Computer Newsletter

Newsletter of The Titusville Computer Club Inc., Titusville FL

From the Prez' Mouth to Your Ears ….
By Metro Arden, President

Get to the grocery store and can't remember why you came? Get home and find you don't have all the ingredients for the meal you were planning?? There are three great apps to help you remember your items for your next big meal.

One of the better mobile apps is 'GroceryIQ.com'. With this one, you can make up the list and send it to anyone that helps you do the shopping. There is no web site that will let you add items for this one. However, a built in bar code scanner will add items to your list by pointing your phone camera at the UPC labels. 'Grocery IQ' sorts your items into categories so you aren't running from one end of the store to the other.

Running a close second is 'GroceryGadget.com. This one costs $4.99 and also works with the iPhone, and will soon work with other smartphones. This app may surpass the previous one in that it can *learn* the layout of your store by keeping track of the order in which you check off items then sorting them the same way for the next time. 'Grocery Gadget' also includes a web site for you to sit down and create lengthy lists.

'Foodonthetable.com' will suggest several days worth of dinners, based on your preferences, then line up all the necessary ingredients in a ready to print list, so you can set this one up on your computer. The free version gives you four meals at a time, while the $10/month one gives you 7 meals. 'Food on the Table' works with a number of chain stores that publish their prices on-line and sends you to the one with the best prices. Not all stores are included yet, but there is an iPhone app you can use.

Now, on to an old problem: Namely, more and more lately, malware and virus producers are using the name of well known companies on their products. 'Wireshark Antivirus' is just the latest from these fiends. The actual Wireshark is a network analysis tool developed by Cace Technologies, and they have nothing to do with malware or virus programs.

The only good thing about fake antivirus apps is, they don't hide in the background and reproduce themselves or delete files off your machine. They come right out with their branded interface and try to con you into paying them to remove the phony virus files it's scans find.

The good news is that Wireshark Antivirus is fairly easy to remove. Malwarebytes Anti-Malware can usually do the job. Although Wireshark Antivirus may sometimes try to claim that Malwarebytes is malware, in an attempt to protect itself. In this case you will need to us 'Rkill' to stop the virus before removing it.
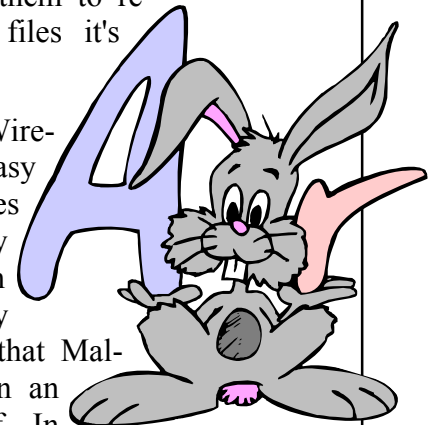
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From the Prez' Lips ….

Download 'Rkill' from 'tinyurl.com/yj9udk8'. Save to your desktop, then double-click to run. A black command prompt window will open and then close when it is done. If Wireshark displays a pop-up saying it is preventing 'Rkill' from running, leave the pop-up open, and run 'Rkill' again.

Now run Malwarebytes Anti-Malware to remove the offending program. Always checkmark the update feature before running.

Another of the same type of malware is called 'My Security Engine' and can be removed in the same way.

The main thing is to be ever diligent when on the internet. If you receive a pop-up from an unknown Anti-Virus app, the best thing you can do is to close the tab, or the complete browser. If it won't let you close the browser, hit ctl-alt-delete to bring up the 'Task Manager', and from the 'Applications tab' highlight the offending program and press the 'End Task' button at the lower right corner.

Till next time, have fun computing, shopping, and try out just one new application. If you run into a snag, try asking a question on the club website (tccweb.us). Let's get the number of users up on the forum ......

Metro

Secretary's Report

The Titusville Computer Club meeting was held March 10, 2011, at St. Gabriel's Church, Titusville, Florida. President Metro Arden brought the meeting to order at 7:06PM with 3 officers and 13 members plus 2 visitors. Unfortunately, the secretary was ill and not able to attend. The VP attempted to take the following minutes in her place. Unfortunately the completeness and quality pale in comparison to her efforts.

First items brought up were the demo schedules.

- Terry Tesdall will host the March 24th meeting; the topic will be the Apple iPad and, if the time permits information on how to use MS Publisher and possibly some Photo Shop topics.
- Keith McAllister will host the April meeting; the topic will be On-line banking.
- Dell Murray will cover the May demo with discussions on how to use the Task Manager and other Windows built in programs to keep your computer running at it's best.

A good portion of the rest of the meeting was spent discussing the club web site and how we can all help to promote its use and help attract users to it. Many suggestions were made but not a lot of agreement other than to acknowledge that the web master has a hard task that can unfortunately require a lot of time and effort on his part that may not be readily available.

The final part of the meeting was discussion on how to determine what you members want to have covered on demos and, if we can generate some "User Groups", what should their subjects be. One suggestion that seemed to have a high degree of consent was to request each member to bring a list of 5 topics they would like to see covered in future demos or to be highlighted for a users group.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12PM

Submitted by Rodney Iwan, Vice President

Wired or Wireless?

Kim Komando Tip of the Day for 2/25/2011

Q I have a wired network in my house. I want stream Netflix via my DVR or Roku box. These aren't located near an Ethernet port. Should I add wireless to my network? Or should I run some Ethernet cable to expand my wired network? I'm looking for the best signal quality.

A Not many homes have built-in Ethernet networks. Most people choose to go the wireless route. Wireless is more flexible. And you don't have to run wires everywhere.

Wired is the way to go if you're transferring files over your home network. It is less prone to interference and is reliably faster than wireless. If you have gigabit Ethernet, that's even better.

Streaming media from the Internet, however, is different. You're limited by your Internet connection speed. That speed is much slower than a wireless

network. So a wireless connection should be just fine.

That means your choice is a matter of personal preference, for the most part. There's nothing that forces you to choose one or the other.

The wireless option will look cleaner than running cables. On the other hand, only wireless-enabled gadgets will work. Your DVR, for instance, may require a wired connection. In that case, you might consider running a wired switch out to the TV area. That way multiple Ethernet-capable gadgets can be connected. That paves the way for game consoles, new TVs and more.

Your future expansion plans are up to you. I'll let you figure those out. But setting up a wired extension shouldn't be tough.

The wireless system will be a little trickier. There are

A Little More of This and That
By Bob Murray

As found on the web and other sources.

If Online Retailers Are Forced To Pay State Sales Tax, Will You Stop Shopping...
From [Lockergnome] Windows Fanatics

The battle between the states and online retailers such as Amazon and others is about to become more heated. Both sides have drawn lines in the sand and are not going to budge no matter how many threats are made. Amazon, because of its huge Web presence, seems to be the main target that the states are focusing on.

The main thrust of the states appears to be the premise that if you have a physical presence in our state, you must collect sales tax. Amazon has sought protection from a claim by the state of Texas, stating that its distribution center, located in Texas, was an affiliate of Amazon.

In the state of California, Amazon has threatened to cut off some 10,000 affiliates that make a living selling products on Amazon. Neither Texas nor California seems to be backing down and other states are now joining the effort to tax online sales. The states are claiming that the lack of online sales tax also hurts local brick and mortar stores, because the large online retailers can sell items that cost consumers less, especially when it comes to expensive electronics. States also claim that they are losing billions in sales tax revenues. States further state that shopping locally provides jobs, which is good for the local economy.

Tax opponents claim that city, county, state, and federal governments have overspent these tax dollars for frivolous pet projects. It is also claimed by some that taxing online sales would become a nightmare for some smaller retailers online who would also be forced into having to collect taxes. This in turn

would force many mom and pop online companies out of business. No matter whether a sales tax is imposed or not, I believe I would continue to shop online. I enjoy the convenience of letting my fingers do the work without having to go to a store and fight the crowds to obtain the same product. I also find it less expensive to shop online now that gas prices are continuing to climb. So for me it is more about convenience than cost. Don't get me wrong. I checked out prices as well to make sure I am getting the best deal.

But what about you? Would you stop shopping online if sales tax was imposed? *Source — SF Gate*

Android spyware shows dangers of an open app market

Keep an eye on what you download
By Asavin Wattanajantra
From the Ingbot Newsletter

Why I don't download any app's without checking them on the net

TWO ANDROID SPYWARE PROGRAMS highlight again the dangers of downloading apps without due care and attention on Google's mobile operating system.

The first is called SW.Securephone, which after downloading can run in the background without an icon displayed. It monitors and collects saved SC card data such as messages, call logs, phone location, recorded sound, as well as pictures. This data is then uploaded to a remote server every 20 minutes.

A Little More of This and That ….

SW.Securephone is particularly worrying as it only takes a blind app install for you to have a hacker invading your privacy. Netquin Mobile, which discovered the spyware, said it was finding its way onto phones through people downloading it from the Internet.

The second app is called SW.Qieting, which forwards messages to a monitoring phone without the user knowing it. Again, because there's no icon after the app is installed, you wouldn't be aware it is running.

This isn't the first time we've seen Android get a spyware app like SW.Qieting, as there is software legally available that allows you to monitor what's happening on a phone of your choice.

Unfortunately, this is a danger with Android, as the OS isn't kept in a walled garden like IOS. This means that users can download apps from dodgy sources, if they so choose.

With Google's market share increasing, you're only going to see more of this. Users should use their common sense for now, but mobile anti-virus software might become more than a passing thought for Android smartphone users.

And so it starts!

AT&T Caps Monthly Downloads
By John Lister in Infopackets

AT&T is imposing a maximum monthly download limit for its broadband customers. It's a move more reminiscent of smartphone data plans, where bandwidth is more restricted. Under the new policy, which begins in May, DSL users will be allowed to download up to 150GB of data per month, a cap that's raised to 250GB for those on the U-Verse service which delivers fiber optic cable right to the customer's home. The company estimates that around 2 per cent of customers will be affected by the limit. *(Source: dslreports.com)*

$10 for 50GB Overage Fee to Apply
Those who exceed the limits won't face a slowdown or loss of service. Instead, they'll become eligible to pay an "overage" fee if and when they exceed the monthly limit on three different occasions. The fee is $10 for every 50GB over the limit. Users will be informed when they have hit 65%, 90% and 100% of the monthly limit.

Most people won't consider the limits unreasonable. That said, somebody who streams a lot of high definition movies or TV shows could easily smash the limit.

Congestion Controversy Erupts
It's the explanation for the move and the suspected motivation that's causing more controversy. The company is claiming there's a need to restrict the behavior of a few heavy users who are causing congestion problems for the entire network. Critic's disputes whether that's really the case and argue that even if it is, the company should spend a little extra to improve networks rather than make users put up with an insufficient service. (Source: latimes.com)

The plans are significantly different from a broadband limits model that AT&T previously tested in a few cities. In that case, there was a range of different limits, each varying depending on which broadband package the customer had chosen.

New AT&T Bandwidth Cap and Net Neutrality
It's important to note that the AT&T policy does not inherently conflict with the much-debated net neutrality principle. The net neutrality philosophy, which supporters say should be upheld by government regulations, is that all legal Internet traffic should be treated equally. A data cap doesn't discriminate against specific types of traffic, unlike Comcast's attempts to slow down data sent via BitTorrent filesharing services, which was the spark for the current political and legal debate.

Wireless advances may eliminate cell towers

FLORIDATODAY, 2/13/2011, ASSOCIATED PRESS

As cell phones have spread, so have large cell towers —those unsightly stalks of steel topped by transmitters and other electronics that sprouted across the country over the last decade.

Now the wireless industry is planning a future without them, or at least without many more of them. Instead, it's looking at much smaller antennas, some tiny enough to hold in a hand. These could be placed on lampposts, utility poles and buildings - virtually anywhere with electrical and network connections.

If the technology overcomes some hurdles, it could upend the wireless industry and offer seamless service, with fewer dead spots and faster data speeds.

Some big names in the wireless world are set to demonstrate "small cell" technologies at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest cell phone trade show, which starts February 14 in Barcelona, Spain.

"We see more and more towers that become bigger and bigger, with more and bigger antennas that come to obstruct our view and clutter our landscape and are simply ugly," said Wim Sweldens, president of the wireless division of Alcatel-Lucent, the French-U.S. maker of telecommunications equipment.

"What we have realized is that we, as one of the major mobile equipment vendors, are partially, if not mostly, to blame for this."

Alcatel-Lucent will be at the show to demonstrate its "lightRadio cube," a cellular antenna about the size and shape of a Rubik's cube, vastly smaller than the ironing-board-sized antennas that now decorate cell towers. The cube was developed at the famous Bell Labs in New Jersey, birthplace of many other inventions when it was AT&T's research center.
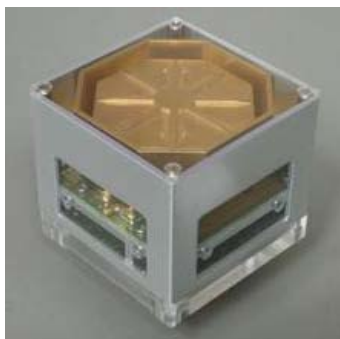
In Alcatel-Lucent's vision, these little cubes could soon begin replacing conventional cell towers. Single cubes or clusters of them could be placed indoors or out and be easily hidden from view. All they need is electrical power and an optical fiber connecting them to the phone company's network.

The cube, Sweldens said, can make the notion of a conventional cell tower "go away." Alcatel-Lucent will start trials of the cube with carriers in September. The company hopes to make it commercially available next year.

Wired or Wireless?

(Continued from page 3)

a few paths you can take. The easiest is to get a wireless access point ($50 to $80). A wireless access point can add wireless capability to an existing wired network. Or it can expand the range of an existing wireless network.

In this case, plug the access point into your wired router. Configuration is accomplished using a Web-based control panel. Any computer on the network can modify the access point's settings.

Setting up encryption is important with wireless connections. Go with WPA2 encryption if available. Otherwise, go with WPA. Avoid WEP, as it is very easy to hack.

Be aware that there are also gadgets called wireless adapters. These don't create a wireless network. They simply allow non-wireless gadgets to connect to a wireless network.

There is a third option. It's called Powerline networking. Essentially, it uses your existing electrical wiring to create a network. You don't have to run cables all around your house.

Most starter kits come with two basic transmitter/ receiver units to plug in. These packages cost from $80 to $100. One unit connects to an Internet modem or a router. It then transmits data throughout your house.

Sorting out hard drive size limits

Kim Komando Tip of the Day for 1/5/2011

Q I have a four-year-old desktop and would like to install a new hard drive in it. However, the motherboard only supports drives up to 400 giga-bytes. If I get a 1-terabyte external hard drive, would the system be able to see it

A Unfortunately, you've stumbled onto a very complex topic. There has been a boatload of updates to hard drive limits in recent years. This makes it difficult to nail down exactly what your computer can handle.

For the most part, modern motherboards use SATA connections for hard drives. The BIOS on these boards should be able to recognize anything up to 2TB. With that, 2TB is the widely used limitation for a bootable, internal hard drive.

However, your four-year-old machine may not use these newer connections. You bought your computer about when SATA was becoming popular. If you don't have SATA, then you're likely using IDE/ATA connections.

Now you said your motherboard will only support up to 400GB. That strikes me as strange. That number seems oddly arbitrary.

Sure some motherboards will have limitations. But those are usually due to hardware constraints. For example, older ATA connections could only support 137GB per drive.

You may want to first contact the manufacturer. Ask what the motherboard will support. Your board should be new enough to handle larger size drives.

The manufacturer could also show you some ways to update your BIOS. This can remove any previous capacity limits. You might be able to install a bigger internal drive after all.

If the restriction is indeed there, even an external hard drive could be capped. That means you'll only be able to see 400GB of it. That's because your BIOS tells your operating system what hardware is connected.

However, most up-to-date operating systems can now recognize any size drive. If you have Windows XP SP 2 or newer, a 1TB external hard drive should be fine.

Again though, this depends on the hardware you're using. If the hardware isn't made to understand more than 400GB, that's all it will see. So you don't want to buy a drive larger than that.

In that case, I'd honestly recommend checking out a new computer. Anything that has those types of re-strictions is pretty outdated. In terms of longevity, you'd be much better off getting a more modern ma-chine.

Fortunately, you can find decent desktops at very affordable prices these days. It's likely you'll find a whole system for a few hundred dollars. That's not very much more than an external hard drive costs on its own.

Wired or Wireless?

The other unit plugs into any convenient electrical socket. It grabs the data for use by a computer or other gadget. Both units connect to external gadgets using standard Ethernet cable. You can buy more units to place around the house.

In theory this is a great idea. It's easy to set up. And your computers and gadgets are near electrical out-lets anyway. However, it isn't a perfect solution.

Connection speeds fluctuate wildly based on your electrical system. Older homes with old wiring typi-cally crawl along. And speeds can also vary with distance between outlets. It also doesn't work as well through electrical power strips.

Unfortunately, Powerline networking only works for wired gadgets. If you later buy an iPad, say, you'll need to add a wireless access point.

You also want to make sure you always buy the same units. Newer and older unit models don't al-ways interoperate. And mixing units from different companies can also introduce problems.

iPad 2 revealed

Kim Komando Tip of the Day for 3/3/2011

Q I saw the iPad 2 was just announced. How is it better than the original iPad?

A The wait is finally over. The tech world has been speculating about the iPad 2 for a year. Now it's finally been made public.

As expected, the iPad 2 features some major updates. But is it worth your hard-earned money? Let's take a look at what it offers, starting with the hardware.

The iPad 2's processor has been updated to Apple's new A5 processor. That means it now has dual-core processing. That should allow for heavier-duty apps down the road.

The graphics system has been upgraded. Apple says it's 9 times faster than the original. You can expect to see even higher-quality games.

The iPad 2 now features two cameras, just like the iPhone 4. The one in front is VGA (0.3 megapixels), while the one in back is 720p (0.9 megapixels). Those should work fine for pictures, movies and video chat.

Like the original, there is a 3G version of the iPad 2. And it will be available on both Verizon and AT&T. However, no one iPad will work on both networks. You will have to buy a network-specific iPad 2.

That's a respectable hardware upgrade. However, the iPad 2 is actually 33-percent thinner than the original. And it's lighter as well. Overall, it should be easier to hold the iPad 2 when reading.

The battery life on the iPad 2 is the same as the original. And that's despite the new power-hungry hardware. Apple claims a battery life of 10 hours. Just remember that Apple underestimated battery life on the original iPad. So, the iPad 2's battery life could be even better.

New hardware is nice, but it's no good without software. For the iPad 2, Apple is rolling out iOS ver-

iPad 2 features

- 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit display with IPS technology
- Dual-core A5 chip
- Front and back cameras
- Up to 10 hours of battery life[6]
- 802.11a/b/g/n Wi-Fi
- Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR technology
- 3G data service on Wi-Fi + 3G models

sion 4.3. It's got a few nice upgrades as well.

The Safari browser has been sped up for better Web browsing. FaceTime has been added for video chatting. And the popular OS X program Photo Booth has been added.

Despite the upgrades, the iPad 2 is the same price as the original. It starts at $500 and goes to $830. The storage sizes are the same: 16GB, 32GB and 64GB. And it is split between Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi plus 3G models. And it now comes in white or black.

Kim Komando hosts a national radio show about computers and the Internet. Kim can be heard locally in Melbourne: WMMB 1240AM, Saturdays starting at 10am-1pm; in Cocoa:WMMV 1350 AM Sim WMMB), Saturdays starting at 10:00AM-1:00PM.

Demo Meeting Schedule

- **April 28, 2011** — Online Banking - Keith McAllister

- **May 26, 2011** — How to use the Task Manager and other Windows built in programs to keep your computer running at it's best - Dell Murray.

What do YOU want to see?

The new Internet Explorer ….

There are plenty of other new features. For example, there is a new download manager. When you open a new tab, you see a list of your most visited sites. And the security has been updated to block more threats.

Of course, there's much more to IE 9. You'll definitely want to take the recommended tour after installation. You should also read my tip about all the new features of IE 9.

I strongly recommend upgrading to Internet Explorer 9 as soon as possible. It's much better than any of its predecessors. It's also a lot more secure.

Cost: Free
Systems: Windows Vista and Windows 7

IE9 won't work on Windows XP. It requires Vista or 7. Now what?

This is due to IE9's security and hardware acceleration. Those both require operating system elements XP doesn't have. And Microsoft didn't want to develop multiple versions of IE9.

Also, Microsoft likely thinks many XP users wouldn't upgrade anyway. Many are still using IE6 and 7. It would be a lot of work for little return.

And what should you do if you're using XP? Let's explore the options.

IE8 is still a decent browser. It does have security problems, but not nearly as bad as IE6 and 7. So you're ok sticking with that for now. IE9 should be out in a month or two.

XP users should upgrade to IE8 and keep up with security patches. Or they should switch to a different browser. Firefox and Chrome are both superior alternatives. If you are still running IE6 or 7, please upgrade immediately. Running an older browser makes everyone less safe. It's too easy for your computer to be hacked and taken over. Then your computer can be used to attack other computers.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We meet at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church at 414 Pine St., Titusville. Setup starts at 6:50 PM, and meetings start at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall (located on Palm Ave between Pine and Julia Streets). Everyone is welcome.

Article Contribution

If you wish to contribute an article for publication in this newsletter, please submit the article no later than the 1st club meeting of the month. Articles may be given to the editor at any club meeting or e-mailed to the editor (TerryTesdallSr@yahoo.com). Articles are subject to editing.

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Ads must be submitted by the 1st Club meeting of each month in order to be included in the following month.

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April 2011

Coming Events

♦ TCC General Meeting (7:00 pm)
…..……... **Thursday April 14**
♦ Demo Meeting (7:00 pm)………..
…..……... **Thursday April 28**

DEMO: "Online Banking"

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The new Internet Explorer

Kim Komando Download of the Day for March 17, 2011

Microsoft has officially released Internet Explorer 9. It's available for Vista and Windows 7. It is the long-awaited answer to browsers like Firefox and Chrome.

There are plenty of great new features to be found. IE now includes hardware acceleration. This uses your graphics system to render Websites. That speeds up performance for graphics-intensive and video Web sites.

The program also has a new layout. For example, the address bar and search bar have been merged. Overall, IE 9 is sleek and minimal. You get more screen space for viewing sites. It also integrates better with Windows 7.

Best of all, IE 9 incorporates the new HTML5 Web standard. This makes it compatible with future Web sites and technologies. For example, interactive sites will soon use HTML5.