

# MC<sup>3</sup> Newsletter

April 2018

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 3

The March meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **April 14, 2018 at Salvation Army Building 290 W. Crystal Lake Ave., in Crystal Lake, IL.**

**NOTE:** Enter the building on the parking lot level under the awning.

## Meeting Agenda

- Introductions & Reports
- Demo: Staying Safe Online by Larry Freeman and Ken Schuring
- Q & A

## Upcoming Demos - Subject to Change

We need demos for May and beyond - submit ideas to any MC<sup>3</sup> board member or email them to the club email, [info@mc3computerclub.org](mailto:info@mc3computerclub.org)

Please



## March Q & A

The editor has not received any questions and answers from March. If you'd like to see these, tell the board.

## Gmail Update Said to Add Self-destructing Email you can't print or forward - David Carnoy, CNET

*Google's upcoming redesign has some potentially compelling new features that may change your emailing habits.*

"We're working on some major updates to Gmail (they're still in draft phase)," a Google representative said in an email. "We need a bit more time to compose ourselves, so can't share anything yet -- archive this for now, and we'll let you know when it's time to hit send."

Well, word has slipped out about a couple of key new features that are reportedly coming soon to Google's widely used email platform.

One is called "confidential mode." According to The Verge,

*continued on next page*



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.

## MC<sup>3</sup> OFFICIALS

### President:

Larry Freeman  
[lpfreeman@hotmail.com](mailto:lpfreeman@hotmail.com)

### Vice President:

Bob Wagner  
[rmwagner@ameritech.net](mailto:rmwagner@ameritech.net)

### Secretary:

Bruce Eckersberg

### Treasurer:

Lyle Giese  
[lyle@lcrcomputer.com](mailto:lyle@lcrcomputer.com)

### Database Manager:

Lem Erita

### Newsletter:

[info@Mc3ComputerClub.org](mailto:info@Mc3ComputerClub.org)  
(for articles & suggestions)

### Past President:

John Katkus

### Webmaster:

Cindi Carrigan

### Board Members:

Jack Luff, Dave Lutes,  
Jim Beierle, Al Edlund,  
Ken Schuring

it allows you to limit what recipients can do with the emails you send, preventing them from being forwarded, downloaded or printed. The other is even more intriguing: TechCrunch is reporting that Google is testing “self-destructing” emails that disappear after a set period of time.

In an e-mail sent to GSuite customers earlier this week, Google let them know a redesign is coming. Along with a new look, other likely changes will be access to Google Calendar directly from Gmail. The refresh might also include the ability to “snooze” emails so they reappear in the inbox again later. Another addition will reportedly be offline email storage.

This will be the first major update in several years to Gmail, which is one of the most popular email services in the world. According to the email sent to G Suite customers, the redesign will first be available in an early adopter program and then roll out to regular Gmail customers.

“We’re working on some major updates to Gmail (they’re still in draft phase),” a Google representative said in an email. “We need a bit more time to compose ourselves, so can’t share anything yet -- archive this for now, and we’ll let you know when it’s time to hit send.”

## **‘Urban mining’ in South Korea pulls rare battery materials from recycled tech - Reuters, 4/13/18**

---

Workers at a rural South Korean factory are busy extracting some of the world’s most coveted metals, used in the batteries that power electric cars.

But they’re not digging in the ground or refining ore. Instead, they are sorting through a pile of lithium-ion batteries from old mobile phones and laptops.

As China’s aggressive hunt for overseas cobalt and lithium for electric vehicles pushes up prices and causes a global shortage of the key metals, South Korea is increasingly turning to such “urban mining” to recover cobalt, lithium and other scarce metals from electronic waste.

In 2016, the most recent year from which data is available, 19.6 trillion won (\$18.38 billion) worth of metals were extracted from recycled materials, meeting roughly 22 percent of the country’s total metal demand, according to a report by the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology.

SungEel HiTech is South Korea’s largest battery recycler. A decade ago, the company was at a crossroads as plasma TV panels, from which it extracted gold and silver, began to phase out.

Now it is part of a supply chain for some of the world’s major battery makers, including Samsung SDI (006400.KS) and LG Chem (051910.KS).

Yi Kang-myung, SungEel HiTech’s president, said the shortage of mined metals had led his company to boost capacity by threefold this year. It plans to list in 2020.

“We are receiving phone calls from many who are showing interest,” Yi said in an interview at the plant.

“Major automobile companies are interested in our products,” he said, without naming the automak-

ers. He added that battery companies and POSCO, a South Korean steelmaker, are interested in getting into the recycling business themselves.

The scarcity is unlikely to abate anytime soon, as China, the world's biggest user of metals, snaps up mineral resources in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chile.

About 150 small-and-medium sized companies do urban mining, according to the Korea Urban Mining Association.

At SungEel HiTech, the process is not complex or highly automated. After workers pull batteries from recycled devices, the units are drained of power and then ground into a powder from which individual metals can be separated.

Most of the products that are recycled - 60 to 70 percent - come from the United States and Europe, with the remainder from South Korea.

The recycling companies mainly focus on extracting precious metals like gold and silver. But four, including SungEel HiTech, can directly recover cobalt or produce powders from which rare metals can be extracted.

South Korea's environment ministry changed regulations in January to promote recycling by charging higher prices for waste disposal.

Yum Un-joo, chairman of the Korea Urban Mining Association, said recycled resources, if developed correctly, could be a difference maker for the industry and for his country.

"For South Korea, we don't have an option but if we have recycled resources, that could be our strength," Yum said.

## **Microsoft Delays Windows 10 Spring Creators Update - Ryan Whitman, 04/12/18**

Microsoft has been talking up the Spring Creators Update for Windows 10 in recent months, but there's one big problem: It's missing. The release was expected yesterday, but there are no reports of the update appearing on systems, and Microsoft hasn't said a word. According to some unverified but totally believable online chatter, Microsoft has delayed the update because of a serious last minute bug.

Windows 10 has been out for several years now, but there's no sign Microsoft is looking to move to a completely new version of the OS. Instead, it has taken to pushing out large feature patches every few months — these are the Creators Updates. The spring update for this year will add a number of cool features, including a shorter offline time during updates, the timeline multitasking view, and a refined do-not-disturb mode called Focus Assist. There's also a diagnostic data viewer, allowing you to see all the telemetry data your computer sends back to Microsoft.

Windows Central's Zac Bowden reports that Microsoft was planning to launch the Spring Creators Update on April 10th, which is a date that previously leaked several times. It also fits with the vague public timeline from Microsoft. However, Bowden goes on to say Microsoft's engineers found a bug over the weekend that required a delay of the release. It's not a short delay, either.

It may still be several weeks before the final version rolls out. Microsoft did start pushing a new build

to Insiders several days ago (v17133.73), but it's unclear if that build has a fix for the unknown bug. Just based on the timing, that seems unlikely. Bowden suggests it will be several more weeks until the so-called RedStone 4 build of Windows rolls out to the general public. The impact of the bug is apparently low, so Insiders should be able to cope. However, it's serious enough that Microsoft wants to implement a fix before the general public starts using the new version.

Microsoft never officially confirmed the April 10th date, so it likely won't comment on the delay. As far as Microsoft is concerned, there is no delay. It might be disappointing to wait even longer for this update, but you want it to work properly when it arrives.

Microsoft has its Build developer conference in early May. If it hasn't released the Spring Creators Update by then, Microsoft will likely face some tough questions. It'll be running short on "spring" at that point.