

# Bits of Bytes

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

Volume XXXVI

November 2016

Issue 11



## The Prez Sez

by  
Cary Quinn,  
President,  
P\*PCompAS

I don't need a card saying "Wish you were here" to wish I was in Las Vegas this week.

Hopefully I will get better than a card with a report on the 2016 APCUG Conference from those P\*PCompAS members who were able to attend. See you at the general meeting on November 5th. ☺



## Meeting Minutes

by Toni Logan,  
Secretary,  
P\*PCompAS

President Cary Quinn called the 1 October 2016 meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending. The coffee is free for first-time guests and thanks to Starbucks for the complimentary coffee.

The presentation for today will be a video from APCUG. The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

## OFFICER REPORTS

The Vice-President and Secretary had nothing to report.

The Treasurer reported that we have a total of \$6098.05 in the treasury. This includes interest from the credit union.

Newsletter Editor Greg Lenihan said that the newsletter deadline is

## Next P\*PCompAS meeting: Saturday, 5 November 2016

The presentation will be from APCUG Conference attendees returning from Las Vegas and maybe hear what they found at Fry's.

Saturday, October 22, 2016.

There were no reports from Librarian, Hospitality, and the Board of Directors.

The APCUG report was given by John Pearce via Joe Nuvolini who was in Italy. Joe was disappointed in the turnout for reservations to the APCUG conference in Las Vegas. He also reported that it was okay to install the anniversary update for Microsoft Windows 10.

OLD BUSINESS: None

## NEW BUSINESS

Cary Quinn volunteered to run for Vice-President next year. We still need a candidate for President.

The P\*PCompAS meeting for December will be on the first Saturday this year, so we won't have to make other arrangements like the past few years.

## AROUND THE ROOM

The audio of the business meeting and Around the Room is at: <https://app.box.com/s/v2ploppi8wo8j6s8rrukkqgxxiyxvd1ac>



Cary Quinn preparing for the video presentation at the October meeting

## PROGRAM

The program was a video presentation by Howie Poplock on customizing Windows 10.

## DRAWING

Compton Dictionary—Bob Blackledge  
Java Ex—John Pearce  
USB bus and cable—Cary Quinn  
Notepad—Barbara McMinn  
Backpack—Pat Krieger ☺

## Voting Ballot Information

Need to see what names and proposals you are going to see on your ballot? Ann Titus passes along this website:

<https://www.ballotready.org>

You enter in your address, and you see what is up for vote, and can obtain summaries and links to additional information. ☺

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**Librarian: Paul Godfrey**  
**Membership: Ann Titus**

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**Programs: Paul Godfrey, Toni Logan, and Peter Rallis**  
**Publicity: Harvey McMinn**  
**Nominating: Vacant**

## Board of Directors

**Norm Miller**  
**Bob Blackledge**  
**John Pearce**  
**Joe Nuvolini**  
**Peter Rallis**

## Find Out if Hackers Have Your Info

by Kim Komando (tip from 3/10/16)

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What do eBay, Michaels, and Adobe have in common? What about Target, Home Depot, Sony, Lenovo, Jimmy John's and even Anthem?

They've *all* had data breaches in the last few years. It's a club that's getting new members seemingly every other day, and it doesn't look like a trend that's going away anytime soon.

These hacks have exposed tons of sensitive customer information. Hackers have snagged millions of usernames, email addresses, passwords and even credit card numbers this way.

That means that your information could be floating around in hackers' hands somewhere. Don't panic! This site can tell you if you're in trouble.

HavelBeenPwned (<https://haveibeenpwned.com/>) is an easy-to-use service with a robust database of information that hackers and malicious programs have released publicly. It monitors hacker sites and collects new data every five to 10 minutes about the latest hacks and exposures.

Put in a valid email address that you use on other sites and HavelBeenPwned will take care of the rest. You can also enter in domain names, like eBay, to be notified in case of a sitewide disaster.

After you sign up, HavelBeenPwned will alert you if your email address shows up in any list of hacked information. It also displays the latest hack or

account compromise on the front page, so you can take immediate action to protect your compromised accounts.

If your e-mail address is out there, you can take steps to make your account passwords stronger. Of course, [you should be making them strong anyway.](#)

### Tip: Changing Desktop Icons

It is actually quite easy to change the image of icons on your desktop.

1. Right-click on the icon, and then click "Properties" from the context menu that appears.
2. Click the "Change Icon" button. Different types of links have that button in different places, but it is usually on the tab that is first displayed.
3. The "Change Icon" dialog box will appear. Again, depending on the type of link you are working with, there might be a collection of icons displayed in the window, or you might need to use the "Browse..." button to find them.
4. Click the icon you want to use, and then click the "OK" button to close the dialog box and save your changes.

There are several files in Windows that contain icons. One is shell32.dll, others are imagferes.dll and pifmgr.dll. They are located in C:\Windows\System32\.

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## Voice Control: HEY CORTANA, OK GOOGLE, SIRI & ALEXA

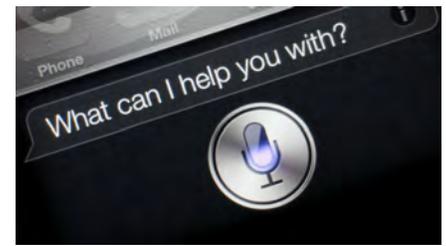
By Phil Sorrentino, The Computer Club, Florida, <http://sccccomputerclub.org>, [philsorr \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:philsorr@yahoo.com), [Philsorr.wordpress.com](http://Philsorr.wordpress.com)

Remember Dragon Naturally Speaking? It was, and still is, Voice Recognition software mostly used to control the operation of a word processor like Word. Certain words were used for very specific manipulation of the cursor and the text. Naturally Speaking came on the scene and became useful sometime around 1999 to 2003, depending on how much you needed to transcribe documents into the computer. Early versions had to be “trained” by the user to recognize their individual voice, and the speed and accuracy were sometimes acceptable, and sometimes not so much. Things have really improved since then; now the manufacturer, Nuance, claims in its advertising that “Dragon is 3x faster than typing and it’s 99% accurate.” So, Voice Recognition software has really come a long way.

(For those of you who are not familiar with Naturally Speaking, it has three primary areas of functionality: dictation, text-to-speech, and command input. The user is able to dictate and have their speech transcribed as written

text, or they can have a document synthesized as an audio stream, or they can issue commands that are recognized by the program.)

Naturally Speaking is an example of a local computer application or App. All the computing needed for it to operate is on the computer that runs it. Naturally Speaking doesn’t take advantage of Client-Server technology. If you attended one of our classes, you will recall that when an application is implemented with Client-Server technology, the heavy lifting (computer processing) is not done locally, but rather at a Server that is very powerful and very fast, but remote from the Client. The remote Server is connected to the Client by the Internet, which allows rapid movement of data between the Client and the Server. So the Client App runs on the local computer and is connected to the Server Software, running in the cloud, by the Internet. This combination provides the total Voice Recognition & Control System. The client collects input from the user and sends it to the Server where all the really complex computing is accomplished. The



Server analyzes the input and develops the responses and sends them to the Client where the results are presented to the user in audio and/or display formats.

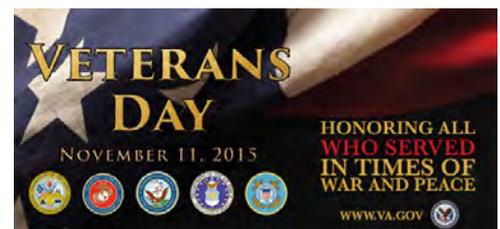
Naturally Speaking is certainly a useful product, but the voice recognition and control that has really gotten the attention of the public lately, are the intelligent personal assistants that are provided by some of the leading computer companies, Apple, Microsoft, Google, and Amazon. Apple was first on the scene with “Siri,” followed by Google’s “Ok Google,” then, with Windows 10, came Microsoft’s “Hey Cortana,” and finally Amazon’s “Alexa.”

All of these are Client-Server implementations. The Servers are somewhere in the cloud and the Client resides on your smartphone,

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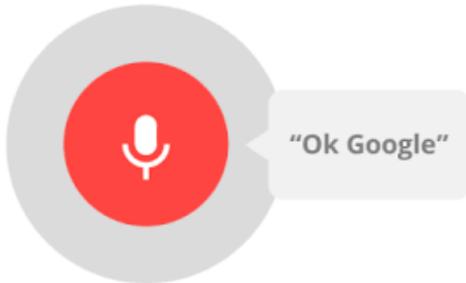


The digerati met for breakfast in mid-October and wished a bon voyage to Nuvo and Ilene. Both will be traveling to Las Vegas for the APCUG Conference. We hope they return safely with many stories and insights for the November meeting.



*Voice Control (Cont. from page 3)*

in the case of Siri and “OK Google,” or on your laptop (or desktop, or tablet) in the case of “Hey Cortana,” or on a special device that is placed centrally located in your home, in the case of “Alexa.”



All of these assistants use a Natural Language User Interface to answer questions. You'll need a microphone on your device to take advantage of this capability. The Client app, on the device, uses the microphone to listen for a “Wake Phrase.” After this phrase is recognized, the following intercepted speech is then sent to the Server where it is analyzed via speech recognition software, and converted to commands. The Server then uses these commands to gather answers to the original spoken inquiry. All of these assistants can make recommendations and perform various actions via their Server capabilities. (For example, a verbal request for the “weather” might yield various audible statements about the weather in your location. Or, a request for “traffic” might yield audible indications of the traffic in your location, or possibly maps indicating traffic problems. Or, a request for the best restaurant might yield a list of restaurants near your location. Or, if you have things set up, the statement “Add eggs to my shopping list” will yield an updated shopping list including eggs.)

Here are some descriptions (and advertisements) found for each of these Voice Recognition & Control Apps.

- Siri (Speech Interpretation and Recognition Interface) is a computer program that works as an “intelligent personal assistant” and “knowledge navigator”, according to Wikipedia. “The software adapts to the user’s individual

language usage and individual searches with continuing use, and returns results that are individualized,” also from Wikipedia. “Hey Siri” is the wake phrase, which can be turned on or off.

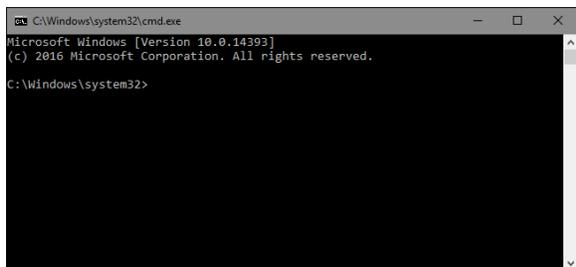
- OK Google lets you do things like search, get directions, and create reminders. For example “OK Google do I need an umbrella” to see if there is rain in the weather forecast. To use “OK Google,” make sure you have the latest Google Search App and turn on “OK Google detection” in settings.
- Cortana is an App with which you can use your voice to make a call, send a text message, search the web, or open another App. Cortana can help you schedule a meeting, set a reminder, and get up-to-date weather or traffic. (Note: you need a Microsoft account to use Cortana.) “Hey Cortana” seems to be tied to the “Notebook,” and thus is set up in the Notebook-Settings, which may not be obvious. (You get to the Notebook-Settings by clicking in the search bar on the Taskbar, then selecting Notebook [the square icon under the home icon], and finally Settings.)
- Alexa is the name of Amazon’s assistant that comes with the Amazon Echo. Echo is a wireless speaker and voice command device. The device consists of a 9.25-inch tall cylinder speaker with a seven-piece microphone array. “Alexa,” the “wake word” is always on and can be changed by the user to either “Amazon” or “Echo.” The device is capable of voice interaction, music playback, making to-do lists, setting alarms, streaming podcasts, playing audio books, and providing weather, traffic and other real time information. It can also control several smart devices. Echo requires a Wi-Fi Internet connection in order to work. The Echo must be plugged in to operate since it has no internal battery.

If these personal digital assistants are successful, many more may show up. I just read that the company that brought us the SoundHound App also has a personal assistant called Hound that they hope to embed in other applications so that those Apps can be voice controlled. Imagine setting up an Uber ride by voice. (If you will recall, SoundHound is like the Shazam App, just hum a tune and it will tell you the tune’s name.) With all these personal assistants around, we certainly will never have to feel lonely. ☺

## How to Run Command Prompt Commands from a Windows Shortcut

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

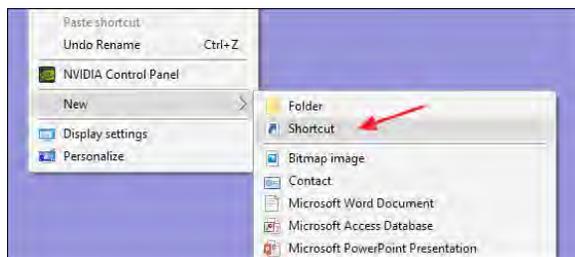
Original article at: <http://www.howtogeek.com/277403/how-to-run-command-prompt-commands-from-a-windows-shortcut/>



Shortcuts are great for giving you quick access to files, apps, and folders. But did you know you can also use them to run Command Prompt commands?

Windows gives you all kinds of ways to run command prompt commands. Sure, you could [open a Command Prompt window](#) and just type the command. You could also create yourself a [batch script](#) (or a [bash script](#) or [PowerShell script](#) if that's your thing). And frankly, if you're planning on running more than one command or you need anything complex, writing a script is a better option. But for simple commands, why not just create a double-clickable shortcut instead? Here's how to do it.

Create a shortcut by right-clicking anywhere in File Explorer or your desktop and choosing New > Shortcut.



In the Create Shortcut window, type your command using the following syntax:

```
"C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe" /k
yourcommand
```

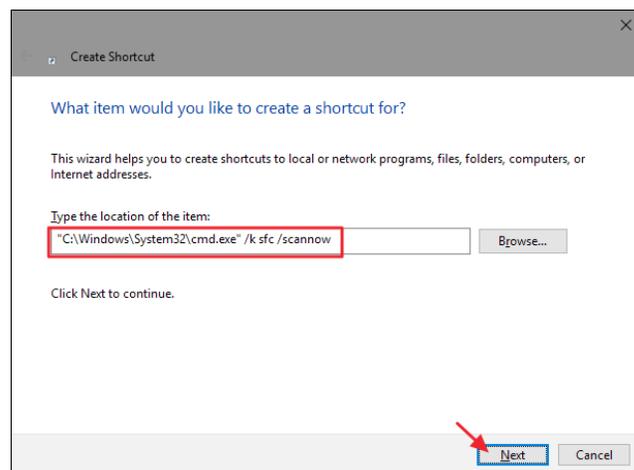
The first part (the part in quotes) just calls cmd.exe to open the Command Prompt. The switch /k tells Command Prompt to issue the command that follows, and then stay open so that you can view results or type followup commands. You can also use the /c switch instead /k (use only one of the switches) if

you want the Command Prompt window to close after issuing the command. And of course, the yourcommand part is the actual command you want to run.

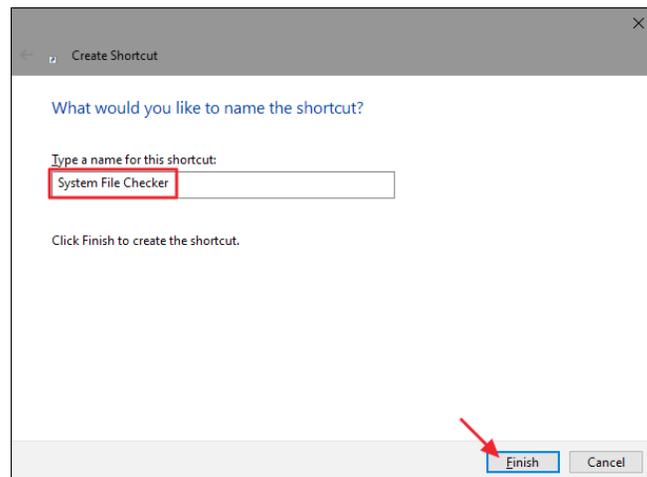
For example, if you were creating a simple command to run the system file checker to find and fix problems with your system files, you'd type the following:

```
"C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe" /k sfc /
scannow
```

When you've created the command you want to use, click "Next."



Type a name for the shortcut and then click "Finish."



Now, you can run shortcut instead of firing up Command Prompt and typing the command manually

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## What is 4G LTE?

By Matt Klein, reprinted with permission from [HowToGeek.com](http://HowToGeek.com)  
Original article at: <http://www.howtogeek.com/273745/what-is-4g-lte/>

You've heard it in commercials, seen it plastered across billboards, and maybe even read about it in your cellphone plan. But what is 4G LTE, and how do its speeds and coverage compare to other 3G and 4G networks?



### A History of 3G and 4G

To understand what LTE is—beyond “a really fast network”—we have to take a step back in time. You probably remember when [the 3G, or 3rd generation, standard](#) was a big deal in the 2000s—it made accessing the Internet on your phone significantly faster and more convenient.

3G is required to meet IMT-2000 (International Mobile Telecommunications-2000) technical standards, which means a peak download rate of 200 Kbps, or 0.2 Mbps. This may seem slow to you now, but at the time, it was enough to get your e-mail in a timely fashion.

Logically, the next step after 3G—the third generation of wireless mobile communications technology—would be 4G, or the fourth generation. The [ITU Radiocommunications Sector \(ITU-R\)](#) set some requirements as to what would constitute a 4G network: it must provide peak 100 Mbps downloads if you're using a mobile device such as a phone or tablet. More stationary devices, such as mobile hotspots, should provide peak speeds of 1 Gbps.

In more recent years, 3G has made some advancements. [High Speed Packet Access \(HSPA\)](#),

for example, can offer theoretical speeds up to 7.2 Mbps, and is often called 3.5G or Turbo 3G.

Then came 4G, in the form of [Evolved High Speed Packet Access \(HSPA+\)](#) and [Long-Term Evolution \(LTE\)](#). Both were marketed as “4G,” even though they didn't meet the ITU's standards—neither reached that 100 Mbps download rate.

LTE, however, wasn't just another improvement of 3G. It was meant to be more of an umbrella term given to the technologies designed to get us to the 4G standard. In other words, it's what 4G will be when the technology evolves enough to provide those speeds. It's 4G-Eventually.

As a way of compromising, the ITU-R decided that [mobile carriers could market LTE \(and HSPA\) as 4G](#), since they represented a

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### Command Prompt (Continued from page 5)

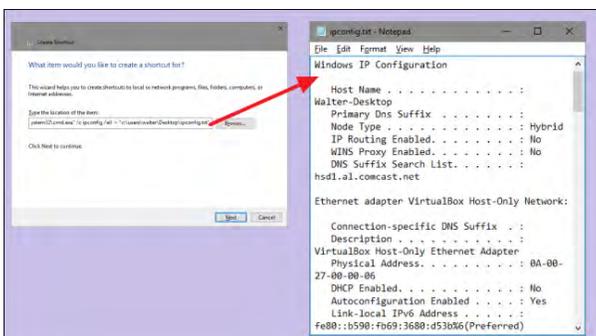
each time.

Another clever thing you can do is pipe the results of a command to a text file (or other program). For example, say we wanted to run the command `ipconfig /all`, have the results saved to a file named `ipconfig.txt` on your desktop, and have the Command Prompt window close after running the command. We could use the following to make that happen:

```
"C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe" /c
ipconfig /all > "c:\users\username\
Desk
```

If you use a single `>` for the piping command, Windows will overwrite the contents of the named file if the file already exists. If it doesn't exist Windows will create the file. You can also use a double `>>` instead to have Windows append the new information from the command to an existing file instead of overwriting the file. This is useful if you want to keep a history of the results of a command.

Once you have your shortcut set up, it's easy to run a command anytime you need to. And while you might still want to use a script for anything more complicated, running a command from a shortcut is great for simple one-off commands like [scanning for corrupt system files](#), [finding your IP address](#), [shutting down Windows without installing updates](#), and more. ☺



## How to Bookmark Your Favorite Sites

by Kim Komando (tip from 8/10/16)

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Q. Hi Kim! I found a new website the other day that I really loved, but it had a strange spelling. Now I can't remember what it was called. How can I find it?

-Daren from Nashville, Tennessee

A. Surfing the Internet is one of the most popular functions for computers, smartphones and tablets. The Internet is an endless source of information and fun adventures that allow us to expand our universe.

Here's something to know and pass along. There are approximately 1 billion websites for you to choose from. Wow!

It's easy to get lost down the rabbit hole when you're jumping from site to site. I'm going to show you how to use one of the best tools to keep track of your favorite internet destinations.

Bookmarking a website is easy but you'd

be surprised that not many people use it to its full potential.

Bookmarks make it simple to load sites that you frequently visit, or to save a page that you want to read at a later time. Too many people manually type the address of their favorite sites over and over, or they leave extra tabs open indefinitely.

So without further ado, I'm going to walk you through creating and organizing bookmarks. Once you learn how to do it, you'll be surprised how easy it makes your life.

### Creating Bookmarks

When you want to bookmark a site that you are viewing, simply press Ctrl + D on your keyboard. The page that you are on will be added to your browser's bookmark folder automatically. This works in every major browser except Safari. The shortcut in Safari

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### 4G LTE (Continued from page 6)

significant improvement over 3G and paved the way for true 4G speeds.

### How LTE Stacks Up in Speed and Coverage

Okay, we're done with the history lesson. Let's tackle the question that truly matters: What kind of speeds does LTE actually offer right now? Frankly, it depends on where you are and who you are using for your wireless service.

According to a report by [Open Signal](#), the average LTE download speed in the US is 9.9 Mbps while the global average is 13.5 Mbps. That's far off the ideal 100 Mbps 4G standard, but a marked improvement over old 3G speeds. In a race between the big four US wireless carriers, even the highest average speed (Verizon) was just over 12 Mbps.



Remember, that's an average. Your speed may be faster, or it could be slower. As you can see to the left, I used [Speedtest app on my iPhone 6S](#) (which is [available for Android as well](#)) on T-Mobile in Florida, and mine were much higher (albeit still way below 100 Mbps).

But it's not just about speed: coverage matters too. After all, if you never see that "LTE" icon in the menu bar of your phone, you won't ever get those highly-advertised speeds.

Coverage depends on your carrier. Each of the four major US carriers—AT&T, Sprint, Verizon, and T-Mobile—utilize different frequency bands, which is how they separate their signals from one another. A frequency band is a group of radio frequencies mobile carriers thus use to communicate with clients, i.e. your smartphone, and vice-versa.

LTE, in its current specification, allows carriers to deploy it on different frequency bandwidth

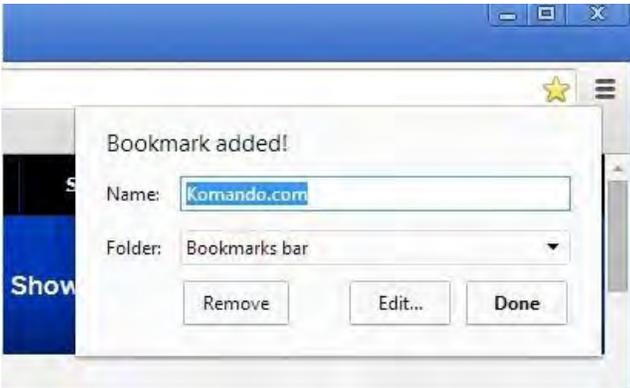
*Continued on page 8*

*Bookmark (Continued from page 7)*

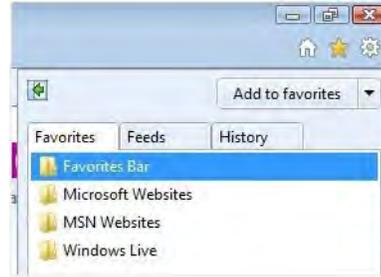
is Command + D.

If you are not a keyboard shortcut person, there are other ways to create a bookmark. Every major browser uses a star to represent bookmarks. It might show up in the address bar, or somewhere to the left or right of the address bar.

In Firefox, Chrome, and Safari, clicking the star automatically adds the bookmark to your bookmarks folder. Clicking the star again lets you edit the bookmark name and choose its location in your bookmarks, or delete it.



Bookmarking a page in Microsoft Edge is the same as its predecessor Explorer. Clicking the star icon opens the bookmarks menu. Then you click the “Add to favorites” button.



To bookmark in your default Android browser, simply press the menu button on your phone and tap “Save to bookmarks.” For iPhones and iPads, tap the “action” button, or + icon on older versions of iOS, and then tap “Add bookmark.” You’ll have to give a name to the page before you can save it.

### Organizing Bookmarks

Seeing your bookmarks is a little different in every browser. In Microsoft Edge, click on the star icon near the upper right corner and go to the Favorites tab.

For Firefox, click a clipboard next to the star icon and select Show All Bookmarks.



*Continued on page 9*

*4G LTE (Cont. from page 7)*

blocks. In essence, a bandwidth block is how much space a carrier allocates to a network. Currently, both Verizon and T-Mobile have dedicated the widest channels for their LTE from 10 MHz to 15 MHz, all the way up to 20 MHz.

Network coverage at lower frequencies, particularly the 700 Mhz range, will provide LTE access in more locations such as buildings and sheltered areas. In fact, in terms of coverage—measured by how much time subscribers are able to get an LTE signal, the top 3 carriers have almost reached parity.

According to the [oft-cited OpenSignal report](#), Verizon comes out on top, with nearly 87% coverage, followed by AT&T 82.6%, and T-Mobile at 81.2%.

Sprint comes in a distant fourth at 70%. Remember, these show the proportion of time subscribers get an LTE signal, not a geographic percentage of land—but that’s still quite good.

### The Future: LTE Advanced and 5G

That’s the present. So what about the future?

Mobile speeds will no doubt continue to advance and gain speed. [LTE Advanced](#) is the new standard companies are hyping, which promises to finally deliver “True 4G” speeds. So basically, LTE Advanced is what 4G was supposed to be all along.

[5G](#), meanwhile, will be the next logical step up from 4G. As you might guess, 5G stands for fifth generation, and is supposed to

promise speeds up to 10 gigabits per seconds—enough to download a full HD movie in mere seconds.

Unlike LTE, which occupies lower frequency bands, 5G can occupy both lower frequency bands and ultra-high bands. Using these higher bands means 5G won’t travel as far as 4G LTE and will need to be boosted to make it practical to a wide audience. None of this matters much at this point however, as the technical standards are still being worked out and won’t be finalized until 2020.

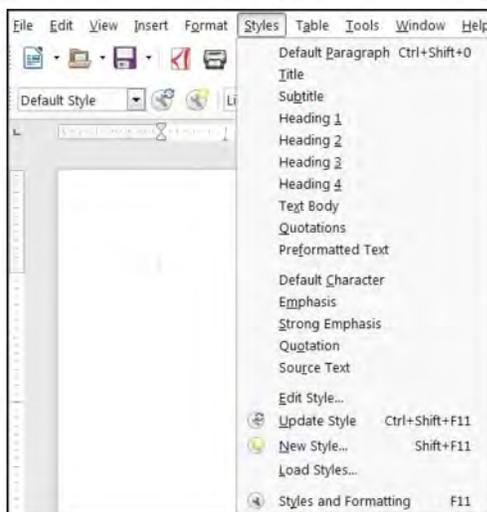
For right now, 4G LTE is good enough for the vast majority of mobile users, and will be for some time. Logically, if or when True 4G or LTE Advanced becomes the norm, it will suffice for a time while mobile providers roll out 5G and so on. ☺

## Open Source Lab: LibreOffice 5.1

By Cal Esneault, Cajun Clickers Computer Club News, March 2016, [www.clickers.org](http://www.clickers.org), [tsa70785 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:tsa70785(at)gmail.com)

LibreOffice, open-source office productivity software from The Document Foundation, is available for download at no cost for Windows, Mac OS, or Linux. It is an alternative to Microsoft Office (can read/write MS Office files) that started as a fork of OpenOffice.org in 2011. LibreOffice has a major “point release” every 6 months. I have previously reviewed versions 4.2 (June 2014) and 4.4 (April 2015) in the newsletter. Version 5.1 was released on 2/10/16, and I installed it on a PC running Windows 7.

Many changes from versions 4.0 to 5.0 have focused on modernizing the user interface including: thumbnails of recently used documents on the start screen, addition of a “sidebar” as a redesigned command feature, improved icon grouping, addition of new icon and theme sets, etc. While users get a choice among menus, icons, and panels to activate features, this leaves the editing space crowded. In this new version, a new main menu item has been added that seems to collect more common actions into a simpler group. Below is the new “styles” menu for the Writer word processor.



This selection is much simpler from the previous long lists shown when “styles” were selected. Similarly, a new “Sheet” menu has been added for the Calc spreadsheet programs and a new “Slide” menu has been added for the Impress presentation program (see examples of these menus below).



As a person who uses menus and sidebars much more than icons, I find these additional menu groupings to be a big improvement.

Go to the release notes to see the many minor changes. For example, LibreOffice can now open Gnumeric, Write, and Keynote 6 documents. As always, there is better compatibility with Microsoft Office files. If you have not updated for a while, I think this is worth the effort. You can check out the new LibreOffice at [www.libreoffice.org](http://www.libreoffice.org) to get a free download. Linux users may have to wait until the new version is in their repository. ☺

### Bookmark (Continued from page 8)

In Chrome, click the icon with the three horizontal lines in the upper right and select Bookmarks >> Bookmark Manager.

For Safari, the Bookmark folder is visible on the main screen.

Once you're in the browser's

bookmarks area, you can delete your bookmarks or organize them into folders.

One folder you should pay special attention to when organizing is the bookmarks bar (sometimes called the “bookmarks toolbar” or “favorites bar”). Any bookmarks in this folder will appear in a toolbar below the address bar in your

browser. That makes it a good place to put bookmarks you check multiple times during the day.

You can also create folders on your bookmark toolbar. Not only does this keep similar bookmarks together, if you middle-click on the folder, or right-click and select Open all, you can open all the bookmarks in that folder at once. ☺

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**Coming Events:**

**Next Membership Meeting: 5 November beginning at 9 am (see directions below)**

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

**Newsletter Deadline: 19 November.**

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

