Computer Newsletter

Newsletter of The Titusville Computer Club Inc., Titusville FL

From the Prez' Lips ...
By Metro Arden, President

I haven't noticed a lot going on lately, other than the new version of Window$. Of course, peripherals keep getting small and holding more, getting faster, taking less electricity. The new 8 Gig flash drive I showed at the last business meeting is getting to be the size of a fingernail. If you don't leave it plugged into something, there is always the chance of losing it. When things get that small, they are extremely easy to misplace.

Cameras have been in pens for a long time, so be careful what you say or do when you see one in a person's shirt pocket... You might be on Candid Camera!.

Notebooks are getting lighter, thinner, faster, less power hungry. Only problem, the screens get smaller, thus the print, and if you need glasses it gets to be cumbersome. I know you can blow up the font, but, then wiggling the page back and forth to see the whole thing. If you are young, have good eyesight, and nimble fingers, then everything is fine.

The machines made today are pretty reliable, I can't remember when I have had a virus, or any other problem with mine. BUT, and it's a BIG BUT, that does not mean you should not back up all your files, pictures, and music. Try and get on a schedule, once a week is good, once a month at the longest. And to facilitate the process, partitioning your hard drive is the easiest way to go. You only need to break out one 500 Mb section for written files. And this is where you tell the application you are using, to store the files as you create them. If saving a lot of pictures, you will need several gigs in a partition. Make a folder using a date, and start saving to that folder. Then just copy that folder to a DVD and you are finished. Then, make a new folder with a current date and start putting in your new pics. When it comes time to back up, just do the current folder. (No need to re-copy all those from the first folder). The new operating systems incorporate DISC MANAGEMENT tools, so it is no longer the hassle to partition your HDD as it was several years ago, when you needed third party programs to do the job.

One final note, I mentioned at the last meeting, I will not be able to run for president next year. So my term will end at the end of this year. We have a fine group of people here, and I sincerely hope someone will step forward a take the position.

Till the meeting......
Metro

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Senior Center Computer Class

The North Brevard Senior Center, 909 Lane Avenue, Titusville, is planning to offer a small introductory class of compute basics for seniors and is looking for volunteers to instruct a two hour seminar. The first hour would deal with computer basics and the second would cover internet topics such as browsers and email. The schedule would be at the option of the instructor.

Anyone interested in conducting a seminar should contact a center manager (321-268-2333) between the hours of 9-4 Monday through Friday at the center. Volunteers with computer knowledge wishing to help set up and maintain four computers in the center's multi-purpose room would be welcomed.

Demo Meeting Schedule

- **August 23, 2012 — Windows 8 by Keith McAllister**
- **September 27, 2012 — Photography by Bob Murray**

What do YOU want to see?

Secretary's Report

The Titusville Computer Club's general meeting was held July 12, 2012 at St. Gabriel's Church "Bldg 418", Titusville, Florida. P r e s i - dent Metro Arden opened the meeting at 7:04 pm with 12 members and no guests. The minutes of the June business meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Bob Murray says, microphone on computer hard to use, lots of feedback making it almost impossible to use.

Metro asked if there was any word on the screen Dr. Al mentioned? No one has heard anything.

DEMOS:
- The next demo (July 26) will be on using Face-book by Adam Arden.
- The August 23 demo will be Windows 8 by Keith McAllister.

- The September 27 demo will be on photography by Bob Murray.

Metro announced that he will not run for club presi-dent next year due to health issues. Fair warning, start convincing your buddy to step up and run.

The drawing for the door prize was held and won by Leon Faulkner.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Minutes prepared by Rodney Iwan

WHERE ARE WE?
We meet at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church "Bldg 418" at 418 Pine St., Titusville (in the southwest cor-ner of St. Gabe complex). See map below.

A Little More of This and That
By Bob Murray

As found on the web and other sources.

QR Code Malware
From askbobrankin.com

Can QR Codes Spread Computer Viruses?

Any doubts I may have had about the viability of QR codes (abbreviated from Quick Response Code) have evaporated. You know a new technology is catching on when malware authors start using it to snare unwary users. Read on to learn how those funny black squares can carry a nasty (and expensive) payload.

QR codes are squares of black and white patterns that encode the URLs of Web sites in a format that can be scanned and deciphered by smartphones equipped with the right apps. Instead of typing a URL into your phone's browser, you can just snap a picture of a QR code and be whisked to an ad, an informative Web page .... or a malicious site that silently downloads a virus, rootkit, or trojan to your phone.

Kasperky Labs has detected two samples of malware delivered via QR codes, both targeting Android phones. One of them sends SMS messages from the infected phone to a premium-priced number; each text message costs the victim six dollars! Other types of malware can scoop up your contacts list, send spam emails in your name, and wreak other sorts of mischief.

Can a QR code itself contain malware? Theoretically, yes, but it wouldn't do much. A QR code can contain only a limited amount of data: 7089 numeric characters or 4296 alphanumeric characters. You can't write much of a program in that space. But a QR code can easily take you to a malicious site.

Humans cannot tell one QR code from another, gen-

erally speaking. You have no idea where a QR code is going to take you until you scan it, and then it's too late. So it pays to be skeptical of all QR codes, while exercising some common sense.

QR codes printed in paper publications, on in-store posters, on coupons from well-known retailers, and similar places are unlikely to be malicious. But never forget the days when shrink-wrapped software packages were infected with malware at the factory by disgruntled workers.

A QR code on a Web page is more easily compromised. If a hacker can crack the site's security, he can replace a legitimate QR code with a malicious one of his own. There have already been reports of malicious QR codes showing up in spam emails. Be a bit more cautious before scanning online QR codes, and especially if they arrive in unsolicited emails.

If you notice a sticker bearing a QR code just randomly slapped up on a wall or a sign post, think twice before scanning it. On the other hand, this method of distributing malicious QR codes is so inefficient that it probably isn't used much.

Malicious QR codes can be countered by anti-malware apps that translate a QR code into a URL and allow a user to review it in plain text before deciding whether to let the Web page be fetched. Better still, look for an app that prescreens all URLs against a blacklist of known attack sites. Norton Snap is one such app that works on both Android and iOS devices. In addition, Lookout Mobile Security and the McAfee Antivirus & Security app (both for Android) claim to protect you from malicious URLs in QR codes.

On a semi-related note, I should mention that Microsoft has invented it's own version of QR codes,

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A Little More of This and That ….

(Continued from page 4)

presumably to inject a little more confusion into the world of computing. Microsoft Tag barcodes are similar to QR codes, but different. Some QR code readers can understand Tags, and some Tag readers can understand QR codes. But not all of the code reader apps do both. Hopefully, a unified QR/barcode/tag standard will evolve in our lifetime, and malware authors won't have to work so hard to scam smartphone users who scan random codes.

Malicious QR codes are still rare, but if they work you can be sure that many more will appear quite rapidly. It's better to be on your guard now than after you scan the wrong QR Code.

Facebook users may not like this change!
By Brandon Dimmel in "infopackets.com".

That sneaky Facebook. For years, the social networking site tracked its users' online activity and sold the information to third-party advertisers. Now the company has decided to force a new @facebook.com email address on all its users, even those who have not signed on for the service.

> *Facebook Bullies Users into Adopting Email Address*

Worst yet, the social media company has plonked its new email address right onto its users' main Facebook page.

According to reports, the email address now appears on everyone's main Facebook page and cannot be deleted. However, users can choose to hide the @facebook.com email address from public visitors, as well as from friends and family.

Facebook Becomes Responsible for Filtering Spam
The good news is that messages sent to the new @facebook.com account will appear only in the Facebook messages folder. They won't be redirected to a main email addresses (unless this is what users want).

Unfortunately, unless users decide to hide the new email address, it will be published publicly.

As a result, Facebook users will have little control over who sends them an email message. It also leaves Facebook responsible for providing an effective spam filter. Many people have doubts that the company is capable of doing that.

As one might expect, many technology insiders are upset with these change by Facebook.

"The real problem is that Facebook has once again made a significant change without informing its users of any of this," said PC Mag's Jill Duffy. *(Source: pcmag.com)*

"Don't do this again," admonished popular tech blog Gizmodo. *(Source: gizmodo.com)*

Personal Emails Hidden in Favor of @facebook.com
The problem for many Facebook users who have chosen to display their personal email addresses is that Facebook, without authorization, has posted the new @facebook.com email address on their main page.

For example, the email address 'JohnSmith@hotmail.com' has now seen that address changed to 'JohnSmith@facebook.com'.

Facebook has been offering an email service since November 2010. At that time, the company announced it would be "providing an @facebook.com email address to every person on Facebook who wants one." *(Source: arstechnica.com)*

It would appear Facebook has now taken that announcement a step further by forcing a new email address on every member, even those who did not request one.

Tech Tips By Kim Komando,

Reprinted from www.usatoday.com/tech/columnist/kimkomando/story June 22, 2012

Run 32-bit programs in 64-bit Windows

Q I'm preparing to buy a new computer, but most of the ones I see run 64-bit Windows 7. I've been using 32-bit. Will my programs still be compatible?

A The short answer is yes. Windows 7 64-bit has backwards compatibility with most 32-bit programs. Just start installing them — they should work fine. If you'd like to double check, you can use Microsoft's Upgrade Advisor to see whether your programs will make the jump. For programs that don't work, you can visit the program developer's website and see whether there is a new 64-bit version of the program.

Extend the charge on your iPhone 4S

Q I love my new iPhone 4S, but the battery life is pathetic! Do you know any tips to give my iPhone more juice?

A Apple says several known battery issues have been fixed in iOS 5.1, so make sure you're running that version or higher. The company also says that conditioning your battery will help. This means draining your battery until it dies and then fully charging it. You could also find luck resetting your network settings by going to Settings>>General>>Reset>>Reset Network Settings. Your phone will restart, but no data will be lost. Once it restarts, go to Settings>>General>>Location Services and turn off any apps that you don't use. This will prevent apps from broadcasting your location and draining the battery.

Subscribe to the FREE Kim Komando Show Tip of the Day & Electronic Newsletter at www.komando.com

A Little More of This and That ….

Why you should turn your printer OFF before shutdown!

A t the end of the day when you shut down the computer do you first turn the printer off using the printers on/off switch? If you didn't here is why you should.

When the printer is powered on the print heads are held fraction of an inch above the stopped position in order to allow a sheet of paper to pass through and be ready for printing. When the printer is turned off the heads go to a parked position and are then capped to prevent the ink that is still on the print head from drying out. You may have noticed a delay from the time you push the off button before the printer is still!

If you don't turn the printer off before shutting down, especially if you don't plan to print anything for a couple of days or more, the print heads maybe still be in the up position which lets the ink dry, thereby causing the print head openings to become plugged. The only way to clear the heads is to run a head cleaning cycle which wastes a lot of ink if it has to be done several times to clear the heads.

Some printers automatically cap the heads when the printer goes into standby mode but not all so don't take a chance and turn the printer off before shutting down.

A peek into Windows 8

By Kim Komando, 9/24/2011

I s the reign of Windows over? With improvements in cloud-based computing and mobile tablets storming the market, many pundits have been ready to write its eulogy. But Microsoft doesn't see it that way.

At a recent press conference, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer boldly insisted that Windows is still a corner-stone of Microsoft's rich personal computing business. And he said the impending Windows 8 technology will be part of Microsoft "reimagining" itself.

That's why Windows 8 won't be just another iteration of the original. Windows 1 came on the scene clear back in 1985, and each change since then has been little more than a bold tweak. This new system will bear little resem-blance to what's gone before. It will integrate personal computers, cloud-based computing and the mobile mar-ket. How will it do that?

Windows 8 will be much lighter and more versatile than 7. It will run on regular desktop processors from Intel and AMD. But it will additionally run on ARM processors. ARM is the processor technology used in most tablets and smartphones.

Startup time for the developer's Windows 8 test units is a speedy 8 to 10 seconds. A typical Windows 7 startup time is anywhere from 30 seconds to 2 minutes or more, so that's a dramatic improvement. Plus, once it's running, Windows 8 uses fewer resources for snappier perform-ance.

The system is being designed with mobile gadgets, like tablets, in mind. Several tablets already run Windows 7, but it isn't a good fit. It's generally slow, clunky and the interface doesn't work well with a touch screen.

That's why Windows 8 features a dramatic new layout. It is now based on the excellent Metro interface from Win-dows Phone 7.

Metro consists of a series of large tiles on the home screen. These tiles display real-time information gathered from apps. You can view the current temperature and forecast, emails you've received, and which of your friends just posted on Facebook - all in one glance.

Microsoft designed the interface to be touch-screen friendly. That means it will work very well on mobile gadgets. But what will that mean when you use it on a traditional computer without a touch screen?

Microsoft's solution was not to scuttle the Windows 7 interface. A tweaked version of Windows 7 interface, called Desktop, is available on demand within the new operating system. Both interfaces can run at the same time. You can even choose to split the screen and view both at once.

Desktop is for running existing Windows programs like Microsoft Office. Windows 8, meanwhile, will support apps from a Microsoft app store, similar to Apple's exist-ing Mac App Store.

Now, you might be thinking Microsoft can't make all these changes without some downsides. You'd be right. Windows 8 may turn off some long-time Windows users.

Let's start with software compatibility. I mentioned that your old programs will still work. That's true; the pro-grams will still work on Intel and AMD processors.

But ARM processors operate in a completely different architecture. Existing programs won't run on ARM with-out extensive modification. Developers using older soft-ware could be out of luck or forced to upgrade.

The Metro interface doesn't currently have good multi-tasking support. Sure, you can have multiple apps open. But finding a specific one will require scrolling through all open programs to locate it.

Speaking of apps, they'll always stay open. This is good for picking up where you left off. However, it could drain system resources. It remains to be seen how well Win-dows 8 can balance instant availability with resource limitations.

While the Metro interface works very well on tablets, it's not so hot on a computer. Microsoft designed it for touch input. So, by default, it isn't as efficient for keyboard and mouse use.

You can switch to the Desktop interface, but you won't find it to be exactly like Windows 7. The Start Menu, a Windows sacred cow from day one, is virtually useless. It only serves to switch you back to the Metro interface.

Some users will find having two interfaces confusing. And there will be two versions of Internet Explorer 10 installed. The Metro version won't support Adobe Flash, but the Desktop version will. That's one more opportunity for frustration.

As this article was written in September 2011, Windows 8 is still in development, and many of these issues could be addressed in the interim.

August DEMO: Windows 8

Microsoft's next version of Windows, version 8, is going to change all the rules. It has a new touch-friendly interface, supports apps, and the backend is geared toward mobile gadgets. Windows 8 won't officially launch until fall, but you see how it looks at our August 23, 2012 TCC demo meeting.

Keith McAllister has installed a copy of the Release Preview version of Windows 8 on his computer and will demonstrate it to us at our August demo meeting.

Microsoft® **Windows 8**

Demo For August 23, 2012 DEMO MEETING

"Do you remember when …."

From the June 1987 Computer Shopper Magazine.

Just look at what you got for the price!

Where Do All Those Facebook Photos Go?

By Mark Strauss, Smithsonian magazine, July-August 2012

With 900 million members worldwide and growing, Facebook is building its first European data storage facility — 60 miles south of the Arctic Circle in Lulea,

> *On the outer boundaries of the Arctic Circle lies a massive construction project funded by Facebook: the future home of thousands of server farms .*

Sweden. The reason: natural air conditioning. Some Internet "server farms" spend as much to cool the machines as power them. Facebook's Nordic operation—which will eventually expand to three 290,000 - square-foot buildings, each housing tens of thousands of servers—will save millions of dollars on electricity. Plus, the buildings are designed to capture some heat from the servers and use it to warm employee offices. The estimated cost of building the facilities is more than $700 million. Sweden hopes

that construction subsidies and other incentives, including the promise of clean hydropower, will attract more digital companies to a region now being marketed as the "Node Pole."

Full upgrades to Windows 8 only from Windows 7

By Gregg Keizer
Reprinted from Computerworld.com, June 29, 2012

Microsoft tells partners essentially what it's already told customers who tried the Windows 8 previews

Microsoft will support full upgrades to Windows 8 only from the three-year old Windows 7, according to a report Thursday.

Yesterday, ZDNet blogger Mary Jo Foley, citing unnamed sources, said that Microsoft has informed select partners of the upgrade paths to Windows 8.

Microsoft has not yet set a release date for Windows 8, but most analysts expect it to go on sale this fall, most likely in October. *(Since released as October 26.)*

The upgrade paths that Foley's sources spelled out were the same that Microsoft revealed in February when it released Windows 8 Consumer Preview, the first public beta.

Microsoft said then that only Windows 7 PCs are eligible for a full upgrade to Windows 8, one that retains applications, data files, user accounts and Windows settings.

Windows Vista and Windows XP machines can be upgraded to Windows 8 -- assuming the hardware meets the system requirements of the new OS -- but cannot bring along all the bits. Vista users who upgrade will retain user accounts and files, as well as Windows settings, but not already-installed applications. XP-to-Windows 8 upgrades preserve the least amount in a move: User accounts and files only.

Microsoft listed the same upgrade paths in May for the later Windows 8 Release Preview, describing what was kept during migrations to the final public sneak peek in an FAQ.

Earlier, however, the company had declined to comment on whether Vista and Windows XP PCs could be upgraded to Windows 8 after it had disclosed the latter's editions that it will offer customers.

Foley's sources did say, however, that some migrations would be barred or would retain little of the PC's contents.

Cross-language upgrades -- from German to English, for example -- will only retain data files, while cross-architecture moves -- from 32-bit Windows to 64-bit -- will be offered no upgrade option, but must instead do a "clean" install that wipes the contents of the hard drive.

While Microsoft may be revealing upgrade paths to some partners, it has been much more reticent to keep customers informed than three years ago when it rolled out Windows 7.

Among the details the company has not disclosed are the on-sale date and the pricing of the two retail editions. By this time in 2009, Microsoft had revealed both: On June 2 that year, it pegged a launch date for Windows 7, and by June 25 had not only posted prices for the operating system but had also kicked off a pre-sale that discounted upgrades by as much as 58%.

Microsoft has said that things would be different with Windows 8, telling customers that it would not necessarily stick to the Windows 7 schedule for this year's OS.

The increased secrecy from the company, which historically has been much more open with information than its operating system rival, Apple, was demonstrated best last week, when it unveiled its first-ever tablet, the Surface, but left many questions unanswered, including the price, sales date, and even the hardware's battery life.

According to other Web reports, Microsoft will announce Windows 8 RTM, or "release to manufacturing," next month, most likely on July 18.

RTM is the final development milestone and means that the code is completed and ready to ship to computer makers to install on new PCs.

The Reinvention of Microsoft ….

today's world that is no longer the case.

The more I study the trends in the industry, the more I'm convinced that Microsoft's future depends on it becoming a hardware-agnostic software company. Throughout most of Microsoft's history, its major innovations and value have been strictly limited to companies who license Microsoft's software platform, Windows. This worked in a Windows-dominated world, but with the role of smartphones, tablets, and even shifting tides in notebooks and desktops, it's no longer a Windows-dominated world. I don't believe we'll see a Windows-dominated world again like we did as the computing industry was maturing.

If this turns out to be true, then the market will support a multitude of software platforms. That means for a company like Microsoft, the key strategy should be to innovate through software for all hardware platforms.

The first obvious move could be bringing Office to platforms like iOS, Android, and perhaps RIM (if it can make a comeback). Reports about Office for iPad have surfaced, and I hope they are true. Microsoft is committed to Office and it would be wise for the company to re-envision Office for every software platform. When Microsoft began taking the Mac and OS X seriously, it brought Office to the Mac in a relevant way – it didn't just port the Windows version. Microsoft should do the same for iOS, Android, and perhaps BlackBerry 10 if it gains traction.

But the thing I would really like to see from Microsoft is something new. Something not Windows and something not Office for personal computing. Microsoft's innovations have revolved around Windows and Office but I wonder what's next. I'd like to see new software for the new personal computing era created by Microsoft.

Take, for example, Apple's iLife suite of software. It blows my mind that Microsoft has not felt compelled to solve ease-of-use problems related to digital media creation and management. I know Microsoft has

relied on partners in this area like Adobe, ArcSoft, Pinnacle and others, but given how key this experience is to consumers, I would have thought it would be important enough for Microsoft to control it the way Apple does.

Even if the area of creativity is not of huge interest to Microsoft, I would like to see the company create new software and apps that are unique and fresh for the Windows ecosystem and beyond. Windows and Office have been pillars for Microsoft but I'm convinced the company needs more legs to stand on going forward. I appreciate Microsoft's efforts to re-think user interfaces for the next era of computing, but I still want to see more. I wonder if simply re-imagining a user interface will be enough.

What's at Stake?

A lot, in my opinion. The computing environment we find ourselves in today is like no other environment when it comes to past Windows launches – primarily because today there's a valid alternative to Windows, should customers not be happy with Windows 8.

Microsoft is taking a bold step forward by adding some radical new user interface elements to Windows 8. Some customers may reason that if they need to learn a new user interface anyway, why not consider switching to a Mac?

This may or may not be the case with Windows, given that Microsoft has been clear that the Windows 7-like user interface we're comfortable with is still a click away in Windows 8. In my opinion, however, Windows 8′s new Metro interface is the future, and the old Windows interface is the past. As much as people may disagree, I would like to see Microsoft focus on the future.

The reinvention of Microsoft will be no easy task. Microsoft was there for the beginning of computing and I truly hope it's around for computing's future.

But to get there will require similar vision for bringing the next generation of personal computing to businesses and consumers. The company faces stiff

Microsoft Says Windows 8 Will Go On Sale October 26

By Associated Press | July 18, 2012
Reprinted from http://techland.time.com/2012/07/18/microsoft-says-windows-8-will-go-on-sale-october-26/#ixzz21CPTg500

Microsoft says Windows 8 will go on sale Oct. 26. The upgrade to its operating system is designed to work better with touch screens and on tablet computers.

Microsoft announced the date in a blog post and at its annual sales meeting Wednesday. The software company had said earlier that Windows 8 would go on sale in October.

Microsoft is releasing the software as a downloadable upgrade that day for PC owners, and letting PC makers start selling computers with Windows 8 the same day.

As an upgrade for users of Windows XP, Vista or 7, Windows will cost $40. That's much less than Microsoft Corp. has charged for previous operating system upgrades. People who bought a Windows 7 computer on June 2 or later can upgrade for $15.

The Reinvention of Microsoft ….

competition from Apple, which has already shown it can deliver personal computing products desired by mainstream customers. Microsoft can do this as well, but it will live and die by the vision it has for the future and the role the company plays in that future.

Bajarin is the director of consumer technology analysis and research at Creative Strategies Inc., a technology industry analysis and market intelligence firm in Silicon Valley.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month starting at 7:00 PM. We meet at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church "Bldg 418" at 418 Pine St., Titusville (in the southwest corner of St. Gabe complex). 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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August 2012 Coming Events

♦ TCC General Meeting (7:00 pm)
  …..……... **Thursday August 9**
♦ TCC Demo Meeting (7:00 pm)
  …..…….. **Thursday August 23**

DEMO: Windows 8

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We Are Watching the Reinvention of Microsoft

By Ben Bajarin, June 18, 2012
Reprinted from http://techland.time.com/2012/06/18/we-are-watching-the-reinvention-of-microsoft/#ixzz21CRuR3K4

TIME Techland
News and reviews about gadgets, gear, apps and the web

It's not every day that we get to watch a company that helped make personal computing a reality reinvent itself. Yet that is exactly what we are watching as Microsoft inches closer to one of its biggest operating system launches to date. Not only is this launch critical to Microsoft's future, but so is the journey it will embark upon to reinvent itself.

Creating Software for the New Era
The computing devices that have helped make Microsoft what it is today are not the mainstream computing devices of the future. Of course, things like notebooks and desktops play a role in the computing ecosystem but in my opinion, devices like tablets, smartphones, and perhaps even some new devices represent what will consume the bulk of our personal computing time.

This means that Microsoft needs to reinvent itself for this new era of computing. There was a time when the computing devices driving the industry were primarily running Microsoft software. However, in