

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

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

January 2020
Volume XXXVIII Issue 1

Confirmed
meeting dates
:: ::

January 25
Room A

:: ::

February 22
Board Room

:: ::

Confirmed
Picnic date
June 20

Mailing address:
CAEUG
P.O. Box 3150
Glen Ellyn, IL
60138

:: ::

MEETING
PLACE is the
Glenside Public
Library

:: ::

Visitors
Welcome
HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!



January 25th Fourth Saturday

Video Presentation will be in Room A by John Kennedy (APCUG)
on the Easy Transition from Windows to Linux

REMI NDER: \$20.00 Membership dues for 2020 are due.
See Kathy, John or Mike at the meeting or
mail dues to CAEUG, P.O. Box 3150, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138



Lamp Post 220
January 2020
by John Spizzirri

The Decorah Eagle cams (1) have been turned on. There is no activity at the nests as yet. It will be happening in the next few weeks. The first egg was layed on February 22nd last year. It could be a few days earlier or later this year.

1) <https://youtu.be/2jbmmxs9Dyo>

Microsoft (MS (1)) stopped updating Windows 7 on January 14, 2020. So far they have not backed down as they did with XP with an extension (2). MS supported XP in the U.S. for about thirteen

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years. It was longer in other countries. XP use worldwide is about 1.36% at the end of last year. It is 4.29% in China and almost 42% in Armenia. XP is also in use in many machine systems on an embedded basis. The replacement for XP was Vista (3). It was released 5 years after XP. Due to its many deficiencies and the introduction of Digital rights management (4) and User Account Control (5), Vista was a dismal failure. Both Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer admitted as much after it had been discontinued ((6), (7)). Consumers were leery of Windows 7 because of Vista. Windows 7 turned out to be a solid product. Consumers and businesses discovered that rapidly and it replaced XP and Vista to become the dominate OS worldwide (8).

- 1) <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/>
- 2) <https://is.gd/poH95D>
- 3) <https://is.gd/CNIeiw>
- 4) <https://is.gd/2X3Ov0>
- 5) <https://is.gd/rjkOhEI>
- 6) <https://youtu.be/p6qIETRCxbw>
- 7) <https://is.gd/gKKtx8>
- 8) <https://is.gd/QpgnIP>

There is good news and bad news depending on your point of view. The bad news is that there will be no security updates to Windows 7 any more. Nor will there be any other updates to Windows 7. The good news is if you have a Windows 7 machine and have to restore it to new condition or if you buy a PC that has Windows 7 that has never been installed, all previous updates are available and can be installed from the MS update function. More good news is that you MAY still be able to get Windows 10 for free (1). The How To Geek web site is not the only one that references the MS software download web site (2). On that site you must answer three questions; select the version of Windows 10 to download (there is only one), select the language you want it in, and finally 32 bit or 64 bit. The resulting ISO file can be put on a USB drive using Rufus (3) or burned to a DVD. Even more good news is there is a Bloomingdale MeetUp group it's called Busting Boredom in the Burbs (4) that will have a meeting entitled 'Converting to Linux' at the Wheaton Public Library on February 3 at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room H on the 2nd Floor. You can register directly with the library (5) without having to join the MeetUp. The library is located on Seminary Street one block east of Main Street with parking lot entrances on Seminary and Scott Streets. The really good news is that there are other choices; Macintosh (6), Chromebook (7), and Linux (8). The first two require hardware purchases. The last is just a download and copy to a DVD or USB drive. One of the best places to keep up with the WHAT is happening with various Linux distributions (distros (9)) is DistroWatch (10). DistroWatch lists the top 100 most downloaded distros from their site each week with full statistics going back a year. They offer weekly reviews of various distros as well as a podcast (11). As of this writing the five most downloaded distros are MXLinux (12), Manjaro (13), Mint (14), Debian (15), Ubuntu (16).

- 1) <https://is.gd/fF64YV>

- 2) <https://is.gd/f2Kz4g>
- 3) <https://rufus.ie/>
- 4) <https://is.gd/gIVFQq>
- 5) <https://www.wheatonlibrary.org/node/9601>
- 6) <https://is.gd/i hmDsd>
- 7) <https://is.gd/voNGFL>
- 8) <https://www.linux.org/>
- 9) <https://is.gd/eGQeQE>
- 10) <https://distrowatch.com/>
- 11) <https://is.gd/KnJTMf>
- 12) <https://mxlinux.org/>
- 13) <https://manjaro.org/>
- 14) <https://linuxmint.com/>
- 15) <https://www.debian.org/>
- 16) <https://ubuntu.com/>

November 12 2019 was a big day in the Illinois Legislature. The Senate passed a bill (1) to eliminate Standard Time in Illinois. The next step is House Bill 3837 (2) filed by Republican Allen Skillicorn (3). If the Skillicorn bill passes, the U. S. Congress will have to approve the proposal in order for it to take effect. The problem, as I see it, is that Allen Skillicorn is not well liked by the Republican nor the Democratic parties. He works against tax hikes and needless programs that squander tax dollars. Some people in Missouri are complaining already about having a time zone border next to them (4). Those people should talk to the people along the Illinois - Indiana border or better yet the invisible border in the upper peninsula of Michigan which has two time zones.

- 1) <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/?p=53254>
- 2) <https://is.gd/pE3etc>
- 3) <https://www.allenskillicorn.com/>
- 4) <https://is.gd/OIYdGa>

Microsoft has finally bit the bullet. The Edge browser (1) was a proprietary, in house software that ignored web browser standards set by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C (2)). Microsoft is one of the companies that helped set the standards of the WC3, yet they ignored those standards. According to Yahoo Finance (3), Microsoft has dumped the old Edge code and adopted Chromium (4) code base with an Edge front end. If you use Edge now, you will see that the logo has changed after an update or you can go to the Microsoft web site and download it right away. The Yahoo article made the point that the new Edge is not meant to compete with Chrome or Firefox but to give Windows 10 users who choose Edge an acceptable performance. The idea is that Microsoft does not want "to lose Windows users en masse over a problematic browser". By the way, the new Edge will not work on Linux while Chromium will.

- 1) <https://is.gd/Mi6mct>

- 2) <https://www.w3.org/>
- 3) <https://is.gd/ot84JQ>
- 4) <https://is.gd/c75qet>

E-mail scams are prevalent. I get at least two or three a week. Some are difficult to detect. Our newsletter editor, Kathy Groce, alerted me to the The Daily Scam (1) web site. That site revealed that Google has a test that works on some scam e-mails. Here is how it works. Copy the first one or two sentences and paste them into the Google (2), StartPage (3), Duck Duck Go (4), or Qwant (5) search engines. The search results from each of the engines are virtually identical. Some e-mails are identified as scams immediately while others are not. Those that are return sites like Malewaretips (6), PC Risk (7), BitCoin Abuse (8), Scammer Info (9). There are some foreign language sites as well. The sites I listed have various services some of which cost money. Many are free. Some of these sites want registration which you might want to consider depending on how many scams you are plagued by. The Daily Scam web site has a weekly newsletter to keep you abreast of the most recently reported scams. It also has many useful tools and tips on safe Internet use.

- 1) <https://www.thedailyscam.com/>
- 2) <https://www.google.com/>
- 3) <https://www.startpage.com/>
- 4) <https://duckduckgo.com/?t=lm>
- 5) <https://www.qwant.com/>
- 6) <https://malwaretips.com/>
- 7) <https://www.pcrisk.com/>
- 8) <https://www.bitcoinabuse.com/>
- 9) <https://www.scammer.info/>

The Business Insider article '6 things to try if you can't update a Windows 10 PC' (1) lists in a simplistic way the steps needed to do the update. Those steps are; Restart your computer, Check your internet connection, Remove all external storage devices, Check your hard drive capacity, Try updating Windows manually again, and Check your Device Manager to make sure your drivers are correctly installed. The first three are relatively simple while the last three can be quite complicated. The article makes it sound like its a walk in the park. don't be fooled. Make sure you have plenty of time and the expertise needed for the job.

- 1) <https://is.gd/NhcKIE>

Our newsletter editor, Kathy Groce, came across this Chinese sand artist on Youtube (1). Check it out. The art is very realistic.

- 1) <https://youtu.be/2jbmms9Dyo>

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

President's Corner
Security is Important -
Why Does it Take So Long (and Cost So Much)?
Author: Greg Skalka, President
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October 2019 issue, Drive Light
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I am a technology user. I use all sorts of tech products, applications and services. I have laptops, desktops and Chromebooks. I have mobile devices - smart phones and tablets. I have home Internet access and I access the web from other places as well. I have a home network and I have smart home devices (cameras, TVs, voice-controlled assistants, smart lights and appliances). I use lots of software. I search the web, bank and buy things online and send emails and texts. I'm not much for social networks, but I do appear in posts by others, especially my wife. I've got a lot of the things a typical middle-class American would have.

I use a lot of technology, but all I want to do is use it. I don't want to have to struggle to make it work, fix it or spend a lot of time and money keeping it working safely. I want it all to work every time as I expect it to work. Unfortunately, there is a lot more to our tech lives than that. None of the tech revolution we have seen in the last decades would have been possible without money. It is commerce, capital and the desire to make a profit that brought us most of this, including Microsoft, Google, Uber, Tesla and all the rest. Some key government investments in technology, in the space program, DARPA and the military-industrial complex helped with fundamental research, but the capitalist entrepreneurs filled in the rest. Money made tech great, but money also made it unsafe.

Entrepreneurs take legal risks to gain rewards; criminals try to find the least risky ways to make money, legal or not. Each new tech device, app or service that comes out is studied for vulnerabilities by the criminal elements intent on exploiting it for monetary gain. Now that technology has interconnected the world, we can be the victims of crime originating from all over the globe. Even nation states can get in the game, trying to steal information for economic and political purposes.

All this leaves the poor tech user vulnerable. The rapid rate of change, the ease of use and ubiquitousness of these product and services just add to the risk. How does a user evaluate the threat and defend against it? Is it all worth the cost?

The criminals are out there, ready to hack, snoop, steal and deceive. They want your personal information to steal your identity and your passwords to steal your money. They want to trick you into sending them gift cards and Bitcoin. Who is going to protect the tech user from all the cyber threats? Can the government protect us? Laws may be passed, regulations put in place and enforcement attempted, but citizens are still victimized. Unfortunately sometimes the government is part of the

problem, not protecting the sensitive data we entrusted to them.

Can the companies we buy products and services from protect us? Their desires for profit over all else have created some of our tech problems. They will sell us devices that are not secure if they think it makes business sense. They'll collect and monetize our personal information and then often fail to protect it adequately. It seems we as tech users must find ways to protect ourselves, as no one else will take responsibility for our security. Unfortunately, that means additional costs in terms of money and time are required to keep our assets (money, identity, personal safety) secure when using all these tech items and services in the new global digital electronic world.

There is no practical way to remain 100% secure in our modern connected world. Even if you turn off all of your devices, disconnect them, put them in a box and seal it up (and cancel all your related services), you are not safe. The government still has your personal information, and even if you are not on Facebook, others could post about you. You will have to go back to paying with cash, shopping and banking in physical locations and communicating through personal visits and letters. Unless you want to step back into the 1950's, you will have to adopt some additional safeguards with every new tech item you acquire.

Safety as a tech user is not an absolute, but a matter of degree. More time and money spent to safeguard our activities will provide more relative safety and security, but trade-offs will need to be made. More security comes at a higher cost and usually a greater inconvenience as well. A user can make their tech life more resistant to attacks by cyber criminals and become more resilient should bad things happen, but it will require more time, money and effort on their part. Lots of articles are written about protecting ourselves online and describing precautions we all should take, yet cybercrime is still prevalent.

I think I take care of my tech household pretty well, though there is always more that can be done. The things I value most (finances, identity, property) I protect the most, while things of a lesser consequence I am a bit looser with. In some ways I probably go overboard in caution, but there are probably some risks I don't take as seriously as I should. I'm pretty careful with physical security, using strong passwords, encryption, a VPN and two-factor authentication where appropriate.

I'm pretty resistant to social engineering threats and am very careful with my personal information. Exercising care and vigilance online is good, but it requires effort and some investments. I have several laptops and desktops that my wife and I use, as well as a couple of Chromebooks. All the computers we regularly use run Windows 7, so I am presently working towards replacing at least some of them with Windows 10 computers ahead of the Windows 7 security sunset in January 2020. This considerable cost in new hardware and software and in time to set everything up is strictly due to Microsoft's desire to make Windows 7 obsolete; I would be perfectly happy staying with Windows 7 otherwise. I'll be spending money on new systems, probably buying new software and spending time teaching my wife how to use the

new OS. I'll probably compromise by keeping a couple of old Win7 computers or laptops to run software I can't convert to Win10 or don't want to spend more on. I still have a Windows XP computer that I keep off-line to run certain programs. I'm actually writing this article on it; I've yet to find a Microsoft Word version I like overall as much as version 6.

Even when security updates are provided for free, our time is usually required to oversee their installation. If nothing else, the time required to install updates represents time we are unable to use our devices. While Windows 10 may force automatic security updates, they can wind up being applied at the most inopportune times. I don't mind as much the automatic updates my Chromebook gets from Google, as they are downloaded in the background and quickly applied on the next power-up.

In addition to computer updates, our network items often require security patches. Few users may pay much attention to updates for their routers, however, unless they are alerted somehow. I have a Netgear Orbi mesh Wi-Fi router, which I love for its performance and ease of use (but not so much for the initial cost). Because I'd registered the product and downloaded their app, I recently received an email that an update was available for my router's firmware. I initially tried to apply the update through the app (on my smart phone) but was unsuccessful. I was able to enter into an online chat through the app with their tech support, and thus began a two-hour process to finally get my router system updated.

I assumed I would be able to easily update through the Orbi app, but the support tech told me my installed firmware version was too old, and I instead would need to download and install an intermediate version from a web link. I find the small screen of a phone too difficult to use for this kind of activity, so pulled out a Chromebook, logged into my Orbi router and went to the web link. This also allowed me to keep the support chat going separately through the app on my phone.

Once I got to the web link, I found I would be downloading a zip file. There may be ways to unzip on a Chromebook, but I don't know them, so I switched again and logged in with my Windows laptop. The support tech said to apply the update first to the satellites (my mesh system consists of one router and two satellite units) and then to the router. The update page was a bit confusing, and I inadvertently updated the router first. Fortunately I was still connected to the tech support person, so after a number of additional steps, I successfully updated all components.

It is almost time to renew my anti-virus, and I need to make some decisions about it. I've been using ESET Internet Security for many years and really like it (and think it protects me, but who really knows). I'm not sure what I should use going forward on Windows 10, as I've heard that Microsoft's Win10 built-in protections are as good as anything else, and obviously are at no extra cost. I always buy ESET on sale ahead of when I need it, so I already have new copies to put on my Win7 computers. That

seems like a waste, as I won't have these computers on the Internet past January. Still, I shouldn't cut corners on protecting my online banking computer, at least until I am switched over completely to Windows 10.

Though I may be spending a lot of time and money getting my new computers set up, it hopefully will increase the odds that I'll have secure systems that will help protect my data.

Thoughts from a Clicker
Author: Tiny Ruisch, Member
Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA
August 2019 issue, CCCC Computer News
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This month I'm going to rant, rave, criticize and complain just a little. About a year ago, before I moved to the Baton Rouge area, my wife and I were in one of the home improvement stores. I thought that it would be a good time to pick up a new water filter for our refrigerator. I went over to appliances and told them I needed a new filter for a Whirlpool. He immediately asked me which of the nine filters I needed. Of course, I didn't have the filter number memorized. So, I found our refrigerator on the sales floor and told the salesman, "One to fit that model." I got home and found that it was the wrong size filter. When I went back to exchange it, I found out that a different model year almost always uses a different filter.

What does all that have to do with computers and electronics? It got me to thinking about some things I hate about technology. I've probably got 10 or 20 different USB cables in the junk box in my computer room. Every time you buy something that is USB supported, you get another cable. Why is this? It's because each manufacturer has their own proprietary plug. They have to include a cable because none of my other 20 cables will work with the darn thing. I recently got a new cell phone. Same manufacturer, different model. You guessed it. I've got another USB cable in my collection. Wouldn't it be nice if everything had a standard plug and didn't have the cable included? Think of the money that could be saved. Wait a minute! Then they couldn't sucker people into paying \$20 for 3 dollars' worth of wire.

Another thing that makes me mad are End User License Agreements (EULA). I'm one of the few people who research them before installing anything on my computer. My complaint isn't the fact that lawyers write them by lawyers. I can use the internet to explain the legal terms. My objection is that I have seldom found a EULA that can be read full screen. Instead they write them in a little window that usually covers about a tenth of my screen. I think this is done to discourage people from reading the agreements. Just get them to click "I agree" and get it over with.

I can live with SPAM (I usually don't even see it). I don't mind getting bombarded

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with internet advertisements (I can always go to other sites). What I hate it when websites pop up a window asking for information that they will likely never use. For instance, there is a website that I won't name that wants to know my age, sex and country. They then store the data in a cookie on my computer. When I tell them that I'm a 28-year-old female, I get the same advertisements as the dirty old men get. Why do they waste my time? I also dislike software that isn't user-friendly. Some programs have windows that can't be resized. I'm getting older and my eyesight isn't what it used to be. If I can't make the window bigger and read the font, I likely won't use the software. Then there is software that won't let you choose where to install it. I don't install all programs into "program files". Many times, I don't even install them on the C drive.

I wonder if Microsoft will ever fix one little thing that has bugged me for as long as I remember. When you use file explorer to copy, move or delete a list of files; Windows estimates how long it will take. If you're doing an operation on a lot of files, the estimated time will change every time you check it. On older systems it can be even more aggravating. Wouldn't it be nice if the estimate was close once in a while?

Hate might be too strong of a word, but I've always disliked how companies will use a proprietary document format. The perfect example is word processing. Why must each program have a different extension? Is it good for a business to make consumers remember .doc, .odf, .wps, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, .abw, .abi and hundreds of others? Almost all word processing software has a save as feature to save files to other formats. They can't be that much different. Why isn't there a standard where all programs save in a standard format? After all, this idea seems to work well for HTML internet files.

That's enough ranting and complaining. Next month I promise to write something useful for the newsletter. By the way, did I mention that the two water filters had two different prices? Does that remind you of anything else technology related?

Keep on clicking and thanks for reading.

A Day in Court

A witness is testifying before the court, and the prosecuting attorney is asking him questions.

"You witnessed the robbery, sir?"

"Yes."

"What was stolen?"

"Two televisions."

"Did you see the thieves?"

"Yes."

"Could you identify them?"

"Yes."

"Are the two men who stole the televisions in this courtroom?"

At this point, the two defendants raise their hands. (What's a defense attorney to do?)

January 2020 DVD of the Month

ARI - Monthly newsletter
AudioBook - Free audio book

CDBurnerXP - Full featured CD DVD burner
Chromium - Updated web browser
CrystalDiskInfo - HDD information utility

Dooble - Web browser
DVDFab - DVD Copy clone program
DVDOMLists - Contents of CDs and
DVDs of the Month

FileVoyager - Dual pane file manager
FocusWriter - Word processor

GlaryUtils - Updated assorted utilities

HitmanPro - Updated malware eliminator

Lazesoft - Reset your forgotten Windows
Admin password

MemberContributions - Things members send me

NotePadPlusPlus - Updated text editor

OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files
OnionFruitConnect - Use any browser
on TOR network

PersonalBackup - Backup utility

SlimBrowser - Web browser
SpybotSD - Updated spyware remover

VirtualBox - Updated virtual machine
Vivaldi - Updated web browser

Win10ISOdownldr - Win 10 ISO file downloader

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without
your glasses.

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 3150
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

Members Helpline

Any member can volunteer to be
on the Members Helpline.

Hardware problems, Win 7, Win
10, Linux and Virus Removal
- John Spizzirri

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