



# NEWSLETTER

*The Best Accessory  
for your PC!*

Proud member of [www.azacc.org](http://www.azacc.org)  
The Arizona Alliance of Computer Clubs



## MAPS TO MEETINGS on **Page 18**

**West Side.....Tue, July 14, 2015**  
College America, 9801 North Metro Pkwy E, Phoenix

**East Side.....Wed, July 15, 2015**  
University of Advancing Technology, 2625 W Baseline Road, Tempe (one block west of Fry's Electronics)

**Fountain Hills.....Thur, Jul 16, 2015**  
Fountain Hills Library, 12901 N La Montana Drive, Fountain Hills

**Presentation this month:**  
[Computer topics, Windows 10, etc.](#)

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

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Proud member of [www.apcug2.org](http://www.apcug2.org):  
Association of PC User Groups

## Phoenix PC Users Group Officers

President:	David Yamamoto
Vice President:	Richard Elardo, PhD
Secretary:	Chuck Lewis
Treasurer:	Paul Jamtgaard

## Staff Members

Membership Coordinator:	Open Position
Webmaster:	Bill Aulepp
Fountain Hills Coordinator:	Nancy Ogden
East Side Coordinator:	Open Position
West Side Coordinator:	Bill Aulepp
Public Relations:	Open Position
Newsletter Publisher:	Bill Aulepp
Newsletter Editor:	David Yamamoto

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Board of Directors	<a href="mailto:BOD@PhoenixPCUG.org">BOD@PhoenixPCUG.org</a>
Bill Aulepp:	<a href="mailto:Publisher@PhoenixPCUG.org">Publisher@PhoenixPCUG.org</a>
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Bill Aulepp:	<a href="mailto:Webmaster@PhoenixPCUG.org">Webmaster@PhoenixPCUG.org</a>

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

...

**FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Did you have a nice Independence Day?

**NEW MEMBERS NEEDED! COME AND HELP!**

Sept. 2014: was Michael's last column as editor.  
 Needed: **Editor or Publisher!!** Contact me!!

**"CLONED HARD DRIVES - YOUR BEST PROTECTION!"**  
 My best recommendation, protects against nearly every data problem." Find Carbonite and Acronis True Image info.

At the meetings, we'll have a free flowing discussion showing various web sites, do Q&A and give the best advice we can. Want lots of tech news? Then go to [news.google.com](http://news.google.com) - then choose technology:  
<http://tinyurl.com/kru237d>

Kim Komando & tips this month: 1-888-825-5254  
[https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=kim+komando](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=kim+komando)  
 or [www.komando.com](http://www.komando.com)

Leo Laporte <http://www.techguylabs.com/>  
<http://leoville.com/> <http://twit.tv/people/leo-laporte>  
 1-88-88-ASK-LEO Listen, The Tech Guy - TuneIn  
<http://tinyurl.com/pu8rscc>

Ask Leo!: Making Technology Work For Everyone  
 Leo Notenboom <https://askleo.com/>

Ken Coburn, Data Doctors Tech Tips  
<http://www.datadoctors.com/media/tips/>

June 2014, I tried out Norton Safe Web  
<http://safeweb.norton.com> & Online Link Scan -  
[www.onlinelinkscan.com](http://www.onlinelinkscan.com) One member emailed me about protecting his PC, both excellent ways to avoid malware, ransomware, etc.

Free Internet watchdog warns you about bad sites  
<http://www.komando.com/downloads/759/free-internet-watchdog-warns-you-about-bad-sites/all>

Eye on Windows: lots of STUFF!  
<http://www.eyonwindows.com/>  
<http://www.eyonwindows.com/category/satya-nadella/>  
<http://www.windows9update.com/microsoft-windows-ebook-store/>

Google: APCUG Japan, many URLs, interesting stuff.

How to "avoid ransomware"? - Google this!!  
 If any email looks suspicious - DON'T OPEN IT!  
 Email sender if it's a friend. Might be a fake!  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spoofing\\_attack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spoofing_attack)

The Kim Komando Show - stations and times - TuneIn, just Google "komando tunein all stations"  
 Listen free on weekends.  
<http://www.komando.com/downloads/2321/6-essential-types-of-security-software-you-must-have/all>

Tim Greer, Microsupport recommends Acronis True Image and Carbonite, each has pluses. Tim is a former member of our Phoenix PCUG!  
 602-404-4245 or 480-232-1101, mention me!  
[www.microsupport.com](http://www.microsupport.com)

Gene Barlow sells Acronis True Image for Windows 8.1, 8, 7, Vista, XP, Apple Macintosh. Go to [www.ugr.com](http://www.ugr.com). He was with IBM.

Carbonite, [www.carbonite.com](http://www.carbonite.com) has special offers with Kim Komando or Leo Laporte, just Google either one.

SPSI Computer Specialists - Phoenix  
[www.spsi-az.com/](http://www.spsi-az.com/), contact Troy, 602-997-7335

Going to Rio Salado College for a GED?  
 Try <http://www.hippocampus.org/> - Math, Natural Science, Social Science, Humanities, Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

One negative feedback a member told me - about Data Doctors, so be careful.

**IMPORTANT: DON'T MOVE TOO FAST TO WINDOWS 10, WAIT A FEW MONTHS!!!**

We are grateful for support by:  
 College America,  
[www.collegeamerica.com/phoenix](http://www.collegeamerica.com/phoenix)

University of Advancing Technology  
[www.uat.edu](http://www.uat.edu)

**BRING A FRIEND!!  
 WE STILL NEED NEW MEMBERS!!  
 YOU CAN ASK QUESTIONS AT MEETINGS!**

*David Yamamoto*

**2015 GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR**

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

**PRESENTATIONS THIS MONTH**

Computer topics, **Windows 10 this month!**, etc.

**WEST SIDE: CollegeAmerica (see map page 20)**

- **Tuesday, July 14, 2015**

- 6:00 PM - Steering Committee and (Election of Officers - Nov & Dec)
- 6:30 PM - Questions and Answers, Viewing websites, etc.

**EAST SIDE: University of Advancing Technology (see map pg 20)**

- **Wednesday, July 15, 2015**

- 6:30 PM - Questions and Answers, Viewing websites, etc.

**FOUNTAIN HILLS: Fountain Hills Library (see map page 20)**

- **Thursday, July 16, 2015**

- 6:30 PM - Questions and Answers, Viewing websites, etc.

**Meetings this year 2015: Reserve UAT Sept to Dec- 2015**

Jan 20,21,22 Feb 17,18,19 Mar 17,18,19 Apr 14,15,16 May 19,20,21 Jun 16,17,18  
Jul 14,15,16 Aug 18,19,20 Sep 15,16,17 Oct 20,21,22 Nov 17,18,19 Dec 15,16,17

**All meetings based on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month**

**REMEMBER: PAY YOUR DUES! Thanks, only \$36 / year or \$3 / month.**

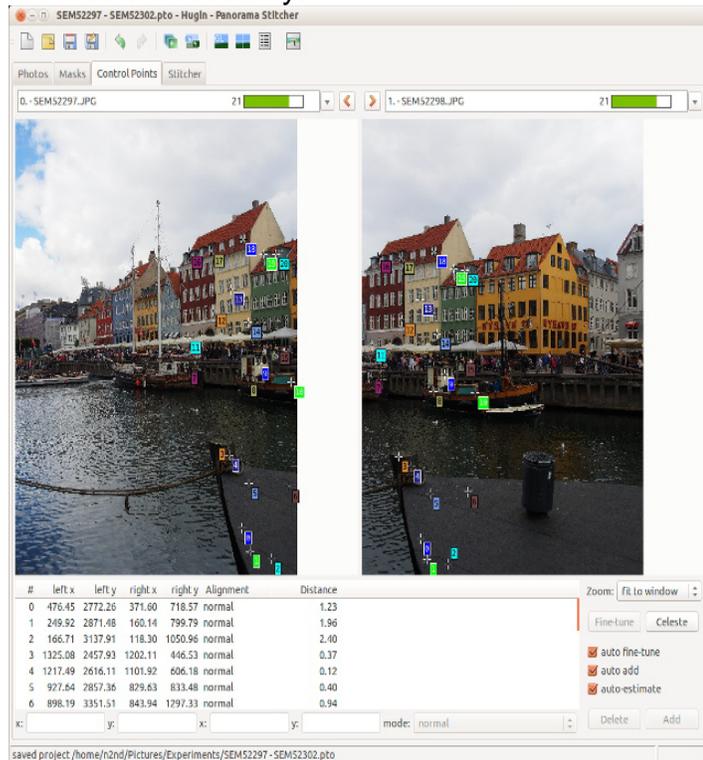
<p><b>January</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>February</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>	<p><b>March</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p><b>April</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>May</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>31 1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>June</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>
<p><b>July</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>August</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>30 31 1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p>	<p><b>September</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>October</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>November</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30</p>	<p><b>December</b></p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>

## Image Processing Software, Part 3

By Dick Maybach, Member,  
 Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ  
 April 2014 issue, BUG Bytes, [www.bcug.com](http://www.bcug.com) / n2nd (@) att.net

In the February and March 2014 Bytes (available at <http://www.bcug.com/>) I discussed basic image processing with free software, and in this article I'll cover two specialized techniques, panoramic and high dynamic range (HDR) images. Both involve combining several separate images into one.

**Hugin** (<http://hugin.sourceforge.net/> available for Linux, OS X, and Windows) is my preferred tool for creating panoramas. The screen-shot shows two of the six frames that I stitched together to create a panorama. In previous screens, I selected the images and told Hugin to create control points (points in different images that should coincide on the panorama). These appear as crosses identified by numbers in squares. The table below the images shows the offset distances (in pixels) between the points when they are overlaid. The green bar above the images indicates that Hugin is happy with the alignment; however, I had to eliminate several points to get this approval. If the number had become too small, I could have added more by hand, but this is tedious and fortunately is seldom necessary.



The resulting panorama appears below, although I adjusted the brightness and contrast with RawTherapee and GIMP after Hugin had finished with it. The Olympus bundled image processor also creates panoramas as do many modern cameras, but I find that often the results from Hugin are far superior. Hugin doesn't understand raw, so you must develop your images before using it. Although most panoramas are one-dimensional, that is composed of a single row of images, Hugin can create two dimensional ones, made from multiple rows of images. You also can choose from several different projections when creating the final image.

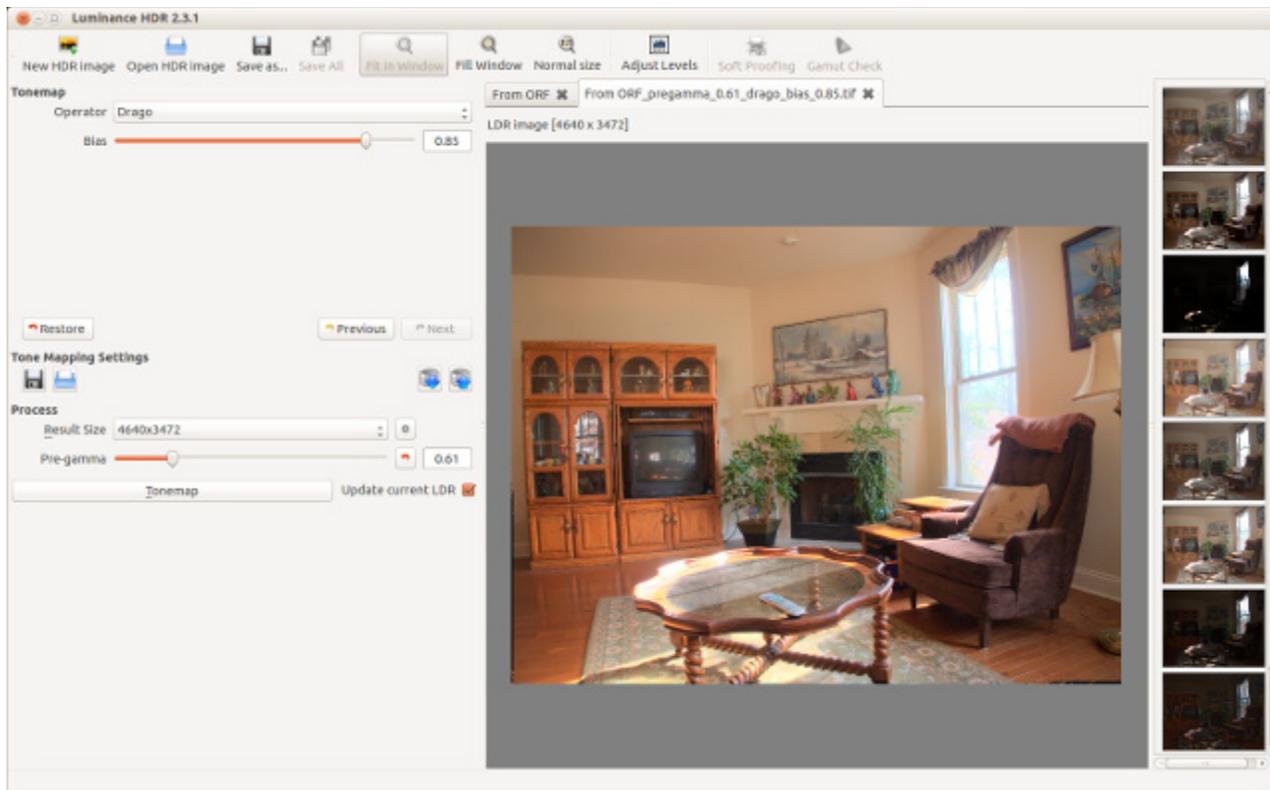


**High Dynamic Range (HDR)** photography attempts to overcome the dynamic range issue. You are probably disappointed with some of your pictures where the blue sky and white clouds have become a uniform pure white, and you can see nothing the shadows, which have become pure black. While recording in raw format can help some, it too has much less dynamic range than our eyes. The solution is to take several pictures of the same scene with different exposures. Some will have the highlights properly exposed (but the shadows will be black) and some will show what is in the shadows (but the highlights will be white). We then use clever software to combine these so that a single image shows both the highlights and the shadows. The problem is that there is no way to display the result, since the usual media (computer displays and paper prints) all have severely limited dynamic range. Thus we must perform tone mapping, which decreases the exposure of the highlights and increases that of the shadows and yet doesn't cause color shifts or other unpleasant effects. If done properly, the result is a low dynamic range image that looks close to what our eyes saw originally. If done improperly, the result can be a caricature, more artistic than realistic. Many modern cameras can perform HDR processing directly, but as with panoramas, adding human judgment to the process often greatly improves the result.

The screen-shot shows Luminance HDR (available for Linux, OS X, and Windows) working on a high-dynamic-range image, which was created by combining five raw images with different exposures (-2, -1, 0, +1, and +2 EV). The camera was hand-held, and the auto-alignment feature of **Luminance** was used to align them. Compare this to the **LightZone** screen-shot in my March 2014 article and you can see that the exposure of the room here is much better and that through the window is marginally so. (This isn't because of a shortcoming of LightZone, which after all had only a single image to work with.) More exposures covering a wider range than four f-stops would have produced a better image. As with **LightZone**, **Luminance HDR** has no provision for correcting distortion, so further processing with GIMP (or pre-processing with RawTherapee) is needed. Also, if you look carefully at the edges of the image, you can see where the images did not line up. Again, a light cropping with GIMP would remove this.

In some cases, I've found that although Luminance HDR uses the **Hugin** algorithm to align the input images, the alignment isn't that good. I can often do better by using Hugin to align the images and create a floating-point HDR file, which I then input to Luminance HDR for tone mapping. I assume this is because in Hugin I can optimize the control points, where using Luminance HDR everything is automatic.

The screen-shot shows the last step in the creation of the image. In previous screens I selected the files, let the program align them, and created a high-dynamic-range image. This screen shows the tone mapping, where the dynamic range is compressed so that it can be displayed using a low-dynamic-range medium such as a display or a print. The thumbnails along the right allow selection of the mapping algorithm, and each has a different set of controls, shown on the left. **Drago** processing, shown here, has only two parameters, which makes it quick to adjust. The strength and the weakness of **Luminance HDR** is the freedom to choose from eight algorithms and your control over the parameters of each. Knowing the best algorithm for each image and developing a feel for how the parameters affect the tone mapping takes a good bit of experience. Those used to the hand-holding provided by commercial software will find their initial experiences frustrating.



HDR photography is tricky and tedious, and works only in special cases. For example, outdoor pictures with large areas of foliage in the foreground are seldom satisfactory, because the leaves are always being blown about, and this makes it impossible to align the individual images. Luminance HDR has an anti-ghosting feature to overcome this problem, but it works best when the motion is confined to a small area. If you think you have a situation that calls for this technique, go ahead and take your pictures with their bracketed exposures. Before you start the HDR process though, select just one or these images and develop it carefully with the tone-mapping features of **RawTherapee** or **LightZone**. I often find that the result is just fine.

Expect some frustration from your first digital image processing efforts. It was a big day for me when I could consistently obtain results that were as good as the JPEG images straight from the camera. I find it helpful to display a camera JPEG image to which I can compare the one on which I'm working. It's easy to go seriously wrong, one small logical step at a time, if you work without a reference.

## References:

- Montabone: Beginning Digital Image processing Using Free Tools for Photographers, which I referenced in the previous article, also discusses **Hugin** and Luminance HDR. He refers to the latter by its original name, **qtpfsqui**.
- <http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/> – contains many very valuable tutorials on photography and image processing. I also referenced this in the previous article, but I mention it again because it includes HDR and panoramic techniques.
- <http://hugin.sourceforge.net/tutorials/index.shtml> – has several tutorials on using Hugin.
- Bloch: **The HDRI Handbook 2.0** – is comprehensive discussion of HDRI theory and processing, geared toward commercial software and includes a DVD with free and trial commercial software. The author does not care for **Luminance HDR**, but he is a professional for whom throughput is more important than cost.
- <http://blog.patdavid.net/2013/05/hdr-photography-with-foss-tools.html> – is a very helpful guide to the tone mapping tools in Luminance HDR.
- “HDRI Photography” at <http://www.makeuseof.com/pages/download> – is a good introduction to the topic and to Luminance HDR

## KGeography - Esneault

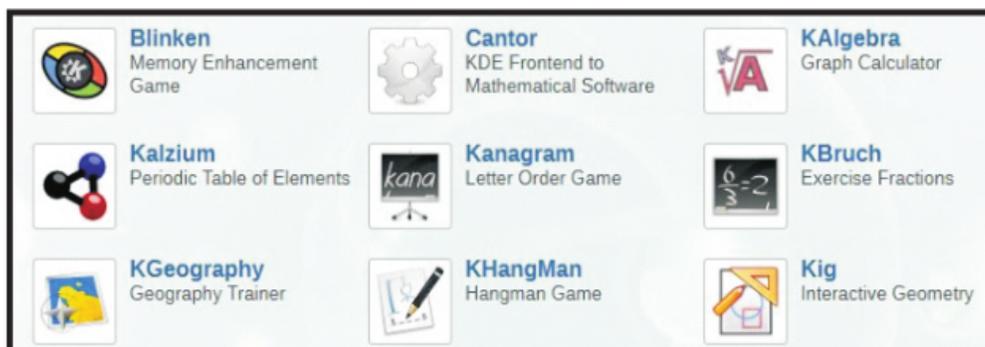
Open Source Lab

By Cal Esneault, former President of CCCC and leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGs, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA March 2014 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News

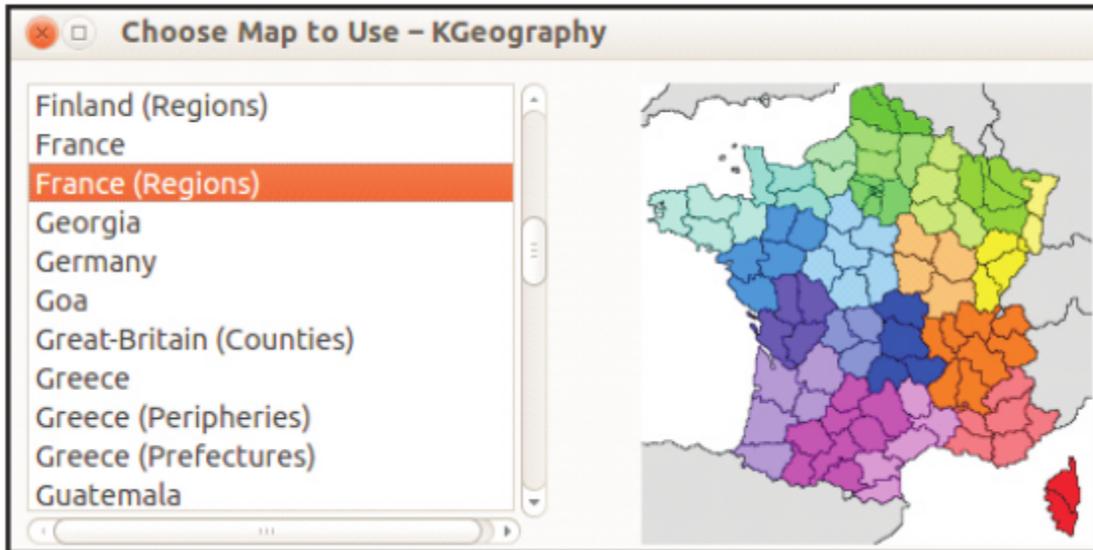
[www.clickers.org](http://www.clickers.org) ccnewsletter (at) cox.net

**KDE (K Desktop Environment)** is a very popular set of Linux software that is available as the default desktop system for many popular distributions. Since initial release in 1996, it has gone through four major version families (KDE 1.x, 2.x, 3.x, and 4.x). With the release of the developmental toolkit Qt 4, **much of the KDE software will soon also be available for Microsoft Windows** and Mac OS X.

What you may fail to realize is that there are many useful applications available through the KDE Community web site. For example, from the site [kde.org/applications/education](http://kde.org/applications/education), the list shown below is a limited sample of available software. One that I recently tried for my Ubuntu system was KGeography (note that many KDE applications have the letter "K" prominently displayed in the title).



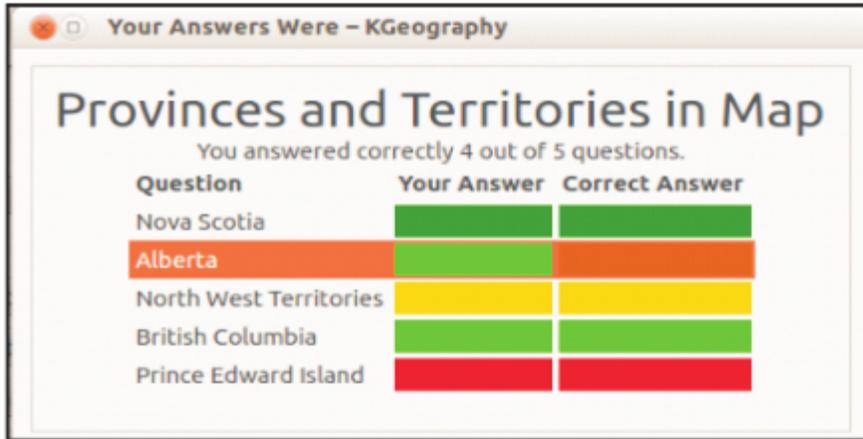
In **KGeography**, you first choose the country map that you want to investigate. Below I have selected **France**. Within each map the next geographic subdivision is displayed on the map (possible options include regions, territories, counties, etc.).



After selecting the map of the desired country, a larger map is displayed along with a side panel consisting of several categories for you to test and build your geographical knowledge. For example, the next map shows the country of Canada as a selection with its provinces outlined with different color schemes. By clicking on each province, you will get a display of the province's name, capital, and flag.



After you become familiar with the information, there is a "Test Yourself" section where you can be queried to identify the location, capital, or flag of a series of provinces. At the end of the quiz, you will get the score and results of each question. Below is a sample result of a series of 5 questions.



**KGeography** provides an entertaining way to familiarize you or your children with the details of many countries. Well-known locations are the easiest to start, but you will be challenged as you work your way through less familiar sites. My experience was that flag identification was the most difficult.

This is only one example of a **KDE** education application. There are many others types of programs available in such categories as office, multimedia, graphics, business, games, screensavers, etc. Currently these apps are available through the repository of most modern Linux distributions. Enjoy!

“A Linux distribution (often called a **distro** for short) is an operating system made as a soft-ware collection based on the Linux kernel and, often, on a package management system.” Wikipedia

### Looking for an MP3 Player with Wi-Fi?

By Carol Picard, Newsletter Editor & Webmaster, Midland Computer Club, MI  
[mcc.apcug.org](http://mcc.apcug.org), [webbyte \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:webbyte@yahoo.com)

I'd been using a Samsung Galaxy Player 4 for music player and also for a few apps, e.g., calendar, contacts, shopping list. It had wifi capability and access to Google Play Store. Recently the battery started discharging completely every couple of days. Fortunately, it didn't lose data but did lose all settings. Replacing the battery didn't help.

A basic mp3 player wouldn't give me the capabilities I wanted. I could have used my cell phone, but not ready to put all of my information and music on one device.

Samsung no longer markets the Galaxy Player (at least not in the U.S.) and I didn't want to pay hundreds of dollars for a replacement device. My criteria were: 4" screen, 8Gb storage, microSD card slot, 1Gb memory, wifi, and Google Play Store. My search led me to no-contract phones. Unfortunately, the specs are not generally listed on the packaging so I needed to do research before going to the store. Since I had a pretty well-defined list of apps, and didn't anticipate adding a lot of new apps, I decided a device with 4Gb storage would probably be okay.

I purchased a no-contract phone for about \$80. Make/model of phone I chose isn't important as any device that meets your criteria and has decent reviews should work. Since I was not going to activate the phone capability I wasn't concerned about which service provider the phone worked with.

The phone I chose has Bluetooth which I had not included in my search criteria but allows me to connect to a Bluetooth speaker. It also has a rear facing camera with flash. A front facing camera would have been nice for Skype, but I forgot to check for that. I was able to back up data from the apps on the Samsung Galaxy Player to a computer and was quickly able to get the new device set up with my favorite apps and data.

I turned the Airplane Mode on to disable the 3G service but can still turn wifi on/off as needed. The device only has about 2Gb user accessible storage so I decided to add a microSD card for music, pictures, etc. I had a small microSD card in the Samsung Player and could have used that but decided to purchase a 32Gb microSD card (which was the highest capacity for the device).

I probably could have copied music from the smaller to the larger card but decided this was a good opportunity to re-select music. The phone was connected to a computer via USB cable to synch music from Windows Media Player. While all the selected music was synched to the microSD card, the Google Play Music app only displayed songs that were in mp3 format and most of my music is in wma format. Windows Media Player used to convert from wma to mp3 when synching but apparently that isn't available in Windows Media Player 12 and I didn't want to run all the music through a 3rd party converter.

I researched some of the music apps available in the Google Play Store and settled on Rocket Player. The free version doesn't play wma files but after testing Rocket Player functionality with some mp3 files, decided it would work and paid \$3.99 for the Pro version which does play wma. Rocket Player admits it doesn't have a good solution for managing album art. I tried a couple of 3rd party apps but they didn't work well either. If having album art is important, and depending on how you ripped the music to your computer, the music folders on your computer may contain three different album art .jpg files (have to view hidden files and protected operating system files to see them).

I copied the AlbumArtSmall.jpg file from the computer to the corresponding album folder on the SD card and renamed it to AlbumArt.jpg (which appears to be the Rocket Player default). After disconnecting the device and viewing in Rocket Player, the album art was displayed. If you have hundreds of albums, that may not be a workable solution.

The only other app I've added is a flashlight app.

I've been using the no-contract phone with my select set of apps and for playing music for a couple months and it has proven to be a good option at a reasonable price.

### [Lehigh Valley Computer Group](#)

The Mac Corner – June 2014

Danny Uff, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, Pennsylvania

June 2014 issue, The LVCG Journal, [www.lvccg.org](http://www.lvccg.org), danny.uff (at) gmail.com

Before I begin, yes, this is The Mac Corner, and yes, I do work on Macs all the time.



But last month, I did something that I swore I would never do again..... I bought a Windows 8.1 computer. Yes, I finally ran into a brick wall with the Mac and HAD to go back to the "enemy" again.

So, now that I got that out, what is it like going FROM a Mac to a Windows box? Since this is a family oriented newsletter, I'll keep it clean. It's like going FROM a 2014 Mercedes to a 1975 Beetle.

The biggest obstacle going from a Mac to a Windows machine is getting used to the new Windows 8 Tile structure. Even though the layout may work with Touch-screens, it doesn't work that well with a Mouse. The second biggest thing that took some getting used to is, not booting directly to the Desktop. Being an old Windows user (since Windows 3.0) it took me a while to get used to the new tile layout.

So, in closing, I can hear some of you readers saying "I told you so!" or "Welcome back to the real world." But like the old saying goes "You CAN teach an old dog new tricks."

Oh, by the way, yes, I will still write about Macs in the coming months. :-)  
P.S. This article was written on a Mac!!!!



## **The Mac Corner – July 2014**

Danny Uff, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, Pennsylvania

This is perhaps the earliest article that I have ever written for any newsletter. But the experiences I had today when I ventured into the world of Windows 8 again, reminded me why I went (and stayed) with Macs all these years.

This article will be for **both Macs and Windows** users. For those of you in the world of Windows, please feel free to get mad at me. For those who are in the world of Mac, please count your

blessings that this doesn't happen to you yet. At the same time, if the Windows world doesn't get too mad at me after reading parts of this article, perhaps you can learn how to keep my experience from happening to you.

While I was using my Windows box, I downloaded a program that would assist me with my project. A program from a **reputable software company**. Before I installed it, my computer (supposedly) checked it for known viruses and Malware, and then gave the ok. When I installed it, I then noticed these other icons coming on to my desktop. Icons that I didn't ask for, nor even knew that were included inside the installer. So, I had to remove them (one by one) with the Add/Remove option. After that, all seemed fine - but it wasn't. I then used Internet Explorer, and low and behold these other "windows" came up. Windows that looked like they came **from** Windows 8, but weren't. Windows such as "your computer is running slow, check now!" and "Checking for **Malware**.....Malware found!" Another one claimed that I needed a Java update. So, not knowing it, I started installing the update. About 2 minutes later, I realized that too was a "fake window" and was downloading some unknown program to my computer, so I (tried) stopping it, and then finally ended up doing an emergency warm reboot. When I got it back, other stuff started to pop up along the way. Mind you, this is only **half** of what I have experienced so far.

Now, how can YOU stay away from what I did? (By the way, these stupid pet tricks are now showing up on Macs too). Here are three simple steps to keep your computer safe:

1. Always take your time when installing a new piece of software. Read all the installation windows and make sure it is installing the software that **you** want - even from a company you trust.
2. When receiving a notice that you need an update, do **not** click on the notice window. Exit out of it and go to the actual company's web site and make sure that the update is real.
3. Keep your virus scanners up to date (yes, I hate to say it: even on your Mac). These spammers are finding very creative ways to get your attention and even download stuff in the background.

Hopefully this little rant will help you to not fall into the same trap as I did. If you have a friend or a family member that claims that their computer is acting strange or slow, and they've installed some software that they didn't know about...Please believe them. Because I have been in the PC and Mac fields for more than 30 years and even I got fooled.

## **Back to Basics**

Many Ways to Get Help

Jim Cerny, 2nd Vice President, Sarasota Technology User Group, FL

May 2014 issue, PC Monitor [www.spcug.org](http://www.spcug.org) Jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

As with any tool with so many options, computers offer us so many applications that it is easy to become confused and need help. Fortunately, many of these "options" that computers have available are those that are supposed to help us. Here are some ideas for getting help when you are stuck.

Google it – yes, believe it or not, Google is one of the best places to get help. Go to the Google web page at google.com and enter in the search box your SPECIFIC problem for which you need help. You may phrase it as a question if you like, such as: "How do I change the default font size in Word

2010?" Notice that you should be as specific as you can with the product or program name and the edition of that program that you are using. Google will provide you a list of things to click on to get the answer you need.

YouTube – another amazing way to get help. On the Google web page look for a "YouTube" option or look for a very small array of little black squares. Clicking on that array will bring up many Google options, one of which is YouTube. Or you can just go to the YouTube web page at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com). Again enter in the search bar your specific question or problem and you may be able to actually watch a tutorial on how to solve your problem. YouTube is a great resource for many things.

Classes – The big plus for classes is that you will go through a learning program instead of trying to learn "just one thing." If you are having more than one or two isolated problems with a specific program, you probably need a good class to bring you up to speed with that whole application. In a class you will become much more aware of what you do not know and get the bigger picture. And if you are stuck in class you can always ask the instructor or cheat by looking at what your classmate is doing.

Books – There is no lack of computer publications to help you. I like the books that have lots of pictures in them to show you what the computer screens look like as you learn. Although most people enjoy books, not many people can read a book and learn from it as they read. You need to actually do the exercises to learn.

Tutoring – This is really the best learning option because it should target your specific needs. If you do decide to have a paid tutor help you, why not negotiate and invite one or two friends to be there with you and share the cost?

Friends and Relatives – especially teens. They already know more than we ever will and would really have the knowledge to help you. But would they be able to teach well and be patient with you? That could be a problem. Or maybe you wouldn't understand the tech-talk they might use. The blue circle with the white question mark in it – this symbol represents, in most Windows applications, the way to get help. Otherwise, look for anything on the screen that says "help." Click on it and search for what you want for that particular application.

Calling in a professional or taking your computer in to a repair shop – there is nothing wrong with doing this, especially if you are having a hardware problem. But they may not take the time to teach you anything.

I know I have not covered all the possibilities there are many more ways to learn; you have to decide which way is best for you. Learning one new thing is day is good for you and your brain. If all else fails, put your computer under your pillow at night and maybe some of the knowledge will be absorbed by your brain while you sleep. (This may only work with a laptop.)

## **Merging Photos**

By Larry Piper, President, Midland Computer Club, MI  
April 2014 issue, Bits and Bytes Newsletter

mcc.apcug.org, webbyte (at) yahoo.com

Ever see a row of photos at the top of a Facebook or website page? I'll bet it crossed your mind that this would be a good idea for one of your own projects.

I'll bet your next thought was that it would take a powerful photo editing tool, most likely Photoshop, to accomplish this horizontal photo montage'. Sure enough, when you did some cursory checking, words like 'layers' and 'flattening' began to appear. Or maybe you found how-to ideas for creating a photo collage', which is NOT what you had in mind.

I too went down this same road. I also discovered that the most recommended solution is to use Paint, a free program that comes with Windows. I found the Paint solution not very intuitive and a little time consuming to use. Then I discovered another solution that had been right in front of me for a number of years. It is also a free program, IrfanView. This little utility has been around since the days of Windows 95. It will open virtually every graphic file type—as well as most sound and video file types. I use it as a fast image resizer. But right there in the opening screen under the Image drop-down menu is the choice Create Panoramic Image. Perfect!

IrfanView gives you the choice of horizontal or vertical merging of photos. You add the photos you want, rearrange their order and then hit the Create key. Save the resulting photo-merge, give it a name and you are good to go. You could even resize the final image if it is too big or too small for your application.

So what about merging photos of different pixel size or resolution. No problem. I ran a few tests where the height dimensions were five times different. IrfanView makes the horizontal photo montage' a constant height. The same thing occurred when merging photos of very different resolution. Again, the merged photos were a nearly constant total pixel size. The overall picture quality has been reduced substantially, but who cares when it is being viewed over the Internet.

IrfanView is the product of Irfan Skiljan, who lists himself as graduate of Vienna University. Be sure to get the latest version which is 4.37 as of this writing.

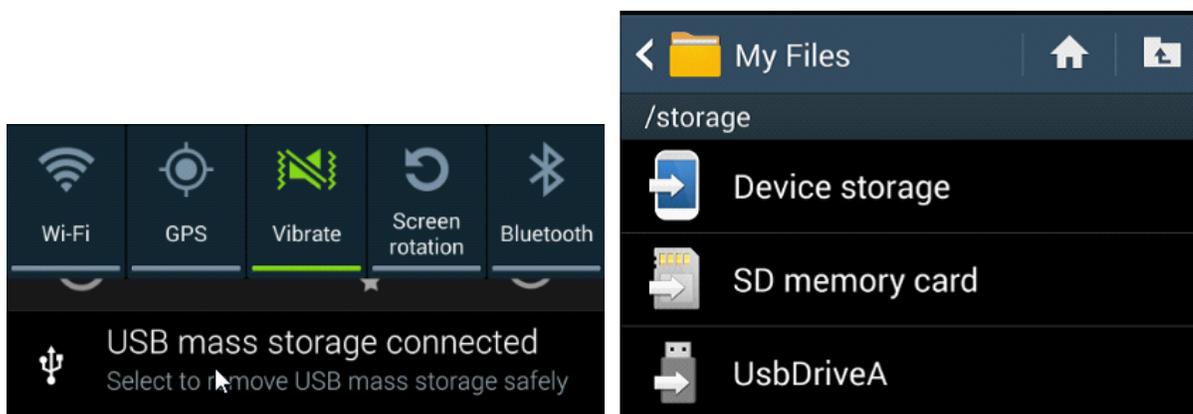
## **OTG Cable/Adapter (On-the-Go)**

By Frank Ramsey, Editor, Akron Canton PCUG, Ohio  
[www.acpcug.org](http://www.acpcug.org), aframesey (at) yahoo.com

How do you accomplish the transfer of files between a mobile device and your PC?



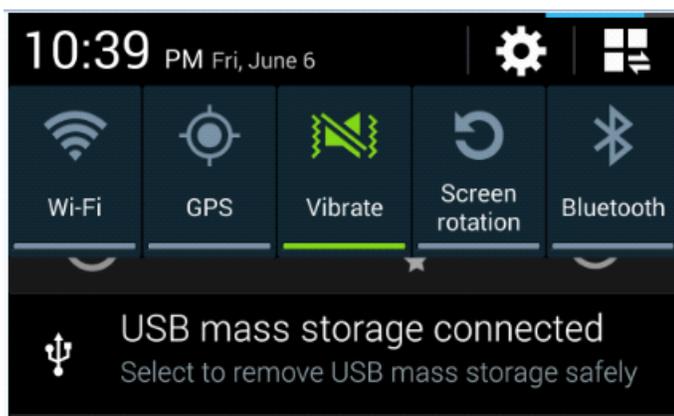
There are a number of methods, including connecting the device to a PC/MAC via a USB cable, use an application to connect over Wi-Fi and others.



An additional method would be to transfer files to a USB Flash drive. Since few Android devices have a full-size USB Type A port, how do you connect a flash?

Enter the OTG Cable. A typical OTB cable is shown above. One end is the USB Type A female, the other end typically USB micro male. These are available from a number of sources including eBay for prices ranging from under a \$1 to \$5 or more.

You plug the flash drive into the Type A female connection and plug the USB micro male into the Android device.



Typically the Android device will recognize the flash drive and eventually it will show up in File Manager. I say eventually because the flash drive must be scanned by the Android device. Depending on the size of the flash drive and the speed of the Android device, it may take a little time for the USB drive to show up. Be patient. Now you can copy files to/from the flash drive.

### **PhotoScissors** 1.0 by Teorex

Synopsis & Meeting Review by Jim Fromm, Editor, The TUG, MOAAA Computer User Group, HI  
May 2014 issue, The TUG newsletter

[www.the-tug.org](http://www.the-tug.org) Editor (at) the-tug.org

**PhotoScissors** is a utility that lets you remove portions of a photo. You can cut images and backgrounds to suit your preference. You might be on vacation taking photos to show your friends and neighbors when you return and, out of nowhere, here comes some clown that photobombs you. These idiots think they are cute when in fact they are nothing more than a PITA. With PhotoScissors, you open the picture, using either the red, or green sizable brush, make a mark in the area you wish to remove or retain.

Click Process and Voila! Idiot be gone.

The red brush is for removing the background and the green for retaining the foreground. Instead of re-inventing the wheel, as it were, here's what Teorex has to say about PhotoScissors at their site, [www.photoscissors.com](http://www.photoscissors.com)

How it works

PhotoScissors back-ground removal tool can easily extract objects and remove background from photos. All you need is to draw some foreground and background and algorithm takes care of details.

Minimum Technical Skills Required

Not only is PhotoScissors very efficient in removing unwanted backgrounds from photos, the tool is also extremely easy to use. Unlike advanced graphical programs, PhotoScissors is user-friendly and straightforward clipping tool. With only basic picture editing skills you can achieve excellent results comparable with those produced by specialized solutions.

Perfect Result in Two Minutes

The program features anti-aliasing, feathering and halo-prevention options for the best quality of the cut-out. Coupled with transparency support it allows you to obtain the best results even on complex back-grounds.

**Top Reasons to use PhotoScissors:**

- Instantly remove complex background from photos
- Easily separate foreground from background
- Swap background
- No limits by image size
- Cutting out objects
- Creating isolated images with colored or transparent backgrounds
- Remove background for eBay or Etsy listings
- Set background to any color include transparent
- Easy to get use & get started
- Preparing pictures of commodities for online shops
- Supports all popular graphic formats (PNG, JPG...)
- No technical or designer skills are required

Our presenter, "Bear" Maher, had already made a sample of a picture he has on his computer. He then went through the steps needed to modify the picture. First, of course, open the file, click on either the red or green brush, and size the brush for large swaths or fine details. Use the red brush to determine what you want to remove. The green brush is used to tell the software what to keep. Click on Process and you see the results. Not too worry, if the first attempt is not quite what you wanted, just go back and make the necessary adjustments.

After you've removed the unwanted portions, select a background to put in its place. Now, here's the hook. The version Bear and I tested were trial versions. In order to save your finished work you must purchase the software at the web-site for a paltry \$19.99. Click on Save As or Copy to Clipboard and you get the following message box:

"This feature is available in registered version only. Buy it now?"

There are a number of more featured applications that will do the same thing but all are expensive, complex in operation forcing a big learning curve and requires the user to have knowledge of terminology used in graphical work. Unless you're into the professional looking finished product, if you modify many photos, for \$20 you can't go wrong. PhotoScissors is a neat utility to have on hand. It loads fast, starts fast and cost less. PhotoScissors works on both PC and Mac computers. Check it out at the link.

I've used the Snipping tool to copy the Menu and Side bars. Keeping with the ease of use, as you can see, both are very simple in appearance but have all the tools you need to accomplish your task.



The side bar has the green and red brushes; an eraser and background selection tools. One is the transparent background the other opens a paint palette. You can choose from the standard palette colors or customize your own background.

The Menu bar has the standard icons you're used to seeing in other applications. Open, Save, Undo-Redo; Zoom in/Out; full screen or normal view and Help.

The right-pointing triangle is the Process icon. It will be grayed out until you open a photo and make modifications. Once you click on it the process begins (it's very fast) and the original photo will be on the left pane with the finished product on the right. The X is to clear the project in the processed pane to start over. And, of course, there is a marker sizing slide bar.



PhotoScissors is another good example of a complex operation being programmed down to a few simple steps to make it as easy as pushing a button and swiping your mouse cursor over the screen. **Teorex** has other graphical modifying applications, as well as, some useful utilities. Visit their website to learn more: <http://teorex.com/> You'll be pleased to note that all their products are inexpensive. And, as is our normal request, if you purchase any of their products provide me with a brief synopsis of the software so we can pass the word onto others in our Group.

## **RAMBLINGS – Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)**

By Jack Fischer, Director/Communications, The Computer Club, Inc., Florida  
[www.sccccomputerclub.org/](http://www.sccccomputerclub.org/) / jafischer (at) jun0.com

APC Currents recently had an interesting article on how to pick an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) for your PC. The purpose of a UPS is to power your system during a short-term power outage, preventing the problems and inconvenience of an improper and sudden shutdown. They are available at stores like Staples and Office Depot, and are highly recommended.

SIZE can be calculated by adding up the power-draw on all the devices to be protected. This information is normally marked on the nameplate or sticker on the back or bottom of each device. You may wish to protect not only your PC but also your printer, router, etc.

RUN TIME - Allow sufficient time to save your work and do so in an orderly shutdown. Most outages are less than five (5) minutes, but may vary depending upon your location.

COVERAGE - You may want to have another UPS to protect your big TV.

(And other sensitive electronic devices, also use a surge protector in front of the UPS for more protection, since they are cheaper and can take spikes before the UPS gets hit. DY, Editor).

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## **Useful or New info**

### **How to reserve your free copy of Windows 10**

<http://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-reserve-your-free-copy-of-windows-10/?ftag=YHRbd38a98>

### **Microsoft to give away Windows 10 for free to preview users**

[https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=Microsoft+to+give+away+Windows+10+for+free+to+preview+users](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Microsoft+to+give+away+Windows+10+for+free+to+preview+users)

### **Windows 10 release date is delayed -- unless you're special**

<http://www.computerworld.com/article/2944212/microsoft-windows/windows-10-release-date-delayed-itbwcw.html>

The Windows 10 release date is July 29 -- or so we were told. But it is looking like it is delayed, if you read between the lines of Terry Myerson, Microsoft's Windows honcho...

### **As Windows 7 breaks the 1B-device mark, Microsoft's challenge will be to force it back to zero**

<http://www.computerworld.com/article/2944061/microsoft-windows/as-windows-7-breaks-the-1b-device-mark-microsofts-challenge-will-be-to-force-it-back-to-zero.html>

Windows 7 has approached the user share numbers set by Windows XP six years ago, hinting that unless Microsoft executes its Windows 10 upgrade plans to perfection, Windows 7 will persist on devices long after its **2020 retirement**. Windows 7 is now 54 months from its **retirement, which is slated for Jan. 14, 2020**.

### **Say hi to Windows 8.2 — er, 10**

<http://www.computerworld.com/article/2845313/say-hi-to-windows-8-2-er-10.html>

**After some weeks of playing with Windows 10, I can say it's definitely the desktop operating system Microsoft needed to release — in 2012. (Also, lots of security flaws - DY, Editor)**

## *Short Circuits....zzzt!*

### **JULY'S FLOWER: A WATER LILY**

#### **INDEPENDENCE DAY (U.S.A.)**

<http://www.almanac.com/content/birth-month-flowers-and-their-meanings>



### **FreeComputerBooks.com**

<http://freecomputerbooks.com/>

Free Computer, Mathematics, Technical Books and Lecture Notes, etc., many are free.

**What foods make your brain work better?**

[https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=what+foods+make+your+brain+work+better](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=what+foods+make+your+brain+work+better)

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Humor**

Father William, the old priest, made it a practice to visit the parish school one day a week. He walked into the 4th grade class, where the children were studying the states, and asked them how many states they could name. They came up with about 40 names. Father William jokingly told them that in his day students knew the names of all the states.

One lad raised his hand and said, 'Yes sir, but in those days there were only 13 states.'

**The difference between a duck and George Washington is:  
One has a bill on his face; the other has his face on a bill!**

What kind of tea did the American colonists thirst for? Liberty!

**What was the craziest battle of the Revolutionary War? The Battle of Bonkers Hill.**

Why were the first Pennsylvania settlers like ants? Because they lived in colonies.

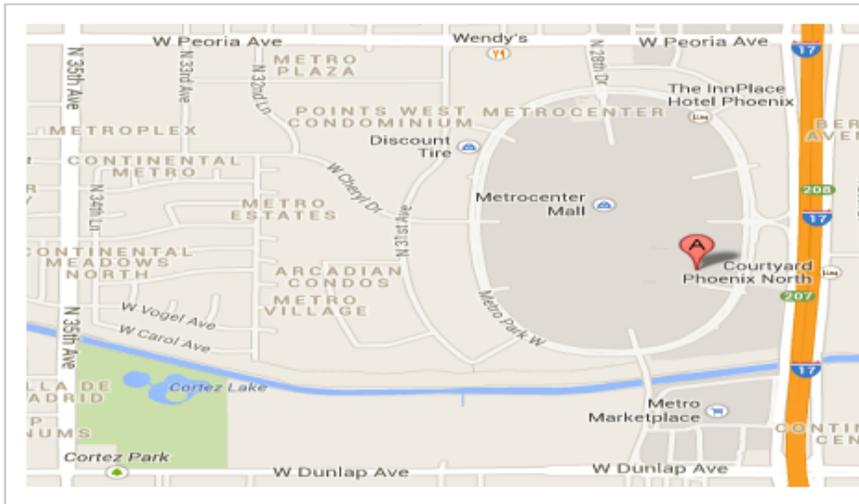
**What's red, white, blue, and almost as ugly as a dog? A revolutionary warthog!**

*Why did Paul Revere ride his horse from Boston to Lexington?  
Because the horse was too heavy to carry!*

The Fourth of July weekend was approaching, and Miss Pelham, the nursery school teacher, took the opportunity to tell her class about patriotism. 'We live in a great country,' she announced. 'One of the things we should be happy is that, in this country, we are all free.'

Trevor, who was a little boy in her class, came walking up to her from the back of the room. He stood with his hands on his hips and said loudly, 'I'm not free. I'm four.'

# HOW TO GET THERE - MAPS TO MEETINGS



## West Side Meeting

### CollegeAmerica

[www.collegeamerica.edu/phoenix](http://www.collegeamerica.edu/phoenix)

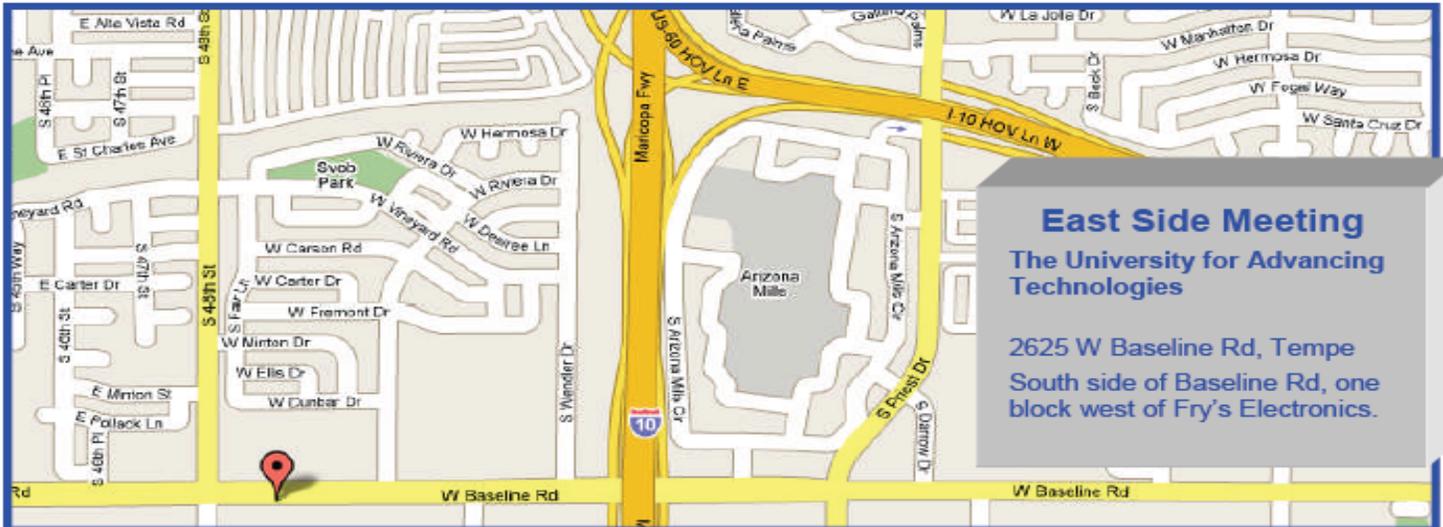
9801 N Metro Parkway East

Phoenix, AZ 85051

Phone: (602) 257-7522

Google map error, "the red A" is actually east side of Metro Parkway

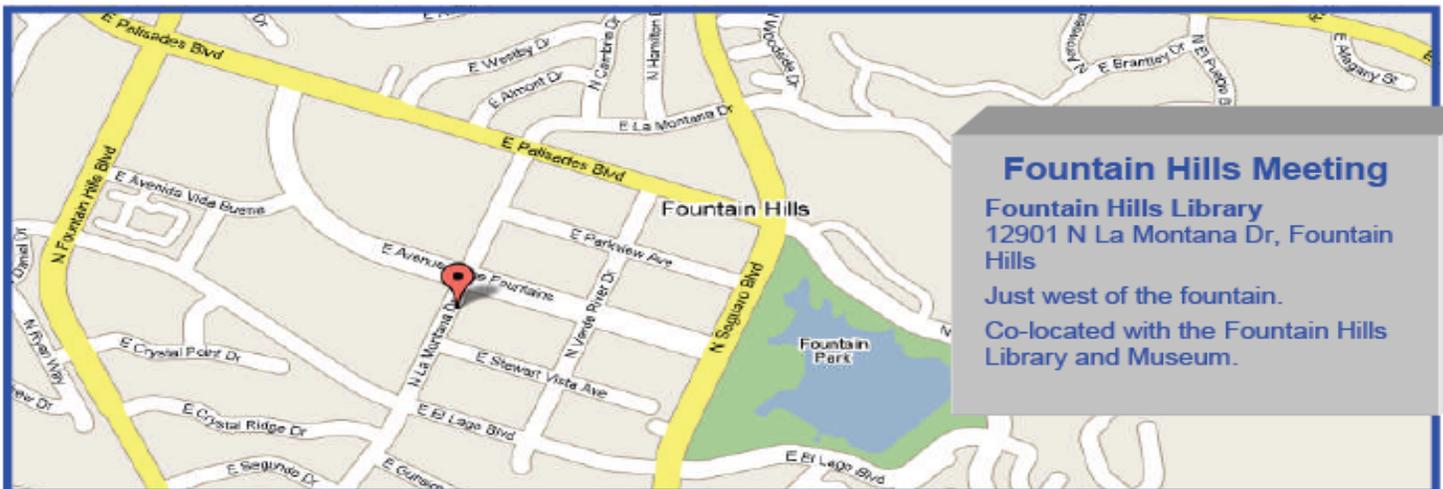
Exit Peoria Ave west, past I-17, turn first left, go south on the frontage road, turn right at the first driveway past Cheryl Drive. CollegeAmerica is the white building on your right (north). North of Castles & Coasters amusement park.



## East Side Meeting

The University for Advancing Technologies

2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe  
South side of Baseline Rd, one block west of Fry's Electronics.



## Fountain Hills Meeting

Fountain Hills Library  
12901 N La Montana Dr, Fountain Hills

Just west of the fountain.  
Co-located with the Fountain Hills Library and Museum.

# MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

*2015 DUES \$36, prorated  
Example - \$9 for 3 months*

## Phoenix PC Users Group Membership Application

First: (Print Legibly) \_\_\_\_\_ Initial: \_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home or Cell 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 a timely fashion, via email, or the club web-site.

Receive Electronic PDF newsletter in place of a 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 \_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form with payment to:

**Phoenix PC Users Group  
PO Box 45451  
Phoenix, AZ 85064-5451**



*The Best Accessory  
for your PC!*

**APCUG2.ORG and AZACC.com member.**

Our Web address: [www.phoenixpcug.org](http://www.phoenixpcug.org) also see [www.phoenixpcug.org/newsletters](http://www.phoenixpcug.org/newsletters)

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

**PHOENIX PC USERS GROUP**  
PO Box 45451  
PHOENIX, AZ 85064—5451

STAMP

PLEASE NOTE - OUR NEW ADDRESS