

# THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

## SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

APRIL 2022

VOLUME THIRTY-THREE  
NUMBER FOUR

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March  
MEETING MINUTES  
DATE 3/12/2022

**Open Meeting:** by Neal

**Question and answers:** 1) To download contacts from Android phone to computer use Vysor app; 2) Using Roku, how can you minimize having to go through full Xfinity guide to get to desired channel?

**Treasurer's report:** Presented by Joe F. and accepted.

**Old business:** 1) Previous meeting

minutes accepted.

**New business:** 1) Board meeting Wednesday at 6:00PM at Angelo's in Dixon.

**Adjournment:**

**Program:** Norbert (Bob) Gostischa did a presentation on a hands-on use of Ccleaner. He suggested using a flash drive zip file version of the software for portability of usage. Install custom version for use on demand. Use Patchmypc for software updates. Use

tools (settings) tab to analyze and setup Ccleaner. When evaluating cookies, determine which cookies can be deleted and which are beneficial for future use of websites.

**Next month's program:** Next meeting on 04/09/22 program will be presented by Kathleen Schaefer concerning the kid's coding club through the Dixon Public Library.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Secretary Nancy Rich*

### Club Information

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Member of



An International  
Association of Technology  
& Computer User Groups

**March Board Minutes  
03/16/2022**

Meeting was called  
to order by: Neal

Attending the  
meeting were: Joe

Fornero, Neal

Shipley, Cheryl

Johnson, Lorraine

Armstrong, Tom and

Nancy Rich

Treasurer's report  
was presented by:

Joe F.

Discussion High-  
lights:

1) Looking for ideas  
for future programs.

2) SCUG put a  
newer computer in  
WCSC public area.

3) Two printers  
given away; three  
more laser printers  
are available.

**Drawing**

April drawing will  
include a chance  
at \$25 gift cards  
based on new  
criteria and some  
misc. items.

Donations are  
appreciated in  
exchange for a  
printer.

**Future Programs:**

Dixon Public  
Library librarian  
Kathleen Schaefer  
will do a presenta-  
tion on coding  
program for kids.

**Adjournment.**

*Respectfully submitted by  
Secretary Nancy Rich*

**Jokes**

Technology is advancing,  
and so are the jokes. Some  
of these jokes surely fall  
under the 'best technology  
jokes' category. Here we  
present to you a list of hilar-  
ious techie jokes and funny  
jokes that will make every  
techie crack up with laugh-  
ter. Take a read and pick  
which one you like!

1. How many programmers  
does it take to change a  
light bulb? None, because it  
is a hardware problem.

2. What is the speed of the  
system running on 8 hob-  
bits? 1 Hob-byte.

3. How did the SEO content  
writer couple react to  
twins? For the first time,  
they were happy with dupli-  
cate content!

4. What is a programmer's  
favorite eyewear? Google.

5. How many types of peo-  
ple are there in the world?  
There are 10 types of peo-  
ple in the world: those who  
understand binary and  
those who do not.

6. Why did the boy get fired  
from his keyboard factory  
job? Because he was not  
doing enough shifts.

## A Common Computer Problem and How to Fix It

By Mark Presky

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.

*By Mark Presky, Director, Los Angeles Computer Society  
User Friendly, January 2022 issue  
<https://www.lacspc.org/>  
leahjc (at) sbcglobal.net*

## And the Scams Just Keep Coming By David Kretchmar

If you're on the phone with some nice, polite person who asks you to download some software onto your computer that will allow them to remotely fix something that has been a problem, please think twice about it. Then do not do it. The chances are high that you are dealing with a scammer trying to get financial and personal data about you.

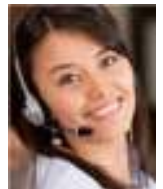


It is probably generally a very bad idea to give a stranger access to your computer. Yes, there are exceptions; I have allowed a Microsoft Tech to access my computer remotely to fix an Operating System installation problem. But anything short of that, such as reactivating a permanent version of Microsoft Office after a hard drive failure, did not require me to relinquish control of my computer to a stranger. Therefore, it is extremely unlikely that any issue you might be having would require you to give a stranger remote access to your computer.

### MY EXPERIENCE

I was having problems installing AOL Gold on a client's new computer. A Google search led me to what appeared to be a legitimate AOL site, or at least it fooled me. I called the number and spoke to a nice, polite young lady, who might have been on the other side of the world. She explained that to fix the problem preventing AOL Gold from loading, I would have to give her access to my computer.

She asked me to download and install a program that would allow her to access my computer, which I foolishly did. She then sent me a code by text or email, which I had to enter to activate a remote session.

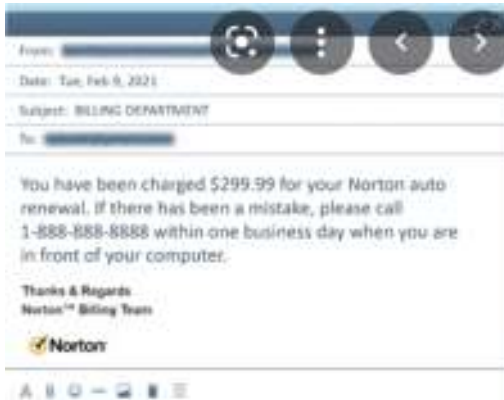


Then for the first time, I wondered, why does she need to do that? I told her I was a computer tech who could probably follow her instructions, and she gave me an unsatisfactory answer. So, I terminated the call and uninstalled the remote access software.

Remote access programs such as TeamViewer, AnyDesk, LogMein, and dozens of others are legitimate programs, but they can be used for nefarious purposes

Scammers expertly reproduce the logos of legitimate software providers, such as AOL and McAfee. They can even spoof their email address, so an email appears to be coming from a legitimate company.

### FAKE ANTIVIRUS EMAIL SCAM



Scammers might come at you via your email. For example, one message I have seen purports to be from McAfee or Norton, stating that your credit card will be charged for another year's subscription unless you contact them via a phone number or hotlink in the email. This message sounds authentic to many users, who might have had McAfee or Norton in the past, or who got a free trial that comes with many new computers.

When contacted, the scammer will state that for you to avoid additional charges, the scammer must remotely access your system. They will try to get you to download remote access software to give the scammer access to your computer. Just say no. There is no legitimate reason someone needs to access your computer to remove a program.

As we approach the holidays, computer scammers and hackers seem to step up their attacks on computer systems. Users are especially vulnerable to messages from vendors such as Amazon stating there is a problem with their order since many of us do order gifts from online vendors this time of the year. So don't let your guard down!

*David Kretchmar, Computer Technician  
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club  
<https://www.scsccl.com> dkretch (at) gmail.com*

Hello All

Neal here. Just wanted to update everyone for my Friday night Zoom meetings. We will be available for Apr 1st and 8th at 7:30 pm as usual.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3975898877?  
pwd=RjF5ZTM3R25qNXhHRjdWRVAzQ1M2ZzO9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3975898877?pwd=RjF5ZTM3R25qNXhHRjdWRVAzQ1M2ZzO9)

Meeting ID: 397 589 8877

Passcode: 4ukxAh

## Some Useful Technology

By Jeff Wilkinson

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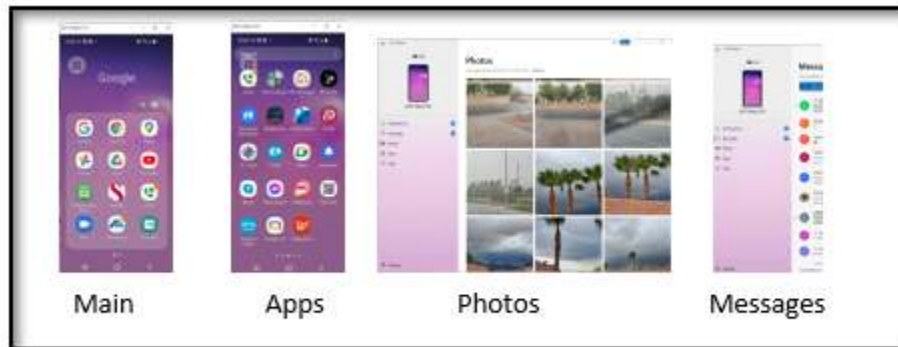
I recently decided to put music on our patio for an upcoming party. While we have an intercom station on the patio, the sound was not acceptable for music. So, I decided to upgrade. I investigated various methods, from wired extension speakers for my existing stereo, multiple Amazon Echo's, and a few other complex or pricey solutions. Since I had recently "ripped" a whole series of my favorite music CDs and loaded them on a Plex server along with several downloaded music selections, I wanted access to that growing music collection. In addition, I had compiled multiple playlists for use in different situations, parties, easy listening, smooth jazz, 60's music, etc.

A sale on the Echo Smart Speaker, 4<sup>th</sup> generation, prompted my purchase of two, intending to use the multi-room music feature to sync them together. In addition, I could locate them on the patio since I had conveniently placed electrical outlets available. The Echo Smart Speakers sounded good and were perfectly acceptable for a party with multiple conversations and ambient noise. I put the Echo Smart Speakers on the patio, and they worked fairly well, although there appeared to be some syncing problems.

About that time, I came across a BOGO (Buy One Get One) offer for Santana Samba 20-watt wireless speakers and thought I would give them a try. I was totally surprised at their performance. The sound was excellent; the pairing via Bluetooth to a single Echo Smart Speaker was easy, and I could pair the two speakers together for excellent sound given their small size. With my new configuration, I played music from my Plex server with a simple command to Alexa: "Ask Plex to play ..." virtually any song title, artist, or playlist in my growing collection. I can also access Sirius radio and Amazon music, offering me a wide choice of streaming music.



The example above shows a practical use of some amazing technology available to us today. Here's another ... I recently started using a Windows 10 feature, "Your Phone." You can mirror your Android or iOS smartphone to your PC screen with a little setup and configuration. With this app installed on your phone, you can manipulate your phone via your PC keyboard, open and run phone apps, view your picture gallery, and do virtually anything you can do on the phone! For example, I find it easier to type and send a text message from the PC keyboard!



Windows 10 monitor view of **Your Phone** app

While many of us didn't grow up immersed in technology, much of it is very useful and can add a new dimension to everyday tasks. Your computer club strives to help users explore existing features and introduce new technology to our members.



by Jeff Wilkinson, President, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

<https://www.scsccl.com>

president.scsccl (at) gmail.com

There will be a Question & Answer. 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

April 9, 2022

Question & Answer : 1 PM

Business Meeting : 2 PM

Presentation: 2:15 PM

Place: **Whiteside Senior Center**

**1207 West 9th Street**

**Sterling, Illinois 61081**

**APRIL PRESENTATION WILL BE BY KATHLEEN  
SCHAEFER FROM DIXON LIBRARY ON  
COMPUTER CODING.**