

News Journal

“Members Helping Members”

March 2021

Volume 37 Issue 12

Security is Important

Why Does It Take So Long (and Cost So Much)

By Greg Skalka



I am a technology user. I use all sorts of tech products, applications and services. I have laptops, desktops and Chromebooks. I have mobile devices - smart phones and tablets. I have home Internet access and I access the web from other places as well. I have a home network and I have smart home devices (cameras, TVs, voice-controlled assistants, smart lights and appliances). I use lots of software. I search the web, bank and buy things online and send emails and texts. I'm not much for social networks, but I do appear in posts by others, especially my wife. I've got a lot of the things a typical middle-class American would have.

I use a lot of technology, but all I want to do is use it. I don't want to have to struggle to make it work, fix it or

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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. Permission is granted to reproduce any or all parts of this newsletter in other User Group publications, provided that credit is given to LCACE and the individual author (s). Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

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



Hello, all....

What a difference a month makes! By March 8th, we are supposed to see a high temperature of 58 degrees! If this is “coming in like a lion”, I can’t wait to see what happens at the end of the month when March is “going out like a lamb”



Happy St. Patrick’s Day, everyone! Unfortunately, because of social distancing, we won’t be seeing the big parades this year, nor will the Chicago River be dyed green (unless there is a last-minute change of heart). A search of the Eventbrite website for “St. Patrick’s Day” and “Chicago” did return 424 events. Yay! But upon closer examination, most entries were for races, bar crawls or for dates and events that have nothing to do with St. Patrick’s Day. Boo! So, it looks pretty much like a quiet, safe St. Patrick’s Day this year....

My second monitor (that I use with my old desktop) has become finicky, so I’ve been in the market for an inexpensive 23” replacement. While checking out options at all the usual websites I ran across an interesting 24” HP monitor that was originally introduced in 2017. This model has stood the test of time; the Amazon listing has over **20,000** ratings, with an average 4.7 score out of 5.0. I pulled the trigger and am now the owner of this monitor:



HP VH240a 23.8-Inch Full HD 1080p IPS LED Monitor with Built-In Speakers and VESA Mounting, Rotating Portrait & Landscape, Tilt, and HDMI & VGA Ports (1KL30AA) - Black

Visit the HP Store

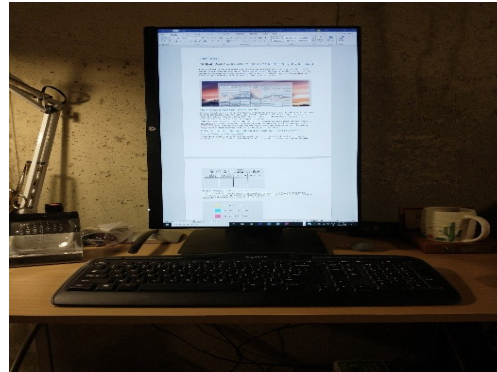
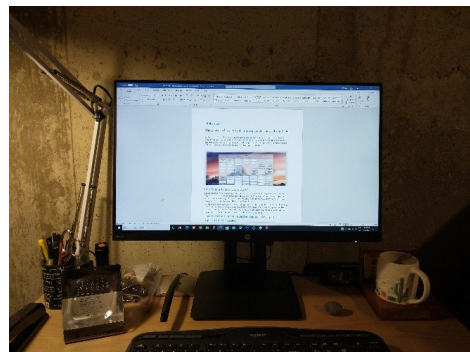
★★★★★ 20,553 ratings | 1000+ answered questions

Amazon's Choice for "hp monitor"

Climate Pledge Friendly

Price: \$124.98 ✓prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns

With FHD 1080p resolution it provides a clear, vibrant image. Moreover, the monitor has about six inches of vertical adjustment, sliding up or down the stationary base. And, for those who might like to have the option of a portrait display for multi-page document creation or viewing, the screen rotates 90 degrees – as shown below:



Built-in speakers are an added plus, although at 2 watts they do not put out a great deal of volume; they would be OK for voice reproduction in a smaller room, but not so much for music or in a larger setting. And HP includes both an HDMI cable and an audio cable for use with a VGA connection!

So far, so good. If you are in the market for a 24” monitor at a reasonable price, you might consider this offering from Amazon.

As a reminder, our LCACE officer elections are coming up in April. Nominations will be solicited

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at our March meeting. Please think about whom you would like to have as officers of our club, and whether you would be willing to serve as one of them!

Our March program will feature a presentation about the pros and cons of all-in-one computers, hosted by J.J. Please plan to attend our Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 13th. Email invites will be sent to all members on March 5th, with a reminder mailing on March 11th. See you then!

Phil

LastPass Free Changes on March 16, 2021

By Tom Kreuzer – 3M PCC Member

LastPass Free Changes on March 16, 2021 - Currently unlimited access and syncing across all device types – computers (including all browsers running on desktops and laptops) and mobile devices (smartphones, smart watches, and tablets). Starting March 16th, 2021, it will only include access on unlimited devices of one type and not the other. The result is no access or syncing between a computer and mobile. Also, on May 17th, 2021, email support will not be available to Free users. Free users can access the Support Center self-help resources. The upgrade from Free to LastPass Premium is \$2.25 per month for a limited time. Regular Premium price is \$3 per month or \$4 for Families.



running on desktops and laptops) and mobile devices (smartphones, smart watches, and tablets). Starting March

16th, 2021, it will only include access on unlimited devices of one type and not the other. The result is no access or syncing between a computer and mobile. Also, on May 17th, 2021, email support will not be available to Free users. Free users can access the Support Center self-help resources. The upgrade from Free to LastPass Premium is \$2.25 per month for a limited time. Regular Premium price is \$3 per month or \$4 for Families.

Your Options:

1. If you only use LastPass on a computer and not on a mobile device, you can stay with LastPass Free.
2. If you only use LastPass on a mobile device and not on a computer, you can stay with LastPass Free.
3. Buy a subscription to LastPass Premium or Families (\$27-\$48 year)
4. Switch to another Free package like BitWarden,

I loved and recommended LastPass Free, but did not want to buy a subscription for something I can get for free. I wanted a password manager that

would work on all my devices (PC, Android, iOS), keep them in sync, and was free. BitWarden was recommended by CNet as a replacement to LastPass and looked like it could do everything I needed. I created a free account at <https://bitwarden.com/> and download the Chrome extension on my PC. I then opened my LastPass and did an Export of my info to a CVS file on my PC. I logged into the BitWarden web site again and then went to Settings/Tools to Import my LastPass CVS info. The Chrome extension does not have the feature to Import a file or Export a file. I was happily surprised when the Import completed and all my accounts and passwords, form fill info, and credit card info was now setup without me doing a thing. This included Notes, Folders, and Favorites were all setup the same I had in LastPass. I then logged onto BitWarden in my Chrome browser and went to the Settings to set the "Vault Timeout" along with several other changes. I always check out settings for new software to see what is available. I then went to my Android Phone and iOS Tablet to install the BitWarden app on both. No problem and I changed the Settings on both devices to enable unlocking with my FingerPrint and several other changes. They were now all set and ready to go. On my PC in the Chrome browser LastPass would show an icon in the account and password field you could click on to fill with a LastPass account and password. With BitWarden there is no icon, you can do Ctrl+Shift+L or go up to the drop down BitWarden icon on the Chrome toolbar. I am getting use to it. BitWarden does have a premium subscription for \$10 year which provides 1 GB encrypted file storage, Two-step login (YubiKey, U2F, Duo), Vault health reports, and Emergency Access. I have not downloaded the BitWarden PC software, since the browser extension and the web site are doing everything I need on the PC. Working great for me so far and is my recommended free password manager.

CNet best free password manager alternative to LastPass – Bitwarden. <https://www.cnet.com/news/this-is-the-best-free-password-manager-alternative-to-lastpass>

FYI... Everyone in the club should be using a password manager. See the Past PCC Meeting "Security & Passwords" from July 2020 for more info. <https://sites.google.com/site/theminingpcc/past-meeting-files>

(Continued from page 1)

spend a lot of time and money keeping it working safely. I want it all to work every time as I expect it to work. Unfortunately, there is a lot more to our tech lives than that. None of the tech revolution we have seen in the last decades would have been possible without money. It is commerce, capital and the desire to make a profit that brought us most of this, including Microsoft, Google, Uber, Tesla and all the rest. Some key government investments in technology, in the space program, DARPA and the military-industrial complex helped with fundamental research, but the capitalist entrepreneurs filled in the rest. Money made tech great, but money also made it unsafe.

Entrepreneurs take legal risks to gain rewards; criminals try to find the least risky ways to make money, legal or not. Each new tech device, app or service that comes out is studied for vulnerabilities by the criminal elements intent on exploiting it for monetary gain. Now that technology has interconnected the world, we can be the victims of crime originating from all over the globe. Even nation states can get in the game, trying to steal information for economic and political purposes.

All this leaves the poor tech user vulnerable. The rapid rate of change, the ease of use and ubiquitousness of these product and services just add to the risk. How does a user evaluate the threat and defend against it? Is it all worth the cost?

The criminals are out there, ready to hack, snoop, steal and deceive. They want your personal information to steal your identity and your passwords to steal your money.



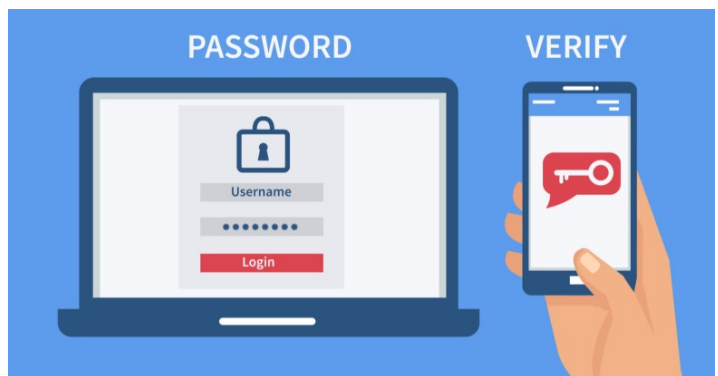
They want to trick you into sending them gift cards and Bitcoin. Who is going to protect the tech user from all the cyber threats? Can the government protect us? Laws may be passed, regulations put in place and enforcement attempted, but citizens are still victimized. Unfortunately sometimes the government is part of the problem, not protecting the sensitive data we entrusted to them.

Can the companies we buy products and services from protect us? Their desires for profit over all else have created some of our tech problems. They will sell us devices that are not secure if they think it makes business sense. They'll collect and monetize our personal information and then often fail to protect it adequately. It seems we as tech users must find ways to protect ourselves, as no one else will take responsibility for our security. Unfortunately, that means additional costs in terms of money and

time are required to keep our assets (money, identity, personal safety) secure when using all these tech items and services in the new global digital electronic world.

There is no practical way to remain 100% secure in our modern connected world. Even if you turn off all of your devices, disconnect them, put them in a box and seal it up (and cancel all your related services), you are not safe. The government still has your personal information, and even if you are not on Facebook, others could post about you. You will have to go back to paying with cash, shopping and banking in physical locations and communicating through personal visits and letters. Unless you want to step back into the 1950's, you will have to adopt some additional safeguards with every new tech item you acquire.

Safety as a tech user is not an absolute, but a matter of degree. More time and money spent to safeguard our activities will provide more relative safety and security, but tradeoffs will need to be made. More security comes at a higher cost and usually a greater inconvenience as well. A user can make their tech life more resistant to attacks by cyber criminals and become more resilient should bad things happen, but it will require more time, money and effort on their part. Lots of articles are written about protecting ourselves online and describing precautions we all should take, yet cybercrime is still prevalent.



I think I take care of my tech household pretty well, though there is always more that can be done. The things I value most (finances, identity, property) I protect the most, while things of a lesser consequence I am a bit looser with. In some ways I probably go overboard in caution, but there are probably some risks I don't take as seriously as I should. I'm pretty careful with physical security, using strong passwords, encryption, a VPN and two-factor authentication where appropriate.

I'm pretty resistant to social engineering threats and am very careful with my personal information. Exercising care and vigilance online is good, but it requires effort and some investments. I have several laptops and desktops that my wife and I use, as well as a couple of Chromebooks. All the computers we

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regularly use run Windows 7, so I am presently working towards replacing at least some of them with Windows 10 computers ahead of the Windows 7 security sunset in January 2020. This considerable cost in new hardware and software and in time to set everything up is strictly due to Microsoft's desire to make Windows 7 obsolete; I would be perfectly happy staying with Windows 7 otherwise. I'll be spending money on new systems, probably buying new software and spending time teaching my wife how to use the new OS. I'll probably compromise by keeping a couple of old Win7 computers or laptops to run software I can't convert to Win10 or don't want to spend more on. I still have a Windows XP computer that I keep off-line to run certain programs. I'm actually writing this article on it; I've yet to find a Microsoft Word version I like overall as much as version 6.

Even when security updates are provided for free, our time is usually required to oversee their installation. If nothing else, the time required to install updates represents time we are unable to use our devices. While Windows 10 may force automatic security updates, they can wind up being applied at the most inopportune times. I don't mind as much the automatic updates my Chromebook gets from Google, as they are downloaded in the background and quickly applied on the next power-up.



In addition to computer updates, our network items often require security patches. Few users may pay much attention to updates for their routers, however, unless they are alerted somehow. I have a Netgear Orbi mesh Wi-Fi router, which I love for its performance and ease of use (but not so much for the initial cost). Because I'd registered the product and downloaded their app, I recently received an email that an update was available for my router's firmware. I initially tried to apply the update through the app (on my smart phone) but was unsuccessful. I was able to enter into an online chat through the app with their tech support, and thus began a two-hour process to finally get my router system updated.

I assumed I would be able to easily update through the Orbi app, but the support tech told me my in-

stalled firmware version was too old, and I instead would need to download and install an intermediate version from a web link. I find the small screen of a phone too difficult to use for this kind of activity, so I pulled out a Chromebook, logged into my Orbi router and went to the web link. This also allowed me to keep the support chat going separately through the app on my phone.

Once I got to the web link, I found I would be downloading a zip file. There may be ways to unzip on a Chromebook, but I don't know them, so I switched again and logged in with my Windows laptop. The support tech said to apply the update first to the satellites (my mesh system consists of one router and two satellite units) and then to the router. The update page was a bit confusing, and I inadvertently updated the router first. Fortunately I was still connected to the tech support person, so after a number of additional steps, I successfully updated all components.

It is almost time to renew my anti-virus, and I need to make some decisions about it. I've been using ESET Internet Security for many years and really like it (and think it protects me, but who really knows). I'm not sure what I should use going forward on Windows 10, as I've heard that Microsoft's Win10 built-in protections are as good as anything else, and obviously are at no extra cost. I always buy ESET on sale ahead of when I need it, so I already have new copies to put on my Win7 computers. That seems like a waste, as I won't have these computers on the Internet past January. Still, I shouldn't cut corners on protecting my online banking computer, at least until I am switched over completely to Windows 10. Though I may be spending a lot of time and money getting my new computers set up, it hopefully will increase the odds that I'll have secure systems that will help protect my data.

7 Best Innovative Technologies for Seniors

1. [Hero digital pill dispenser. Hero digital pill dispenser. ...](#)
2. [GrandPad. GrandPad tablet. ...](#)
3. [Amazon Echo Dot \(3rd Generation\) Amazon Echo Dot – Third Generation. ...](#)
4. [Tile Sticker. Tile Stickers](#)
5. [COWIN E7 Active Noise Cancelling Bluetooth Over-Ear Headphones.](#)
6. [Ring Video Doorbell.](#)
7. [Fitbit Versa 2.](#)



Membership Chairperson Report

Members

Meeting Attendees: 21

THANKS FOR JOINING

THANKS FOR RENEWING

None

THANKS FOR VISITING

Cynthia Simmons



2020 – 2021 LCACE Dues Suspension

Because of our COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to host our traditional LCACE summer picnic in July. The manager at our State Bank of the Lakes has informed us that their meeting room will not be available for our planned 2020 Holiday Party. As a result, we will not be incurring expenses this fiscal year for these two major events. Given that we currently have a reasonable balance in our treasury and realizing that this pandemic may have created a financial hardship for some of our members, your Board of Directors has voted to suspend dues payment for this fiscal year.

For those who have already paid their 2020 – 2021 dues, thank you! Your payment will be applied to 2021 – 2022 dues. For those who have not paid, we will look forward to your dues payment for next year in April 2021.



- March 13th— Nominations, Q&A
- April 10th—Elections, File Management
- May 8th—TBA
- June 12th— Show n’ Tell
- July 10th—Picnic (???)





Like most of us, we use Windows daily, but how many apps and tips are you aware of? Do you know what Reliability Monitor and Eartrumpet are and do you know how to access them or how to use them? I'm aware of Emojis but rarely use them, but there's an app for that.

Look at the following list and let me know how many of these apps and tips you use:

1. Windows V
2. Snip & Sketch
3. Aero Shake
4. Snap Assist
5. Dictation
6. Dark Mode
7. Night Light
8. Calculator
9. Nearby Sharing
10. Focus Assist
11. Calendar Event
12. Hide Desktop Icons
13. Secret Windows Menu
14. Windows Switch
15. Powertoys
16. Storage Sense
17. Startup Programs
18. God Mode
19. Show People
20. Reliability Monitor
21. Windows Reset
22. Eartrumpet
23. Virtual Desktop
24. Keyboard Shortcuts
25. Background Apps
26. Emojis
27. Default Apps
28. Troubleshooter
29. Steps Recorder
30. Visual Search

[30 Ultimate Windows 10 Tips and Tricks](#)

March 2021



Compiled by Jasmine Blue D'Katz

- [7-must have ergonomic upgrades](#)
- [20 ingenious uses for WD-40](#)
- [26 Unique and Cool Products You Want](#)
- [2021's Best All in One Printer for Any Office](#)
- [Anyone over age 60 need to know about these hacking scams](#)
- [Best 3D Printers for 2021](#)
- [Best FREE VPN 4 reasons why it doesn't exist](#)
- [Brydge's Latest iPad keyboards](#)
- [Digital Creator will find this controller works wonders on their Projects](#)
- [Eliminate up to 99% of robocalls for two years with RoboKiller](#)
- [Give Yourself a movie theatre experience at home](#)
- [How to get rid of spam mail](#)
- [How to set up an ergonomically Home office](#)
- [iOS 14.4's best iPhone features](#)
- [Is Your Internet Speed Slow or Fast- Here's how to tell?](#)
- [Microsoft Outlook is quietly making a change that may cause big trouble](#)
- [Our favorite home-office essentials for 2021](#)
- [Our favorite SSD is wicked cheap right now](#)
- [The best Tech you can upgrade your car with](#)
- [The top 3-ring lights in 2021](#)
- [Top browser FAQ What is it and how does it protect your privacy](#)
- [Yes, your security camera could be hacked- Here is how to stop spying eyes](#)
- [The Browser FAQ What is it and how does it protect your Privacy](#)
- [Yes, your security camera could be hacked](#)
- [You should update your iPhone and Chrome browser ASAP](#)
- [Your iPhone will soon unlock faster for face mask](#)
- [Your Ring Doorbell can have Alexa greet visitors, take a message](#)

If you have any new you would like to share, please send them to the editor or post them on the Google Groups e-mail.



JJ1450XL



What is in an e-mail address

By Dwight R. Johnson aka. J.J.

For those who have followed the history of Atari computers in the mid-80s, you may have heard of the Atari 1400XL and 1450XLD series of computers. As a dedicated Atarian I immediately placed the 1450XLD on my wish list. Unfortunately, the 1400 series did not make it into production

With the demise of the BBS's (Bulletin Board Systems) in the 90's and the introduction of the internet, email was a new way of communicating by sending an email. Once signing up for a series, I was directed to create an email address. I selected jj1450xld as my email address but was informed that it was too long because of character limitation on MegsiNet.com, Still want to use this address, I shorten my address to jj1450xl for my initial email address. As I switched from MegsiNet to AOL, CompuServe, Apple, Gmail, and Yahoo, I continued to use the jj1450xl on all services I signed up for.



Atari was a major player in the computer world in the early 80s they were one of the first complete home computers on the market. The new 1400XL and 1450XLD were being shown at the 1985 Consumer

Electronic Show in Chicago and Atari Corp contacted several local Atari Users Groups to supply club members to help man their booth during the show. To my delight, I was selected from Lake County Atari User Group to represent our club to work the 4-day show. In fact, I had the opportunity to work for Atari at CES for three years. During the shows, I got a firsthand look at some of the newly developed Atari computers including the Stacy (Atari's laptop), the Atari PC, and of course the Atari 1450XLD.

Our job the first day was to help set up the display and tear it down the last day. During the show, we were there to answer questions and keep the equipment running. I even got to meet Lenard and Samuel Tramiel the sons of Jack Tramiel (who purchased Atari Corp in 1984) as well as a few



Atari software and peripheral developers. During the show, Atari would have big-name stars appear in their booth, and one year, and one year I had the pleasure of meeting George C. Scott and got a signed photo from him. Along with stars, Atari also hired several models to help in the booth, and one year I was

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Compiled by Jasmine Blue D’Katz

Everyone likes something FREE especially if it is great software for your computer. I’ve looked as a few programs that you can install on your Windows computer and some can even be installed on a Mac.

[XnView MP](#) – is an enhanced Photo Viewer that supports over 500 common graphic formats. It contains a full fledge photo editor and has batch conversion

[Autodesk sketchbook](#) – is a professional quality drawing program designed for artist and illustrators. It’s compatible with all the major file types. There are tons of YouTube videos to help you get the most from this program.

[Foxit Reader](#) – Creates PDF from common file formats

[Visual Studio Code](#) – is a visual code editor developed by Microsoft.

[Audacity](#) – is a well known free and open source editor and recorder.

[HWINFO](#) – in you need to do a analysis of the hardware on your computer, and get extensive information about your hardware.

[ProtonVPN](#) – this secure email is base in Switzerland with a FREE 2-year service. Work great with ProtonMail app which is now available worldwide. It has unlimited bandwidth and no ads.

[Everything](#) – is a search function program to help you quick find files on your computer and consider to be better than the Windows search function.

[Inkscape](#) – is a free vector graphic editor and an alternative to Adobe Illustrator. This open source allows you to create scalable icons and illustrations

[Revo Uninstaller FREE](#) – removes programs from

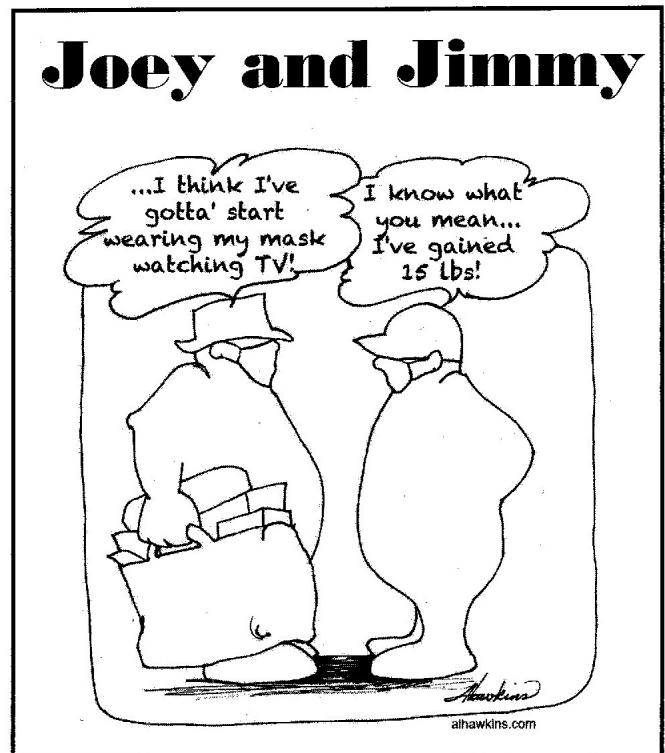
your computer you no longer need. Creates a system restore point and removes the program and all the junk along with it.

(Continued from page 9)

tasked with scheduling the breaks for the girls.

Will since the Atari 1400XL and 1450XLD never saw the day of light on the production line. I decided to build my own. The ATR-8000 was a CP/M emulator which I installed in a PC case with two 8-nice floppies for data storage. The Atari 800 keyboard/computer was used for input/control of the ATR 8000 and still being able to run Atari applications, the ATR allowed me to run PC text applications.

I still have my Atari 800 and the ATR 8000 and will continue to use jj1450xl for my email address and ID on many of the sites that I visit. Although my name is Dwight R. Johnson and many know me as J.J., how that came about is another story.





Our Crew

Ron Brown
Hewie Poplock
Bob Gostischa
Ray Baxter
Dewey Kloos

REMINDER

**MONDAY'S MEETING WILL ONE
ONE HOUR LATER IN ARIZONA**

FOR EVERYONE ELSE IT IS THE SAME TIME @ 8:30 Pacific Time

Topics we discuss

- Windows 10
- Apple Computers
- Chromebooks
- Cutting the Cord
- Security
- Purchase considerations
- Modems and Routers
- Starlink



[Link to Past Episodes](#)



Join is for an action packed hour on Monday Mornings

Topic: Tech for Seniors with Ron Brown and Hewie Poplock

Time: 09:00 AM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/526610331>

Meeting ID: 526 610 331

The Meeting opens @ 8:30 and starts at 9:00.
The meeting is locked @ 9:00 and no further admittance is allowed

Tech for Seniors

[Scanning with your Chromebook in Chrome OS 88](#)

[The making of Tech for Seniors by Ron Brown](#)

[Facebook to Google Photos in seconds](#) (2021)

How to transfer your photos from Facebook to Google Photos. This was made possible by the Transfer Project which created an open-source program that allows data transfer between accounts. This video explains how to do it and the recent changes made.

[Understanding Google Drive on your Chromebook in 2021](#)

A tutorial on how to use Google Drive with your Chromebook. Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides are just a few of the FREE Apps that come pre-installed on your new Chromebook. The file directory is just a bit different in Chromium OS so let me show you how to get started and use the free software that came with Google Drive.

Learn Chromebook last Thursday was a big success and lots of fun.

The meeting can be replayed at the below link

<https://youtu.be/zAR-yv9Yeyk>

Registration for the next month

www.techforsenior.com

Join is for an action packed hour on Monday Mornings
Topic: Tech for Seniors with Ron Brown and Hewie Poplock
Time: 09:00 AM Pacific Time **ONE HOUR LATER FOR ARIZONA**
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/526610331>
Meeting ID: 526 610 331
The Meeting opens @ 8:30 and starts at 9:00. The meeting is locked @ 9:00 and no further admittance is allowed

Q&A

Best Android Apps, iCloud, and Apple Keychain

By Bob DeLaurentis

Q. I got my first Android smart-phone over the holidays. Which apps do you consider must-haves?

A. Best in class apps for Android are not hard to find. Depending on your phone model, many of them may already be installed. Here is a quick roundup of apps on play.google.com I think you should consider:

***Google Maps.** The first and best of its kind, Google Maps will help you find your place in the world. Pair it with Waze for driving directions.

* **Podcast Addict.** There is no shortage of podcast apps. This app is a great place to experience what podcasts have to offer.

* **YouTube.** The Internet's original video network is the best of its kind, and the app is one of Google's better efforts. YouTube also does music. There is a separate app for that - YouTube Music.

***Heynote** is a fun little utility app that turns your Home Screen into a personal note. Excellent for keeping an important thought top-of-mind.

***WeatherBug** has been around for a very long time. It presents just about every meteorological data point you could wish for.

***Zedge** is a popular source of custom wallpapers and ringtones.

Q. What is Apple iCloud?

A. iCloud protects different categories of personal data and copies your data to every Apple device you own.

Take photos for example. The iPhone is a great camera, always within reach. But its small screen is not ideal for photo editing. With iCloud Photo Library, the images taken on the phone are automatically transferred to your other iCloud devices. You can use any device to edit your photos, and all the changes are automatically shared with each device.

This process can be repeated with all your iCloud data. Make a grocery list on the iPad, the list automatically appears on your phone. Add a bookmark in Safari, or save a page to Safari's Reading List, and the changes are mirrored on your other iCloud devices.

There are a few things to watch out for. iCloud works best on newer hardware and software, so tread lightly with older devices. Good network connections are also essential. The free storage allow-

ance is too small except for a single device backup, so figure on about a dollar a month per device.

With any two devices connected to iCloud, your personal data will exist in at least three different places, which creates an unprecedented level of safe data storage and ease of use.

iCloud has the potential to completely change your computing life for the better, even if you only have one device. The sooner you begin exploring all it has to offer, the sooner you will no longer have to worry about how to safeguard your personal data.

Q. What is the Apple Keychain, how well does it work, and what are its strengths and weaknesses?

A. Apple's Keychain is one of those technologies that does not get enough attention, considering how well it works and how easy it can be to organize and use your passwords.



Each Mac and iOS device has its own Keychain that stores usernames and passwords. There is also an option to share the information between devices using iCloud Keychain.

Keychain works with many apps, most notably Safari. It will prompt you to save a username and password for website accounts, and it will use those same credentials each time you return, making subsequent logins simple.

All of the passwords in a Keychain are protected by a master password, which is usually the same as the password used to unlock the device. On a Mac, Keychain is primarily managed in Safari Preferences. On iPhone and iPad, the passwords have their own section in Settings.

Keychain's behavior differs with different devices and software versions, which might be confusing at first. But patience pays off. Once set up, Keychain will take care of remembering your site logins, and it will warn you if a password for a specific site is secure.

Keychain relies on strong cryptography while remaining simple to use. It appears when you need it and gets out of the way when you are finished.



Beat SPAM with the best disposable email service

Free Temporary Email

Here is the list of two different sites that offer a disposable e-mail.

10 Minute Mail

Why would you use this?

Maybe you want to sign up for a site which requires that you provide an e-mail address to send validation e-mail to, And maybe you don't want to give up your real e-mail address and end up on a bunch of spam lists. This is a nice and disposable. And it's FREE. Enjoy!

<https://10minutemail.com/>

Welcome to 10 Minute Mail

10minutemail.net is a free, disposable e-mail service. Your temporary e-mail address will expire after 10 minutes, after which you cannot access it. You can extend the time by 10 minutes.

The website you are registering with could be selling your personal information; you never know where your e-mail will be published. An email address with a 10 minute lifespan is the best solution to prevent this.

<https://10minutemail.net/>

“IS THIS THING ON?”

By Herbert Adams

Because of the pandemic, I've had a chance to search through my bookshelf and browse a few books in my collection that have been collecting dust. One in the case is the two books by Abby Stokes "Is This Thing On?" Both are a friendly guide to everything digital for those Newbies and Technologies. I found it to be the perfect guide to the digital domain for seniors learning how to use their computers, tablets, and smartphones. The latest version was updated to explore the use of newer technology like Facebook, iPads, e-readers, and Skype. I expected to be updated soon to include Facetime, Google Hangout, and Zoom. But either way some seniors will have a fear of this new technology and will need a loving hand to get them through it. The books include more than just computer information. Through the pages you will find tips to take



and share digital photos, the convenience and bargains of online shopping, managing your finances online and how to watch movies, listen to music and read ebooks. The best thing about all this new technology, it's almost destructible, although it can get you into some predicament that you may need a helping hand to avoid.

I found while reading these books again, there were still things for me to learn and things to refresh my knowledge of technology.

Both of these books are available in Kindle, Hardcover, and Paperback versions on Amazon and you may find used versions on eBay.



Who is the oldest winner of an acting Oscar?

- ◆ Henry Fonda
- ◆ Carl Reiner
- ◆ Christopher Plummer

Windows 10 News and Tips

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There's nothing like a daily dose of information to keep us abreast of the latest computer and technology.

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Keep your eye out for the new monthly Windows 10 SIG Zoom meeting.

Answer: Christopher Plummer's acting career spanned seven decades. He is most fondly remembered for portraying Captain Georg von Trapp in The Sound of Music (1965). Plummer won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor at the age of 82 for Beginners (2010), becoming the oldest person to ever win an Oscar in a competitive category (at the time of acceptance). He also received a nomination at the age of 88 for All the Money in the World, making him the oldest person to be nominated in an acting category. Christopher Plummer died peacefully today at his home in Connecticut. He was 91.



Computer Services

**Desktops,
Laptops,
All-in-Ones
and more**



During our October Zoom meeting the following two computer services were mentioned.

[White Box Computers](#)

They say they are the place for all your computer repairs & upgrades at nearly half the prices of the competition.

<https://whiteboxcomputers.org>

847-833-9324

[ZYTEK Services](#)

Has been around for over 30 years and offers the best in fast, friendly, high-quality, fair price computer service solutions

847-336-2259



Here are my picks for worthwhile browsing this month:

Kahan Academy

Here you can explore and learn subjects as diverse as computers, economic, arts and history. Some parts of the site are tailored toward students, but there is value for curious minds of any age.

[Khanacademy.org](https://khanacademy.org)

The Ultimate Watchlist

This site helps you make sense of movies and shows, debuting and disappearing from various streaming services.

[Reelgood.com](https://reelgood.com)

Internet Movie Cars Database

This site tasks obscure trivia to the whole new level. A vehicle makes and model search engine, cross-referenced with the movies in which they appeared.

imcdb.org

Member's Area



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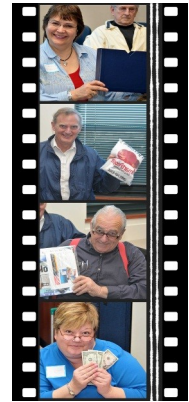
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