



NEWSLETTER

The Best Accessory
for your PC!



MAIN MEETINGS

West Side.....Tue, Aug 14

CollegeAmerica, 9801 North Metro Pkwy E, Phoenix

East Side.....Wed, Aug 15

2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe
(one block west of Fry's Electronics)

Fountain Hills.....Thu, Aug 16

Fountain Hills Library, 12901 N La Montana Drive,
Fountain Hills

Presentation this month:

Always bring your Questions & future topics.
We'll provide answers, how to's, etc.
See this documentary at our Aug Meeting
AMAZING!
Microsoft and West Coast Customs get
together to build Project Detroit,
A 2012 Ford Mustang wrapped in a replica
1967 body and stuffed with Windows, Xbox,
and Kinect-inspired tech.
The car of the future ?

For date and time changes, check our
website: phoenixpcug.org

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Steering Committee:

Officers and Members who are present
at the 6:00 P.M. West Side meeting.

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THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Everyone - having a hot & happy August? Yup, 110+ degrees is really not fun!

There is certainly a lot going on this month. The Olympics, NASA's Curiosity exploration vehicle for Mars has landed successfully, presidential campaigning, school is starting up, new computer products announcements, new ways of doing things such as wireless laptop to TV connections called WiDi, more Windows 8 details, also news on Office 2013. (Gads, many of us are still on Office 2003 & XP!)

This month we plan a short survey of general computer skills within the club, everybody's current life & computer goals or interests, a past review of topics that we have covered and ideas for club growth.

In some ways growth is the most important because if the club doesn't grow, then we disappear. Some ideas to improve this are working with other organizations and our host campuses, such as students, business owners, newbies, seniors, etc.

Olympics - well, probably the best way to view is via the Web. Many, including Leo Laporte have criticized NBC for their ham-fisted approach to only allow you to see online is via verification of your cable or satellite provider login & password. So maybe I'll watch some events afterwards. I'll post more info later. Some disgruntled & savvy users have spoofed their ip location via servers elsewhere to view the Olympics 'live'. Since our official user group position is to stay legit on copyrights, I'll leave it at that. If you haven't seen the 'cute' logos of Google about sports (such as javelin) each day recently, it's pretty cool. Officially they have to be hands off about anything resembling Olympics' logos. Hope to see you at the Aug Meetings.

David

FROM YOUR EDITOR

The recent broadcast of the 2012 London Olympics featured all that was best in new electronic features used for sporting events shown on public broadcast television. But, of course, the worst of traditional commercial television fare was again demonstrated to the maximum level. One of the best of the new electronic features was the appearance of a black dot to show the impact point of a tennis ball in the matches held at historic Wimbledon stadium. This dot appeared near the court boundary line giving the exact landing position of the ball, i.e., whether the ball was "in" or "out" - a traditional source of frequent, heated arguments between players and line judges. Another electronic feature that had appeared on sports events before was now used again to show the sequential stop-action pictures of platform divers as they completed each dive. The small flaws in an individual dive, which were visible to the veteran judges but have always been difficult for average spectators to see, were clearly shown in the onscreen overlay.

But then, on the other hand, the insistent repetition, as always, of the same commercial messages and future network previews prevented any continuity in viewer enjoyment. It is well known that the network had paid a billion dollar fortune to be the television broadcaster, and thereby had to fill hours of programming as part of their contract. But somewhere along the way, the program directors forgot that the Olympic Games are filled with an extensive variety of sports events. There were 26 sports in the London Olympics, but the network seemed to consider only five - soccer, volley ball, basketball, tennis, and gymnastics to be worthy of extensive, even excessive, coverage. Yet at least these select few sporting events, boring as they were, vastly overshadowed the ennui generated by the endless nattering of the commentators, particularly the studio "talking heads" who have perfected the practice of talking without saying anything important. But sadly, no matter how bad the television presentation of the 2012 London Olympics happened to be, it was surely better than the material that is ordinarily screened on regular daytime television.

Michael

MEETINGS

CALENDAR

For date and time changes, check our
website: phoenixpcug.org

PRESENTATION THIS MONTH

Always bring your Questions & future topics.
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together to build Project Detroit,
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The car of the future ?

GENERAL MEETINGS

WEST SIDE: CollegeAmerica (see map page 16)

- Tuesday, June 19, 2012
- 6:00 PM - Steering Committee and Election of Officers
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
-

EAST SIDE: University of Advancing Technology (see map page 16)

- Wednesday, June 20, 2012
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
-

FOUNTAIN HILLS: Fountain Hills Library (see map page 16)

- Thursday, June 21, 2012
- 6:30 PM - Q and A
-

SPAM AND SPYWARE

Spam and Spyware

It Takes Two: Senders and Receivers

By John Roy, President, The PC Users Group of CT

May 2012 issue, The Program

www.tpcug-ct.org

[johnroy1 \(at\) comcast.net](mailto:johnroy1@comcast.net)

As a recipient, everyone must be cautious before opening any email including those from family or friends. Fortunately, most ISPs do a fairly good job of stripping out obvious spam/malware email so it never reaches your inbox. You may even have a second filter to further reduce what arrives in your real mailbox but it is impossible to eliminate all spam/malware. Therefore, the final filter is a manual decision by you not to open a potential Spam/malware email.

Common sense about opening any questionable email has been published numerous times and need not be repeated here. Those of you that heed this generic advice will minimize your chances of becoming infected. The people that can't resist knowing what lies behind the questionable email will continually be infected. The bottom line is if it doesn't look right delete it. If you really think your friend sent something important, just respond requesting a follow up without opening the pending email.

Are you or your email address being flagged as the sender of this spam/malware? If you are being accused of sending spam/malware one or more of these things have happened.

Your computer is infected and is sending this email without your knowledge.

A friend of yours with your email address has a compromised computer that is sending the spam/malware using your email address.

One or more of your email address passwords has been cracked and consequently compromised by a criminal.

Of course there could also be random spoofing of common email addresses. Some other clues that you may notice is getting replies or bounce messages to email you never sent.

So what can be done? When I receive a potential email threat from someone I know I first disable any active hyperlink and respond to the sender letting them know that spam/malware is being received from their email address. I recommend the person take preventative action by first running several malware tools such as Malwarebytes on their personal computer.

They can also change their ISP password in case that has been compromised. If the spam/malware source is someone else's computer or just random spoofing there really isn't much more that can be done but hope it eventually stops.

**WE WANT TO INCREASE
OUR MEMBERSHIP
IF EACH MEMBER
BROUGHT JUST ONE
INTERESTED GUEST
TO A MEETING
WE WOULD ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL**

WINDOWS 7 PROGRAM COMPATIBILITY MODE

Windows 7 Program Compatibility Mode

By Lynn Page, Editor, Crystal River User Group, Florida

April 2012 Newsletter

<http://crugdotcom.wordpress.com/>

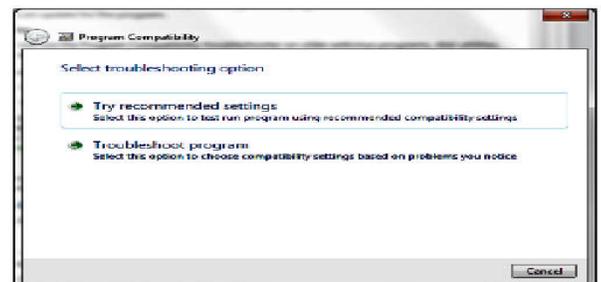
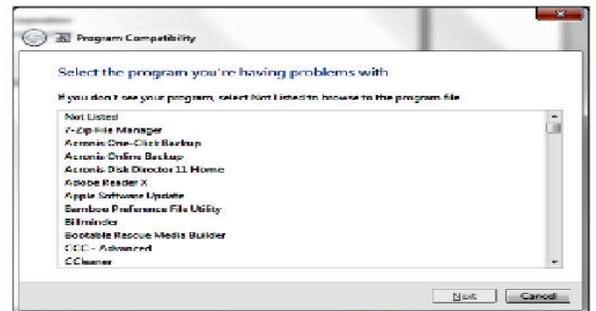
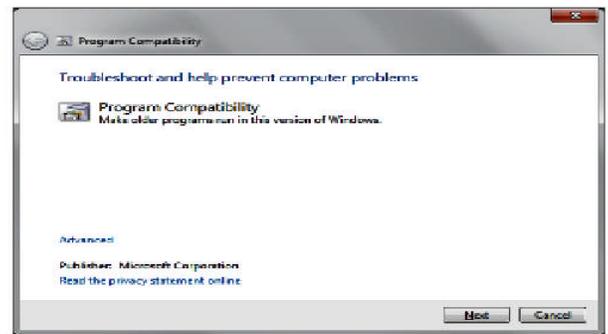
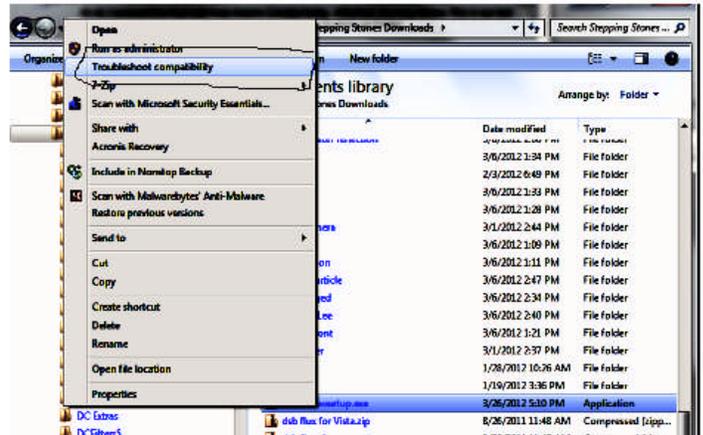
lpage (at) tampabay.rr.com

Program Compatibility Mode allows you to run programs written for earlier versions of Windows. If an old program doesn't run correctly, use the Program Compatibility troubleshooter to simulate a version of Windows that it ran well on.

Problems Installing a Program

The Program Compatibility Assistant detects compatibility issues when trying to install a program that does not support Windows 7. If a compatibility error is found during installation, after closing the error message, the Program Compatibility Assistant notifies you that the program might not have installed correctly. It prompts you to Reinstall using recommended settings.

from the listing and then select Try recommended settings.



Program Compatibility Troubleshooter

Some programs install, but don't work properly with Windows 7. The Program compatibility troubleshooter may solve the issue. Or right click the program icon and select Troubleshoot compatibility. In search box type Program compatibility troubleshooter and select it. Click Next, select the program

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TABLET COMPUTERS

Tablet Computers - Great for Accessing the Internet

By Phil Sorrentino, Past President, Sarasota PCUG,
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April 2012 issue, Sarasota Monitor

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Tablets are all the rage. You might think it started with the iPad, but the iPad is just the latest and greatest implementation of what started out as pen computing with a stylus on a Personal Digital Assistant, circa 1992. (I bet many of you had a Palm Pilot, or something similar. I know I did.) Microsoft even introduced a tablet or slate computer using a pen (rather than a keyboard) around 2002. (The term Tablet PC was coined by Microsoft, as a pen-enabled computer conforming to Microsoft's hardware specifications, and running a licensed copy of the "Windows XP Tablet PC Edition" OS. Things have really changed from then.) The Apple iPod-Touch, in 2008, was the forerunner of the eventual iPad in 2010. Since the iPad introduction, many similar featured tablets have shown up for sale in stores and on-line retailers. Tablets, in use, are even showing up on popular TV shows. I bet you've seen them used on shows where technology plays an important part of the plot, like NCIS and NCIS Los Angeles.

Tablets are basically computers, but they are built for mobility, even more-so than laptops. They are light (under 1 1/2 lbs.) and there are no moving parts, so they should be fairly rugged. (There are no hard drives or optical (CD/DVD) drives.) The Operating System and Applications (Apps) are stored in semi-conductor memory so they are readily available; the boot-up time is really quick. All tablets have a touch sensitive screen which acts as both the keyboard and mouse. All interactions are done by finger movements on the screen, called gestures. Most gestures are done by one finger, like a "flick" which moves an object in the direction you flick your finger, but some gestures require two fingers such as zoom, which is a outward pinching-like movement of the thumb and pointer fingers. Most popular tablets are either 7 or 10 inches (diagonally measured), although I've seen some smaller and some other sizes. Most Tablets do not have cell phone capabilities, but I have seen some smaller ones that included phone features.

Besides the hardware manufacturer, one of the main distinguishing features of a tablet is the Operating System (OS). Currently, there are three major OSs,

Apple's iOS, Google's Android, and Microsoft's Windows Phone7. Apple has a line of tablets that use iOS, the iPad and iPad2. Many tablet hardware manufacturers, such as Motorola, LG, Lenovo, HTC, Samsung, Toshiba, ASUS, etc. make use of Android OS. And Microsoft has stated that many manufacturers will use Phone7, among them Samsung and Nokia. The User Interfaces (UI) that ride on top of the OSs are fairly similar in functionality, but have some very different features. Apple iPads are tightly tied to Apple iTunes. (What would you expect?) Google tablets are loosely tied to Google's applications such as Gmail and Google+. I haven't seen much of Phone7, but I would guess it will be tied to Microsoft products and websites. Because the current tablet universe seems to be populated by Apple iPad products and those running Google's OS, I will leave Phone7 out of some of the comparisons. As of this writing Apple has about 60% of the market, and Android has around 30% (the Amazon Kindle Fire uses Android). One of the major software differences is that Android runs the Adobe Flash software that is used on many websites to support videos. Apple does not allow Adobe Flash to run. Another hardware difference seems to be that Google supports more interfaces to get data onto, and off, the tablet. Some Android tablets provide micro-SD slots for added storage, micro-HDMI output connectors, USB ports for file transfers, as well as the ability to replace batteries.

The tablet is a great computing device for using (or consuming) data. You probably would not want to create any large amount of data with a tablet (maybe only if you have a unit with a docking or wireless keyboard). Because of its light weight, the tablet is very convenient to use for accessing the internet when you're not at a desk or table. It fits right into your lap or can be easily held with one hand while the other hand controls its operations. It is great for checking your email, surfing the internet, reading a newspaper or magazine, reading a book, watching a video or movie, reviewing your collection of home photos, playing a game (have you tried Angry Birds?), all while listening to music from your own personal playlist.

So if you think you might like a Tablet, what should you look for? The first decision is really, What OS? If you like the Apple environment, then go with an iPad or iPad2, and you're done. There are very few decisions to make, except for how much memory;

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TABLET COMPUTERS

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16GB, 32GB or 64GB. If you prefer the more open environment of the Android OS, then there are a few more decisions to be made. The first one is size, 7" or 10". Some manufacturers have models in both sizes, and some make only one size. The seven inch size is good if you expect to carry it around and use it in many places; it probably fits into a handbag, but probably not a pocket. The ten inch size is easier on the eyes and typically will display more of a webpage. This larger size is nice for viewing, but is not as portable.

The next thing to consider is battery life. The current range seems to be roughly between 7 and 10 hours. Some models make it easy to replace the battery, some do not. (With the iPads, you are instructed to return the unit to the manufacturer.) Internal memory and an external memory slot are another area to consider. Internal memory is typically 8GB, 16GB, 32GB and possibly 64GB. External memory may be provided by an SD slot or a mini or micro-SD slot. The external memory is dependent on the size of the chip you put into the slot, currently up to 32GB. With external memory, you can use many memory chips, one at a time, which allows you to keep different things on different memory chips. (Another memory number you may see is RAM memory. This is typically 1GB (possibly as much as 2 GB) and is similar to the RAM in a PC. More RAM usually means increased speed and better multi-tasking.)

All models provide Wi-Fi connectivity to the internet.

Some also provide 3G or 4G connectivity, via the cell phone network. Cell phone network connectivity will probably require a data plan which can cost from \$30 to \$60 a month depending on your data needs. If you only connect via Wi-Fi, there is no additional expense. Most models provide a USB port for connection with a PC. When connected to a PC, data files such as pictures, videos, and documents can be transferred between the devices. Many models also include a micro-HDMI interface for connecting to a digital TV. When connected to a TV, videos can be played on the tablet and viewed on the large screen digital TV. Bluetooth connectivity is also typically included.

Most of the popular models have processors that are quite adequate. Some of these are made by nVidia, Qualcomm, Arm, Texas Instruments, Samsung, and of course, Apple. (Where are Intel and AMD, you might ask. Low power consumption is the main requirement for tablet processors, and Intel and AMD have not been players in this arena in the past, but I think you will see some new processors from them show up in tablets in the near future.)

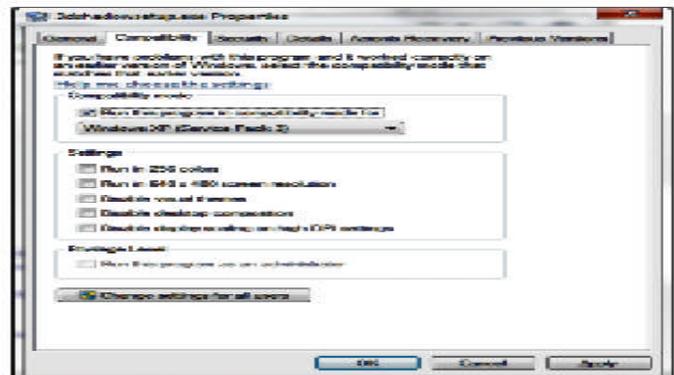
Tablets are now all the rage. Once you have one the real job begins; that of trying to decide what you are going to do with it. The thing that makes the tablet so useful is, like the PC, the fact that you can put Applications (Apps) on it. Many, which are becoming standard, Apps usually come with the tablet. Other Apps are easily downloaded from either iTunes or the Android Market. But the whole discussion of Apps will have to be the subject of a future article. Stay connected.

WINDOWS 7 PROGRAM COMPATIBILITY MODE

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Manually Select Compatibility

You can bypass the Program Compatibility troubleshooter and manually set the Compatibility Mode. Right click the program icon and select Properties. Select the Compatibility tab and check Run this program in compatibility for: In the drop down list select the version of Windows that the programs runs on. Then the program will always run in Compatibility Mode for the version of Windows selected.



WHAT'S HIDING ON YOUR HARD DRIVE?

What's Hiding On Your Hard Drive?

By Bob Rankin

<http://askbobrankin.com/>

If you're actively using your computer to try out new software, or you download music or movies from the Internet, you'll eventually end with some unwanted clutter on your hard drive. Here are some tips to run a 'search and destroy' operation on those large files that are just taking up space on your hard drive...

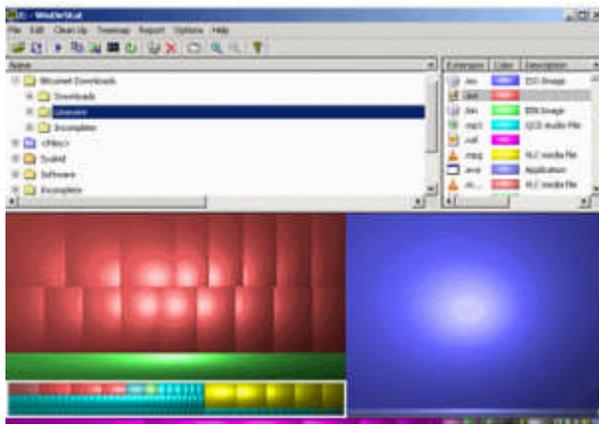
Cleanup Your Hard Drive and Delete Duplicate Files

Over time, stuff can accumulate on your hard drive, just like it does on your desk, your shelves, and in your filing cabinet. Sometimes software programs leave logs, dumps or temporary files that serve no useful purpose.

[Large files](#) can waste space on your hard drive, and duplicate copies make it hard to find the file you want. And if you do regular backups, huge and unnecessary files will slow down the process, especially if you use an [online backup](#) service.

(You ARE making regular backups, right? If not, see [How I Got Hacked... And Why You MUST Have a Backup!](#))

Fortunately, there are some nifty, free tools you can use to identify and zap the files you don't want or need on your hard drive. You might even find it fun (and at least educational) to go through the process. Here are my recommendations to find large, useless and duplicate files:



AskBobRankin.com

[WinDirStat](#) is a free tool that analyzes your hard drive, and then displays your files and folders in a variety of textual and graphical formats that help you understand what's taking up all that space on your disk. Don't worry about the little PacMan critters as they scurry around your hard drive. They're not actually eating anything. :-)

The directory list is similar to the Windows Explorer tree view, but is sorted by the size of file/folder/subtree. The stunning graphical treemap shows the contents of the directory tree at a glance, using colored squares of different sizes. Clicking on a square will reveal the name of the file or folder, and highlights it in the tree view above. The extension list to the right reveals what each extension stands for (e.g. MPG = Movie Clip) and shows statistics about the file types.

When I ran WinDirStat, it immediately showed me that I had some very old (and very large) MPEG video files laying around, and one 4GB file that I no longer needed. It's easy to right-click a file, then open an Explorer window or a command prompt showing the parent folder. You can also choose to rename a file, or delete it permanently, bypassing the [recycle bin](#). WinDirStat is for Windows only, but the author recommends some related apps, namely [KDirStat](#) for Linux and [Disk Inventory X](#) for Macs.

[JdiskReport](#) is a similar tool, but it displays your disk usage in a pie chart instead. It will identify which folders are consuming the bulk of your hard drive, and helps to identify large, obsolete files and folders. JdiskReport runs on Windows, Mac OS X and Linux.

[Easy Duplicate Finder](#) will help you find and eliminate duplicate files from [your PC](#) or Mac's hard drive. You'll be surprised how many duplicate photos, Word documents, spreadsheets, and MP3s it reveals. Deleting duplicate files will make your backups faster, and eliminates confusion as well. Easy Duplicate Finder can alert you to duplicates in which the file-names and/or sizes match, or dive deeper to check the actual file contents for duplication. It can also search for duplicate songs by scanning the MP3 [ID tags](#), which reveal the song title, artist, and album names. Options include scanning only specified fold-

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WHAT'S HIDING ON YOUR HARD DRIVE?

(Continued from page 8)

ers or file types, and searching external drives, MP3 players, and [digital cameras](#). When getting rid of unwanted or duplicate files, you have to be very careful that you don't delete an important system files. Easy Duplicate Finder will warn you if you try to nuke something that will cause system problems, and gives you the option to move dupes to the Recycle Bin, some other folder, or open the file with it's associated program to see what's inside.

The Windows [Disk Cleanup](#) utility can also be useful. It does a good job of finding and deleting temporary files, Windows Update backup files, and other stuff you don't need to know or care about. It won't find duplicate files, however. On Windows XP, go to My Computer, right-click a hard drive, select Properties, then click the Disk Cleanup button. On Vista or Windows 7, click Start, type Disk Cleanup, and hit Enter. Some other tips that will help to de-[clutter](#) your hard drive:

- ◆ Use the Windows Add/Remove Programs tool to uninstall what you don't use.
- ◆ Try [PC Decrapifier](#) or [Revo Uninstaller](#) to remove pre-installed bloatware or apps that can't be zapped by other methods.
- ◆ Proactively delete photos, movies, documents and spreadsheets you no longer need.
- ◆ Keep a tidy email inbox, and delete emails with large attachments.

Do you have your own hard drive cleanup tips to share? Post your comment or question below...

Read more: http://askbobrankin.com/whats_hiding_on_your_hard_drive.html#ixzz21UCZ2haR

There are hundreds of registry cleaners on the market to choose from. It can be difficult to determine the best registry cleaner that will safely and effectively clean up your [windows registry](#).

Some of the areas that are important to understand when choosing the best registry cleaner include effec-

tiveness, scan times, ease of use, program features, value and compatibility. It is critical to take the time to determine which cleaner is best for your computer. There are some registry cleaners that will cause your computer more problems instead of eliminating the issues in the first place. One of the problems with registry cleaners is that they are being sold by companies that didn't develop them and so don't have an understanding of how they [work](#). Please use caution or you will install an inferior product that can permanently damage your computer.

So, how do you determine the best registry cleaner for your computer? When looking for the best way to clean your registry, your goal is to find the application that will make your computer run properly as opposed to the one that will detect the most errors. One problem is that there are many of the exact same inferior products doing the exact same thing. However, the packaging is different so the consumer assumes they are unique to the company selling them. Another thing to keep in mind is that the people reviewing these products have only a profit margin in mind and don't care as much about the consumer having a quality product.

Determining which is the best registry cleaner for you may take some time and research but there are some superior cleaners on the market to choose from. Some of the features the best registry cleaners should have are the ability to look at your registry automatically and correct problems such as invalid paths, fonts, file types, help files, shell extensions, class keys, etc. Also it should give the user the ability to go back or undo anything that was done. This is critical in case a mistake is made. The software should be easy to use but include features for the more experienced user. And does the product provide good customer support that is in-depth, easy to use [customer service](#) tools and possibly the ability to communicate with a help desk?

There are so many registry cleaners on the market that it is worth your time to research and find the best registry cleaner for your needs. The time spent will prove worthwhile in the long run when your computer runs smoothly and efficiently.

MEDIA SHARING & DEVICES

Media Sharing & Devices

By Jerry Grommes, Editor, Sandwich Computer Users Group, IL
 April 2012 issue, SCUG News
www.scug.org

As many of you know I feel strongly that my media, whether it's pictures, videos, music, recorded TV, etc., should be available to me on whatever device I own and not just tied to a computer, CD/DVD player or a DVR. With the increasing number of different kinds devices coming to market, each with its own nitch, I have finally resolved myself to the conclusion that there is not going to be a one size fits all anywhere in the near future.

About three weeks ago Bob Dell sent me a quote from the Tribune's business section (Visions of technology's future): **"Five years from now," says Nate Williams, Motorola Mobility's senior director, head of product marketing for the Converged Experiences group, "you're going to see a dramatic increase in the number of connected devices. The number is about five in the average home now — tablet, gaming console, PC — and it's going to 15 to 20. You're going to have a home with more technology and, hopefully, it will be managed in a way that's a lot more efficient."** I thought that over a bit and started counting. I have eight, which puts me a little above average but less than half of where they are predicting us to be at in the next five years.

Where are you at? Start counting, (Desktop PC, Notebook, Digital Camera, MP3 player, Smart phone, Smart TV, Tablet) that's 7, so you can see, they are adding up fast. Do they all share your media? The answer is yes, but not easily. In my opinion the industry has a long way to go to make it seamless for end users to have their content available across all devices and platforms.

All this lead in was to get to the point of sharing recorded TV and device #9. Ever since migrating from the Commodore to a PC, I have had a TV tuner card in every one of my PCs and if I want to record TV that's how I do it (record it on my computer). From there I can convert the recording to various formats for different devices or burn to DVD. This worked well until the arrival of digital TV. I have cable and they gradually kept dropping the analog channels till it got to the point where I had to add a DTA (Digital Transport Adapter) to the TV tuner in my computer in order to get most of the basic channels again. This happened about the time that I migrated to Windows 7.

Since most versions of Windows 7 include MCE (Media Center Edition), I decided to try MCE and found it to be an excellent avenue for watching TV in a little window or for recording TV. The programming guide makes it a snap to schedule recordings.

Device #9

So on to device #9. Two weeks ago I was surfing the channels and found a program that I wanted to record to watch later, problem was it was a High Definition channel which is not broadcast on an alternative digital channel thus I could not record it. Comcast seems to be doing more of this High Definition-only thing lately (not because you get a better viewing experience but rather they can rent you more HD boxes). While watching the show I couldn't record, I grabbed my tablet and started searching for a solution for recording HD on my computer. In a few clicks I was at the Hauppauge web site reading the specs on the WinTV-DCR-2650, a dual tuner CableCARD™ receiver for your Windows 7 PC. I then clicked on the "Features" tab which stated:

WinTV-DCR-2650 is just like a cable TV set top box (a "DVR" box) in that it can be used to watch and record TV from digital cable. There are a couple of differences:

WinTV-DCR-2650 needs a PC to work. Currently, only a PC with Windows 7 Media Center is compatible with the WinTV-DCR-2650.

WinTV-DCR-2650 does not have any internal disk storage: it uses your PC for storing recorded TV programs. The nice thing about using your PC for storage is that if you fill up your hard drive with TV programs, you can easily add a new hard drive to your PC.

WinTV-DCR-2650 records in the original transmitted quality. For example, if you record from an HD channel, the recording will be HD.

There is no monthly fee for the WinTV-DCR-2650. Once you buy it, it's yours to use forever. But you still need to sign up for cable TV service, and you will still need to rent a digital cable card from your local cable operator.

After reading the 3rd bullet point, that it could record HD channels, I changed my search to a shopping search and had my order placed before the show I wanted to record was even over. How's that for impulse buying?

As you can see from the Quick Setup Guide instructions, there is not much to the setup and installation,

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MEDIA SHARING & DEVICES

(Continued from page 10)

it took approximately a half hour to complete the 1st time through. However, I had to repeat step 4 three additional times before everything was fully functional and that took over three hours because after every call I was instructed to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. Overall, approx four hours from out-of-the-box to watching and recording High Definition TV on my computer.

WinTV-DCR-2650 rear panel connectors



Installation instructions for the WinTV-DCR-2650

- Step 1. Run the Windows Digital Cable Advisor to make sure your PC is compatible with the WinTV-DCR-2650.
- Step 2. Plug the WinTV-DCR-2650 into your PC via the USB cable. Connect cable TV. Insert the cable card you received from your cable operator into the back of WinTV-DCR-2650.
- Step 3. Run the Windows Media Center TV Tuner setup and select your cable TV operator.
- Step 4. Call your cable TV company to activate your cable card and "pair" it to the WinTV-DCR-2650

Four calls

In each of the four calls to Comcast a different support person was on the other end, each was very courteous, spoke very good English and seemed very knowledgeable. In the first call the support person activated the card and told me to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. After 45 minutes I had all of the digital channels but only the basic (2, 5, 7, & 9) HD channels.

Second call

In the second call the support person said she would resend the activation to the card and told me to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. This netted the same results so I ran the Hauppauge diagnostic program that was included on

the installation CD. It reported that the firmware on the CableCard was out-of-date and not supported.

Third call

On the 3rd call I gave the diagnostic information to the support person who put me on hold while he collaborated with another technician. When he returned he stated that he would have to flash the firmware of my CableCard and told me to wait 45 minutes or more before all the channels would be available. He also gave me a different phone number to reach a higher level of support if flashing the card didn't work. After my 45 minute wait I retried and had all digital channels but no HD channels (lost ground). I reran the Hauppauge diagnostic and it reported no errors and said all is well.

Fourth call

The 4th call was to the new number given by the last rep and the support person on the other end had all my information from the previous calls and said she would run some diagnostics on the card from her end, after which she said she would reactivate the card asked me to tell her what lights were flashing while she was doing it. While this was going on she said that if this didn't work she would schedule a service call. By the time we were done talking the reactivating had completed and I had all channels (including the HD Channels) that I subscribe to and I didn't have to wait for 45 minutes.

All Channels

I am very pleased with the Hauppauge WinTV-DCR-2650 picture quality; it is very good and since I was already using MCE there was no learning curve. I can receive every channel on my computer that I can get from the Comcast HD Box except On Demand and Pay Per View. With two tuners built-in you can watch one show while recording another. As for media sharing I give it a thumbs up because I can now record a HD TV show and use Windows Live Movie Maker to save it to a format that can be viewed on my Android Tablet.

Hauppauge is headquartered in Hauppauge, NY and has been bringing TV to the PC since 1992. The Company is the worldwide leader in developing and manufacturing PC based TV tuners and data broadcast receiver products. Hauppauge's products allow PC users to watch television on their PC screens, videoconference and create both still video images and digital TV recordings. Hauppauge's flagship product, the WinTV, is the leading branded TV tuner card for PCs.

WINDOWS Q & A

Windows Q & A

By Mary Phillips, Secretary, Icon Users Group, MO
 April 2011 issue, The ICON-Newsletter of the Inter-
 active Computer Owners Network
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Q1. What are the differences between Data Backup, System Restore, Disk Image, System Recovery Disc and System Repair Disk?

A1. Data Backup – Making copies of personal data files that may be used to restore the originals in case of data loss or simply to restore data from an earlier time. Backed up folders/files may include Documents, Pictures, Music, Videos, and/or Downloads – files it could be difficult or impossible to replace.

Options for backing up your data depends on the hardware you have available and the amount of information you need to back up – DVD's, flash drives, external hard drives or online storage in the "cloud". An external hard drive may provide the most flexibility because they are relatively inexpensive and can hold large amounts of information.

In Windows 7, in the Control Panel, click on Backup and Restore. In this window, you have four main options: Backup, Restore from the Backup, Create a System Image and Create a System Repair Disc.

1. Choose Set up Backup and click on the Backup Destination. In the picture below there are two choices: DVD RW Drive (D:) and My Book (K:). Click Next.

2. What do you want to back up? If you choose Let Windows choose, Window will back up data files saved in Libraries, on the desktop, and in default Windows folders.

It will also create a system image (described later) which can be used to restore your operating system AND data files in the case that your computer quits working.

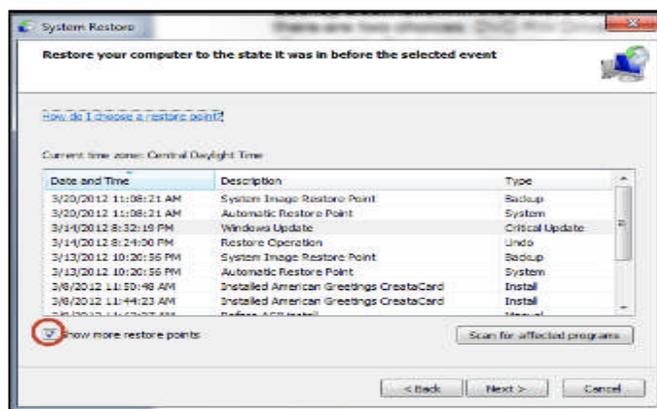
Backup for my computer took approximately 2530 minutes, was 49 GB and was saved in a folder automatically Mary-PC. (See below)

Backups are created in sets; the folder "set" in Mary-PC folder, is named Backup Files 2012-03-20 110818. It contains 8 compressed folders that can be opened and individual Files retrieved.

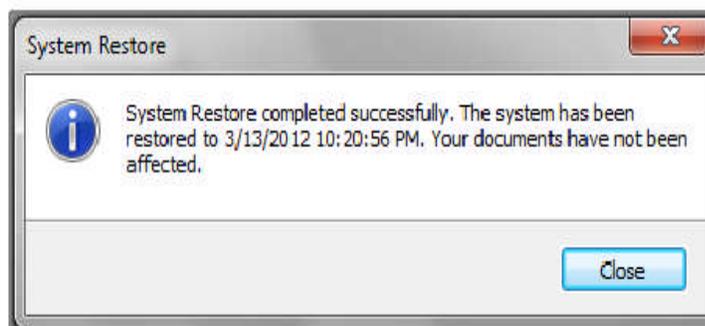
System Restore involves Windows system files, programs, registry settings, and most drivers. It does nothing with personal files, such as e-mail, documents, or photos.

Windows creates what are called Restore Points or "date and time specific snapshots" automatically unless for some specific reason the feature has been turned off. Users can also create restore points manually. The benefit of a Restore point is that it allows the user to "roll back" the system settings and installed programs to a date before a problem existed. Sometimes an update will create a problem or a piece of malware makes things go haywire. Those are good times to use System Restore. A system restore can also be undone if it doesn't fix a problem.

System Restore automatically recommends the most recent restore point created before a significant change, such as installing a program. However, you can and choose from a list of restore points if you check in the box beside Show more restore points (Win 7).



In Windows 7, go to the Control Panel, click on Backup and Restore, click on the link recover system settings to select a restore point. Then you'll see the window below.



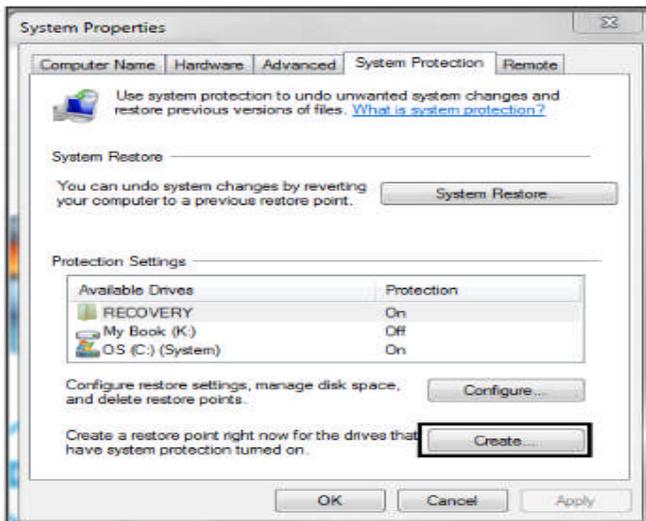
(Continued on page 13)

WINDOWS Q & A

(Continued from page 12)

To create a restore point manually in Windows 7, do the following:

1. In the Control Panel, click on System—System Protection. At the bottom of the window, click on the Create button.
2. Type a description, like "Before Sample program installation". Click Create and System Protection creates the restore point.

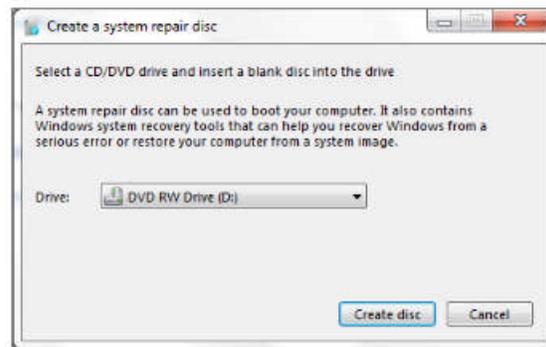


In Windows XP follow this path: All Programs—Accessories—System Tools—System Restore.

1. Choose whether you want to 1) Restore the computer to an earlier time, or 2) Create a restore point. Click Next.
2. If you chose Restore a computer to an earlier date, on the calendar, the dates in bold are the dates that restore points were created. Click on the preferred date. Click Next.
3. If you chose Create a Restore Point, you then will need to give it a description. Click Next and the restore point will be created.

System Image -- A system image is an exact copy of a drive. By default, a system image includes the drives required for Windows to run. It also includes Windows and your system settings, programs, and files. You can use a system image to restore the contents of your computer if your hard disk or computer ever stops working. When you restore your computer from a system image, it's a complete restoration—you can't choose individual items to restore, and all of your current programs, system settings, and files are returned to the condition it was in when the System Image was created.

Although this type of backup includes your personal files, it is recommended that you back up your files regularly using Windows Backup so that you can restore individual files and folders as needed. When you set up Windows Backup, you can let Windows choose what to back up, which will include a system image, or you can select the items that you want to back up and whether you want to include a system image.



You will need to create the System Repair Disc to use with the System Image disks.

System Recovery Discs – Return your computer to its original purchased condition. The manufacturer most often provides an option to create these disks the first time you turn on your computer. When you click on Create System Recovery Disks, you need to have CDs or DVDs ready.

You will end up with a series of CDs (a bunch!) or several DVDs (mine took two DVDs.) These disks are created from a special partition on the hard drive and usually can be created only once. However, the manufacturers are happy to sell you a set of Recovery disks or the technology store where you buy your computer will offer to create the recovery disks for you.

On the good side, System Recovery Discs come in handy in an emergency. Just feed your PC the System Recovery Discs, and your PC regresses into the same machine you originally brought home from the store.

On the bad side, however, you'll lose every program, photo, and file you've stored on that PC since you bought it. System Recovery Discs only care about

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WINDOWS Q & A

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returning your PC to its original, first purchased, condition. Everything else is swept away. So you'd need to reinstall and get updates for every program added since you bought the computer.

System Repair Disc – In the Backup and Restore window of Windows 7, Microsoft built a System Repair Disc option that works quite differently from the PC manufacturer's System Recovery Discs. (Creating the System Repair Disc takes only a few minutes and it only takes up 142MB of space so a CD will work fine. Label the CD as Repair Disc Windows 7 32 or 64 bit.)

When your PC no longer runs properly, insert Windows 7's System Repair Disc into your PC, and press the On switch. Instead of returning your PC to its original condition, the System Repair Disc offers several menu options: Startup Repair. This examines Windows 7's most integral files, then repairs any missing or damaged files that may be keeping Windows 7 from starting.

System Restore. Just like the normal System Restore option, this restores your PC's system files to an earlier point in time, hopefully fixing any recently developed problems. It doesn't affect your personal files, like e mail, documents, or photos. There's one key difference between this version of System Restore, though: When run from the System Repair Disc menu, System Restore doesn't have an undo option. (However, you can run System Restore again and choose a different restore point, if one exists.)

System Image Recovery. If you've created a "System Image" in Windows 7's backup options, this option returns your PC to the condition it was in when you made the System Image backup. It's truly a lifesaver, but only if you create System Image disks regularly.

Windows Memory Diagnostic Tool. Designed to ferret out hardware problems, this examines your PC's memory for errors.

Command Prompt. This lets techies dig deep into Windows' internal crevices. It's designed for people comfortable typing in commands, not moving around a mouse.

In short, the System Recovery discs return your PC to the state it was when first purchased, scrapping all your data while along the way. The System Repair disc, by contrast, offers tools to help bring your ailing PC back to life, keeping all your valuable files safe.

When in major trouble first try your System Repair, as it may solve your problem. Only use the System Recovery Discs as a last resort, as they wipe out everything you've created since buying your PC.

What should I do about System Restore if I get a virus? If you know that your system is infected by a virus, you should temporarily turn off System Restore. Otherwise, the virus could be saved along with other system files in a restore point and reintroduced to your system during a restore operation at a later date.

To turn off System Restore in both Windows 7 and XP, press and hold the Windows key and press the Break key to bring up the System Properties dialog box. Then, click on the System Restore tab, select the Turn Off System Restore check box, and click OK. In

Win 7, as soon as you do, you'll see a confirmation dialog box warning you that turning off System Restore will delete all existing restore points. Click Yes to continue.

**WE ARE TAKING
A SURVEY**

**WHAT SUBJECTS
DO YOU WANT COVERED
AT MEETINGS**

**THIS WILL BE
DISCUSSED
WHEN WE SEE YOU
AT THE AUG MEETING**

Short Circuits...zzzt!

Bear. A Pittsburgh-area mall was evacuated after a bear entered a store. Authorities say they have no idea why the bear walked across a parking lot, through [doors](#) and into the Sears store at about 9 p.m. on a Saturday night. Local media reported that the bear walked around the store and growled at customers, then became stuck between double doors. The Pennsylvania Game [Commission](#) tranquilized the bear and removed it from Pittsburgh Mills Mall, which is about 15 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. No injuries were reported. Authorities say the bear appeared to be around 1 1 / 2 years old and had a tracking collar on it. *Associated Press* July 22,

Leopard. A leopard that mauled 11 people in a fierce showdown with Indian villagers has died of knife wounds after being captured. The snarling adult, male leopard leapt at locals and forest officials as they tried to drive it into a wildlife sanctuary in West Bengal state. Villagers used knives, stones and batons to beat back the cat. It injured six villagers, a policeman and four forest guards before being hit with a tranquilizer gun. The people are recovering from their injuries, mostly swipes from the cat's claws. Leopards are protected in India though more are straying into villages for food. *Associated Press* July 20, 2011



"I know all about that, Dad. ... I Googled it."

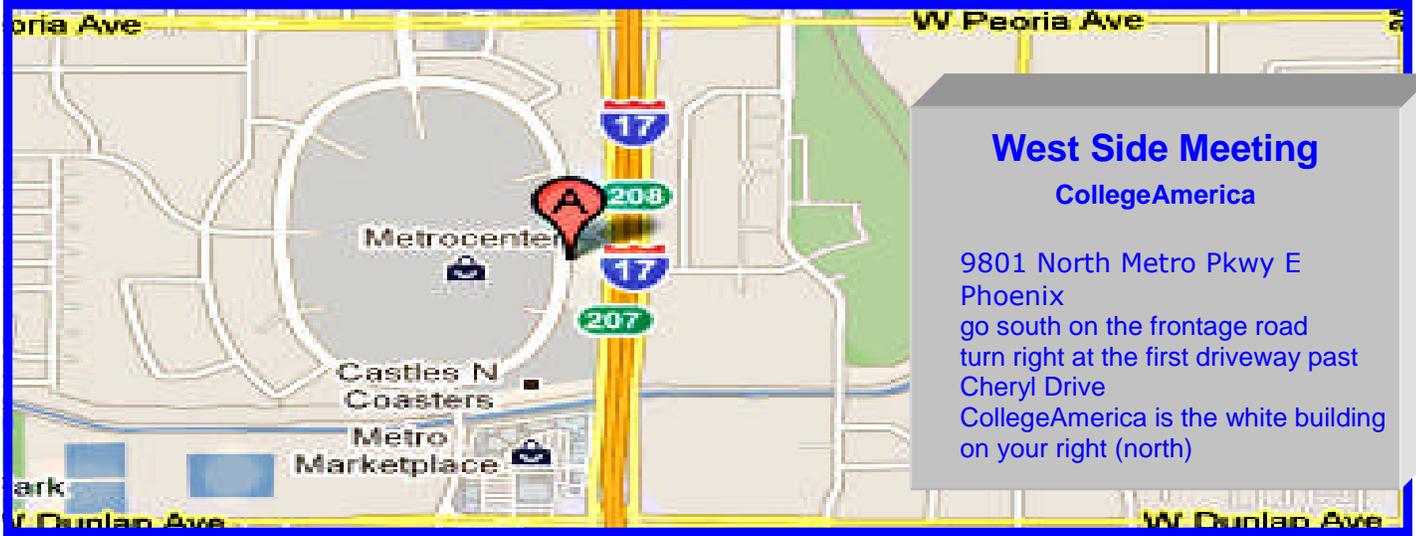
Lobster. When a 100-pound shipment of lobsters arrived at a Massachusetts seafood shop and restaurant last month, it contained a surprise -- six orange crustaceans that have been said to be a 1-in-10-million oddity. "My butcher was unloading them and said, 'Oh, migosh, boss, they sent us cooked dead lobsters,'" said the owner of the Mansfield restaurant, "He then picked one up and it crawled up his arm." Reports of odd-colored lobsters used to be rare in the lobster fishing grounds of New England and Atlantic Canada, but recently other oddly colored lobsters have appeared. Normal lobsters are a mottled greenish-brown. *Associated Press* July 22, 2012

Turtles. More than 1,000 turtles made a slow-speed escape from their turtle farm in northwest Georgia. The turtle farmer told sheriff's officials he suspects vandals might be to blame for tearing down fences around his turtle ponds in Summerville. Authorities say that damage allowed the turtles -- including snappers, Eastern paints and yellow-bellied sliders -- to leave the farm and make a beeline to nearby ponds and creeks. About 1,600 of 2,200 turtles escaped their pens. The farm's business involves selling some turtles to pet-growing operations and others to China. Sheriff's officials are continuing to search for the turtles. *Associated Press* July 19, 2012



These Items are based on articles from the noted sources and have been adapted by the Editor.

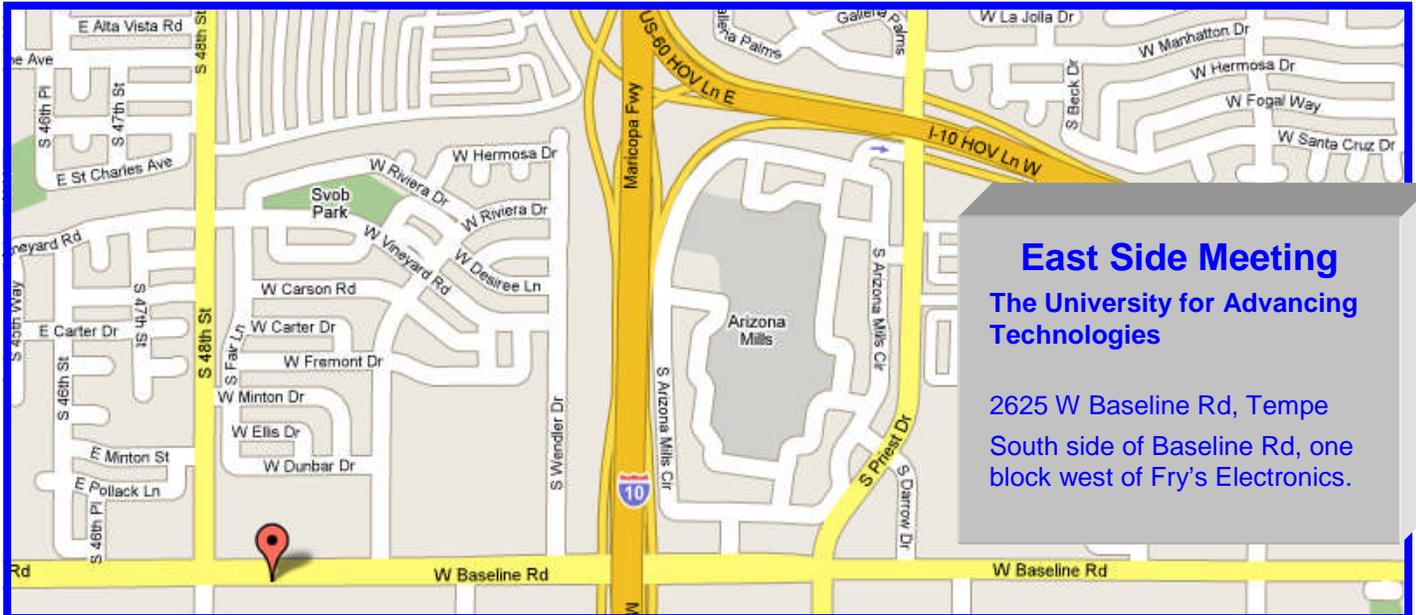
HOW TO GET THERE



West Side Meeting

CollegeAmerica

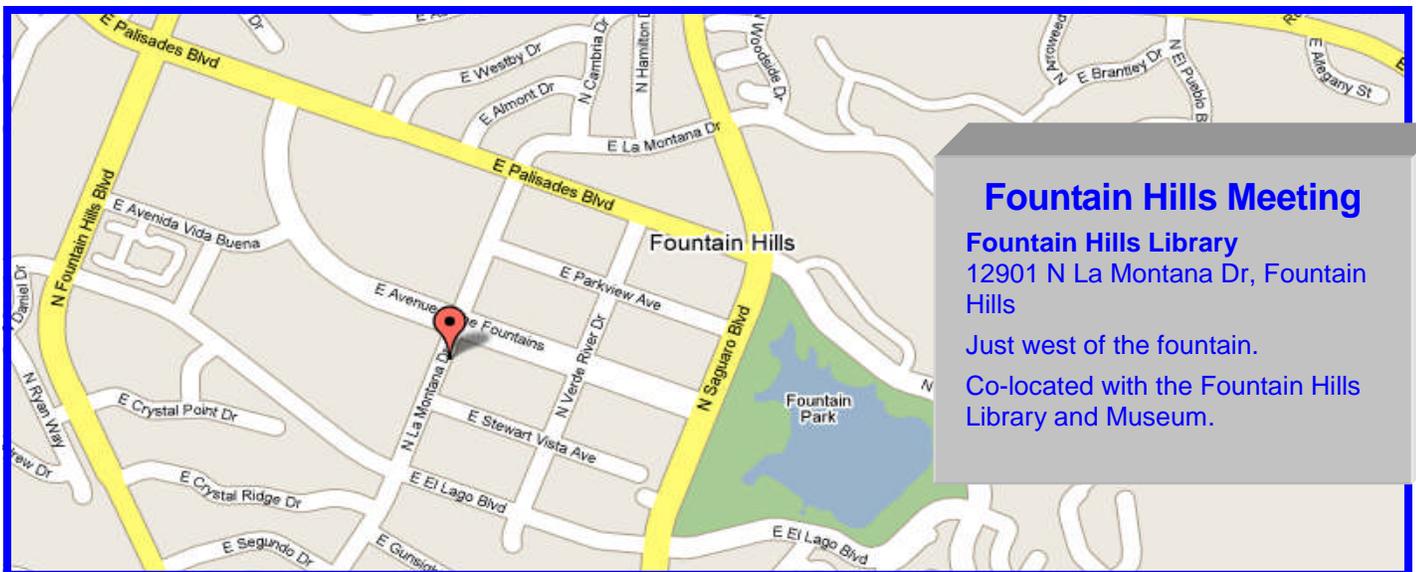
9801 North Metro Pkwy E
 Phoenix
 go south on the frontage road
 turn right at the first driveway past
 Cheryl Drive
 CollegeAmerica is the white building
 on your right (north)



East Side Meeting

The University for Advancing Technologies

2625 W Baseline Rd, Tempe
 South side of Baseline Rd, one
 block west of Fry's Electronics.



Fountain Hills Meeting

Fountain Hills Library
12901 N La Montana Dr, Fountain Hills

Just west of the fountain.
 Co-located with the Fountain Hills
 Library and Museum.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Official Policy of the Phoenix PC Users Group is that we do not condone software piracy in any form.

*DUES \$36
THROUGH
DEC 31, 2012*

Phoenix PC Users Group Membership Application

First: (Print Legibly) _____ Initial: ___ Last: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Ext: _____

Please note: We DO-NOT share phone numbers outside the club, and will generally only use your phone information, if we cannot contact you in timely fashion, via e-mail, or the club web-site

Receive Electronic newsletter in place of printed one: Yes No

E-mail address: _____ (Print Legibly)

Signature _____ Date ___/___/___

Release my address to vendors ? Yes No Note: Phone numbers **will not** be listed.

May the club share your e-mail address with other members only? Yes No

With club approved vendors? Yes No

Please do not share my e-mail address

Mail this completed form with payment to:

Phoenix PC Users Group
PO Box 45451
Phoenix, AZ 85064—5451



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Web address:
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August 2012

The Newsletter of the Phoenix Personal Computer Users Group
"Users helping users to understand computers"

STAMP

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PHOENIX, AZ 85064-5451