

The Gigabyte Gazette

**The Monthly Newsletter
of the
*Sun City Summerlin
Computer Club***

**December
2016**

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President's Message

by Howard Verne

Dear Computer Club and friends

Volunteers: I thanked our many volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the Club at a delicious dinner last month. Our Club runs on volunteers, and I am very grateful for their efforts. Please consider joining this elite and giving group of women and men.

My Personal Thanks: I am very grateful to the 2016 Board of Directors who made this year such a successful one for the Computer Club.

General Meeting: Our next monthly meeting is on **Thursday, December 1st at 7:00 PM** in Desert Vista Room 5. We will hold the election for 2017 Officers and Board of Directors. In keeping with our long-standing tradition, the short business meeting will be followed by our usual holiday social with special holiday desserts and treats. Come and meet your fellow club members, take the opportunity to meet your Board members and have your questions about the club answered.

Membership: You can pay your 2017 membership dues at the December meeting. Yearly dues are \$10 per person.

Reminder: This year, Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Sundays. The club facilities will be closed on Saturday, December 24th, Monday December 26th and Saturday, December 31st.

Stay happy and healthy and have a very happy holiday season.

Howard Verne, President

(702) 527-4056 pres.scsc@gmail.com

Issue Contributors

Tom Burt	Kathy Kirby
David Kretchmar	Pat Lemay
Howard Verne	Jeff Wilkinson

Submissions Welcome

We are always looking for new information to share with our club members. If you have computer or technical information you would like to share with members of the club, send your articles to Tom Burt at tomburt89134@cox.net. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

SCSCC Board of Directors Actions

The Computer Club Board of Directors took the following actions on November 9, 2016

George Lobue made a motion that the minutes of the October 12, 2016 Board Meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Edith Einhorn and unanimously approved by the Board.

Edith Einhorn made a motion that the minutes of the November 3, 2016 Business Meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by George Lobue and unanimously approved by the Board.

Tom Burt made a motion to discontinue the Early Bird drawings since it did not appear to increase attendance. The motion was seconded by George Lobue and unanimously approved by the Board.

Tom Burt made a motion that the meeting adjourn at 10:20 AM. The motion was seconded by George Lobue and unanimously approved by the Board.

General Membership Meetings

The December general and business meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 1st, 7PM** at **Desert Vista**.

Business: 2017 Officer and Director Elections.

Program: Annual Holiday Social

Come join us for holiday refreshments and fellowship. For Club information go to www.scsccl.com, contact Howard Verne, President at 702-527-4056 or email him at pres.scsccl@gmail.com.

NOTICE: 2017 Officer and Board of Directors elections will be held at the December 1st Business Meeting.

Welcome New Members

The following new members joined the Computer Club between October 29th and November 25th.

**Robert Aden
Martin Anderson
Monika Kiley
Vicki Malone
Harold Miller**

**Becky Miracle
James Saylor
Allowee Stinnett
Bob Swanson**

December 2016 Calendars

To view this month's classroom and lab calendars, click the following hyperlink:

http://www.scsccl.com/Calendars/scsccl_calendar_2016-12dec.pdf

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a forum for general discussion on a specific computer related subject. Admission to all SIGs is on a first-come, first-seated basis and is subject to the maximum allowed by fire code regulations. All of the following meetings are held in the Classroom. <W> or <M> or <H> indicate whether a SIG would be of interest to a Windows, Macintosh or Hand-held Device (i-thing or Android) user.

Genealogy <W>

2nd Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Sep., 2016 to May 2017
Karen Ristic (702-749-6489)

Genealogy is one of America's most popular and rewarding hobbies. With billions of records now available online, researching your family tree has never been easier—if you know where to look and which key words you'll need to use to create an accurate family tree from start to finish. Check out Karen's new series of workshops in the lab on the **second Tuesday of the month**.

GMail <W/M> Dark in December

1st Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Pat Lemay (702-254-1499)

This SIG covers Gmail as well as other Google applications. All members are welcome. This is your place to learn about all things Google.

Hardware / Software Repair Lab <W >

Every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Chuck Wolff (702-233-6634) and
Chuck Hagen (702-418-2614)

The Repair Lab provides **CLUB MEMBERS ONLY** with no cost assistance for those having upgrades and / or hardware and software problems with their computers. Bring in only your PC tower and your problems. Our TECH team will give you our best effort. **Be sure to mark your cables so you can re-connect when you get home.**

Internet Investing <W/M>

3rd Thursday, 9:00 a.m. in even months
Next meeting: December 15.

Tom Burt (702-341-7095)

The Internet Investing SIG provides a forum for members interested in using Internet resources for researching and managing investments to meet, discuss, and learn more about the topic. The SIG's target audience is members with intermediate computer skills and investment experience, but all members are welcome.

iPad <iPod, iPhone, iPad>

4th Wednesday, 9 a.m.
Zane Clark (702-562-3684)

This SIG will be your forum for learning about and discussing the Apple iPhone, iPod and iPad tablet devices. It's for Apple hand-held device owners of all experience levels.

Macintosh Users' Group

2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Rose Mary D'Aloisio (702-255-2813)

This SIG is for Macintosh users of all experience levels. We will have Q&A, so bring your questions and/or problems.

Photoshop <W> Dark indefinitely
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

Un-moderated discussion group
This SIG covers many of the basic elements found in both Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Photoshop Elements, two excellent tools to get professional-quality results. If you wish to enhance your photographs, this SIG will be most helpful and of great value. This SIG's target audience is intermediate to advanced digital imaging users, but all members are welcome.

Photoshop Elements<W> Dark in December
4th Mondays, 1:00 p.m.
Mary Miles

This SIG covers many of the basic and advanced elements found in Adobe Photoshop Elements, especially layers. If you wish to make the most of your photographs, this SIG will be very helpful. This SIG's target audience is intermediate digital imaging users, but all members are welcome.

Beginner's Photography <W>
3rd Mondays, 1:00 p.m. December 12th

Stu Gershon (702-255-3309)
Picasa is still a viable, reliable photo editor for beginners, but this year we will also take a look at Google Photos and other FREE editing programs. You're invited to bring your equipment (Laptops or Cameras) so that you can have that "hands on" experience!

This SIG's target audience is beginner to intermediate digital photography users, but all members are welcome.

Windows 10<W>
First and Third Saturdays at 10:30 am
Bill Wilkinson (702-233-4977)

Each session will be devoted to assisting new Windows 10 owners in becoming familiar and comfortable with Microsoft's newest operating system for desktop and laptop computers. Assistance will be given individually or in small groups as circumstances warrant. Bill's notes are available by clicking [HERE](#).

Kaffee Klatches

Kaffee Klatches provide a forum for general discussion on all computer-related subjects. Admission to all Kaffee Klatches is on a first-come, first-seated basis and is subject to the maximum allowed by fire code regulations. All of the following meetings are held in the Classroom. **<W> or <M> or <H> indicate whether a SIG would be of interest to a Windows, Macintosh or Hand-held Device (i-thing or Android) user.**

Windows 10 Kaffee Klatch <W>

First and Third Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.

Bill Wilkinson (702-233-4977)

If you are a novice or near-beginner computer user, or if you just want some refresher information together with a refreshing cup of coffee, then jump-start or recharge your computing knowledge by attending these Win 10 KK sessions. At each session, attendees will explore from one to four topics of particular interest to beginners and near-beginners. The topics are always announced a couple of days in advance via e-mail to SCSCC members who have subscribed to the club's message board. Each topic is presented in a step-by-step manner and is supported by "how to" notes that can be easily and conveniently downloaded from the SCSCCBKK.org web page. Following each "up front" presentation of one or more topics (approximately 60 minutes in duration), an informal open-ended Question and Answer period takes place for those who wish to participate, listen, reflect, or inquire.

Kaffee Klatch <W/M/H>

Every Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

Sandy Mintz (702-838-2525)

This KK is for all users, from beginning to advanced. The KK discussions are not restricted to any one subject, computer platform or computer-knowledge level but should be computer or technology related. We will try to answer your questions, help you keep your systems updated and provide some useful "tips and tricks." If you have a tip or information you would like to share, we encourage you to bring it in and share since the SCSCC is built on "neighbor helping neighbor." The fellowship is great, the coffee is good, and the education received from the KK attendees is priceless. Stop by on Tuesday morning and have a cup of coffee with us.

December 2016 Classes

Because there are a limited number of computer stations available for hands-on participation, pre-registration is necessary for all classes. See individual class descriptions for details on how to register.



BOOT CAMP CLASS for Windows Vista, Win7, Win8.1 and Win10 Users

No classes in December
Each Session Meets from 9 am - noon.
Lead instructor: Bill Wilkinson

**Place Your Name on the Registration List
for the Next Three-Session Class**
(Dates to be Determined as Interest Dictates)

Course Description:

Boot Camp is an introductory course designed for residents who are novice users of the Microsoft Windows operating system. **It also serves as an excellent review for intermediate users who want to fill some gaps in their computer knowledge.**

This hands-on class has a **limited enrollment of 12** with each participant working at an individual computer station in the Computer Lab. A team of lead instructor and four coaches will provide step-by-step instruction that will include demonstrations, guided practice and individual coaching assistance.

These strategies will be covered:

- Secrets for using the mouse and the keyboard effectively
- Basic vocabulary needed for an understanding of Windows (Vista, Win 7, and Win 8.1)
- Managing and organizing your personal data files (documents, pictures, videos, and music)
- Protecting your computer from viruses and other malware
- Safely downloading and installing applications from the Internet
- Efficient and safe use of an Internet browser and search engine.

Course Fee: \$10 for current club members; \$20 for non-members

Materials include: a step-by-step user's manual and a flash drive

Registration Details:

To reserve one of the remaining slots in this final Boot Camp class of 2015, telephone Bill Wilkinson at **702-233-4977**.



WINDOWS 10: the Basics and Beyond

A NINE-HOUR HANDS-ON CLASS

Class Dates: December 5, 6 & 8
Each Session Meets from 9 am - noon.
Lead Instructor: Bill Wilkinson

Place Your Name on the Pre-Registration List for the Next Three-Session Class

This 9-hour hands-on class, delivered by a team of an instructor and five coaches, will provide participants with a printed manual with over 100 step-by-step strategies and procedures geared specifically to Windows 10.

In addition, we will provide some tips on how to effortlessly make your Windows 10 machine look and feel like your favorite earlier edition of Windows (either XP, Vista, or Win7). Now that's comfort ... having the familiarity of your old computer combined with the speed and power of the Windows 10 system!

Prerequisites: Club Membership for 2016 (\$10); Class Fee for Instructional Manual (\$10); comfortable with using a Mouse.

If you are interested in placing your name on a high-priority reservation list for the next available class, simply send an email message to: WILKINLV5@COX.NET and include the following information:

- Include "**Windows 10 Class**" in the Subject Title
- Your first and last name
- Your 8-digit Sun City Summerlin Association number
- Your telephone number
- Your email address

Your reservation will be acknowledged by return email.

Please note: All hands-on classes are limited to 12 participants. This class fills very quickly.



The Genealogy Computer Lab Workshop

Dark in December
Presenter: Karen Ristic
Location: SCSCC Lab

In this workshop, using the lab student computers, we will explore some of the many genealogy web sites, such as *FamilySearch.org*, *One-step Webpages*, *Ellis Island*, and more.

December 2016 Seminars

For Computer Club seminars, there is no requirement for advanced registration unless explicitly stated. Seating is first-come, first-seated.



Taking Better Photos with Your Smart Phone

Monday, December 5 at 1 PM

Presenter: Stu Gershon

Location: SCSCC Classroom

Stu will discuss and demonstrate how to combine and blend a set of photos to make a single, seamless ultra-wide image of a scene that was too wide to fit in a single image.



Ask Chuck Q & A

Thursday, October 15th at 1 PM

Presenter: Chuck Strickland

Location: Classroom

Chuck will hold forth in the classroom, answering your technical questions. If you wish, you can e-mail your questions ahead of the session to: chuckstr89134@gmail.com.



Tom's Tech-Notes

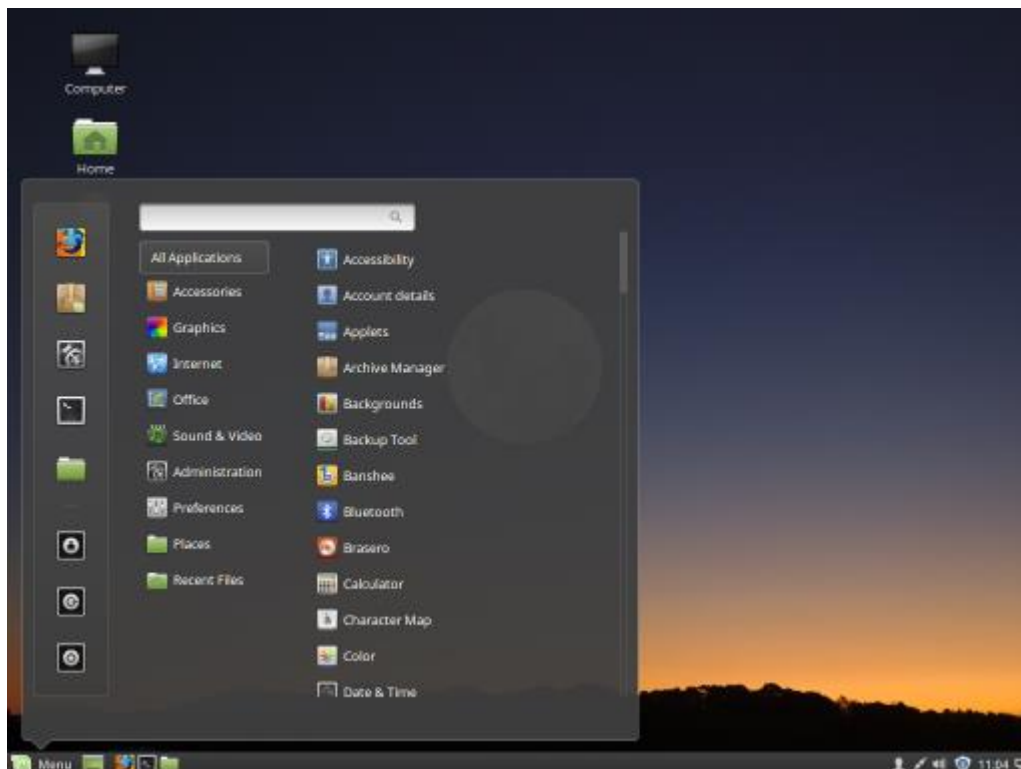
A Quick Look at LINUX Mint

Tom Burt, SCSCC Vice-President

Recently, at the Tuesday kaffee Klatch, I've commented that I'm giving serious thought to setting up a native LINUX PC and seeing if I can use it to handle most of my day to day computing activities. I'm growing weary of having to cope with monthly bouts of "things not working" after Microsoft pushes out its latest updates to my Windows 10 system. Granted, most of the "issues" occur with software and hardware that are not "main-stream", but they cost me time and aggravation to resolve.

LINUX is an alternative operating system to Windows, MacOS and IOS. It was originally developed by Linus Torvalds as a "clean room" look-alike and work-alike to Bell Lab's UNIX operating system. Today, LINUX is support by Torvalds and a large team of open source developers. There are many free and paid variations (Distros) of desktop and server LINUX available from different vendors. It is one of the most-used operating systems for web servers. For more information, check out: <http://www.linux.com>, <http://www.linux.org> and <http://distrowatch.org/>.

In this article, we'll look at a very popular FREE version of LINUX – **LINUX Mint**. Version 18 was recently released. You can download the .ISO of the setup DVD from: <http://www.linuxmint.com>.



The screen shot above shows LINUX Mint with the “Cinnamon” desktop – one of four you can choose from. Mint looks and acts much like Windows 7 and features a Start menu, desktop icons, a task bar and tray.

Once you have downloaded the LINUX Mint .ISO file, you can burn it to a DVD. If you want to just try it out, you can boot and run LINUX Mint directly from the DVD without impacting your installed Windows OS or files. You can also install LINUX Mint into a Virtual Box virtual machine, virtually booting from the .ISO file. Or you can boot the DVD and do an install of LINUX Mint as the native operating system of a PC. A variation of this would be to create a separate partition and install LINUX in that partition, creating a dual-boot system. **Important Note!** To install LINUX on a PC with a UEFI firmware / BIOS, you will need to configure the BIOS to run in “legacy mode” and disable “Secure Boot”.

The LINUX Mint setup DVD installs not only the LINUX baseline OS, but a rich set of open source applications including: Libre Office (very highly compatible with MS Office), FireFox web browser, Thunderbird mail program, GIMP and Pix image editors, Banshee music player (similar to iTunes), Brasero CD and DVD creation and copying tool, plus an extensive set of accessory apps. In addition, the LINUX Mint website offers a large library of other free applications and tools that you can download and install. So, out of the box, you have everything you need to handle most day-to-day computing tasks.

LINUX requires fewer hardware resources than Windows. The LINUX Mint distro will run decently on a dual-core Pentium with 512M-bytes of RAM. By comparison, Windows 10 really needs 4 GB of RAM and a fast dual or quad-core CPU to give a good experience. It’s a good choice to keep older PC hardware in service. At the same time LINUX has the chops to run extremely well on high-end equipment.

LINUX does NOT run Windows applications directly. However, there is a compatibility emulator called WINE that you can download and install that supports many native Windows programs, including MS Office.

LINUX is considered more secure than Windows, but that gap has narrowed due to massive efforts by Microsoft. Because LINUX has a smaller base of users, it’s less attractive to hackers. However, Google’s Android operating system, which runs on many smart phones and tablets, is based on LINUX, so hackers are now devoting more energy to it.

Getting support on LINUX is a bit challenging. There’s no one to call! Cox will laugh at you if you call with a LINUX issue, so don’t bother. Support and help come from the online forums of your distro or the general LINUX community. Even within the Computer Club, there’s not a lot of LINUX support. But you can always try the Repair lab and posting on HelpingHandsOnline.

LINUX updates are *NOT* automatic. The LINUX Update Manager shows you what updates are available and YOU decide whether and when to install them. When new updates are available, the Update Manager displays an icon in the tray. In my view, this is a PLUS as compared to Windows 10, which installs updates and new features whenever Microsoft feels like it.

So that’s a quick summary of what you can do with LINUX Mint. I expect to reprise my LINUX seminar sometime in the spring.



Kretchmar's Korner

By David Kretchmar, Computer Hardware Technician

HDMI cables

Today you can buy a 6-foot-long HDMI (High Definition Multi-media Interface) cable for \$4.99, or \$99.99 or more. Retailers and cable manufacturers expend a lot of effort to make you believe that you'll get better picture and sound with a more expensive HDMI cable.



They're not telling the truth. That's probably because they can make more money selling pricy cables than the components the HDMI cable will be connecting.

The markup on expensive cables is so great that every brick-and-mortar and online retailer has a huge incentive to feature high-end HDMI cables in the hopes of tricking the buyer into spending many dollars more than necessary.

The signal transmitted by a HDMI cable is virtually perfect. Industry standards allow for one error in one billion bits of data, or roughly one second playing time of a high definition movie. No human eyes are sharp enough to see the errors.

Expensive HDMI cables offer no difference in picture quality over cheap HDMI cables, for technical reasons, as detailed in an October 2012 CNET online review. A condensed and simplified summary of that analysis follows.

The signal

The first thing to understand is what's transmitted over the cable in the first place. HDMI uses Transition Minimized Differential Signaling, or TMDS.

TMDS has two basic aspects. The first is that the ones and zeros at the source (a Blu-ray player or HD cable/satellite box) are not exactly the ones and zeros your TV uses to create a picture -- at least, not in exactly the same order. Before sending the signal out via the HDMI output, the ones and zeros are rearranged to minimize how many transitions there are. So instead of 10101010, the transmission may look like 11110000. If you really like math, how it does this is cool, but it's not really important to understanding the concept as a whole.

Even though this protocol seems strange, it makes it much more likely that the data transmitted can be rebuilt on the other end (as in, at the TV or computer monitor).

The second part of TMDS (the DS part) is the HDMI cable itself. Each HDMI cable is actually multiple small copper wires. Two versions of the data are sent over different sets of wires. One of these is out of phase with the "real" signal. The TV receives all the data, puts the out-of-phase signal back in phase, then compares it to the "real" signal. Any noise picked up along the way will now be out of phase, and as such it is effectively negated and ignored.

TMDS works really well, allowing for both short cables and long cables to carry a great deal off data. It also means you can have inexpensive cables that work just as well as expensive ones.

More important to you, it means that when something goes wrong, it goes really wrong. It's often said that with an HDMI signal, you either get everything and it's perfect, or it isn't perfect and you get nothing. If you are getting an image that looks correct, and there are no dropouts in the audio or video, then you're getting everything that's being sent. If the cable is faulty, or it's a really long but poor quality cable, most of the time you'll just get nothing at all.

As you've read, the ones and zeros of an HD image move happily along, more or less, from your source to your TV. Over short runs (the standard 6 feet or so), there really isn't anything other than a faulty cable (which itself isn't that likely) that would cause any issue. Over long runs, it's remotely possible that interference of some kind, or a poorly made cable can reduce the "quality" of the signal to the point where the TV can't make heads or tails of it. Heads or tails -- that's a digital joke.



It's important to note that any artifact, usually "snow" on your screen, is pretty unlikely, even over long runs. You are way more likely to just not get anything at all.

All the claims about differences in picture quality are remnants of the analog days, which were barely valid then and not at all valid now. There is no way for different cables to create a different color temperature, change the contrast ratio, or anything else picture-quality-wise.

Audio

Several companies claim that their HDMI cables sound better than other HDMI cables. One in particular claims this is because there is no error correction on the audio and its cables are more likely to transmit all the data.



This is untrue. Audio over HDMI actually has more error correction than the video signal. But even if this weren't the case, it's still nonsense. Dolby has extensive error correction built into its codecs. In other words, if you are sending a bit stream of data over HDMI from your Blu-ray player, the data going into your receiver is bit-for-bit the same as what's on the disc. Cheap or expensive, the cable is

irrelevant when it comes to transmitting digital sound.

If the cable is faulty or if there is some issue causing data to be lost between the player and the receiver, the decoders are designed to mute instead of blasting out bad data (noise). There is no such thing as an audio version of "snow". Instead, you just get a total dropout of the audio. So if you're getting audio dropouts, it's possible it's the HDMI cable. But if you're not getting video issues as well, the problem is likely elsewhere. If the audio isn't muting, then as long as you're outputting sound, you're getting exactly what's being sent.

The big "if" that I've been repeating is "if the signal gets there." Over short runs -- a few meters, say -- it is incredibly unlikely that even the cheapest HDMI cable won't work perfectly. Over longer runs, the answer is less clear-cut. The variables of the transmitter and receiver combo in the source and display, plus any repeaters you have in the mix (like a receiver), mean that not every long HDMI cable can handle all the data. By long, I mean 50 feet or more.

If you need to run long HDMI cables, it's a safe bet you're going to run it through a wall. If so, it is vital you test the cable with all your equipment before you install it. Plus, as tempting as it is to get the cheapest cable that will work in this case, just because a cable works with all your current gear, doesn't necessarily mean it will work with your future gear.

Another cable lie

When cable manufacturers claim their cables are "Made for 240 Hz" they are lying to you. The conversion to 120 or 240 Hz is done inside the TV. There is no such thing as a 120 Hz or 240 Hz signal.

More expensive cables can be more rugged, with thicker casings, a beefy connector, and higher potential durability. But how much wear and tear do your cables really endure?

Conclusions

There is absolutely no picture or sound quality difference between a \$3.50 cable and a \$1,000 cable.

Most users only need a few feet of HDMI cabling to run from a Blu-ray player and cable/satellite box to a TV. Over these short distances, even the cheapest HDMI cables are going to work. And if they work it means you're getting perfect image and sound.

The old common analog video output, VGA, for all intents and purposes, is now obsolete. Some new computers are coming with only HDMI output. I would not buy a new monitor without HDMI input, no matter how cheap it was.



Guest Column - Protect Yourself!

By Jeff Wilkinson

Be Aware of Computer Scams

Don't let yourself become a victim of the ever increasing number of computer scams being perpetrated on unsuspecting users. Our Sun City Computer Club's Repair Special Interest Group (SIG) has been seeing more and more Sun City residents who have fallen victim to these scams. Not only have their computers, often a lifeline to friends and relatives, been compromised, but many times their bank accounts as well. Today's internet is fraught with sites containing viruses or ransomware, email phishing for your personal information, attachments containing damaging code, and even code embedded in graphic images.

Now we don't want to frighten everyone away from this wonderful technology, but to help make you aware of dangers that exist. We also want to make the community aware of the helpful resources available right here in Sun City provided by our Computer Club.

Ransomware

Ransomware comes from a site or application which launches code that literally holds your computer for "ransom" until you pay a ransom fee or obtain the proper password from the culprit. For the home computer user, there are two types of Ransomware - lock screen and encryption. These can be downloaded to your machine or launched via a visit to a website.

Lock screen Ransomware can prevent you from using certain programs such as your browser, they can lock your machine completely until a fee or ransom is paid, or they encrypt your files so you can no longer use them. Paying the ransom doesn't guarantee that the files will be unlocked or the unlock password provided. Occasionally you may follow a link that promises a tantalizing offer or news tidbit, and suddenly you are at a screen that tells you to call an 800 number for help! DON'T! This is lock screen ransomware that locks your screen. Never click on any links on the offensive page either, as that could lead you further down the wrong path. If you have an icon for the browser you are using on the taskbar, you can right click it and close the entire browser. If all else fails, simply turn off the computer. Remember, when you reboot the computer, if the web browser asks you if you want to reload the last page, the answer, "No"!

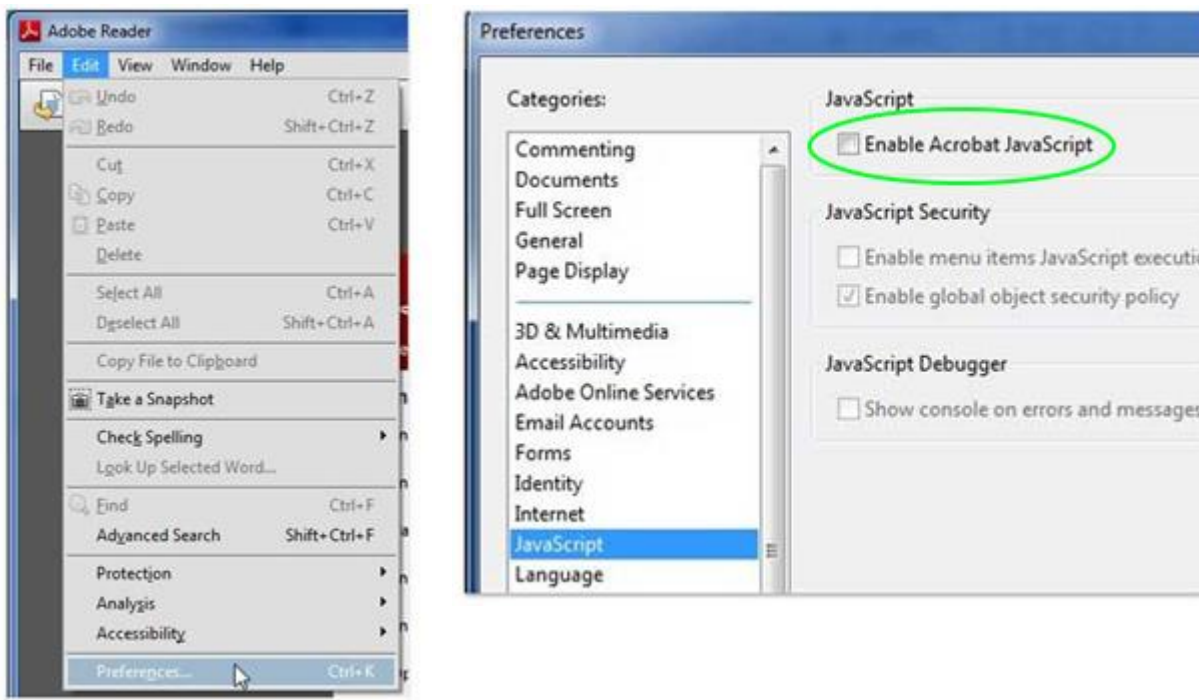
Encryption ransomware is a more serious issue, and you should seek professional help. Whatever you do, DO NOT pay the ransom, because they may or may not unlock your files or provide you with an unlock password.

Sometimes you may receive an email with a message such as "Have you misplaced our invoice? The attached invoice is outstanding." A pdf file is attached to the email. Your immediate reaction is "What invoice?" So you click on the pdf file link! If you don't know who sent the email, do further research prior to opening the document. Known senders who have themselves been infected with a virus and had their inboxes hijacked can also be sending an infected pdf, unbeknownst to them. It is best to scan the document with an up to date virus checker. You can reduce your risk by disabling JavaScript, as described in the following:

How to Disable JavaScript in Adobe Reader

Open Adobe Reader and go to Edit -> Preferences or simply press Ctrl + K. This will open a Preferences settings dialog.

From the sidebar, select JavaScript and then uncheck the “Enable Acrobat JavaScript” checkbox.



Malicious Emails

Be aware of emails that purportedly come from a known vendor or business with an embedded link, they may or may not be an attack waiting to happen. Always hover your mouse over any links and observe the linked web address, which shows up in the lower left of your screen. If it is not absolutely clear that it is the vendor or business you know, then don't click on it. For example, you may receive an email from ABC Bank asking you to update your profile information with a blue highlighted link. Hover over that link with your mouse and you will see in the lower left hand corner of your screen, the web page the link will take you to. If it is not clearly ABC Bank's page, it is best to go directly to the Bank's page yourself, rather than using the embedded link. Many of the "phishing" email links look genuine, so it is best to be cautious.

Following are two examples of "phishing" email – emails purported to be from a known sender that ask you to go to a web site to provide further information or change your password.



Email appears to be from PayPal

We need your help resolving an issue with your PayPal account. Until we help us resolve this issue, we've temporarily limited what you can do with your account.

What's going on ?

We noticed some unusual activity on your PayPal account on 13/11/2016 on 15:49 PDT via IOS/Safari because your account was recently logged into from a new browser , device or new location and we are concerned about potential unauthorized account access.

What to do next ?

In order to access your account again, complete the steps to confirm your identity and recent account activity. To help protect your account, access will remain limited until you complete the necessary steps.

Resolve your account

Copyright © 1999-2016 PayPal. All rights reserved.

PayPal PPC000406.8b5eddb9b49e6

Note the web address the "Resolve your account" link will take you to – the box to the right shows that domain is not Apple computer!

A whois search yields this:

DOMAIN NAME:

hirsz.com.pl
registrant type: organization
nameservers: ns1.hekko.net.pl
[91.203.133.34]
ns2.hekko.net.pl. [193.143.121.238]
created: 2014.07.07 14:52:50
last modified: 2016.06.28 16:56:10
renewal date: 2017.07.07 14:52:50

REGISTRAR:
home.pl S.A.
ul. Zbo??owa 4
70-653 Szczecin

Polska/Poland
+48.914325555
+48.504502500
https://home.pl/kontakt

http://hirsz.com.pl/pages/NHF84HF40YT87Y04TY740378TY4HEUR8/HF84930TYH4398TYU43089TYH04FH3408TH4387T/MFIO43JT4893T3489T3489TY3R7032YR032C023Y/J4981GTU548UH498YEW78FYEW8FYG3/G0J45REG98U589-UY58UT8394/J5T4UJT95408UYT495Y4U89GY...

The following example is an email purportedly from Apple Computer, but hovering the mouse over the embedded link shows something different which is surely not Apple!

update your account
Dear customer,
You've placed your Apple ID under the risk of termination by not keeping your information up to date. To complete the process, we just need to verify your information. Simply click the link below and sign in using your Apple ID and password to start the process.
Verify Now
Thanks,
Apple Customer Support
http://www.cdn-apple.com/user/sic

Computer Club Tuesday Repair Lab

We have just touched on some schemes to be aware of and avoid, and a few good practices to employ to prevent infecting your computer with a virus or being exploited by a third party accessing your computer.

At the Sun City Summerlin Computer Club's Tuesday afternoon Repair SIG we have seen machines embedded with ransomware, viruses, and tracking files. We have also heard stories of scams asking for ever increasing amounts of money, after the scammer was allowed to access the unsuspecting user's computer. While you can't protect yourself 100%, simply being vigilant and knowing what to recognize as strange looking, unusual, or potentially harmful, is a huge step in the right direction. And it's prudent to always keep a backup of your system files with one of the many backup products. The Repair SIG on Tuesday afternoons can assist you with a backup, if you bring along a portable hard drive for storage. Stop by and see what you need to perform this all important task. Our [Sun City Computer Club](#) is a wonderful resource for education and help and a real bargain at \$10 per year.

We are always open to new members and invite you to join during our annual enrollment period and avail yourself of the many resources the club has to offer. This web site contains a classroom and lab schedule, links to notes from past presentations, the Gigabyte Gazette monthly newsletter, and useful links - <http://www.scscclab.com/>

In Summary

Here are a few important things to remember and be aware of as you traverse the internet visiting web sites, read emails and receive phone calls:

1. Microsoft support is NOT monitoring your computer and DOES NOT call you to report a problem.
2. DO NOT allow remote access to your computer unless you are absolutely sure who the party accessing your machine is and why they need access.
3. Be very careful when you receive emails with attachments.
 - Unless you know the sender and are expecting a .zip file attachment, DO NOT OPEN IT.
 - Unless you know the sender and are expecting a .pdf file (Adobe Portable Document Format), DO NOT OPEN IT without taking precautions.
 - When you receive an email asking you to follow a link to update your information, be very cautious.

December Lab Monitor Schedule

Open Lab sessions are held twice per week: 9 am to noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Marcy Ishum Donna Bailey	SATURDAY December 3, 2016
Jeff Southwell Linda McMullin	WEDNESDAY December 7, 2016
Jim Enlow Fred Cohen	SATURDAY December 10, 2016
Tom Brennan Jan Edwards	WEDNESDAY December 14, 2016
Mary Hedin John Zuzich	SATURDAY December 17, 2016
Opal Smith Blanche York	WEDNESDAY December 21, 2016
CLOSED	SATURDAY December 24, 2016
Joyce Davidson Tammy Collins	WEDNESDAY December 28, 2016
CLOSED	SATURDAY December 31, 2016