

# Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts NEWS JOURNAL

VOLUME 34-02

May 2017

LCACE.ORG

## Recover, restore, backup, clone, image?

By Carol Picard, Editor / Webmaster, Midland Computer Club, MI  
February 2017 issue, Bits and Bytes  
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At our January club meeting we discussed how to recover in case of hard drive failure, virus, or if Windows won't start.

The most important steps for recovery need to be completed before a problem occurs. First step is to create a recovery drive. Depending on the computer, this could require a 16Gb or 32Gb flash drive. My suggestion is to use a 32 Gb flash drive. Everything on the flash drive will be deleted and you cannot use the drive for anything else. Well-known brands, 32 Gb flash drives, were recently on sale for less than \$10.00.

To create a recovery drive on a Windows 10 computer, connect the flash drive to the com-

puter, search for recovery, click Create a recovery drive. Follow the prompts to create the drive. Make sure "Back up system files to the recovery drive" is selected. The minimum size of flash drive needed will be indicated.

A flash drive has less usable space than the amount of space indicated on the label, so, if it indicates 16Gb needed, you will actually need a 32Gb flash drive. It could take an hour or more to create the recovery drive. During the process, you will see a prompt to "Delete the recovery partition from your PC".

Do not click that option, so you still have the ability to run recovery from the hard drive. Make sure you get the message that the recovery drive was successfully created. If not, try again. After safely removing the flash drive, label it and store it in a safe place. The flash drive is bootable. When you need to use it, insert it in the computer, turn on the computer, and it should automatically boot from the flash drive. However, depending on the computer, you may have to access startup or bios options to boot from the flash drive.

The recovery drive offers more than one recovery option. Depending on what is wrong with the computer, you may be able to save personal files, or may only be able to reinstall the Windows operating system and any programs that were installed by the manu-

**The lecture on May 20, 2017 will be given by one of our members, Mike Andrews. The subject for that day will be Home Automation-Security Cameras. I am sure you will all enjoy this one.**

*(Continued on page 7)*

*Members Helping Members*



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(since 1983)

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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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# Phil's Ramblings



May 2017

New developments and new products based on the Amazon Echo personal assistant device are making news this month. Anyone who purchased an Amazon Echo in the past year or two

is already aware that Amazon has been pushing out new apps for this device almost weekly. Not only can the Echo give you the weather forecast, keep your calendar, remind you of appointments and bring you up-to-date on the latest sports scores, but it can play music for you, control IoT devices in your home, play games, tell jokes and much, much more.

Not to be outdone, Google launched their Google Home personal assistant device late last year. It is designed to provide the same functionality as the Amazon Echo, but relies upon Google's vast storehouse of information about its customers and Google's experience with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Most reviews have the two devices running virtually neck and neck in features, but give the overall edge to the Echo right now because of its head start in signing up IoT partners. Those same reviewers expect Google home to catch up in short order, given their background in data analysis and AI.

While these two devices have been getting all the press, new competitors are entering the arena. Lenovo has worked out an agreement with Amazon to use "Alexa" (the software and voice used in the Echo) on a similar piece of hardware that Lenovo has designed for this marketplace.

The Lenovo Smart Assistant is one of several new Lenovo products that will be unveiled at the 2017 Consumer Electronics Show. It will be available for purchase in May 2017. Here is what it will look like:



While it resembles the Amazon Echo, there are some notable differences:

- Color: An Amazon Echo comes in black or white, the Lenovo Smart Assistant will be available in green, orange or light gray.
- Price: An Amazon Echo costs \$179.99, the Lenovo Smart Assistant will be \$129.99.
- Microphones: The Lenovo device's microphone portion protrudes from the top of the device and has eight far-field microphones instead of seven.

While personal assistants like the Amazon Echo and Google Home can be helpful, they aren't known to have great speakers. The Lenovo Smart Assistant Harman Kardon® Edition will provide better sound quality. It will

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cost \$179.99 and will also be available in May 2017.

Meanwhile, Apple has quietly been working on their own standalone Siri device. I have not seen a photo of their new device, which is scheduled to be introduced at Apple's Worldwide Developer's Conference in June. However, it will be similar in function to the Echo and Google Home, so we can expect some combination of speakers and microphones in a small package.

The Apple personal assistant will be more expensive than Amazon's Echo and Google Home, according to analysts, because it will have state-of-the-art speakers and subwoofers. A few years ago, Apple bought Dr. Dre's Beats speakers; Apple is expected to incorporate their speakers and its own AirPlay wireless streaming into the Siri personal assistant.

Apple owns facial-recognition companies Faceshift and Emotient; analysts are predicting that the new Siri device will be able to use facial-recognition technology to see that it is communicating with you, and to determine how you are feeling. This may lead to suggestions of music to lift your mood if you're feeling down, or different options in the case of other perceived emotions. As always, it will be interesting to see Apple's take on another new marketplace.

At a recent technology program conducted by the Waukegan Township Senior Center, attendees were shown yet another personal assistant that is expected to be available soon. Currently named Elli-Q, it is still in development - with an unknown release date and pricing. Here is a preproduction photo:



The device itself is on the left in this this picture; to the right is a tablet held by a support arm. This setup allows you to converse with friends and family members via Skype or other visual calling applications.

Designed specifically for seniors, here is a description from the developer's website about what the product will do:

***“ELLIQ™ is an active aging companion that keeps older adults active and engaged. ELLIQ seamlessly enables older adults to use a vast array of technologies, including video chats, online games and social media to connect with families and friends and overcome the complexity of the digital world.***

*ELLIQ inspires participation in activities by proactively suggesting and instantly connecting older adults to digital content such as TED talks, music or audiobooks; recommending activities in the physical world like taking a walk after watching television for a prolonged period of time, keeping appointments and taking medications on time; and connecting with family through technology like chat-bots such as Facebook Messenger.”*

And, of course, most of us have smartphones with many of the same capabilities as these standalone personal assistant devices, especially when equipped with Siri, Google Now or Cortana technology. By selectively adding / enabling appropriate apps for their phones users can gain many of the capabilities of the new personal assistants without having to purchase yet another device.

It promises to be an interesting time, as new AI personal assistants are rolled out and new capabilities are added to existing personal assistant device and smartphones. Stay tuned!

Mama was my greatest teacher, a teacher of compassion, love and fearlessness. If love is sweet as a flower, then my mother is that sweet flower of love— **Stevie Wonder**

## 2016 Holiday Party & Raffle



**50/50 Raffle**  
**Liz Barnett**



**Door Prize:**  
**Robert Koudelka**



**Easter Basket**  
**Jean Moran**

### Jere's Tech Tips



#### **MICROSOFT BULLETIN – WINDOWS 10 VERSION 1507**

**WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE SECURITY UPDATES** – After May 9, 2017, Windows 10 devices running version 1507 will no longer receive security and quality up-

dates. Microsoft recommends updating devices to the latest version of Windows 10 by visiting the Software Download site and selecting Update now to manually update your device. For additional info, check out the Windows lifecycle fact sheet. See the rest of the article at: <http://bit.ly/2pb42Hi>

**CUT HERE**



## Question Of the month

Who was the first historical woman to appear on American currency?

- Lucy Pickens
- Martha Washington
- Pocahontas
- Susan B. Anthony

Be the first to submit the correct answer at the January meeting and win a prize.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



*Stephanie Risinger*

*Linda Koudelka*

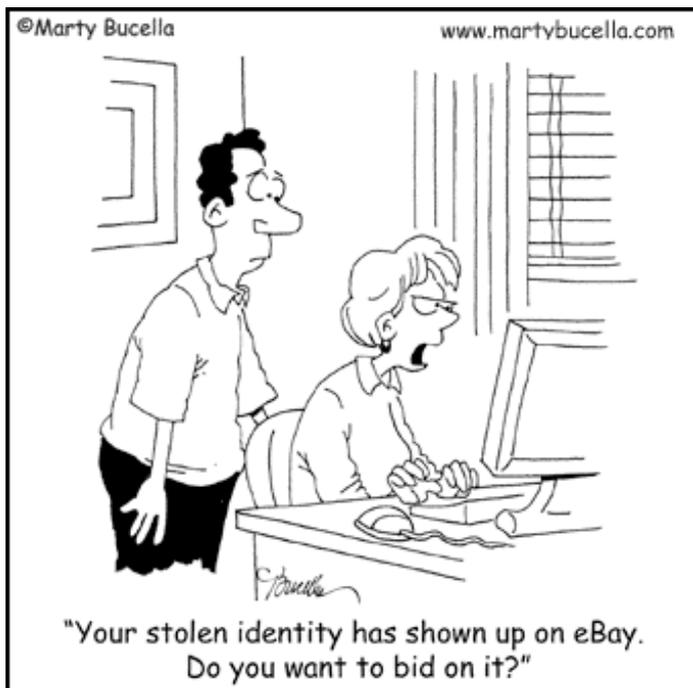
*Thomas Krissek*

*Judy Dunham*

People are craving this great progress in electronics, going after computers, the Internet, etc. It's a giant progress technologically. But they must have a balance of soul, a balance for human beauty. That means art has an important role.

**Mstislav Rostropovich**

Read more at: [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mstislavro485328.html?src=t\\_computers](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mstislavro485328.html?src=t_computers)



# Membership

**April 15, 2017**

Membership Chairperson

Members: 61

Meeting Attendee: 21

Meeting Attendee: 45%

### THANKS FOR JOINING

Howard Haberkorn

### THANKS FOR RENEWING

Linda & Robert Koudelka

Eric & Judy Rehberger

Linda Busch

Jean Moran

Harriet Rudnit

William Dittman

### THANKS FOR VISITING

Michael Anderson

### Winners:

Trivia: Linda Busch

50/50: Liz Barnett

Door Prize: Robert Koudelka

Easter Basket: Jean Moran

# 2017

## Meeting Dates

May 20 ..... Security

June 10 .....TBA

July 15 .....Picnic

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facturer, which is why it is important to have a good backup.

The next step is to back up personal data, e.g., documents, photos, videos, etc. If you are using an email client installed on your computer, such as Outlook or Thunderbird, find out how to back up contacts and emails. Other software programs may store data in special locations, so you will need to find those as well.

Backing up personal data is not a one-time event. Develop a backup plan and follow it because the time that you miss creating a couple backups is when you are going to need them. One of our members mentioned he uses five flash drives for backing up data, backing up once a week, rotating through the flash drives. Based on your use of the computer, you may decide to back up more or less often. Why have more than one or two backups? If you accidentally delete a file, you may not realize it right away and, if you only have a couple backups, by the time you realize the file is missing, you may have written over the last backup that contained that file. Store backup drives in a safe place, e.g., fireproof safe, or at least in another area in your house, away from the computer. For pictures, videos, really important documents, you might want to copy them to an additional flash drive and store that drive at another location.

Most software programs are downloaded directly to our computers so we don't have CD/DVD drives to reinstall from. Generally, if you need to reinstall the software, you can go to the vendor's website and download it again. However, there may be restrictions on downloading the software more than once, or there may be a charge to upgrade to a more current version. After downloading new software, copy the installation files to a flash drive or external hard drive. When software comes with activation codes, I print that information to a pdf file and save the pdf file on the same drive as the installation files.

You can manually back up files by copying them from your computer to your flash or external drive. Or you may decide to use a software program to manage the backup process.

Both free and paid backup programs are available, although some free ones have limited functionality. When purchasing a new external hard drive, it may include backup software. Backup software lets you specify what to back up and to set a schedule for automatic backups. Some have the option to schedule an initial full backup and subsequent smaller backups, called incremental backups, backing up files that have changed since the last full backup. One caution is that viruses can spread to attached drives. Instead of automatic backup, which requires the backup drive be connected at all times, you can run manual backups, connecting the drive only while running the backup.

Online backup and cloud storage are other options to consider. There is generally a charge for online backup service and may be a charge for cloud storage, depending on how much data you have. An advantage is that you can generally access your data from another device, e.g., computer, tablet, smartphone. Online/Cloud storage may not prevent loss of data if your computer is locked by ransomware.

With any backup solution, you should occasionally check to make sure the backups are running successfully and that you can recover files. Consider using a program that allows you to restore select files without using the software that was used to create the backup. You may find you need a file while your computer is out of commission and you want to be able to connect the backup drive to another computer and access files without having to install software on that computer. Also, if you only need one or two files, you don't want to have to restore the entire backup.

Whatever backup strategy you use, make sure it is backing up everything you need. I installed a new hard drive for someone whose hard drive had failed. He was using online backup so was confident he would recover all of his data but, the default settings for the service he was using did not include videos, so they were not being backed up and we were unable to recover the videos from the failed hard drive.

Another backup/recovery option we discussed was creating an image (also called system

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image) of the hard drive. If necessary to wipe/format a hard drive, an image can restore the entire contents of a hard drive; the operating system, programs, and personal files. Some backup programs also provide the option to create an image.

While the terms image and clone are often used interchangeably, the exact definition of clone is when two hard drives are installed in a computer and data is copied from old to new, which requires that the original hard drive is still working. The last time I purchased a new hard drive, it came with a version of True Image software that provided this capability and I was up and running in a short period of time with all of my user ids, programs, data and settings.

When creating a system image most flash drives will be too small so you will need an external hard drive. Depending on the size of the external hard drive, multiple images can be saved to the same drive. Name the image (or the folder you save it in) so you can identify when it was created and, if you have multiple computers, which computer it was created from. The program used to create the image prompts you to create a bootable flash drive, which only has to be done once. You boot the computer from the flash drive and it contains the software to restore the image from the external drive. If you have multiple computers, you may need to create a bootable flash drive for each computer. In most cases, an image or clone can't be used to restore to a different computer, although some software may support this.

Another term discussed was System Restore. This option usually requires being able to boot into Windows. System Restore can be used if the computer isn't working correctly and you

suspect recent changes caused the problem, or as an initial troubleshooting step, before resorting to recovery. Make sure system restore is turned on. After upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 10, I discovered that system restore had been turned off. Windows automatically creates restore points before performing certain actions. You can manually create a restore point, e.g., before installing new software.

To access system restore, search for system and click create a restore point. It should open System Protection under System Properties. Under Protection Settings, it will list the drives on the computer and whether protection is on or off. Normally, you just want protection on for (C:). If it is not on, click Configure and turn it on. Make sure the percentage of disk space available for system restore is set to something other than 0, 10% should be good in most cases.

To create a restore point, click Create and follow the prompts. To revert to a previous restore point, click System Restore... , click Next. To see more restore points, click to place checkmark in box to left of "Show more restore points". Click the restore point you want to use and click Next. If you know when the problem started, chose the restore point just before that date/time. If you don't know which restore point to use, start with the most recent and, if that doesn't fix the problem, run System restore again and choose a different restore point. System restore is not supposed to affect your personal files, but make sure your backup is current, just in case.

In some cases, system restore fails and Windows automatically returns the computer to how it was before system restore ran. There is also an option to undo a system restore.

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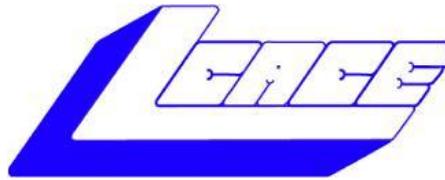
*(Continued from page 8)*

After restoring to a date prior to a Windows update or a software installation, it may be necessary to reinstall the update or software.

If you suspect you have a virus on your computer, and don't know whether any of the images/backups contain the virus, it is probably best to use the Windows recovery drive to reinstall Windows and then manually restore personal files. If you don't have a recovery drive, but have access to another computer, you can create recovery media for Windows 10. ([https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10)

[software-download/windows10](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10)). Previous versions of Windows required entering a code to activate. However, once Windows 10 has been installed and activated, you don't need to enter a code when reinstalling Windows 10 on that computer. When restoring from a backup that may contain infected files, don't restore executable files (.exe) as they are more likely to contain viruses.

With the recovery drive and good backups, you will be prepared when a problem occurs.



## Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

Do you have computer questions  
or need help with your computer?



Visit Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts'  
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