

# Bits of Bytes

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

Volume XXXVIII

June 2018

Issue 6



## The Prez Sez

by Toni Logan, President, P\*PCompAS

We are about half way through our year and we have had some interesting programs. This coming month Cary will enlighten us about scams and how to deal with them. It would be nice if someone in the group would step forward and present one of their favorite programs or apps.

We also have access to some fine videos from APCUG. Take a look online, and if you see anything interesting, let Cary know.

We had a good group at breakfast this month. Doug Livermore, a former member joined us while visiting in Colorado Springs.

Lastly, I got myself a new Dell desktop. It is an all-in-one, which is really nice. It always seems that there is a new learning curve with any new device. I hope to have it all set up soon and will enjoy using the new, faster, better machine. That's it for this month; see you in June. ☺



## Meeting Minutes

by Pat Krieger, Secretary, P\*PCompAS

President Toni Logan called the 12 May 2018 meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held on the second Saturday of May to avoid a conflict with the schedule of the church.

## Next P\*PCompAS meeting: Saturday, 2 June 2018

Cary Quinn will head a discussion on how to use your own little hacker skills to get over or get even with the bad guys on the digital landscape.

### OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer Bill Gardner reported we have \$4180.32 in the treasury.

### AROUND THE ROOM

Much of the information during Around the Room was on the topic of disposal of equipment. Members provided the following information:

Staples will take electronic devices.

Clean Sweep (June 9<sup>th</sup>) will take any size TV. El Paso County Hazardous Waste now requires that one signs up for an appointment to dispose of material that is not suitable to be disposed of in a landfill.

Bill Gardner reported last month he had difficulties with Malwarebytes. He solved it by reinstalling it and said to let the trial version expire, as it will go to the regular free version. He also said he has been receiving new sites with no idea where they came from. Everyone agreed these should be deleted.

One member wanted a suggestion on buying a new printer. He was advised the Epson Ecotank color printer was a good choice and it might be available at Costco

Chuck Kinsley recommended Password Manager, a free download, when a member reported having trouble with passwords.

### PROGRAM

David Breakey gave us a presentation on Linux. Linux is a free download with most of the features available on more expensive operating systems. Older

computers also can use it. Libre Office works on Linux. Linux is also available on CDs (it takes 7 CDs). Linux can read other files from most other systems, and Windows can read Linux files.

It's no surprise hackers can infect Linux with viruses. They can harm parts of the program, but it's hard to damage the complete system. (Why doesn't Mueller quit wasting all that time and millions of dollars hunting Russians or Bigfoot or whatever and hunt for hackers instead?)

Mr. Breakey said Microsoft hires hackers to hack their system so they can figure out a way to fix it to make it safer.

Winners of items in the drawing included Paul Godfrey and Ilene Steinkruger. ☺

**Member Ann Titus passes along that those interested in Linux can find a 51-lesson YouTube course at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bju\\_](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bju_), and there are always Lynda.com tutorials available for free through the library.**

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## Officers

**President: Toni Logan**  
bradtonlogan@gmail.com

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

**Secretary: Pat Krieger**  
pkrieger@centurylink.net

**Treasurer: Bill Gardner**  
wgplace@comcast.net

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**Barista: David George**  
**Drawings: Bob Logan**  
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## What is Reddit?

### *A Beginner's Guide to Using the Front Page of the Internet*

*by Francis Navarro at Komando.com (tip from 5/21/18)*

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It doesn't matter if you're a tech-savvy Internet warrior or an occasional web researcher, chances are, if you've searched the web for answers for any particular topic, you've most likely stumbled upon this website called Reddit.

It's not just the place where viral content is born. It's also a venue where questions are answered, debates are waged, and community knowledge is shared. This website is where the Internet hive mind is in full force and where unexpected and mind-blowing content constantly flows.

And if you're thinking that Reddit is an exclusive insider club where only the worthy can post and participate, well, think again.

It's open for everyone!

In fact, it's such a valuable resource that I recommend that you sign up for your very own Reddit account. Read on and I'll show you how.

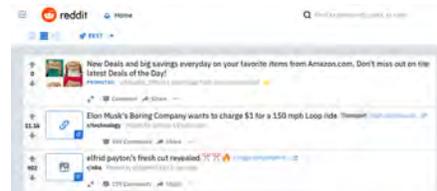
### **Reddit - the front page of the Internet**

[Reddit](#) is the self-described "front page of the Internet." It's a huge Internet community where

tons of Internet content is constantly shared, commented on and upvoted. With millions of users called "Redditors," any popular post in Reddit can quickly snowball into the next Internet phenomenon.

How popular is Reddit? As of February of this year, Reddit had 542 million monthly visitors, making it the fourth most visited website in the U.S.

That latest viral video, meme, or story you just saw? It probably was first shared in Reddit, upvoted, and shared by thousands of "Redditors," picked up by news outlets, and then spread around the web organically from there.



But that's not just what Reddit is for. It's also a good platform for opinion, conversations, debates, tips, and advice. Redditors can also submit questions and the

*Continued on page 3*



David Breakey was our guest presenter in May. His topic was running a Linux system. We thank Dave for coming to the club for a second time to give a presentation.

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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.

*Reddit (Continued from page 2)*

robust Reddit community will typically reply.

With its categories, topics, and specific communities, called *subreddits*, Reddit is a great resource for essentially anything under the sun. From niche subjects to pop culture to tech, there's always a subreddit that will cater to your tastes.

Ready to Reddit? Read on and I'll show you how to sign up so you can start sharing and voting for content.

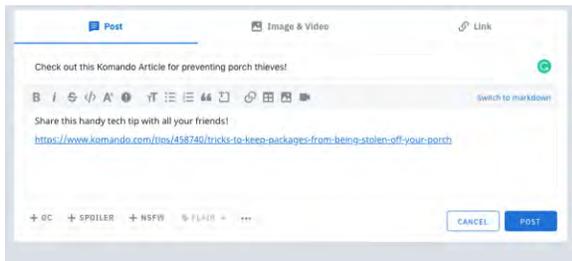
**How to sign up**

Although an account is not necessary to browse Reddit's most popular content, I recommend that you sign up to get the most out of your Reddit experience.

This way, instead of being a "lurker," you will be an official full-fledged Redditor. With an account, you can be a valuable contributor to the Reddit community by voting for content, by leaving comments, by subscribing to specific subreddits and by sharing links, images, or text.

Signing up for Reddit is very simple:

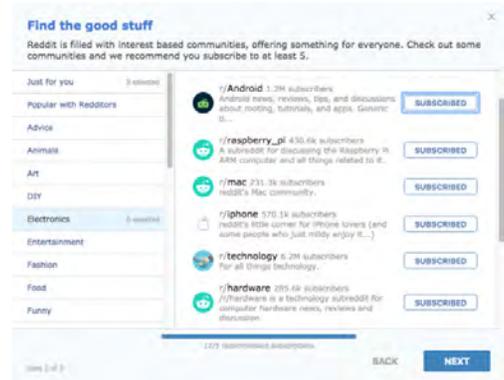
1. First, head on to Reddit's main page, then click on "sign up" in the upper right corner.



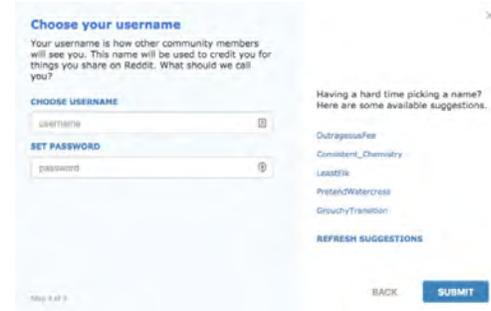
2. Enter your email address in the provided field. Click "NEXT."

3. Choose your areas of interest. These

will be the "subreddits" you'll be subscribed to. Note: You will be automatically subscribed to the most popular subreddits.) Click "NEXT."



4. Choose a username and set a password, then click "SUBMIT." And that's it. You're in!



**Navigating Reddit**

Navigating Reddit can be confusing for the beginner but you'll get the hang of it no time. Reddit's design is minimal, harking back to the early days of the web. When you land on its main page, you'll be greeted with what looks like an endless message board. **Protip:** Reddit's [new design](#) is easier to navigate.

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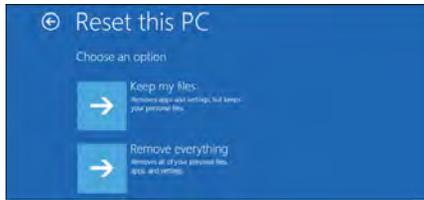


**May is the month we memorialize those who died defending our country's freedom. I'm sure the digerati that met for breakfast in May were thinking just that, along with sending our thoughts and prayers to those in our group that recently departed us. It was also fun just to hang out.**

# Everything You Need to Know About “Reset This PC” in Windows 8 and 10

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

Original article at: <https://www.howtogeek.com/132428/everything-you-need-to-know-about-refreshing-and-resetting-your-windows-8-pc/>



Windows 10 includes a “Reset your PC” option that quickly restores Windows to its factory default configuration. It’s faster and more convenient than reinstalling Windows from scratch or using your manufacturer’s recovery partition.

Windows 8 had separate “Refresh your PC” and “Reset your PC” options. Refresh kept all your files and personalization settings, but set your PC settings to the default and uninstalled your desktop

apps. Reset removed everything, including your files—like doing a complete Windows resinstall from scratch.

On Windows 10, things are a bit simpler. The only option is “Reset your PC,” but during the process, you’ll get to choose whether to keep your personal files or not.

### How Resetting Your PC Works

When you use the “Reset this PC” feature in Windows, Windows resets itself to its factory default state. If you purchased a PC and it came with Windows 10 installed, your PC will be in the same state you received it in. All the manufacturer installed software and drivers that came with the PC will be reinstalled. If you installed Windows 10 yourself, it will be a

fresh Windows 10 system without any additional software.

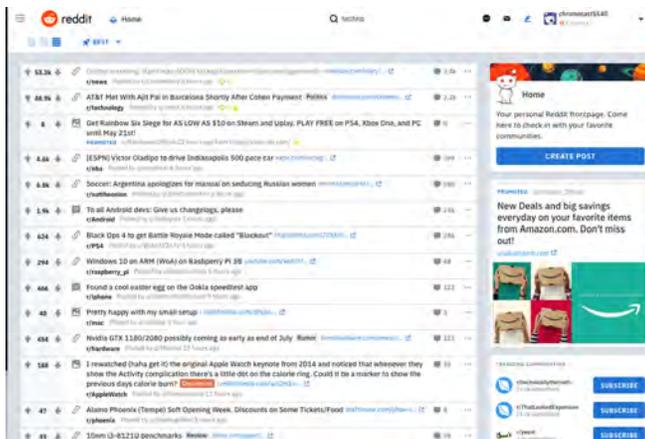
You can choose whether you want to keep your personal files or erase them. However, all your installed programs and settings will be erased. This ensures you have a fresh system. Any problems caused by third-party software, system file corruption, system settings changes, or malware should be fixed by resetting your PC.

If your computer came with Windows pre-installed, you may also see a third option, “Restore Factory Settings.” This will restore the original version that came with your PC— so if your computer came with Windows 8, and you upgraded to Windows 10, it will reset back to Windows 8.

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### Reddit (Continued from page 3)

Typically, Reddit’s front page features the most popular posts at any given time. These posts originate from the biggest categories (subreddits) on the site. You can also sort the front page and see new, trending, and the most controversial posts.



To see where a particular post leads to - it could be a link to an article, a video, an image, etc. - just click on it. However, for most people, the best thing about Reddit is the comments section. If you find an interesting post, make sure you take your time scrolling through and reading the comments.

Reddit comments are a valuable resource themselves and they almost always give you further insight on a particular topic. If you want to be an upstanding member of the Reddit community, you can join the discussions by leaving your own comments and by voting on them, too.

Now here’s where a Reddit account can also come in handy. Beyond the front page posts, you can also customize your front page by subscribing to your own subreddits. If you have specific interests and hobbies, just type in a keyword in Reddit’s search bar to look for relevant subreddits you can subscribe to. (You can also unsubscribe anytime.)

At any time, you can see and navigate to all your subreddit subscriptions on the top menu bar (old design) or on the left menu pane (new design).

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*Reset This PC (Continued from page 4)*

This process is very similar to [reinstalling Windows from scratch](#) or using a manufacturer-supplied recovery partition, but is more convenient.

**Under the Hood**

[Microsoft has explained](#) what's actually going on under the hood here. When you reset your PC and remove everything:

- The PC boots into Windows RE, the Windows Recovery Environment.
- Windows RE erases and formats the Windows partitions before installing a fresh copy of Windows.
- The PC restarts into the new copy of Windows.

When you choose to keep your files, the same steps occur. However, before erasing your Windows partition, Windows RE

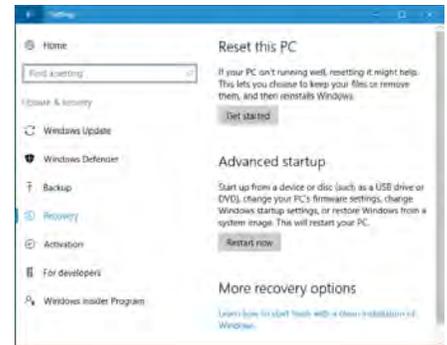
scans the hard drive for your files and personal settings. It places them aside, installs a fresh copy of Windows, and puts them back where they were found.

Whether you choose to keep your personal files or not, this process involves a completely fresh Windows system. That's why your desktop programs are erased.

**How to Reset Your PC From Within Windows**

To reset your PC to its factory default settings on Windows 10, just open the Settings app and head to Update & Security > Recovery. Click or tap the "Get Started" button under "Reset this PC".

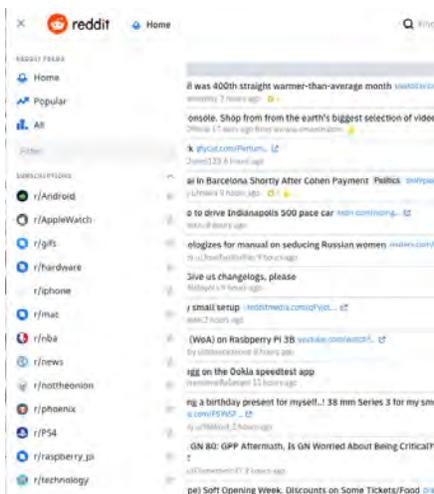
On Windows 8, head to Change PC Settings > Update & Recovery > Recovery to find [the equivalent "Refresh your PC" and "Reset this PC" options](#).



You can choose to either "Keep my files" or "Remove everything." If you select "Keep my files," Windows will reset Windows to its default state, removing your installed applications and settings but keeping your personal files. If you select "Remove everything," Windows will erase everything, including your personal files.

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*Reddit (Continued from page 4)*



**Voting in Reddit**

Now that you have a Reddit account and relevant subreddits you're subscribed to, you can start posting content, leave comments, and upvote/downvote other posts and comments.

Voting for an article or comment is easy. On every article or comment are up and down arrows. Simply click the up arrow to upvote and the down arrow to downvote.

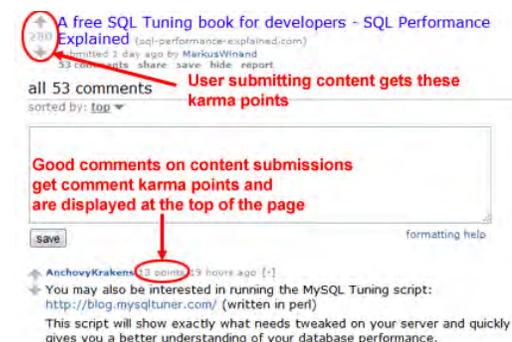


This is how Reddit's front page content is decided. If an article gets enough upvotes, it has a good chance of hitting the front page, amplifying its reach even further. Think of Reddit upvotes as similar to Facebook likes.

**Reddit Karma**

While you're at it, you can start accumulating "karma points." Although these points won't win you any awards, they are good indicators of how active and valuable you are on Reddit.

There are two types of Reddit Karma—link karma and comment karma. Whenever someone upvotes a link or a comment you shared, you gain a karma point. Conversely, whenever your shared links or comment is downvoted, you lose a karma point.



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Reddit (Continued from page 5)

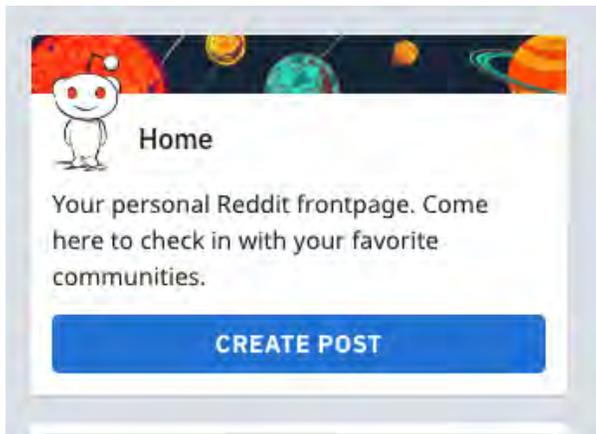
These votes are then tabulated and the total is displayed on your profile as your “Karma score.”

Active Redditors use this score as a motivation to contribute tons of quality content that people will like and leave relevant comments on other posts, as well. The karma score, meaningless as it can be, is actually a tool that keeps Reddit activity going.

How to share on Reddit

Once you get the hang of navigating Reddit, you’re probably ready to share your own posts. It can be anything—an article you find relevant and interesting, an image or a video that you want everyone to see, or even a simple text post.

To start sharing, click the “Create Post” button on the right-hand pane of your Reddit front page.



1. Sharing an article

To share an article, simply click on the link tab on the “Create a post” page then paste the web address or URL of the article you wish to share.

For example, if you find an article on Komando.com that’s worth sharing, just choose an appropriate community (subreddit), copy the article’s address, paste it into the box then hit “POST.”

Our cybersecurity articles, tips, and tech advice are good candidates for posting on Reddit so make sure you post anything that may catch your eye.



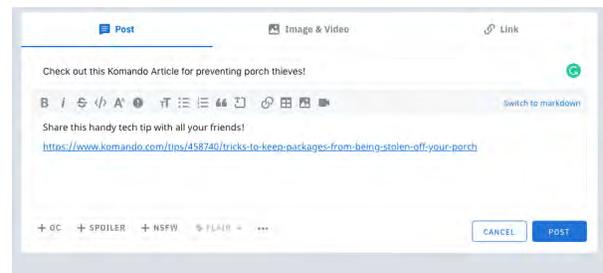
2. Sharing an image or a video

Sharing an image or picture on Reddit follows similar steps. Click on the Image and Video tab, then simply drag and drop your file (or browse for it via the Upload button). Select your community (subreddit), type in a title then click “POST.” Note: Certain subreddits don’t allow images or videos.



3. Sharing a post

Lastly, you can customize your own post and add links, images, and text (similar to a blog or a Facebook post.) Just click Post and you’ll see the familiar visual web post editor. As usual, just click “POST” when you’re done! 😊



Tip: Use an Emoji

Since the Win 10 Fall Creators Update, you can express yourself with emoji wherever you want, including conversations, docs, and even web searches. Press **Windows logo**

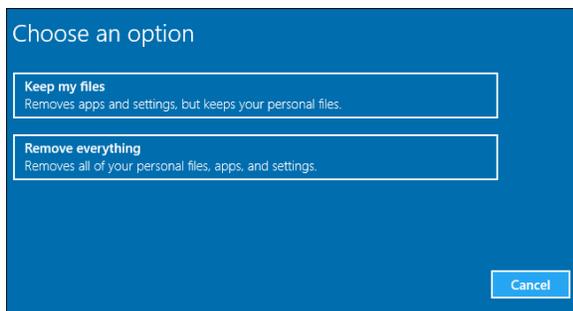
**key + period (.)** to open the emoji panel in a text entry field, then select an emoji. 😊



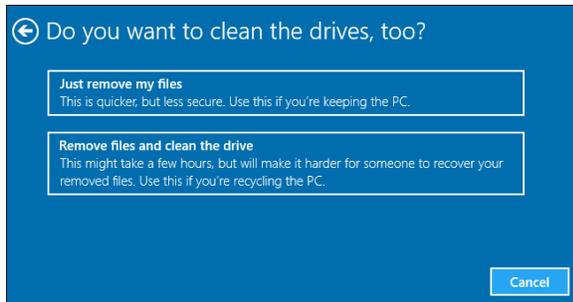
**Reset This PC (Continued from page 5)**

If you just want a fresh Windows system, select “Keep my files” to reset Windows without deleting your personal files. You should use the “Remove everything” option when selling a computer or giving it to someone else, as this will erase your personal data and set the machine to its factory default state. Either way, it’s a good idea to have backups of your important files before using this feature.

In Windows 8, the “Keep my files” option was named “Refresh your PC” and the “Remove everything” option was named “Reset your PC.” Windows 10 simplifies things by calling this process “Reset your PC” and asking what you want to do with your files.



If you choose to remove everything, Windows will ask if you want to “clean the drives, too.” Select “Remove files and clean the drive” and Windows will [copy data over the drive to ensure your deleted files can't be recovered](#). This is the ideal option to use when you’re selling or giving away the PC (or its hard drive).

**How to Reset Your PC From the Boot Menu**

RELATED: [Three Ways to Access the Windows 8 or 10 Boot Options Menu](#)

If your Windows PC isn’t booting properly, you can reset it from the boot options menu. We’ve covered [several ways to access this menu](#). However, this menu will also appear automatically if Windows can’t boot.

Select Troubleshoot > Reset this PC to reset your PC from the menu.

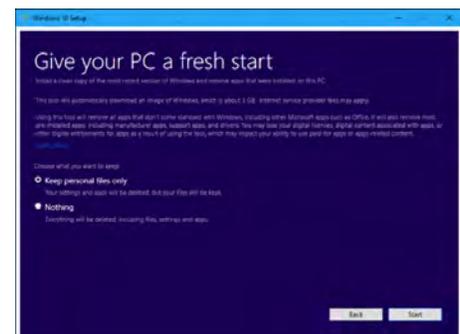
**How to Get a Fresh Windows 10 System Without the Bloatware**

RELATED: [How to Easily Reinstall Windows 10 Without the Bloatware](#)

The “Reset this PC” option is convenient, but there’s one big problem with it: if your PC manufacturer installed a lot of junk software you don’t want at the factory, resetting your PC will bring all that junk back.

Thankfully, with Windows 10’s Anniversary Update, there’s now an easy way to get a fresh-from-Microsoft Windows 10 system. Just click the [“Learn how to start fresh with a clean installation of Windows”](#) link on the Settings > Update & Security > Recovery screen.

The new “Give your PC a fresh start” tool will download a Windows 10 image straight from Microsoft and install it on your system, giving you a fresh-from-Microsoft system with none of that factory software installed. The hardware drivers you need should be automatically downloaded from Windows Update after you’re done. If you need a hardware driver or utility that isn’t automatically installed from Windows Update, you’ll find them on your PC manufacturer’s download site.



Windows 8 allowed you to [create a custom refresh image](#). Whenever you refreshed or reset your PC, it would use your custom image instead of the default one. For example, you could uninstall bloatware that came with your PC, install important software, or change system settings and then create a refresh image with the current system state. However, this option is no longer present in Windows 10— but the bloatware-less option is at least a nice consolation prize. ☺

## Alexa...What Can You Do?

By Phil Sorrentino, Sarasota Monitor, [www.thestug.org](http://www.thestug.org), [philsorr \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:philsorr@yahoo.com)



Alexa is a digital assistant. If you have access to an Amazon Echo or Amazon Echo Dot, ask Alexa "What can you do?" Alexa will tell you "A lot. You can tell me

to turn up the volume, play music, create a To Do list, or look up a topic on Wikipedia." Finally, it will suggest, "To find out more, check out the Things to Try page in the Alexa App." (If you don't have a device, befriend someone who has one and give it a try.) When you go to the Amazon Echo App and choose Things to Try, you will see quite an impressive list headed by "What's new?" (new things Alexa can do), and Echo Show (an ad for the new Echo Show device). And 28 more topics, alphabetically arranged, starting with "Ask questions," "Calling and messaging," and "Check your calendar." These are many of the things that you can try after you get over asking: "Alexa, what is the temperature," "Alexa what time is it," and "Alexa, tell me a joke."

A digital assistant is a complex piece of software that can perform many tasks or services for the user. A digital assistant typically includes access to large databases and includes Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities. The digital assistant software runs on a server, aided by the app running in the local device (smartphone, computer or dedicated device like the Echo). Remember client-server technology? Digital assistants typically are voice controlled and provide verbal and/ or action results (like answering a question or turning a light on or off). Amazon's Alexa is just one of the digital assistants that are finding their way into regular use. Others that you may be familiar with are Google's "Ok, Google," Apple's "Siri," Microsoft's "Cortana," and Samsung's "Bixby."



(Siri has been around the longest and appears to have the largest user base, followed by Google and Alexa.) All of these can provide answers to basic time and weather questions, and even basic information lookup questions. Alexa is unique in that it is accessed by use of the Amazon Echo, Echo Dot, or Echo Show devices, not by a computer or smartphone (though you need a smartphone to setup many of its capabilities). Google's assistant, which is like Alexa, can be accessed by a smartphone (or tablet), and the Google Home device. The Google Home device is like the Amazon Echo device.

Going back to Alexa's list of "Things to Try," there are many things that can be very useful in your daily routine, such as control of smart home devices, Control music, check your calendar, setting alarms, timers and reminders, creating ToDo and shopping lists. Some of these things are inherent and are part of Alexa, and some of these require additional support in the form of "skills." Skills are Amazon's term for additional support from a source other than Alexa or the Alexa App. To see a comprehensive list of these skills, just Google "Amazon Skills," and select "Amazon.com: Alexa Skills."

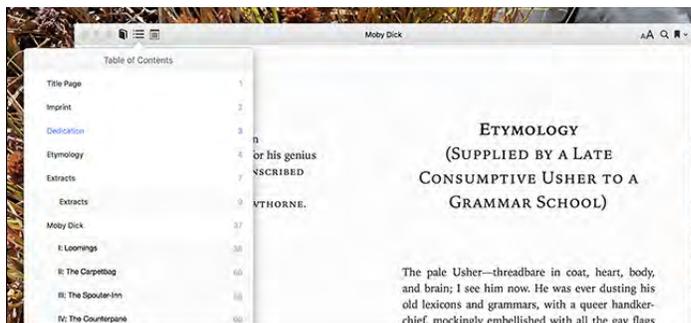
- Setting a timer is built into Alexa. All you have to do is say "Alexa, set a "name of timer" for "number of minutes," for example: Alexa, set a "cook the rice" timer for "15 minutes." In 15 minutes, Alexa will announce "cook the rice timer" is done." Alexa will continue to announce it until you acknowledge it by saying "Alexa, Stop." (I know battery operated kitchen timers are cheap and reliable, but you typically can't set them by voice.)
- You can also set alarms for specific times, like "Alexa, set an alarm for 7 in the morning." The alarm, when it occurs, is a pleasant sequence of gentle tones. Again, to stop the alarm tones, just say "Alexa, Stop."

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## Standard Ebooks Offers Public Domain Downloads That Aren't Ugly

By Justin Pot, reprinted with permission from [HowToGeek.com](http://HowToGeek.com)

Original article at: <https://www.howto geek.com/fyi/standard-ebooks-offers-public-domain-downloads-that-arent-ugly/>



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Not every public domain book you could imagine is offered, but a surprising number are, and it's growing thanks to a team of volunteers. My suggestion: if you want to read a classic book check [Standard Ebooks](#) first, then head to [Project Gutenberg](#) if you can't find a Standard version.

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☺

### Alexa (Cont. from page 8)

- Another nice feature built into Alexa is the ability to create and maintain a ToDo list and a shopping list. To add an item to the ToDo list just say, "Alexa add "item name" to the ToDo list, like "Alexa add check the oil" to the ToDo list. And similarly, to add something to the shopping list, just say "Alexa, add "food name" to the shopping list, like "Alexa, add Butter to the shopping list." After you make either of these requests, Alexa will respond and indicate that the item has been added to the requested list. Creating a list is all well and good, but the nice benefit here is that when you look at the Alexa App on your smartphone, your shopping and ToDo lists are there and immediately updated. So, now your shopping list is available the next time you are at the food store, and your ToDo list is available when you get to Home Depot parking lot and wonder why you drove there.

Another feature I found useful was the ability to check and maintain my calendar. Alexa can be set up to use many calendars, including the Google Calendar. Once the calendar is set up, you can inquire about the activities on your calendar just by saying "Alexa, what is on my calendar for today," or "Alexa what is on my calendar for the next two days." (Alexa can report the

activities on your calendar for today, tomorrow, or even four days from now, but will not report activities that happened in the past.) You can even add items to your calendar just by saying "Alexa add "appointment" to my calendar," like "Alexa, add "dentist next Tuesday at 10 in the morning" to my calendar." Alexa will respond that the appointment has been added for the desired date and time. And just as you would expect, when you look at your calendar, on your smartphone or computer, you will see the new appointment. And of course, you can delete items using Alexa. And, you still have complete control over the calendar with your computer or smartphone.

Home automation is another area where Alexa can be very useful. Home automation can take the form of controlling lights, locks, thermostats, and a security system. To accomplish these types of tasks, an appropriate Alexa compatible device and a "skill" for that device will have to be set up. But, once these things are in place, Alexa (as well as your smartphone) can control those devices. I set up a tp-link, Alexa compatible, LED light and obtained the tp-link skill, and once set up I was able to control the light just by saying "Alexa turn on (or off) the living room lamp". (Very cool, sure beats the old X-10 control system.) Maybe an Amazon Echo or a Google Home can help you with some of your daily activities. ☺

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



**Coming Events:**

**Next Membership Meeting: 2 June beginning at 9 am (see directions below)**

**Next Breakfast Meeting: 16 June @ 8 am, Country Buffet, 801 N. Academy Blvd.**

**Newsletter Deadline: 23 June**

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

