*TC/PC Exists to
Facilitate and Encourage
the Cooperative Exchange of
PC Knowledge and
Information Across
All Levels of Experience*

May 2013

General Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2013
7:00 PM

To "Cloud" or Not to "Cloud"?
That is the Question

**Location:
Summit Place
8505 Flying Cloud Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344**

If your understanding of the cloud and how it could benefit you is still somewhat "cloudy," then this is the meeting for you. Jim Grotz will be showing a video webinar from APCUG's winter 2013 virtual conference, David Williams is the presenter. David does a great job of explaining the basics of the cloud and then provides concrete examples from his own experience. He has researched available cloud resources, their advantages and disadvantages, and the current costs of cloud computing.

If you have been using the cloud please come ready to discuss how you use it, the pros and cons, and tips for those not yet using the cloud. If you are hesitating and wanting to know more before you make the leap, bring your questions for cloud-using members to answer. It should be a lively discussion.⌨

TC/PC Business Members

Friendship Village

Metro Sales

Thank You!

The Digital Viking

The Digital Viking is the *official monthly publication of the Twin Cities PC User Group, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to users of IBM-compatible computers. Subscriptions are included in membership. We welcome articles and reviews from members. The Digital Viking is a copyrighted publication and reproduction of any material is expressly prohibited without permission. Exception: other User Groups may use material if unaltered and credited.*

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Full page (7½ x 9½)	**$100.00**
Two-thirds page (7½ x 6)	**80.00**
Half page (7½ x 4¾)	**65.00**
One-third page (7½ x 3)	**50.00**
Quarter page (3½ x 4¾)	**40.00**
Member Bus. Card (2 x 3½)	**10.00**

Multiple insertion discounts available.

Contact Sharon Walbran at:: SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Deadline for ad placement is the 1st of the month prior to publication. All rates are per issue and for digital or camera-ready ads. Typesetting and other services are extra and must be requested in advance of submission deadlines.

Payment must accompany order unless other arrangements are made in advance. Place make checks payable to: **Twin Cities PC User Group**

TC/PC Member Benefits

Product previews and demonstrations

Special Interest Groups Monthly Newsletter

Discounts on products and services

Contests and prizes

Business Member Benefits

All of the above PLUS:

FREE ½ page ad on payment of each renewal

20% discount on all ads Placed in the *Digital Viking* Newsletter

Up to 5 newsletters mailed to your site (only a nominal cost for each additional 5 mailed)

TC/PC 2011-2012 Board of Directors

Meets second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. All members welcome to attend. Call **Ross Held** (612-386-3172) for meeting details.

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Last Month's Meeting: Digital Photography at National Camera
By Sharon Walbran, TC/PC, SQWalbran(at)yahoo.com

Last month we met at the brand new training facility at National Camera Exchange in Edina. Peter Anderson did an excellent job of covering all aspects of digital photography and video cameras.

He talked about the various categories of digital cameras, basic point-and-shoot, compact travel zoom, ultra zoom, bridge cameras with interchangeable lenses, and SLRs, and their attributes. He recommended not judging the camera by the number of megapixels but rather on the size of the sensor, either CMOS or CCD. The larger the sensor the better the quality of pictures possible

The hottest digital cameras on the market today are those with interchangeable lenses. The quality is excellent, they are good at producing

Joel Hedland & Don Hanson with Peter Anderson.

video (and without the 30 minute limit of video cameras), and you can change lenses for macro shots or wide angle shots. Some can take 10 pictures per second. They usually have a hot shoe that allows external flash. Some flashes off camera can now be triggered by setting off the built-in flash (This option must be set up in the menus.). They fall into the $450 price range compared to digital SLR cameras. However, focusing speed is not quite as good as an SLR using the viewfinder. Using the viewfinder is the fastest way to focus. Using the LCD display to focus is the slowest. If you need high speed autofocus, mirrorless cameras are much faster. He specifically mentioned a Sony Nex with interchangeable lenses which has the same size sensor as an SLR, called APC size, and which offers quality comparable to an SLR. The downside of these cameras is that there are not as many lenses available, because they do not take the standard size lenses of SLRs. In order to get a greater variety of lenses one has to buy an adapter.

Digital video cameras have a hard time competing with the advanced video-making properties of digital cameras, so the manufacturers are concentrating on improving focusing ability, sound capture, etc.

Peter also reviewed battery options for cameras. Most digital cameras come with lithium ion batteries and their dedicated charger, although some now have in-camera charging. These batteries hold a charge long enough to take 250-300 pictures and the battery life is several years but they are expensive. AA batteries are seen less and less in point-and-shoot cameras as the cameras got too small to house such a battery. But among AA batteries Peter highly recommends the pre-charged Eneloop battery. It will fire the flash every time and will hold 60% of the charge for a year, even though it is not rated highly for milliamps.

He reviewed the pros and cons of various printer types for photos. The inkjet printer is the best for photos because of the very fine jets that give an accurate rendering of the colors and detail in photos and make the photos more archival than before. The length of time the photos will survive will depend on the paper and ink used as well. Color laser printers are great for documents but not for photos.

He gave lots of tips. Once the photos have been transferred to the computer and a second backup made of the photos, it's important to use the Format command on the camera to clean off the memory card. Deleting the photos will not clean off the miscellaneous files and data that is stored on the card and can lead to corruption of the card down the road. You know your card is corrupted if it gives you a message that there are no images on the card and you have been taking photos using that card. National Camera Exchange offers a service that can recover your images from a corrupted card. He recommended purchasing faster memory cards, those with a rating of Class 6 or better, for digital cameras to enable them to record video. He warned the audience to stay away from fast chargers for re-chargeable batteries because they will fry the batteries.

He promoted the experience of National Camera staff, most of whom have been working there for ten years or more. The company stands behind its products and provides training and a wide range of services to its customers. Great presentation!

On the Shelves Now - New Technology Replacing Old Standbys

by Ira Wilsker, iwilsker@sbcglobal.net

WEBSITES:

http://www.sfgate.com/business/technology/article/Research-firm-PC-sales-plunge-as-Windows-8-flops-4424529.php

http://windowsitpro.com/windows/it-s-official-pc-sales-fell-q4-2012-and-full-year-2012

http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2013/04/12/the-pc-is-dead-and-these-2-stocks-may-be-too.aspx

https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/devices/features-different.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ssd

Recently, I was one of several presenters at the Taylor Career Center's Business and Technology Summit. My topic was on the new computing technologies currently on the market that are making the existing technologies obsolete.

According to published reports, during the first quarter of 2013, PC sales (desktop and laptop) dropped 14%, while tablet and smartphone sales soared. Some of the blame for the decline in PC sales has been the lack of widespread acceptance of Microsoft's new Windows 8 operating system, as well the fact that tablet computers are generally less expensive and more portable than traditional laptops and desktops. With over a billion smartphones expected to be sold this year, along with 200 million tablets, many users have decided to forgo purchasing a new PC. Sales of PCs this year are predicted to be about 300 million, down from 353 million in 2012, and far less than Microsoft's "hoped for" 400 million PCs sold in 2013. "This is horrific news for PCs," said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis. "It's all about mobile computing now. We have definitely reached the tipping point."

Some pundits are predicting the slow demise of such traditional giants as HP, Dell, and Microsoft as smaller upstarts continue to erode their market shares with newer, less expensive technologies that also add enhanced portability. On the hardware side, HP and Dell are far behind the curve when it comes to technological replacements for the traditional desktop and laptop computer, while Microsoft has not captured much market share with its builds of Windows 8 intended for the portable market. As has been typical, Apple, with its successful iPad series of tablets, tends to be a leader in the introduction of new technologies. A growing threat to the established and traditional software operating systems, best represented by Microsoft's Windows and Apple's iOS, is Google's Android operating system, which has garnered a 75% market share of the operating systems of smart devices, including phones and tablets. Even giant chip maker Intel is feeling the sting, as most of the PCs utilize Intel chipsets, and a decline in PC sales ultimately impacts Intel. In terms of the new portable smart devices becoming so popular, Intel is but a bit player, with many feisty small chip makers picking up a growing share of the CPU chip market with their sales to smart device manufacturers.

A visit to any of the local big box stores will clearly show the increasing market share of tablets and other smart devices, as they devote more shelf space to the smart devices, and much less shelf space to the more traditional laptops and PCs.

One feisty new player in the hardware market is none other than powerhouse Google, which has introduced a line of relatively low cost but highly portable devices that combine the portability of a tablet with the convenience of a traditional laptop or notebook PC. As thin as half-inch, and weighing only a few pounds. these new devices are being marketed as "Google Chromebooks", which retail for as little as $199, and have screens typically larger and more readable than most tablets. Unlike most common tablets, Chromebooks have a traditional keyboard and are in a form similar to a laptop. Using Google's Chrome operating system, these Chromebooks are complete and ready to run out of the box, without the need to purchase additional software. For those who want even more software, thousands of free apps (applications) are available from Google's Chrome Web Store. Included in all Chromebook models are Google Docs, which can create, read, and write office documents (word processing, spreadsheets,

presentations, etc.) from and to almost all other major software formats, including Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.). Other included apps are a variety of music, voice and video utilities. Chromebooks include "Google Drive", highly secured data centers with file storage service that stores files safely online, without the need to create backups of critical files. Data files can be accessed from anywhere, and are safe and recoverable even if the Chromebook is lost or damaged.

In terms of security, Chromebooks do not require any additional security software as they use multiple layers of protection providing a "defense in depth" that is generally considered safe from malware, viruses, and other threats. At boot, Chromebooks perform a rapid self-check to verify that the system is secure and free of malware; any necessary security updates are automatically downloaded and installed, meaning that Chromebooks always have the latest security features and updates.

Many users find the boot time of traditional PCs to be somewhat aggravating, often taking several minutes; the typical Chromebook can boot in as little as 10 seconds, making its features and apps almost instantly available. Also, many PC users fail to install operating system upgrades as well as software updates; Chromebook users do not have that problem as Chromebooks automatically update themselves and their installed apps for free; there is never a need to purchase or manually install updates and software upgrades with a Chromebook. All Chromebooks are Wi-Fi equipped, and several models offer optional wireless connections through Verizon, with 100 MB of data per month for free. All Chromebooks include an interesting feature, "Google Cloud Print" which can print to many printers without the need for connecting cables.

Chromebooks are currently manufactured by Acer, HP, and Samsung, with other makers soon to have Chromebooks of their own. At present, Chromebooks are available locally at Best Buy, and online from Amazon, TigerDirect, Newegg, Best Buy Online, and HP's online store.

Another new technology which is being used to make smart devices and laptop computers more rugged as well as extending their battery life is the "SSD" or "Solid State Drive". Now built-in to many newer laptop and desktop computers, as well as available for installation into almost all other laptop and desktop computers, the new SSDs are much smaller in physical size, have no moving parts, require less power to operate, do not emit a lot of heat, are silent in operation, have very fast access times, and are generally far more rugged than more traditional hard drives. A typical SSD is very small and light in weight, typically measuring about 4 inches long, by 2.8 inches wide, by 0.4 inches thick, and weigh about three ounces; some are as small as 1.8 inches wide, while some are about the same package size as a 3.5 inch hard drive. Many newer laptops and desktops incorporate an integral mounting for these SSDs, and inexpensive (about $7 - $10) adapters are available to mount SSDs into most other laptop and desktop computers. Some newly manufactured PCs utilize a hybrid system with an SSD drive containing the operating system and other frequently accessed files, and a traditional hard drive for extended storage capacity; these hybrids often boot much faster than similar PCs can boot with a common hard drive.

Even though prices have dropped considerably in the past year, and prices are projected to continue to drop in coming years, they are still generally more expensive than traditional electromechanical hard drives, and offer less storage capacity, even though some SSDs are available with terabytes of capacity.. It is expected that as storage capacity increases, and prices drop on these SSD devices, the common electromechanical hard drives may go the way of floppy discs, and disappear from the marketplace due to obsolescence.

Considering the "gee whiz" factor when 5.25" floppies replaced 8" floppies, which were in turn replaced by 3.5" floppies; when early 10MB hard drives were scarce and terribly expensive; when colorful flat wide-screen monitors replaced older monochrome CRT monitors; when the first smart phones appeared on the market; when laptops first out-sold desktops; Pocket PC's; Palm Pilots; and other technological wonders appeared, they were greeted with vigor, and then disappeared down the trashcan of history. Do not get too attached to your Windows (or Mac) desktop or laptop with your hard drive, as they too may soon be relegated to functional obsolescence as were our Commodore 64, TI 99/4A, Atari 800, Adam, Amiga, VIC-20, TRS-80, and other popular computer types that we loved during yesteryear. Get ready to say hello and welcome new technologies and devices, as the future is already here today.🖥
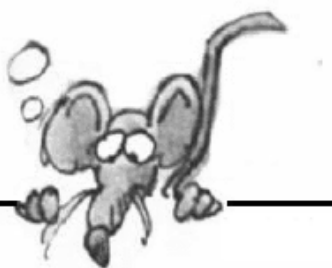
NIBBLERS

By Jeannine Sloan

Ctrl+f Using this keyboard shortcut will open the Find dialog in almost any program.
The Usability of Passwords Passwords can be made both highly secure and user-friendly. Read this report to discover how easy it is to create secure, easily remembered passwords. http://www.baekdal.com/insights/password-security-usability
Contributed by Sallie Northrup

Historic Phone Books Digitized Minneapolis city directories from 1859-1891 have been digitized by the Hennepin County Library and may be viewed online at: http://box2.nmtvault.com/Hennepin2/

'Rape-Prevention' Underwear "The lingerie with global positioning system (GPS), global system for mobile communications (GSM) and also pressure sensors, is capable of sending shock waves of 3,800 kV as well as alerts to parents and police," says Manisha Mohan, co-developer of the innovative product named Society Harnessing Equipment (SHE). http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-04-02/ahmedabad/38217622_1_ FOX news link: http://tinyurl.com/cp5sedm

Getting Used to Windows 8 If you get a new machine and it comes with Windows 8 pre-installed, DON'T PANIC. Instead: Realize that the tiled Start screen is nothing more than the old Start menu except that it fills the entire screen and has bigger buttons. Really. That's all it is. Sometimes, that conceptual understanding makes it easier for folks to get used to it. Read more here:
http://ask-leo.com/theres_just_no_need_to_hate_windows_8.html?awt_l=MJWWI&awt_m=ImHScBNZfZdfbL

Keep it Together in Word To keep two or more words together on the same line, insert a nonbreaking space character between them by pressing [Ctrl]+[Shift]+[Spacebar] instead of inserting a regular space character. The space will look the same, but Word will keep the two words on the same line. A nonbreaking hyphen works the same as a nonbreaking space but with hyphenated words. If you don't want Word to wrap at a hyphen character, enter a nonbreaking hyphen by pressing [Ctrl]+[Shift]+[-]. When the hyphenated word reaches the right margin, Word will wrap the entire word to the next line if necessary rather than breaking at the hyphen.

Free Online Tool Creates 'Hyperlapse' Videos Using Google Street View" "Teehan + Lax have created a tool for creating interactive 'hyperlapse' videos using Google Street View. The term 'hyperlapse' describes timelapse videos which incorporate camera movement…" The results are awesome but if you are subject to motion sickness don't go here: http://www.dpreview.com/news/2013/04/10/hyperlapse-converts-google-street-view-to-a-virtual-journey

Here Are 10 Ways You Can Boost Your Smartphone's Battery Life

1. Dim the screen brightness
2. Keep the screen timeout short
3. Turn off Bluetooth
4. Turn off Wi-Fi
5. Go easy on the GPS
6. Don't leave apps running in the background
7. Don't use the vibrate setting
8. Turn off non-essential notifications
9. Power-saving modes
10. JuiceDefender for Android

Read more: http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/how-to/mobile-phone/3284240/

Scrabble App for Tablets & Smartphones Made by Electronic Arts this app uses the English TWL (Tournament World List) dictionary so it will help the player learn words that are acceptable in official Scrabble tournament play. A Google search results page is here: http://tinyurl.com/d3eabhb

Troubleshooting "PDF Attachment Won't Open" Problem
1). Make sure you have the latest version of the Acrobat Reader loaded on your machine. 2). Verify that the file associations are correct. File association management can be found at: Control Panel\All Control Panel Items\Default Programs.

Online Password Minder Protector Minder I don't usually watch Ellen D but this episode is worth a good laugh and a good laugh is good: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Srh_TV_J144

Windows 8 Programs List C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs Copy the line above. Open Windows Explorer (Logo+e). Paste the contents of the clipboard into the address bar. Viola, the programs list from the Windows Start menu.

Disable Third-Party Toolbars You can usually disable a third-party toolbar from Internet Explorer's own settings if you do not see it in the Programs list. To yank the unwanted toolbar, open Internet Explorer. Click on the Tools menu — or press Alt+X — and choose "Manage add-ons." A box appears on screen with a list of all the toolbars, search engines and other software that runs alongside the browser. In the "Add-on types" column on the left, choose "Toolbars and Extensions." In the Show menu at the bottom of the column, select "All add-ons." On the right side of the box, select the unwanted toolbar in the list and then click the Disable button. Click the Close button.

What Happens to Your Recycled Electronics When an environmentally responsible recycler does the demolition here is what becomes of recycled electronics:
http://www.livestream.com/thebby/video?clipId=flv_4647d133-b208-4ba9-97dd-f4b25877f284

What is the DMCA The Digital Millennium Contract is a US law passed in 1998 in an attempt to modernize copyright law to deal with the Internet. The DMCA has a number of provisions. The ones that have most affected the web we have today are described in this article: http://www.howtogeek.com/161216/

Communication The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place. George Bernard Shaw

Create Secure Passwords
Try out new passwords here before updating your accounts.
http://howsecureismypassword.net/

Troll (Internet)
In Internet slang, a troll is someone who posts inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic messages in an online community, such as a forum, chat room, or blog, with the primary intent of provoking readers into an emotional response or of otherwise disrupting normal on-topic discussion.

SD WORM
SD WORM (write once read many) memory card for archiving data.
http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2366198,00.asp

Things That Block Your Wi-Fi, and How to Fix Them
Your Neighbors' Wi-Fi Networks, Household Electronics, Bluetooth Devices, Humans, Security Settings, Old Firmware, Walls, especially bathrooms with lots of plumbing, adversely affect signal strength. Read this article for some suggestions to fix these issues: http://www.pcworld.com/article/227973/

The layout of your furniture could be important to maximum router signal as virtually all objects impede the signal strength of your router.
http://tips4pc.com/internet-connection-tips/easy-ways-to-boost-your-wifi-signal.htm

"Ipconfig/all" Definitions
Using ipconfig or ipconfig/all at a command prompt returns lots of info. What does it all mean? ipconfig meanings.docx OR http://supersubnet.com/?p=22

Bypass the Password Screen in Windows 8
1. Boot your PC and enter your password.
2. Press Win-X (by which I mean hold down the Windows key and then tap X).
3. In the pop-up menu that appears, click *Command Prompt (Admin)*.
4. In the command prompt, type control userpasswords2, then press Enter. (If this sounds familiar, it's because the same command works in earlier versions of Windows.)
5. In the User Accounts dialog that appears, uncheck the box marked *Users must enter a user name and password to use this computer*.
6. Click *OK*, then confirm the automatic sign-in option by entering your password (twice).
7. Reboot.

Print Many Different Pictures on One Page
Open Windows Explorer (File Explorer in Windows 8) and select the images you want to print by holding Ctrl while clicking on each in turn.
Right-click on one of the highlighted pictures and select Print. From here you can select from a menu of layouts, among which will be multi-image options. Select one of these to print out different images on a single page.

Find Your System Information Quickly
Press the Windows key and the Pause key on the keyboard to open the System window.

Customize the Ribbon
In Office 2010 and Office 2013 for Windows, you can create a personal tab on the Ribbon and add all your favorite most-used commands to it for quicker access. A *very through* set of instructions here:
http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/excel-help/customize-the-ribbon-HA010355697.aspx

YOUM
Samsung's flexible display 'YOUM' OLED (Organic Light Emitting Diode) is in the prototype stage of development. Other brands are experimenting.

Cut Down Search Time with This Search Shortcut
Preface your search term with a year or date will help limit results to more recent entries and all search engines will surface the most relevant stories based on date.

Getting Wireless Network Details

Want quick information about your computer's wireless connection? Clicking the Wireless Network Connection icon in the Notification area of the Windows desktop taskbar opens a panel that shows the name of the current network. Passing the mouse cursor over the network's name displays a ScreenTip listing the signal strength, type of encryption security and other details.

Flush Left and Flush Right on the Same Line

In Word, this trick is done with tabs. In a nutshell, you follow these steps:
1. Make sure the paragraph is formatted as left-aligned.
2. Display the Home tab of the ribbon.
3. Click the small icon at the bottom-right of the Paragraph group. Word displays the Paragraph dialog box.
4. Click the Tabs button. Word displays the Tabs dialog box.
5. Insert a right-aligned tab near the right edge of the line.
6. Click on Set. Then Click on OK.
7. Type your text. Press the Tab key between the information to be left-aligned and the information you want right-aligned.
From Word Tips

The Internet's Best Picture Resizing Tool Easily crop, resize, and edit your images online for FREE at PicResize. When finished on the first screen click the "I'm Done" button. On the next screen use the controls at the left to save or view your image. The timer at the top right will delete the photos from picresize after a few minutes so act quickly. http://www.picresize.com/#
Read more: http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/how-to/mobile-phone/3284240/

Go to Page 1

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Most SIGs will meet at Edina Executive Plaza, Conference Room #102, 5200 Willson Road, Edina, MN
 Confirm with a SIG group if they meet elsewhere.
For more info contact the SIG Leader(s) listed here.

Get SIG announcements!
Link from **www.tcpc.com**

Board of Directors*
All members are welcome! Call for location.
Selected Saturday mornings

Ross Held   RHeld83745@aol.com

Community Outreach*
To request services or volunteer to help Contact:
Ross Held   RHeld83745@aol.com

Linux on Saturday
This is for the Linux newbie and those trying to come over from Microsoft to a different operating system.
Second Saturday @ 9 AM-Noon
Note: No Meetings June-August

Jack Ungerleider   612/418-3494 c
**   jack@jacku.com**

Picture Perfect
Explore how to use your digital camera and learn how to use a variety of software for editing, organizing, and sharing images and video.
Second Tuesday 6:00—7:00 PM
Every other month
Right before the general meeting
Sharon Walbran   SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Microsoft Access
All levels. Presentations by expert developers within the group and by MS reps.
Third Saturday 9:00 AM—Noon
Note: No Meetings June-August

Steve Kuhlmey   952/934-8492
**   steve@kuhlmeysystems.com**

Microsoft Office
Addresses the use, integration, and nuances of the Microsoft Office applications.
Combined with Systems on Saturday
Third Saturday of the Month
Note: No Meetings June-August

Steve Kuhlmey   952/934-8492
**   steve@kuhlmeysystems.com**

Web Page Design
Discussion and demonstration of HTML, web publishing software and page design.

Second Tuesday @ 6:00-7:00 PM
Every other month
Right before the general meeting.

Jack Ungerleider   612/418-3494 c
**   jack@jacku.com**

Microsoft Word for PC & Mac
Any level user can be proficient and efficient in basics and advanced features of Word..
Combined with Systems on
Third Saturday 9:00 AM—Noon
Note: No Meetings June-August

Tom Ostertag   612/951-5520 w
**   651/488-9979 h**
Curt Trout   651/484-4569 h
**   ctrout@troutreach.com**

Systems on Saturday
For all levels of computer challenges and any type of computer-related question. Incl. Q&A
Meets 2nd & 3rd Saturdays 9:00 AM-Noon
Note: No Meetings June-August

Curt Trout   651/484-4569 h
**   ctrout@troutreach.com**

Directions to **Summit Place** for **General Meetings**:
Proceed to Eden Prairie Center Flying Cloud Drive . [Flying Cloud Drive runs along the West side of the Eden Prairie Center.] Once you have driven past Eden Prairie Center (on the left) along Flying Cloud Drive you will come to a stop light at Prairie Center Drive. The next intersection with a stop light and left turn lane is Fountain Place. Turn left at Fountain Place and go straight into the parking lot. Turn left again to the first covered entry way of Summit Place. There is plenty of parking in the large parking lot in front of the first Summit Place covered entry way. When you enter the door at the first covered entry way, ask to be directed to the Performance Room for the TC/PC meeting. For a map of more detailed directions and *info on Web SIG and Board meeting*, check the TC/PC website.

Directions to **Edina Executive Plaza** for **Systems on Saturday, Access, Word and Picture Perfect SIGs**: Take Highway 100 to the 50th Street/Vernon exit. [If you have come from the north, cross back over Highway 100 to the east side.] Take the first right and go past Perkins [The golf course will be on your left.] and continue on the east frontage road (Willson Road) to the next building—5200 . There is ample parking in the building's lot. Conference Room #102 is on 1st floor.

Help yourself by helping others!
Join the team & share your knowledge with others.

Contact TC/PC at www.tcpc.com

Meetings start at 7:00 PM (9:00 AM on Saturday) unless otherwise noted. *Meets at Edina Executive Plaza.*

May

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
			1	2	3	4 Linux and Open Source on Saturdays 9:00—Noon
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 General Mtg To Cloud or Not to Cloud 7:00 PM 6:00 Pic Perf SIG	15	16	17	18 Windows & MS Office (including Access) 9:00-Noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

June

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 General Mtg 7:00 PM 6:00 Web SIG	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

The Gadget Corner
A Versatile Android Email Client, Watching Movies in Hotels
By Steve Baer, Feature Writer, Hilton Island Computer Club, Florida, February 2013 issue, Island Computing, www.hhicc.org, Baer (at) ieee.org

Aqua Mail – A Versatile Android Email Client

I have been using and traveling with an Asus Transformer Infinity TF700 Android Tablet (running Jelly Bean 4.1.1) for several months now and still love it. (I also still use and travel with a borrowed Ipad2, and also find it quite good.) One thing I like about the Asus Tablet is that it comes with an included tablet based email client (from a Company called XCome) that can collect email from all my mail systems (2 ISP and 1 Gmail). This very nicely emulates the way the various Microsoft email clients that I use work in XP, Vista and Windows 7. It has one problem however – when you are sending an email it is not possible (on the fly) to change the mailbox that you are sending an email from. For example, if you receive an email on a Hargray account and hit reply, the tablet mail client will automatically send it from that same Hargray account, and not let you change it. (It appears that the original XCome client had the ability to change sending accounts at this point, but it was disabled in bringing it to the Asus tablet.)

That is OK at home. But because of the way Hargary operates their email system, they will bounce the reply if you are traveling and located in a non-Hargray domain such as a distant hotel. Hence, I have to switch senders before I can reply to that incoming mail and use a non-Hargray account. (For those interested, I wrote about this Hargray quirk and a work-around in a Gadget Corner several years ago. I can send a copy if anyone wants it.)

I spent some time searching for Android Email clients that permitted dynamic sender selection and found several well reviewed ones. After a bit of looking, including user comments, documentation and support, I decided to try the top one resulting from my

Search - Aqua Mail https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.kman.AquaMail&hl=en

The almost full version is available free. It is limited to 2 email systems and has a small advertisement in the signature line. For $4.95, you can upgrade to the Pro version, which eliminates the limit of two systems, and the advertisement.

After about a week of use, I have found that it does everything I want. It installs and sets up easily, can POP3 or IMAP mail from existing servers, permits dynamically changing the sending email system (the feature I needed), and works intuitively.

One thing I really like is that it is useful almost immediately with good default settings, yet has a vast array of controls for when you get more confident and really want to tinker.

There is a very good video on Youtube www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2vzuElEBXA
 showing many of its features in operation on a Galaxy S3 phone. That video helped me decide to try this system. I am currently using the Pro version with 2 Hargray and 1 Gmail accounts.

By the way: Whenever I am in search of new hardware or software gadgets I usually check the reviews and comments on Amazon, and search for any videos on Youtube. These are both tremendous research tools.

Second by the way: The 4.8" Galaxy S3 phone in the video above looks awesome! Over the holidays I used a Galaxy Note II phone with a 5.5" screen, and can now see that my next phone will be large! A 6.1" version is rumored. These things, which seem to be an emerging cross breed between a phone and a tablet, are called Phablets.

Watching Movies in Hotels

We did a lot of traveling recently, and I noticed that frequently we are back in our hotel room by 8-9 PM, staring at a large flat screen TV with dozens of channels of junk to watch. I thought to myself: "All those new hotel TVs have accessible HDMI ports. I should be able to plug my tablet into it and watch movies of my choice." As with many facets of entertainment video however, the technology part of the problem is the easy part. There are many other things that will impede your goal. To

explore the topic, I started to try to find answers to the simple question: Given that I usually carry a tablet and a bit of electronics on a trip, how could I legally watch movies of my choice on the hotel TV?

When I work on a complex topic like this, I find it useful to assemble everything I know and don't know in some sort of organized table, and then try to fill in the blanks. The table on the next page - a work in progress, is my second draft attempt at this. In reviewing an earlier version via email and at an HHICC Geeks lunch, several methods that I had missed were suggested. Many thanks to club members, especially Hugh

Dinwiddie. Also, thanks to Harold Hauer, who kindly volunteered to run the very useful test data shown below in item 2. Hopefully this early version of the table will be useful and stimulate additional data and ideas. While my focus was hotel TVs, many of the techniques below will also be useful in home setups. I hope to update this chart later in the year based on your inputs and new industry developments.

As I indicated, there is no easy solution, but there seem to be lots of interesting gadgets to watch. I'll plan to update this table later in the year.

* Some interesting devices and rumors have come out of the CES show. For example, the Panasonic DMP-MS10 and DMP-MST60 have Roku-like capabilities while being able to use Miracast, which lets Android mobile devices (some devices using Android 4.2 or higher), stream content directly to the box like Airplay. It is my estimate that Roku will not give up this market.

Table 1 – Overview of Methods for Watching a Movie of Your Choice on a Hotel TV

Method	Comments
1. Pack a small DVD player to hook to hotel TV.	**Pros:** Easy and requires low preparation – just throw discs in suitcase at last minute. Low cost players start around $25. Simple. Independent of bad or no Wi-Fi connection at hotel or on a ship or airplane. **Cons:** Adds 1-3 pounds plus some bulk to suitcase.
2. Rip your own movie to memory and watch on tablet, or pipe from tablet to hotel TV.	**Pros:** No extra weight or bulk since tablet is on trip anyway. Should be legal under fair use of your own disc. Independent of bad or no Wi-Fi connection at hotel or on a ship or airplane. **Cons:** More time and pre-preparation steps before trip to decode and assemble selected DVD to memory. In an experiment run by Harold Hauer, using a 3.4 GHz Intel Core i7 Mac and Handbrake software, it took a total of 43 minutes to decode and move a 2 hour and 7 minute commercial DVD to his iPad 2. Unless tablet has HDMI output, additional hardware will be needed to get to TV.
3. Google Play or ITunes rental, etc.	**Pros:** 30 days from the time of rental to watch your movie, and 24 hours (in the US) or 48 hours (elsewhere) after you've started viewing to finish it. If pre-download, independent of bad or no Wi-Fi connection at hotel or on a ship or airplane. **Cons:** Must watch within 24 hours from start - a potential problem for long movies that you might want to watch over 2 nights. Unless tablet has HDMI output, additional hardware (i.e. Apple TV) will be needed to get to TV. Somewhat limited choices of movies.
4. Small portable DVD optical drive for tablet.	**Pros:** None. Small USB connected DVD drives available, BUT, see Cons below. **Cons:** Will not work for encrypted commercial movie DVD's per rules of the DVD Forum. (My guess is that the issue is a fear of piracy.) Thus, requires method 2 to decrypt. In that case, use of a memory stick or pre-load takes less bulk/weight than an optical drive.
5. Media Hub/Player (E.G. Samsung SE 208 BW, a DVD Player that WI-FI streams content to tablet or phone.)	**Pros:** Easy and requires low preparation – just throw discs in suitcase at last minute. Independent of bad or no Wi-Fi connection at hotel or on a ship or airplane. Software for Android and IOS available. **Cons:** Small, but adds weight and bulk to suitcase. Reported complex setup. WI-FI may not be useable in airplanes.
6. Roku or equivalent*	**Pros:** Independent of tablet and can stream from online services (see method 3 above) if reasonable speed WI-FI is available. Higher end Roku model can accept USB stick and hence also use method 2 above. **Cons:** Weight, Bulk

Permissions – Do you have the right ones?

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In the early days of computing, when we didn't have multi-users Operating Systems and networks, permissions were less necessary because the files and folders created were for the use of the one and only user. Files were shared using floppy disks and sneaker-net (run with the floppy from computer to computer). But, as operating systems improved and allowed multiple users and our computers were connected by Ethernet networks, permissions became necessary to make sure only those intended could view or change your files and folders.

If you have ever tried to share a folder on one of your computers on your home network, you know how frustrating it can be to get things to work. Well, "permissions" are one of the things that has to be understood and set up properly. Of course, there are many other things that have to be set up first, but permissions, often times, is a stumbling block. If you are set up with a "Homegroup" (all machines are running Windows 7), then the job is a little easier than if you are set up with a "Workgroup" (machines can be running XP, Vista, Windows 7 or even be Apple computers). All the computers in a Workgroup must be set up with the same workgroup name (check in the System control panel for this setting, on the computers running Microsoft OSs).

Permissions may be a challenge because there are two types of permissions to be considered. There are "share permissions", and NTFS permissions. Share permissions are necessary when accessing folders across a Local Area Network (LAN), from another machine. NTFS permissions are necessary when accessing any file or folder that you do not own (i.e. created it yourself). So, both permissions must be set up when you are trying to share files and folders on a LAN. Share permissions are easily set up for a file or folder. Just right-click on the file or folder you want to share (in Windows Explorer) and choose "Share with" and then select those that you want to share with. (Selecting "Specific People" will open a window that will let you select those people you would like to share with. Pull down the arrow and select "Everyone" and then click "Add", if you would like to share with anyone on the network. But keep in mind that "Everyone" includes anyone you let onto the wireless portion of your network. Be especially aware if you do not have your network protected with at least WEP encryption.)

The NTFS permissions are the next things to consider. NTFS permissions re a core component of the Windows 7 security system. Using this feature, you can specify exactly which other users are allowed to open your files and folders, and how much they can do with the files and folders. Using Windows Explorer to set up the NTFS permissions for a file or folder, right-click the file or folder and select "Properties". In the Properties window, select the Security tab. Here you will see a list of Users and the Permissions for each User. Click a User in the "Group or user name" box and the permissions will be shown in the "Permissions for Authenticated Users" box. In this box you can Allow or Deny the following Permissions "Full control", "Modify", "Read & execute", List folder contents", "Read", "Write", and "Special Permissions". (You would think that Deny is just don't Allow, but there are further details that complicate this issue and it would take more than the length of the Monitor to completely explain, however there is a good description of these issues in the best seller "Windows 7, the missing manual".) A brief explanation of these permissions is as follows:

- List folder contents, which can only be set for folders allows a user to see the files and folders inside the folder.
- Read, allows a user to examine the contents of the file or folder, but not make changes.
- Read & execute, allows a user to examine the contents of the file or folder and also run any file that is in the folder.
- Write, allows a user to read a file and make and save changes to it.
- Modify, allows a user all the abilities of Write and Read & execute, and also allows the ability to delete the file or folder.
- Full control allows a user to do anything to the file or folder, including changing its permissions, and even taking ownership of the file. (Ownership is normally given only to the user who created a file or folder.)
- Special Permission, seems to be fairly extensive and best described by an article from Microsoft at http://support.microsoft.com/kb/308419.

This is a little to the side of the topic of Permissions, but it is related. You will notice that there are two levels of Computer Users, Administrators and (Standard) Users. Administrators have permissions to create, delete, and manipulate files and folders. Administrators can also execute programs, install programs, create accounts and change permissions. Some of these can be very dangerous in the hands of a malicious person or piece of malware. (There must be at least one Administrator for every computer.) (Standard) Users typically have lesser permissions but permissions can be increased as previously discussed. Microsoft recommends, for security reasons, that there be only one Administrator, and all other Users be the (Standard) User type. This is probably good advice for most installations because of the extent to which an Administrator can manipulate files and folders. Should a virus or Trojan horse get control as an Administrator, the malware could easily wreak havoc. But with the lesser permissions of a Standard User, the malware may be thwarted and not be able to pull off its nasty job.

Setting the share permissions for different Users on a file or folder can be done if necessary, but if you are on a small LAN and all the Users are known to be trustworthy, then when it comes to sharing a file or folder, you might consider sharing with "everybody". And set the NTFS permissions for each User to what that User needs, and no more. This will probably help make it easier to set up your network and share files and folders on that network, and if a problem occurs, it should make the troubleshooting less difficult. 🖥   Go to Page 1

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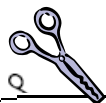
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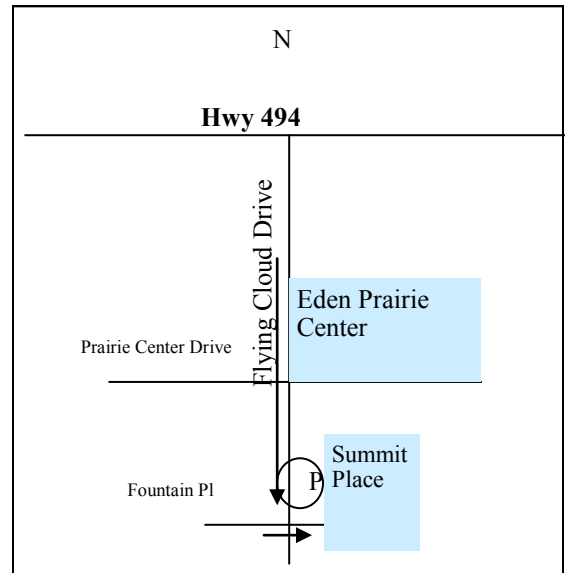❍ Special Interest Groups: New User, Access, etc.
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May 14, 2013
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