



PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



September 2016

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

Volume 22, Issue 9

This Month’s Meetings

Photo Editing Workshop

Thursday, September 8 at 1:00 P.M.
At FFG Library Bldg.

Plateau Photography Club

Thursday September 15 at 1:00 P.M.
At FFG Library Bldg.,

General Meeting

Monday, September 19 at **6:00 P.M.**
At Christ Lutheran Church FFG

The September Program at FFG Christ Lutheran Church

Changes with Windows 10 Anniversary Edition

For the September 19th meeting Carl Nordeen will discuss the changes and enhancements Windows 10 update has made in the Anniversary Edition.

Such as the Start Menu, Cortana, the Action Center, and more.

Also to be discussed are what problems have been found and what you can do about them i.e. USB Web Cams not working, Brother printer problems, and others.



Labor Day



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Summer Hours start at 6:00 P.M. (April through September)
Winter Hours start at **3:00 P.M.** (October through March)

Location: Christ Lutheran Church
481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade

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.
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 July 1, 2014, with partial years dues as follows:

Due Date	Jul-Sep 2016 Annual Dues	Oct-Dec 2016	Jan-Mar 2017	Apr-Jun 2017
Single:	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
Families:	\$30	\$22	\$15	\$7

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

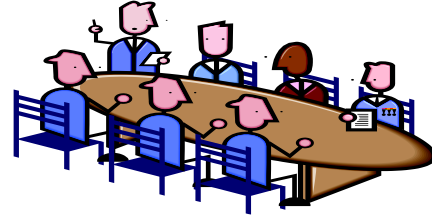
All members of the Plateau PC Users Group are willing to help one another in the area of advice and tutorial instruction over the phone. If you should require more involved services or instruction, we have a few members who are very knowledgeable in several areas. As a responsible consumer, it is up 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

Note: Winter Hours & Location

The next General Meeting of the
PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP
Will be on October 17th at **3:00 P.M.**
at **Christ Lutheran Church**
481 Snead Drive FFG
(corner of Snead & Lakeview Drive)

Classes

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

Cool Tips & Sites

Easy Undo

Quickly undo mistakes in the majority of Windows programs by pressing the shortcut key **Ctrl + Z**.

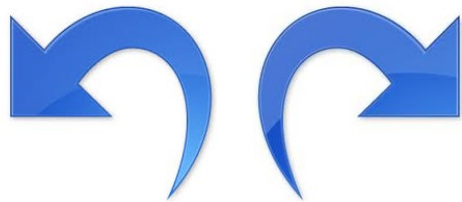
For example, if you mistakenly cut or deleted text in Microsoft Word pressing the Ctrl and the Z key at the same time would undo that change.

Multiple undo

Most Windows programs also support the ability to undo multiple changes. Continuing to press **CTRL + Z** will undo one change at a time often back up to 12 or more changes.

Redo the undo

If you undo something you did not mean to undo pressing **CTRL + Y** will redo the undo.



PPCUG ISP

We wish to thank the following for providing
ISP connections:

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

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

A photo editing workshop is held at 1:00 PM at the Fairfield Glade Library Bldg. on the second Thursday 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.

New PPCUG Website

Visit our new 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

PPCUG General Meeting Minutes August 15, 2016

Art Circle Public Digital Library Resources
Margo Brown presenter

Marg Brown, Adult Services Librarian for the Crossville Art Circle Public Library began her program by introducing the Library website: <http://www.artcirclelibrary.info>. I would recommend that even before continuing reading these minutes that you open the website and make yourself familiar with its' content. The computer/tablet/phone/reader or other electronic aid material is found under the headings of "Tennessee Electronic Library" and also under the R.E.A.D.S. toolbar area. In order to be able to access electronic audio books it is necessary in most cases to download an app called Overdrive. This is a free app available at <https://www.overdrive.com>. This app must be downloaded on each device you intend to use to read or download to. It is available for iOS, Android, Chromebook, Mac OS, Windows, and Windows Phone. If you have trouble downloading or getting started Margo recommended coming in to the Library or calling her at the Library for assistance. She also stated that the Magazine portion of the R.E.A.D.S. program only works for Nook products or other devices with a Nook reader app which is available free, since Barnes and Noble which owns Nook has maintained rights. There are Nook apps available for some tablets and smart phones, android or IOs and Windows 7 and later.

Several menu options are listed to guide you to featured materials, subjects, or media, in addition there are search windows available for your own search criteria. The R.E.A.D.S. offerings are limited much the same as the regular paper library offerings are limited. Each title is a numbered copy of a file. There may be a number of copies in the library or just one. They are signed out for a specific period (chosen by the reader within given parameters) and at the end of the period are automatically turned in electronically. If all copies of a desired file (book, audio or video) are already checked out the icon on the listing will show that and give options for reserving when available.

In order to be able to check the materials out it will be necessary to open an online account which must be done in person at the Library it cannot be done via the telephone. All accounts will use your ACPL library card number as the account number. All Art Circle Public Library cards even if it has been some years since last used will be accepted but may need to be renewed in the Library computers this may take a visit in person to accomplish. If you put a book on hold because it was not available at the time, when it becomes available it will automatically be checked out to your account and an email will notify you. The due date is based upon the checkout date not dependent upon when you opened the email.

When a book that you have checked out becomes available you will have a choice of either reading it on your browser or downloading it to your device. If you choose not to download it will only be available while you have an internet connection. When ready to read or download you will choose the device it will ask to choose either Kindle or Epub.

If using a Kindle as a reader you will need to sign in to your Amazon account and select "get library book" to avoid charges. Kindle is owned by Amazon that is the reason for this step.

To see the status of your library R.E.A.D.S. account, simply go to the R.E.A.D.S. page and select the account icon.

A new resource now available via the Art Circle Public Library website is the ability to read the Crossville Chronicle newspaper.

A very important resource is the Tennessee Electronic Library link which gives 24 hour access to resource material which can be used by students and sited as a "paper source" for data recognized by the state of

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Tennessee for educational purposes. This also includes numerous sample tests and career material, entrance exams etc.

Margo suggests spending time in the Electronic Library section to learn about the varied tools available.

After a short break V.P. Jim Buxton conducted a brief business meeting giving a review of the August Board Meeting along with a continuing plea for a Recording Secretary volunteer. Any member interested in this position should please contact any board member listed on the inside cover of the Gazette Newsletter or the on the WWW.PPCUGinc.com website.

It was also mentioned that Alan Baker, a Club board member will be conducting series of 4 weekly Thursday morning classes from 10:00-11:30AM beginning Sept. 8th, at the Art Circle Library on “Introduction to Personal Computers”. Class size is limited and registration is made through the Library. Call for details.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Submitted by:
Dick Del Frate

Find Your Tech Support Match

By Nancy DeMarte, 1st Vice President, Sarasota Technology User Group, FL
May 2016 issue, Sarasota Technology Monitor
www.thestug.org
ndemarte (at) verizon.net

We all run into occasional problems with our computers and digital devices. Finding the solution can be a nightmare, especially if the problem is unique or you are not fluent in tech terms. There is a wealth of support available, but it's a matter of finding the right kind of help to fit your kind of problem and your learning style. Let's take a look at some of the popular support options and the kind of people who might benefit most from them.

Good options for people who learn best by reading:

Website support: A visit to the website most closely related to your problem can often give you the answers you need, even if your device is past warranty. If your computer isn't working properly, for example, or you need to update drivers, you can go to the website of the computer's manufacturer and search its Support pages. If you need help understanding how to use a certain feature of your device, you can go to the manufacturer's site and download a User Manual for your model. Or you can try the Frequently Asked Questions list (FAQ). These are questions most commonly asked about the product with answers by support professionals. Most large sites also have Discussion forums where you can post a question or search through questions on your topic and find answers.

Google it: Some people say that whenever they have a tech problem, they type it into the Google search box and often find the answer. This approach is fine if you can sum up your issue accurately and choose the right website. Be aware that not all independent blogs or tech help sites have correct information. And in these dangerous times, not all are legitimate. Choose sites familiar to you, like pcmag.com or cnet.com; they are more likely to be reputable.

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Good options for people who prefer to interact with a real person:

Tech phone support: This was the standard method in the early days of personal computers. It is still a viable option if you are experienced enough to be able to explain your problem and possibly make changes to your device while on the phone. The advantage is you get to speak with a real person. Disadvantages may include a long wait time before reaching the right person and being unable to understand unfamiliar accents.

Live Chat: If you don't like phone support, you can still get personal support by trying Live Chat, which is found on many website support pages. Live Chat doesn't involve talking; it's done by typing, much like a text message, but in real time. You request a chat session by clicking a link and choosing or typing your problem category. A chat window opens and a support person types you a "Hello, my name is __. What can I help you with today?" message. You type back what you know about your problem, and he or she attempts to resolve it. The big advantage is you are interacting with a real person without having to think quickly, as you might on the phone. Plus, your person will help you narrow down your issue and, if not solve it, transfer you to someone who can.

Good options for those who learn best by seeing it done:

Video Tutorials: If you like hands-on demonstrations, a good choice is the video tutorials on tech websites (Microsoft has excellent ones) or on YouTube, where you can search for videos on practically any topic and watch it being done and explained. A lesser known, but excellent website with many instructional videos on computer topics is a North Carolina site sponsored by Goodwill. Go to www.gcflearnfree.org/technology.

Remote assistance: These days it's not uncommon for a phone support or live chat person to offer to access your computer remotely and make changes to it to resolve your problem. If you have initiated the request for help, and the support person is employed by a reputable company, you can be quite confident that your computer will not be compromised during this process. You will be asked for permission before the person begins remote assistance. You sit in front of your computer and watch what's going on. You may be asked to participate, such as logging into your device yourself to protect your password. Be sure you have a good backup of your data prior to using this option.

If you've tried everything:

Take it to the shop: If you have what appears to be a serious hacking or malware breach or mechanical problem with a device, taking it to a reputable repair shop or having a tech person come to your home may be your best solution. Yes, it will cost you something, but if you've tried other options and still have an unworkable device, this may be the answer.

Good help is out there. Know your style and choose a support method that matches it.

Keep a computer on a surge protector or UPS

If you plug your desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone into a wall outlet consider using a surge protector instead. A surge protector can help keep your computer protected during an electrical storm and make sure that nothing is damaged if a surge travels over your power lines.

APC Battery Backup Also, if you are using a desktop computer we highly recommend also using a UPS on your computer. Although these can be more expensive, a UPS protects your computer from a surge, brown out, and keeps the computer running if the power goes out for a minute or two.

Top 10 unknown Google tricks

Below is a list of top ten Google tricks many people who use Google don't know.

Find weather and movies

Type "weather" or "movies" followed by a zip code or city and state to display current weather conditions or movie theaters in your area. For example, typing **weather 84101** gives you the current weather conditions for Salt Lake City, UT. Typing **movies 84101** gives you a link for show times for movies in that area.

Definitions

Pull up the definition of the word by typing define followed by the word you want to define. For example, typing: **define bravura** would display the definition of that word.

Local search

Visit Google Local enter the area you want to search and the keyword of the place you want to find. For example, typing: **restaurant** at the above link would display local restaurants.

Phone number lookup

Enter a full phone number with area code to display the name and address associated with that phone number.

Track airline flight and packages

Enter the airline and flight number to display the status of an airline flight and it's arrival time. For example, type: **delta 123** to display this flight information if available.

Google can also give a direct link to package tracking information if you enter a UPS, FedEx or USPS tracking number.

Translate

Translate text, a full web page, or search by using the **Google Language Tools**.

Pages linked to you

See what other web pages are linking to your website or blog by typing link: followed by your URL. For example, typing **link:http://www.computerhope.com** displays all pages linking to Computer Hope.

Find PDF results only

Add fileType: to your search to display results that only match a certain file type. For example, if you wanted to display PDF results only type: **"dell xps" fileType:pdf** -- this is a great way to find online manuals.

Calculator

Use the Google Search engine as a calculator by typing a math problem in the search. For example, typing: **100 + 200** would display results as 300.

Stocks

Quickly get to a stock quote price, chart, and related links by typing the stock symbol in Google. For example, typing: **msft** displays the stock information for Microsoft.

Wearable Technology: Fitbit fitbit.com

Quad-Cities Computer Society Meeting Review

Wearable Technology: Fitbit fitbit.com

Presented by Judi McDowell, QCS President

Reviewed by Joe Durham, Editor, Quad-Cities Computer Society, IA

May 2016 issue, Qbits

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Fitbit Charge HR

At a recent meeting, Judi McDowell, QCS president, shared her knowledge and experience with wearable technology. The pace of technological change is fast and these devices are now the “in” thing for groups of all ages. She focused on the Fitbit devices as she has a Fitbit Charge which is one of the newer models in the Fitbit line of devices.

She asked for a show of hands among the audience for those who currently use this technology. There were 6 hands: 3 had a Fitbit Charge, one had a Fitbit Alta, one had a Fitbit Flex, and one had a Garmin device. This indicates that the desire to use these new gadgets is growing day by day, even among our QCS members.

Judi gave us an historical overview of how these devices emerged on the scene. Like all technological revolutions the fitness tracking device has its origins in many diverse needs and slowly the growth of technological change brought it all together.

Amazingly, it has its origin in the creation of the lie detector in 1921. A lie detector measures electronically your pulse, blood pressure, and there are sensors on your skin to measure changes there.

Segue to 1961 in Japan. A professor wanted the means to track walking for health. He developed the pedometer, I am sure we have all seen these mechanical aids from time to time.

Now move to 1971 and car technology. The development of air bags brought forth the creation of the accelerometer which measures change in direction, an obvious requirement for air bag to deploy at the right moment in the event of a crash.

Now switch to 1974 and game technology was needed for the all of the new gaming controls, to help us enjoy and become a part of the experience. These advances help everyone navigate through Zelda, Donkey Kong and the rest.

1982 brought forth development from another direction; sports training. Devices appeared that monitored the athlete's heart rate.

In 1999 stationary bikes with monitoring and visual feedback were popular.

GPS technology came to the masses in the year 2000 when it was released for public use. Now there was an

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earth wide means of tracking movement.

A 3D accelerometer was developed in 2003 which allowed technicians to measure movement in all three directions: up, down, left and right, forward and backwards.

Take the mixture of all of these changes from 1921 to 2003, and a company was able put all of these functions into a small wearable size in 2008, Fitbit

The new models of Fitbit now monitor your heart rate, and sleep. All these functions designed to motivate us to a more healthy lifestyle with the means to monitor our goals in the device and online. James Park and Eric Freidmen were the creators of Fitbit. It is so popular that there are competitors in the marketplace from Apple, Android and Garmin.

In 2015 Fitbit was encouraged to issue an IPO and it is now worth around \$3.7 billion. And Park is now #29 on the list of those 40 or under in wealth.

As a means of improving her lifestyle, Judi purchased a Fitbit Charge. She choose this model because it monitors steps, heart rate and has the time on it. When you purchase one, it recommends that you attach it two fingers above your wrist bone. It also has caller ID when configured with compatible mobile devices.

It comes with a USB charger, a dongle that you place in your computer through which you upload data to your Fitbit page online so that you can records your activity. She said that the battery life states 7 – 10 days, but it is not that long in her use of it, but that was not a big issue.

The Fitbit charge also monitors your sleep. Current health advice strongly recommends that we get enough sleep in this fast paced world and the Fitbit aids you in that accounting. Judi did wonders what it records when one falls asleep in the chair from time to time.

Judi then brought her Fitbit account online, this is displayed in what is called the Dashboard. This is the genius of the device, as you dongle the Fitbit periodically it uploads all of your data and helps you visually to see your progress and goals.

The Fitbit Charge will also track your movements as you exercise. One day she walked around a large building at her place many times and you could see her track recorded online as a series of circles in transit.

She did mention a couple of operating quirks. For example, when she was shopping in Walmart and her hands were on the shopping cart the lack of movement of her hands meant that the Fitbit charge was not tracking her steps. Apparently the Fitbit needs see change in your arm movement to record steps. For situations such as these you can tell Fitbit that you are walking a predetermined amount of time and it will account for steps accordingly.

The Fitbit Charge also tracks your movements on stairs. Judi's explanation of her resent stair movement was interesting. She arrived early before the QCS meeting and decided to walk about record and demonstrate the device. Nearby is Viele Park in Moline. There is a descending terraced set of steps. Going down was easy, but coming back was a bit of challenge. This walk was a good choice for exercise.

Her Fitbit Dashboard account of that travel indicated that her heart rate reached 153 beats per minute and that she was credited with going up 17 flights of stairs on her return back to the Butterworth Education center. By the time she entered the building her Fitbit Charge buzzed which meant that she reached her goal of over 10,000 steps for the day.

The online interface calculates calories burned. You can also input your food intake to see what you have taken

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in and the balanced burned for the day. Additionally you have the option of downloading your data to a spreadsheet so that you can monitor and analyze your progress.

If you purchase a premium subscription to the Fitbit service, a personal trainer will devise an exercise plan just for you. Judi mentioned that Fitbit Blog online is a good and enjoyable source for information and comment while using the devices.

You may have seen reports that Fitbit is being sued by some athletes for inaccurate results. With any measuring device of this type it is more noteworthy that you have the same device giving you data each day, it a base from which can accurately monitor your progress even though it may not tell you to the inch what your travel has been.

Judi concluded her remarks by observing that media forecasts see a 35% growth each year in personal tracking devices of this type for the next five years. It is certain that we all wish to improve our health status in life and devices of this nature will help move us along towards that goal.

The QCS would like to thank Judi for her fine presentation and look into this new and emerging tech field.

Top 10 tips for keeping your e-mail inbox clean

Below is a listing of top 10 tips for keeping your e-mail inbox clean, which can keep your inbox clean and your e-mail experience more enjoyable.

Setup rules, filters, or labels

Today, all e-mail programs and online e-mail services have rules, filters, or a labeling system that allows you to move and otherwise organize incoming e-mail. Use these features to organize your e-mail and get to what is most important first. Below are some suggestions for rules we suggest trying first.

Move important and unimportant e-mails to a folder of their own.

Highlight or set priority to certain addresses. For example, a rule could be created to highlight any user in your address book.

Filter out common spam words that get into your inbox, e.g. Viagra.

In programs that support rules, mark messages that are not important to keep your inbox clean and prevent you from getting overwhelmed when you first open e-mail.

If you are getting lots of spam filter your e-mail through Gmail.

Do not be afraid to delete

After reading e-mail, always take action on that e-mail. Do not save it for later or move it into a folder to deal with later. If you are unable to take action on the e-mail, delegate it to someone else, or postpone it for later that day delete it. Every e-mail does not need a response and there is no reason to save e-mail that is going to be deleted later.

Automatic replies, FAQs, and canned responses

If you find yourself using the same reply over and over again, consider creating a list of your frequent replies that you can copy and paste. Or, try using a tool such as one of the ones listed below to help make replying to these e-mails even faster.

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Thunderbird Quicktext - Fantastic Mozilla Thunderbird e-mail add-on.

Lifehacker Texter - Easy to use script tool that can be used in anywhere in Windows including e-mail.

AutoHotkey - Another great tool although much more advanced. However, this tool can be used to automate anything on the computer.

Keep it simple

Many times people over complicate their e-mail by creating dozens of different folders to help organize their e-mails. Keep it simple do not have dozens of different folders to organize your e-mail into.

If there is no way getting around your need for folders in e-mail use the rules to filter your messages into the folders. Folders can save hundreds of hours you may be spending thinking about and organizing each of the e-mails you receive.

Always do quick short replies

When replying to any of your e-mails try to keep the reply as quick as possible and do not spend too much time on an individual e-mail. We suggest spending no more than five minutes on a single e-mail and avoid anything longer than three paragraphs.

You are e-mail is not a calendar or to-do list

Many times a person's inbox is full because they are treating it as a calendar of things that they need to do. Do not use your e-mail for this. Have a separate program or text document that keeps a list of things you need to do or that keep track of your calendar of events.

Unsubscribe from newsletters and disable notifies

Although you may have had good intentions when subscribing to a newsletter or other e-mail list these are often distracting and often clutter your e-mail. Unsubscribe from any newsletter you have not been reading.

The same is true for notifications from social network sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter you may be receiving. Disable all notifications about posts made on your wall, new friends, or followers, which clutter your inbox and distract you.

Do not reply to spam

If spam sneaks past your protection or rules never reply to it. delete it.

Keep at it but not too much

Try to read your e-mails at least once daily or every hour, depending on how much e-mail you receive.

However, do not live in your e-mail. Create a schedule where you check your e-mail in regular intervals and then ignore it all other times. If you have any notification about new incoming e-mails disable these or close your e-mail program or e-mail web page.

Delete some more

Finally, if after following all the above steps you still have e-mails that are weeks old delete them. If you have a hard time deleting e-mails create a folder and move all old e-mails into that folder. After a few weeks have passed the e-mail becomes too old for a reply.

Device Transparency (DT)

By Eric Moore, President, Computer Users' Group of Greeley, CO
May 2016 newsletter, Random Access
www.cugg.org
moore.e.s@att.net

As computer users increasingly have multiple devices—laptops, desktop computers, tablets, smartphones—on which they keep important data, being able to seamlessly access a file from any location or device becomes a challenge. Say if you are on a business trip with your laptop and smartphone, but realize you forgot to copy a report from your desktop computer to one of your mobile devices, you may find it a challenge to get what you need. Remote control software such as LogMeIn can allow you to remotely connect to the computer to download the file you need. Dropbox provides a means of sharing files with yourself and others through a cloud-based storage. VPNs and collaboration services such as Microsoft SharePoint are other possibilities for getting access to a file you need while away from home or the office.

"Device transparency" (DT) is a concept which could provide a seamless means of managing your files from any of your devices. Whether you need to transfer a photo from a smartphone to your laptop, play a music file residing on a Mac PowerBook on your Android device, or access a Word document from home on your tablet computer, device transparency would make this all possible. In a paper published at <http://www.brynosaurus.com/pub/net/devtransp.pdf>, researchers with MIT and the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems describe how such an ideal service would function. (At the time of the paper's writing, there was no service they were aware of that provided all of these features they propose.)

To summarize, the service would provide a means by which "metadata"—information about your files—would be shared between your devices. Such information would include the file types, names, and on which devices the files are stored. Without you needing to be consciously aware of where a particular file is located, you would be able to download the file from the device on which it is stored and open it on any other device you are using (provided it has sufficient storage space). The only requirement is that the device that has the file you need is "linked" into the file sharing service, is powered on, and has an active Internet connection.

Adobe DC to some extent has such features, although it is geared toward working with PDF documents. Services such as Dropbox are available for multiple devices and operating systems, so they can to some extent meet such needs, provided you carefully configure the software on each device to share the files you need. One downside to sharing your files through Dropbox is that they must be uploaded to the "cloud"—which is simply a server that the vendor provides for storing your files. This may be a privacy concern, depending on the contents of the files, and could be costly in terms of the amount of storage space required (especially if you have a large music or photo collection). DT would mitigate this issue, as the files would not be stored in the cloud. It would also alleviate the need of every one of your devices synchronizing copies of all your files. Instead, the sharing of metadata would enable every device to be "aware" of your complete collection of files, so you can download what you need when you need it. Although the metadata may require many megabytes of storage, it would not be nearly so great as the storage space for the files themselves—especially high-fidelity photos, movies, and music files—which could require hundreds or thousands of megabytes of storage.

Device transparency is an interesting concept which could revolutionize how we work without our multiple computing devices. I am interested in seeing if such a service is developed sometime in the future. Depending how well-designed (easy-to-use) it is, and what measures are taken to protect users' privacy, I might consider using such a service for my laptop, desktop PC, and tablet computer.

Communications – Voice and Digital – All in one package

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Sound familiar? Well, it should; it describes a Smartphone. A smartphone provides voice (analog... sort of) and digital (computer to computer) communications, all in a package you can stick in your pocket and carry around. Communications, as you would find in Wikipedia, may be defined as “the purposeful activity of information exchange between two or more participants in order to convey or receive the intended meaning through a shared system of signs and semiotic rules.” (Yes, I had to look up semiotic, too.) Basically, it is the means of getting information (knowledge of something) to or from some other person or place. Communications is very different from Transportation. Nothing physical ever gets moved from place to place, only “information” or the knowledge of something, is moved.

In voice communications, sound is the information that is conveyed. In digital communications, digital data is the information conveyed. For both types of communications, you need a transmitter at one end of a communications path, and a receiver at the other end. In voice, usually a person’s mouth is the transmitter, and at the other end there is usually another person’s ear (pretty straight forward for us here in the 21st century).

In digital communications, the transmitter and the receiver are digital computing machines, a.k.a. computers. We are all familiar with mouths and ears, because they have been around for a long time. But, digital computers are relatively new, and have only been around for 60 or so years, and they have only been small enough to be carried around by a person, and powerful enough to do the job, in the last 5 or 10 years (the iPhone was introduced in 2007).

So, the smartphone in your pocket is really quite a powerful communications device. We use its voice communications capability to contact other people as we would use any other telephone. (Remember crank phones, pay phones, and flip phones?) And we use its data communications capability to contact any other computer in the world on the internet (a server computer; that is). The voice capability does not seem too astounding since we’ve had telephones since the early 1900s.

It is the data communications capability that really makes this device so useful, and powerful. (As it turns out, the voice communications, although we think of it as analog, is really just another form of digital communications. In a modern phone, the voice is immediately converted to a digital stream of data and it is that data that is communicated to the receiving device where it is converted back to analog voice right before it goes to the receiver’s ear.)

Of course, there is also an elaborate communications infrastructure in place that lets the smartphone do its magic. The most important part of this infrastructure is the “cellular phone network”, or the collection of cell phone towers that have sprung up all over the country over the last 30 or 40 years. These networks allow phones to be mobile; that is, they do not have to be located at fixed locations, like the older “landline” phones. They also allow phones to be tracked so you can carry on communications while you are driving down a high speed interstate highway. The cell phone network is eventually connected to the internet giving the users of that network access to the internet. (Just as an aside, there are four major cell networks in the US, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, and T-Mobile.)

Another more recent part of the infrastructure is the wide-spread adoption of the Wi-Fi local area network. This part of the infrastructure provides access to the internet by any mobile device within the Wi-Fi’s useable radius of maybe a few hundreds of feet. Wi-Fi is implemented using a Wi-Fi router, connected to a modem, which in turn connects to an Internet Service Provider, like Verizon, Comcast, or Brighthouse.

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(Continued from page 13)

These networks have become ubiquitous and are available in homes, shopping centers, libraries, airports, and many restaurants.

So, the users of mobile devices have access to the internet by either a cell phone network, or Wi-Fi local area networks. The cost for using the cell phone network is usually covered by a plan which includes phone call minutes, texts, and data. The cost for using the Wi-Fi network is nothing beyond the monthly cost of having the service provided. Once a plan is in place with a network provider and a Wi-Fi is setup, a mobile device has access to the internet, via either of these methods, using the Apps on the device. And, it is the collection of Apps on the device that really harnesses the power of the smartphone, allowing it to take advantage of the elaborate infrastructure.

Data communications on the internet usually employs a Client-Server approach. Apps on the mobile device are considered “clients” and they communicate with “server computers” on the internet. These servers are setup to do certain things; for instance, a bank server might provide information about your bank accounts. Once the bank App on the device is selected, the App may only need the appropriate “User Name”, and “Password” to provide results. Because the App is for a specific bank, the App knows what server to contact (the internet URL), how to go about contacting that specific server (TCP/IP), how to interpret the data received from that server, and how to reveal the bank account balances on the display to the App user.

There are many Apps on a Smartphone that provide communications with either other phones or computers. A “phone” App allows the user to make and receive phone calls.

Messaging Apps usually provide the ability to send emails to email addresses, or send texts to phone numbers. Some messaging Apps allow the inclusion of pictures, video, and audio attachments. Another App lets the user send a picture and determine how long the picture will be able to be viewed before it is removed from the server and the receiving device.

So, Apps help the Smartphone provide Voice and Data Communications; most of these Apps have arrived in just the last few years.

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Due Date	Jul-Sep 2016	Oct-Dec 2016	Jan-Mar 2017	Apr-Jun 2017
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Families:	\$30	\$22	\$15	\$7

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Address:

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

July 2016



October 2016



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 	11	12	13 1:00 P.M. Photo Editing Workshop Mtg.	14	15
16	17 3:00 P.M. General Mtg. Presentation Followed by Q & A Session	18	19	20 1:00 P.M. Plateau Photog- raphy Club Mtg.	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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