Musings of an Apple Tyro – April 2017
By Lorrin R. Garson, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society
April 2017 issue, PATACS Posts
www.patacs.org
newslettercolumnist (at) patacs.org

Shodan—Security and IoT

There is an increasing awareness about the security, or insecurity, of the Internet of Things (IoT) such as cameras, printers, wireless speakers, security cameras, etc. If you go to http://bit.ly/2k9QxsA and click on "Check if I am on Shodan", this will give you an indication if any of your IoT devices are accessible via the Internet, and if so, it is prudent to take preventative steps to secure them. Shodan is a search engine of Internet-connected devices that lets anyone find IoT devices that are publically available and thus available to hackers. After performing this check, you will be prompted to perform a "Deep Scan", which is probably prudent to do. However, be aware that doing this scan may result in any vulnerabilities being indexed by Shodan. See http://bit.ly/2k7yQFR and http://bit.ly/2jfgsL3 for more information.

If you want to explore Shodan further, go to https://www.shodan.io. Also, a Kindle book by John Matherly, entitled "The Complete Guide to Shodan" is available on Amazon for $4.99. An hour-long video of John Matherly speaking can be found at http://bit.ly/2jFZ7Os.

iCloud and iCloud Drive Are Not Suitable for Backup

There is considerable confusion about iCloud and iCloud Drive. It is best to think of iCloud as synchronization mechanism—and iCloud Drive as an extension of iCloud where you can store documents. Both iCloud and iCloud Drive are excellent tools to synchronize data between Apple computers, iPhones and iPads (macOS and iOS). Although you can recover data that are no older than 30 days from iCloud and iCloud Drive, this is a poor, inadequate method for backup and should not be relied upon for this purpose[1].

To see the types of information iCloud can be used for syncing, go to System Preferences then select iCloud. Note that iCloud Drive is one of the "data" options. iCloud Drive acts like a disk drive "in the sky", i.e., in the Cloud, a location in which you can store files, documents and folders for cross-device access and synchronization. See http://bit.ly/2k7QrNX.

As a backup scheme for Calendar, Contacts and Reminders, I have created a weekly backup procedure[2] to export data from these applications to store on my iMac computer, which is backed up using Time Machine. I haven't had the courage to delete

[1] In principle, you could recover lost iCloud data by restoring the complete system using Time Machine and the most recent backup, but that's a slow, somewhat risky and draconian route to take.

[2] This procedure was done on an iMac computer running macOS Sierra Version 10.12.2. Other versions of macOS may behave somewhat differently.

all the data from these applications and restore from the exported data, but I am reasonably confident it would work.

Backup for Calendar:

- Start-up Calendar.
- From Calendar's Menu, left-click on "File" then select "Export" (not Calendar Archive).
- In the "Where" field, enter the location of the folder where you want to store the backup file (i.e., "Calendar.ics").
- Left-click on "Export".
- If you want to save more than the current "Calendar.ics" file, rename "Calendar.ics" (for example "2017-04-25.ics").

Backup for Contacts:

- Start-up Contacts.
- In the left pane, left-click on any contact.
- Key CMD+A to select all contacts.
- In Contacts' Menu, left-click on "File", select "Export" and then select "Export vCard".
- In the "Where" field, enter the location of the folder where you want to store the backup file (i.e., "Contact and *nn* others.vcf").
- Left-click on "Save".
- If you want to save more than the current "Contact and *nn* others.vcf" file, rename "Contact and *nn* others.vcf" (for example 2017-04-25.vcf).

Backup for Reminders:

- Start-up Reminders.
- In the left pane, left-click on "Scheduled".
- Key CMD+A to select all reminders[3].
- In Reminders' Menu, left-click on "File", left-click on "Export".
- In the "Where" field, enter the location of the folder where you want to store the backup file (i.e., "Reminders.ics").
- Left-click on "Export".
- If you want to save more than the current "Reminders.ics" file, rename "Reminders.ics" (for example 2017-04-25.ics).

For a proper backup methodology use Time Machine or one of the numerous third party software offerings (Carbon Copy Cloner, Acronis True Image, SuperDuper!, etc.) or one of the many Cloud backup systems (Carbonite, iDriv, Crashplan, Backblaze, etc.).
See http://cnet.co/2jTBMqd for a description of iCloud and iCloud Drive.
See http://bit.ly/2iRE4EU on how to recover deleted files from iCloud Drive. Also, see http://bit.ly/2k7QQzM. See http://apple.co/2jfnS0Z for iCloud Drive FAQs.

[3] Many (most?) users will have only one set of reminders, that being "Local Tasks". By keying CMD+A, reminders in all sets of reminders will be exported.

New Processors Expected for Mac Computers
Intel Kaby Lake processors are expected for the iMac and MacBook Pro in 2017. This series of CPUs is Intel's 7th generation, which are built on the "14 nm" process. Double digit improvement in performance is expected over current Haswell chips. There is considerable critical buzz that Apple has been slow in upgrading their computers. The release of these new chips from Intel may catalyze the release of new Macs. Will Apple bring the Touch Bar and Touch ID to Mac computers?

Apple Music Apps to Get Major Updates
In mid-January Apple announced major upgrades to GarageBand and Logic Pro X. These apps are widely used for professional audio production and by music enthusiasts. GarageBand is available at no cost and Logic Pro X is priced at $199.99, both available on Apple's App Store. See http://apple.co/2iIUrZ8 for details.

Synology DS416play Disk Station
If you're interested in a network-attached storage device (NAS), this machine may be of interest. This NAS device can be used with Macs and PCs. It has four bays for disk drives (purchased separately) and can support up to 40 TB of storage with hardware RAID. It is powered by a 1.6 GHz dual-core processor (burst frequency up to 2.48 GHz) with 1 GB of DDR3 RAM. Read/write performance is 225 MB/s and 186 MB/s, respectively. It has a separate AES-NI encryption engine that performs at 224 MB/s reading and 142 MB/s writing. The Disk Station is controlled by the browser-based Synology DiskStation Manager (DSM). Of course, the DS416 provides file sharing across your LAN and it can be your personal Cloud service allowing you to share and sync files via the Internet with Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, and Android devices. The machine has 4K video transcoding so you can watch video on a wide variety of devices. Priced at about $400 (without disk drives). For a review see http://bit.ly/2jiSFtb. See http://bit.ly/2kwR73T for more details. For alternative NAS devices, see http://bit.ly/2ksOCw6.