

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

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

July
2014
Volume XXXI Issue 7

**Confirmed
meeting
dates**

July 19
3rd Saturday

August 23
4th Saturday

:: :: :: ::

Check
www.caeug.net
for confirmed
meeting dates

**MEETING
PLACE**
is the
Glenside Public
Library

:: :: :: ::

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

Saturday July 19, 2014

Meeting will have an APCUG
video presentation of
Jere Minich : How Inkjet Printers work,tips and hints

**Chromecast –Watch On-line entertainment
on your big screen TV**

By Phil Sorrentino
Past President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
December 2013 issue, PC Monitor
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Chromecast is a new device from Google, aimed at getting your on-line entertainment on to your living room TV (or any TV with an HDMI input). For video streaming, Chromecast may be similar to AppleTV and Roku devices, though I haven't used either of these. Chromecast is an exciting device for both consumers and developers alike, because it offers a new, inexpensive (\$35) and simple way to stream entertainment from a Website or a computer to your living room big screen HDTV. (By the way, a less elegant way to accomplish this is to connect your TV directly to your computer, via HDMI, and then go directly to the websites with the computer. This is not usually convenient because of the locations of the computer and TV and the cables and wires needed to set this up.) Chromecast is small and it plugs directly into the back of your TV, keeping it completely out of sight.

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Wikipedia adds: “Chromecast is a digital media streaming adapter developed by Google. The device, a 2.83 inch dongle, plays audio/video content on a high-definition television by streaming it via Wi-Fi from the Internet or local network. Users select the media to play on their television from the Google Chrome web browser on a personal computer or from a supported App on their mobile device.”

Chromecast’s basic features are as follows:

- 1080p output video resolution
- Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n
- USB powered
- Compatible with Android and iOS devices

The minimum system requirements needed to take advantage of Chromecast are as follows:

- HDTV with HDMI input
- Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n network

For use with a Tablet or Smartphone:

- Android OS 2.3 and higher
- Apple OS iOS 6 and higher

For use with a computer:

- Windows 7 and higher
- Mac OS 10.7 and higher

Chromecast works with devices you already own, including Android and Apple tablets and smartphones. It also works with the Chrome Browser for Windows and Mac. A Browser, with the Chromecast extension, allows you to send the contents of a “Browser Tab” to your HDTV allowing you to experience photos, videos, and music on your HDTV. It turns any TV with an HDMI input into a smart TV, albeit only as smart as the Chromecast device

Chromecast allows you to view on-line entertainment on your living room HDTV; however, currently it seems to be limited to Netflix, Hulu plus (not Hulu), YouTube, Google Play TV & Movies, and Google Music. Indications are that many others such as Pandora, HBO Go, Vimeo, and Redbox, are in the pipeline. You will need an account with any of the pay services, such as Netflix or Hulu plus (YouTube is free, so far).

Chromecast is packaged in a very neat, compact box. Included in the box are the Chromecast device (it looks like a flash memory device with an HDMI connector), an HDMI extension cable (for hard to reach HDMI connections), a micro-USB to USB cable (to supply power to the device), a power supply adapter (if a convenient USB port is not available), and a tiny 14 page product information pamphlet. The “Getting Started” directions are printed on the inside of a swing-out cover and are clear and simple. Chromecast plugs into your TV’s HDMI port, while the power is supplied by connecting the devices micro-USB port to a USB port, on the TV (if available), or to the external power supply that plugs into ac power (recommended). Because Chromecast accomplishes its magic using your Local Area Network, aka Wi-Fi, you will need to enter the password to your Wi-Fi network during the setup process. The Setup, in a nutshell, is simply, Plug the device into your TV, Connect it to your Wi-Fi, and let it do its thing. The setup is really easy to do and it took only a few minutes, although the TV screen did go dark for a few tense moments

while the Chromecast was rebooting leaving an uneasy feeling until the “ready to cast” screen appeared. Once Chromecast was “ready to cast”, streaming from an Android tablet or the Chrome browser was easily accomplished.

(Note: It is a good idea to follow Google’s directions to download the Setup App on to your mobile device first. With this done, setup was very easy.)

Google’s uses the term “cast” to indicate streaming. The “cast” icon appears in the tablet App or in the Chrome browser in order to enable “cast”ing to the Chromecast device. The “cast” icon is a rectangle with a symbol in the lower left corner that looks like a Wi-Fi symbol.



Using a tablet, the Chromecast App is used in conjunction with YouTube (or other Chromecast enabled App, such as Netflix). After you start YouTube (or Netflix) on the tablet, touch the “cast” icon towards the top of the screen. A window will open to allow selection of the tablet display or the Chromecast device (that has been discovered). Select the Chromecast device and the YouTube video will be shown on the HDTV hosting the Chromecast device. The tablet acts as a controller to direct the video/audio from the source to the Chromecast device for use on the TV. Could it be any easier? (Return to this window to return YouTube back to the tablet display.)

Google has set up a website at <https://support.google.com/chromecast/> for product information and it includes some very good directions for using Chromecast. This site is a very good Help resource for getting started with, using, or just learning about Comcast’s capabilities.

Google has indicated that YouTube, Netflix, and Hulu Plus are just the beginning. Many others have voiced their support, and many independent developers have started to develop Apps for this new device. It’s only a matter of time before Chromecast has many new uses.

Twitter for Seniors

By Larry McJunkin

The Retired Geek Technical Tips for the Non-Technical “Over 50” Crowd

<http://retiredgeek.net/>

<http://retiredgeek.net/contact-me/>

You’ve never used Twitter. You say you’re too old for Twitter...it’s only for kids, and you could care less about reading what Lady Gaga had for lunch today. So obviously, Twitter is not for you. Wrong! If these are your thoughts about Twitter, I can say with authority that Twitter is not what you think.

Twitter does not exist to tell you what a celebrity had for lunch, or what the thoughts are of the singer who was just voted this year’s American Idol (though they might tweet this information). Twitter is a handy way to break news, share knowledge, and refer people to longer forms of communication.



Lamp Post 160

by John Spizzirri

July 2014

Computers Are Easy User Group is a member of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG). As such, we get communications from them periodically. Most of it is helpful things that provide content for our club members. We recently received this e-mail from Judy Tylour, the chair of the board of directors of APCUG. The proposed rule is here **(1)**.

"Time sensitive information for APCUG-member groups.

Do your members know about Net Neutrality?

It preserves our right to communicate freely online.

ISPs and governments should treat all data on the Internet equally, not allow some ISPs to provide better access to some companies that pay a fee to reach users faster.

Hewie Poplock, APCUG VP, has been collecting information and putting together a list of links as a blog item. He also took much of an article from the Verge today and posted it on www.apcug2.org. Here are links to both of those blog items. Feel free to pass this information on to your members and/or respond to his blogs.

Net Neutrality Info Links <http://bit.ly/1sQ9tal>

Net Neutrality comments deadline looms <http://bit.ly/1sQ9zyC>

Note from Hewie's blog [Ed: Hewie Poplock is Vice President of APCUG <http://apcug2.org/blog/3>]:

Make up your mind, then let your voice be heard.

The public comment period runs until July 15th [Ed: that is Tuesday], at which point a second phase of commenting will open up. That second phase will run for 57 days beyond that, until September 10th, and is meant to allow the public [Ed: that is you] to reply to comments that the FCC received during the first phase. Traditionally, those interested in making a short comment would have to do so here

(<http://bit.ly/1m7TkYa>), on proceeding number 14-28 [Ed. this is like a case number], and longer entries would have to be included as attachments through this larger form (<http://bit.ly/1r8NoWM>). But given the amount of interest the FCC is expecting, it has also set up an email address, [mailto: openinternet@fcc.gov](mailto:openinternet@fcc.gov) , where it's also accepting comments in order to make the whole process a bit easier. Regardless of the method, all comments are made publicly. Comments on the proposal have technically been rolling in for months now, but the initial public comment period is currently running out.

Judy

Judy Taylour, Chair

Board of Advisors

www.apcug2.org

www.facebook.com/APCUG

www.twitter.com/apcug

www.youtube.com/apcugvideos "

1) <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=6017642393>

I wrote a comment to the FCC about Net Neutrality. Here is that text, "I think that all Internet traffic should be treated the same. User and content providers should be charged the same. Everyone and everything should be equal. There should be no monopoly privilege. AT&T, Comcast, Time-Warner, Verizon, and the others make plenty of money already. I don't think the CEO's need another Rolls Royce at my expense. Governments are good at creating monopolies. Don't create another one."

Hewie Poplock blogged about the LifeHacker **(1)** website. I have included it in a number of articles over the years. Hewie pointed out that recently Lifehacker linked to a MSDN (Microsoft Developer Network) blog by Eric Ligman that offered links to about 150 free down loadable e-books in various formats **(2)**. The list of all the links is on the DVD of the Month. It is also available here **(3)**.

1) <http://lifehacker.com/>

2) <http://bit.ly/1ntV1nU>

3) <http://ligman.me/W3TuLr>

With the advent of all the rain this summer, mosquitoes are multiplying at a breakneck pace **(1)**. The volume of these blood suckers makes enjoying your yard or the park nearly impossible. Wheaton, West Chicago, and Downers Grove **(2)** are the only communities to do mass poisoning contracting Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management **(3)** of Roselle to do it. The rest of us must use personal poisons to protect ourselves. Most of the commercial repellents use DEET **((4), (5), (6))** as the poison of choice. DEET is a neuro-toxin that is processed through the kidneys. DEET was developed by the U. S. Army **(7)** in 1946 for jungle warfare. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA **(8)**) "...continues to believe that the normal use of DEET does not present a health concern to the general population, including children." **(9)** If you have ever used a product containing DEET and developed tingling skin, twitches, depression, or difficulty breathing, stop using it and go to the doctor or hospital **(10)**. There have been a number of clinical trials of DEET. All of the trials I located separated data based on children and infants. No mention of seniors was involved. That only tells us the seniors were not tested, ignored as a group, or were no different from younger people. We have no basis to judge what the case was in any of the trials. If we choose to use other types of repellent, there are not many choices. Commercially, I found three products that claim to be effective without DEET **((11), (12), (13), (14))**. A third method of repelling the bugs is to make your own. Some recipes are available at Wellness Mama **(15)**. I have no way of knowing whether or not any non-DEET repellent works

but, Consumer Reports Food Safety and Sustainability Center suggests using products that are 'safer alternatives' (16). Why do you need a repellent other than itchy skin bumps? West Nile virus (17) is still around. Chikungunya virus is now a growing concern (18). Snopes, the urban legend debunker, reports that no natural repellent works (19).

- 1) <http://trib.in/1rj8n6E>
- 2) <http://bit.ly/1wiGV9t>
- 3) <http://www.clarke.com/>
- 4) <http://www.deet.com/>
- 5) <http://1.usa.gov/1jpimHx>
- 6) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DEET>
- 7) <http://www.army.mil/>
- 8) <http://www.epa.gov/>
- 9) <http://1.usa.gov/1jpimHx>
- 10) <http://bit.ly/U8Blk8>
- 11) <http://bit.ly/1my9clo>
- 12) <http://bit.ly/1mZisqa>
- 13) <http://avon4.me/1zziMQw>
- 14) <http://bit.ly/1q8mXkr>
- 15) <http://wellnessmama.com/2565/homemade-bug-spray/>
- 16) <http://wapo.st/1ox1E5k>
- 17) <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/>
- 18) <http://wapo.st/1ntVQgx>
- 19) <http://www.snopes.com/oldwives/skeeters.asp>

Slate Magazine (1) reported on a poll taken by Pew Research. They polled Internet 'experts' about how the Web would look in 2025 (2). Pew found that the 1400 respondents were worried about government and corporate spying, net neutrality, and governments attempting to maintain power through "blocking, filtering, segmentation, and balkanization of the Internet." Pew explained that this was not a random survey as the participants opted in. No explanations were given about what constituted an expert.

- 1) <http://slate.me/U2rbLo>
- 2) <http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/07/03/net-threats/>

After 32 years in operation the Houston Area League of PC Users, Inc. (HAL-PC (1)) is no more. That club formed two years before CAEUG. At its height HAL-PC was the world's largest PC user group with 30,000 members. Bill Gates came to Houston to speak to the group (2). With their annual membership fee of \$40 HAL-PC was able to offer their membership free e-mail and limited dialup service. They were able to offer paid dial-up and broadband services as well. Like the Chicago Computer Society (CCS (3)) HAL-PC had numerous meetings in several geographical areas of Houston. At one time they offered a printed newsletter that was on par with PC World Magazine (4). Today the newsletter is on line. Check out their web site soon, as it will go dark shortly. It will be a piece of PC history.

- 1) <http://www.hal-pc.org/>

- 2) <http://bit.ly/W11Fro>
- 3) <http://www.ccs.org/>
- 4) <http://www.pcworld.com/>

Digg (1) found an interesting science experiment on Youtube (2). It came from ChefSteps (3). Why a cooking website would feature boiling nitrogen in a vacuum is a puzzle to me but the experiment (4) is very interesting.

- 1) <https://digg.com/>
- 2) <https://www.youtube.com/>
- 3) <https://www.chefsteps.com/>
- 4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0rK2bLTimQ>

If you have received an e-mail stating that your Facebook (1) account will be deleted unless you send information to someone else within two weeks, do not worry. The message is a hoax (2).

- 1) <https://www.facebook.com/>
- 2) <http://bit.ly/1sQaRK9>

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI (1)) wants to track people that go from one political rally to another using facial recognition biometrics (2). As an aside, I see from the FBI link that some in the FBI are still in the Hoover worship mode. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF (3)) is suing the Department of Justice (DOJ (4)) for the failure of the FBI to reply to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA (5)) requests about the Next Generation Identification (NGI (6)) biometrics database. The NGI not only includes fingerprint data but also iris scans, palm prints, face-recognition-ready photos and voice data. Iris scans, facial recognition, and voice recognition are forms of identification that have questionable accuracy and in the case of facial recognition have been debunked ((7), (8)). Alphonse Bertillon, a clerk with the Paris Police Department (France), about 130 years ago devised a system of facial and biometric measurements which became widely used for identification. Fingerprints started to be used for identification after the case of Will West and William West was discovered ((9), (10)). Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS (11)) is the current system of identification. The confounding part of IAFIS is that it contains 70 million criminal records, 31 million civilian records, and 73,000 known or SUSPECTED terrorist records. All most all adult males over the age of 59 should have their fingerprints on file in IAFIS. Every person that has served in the military since 1946 has had their fingerprints taken by the FBI. All people entering the country legally with long term visas have fingerprints submitted to the FBI. Most people that apply for government work are fingerprinted. I would think that there would be more than 31 million civilian records. Considering that there are about 340 million people in this country with about one third of them children, that leaves 213 million people. Given those numbers, it means that almost 33 percent of the population are criminals. That seems unlikely to me. These statistics should be alarming to all of us in that the FBI is now trying to introduce inaccurate and dis-proven methods of identification to categorize more and more of the general public into criminals. The picture on your driver's license and fire arms owners identification card have already been turned over the Federal Government for identification purposes (12). For more information on the Bertillon system try here ((13), (14), (15)).

- 1) <http://www.fbi.gov/>
- 2) <http://bit.ly/1qxxe5p>
- 3) <https://www.eff.org/>
- 4) <http://www.justice.gov/>
- 5) <http://www.foia.gov/>
- 6) <http://1.usa.gov/1qWcJBJ>
- 7) <http://bit.ly/1mZj3YV>
- 8) <http://bit.ly/1oTsS7u>
- 9) <http://dailym.ai/1r8OiCw>
- 10) <http://bit.ly/1sQbh35>
- 11) <http://bit.ly/U8BWfs>
- 12) <http://bit.ly/1m7V5oj>
- 13) <http://1.usa.gov/U2rvcX>
- 14) <http://bit.ly/1rj95Rv>
- 15) <http://scafo.org/library/110105.html>

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

Con't from page 3

Here's some great examples of how I use Twitter. Where we live, in Tellico Village (a golfing and boating community in East Tennessee), the demographic is very much retired and very much over the age of 60, and some of the most important information we receive each day comes via Twitter. Updates from our three golf courses regarding whether carts are on the path or not; what the flag positions are; are any holes under repair; status of last night's storm damage...and the list goes on. The golf course superintendents post these tweets very early in the morning so the hundreds of golfers here know what to expect as they start their day on the links.

Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the followers. That's why information on Twitter is short, to the point and effective.

More than half the people I talk to about Twitter think they have to have a smartphone to use it. Not so! You can access Twitter via Web, Desktop Applications and smartphones. It costs nothing to use and it's just one more social media source, like Facebook, that you won't know how much you needed it until you try it.

Twitter also has a built-in function for you to befriend and track the messages of other users. This is a simple way for you connect with like-minded people outside of your usual circle. A Twitter association can be developed into a long term acquaintance (if you desire).

If you do happen to have some famous folks you like (singers, actors, golfers, etc.), Twitter is a wonderful way to unobtrusively follow what they're up to. One of my personal favorites is Brandt Snedeker, the professional golfer from Nashville. His life is comedy of tweets that make me laugh almost every day. Recently, he's been trying to figure out how to win a war with raccoons and his

garbage can...and so far the raccoons are winning!

As an individual, you have a variety of interests that a single newspaper or magazine can't cover. With Twitter you create your own personal newsfeed. You can get small bites information on local events, celebrities, politicians, hobbies or interests, your favorite news sites, etc. Much like you read a newspaper by scanning the headlines, on Twitter you can see short headlines describing an article and you can decide if you want to click on the link to read the rest of the story.

News is published on Twitter the instant it happens and if something big happens you'll likely find out when someone you follow tweets about it. In fact, Twitter became more widely known after a user tweeted a link to a picture of the US Airways plane that successfully landed in the Hudson River.

Unlike traditional media where it is a one-way medium, you can be involved in Twitter. You can re-broadcast (re-tweet) the information you find valuable. You can comment on issues and share your own views (within the 140-character constraint, of course).

You can quickly and directly contact local politicians, celebrities and other people you don't know. You don't have to find out their address and compose a lengthy message, you can instantly let them know your opinion. These are people you will probably never meet in real life but now you can get daily updates on their lives and their interests.

Public figures tend to have hundreds of thousands, if not millions of followers and they may not respond to a tweet, but they often do read their (most important) messages because a 140 character tweet is easier to read quickly than a lengthy e-mail. Celebrities usually have an aide sift through tweets and pass on only the ones they think are worth reading.

You can also use Twitter to quickly inform friends and family about your daily life. You can tweet about things that aren't important enough for an e-mail but something you would mention to your friends if you bumped into them. You can also keep track of what they are up to by following them (if they're on Twitter, of course). You may also connect with other people with similar interests and strike-up an online friendship.

In any event, much like Facebook or Skype, don't be afraid to give Twitter a try. It's free, nothing tracks you or your actions, and you might just find that it's fun! If it isn't for you...that's what the DELETE key is for.

Random Thoughts -

After reading about HAL PC in the Lamp 160 I noticed that CAEUG is 30 years old this year. Thirty years ago the normal was the use of a 300 baud modem that used the telephone to dial up BBS (Bulletin Board Systems). DARPA started in 1960 (the Internet was a product of DARPA). The Internet was born in the early 1980's. Commercialization didn't happen until the 1990's with the World Wide Web. The 1981 personal pc specs: Model 5150, price \$1500.00-\$3000.00, green text monitor only, operating system on personal computers was pc dos 1, 16k ram (max 640k), display 84 wide & 24 lines. 5 1/4 inch diskette drive & cassette drive bay. No hard drive. No laptops, no tablets, no smart phone. Oh my, how did we ever survive in BC (Before Computers).

July DVD of the Month

AdwCleaner - Spyware remover

ARI - Monthly newsletter

Auslogics - Disk defragger

AvastCleanup - Virus remover

cCleaner - Disk cleaner

CDOMlists - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month

ClipboardMagic - Clipboard enhancement program

Combobox - Virus / spyware remover

CryptoPrevent - Prevents cryptolocker infections

CrystalDiskInfo - HDD/SSD utility software supporting S.M.A.R.T.

Cyberfox64-BitBrowser - Web browser based on Firefox

DrivelImageXML - Hard drive image software for backups

Evernote - Cloud based note pad

FocusWriter - Writing environment for would be authors

FreeSolitaire - Solitaire card programs

FreeVimager - Image viewer and editor

ImageUSB - Write an image concurrently to multiple USB Flash Drives

Kiwix - Offline reader for Web content

MalwarebyreAntiExploit - Wrap around browser protection

MemberContributions - Things members send me

OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files

OSFCone - Self-booting solution enabling creation of or clone raw disk images

OSFMount - Mount local disk image files

QuickCrypt - AES 256-bit file encryption

Sigil - EPUB ebook editor

Snap2HTML - Copies folder structures of the harddrive and saves as HTML files

Storybook - Organize plots, characters and scenarios for your book

TheSage - A comprehensive English dictionary and thesaurus

TorBrowser - An anonymous browser

TreeSheets - Data organization program

WikiPad - A Wiki-like notebook for storing information

WiseJetSearch - Fast search of files or folders on all your local drives

yWriter5 - A word processor which breaks your novel into chapters and scenes

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 at

. 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 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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