



THE WYSIWYG



April 2019

Volume 31 Issue 4

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, Michigan 48311-0385

**MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY April 2
7:00 PM**

(doors open at 6:30 PM)

**Baker College
34950 Little Mack Ave.
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:

**M.E.L. (Michigan Electronic Library)
What it is, how it works.**

The Michigan Electronic Library is an online learning and information resource available to all Michigan residents. A representative will introduce and explain what this resource is and how to use it. Bring along a laptop or tablet to follow along with the live presentation.

Also, if you have a library card from a participating library, you can borrow books, CDs and DVDs from many of the 400+ participating public libraries in the M.E.L. network through your local library.

You can get a sneak preview of M.E.L. at <https://mel.org>.

**We welcome Martee Held as our new Secretary.
Thanks, Martee, for offering
your time and talent to our club!**

Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before deciding whether to become a member or not. July and August don't count since there is no main meeting in those months. 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: \$30/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>

2019 SHCC Officers

<p>President Vice President Secretary Treasurer</p>	<p>Don VanSyckel Mike Bader Martee Held Bernie DeFazio</p>	<p>President@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org VP@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org Secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org Treasurer@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org</p>
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Resource People

<p>Firefox General Computer Questions Hardware MS Publisher MS Word Spreadsheets</p>	<p>Don VanSyckel Jack Vander- Schrier <i>(open)</i> <i>(open)</i> Rick Schummer Rick Schummer</p>
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SHCC Coordinators

<p>Associate Editor Door prizes Greeter for visitors Newsletter Publisher/Editor Program Coordinator Publicity Publicity Welcome & check-in desk Web Site Admin Web Watch column</p>	<p>Rick Schummer Don VanSyckel Jim Waldrop Paul Baecker Mike Bader Patrick Little Phil Reynaud Jim Waldrop Don VanSyckel Paul Baecker</p>
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(Use appropriate e-address for your questions/comments.)

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Club Dues Amounts

The club dues were increased to \$30 per year at the November 2018 meeting.

This includes a digital version of the newsletter sent monthly, except for July and August, when the club does not meet.

A paper version of the newsletter is available in place of the digital newsletter, for an additional \$31 per year. (increased at March 2019 meeting)

Associate memberships, for a second member of a household, remain at an additional \$15 per year.

Four-Month Meeting Schedule

MAY 2019
 7 - SHCC Main Meeting
 12- SEMCO Meeting

JULY 2019
 SHCC - **NO** Meeting
 14 - SEMCO Meeting

JUNE 2019
 4 - SHCC Main Meeting
 9 - SEMCO Meeting

AUGUST 2019
 SHCC - **NO** Meeting
 11 - SEMCO Meeting

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



I have a potpourri of items to discuss again this month. First, a reminder to be on the look-out for a new meeting location. Baker College is closing the campus we meet at in August 2020. So we either move this September or next September (due to the contract timing). The geographical center of SHCC membership is VanDyke between 16 and 17 Mile Roads.

The March PC raffle was postponed to the April meeting. In final check out, the PC had issues that rendered it unusable. Better before the raffle than after the winner carts it home, so I guess it was for the best. A laptop was donated for the raffle, so we are good to go. If you bought a raffle ticket because you were interested in the desktop PC and you're not interested in the laptop, contact one of the officers before March 30th and we'll refund your ticket money.

The raffle tickets are \$5 each. The raffle will be held at the April meeting towards the end when we do door prize drawings. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets will be available at the April meetings and via US mail. Send a check and we'll put those tickets in the drawing (we will NOT send you tickets via mail, keeping our cost down). The PC specs are to the right. In a surprise offer, if we sell 30 or more raffle tickets, a second computer, a PC with Win 7 Pro, will be donated for a second prize. This doubles your chance of winning. We are just a few tickets away from hitting the 30 ticket mark so get a ticket and help put us over our goal. Buy multiple tickets, win both!!

I am in the process of arranging the Word Press tutorial work shops for interested club members. Mr. Eric Malcolm, the Word Press professional who did the presentations for SHCC, has volunteered to mentor a group of SHCC members who are interested in learning Word Press and building their web sites. There will probably be several meetings. I will have the location and schedule of these meetings shortly. There's still time to sign up if you're interested. No charge for this, thank you Mr. Malcolm. Nine members and counting.

An amendment to the constitution was passed at the March meeting which raised the dues addition for the paper version of the newsletter to \$31 per year. Previously we had passed an amendment to the constitution which raised the basic dues to \$30 per year. So now, the yearly dues for SHCC are \$30 with the electronic (PDF) newsletter and \$61 with the paper newsletter. All current memberships are honored and these new rates will only take affect at future renewals.

The SHCC Secretary election was held in March and Martee Held was elected to the office. Welcome Martee!

The April meeting presentation will be done by a representative of M.E.L. (Michigan Electronic Library). We will become acquainted with the resources available to us from M.E.L..

Last month we were pleased to have Mr. Mike Bader of SHCC present "Potpourri of News, Current Events, Software, and Websites, part 2". Mike's time was limited in February because we had so much club business to discuss, so the presentation was continued with part 2 in March. Thanks, Mike, you could tell by audience questions there was a great deal of interest in the topic.

*** SHCC Computer Raffle ***

The desktop computer that was to be raffled off at the March meeting developed a technical issue. So, the member who donated it is replacing it with a laptop computer.

We will be raffling off this laptop PC at the April meeting. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Specifications of the laptop PC are listed below. This laptop PC is a refurbished unit. It will be available for inspection at the April meeting.

Tickets can be purchased at the April meeting. Tickets can also be purchased by sending a check for \$5.00 for each ticket, to the club P.O. Box. We won't send back a ticket for mail purchases, but we will acknowledge receipt of your donation via email, and will put a ticket in the drawing jar for you. The club mailing address is on page 2 of the WYSIWYG. All checks sent by mail must arrive in the P.O. Box by **Saturday, March 30** (so don't delay!). You do not need to be present at the meeting to win.

The drawing will be held at the end of the April meeting, in addition to the normal door prize drawing.

Specs of the raffle Laptop PC:

Hardware:

- ◆ Dell XPS M1530 (Service Tag DWDR4G1) with 15.4" screen
- ◆ Intel Core 2 Duo T8300 CPU 2.4 GHz
- ◆ NVidia GeForce 8600M GT video
- ◆ 4 GB RAM, 320 GB Hard Disk Drive
- ◆ 3 USB 2.0 ports
- ◆ 8-in-1 Media Card Reader
- ◆ New 9-cell extended-life battery
- ◆ VGA, S-Video, Ethernet, HDMI, mic/audio ports
- ◆ 2MP web camera; Finger print scanner

Software:

- ◆ Windows 10 Professional, version 1809, updated, 64-bit
- ◆ Adobe Reader DC, Flash, Shockwave, Java
- ◆ IE11, Microsoft Edge, Google
- ◆ Bullzip PDF Printer
- ◆ Dell Webcam
- ◆ MS Office 2003
- ◆ Windows Defender, Silverlight
- ◆ PIXresizer
- ◆ PrintKey 2000
- ◆ Roxio Creator Premier V10



Cell Phone Photography

By Dick Maybach, Member,
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Most cell-phone camera photos have little lasting value, making their quality unimportant. However, these cameras are rapidly improving, and more people are using them on vacations and at important events. It now becomes important to take the care to make their pictures worth showing, meaning you must now better understand your camera and its software. The quality of your photos depends more on your photographic skills than on your camera. Good photographers take good pictures regardless of their equipment, and those with limited ability take poor ones regardless of how much money they spend or the tonnage of gear they carry. Dedicated cameras can take better pictures, but they are usually kept safe at home, while our cell phones are almost always with us.

The first step is to recognize the limitations of cell phone cameras:

- Their shapes make them difficult to hold steady, especially while making adjustments.
- They have tiny sensors, making low-light photography difficult at best.
- They reside in pockets and purses, and their exposed lenses quickly become dirty (and occasionally even scratched).
- Their lenses are simple with fixed apertures and focal lengths.

Taking good pictures requires learning to compensate for these limitations.

Cell phones' small display screens hide many sins. Develop the habit of transferring every image to a PC, whose large, high-resolution monitor allows you to see what you've captured, warts and all. Moving pictures to a PC also makes them available to image processing software and frees the limited storage space in your phone. Simple changes, such as cropping, exposure correction, and noise reduction, can make large differences. *{Ed. Note: It also guarantees that you have backed up copies of the images.}*

You hold a conventional camera against your face with both hands. The viewfinder has optics that make the image appear to be about a meter from your eye, and there is an adjustment to compensate for aging vision. Compare this to a cell phone that you hold at arm's length where its screen is often in direct sunlight. Clearly, the latter is subject to a lot more twitching, and using a selfie-stick makes this worse, creating blurry photos, especially in dim light. To minimize this hold your phone with both hands and release the shutter with a dedicated button (often one that controls the volume) rather than

jabbing at the screen. Bend your arms so that your elbows are pressed against your waist or are resting on a table if you are sitting. In dim light, rest the phone against a solid object if possible. If your near vision is limited, hold the camera at arm's length to make adjustments, but pull it closer to take the picture.

Tap the screen on the point where you want the camera to set its focus and exposure, otherwise it will make a choice. The result could be a sharply focused, well exposed shrub in the foreground and an overexposed blur in the background barely recognizable as the Leaning Tower of Pisa. If your subject is moving, set the camera to take a sequence of pictures; you'll throw most of them away, but you may capture the moment you want. Also consider a sequence when photographing a group; you'll have a better chance to catch everybody's eyes open. Always squeeze the shutter button rather than jab at it; the latter jerks the camera. Taking a photo sequence means the timing is not important, so even here you can be gentle with the shutter.

The best compensation for a small sensor is to have plenty of light when you take the picture. You can sometimes achieve this by moving so the light source is behind you; certainly try to avoid back-lit subjects. Another approach is to limit the exposure sensitivity, which the camera sets by adjusting its ISO, although not all photo apps and phones allow this. For my phone, ISO values above a few hundred produce very noisy images, which even capable photo processing software can't correct. Once you limit the ISO, you will find you have long exposure times, which means you now must place the camera on a solid support to reduce the shake. You probably also want to delay the exposure, so that it takes place a few seconds after you press the button, giving you time to ensure the camera is steady. Again, not all camera apps have this feature.

Carry a clean, soft cloth or a packet of lens cleaning paper and use it often to clean the lens. Also, keep in mind that the lens is right at the surface of the case and has no shade. You may have to use your hand to keep sunlight from striking it directly. Let's see now, you are holding the phone with one hand, operating the controls with another, and shading the lens with a third, while all the time trying to hold it steady. A shutter delay may help, but some thinking may be better. Perhaps you can stand in the shade or ask someone to cast a shadow on your camera.

The simple lens is always set for wide-angle pictures; it achieves a telephoto effect by throwing away the outer portions of the image. As a result, you should avoid using the camera's zoom feature, instead move closer to your subject. If you can't, then take the picture at wide angle and throw away the unwanted portion of the image with processing software after you move it to your PC. This gives you more flexibility on what you choose to include in the finished photo. Figure 1 shows

a picture taken in normal (wide-angle) mode.



Figure 1. Image in Wide-angle Mode

Figure 2 shows the same image taken using the zoom feature. The camera throws away the portion shown in red; however it processes the image so that it has the same number of pixels before it stores the file. If you enlarge two images of the same scene, one wide-angle and one zoomed (you'll of course have to magnify the wide-angle one more), you will see that both have about the same resolution, meaning the added pixels in the zoomed image have not improved its quality. Now do the same experiment, but instead of zooming, move closer to your subject, and you'll find that the latter image does have more detail.



Figure 2. A Zoomed Image

Finally, be aware that unlike a dedicated camera, a cell phone camera has a fixed aperture; it controls exposure only by adjusting the ISO and exposure time. As a result, you have little control of the depth-of-field. However, because a cell-phone camera has a small sensor, its depth-of-field is large, making it a concern only when you are very close to your subject.

Most photo apps have features you can use to improve your pictures. Figure 3 shows the default display for *Moto Camera*, the photo app supplied with my Motorola phone. Note the rule-of-thirds guide lines, which help to compose your photo. A common

technique is to locate the main subject at one of the intersections. Some apps give you a choice of several such composing aids. Note also the yellow icon around the subject, which appears because I tapped the screen there to create a focus and exposure point. This app also allows you to adjust the exposure by moving the white spot around the icon circle. The other visible controls (on the left) set manual or automatic mode, set the delay, control the flash, take a high-dynamic-range photo, and (on the right) select movie, still, or panoramic mode, and switch between the front and back cameras. The large white button on the right is the on-screen shutter release.

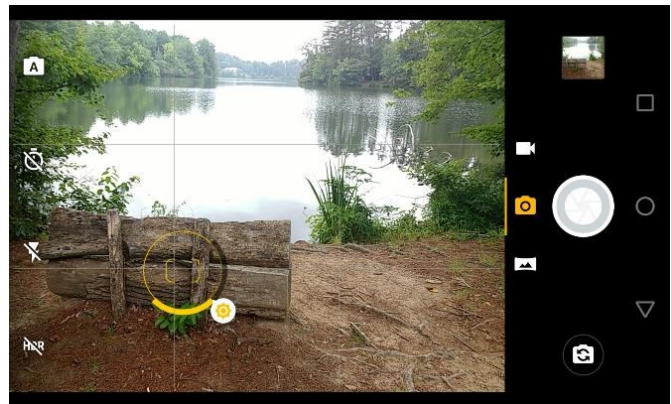


Figure 3. Moto Camera Display

Surprisingly, I found the photo app supplied with my phone (available from the Play Store as *Moto Camera*) to be the one I use most often. It allows for adjusting the focus, white balance, shutter speed, ISO, and exposure, and includes an exposure delay, high-dynamic-range (HDR), panoramas, and can disable the flash. It doesn't allow photo sequences, and I use *Open Camera* for this feature.

Figure 4 shows the manual mode of *Moto Camera*, which allows considerable flexibility. The controls are (from left to right) focus, white balance, shutter speed, ISO, and exposure compensation. You move the white circles to make adjustments. Except for exposure compensation, a white dot at the bottom of its arc means that adjustment is automatic.

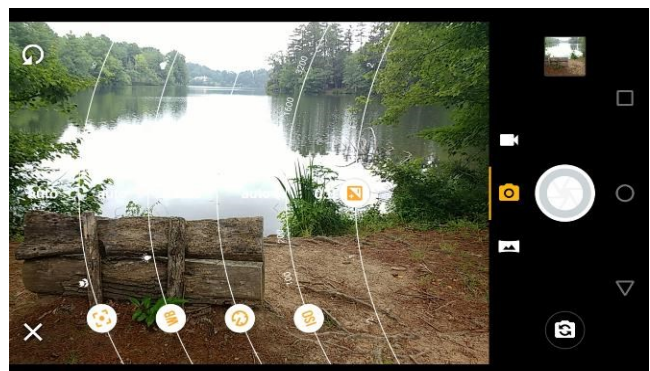


Figure 4. Moto Camera in Manual Mode

Many apps offer high dynamic range (HDR) where they take several photos at different exposures and combine them with the goal of showing details in both the very bright and the very dim areas. In my experience, it is very difficult to obtain acceptable HDR results, even with a professional camera and high-quality photo processing software. The results with a phone camera and its app software are often disappointing, but you have nothing to lose by trying. The technique won't work on moving subjects; even leaves moving in the background will cause problems. Some apps, for example *Open Camera* (available from the Play Store), have a dynamic range optimization (DRO), which processes the shadow and highlights areas differently in a single image. This works for moving subjects and I've found the improvement often approaches that using HDR. *Open Camera* will also save the individual images it combines into an HDR one, which enables you to use your PC processing software and perhaps get better results than with the app's software.

The capabilities of a photo app depend on the version of Android under which it runs and on what features the vendor has enabled. To get everything you need, you will have to experiment and probably install more than one photo app.

We can summarize this discussion as follows:

- Hold the camera firmly with both hands and use a dedicated button to release the shutter and squeeze rather than jab at the screen.
- Brace your elbows and in low light rest the camera on a firm support. Consider using a shutter delay to reduce camera jiggle.
- Minimize using the zoom feature, but take your pictures at wide angle.
- Always select the focus point.
- Keep your lens clean, and shade it from direct sunlight.
- Look at your images on a large, high-resolution monitor.

Experiment with camera apps to find those that best suit you and your phone.

With a little care and practice you can take surprisingly high-quality photos with your cell-phone camera, often approaching those from dedicated cameras and far surpassing those from cameras of just a few years ago.

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



Shockwave Almost Gone

News and/or opinion from Paul Baecker

Effective April 9, 2019, Adobe "Shockwave" will be discontinued and the Shockwave player for Windows will no longer be available for download.

Shockwave has powered many of the interactive experiences on the web during the early 2000s. Shockwave was developed by Macromedia in 1997, which Adobe acquired in 2005.

The reason for this demise is the introduction of HTML5 technology into your browser just a couple of years ago. HTML5 incorporates the benefits of Shockwave (and other technologies, such as Adobe Flash which will come to its end in 2020) without any concerns for individual proprietary tools needing their own regular security and performance updates. HTML5 was designed to do just about everything anyone would want to do on the web, without required *plugins* (such as Shockwave, Flash, and others). This does *not* include so-called "add-ons" (in Firefox) and "extensions" (in Chrome and Edge), which are separate *programs* that can be installed into the browser in order to change the *browser's functionality*.

Adobe Shockwave's primary purpose has been to support online gaming. Adobe announced this end to Shockwave in 2017, with the intent of giving notice to gaming developers for time to switch to newer technologies.

If you don't currently have Shockwave installed on your PC, then you don't need to grab this last update. If you currently DO have Shockwave installed, you might consider grabbing this last update, if your needs include online gaming, just to keep back with slower developers, while they catch up. Always apply updates to your browser(s) whenever they are made available!



Searching for New Meeting Room

Due to the upcoming closure of the Baker College building in 2020, we must search for a new meeting location. Our room requirements are:

- First-Tuesday evening availability each month (except July/August) guaranteed
- Internet connectivity and room audio system
- Projector and screen (and a microphone, depending on room size)
- 40-person capacity minimum
- Ability to reserve the room for a full year (Sept. – June)
- Reasonably quiet environment
- Reasonably close handicap parking

Contact an Officer if you have any questions, or if you know of a possible meeting location that fits the above.

32-bits, 64 bits – How Many Do I Need?

By Phil Sorrentino, Contributing Writer
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The Computer Club, FL
www.sccccomputerclub.org

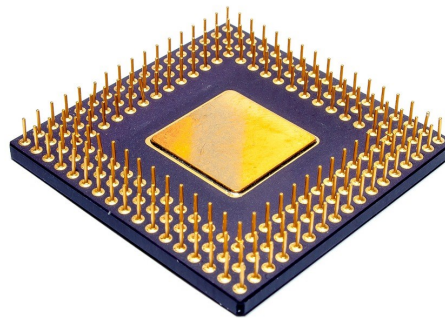
Over the past few years, Personal Computers have been moving from 32-bit Central Processor Units (CPU) to 64-bit CPUs. (Actually, 64-bit CPUs were first introduced way back in 2003, but it takes time to get new CPUs through the design/manufacture/produce cycle to finally provide “affordable products”.) So it’s not a matter of how many you need, it is a matter of what is on the market.

From a user’s point of view, the main difference between 32-bit and 64-bit CPUs is performance. Performance is basically the speed at which the CPU can complete tasks and is measured in calculations per second: the faster the CPU, the higher the performance. Additionally, 64-bit CPUs can come in dual, quad and eight core versions which can provide further improvements in performance. Another difference is the maximum amount of RAM memory that can be accessed. 32-bit CPUs can access a maximum of 4 GB, whereas a 64-bit CPU can access far beyond 4 GB, which is necessary if you are using software to accomplish things like video editing or graphic design. In general, the more bits you have, the better the processing performance and capability, and therefore the better your computing experience.

The CPU defines the architecture. A 64-bit CPU is used in a 64-bit architecture and a 32-bit CPU is used in a 32-bit architecture. Today, almost all PCs are built around the 64-bit architecture, giving you the best possible computing experience if you only consider the number of bits. (Other contributing factors to your computing experience might be Internet connection speed, display size, hard drive size, and the number and speed of USB ports.) The Operating System (OS) software is intimately connected to the hardware architecture. That said, keep in mind that a computer with a 64-bit architecture can have a 64-bit OS or 32-bit OS installed; however, the 64-bit architecture with a 32-bit OS installed will not provide the 64-bit architecture’s full capability. Also note that the 32-bit architecture can only run a 32-bit OS. Windows 10 is built for the 64-bit architecture as was Windows 7, unlike Windows XP and 95 which were built for the 32-bit architecture.

A quick look in the rear-view mirror shows the original

PC that was released in 1981 by IBM. This early PC was built around a 16-bit architecture which was quite a bit less capable than our current 64-bit or 32-bit CPUs. (The initial CPU was an 8088 which actually used 16 bits internally, but had an 8-bit Input/Output (IO) interface (possibly to keep costs down and possibly to interface to certain peripheral devices), making it a hybrid of sorts, 16 bits internally for calculations and 8 bits externally for I/O.) PCs that followed used the 8086 CPU which was a true 16-bit processor. 32-bit computers started to appear as early as 1985 with the Intel 386 CPU. Improvements in the 32-bit architecture continued from the mid 1980s until the 64-bit processor arrived in 2003. The 64-bit architecture has been improved over the past 15 years and the cost has been reduced to the point where almost every PC produced today has a 64-bit CPU in it. If you are looking for a new computer, definitely go for the 64-bit architecture. (You can find the architecture and OS information in Settings-System-About. In this window, “System type” will show the number of bits for the processor, and also the number of bits for the OS.)



The number of bits in a particular PC architecture indicates the number of bits used in calculations and the number of bits used to address an item in memory. So, a 64-bit architecture has a 64-bit Arithmetic/Logical Unit at the heart of the CPU and can address up to 2^{64} or 16 exabytes in memory. (Note: Not all PCs are built to take advantage of this large memory space; in fact most are limited by their hardware design to less than 512 Gigabytes.) An Exabyte is a very large number: it is a million-million Terabytes. To put it in perspective, see the following table:

1024 Gigabytes=	1 Terabyte
1024 Terabytes=	1 Petabyte
1024 Petabytes=	1 Exabyte

On top of the hardware limitation, which is not really very limiting, the Operating System in use places some limitations. The following table shows the limitations for some of the popular versions of Windows 10:

Operating System	Maximum Memory (RAM)
Windows 10 Home 64-Bit	128GB
Windows 10 Pro 32-Bit	4GB
Windows 10 Pro 64-Bit	512GB

So, considering the number of items or bytes that we currently concern ourselves with, 4 to 32 gigabytes of RAM memory, and maybe 4 to 12 terabytes of hard drive space, the 64-bit architecture will probably take us pretty far into the future.

If one were purchasing a new computer, the best situation would be a 64-bit hardware architecture with a 64-bit OS and all 64-bit drivers. You would probably get this if you bought a middle to high end PC from a popular company like HP, Dell, or Lenovo. Low end or economy models might have a 32-bit or a 64-bit architecture. Note that if the amount of installed memory was over 4 GB then it would have to be a 64-bit architecture. If one did purchase a PC with a 32-bit architecture, it would probably have a 32-bit OS installed.

Knowing what OS is installed on your PC is important if you are installing new software. If your new software is built for a 64-bit OS, it will only run on a 64-bit OS; it will probably not run on a 32-bit OS. If your new software is built for a 32-bit OS then it will probably run on a 32-bit OS or a 64-bit OS. Sometimes a software vendor will make two versions available, one for the 32-bit OS and a different one for the 64-bit OS.

So, if you can find it in your price range, a 64-bit architecture with a 64-bit OS and 12 GB of RAM and a 1TB hard drive would probably satisfy almost everyone's needs, except maybe for a few very serious gamers.

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



Computer Flu Season on Windows

By Jim Cerny, Forum Leader
Sarasota Technology Users Group, FL
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The STUG Monitor www.thestug.org

Did you get your flu shot this year? It's always good to protect your health from those nasty germs and viruses – and the same is true with your Windows computer. In this short overview we will cover some essential basics of computer protection.

There are many FREE anti-virus protection programs (apps) out there, and almost all of them offer an “upgraded” version for a monthly or annual fee. I really have no experience with what the upgraded (\$) versions offer compared to their free version, but I have used the free Windows Defender for quite a few years now and so far, so good. Windows Defender comes with Windows and it may already be active on your computer. Just left-click on the little Windows icon in the lower left corner of your screen and you will see an alphabetical list of all your apps. Left-click on “Windows Defender

Security Center” and you will see if this program is running on your computer.

You do need an active “running all the time” virus protection program on your Windows computer to protect you from the nasties. If you use another virus protection app, remember that only ONE virus protection program should be active or running. Do NOT try to run two at the same time – they will interfere with each other and bring your system back to the stone age of slowness. I think it is wise to delete all other virus protection apps from your computer except the one you are actively using. On my computer, if I delete an active virus protection program, Windows Defender steps right in to protect me right away. That's very nice of them. Whatever virus protection app you are running, check the options for “automatic updates” and turn that “ON”. That way it will update itself without you having to do anything.

Like they say on TV – “*But wait, there's more...*” and there is. Besides active virus protection, you also should use some free software that will SCAN your system for problems. In my case, I use “CCleaner” (note the two-letter C's) and “Glary Utilities.” There are probably at least a dozen more you can pick from. These apps are not “always active” type of virus protection – you have to run them. I usually run both of them every day; it only takes a minute.

Of course ALL of these apps have multiple options, tools, and things you can do with them. For example, Windows Defender has an option to scan your computer for problems too – a “quick,” “full,” or “custom” scan. Whatever app you choose, please take some time to learn about it by searching YouTube – “How to use Windows Defender”, for example. You do not have to learn all the options – there are way too many anyway – but surely the basics.

As another example, Glary Utilities can also tell you what software upgrades you need and install them for you – a very nice option. Please ask your friends and relatives – “What do you use to protect your computer?” And searching the Internet for the “most popular” apps is always a good idea, too. I am sure you are aware of how great it is to use Google or YouTube to find very helpful videos on how to use whatever apps you pick. If you run ANY app, it is always a good idea to watch a ten-minute video about it. You will learn not only how to use it for the “basics,” but also will learn some of the popular options that may also be helpful to you. Most of the options or choices offered are way over my head so I just stick with the basics.

Unfortunately nothing is guaranteed. You could pay good money for protection and still get a virus. But it is always better to have something than nothing. And if that something costs nothing, well, that's not a bad deal.

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Who Ya Gonna Call?

News and/or Opinion from Paul Baecker

I teach computer classes at a local library, and I hear a myriad of students' horror stories about their unpleasant computer experiences. Here are some...

Last year, this happened to two senior citizen students, in separate classes. Each student mentioned taking her computer to a local store to have it 'repaired'. One said which store she brought it to (a big-box store with a diagnostic department) and paid \$200. The other took it to a local office-supply store, but was too embarrassed to admit the cost she paid. In both cases, the ladies could not remember what problem(s) the PCs were having -- they just "weren't working right". Each student got her computer back, and each computer worked great. The problem? Their personal data (docs, music, photos, etc.) was gone. When questioned about whether they were offered the service of backing up these files, I was met with blank stares. They weren't pleased with losing the files, but still -- blank stares. Neither student could recall being offered a backup of the data files (at additional cost, of course). Perhaps that solicitation was not made, or perhaps they simply did not understand it.

Last month another student reported a pop-up on his Win10 PC. It was one of those typical pop-ups suggesting that the computer had so-and-so many things wrong and a simple phone call could set everything straight. The phone number in the pop-up was 1-855-623-5333. A simple web-search of this phone number reveals it as a popular component of a "pop-up virus". This pop-up loaded immediately with each Win10 login, and kept the user from seeing any of his desktop or running any programs. It acted as I would expect a *ransomware attack* would act, although no ransom demand was noted. Perhaps needless to say, I had to enter Windows' 'Safe Mode' to be able to evict it from the PC, since in 'Normal Mode' I could not access any programs (including security tools). But how did the user get this infection? Simple: He opened an email message from the US Postal Service regarding his request for an upcoming vacation hold of his mail delivery. The problem is that the email was fake. It LOOKED like the other email message he'd previously received, but when hovering over the links in the message, they did not point to the USPS, but rather to some other web location. Not knowing how to determine that the links were fake, he trusted the message and clicked away. BOOM! -- the PC got hacked. An important lesson learned.

Another student was trying to demystify Microsoft's OneDrive on her Windows 10 PC. She had a subscription to Office 365, and had a genuine purpose to be using that cloud storage service. But it just wasn't cooperating -- she was challenged with getting the sync feature to work. So, she searched the web for assistance, and came upon a Microsoft site with a phone number. (Turns out that the site was NOT a Microsoft site, but read on.) The site looked professional, and she called

the number, and met "Alex and Steve". Alex chatted with her about her dilemma for the longest time (20+ minutes), drawing fancy images on her screen, suggesting what they could do for her and how much their service would cost (initially, \$699, but when they learned that she was a senior citizen, the senior discount kicked in at \$499). Fortunately, Alex and Steve were greedy enough to price themselves out of her business, but had they suggested more like \$100, she might have jumped at the offer. But during the long chat with Alex, we surmise that Steve (probably not their real names, of course, since they certainly didn't hide their far-eastern accent) was diligently trying to break into her PC and access whatever files he could. Later, in diagnosing some oddities with her system, we found remnant files in a few places that looked as though Steve had accessed the PC, but wasn't experienced enough to cause permanent damage. Sloppy novice hackers.

And a student brought her laptop to a class, and asked whether I could help her with a problem. She could not log in to her Windows 10 PC since the previous weekend, although she was insistent that she knew the password. After several tries (using variants of the password contents), we sat there, discussing the problem and alternative solutions (there were few). But during that chat, we were surprised to *hear a voice* come over the speakers of the not-yet-logged-into PC, telling us that a call to such-and-such phone number could fix so-and-so many hundreds of problems on the PC (similar to the screen popups that we all have witnessed). I figured that the user had caught an infection that also changed her login password. (I have broken into login credentials on Win7 & 8.1 PCs, but Win10 presents advanced security features that stymied my similar attempts.) I do not know what the user eventually did with her PC issue.

These are situations which none of us want to experience. But what if we do have problems or questions about our PCs or our Internet experiences? Each of these users COULD have avoided their dilemmas with a little knowledge.....or with a computer club membership. As an SHCC member, you have access to knowledgeable folks who are willing and able to assist you, without shelling out extra bucks unnecessarily. The club newsletter lists contacts to club volunteers who are ready to help. And each member has the email addresses of the other members. Do not feel intimidated to ask for help when you're stumped with a problem. We all started out with no knowledge, and through reading, research and asking questions (and bits of trial and error), we all have acquired a certain level of digital smarts. If you ask one person, and the response is not quite satisfactory (maybe it didn't work, or it was way over your head), ask again, or ask someone else. Everyone has different ideas and potential solutions, and different ways to convey them. There are NO dumb questions -- we've all asked them. Besides, it's FUN to learn how to control your digital toys! So, never be afraid to ask for help.



Freshly Squeezed Reviews: With An Ever So Light Bias

By Frank Petrie, YMP Now
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<https://ympnow.com/category/welcome/>

Instead of looking at the sky, friends, or trees, we now spend an inordinate amount of time staring at screens: smartphones, computers, or HDTVs.

As has been known for a while now, this can affect you biologically in a couple of ways. First, the glare of a screen is harsh on your eyes and can lead to eye strain, causing some damage. Another known problem is that we know that the color of light projected by our screens is about the same color temperature as daylight. Staring at a screen at night tricks your mind into believing it is daytime. This results in throwing out of kilter your circadian rhythm. You can't fall asleep easily because your mind doesn't believe it's time to get some rest.

Several apps (like "Flux", <https://justgetflux.com/>) have been released over the years to remedy the latter, changing your screen's color temperature to reflect nighttime (eventually Apple incorporated a less feature-rich control into its OS, Night Mode). This way your rhythm is back in sync, enabling you to go to bed at your desired time.

I stumbled across a second issue accidentally. I've been ever so slowly trying to make my studio apartment a bit homier. I was looking to achieve the halo effect behind my HDTV (perhaps in adjustable colors) for night viewing to set a relaxed mood in the room. (I tend to watch TV in bed before I go to sleep. I know they recommend that you don't look at a screen several hours before you go to sleep but then again, when have I ever done anything healthy?)

I found that this effect was called *Bias Lighting*. As I started reading how to achieve this, I came across several articles which explained that it wasn't only something nice to look at, but there was a substantially beneficial reason for doing this.

You know how your eyes, even with proper color temperature, can become affected when viewing any of your screens at night? This has to do with the surroundings you're viewing your screen in. If the screen is brighter than the lighting in your environment, this will cause your retinas to dilate, causing eyestrain, burning, and fatigue. Type in your search engine *Bias Lighting* for a detailed description of what occurs.

So, what is the solution in this



instance?

Ironically, Bias Lighting can reduce much of the problem, the same thing I was going to do to add a little class to my apartment. You've no doubt seen this before. Most of the time you see it creating various colored halos around a TV's perimeter. The effect is created by lacing LED strips around the back of the monitor.

But you can reduce your eyestrain even further. I did a bit of research on this and what I learned was that white light (6500K degrees Kelvin) is the most effective way of reducing strain.

I found this an interesting concept and first tried it out by placing my desk lamp behind my iMac while typing one night. I was surprised at how much more comfortable it was working on the computer! Even with using only a desk lamp the impact was immediately noticeable.

You can spend an arm and a leg, even buying a high-end TV with Bias Lighting built-in. You can purchase kits with remote controls that will cost you around USD \$100. You can purchase IKEA puck lights, or purchase less expensive, yet effective, DIY kits. Or think outside of the box and design your own solution..

As is usually the case, Amazon is a good place to start getting a feel for what is out there. I found a company that makes Bias Lighting strips in various lengths that would be powered by my monitor's USB plug. They're called *Luminoodle* (<https://powerpractical.com/collections/luminoodle-interior-lighting>) from *Power Practical*. They make exterior lighting as well, but what I wanted was interior lighting. The cost was roughly USD \$10.00.



Now that I've installed the LEDs on the back of my iMac and pronounced it a resounding success, it's now on to the HDTV and see if that has the same effect. You can power your HDTV's Bias Lighting also via USB port. Or you can get a system that you plug into a wall outlet.

I recommend that you start small at first. Buy an inexpensive set up for your computer and see if it has the same effect on you. If you're happy with the results, then move on from there.

If you received a desktop computer over the holidays, I would highly recommend that you buy an inexpensive set up and give it a bash. Your eyes will most definitely thank you for it.

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



Don't Ever Share Your Password or Pin

By Jerry Heaton, Editor
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The importance of protecting your personal information has been stressed time and again. Yet we still hear of occasions where someone has fallen for a scam which has cost them money, time and much aggravation.

I would like to think no one in our group has fallen for a scam of any type that cost them money. But I would almost bet someone I know has become a victim. I don't know it and probably never will because victims don't like to admit their stupidity – maybe that is a harsh word; let's just say for being such a 'soft touch'.

Most people become victims only when they believe someone convinces them that they have a great chance to make some easy money or perhaps save them a lot of money.

I offer only a few rules which you should follow to keep from becoming a scam victim:

- Don't answer or linger on the phone with a caller you don't know – even if they are from your own area code. Scammers and hackers can be anywhere in the world and still use your home area code.
- If your phone rings once and then hangs up, DO NOT call back, thinking the call was important and just got dropped. It could be that their intent is to get you on the line and involve you in a lengthy conversation with the goal to keep you online as long as possible. There are area codes in the Caribbean that charge many dollars per minute which can be added to your phone bill.
- If your phone rings and your caller ID shows someone you don't know – don't answer the call. If you decide to answer the call and don't recognize the voice – hang up!

Should you do decide to ignore the above suggestions, and answer a call – more rules:

- Don't trust anyone who calls with a great deal for you, which seems almost too good to be true – it likely is too good to be true.
- Never ever give anyone your password – no one needs to know that but you.
- Never ever give anyone your pin number – no one needs to know that but you.
- Never ever give anyone your banking information – no one needs to know that but you.

All this discussion came to mind as a CKCS board

member sent me the following scam notice. It credits no individual or location, nor does it identify the author. The scam, though, is new to me and seems plausible. Just remember, this story may be new and true, or maybe not.

Alert your family and friends. Just when you thought you'd heard it all. Beware of people bearing gifts.

Here is a recount of the incident from the victim:

Wednesday a week ago, I had a phone call from someone saying that he was from some outfit called: "Express Couriers". (The name could be any courier company.) He asked if I was going to be home because there was a package for me that required a signature.

The caller said that the delivery would arrive at my home in roughly an hour. Sure enough, about an hour later, a uniformed delivery man turned up with a beautiful basket of flowers and a bottle of wine.

I was very surprised since there was no special occasion or holiday, and I certainly didn't expect anything like it. Intrigued, I inquired as to who the sender was.

The courier replied, "I don't know, I'm only delivering the package."

Apparently, a greeting card was being sent separately. (The card has never arrived!) There was also a consignment note with the gift.

He then went on to explain that, because the gift contained alcohol, there was a \$3.50 "delivery/verification charge", providing proof that he had actually delivered the package to an adult (of legal drinking age), and not just left it on the doorstep where it could be stolen or taken by anyone, especially a minor.

This sounded logical and I offered to pay him cash. He then said that the delivery company required payment to be by credit or debit card only, so that everything is properly accounted for, and this would help in keeping a legal record of the transaction. He added, "Couriers don't carry cash to avoid loss or likely targets for robbery".

My husband, who by this time was standing beside me, pulled out his credit card, and the "delivery man" asked him to swipe the card on a small mobile card machine with a small screen and keypad.

My husband was asked to enter his PIN number and a receipt was printed out. He was given a copy of the transaction.

The guy said everything was in order and wished us good day.

To our horrible surprise, between Thursday and the following Monday, \$4,000 had been charged/withdrawn from our credit/debit account at various ATM machines.

(Continued on page 13.....)

Why Am I Seeing That Ad?

by Cyn Mackley
Cyn Mackley's Tech Tips

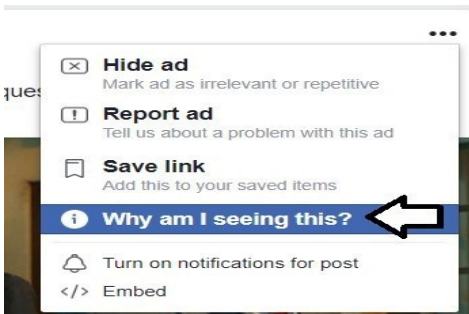
<https://cynmackley.com/category/cyns-tech-tips/>

Have you ever been puzzled by the kinds of ads that turn up in your Facebook feed? There's a simple way to find out why the ads are being shown to you and to get rid of ones you don't care to see again.

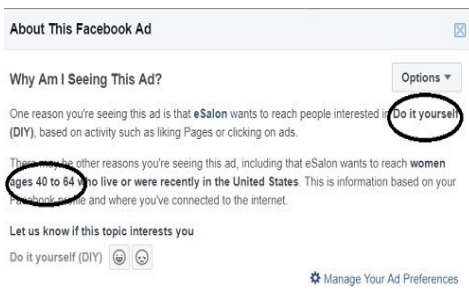
Ads are easy to spot because they'll be labeled with 'Sponsored' at the top.



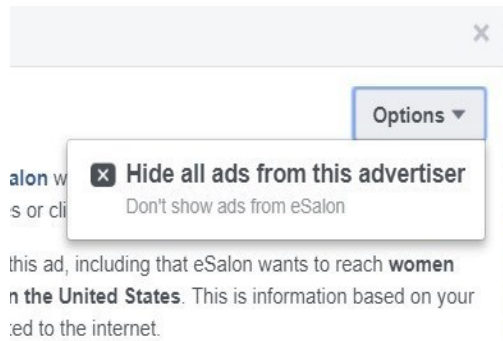
Click the three-dot menu at the right of the post and choose "Why am I seeing this?" from the drop-down menu.



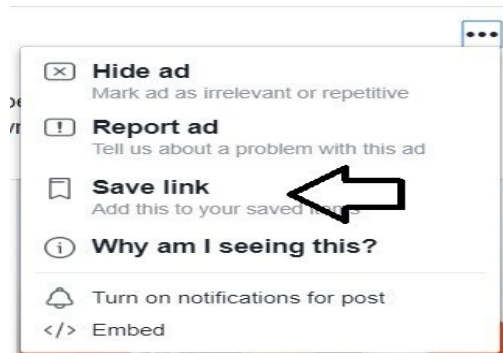
Unlike someone reading a magazine or watching a network TV show, all Facebook users do not see the same ads. Ads are targeted to you based on a variety of factors. This ad was targeted to me because I've expressed interest in DIY activity by liking certain pages



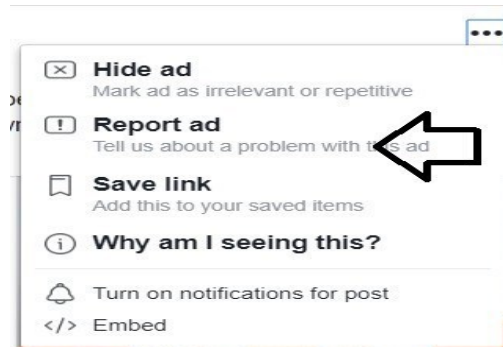
or responding to other ads and I fit the age and location demographics. I have the option of letting Facebook know if I'm actually interested in the topic. If I don't want to see any more ads from this advertiser, I can click **Options** and choose to have ads from eSalon hidden.



My other choices from that three-dot menu are to *save the link* to the ad in case I'd like to come back and learn more later or share it later. I can also choose to *hide the ad* and mark it *irrelevant* if the ad is of no use to me. Or choose *repetitive* if they've been showing me the same ad over and over again.



If there's a real problem with the content of the ad, for example, you think it's a scam or offensive in some way, click on *Report ad*. Only do this if there's a real issue, not that you're just tired of seeing ads.



(Continued on page 13...)

Don't Share Password or Pin (.....continued from page 11)

Apparently the "mobile credit card machine", which the deliveryman carried, now had all the info necessary to create a "dummy" card with all our card details including the PIN number.

Upon finding out about the illegal transactions on our card, we immediately notified the bank, which issued us a new card, and our credit/debit account was closed.

We also personally went to the police, where it was confirmed that it is definitely a scam because several households had been similarly hit.

WARNING: Be wary of accepting any "surprise gift or package", which you neither expected nor personally ordered, especially if it involves any kind of payment as a condition of receiving the gift or package. Also, never accept anything if you do not personally know, or there is no proper identification of, who the sender is.

The board member who sent me this added this comment: "Above all, the only time you should give out any personal credit/debit card information is when you yourself initiated the purchase or transaction!"

No doubt you might think of another rule or two that should be added to this list to protect ourselves.

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Why Am I Seeing That Ad? (.....continued from page 12)

Choose what the problem is, and click on *Submit*.

Report This Ad ×

Help us understand what's happening with this ad. How would you describe it?

Sexually Inappropriate
 Offensive
 Violence

Prohibited Content
 Spam
 False News

Misleading or Scam
 Other

Political Candidate or Issue

[Learn more about our Ad Policies.](#)

Submit

If you use Facebook, you're going to see ads. Ads are what keeps the service free. But you can control the ads, so you see some that might actually have useful content.

This article is republished, with permission, from Cyn Mackley's Tech Tips.



If your e-mail or USPS mailing address changes, please send the details via e-mail to: Secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

Other Computer Clubs

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

Computer Club of Marysville and Port Huron (COMP)
Group no longer has a web site or offers presentations.

Group meets for dinner on the first Wednesday each month (except for January) at 6 pm - the meeting place changes each month, depending on where everyone wants to eat.

Upcoming get-togethers should be posted at: www.facebook.com/bwcompclub
Reciprocating: Yes

South Eastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO) (new location)
Time: 2nd Sunday at 1:15PM
Place: Lawrence Tech (Southfield Campus) 21000 W. 10 Mile Rd, Southfield, Wayne H. Buell Mgmt. Bldg, Room M213
Web page: <http://www.semco.org>
Reciprocating: Yes

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

Door Prize Winners

March 2019

- Richard Jackson - Multipoint screwdriver
- Paul Baecker - DVD-RW pack
- Mike Bader - Flash drive
- Ed Zeremba - Hex key set
- Katerina Benny - Printer paper ream
- Ron Linsley - Flashlight
- Ralph Osinski - CD/DVD case
- Sharon Patrick - Printer paper ream
- Richard Monk - Misc. cables
- Don VanSyckel - USB floppy drive

SHCC Emergency Cancellation

Sterling Heights Computer Club meets at Baker College in Clinton Twp. We will meet if Baker College is open and we will not meet if Baker College is closed. Baker College closure is announced with other school closings on many local TV/radio stations and on their web site. All members of SHCC have an email address. An SHCC officer 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 your 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.

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.

How does Bluetooth work and why is it so terrible?

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/how-does-bluetooth-work/>

What is OLED technology and what does OLED mean?

<https://www.digitalcitizen.life/what-is-oled-what-does-it-mean>

Before you buy a new cable to go with a 4K TV, consider what you’re using the TV for.

<https://www.techhive.com/article/3330376/gaming-gear/do-i-need-a-4k-hdmi-cable.html>

Firefox Send — a free and encrypted file-sharing service from Mozilla.

<https://itsfoss.com/firefox-send/>

Ransomware attacks commercial as well as personal computers. Here’s how Ransomware locks your PC & holds your data hostage, and what precautions you can take to mitigate an attack. Watch this 5-min. video. It’s worth repeating.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_dyi9CWieo

Hub, Switch, & Router explained - What’s the difference? (Note: Hubs are rarely used anymore.) (7-min. video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z0ULvg_pW8

Modem vs. Router - What’s the difference? (Note: Although many cable modems include router technology, it’s very wise to add a separate dedicated router into your home network for its additional security.) (7-min. video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mad4kQ5835Y>

What is a VPN (Virtual Private Network), how does it work, what’s the value for you in subscribing to a VPN service? (Don’t choose the advertised VPN just because it’s mentioned in this video — do your own research.) (13-min. video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGjGQ24cXAY>

If you’ve ever shopped for an Internet cable for your PC, you probably saw different types available, such as Cat5, Cat5e, Cat6 and others, but which should you be using? (Watch at least the first 9 minutes of this 12-min. video.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha3zVvwzMvY>

Make an MP3 disc with this **BurnAware Free** tool and play it in your MP3-compatible CD player.

<https://davescomputertips.com/making-an-mp3-disc-with-burnaware-free/>

You might be surprised to know that it’s not healthy for most batteries to be on a charger all the time. They’ll last longer if you let them almost run out of power from time to time (a.k.a. “exercising” the battery). But what if you repeatedly see the “*battery plugged in not charging*” error on your PC and you know the battery and cord are in good shape?

<https://cynmackley.com/2018/12/04/battery-not-charging/>

What is *Wi-Fi 6*? Do you need to get a new router?

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/what-is-wifi-6/>

12 YouTube channels for car nuts.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/the-10-best-youtube-channels-for-automotive-enthusiasts/>

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.

Web Watch Column on the Club Web Site

Check out the **WebPageReviews** section on the club’s web site. There you can see past web sites reviewed in this column. They are arranged into various *keyword* categories to help locate a specific topic or site.