PATACS Posts

Newsletter of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society

Member of **apcug** An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

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October PATACS/OPCUG meeting

The October PATACS/OPCUG meeting will offer an extended Q&A session hosted by a diverse and knowledgeable panel of experts who will either have immediate and correct answers to your questions, know where to find such answers, suggest who else to ask those questions, tell creative stories about how they once wondered about these questions, or answer entirely different questions at such length that you'll forget what you asked. More seriously, this is a great opportunity for extended discussion of problems, questions, current technology news and issues, or resource s/programs/apps/gadgets you've discovered and love (or hate). Come ready to ask, answer, and discuss.

No question is 'dumb'. You may of course bring questions to the meeting for the panel to address. **Also, please consider submitting panel questions in advance to Survey@Patacs.org**

Panel members will be: Gabe Goldberg, Tom Gutnick, Nick Wenri, and Henry Winokur.

Learn 30

Roger Fujii will offer a brief overview of current options in home control, including X11, Z-wave, Micasaverde VERA, Nest, Insteon,

PATACS needs Information from you

For future meetings the officers & directors would like your feedback We look forward to hearing from you at **Survey@Patacs.org**

- Ideas for Topics for the learn 30 or general presentation

- Ideas or recommendations for possible speakers for above

- Possible format alternatives for meetings (like Q&A for Oct. meeting)

- Questions re Benefits of Membership (what are they?)

- Use of Zoom remote access to meetings

Thanks for your cooperation.
Yours truly,
Steven F. Wertime
(Director PATACS)

Excellent Opportunity for All PATACS Members

PATACS E-mail Discussion List

Join the PATACS members-only e-mail list to discuss topics of mutual interest, ask and answer questions, share resources, convey news, and increase our sense of shared community with fellow members.

Both active contributors and active listeners are welcome.

Visit https://groups.yahoo.com/ neo/groups/#PATACS-b/info

Help Wanted: Meeting Speakers

Finding presenters for our meeting programs is difficult—your help in the effort to enhance the value we all receive from PATACS membership would be greatly appreciated!

Please consider speaking to your friends at an Arlington or Fairfax meeting. We'd love to feature your take on a smart phone or tablet app. A presentation on these or other topics of interest to you would undoubtedly be welcomed by your PATACS colleagues. We have space in our schedule for 15, 30, 60 and 75 minute discussions—what are you waiting for?

We also have ready-made paragraphs you could use in e-mail communications to help us find speakers. Contact: director2(at)patacs.org

Special Membership Promotion

Current members who bring a new member to the organization will receive a six month extension of their membership. New member is defined as someone who has not been a member in the thirty-six months prior to month of received application. The new member should list your name as the 'source' of their membership on the application form (pick up at meetings or download from http://patacs.org/membrshippat.html.)

Shopping on Amazon.com? Remember PATACS!

If you shop online at Amazon.com, don't forget to start each session by clicking the Amazon link on the PATACS home page, then continue shopping on Amazon as usual. Doing so earns PATACS a 4 to 6.5% commission on your purchase at no additional cost to you. Thank you for supporting your user group!

Tutorial - Quick Fix
By Kathy Perrin

If all of a sudden your monitor screen display is mysteriously upside down and you have been the only one using your computer— not discussing blame— but dealing with the necessary solution: Right click. Click on screen resolution and then orientation. Click landscape and that will immediately remove the unwelcome "gremlins" in your computer.

You can then proceed to finish the newsletter or some other project. ☺

2015 Election for PATACS Board of Directors – 2 Year Term

The Annual meeting of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society, Inc. will be held on October 17th, in conjunction with the Fairfax Meeting, also held that day.

Pease cut and paste the ballot below into your email program, mark your selections, (there are 10 openings for director at large) and email to: ballot@patacs.org You may also print out your marked ballot and pass it to the Election Commissioners at the annual meeting.

Vote for the entire slate: _____
Roger Fujii _____ Write in _____

Gabe Goldberg _____ Write in _____

Mel Goldfarb _____ Write in _____

Geof Goodrum _____ Write in _____

Charles Throneburg _____ Write in _____

Nick Wenri _____ Write in _____

Steven Wertime _____ Write in _____

Henri Winokur _____ Write in _____
Write in_____
Write in_____

From: PATACS Election Commissioners

Interesting Internet Finds
Steve Costello, President
Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society
www.brcs.org http://ctublog.sefcug.com/editor (at) brcs.org

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

How To Create An Animated GIF Using Your Own Pictures, With GIMP
http://www.7tutorials.com/how-create-animated-gif-using-your-own-pictures-gimp

Have you seen animated GIFs, and wondered how you could make your own? This 7tutorials post explains how to do it (provided you have at least two pictures, of course.), using the free GIMP application. It should be similar with any good image editing software.

USB Type-C Explained: What it is and What it Can Do   http://www.guidingtech.com/45984/usb-type-c-explained/

I keep hearing about this more lately, so if you want to know more about it too, check out this GuidingTech post.

If You Give a Kid Linux…
http://fosforce.com/2015/07/give-kid-linux/
I thought it was interesting that kids who had no prior experience with any other operating system just took to Linux.
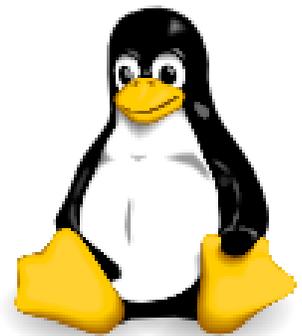
A Twisted View

by Geof Goodrum

Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society
linux(at)patacs.org

Both at work and at home, my primary computer is a laptop. For each I also have an external widescreen LCD monitor. All modern operating systems have utilities that allow monitors to be used to extend the desktop so applications can be displayed separately on each. Like most people, I initially used the external monitors in the default landscape orientation (that is, with the longest dimension for width), and positioned directly above and behind the laptop screen. However, my home and work monitors feature adjustable supports that allow the display to be rotated 90° into portrait orientation (longest dimension for height). Then, the system display utility settings must be adjusted for a rotated display.

I found portrait orientation works very well for viewing most web pages, viewing and editing e-mail and word processor documents, and doing page layout. For applications that work better in landscape (e.g., wide spreadsheets, landscape graphics, games), I open or move their windows to the laptop screen.

Many people who notice my monitor configuration are surprised and never considered this possibility. It may or may not work for you, but I recommend trying it as appropriate for your needs. If your monitor does not support portrait orientation, it is a feature worth considering the next time you shop for a new monitor.

One drawback to consider: the placement of a monitor in portrait orientation may not be ergonomically ideal, that is, if placed too high on a desk, it may require looking up to see the top of the screen and strain the neck after extended use. Ideally, monitor screens should be placed at or below eye level.

Open Source Software of the Month: October 2015

by Geof Goodrum
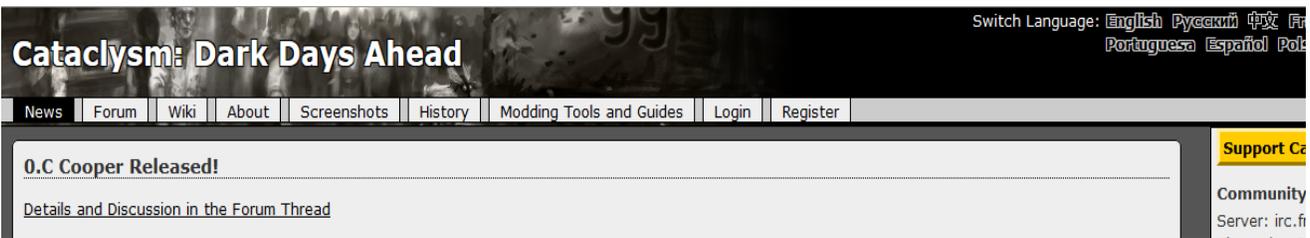
Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society

linux(at)patacs.org

ARandR – v0.1.8. http://christian.amsuess.com/tools/arandr/.

Free GNU General Public License source code and executable for GNU/Linux® by Christian Amsuess, Себастьян Gli ţa Κατινα, and Johannes Holmberg. ARandR is designed to provide a simple visual front end to control output orientation of multiple monitor displays. Relative monitor positions are shown graphically and can be changed in a drag-and-drop way. Features:

• Full control over output positioning (instead of plain "left of") with edge snapping

• Saving configurations as executable shell scripts (configurations can be loaded without using this program)

• Configuration files can be edited to include additional payload (like xsetwacom com-- mands tablet PC users need when rotating), which is preserved when editing.

Switch Language: English Русский 中文 Fr
Portuguesa Español Pol

Cataclysm: Dark Days Ahead

News | Forum | Wiki | About | Screenshots | History | Modding Tools and Guides | Login | Register

0.C Cooper Released!

Details and Discussion in the Forum Thread

Support Ca
Community
Server: irc.fr

- Metacity key binding integration:

- Saved configurations can be bound to arbitrary keys via metacity's custom commands.

- Several layouts can be bound to one key; they are cycled through. (Useful for "rotate" buttons on tablet PCs.)

- Main widget separated from packaged application (to facilitate integration with existing solutions)

Cataclysm: Dark Days Ahead – v0.C "Cooper". http://en.cataclysmdda.com/. Free Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Kevin BevapDin, Narc0tiq et al. Cataclysm: Dark Days Ahead is a roguelike (2D tile-based) game set in a post-apocalyptic world.

While some have described it as a "zombie game", there is far more to Cataclysm than that. Struggle to survive in a harsh, persistent, procedurally generated world. Scavenge the remnants of a dead civilization for food, equipment, or, if you are lucky, a vehicle with a full tank of gas to get you out of Dodge. Fight to defeat or escape from a wide variety of powerful monstrosities, from zombies to giant insects to killer robots and things far stranger and deadlier, and against the others like yourself, that want what you have…
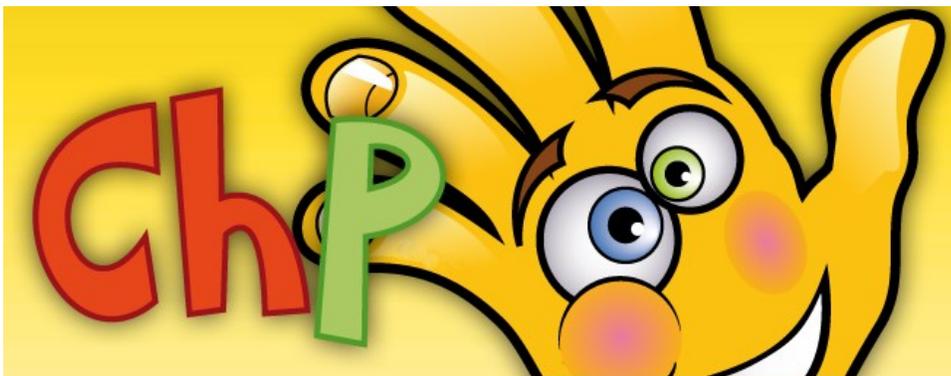
Childsplay – v2.6.5.

http://www. childsplay.mobi/

Free GNU General Public License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Chris Van Bael and Stas Zytkiewicz. Childsplay is a collection of educational activities for young children and pre-schools. Childsplay can be used at home, \kindergartens Childsplay is a fun and safe way to let young children use the computer and at the same time teach them a little math, letters of the alphabet, spelling, eye-hand coordination, etc.

Working Multiplayer

Childsplay provides several features for users and developers of activities:

• Memory activities that are fun to play and at the same time learn sounds, images, letters and numbers.

• Activities that train the child to use the mouse and keyboard.

• Pure game activities like puzzles, pong, pac-man and billiards.

• Multilingual support, even right to left languages (via Pango).

• Solid data logging to monitor the children's progress; locally (SQLite) or over network (MySQL or any other db supported by SQLAlchemy).

• Set of OpenOffice reports to print this data (still in development state).

• Object oriented framework for easy activity development in Python/PyGame.

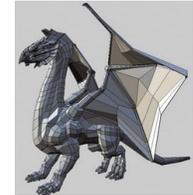• Good support by the developers and translators.

The Linux Kernel Archives

Kernel Source – v4.1.6. http://www.kernel.org/. Free GNU General Public License source code for GNU/Linux by Linus Torvalds et al.

Wings 3D – v1.5.4. http://www.wings3d.com/. Free BSD License source code and executables for Microsoft® Windows®, Apple® OS X® and GNU/Linux® by Björn Gustavsson, Dan Gudmundsson, and Richard Jones. Wings 3D is an advanced subdivision 3D modeler that is both powerful and easy to use (inspired by Nendo and Mirai from Izware).

Features:

• Context sensitive interface

• Configurable interface and hotkeys

• Wide range of Selection and Mesh tools

• Exports to common 3D file formats like .obj

• UV mapper, Vertex Colors, Materials, and Lights"

Correction

Correction: On page 10 of the September issue in Lorrin Garson's "Musings of an Apple Tyro" article, "Click on (t) in the menu at the top" should have read "Click on the Apple logo in the menu at the top". Our apologies for any confusion this may have caused.

Musings of an Apple Tyro

October 2015

Lorrin R. Garson

Full System Restore:

Have you ever done a full system restore on your computer? I haven't had to do this for years, including our use of PC/Windows machines. However, on July 17th it became necessary to do so on our MacBook Pro.

After deleting ~60 GB of files from the MacBook, I discovered none of the space occupied by these files was recovered. Running Disk Utility I discovered numerous file errors on the internal hard drive (actually a solid state drive) with Disk Utility displaying the final message shown in Figure 1 . Can you feel the tension rising?

Figure 1

Disk Utility stopped verifying "Macintosh HD"

This disk needs to be repaired using the Recovery HD. Restart your computer, holding down the Command key and the R key until you see the Apple logo. When the OS X Utilities window appears, choose Disk Utility.

OK

At this point I contacted Apple via https://getsupport.apple.com/ and soon was talking with a support techie who connected to my computer and watched me run Disk Utility again and then said "It would be best to delete everything from your hard drive and do a full system restore from Time Machine. Do you have Time Machine backups?" "Yes", was my response. This was now sweaty palm time. Wipe the drive clean? Really? The techie walked me through the procedure step-by-step. The process is quite simple: (a) plug in the external Time Machine disk drive, (b) boot up the computer in "Recover Mode" (turn on the power while holding down the Command and "R" keys), (c) select "Restore from Time Machine Backup" and follow the well-described procedures, (d) wait about an hour, and (e) login.
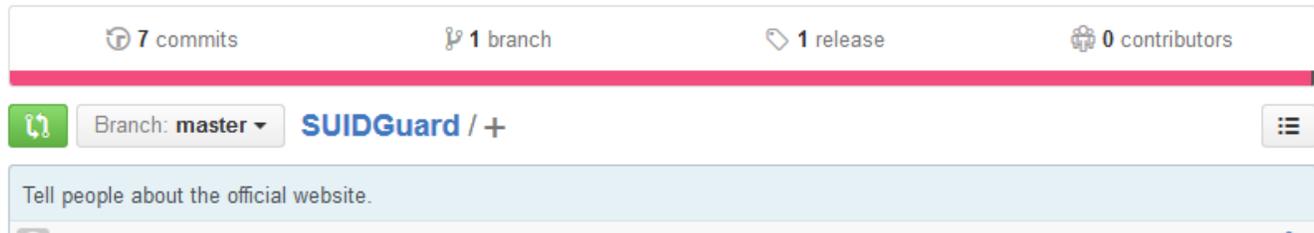
Subsequently everything was back to normal, disk capacity reflected the deletion of 60 GB of files, no file errors, and no lost data. All was well. Support from Apple was excellent, including a follow-up phone call to ask "is all now okay?"

A few details are omitted here, but the process is truly straightforward.

The first backup with Time Machine after this recovery took 14 minutes; normally this process takes 1-2 minutes. Iinspection of the System Log showed many occurrences of "Reassociating Snapshot Volume...". Subsequent Time Machine backups ran normally and all previous instances of backup were still present.

1. Running Disk Utility again would only confirm that there are disk errors. Another choice in running Recovery HD is to recover everything from Time Machine backup, which in doing reformats or deletes everything on the troubled disk.

SUIDGuard - a TrustedBSD Kernel Extension that adds mitigations to protect SUID/SGID processes a bit more

⊕ 7 commits   ⑂ 1 branch   ◇ 1 release   ⊕ 0 contributors

Branch: master ▾   **SUIDGuard** / +   ☰

Tell people about the official website.

Security Threat to OS X:

See http://bit.ly/1JNPiAz for an article entitled "Bug in latest version of OS X gives attackers un-fettered root privileges". This article describes a bug in OS X Yosemite (versions 10.10.4 and 10.10.5 [beta]) that makes it possible to infect Macs with rootkits and other types of persistent malware. Version 10.11 (El Capitan in beta) is free of the flaw. To quote from this report "The typical scenario where these types of vulnerabilities are exploited is by developers of malicious applications who want to elevate privileges without prompting end users to enter a system password or by developers of remote exploits that on their own can execute malicious code as a regular user but not as root."

The original disclosure was made by Stefan Esser at http://bit.ly/1MsQYEt on July 7, 2015. Apple apparently is not going to fix the problem in Yosemite; see http://yhoo.it/1MsR0wj. It would seem anti-malware software will not protect users against this flaw.

There seem to be three solutions to the problem:

• Install SUIDGuard from http://bit.ly/1I6Gbe1. This fix is probably beyond the capabilities of most Mac users.

• Upgrade to OS X El Capitan beta now.

• Wait until El Capitan becomes available for general distribution and install this operating system. El Capitan may be available about the time you read this.

Contact Apple Support

Need more help? Save time I connect you to an expert.
Get started ›

Checking Wi-Fi Networks:

From time to time you may want to check the wireless networks your computer has accessed and keeps track of for future access. If you travel quite a bit you can accumulate an astonishing number of Wi-Fi sites you've used, many of which you will probably never access again. To see this information:

Select Apple from the Menu.

Click on System Preferences.

Select Network.

Click on the padlock in the lower left of the pane and enter your password so that you can make changes. *Be careful about the changes you make*.

Click on "Wi-Fi" icon in the left pane of the window.

Click on the Advanced tab in the lower right of the pane.

A list of "Preferred Networks" will be displayed. Security information about each

www.apple.com/us/shop/qoto/baq

network will also be shown. Note, when you computer attempts to access a Wi-Fi site it will start from the top of the list.

To delete a Wi-Fi network, highlight an entry and click on the "–" icon. Entries can be manually ordered by "drag and drop".   Remember to click OK for the changes to be made.

When finished it is prudent to click on the padlock icon to prevent unintended changes.

See https://support.apple.com/kb/PH18525 for information from Apple.

General Information on System Preferences:

Choosing the appropriate System Preferences can make your computer run well and make your computer experiences pleasant. Set the wrong parameters and you can create a nightmare. See

http://bit.ly/1LSqVHH for a lengthy discussion entitled "Complete guide to System Preferences in Mac OS X Yosemite to find the best settings for your Mac".

Uptime:

Want to know how long your computer has been up and running since last booted? Go to Utilities (select Go in the Finder Menu and click on Utilities or search for "Terminal" using Spotlight or key Command+Shift+U), double click on "Terminal" and key "uptime" following by Return. The results are shown in Figure 2 (in this case 2 days, 17:04 hours and minutes). The values for load averages are rather esoteric.

Last printed: 12 October 2012 at 8:28 AM

Last modified (saved): 24 September 2015 at 11:50 AM

Macintosh HD:Users:Lorrin:Documents:Computer, Other:Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society, PATACS:Musings of an Apple Tyro:2015 Submissions:2015-10:2015-10.docx

Figure 2

New Products Can Eliminate Most Annoying Robocalls

by Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2015/07/rage-against-robocalls/index.htm

http://consumersunion.org/end-robocalls/problems/

https://www.nomorobo.com

http://robocall.devpost.com

https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/contests/zapping-rachel

http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/if-first-you-dont-succeed

http://consumerist.com/2015/07/28/consumers-put-robocall-blocking-devices-to-the-test/

http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2015/06/are-you-a-target-for-robocall-scams/index.htm

http://consumerist.com/2015/07/22/45-attorneys-general-agree-phone-companies-should-give-consumers-ability-to-block-robocalls/

https://consumersunion.org/end-robocalls/

http://consumerist.com/2015/07/07/ftc-and-florida-ag-sue-company-thats-allegedly-behind-medical-alert-robocalls/

http://consumerist.com/2015/06/18/fcc-votes-to-give-consumers-the-right-to-block-annoying-spam-robocalls-and-texts/

I have not heard from "Rachael, at Credit Card Services" recently, nor have I recently received the calls that I will receive a free medical call alert system. I am sorry to say that I will no longer be informed that I have won a free cruise nor will I be told that I can save having my mortgage refinanced at super low rates, or that my computer is infected with hundreds of viruses. The reason is that I am using a free service connected to my phones that automatically blocks most robocalls.

For several years, despite some internet rumors and hoaxes, the Federal Trade Commission's National Do Not Call Registry (donotcall.gov) has attempted to eliminate or minimize many of the

"junk" phone calls that we receive on a regular basis. Just as many other laws on the books are only obeyed by honest people and ignored by the criminal element, honest telemarketers have generally followed the regulations promulgated by the Do Not Call program, but illicit marketers, phone spammers, crooks, and scammers still flaunt the law with a blatant disregard for us and our privacy. According to a recent article in the July, 2015 issue of Consumers' Reports magazine online, "Every month more than 150,000 consumers complain to the Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communications Commission about "Rachel from

Cardholder Services" or Microsoft "representatives" warning about a computer virus. "Robocalls have eclipsed live telemarketing calls" as a source of consumer complaints, says Bikram Bandy, program coordinator for the National Do Not Call Registry … . Aaron Foss, founder of Nomorobo, a call-blocking technology, estimates that 35 percent of all calls placed in the U.S. are robocalls. "For every 10 phone calls you get, roughly three to four of them will be unwanted robocalls," he says." Consumers' Reports continues, "Just to be clear: Robocalls refer to auto-dialed or pre-recorded telemarketing calls to landline home telephones or cell phones, or unsolicited text messages to wireless numbers. Autodialed informational messages, such as those announcing school closings or weather alerts, are permitted according to the FCC, as are calls to landlines on behalf of nonprofit groups and political campaigns."

I have two distinct VoIP (digital phone service) phone lines from two different providers; one line is our primary family home phone line, and the other dedicated to important family communications. That second digital phone line only for important family communications has an unusual phone number, is provided from a very reputable provider that has a strict privacy policy on not releasing or publishing phone numbers, and only members of my immediate family have that phone number, fully cognizant to keep it confidential. That number has never been posted online, and should be reasonably secure, but over the past several months I have received countless robocalls on that line. My primary household digital phone line, using the same phone number that I have had for nearly four decades, was getting several annoying robocalls per day.

Recently, the number of robocalls and other junk phone calls that I have received on my two digital phone lines has decreased precipitous-

-ly. I have signed up for a free robocall blocking service from Nomorobo (nomorobo.com). I read about Nomorobo in a recent column in the Consumerist (consumerist.com), an informational blog operated by the Consumer's Reports magazine. In a recent posting, the Consumerist (consumerist.com/2015/07/28/consumers-put-robocall-blocking-devices-to-the-test) reviewed several commercially available hardware devices and online services that claim to block robocalls and other unwanted calls. After reading the reviews I decided to sign up for the free service from Nomorobo. One of the reasons why I chose Nomorobo was the fact that it won the "FTC Robocall Challenge" (robocall.devpost.com), defeating several other hardware and software competitors.

Nomorobo offers its free blocking service for digital phone subscribers connected through most of the major digital phone carriers, including Time Warner, Vonage, Ooma Premier, AT&T U-Verse, Comcast Xfinity, Verizon Fios, and several other VoIP digital phone providers. Nomorobo is currently unavailable for traditional analog land lines and wireless phone services. Signing up for the service was very fast, and no credit card or other personal information was required. Simply choose your type of device and carrier, enter a valid email address, enter the digital phone numbers that are to be protected, verifiy the phone number, and the service almost immediately takes effect. Nomorobo detects and evaluates the caller on the first ring, and asks subscribers not to answer any call on that first ring, and to wait until the second ring before answering. Coincidentally, within five minutes of signing up and activating my Nomorobo service, the caller ID display on my phone, TV, and computer monitor showed a strange number as our primary digital phone rang once; it did not ring a second time as Nomorobo blocked the call. By the end of the evening, Nomorobo blocked three more calls.

Nomorobo only blocks illicit robocalls, and explicitly does not block or interfere with legitimate automated phone calls, and will still receive legal robocalls about prescription reminders, school closings, reverse 911 calls, doctor's appointment reminders, and other valid forms of automated calls. Just this morning I received an automated call from my pharmacy informing me that a prescription auto-refill was ready, and could be picked up, that call getting through fine, not being blocked by Nomorobo. What is being blocked on a massive scale are the endemic telemarketing robocalls, often being made in clear violation of existing laws and regulations, frequently with "spoofed" (counterfeit) caller ID, and sometimes showing a faux local number on the caller ID. This deception is being done in order to deceive the recipient and encourage him to pick up the phone. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), telemarketing fraud cost American consumers an estimated $350 billion in 2011, predominantly initiated by a robocall.

A pernicious robocall example that I have written about In previous columns here, have been about the robocall scams that victimized local individuals. One of the most common and most egregious robocall scams locally and nationally is from a foreign caller with a spoofed (often local) phone number falsely claiming to be from Microsoft, Windows Technical Support, Geek Squad, or some other legitimate sounding service informing the recipient that his computer is badly infected with viruses and needs to be cleaned immediately. Instructing the recipient to allow remote access to the computer, this pseudo expert (who is really a crook working on a fat commission of whatever he scams from the victim) takes control of the computer and appears to remove hundreds of viruses and other malware. Sometimes the thief also sells and installs useless security software for an extra cost, typically charging a fee from $39 to $600 on the victim's credit card. On several computers that I have personally cleaned after scammer does his nastiness, I have found evidence of identity theft (personal documents, email, spreadsheets, tax information, and other sensitive information downloaded by the crook), as well as new malware installed including key loggers to steal passwords and account numbers, a variety of software hijackers, and other malware. The crook also now has your credit card number, which is often resold on illicit websites by stolen credit card brokers. All of this damage done because the victim fell for the pitch in an illicit robocall.

According to the FTC, 77% of us find these robocalls to be very annoying.   For those of us using digital phone services, such as those provided by cable companies, internet service providers, or third party VoIP providers (Vonage, Ooma, and others), this free robocall blocking service from Nomorobo (nomorobo.com) is definitely worthy of consideration. Signup is fast and easy, and the service can be stopped and discontinued at any time. If you are among the 77% that find robocalls annoying, Nomorobo may improve your quality of life by minimizing this common annoyance.
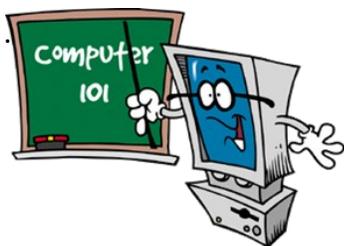
JCA SeniorTech Training

http://va-seniortech.org/

JCA SeniorTech Computer Centers offer diverse senior-friendly (50+) technology classes (personal computers, tablets, smartphones, online security, etc.). Offerings include beginner and intermediate computer classes in Windows 7, Windows 8, Excel, iPad and iPhone, email, photos, and social media.

SeniorTech is a service of the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA). Within the limits of its resources, JCA serves people of all faiths and from all walks of life.

For additional information about SeniorTech courses, call 240-395-0916 or 703-652-1512. A course catalog is available for download at http://www.accessjca.org/programs/technology-training/.

Washington DC Area Training Locations

Asbury Methodist Village, 409 Russell Ave, Gaithersburg, MD, 301-987-6291

JCA Bronfman Center, 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD, 301-255-4200

Microsoft at Westfield Montgomery Mall, 7101 Democracy Blvd, Bethesda, MD, 301-765-3080

Microsoft at Tysons Corner, 1961 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA 22102, 703-336-8480

Crystal City Shops, 1750 Crystal Drive, Suite 1638B, Arlington, VA, 703-941-1007

Micro Center® In Store Clinics

This information is reproduced with the permission of Micro Electronics, Inc. PATACS does not receive compensation nor consideration for this material. Micro Center stores host free events called "In Store Clinics" covering a wide range of topics. All Micro Center store locations follow the same schedule of topics.

A link for store locations is at the top center of the home page, www.microcenter.com. For those in the Washington, D.C. area, the only store in Virginia is in the Pan Am Plaza at 3089 Nutley Street, Fairfax, VA 22031, phone (703) 204-8400, and the only store in Maryland is in the Federal Plaza at 1776 E. Jefferson #203, Rockville , MD 20852, phone (301) 692-2130.

Micro Center Clinics are held on most weekends, except during holidays. The same topic is usually presented on both Saturday and Sunday. Topics may change and clinics may be cancelled without notice. Please verify the schedule with the store before leaving and register online for e-mail updates (http://www.microcenter.com/site/#stores/instore-clinics.aspx). Signing up in advance reserves a seat, recommended as space is limited. This can only be done at a store, either at the Tech Support or Customer Support area.

- **Saturday, Oct. 10 & Sunday, Oct. 11** 2 p.m. -- Raspberry Pi

- **Saturday, Oct. 17 & Sunday, Oct. 18** 2 p.m. — Virus & Malware Troubleshooting

- **Saturday, Oct. 24 & Sunday, Oct. 25** 2 p.m. — 3D Printers

- **Saturday, Oct. 31 & Sunday, Nov. 1** 2 p.m. — Windows® 10

Nibblers
By Jeannine Sloan

Ambassador for Friendship Village, Twin Cities PC Club, Minnesota May 2015 issue, The Digital VIKINGwww.tcpc.com　　　SQWalbran (at) ya-hoo.com\

Keyboard Shortcut To quickly view basic information about your Windows computer hold down the Windows logo key and tap the Pause key, release them both.

Facebook Launches New Guide To Understanding Your Security Settings If you don't fully understand the privacy and security settings associated with your account, then you're not alone — Facebook has tried many times to explain everything in simple terms, and this weekend it's giving it another go with a new set of guides in its Privacy Basics portal. They cover topics such as setting a secure password, identifying a trusted contact and looking for suspicious activity on your account. **https://www.facebook.com/about/basics/how-to-keep-your-account-secure/**

On Orbitz, Mac Users Steered to Pricier Hotels Orbitz Worldwide Inc. has found that people who use Apple Inc.'s Mac computers spend as much as 30% more a night on hotels, so the online travel agency is starting to show them different, and sometimes costlier, travel options than Windows visitors see. The Orbitz effort, which is in its early stages, demonstrates how tracking people's online activities can use even seemingly innocuous information—in this case, the fact that customers are visiting Orbitz.com from a Mac—to start predicting their tastes and spending habits. Read more at: **http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702304458604577488822667325882**

Considerations For Safer Downloading Here are a few guidelines for reducing the risk of computer infection when you download and install software.

First: CREATE a restore point as a safety net.
Download ONLY from trustworthy sites (CNET,

AVOID any site that uses a download manager.
BE CAREFUL of sites that display multiple down
load buttons. If downloading a video **AVOID** an .exe extension and/or a video player

AVOID using default install, use —Custom‖ so you can uncheck any included crapware.
NOTHING is free. The EULA will tell you if there is bundled crapware. Read the EULA. This list was shared with me by a professional computer technician.

Malware Bots Common crime ware functions built into bots include:

Logging your keystrokes to steal online usernames and passwords.

Searching through your files for interesting data to steal.

Tricking you into clicking on ads to generate pay-per-click revenue.

Posting "recommendations" for your friends on your social networks.

Acting as a proxy, or relay, and charging rent to other crooks so they can use your internet connection to cover their tracks.

Mapping out your network from the inside to assist with future attacks.

Attacking other people's websites, making you look like the crook.

Sending out spam, often in vast quantities.

Updating the running malware to add new features and stay ahead of your defences.

Downloading more malware at the whim of the crook who is in control. **Read more** at: https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2014/10/31/how-bots-and-zombies-work/

Avoid Malware Anytime I fear that I may have clicked on something suspicious or I sense that my computer is running slower than normal, I always run Housecall just to make sure that my computer hasn't been infected with a virus or malware. Site at **http://tinyurl.com/psv9npy**

PATACS Information

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October 2015 PATACS Event Calendar
Call (703) 370-7649 for meeting announcements

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 7-9pm Arlington General Meeting	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 7-9pm Online Zoom Meeting	15	16	17 12:303:30pm Fairfax General Meeting
18	19 7-9pm Arlington Board Meeting	20	21 7-9 pm Arlington Technology and PC Help Desk	22	23	24 December Newsletter Articles Due
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Arlington: Carlin Hall Community Center
5711 4th Street South
Arlington, VA 22204

Fairfax: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
4210 Roberts Road
Fairfax, VA 22032