

The Computer Club At Willow Valley

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The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

Membership Your Computer Club has 522 members at this writing, including 179 lifetime members.

Windows 8 Because fewer than one in five Computer Club members attended the presentation on Windows 8 by Microsoft's Steve Deming, I will use part of this column to report some of my observations from that meeting:

- I would personally describe Windows 8 as Windows 7 in a display wrapper like the one that is used by a number of hand-held devices. PC users who want startup displays that look like XP or Vista or Windows 7, may not like Windows 8. PC users that are able to get past the startup displays in Windows 8, will find a lot of commonality with Windows 7.

- Microsoft will be introducing a new device named Surface when they release Windows 8 on October 26. It looks interesting.
- Windows 8 will include the same security as Windows 7. Steve Deming suggested the use of System Restore if usual anti-malware software will not remove malicious software, or if a PC behaves in a strange manner.
- Coupons will be available to upgrade earlier versions of Windows to Windows 8. If an update is applied rather than a clean install, there is a small risk that software introduced while using the current operating system could interact adversely with future Windows 8 updates. My per-

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Mac Special Interest Group by JoAnne Phillips

On November 8, in the Johnson Auditorium, the Mac Special Interest Group will explore Apple's browser Safari. Apple has been tweaking and refining Safari for years, and it has a treasure trove of features that most people never notice. Customize your environment, especially its toolbar, bookmarks, and top sites. Learn key

browsing techniques, including how to access sites you've visited in the past quickly, load multiple Web pages at once, and sync open tabs among your Apple devices. Go beyond the basics for searching both the Web in general and any page you're viewing, fill out forms - like

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Coming Programs

November 2012

Jim Cluck, WV VP
Senior TV and Internet

December 2012—Ballroom A

Ralph Beedle, Resident
iPad, iPhone, and More.

January 2013

TBD
Tax Preparation Software

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

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sonal recommendation is to avoid upgrades. A clean install avoids that problem but it requires applications and data files to be reloaded. If you buy a Windows 7 PC and do not receive a coupon that allows an upgrade to Windows 8, check out URL <https://www.windowsupgradeoffer.com/en-US/Registration>. Microsoft will also offer a Windows 8 upgrade coupon for earlier Windows versions, but at the time this Newsletter is being distributed, we don't have information about getting that coupon.

- Windows XP and Vista will be supported by Microsoft until April 2014.
- Steve advised everyone that Microsoft does not make unsolicited calls to PC users to tell them a problem exists on the user's computer. Any call like that is a scam.
- The Windows key will replace the Control key for some keyboard shortcuts in Windows 8.
- One lucky attendee won a door prize of an Office 2010 software package provided by Microsoft. If you had come to the meeting, you would have had a chance to win besides getting some good information.
- Videos of Steve Deming's presentation are available on the the Lakes Manor PC #4, the Spring Run Computer Room PC and on a DVD in the Manor North Computer Room.

Scams! I am hearing almost daily about emails, letters and telephone calls to Willow Valley Resi-

dents where some unknown individual (sometimes reporting themselves as a family member, friend or business) is urgently asking for personal information or money. In today's world, these should always be checked out before taking any action. New and really innovative scams and frauds are being used every day and retirement community Residents are prime targets. Information Central (<http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/index.asp>) has a number of links to information about scams and frauds that target seniors. Protect yourself. Learn how to say no to the initial contact and how to report the criminals so they can be taken off the streets.

Information Central And speaking of Information Central, I demonstrated Information Central at the September Computer Club meeting in the Cultural Center Theater. Although the Information Central home page has had more than 22,000 visits, most Residents do not routinely think about going there when they have a question. For questions relating to our daily lives, I find Information Central to be a much more efficient and effective way to search for information rather than using Google, or Yahoo or Bing where you get pages of links but often not what you are looking for. For those who missed the meeting or if you want to refresh some of the items discussed at the meeting, video tutorials of the presentation are available on the PCs in the Lakes Manor and Spring Run Computer Rooms and on DVDs in the Manor North Computer Room.

Programs, Courses, and Training The Computer Club is considering a more comprehensive and inclusive

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President's Pen

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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. Planned classes on computers and the Internet that the Computer Club has recommended for inclusion in the next *Renaissance* are listed in the Master Calendar in Information Central. You can search the Master Calendar (top link in the center column) for the words COMPUTER COURSE and if the course looks like one you are interested in, mark your calendar with those tentative dates and be ready to sign up in electronic registration when the *Renaissance* is distributed.

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.

Help by Email In light of the lack of response to email addresses for Residents to use for requesting help with PCs, Macs and hand-held electronic devices, we are no longer monitoring emails to WVpchelp@yahoo.com for PC questions, WVmachelp@yahoo.com for Mac questions, and WVhhdhelp@yahoo.com for questions on hand-held electronic devices.

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

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

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Mac Special Interest Group

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your contact information in the Take Control cart! - automatically, manage stored passwords, keep pages around to read later, and discover the most helpful extensions that expand Safari's feature set. On December 13th in the Johnson Auditorium at 2pm, we will explore the digital world of books.

Learn where to find them and learn how to download them to read on our computers and handheld devices. Many of these books are free. Some you will only borrow others you will get to keep forever. You will never again yearn for something to read. •

Microsoft Store in DE by Sid Paskowitz

For those who like to do their shopping in Delaware, Microsoft is opening a Microsoft Store in the Christiana Mall in Delaware and we have some advance information that Willow Valley is planning Saturday Shopping trips to that mall. The planned schedule is:

Manor Saturday, November 24
Sign-up sheet posted Saturday, November 17

Lakes Manor Saturday, December 1
Sign-up sheet posted Friday, November 30

Manor North Saturday, December 8
Sign-up sheet posted Saturday, December 1

Spring Run Saturday, December 15
Sign-up sheet posted Friday, December 7 •

HoneyMap by Al Williams

Would you like to see a visual display of cyber attacks as they occur? The Honeynet Project has created a web site that displays attacks at <http://map.honeycloud.net/> The majority of the

displayed activity isn't being conducted by a single malicious person but by computer worms or automated botnets. Still, the map gives an idea of how much cyber attacking is occurring. •

HTTP or HTTPS? by Ralph Beedle

What is the difference between http and https? The main difference between <http://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/> and <https://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/> is that it's all about keeping you secure. HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. The S in https (big surprise) stands for "Secure."

If you visit a website or web page, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with [http://](http://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/), for example: <http://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/>.

This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular "unsecured" language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with

the website. If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.

This is why you never ever enter your credit card number in an http website! But if the web address begins with [https://](https://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/), that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on.

If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with [https://](https://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/). If it doesn't, NEVER enter sensitive information.....such as a credit card number, SS #, etc. •

Would you like to read about a topic? Like to write about a topic?
Contact Sid Paskowitz or Al Williams

Malicious Links in Emails by Al Williams

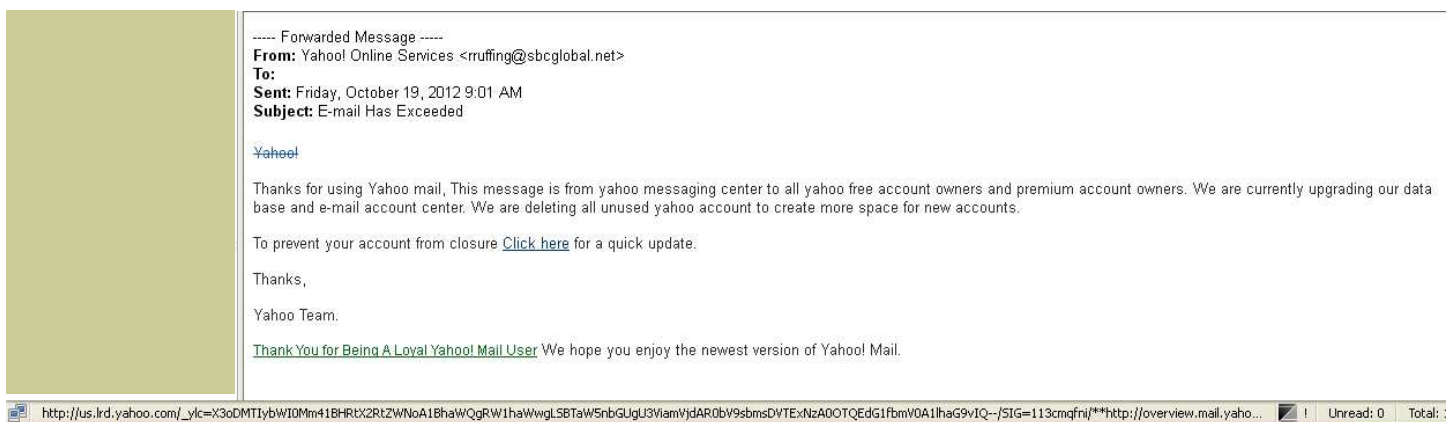
Links in emails cannot be trusted automatically. That's because it is easy to write a web site address in an email that claims to be something benign like www.amazon.com but in reality goes to another site. On the next page, page 6, are three snapshots of one email containing three links. Each link goes to a different web site. None of the links goes to yahoo.com although the email claims to be from Yahoo.

To see what web site the link would send you to, place your cursor over the link and wait for the true link to be displayed—either next to the cursor or in a text box at the bottom of the email. In the

screenshots on this page and page 6, the true links are displayed at the bottom of the email.

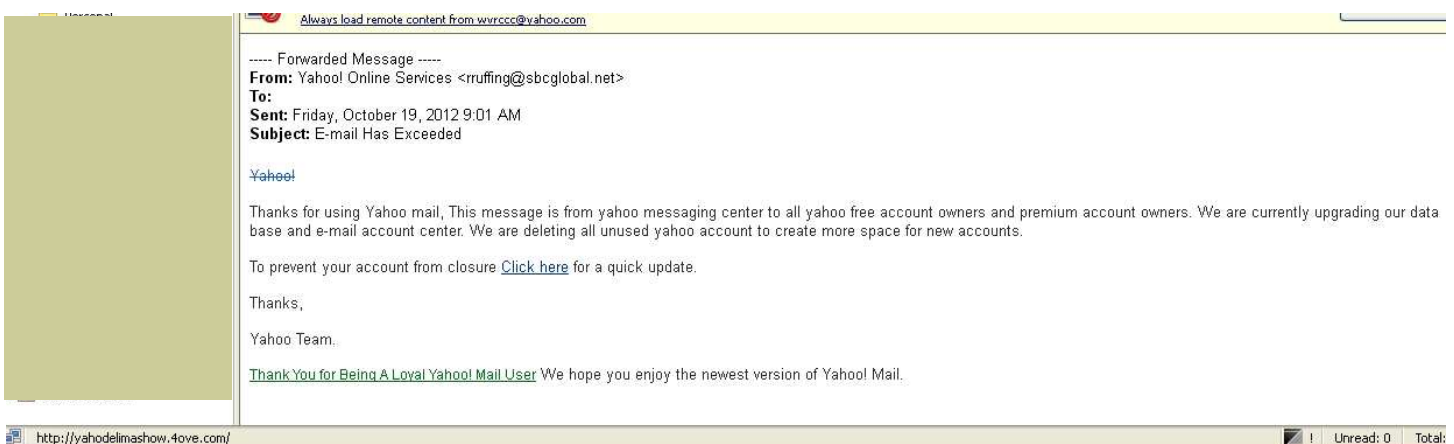
If your email reader doesn't display the true links, do not assume that the links are benign. You will have much fewer problems if you assume instead that they are malicious.

In the first figure, the beginning of the URL, for the Yahoo text which is the first line, looks like it is a yahoo.com link. But the author of the link has deliberately added many characters to the link so that you cannot see the end of the URL. The end contains characters that sends the person who clicks on the link to a malicious web site.

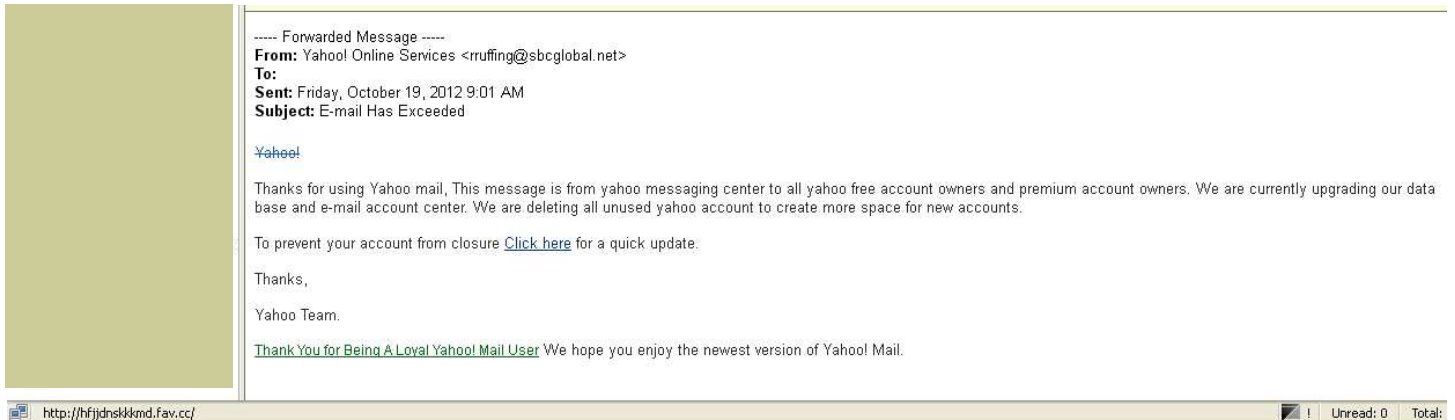


In the second figure, it is much easier to see that clicking the second link in the email will send your browser to the 4ove.com domain.

Finally, clicking the third link sends your browser to the fav.cc domain, as shown in the third figure. •



Malicious Links in Emails



----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Yahoo! Online Services <ruffing@sbcglobal.net>
To:
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 9:01 AM
Subject: E-mail Has Exceeded

Yahoo!

Thanks for using Yahoo mail, This message is from yahoo messaging center to all yahoo free account owners and premium account owners. We are currently upgrading our data base and e-mail account center. We are deleting all unused yahoo account to create more space for new accounts.

To prevent your account from closure [Click here](#) for a quick update.

Thanks,
Yahoo Team.

[Thank You for Being A Loyal Yahoo! Mail User](#) We hope you enjoy the newest version of Yahoo! Mail.

<http://hfjdnskkkmd.fav.cc/> Unread: 0 Total:

Would you like to read about a topic? Like to write about a topic?
Contact Sid Paskowitz or Al Williams

The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

Refurbished Systems The following refurbished systems are available:

None. But we could use some help refurbishing systems. Please call me if you would like to help.

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

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.com

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>
