

Abort,  
Retry,  
Ignore....

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

July 2015

Volume XXXII Issue 7

**Confirmed  
meeting  
dates**

July 25  
4th Saturday  
Library Board  
Room

August 22  
4th Saturday  
Room B

:: ::

Check  
www.caeug.net  
for confirmed  
meeting dates

**MEETING  
PLACE**

is the  
Glenside Public  
Library

:: ::

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

Our July 25, 2015 presenter will be  
John Spizzirri he will present  
**The Raspberry PI 2 Part 2**  
Meeting will be held in the Library Boardroom.  
7/25/15 4th Saturday

**Blast from the Past  
by Kathy Groce**

When I was going thru some old papers I found a letter (yes a hard copy real letter). After I read it I realized we think technology has come such a long way, but in fact a lot of it is still the same. Long time current CAEUG members may remember George Robinson. He served a CAEUG president from July thru October in 1995, before moving to California. During that time he wrote a poem "Computers are Easy", then another poem a couple of years later, "Computer Mastery". He said that both poems represent the relationship he had with his computer. What is interesting both poems are timeless in computerese experiences. Now for your reading pleasure are both poems.

**COMPUTER MASTERY**

My personal computer is definitely great.

As a new innovation it rates very high.

It brings joy, as well as, occasional hate.

I cuss and cajole it, and then simply sigh;

I won't let it frustrate, or cause me distress,

Con't pg 2

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I'll master this thing, so boldly I scoff.  
It may seem to have me in one hopeless mess,  
But I get the last word, - with a switch that's called "OFF!"  
George Robinson 9/1/1997

## **COMPUTERS ARE EASY**

Computers are easy

Yes, that's what we say.

They do so much for us

At both work and play.

They help us crunch nummbers

To keep up our books.

They help us to find things

In the world's web nooks.

It we don't spell a word right,

Spell checker tells us.

It even corrects it,

And all without fuss.

If our motto is right:

"Computers are easy!"

Why does mine so often

Make me feel QUESY.

George Robinson 1995



## **Lamp Post 171**

July 2015

by John Spizzirri

If you go to Windows Update (Start -> All Programs -> Windows Update), all you see in Windows 7, and 8 is a box with 'Windows 10 coming soon' with a reserve button. Do not believe that is all there is. Under that box in small print is a linked line 'Show all available updates'. Click on it and it will show all available updates for your 7, or

8 computer. It is one of Microsoft's (MS **(1)**) methods of getting you to reserve a copy of Windows 10 whether you want it or not.

1) <https://www.microsoft.com/>

That the Decorah eagles **(1)** have fledged. Now is the time to watch the brown bears at Brooks Falls catch and eat the spawning salmon **(2)**.

1) <http://www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles>

2) <http://goo.gl/nXRnON>

Netflix (1) will be raising their pricing for streaming. The CEO, Reed Hastings, revealed at a stock holder's meeting that there was a plan to raise prices but would not commit to a date. He hinted next year but was not specific about the amount. (2)

1) <https://www.netflix.com/>

2) <http://goo.gl/A8fIOF>

A client of mine came across some web sites about on line educational children's games that were free or low cost. She wanted her grand children to play games that were not violent action first person shooters (1). The first of these games is Switcharoo Zoo (2). It allows youngsters to make new animals, solve animal puzzles, and take guided tours. The next is Funbrain (3). It has math, reading, and sports games that have an educational bent. The next is National Geographic (4). This site natural science, space, and geography games. The next is Seussville (5). It has games base around Dr. Seuss and trys to sell books. ABCYA (6) has [school] grade appropriate math, reading, and skill games for K through 5. PBSKids (7) has games that feature public TV programs and characters. Starfall (8) focuses on ABCs, phonics, and learning to read, but includes math skills as well. HighlightsKids (9) features games around the Highlights magazine. Storyline Online (10) is a collection of short audio [5-30 minutes] children's books read by actors participating in the Screen Actors Guild Foundation children's literacy program (11). Some of these sites have tablet or phone app equivalents. Most of these sites require registration and are supported by ads or a 'donation'. If you know anyone with young children, you may want to inform them of these sites or the Lamp Post in the July ARI... newsletter of CAEUG (12).

1) <https://goo.gl/y97DTx>

2) <http://www.switcheroozoo.com/>

3) [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

4) <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

5) <http://www.seussville.com/>

6) <http://www.abcya.com/>

7) <http://pbskids.org/>

8) [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

9) <http://www.highlightskids.com/>

10) <http://www.storylineonline.net/>

11) <http://sagfoundation.org/>

12) <http://goo.gl/MJKeZ6>

Microsoft (MS (1)) has finally brought Windows into the 21st century. A few years ago (2012) MS offered Enterprise users (2) a version of Windows on a USB stick (3). Various distributions of Linux have offered 'live' CDs, DVDs, or flash drives for at least 13 years. Now with Windows 10 upgrade over the Internet, MS is offering Windows on a stick ((4), (5), (6)). It costs \$120 and is the Home version only but the Pro version is supposed to be offered some time this year for \$200. This convenience costs. You will not be natively able to access the hard drive on the PC without doing some technical stuff (for the sake of security). Live Linux distributions allow access to the PC they boot on. A simple search revealed 166 distributions with Live capability (7).

1) <https://www.microsoft.com/>

- 2) <https://goo.gl/KODS7W>
- 3) <http://goo.gl/YmeIYA>
- 4) <http://goo.gl/5rJnz2>
- 5) <http://goo.gl/SJPwlm>
- 6) <http://goo.gl/HWII09>
- 7) <http://goo.gl/nSCtQe>

Since many of you will be moving to Windows 10 in the next few weeks or months, those that do will be saying goodbye to Internet Explorer forever. Ghacks (1) has posted an article about what to expect and how Edge (2) compares to Firefox (3), Chrome (4), Opera (5), Vivaldi (6), and Pale Moon (7). The writer, Martin Brinkmann, reported (8) primarily on the speed of the compared browsers. He found using six different benchmarking programs that MS has improved the speed of their new browser compared to the other browsers. The tests did not show the Edge to be the fastest but it was significantly faster than the same tests performed on Internet Explorer. I think the things left out to be very important. Plug ins, add ins, integration with third party products are all important factors in the browser experience. Also, do the add ons and integration affect the speed of the browser. I do not think we will have that type of report for at least three to six months.

- 1) <http://www.ghacks.net/>
- 2) <https://goo.gl/CKqHzN>
- 3) <https://goo.gl/VKy5bX>
- 4) <https://www.google.com/chrome/>
- 5) <http://www.opera.com/>
- 6) <https://vivaldi.com/>
- 7) <https://www.palemoon.org/>
- 8) <http://goo.gl/cpR2Ni>

MS has (as they have already stated) stopped Security Essentials updates (1). This means that if you are still using XP and Security Essentials as your only malware defense, you have no protection. You must start using another security solution to be protected. I suggest removing Security Essentials and replaing it with Avast (2), Avira (3), or Malwarebytes (4). I also suggest installing SuperAntispyware (5) and SpywareBlaster (6). The alternatives are described in the next paragraph. The problems you will encounter using my suggestions are that you will have to manually update at least once per week. You will also have to run the product once per week. You will also be nagged every time you use the computer to upgrade (from the free product to the paid product).

- 1) <http://goo.gl/VfOIBQ>
- 2) <https://www.avast.com/en-us/index>
- 3) <https://goo.gl/vkSFOL>
- 4) <https://www.malwarebytes.org/>
- 5) <http://www.superantispyware.com/>
- 6) <https://goo.gl/tiFQpO>

Some of you may be looking for an alternative to Windows. There are a number of choices.

Tablets **(1)** and phones **(2)** may fill the bill depending on your computer use. Apple **(3)** products work extremely well, are secure, but have a high price. The Chromebook **(4)** is now well established and affordable. Apple and Chromebook work similarly to Windows but with some differences. Linux offers various interfaces and capabilities. It is very affordable (free of charge). It runs on almost any PC that ran Windows. It can be used on old slow PCs (the ones that ran Windows XP or ME) and make them run like new. Places to learn about Linux include TechRadar **(5)**, PCWorld **(6)**, and YouTube **(7)**. You can also call (or e-mail) me to set up a machine with a dual boot (being able to boot Linux and Windows on the same machine). TechRepublic has an interesting take on the subject **(8)**.

- 1) <http://goo.gl/AAs9v7>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/up1F31>
- 3) <https://www.apple.com/>
- 4) <https://www.google.com/chromebook/>
- 5) <http://goo.gl/7BGoqL>
- 6) <http://goo.gl/7pfRcD>
- 7) <https://goo.gl/FWJ19c>
- 8) <http://goo.gl/7vP5go>

Google **(1)** has been protecting its Chrome browser users with Safe Browsing **(2)** for quite some time. They have just made the decision to expand Safe Browsing to other browsers **(3)**. Safe Browsing blocks web sites from downloading "unwanted software" which can be understood as malware or adware. You do not have to install anything. It just works when you use Google and most popular browsers.

- 1) <https://www.google.com/>
- 2) <https://goo.gl/d3jlL4>
- 3) <http://goo.gl/CTsrCH>

Forbes Magazine and ZDNet both have articles on the mandatory updates from Windows 10 (**(1)**, **(2)**). Only those MS customers that pay thousands of dollars per year will be able to control what happens to their PCs. Currently, all Windows users have the ability to turn off automatic updates. I do that, so when (not if) MS puts out a bad update (like last November) I can avoid the problems. By delaying updates and reading the news after update Tuesday, I can determine which updates to install and (more importantly) which ones to pass on. MS, with Windows 10, will end update Tuesday (the second Tuesday each month) in favor of updates as they are turned out (any day at any time). This means that while you are working on a project, an update may download and install (in the background). At that point the PC may need to be rebooted. I'll grant that Windows 10 currently boots quicker than any previous version of Windows, but as users add functionality boot time become longer. You must accept Windows 10 on MS terms or pay through the nose. Thanks MS!

- 1) <http://goo.gl/Vj1tIS>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/9GgfIZ>

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

## The Best Virus Protection...ever

By Phil Sorrentino, Member of The Computer Club, Florida

<http://sccccomputerclub.org>

[Philsorr.wordpress.com](http://Philsorr.wordpress.com)   [philsorr \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:philsorr@yahoo.com)

Virus Protection isn't really a very popular topic, until you've concluded that your computer has just been infected by one of those nasty viruses. You know the symptoms: strange pop ups, abnormal operations, and/or very slow responses. It seems like computer viruses have been around for a very long time. As it turns out, computer viruses have been around longer than personal computers. Here is just a little computer virus history. The first experimental self-replicating program, called "Creeper", was written in 1971, and was intended to infect Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC) PDP-10 computers running the TENET Operating System. How's that for a bit of history trivia? Fast forward to the personal computer era, when in 1981 a virus called "Elk Cloner" was written for the then very popular Apple II personal computer. Followed, in 1983, by a very early Trojan Horse designed for the IBM PC. This virus deleted all of the files on the computer's diskette (remember 5 1/4" floppy diskettes?), cleared the screen and typed ARF – ARF. (ARF was a reference to the common "Abort, Retry, Fail" message you would get when a PC could not boot properly.) Also, in 1983, the term "virus" was coined, to describe self-replicating computer programs. And in 1984 the operation of these viruses, that of including a copy of itself, was termed "infection". And so computer viruses have been with us, infecting our computers ever since.

The term "Malware, which is short for malicious software, is currently used as an umbrella to describe any software that is used to disrupt computer operation, gather sensitive information, or gain access to private computer systems. (Malware usually does not include software that causes unintentional harm due to some design deficiency; that's just bad design.) Malware does not usually include all those programs that come along for the ride when you are downloading something of interest. These are typically termed Potentially Unwanted Programs, or PUPs. And, just for completeness, the term "spyware" refers to malware that aids in gathering information about a person or organization without their knowledge and that may send such information to another entity without the owner's consent.

So, even though we all use virus and spyware protection, most of us, maybe all of us, have been the victim of some type of infection. So, what's a person to do when all of a sudden the computer seems to be operating strangely or unusually slow? Well, as most of you know there are a few very useful tools that you can try. Tools like MalwareBytes, SuperAntiSpyware, and Panda. Sometimes they may do the job, by eliminating or quarantining the virus, and sometimes they just may not help at all. What happens when they don't help? I know there are some very capable computer experts out there who have toolboxes full of very capable software tools that could probably fix any type of virus infection, but those experts may not always be available when you need them. And, virus removal by an expert may be a very costly undertaking.

So, we need to have a fall back plan for this eventuality if, or rather when, our computer becomes infected and there seems to be either no easy out, or the cost is too dear. This kind of plan would truly be the best virus protection. One plan of approach is to have a recent Image of the computer System, so that it can be restored to the computer. Yes, I know this will take time, and you will

have to reload anything that isn't included in the recent Image, but this will always work, no matter what type of virus is present (as long as the virus hasn't been included in the previously saved Image). Note too, this is also a good solution for a crashed disk drive, a hardware problem. This is a good solution only if you have backed up all of your valuable data, but I'm sure you regularly do this.

There are a few ways to get a System Image. The first possibility is that you may have an original Image of your system. It may be a D: partition that may be called a Rescue or Restore partition or something similar, or it may only be labeled with the manufacturer's name. Restoring this Image will bring your computer operation back to the way it was when you bought it. Unless you've had an unusual early disk drive failure or just bad luck to have become infected with a nasty virus, this Image is probably not very "recent". If the computer has been around for a while, the update process that needs to follow the restored image will probably take a good amount of time. I've restored some computers that needed 12 to 14 hours of updates to get back to current operation. So, though this operation will always work, it may be very time consuming, and take a lot of patience.

The second way of getting a System Image is to use a commercial System Imaging application to create a system image whenever your software system changes (or at least every 6 months). Most of these have a one-time cost, usually between \$40 and \$50, but it will probably be less than an hour or two of an expert's time needed to try to remove a virus. Some of these applications are Acronis True Image, Paragon Hard Disk Manager, O&O Disk Image, Active@ Disk Image, and Macrium Reflect. If you create an Image every 6 months, your latest Image will always be less than 6 months old and the time to update the restored software system should be reasonable. Always keep the last 2, 3 or 4 images, just in case something unexpected happens to one of them.

The third way of getting a System Image is to use Microsoft's "Backup and Restore" software included in Windows 7 and 8.

-In Windows 7 you can find "Create a system image" on the Backup and Restore Applet, in Control Panel. Click this and you can select a hard drive or set of DVDs as the destination for the Image. An external hard drive is the best destination, but sometimes it feels good to have a copy on DVDs also. Once the destination is selected, select the C: drive as the Image, and finally click "Start backup". Make sure you get back to the Backup and Restore screen to "Create a system repair disk", which is what you will use to boot up the system in order to restore the Image.

-In Windows 8, you will find "Create a recovery drive" on the Recovery Applet, in Control Panel. Click this and click "Yes" at the "User Account Control" window, then uncheck "Copy the recovery partition from the PC to the recovery drive", click Next, and then choose the destination drive, and finally click "create".

Creating the Image in either OS is relatively straightforward. Restoring the Image is a little more complicated, but with perseverance and maybe some advice and direction from someone who has previously done it, it will be easy enough to do, and it will become routine. Now, with an Image on an external drive, bring on the viruses.

## Computer Experiments

By Dick Maybach, Member, Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ

March 2015 issue, BUG Bytes

www.bcug.com n2nd (at) att.net

In the early days of PCs, we had no choice but to experiment with them. Back then, what today are simple changes required changing hardware and software configurations. Since a PC was more of a toy than an essential appliance and stored no important information, if a problem arose it affected nothing except the PC itself. Contrast this with today, where we rely on our PCs for essential communication, for filing our taxes, and for storing important information. All this makes us reluctant to experiment lest we lose an important asset. The result is that as we come to depend more and more on our PCs, we tend to know less and less about them.

The solution is to use a safe "sandbox" where we can experiment without risk, and we can implement one with either hardware or software. This isn't always necessary; for example writing computer gaming software usually doesn't endanger the PC on which it runs. In fact, all modern operating systems restrict what applications can do, in particular, they are usually prevented from making changes in the operating system or other applications. However, applications are allowed to modify user files. If this concerns you, create a separate account for your experiments.

There are several approaches you could use: boot from a live CD-ROM, dual boot two operating systems on one PC, or use a virtual machine, an old PC, a Raspberry Pi, or an Arduino. One or more of these probably suits your purposes.

In the live CD-ROM approach, you use a special operating system that runs from a read-only medium rather than a hard disk. Such media also include live DVDs and live memory sticks. You can use these on any PC that will boot from a CD-ROM or a USB device. (Booting a live media on a Mac can be problematic, with many people reporting problems. There is a utility that creates a live USB memory stick that boots on a Mac,

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-to-boot-a-linux-live-usb-stick-on-your-mac/>, but I haven't tried it.) The advantages of this approach are that it doesn't require any changes to the host hardware or software and that when you power down and remove the live medium the host system is unchanged. However, there is a substantial performance penalty because of the low data-transfer rate of the live medium, especially if it's a CD-ROM or DVD. Also it is generally not possible to update the live OS or to add applications to it. Almost all live CD-ROMs are Linux, and the main uses are to see if your hardware is Linux compatible and to run diagnostic or high-security software.

In the dual-boot approach, you either partition your hard disk or add a second disk, install a second operating system, and modify the disk boot record to allow you to choose which system to run at boot time. Because this requires making substantial changes to your software configuration, you must proceed carefully. The best time to do it is on a new PC that isn't storing any vital data. Thus, when you acquire a new PC, if you think you might be interested in trying dual boot at some later time, you might set it up for it immediately. This is also possible on a Mac, see <http://www.notebookreview.com/howto/in-progress-how-to-dual-boot-from-a-mac-into-windows/>, but again I have no experience with this. There is no performance penalty here, except for the disk space that the second operating system occupies, since whichever one is running has the full use of the PC. Only one operating system can be running at any time, and switching between them requires a reboot. Files can usually be transferred between the operating systems by reading from and/or writing to the idle operating system disk area, but in some



situations you may have to transfer using a USB memory stick or external disk.

If you have a fairly powerful computer, using a virtual machine is the most convenient way of experimenting. A virtual machine manager is an application program that runs on your main operating system (called a “host”) and provides an environment for a second operating system (called a “guest”). As far as the guest knows it has its own hardware. This does not require modifying the host hardware or software, as the virtual machine manager is just another application. A popular VM program is the free VirtualBox, <http://www.virtualbox.org/>, with versions available for Linux, OS X, and Windows. The performance penalty is small provided the host CPU has virtual machine support features. The host computer also must have enough resources to run the host and guest OS simultaneously, in particular enough RAM (at least four and preferably eight Gbytes) and disk space (allow at least eight Gbytes for each guest). It's very easy to add and remove guests, and the guests can be updated and can accept the installation of new applications. Since both guest and host operate at the same time, you can simultaneously run tasks on both. If the host PC is networked, the guest appears as a separate PC on the network.

If you have an old PC, you can use this for your experiments. It probably isn't fast and may have limited RAM and disk capacity, and you probably can't run the latest operating system, but this may not affect your experimenting at all. If it is very slow, try to figure out why. Often, the problem is not enough RAM, and this is cheap to fix. Since you are probably reluctant to put much money into a relic, you should consider switching it to Linux, which reduces all your future software expenses to zero, and at the same time makes available hundreds of applications. Some Linux distributions are designed to run well on old, slow hardware.

Rather than reuse an old PC, you could purchase a Raspberry Pi, <http://www.raspberrypi.org/>, a complete PC available for less than \$100 if you can use an existing display. Although it's tiny, about the size of a credit card, it has similar performance to an old PC, and since it uses Linux, the software is free. Because it has an Ethernet port, it's suitable for building network servers (multi-media, file sharing, Web, etc.). And because it's completely separate from your home PC, it's safe for hardware experiments where it's connected to external devices. If you completely destroy the Raspberry Pi card, it can be replaced for about \$40. There is an active community interested in the Pi with the result that many books, magazine articles, and support Website are available.

Another hardware solution is the Arduino, <http://www.arduino.cc/>, which like the Pi is credit-card sized, but this is a programmable controller rather than a computer. It runs as a USB peripheral to a Linux, OS X, or Windows machine, and is programmed in a variant of C++ using free software. It has no operating system but typically runs only one program, which starts at power-on and runs until power-off. There is a free compiler to code applications for Linux, OS X, and Windows using essentially the same language as does the Arduino. Thus learning a single language allows you to process on a PC data that you input from an Arduino. While you would experiment with networks, servers, and operating systems with the Pi, you would use the Arduino to explore programming and electronics. This approach is especially attractive for controlling external devices, since unlike a PC, it has terminals that can input and output voltages. It too has an active community, with many books, magazine articles, and support Websites available.

As you can see, you have many ways to experiment without endangering your tax records or your collections of photos, video, or music. You can choose the one that fits your purpose and your pocketbook. Remember that both Windows and OS X have restrictive licenses that limit where they can be used. Before you spend significant time or money, be sure your use conforms to the appropriate license. With Linux, you can ignore this issue.

## July 2015 DVD of the Month

**ARI** - Monthly newsletter

**Chromium** - Updated open source browser

**ContaCam** - Use your web cam for surveillance

**DVDDOMlists** - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month

**FreeGmailBackup** - Does what it says

**FreeMusicVideoDownloader** - Get free music and vids  
from the Internet

**ImageMagick** - Convert and manipulate photos

**JRT** - Updated Junkware Removal Tool

**KCleaner** - The most efficient Hard Disk cleaner

**MemberContributions** - Things members send me

**OldTimeRadio** - Old radio audio files

**PaleMoon** - Web browser

**PhotoScape** - Photo editor, viewer, animator

**SanityCheck** - Advanced rootkit and malware detection tool

**ShielaUSBShield** - Defense against virus from infected  
removable drives

**SyncFolders** - Synchronize the contents of two folders

**TorBrowser** - Updated privacy browser

**Yawcam** - Web cam controler

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## 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  
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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