



# THE WYSIWYG



December 2019

Volume 31 Issue 10

## STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, Michigan 48311-0385

### MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY DEC. 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:

## "How to Create a Dual Boot for Windows 7 and Linux"

will be presented by SHCC Member

### Paul Cozort

For those of us who still rely on Windows 7, and want to continue to use it, dual-booting with Linux is one option. Linux will present you with a safer and more secure Internet experience, in addition to supplying most of your current computing needs. A dual-boot configuration will allow you to continue to access the Windows operating system, programs and data on your computer.

The HP Laptop used for this demo of Dual Boot will be available for purchase after the presentation with SSD for \$90.00.

Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before deciding whether to become a member or not. July and August don't count since there is no main meeting in those months. Membership includes admission to all SHCC functions and the newsletter. Membership is open to anyone. It is not limited to the residents of Sterling Heights.

**DUES: \$30/YEAR**

**CLUB ADDRESS:** PO Box 385, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385  
**CLUB E-MAIL ADDRESS:** [Info@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org](mailto:Info@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org)  
**CLUB WEB PAGE:** <http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org>

## 2019 SHCC Officers

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

### Resource People

Firefox	Don VanSyckel
General Computer Questions	Jack Vander- Schrier
Hardware	(open)
MS Publisher	(open)
MS Word	Rick Schummer
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer

### SHCC Coordinators

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

### Contact Information

(Use the appropriate e-address for your questions/comments.)

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Phil Reynaud	586-212-2848	publicity@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org
Rick Schummer		assoc-ed@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org
Don VanSyckel	586-731-9232	doorprizes@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org webmaster@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org
James Waldrop	586-731-6481	greeter@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org check-in@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org

### 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

**JANUARY 2020**  
 7 - SHCC Main Meeting  
 12 - SEMCO meeting

**MARCH 2020**  
 3 - SHCC Main Meeting  
 8 - SEMCO meeting

**FEBRUARY 2020**  
 4 - SHCC Main Meeting  
 9 - SEMCO meeting

**APRIL 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](mailto:newsletter@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org)

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## The President's Pen

by Don VanSyckel



**W**ow, December already! I still have leaves to rake! Where did Fall go?

Last month I wrote about the Voice Over IP (VOIP) phone system we use at our home. I received several questions about it, so I will go into more detail about some of the features.

First, the phone adapter connects to my home network inside my router and plugs into my home's existing phone wiring. Note: Before using your home's phone wiring you need to disconnect from the telephone company's wiring because you never know what's going to get connect to those wires and you don't want any chance that the equipment in your home could be damaged. This is easily done by cutting the wire outside or disconnecting the wires at the connection block outside or inside.

The phone adapter I have doesn't support multiple phones so we got rid of the old desk phones we previously had and purchased a wireless 4-phone system. This has one base station to connect to the phone adapter. The phone adapter sits by the router and the phone base station is in the kitchen where it's handy. These items being in different rooms is possible via the "old" phone wiring. With the wireless phone I could have put the base station next to the phone adapter, but that's not where I wanted it for accessibility.

Configuration of the phone adapter is via web browser on the PC. The configuration is fairly simple and instructions were provided. You need the URL of the VOIP service you've chosen, [CallCentric](#) in my case, the account name and password, an Internet time source, and you're all set.

When we signed up for CallCentric, we choose to have our current phone number ported to our CallCentric account. Note: CallCentric and any other phone system provider can only port "your" number. In other words, if you cancel your current phone number whether with a land-line phone company or another VOIP provider, that phone number is no longer yours. Since that number is now not yours, you can not have it ported. In general, you can not request a specific phone number from any phone company. Yes, special phone numbers are available but at special prices. If you don't care about an old phone number, your VOIP provider will assign one for you.

At this point the basic setup is done and you're ready to make and receive phone calls.

First feature:

\* Low price, less than \$9 a month, several plans are

available.

Before you sign up with any VOIP provider you need to decide what features you want. With CallCentric you can choose from the following:

- \* Have your own phone adapter. CallCentric supplies an extensive list of compatible devices. Some other VOIP companies might provide a phone adapter.
- \* Calls within the company or to other VOIP vendor customers are free (no phone company involved).
- \* Pay per call (CallCentric rate is less than 2 cents per minute).
- \* Plans can include a specific number of minutes for a fixed price. Several minute ranges are available. If you go over the minutes for your plan, the per-minute rate applies for the overage.
- \* Unlimited calling
- \* Above plans refer to calling US, Mexico, and Canada. International plans are available.

With CallCentric you can switch between their plans at any time for a small service fee.

This month we're pleased to welcome SHCC member Paul Cozort who will present "How to Create a Dual Boot for Windows 7 and Linux". Paul has presented before and we're looking forward to another great presentation.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month Richard Tapaninen from Micro Center did a great presentation of "What's Hot for the Holidays". Mr. Tapaninen has presented this topic before and this year was better than ever. So many new items and technologies to dream about. If you weren't there — and you should have been — you missed a good one.



## How to Report Social Security Scams

News and/or Opinion from Paul Baecker

**T**here is a widespread telephone scam happening right now across the country involving Social Security. Callers say they are from Social Security, and may say there is a problem with your Social Security number or threaten to arrest you unless you pay a fine or fee with cash, retail gift cards, pre-paid debit cards, or wire transfers. If you received a call like this and would like to report that information, or report Social Security program fraud, you are urged to do so on this web site:

<https://oig.ssa.gov/report-fraud-waste-or-abuse/fraud-waste-and-abuse>



## Club Officer Election Announcement And Officer Duties

News and/or Opinion from Paul Baecker

It is time again (although a bit late this year) to elect our club officers for another year. Here is the process, the positions and the responsibilities:

The nomination process is simple. Any member is eligible to run for any office. You can nominate yourself or have another member nominate you for one or more of the offices. Due to forgetfulness on my part to mention the officer elections in recent WYSIWYG issues, this year all of the officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) will be elected in December for a one year term, January through December 2020. This year, nominations will be taken in November and December before the elections. The elections will be held at the regular December main meeting. (This nomination and election process is normally done during the months of September, October and November.)

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

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

The **president** is ultimately responsible for everything, but being responsible doesn't mean the president has to do it all, or even should. Delegation and management is all a part of the president's duties. The president makes sure the meeting topics are set, the speakers are prepared, runs the regular club and officer meetings, audits the monthly treasurer report and membership databases, tracks door prizes, and monitors most of the club's activities. It is not as busy as it sounds. The WYSIWYG "President's Pen" column is optional, but a great forum to pass along information to the members. The president also makes sure that the different coordinators are appointed and do their jobs. The president enforces the constitution and club's policies. The president does whatever Club Officer Election Announcement And Officer Duties things cannot be done by anyone else.

The **vice president** has the catch-all position. The person must be flexible and be prepared to run the main and officers' meetings if the president cannot. This officer usually picks up a project or two during the year to lift the burden from other officers. The vice president arranges for meeting speakers, but help is available as needed.

The **secretary** maintains the membership database which is tracked in an Access database (SHCC owned). The secretary audits the treasurer report to make sure that the membership money collected matches the membership counts in the database, prints the mailing labels for WYSIWYG mailing, prints a report for member check-in at the main meeting, and maintains several reports such as a membership list. The secretary mails out dues notices. The secretary makes sure that sign-in table materials needed at each regular meeting are there early before people start arriving.

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

(Preparing and mailing of the WYSIWYG is the duty of the newsletter editor. The newsletter editor is not an officer.)

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

We hope everyone considers this invitation — this call to service. It does involve some work but can be a lot of fun. Normally it takes a few hours a month beyond the main and officers' meetings. The president's job takes more, and how much more depends on delegation.

If you have any questions concerning the officer positions and the duties, feel free to contact any of the officers.

Nominations were opened at the November club meeting. Some members were nominated for offices, and nominations were closed. At the December meeting, nominations will be opened again, and anyone else wishing to run for an office will be nominated. After nominations are closed, the election of the officers will be held.



# 6 Types of Google Search Results You Shouldn't Trust Blindly

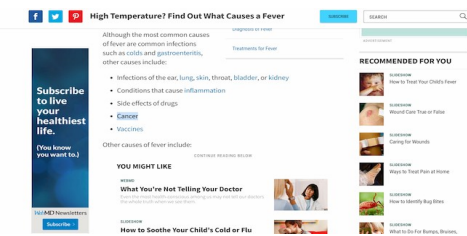
By Shubham Agarwal  
<https://www.makeuseof.com>

We depend on Google for looking up facts and information on any topic. But since Google doesn't verify every link, it's not always wise to trust the data it gives you.

Google's algorithms like PageRank have got better at assessing expertise and trustworthiness of a website. But the wrong information can sneak in or we as readers can make mistakes in interpreting the search results.

Some topics need expert eyes. And that's why it is always better to tread with caution while exploring these six sensitive subjects.

## 1. Medical Information



We don't have to live in a state of uncertainty when we're not feeling well. Google allows us to instantly di-

agnose our symptoms. However, there's a reason behind the "Don't trust Google" signs at your doctor's clinic.

Medical sites don't have access to your records. Therefore, they end up suggesting all the possible causes and treatments for a symptom—not specific to your case.

So while fever is technically one of the symptoms of cancer, it doesn't mean you have it. You are most likely suffering from just a common cold.

Hence, you should undergo a proper checkup and consult a real doctor before reaching a conclusion.

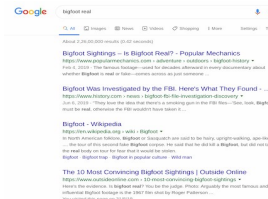
## 2. Financial Advice

Taking care of your finances can be a demanding process. But Google is the last place from which you should seek advice.

Google's treasure trove of data is, at best, a supplementary resource for your financial research. On a search engine, you'll come across a range of opinions and articles which might mislead or cloud your judgment. A straightforward query on a particular investment will surface a myriad of links and it will be difficult to gauge which one offers sound guidance.

Hence, you should stick to more credible financial research platforms and not a search engine like Google to base your ultimate decisions and understand market trends.

## 3. Conspiracy Theories



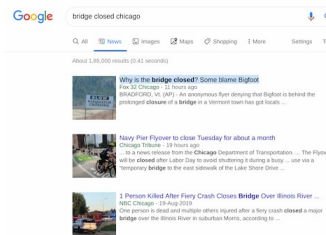
Another topic you should stay clear of on Google is conspiracy theories. Controversial arguments tend to drive the most traffic online. Some websites exploit this

by talking about theories that would fetch more clicks and stimulate conversations.

Google is home to the internet's wildest stories which often rank high just because they're popular. Even for folklore as absurd as the Bigfoot, you will find enough evidence to convince someone (or just yourself). And that's just within the first few pages... you don't need to go down the rabbit hole.

For instance, searching for "bigfoot real" on Google will easily lead you to numerous compilations of supposedly real photos of Bigfoot sightings.

## 4. Breaking News



Misinformation runs rampant on the web and like other online platforms, Google too has struggled to get a grip on the spread of fake news. The issue's

effects magnify during a breaking news event. In such scenarios, the details are scant, which gives rise to hoaxes and rumors.

While Google has safety measures in place for tackling misinformation, they often don't kick in immediately. By the time Google takes a false news piece down, there's a good chance it has been read by millions.

So when you fire up Google right after there's a breaking news alert, you risk running into speculation-based reporting. A better alternative is to directly [browse specific news sites and sources you trust instead of Google](#).

## 5. Religious Practices

Google offers an abundance of resources for people looking to be more religiously informed. However, it's also in a constant battle with racial bias and discrimination. While researching, you will encounter sites that favor certain religions. It's difficult to judge the veracity of these web

pages when you're new to the subject.

In her book titled "Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism", Safiya Umoja Noble argues that search engines like Google are not "trusted, credible public information portals" and says they're discriminatory and favor the groups that designed or funded them.

Since Google's algorithms are influenced by what the majority of its users are searching, minorities end up being misrepresented.

## 6. Chemical-Related Queries

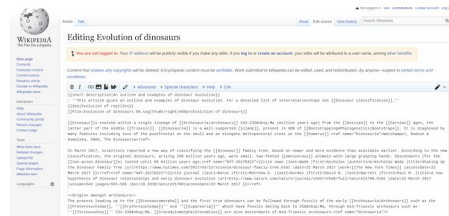
When you're dealing with chemicals, even a minor error can prove fatal. Therefore, if there's a chemical-related detail you aren't sure about, turning to Google's search engine might not be the best way forward. Google is known to host a range of contradictory data and deciding which one to trust can be a challenge.

Like medical platforms, chemical sites don't have access to your circumstances and environmental properties like the room's ambient temperature.

This applies to the use of chemicals in scenarios outside of the lab too. For instance, the debate concerning whether the presence of Chlorine in swimming pools has an adverse on your health has divided the internet for ages.

As an alternative to Google, you can check out the official websites of chemistry boards and associations.

## Yes, Don't Trust Wikipedia Facts Either



One of the biggest misconceptions about the internet is that the information on Wikipedia is always vetted and accurate. That's far from the

truth. Most of Wikipedia's content is crowd-sourced and can be edited by anyone.

Contrary to popular belief, the site doesn't have a team of human curators who fact-check everything.

So while Wikipedia is harmless as far as basic facts are concerned, you should verify what you find there with other [sites that are more reliable than Wikipedia](#).

## Use Google Filters for Reliable Searches

Google processes thousands of queries each second and is one of the internet's best inventions. But its search engine algorithms have also allowed misleading

websites to flourish. While there are a handful of other topics you shouldn't depend on Google for, the ones we discussed here top that list.

One of the methods you can use to narrow down to trustworthy sources is the set of Google's search filters. Here are the [best Google tips, operators, and commands you should know](#) to find the right information you need.

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*{Ed. note: Or simply switch to using a search engine that does not use biased search algorithms to supply results to unsuspecting Internet surfers. There are reasons why Google has been under investigation and has been served with multi-million dollar fines for anti-trust and data privacy actions. Always carefully vet information you find on the web by viewing different sources of info and facts, and by using more than just one search tool.}*



## 101 Free Excel Templates

News and/or Opinion from Paul Baeker

The web site [MyExcelOnline](#) offers a free collection of *101 Excel templates* (large green box on their web page). Spreadsheet categories include Budget, Calendars, Lists, Personal (loans, expenses, planners, checklists), Projects, Trackers and others.

The web site also offers a few free training webinars, but most of their content is at cost.

The only catch to getting their free spreadsheet template collection (contained in one .zip file) is to supply them with a first name and an email address. They say that they send out occasional emails with webinar and training offerings. But you can unsubscribe at any time. So, just another site that trades your email address for something potentially useful.

I suggest that you create a unique email account (perhaps using an alias) somewhere before grabbing this (or any) offer. Some folks still do not realize that they can have more than one email address. I have several, including a separate one just for the purpose of getting offers like this, to keep their emails separate from my friends and family communications.

One such email service that I use is [GMX.com](#). The best part of registering for an email address here is that this service does not REQUIRE you to enter a phone number when creating the email address. And they do a pretty fine job of keeping spam in its place.



## File Explorer — Files, Folders and Beyond!

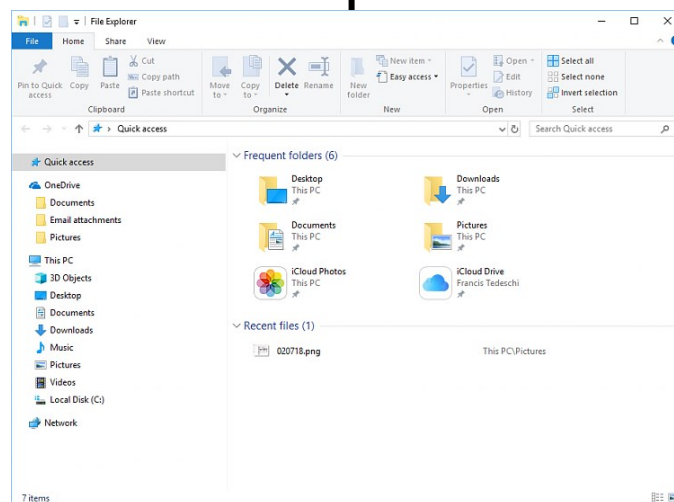
By Phil Sorrentino, Contributing Writer  
The Computer Club, Florida

[www.scccomputerclub.org](http://www.scccomputerclub.org) Philsorr@yahoo.com

File Explorer is an integral part of Windows 10. You might have even heard that it is the “Keys to the Kingdom.” File Explorer, as you probably know, provides the ability to work with, and manipulate, the Files and Folders on your computer. Files are the basic elements that we collect and use Folders are the infrastructure that we create to allow us to manage the store house of knowledge that is in the collection of files. So with File Explorer you can create new folders to organize your data. You can Move or Copy files and/or folders to new locations. You can even examine the properties of a file or folder. And File Explorer is the component of the Operating System that provides a Graphical User Interface (GUI) so we don’t have to remember any arcane commands for a command line interface. These basic features have been available as long as File Explorer has been part of the Windows Operating System (circa the hazy past when Windows 95 was new).

A File Explorer window provides a lot of information about your computer. There are three main areas of interest in the window: the (context sensitive) Ribbon, the Navigation pane, and the Contents pane. (Yes, I know you can add a third pane to the right of the Contents pane which then provides further information about the item selected in the Contents pane, but that’s just icing on the cake.) The Ribbon provides the set of tools that can be used, based on the selections in the Navigation pane and the Tab (above the ribbon). The Navigation and Contents panes are below the ribbon — Navigation on the left, and Contents on the right. These two panes allow you to review and modify the collection of files and folders on your computer. When you highlight an item in the Navigation pane, the contents thereof are shown in the Contents pane. This allows you to easily move or copy items using “Drag and Drop”, always moving items from the right (Contents pane) to the left (Navigation pane). Of course, you can also use the keyboard commands for Cut (Ctrl-X), Copy (Ctrl-C), and Paste (Ctrl-V) to accomplish the same move or copy.

When you first open a File Explorer window, it will be focused on the Quick Access area by default. This can



be done by selecting the View Tab and then clicking on the “Options” button, choosing “change folder and search options”, and finally selecting “This PC” in the popup window. Focusing on Quick Access doesn’t provide many new features, but if you change the focus to “This PC,” either manually by clicking on “This PC,” or making the change described above, you will have the ability to get to some useful areas.

Here are the controls you will have available when you focus on “This PC”. It is probably obvious that “This PC” is your computer, whereas Quick Access is quite different. Quick Access is an automatically populated list of recently accessed files and frequently accessed folders, which will probably change automatically, over time. (This may lead to confusion if you get used to using Quick Access because of the fact that its contents may change without your provocation or knowledge.)

The first item that is available on the ribbon is “Properties.” Click it and you will see information about your computer’s Hardware and Software. Yes, this is the Control Panel’s System page, but now it is easily available whenever you have a File Explorer window open. Next on the Ribbon are Network features. If you have a home network of computers this can be helpful; if you don’t have a network, move on to the System group. Here you can immediately get into Settings by clicking on “Open Settings” (this is probably not terribly valuable because Settings can easily be accessed via the Start button which is always available on

the Taskbar). The next item in the System group may be more useful; it is “Uninstall or change a program.” This is a quick way to get to the App option in Settings. Here you will see a list of all of the Programs (Applications) installed on your computer. This is where you can Uninstall a program or possibly modify its operation. The next item, “System Properties” is another choice from Settings: the “System-About” screen. This screen shows the Hardware (Device Specifications), gives you the ability to “Rename this PC,” and provides a summary of the Security features being employed by Windows, such as “Virus & Threat Protection” and “Firewall & Network Protection”. Clicking “See details in Windows Security” immediately gets you to the Windows Security page in Settings.

The last item in the system group is Manage. This provides entry to “System Tools”, “Storage”, and “Services and Applications”. I know you can get there via the Control Panel by selecting “Administrative Tools,” and

finally selecting “Computer Management,” but this is a much easier way to get to these areas. System Tools includes a few useful tools like a Task Scheduler and Performance monitoring tools. Storage provides “Disk Management” which allows you to look deeply into your hard drive partitions. This is a place you may only want to view, and not try to change anything unless you have very good directions and the phone number of someone who can get you out of any trouble, should you get into trouble.

The last area is “Services and Applications” which provides a view into the “Services” that are part of Windows 10. Services are software programs that are part of your system. The Services view shows you all the many Services and whether they are running or not. This view allows you to change how some of the services are started and how they run. This area should mostly be considered Off Limits, again unless you have very good directions for a particular change. (And you may someday find yourself in this area if you’re trying to troubleshoot a strange problem, but most of this should be left to someone with a lot of “under the hood” experience.)

All of the tools mentioned so far are available because “This PC” has been selected in the Navigation pane, and the “Computer” Tab was selected. (Remember that the ribbon is context sensitive; meaning that, based on the selection in the Navigation pane and the Tab selected, certain tools will be available on the ribbon.) So, there are other tools that are specifically for use with your disk drive that become available on the ribbon when you select your hard drive, typically the C: drive in the Navigation pane, and then choose the “Drive tools” tab. Here you will find tools for Optimizing, Cleaning Up, and Formatting disk drives.

You may not use these tools very often, but when you need them they will be easily found. File Explorer’s ability to organize and access our data with all of these tools and features guarantees it will continue to be the “Keys to the Kingdom”.

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



## Who Doesn’t Want a Free Month?

If your dues are paid in or before the month they are due, as shown on the invoice the club sends to you, you automatically get an extra month of membership. This policy has been in effect for many years, but newer members may not be aware of this “free month” policy.

## Free eBook: “Wildcard Cookbook for MS Word”

News and/or Opinion from Paul Baecker

Microsoft’s Word program includes a very powerful search feature that allows you to find information in a document based on almost every kind of condition. There are special wildcard characters that allow you to search for information based on specific patterns and character sequences.

The web site below is offering (“for a limited time”, they say) an eBook on this feature as a free download (as of this writing, it’s still available):

<https://intelligentediting.com/blog/free-ebook-wildcard-cookbook-for-ms-word/>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page. Click on the blue *Download* button. Entering your email address is optional — you don’t need to enter one to get the eBook file. When the window opens with the file, just save it to your computer. That’s it. It’s yours to use and share.



## Door Prize Winners!

November 2019

**James Waldrop** — Screwdriver set  
**Bill Appleberry** — Flash drive  
**Bernard DeFazio** — Compartment box  
**Tom Miller** — Tape measure  
**Phil Reynaud** — Sharpie pen set  
**Paul Baecker** — DVD spindle  
**Don VanSyckel** — HDMI cable

## SHCC Emergency Cancellation

**S**terling 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.

## Try One of These Bootable PC Rescue Media

By Dick Maybach  
Brookdale Computer User Group, NJ  
[www.bcuug.com](http://www.bcuug.com)  
n2nd@att.net

Modern personal computers are complex assemblies of hardware and software. A problem in a single component can disable the entire system, and sometimes the reason isn't evident. Often, you can boot the ailing PC from a rescue system on a bootable USB memory stick to find the problem. Such systems can run with only minimum hardware (typically the CPU, display, keyboard, and a portion of RAM). In particular, they don't use the disk, meaning they can look for software problems from outside. I recommend you experiment with such tools with a healthy PC. You will learn much about it as well as about the diagnostics. If you try them for the first time on a sick machine, you are likely to experience frustration and failure.

This article reviews three tools (**Ultimate Boot CD**, **All in One System Rescue Toolkit**, and **System Rescue CD**), all distributed as [iso files](#) (images of DVDs), which you burn to a DVD or copy to a USB memory stick. You can find DVD burning instructions at [http://www.system-rescue-cd.org/manual/Downloading\\_and\\_burning/](http://www.system-rescue-cd.org/manual/Downloading_and_burning/). I use Unetbootin, <https://unetbootin.github.io/>, to write to memory sticks. Don't copy the iso file with your memory manager, as the resulting medium won't be bootable.

The **Ultimate Boot CD (UBCD)** is designed for less experienced users, in that it presents a series of menus to help select the proper tool. Figure 1 is the boot screen, from which you can select an area to investigate. The UBCD website, <http://www.ultimatebootcd.com/>, has links to many of its utilities, but there is no organized manual. Those without PC repair experience will probably have to search for instructions, which means they will need a second PC and access to the Internet while they work.

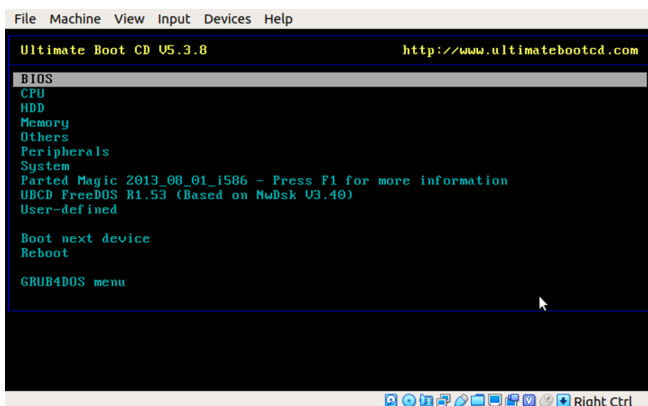


Figure 1. UBCD Boot Screen

The included Parted Magic (shown in Figure 1) is an old version from 2013, and many UBCD menu items jump to Parted Magic and use a tool from it, which of course is old. UBCD is a low-level system, comparable to DOS, and many of its tools are stand-alone, meaning that once they are running, the only way to exit is to reboot. This really isn't a disadvantage as the system starts very quickly, at least if it's running from a USB memory stick. However, the interface may be confusing to those accustomed to a modern graphical screen.

Selecting System on the menu of Figure 1 and scrolling down produces Figure 2. Most menu items have associated help (here shown in green), which provides valuable aid in choosing an appropriate tool.

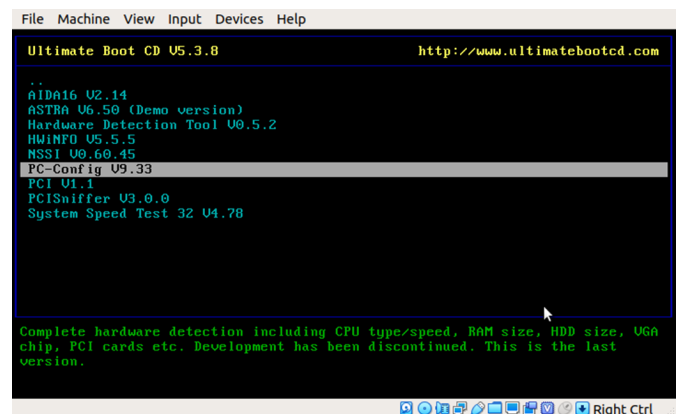


Figure 2. UBCD System Menu

Figure 3 shows the display from the CPUinfo tool (on the CPU menu).

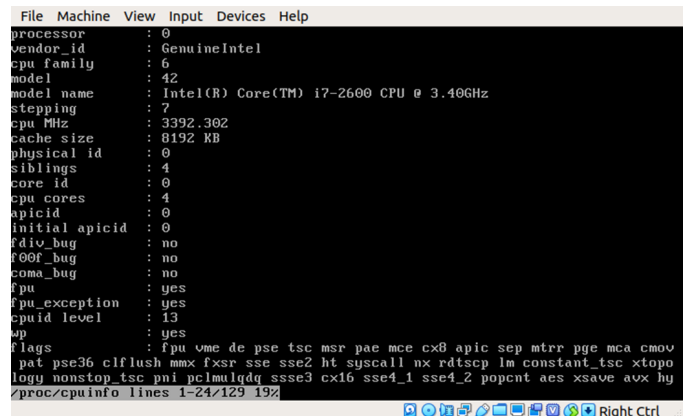


Figure 3. UBCD CPUinfo Output

This is only the first portion of the output; several more screens follow. As you can see, much of the information is quite detailed. Similarly, Figure 4 shows the AT-Keyboard Tester (in the Peripherals menu). When you depress a key, the display indicates which keycode the PC received.



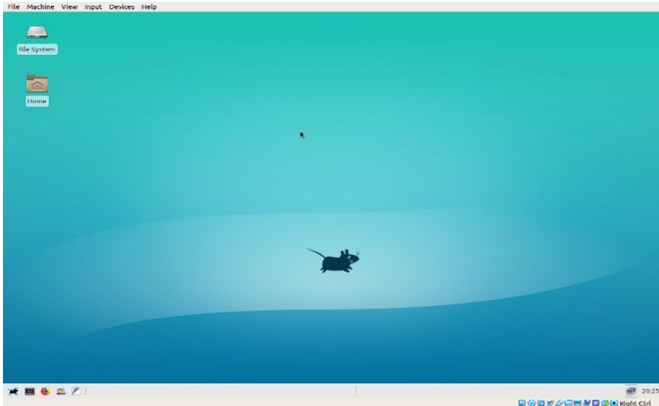


Figure 8. System Rescue CD Graphical Desktop

You will see few repair tools, because most must be run from the command line, but selecting the Firefox icon at the lower left (assuming of course you have Internet connectivity) will take you to the project's home page, Figures 9 and 10, where you can find instructions.

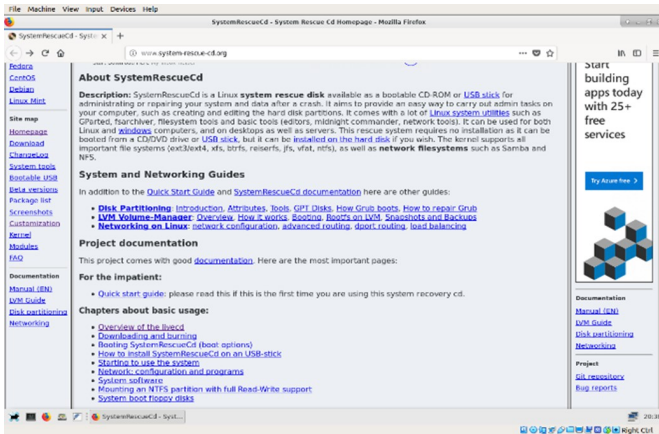


Figure 9. Top Portion of System Rescue CD Home Page

Of the three systems we've looked at, this one has by far the most complete documentation. Figure 10 Shows the home page bottom portion, which lists the available tools. Being able to access the documentation on one site makes this tool a good one for the home user.

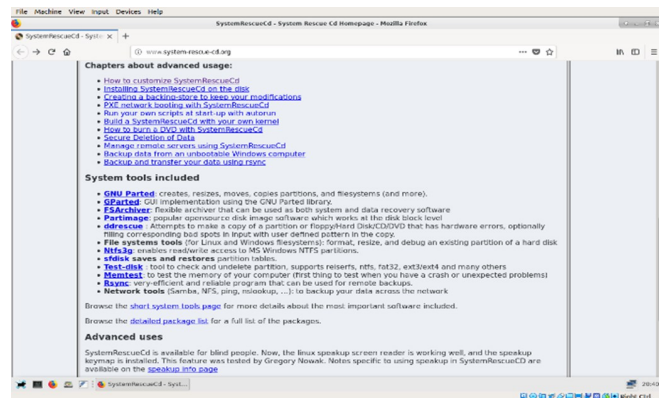


Figure 10. Bottom Portion of System Rescue CD Home Page

Which of these three should you choose?

- The **Ultimate Boot CD**, although it has a relatively primitive interface, makes it is fairly easy to choose the right tool. Most users will need an Internet connection (using another PC) while they work, because while the menu system does provide guidance in choosing tools, there is little help on using them. Many of the tools date from 2013, although most are still effective.
- The **All in One Toolkit** provides by far the most complete tool set to repair Windows, making it indispensable for most users, although learning the tools may require some digging. A unique feature of AIO is that it can work in two different modes, as a bootable live medium and as a Windows utility.
- The **System Rescue CD** makes available ample (online) documentation so that even a relative novice can make effective repairs. That all the guidance is online, makes an Internet connection vital, unless you have considerable PC repair experience.

You can use them all to explore your computer when it's healthy, which will teach you a lot and allow you to use the tools effectively when it needs repairs.

Of course there are others. For years, I've used Parted Magic, <http://partedmagic.com/>, which of the above three most closely resembles System Rescue CD. It has the advantage of making the command-line tools available in menus, but the disadvantage of costing \$11. Over the years, I've written several articles on PC repair, and all are available in the Newsletter section of the Brookdale Computer Users Group website, <http://www.bcug.com/index.html>. See the April, June, July, and August 2012, June 2013, September 2014, May and June 2015, and February 2017 issues.

Even if you never have problems, if you are reading this, you're regarded as a PC expert by your friends and relatives, who will (if they haven't already) ask you for help. Having one, or better yet all, of these tools available, may then be invaluable.

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**If your e-mail or USPS mailing address changes, please send the details via e-mail to: [Secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org](mailto:Secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org)**

## Tiny Icons for Big Functions

By Nancy DeMarte, 1st Vice President  
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In recent years, the number of functions that computers and other devices can perform has increased greatly. It appears that to make more room on the screen, tech companies have reduced the amount of text and replaced it with symbols or icons, often without giving users notice. A good example is Google's block of dots representing their many apps. One day about a year ago I found my Gmail contacts list was missing. Eventually, I found it in the center of the Google app icon (shown at right) on the Google home page. This change to icons was so subtle that many users didn't notice it until they couldn't find a tool or function.

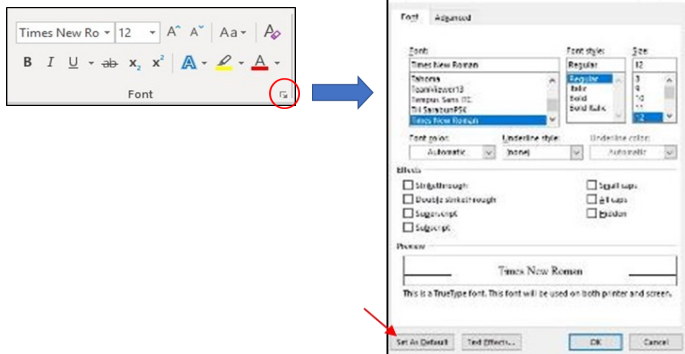


The trend is not only on the Internet, but also in Microsoft's Windows and Office apps. When I click the Windows 10 Start button, I see a list of important functions represented by icons. Fortunately, Microsoft has tried to make each icon resemble its name, as shown below. But not all the icons are as obvious as the gear for Settings or a house to indicate the Home page.



In Office, some icons are so small that they are easy to miss. On the Home tab in Word, for example, several of the groups of tools have a tiny diagonal arrow in the lower right corner. Clicking this icon in the Font group opens a dialogue box which lets me set specific properties for text, as shown. I can make my choices and, if I wish, set them as the default font, meaning that these settings will remain until I change them.

Similar results are found throughout the Office applications.



Another useful, but tiny icon in Windows is often overlooked. It is called "Ribbon Display Options" and is located at the right end of the bar at the top of the Windows and Office screens. If I want to increase the visi-



ble space for typing in Word, I click this icon and choose to hide the ribbon or show only the tabs. It would be hard to guess what this icon means.



One of my favorite icons in Word is "Layout Options". When I insert a picture or object into a document, it is accompanied by the icon shown at the left. Its function is to allow a picture to fit smoothly with the text. I click the icon and choose how I want it to interact with text. It can wrap the text around the photo (as shown) or have it appear in front of or behind the text, among other options.



Internet browsers use icons widely, too. Firefox, my current browser, uses icons in the address bar: three dots to indicate 'More information or tools,' and a star icon to open my bookmark list. The icon in the center lets me view my Pocket contents. Pocket is a personal online storage library for articles, videos, etc. that I have copied from many sources. It was developed by Mozilla, the company that created Firefox, and is available for iOS and Android devices as well as computers. Search the web for Pocket to learn more about its features.



On the Firefox home page is an icon group that includes my search history, bookmark sidebars, Last Pass (a password keeper), and an icon for my account which also can synchronize Firefox history and bookmarks with my other devices. Can you identify their icons in the illustration? The three lines at the end of the Firefox icon group give me access to several settings and functions of Firefox.



As you can see, not all icons match their functions. You can avoid frustration by holding your mouse pointer over an icon to see at least its name. Better yet, click the icon and explore its content. Don't be intimidated by these icons, but don't ignore them either. Look around the screen. Some of the most helpful tools and information can be found by clicking those tiny icons.

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## Thoughts From a Clicker

By Tiny Ruisch

Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA

August 2019 issue, CCCC Computer News

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This month I'm going to rant, rave, criticize and complain just a little. About a year ago, before I moved to the Baton Rouge area, my wife and I were in one of the home improvement stores. I thought that it would be a good time to pick up a new water filter for our refrigerator. I went over to appliances and told them I needed a new filter for a Whirlpool. He immediately asked me which of the nine filters I needed. Of course, I didn't have the filter number memorized. So, I found our refrigerator on the sales floor and told the salesman, "One to fit that model." I got home and found that it was the wrong size filter. When I went back to exchange it, I found out that a different model year almost always uses a different filter.

What does all that have to do with computers and electronics? It got me to thinking about some things I hate about technology. I've probably got 10 or 20 different USB cables in the junk box in my computer room. Every time you buy something that is USB supported, you get another cable. Why is this? It's because each manufacturer has their own proprietary plug. They have to include a cable because none of my other 20 cables will work with the darn thing. I recently got a new cell phone. Same manufacturer, different model. You guessed it. I've got another USB cable in my collection. Wouldn't it be nice if everything had a standard plug and didn't have the cable included? Think of the money that could be saved. Wait a minute! Then they couldn't sucker people into paying \$20 for 3 dollars' worth of wire.

Another thing that makes me mad are End User License Agreements (EULA). I'm one of the few people who research them before installing anything on my computer. My complaint isn't the fact that lawyers write them. I can use the Internet to explain the legal terms. My objection is that I have seldom found a EULA that can be read full screen. Instead they write them in a little window that usually covers about a tenth of my screen. I think this is done to discourage people from reading the agreements. Just get them to click "I agree" and get it over with.

I can live with SPAM (I usually don't even see it). I don't mind getting bombarded with Internet advertisements (I can always go to other sites). What I hate is when websites pop up a window asking for information that they will likely never use. For instance, there is a website that I won't name that wants to know my age, sex and country. They then store the data in a cookie on my computer. When I tell them that I'm a 28-year-

old female, I get the same advertisements as the dirty old men get. Why do they waste my time? I also dislike software that isn't user-friendly. Some programs have windows that can't be resized. I'm getting older and my eyesight isn't what it used to be. If I can't make the window bigger and read the font, I likely won't use the software. Then there is software that won't let you choose where to install it. I don't install all programs into "program files". Many times, I don't even install them on the C drive.

I wonder if Microsoft will ever fix one little thing that has bugged me for as long as I remember. When you use File Explorer to copy, move or delete a list of files, Windows estimates how long it will take. If you're doing an operation on a lot of files, the estimated time will change every time you check it. On older systems it can be even more aggravating. Wouldn't it be nice if the estimate was close once in a while?

Hate might be too strong of a word, but I've always disliked how companies will use a proprietary document format. The perfect example is word processing. Why must each program have a different extension? Is it good for a business to make consumers remember .doc, .odf, .wps, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, .abw, .abi and hundreds of others? Almost all word processing software has a save as feature to save files to other formats. They can't be that much different. Why isn't there a standard where all programs save in a standard format? After all, this idea seems to work well for HTML Internet files.

That's enough ranting and complaining. Next month I promise to write something useful for the newsletter. By the way, did I mention that the two water filters had two different prices? Does that remind you of anything else technology-related?

Keep on clicking and thanks for reading.

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*{Ed. note: When a web site asks for your personal info, such as your name, age, gender, or even an email address, and you really want what the site is offering in return, there's often no need to enter your REAL profile details. On the web, stay as anonymous as you can, as often as you can. Your info is used, traded, and sold on the web more so than magazine subscriptions were.}*

### Member Ads

Ads are available for free to SHCC members, and are limited to computer-related items for non-commercial purposes. Any ad shall be a maximum of twelve newsletter lines of text. Deadline is two weeks before the next club main meeting date.

## Web Page Reviews

by Paul Baecker — [webwatch@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org](mailto: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.

AVAST/Nord VPN hacked in 2019.

<https://cynmackley.com/2019/11/05/avast-nord-vpn-hacked/>

After a breach, should you still trust your VPN?

<https://www.pcmag.com/commentary/371833/after-a-breach-should-you-still-trust-your-vpn>

What does a VPN security audit really prove?

<https://www.pcmag.com/article/371839/what-does-a-vpn-security-audit-really-prove>

NordVPN and TorGuard VPN breaches: What you need to know.

<https://www.pcmag.com/commentary/371471/nordvpn-and-torguard-vpn-data-breaches-what-you-need-to-know>

A Windows 7 and Ubuntu Linux dual boot guide.

<https://www.lifewire.com/ultimate-windows-7-ubuntu-linux-dual-boot-guide-2200653>

How to: Simple upgrade to an SSD.

<https://davescomputertips.com/how-to-simple-upgrade-to-an-ssd/>

Has someone asked you to go get a gift card to pay for something? DON'T!

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2018/05/asked-pay-gift-card-dont>

SSDs without their own RAM are appearing on the market as a way to make the speed of an SSD available at lower prices. But is this tradeoff worth it, and why do SSDs even have RAM, anyway? (5-min. video)

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

How should you destroy old USB flash drives so that sensitive information cannot be recovered from them? The answer applies to any type of digital storage hardware.

<https://langa.com/index.php/2019/07/16/how-should-you-destroy-old-usb-flash-drives-so-that-sensitive-information-cannot-be-recovered-from-them/>

DNS-over-HTTPS will eventually roll out in all major browsers, despite ISP opposition. Good for surfers!

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/dns-over-https-will-eventually-roll-out-in-all-major-browsers-despite-isp-opposition/>

Like Facebook, Twitter, and the rest, Google has always been about collecting, manipulating, and mining the data we happily supply it. Can you do anything about it?

<http://www.thegeeklyweekly.com/2018/12/>

3 ways to run Android apps on Windows.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/3-ways-run-android-apps-windows/>

How to add "Boot to Advanced Startup" Options to the Windows 10 context menu.

<https://www.techsupportalert.com/content/how-add-boot-advanced-startup-options-windows-10-context-menu.htm>

6 Tips for Windows 7 end of life and support.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/windows-7-end-of-life-support/>

Why am I seeing that ad?

<https://cynmackley.com/2019/02/23/why-am-i-seeing-that-ad/>

**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.