

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

Founded 1984 **ARI** is the
Official Newsletter of
Computers Are Easy User Group

August
2014
Volume XXXI Issue 8

Confirmed meeting dates

August 23
4th Saturday

September 27
4th Saturday

October 25
4th Saturday

:: :: :: ::

Check
www.caeug.net
for confirmed
meeting dates
**MEETING
PLACE**
is the
Glenside Public
Library

:: :: :: ::

Visitors
Welcome
**HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!**

4th Saturday August 23, 2014

meeting presenter will be Michael Goldberg
who will have a computer side chat on
Win 8.1 on his ACER laptop

4th Saturday September 27, 2014

meeting presenter will be Tom Soltis
he will present Lightroom software

Windows 8.1, iOS7 and Other Updates

By Sandy Berger, Compu-KISS
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Winston Churchill once said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." It seems that this is the mantra of today's high tech world. The quest for perfection brings almost constant change. If you use Windows 8 or an Apple mobile device, you will want to read about the changes you need to make.

You get up in the morning and find that your Gmail looks different than it did yesterday. You get an announcement that there is an update to another program that you use every day. Get used to it. Change in the high tech world is inevitable. Most of the time the upgrades and updates bring added security, so you don't want to stay with the old. You must move on.

Table of Contents

Page	
1	Windows 8.1, iOS7 and Other Updates by Sandy Berger
3	Lamp Post 161 by John Spizzirri
7	I Want It Now! by Greg Skalka
10	August DVD of the Month List



This is what many people found with two recent updates. Apple updated their mobile operating system to iOS 7 and Microsoft updated Windows 8 to 8.1. Both of these updates are free for users who owned previous versions. Both add excellent features and increased security. However, both require the users to learn about how to use the new functionality. And, as usual, the user is given no instructions on how to upgrade or how to manage the new programs.

With previous upgrades of Windows, Microsoft performed the update for you if your computer was set to receive automatic updates. Windows 8.1 is different. You must visit the Microsoft Store to initiate the update. Just look for the green Store tile in your Start Screen. Then click on the Windows 8.1 banner in the Store.

Allow at least an hour for the update. When the installation is complete, you will be presented with the familiar color tile Start screen, but there are many subtle differences. First, if you want to search for something, you simply start typing what you want to search for. The search window automatically appears. What is different is that now Windows will search everywhere for you. You no longer have to tell it to search apps, files, etc. Windows will even search the Internet for you and present you with the results in one window.

Another change in Windows 8.1 gives you the ability to boot directly to the Desktop instead of the colorful Windows Start screen. Unfortunately, this option is fairly hidden. To turn it on you will have to go to the Desktop and right-click on the toolbar on the bottom. Choose the Navigation option where you will see the choice to go to the Desktop instead of Start on sign in. You will also see other new choices in this area. They can be turned on and off at will, so feel free to play with them, if you like.

Several apps have also changed with Windows 8.1. One important change is that if you install a new app, it won't automatically show up on the Start screen. You will have to go to the All Apps page, right-click on the app and choose "Pin to Start" to have it show up there.

Apple's new operating system also brings many changes. If you are using a newer iPhone or iPad and you see a small red circle with a number in it above the Settings icon, this is the indication that there is an update available for your operating system. Tap on Settings, then General, then look for the update and give your permission to download and install it.

If this is the update for iOS 7, once complete you will notice that the icons and screens look quite different. This is a good thing since they have improved the clarity of the text and icons. Again, however, there are a few things to learn. In previous versions of iOS, you quit apps by double-clicking the Home button and holding down icons until they jiggled. Now when you double-click Home, you will be presented with all of the running apps as rectangular "cards". To stop an app, just put your finger on the card and flick it off the screen with an upward motion.

The Search on these Apple devices has also changed dramatically. You used to search by moving to the page to the left of the home screen, but that page is gone in iOS7. In order to start a search on your iPhone or iPad with iOS7, put your finger in the middle of the screen and swipe in a downward motion. This will bring up the Search screen and keyboard where you can enter your search terms.

Actually all of these changes are good. Just keep repeating that to yourself as you encounter frustrations at the new way of doing things. Remember change is good and you are on the path to perfection!



Lamp Post 161

by John Spizzirri

August 2014

If you have read some of my previous Lamp Post articles, you may have noticed that I use Bitly **(1)** and Snurl **(2)** uniform resource locator (URL **(3)**) shortening web sites. For instance, most newspaper article URLs are over 50 characters long. URLs of that length (or longer) are difficult to fit on the pages of the ARI... Google **(4)** has now gotten into the act. Google's entry in this field is known as goo.gl **(5)**. If you attach your GMail **(6)** account to the goo.gl service, it allows you to track how many people have clicked on a URL that you have shortened and published or sent to someone. Long URL **(7)** has a list of 340 services that do the same thing. If you do not like

the idea of going to a web site that has been shortened, try Unfurlr **(8)**. It reveals the actual web site without associating your Internet protocol (IP **(9)**) address with the request. It also rates the web site using Web of Trust (WOT **(10)**) ratings.

- 1) <https://bitly.com/>
- 2) <http://www.snurl.com/>
- 3) <http://goo.gl/3jB7RI>
- 4) <https://www.google.com/>
- 5) <http://goo.gl/>
- 6) <https://mail.google.com/>
- 7) <http://longurl.org/services>
- 8) <http://www.unfurlr.com/>
- 9) <http://goo.gl/uJfa56>
- 10) <https://www.mywot.com/>

The Black Hat hacking conference **(1)** was held in Las Vegas the beginning of August. One of the more interesting 'briefings' during the conference is one on BadUSB **(2)**, a type of malware **(3)**. Two German researchers Karsten Nohl **(4)** and Ben Hayak **(5)** described how various USB devices could deliver unwanted software or activity. This malware is based on how the USB interface works **(6)**. During the boot process or when a USB device is inserted, a process starts called enumeration. Enumeration queries the device and assigns a number to its address. The device tells the computer what it is i.e. keyboard, mouse, flash drive, printer, dvd drive, phone, fondue pot **(7)**, etc. In order for the device to report what it is, it needs a very limited central processing unit (CPU **(8)**) and firmware **(9)**. What the researchers found was that the firmware could be reprogrammed to misreport what the device is. It could also hide areas of flash drives so that programs could be executed from those areas. The various misuses of this exploit are immense. The off shoot of this is that any USB device that is plugged into an untrusted computer

or any untrusted USB device that is plugged into your computer can permanently create malware spreading devices (computer or USB). Sophos Labs **(10)** pointed out the possibilities in this article **(11)**. Wired Magazine suggested that USB devices be treated like hypodermic needles -use once and throw away **(12)**. Some have pointed out that if some spy agency got hold of this exploit all our privacy would be lost. Once I heard that, it brought to mind the Stuxnet computer worm **(13)** and Flame malware **(14)**. Perhaps the Israeli and U.S. governments have already discovered this exploit. Steve Gibson who co-hosts Security Now podcast **(15)** said that we just don't know if Stuxnet was this or some other exploit **(16)**. You can watch the briefing **(17)** from the Black Hat Conference and judge for yourself.

- 1) <http://goo.gl/D7lcbP>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/XfX2aW>
- 3) <http://goo.gl/s9Lu0l>
- 4) <http://goo.gl/r0opnE>
- 5) <http://goo.gl/gzv5ME>
- 6) <http://goo.gl/sthclz>
- 7) <http://goo.gl/KLUxBj>
- 8) <http://goo.gl/Z0tK8s>
- 9) <http://goo.gl/JOJVYP>
- 10) <http://goo.gl/3RzqMY>
- 11) <http://goo.gl/kwJcW8>
- 12) <http://goo.gl/Pb0l3o>
- 13) <http://goo.gl/885S23>
- 14) <http://goo.gl/pAGlkG>
- 15) <http://twit.tv/sn>
- 16) <http://goo.gl/AXsnM6>
- 17) <http://goo.gl/Gj2HYQ>

Now that you feel paranoid and helpless because of BadUSB here is another piece of bad news. Poweliks is a 'file-less' trojan that attacks Windows machines **(1)**. It exists only in memory when it adds an entry to the Windows registry. It's initial execution is from a Microsoft Office file (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Draw, etc.). TrendMicro has a detailed explanation of it's operation **(2)**. Registry cleaners will not find it because the registry key it creates begins with a non-ASCII character **(3)**.

- 1) <http://goo.gl/w5QHye>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/rKjVJD>
- 3) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASCII>

The Washington Post **(1)** did an investigation of legal National Security Agency (NSA **(2)**) spying **((3), (4))** on targeted individuals. The probe found that for each targeted individual nine others (Americans and non-Americans) were intercepted. According to Allyn Malventano, an admitted NSA analyst, who appeared on Twit Bits **(5)** said, "... at every stage we were being told, if anything comes up, or you run across anything that deals with Americans, delete it, or change the page, or stop, or hit escape, or whatever it is." After all the bad press you would think that the NSA would have issued a statement to that effect. They did not. Has Malventano been instructed

to say these things? Was he actually given those instructions, but his job was so low level or the 'intelligence' was so low level that it made no difference? Perhaps, humans are not necessary to gather what the NSA wants. Edward Snowden's most recent revelation was a NSA computer program called MonsterMind (6). This program hunts cyberattacks and thwarts them using computer systems from countries or entities other than the United States. We already know that Google (7) computer reads every e-mail that passes through it. It also scans all photos for child porn as it is required by law to notify the government of that activity (8). If Google has that technology, you can be rest assured that the NSA and other government agencies have it, too. Incidentally, Snowden was granted an additional three years asylum in Russia (9). Since the Snowden revelations, the NSA has been having trouble recruiting new talent (10).

- 1) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
- 2) <http://www.nsa.gov/>
- 3) <http://goo.gl/CFGNNS>
- 4) <http://goo.gl/sgMRD6>
- 5) <http://twit.tv/twit/469>
- 6) <http://goo.gl/SY9RZw>
- 7) <https://www.google.com/>
- 8) <https://www.grc.com/sn/sn-467.txt>
- 9) <http://goo.gl/ymxvd7>
- 10) <http://goo.gl/DmAHk3>

Ferguson, Missouri (1) has experienced a set back of sorts after one of it's police officers allegedly shot and killed an African-American youth. As outrage about the shooting led to street demonstrations, Anonymous (2) started a denial of service (DoS (3)) on the Ferguson Police (4) website and e-mail (5). The police would not reveal the officer's name. Anonymous tweeted what it claimed was the shooting officer's name. The St. Louis County Police (6) replied to Anonymous stating that the name was not that of either Ferguson or St. Louis County Police officers but was a 'random' citizen. Ferguson Police arrested two reporters (7), Wesley Lowery (8) and Ryan Reilly (9). Lowery recorded the incident with a smart phone. The Ferguson Police have a few dashboard cameras and wearable cameras purchased with federal grant money (10). They have not been installed because the department did not have the money for installation.

- 1) <http://goo.gl/PBcQo4>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/TpvsX2>
- 3) <http://goo.gl/y2bg3O>
- 4) <http://goo.gl/fpHsYk>
- 5) <http://goo.gl/Src48s>
- 6) <http://goo.gl/0fbO70>
- 7) <http://goo.gl/aAr6FR>
- 8) <http://goo.gl/o1weOg>
- 9) <http://goo.gl/l5o9f3>
- 10) <http://goo.gl/d3o0AP>

Ever want to end your association with a site such as Facebook (1) or Twitter (2)? Now there is a site that assists you with that chore called Account Killer (3). It tells you if the ending your

association will be easy or hard. Before you sign up with any service, it might be a good idea to see if you can disassociate easily.

- 1) <https://www.facebook.com/>
- 2) <https://twitter.com/>
- 3) <http://www.accountkiller.com/en>

Author, Douglas Preston and Amazon (1) CEO, Jeff Bezos are in a feud. Preston is published by the Hachette Book Group (HBG (2)). Amazon has been negotiating with HBG for two months. Amazon wants concessions from HBG so that Amazon can make more money. How does that involve Preston? In order to put pressure on HBG, Amazon has not allowed preorders of books that have not been published, not offered discounts on paper books, and delayed shipping on HBG books. This grossly affects the income of authors that are published by HBG. The authors complain to their publisher about the loss of income. Preston has taken another step. He sees that Bezos in using the people (authors) that put his business on the map as pawns in a business chess match. Preston wrote an open letter to his readers (3) detailing his thoughts on the issue and asking his readers to contact Bezos at jeff@amazon.com to tell him what they think of the situation. The open letter is signed by Preston and about 900 other writers including John Grisham, Stephen King, and James Patterson. Preston (4) writes books in the same genre as Patricia Cornwell (5). If you go to Amazon and check the standard delivery date for books from each of these authors, you can see that Preston is telling the truth. The financial markets have reacted ((6), (7)) noting that Amazon is losing money (8). The tech sector has opinions as well ((9), (10)). Some political pundits chimed in ((11), (12)). The New York Times media has its opinion (13). Preston noted that Bezos criticism included calling him rich and not in touch with the masses. Preston's response was, "It makes me laugh, Tech company billionaires are calling a mere writer 'rich.' I think they're rattled." That reminded me of the Chris Rock (14) line, "Shaq is rich. The white man who signs his check is wealthy." Shaq refers to retired basketball player Shaquille O'Neal (15) who is worth about \$350 million (16).

- 1) <http://www.amazon.com/>
- 2) <http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/>
- 3) <http://authorsunited.net/>
- 4) <http://goo.gl/MG5CT0>
- 5) <http://goo.gl/qGhzH6>
- 6) <http://goo.gl/uYQqq9>
- 7) <http://goo.gl/v8Nkpl>
- 8) <http://goo.gl/2BzvsL>
- 9) <http://goo.gl/saSBvn>
- 10) <http://goo.gl/rwtupJ>
- 11) <http://goo.gl/2q7s8N>
- 12) <http://goo.gl/HTKb6o>
- 13) <http://goo.gl/USYxi1>
- 14) https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Chris_Rock
- 15) <http://goo.gl/72MeLI>
- 16) <http://goo.gl/CnvHhQ>

Drones have been in the news consistently over the last few years. The past year has seen more stories about domestic drones employed by the federal government and local police agencies. The problem with drones is the cost, limited time on target, and poor quality video due to the weight limitations of the vehicles. Enter blimps (1). Blimp in a Box (2) sells tethered blimps that are reusable, hold heavier loads, and can stay on target much longer than rotary or fixed wing drones.

1) <http://goo.gl/eruDUy>

2) <http://www.droneaviationcorp.com/bib.html>

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

I Want It Now!

By Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA

February 2014 Issue, Drive Light

www.uchug.org president (at) uchug.org

This may sound like the utterance of a tantrum-happy young child, but it also seems to be the mantra of the modern computer and technology user. Our popular culture today is all about instant gratification, and this is spilling over into our technology. Everyone wants instant access to information, communications, finance and commerce wherever they are and no matter what they are doing. While this is a rather tall order, tech companies are doing their best to grant us this wish. We are getting more connected and interconnected all the time. While this can provide great benefits, increasing our knowledge and security and saving us time and money, it can also be detrimental to us in many of the same ways. Are we trading away important aspects of our lives like privacy and individuality for speed and convenience?

The engine that drives all the increases in convenience in our lives is the Internet. Computers and tablets are powerful devices but are of relatively little use if not connected to the Internet. The Internet is the connection medium through which all our modern communications and access to information flow. The telecommunication

(phone) system was once the most powerful and far-reaching network in the world, but its demotion can be seen in the low percentage of time that the typical smart phone user spends in voice calls. The average smart phone is now being used mostly to check email, monitor social media, play games and provide directions, functions which utilize the Internet. Our desire for increased connectedness and higher connection speeds continues to be met by our service providers, be they cable, telecom or cellular. The promises of online conveniences like streaming entertainment, security camera monitoring and video conferencing cannot be met without broadband Internet connections that are always live. Remember the days when you had to wait until the home phone line was free so you could use your modem to make your dial-up Internet connection? A down or even slow connection is now exasperating to the individual and death to a business. Today almost anyone in the United States can have a broadband connection. Cable companies have upgraded their systems, the phone companies have added fiber and the cellular providers have upped their "G's" or generations in data networking capabilities. Even those living off the beaten path in rural areas outside the reach of cable can get broadband through satellite connections, using technology developed by our local company, ViaSat. All this capability comes at a price, however.

Naturally users were not satisfied to be connected only at home, so our tech industry gave us laptops

to travel with. We wanted more portability, so they gave us Wi-Fi, tablets and smartphones. All this new stuff meant we had to buy more hardware (often of multiple kinds for multiple needs) and probably also get a cellular data plan. Now most connected folks pay around \$100 combined for home broadband and cellular data, and even more for a family. Though connection speeds keep increasing, so too do rates for service. Comcast buying Time Warner Cable can't be good for consumer costs. And we in this country pay more and get less bandwidth than a lot of other countries. Some countries may not have good water or sewer systems, but even the poor there have cell phones and five bars. We are getting Google Fiber in an additional 34 major U.S. cities soon, however (but still not in San Diego; I want it now!).

We couldn't get online while onboard, so the airlines are rolling out more in-flight Internet access (for a price). Google knew we'd find tablets and smartphones were not convenient enough, so they developed Google Glasses, and others are working on their own wearable computing devices. Our homes and appliances will soon be connected to the Internet (the IoT, or Internet of Things), so we can monitor our homes remotely and have our fridge tell us when we are low on milk. What these new devices will cost us in privacy and other social and civil issues is yet to be determined.

We wanted instant access to our money and finances, and so the banks gave it to us. Now we can get cash anytime from an ATM machine, make purchases without cash by using credit or debit cards and get instant access to our account information at any time. If we want to deposit a check right now, we don't even have to drive to a bank branch or ATM. We can now just take a photo of the check with our smart phone and deposit it through a banking app.

With all of our financial information available online, it was just a matter of time before criminal elements took notice. Now you have to protect and remember lots of unique and complex passwords for all the banking, e-commerce and other online accounts you use, so you can keep your money and identity safe. Unfortunately it is not only in your hands to protect. Financial institutions and merchants that store your information on their computers can be targets for data theft. There is a lot the institutions could do to increase security, like multi-factor authentication and smart chip credit cards, but these things cost money. A few things they have been doing to help prevent fraud are useful but put the onus on the account holder. Most bank and credit card companies encourage their customers to set up alerts on their accounts to help flag suspicious transactions. I have set these up on my accounts and find them very useful.

I have my credit cards alert me, through an email and/or a text message, when a purchase is made without the card being presented to the merchant, as in an online purchase. This can help alert you to fraudulent account activity as soon as it happens. My Visa card is set up to send me an alert when a gas pump purchase is made. I use this card often at a particular low-cost gas station and am amazed at how quickly I am notified. After I swipe my card, enter my zip code and press the Enter button on the pump, I can't count to five before I feel my cell phone vibrating in my pocket with a text informing me of the transaction and location. That is pretty cool!

When we want to purchase something, we want it now. E-commerce has allowed the shopper to buy a much wider array of products online than is typically available in neighborhood stores, often at much lower prices. The one advantage for brick and mortar stores is the instant gratification of walking out with your purchase. Online merchants are working hard to minimize delivery time, offering one or two-day delivery for a premium. Amazon's Prime service provides two-day delivery for many items for an annual subscription fee. Amazon knows we want even more and is looking at using

predictive algorithms to pre-position products you are likely to purchase in local warehouses and is even working on 30-minute delivery of small items by autonomous flying quadcopters. I can't wait (but I'll bet it won't be cheap).

Taco Bell is working to fulfill our desire for fast food right now. They plan to introduce a mobile ordering system later this year. Through their mobile app, already tested in five locations in Orange County, customers can place an order with the closest Taco Bell location and pay through their phone with credit or gift cards. The order can be picked up in-store or at the drive-through window, and the app will use GPS location to let the store know when the customer is near, so the order is ready and freshness is maintained. I'm not sure I want Taco Bell to know how far I am from their restaurants. Other chains are working on mobile apps of their own.

There goes more of our privacy in exchange for quick eats. When we want to watch a movie, we no longer have to wait to buy or rent a DVD (or Blu-ray) or go to a theater. We can watch our entertainment streamed to our computer, tablet or smart phone the instant we want it, in almost any location we choose. We can easily stay connected with our friends through social media like Facebook, allowing us to share our activities and see what everyone else is doing. Unfortunately, when watching other things happening becomes too convenient, doing things yourself can get pushed aside and lots of time can be spent in watching the Internet world go by, with little to show for it.

When we miss our far-away loved ones, we can not only speak to them, we can also see them, and at reasonable costs. The Internet has brought us VoIP, or voice over Internet Protocol, and along with it lower rates (often free) for long distance phone calls. Programs like Skype provide video calls at reasonable costs. And for those of us that can't wait until the afterlife to converse again with our deceased loved ones, a new start-up, Eterni.me, promises to help. Through access to a dead person's online interactions (chat logs, social network information, emails), they claim to use artificial intelligence algorithms to construct an avatar or virtual person that the living can interact with. It could be like online chat with a dead person. To satisfy our need for instant interactions with help lines and tech support, companies are working on similar avatars with artificial intelligence (even more intelligent than Siri). When we need to talk to a person right now, the avatar would be there and not even require a salary. It would be good if they got to the point where I could not tell if I was talking with a person or a machine. It would be bad if they got to the point where I could not tell if I was talking with a person or a machine.

All these advances in convenience and quick access come at the cost of our data security and privacy. We can get quick answers to all our questions, get directions and compare products online, but we must realize that the Technology, computers and the Internet will continue to try to provide what we want (though perhaps not what we need), as long as there is profit in it somewhere for someone. Hopefully we can learn to use these advances for the betterment of ourselves and others, appreciate them, and not become like spoiled children crying "I want it now!"

Google and Bing and merchants are all keeping track of what we are asking for and about. Seeking online information about sensitive topics or items might create undesirable associations in the data they hold about us. And while a lot of tech jobs have been created due to the Internet, there have also been some job losses. Just ask the former bank tellers, video rental clerks, encyclopedia salespersons and retail store workers that lost their jobs due to the effects of the Internet.

August 2014 DVD of the Month

7Zip - Updated zip program

ADWCleaner - Updated adware cleaner

ARI - Monthly newsletter

AtomicClockSync - Program to synchronize system clock with NIST

AtomicTimeSync - Program to synchronize system clock with NIST

Auslogics - Updated defragging program

cCleaner - Updated hard drive cleaner

CDOMlists - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month

ComboFix - Updated adware and virus cleaner

Drivelmage - Image and Backup logical Drives and Partitions

EaseUS - Backup software

FossaMail - E-mail client program

Foxmail - E-mail client program

HitmanPro - Updated Second Opinion Malware Scanner

JRT - Updated junkware removal tool

Malwarebytes - Updated malware removal program

MemberContributions - Things members send me

Mitro - Encrypted password database

OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files

ParagonBackup - Backup software

RKill - Updated malware removal tool

SuperAntiSpyware - Updated spyware removal tool

Sylpheed - E-mail client program

TDSSkiller - Updated Root kit remover

Thunderbird - Updated E-mail client program

TightVNC - Updated free remote control software

TreeCopy - Copies folder structure without the files

UltraVNC - Updated free remote control software

XBMC - Free software media player & entertainment hub

Page 10

<http://www.caeug.net>

Meeting Location and Special Accommodations

The Glenside Public Library address is at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. Please park away from the building. Thank you. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Mike Goldberg

. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this program and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and / or participate in the program are requested to contact CAEUG president, Mike Goldberg at , at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

Mailing address:

CAEUG

P.O. Box 2727

Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

Members Helpline

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

Hardware problems, XP,

Win 7, Linux

and Virus Removal

- John Spizzirri

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