

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

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

November / December 2015

Volume XXXIII Issue 11

**Confirmed
meeting
dates**

Nov / Dec
December 5
1st Saturday
Board Room

January 23
4th Saturday
Room A

February 27
4th Saturday
Room A
:::
Check
www.caeug.net
for confirmed
meeting dates

MEETING
PLACE
is the
Glenside Public
Library
:::
Visitors
Welcome
HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!



The December 5, 2015 (1st Saturday)
Our presenter will be John Spizzirri on Team Viewer

Meeting will be held in Board Room
12/5/15 1st Saturday

Losing My Memory
By Larry Bothe
9/18/2015

Yes, that too, but I want to write about computing today.

My computer does a fairly extensive hardware diagnostic test, using a program called PC Doctor, once a month. The program came on the machine when I bought it new in December of 2009, shortly after Windows 7 came out. The test takes maybe half an hour. Other than slowing the machine down when it runs it is otherwise unobtrusive. It never makes any changes; just checks to make sure all the components are running correctly. For many years the monthly test always gave a clean report. But then, over a year ago, it began to tell me that I had a RAM error.

When I first bought the machine (an inexpensive Compaq desktop) it came with 3 gigs of RAM in 2 memory pieces; one 2-gig piece and a 1-gig piece. Two years ago I decided I wanted to speed the machine up so I bought a second 2-gig piece to replace the 1-gig. Then I had 4 gigs, the maximum the

Con't pg 2

Table of Contents

Page

- 1 Losing My Memory by Larry Bothe
- 2 Tips To Improve CAEUG Meetings
- 3 Lamp Post 175 by John Spizzirri
- 8 Is Windows 10 Spying on Us? by Sandy Berger
- 10 December 2015 DVD of the Month List

system will recognize. That worked, the machine was noticeably faster. And my monthly tests were still good; at least I think they were. Later (???) I started getting the memory test errors, but I couldn't tell which piece of memory was bad. In spite of the bad tests the machine apparently ran OK so I didn't worry much about it. However, it bothered me that the tests came up bad each month, and I had a concern that things might get worse.

A few weeks ago I finally had some time and decided to resolve the memory error issue. I wanted to know which piece of memory was bad so I could replace it. I was pretty sure the machine would run on 2 gigs; just more slowly. I took out one of the memory pieces, restarted the machine and ran the memory test. The piece in the machine was good. That meant the piece I took out was bad. Just to confirm, I swapped memory pieces and ran the test again. It came up good. What the.....??? I thought one piece was bad? OK, maybe it's a motherboard issue; one of my memory slots was bad. I tried both memory pieces in the other slot on the motherboard. I got the same result; both pieces were good when run individually. Now I knew that the memory was good individually but bad when run together. The two memory pieces have the same spec but are from different manufacturers (Samsung and Crucial). Did I have an incompatibility problem between memory manufacturers? That's what it looked like.

By this time I was getting pretty sick of the whole thing and I wanted it to go away. I decided to just replace both pieces of memory (all 4 gigs) with 2 new pieces of matching memory. It happened that I had a \$75 Amazon gift card, so after checking on Tiger to find out about pricing I went to Amazon to make the purchase. I found a 4-gig "memory kit" by Crucial for \$45, free shipping. It took about a week to get here (not 2 days like Tiger), but once installed the memory error problem was gone. Also, to my surprise and delight, the machine is faster. The memory error was apparently causing some problems behind the scenes. I'm happy with the outcome.

Before I end this article I have some crow to eat. I opined in these pages two years ago that, based on my experience, it was OK to mix RAM from different manufacturers in the same machine. Here's what I wrote in October of 2013:

An observation on adding memory: The Fox Tales computer newsletter for October had an article mentioning RAM addition. That author cautioned that you should buy the same brand of memory, in addition to it being the same spec. The problem with that is the vendors run specials on different brands from time to time, and your brand may not be on sale when you want to make a purchase. Over the years I have mixed brands of memory within a computer numerous times, including this time, and have never had a problem. I buy whatever is the cheapest, making sure the technical specifications are correct.

In the future I won't be mixing memory from different manufacturers in the same machine. I don't think you should either; or at least know that if you do you could be in for some problems.

Larry Bothe is an associate member of CAEUG. He served as president for a time back in the 90's when he lived in the Chicago area. Larry presently resides in southern Indiana where he is retired from the plastics industry and currently teaches people to fly airplanes. He also performs pilot examinations for the FAA. He can be contacted at LBothe@comcast.net.

Tips to Improve CAEUG Meetings

Back to the Ole School Yard and Some Life Reminders

1. Smile it increases face value and others enjoy being around those who are pleasant
 2. Be kind to every living thing
 3. Help those who are less fortunate than you
 4. Never cause a person emotional or physical pain
 5. Be honest and trustworthy
 6. Attend and join in club meetings
 7. Be a good listener
 8. Be a great friend
 9. Be patient with others
 10. And finally smile, smile, smile!!
-



Lamp Post 175

November / December 2015
by John Spizzirri

On November 12th Microsoft (MS **(1)**) released the big update to Windows 10 **(2)** called 'Threshold 2'. If you have Win 10, I hope you did not update until the following week. Unfortunately, if you turned on your PC during that week you were forced to update. I assisted one of my clients with the update on Thanksgiving Day. The update involved four reboots and took two and a half hours. An update of this sort on previous versions of Windows was called a Service Pack **(3)**. In this case, as in others, the whole operating system (OS) was replaced. Since Windows 10 is the 'last version of Windows', it would seem that each major update (probably at least once per year) will drain productivity of most of America's corporations as one to two hours for each computer user's time plus time the Information Technology (IT) department's staff invests in each update. By the way, you will be paying for the time waste of all governmental PC users through taxes. Jim Alkove, MS Director of Program Management for the Enterprise and Security group, wrote about the impact of updates on its Enterprise licensed users and partners **(4)**. He wrote. "By the time Current branch for Business machines are updated, the changes will have been validated by millions of Insiders, consumers and customers' internal test processes for several months, allowing updates to be deployed with this increased assurance of validation." My take on that is that MS will test all

updates on consumers before it is released to enterprise users. Consumers cannot turn off updates but enterprise users can schedule updates for their convenience. How does it feel to be a guinea pig? Switch to Windows 10 and find out. Getting back to Threshold 2, there were a number of anomalies in the original update **(5)**. It was not an anomaly but the update requires 20GB of free hard drive space. If there was media in the DVD / BluRay player or an SD card in the SD slot, the update would freeze at 44% completion and go no further. If you had any of the following programs; CPU-Z, Speccy, 8gadgetpack, a Cisco VPN client, SATA drivers, SpyBot, RSAT, F5 VPN, or HWMonitor, Threshold 2 deleted them. It also changed default programs to MS equivalents. It did this without warning. If you had updated to Win 10 from Win 7 or 8.1 after October 12th, you must wait until December 12th to do the update. That is probably a good thing. Another one of the good things in Threshold 2 is that Windows 10 Pro users can delay updates up to eight months. They still cannot be turned off. The problem is that you will have to pay the \$199 to get Win 10 Pro.

- 1) <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/RxOGII>
- 3) <https://goo.gl/HqrBdx>
- 4) <http://goo.gl/S5FFjT>
- 5) <http://goo.gl/kvNoZv>

Back up your stuff now as MS may force you to upgrade to Win 10. In September MS admitted that it had downloaded the Threshold 2 update to Windows 7 and 8.1 machines without telling the users that it was happening. This means that if you do not want Win 10, MS has wasted 3 GB of your hard drive. In October MS admitted that some of these downloads 'accidentally' started installing without the user's permission. According to Terry Myerson, Windows and Devices Group executive vice president, the Win 10 conversion will be classified as an 'optional update' **(1)**. That means that if you have set your PC to accept all updates, your conversion to Win 10 will happen unless you are there to stop it. In early 2016 these downloads will be reclassified to a 'Recommended' update. If you have not changed your update settings, the default setting is to install all recommended, important, and critical updates. This policy changes the way Win 10 will be installed from users actively asking for it, to users having to actively saying no to Win 10. If you are familiar with update settings, you may know that periodically Windows will send an update that resets the settings to the default level. Microsoft is trying to make resistance futile. If you get caught with an unwanted update, you have 31 days to revert to your previous version of Windows. The Forbes article states, "While tech savvy users will find workarounds and hacks, quite frankly avoiding the upgrade process is going to become far too much effort for the average consumer." I fear this will be true. By annoying customers, Win 10 may become wide spread, but my hope is that Linux and Mac will take a larger share of the user community. MS must learn that it must serve customers, not customers serving it. Satya Narayana Nadella is the CEO of MS. You may want to write him a letter to tell him what you think of the new policies of MS. His address is:

One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052-6399

A hand written or typed letter with your signature is much more effective than an e-mail. Be civil

and non threatening.

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

Do to MS trying to force the Windows 10 update, here are instructions on how to change the default update settings in Windows 7 and Windows 8.1. (Windows 8 must be updated to Windows 8.1 in order to update to Windows 10.)

How To Change Windows Update Settings in Windows 7 (1)

1. Click on the Start button, then click Control Panel.
2. If viewing by Category click on the System and Security link.
If viewing by Large icons or Small icons click Windows Update then skip to Step 4.
3. In the System and Security window, click on Windows Update which is one of the bigger links and located about mid-way down the list.
4. With Windows Update now open, click the Change settings link on the left.
5. This will open a window with the heading Choose how Windows can install updates.
6. Under Important Settings select 'Check for updates but let me choose whether to download and install them'
7. Uncheck 'Give me recommended updates the same way I receive important updates'
8. You should check for updates periodically (once a month) and select only those updates that involve security or Windows 7

1) <http://goo.gl/BsqR07>

How To Change Windows Update Settings in Windows 8 (1)

1. Make sure you're in the desktop portion of Windows 8 and open the Charms Bar.
This can be done by moving the mouse pointer to the upper right-hand corner of the screen or swiping in from the right if you have a touchscreen.
2. Click the Settings button from within the Charms Bar.
3. Click Control Panel towards the top of the Charms Bar.
4. Depending on which view you're presented with, navigate to System and Security and hit 'turn automatic updating on or off' under the Windows Update section.
Alternatively, click Windows Update and choose 'change settings' on the left-hand side.

5. Either way you'll end up at the Windows Update setting menu. Here you can choose your preference from the drop down menu.

6. To stop Windows 8 installing updates automatically choose from
'download updates but let me decide when to install them'

'check for updates but let me choose whether to download and install them' **<== My recommendation**

'never check for updates'

7. You should check for updates periodically (once a month) and select only those updates that involve security or Windows 8

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

Network World Magazine (1) is a magazine aimed at Information Technology (IT) professionals. It recently had a number of articles that I think are more consumer oriented. The first is how you should protect yourself from crackers using wi-fi against you (2). You may have heard this all before, but the counsel is still valid. Using a virtual private network (VPN) on public wi-fi hotspots can prevent wi-fi hijacking. Do NOT do banking or any money transactions on public wi-fi hotspots. Do NOT keep your phone or tablet on automatic wi-fi connection. You may connect to wi-fi unwittingly and expose your device to hackers. Always use a firewall. Browse encrypted web sites. Unencrypted sites can expose you to crackers. Encryption costs the web site owner money, thus not all web sites of interest to you will be encrypted. Always update your virus and malware security software. Always secure your home wi-fi with WPA to prevent your home machines from exposure to crackers. The second article suggested the best Linux distributions for someone new to Linux (3). The list included; Ubuntu (4), Debian (5), CentOS (6), Arch (7), LXLE (8), OpenSUSE (9), Fedora (10), Manjaro (11), FreeBSD (12), and Linux Mint (13). I personally recommend Ubuntu, LXLE, and Linux Mint. LXLE has an added advantage of being able to run on older, less powerful hardware (like early XP class PCs). I use Mint and LXLE on a number of machines. The third article detailed how Google (14) is going to speed the death (15) of Windows XP. Google will end updates to the Chrome browser for XP, Vista, and Mac OS 10.8 beginning in April 2016. After April next year the Chrome browser will no longer be secure. These three articles suggest to me that the magazine sees some of its readership may be abandoning the Microsoft model in favor of alternatives.

1) <http://www.networkworld.com/>

2) <http://goo.gl/Ek9ivH>

3) <http://goo.gl/Gor8De>

4) <http://www.ubuntu.com/>

5) <https://www.debian.org/>

6) <https://www.centos.org/>

7) <https://www.archlinux.org/>

8) <http://www.lxle.net/>

9) <https://www.opensuse.org/>

10) <https://getfedora.org/>

11) <https://manjaro.github.io/>

- 12) <https://www.freebsd.org/>
- 13) <http://linuxmint.com/>
- 14) <https://www.google.com/>
- 15) <http://goo.gl/gcb8aA>

Trouble with Microsoft (MS **(1)**) Windows SmartScreen Filter **(2)** in Windows 8? SmartScreen is a phishing and malware filter implemented in several Microsoft products including Internet Explorer, Edge, Hotmail, and Window 8 / 8.1. You may have noted that things you have done in the past no longer work. You are presented with a "Windows SmartScreen cannot be reached" message. Checking MS website results in a Not Found error 404 **(3)** as of November 9th. The solution I found that worked was to run Windows Update and select all the optional updates with a reboot. You may wish to disable the SmartScreen feature. The full instructions for disabling it are at How to Geek **(4)**. They do not recommend doing that. In my opinion, MS implemented Smartscreen with a software glitch in it. They then put out a fix but did not announce any of this because it would expose their corporate incompetence once again.

- 1) <https://www.microsoft.com/>
- 2) <https://goo.gl/KOyM2H>
- 3) <https://windows.microsoft.com/>
- 4) <http://goo.gl/dNNUIN>

Giving to charities this time of year is common. I have been inundated with mail and phone solicitations. Most are from valid charities. I always check to see if the charity is valid and not a sound alike name. I check at Charity Navigator **(1)**, Charity Watch **(2)**, and the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance **(3)**.

- 1) <http://www.charitynavigator.org/>
- 2) <http://www.charitywatch.org>
- 3) <http://www.give.org/>

Microsoft will discontinue selling Windows 7 and 8.1 next November **(1)**. If you want to continue to use either operating system beyond next November, you may want to purchase your copies before then. Win 7 support ends in 2020. Win 8.1 support ends in 2023. Windows 10, 'the last version of Windows', support will expire in 2025 **(2)**.

- 1) <http://goo.gl/tGmXsX>
- 2) <http://goo.gl/3gUKLT>

If you use Sandboxie **(1)**, one of the recent MS updates in Win 7 disabled it. To start using Sandboxie download and install version 5.06. That version overcomes the MS update.

- 1) <http://www.sandboxie.com/>

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

Is Windows 10 Spying on Us?

Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

www.compukiss.com sandy (at) compukiss.com

Is Windows 10 spying on me? I have been asked this question over and over. My answer may surprise you!

There has been considerable publicity about Windows 10 being used as a spying tool for Microsoft. Blogs and even some fairly reputable websites have jumped on this bandwagon. Most of this publicity is aimed at making headlines to increase readership. As you well know, today's news is dominated by racy headlines, even if they are sometimes trumped up. Some of this bad Microsoft publicity is focused on increasing public paranoia to sell products.

One of my followers recently sent me a copy of an audio interview of Dr. Katherine Albrecht in which she trashed Windows 10 in an article entitled "Windows 10 is full blown electronic tyranny." Dr. Albrecht is a very intelligent, articulate, and well-educated lady. In this interview she says that Windows 10 keeps the microphone turned on all the time to bug homes and offices across the country. She says that Microsoft is making a copy of every file you create with Windows 10. However she also uses this interview to promote her Startmail product which is supposed to keep you safer.

Let's see if I can negate a few of her claims. First, Windows 10 uses your microphone to let you verbally communicate with Cortana, their new virtual assistant. Cortana is not listening all the time unless you change the settings and request that she does so. With the default settings, Cortana will only listen when you press the microphone button just like you would press the home button on an iPhone or iPad to ask Siri a question. Also, it is very easy to turn Cortana off or alternately to turn off your microphone completely.

Dr. Albrecht also says that Microsoft is sending the entire contents of all Windows 10 hard drives to their servers. Simply put, Microsoft is not copying all your files or documents. In the last month Windows 10 has been installed on 75 million devices. If Microsoft were to keep a copy of every one of those hard drives, we would be talking about thousands of Petabytes of data. To give you an idea of how much data that is, it is estimated that the entire written works of mankind from the beginning of recorded history in all languages would take up about 50 Petabytes. Simply copying that amount of data would take years plus an astronomical amount of storage space and electricity.

Another complaint is that Windows 10 can be set up to share Wi-Fi passwords. Again this is not turned on by default. You must choose to use it, and when you do, you must authorize it and the passwords are encrypted.

I can sum up the reality of this situation in one simple statement. With Windows 10, Microsoft is doing no more snooping, spying, or collecting data than other large companies like Apple, Google, and Amazon. I have read the Microsoft Services Agreement, the Windows license agreement, and the Microsoft Privacy Statement carefully. I have also looked at several privacy documents from Google and Apple. They all have similar clauses.

The bottom line is that if you use any cloud storage like Microsoft's One Drive or Apple's iCloud, if you use

an online email system like Gmail, Outlook, etc., or if you use services to sync your documents between computers and/or mobile devices, there is a copy of your data out there in the Cloud. Your cell phone provider, your ISP, your cable provider, your smart TV, and even your car knows a lot about you, as well. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media sites probably know more about you than you might ever expect. Most companies are using your data to learn more about you, whether to give you better service or to send you targeted ads. If they are subpoenaed, they will give your information to the lawful agencies, but then if you have drawn that kind of attention to yourself, those agents may be busting down your door and seizing your computers as well.

Right now Microsoft, Google, Apple, and Amazon are not spying on you or willfully giving the contents of your hard drive to anyone. Of course, an entire company could go bad, but currently you are at more of a risk from the bad guys and hackers than you are from the major companies. There are a lot of really good security people constantly monitoring the dealings of all the major companies.

So don't worry about Windows 10. It is no worse than Windows 7 or Mac OS X. If you want to be more secure, don't subscribe to any cloud services, don't use online email, and don't expect your data to sync between devices. If you want to be really secure don't access the Internet on your computer or tablet, don't use a cell phone, and don't buy a smart TV or any of the new Internet-connected devices, including a car.

Of course, if you do that you will be going back in time about 30 years. I know I wouldn't want to give up the knowledge, connectivity, productivity or entertainment that we have gotten from these devices.

If you want to keep using Windows 10, but want a little more security, here is how you can adjust the settings.

How to Set Windows 10 Privacy & Security Options

Windows 10 has many Security and Privacy options that you can quickly and easily change. In fact, you have more control over these options in Windows 10 than you do in most other operating systems. Want to get started? Just follow these simple instructions.

Once Windows 10 is up and running, you can still set many of the Security and Privacy options. Just click on Start and go to the Settings, then click on the Privacy control panel icon.

You will see a long list of options and you can turn each of these off if you like.

In the Privacy area you can even quickly turn off the camera, microphone, and location information. And you can stop sending some information to Microsoft. Click on "Manage my Microsoft advertising and other personalization info" and you will get more information on how that works and also get the ability to turn off targeted ads.

Actually Windows 10 gives you more control of the privacy options than most other operating systems. As far as privacy goes, Windows 10 is no better or worse than many of the other operating systems that you use on your other connected devices. Yet, if you use Windows 10, you should check out the Privacy and Security options.

December 2015 DVDOM

1password - Information web site on a password vault
ARI - Monthly newsletter
AudioBook - Free audio book
Calibre - A free and open source e-book library management application
cCleaner - HD cleaning program
CDBurnerXP - Create CDs and DVDs from files
CoinVaultDecryptor - Kaspersky HD decryption for cryptolocker attack
ConfigFox - A utility to manage Firefox advanced, hidden settings, and tweaks
Dashlane - A free password manager
DisconnectMe - A free malware and tracking blocker
DVDOMlists - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month
FreeBasic - A compiled BASIC programming language
GAGbootLoader - A free Graphical Boot Manager for multiple OSs
GeekUninstaller - A free deep, fast uninstaller that removes all leftovers
GlaryUtilities - Utility pack for Windows
GWXControlPanel - A free remove and disable the 'Get Windows 10' notification
MemberContributions - Things members send me
MemRedut - A free application to monitor and clean system memory on your PC
NirLauncherPortable - Utility pack for Windows - runs from USB stick
NotepadPP - Full featured alternative to Notepad
OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files
SlimBrowser - Free lightweight browser
SpywareBlaster - Updated spyware blocker
Sysinternals - Utility package from Microsoft (they bought it)
SystoolsOutlookPSTViewer - A free Outlook utility
u-Block - A free tracker blocker for Firefox, Chrome, and Safari
WindowsRepair - Updated Win repair utility

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

CAEUG OFFICERS

President	Mike Goldberg president(at)caeug.net
V.P. (Programs)	Roger Kinzie
Secretary	Al Skwara
Treasurer	John St. Clair
Newsletter Ed	Kathy Groce
Board Member	Billy Douglas
Webmaster	John Spizzirri webmaster(at)caeug.net

