

Bits of Bytes

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

Volume XXXVII

January 2017

Issue 1



The Prez Sez

by Toni Logan,
President,
P*PCompAS

Thirty-five years ago, a few computer enthusiasts joined together to share experiences and learn more about computers. At that time there was no Internet, smart phones, or iPads. There were only 1's and 0's. Now computers pretty much rule our lives and even the TV is "smart."

This is the third time that I've been President of this group. I've learned a lot over the years, but I am really just a user. Fortunately, there are many other members who know a lot and they generously help the rest of us. I am looking forward to the next year with PPCOMPAS and what new things we may learn. ☺



Meeting Minutes

by Toni Logan,
Secretary,
P*PCompAS

The meeting was called to order by President Cary Quinn. He reminded us that the coffee is compliments of Starbucks at the Citadel Crossing. Coffee and donuts are free for guests and a donation from members.

The club welcomed a new member, John Fischer, who was introduced and "mugged."

REPORTS

Treasurer Bill Gardner reported that we have \$6126.95

Next P*PCompAS meeting: Saturday, 7 January 2017

No presentation has been announced at this time.

in the treasury, which included our membership fee to APCUG of \$50, and several membership dues and interest.

Membership Chairwoman Ann Titus said that Warren Hill had renewed his membership because he couldn't find a similar group in Omaha.

Editor Greg Lenihan had some copies of the newsletter to hand out and reported that the next deadline is Christmas Eve, December 24.

APCUG Representative Joe Nuvolini reported that we had paid our dues for the year.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

The club held elections for the new year. Nominations for officers were: President, Toni Logan; V-President, Cary Quinn; Secretary, Bill Abell; Treasurer, Bill Gardner; and Board of Directors Member, Paul Godfrey. There were no nominations from the floor and all were elected by acclamation.

There was a question brought up that the rules of the club ought to be reviewed. A committee to do just that will be appointed by the president-elect.

There was a motion to donate \$300 to the church as our gift to them for letting us use the church for our meetings. The motion was seconded and was passed.

AROUND THE ROOM

The audio for the Around the Room is on the club's website. During Around the Room, it was

suggested that we buy a copy of Acronis True Image Version 17 for the club.

PROGRAM

Ann Titus presented some YouTube videos from the Frugal Computer Guy.



Ann Titus giving the presentation at the December meeting

DRAWING

Hat- Dennis Conroy ☺

In This Issue

Articles

7 Great Google Features	4
Check Comcast Data Usage	6
Nybbles and Bits	2
Schedule Win Defender Scan.....	3
What is Snapchat?.....	8
Win 10 Default Programs Change ...	5

P*PCompAS

Meeting Minutes	1
The Prez Sez	1



Officers

President: Toni Logan
bradtonlogan@gmail.com

Vice President: Cary Quinn
cary.quinn@gmail.com

Secretary: Bill Abell
wfabell@gmail.com

Treasurer: Bill Gardner
wgplace@comcast.net

Staff

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

Committees

Hospitality: Pat Krieger
Programs: Cary Quinn
Publicity: Cary Quinn
Nominating: Vacant

Board of Directors

Bob Blackledge
John Pearce
Joe Nuvolini
Peter Rallis
Paul Godfrey

Nybbles and Bits

by John Pearce, P*PCompAS

Just a few days after writing Nybbles and Bits for December, my computer was infected with a Trojan. How did this happen? I was expecting an update to Adobe's Flash Player. When a pop-up to update Flash Player appeared, I took a quick look, and it appeared to be legitimate, so I clicked on OK. Fortunately, I was watching the screen and noticed a Command Prompt window open, and it appeared to run a script. The Command Prompt window is not usually part of a Flash Player update and I started to worry.

I ran a scan with Malwarebytes and my worry was confirmed. I was infected with a Trojan. Malwarebytes reported it removed the infection. Just to be sure, I ran the Malwarebytes Rootkit scan and it found nothing. I consider myself fortunate because I found and removed the Trojan within minutes of it being installed. Because of this experience, I now regularly run the Firefox plug-in checking page at <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/plugincheck/> to determine which plug-ins need updating.



Remember batch files? They have the extension .bat or .cmd and are very useful for commands which are hard to remember, lengthy to enter on the keyboard, or commands used frequently. Microsoft is making a change in a future version of Windows 10 to substitute the PowerShell app for "cmd" or "command." Per Microsoft, cmd.exe is not going away. If you don't have a shortcut on your desktop for cmd.exe you might want to create one just to avoid possible confusion with PowerShell.

PowerShell is a completely different creature from cmd.exe. The language reminds me of VB script and JavaScript. Now is the time to search the web for tutorials on PowerShell and learn how to use it effectively. I found several tutorial series written at the beginner level. If you have no interest in PowerShell, you can continue to use cmd.exe for things like "ipconfig /all" or "dir *.* /O:N > dirlist.txt." ☺



John Fischer (R) gets mugged by Membership Chairlady Ann Titus at the December meeting.



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.

How to Schedule a Scan in Windows Defender

By Lowell Heddings, reprinted with permission from HowToGeek.com

Original article at: <http://www.howtogeek.com/192874/how-to-setup-windows-8-defender-to-automatically-scan-on-a-schedule/>

Windows Defender automatically performs background scans during your PC's idle moments, but doesn't include an easy way to schedule a full scan. There is a way to do it, though.

Starting with Windows 8, [Windows Defender](#) came as a built-in antivirus app, replacing the standalone Microsoft Security Essentials that came before. Security Essentials provided an easy way to schedule a scan through the app's interface, but that ability went away in Windows Defender. Instead, Windows Defender performs partial scans during times when your PC is idle. If you keep your PC turned off when you're not using it—or you put it to sleep and have it set to [not wake up for regular maintenance](#)—you can still schedule a scan using the Windows Task Scheduler. And you can make that scheduled scan a one-off or regular thing.

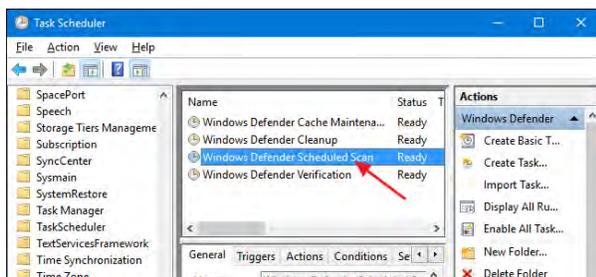


In Windows 10, hit Start, type “task scheduler,” and then click the result or hit Enter. In Windows 8, you'll need to type “schedule tasks” instead.

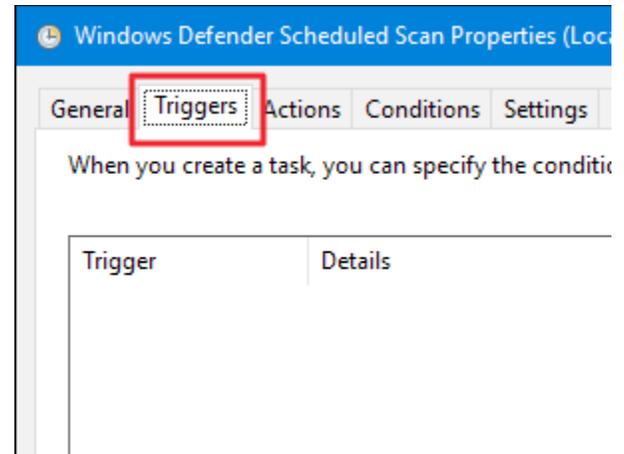
In the left-hand navigation pane of the Task Scheduler window, drill down to the following location:

Task Scheduler (Local) > Task Scheduler Library > Microsoft > Windows > Windows Defender

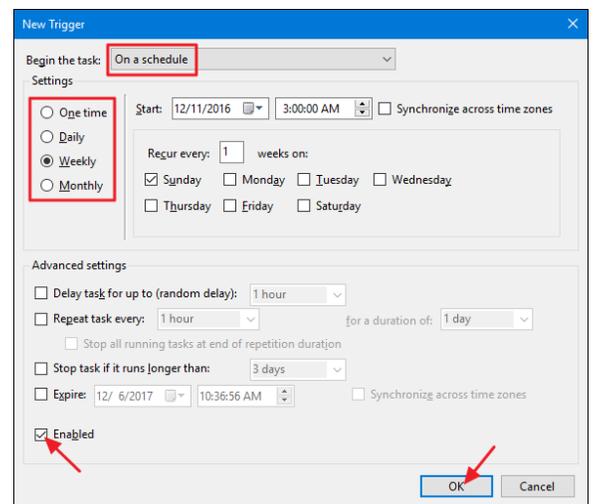
In the middle pane, in the list of tasks, double-click the “Windows Defender Scheduled Scan” task to open its properties window.



In the properties window, switch to the “Triggers” tab. Notice that there are no triggers by default, since Windows handles background scanning as part of its maintenance routines. Create a new trigger by clicking the “New” button.



In the “New Trigger” window make sure “On a schedule” is selected on the “Begin the task” drop-down menu. You can set the scan to run one time or to recur daily, weekly, or monthly. When you've set up the schedule you like, make sure the “Enabled” option at the bottom is checked and then click “OK.”



There are also a couple of other useful options on the “Conditions” tab. If you're on a laptop, you might want select the “Start the task only if the computer is on AC power” and “Stop if the computer switches to battery power” options to

Continued on page 4

7 Great Google Features You Probably Don't Use

by Kim Komando (tip from 5/7/16)

Copyright 2016. WestStar TalkRadio Network, reprinted with permission. No further republication or redistribution is permitted without the written permission of WestStar TalkRadio Network. Visit Kim Komando and sign up for her free e-mail newsletters at: www.komando.com

According to a [recent report](#), by the time you read this sentence, an average of 2.3 million Google searches were conducted. No doubt, Google is our go-to resource. We use it so much that “Google” has become a verb as in, “Just Google it.”

There’s more you can do with Google than merely finding an article, products for sale or websites. Here are seven Google tricks you’ll use time and time again.

1. FIND THE BEST AND CHEAPEST FLIGHTS

There are a slew of travel sites including CheapTickets, Expedia, Hotwire, Kayak, Orbitz, Priceline, and Travelocity that help you book flights, hotels and vacations. But, when you want an uncluttered and simplified way to find a flight and check prices, head over to [Google Flight Search](#).

Google Flight Search gives you quick access to information from various airline and travel sites in one place. It shares many of the same features as the other sites such as airline comparisons, rate monitoring, and price trends.

Flight Search’s beauty, though, is its lack of ads and straightforward approach. For example, if you’re flexible with your travel dates, the ticket prices are listed day-by-day on the calendar.

I especially like the map displayed on the home page. It shows pricing information at a glance for destinations you might be interested in visiting.

Go ahead, while you’re booking that business trip, take a moment to daydream about seeing the sunset from the Space Needle or the Eifel Tower.

Booking is easy. Just select the flight you want, and follow the prompts to purchase your ticket.

Note: Having a great online tool isn’t the only thing you need to get a great price on tickets. [Click here for a secret formula that shows if you’re paying too much for airfare.](#)

2. BUILD STUFF WITH LEGOS

Not everything you do on Google has to be completely practical. Sometimes you just need a break, and puzzles and building blocks are a great way to challenge your mind while recharging your battery. And if you have kids in the

house, show them this. They’ll love it.

The free online Lego builder browser extension works with Chrome and Firefox, and allows you to build models out of Legos. The models are saved to the cloud, where you can share them and see models that others have created.

It’s a slew of fun. Just tell the kids you’re trying it out before you let them take the reigns. [Click here for a video tutorial and a download link to the browser extension.](#)

3. KEEP TRACK OF TIME

Let’s say you’re wondering what time it is in New York, London or anywhere else in the world. Just type “What time is it in [location]?” for an instant answer. You can also ask Google what is the time difference between any two cities pretty much covering the world.

Google can also help you stay on schedule. Type “Set a timer for [x] minutes,” and Google will pop up a timer. There’s a handy stopwatch to the right of the timer window.

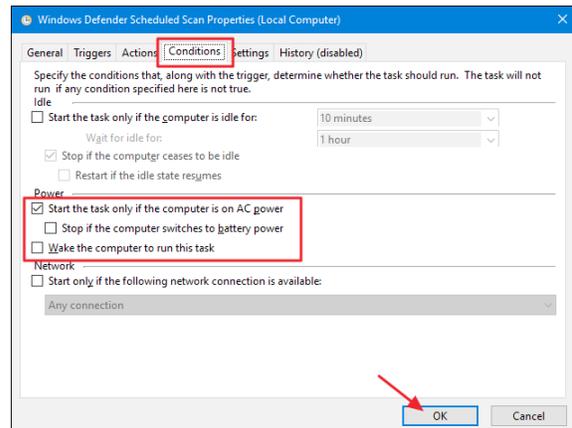
When you are wondering if it is better to fly or drive somewhere,

Continued on page 5

Windows Defender Scan (Continued from page 3)

prevent the task from running your battery down unexpectedly. Also, select the “Wake the computer to run this task” if you generally put your PC to sleep when not using it. With this option enabled, Windows can wake the PC, run the scan, and then put the PC back to sleep. When you’re done setting the options you want, click OK.

You can now exit Task Scheduler and rely on Windows Defender to run its scans according to the schedule you set. ☺



How Windows 10 Changed Setting Default Programs

By Leo Notenboom, <https://newsletter.askleo.com>; published under the Creative Commons License

Windows 10 changed the mechanism used to modify the default program for certain operations, forcing you to make the choice explicitly.

In order to thwart poorly-behaved programs, Windows 10 made a relatively major change to the way default programs are set. The change can be a little startling if you're not prepared for it.

So, let's prepare.

What's a Default Program?

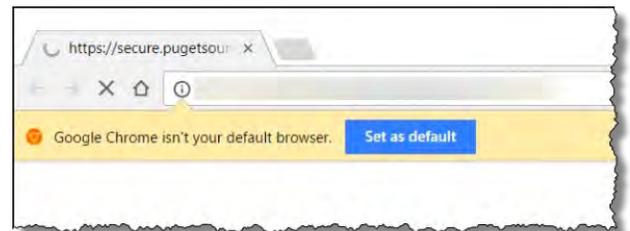
A default program is the program that Windows associates with a specific type of file or a specific action.

If you're not using your web browser and you request a web page – say by clicking a link in a PDF document – Windows knows which web browser to use, even if you have more than one installed. It's this specific browser that's considered your “default.” In my case, I have several browsers installed, but Google Chrome is my default browser.

Other examples include the default mail program used when you click on a link to send email, or the default program to open a document of a specific type, such as using Microsoft Word to open “.docx” files, instead of some other program.

The Problem: Malicious Behavior

Windows includes a way for programs to check the current default for a specific operation, as well as a way to set the default. You've probably run into this when running a second internet browser and having it tell you that it's not currently the default, would you like to make it so?



Continued on page 7

Google Features (Cont. from page 4)

type the phrase, “How long does it take to get to [destination]?” Google provides the approximate drive time including any road construction or delays.

4. TRANSLATE LANGUAGES

Whether you're a frequent traveler, or trying to learn a new language, Google can help you overcome language barriers. The Google Translate function is integrated right into the regular Google search, so you don't even have to visit another page.

To translate with Google, type “translate” in the search bar. This will bring up two boxes in your search results. The box on the left is for the language you'd like to translate from, and the box on the right will show the results of the language you'd like to translate to.

There are tabs above each box that let you choose from a list of more than 100 languages, including common languages like Italian, French, Russian and Spanish, and even lesser known languages, like Icelandic.

My son, Ian, is learning Mandarin, and uses Google Translate on his iPad to write out the characters and listen as the words are repeated back. And I love using the Google Translate app whenever I travel out of the country.

One of the app's most useful features is its ability to scan printed words and translate them instantly. Perfect for restaurant menus, venues and street signs! [Click here to learn more about the Google Translate mobile app.](#)

5. COUNT CALORIES

When you're wondering how many calories are in a particular

meal, type, “How many calories does [food item] have?” and Google will tell you the answer. It also includes details such as portion sizes, and additional ingredients that are factored in to the overall calorie count.

Use it to also compare the calorie count of different foods. For example, imagine you're out having drinks with friends, but don't want to go overboard.

Go ahead, ask Google, “Which has more calories wine or beer?”

6. EXPLORE THE SKY

If you thought Google Earth was great, then this is going to blow your mind. You can step off of our planet and into the universe with Google Sky.

Instead of searching locations on this planet, you look at outer space using images from different telescopes, probes and satellites. It

Continued on page 6

How to Check Your Comcast Data Usage to Avoid Going Over the 1 TB Cap

By Chris Hoffman, reprinted with permission from HowToGeek.com

Original article at: <http://www.howtogeek.com/283973/how-to-check-your-comcast-data-usage-to-avoid-going-over-the-1tb-cap/>

In most states, Comcast now [imposes a 1TB per month data cap](#) on your Internet connection. You'll want to keep an eye on your data usage meter, especially if you have no idea how much data you regularly use every month.

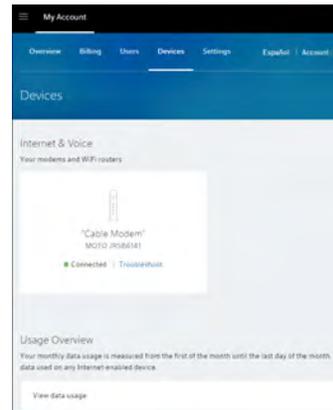
Sure, you can [track your own data usage](#) with a variety of software tools, but Comcast doesn't care about the data usage you measure. For billing purposes, Comcast only cares about its own meter, so you should be checking it regularly.

On the Web

You can access this data on Comcast's website. To access it, you'll first need to visit the [Comcast XFINITY My Account page](#) and sign in with your Comcast account details.

If you haven't created a Comcast username yet, you can click the "Create One" link to create an account using the details associated with your Comcast account, like your Comcast account number, mobile phone number, or social security number. If you've used your account previous but forgotten the username or password, use the "Forgot username or password?" links on the login page.

Click the "Devices" tab at the top of the page and then click the "View data usage" link under Usage Overview.



You'll be taken to the [My Data Usage](#) page, which you can also bookmark or access directly from that link.

The meter will show you how much data you've used in the current month. You can use this to project whether you'll hit your data cap based on your

current usage. For example, if it's 25% of the way through the month and you've used more than 25% of your data, you'll need to slow down, or you'll hit the cap before the end of the month.

You can also use the dropdown box to select previous months. You can see how much data you used in previous months, which will give you

Continued on page 7

Google Features (Cont. from page 5)

works similarly to Google Earth.

You can search for items in the search bar at the top and [Google Sky](#) will show you the most recent images of the stars, planets and galaxies you are looking for.

The tool also includes showcases at the bottom of the page to direct you to popular and interesting parts of the map, like images from the Hubble Telescope and shots of our own Solar System.

In addition to the basic map, you can look at infrared and microwave images of space. You can also look at a historic map of the stars made by Giovanni Maria Cassini in 1792! For fun, overlay these different images on top of one another to see how they compare.

7. USE GOOGLE LIKE A PRO

If you're searching for answers, you want to find the fastest (and most accurate) results possible. You don't have time to sift through pages and pages. To get better results, here are a few secrets.

One of the easiest tricks is to place your search terms between quotation marks. This tells Google to search for that phrase exactly, instead of searching for those keywords anywhere in an article.

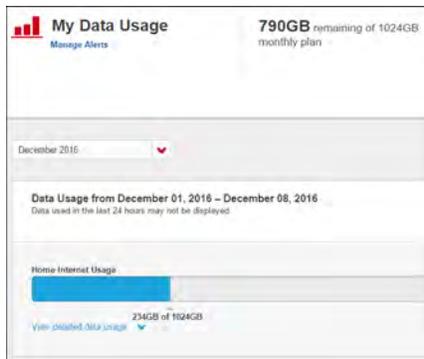
When you're looking for something on a particular website, you can begin that search right on the Google home page. There are a few ways to do this. The first way is to type the website name in the address bar, followed by a colon. Next, hit the spacebar and type your search term.

For example, "komando.com: smartphone battery tip." Another way to do this is to include the website name along with your search term such as "komando.com smartphone battery tip." Either of these options will limit Google's search to find content on the specific website.

If you're looking for information between a certain date range, you can find faster results by including two periods between the dates themselves. For example, "top rock bands 1960 .. 1980."

Using these tricks will help you pinpoint the information you need without wasting your time on content that barely meets the criteria of your search. [Click here if you'd like even more tricks to get faster answers on Google.](#) ☺

Comcast Cap (Continued from page 6)



an idea of the amount of data you use in an average month. Select “Compare past 3 months” to see how they compare over time.

On a Smartphone

This data is also accessible via the XFINITY My Account app, available for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#). This may be a more convenient place for you to access it—it’s up to you.

Download the app and sign into it with your Comcast XFINITY account details. Tap the “Internet” icon at the bottom of the app to view your data usage and home Internet connection status.

To view more details about data usage in previous months, tap the “Your total data usage is” section and you’ll see a history of your data usage for previous months.

What to Do If You Hit the Data Cap

Comcast gives you two courtesy months, allowing you to go over the data cap twice before it starts charging you. After that, Comcast will automatically add additional data at the cost of \$10 per 50GB when you go over the cap, up to a maximum charge of \$200 per month. You can also choose to purchase unlimited data at the cost of \$50 per month.

You can also reduce usage to avoid hitting the cap. While large downloads like digital video games take up quite a bit of data, so does

Continued on page 8

Default Programs (Continued from page 5)

With a click, you can change your default browser – or you can ignore the message, and nothing will be changed.

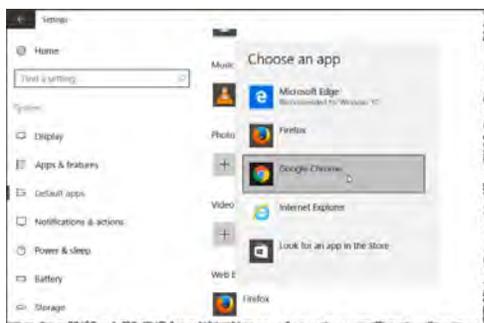
The problem? Overly-aggressive programs can change your defaults without asking. Particularly when installing software, PUPs and downright malicious software can change things such that the next time you open a web page or a document, or click on a link to send mail, their software runs instead of your previously-configured default.

The Change

Programs can no longer make direct changes to default associations.

Instead, any attempt to do so is treated as if it were a request, and the Control Panel Settings App is run for you to make the change yourself.

For example, if you click the “Set as default” button presented by Google Chrome to make it your default browser, rather than immediately making the change, as in the past, you’ll be presented with the Settings App.



If you really want to make the change, click on the current default, and then choose from a list of alternatives.

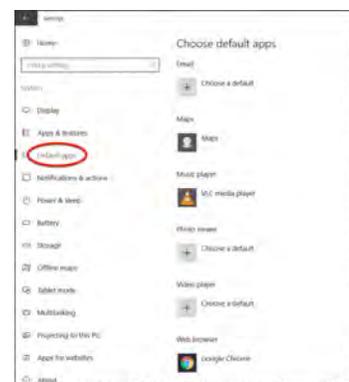
If the “request” originated from elsewhere – perhaps some less-than-honest software being installed – you can simply close the settings app, and no change will be made.

In either case, you’ve been explicitly alerted to the attempted change.

The Shortcut

My take-away is this: if we’re going to be taken to the settings app all the time anyway, why not just start there if we really do want to change something?

For example, I would fire up the Settings App, and then under System Default Apps, make any or all the changes I might want to.



It’s not something you need to do often, but rather than bouncing back and forth between the running application and the settings app, it feels a little less confusing to just start in Settings and

proactively make the change.

Either way, you’re going to end up in the Settings app. 😊

What is Snapchat?

By Harry Guinness, reprinted with permission from [HowToGeek.com](http://www.howtogeek.com)
 Original article at: <http://www.howtogeek.com/286740/what-is-snapchat/>

Unless you've been hiding under a rock, you've probably heard someone mention the social network/chat app [Snapchat](#). Depending on how you measure things, it's now more [popular than Twitter and Pinterest](#), with only Facebook and Instagram having more users daily. The difference is that most of Snapchat's users are millennials and teens, so it's flown under the radar of a lot of older Internet users.

Here at How-To Geek for example, I'm the only writer who regularly uses Snapchat—it's no coincidence that I'm also the youngest (and most immature).

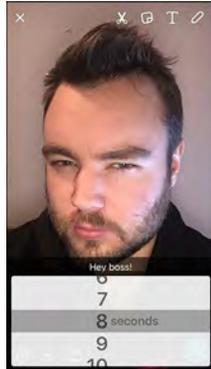
So if you've been wondering what exactly Snapchat is, as How-To Geek's resident millennial ambassador, I'm here to help.

What Does Snapchat Do?

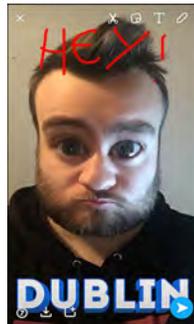
Snapchat started out as an app for sending temporary pictures and, although it's expanded, this is still its core feature.

Let's say I want to share an awesome selfie with my editor Whitson. I open Snapchat and take the "Snap." When I do, I set a timer for between one and ten seconds and hit send. Whitson then gets a notification on his phone that I've send him a Snap. As soon as he opens it, he'll only be able to see it for ten seconds. After that, it's gone.

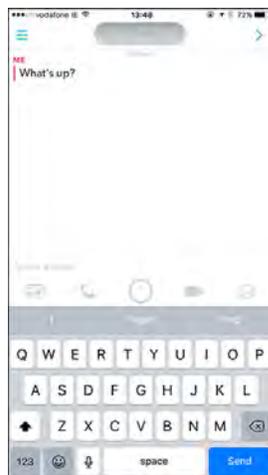
He could take a screenshot, but if he did, I'd get a notification from Snapchat telling me that he'd done so.



the silly side of things.



Instead of using a timer, Snapchat's text messages vanish as soon as the person reading them leaves the chat.



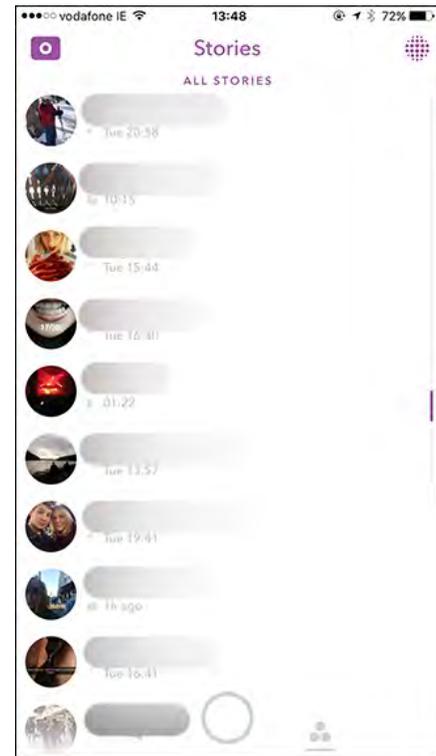
While each Snap can just be an image, you can use Lenses, Filters, Geo-Filters, Stickers, Emoji, text and a drawing tool to personalize them more. Most of these trend toward

As well as photo Snaps, you can also send short video Snaps and disappearing text messages with Snapchat. A video Snap can be up to ten seconds long.

Stories and Discover

Since its launched, Snapchat has gone from messaging app to including some social networking features as well.

Everyone on Snapchat has a "Story" they can post image and video Snaps to. Anyone on their "Friends" list can see their Story, much like a Facebook or Instagram feed. Each Snap sent to the Story stays live for 24 hours before it disappears. A lot of popular celebrities use Snapchat's Stories.



Continued on page 9

Comcast Cap (Cont. from page 7)

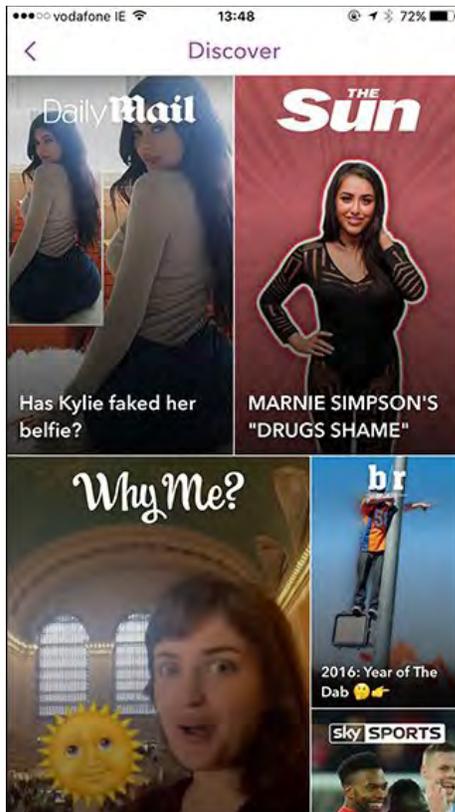
streaming in HD. You may want to [reduce the quality settings](#) in the video streaming services you use. If you have another Internet service provider available,

you might also want to consider leaving Comcast behind and switching to a new ISP. However, many areas are only well-served by a single ISP—and that single Internet service provider is often Comcast. ☺

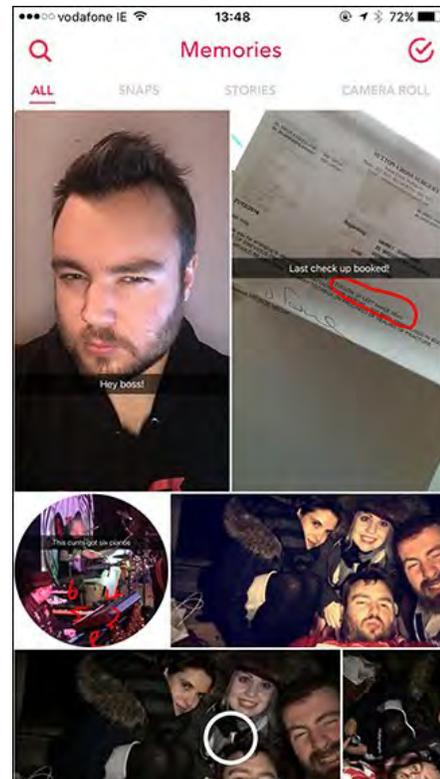
Snapshot (Continued from page 8)

Occasionally, for special events like Christmas or the Super Bowl, Snapchat has a curated Our Story which every user can submit Snaps to. Snapchat's editorial team pulls out the best one and creates one big story for everyone.

Discover is like Stories except for a small group of publications. Media outlets like [The Daily Mail](#), [The Sun](#), [Buzzfeed](#), [Sky News](#), [Mashable](#), [Vice](#) and [National Geographic](#) are all in Snapchat's Discover program. They use it to share popular articles, videos, and the like.

**Snapshot Memories**

Although Snapchat's appeal is mainly that everything is temporary, sometimes people use it to record things that they actually want to keep. Snapchat Memories is a way for you to privately save your own Snaps and Stories so you can view or share them again later.

**Snapshot Isn't Just for Naked Pictures**

Snapshot has picked up a less-than-salubrious reputation because of how it started. A few college kids wanted an app that made it possible to send pictures that couldn't be saved by the other person. Almost by accident, they created something that really hit a nerve with millennials and teenagers. And as Snapshot's grown, its become more mainstream. Although it's incredibly popular with millennials and teens, they're gaining more older users. Even my mother is now on Snapshot!

While some people obviously did want a platform for sending nudes, far more wanted a way to send temporary messages. When every single thing you do online is tracked, when every message you've ever sent can be dragged out to haunt you, it's really freeing to have messages that just...disappear. (And don't take up space on your phone!) ☺

Chrome Tips:

- **Find your downloads:** Have you ever downloaded something, and then couldn't find it? Press **Ctrl-J** and Chrome will open a new tab showing all your recent downloads. From there, you can open the downloaded file, or view the folder where it resides.
- **Restore a tab:** Have you ever closed a tab by accident? That can be annoying, especially if it was a website that required a login, and you had navigated through several pages already. You don't have to redo all that work -- just press **Ctrl-Shift-T** and the tab will reopen, right where you left off.

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



Coming Events:

Next Membership Meeting: 7 January beginning at 9 am (see directions below)

Next Breakfast Meeting: 21 January @ 8 am, Country Buffet, 801 N. Academy Blvd.

Newsletter Deadline: 21 January

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

