

The Computer Club At Willow Valley

Inside this issue:

Coming Programs	2
What Is A Browser Extension?	3
Who Is Tracking You?	4
DNSChanger	6
The Equipment Corner	7
The Mission	7
The Leadership	7
Key Willow Valley Web Sites	8

The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

Membership Your Computer Club has 503 members at this writing, including 169 lifetime members.

Warning! Warning! Warning! At the June 7th Computer Club Meeting it became obvious that not all PC and Mac users at WVRC are aware of the upcoming danger of their losing access to the Internet due to malicious software known as DNS Changer. Even with all the local media coverage and our internal efforts to make Residents aware of the problem, many have not heeded the warnings. So here it is again:

Warning! If you are a Mac or PC user and you connect to the Internet, you

could lose your Internet connectivity in early July. A malicious program named DNS Changer could be imbedded on your computer. To determine if your computer is infected, go to Web address www.dns-ok.us/. If the background on that site is red, your computer is infected and you need to take further action.

So That You Know Much of the following was also presented at the June 7th Computer Club meeting; however, because less than 20% of Club members attended the Club meeting, I will repeat the information.

(Continued on page 2)

Poem by Rachel Williams

The computer swallowed Carter.
Honestly it's true.
He pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured him completely.
The thought just makes me squirm.
He must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Google
My searches to refine.
His reply from him was negative,
Not a trace of him 'online.'

(Continued on page 3)

Coming Programs

July 2012	August, 2012	September 2012
No Meeting	No meeting	Sid Paskowitz, Resident A Guided Tour of Information Central

All programs are held in the Theater at the Cultural Center on the 1st Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

President

(Continued from page 1)

Suggestions Wanted We want your input on what you want the Computer Club to do to meet your needs. Any time you want to submit ideas, the Computer Club Executive Committee members are listed in Information Central along with their email addresses and telephone numbers. Please send your suggestions for future Computer Club programs to Ralph at ralph.beedle@gmail.com.

New Meeting Location Unless otherwise advertised, we will be holding our Computer Club meetings in the Cultural Center Theater where topics of interest to Willow Valley Residents can be presented to larger groups. A special note: at our October meeting Microsoft will be sending a representative to talk to us about Windows 8 - get your questions ready. The Computer Club does not have meetings in July or August.

Enhanced Programming The Computer Club is planning a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to Club programs, courses and training. Broad scope topics will be presented at Club meetings. More detailed coverage will be given in Education Room classes. Hands-on classes will be held in Computer Rooms. And one-on-one instruction will be given at Kiosks, in Computer Rooms and in individual apartments.

Tips and Tricks It has been suggested that the Computer Club have Tips and Tricks help sessions before or after regular Computer Club meetings. Sessions before Club meetings would be held in the

Education Room or sessions after Club meetings would be held in the Theater. Please email your preference to Ralph Beedle at ralph.beedle@gmail.com.

Email Addresses for Help The Computer Club has followed up on a suggestion that we have email addresses for Residents to use to request help with PCs, Macs and hand-held electronic devices. The following email addresses have been established for submitting questions:

WVpchelp@yahoo.com for PC questions

WVmachelp@yahoo.com for Mac questions

WVhhedhelp@yahoo.com for questions on hand-held electronic devices

Those email accounts will be monitored if they are actively used. Non-use will result in their being abandoned.

Computer Room Monitors I want to thank the Computer Room Monitors who have volunteered to keep the Computer Rooms open for use by all Residents. We can always use more Monitors so no Monitor will need to sign up for more than one day each month. Any Computer Club member with basic computer skills who is willing to spend a couple of hours each month as a Computer Room Monitor is requested to contact Dave Baker at 464-6338 for the North Computer Room ("M" Building Level 1 between M-104 and M-106) or Gene Simasek at 464-4605 for the Lakes Com-

(Continued on page 3)

President

(Continued from page 2)

puter Room (E-108). Let Dave or Gene know if you would like training to help you feel more comfortable as a Computer Room Monitor.

Expertise Available Speaking of Monitors, several years ago the Computer Club put together a list of computer and Internet topics that Monitors and other Club members were asked to review and indicate their level of expertise in each of the topics listed. The purposes of the listing were to help Residents find friends and neighbors who could help them with problems so all calls were not made to the same handful of helpful Residents; Residents could see which Computer Room Monitors were knowledgeable in the area of their questions or problems and could visit those Monitors when they were on duty in a Computer Room; and Computer Room Monitors could have a list of Residents who might be called for assistance if they were faced with an issue they could not handle while a Monitor. That Expertise Inventory is avail-

able at <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/expertise.aspx>. Links to the Computer Room Monitor schedules for both Computer Rooms can also be found on that page.

Let Others Know About Your Expertise Recently a comment was made that the Expertise Inventory listing was out of date. A survey form that can be used to update the listing is now in Information Central in the same area as the Expertise Inventory at <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/p/expertisesurvey.pdf> and includes instructions on using the form. That survey form can be copied, pasted into an email, filled in with response information, and sent to wvrccc@yahoo.com. That response information will be used to update the Expertise Inventory. Computer Room Monitors and others willing to share their expertise are requested to complete and email that information.

Thank You My thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and knowledge to help other Residents.

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Want more detailed information about DNSChanger? See page 6

Poem

(Continued from page 1)

So, if inside your 'In-box'
Dear Carter you should see,
Please 'copy,' 'scan' and 'paste' him.
And send him back to me. •

What Is A Browser Extension? by AI Williams

Browsers come with features that the developers believe the majority of users will want. Because of the desire to make their browser desirable to users, developers are continually adding new features and the result is that most browsers have features that are common.

However, so that others may provide new features to their browser, developers allow extensions to be added. These extensions provide one or more additional features to the browser. If an extension becomes very popular, developers may incorporate the features of that extension directly into the

Who Is Tracking You? by Al Williams

A new tool that lets you see who is tracking you is available. *Collusion* is a free extension to the Firefox browser which makes visible the third parties that are tracking your activity on the web.

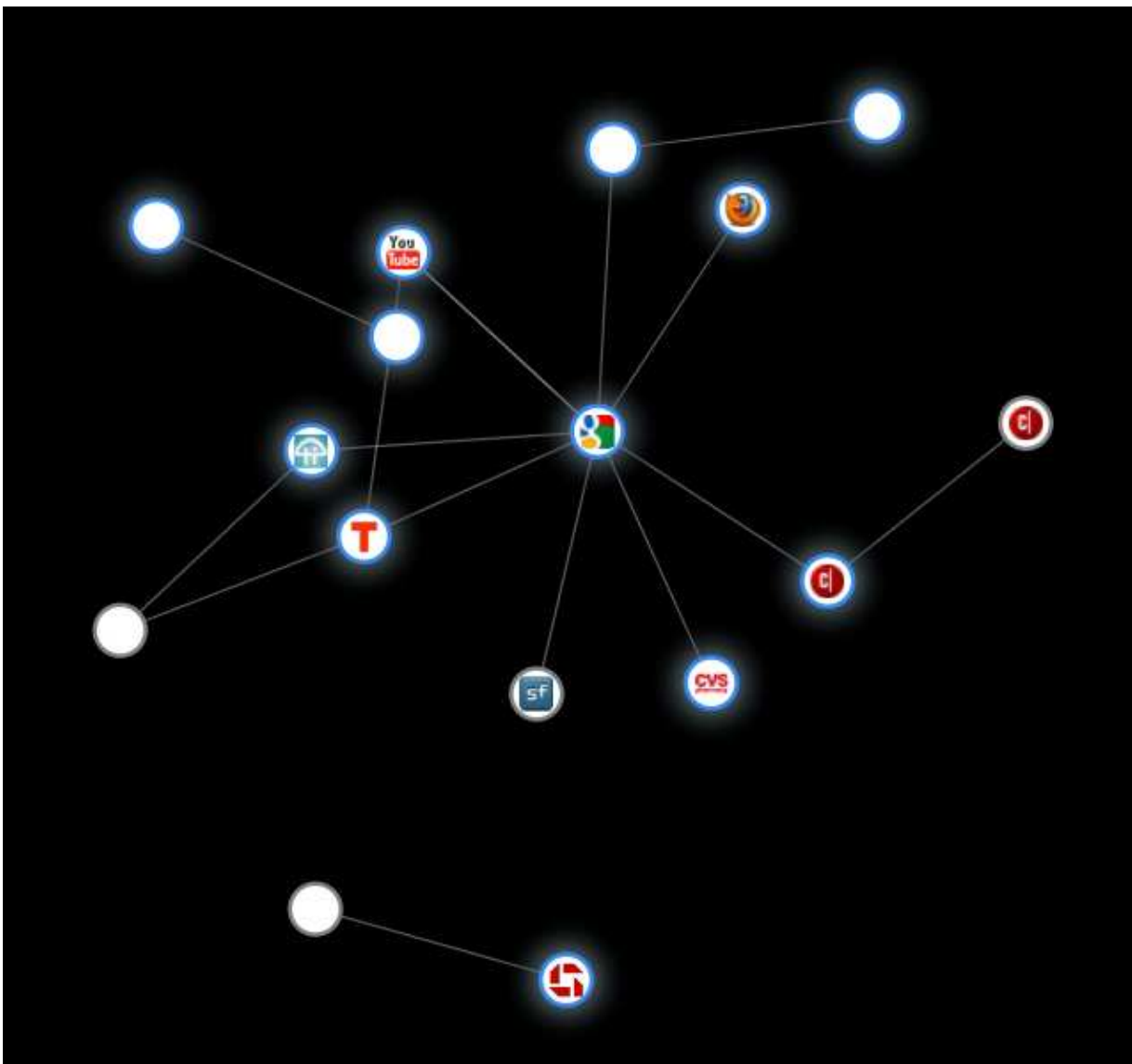
Below is *Collusion*'s presentation of the sites that are currently tracking me. Note that the links between the sites are also shown. Also note that many of them are linked to Google, the site I use to find information.

Collusion identifies the name of a site when you click on it and also shows the sites linked to that site. See the picture on page 5 where I have clicked on the Google site. The name of the site,

google.com, is shown and the immediate links are depicted..

I have relatively few sites tracking me. I don't go to a lot of sites to browse. But it isn't uncommon for users to see more than 100 sites reported by *Collusion*.

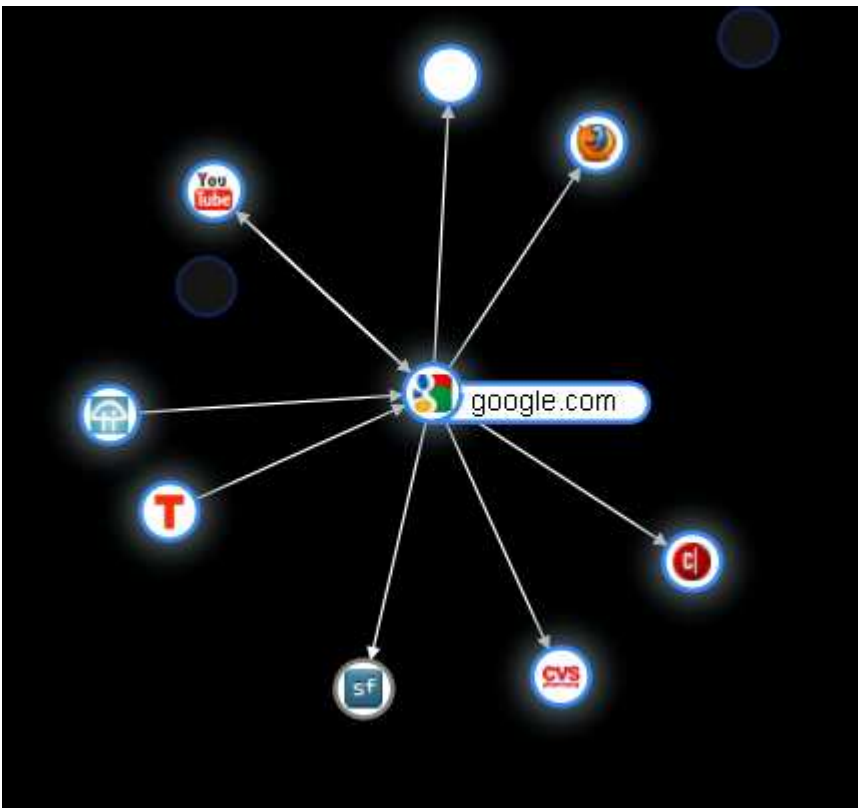
These third party sites track everyone, including your grandchildren. Perhaps their parents should know who is tracking them. Perhaps you would like to use *Collusion*.



(Continued on page 5)

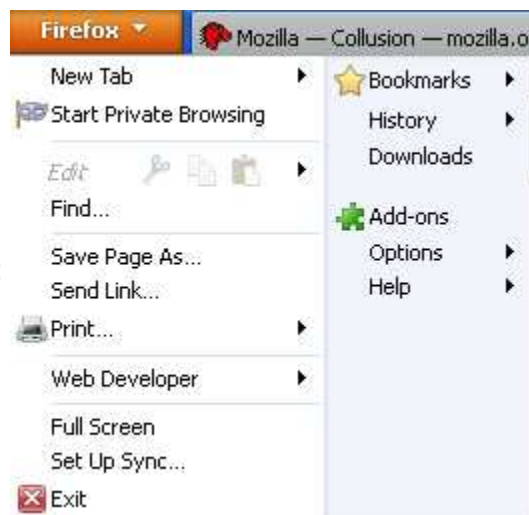
Who Is Tracking You?

(Continued from page 4)



Collusion works only with Firefox. To get it, install it, and use it, follow these steps.

- Open Firefox. If you have a Firefox label in the upper left hand corner like the one that is shown, click on the label to see this drop down menu:
- Your Firefox may instead provide a menu bar. In that case, click on *Tools* and then click on *Add-ons*.
- After clicking on *Add-ons*, the *Add-ons Manager* page will be displayed.
- Click *Get Add-ons*.
- In the top right hand side of the new page, you



will see *Search all add-ons*. Type *Collusion* in that text box and press Enter.

- Click *Install*.
- You should now see a new icon, a square box with hole in the center, in the bottom right hand corner of Firefox. To see who is tracking you click on that icon. If you don't see the icon, use Ctrl + / (that's Ctrl and the forward slash) to enable the *Add-on* toolbar.
- To learn more about *Collusion*, click on *Add-ons*, select *Extensions*, select *Collusion*, and click on *More*.

Some websites will not work unless you permit third party cookies and/or Local Shared Objects (LSOs). To delete LSOs, use the *Better Privacy* extension. This extension will allow third party LSOs to be used while Firefox is open and ask you if you want to delete them when close Firefox. You get *Better Privacy* the same way you got *Collusion*.

Third party cookies may be managed by a variety of extensions. A recommended choice is *Cookie Whitelist, With Buttons*. This extension will not allow any cookies unless you permit it (using the button) and will delete all cookies when you close Firefox except that it will retain cookies for sites that you whitelist in Firefox. To whitelist, click *Options*, select *Privacy*, click *Exceptions*, enter the web site, click *Allow*.

The above is all very helpful. Unfortunately, it is very likely there are other tracking methods which have not yet been exposed so that users can deal with them. •

DNSChanger by Al Williams

There is a Trojan by the name of DNSChanger that has been around since well before December, 2008 and has infected millions of PCs and Macs. According to Brian Krebs in his *Court: 4 More Months for DNSChanger-Infected PCs* blog dated March 12, 2012:

“DNSChanger modifies settings on a host PC that tell the computer how to find Web sites on the Internet, hijacking victims’ search results and preventing them from visiting security sites that might help detect and scrub the infections. The Internet servers that were used to control infected PCs were located in the United States, and in coordination with the arrest of the Estonian men in November (Editor: 2011), a New York district court ordered a private U.S. company to assume control over those servers. The government argued that the arrangement would give ISPs and companies

time to identify and scrub infected PCs, systems that would otherwise be disconnected from the Internet if the control servers were shut down. The court agreed, and ordered that the surrogate control servers remain in operation until March 8.

“But by early last month, it was becoming clear that more than 3 million PCs worldwide – including at least 500,000 in the United States – were still infected with DNSChanger. The company that released those estimates, security firm Internet Identity, reported that 50 percent of Fortune 500s and about half of all U.S. government agencies were still struggling with infections.”

The court order has now been extended to July 9, 2012. As stated before, DNSChanger infects both PCs and Macs. You can determine if your computer is infected by going to <http://dns-ok.us> If your computer is infected follow the instructions on that

**The above DNSChanger article has been reprinted from
the May 2012 issue of the Newsletter.**

Like to write an article for the club’s newsletter? Articles are welcomed.

Please contact:

Al Williams at atwilliams136@gmail.com

The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

Refurbished Systems The following refurbished systems are available:

#277 Gateway ATXSTF, tower, Windows XP Home SP3, 1.40 Gigahertz Intel Pentium 4, 74.35 GB Free Space, 256 MB RAM, Lexmark Z611 Printer

The systems are free to any club member. You must pick them up. Contact Ed at 464-6591.

Miscellaneous We have 3 volt CR2023 batteries (suitable for motherboards to keep the system clock running) and a variety of CD-ROM's, floppy disk drives, keyboards, 2-button mice, various power supplies, and assorted cables. Please contact Ed Dahrsnin at 464-6591.

Donations We accept used, *working*, tower and laptop computers (with power units and batteries) from club members along with all software CDs. Used printer cartridges also accepted. You may deliver them to the North's Computer Resource room on the first floor of M building after 1 pm on Monday through Friday. No Macs or Mac parts, see JoAnne Phillips or Bob Handler for additional information. •

The Mission

The Mission of the Willow Valley Computer Club is to:

- Provide the means to educate beginners or interested non-users on how to use a computer.
- Arrange for speakers to talk to the Club about subjects that would be of interest to those with some background and experience in computer use.
- Provide a forum for interchange of computer information among members.

For more information about the Club, contact Sid Paskowitz at 464-2127 or wvrccc@Yahoo.com

The Leadership

Officers

President: Sid Paskowitz

Vice President: Ralph Beedle

Secretary: Joan Burks

Treasurer: Dick Dressel

Community Representatives

Manor: Larry Gallagher

Lakes: Gene Simasek

Committee Chairpersons

Program: Ralph Beedle

Training: Wayne Barner

Equipment: Ed Dahrsnin

Technical Support: Tony Poulos

Website: Sid Paskowitz

Publicity: Wally Gordon

Newsletter: Al Williams

Mac Interest Group: JoAnne Phillips

Computer Room Coordinators:
Dave Baker, Gene Simasek

Microsoft Liaison: Ed Dahrsnin

Past Presidents

Larry Gallagher

Reviewer Acknowledgment

The following individual kindly reviewed this issue:

Sid Paskowitz

Tony Poulos

Thank you,

Al Williams

Interested in reviewing the Computer Club newsletter before it goes to press, or providing advice about the content? Please contact:

Al Williams at atwilliams136@gmail.net

Key Willow Valley Web Sites

These are URL links to key Willow Valley web sites. Please copy the URL to your browser's URL space, open the site, and then add them to Favorites/Bookmarks or create desktop icons. You may need to choose a Select Text tool before you can copy a URL.

Information Central: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/index.aspx>

Kiosk Home Page: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/default.aspx>

Resident Phone Directory: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cris%20files/phonesearch.aspx>

Service Request: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/ServiceRequest.aspx>

Computer Club Newsletters: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/p/Newsletter.pdf>
