MC³ Newsletter

April 2017

The March meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **April 8th**, at the Salvation Army Building, 290 W. Crystal Lake Ave., in Crystal Lake.

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions & Reports
- Demo – **Social Media** Bob Wagner

Upcoming Demos - Subject to Change

- May 2017: TBD

March Q & A

Q: I have 2 laptops with Win10 How do I transfer applications (programs) from 1 to the other? The laptops are networked and homegrouped.

A: *You don't. You have to install applications on each machine. The installation process puts files in various places and writes entries into the registry. You can not just 'copy' applications.*

Q: Ransomeware Removal? Red screen, person called #, could not get on LT. Hard drive removed and scanned=NG. Had to reload Win10. Other Solutions?

A: *If your data files have been encrypted, you lose if you don't have another copy of them. Otherwise, sometimes you can clean things up enough to get it running again, but if it's been hit that hard, formating and starting over really is the best answer.*

Q: Tried 30 day free trial of Works on my Win10 Didn't like it. How can't get back to all document done on old version of Works#2. Lock out because didn't purchase the new win. How do I get back to my old version?

A: *Normally a new version of a program makes changes to the format of your data files. Unless you have a backup of those files, you may not be able to load the changed data files*

Our membership is $26.00 a year.

NOTE: This fee offsets the running of the club; membership benefits include help with computer problems. Please pay Lyle Giese, our treasurer, or the designated Board Member in his absence.

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(letters, spreadsheets, etc).

You might try LibreOffice or OpenOffice(both free) to see if they can open your changed files.

Tech Bytes

The editor welcomes member submissions or topics members would like to see mentioned in the newsletter.

From Top Tech News - Jef Cozza, April 4, 2017
Apple Promises Mac Pro Redesign Is Coming, Just Not This Year
First, the good news: Apple announced plans to release a completely redesigned version of the Mac Pro. Now the bad news: you won't see it until at least 2018. But professional Mac users can sleep soundly in the knowledge that Apple understands their frustrations.

Why else would the company invite a group of reporters to its headquarters yesterday to update the world on a product it doesn't plan to release for at least another year? Apple seems to understand that it has a major perception problem when it comes to professional users, and can't afford to ignore the issue until an official product announcement sometime in 2018.

Not Built for Modern Workloads

The current version of the Mac Pro was released in 2013. At the time, the company thought it was making a bold statement with the unusual form factor that looked more like a cylindrical Bluetooth speaker than a professional desktop machine. But instead of representing a great leap forward for the company's pro users, the current incarnation of the Mac Pro is now closer to a dead end.

A large part of that is likely the fault of the internal architecture, the company admitted to reporters yesterday. Apple designers had gambled on an architectural plan designed to accommodate two smaller GPUs (graphics processing units), rather than a single larger one. Not necessarily a bad idea in principal, but that wasn't how the industry evolved.

read more at http://www.toptechnews.com/article/index.php?story_id=011000CE0YQW

From USA Today - Mike Snider, April 4, 2017
ISPs can now collect and sell your data: What to know about Internet privacy rules
On Monday, President Trump signed a Congressional resolution repealing rules that would have required Internet service providers to get customer permission to collect, use and sell information about your online habits.

The pending regulations had been passed five months ago by the Democrat-led Federal Communications Commission. The repeal was lauded by Republicans and broadband providers, who had complained of an unfair playing field versus Web providers such as Google. Democrats and consumer groups warned consumer privacy would be more at risk without the rules.

AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon have each said they will not sell data to third parties.

Do companies use my personal information now?
Yes. Google and Facebook aggregate demographic and other profile data to offer advertisers desirable audiences. "The distinguishing factor here is that consumers choose to use Google & Facebook's services and implicitly agree to trade some privacy for the convenience of their services," Belkoura said. Since customers pay ISPs directly, they should expect "privacy is respected," he said.

What happens next?
The FCC is prohibited from proposing new similar privacy regulations on its own, under the Congressional Review Act. But Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., also already promised to introduce legislation charging the FCC to craft new "strong broadband" rules, an action that would allow the FCC to relook at the issue.

Congress could also pass legislation better defining the roles of the FCC and FTC. Chairman Pai pledged to work with the FTC on developing "a consistent and comprehensive" privacy framework.

With more companies not only providing broadband, but also selling online advertising, the issue will remain confusing. "Eventually Congress will need to address the issue, because gaps are likely to remain," said Fred Campbell, director of TechKnowledge, a market-oriented think tank.

read more at https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2017/04/04/isps-can-now-collect-and-sell-your-data-what-know-internet-privacy/100015356/

From CNet - Ian Sherr, April 5, 2017
Microsoft is fixing those confusing Windows 10 privacy messages
The software giant acknowledges the privacy settings on Windows 10 are annoying and don't make sense. So it's simplifying things.

Microsoft wants to make Windows easier to understand. Two years after it released Windows 10, a major installment in its PC software, the software giant is rolling out an update that includes, among other things, revamped privacy settings. The update, which users can download for free, will be available from April 11. Microsoft is pushing to simplify its Creators Update after earlier versions got slammed for being stuffed with incomprehensible jargon and gibberish.

Want an example?

Previously, Windows 10's settings would offer you this option: "Let apps use my advertising ID for experiences across apps (turning this off will reset your ID)." Now it will say: "Relevant Ads: Let apps use advertising ID to make ads more interesting to you based on your app usage." And if you turn it off, it will say, "The number of ads you see won't change but they may be less relevant to you."

It's not Shakespeare, but it's easier to understand.

"We're trying to be much more transparent," said Marisa Rogers, privacy officer for Microsoft's Windows and Devices Group, in an interview. Many of the changes will simplify the language in the software. And in the case of diagnostic data being sent to Microsoft, Rogers said, the company's cut the amount of information it's gathering by half.

"It's strictly the information that Microsoft needs to keep the device secure and up-to-date," she added.

Seeking clarity on privacy

Microsoft isn't making the changes because it's suddenly learned the value of clearer writing. The company has been fending off criticism about its privacy practices since releasing Windows 10 in July 2015.

The diagnostic data it's gathering has been a real sore spot. It's normal for companies to collect information about their hardware and software, usually as part of checking for bugs and guarding against security problems. Microsoft's practices, however, raised concerns because the software maker wasn't clear about how much data it was gathering, how it kept that information safe and how long it was held onto.

read more at https://www.cnet.com/news/microsoft-wants-you-to-trust-windows-10-privacy-again/

From Fortune - Don Reisinger, April 4, 2017

Samsung TVs Reportedly Ship With Major Hacking Flaws

Samsung's televisions and wearables reportedly have serious vulnerabilities that could allow malicious hackers to remotely take control of them.

Security researchers in Israel have uncovered 40 previously undiscovered vulnerabilities in the operating system running in Samsung's line of smart televisions, smartwatches, and even mobile phones, which could give hackers easy access to the devices, Motherboard is reporting after discussing the findings with the researchers. Tens of millions of electronics could be at risk, security researcher Amihai Neiderman told Motherboard.

The security flaws are living inside Tizen, an operating system Samsung has been developing over the last several years that runs on the company's televisions, smartwatches, and some low-powered mobile devices. Hackers with knowledge of the vulnerabilities can be half a world away but connect over the Internet to a Samsung television or wearable, and assume complete control over the device.

Tizen is an operating system designed for a multitude of device types. And years ago, companies that make up the Tizen Association, which backs the operating system development, had hoped to deliver it as an alternative to Google's Android. However, Tizen has struggled to gain traction in the competitive mobile market, and Samsung has instead decided to bundle the operating system into home products and wearables instead of smartphones and tablets.

While Tizen holds an exceedingly small slice of the market compared to Android, it's believed to be running on at least 30 million Samsung televisions, alone. Samsung has also said it plans to expand Tizen's presence as part of a broader smart home push and bundle it with washing machines and refrigerators.

Neiderman didn't say if hackers have been exploiting some of the flaws built into Tizen, and he has only been analyzing the software for the past eight months. He believes that many of the 40 flaws—called zero day exploits because there are no fixes and hackers could take advantage of them right now—were caused by Samsung coding errors that were never discovered in product testing.

read more at http://fortune.com/2017/04/04/samsung-tv-hacking/