Glendora's Computer Club Gigabyte Gazette

GSCC

Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesday
1:00 – 3:00 pm
La Fetra Community Center
333 East Foothill Blvd.
Glendora CA 91741
626 914 8235

www.gscclub.org/

In This Issue

Planning Meeting
after the 2nd Wednesday
membership meeting
All are welcome to attend

January 9, 2019

What ae you going to do with your holiday photos?

Are you using your phone to take photos these days? Make sure you know how to keep them all safe!

You don't want to lose the photos; backing up your photos is very easy with Google Photos. Once you set it up it works in the background to automatically upload your shots to the cloud as you take them. The best part is that it's not just limited to Android users. Google Photos is also available on iOS, and its unlimited storage options gives it a big advantage over iCloud.

Google Photos is able to automatically sort your photos by people, places, and even objects in the shot. This makes it easy to find that special photo you want to show everyone.

You can even do minor editing of your photos.
http://bit.ly/2AAc1W4

January 23

Disaster Preparedness for your Tech 'Stuff'

With all the fires and floods we have recently had, we need to add disaster preparedness for our tech 'stuff' in addition to our personal safety and evacuation plans.

President's Corner – Happy New Tech Year
By Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer UG, CA
January 2019 issue, Drive Light
www.uchug.org / president (at) uchug.org

Another New Year is upon us. As we start 2019, I wonder what new technology we will see this year, and how it will affect our lives. It seems we can't swing a corded mouse (better for our times than a dead cat) without hitting some piece of technology in our lives. So many things we take for granted today were not around 20 years ago, or even 10. Smart phones, smart homes, smart cars, smart TVs - everything is becoming smart through technology. How did we ever survive with only dumb stuff around us?

We have just concluded another busy holiday shopping season. Remember when that meant spending the month of December in the shopping malls, standing in long lines? Now with online shopping (especially Amazon.com) and all the tech that enables it, we can do all our shopping from home. With our smart phones, we can even shop while on the go. This trend has resulted in big changes in our behaviors, as well as in our local and global economics. Brick and mortar chains that were once the powerhouses of commerce, like Sears, are shrinking or going out of business. Almost all businesses fear Amazon, as it has transformed the shopping experience in many categories. How will Amazon next change our lives?

The concept of two-day delivery of products used to be exceptional and/or expensive, but now it is commonplace (and the default for all those Amazon Prime subscribers). Will 2019 finally be the year that Amazon makes good on their plans to deliver products the same day using drones? Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos claimed in December 2013 on "60 Minutes" that drones would be delivering packages within five years. Where are our drone deliveries?

There are plenty of drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) out there now, of all kinds. They protect our borders, launch strikes against our enemies, photograph and film our events and monitor our real estate, crops, forests and construction. They can also provide entertainment, through personal use and drone racing. Unfortunately, misuse of the technology has also occurred, requiring new regulations for their use. From interfering with fire-fighting efforts in California wildfires to the recent shutdown of the Gatwick Airport in England due to drone overflights, we have seen how these useful devices could be misused by vandals, criminals and terrorists. Some aviation experts believe it is just a matter of time before a drone causes a commercial plane crash.

Another technology that didn't exist ten years ago is personal DNA analysis. Companies like AncestryDNA, 23andMe and MyHeritage claim to provide ancestry information and ethnicity breakdowns. Some claim to provide genetic health information and

predisposition to inherited conditions. Some can match you to others that may be relatives. These are home kits that allow you to provide a sample that is analyzed and potentially matched to the samples of others. Many of these kits were discounted for the holidays and advertised as great gifts.

These tests may be entertaining and can provide useful, though perhaps vague, information on your ancestry and genetic health. There are some concerns about privacy and accuracy, however, and you may learn things you might have wished you didn't know. One company's test reportedly failed to identify that a submitted sample was actually from a Labrador retriever. Some have learned from these tests that their parentage is not as they were led to believe, or that they had half siblings unknown to their families. Submitting your sample puts your DNA information in the test company's genetic database, which could be used for things you didn't intend. One example is in identification of suspects in law enforcement investigations. These genetic testing companies could also share or sell genetic information to insurance or pharmaceutical companies.

Loss of privacy seems to be a common risk with a lot of the new technology we have

adopted in the last decade or two. In the best case, our personal information, preferences and habits (such as for travel and consuming) have become a commodity that companies we deal with can use, buy and sell, with advertisers looking to improve their sales to us, the consumers. In the worst case, criminals are trying to gain, through tricks or theft, our personal information, especially that dealing with our identity and account passwords, in order to steal from us, or sell to others that will. Somewhere in the middle is the threat posed to the individual by a police state that has accumulated detailed information on its citizens, with the goal of tracking and controlling them.

In addition to the information that we provide online with our computers, or in using our smart phones, we now have to worry about the data collected by our connected cars. Automakers are collecting ever more information about how our cars are running and how we use them, and that information is often accessed wirelessly. While older cars are still safe from this, about 3 in 4 of the cars sold by 2020 will be online. This information may be able to help track your car servicing more easily, update safety systems and provide emergency services, but it also could be sold to insurance companies eager to study your driving habits or provided to law enforcement to determine where you have been or when you have been speeding.

Self-driving cars have seemed to be on the verge of introduction to the consumer for a few years now; perhaps 2019 will finally see a service generally available. Many companies have been testing autonomous vehicles for years, mostly with human back-up drivers. Autonomous trucks, taxis and cars could be revolutionary forces in our society, economy and labor market. These technologies could reduce transportation costs greatly and help provide greater freedom for the disabled, and likely would reduce vehicle accident rates.

Technology appears to be finally allowing humans to once again make real progress towards space travel. Christmas Eve 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the first flight to the moon, where Apollo 8 orbited the moon and took the first photo of Earth as a distant object. Following the final Apollo moon landing, however, human space flight never left low Earth orbit. Now that many commercial companies are competing with NASA to fly cargo and ultimately people to the International Space Station and beyond, progress in space is accelerating. Several companies, including Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, have successfully demonstrated the recovery (landing) of a rocket first stage, allowing reuse and a lower cost for future launches. Musk has a plan for SpaceX to be able to launch people to Mars within six years. I feel for those that watched the moon landings as fifty-year-old's and then died disappointed that humans never again did anything so dramatic. With luck my 82-year-old parents will see people on Mars.

National Geographic has created a TV series called 'Mars', which is very inspiring, yet brings some concerns with the human colonization of that planet. It portrays some of the issues we could face in the development of space technology by private companies, rather that government entities, a road we appear to be going down now. It shows the parallels this could have with the commercial development of resources here on Earth in the arctic. It is a series well worth watching.

As hopeful as I am that all the new tech we get in the New Year will on balance be a benefit to humankind, I sometimes wonder more about the humans. Many notable people, including Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk and Bill Gates have concerns about artificial intelligence, or AI. AI is on its way, so I wonder if one d ay we will have to battle with it for our survival, as in 'The Terminator' movies, or will we humans gladly relinquish our control over technology, should that time come. A study by McCann Worldgroup of young people in seven countries conducted in 2011 indicated that 53% of 16 to 22-year old's would prefer to give up their sense of smell than their technology. Will our future turn out rosy, or just stink?
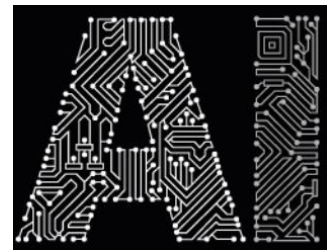
How to stay on course when scrolling up & down a web page
By John Krout, Member, Potomac Area Technology and
Computer Society, VA
www.patacs.org / krout75 (at) yahoo.com

At the December 2018 PATACS/OLLI meeting in Fairfax City, a question was raised about scrolling up and down a web page: why does the browser sometimes suddenly revert to the top of the page?

This experience, no doubt familiar to many of us, has to do with pointing device behavior. With a normal mouse or track ball, you

click and hold the button down on the vertical scroll bar on the far right of the web page, and then drag the scroll bar up and down.

While doing that, often you are intently reading the visible portion of the web page, and not watching the mouse pointer. I run into this a lot when examining the CNN.com home page. It is easy to let the mouse pointer drift slightly right or left. When the pointer moves off the vertical scroll bar, the web page automatically reverts to the top of page. This much I explained at the meeting.

Another member proposed a solution, one that I had not previously thought of, and I think it is a very useful solution: obtain a trackball or mouse with a vertical scroll wheel. Instead of moving the pointer in the familiar way, simply rotate the scroll wheel. Up and down the page goes, very reliably, with no drift.

Now, if the problem described above is unfamiliar to you, then read no further. The rest of this article is a brief survey of products you may wish to know about if the problem is one you would like to solve.

After the meeting, I took a look on the Web at mouse and trackball products including such a wheel. They are not very expensive.

This is not a recommendation or a review. I just want to show you the bottom of the price range and some options.

From here on I focus on products available from Amazon because of the small commission paid to PATACS by Amazon when you use the link to Amazon appearing on the PATACS.org home page and you spend money on Amazon. The sum total of that income to PATACS from Amazon was a few hundred dollars in the last full fiscal year for the club. That is equivalent to 20+ additional dues-paying PATACS members, far more than I expected, and is why the club offers that opportunity.

I used this search on Amazon: mouse with scroll wheel. Then I sorted on low price to high price.

On Amazon, I found there are USB scroll wheel mouses for less than $10, and wireless and Bluetooth scroll wheel mouses for less than $20. All provide a wheel on the top of the mouse, equally accessible for right handed and left-handed use. You will see many such products, even in a choice of colors.

I happen to use a USB trackball for my desktop computer at home, partly because the open space on my desk is often not sufficient for moving a mouse around. So I also looked at trackballs equipped with a scroll wheel.

I used this search on Amazon: trackball with scroll wheel. Then I sorted on low price to high price.

It happens that several such trackballs exist. USB trackballs with scroll wheel start at less than $25.

Logitech tends to put the scroll wheel on top and the ball on the side, which means it is difficult for lefties. Maybe they make left handed versions; I did not nose around enough to find out.

I found a very interesting innovation from Kensington, the trackball brand that I have been using. Their trackball scroll wheel is in fact a ring around the centered trackball. Incidentally, in that same set of Amazon search results, I also found keyboards with a trackball and scroll wheel built in. As you might guess, these are more expensive than standalone trackballs, but if your desktop real estate is extremely limited, the all in one keyboard may be of interest to you.

Kensington wired mouse

Logitech wireless trackball with scroll wheel

Kensington trackball mouse with scroll ring

Interesting Internet Finds for January
By Steve Costello
scostello (at) sefcug.com

While going through more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some more items I found interesting during December 2018

The Real-World Guide to Using Google Drive

https://infolific.com/technology/software-worth-using/complete-guide-to-google-drive/

If you have a Chromebook you will be working more with Google Drive, so check out this post.

How Does Bluetooth Work, and Why Is It So Terrible?

https://www.maketecheasier.com/how-does-bluetooth-work/

Bluetooth is everywhere. Ever wonder how it works, or why it is so bad sometimes? This post answers both of those.

Is Your Charging Cable Killing Your Phone?

https://askbobrankin.com/is_your_charging_cable_killing_your_phone.html

Until USB-C becomes standard there is a lot to be aware of in this post.

4K HDMI Cables: How To Cut Through The Marketing Lingo And Figure Out What You Actually Need

https://www.techhive.com/article/3330376/gaming-gear/do-i-need-a-4k-hdmi-cable.html

Get a new 4K TV over the holidays? If so, check out this post before getting new HDMI cables.

What Is Wi-Fi 6 and Do You Need a New Router?

https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/what-is-wifi-6/

Have you heard about Wi-Fi 6 but want to know more? If your answer is yes, this MakeUseOf post explains a lot.

Turning Your Mouse into a Laser Pointer

https://www.howtogeek.com/398980/turn-your-mouse-into-a-laser-pointer-in-powerpoint/

I wish I had known about this the last time I forgot my laser pointer. If you do PowerPoint presentations, keep this information handy, in case you forget yours.

Simple Questions: What Is OLED? What Does OLED Mean?

https://www.digitalcitizen.life/what-is-oled-what-does-it-mean

Do you know what OLED is? If not read this post from Digital Citizen. It explains what OLED is, as well as its advantages and disadvantages.

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My Favorite Android Apps
By Mary Phillips, Secretary, Interactive Computer
Owners Network, MO
December 2018 issue, The ICON
www.iconusersgroup.org / mary (at)
iconusersgroup.org

Because our ICON membership includes folks who have both iPhone/iPad tablets AND android phones and Microsoft PCs, we try to include diverse articles to help everyone learn something.

However, I don't see many articles about Android apps so I'll share a little about the ones I especially like. My smartphone is a Samsung Galaxy S8.

Google Assistant with Voice Recognition – I really like being able to talk to her and ask her for information, directions or ask her to call individuals or businesses for me.

Do Not Disturb – My husband complained because my phone was making notification noises during the night and waking him up. One day I discovered Do Not Disturb. I set it to turn on at 10 PM each day and turn off at 7 AM the next day. (Under Sounds and Vibrations)

Location -- I especially like this when we're traveling and need directions to specific places.

Voice Recorder – I used this when I wanted to record an audio book for my son and his wife.

Flashlight – I have a practice of staying up late after my husband goes to bed and he's turned off all the lights except in my computer room. I turn on the flashlight and avoid running into walls, etc. At one of our meetings a friend demonstrated how he carries his phone in his shirt pocket and when he's in a darkened restaurant, he tells his assistant to turn on the flashlight.

Calculator – I use my calculator every time I go to the grocery store to compare prices.

Texting – I like texting because it's so much faster than email. Though I do check my email if I'm expecting something.

Portrait mode only – I keep this turned off so I can rotate to landscape mode especially when I'm watching a YouTube "How To" video.

Camera Zoom feature – This I like when I'm taking a picture of something at a distance and want it closer up.

Clock – I like to take frequent naps and I set the alarm to awaken me.

I should use the calendar for making appointments and plans, but I haven't weaned myself from my little daily planner yet.

32-bits, 64-bits – How many do I need?
By Phil Sorrentino, Contributing Writer,
The Computer Club Newsletter, FL
December 2019
www.scccomputerclub.org / philsorr (at) yahoo.com

Over the past few years, Personal Computers have been moving from 32-bit Central Processor Units (CPU) to 64-bit CPUs. (Actually, 64-bit CPUs were first introduced way back in 2003, but it takes time to get new CPUs through the design/ manufacture/produce cycle to finally provide "affordable products.") So it's not a matter of how many you need, it is a matter of what is on the market. From a user's point of view, the main difference between 32-bit and 64-bit CPUs is performance. Performance is basically the speed at which the CPU can complete tasks and is measured in calculations per second: the faster the CPU, the higher the performance. Additionally, 64-bit CPUs can come in dual, quad and eight core versions which can provide further improvements in performance. Another difference is the maximum amount of RAM memory that can be accessed. 32-bit CPUs can access a maximum of 4 GB, whereas a 64-bit CPU can access far beyond 4 GB, which is necessary if you are using software to accomplish things like video editing or graphic design. In general, the more bits you have, the better the processing performance and capability, and therefore the better your computing experience.

The CPU defines the architecture. A 64-bit CPU is used in a 64-bit architecture and a 32-bit CPU is used in a 32-bit architecture. Today, almost all PCs are built around the 64-bit architecture, giving you the best possible computing experience if you only consider the number of bits. (Other contributing factors to your computing experience might be Internet connection speed, display size, hard drive size, and the number and speed of USB ports.) The Operating System (OS) software is intimately connected to the hardware architecture. That said, keep in mind that a computer with a 64-bit architecture can have a 64-bit OS or 32-bit OS installed; however, the 64-bit architecture with a 32-bit OS installed will not provide the 64-bit architecture's full capability. Also note that the 32-bit architecture can only run a 32-bit OS. Windows 10 is built for the 64-bit architecture as was Windows 7, unlike Windows XP and 95 which were built for the 32-bit architecture.

A quick look in the rear-view mirror shows the original PC that was released in 1981 by IBM. This early PC was built around a 16-bit architecture which was quite a bit less capable then our current 64-bit or 32-bit CPUs. (The initial CPU was an 8088 which actually used 16 bits internally, but had an 8-bit Input/Output (IO) interface (possibly to keep costs down and possibly to interface to certain peripheral devices), making it a hybrid of sorts, 16 bits internally for calculations and 8 bits

externally for I/O.) PCs that followed used the 8086 CPU which was a true 16-bit processor. 32-bit computers started to appear as early as 1985 with the Intel 386 CPU. Improvements in the 32-bit architecture continued from the mid-1980s till the 64-bit processor arrived in 2003. The 64-bit architecture has been improved over the past 15 years and the cost has been reduced to the point where almost every PC produced today has a 64-bit CPU in it. If you are looking for a new computer, definitely go for the 64-bit architecture. (You can find the architecture and OS information in Settings-System-About. In this window, "System type" will show the number of bits for the processor, and also the number of bits for the OS.)

The number of bits in a particular PC architecture indicates the number of bits used in calculations and the number of bits used to address an item in memory. So, a 64-bit architecture has a 64-bit Arithmetic/Logical Unit at the heart of the CPU and can address up to 2^{64} or 16 exabytes in memory. (Note, not all PCs are built to take advantage of this large memory space, in fact most are limited by their hardware design to less than 512 Gigabytes.) An Exabyte is a very large number it is a million-million Terabytes. To put it in perspective, see the following table:

1024 Gigabytes=	**1 Terabyte**
1024 Terabytes=	1 Petabyte
1024 Petabytes=	1 Exabyte

On top of the hardware limitation, which is not really very limiting, the Operating System in use places some limitations. The following table shows the limitations for some of the popular versions of Windows 10:

Operating System	Maximum Memory (RAM)
Windows 10 Home 64-Bit	128GB
Windows 10 Pro 32-Bit	4GB
Windows 10 Pro 64-Bit	512GB

So, considering the number of items or bytes that we currently concern ourselves with, 4 to 32 gigabytes of RAM memory, and maybe 4 to 12 terabytes of hard drive space, the 64-bit architecture will probably take us pretty far into the future.

If one were purchasing a new computer, the best situation would be a 64-bit hardware architecture with a 64-bit OS and all 64-bit drivers. You would probably get this if you bought a middle to high end PC from a popular company like HP, Dell, or Lenovo. Low end or economy models might have a 32-bit or a 64-bit architecture. Note that if the amount of installed memory was over 4 GB then it would have to be a 64-bit architecture. If one did purchase a PC with a 32-bit architecture it would probably have a 32-bit OS installed. Knowing what OS is installed on your PC is important if you are installing new software. If your new software is built for a 64-bit OS, it will only run on a 64-bit OS; it will probably not run on a 32-bit OS. If your new software is built for a 32-bit OS then it will probably run on a 32-bit OS or a 64-bit

OS. Sometimes a software vendor will make two versions available, one for the 32-bit OS and a different one for the 64-bit OS. So, if you can find it in your price range, a 64-bit architecture with a 64-bit OS and 12 GB of RAM and a 1 TB hard drive would probably satisfy almost everyone's needs, except maybe for a few very serious gamers.

Broken Windows – My Two Cents Worth
Dave's Computer Tips
By Richard Pederson
November 2018
http://bit.ly/2VDPiBn

There was a time when I looked forward to Windows updates. It was a time when you could expect bug fixes (if they existed) and even some new features, which were normally pretty good. Nowadays, new features mean "maybe this will work," and "the new features pushed out the last time may have been fixed." It's a toss-up.

Microsoft has gotten itself in a real bind here. Its customers no longer trust that it is able to provide an update that isn't downright scary. And they can't seem to get their naming conventions up to speed, either. 1809? Really? 1809 is supposed to mean September 2018, not maybe October.1809 was pushed out in late October, then yanked because it was infested with severe bugs. And I'm not kidding when I say "severe." Deleting personal data goes beyond the pale. File management, after all, is something an operating system should excel at. Don't get me started about an operating system called Windows not being able to properly manage windows. That's for another rant… another day…

(I actually use a third-party utility to manage windows in a system called Windows!)

In case MS hasn't noticed, I am here to inform them that it is now November. Frankly, it pleases me that this update is collecting dust — twice a year is too often and it has become obvious that MS can't maintain this pace — and not with any certainty of being a finished product when it does arrive. If anything can be said in their favor, it's somewhat free. You get what you pay for, I guess.

The only advice I can offer at this stage of the game, dear reader, is to avoid updating to the misnamed 1809 debacle until several millions of people have tried it and whose machines haven't exploded in the process. If for some inexplicable reason you can't resist clicking that "Check for updates" button, then I implore you to make a backup first. You might be thanking me later. As usual, there is no good reason to update, and I use the term loosely, a product for new features that nobody cares about anyway. Heck! They don't have the old, new features working yet.

The problem with all those Insider rings — the Fast Ring, the Slow Ring, the Preview Ring, and the Skip Ahead ring-a-ding thing — is that these poor unpaid "testers" are not skilled in the art of actual testing. They will send in thousands (millions?) of complaints about a color they don't like but won't address an issue with a printer that no longer

works. And even if they do, Microsoft seems to be ignoring them. I only have to point to the recent, devastating file deletion problem to bear witness for me. Yes, many reported this issue well before the 1809 update was rolled out, and MS apparently turned a deaf ear.

The main point of this obvious rant is to implore Microsoft to stop with the new features, already. Get everything working as it is. Now. Only then should you consider moving on to new stuff. And when you do, get it right, before you publish it.

Funnies

When Smart is Too Smart
I can still remember a time when I knew more than my phone.

Thanks, MapQuest
MapQuest really needs to start its directions on number five. Pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood

My printer needs help
When my printer's type began to grow faint, I called a local repair shop, where a friendly man informed me that the printer probably needed only to be cleaned. Because the store charged $50 for such cleanings, he told me, I might be better off reading the printer's manual and trying the job myself.

Pleasantly surprised by his candor, I asked, "Does your boss know that you discourage business?"

"Actually it's my boss's idea," the employee replied sheepishly. "We usually make more money on repairs if we let people try to fix things themselves first."

You Need a Shorter Password
While he was visiting, my father asked for the password to our Wi-Fi.
"It's taped under the modem," I told him.

After three failed attempts to log on, he asked, "Am I spelling this right? T-A-P-E-D-U-N-D-E-R-T-H-E-M-O-D-E-M?"
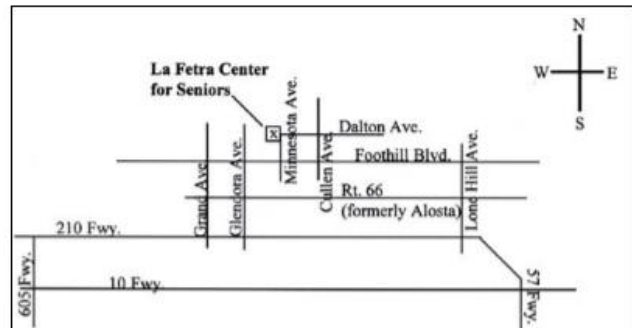
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DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR OUR TECH GUYS?

Please fill out the form below & bring it to the meeting

Name _____

Computer OS   Win 7 _____ **Win 10** _____ **Mac** _____ **Other** _____

Question

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