



THE WYSIWYG



November 2019

Volume 31 Issue 9

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, Michigan 48311-0385

MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY NOV. 5

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:

“What's Hot for the Holidays”

By Richard Tapaninin

From MicroCenter

Richard returns again this year to share with us the newest technologies and products on which we can spend our Christmas stocking money.

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 WEB PAGE: <http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org>

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MS Publisher	(open)
MS Word	Rick Schummer
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer

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Door prizes	Don VanSyckel
Greeter for visitors	Jim Waldrop
Newsletter Publisher/Editor	Paul Baecker
Program Coordinator	Mike Bader
Publicity	Patrick Little
Publicity	Phil Reynaud
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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

DECEMBER 2019
3 - SHCC Main Meeting
 8 - SEMCO meeting

FEBRUARY 2020
4 - SHCC Main Meeting
 9 - SEMCO meeting

JANUARY 2020
7 - SHCC Main Meeting
 12 - SEMCO meeting

MARCH 2020
3 - SHCC Main Meeting
 8 - 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



The weather has actually turned cold for a few days. Opinions vary but I think we enjoyed a beautiful summer. Not too hot, not too rainy, not too cloudy, just nice weather for the most part. Come to the November meeting; enjoy and learn from Mr. Richard Tapaninen's presentation featuring what's hot for the holidays. Mr. Tapaninen is one of MicroCenter's crack team and is one of the people who do the seminars at MicroCenter.

In September's column I touched on our home phone. I thought I'd go into a little more detail about how easy and functional our VOIP phone is.

First, what is **Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP)** technology? As we all know, voice, music, any sound can be digitized. This means any sound can be represented by a series of digital bytes. A music CD for instance does not contain audio or music in the traditional sense. The recording studio digitizes the audio and music in the studio. Then it ships the data off to a CD production facility which produces the CDs that you purchase. A CD is all digital information. The CD player reads and processes the digital data into sounds that you can hear. Another example many of you are probably familiar with is an MP3 music file. Same idea as the music CD, just the data is a different format.

The pieces of the VOIP phone system are:

- 1) a VOIP vendor,
- 2) an Internet service,
- 3) a VOIP phone adapter at your house, and
- 4) a real telephone at your house.

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 VOIP phone works in a manner analogous to CDs. Your phone number is transferred to your VOIP vendor when you sign up. This means that when someone calls your phone number, the phone system routes the call to your VOIP vendor. The equipment there processes the information about the incoming call and contacts your phone adapter, commands it to ring the bell and supplies caller ID information. When you answer the phone (pick up the hand set), the phone adapter signals the VOIP vendor that you answered.

The VOIP vendor hardware then "listens" to the incoming phone line and digitizes the sounds it "hears". The data is sent to the phone adapter. The phone adapter converts the digital data into sound which you can hear on the phone. The reverse is done for what you speak into your phone, such that the VOIP vendor's equipment produces sounds sent out the phone line to the incoming caller.

The connection between the VOIP vendor and your phone adapter is via the Internet. The phone adapter type that I use can be inside my Internet router because it reaches out to the

VOIP vendor periodically to query if any information needs to be sent to the phone adapter.

You can purchase a package that includes hardware and service, or you can purchase your own phone adapter and get services from a provider. I purchased a phone adapter. 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. This unit is out of production but is readily available from various outlets. I use the phone wiring already in the house to connect the phone adapter to the wireless phone base station in the kitchen.

I'll go into detail about the various features available from CallCentric in a future column.

Now put the November meeting on your calendar because it's going to be great with Mr. Tapaninen. See what's hot for the holidays.

Last Month's Meeting:

Last month we were pleased to have a presentation "Build a Low Cost Computer using the Raspberry Pi" presented by Jeff Pynnonen. This is new small and affordable technology which might be the wave of the future. Unfortunately Mr. Pynnonen was a little late and did not get through his entire presentation so he will be returning. The part he did present stirred a lot of interest.

Before the presentation to fill the gap was a vigorous round of questions and discussion.



Lock Up Those Photos

By Bill Crowe, Director,
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Last month I lost my wallet. Not a good day. I knew the last time I had used the card, and from there I went straight home. They did not have the card at my last stop, so I had either lost it on the way to the car or at home. After an extensive search, I had to go about cancelling and replacing all my credit cards. I had to do the same for all my other cards like medical cards, Driver's license, Costco's, and others. Not a fun job. The job would have been so much easier if I had kept a record of all my cards. I got to thinking that if I had taken a picture of each

(Continued on page 8.....Lock Photos)

Should I Partition My Hard Disk?

By Leo A. Notenboom
<https://askleo.com>

Partitioning, or splitting a single physical hard drive into multiple drives, has pros and cons. I'll look at those and make a recommendation.

What are the benefits of a partitioned hard drive, or some practical uses of a partition?

Disk partitioning is one of those topics that generates conflicting opinions.

Some swear that proper partitioning aids performance, makes backing up easier, and is just generally "better".

Others opt to let Windows sort it all out, believing that improper partitioning might prevent the file system — already optimized for both safety and performance — from operating in the best way.

While I'm certain the truth is somewhere in between, I tend to fall into the latter camp.

I'll look at some of the pros and cons to partitioning your hard drive, and make a recommendation if, after all is said and done, you're still not sure.

Partitions

A partition is nothing more than a way to organize the physical space on a hard drive. We typically think of a hard drive as a single disk, but partitioning allows you to split a hard drive so it appears to be multiple different drives. It's still the same single disk in hardware, but the space on it is divided up to appear as two or more drives in Windows.

There are two classic approaches to partitioning a single drive on a Windows PC:

- **Single partition.** Typically, your computer has a "C:" drive, and all of your programs, data, and operating system files are contained within it.
- **Two (or more) partitions.** "C:" remains, and typically contains at least the operating system and programs, but additional drives — perhaps "D:", "E:", or others, also exist and are used for data storage.

In addition, most contemporary computers or Windows 10 installations come with additional hidden partitions. We're not talking about those here; they serve different purposes. This discussion is only about the partitions you see in Windows File Explorer when Windows is running.

Hard disk in motion with conceptual dataWhy might you partition?

There are several reasons to consider partitioning a hard drive.

- **Organization:** Some feel splitting data or components across multiple "drives" is a better way to organize their data than creating more folders on a single drive.
- **Backup:** It's easier to back up partitions separately. Say your operating system is on drive C: and your data is on drive D:. If you ever need to reinstall or revert to a backup, it's possible, depending on the situation you're recovering from, that only drive C: would be affected, leaving your data on D: untouched.
- **Security:** Whole-drive encryption is often really "whole partition" encryption. With multiple partitions, you can pick and choose which to encrypt — typically, a single partition containing your sensitive data.
- **Speed:** Depending on how you use your data, it's possible that moving less frequently used data to a separate partition can improve speed, particularly if you're using a magnetic hard disk (HDD) as compared to an SSD.
- **Multi-booting:** If you want to install multiple operating systems on your computer and choose which to boot into, each must reside in a separate partition. It's also common to create an additional data partition they all use.

Why might you not partition?

Again, there are several possible reasons.

- **Drive letters:** Each partition is assigned a separate drive letter. While there are ways around this, letters can become a scarce resource for machines with many local network connections, additional drives, or software also requiring drive letter allocation.
- **Backup oversight:** If you have multiple partitions, it's more work to make sure they're all being backed up properly, and it's easy to miss it.
- **Speed:** Depending on how you use your data, if you use an HDD, it's possible that by having data on separate partitions, your hard disk will have to work harder to access data spread further apart on the media, slowing things down.
- **False security:** Even though separate partitions look like separate drives in Windows, they are not. What that means is if the physical hard drive holding those partitions fails, all the partitions go with it. While you might be applying different backup criteria to different partitions, the fact is that underneath it all, they share common risks.

Once again, the "should I or shouldn't I?" question gets my most common answer: "it depends". It depends on you, your data, how you use your computer, and the hardware configuration of your computer.

My recommendation

Unless you have a specific reason to partition, don't bother. Instead:

- Use the NTFS file system — the default these days — which does a pretty good job of optimizing for speed, space, and reliability, and won't restrict the size of your partition.
- Back up regularly. Having separate partitions doesn't remove the need to back up; it only makes it slightly more complex.
- Use folders to organize your data. This is what folders are for, and they're significantly more flexible than separate partitions.

I used to recommend defragmenting periodically. Windows 7 and later versions automatically defrag hard disks (HDDs) weekly, and SSDs don't need it at all.

If you have a specific reason to partition, then by all means, go for it. Don't forget it's still a single hard drive you're using, and all your partitions need to be properly maintained and backed up.

As I said when I started, there are many different opinions on partitioning. You may feel differently than I do.

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



Did You Know...? Return Amazon Purchases at Kohl's Stores

News and/or Opinion from Paul Baecker

You can return your unwanted Amazon purchases by taking them to any Kohl's store (except in Anchorage, Alaska). Kohl's will pack and ship your item back to Amazon for free.

As the web link below states:

- Go to Amazon's Online Return Center
- Select Kohl's as the drop-off option
- Get a QR code from Amazon
- Take the item to the Kohl's store and show the QR code to Kohl's employee
- Kohl's will pack, label and ship the item at no cost to you.

What could be simpler (other than not buying the item in the first place)?

<https://www.kohls.com/feature/amazon.jsp>



Truth in Advertising

By Andrew Cummins, President
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I saw in a store PCs being sold which boasted of incredible amounts of system memory for their price, such as 24GB. Looking at the smaller print, that 24GB is 8GB of RAM plus 16GB of "Optane memory." Optane memory is just a small SSD to cache a large HDD. It gives the PC the performance similar to an SSD for not much more than the cost of a cheap HDD. Don't be confused by my jargon, and don't be fooled into thinking Optane is system memory, or RAM. At least Optane memory does what it does well and so shouldn't be avoided.

I'm really excited about LED lights, but if you go out to buy high-powered LED lights, they often are advertised with false wattages, such as 600 watts for something that actually uses 60 watts. Sometimes you can't even find the actual wattage used on the packaging. They want you to think you're getting more light for your money than you're actually getting. At least the power savings of LED lighting versus older technology is incredible, regardless of advertised power.

If you've ever checked with Windows to see how large your PC hard drive is, you've always been presented with a smaller number than the advertised capacity for your hard drive. Hard drive capacities are advertised with re-defined terms to make them appear larger. At least it's not a large difference between advertised and actual capacity.

When you look into it, there's an incredible amount of misleading, if not false, advertising. It's not just the tech industry. Go buy a flowerpot and see if it's really the gallon capacity advertised. It's almost certainly smaller. At least pots are often sold by inches in diameter, a less abused measure of pot size.

If you want help finding something to buy, ask at your tech group meeting. I have people often asking more for buying advice. You can read user reviews online for advice. Make your decision on themes you find in comments, not on any one person's review. You can ask the salespeople for advice. Remember, salespeople are trying to sell you something, even if they don't have what's best for you. At least these days, technology is so advanced that you're still getting a great product in spite of dubious advertising.

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Make Life Easier with Office Templates

Nancy DeMarte, 2nd Vice President
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It never hurts to make life easier, especially when we have necessary tasks to do. Recently, I revisited an old, but underused feature of Office: *Templates*. I was surprised to find many new templates and easy ways to search for, create and personalize them.

What is a template? It is a predesigned document that you can customize. You provide content like text or pictures within a professionally designed structure. Most templates include guided instructions within the template. Office templates cover a range of different purposes: business or personal cards, brochures, flyers, calendars, and more. Templates are available in Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Publisher in both the Windows and Mac Office suites. *{Ed, note: Also for open-source office suites such as LibreOffice and OpenOffice.}*

I was looking recently for a new design for my personal cards. When I opened the Word application, I saw several templates next to and below Blank document, with many more available free online.

I typed 'Personal Cards' into the Search box and pressed Enter to reveal a collection of card templates. I chose one called "Earth tones business cards" and clicked it. Then I took a few minutes to read the descriptive details and wrote down the card size and product numbers for card paper compatible with my cards. Finally, I clicked Create to open the template.



Customizing this template was easy. I clicked inside the top left card, selected YOUR NAME and typed my own name in its place. When I pressed Enter, all the other cards on the template displayed my name, too. The same was true for the other data. The whole process took no more than ten minutes. Now I had a sheet of professional-looking cards ready to be printed as soon as I purchased one of the compatible card packages at

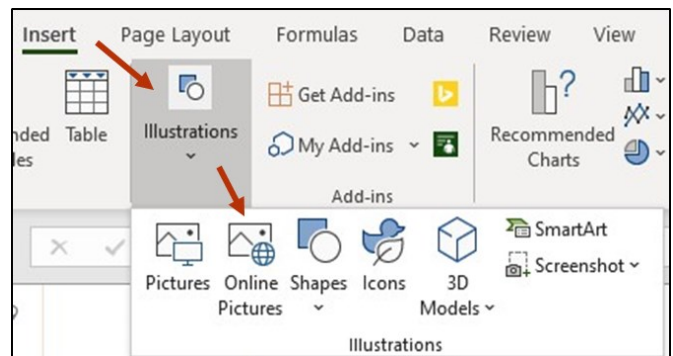
an office store.

Templates in Excel: Next, I opened Excel to see what templates were available. I wanted to find a calendar with a page for each month to personalize for my extended family. In Excel, I found a calendar I liked called Seasonal Photo Calendar.

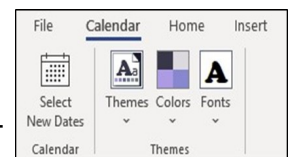


I read the details carefully before clicking Create. Once I downloaded the calendar, I began by clicking January at the bottom of the screen. Then I checked the Calendar settings for Year (2019), and Week Start (Sunday) to make sure all dates in 2019 would appear on the correct days of the week. Of course, this can be modified for the next year.

Then I began to add text and/or pictures to the important dates for each month. I clicked a date on the calendar, then clicked Insert tab > Illustrations > Pictures (or other graphics). To add text, I double-clicked in a date square and typed. I made pictures smaller by dragging from a corner toward the center.



Many calendar templates allow you to change colors, fonts, and themes. Some only let you change the text. If you are working with a calendar template, select what you want changed and look for the Calendar tab on the ribbon, as shown. If you find you have the wrong dates for the days of the week, click Select New Dates.



Templates in PowerPoint are called themes. These include the background design, font, and color scheme. There are also templates for entire PowerPoint presentations.

(Continued on page 13.....Office Templates)

Is Linux Really Immune to Viruses and Malware? Here's the Truth

By Bertel King

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

One reason people switch to Linux is to have better security. Once you switch to Linux, the thinking goes, you no longer have to worry about viruses and other types of malware. But while this is largely true in practice, desktop Linux isn't actually all that secure.

If a virus wants to wreck shop on your free and open source desktop, there's a good chance that it can.

Why Malware Is Less Common on Linux Desktops

Malware is unwanted code that somehow made its way onto your computer in order to perform functions designed with malicious intent. Sometimes these programs slow down a machine or cause it to crash entirely. The creators may then demand a ransom in order to fix the machine.

Sometimes malware uploads information to remote servers, giving someone access to your saved data or vital credentials that you type, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

People tend to create malware for Windows because that's the operating system found on the most PCs. This increases the odds that a virus will spread from one computer to another.

Virus makers tend to target less technical users that are easier to fool with bogus web banners and phishing scams. Viruses also spread among people who know how to pirate music and TV shows but don't understand how these files may be infected.

There are antivirus programs for Linux, but even their purpose is often to help protect Windows users.

Linux Desktop Malware Exists, But It's Rare

One piece of malware has recently made news for targeting the Linux desktop. EvilGNOME runs on the GNOME desktop environment by pretending to be an extension.

GNOME is the most common Linux desktop environment, found as the default interface on two of the most popular Linux distros, Ubuntu and Fedora, and on computers that ship directly from Linux manufacturers such as System76 and Purism. Legitimate extensions allow you to alter many aspects of the GNOME desktop.

The malware known as EvilGNOME is able to take screenshots and record audio from your PC's micro-

phone. It can also upload your personal files. A more detailed breakdown is available in a report by Intezer Labs, who gave EvilGNOME its name.

This malware didn't attract attention for being particularly likely to impact large numbers of people. It was considered newsworthy because it existed at all.

Most Linux Malware Targets Servers



Linux is relatively rare on desktops, but it's the most prominent operating system found on servers powering the web and managing much of the world's digital infrastructure.

Many attacks target websites rather than PCs. Hackers often look for vulnerabilities in network daemons that they can use to gain access to Linux-powered servers. Some will install a malicious script on a server that then targets visitors rather than the system itself.

Hacking Linux-powered machines, whether they are servers or IoT devices, is one way to go about infecting the web or creating botnets.

Linux's Design Is Not Inherently Secure

Desktop Linux in its current form is hardly a fortress. Compared to Windows XP, where malicious software could gain administrator access without prompting for a password, Linux offered much better security. These days, Microsoft has made changes to close that gap. Since Vista, Windows has issued a prompt.

Yet fretting about the security of system files almost misses the point. Most of the data we care about isn't saved in our root system folders. It's the personal data in our home directory that's irreplaceable and most revealing. Software on Linux, malicious or otherwise, doesn't need your password to access this data and share it with others.

User accounts can also run scripts that activate your microphone, turn on your webcam, log key presses, and record what happens onscreen.

In other words, it almost doesn't matter how secure the

Linux kernel is, or the safeguards surrounding various system components, if it's the vulnerabilities in apps and the desktop environment that can put the data you care most about at risk.

EvilGNOME doesn't install itself among your system files. It lurks in a hidden folder in your home directory. On the positive side, that makes it easier to remove. But you have to first know it's there.

4 Reasons Why Linux Is Relatively Safe to Use

While Linux isn't immune to exploits, in day-to-day use, it still provides a much safer environment than Windows. Here are a few reasons why.

1. Multiple Distros, Environments, and System Components

App developers have a hard time developing for Linux because there are so many versions to support. The same challenge faces malware creators. What's the best way to infiltrate someone's computer? Do you sneak code in the DEB or RPM format?

You may try to exploit a vulnerability in the Xorg display server or in a particular window compositor, only to find that users have something else installed.

2. App Stores and Package Managers Shield Linux Users

Traditional Linux package management systems put app maintainers and reviewers between users and their software source. As long as you get all of your software from these trusted sources, you're very unlikely to run into anything malicious.

Avoid copying and pasting command line instructions to install software, especially when you don't know exactly what the command is doing and you're unsure of the source.

3. Newer Technologies Actively Consider Security

New app formats like Flatpak and Snap introduce permissions and sandboxing, limiting what apps can access. The new Wayland display server can prevent apps from taking screenshots or recording happens on-screen, making it harder to exploit.

4. The Source Code Is Open for Anyone to Read

The primary advantage of Linux comes from being able to view the code. Since Linux is open source rather than proprietary, you don't have to worry about the desktop itself working against you, acting as spyware itself or suffering from exploits that haven't been disclosed for commercial reasons.

Even if you can't make sense of the code, you can read the blog posts or reports by someone that does.

Should You Be Afraid of Linux Malware?

It's a myth that Linux users don't have to worry about viruses, but if you stick to your distro's app stores or other trusted sources such as Flathub, you're unlikely to stumble across anything dangerous.

No matter which operating system you use, it's important that you adopt safe digital habits. Don't make the mistake of believing that switching to Linux means you can download from sketchy sites without concern.

Yet for most of us, the biggest risk probably isn't malware. If you've created a large number of online accounts or depend on cloud services, phishing scams are a much larger threat to your data, whether or not you use Linux.

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(Lock Photos.....continued from page 3)

card (front and back), I would have had them on my iPhone. That would have solved the problem.

Thinking about it further, what if someone got my phone or was able to access my iCloud and gain access to my info? All my cards were there for the taking. I was hoping that there was a way to lock photos on my iPhone, but Apple has not yet provided one. I knew there must be an app for that, and 'By Golly' there is.



Private Photo Vault

Keeping your photos private

There are, of course, many applications that can do it, but one of the best is called [Private Photo Vault](#). The following is a brief introduction to Private Photo Vault. Private Photo Vault is one of the best free applications to protect your personal photos and videos by password/pattern-locking. This feature-rich app allows easy album

organization by allowing you to transfer images and videos from iPhone's photo app to your new protected album. All you need to do is select photos you want to hide and password-protect them on your private album.

Private Photo Vault has a tri-protect system. You can

(continued on page 13.....Lock Photos)

Some Things You Should Never Do In Word

By Carol Bratt

<https://davescomputertips.com>

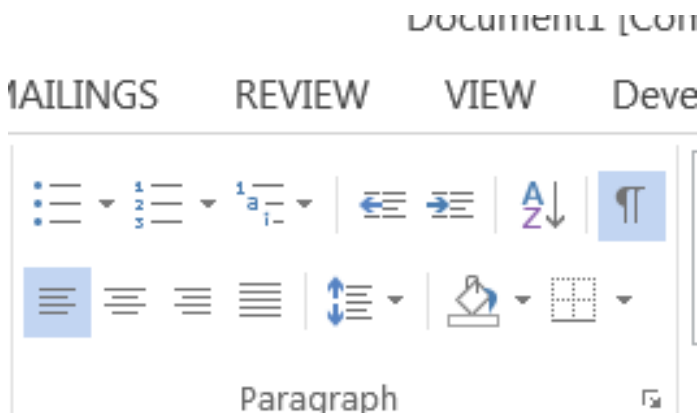
I know that when some folks read this, they will pooh-pooh what I have to say. But I can tell you from personal experience, this is something you should NEVER do in Word. Having said that, if you are creating a Word document that you will retain for yourself and no other person will ever have to work on it, then it could be harmless. However, when you are sharing documents with colleagues and other persons outside your group of colleagues this is vexing, to say the least, and a huge waste of time and keystrokes to say the worst!

What am I describing?

Some of you might insert a tab or a few spaces to indent the first line of each of your paragraphs. The practice is harmless until you modify the document in some way, and then you could end up with an out-of-place space or tab. And more likely, you will end up with lots of displaced text. It may not be a big deal in a short document, but in a long document that requires a lot of editing, those tabs and spaces in the wrong places will drive your colleagues nuts and you may find that they just are not that friendly to you thereafter!

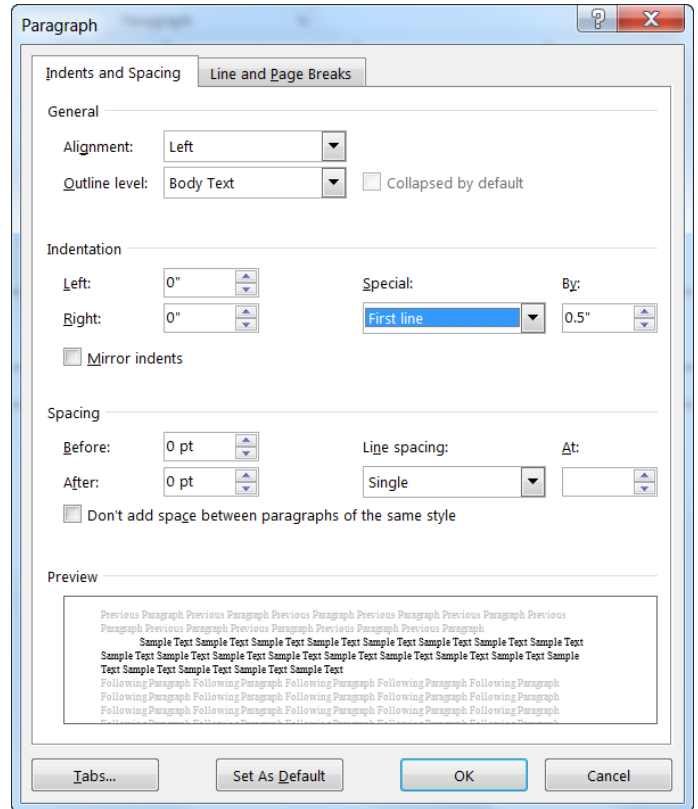
Instead of causing all the animosity and extra work above, follow the steps below:

1. Click the Home tab.
2. Click the Dialog launcher for the Paragraph group on your Ribbon.



3. On the Indents and Spacing tab in the Indentation section, select First Line in the Special area.

4. Enter an indent measurement in the By area.



5. Click OK.

I know some of you are going to say, “so what, big deal.” I have heard it many times before. But when I get one of those documents and have to spend all my time deleting all those spaces and tabs, I am not thinking very nice things! So do yourself and your colleagues a favor and learn how to do it the right way and save yourselves lots and lots of time, keystrokes, and aggravation!

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Door Prize Winners!

October 2019

- Rich Monk — Power adapter
- Ralph Osinski — DVD spindle
- Richard Jackson — Power strip
- Sharon Patrick — Ear buds
- Martee Held — Organizer
- James Waldrop — Ethernet card
- Tom Miller — Paper ream
- Phil Reynard — Paper ream
- Richard Katnik — *Maximum PC* magazine
- Mike Bader — Storage container

How To Avoid Internet Arguments

by Marc Thomas

<https://davescomputertips.com>

Remember the bar-room lawyer? That annoying and self-opinionated type propping up the bar whose only purpose in life is to hold your attention with their rigid postulating on the state of the world, when all you're trying to do is enjoy a quiet drink in your local boozier? Yeah, me too, but being face to face and telling them to take a long walk off a short pier is easier said than done. So you probably tolerate them until you concoct a handy diversion in order to flee the onslaught— a restroom emergency or a sudden life-threatening medical condition are my personal favourites. Not so with the Internet, which is the perfect setting for the keyboard warrior who you are unlikely to ever meet in person. They love that you see, which is why there are so many of them lurking behind that screen you stare at all day.

Cancel all my meetings.

Someone on the internet is wrong.



Did I Ask For Your Opinion?

This is meat and drink to the troll because to them, opinions can be tossed around like a cat playing with a dead mouse. But not all Internet arguments involve trolls. Many involve normal humans like you and me and they could be the result of getting out of bed on the wrong side that morning. It happens to all of us but boy, things can escalate very quickly online. Though, for me personally, it's the high and mighty, sanctimonious types who throw unsolicited opinions at you that really get my goat. On a tech [forum](#) not long ago, I posted something mundane about upgrading a PC motherboard and said how easy it was, probably with some other details thrown in to flower up the post, and lo and behold, I was pounced upon by a so-called Windows licensing expert telling me that it was illegal to transfer a Windows license from one

*That's a nice opinion
that I didn't ask for.*

motherboard to another, which I wasn't doing anyway. Pardon me? Did I ask for your advice? But of course, the keywords illegal and license were crucial to the intervention and injected only to provoke a reaction. On this occasion, I didn't react as required but instead pointed out some pertinent facts which they eventually swallowed rather indignantly, shuffling off to that dark corner of the

Web, where they lurk waiting for the next moment to pounce.

internet arguments
won today:



Then, a few weeks later the very same expert pounced again when a similar topic was posted and I had commented on how easy it is to install [Windows 10](#) on a system that had already had its license activated. Yet again, the words illegal, licensing and a new one, OEM was infused into the mix— you see where this is going don't you? It's so easy to get sucked into the maelstrom, whether in a forum or on social media, and the secret is knowing when to ignore it and move on, or simply to use Thor's hammer— if you're up to it.

Is This A Public Or Private Argument?

A private argument is what takes place in your sound-proofed house or car with all the doors and windows closed and no hidden microphones. A public argument is practically anything you get involved with online, so once you've typed those words publicly, they'll never go away and will come back to haunt you for the rest of your life. That is unless you venture into the Dark Web and pull the shutters down in the style of Guardian journalists and whistleblowers.

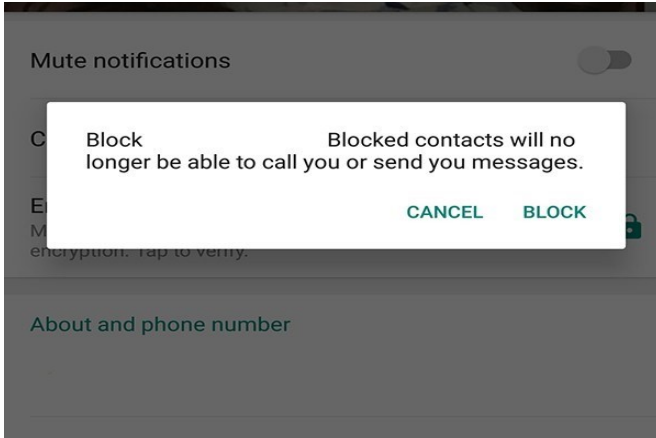
Facebook is a prime example of Internet arguments and unless you're in a group, there's practically no moderation, so the gloves come off and it's keyboards at dawn. But fighting in public — aka hanging out your dirty washing— is all the rage nowadays. Just look at Macron and Bolsonaro— two heads of state slugging it out on Twitter, with the US president chucking in the odd grenade for good measure.

Block And Ignore

But ask yourself — do you really want to go head to head with a complete stranger in public? Just to prove a point? Just so that you can be right and sit on the moral high ground? Slapping other people around in public on Twitter and Facebook may give you that split second rush, but in the end, you'll be remembered for about ten minutes and then cast aside, as people move on with the rest of their lives, or the next Tweet. One of the most reasonable ripostes to a veiled attack from someone on the Internet is, "Could you please explain the fundamen-

tal reasoning behind your position?”

That should have the effect of dialing down the heat and forcing the assailant not to follow their instincts of attack quite so aggressively — in theory.



Ultimately though, I've found that the best course of action is to use the tools at your disposal such as the **ignore/block** option in forums and social media, thus ridding yourself of the scourge forevermore. I've used that fail-safe on a few occasions very successfully (an ex-wife, numerous trolls or simply the despicable) and I'm glad I did. That's not to say that I don't enjoy a healthy discussion, but when it crosses the line and becomes a war of words, it's time to restock and take action. On the other hand, in the words of Napoleon, "Never interrupt your enemy when he's making a mistake."



I throw that nugget in because for some people there's nothing more amusing than winding up a persistent troll and dangling carrot after carrot in front of them. The trouble with that approach is that the end-game is always a distant blur on the horizon which gets further and further away as the wind-up escalates. But I suppose that's the whole idea if you've got a day or two to waste on that kind of thing. Either way, have fun and don't take the Internet too seriously.

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It's Almost Over for Flash Player

by Cyn Mackley

<https://cynmackley.com>

Time is ticking for Adobe Flash Player. Support for the platform will officially end on December 31, 2020. That means no more security updates or bug fixes.

What is Flash Player? It's a platform that allows web-sites to display things like games and forms, or run



educational programs. While Flash is popular, it has a long history of security problems.

Many browsers, including Google Chrome, now disable Flash by default, but you can still activate it if you need it. After December 31, 2020, all major browsers, Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Edge etc..., will block Flash Player from running.

The only way for games, forms, and educational programs to continue to work is to convert to another platform like HTML 5. The problem is that you can't just flip a switch. The content has to be rebuilt from the ground up in another programming language. That's a pretty complicated process and it's not likely that anyone will put that type of effort into older games and content.

If you or your company counts on a Flash for timesheets or forms, you'll need to buy or create something else to continue to use it. Many providers of online educational materials are going to have to spend a whole lot of money to make sure their content will work.

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



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.

Making Your Tech Fit: Tech and Your Eyes

By Debra Carlson, Technical Advisor,
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Words like “ergometrics” and “accessibility” fly around when talking about tech devices but what does that mean practically – to the user?

First, a definition:

Ergometrics is an applied science concerned with designing and arranging things people use so that the people and things interact most efficiently and safely — called also biotechnology, human engineering, human factors.
(merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ergonomics)

Here we'll talk about how tech interacts with EYES.

COMFORT can be an important guide for dealing with eyes and tech.

1. Ambient lighting should complement light from the screen. Lamps pointed directly at the screen cause reflection making it harder to see what is printed. If you are typing from notes, however, it is important to have that document well-lit to prevent eye fatigue. Avoid setting a monitor where it will get direct sunlight for the same reason.

2. Most monitors (hardware) and operating systems (*software that controls how interactions occur within various computing components like hardware or programs used to browse the internet or create documents*) have light level controls in addition to color and size settings. Tempering the background color and complexity of any graphic that “shows through” your viewing windows will lessen the need for more lumens (the amount of light). Sometimes changing to dark background and yellow or white print is less taxing to the eyes ... making it easier to see.

3. The position and angle of the monitor are important! You might be surprised how much raising the monitor, or tipping it slightly, will improve screen visibility.

4. Some find “computer glasses” help arbitrate the distance to a monitor if using a desktop or laptop regularly ... and some find glare is cut (particularly with cataracts) by using “yellow lens” sunglasses (slipovers or clip-ons).

Safety is assisted by comfort, but it is a DISCIPLINE. Eyes, balance, circulation, joint health, and physical health in general benefit from:

1. Adjusting the monitor so you can see it easily. Perhaps getting a riser for it (if you are taller) so you will sit straight in the chair.

2. Look away from the screen often. When you look away from the screen, shake out your hands.

3. Plan to stand and walk regularly – some suggest every 10 minutes ... most at least every half hour.

Don't be afraid to experiment with screen resolution or font size. Just remember the following:

1. Before a change, take note of what it is you are having trouble seeing. Every solution makes “changes.” But making the most efficient change for your problem will be the most helpful. It also makes it easier to “undo” if your needs evolve.

2. Make one change at a time and see if (or how well) it works for you. This may seem pedantic, but it will assist you in knowing what part of the system, changed, helps you most.

3. Don't forget – color change can be as or more effective than size change in some circumstances.

4. Many programs have “options” or “preferences” that can be set to make viewing easier. Where these do not exist, third-party “extensions” can provide additional modifications not included by the developer.

Don't forget about using ZOOM to make individual pages larger or smaller when needed, rather than changing the entire machine unnecessarily.



Hopefully, you got an idea or two in this.

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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 your SHCC web site.

(Office Templates.....Continued from page 6)

tations. All you need to do is change the text and replace the pictures with your own. This can be a lifesaver if you need a presentation quickly.

Publisher Templates offer a wide variety of templates. When I searched for Cards, I got greeting cards, invitations, plus business and personal cards. These are worth exploring.

Tips: You might ask how an Office template differs from an Office file (document, spreadsheet, or presentation)? Templates keep their original structure, no matter how much they are customized. To distinguish them from normal files, they have a unique file extension. In Word, for example, a document extension is .docx, while a Word template extension is .dotx (or dotm, if macro-enabled). Your search will show you templates, but when you click Create, the template becomes a document, leaving the template intact.

You can create templates as well as use them. If you have personalized a Word document, for instance, and saved it with a .dotx extension, it is now a template. When you use it, though, be sure to save it as a Word document (.docx extension), or your original template will be lost.

Next time you need for a professional-looking document or other project, try using a template. You may find it easier than you thought.

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{Ed. note: Many web sites offer free templates for the applications within various office suites (MS Office, LibreOffice, OpenOffice, etc.), so there is no need to purchase any. Use a search engine for terms like "free templates for ms office" or for libreoffice or for openoffice. Just one example of such a source is <https://www.vertex42.com> (some others are listed on the SHCC web site's Web Page Reviews, under "Office suites...templates"). Templates created for one office suite often work with competing office suites, although occasionally a font or other feature may not display as anticipated and may need to be altered. In some cases, an advanced spreadsheet formula might need to be vetted in a competing office application. In all cases, when using a template, be sure to monitor it as you are using it that it performs as you would expect it to.

It is always wise to virus-check any file that you grab from the Internet. Right-click on your downloaded file and select the appropriate option to scan it.



Meeting Update

News and/or Opinion from Paul Baecker

At the September meeting, new club member Chita Hunter gave us an excellent presentation on the Apple Watch. Her presentation method included displaying her own Apple Watch on the overhead screen by holding it in view of her smartphone to capture the live action. It was truly imaginative and I, for one, was really caught up in the action.

Chita has offered this update about the Apple Watch:

I really enjoyed the wonderful welcome, audience participation and lots of questions during my Apple Watch presentation.

Correcting an error: The Apple Watch Series 5 and the new WatchOS 6 software, allows you to make software updates and app purchases without having to go through your iPhone. You still have to have an iPhone, in order to use an Apple Watch.

The Apple Watch Series 5 continues to have a major focus on health. For more about those features see: <https://www.apple.com/apple-watch-series-5/health/>



(Lock Photos.....continued from page 8)

either hide your photos via a secure password system or a nifty pattern lock system. There's also a pin lock option that lets you hide an image by entering a 4-digit pin.

Of many additional features, my favorite is the decoy password option. It allows users to enter two passwords – one for general access and another for those albums you want to really secure. With a smooth interface, and simple yet extremely secure protection option, the app is a good way to hide your photos on your phone.

By the way, the end of my story is that after I cancelled most of my cards, I found the wallet. It was in about the only place in the house I had not turned upside down. See the tutorials at <https://privatephotovault.com/tutorials/>.

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Web Page Reviews

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.

Browse 1,113,000 global plant names, 65,800 detailed descriptions, and 191,400 images in Kew Gardens' Plants of the World database, one of the world's largest botanical collections.

<http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/>

Streaming basics, including devices and services..

<https://cynmackley.com/2019/01/29/streaming-basics/>

10 free online photo editors.

[https://](https://askbobrankin.com/10_free_online_photo_editors.html)

askbobrankin.com/10_free_online_photo_editors.html

Review of 6 free Linux antivirus programs.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/free-linux-antivirus-programs/>

Research says: Breaking wind in the nude, not such a great idea.

<https://www.thealternativedaily.com/research-says-farting-nude-not-great-idea/>

Take a colorful train tour this Fall in Michigan.

<https://www.michigan.org/article/trip-idea/take-colorful-train-tour-fall>

What is devicecensus.exe on Windows 10 and why does it need Internet connectivity? And why should you know?

<https://www.ghacks.net/2019/09/23/what-is-devicecensus-exe-on-windows-10-and-why-does-it-need-internet-connectivity>

What "lossless" file formats are & why you shouldn't convert "lossy" to "lossless".

<https://www.howtogeek.com/142174/what-lossless-file-formats-are-why-you-shouldnt-convert-lossy-to-lossless/>

How to create a recovery drive for any version of Windows (free for personal use).

<https://www.lifewire.com/create-recovery-drive-all-versions-windows-2200650>

Former Microsoft employee explains why bugs in Windows updates increased.

<https://www.ghacks.net/2019/09/23/former-microsoft-employee-explains-why-bugs-in-windows-updates-increased>

Why can't I paste an image into an email message?

<https://cynmackley.com/2018/12/09/why-cant-i-paste-images/>

You can, and perhaps should, check this Microsoft web page to view information regarding problems and "known issues" regarding Windows Updates for Windows 7, 8.1, and 10. If you have had issues with any of their updates, you might find the solution here.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/release-information/>

Subscribe to *Raspberry Pi Weekly* for your weekly round-up of news, projects and articles from the Raspberry Pi community. Also view past issues.

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

How long will Microsoft continue to support your desktop version of Office? Not indefinitely.

<https://www.ghacks.net/2019/08/16/how-long-will-microsoft-continue-to-support-desktop-versions-of-office/>

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.