

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiast News Journal

January 2016

Members Helping Members

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"Members Helping Members"
(since 1983)

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News Journal

The LCACE News Journal is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions which will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Send articles to editor@lcace.org

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Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

LCACE
c/o Group Ambassador

"J.J." Johnson

Membership

LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at <http://www.lcace.org>.

Meetings

LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

Newsletter Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page - \$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card - \$.5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

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In Memoriam

Long-time L.C.A.C.E. member Theresa E. Hanlon passed away unexpectedly on December 9, 2015, after a brief illness and hospitalization. Terri was born on July 9th, 1944, and was the oldest of 24 grandchildren in the extended Hanlon family. (Not surprisingly, there were lots of family members at her funeral Mass, held at St. Mary's Visitation Parish in Elm Grove, Wisconsin on December 12th.)

Terri was survived by her mother, three sisters, one daughter, two sons and four grandsons.

At the Mass, one of her sisters provided a loving eulogy for Terri. As she pointed out, and as those of us who knew Terri well surely have recognized, although her life had its ups and downs Terri maintained a great sense of humor and the ability to laugh at both jokes and the absurdities of life. (This trait seems to run in her family; her sister told us that the family taped a photo of Groucho Marx dressed as a doctor (complete with stethoscope) to the foot of Terri's hospital bed, so that it would be the first thing she would see in the morning when she woke up. The inside joke was that none of the relatively young doctors who visited Terri had any idea who the person in the photo actually was. After one of them inquired about the photo, they told him it was a picture of Terri's father!)

She went on to describe Terri as an excellent seamstress, a good cook, an artist and a long-time genealogist. On a more serious note as she closed her eulogy, her sister talked about Terri's death. To provide some cheer for Terri and the family during her last days they had set up a radio in her hospital room, playing Christmas carols. At 5:05 a.m. on Tuesday morning, just as a carol was ending, Terri died. The next song on the radio was "Amazing Grace".....

Rest in peace, Terri.



*In Loving Memory
Theresa Eileen Hanlon*

*July 9, 1944
Dec 9, 2015*



Special Memories from her closes friends: Roger & Linda Busch, Mike McEnery, Donna Kalinoski, Sandy Mason, Judy Dunham and J. J. Johnson.

Phil's Ramblings

Ransomware!

A term that strikes fear in computer users around the world (except, perhaps, in Russia) - and rightly so! According to an e-mail newsletter I just received from Webroot the most recent incarnation is both more sophisticated and more expensive than any previous version. It is referred to as CryptoWall 4.0, and the going rate for the "key" you will need to decrypt your computer files is now \$700.

For those not familiar with the term, "ransomware" refers to malicious software installed on your computer designed to kidnap your files. It encrypts your files, so that you cannot access them or use them. Shortly after encryption a message will appear on your computer screen telling you that your files are now encrypted and that you have a limited time to pay a ransom to that person or organization in return for the decryption key. You will be told to purchase Bitcoins equivalent in value to the ransom amount specified, and be given instructions about how to do this and how to transmit those Bitcoins to the kidnapper. This notice may include a reminder that if the Bitcoins have not been received by the deadline specified, the amount of the ransom will double. Further, if the ransom has not been received by the specified date, the decryption key for your computer will be destroyed. If this happens, your computer files will be forever encrypted and unavailable to you. Here is a sample of such a notice, which I found on the "bleepingcomputer.com" website:



Because the software used to encrypt your files mimics legitimate encryption that you

might choose to do yourself, firewalls and antivirus software typically do not offer much protection against ransomware. Further, as security software firms have tried to come up with preventative or remedial software, the people behind ransomware have continued to modify their software to stay at least several steps ahead.

To give you a sense of what is driving the "bad guys" to pursue this line of work, I've seen an estimate that one of the first variants of this software, Cryptolocker, netted \$325,000,000 in ransom payments during the first year it was being used. (Ransomware is used against businesses and government agencies, as well as individual computer users. Needless to say, the ransom demanded from the larger victims is considerably higher than the ransom for individual users; I remember at least one anecdote about a municipality which paid \$75,000 to get the private key needed to decrypt their files.)

By now you are probably asking yourself, "If my firewall and antivirus software will not protect me from ransomware, what can I do to protect myself?" If you dig into this subject on the Internet, you will find some elaborate, technical approaches (that are beyond my level of expertise). Further, implementing some of these features may impede normal computer operations. However, there are some relatively simple things you can do to minimize your vulnerability. These include:

1. If you have not already done so, establish a "limited" or "standard" user account on your computer (in addition to the "administrative" account that you had to create to use your computer in the first place). Then, stop using your administrative account completely – other than to install, update or remove software or perform other essential administrative functions. Use your new standard account for all Web-related activity. Why? Because prior administrative approval is required to make any changes to your computer when you are operating in your standard account. This limits the ability of the bad guys to trick you into installing an ".exe" file on your computer.
2. Speaking of installing ".exe" files, all the usual warnings against "phishing", indiscriminate Web surfing, opening email attachments and clicking on links contained

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And the winners are



**Lake County Area
Computer Enthusiasts**
"Members Helping Members"
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HOLIDAY RAFFLE 2015

1st Prize:

Acer Laptop Computer

- 15.6" Touchscreen
- Windows 8.1 64-bit
- Intel Core i5 Processor
- 8GB Memory
- 1TB HDD



Lou Seidenberg



Myrick Savage

2nd Prize:

Apple iPad Air 2 16GB Wi-Fi

- 5th Generation Retina Display
- Dual-core A6X chip with quad-core graphics
- 5.0MP iSight camera, 1080p HD video recording
- Up to 10 hours battery life

3rd Prize:

HP OfficeJet Pro All-in-One Printer

- Print, copy, scan, fax, Web
- 2.65" CGD touchscreen
- HP ePrint, Wireless direct printing
- Network ready, WiFi 802.1.
- Duplex printing



Sheryl Nichols



4th Prize:

1-Year's Membership LCACE "Members Helping Members"



Jack Wagner

Robin Siedenberg sold the winning ticket. J.J. Johnson sold the most tickets selling 305 tickets.

Congratulations to all the winners

Holiday Party 2015



Please remember to use the Amazon.com link on our website for your purchases:

Please click here ► amazon.com ◀ to help support our club with your on-line purchases

LCACE Website

Check out our Website

The Web Master had been making many improvements and update.

<http://www.lcace.org>



**12/01 Kenneth Savage
12/04 Richard Eisenman
12/06 Linda Busch
12/14 Linda Rohlfling
12/21 Barton Berndtson
12/24 Steve Russel
01/02 Donna Kalinoski
01/02 Roger Busch
01/15 Mark McDonald**

Recipe of the Month

Submitted by: Lou Seidenberg



DELICIOUS AND EASY SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

3 cups mashed sweet potatoes (I peel the potatoes, cut into chunks and boil for 20 minutes until really soft. Drain and then use a hand mixer to mash them)



1 cup sugar
1/4 t salt
1 t vanilla
2 eggs, well beaten
1/4 cup melted butter or canola oil

Blend sugar, salt, vanilla and butter in with the mashed sweet potatoes. I wait a while for the mixture to cool down before adding the eggs. Beat well and pour into greased 2 quart casserole dish.

Topping:

1 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup flour
1/2 cup melted butter or oil
1 cup chopped nuts (pecans are great)

Blend the four ingredients together and sprinkle over the sweet potato mix.

Bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Let cool a little before serving. It is also good cold. Some people like it for dessert since it tastes like pumpkin pie!!!

The Forgotten Island – Birds and Wildlife

(DVD Review by Marie Caviness)



At the August meeting, I offered to review this DVD because the titled intrigued me. After getting it home, I promptly put it aside and almost forgot about it. But on a cloudy Saturday morning, I thought now is the time to go for it.

Into my computer went the DVD. Soon images of colorful birds and wildlife flashed across my screen accompanied by the sounds of wonderful classical music. No words were spoken throughout the DVD. One only had to take time to enjoy these spectacular images and listen to the music. I settled in and began my journey to "The Forgotten Island."

Actually, the journey was taken by Sanford Apseloff, Photographer, in 2013. He took a 4-day boat trip from the tip of South America to the South Georgia Island. My curiosity was peaked about its whereabouts. Wikipedia told me that the Island is a very remote place. The winters are cold and the blowing winds add to the harsh weather.

The snow-covered mountains visible in the background of many of the images and the patches of ice floating on the waters presented a picturesque scene. The bright-white snow on the ground seemed to sparkle when the sun shone on it. Truly this was a forgotten island.

Still, life was ever present in this place. It was amazing to see in the multitude of pictures how the wildlife got along together. Penguins hopped around, seals relaxed on the shore and birds flew overhead. There was room for all.

Images of the second largest king penguins in different situations made me smile. The babies were all puffed up in their brown fur as mother began the feeding process. What was further striking was the coloring of the penguin. The gold on the side of their heads seemed to be

perfect for their black and white coats. Other images showed them standing proudly with their heads held high. They appeared to be huddled together in some images. What could they be communicating? Joining the group were emperor penguins, the tallest penguin. The cutest of all were the royal penguins. Their golden crested heads were so unique.

While all the penguin action was going on the seals continued their lounging on the shore. Every once in a while, there would appear a picture of one swimming in the water or joining up with a friend for what might be conversation.

Various artic birds such as albatross, gulls and terns shared the space with the wildlife. The cold seemed to be what brought everyone together.

As an image of a seal enjoying the warmth of the sun appeared on the screen, the ending notes of the classical piece accompanying it concluded this wonderful DVD. Sitting back in my chair, I could recall the beauty of the birds and wildlife in South Georgia Island.



Limited Time Offer: One Click to Keep Your OneDrive Free Storage at 15GB.

Sunland Village East Computer Club

Bad news. For all users of OneDrive, Microsoft will de-increase the free storage space from 15GB to just 5GB and discontinue the 15GB camera roll storage bonus in early 2016 according to The OneDrive Blog.

But here's good news. If you want to keep the above 15GB + 15GB free storage even after the changes roll out, you still have a good

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chance to do so before end of January 2016 — just click "Keep your free storage" at this link (<https://preview.onedrive.com/bonus/>) and sign in to your Microsoft account to activate such free storage. Once activated, your account will not be affected by the upcoming storage changes.

If you have an ad-additional "loyalty bonus" of 10GB in your account, this bonus won't go away with the changes as confirmed by Douglas Pearce, Microsoft's Group Program Manager for OneDrive in his tweet.

Microsoft has been changing the free storage quota since its launch of the service and here is a bit of the history. In 2012, Microsoft reduced the free storage from 25GB to 7GB in SkyDrive (now known as OneDrive) while existing users were offered a free upgrade to retain the 25GB free storage. In 2014, the default free storage of 7GB increased to 15GB. Users who had the old 25GB of free space will notice a split of storage in-to 15GB free and 10GB labelled as "loyalty bonus".

If you've activated camera roll back-up on a mobile device, you will also get an additional 15GB free storage as "camera roll bonus" while still available.



SENIOR MOMENTS

Popping a handful of nuts into your mouth without realizing you haven't put in your dentures.

Windows 8.1

Downloading, Purchasing and Installing Apps

By Rosita Herrick, Director, Sarasota Technology User Group, FL

www.thestug.org

Rosita (at) spcug.org

In addition to being a computer operating system, Windows 8.1 is blurring the line between the old

2016

Meeting Schedule

January 9th

February 13th

March 19th

April 16th

May 14th

June 11th

December 3rd

Liz Barnett and I met with Linda Hartmann, the Grayslake Facility Manager at State Bank of the Lakes, in November and reserved their meeting room for Saturday, December 3, 2016 for our 2016 Holiday party.

DeBorah Sirilla and I have been talking about July 16th or 23rd for our picnic; unless we hear from someone else about hosting the picnic, she will be requesting one of those dates from the Vernon Hills Park District as soon as they open their 2016 reservations in early January.

Happy New Year!

Phil

ways of working on a computer and the access to information used by tablets and smart phones. The distribution of apps that perform individual tasks is one of the ways.

In addition to apps that come with the operating system, Microsoft has created a store for apps distribution.

The Store App

The Store app can be found either on the Start screen or on the Task bar.

(Continued from page 4)

- in emails and on Web pages apply to ransomware as well!
3. Make sure that you keep your operating system and all application software up-to-date! This minimizes opportunities for the bad guys to exploit vulnerabilities in your software. (There is a free program called Secunia PSI, which will do this for you. It will notify you whenever it finds that one of your programs is out-of-date, and it can be set to automatically update out-of-date programs if you wish.)
 4. When choosing internet security software, try to find a version that may offer some protection against ransomware. (I use Webroot Secure Anywhere software, in part because it differs in its approach from most other security suites and I believe that this gives it an advantage in blocking new or unusual threats.)
 5. Back up your computer files! However, there is a twist to this recommendation. It is not enough to back up to an external hard drive, permanently-installed removable storage device or cloud-based storage account. This is because the people behind ransomware are becoming increasingly sophisticated and have found ways to encrypt not only the files found ON your computer, but also the files connected TO your computer. For better protection, I am now seeing recommendations to use two external hard drives or other storage devices for backup, one at a time. This way, one hard drive or other device will always be disconnected from your computer and your network – and invisible to the bad guys. Even if they're able to encrypt all files on your computer and connected to your computer, they can't reach that disconnected hard drive.

If you have additional information or ideas about how to protect against ransomware, please send it/them to Mike McEnery to include in future newsletters or share with members at our monthly meetings. Thanks!



Access to the Internet is required for accessing the Store.

You access the store app by clicking on the tile/icon.

When the app opens you have quite a few options to search for items of interest.

Once you find an app of interest, just click on it and on the page that opens you will find information about the app such as number of downloads, reviews with rating and a description of the app. The app might be free, might have a price or it can be downloaded for trial.

Usually a Microsoft account is required. To install the app, just click on the *Install* button.

Maintaining Apps

Periodically, there are updates for apps to either enhance them or fix some problem.

To check for updates go to the Store app.

On the upper right side of the screen, if there are updates available for any of the apps, you will see a link in green

Updates (3)

In this case there are updates available for 3 of my installed apps (not distributed with the system).

Clicking on this link displays the 3 apps that are scheduled for an update.

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⌚ App updates 3 updates available

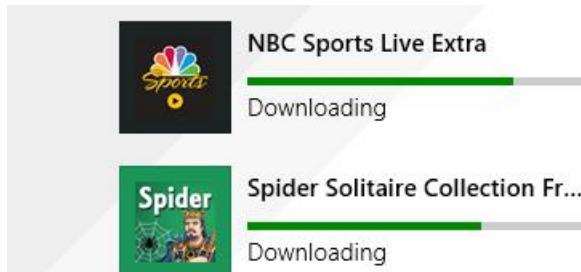


The check mark on the right corner shows that the update is selected to install. It can be unchecked with a right click

Now I can update the two remaining apps by clicking on the install icon at the bottom of the page.



Once I click on install, the following page displays



The amount of time and download and install takes, depends on the speed of your internet connection, the size of the update and the speed of your computer.

Once the download and install are completed the next message on the screen will be:

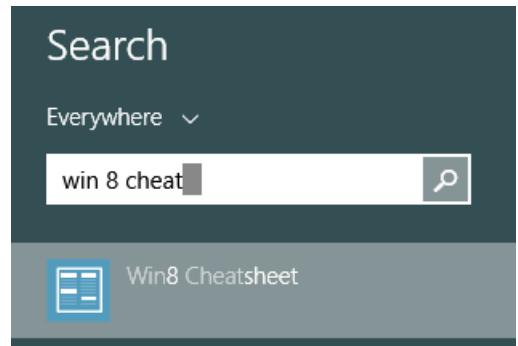
Your apps were installed

You can now close the Store app.

Uninstalling an App

This process is very simple.

1. Find the app with the search charm.



2. Right click on the icon and this box will appear.

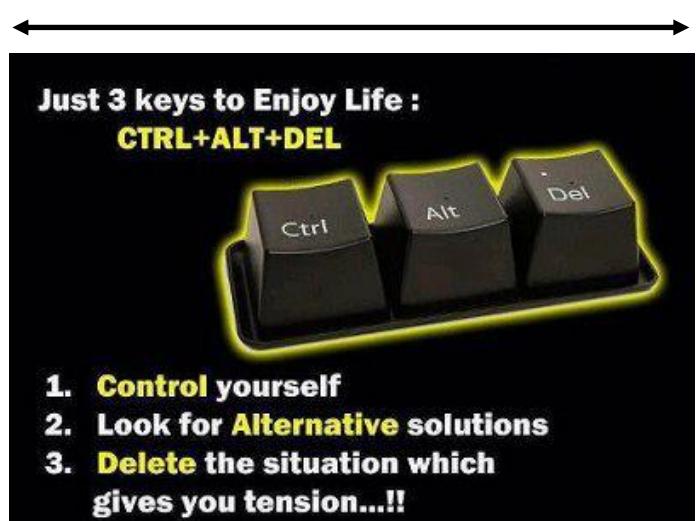
Unpin from Start

Pin to Taskbar

Uninstall

3.

Click on Uninstall and Windows will remove the app from your system.





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might see
yourself.**

[http://lcace.org/
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