
The Computer Club At Willow Valley

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The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

Membership As of this writing, your Computer Club has 593 paid members including 355 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.

Executive Officer Change Bob Scala has retired as Computer Club Vice President and as chairperson of the Program Committee. Bob has performed superbly in both of those roles and I want to again publicly thank him for all of his contributions to the Club. The Computer Club Executive Committee has selected Peter Scott as Bob's successor. We welcome Peter in his new role. Let Peter know if you have suggestions for programs at Computer Club meetings.

Scams I keep hoping I don't have to remind folks to beware of scams, but we keep hearing about Residents being scammed on their phones, their devices and their computers. No one who calls you, emails you or displays a message or your computer or device can tell you your computer or device is infected or running poorly. They have to have been given access. If you haven't provided them with access, you are being scammed. Don't give them access. Hang up. Disconnect. Shut down.

Linux Project We also keep hoping that Residents will not infect their PC and Mac computers with malicious software (malware) but we are routinely reminded that our warnings are not heeded. So I have decided to take another approach. I am starting a Linux Project that may result in the development of a CD, DVD and/or flash drive that can be used on a Mac or PC and could, when used as designed, protect that device from malicious software. As envisioned, the CD, DVD and/or flash drive will install a version of the Linux operating system on the computer and prevent the hard drive or solid state drive on the computer from being accessed and contaminated. The operating system will only allow a limited number of applications, each of which will be accessed by an icon on the display screen. The current plan is to include Mozilla Firefox as the Internet browser, LibreOffice as the Word Processor, Thunderbird as the Email program, File Manager and Image Viewer. I also plan to have a series of presentations and classes about the operating system and applications if our development efforts prove successful. I want to distribute

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Coming Programs

January 5

Ralph Beedle, Willow Valley Resident
Tax Preparation Software and Skills at WVC

February 2

Tony Poulos, Willow Valley Resident
Office 365

March 2

Ed Dahrnsin, Willow Valley Resident
Keeping Your System Running Smoothly

*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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the media (CD, DVD and/or flash drive) with the applicable software at minimal or no cost to Computer Club members. If you have thoughts or suggestions on this project or would like to participate in the development or evaluation, please send me an email at wvcomputerclub@gmail.com.

Please Use Recommended 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 slynn15@icloud.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 area

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President

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For MAC Users.

Recycling Ed Dahrsnin and his team are accepting working computers and components for recycling, but no CRT monitors. 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 151 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.

Income Taxes Reminder: The program at the January 5th Computer Club meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Cultural Center Theater will be a presentation on tax returns by Ralph Beedle. Bring your questions. Be prepared to get straight answers.

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

A New and Unique Trojan for Android Phones by Al Williams

Summary Kaspersky Labs has discovered a new Trojan that hijacks a user's Wi-Fi router. The hijack causes all browser traffic, your phone's and your computer's, to go web sites controlled by the hacker. If you have an Android phone and you can't get to the web sites that you normally view on your phone or computer, call for help.

The More Technical Story Nikita Buchka wrote a December 28 entry in his blog, SecureList, about a new and unique Trojan that Kaspersky Labs is calling Trojan.AndroidOS.Switcher. The Trojan is currently delivered to users disguised as one of two popular software packages in China.

Once it is executed, it automatically attempts to log into the user's Wi-Fi router using a predefined list of usernames and passwords. If the login is successful, it changes the IP addresses in the router to use first the hacker controlled DNS server and then the primary Google DNS server.

The IP address change causes all web site traffic to be rerouted to hacker selected web sites, where events such as capture of login information, reading of email, or download and installation of malware occurs.

It is just a matter of time before similar deceptive software packages appear in the USA. Restoration to normal activity requires removal of the Trojan and manual reconfiguration of the DNS IP addresses in the router . •

The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

Refurbished Systems

System 506: Toshiba C855D laptop,

System 507: Asustek CM1630 tower.

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 accept only working printers with drivers and documentation. Also, we accept only working monitors. Cathode Ray Tube monitors are not acceptable. Stand-alone scanners are not acceptable. 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: Peter Scott

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: Peter Scott

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