

**Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....**

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

January 2015

Volume XXXII Issue 1

**Confirmed
meeting
dates**

January 24, 2015
4th Saturday

February 21, 2015
3rd Saturday

:: :: :: ::

Check
www.caeug.net
for confirmed
meeting dates

**MEETING
PLACE**
is the
Glenside Public
Library

:: :: :: ::

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

:: :: :: ::

Our January 24, 2015 presenter:

John StClair

**will present his insight and tips on installing a home security system
(1/24/15 Fourth Saturday)**

Our February 2015 presenter:

John Spizzirri

**demonstrating the uses of the Raspberry PI computer
(2/21/15 Third Saturday)**

Honey, A Robot Shrunk my Job!

By Greg Skalka, President

Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA

September 2014 issue, Drive Light

www.uchug.org

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I recently took a day trip alone with my 23-year-old daughter, which gave me the opportunity to find out more about her thoughts on the future. For the last five years she has lived about two hours away, so these opportunities for me to gain insight into her life and attitudes are rare. I was a little surprised to find one of her concerns was that robots would eventually occupy all jobs. She said she and her boyfriend had discussed this and wondered if one day everyone would be unemployed except for those that made robots (and she with a business marketing degree, of course).

I could write off some of her apprehension to the nine months so far spent

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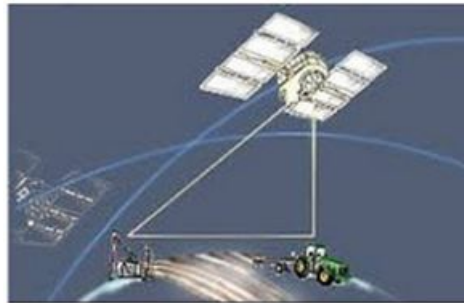
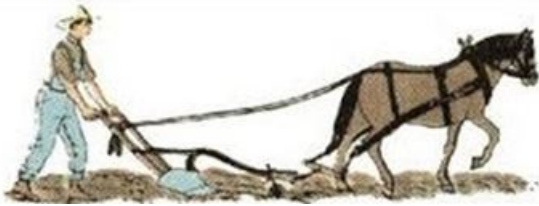
10 January 2015 DVD of the Month



looking for employment in her field of study, but this concern over technology eliminating jobs is a real issue. Modernization and mechanization have changed the career landscape in the past, but today's changes due to computer and communications technology, combined with increased globalization, may be coming faster than our society can cope with.

Since ancient times, mankind has sought to improve living conditions and decrease the labor required for a fulfilling existence. With the majority of early humans involved in agriculture, innovations were sought to reduce the labor in growing crops. The use of hand tools and plows and of animals in place of human labor allowed fewer people to grow more food. This allowed some who would otherwise be farmers the opportunity to pursue other professions and develop other innovations.

My daughter is only two generations away from an agrarian life. My father was raised on a farm with no electricity or indoor plumbing. As a young boy, he mostly ate only what his parents obtained from their land and their animals. Over the last 70 years, with tractors and implements, better agricultural science and improved transportation, farm production has improved such that a fraction of the farmers can now provide many times the previous agricultural output. Today GPS-guided tractors optimize the land for planting and farmers can use drones to monitor their crops and livestock. These changes have greatly reduced the labor required to feed the world, providing inexpensive food to a global market. With agricultural labor requirements reduced, rural towns and cities of the Midwest shrank as young people were forced to find work elsewhere.



The Industrial Revolution began 200 years ago, transforming manufacturing and industrial activities.

Through most of the last century, the improvements brought by technology reduced the manual labor required to produce products. Though fewer workers were required to produce the same products, new industries were created that provided new jobs. As some classes of occupations became obsolete (like the ice delivery men that stocked the residential ice boxes), others came into being (like refrigerator repairmen). Though the changes to society were great, they came over a number of generations, allowing society to adapt.

The electronics and computer revolutions that started at the end of the last century have continued the increases to our productivity, but at a much greater pace. In addition to saving manual labor, computers reduce the mental efforts required in design and production, displacing workers with greater skills. New computer, telecommunications and consumer electronics industries were created as a result of this technology, creating new occupations as others were made obsolete. These profound changes to society now occur in a much shorter time, in a generation or two, or less. When I was growing up, I could not consider a career as a Blockbuster Video sales clerk, as consumer videocassettes had not yet been invented. My daughter watched videos we rented for her as a child; now as a young adult, the video rental stores are gone, and

she watches DVDs from the Redbox machine in front of the grocery store or views streaming videos on her iPad. The video rental clerk is an occupation that came and went in my lifetime; Netflix, Hulu and that big red robot dispensing DVDs caused all those jobs to go away.

The video store clerk is the classic example of workers displaced by modern technology (and not replaced elsewhere in a successor industry in the same numbers), but there are plenty of others. Bank employment has been reduced, thanks to automated teller machines (ATMs), online banking and even Internet banks. I don't know if there were ever 400,000 bank tellers employed in the U.S., but today there are that many ATMs here. Now with the ability to deposit a check by taking a picture of it with your smart phone, the need for physical banks, and their branch employees, is reduced further.

Postal and parcel deliveries have been greatly improved by computerization and automation. FedEx, UPS and the other parcel delivery companies have used technology to improve service, open new markets and keep costs down while getting more out of fewer employees. They have taken a lot of business away from the U.S. Postal Service, which has had to automate extensively to compete. I love the "postal robot", the automated mailing kiosk in my local post office. It is available to me at all hours of the day to weigh and mail my letters and packages and sell me postage. It does not require overtime pay or a pension, so I'm sure it reduces the USPS's labor costs.

The state Department of Motor Vehicles is another place where computers should have cut the number of employees required (but considering it is a government activity that might not be the case). Since most simple DMV activities like car registration renewals and address changes can be performed online, most people can avoid for years the unpleasant prospect of visiting the a DMV office in person. Even when you do, you can make an appointment online.

San Diego Gas and Electric used to employ legions of meter readers; now with the new smart meters they have installed over the last few years, all your energy usage is transmitted back to them electronically. Most grocery and general merchandise stores have installed at least a few self-checkout registers, reducing the number of employees needed. A Cupertino, CA hotel is introducing a robotic butler to make deliveries to guests; it motors around like R2-D2. Even NASA has installed a Robonaut on the International Space Station to help humans work and explore in space.



These days it is hard to think of a job that does not require the use of computers and related technologies. Computers and microcontrollers are being built into everything; these smart, networked devices improve our lives and save us labor. They also may be eliminating a lot of lower-paid jobs. If a robotic vacuum can clean your floors, you may not need to hire a maid. Some restaurants are introducing tablet-like devices customers can use to order food and pay their bills, reducing the wait staff required.

I think the next big technology innovation will be the autonomous vehicle. The military already has unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance and munitions delivery; some are remotely piloted, but others are truly autonomous. Once the private sector can legally use drones for business, mass



production will make them less expensive and more capable, opening up more possibilities for their use. Small surveillance UAVs may one day replace many police helicopter, patrol car and foot patrols. If Amazon has its way, all your packages will be delivered not by people but by quadcopters.



The self-driving cars being developed by Google and others will really provide benefits to mankind but will also cost jobs. A fully autonomous car would be a great help to those too disabled (or too impaired) to drive, and could have the potential to greatly reduce traffic accidents. Though the technology may already be here, once again the legal and social systems will need time to catch up. Meanwhile, we are getting bits and pieces of the self-driving car now, in the self-parking car and the car that automatically brakes to avoid a collision. Once the fully self-driving car is legal, look

for taxi, bus and truck drivers to be in the unemployment lines.

Then the self-driving trucks will transport the raw materials to the robotic factories, so that more robots and self-driving vehicles can be manufactured.



Lamp Post 165

by John Spizzirri
January 2015

We received an e-mail from Carol Thompson, daughter of our former member Joan Thompson.

"I wanted to let her friends at Caeg know that my mother, Joan Thompson, passed away before Christmas. She had moved to the memory care assisted living at Alden Courts shortly after she left the Devonshire and had been there the last 2 years. She loved those picnics and the meetings that she had attended before, back when she was able to get around herself, and when she was on top of her game!"

There was memorial service on Saturday January 10, 2015 at the Lowry Chapel, 3rd floor of Eckhart Hall at Aurora University. If you want to express your condolences, please e-mail me for the snail mail or e-mail address.

I check Woody Leonhard's web site (1) periodically. Last month I did not check it because I was plagued with messages telling me that my Windows 7 machines had a pirated version of Microsoft (MS (2)) Windows 7 (this also affects Windows 8 machines). These messages started right after patch Tuesday (3) December 9, 2014. I did not connect the two events because MS periodically has called me a pirate since Windows XP came out with the Windows Product Activation (WPA (4)). I have not used pirated Windows on network attached machines or work machines. The experimenting I did with pirated XP had the WPA tuned off. I have received the

'not genuine' message on XP, Vista, and 7 machines over the last fifteen years. Once I activated my 7 machines, I never got the 'not genuine' messages until last month. I thought that MS had gone into its crazy, 'every one is a thief' mode again. The messages were persistent and annoying (as they were designed to be). I canceled the messages as they would show up and go on with my work (or fun). On my home desk top, the messages got very annoying so I clicked OK to check the machine for a genuine Windows 7. I have been through these checks before and know that they last less than a minute. This check went on and on. I finally cancelled the process after about 15 minutes and rebooted the machine. After the reboot, a number of Windows built in functions no longer worked. Windows defender and Windows Security Essentials would not start. Virtual Box no longer worked. I tried doing a system restore, unsuccessfully. I ran all the standard anti virus and anti malware software with nothing found. I started looking for an answer to what had happened. I thought I might have had the Genuine Microsoft Software virus (5). An InfoWorld article, written by Woody Leonhard, as well as his web site had the answer ((6), (7)). Toms Hardware site also had an esoteric explanation (8). MS issued an emergency patch to correct the original blunder on December 13th. In many cases the emergency patch did not work. Try finding an explanation on the MS site and you will look for a long, long time. I could find nothing written by a MS employee. Only the forums on the MS site had any reference to it. To find these references to the bad update, I had to know that the update reference number was KB3004394 which I found on Woody's sites. Searching MS for 'Windows not genuine' will get hundreds if not thousands of hits not one of which referenced the December 2014 patch. If you are adventurous you could try to un-install the KB3004394 patch by following the instructions at the vpsdash web site (9). A dated (2006) but lucid explanation of what the WPA does was written by Ed Bott for ZDNet (10). As for my desk top machine, I will have to reinstall Windows. That is not a pleasant prospect as it takes the better part of a day to do. Thanks a lot Microsoft. Just one more reason to use Linux.

- 1) <http://www.askwoody.com/>
- 2) <https://www.microsoft.com/>
- 3) <http://bit.ly/1CDZQjq>
- 4) <http://bit.ly/1Cck5Xe>
- 5) <http://bit.ly/1wkaRRZ>
- 6) <http://bit.ly/1B6dOL8>
- 7) <http://bit.ly/1DS0ldB>
- 8) <http://bit.ly/15h2voT>
- 9) <http://bit.ly/1Cckc5g>
- 10) <http://zd.net/1yxm31X>

This story was lifted directly from the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC (1)) about Facebook (2) privacy (3).

"Facebook Modifies User Privacy Policy

Facebook has modified its privacy and data use policies, effective January 30, 2015. Facebook will now allow advertisers to include a 'Buy' button directly on targeted advertisements on a user's page. Facebook will also allow advertisers to use the location data gathered from tools like 'Nearby Friends' and location 'check-ins' to push geolocation-based targeted advertisements. For instance, a Facebook user who checks in near a restaurant that partners with Facebook may now

be shown menu items from that restaurant. In December 2014, the Dutch data protection commission announced that it planned to open an investigation into Facebook's policy modifications. In July 2014, EPIC and a coalition of consumer privacy groups urged the FTC to halt Facebook's plan to collect web-browsing information from its users. Facebook is already under a 20-year consent decree from the FTC that requires Facebook to protect user privacy. The consent decree resulting from complaints brought by EPIC and a coalition of consumer privacy organizations in 2009 and 2010."

If you are Facebook user, this may alter the way you are targeted for advertisements. Facebook not only checks your physical location but that of your family and friends. Do you really want that intrusion on your privacy?

- 1) <https://epic.org/>
- 2) <https://www.facebook.com/>
- 3) <https://epic.org/privacy/facebook/>

A national story broke at the beginning of the month (1) about Bill Gates (2). The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (3) wants to reinvent the toilet (4) at the Reinvent the Toilet Fair (5). Reinvent the Toilet Fair may seem strange but these fairs are not only in the United States (6). There was a lot of coverage of the event because of what Bill Gates did. Check it out ((7), (8), (9), (10), (11)).

- 1) <http://cnnmon.ie/1B6ebWa>
- 2) <http://bit.ly/1BpRgHX>
- 3) <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/>
- 4) <http://bit.ly/1IYmRQ9>
- 5) <http://n.pr/15h3tBx>
- 6) <http://abettertoilet.org/delhi/>
- 7) <http://bit.ly/15q9eMI>
- 8) <http://bit.ly/1sSeovK>
- 9) <http://huff.to/1Ef0hSG>
- 10) <http://bit.ly/1BpSH9t>
- 11) <http://bit.ly/1KUcH6V>

Comcast Cable CEO, Neil Smit (1) promises to have better customer service (2). I can only say yeah, right (sarcasm). Comcast (3), as well as Time Warner Cable (TWC (4)), do not have far to go to get 'better' (5). Near the end of 2014 (6) and on the first day of 2015 (7) Comcast had customers record customer service calls and put them on the Internet. These calls show the depth of bad service that Comcast has fostered over the years. When something like this is on the Internet, a righteous company would at least say the employees were in a retraining program. Most companies would fire the offending employees and apologize to the customers. Not Comcast! All you hear from them is a promise to do better. That promise and two dollars will get you a cup of coffee (8) at Starbucks (9). On the day that the Consumerist (10) named Comcast the worst company in America (11), it filed papers to merge ((12), (13)) with one of its competitors for worst company, TWC. As a present to its customers, Comcast has decided to raise the modem rental fees 25% (14), but not across the board. The increase is only in some markets but not in others.

- 1) <http://comca.st/1BpT0kt>
- 2) <http://yhoo.it/15h4AkJ>
- 3) <https://www.comcast.com/>
- 4) <http://www.timewarnercable.com/>
- 5) <http://bit.ly/17XLAsp>
- 6) <https://bgr.com/2014/12/30/why-is-comcast-so-bad-30/>
- 7) <https://bgr.com/2015/01/01/why-is-comcast-so-bad-32/>
- 8) <http://hackthefmenu.com/starbucks/menu-prices/>
- 9) <http://www.starbucks.com/>
- 10) <http://consumerist.com/>
- 11) <http://bit.ly/1uh0rTs>
- 12) <http://bit.ly/1sSfnw6>
- 13) <http://comca.st/1CE2vK4>
- 14) <http://bit.ly/1CckGZ4>

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

Data Creators and Consumers - In a mobile computing environment

By Phil Sorrentino, Staff Writer

The Computer Club, Inc., Sun City Center, FL

August 2014 issue, The Journal

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Some computer devices are good at creating data and some others are better at consuming data. This is only a consideration now that we have a selection of devices to choose from, and that the devices have become smaller, lighter and therefore, mobile. In the beginning, when all we had was a computer, it was both the data creator and the data consumer. We really didn't think about creating or consuming; when you wanted to work with, or look at, a document or picture, you went to the computer, which was usually in some area set out just for the computer. Nowadays we want to have the benefits of the computer wherever we are; we don't want to have to go to the special location, where the computer used to be. Now we have laptops, ultrabooks, netbooks (a few of us have these), tablets and smartphones that go wherever we go. All of which can be considered platforms for mobile computing. Now it's all about Mobility, or computing on the go.

Mobile computing is having access to, and being able to, view or create data whenever and wherever you want. Mobile computing requires mobile hardware, software, and communications networks. Mobile computing is "taking a computer, with access to all necessary files, out into the field" for use on the go. This type of computing, unlike computing at your computer workstation, is subject to a few considerations and maybe even limitations. Good wireless communications becomes a critical factor in mobile computing. The network type, the communication properties, protocols, and data formats become considerations for success. Most of these considerations are handled by our Internet Service Providers (ISP), through their routers; or Commercial cell phone providers through their cell phone towers. But mobile computer users should be aware of some of the basics and some of the limitations of the communications networks that are providing the linkage.

Typically your mobile computer or tablet is at the end of a wireless network, either Wi-Fi, or the commercial cell phone network. Wireless communications networks are subject to certain limitations that are not present in a wired computer network. Range (distance) and Bandwidth (data transfer speed) are two limitations associated with wireless communications networks. For successful mobile computing, your computer has to be within range of either a Wi-Fi access point or a commercial cell phone tower (and, of course, you have to have the appropriate wireless radio functionality built into your hardware).

When using Wi-Fi, the Wi-Fi portion of the communications is typically not the limiting speed factor. Wi-Fi typically operates at greater than 50 Mbps. The limitation is typically the ISP upload speed, which may be only around 1 Mbps.

When using the commercial cell phone network, the network is a limiting speed factor in that a 3G network can only transfer data at approximately 2Mbps. (However, the newer 4G networks are less of a limitation because they transfer data somewhere around 10Mbps.)

Transmission Interference is another limitation associated with wireless communications networks. Cell phones use radio frequencies where weather, terrain, and objects (like mountains) can affect signal reception. Reception in some buildings, and in rural areas, can often times be limited.

Power consumption is a mobile hardware limitation. Mobile computers rely typically on battery power. Laptops may operate on battery for only 3 to 5 hours. Tablets, on the other hand, have operating times close to a day's work, maybe 8 to 10 hours.

Security is a mobile computing software consideration. Mobile computing on Wi-Fi public networks can be a security nightmare. VPN (Virtual Private Network) software is a must for all secure mobile computing.

Now that we are aware of some of the limitations of mobile computing due to the nature of the wireless network or the size and power constraints of the devices, we can look at which devices could be used for what tasks. Laptops and ultrabooks, (and desktops for those few of us who still have them), with their hardware keyboards, larger display screens, and in some cases more abundant USB ports, are probably the best candidates to be data creators. Data creators will typically have more sophisticated software installed that will let the user create lengthy document, spreadsheet, PowerPoint, graphical, and image files. Looking at the big picture, scanners and cameras are also data creators. Scanners are typically found connected to a Desktop or Laptop computer in a fixed location, but there are a few small portable scanners available. Cameras are, by their very nature, portable data creators.

Tablets and smartphones, on the other hand, with their lower battery usage, smaller size, and lower weight, are probably the best candidates to be mobile data consumers. Tablets are good for viewing data and maybe making small modifications or changes, like adding a sentence to a document or placing some data into a spreadsheet. But a tablet, with its virtual keyboard, is certainly not the device to use if you are writing your memoirs. Tablets are ideal for storing large numbers of documents, pictures, and videos, using their onboard memory and their microSD memory devices (if the tablet supports this). Tablets are also perfect for accessing large databases in the cloud or on a home computer. (Remember Teamviewer?) The tablet can be a way of bringing large amounts of data to be viewed or reviewed by people on the go. This convenience has found its place in many areas such as the medical profession, and in providing User or Diagnostic information to users or technicians. These categories of Consumer and Creator are, by no means, hard and fast, but only help to provide a way to decide on what device to use in a particular situation.

Interesting Internet Finds

Steve Costello, President / Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, FL
editor@brcs.org <http://ctublog.sefcug.com/>

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some items I found interesting during the month of September 2014.

Is USB safe?

<http://askleo.com/is-usb-safe/>

Leo Notenboom tells us about the "BadUSB" flaw, what it is and what is known about the implications.

What Does Airplane Mode Do, and Is It Really Necessary?

<http://www.howtogeek.com/194421/what-does-airplane-mode-do-and-is-it-really-necessary/>

Have a device with airplane mode? HowToGeek explains what it does, and why you should use it, even if you are not on a flight where it is required. I know I use it whenever I don't need to be connected, or when I cannot get any connections, like on my last vacation in Vermont when my wife had service and I didn't.

Beware the Fake Tech Support Scam

http://askbobrankin.com/beware_the_fake_tech_support_scam.html

Bob Rankin talks about the fake tech support scams that are prevalent in different areas and times. He talks about how to recognize them, and avoid them, as well as what might happen if you fall for one of them.

3 Things to Do to Make Your Internet Life More Secure

<http://www.maketecheasier.com/make-internet-life-more-secure/>

Interested in making your internet life more secure? If so, check out these three things you might not be doing already.

How to set up two-factor authentication on your Google account

<http://www.greenbot.com/article/2605221/how-to-set-up-two-factor-authentication-on-your-google-account.html>

This post explains how to set up two-factor authentication on your Google account. If you haven't already set it up, you should to keep it more secure.

Online Identity Theft: Prevention and Protection

<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/online-identity-theft>

The Windows Club explains what online identity theft is, and how to prevent it and protect yourself.

Most Fridays, more interesting finds will be posted on the Computers, Technology, and User Groups Blog:

<http://ctublog.sefcug.com/tag/interesting-internet-finds/>

The posts are under Creative Commons licensing.

January 2015 DVD of the Month

AdwCleaner - Updated adware removal tool
AlomWareReset - Reboot without turning off the machine
ARI - Monthly newsletter
Auslogics - Updated defrag program
BurdsProxySearcher - Find free public proxy servers
CDOMlists - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month
ComboFix - Updated malware removal tool
DSynchronize - Synchronize two or more folders on Hard Disk
FlashPlayerUninstaller - Uninstalls Adobe Flash Player
Giada - Loops audio sample files
GrantPerms - Check permissions or unlock multiple files and folders
HDClone - Clones hard disks and other mass storage media
HDHacker - Saves, visualizes, and restores the MBR
Homedale - Finds local WiFi signals
InfoHesiveEP - Publish digital content in various formats
IObitMalwareFighter - Malware & spyware removal utility
JetClean - Removes system junk files, improves your PC performance
K-Meleon - Updated light weight web browser
ListParts - Lists of all the hard drive partitions on your PC
MalwarebytesAnti-Exploit - Shields browsers and Java from exploitation
MemberContributions - Things members send me
MiniToolBox - Detects Internet connection issues
NirLauncher - 180 portable freeware utilities for Windows
OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files
Ophcrack - Ffree Windows password cracker
PatchMyPC - Help keep your Windows PC updated
RogueKiller - Detect and remove generic and advanced malware, rootkits, rogues, worms
SandboxIE - Sandbox prevents malware from making permanent changes to your machine
ShortCutCleaner - Scans your computer for shortcuts that have been hijacked
SmartDefrag - Hard disk defrag and optimization
SoftPerfectNetworkScanner - Checks your network for shared folders and security holes
TeamViewer - Updated remote control software
TORbrowser - Updated browser that prevents sites from learning your physical location
TrinityRescue - Live Linux distribution for recovery and repair operations on Windows machines
XXClone - Clone a Windows disk - a quicker way to backup daily

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 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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