

May 2015

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“JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE’S COMPUTER CLUB”

Volume 21, Issue 5

This Month’s Meetings

Photo Editing Workshop
Tuesday, May 19 at 1:00 P.M.
At FFG Library Bldg.

General Meeting
Monday, May 18 at 6:00 P.M.
At 127 S. Senior Center

Plateau Photography Club
Thursday, May 21 at 1:00 P.M.
At FFG Library Bldg.

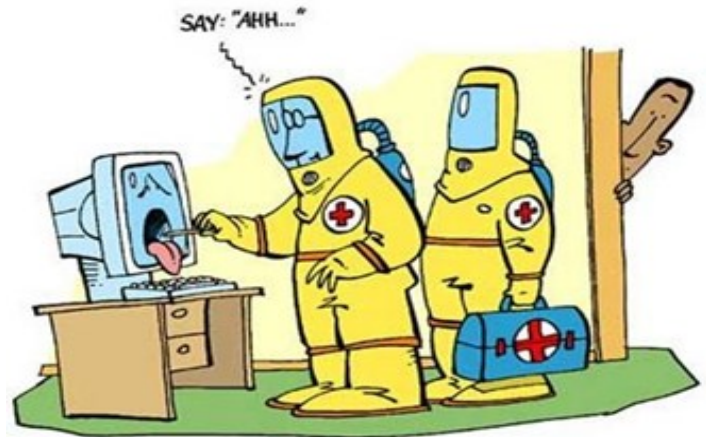
May Program Topic **A New Windows is Coming: WINDOWS 10**

Carl Nordeen will present this month’s program Windows 10.

A new Windows is coming. Windows 10 is an improvement over Windows 8. Better stability, faster loading, and the ability to run Metro Aps from the Desktop.

Internet Explorer is being replaced with a program called Microsoft Edge. Numerous other improvements also have been made including a better customizable start menu, Cortana for voice control of your computer, customizing tile sizes, etc.

A hands-on demonstration of Windows 10 Technical Preview will be shown at this meeting.



Inside This Issue

Club information and Phone numbers	Page 2
Upcoming Events	Page 3
Cool Tips & Sites	Page 3
The Photo Club/SIG website	Page 3
General Meeting Minutes April 20, 2015	Page 4
Candidates Slated for PPCUG Board include	Page 6
Protect Your Data	Page 6
Free Security Suite from Tencent	Page 7
Surge Protectors 101	Page 10
Search by Image	Page 12
Computing... Yesterday and Today	Page 13
PPCUG Application for Membership	Page 15
June 2015 Calendar	Page 16

“FREE” Table

We have set up a table at our member meetings to share our “extra” goodies with other club members. If you have something to give away, bring it in and put it on the FREE table. It’s first come, first served. If you see something you want, help yourself.
Guest fees

Join the Club!

Anyone interested to attend the general meeting or any of the SIG meetings as a guest will be charged \$3.00 per person for any or all meetings in that month. Afterwards, you are encouraged to become a member of the Plateau PC Users Group, and the guest fee will be applied towards your membership dues. A significant portion of our dues goes toward a college scholarship for local high school seniors. Our Club cannot exist without you, the members.

Membership Dues

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st of each year. Annual dues are \$24 per single person / \$30 per family starting 7/1/2014.with partial years dues as follows:

Join Date	1st Qtr. 2015	2nd Qtr. 2015	3rd Qtr. 2015	4th Qtr. 2015
Single:	\$12	\$6	\$24	\$18
Families:	\$15	\$7	\$30	\$22

Student memberships (21 and under) are \$10 annually. Corporate memberships are \$30 a year for the first two memberships and \$10 a year for each additional membership from the same company. Contact the PPCUG Treasurer (931) 707-3677 for pro-rated dues of these types of memberships.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCLAIMER

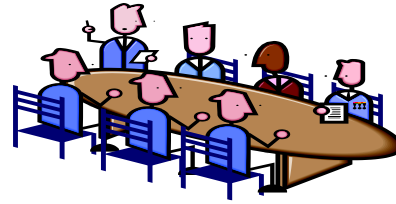
All members of the Plateau PC Users Group are willing to help one another in the area of advice and tutorial instruction over the phone. If you should require more involved services or instruction, we have a few members who are very knowledgeable in several areas. As a responsible consumer, it is up to you to discuss, before retaining a member, any and ALL charges for repair services and time consuming tutorial activities.

It is not the desire of this Board of Directors to set fees for individuals for services rendered, nor the responsibility to intervene between members who enter into a contract among themselves

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Photo Editing Workshop	Ed Thornblade	(931) 456-6020
Plateau Photography Club	Jim Mansfield	(931) 484-6920

Up Coming June 2015 Meeting

The next General Meeting of the
PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP
Will be on June 15 at **6:00 P.M.**
at 127 S. Senior Center

Classes

Please send ideas for new classes to Alan Baker
(ambaker@citlink.net)

Cool Tips & Sites

Preview fonts

Open the Fonts window in Windows XP and Vista and you'll see the font names, probably with icons to tell you whether they're TrueType or OpenType, but that's about it. Windows 7 sees some useful font-related improvements.

Open the new fonts window and you'll find a little preview for every font, giving you a quick idea of how they're going to look.

The tedium of scrolling through multiple entries for each family, like Times New Roman, Times New Roman Bold, Times New Roman Bold Italic and so on, has finally ended. There's now just a single entry for each font (though you can still see all other members of the family).

And there's a new OpenType font, Gabriola, added to the mix. It's an attractive script font, well worth a try the next time you need a stylish document that stands out from the crowd.

PPCUG ISP

We wish to thank the following for providing
ISP connections:

Frontier for DSL at the :
127 Senior Center, Crossville, TN

News of the Special Interest Groups

The PPCUG sponsors several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) tailored to meet the varied needs of our many members. Each SIG is a small group whose leader prepares material for presentation and encourages open discussion and questions. We urge you to attend the SIGs and hope you will find one or more of interest to you. Ideas for additional groups are welcome, as are volunteers to form and lead new SIGs.

Plateau Photography Clubs

Note location and date changes :

A photo editing workshop is held at 1:00 PM at the Fairfield Glade Library Bldg. on the **third Tuesday** of each month. Members meet to discuss & demonstrate various editing software programs available to enhance their photographs. The SIG leader is Ed Thornblade.

The Photography Club, a PPCUG SIG, meets the **Third Thursday** of each month at the Fairfield Glade Library Bldg. at 1:00PM. Topics vary each month but we show and discuss member's photos each month. The SIG leader is Jim Mansfield.

The Photo Club/SIG website

The Photo Club/SIG website is now up. Access to it is through the PPCUG website, using the "Photo Club" navigation link at the top of each PPCUG page. I think that this is a big improvement, and could not have been done without the work of Dallas Richards.

PPCUG Website

Visit our website at www.PPCUGinc.com. The Learning Center class schedule and Gazette are all available on our web site.

Send your comments and suggestions to the
Webmaster, Alan Baker
Webmaster@ppcuginc.com (931) 788-2201

General Meeting Minutes April 20, 2015

AARP Fraud Watch program

Apropos to the subject of our program this evening was the first item shared by one of the members. Recently we have been warned about scam calls representing computer service departments of Microsoft or other official sounding parties, in this case Comcast . The member reported receiving a pop-up message on her screen while on the internet. The message stated that she needed to call a number immediately as there was a problem with her computer and they would be able to help. Once contact was made the remote party convinced her to allow remote access to her computer and the “service” person then began to take over her computer and more or less refuse her attempts to stop the process. Our member was unable to regain control until she contacted Steve Rosenstein (PPCUG president) who advised her to remove the battery from her laptop and unplug the unit. Only then was she able to disrupt the takeover. This was a scam to gain control of her unit which would allow the installation of malware, or other harmful programs or to encrypt and hold your data, personal information for ransom.

An alternative method of shutting down the computer would also be a hard stop procedure of holding down the On/Off switch until the unit turns off.

Alan talked briefly about the availability of free and paid versions of anti-virus, anti-malware, junk removal programs and several other utilities which are available as downloads from various websites. In general the paid versions have more features than the free ones such as auto-update and other capabilities. Several people complained that they found conflicts when trying to install some of these programs, stating that previously installed anti-virus programs blocked the installation of Malwarebytes Antimalware. This surprised Alan in that he felt that normally there isn't a hard block to the installation but rather a warning to proceed with caution and probably a specific action required to insure that you proceed with a conscious decision to continue.

One person mentioned a problem with a popup add that kept appearing and an inability of his malware programs to remove the problem until he downloaded and used ADWcleaner program to take care of the problem. ADW may be found at www.bleepingcomputer.com.

A question was submitted via email to Alan, about what is the “cloud” is and how would you suggest using it? Actually it was a request to consider “The Cloud” as the subject of one of our programs. Alan for the sake of those present gave a brief refresher on just what the “cloud” is. The “cloud” is internet based data storage provided by various vendors for the use of anyone with the capability of connecting to the internet. Several vendors provide a certain amount of free storage to their clients with in most cases additional storage space available at additional cost. An advantage of this resource is that it makes your stored material available at any time from any location accessible by computer. The information is encrypted and can be made quite secure. A caution is to consider that the safety of your material is only as secure and safe as the quality of the vendor. Will they be in business when you need the material? The “cloud” can be viewed as a flash drive in the sky.

Another feature of some “cloud” vendors such as Google is that they provide software within their offerings which allows the user to access programs similar to an office suite as an example. Google Docs is basically a word processor. Google Sheets is a spreadsheet program.

After a short break, the meeting resumed with a short business meeting conducted by President Steve Rosenstein. The main item of business at this meeting is establishment of a slate of officers for the upcoming election of officers to be held at the June general meeting. Steve made a plea for volunteers from the audience to come forward to express their interest in serving on the board of directors. One member of the audience, Linda Yates, volunteered to serve as one of the members of the board. Alan noted that with this, the

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

nominations would be closed and the new slate of officers would be published in the May edition of the Gazette newsletter and voted on during the June general meeting.

Steve also asked attendees to please check at home to see if they are in possession of any of the Club library books which they may have forgotten to return. Barb Duncan, club librarian, has attempted to send notification to those members and past members who are shown to have books checked out.

Steve further announced the recently changed policy that from next meeting forward there will be a fee of \$3.00/meeting charged to nonmembers attending our general meetings, as well as those of the Photography Special Interest Group. This policy has become necessary to maintain the financial status of the organization. We are a nonprofit corporation but we must be able to cover costs.

Following the business meeting Bob Willis and Dave Morrow presented a program sponsored by the AARP organization on Computer Fraud Protection. Bob has been involved with the AARP tax preparation program for the past eighteen years while Dave Morrow has been involved for many years in corporate and government computer fraud and security protection.

AARP has launched a Fraud Watch Program to help people identify and protect you from fraud. The scope of the program is online ID theft, investments, banking and healthcare scams. It also contains tips such as not carrying your social security card in purse or wallet. There are plans to stop using the social security number as a Medicare identity number. This will take some time. Don't leave valuables in your car and certainly not in plain sight. Cars are very easy targets for thieves. If anyone calls you and asks for personal information do not give that information. Only if you initiated the contact and are certain of who you are dealing with should you consider giving personal information.

It was suggested that people take advantage of "shredding days" offered periodically by some local organizations to safely destroy no longer needed documents. The type of shredder used is normally superior to the home type units.

Everyone is entitled to a free annual credit report from each of the three major reporting agencies. AARP recommends checking these on a rotational basis doing one every four months throughout the year. This will allow closer monitoring than doing all at one time. The agencies are TransUnion, Equifax and Experian.

For more information on this program:

<http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/fraud-watch-network/>

In addition to the AARP website for the Fraud Watch Network, also go to the PPCUG website and look for the "handout" slide presentation for the program being presented here today.

www.ppcuginc.com

Door prize awarded to new member, Franklin Wade. Welcome to our group.

Submitted by:

Dick Del Frate
Secretary

PPCUG Officers Election is in June 2015

(For the period July 2015 though June 2016)

Candidates slated for PPCUG Board include:

President: Steve Rosenstein
Vice President/Compliance: Jim Buxton
Treasurer: John Krueger
Secretary: Richard Del Frate
Past President: Carl Nordeen

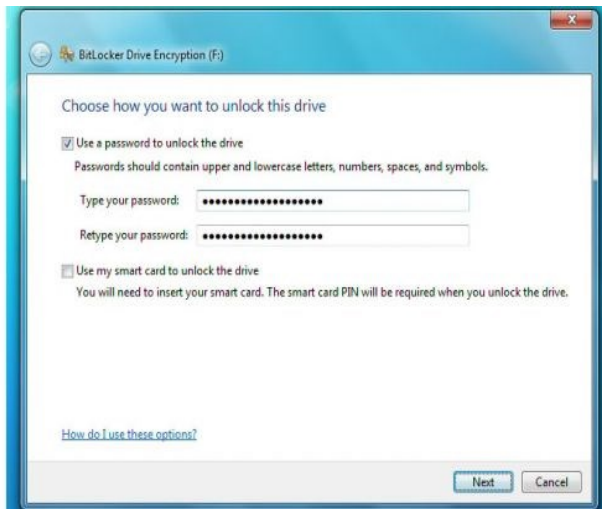
Directors at Large

Alan Baker
Gordon Botting
Dolores Crabtree
Barbara Duncan
Bob Willis
Linda Yates



Protect your data

USB flash drives are convenient, portable, and very easy to lose. Which is a problem, especially if they're carrying sensitive data. Fortunately Windows 7 Ultimate and Enterprise have the solution: encrypt your documents with an extension of Microsoft's BitLocker technology, and only someone with the password will be able to access it. Right-click your USB flash drive, select Turn on BitLocker and follow the instructions to protect your private files.



Your USB flash drives can easily be encrypted with BitLocker

Another New, Powerful, Free Security Suite from Tencent

by Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

<http://www.pcmgr-global.com> (Primary direct download link)

<http://www.softpedia.com/get/Antivirus/Tencent-PC-Manager.shtml> (US Download link)

<http://www.tencent.com/en-us/at/abouttencent.shtml>

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/new-free-windows-anti-malware-suite.htm>

<http://www.neowin.net/news/tencent-pc-manager-10425435501>

<http://www.av-test.org/en/antivirus/home-windows/windows-8/february-2015/tencent-pc-pc-manager-10.4-150648/>

<https://www.virusbtn.com/vb100/archive/vendor?id=562>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/q?s=TCEHY>

I have been vehemently advocating for many years that all computer users (including MAC users) absolutely need a comprehensive security suite in order to protect them and their machines from the malware that has become endemic. While I have one of the top rated commercial (paid) comprehensive security suites on all of my computers and other smart devices, I am also cognizant that for a myriad of reasons, there are many who prefer one of the numerous decent security suites that are available for free. In past columns I have written about the very good free security products from Comodo, Avast, AVG, Outpost, and other purveyors, and now I am adding another free security suite to the list, Tencent PC Manager.

Tencent PC Manager is not a newcomer to the internet or the cyber security industry, as it has been very popular and well reviewed in China, its home country. According to its website at tencent.com/en-us/index.shtml, since it was founded in 1998, Tencent has become one of China's largest and most widely used internet portals. In 2004, Tencent Holdings Limited (SEHK 700) became a publically traded corporation on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and currently trades on the US OTC market under the symbol TCEHY. Tencent's corporate vision statement says that it wants, "To be the most respected Internet company.", and has as its stated mission, "To enhance people's quality of life through Internet services." It does this in China by combining integrated " ... value-added Internet, mobile and telecom services and online advertising under the strategic goal of providing users with "one-stop online lifestyle services." Tencent claims to have 798.2 million users around the world (mostly in China).

Heavily involved in internet research and development (R&D), over half of the Tencent employees are R&D staff. Patents have been obtained for instant messaging, e-commerce, online payment services, search engine, information security, gaming, and other internet related activities. Tencent created and has heavily invested in the Tencent Research Institute, the leading internet research institute in China, with facilities in

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen. One of the many internet products developed and released by Tencent is its PC Manager software, which is now available in English, and is targeting the American market. Tencent PC Manager is a complete and comprehensive security suite that provides substantial protection from the various types of malware threats that are globally proliferating. This software also provides protection from phishing, performs link scanning, provides for secure browsing, has webcam protection, prevents malicious USB borne threats, and offers hacking detection. Tencent claims that its PC Manager has, "The largest security cloud base (in) all of the world. The best anti-virus engine. (And has earned) Seven international authoritative certifications". I am always suspicious about claims touting the efficacy of security products, so I typically check some of the widely recognized independent testing services, such as AV Test (av-test.org) and Virus Bulletin (virusbtn.com).

Somewhat surprising to me, this relatively unknown in the US, but widely used in China, security suite has recently earned some of the highest comparative ratings and certifications available. In comprehensive testing on a variety of platforms, such as Windows 7 and Windows 8.1, Tencent earned Virus Bulletin's highest level of certification, its "VB 100 Award" rating. In its most recent test on the Windows 7 platform, Virus Bulletin wrote, "A clean sweep of all Windows comparatives for the last two years should give some indication of Tencent's performance in our tests – reliably strong month after month, with the Avira engine running alongside the company's own technologies. ... Stability was very good, with no issues. Scanning speeds were decent and overheads light, again thanks to there being no on-read protection by default. Our set of tasks ran through very rapidly, with RAM use a touch above average but CPU use on the low side. Detection was good, with only the slightest dip into the later parts of the RAP sets, and there were no problems in the core sets, comfortably earning Tencent another VB100 award."

In February, using Windows 8.1, the Germany based AV Test, " ... continuously evaluated 27 home user security products using their default settings. We always used the most current publicly-available version of all products for the testing. They were allowed to update themselves at any time and query their in-the-cloud services. We focused on realistic test scenarios and challenged the products against real-world threats. Products had to demonstrate their capabilities using all components and protection layers." The results of the testing on Tencent PC Manager earned Tencent the respected "AV TEST - CERTIFIED" award. In its comprehensive testing procedures, AV Test noted that in most of its protocols, Tencent PC Manager well outperformed the industry average, often coming out at or near the top in each of the tests performed. PC Manager scored a perfect 100% score in "Protection against 0-day malware attacks, inclusive of web and e-mail threats (Real-World Testing), 208 samples used" and in "Detection of widespread and prevalent malware discovered in the last 4 weeks (the AV-TEST reference set) 12,207 samples used." The industry averages for these two tests were 97% and 99% respectively.

When testing the performance speed of the Tencent PC Manager, AV Test noted, "Average influence of the product on computer speed in daily usage" was 0 (zero) seconds" compared to an industry average of 3 seconds, giving the Tencent utility a score of 6 out of 6 possible points for performance. In its "Usability"

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

tests, which measures the, "Impact of the security software on the usability of the whole computer (lower values indicate better results)", PC Manager earned a score of 5.5 out of 6 based on the "Usability" test results. AV Test, in determining the "Usability" score tested for "False warnings or blockages when visiting websites, 500 samples used", with Tencent having a perfect score of zero (which was common in the industry. In terms of "False detections of legitimate software as malware during a system scan, 525,920 samples used", (so called "false positives") Tencent has no false positives during the January monthly test, and two false positives in the February test (most recent available), which was much better than the industry average of six false positives. PC Manager also had no "False warnings concerning certain actions carried out whilst installing and using legitimate software, 38 samples used". When testing for, "False blockages of certain actions carried out whilst installing and using legitimate software, 38 samples used", this software had one false blockage, which was the average for the industry. AV Test awarded Tencent PC Manager its "AV TEST CERTIFIED" award for its performance on Windows 8.1 systems.

When tested on a Windows 7-64 system with SP1 in December, 2014 (most recent available), Tencent PC Manager had a 5.5 out of 6 score for "Protection" (98% and 100% detection rates of viruses, worms, and Trojans); a "Performance" score of 4 out of 6 (4 seconds "Average influence of the product on computer speed in daily usage", with an industry average of 4 seconds); and a perfect score of 6 out of 6 for "Usability" (Impact of the security software on the usability of the whole computer). AV Test also awarded Tencent PC Manager its coveted "AV TEST CERTIFIED" award when used on Windows 7-64 SP1 computers.

Other recognized security software testing and evaluation services have also "certified" the Tencent PC Manager as effective, including AV-Comparatives, West Coast Lab's "Check Mark" award, AVAR, OPSWAT Antispyware (Bronze certified), and ICSA Labs "Certified Anti-Virus". With acknowledgements like these, users could run Tencent PC Manager with a reasonable degree of confidence that they are being protected from contemporary malware threats.

Available for free download in English direct from the server in China (dlied6.qq.com/invc/xfspeed/qppcmgr/evaluating_ver/PCMgr_Setup_10_4_25584_501.exe) or from Softpedia's US servers (softpedia.com/get/Antivirus/Tencent-PC-Manager.shtml), this product would likely provide the necessary protection needed by PC users. The download is large, about 150 MB, and will run on all flavors of Windows from Windows XP to Windows 8.1; I have not seen any test and compatibility results with the recent beta versions of the upcoming Windows 10.

As I have stated in several previous columns here, with the abundance of good quality comprehensive security suites, including several that are totally free, there is no reason why everyone does not have a current security suite installed. If everyone did indeed have a decent security suite, such as this free Tencent PC Manager installed, there would be far fewer cases of computers compromised by malware, and far fewer unhappy computer users.

Surge Protectors 101

Surge protectors aren't like diamonds. They have a definite lifespan. At some point, your surge protector will stop protecting your gear from power surges and become a dumb power strip.

It's difficult to tell exactly when a surge protector loses those protective powers and just functions as a power strip. But, if you're still using an old surge protector you purchased ten years ago, it's probably long past time to replace it.

We've already outlined why you want a surge protector. These devices sit between the electrical socket and your gadgets, protecting them from any power surges and ensuring they receive a consistent voltage of electricity. It's possible for a voltage spike caused by an issue in the power grid to damage your expensive electrical equipment, and that's what surge protectors are designed to stop.

Typical surge protectors also function as a power strip. Providing additional electrical outlets for you. If you're connecting your computing equipment or home theater system, there's a good chance you'll want some electrical outlets anyway — so just pick up a power strip that's also a surge protector, not a simple power strip that only provides additional outlets without providing any protection.

Surge protectors are inexpensive, so they're a no-brainer when it comes to your expensive computing equipment and other electronic gadgets.



Surge Protectors Aren't Forever

Surge protectors aren't magic. When they receive a power surge from the electrical outlet they're plugged into, they have to do something with that extra voltage to get rid of it and shield the connected devices from it.

A typical surge protector uses a component called a metal oxide varistor (MOV). When the voltage spikes, the surge protector effectively diverts that extra voltage to the MOV component. This component degrades when

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

it's exposed to either a small number of large surges or a larger number of smaller surges. The additional energy doesn't damage your devices — it stays in the surge protector, where it degrades the MOV.

In other words, your surge protector can only absorb so many surges before it stops functioning as a surge protector and starts functioning as a dumb power strip that'll let everything through to your devices.

Their Lifespans Are Measured in Joules

Surge protectors are rated in joules, and this tells you how much protection they're designed to provide. For example, you might get a 1000 joule surge protector. This is a measure of a total amount of energy a surge protector can absorb before the protection wears out and it stops absorbing any extra voltage.

Every power surge your surge protector absorbs decreases the amount of future joules it absorbs. If that 1000 joule surge protector takes a 1000 joule hit, it's done for. But it's also done for if it takes ten 100 joule hits — or if it takes a thousand one joule hits. It's all cumulative.

Surge protector lifespans aren't measured in years — they're measured in joules. It's all about how many joules your surge protector has absorbed. But, the older your surge protector is, the more it's likely degraded.



How Can You Tell?

It's practically impossible to tell exactly when a surge protector stops functioning as intended. Some surge protectors have built-in lights that are designed to alert you to this problem and inform you when the protector needs to be replaced. However, you can't necessarily rely on these lights. It's not a foolproof system

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

If your surge protector is warning you that it's no longer protecting you or asking you to replace it, you should probably get a new surge protector. But don't assume your decade-old surge protector is still working properly because the warning light hasn't come on yet.

So when is it time to replace that surge protector? Well, the longer it's been, the more at risk you are. If you know your surge protector has absorbed a serious power surge, you should probably replace it immediately.

There's no exact lifespan we can give you, and it varies from area to area — it depends how many surges occur in your area as well as how many joules your protector can absorb. Many people recommend replacing a surge protector every two years or so, but any recommendation like this one can only be a rule of thumb.

Search by Image

Google has a search feature that is not well known, but can come in handy. It is called "Search by Image" and can be accessed here: <https://images.google.com>

You can learn about it here: <http://www.google.com/insidesearch/features/images/searchbyimage.html>.

Here is a link to a video of this search technique: <https://youtu.be/t99BfDnBZcI>

Basically it can find images that match or are similar to an image that you provide. When you find an image of interest in this search, you can view the full sized image or go to the web page that has that image by doing a single left click. You can provide the image to the search engine by dragging and dropping an image from your PC or mobile device to the search bar in images.google.com, or by uploading an image from your PC or copy/paste the URL for an image that you found on the Internet. In the images.google search box, there is a small picture of a camera. If you click that you will get a dialog that asks you to paste the URL or upload an image. When you have done that, click on the "Search by Image" button and be amazed!!

It is simple and easy, so try it a few times so that you are familiar with it and can easily use it when you actually need it. This can be a good way to identify a plant, for example, using a flower, leaf or cone or find an item on eBay that is like yours. Good hunting!!

Alan Baker
PPCUG



Computing...Yesterday and Today

By Phil Sorrentino, Member, The Computer Club, Florida

January 2015

<http://sccccomputerclub.org>

Philsorr.wordpress.com

philsorr (at) yahoo.com

Yesterday, circa 1965, computing was mostly programming to solve simple problems, to do simple accounting like running a payroll, to match items from a list, and maybe even to print results on multi-colored, fan-fold, wide computer paper. (I bet some of you even remember that kind of computer output.) In fact in those days, you never even saw the computer because it was enshrined in a temperature and humidity controlled room or rooms with a flooring system that allowed many, many heavy cables to be run beneath the computers, so they could go the shortest distance between the massive computer cabinets.

Computing in the 70s, 80s, (and maybe part way into the 90s), was still running special software on computers and printing the results. During this time, thanks to integrated circuits, computers got a lot smaller, and some even moved from the cavernous computer room to the smaller computer lab, where it only took up the space of one desk or so. Anyone remember the Digital Equipment PDP-8? And, during this time, we did start to use the computer for many office tasks like word processing (Word and Word Perfect) and data analysis (Excel and 1-2-3). If you are relatively new to computing, you probably are not aware of this, but the first personal computer that showed up in 1975, the MITS Altair 8080, was available as a kit for \$395, (soldering iron and tools not included). No keyboard or monitor, input was done by setting a bank of switches and output was just a bank of lights. This was the humble beginning of a major change in computing.

Soon after this, Apple released the Apple 2, which was a major improvement in the way data got into and out of the computer. It had a keyboard for input and the output was displayed on a TV monitor.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

During this period, the early 80s, there were many start-up computer companies. If you leafed through a computer magazine (like PC Magazine) in 1980 you may have seen almost 100 different manufacturers of incompatible computers advertised. Radio Shack was even a player with its TRS-80 computer system. (Does anyone have or remember the Atari or Osborne or Commodore computers?) Finally, in 1981, the IBM-PC arrived and from then on it has been the platform of choice for computing, (at least from these computers-in-use statistics).

The original IBM-PC was an 8-bit computer, although it did have a 16-bit bus. (Anyone remember the Intel 8088 microprocessor chip?). During this period, Apple also released some very successful computers such as the Apple 2e, and finally the Apple Mac. (The Apple Lisa didn't fare too well, even with its forward looking Graphical User Interface, which, as it turns out, is a forerunner of our modern Windows User Interface). How is that for digital computer nostalgia?

Today, things are a little different in what we wish to accomplish with, and in what we expect from, our computers. Today, we still expect to accomplish problem solving, but we also expect to communicate the results to, and collaborate with, others nearby, and halfway around the globe. Over the last few decades, our computers have gone in several directions and morphed into several "computing devices" such as desktops, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Today our computing devices have become the focal point of our virtual digital existence and provide, for us, both computing and communications capabilities. These communications capabilities are now an integral part of our computing devices. Where would we be without smartphones, Wi-Fi, cell towers, and Starbucks?

So what is computing, today? Well, computing today is multi-faceted and quite ingrained in our daily lives. Much of it revolves around the home as well as the office. In the office we still use the computer to solve simple and complex problems like organizing a small business's finances, or tracking the latest hurricanes across the globe. The results, however, are typically provided as softcopy output on a flat panel, touch sensitive display, and only sometimes as hardcopy printouts. But, we also expect to communicate with other workers, and sometimes the public, using our computer. Office networks, Wi-Fi, the Internet and Social Networking Apps allow us to communicate with others across the hall and across the globe. At home we communicate with others, mostly by email, but very often by texting, (especially if we are trying to keep in contact with grandchildren), or video conferencing, aka Skype or Face Time. Our home computer is the repository and focal point for all our digital information: documents, pictures, and videos. Documents that we create or collect are stored on the home computer for easy access, and long term storage. Pictures that we take with our digital cameras, smartphones, tablets, and scanners are all centrally housed on the home computer. At least, that is one way of keeping track of the large number of pictures we take using multiple devices. (When was the last time you moved your pictures from your smartphone to the computer? No excuses now.) Videos that we create or acquire are also housed on the home computer. Where else would you be able to store a bunch of 2 to 3 Gigabyte files? We communicate, entertain, and keep track of our home activities, all with the home computer. Not so long ago, the computer in the home was considered the "personal computer". But, today, the desktop or laptop, in our home is really a "home computer" while our smartphone (or tablet) has taken on the role of "personal computer".



Plateau PC Users Group, Inc. Application for Membership

_____ New Member _____ Renewing Member

Return this application, with check for annual dues payable to "PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP." Return to the club Treasurer during our meeting or mail to PPCUG Treasurer, P.O. Box 3787, Crossville, TN 38557. Our annual dues are now payable no later than July 1 of each year. Annual dues are \$24.00 per single person / \$30.00 per family starting July 1, 2014. with partial dues as follows.

Join Date	1st.Qtr. 2015	2nd. Qtr. 2015	3rd. Qtr. 2015	4th. Qtr. 2015
Single:	\$12	\$6	\$24	\$18
Families:	\$15	\$7	\$30	\$22

Date

Last Name First Name Family Members (if family Membership)

Address:

City State Zip Code Phone Number

E-Mail address

I have used PCs since (year): _____ I have belonged to a Computer Club before. Yes ___ No ___

I have knowledge in the following areas that I would be willing to share with club members:

I would like more information about the following areas:

12/10/2014



June 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 2:00 P.M. Board Mtg.	11	12	13
14	15 6:00 P.M. Q & A Session Followed by General Mtg.	16 1:00 P.M. Photo Editing Workshop Mtg.	17	18 1:00 P.M. Plateau Photog- raphy Club Mtg.	19	20
<i>Happy Father's Day</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Note: Please see page #15 for the Plateau PC Users Group, Inc. Application for Membership form.