

Our Club

RCSI is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) group open for membership to anyone interested in computers and related technology. Our aim is to provide an exchange of information between users of digital devices. We are not in any way affiliated with any computer manufacturer or software company.

Program Meetings

No admission fee for non-members. *Everyone is welcome!* Second Tuesday of every month, except August, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

Help's Half Hour (Q & A)
 6:30pm – 7:00pm. *Members and Guests are welcome to attend and bring their computer related questions with them to get answered.*

7:00 – 7:15, Club Business

7:15 – 8:30+, Main Presentation

Come and join in the fun and enjoy a snack! **You are welcome to bring a guest.**

Become a Member

Go to our website, www.rcsi.org, and download a printed form for use by the Post Office mail, **or** enter your info online and pay with a credit card or PayPal, **or** attend a meeting.

The *Monitor* is published monthly by members of RCSI. Articles by our members may be reprinted by other user groups or nonprofits, without special permission, provided they are unaltered. A courtesy copy may be emailed to our author or Monitor editor.

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



Vol. 38, No. 12

Rochester, NY

December 2020

December 8, TBA

January 12, 'How Technology Has Changed the Way We Listen to Music', remote by Ray Baxter, via Zoom

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Club and Regional News

APCUG is offering online workshops during the fall and winter

Frank Fota

Leo Notenboom

Bob Woods

Cal Esneault

From Duck website

RCSI editor

**** Because of COVID-19, all club meetings and the ****

**** Linux sig are currently being held online. ****

Genealogy Research Online

By Frank Fota, Secretary & APCUG Rep
 Fredericksburg PCUG, MD

Well, the Coronavirus has us isolated at home instead of at work. Some people, so I've heard, are tackling tasks they've deferred for the proverbial "rainy day." I've often said to myself that I would scan that box of photos I rescued from my departed uncle's home before its contents were sold at an estate sale. I intend to distribute the images to



"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 (WGMC) from Rochester, NY. Call 966-JAZZ (585-966-5299) or 800-790-0415

Sound Bytes is the longest running computer call-in show in the known universe.

We have stopped printing the Monitor newsletter and leaving hard copies at some area computer repair shops. Digital copies may be obtained from www.rcsi.org or my Pcloud storage at <https://tinyurl.com/tonydel-rcsi> (this link works in PDF version only). Also includes presentation slides and articles too large for this newsletter.

Some Past Presentations:

Cut the Cord, Streaming Services
Autonomous Cars and Robots
Open Source and Free Software
Protecting Your Identity
Keeping Mobile Devices Secure
3D Printing, ENABLE project
Flash Drives-Not Just for Storage
Features, Mac OS X & Windows
Tablets, the Programs and Uses
Personal Finance Software
Amazing Browser Tips
Linux is Like Cars
Drones and Their Many Uses
Gifts and Gadgets for the Holidays

my relatives. The issue is ...identifying the people in the photos. Genealogical research can be a tedious task. Just such a task for a time like this. If you are interested in creating a family tree, or simply learning more about your ancestors, there are many websites where you can conduct genealogical research. Some of these websites are interactive and allow you to share photos and communicate with distant relatives. Bob Rankin at skBobRankin.com, provides a list of useful sites for Genealogical research:

1. Ancestry.com – perhaps the best-known website for genealogical research. It is a subscription-based service that costs \$199/year or \$99 for six months. A 14-day trial will allow you to evaluate the service. For an additional fee, the "World Explorer" package adds the ability to search internationally.
2. Cyndi's List – is a free, "...categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet. Over 335,000 genealogical sites are linked from this website.
3. Family Search – is run by the LDS Church. It provides access to over a billion records worldwide at no cost. The LDS Church also provides personal assistance and access to some of the paid sites via local family history centers. A local family history center is located at 20 Boscobel Rd Fredericksburg, VA 22405 (540) 361-7494.
4. Roots Web – is the oldest and perhaps the largest genealogy site on the Internet. The Roots Web site has genealogy search engines and message boards where you can obtain help from budding but more experienced genealogists.
5. USGenWeb – provides lists of genealogy resources by state and county.
6. WorldGenWeb – is similar to USGenWeb. Bob Rankin says, "WorldGenWeb is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is dedicated to the free use and access of public domain genealogical information."

Mr. Rankin notes several other websites and the resources that are provided in the article linked above (i.e., at AskBobRankin.com). He also provides links to genealogy software.

Reprinted from FPCUG Notes for April 2020, www.fpcug.org, fotaftm@gmail.com.

Final 'Hard Copy' Newsletter Printing

The final *hard copies* of the 'Monitor' newsletter, being distributed to some of the area computer stores, ended with the June issue. New digital copies will still be posted to the club website.

Special Interest Group

Linux Sig

We are back!

Linux Workshop,
**third Saturday of
each month**, Noon-4PM



NEW LOCATION:

Gates Public Library
902 Elmgrove Rd, 14624,
between Buffalo Road and
531 Expressway.

The room we use is on the second
floor, SE corner, by the restrooms.

[https://www.meetup.com/
Interlock-Rochester-Hackerspace/
events/psggnqybcbxb/](https://www.meetup.com/Interlock-Rochester-Hackerspace/events/psggnqybcbxb/)

Because of coronavirus,

we meet online. A link will be sent
by email.

Come and get your questions about
Linux answered. We have experts
on hand to fix problems and
answer questions about Linux and
FOSS (free and open source
software). **Bring your system in**
so we can help you get the most
out of it. Hope to see you there.

Carl Schmidtman

**Free, Virtual Technology
Conferences, ONLINE**
presented by APCUG

The 2021 schedule
Saturdays:
February 13, May 1,
August 21, November 6
from 1 – 4 pm, EST

For Conference Descriptions
& Registration Links, go to
**[apcug2.org/category/
virtual-tech-conference](https://apcug2.org/category/virtual-tech-conference)**

Online Shopping: Just How Safe Is It?

by Leo Notenboom, <https://askleo.com/>

Making Technology Work For Everyone

Online shopping is ubiquitous, and yet some avoid it completely.
Why are some people afraid to shop online when it's arguably
safer than offline?

As you might expect, I get many questions from users concerned
about online security. With regular news of identity theft, credit card
fraud, and database hacking, many are understandably concerned about
the security of their own information online, particularly when it comes
to online shopping. Some are so concerned, they actively avoid online
shopping for fear of having their payment information stolen. In my
opinion, they should be more concerned about the security of their
information *offline*.

There are very few risks that are unique to shopping online. Most of
the risks apply equally well to shopping in person. Major data breaches,
for example: large companies capture data regardless of how you
shopped. Basic security is necessary in all cases, but there's a strong
argument that shopping online is more secure than its in-person
counterpart.

Online shopping is ubiquitous

Most of us now take online
shopping for granted. Some may
even wonder why this article is
needed at all. The fact is, there
are still many people who are
afraid to shop at online merchants
— even well-known, reputable



ones. Why? They're convinced that the Internet is full of hackers
waiting to steal their credit card information as it goes by during an
online transaction. And yet, they're quite willing to give the same
payment information — along with an image of their signature, no less
— to a stranger at a restaurant or a grumpy clerk in a retail store.

Risk versus risk

As I wrote in [another article](#), “Most people have an overinflated sense
of risk when it comes to threats they don't understand.” We're most
comfortable with black and white absolutes: *yes* or *no*, *safe* or *unsafe*.
Unfortunately, the world isn't black or white. It's important to realize
there are risks, both online and off.

Unique risks online are few

There are very few risks unique to using your credit card online. Yes,
online shopping security issues do exist. Your device could have
malware in the form of a [keylogger](#), which records everything you type.
And, while it's *extremely* rare, your connection to an online merchant
could be intercepted by someone watching and recording your payment
information.

Much more common, however, are things that apply regardless of how
you use your credit card. The news reports we hear are major breaches

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. Tony Dellelo
Webmaster: Bob Avery
Membership: Jan Rothfuss

Planning Meeting

Held on 1st Tuesday of each month
at 7 pm, at St. John's Meadows,
Briarwood building. ANY CLUB
MEMBER MAY ATTEND.

NOTE: Because of Covid-19, we
meet online, via Zoom.

Newsletter Printing

Limited copies will be printed and
available at some of the local
computer shops. *A few copies will
be available at our meetings.*

Club Mailing Address

Rochester Computer Society, Inc
PO Box 18516
Rochester, NY 14618

at retailers and banks, where it doesn't matter if you used your card online or in person. Most of those break-ins are caught and dealt with so quickly that if you or I are affected, it's only to the extent that we might unexpectedly get a replacement credit card.

Offline risk is more common

I believe individual theft occurs more frequently *offline*.

- A clerk might make a copy of your card and signature.
- A dumpster diver could grab bank statements out of your trash.
- Someone might steal your new credit card out of your mailbox.
- You use your card at a cash machine or a store's point-of-sale terminal, but a thief has hidden a "card skimmer" on the reader that steals your card's information as you use it.

These offline methods are all *much* more common than individual online theft. And even though we seem to hear about online theft on a semi-regular basis, there's a strong argument saying they're still fairly rare occurrences compared to the millions of cardholders and millions of transactions that happen every day.

Good sense implies good security

The fact is, regardless of where you use it, using your credit card represents risk. (But then, so does getting out of bed in the morning.)
Online or off:

- Shop with merchants you know and trust.
- Watch for things out of place, be it something odd about the card reader in a store or a missing https padlock on a website.
- Beware of [phishing](#) and other attempts to fool you into giving your personal information to those who would abuse it.
- Contact your credit card company whenever you think something may have happened.

My take is simple: shop online. I believe it to be *safer* than many in-person transactions. Don't let unfounded fear stop you from enjoying the convenience. I know I don't.

#

LINUX SIG

You guessed it. The library is closed, so Carl sent out a link in April to try an online meeting, using Jitsi. You might not get the total hands on approach, but you can ask questions and share screens during the meeting. The Linux Workshop will take place, **third Saturday of each month**, from Noon-4PM. No, you can't bring your machine in, but you can describe your problem and Carl and the other Linux gurus will try and help you. This is a video conference, so dress appropriately.

If you are not on the Linux emailing list, you can request a link to the workshop by contacting Carl Schmidtman, at

unixgeek@faultline.com.

Check with Carl, he might take a break during the holiday season.

Tidbits of probably useless information

Before the modern, orange colored variety became the common, mass-produced version, carrots were most commonly purple.

FDA regulations require that less than 10% of asparagus spears can be infested with beetle eggs. Um – yuck!

World War II ended in 1945, but food rationing in the U.K. continued until 1954.

Oddly, there was a ban on sliced bread in the U.S. that started January 18, 1943 during World War II in an effort to bring down the costs of bread (the idea being a loaf of bread that has been pre-sliced needs a heavier wrapper). This ban was not as successful on savings as thought and was short-lived, ending on March 8, 1943. Interestingly, news articles of the day say that bakers were always puzzled by the ban and couldn't see how it could possibly save manpower or cut costs.

The world's largest McDonald's chain restaurant is in — Orlando, Florida. It is 19,000 square feet. Wow!

The largest restaurant in the world (as certified by Guinness World Records) is the Bawabet Dimashq Restaurant (Damascus Gate Restaurant) in Syria, with seating for 6014 patrons.

The name of the popular canned meat product **SPAM** is likely an abbreviation for "spiced ham" as that was originally what the product was called.

***** SOFTWARE and HARDWARE *****

Review

Windows Clipboard Secrets Revealed

By Bob Woods, Webmaster
Under the Computer Hood User Group

I am sure you have noted that while Microsoft eventually gets around to including free functionality accessories, the freebies often leave a bit to be desired. A shining example is the built-in clipboard. It's there to use, but until recently only gave you one shot and doesn't save anything between reboots. When having to do multiple copy/paste routines, many of us have turned to freeware or shareware to overcome the built-in clipboard limitations.

Several years ago, I purchased a license for the excellent clipboard extender Clipmate by Thornsoft (<http://thornsoft.com/>). Clipmate has many features including saved clipboard contents, editing of the clipboard contents, and the ability to create folders for different clipboard content. But it isn't free, costing \$35.00. However, there are times where I just need to do a few quick copy/paste inserts. On those occasions I will not launch Clipmate, just use the Windows clipboard.

Somewhere along the line, Microsoft has given the built-in clipboard a history lesson. The clipboard can now hold 25 items. That includes text, images, and content from browser pages. But the history functionality is not turned on by default. You must opt to add this feature. To do that hold the Windows key and tap your v key (a Windows hotkey combination). A onetime pop up will open asking permission to turn on the clipboard history. From then on when you do a Windows key + v key a clipboard pop-up window will open allowing you to select from contents in the clipboard. Each saved item will be in its own small window within the clipboard window. At the right of each window, the ellipsis (three dots) will allow you to delete a saved item, pin it which saves it even if you clear the clipboard or restart, and to clear all.

An article at <https://techplugged.com/how-to-clear-clipboard-on-windows-10/> describes multiple ways of clearing the Windows clipboard.

I have found that just opening the clipboard pop up with Windows key + v key and selecting to clear all to be the easiest for me. However, if you only occasionally use the clipboard, you might forget the hotkey shortcut. Setting up one of the methods from the Tech Plugged article might work better for you.

A further update to clipboard functionality is in testing to be released in a future Windows update as discussed in an Infopackets article at <http://www.infopackets.com/news/10797/windows-10-cut-and-paste-get-overhaul>.

From the September 2020 issue, Drive Light, www.uchug.org,
Webmasters@uchug.org.

Jere's Tech Tips

By Jere Minich, Apcug Advisor,
Region 5 (AL, FL, GA, SC)

Open Source Lab

WANT TO STREAM SOMETHING IN 2020? WATCH IT WHILE YOU CAN!

– Before the rise of streaming, you had to watch shows and movies as they aired on broadcast television. Now, you can watch things whenever you want—well, that's not completely true. Movies and TV shows regularly vanish from streaming services.

Go to this How-to Geek web article and read more:
<https://bit.ly/3g3bO0m>

HOW TO USE MICROSOFT TEAMS FOR FREE

– Forget email. You can now communicate and collaborate with co-workers. If you run your own business or are part of a working group within a larger company, chances are you need somewhere to communicate and collaborate with those inside and outside your organization. You don't need to pay for pricey collaboration tools like Office 365 or SharePoint, because Microsoft Teams is free to use.

Go to this PC Magazine article and get the facts:
<https://bit.ly/300tMe5>

WATCH OUT: 99.9 PERCENT OF HACKED MICROSOFT ACCOUNTS DON'T USE 2FA

– Two-factor authentication (2FA) is the single most effective method of preventing unauthorized access to an online account. Still need convincing? Have a look at these jaw-dropping numbers from Microsoft.

Read more of this at this How-To-Geek webpage:
<https://bit.ly/2PjB6vt>

GIMP 2.10

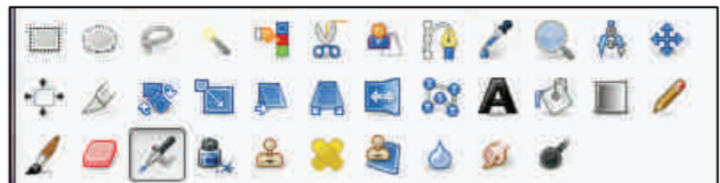
By Cal Esneault, Former President of CCCC
leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGs

GIMP 2.10 GIMP, the GNU Image Manipulation Program, is an open-source image editor suitable for touching up photos or drawing original creations. GIMP has a long history (started in the 1990's) and has continually been improved to become a very powerful and sophisticated tool.

Even version numbers (2.0, 2.2, 2.4, etc.) indicate stable versions, while odd version numbers are for developmental releases. Early in 2018, GIMP 2.10 was issued. This was long-anticipated since the previous stable version, 2.8, was over 6 years old. Unfortunately, this version was too late to be included in the Ubuntu and Linux Mint repositories, so users of these would need to go to the GIMP website to get the latest release.

I downloaded and installed GIMP 2.10 on my Windows PC (yes, GIMP is cross-platform). The first thing you notice is the dark theme and symbolic icons installed the default. Compare the previous 2.8 icons with the new set as shown below.

GIMP 2.8 default icons



GIMP 2.10 default icons



Originally, GIMP had multiple isolated activity windows, but GIMP 2.10, like GIMP 2.08, has a single-window

mode that is similar to the interface for Photoshop. Following is a screenshot of GIMP with the main toolbox on the left, the image of interest in the middle, and a tool options panel on the right. GIMP has the ability to have “layers,” and the example shown illustrates how this can be used to superimpose text on the image to indicate its location.

Experienced photographers often shoot in a “raw” image mode. Raw files must be preconditioned using a separate editor. GIMP 2.10 cooperates with two excellent raw editors – Darktable and RawTherapee. As noted by others, I could only get GIMP to behave on my Windows 10 system using Darktable.

Under the hood, the big change was further improvement of the GEGL processing engine. For now, this gives deeper color bit depth and better HiDPI support. The new icons are also a part of the process to give sharp icons on HiDPI monitors. Improved multi-threading makes better use of the multiple cores in modern CPUs. The full implementation of GEGL is a prerequisite for adding non-destructive editing (planned for v3.2).

Scam Alerts

From the website:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts/>

Overpaid your utility bill? That's probably a scam

October 23, 2020

You get a robocall saying you paid too much on a utility bill. To make up for this mistake, they say, you'll get a cash refund and a discount on your future bills. All you have to do is press a number to get your money and discount. You say to yourself: "What luck!" You might think this strange surprise will help you save some much-needed money. Sorry but... not so fast. This is probably just another utility scam — or, at best, a marketing trick — to get your money.

COVID-19 clinical trial: real or fake? Learn how to tell the difference.

October 23, 2020

There are thousands of trials underway as companies race to find effective vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. Many of these research studies are legitimate, but some are not. So, if you're thinking about volunteering for a COVID-19 trial, it's important to know how to spot the real trials advancing medicine for everyone, versus the fake ones trying to steal your money and personal information.

How to Report Fraud at ReportFraud.ftc.gov

October 16, 2020

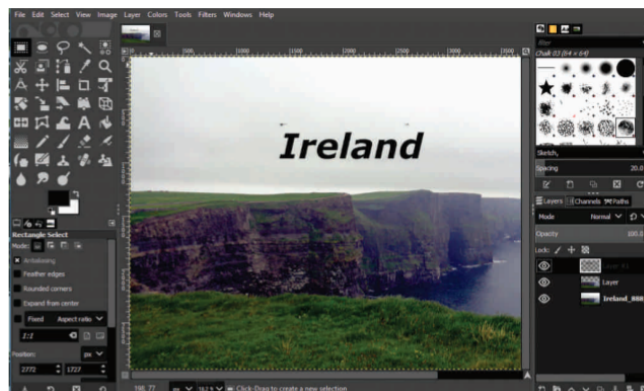
Video

This video shows you how to report scams, fraud, and bad business practices to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov> and why it's important to do it.

Color space workflow is improved, and native color management is now available.

There are numerous other advancements in this major release that should be of great use to serious photographers. Be sure to read the complete set of release notes to find out details on how to improve your creative work.

From the April 2020 issue, CCCC Computer News, www.clickers.org, tsa70785@gmail.com.



What Is the Business Model for DuckDuckGo?

Filed under [DuckDuckGo Q&A](#)

DuckDuckGo has been a profitable company since 2014 without storing or sharing any personal information on people using our search engine. As we like to say, what you search on DuckDuckGo is private, even from us! We're proud to have a business model for a web-based business that's profitable without making your personal information the product. I'm happy to tell you all about how we make it work (and how other companies can, too).

Though first, if you're not familiar with DuckDuckGo, we are an Internet privacy company that empowers you to seamlessly take control of your personal information online, without any tradeoffs. We operate a search engine alternative to Google at <https://duckduckgo.com>, and offer additional [apps and extensions](#) to protect you from Google, Facebook and other trackers, no matter where you go on the Internet.

The Big Myth

It's actually a big myth that search engines need to track your personal search history to make money or deliver quality search results. Almost all of the money search engines make (including Google) is based on the keywords you type in, without knowing anything about you, including your search history or the seemingly endless amounts of additional data points they have collected about registered and non-registered users alike.

In fact, search advertisers buy search ads by bidding on keywords, not people. It makes intuitive sense, too. If you search for 'car', you are more likely to respond to a car ad than something you searched for last week.

This keyword-based advertising is our primary business model. When you search on DuckDuckGo, we can show you an ad based on the keywords you type in. That's it. And it works. Our [privacy policy](#), in a nutshell, is to not collect or share any personal information at all. Every

Some Interesting Websites and Internet Finds

By Steve Costello
scostello@sefcug.com

Why Video Calls Are So Exhausting (And What You Can Do About It)

<https://www.besttechie.com/why-video-calls-are-so-exhausting-and-what-you-can-do-about-it/>

Attending a lot of video conferences and now exhausted? Check out this post for some ideas on how to cope with that.

How To Enter BIOS In Windows 10

<https://www.digitalcitizen.life/how-boot-uefi-bios-windows-tablets-convertibles>

You may never need to know this but if you ever need to access, or change, settings of the BIOS of your Windows 10 device, it is good to know.

What Is SupportAssist and Should I Let It Run?

<https://askleo.com/what-is-supportassist-and-should-i-let-it-run/>

If you have a brand name PC that is still under warranty and has this type of application installed, you should read this post. (Note: I have an HP desktop, and follow Leo's advice to keep things going while under warranty.)

11 Handy Zoom Hacks To Make Your Digital Life Easier

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/626634/zoom-meeting-hacks>

If you are like me, you are attending more zoom meetings these days. Check out this post to make things easier for yourself. There were some of these hacks I didn't know about before reading this post.

time you search on DuckDuckGo, it is as if you were there for the first time – [anonymous](#). For example, if you type in 'dishwasher' you will get a dishwasher ad. Google also makes most of their money via this same type of keyword-based advertising that doesn't require any search-history tracking.

So why do they track it all then? Because Google is not really a search company; they are an advertising company. On Google, your searches are tracked, mined, and packaged up into a data profile for advertisers to follow you around the Internet through intrusive and annoying ever-present banner ads, using Google's [massive ad networks](#), embedded across millions of sites and apps.

This is why, if you search for something on Google, you may start seeing ads for it everywhere. Using the Internet doesn't have to feel like you're being watched, listened to, and monitored.

Google, Facebook, and The Creepy Line

Eric Schmidt, former Google CEO and Chairman, famously said "Google's policy on a lot of these things is to get right up to the creepy line, but not cross it." But for most people, that line was crossed by Google, Facebook, and others long ago.

Alarmingly, Google now deploys hidden trackers on 76% of websites across the web to monitor your behavior, and Facebook has hidden trackers on about 25% of websites, according to the [Princeton Web Transparency & Accountability Project](#). It is likely that Google and/or Facebook are watching you on most sites you visit, in addition to tracking you when using their products.

As a result, these two companies have amassed huge data profiles on individuals, which can include interests, past purchases, search, browsing and location history, and much more. This personal data is stored indefinitely and used for invasive targeted advertising that can follow you around the Internet.

This advertising system is designed to enable hyper-targeting, which has many unintended consequences that have dominated the headlines in recent years, such as the ability for bad actors to use the system to influence elections, to exclude groups in a way that facilitates discrimination, and to expose your personal data to companies you've never even heard of.

The operative question is, though, is all of this tracking necessary to make substantial profits? Is this the only way to run a profitable digital consumer focused service company? Not in my opinion. The fact is, these companies would still be wildly profitable if, for example, they dropped all of these hidden trackers across the web and limited the amount of data they keep to only what is most necessary.

Yes, this additional tracking probably helps them compete with each other and adds some incremental revenue, but I believe the vast majority of their revenue would still exist if the tracking dial was turned way down, and they backed far away from the creepy line.

The reason is simple: Google and Facebook are the undisputed champions of audience and reach across the Internet, something advertisers will always pay for. Their business models don't need to be this invasive.

Penguin Platform

By “Free John” Kennedy, Apcug
Advisor, Regions 3 and 6/7

TRY THESE 2 THINGS

BEFORE CHOOSING YOUR DESKTOP LINUX OS

– When macOS users decide “OK I’m done with the Apple ecosystem” and switch over to Windows, they have basically one choice for their operating system: Windows 10. When the reverse happens, people diving into Macs also have a single choice. When you take the plunge into desktop Linux, your “distribution” options expand exponentially. It can be overwhelming. Choice is the most beautiful — but sometimes paralyzing — thing about the wonderful world of Linux. If you’re curious about making that jump, wait until you’ve checked out these two fantastic resources.

<http://bit.ly/2HzvwRQ>

SIMPLICITY DOES MORE THAN SIMPLIFY LINUX

– If you want a new Linux distro catering to gaming, check out the Simplicity Linux Gaming release. If you prefer a general-purpose computing platform without a gaming focus, try Simplicity’s revamped release. Either way, you will experience a no-nonsense Linux OS that requires no assembly. The article from LinuxInsider tells more.

<http://bit.ly/31W4ayo>

It is a choice to squeeze every last ounce of profit at the expense of privacy, democracy and society. A choice they don’t have to make. Without all this tracking, I’m confident they would still be among the most profitable companies in the world, and we’d all be better off.

Anonymous Affiliates

As mentioned, DuckDuckGo is profitable based mostly on keyword-based search ads, though we have always been on the search for other ways to anonymously make money so that we can reduce the dependence on advertising. The only other way we’ve found so far, which currently accounts for a much smaller portion of our revenue, is non-tracking affiliate partnerships with Amazon and eBay.

When you visit those sites through DuckDuckGo, including when using [bangs](#), and subsequently make a purchase, we receive a small commission. This mechanism operates anonymously and there is no personally identifiable information exchanged between us and Amazon or eBay. These partnerships also don’t affect the ranking of search results. The reason we can do this in an anonymous way with Amazon and eBay, though not with other retailers, is because Amazon and eBay run their own affiliate networks.

What Other Companies Can Do

At the beginning of this answer, I noted that other companies using an advertising business model could follow a similar path to DuckDuckGo. Here are a few actionable things companies can do to remain profitable without tracking the maximum amount of information possible on consumers:

- Favor interest-based advertising instead of hyper-targeted advertising. For us, that is basing ads just on the keywords people type in. For others, that could mean basing ads on the content on the page and not on the individual viewing the page.
- Sell advertising directly based on such interests, avoiding going through the hyper-targeted advertising systems of Google and Facebook.
- Consider using an anonymous affiliate system like DuckDuckGo does as described above. This can help you get away from as much advertising on your pages.

Our vision is to set a new standard of trust online. The Internet shouldn’t feel so creepy and getting the privacy you deserve online should be as simple as closing the blinds.

Editor’s note: I printed this directly from the DuckDuckGo website.

**** Computer Jokes ****

Stolen from Everywhere

When Kids Speak !

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted it on the apple tray:

'Take only ONE ... God is watching.'

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples'.

#

LATE

Johnny walks into class late.

His teacher says: "Johnny, do not walk into class late again."

The next day Johnny crawls into class, late once again.

His teacher says, "Johnny, I thought I told you not to come into class late."

Johnny responds, "No, you told me I couldn't walk in class late."

#

HOW TO START A FIGHT!

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift...

The next year, I didn't buy her a gift.

When she asked me why I replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started...

#

******* BITS and PIECES in the NEWS *******

Editor's Note: To continue reading the following articles, you may copy the long URL at the end of the article and enter it into a web browser or click on the URL in the web version of this newsletter.

Commercializing next-generation nuclear energy technology

Oklo's team is using a startup mindset to build novel reactors while meeting federal regulations.

Zach Winn | MIT News Office

Publication Date: November 13, 2020



Caption:

A rendering of Oklo's first nuclear power plant, dubbed the Aurora, that will be built at the Idaho National Laboratory.

Credits:

Image: Courtesy of Oklo

All of the nuclear power plants operating in the U.S. today were built using the same general formula. For one thing, companies made their reactors big, with power capacities measured in the hundreds of megawatts. They also relied heavily on funding from the federal government, which through large grants and lengthy application processes has dictated many aspects of nuclear plant design and development.

That landscape has had varying degrees of success over the years, but it's never been particularly inviting for new companies interested in deploying unique technologies.

Now the startup Oklo is forging a new path to building innovative nuclear power plants that meet federal safety regulations. Earlier this year, the company became the first to get its application for an advanced nuclear reactor accepted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The acceptance was the culmination of a novel application process that set a number of milestones in the industry, and it has positioned Oklo to build an advanced reactor that differs in several

Odds and Ends

History of Computers: A Brief Timeline

By [Kim Ann Zimmermann - Live Science Contributor](#)

1983: Apple's Lisa is the first personal computer with a GUI. It also features a drop-down menu and icons. It flops but eventually evolves into the Macintosh.

The Gavilan SC is the first portable computer with the familiar flip form factor and the first to be marketed as a "laptop."

1985: Microsoft announces Windows, according to [Encyclopedia Britannica](#). This was the company's response to Apple's GUI.

Commodore unveils the Amiga 1000, which features advanced audio and video capabilities.

1985: The first dot-com domain name is registered on March 15, years before the World Wide Web would mark the formal beginning of [Internet history](#). The Symbolics Computer Company, a small Massachusetts computer manufacturer, registers Symbolics.com. More than two years later, only 100 dot-coms had been registered.

1986: Compaq brings the Deskpro 386 to market. Its 32-bit architecture provides a speed comparable to mainframes.

1990: Tim Berners-Lee, a researcher at CERN, the high-energy physics laboratory in Geneva, develops HyperText Markup Language (HTML), giving rise to the World Wide Web.

important ways from the nuclear power plants currently operating in the country.

Conventional reactors use moderators like water to slow neutrons down before they split, or fission, uranium and plutonium atoms. Oklo's reactors won't use moderators, enabling the construction of much smaller plants and allowing neutrons to move faster.

Faster-moving neutrons can sustain nuclear fission with a different type of fuel. Compared to traditional reactors, Oklo's fuel source will be enriched with a much higher concentration of the uranium-235 isotope, which fissions more easily than the more common uranium-238. The added proportion of uranium-235 allows Oklo's reactor to run for longer time periods without having to refuel.

Taken from MIT News at

<https://news.mit.edu/2020/oklo-nuclear-energy-1113>.

TSMC Will Open \$3.5 Billion Semiconductor Fabrication Plant in Arizona

By [Ryan Whitwam](#) on November 13, 2020

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, known more commonly as TSMC, has announced a major expansion in an unexpected place: the USA. TSMC says it will [build a new semiconductor fab in Arizona](#). The project should get off the ground next year with funding from TSMC, the state of Arizona, and the federal government.

TSMC says it will found a wholly owned subsidiary in the US with \$3.5 billion in resources. While building will get underway next year, jobs at the site will be mostly limited to construction until the facility goes into production in 2024. In all, TSMC expects to spend \$12 billion on the Arizona fab between 2021 and 2029. Eventually, the fab will employ about 1,600 people, and it could compete for those employees with Intel, which has several fabs in Arizona. That's good news for skilled workers in the state, as well as for TSMC. Intel's presence means it won't have to build a supply chain from scratch — there are already numerous local suppliers with whom TSMC can partner.

That's just an estimate, of course. Delays could push the high-volume launch further out. TSMC hopes to be churning out 20,000 wafers per month in 2024 with a 5nm process. That's the current top-of-the-line, but the company's planned 4nm process could be available by the time the fab is done. Still, 5nm chips are happening now, and we're talking about 2024.

TSMC expects it will have a 3nm process up and running by late 2022. However, it plans to keep that production in Taiwan rather than roll it out to the US subsidiary. Most of the company's high-profile customers such as Apple, Samsung, and Qualcomm want TSMC's most advanced process to make the fastest and most efficient chips possible. 20,000 wafers sounds like a lot, but it wouldn't be enough to supply TSMC's high-volume customers, even just those in America. That's why it relies on "gigafabs" in Taiwan to manufacture the latest (and most popular) semiconductor designs. Come 2024, this fab might be churning out the kind of chips you see in embedded smart devices and budget phones.

This was found on <https://www.extremetech.com/electronics/317329-tsmc-will-open-3-5-billion-semiconductor-fab-in-arizona>.

Maker Faire Shanghai: Empowering China's Students and Entrepreneurs to Invent the Future



With its striking skyline, neon boulevards, bustling waterfront, and rich history it is no surprise that Shanghai is home to innovators and makers of all kinds. To celebrate this diverse and vibrant community, event producers [City Moments](#) and co-organizer [Tongji University College of Design and Innovation](#), have organized the first Maker Faire in the city this weekend. On a more limited scale than originally planned to keep the audience safe, the event will take place at Tonglefang Jing'an, a formerly industrial area that now houses the city's arts, culture, and innovation scene.

Co-organizer Tongji University College of Design and Innovation will be running workshops as well as showing the work that is done on their campus. Education is a focus of the event and K-12 student projects and university level innovation forms a strong component of the event. Shanghai American School, Concordia International, Vanke School, Britannica International, NYU Shanghai, Singapore International, YK Pao, Tongji University, Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts will all be participating and showing student projects. Many sponsors will do hands-on activities or dedicated workshops and events. You can see a full list of sponsors and organizational participants on the [Maker Faire Shanghai website](#).

Featured speakers include co-curators of the event, Francesca Valsecchi, a professor at Tongji University, and Salverio Silli from [Fab Lab O Shanghai](#) and who has worked with Maker Faire Rome, aim to connect and inspire the students, innovators and artists who come from all over the world, as well as those local to Shanghai.

Check this out at <https://makezine.com/2020/11/05/maker-faire-shanghai-2020/>.

UNICEF Uses Solar-Powered Fridges to Keep COVID-19 Vaccines Cold and Safe To Use

Olive Marie Nov 13, 2020

When a vaccine for COVID-19 is approved for use, one of the next foremost challenges will be distributing billions of doses all over the world, including remote areas with no reliable electricity, where the vaccine needs to stay refrigerated to retain its efficacy.

As part of the preparation, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund has mapped out a network of refrigerators and [cold storage](#) rooms across the developing countries and helping them set up new equipments in place.

Specifically, [UNICEF](#) included tens of thousands of refrigerators running on solar energy. Other groups, including the International Rescue Committee, focus on preparing healthcare professionals to administer the vaccines.

According to Dr. Mesfin Teklu Tessema, who's leading the health unit for the IRC, "For a situation of this size," where so many nations need to launch a vaccine simultaneously for so many people, "it's a huge undertaking." The doctor added, too, that, unless everyone is protected, nobody's safe.

UNICEF, Started Planning Early

UNICEF, the UN agency that offers humanitarian support to children worldwide, started to plan for the challenge early in the COVID-19 crisis.

A cold-chain specialist at UNICEF, Michelle Seidel, said, when the first signals of the emergency began, "We already started mobilizing and preparing," as they knew that they would be playing a vital role in this pandemic.

Read the whole article at <http://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/28208/20201113/unicef-maps-out-solar-powered-fridges-keep-covid-19-vaccines.htm>.

* * * * * CLUB and REGIONAL NEWS * * * * *

RCSI

No, we haven't closed. Our usual meeting place has closed to outsiders, but **we are practicing 'social distancing' online**. We have used Zoom for several of our planning meetings. These meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm and are open to any member. A link will be emailed to members, before our next planning meeting. ANY CLUB MEMBER MAY ATTEND and voice their opinions about club operations.

We have already completed several general online meetings, with a few hiccups while showing videos. The next online presentation will have been presented before this newsletter is sent out. So, we are working out the bugs.

APCUG

APCUG is pleased to announce that we will be having online workshops during the fall and winter seasons..

Getting to Know Windows from An Insider's Point of View, finished on August 12.



We will use the same Zoom password encrypted meeting URL for each workshop. You will receive the URL after you have registered by [completing this form](#).

Judy will be the contact point for these workshops and will be available to assist you in connecting to the Zoom sessions. The registration list will be used to identify everyone in the Waiting Room before being admitted to the session.

The next series of workshops will be on Home Automation for Seniors:

The second Wednesday of the month at: 9 am PT, 10 am MT, 11 am CT, 12 pm ET

December 9, 2020 **Week 4** - Doing It Myself vs Having It Done

We will begin by explaining why home automation is important to seniors. What products are on the market, costs, security, and some real-world testimonials. In the second week, we will talk about how to go about planning your home automation project and best practices. In the third week, we will talk about applications using lights, doorbells, locks, and cameras. Lastly, we will talk about the benefits of making it a DIY project or having a professional install.

Online During Covid

Our Usual Meeting Place

St John's Meadows at

Johnsarbor Drive, is on the left, past Clinton Avenue, when going West on Elmwood Avenue. The opening in the white fence is Johnsarbor Drive. At the 'T', turn right. The meeting is in the first building on the left –

Briarwood.

Our meeting place can change. Please check our website before each meeting. **www.rcsi.org**