

The Rochester Computer Society, Inc.
a computer club open to everyone

MONITOR

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Next Meeting - Tuesday, June 14

Flash Drives - Not Just for Storage; Bootable apps,
Linux on a Stick, etc. presented by Arpad Kovacs

Upcoming Presentation for July:

Mobile Payments - Leave Your Cash, Credit Cards and
Checkbook at Home presented by Jerry Seward

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How to manage passwords and use Dropbox
By Mike Hancock, Contributing Editor,
Golden Gate Computer Society

LastPass

GGCS guru Steve Shank told us that LastPass Password Manager is a powerful and flexible password manager that keeps your login information secure without your having to memorize all of it. You can automatically log in to any website once you have entered the username and password, once. This is achieved by setting up an account with your email address and a strong, complex master password that should be at least 12 characters long, and include upper and lower letters, numbers, and special characters.

All your passwords are encrypted "locally," that is, on your computer before the encrypted version is stored on your computer and is encrypted by a LastPass algorithm for every site you wish to access.

After creating your account, the LastPass download will appear as an add-on shortcut icon in your browser (LastPass works with all browsers). After you log in once with your Master Password, LastPass will then auto-fill all your

passwords for you.

The plug-in also has a shortcut to your vault of existing passwords and can generate new, super secure passwords for new websites.

A mobile version, LastPass Premium, is available for \$12/year. LastPass also allows you to save credit/debit card info, addresses, bank accounts, driver's license, and contact info. Having demonstrated LastPass, Steve also confirmed that it can handle certain multi-factor authentications that might apply to bank accounts, investment managers, etc., and even to your Master Password. It would be best to check with your facility to see if it's multi-factor service works with LastPass.

Finally, be warned that, if you forget your Master Password, you will not be able to recover your individual passwords, and LastPass cannot help you, because it doesn't keep your Master Password. So, it is essential that you be responsible for it.

LastPass does provide support, primarily through email. Your only fallback is to go to each website and use their method of password recovery, which can vary. Some sites may simply send you an email with a password reset. Others might require the answer to challenge questions. Perhaps your bank may require you to come into their branch in person.

Dropbox

Another GGCS guru, Marcelino Nogueiro, pointed out that, while many cloud storage programs, such as OneDrive, Google Drive, and Amazon Cloud Drive, exist, Dropbox has been around the longest, has the most users, and is the simplest of the cloud-based storage and file synchronization tools. This online storage service helps you share files between computers and mobile devices with the app installed. You can store and sync files by simply dragging and dropping them into the Dropbox shortcut icon on your desktop. These files are also available over the Internet using the Dropbox web interface.

You can share files (photos, for example) with others by creating a share file or folder. You can password-protect folders you share via email or if you share by sending a link the link is encrypted but anyone with the link can open the folder or file. Files are encrypted when you upload them and stay encrypted on the DropBox servers. Shared files are not encrypted after they are downloaded by the recipient.

When the DropBox program is installed and active, a green check marks appear on top of files and folder icon that have been synced and are up-to-date. By default, Dropbox syncs only files stored in a single, dedicated folder and subfolders. The default

Dropbox folder usually locates itself in C:\Users\<(username)\MyDocuments\Dropbox.

Dropbox offers 2GB of storage free, which is not a lot compared with competitors, but this amount can be increased to 16GB by introducing friends to the service, at 500MB/friend. Paid personal plans, called Dropbox Pro, include 1TB of space for

\$9.99/m or \$99/year.

For file collaboration, competing services, such as Google Drive, are better than Dropbox. It has applications for Windows, Mac, Linux, iPhone, iPad, Android, and Blackberry, and your files are available on any Internet-connected machine where Dropbox has been installed or has a web browser.

Once a folder or file has been synced, it is in Dropbox's cloud storage and can be deleted from your computer. Any time you use the Dropbox icon on your desktop, however, the files are also stored on your machine, so you haven't actually saved any storage space on the machine.

You can choose whether or not to sync automatically by turning off the instruction to sync in the Dropbox settings. A word of caution: if you have automatic sync turned on, files that you delete from the Dropbox folder on your computer will also be deleted from the Dropbox cloud storage.

If you only want to use Dropbox as a storage location in the cloud while being able to delete files from your local drive, do not use the sync feature; instead, use the Dropbox website to upload the files that you wish to store in the cloud.

From the June 2015 issue, GGCS Newsletter, www.ggcs.org, editor@ggcs.org

Interactive Tracking Websites

By Doug Palmer,
Tampa PC Users Group, FL

I have an extensive list of weird, odd and interesting websites that I've run across over the years. Here are two that might qualify as tracking maps as they track something. Most also qualify as interactive as the user has some control over the data seen.

<http://raidsonline.com/>

RAIDS Online is a free public crime map developed by BAIR Analytics. Crime mapping takes data available from law enforcement sources and makes it available to the public in a visual format. This is just one of several such websites available. Raids Online also has mobile apps available for Android and iPhones.

This map works much like Google Maps or other such maps on the Internet. A toolbar is on the left side of the screen that contains controls to specify multiple layers of data. At the top of the toolbar type in a city name, an address or even a zip code. The map will adjust accordingly. The Buffer section of the toolbar allows you to adjust the size of the area you wish to pinpoint. Below that are several filters that you can use to specify a date range, a long list of various events and crime to either include or exclude. Tabs on top allow you to view the data on the map, in charts or in a spreadsheet format. Once you have adjusted the area and events to your liking, you can create a daily or weekly email alert notification of crimes within a certain distance of your home or business.



<http://www.marinetraffic.com/>

The Worldwide Marine Traffic interactive map is serious fun for those who love to explore and tinker and learn. This site and several other similar websites are free Internet-based vessel tracking services. They do not require any user registration. They list the position of thousands of ships around the world. On occasion it's interesting to look specifically at the waters around Tampa Bay to see how many ships are out there, where they're from, where they're going, which are underway and which are anchored. Other times I'll pick out a really busy port somewhere in the world – there are many. Those ports make Tampa Bay look like a backwater! Here are a few basics from the FAQs.

Vessels over 299GT (Gross Tonnage) are required to have an AIS transponder on board, which transmits their position, speed and course, among some other static information, such as vessel's name, dimensions and voyage details.

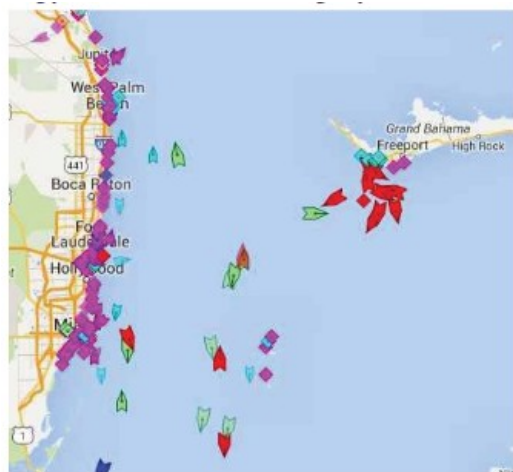
Data received are uploaded in the database in real time and are immediately available on the map and on other pages. However, several positions shown on map may not be continuously refreshed (e.g. when a ship goes out of range).

Vessel positions shown on the map may be up to one hour old. Please note also that map web page is only periodically refreshed or whenever the 'Refresh now' link is pressed manually.

There are numerous filters and controls. The shape of the icons tell you whether the ship is underway or anchored.

The color of the icon tells you what type of ship it is. Running your cursor over the icons will give you the name of the ship, the heading, speed, destination and age of the data. Left click on the icon to see bring up an information box with basic details of the ship along with a small image.

Inside that box is a button called 'Vessel Details' which will provide extensive information as well as one or more images of the ship.



From the December 2015 issue, Bits of Blue, www.tpcug.org, dkp205@hotmail.com

Ask Leo!

By Leo Notenboom, <https://askleo.com/>
Making Technology Work For Everyone

How Do I Remove PUPs, Foistware, Drive-bys, Toolbars, and Other Annoying Things I Never Wanted?

Casually installing one download may result in several other things being installed as well. I'll review the steps to remove these pesky, problematic, painful, Potentially Unwanted Programs, or PUPs.

Ending up with random software on your machine that you never wanted in the first place is annoying as all heck. And unfortunately, it's happening more and more. I'd say that PUPs (Potentially Unwanted Programs, although there's

rarely any “potentially” about it), rogue toolbars, and search-engine hijacks are some of the most common issues I see in my inbox.

I’ll talk a little about prevention, but first, let’s walk through the steps I recommend when you suddenly realize you’ve been saddled with software you didn’t know you’d agreed to and certainly never wanted.

Uninstall the somewhat well-behaved

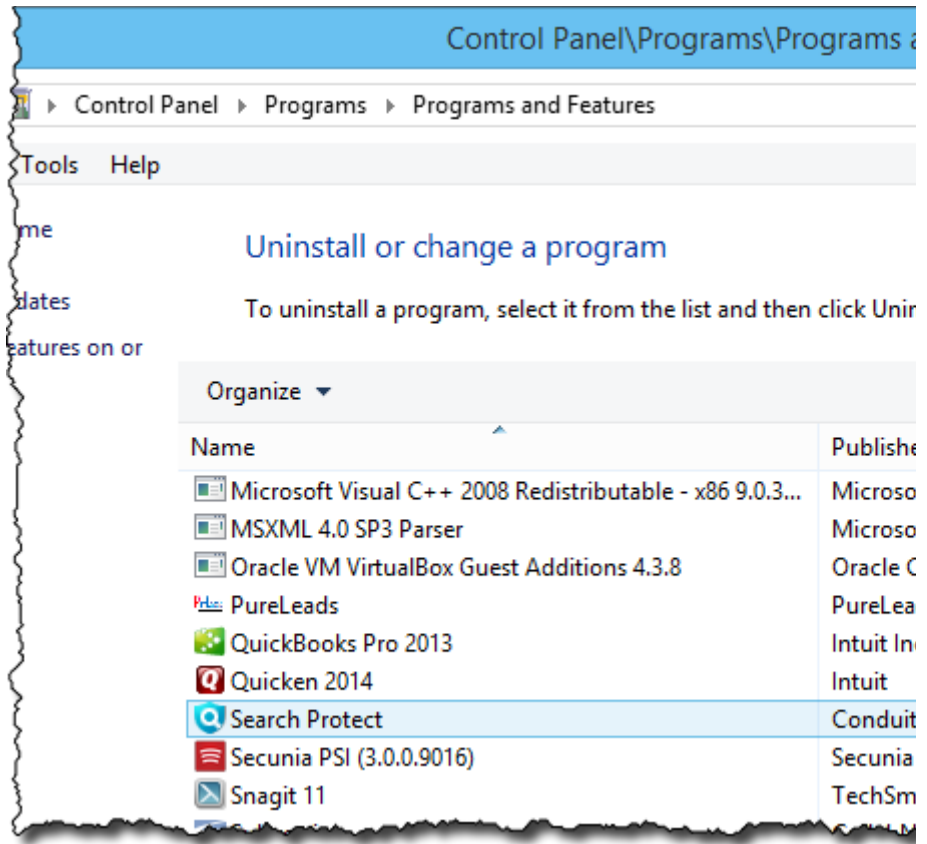
A number of unexpected toolbars and other applications that show up on your machine are “relatively” well behaved. They are somewhat easy to uninstall using official mechanisms.

What that means is that we start in Control Panel’s **Programs and Features**.

Look for the item by name. Sometimes that can be tricky, as applications are intentionally named obscurely to make them more difficult to remove, but the well-behaved items we’re looking for here should be relatively clear. Look for names that include the word “toolbar”, in particular, as those are some of the browser-behavior-altering pests that often put us in this scenario.

Right-click the item you want to uninstall and click **Uninstall**.

We’ll do the next steps even if it appeared to work, because in many cases there will be traces left over, and sometimes those traces simply cause the PUP to be reinstalled.



Run MalwareBytes

If you don’t have it already, download and install the [free version of Malwarebytes Anti-Malware](#). If it comes up, don’t bother selecting the free *trial* of their premium product.

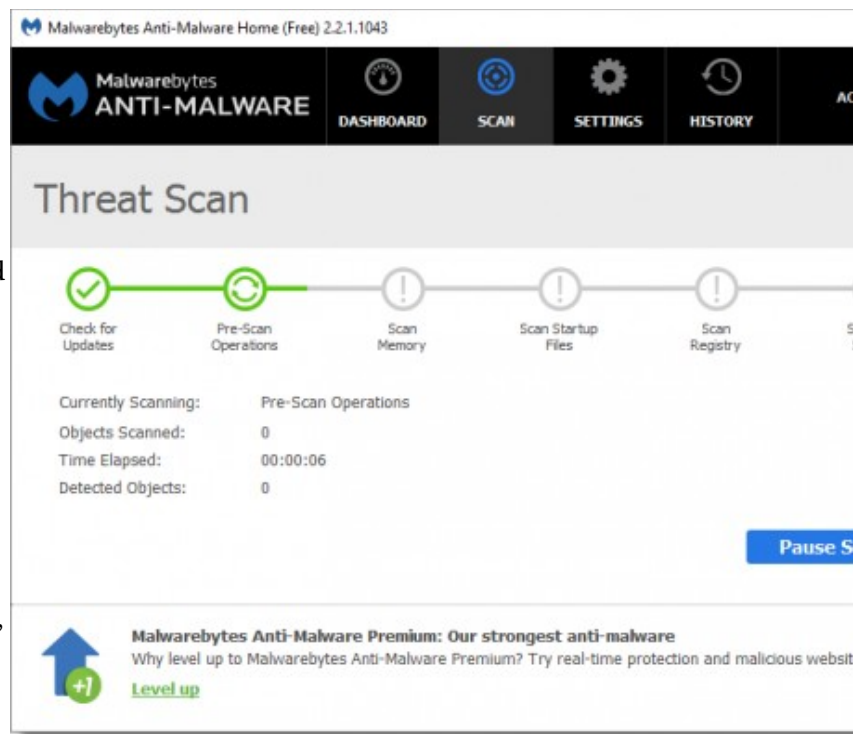
While it’s good and potentially worth the investment, it’s not what you need right now. Stick with the free version. After you open the program, it automatically updates its database. Click **Scan Now** to perform a scan. The Malwarebytes scan may take a while.

When it’s complete, you’ll get a notification if you have malware or PUPs.

Even if no actual malware is detected, potentially unwanted programs – PUPs – may still be found.

Malwarebytes will show you the entire list. You can review the list if you like, but in general, the correct next step is to simply quarantine everything. You will likely need to reboot.

A clean scan is your goal.



It's possible that Malwarebytes is unable to remove some PUPs. If that's the case (or even if it's not), I still want you to take one more step.

Run AdwCleaner

AdwCleaner is perhaps best [downloaded from our friends over at BleepingComputer.com](#). It's actually from France, and if you're not careful, you can easily end up on their French language website (or at least I did). That's not a big deal if you speak French, I suppose, but I don't, and I'm guessing many of you do not as well.

Speaking of being careful, remember to avoid advertisements that say "Download" or "Free Download." Those are *not* the programs you want. The button that I used simply read, "Download Now @BleepingComputer."

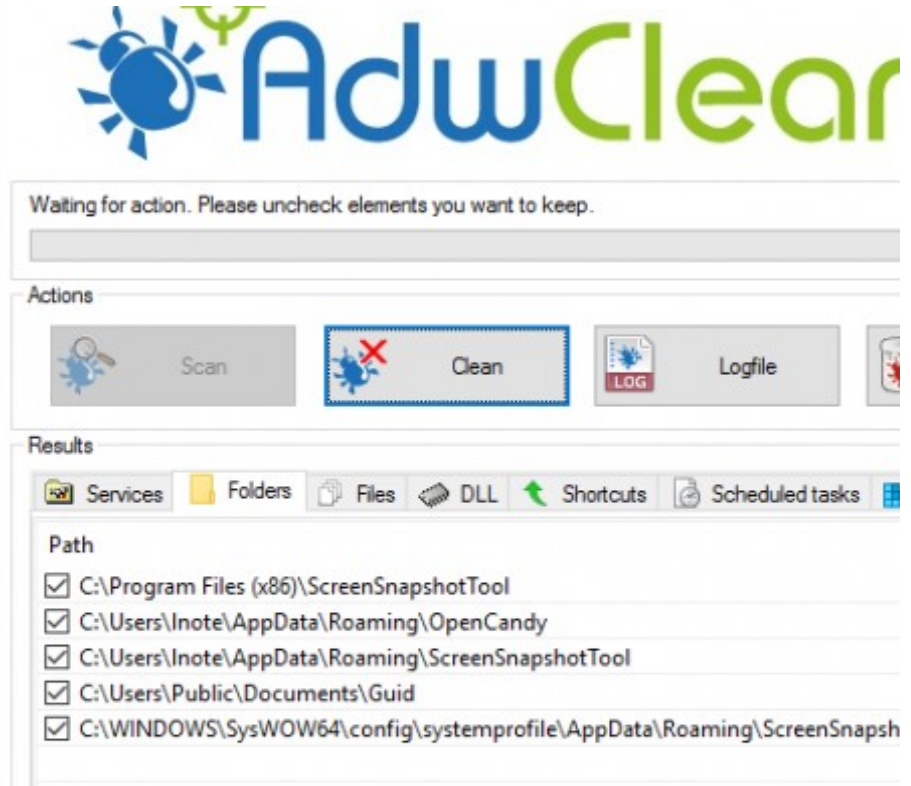
AdwCleaner has no install. Once downloaded, simply run it, and answer **Yes** to any UAC prompt.

Click **Scan**.

Once the scan is complete, AdwCleaner will present a message: "Waiting for action. Please uncheck elements you want to keep."

Click each of the tabs in the results box at the bottom of the AdwCleaner window. This will list each item it has found which it thinks is a candidate for removal.

Here you can see that AdwCleaner found several folder it thinks should be deleted. If you're not certain you need it, leave it checked. In other words, go ahead and let AdwCleaner clean up anything you don't recognize by clicking **Clean**. It first warns you that all programs should be closed.



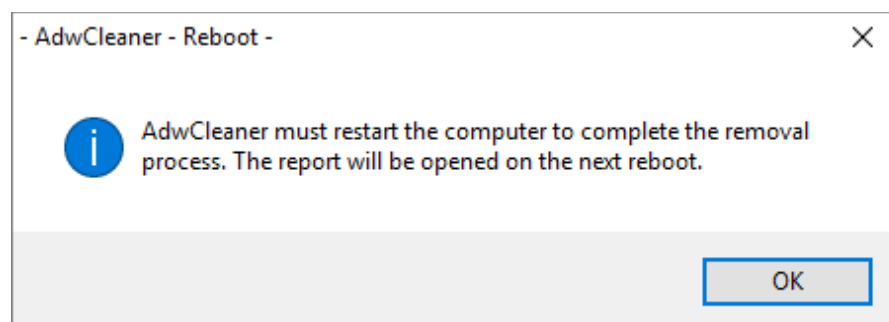
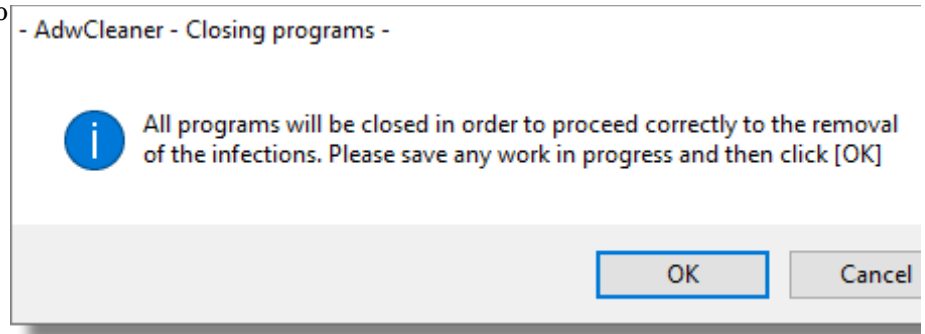
It will close many programs, including some that normally start automatically when you log in. AdwCleaner will likely require a reboot when it's done anyway, so those programs will return then.

AdwCleaner scans, cleans, and presents information on preventing this type of thing from happening in the future, similar to what I'll discuss below.

You'll then get a Reboot Required message.

Click **OK**, and your machine reboots.

After the reboot, AdwCleaner shows you a text file containing the results log of its operation in Notepad.



```
AdwCleaner[CT].txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
# AdwCleaner v5.112 - Logfile created 19/04/2016 at 18:47:22
# Updated 17/04/2016 by Xplode
# Database : 2016-04-19.5 [Server]
# Operating system : Windows 10 Pro (X64)
# Username : leon - NTENPMAC12WJRI8
# Running from : \\Mac\home\Synclocal\downloads\AdwCleaner.exe
# Option : Clean
# Support : http://toolslib.net/forum

***** [ Services ] *****

[-] Service Deleted : TheScreenSnapshotService

***** [ Folders ] *****

[-] Folder Deleted : C:\Program Files (x86)\ScreenSnapshotTool
[-] Folder Deleted : C:\Users\Inote\AppData\Roaming\OpenCandy
[-] Folder Deleted : C:\Users\Inote\AppData\Roaming\ScreenSnapshotTool
[-] Folder Deleted : C:\Users\Public\Documents\Guid
[-] Folder Deleted : C:\WINDOWS\System32\config\systemprofile\AppData\Roaming\ScreenSnapshotTool

***** [ Files ] *****

***** [ DLLs ] *****

***** [ Shortcuts ] *****

***** [ Scheduled tasks ] *****

***** [ Registry ] *****

[-] Key Deleted : [x64] HKLM\SOFTWARE\ScreenSnapshotTool
[-] Key Deleted : [x64] HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\{61FFE1F9-137D-4c31-A181-3415FCA65946}

***** [ Web browsers ] *****

*****

:: "Tracing" keys deleted
:: Winsock settings cleared
```

You can just close Notepad at this point.

The ultimate removal

Now, even with the tools I've outlined, and other tools that may also be used or may come along later, there's a real possibility that the unwanted software will still not be completely or successfully removed. This often happens when the PUP is new and the security-software makers are still catching up to the latest tricks it might be playing.

So, I have to include this to be complete. It's worthwhile to consider restoring to a [recent backup image](#). Restoring will make these things go away *every single time*.

If you have a back-up image of the machine as it was prior to these pests having been installed, you can simply restore your machine to that image, and they're gone. No fancy tools are needed, and you needn't just hope that it'll work.

Restoring to a prior backup works *every time*.

Presuming, of course, you have one.

Prevention

PUPs and related pests arrive in several different ways, but the most common method is by being "offered" to you when you install something else. Often, the offer is hidden and defaulted to Yes. The technicality is that by choosing this default (or not unchecking the appropriate box) when you install some program you've downloaded, you're actually *asking* for this other software, these PUPs, to be installed.

Don't do that.

Whenever you install any software – *even software you've purchased* – always choose the "Custom" or "Detailed" option. Choose whatever option is *not* the default option.

Then pay very close attention to every option you're presented. If it's offering you something that is not clearly related to the software you want, *uncheck it*. If it's offering to change your search page, *uncheck it*. If it's offering to install some toolbar, *uncheck it*.

You get the idea.

The bottom line is that if you're not careful when you install software – even software from reputable vendors – you may end up with things you never expected or wanted.

There's nothing "potentially" about it.

Newsletter Editors Note: I removed some of the graphics to save space, but you can go to Leo's website and see them all.

Avoid the “Let me do it for you,” as the perpetrators of these schemes cannot see what you see; simply because they are not you. This series is to avoid the pitfalls of following arbitrary sequences that will be messy to overcome later.

Bear in mind that every camera maker has a suggested routine. Every photo editor has a suggested routine. Every operating system has their application systems. These are not permanent and do change when marketing decides to kick out the old and try something else. Remember, the application that recognizes photo images first attempts to prevent any other systems from their capture. The suggestions in this paper are to provide a “first” system that will last a lifetime.

My attempt for keeping a main file in sequence allows easy file search by date. This gives permanent and track able ongoing archiving. This does not prevent using special purpose systems for special purposes, temporary, or otherwise – providing I put my master copies away before aggressive systems get there first.

Your point-and-shoot-cameras work like cell phone cameras. They tend to be: fast, easy, and correct most of the time. They are designed to do this for you so you have little to do aside from aiming. Operators can frame images and if there is no zoom the operator merely moves forward or back. If settings are required, compromises are made automatically that fit most situations for a decent picture.

A step further up the camera hierarchy allows operator to begin making a few decisions which in turn allow for a higher percentage of keepers.

When we increase the capabilities as with more advanced cameras, they all maintain the feature of selecting the option that will in effect let me do it for you. This is important for quick shots as required and making candid images. Heavens forbid! Don't allow this to rob you from being creative.

Saving Photo Files

When we save our digital camera files, it sounds like a simple thing to do. Yes it is. However, there are serious pitfalls that can occur and we should learn to avoid these.

Back when Kodak made point and shoot cameras that they said anyone can operate it. Yep, those Brownie film cameras had few knobs to turn. Was it simple? No, because it was new and using it must first be learned. Most difficult was getting a roll of film and using rewind spools. You advanced film to ‘ready’ by looking into a tiny window and search (forward only) and wind while looking at different sets of markers on film transport which could be for different cameras. You normally would look for sunlight to know if there was enough to use.

Yes, it was simple providing all conditions were within tolerance and you realized that errors you make can become seriously destructive.

Now for the digital world today, we have simple plug in cards from silver dollar size down to most popular dime sized. These cards are fairly rugged but electrical contacts are vulnerable and must not be handled or get wet.

Most all cameras presently handle the size called SD. These come in many megabit sizes and unless you are making videos you are likely buying these too large. Too large? If you thought bigger is better (in bits and bytes) and smaller is better in physical camera size – you just need to exercise more knowledge than what is presented in marketing brochures.

Let's say that if you shoot video, you will need to size cards for allowing a minimum of 15 minutes run time. For this application, more is better. However don't put all your eggs in one basket. Video, enough for two to four story segments is fine. We will always keep spares on hand in addition to planned usage.

When we are shooting stills only, you should not try to put several segments of a story on one card. I carry a spare card always. I do not put too much data on one card as if it fails, as you can imagine, you have lost many shots possibly permanently. I try to restrict these cards to 100 images and after every shoot I copy these to my permanent archive. What is in my permanent archive is exactly what was captured with no modifications. I store them in groups of 100 and ten groups in a bundle. When these originals become modified, they are flagged and also are sent to my backup disks.

Now about too many files on one disk – you readily understand that if a disk fails it will take 100 files or more away from you. Other reasoning for limiting disk size is its usage has to do with performance. Many situations like sports, candid, HDR, and groups we want speed between successive shots.

The cameras computer total speed is slowed when it has many more items to sort through. We can speed up our processing time when we limit the sorting and comparing it must perform. The larger number of features the camera system must search can increase speed and decrease time required for preparing for the next shot.

A main problem that occurs on occasion may lead to a disaster. This can be caused by removing the card before the camera's computer has fully processed its last tasks concerning this use. Therefore, allow your camera time to process files before removing cards. Likewise, when placing your photo card in your computer you must give it time to finish its

tasks before removing the card. Follow these operating system procedures:

1. Check the status of card by
2. Clicking on Safely Remove Hardware
3. Click on description of card
4. Observe the comment
5. If window states it is now safe for removal then proceed.
6. Now turn off power switch on camera

REMEMBER when you reinsert the photo image card, you turn off the computer power switch first!

When a photo card type CF or SD and your data is archived you should prepare your card for re-use by reformatting it in the camera for which it is to be used. Do not use the computer operating system for formatting and follow the camera manual instructions. Reset the beginning file number for the follow up number next in line for remaining your sequence. As a convenience for tracking files I maintain a main archive file called Images and then place the resulting files into subfolders with name of camera in use i.e.: 70D, 20D, Alan60D,Z990, etc.

You must use caution while building projects using similar file numbers as your computer and several application programs are not nearly as smart as you. They often select an abbreviated term for files when they should not.

Example:

: Canon will use the same sequence numbering out of separate folders. The tendency may be to not differentiate between files like 70D IMG_0201-800.jpg and 20D_0201-800.jpg.

Please be on the lookout for shortcuts your application programs and operating systems take that destroy the ability for selecting proper folders for a file. When we search we often find similar sequence numbering intermixed in libraries and other supposedly helpful methods for handling our valuable data.

My FUJI camera provides me with a file sequence of DSCF0015.jpg and other persons may send you their file which they may identify as DSCF0015.jpg.

Put yourself in charge

When you purchase a USB thumb drive it is often non-generic. It may have some simple applications to make them more useful; to allow several choices (which may get your system into trouble); automatically start applications which usurp your desires and start unwanted applications. It is always better when it is you making the decision; how to display your files.

You may choose to format and add your USB drive's applications differently from those used from general use. Often when you use one of your general usage drives they may work and also when using "Open with Internet Browser" is selected.

For photo and images, you may wish to open with a specific application program in mind. For instance, I create a permanent tag for specific USB plug-ins that are used for CorelDraw only. Use your preferences.

The naughty thing that destroys our ability to maintain control of our photo systems are those sneaky devils that have lookout programs searching for photo downloads. You may have your thumb drive set to accept whichever device you chose or allow you to 'open with' and feel comfortable. Along comes sneaky and redirects everything with photo likeness to their system (without your permission). When I find a drive like this I will attempt to remove any undesirable applications. Sometimes it takes a reformat unless they are deeply rooted against your freedom. Then try reformatting. If this fails eliminating intruder I use a special tool called a hammer. I smash the drive to smithereens and remember who I obtained it from to prevent a reoccurrence.

Sometimes your drive gets affected with misdirection info from applications (by the thousands) that sneak in through the Internet.

A word of caution for the Libraries.

If library use is selected for photos the Microsoft system will load each and every file into it whether downloaded or created internally. This can amass a larger mess of files than you can undo or comprehend. Also, when the operating system believes it is confused it goes to the library and guarantees mass confusion. Be sure you understand what Library will do to you and for you before committing to this application.

Hello there! It is your data. Protect it!

My comments are generally provided to allow members to create better pictures, enjoy their systems, avoid problems, solve problems, and not to scare the beginner's off. Use information at your discretion and please share any photography

comments beneficial to others.

Additional links, www.ntpcug.org/, intro@tx.rr.com

*** SOFTWARE & COMPUTER TIPS ***

My Chrome Away From Home

By Greg Skalka, President,
Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA

I'm writing this on my new Chromebook at 30,000 feet over the Pacific. I decided to take my Chromebook with me on a vacation trip, as I wanted to see how useful it would be as a traveling companion. I also wanted to continue exploring the capabilities of this device. I've had it for a couple of months, but have not had the opportunity to investigate all its features.

For a very low cost device (I paid only \$130 for my Acer Chromebook 11 at Fry's on a promo code deal), it so far has proved to have a lot going for it. At home, I would often use it daily to look up something on the internet, as it can boot up very quickly. Even though I planned to take my normal Windows laptop on this trip, I really wanted to take this Chromebook. I was not confident enough in it to leave my familiar Windows PC friend behind, however. With space and weight an issue on an airline trip, I probably didn't need the hassle of taking two screens and chargers. My quest for knowledge won out, however, and I determined I could take them both. My wife likes the Chromebook as well, and did not discourage me in taking it. She insisted on bringing her laptop as it has work software on it, so between the two of us, we are traveling with two laptops, an iPhone and a Chromebook.

It is interesting that I am so enthusiastic about this Chromebook. I am much more excited to use it than I am my iPad Mini. Maybe I've never gotten into the Apple way of thinking, but I find the Chrome OS much easier to understand and operate. Maybe it is because the OS is symbiotic with the Chrome browser, which I have been using for a while on Windows computers. Chrome also seems a lot more like Windows in its approach to things, while I think Apple goes out of its way to be different.

The travel environment is also quite different these days, in some good ways and some not so good. This is my first flight since the FAA and airlines loosened up restrictions on electronic devices on commercial flights. Previously, almost all passenger electronics had to remain off from taxi to 10,000 feet, and from descent down to landing. My main gripe with those restrictions was that, with the advent of digital photography, I could no longer take photos out of the plane window during take-offs and landings, and at low altitudes when the views are the most interesting. I took lots of those kinds of photos in the old 35 mm film days (with an older manual camera), so it was really refreshing to be able to take some great shots over San Diego at dawn when we took off.

The airlines are much more integrated into the digital world since my last flight. In addition to checking in online and printing my boarding passes for Alaska Airlines, I was able to pay my bag fees (more on that later) and print luggage tags, speeding up check in. Even the aircraft are more accommodating for travelers with electronic devices. Alaska now has USB and 110 VAC power outlets at every seat, so you can arrive at your destination with your devices fully charged. They also have the now-standard paid Wi-Fi and movies, though not over the ocean.

In spite of these advances in technology and some very friendly and helpful employees, the airlines have found ways to turn air travel from an exciting adventure into an expensive battle of attrition. I'm traveling to paradise, Hawai'i, through a metal tube crammed full of people and luggage. Airlines once were known for service, with everything, including meals, drinks and baggage service included. In the last ten years or so, however, it seems to me that the

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airlines have moved profits to their number one priority, and moved customer service way down on the list. Planes are now typically always full, overhead bins are overflowing, any refreshments other than soda and peanuts are costly and bags usually have to pay to fly as well. The seats look thinner, less padded (lighter to save fuel) and are probably closer together now.

This flight that my wife and I were on was completely full, so while I was in the window seat taking photos, my wife was in the middle seat on one side of a center aisle, with a large man in the aisle seat adjacent to her flowing over the arm rest. Even on an almost six hour flight, we received no complementary meal service, just drinks and pretzels (there was someone on our flight with peanut allergies, so no peanuts were served). The airline did provide a number of choices in meals they offered for sale, or we could also bring our own food on the plane to consume (a trend that does not work so well for those other passengers with food allergies, as there is no way to limit what foods customers bring on). My wife and I chose to bring on some snacks, and eat some equally expensive airport terminal food before boarding.

We also had to pay additional fees for the airline to transport our checked bags (two bags in total, at \$25 each). With a lot of airlines now charging bag fees, a lot of customers try to avoid them by bringing more in their carry-on luggage. This results in less space in overhead bins and more time spent boarding passengers, as they search for space in an overhead bin. Getting off the plane takes longer with more passengers trying to exit down the aisle with rolling carry-ons. I did see fewer passengers with laptops on our flight; most passengers played with their smart phones and tablets instead. Of course, maybe they didn't bring them out on the plane, preferring, like me, to use their smaller electronic devices in the cramped seating.

So far, the Chromebook has done well on the trip. With over 8 hours of battery capacity, I'm not worried about trying to fish my charger out of my bag to try the airline's in-seat power. It boots up and shuts down in around ten seconds, so I can check things quickly. It was able to easily connect to the free airport Wi-Fi and the GoGo inflight Wi-Fi hub on the plane. Even though the Chromebook was built to be online, I can easily write this column in Google Docs while offline, and save the file on my USB thumb drive (or so I thought; more on this later). I can play music I brought on the thumb drive (I found that ear buds, though compact for travel, give poor results with all the background noise on a plane), or watch a movie file I brought.

So, why bring the larger and heavier 14" Windows laptop? While I can get all my email through a web browser, it is so much easier with Thunderbird, which is not available under Chrome. I can also feel safer checking my email on free airport Wi-Fi, as I have a VPN on my laptop (the setup of my Private Internet Access VPN under Chrome OS appears difficult). I also have a 1 TB hard drive in the laptop, so as I fill up camera memory cards with vacation selfies, I can off-load to the laptop drive and then snap more pics. With only the Chromebook, I'd have to either invest in more memory cards, or resurrect the old photo hard drives I thought were obsolete (and are now quite small).

Once we arrived at our destination, we still used the Chromebook a lot to look up local points of interest and map out sightseeing trips. I found, however, that the Chromebook was no match for the old familiar laptop in some respects. Perhaps with further experience on the Chromebook, I may find out how to do all the things I found a lot easier (or possible) with the laptop.

One thing I have not quite figured out is Google Docs. I think I understand the Chrome Files app; it is similar to Windows File Explorer (I've yet to figure out how to do the same things on my iPad). I started writing this column in Google Docs on the airplane, which, since I was not able to connect to the internet, was in off-line mode. I tried to save and get out of Docs a few times early on, to make sure it was actually saving the file. I was unable to determine where it was being saved on the Chromebook, however. I finally tried to save the column on my USB thumb drive, and thought I had, but was not able to open the .gdoc file with my Windows laptop. I might have been able to install the Google Drive program on my laptop, or there might be a way to export the file from the Chromebook as a .docx file. In the end, I took the easy way out and selected all of the column's text in Google Docs on the Chromebook, and then pasted it into an email (in Gmail). I sent the text in an email to an account I use with Thunderbird on the Windows laptop, and then pasted the text into Word, where I could edit and write comfortably.

I guess I still have a few things to learn about Chromebooks. I'm glad I brought it on this trip, as it has a lot of advantages over my Windows laptop. I probably overestimated how much time I'd have on this vacation trip to learn about and experiment with the Chromebook. I brought some eBooks on the Chromebook to read, but that's not really what my wife had in mind for our vacation.

From the November issue, Drive Light, www.uchug.org

808 Thump Bluetooth Speaker

Review by George Harding, Treasurer,
Tucson Computer Society, AZ

This is an amazingly small Bluetooth external speaker. It's only 2 ½" tall and 2 ½" in diameter! But what a sound!

First of all, like all the external speakers I've tested, it uses Bluetooth wireless technology to transmit signals from your MP3 player, tablet or cell phone to the unit. In order to use this, you "pair" one with the other. The speaker emits a signal which your playing device recognizes. The name of the speaker shows up in the list of Bluetooth devices and when you click on it, the two devices can communicate with each other.

Bluetooth has a nominal range of about 30 feet, but objects in between sending and receiving devices may limit the range somewhat.

Thump provides surprisingly good sound from its small size. I tested high and low frequencies and found that there is no distortion I could notice at high frequencies. This may be because my hearing is impaired and probably couldn't hear any distortion! I did notice some distortion at very low frequencies at high volume.

The product comes with the speaker, a charging cable (micro-USB to USB) and a small *Quick Start Guide*.

Charging takes a couple of hours, which provides up to six hours of playing time.

The back of the speaker has two connectors and two LEDs. One LED shows the status of the Bluetooth connection. The other lights when charging is in process. When charge is complete, it turns off.

One of the connectors is Aux In, used when you want to use a different source than Bluetooth.

The base has two buttons, one for On/Off and one to initiate pairing. Pairing is started automatically when you first start up the speaker. You would only need to initiate pairing if you wanted to pair with a different or additional device.

This is a great, compact external speaker, available at a very reasonable price.

About: 808 Thump Bluetooth Speaker

Manufacturer: 808 Audio

<http://www.808audio.com/speakers/thump/>

From the September 2015 issue, TCS eJournal, www.aztcs.org, georgehardingsbd@earthlink.net

SWIPED . . . How to Protect Yourself in a World Full of Scammers, Phishers, and Identity Thieves

by Adam Levin

Reviewed by John Pearce, Board Member,
Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO

I recently read the book *Swiped: How to Protect Yourself in a World Full of Scammers, Phishers, and Identity Thieves* by Adam Levin. Levin is chairman and founder of Identity Theft 911 and chairman and co-founder of Credit.com. Overall, his credentials as a consumer advocate are pretty impressive. I read the book after seeing a reference to it in Yahoo Finance.

We are all aware of ways our personally identifiable information can be used for identity theft. Yet, there are so many ways our identities can be used for fraudulent purposes that it boggles the mind. This book is a comprehensive guide from simple, easily identifiable e-mail scams through telephone scams and full blown identity theft.

The author writes three chapters just describing the problem. I think the first few paragraphs in chapter 3 are a little depressing. The second paragraph begins:

"Identity theft is the worst kind of dumb luck. You can do a number of things to keep it from ruining your life but there isn't much you can do to stop it from happening to you."

Chapter 3 also includes a list of 16 things we do without much thought that can expose our personal information. This chapter also proposes that we have the responsibility to minimize risk of exposure, be alert to potential identity theft, and have a plan to put everything back together in the case we are compromised.

Part two of the book is two chapters on the basics of what you can do if you are compromised. The author introduces the strategy he calls the Three M's: Minimize your exposure, Monitor your accounts, and Manage the damage.

Part three is nine chapters on the types of identity theft. Part four is comprised of five appendices. There is a wealth of information in the appendices so don't ignore them.

I recommend reading *Swiped* to improve your knowledge of how your identity can be stolen, how you may be contributing to the theft, and how to approach the recovery process if you are unlucky enough to have your identity stolen.

Hard Cover, Amazon.com –\$15.52

From the January 2016 issue, Bits of Bytes, <http://ppcompas.apcug.org/>, glenihan@comcast.net

Rochester Computer Society

Helps Half Hour Notes

May 10, 2016

St. John's Meadows

Q: I created a PowerPoint slide with an imbedded video. But the Windows 10 version does not allow the video. It was visible in Windows 7.

A: It may be that Windows 10 needs to be told that this feature will be used. It sometimes needs to be set. There is an update for Office to bring in the necessary Office updates. This may do it. You also may try 'save as' and select the older .doc file type. There is an Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack that should do the trick.

Q: His old Kodak printer now only prints one line. He did turn the printer off and on.

A: This seems to be a RAM full condition. He may need to check for a new printer driver. He may also need to reinstall the printer, uninstalling first using a program like Revo Uninstall.

Q: He bought a Bluetooth speaker and it works on his machine. But it does not work on his friend's machine.

A: It sounds like his machine does not have the Bluetooth hardware. It can be purchased on Ebay for a couple of dollars. It should then work.

NOTE: A member discovered that the only pointer that shows up on the flat screen is colored green. It is the strongest light, too, so be careful if you use it at home. It could be dangerous if it hits the eyes.

NOTE: Mark passed around an On the Go micro USB adaptor, a flash drive adaptor card that can be used to link in a flash drive to display on your phone.

ROCHESTER COMPUTER SOCIETY'S

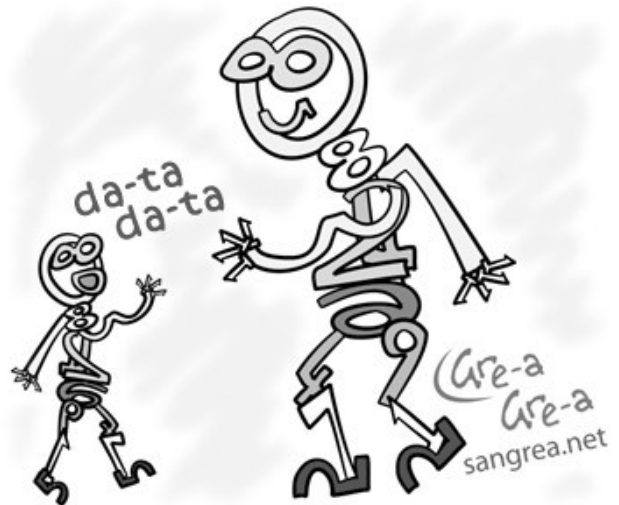
ANNUAL PICNIC

TUESDAY AUGUST 9TH.

BRIGHTON TOWN PARK

777 WESTFALL ROAD

CARMEN CLARK LODGE (by the pond)



The club will order the red/white hots, cheese burgers, spicy

Italian sausage, coffee, tea, and sodas. We are asking for a \$5 donation to cover the cost. If you can, please **bring a dish to pass**. For example: last name begins with A-I munchies, J-R salads and S-Z deserts.

Deadline for placing a food order is August 1st.

Start to arrive at 5:30 and we will eat about 6:30. We will have a silent auction. Please bring auction items early so everyone can have a chance to make a bid. **Please bring a check or cash so you can take the item with you.**

For more information or placing a meat order contact Steve at either srstaub1@rochester.rr.com or call 429-9877. I need your name and what you want for meats.

May's Presentation of 'The Frugal Techie, or How to Reach Financial Freedom and Still get the Tech Stuff You Love', was presented by Dennis MacMahon (finance) and Mark Zinzow (technical), followed by a cell phone giveaway. The presentation slides can be found on [HTTP://SLIDESHARE.NET/msz](http://SLIDESHARE.NET/msz) and at <http://www.rcsi.org/program.htm>.

From Our Membership



Bill Perkett

You can "Donate your old computer" to this cause

by contacting Bill & Doris by email at dorispbillp@joimail.com

Web: <http://computersforrefugees.mywebcommunity.org>

computersforrefugees.wordpress.com



“Your Computer User Group of the Air”, Saturdays from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm with Nick Francesco, Dave Enright, and Steve Rae. Broadcasting on JAZZ 90.1 FM from Rochester, NY. Call 966-JAZZ (585-966-5299) or 1-800-790-0415

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Some Past Presentations:

- Tablets, the Programs and Uses
- Tune Up Windows
- Preview of Windows 10
- Personal Finance Software
- Amazing Browser Tips
- How Domain Name Sys Works
- Linux is Like Cars
- Close up Photography
- Virtual Computer OS Demo
- Cloud Computing

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Special Interest Group

Linux Sig

The workshop is the **third Saturday of each month**, at Interlock Rochester, 1115 East Main St.



Enter through door #7 on the end of building, near *Comics Etc* and Goodman St. Find 'Interlock' on the intercom directory to get buzzed in and go upstairs to suite #200. We have experts on hand to fix problems and answer questions about Linux and FOSS (**f**ree and **o**pen **s**ource **s**oftware). **Bring your system** in so we can help you get the most out of it. Hope to see you there.

The RCSI 'Monitor' newsletter can be found in most public libraries in Monroe County, and many college libraries. *Free* copies can also be found in the following computer stores; Tab Computers, Microworx, TSC Electronics, Just Solutions, and Pod Computers.

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Monitor editor: . . . Sally Springett
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unixgeek@faultline.com

Planning Meeting

Held on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, at either Sally Springett's or St. John's Meadows.

Newsletter Printing

The May issue of the Monitor was printed at St. John's Meadows

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Last FREE Chance to Upgrade to Windows 10

Also noteworthy, is that the last date for a free upgrade to Windows 10 is July 29th. After that it will cost \$119 for 'Home.' Those on the fence should make up their minds soon about the upgrade.

Computer Recycling

Monroe County *ecopark* (Cathode Ray Tube TVs and monitors - \$10 each credit/debit card only) 10 Avion Drive
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: (585) 753-7600 (Option #3)

Maven Technologies offers *free* residential drop off, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (M-F), 1450 Lyell Avenue, Rochester, NY. The processing center is located on the NW corner of Lyell and Mt Read, behind the 'strip mall'. Go to the customer entrance. 458-2460.

Pod Computers accepts most electronic waste (no longer accepts tv's or crt's), located at 1925 South Ave, the wedge where South Ave and East Henrietta Rd meet.
244-2240.

Micrecycle, 49 Stone Street, downtown Rochester, 244-4040, refurbishes computers and accepts used hardware and working crt monitors.