



Computer Newsletter

Newsletter of The Titusville Computer Club Inc., Titusville FL

June 2012

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



Hello again, computer friends I gave out the first of the 4 gig Kingston Data-Travler urDRIVE's at the last business meeting. Bob Scherf was the lucky door prize winner.

We had an exceptionally active discussion on several topics, this month. Many questions asked, most got answers, and some ideas on what demos you would like to see. We could use more input in this area, so get your fingers limbered up and bring in a list of at least two things you would like to see "demo-ed."

Another thing I asked people to do was download and install BelArc Advisor, then print out the results and bring it in to the meeting. This is especially helpful when asked what version of Windows or program you have a question about. Too many times people are having a problem, but cannot supply the basic information about their system. With this information, so we may be able to diagnose and come up with a solution.

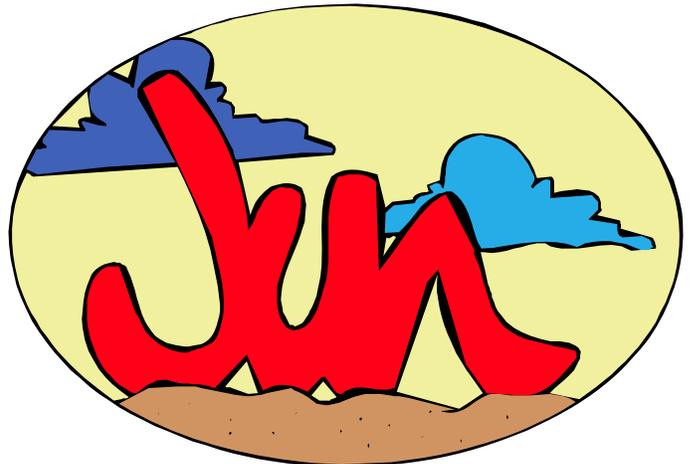
Go here: http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html to download to your desktop, double click on the file when finished downloading, run the program, and print out the results. Bring your printout to the next BUSINESS meeting,

where we will discuss the information therein. Everyone that brings in the report will get a drawing ticket for an item yet to be decided. It would be nice to see 100% participation.

On to other things, WE NEED A SECRETARY!..... Please, please, someone volunteer to do this. It is really not all that hard, basically, just jot down any motions, votes, or short notes on discussion on the motions. Who might have won the 50/50 raffle, or other important actions. It does not have to be long and involved, or professionally written, just so we have some record as to what went on at, mainly, the business meeting.

One last item and I am finished: System Restore has again failed me..... I installed the *new and improved* ZoneAlarm and Virus protection, touted in a pop-up. I will admit, I did just disable Norton rather than uninstalling it. That was the end of my system, it was taking 15-20 minutes to re-boot. I uninstalled Nor-

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From the Prez' Lips ...

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ton, but that did no good. So I used System Restore to go back two days. NO GOOD. I again restored to another day previous. STILL, NO GOOD. By this time ZoneAlarm should have been off my machine.... It did not show up in Add/Remove programs. As a last resort, I tried Ccleaner's Program un-installer. ZoneAlarm now showed up, and after removing, and re-booting, my machine was again running smoothly. Of course it took me a day and a half to get this done.

I did not re-try ZoneAlarm by first uninstalling Norton, as I should have the first time, just in case it was still buggy. I may at a later date give it a try. But for now, I will stick with Norton.

Till the meeting.....
Metro

Demo Meeting Schedule

- May 24, 2012 — Fijitsu ScanSnap Scanner
- June 28, 2012 — TBD

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Visitors Welcome

Secretary's Report



The Titusville Computer Club's general meeting was held May 10, 2012 at St. Gabriel's Church "Bldg 418", Titusville, Florida. President Metro Arden opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. The minutes read and approved. The Treasurer's report made and accepted.

Should we start 50/50 again? Metro will bring a container to the next meeting to use when we start doing the 50/50 again. Bob Scherf won the 4 GHz Thumb drive and also got to sell the 50/50 tickets for tonight.

Bob Murray checked on prices for a suitable window shade to be use as a projector screen. The club approved a screen purchase not to exceed \$55.00. Motion made by Dell Murray and seconded by Adam Arden. Bob Murray will purchase it and work out a means of mounting it.

Query on computer class at Senior Center; no one knows if the classes have started yet. Metro will check with Ted Smith to see how the class construction is progressing.

Next demo by Ed Karstedt on his **Fijitsu ScanSnap Scanner**. If there is time after Ed's demo, Terry Tesdall will also report on downloading eBooks from the Brevard County Library.

The attendees were asked: What do you want for a demo? Some of the answers were:

- Skype
- Genealogy
- What software do most use?
- How to hack into auto maintenance systems built into newer autos
- Shop on E-bay
- Using the "Cloud"
- How to handle multiple passwords.
- How to use Facebook, Twitter, etc.

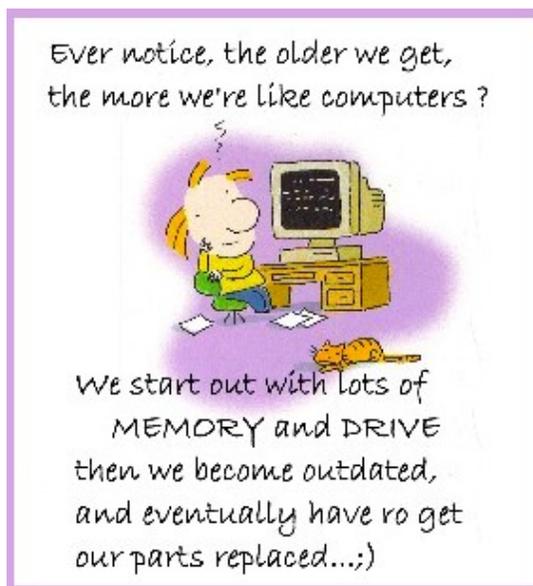
No one volunteered to do any of the presentations however. No clear-cut decision was made for any future demos.

Lots of discussion on Bright House, most of it favorable. It was suggested that maybe we could get Bright House to give a demo.

Metro held the drawing for the 50/50 and Judy Banichar was the lucky winner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Minutes prepared by Rodney Iwan



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.

A Little More of This and That

By Bob Murray

As found on the web and other sources.



Are You an Unwitting Spammer?

Reprinted from "askbobrankin.com", Category: Spam

A concerned email user asks: Several of my friends have complained that I am sending them spam emails. I've looked in my Sent folder and nothing odd shows up there. How can this be happening? Is it possible that someone has hacked into my email account, or is there another explanation?

Help, I Think I'm a Spammer!

Are you getting replies to email messages that you never sent? Friends complaining that you're spamming them? Are you receiving "bounce" messages from email servers about messages to non-existent accounts that you don't recognize? Do you find messages in your junk-mail folder sent from yourself? If any of these things happens to you, you may be an unwitting participant in spam.

Your email account may NOT have been hacked. Sometimes, spammers "spoof" their victims by inserting a random email address in the "From" field of their spam. Spammers use mass emailing software that can insert any desired email address as the sender, and pretend to be "you" even if they're half a world away. Bounced messages that you don't recall sending are probably such spoofs. Spammers are using your email address, but they don't have access to your email inbox or contacts. Still, that's no reason to relax.

You may find yourself on a blacklist if thousands of people receive annoying spam ostensibly from your email address. Google's GMail is one email service provider that authenticates all the mail that is really sent from your address, so that receiving email servers won't block all mail from your address.

Just 4 fun

Things I Learned Living In The South

There are 10,000 types of spiders. All 10,000 of them live in the South, plus a couple no one's seen before.

Superman is not gonna like this

About 250 of NYC's pay phones are to be transformed into 32-inch digital signs. The kiosks will display area business information, transportation updates and emergency messages.

Spoofing is a form of identity theft, and it should be reported as such to the Federal Trade Commission and your email service provider. Your email service provider may be able to implement protections for your email address, such as the Sender Policy Framework.

If your email address is blacklisted by another email service or internet service provider, you may not be able to send messages to people who use that provider. For example, you might be a Comcast user, and your emails to Mom (who uses Gmail) are being returned with messages like this:

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently: your_mother@gmail.com
Technical details of permanent failure: Message rejected. See <http://mail.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=69585> for more information.

Usually, you can contact the administrators and explain that your address was spoofed. In many cases, they will unblock you. If you can't find an appropriate link in the bounce message or on their website, send an email to "postmaster" at that domain.

Have You Been Hacked?

If your contacts are getting spam from you, then your email account may very well have been hacked. The first thing to do is attempt to log in to

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A Little More of This and That

(Continued from page 4)

your email account. Often, spammers will change a hacked account's password, so if you cannot get into your own account that is a good sign that you have been hacked. You will have to go through the "forgot password" re-authentication process for your email provider, to establish your ownership of the account and regain access.

If you regain control of your email account, the very first thing you should do is change all of the user-authentication information. Create a new (hopefully stronger) password, and change the answers to your "secret questions." For help creating a secure password, see my related article "Is Your Password Hacker Proof?" for help with choosing a secure password.

If you cannot regain access to your email account, then you will have to abandon it. Create a new email account and start all over again. This is why you should make a backup copy of your contacts list on a regular basis. Of course, in either case you will also have to explain to all of your contacts that the spam did not come from you.

It's also possible that your email account was hijacked by an evil spamming robot on your computer. (See "Warning, Danger: Botnets!". I get dozens of emails every day from people who are infected in this manner. Most of the emails have no subject, they contain just a link with no other text, and the "To:" field is a list of 6-8 email addresses in alphabetical order. Whenever you suspect that your email account has been compromised, you should run a full scan using MBAM or your preferred anti-malware program.

Frustration number one!

It arrives in your email inbox, you open it and you read it. You see something you want to comment on and hit the Reply button in your email software.

What happens next depends on your software. And software varies (man, does it vary). But most likely what happens is that the whole 48K newsletter is

copied into a new email. It will look different than what you type as a reply but it will be there.

That's quoting an email.

Some software is so clever it can even quote a series of emails on the same topic. The entire conversation, that is. Which can drive your recipient nuts.

So where's the efficiency?

Well, you could reply without quoting. But that might confuse your recipient. Say you wanted to reply to this newsletter's lead story with the remark, "Nice but way too expensive!" And say you didn't quote a reference. We'd be sitting here scratching our head wondering what is too expensive.

The efficient approach is to quote just what your recipient needs to see to know what you're referring to. You can do this (usually) by making a selection in the original email before you hit the Reply button. Just drag your mouse (with the button down) over the stuff you want to address in the original email before you Reply.

That quotes just the selection in most email software (but not all), instead of the whole 48K newsletter. Which makes for a much more efficient conversation. And often a quicker reply.

If you have trouble getting it to work, use your favorite search engine to look for "email reply quote selection" plus the name of your email software to see if there's a trick or if a plug-in is required.



How likeable is Facebook 'Like'?

Kim Komando Tip of the Day, May 15, 2012



Q Kim, please explain the significance of the "Like" button on Facebook. What does it actually do and what benefit is it to us? Does clicking it cause our personal information to be transmitted, published or posted to places we may not want or approve? Is it mainly an advantage to advertisers?



A Social media is still a confusing place for many people. Sites like Facebook and Twitter are adding features every day, and new networks pop up all the time. Keeping track of all of them is a hassle.

It's good that you are being cautious. Facebook's constant changes make it harder to protect your privacy. That's why I wrote my Guide to Facebook Privacy e-Guide. I recommend it to everyone who uses Facebook.

The "Like" button has especially evolved over the last couple of years. Instead of simply liking the pictures or posts of your friends, you can now like just about any piece of content. You can even like things that aren't on Facebook. But should you?

Most users think pressing the like button indiscriminately is harmless. For the most part, it is: IF you like only things your friends post. However, once you start liking businesses or things on other sites, you could be sharing too much information.

Here's the part you know: Whenever you like something on Facebook, a little blurb is posted to your timeline telling the world. Of course, if you change your mind, you can un-like something by clicking the Like button again.

But, as you like and un-like various pages and products, what you see on Facebook may start to change. This is because you're giving Facebook more and more information about you. And what does Facebook do with it? It's shared with marketers and advertisers.

For example, if you like an activity such as fishing, Facebook might serve you ads for a nearby bait shop. It can also attach your name to ads for any business page you've liked. If you like a news article, Facebook might tell your friends about it when they visit that news site.

Facebook says your information is contained on its servers and not shared with other sites. But I'm not entirely comfortable with that. I strongly recommend you opt out of these services.

Here's how to do it right now; it only takes a couple of minutes. Log into Facebook and click the upside down triangle in the upper right corner. Go to Privacy settings>>Ads, Apps and Websites>>Ads. Click Edit Social Ads Settings and choose No One in the drop down menu. Your name won't be linked to any ads, even for pages you've liked.

Go back to the Ads, Apps and Websites menu and select "How people bring your info to apps they use." You'll see a list of checkboxes. Any box that is checked is something that could appear on a third-party site.

You'll see everything from your current city, photos and the things you like. Deselect each box. That way, Facebook and advertisers won't be able to use your information for marketing.



Reselling e-books?

Reprinted from Kim Komando Electronic Newsletter, May 12, 2012

My daughter spent a lot of money buying digital textbooks for college this semester. Is there a way to resell the e-books or whether there's a pre-owned e-book market?

I'm sorry to say, that reselling or trading in e-books is not an option. There's not a technical limitation, of course, but a legal one.

As with any digital files, it's too hard to prove that you didn't keep a copy for yourself. If a publisher catches you, you will be in legal trouble.

I'm afraid your daughter is stuck with the e-books. Of course, it might not be a total loss, depending on where she bought them.

Amazon and Barnes & Noble both have lending features. Your daughter might be able to lend the textbooks to someone who needs them, and find some-

one to lend her textbooks as well.

You can also use a site like *Lendle* to lend and borrow Amazon e-books. Your daughter might be able to help out other students and borrow textbooks at the same time.

Update Windows

Reprinted from Kim Komando Electronic Newsletter, May 12, 2012

Microsoft has released its monthly updates to Windows and other Microsoft products. There are 22 fixes with 3 rated as critical. Microsoft Office 2003 and 2007 are the main culprits this time around.

The flaws could allow hackers to take over your computer remotely. You'll definitely want to download these updates if you haven't already.

Should you wait for the new Wi-Fi?

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First, I should explain how 802.11ac is different from other Wi-Fi. Older 802.11n, g and b gadgets rely heavily on the 2.4 gigahertz frequency. Unfortunately, they share this frequency with microwaves, wireless phones and other sources of interference.

Dual-band 802.11n routers improve things by operating at both 2.4GHz and 5GHz. 802.11ac will drop the 2.4GHz completely and operate only at 5GHz.

Aside from reduced interference, the higher frequency and new communication systems will allow a much broader data stream that can transport more information. Initial units should transfer more than 400 megabits per second, while later units should manage 1.3 gigabits per second. By comparison, current 802.11n averages between 150Mbps and 350Mbps.

This broader stream - experts compare it to moving from a 3-lane road to a 20-lane highway - will be great for home settings where multiple gadgets are competing for space. You'll be less likely to have a stuttering Netflix stream while the kids are playing an online game, for example.

There is one major caveat: You will need 802.11ac-compatible gadgets to take full advantage of an 802.11ac router. No gadget you own now is compatible.

Routers that use 802.11ac will have 802.11n built in so your current gadgets will still work. But you won't see much - if any - increase in speed. As with 802.11n, it will take years for households to fully transition to the new standard.

The bottom line is that if you need a new router now, go ahead and buy one. The current 802.11n is still more than fine for most households.

If you aren't in any hurry, go ahead and wait for 802.11ac routers to appear. One word of caution, however: New technology often comes with unexpected quirks and bugs.

You'll probably save money and headaches waiting a few months instead of buying the first 802.11ac router that appears. Check back with me before you buy to learn what to look for.

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Making sense of 4G and other myths

Kim Komando Weekly Column for April 8, 2012

If you're confused about 4G, welcome to the fastest-growing club! AT&T claims to have the nation's largest 4G network. Verizon touts America's fastest 4G LTE network with "a higher standard of coverage." The advertising war is on.



AT&T recently befuddled millions of iPhone 4S customers. After upgrading to iOS 5.1, users discovered that the 3G network indicator next to the signal bar had mysteriously changed to 4G. Many thought, "Lucky me!" Not so fast.

Since the carriers and gadget makers won't call the whole thing off, it's time to take a fresh look at the state of 4G.

The term 4G refers to the fourth generation of cellular wireless technology. It all began in the 1980s with those 1G analog wonders that were the size - and weight - of a brick. Late, digital networks allowed users of 2G cellular phones to send text and email. 3G networks, of course, ushered in the age of smartphones and data.

With 4G technology, the distinction between voice and data goes away. It essentially turns a cellular phone into a Voice-over-IP system. That means faster, clearer communication.

How fast? The International Telecommunication Union defines 4G as the ability to download data at speeds of 100 megabits per second to 1 gigabit per second. The 1Gbps standard is for home and low-mobility situations, such as someone walking around with a phone. The 100Mbps standard is the theoretical maximum download speed that a user traveling in a car or train would experience.

Although current networks in the U.S. are nowhere near those kinds of speeds - and won't be for a few more years - the rollout of 4G LTE is an important interim leap.

LTE (Long Term Evolution) theoretically maxes out at 100Mbps. Real-world speeds are more like 20Mbps or less. Mobile Internet speeds can vary greatly from one location to another. Cell towers are scattered, and when many users are connected to a tower at the same time, speed bogs down.

Still, LTE speeds can put some home broadband connections to shame.

Verizon has brought 4G LTE to more than 200 million people in 203 cities. More than 260 million customers in 400 markets will be able to access 4G LTE by the end of the year.

AT&T's 4G LTE network is live in 28 markets. The carrier expects to complete its LTE network by the end of 2013.

Sprint customers in Baltimore, Kansas City, Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and Atlanta are slated to receive 4G LTE service by mid-2012.

T-Mobile will launch 4G LTE next year.

If you're an AT&T customer in a city that doesn't have LTE yet, your 4G is actually HSPA+. T-Mobile 4G users are also on a HSPA+ network. Current Sprint 4G customers, meanwhile, are using the WiMAX standard.

Although marketed as 4G, HSPA+ and WiMAX are more like souped-up 3G. If you're going to be buying a smartphone in the near future, it's important to know exactly what you're getting. If it's an HSPA+ or WiMAX phone, it'll only be a little faster than 3G. It's also a good idea to check whether you're in a 4G LTE coverage area (or will be soon).

AT&T says the iPhone 4S can take advantage of its HSPA+ network speeds. However, the phone doesn't have the chipset that would allow it to join a true 4G LTE network.

The new iPad does. But it's currently only compati-

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Making sense of 4G and other myths

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ble with the 700MHz and 2,100MHz LTE bands that North American carriers use. That's why the 4G LTE iPad doesn't work in Australia; carrier Telstra uses the 1,800MHz frequency.

This points out what could be a looming problem for globe-trotting Americans. In order to feed the mobile data beast, carriers in Europe and elsewhere may adopt entirely new bands as they build out their 4G networks in coming years. Your "world" 4G smartphone or tablet may revert to slower standards if it isn't compatible with some of those new frequencies.

So, are you ready for 5G?

Kim's News of the Day, May 17, 2012

Consumers waiting for iPhone 5

Smartphone sales are down, which hasn't happened since 2009. Analysts put part of the blame on consumers waiting until Apple launches the iPhone 5 to upgrade.

Verizon to push users off unlimited plans

This summer, Verizon will move to a shared data plan model. One result is that users still enjoying unlimited data plans will lose them if they upgrade to 4G LTE. Don't risk overage charges for exceeding your cellular data limit.

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We've moved to 3659 S Hopkins Ave

.... Just south of Buck's Lawnmowers



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

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Should you wait for the new Wi-Fi?

Kim Komando Tip of the Day, 4/20/2012

Q Hey, Kim. I read some news recently that technology companies are working on a new, faster Wi-Fi. Do you know any more details? I'm shopping for a new router now, but if they're just going to release better routers soon, I might just wait. What do you think?



A I can see why you're curious. It always seems like companies wait until you're fully sold on a technology to release something new. It can be frustrating.

The upcoming fifth-generation Wi-Fi, which uses the 802.11ac standard, promises speeds up to 10 times faster than current 802.11n Wi-Fi. In addition, it could deliver better signal coverage, reduced power consumption and put an end to world hunger.

OK, I made that last one up! But 802.11ac will be miles ahead of 802.11n if it performs as expected. We could see routers that use it on store shelves by late 2012, with compatible smartphones and tablets to follow sometime in 2013.

That's not exactly immediate availability. So, should you wait?



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