

Nomination and Election of Officers  
Tuesday Dec 18 at CollegeAmerica



# NEWSLETTER

*The Best Accessory  
for your PC!*

## MAIN MEETINGS

**West Side.....Tue, Dec 18**

CollegeAmerica, 9801 North Metro Pkwy E, Phoenix

**East Side.....Wed, Dec 19**

2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe

(one block west of Fry's Electronics)

**Fountain Hills.....Thu, Dec 20**

Fountain Hills Library, 12901 N La Montana Drive,

Fountain Hills

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

Nomination and Election of Officers  
at CollegeAmerica

Tuesday Dec 18 at 6:00 pm

All Members are urged to Attend

Special Presentation

at UAT Wednesday Dec 19 at 6:30 pm

Join presenter Bob Gostischa,  
as he simplifies, clarifies, and demystifies  
your computer, with Avast,  
making your Internet experience a safe one

Holiday parties at all meetings

**For date and time changes, check our  
website: [phoenixpcug.org](http://phoenixpcug.org)**

### Phoenix PC Users Group

#### Officers

President: ----- David Yamamoto

Vice President:-----Philip Shoemaker

Secretary:-----Chuck Lewis

Treasurer:-----Paul Jamtgaard

#### Staff Members

Membership Coordinator:----- Lo Hardman

Webmaster:----- Bill Aulepp

Fountain Hills Coordinator:-----Nancy Ogden

East Side Coordinator:-----Open Position

West Side Coordinator:-----Bill Aulepp

Public Relations:-----Open Position

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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

Merry Christmas!

Come get elected, or serve on our staff! We need help! Write - bod@phoenixpcug.org.

What a year we've had! Windows 8 - Android - Apple: smartphones, tablets, phablets. Elections, Osama gone, Obama still prez, Apple less profit in 9 years, hurricane Sandy & recovery efforts & typhoon in Philippines - (please give to the Red Cross),

We're very grateful for support from College America, the University of Advancing Technology & Maricopa Co. Library. We are unique in Az, 3 locations! Let's make 2013 even better! Bring a friend!

Tell us your favorite shopping info - in Phoenix, I still like Fry's, Best Buy & a few online sites. Try 'geek store' on Google.

Don't forget to order Windows 8, only \$40 from Microsoft, if you have a current XP, Vista or Win 7 PC. Offer good to end of Jan 2013.

Win a Free iPad - TWIT contest. Leo Laporte Just tweet your ideal place to have a GoToMeeting you are from: Where in the world would you Tweet from and why, this holiday season if you had GoToMeeting on the iPad? Tweet to #twitfreeipad. Next week, Leo picks a winner.

Listen to Kim Komando, win free prizes, call her show on Sat at 7am Arizona time. Google 'streaming Komando' & listen to her radio shows online.

Holiday Gift Ideas & Guide| Shopping | PCMag.com We've got dozens of tech products for everyone on your holiday gift list. From laptops, ipods, digital cameras & hdtvs, there's something here for everyone.

[www.pcmag.com/holiday-gift-guide/](http://www.pcmag.com/holiday-gift-guide/)

Welcome to the PCMag Buying Guide newsletter. This week: Everything you need to know about shopping for a tablet.

<http://mailing.eneews.pcmag.com/read/archive?id=6129&mid=867910&e=dydavid40yahoo%2ecom&x=7f246994>

Holiday gift ideas and gift guide 2012 - CNET Reviews Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Check out CNET's 2012 holiday gift ideas for expert advice, reviews, and recommendations for the latest tech gifts for you ...

(Continued on page 3)

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

Twinkies, the tasty cream-filled golden spongecake, may have a new baker. The company that currently owns the sugary treat has been struggling with union troubles, rising sugar and grain costs, as well as growing public health awareness, for several years. It has now filed a petition for bankruptcy as a result of a slowdown strike called by the Bakers' union in response to a management proposal to lower wages and benefits. Some of the 18,300 affected employees, including long term workers, have been cited as saying, "I would rather go on unemployment than accept a cut in pay."

Although it is possible to be sympathetic with this comment, it seems to be irrational in the face of the cuts that have been occurring in blue collar and entry-level jobs for the past several years. Unemployment statistics have stubbornly remained in the 8-9 percent range despite substantial federal government funded increases. It does not take much imagination to suggest that a new non-union labor force would be easy to generate if the equipment used to make Twinkies, (and sister confectionaries Ding Dongs and Ho Ho's) is sold to another manufacturer in the food industry.

There is a precedent for such an action. In 1981 President Ronald Reagan fired the air traffic controllers after their union declared a strike for exactly the same reasons cited by the bakers' union. Ninety percent of the air traffic controllers were discharged and were banned for life after they refused to return to work.

Furthermore, the option to rescind the management proposal has also been tried, much to the detriment of the automobile and major steel industries. The company representatives of those economic powerhouses gave in to the triennial demands of the labor negotiators during much of the 20th century. The ultimate result was the well-documented movement of the industries to locations with lower wages accompanied by the replacement of laborers with robotic devices. There used to be a slogan, "Coming soon to your neighborhood." That seems to be likely here too.

*Michael*

DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM DAVID

*(Continued from page 2)*

<http://reviews.cnet.com/holiday-gift-guide/>

Computerworld's 2012 holiday gift guide From tablets to HDTVs to an array of gadgets and gizmos, discover more than 40 great tech gifts to give and get this year for the technology lovers on your holiday shopping list.

<http://www.computerworld.com/slideshow/detail/77018/Computerworld-s-2012-holiday-gift-guide--In-pictures>

United States says no to U.N. telecommunications treaty <http://www.slashgear.com/united-states-says-no-to-u-n-telecommunications-treaty-13260907/>

Today, nations gathered in Dubai to vote on the UN's telecommunications treaty, which many fear threatens the very foundations of the Internet. The United States rejected the agreement, stating that it will not sign unless "major revisions" were implemented. Many nations say that the UN treaty would result in a restrictive, censored Internet.

Apple, Google team up to pursue Kodak patents - San Jose Mercury News.mht Apple (AAPL) and Google (GOOG) have joined forces to offer more than \$500 million to buy Eastman Kodak's patents out of bankruptcy, [http://www.mercurynews.com/business/ci\\_22161993/apple-google-team-up-pursue-kodak-patents-report](http://www.mercurynews.com/business/ci_22161993/apple-google-team-up-pursue-kodak-patents-report)

Computerworld - Japanese team targets 24Tbps optical fiber by 2014 Three of Japan's tech giants will work together to increase data transmission speeds over optical fiber, aiming for 400Gbps ... Fujitsu, NTT and NEC have created a research group which aims to transmit 60 channels of 400Gbps each over a fiber...to achieve a total data transmission rate of around 24Tbps over a single optical fiber.

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9234576/Japanese\\_team\\_targets\\_24Tbps\\_optical\\_fiber\\_by\\_2014](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9234576/Japanese_team_targets_24Tbps_optical_fiber_by_2014)

Transformers Come to Life A 13-foot Japanese robot has superpowers straight out of the movies

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757722>

An Elephant That Talks? One clever elephant at a South Korean zoo has learned the local language

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757717>

[id=3757717](http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757717)

Experiments to see if the universe exists within a computer simulation from the future

<http://www.news.com.au/technology/experiments-to-see-if-the-universe-exists-within-a-computer-simulation-from-the-future/story-e6frfo0-1226536251540>

Eerily Lifelike Kenshiro Robot Mimics Human 'Muscles and Bones' Researchers at the University of Tokyo have developed a robot that imitates the body of a human boy.

<http://mashable.com/2012/12/13/kenshiro-robot/>

Senate legislation aims to crack down on cyberstalking software

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/12/13/senate-legislation-aims-to-crack-down-on-cyberstalking-software/>

Personal Technology - Wall Street Journal Read Today's Articles on High-Tech Companies, Gadgets, Online Media, Social Networking, E-commerce, Blogs & Telecom at the Wall Street Journal.com.

<http://online.wsj.com/public/page/personal-technology.html>

Vote for the Most Innovative City <http://online.wsj.com/ad/cityoftheyear> Here's How

Apple Is Telling Cable Companies It Will Make Apple TV Work - Business Insider.htm

[http://www.businessinsider.com/heres-how-apple-is-telling-cable-](http://www.businessinsider.com/heres-how-apple-is-telling-cable-companies-it-will-make-apple-tv-work-2012-8)

[companies-it-will-make-apple-tv-work-2012-8](http://www.businessinsider.com/heres-how-apple-is-telling-cable-companies-it-will-make-apple-tv-work-2012-8)

McAfee broke, played 'crazy card' in Guatemala

<http://www.siliconbeat.com/2012/12/13/mcafee-broke-played-crazy-card-in-guatemala/>

Apple Adds Google Tool to Its iPhone After Outrage Over Maps Apple Inc. (AAPL), caving to user outrage over faulty directions in its home-grown navigation tool, has let Google Inc. (GOOG)'s mapping application back onto the iPad and iPhone mobile devices.

[http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-12-12/google-unveils-mapping-](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-12-12/google-unveils-mapping-application-for-apple-iphone-ipad-users)

[application-for-apple-iphone-ipad-users](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-12-12/google-unveils-mapping-application-for-apple-iphone-ipad-users)

GMC Sierra and Chevrolet Silverado reveal 2014 MyLink and IntelliLink ... It's a great time for the automotive universe as the technology and gadgets of our modern world converge with the likes of the 2014 GMC Sierra and 2014 Chevrolet Silver-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM DAVID

(Continued from page 3)

ado.

<http://www.slashgear.com/gmc-sierra-and-chevrolet-silverado-reveal-2014-mylink-and-intellilink-technology-updates-13260855/>

Facebook changes privacy settings Facebook has updated its privacy settings to allow users greater control over the content they put on the site. The updates include new privacy shortcuts, more accessible information about where content will appear and new ways of removing tags from photos ...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-20693203>

Report: Apple, Microsoft lock horns over iOS Office revenue split Microsoft may be motivated to bow to Apple's demands, says analyst Computerworld - Apple and Microsoft are arguing over the iOS App Store's submission and payment requirements, and Microsoft has already made concessions as it tries to get its SkyDrive app approved, support discussions show. Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, iTunes - are favorite young people sources of TV shows vs cable & older people. Or they will get it by BitTorrent

BitTorrent - Delivering the World's Content  
[www.bittorrent.com/](http://www.bittorrent.com/)

BitTorrent is a fast and easy client for Windows and Mac with many features. Download - Get Started - BitTorrent Plus - About BitTorrent  
[www.bittorrent.com/downloads](http://www.bittorrent.com/downloads)

Buy BitTorrent Plus. Get BitTorrent Plus. For Windows Protect your computer with integrated antivirus Get the codecs you need to enjoy HD video Easily move ...

BitTorrent - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BitTorrent

BitTorrent is a protocol that underpins the practice of peer-to-peer file sharing and is used for distributing large amounts of data over the Internet.

Foxconn reportedly installing robots to replace workers- CNET News news.cnet.com > News > Business Tech by Steven Musil - in 451 Google+ circles - More by Steven Musil Nov 13, 2012 - Following a rash of suicides and criticism of factory working conditions, the Taiwanese hardware maker announced the move last year, saying it ...

Foxconn robots arrive: 10,000 Foxbots prepare to replace workers ... bgr.com/2012/11/13/foxconn-robots-arrive-worker-replacements/ Nov 13, 2012 - Foxconn announced in August last year that it was planning to have 1 million robots up and running in its factories within three years.

US Online Retail Sales +13% RAPAPORT... Online Christmas-season retail sales in the U.S. have risen 13 percent year on year to \$26.8 billion for the period November 1 ...

CNBC.com (blog) FedEx expects record shipping day with boost from online sales Los Angeles Times-22 hours ago

With a little over two weeks left before Christmas, it's crunch time for ... Strong online sales, mainly, have buoyed shipping volumes this year,

Christmas sales set to increase in 2012 BDrive-Dec 9, 2012 GROWTH is expected, but consumers are worse off than last year as they have less cash and are battling rising costs.

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/economy/2012/12/09/christmas-sales-set-to-increase-in-2012>

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Well, 2013, the year ahead looks gloomy to small business, says the Los Angeles Times:

"<http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-obamacare-fiscal-cliff-small-business-20121211,0,3789317.story> "

Obamacare, fiscal cliff leads to small business optimism plunge

American small business owners are in a sour mood, with optimism at one of its lowest levels since 1986, but don't blame Superstorm Sandy.

It's the fiscal cliff's fault, according to a new report from the National Federation of Independent Business. The threat of major spending cuts and tax hikes in the new year has caused a forward-looking gauge of Main Street sentiment to plummet.

The election and the looming implementation of President Obama's health coverage overhaul is also weighing on small business owners, according to the report. Sandy, which battered the East Coast in October, had a minimal effect. ...more..."

Well that is all for 2012. We will party the old year out at our December meetings and as always hope for a better year to come.

David

DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH

## MEETINGS

# CALENDAR

For date and time changes, check our  
website: [phoenixpcug.org](http://phoenixpcug.org)

## *SCHEDULE FOR THIS MONTH*

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as he simplifies, clarifies, and demystifies  
your computer, with Avast,  
making your Internet experience a safe one.

Holiday Parties at all Meetings

## *GENERAL MEETINGS*

WEST SIDE: CollegeAmerica (see map page 18)

- Tuesday, Dec 18, 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 18)

- Wednesday, Dec 19, 2012
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
- 

FOUNTAIN HILLS: Fountain Hills Library (see map page 18)

- Thursday, Dec 20, 2012
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
-

# IT'S ALMOST HERE - SOON - WHEN IS SOON?

## IT'S ALMOST HERE...WHEN?...SOON... WHEN IS SOON?

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



For those who follow computer news, you probably know that "it" is Windows 8, Microsoft's latest, and from many reports, best OS. Before I tell you a bit more about 8, I have a suggestion. I know some of you are considering getting an iPad...my suggestion is wait. Microsoft recently introduced their answer to iPad called Surface, but not all the details are out there yet. So, I would also suggest u take a look at: <http://www.microsoft.com/surface/en/us/default.aspx>

The picture, above shows some of the options available.

Whenever a new Windows operating system (OS) comes out, we inevitably find ourselves wondering if it's worth the hassle of upgrading. What will it cost to upgrade? The good news is the two recent options that Microsoft announced. If you are in the market, right now, for a new PC, you will be able to upgrade to Windows 8 pro when it's released (all the indications are that it will be released in October) for \$15. And, for those who want to upgrade from Vista, XP or 7, it's \$40. Will you lose all your favorite features? So now that Windows 8 is imminent, we have to ask ourselves if it will be that much better than Windows 7 (or even Windows XP, for those of us who never bothered upgrading last time). TECCA asked those same questions and dug through the reviews to find some answers. What can you expect from Windows 8? Is it time for you to make a change?

## 1. Unified PC, tablet, and smartphone



Windows 8 aims to successfully unify all your devices, from your PC to you tablet to your smartphone. While this claim may sound too good to be true, so far, it looks like a promise Microsoft will keep.

Earlier this year, Samsung showed off a tablet running Windows 8 at the 2012 Consumer Electronics Show. And during an event held in June, the company presented a duo of tablets collectively called the Microsoft Surface. (See my comment, above.) The more basic of the two runs Windows 8 RT, one of three flavors of Windows 8. The more high-end version built with professionals in mind runs Windows 8 Pro.

Unfortunately, current Windows smartphones won't be upgradeable to Windows 8. But if you do get a Windows 8 smartphone, tablet, and computer in the future, you'll be able to sync your Metro user interface (UI) apps, among other things, across devices. You can even access your computer and your mobile devices using the same login details.

## 2. The all-new user interface



We mentioned the UI above, but what is it exactly? Previous versions of the Windows operating system feature similar aesthetics, but Windows 8 looks drastically different. The Metro UI displays Windows 8 apps right on your home screen as a mosaic of tiled

*(Continued on page 7)*

**DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH**

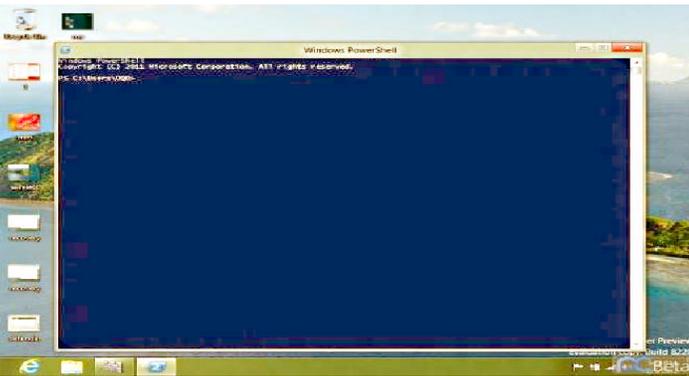
## IT'S ALMOST HERE - SOON - WHEN IS SOON?

*(Continued from page 6)*

boxes of different sizes, shapes, and colors. These tiles represent everything from apps running in the background to incoming email and messages to shared photos.

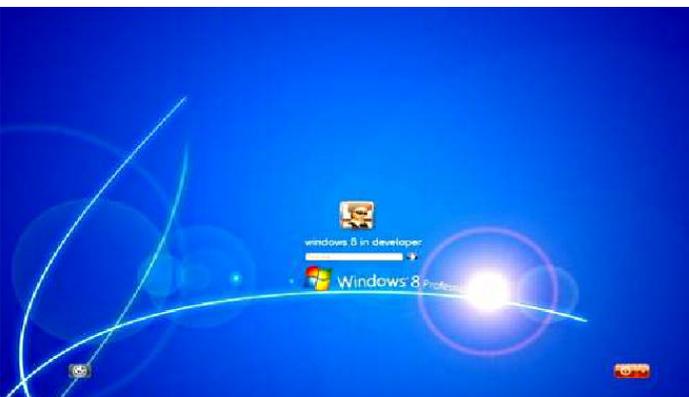
The app tiles update in real time for events including Twitter messages and upcoming calendar events. Metro UI renders well on tablets, especially since if you own a tablet, you're already used to swiping between home screens. But on computers, you have to get used to scrolling sideways to get to the home screen where you placed the app you want to launch.

### 3. More energy-efficient than Windows 7



According to a test by Tom's Guide, Windows 8 uses less power than Windows 7, keeping your laptop running longer. Windows 8 is configured to save battery life by dropping to a low-power state (longer than Windows 7 can) when you're not doing anything power-intensive. It also shuts down ports you're not using rather than running them needlessly.

### 4. Speedier performance



Is Windows 8 faster? The answer is a resounding yes. The Consumer Preview version of Windows 8 has so far proven to be faster than older Windows versions in various speed tests. In fact, Lifehacker found that Windows 8 boot times can be up to 25 seconds faster than Windows 7 boots, and the new OS can pretty much do most tasks a smidge faster than the older OS. Sure, it's just a few seconds shaved off, but those few seconds are pretty noticeable when you spend a lot of time on the computer.

### 5. Easier to use with multiple monitors



If you decide you want a computer setup comprised of more than one monitor, then Windows 8 may be the operating system that will work best for you. Designed with multi-monitor use in mind, it lets you customize your taskbar settings for each monitor or open window. Microsoft even lets you customize a different desktop background for each monitor or stretch one image over multiple monitors. You'll also be able to run slide shows over multiple screen screens.

### 6. Limited third-party browser access

Recent reports indicate that Windows 8 RT, one of the platform's versions meant for use on devices with ARM processors such as one of the Surface tablets, could limit third-party internet browsers. Those of you who prefer Firefox or Chrome over Internet Explorer may be out of luck. This has yet to be confirmed as of this writing, but keep it in mind if you're buying a new Windows computer or tablet in the future.

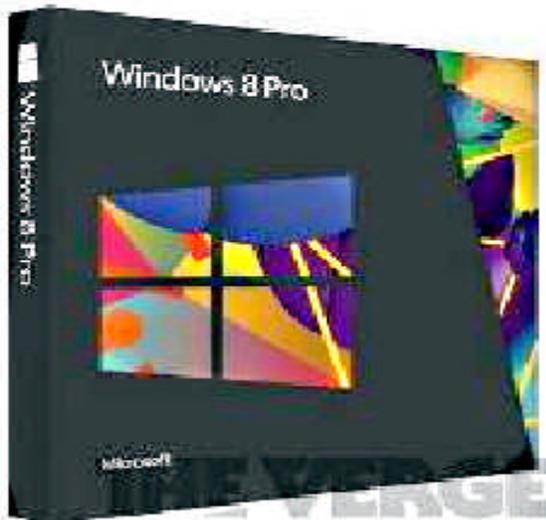
### 7. No support for Windows XP by 2014

Windows 7 and Windows XP are two of the most popular operating systems at the moment. If you're running Windows 7, you're probably fine until 2020, but if you're an old XP faithful, you might have to rethink your position and upgrade to Windows 8 soon. As of April 2014, Microsoft plans to stop supporting Windows XP.

# WHEN IS SOON? - NOW!

## IT'S ALMOST HERE...WHEN?...SOON...NOW! CONTINUED!!

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



### Windows 8 development is complete!

This is a huge milestone and accomplishment for the Microsoft team. They said they were going to do it and it's done!

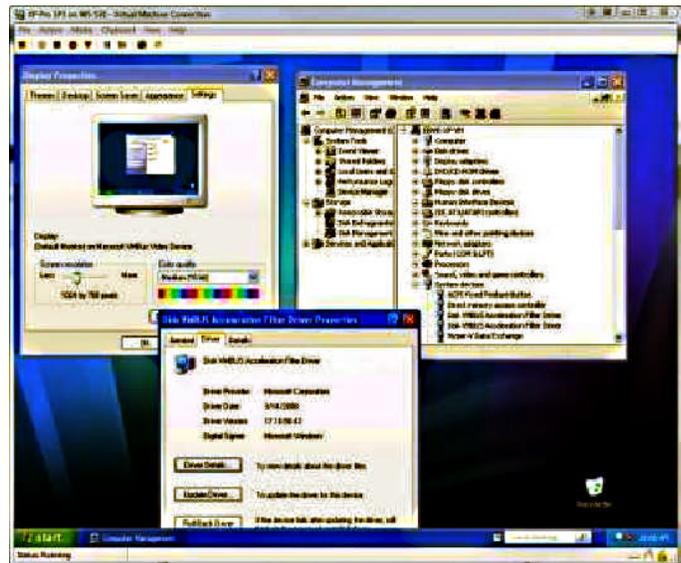
The final build is 9200.16384.win8\_rtm.120725-1247 and Microsoft says MSDN and TechNet customers will be able to download it from August 15th.

Microsoft Software Assurance customers will get the RTM bits on August 16th, and Volume License customers without Software Assurance will be able to purchase Windows 8 through Microsoft Volume License Resellers on September 1st.



Here's what Steven Sinofsky, President of the Windows group at Microsoft had to say:

*Today marks an important milestone in the Windows 8 project. The Windows 8 team is proud to share with you that a short while ago we started releasing Windows 8 to PC OEM and manufacturing partners. This means our next milestone will be the availability of exciting new models of PCs loaded with Windows 8 and online availability of Windows 8 on October 26, 2012.*



*Back when we first demonstrated Windows 8 in May 2011, we described it as "reimagining Windows, from the chipset to the experience," and that is what Windows 8 (and Windows RT) represents for both Microsoft and partners. The collective work: from the silicon, to the user experience, to new apps, has been an incredibly collaborative effort. Together we are bringing to customers a new PC experience that readies Windows PCs for a new world of scenarios and experiences, while also preserving an industry-wide 25-year investment in Windows software.*

*We continue to be sincerely humbled by the breadth of participation in our pre-release testing. The previews of Windows 8 (Developer, Consumer, Release) have been the most widely and deeply used test releases of any product we have ever done. Over 16 million PCs actively participated in these programs, including approximately 7 million on the Release Preview that started 8 weeks ago. The depth and breadth of testing validate the readiness of Windows 8 or the market.*

## WHEN IS SOON? - NOW!

(Continued from page 8)



The openness of the previews presents a unique perspective on product development, and we're deeply committed to the transparency of the preview process. No product used by so many people in so many different ways is developed "out in the open" like Windows 8 has been. This blog, the forums, and the preview releases form an important part of the development process. Major changes have been made at each milestone and as we promised, the final release (build 9200, for those tracking) contains many promised refinements. We are humbled by the responsibility of meeting the needs of such a diverse set of customers and enthused by the deep level of participation in the pre-release process.



While we have reached our RTM milestone, no software project is ever really "done." We will continue to monitor and act on your real world experiences with Windows 8—we've used the preview process to test out our servicing and we have every intent of doing a great job on this next important phase of the product. Hardware partners will continue to provide new devices and improve support for existing devices. PC makers no doubt have quite a bit in store for all of us as they begin to show off PCs specifically designed for Windows 8.

With improvements in fundamentals, enhanced stor-

age and connectivity, newly architected subsystems, the "fast and fluid" user experience, and the WinRT platform (to name a few), Windows 8 has literally thousands of new features. We did a record number of blogs posts (and videos) and did not even come close to covering the full breadth of Windows 8. There's much left to learn about and discover in the product.



Some of the most exciting innovations with Windows 8 are yet to come—the innovations from developers building apps on the new WinRT platform. Today, the Store is open for business and we'll rapidly expand to over 200 markets around the world. The opportunity for developers around the world to deliver innovative (and profitable) apps is unique with Windows 8. We're excited to see the work developers will be bringing to Windows 8. We'll also have a chance to talk more about the Windows 8 platform at the next BUILD conference recently announced.

We know there are lots of questions about how to get Windows 8 and when, and of course more questions to come about exploring and using the full set of thousands of Windows 8 features. Our Windows Team Blog today has posted a lot of new information and gathered up some important details that we hope will answer your questions. Please check our blog and stay in touch on the in-market developments of Windows 8 there.

On behalf of the Windows 8 engineering team, we want to thank you very much for your contributions throughout development and your contributions yet to come to Windows 8. THANK YOU!

Next stop, October 26, 2012 and General Availability! There you have it folks, it's now up to you to decide. Have fun!  
Aloha, Lou

Check out Lou's *Technology in Plain English* articles at Around Hawaii / Oceanic time Warner's Community Website <http://www.aroundhawaii.com/technology-in-plain-english.html>

## APPLE, GOOGLE, & MICROSOFT CREATE ECOSYSTEMS

### APPLE, GOOGLE, & MICROSOFT CREATE TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEMS

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

www.compukiss.com

sandy (at) compukiss.com

Today's technology is being separated into ecosystems. Will you buy into Apple's ecosystem? Google's Ecosystem? Amazon's? or Microsoft's? Or perhaps you have already bought into one or the other without even knowing it? This is a must read for anyone making purchasing a piece of digital equipment or software.

Not only has technology changed over the last few years, but the way we use technology has also changed. There used to be two main camps when it came to technology: PC and Mac. These were built around the two competing computers systems, Microsoft's Windows PC operating system and Apple's Mac operating system. Software was written specifically for each of these systems, so you couldn't use PC software on a Mac or Mac software on a PC. When you bought a computer, you pretty much bought into one of these two types of computers. The PCs and Apple battled it out for years with PC garnering more than 90% of the market and Apple never getting out of single digits.

Now, however, things have completely changed. With the introduction of the iPhone and the iPad, Apple has soared in popularity. Other large companies have become technology powerhouses. Google with their Android operating system and Amazon have both entered the fray, while Microsoft is struggling to keep up.

Previously we were only talking about computers, but now we are talking about smartphones, tablets, and cloud computing. We are talking about entire ecosystems. The choices are mind-boggling. Each of the above mentioned companies is trying to get you to buy into their ecosystem. Each is pretty much proprietary. That means that for the most part, they are incompatible.

Right now, Apple has the largest ecosystem (I call it an ecosystem because it is an entire network or en-

vironment where one thing is dependent on another.) Apple's iPhone and iPads run on the iOS operating system. These devices run apps, which are like mini software programs that are purchased from the iTunes App store. There are currently more than 500,000 in Apple's App store. Some are free, but many are sold for a fee. These can only be used on Apple devices. If you switch to a Google Android phone or tablet, you cannot use the Apple products that you may have already purchased. You have to repurchase them from the Android Marketplace that has apps similar to those found in the Apple iTunes store.

This ecosystem also extends to storage and services in the cloud (think Internet). Apple has announced a cloud service, called iCloud that lets you store information on Apple's servers and access it from any Internet-connected device. Amazon, Microsoft, and Google also have cloud storage systems available. Since many of Microsoft's followers use Microsoft Office, Google has also developed a set of programs that are the equivalent of Microsoft Office programs, but that can be stored in the cloud and used from any Internet-connected device.

These companies make money from their hardware and their App sales. They give you a basic amount of cloud storage for free, but if you need more storage, there is a charge. You can see why so many companies are battling for supremacy of their ecosystem. It is very profitable.

Each of the current ecosystems is expanding. Apple not only has the software in its App store, but they also have the hardware in their iPhone, iPad devices and Mac computers. Apple recently announced their new cloud storage system and an App store for their Mac computers. Their new Lion operating system which is used for their Mac computers is so similar to the iOS operating system that you have to wonder just how soon the Mac computer and the Apple iPhone and iPads will share an operating system. When that happens, they will have added another component to their ecosystem.

Microsoft is a slightly different story. They don't

*(Continued on page 11)*

**DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH**

APPLE, GOOGLE, & MICROSOFT  
CREATE ECOSYSTEMS

PROTECT AND SAVE  
PLUS MY FAVORITE WEBSITE

*(Continued from page 10)*

manufacture smartphones or tablets, but they have a new mobile operating system called Windows Phone 7, which runs on hardware from other manufacturers. Microsoft has an App Marketplace like Apple and Google. They also have cloud storage. The phones that run the Microsoft operating system shine at running Microsoft office programs like Word and Excel. This is a part of their ecosystem. I expect that when Microsoft comes out with Windows 8, it will also be able to run on tablets, so we will soon see tablets running Microsoft software and apps.

Amazon has developed their own app store filled with Android apps. They also have a cloud storage system called Amazon Cloud Drive. They are already into the hardware business with their Kindle e-reader, and I expect that they will soon release a tablet to compete with the Apple iPad.

Blackberry and HP have both entered this competition with operating systems, hardware, and app stores of their own.

It's not that you cannot mix products. For instance, my husband has an Android phone, while we also own an iPad. He obviously can use both, but to do so, he had to learn two different operating systems. On top of that, if he wants to have a certain app on both his phone and our tablet, we may have to purchase it twice, buying a copy for his phone from the Android Marketplace and buying a copy for our tablet from the iTunes store. So not only is it easier to stay within one ecosystem, it is also more economical.

Knowing about these ecosystems may make purchasing a tablet or a new smartphone a little more complicated, because besides assessing the qualities of the hardware, you also have to stop and think about the ecosystem you are buying into. Yet, the number of large companies involved in this rivalry and the constant changes, additions, and improvements they make to their line-ups makes this a very exciting time in the history of technology.

## PROTECT AND SAVE YOUR PC PLUS SOME FAVORITE WEBSITES

by Bill Aulepp

Publisher - Phoenix PC Users Group

◇

### Antivirus

There are many antivirus apps available but I still use my favorite and it is free.

Avast Home Edition

Free version

<http://www.avast.com/index>

◇

### System Cleaner

Throw Out the Trash and Put Everything in its Proper Place. I have tried many system cleaners. I even bought two of them, but I prefer this one, and use it daily. You will be amazed at the trash your computer accumulates. It has a one-click approach to help protect, repair, clean, and optimize your PC.

<http://iobit.com/ascdownload.html>

### FreewareUpdater

From this site you can find many, many free download applications. The Web Site describes itself as follows: FreewareUpdater is a small, yet powerful, software management tool to help you keep track of the most popular freeware and open source applications. It is provided to you absolutely free.

<http://freewareupdater.com>

### Electronic Manuals

If you have ever lost the manual that came with one of your consumer electronic items, this is the place to find it. Try it out now! This site also gives street prices for the manual's item.

<http://retrevo.com/>

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

## REMEMBER PASSWORDS WITH eWALLET

### REMEMBER YOUR PASSWORDS WITH eWALLET BY ILIUM SOFTWARE

Reviewed by Hewie Poplock, APCUG Director

Hewie's Views & Reviews, <http://www.hewie.net>

I am a password nut. I try to have almost every program, website, email address, etc., use a unique password. That makes it difficult to remember them. Way back in 2000, I found a program to keep track of all of my passwords and account numbers in an encrypted file. I carried a Palm PDA in those days. The program was eWallet by iLium Software, with a version for both my Palm and my PC. I could sync the information as well.

Once the Palm PDA and its successor were finally put to rest, I continued to use the program between my desktop, laptop, and netbook. The encrypted file containing the data was easily copied between them.

I purchased the original iPhone and one of the first apps that I added was the iOS version of eWallet. I could sync it with my PC version via Wi-Fi. So once again I was now able to carry a program with me to access my passwords anytime. I was comfortable knowing that it had an encrypted file with a rather long password to access the file. I have since added an iPad2 to the equation and upgraded to the iPhone 4s, using eWallet on both.

There are many password manager programs available. Obviously, the main reason that I use the eWallet is that I have been using it for 12 years. However, there are other reasons. The biggest is that I can have it on all of my devices, especially on my iPhone & my iPad, which I have with me at all

times. The data is protected with 256-bit AES (FIPS-197) encryption.

eWallet is currently available for PCs running Windows 7, Vista, or XP. If you are an Mac user, you need OS X. There are versions for the Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod touch, RIM BlackBerry, Android phones, the Kindle Fire tablet, and Windows Mobile. You need to check the version number to be sure it works on your device. The PC version is \$20 & the others are \$10 each. Only one license is needed for both the iPad & iPhone. You can try the PC version free for 30 days & then it stops working unless you buy it.

Although the program manages your passwords well, it has other features that may not be included in other programs in the same category. They include Live Fields, which enables you to jump to websites or dial phone numbers with just a tap. Auto Pass brings up the webpage and fills in the username and password for you. There is Smart Copy to quickly grab info for on-line forms and PassBuilder that generates passwords for you if you want real security using unique passwords. You can import data from some other programs using the Import Wizard.

eWallet stores your info in a file called a wallet. You can have more than one wallet. Each wallet contains categories and stores your information using cards in which you designate its category. Cards can be printed as well as the entire wallet. I use the search ability a lot. It searches the entire wallet for the letters that you type wherever they appear so finding an item is easy and quick.

**DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH**

## HARD TO BREAK, EASY TO REMEMBER, PASSWORDS

Make Hard to Break, Yet Easy to Remember Passwords

By Doris Collins, Member, ccOKC (Computer Club of Oklahoma City)

May 2012 Issue, eMonitor

[www.ccokc.org](http://www.ccokc.org)

DJCollins1122 (at) aol.com

We all know that simple passwords are dangerous. If you're using any of the following for passwords (or forms thereof), you probably aren't as secure as you think:

- Names of Pets
- Birth date
- Last 4 digits of your SS#
- Kid's Names
- Grandkid's Names
- Parent's Names
- Addresses
- Phone Numbers
- The word Password

Did I catch you? Well, it gets even worse!

Even if you're not using any of the above, but are still using simple words (like car, bike, etc.) for your passwords, you're accounts are still pretty easy to break into. Now, a better password looks more like this:

ks86jw03ts92ctb02

Although some would argue that it's not better than what most people have been using thus far. Yeah, yeah, I know what you're thinking, "How the heck am I supposed to remember that thing? It's 17 random letters and numbers!" Read on. That password is as easy to remember as any other - if you understand how it was constructed:

It's based on a fictitious Smith family with a daughter named Kelly and a son named Tyler. They have a 2003 Jeep Wrangler and an 02 Chevy Trail Blazer. Now, let's take those facts and look at the password again:

ks - Kelly Smith, born in 1986  
jw03 - Jeep Wrangler, 2003 model

ts92 - Tyler Smith, born in 1992  
ctb02 - You guessed it, Chevy Trail Blazer  
2002 model year

I simply took the first initials of everyone and everything involved, then the year they were born (or built). It's a lot tougher to guess a password like that, but still very easy to remember.

**DID YOU KNOW  
YOU CAN GET  
YOUR NEWSLETTER  
ELECTRONICALLY EACH  
MONTH ?**

**JUST GO TO OUR  
WEBSITE  
AND CLICK ON THE  
NEWSLETTER PAGE**

**OR**

**IF YOU WANT A PRINTED  
COPY MAILED TO YOU EACH  
MONTH**

**JUST SEND AN EMAIL TO:**

**[publisher@phoenixpcug.org](mailto:publisher@phoenixpcug.org)**

**MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE  
YOUR EMAIL  
AND ADDRESS  
OR**

**check the box on your  
membership application when  
paying your dues**

## EVERNOTE 4 REVIEWED

### EVERNOTE 4

Reviewed by Hewie Poplock, APCUG Director; VP,  
Central Florida Computer Society  
Hewie's Views & Reviews

<http://www.hewie.net>

I like to share information, especially with members of my user group. I read a lot of articles about computer hardware & software. When I find an article of interest, which may be news, pricing, reviews, or tutorials, I have to decide how to keep that information. I often save it as an Acrobat PDF file, or I may copy and paste the article and email to myself, or send the link to myself.

I frequently forget where I stored them, to follow through with a link, or to go back later to save it. Many times I do not even remember the article or how I tried to save it.

I have actually created an email address to send myself articles to keep track of them in one place. I have begun to save other articles in several folders in an attempt to become organized.

Recently I was asked about a free program that I tried a few years ago, Evernote. I decided to once again take a look at it and discovered that it is an organizational tool that I need to be using. Since I have started using it, I find it to be an important part of my everyday computer life.

As I read an article, an email, a webpage, I just highlight the information that I want to save, right mouse click add to Evernote 4.0, and I have the article. It is clean and usually just the information that I want, usually eliminating ads or other information that is not part of the article. If any of it does get into the note, I can delete it. I can also add something that I missed or was on a different part of the screen. I can edit the formatting, and other typical text edits. I can even change the font or font size.

Evernote does include a link to the original document and links in the article are live. I always like to include a link to the original to make sure that the author is cited and given proper credit.

Once I have created an Evernote, it will sync with all of my other devices that are signed into my account. So when I read an article on my desktop, I can create a note and it will almost immediately be available on my notebook, my iPad, my iPod, and my netbook. I can share the article with others via Twitter, Facebook, or email directly from Evernote.

The program is available for mobile devices with iOS, Android, Blackberry, Windows Phone 7 and WebOS as well as computers with Mac OS X, Windows, Safari, Chrome, and Firefox.

There are some limits to the program which can be addressed with a premium account for \$45 a year or \$5 a month. Evernote can be downloaded from <http://www.evernote.com> and for info comparing the free account verses the premium account, see <http://www.reviewsync.com/evernote-pricing.html>. The iOS & Android versions can be found in their respective Apps Store.

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WE WOULD ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL**

**DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH**

## CUT & PASTE TO AND FROM A THUMB DRIVE

### CUT & PASTE TO AND FROM A THUMB DRIVE

By Gordon Giles, Committee Member, Perth PC Users Group, Australia

April 2012 issue, AXESS, Magazine of the Perth PCUG

[www.perthpcug.org.au](http://www.perthpcug.org.au)

gorgil51 (at) perthpcug.org.au

Here are some handy hints on how to copy or paste files to and from a thumb drive.

1. Plug your thumb drive into the USB port. It's important you use the same port for each item you plug in your device as drivers are associated with ports as well as peripherals.
2. If you are using Windows Explorer, then open the folder containing the file you wish to place on the thumb drive.
3. Right mouse click on it and select Send To.
4. Click on the thumb drive in the list and the file you want will be copied on to the thumb drive.

Note: If you have several files to send to the thumb drive then just open the folder, use the CTRL key and the "C" key to highlight everything in that file and follow steps 1 to 4.

If you find you don't want all the files you have highlighted then hold down the CTRL key and click on the files you don't want, they will no longer be highlighted and will not be copied onto your thumb drive.

Utilising (utilizing) this method will send all the selected files to the main directory of the thumb drive.

If you have a complete folder to post to the thumb drive then follow steps 1 to 4 but just send the entire folder.

Cutting and Pasting from thumb drive to desktop.

1. For this insert the thumb drive and using Windows Explorer open up the thumb drive.
2. Select the required folder or files and with them highlighted hold down the CTRL key and then hit the "C" key. This places the files on to the clipboard. Then go back to the folder on your main computer.
3. Select the area you wish to put the information in and paste by holding down the CTRL key and hit the "V" key and a copy of the selected files from your thumb drive will be placed on the selected area on the main computer.

### Handy Key Strokes

CTRL+C Copies to the clip board.

CTRL+V Sends copy of selected files and folders to selected area.

CTRL+X Will delete the selected file or folder.

CTRL+Z In MS Word and some other programs will backspace the last move.

Sorry it will not replace an accidental file/folder deletion.

For accidental file deletion go to your recycle bin select the file and click on the restore tab. It will place it back exactly where it came from.

### DID YOU KNOW!

That Thumb Drives can also be known as:

USB Flash Drive

Thumb drive

Finger stick

Memory stick

Pen drive

Disk-on-key

Jump drive

## TABLET OR LAPTOP, A POPULAR QUESTION

### TABLET OR LAPTOP, A POPULAR QUESTION ... and "Cool App Reviews"

**Greg West**, Advisor, Region 6 and International Sarnia Computer User's Group  
[www.scug.ca](http://www.scug.ca) [gwest \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:gwest@apcug.org)

Unless you are a "hard core" computer gamer, you can now officially say goodbye to the laptop.

The day of computer frustration is coming to an end. The answer to pulling your hair out as you are trying to figure out why the laptop is so hard to use is called: "touch pads".

I recall clearly, back on the APCUG/FAPCUG technology cruise this past January where 400 plus geeks rode the seas and clicked on computers in various seminars. Wait, that's not correct. It wasn't computers these everyday people were using. No, it was touch screen devices. Mostly iPads I must admit. This too is strange as the group was 99.9% Windows users. The average age in the 400 plus crowd was, shall I say, more than 50+. Most of them said they cannot believe the difference and ease when they switched from a laptop or desktop to a tablet.

Most people on the tech cruise, who recently bought a tablet and still owned a laptop/ desktop computer, said that they "hardly ever use their computer anymore." The hot topic on the ship was the app. People were constantly sharing newfound apps for their tablets.

So what makes these tablets so popular? Price, ease of use, two click downloads for software, portability, and low price are just a few factors enticing people to switch to tablets. Here are some tips when shopping for a tablet: -

Test drive several. Ask friends who own them what they suggest. Do online searches for reviews. -

Decide what exactly you are going to use it for then decide on the size. I wouldn't worry too much about the hard drive size as most of what we do on a computer is heading to the cloud and soon, you won't need software programs for your devices.

Make sure the tablet of choice has a USB slot for thumb drives, cameras, and other such devices.

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ITworld.com suggests "Decide on the operating system. The three main choices these days are iOS, Android or Blackberry Tablet OS. Do a bit of research on all three and pick the one that will work the best for you."

One final word...Most people will tell you once they bought a tablet their other computers became lonely. Just ask anyone who owns a tablet and they'll tell you they "hardly use" their computers anymore because the tablet is "so much easier to use and less hassle."

Forester.com researchers predict "Tablets will cannibalize netbooks, and will outsell them. Oh yes, one more thing; the tablet to watch is Samsung, once the amazing new Windows 8 "Surface" hits the streets. Then you will have a tough decision for sure: Do I want to be a "Mac or a PC" LOL. Have fun!

Cool App Reviews..."AppZilla 2" won the App of the year award in 2011.

I finally broke down and bought an app for my iPhone, AppZilla 2, it nicely slid onto my iPad after syncing with my iCloud (fodder for a future article on iCloud). Ninety-nine cents is a fair price to pay for an app that houses 120 apps with just one click. Some of the Apps within this App included: Google software, Apple reports this app "surpasses 3 million downloads to date!" AppZilla 2 works on the iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. Sorry droid users you only get 40 Apps right now!

With 150 apps in one App, it will take some time to test drive them all. YES, you heard correctly, one software application houses 150 software applications. Some are kinda corny but still fun. As a Google user of Docs, now called Google Drive, Gmail and many of Google's software program, I like the way this app has corralled all the Google products for ease of use. They call this the "utility" app and rightfully so, as there are levels, app for flashlight mode on your phone, path finder so you never get lost, night vision, password keeper, parking meter reminder with alarm, police scanner for many cities, and many more I haven't tried but sure will. I give this app a 10+. For a listing of all the 150 Apps you can go here:

<http://fossilsoftware.com/>

DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH

## Short Circuits...zzzt!

Oops 1. An Ohio woman has confiscated the Xbox of her 15-year-old son who was hospitalized for dehydration after spending at least four days in his bedroom playing the Modern Warfare 3 video game. He emerged from his bedroom after a marathon round of game-playing, and collapsed three times. His mother says, "he became very pale and his lips turned blue. I was very scared. I thought he was going to die. He just fell over three times." An emergency physician at a children's hospital stated that dehydration can lead to decreased blood pressure and a lack of adequate oxygen to the brain. The teen had only left his bedroom to use the bathroom, pick up snacks and take a quick shower. Both mother and son agree that each have learned a lesson the hard way. The young man was shaken by the ordeal, but he didn't complain about his punishment. "The Xbox is gone," the mother said.

USA Today

Oops 2. A jury has decided that a Syracuse, NY doctor isn't to blame for an operating-room mishap that caused a pregnant woman to catch fire during a cesarean section delivery. The lady suffered a 7-inch-long burn on her side when an alcohol-based antiseptic applied to her skin was accidentally ignited by a medical device. The fire was out quickly and her baby was fine, but she sued over the injury. She reached an out-of-court settlement with the hospital, but the a jury rejected a negligence claim this week against obstetrician. Surgical fires are rare, but do happen occasionally when hot devices touch disinfectant solutions before the alcohol has a chance to evaporate.

Associated Press



**"No, I didn't sign up to learn a foreign language online. I thought it was you."**



**"Kids in the old days had it easy, Otis. ... They simply wrote Santa a letter. Now we have to add an email, a text message and a tweet ... not to mention Facebook."**

Oops 3. Authorities in Winterhaven, FL say a brother and sister beat up another girl during a fight that was captured on video and posted online. Police arrested an 18-year-old on charges of child abuse and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. His 16-year-old sister was charged with battery. The fight broke out after a crowd that included the siblings approached a 14-year-old girl who was in the neighborhood for a family holiday gathering. Police say the girls began fighting over a boyfriend. The brother punched the other girl and at one point kicked her in the face. The crowd scattered when the police arrived. The injured girl's grandmother escorted her from the scene. Police later observed the video of the fight on YouTube.

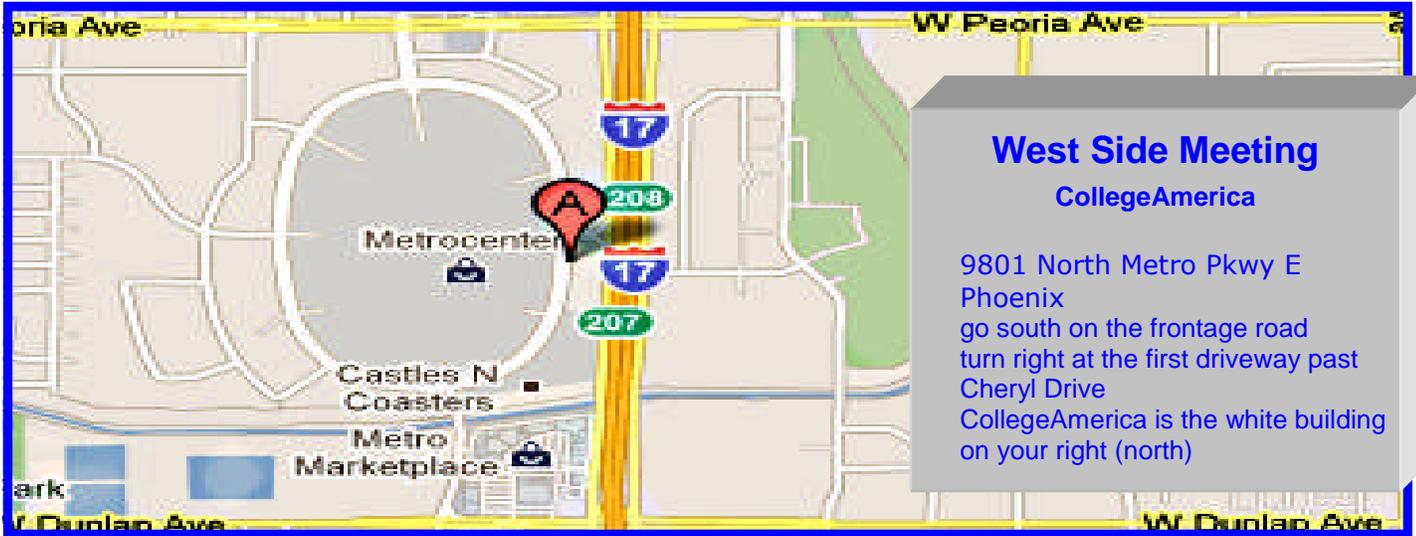
Associated Press

Oops 4. An Indiana man says a TSA agent at Orlando International Airport opened a jar carrying his grandfather's ashes and accidentally spilled about a third of them on the floor while using her finger to sift through the material. The man is asking for an apology from TSA officials and the worker over the recent incident. He was carrying home remains of his grandfather, a Sicilian immigrant from central Indiana, in a tightly sealed jar marked "Human Remains." He explained to the agent what it was, but that she opened the jar and began sifting through the ashes, eventually spilling about a third of the contents onto the floor. "She didn't apologize," he said. "She started laughing when I was on my hands and knees picking up bone fragments. I couldn't pick up all, everything that was lost. I mean, there was a long line behind me." TSA procedures, the local TV station notes, call for using X-ray equipment in such cases and that under "no circumstances" are human remains to be opened.

USA Today

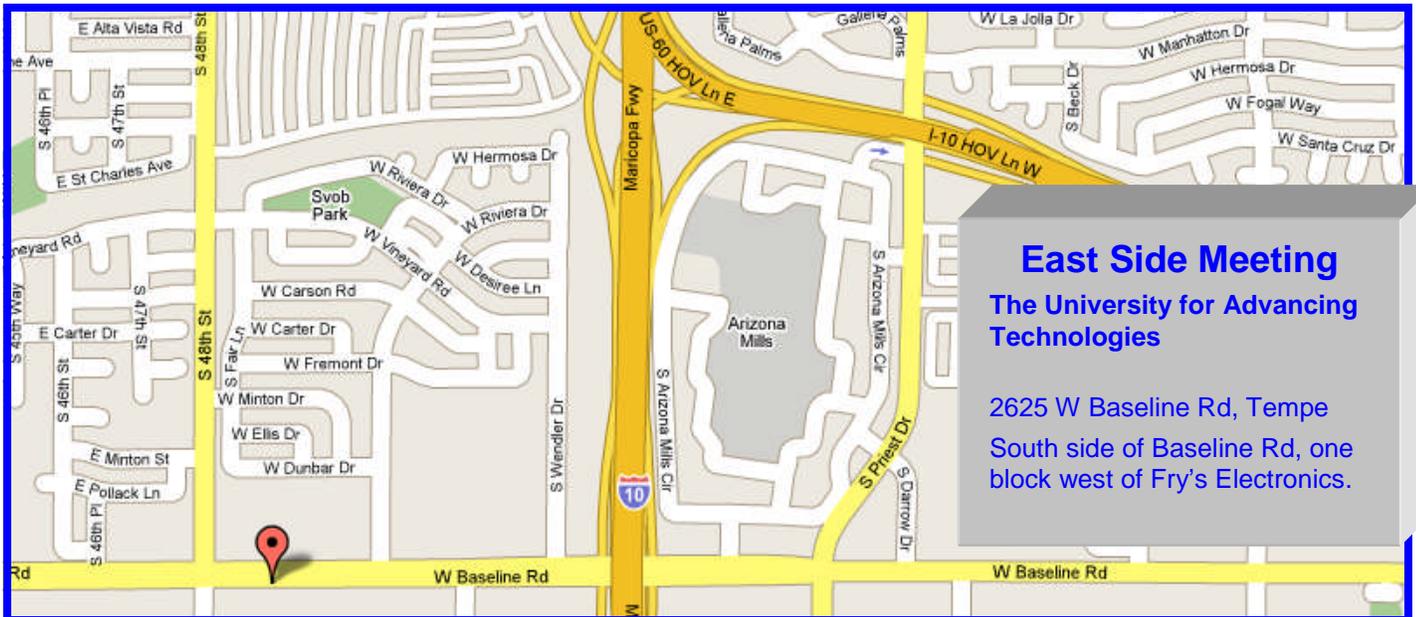
*These Items are based on articles from the noted sources and have been adapted by the Editor.*

# HOW TO GET THERE



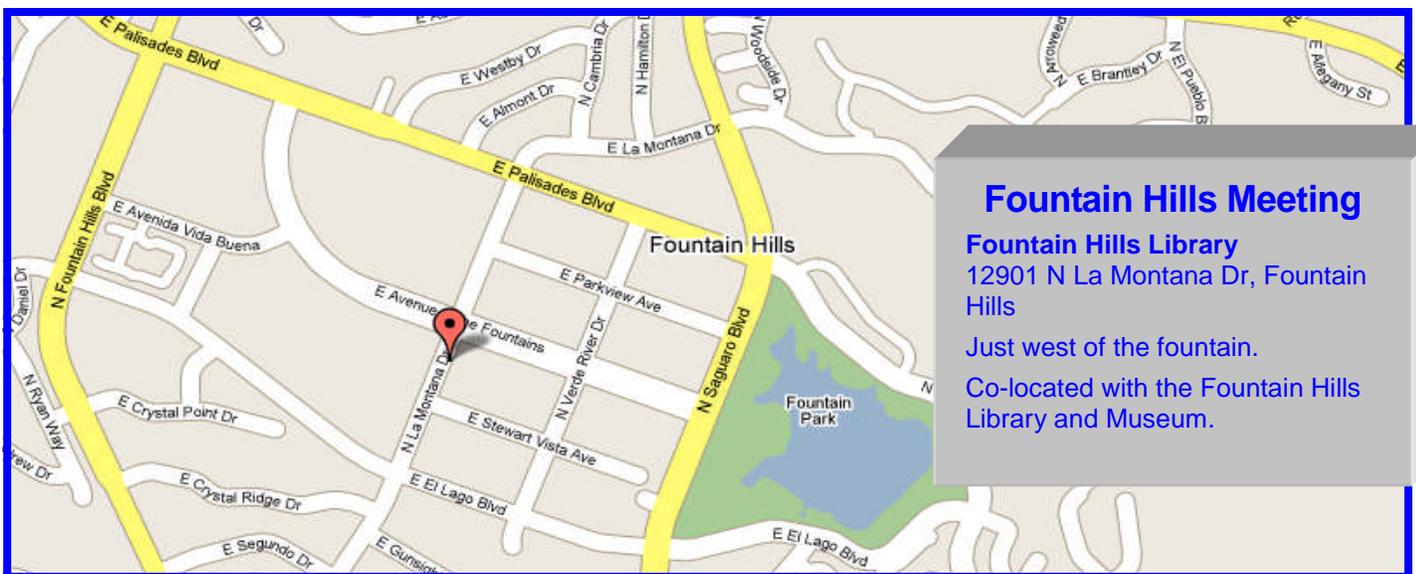
**West Side Meeting**  
CollegeAmerica

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.

DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH

# MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2013

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

***DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH  
\$36  
through Dec 31, 2013***

## 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



*The Best Accessory  
for your PC!*

Web address:  
[phoenixpcug.org](http://phoenixpcug.org)

# DEC 2012

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

STAMP

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

PHOENIX PC USERS GROUP  
PO BOX 45451  
PHOENIX, AZ 85064-5451