

Willow Valley Computer Club

March 2023 | Newsletter | Volume 24, Issue 2

Programs are at 2:00 pm the first Thursday of the month (except July-August) in the Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.

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Computer Club Leadership

- President: Al Williams
- Vice President: Susan Culbertson
- Secretary: Gary Staton
- Treasurer: Lee Wermuth
- Previous President: Sid Paskowitz

Committee Chairpersons

- Program: Susan Culbertson
- Training: Bill Skelly
- Equipment: Cathy Thorn
- Technical Support: Tony Poulos
- Website: Sid Paskowitz
- Publicity: Ann Willets
- Newsletter: Susan Culbertson
- Apple SIG: Dick Beidleman
- Computer Lab: Lee Wermuth

Community Representatives

- Lakes Manor: Bruce Mawson
- Smart Life: Al Fulvio
- Garden Apartments: Al Williams
- Spring Run: Bob Scala

President's Pen by Al Williams

Welcome to the March 2023 issue of the Computer Club newsletter. In a continuing effort to better meet your needs, we've made substantial changes in the format and content of the Club's newsletter over the past six months.

We made another significant change in February. We decided to become a club member of APCUG, an International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups. Becoming a member gives us access to considerable training offerings, presentations, and workshop resources to help you.

The final article of the *Discovery* series concerning privacy and anonymity appears in this issue. These articles describe multiple concerns and ways to deal with those concerns.

After four years as Training chair, Chuck Smith has asked to step down. Thank you, Chuck, for consistently finding good topics and people to help our members over those years! I have appreciated working with you.

Bill Skelly has agreed to become Training chair. Bill has been a significant member of the Team Member Education Fund. He brings years of teaching experience to the position. I am looking forward to working with Bill.

An invitation: The Willow Valley Computer Club provides presentations of general interest, courses for specific topics, time-critical alerts, and this newsletter. If you would like to present, teach or be involved in some other way in the Computer Club, please let me know.

If you'd like to write an article, note that this newsletter is issued every other month which makes the newsletter ideally suited for articles that readers may want to read and consider. When an article has been presented three times, it is retired.

Thank you.

~Al Williams

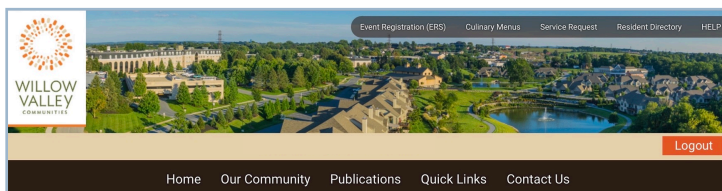
**What is a Password Manager
Why Would I Want to Use One?**

**March 2 @ 2:00 pm
CC Theater**

Renaissance March 2023 Computer & Technology Classes

Willow Valley Computer Club & Apple Users Club at Willow Valley

Register using Event Registration



New Intranet

Sid will present his personal approach to using the new Resident intranet features. Early registrants will be sent an email asking for email responses containing questions about new intranet matters they would like covered in the class. The class will then focus on those questions, first received, first covered. This class should be beneficial to New Residents. Please verify you have a good email address in the online Resident Phone Directory.

Wednesday, March 1

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Cultural Center Education Room

Willow Valley Computer Club

Presenter: Sid Paskowitz, Spring Run resident

PC Housekeeping

Sid will present his personal approach to keeping his Windows 10 computer running smoothly. Early registrants will be sent an email asking for email responses containing questions about PC housekeeping matters they would like covered in the class. The class will then focus on those questions, first received, first covered. Please verify you have a good email address in the online Resident Phone Directory.

Monday, March 13

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Cultural Center Education Room

Willow Valley Computer Club

Presenter: Sid Paskowitz, Spring Run Resident

Apple Health app with Apple Watch

This hands-on workshop is for iPhone owners who also have an Apple Watch and wish to examine more closely how the Watch and the Health app work together. Learn about the many health features of the Apple Watch. Bring your fully charged iPhone and Apple Watch to the workshop. Class size limited.

Sessions are identical. Choose the one which works best for you.

Prerequisite: Attendance at the iPhone Health app presentation held on January 23 or consultation with the instructor.

Wednesday, March 8

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Friday, March 17

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Monday, March 27

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Cultural Center Conference Room

Apple Users Club

Presenter: Susan Culbertson, South Pointe resident

Managing Your Modem & Router

Computers, tablets, smartphones, TVs, and electronics of all types are dependent on connecting to the internet. How does your home network work? This class will provide modem, router, and network basics. You'll also learn troubleshooting techniques you can use when your home network isn't working correctly.

Tuesday, March 28

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Cultural Center Theater

Willow Valley Computer Club

Presenter: Tony Poulos, Spring Run Resident

Privacy and Anonymity - Resisting

Discovery articles are written by Al Williams and are for those slightly familiar with the topic.

Previously

We have a problem. Many of us have realized that we don't have the privacy and anonymity that we want on the Internet at home and when we leave the house. We would like more privacy and anonymity.

The previous articles in this series presented the concepts of privacy, anonymity and security because they are easily misunderstood, but they are important to protecting your personal identity information, your ability to communicate freely, and your control over information about you.

What Privacy and Anonymity Do You Want?

Since each of us is different and unique, we will differ in what we want to protect. We will also differ in the extent to which we will go to protect our information. Here are four possible practices:

- You want to protect yourself from criminals who find your account information in data breaches.
- You would like to have private conversations with others over the Internet.
- You want to protect your private and semi-private personal identifying information as much as possible. A list of personal identifying information is in the Appendix at the end of this article.
- You do not want to be tracked as you travel and shop.

Email Alias

Your email address identifies you. When a data breach occurs, scammers use the email addresses found in the breach to send scams. You can improve your privacy by using an email alias for every account that allows you to do so. Using an email alias allows you to control access to your actual email address.

An email alias is a valid email address that is used to forward email to your actual email address. An email alias provider may allow only replies to a forwarded email or may allow new emails to be sent through the email alias.

Well known email alias providers include AnonDaddy, Apple's Hide My Email, DuckDuckGo, FastMail, Firefox Relay, and SimpleLogin. If you aren't certain which provider best meets your needs, I recommend SimpleLogin.

Private Email Providers

It is a general practice for email providers to encrypt email messages between the computer sending the message and the recipient. This encryption ensures that messages cannot be intercepted and read during transit.

However, Gmail, AOL, Yahoo and many other providers do not support private email conversations because emails are stored, unencrypted, on their servers. Anyone with access to those servers can read the emails on that server. An exception is Apple's iCloud mail which is encrypted on the server.

A completely secure and private email service requires end-to-end encryption of email at all times. Providers such as ProtonMail and Tutanota provide automatic end-to-end encryption of email exchanged between users of their services. They also enable non-ProtonMail and non-Tutanota users to receive encrypted email using a password created by the person sending the email.

The two providers consistently ranked as best are ProtonMail and Tutanota. I recommend ProtonMail.

Private Text Messages, Chats, Voice Calls, and Video Calls

To be useful, an app supporting private text messages, chats, voice calls, and video calls should run on Android, Apple, and Windows (cross platform) so that everyone you wish to communicate with can be reached using just one app.

The most popular such apps are Signal, Telegram, and WhatsApp. There are concerns:

- The user must enable Telegram's optional end-to-end encrypted chats.
- WhatsApp works exclusively with Wi-Fi which deters secure usage away from home.
- Telegram and WhatsApp encrypt data, but not meta-data, while Signal encrypts both.

Because Telegram and WhatsApp do not provide desired features, the recommended app is Signal.

Websites

The European Union's GDPR requires websites to protect the personal identifying information of all individuals in the EU. As a result, websites everywhere put in place the protections the GDPR

requires, for every user regardless of their location. Although the protection is strong, when a data breach occurs typically all the information that the website has about you is exposed. Your only recourse is to deal with the resulting problems yourself.

Providing only the information the website needs limits exposure and the time and effort required to deal with a data breach. To minimize successful attacks on other accounts that you have, using an email alias is recommended.

Tracking Your Location

Apps that you install on your phone are required to honor your request that the app not track your location. If you are concerned that an app is tracking you, in spite of your request, you may use the phone's location services setting to ensure that an individual app is not tracking you or to prevent tracking by any app.

To receive calls and make calls, your cell phone carrier must know the location of your phone. To prevent tracking by the carrier, the only certain way is to use a faraday bag. A quality bag will create an RF shield around the phone making tracking impossible. Recommended faraday bags are made by Silent Pocket.

How-To Instructions

This article does not provide detailed instructions for practicing privacy and anonymity because the article would be too long. However, how-to training is being planned.

Appendix

Personal Identifying Information

The following lists describe your public, semi-private and private personal identifying information (PII).

Public PII

Your PII can not be completely private. Some of it must be public to participate in society. However, some PII may be semi-private and some private.

Your public PII is:

- Your name
- Your U.S. mail address
- Your email address
- Your phone number – home or cell

Semi-Private PII

Your semi-private PII must be provided to others to:

- obtain services such as health care,
- pay taxes,
- do banking,
- hold a job,
- do online shopping, or
- to be allowed to drive or fly

Your semi-private PII includes:

- Your date of birth
- Your place of birth
- Your Social Security number
- Your photograph

- Your driver's license number
- Your mother's maiden name
- Your race
- Your religion
- Your education achievement
- Your trade associations
- Your professional associations
- Your hobby associations
- Your health insurance
- Your Medicare number, if applicable
- Your taxpayer identification number
- Your passport number
- Your bank account numbers
- Your credit card numbers
- Your password(s)

Private PII

Your private PII includes:

- Your DNA unless you provided it to a genealogy site. In that case, it is no longer private PII but becomes public PII. If you provide it to a health care provider for genetic testing, it becomes semi-private PII.
- Your biometric data, including fingerprints, retina scans, voices signatures, or facial geometry, unless you are required to provide it to your employer or law enforcement. If you are required to provide it, then it becomes semi-private PII.

Software Updates and Security Issues

There are reports of security problems with smart phones and computers every day in the news. Most of these problems are fixed by updates to the software that has the problem. There are some security problems that will not be fixed by waiting for an update. This announcement addresses both.

National Security Risk

There is a software application that the Federal Communications Commission has declared to be an “[unacceptable national security risk](#)” because of its extensive harvesting of user data: TikTok. In addition, a security researcher recently determined that [TikTok deploys software capable of logging all key strokes](#) including user names and passwords. There is no evidence that TikTok is capturing key strokes but the existence of the capability is concerning. If a family member is using TikTok, we encourage you to forward this email to them.

Security Risk

You may know by now that every software application could be hacked and many have been. A single hack followed by a thorough and transparent announcement describing the hack tends to ensure users that the software vendor will do better in the future. However, [when a software vendor suffers multiple hacks](#), thorough and transparent announcements are no longer sufficient. Therefore, if you are currently using the LastPass password manager, you should switch to a different password manager. [Bitwarden](#) is recommended.

Keeping Software Up to Date

You can ensure that the software on your smart phones and computers is up to date by following these steps:

Windows

- Updates to Windows are always enabled unless you explicitly disabled them. Windows will prompt you to restart your computer to install the update. Microsoft typically releases updates on Tuesdays although critical updates may be issued at any time.
- There is no easy and complete solution for updating software applications on Windows.

The [PatchMyPC](#) software app will automatically check the update status of over 300 software applications on computers using Windows and install those updates. It is free. You may run PatchMyPC manually or [select a schedule to run automatically](#).

Although some software applications on Windows will automatically check for updates and notify you that an update is available, most software applications will not.

- The Firefox browser will automatically update when you close and then re-open Firefox. To manually verify that Firefox is up to date, click on the three stacked lines in the upper right-hand corner of the window, click on Help, and then click on About Firefox. If an update is available, click on the box to Restart to Update Firefox.
- To verify the Chrome browser is up to date, click on the three stacked dots in the upper right-hand corner of the window, click on Settings, and click on About Chrome at the bottom left of the Settings window. Chrome will either update then or state that Chrome is up to date.
- To verify the Brave browser is up to date, click on the three stacked lines in the upper right-hand corner of the window and then click on About Brave. Brave will automatically update if an update is available.

For the applications that do not automatically notify you that an update is available, you will need to open the application and then:

- Select Help on the menu bar
- Select Check for Updates

Do not forget to verify that your antivirus software is up to date. If you use Ccleaner, verify that it is also up to date.

It is good practice to check for updates weekly.

iPhones and iPads

- Turn on automatic updates
 - Go to *Settings* > *General* > *Software Update*
 - Tap *Automatic Updates*, then turn on *Download iOS (or iPadOS) Updates*
 - Turn on *Install iOS (or iPadOS) Updates*.

Apple rolls out new iOS/iPadOS updates incrementally. Your device will automatically be updated 1 to 4 weeks later after Apple has received feedback on the update.

If you see that an update is available, you may install it manually.

- Install Rapid Security Responses

The Rapid Security Response function makes it quicker and easier for Apple to deploy security improvements to their devices without a full iOS or iPadOS update. To get Rapid Security Responses automatically:

- Go to *Settings* > *General* > *Software Update*
- Tap *Automatic Updates*
- Turn on *Security Responses & System Files*
- Software applications on iPhones and iPads are automatically updated through the App Store. To ensure that you automatically receive those updates, go to *Settings* on your iPhone, select *App Store*, and then ensure that *App Updates* are turned On.

For additional information, see this [Apple support article](#).

Android

- Android users are notified when updates to Android are available. To update:
 - Open *Settings*
 - Tap *System* and then tap *System Update*
 - Follow instructions on the screen
- To check if updates are available:
 - Open *Settings*
 - Tap *Security*
 - To check for a security update, tap *Google Security checkup*
 - To check for a Google Play system update, tap *Google Play system update*

macOS

- To keep your Mac up to date, [follow the instructions at macOS User Guide](#). You'll need to select the version of macOS that you are using to obtain the appropriate instructions. The Rapid Security Response feature is available only in the latest macOS Ventura.

Linux

- To keep your Linux distribution up to date, follow the instructions for the package manager that your distribution uses. For stable distributions such as Debian Stable and Ubuntu LTS, it is suggested that you check for updates weekly. For distributions that emphasize frequent updates, such as Debian Testing and Kali Linux, it is suggested that you check for updates daily.

~Jay, Susan and Al

Renaissance April 2023 Computer & Technology Classes

Willow Valley Computer Club

Register using Event Registration

Information Central

Sid will present an overview of the key features of Information Central, the Computer Club home page on the Resident Intranet. Early registrants will be sent an email asking for email responses containing questions about Information Central issues they would like covered in the class. The class will then focus on those questions, first received, first covered. Please verify you have a good email address in the online Resident Phone Directory.

Monday, April 3

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Cultural Center Education Room

Willow Valley Computer Club

Presenter: Sid Paskowitz, Spring Run resident

Understanding TiVo

TiVo is the digital recorder of choice. For those new to using a TiVo, the class will demonstrate the basics. You'll see the great program guide, how easy it is to record programs, replay dialog you may have missed, skip commercials, and always record a program when it is shown even if you're not at home. If you already have one, learn some advanced features such as skipping through the Guide or displaying only your favorite channels, options for repeat recordings, accessing premium services, and playing recorded programs 30% faster. A useful handout will be provided.

Wednesday, April 19

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Cultural Center Theater

Willow Valley Computer Club

Presenter: Tony Poulos, Spring Run resident

Gmail – 101

Many residents use Gmail on the web. We will explore web-based Gmail features that you may/may not know, such as Undo/Delay/Schedule Send, inserting pictures, website, document, voice, video, etc., in the email. How to: create a tagline and multiple signatures; subscribe/block/delete/archive single or multiple emails; create/manage/use labels and powerful search functions of Gmail; add a contact from the email to the address book; set up a vacation response. Create an alias for multiple contacts so you do not have to type each address. If time permits, we'll explore how to take an email and convert it into an event in the Google calendar or as a follow-up task and even how to migrate your AOL, Yahoo email, and contacts to Gmail!

Tuesday, April 18

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Cultural Center Education Room

Willow Valley Computer Club

Presenter: Jay Shah, North Resident

Gmail – 102

This is a continuation of the Gmail -101 class. This class will explore Gmail settings in depth and how Gmail integrates with other Google products and services to save time.

Monday, April 24

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Cultural Center Education Room

Willow Valley Computer Club

Presenter: Jay Shah, North Resident

Computer Club Technology Center

NOTE: The Computer Club Technology Center (CCTC) is open on Mondays only, from 10 am to 4 pm. The CCTC is located on the 5th floor of Manor North 'J' building. The door may be closed, but with a sign indicating *Please Knock*.

Apple Items Available: See Bruce Thompson in the CCTC.

Jean Becker has joined the volunteers in the Center. She has excellent technical skills and is training on doing re-cloning of donated machines.

The new hours are helping us to address the backlog of 25 laptops to be re-imaged along with 20 SFFs (Small Form Factor) desktop computers from IT.

Inventory will no longer list printers. Anyone interested in printers can come to the CCTC to choose. They would have to come to verify what they want anyway. Printers are a problem at the moment. CCTC has no outlet for them. They sit on the shelf and the cartridges dry out due to lack of usage. Some printers have been here over 6 months.

| DATE | | DEVICE DESCRIPTION | Type | SERIAL NO. | CHIP | MEMORY GB | SPEED | HARD DRIVE GB/TB | Comment |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|-------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Computers | | | | | | | | | |
| February 2023 In Stock | | | | | | | | | |
| | Residents | | | | | | | | |
| | Laptop | HP | Probook -650G1 | CN5CG5506W7 F | i5-4210M | 8 | 3225 | 500 | |
| | Laptop | HP | Probook -650G1 | CN5G447NHN | i5-4200M | 8 | 3114 | 500 | |
| | SFF - Small Form Factor | HP | Elite desk | PGATU0BK965A 8T | i5-6500T | 8 | 4900 | 250 | needs special video cable |
| | SFF - Small Form Factor | HP | Elite desk | PGATU0BK965A RZ | i5-6500T | 8 | 4900 | 250 | needs special video cable |
| | SFF - Small Form Factor | HP | Elite desk | 8CG7081JWY | i5-6500T | 8 | 4916 | 800 | needs special video cable |
| | SFF - Small Form Factor | HP | Elite desk | 8CG7081JX9 | i5-6500T | 8 | 4916 | 255 | needs special video cable |
| | SFF - Small Form Factor | HP | Elite desk | 8CG7081JWY | i5-6500T | 8 | 4916 | 800 | needs special video cable |

For Charity

| DATE | | DEVICE DESCRIPTION | Type | SERIAL NO. | CHIP | MEMORY GB | SPEED | HARD DRIVE GB/TB |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|-------|-----------------|----------|-----------|-------|------------------|
| Feb-23 | Charity | LENOVO | | 28903480018187B | i5-6200U | 8 | 2617 | 1 |
| | | HP | | 9CG5130G48 | i5 4210U | 4 | 2475 | 500 |
| | | HP Probook | | CND5393FQT | i3-4005U | 4 | 1777 | 250 |
| | | HP Probook | | 2CE3461BNM | i3-300M | 4 | 1972 | 250 |
| | | HP Elitebook | | CSUCA67V2M004 | i5-3210M | 8 | 2767 | 500 |
| | | HP Probook | 450G2 | CND5442XL0 | i3-4005U | 4 | 1794 | 120 |

Given to

| DATE | DEVICE DESCRIPTION Manufacturer | MODEL | SERIAL NO. | CHIP | MEMORY GB | SPEED - Perfor mance | HARD DRIVE GB/ TB | Given to |
|--------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Feb-23 | HP | Probook 650 G1 | CNU4166CRNR | i5-4200 | 8 | 3120 | 500 | Forrest Collier |
| | HP | Elite Book - 850 G3 | 5CG6434HZ3 | i5-6200 | 8 | 3282 | 255 | Steve Wright - For Bridge Club |
| | HP | ENVY -M7 | PFLNAC3NM15 Ag7 | i7-6500 | 8 | 3472 | 1 | Loaner - Jane Brown - 302 547 5522 |
| | HP | Probook 650 G1 | 5G563013V4 | i5-4200M | 8 | 3243 | 500 | Peter Lawrence |
| | HP | Probook 650 G1 | CNU420DDXH | i5-4200M | 8 | 3051 | 500 | Computer Club Door Prize |

No items given to charity this month.

WVCC mission:
"to provide the means to
educate beginners or
interested non-users on how
to use a computer"

WVCC mission:
"to provide a forum for
interchange of computer
information among
members"

WVCC mission: "to arrange
for speakers to talk about
subjects of interest to those
with some background and
experience in computer
use"

Contact Information

For more information about the Computer Club, please contact Al Williams via email at wvcomputerclub@gmail.com.

Please keep your email address on Club records current so we can send you important emails. Send email corrections or updates to Lee Wermuth at lweremuth582@gmail.com.

Bill Skelly is the Willow Valley Computer Club Training Coordinator. We are always looking for residents qualified to teach computer-related topics. We want our classes to support your needs. Contact Bill (whskelly@aol.com) to volunteer or to offer ideas on topics needed.