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The Digital

Viking



Twin Cities

PC USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota USA • Vol. 33 No. 2 • September 2012

*TC/PC Exists to
Facilitate and Encourage
the Cooperative Exchange of
PC Knowledge and
Information Across
All Levels of Experience*

September 2012

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No General Meeting And No SIG Presentations

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

In honor of the anniversary of the tragedy of of September 11, 2011, there will be no general meeting or SIG this month. Please take the time to remember the victims of this terrible event. ☹

Upcoming Meetings:

At the October 9th meeting, a representative from Intel Corporation will be presenting. Intel has come out with a number of new and faster chips—i3, i5, i7— within the last few years. Here's a chance to find out what they have planned for the future that will make our computer experience better. Thanks to Lon Ortnor for lining this up.

Jim Grotz has been in contact with several other presenters for the November and December meetings so stay tuned. ☹

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Application form inside back cover

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The Digital Viking

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Half page (7½ x 4¾)	65.00
One-third page (7½ x 3)	50.00
Quarter page (3½ x 4¾)	40.00
Member Bus. Card (2 x 3½)	10.00

Multiple insertion discounts available.

Contact Sharon Walbran at: SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Deadline for ad placement is the 1st of the month prior to publication. All rates are per issue and for digital or camera-ready ads. Typesetting and other services are extra and must be requested in advance of submission deadlines.

Payment must accompany order unless other arrangements are made in advance. Place make checks payable to: **Twin Cities PC User Group**

TC/PC Member Benefits

**Product previews
and demonstrations**

**Special Interest Groups
Monthly Newsletter**

**Discounts on products
and services**

Contests and prizes

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**FREE ½ page ad on
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**20% discount on all ads
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**Up to 5 newsletters mailed to
your site
(only a nominal cost for each
additional 5 mailed)**

TC/PC 2011-2012 Board of Directors

Meets second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. All members welcome to attend.

Call **Ross Held** (612-386-3172) for meeting details.

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Jeannine Sloan

Last Month's Meeting: Microsoft Windows 8 Preview

By Sharon Walbran, TC/PC User Group, SQWalbran@yahoo.com

There was a standing-room-only crowd at our August meeting as a representative from the Microsoft store at the Mall of America showed off the new Windows 8. This new version is a major change for the operating system and the changes will give the Mac a run for the money.

First off, the Desktop interface wows. It is very modern, very clean, simple. Set up in a sort of picture gallery format, the applications fill the screen. Microsoft studied graphics trends and the Bauhaus school of architecture and worked at simplifying the graphics and taking away as much as they could. Designed to be used by hand manipulation, this format will scale up or down to fit every size interface—smart phones, tablets, and full size screens and wide screen.




Don't like using your fingers to navigate the screen? You will not be left behind. The Start menu is still available and the mouse can be used in place of the fingers. If you right-click on the Desktop and select All Apps command you get a list view of all the applications on your computer in alphabetic order.

Microsoft has made a number of acquisitions recently—Skype, Netflix, Weatherbug—and these services will all work together with the new Windows. The idea is to get a lot of different devices to work together. For example, you could watch a movie on a tablet and when you get home you could bring up the same movie on your TV and it would pick up where you left off.

Pricing is reasonable. If you buy a new Windows 8-compatible computer you will be able to upgrade for about \$15. If you have Windows 7 on an existing computer you will be able to upgrade for \$40. A full install will be needed for computers running Windows XP and Vista at a cost of \$70 per computer.

The presenter brought a couple of state-of-the-art tablets with Windows 8 installed and passed them out for audience members to try out. The response was very positive. In fact, it was a little hard to get people to pass them on.

We were hoping to get a sneak peek at the Microsoft Surface, Microsoft's entry into the tablet market due out later this year, but the product is not ready for public viewing so we'll just have to wait for the next presentation.

Thanks to Gary Grau for promoting this meeting to the residents of Summit Place and to all those who came and brought friends.  [Go to Page 1](#)

Transferring Voice Mails from Cell Phone to PC

By Sharon Walbran, TC/PC User Group, sgwalbran@yahoo.com

I have saved some voice mails that mark milestones in my grandchild's life and I wanted to see if I could find a way to transfer those voice mails to my PC to free up voice mail space and to preserve the information in the voice mails.

Researching on the web, I found any number of naysayers who said it couldn't be done. But ultimately I found an instructional video posted just recently to YouTube by CNET that explained how you could connect the cell phone to the PC using the microphone input port and then record the voice mails using Audacity, a free audio editing program. So I decided to give it a try.

Mini to Mini Cable Needed

First of all, you will need an audio cable with 1/8" or 3.5mm (mini) connectors at each end. I found one at Radio Shack for about \$12.00. Plug one end of the cable into the port on the cell phone and plug the other end into the microphone port on the PC. Most ports will have a microphone symbol to identify the port.

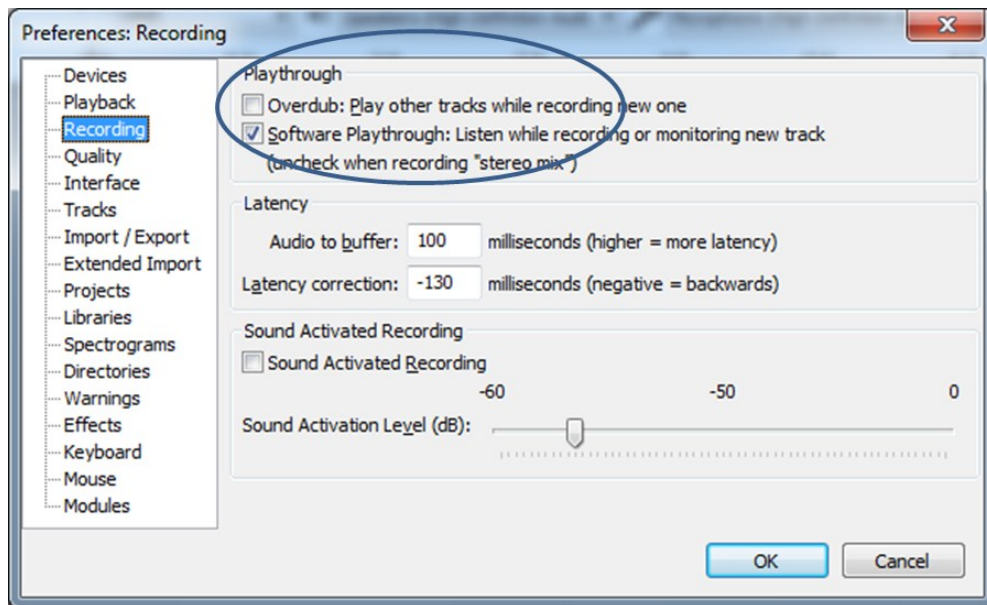
Install and Run Audacity

Download the latest version of Audacity from www.audacity.soft32.com or from www.sourceforge.net. The latest version for Windows 7 is Audacity 2.02, but be sure to choose the version for your operating system. If you have an earlier version of Audacity already installed on your computer, you must remove that earlier version before installing the new version.

Once Audacity is installed, open it from the Start menu. A new Audacity project is started (To start another new project, click the File menu, New Project).

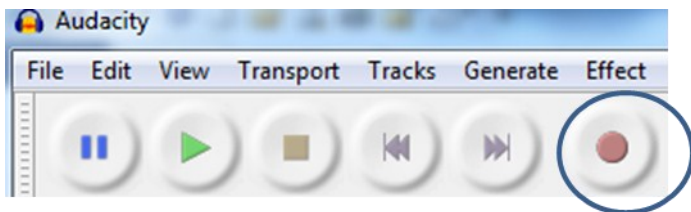
It's critical that you are able to hear the voice mail prompts on your cell phone as you make the recording so you can enter your password and make choices to re-save each voice mail on the cell phone. To do this you need to change the Passthrough preference in Audacity.

1. Click the Edit menu and click Preferences.
2. Click to select the Recording category in the left panel.
3. Click a checkmark in the check box next to Software Playthrough.
4. Uncheck the first checkbox for Overdub.
5. Click OK.



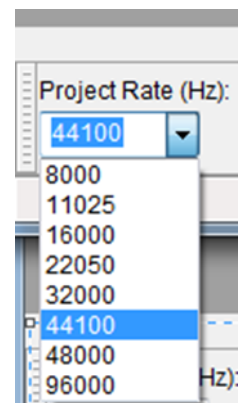
Start Recording

1. Click the red Record button on the Audacity toolbar to start recording.
2. On the cell phone call your voice mail service and enter the password. Make choices to play new or saved messages you want to copy. Audacity shows the audio track of the sounds as it records.
3. When the message ends, on the phone save it and end the call. (You actually could continue to record all the voice mails you desire, but for this example we're just doing one voice mail.)
4. Click the Stop button (gold square) on the Audacity toolbar to stop the recording.
5. Play the recording (the green arrow button) and see if the quality is satisfactory.

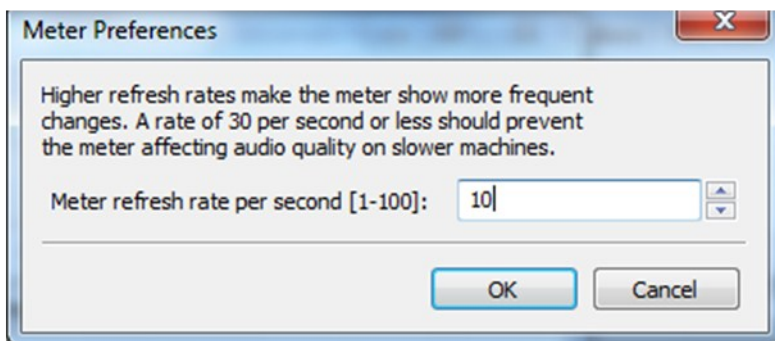
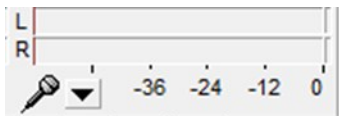


In fact, the first recording I did was terrible. The voice was barely audible but when it was it sounded like a robot stuttering. So I played around with some of the settings. These settings changes may not be the same for your phone and PC but if your results are not satisfactory knowing where to focus may help. With each change you will need to walk through starting a new project and re-recording the voice mail (Steps 1-5 above) so it requires some persistence and patience but it's worth the effort. Be sure to keep re-saving the voice mails on the phone.

- First, increase the volume on your cell phone to the highest level. Voice mail volume is notoriously bad.
- Second, take a look at the Project Rate (Hz) at the bottom left on the screen. The default rate of 44100 was too high. The rate that worked for me was 16000. After re-recording at that rate the recording sounded much more like the human on the voice mail.
- The other setting that made a difference was the Meter Preferences for the



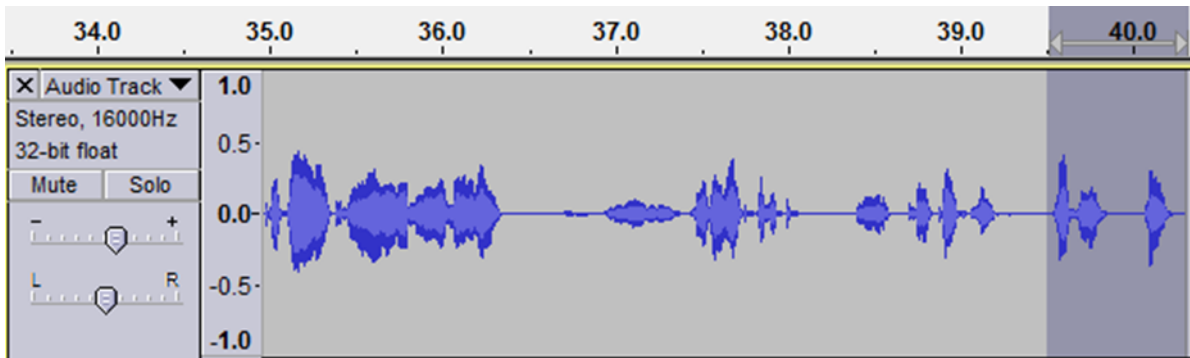
Microphone.



Click the drop-down arrow next to the microphone icon in the upper right on the Audacity screen and click Preferences. The default was set at 30 which was supposed to make it sound better with a slower computer but changing it to 10 vastly improved the smoothness of the recording.

Delete Unwanted Parts of the Recording

After you have a good quality recording, clean up the recording by selecting and deleting the parts of the recording you do not want, for example, the voice mail prompts.



1. As you play back the recording note where the part of the recording you want to delete starts and ends according to the second by second timeline above the audio track.
2. Drag the mouse across the part of the audio track you want to delete. It will turn dark gray.
3. Press the Delete key on the keyboard to remove that section of the audio track.

Saving the Project and Exporting to a .WAV or .MP3 File

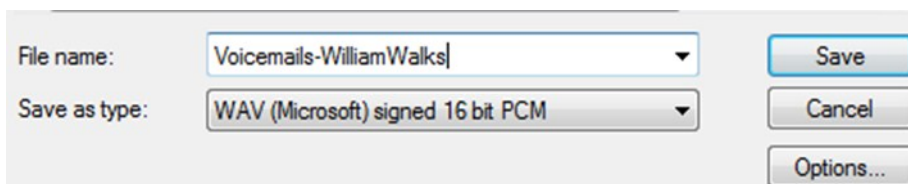
When you are satisfied with the recording save the project.

1. Click the File menu, Save Project As..
2. Choose the location and name the file. The file is saved as a native Audacity .aup project file so you can go back and edit it later if needed. This type of file needs Audacity to play it.

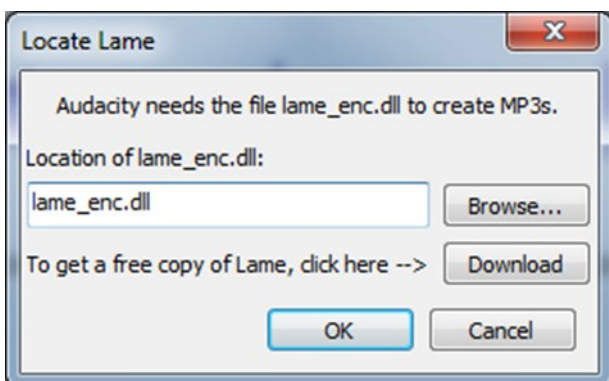
The recording now needs to be exported as a WAV or an MP3 file to be played on other devices and shared with others. WAV files are uncompressed and quite large, but WAV is a familiar format in Windows and most audio software can play WAV files on the computer. MP3 files are compressed and so can be small and easily sent via email and transferred over the web and can be played on the PC as well as on MP3 players, etc., so it's a very practical file format for sharing with others.

Exporting a file to a WAV file is straightforward.

1. Click the File menu, Export
2. Name the file. Change the location if needed.
3. Change Save as type box to WAV format
4. Click the Save button




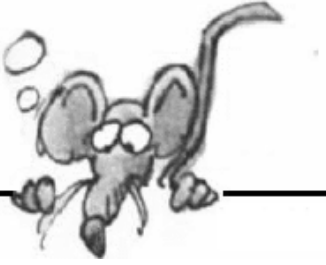
The steps are the same for exporting as an MP3 type file, except choose MP3 in the Save as type: box. The next screen is



a form where you can fill in the information you want to store about the file. Saving as an MP3 also requires that the file. lame_enc.dll, be installed on your computer.

If the alert at left displays, click the Download button. Follow the instructions to download and install this file. Once you get familiar with the steps it really is a simple and straightforward process that works. And now I have a fun gift for my daughter so she can hear the excitement in her own voice as she announced

William's first steps and first words and other firsts.  [Go to Page 1](#)



NIBBLERS

By Jeannine Sloan

A Day Made of Glass

A video showing the future as seen by Corning. Definitely worth a look:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Cf7IL_eZ38

Contributed by J. D. Yearous

Terms of Services & Privacy Policies in plain English

TOSSOS was built to help people understand what they actually agree to when they use products and services. Go to this website, fill in the name of the site you are unsure of and they will return a simple explanation of the terms of service that you agree to if you want to use that site. <http://www.tossos.com/> Join their community and they will notify you if there are changes made to those TOS.

RAM vs. RAM System

PC's RAM *System* is typically made up of three separate elements:

- There are the banks, usually two to four, of RAM chips plugged into the motherboard. (In the unlikely event that you've never seen the inside of a PC, the banks are comprised of multiple chips mounted on long, thin circuit boards. They snap in and out, letting you easily increase the amount of RAM in a PC.) When someone asks how much memory a PC has, they're almost always referring to these RAM banks.
- A PC's CPU also contains a modest amount of ultra high-speed, internal RAM — the **microprocessor cache**. Because this memory is part of the CPU circuitry, its size is fixed. The microprocessor cache RAM holds the program code plus data that's in immediate use by the CPU — the input, output, and intermediate results of step-by-step computer operations.
- The RAM system is managed by a **controller**, which writes and reads data to and from RAM and keeps the system properly synched.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Random-access_memory

Charging Gadgets

A typical USB 2.0 port (like the kind found on most PCs) delivers up to 500 millamps (mA) of juice. But a typical AC wall charger for, say, a smartphone will supply more like 900mA or 1,000mA-- even though you're plugging that same USB cable into the charger.

Translation: If you want faster charging for your gear, use a wall charger. Likewise, a car charger (the kind that plugs into a cigarette lighter) will outperform a PC's USB port, as they can deliver anywhere from 1,000-2,100mA.

Word, Excel and PowerPoint Integrated

As you'd expect, Office Web Apps are available from **Outlook.com**. This means you can open an Office document from an email, view or edit it then email back or onwards **without leaving the browser**

Limit Font Variety

The general guideline is that any document should only use a maximum of two font families, one for headings and one for body text. . Use fonts from the common core of fonts that everyone has if the content is to be shared in electronic form.

Essentials

There are some common skillsets that apply to using a computer. Additional skills specific to each application build on this foundation. Review the skillsets listed here to judge your competency:

<http://officetipsandmethods.com/?p=627>

Mouse

How well do you know your computer mouse functions and customizations: Right or Left, Click or Drag, Scroll Wheel, Single Click, Double Click, Control Panel Adjustments?

Become an expert or just review here: <http://tinyurl.com/9k7jwqo>

Website

It's a must-bookmark site for Kindle (and Kindle app) owners. eReaderIQ provides Amazon Kindle price drop alerts, watches your favorite titles to let you know when they are available for Kindle, and gives you a regularly updated list of all non-public domain freebies on Amazon.com.

<http://www.ereaderiq.com/>

Logitech Washable Keyboard K310

From a light dusting to a soak*, this washable keyboard with drainage holes is easy to clean and easy to dry. Check it out here: <http://tinyurl.com/cldk34x>

Substitute Butter and Milk for Heavy Cream

If you're cooking, need a cup of heavy cream, and don't have any on hand you substitute $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk and $\frac{1}{4}$ melted butter thoroughly mixed. It won't whip but otherwise will work well in any recipe that calls for heavy cream.

Transfer VHS Tapes to Your Computer

A video to help you digitally record old analog VHS home movies onto your computer using one simple cable and some free time. http://news.cnet.com/1606-2_3-50129292.html

Ebook Search Engine

No more searching Kindle, Nook and iBookstore to find the eBook you want at the price you want..

<http://leatherbound.me/>

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Thanks, Jeannine!



The Problem: Muffled Sound

By Steve Baer, Feature Writer, Hilton Head Island Computer Club, SC
May 2012 issue, Island Computing, www.hhicc.org, Baer (at) ieee.org

Lately when I'm with groups of friends there is an increasing chance that some subset of people will complain to me about how bad TV and DVD sound is getting, and how hard it is to at times to understand the dialog. I have been noticing this myself and decided to try to understand what is happening. There are several things going on, all of which conspire against us.

1 – As we get older our ears become less able, especially at higher frequencies. This is called Presbycusis, and there is good information on it on the web. Coming from Bell Labs, I learned about this almost 50 years ago, but I never thought it would apply to me!

2 – Many of the newer flat-screen TV's have very small bezels, and hence have small speakers or worse, put them at the sides or rear. When we put these sets in cabinets, or bookcases, the sound – especially the high frequencies, gets absorbed in the cabinets.

3 – Many DVDs have a very large dynamic range, the difference between the softest and loudest parts. Hence, in order to avoid being blown away during a car chase or explosions, we lower the volume overall. Then at the dialog passages, the sound is too low for our older ears.

4 – Many new DVDs are encoded with multi-channel sound. When you play the DVD, you probably have seen the setup menu where the multi-channel options are labeled with terms such as: 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, DTS, THX, etc. This refers to the number of channels of sound that are in the film, if you have the equipment to decode and the right number of speakers. (The .1 represents the sub-woofer channel.) One of these channels is the center channel that usually carries most of the dialog.

If you have made an incorrect selection on the DVD setup menu or an external amplifier, and are trying to play back multichannel sound through a system without all the multi-channel speakers, you will miss a lot of the audio. If you are watching a movie through an ordinary TV without multi-channel sound capability, be sure to pick the appropriate audio option on the movie setup menu.

Some Solutions

There are some ways around these problems:


1 – Many people use a product such as "TV Ears" which wirelessly puts the sound into stethoscope type earphones that they wear. I have tried these, and they work extremely well. However, they are expensive and I have found them to be mechanically fragile. I have already had to repair two sets for friends – both failing in the same way. (Perhaps newer models are better made.) Two people would also require two sets. Be sure that you understand where the base station will plug in to your system in order to broadcast the audio to the stethoscope part.



2 – Several of my friends have supplemented the flimsy and poorly aimed speakers in their TVs with sound bars such as shown in the figure below. This is a Vizio model available from Wal-Mart for about \$100. This does not solve the multi-channel problem, but for one or two channel sound, with the speakers facing the listener, they work amazingly well. In my experience, good one or two channel sound is far superior to poor multi-channel sound. I heard this particular sound bar unit a few nights ago and I was amazed at the clarity. It is an active speaker, meaning that it has its own small amplifier built in. It can receive audio input from your DVD player or your TV set via red (right) and white (left) type of standard RCA cables. Some sound bars also have digital inputs for more complex setups.



3 – If you use an amplifier to drive a multi-channel speaker system, make sure that the center channel speaker is aimed, directly firing at the listener. Also raise the treble to make up for your possible high frequency loss from Presbycusis.

Finally, many amplifiers will have a compression setting that minimizes the differences between loud and soft passages. Make sure that you engage that feature. I recently did these three things in my system, providing a large improvement in intelligibility.  [Go to Page 1](#)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

w Work phone h Home phone c Cell phone
* Meets at an alternate location

Most SIGs will meet at Edina Executive Plaza, Conference Room #102, 5200 Willson Road, Edina, MN

Confirm with a SIG group if they meet elsewhere.

For more info contact the SIG Leader(s) listed here.

Get SIG announcements!

Link from www.tpc.com

Board of Directors*

All members are welcome! Call for location.

Selected Saturday mornings

Ross Held RHeld83745@aol.com

Community Outreach*

To request services or volunteer to help
Contact:

Ross Held RHeld83745@aol.com

Linux on Saturday

This is for the Linux newbie and those trying
to come over from Microsoft to a different
operating system.

Second Saturday @ 9 AM-Noon

Jack Ungerleider 612/418-3494 c
jack@jacku.com

Picture Perfect

Explore how to use your digital camera
and learn how to use a variety of software
for editing, organizing, and sharing images
and video.

Second Tuesday 6:00—7:00 PM

Every other month

Right before the general meeting

Sharon Walbran SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Microsoft Access

All levels. Presentations by expert develop-
ers within the group and by MS reps.

Third Saturday 9:00 AM—Noon

Steve Kuhlmeier 952/934-8492
steve@kuhlmeysystems.com

Microsoft Office

Addresses the use, integration, and nuanc-
es of the Microsoft Office applications.

Combined with Systems on Saturday

Third Saturday of the Month

Steve Kuhlmeier 952/934-8492
steve@kuhlmeysystems.com

Web Page Design

Discussion and demonstration of HTML,
web publishing software and page design.

Second Tuesday @ 6:00-7:00 PM

Every other month

Right before the general meeting.

Jack Ungerleider 612/418-3494 c
jack@jacku.com

Microsoft Word for PC & Mac

Any level user can be proficient and efficient
in basics and advanced features of Word..

Combined with Systems on

Third Saturday 9:00 AM—Noon

Tom Ostertag 612/951-5520 w
651/488-9979 h

Curt Trout 651/484-4569 h
ctrout@troutreach.com

Systems on Saturday

For all levels of computer challenges and any
type of computer-related question. Incl. Q&A
Meets 2nd & 3rd Saturdays 9:00 AM-Noon

Curt Trout 651/484-4569 h
ctrout@troutreach.com

Directions to Summit Place for General Meetings:

Proceed to Eden Prairie Center Flying Cloud Drive . [Flying Cloud Drive runs along
the West side of the Eden Prairie Center.] Once you have driven past Eden Prairie
Center (on the left) along Flying Cloud Drive you will come to a stop light at Prairie
Center Drive. The next intersection with a stop light and left turn lane is Fountain
Place. Turn left at Fountain Place and go straight into the parking lot. Turn left again
to the first covered entry way of Summit Place. There is plenty of parking in the
large parking lot in front of the first Summit Place covered entry way. When you
enter the door at the first covered entry way, ask to be directed to the Performance
Room for the TC/PC meeting. For a map of more detailed directions and *info on*
Web SIG and Board meeting, check the TC/PC website.

Directions to **Edina Executive Plaza**
for **Systems on Saturday, Access,**
Word and Picture Perfect SIGs: Take
Highway 100 to the 50th Street/Vernon
exit. [If you have come from the north,
cross back over Highway 100 to the
east side.] Take the first right and go
past Perkins [The golf course will be on
your left.] and continue on the east
frontage road (Willson Road) to the
next building—5200 . There is ample
parking in the building's lot.
Conference Room #102 is on 1st floor.

Help yourself by helping others!

Join the team & share your knowledge with others.

Contact TC/PC at www.tpc.com

Meetings start at 7:00 PM (9:00 AM on Saturday) unless otherwise noted. *Meets at Edina Executive Plaza.

September

October

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Linux and Open Source on Saturdays 9:00—Noon
9	10	11 NO MEETING!!	12	13	14	15 Windows & MS Office (including Access) 9:00-Noon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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Get Free Help, Tips, and Tricks from "MakeUseOf"

by Ira Wilsker, iwilsker@sbcglobal.net

WEBSITES:

<http://www.makeuseof.com>

<http://www.makeuseof.com/about>

It never ceases to amaze me as to how much reliable and quality help is available on the internet. One of my favorite resources for tips, tricks, cheat sheets, and apps is the website at www.makeuseof.com. With an international staff, but hosted in the U.K., MakeUseOf has established a recognized reputation of excellence in terms of tips and tricks to improve our cyber lives, regardless of what operating system that we choose to use, or devices that we own. Windows, Android, Linux, Apple OS, and other operating systems are covered, as well as hints and help for smart devices and phones, tablets, laptops, netbooks, desktops, and other digital platforms. The menu bar at the top of the website somewhat says it all, indicating what type of information is available, with the simple headings linked to "How To & TIPS", "Best of APPS", "Ask Tech HELP", "Cheats and GUIDES", "Websites INDEX", and "Geeky FUN."

The front page of [MakeUseOf.com](http://www.makeuseof.com), which I review on a daily basis, shows the latest articles posted, as well as a listing of the most popular articles referenced. Founded just six years ago, in July, 2006, MakeUseOf has 450,000 active subscribers, and 15 million page views each month. MakeUseOf is ranked as one of the top blogs on the web, and listed as one of the top 1000 websites by Amazon's Alexa. The heart of the MakeUseOf website is the collection of articles that it has posted; with about 10 article summaries per page, starting on the front page of the website, there are 1393 pages of article summaries, with each summary linking to the full article! As I type this, the most recent articles on the front page include such diverse items as, 3 Tools To Unleash Your Mac OS X Menu Bar, 10 Free MP3 Albums To Download (Sunday special, every Sunday), Why I'm Done With Windows (Commentary), Cool Websites and Tools, Cool Tech Deals of the Week, and Create Your Very Own Operating System With Linux From Scratch [Linux].

While a comprehensive collection of nearly 14,000 catalogued and indexed articles is a wealth of useful information, these articles make up but one small part of the MakeUseOf website. Moving the cursor over the "How To & TIPS" part of the menu bar on the website opens a wide choice of options; here is where operating system help can be selected (Windows, MAC, iOS, Linux, Android), browser tips covering all of the major and most of the minor internet browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Opera, Chrome, and many others), Facebook and Twitter help, Wordpress and blogging assistance, online music help, security information, gaming, hardware and gadget information, and a variety of other interesting topics. Being personally interested in cyber security issues, I clicked on the "Security" link on the pull-down "How To & TIPS" menu, where the latest person-level security articles were posted. Among the latest articles posted was an updated story about the 450,000 Yahoo! passwords that were compromised by hackers and posted online, an update on the FBI pulling the plug on internet servers that it had been running to mitigate the impact of the DNSChanger malware (see my April 27 column in the Examiner online archives), security risks on the Pinterest social media service, Trojans attacking Android and iOS devices, and a frightening prediction from Trend Micro that warns of a massive malware assault on Android devices, stating, "Trend Micro expects to find 138,000 malware samples in the fourth quarter of 2012 – up dramatically from 5,000 at the start of 2012." Other contemporary security columns include articles on massive password thefts, gaming security, and online scams.

Under the "Best of APPS" banner is a directory of the best applications available, as determined by the MakeUseOf staff and broad community of contributors. The listing of categories of "Best APPS" is large and includes the best websites, as well as the best software, applications, and plug-ins for all of the major operating systems, portable devices (including smart phone and tablets, including the iPhone and


iPad), browser extensions and add-ons, Wordpress plug-ins, portable applications (most run from a USB flash drive), and Linux distribution files. In this lengthy list, there is literally something for everyone.

With the widespread and increasing utilization of digital technology, it is inevitable that all of us will likely need some type of technical help or assistance; while there are many online sources of this technical help, including manufacturers' or publishers' websites, MakeUseOf has compiled an impressive collection of articles in its "Ask Tech HELP" section. Technical help and assistance is available for all of the major operating systems, hardware and software aid, networking solutions, Facebook help, Smartphone assistance (Android and iPhone), help with the many different web browsers currently available, and help for bloggers. Since I have an Android Smartphone, I decided to explore some of the more recent Android tech support issues, and I found several of use to me. In each of the tech support categories, the protocol is for someone to post a question, and then there may both expert and community responses. The number of possible solutions is posted adjacent to the inquiry, with the answer box color coded, which indicates if the problem has been resolved to the satisfaction of the person who originally posted the inquiry; red indicates unresolved, while green indicates satisfactorily resolved. Only registered users can post tech support questions on MakeUseOf, but registration is fast and free. MakeUseOf recognizes the users' registration on Facebook and other social media websites, which can be used to access all of the features and downloads on MakeUseOf; for those without social media membership, or those who prefer to register directly, they may do so directly from any page on the site.

I am not too proud to say that sometimes I need help with some of the most commonly used applications, and MakeUseOf offers about 75 full length guides, and about three dozen cheat sheets. The full length guides are available for free to registered users (password required, and is provided free to registered users). The free downloadable guides are available in the universal PDF format which can be downloaded or viewed online, or in ePub format which can be viewed on an iPad, Nook, Kobo, and most other e-readers. Kindle users will have to convert the ePub file to MOBI format in order to read it for free on the Kindle, or it can be purchased directly from Amazon for download to the Kindle. One of the guides that I use frequently is the 30 page long "Office 2010: Ultimate Tips and Tricks" which is exactly what the title says. Other guides include comprehensive guides to Windows Phones, Photoshop, Chrome, iPad, LinkedIn, social media marketing, Google+, Android, Ubuntu, a complete guide to malware removal, guides to backup and restore, and many other useful (and free) complete guides.

The free MakeUseOf cheat sheets are mostly one or two pages in length, and consist of keyboard shortcuts, hints, and other tips that may make applications faster to use and more enjoyable for the user. I regularly use several of these cheat sheets in some of the adult education classes that I teach, and have taught entire classes using only the appropriate cheat sheets as my instructional text. I routinely use several of the cheat sheets myself, including Windows, MAC OS X, Office 2010, Google Docs, Outlook, Gmail, Facebook, "Chat Smileys", and Firefox cheat sheets, which I store on my desktop in PDF format.

Some of us occasionally need a little light humor when online, and the "Geeky FUN" section may meet that need. Geeky FUN has two primary sections, pictures and videos. There are enough funny computer and technology related pictures and images to satisfy anyone's funny bone, as there are a dozen funny pictures on a page, and there are 233 pages of funny images (about 2800 images)! For those who like funny videos, Geeky FUN has 55 pages of videos, with a dozen thumbnails per page (660 total videos). For entertainment value, these images and videos are a fun way to burn many hours of online time.

If you would like to keep up with the latest materials from MakeUseOf, it offers a customized free email subscription of user selectable topics including a daily newsletter, articles, tech support answers, and the newest "Geeky FUN" images and videos. With all of its extensive free collection of articles, tech support assistance, cheat sheets, guides, and humorous content, it would be easy for any user to become a regular on the MakeUseOf website. Anyone who visits the site and explores its offerings will comprehend why it is a part of my daily online ritual.  [Go to Page 1](#)

How to remember your passwords with eWallet by iLium Software

Reviewed by Hewie Poplock, APCUG Director

Hewie's Views & Reviews, <http://www.hewie.net>

I am a password nut. I try to have almost every program, website, email address, etc., use a unique password. That makes it difficult to remember them. Way back in 2000, I found a program to keep track of all of my passwords and account numbers in an encrypted file. I carried a Palm PDA in those days. The program was eWallet by iLium Software, with a version for both my Palm and my PC. I could sync the information as well.

Once the Palm PDA and its successor were finally put to rest, I continued to use the program between my desktop, laptop, and netbook. The encrypted file containing the data was easily copied between them.

I purchased the original iPhone and one of the first apps that I added was the iOS version of eWallet. I could sync it with my PC version via Wi-Fi. So once again I was now able to carry a program with me to access my passwords anytime. I was comfortable knowing that it had an encrypted file with a rather long password to access the file. I have since added an iPad2 to the equation and upgraded to the iPhone 4s, using eWallet on both.


There are many password manager programs available. Obviously, the main reason that I use the eWallet is that I have been using it for 12 years. However, there are other reasons. The biggest is that I can have it on all of my devices, especially on my iPhone & my iPad, which I have with me at all times. The data is protected with 256-bit AES (FIPS-197) encryption.

eWallet is currently available for PCs running Windows 7, Vista, or XP. If you are a Mac user, you need OS X. There are versions for the Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod touch, RIM BlackBerry, Android phones, the Kindle Fire tablet, and Windows Mobile. You need to check the version number to be sure it works on your device. The PC version is \$20 & the others are \$10 each. Only one license is needed for both the iPad & iPhone. You can try the PC version free for 30 days & then it stops working unless you buy it.

Although the program manages your passwords well, it has other features that may not be included in other programs in the same category. They include Live Fields, which enables you to jump to websites or dial phone numbers with just a tap. Auto Pass brings up the webpage and fills in the username and password for you. There is Smart Copy to quickly grab info for on-line forms and PassBuilder that generates passwords for you if you want real security using unique passwords. You can import data from some other programs using the Import Wizard.

eWallet stores your info in a file called a wallet. You can have more than one wallet. Each wallet contains categories and stores your information using cards in which you designate its category. Cards can be printed as well as the entire wallet. I use the search ability a lot. It searches the entire wallet for the letters that you type wherever they appear so finding an item is easy and quick.

Whether you use eWallet or another password management program, do not automatically open the program at boot up. This would allow anyone to be able to see or use your passwords. Once you have found the password that you need, either close or lock the program so that you must type the password to retrieve another. Otherwise, why encrypt or protect your passwords?

eWallet is available for download or purchase at <http://www.iliusoft.com/ewallet>, the iTunes App Store, or the Android Market.  [Go to Page 1](#)



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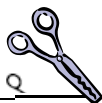
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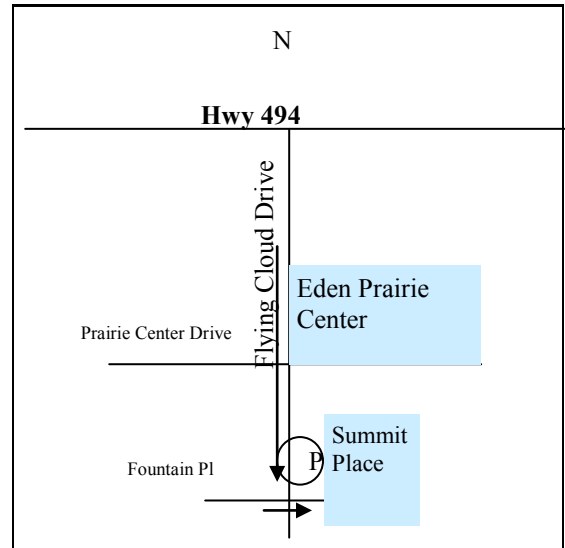
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