

Abort,  
Retry,  
Ignore....

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

June 2015

Volume XXXII Issue 6

Confirmed  
meeting  
dates

June 27  
Annual  
CAEUG  
Picnic

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!!



**It's coming!!  
Wonderfully relaxing  
annual CAEUG picnic**  
SATURDAY JUNE 27, 4th SATURDAY

**A day to enjoy**

**Food :: Friends :: Fun :: Raffle**

**2015 ANNUAL PICNIC**

**SATURDAY JUNE 27, 4th SATURDAY**

11:00 to 3:00 at Seven Gables Park in Wheaton

Don't forget to bring items for the raffle table. Items do not have to be computer related just remember if you bring something and it not chosen you are responsible to take the items when the raffle is completed.

Thank you for past contributed items for the raffle. Lets all enjoy what one person no longer needs or uses. It can become another's treasure find during our raffle.

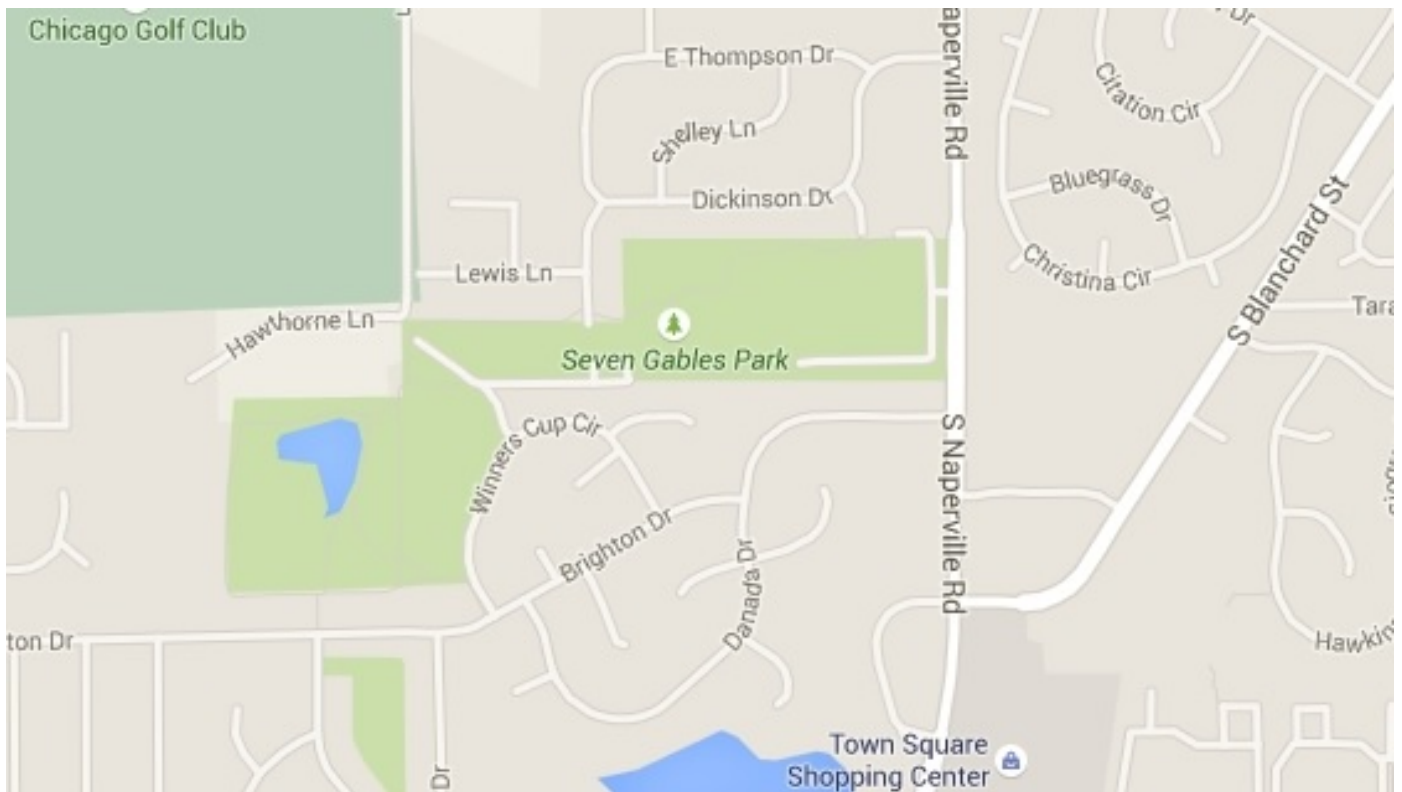
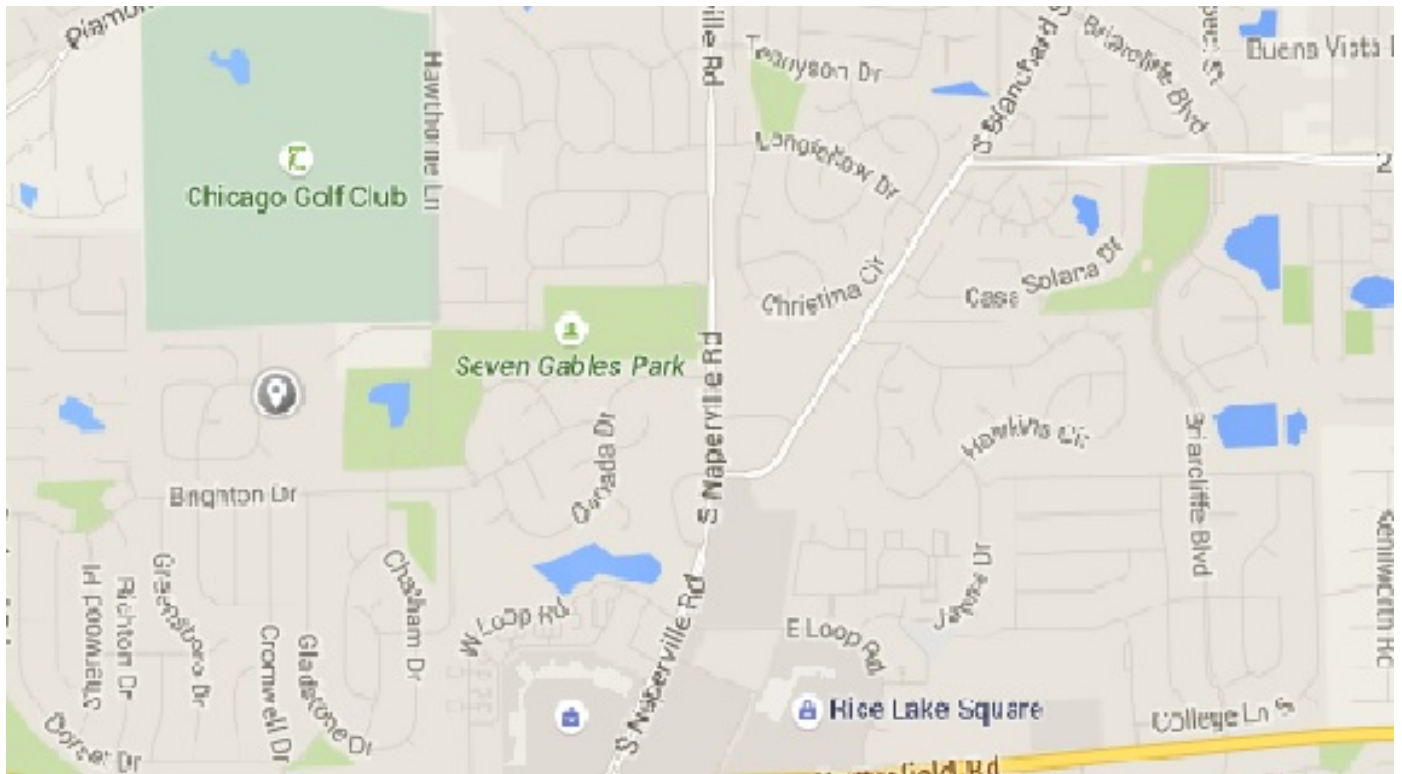
**:: See Page 2 & 3 for directions to the CAEUG picnic ::**

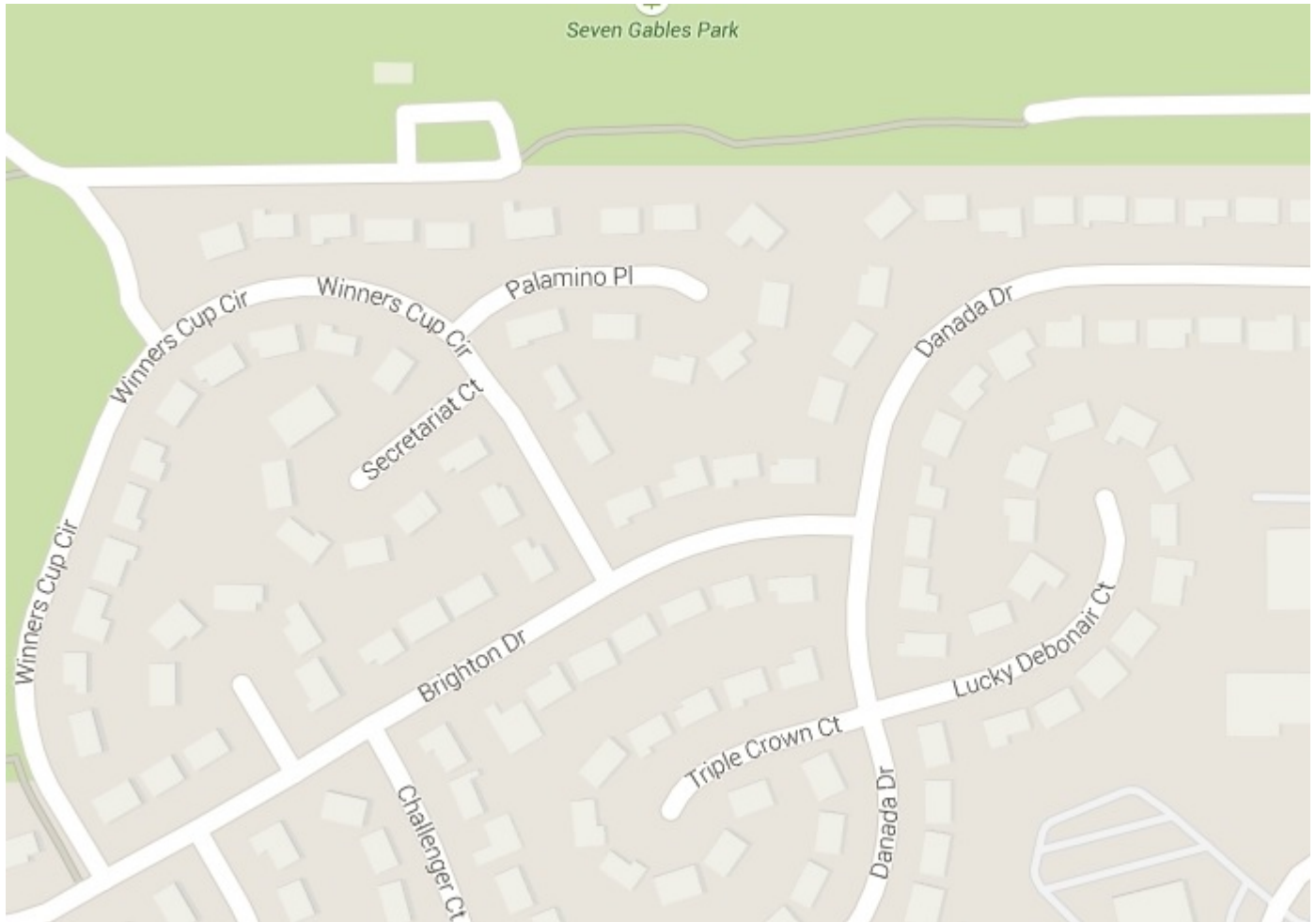
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## Directions to CAEUG Picnic at Seven Gables Park

From Naperville and Butterfield Roads head NORTH on Naperville Road 0.8 mi.

Turn left (WEST) on Danada Road.

Follow Danada for 0.2 mi. to the stop sign at Brighton Road.

Turn right (WEST) on Brighton Road.

Stay on Brighton Road for 0.2 mi.

Turn right (NORTH) onto Winners Cup.

Follow Winner Cup 0.2 mi. to the entrance to Seven Gables Park.

Entrance is on the left.

A short distance into the park is a stop sign, at the stop sign turn right. That road will take you past the football field.

We will be at the EAST end of the football field in an area that looks like a refreshment stand.

Rain or shine at 7 Gables Park in Wheaton

From 11:00am to 3:00pm

Food, fun, free raffle for members, fun and oh yeah, more fun.



## Lamp Post 170

June 2015

by John Spizzirri

Decorah eaglets have fledged. When you check out the camera (1), it is pointed at various branches of the tree the nest is in. The eaglets are flying to and from the nest while perching on those branches. Occasionally, you may see the adults.

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

In the Lamp Post 169 in May (1) I wrote about the Salty Girls photo spread. I had some questions about DNA and Chromosomes. There is a Scientific American (2) 2.5 minute video about the differences in DNA, Genes, and Chromosomes (3). There are other named proteins that are involved with each of the building blocks of inheritance (4).

1) <http://www.caeug.net/newsletters/2015/May2015.pdf>

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

3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8OL1MTbGpU>

4) [http://geneed.nlm.nih.gov/topic\\_subtopic.php?tid=15](http://geneed.nlm.nih.gov/topic_subtopic.php?tid=15)

On June 15 at about 11 PM LastPass sent me this e-mail.

"Dear LastPass User,

"We wanted to alert you that, recently, our team discovered and immediately blocked suspicious activity on our network. No encrypted user vault data was taken, however other data, including email addresses and password reminders, was compromised.

"We are confident that the encryption algorithms we use will sufficiently protect our users. To further ensure your security, we are requiring verification by email when logging in from a new device or IP address, and will be prompting users to update their master passwords.

"We apologize for the inconvenience, but ultimately we believe this will better protect LastPass users. Thank you for your understanding, and for using LastPass.

"Regards,

"The LastPass Team"

LastPass (1), the user name and password storage service, indeed had crackers attack it ((2), (3)). I changed my master password which immediately re-encrypted my user name / password database stored on LastPass. Unlike Microsoft ((4) MS) and Adobe (5), LastPass notified its users without being prompted by an outside entity. It notified its users promptly. LastPass did not wait for 'update Tuesday' or hide the breach (for months) ((6), (7), (8)). This makes me more confident than ever that my user names and passwords are safe with LastPass. BTW my former LastPass master password was 16 characters long. It

is now 19 characters long.

- 1) <https://lastpass.com/>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/XFv06S>
- 3) <http://goo.gl/5kqB2Z>
- 4) <https://www.microsoft.com/>
- 5) <https://www.adobe.com/>
- 6) <http://goo.gl/HypQAX>
- 7) <https://goo.gl/qIVePt>
- 8) <http://www.securius.com/archive/301.txt>

Speaking of encryption, Proton (1) encrypted e-mail is now available for everyone on June 17. It provides e-mail encryption for those of you that may need secrecy in your on line communications. The threat of back doors is virtually non-existent because Proton is a product of Cern (2) scientists who need secure e-mail. It is Swiss based avoiding the fate of Lavabit (3), Silent Circle (4), and Tor mail (5) e-mail services (6). Safe-mail (7) is an Israeli based company. The articles written about Safe-Mail by Forbes (8) and BGR (9) both associated Tor mail with the "Dark Web" (play the ominous music), illicit drug sales, and child pornography. I'll grant that illegal activities use secret communication measures. In the 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's secret communication was the U. S. Postal Service and the telephone. Since the advent of the Internet, communication on it has been open season for government snoops. The revelations of Ed Snowden (10) have shown that the NSA (11) has been collecting ALL Internet communication and storing it in perpetuity. News flash, the NSA does not think that the drug trade and child pornography are crimes. They do not share that data with any agency that does. Their interest lies other 'crimes' that many Americans do not consider crimes. I think that the NSA has ties to the Israeli government. The United States gives billions of dollars to Israel every year. The United States supports the Israeli government in the Middle East at the cost of blood and money. I think that the Israeli government can put pressure on any business operating within its border. Israel and the United States cooperated on the writing of the Flame (12) and Stuxnet (13) viruses that infected the Iranian nuclear refining machines (destroying them). Lesser known is the fact that the Flame and Stuxnet malware were re-purposed by crackers (probably government paid crackers) and used against North American energy companies (14). After that long aside, I think there are Safe-Mail back doors accessible by both the Israeli and the United States governments thus the Proton encrypted e-mail, a Swiss product, is safer.

- 1) <https://protonmail.ch/privacyforall>
- 2) <http://home.web.cern.ch/>
- 3) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavabit>
- 4) <https://goo.gl/KSFOi7>
- 5) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tor\\_Mail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tor_Mail)
- 6) <http://goo.gl/HWHqkG>
- 7) <https://www.safe-mail.net/>
- 8) <http://goo.gl/9rYTLU>
- 9) <http://goo.gl/czTNrt>



- 10) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_Snowden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Snowden)
- 11) <https://www.nsa.gov/>
- 12) <https://goo.gl/SieO5>
- 13) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuxnet>
- 14) <http://goo.gl/PLjjes>

The Sunday Times (1) of London reported that Edward Snowden may have some clarifying to do after reports that Russia and China accessed NSA files that he had stolen and encrypted. That article was copied by a number of outlets ((2), (3)). Glenn Greenwald, The Christian Science Monitor (CSM), and Wired Magazine have taken issue with the article ((4), (5), (6), (7), (8)). Greenwald had a couple of interesting quotes, "If you're someone who believes anonymously voiced self-serving govt claims, you're dumb. If you're a journalist who prints it, you're worse" and "That Sun Times article is filled with so many factual errors - demonstrable ones - along w/the worst journalism. Will be fun writing about it." I'll grant that Greenwald has stake in this story, but what about Wired and CSM? I found it queer that in all the stories I read NOT ONE pointed out that the NSA is spying on the British Secret Intelligence Service ((9) SIS formerly MI6). Aren't Britain and the United States on the same side? As far as we know Snowden stole documents from the NSA which stole them from their owners. Another question that no one asked is why did this story break this month? The Snowden files have been out there for at least two years. Another question is, doesn't Russia and China have intelligence services of their own who may know of spy activities by Britain? These stories indicate that there are 'other' files (from the Snowden cache) that are in the hands of some people who will release them if something happens to Snowden. If that is true, why is the United States pressing for an arrest and conviction (10). Why are they using a law created during World War One ((11), (12)) called the Espionage Act of 1917 (13)? Does the United States want these files released or do they think Snowden is bluffing? The choice Snowden is presented with is a hard one - being murdered (literally or figuratively) or black mailing the murderer in order to survive. Where is The Fourth Estate (14) when we need them?

- 1) <http://goo.gl/JFMjqx>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/oVCojt>
- 3) <http://reut.rs/1H3vtYC>
- 4) <http://wrd.cm/1CIS6Sp>
- 5) <http://huff.to/1Gg6o8V>
- 6) <http://thebea.st/1LdJd4Q>
- 7) <http://bit.ly/1da5X7X>
- 8) <http://bit.ly/1RmQwqg>
- 9) <https://www.sis.gov.uk/>
- 10) <http://wapo.st/1K553rL>
- 11) <http://bit.ly/1LnZxRp>
- 12) <http://bit.ly/1CISlwR>
- 13) <http://bit.ly/1eBuC6V>
- 14) <http://bit.ly/1froVbX>

As you may know the Office of Personnel Management ((1) OPM) database was cracked

and the information of 'every' federal employee, military person, veteran, and retiree was stolen **(2)**. Would that include CIA, NSA, FBI, and other secret agents of the United States? I wonder if our elected and unelected leaders including Congressmen and their staffs are considered "federal employees". I doubt it. No one in the press asked any of those questions outright. The only claims made by the press were that releases from various entities conflicted. The White House is spinning this as a foreign nation cyber attack (China) as opposed to just criminals. China denies this. Subsequently, other databases were hit including those of federal job applicants and security clearance applicants **(3)**. American Federation of Government Employees **(4)** AFGE) President J. David Cox stated that the "18 months of credit monitoring and \$1 million in liability insurance" was not enough. Soon after the breach was announced the OPM signed a \$20 million contract with a private cybersecurity company. The compensation for those affected is interesting. Eighteen months ago Target **(5)** had a breach of credit card information of thousands of its customers. The settlement for that breach was reached March 18, 2015 **(6)**. The court found Target negligent but the agreement states that Target is not negligent. The thousands of customers split \$10,000,000 (up to \$10,000 each) while the nine attorneys who worked on the case for about fourteen months (part time) split \$6,500,000. To be fair, Target also provided 12 months of credit monitoring for those customers affected. The OPM took four months to uncover the breach finding that its Einstein software was completely ineffective **(7)**. Einstein is an intrusion blocking software. The accusations against China were made because the attacks on Anthem and Premera insurance companies were linked to China and none of the OPM data is for sale **(8)**. The AP story claims that 14 million records were compromised while the AFGE union only claims 4.1 million. The AP story also implies that the United States has a sophisticated monitoring of the Internet and the Dark Web **(9)**. If that were the case, why haven't there been many prosecutions of the illegal activities (child porn, drug sales, explosive sales, identity information sales, etc) that take place there? Could it be that the government agencies that monitor the Dark Web do not consider those activities important? Or is it more likely that the reported activities are not actually happening at all. Both are good questions that no one seems to ask. One of the reasons that the data was stolen was the computers the data were stored on were too old to encrypt the data **(10)**. Another reason is that OPM has no inventory of its equipment or databases **(3)**. While reading these stories, I felt secure in knowing that the same government that lost all this data still holds data on me in the form of Social Security, Internal Revenue Service, Medicare, military service, and a number of security agencies that granted me security clearances. China English language news was highly critical of the implication that it was responsible for this data theft **(11)**. The OPM web site has some good tips on what to do if you suspect your data has been compromised **(12)**.

- 1) <http://www.opm.gov/>
- 2) <http://bit.ly/1I8iV2M>
- 3) <http://wrd.cm/1TGo8Dz>
- 4) <https://www.afge.org/>
- 5) <http://www.target.com/>
- 6) <http://bit.ly/1LdJG6S>
- 7) <http://politi.co/1LtxEV5>

- 8) <http://apne.ws/1K5ly5J>
- 9) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark\\_Web](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_Web)
- 10) <http://bit.ly/1LnZW6t>
- 11) <http://bit.ly/1IsVVY7>
- 12) <http://1.usa.gov/1K5IDX3>

If you recall the 1999 movie The Matrix **(1)**, you may recall this dialog when Keanu Reeves (Neo **(2)**) met Carrie-Anne Moss (Trinity **(3)**).

Neo: Who are you?

Trinity: My name is Trinity.

Neo: Trinity. [pause] The Trinity? That cracked the IRS d-base?

Trinity: That was a long time ago.

That dialog was supposed to be startling and give a cracker credential to the Carrie-Anne Moss' character Trinity. Cracking the government's Internal Revenue Service's (IRS **(4)**) database is risky and difficult. Everyone that gives the IRS financial information about themselves (voluntarily **(5)**) must feel relieved that their information is safe from the prying eyes of crackers from around the world. Oh, wait! The IRS database has been cracked **(6)**. It happened this year between February and mid May. Gee, isn't that the time when most people file income tax forms **(7)** electronically **(8)**? 100,000 taxpayer records were accessed in IRS breach **(9)**. The crackers failed to get an additional 100,000 taxpayer records due to inaccurate information. The crackers had to have some information (from other sources) to answer the authentication questions. The IRS shutdown the 'Get Transcript service' while it investigated the "activity, which may have been linked to the fraudulent filing of tax returns and transfer of tax refunds." The IRS announced it will be notifying taxpayers after third parties [crackers] gained unauthorized access to information on about 100,000 accounts. I have a question. Will they notify the taxpayer or the cracker who stole the information? The authentication information that the crackers had from non IRS sources included Social Security information, date of birth, tax filing status and street address. The IRS remediation will include taxpayer notification via a letter of all taxpayers that had access attempted by the crackers (whether successful or not). The IRS stated that the letters will NOT request any personal identification information [just in case the crackers read the news and try to fake an outreach letter]. The IRS will also offer free credit monitoring for a year (NOT 18 months) and flag taxpayer records for potential identity theft to protect them going forward for this year and next. The IRS stated that the main database was not affected by the crack. BTW the IRS referred to the crackers as 'malicious actors'. Brian Krebs had one of his readers report an incident to him. He relates the incident on KrebsOnSecurity **(10)**. It is well worth the read. In the article he notes that the IRS 'protect[ed] the privacy of the criminal' because the proper paperwork had not been filled out, a fee paid, and [snail] mailed in. The reader paid the fee because the cracker had an \$8900 refund deposited in a bank account that was not his. The owner of that account forwarded most of the money to Nigeria. This appears to be a twist of the Nigerian 419 scam **(11)**.

- 1) <http://imdb.to/1GBfhMK>
- 2) <http://bit.ly/1K55Bht>
- 3) <http://bit.ly/1RmRBP0>



- 4) <http://www.irs.gov/>
- 5) <http://bit.ly/1MYbM4r>
- 6) <http://1.usa.gov/1K55JgL>
- 7) <http://1.usa.gov/1frpulZ>
- 8) <http://1.usa.gov/1IXY80w>
- 9) <http://bit.ly/1FvgEbN>
- 10) <http://bit.ly/1FvgFwg>
- 11) <http://bit.ly/1Lo0mJT>

Microsoft's Gabe Aul tweeted, There is "No annual fee for Windows 10" **(1)**. I noted that he did NOT add the word 'ever'. Let's face this squarely. MS has updated and charged for its operating systems every two to three years since DOS 1. When Windows came along, the prices went up. I saw a presentation about Windows 10 earlier this month by MS trained personnel. They were quick to bring up Aul's tweet. They also would not commit to the left out word - 'ever'. This upgrade being free is unprecedented in the MS world. This may be a ploy on the part of Satya Nadella **(2)**, MS CEO, to differentiate himself from the previous business governance of Gates **(3)** and Ballmer **(4)**. Under Gates and Ballmer, customers were compelled or cajoled to upgrade at a significant cost - every two to three years until MS made a truly great (for MS) product - Windows XP. When XP was upgraded by Vista, nobody bought it. Even Gates would not comment on the quality of Vista **(5)**. The same thing happened again (history repeating itself?) when Windows 7, a quality product, was upgraded to Windows 8. Win 8 sales made Vista look like a sales champion **(6)**. The situation is that Windows has been a constant seller for MS. Every few years MS gets a revenue boost from Windows sales. Even with the move to tablets and light weight laptop / notebook computers, Windows sales will be crucial to MS's bottom line. Businesses and governments will still run with desktops or dumb terminals. There are still nearly a billion of them. The artificial upgrade of Windows has not gone over very well in the last ten years because MS has produced bad products. When they have a good product, they ride that wave trying to introduce a bad product. They sour their customers on their main products (Windows and Office). Here we go again. We are being compelled or cajoled into accepting Windows 10. The new features include a return to the look and operation of Windows 7 - REALLY? Why not re-introduce Windows 7 and apologize to the customer base for the fool hardy Windows 8 / 8.1 debacle. No, that will not happen. Getting back to the subject of this paragraph, we are being asked to believe that MS no longer needs income from the installed base of PC users and businesses using Windows. If you do believe that, I have a bridge for sale in New York City at a very reasonable price. MS needs the money to bolster its bottom line. They must get that cash from somewhere. They tell us that Windows 10 will be the last iteration of Windows and will be upgraded as needed without a particular day used every month. Let's see how much money they will lose. Let's assume there are one billion PCs world wide **(7)** to make the calculations easy. Let's say that the average price of Windows is \$40 even though boxed the OS costs \$120 for Home and \$199 for Professional. 58 percent of all PCs run Windows 7 **((8), (9))**. That is 580 millions times \$40 which equals \$23.2 billions spread over three years equals \$7.73 billions. That is not enough for MS. They are looking at the statistics. Almost 17 million people still use Windows XP. If those people had Windows 7, that would be a little over another quarter billion dollars more. With 90% of all PCs running one Windows product or

another. MS only needs \$40 or \$50 a year to replace the current income provided by Windows. I think they may charge more, but I may be wrong.

- 1) <http://bit.ly/1LtyiSo>
- 2) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satya\\_Nadella](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satya_Nadella)
- 3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill\\_Gates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Gates)
- 4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve\\_Ballmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Ballmer)
- 5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6qIETRCxbw>
- 6) <http://bit.ly/1BvRXkk>
- 7) <https://www.gartner.com/newsroom/id/703807>
- 8) <http://cnet.co/1eBvF6X>
- 9) <http://bit.ly/17zgrMf>

Here is the run down from the CNet article of OSs run on what percentage of PCs

- Win 7 - 58%
- Win XP - 16.94%
- Win 8.1 - 10.55%
- MAC OS X 10.10 - 3.96%
- Win 8 - 3.52%
- Vista - 1.97%
- MAC OS X 10.9 - 1.61%
- All others - 3.41%

In the System Tray **(1)** of Windows 7 and 8.1 machines is a Windows 10 icon for the upgrade process. If you do not want to see it for fear of accidentally clicking it, there are a number of methods. The easiest is to click on the small triangle that pops out the small window with all the systray icon. In that small window is the word customize. Click on customize. The window that opens has a list of Icons and Behaviors. Search for the Get Windows 10 (GWX) icon and click the behavior and select 'Hide icon and notifications' then click the Okay button. There are other methods **(2)**. If you do not see the GWX icon and want to, here is the web site that explains how to get it **(3)**.

- 1) <http://bit.ly/1K5m83I>
- 2) <http://bit.ly/1Gg8NjU>
- 3) <http://bit.ly/1TGoHNR>

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

## 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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