



THE WYSIWYG



October 2021

Volume 33 Issue 8

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, Michigan 48311-0385

MAIN MEETING: TUESDAY OCTOBER 5 7:00 PM

Meeting room is open from 7PM to 9PM only. Be on time!!!

Faith Baptist Church
34950 Little Mack Ave,
Clinton Township, MI 48035

Located on the south-east corner
of 15 Mile Rd and Little Mack Ave.

➔ This is the SAME room location where we met
when Baker College owned the building.



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This Month's Main Meeting Topic:

PC Tools for Windows

We will discuss and demonstrate various software tools to help keep our Windows PCs maintained and secure, as well as show how to surf the web safely. It's about news you can probably use!

This will be an interactive session.
YOUR comments are important, too, to share how we maintain and protect our PCs.

Note the meeting location specifics above.
The meeting room is only open to our group from
7pm to 9pm.

Building door opens at 7pm — *please be prompt and settle in quickly.*

Face masks are optional.

Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before deciding whether or not to become a member. July and August do not 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 the city of Sterling Heights.

DUES: \$30/YEAR

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

2021 SHCC Officers – Thanks for all your hard work!!!

President	Don VanSyckel	President@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org
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Secretary	Paul Baecker	Secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org
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Resource People

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General Computer Questions	Jack Vander- Schrier
Hardware	(open)
MS Publisher	Paul Baecker
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
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(Use the appropriate e-address for your questions/comments.)

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Club Dues Amounts

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

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

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

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

Two-Month Meeting Schedule

October 2021
 5 - SHCC Main Meeting
 10 - SEMCO meeting

November 2021
 2 - SHCC Main Meeting
 14 - 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



Well, we finally made it back to a live meeting last month. Yahoo!! It was good to see everyone. As you read last month, we are meeting at Faith Baptist Church in Clinton Township. To refresh your memory, we met at Baker College's Clinton Township campus through February 2020. We were evicted, if you will, due to Baker College's plans to move the campus and sell the property. We made arrangements to meet at St. Thomas Lutheran Church on 15 Mile Road just east of VanDyke, but Covid shutdowns happened and we never met at St. Thomas. When I reached out to St. Thomas in preparation to resume live meetings I was surprised by the news that the church property had been sold. (Do you see a trend here?)

In the meantime, Baker College's plans to move to a new campus were squashed by neighbors at the proposed new site; this caused the deal with their initial buyer for the property to fall through. Eventually Baker College sold the property to Faith Baptist Church.

Back to our journey... After learning about St. Thomas property being sold, we looked around and found that we could use a room at Faith Baptist Church. As fate would have it, we are back in the exact same room we used when the property belonged to Baker College. How's that for a twist?

Well it sounds like a happy ending for us, but not quite. Faith Baptist closes the building after business hours, where Baker College had night classes, a library, and cleaning staff in the building at night. For the off-hours usage, Faith Baptist requires a building attendant to let us in, resolve any issue, and lockup after we leave. For this there is a per-hour charge which adds an additional \$50 charge to each meeting.

With the number of members we have and the cost per meeting plus other expenses, we can continue as is for possible a year or more but a sustainable solution is needed.

There are several ways to solve this issue or a combination of more than one approach:

1. We can raise dues; our dues are low compared to some clubs.
2. We can stay at Faith Baptist and meet during the day, eliminating the extra charge.
3. We can find another location to meet at, either at night or during the day.

The officers are currently looking at a few options and need more time to scout out additional options. The one thing that is not site dependent is the question about changing the meeting time from evening to during the day. We should discuss this at the meeting to get a read on club member thoughts about this. Once the officers get a handle on all the options, we will probably send out

a survey to collect member preferences.

As of writing this column, we do not have a presenter lined up. Typically it takes a while to arrange presenters and the pipeline dried up while we did virtual meetings. We are working with an outside group about presenting but as a fall back there are a couple SHCC members chomping at the bit to do a presentation.



Gizmo Is Back!

News and/or Opinion from the Editor

You may have visited the *Gizmo Freeware* web site in the past. For many, many years it has been probably THE site available on the web to help you find the *best free software* for whatever it is you want to do with/on your Windows or Apple or Linux computer or iPhone/iPad or Android phone/tablet. It was the premier place to get suggestions, reviews and descriptions of the best and safest offerings out there.

Its demise was announced in July, but it is now back in service, with a new design and layout and new name: **Gizmo's Best**. They identify it comically as "*staffed entirely by volunteers. Run by morons for morons.*"

They also state that "*the best freeware programs are as good as or better than their commercial counterparts but finding the most appropriate program can be challenging. Sure, there are dozens of freeware download sites on the web, but few of these actually help you select the best program for your needs. That's what we do here. No downloads, just honest advice and useful guidance.*"

It remains to be seen whether the new stewards of the site will continue the high level of quality and quantity of offerings and information that we were accustomed to in the past. I remain hopeful.

The web location stays the same:
<https://www.techsupportalert.com>

As they state, we have choices. There are free software offerings out on the web that meet or exceed the performance of retail software, and vice versa. But the options in each arena are there for us to choose from, to satisfy our computing wants and needs. Free software is created by software designers (professionals and hobbyists and companies and organizations) around the world who offer their products to us all, with no expectation of remuneration (although donations are sometimes welcomed, but not required).

Always be sure to scan *any* files that you download with your security software before using them or installing them. Just in case, no matter their source. And it takes just seconds.



HDMI vs. Mini HDMI vs. Micro HDMI: What's the Difference?

By Tim Brookes

<https://www.howtogeek.com>

The HDMI standard has established itself as a mainstay of the post-HD digital age. While new versions have arrived and speeds have increased, the connectors have remained the same since their initial introduction.

So what's the difference between standard HDMI, Mini HDMI, and Micro HDMI?

What Is HDMI?

To understand the different varieties of HDMI cables in use, it's a good idea to get a basic understanding of what HDMI is. HDMI stands for High Definition Multimedia Interface. It's a digital standard designed to transport video and audio from a source (like a Blu-Ray player or game console) to a display or recorder.

A standard "A-type" HDMI Connector:



HDMI has seen several iterations, each increasing the bandwidth throughput to allow for higher resolutions and increased framerates. The [latest standard is HDMI 2.1](#), which allows for 48Gbps total throughput, or enough bandwidth for an uncompressed 12-bit 4K HDR signal at 120Hz.

Regardless of whether you're using full-fat HDMI (also known as Type-A) or a smaller variant, the standard uses 19 pins to carry various signals including video and audio, clocks to keep things in sync, 5V of power, and even Ethernet data.

A standard Type-A HDMI cable, like the one you would find in the back of your TV or a game console, uses a relatively large 14 x 4.55 mm connector that can only be inserted one way.

(Continued on page 10.....HDMI)

Club Officer Election Announcement and Officer Duties

Our SHCC officer elections are held at the November main meeting.

Generally at this time each year, the duties for each of the officers of the club and the nomination and election process is printed here in the newsletter. This year we'll do it a bit differently. You can review the individual officer duties and the election process on the SHCC web site, in the special members-only section.

The President will be sending an email to you, briefly outlining the processes, and including the members-only web page URL, where you can review the information at your leisure.

It should be mentioned here that every member should take a moment to consider volunteering for an office, to give back to the club for everything that you get from being a member. YOU can take the opportunity to help shape the club for the next calendar year. Even though any member can make suggestions and recommendations to the officers, the officers make most decisions about changes as needed and requested.

So, think about it. Nominate yourself for an office, or nominate a fellow member (with his/her consent first, of course). We all look forward to a healthy nominee selection for each office!

Officer nominations will be open at the September, October, and November meetings. Elections occur in November (after nominations are closed) for a term in the next full calendar year.



Friendly Caller

News and/or Opinion from the Editor

On Aug. 13 the Macomb County Office of Senior Services started the **Friendly Caller Program**, which provides phone support to seniors 60 and older living in Macomb County.

The goal is to increase overall health and well-being by addressing and decreasing feelings of senior isolation and loneliness, particularly (but not exclusively) for those who are homebound, without family, friends or caregivers to call or check in on them regularly.

Volunteers will contact seniors who have enrolled in the program on a weekly basis to converse and share stories, memories and/or concerns.

See the web site address in the WebPageReviews on page 14 for details of the program and how to enroll.



What Is Doomscrolling and How to Stop It for Good

By Carly Chatfield

<https://www.makeuseof.com>

You've just put your phone down after what felt like fifteen minutes, but was actually more than two hours, engrossed in a steady stream of negative news stories. If any of this sounds familiar to you, you may be a victim of doomscrolling.



Read on to find out what doomscrolling is, why doomscrolling is bad for you, and some tips that will help you put a stop to the habit.

Doomscrolling, also known as doomsurfing, is a fairly recent concept. In fact, the terms have only recently been added to the dictionary. It describes the excessive amount of time a person may spend surfing social media and news sites absorbing negative news.

While the [average reader browses a balanced mix of both good and bad news](#), doomscrollers devote time to reading bad or depressing news. Often this is because users become so used to negative news that they seek it out, or because the only news for the day is negative.

Doomscrolling has been around for a while, but the term really took hold in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, when bad news seemed to be omnipresent and never-ending.

Humans are hardwired to seek novel and negative information, especially when it warns us of danger. With lots of negative news making headlines, doomscrolling is making people hypervigilant to negative information, overly anxious, and depressed.

Doomscrolling can also lead to a compulsive need to constantly check for bad news, [which is not only a time-wasting habit](#), but also unhealthy. The 24-hour news cycle provides a constant stream of bad news, so it's easy to lose track of time and surf endlessly for hours.

1. Start a Morning Ritual

It's easy to get into the habit of reaching for your phone first thing in the morning, and mindlessly start scrolling for a few minutes or hours.

Instead of starting your day on the wrong foot, absorbing bad news, it would be better to get into a morning ritual that is a screen free zone. Many people find they're better off with a morning meditation or a quick workout.

2. Limit Your Screen Time

You barely notice time passing when your eyes are glued to the screen. The easiest way to remind yourself it's time to finish scrolling your news feed is to set an alarm or download a [screen time limit app](#). iOS devices have a similar feature to restrict screen time built-in.

3. Avoid Social Media

One way to stop doomscrolling on social media is to delete your social media apps from your phone.

When you can only access your social media through your internet browser, it'll be more difficult for you to mindlessly grab your phone and start scrolling. Besides preventing doomscrolling, deleting social media has numerous other positive mental health benefits.

4. Make Time for Friends and Family

Planning and spending time with friends and family is a good way to get your hands off your phone. When you spend time with the people you care about, you will naturally reach for your phone less and enjoy the present moment more.

5. Practice Mindfulness

Mindfulness is the practice where you focus on being aware of what you are feeling and sensing in the present moment.

If you find yourself doomscrolling, pay attention to your body's feelings and sensations. When you notice how much anxiety the bad news is causing you, it should motivate you to stop the harmful behavior.

Doomscrolling is a waste of time and harms your mental health. When it comes to quitting doomscrolling for good, perhaps the most important step is to take action to fix the nasty habit.

Once you become aware of your bad habit, you've already taken the first step towards repairing your mental health and kicking the habit for good.

3 Apps That Help You Stop Doomscrolling

Getting worn down by an endless supply of bad news on your phone? [These three apps](#) will help you quit doomscrolling and boost your mental health.

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Will Your Current Windows 10 PC Accept Windows 11?

News and/or Opinion from the Editor

The day is just about here. Windows 11 will be officially released on Tuesday October 5. Can you bear the anticipation???

A better question is whether your current Windows PC will even accept this new Windows operating system. For many of us, it won't be an issue. But for many of the rest of us, with older PCs, we may be unpleasantly surprised to learn that our computing device will never see the light of Windows 11...or any future Windows version beyond it, if Microsoft chooses to fib to us again.

Microsoft released a "PC Health Check" tool when they introduced Windows 11 back on June 24. The tool was designed to inform a Windows PC user about the specifications required to install Windows 11, and whether the respective PC was Windows 11-ready.

But the tool had its problems, in that it gave insufficient details when it reported conditions that would cause Windows 11 to not install on the PC, and the tool also reportedly gave inaccurate results anyway.

Well, they have redesigned and re-released the tool. You can download it and install it on your current Windows 10 PC, and run it to get the good or bad news. (Windows 7 and 8.1 systems need to be upgraded to Windows 10 first.)

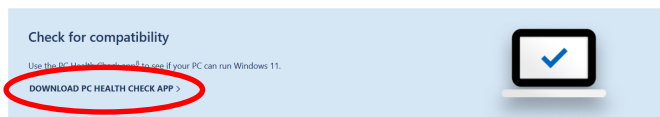
Go here to get the tool:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-in/windows/windows-11#pchealthcheck>

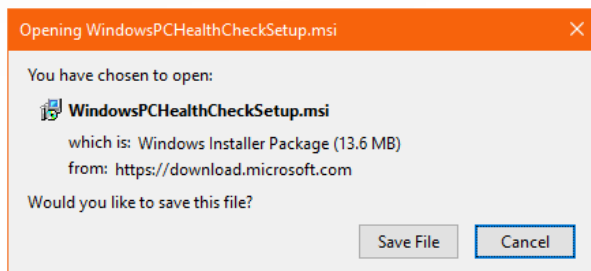
About 3/4 of the way down the page find this heading:

Get ready

Windows 11 isn't here yet, but will be coming later this year. If you're excited, there are some things you can do in the meantime to get ready.



In that large blue box, click on "DOWNLOAD PC HEALTH CHECK APP". This box should appear:



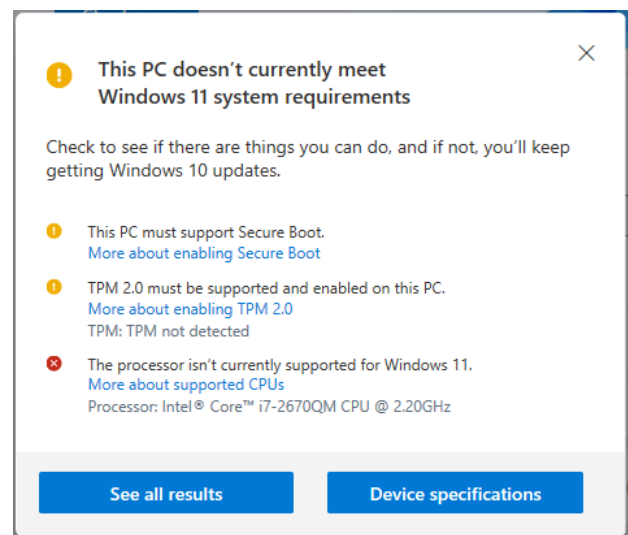
Save the **WindowsPCHealthCheckSetup.msi** file to your PC. Find this file (it's probably in the Downloads folder,

unless you changed the folder where you save downloaded files). Double-click the file to install it. An MSI file is an executable file format (as EXE and COM and BAT files are), so when you see an MSI file, be sure you know what you are doing before executing (double-clicking on) the file.

On the final installation window, you have the option of adding a shortcut to the desktop — put a checkmark in that box, in case you want to run the tool again at a later date. Since the "Open Windows PC Health Check" statement is check-marked, the tool will run when you click on FINISH.

The large "PC health at a glance" window appears. You can click on the blue "Check now" box to run the checker.

The following image is the results for the PC that I used to prepare this WYSIWYG newsletter:



If I click on the blue **See all results** button, I will also be informed of other specifications that are Windows 11 important. (A scroll bar will appear for me to scroll down for these other results). Each item that is rejected by MS has a blue "More about..." statement to take you to respective explanations on individual web pages. So, obviously, this PC is out of luck. (Note: The key word here is "currently".)

For laptop PC users, there is a useful tool back on the "PC health at a glance" screen. Scroll down to the **Battery Capacity** option. Note the "percentage (%) of the design capacity" note. It reports that my PC's battery has only 71% of its original capacity left. VERY good stuff to know!!!

Battery capacity 71% of the design capacity

So, unless Microsoft changes their plans, you may have a PC that will cease to be a Windows-supported computer in a rather short 4 years. What to do then? Purchase a new Windows 11 PC? Perhaps. Or switch your Microsoft-abandoned PC to Linux? It will be amazing to see how much better the presently excellent Linux OS will be in four years, when so many Windows users choose to permanently abandon Windows and Microsoft's ways.



Keep Up With Your iPhone/iPad Apps

By Jim Cerny, Director,
Sarasota Technology Users Group
www.thestug.org
director3@thestug.org

Technology “apps” (short for “applications” or “software”) are doing so much to help us in many ways. You probably have noticed that your apps need updating and if you do not have “auto-update” turned on in your settings, then you should be updating your apps whenever there is an update available. Updates improve the app, hopefully, resolve problems, and add new features too. You may have noticed that your favorite apps DO change – different colors, menu choices, options, and images. Are you aware of the latest changes to the apps you love and use most?

It’s hardly any trouble to update an app but rarely do people take the time to find out what is actually in the update. There could be some hidden treasures there waiting for you! The iPhone, for example, has some big updates (almost annually) which can make the “look and feel” of your iPhone (or iPad) quite a bit different. But many updates to most apps do not make big changes to what you see on your screen, but change some things “behind the curtain”.

Are the apps on your iPhone or iPad being updated automatically? To find out, touch “Settings” on your iPhone (the logo looks like a gear wheel), and then scroll down a bit to touch “iTunes and App Store”. Here you will see a list of several options – look under “Automatic Downloads” for “App Updates” – the sliding button to the right will be GREEN if it is ON and gray if it is not. I would recommend that you turn this ON. Note that even if this is turned “on”, the latest updates may not be installed immediately, it may take some days.

Why not make a shortlist of those apps you use most often? On my list, for example, would be my weather (WeatherBug), calendar, photos, messages, and Google maps to name a few. To find out the updates that have been “released” or made available for any app -- on your device start by touching the “App Store” icon and then, in the search bar, enter the name of your app (such as “WeatherBug”). You will see an oval box that will say “open” or “update” if that app needs updating. Now touch that app and it will open the App Store description about that app. Touch on the text “Version History” to see a list of the latest updates AND what each update did.

Many updates just fix internal bugs or problems and do not change anything you see on your screen. But is it always wise to take a few minutes and ask Google “What new features are on the ‘WeatherBug’ app?” and you will be given a list of articles that describe the new

or latest included features. Scan over this list to see which of these changes affect you and how you use that app. (I am just using “WeatherBug” as an example). Some of the things I learned was that I could customize my starting screen that appears when I open this app, I can put what most interests me first on the screen. I also learned how to add and delete any city’s weather on my list so I can easily see the weather in other places on earth. Then I noticed many options I had no idea were included in that app! To be honest, most of them did not interest me, but several did. This is true of ANY app.

Many of us (myself included) go along and keep using our favorite apps and never become aware of the new options included in recent updates. So why not “take an app a day” and ask Google about it? You are certain to learn some new things that will make you even better at using and enjoying the apps you love.

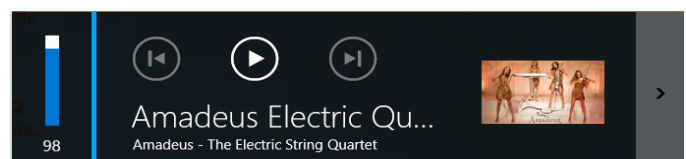
This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author’s permission for publication by APCUG member groups.



Control Video Widget in Firefox

News and/or Opinion From the Editor

If you use the privacy-oriented Firefox as your web browser, you may have recently seen this video control widget box at the top left corner of the browser window when you play a video. It takes up quite a bit of real estate, and hides some browser control features when it pops up.



If you like it, great.

But if you, as I, don’t really like it or need it (the video controls are available in the actual playing video window as well), you can disable this black box from displaying in Firefox. There is a link to a very short article in the WebPageReviews on page 14 to walk you through the easy steps to disable it. Note that the volume control (the blue vertical control) indicator to the left is not part of the larger video control window.



How To Move Program Folders To A Different Drive

<https://davescomputertips.com>

FolderMove is a tiny free and portable utility that provides a simple method for transferring installation/program folders from one drive or partition to another drive or partition without breaking anything.

I first wrote about [FolderMove](#) back in 2018, not long after its initial release. The original concept was to help free up space on an overcrowded system (C) drive by moving bulky program folders to a different drive or partition. However, since SSDs have dropped quite significantly in price with more and more users transitioning to smaller but faster solid-state drives, I thought this excellent little free and portable software was well worth an updated mention.

Many users are choosing to migrate their HDD system drive to an SSD while retaining the older drive for storing data. My own machines are set up this exact way, with a 250 GB SSD system drive plus a secondary internal 1 TB HDD for data. This compromise provides for a faster system drive while helping to ensure that it doesn't fill too quickly.

In some cases – on systems where a lot of hefty programs and/or games are installed, for example – it can be helpful to move installation/program folders from the SSD over to the HDD. While transferring (moving) personal data over to a secondary drive/partition is a relatively simple process, moving installation folders is a lot trickier. Because quite a few other processes/files/etc. need to access installation folders, you can't simply move them to another location without letting the other resources know where you've moved them to. To achieve this, you can go through a complex, tedious, and risky process of editing the Registry, or simply use FolderMove to easily create symbolic links.

FolderMove Download & Usage

The download consists of a single 265 KB executable that scans 100% clean through Virus Total. Simply double-click the downloaded executable to run the software (no installa-

tion required):

As you can see from the above screenshot, using FolderMove is as simple as 1-2-3:

1. Select the folder you want to move
2. Select the destination
3. Click the **Move and set Symbolic link** button

FolderMove automatically creates a symbolic link in the original location pointing to the new location. In layman's terms, a symbolic link is merely a "pointer" to another location. Any associated resources or processes looking for the installation folder will still go to the original location but will then be instantly redirected to the new location — for example when you click a shortcut to run a program or game that has been moved, the shortcut will still lead to the original location but will then be instantly redirected (or pointed) to the new location.

Say, for example, you have a 100 GB game installed on the system (C) drive. You use FolderMove to move that game's installation folder to a secondary drive or partition and all that remains in the original location is a tiny symbolic link, you have just freed up near enough to 100 GB on the system drive.

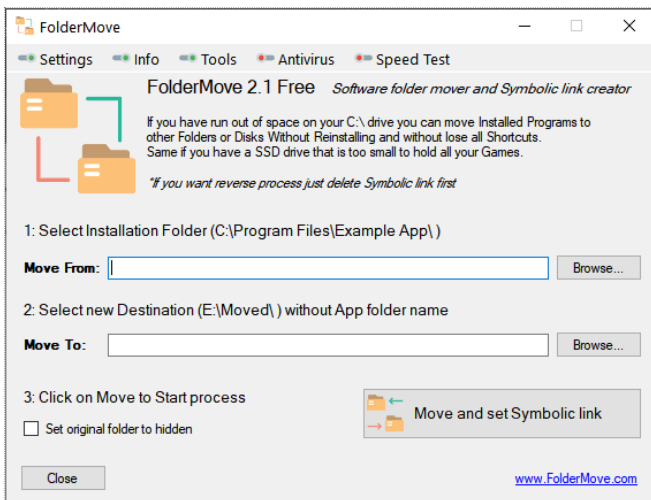
BOTTOM LINE:

<p>Completely Free</p> <p>It's a 100% free software for private, non-commercial use.</p>	<p>Nothing to install</p> <p>A small executable file "265KB" to take with you anywhere.</p>
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With FolderMove, even novice users can easily move installation/program folders from one drive or partition to another. No technical skills required, FolderMove does everything for you in just three simple steps.

This article is republished, with permission, from the DavesComputerTips web site.

{Editor's note: Be sure to have a full system backup available before trying this, just in case things don't go as expected.}



How Much Rain THIS Time?

News and/or Opinion from the Editor

The Macomb County Public Works Office maintains 22 rain gauges throughout Macomb County. A link to download a map, showing 22 rain gauges, is provided on their web page (see [WebPageReviews](#) on page 14). These rain gauges continuously record precipitation data on a 5-minute interval.

There is also an interactive map that provides near-real-time rainfall data as well as historical data for download. The data provided in this interactive map is raw and will be reviewed by Macomb County Public Works Staff on a monthly basis for quality assurance.

Daily rainfall volume summaries by month are provided as well.



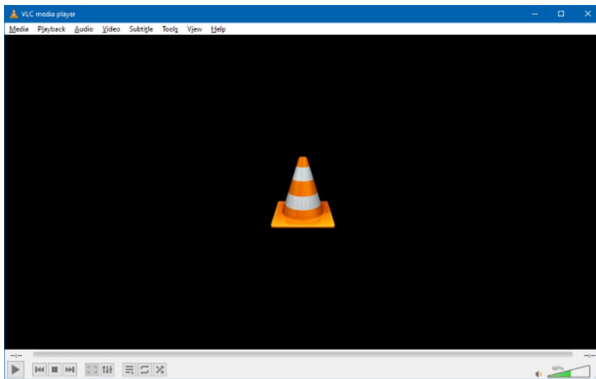
A Brief Tour of the VLC Media Player

By Tom Burt, Vice-President
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
<https://www.scscc.club>
tomburt89134@cox.net

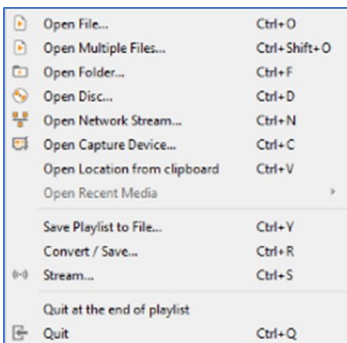
The free VLC Media Player, by non-profit VideoLAN Corporation, is a useful and powerful program for playing all types of audio and video files, including video DVD and Blu-ray disks. It also is able to convert audio and video files from one format to another.

The VLC Media Player has versions for Windows, Mac OS and LINUX. You can download it from: www.videolan.org. The VLC installer from the VideoLAN website does not attempt to install any extra junkware, but always pay attention as you click through the setup dialogs. During the setup, you can choose the audio and video file types for which VLC will become the default player. Once VLC is installed, double clicking on one of its file types, such as .MP4 files, will launch VLC to “play” that file.

VLC can directly play Adobe Flash Videos (.FLV files) downloaded from web video sharing sites such as YouTube.com. This can be helpful if you want to build your own collection of YouTube videos and play them on your PC monitor or even stream them to your HDTV.



As you can see in the above screen shot, the VLC user interface is quite simple, featuring a menu bar at the top, the main video window and then player and volume controls at the bottom.



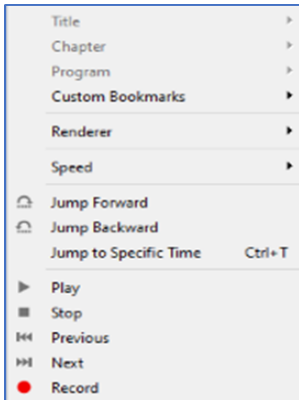
Media Menu

The VLC Media menu is the gateway to all operations involving files. Commonly, if you have double clicked a media file, VLC will just start up and play that file.

However, VLC can also play audio/video directly

from a capture device, such as a camcorder or it can play audio/video from a network stream, such as an Internet radio or TV station.

The Convert / Save function allows you to convert a set of files from one type to another – for example from .WMV to .MP4 or from .AAC to .MP3. We'll look at this in more detail below.



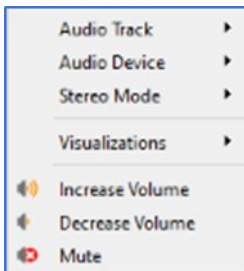
Playback Menu / Control

The Playback menu allows you to control the playback of the media file. Within a file you can control the playback speed (faster or slower), jump forward or backward or to a specific time.

If playing multiple files or a playlist, you can skip forward or backward to the next or previous file.

You can also record whatever is playing. This can be handy if playing a streaming video.

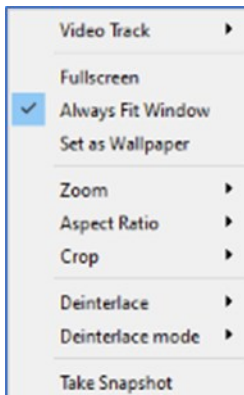
The Playback control at the bottom of the VLC window offers a set of graphical controls to manage playback.



Audio Menu

When playing an audio file, the Audio menu lets you control the audio playback, including turning on visualizations, stereo mode (stereo, left track, right track), what audio device to send the sound to, which track to play of a multi-track set, such as a CD.

You can also control the volume, although that is easier to do with the Windows volume control at the lower right of the screen.

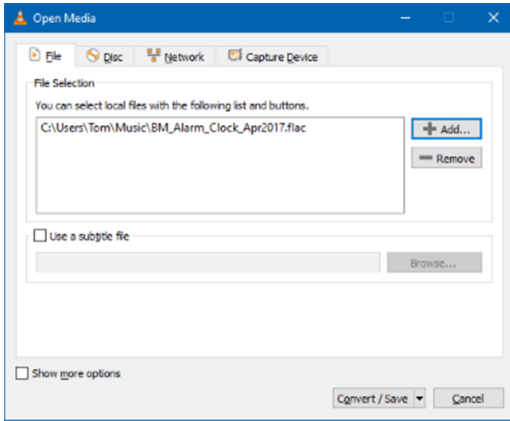


Video Menu

When playing a video file or disc, the Video menu lets you control the video playback. You can control which video track is played, switch to full screen and back and set the zoom factor and the aspect ratio of the video window.

You can crop the original video to only show part of the video on the screen. You can specify whether and how the original video should be deinterlaced. And you can grab

a particular video frame as a single image.

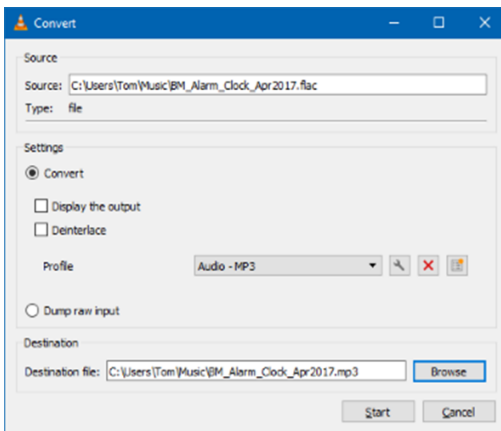


Media File Conversion

Finally, let's explore the VLC Media Conversion tool.

On the Media menu, click "Convert / Save". This dialog box will open

with an empty file list. Click the Add... button to add one or more files to the list to convert. The Convert/Save dropdown at the bottom right will become enabled. Click the down-arrow and then choose Convert.



That will open this second dialog box showing the name of the source file. In the dropdown at the middle, choose the desired resultant file type.

In this example, we are converting a music file format called .FLAC to the more common .MP3 file format. However, you can convert to and from many audio and video file formats. A common format conversion is camcorder .MOV video files to .MP4 video files for posting to YouTube or Facebook.

Once everything is set up, just click the Start button in the lower right of the dialog and the file conversion(s) will proceed.

The time required by VLC to perform a conversion will depend on the size and complexity of the file. Audio files are usually done in a few tens of seconds. Videos may take quite a bit longer.

So, that's a quick look at some of the features of VLC. I've only covered the basics. There are many more features in this very powerful program. Give it a try yourself.

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(HDMI.....Continued from page 4)

What Is Mini HDMI?

Mini HDMI, also known as Type-C, is a smaller version of the digital interface. The connector measures only 10.42 x 2.42 mm and also features 19 pins, though the arrangement is slightly different from the larger Type-A connector. It's not uncommon to find [HDMI cables with both a Type-A and Mini HDMI \(Type-C\) connector](#).

A "Type-C" mini HDMI connector:



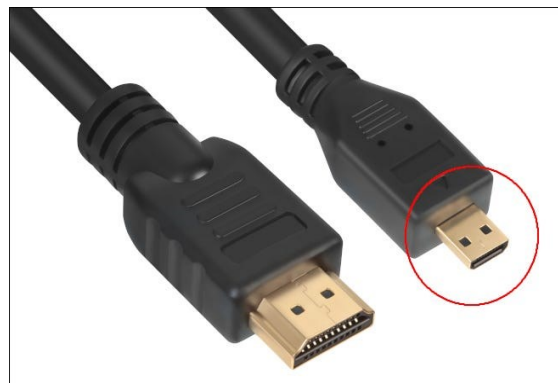
While there is plenty of interface room on larger devices like games consoles and televisions, smaller devices often need to conserve space. This is where Mini HDMI comes in, providing all the benefits of the HDMI interface in a much smaller form factor.

The most common devices that use Mini HDMI are digital cameras and camcorders. Some laptops also use the smaller form factor, as do some smaller computers like the [Raspberry Pi Zero](#).

What Is Micro HDMI?

Micro HDMI, also known as Type-D, shrinks the interface to an even greater degree. The connector is only 6.4 x 2.8 mm, but all 19-pins are present (though the layout is different from both standard and Mini connectors). Micro HDMI is less prevalent than the other two variants and has fallen by the wayside in recent years.

A "Type-D" micro HDMI connector:



(Continued on page 12.....HDMI)

'Tis The Season For Fraudulent Email

By David Kretchmar, Computer Technician
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You have probably already received emails that appear to come from a bank or other online service requesting that you verify account credentials. You might have been asked to provide personal information including account and credit card numbers and passwords. This is a standard **phishing** technique; oddly, the sender is asking for information they should already have.

Unfortunately, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen once again that phishing lures are mutating and they're often hard to recognize.

"If you can't spot a phishing email, you could be the next victim."

Phishing is a form of social engineering email attack in which the sender tries to gain access to login credentials, to get confidential information, or to deliver a virus. This is accomplished by tricking humans like you and me.

Scammers know there's a good chance that any message will be scanned for malicious content by the security software of your browser and mail provider. Google, Edge, and most other browsers are pretty decent about stopping known spam, but plenty still gets through. Scammers are constantly changing techniques.

Since the coronavirus pandemic started to unfold, fraudsters have wasted no time in trying to profit from the uncertainty and fear connected to the crisis. In March 2020, when this all started, there was a flood of COVID-19 themed spam, spreading malware, phishing for sensitive information, or offering bogus products.



According to Google, scammers were sending 18 million phishing emails about COVID-19 to Gmail users every day in March, which Google blocked. In April Google was blocking more than 100 million phishing emails a day. And these are just the phishing emails the tech giant blocked. Yet some still appear in your Inbox, and if you can't spot a phishing email, you could be the next victim.

It is no surprise that the coronavirus pandemic has become a top subject for attackers. The appearance

of any crisis brings new circumstances that provide a new environment for cybercriminals to innovate. At the same time, phishing attacks have also benefited from the number of new remote workers.

So how do you recognize suspicious emails?

Look at the sender email address

The sender's email address is the first place to look. If it looks "funny" or unfamiliar be careful with that message. You can check the email address by hovering your mouse over the 'from' address *but don't click*. Scammers' email addresses used to be anonymous or had very generic names with many numbers. Sometimes the sender's email address wouldn't match the sender's name or the body of the message.

Receiving emails about a problem with your account from financial institutions with whom you have no relationship is a laughable tell. But if you do get an email claiming to be from your bank, closely review the email address. The email address is sometimes the only sign of a scam, due to how professional



the messages look. If you feel the email might be legitimate, check your account the way you would normally access it (not a link provided in the email).

Keep in mind that any big outfit is going to have an eponymous address i.e., you contact PayPal at an address that includes paypal.com.

Be suspicious of attached files or unfamiliar links

Cyber criminals' emails might contain malware or send you to a malicious web destination. If you are at all suspicious, don't click. Legitimate service providers don't send messages requesting you to log in via an embedded link. Also, pay special attention to attached files – once they are opened, these attachments can install malware to give someone else control over your computer. They can then initiate attacks on other computers, including by sending spam (often infected) to every contact in your address book.

Watch for poor English

Poor grammar or words used in an unusual way are possible indications of phishing. Always be suspicious; looking for unusual language and vocabulary, or misspelled words can help prevent you from becoming the next victim. Poor spelling and other grammar mistakes are common with phishing emails that have been translated from other languages. This kind of clue is less common today because the quality of social engineering has improved, so you are likely to receive a more professional presentation. Another thing that can signal an attempted attack is

generic greetings such as "Dear recipient" or "Dear friend".

There's sometimes a purpose behind misspellings and poor syntax. Cybercriminals most successfully prey on uneducated computer users, knowing them to be less observant and therefore easier targets.

Is it too good to be true or is it frightening?

Social engineering focuses on two human weaknesses, fear and greed. Does the email promise you a windfall of cash? Does it suggest you inherited a fortune or will be paid a fortune to help someone move money out of their country? Here's an idea: Google for the same message, or a key phrase from that message. (highlight, right-click, search Google). You'll often see that many other people have received the same or similar fraudulent message.



Would-be cybercriminals using social engineering methods are very opportunistic. For example, this time of the year the names of shopping websites such as Amazon and Mayfair are used in sending out millions of emails claiming issues with your account or recent order and asking for personal information. They know consumers are most likely to have made purchases this time of the year.

The scammer wants to panic you into doing something. Don't be threatened by an email. Does the message urgently ask for help or otherwise appeal to your emotions? These are common techniques. Do not respond to an email threatening to suspend your account if you do not answer in a short time.

Homoglyph attacks

Homoglyph attacks rely on replacing characters in addresses with ones that look similar, or are the same, but belong to different alphabets. These attacks are extremely dangerous for users because there is a very limited chance of detecting the trick. Like the attack on PayPal users in which the address contained the "correct letters" taken from our Latin alphabet – with two exceptions. The attackers replaced both instances of the letter "P" with a "P" look-alike letter, but from a different alphabet. This "P" look-alike letter was taken from the Russian alphabet, where it is equivalent to the letter R. With this kind of attack, you are dependent on the other clues discussed in this article to protect yourself.

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(HDMI.....Continued from page 10)

Some Android phones like the Motorola Droid X, HTC One VX, Samsung Galaxy Note II, and LG Optimus G use these connectors. If these all sound old to you, you'd be right. Most Android phones now use the more ubiquitous USB-C connection, many of which can support HDMI output using a USB-C to HDMI adapter.

Arguably the most common devices to still use Micro HDMI are GoPro action cameras. The GoPro Hero 4, Hero 5 Black, Hero 6 Black, and Hero 7 Black all have Micro HDMI ports, while the Hero 8 Black and Hero 9 Black action cameras still use Micro HDMI with the Media Mod (sold separately).

HDMI Is Here to Stay (For Now)

The beauty of HDMI is how each new iteration maintains compatibility with previous versions. You can take an HDMI connection from an old laptop or Xbox 360 console and display it with no issues on a [brand new 8K television](#).

Contrast this with older analog standards which often require intermediary devices to convert SCART, component, S-video, or similar connections to digital-ready HDMI. Without such an interface it's difficult to display older consoles and computers on a modern television.



The latest standard of HDMI 2.1 is fairly new, with the first source devices like the [Xbox Series X](#), PlayStation 5, and NVIDIA's 30-Series graphics cards arriving in 2020. While standards are constantly moving forward,

HDMI 2.1 provides more than enough bandwidth for the foreseeable future.

HDMI 2.1 supports 10K streams at 120Hz with display stream compression, enhanced Audio Return Channel (eARC) for soundbars and home theatre receivers, audio formats like Dolby Atmos, and gaming features like native variable refresh rate (VRR) technology.

The Type-A connector is ubiquitous, and cables are easy to come by. If HDMI were to be replaced USB-C would likely be a prime candidate. HDMI over USB-C is already possible, though HDCP 2.2 support is currently limited to HDMI.

The only other technology that might unseat HDMI is some sort of wireless standard. While wireless display technology is useful for portable devices (and technologies like [AirPlay](#) already enable it), wireless technologies are notoriously vulnerable to interference. Thus, it makes

(HDMI.....Continued on page 13)

Windows Blue Screen of Death

By Dan Douglas, President
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At a recent learning center meeting, we reviewed what that dreaded Windows “blue screen of death” (BSOD) meant when it stated it was *performing a system dump*. Let me explain that in detail here.

When the operating system, which is Windows for most of us, encounters an abnormal or crash situation where it doesn't have a pre-determined way to recover, the BSOD will usually occur. In order to provide details about what programs were loaded at the time of the crash and what actions or clicks may have been processing, a system dump file is created. A system dump file is used by Microsoft to fix potential situations that caused the BSOD, from happening in future releases of Windows.

This is why Windows gets regular updates automatically from Microsoft. Each of those updates is designed to improve or correct the operation of different components of Windows or its applications. In those cases where the situation is so bad Windows can't even present the BSOD, the whole PC will just restart.

By default, Windows is set to create a dump file when a crash situation is encountered. If you do not want to create a dump file you can adjust that setting. Depending upon the version of Windows 10 that you're on, the manner to get to the advanced system settings tab can differ. This set of instructions will work on any:

- 1) Click on the control panel - if you can't find the icon, use the Windows 10 search bar at the lower left of your screen to locate it
- 2) Click on the System app
- 3) Click on Advanced System Settings or Advanced item
- 4) Click on Startup and Recovery - Settings
- 5) Under System Failure – check Write an event to the system log and Check Automatically restart
- 6) Where the Write debugging information is, click on the drop-down arrow and choose (none)

With these settings, your computer will not create a system dump file but will record an error in your system log file which is much quicker. I'm sure Microsoft will get lots of system dumps with similar situations as yours, without you having to clog up your hard drive with dump files to be uploaded to Microsoft.

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{Editor's note: A bit of Windows trivia: MS tells us that we will see no “Blue Screen of Death” in Windows 11. Blue? No. Black? Yes!! Still BSOD: “Black Screen of Death”}

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(HDMI....continued from page 12)

little sense for static devices like game consoles or Blu-Ray players to use a wireless connection, even if it cuts down on cable clutter.



Buying and Using the Right HDMI Cables

If you need to use a Mini or Micro HDMI (Type-C and Type-D) cable, your device probably came with one. Since most of these devices are limited to 4K and below (even at 60Hz), there's no need to worry about HDMI 2.1 in these instances.

If you are buying an HDMI 2.1 cable, you can [use a mobile app to verify that your cables have passed certification](#). New consoles like the Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5 will come with HDMI 2.1 cables and replacing these with aftermarket alternatives won't yield an improvement in image quality.

In fact, [we recommend avoiding “premium” HDMI cables altogether](#). While these promise superior shielding and high data throughput, they're no better than cheap cables.

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Door Prize Winners!

September 2021

Ron Linsley — Triangular safety light
Mike Bader — Blank DVDs
James Waldrop — Inspection flashlight
Patrick Little — 8-in-1 screwdriver set
Bernard DeFazio — CD carrying case
Paul Baecker — Construction knife

Web Page Reviews

Collected 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. ***Our club members only*** are encouraged to submit favorite sites (a description is optional) to the e-address noted above, for inclusion in a future WYSIWYG issue. Also check the SHCC web site (“Web Page Reviews”) for previous gems.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission lists all sorts of recalled products. View their details and company contact info. Search by date, hazard, or category. Download info into a CSV file (viewable as plain text, or in spreadsheet format). *Check this site often!!!*

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>

Fun interactive games to help improve fluency and confidence with many different basic math skills.

<https://www.tutorhunt.com/tutor-bot/>

How to enable or disable volume control and hardware media key handling in Mozilla Firefox.

<https://www.tenforums.com/tutorials/165129-enable-disable-volume-control-media-key-handling-firefox.html>

How do I remove invalid email addresses from auto-fill?

<https://askleo.com/how-do-i-remove-an-invalid-email-address-from-auto-fill/>

An overheating condition can cause a huge number of PC problems. Here's how to identify the condition early on, and what you can do to fix it.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/how-to-fix-overheating-computer/>

View current Macomb County rainfall data and mappings gathered from 22 rain gauges spread across the region.

<https://publicworks.macombgov.org/publicworks-rainfall>

Macomb County's “Friendly Caller” program helps seniors with feelings of isolation and loneliness.

<https://mca.macombgov.org/index.php/MCA-Seniors-FriendlyCaller>

Restoring an image backup from one computer to another.

<https://askleo.com/restoring-an-image-backup-from-one-computer-to-another/>

Almost all major websites -- including Google, Facebook, and Wikipedia -- run on a version of Linux. It's the same with the clouds and supercomputers. Celebrate the 30th birthday of Linux, August 25, 2021!!

<https://blog.ashampoo.com/en/2021-08-31/happy-birthday-linux>

Telling inspiring, positive, and often humorous, video stories about humans being good to animals (and animals returning in kind). Click on “videos” or “playlists”.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GeoBeatsAnimals>

Which email service should I use?

<https://askleo.com/which-email-service-should-i-use/>

Websites to listen to the radio in your web browser.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/best-websites-listen-to-radio-in-browser/>

Useful ways to reuse an old router (don't throw it away!).

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/ways-reuse-old-router/>

How to deactivate your Facebook account or delete it for good.

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/deactivate-delete-facebook>

7 red flags that someone is stealing your Wi-Fi. Is *your* home network sufficiently secured and locked down??

<https://www.rd.com/list/red-flags-someone-is-stealing-your-wifi/>

How to deal with when “unsubscribe” doesn't work.

<https://askleo.com/unsubscribe-doesnt-work/>

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.