**Confirmed
meeting dates
:: ::**

April 22, 2017
Fourth Saturday

May 27, 2017
Fourth Saturday

Confirmed date
**Annual Picnic
June 17
Third Saturday**

Check
www.caeug.net
for confirmed
meeting dates
:: ::

MEETING
PLACE is the
Glenside Public
Library
:: ::

Visitors
Welcome
HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!

Next meeting will be on April 22   (4th Saturday)

Topic: Video presentation by Mike Goldberg
How Technology Has Changed the Way We Listen to Music
Ray Baxter - APCUG
Meeting will be in the **Room A**
****

Converting an XP Machine to Linux Mint; Saving a Computer, Doing Some Good
By Larry Bothe, 4/16/17

Some of you know that I'm the volunteer curator of a WW-II museum here in Seymour, Indiana (see www.freemanarmyairfieldmuseum.org). One of our volunteers is a young man who is a bit challenged. He is however a high school graduate, and is computer-literate. His family has little money, and he didn't have a computer of his own, but he wanted one very badly. My wife (Pat) and I had both gotten new Win 10 computers about a year ago, and she still had her old XP machine under her desk. John Spizzirri had told me of taking an older computer and converting it to the Linux operating system and then giving it to a needy person. Adding all this up, it seemed like an opportunity for me to work with Linux and do some good along the way.

Since I work with computers a lot (but not professionally) you might wonder why I haven't ever worked with Linux in the past. The reason is

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apcug

that I had a brief bad experience with it some years ago. I have an older cousin who lives in Portland, Oregon. I was out there visiting her, and she had a problem with a laptop running a distribution of Linux called Ubuntu. I tried working with it for a couple of hours and got nowhere. It was not intuitive. I hated it. Later people told me my experience was not typical, but after the Portland exposure I was soured on Linux.

So it was with some reservation that I decided to try working with Linux once again. Not knowing where to begin, I contacted John Spizzirri. I was aware that there are quite a number of versions ("distributions") of the Linux operating system. The difference between them is the user interface, and how much computing power they require to run. John suggested that if I had more than 1 gig of RAM I should go with Linux Mint www.linuxmint.com ; 1 gig or less go with LXLE http://www.lxle.net/ . The machine has 1.5 gigs of RAM, a 200-gig hard drive and a 64-bit Athlon processor so Mint became the distribution of choice. Note that essentially all distributions of Linux are free so money was not a consideration here. They do ask for a donation but no charge is made.

I went to the Mint site and looked at their download listing. I chose the version that matched the specs on the destination machine; easy enough. For me that turned out to be the latest release, 18.1, called Serena, 64-bit. At John's suggestion I selected the Xfce desktop. Downloading the ISO file took a while since it is 1.67 gigabytes. The next step was to burn an image of the ISO file onto a DVD. Then I could put the DVD in the old machine and reboot. The machine would boot from the DVD directly into Mint, and I could follow the installation instructions from there. At least that's what's supposed to happen.

Not knowing any better, I copied the ISO file onto a DVD and put it in the old machine's DVD drive. On restart it bypassed the DVD drive and booted into XP. What the - ??? A check of the boot sequence in the BIOS showed the DVD drive to be first; that wasn't the problem. Some testing with other DVDs revealed that the drive itself was bad. Unplugging and even changing ribbon cable didn't solve the problem. I had an old read-only DVD drive in my computer equipment stash so I swapped that in. It worked with the Bible DVD I got at the CAEUG Christmas meeting so I was back in the DVD business.

I put the DVD with the Mint ISO file on it back in the drive and did a restart. Once again it bypassed the DVD drive and booted into Windows XP. Now what? It turns out that John's instruction to me to "burn an image" of the ISO file means something very specific. I had interpreted it to be just copy the ISO file onto a DVD, and the "burn an image" was just another way of saying the same thing. But it's not. Just making a copy doesn't get you a bootable DVD. I went back to my CD/DVD burning software (Cyberlink Power2Go) and went through all the menu choices. Under Copy a Disk I found Burn Disk Image. I made a new DVD using the Burn Disk Image selection, and put that one in the old XP machine. On restart it booted right into Linux Mint. Yeah!

From there it was intuitive and easy. The machine is initially running the Mint operating system off the DVD, but it asks if you want to move it onto the main computer. After you tell it YES then it wants to know if you want all your files and the old operating system removed. That's exactly what I wanted so I said YES to that as well. It is possible to do a dual-boot system where you can also boot into your old operating system, but since XP is obsolete and not supported I saw no reason to keep it around. And I wanted all my wife's

personal files off the machine. Mint took care of that for me very nicely.

There are very few choices to make in setting up Mint. You have to do basic things like language and time zone, your name and a name for the computer, and a password. Mint doesn't spy on you so you don't have to agonize over privacy settings. The desktop is nice and clean. Mint strongly reminded me of running Windows 7. I was finished with setup in just a few minutes. After setup I selected Update Manager and told the system to check for updates and install them. John had warned me that there would be a substantial number of updates. They took a while to download and install.

Here's the best part: Mint comes bundled with productivity software, like Libre Office, Firefox web browser and the Thunderbird mail handler. They load at the same time you are installing the operating system. That means that after the OS install you are immediately ready to go to work (except for the aforementioned updates). I originally envisioned having to run around (on the internet) rounding up, downloading and installing programs. No need for that. It's all there, ready to go.

The only money I spent on this entire project was $13 for a USB WiFi adapter and the $20 donation I sent to Mint. If you have been considering setting up a Linux machine, I say you should go for it. Just remember to burn an image of the Mint (or whichever) distribution ISO file when you make your installation DVD. A simple copy won't do it. And speaking of images, this experience sure changed my mental image of the Linux operating system.

At the beginning of this article I said the purpose of all this was to give the machine to a young man who volunteers at our museum. I gave it to him yesterday morning. He took it home just before 1:00. By 2:30 I received a message from him, created on the new machine, thanking me for the wonderful gift. He's up and running, and he's thrilled! I had the opportunity to learn something about computing, save an old computer from the scrap heap, and help a less fortunate person.

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.

How to Start the Day and Feel Really Good
Hilarious clean computer jokes

Open a new file on your computer.
Entitle it 'Housework.'
Place it in the Recycle Bin.
Empty the Recycle Bin.
Your computer will ask you, 'Are you sure you want to delete Housework permanently?'
Answer 'Yes' and click the left mouse button firmly.
Now you feel much better.

Lamp Post 190
April 2017
by John Spizzirri

The Decorah Eagles (1) three eggs have successfully hatched at the end of March and the beginning of April. They are still being kept warm by the parents, but you can see them at feeding time which is about every two to three hours.

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

Microsoft (MS (1)) has an interesting 'feature' in Windows 10. It is essentially a keylogger (2). A keylogger is software program or a hardware device that records every keystroke you make (like typing your password) and stores or sends that information to a third party. In this case it is MS. A number of web sites have instructions on how to turn off this intrusion into your privacy ((3), (4), (5)).
Step One - click the start button
Step Two - click the Setting icon
Step Three - click the privacy padlock icon
Step Four - look under change privacy options for the item that reads, "Send Microsoft info about how I write to help us improve typing and writing in the future".
Step Five - turn it off, if it is not already off
If you used the O & O software called Shutup10 that I wrote about in the October 2016 Lamp Post or got it off the October 2016 DVD of the Month, you may have already turned it off. After the April Windows 10 update (its going to be a big one), you may have to turn off all the privacy settings again. MS likes to change settings with its updates (6). One way to avoid this is with a registry fix (7). I do NOT recommend this. I recommend writing (snail mail) the CEO of Microsoft and complaining to him about this annoyance. If he receives enough complaints, he might stop the nonsense. BTW if you write him, do not expect a reply - the multi-billion dollar company cannot afford to respond to you.

1) https://www.microsoft.com/
2) https://goo.gl/2PhRYf
3) https://goo.gl/mdTTS8
4) https://goo.gl/T2LQmU
5) https://goo.gl/apufZP
6) https://goo.gl/btf2Zt
7) https://goo.gl/u26590

Can't get a Windows update. MS has a web site (1) that lists downloads for your version of Windows.

1) https://goo.gl/Qe4MTt

Speaking of updates, Windows 10 version 1507 will no longer be supported after May 9, 2017 (1). The MS support page (2) explains that if you have somehow managed to forestall the update to

version 1607, you must update or forgo all cumulative and security updates. I took the plunge and updated to 1607. It took almost three hours and the Internet was virtually stalled during that time. The way to tell what version you have is to click the Windows button, click the setting icon, click System, click About to view information about your PC including the version number. To update to version 1607 make sure you are on the Internet then click the Windows button, click the settings icon, click Update & security, and click check for updates. Updates may ask for installation or just start installing.

1) https://goo.gl/VEc9kC
2) https://goo.gl/AJ0MdI

I received a telephone call purporting to warn me that my phone number was on a list confiscated from a fraudulent telemarketing operation that had been shutdown by California law enforcement. The caller said that he was associated with the National Telemarketing Victim Call Center (NTVCC (1)). I was skeptical. The caller gave a toll free number and advised me to end a call from anyone that wanted to talk about an investment opportunity. He did not ask me to call the phone number he gave me unless I wanted more information. He also provided the web site address. I check the web address and found that it did not want any money. They wanted volunteers to make calls similar to one I had received. There was a number of pages of advice to avoid scams whether on the phone, by mail, or in person ((2), (3)). I checked the web to see if the NTVCC had been implicated in any fraud or bad publicity. I did not find any bad references to the NTVCC. They have been cited in a number of other publications and sites as a good resource ((4), (5), (6), (7)).

1) http://ntvcc.org/
2) https://goo.gl/V17JK9
3) https://goo.gl/wzcbD4
4) https://goo.gl/SdK4GK
5) https://goo.gl/rnik6G
6) https://goo.gl/kcPcsD
7) https://goo.gl/PQK8as

I must be a foolish person. When Wisconsin Congressman James Sensenbrenner told a constituant, "You know, nobody's got to use the Internet..." (1), I thought that like most of the 'leadership' in Washington, DC this man does not have the slightest idea of what the life of a middle-class person is like. Just like the last election, most Americans agree with me that politicians are out of touch and corrupt as polled by Gallup (2). Let's look at that statement. "You know, nobody's got to use the Internet..." is true. Also true are these statements, nobody's got to use indoor plumbing, nobody's got to use electricity, nobody's got to use a telephone, nobody's got to use gas or oil for heating, and nobody's got to use an automobile. What kind of an America would it be if nobody had the Internet? Library districts might get more taxes dollars except where people are too poor to pay for libraries. Schools would have to hire additional teachers except where people are too poor to pay for schools. The rich would get richer and the poor would be locked into poverty. American life would be less fulfilling. Forests would disappear due to the need for paper. Paper to relate information to everyone (newspapers, magazines, and books), paper for schoolwork, and paper for advertizing. Most of that paper would be thrown away into landfills.

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Communications would be far more expensive. Of course, nobody's got to use a telephone or e-mail. The question that comes to mind is why was Congressman Sensenbrenner so ignorant. Is he that stupid? That is unlikely because he acquired the money to get elected. That means he was ignorant on purpose. What purpose? The current majority of Congress and the President want an end to Net Neutrality (3). Under the Obama administration, Net Neutrality was passed. It is the doctrine that all data is the same. Internet Service Providers (ISP (4)) cannot charge web sites or users more for certain types of data over others. ISPs cannot slow down certain types of data. Another reason for Congressman Sensenbrenner's comment is that IPSs are buying congress critters so that personal information (YOUR INFORMATION) can be sold to the highest bidder for advertising. ISPs are also trying to cut up the pie (the country) so that end users will have only one choice for ISP much like the phone, gas, and electric company's government enforced monopolies for most of the 20th century. Whoever buys the most congress critters wins. President Trump has said that freedom on the Internet must end and that people who think that freedom of speech is important are "foolish people". I think that the first Amendment to the Constitution (5) with it six enumerated freedoms are important so I must be a foolish person. Are you?

1) https://goo.gl/VdFnXE
2) https://goo.gl/ra1P7U
3) https://goo.gl/cSfc9z
4) https://goo.gl/8efyGt
5) https://goo.gl/499K3d

Jerry Fish sent me an excerpt from the Malwarebytes (1) newsletter. It detailed the Joint Congressional Resolution that eradicated the restrictions on what ISPs could do with your personal information. The personal information is your interaction with Google (2), Amazon (3), other search engines, and other online retailers. The Federal Communication Commission (FCC (4)) passed limited privacy rules (5) for ISPs and other Internet corporations about a year ago. Google was opposed to the limited rule change. If you have searched for a consumer good using Google, you know that the FCC rules were not that limited. If President Trump signs the Resolution (he is expected to), there will be no rules. ISPs and anyone else that can read things on your computer can now sell them to anyone. Did you search for particular symtoms you or someone you know may be having? Your ISP can sell that information to insurance companies or health providers along with your e-mail address or other online identifier. Who can see you? You may want to check that at Gibson Research Corporation (GRC (6)). Click the proceed button. Click the Common Ports button under the ShieldsUp!! Services bar. It will display the IP address through which you contact the Internet. It will list all the common ports that others use to access your computer. If the returned site says you passed the stealth analysis, it means that your computer is hard to crack. If it says you failed, it means that your computer is a target. If you are a target, read the information on that web site to harden your computer. If you have nothing to hide and don't care who sees what, then you do not have to do anything. You will be inundated with more advertizing. Criminals may possibly steal your identity. What can you do about what Congress has done to the FCC rules (7)? Use the TOR Browser (8). The TOR Browser is free and on the DVD of the Month. The TOR browser works by bouncing your Internet interaction all over the world through relay computers run by volunteers. This prevents anyone from watching your communications or finding your physical location. An additional option is to pay for a Virtual

Private Network (VPN (9)). VPN is a method of using encryption and / or tunneling protocols (10) to hide your communications on the Internet (a public network). There are free VPNs but most have serious restrictions on use such as ads to support the service or limits on amount of data that can be used. Paying for a VPN removes those restrictions. Some VPNs are difficult to use as they are intended for corporate users. Lately, many VPNs have started aiming at the consumer market. Some of those consumer VPNs are ((11), (12), (13), (14)). If you choose to use a VPN you must research various VPNs to see if the one you choose fits with your usage of the Internet and your budget. VPN pricing ranges from as low as $30 per year to $70 per year. The pricing variance reflects the feature set for the VPN. Some just charge more for the same services. Another thing that you might try is writing your Congressman and Senators to register your dissatisfaction with the repeal of the FCC privacy rules and asking for there reinstatement. You could also try writing President Trump. I personally would not hold too much hope in writing people that directly benefit (big campaign contributions) from repealing those rules. The privacy rule to live by is that if you want something to remain secret DO NOT put it on any electronic device (cell phone, tablet, or computer). When it comes to government snooping, if they want to know about someone or something, they will find out. Edward Snowden (15) has confirmed the rumors about the capabilities of the National Security Agency (NSA (16)).

1) https://www.malwarebytes.com/
2) https://www.google.com/
3) https://www.amazon.com/
4) https://www.fcc.gov/
5) https://goo.gl/BpcXfD
6) https://goo.gl/QzWYL3
7) https://goo.gl/0iBK0C
8) https://goo.gl/QH3L4t
9) https://goo.gl/sBpRkl
10) https://goo.gl/DXrjPw
11) https://goo.gl/iqJJpm
12) https://goo.gl/EDnokm
13) https://vpnservice.reviews/
14) https://goo.gl/2zTROQ
15) https://goo.gl/5R5YOt
16) https://www.nsa.gov/

WikiLeaks (1) released what they called Vault 7. Vault 7 is a collection of computer cyber cracks for iPhone and other 'smart' devices that were cataloged and exploited by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA (2)). The CIA has known for over a year that the documents in Vault 7 had been available. The CIA chose not to notify the companies involved that security holes existed. The crack that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI (3)) needed to crack the San Bernardino shooter's iPhones may have been in Vault 7. Some experts disagree with that (4) these cracks were damaging. They thought that the cracks had already been patched by the latest firmware (update). Others think that this is a 'devastating' blow to intelligence services (5). This looks like mis-information obfuscation that is typical of the 'intelligence community'. By putting out various stories that conflict with one another, they cannot be blamed for incompetence, negligence, or treason. They also have a scapegoat in the form of Julian Assange (6). The thing the competing

stories do not point out is that everyone's rights are violated in order to get the 'bad guys'. The problem that I see is that not all the bad guys are on the other side.

1) https://wikileaks.org/
2) https://www.cia.gov/index.html
3) https://www.fbi.gov/
4) https://goo.gl/Jkrz98
5) https://goo.gl/gOUeUT
6) https://goo.gl/TeT3Po

Larry Bothe installed Linux Mint (1) on a desktop machine with a little help from me (very little). He asked me to clarify the meaning of the phrase 'burn an image'. An image is an individual file (2) that contains many files and / or folders much like a zip file (3). It has the file extension .ISO. Using the copy command will not put the individual files inside the ISO file on a DVD, CD, or a USB drive. Software that extracts the files inside the ISO is needed to do the job. CDBurnerXP (4), Imgburn (5), Nero (6), and other software is available to do the job. Each software has a 'burn an image' command on a tool bar or in a menu. When you select that option it will ask for the location of the ISO file. It may already know where you want to burn the image (a blank DVD or CD in a DVD or CD writing device) or it may ask you for the location of the blank. Once the ISO and the blank disk are in place there is button or icon to initiate the burn. The software will not copy the ISO file. The software will extract the files and / or folders inside the ISO file and copy them to the correct locations on the blank CD or DVD. I hope that clears up the operation for CDs and DVDs. The method to extract to a USB drive is achieved by using the software that appeared on the March DVD of the Month. CDBurnerXP and Imgburn are on this month's DVD of the Month (because they are free). Nero costs $48. When some computers or DVD writer hardware is sold, Nero may be included for 'free'.

1) https://linuxmint.com/
2) https://goo.gl/b4A1cY
3) https://goo.gl/BjXqxi
4) https://cdburnerxp.se/en/home
5) http://www.imgburn.com/
6) https://goo.gl/eesjzC

When Larry Bothe gave me the specifications of the machine on which he was loading Linux Mint the CPU was an AMD Athlon 64 3500+ which uses the 64 bit (1) instruction set. The RAM (2) memory was 1 GB (3). Linux Mint comes in either 32 bit or 64 bit. Linux is all about choice. You get to pick the way the OS looks and operates within the limits of your hardware. With only 1GB of RAM Linux Mint would operate faster with a light weight desktop environment (DE (4)). The desktop environment is the graphical user interface (GUI (5)) that you see when using your computer. The DE displays the icons, background color or picture, task bar or panel, and the operating programs (word processor or spread sheet for instance). The DE can be written to do this job using a greater or lesser amount of CPU cycles and RAM memory. The term used for using less is light weight. DEs have names to simplify choosing. The DEs available with Linux Mint are Cinnamon (6), Mate (7), KDE (8), and XFCE (9). XFCE originally stood for "XForms Common Environment". XForms was a code writing tool kit which no longer exists but the name

XFCE stuck. XFCE is lightweight and fast. It does not use many computer resources, but still looks good and is easy to operate. I suggested to Larry to use XFCE because the computer had only 1GB of RAM. Using XFCE would keep that computer running fast while other applications were open.

1) https://goo.gl/J2UJXO
2) https://goo.gl/BSN75o
3) https://goo.gl/scp1Zz
4) https://goo.gl/nWLiXn
5) https://goo.gl/9zhFO9
6) https://goo.gl/AqsUXy
7) https://goo.gl/3EInsk
8) https://goo.gl/B84wLQ
9) https://goo.gl/35ZVqH

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

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April 2017
DVD of the Month

AMdeadlink - Discovers dead links in your favorites or bookmarks
ARI - Monthly newsletter
Atom - A customizable text editor
AudioBook - Free audio book

CDBurnerXP - Updated CD DVD burning program
DismPlusPlus - Utility to clean, slim, backup, update or recover Windows
DVDOMlists - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month

FreeFileSync - Synchronize files and synchronize folders for Windows
ImgBurn - Updated CD DVD burning program

KasperskySystemChecker - Examines your system for malware and viruses
KasperskyVirusRemoval - Portable app designed to scan and disinfect an infected computer
KillDisk - Permanently eraces deleted files from a hard drive

MemberContributions - Things members send me
MyCortana - Rename Cortana's hot word

OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files
Opera - Updated web browser

Paint.NET - Image and photo editing software
PasswdFinder - Shows passwords saved by web-browsers, email clients, & instant messengers
PolarityWebBrowser - Lightweight web browser

SophosFirewall - Converts old PC into a firewall appliance
SynWrite - Text and or code editor

TinyTake - Screen capture and record videos
TorBrowser - Anonymous web browser

Usnip - Download video from web sites
VidCutter - A media cutter & joiner with simple interface