# Bits of Bytes

## The Prez Sez

**by Toni Logan, President, P*PCompAS**

I am in California as I write this. We drove across Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada, and stayed at a casino outside of Reno. We put a couple of dollars in a one armed bandit, although they really aren't that anymore. The weather has been great and we are having a good time visiting with relatives.

As far as computers go, we have used the free Internet at the various hotels/motels and have had no problems. Hope you all had a great time at the last breakfast and I am sure the July meeting will be interesting. I hope everyone has a safe and fun 4th of July. See you in August. ☺

## Meeting Minutes

**by Greg Lenihan, Meeting Scribe, P*PCompAS**

The 2 June 2018 membership meeting was brought to order at 9:00 am. President Toni Logan announced that coffee is free to first-time guests and a donation for others. Minutes published in the last newsletter were approved.

OFFICERS REPORTS

VP Cary Quinn stated he is working on new programs. Toni encouraged suggestions from the group and mentioned that Lynda. com is an available resource.

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**Next P*PCompAS meeting: Saturday, 7 July 2018**
Cary Quinn will surprise us with a topic.

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Treasurer Bill Gardner reported that at the end of May there was $3931.12 in the savings account, and after purchasing a hot water pot and power strip, we had $221.43 in checking for a total of $4152.55.

APCUG Rep Joe Nuvolini had nothing to report.

Newsletter Editor Greg Lenihan stated the next deadline was 23 June.

Membership Chair Ann Titus and Hospitality Chair Ilene Steinkruger had nothing to report.

Barista David George would be out of town for the next meeting and Greg Lenihan offered to make coffee.

Librarian Paul Godfrey, Media Chair AJ Whelan, and Drawing Chair Bob Logan had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Toni Logan asked people to bring in old items for the drawing. She also asked everyone to use a microphone when speaking so it comes out on the recording.

NEW BUSINESS

The next breakfast is Saturday, 16 June.

The next meeting is 7 July and Toni Logan would not be attending. Cary Quinn would conduct the meeting.

Joe Nuvolini volunteered to look for a wireless device (like Bluetooth) we could plug into the speaker. He lives close to ProSound and would see what they had available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Toni Logan showed an old PPCompAS new member packet she found when cleaning out some things. It was created by her late husband and she had it available for anyone to see.

AROUND THE ROOM:

An audio of this portion of the meeting is available by a link on our Website.

PROGRAM



At our June meeting, Cary Quinn covered the topic of privacy on the Internet. ☺

## Texting...Anyone?

*By Phil Sorrentino, STUGMonitor, www.thestug.org, philsorr (at) yahoo.com*

Texting is probably more popular than email. Here are some texting statistics I've read from various sources, though I can't really attest to their veracity. From my limited experience, it seems that they are likely accurate. 96% of smartphone users text; Texting is the most widely-used and frequently used app on a smartphone; Over 6 billion texts are sent in the U.S. daily; Texting takes up almost 15% of a cell phone users time; 90% of all text messages are read in under 3 minutes; The average Millennial exchanges an average of 67 texts messages per day; Americans exchange twice as many texts as they do calls; Only 43% of smartphone users use their phone to make calls, but over 70% text (I'm not too sure about that one); It takes the average person 90 minutes to respond to email, but only 90 seconds to respond to a text; Worldwide people will send 8.3 trillion texts this year, that's almost 23 billion per day or almost 16 million per minute. A compelling summary of how smartphone users view texting - they love it. And what's not to love. Texting is a great way of keeping in touch with people in an un-intrusive way. The receiver of a message gets a notification that a message has been received
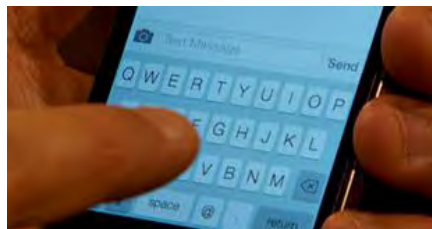
and they can choose to read it or not and answer it if need be. The notification can be a ringer-like sound or as subtle as a vibration of the phone.

Texting and emailing are similar but very different means of communicating. Email tends to be seen as information that can be responded to at a later date. Texts seem to have a sense of urgency attached to them. Maybe it's the way the notification affects us whenever a message arrives. The notification seems to be a lot stronger than just "you've got mail." Watch someone who is really hooked on texting. See how they typically just can't wait to get that phone in their hands so they can answer the text. For some of them, it almost seems like an addiction. For those of us who started with email, long ago, you may remember that instant messaging grew out of email as a way of having the message sent immediately, rather than having it sit waiting for the recipient to collect it. (You may have used AIM, ICQ or MSN Messenger). Texting is today's Instant Messaging. But of course, today you are not sitting at your computer all day, you are carrying your phone with you (all day) so you can be instantly contacted by a text.

Texting is being used for many different purposes. It is being used for personal, family, and social purposes among group members; and in business and government organizations for communications

## How to Fix All of Windows 10's Annoyances
**By Chris Hoffman, reprinted with permission from HowToGeek.com**
*Original article at: https://www.howtogeek.com/356642/how-to-fix-all-windows-10%E2%80%99s-annoyances/*

Windows 10 starts as a very annoying operating system. The Start menu is full of games like Candy Crush, advertisements are all over the place, and useless icons like People litter the taskbar. Here's how to eliminate all those annoyances.

### Get Rid of Candy Crush, FarmVille, and Other Junk Apps
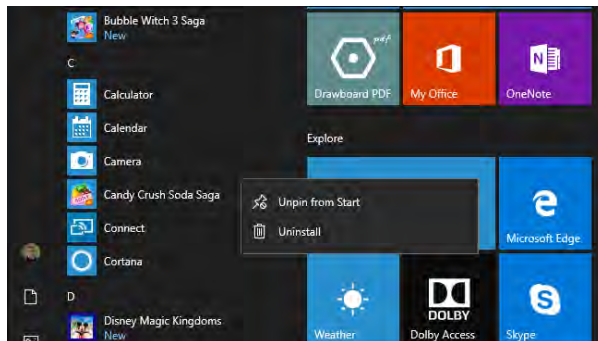


Out of the box, your PC includes apps you probably don't want. Every Windows 10 install starts with a Candy Crush game like *Candy Crush Soda Saga*. You'll also see other annoying apps like *Bubble Witch 3 Saga* and *FarmVille 2: Country Escape*. Thanks, Microsoft.

Just open your Start menu and scroll through the application list to see what's installed. To uninstall an app you don't want, right-click it and select the "Uninstall" command. The app will vanish until the next time you set up a new PC.

Unfortunately, there's no way to prevent Windows 10 from installing these apps without asking you.

### Throw Out Manufacturer Bloatware



While Microsoft is guilty of forcing Candy Crush on Windows users, PC manufacturers often install useless "bloatware" that can even slow your PC down while it runs in the background.

To get rid of this unnecessary software, head to Control Panel > Uninstall a Program or Settings > Apps > Apps & Features. Uninstall any manufacturer-provided applications you don't want on your system. Some applications may be hardware utilities that perform useful functions, but you probably don't need most of them.

If your system is completely packed with junk software, consider using Windows 10's "Fresh Start" tool to get a fresh Windows operating system. To find it, open the "Windows Defender Security Center" application from your Start menu, and then
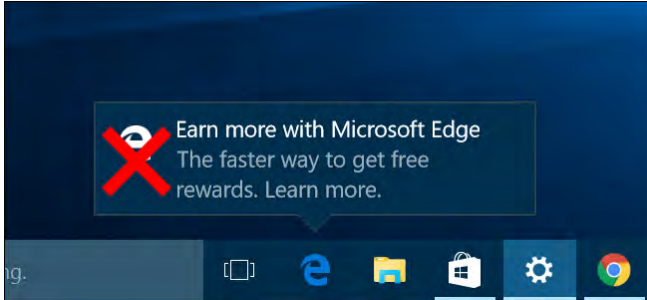
**The somber look by some of the digerati may have to do with the absence of our president and APCUG rep, who were traveling. But good food and fellowship soon brought laughter to the room.**

click "Device Performance & Health" in the sidebar. Click "Additional Info" under Fresh Start and click the "Get Started" button to continue.

**Disable All the Advertisements**



Windows 10 is packed with built-in advertisements. You'll see ads on your lock screen, suggested apps in your Start menu, taskbar pop-ups encouraging you to use Microsoft Edge, and notifications asking you to check out Office 365. Cortana occasionally bounces up and down on your taskbar with messages for you, the Solitaire game includes 30-second video ads, and even File Explorer recommends you use OneDrive. That isn't even a complete list of all the ads we've found.

Microsoft scattered the options for disabling these advertisements all over the operating system. Follow our guide to disabling all of Windows 10's built-in advertising to hunt them all down.

**Declutter Your Taskbar**



Windows 10's taskbar starts pretty cluttered. By default, you'll see a Cortana search box, Task View shortcut, People icon, and possibly Ink Workspace and touch keyboard buttons. Shortcuts to apps you may not use frequently, like the Microsoft

Store and Windows' Mail app, are also pinned to the taskbar.

To remove useless icons from your taskbar, just right-click them and use the options in the context menu. Select Cortana > Hidden to hide the Cortana shortcut. Uncheck the "Show Task View Button," "Show People on the Taskbar," "Show Windows Ink Workspace Button," and "Show Touch Keyboard Button" to hide everything else.

Even after hiding Cortana from the taskbar, you can still search with Cortana by opening your Start menu and typing. You can also still view the Task View interface by pressing Windows+Tab.

To unpin other shortcuts from your taskbar, like the Microsoft Store and Microsoft Edge, right-click them and select the "Unpin From Taskbar" command.

**Uninstall OneDrive (If You Don't Use It)**
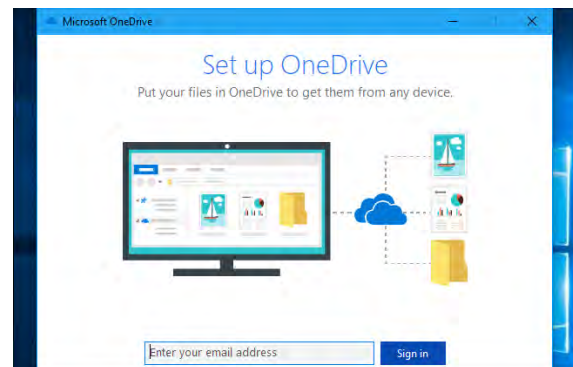


Microsoft's OneDrive cloud file storage service is noisy, too. If you haven't set OneDrive up, you'll see a pop-up asking you to do so every time you sign in to your PC.

If you don't want to use OneDrive, you can either stop OneDrive from launching at boot or uninstall it. A OneDrive shortcut still appears in File Explorer's sidebar after you uninstall it, but you can remove that by editing your Registry.

**Customize Your Start Menu Tiles**
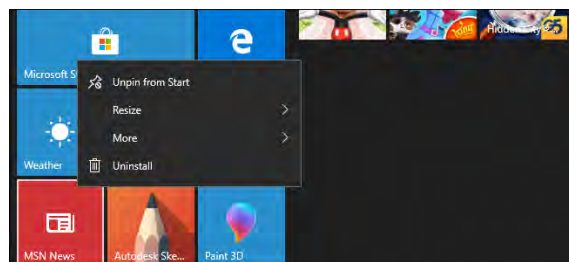
Windows 10's Start menu is filled with animated live tiles for apps you may not use. Every time you open your Start menu, you'll see news, weather, new apps in the Microsoft Store, and more.

To make your Start menu less annoying, we recommend unpinning apps you never use and don't care about. Just open your Start menu, right-click them, and select "Unpin from Start" to hide them. If you want a shortcut here but don't want the live tile, select More > Turn Live Tile Off instead.

After you're done, pin apps you do use to your Start menu. Just right-click them in the apps list, and then select the "Pin to Start" command. Once they're pinned, you can then move them around by dragging and dropping. You can make these tiles larger or smaller by right-clicking them and selecting Resize, too.

You can even resize your start menu to make it larger or smaller—just position your mouse over one of the edges (or the top right corner) and click and drag the start menu to enlarge or shrink it.

## Use Google (and Chrome) Instead of Bing (and Edge)
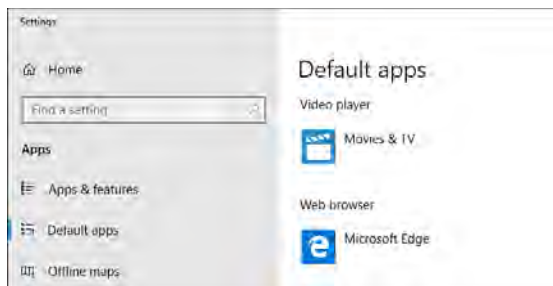


Statistically speaking, you probably don't want to use Microsoft's Bing search engine and the Edge web browser. You probably want to use Google and the Google Chrome web browser.

To make Chrome your default browser, install it, and then head to Settings > Apps > Default Apps. Click the "Web Browser" option here, and then select the "Google Chrome" option. You can then pin Google Chrome to your taskbar by right-clicking its taskbar icon when it's open, and then selecting the "Pin to Taskbar" command.

To use Google as your default search engine in Microsoft Edge, first visit Google.com in Edge. Next, click menu > Settings

> View Advanced Settings > Change Search Engine, and then set Google as your default. Cortana will still continue to search with Bing in Edge by default, even if your default search engine is Google and your default browser is Chrome. You can install the EdgeDeflector tool to force Cortana to search with Google—or just not use Cortana for web searches.

## Prevent Inconvenient Automatic Updates
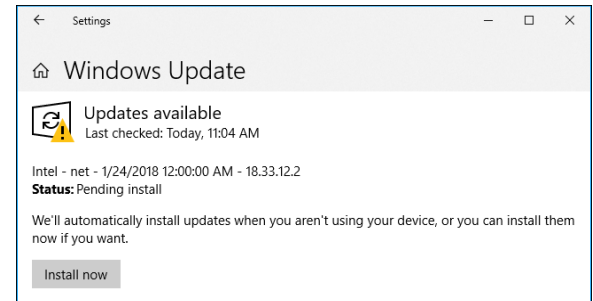


Windows 10 automatically installs updates when they're available, and there's no way to fully disable these automatic updates. However, you can set your network connection as "metered"—whether it's a Wi-Fi connection or a wired Ethernet connection. On metered connections, Windows 10 will ask you for permission before downloading updates.

You can set a Wi-Fi connection as metered by heading to Settings > Network & Internet > Wi-Fi, clicking the wireless network's name, and then toggling the switch under "Set as metered connection" to the "On" position. For wired network connections, head to Settings > Network & Internet > Ethernet and click the wired network connection's name instead.

You can also tell Windows not to install updates during certain hours. To do so, head to Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update > Change Active Hours. You can set up to 18 hours of the day when you're normally active. Windows will automatically install updates (and reboot your PC, if necessary) only during the hours you don't set as active hours.

## Stop Windows From Wasting Your Upload Bandwidth

Windows Update automatically uploads copies of the updates you download to other PCs over the Internet. This can potentially slow down your connection, and it will waste your limited bandwidth if your internet service
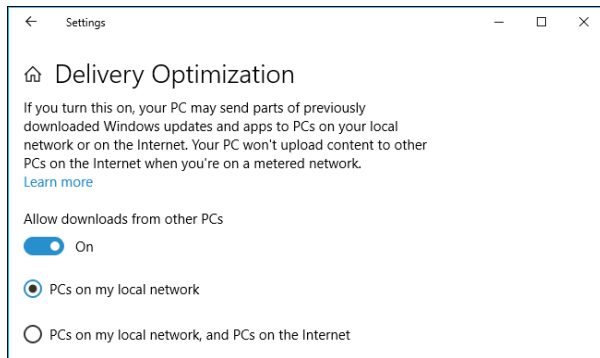
provider imposes a bandwidth cap on you, as many now do. All so Microsoft can save money on its bandwidth bills.

To stop Windows 10 from uploading updates, head to Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update > Advanced Options > Delivery Optimization, and then set the "Allow downloads from other PCs" option to "PCs on my local network." Your PCs will still share updates with each other over your local network, which will save you some download bandwidth.

## Add Color to Your Title Bars
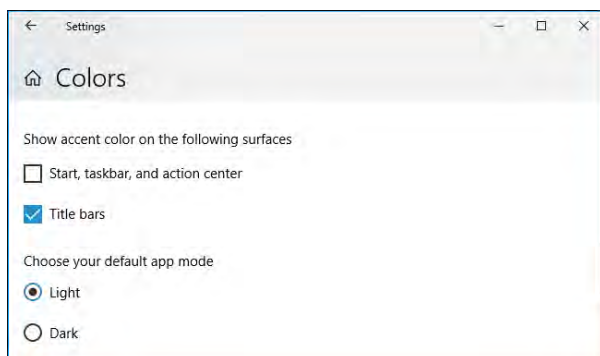
The standard window title bars in Windows 10 are white, which can get boring fast. To enable colored title bars, head to Settings > Personalization > Colors. Enable the "Title bars" option under "Show accent color on the following surfaces" here.

You can also select any accent color you like from here. By default, Windows will automatically select one that matches your desktop background.

*Note*: If you use a Microsoft account to sign into multiple Windows 10 PCs, Windows syncs many of your personalization settings by default. So, for example, if you turn title bar colors on or off on one PC, that setting will get synced to your other PCs.

## Disable the Sticky Keys Shortcut
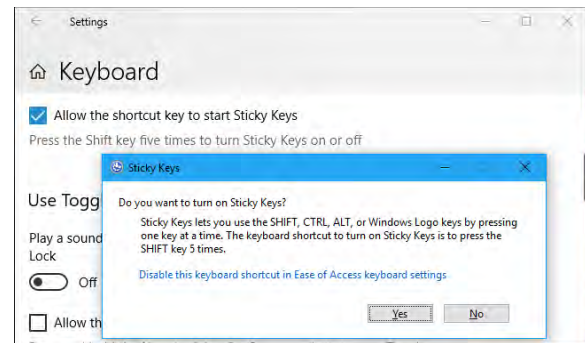
The Sticky Keys shortcut has been annoying Windows users for decades. It pops up and asks you if you want to enable the Sticky Keys accessibility feature if you press the Shift key five times quickly, and it's very easy to accidentally do this while playing PC games.

To stop this from happening, head to Settings > Ease of Access > Keyboard. Uncheck the "Allow the shortcut to start Sticky Keys" option under the "Use Sticky Keys" section. You may also want to disable the Toggle Keys and Filter Keys shortcuts while you're there.

*Note*: If you use a Microsoft account to sign into multiple Windows 10 PCs, Windows syncs your Ease of Access settings (and many other settings) by default. So, for example, if you turn the Sticky Keys shortcut on or off on one PC, that setting will get synced to your other PCs.

## Skip the Lock Screen
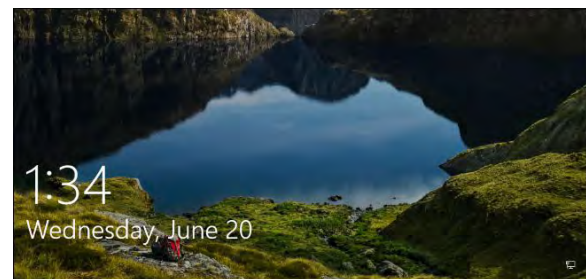
Sure, Windows 10's lock screen is pretty. The lock screen shows a nice-looking background image, and you can have Windows apps display information like the weather and any new emails you have on it. All of this can be configured from Settings > Personalization > Lock Screen.

However, for many people, the lock screen is useless and just something to swipe away before you sign in. If you never want to see

the lock screen, you can disable the lock screen via the Registry and have Windows go straight to the sign-in screen when it boots or resumes from sleep.

### Show File Extensions
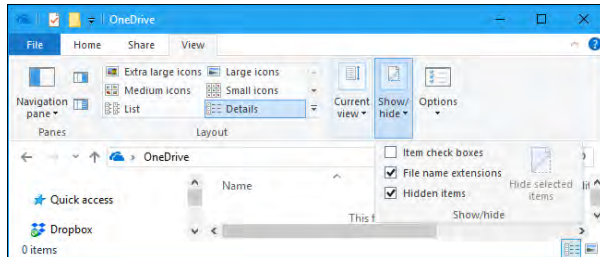


For some reason, Microsoft still configures Windows 10 to hide file extensions by default. This is especially bad for security—it's helpful to know whether that file is a document or a program before you double-click it.

To make Windows show file extensions, open File Explorer, click the "View" tab on the ribbon at the top of the window, and check "File name extensions" in the Show/hide section.

### Silence Notifications
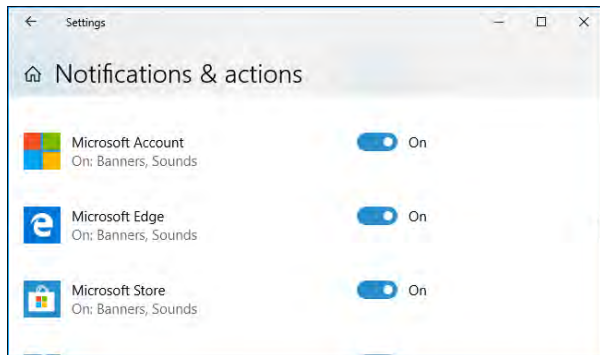


On any device, notifications can be useful—but they can also be very distracting. Windows 10 offers a one-click switch that disables all notifications, and you can also disable notifications for individual applications to prevent them from annoying you.

This will affect every single application that uses standard Windows desktop notifications, including traditional Windows desktop applications. However, some applications use their own custom notification pop-ups, so you can't disable their notifications from here. For those, you'll have to dig into the app's settings.

### Take Control Over Your Startup Programs
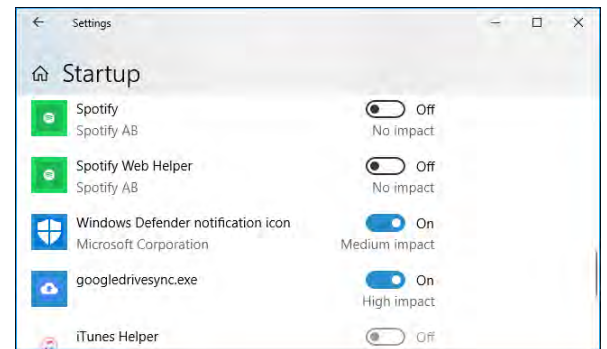


Startup programs can quickly get annoying on Windows. They make your PC take longer to boot, and they can also waste CPU and memory while running in the background. Even if your PC boots fast and runs well, startup programs can quickly clutter your notification area.

To prevent programs from launching at boot, head to Settings > Apps > Startup. Toggle applications to "Off" to prevent them from automatically starting. Be careful what you disable, though—for example, if you use Dropbox and stop Dropbox from automatically launching at boot, Dropbox won't start syncing your files until you launch it manually. You can also head to Task Manager > Startup to find these same settings.

### Hide the 3D Objects Folder
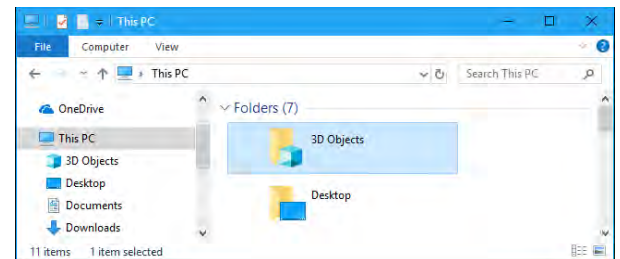


Is it just us, or is that 3D Objects folder in File Explorer really annoying? How many Windows users actually work with 3D objects enough to need this folder? We know Microsoft is trying to push Paint 3D, but come on.

You'll need to edit the Registry to disable the 3D Objects folder. You can also remove the other special folders from This PC, if you like.

### Make Windows Send Less Telemetry Data to Microsoft

Windows automatically sends some telemetry data to Microsoft, but you can limit what's sent. To

between colleagues. Texting originally referred to sending short (less than 160 characters) alphanumeric digital electronic messages using the Short Message Service (SMS), but it has been extended by the Multimedia Message Service (MMS) to include digital images, videos and sound, and now handles messages greater than 160 characters in length. So, texting is the use of these services to send and receive messages and attachments. And it's the texting app on your phone that knows how to use these services to send and receive messages. "Android Messages" is the app that comes on many Android phones. On an Apple device, it is Apple "Messages." But there are many texting apps available for both devices; just check them out at the Google Play Store or the Apple Store.

On the opening screen of your texting app of choice, there will be a way of starting a conversation. On Android Messages, you start by pressing the "+" to start a new conversation. Keep in mind, a text is sent to a phone number, not an email address. So, after your app is opened, you can begin a text, by typing the phone number of your intended recipient using the keypad, or you can find them in

your list of contacts. Although there is no 160 character limitation to the size of a text anymore, the size is probably limited by the fact that you are using a smallish keyboard on the smartphone's screen, where the keys are a lot smaller than the fingers that are poking at them, though I have seen some very fast and deft use of the keyboard with both thumbs moving swiftly across the screen.

Once the recipient's phone number is established, a conversation screen will appear on your screen with the keyboard towards the bottom. (Android Messages also gives you the option to make a phone call from this screen. Why not, it now knows the phone number.) First you create the text by typing the message. Many apps include a feature, sometimes called "predictive text," that attempts to help you with the words and spelling by showing you words it suspects you want. If the word you want shows up, you can touch the word and it will be included and you can go on to the next word. (If you must, special characters and emojis can usually be found somewhere on this screen.)

Once the message is complete, the last thing to do is send it. In this example, the Send command is shown as a paper airplane icon

with SMS below it. A short time after your text is sent, if your recipient responds, you will hear your familiar text notification. When you go back into the messaging app you will see the response to your text, as well as your original text. As you continue to interact with the same recipient, the "conversation" will show each of the texts and text responses sequentially. An interlaced series of texts will show up for all the contacts that you have interacted with. You can review this conversation, or any conversation that hasn't been deleted, at any time by choosing the appropriate contact after the app has been opened. You now have a history of all the text interactions with all your contacts that you have texted with. So, now as you have seen, texting is pretty easy to do, and is a great way to keep in touch, in real-time, with some of your favorite contacts. This is probably what has made texting such a popular way to keep in touch. So, maybe some of those surprising statistics are right, after all. ☺
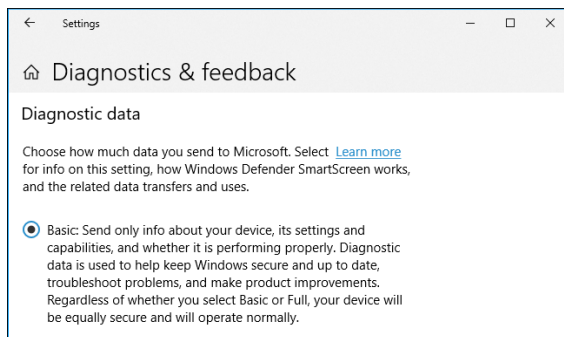
do so, head to Settings > Privacy > Diagnostics & Feedback and select the "Basic" level instead of the "Full" level. Your PC will still work normally, but it will send less data to Microsoft.

We think most people will be happier with a Microsoft account, but you can switch to a local user account if you prefer that. And, if you're the only person who uses your PC and it's located in a secure area, you can set up automatic login to eliminate the annoyance of typing your password on every boot. We don't recommend disabling User Account Control—it may be annoying, particularly when setting up a new PC, but it's a useful security feature.

Microsoft will keep adding more annoying features to future patches of Windows 10, we're sure of it. This will be a constant battle. ☺

## Tech Humor
### From around the Web

**Is this Giovanni's Pizza?**

CALLER: Is this Giovanni's Pizza?
GOOGLE: No sir, it's Google Pizza.
C: I must have dialed a wrong number. Sorry.
G: No sir, Google bought Giovanni's Pizza last month.
C: OK. I would like to order a pizza.
G: Do you want your usual, sir?
C: My usual? You know me?
G: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with 3 kinds of cheese, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, and meat balls on a thick crust.
C: OK! That's what I want …
G: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes, and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?
C: What? I detest vegetables.
G: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.
C: How the hell do you know?
G: Well, we cross-referenced your phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.
C: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.
G: Sir, you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you only purchased a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, 4 months ago.
C: I bought more from another drugstore.
G: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.
C: I paid in cash.
G: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.
C: I have other sources of cash.
G: That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.
C: WHAT THE HELL?
G: I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.
C: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, and all the others. I'm going to an island without Internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.
G: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired six weeks ago…

**Computer Sayings**

1. Home is where you hang your @
2. The E-mail of the species is more deadly than the mail.
3. A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
4. You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
5. Great groups from little icons grow.
6. Speak softly and carry a cellular phone.
7. C:\ is the root of all directories.
8. Don't put all your hypes in one home page.
9. Pentium wise - pen and paper foolish.
10. The modem is the message.
11. Too many clicks spoil the browse.
12. The geek shall inherit the earth.
13. A chat has nine lives. (Given that La Chat in French means a Cat, this is especially cute.)

I just got fired from my job at the keyboard factory. They told me I wasn't putting in enough shifts.

Autocorrect has become my worst enema.
☺

**P*PCompAS Newsletter**
**Greg Lenihan, Editor**
**4905 Ramblewood Drive**
**Colorado Springs, CO 80920**
**e-mail: glenihan@comcast.net**
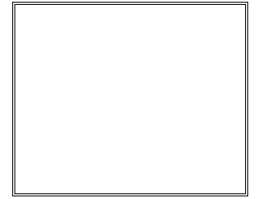
**Coming Events:**
**Next Membership Meeting: 7 July beginning at 9 am (see directions below)**
**Next Breakfast Meeting: 21 July @ 8 am, Country Buffet, 801 N. Academy Blvd.**
**Newsletter Deadline: 21 July**
**Check out our Web page at: http://ppcompas.apcug.org**