-than-download-speeds>

What makes a computer fast – CPU, RAM, drive, or software? Or all of these?

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/what-makes-computer-fast>

Clean out junk files in Windows 7, 8.1, and 10.

<https://download.cnet.com/blog/download-blog/clean-out-junk-files-in-windows-7-8-1-and-10/>

Captchas: Why we need them, how they're evolving, and how you can solve them more easily.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/captchas-why-we-need-them/>

How to play media files on your Smart TV.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/play-media-files-on-smart-tv/>

A guide to Windows 10 privacy settings (with free 31-page downloadable eBook). This is very important stuff!!

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/complete-guide-windows-10-privacy-settings/>

Every time you type a domain name, you always need to type something after the dot, like .com, .net, .org, etc. What are these top-level domains (TLD) and how do they work?

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/what-is-top-level-domains-tld/>

4 easy ways to get out of an Ubuntu (Linux) crash.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/4-ways-to-get-yourself-out-of-a-ubuntu-crash/>

How do I rename my Windows 10 computer?

<https://www.askdavey.com/how-do-i-rename-my-windows-10-computer/>

While they're never the snappiest devices, if your Kindle is feeling sluggish — or freezing altogether -- here are some troubleshooting tips.

<https://www.howtogeek.com/356281/what-to-do-if-your-kindle-is-running-slow-or-freezing/>

There are good reasons for blocking applications/programs from running in Windows 10. Here's how to create a block list.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/block-applications-windows10/>

Why can't I copy large files (larger than 4 Gigs) to my high capacity flash drive?

<https://www.howtogeek.com/226992/htg-explains-why-cant-i-copy-large-files-to-my-high-capacity-flash-drive/>

What's the Dark Web & how to access it in 3 easy steps.

<https://www.vpnmentor.com/blog/whats-the-dark-web-how-to-access-it-in-3-easy-steps/>

Airdroid is a unique and useful application that lets you transfer files, send SMS messages and control your Android phone through your PC.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/airdroid-connect-android-phone-to-linux/>

Your Vizio Smart TV is so smart, it will tell you to sue the company.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/vizio-smart-tv-sue-company/>

With cable boxes, video game consoles, streaming media boxes, soundbars and more all connecting via HDMI, you may need an HDMI switch to handle them all. Here are some.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/best-hdmi-switches/>

Is your PC running unsupported hardware? Microsoft might be fighting you even more on Windows 7 & 8.1 systems, refusing hardware support through Windows Updates.

https://askbobrankin.com/is_your_pc_running_unsupported_hardware.html

It's hard to know which tech companies to trust with our data. We've known for years Google was using our data, and we found out recently that Facebook was as well. Apple, too. Here are some study findings.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/studyandroid-data-google-ios-apple/>

Microsoft silently kills Windows 7 security updates on older PCs, those that don't support SSE2 — the SIMD instruction set introduced by Intel with the Pentium 4 and by AMD with its Athlon 64 processors.

<https://www.extremetech.com/computing/271982-microsoft-silently-kills-windows-7-security-updates-on-older-pcs>

Identity Theft: A Recovery Plan --- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has produced this downloadable booklet to help you remedy the effects of an identity theft.

https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0009_identitytheft_a_recovery_plan.pdf

You can use the search feature of Windows Explorer (Windows 7) or File Explorer (Windows 8 and Windows 10) to find text within files. Here's how the 'Search Index' feature works.

https://windows.tips.net/T010115_Understanding_the_Search_Index.html

25 fun things to do with a Raspberry Pi.

<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/25-fun-things-to-do-with-a-raspberry-pi/>

Make simple games and applications on a Raspberry Pi with this free downloadable "*Learn to Code in Scratch*" e-book.

https://www.raspberrypi.org/magpi-issues/Essentials_Scratch_v1.pdf

Download free issues of *MagPi* magazine, the 'official' periodical for Raspberry Pi users. Discover what people do with these computing devices.

<https://www.raspberrypi.org/magpi/issues/>

Getting started with Raspberry Pi is an introductory source for setting up, using, and troubleshooting a Raspberry Pi computer, with loads of illustrations and videos to make it easy to follow.

<https://www.raspberrypi.org/help/>

What can you do if someone is using your personal email address? This is called email spoofing, and here's how scammers forge fake emails.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/scammers-spoof-email-address/>

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

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 site. They are arranged into various key word categories to help locate a specific site.