

Bits of Bytes

Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, Colorado Springs, CO

Volume XXXV

September 2015

Issue 9



The Prez Sez

by Cary Quinn, President, P*PCompAS

For our September meeting, we will be following up on some mini-presentations from July, and looking at applying some new technology to our proceedings. Hope to see you there. ☺



Meeting Minutes

by Toni Logan, Secretary, P*PCompAS

The 1 August 2015 meeting was called to order by the President Cary Quinn. The new manager at the Citadel Starbucks is named August, and we are still getting complimentary coffee for our meetings from them. Coffee and donuts are free for 1st time guests and a donation for all others.

The minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter were approved. The Vice-President and Secretary had nothing to report.

OFFICER REPORTS

The Treasurer reported that we have a total of \$7041.56 in the treasury.

Membership Chair Ann Titus and Librarian Paul Major had nothing to report.

Editor Greg Lenihan reported that the deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday, August 22, 2015, and he also had extra copies for those who want them.

Next P*PCompAS meeting: Saturday, 5 September 2015

More mini-presentations are planned.

Pat Krieger, half of the Hospitality Committee, reported that she would be sending a condolence card to Velma Nabers on the loss of her husband.

There was nothing to report from the Board of Directors.

APCUG Rep Joe Nuvolini reported that the Region 9 newsletter had a bit about the club that was written by him and Toni Logan.

Media Representative Ilene Steinkruger reported that she had sent information on Focal Press to the members via e-mail. Cary Quinn reported that the club has a Facebook presence. Pinterest and LinkedIn are in the works.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

The club computer has not yet reserved Windows 10. The computer will have to be taken home to load Win 10 as it takes some time to do it. Windows 10 can be loaded within the year that it is released and after that there will be a cost.

Bambino's is closing and moving downtown. We will have to find a new place to hold the volunteer luncheon in January. We need a room for at least 20. If you have any suggestions, please let Joe Nuvolini know as he has been honchoing the luncheon arrangements.

Warren Hill introduced a guest, Jean Feist, from the Rotary Club. Stanley Rapaport introduced his guests: his wife Mary, Alice Rapaport, and friend Muriel

Windsor.

AROUND THE ROOM

The audio of the meeting is on the website.

PROGRAM

The program for the day was a presentation of genealogy computer programs and resources from Terry Sunderlin, President of the Pikes Peak Genealogical Society. ☺



Terry Sunderlin presenting the topic of genealogy at the August meeting,

In This Issue

Articles

7 Biggest Hardware Myths	6
10 Reasons for Windows 10	9
Edge - New Web Browser.....	9
JET Online Shopping	4
Nuggets from Nuvo.....	3
Nybbles and Bits	2
Thanks from Mexico School.....	4

P*PCompAS

Meeting Minutes	1
The Prez Sez	1



Officers

President: Cary Quinn
cary.quinn@gmail.com

Vice President: Harvey McMinn
harveys_homes@yahoo.com

Secretary: Toni Logan
bradtonlogan@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dennis Conroy
dennisconroy@comcast.net

Staff

APCUG Rep/Webmaster: Joe Nuvolini
Editor: Greg Lenihan
Librarian: Paul Major
Membership: Ann Titus

Committees

Hospitality: Pat Krieger
Programs: Paul Godfrey, Toni Logan, and Peter Rallis
Publicity: Harvey McMinn
Nominating: Vacant

Board of Directors

Toni Logan
Norm Miller
Bob Blackledge
Warren Hill
John Pearce

Nybbles and Bits

by John Pearce, P*PCompAS

Google and TP-Link are introducing a new router for the smart home. As you might expect from Google, the OnHub TGR1900 is not your average router. Among other things, it is managed with an app on your Android 4 or higher device, or iPhone iOS7 or higher.

Google has the idea that people put their wireless router on the floor or in a closet to hide the blinking lights, antennas sticking out, and lots of wires. Unfortunately, hiding the router interferes with the Wi-Fi signal. To encourage its placement on a desktop or other location friendly to wireless networking, the OnHub has a cylindrical shape with internal antennas. The unit has a WAN connection, one gigabit LAN connection, a power connector, and there is one light in a ring at the top of the unit to indicate the operating status.

Hidden inside the unit are thirteen Wi-Fi antennas, one Bluetooth antenna, and one zigbee antenna for home automation. Twelve Wi-Fi antennas are for the multiple user multiple-input multiple-output (MU MIMO) networking. The other antenna is for monitoring the Wi-Fi environment and detecting wireless network congestion.

Routers have never been exciting hardware. Many people took them out of the box and plugged them in without changing the default configuration. The configuration instructions were not particularly helpful, either, unless you understood port forwarding, creating a DMZ, etc. The OnHub plans to make the whole experience

friendly for the typical user. In addition, the OnHub will automatically update the firmware which eliminates another issue because most users don't bother with firmware updates for their router.

A C|Net article about the OnHub is [here](#). Specifications for the device are available [here](#). The Google blog entry introducing the OnHub is found [here](#). The \$200 unit

is available for preorder and may start shipping by the time you read this. According to Wired, Asus is producing a second device in partnership with Google. ☺



An E-mail Message to the Editor

I love my computer - morning, noon, and night.

It connects me with the outside world and my family and friends.

It is a place for me to rest and take a break.

My computer is one of my best friends.

—Arline Granberg

The Pikes Peak Computer Application Society newsletter is a monthly electronic publication. Any material contained within may be reproduced by a nonprofit user group, provided proper credit is given to the authors and this publication, and notification of publication is sent to the editor. Any opinions contained in this newsletter are made solely by the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect or represent the opinions of P*PCompAS, its officers, or the membership. P*PCompAS disclaims any liability for damages resulting from articles, opinions, statements, representations or warranties expressed or implied in this publication.

P*PCompAS welcomes any comments, letters, or articles from members and non-members alike. Please send any articles to the editor (see last page for address). The editor reserves the right to reject, postpone, or edit for space, style, grammar, and clarity of any material submitted.

I have a couple of items this month. The first is a memory story. My Toshiba netbook had two GB of memory, and I thought I would upgrade it to four. I went to Crucial (www.crucial.com) to order the additional memory. Since I was not on my netbook, I ordered the memory by selecting the make & model and ordered the four GB stick. When it arrived, I put it in the netbook and lo & behold, it wouldn't boot. Since it was the weekend, Crucial was closed, so I called Toshiba and found out that my model would only support two GB of memory. It turns out that if I had ordered the memory using my netbook, and had run the Crucial System Scanner, it would have told me of the two GB limit. In any event, I called Sabrina at Crucial and she got me an RMA number and e-mailed me a prepaid two-day UPS label. It arrived at the return center in two days and within a day or two, the credit was posted to my credit card account. I recommend Crucial for your memory needs as the support was outstanding. Also, if you are going to order additional memory for a computer, order it on



Nuggets from Nuvo
by Joe Nuvolini, P*PCompAS

that computer and run the system scanner!

The second item is about Windows 10. I got my notice that I was ready to load it the night of the release. I decided to hold off the installation until after our meeting that Saturday to see if there were any adverse comments from the group. After the meeting, I backed up my Windows 7 C & D drives, and performed the upgrade to Windows 10. As I recall, it took a couple of hours. I liked what I saw and proceeded to play around with Windows 10. I found that some of my files, specifically, all my YouTube downloads were missing. Having some things I was working on before I upgraded, I decided to restore Windows 7. Before I did, I backed up Windows 10 C & D drives then restored Windows 7. I am continuing to use Win7 as I write this, but when I decide to restore the True Image images of Windows 10, I should be in good shape. Microsoft should install all the updates that are created between the time I backed it up until I reinstall it. ☺

Tip: One of the neat new features in Windows 8.1 is the ability to set up a slideshow of pictures on the lock screen rather than one static image. From the Settings charm, choose Change PC settings > PC and devices > Lock screen. Switch the slideshow option to 'On' and you can specify a local folder or SkyDrive folder to source images from.



Notice the cool looking crowd of digerati hanging out at the Country Buffet in August. A sign at the counter said that discount coupons for breakfast are good for a week after their expiration date. That means that the e-mail that was sent out before the August breakfast will still contain coupons that can be used in September. That will be on the 19th for those already looking forward to it.

Thanks for Computers Given by Mexico School Principal

*By Warren Hill, P*PCompAS*

Recently, the principal of the school which has received used computers from our club members, and others, traveled to Colorado Springs to present a plaque as thanks for the gifts. A computer classroom at the Manuel Hidalgo School in Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, is named for Bill and Barbara Everett, with Bill being a former member of P*PCompAS. Bill and Barbara were victims of the Waldo Canyon Fire. Before his demise, Bill had rehabilitated more than 70 computers for use in Mexico! It was a labor of love for him; he charged nothing for his work and was proud of what we were able to do in Mexico. In addition, \$500 from the proceeds of the Everett real estate was

generously donated by the realtor. This money has been used to buy computer supplies and a new outdoor sound system for the school.

Many other members of P*PCompAS have, and continue



Warren Hill showing the certificate received from the Hidalgo school in Mexico.

to, give used equipment for this project. All of this equipment is appreciated, and the work will continue in the foreseeable future, until there is a computer classroom in most of the rural classrooms in the region! The project is coordinated by the Rotary Club of Colorado Springs and Colorado Springs Sister Cities International. Since Bill's passing, answering the challenge for rehabilitation of computers is member Jeff Towne. Even though Jeff has a computer consulting and repair business, he has happily donated his time to continue this work. Kudos to Jeff for contributing to international education and understanding in this way! ☺

New Amazon Competitor "JET" Combines Online Shopping with Local Sourcing

Published with permission from Ira Wilsker, Golden Triangle PC Club, columnist for The Examiner, Beaumont, TX

WEBSITES:

<https://jet.com>

<https://jet.com/help-center/trial-membership>

<https://jet.com/anywhere>

<https://jet.com/help-center/membership>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Lore#Jet.com

<http://www.cnbc.com/2015/07/21/our-prices-are-cheaper-than-amazon-jetcom-ceo.html>

<http://news.yahoo.com/latest-threat-amazon-walmart-jet-215900687.html>

<http://www.cnet.com/news/e-commerce-startup-jet-com-launches-with-eye-on-amazon/>

<http://www.inquisitr.com/2273490/jet-com-new-costco-amazon-rival-stirs-up-retail/>

<http://www.ibtimes.com/jetcom-offers-cheaper-prices-amazon-it-worth-your-time-personal-info-2017988>

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/meet-amazons-newest-rival-jet-com/>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/jet-com-opens-rivalry-amazon-185429065.html>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/erikamorph/2015/07/21/jet-com-is-making-its-employees-salaries-transparent-and-non-negotiable/>

<http://www.moneytalksnews.com/new-competitor-amazon-and-warehouse-clubs-takes-off-today/>

You could not watch any local or network show last Tuesday (July 21) without hearing about a new online shopping service that claims it will undercut Amazon, Costco, Sam's, Walmart, and all other online and local retailers. In beta testing for several months, this new online shopping service "Jet" (jet.com) went live to all on July 21. Claiming to outdo Amazon Prime, by undercutting its prices, and providing reasonably fast delivery, Jet offers some substantial money saving benefits over Amazon Prime, claims to have 4.5 million items available on its website at jet.com (soon to be over 10 million items), has an annual membership fee of \$49.99 which is about half of Amazon's \$99 Prime membership fee, and offers very easy rebates (applied to future Jet purchases) from

Continued on page 5

JET (Continued from page 4)

purchases made on over 600 other online and local sellers.

Founded by Marc Lore, who made his first fortune when he sold his Diapers.com and its sister company Soap.com to Amazon in 2010 for \$550 million, Jet uses a different marketing strategy than other retailers, in that the price charged to the consumer for services is at or below the marginal cost of the product; any commissions or rebates from manufacturers normally paid to the seller are instead used to transparently lower the final selling price of the merchandise. Unlike other online sellers, prices are dynamic, in that they automatically decrease in the shopping cart as additional items are added, giving any economies of scale back to the consumer. Shipping is free on purchases over \$35 (\$5.99 on smaller orders), and timely returns are free; Jet offers additional savings at the time of purchase if the shopper voluntarily waives the free return option, with the additional price reductions reflecting that savings.

In his media interviews on July 21, Marc Lore said that the final prices of the goods sold reflect their actual wholesale costs, but his business model intends to utilize the \$49.99 annual membership fee as its source of profits, rather than profiting on the sale of goods. In his opening day interview on CNBC, Marc Lore stated that aggregate online selling from such giants as Amazon, is currently a \$1.5 trillion business, and that he projects Jet to be profitable within five years when it has 14 million members, and reaches an annual sales volume of \$20 billion. Unlike many other online startups, both current and those who collapsed in the infamous “Dot Com” bubble several years ago, he claims to have adequate capital to survive until profitable, with \$180 million cash on hand, and an unspecified pool of incoming capital investment.

Unlike his major competitors, specifically Amazon, but also the online selling divisions of Walmart and BestBuy, as well as the “brick and mortar” stores including Costco and Sam’s Club, Jet has a much lower overhead which must be factored into the cost of goods sold. While Amazon has dozens of huge warehouse distribution centers scattered all over the U.S. (and in many foreign countries), Jet only has one centrally located distribution center. In order to save on shipping costs and delivery time, Jet has calculated that it would be more

cost efficient as well as offer faster delivery by sourcing many of its goods locally, near the consumer, rather than bear the inventory and storage costs of keeping goods in stock. In his media interviews, Marc Lore said that he has employees who actually shop local stores, mostly online, but live if necessary, to quickly purchase the item for the customer, and have it shipped directly. Even if some of these locally sourced items result in a financial loss to Jet, the customer will still receive the item at the advertised price.

A review of the Jet.com website, and its Android app (also available for devices running iOS) shows a very extensive assortment of available goods. On the app, the Jet menu is divided into 16 master categories, with each master category then offering appropriate sub categories. Among the major categories of goods are: For the Home; Patio, Lawn & Garden; Tools & Home Improvement; Furniture; Sports & Outdoor Recreation; Toys & Video Games; Office Supplies; Books; Appliances; Computers & Electronics; Beauty; Household Supplies; Grocery; Pet Supplies; and Baby. While I personally did not verify Jet’s claim of having 4.5 million products listed, it would not appear to be an unreasonable claim. For items not listed, Jet offers a “Concierge Service” to locate merchandise for the consumer, still guaranteeing the best price.

For anecdotal comparisons, I used the Jet app on my phone to compare prices for some items that I am currently shopping for. My aged kitchen microwave oven is having some issues, after a long and productive life; I found the newest similar model on Jet. Clicking on the image, the app showed that the same model number was \$259.99 at Amazon, and the same \$259.99 at Jet; but Jet showed “Add to cart and get -\$87.40 off your order.” Since both Amazon and Jet offer free shipping, Jet would sell me the same microwave for about a third less than Amazon. About the only significant difference is that with my Amazon Prime account, I would receive my microwave within two business days, while Jet indicates that it might take three to five business days for delivery. Since I am not yet in urgent need, I could save \$87.48 by getting it from Jet instead of Amazon, although it may take one to three business days longer than Amazon to receive it.

The concept of additional savings from Jet based on economies of scale was very

Continued on page 6

7 of the Biggest PC Hardware Myths That Just Won't Die

By Chris Hoffman, reprinted with permission from [HowToGeek.com](http://www.howtogeek.com)

Original article at: <http://www.howtogeek.com/220297/7-of-the-biggest-pc-hardware-myths-that-just-won%E2%80%99t-die/>

From PCs to Windows to smartphones, the technology we use every day is surrounded by myths that never seem to go away. These myths are so believable because they all have a grain of truth to them — maybe they even were true in the past.

Don't buy into all the myths out there. They could lead you astray when you're buying a new PC, building one, or just upgrading the hardware you have right now.

More RAM Will Always Speed Up Your PC

More RAM definitely doesn't hurt, but it doesn't always help. Adding more RAM — or getting a computer with more RAM — will

only really help if your computer is starved for RAM. Yes, modern operating systems will use spare RAM for caching — but that cache is only so helpful. If your computer is getting along fine with 8 GB of RAM, you don't really need another 8 GB of RAM for extra cache space.

Before deciding to upgrade your PC with more RAM, be sure to check that your computer actually needs it by monitoring how much RAM is being used. Going from 8 GB to 16 GB will only really help if you're running heavy virtual machines, demanding PC games, and something else that needs more memory than that 8 GB offers. More RAM isn't always better, and you're often better off looking

at other specifications when you purchase a computer — don't just focus on the amount of RAM.

A CPU With More Cores is Always Faster

When it comes to your computer's CPU — or the CPU in any device, like a smartphone — the number of cores isn't the only important thing. Dual-core CPUs were a revelation when they became mainstream in home PCs, and companies have followed up with quad-core, octa-core, and CPUs with even more cores.

Each core is a separate execution unit, and more cores allows your computer to run multiple

Continued on page 7

JET (Continued from page 5)

evident when shopping for small, low cost items including groceries and school supplies. Jet dynamically gives greater discounts as more items are placed in the shopping cart to reflect the "economy of scale" savings of combined processing and shipping. My grandkids like glitter glue, and Amazon sells the bottle for \$6 exactly; Jet has the exact same bottle of glitter glue for \$1.46, or about 75% less than Amazon, and very competitive with the "back to school" promotions at the big box stores; I placed it in my cart at Jet. Adding a bottle of Elmer's common white glue to my shopping cart, which was only \$0.11 cheaper than Amazon, suddenly generated an extra 27 cent savings. Adding a second bottle of Elmer's to my cart generated a savings of \$1.26, a significant savings for an item priced well below \$2. Going to groceries, I looked for my favorite gourmet packaged cookies. At Kroger, they are normally \$5.49, while at Walmart they are \$4.99. Both Amazon and Jet show the same bag of cookies for \$5.19, but on a single bag, Jet gives an additional discount of \$1.20 per bag, lowering the net cost to \$3.99, which matches the best sale price at Kroger. Adding a second bag of these cookies increased the discount to (minus) \$3.48, a small additional savings. Jet offers these cookies, as

well as most other grocery items, with a second day delivery, matching Amazon's two day delivery. As I continued to add more items to my cart, the "bonus" savings, over and above the initial savings, increased, making Jet an even better deal for the consumer.

In addition to offering excellent prices, Jet also has its "JetAnywhere" program which pays rebates in "JetCash" for purchases from over 600 other online and local stores; these rebates can range as high as 20%. The process is a simple way to generate substantial "JetCash" which can be used for any purchases on Jet.com. Last Friday, I purchased two new tires from a big named Beaumont tire store; prior to the purchase, I went to the websites of several local tire and big box stores shopping for tires. After choosing the best deal, I placed my order online, and made an appointment at the local tire store to get the tires installed. Had Jet been operational at that time, I could have received an immediate "JetCash" rebate on my total order from the local tire store of about \$20.

The rebate process is very simple, but also may be very advantageous to the consumer. The consumer simply goes to the "JetAnywhere Brands" link on the website or app, click or tap on the seller's logo, shop, and purchase items online for local pickup or delivery in a normal

Continued on page 7

Hardware Myths (Cont. from page 6)

different programs at the same time.

But it's not just about the number of cores. If you have a single-threaded application, it can only run on one core at a time, so a faster four-core CPU will run it faster than a slower eight-core CPU. Many applications are still single-threaded and can't take advantage of all those additional cores to speed up their execution.

Sure, given a quad-core CPU with identical speeds to an octa-core CPU, the octa-core CPU will be better. But sometimes you'll see an eight-core CPU with slower speeds than a quad-core CPU, or even a quad-core CPU with slower speeds than a dual-core CPU. Cores aren't the only thing that matters — the CPU's speed is also very important, and there's a good

chance you'll be better off with a faster CPU with less cores.

**64-bit Software is Always Faster**

Modern CPUs are 64-bit, and modern operating systems have become 64-bit, too. But much of the software you'll run on a modern operating system like Windows is still 32-bit.

That's not as bad as it sounds, because 64-bit software isn't always faster than 32-bit software. 64-bit software does offer a number of benefits, from allowing applications

to use more RAM to improved security. But that doesn't mean 64-bit software is necessarily faster. Computing-intensive applications may see more significant improvements, but not all programs will.

The move from a 32-bit application to a 64-bit application won't necessarily give you a free performance boost.

You Always Want a Faster CPU and Graphics Card

Shopping for a laptop or desktop computer? You might want to get the fastest CPU and graphics card possible within your budget range — but that isn't necessarily the best idea.

Faster CPUs and dedicated graphics cards just use more power.

Continued on page 8

JET (Continued from page 6)

fashion; any affinity programs, coupons, or other money savings deals offered by the seller are still applicable. After the purchase, forward the purchase confirmation to anywhere@jet.com. The rebates in "JetCash" will be credited to your Jet.com account, and can be used for any future purchases. JetCash balances do not expire as long as the user has a current membership, and Jet offers a six month grace period after membership expiration for the member to renew, and retain any JetCash balances. Many of the 600+ participant businesses in the JetAnywhere rebate program include most of the major local department stores, florists, hotels, automotive stores, and other local businesses that also have an online presence.

Jet is currently offering a no-strings, no automatic renewal, full service, three month trial membership; no credit card is required, only an e-mail address, password, and zipcode is required to register. Regular, full service, annual memberships are \$49.99 with a Jet guarantee that you will save more than your membership fee or it will be refunded. Contrary to some erroneous media reports, the \$49.99 membership is for an annual membership, not a monthly fee.

Compared to the \$99 Amazon Prime annual membership fee, Jet is half the price, and offers significant savings through its "JetAnywhere" rebate program. Jet does not offer other services included in Amazon Prime, such as streaming media and a lending library for digital (Kindle) eBooks. Not to be outdone, Walmart is heavily promoting its online sales program, without an annual membership fee, but with free pickup at a local Walmart store, or free shipping with a minimal order. There has been some buzz in the media that Walmart and other major retailers with an online presence will try to compete with Jet by either offering totally free shipping, or a competitive annual membership fee that would include free shipping, similar to that offered by Jet and Amazon Prime.

Jet is an interesting new concept in retailing, combining low prices, rebates, free delivery, and other services, along with significant local sourcing. I signed up for the no-strings three month trial, and have been very impressed with the prices. I already purchased my gourmet cookies and other items, with the two day delivery on the grocery items. It is near certainty that I will be joining Jet with an annual membership when my three month trial expires. Since I also use my Amazon Prime account for streaming media and the free Kindle lending library, I will keep that membership as well. ☺

Hardware Myths (Cont. from page 7)

For a laptop, a laptop with a speedy Core i7 CPU may have significantly less battery life than a laptop with a slower Core i3 or i5 CPU. Even if you're building a desktop that will sit on a desk all day, you might want to avoid those Core i7 CPUs and dedicated NVIDIA or AMD graphics cards. Unless you'll actually need all that power — and especially graphics horsepower, if you don't plan on playing demanding PC games — it will just run hotter and consume more electricity. When buying a computer for someone who doesn't need all that power, consider getting something lighter and more power efficient.

Macs Are Always More Expensive Than PCs

The "Mac tax" has become smaller and smaller over time. Yes, Apple's Macs are expensive compared to the low-end, inexpensive Windows PCs and Chromebooks you can buy. But, once you start comparing Macs to higher-end Windows ultrabooks, you'll find comparable prices and specifications. Once you start comparing Apple's Mac Mini to similarly lightweight, small Windows PCs, you'll also find similar prices. And Macs are PCs — they contain most of the same components you'll find in a typical Windows PC.

Yes, Apple's Macs may be a bit more expensive in some cases — but not by much. If you're looking for the type of computer Apple sells, they're surprisingly comparable in price. If you're looking for a type of PC Apple doesn't sell — an inexpensive \$300 laptop or a gaming computer — then Macs will definitely seem overpriced compared to what you're looking for.

Building Your Own PC Will Always Save You Money

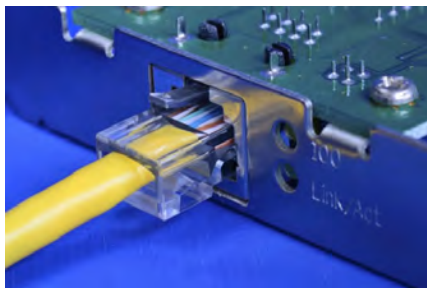
Building your own PC won't always save you money. Years ago,



it certainly would. If you're building a higher-end gaming PC, it might. If you're just building a desktop PC, you may actually be able to save money by purchasing a pre-built PC. Be sure to do the research yourself.

That's not to say building your own PC is a bad idea. It allows you to choose all the components you want and get the specific build you're looking for. But you'd be surprised — if you just want a typical desktop PC that isn't a high-end gaming PC, building your own PC might actually cost you money as you buy all the individual components. This isn't always true, of course — sometimes building your own computer might save you money, depending on the sales going on and the components you choose.

Building your computer is fairly easy, and can be a good learning experience if you want to do something geeky — but it's not all about saving money.

**MAC Address Filtering Helps Keep Your Wi-Fi Secure**

Some people swear by MAC address filtering to secure their Wi-Fi networks. Each network interface

on a computer, smartphone, or any other network-connected device has a unique "Media Access Control address." This address is set at the factory before your computer or its network hardware gets to you.

MAC address filtering assumes a MAC address actually is unique for each device, and it only allows access to your Wi-Fi if you're using a device with a specifically approved MAC address. So far, so good — but it's not that simple. It's easy to change your device's MAC address and spoof another MAC address. The MAC address is also broadcast when you use Wi-Fi, so it would be easy for an attacker to sniff Wi-Fi traffic and change their MAC address to match an allowed one if they already have access. The real myth is that MAC address is tied to hardware — a MAC address isn't tied very strongly to hardware at all.

Instead of using MAC address filtering, encrypting your Wi-Fi network with secure WPA2-PSK encryption and a strong passphrase is the best solution. If an attacker can get past that, MAC address filtering won't stop them. If an attacker can't get past that, you don't need to use MAC address filtering in the first place.

There are other myths out there, too. For example, overclocking isn't always a good idea — it'll make your CPU run hotter and use more power. This can cause it to break down faster over time. If you don't need the speed — and you probably don't — you shouldn't mess with overclocking. You may even have to pay extra for a CPU and motherboard that supports overclocking. ☺



Top 10 Reasons to Upgrade to Windows 10

Republished with permission from Sandy Berger, CompuKiss, www.compuKiss.com

I have been using Windows 10 for months. It is everything that Windows 8 should have been, but wasn't. Here are 10 reasons why you should upgrade.

1. Windows 10 is a free upgrade for anyone using Windows 7 or Windows 8.1. This offer is good until July 29, 2016. After that time it will cost \$119.
2. When Windows 10 starts, you are dropped immediately into the Windows 7-type desktop. Although there will be some new things to learn, end users will find that the transition to Windows 10 will be much smoother than the transition to Windows 8.
3. Windows 10 is faster and more secure than Windows 7 or Windows 8.
4. Windows 10 is easy to use with a keyboard and mouse and just as easy to use with a touchscreen. If your computer has a touchscreen as well as a keyboard and mouse, you get the best of both worlds.
5. As a service, Windows 10 will be constantly updated to keep it more secure and more capable.
6. The new Edge web browser that comes with Windows 10 is faster and more secure than Internet Explorer. It also offers useful new features like the ability to make notes on a web page and send them to a friend and the ability to save a web page to read later.
7. Several apps like Mail and Photos have been dramatically improved.
8. Although the Start Menu is back, it is larger and more distracting than it was in Windows 7. Fortunately, it is customizable so you may want to spend some time getting it to suite your taste.
9. Cortana, a voice assistant like Apple's Siri is built into Windows 10. You can ask her questions and she can even help you find your files.
10. The new File Explorer is much improved. It now shows a list of useful Quick Access locations and folders you use frequently in addition to Recent Places. ☺

Edge—Microsoft's New Web Browser

Republished with permission from Sandy Berger, CompuKiss, www.compuKiss.com

Yes, Microsoft has finally replaced their old bloated Internet Explorer web browser. The new browser which will come with Windows 10, is called "Edge." This is aptly named because it is much sharper than Internet Explorer. As a matter of fact, it is better in almost every way.

Edge is more secure, faster, and has new rendering engine. One of the best things about Edge is that it's newly designed interface is easy-to-use. Similar to the current Chrome browser, Edge has a cleaner look that makes it easier to use. The Edge address bar is front and center under a "Where to Next?" label. Although this is a bit simplistic, it works.

The Edge has a New Tab page that is quite customizable. It

also has a well-designed reading mode that strips away all of the extraneous ads and navigation creating an easy-to-read version of an article. You can also easily save an article for reading in the future.

A Hub icon on the upper toolbar gives you easy access to your favorites, a reading list, your browsing history, and your current downloads. This download area is especially useful making it easier for the average user to find the downloads.

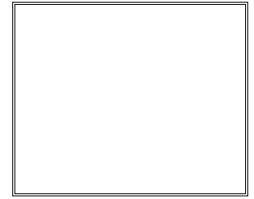
And WOW, you can even write on the screen of a web page to add your own comments. Draw or type on any web page using a mouse or drawing with your finger on a touchscreen. You can draw in several different colors with three different sized pens. You can also highlight in

several colors and add a text note. You can even draw a square on the screen to highlight and copy part of the web page. Once you have marked up the web page you can save it and/or share it with friends.

When using the Edge you can also use Cortana, Microsoft's voice assistant to issue voice commands. Cortana will answer or will find the correct folder or program for you. It is extremely useful. You can even ask Cortana for more information on any text that you highlight.

In the future, Edge will support browser extensions from Chrome and Firefox and it will keep getting better and better. It will be available at no additional cost along with Windows 10. ☺

P*PCompAS Newsletter
Greg Lenihan, Editor
4905 Ramblewood Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
e-mail: glenihan@comcast.net



Coming Events:

Next Membership Meeting: 5 Sep, beginning at 9 am (see directions below)

Next Breakfast Meeting: 19 Sep @ 8 am, Country Buffet, 801 N. Academy Blvd.

Newsletter Deadline: 19 Sep.

Check out our Web page at: <http://ppcompas.apcug.org>

