DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1ST OF EACH YEAR—PAY NOW

Phoenix PC Users Group

NEWSLETTER

The Best Accessory for your PC !

MAIN MEETINGS

West Side………….……..Tue, Mar 20

CollegeAmerica, 9801 North Metro Pkwy E, Phoenix

East Side……….……..Wed, Mar 21

2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe
(one block west of Fry's Electronics)

Fountain Hills……..…..Thu, Mar 22

Fountain Hills Library, 12901 N La Montana Drive,
Fountain Hills

Presentation this month:

Windows 8 Consumer's Version is here.
We will have a power point presentation on
how to get it for free plus a discussion of the good
and the bad of this all new operating system.

For date and time changes, check our
website: phoenixpcug.org

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Well, this month has been zooming by for me, how about you? Windows 8 beta preview & Apple iPad making the news and our local CTC Computer Tech Conference at Ft. McDowell Casino Radisson Resort next week, Thur - Sun.

Bill our publisher, will cover some of his discoveries with Windows 8 which he likes so far. Here's some useful links: ComputerWorld's very interesting article http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9224868/
A deep dive into Windows 8 Consumer Preview
Windows Supersite
http://www.winsupersite.com/windows-8
windows 8 workshop
http://tinyurl.com/782hdw3

In other news:

IBM Says It's 'On the Cusp' of Building a Quantum Computer   http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2400930,00.asp

Last year's Japan Tsunami has been absolutely devastating, see videos from ABC, CBS, etc. Some videos taken by survivors I've seen this month are heatbreaking. Support them if you can, we'll provide links on our website.

Also Thailand flooding has affected high tech according to Forbes. "It's getting a little more expensive to build a personal computer. Rising prices for hard drives and DRAM memory drove up the costs of the parts used for notebook computers by 2% and desktop computers by 2.5%, according to a report Friday from Barclays Capital's Ben Reitzes."
http://www.forbes.com/sites/briancaulfield/2012/03/02/advantage-apple-hard-drive-shortage-and-rising-memory-prices-will-hit-pc-costs/

Arizona's centennial reminds us of companies pioneering here: Motorola, Intel, Microchip, Medtronics, Sperry, GE, Honeywell, Digital Equipment Corp, Retail & wholesale - Byte Shop, MicroAge, Hard Drives International, ComputerLand, Business Land, Tandy Computer Centers,Incredible Universe, Circuit City, and Best Buy.
I hope to see you at our March meetings.

David

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Looking forward—looking back. Recently the confluence of certain timely events, some major, some minor, such as the year-long schedule of celebrations reminded us of the entrance of the State of Arizona as a full-fledged member of the United States 100 years ago. Or the commotion associated with the prediction of the end of the world, as we know it, because the Mayan calendar comes to the end of its cycle on December 12, 2012. And of course, of more immediate interest to our readers, the movement away from the day-to-day operations of Microsoft by Bill Gates and the death of Apple founder Steve Jobs may, in time, cause these monoliths of the electronics industry to undergo changes far beyond what can be predicted.

This year, the nominations for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences Motion Picture of the Year (the Oscar), included at least two films cast in time periods that occurred decades ago. The upbeat scenarios of these pictures may have been fiction, or they may have been based, in large part, on actual events. All of us are likely to have such pleasant memories as we look back in our own lives. Thankfully we tend to remember the happy times, such as growing up in large extended families with lots of aunts, uncles, cousins, parents and grandparents. Later generations who have an interest in the not-so-recent past are often envious of those who lived through "exciting" times. But to those who lived through the Vietnam Era, or the drug scene and the racial strife of the 1960s as teen-agers or young adults, these were not halcyon years.

It is a universal desire to see what lies ahead. A class of senior high school students was once asked to invent a device that would be in great public demand. Over half of the class designed a box that would provide a view of the future. But to know the future is a nothing better than a guessing game, whether the predictions are made through computer calculations or not. One of the great debates of the present day concerns the draconian climate changes foreseen by some rabid environmentalists, (strongly supported by media sensationalism). Such projections are constantly being altered or adjusted according to each new set of data published. Ironically, the most ardent supporters of these often gloomy forecasts are individual scientists and/or companies who stand to gain monetarily by outright federal funding or by increased public taxes. Should we be surprised?

Michael

MEETINGS

CALENDAR

For date and time changes, check our website: phoenixpcug.org

PRESENTATION THIS MONTH

Windows 8 Consumer's Version is here.
We will have a power point presentation on
how to get it for free
plus a discussion of the good and the bad
of this all new operating system.

GENERAL MEETINGS

WEST SIDE: CollegeAmerica (see map page 16)
   - Tuesday, Mar 20, 2012
   - 6:00 PM - Steering Committee and Election of Officers
   - 6:30 PM - Q and A
   -

EAST SIDE: University of Advancing Technology (see map page 16)
   - Wednesday, Mar 21, 2012
   - 6:30 PM - Q and A
   -

FOUNTAIN HILLS: Fountain Hills Library (see map page 16)
   - Thursday, Mar 22 2012
   - 6:30 PM - Q and A
   -

BUYING A NEW COMPUTER (PART1)

Buying a New Computer – Things to think about (Part 1)

By Phil Sorrentino, Past President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
January 2012 issue, Sarasota PCUG Monitor
www.spcug.org
pcugedit@verizon.net

The thought of a new computer is always very exciting, whether you are buying your first computer or replacing an aged one. If you are replacing one, you've probably been down this road before, but if this is your first computer there are many things to consider. Because there is such variety available, the first consideration might be the manufacturer. This decision is usually driven by past experience or knowledgeable friend's advice. But typically it comes down to preference, similar to the decision to buy a car - Ford or Chevy?; they both are good choices and they both will get you there. So, if you don't have a reason for a preference in computer manufacturer, stick with the big players, HP, DELL, Gateway, Sony, Toshiba, Lenovo, etc. Once the manufacturer is selected, go to their website and look at the various possibilities.

If you have decided on a manufacturer, the next high level decision is probably laptop or desktop. The laptop is portable and takes up very little room. However, the laptop is usually more expensive and is typically not expandable. (Usually, when you discard your laptop in the future, it will be the exact same configuration as when you bought it.) On the other hand, desktops are usually less expensive and are expandable because there are spare slots on the "motherboard" and extra drive bays for additional drives and/or other peripheral devices. Usually, the decision revolves around portability. If you are planning on using the computer at multiple locations, which could include Panera Bread, Starbucks, the airport or library, then a portable is definitely in your future. But if most of your computing is typically done from your home office or den, and/or you need a lot of permanent on-line storage, then the desktop might be a good choice.

Once you have decided on the manufacturer and made the laptop-desktop decision, the fun begins.

Most of the rest of the decisions are very technical in nature, but have been summarized in a few technical parameters. The first one is CPU (Central Processing Unit), referred to as the brains of the computer, and sometimes simply called the "processor". Unfortunately, this decision is further complicated by the fact that there are two manufacturers of computer CPUs, Intel and AMD, and they use different ways of naming their products. But behind the names there is one basic decision. Older CPUs are "single core" and newer CPUs have "multiple cores." The number of "cores" or CPUs translates into processing power. This decision should probably be to go with one of the newer, multi-core CPUs. You could save a little money with the older single core, but as the need for more processing power increases with newer applications, the single processor may begin to feel like "it just isn't fast enough."

Multi-core processors, from Intel, start with the older "core duo," followed by the "core 2 duo" and then the more current crop of multi-core processors which are simply named "Core i3," "Core i5," and "Core i7." Current multi-core processors have 2, 4, or 8 processors packaged in the CPU chip. Recently, I've seen the term "second generation" added to some of these names, to indicate a newer design. AMD has a similar set of CPUs with names like "Phenom," "Athlon," "Athlon II," "Athlon X2 Dual-Core," and "Sempron."

Comparing the Intel CPUs to the AMD CPUs can be a difficult task, and is probably best answered by a Google search for "Intel vs AMD" and then reading many of the various opinions. Hopefully, there is enough information found there to help you make up your mind. Both Intel and AMD produce quality products, so another way to solve this is to just select one of the manufacturers and then learn as much as possible about that one so you can continue on to select the best CPU, for you, within that manufacturer's offerings.

Now that we've chosen a CPU manufacturer and maybe even the CPU core family name, e.g. Intel i5, the job is not quite done. Typically, there are further discriminators attached to the CPU family. Probably the most important is "clock rate," or speed. This is

IS YOUR COMPUTER RUNNING SLOWER?

Back to Basics
Is Your Computer Running Slower & Slower?

By Jim Cerney, Director, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
February 2012 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

If your computer is over two years old, have you noticed that it is taking longer to turn on (or "boot-up" as they say in computerese?) Do programs take longer to run? Are you getting lots of "pop-up" windows asking about things that you don't know anything about?

Well, it is normal for a computer to slow up with age and show some other symptoms of not being as quick as it was when it was new. The reasons for this are many. It is probably NOT because you downloaded 700 photos from your vacation to Newark. Certainly photos take up much more computer memory than documents and it does take more time to copy photos, but that is not an indication your computer is working more slowly. It more likely that you have a virus – no virus protection program is perfect (have you noticed that they do not come with guarantees?).

And, over time, just using the internet opens the door to your computer for various things like ads, start-up programs, malware, cookies, and other things which find their way onto your computer without you knowing it. So, even keeping up your virus protection program, scanning your C: drive for problems, and doing other good computer maintenance does not mean you will be problem free. It happens to all of us.

Here is my advice (and I actually follow my own advice in this case). After two or three years when you notice your computer running more slowly, take it in to a technical expert to have it "cleaned up" and tuned up, just like you would have your car looked at for a maintenance or safety check.

I do NOT recommend that you download anything from the internet to "clean-up" your computer. A GOOD tech person will have all the latest and best tools (software) to scan your computer, they will also have lots of experience doing this for others. And you can talk to them to understand what they are going to do for you.

They know what to look for to find and eliminate any viruses that got through your protection program, eliminate unwanted programs, clean up your C: drive and get it running again like new. Of course you need to tell them what NOT to delete. Get a good estimate of the cost of this before you tell them to go ahead. It should take about one but no more than two hours of their time, unless you want something else done as well. So it should cost around $75 to $150 or so. If it is more than that, ask someplace else for another estimate.

When you get your computer back, it will be like, "Wow, it's like a new computer!" But, in another year or two you will find that it will start getting slower again. Then, my friend, it is probably not worth the money to get it clean up a second time -- so it is best at that point to get a NEW computer!

Buying a New Computer
(Continued from page 4)

indicated in GHz, or Gigahertz, which is a measurement of how fast the CPU is running. The higher the speed, the faster the processor is running and the higher the processing power, but unfortunately, the higher the power dissipation. It is probably a good decision to stay in the middle range of CPU speed, around 2 to 2.5 GHz. High speed is good, but if you are at the top end of the speed spectrum, which is around 3 to 4 GHz, then CPU cooling becomes a real issue. If the computer is running a very fast CPU, make sure there are adequate fans to remove the heat generated by the processor. Typically, you won't be deciding on the fans or how many fans, but make sure when you are using the computer that all the fans are operating and the vents are not obscured, and are not clogged by dust or animal hair.

The last thing to note when looking at the CPU is that they usually come in different versions within a family. The versions are indicated by a number. So, for example, an Intel CPU might be defined as Intel Core i5-520M (2.4GHz). The 520M indicates further technical details such as the size of the Cache (subject for a future article). Usually, as the number goes up, the processing power increases.

One thing to point out when discussing CPUs is the fact that CPUs come in two types, 32-bit and 64-bit. But this is probably not a deciding factor for most

CES INNOVATION AWARDS

CES Innovation Awards

By Lou Torraca, President, The TUG MOAA Computer User Group, Hawaii
www.the-tug.org
Af06hi (at) gmail.com

I have no idea why 2011 seems to have left so fast! However, here we are in 2012 and if it's January it's time for the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. For those who are not familiar with CES, the International CES is the world's largest tradeshow for consumer technology and America's largest annual tradeshow of any kind. With more than four decades of success, the International CES reaches across global markets, connects the "who's who" of the industry and enables consumer electronics (CE) innovations to grow and thrive. CES is produced by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), the preeminent trade association promoting growth in the CE industry. All profits from CES are reinvested into industry services, including technical training and edu

cation, industry promotion, engineering standards development, market research and legislative advocacy. The Mission of CES is to grow the consumer electronics industry. CES covers every aspect of the consumer technology industry. More than 2,500 exhibitors travel to Vegas to show off their latest innovations in 30 product categories and the content that supports them.

CES Innovations Awards

Since 1976, the prestigious Innovations Design and Engineering Awards has given consumer technology manufacturers and developers an opportunity to have their newest products judged by a preeminent panel of independent industrial designers, independent engineers and members of the trade press. It's the place to see, touch, feel and understand the future of consumer technology. Products chosen as the most impressive in each category are selected as honorees and were featured at CES. Here are some of the Best of Innovations winners:

Buying a New Computer
(Continued from page 5)

computer users. Both will do the job; the only thing that the CPU type leads to is the determination of how much RAM memory the processor can use. 32-bit machines will be limited to 4 GB (Gigabytes) of RAM, and a 64-bit machine will not. RAM memory will be discussed in part 2 of this article.

So far, we've discussed manufacturers, laptop vs. desktop, and looked at the CPU. Next month we'll continue with some more considerations so that the computer you purchase will be exactly the one that will fulfill your desires, keeping in mind that what you hope to accomplish with this computer drives most of these decisions.

CES INNOVATION AWARDS

BASIS
The world's first connected health and heart rate monitor wearable on the wrist. A multi-sensor band collects data like heart rate, calories burned, physical activity and sleep patterns and links to a personal online dashboard.

The Picture of Health

Only Basis gives you a complete overview of your day, and puts the tools to boost your health and wellness right at hand. Track your caloric burn, activity levels and sleep habits to make every day your best day. Watch Your Wellness, Everyday Lightweight, beautiful and comfortable, Basis fits your wrist like a watch so you can wear it all day, every day. Basis collects information through a small sensor window, eliminating the need for uncomfortable chest straps, finger sensors, electrodes or other cumbersome apparatus. Basis was designed with wearability in mind, because the more you wear it, the more you know. On Your Wavelength Basis automatically identifies important behaviors like exercise and sleep. It tracks your body's response and provides the tools to help you improve sleep quality and get more out of your workouts.

It Only Looks Simple

It Only Looks Simple

Don't let its good looks fool you. Beneath the sleek exterior is a hard-core machine that's all business when it comes to gathering, tracking and delivering everything about your body's day. Basis packs astonishing capabilities in its streamlined silhouette, opening up an amazing world of possibilities that will help you take your health to a whole new level.

Librartone Live

Just one? Or one in each room? Libratone Live is designed to soundtrack your life. While FullRoom technology puts sound in every corner of the room, the AirPlay technology allows you to wander free, playlist in hand. All without dragging audio cables through your living room. Big sound, minimalistic design Sound and design are not mutually exclusive, as many will have you believe. With Libratone Live we pay homage to our Scandinavian roots with minimalistic lines, craftsmanship, and high quality raw materials - all cashmere, chrome and wood, no blinking eyesore-displays or grotesque cabinets. The Libratone App As a new feature, you can improve your Libratone Live speaker through a specially designed app. The app allows you to enhance and customize the FullRoom experience. By feeding the app information on the placement of your sound system, it automatically adjusts the sound to fit your room.

The Calisto 835
A speakerphone that unites computer telephony, mobile and landline calls. A 2.4" color display and a touch sensitive dial pad offers access to caller ID, dialing, answering, switching, and muting across connected devices.

COPYRIGHTS

Copyrights
Internet create a difficult conflict

By Toby Scott, Technical Advisor, Channel Islands PCUG, CA
February 2012 issue, The Outer Edge
www.cipcug.org
tscott (at) scotts.net

Now that the Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect IP Act (SOPA/PIPA) have been defeated, it is time to look at the dynamics of the conflict between copyright holders and Internet hosts.

If a publisher creates a book, you can do pretty much whatever you want to with it. You cannot, however, photocopy it and then sell the copies. This isn't much of a restriction as it is time consuming and expensive in paper and ink to make the copies and in almost all cases it is far easier to just buy another copy from the copyright holder. This has long been a precept of U.S. law.

Things changed with the advent of the Internet. Now, you can copy nearly anything and distribute it for nothing.

Copyright holders are justifiably irked that the sale of one copy of a work can result in the work being distributed to hundreds, thousands or even millions. What makes it even worse is that in most cases the people making the clones are kids. They have no money, criminal prosecution makes the copyright holders look like ogres and the public thinks the copyright holders are just a bunch of greedy slobs who want to deprive the public of what is rightfully theirs.

So, the copyright holders are attempting to force those who have deep pockets and control some layer of the Internet into being their enforcement arm. This flies in the face of current legal precedents originating with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The DMCA essentially provides a safe harbor for online service providers as long as they don't deliberately shelter copyrighted information.

SOPA/PITA was essentially an attempt to repeal the safe harbor provisions of the DMCA. Doing so would have made life much easier for the copyright holders. They could go after companies with deep pockets and force them to take steps to remove copyrighted material — or even prevent it from being uploaded in the first place.

The problem with this solution, at least as far as the online service providers are concerned, is that they would become (at least theoretically) liable for the publication of copyrighted material. Can you imagine Facebook trying to vet every post of every user before the rest of the public could see it? Could Google possibly know whether the content it indexes is copyrighted by the owner of the site? I host about 100 websites on my server. In most cases, I have no idea what my customers put up on their sites. Had SOPA/PIPA passed, we would have had to go out of the webhosting business. We don't have the resources to examine the content, nor the deep pockets necessary to fight if someone protests. And you can't just remove the material as soon as someone claims to be the owners and threaten you with legal action if you don't remove it. People have already started making the accusation that their work has been pirated simply to shut up viewpoints they disagree with.

It is ironic that just about the time SOPA/PIPA died, the Justice Department closed down Megaupload, one of the largest file download sites. Megaupload allowed users to create accounts, upload files and share with friends. Certainly, lots of the material on the site was copyrighted by others, but a considerable amount was also family pictures, company material for sharing with employees and other perfectly legal material.

As it stands, no one who uploaded can access their data, so someone who thought the data was safe "in the cloud" is without it now. It is possible some may be able to retrieve their data, but appears unlikely at this point.

CRIME AND CONFLICT OVER THE INTERNET

Crime and Conflict Over the Internet

By Greg Skalka, President,
Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
October 2011 issue, Drive Light
www.uchug.org
president (at) uchug.org

Recently my family and I were in Las Vegas and while we were there, another hacking incident hit the news. Zappos.com, an online shoe and clothing retailer, announced that they had been the victim of a cyber-attack. Being based in nearby Henderson, the reports on this company that I was previously unaware of (you can imagine how much online shoe buying I do) dominated the Las Vegas local news. Customer address, phone and email information had been stolen, but fortunately credit card info and account passwords remained secure.

This was just one more incident in an increasing trend of crime and conflict conducted over the Internet.

Reports of hacked computers and stolen commercial data have become commonplace. The Internet appears to be a prime medium for crime, with organized crime elements taking advantage of the easy access and anonymity. I've so far avoided being part of one of these data thefts from a major company that I've entrusted with some of my personal information, but it is probably just a matter of time until I'm a victim too. I'm also under siege on a smaller

Copyrights

The key here is that a lot of data at Megaupload was perfectly legal. Undoubtedly the majority of it was stolen copyrighted material. Not only is the founder in jail, but several employees are as well. It will be interesting to read the details of the criminal trial, assuming it happens in the U.S.

The fact that authorities were able to coordinate an international investigation has some believing that SOPA/PITA were unnecessary. Others claim that given that Megaupload was making hundreds of millions of dollars, mainly from people distributing copyrighted material, it is evidence that more needs to be done.

It is one thing to go after Megaupload, where it is certain that the bulk of the income comes from illegal activities, but it is vastly different for Facebook, where clearly the vast majority of the material is not copyrighted. How far should online service providers go to prevent copyrighted material from being distributed through their servers?

Perhaps more chilling is the thought that should the U.S. force online service providers to create software to screen content, foreign governments could then require them to screen content offensive to the government. Governments already require that they have a backdoor so they can listen to cell phone conversations, and they restrict search engines from indexing certain sites, so coercing online service providers to toe the line could be child's play. Software that screened for copyright would be more than powerful enough to screen for material critical of a government. That is, of course, if such software could be written in the first place. It's not clear that it could be.

At some point, the whole concept of copyright and fair use will have to be revisited to take into account the technological advances that are rapidly outdating laws that were created 150 years ago. That's going to be exceedingly difficult. And it can't happen until all sides have a reasonable understanding of the issues the other sides face.

CRIME AND CONFLICT OVER THE INTERNET

(Continued from page 9)

scale, receiving several scam emails every day. Most are such obvious scams that I almost have to laugh. Is the head of the FBI or Secretary of State Hillary Clinton really going to email me about claiming foreign funds I previously knew nothing about? I have seen some pretty realistic emails from banks (mostly ones I don't do business with, but a few that I do), advising me to click on a link to avoid a loss of account access. A little restraint and outside research show even the most polished of these to be fakes intended to trick you out of personal information or plant malware on your computer.

The worst of these online scams try to use your own friends and family to trick you into lowering your guard. I recently received an unsolicited email from my sister, which was also addressed to a number of other family members. It contained only a vague greeting and a link. I recognized it as a scam, but my wife did not.

Fortunately, it appears the link only led to a Viagra-peddling website, as repeated cleanings of her computer turned up no malware. It appears that someone gained access to my sister's email account and used it to send this message to everyone in her email address book. After receiving this sham email herself at work, she changed her email account password and sent a warning out to all her contacts. That showed good web etiquette. I receive similar emails periodically from a friend's account, but he never responds to my warnings about his email account being hijacked. If you lose control of an email account in this way, at least let the provider know so the account can be closed. If you simply abandon the compromised account, you'll likely leave a zombie account out there to continue pestering your friends.

In addition to the criminal element, the political conflicts of our world are starting to creep into the Internet.

While electronic personal communications can play a positive role in exposing repression around the world, and can be a tool for change towards more open and free political systems, the access to information can also be a weapon. Enemies of our country and way of life hack our government and commercial web sites to steal information and deny legitimate access. Our businesses and institutions may be under attack through the Internet by factions related to or agents of China, Russia or our middle-eastern adversaries. Our own government has formed cyber warfare elements and acknowledges that future battles may include skirmishes in cyber-space. It is speculated that the Stuxnet worm, which appears to have targeted uranium processing facilities in Iran, may have been the product of U.S. or Israeli intelligence agencies. Palestinian hackers steal and release account information from banks and institutions in Israel, leading some in Israel to do the same with information on Palestinians.

Where will all this lead? I'd hate to see the "Information Superhighway" that was supposed to be our free and open Internet turned into the electronic equivalent of the highways in "Mad Max", where danger lurks everywhere and lawlessness abounds.

And speaking of laws on the Internet, we have recently witnessed online protests over U.S. Internet piracy legislation. A number of prominent web sites, including Google and Wikipedia, conducted partial shutdowns or redirections to protest pending legislation and solicit support from their users. The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Protect IP Act (PIPA) are bills under consideration by the U.S. Congress to protect intellectual property. Opponents claim the proposed legislation would harm free speech and reduce technical innovation on the web. I acknowledge online piracy is a problem, but also don't want a solution at the expense of an open Internet. Hopefully our own government won't soon be in the censoring business. We all have an interest in how this issue is resolved.

With all this conflict on and over the web, it makes me wonder if I'm taking all the reasonable measures I can to protect myself and my assets as I use the Internet. It is sometimes difficult to determine where "reasonable" fits in between "it won't happen to me" and a bunker mentality. As I've moved my finances and shopping online, I've realized I've become more dependent on the Internet. By conducting all my

CHOOSING A SMARTPHONE

Choosing a Smartphone
By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS
www.compukiss.com
sandy (at) compukiss.com

There are so many different smartphones available today that choosing between them can be difficult. Each phone and each operating system has many different pluses and minuses. So today, I'll give you a brief rundown of what you can expect in a smartphone.

Windows Mobile cell phones are just coming of age and they may well be a good choice in the future. However, right now the choice will probably come down to choosing between the Apple iPhone and one of the many Android phones that are now available.

The Android operating system is upgraded several times a year and new Android phones are released all the time. Apple, however only releases a new iPhone and a big update to their iOS operating system once a year. The new iPhone and iOS updates were released in October.

I have installed Apple's new iOS 5 operating system on my iPad, so I have been able to take an in-depth look at most of the new features. Now I am ready to make my list of the benefits of each.

There is no doubt that that the camera on the new iPhone is superior to almost all the Android phone cameras. The retinoid screen on the iPhone is superior to most Android phones. The exception is the Samsung line of phones with AMOLED screens that rival the clarity and crispness of the iPhone screen.

Apple's new iCloud service will automatically backup your iPhone to Apple's servers and let you sync your iPhone, iPad, and Mac computer. While using iCloud is easier than some of the Android syncing and backup solutions, there were things that I didn't like about iCloud. For instance, you can't actually see your data in the Cloud as you can with solutions like Amazon's or Google's online storage.

One of Apple's biggest features is iTunes and the iTunes store. iTunes makes getting music and video on your iPhone easier than any Android application that I've seen. At this time, both the Android Market-

---

Crime and Conflict Over the Internet
(Continued from page 10)

banking activities, including bill payment and monitoring of accounts, on the web, I hope I've not made myself more vulnerable in the process. Am I safer not having bank statements mailed to me, or am I now more open to theft by hacking or scams? How would I access my money in a web-only bank account if the Internet should for some reason go down? It is great to be able to surf where I want, but does that surfing potentially expose me to malware that could capture my account information when I bank with the same computer? Is it paranoid to consider using a separate computer for banking and another for other web access?

It is exciting to think that the whole world can be accessed through that little RJ-45 Ethernet jack on your cable or DSL modem. It should also be sobering to consider that the whole world could be there in

that connection.

Tablets of Clay

The crooks are not only after us on the Internet, but also in our electronics stores. Over this last Christmas, a number of iPad purchasers got the wrong kind of tablet. In Canada, a number of customers that purchased iPads at reputable stores like Best Buy and Walmart later found the box contained not a tablet PC but a slab of modeling clay. In perhaps more than a dozen reported cases, it appears crooks purchased iPads at these stores with cash, replaced the items in the box with the same weight in clay and expertly resealed the boxes. The boxes were returned to the stores for refunds, and since they appeared to be unopened, they were replaced on the shelves to be purchased by unsuspecting customers. The first customer discovering this switch was thought to be a scammer by the store, but after additional cases were discovered, he was reimbursed and given an iPad.

CHOOSING A SMARTPHONE

(Continued from page 11)

place and the iTunes App Store have hundreds of thousands of apps. The iTunes App Store, however, makes it easier to find the apps that you want. Also because of Apple's stricter app reviews, Apple's apps are more secure. However, the Android Marketplace has a higher percentage of free apps.

Some of the new features on Apple new iPhone are already available on Android phones. The most prominent of these is the Notification Center that Apple just added. This is a feature of Android that has been around for a long time and that I love. Now in either operating system, you can just swipe your finger down from the top of the phone to see all of your alerts, notifications, incoming messages, and incoming email.

The most unique feature of the new iPhone is Siri, a personal assistant who will answer verbal questions that you ask. This would, no doubt, be very useful, entertaining, and truly state-of-the-art.

Android phones also have voice capabilities. They use Google's Voice Search. Most screens that popup a keypad for text entry, also have a small microphone. Just press the microphone and speak. It is amazingly accurate and you can use it for everything from entering email text to searching to navigating to a point on the map. Probably not as sophisticated as Apple's Siri, but it works well.

Android phones also have some things that I love that are not available on iPhones. The first of these is the fact that you can get a larger screen size on an Android. All iPhones currently have a 3.5-inch screen. Several good Android phones have 4.3-inch screens. My aging eyes really like the larger screens.

I also like the four buttons on the bottom of the Android screen. These are very, very useful. There is a Back Key, a Menu Key, a Home Key, and a Search Key. They are always available. They do not change when the screen changes. The iPhone has just one button. Some will argue that this makes the phone easier to use. Yet, this is not always the case. In some applications it is impossible to go back a screen. In others there is an on-screen back button but the location of this button varies with each appli-

cation. With Android, you can always go back to the previous screen with just one press.

The Android operating system also is more customizable. With Apple, you are restricted to small square apps. With Android you can use many different resizable widgets as well as the standard apps. All of this gives you many different customization options, but also adds to the complexity of the phone. With the iPhone you don't get so many choices. This makes it a bit more restrictive, but also makes it easier to use.

On other difference is that most Android phones have user-replaceable batteries, while an iPhone battery must be replaced by Apple at a greater cost. While this might not be important to the average user it may make a difference to a heavy-duty user.

Well, there are just a few of the pluses and minuses you will have to assess when you buy a new smartphone. Don't worry though; it is hard to make a bad decision as almost all the smartphones on the market today are both capable and useful.

WE WANT TO INCREASE

OUR MEMBERSHIP

IF EACH MEMBER

BROUGHT JUST ONE

INTERESTED GUEST

TO A MEETING

WE WOULD ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? - SAVE OR SAVE AS

**What's The Difference Between
"Save" and "Save As…"?**
Cerny's Cyber Sense

By Jim Cerney, Director, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
February 2012 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

My usual answer to this question is "always use Save as…". Well, OK, now why?
First, let me take a moment of your time to show the "save a file" process. If you open a program and create something NEW, when you are done you probably want to save your work. If you click on the "Save" option, guess what? – you will get the "Save as…" Dialog Box. The "Save as…" Dialog Box is important because that is where you can see and change (if you wish to) the following three options:

WHERE you save your file – in what folder or disk.
The NAME of the file. If it is the first time you are saving the file, you need to give it a good name that means something to you – so you can find it again.
The FILE TYPE. Many programs allow you to save a file with a selected file type. I don't want to get into file types here, but that is a great topic for another article.

Ok, so now you save your file with a good file name, right? So the next day comes and you want to OPEN that file you created yesterday and make some changes to it. Once you have made some changes and you want to save the changed file – be careful now – do you click on "Save" or "Save as…"? If you click on "Save" you do NOT get the "Save as…" Dialog Box and BOOM your changed file has TOTALLY REPLACED your previous file with the same name. Thus, your previous file is GONE, and it is NOT in the recycle bin either. But if you always use "Save as…", you will always get the "Save as…" Dialog Box so you can check those three important file options (location/folder, name, and file type). If you choose not to change any of these options, then it is no different than using the "Save" option. But with "Save as…" you always get to see what is going on and you

get a chance to change an option if you wish. If you do change the NAME of the file, then you will have two files saved, your old file before your changes and the new file with your changes and the new file name. So if you are in the habit of always using the "Save as…" option whenever you save a file (old or new) you will always be given the chance to change something if you want. Choosing just "Save" will not give you those options unless your file is being saved for the first time.
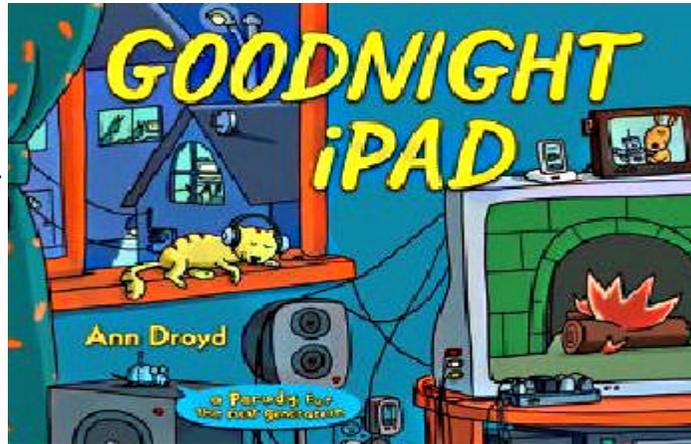
GOODNIGHT IPAD

Goodnight iPad
A Parody for the next generation and a modern bedtime story
Reviewed by Judy Taylour, President, SCV Computer Club, CA
www.scvpcg.org
scvjudy (at) gmail.com

I imagine many of you read Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown to your children as well as your grandchildren….over and over again.

You will want to get a copy of Goodnight iPad to renew the pleasure you had in reading the original book, but this one is a hoot.

The book begins with a Blue Rider Press License Agreement that covers all of the copyright information, etc. There's a notation that says "Don't bother reading this. No one does. Just scroll down to the bottom of the page and click." You have the choice to click on *I have read the License Agreement Terms and Conditions – I AGREE* or *I have not read the License Agreement Terms and Conditions – I AGREE anyway.* Don't most of us just click on the EULA without reading to the bottom and finding we have just agreed to having our e-mail addresses given to 3rd party partners and everyone else in the whole free world.

This book is for the hopelessly plugged in.

iPads, Doom, eReaders, Angry Birds, a huge LCD Wi-Fi HDTV, Facebook, e-mails, tweets and more are all going on and a grumpy Grammy is trying to sleep.

You remember how the original book goes: Goodnight room, red balloon, etc. as they go through the nighttime ritual of going to sleep. Much to her family's dismay this is what happens in this book until only one member of the family is not asleep but listening to Grammy read Goodnight Moon.

The book will make you smile and the illustrations are classic. I asked my 14- and 12-year old grandsons (hopelessly plugged in) if they remembered the original Goodnight Moon – they both did. The book made them smile too but, of course, they didn't want things to be unplugged since they can't imagine life without their Xbox', headsets and games.

Ann Droyd is the pseudonym for an IRA/Children's Choices winner who has written and illustrated more than 25 books for young readers. She has been trying to unplug for at least 15 years. "In Goodnight iPad," she says, "I sing the praises of powering down, at least for one night, in hopes I might convince myself to do the same."

Perhaps we could power down for one night, too.

Goodnight iPad
Ann Droyd <www.anndroyd.com> (you will be redirected)
Blue Rider Press, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., NY
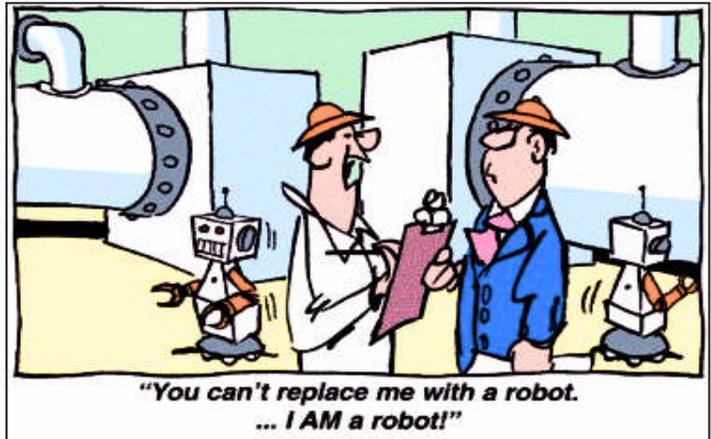$14.95 US; $17.50 CAN
$10.17 at Amazon

Short Circuits...zzzt!

Old house. It's a classic prank phone call that references a tobacco product: "Do you have Prince Albert in a can? You do? Well, you'd better let him out." As it turns out, one Wisconsin woman had Prince Albert in a wall. The woman from Stevens Point was recently renovating her 130-year-old home. A television station reported that she found 88 cans of Prince Albert tobacco stashed in her dining-room wall. The cans date back to the World War I era. Most are in excellent condition, and many still have the original seal and contents. She says antique appraisers tell her each is worth $10 to $15. The lady says that she intrigued about what else might be hidden in other walls. *Associated Press* Mar. 2, 2012

Old Greeks. Icosia police have summoned a 98-year-old and about 40 other elderly women to court to face gambling charges after raiding their weekly poker party. The women had gathered at a home for a four-hour simplified poker-and-bridge afternoon over sandwiches and pastries when police arrived. "They were playing with only very small sums of money, just to make it interesting," her daughter said. "It's silly for police to concern themselves with such trivial games when there are more serious things they should pursue." She said some women were frightened at the police raid and attempted to flee. Others didn't realize what was going on -- including one woman who asked police to wait until she had finished playing her hand. Most of the women are simply amused by the affair, she added. "We hope she continues playing because it keeps her mind sharp." *Associated Press* Mar. 1, 2012

"You can't replace me with a robot.
... I AM a robot!"

Old King. A 400-year-old skull that researchers say belonged to celebrated French King Henri IV was donated Thursday to a descendant - the prince who heads the Bourbon dynasty that ruled France for two centuries. The case caps the mysterious journey of the mummified skull: It was pillaged from a grave near Paris during the 18th-Century French Revolution that ousted the monarchy, and most recently spent decades in the attic of the tax collector who donated it back to the family. A team of 19 scientists revealed that nine months of tests on the skull led them to believe it was that of Henri IV. The grandfather of the Sun King Louis XIV was an influential ruler credited with brokering peace between Catholics and Protestants at a time of religious upheaval, and building Parisian landmarks including the Pont Neuf bridge and Place des Vosges square. *Associated Press* Dec. 16, 2010
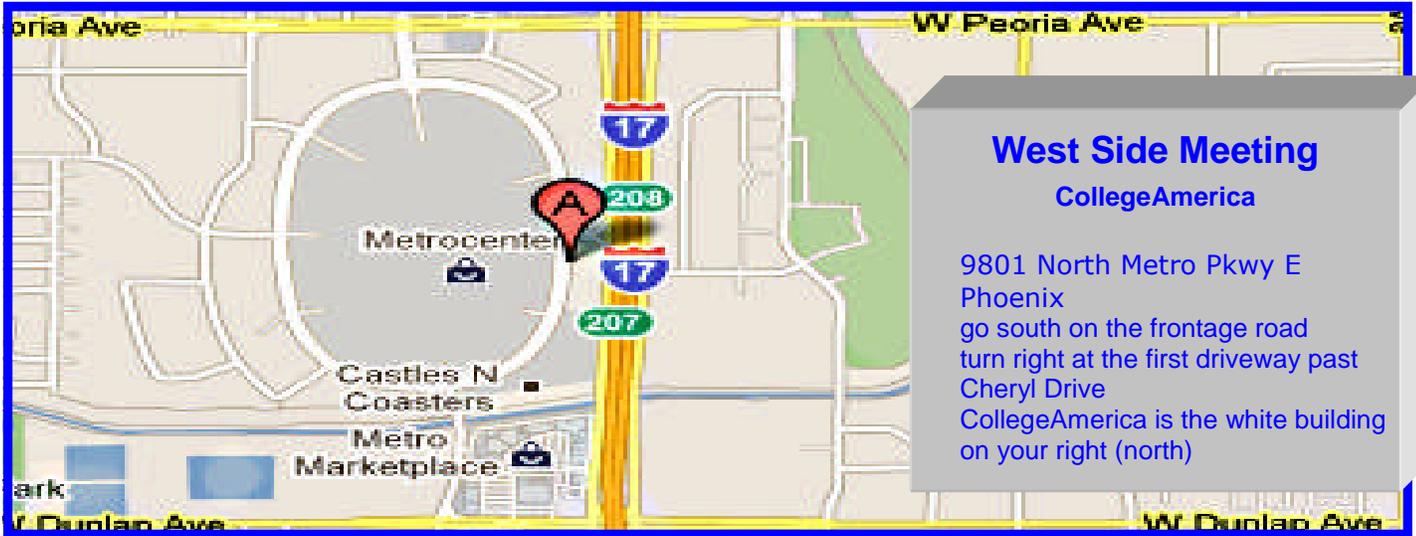
Old Apple. Its processor works 1,000 times slower than the Apple iPad, but the first ever Apple computer has sold for 425 times the price. The Apple I, one of only 200 such models ever made, was sold at Christie's auction house in central London for 133,250 pounds (about $210,000.) It came with its original packaging and a signed sales letter from Steve Jobs. When the Apple I was introduced in 1976, it was the only personal computer to come with a fully assembled motherboard, making it ready to use straight from the box - provided the user supplied a keyboard, power supply, and display. The cost was $ 666.66 (about $2,500 in today's dollars). It was made until 1977. *Associated Press* Nov. 23, 2010

YES, YOUR PLAN IS WORKING, BUT TALK RADIO AND CABLE NEWS ARE TAKING TOO LONG. I THINK IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO BASICS WITH A FLOOD...

REBOOT, VERSION 2.1

These Items are based on articles from the noted sources and have been adapted by the Editor.
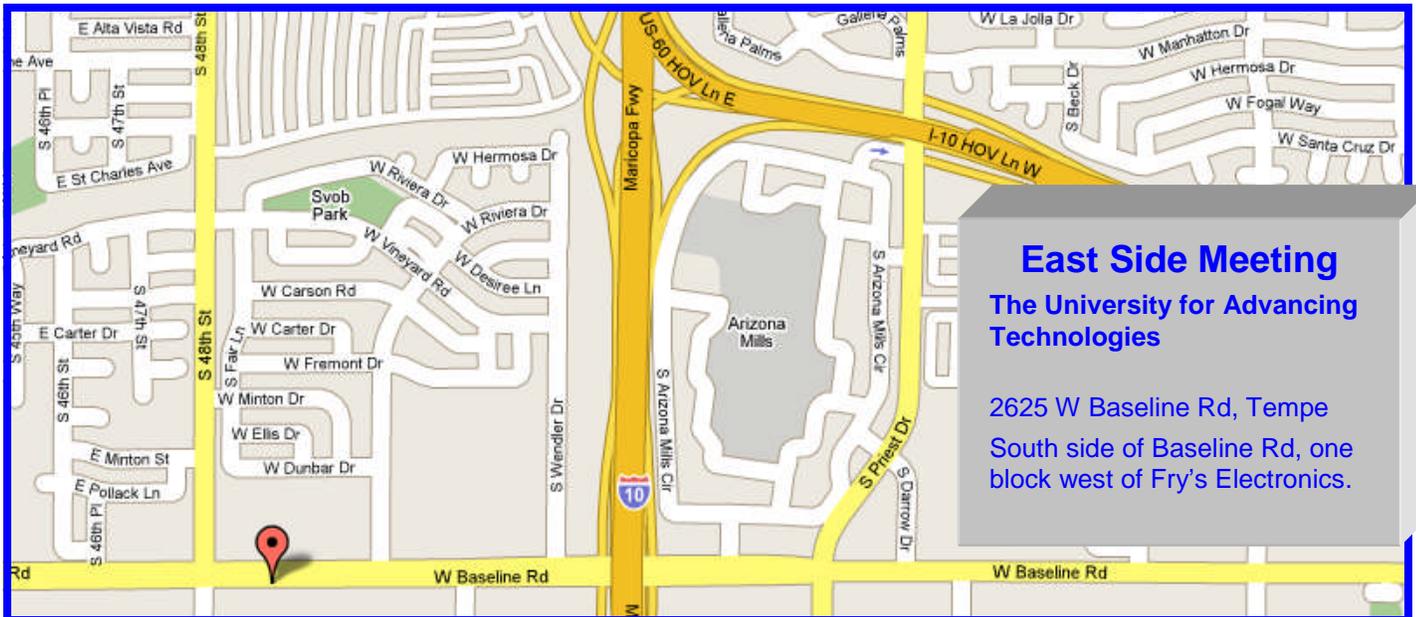
HOW TO GET THERE

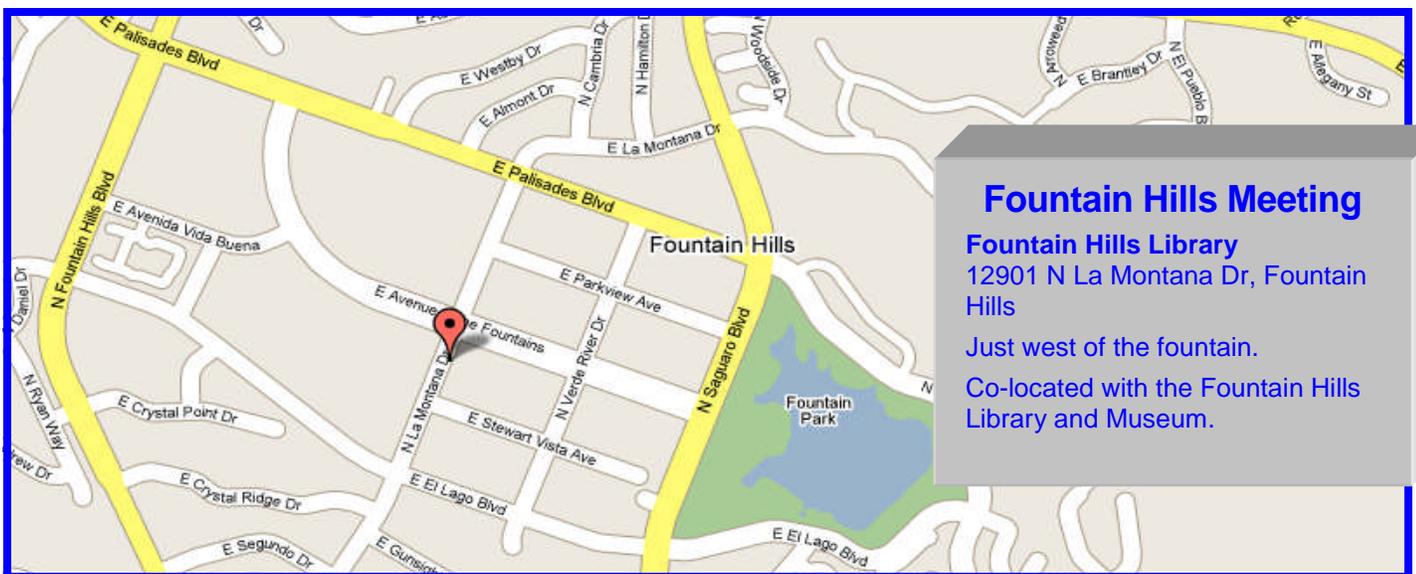
West Side Meeting

CollegeAmerica

9801 North Metro Pkwy E
Phoenix
go south on the frontage road
turn right at the first driveway past
Cheryl Drive
CollegeAmerica is the white building
on your right (north)

East Side Meeting

The University for Advancing Technologies

2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe

South side of Baseline Rd, one block west of Fry's Electronics.

Fountain Hills Meeting

Fountain Hills Library
12901 N La Montana Dr, Fountain Hills

Just west of the fountain.

Co-located with the Fountain Hills Library and Museum.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Official Policy of the Phoenix PC Users Group is that we do not condone software piracy in any form.

DUES $36
THROUGH
DEC 31, 2012

Phoenix PC Users Group Membership Application

First: (Print Legibly) _____Initial: ____Last:_____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code:_____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Ext: _____
Please note: We DO-NOT share phone numbers outside the club, and will generally only use your phone information, if we cannot contact you in timely fashion, via e-mail, or the club web-site

Receive Electronic newsletter in place of printed one: ☐ Yes   ☐ No

E-mail address: _____(Print Legibly)

Signature _____Date____/____/____

Release my address to vendors ?   ☐ Yes ☐ No Note: Phone numbers **will not** be listed.

May the club share your e-mail address
with other members only?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No
With club approved vendors?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No
Please do not share my e-mail address   ☐

Mail this completed form with payment to:

Phoenix PC Users Group
PO Box 45451
Phoenix, AZ 85064—5451

Phoenix PC Users Group

Users Group Inc.

The Best Accessory for your PC !

Web address:
phoenixpcug.org

March 2012

The Newsletter of the Phoenix Personal Computer Users Group
"Users helping users to understand computers"

STAMP