The PULP

HUGE this month:

General Meeting: Mar. 19th

Spring Cleaning -- Inside & Out

See you there!

New Location !!!!!

**Knights of Columbus
2533 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT**

Q&A Session: 7:00PM–7:30PM
Meeting starts at: 7:30PM

Contents:

Member of
Association of Personal Computer User Groups
APCUG

UGC™

Apple User Group

H.U.G.E.

MEETING LOCATION
Knights of Columbus
2533 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT

Editor's Corner

With spring around the corner, I thought we'd take the time to talk about the care & maintenance of our computers and other electronics. This includes hardware & software.

Adobe has made Creative Suite 2 available for download. A couple of notes, it is not supported and it only works on older machines. Find it here:
http://www.adobe.com/downloads/cs2_downloads/index.html

In the category of slightly ironic, Pirate Bay has filed a copyright infringement suit against the Copyright Information and Anti-Piracy Center (CIAPC).

Have trouble keeping track of those terms of service agreements? Try the Docracy Terms of Service Tracker site monitors the TOS agreements and privacy policies for nearly a thousand Web services. http://www.docracy.com/tos/changes

Researchers at Oregon State University (OSU) reported that they have found a way to improve magnetic data storage techniques using high--frequency sound waves. This could allow greater amounts of data to be stored on both hard disk drives and NAND flash-based solid-state drives (SSDs).

Microsoft has announced changes to the licensing of Office 2013. It will now be tied to a specific machine and will not be transferable.

Ubuntu is in the process of releasing a version for phones and tablets.

Building native Apple iOS mobile applications may have just gotten easier with Visual Studio IDE on Windows. using version 2.0 of the Xamarin development platform.

Star Trek is getting closer (again), researchers have announced a sort of 'mind-meld'. Using trained rats in Brazil, they were able to transfer the information using electronic sensors to rats at Duke University.

NASA is developing cheap, clean, low-energy nuclear reaction (LENR) technology that could eventually see cars, planes, and homes powered by small, safe nuclear reactors. No timetable or cost were announced.

Researchers recently test the effects of power

Here is the appropriate copyright citation and a link to the full text. articles from "Tidbits"

http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

A Little Computer Quiz

by Stuart Rabinowitz

The trivia and minutiae of the computer related world. The answers will appear next month or you can submit an answer sheet at the General Meeting. Good Luck.

1 What is Craig Silverstein's reason for being in the quiz?

2 BackRub was the original name for what software product?

3 Recently a number of companies began announcing touchscreen laptops, but what was the first you culled actually buy?

4 When was it released?

5 What operating system does it use?

Answers to February, 2013 Quiz

Integrated software (offering word processing, spreadsheet, database,...) began to appear in 1984. Can you match the product with the company?

1	Symphony	D	Lotus
2	Office	C	Microsoft
3	Framework	B	Ashton-Tate
4	III E-Z Pieces	A	Haba Systems

Also released as AppleWorks

5 Which did not appear in 1984?
  A Microsoft Office was not released until 1990.

Tablet Computers -
Great for Accessing the Internet
By Phil Sorrentino, Past President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
April 2012 issue, Sarasota Monitor
www.spcug.org
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Tablets are all the rage. You might think it started with the iPad, but the iPad is just the latest and greatest implementation of what started out as pen computing with a stylus on a Personal Digital Assistant, circa 1992. (I bet many of you had a Palm Pilot, or something similar. I know I did.) Microsoft even introduced a tablet or slate computer using a pen (rather than a keyboard) around 2002. (The term Tablet PC was coined by Microsoft, as a pen-enabled computer conforming to Microsoft's hardware specifications, and running a licensed copy of the "Windows XP Tablet PC Edition" OS. Things have really changed from then.) The Apple iPod-Touch, in 2008, was the forerunner of the eventual iPad in 2010. Since the iPad introduction, many similar featured tablets have shown up for sale in stores and on-line retailers. Tablets, in use, are even showing up on popular TV shows. I bet you've seen them used on shows where technology plays an important part of the plot, like NCIS and NCIS Los Angeles.

Tablets are basically computers, but they are built for mobility, even more-so than laptops. They are light (under 1 _ lbs.) and there are no moving parts, so they should be fairly rugged. (There are no hard drives or optical (CD/DVD) drives.) The Operating System and Applications (Apps) are stored in semi-conductor memory so they are readily available; the boot-up time is really quick. All tablets have a touch sensitive screen which acts as both the keyboard and mouse. All interactions are done by finger movements on the screen, called gestures. Most gestures are done by one finger, like a "flick" which moves an object in the direction you flick your finger, but some gestures require two fingers such as zoom, which is a outward pinching-like movement of the thumb and pointer fingers. Most popular tablets are either 7 or 10 inches (diagonally measured), although I've seen some smaller and some other sizes. Most Tablets do not have cell phone capabilities, but I have seen some smaller ones that included phone features.

Besides the hardware manufacturer, one of the main distinguishing features of a tablet is the Operating System (OS). Currently, there are three major OSs, Apple's iOS, Google's Android, and Microsoft's Windows Phone7. Apple has a line of tablets that use iOS, the iPad and iPad2. Many tablet hardware manufacturers, such as Motorola, LG, Lenovo, HTC, Samsung, Toshiba, ASUS, etc. make use of Android OS. And Microsoft has stated that many manufacturers will use Phone7, among them Samsung and Nokia. The User Interfaces (UI) that ride on top of the OSs are fairly similar in functionality, but have some very different features. Apple iPads are tightly tied to Apple iTunes. (What would you expect?) Google tablets are loosely tied to Google's applications such as Gmail and Google+. I haven't seen much of Phone7, but I would guess it will be tied to Microsoft products and websites. Because the current tablet universe seems to be populated by Apple iPad products and those running Google's OS, I will leave Phone7 out of some of the comparisons. As of this writing Apple has about 60% of the market, and Android has around 30% (the Amazon Kindle Fire uses Android). One of the major software differences is that Android runs the Adobe Flash software that is used on many websites to support videos. Apple does not allow Adobe Flash to run. Another hardware difference seems to be that Google supports more interfaces to get data onto, and off, the tablet. Some Android tablets provide micro-SD slots for added storage, micro-HDMI output connectors, USB ports for file transfers, as well as the ability to replace batteries.

The tablet is a great computing device for using (or consuming) data. You probably would not want to create any large amount of data with a tablet (maybe only if you have a unit with a docking or wireless keyboard). Because of its light weight, the tablet is very convenient to use for accessing the internet when you're not at a desk or table. It fits right into your lap or can be easily held with one hand while the other hand controls its operations. It is great for checking your email, surfing the internet, reading a

newspaper or magazine, reading a book, watching a video or movie, reviewing your collection of home photos, playing a game (have you tried Angry Birds?), all while listening to music from your own personal playlist.

So if you think you might like a Tablet, what should you look for? The first decision is really, What OS? If you like the Apple environment, then go with an iPad or iPad2, and you're done. There are very few decisions to make, except for how much memory; 16GB, 32GB or 64GB. If you prefer the more open environment of the Android OS, then there are a few more decisions to be made. The first one is size, 7" or 10". Some manufacturers have models in both sizes, and some make only one size. The seven inch size is good if you expect to carry it around and use it in many places; it probably fits into a handbag, but probably not a pocket. The ten inch size is easier on the eyes and typically will display more of a webpage. This larger size is nice for viewing, but is not as portable.

The next thing to consider is battery life. The current range seems to be roughly between 7 and 10 hours. Some models make it easy to replace the battery, some do not. (With the iPads, you are instructed to return the unit to the manufacturer.) Internal memory and an external memory slot are another area to consider. Internal memory is typically 8GB, 16GB, 32GB and possibly 64GB. External memory may be provided by an SD slot or a mini or micro-SD slot. The external memory is dependent on the size of the chip you put into the slot, currently up to 32GB. With external memory, you can use many memory chips, one at a time, which allows you to keep different things on different memory chips. (Another memory number you may see is RAM memory. This is typically 1GB (possibly as much as 2 GB) and is similar to the RAM in a PC. More RAM usually means increased speed and better multi-tasking.)

All models provide Wi-Fi connectivity to the internet. Some also provide 3G or 4G connectivity, via the cell phone network. Cell phone network connectivity will probably require a data plan which can cost from $30 to $60 a month depending on your data needs. If you

only connect via Wi-Fi, there is no additional expense. Most models provide a USB port for connection with a PC. When connected to a PC, data files such as pictures, videos, and documents can be transferred between the devices. Many models also include a micro-HDMI interface for connecting to a digital TV. When connected to a TV, videos can be played on the tablet and viewed on the large screen digital TV. Bluetooth connectivity is also typically included.

Most of the popular models have processors that are quite adequate. Some of these are made by nVidia, Qualcomm, Arm, Texas Instruments, Samsung, and of course, Apple. (Where are Intel and AMD, you might ask. Low power consumption is the main requirement for tablet processors, and Intel and AMD have not been players in this arena in the past, but I think you will see some new processors from them show up in tablets in the near future.)

Tablets are now all the rage. Once you have one the real job begins; that of trying to decide what you are going to do with it. The thing that makes the tablet so useful is, like the PC, the fact that you can put Applications (Apps) on it. Many, which are becoming standard, Apps usually come with the tablet. Other Apps are easily downloaded from either iTunes or the Android Market. But the whole discussion of Apps will have to be the subject of a future article. Stay connected.

Tablet or Laptop, a Popular Question
...and More App Reviews
By Gregory West, APCUG Advisor, Region 6
& International
VP of Sarnia Computer Users' Group (scug.ca)
Can be contacted at: gwest@apcug.org

Unless you are a "hard core" computer gamer, you can now officially say goodbye to the laptop.

The day of computer frustration is coming to an end. The answer to pulling your hair out as you are trying to figure out why the laptop is so hard to use is called: "touch pads".

Recently, I was on a technology cruise out of Miami, where 400 plus geeks road the seas and clicked on computers in various seminars. Wait, that's not correct. It wasn't computers these everyday people were using. No, it was touch screen devices. Mostly iPads I must admit. This too is strange as the group was 99.9% Windows users. The average age in the 400 plus crowd was, shall I say, more than 50+. Most of them said they cannot believe the difference and ease when they switched from a laptop or desktop to a tablet.

Most people on the tech cruise, who recently bought a tablet and still owned a laptop/desktop computer, said that they "hardly ever use their computer anymore." The hot topic on the ship was the app. People were constantly sharing newfound apps for their tablets.

So what makes these tablets so popular? Price, ease of use, two click downloads for software, portability, and low price is enticing laptop/desktop are just a few of the factors enticing people to switch. Here are some tips when shopping for a tablet:

Test drive several. Ask friends who own them what they suggest. Do online searches for reviews.

Decide what exactly you are going to use it for then decide on the size. I wouldn't worry too much about the hard drive size as most of what we do on computer is heading to the cloud and soon you won't need software programs for your devices.

Make sure the tablet of choice has a USB slot for thumb drives, cameras, and other such devices. ITworld.com suggests "Decide on the operating system. The three main choices these days are iOS, Android or Blackberry Tablet OS. Do a bit of research on all three and pick the one that will work the best for you."

One final word...Most people will tell you once they bought tablets their other computers became lonely. Just ask anyone who owns a tablet and they'll tell you they "hardly use" their computers anymore because the tablet is "so much easier to use and less hassle".

Forester.com researchers predict "Tablets will cannibalize netbooks and outsell them starting in 2012. In 2015, 23% of all PCs sold to consumers in the US will be tablets."

Happy hunting.

App Reviews..."AppZilla 2" won the App or of the year award.

I broke down and bought an app for my iPhone, AppZilla 2. Ninety-nine cents is a fair price to pay for an app that houses 120 apps with just one click.

The Cloud
By Berry F. Phillips, Member of the Computer
Club of Oklahoma City
July 2011 issue, eMonitor
www.ccokc.org
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"Cross my palm with silver" is the common opining line of a fortune teller before looking into her crystal ball to foretell the future. Perhaps at looking into the future of computing we should consult the "clouds" not a crystal ball! "Beam me up, Scotty!"

Your computer in the future may contain almost no software or data. It could be nothing more than a display terminal for processes occurring on a network of computers far away called "The Cloud." A common explanatory analogy is that of public utilities such as electricity, gas, and water. Just as centralized and standardized utilities free users from the difficulties of generating electricity or pumping water, cloud computing frees users from certain hardware and software installation and maintenance tasks through the use of simpler hardware that accesses a vast network of computer resources (processors, hard drives, etc.) The sharing of resources reduces the cost to individuals.

Today, many of us connect to web-based email such has Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, a company owned e-mail, or even an e-mail client program such as Outlook, Evolution, Mozilla Thunderbird or Entourage that connects to a cloud email server. Utilizing desktop applications to connect to your email is considered a cloud application.

The key characteristic of cloud computing is that computing is "in the cloud." The processing (and the related data) is not in a specific, known or static place(s). This is in contrast to a model in which the processing takes place in one or more specific servers that are known. All the other concepts mentioned are supplementary or complementary to the concept. In the 1960s John McCarthy said, "computation someday will be organized as a public utility." Almost all the modern-day characteristics of cloud computing were thoroughly explored in Douglas Parhill's 1966 book, "The Challenge

Of the Computer Utility."

What are some of the key benefits to cloud computing? Agility improves with the users' ability to rapidly and inexpensively re-provision technological infrastructure resources. Application Programming Interface (API) accessibility to software that enables machines to interact with cloud software in the same way the user interface facilitates interaction between humans and computers.

Cost is claimed to be greatly reduced and in a public cloud delivery model capital expenditure is converted to operational expenditure. Device and location independence enable users to access systems using web browser regardless of the location they are using (e.g., PC, mobile phone).

As infrastructure is off-site (typically provided by a third-party) and accessed via the Internet, users can connect from anywhere. This is why many IT professionals believe the future of computing is mobile cloud-based. There may be one day when desktop and laptop computers will be as archaic as dinosaurs. Multi-tenancy enables sharing of resources and costs across a large pool of users.

Reliability is improved if multiple redundant sites are used, which makes well designed cloud computing suitable for business continuity and disaster recovery. Scalability is improved on a self-service bases near real-time.

Performance is monitored and consistent, using web services as the system interface.

Security could improve due to centralization of data.

Maintenance for cloud computing applications is easier because they do not need to be installed on each user's computer. They are easier to support and to improve as the changes reach the client instantly.

There are different clouds like public clouds, community clouds, hybrid clouds, combined clouds and private clouds which have specific

applications. The operation and development of these clouds are called cloud engineering. Cloud storage is a model of networked computer data storage where data is stored on multiple servers which are usually hosted by third parties, rather than hosted on dedicated servers.

I downloaded two cloud-based freeware anti-virus programs on my system to see how they worked. One was Panda and the other was Immunet; I loaded both of them so they ran on my system by themselves. They had one thing in common as they used little resources, and there were few if any updates. Of course, that is to be expected since all the virus databases are updated in the cloud. I found both programs worked very well. Panda will not run with any other anti-virus system on; however Immunet works very well with another anti-virus system operating. As a general rule, users are cautioned to use only one anti-virus system to avoid conflicts. I think in the future we will see more cloud-based applications. There are several companies now providing cloud-based storage for a fee. Looking ahead, mobile devices using cloud computing may indeed be the computing of the future.

My thanks to Wikipedia for most of the information that is contained in this article.

Apple reports this app "surpasses 2,000,000 downloads!" AppZilla 2 works on the iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. Sorry droid users!

With 120 apps in one app it will take some time to test drive them all. Some are kinda corny but still fun. As a Google user of Docs, mail and much more, I like the way this app has corralled all the Google products for ease of use. They call this the "utility" app and rightfully so as there are levels, app for flashlight mode on your phone, path finder so you never get lost, night vision, password keeper, parking meter reminder with alarm, police scanner for many cities, and many more I haven't tried but sure will. I give this app a 10+.
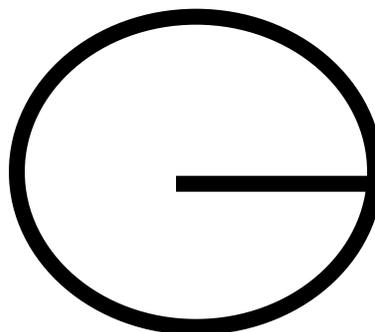
Gregory can be reached at:
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Visit the free website for 50+ learning computers: http://alternatecloud.com
Free Basic Computer Help Workshops first Monday of every month 9:30 to noon: Grace United Church - Sarnia, Ontario - 519-542-1203

Happy Pi Day

Own the Cloud with ownCloud!
By Drew Kwashnak, Member, Danbury Area
Computer Society, CT
January 2012 issue, DACS.doc
www.dacs.org
dacseditor (at) dacs.org

I love the cloud. I love the accessibility, and freedom it provides. Unfortunately that freedom is limited because the host can go offline; hold my files for ransom, or worse! Then there is question about privacy and lack of control over your own content. Proprietary formats create a vendor-lock-in that traps you unwittingly to their services.

Maybe one solution could be a "private cloud" where it gives you the advantages of the cloud, yet you have full control over the content. That's the premise behind ownCloud1.

It is a free, open source project that runs on a Linux web server whether the server is local behind a firewall or hosted somewhere accessible such as on Amazon's Web Services which, by the way, is where Dropbox stores those files you upload.

The requirements on top of Linux for ownCloud are fairly basic; Apache, PHP 5 and either MySQL or SQLite for database. Some Linux distributions even include a pre-built package that installs everything you need for you.

There are steps to install and run ownCloud on a Windows system, using IIS here outlined in the ownCloud mailing list2. Apple Mac OS X, being UNIX, is almost as easy to host ownCloud in Apache as Linux.

While ownCloud has sharing, music streaming, calendar, contacts, users & groups, OpenID,

LDAP, WebFinger, and remoteStorage compatibility the most important feature is WebDAV file storage where you can add, remove and move files through the web browser or from your local computer!

With WebDAV client computers can access the ownCloud files almost as easily as they can open and save files to their local systems! This works in Linux, MacOS X and Windows.

And that's not all! The developers of ownCloud are working to include an image gallery for your photos, an online text editor, encryption for your security, storage of bookmarks, server and client synchronization and Android or WebOS apps. Being open source, the possibilities are actually practically endless!

So if you like the idea of the cloud, but not the idea of giving control over your files and information to some 3rd party, and if you have some spare machines lying around the house you can easily create your own cloud, where you Own the Cloud!

http://owncloud.org/
http://mail.kde.org/pipermail/owncloud/2011-December/001798.html

http://owncloudtest.blogspot.com/2011/06/what-you-can-do-with-owncoud-today.html

from pg. 2

outages on Solid State Drives. They found 13 of 15 suffered data loss some of it significant. While not the exact same technology, flash drives offer similar risks, hence the warning about incorrect removal of the devices.

Is an iWatch in your future?å

Editor-in-Chief:
Stuart Rabinowitz

PULP Staff

Editor	Stuart Rabinowitz
Distribution	George Carbonell

Membership: Anyone may become a member. Dues are $12 per year and include a one-year subscription to The Pulp as well as access to the HUGE Public Domain disk libraries. Meeting topics, times and places can be found on page 1 of this issue.

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March 2013

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