



Computer Newsletter

Newsletter of The Titusville Computer Club Inc., Titusville FL

January 2012

Volume 27, Issue 1

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



Happy New year to all, and hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas. I look forward to another year as your president, and ask that we have some suggestions as to what you may want to see in the way of Demos. If you are having a problem with a particular program, or even just a specific part of the program, send me an email and we will try to set up a demo for that item.

Do you have a recipe that requires milliliters and you only have cup measuring utensils? Well, "onlineconversion.com" can have you measuring to your hearts content. How about if you want to convert 'gallons' to 'hogsheads'? You will find that at this site also. By the way, 3 gallons = 0.0554117 71136 hogsheads (Hope that comes in handy)!! From the main page, you can go to ANY type of conversion table you can think of.



You can figure how many 'light years' you wish your mother-in-laws house is from yours (a measure of distance, not time). Objects and shapes for finding volume, area, or surface area for various shapes. You can turn decimals into fractions, and vice versa.

Bring in your new toys that you received for Christmas and show them off... Bring them to the next meeting, which will be the business meeting, and we will try to make that a more interesting and entertaining meeting.

Till we meet again, HAPPY NEW YEAR...
Metro



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TCC Newsletter

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Club members may advertise computer related items for sale in the club newsletter, without charge. Send info to newsletter editor Terry Tesdall at email: TerryTesdallSr@yahoo.com

Secretary's Report



The Titusville Computer Club's annual Christmas Party/meeting was held December 8, 2011 at St. Gabriel's Church, Titusville, Florida. President Metro Arden opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed all members and their guests.

There was only one order of business to take care of before dinner. We had learned that St. Gabriel's Fellowship Hall was recently broken into and Christmas gifts were stolen. It was moved that the club donate \$100 to St. Gabriel's (in addition to our previously approved donation of \$250) to help defray the cost of replacing locks and some of the stolen gifts. The motion passed.

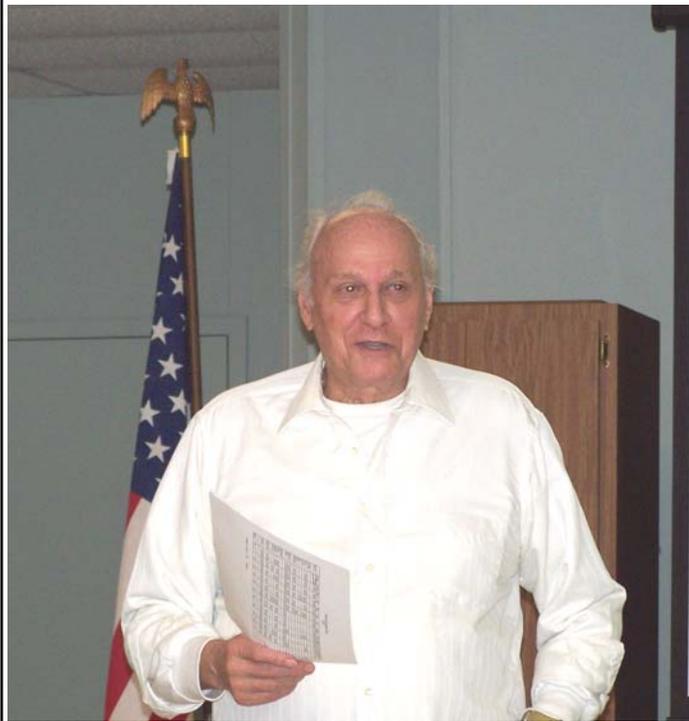
This meeting being for the Club's annual Christmas party, no other business matters were considered. The Club provided meats and soft drinks; members brought desert items and various culinary delights. All in attendance seemed to enjoy both the dinner and the socializing.

Demo Meeting Schedule

- January 26, 2012 — TBD
- February 23, 2012 — TENTATIVE "Windows Live"
- March 22, 2012 — "Identity Theft...You Don't Have To Be A Victim" by Wayne Ivey

What do YOU want to see?

TCC Christmas Party—December 8, 2011



President Metro Arden welcomes members and guests to the party.



The feast starts.



Len Kaczynski (top) and Mike Jacobs (bottom) win the club attendance prizes.



Music in the Cloud

Kim Komando's Column for 12/17/2011

In their second No. 1 hit single, the Rolling Stones asked us in no uncertain terms to get off of their cloud. In 2012, Apple, Amazon and Google are inviting you to climb on to theirs - and they'd like you to bring your music library.



It's all about Internet - or cloud-based - music storage. It's becoming the new norm. But as free-spirited as that sounds, there's no real opportunity for experimentation here. You'll be making a commitment of sorts. Who knows how interchangeable they'll be in the future? So let's look at how to determine which service is right for you.

Apple just a few weeks ago released iTunes Match, which stores your music on the cloud and streams it to your gadgets. Google started selling digital music in November and also offers cloud storage. Amazon pioneered the option of cloud-based delivery and storage back in March.

These three heavyweights are all competing for the estimated \$7 billion per year spent on online music. All three services are good, but each has quirks, too.

Deciding which to use starts - at least for now - with your choice of media player and your listening preferences. While iTunes Match is probably slightly better in the balance, that isn't going to matter if your smartphone or tablet is an Android, for instance.

iTunes Match for Apple's iCloud and iTunes is \$25 a year. With iCloud and the latest version of iTunes, Apple started moving away from syncing devices. When you download a new song, book or TV show, it automatically appears on all your Apple devices.

To take advantage of this, you have to get your music library on iCloud. When you subscribe to iTunes Match, it scans every song you have in your iTunes library, including songs you've imported from CDs.

It looks for matches from the 20 million songs in the iTunes store and automatically adds those matches

to iCloud. Songs are immediately available to all your Apple gadgets.



If you have a few songs that Apple doesn't, iTunes uploads them from your computer. Apple provides 5 gigabytes of iCloud storage free for those replacement files. If you have a lot of music it doesn't recognize, you can add more storage for a yearly fee.

You can have up to 25,000 songs on iTunes match. Anything bought from the iTunes store doesn't count against this storage total. An advantage is that matched songs play back at a high-quality bit rate of 256kbps, even if your original copy is lower quality.

Although iTunes and iTunes Match work fine on a PC laptop or desktop at home, they're really meant for Apple gadgets. The service won't work at all with Android smartphones and tablets.

Amazon's MP3 store rivals iTunes, with more than 17 million songs. It's biggest strength: The songs will work on any computer or gadget.

Amazon's Cloud Drive basic service is free and gives you 5GB of storage, good for about 1,000 songs. Adding 20GB of extra storage costs \$20 per year. Songs bought from Amazon's MP3 store can be automatically added to Cloud Drive, and they don't count against your storage limit.

Unlike iTunes Match, you must manually upload your existing music - a time-consuming process. It also means you'll fill up your cloud storage much more quickly.

Once the songs are uploaded, you can stream or download them with other gadgets. Streaming saves space on your mobile device, but your playback could stutter if you're moving in and out of Wi-Fi coverage.

Signing up with Amazon Cloud Drive is a must if you have the Kindle Fire tablet. Amazon designed the Fire for its vast online library of music and other content.

(Continued on page 5)

Three of TIME Magazine's Best Inventions of the Year

Reprinted from TIME Magazine, Nov 28, 2011

THE 3-D CHIP

A technology revolution occurred this year, and almost nobody outside the high-tech world noticed. In May, Intel demonstrated what it's calling a Tri-Gate transistor: a three-dimensional transistor in which electrons flow not just in a flat channel but along three sides of a raised fin. Why should you care? Because next year, when Intel ships its first chips based on the new 3-D transistor, they'll perform about 37% better and use about half the power. Another victory for Moore's law.

THE LIGHT FIELD CAMERA

11.2 CENTIMETERS | When Lytro's tiny rectangular Light Field camera takes a picture, its sensors capture the entire light field, recording each ray of light's color, luminosity (intensity) and vector direction. In layman's terms, it means that nothing is ever out of focus. There's also no shutter delay, so photos are taken instantly. But here's the truly cool part: the camera uses a series of algorithms to let users refocus a picture after it's taken. You can choose to bring different objects at different distances into and out of focus, long after the moment you captured has passed.

THE DIGITAL ASSISTANT



This is Siri. You may have met. Siri is the latest feature on Apple's iPhone 4S and the intelligent personal assistant you've always wanted. Ask Siri to send a text message or find the best burger joint nearby — done. She can also remind you to pick up your laundry on your way home, and she takes dictation. Siri goes beyond the voice recognition of the past: she understands natural speech without requiring you to use special words and without a learning curve. And Siri is still in beta, which means she should keep getting better.



Music in the Cloud

(Continued from page 4)

With the Amazon MP3 app, you can get the service on other Android tablets, too. You can also access the Cloud Player from any Flash-enabled browser.

However, until Amazon releases an app, there is no easy way to access Amazon's Cloud Drive on your iPhone or iPad.

Google Music could be your best choice if you and your friends are on Google+. When you buy a song from Google Music, you can post it and let friends give it a listen for free.

Google Music is quickly approaching 13 million songs from artists on Sony, Universal and EMI. However, it doesn't have an agreement with Warner yet. And, I promise, some of your favorite artists are on Warner.

Google doesn't charge for cloud storage, and you can upload up to 20,000 songs for free. High-quality 320kbps MP3s purchased from Google don't count against that total. Like Amazon, however, you have to upload your library.

Google Music works best with Android phones and tablets. Download the Google Music app, and you're ready to stream or download. It works fine on PC or Mac computers. Like Amazon, support for iOS gadgets is non-existent.

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A Little More of This and That

By Bob Murray

As found on the web and other sources.



Hackers Make Malware Download Appear Legitimate

By John Lister on 20111118 in *infopackets.com*

The creators of a recently-discovered form of malware (malicious software) have reportedly used stolen government ID to make the bogus software appear legitimate when presented on Windows PCs. Once the malware is installed, it can steal personal information, such as passwords or banking information, or download other malware programs to the PC.

The malware is spread via infected PDF (portable document format) files that exploit a bug in the outdated Adobe Reader 8. (Source: *computerworld.com*)

The incident involves a code signing certificate, similar to the authentication systems for secure websites, and for software such as Microsoft drivers.

Bogus Certificate Means Malware Harder to Detect

It's rare for a malware program to contain a valid software certificate. That said, it's important to understand that a valid certificate only states that the program comes from a known (usually valid) source, but does not imply that the software is not harmful.

The validity of a software certificate is presented when a user downloads a file, then opens it for execution (for example). Click [here](#) for a sample image which shows "Mozilla Foundation" as a digitally signed and valid download via Internet Explorer.

In this case, it was the certificate which was stolen. Having a valid security certificate can make it less likely a user will notice an infected or malicious file is amiss (for example), and also less likely that the software will be flagged as suspicious by security software, such as web browsers, antivirus, or anti-malware programs.

Certificate No Longer Valid

F-Secure, which discovered the malware, says that the certificate was signed on August 24, 2011.

Malaysian officials have confirmed only it was stolen from them "quite some time ago." The good news is that the certificate expired at the end of September, meaning that it no longer provides any added credibility to the malware, and may even act as a red flag. (Source: *f-secure.com*)

As noted, the malware attempts to download and install a specific item of additional software. This additional software also has a security certificate, issued in Taiwan. It's not yet clear if this additional certificate was also stolen or if it was counterfeited by the creators of the malware.

This isn't the first time an attack using digital certificates has been forged. This past September, a certificate company which produces SSL certificates for web browsers was breached by hackers. The hackers later created 500 bogus SSL certificates, which were then used to create fake (copycat) websites appear as real in order to dupe users and steal personal information.

Web surfing with Waterfox 8.0

<http://waterfoxproj.sourceforge.net>

Waterfox is a 64-Bit version of the Firefox web browser. The Firefox source code is taken and compiled to run specifically for 64-Bit Windows computers. To make Waterfox stand out a bit more, it's compiled with optimizations so that it will run more efficiently and faster than just compiling Firefox as a 64-Bit program.

Like to use Firefox web browser as your browser but it has problems on your 64 bit Windows 7 system. This just may your answer.



Facebook privacy flaw reveals your photos

Kim Komando Show Weekend Newsletter for December 10, 2011

Earlier this week, a serious privacy flaw surfaced on Facebook. Some users discovered you could view anyone's private photos with Facebook's content-reporting tool. Even Facebook-founder Mark Zuckerberg's private photos were stolen and posted elsewhere.

Facebook quickly fixed the problem, so your private photos are "safe" once again. The question, though, is how you can prevent this from happening in the future. The short answer is that you can't.

Setting your Facebook profile to maximize your privacy is always a good idea. However, flaws in the system will pop up. You need to remember that anything you post on the Internet or send in email can eventually end up being public. So, if you have something you don't want everyone to see, keep it offline.

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Archiving digital information

(Continued from page 8)

Professional disc creation works a little differently. Instead of altering organic dye, the information is physically pressed into the disc material itself, either a polymer or aluminum layer. The pressed layer can't break down the same way a dye does. The disc has to be physically damaged or melted to destroy the data.

There are services that will duplicate your data using disc-pressing methods. It costs more than doing it yourself, but the information will last longer. Again, though, you'll need to handle and store the disc properly.

Of course, then the question becomes will CD and DVD players even exist in 10, 20 or 30 years. Have you tried buying a record player or VCR lately? Your options are somewhat limited.

Expecting a burned disc to last decades may not be realistic. However, burned discs are very useful for short-term data storage or sharing.

Come, Join in on Family Research



Meets 1st Tues. of each month 6 to 8 PM

P.O. Box 897
Titusville, Fl.
32781-0897

At North Brevard Public Library
Visitors Welcome

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 (TerryTeddallSr@yahoo.com). Articles are subject to editing.

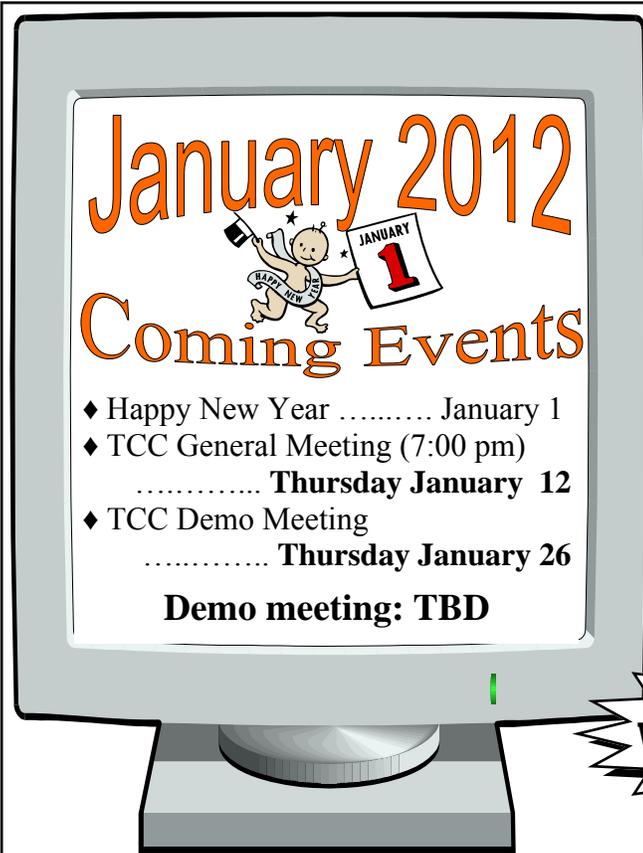
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Archiving digital information

*Kim Komando Show Electronic Newsletter
for December 17, 2011*



Q A listener is burning some home movie DVDs for Christmas, but he's heard that home-burned DVDs wear out over time. He wants to know how homemade DVDs are different from store-bought DVDs.

A He heard correctly. Optical discs that you burn at home do wear out faster than their store-bought counterparts. That's because burnable discs use an organic dye to store information.

Over time, this dye breaks down or can become damaged. With some discs, it takes two years and for others two decades. There really is no way to tell in advance. Data quality, along with handling and storage conditions, play a part as well.

Some manufacturers use gold-based dye and claim the discs are archive quality. Of course, it's hard to verify claims of 100-year archiving when optical discs have only been around for 30. So, don't take those claims as gospel.

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