MEETING SCHEDULE  
Sunday, January 19, 2014

11:00 - 11:25 am | Sign In, Pay Dues, Greet visitors, Purchase 50/50 
ROOM # 311 | tickets (Optional), Setup Computers, 
Connect to Internet , Prep for Meetings 

11:00 - 11:25 pm | PACC BOD Meeting 
ROOM # 301 

11:35 - 12:00 pm | Windows New Users 
ROOM # 301 | Can we help you?  V. Agrawala 

12:00 - 12:30 pm | General Meeting, Raffle. 
ROOM # 301 

12:35 - 2:30pm | (pg. 1) 
ROOM # 301 | HDDErase 

2:35 - 3:30 pm | More programs and utilities ...... 
ROOM # 301 

2:05 - 3:30 pm | Hardware SIG 
ROOM # 311 | Users Helping Users - guests included 

1:00 - 3:30 pm | Linux SIG, Members Helping Members, 
ROOM # 311 | Computer troubleshooting, Info Exchange 

3:30 - 4:00 pm | Pack Up Equipment, Doors Close 

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Windows SIG
Secure Erase - HDDErase

"HDDErase.exe is a DOS-based utility that securely erases "sanitizes" all data on ATA hard disk drives in Intel architecture computers (PCs). It offers the option to run the drive internal secure erase command, security erase unit, based on the ATA specification by the T13 technical committee. To run the utility make a floppy, recordable CD-R, or USB DOS bootable disk; then copy HDDErase.exe to the bootable media. Reboot the computer with the floppy, CD-R, or USB inserted, and type "hdderase" at the system DOS prompt. Make sure to set the correct priority boot order in the system BIOS, such as first boot floppy, CD-R, or USB depending on which media is used to run HDDErase.exe. HDDErase.exe must be run from an actual DOS envi-

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environment and not a Window based DOS command prompt environment. If you are having difficulty running the program, and have tried the readme.txt files on our website, then the easiest way to get drives securely erased is to connect the drive to a different PC and run hdderase.exe on it. This is particularly convenient if you have several drives to erase. *NOTE: For laptop users, please make sure that there is sufficient battery life to run and complete the secure erase procedure. Secure erase may take as long as two hours for larger capacity drives. If power is lost during the secure erase, the drive will be in a locked state, preventing all I/O access. See the FAQ for further discussion on this topic. You can download the 834 KB file, HDErase.exe from: http://cmrr.ucsd.edu/people/Hughes/documents/HDEraseWeb.zip

WinPatrol 2013

“We’ve updated our Real-time infiltration Detection to the friendiest, useful, most powerful version in years. The list of settings protected by WinPatrol has grown so large that any change generates more alerts than anyone needs to manage. Scotty will use your response along with his experience to handle changes caused by a single install or malware event.”

“WinPatrol works and plays well with others. WinPatrol runs on Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, & supports all Windows 64 bit features without conflicts with other programs. The addition of WinPatrol provides a layered security approach required when even legitimate programs allow unwanted toolbars to be installed. When you download from WinPatrol.com you get a secure, certificate signed application and nothing unexpected.”

“WinPatrol was the first program to use a behavioral approach to detect new changes due to infiltrations and Zero-Day attacks. WinPatrol continues to add unique features and remains the smallest, fastest system monitor of its kind. A snapshot of critical system locations and resources is recorded so if anything changes you’ll know what changed and when!”

This free version of WinPatrol is 892 KB download. Get it from here: http://www.winpatrol.com/wpsetup.exe

Go to http://www.winpatrol.com/ to read lot of good info on the program, offers for the PRO version, and more. It is worth it to visit!

Splits the screen and loads all links in the second window

“Use NiftySplit to split Chrome into two windows. Any link you click in the left window will load in the right window.

“You can now browse your favorite website and visit links without losing the main page. No need to use the Back button or open-and-close tabs all the time. This makes browsing websites like Reddit or Wikipedia a thing of pure joy.”

Welcome!
Hi there, thanks for trying NiftySplit! Below are some quick notes on using this extension.

Summary: right-click any link and choose ‘Open as NiftySplit window’. Now any link you left-click in the left-hand page is loaded into the right-hand page.

Starting NiftySplit
Right-click any link and choose the ‘Open as NiftySplit window’ option from the context menu to start a NiftySplit session. The screen will be divided into two sections: the main page on the left and the link you just clicked on the right.

Enjoying NiftySplit
While a NiftySplit session is running, in the left-hand window... Left-click any link to open it in the right-hand page. Shift-click any link to open it in the left-hand page. Ctrl-click, middle-click, right-click, etc. all work as normal.

Stopping NiftySplit
Simply close one of the two windows to end your NiftySplit session.

Multi-monitor setups:
To enjoy NiftySplit on a multi-monitor setup: Start NiftySplit by right-clicking a link and choose ‘Open as NiftySplit window’ Drag the windows to the screens you want them on Maximize the master window. The slave window will automatically be maximized.”

Get Nifty-Split extension for Chrome from the Chrome web store: https://chrome.google.com/webstore/search/Nifty%20Split

FOR SALE
HD external USB 2.0, 400 GB Western Digital, $30
HD external USB 2.0, 2 Terabyte, Western Digital, $60
Contact Vishnu 724-553-8051

(Continued from page 1)
On April 8, 2014 Microsoft will stop supporting Windows XP and Office 2003. After that date there will be no new security updates, non-security hot-fixes, free or paid assisted support options, or on-line technical content updates. However, all your software will continue to work just as well as it did on April 7, so you needn't panic, but it would be prudent to come up with a rational transition plan. There are three choices: (1) continue to use XP, but take some precautions, (2) keep your present hardware, but upgrade the software, and (3) purchase new hardware and software. The hardware and software vendors as well as the media in which they advertise prefer that you take the third approach, but let's consider all of them.

There are many advantages to staying with XP, which may not hold with the other two approaches.

- Your present hardware works with it.
- Your present applications run under it.
- It supports your present peripherals.
- You don't have to learn anything new.
- It costs less than the alternatives.

The main disadvantage is that as time goes on, you become increasingly more vulnerable to attack over the Internet and by malware. You can reduce this and its consequences by the following.

- Before April 8, 2014, use Microsoft Update to install the latest patches to all your Microsoft software.
- Update all your anti-malware software, and check that the vendor will continue to support it for XP after April 8. If not, change to a vendor that will.
- If you are connected to the Internet through a router, install the latest firmware in it. If your PC connects directly to your ISP's modem, purchase a hardware router, and update its firmware if necessary. For good measure, if you haven't already, install a software XP firewall.
- Be very careful about what you download, and avoid doing it if possible.
- Review your backup program; improve it if needed, and resolve to follow it rigorously.

The wording on the MS Website implies that old patches will remain available, but why take a chance? Update your software early, as the download rate may slow near the deadline. At the present time, about 35 per cent of the computers in the world use XP. This is a sizable market for anti-malware vendors, and I would expect them to continue supporting XP for some time. Your first line of defense against Internet aggression is your router and its firewall. Most likely, your ISP's modem also includes a firewall, but how careful is he about keeping it up-to-date? You don't know. With your own router, you have ability to keep it up to date, and as a result, having one is desirable even if you have only one PC. Despite all your precautions, as time goes on, and the bad guys find more XP vulnerabilities, your risk will increase. Be wary of any download, including e-mail attachments from friends. The best malware defense is to keep it off your PC. Your last defense is your backup program. Any information you haven't backed up on an external drive is one mouse click or one device failure away from trash. Although its most important to back up your data, you should in addition make an image backup of everything on your hard disk, because once XP becomes an orphan, applications and drivers for it will become increasingly difficult to find.

The second alternative is to keep your hardware, but change your operating system.

- Your vulnerability will be less than if you stay with XP.
- If your PC is old, it may not support some current operating systems.
- Your present applications may not run under the new OS.
- Drivers may not be available for some of your peripherals, requiring you to replace the devices.
- You will have to take care during the transition not to lose any data.
- You will have to learn new ways of working.

The hazard with this approach is that to install a new operating system, you generally must format your hard disk, but you must first insure that all your data is safe and readable by the applications in your new OS. For example, if all your financial records are stored in Quicken files and there is no financial program available in your new operating system that can understand them, you essentially have lost all your financial records. A second problem is to insure that your current hardware supports the new operating system before you format your disk. If you are considering a newer version of Windows, run the Windows Upgrade Advisor (available at http://windows.microsoft.com/is/is-windows/downloads/upgrade-advisor-for-Windows-7). Don't forget to check your peripherals; I found that there was no Windows 7 driver for my scanner and had to buy a new one when I upgraded from XP. If your PC is compatible except for insufficient RAM, this is an inexpensive upgrade, even if done by a shop. (You should have at least one Gigabyte of RAM, even if you stay with XP.)

Consider Linux, especially for a secondary PC. I've converted two XP machines to Xubuntu (http://xubuntu.org/), which is more responsive than XP on old hardware. It has the advantage that you can try it out with a “live-CD,” which is bootable from a CD drive. It will be slow in this mode, but since it doesn't make any changes to the hard disk, you are just a reboot away from XP. While running Xubuntu, all the files on your hard disk are available, so you can check whether Linux applications can read them. (Instructions on how to create a live CD or DVD in Windows are available at http://www.ubuntu.com/download/help/try-ubuntu-before-you-install.) If you have room on your disk or can add a second one, consider a dual-boot system in which you can run either system. (All your Windows files will be accessible in Linux, and Windows applications are available that can read Linux disk partitions.) However, Linux is not Windows, which means there are many differences between the two systems. Try to find a sympathetic, experienced Linux user to help you get started, especially if you are less than comfortable in adventure mode.

The third alternative, buying new hardware and software is the easy and safe, but expensive. You are probably best off to purchase new components. XP-era processors, RAM, displays, and hard disks are woefully inadequate for any current OS. Keyboards and mice now cost just a few dollars, and your old ones may use obsolete connectors. You can keep your printer and scanner if drivers are available for the new OS; your old speakers will be fine.

- Your old PC with your data, applications, and peripherals remains available for use.
- You will probably have to purchase new applications for your new OS and probably some new peripherals, especially if the existing ones are several years old.

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- There will be a learning curve for the new system.

Spend some extra money; in particular, get more RAM and a larger disk than you think you can get by with.

I haven't considered a piecemeal hardware upgrade, because I don't think it's cost-effective. Most modern CPUs are incompatible with XP-era motherboards; new motherboards are usually incompatible with XP-era cases and expansion cards; and old RAM is incompatible with both modern CPUs and motherboards. My preference is to get a new PC up and running with all the essential software installed, and keep the old PC operating until you are comfortable with the new one and are sure that it has all the applications you need and that all your data has been successfully transferred to it.

Windows XP's Swan Song
Time is Running Out!
By Bill James, Editor & Webmaster,
Computer Club of Oklahoma City
www.ceokec.org   editor (at) ceokec.org

If you are still using Windows XP, please read on. Did you know that Microsoft introduced the Windows XP Operating System in October 2001 and it is arguably one of the most popular of all the Microsoft OS's? It is 13 years old and still represents a 37% share of all desktop operating systems worldwide as of June 2013. However, time is marching on and Microsoft has announced that starting April 8, 2014, there will be no more patches or updates – including security ones – issued for Windows XP. If you for instance do only email and web browsing you would think that this new policy would not affect you. Oh but it does because, over time without updates, Windows XP will not only become less secure, it also means that you will be facing support issues with finding anti-virus and other programs that work with XP. Your web browser, the tool that you use to access the Internet, will also be open to security problems because of the lack of security updates, locking you into obsolete and insecure browsers designed for XP.

The solution, as I see it, is not to wait until you have a catastrophic computer failure which will then force you to update your system. But consider that now is the time to start looking at your options. With a working XP system you will be able to take your time and decide what you need to do. You will also have the ability to move all your data files, those emails you wish to keep, etc. to a new computer or updated operating system as well as find alternatives for those favorite programs that will work with your existing data. By thinking about updating or replacing your system, you will be able to logically and methodically determine what your needs are and choose a strategy that works best for you. The end result is not to be hurried or pressured in doing something immediately just to get your computer up and running again.

If you have already decided that Windows 8 is not for you, you will want to upgrade to Windows 7. You should be able find copies of Windows 7 through Tiger Direct or Amazon and some computer manufacturers such as Dell and HP are still offering Windows 7 as an option. You can also use Google and search for vendors that might carry the product. But, I would not wait too long because soon sources to that program will dry up. If your plan is to buy a new computer, I would wait until Windows 8.1 is released in the later part of October 2013 because there are significant changes in 8.1 that will negate what you may have already learned about the current version of Windows 8.

If you need help with learning to use your new OS, ask your UG to offer classes or workshops for the new OS. Moderating a SIG or Workshop is a wonderful way to learn about software. If you are in charge of programming, offer programs and workshops for your members. If you have not signed up for the APCUG/O'Reilly free books program, then you are missing a source of information that covers the newer OS. If you are unfamiliar with the program, look for information on the APCUG website or APCUG Reports.

The Smiley Face Turned 22 years old
September 19th
Art Gresham, Editor, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
September 2013 issue of Drive Light
www.uchug.org   1editor101 (at) uchug.org

"Scott Fahlman was the first documented person to use the emoticons :-) and :-(, with a specific suggestion that they be used to express emotion. The text of his original proposal, posted to the Carnegie Mellon University computer science general board on 19 September 1982 (11:44), was thought to have been lost, but was recovered 20 years later by Jeff Baird from old backup tapes."

19-Sep-82 11:44 Scott E Fahlman :-) From: Scott E Fahlman <Fahlman at Cmu-20c>

I propose that the following character sequence for happy:

:-)

Read it sideways. Actually, it is probably more economical to mark things that are sad, given current trends. For this, use

:(

The information in the paragraph above is quoted from Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoticon#cite_note-smiley-1

It is a very abbreviated summary of the story of how the keyboard characters we now call a Smiley Face came into existence. It is part of a much longer story of the inner workings of the earliest forms of computer to computer, and user to user communications, long before the internet as we know it. These 'Bulletin Boards' were first commonly used among academics. It all began as a rather prankish comment following this post on the Computer Science Bulletin Board System at Carnegie Mellon University.

"At around noon on September 16th, 1982, and in response to a similar scenario involving pigeons, Neil Swartz posted the following hypothetical situation to the CMU CS BBS:"

"There is a lit candle in an elevator mounted on a bracket attached to the middle of one wall (say, 2" from the wall). A drop of mercury is on the floor. The cable snaps and the elevator falls. What happens to the candle and the mercury?"

A very delightful reading of the complete story of the evolution of :-) is at http://rhizome.org/editorial/2013/mar/13/emoticon1/

I am sure you will be ROFL when you read it.
iCan’t:
5 Things Android Users Take for Granted and iPhone Users Just Can’t Do
Danny Stieben, Writer, MakeUseOf.com
May 6, 2013

Have you ever thought that there might be a reason Android users brag about their customizability? Sure, as an iPhone user, you can add and configure apps, change your wallpaper, and otherwise make yourself feel at home. But at the end of the day, you’ve only changed a few small details. If you happen to have jailbroken your iPhone to run Cydia and are enjoying some of the best Cydia tweaks, you can do more. But users with stock iOS are able to do much less. Don’t believe me? Check out these different things that Android users can do but iOS users cannot.

From changing your keyboard to using a live wallpaper to putting an entirely new face on your phone (in the form of a launcher), Android lets you customize your phones in remarkably flexible ways.

Keyboards

If you don’t like the keyboard on your iPhone, tough luck. Without jailbreaking the device, there’s no way to get a different keyboard app on your iPhone. On the contrary, Android is built to allow users to choose between different installed keyboards, from the very capable default keyboard to Swype to SwiftKey. This not only allows for different looking keyboards, but also different typing mechanisms (tapping versus swiping) and prediction algorithms for those fast typers with low accuracy. I’m not saying that the iPhone’s keyboard is bad, but I highly doubt that every iPhone user likes it and those picky users will just have to endure.

Home Screen Mechanics

The iPhone’s home screen is one of the most iconic features of the iOS platform — big icons in a 4×4 grid (or 4×5 grid with the iPhone 5) and four buttons along the bottom bar for commonly accessed apps. Besides changing the wallpaper and rearranging the order of the icons, there’s nothing that the iPhone user can do to change how it looks. For example, a mechanic that annoys me would be the fact that I cannot move an icon from the very top of the screen to the very bottom — all icons fill in row by row. At least iPhone users can move their icons onto a new page.

Widgets

Android launchers also have another cool feature that is entirely lacking in iOS — widgets. These nifty tools can be placed anywhere in your home screens and offer quick access to the related app’s functionality. For example, the Wunderlist widget will display your to-do list, the New York Times widget can be configured to show the latest news, and weather w

Launchers

I absolutely love the default Android launcher, but others may want to use other alternatives. With Android, you can install additional launchers and choose which one you’d like to use. Each launcher can offer different functionality, such as themes and the ability to add more pages to your home screen. With iOS, this is also completely impossible as Apple wants everyone using the same launcher.

Wallpapers

Android includes some creative features with wallpapers to give your phone a nice touch with small details. Whenever you set a new image as your wallpaper, you can choose how you’d like to resize it, as well as determine whether the image should be “scrollable” or not. When set to scrollable, the wallpaper moves left and right as you switch between different pages in your home screen. Otherwise, the wallpaper would remain completely still as you switch between pages in your home screen. Additionally, Android also offers the use of live, animated wallpapers. These cool wallpapers are similar to Win-
dows Vista’s DreamScene wallpapers; however, are more appropriate on a smartphone as they usually include smooth animations and other computer-generated objects, and not a real-life video. Some live wallpapers animate on their own, while others react to the user’s touch. They can be pretty fun to mess around with, and with (usually) minimal battery impact.

Android vs iPhone – Conclusion

Believe me now? Android users can change some significant stuff to their phones, without having to resort to rooting or installing custom ROMs. I’m sure this list isn’t entirely inclusive of all things Android users can do that iPhone users cannot, but it gives you a good idea of how you can do more with Android.

What’s your favorite feature of your Android or iOS device? What do you wish it could have that the competitor has? Let us know in the comments!

Computer Entertainment
By Jim Cerny, Director, Sarasota PC Users Group, FL
August 2013 issue, PC Monitor
www.spcug.org  jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

Are you old enough to remember sitting around watching the radio and listening to The Lone Ranger or other programs? Then came TV, movies, records, tapes, and DVDs. We all have our favorite forms of entertainment and entertainers. I am sure most of you have already used your computer, tablet or phone for some kind of entertainment, but I thought it might be helpful (i.e. entertaining?) for you if I gave you a quick overview of the almost infinite entertainment possibilities with computer devices. For the purpose of this article I will assume you have a computer, tablet, or phone connected to the internet. I am sure you will find the following ideas fun and entertaining:

YouTube – one of my favorites. You do not have to join anything or get an ID or password, just go to the You Tube website at youtube.com and in the search box at the top enter in anything you like and hit the “Enter” key. You can enter an actor, TV show, name, event, topic, or news item. Be prepared to get a list of videos you can watch that can take all day. Rarely is an “app” so easy to use and so much fun! To watch a video, just click on it (or touch it on a touch-screen and it should start playing in a few moments. While playing, you can use the controls to pause or drag to any point in the video.

Google Earth – You can download this free through the Google website. (If you don’t know how to get to the Google website there is no hope for you at all, please donate your computer today to our refurbishing group.) Google has many tools that are entertaining and fun, but one of my favorites is Google Earth. When it begins you see a slowly spinning earth that you appear to be approaching from outer space. Use your finger on the touch-screen or your mouse to rotate the earth or stop it from spinning. Zoom in or out using your fingers to pinch or spread, or use your mouse wheel or the zoom in-out bar. Try zooming in on Disney World in Orlando and you can see the parks and the people. You can’t quite read a car license plate, but it’s pretty close. Many cities have 3D rendered buildings and you can fly right between them if you want. Explore your planet and checkout the many options available.

Free games – Whatever games you enjoy you can bet there are computer versions of them. Many are free. On the Google search website, enter in the search bar the word “free” followed by whatever game you are interested in. You will get quite a list. Be aware, however, that some “free” games may ask you to register or set up an account. I never do this – I have too many accounts and passwords to keep track of as it is. Some games on the internet you can play with or against other people all over the world. I generally prefer to play against the computer instead of a real person. When you do find a website that allows you to play a game right on the internet for free, you can be sure there will be some advertising. It may be on the border at the edge of the game screen or window, or it may appear as “pop-up” windows. Carefully click your mouse or tap your finger on the “X” (wherever it is, usually in the upper right) to close the window. If you miss the “X” and hit any other part of the window you will probably be sent to another window with more advertising. But do not be afraid, the internet is all about advertising you know, just click on the next “X” you see to remove the unwanted window or ad.

TV and Radio Stations – Use Google to find your favorite radio or TV programs (current or from days gone by) and see what you find. Many current TV and radio programs can be viewed or listened to on the station’s internet site.

The whole idea of all this is to consider your computer a window to the world—the present and the past. Don’t be afraid to search and explore, you will find fun and amazing things. Give yourself a time limit, otherwise you will find the hours slipping by and missing meals. Oops, look at the time! I think I just missed dinner.

iPad Application - Photo Transfer
Review by Bill Crowe, 2nd Vice President,
Sarasota PC Users Group, FL
August 2013 issue, PC Monitor
www.spcug.org  editor (at) spcug.org

Photo Transfer App, as its name suggests, is an app that makes it easy to transfer photos (and videos) over Wi-Fi – from iPhone or iPad to a computer, and between your iOS devices.

Features are:

Easily download multiple photos from your iPad, iPhone or iPod to your computer (Windows and Mac)
Upload photos and videos from your computer to your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch – Photos are saved to the ‘Saved photos’ album
Exchange photos and videos between multiple iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch devices
Select up to 100 photos to transfer at one time (32 on iPhone 3G and 1st generation)
Transfer short videos (5 minutes or less) from iPhone to iPad
Transfer videos in all directions (Device <-> Computer, Device <-> Device)
Preserves photo metadata in all transfer directions (iOS 4.2)
Transfer photos in full resolution; photos are not reduced in quality as with other apps
Very fast download and transfer
No cables or extra software required
Works with computers running Windows, Mac and Linux
Your photos and videos are transferred directly from device to device using your local Wi-Fi network. They are not stored in an external server and they never leave your local Wi-Fi network.
Personal computers are vital appliances for most of us. We use them to balance our checkbooks, calculate our taxes, communicate with friends and family, store our memories, and keep us informed. This is much different than when they were first introduced, when we felt free to perform experiments using them that today are unthinkable because of the risk of losing valuable data. As a result, we have the ironic situation that as our PCs become more and more complex, we know less and less about them. A solution is to acquire a smaller and simpler computer just to play with. Ideally, it won't take up much space on our crowded computer desk and will be cheap to replace if something goes horribly (or wonderfully, if you're adventurous) wrong.

There are dozens of these tiny computers, but here I'll talk about just two, the Arduino and the Raspberry Pi. Both are supported by active on-line communities, both are described in several books, both are open source, which means you are free to make any changes you like to their software, and both are cheap – less than $50. (Although you will probably pay more for a complete starter or experimenter's kit.) Both were developed by educators, the Arduino in Italy and the Raspberry Pi in the UK, for the purpose of helping people learn about computers and computing. However, the two are quite different. The Arduino is really a controller, about as smart as your washing machine, and its inputs and outputs are Voltages on its pins. It runs only one program at a time, and once started, runs it forever. As you use an Arduino, you'll be learning programming and electronics. The Raspberry Pi is a real computer that runs Linux and comes with a full complement of PC software, including a Web browser. Its inputs and outputs are a keyboard, mouse, graphical display, and Ethernet and USB ports. As you use the Raspberry Pi, you'll learn programming, networking, and operating system operation and configuration.

The Arduino (http://www.arduino.cc/), like the Raspberry Pi, is about the size of a credit card. In the photo below, the Arduino is the blue card in the foreground. Normally, it's programmed and powered through the USB connector at the rear of the left edge. Once, a program has been loaded, it can be powered via the black connector at the front of the left edge (for example by a 9-volt battery). This unit illustrated is mated to a solderless breadboard, on which you can build circuits just by pushing component leads into its holes. Jumpers connect the breadboard with the Arduino's input/output pins along its front and rear edges. The Arduino is almost always used as a circuit element, and many experimenter's kits are available to get you started. These usually include an Arduino, a breadboard, and a collection of jumpers and electronic parts, e.g., LEDs, switches, motors, and sensors. Make an Internet search, and you will certainly find many interesting products and projects. My favorite vendor is Adafruit, but it has many fine competitors.

Getting started with the Arduino is quite easy. Go to their home page, http://www.arduino.cc/, and download the Integrated Development Environment (IDE), which is available for Linux, Mac OS X, and Windows. (Linux users can also find it in their repositories.) Connect an Arduino board to a USB port and start the IDE. As you may be able to tell from the screenshot, the Arduino uses a variant of the C programming language. The example here is the program blink, which just cycles an LED on and off. This is the equivalent of the classic “Hello World” program that is almost every C programmer's first effort.

The Arduino's capabilities are quite modest – typically the processor runs at 16 MHz, has about 20 I/O pins (some analog, some digital), and is equipped with 32 kbytes of EEPROM (for programs) and 2 kbytes of RAM (for data). Normally, you would use the Arduino just to control the hardware and send any data it collects to a PC for analysis. To make this easier, consider using the Processing language on (Continued on page 8)
your computer, available at http://processing.org/. It's very close to what the Arduino uses and has an almost identical IDE.

You should be able to get started using only information available from the Internet, but if you prefer a book, look at Getting Started with Arduino by Massimo Banzi. Many others are available, some for the beginner and others describing advanced projects.

While the Arduino is a simple controller, the Raspberry Pi, http://www.raspberrypi.org/, is a real computer that uses the Linux operating system. The kit I purchased (from Adafruit) included a clear plastic case and a solderless breadboard, but many projects won't need the latter. The Pi has two USB ports (silver connectors on the center right), an Ethernet port (silver connector on the front right), a HDMI port for the display (silver connector on the center front), a power connector (micro USB connector on the center left), a SD connector for storage (a SD card protrudes from the case on the left), a collection of ports (connected to the breadboard by a black ribbon cable at the left rear), an analog video port (yellow connector at the rear), and a stereo audio jack (blue connector at the rear).

Getting a Raspberry Pi running is more involved than with the Arduino. Although it's powered through a USB port, PC USB ports can't supply enough current; you will need either a cell phone recharger or a powered USB hub. Be careful of cell phone chargers though; many cheap units can't supply the current they claim. The safe approach is to purchase one from the vendor from whom you buy your Pi. You will need a USB keyboard and mouse; if you don't have an extra set, they are quite cheap. Hopefully, you have a HDMI display, either for your PC or a flat-screen TV; if not, you could try an old analog TV set, but its resolution will be poor. Finally, connect any USB peripherals through a powered hub, rather than ask the Pi to power them. I bought a no-name 10-port hub that had good user reports on Amazon, and it can also power the Pi. Finally, unlike the Arduino, which comes with its control software installed, you must supply the SD card for the Raspberry Pi and install Linux and its applications on it. This requires a SD card burner, and unfortunately many on the market aren't up to the job. Again, purchasing one from your Pi supplier is the safe approach.

As with the Arduino, you can probably get started with the Pi using only what you learn on the Internet, but there are also numerous books. The project has published Raspberry Pi User Guide by Eben Upton. There are numerous others, as well as magazine and Internet articles. I've seen descriptions of a media center, an Internet radio, a time-lapse camera control, a network file server, a firewall, and a wireless access point. (Many of these don't require a keyboard, mouse, or display once they are running, so you could disconnect these for use elsewhere once the project is on line.) You could even connect an Arduino to a Raspberry to obtain a portable sophisticated hardware control and data processing system.

Both these devices are ideal for experimenting. No matter how badly you screw up the software, you can just download a new program to your Arduino or reburn the SD card on your Raspberry Pi. Even if you manage to fry the electronics, you can replace either card for less than $50. Both are wonderful platforms for introducing electronics and computers to young people. There are many Arduino projects that can be completed in less than an hour, including building the circuit and writing the program. The Raspberry Pi software includes Scratch, a programming language for children that builds animated graphics with sound, and Python, a more sophisticated language for older kids and adults.
How to Find a Lost Document and Other Filing Tips
By Nancy DeMarte,
1st Vice President, Sarasota PC Users Group, FL
August 2013 issue, PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
ndemarte (at) Verizon.net

I suppose you’re thinking this could never happen…until it does. You have a large number of folders full of documents and photos on your computer. One day you need to find a letter that you wrote and saved a week ago, but can’t remember what name you gave it or which folder you saved it in. Here are some ways to find that document:

Look in your Recent Documents list: Open Word 2010 or 2007 and click File, and you will see a list of documents you opened recently. If you haven’t opened more than about 20 documents since you saved the letter, it will be on the list. If you find the letter, you can open it from the Recent Documents list. But before you do that, it’s a good idea to take note of its “path,” so you’ll know exactly where it’s stored. The path of a document file in Word 2010 is shown below its name in the Recent Documents list. It is represented by a string of folders, starting with the largest folder, My Documents, and ending with the sub-folder in which the document is stored. As shown, the path for this article is “My Documents\SPCUG\Office Talk Column\Files and Folders.”

In Word 2007, the path is missing in the Recent Documents view, but with a few steps, you can find it. Open Word 2007 and click the Office button to open the Recent Documents list. Click a recent document to open it. Then click Office button – Save As. In this window the path of the document appears in the address bar across the top. The last folder in the string of folders is where the document is stored.

You can keep or “pin” any Recent Document to the list for easy future access by clicking the pushpin icon next to it. You can also right click a recent document in Word 2010 and select “Remove from list.” Recent files lists exist in most 2070 and 2010 Office programs.

Search your computer: In Windows 7, click the Start button at the left end of the taskbar, then type in the search box one or more words which you guess are part of your lost letter’s name. If your guess is correct, the letter should appear in the Files list and can be opened from there. Sometimes, however, a Windows 7 search does not find files stored too deeply in sub-folders. Windows 8 offers a more targeted search. Open the Charms from the Start Screen and click the category of item you’re looking for, such as Mail or, in this case, Files. Then type your search words in the Search box. This tool searches inside all levels of sub-folders in the category and returns a list of possibilities. It searches not only file names, but also the body of the document.

Make use of File Views:

The contents of any folder on the computer can be viewed in various ways, but some views fit certain kinds of files better than others. It’s easiest to find a document in a file list using the Details view, which is a list which includes File Name, Date Modified, File Type, and Size. A photo is best viewed as an Icon or Tile, which shows a thumbnail of the photo, its name, and file size. To change the view of a file list in Windows 7, open a folder, then click the Views icon at the right end of the menu bar. By moving the slider, you can preview how different views affect your list before making your selection.

If your letter does not appear in Recent Documents and is not found with a Search, you can open My Documents and scroll to the bottom of the list of folders to see unfiled documents. If it isn’t there, then open a sub-folder where you guess it might be. Set the view to Details, and sort the list by Date Modified, which will put recently opened files at the top of the list. To sort, click the heading of the Date Modified column. Reverse the sort order by clicking the heading again. File names sort alphabetically; dates chronologically.

Add folders to your Favorites:

Much like the Favorite websites list you keep in your Internet browser, Windows provides a convenient spot for you to park folders that you open frequently. Open Libraries. In the Explorer Window, at the top of the navigation pane on the left, you’ll see a section called Favorites. A few folders are listed there by default, but you can customize this list with your own folders. I keep my SIG Schedules and Office Talk Column folders there because I open them frequently, and because opening a Favorite folder takes only one click. To add a folder to Favorites, make it visible in the main Explorer window (but don’t open it), then click and drag it left onto the word Favorites, or use Copy and Paste. A Favorite folder is synchronized with the original one. Whenever you make a change to files in the original folder, the change will also appear in the Favorites version and vice versa.

File Management is one of the most difficult skills to master in a Windows environment. And each new version of Windows changes the system just enough to cause confusion.

The more you understand how files and folders are stored and organized on your computer, the more control you’ll have of your documents and other important files. You won’t have many lost documents, either.
What I Would Change If I Were In Charge
By Jim Cerny, Director, Sarasota PC Users Group, FL
July 2013 issue, PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

Yes I am a big fan of technology. I enjoy it. To me, my computer devices (including my tablet and phone) and the things they can do for me are totally amazing. Computers are also very complex. I believe the day has long past when one person can know everything about them. I certainly am not anywhere close to that. But having used computers for a number of years, I am still totally amazed at some of the design decisions that are made about these devices and the software (programs, apps) they use. Do the designers sit around a table and say “Ok, let’s do it that way, the users will figure it out.”? Does there ever seem a real reason why they do the things they do? Do they ever trial their designs with real people like us?

I don’t mean to be rude -- maybe just a bit amusing. Here is my “top ten” list of the things I would change if I were in charge:

1. Company employees who finally help me on the phone should be knowledgeable of their own company’s web page and the information on it! Yes, believe it or not, you can constantly negotiate totally different deals and prices in person, on the phone, and on the Internet all with the same company.

2. When writing a new version of software, I would initially make it look like the old version and gradually help the user transition and learn as they use the new version.

And now (drum roll please) my number 1 thing I would change:

2. When writing a new version of software, I would initially make it look like the old version and gradually help the user transition and learn as they use the new version.

Well, I guess no world is perfect. And I am sure you have your “top ten” list too. If any of you get a call from a company asking for your opinion on any of these things, please let me know. For some reason no one calls and asks me. Maybe it’s because of my “telephone tree” answering message they have to listen to first.
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<table>
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>COMPUTER AREA</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agrawala, Vishnu</td>
<td>Hardware</td>
<td>724-553-8051</td>
<td>3 - 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cutrara, Phil</td>
<td>Geoworks</td>
<td>766-0274</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisher, Bill</td>
<td>Cobol, Word Perfect</td>
<td>367-8996</td>
<td>7 - 9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konecny, P.</td>
<td>Windows, DOS 6.2x, MS IE, Hardware</td>
<td>795-6075</td>
<td>8 - 9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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IS ON JANUARY 19, 2014

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NEXT MEETING: January 19, 2014

The Pittsburgh Area Computer Club (PACC) holds its meetings the THIRD Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be in room 311 at Point Park University, Wood St. and Blvd. of the Allies. The doors open at 11:30 am and close at 4:30 pm. Bring your PC!