



THE WYSIWYG



September 2019

Volume 31 Issue 7

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, Michigan 48311-0385

MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY SEPT. 3

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:

"The Apple Watch"



will be presented by

Chita Hunter

from Hunter Designs

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

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CLUB E-MAIL ADDRESS: Info@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org
CLUB WEB PAGE: <http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org>

2019 SHCC Officers

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Resource People

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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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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

OCTOBER 2019
1 - SHCC Main Meeting
 13 - SEMCO Meeting

DECEMBER 2019
3 - SHCC Main Meeting
 15 - SEMCO Meeting

NOVEMBER 2019
5 - SHCC Main Meeting
 10 - SEMCO Meeting

JANUARY 2020
7 - SHCC Main Meeting
 12 - 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



As you probably heard or read by now, SHCC will continue meeting at Baker College at least through June 2020. As of writing this I have not heard any new information about Baker's plans for the Clinton Township campus. We do have a contingency plan, but keep your eyes open for possible meeting sites.

The Word Press tutorial work shops with Mr. Eric Malcolm didn't work out for this summer, so I'll try again in the fall.

We had a successful Gab Fest on June 22nd. Much interesting conversation and good food for all.

At home, we continue to have a home phone. But we switched to a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) years ago. Why do we still have a home phone? A great many friends have the number and it's a convenient place to collect messages so I'm not bothered with them on a cell phone when in the middle of something. VOIP phones require four things: 1) a VOIP vendor, 2) Internet service, 3) a VOIP phone adapter, and 4) a real telephone.

The VOIP vendor registers your phone number, then they receive calls to your number and make calls from your number. The VOIP vendor communicates with the VOIP phone adapter in your house via your Internet service. The telephone plugs into the VOIP phone adapter. After all is set up, the telephone is used exactly like phones have always been used. The voice (audio) is sent/received via the Internet as digital data. The sound quality is very good. For comparison, remember that audio CDs and movie DVDs also both produce audio that is digital on the CD/DVD.

You can purchase vendor and hardware packages, or you can do your own, which is what I did. I signed up with a service named [CallCentric](#) and I purchased a generic phone adapter for my house. The unit is a Cisco Linksys Phone Adapter PAP2-NA (I believe the NA is 'North America'). This unit actually supports two separate phone lines although I only have service for one. I believe this unit is out of production (many similar models exist), but it just keeps going. (If you're curious about this product, read or download owner's manual [here.](#)) I have several phones connected to the one line using the phone wiring that was already in the house.

Since all my calls go through the CallCentric hardware, they can offer a lot of features, many of which I don't use. But the features I do use are great:

- * answering machine function is on their hardware and reachable from anywhere

- * log of in-bound and out-bound calls; log can be downloaded
- * low price, less than \$9 per month, several plans are available
- * up loadable address book
- * call filtering: if calling number is not in address book, caller is challenged to press a random number 0 - 9; robo calls can not navigate through this, yet calls from friends in the address book go right through
- * three-way calling
- * call forwarding (during vacation you can forward to your cell phone)
- * call forwarding on 'no answer' (after X rings)
- * quiet time: schedule calls to not ring the phone and go right to the answering machine
- * any calling phone number can have specific handling instructions such as 'do busy signal, 'do out of service', or go directly to the answering machine; think about the possibilities, set that annoying caller to 'do busy' so they try over and over again
- * detect "anonymous" calls: for instance I have these set to a busy signal
- * email alerts as needed for calls and/or voice messages

I do have a couple of add-ons. The first is a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) on the phone adapter, cable modem, and router (to protect this expensive equipment from power surges and spikes resulting from our every-day 'dirty power'). The second is a specialty device on the phone line that supports several phone ringers, not needed if using only one phone or multiple electronic phones.



This month's presentation promises to be exciting. **"The Apple Watch"** will be presented by Chita Hunter from Hunter Designs. This new wearable technology might be the wave of the future, but at any rate it's very interesting.

Last Month's Meeting:

In June we were pleased to have SHCC member Don VanSyckel present **"SHCC Member Web Site and Member Questions"**. The member-only section of the web site can only be gotten to via a direct link and contains SHCC private information.



Other Computer Clubs

Updated info about other computer clubs in our area (whether with physical meetings or online meetups) can be viewed on the "Other Computer Clubs" page of our SHCC web site.

Tom's Tech Notes — Backup Tools and Procedures

By Tom Burt, Vice President,
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It's been several years since I've written about tools and procedures for backing up your computer. With the growing popularity of smart phones and tablets, the need for backup has expanded to include those devices as well as traditional Windows and Macintosh PCs. I can't stress enough how important it is to make regular backup copies of your data files and of your computer's entire hard drive. This article, based on material from my annual "Backup" seminar, will explore these topics.

What is Backing Up?

Backing up means making an accurate copy of some or all of the data and software stored on your computer's storage drive. The copy is commonly stored on some type of external storage device that is not normally connected to your computer. The external device may be a USB hard drive or flash drive, a removable rack-mount hard drive, a folder or partition on another computer on your in-house network or a server elsewhere on the Internet such as Dropbox, MS OneDrive or Google Drive. A personal backup solution may include some or all of the above.

Why Back Up?

The reason to make backups is that (putting it politely) **BAD STUFF HAPPENS!**

Computer equipment is highly reliable and may run for years without failing, but sooner or later, storage devices fail. More likely is that accidents (drops and spills, turning off the power, power failures and power surges and so forth) happen, causing a storage device to fail. A vast array of malicious software waits for any opportunity to attack and damage or lock up saved data.

There's also basic human error – accidentally deleting a file or a folder. Without a safe backup copy, data saved on your computer may be irretrievably lost. Consider digital photos, videos, music, financial and tax records. Also, if you had to start over with a new, blank hard drive, it would be relatively easy to reinstall Windows or MacOS, but what about all the other programs, settings and all your data?

Full Disk Backup – Cloning and Imaging

A clone of a hard drive is a complete copy to another hard drive. All information needed to boot and run the computer, as well as all the programs, settings and data are written to the backup hard drive. A clone completely consumes the backup hard drive; only ONE clone can

be written to the backup drive. To restore after the computer's internal hard drive has failed or been corrupted, one can either clone from the backup drive to the computer's (possibly new) internal drive or one can remove the failed drive and install the backup drive in its place. On a laptop or all-in-one computer, cloning back should be the first choice, provided the internal drive hasn't failed. Removing and replacing a laptop's internal drive is a challenging task.

An Image of a hard drive is a complete copy written to a single compressed file on another storage device. The compressed image file doesn't typically use up as much space as the original data, and only actual space used is backed up. It's usually possible to keep several image files on a single external storage device. As with a clone, the image file contains all the information needed to boot and run the PC along with all the programs and data. However, the image file is not itself bootable.

For restoring either a clone or an image file, a bootable recovery disk (CD or DVD) or flash drive is required. All the major backup tools include a tool to create bootable recovery media.

Popular Full Disk Backup Tools for Desktop Computers

There are several well-known software tools for backing up the hard drives of desktop PCs and Macs.

Acronis True Image Home (2019)

<https://www.acronis.com/en-us/> or <http://ugr7.com/>

- Single PC about \$25, family pack of 3 about \$40 (UGR7.com)
- Excellent for backing up entire hard drives or partitions.
- Makes both "clones" or "images".
- Can "mount" a backup image as a logical drive.
- Can make bootable "Rescue Media" for both backup and restore.
- Can also can back up individual files and folders.

CASPER by Future Systems Software

<https://www.fssdev.com/products/casper/>

- Makes both "clones" or "images".
- Features SmartClone technology (differential clones).
- Single system price about \$50; family pack of 3 for \$70

Macrium Reflect 7 – FREE Edition

<https://www.macrium.com/reflectfree>

- Can back up entire hard drive or partitions.
- Makes both "clones" or "images".
- Can "mount" a backup image as a logical drive.
- Can make bootable "Rescue Media" for both backup and restore.
- Paid editions have extra features; you may not need them.

Of these, *Macrium Reflect Free Edition* has become my personal favorite. It's fast, easy to use and does everything I need for whole disk backup. And the price is right!

File Backup Tools

Full disk backups are great, but users don't typically run them every day because they take time to run and the backup drive has to be retrieved and connected to the computer. This creates a risk that data files that change often may not be accurately reflected in the backup. Think about your saved email and contacts, financial and accounting files, other documents and spreadsheets you may be working on.

Windows File History or MacOS Time Machine

One approach is to use an automated file backup tool that scans a designated set of folders at some specified time interval (say every hour) and makes a copy of any new or changed files to a backup storage device such as a flash drive, external hard drive or a shared folder on another computer. I use File History, checking once an hour, to supplement full disk backups for certain key file folders.

Windows File Explorer or MacOS File Manager / Finder

For simple one-shot backups, you can still use the built-in file manager programs to select a set of files and copy them to an external flash drive or hard drive or to a network shared folder.

Cloud Backup Tools

There are many free and paid cloud backup services. Most of these include an automatic sync tool that copies files from your computer to your private space on the cloud server. Here are some of the free ones:

Google Cloud (Google Drive) - FREE

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/my-drive>

- Requires a Google / Gmail account
- 15-17 GB of free cloud storage
- Install Google Backup and Sync app (Windows)
- Use Settings to specify a set of folders to be monitored and backed up to the Google
- Cloud whenever a change is detected (very similar to Windows File History)

Microsoft OneDrive - FREE

<https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/>

- Requires a Microsoft Account
- 5 GB free (more if subscribed to Office 365)
- Syncs from a OneDrive folder on your PC or device to your OneDrive cloud storage.

Apple iCloud – FREE

www.apple.com/icloud

- Requires an Apple ID (Account)
- 5 GB free, can add more space for a fee
- Built into all Apple devices, can install an App for

Windows

- Syncs across all your devices

What About My Smart Phone or Tablet?

Many computer users now rely on a mobile device as their main computer for communication and for consuming news and entertainment as well as for taking photos, video clips and recording sound. What are the options for backing up mobile devices?

Android Phones and Tablets

If you have a Google account and have configured your device to link to it, you get quite a lot of automatic backup of files to your Google Drive cloud space. You will want to be connected to a Wi-Fi router when this is going on or your Android device may use up a lot of your monthly data allotment.

You can also connect your Android device via a USB cable to your desktop computer and use the File Manager or Finder to copy files from the mobile device to a folder on the desktop computer. You can also copy files from the desktop computer to the Android mobile device.

To fully back up all your Android device's data, you can purchase and install third-party backup Apps. Try a web search for Android Full Backup to see what's available.

Apple Phones and Tablets

If you have an Apple ID, all your devices: iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch already have built-in iCloud support and will back up data files to your iCloud private storage space on Apple's servers. If you have several Apple devices, a concern is using up your free 5GB allocation; you may have to buy some extra space to cover backups from all your Apple devices.

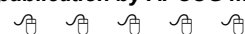
You can connect your iPhone or iPad to your PC or Mac via a USB cable and then use Apple's iTunes program to synchronize various file types between your mobile device and your desktop computer. This isn't quite as general as what Android offers, but it takes care of many file types. iTunes also offers an easy way to make a full backup of all the data on your Apple mobile device into a file on your desktop computer.

It's a good idea to have the iCloud backup enabled on your mobile device. This takes care of frequently changing files. Use the iTunes full backup occasionally to make sure ALL your devices' files are backed up.

With these backups in place, if your phone or tablet is damaged, goes up in flames or gets lost, you can replace the phone or tablet and with relative ease, restore all your saved data files and be back in business.

{Ed. note: Backing up your devices and data can NOT be over-emphasized. Do it now before you need it then.}

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What is a VPN (Virtual Private Network) and Why Use One?

By Jeff Wilkinson, President
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A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is a connection method used to add security and privacy to private and public networks, like Wi-Fi Hotspots and the Internet. Use of a VPN allows for encrypted data transmission and prevents tracking or monitoring by Internet Service Providers, advertisers and people with malicious intent.

A VPN encrypts your data, and your location and connection are unable to be viewed by anyone. You can use a VPN to prevent your personal data, mobile banking and social media activity from being stolen by hackers as you search with an anonymous IP address. A VPN operates as a secure messaging tunnel between your device and destinations you visit on the Internet.

Your device connects to a VPN server which can be in the United States, or in a foreign country like the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, Australia, Brazil, or Japan (and elsewhere)! Your Internet traffic passes back and forth through that server. As far as most web sites are concerned, you are browsing from that server's geographical location, not *your physical* location.

While a VPN can't promise total anonymity, it can be very useful for typical users. A VPN also won't do much to keep advertisers from tracking you online. Remember that the website you visit is aware of what you do on its site and that applies equally to advertisers serving ads on that site. There are browser add-ons like [Ghostery](#), [Privacy Badger](#) and [HTTPS Everywhere](#) that can help with that issue.

How do you decide which VPN service to use? First, it pays to pay when it comes to choosing a VPN service. Free options exist, but they usually offer a limited amount of bandwidth and or a slower service with limited number of servers. The good news is that perfectly good VPN services cost as little as \$5 per month, when purchased in blocks of months. Of course, you want to avoid services that keep logs of your activity, IP addresses, websites you visit or any other details of your activity. *{Ed. note: Often as little as \$3/month.}*

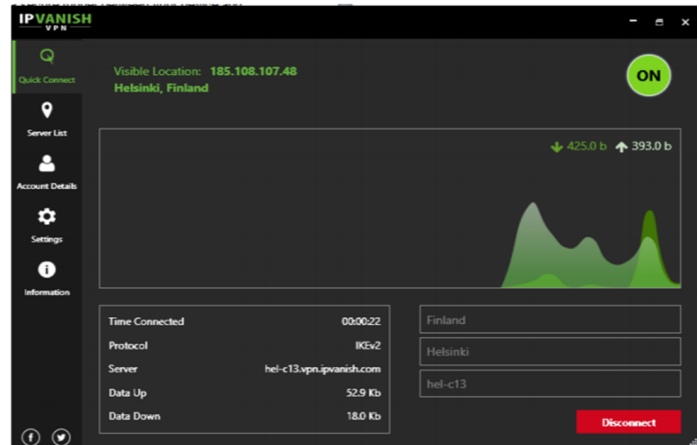
So how do you set up and use the VPN you have chosen? Most have applications you can download to your PC and mobile devices. You should choose a VPN service that has apps for all the devices you use, allows enough simultaneous connections for your devices, has locations in countries of interest to you, has adequate servers and IP addresses, and supports your speed needs at a reasonable price. IMPORTANT!

Financial institutions and streaming services like Amazon Prime and Netflix will not work with a VPN since their security depends on verifying their customer.

Many VPN services offer free trials and have frequent sales offerings to new customers. Take advantage of the free trial to put the VPN through its paces.

I have been using IPVanish (<https://www.ipvanish.com>) for a little over a year now and it works perfectly on all my devices. Of course, all VPNs will have some speed penalty depending on the VPN server you use. I haven't had any problems. *{Ed note: Speed penalties are usually very minimal — my experience has been about 5%.}*

Here's an example of an experience I had using a VPN. While surfing a web page, an obnoxious ad for health insurance seemed to consume a large amount of a page I was viewing. I wondered, if I were surfing the same page from Boston, would that same ad come up. So, I used my VPN to surf the same page as if I was located



in Boston. Sure enough, same obnoxious ad. I then wondered whether that ad would appear if I were in Helsinki, Finland! Using my VPN I changed cities to Helsinki, Finland. This time, that ad did not appear; but a smaller ad appeared for a different product.

This is just a quick overview of VPN's to give an idea of what they are and why someone would use one.

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

{Ed. note: The author's statement that "Financial institutions...will not work with a VPN" is not totally factual. I often use my VPN service when accessing my two banking institutions, as well as my various investment and credit card accounts online. After all, whether you are at home or in a hotel in Paris, and want to access your financial institutions, I would expect that they would be identifying you via your ID, password, and (hopefully, and very importantly) secondary authentication, and not via any IP address.}



What's with Google and YouTube?

By David Kretchmar, Computer Technician
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Over 13 years ago, Google bought YouTube for \$1.65 billion. Today that figure seems tiny, but at the time many questioned the wisdom of paying so much for a startup company less than 2 years old. Some analysts and competitors said Google overpaid. Many said the giant company was foolish to take on YouTube's many legal problems.



Thirteen years later the YouTube purchase is generally considered to be one of the best consumer tech acquisitions ever, maybe even

one of the best acquisitions of all time. It is one of a couple of small investments that paid off handsomely for Google, like Google's \$50 million purchase of Android in 2005. The difference between YouTube and Android is that in 2005, only the geekiest of geeks knew what Android even was. At that time, YouTube was already world famous, yet still its price tag was ridiculous by that day's enterprise valuation standards. It was one of the first wild bets a tech giant made subsequent to the dot-com crash of the early '00s.

We love Google!

Many of us use Google's subsidiaries' products such as the Google Chrome search engine, YouTube, Google maps, Google Earth, Nest, and Android smart phones. Some of us, including me, use YouTube virtually every day. Most of us are familiar with YouTube as a video sharing service where users can watch, like, share, comment on, and upload their own videos.

YouTube has also become indispensable for educational purposes; you can learn how to make repairs around the house or "attend" lectures by your favorite astrophysicist.

YouTube rid us of the agony of buffering and YouTube has become for video watching and sharing what Google was (and still is) for search.

In fact, YouTube is now the world's 2nd biggest search engine. There are more than 1.8 billion people registered on YouTube, watching 5 billion videos every day. Worldwide about 75% of all Internet searches go through Google, including YouTube. For the last 13 years since it was launched back in 2005, YouTube has expanded massively. It's grown from a website to upload amateur videos to the place where you can watch much more content of much more types that modern TV is capable to offer. Every 60 seconds more than 300 hours of HD quality video is being uploaded to YouTube to contribute to already massive collection of 1,300,000,000 videos.

So, What's the Problem?

Starting a few weeks ago I noticed YouTube was forcing me to endure more and longer ads before (and interrupting with ads) the content I wanted. The ads have more recently included offers for YouTube Premium (\$12/month) and YouTube TV (\$50/month). I'm sure Alphabet would like me to upgrade to YouTube Premium (without ads), but I have to wonder if downgrading their free service is a smart strategy.

Also, YouTube deleted my, and many other users', Favorites list, with no warning at all. Google said the deletion of Favorites lists was a programming glitch, but my list took over 10 years to develop and I want it back. Google says it is working on it.

Google has long been accused of directing Internet traffic to suit its own purposes, and it is said, truthfully, I believe, "whoever owns the Internet, owns the future." Google has never been transparent about how it decides what it displays for search results. Google is a monopoly, considering the 75% of Internet traffic it directs, and over 90% of Google's profit comes from advertising. It is an inherent conflict of interest for an advertising company to be controlling what you see as a result of Internet searches. Google cares about selling ads, and it especially cares about selling ads against search results and videos.

Google has made some other changes that have served to only confuse people. In August 2015, Google changed its name to Alphabet Corporation, although the stock symbol remained GOOG plus a new class of non-voting shares GOOGL. Why you would drop a nonsensical corporate name that became so widely used it became a verb for an apparently meaningless dictionary word is a mystery to me, despite arguments from management that the change was logical.

Google, as of August 2018, forces you to login to your Google account on Chrome if you login to any other Google service using the browser. Logging out of a Google service will also force log you out of Google Chrome. I don't understand why logging into Gmail, Google Docs, or any other Google service would need to force Google Chrome users to also connect to their Google accounts, presumably giving Google access to its browser history, saved passwords, and other personal information they arguably do not need. In the face of consumer complaints Google has somewhat backed off on this policy, but it is disconcerting that this major change was done quietly, almost under the radar, for most users.

My current pet peeve against Google (besides my missing Favorites) is what they have done with Google Contacts. In the previous version of Gmail, you could switch to the Contacts list by clicking the Gmail menu on the upper left side of the page, but that method no longer works.

(Continued on page 13....)

No Joy in Techville?

by Greg Skalka, President
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Pour a liquid into a glass just up to the midpoint. An optimist would say the glass is half full. A pessimist would say the glass is half empty. An engineer would say the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

A lot of how we perceive reality is influenced by our internal biases and past experiences. As an engineer, I'm used to looking at things in a more clinical, objective way than others might. My wife thinks I am a pessimist, seeing the worst in everything and having a negative point of view. She feels I should be more positive and optimistic. If only I had a better attitude, things would be better. I prefer to think of myself as a pragmatist, dealing with and reacting to things in a more practical manner. I prefer the objective, based on facts, rather than the subjective, dealing with feelings and opinions, to make my decisions.

My wife and I also differ on how we perceive stuff, those material things we own. I have a lot of interests, including technology, and so I have accumulated a lot of stuff. My wife is more of a minimalist and thinks I have too much stuff. Who is right? Again, I think it is a matter of perception. What may be clutter to one person may just be the result of too little storage space to another person.

My attitudes about things are probably shaped a lot by my Midwest farm heritage. My Czech farmer ancestors came to this country in the late 1800's and made the best livings they could farming and raising livestock in Nebraska. There is a lot to admire in the farmer. While farming is a lot of hard work and you often don't have a lot of control over your situation (the weather, resources, crop markets, pests), you usually must become very resourceful, creative and self-sufficient in order to succeed. Farmers must often also be mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, weathermen and veterinarians. My grandfather had a blacksmith shop on his farm so that he could fabricate items he needed, as there was no Home Depot on every (or any) corner. Farmers must also be conservationists, ecologists and stewards of the lands, animals and environment. I still have relatives that actively farm, and though things have obviously changed for farmers since my grandfather's time, I think a lot the values remain.

The time I spent on the farm in my youth probably helped instill those values and attitudes in me. I've tried to learn all I can about mechanics, engineering, electronics, computers and technology. I've built my own computers and maintain, debug and repair my devices

myself as much as possible. I've become the family IT help person, network administrator, repairman and system integrator. As a result, I've accumulated a lot of devices, accessories, cables, adapters, software, tools and utilities over the years, probably way more than most other people. Of course, the collection does not remain static either, for as technology advances and new devices, interfaces and services become popular, my collection of stuff must expand to support them.

Unfortunately, it is often difficult to determine when something that used to be essential (or at least useful) has become obsolete and of no use and should be disposed of. I bought extra PATA (parallel ATA) hard drives at one time when the computer industry was transitioning to SATA (serial ATA) drives, in order to be



able to support some of my older computers. I've gotten rid of some of the drives but am still running a couple old machines that could use them, so I continue to keep a few around. I have a number of devices for slide scanning and digitizing video that I need to be using, but I never seem to find the time. To my wife, all these things I'm not currently using are obsolete and junk and should be thrown away. To me they still hold promise; I have the hope that I will eventually get to use them productively again. Now who sounds like the optimist, and who's the pessimist?

I agree that clutter can be a problem but reducing it and organizing things requires time. Early in my career, I found it difficult to keep up with the number of engineering magazines and component reviews I was receiving at work. I'd scan the items for usefulness, but making a binary judgment (1 or 0, keep or toss) right at that moment was difficult. A few things obviously went right in the trash, a few were keepers, but the majority were in that gray area - might be useful, but maybe not right now. I'd sometimes toss things and later wish I could get them back. Rather than waste my time deciding at the moment I received them, I found it easier to put the 'gray area' items in a pile in my office. If I found a need, I could consult the pile for the items that were pertinent. After a year, I'd split the pile in two, and throw away the older half, assuming the information in it was now likely out of date. This worked very well for me. My wife was not happy when I tried to use this method at home, however.

Technology has helped some with physical decluttering, as most information now comes in or can be converted to an electronic form that can be saved on small memory devices or deleted easily. There is the problem of organizing all those files, however. I am now a be-

liever in the all-digital / electronic life, in as much as it is possible. I used to have file cabinets full of financial papers and product documentation. Now I get all my important documents in pdf form online and scan any paper forms I receive. I used to save the paper manuals for things I bought and filed them away; now I download them and / or scan them. All my important documents, product info, photographs and videos are contained on a few small hard drives. They are not only easier to store but also safer, as I can easily keep copies of the data in a fire safe, safety deposit box or offsite location. If only storing our physical possessions were so easy.

There is a Japanese woman that has become a decluttering celebrity. Marie Kondo, cleaning consultant, author of the bestselling book *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* and star of a related Netflix TV series, has a unique way of determining what to keep and what to discard. I've not read her book or seen her show, but her method, from what I've read about it, involves holding each item, asking yourself if it 'sparks joy', and discarding it if it does not. Those (apparently) few items that do bring you joy are then placed where they are visible and accessible.

I have wondered whether her declutter method could work for me and my tech collection. While putting my hands on every single individual item I own might take some time (I have a medium-sized plastic bin of action camera mounts and accessories alone), the bigger problem I see is the hang up I've always had - determining the worth of the items in my life. What does it mean to 'spark joy'? How does one define joy?

The dictionary (or at least Google) defines joy as "a feeling of great pleasure and happiness." Other equivalent terms might be delight, jubilation, rejoicing, elation, bliss, ecstasy and rapture. Those terms don't seem to describe any tech items I own. This standard also seems very subjective. Everyone's idea of joy could be different, perhaps very different. It reminds me of one of my favorite lines from the original *Star Wars - A New Hope*; it is Han Solo's response to Luke Skywalker, when Luke was trying to persuade him to help rescue Princess Leia. Luke tells Han that Leia is rich, and the reward he would get would be more wealth than he could imagine. Han replied, "I don't know, I can imagine quite a bit."

Nevertheless, I decided to try Marie Kondo's declutter method on a small part of my home office, as I wanted to clear some space to install an Amazon Echo Dot there. The area I was clearing had only quite old things, which sparked negligible joy, so tossing them seemed easy, but I paused



on two items. One was a set of Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 98 CDs, for Windows 95. I was going to toss them, but then thought about how things have changed. Once these were valuable and useful sources for information, but now with Google, Wikipedia and the Internet, they are obsolete drink coasters. Into the trash they went.

The other was a Webster's New World College Dictionary (2005 edition), which had been a gift from my wife. It too had been supplanted by the Internet. Though it did not spark joy, I felt a twinge of sentiment over it, as it had been a well-intentioned gift, and would be useful if some calamity caused the Internet to go away. I kept it.

The more I think about it, the more I feel that perhaps none of my tech items could truly spark joy. Do I feel delight when using my laptop? No. Am I rejoicing when holding my Chromebook? I like my Chromebook and it is very useful, but I am sometimes dismayed when I can't do something simple on it effortlessly, as I can on my Windows PC. Do I feel elation when holding my digital camera? I like it pretty well, but I somehow accidentally got it into a funny mode, and only recently, after much grief, figured out how to give it a factory reset and return it to normal settings.

Am I in a state of bliss when holding my smart phone? It is a very useful device, and I do seem to use it more and more, but I don't long for it or anything like that. I do see a lot of people who can't seem to put their smart phones down, when in a restaurant, while walking, or while driving. Is that bliss I see in their eyes? It looks to me more like a vacant hollow zombie-like stare. No joy.

I don't think this Marie Kondo declutter approach works that well for technology, or for most items (or perhaps for any items). There is unfortunately a lot more to life than joy and rapture. A lot of things in our lives are necessary not for the joy they bring but for the benefits they provide, the needs they fill and improvements they make in our quality of life. Is that joy? Not really. I don't feel joy when I hold my toothbrush, but I'm not going to get rid of it, as a little clutter in the bathroom is better than a mouthful of rotten teeth eventually.

And it might be asking a lot to expect Microsoft and Apple and Google and Samsung to be responsible for providing us with joy. That's what family and friends are for. The tech devices these companies do provide can help us keep in touch with them. We just shouldn't let the devices get in the way.

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OneNote: The “Secret” Microsoft Office Program

Plateau PC Users Group Gazette
Plateau PC Users Group, Crossville TN
www.PPCUGinc.com

Much of the data you work with each day probably gets stored electronically in some way: you save appointments, meetings, and contacts in Outlook and you likely manage lists and other key data in an Excel worksheet or Word table. How do you handle the stacks of data that doesn't fit into the most popular Microsoft Office programs? What's the best way to handle notes from meetings, brainstorming sessions, classes, project planning, Post-It notes pasted to your monitor, important hand-written text, and “where do I store this?” nuggets? How can you search this collection of notes and content? Try **OneNote**.

OneNote is a place to create, gather, store, and search notes. A note can be almost anything you want it to be — a typed line of text, a sketch, an audio or video clip, a picture, a link to a web page or file — you get the idea. Even if you have never heard of OneNote or used it before, it's likely hanging out on your computer just waiting for you to discover this “secret” Microsoft Office tool.

Using Notebooks

In OneNote, you use different containers to define the organizational levels, with the top-level container being the notebook. The different types of OneNote “information containers” are:



- **Notebook:** The physical notebooks in your work area probably include color-coded tabs to divide the notebook into separate sections or topics, each with its own collection of pages. OneNote uses the same idea but with virtual folders called notebooks with a series of color-coded tabs or sections, each section made up of one or more pages. Pages are where you write, doodle, and paste in your notes. For further organization, you can even create subpages with additional information under the same title as its corresponding page.
- **Section:** This is a tabbed divider that enables you to group pages related to a particular topic or project phase. Each section provides separation in the notebook and serves as the main topical level in the notebook's hierarchy.
- **Section Group:** A group enables you to place associated sections together. This is particularly useful when a notebook contains many sections. Section groups are optional.
- **Page:** You place your notes and other items on the notebook pages. The Page Tabs pane lists pages in a selected section.

- **Subpage:** The subpage is the lowest level in the notebook's structure and helps break up information normally placed on a single page.

Creating a New Notebook

OneNote includes sample notebooks to highlight OneNote features. Rather than trying to modify this existing notebook, you'll want to create your own. Although the interface varies with your version of Microsoft Office, in OneNote 2016, OneNote 2013, and OneNote 2010, you create a new notebook with *File > New*. Most of the options are fairly clear, but make sure to watch closely when you choose how you want to use the notebook: on your computer, the Web, within your OneDrive account, in Sharepoint, or on a network. A OneNote notebook might be just for your own use or shared by a group or team. You can even send out an e-mail to others with notebook-sharing information.

Organizing Notebook Information with Sections

In keeping with the virtual idea of a functional notebook, it's important to impose some kind of order on all these pieces of information. Within each notebook, the second level of organization is the section, which is represented by a tab along the top of the notebook. You can use the sections to organize the notebook's topic or theme into smaller subjects. You can create as many sections as you need although it may be harder to read each tab name as the number of sections grows. To create a new section, click on the + tab or Create a New Section tab (varies by version), or right-click an existing section and choose New Section.

Take OneNote for a Test Drive!

If you have access to OneNote, launch the program and take it for a tour. Dig into the sample notebook and create one of your own (you can always delete it later).

Other features to explore in OneNote:

- Move sections from one part of a notebook to another or even to a different notebook.
- Apply color-coding to notebooks and sections.
- Experiment by adding links to websites and documents, creating free hand text, inserting images and pictures, and adding video and audio.
- Tip: One surprise in OneNote is that, unlike other Microsoft Office work, notebooks are automatically saved and are all loaded when you re-start the program.

See for yourself how OneNote can help you further organize your office, school, or home life.

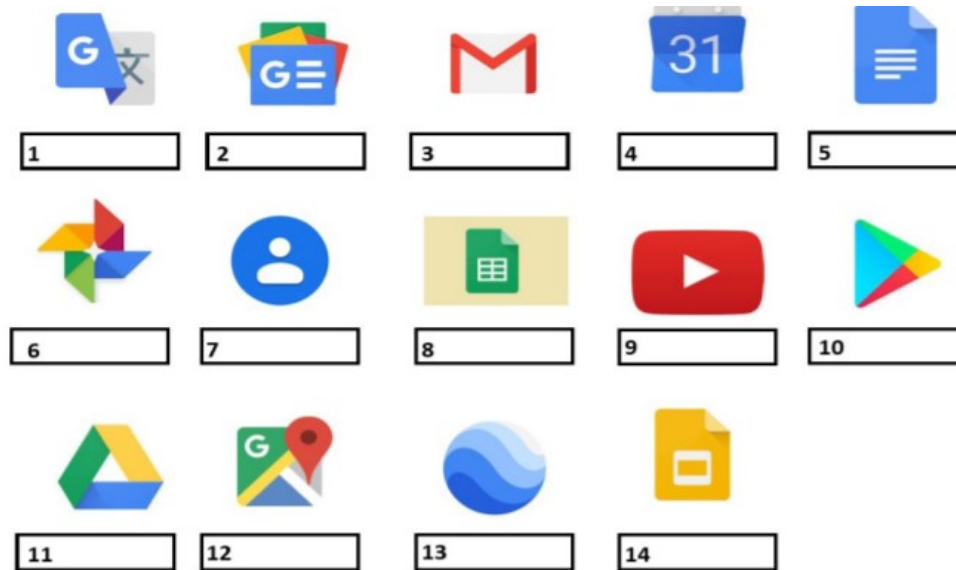
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{Ed. note: See the link to a *Beginner's Guide to One-Note in the Web Page Reviews collection on page 14.*}



Back to the Basics – Do You Know These Google Icons?

By Jim Cerny, Forum Leader — Sarasota Technology Users Group, FL
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The above icons represent some popular Google apps. Do you recognize any of them? Write the name of the app in the box. All these apps are FREE with Google; all you need is a Google account. Still stuck on a few? Maybe you can match a description below to the icon above. Of course, they are not in the same order, what would the fun be in that? (The answers are at the end of this article. No peeking.)

- A. **Google Earth** -- Explore anyplace on the planet, zoom in or out, take tours, and enjoy the constantly improving 3D buildings and land formations. Absolutely dazzling!
- B. **Google Drive** – Free software that works like Microsoft Office – you get Google Docs (word processing), Sheets (spreadsheets), Slides (presentations), and more. You can also put (upload) ANY of your files onto the drive to share with others and have them available anywhere. There is a small charge if you exceed the free 15 GB space amount.
- C. **YouTube** – Now in the Google family. Search and find videos on ANY topic or any famous person. See videos from the past or from other countries. Great for entertainment! When you do a Google search on the Internet you will most likely be presented with several videos. It is amazing the free videos you can find on YouTube!
- D. **Google Maps** – A great way to travel and get from place to place. Probably better than the map software used in your car. Plan your travels and compare alternate routes.
- E. **Google Translate** – Translate from one language to another, super easy and super fun!
- F. **Gmail** – A great email app to do your email on all your devices.
- G. **Google Play** – Entertainment access to movies, TV shows, books, music, and much more. Download or use charges may be applied.
- H. **Google Photos** – Use the camera on your smart phone and your photos will be uploaded to Google Photos for you, freeing up space on your device. Now you can see and work with your photos on any device.
- I. **Google Calendar** – Keep all your appointments here. Can be synced to your iPhone.
- J. **Google Sheets** (part of Google Drive) – Free word processor similar to Microsoft Word.
- K. **Google Contacts** – One place for all your contacts. Can be synced to your iPhone.
- L. **Google News** – A great source for news.
- M. **Google Slides** (part of Google Drive) – Free presentation app for creating great slides for your talk similar to Microsoft PowerPoint.
- N. **Google Docs** (part of Google Drive) – A great free word processor similar to Microsoft Word.

Answers: 1-E 2-L 3-F 4-I 5-N 6-H 7-K 8-J 9-C 10-G 11-B 12-D 13-A 14-M

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BUSTED!: Scams, Hoaxes, Urban Legends

By Bob Rankin

<https://askbobrankin.com>

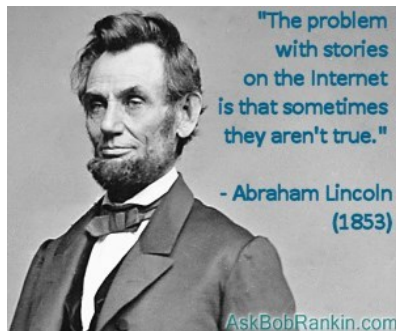
Have you heard? Mark Zuckerberg is giving millions of dollars to Facebook users who repost an announcement of the giveaway. Joel Osteen is charging \$25 for prayer requests. Mr. Rogers always wore a long-sleeved sweater to hide the tattoos he got as a Marine Corps sniper. And McDonald's is now offering a meatless McPickle sandwich. Read on to find out how (and why) nonsense like this spreads like wildfire online...

Who You Gonna Call?

"What... Mr. Rogers wasn't a Marine sniper? Oh, he was a Navy SEAL?" None of these statements is true, of course. They are examples of scams, hoaxes, and urban legends that circulate via email and social media. The Internet is awash with misinformation for a number of reasons.

Some hoaxsters are just having fun, like the originator of Mr. Rogers' false bio. Others are doing it for likes, or upvotes, or other social media "currency" that boosts their online visibility. See this roundup of the best April Fools Pranks of 2019. Some are funny, some are weird, and some are just dumb, like the Online Pregnancy Test.

There is so much misinformation on the Internet that some people have made careers out of debunking it. Barbara and David Mikkelsen launched [Snopes](#) in 1995; today the site gets over 300,000 visitors per day. (Be sure to check their Hot 50 to see some of most intriguing items currently making the online rounds.)



Every time I mention Snopes, some readers comment about a perceived liberal bias there. I don't know if that's true, but it's good to have options. Other myth-busting sites include [Hoax-Slayer](#), [TruthOrFiction](#), and [Thought Co Urban Legends](#). And since 1994, [Scambusters](#) has tackled messages that can cost you money, such as "miracle cures," "insider stock tips," and even "virtual kidnappings."

The Washington Post's Caitlin Dewey started her column, "What Was Fake On The Internet" in May, 2014; she gave it up in December, 2015, when science convinced her that people cling to their cherished untruths like barnacles to a ship's hull. Ms. Dewey explains, in her

farewell column, that many hoaxes are purposefully perpetrated to drive traffic to hoaxers' Web sites. The types of hoaxes reveal the mindsets of the people who are most likely to believe and share them.

Unintended Consequences...

One of the most famous cases of a real person's story that morphed into an urban legend involved Craig Shergold. In 1989, Craig was a 10 year old boy hospitalized with a brain tumor. A family friend began a campaign to get him into the Guinness Book of Records for receiving the most post cards, and before long it started spreading by email. Cards began to pour in by the MILLIONS, year after year. Even though Craig was cured in 1991 and his family made public appeals for the cards to stop, their pleas were no match for the power and longevity of the email chain letter. The Craig Shergold chain letter morphed and spawned a wave of bogus "sick child" emails that have caused untold grief to other families who were the targets of pranksters, as well as financial harm to charities such as the Make A Wish Foundation.

The people who forward, repost and retweet these stories *without engaging a single brain cell* are a marketer's dream. They'll believe anything that sounds outrageous, tugs on the heartstrings, or confirms their prejudices. And once they find a source of confirmation, they'll keep coming back for more. Needless to say, it isn't hard to sell just about anything to such an audience.

Of course, there's also money to be made by debunking hoaxes. There are many debunking websites in addition to those mentioned above. [UrbanLegendsOnline.com](#), [Factcheck.org](#) and dozens more sites promise to set your cranky uncle straight. But the people who believe these stories don't go searching for proof they're wrong, and the rest of us are starting to give up on the believers.

Google has announced a crackdown on fake news websites, cutting them off from the advertising programs that make it profitable for them to continue. Facebook has rolled out tools that make it easier to report hoaxes and fake news. I've long wished that Internet service providers or those who operate webmail services would implement some sort of filter on outgoing or incoming email. Gmail and others warn about potential malware and phishing attempts. Why can't they show a warning when a well-known hoax, fake news story, or urban legend is about to be sent or received?

This article is republished, with permission, from the Ask Bob Rankin web site.

{Ed. note: Is even Snopes reliable anymore, as it appeared to be in the 90s? Most intelligent people have come to realize that it's foolish to use only a single resource to determine the accuracy of a given story or 'fact'.}



Google and YouTube (...Continued from page 7)

Now you get to the contacts page by clicking the Apps icon in the upper right corner of Gmail. When you click the Apps icon, a square made up of nine smaller squares, it unfolds to reveal a panel of icons for other Google programs and services, including Google Photos, Google News and YouTube.

Sometimes Contacts does not appear in the first group of apps and you have to click on "More" to scroll down.

Google has recently come under fire for helping totalitarian governments block information from their citizens, and for avoiding paying billions of dollars in tax by funneling profits to tax havens such as Bermuda, but these serious allegations are beyond the scope of this article.

Google's unofficial motto had long been the simple phrase "don't be evil." But no more, according to the code of conduct that Google distributes to its employees. The phrase was removed sometime in late April 2018. I guess it was easier to change the motto than to change what has become corporate culture.

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Door Prize Winners!

June 2019

Jesse Cwalina — DVD-R spindle
 Richard Katnik — Flash drive
 Warner Mach — Mini flashlight
 Paul Baecker — Portable scanner
 Mike Galat — Tally counter
 Evelyn Chereson — Paper ream
 Tom Miller — Note pads
 Ralph Osinski — Ear buds
 Rich Monk — Sharpie writing instrument

Experian Data Breach Settlement: Pick the Free Credit Monitoring!

If you've been affected by the 2017 Equifax data breach, you get a choice -- a \$125 payout or 10 years of free credit monitoring. But your \$125 compensation for the grief you went through may not add up to \$125. The FTC has cautioned that if everyone eligible requests the money over the monitoring, your benefit will be "nowhere near the \$125." This is because this \$31 million money pool covers 147 million victims and that could reduce the payout to about 25 cents per victim. Your decision deadline is 1/22/2020 . <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/07/equifax-data-breach-pick-free-credit-monitoring>



Aukey USB Outlet with Night Light Plug-in

By Curt Potsic, Webmaster, Space Coast PCUG, FL
www.scpug.com
cmpotsic@att.net

I spotted this *Aukey USB outlet with Night Light Plug-in* on Amazon one day. It was on sale for \$6 off the \$19.99 price and I thought it was a good deal for \$13.99. <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B074MVWM6V>

It's a wall outlet that has 4 AC receptacles and 2 USB charging ports on the sides along with a night light on the front. Plus it also has surge protection. It can be used in a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, etc.

We have it in the kitchen where it's ideal for charging cell phones and tablets. The photo on Amazon's site shows it charging a cell phone resting on the top ledge but I found it also works fine with 7" or 8" tablets resting on its top ledge. Also the night light brightness varies with how dark it is and can be turned off with the circular button below the light panel.

What intrigued me was this looked like a great way to charge my wife's Fire HD 8 Tablet. She has a compatible 7th generation tablet which has "Show Mode." The HD 8 Tablet in Show Mode has basically the same functionality as an Echo Show which has a 10" screen but sells for \$229.99. With the Aukey Outlet serving as a stand, the tablet in Show Mode was perfect just resting against the wall above the kitchen counter.



This sure beat buying Amazon's Show Mode Charging Dock for \$39.99 (<https://www.amazon.com/All-New-Charging-Compatible-Generation-Tablets/dp/B07BNXZDJ3>).

Plus with Amazon's Charging Dock you have to remove the tablet's protective cover for the dock's charging socket to fit into place. With the Aukey unit, the tablet's protective cover stays on and a standard USB charging cable is used.

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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.

Your side-kick for all of your basement related problems and projects — foundation, flooring, drywall, sump, more.

<https://www.basementguides.com/>

How to fix: Spinning blue circle in Windows 10 — what causes it?

<https://www.infopackets.com/news/10554/how-fix-spinning-blue-circle-windows-10>

Start with Earth, Fire, Water, and Air. The goal is to create as many different materials or objects as possible by combining others.

<https://littlealchemy.com/>

Population shifts from 10000 BC to present. You might choose to pause the video occasionally. (2-min. video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgUhujxKx5c>

Learn about aspects of vehicle insurance, as well as histories of Tesla, hot rods, pick-ups, Jeeps, fire trucks, Mustangs, and NASCAR, plus windshield cracks, pet safety, car theft.....so much more!

<http://www.buyautoinsurance.com/site-map/>

Acapella group Pentatonix performs the classic Simon & Garfunkel song “The Sound of Silence”. (4-min. video)

<https://biggeekdad.com/2019/02/pentatonix-sound-of-silence/>

How to clamp round or slippery objects — table pedestal, tool handle, more.

https://www.ronhazelt.com/tips/how_to_clamp_round_or_slippery_objects

Google tracks your purchases. Here’s how to see what Gmail knows.

<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/google-tracks-your-purchases-heres-how-to-see-what-gmail-knows/>

If you can’t update to Windows 10 ver.1903 (the so-called Spring 2019 Windows Update), it might be because of an outdated Intel RST driver on your computer.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/windows-10-1903-clash-old-intel-storage-drivers-can-block-update/>

There may be times when you want to free up some disk space on your Windows 10 computer. While trying to free up the disk space, you might want to uninstall programs and apps that you don’t use anymore.

<https://www.intowindows.com/3-ways-to-check-disk-space-usage-by-programsapps-in-windows-10/>

How to bypass blocked sites and Internet restrictions.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-bypass-internet-censorship/>

Beginner’s guide to OneNote in Windows 10.

<https://www.howtogeek.com/226363/the-beginners-guide-to-onenote-in-windows-10/>

Are you planning to replace your old PC sometime soon? Here are 10 unique creative projects to reuse your old PC.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/creative-projects-reuse-old-pc/>

91 videos take you on a mathematical journey to learning and using algebra on the author’s whiteboard. (Most videos range from 6 to 12 mins. in length)

<https://nononsensealgebra.com/>

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.