



THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

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The Whiteside County Senior Center will be making a decision at end of month, whether we can meet there for our October meeting. A number of us will be gone the cruise to Caribbean, so October meeting has been changed to October 16th the 3rd Saturday.

Joe Fornero

August

**SCUG BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DATE: 9/15/2021**

Meeting was called to order by: Neal

Attending the meeting were: Neal Shipley, Joe Fornero, Janice Maves, Terry & Glenda MacLennan, Joe Schmitt, Cheryl Johnson, Lorraine Armstrong, Nancy, and Tom Rich.

Treasurer's report was presented by: Joe F.

Discussion Highlights:

1) WCSC is opening 10/4/21. Currently, no more than 8 people per gathering are allowed except for their lunches. Beth will talk to their Board of Directors regarding the possibility of SCUG meetings being held there again.

2) A guest speaker

from APCUG will be speaking about cyber security via Zoom for the November meeting. A Detective from Sterling PD will be giving an in-person talk about security in a future meeting.

3) The October meeting will be held on the 3rd Saturday, 10/16/21.

4) Four laptop computers from AARP with 4 Gig memory, Windows 10 & Office are available to be sold or given away in a drawing.

5) SCUG will be giving a \$50.00 and 2-\$25.00 Gift Certificates at the next in person meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

*Respectfully submitted
by
Secretary Nancy Rich*

Club Information

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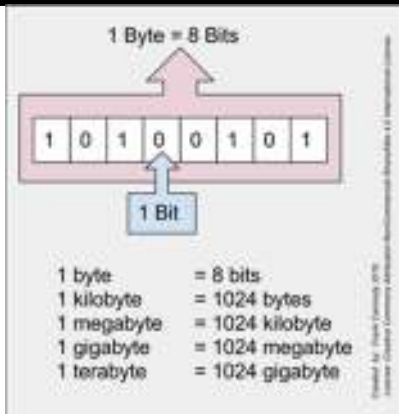
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Bits & Bytes of Memory

By Dorothy Fitch



Down in these parts of AZ south of Tucson, if your memory momentarily fails you, you might say you are having a "Green Valley moment." Your computer, of course, also has memory. Let's take a look at how it is organized.

You have probably heard of bits and bytes, megabytes, and gigabytes. Do you know what each one is? What comes after a gigabyte?

A bit (Binary digiT) is like a light switch. It is either on or off. On represents a 1 and Off represents a 0. Your computer works by combining bits with each other to make larger units.

4 bits = 1 nibble, as in 0000, 0010, 0111, 1011, 1111, etc.

8 bits = 1 byte. You can do a lot more with a byte! There are 256 possible combinations of bits in a byte. A byte can store one letter of the alphabet. For example, an uppercase letter A is stored as 01000001 (which is 65 in the decimal system).

2 bytes (16 bits) = 1 word

1 megabyte (MB) = 1024 bytes (1024 is 2 to the 10th power)

1 gigabyte (GB) = 1024 megabytes

1 terabyte (TB) = 1024 gigabytes

1 petabyte (PB) = 1024 terabytes

1 exabyte (EB) = 1024 petabytes

1 yottabyte (YB) = 1024 exabytes (a yottabyte = 1 trillion terabytes)

Those are the officially recognized units of memory, However, additional ones have been proposed (each one is 1024 times the previous one): Brontobyte,

The Next Drawing

Hopefully we will resume the drawings, if we can meet at the Senior Center in October.

Geopbyte, Saganbyte, Pijabyte, Alphabyte, Kryatbyte, Amosbyte, Pectrolbyte, Bolgerbyte, Sambobyte, etc., all the way to Blannebyte!

You can see them all [here](#). This website says that if you are downloading 1YB (yottabyte) of data using a super high-speed Broadband, it will take 11 trillion years to download. It's all quite mindboggling, isn't it?

Now when you have a "Green Valley moment," you can call it something classier, such as a Yottabyte moment!

By Dorothy Fitch, Editor, GVR
Computer Club

November 2020 issue, Green
Bytes

[https://www.ccgvas.org/dmfitch\(at\)cox.net](https://www.ccgvas.org/dmfitch(at)cox.net)

Casting, not in the theatrical sense – Cast your data to the screen

By Phil Sorrentino

Most modern computers have HDMI outputs so it is easy to display your computer screen on a big-screen TV, but what about displaying your smartphone screen on that same big screen? Most phones do not have HDMI or more specifically micro-HDMI connectors. (Though I have seen some tablets with micro-HDMI connectors, in fact, I even had one that I used for teaching a smartphone/tablet class.) So, you have to find another way to get the smartphone screen displayed on the larger TV screen. Fortunately, Google has provided a solution with its Chromecast hardware device and Casting software that is becoming part of many Apps. (If your App supports Chromecast, you will see the Chromecast icon somewhere on the App's opening screen). The Chromecast device gets plugged into an HDMI input port on the big screen TV, and power is provided to the device by a micro-USB connection. A Chromecast device and an App that supports casting can turn a dumb TV into a pretty smart TV, at least for those Apps that support casting.



Chromecast Device



Chromecast Icon

Besides the Chromecast device, the only other thing you need is Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi is the mechanism used to transfer the smartphone screen information to the Chromecast device which in turn provides the HDMI interface to the big screen TV. So, to make it work, both the smartphone and the Chromecast device have to be on the same Wi-Fi network. Many current Wi-Fi routers provide many networks. Usually, the main network is in the 2.4 GHz frequency band and there may be another network in the 5 GHz band. The 5 GHz network sometimes includes 5G in the network name which can possibly be confused with the 5G wide area network provided by companies like Verizon and AT&T. (Future Wi-Fi routers can even take advantage of a new 6 MHz band.) Also, some routers may provide a guest network in the 2.4 GHz or 5 GHz band. The trick here is to make sure that when you set up the Chromecast device you choose the same network that your smartphone is using. You can see what network your smartphone is using by going into Settings on the smartphone and selecting “Network & internet” or “Wireless”, or something like that, where the network name will be shown. This is usually early in the list of settings. (When you select this screen, you will also see the other networks that are available but are not currently being used by your smartphone.)

Casting, not in the theatrical sense – Cast your data to the screen (cont.)

Once you know the Wi-Fi network you will be using you can set up the Chromecast device. This will be done using your smartphone and usually the Google Home App.



Google Home App Icon

You can download the Google Home App from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Apps are updated regularly and screens may change so specific directions for this setup may be different by the time you need them but when you do need directions, Google something like “How to set up a Chromecast device using the Google Home app”. The results will probably be several tutorials or even better a few videos with up-to-date instructions. (The Google Home App provides control for many devices besides the Chromecast. Home automation lights, cameras, and switches are also set up using this App. Additionally, this App also provides control for Google’s “Google Home” assistant.) Once you have set up the Chromecast device you can cast your smartphone screen to your big screen TV. (And to see what else you can do with the Home App, just find the “Discover” icon which looks like two sheets of paper. This is really an advertisement for all the wonderful things Google can do for you once you have their products.) As well as Google Home their other Apps that can be used to set up the Chromecast device and that support Casting, such as LoCast for Chromecast, iMediashare, Cast to TV, Mirroring360 Sender, and Plex but I have not tried any of these.

With the Chromecast device setup, all we need to do is find Apps that can Cast. Some of the more popular Apps are YouTube, YouTube Music, Google Photos, Disney+, Prime Video, Hulu, Media Monkey, Movies Anywhere, Netflix, Crackle, Pluto TV, Tubi, Hoopla, and HBO Max. There are even a lot of Apps that appear to be cable channels like A&E, History, AMC, MTV, and TNT. Many more Apps may have this ability in the future. You may already have some of these apps on your smartphone like YouTube, but the other Apps are available at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Once you’ve downloaded the App of interest, look for the Cast icon somewhere on the opening screen.

Casting, not in the theatrical sense – Cast your data to the screen (cont.)



Hoopla App

Hoopla is an App supports casting. This means that you can now take advantage of all the video media at your local library; videos, TV shows, and feature-length movies. You can use your phone to access the media and then cast the media to your Chromecast device plugged into any TV that has an HDMI input. Using Wi-Fi to cast the media means you are also using Wi-Fi to access the media from the library, so there is no cost associated with the whole process. You can think of that as free movies for the whole family, at least if the big screen TV is big enough to satisfy the whole family. All you have to do is supply the popcorn. By the way, as was discussed in a previous article in September, Hoopla can also bring you E-books to read, audiobooks to listen to, and even music to listen to. What a bargain. If you haven't gotten the Hoopla App yet, go to the Google Play Store, or the Apple App Store and download it and start taking advantage of this very useful, and did I mention, free App.

By Phil Sorrentino, Newsletter Contributor, Sarasota Technology Users Group

March 2021 issue, STUG Monitor

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Keyboard Refresher Quiz

By Jim Cerny

Most of us have been using a computer keyboard for years, so you are probably comfortable using it. But a good review of these helpful keyboard keys can make your texting much easier.

There are keyboards for computers, laptops, on-screen touch keyboards for tablets and phones. They may look a bit different and have some different keys, but they all will (basically) do the same thing (well, with very few exceptions). How many of these do you remember? Answers are provided at the end of the article, but don't peek!

1. How do you repeat a letter or symbol?
2. What do you call that vertical line that appears BETWEEN letters to allow you to insert or delete text?
3. How do you enter all capital (uppercase) letters?
4. What does hitting the "delete" key do when you are editing text NOT highlighted?
5. How do you highlight or select the text you want to delete, move, or copy?
6. What is the difference between "cut" and "copy"?
7. What does the "tab" key do?
8. What are "function" keys (the "f"-keys)?
9. Can you use a keyboard to enter a menu option?
10. What do the arrow keys do?
11. What does the ESCAPE key (Esc) do?
12. Can you find these controls on your keyboard?: Volume up or down, insert, page up or down, or "call a 10-year-old for help"?

Answers:

1. Hold down the key.
2. The insertion point (also known as the cursor).
3. Hit the "caps lock" key or double touch the capital (uppercase) key.

4. It will delete the character to the RIGHT of the insertion point.
5. Drag your mouse or finger over the text to highlight it.
6. “cut” will remove the text you have highlighted, “copy” will not. But either one will place your selection on the clipboard.
7. It moves the insertion point a few spaces to the right (actually you are entering a “tab” character and you may be able to change the size (length) of the tab spacing.
8. They will execute a command depending upon the app you are running. For example, the F3 key in a game app could mean “jump.” Usually, the F1 key is used for getting help.
9. Yes, usually with a two (or at most three) key combination with the “Alt,” “Ctrl,” or “Windows” keys.
10. They move your cursor or insertion point in that direction on the screen.
11. It will try to “escape” out of (or stop running) the app you are using.
12. Keep looking!



By Jim Cerny, Help Desk Host, The Saratoga Users Group

June 2020 STUG Monitor

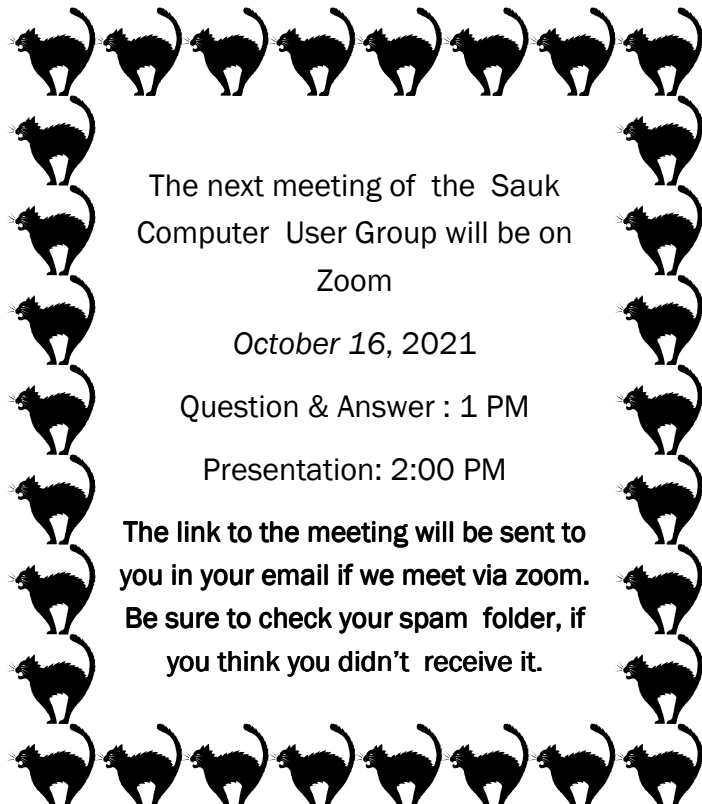
www.thestug.org

[jimcerny123 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jimcerny123@gmail.com)

There will be a Question & Answer Session starting at 1 PM on Zoom. Bring any questions you have about your computer or problems you may be having.

It will be conducted by:

Neal Shipley



The next meeting of the Sauk Computer User Group will be on Zoom

October 16, 2021

Question & Answer : 1 PM

Presentation: 2:00 PM

The link to the meeting will be sent to you in your email if we meet via zoom. Be sure to check your spam folder, if you think you didn't receive it.

Neal Shipley will be hosting an online Zoom meeting unless we are allowed in Senior Center with a Question & Answer time and will have a presentation on a relevant computer topic.