
The Computer Club At Willow Valley

The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

Inside this issue:

Coming Programs	2
How Do Computers Use 1's and 0's to Run Programs	4
Computer Recommendations	5
The Equipment Corner	7
The Mission	7
The Leadership	7

Membership As of this writing, your Computer Club has 578 paid members including 344 who have signed up as Lifetime members. Please keep your email address current on Club records so we can send you important emails. *Those emails only go to Computer Club members for whom we have a good email address.* Let our Treasurer, Charlie Trumbo, know if your email address has changed or if you don't get a future Newsletter.

Reminder We do not have Computer Club meetings in July or August. Watch for announcements about the September meeting in the *Weekly Insider*.

Expertise Information We have discontinued the Expertise Inventory in Information Central and have replaced it with a period for questions and answers after regular Computer Club meetings.

New Members In the near future we will no longer be sending letters from the Computer Club to new Willow Valley Residents to invite them to join the Computer Club. We find it more effective for Residents to tell their new neighbors about the Computer Club and the Mac SIG Group based on their conversations and needs. As appropriate, let them know about our meetings, door prizes, freebies table, classes, technical computer assistance, free components and cables, the Computer Club Newsletter, computer recycling program, and emails we send to members when important information needs to be shared in a timely manner. More than one-fifth of all Willow Valley Residents are currently members of the Computer Club, but I suspect many more would benefit from being members.

Windows 10 I am now personally recommending the installation of Windows 10 on PCs that meet Windows 10 requirements but only when pre-installation preparation instructions are carefully followed. We have included the suggested guidelines in Information Central at <http://resident.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/p/prep.pdf> as well as links to other information about Windows 10. Please note that the guidelines contain our best information at the time they were prepared. Let me know via email at wvcomputerclub@gmail.com if you have problems with those guidelines.

At the January 7th Computer Club meeting I presented a Windows 10 Installation Tutorial Video that I believe can be helpful for those considering Win-

(Continued on page 2)

Coming Programs

July

Summer Break

August

Summer Break

September 1

Sid Paskowitz and Steve Lynn, Residents

Skype, ooVoo, FaceTime (Video Conferencing Programs)

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)

dows 10 installation or who have already installed Windows 10. That video can be viewed at <http://www.screencast.com/t/AsvqjkzVl0> (if you can't click on this link, you may want to copy and paste this link into your browser's address box or click on the link in Information Central). The deadline for a free upgrade from Windows 7 or Windows 8.1 to Windows 10 is late July. We are seeing continuing efforts by Microsoft to "encourage" users to upgrade to Windows 10. I suspect those efforts will become stronger as July approaches. As a related matter, if you get a new PC, there is no question about getting Windows 10. Get it.

Windows 10 Information
[Black Screen](#)
[Installation Preparation \(overview\)](#)
[Ccleaner](#)
[Microsoft Security Essentials](#)
[Windows and Microsoft Update](#)
[Defraggler](#)
[Malwarebytes](#)
[Installation Tutorial Video](#)
[Windows 10 Apps](#)
[Windows 10 Data Protection](#)
[Windows 10 Information](#)
[Windows 10 Issues](#)
[Windows 10 Privacy](#)
[Windows 10 Recommendations](#)
[Windows 10 Shortcut Keys](#)
[Windows 10 Symbols](#)
[Windows 10 Video Comments](#)

Information Central (the Computer Club icon on the Kiosk Home Page) contains a section on Windows 10 at: <http://resident.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/index.aspx>. That section will continue to expand as new beneficial information becomes available. It currently displays the screen to the left:

Renaissance Classes Tony Poulos and I presented the first in a series of four Renaissance classes on Windows 10 in the Cultural Center Education Room on May 24th where we talked about the Windows 10 desktop and settings. The topic for the second session on Monday, June 27th was new Windows applications. The topic for the third session is security, privacy, OneDrive and backup and is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12th. Trou-

(Continued on page 3)

President

(Continued from page 2)

bleshooting Windows is the topic for the fourth session, scheduled for Tuesday, August 16th. These sessions are free but require registration in the Computer Classes list in the Renaissance tab section of Event Registration on the Resident Computer Kiosks or Resident Intranet. Seating is limited, so don't miss out on this opportunity to see Windows in action.

Resident Kiosks Please remember to Restart a Kiosk unit at the beginning and end of each Kiosk session so your work is not at risk from prior users and your use does not put your own data or future users at risk.

The E-mail icon toward the bottom of the Kiosk Home Page now has a button that allows Residents with Apple iCloud mail to access their account by clicking on that button. This can be handy for those whose "i"-device is not working or is lost, or if a questionable email appears on your Apple device and you don't want to risk opening an email that could infect your device. You can now use a Kiosk unit to open your email. Don't forget to restart the Kiosk unit when you start your Kiosk session and when you end it so you protect yourself and others from malicious software.

I am hoping that at some time in the future the displays on the Kiosk units will become uniform throughout Willow Valley Communities and I will be able to demonstrate Kiosk use. My plan is to bring a Kiosk unit to each of the Community auditoriums and show what they are capable of doing and how to use them. Stay tuned.

Please Use Well-Known Software PC owners are reminded that they can receive the best help if they use software that is familiar to other Residents who volunteer to provide technical assistance. Recommended applications are CCleaner, Malwarebytes, Defraggler and Windows Defender (or Windows Security Essentials). We recognize there are alternatives; however, problems are more quickly diagnosed and repaired when the applications running on the PC are familiar to the helper.

Classes We know we need more classes on computer-related topics and we are looking for instructors who can teach those classes. If you can help other Residents with topics such as Word, Wordpad, Notepad, browsers, email, etc., please send me an email at wvcomputerclub@gmail.com. We need your help.

MAC SIG Steve Lynn, head of the Mac SIG group, is looking for suggestions as to how the Computer Club can better support Mac users. If you have ideas that can help Steve formulate a plan for supporting Mac users, please send them to him at slynnert4@wvrcresident.com. Information Central has been modified based on Steve's recommendations. In the center column of Information Central is a feature called *For MAC Users*. It contains information applicable to Apple computers. Let Steve know if you have suggestions for other beneficial information links that might be added to the

(Continued on page 4)

President

(Continued from page 3)

area *For MAC Users.*

Recycling Ed Dahrsnin and his team are accepting working computers and components for recycling, but no CRT monitors or printers. Let Ed know if you would like to help recycle computers. Ed and his team meet on Monday afternoons at Manor North. Working in the recycling effort may also help you when you have problems. Thanks to Ed and his team, the Computer Club has given 140 computer systems to the Lampeter-Strasburg School District for families that cannot afford a computer for their students and two laptops to the Hand Middle School in Lancaster for their Science classroom.

Thank You My thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and knowledge to help other Residents. We need more volunteers! •

How Do Computers Use 1's and 0's to Run Programs by Al Williams

This article responds to the question put to me: How do computers use 1's and 0's to run programs?

As you know, computers are machines. They have memory and they have a central processing unit (CPU). They also have a display, keyboard, and a mouse which support the user by displaying information and allowing the user to input information.

All information, data and programs, is stored in memory as 1's and 0's. The memory consists of random access memory (RAM) which is very fast and hard drive memory which is not nearly as fast. The two types of memory are used because RAM is much more expensive to manufacture than hard drives.

1's and 0's	What the CPU understands it is to do	
0001	Read the next instruction from the hard drive	When you start your machine, the CPU reads information from the hard drive. By convention, the CPU will read from the first block of information on the hard drive and by convention, what it reads are instructions which are made up of 1's and 0's. The CPU is designed to understand many instructions. A few that illustrate what an instruction is are shown in the adjacent table.
0010	Write 1's and 0's to the hard drive	
0011	Add	
0100	Subtract	
0101	Multiply	
0110	Divide	
0111	Jump from this instruction to another instruction	

(Continued on page 5)

How Do Computers Use 1's and 0's to Run Programs

(Continued from page 4)

The four digit instructions that I've listed aren't real instructions; I've used them as illustrations. Today's computers use instructions that have 64 1's and 0's.

I think that you can see that many, many instructions are needed to do anything significant.

But, a human cannot possibly work with computers at the 1's and 0's level because it has no meaning to humans and it is way too easy to make mistakes. So, simple software programs are created by hand which read and write using the instructions but using ADD in place of 0011, SUB in place of 0100, JMP in place of 0111, etc. Engineers give names to everything and this type of software is called an Assembler.

Assemblers are then used to create software which are even easier to use and that software is used in turn to create software such as Windows 10, Word, Excel, etc. •

Computer Recommendations by Tony Poulos

Manufacturer I recommend either Dell or HP computers. You should buy more than you need at the moment. The computer will be functional longer.

Type of Computer Desktop, Laptop, or All-In-One? You decide.

A desktop gives you the most computer for the money, one that can use many accessories, and is easiest to service. It requires a separate monitor which means the screen can be as large as you like and can easily be replaced.

A laptop gives you the freedom to easily move the computer, and is compact. Some laptops have touch screens. Usually touch screens aren't needed and increase the price. Laptop screens are typically 15" or 17". Some people find the keyboards or screens too small.

All-In-Ones are essentially monitors with the computer built-in. In general they aren't a good value. However, they may be a good choice if there are severe space restrictions.

The Central Processing Unit The CPU is the part of the computer that performs the calculations and instructions to run the computer. It's essentially the brains of the computer. There are two main manufacturers of CPUs – Intel and AMD. In general, Intel CPUs go into medium and high end computers while AMD CPUs go into low and medium computers.

I recommend Intel processors. They come in three types – i3, i5, and i7. The i3 is the low end, the i5 is in the middle, and the i7 is the high end.

Computer Recommendations

(Continued from page 5)

I recommend Intel i5 or i7 CPUs (processors).

Random Access Memory Random Access Memory, RAM, is the storage used for instructions and calculations needed to run the computer. The RAM can be accessed extremely quickly. If there isn't enough RAM the computer will not be able to access the RAM and will write the instructions to the hard drive at a much, much slower speed. The RAM is about 100,000 times faster. The speed of the computer is strongly dependent on the amount of RAM. Typically 3 or 4 GB of RAM is the minimum required for the computer to function, but it's very slow.

I recommend 12 GB or more of RAM.

Hard Drive Hard Drive space is used mainly for storing programs, the operating system, and data such as documents and pictures. Most computers come with at least 1 TB of hard drive space. That's enough for anyone unless you have thousands of pictures in which case they should be put on an external hard drive.

I recommend 1 TB or more of hard drive space.

CD/DVD/Optical Drive It's harder to find laptops with a CD/DVD drive. Most software these days is available as a download and a CD/DVD drive may not be needed. If you do need one, be sure what you buy has a built in drive or purchase an external CD/DVD drive.

Presentations If you plan to use a laptop for presentations check the type of output connector(s). Many laptops no longer have VGA output. Most have HDMI output. You may need to purchase an adapter.

Keyboard Look at the keyboard. Three features to consider are 1) is it wireless?, 2) is it illuminated?, 3) does it have a numeric keypad?

Anti-Virus Software Computer manufacturers offer anti-virus software choices.

For a new Windows 10 computer, please do not buy any third party virus protection such as McAfee, Norton, Kaspersky, etc. It's not needed and is well known for slowing down the computer. Use the built-in virus protection that is included with Windows 10—Windows Defender. In addition, I recommend Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware to protect against malware.

Where To Purchase Purchase your computer from Costco (online or in the store), BJ's (online or in the store), Staples (online or in the store), HP online, or Dell online. •

Would you like to read or write about a topic?

Contact Sid Paskowitz or Al Williams

The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

Refurbished Systems

System 427: Dell Inspiron 1100, Windows 7

System 452: Dell Latitude D600, Windows 7

System 455: C21 Black Box, Windows 7

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 continue to accept printer cartridges and laptop computers with power adapters. We no longer accept printers. Bring the items to Manor North's recycle closet on the fifth floor of 'J' building on Monday only, from 1pm to 1:30pm. •

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 wvcomputerclub@gmail.com •

The Leadership

Officers

President: Sid Paskowitz

Vice President: Bob Scala

Secretary: Marge Schmieder

Treasurer: Charlie Trumbo

Community Representatives

Manor: Larry Gallagher

Manor North: JoAnne Phillips

Lakes: Gene Simasek

Providence Park: Peter Scott

Committee Chairpersons

Program: Bob Scala

Training: Ralph Beedle

Equipment: Ed Dahrsnin

Technical Support: Tony Poulos

Website: Sid Paskowitz

Publicity: Wally Gordon

Newsletter: Al Williams

Mac Interest Group: Steve Lynn

Computer Room Coordinators:
Gene Simasek Lee Wermuth

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, providing advice about the content, or writing an article? Please contact:

Al Williams at atwilliams136@gmail.com