Confirmed meeting dates for 2012
Room A

August 18
3rd Saturday

September 15
3rd Saturday

October 27
4th Saturday

MEETING PLACE
will be the
Glenside Public
Library
** **
*** ***

Visitors
Welcome

HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!

Our August 18th 2012 presenter:

John Spizzirri will demonstrate Linux on an older computer.
3rd Saturday

Coffee Shop Computer Etiquette
By Mark Tiongco
www.geeks.com

This Tech Tip is a list of experiences that I have found to be a hindrance but can otherwise be remedied for all you mobile tech commuters. Have you ever found yourself trying to get work done at a Starbucks/Panera Bread (or name your favorite go-to spot) but can't because some inconsiderate customer is making it difficult/impossible to get work done? Let's dive right in to what this article is all about, coffee shop etiquette!

This Tech Tip will help outline a general etiquette list so mobile tech commuters can share a common courtesy in this world filled with laptops, e-book readers and coffee shops!

1) Keep a power strip handy
Leave a power strip in the car or backpack as a contingency plan in case you walk into a coffee shop and see one power outlet with both plugs occupied. Offer to plug your power strip in; usually everyone is okay with it as many times there are 3-4 laptop users nearby who would like to charge their rigs. If you want to go compact, you can also find a 2-3 plug power strip and just keep it in your backpack/notebook bag/man-purse.

2) Offer your power outlet to someone who needs it

And the majority of us hardly ever allow our notebooks/tablets to completely discharge, never mind that virtually all notebooks built today average at least 3-4 hours of battery life. (plenty of time to get important work done!) The interesting thing is that computer makers have listened to repeated consumer demand of more battery life (many average 7-10 hrs. run time) but unfortunately this still happens. So if you find yourself fully charged and not planning on camping out, offer it to that fellow laptop user who might be running on battery fumes.

3) Offer part of your medium (or large) table to someone else
Yes I know this is America and it's all about space but if you were the unlucky soul to walk into a completely full coffee house, wouldn't you feel good knowing someone is willing to share his/her table? We gotta help each other out!

4) Invest in a notebook cooler or lap desk
If you arrive at a busy coffee shop and find the only option is a love seat or couch, you'll feel better knowing you won't burn your naughty bits and thus protect future generations.

5) Understand Your Notebook's Power Capabilities and Settings
Assuming the coffee shop you walk into is full of selfish and unforgiving souls (yes, I have encountered them myself!), knowing your notebook's power capabilities enables you to adapt accordingly to still get work done... For example, I know my notebook has an approximate battery life of 5 hours but when I have had to work on battery mode due to lack of available outlets, I instinctively know to dim the LCD screen and throttle down the CPU to extend battery life since I know sometimes I might be there for at least 5 hours.

6) Pick up a tablet PC
If you find that your purposes for lugging around a traditional-sized notebook are for leisurely email checking, casual web browsing and music, a tablet PC might be appropriate for you. With the explosion of tablets such as the Samsung Galaxy Tab, Motorola Xoom and even the super-duper popular Apple iPad, these slim devices can do many simple everyday computing tasks but can fit in a carrying sleeve or small messenger bag. In addition to the weight reduction, a tablet PC's perks include not requiring you to wait during start up (instant on OS!), not having to find a table and pull out/lug around a power adapter, and can last virtually the entire day on a single charge. However as a disclaimer, I am not suggesting you ditch your notebook computer in favor of a tablet PC but simply that they complement each other depending on the task that needs to be done.

7) Don't be a Squatter!
I'm sure everyone has been hearing about Starbucks' recent issues with Squatters; these are Starbucks customers who buy a cup of coffee and then occupy a table/power outlet with their laptop and basically camp out for countless hours. While I do agree this is technically legal since SBUX offers free Wi-Fi for customers, they have the right to limit use such as covering up power outlets and eventually offer your seat to other paying customers. Out of courtesy and basic respect to your fellow commuters, you should budget your time, get your work done, and then relinquish your seat for the person who needs a table to get work done (just as you probably did before him/her). However, if you insist on camping out for the entire day at Starbucks, the least you can do is buy more than a cup of coffee every 2-3 hours as a sign of good faith that you're not a moocher!

Back to Basics
Creating a Program Icon on Your Desktop
By Jim Cerny, Director, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
April 2012 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor
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Did you ever wonder how those icons you double-click on your Desktop screen get on your Desktop? Well, most of those icons represent PROGRAMS and most people like having the programs they use most often on their desktop. Those icons are placed there when you install a new program or software. If you purchase a program on a disk or download it from the internet, most likely the installation of that program will place a new icon (or icons) on your desktop. For example, if you purchase a new printer you will have to install (from a disk or the internet) the programs that make that printer work with your computer. You will see at least one new icon on your desktop after you install a new printer. Those program icons on your desktop are really SHORTCUTS to the programs. You can see that an icon is a "shortcut" because it will have a small white box with a blue arrow in it at the lower left corner of the icon.

So how do you put your own program icon on your desktop? To do this you simply click on the "Start" button (or "start orb" as they say in Windows 7) and then click on "All programs" on the start menu. This shows a list of ALL the programs on your computer. Many programs are in folders. For example, the Paint program and the Calculator program are in the "Accessories" folder in this list. Just click on the folder to see the list of what is inside.

Let's create a shortcut icon on our desktop for the "Paint" program. Click on the Start button, then click on "All programs" (or just hold your mouse arrow on "All programs" without clicking and it will still open the list). On this list, use the scrollbar if needed to find the "Accessories" folder and left click on it to see what is inside. Did you find the "Paint" program? Ok, put your mouse arrow on "Paint", HOLD DOWN the "Ctrl" key (that's the Control Key on your keyboard) and while you are holding down that Ctrl key DRAG the Paint program to a blank area of your Desktop. ("Dragging" the mouse means holding down the left mouse button while you are moving the mouse – just like "dragging" a card when you play solitaire). Now let up the mouse and the Ctrl key buttons – and PRESTO, there you have it! Sure, there are other ways to do this as well, but always make sure that you are creating a "shortcut" and that the new icon has that little white box with the arrow in it.

Yes, you can DELETE any "shortcut" icon from your Desktop by right-clicking your mouse on it and then left-clicking on "delete" option on the menu that appears. This will remove the icon from your desktop and put it in your "Recycle bin". You can restore anything from your recycle bin if you change your mind, but if you delete it from the recycle bin it will be gone. Then you will have to create it again from the "All programs" list.

The Desktop screen on your computer and the Start menu have many functions and options. Some people like to put a whole lot of icons on their desktop but that makes it so busy and crowded that it is no longer easy to use. Don't be shy about using Google to ask your questions about the Desktop or anything else – you will be surprised at how much Google can help you!

Lamp Post 140
August 2012
by John Spizzirri

If you read this before Tuesday August 14, Raspberry PI **(1)** will be demonstrated at the Uniforum Chicago meeting in room 103 of IIT Rice Campus in Wheaton at 7:00 PM **(2)**. Raspberry PI is a miniature computer (see figure) that costs $35. It has a 700 MHZ processor, 2 USB ports, 10/100 ethernet RJ45 port, composite video and HDMI video outputs, TRS and HDMI audio outputs, SD card slot for local storage, and 256 MB SDRAM. Obviously, this is for experimenters and hobbyists. The price makes it easy to experiment.

1) http://www.raspberrypi.org/
2) http://www.uniforum.chi.il.us/

Since Raspberry PI came out there has been a plethora of micro PCs that have hit the market **(1, 2, 3)**.

1) http://sn.im/24mvbgk
2) http://sn.im/24mvblo
3) http://sn.im/24mvbsw

A number of my recent clients seem to be confused by the terminology I used to describe e-mail software. I think this might be a good opportunity to review the words I use to describe some computer processes. Here is a list of terms that seemed to cause problems along with terms that are implied and synonyms:

App - see Application
Application - Application software is a Computer program designed for a specific task. Examples include word processors, text processors, browsers, spreadsheets, photo viewers, photo manipulators, etc.
Browser - a computer program that is designed to retrieve, present, and transmit information on the Internet. **(1)**
Client based - a computer program that runs or operates on a users computer. **(2)**
Computer program - a file that tells the computer what to do to accomplish a specific task. Examples include Internet Explorer, Firefox, Notepad, Microsoft Word, Outlook, Outlook Express, Thunderbird, etc. **(3)**
E-mail - also known as electronic mail is a method of exchanging messages across the Internet or a computer network. **(4)**
E-mail account - the e-mail and contact list associated with an e-mail address
E-mail client - a computer program that handles reading, writing, storage, and drafts of e-mail that can be web/server based or client based. This may also refer to e-mail computer program.
Executable - see Computer program
IMAP - Internet Message Access Protocol is a method for transferring e-mail from e-mail clients to e-mail servers. **(5)**
Internet - a global computer network of public and private computer networks using a common

protocol or method of transferring data.

ISP - Internet provider or Internet service provider (ISP **(6)**) - an organization (public or private) that connects computers to the Internet via copper wires, wireless or fiber-optic connections.

Local client - a computer program running on a users computer.

POP - Post Office Protocol is a method for transferring e-mail from e-mail clients to e-mail servers. (POP **(7)**)

Program - see Computer program

SMTP - Simple Mail Transfer Protocol is a standardized method of transfering e-mail from e-mail servers to e-mail clients. **(8)**

Software - see Computer program

Software application - see Computer program

Webmail - an e-mail client that is accessed through a web browser. **(9)**

Web based e-mail - see webmail

Web based e-mail client - see webmail

Web browser - see Browser

1) **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_browser**
2) **http://sn.im/24mkm3u**
3) **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_program**
4) **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Email**
5) **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IMAP**
6) **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_service_provider**
7) **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_Office_Protocol**
8) **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simple_Mail_Transfer_Protocol**
9) **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webmail**

When I ask clients if they use webmail or a local e-mail client, I had to explain what each was. Some clients did not understand that their ISPs provided them with an e-mail address or addresses. Most ISP e-mail accounts can be accessed via the Internet as webmail or via a client based e-mail program. Some clients did not understand that their computer browser is an application on their computer that accesses the Internet using the hardware on their computer and phone or cable company equipment. Some clients did not understand that Outlook Express is an application on their computer and it's the application that accesses their e-mail accounts via the Internet. I think the confusion arises out of a belief that the browser or e-mail client are part of the Internet and not applications that run on the client's computer. On another note, one client did not know that the e-mail client (Outlook Express in his case) must be registered with the e-mail provider (ISP or free e-mail account) in order to get the e-mail associated with an e-mail account.

Now Microsoft (MS **(1)**) throws a monkey wrench into the mix by renaming its free e-mail service. Hotmail **(2)** is going away. It is being replaced with Outlook.com **(3)**. When users are confounded by the terms used for e-mail accounts and clients, MS creates more confusion by renaming their free e-mail service Outlook just like their free application Outlook Express and their paid application Outlook. I'll grant that this might have been a good idea about ten years ago, but today it will just cause more confusion. The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and Economic Times reported this story (**(4), (5), (6)**).

1) **https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/default.aspx**
2) **https://www.hotmail.com**

3) https://www.outlook.com
4) http://sn.im/24muvi4
5) http://sn.im/24muvvq
6) http://sn.im/24muw9o

In a related item Outlook.com limits password length to 16 characters **(1)**. The Register article pointed out that long, complex passwords are significantly harder to crack than short ones. Both Yahoo! Mail **(2)** and GMail **(3)** have longer password lengths (32 and unknown character lengths, respectively). A discussion about cracking passwords in on Sophos **(4)**. That discussion in MP3 format is on the CDOM.

1) http://sn.im/24mvmze
2) http://mail.yahoo.com
3) https://mail.google.com/
4) http://sn.im/24mvpb3

In the paragraphs above I mentioned free e-mail providers. Here are three web sites that show over one hundred free e-mail providers (**(1), (2), (3)**).

1) http://freecentral2.tripod.com/freemail.htm
2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_webmail_providers
3) http://email.about.com/od/freeemailreviews/tp/free_email.htm

DEFCON 2012 **(1)** was held the last week in July. DEFCON is the world's largest annual hacker convention **(2)**. According to Wikipedia, the attendees "include computer security professionals, journalists, lawyers, federal government employees, crackers, cyber-criminals, security researchers, and hackers with a general interest in computer code, computer architecture, phone phreaking, hardware modification, and anything else that can be 'hacked'." The DEFCON identification badges were very unique and could be hacked if you could figure them out **(3)**. CNN Money wrote about the 'social engineering' competition where a contestant was charged with getting information from a target without alerting the target. The target was WalMart **(4)**. The hacker weaseled every 'data point' out of a WalMart manager that he was supposed to get **(5)**. According to Yahoo! Finance, the National Security Agency (NSA **(6)**) attended DEFCON in order to recruit hackers **(7)**. On a side note, Wired Magazine published an article that quotes William Binney, a 'former' technical director of the NSA, stating that the NSA director lied at DEFCON **(8)**. The lie in question was that the NSA director said that the NSA does not collect information on every American. I find it amazing that any government official would still try to lie about the Big Brother Police State that America has become.

1) https://www.defcon.org/
2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DEF_CON
3) http://sn.im/24mv3v9
4) http://www.walmart.com/
5) http://sn.im/24mvdta
6) http://www.nsa.gov/

7) http://finance.yahoo.com/news/nsa-wants-hire-hackers-142900258.html
8) http://sn.im/24mv4t6

Those of you with domestic cats may be interested in a National Geographic sponsored experiment using micro cameras. House cats and other animals were fitted with the micro cameras to find out what these animals really do **(1)**. House cats that live outside part of the time are killers. It was found that house cats kill other animals about twice a week. Some times for a snack and some times for fun. The video is interesting **(2)**. By the way, POV means point of view.

1) http://sn.im/24mvjgf
2) http://sn.im/24mvjsf

The Curiosity Rover **(1)** landed on Mars on August 6th. It was launched last November 11th. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA **(2)**) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL **(3)**) took some serious risks with this rover mission just as they have done with other rover missions. The vehicle is big (10 feet long, 9 feet wide, weight 2000 pounds). The landing, like the takeoff, was multistage. The best news coverage I could find was in the Hindustan Times **(4)**.

1) http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/mission/rover/
2) http://www.nasa.gov/
3) http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/index.php
4) http://sn.im/24mvszd

On a sad note, the first U. S. woman in space, Sally Ride, Ph.D, died of pancreatic cancer at age 61 years old **(1)**. Too bad her 27 year 'partner', Professor Tam O'Shaughnessy, Ph.D **(2)**, will not get the benefits that any other married astronaut would receive. California same sex marriage was available for only a short time in 2008 **(3)**. Thanks to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) Proposition 8 stopped same sex marriage in California **(4)**. Even if they had been married, the "Defense of Marriage Act would have kept O'Shaughnessy from receiving any of Ride's federal benefits" **(5)**. Fortunately, O'Shaughnessy does not need the money. This is a fine way to treat the family of a true American pioneer. I call her a pioneer and not a hero. I recall the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR **(6)**) called all their citizens who did something in the name of the USSR, heroes. For instance, Valentina Tereshkova, **(7)** the first woman in space, received the Order of Lenin and Hero of the Soviet Union. I think we should get over the practice of calling any government employee that may experience danger a hero. Since Sally Ride took her flight in 1983, over 40 more women have been in space. The USSR canceled the female cosmonaut program in 1969 with only two women in space. Ride flew on the Challenger twice.

1) http://sn.im/24mvx88
2) http://sn.im/24mvxpq
3) http://sn.im/24mvy3k
4) http://sn.im/24mvyjs
5) http://sn.im/24mvyyd
6) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union
7) http://sn.im/24mw323

I found two very interesting web sites with great pictures. The first is about the polar bear migration in Manitoba, Canada **(1)**. The second is the location of arctic ice bergs **(2)**.

1) http://www.polarbearcam.com/
2) http://icebergfinder.com/

Between you, me and the LampPost. That's all for now.

Closing the door on Facebook
By Linda Gonse, Editor/Webmaster, ORCOPUG (Orange County PCUG), California
April 2012 issue, Nibbles 'n Bits
www.orcopug.org   editor (at) orcopug.org

So, you have been reading about more privacy concerns in Facebook. You have decided to close your account. But, unless you are aware of what this means and how to go about it, you may not actually close the account.

You should be aware, too, that you are not going to erase your existence in Facebook when you do close your account. Some people have the mistaken idea that after quitting Facebook their data will get old and vanish.

Know the facts. Familiarize yourself with Facebook's policies before you take steps to end your relationship.

There are two methods of closing a Facebook account. You can either deactivate your account or you can delete it. If you deactivate it, your account is closed immediately. Your information is saved as you left it in the event that you may want to return to it someday.

What's more, if you log into Facebook within 14 days of deactivating your account, it is automatically reactivated!

Deletion is another thing. Not so easy.

What does Facebook say about deleting the account?

If you do not think you will use Facebook again and would like your account deleted, keep in mind that you will not be able to reactivate your account or retrieve any of the content or information you have added. If you would like your account permanently deleted with no option for recovery, log in to your account and then submit your request here.

Prior to taking this option, you should delete any information you wouldn't be comfortable leaving behind. Note, too, that you are only submitting a request. The request goes into the system where it is regarded as a pending deletion request. Then what happens?

Once you have submitted a request to permanently delete your account, no further action is required on your end. Our system delays the deletion process in case you change your mind and no longer want to permanently delete your account. Note that logging in to your account again will undo a pending deletion request.

Once your account is permanently deleted, there is no way to undo this action. You will not be able to reactivate the account or retrieve any of the content or information you have added to it. (Source page: http://on.fb.me/HiYHzI)

You'll note that it does not say how long the deletion process is delayed, only that it will be.

Eventually, the account gets deleted. But, what actually happens when your account is permanently deleted? Here's what Facebook says. (The emphasis is mine.)

• You will not be able to regain access to your account again. (This should not be a surprise. That is the idea, right?)

• MOST personally identifiable information associated with it is removed from our database. This includes information like your email address, mailing address, and IM screen name. SOME personally identifiable information MAY REMAIN, such as your name if you sent a message to someone else.

• Copies of SOME material (photos, notes, etc.) MAY REMAIN in our servers for technical reasons, but this material is disassociated from any personal identifiers and completely inaccessible to other people using Facebook. (Source page: http://on.fb.me/HE95ab)

Armed with this information and lowered expectations, you are now ready to close the door on Facebook.

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   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 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

August 2012
CD of the Month

ARI - August newsletter
cCleaner - Updated Hard drive cleaner
CDOMlists - Updated Hard drive cleaner
ClawsMail - Lightweight e-mail client
CWshreder - Updated virus remover (specialized)
Decrapifier - Updated new machine cleanup utiltiy
DiskWipe - An application for permanent volume data destruction
Firefox1401 - Updated browser
Ginger - A Grammar and Spell Checker
Gmvault - Backup and restore a Gmail account
HiJackThis - Updated virus analyzer
MediaMonkey - Updated media player
MemberContributions - Things e-mailed to me from members
NotePadPP - Updated text and programming editor
OldTimeRadio - Old time radio broadcasts
PhraseExpress - Organize and recall text snippets
SafeHouse - Encrypt and hide files
Speccy - Updated hardware inspector
Thunderbird - Updated e-mail client