

MEETING DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED — SEE PAGE FOUR



NEWSLETTER

*The Best Accessory
for your PC!*



MAIN MEETINGS

West Side.....Tue, Nov 20

CollegeAmerica, 9801 North Metro Pkwy E, Phoenix

East Side.....Wed, Nov 14

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

Fountain Hills.....Mon, Nov 12

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

Presentations this month:

College America—2013 Nomination of Officers,
Dave Whittle's very special presentation
on exciting computer hardware and software -
don't miss it! at Nov 20, 2013.

UAT & Fountain Hills - A deep dive into removing
malware - viruses, trojans, etc.
Very powerful infection removal.
Also the best of Windows 8 so far.

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

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Steering Committee:

Officers and Members who are present
at the 6:00 P.M. West Side meeting.

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THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy Turkey Day!

Coming to a table near you, hopefully. Well, we have many things to be thankful for this year, mostly that the elections will be over by the time you receive this newsletter. All those irritating ads - over at last! Four more years? Heaven help us!

Computer news this month is a bit overwhelming with Microsoft Windows 8 - phones, RT, Surface, multi-flexible, shape shifting - tablet to laptop. Also, Apple stuff (if you like Apple), Android phones & tablets. All in time for the Christmas buying season. Oh, don't forget cameras, camcorders, and too many gadgets.

Gadgets, fun & games meeting: please plan for Dec and our usual pizza, soda & BYO goodies. This is when we will feature Bob Gotisha & AVAST antivirus for any platform that uses the Internet. (Not sure about Apple). I should have very interesting products such as extreme zoom cameras, etc.

November Meetings

Our main guest presenter, Dave Whittle will be coming to College America, on Nov 20. He'll be traveling in from southern Az so let's give him a hearty welcome for his efforts. Dave has been a long time veteran of the personal computer industry going back to the early Comdex and knows our Steve Semon, former president of Phoenix PCUG. He promises very interesting hardware & software info. Very entertaining & educational.

See our link to Dave Whittle on our website, top page.

Don't miss our **Deep Dive** into Malware Removal. You don't want to miss this!!

Also www.winsupersite.com, tomshardware.com, Microsoft.com, Computerworld.com, etc. for continuing Windows 8 news.

Leo Laporte is quite impressed with the Microsoft Surface RT tablet and how it operates. He is still withholding recommendations until he gains more experience. Leo is quite fair minded, pro & con, since he always buys the gadgets he plays with. Others will chime in and offer their opinions on his live.twit.com and twit.com streaming broadcasts. He's also been using Android phones like the Galaxy S III and Apple items too.

My personal experience with Windows 8 is good, but have seen problems with Dropbox.com, IEHV - Internet Explorer History Viewer, and the search function in Explorer and the Recent Items (last used files such as

(Continued on next page)

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Newsweek Magazine recently announced that the printed publication of the magazine will be discontinued in 2013. This action is yet another milestone in the up-and-down history of printed material that is intended for widespread public consumption. In history, writing on paper is commonly considered to be attributed to the Chinese about 1800 years ago. Indeed, printing with movable type in China preceded the introduction of the Gutenberg printing process by 5 centuries. The publication of weekly news magazines in Europe has roots in the 17th century. In America, the Saturday Evening Post, which at one time was the most widely circulated weekly magazine, grew from an earlier publication founded by Benjamin Franklin. The growth of the magazine publication industry accelerated rapidly after the end of the Civil War, concurrent with the economic surge accompanying the Industrial Revolution.

In the period between the World Wars, an abundance of inexpensive paper magazines, ranging from serious intellectual journals to what was called "pulp fiction" served as proving grounds for many authors who became well-known and widely respected in their particular fields, ranging from Tom Wolfe, John Steinbeck, or John Stuart Mill to Damon Runyon, Dashiell Hammett, and Rex Stout. That era also saw the introduction of weekly photojournals led by Life magazine.

The coming of television in the 1950s has been cited as the beginning of a steady decline of intellectual depth in the American lifestyle. The decline of the magazine and newspaper industries, along with the gradual disappearance of the weekly newsreel in movie theaters would support that suggestion. Other contributing factors, such as the steady increases in postage, in labor rates, in the costs of printing color pictures on glossy paper, also undercut profits. The list of causes could go on, but the mortal stroke on the printed magazine industry was and is, for good or bad, the Internet. Some magazines started on-line publications as much as a decade ago and now, with Newsweek, the trend goes on.

Michael

NOTICE
SOME MEETING DATES HAVE
CHANGED DURING THE
HOLIDAY SEASON SEE PAGE 4

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

Word, Excel or others) and trying to find items like

Control Panel. XP Mode & Virtual PC difficult according to some users.

CTC is going to be very interesting in April 2013, with another presentation by Ken Bobis, PhD computer science, Director of IT Mayo Clinic, also with visitors from the Southwest Regional APCUG member clubs, fine dining and great interactive discussions.

Here are my comments about the articles in this issue.

We sincerely appreciate each and every article received from APCUG. They reflect a lot of hard work. These comments are not criticisms of the various authors' articles. They are only meant to supplement the information presented to the best of our ability.

Webpage Font Size too small? - Think about Screen Resolution

Just zoom the web page, it is much easier. From the IE menu - Alt, View, Zoom, etc. Or CTR+(+ key) or (- key) to zoom in or out. Also try mouse zooming on the scroll wheel. Much easier and faster. Or use a larger screen or second screen - very easy to do on a laptop which typically has an external VGA connector

Legacy Family Tree program,

Good article but doesn't have any comparisons, costs, etc. There are other free products such as **Family Tree Builder** or [Personal Ancestral File](#) PAF is a free desktop genealogy and family history program by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints LDS (Mormons). If interested we can continue this topic.

Follow These Points Before Calling Support

The Serial Number and Model Number of the particular device or computer. This is often hard to find or read on the bottom, rear or side of the product. Belarc Advisor is free and can often provide this information via a comprehensive hardware & software audit of your PC. Belarc.com. Run and print before installing, keep in 3 ring binder.

Some problems are fixed by upgrading to the latest drivers for your devices (printers, etc.) and Windows version. For Windows 7, Windows Updates usually fixes many problems. Only use windowsupdate.microsoft.com since malware is found on many other websites.

Have you fully maintained your computer? Windows Updates, all malware removed, defragged the hard drive, cleaned out dust & dirt, substituted cables or devices, turned off File Indexing on slower PC's, checked your Internet speed tests - upload & download, replaced

printer cartridges, paper path or jams. Use a good flashlight. Is it a hardware or software problem? Or your net

work or Internet? Or a user problem? (such as your hard drive is too full). Some devices or PC's are DOA - dead on arrival and are bad to begin with. Happens all the time. Use PCpitstop.com, checks problems.

If you are calling for support for a computer product, make sure you're next to the product in case you need to follow directions. Did you read the manual? Or visit mfr's website? Use the 800 number, ask for help on using their site & troubleshooting.

Have a piece of paper and pencil prepared in case instructions are given or additional contact information is given. For complex calls, simply record the conversation for later playback with Audacity for example. For extremely complex problems, video the call while pointing the camera at various points in question. Use a speaker phone.

A digital camera or screenshot can resolve problems when support people argue with you - as in "That's not supposed to happen with our product!" Sending the exact problem image (or video) ends arguments quickly.

If the problem is between 2 vendors, use a 3-way phone call. Explain what is happening to each party, tell them to expect a 3-way call. Get exact contact tech or customer support people, their phone numbers & extensions, mutual free times for the call and if needed get a computer expert to explain the problem(s). Be persistent and don't take NO for an answer if you feel you are correct. Get badge and trouble ticket numbers for later review or follow-up if problem persists. Use large file transfer web services, or Dropbox type sites if needed.

Refer to the TOS - the Terms of Service for Internet Service Providers, like Cox for example, any invoices or billing records, can be very helpful. If necessary, you may need to escalate this up to their CEO, your attorney or corporation commission (in Arizona). I have used all 3 successfully. Your experience may vary. As a last resort, your local TV station consumer troubleshooter may help.

If you have Internet access, try finding the answer to your question online before calling or e-mailing support. Many questions can be found online by using a search engine such as Google. Dell for example has Product Support database online. Consider using Chat Support as a faster way to reach support without waiting for a phone support person. The full text of your Q&A can be emailed or copied and pasted into a document. Some support people can be very hard to convince that there is a problem so documentation is key, especially intermittent problems. Keep a log of when & what happened to send to support. Insist on a US based supervisor if language is a problem.

David

MEETINGS

CALENDAR

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

MEETING CHANGES FOR NOV AND DEC

CollegeAmerica.

Tue Nov 20, 2012 --- 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Tue Dec 18, 2012 --- 6:00 to 9:00 pm

UAT

Wed Nov 14, 2012 --- 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Wed Dec 19, 2012 --- 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Fountain Hills

Mon Nov 12, 2012 - 6:00 to 8:30 pm

Thu Dec 20, 2012 - 6:00 to 8:30 pm

GENERAL MEETINGS**WEST SIDE: CollegeAmerica (see map page 16)**

- Tuesday Nov 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 Nov 14, 2012
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
-

FOUNTAIN HILLS: Fountain Hills Library (see map page 16)

- Monday Nov 12, 2012
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
-

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH LEGACY

Behind the Scenes with Legacy

By Bill Ellis,

Member of the Computer Users of Erie, PA

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Have you ever wondered what the Legacy Family Tree program was doing for you as you keyed in your family data. I never did, until one day, as I sat staring at my family file in the family view screen and I noticed there was some data showing up that I hadn't entered or that some of the information that I had entered was in a place other than where I had put it. This got me to wondering what the Legacy program was doing behind the scenes and why. Let me run a few of these behind the scenes operations by you and see if they ring a bell. First off, I would key in my family data, much like a robot, and not give any thought to what was really happening to that information. I mean, what the heck, I put the name here, and the date and place of birth goes on this line. Marriage info goes in this section. And let's not forget about that whole brood of kids. We'll key them into the spaces below the parent's name. We are entering this information routinely from documents that we gathered and we are more concerned with being accurate, than to be concerned about anything else. While we are doing our thing, the Legacy program is doing its thing in the background. First of all, when we name our family file and tell Legacy to save it, Legacy turns the file into a database file. It doesn't look like a database file that we are familiar with, as we view our family file in a pedigree or family view, but that's what it is. As we know, a database file keeps everything in order and labeled correctly. The database file created by Legacy will end with an .fdb extension. (Family database?) As we continue to add people to our family file, Legacy creates another file as a companion to the database file. This companion file will have a .TC extension. (Table on contents?). This file holds the names of all the people that are entered into the Legacy program and we can view these names by going to the name list within Legacy. As we add

more names to our family file, this name list file will continue to grow and be updated automatically. When we're done working with our family and shut the Legacy program down, we are asked if you want

to make a backup copy of the family file. That is, of course, if you haven't changed the defaults setting for closing down Legacy. When we select yes to make a backup, Legacy creates another file. This third file will have the same name as the other two files, but with a .ZIP extension. A ZIP file is a compacted file. Its size is smaller than the original file and easier to store or transport. These are the basic files that are created, behind the scenes, as we work with Legacy. As we work with Legacy's other features, Legacy will continue to create additional files to keep how we work simple and easy to understand and recreate.

To see more of Legacy's behind the scenes work, let's take a look at our family file using the family view screen. Hopefully, you'll be looking at your own family file or a close relative's file with parents listed above and children listed below. In other words, I'd like you to have a full screen of people as we navigate through this window. Let's look at the male on the left side. In Legacy, males are on the left and females on the right. Above the males name is the label "Husb". Looking at the female, you'll see "Wife" above her name. By default, Legacy labels all married couples as husband and wife. If they are not married, or if you only a female on the right and no male on the left or vice versa, they are labeled "Male" and "Female", instead of husband and wife since there is no spouse. Above the man and woman you'll see the parents for each. For each parent that is deceased, you will see their birth and death year. If the person is still living you will only see their birth year. You will also see a plus sign at the end of their entries. This indicates that they have descendants. I know you're going to say this is rather obvious, since a child is listed below. That sign also indicates that there are more descendants than the one you are seeing. Legacy puts this information there, so your

(Continued on page 6)

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH LEGACY

(Continued from page 5)

family file is easy to read, understand and easy to navigate. Below this man and woman will be the section for their marriage information such as date and place if they were married. This section will also indicate the status of their union such as, married, unmarried, divorced, separated and so on. In the children's section you'll see the birth year for each child. If a child is deceased, you'll also see the death year. You will also see some strange symbols. These symbols indicate different events about the child. They indicate whether a child has children, whether a child is married and doesn't have children, whether a child never married and never had children, etc. These are just some of Legacy's behind the scenes operations. You've entered all the information, but Legacy will lump it together to make the family file easier to read and understood.

Looking at the very bottom of the family view screen, you'll see the time of day in the middle. Legacy gets this from your computer's internal clock. This is also an alarm clock. If you're like me and work on your family history until the wee hours, an alarms clock really comes in handy. Place your cursor on the time of day and left click. This will open a window so you can set the alarm. You can also type in a reminder message, so you know what you're supposed to do when the alarm goes off.

To the right of the time of day are four windows. The information in these windows is also created by Legacy behind the scenes. In the first three windows are numbers with an H, M, or W. prefix. These are (RIN) record identification numbers and an H, W or M prefix stands for Husband (Male), Wife (Female) and Marriage respectively. As each individual and/or marriage is entered into your family tree the record identification number is increased by one. For example, if you were the first male to be entered in your family file, your RIN would be H1 and if you are married, your marriage will be assigned the married record identification number of MRIN1. To some people, the H and W prefix for man and woman are con-

sidered a flaw in the program. I call it a quirk and no big deal. No matter what, I'm glad that Legacy keeps track of my individuals and their marriages chronologically, because I don't have to remember to do it. I file all of my documents for each individual or marriage by their RIN. I label the documents with the RIN, put them in acid free, clear sheet protectors and file them in several three ring binders. Previously, I had filed all of my documents in a file cabinet, using the same RIN filing system. It didn't take me long to figure out is it much easier to lug binders with me on my genealogical research excursions then a file cabinet. Needless to say, I've abandoned my first filing system.

The date at the far right is the last date that this couples and/or individual's records were modified. If you modified the record today, it will show today's date. Otherwise you'll see a previous date. Maybe you will to.

All of these appearances are being done, behind the scenes, by the Legacy program. It has been setup this way by default. You have the power to change any or all of these behind the scenes operations by going to the custom menu under options. Most will be found under the view tab. I have found the default settings to be AOK for my use and have left them that way. Maybe you will to.

I hope you enjoy what Legacy does for you, behind the scenes. Creating a family history is a daunting task and it's great to have a little help on our side.

**WE WANT TO INCREASE
OUR MEMBERSHIP
IF EACH MEMBER
BROUGHT JUST ONE
INTERESTED GUEST
TO A MEETING
WE WOULD ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL**

FOLLOW THESE POINTS BEFORE CALLING SUPPORT

Follow These Points Before Calling Support
 By Tom Allen, Publisher / Editor, Mountain Computer User Group, Georgia
 June 2012 issue, Mountain Bits & Bites
www.mcug.org
[bunkerhilltom \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com)

Today, it is possible to contact companies in numerous different ways. However, when planning to call or e-mail a computer company, keep the below recommendations in mind. If you are calling for support on a particular product make sure you have all applicable numbers written down. For example, the Serial Number and Model number of the particular device or computer.

If you are calling for support for a computer product, make sure you're next to the product in case you need to follow directions.

Have a piece of paper and pencil prepared in case instructions are given or additional contact information is given.

If you have Internet access, try finding the answer to your question online before calling or e-mailing support. Many questions can be found online by using a search engine such as Google.

Make sure you have at least 30 minutes of available time, not only for the wait but the time likely required to troubleshoot the issue.

If you believe the product in question is bad or needs to be replaced, have all purchase information available.

If you are planning on purchasing or the support call is fee-based, have more than one credit card ready to be given over the phone.

Finally, once you've connected with support make sure to write down the support representatives' name in case you need to get back in touch with him or her.

A NIFTY APP FOR YOUR IPHONE OR BLACKBERRY

POyNT
 By George Harding, Treasurer,
 Tucson Computer Society, AZ
 April 2012 issue, eJournal
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This is a nifty app for your iPhone or Blackberry. It points you to various services or places of business.

The choices are Businesses, People, Movies, Restaurants, Gas, Events and Offers.

For Businesses, you can enter a business name, such as "Wendy's" which produces a list of Wendy's restaurants sequenced by distance from your position. The list also includes other entries which include the name Wendy, such as a dentist, a veterinarian and a hospital! But it does show the fast-food restaurants you wanted to find. When you touch one of them, you get location information, including a map and directions.

If you choose People, you can search by name, phone or address. I tried the search by phone, using my phone number and got my name and address, along with directions and a map for location. The search by name works very efficiently, producing a list of people with the name you entered and their phone and location info.

For Movies, you can search by theaters nearby, movies, top 10 and genres. You get a list of theaters with the movies currently being shown, times, phone, location and the availability of a trailer.

You can search nearby Restaurants or by cuisine. You get a list of restaurants sequenced by increasing distance from your location, with info about location, phone, map and website.

Searching for Gas or Events gives the same sort of information, in a helpful and easy-to-use format.

I recommend this app highly. It's fun to use and very helpful in finding the sort of item you're looking for without having to resort to the Yellow Pages books. You can even use your mobile phone to download the app from m.poynt.com (but not with a browser).

About: POYNT
 Vendo: Poynt
www.poynt.com

THINKING ABOUT GETTING A TABLET

Q&A - I'm thinking about getting a tablet computer
Bill Armstrong, Treasurer, Lehigh Valley Computer
Group, PA
May 2012 issue, LVCG Journal
www.lvcg.org
armstrong_bill (at) yahoo.com

Question:

I am THINKING about getting one of these tablet computers, but have oodles of questions so I thought I'd start here (rather than bugging sales people until I know a bit more).

Are there any additional costs to use for internet access. (i.e. like a cell phone on a per minute plan)? Are "apps" part of the deal using a tablet (we are not into smart phones either at this point)? Is there a cost to use an App (other than cost to download if it was not free)...such as checking mail, weather, interactive games? Would I be able to get my e-mail? One I am looking at mentions Gmail...which I do not have? How do I get virus (etc.) protection? How secure using a wireless hot spot?

Thanks, Dave

Dave,

Answer:

I do not have a tablet, but I do have a smart phone (Android). Internet access through the cellular network requires a monthly access fee with a carrier, so yes, there is a continuing cost. That is why most of the tablets sold are Wi-Fi (not cellular). The Wi-Fi only tablets are less expensive to purchase initially (since they do not have the circuitry for cellular communications). My plan with Verizon to get internet on my phone costs an extra \$30 per month (over the cost of the cell phone plan for voice phone calls).

Apps are elective for you. I have some, but not a huge number. They give me weather info, stock market info, gasoline prices locally, movie listings, etc. Apps come in both free and paid versions. Once acquired, there is usually no additional cost to use them, forever. Most apps that require a fee up front are low cost, such as \$0.99 up to \$3 or maybe even

\$5. Some, I guess, are more expensive, but I have never paid for the expensive ones.

If you have Wi-Fi at home, a tablet will work on the Wi-Fi network very nicely. That is how most people use them. When you go out around town, you will find many businesses offer free Wi-Fi. I used the free Wi-Fi at Panera Bread today in Whitehall. You should be able to get your email when connected to the Internet over Wi-Fi. I'll bet your email service has a method of retrieving your email over the web.

Virus protection is available for the operating systems (OS) that tablets run. I have such a program for my smart phone, for which I paid. It's a good idea to have one. The app store for your tablet's OS will offer many. Just search for anti-virus. Wireless hotspots (public Wi-Fi) are not secure. Period. That being said, I use them all the time. I just don't do any banking or money or credit card transactions. I wait until I am home, on my password protected Wi-Fi system.

Be sure to view a few screen sizes, to see what is good for you. The iPad is about 10.1 inches (measured diagonally), and many consider that size to be ideal for them. Other popular sizes are 7.7 and 7.0 inches, and 5 inches. View a website or two to see how they look.

My smart phone is large for a phone, about 4.65 inches. It's small but usable for viewing a website. I have to use a two-finger spreading action on the screen to enlarge the view, so I can read it easily. If using the Android OS, I recommend a tablet that uses Android 4.0 or later (called Ice Cream Sandwich or ICS). This OS makes scrolling and making the view larger/smaller very easy and intuitive and smooth.

I use my phone for getting email, viewing websites, checking the weather, checking my calendar (where I put all my appointments and "to do" list), checking facts on Wikipedia, getting news, reading tech articles, getting stock market info, etc.

Bill

THINK ABOUT SCREEN RESOLUTION

Webpage Font Size too small? -
Think about Screen Resolution
Phil Sorrentino, Member, Sarasota PCUG, FL
August 2012 issue, PC Monitor
www.spcug.org
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Anyone who has taken our basic computer classes knows that the font size can be changed just by selecting the appropriate text and then selecting the desired text size, usually from about 8 points to 72 points. And if you were in one of my classes you know that a point is 1/72nd of an inch. That's right; a 72 point selection will print text, on a printer, one inch high.

But everything you see on the screen is not as easy to control as the font of the text of a word processing document. There are, typically, no font size selections on a webpage when you're surfing the web; although you can make some font selections if you are using Internet Explorer. This selection is made by double clicking Tools, then selecting Internet Options. The "fonts" selection is toward the bottom of the window. Here you can select "default" fonts to be used if the webpage does not determine a font. But, practically speaking, you probably will never use these fonts, so don't rush to change these selections. (Other browsers probably have similar selections.) The size of the font that you see on your monitor is determined by settings that are determined by the webpage, and settings on your display graphics adapter. The webpage settings are determined by the webpage designer; the browser just follows the webpage's direction. The display graphics adapter settings are adjustable and are located in the "Display" Control Panel.

In Windows 7, a quick way to get to the Display control panel is to right-click on any empty space on the desktop, select "Personalize", and finally select "Display" (lower left). At this point you can select "Smaller" (the default type size), "Medium", or "Larger". Because these settings depend on the Screen Resolution that is set, if you choose Medium or Larger you may be alerted that "*Some items may not fit on your screen if you choose this setting while your display is set to this resolution.*" So screen

resolution is involved in determining the font size and is an important parameter to understand, so that you can make the best choice.

Screen Resolution is generally defined in terms of pixels. A pixel is a picture element. (There is a technical difference between pixels and dots depending on different displays, but for simplicity, for this discussion I am going to use the term dot in the place of pixel.) So Screen Resolution, then, is the number of dots that can be displayed on the screen. It is usually indicated by two numbers, first the horizontal number of dots, followed by the vertical number of dots, for example, 640x480, 800x600, 1024x768, or 1920x1080. (Yes, if you multiply the horizontal and vertical numbers, you get the total number of dots displayed on the screen.) These four resolution settings are also called VGA, SVGA, XGA, and HD-1080. (There are a whole host of screen resolutions that can potentially be used, and are summarized at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Display_resolution. The chart shows the most common display screen resolutions.) The HD-1080 resolution is also the standard used in High Definition Televisions, which is typically referred to as 1080p. So, if you are looking for a display that will show High Definition movies the way they were intended to be shown, make sure your Display Adapter is capable of showing at least 1920x1080.

The Screen Resolution control can be reached easily by right-clicking in any empty space on the desktop, and then selecting "Screen Resolution". (Or by clicking the start button, followed by selecting "Control Panel", followed by selecting "Display", followed by selecting "Adjust resolution" {upper left}.) The current screen resolution is shown as "Screen Resolution:", in the middle of the Screen Resolution window. The Screen Resolution slider control can be accessed by clicking the downward facing triangle next to the resolution that is currently selected. The Screen Resolution slider controls the resolution of the display and hence the size of text on the screen. The number of selections on this control is determined by your display adapter and your particular monitor. You may have from 2 to many selections. The selections on the slider range from "Low" to "High". (Click on a different resolution on the bar to

(Continued on page 10)

THINK ABOUT SCREEN RESOLUTION

(Continued from page 9)

see a preview of the changed setting in the "Change the appearance of the display" box, (notice how the box representing the screen changes size and shape), then if you like it, click "Apply", if you don't like it try another, or click "Cancel".) Moving towards "High" puts more "dots" on the screen; however, this typically makes the size of objects smaller. Decreasing this setting (moving towards Low) usually makes things larger, but you might start to lose the right side of some web pages. (If you can't easily read the right side of a webpage, you might increase this setting, but things will probably get a little smaller. Try a setting with a few of your favorite web pages and see what setting is the best compromise.)

If you are still wondering what setting to use, click on "What display setting shall I choose?" and you will be treated to a help screen that further discusses screen size and screen resolution with some recommendations for appropriate settings for different display sizes. Note also, that you can easily get to the "Display Font Size" screen (discussed above) by clicking on "Make text and other items smaller or larger".

If you were wondering why the shape of the screen changes with resolution, it is because the resolutions that are supported by the display adapter cover the older 4x3 aspect ratio and the more current 16x9 (wide angle) aspect ratio. The 4x3 aspect ratio is what we inherited from seventy years of analog TV screens. All TV screens, before HD, were built with this aspect ratio. Aspect ratio is typically described by horizontal x vertical. So a 4x3 TV screen has 3 vertical increments for every 4 horizontal increments. (Academic observation for math majors: this always formed a 3x4x5 triangle. A 25 inch TV had a 25 inch diagonal with a 20 inch horizontal and a 15 inch vertical.) The more current 16x9 wide angle aspect ratio screens provide more viewing in the horizontal. For every 3 vertical increments there are 16/3 or 5 1/3 horizontal increments showing a wider angle view.

Screen Resolution is the key to getting a comfortable view of your favorite web pages. If you need to, try some different settings. If you still aren't happy,

maybe try another Graphics Adapter, if we're talking about a desktop. If we're talking about a laptop, you're probably going to live with those currently provided. It is just about impossible to change the graphics adapter on a laptop.

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THE TRANSITIONAL OPERATING SYSTEM

The Transitional Operating System

By Berry F. Phillips, Member, ccOKC
(Computer Club of Oklahoma City)

www.ccokc.org

wijames (at) sbcglobal.net

The Operating System (OS) is the most important piece of software on your computer.

From a user perspective, the OS provides the interface with which the users interact. Behind the scenes, an operating system carries out many additional functions. The OS recognizes drives and communicates between applications and the processor. The OS manages a directory of files, and manages resources such as fonts and system sounds. Without the operating system nothing happens! In this article we will explore what we can expect from operating systems of the future.

When the OS evolved from command-line interfaces to graphical user interfaces, many tasks that computer users routinely carried out became much easier and user friendly. The graphical user interface or GUIs made possible by the invention of Xerox PARC was the major step toward making the computers accessible to the average computer user not just computer geeks.

In recent years, the standard GUI began to show signs of age. Hardware and software have become increasingly complex. To the rescue, came the wizard--a simple piece of software that converts complicated tasks into an automated procedure. In the future, you can expect to see more wizards incorporated into operating systems.

As various kinds of media were formerly separate--such as mail, television, radio, and

telephony--converge on the desktop, expect operating systems to evolve to deal with these seamlessly. Operating systems in the future will easily operate these multiple systems which will be merged with the operating systems in the future.

The ideal OS is one that we never have to think about. It will function as an obedient Victorian era servant who knows our wishes better than we do. We will see voice activation and instruction continue to develop and be integrated into future operating systems. Jeeves, our OS butler, may well take care of most of our commands.

I am speaking to my OS, "Write me an article for the Computer Hysteria column for the eMonitor." Nothing is happening. Well, if my OS cannot do that I will try something else. "Fix my supper and clean my apartment!" Nothing is happening. I guess I will have to wait for future developments of the operating system.

**NOTICE
SOME MEETING DATES
HAVE
CHANGED DURING THE
HOLIDAY SEASON
SEE PAGE 4**

PARTED MAGIC - BOOT FROM A USB FLASH DRIVE

Parted Magic

By Dick Maybach

Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ

www.bcug.com

[n2nd\(at\)charter.net](mailto:n2nd(at)charter.net)

Although modern operating systems are robust, sometimes they need maintenance, either to repair problems or because we want to make changes. And many times the things we want to do are not possible within the operating system, either because the tools aren't available or because the operations can't take place while the system is live. One solution is to use a live-CD, which is an operating system that boots directly from a CD-ROM or a USB memory stick and doesn't use the hard disk at all. This has the advantage that you can perform any operation you like on the dormant hard disk. The situation is similar to doing an autopsy. Doing the same thing in an operating system that is running from the hard disk is like trying to operate on a patient who is awake. My current favorite maintenance tool is Parted Magic, <http://www.partedmagic.com>, which is small enough (187 Mbytes) to fit comfortably on a CD-ROM or a USB memory stick. See the Web page for instructions on how to create either.

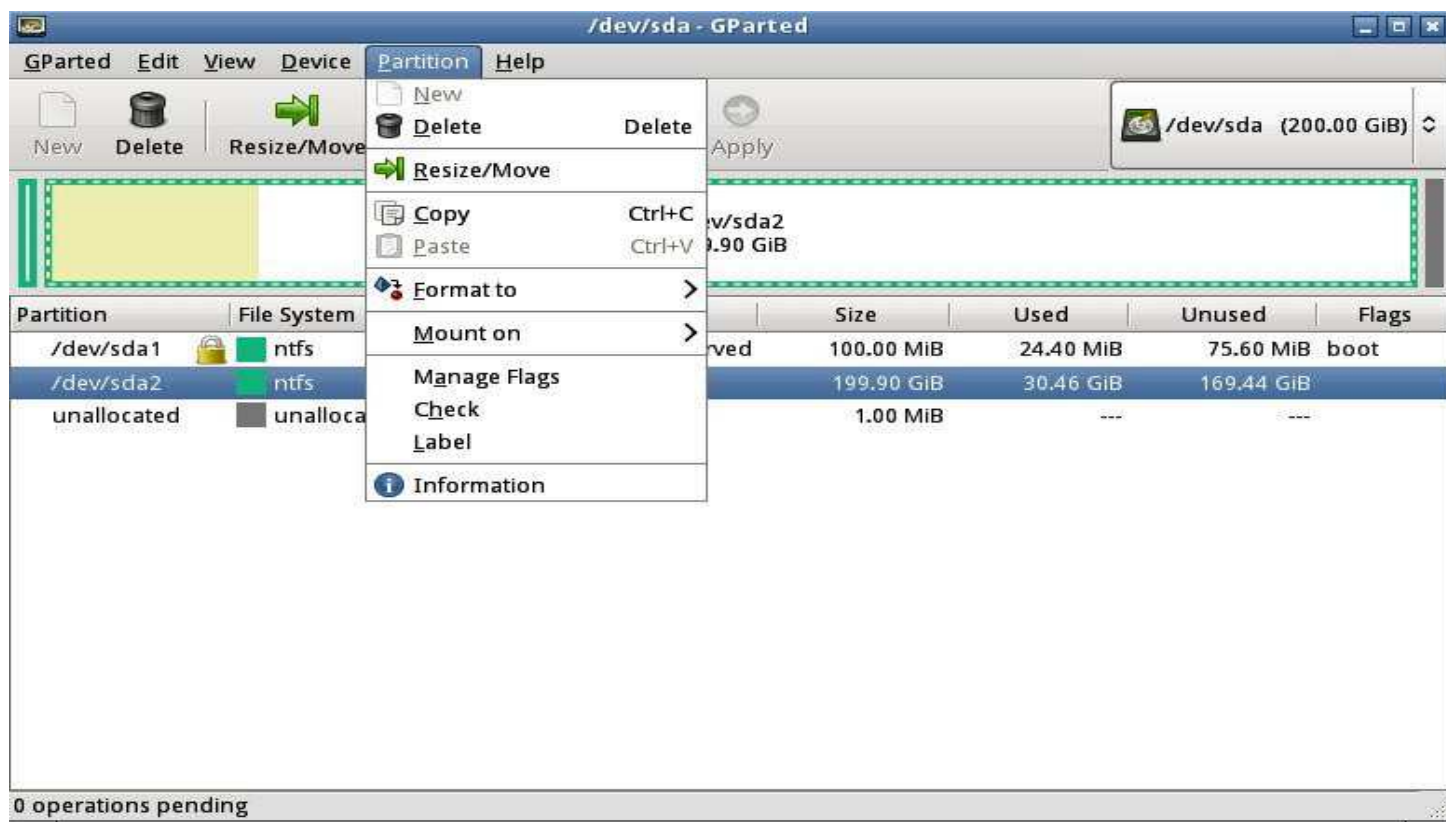
Parted Magic requires a computer with at least an Intel PII compatible processor and 175MB of RAM, although it will run much faster if there are 400 MB or more. You will have problems if your computer has peripherals that need proprietary drivers, for example, some wireless keyboards and mice. As it boots, you will be asked a couple of questions, but I've found that accepting the defaults works, then you will see the screen below.

A few tools appear as desktop icons, but most are in menus that you can access through the start button in the lower left corner. To its right are icons to mount devices, use the command line, get help, and switch between desktops. At the far right of the menu bar are icons for the network status, sound volume, and clock. The display on the right of the main screen shows the load on the PC, CPU and RAM usage, as well as the programs that are using the most processor and RAM resources. Two of the tools on the desktop are particularly useful: the File Manager and the Partition Editor (GParted). The screenshot below shows the latter in operation.

On the next page we've selected an NTFS partition, which (among other things) we could resize. GParted can operate on Microsoft, Apple, and Linux partitions. Other partition tools allow you to create a file containing an image of an entire partition or to clone a disk, copy everything on a disk to different one (usually done when you want to replace your hard disk with a larger one). An important tool that few people use is one that securely erases a hard disk. You should always do this before disposing of a PC, since deleting files and even partitions does not really remove the information. A determined person, with a lot a time could recover your passwords and other sensitive data. (See the next paragraph.)



PARTED MAGIC - BOOT FROM A USB FLASH DRIVE



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There are many tools to recover deleted files, rescue files from damaged disks, and replace boot loaders and boot records, but only for Linux and Microsoft file systems. Some of these are quite specialized, and it will take some study to determine the best one for each case. Many are called from the command-line, which means further study before you can use them effectively. Since all the documentation is on-line, using Parted Magic requires Internet ac-

cess. Be careful, especially when trying to correct serious problems; the safe approach here is to clone the disk and perform the surgery on the copy. There is also a virus detector, but it detects only; it can't disinfect files

An important program is *chntpw*, which resets Windows passwords. It's not uncommon for people to forget their passwords, which locks them out of their own PCs; I've done this myself. The safe way to use this is to remove the password completely, and then log back into Windows to set a new one. Note that some of the upper-end Windows versions include the ability to encrypt files and folders and resetting their passwords will render these unreadable. If you need only to recover a few files, you needn't reset the password. All of Windows' files are accessible from Parted Magic, unless they've been encrypted; just copy them onto a different medium. (Keep this in mind before you leave your laptop alone.) A similar program, *cmospwd*, recovers CMOS setup passwords, which can be helpful for dealing with used PCs. By the way, you don't need special tools to re-

(Continued on page 14)

PARTED MAGIC - BOOT FROM A USB FLASH DRIVE

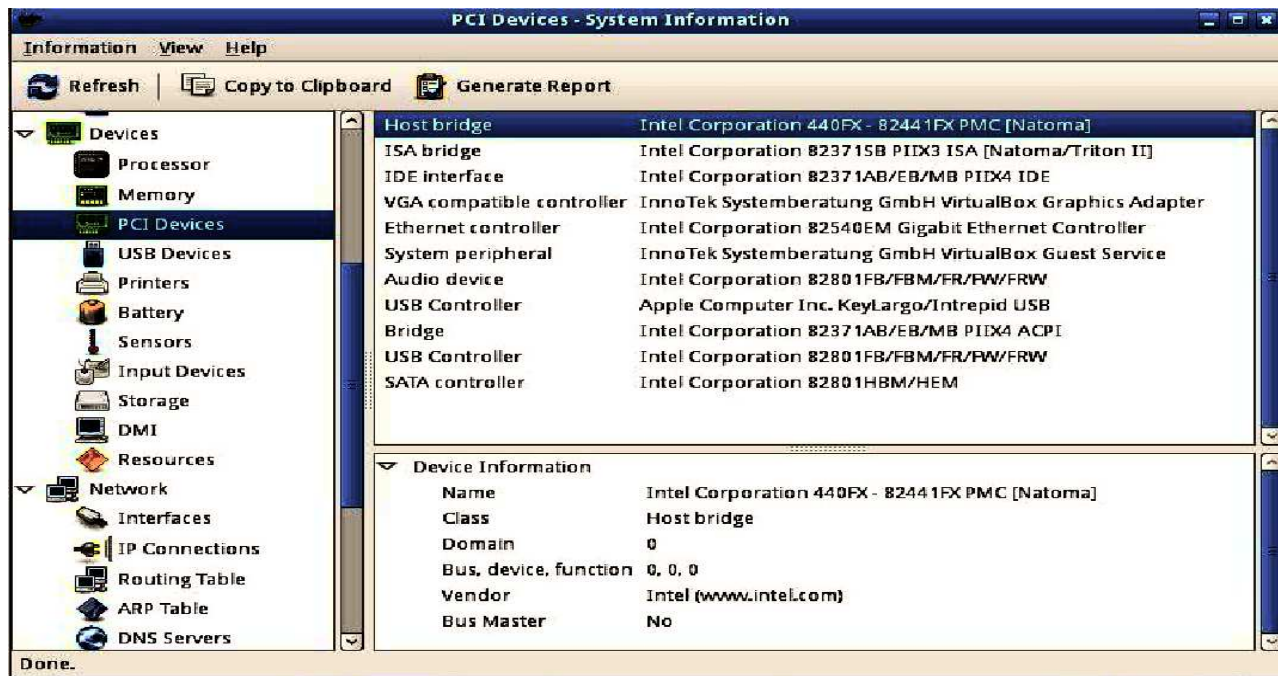
(Continued from page 13)

set Linux passwords, which you can do from the command line with standard commands.

Also included are programs to identify, benchmark, and test the hardware, including comprehensive RAM and disk tests. The screenshot below shows the peripheral devices (top) and details on the Host bridge (bottom). You can learn a lot about your PC just by poking about (and, of course, searching the Internet for what the terms mean)

Since the netbooks have no CD/DVD drive, I installed Parted Magic on a USB memory stick and used GParted to reduce the Windows partition to 100 GBytes, leaving 200 GBytes for Linux; the remaining 50 GBytes is for a recovery partition. After configuring Windows and installing Linux, I made images of both partitions using the command-line program fsarchiver. (There are several partition imaging tools available, but this one was the best for my use, because it could handle both NTFS and Linux file systems.)

For another example, a friend's son, by downloading



I recently gave my 10- and 11-year-old grandchildren netbooks. The computers came with Windows 7 installed, but I wanted to install Linux, because there are many educational programs for it and because it's much more resistant to malware. (My 9 year-old grandson, at the advice of one of his friends, installed a free game on his mother's laptop, and it took her a lot of effort to remove the free virus that was included. I'd like him to survive to see 10.) The netbooks had 350-GByte hard disks, so there was plenty of room for both Windows and Linux. It would have been easy to replace Windows with Linux, but the genes I inherited from my Scotch grandmother wouldn't let me delete the Windows I had paid for.

pirated songs, infected his folks' PC to the extent that it wouldn't boot. Booting Parted Magic and using the ClamAV anti-virus tool I identified the infected song files, but Windows was hopelessly corrupted. I was able to move all the user data onto an external disk, so after the PC was restored to its as-delivered state, I could restore the data (minus the infected songs), thus converting a nuisance.

If you're reading this, you probably serve as the computer support person for your friends and family. Parted Magic provides many tools to help you do this, but it's up to you to learn how to use them.

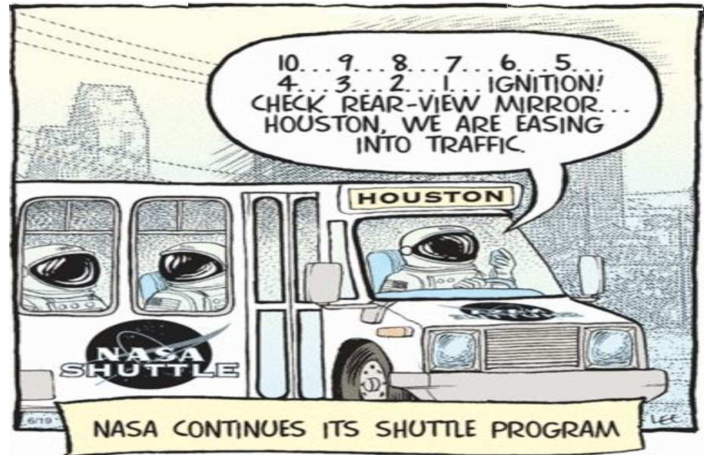
Short Circuits...zzzt!

Off Tweet. The Arkansas Supreme Court tossed out a conviction and said he deserves a new trial because one juror slept and another tweeted during court proceedings. The man's attorneys had appealed his 2010 conviction because a juror sent tweets despite the judge's instruction not to post on the Internet or communicate with anyone about the case. The lawyers also complained that another juror slept. In one tweet, one juror wrote: "Choices to be made. Hearts to be broken...We each define the great line." Less than an hour before the jury announced its verdict, he tweeted: "It's over." He also made passing references to the trial, with posts such as, "the coffee sucks here" and "Court. Day 5. Here we go again." The court said the juror violated general instructions to not discuss the case. Before opening arguments, the judge said: "Just remember, never discuss this case over your cell phone. and don't Twitter anybody about this case." The juror has defended his tweets, saying, "None of my texts indicated anything about the trial," he told a reporter. "I hadn't made up my mind." That explanation seemed to satisfy a lower court judge, but it didn't sit well with the state's highest court. Courts in other states are also grappling with problems caused by jurors using Twitter, Facebook or other online services during trials.

Associated Press Dec. 8, 2011

Still on hold. Texting, e-mailing or chatting on a cell-phone while driving is simply too dangerous to be allowed, federal safety investigators declared, urging all states to impose total bans except for emergencies. Inspired by recent deadly crashes -- including one in which a teenager sent or received 11 text messages in 11 minutes before an accident -- the recommendation would apply even to hands-free devices, a much stricter rule than any current state law. The unanimous recommendation by the five-member National Transportation Safety Board would make an exception for devices deemed to aid driver safety such as GPS navigation systems.

Associated Press Dec. 14, 2011

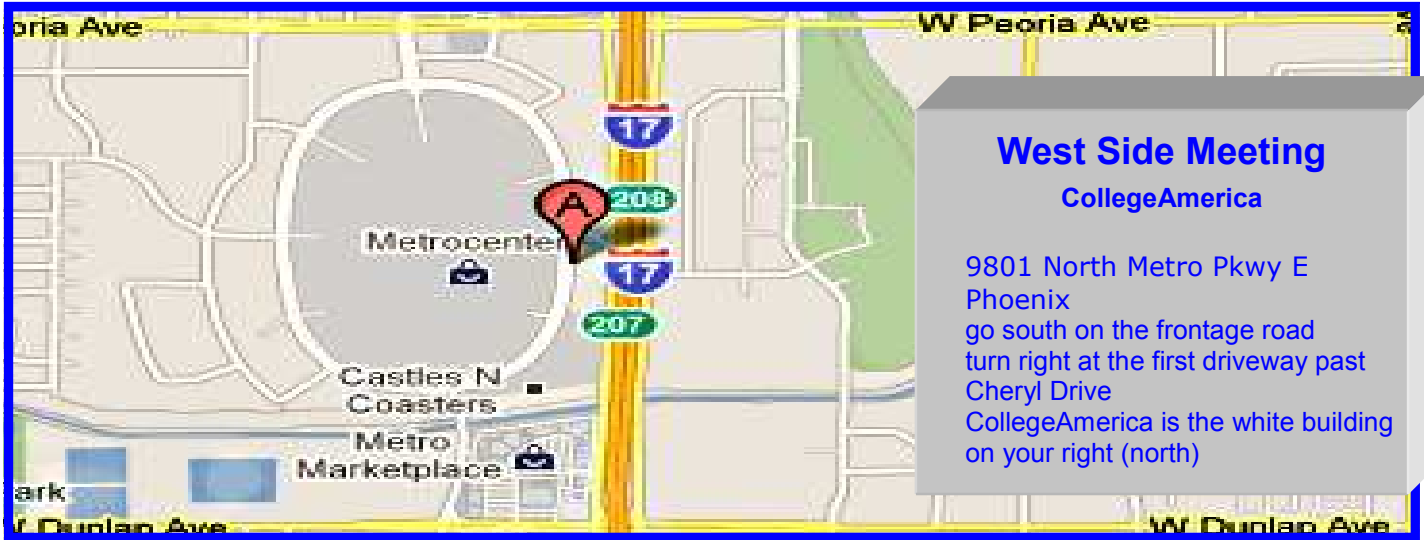


And meanwhile. Today's video games may boast photorealistic graphics, surround sound and worldwide multiplayer matches via the Internet, but many still long for the days when games were, well, simple. You know, when you didn't need to master 14 buttons just to beat a level or suffer from vertigo because of a dizzying first-person perspective. If you've got a sentimental spot for bustling arcades of the early '80s -- or sitting on a shag rug in front of the boob tube, with an Atari beside you -- then you'll be happy to know there are many ways to regain the glory of the "golden age of gaming" -- in 2012. Many of the game apps for smartphones and tablets are the classics from yesteryear. You can download authentic versions of "Ms. Pac-Man," "Galaga," "Centipede," "Asteroids" and "Space Invaders," to name just a few -- at a relatively low cost. Some, like Atari's "Missile Command" and "Breakout," are completely free. If you prefer to play these digital diversions on your big-screen television, all three video game consoles -- Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and Nintendo Wii -- offer downloadable versions of retro games. *USA Today* May. 3, 2012

And no commercials. A Nielsen survey finds that in the battle between screens, Netflix users are opting for TVs and Hulu users are siding with computers. Video [game consoles](#) have a lot to do with the discrepancy: Half of all Netflix users connect to its streaming service through their Nintendo Wii, Sony PlayStation 3 or Microsoft Xbox consoles, according to the survey. The study, conducted in 12,000 online interviews, researched viewing habits among the two popular streaming services. The Nielsen Co. find that 89 percent of Hulu users [stream video](#) on their computers. But only 42 percent of Netflix users watch directly on their computers. Nearly three-quarters of Hulu users primarily watch [TV shows](#). Netflix is more movie-driven, with just 11 percent focusing their viewing on TV shows. Slightly more than half of Netflix users watch mainly movies. The findings highlight the strong appeal of TV sets for streaming digital video, connected through myriad Internet-enabled devices. Other methods of connecting include Blu-Ray players, TVs with Internet access, and Roku boxes. Appetite for such video continues to soar. In any given month, more than 15 billion videos are streamed. *Associated Press* Jul. 27, 2011

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

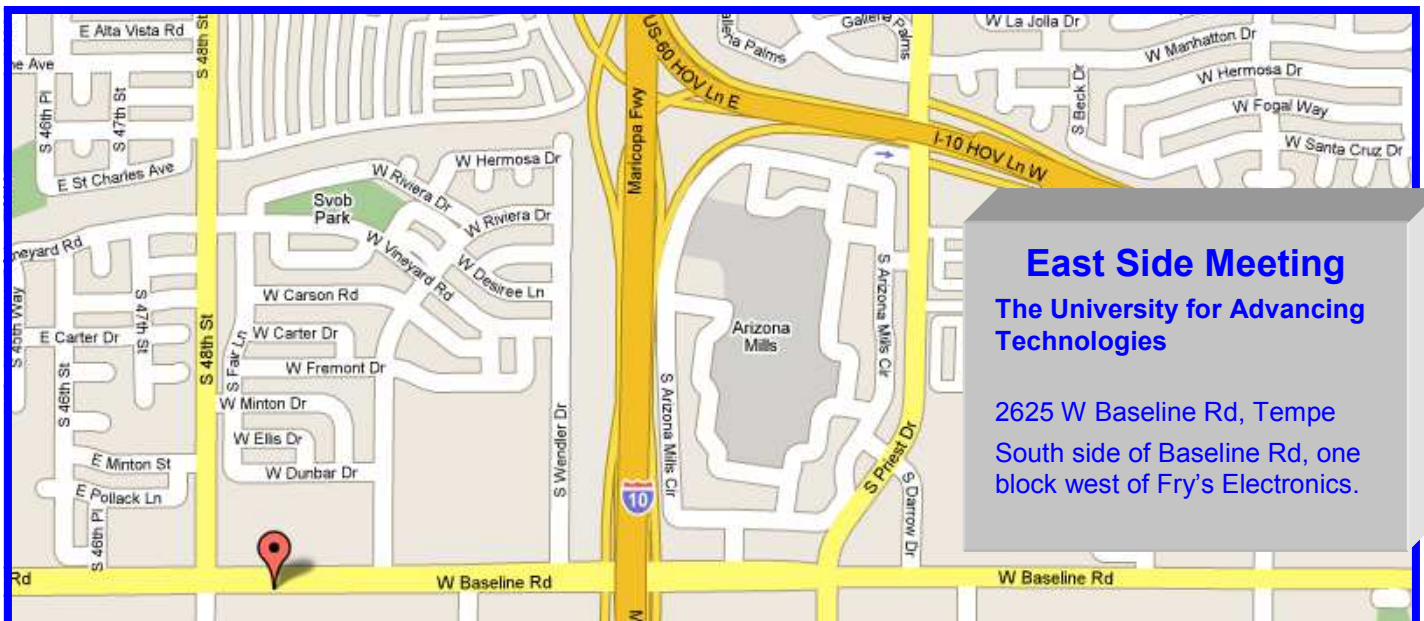
HOW TO GET THERE



West Side Meeting

CollegeAmerica

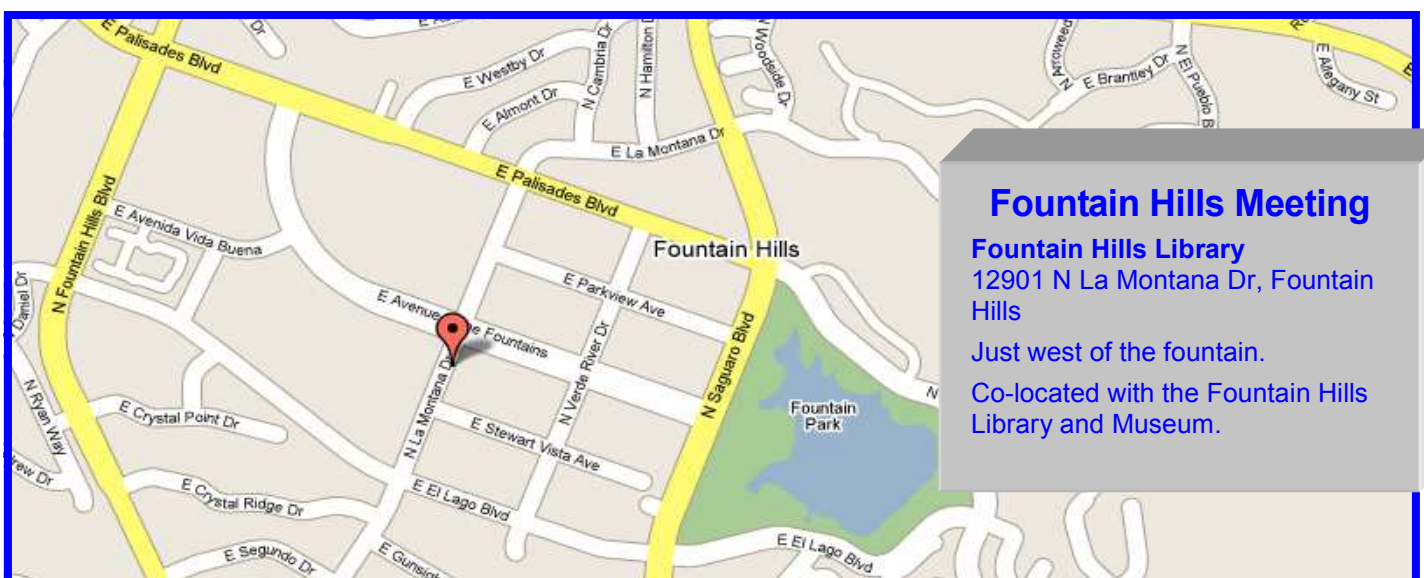
9801 North Metro Pkwy E
 Phoenix
 go south on the frontage road
 turn right at the first driveway past
 Cheryll Drive
 CollegeAmerica is the white building
 on your right (north)



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
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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.

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With club approved vendors? Yes No

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