Interface

Lorain County Computer Users Group www.LCCUG.com info@LCCUG.com Volume 28 Number 7 **July 2016**



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A Word From Our President



It is Summer time and on July 17th we will be having our **annual Picnic** at Lakeview Park from 1-5 pm. This is where we have been picnicking for the last several years and it has proven to be a great location!!

LCCUG Vice President, Carole Doer, has been coordinating the picnic and always does a nice job. She usually rounds up some prizes and arranges for a presentation of some kind. She and Pam Rihel do the shopping for the club's portion of the meal. In order to reserve such a great location she has to remember to call on the first date possible in November when reservations start being taken for the next year. These pavilions are booked quickly!

Bring family members and a dish to share and your table setting and beverage and join us. The club will supply the hamburgers and hot dogs. Come and enjoy our picnic and the lovely facility Lakeview Park has to offer. Explore the Rose Garden, walk the beach, play some corn hole and eat good food!

Our picnic program (2pm) this year will be Tom Roig, his wife Brenda, and a couple dogs from his dogsled teams. They'll have pictures of the Iditarod dog sled race and the equipment necessary to run/race a dogsled team. A dogsled on wheels might be presented for show and tell. Tom has been to Alaska twice for the Iditarod dog sled races. He has some wonderful stories to tell. Currently he takes/guides people on dog sled trips in Michigan on weekends and is a weekend guide for canoe trips during the summer - mostly in Canada. Tom and his family love to present programs to a variety of groups and schools. To see more information, pictures and tales check out his website at www.valleyroadoutfitters.com



One thing that our club means to many of our club members is a **social** outlet. Some of our members enjoy coming to as many meetings as possible, regardless of the topic. One of those members is **John Dunn** of Vermilion. John has been a member for many years and some years I think he never missed a single meeting. When his wife

passed away suddenly several years ago, he was still regular in his attendance. When he broke his foot not long ago, he arranged for his daughter to visit so she could bring him to our picnic that year. Recently he took a tumble at his apartment and club member Joe Harrold

LCCUG Officers For 2016

President	Sandee Ruth president@lccug.com
Vice President	Carole Doerr vp-programs@lccug.com
Secretary	Don Hall secretary@lccug.com
Treasurer	Micky Knickman treasurer@lccug.com
Newsletter Editor	Pam Rihel newsletter@lccug.com
Web Page Editor	Richard Barnett webpage@lccug.com
Statutory Agent	Sandra Ruth statutory_agent@lccug.com
Director of Membership	Dennis Smith membership@lccug.com
Director of Advertising	Richard Barnett advertising@lccug.com
Director of Education	Neil Higgins education@lccug.com

was able to be there for him and come to his rescue. Joe made sure he got needed care by following up on his well-being. He is now in a rehab facility closer to his children so they can check on him. We hope he can still occasionally make a club event.

If you would like to send John a card, he is doing rehab at:

Grand Village Manor 2610 E. Aurora Road Twinsburg, OH 44087

FACEBOOK - Another social connections LCCUG is trying to develop is a strong presence on Facebook. If you use Facebook, please consider friending us and posting thoughts and comments.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/237497913275832/



Sandee Ruth LCCUG President



Have you ever wondered how the police use computers in their cruisers to do their jobs? How has technology aided them and their communities to be safer and more effective than before this specific computer technology was available? Please join us to find out how computers help our law enforcement officers protect us more effectively.

Lt. Cawthon will also talk about computer fraud and crime and how it has impacted local citizens. This should be a very interesting and informative program for members and guests. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

LCCUG Membership News – Dennis Smith

Eight club members have taken advantage of the five year renewal discount. The discount price is \$75 for a 5-year renewal vs the normal \$25 per year price. This is a savings of \$50.

Four new members have joined the club during the first half of this year. They are: Peter & Marylou Kucera, Diane Eswine, Marilyn Novak and Chris Zimmerman.

Welcome to our new members.

If you have any questions please ask one of our officers. We will be happy to help.

MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

When a meeting is cancelled, the notification will be on our Websites and emails will be sent out to our members.

Our Websites are: www.lccug.com/ www.lccug.com/

www.lccug.com/members

If you think the weather is too bad to drive in then don't try to come to a meeting that may already be cancelled. Please check your email boxes and our websites.

Thank You

Attention! Attention! Attention!



Now you can get a 5 year membership subscription to LCCUG for only \$75.00.

This is a savings of \$50.00. Can't beat this price.

So talk to Micky Knickman our Treasurer and get started on your 5 year membership today.

Don't wait until this great offer disappears. Sign-up today...



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

JUNE 7, 2016

The board Google Hangout video meeting was attended by Sandee Ruth, Carole Doerr, Don Hall, Micky Knickman, Pam Rihel, Richard Barnett, Dennis Smith and Neil Higgins.

We have a new 22 inch LED monitor which will be given as a prize at a later date. Using it as a picnic prize was discussed.

Micky will investigate our returning as an Amazon sponsor if we qualify.

Carole has the proposed new club flyer available for board members to comment on.

Richard advised DC Parts is no longer a sponsor of the club. Pam and Richard will remove their ad.

Dennis will add a box to the newsletter listing new members.

Carole moved, Pam seconded the meeting be adjourned



MEMBERSHIP WITH LCCUG:

Yearly dues are \$25.00. For more information contact: Dennis Smith Director of Membership, membership@lccug.com.

Directions to Meetings: A map and directions to our meetings can be found on our Members' web page:

www.lccug.com/members. Just click on the link "Meeting Locations & Directions"





General Meeting Minutes

JUNE 14 2016

President Sandee Ruth called the meeting to order. A motion to accept the minutes as shown in the June issue of the *INTERFACE* was made by Carole Doerr, seconded by Pam Rihel. Motion passed by voice vote.

Sandee mentioned the July 17 picnic, Neil's next Tuesday's workshop program and next months Amherst police program.

Mark McKinley of the National Weather Service out of the Oberlin FAA facility along with Tom Janus presented a program about the Weather Service website which was changed last November.

They showed and explained the many levels (height) of radar needed to determine the safety for airplane flight. They showed how the US is broken down into 13 areas of river flow to better predict flooding.

Sandee won \$3 from the attendance raffle, Pam won the roll-over raffle and Richard won the software/ hardware raffle.

Neil moved, Don seconded the meeting be adjourned.

Newsletter Editor: Pam Rihel using Microsoft Publisher,

This Month's contributors: Micky Knickman, Sandra Ruth, Pam Rihel, Don Hall, Dennis Smith, Neil Higgins, Carole Doerr, WorldStart, Scambusters, APCUG, Dick Eastman, Steve Costello, Phil Sorrento, Stu Gershon, Greg Skalka, Ask Leo http://www.familytreequotes.com/categories/ Genealogists-sayings/, http:// jayesh.profitfromprices.com/ Fun Best Computer Cartoons.htm

> Microsoft Office art online, Newsletter is now Online at Iccug.com/newsletters or Iccug.com

LCCUG Members Page

Don't forget to check the Members' page for up-to-date information about programs & events:

http://www.lccug.com/members

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Pam Rihel prihel1947@gmail.com Dick Eastman http://www.eogn.com

How to Find a Revolutionary War Patriot



The Fourth of July seems like the perfect day to plan genealogy research to find information about your ancestors of *H* in the 1770s. If they were in the original 13 colonies, they may have particiof pated in the American Revolution, either as a Patriot or a Loyalist. You the Age might want to refer to the article I of *H* published last year, *How to Find a Revolutionary War Patriot*, available at https://goo.gl/KAfk14.

Do you have comments, questions, or corrections to this article? If so, please post your words at the end of article in the Standard Edition newsletter's web site where everyone can benefit from your words. You might also want to read comments posted by others there.

OMyHeritage

MyHeritage Announces PedigreeMap™, an Online Family History Map that Provides New Geographical and Historical Insights into Your Family History

MyHeritage, the sponsor of this newsletter, has announced a rather nice addition to the company's services. PedigreeMap[™] plots births, marriages, and deaths, as well as digital and scanned photos from your family tree, on an interactive world map. You can trace the locations of your ancestors in order to better understand their life journeys.

The new service is described in the announcement below and pictures and a bit more detail may be found in the MyHeritage Blog at http:// blog.myheritage.com/2016/07/introducingpedigreemap%E2%84%A2-%E2%80%94-aninteractive-map-of-your-family-history/.



The following announcement was written by the folks at MyHeritage: **MyHeritage Launches**

Online Family History Map

PedigreeMap[™] plots events and photos from users' family trees on an interactive map to provide geographical and historical insights

TEL AVIV, Israel & LEHI, Utah, June XX, 2016 — MyHeritage, the fastest-growing destination for discovering, preserving and sharing family history, launched PedigreeMap[™] today — an innovative way to visualize family history, optimized for tablet devices. PedigreeMap[™] displays all events in a user's family tree, such as births, marriages and deaths, as well as digital photos and scanned historical photos, on an interactive map. This allows users to trace the locations of their ancestors and gain new insights into their lives. All data is grouped by country and location, and users can easily filter their view of the map by person, family group, event type, and time period.

PedigreeMap[™] comes with additional features such as place name standardization to improve data quality, and Heatmaps that showcase which geographic areas have a high concentration of activity in the user's family history.

"MyHeritage is the family history technology leader. We're constantly developing new ways to give people insights about their family history," said Uri Gonen, Senior VP of Product Management at MyHeritage. "The first release of PedigreeMap™ helps people understand the life journeys of their ancestors, and we have interesting and original ideas lined up for the next releases."

PedigreeMap[™] is free for all users. To access it, log in to your account on MyHeritage or create a new account for free, then select PedigreeMap[™] in the "Apps" menu.



This article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published

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(Continued from page 5) MyHeritage...

About MyHeritage

MyHeritage is the world's fastest-growing destination for discovering, preserving and sharing family history. As technology thought leaders, MyHeritage is transforming family history into an activity that's accessible and instantly rewarding. Its global user community enjoys access to a massive library of historical records, the most internationally diverse collection of family trees and ground-breaking search and matching technologies. Trusted by millions of families, MyHeritage provides an easy way to share family stories, past and present, and treasure them for generations to come. MyHeritage is available in 42 languages. www.myheritage.com.

Do you have comments, questions, or corrections to this article? If so, please post your words at the end of this article in the Standard Edition newsletter's web site where everyone can benefit from your words. You might also want to read comments posted by others there.

here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at http://www.eogn.com.





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WHAT WE OFFER

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Established in 2011, Empirical Computers has serviced thousands of customers in Lorain County Ohio & surrounding areas. Our mission is to provide the highest quality computer repair, Network and web design services to our customers at a fraction of the price of our competitors. The customer is our first priority. We're professional, honest and affordable. Our customers can be rest assured that we can fix your computer right the first time.

Call Us: 440-723-9803 E-mail: support@empiricalcomputers.com

ScamBusters.org

SIM Card

We tend to give little thought to those gold-colored miniature SIM cards that connect us with our cell phone network providers, as long as they're doing their job.

But beware! Scammers have recently been giving them plenty of thought.

That small card contains a mountain of data about you as well as being the key to making calls and, increasingly, to making mobile payments so it can be like real gold in the wrong hands.

Using stolen personal information culled from the Internet and underworld sources, scammer's piece together information about individuals and their phone network provider.

Then, they contact the phone company and ask for a replacement SIM card to be sent to them.

The card, of course, is programmed with the victims' identities and other details. Once the crooks activate it, they can assume your digital identity, making purchases and calls in your name.

Dell security expert Keith Jarvis, who recently raised the alarm on this issue, told an Atlanta TV station: "They essentially have your phone number and can impersonate you through your phone."

The solution, he says, is to implement the securityvetting procedures available from most phone companies that require additional information before replacement SIM cards are issued.

For instance, many cell companies issue PIN codes that have to be used when requesting a new card. Contact them to ensure you're protected.

Similarly, many card issuers and digital payment handlers can require users to provide a PIN to complete a mobile transaction. Make sure you use these if available — but don't store them on your phone!

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LCCUG'S ANNUAL PICNIC - PICNIC - PICNIC

It's time again for LCCUG's Annual picnic

DATE: July 17, 2016 PLACE: Lakeview Park Pavilion closest to the Lake, TIME: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

The club is supplying the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and accouterments.

We will also have plates, napkins, silverware and tablecloths.

We ask that you bring a dish to share and your own beverages.

There will be a corn hole game and maybe horseshoes.

The BIG prize will be this brand new 22" LED Monitor

There will be other prizes too.



Monitor is 22", HD, LED, VGA

Bring your family and friends to this Annual Picnic

and enjoy a great day of fun by enjoying the company of your family and friends.

Computer Systems Unlimited, Inc.

We are a full service computer/peripheral sales and repair Company specializing in custom built Pc's, network design, software integration, and everything inbetween. We are located in the small college town of Oberlin, Ohio, and for four-



teen years have been providing unrivaled service to home users, small and large businesses all over Ohio as well as State and local government agencies. All of our systems and networks are tailored to meet the individual needs of our customers.

Onsite service and repair for all networks and systems, In house service and repair, Pick up and drop off, Printer repair and cleaning, Laptop repair, Software troubleshooting, Custom designed networks and pc's, MAC repair, Parts replacement & Expert advice and support and Data Recovery.

* Computer Systems Unlimited is happy to offer a 5% discount on all computer systems ordered by LCCUG members. * Computer Systems Unlimited will also offer a free computer diagnostics check, (a \$25 value), for all LCCUG members.

Visit our web site at **www.csuoberlin.com** for more of what we can do. *Store Hour* Monday 9-5:30 - Thursday 9-5:30 - Friday 9-5 - Saturday 9-1

Windows 10 Upgrade Due

Date: Tuesday - July 19, 2016 Time: 5:30 - 8 pm Instructor: Neil Higgins Place: Amherst Church of the Nazarene 210 Cooper Foster Park Rd.,44001

The final date to upgrade to Windows 10 is July 29, 2016.

If you have not yet upgraded and would like to see Windows 10 in action, we will be demonstrating this newest version of Windows and answering you questions.

Class materials (PDF files and Word documents about Windows 10 features and settings) will be available. Please bring a flash drive with a least 500 MB of space to copy these items to it. If you would like to participate please let Neil know by sending an email to <u>Education@lccug.com</u>.

More information on Page 10



PDF File Type – What and Why?

By Phil Sorrentino, Contributing Writer, The Computer Club, Florida http://scccomputerclub.org / Philsorr.wordpress.com philsorr@yahoo.com

The Portable Document File (.pdf) file type has been around since 1993 when Adobe Systems made the specification available to all, free of charge. However, PDF was initially a proprietary format, controlled by Adobe, until it was officially released as an Open Standard in 2008. Since then it has been controlled by a committee of volunteer experts who are part of the International Organization for Standardization. The .pdf file type was developed as a way to share documents that would include text, formatting, and inline images, among computer users of different types of computers from different companies. (PCs, Apple, IBM, Sun, anyone remember DEC?). The PDF standard endeavors to present documents in a consistent manner that is independent of application software, hardware and operating system. The .pdf file type, by its very nature, and name - Portable, was intended to be a file that could be a complex of text, graphics and so on, and be easily shared by people that didn't have the same hardware or software. So, the real benefit was that the file would look exactly the same when displayed on all different types of computer systems.

Each .pdf file encapsulates a complete description of a document, including text, fonts, graphics, forms, annotations, outlines, and other information needed to display the file. .pdf files can also contain links, buttons, audio, video, and business logic; and where security is important, they can be password protected. So a .pdf file can end up as a pretty big file. (When I was almost finished with this article I saved it as a .doc and a .pdf. The .doc was 36KB, and the .pdf was 106KB. I also looked at a PowerPoint presentation, 127 slides with lots of graphics; it was 11.5MB saved as .ppt, and 32.4MB saved as .pdf. Finally, I saved a fairly large Excel spreadsheet (125 rows, with columns that went out to column AT, with quite a few calculations within the spreadsheet), which was 157K saved as .xls and 475 KB as .pdf. So from that limited testing it looks like the .pdf will be about 3 times the native applications size.) .pdf files can easily be viewed on your computer using a free

PDF Reader from Adobe called "Acrobat Reader DC". A mobile "Acrobat Reader DC" App is also available, free, for your Smartphone or Tablet. And for Windows 10 users, who are also Microsoft Office owners, PDFs can now be created from the Office Apps, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. (By the way, you may have seen a reference to an .xps file type along with .pdf. The .xps file type is Microsoft's alternative to .pdf. It was introduced with Windows Vista but never attracted much of a following. Of the two, the .pdf format is the preferred choice.)

At this point in computer evolution, .pdf files can be opened by just about every major operating system (Windows 7, 10, OS X, iOS, Android) and can be used by many different applications. In addition, the majority of modern web browsers (Chrome, Edge, and Firefox) allow .pdf files to be read without the use of an external application, making them easy to use in web applications. (Though the literature doesn't give these internal PDF readers much of a good review; and advice on how to replace the internal PDF reader is easily found.) Also, Mobile Operating Systems (Android, iOS) are including PDF readers, making the PDF format almost universally useable. (This can't be said of any other file type; even though we all may be familiar with Microsoft's Word format (.doc), this format can only be used by a limited number of applications.)

Those of you who have been to our File Explorer class know that there are hundreds of file types on a typical computer, and that you can inspect and change the association between a file type and the program that uses that file type, using the Control Panel. (Remember, "Default Programs", followed by "associate a file type or protocol with a program"?) So, you have to have a program on your computer that knows how to use the .pdf file type. If you are having trouble opening a .pdf document, you probably don't have a program that knows how to use the .pdf file type, on your machine. If this is your situation, consider getting the free Adobe Reader, from the Adobe website,

http://www.adobe.com.

Normally, .pdf files cannot be modified by the user, making these files perfect for use by an "end user", i.e., someone who needs the content of the file without being able to modify the file contents. In other words the file was not intended to be changed, once it was created or "published". So, originally there was no way to change a .pdf file without using the very expensive PDF Creator software from Adobe (or lesser expensive PDF creation software from Foxit). However, there are situ-

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(Continued from page 8) PDF File Type-What and Why

ations where it makes sense to change the contents of a received .pdf file, like "if you need to fill in some information on a PDF form".

"PDF to Word" conversion websites like "PDF Converter", "PDF to Word" or "PDF Online" are websites that advertise that will do the conversion for free. (Google "free pdf to word" and you'll see many possibilities.) Also, you could try "free document converter" found at www.hellopdf.com. I haven't any experience with these, but the literature claims they work as indicated. And, for those of you who need to do a lot of these conversions, Adobe offers "Adobe Acrobat DC" for about \$15/ month or you could buy it for around \$200. There must be a large enough number of people who need to convert .pdf files to .doc files because when I Googled "pdf to word", I was pointed to many websites that could supposedly help me in my quest. There even was a YouTube video that indicated that you could upload a .pdf file to Google drive, (yes, you'll probably need a Google Drive account), and then download it as a word (.doc) document. When I tried it on a pretty simple PDF, the conversion didn't seem to preserve a lot of the formatting, so it didn't look like it would be acceptable, at all, on a more complex document. I haven't had the occasion to need to convert a document, but if the situation ever arises I'm sure I'll be able to get it done, though I just might have to go to the lab and get some help from one of the very able and helpful Monitors. So, when all is said and done, the PDF standard is deeply ingrained in modern computing because it allows a single file to provide a display that looks the same on all different types of computers.





Stu's Media Column How to Take Better Photos with Your Smartphone

By Stu Gershon, Digital Photo SIG Sun City Summerlin Computer Club, Nevada www.scscc.club tomburt89134 (at) cox.net



1. Hold camera HORIZON-TALLY (Landscape). If you take a photo horizontally, you get a wider field of view. This "fills the screen". When you see cell phone photos on TV, they have large blank bars on the side because a phone photo has a different aspect ratio

than your TV (or computer screen). If you take a landscape photo, you can always zoom in or crop to make the picture vertical and closer. You cannot do that if you've taken the photo vertically.

2. Hold the camera firmly which will keep the photo steady. Most pictures are blurry because people naturally seem to push downward when they press the shutter button, and this movement causes blur. Also, just lightly tap the shutter button - the less the movement the steadier the shot and the clearer the final photo.

3. Light - the natural light (outdoors) should always be behind or to the side of the photographer. This will eliminate "backlight" which often causes your subject to be in silhouette or look like little black stick figures.

4. Rule of thirds - if you imagine a tic-tac-toe board (with nine boxes), try to keep your subject at one of the corners of the center box, NOT IN THE CEN-TER BOX. This gives the picture some "movement" with either more foreground (what's in front), or more background (what's behind).

Genealogy Sayings:



This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage.

-Ellen Goodman, The Boston Globe

http://www.familytreequotes.com/categories/Genealogists-sayings/

NEED HELP? CALL FOR HELP **S** Here's Who to Contact:

Neil Higgins

440-967-9061 - higgins.neil@gmail.com Evenings 6 p.m. -10 p.m. + Weekends Hardware, Linux & Windows Operating Systems, Tweaking your system

Micky Knickman

440-967-3118 - micky@knickman.com Evenings 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm + Weekends General Software Configuration, Hardware Installation, Basic to Advanced Windows

Richard Barnett

440-365-9442 - Richard216@aol.com Evenings & Weekends General Software Configuration, Hardware Installation, Basic to Advanced Windows & Web Page Design

Sandee Ruth

440-984-2692 - sandee29@gmail.com Basic Word Processing, Windows, & Web Design Advanced Internet

Pam Casper Rihel

440-277-6076 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 pm Monday thru Thursday Genealogy help prihel1947@gmail.com

If any of our members are interested in helping other users with what programs you are adept at, please contact any of our officers with you name, what program or programs you would be willing to give help with, you email address and or phone number and when you would like to have them call you. Thanks

Computer Club News

Don't Forget to Bring in Your Used Ink Cartridges

LCCUG is collecting empty ink cartridges.

Our Club is recycling used ink cartridges and using the rewards we earn to buy more prizes for the club raffle.

If you have empty ink cartridges laying around, please bring them to our meetings and any officer will gladly take them off your hands.

Recycle & Help Our Club, Too!

LCCUG ONGOING WORKSHOP

ALL ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Problem Solving Workshop

Date: Tuesday - July 19, 2016 Time: 5:30 - 8 pm Instructor: Micky Knickman & Richard Barnett

Place: Amherst Church of the Nazarene 210 Cooper Foster Park Rd.,44001

Learn how to repair or update your computer by changing hard drives, memory, CD ROMs, etc.

Members are encouraged to bring their computers anytime before 7:30 pm for assistance from Micky & Richard.

Learning About Electronics

Date: Tuesday - July 19, 2016 Time: 5:30 - 8 pm Instructor: Sandee Ruth Place: Amherst Church of the Nazarene 210 Cooper Foster Park Rd.,44001

Learn how use you electronic devices.

Members are encouraged to bring their tablets, iPod, kindles, etc. at 5:30 pm for assistance from Sandee and any other knowledgeable members. Public is welcome to sit in these classes.

Learn About Windows 10

Date: Tuesday - July 19, 2016 Time: 5:30 - 8 pm Instructor: Neil Higgins Place: Amherst Church of the Nazarene 210 Cooper Foster Park Rd.,44001

The final date to upgrade to Windows 10 is July 29, 2016. If you have not yet upgraded and would like to see Windows 10 in action, we will be demonstrating this newest version of Windows and answering you questions.

Class materials (PDF files and Word documents about Windows 10 features and settings) will be available. Please bring a flash drive with a least 500 MB of space to copy these items to it. If you would like to participate please let Neil know by sending an email to Education@lccug.com.

If you would like to participate and get copies of the material for this class, please let Neil know by sending an email toEducation@lccug.com

Class Ideas?

Please tell Neil or one of the other officers what you would like to learn and we will be happy to hold classes on your subject./subjects.



The Lorain County Chapter of OGS

is having it's next meetings on :

- ⇒ July 11, Meeting cancelled, see you on August 8 for:
- ⇒ August 8 "How to Prepare a Lineage Application" - Margaret Cheney will discuss the basic information, documentation, and organization needed to successfully complete an application to any Lineage Society

REGULAR MEETING LOCATION

North Ridgeville Library, 35700 Bainbridge Rd. North Ridgeville, Ohio. Meetings are free and open to the public. Social time is at 6:30 PM and the program begins at 7:00 PM.

Jean Copeland: jecopeland1975@gmail.com.

WOW LCCUG IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

While you are on Facebook look us up and check out what our meetings are about, are workshops and much, much more. You can learn about new programs, what's new with computers, tablets, phones, anti-virus's, etc.

The Lorain County Computer Users Group has been around since 1990. I have been a member since about 2003 and I am now the Newsletter Editor and have been for about 8 years.

Since joining this group I have learned a lot about many programs, like the one I use for our newsletter. I started out knowing very little and I knew nothing about Publisher or Power Point programs and so much more.

So please join our Facebook page and be informed.

Newsletter Editor Pamela M. Casper Rihel



Interesting Internet Finds – March 2016

Steve Costello, Boca Raton Computer Society editor@brcs.org http://ctublog.sefcug.com/

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members. The following are some items I found interesting during the month of March 2016.

How to Use Google Maps Offline (Without Internet) on Android and iOS http://www.nirmaltv.com/2016/02/29/use-googlemaps-offline-without-internet-on-androidand-ios/

I have been using Google Maps on my android, but sometimes end up without internet. This post shows how to prepare for those times.

How to Make YouTube Videos Loop Continuously http://www.online-tech-tips.com/googlesoftwaretips/loop-youtube-videos-continuously/

If you need to continuously loop a YouTube video, like maybe before a meeting, check out this post from Online Tech Tips to learn how.

How to Choose a USB Wi-Fi Adapter for Your Laptop

http://www.howtogeek.com/243330/how-to-choose -a-usb-wi-fi-adapter-for-your-laptop/

Is your laptop Wi-Fi broken, or not capable of your new routers' 802.11ac speed? This HowToGeek will help you find a USB adapter that will solve the problem without hefty repair fees.

How to fix the dreaded Google Cloud printer offline issue

http://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-to-fix-thedreaded-google-cloud-printer-offline -issue/

Do you use Google Cloud Print? If so sooner or later you are going to have a printer go offline. This TechRepublic post has the solution. (Note: This has worked for me.)

A True Story of a Computer Scam and How to (Continued on page 14)



What Does "There is a problem with this website's security certificate" Mean, and What Should I Do?

https uses certificates to validate the site you're connecting to, as well as encrypt the data. Certificate errors are often benign, but are worth paying attention to.

I have a laptop that consistently has a problem when it accesses a site online. Each and every time I get the same message from the site I am visiting. The message is strange and I have no knowledge of how to correct the implied problem.

The message is: "There is a problem with this website's security certificate. The security certificate presented by this website has expired or is not yet valid."

This message appears when I try to access my email account.

The problem is most likely not yours to correct. More often than not, it's a problem with the website itself.

You still need to be careful, though.

Let's look at security certificates on https connections: what they mean and what you should do when faced with messages such as this.

Security certificates

A security certificate, or just "certificate", is a kind of positive identification for a website as part of <u>the https protocol</u>. In many ways, it's very similar to a driver's license.

A driver's license has three components:

•Process: A driver's license must be obtained from an issuing authority, like a department of motor vehicles or department of licensing. The process includes documenting your identity as well as proving you have the skills to drive.

•ID: A driver's license is used to prove you are who you say you are.

•Functionality: A driver's license gives you permission to drive a motor vehicle of some sort. A security certificate for an https website has three similar components:

•**Process**: A certificate must be obtained from an issuing authority. The process includes proving you own the website for which the certificate will be issued.

•ID: A certificate is used to prove that the website is the website it claims to be.

Functionality: A certificate is used to encrypt the data that site visitors send to and receive from the site.

A driver's license is typically a physical card issued after you pay a fee, provide documentation, and pass a driving test. A security certificate is a blob of encrypted data issued after you pay a fee, provide documentation, and pass an identity verification test.

Certificate errors

Here's an example of one type of error that we're talking about, as displayed in Google Chrome:

Your connection is not private
Attackers might be trying to steal your information from ask-leo.com (for example, passwords, messages, or credit cards). NET::ERR_CERT_COMMON_NAME_INVALID
Automatically report details of possible security incidents to Google. Privacy policy
ADVANCED Back to safety

Chrome, in particular, makes errors look big and scary, and even makes it difficult to proceed when you know what you're doing. (Hint: you start by clicking on "**Advanced**".) And yes, sometimes you do want to proceed anyway – but only if you're certain.

IE makes it easier to continue.

Below is the same error in Internet Explorer.

You can reproduce this error by going to https:// ask-leo.com. There is no https version of the old "ask-leo.com" (with the dash) site; however, there is enough https support in place that it will try to return something. That "something" uses an unrelated security certificate, currently the certificate for "secure.pugetsoundsoftware.com". That's kind of *(Continued on page 13)*

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like using someone else's driver's license, and results in the error you see.

Most common: expired certificates

Like driver's licenses, security certificates come with an expiration date. Typically, they're only valid for from one to three years, but can last up to ten, I believe. If the website owner fails to renew a certificate before it expires, that's an error, just like driving with an expired license would be.

This is perhaps the most common certificate error we see on any regular basis, and it's probably the cause of error you're seeing: "The security certificate presented by this website has expired or is not yet valid". ("Not yet valid" covers the case where someone starts using a certificate before they're supposed to. This is exceptionally rare.)

It's an unfortunate oversight when it happens, but it's usually corrected very quickly. I know, because.

I've made this error.¹ It's typically safe to ignore the error as long as the expiration date is relatively recent.²

This one bugs me, because it really shows that the website owner doesn't know how to configure their own server.

"biz.askleo.com" and "askleo.com" are two different sites, and typically require two *different* security certificates. Most importantly, a certificate issued for "askleo.com" will not validate "biz.askleo.com" – an error will result. Think of it as trying to use a driver's license from someone else who simply happens to have the same last name as you do – it's not a valid.

And yet I see it all the time. The website owner will try to do exactly that, and it won't work. There are solutions, of $course^{3}$.

This situation is generally benign and you can usually safely ignore the error, but still.

As a side note, "www." is so commonly optional that certificates issued for the base name – ask-leo.com, for example – also validate for the "www." version of the domain.

Self-signed certificates

Official certificates must be purchased. Unofficial certificates – so called "self-signed" certificates – can be generated by just about anyone with a server. They're "self signed" because rather than being cryptographically signed by a trusted authority, you sign it yourself. That's sort of like making your own driver's license out of cardboard and crayon.

This is not uncommon among server geeks such as myself, because we're more interested in the encryption of the connection, not authentication.

So unless you're a server geek or know that's what you're expecting, this type of error should be treated like the next: do not proceed. The wrong domain

In the ask-leo.com example I used above, the server returns a valid certificate, but for the wrong domain. There is no certificate for "ask-leo.com", but the server returns its default certificate, one I've installed for:

"secure.pugetsoundsoftware.com".

The full error message from Chrome explains it well:

This server could not prove that it is ask-leo.com; its security certificate is from secure.pugetsoundsoftware.com. This may be caused by a misconfiguration or an attacker intercepting your connection.

Yes, it could be a misconfiguration, but whenever the server responds with the wrong domain name for a secure connection, you need to pay attention. This is very much like someone – intentionally or accidentally – trying to use someone else's driver's license.

It ain't right, and you should probably walk away.

Usually harmless

Most of the time, certificate problems are simply oversights and omissions on the part of the server

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administrator. In your case, for example, I'd guess that the administrator of your email server simply failed to update their certificate. You might contact them and let them know.

The problem, of course, is knowing whether or not this is a simple oversight or a malicious interception. The whole point of security certificates is to detect those errors, because they may indicate various forms of server compromise, or even a compromise of your own computer or internet connection.

If your computer thinks it's going to:

https://yourbank.com, but due to malware on your machine it's being directed to a hacker's computer overseas instead, https security certificate error messages will tell you, just like looking at someone's driver's license photo tell you whether the person you're looking at really is who they say they are.

When in doubt, take the safe route. You should not continue; instead, double check that you've typed in the correct domain name or URL, and per-



haps contact the site owner via other means to determine what's happening.

Read more:

<u>Is an https connection really all that safe?</u> https is an important part of keeping your data safe, but it's only a part. It's important to understand what it means and what it doesn't mean.

How can an https web site still be nonsecure? Surprisingly, it's possible for aspects of an https site to still be nonsecure, if the site is improperly designed. And it's very difficult to tell.

<u>Why can't we use https for everything?</u> – HTTPS provides validation and encryption, two important pieces of security. Using it for everything is possible but costly and issues would remain.

This is a major update to an article originally posted: December 3, 2008

Footnotes and references

<u>1</u>: I've also forgotten to renew my driver's license in the past as well.

2: Though finding the expiration date takes understanding how to examine the certificate. While that can be done using your web browser, it's not something I'm covering here.

<u>3</u>: Either a separately purchased and issued certificate for each subdomain, or what's called a "wildcard" certificate, which covers any and all subdomains on the parent domain. I've elected to use the latter with *.askleo.com.

(Continued from page 11) Interesting Finds

Avoid It Happening to You.

http://www.wonderoftech.com/computer-scammicrosoft-windows/

After you read this, you will be much more aware of these types of scams. This story shows that even tech savvy people can be scammed.

You Can Use a Picture If: Guidelines for Image Copyrights

http://thevisualcommunicationguy.com/2016/03/24/ you-can-use-a-picture-if-guidelines-for-imagecopyrights/

This post has an infographic that can help you decide if you can legally use a picture for your blog, newsletter, presentation, or whatever. And, if it is under a Creative Commons license, what each of those mean.

Most Fridays, more interesting finds will be posted on the Computers, Technology, and User Groups Blog:

http://ctublog.sefcug.com/tag/interesting-internetfinds/

The posts are under Creative Commons licensing.



Financing Available - 90 days same as cash

Update Upsets



By Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group May 2016 issue, Drive Light www.uchug.org president@uchug.org

More and more of the things we own and use require updates, and a lot of them require updating more and more. When you think of updates, computers typically come to mind first, but so many other products now allow or require updates that keeping them current can seem overwhelming. Updates can be beneficial to insure safety or improve performance, but there are darker sides to this seemingly perpetual updating as well.

It used to be that the product you bought was the product you had, and updates were only for the correction of serious health and safety issues. When changing the product meant physical manipulation of the product's hardware parts, updates were costly to the manufacturers and usually had to be mandated by law to correct some serious safety error on their part. Mandatory Federal product recalls of automobiles for safety issues were the only way to get problems like gas tanks that ruptured when rear-ended or seat belts that became unbuckled in a crash corrected, so that innocent consumers were not further endangered. Sometimes the nature of the problem and the difficulty in making an update meant the product had to be returned or discarded, as there was no economical way to correct the hazard (a toy with small parts that represented a choking hazard for a small child, for example). While these kinds of hazards and the update of product hardware still occur all too often today, the age of computers changed the paradigm of product updates.

The personal computer was perhaps the first consumer product whose functionality was less defined by the hardware you bought as the programming it could contain. Since this programming came in the form of firmware (in add-on peripherals) and software that could be purchased later, the computer as a product was a work in progress. Just as functions could be added easily, corrections to existing capabilities could be made without onerous efforts. Most updates could be, and usually were required to be installed by the owner, and this became the norm for computers.

There are many levels of updating possible in a personal computer, and some are typically overlooked by the owners (until something goes wrong). At the

lowest lever, the computer's BIOS, or Basic Input-Output System, can often be updated. This is considered firmware (or microcode), which is programming stored in a semi-permanent manner on a nonvolatile memory device in hardware (firmware is software that is not easily erased). In the computer, it is the BIOS code that provides the computer a way to understand the components it contains and how to use them in a general manner. BIOS developers often provide updates to their products to correct hardware compatibility issues and other errors; these updates are downloaded from their web site (perhaps also hosted on the computer manufacturer's site) as a file, and a special programming procedure is typically required to replace the old BIOS file in hardware with a new one. Things can get messed up if you don't follow the update instructions or if you install an inappropriate BIOS file.

The next level of programming in the computer is the operating system; the BIOS helps load this software from a hard drive (or solid-state drive) when booting. Whether you use Windows, Chrome OS, Apple Mac OS or a Linux variant, your OS will require periodic updates to stay current and secure. The amount of control you have over this depends on the OS and the update settings it allows. Chrome automatically installs updates without exception; Windows provides a lot of flexibility in when and if updates are applied.

A third level of programming related to the hardware is device drivers, which apply to internal computer hardware or external connected devices. These drivers also get updated periodically as compatibility issues arise, though most users don't concern themselves with them as long as everything is working.

The final level of programming is the application or program software. Users of Microsoft Office products probably know about program updates to Word and other programs to fix bugs and close security gaps. Updates to other popular applications may be out there, but since they may not be as well advertised by the software vendors, users may not consider any are needed. TurboTax is one program I use that always checks for updates when it starts up; these update both the program and the tax forms it uses.

The ease of updating our technology through software can unfortunately create a culture of incomplete or insufficiently tested products. Manufacturers can rush computers and software to market, *(Continued on page 16)*

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knowing that they can provide updates on their web sites later to solve their problems.

When the microprocessor spread from the computer to other products, the software update became the benefit and the bane of these devices as well. In addition to our computers and laptops, we must update our tablets and smart phones as well. My auto navigation GPS receiver can be connected to the manufacturer's web site through a PC (and the Internet) to allow its firmware programming to be updated. It can also download updated mapping information. Many consumer products connected to the Internet, like smart televisions, can require periodic software updates. The IoT, or Internet of Things, will bring a lot more devices in our homes connected to the web, and a lot more update opportunities.

Like many users of technology, I have a love-hate relationship with updates. I do want my devices to be as protected as possible from hackers, so I want known vulnerabilities patched as soon as is possible. I do like new features (when I am expecting them) and I like broken features to be fixed. I don't like updates that provide unexpected changes to my user experience, or that cause a previously working device or application to crash. I also don't like being locked out of the use of my device while a long and unexpected update takes place. I dread the times I'm in a hurry to turn off my laptop and take it somewhere, and as Windows starts shutting down, it says "Updates in progress - Do not shut down your computer". What I want is full control of the update process, something the vendors are not always willing to give.

I have a Chromebook, and am always apprehensive when I see the little up arrow in the lower right corner of the screen that indicates an update is in progress. Google forces Chrome users to take whatever updates it provides, when it provides them. It never says not to shut down, so I disregard the update arrow, trusting Google to work things out and keep my Chromebook protected and operational.

In that regard Microsoft gets a bad rap, as though they generate tons of updates for their software, they do allow a lot of control of the process. I have Windows set to check for updates, but let me choose whether to download and install them. This is supposed to allow me to delay the update until I'm ready, but it still sometimes surprises me. I've had some problem updates at times, and have had to call Microsoft (yes, they provide free phone support for failed updates) when an update resulted in an error message.

I've also found Microsoft updates don't always know best. I recently had two new computers to set up, and spent a few days getting them updated initially. I am embarrassed to admit that one was a new Lenovo desktop computer that I'd bought for myself two years ago but had never gotten around to setting up. The other was a recent purchase by my dad (an HP desktop) that I offered to set up for my mom.

When I plugged everything in to run my new Lenovo, I knew I'd be in for a wait, as there were probably a lot of accumulated updates over the last two years. After asking Windows to check for updates, it took several hours before it came back with 211 important updates that were needed. I let it download and install them, but progress was slow and I had to let it continue overnight.

When I got up the next morning, it was waiting to reboot after the update installation. I let it reboot and went downstairs for breakfast. When I came back, it said something like: "Failed to configure Windows updates - reverting changes". It had some problem and wanted to undo all 211 updates. I let it go back to its previous state, and it again asked to try these 211 updates. I'd seen things like this before, where Windows seemed to choke on too many updates all at once. I selected only the first 40, and those installed successfully. I repeated with another 40, and another, until no more updates were shown to be needed. Unfortunately, this took several days to resolve.

My dad's HP PC was much quicker to update, as it was much newer. Windows only reported 34 important updates, and I was able to run it through the three update cycles needed to be current in just one day.

Our next months meeting will be **"Financial Freedom"**. Presented by Dan Hornbeek.

This Presentation should be very enlightening.

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Will I Lose Virtual XP If I Upgrade to Windows 10?

We've had a few questions about virtual XP machines in Windws 10. *"I have Windows 7 Pro on my computer. I am thinking about loading Windows* 10. *I have a virtual machine on my PC with Windows XP Pro. If I download Windows 10 will I lose my virtual machine? My computer is a 64 bit.*

I mostly use Windows XP for Outlook Express, as it has ability to allow code to remove the vertical (forward/blockquote) lines. I have never found a way to do this using Gmail or Outlook. There may be one, but don't know about it."

There are two ways to install Windows 10 on your computer. One is to erase the contents of the disk drive and to perform what is called a clean install. It involves deleting everything and this includes all your software and files like music, photos, videos, documents and virtual machines.

The other way to get Windows 10 is to upgrade the existing Windows installation. This is the default action and it will be performed by Windows Update if you let it. (It is getting increasingly hard to avoid, but that is another story.)

An upgrade will keep all of the software you have installed on the disk drive, all of your files and virtual machines.

Windows 10 doesn't have Windows 7's built-in XP mode, but you can use an emulator like Virtual-Box. Presumably. If you already have VirtualBox running on your computer, it is compatible with Windows 10, so your virtual machine with Windows XP Pro will be unaffected. It will still be there after the upgrade and it will work fine.



Upgrading from Windows 7 to 10 involves a great many changes to the system and to files on the disk drive. It is a good idea to copy important files to a backup disk, such as a USB disk drive. It is very unlikely that anything bad will happen to your files, but it is best to have a copy of them elsewhere anyway.

When replying or forwarding email messages, some email software will indent the contents of the old message and put vertical bars in. It looks ugly and is unnecessary. The Mail app that is bundled with Windows 10 does not. When you reply to or forward an email message it draws a horizontal line across the page and the old message appears below it.

Adding common email accounts to the Mail app in Windows 10 is very easy and it recognizes Outlook, Gmail, and Yahoo!, and it allows any email account to be added if you know the details such as the mail server, username and password. These can be copied from Outlook Express in Windows XP.

~ Roland

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