NEWS JOURNAL

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"Members Helping Members"

An Internet Safety Guide For Seniors

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

https://ckcs.org/

lextown2 (at) gmail.com

"The Internet can be a scary place, especially if you're old enough to be able to remember dialing a rotary telephone!…" begins the website from Safety Detectives.

But, in reality, age doesn't matter. Anyone using the Internet is a target.

Still, those of us who are 60 and older are prime targets of cybercrimes.

(*Cybercrimes are those committed over the Internet using any device and means such as email, website, or social media apps such as Facebook or Instagram.)*

Stats

Think about this for a moment. In 2020, Americans 60 and older lost an estimated $1 billion due to cybercrimes. (Source: The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, IC3.)

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"Members Helping Members"

(since 1983)

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News Journal

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Membership

LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are $20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at http://www.lcace.org.

Meetings

LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

Newsletter Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - $25, Half page - $15, Quarter page - $10, Business Card - $5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

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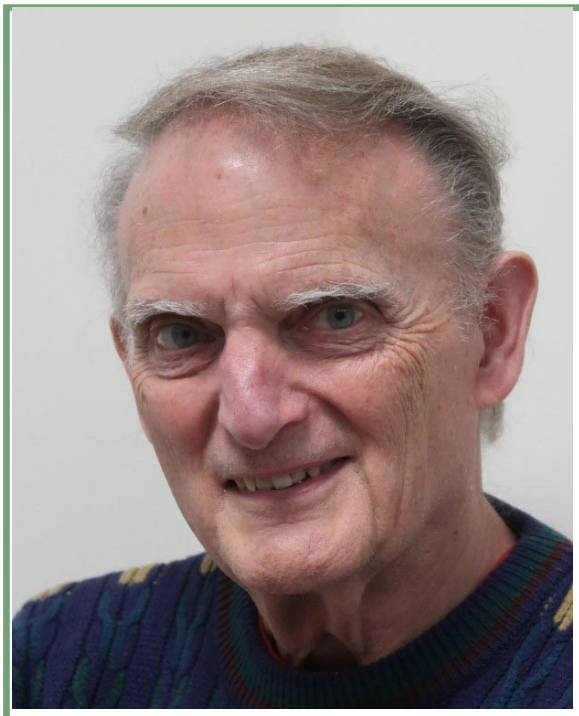
Presidential Prattle



Our next meeting is June 25. I will be in the library meeting rooms setting things up, starting at about 11 AM. I will bring the coffee supplies this time. Normally Linda Busch brings those supplies. Making the coffee is part of the setup process. The rest involves moving a few tables and chairs around in the front to suit our circumstances. Although there isn't a lot to do, it would be nice to have some company (and possibly some help) setting up. I need to be available for the Help Desk, which starts at 11:15 AM. I USUALLY get everything done by then, but I would rather finish with time to spare.

I look at June as an important meeting time, because we don't have another meeting until August. So I hope to see everyone there!

My best to all,

Les Larkin

May winners are

Judy won the 50/50

Mary won the Door Prize

Simplify your life with these smartphone apps

Visit *play.google.com* or open your iTunes application and search within the App Store to download these.

App name	How it works
Flashlight	Turns your screen into a flashlight
Google Maps	Provides maps and directions using GPS
Dragon Dictation*	Lets you send texts and emails without typing
GasBuddy	Finds cheap fuel in your area
FaceTime*	Allows video chats with friends and family
TripIt	Organizes flights, hotel reservations, and more
Laser Level	Helps hang pictures straight
Lose It	Lets you create and follow a diet plan
RedLaser	Compares prices by scanning bar codes while you shop
The Weather Channel	Keeps up with local weather
iPharmacy Drug Guide & Pill ID	Identifies your pills and finds lowest drug prices
Tip Calculator	Computes your tip and splits the bill among friends

*iPhone only

Members Helping Members

Just think you could have submitted a paragraph or two that would help your fellow Members

Ctrl+ click white arrow to go to out Youtube site

(Continued from page 1)

That was a 30% increase over the prior year. Yikes!

While all of this can be quite nerve-racking, you don't need to bite your nails or bash your head against the wall (although sometimes that's a tempting thought.)

Protect Yourself

Safety Detectives says despite the threats, "**The vast majority of cyber attacks can be easily prevented with the proper tools, some basic education, and plain old common sense**."

The Safety Detective's website provides an excellent breakdown of common online threats facing folks who are 60 and older.

These include:

- Viruses & Malware
- Phishing
- Data breaches/password theft
- Social media scams
- Banking fraud
- Privacy violations

Mobile

If you own an iPhone, iPad, or Android phone, scroll down and check out the How to Stay Safe on Your Smartphone & Tablet section.

VPNs

VPNs (virtual private networks) will protect you when using public Wi-Fi networks.VPNs are apps you can pay for and then install. Many are offered through the different app stores (Mac App Store, App Store, Google Play, etc.) or from the software developer's website.

As the website notes, VPNs can flag unsafe public networks and protect your privacy by sending your Internet connection into an encrypted tunnel while on public Wi-Fi. Safety Detectives tested 52 separate VPNs and selected what it considers the best of the lot. Here are what others say:

- C|net: Best VPN Service of 2021
- Tom's Guide: The Best VPN Service
- PCmag.com: The Best VPN Services for 2021

Password Managers

Using a solid password manager keeps you safe and can make your life easier. A good password manager can autofill your login and password on many websites, so you no longer have to type in that information manually. In addition, you no longer have to keep that information in a notebook or on Post–It® notes.

- IPCmag.com: Best Password Managers for 2021
- Macworld UK: Best Password Managers For Mac
- Tom's Guide: The Best Password Managers in 2021
- Check out The (2021).

A Common Computer Problem and How to Fix It

By Mark Presky, Director, Los Angeles Computer Society

User Friendly, January 2022 issue

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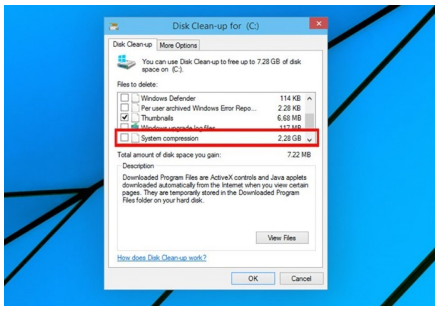
Over the years, computer hard drives have gotten larger and larger. But programs and the other files we load onto our computers have also gotten larger and more numerous. Eventually, this often becomes a problem when one's computer starts running slower or informs you that it just cannot hold anymore.



One way to deal with this problem is to free up space on the hard drive or SSD (solid-state drive). Use the built-in Disk Cleanup tool in Windows 10. Click on the Start menu. Choose All Programs—select Accessories, then System Tools. Click on Disk Cleanup. Under the Files to delete heading, choose which file types you want to remove. If you're unsure which file types to get rid of, select each one in turn and read its description. When you've selected the file types to delete, click OK.

Another method to free up space is to manually go through your files and delete the many of them that you don't need or want. Image (photos), audio (music), and video (audio and image) files can take up vast amounts of file space. How many photos of little Tommy or Grandma from your last birthday celebration do you need? I'll bet you have many duplicates of virtually every shot. Delete the copies, at the least. Have music files on your computer that you never listen to? Again, delete 'em. Now repeat this process with your vacation photos. Lots of old photos of your ex? Remember that song from the movie "South Pacific?" Wash those files right out of your computer.

Another trick here is to reduce the file size of those photos. Most cameras produced in the last several years take photos over two megabytes (MB) in size. Unless you plan to print those large file-size photos, you might think about reducing each image to between 200 and 400 kilobytes (KB). The reduced file size photos won't look any different when you view them on your computer. One can even reduce the photo file sizes en masse. If taken on your iPhone, the phone will ask you what size you want the file to be when you send them, via email, to your computer. I use IrfanView, but several other programs do this.

Going through those extra, unneeded files can be laborious and time-consuming, but that might beat having to buy another computer, having a larger hard drive installed and having all the files transferred, or having your computer crash

Inkjet Printer Ink Cartridges

by Jeff Wilkinson, President, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
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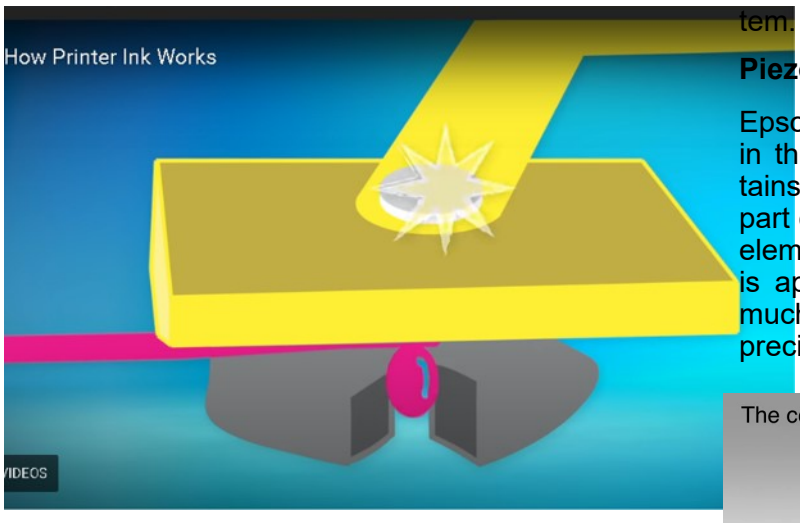
pres.scscc (at) gmail.com

There are two methods of ink deposition that are widely used in household inkjet printers: thermal bubble and piezoelectric.

Thermal Bubble Printing

Inkjet printing technology was proposed as early as 1960 and became commercially available in the early 1980s in the Canon Bubblejet and the HP Digital Printer. In March 1993, Epson entered the inkjet printer market with Micro Piezo inkjet technology using a piezoelectric crystal in each ink nozzle.

With the bubblejet technology, current is passed through a resistor in the nozzle path, heating the ink, vaporizing it, and depositing a small amount of ink on the media. As a result, a slight vacuum is created, drawing more ink into the nozzle for the next cycle. This happens as often as 36,000 times per second.



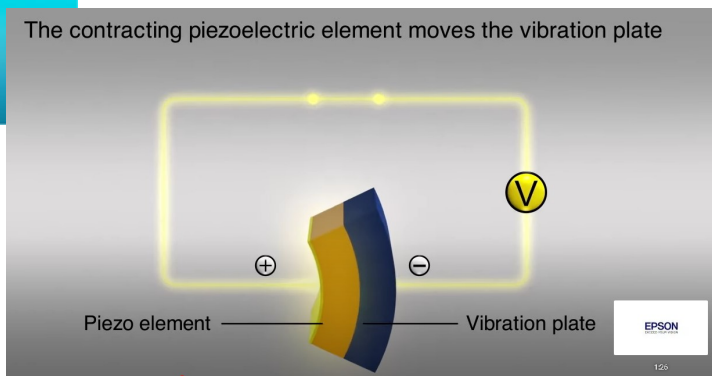
Using "bubblejet" technology, the typical ink cartridge has hundreds of tiny holes or nozzles, about 15 microns in size. The precision digital manufacturing process ensures the nozzles are correctly sized and placed on the printhead for correct placement of the ejected drops. As small as 4-picoliters, the tiny ink drops are launched through these precision nozzles. A picolitre is a millionth of a millionth of a liter! As many as 32 drops of ink are used to produce each color dot, and images may contain thousands upon thousands of dots. Therefore, the chemical formulation of the ink is very important, and poorly formulated inks may cause clogging or oxidation on the printhead nozzle.

Partially because of the complexity and development costs and a somewhat captive market, the price of inkjet cartridges was initially quite high. This spawned a compatible cartridge market in which vendors, big and small, qualified and not so qualified, began offering replacement inkjet cartridges. However, their only option was to refill inkjet cartridges with the existing patents since a replacement could not be legally manufactured. This created a secondary market for empty inkjet cartridges with various recycling and collection schemes used to get cartridges to refill.

As the compatible market matured, the OEM manufacturers added protection in the form of a semiconductor chip used to prohibit non-OEM cartridges. Of course, workarounds appeared almost immediately, and the back and forth battle has been going on for many years. There is no question the best quality comes from OEM ink cartridges. Still, many users feel that the cost/quality ratio is too high for everyday printing and opt for compatible cartridges. Furthermore, since the printing functionality comes almost entirely from the cartridge, a faulty cartridge can be replaced and renew the entire imaging system.

Piezoelectric Printing

Epson inkjet printers use the piezoelectric process in their printers. With this process, the printer contains the printheads rather than the printheads being part of the cartridge. Printheads have a piezoelectric element in the printer that contracts when a voltage is applied. The element and vibration plate move, much like the loudspeaker's cone, and force out a precise amount of ink out of the nozzle.



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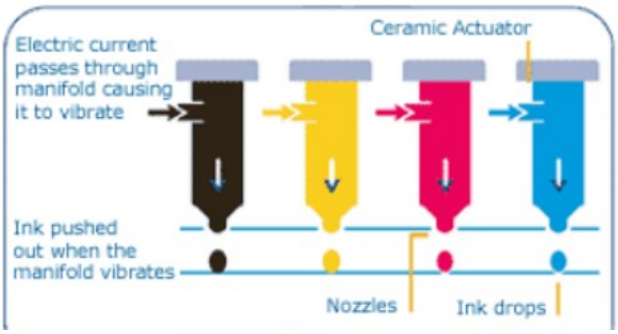
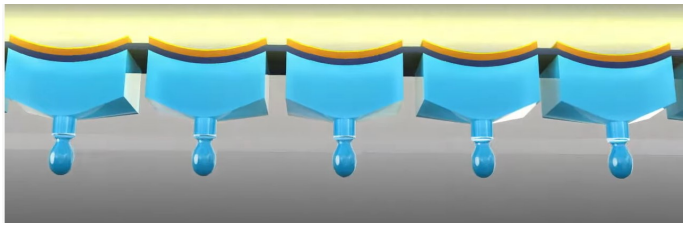
This eliminates the need to heat the ink to create a bubble, reducing the complexity of the ink formulation. Printheads with 128 black nozzles and 192 color nozzles (64 for each color) produce a resolution of 720 dpi, for example.



Since the ink does not need to be heated, it can be tailored to the media to which it is applied, in many cases giving more flexibility to the ink formulation.



The internal printheads contain rows of these elements, which fire at precisely the right time, releasing the correct amount of ink as many as 40,000 times per second!

Since the ink cartridges for these printers do not contain the printhead, they are easier to duplicate, and many compatible cartridges are available. However, once again, the manufacturer has countered these efforts with onboard chips which warn you about the use of third-party inks.

Printer manufacturers have made numerous attempts to use firmware and onboard chips that won't allow the use of third-party inks and multiple corresponding class-action lawsuits against these actions.

Each user has to choose which ink cartridges to use but armed with some understanding of the printer ink systems you can add, make a more informed decision.

Hackers, Thieves, and Creeps

The Bad Guys Are Working Hard to Get Your Money

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

https://ckcs.org/

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If Cher ever decides to rework her major 1971 hit single, *Gypsys, Tramps, and Thieves*, she may want to rename it, *Hackers, Thieves, and Creeps* to reflect today's ongoing

Internet security battles.

Hackers are infiltrating email accounts and tricking folks into paying their hard-earned money for all kinds of bogus ventures.

A few examples of recent emails and Internet threats:

You owe $280 now to update that anti-virus software package (*that you never even purchased*.)

We've taken control of your Windows 10 PC. (*You'll get it back only after you pay our ransom demands*.)

Hey, click on this email link, and it will take you to a bogus website that looks real, seems real, and (*is bogus as a Kentucky snowfall in August*.)

You're using Safari on a Mac, and a box pops up that reads, "Alert! Suspicious Activity Might Have Been Detected. Major Security Issue. To fix it, please call Support for Apple +1 888-476-****(Toll-Free) immediately!" (Pop-ups such as this one are not legitimate. Apple doesn't notify anyone of a "major security issue" in this manner. *Bogus to the max*.)

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When it comes to security breaches, **"Unfortunately, most people do not understand the gravity of the problem until it personally affects** them through identity theft or other malicious activity. Unsurprisingly, however, the rate of identity-related crime is exploding, and a recent study claims that there is a new victim of identity theft every 2 seconds in the United States alone," writes the security website, selfkey.org.

The Internet Theft Resource Center keeps track of the attempts to dig deep into your wallet. Unfortunately, things are not looking up. Reported data breaches grew by 17% from the start of 2021 to September of this year over the number of breaches reported in all of 2020. Yikes.

Security breaches (the ones we hear about) are now so pervasive that we can all view giant lists on the Web detailing the gory details. For example, Upguard lists The 59 Biggest Data Breaches. The fact that dozens of well-known companies appear on this list (Yahoo!, Facebook, T- Mobile, Uber, Home Depot, Zoom) tells us that we're no longer in Kansas (so to speak.)

If you want to see even more names, take a deep breath and check out the selfkey.org list, which claims to show All Data Breaches in 2019-2021, An Alarming Timeline (These are breaches that have been made public.)

There's even a black-market invitation-only online shop where the bad guys go to buy login credentials, fingerprints to open phones and iPads, and stolen cookies.

In 2017, CBS News reported that "imposters, from fake IRS agents to faux tech support employees, have officially overtaken identity thieves to top the list of consumer fraud complaints…"

Okay. What about solutions? The Federal Trade Commission offers several tips:

Secure Your Internet Devices at Home. This includes your Wi-Fi router, PCs, Macs, Linux machines, iPads, smartphones, smartwatches, smart speakers (Hello, Alexa), home cameras, smart doorbells, and every other device connected to the Internet.

Learn When Your Voice Assistant Is Listening. Alexa, Google Assistant, Siri, Cortana might be listening when you're unaware. The FTC urges you to lock down your login, check your settings, and be aware of what's connected to your voice assistant.

Secure Your Router. As we mentioned earlier in this newsletter, you need to update your router's settings periodically. As the FTC writes, "Think of your router as home base for all your devices. The more secure your router, the more secure your connected devices will be."

Use a VPN. We've talked about this before at a CKCS Tech Night. Find a good, reliable, trustworthy virtual private network and use it on all your Internet-connected devices. A VPN is an app that you install. It sends your Internet signal into a tunnel so others cannot access your data. IPVanish writes, "A VPN Helps You Take Back Your Privacy and Protect You From Hackers."

Avoid free VPNs. In this life, you get what you pay for. **So, make online security a priority**.

Finally, check out: The Ultimate Internet Security Guide For Seniors (2021). Even if you've used the Internet since the '90s, I promise you there is at least one tip on this website to benefit you.

Stay safe, Stay secure, Stay informed. Attend your computer club to learn all you can about Internet security.

zoom
Joining a Meeting
May 21, 2022

Membership Chairperson Report

Members

Attendees In Person/Hybrid: 34

THANKS FOR JOINING

THANKS FOR RENEWING

Kenneth Nothercote
Mike McEnery
Bobby Jacobs
Linda Busch

THANKS FOR VISITING

Computer Services

Desktops, Laptops, All-in-Ones and more

During our October Zoom meeting the following two computer services were mentioned.

White Box Computers

They say they are the place for all your computer repairs & upgrades at nearly half the prices of the competition.

https://whiteboxcomputers.org

847-833-9324

ZYTEK Services

Has been around for over 30 years and offers the best in fast, friendly, high-quality, fair price computer service solutions

847-336-2259

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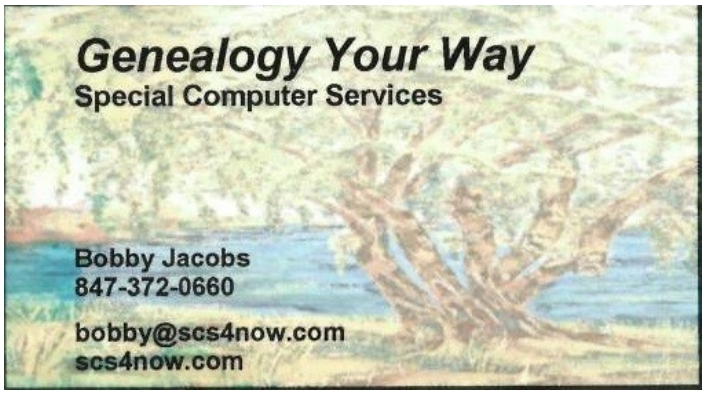
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