

Bits of Bytes

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

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Issue 8



The Prez Sez

by Toni Logan,
President,
P*PCompAS

Hi all, I am back from my sojourn to the West Coast. Had a wonderful time visiting with my family. However, while on the trip, my laptop died on me. I had my son, Jim (who is a computer tech), check it out and sure enough, it was DEAD. Since I like to do my finances on the laptop, I bought a new Dell at Best Buy in Washington. It is sort of a laptop and a tablet, which makes it very nice. It is also compatible with my other Dell desktop. I used my iPhone for taking pictures and my iPad for keeping up with e-mail and watching baseball. It is good to be home and we are looking forward to the next meeting. ☺

Next P*PCompAS meeting: Saturday, 5 August 2017

The presentation will be about 3D printing.

Treasurer Bill Gardner provided the Treasurer's Report. We currently have total assets of \$6,034.83. Our June income was 45 cents.

Editor Greg Lenihan distributed copies of the current newsletter. The deadline for the next newsletter will be July 22, 2017.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

AROUND THE ROOM

The audio of the Around the Room is on the Society's website.

PROGRAM

The program was a Kim Komando video on her radio show, its history, and evolving business model.



FREE 2017 SUMMER VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (VTC)

Saturday, August 19
11:00 am – 2:00 pm MT

Attend the FREE conference from the convenience of your own home! All you need is your computer, tablet, etc. and Internet access. The sessions are 50 minutes in length and offer attendees the opportunity to ask questions via Q&A; the questions are answered by the presenter at the end of the presentation or via e-mail if there isn't enough time after the presentation.

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Meeting Minutes

by Bill Abell,
Secretary,
P*PCompAS

The 1 July 2017 meeting was called to order by Cary Quinn, in the absence of President Toni Logan. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President Cary Quinn announced that today's previously planned program on 3D printing would be presented at a later date, and that a variety of other programs are being looked at.

VP Cary Quinn introduced the video presentation in July



DRAWING

Boise Paper – Harvey McMinn, Ilene Steinkruger, & Dennis Conroy

DVD: National Treasure – Barbara McMinn

DTV Converter – Paul Godfrey
Book: *Is This Thing On?* – Roger Bouton

HP Monitor – Cary Quinn

Samsung Monitor – Bob Blackledge

☺

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Nybbles and Bits

by John Pearce, P*PCompAS



This month is just a few miscellaneous items that may be of interest. Do you know Colorado is ranked as the state with the second highest rate of malware infections? According to an article in TechRepublic, Colorado's malware infection rate is 143% above the national average. The data comes from Enigma Software Group which makes anti-malware software so keep that in mind as you read the [article](#).

The MP3 audio format has been abandoned by the German company that created it. The Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits made the [announcement](#) on April 23, 2017. Does this mean an end to MP3 files? No way! The MP3 format will likely exist forever. It appears that Fraunhofer is endorsing the AAC format as the MP3 replacement while other

sources indicate the MP4 format will be the preferred choice. How Stuff Works has an informative [article on MP3](#) with some historical background.

A generation of PCs sold in the last four or so years and which successfully upgraded to Windows 10 will not be upgraded to Windows 10 Creators Update (1703). PCs built with Intel's Atom Clover Trail series processors apparently are missing drivers that are required for successful installation of Creators Update. Apparently, the Clover Trail CPUs were used in entry-level systems and shipped with Windows 8/8.1. See the [Ed Bott Report](#) for the details. ☺

VTC (Cont. from page 1)

APCUG uses ZOOM for the VTC webinar presentations (www.zoom.us). If you have not participated in a VTC, go to <https://zoom.us/download> to download the app for the device you will be using to 'attend' the conference. You should also make sure you have the latest version of Zoom on your device. To register for this VTC, please click on the below link: <https://apcug-summer-2017-vtc.eventbrite.com>

TRACK 1

11:00 AM - Pi-hole, Raspberry Pi ad blocker - Don Arrowsmith

12 PM - Home Automation Security - Bill James

1 PM - Finding Tech Information on Medium.com - Kathy Jacobs

TRACK 2

11:00 AM - GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) - Why You Shouldn't Get Lost! - Bill Hobbs

12:00 PM - Chromebooks are for Seniors - Ron Brown

1:00 PM - Ideas for Revitalizing Your Computer Club - Judy Tylour ☺

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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.

Free Alternatives to Microsoft Word, Photoshop, and More

by Kim Komando at Komando.com (tip from 5/13/17)

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For years, people have grumbled about the price of software. Adobe products have always been expensive, and many customers were agitated when the company shifted to “Creative Cloud,” which meant a monthly or annual subscription. Meanwhile, Microsoft Office is a staple for computers everywhere, but the price tag often irritates people who just want a decent word processor.

Luckily, there are lots of free substitutes, and there are plenty of reasons people may turn to them. Some folks just can’t afford mainstream software. Others are starting new businesses and don’t want to invest in expensive programs that they can essentially get for free. Still, others are trying out new media for the first time, such as digital photography, digital audio or video, and they want to learn the basics before buying expensive packages.

Whatever your reasons, you’ll find a wide range of software alternatives. In years past, “alternative” programs usually

meant “lousy.” You’d end up with something buggy, watered-down, and incompatible with other services. Nowadays, that’s no longer the case. Many programs aren’t nearly as sophisticated as their expensive inspirations, and some users might argue that these offerings surpass them.

Here’s a list of costly and popular programs and their many free alternatives.

Microsoft Office

For decades, Microsoft Office has dominated homes and businesses around the world. The Office suite has everything you need: a word processor, spreadsheets, presentations and e-mail.

But many customers and college-bound students are surprised when their new Dell or HP doesn’t have Office installed. They’ve already shelled out money for a new computer, and now they have to spend another \$150 for the software to make it useful.

That’s where LibreOffice comes

in. This free, open-source software has what Microsoft Office has, plus some perks, such as templates and extensions. The word processor, called “Writer,” can handle documents from Microsoft Word, and the rest of the LibreOffice suite can upload and modify files from their corresponding Office programs.

[Click here to learn more about LibreOffice.](#)

Microsoft Publisher, Adobe InDesign

If you’re a professional designer, you’ve probably invested in heavy-hitting software like InDesign, because that has become the industry standard. But if you’re good at making brochures or newsletters, and you don’t want to subscribe to Adobe Creative Cloud, consider Scribus. The program gives you all kinds of easy-to-use design options, from business cards to magazines.

[Click here to learn more about Scribus.](#)

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The digerati met on the Ides of July to put a good day to good use. Nuvo was there early to set up tables and everyone had a good time with good company and good food.



Beginner Geek: Hard Disk Partitions Explained

By Chris Hoffman, reprinted with permission from HowToGeek.com

Original article at: <https://www.howtogeek.com/184659/beginner-geek-hard-disk-partitions-explained/>

Hard disks, USB drives, SD cards — anything with storage space must be partitioned. An unpartitioned drive can't be used until it contains at least one partition, but a drive can contain multiple partitions.

Partitioning isn't something most users will need to bother with, but you may need to work with partitions when installing an operating system or setting up a new drive.

What is a Partition?

Many drives come with a single partition already set up, but all storage devices are just treated as a mass of unallocated, free space when they contain no partitions. To actually set up a file system and save any files to the drive, the drive

needs a partition.

The partition can contain all of the storage space on the drive or just some of it. On many storage devices, a single partition will often take up the entire drive.

Partitions are necessary because you can't just start writing files to a blank drive. You must first create at least one container with a file system. We call this container a partition. You can have one partition that contains all the storage space on the drive or divide the space into twenty different partitions. Either way, you need at least one partition on the drive.

After creating a partition, the partition is formatted with a file system — like the NTFS file

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Free Alternatives (Cont. from page 3)

Microsoft Outlook

Outlook is very handy for electronic communication, and entire organizations turn to this program to support their e-mail servers. But Mozilla's Thunderbird is a free, powerful, lightweight email service that easily rivals its Microsoft counterpart.

[Click here to learn more about Mozilla Thunderbird.](#)

Quicken and Quickbooks Pro

Business owners are going to want the best accounting software. For complex number crunching, you'll want something powerful and intuitive, and Quicken and Quickbooks Pro are pretty much that.

But for personal finances, you may enjoy AceMoney Lite, a free program that handles investment tracking, bill reminders, and general checkbook balancing. This program is designed for individual households, so you don't get bogged down in abstruse functions you don't need. [Click here to get AceMoney Lite.](#)

There's also GnuCash, which

is great for home budgets but can maintain serious bookkeeping as well. If you need a free program for invoicing, accounts receivable, payroll and shipping, [GnuCash](#) is equipped to tackle all of these as well.

Photoshop

Let's face it: Photoshop is an overwhelming program, and unless you're a graphics pro who is *really* particular about your photos, or you want to manipulate your images in clever ways, there's no reason to have all those powerful features.

A free alternative is [GIMP](#), which enables you to heavily edit photos, create original artwork, and even help design websites. GIMP will never be as respected as Photoshop, but the software is very impressive and similarly complex.

If it's too complex, that's not a problem. [Click here for free photo editors that are beginner-friendly.](#)

Pro Tools

As more people record their own songs and podcasts, fledgling recording artists all want to know: How do they edit their work to make

it presentable? Most people aren't satisfied to post raw sound files to the internet, but Pro Tools and Audacity are expensive.

The reigning champion, after all these years, is still Audacity. This free, open-source software has helped many people make the transition into digital audio. It doesn't have nearly the options of Pro Tools, but you'll learn the basics of setting levels and mixing tracks. For simple projects with strict budgets, [Audacity](#) is a great option.

Avid and Premiere

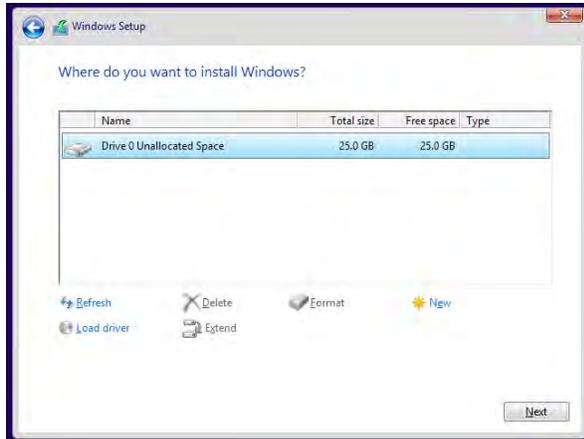
What do "The King's Speech," "Bruce Almighty," and "Road to Perdition" have in common? They were pieced together with a video editing program called Lightworks. Many Hollywood editors swear by it, and although they used the professional edition, the basic version of Lightworks is available for free.

Considering how expensive video editing software can get, Lightworks is a shocking alternative to blockbuster programs like Avid or Premiere.

[Click here for more information about Lightworks.](#) ☺

Partitions Explained (Cont. from page 4)

system on Windows drives, FAT32 file system for removable drives, HFS+ file system on Mac computers, or the ext4 file system on Linux. Files are then written to that file system on the partition.



Why You Can Make Multiple Partitions and When You Might Want To

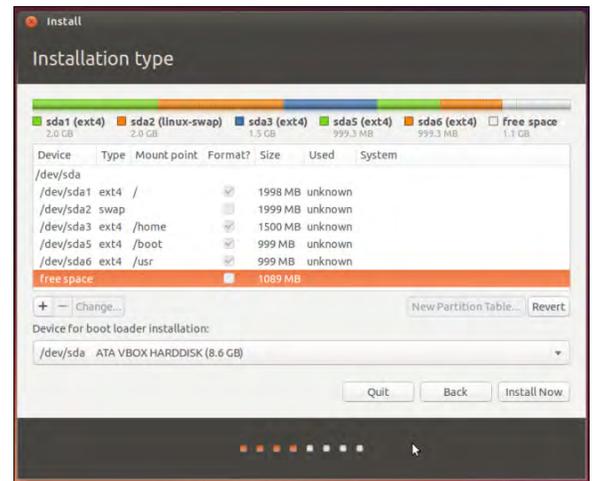
You probably don't want multiple partitions on your USB flash drive — a single partition will allow you to treat the USB drive as a single unit. If you have multiple partitions, multiple different drives would appear when you plugged your USB drive into your computer.

However, you may want multiple partitions for other reasons. Each partition can be isolated from the others and even have a different file system. For example, many Windows computers [come with a separate recovery partition](#) where the files you need to restore your Windows operating system to its factory default settings are stored. When you restore Windows, the files from this partition are copied to the main partition. The recovery partition is normally hidden so you can't access it from Windows and mess it up. If the recovery files were stored on the main system partition, it would be easier for them to be deleted, infected, or corrupted.

Some Windows geeks love [creating a separate partition for their personal data files](#). When you reinstall Windows, you can wipe your system drive and leave your data partition intact. If you want to install Linux on your Windows computer, you can install it to the same hard drive — the Linux system will be installed to one or more separate partitions so Windows and Linux won't interfere with each other.

Linux systems are generally set up with multiple partitions. For example, Linux systems have a swap partition that functions like [the page](#)

[file on Windows](#). The swap partition is formatted with a different file system. You can set up partitions however you like with Linux, giving different system directories their own partition.

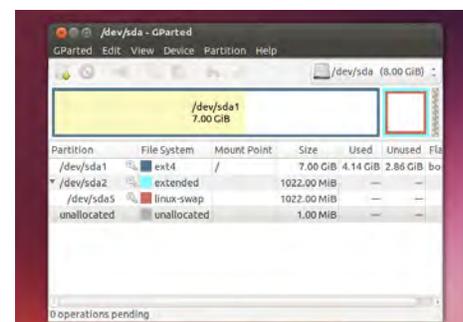


Primary, Extended, and Logical Partitions

When partitioning, you'll need to be aware of the difference between primary, extended, and logical partitions. A disk with a traditional partition table can only have up to four partitions. Extended and logical partitions are a way to get around this limitation.

Each disk can have up to four primary partitions or three primary partitions and an extended partition. If you need four partitions or less, you can just create them as primary partitions.

However, let's say you want six partitions on a single drive. You'd have to create three primary partitions as well as an extended partition. The extended partition effectively functions as a container that allows you to create a larger amount of logical partitions. So, if you needed six partitions, you'd create three primary partitions, an extended partition, and then three logical partitions inside the extended partition. You could also just create a single primary partition, an extended partition, and five logical partitions — you just can't have more than four primary partitions at a time.



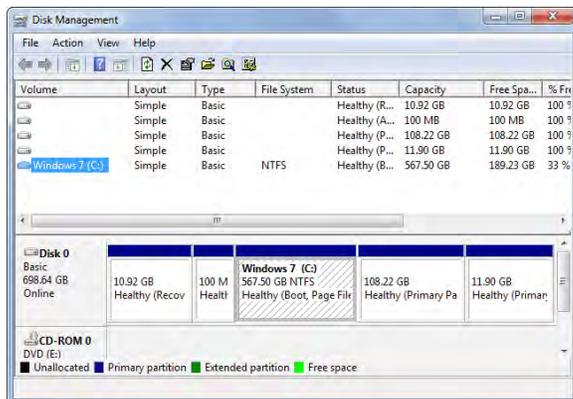
Continued on page 6

*Partitions Explained (Continued from page 5)***How to Partition**

Partitioning with graphical tools is fairly easy if you know what you're doing. While installing an operating system — Windows or Linux — your operating system installer will offer a partitioning screen where you can create, delete, format, and resize partitions. (Note that deleting or formatting a partition will erase all the data on it!)

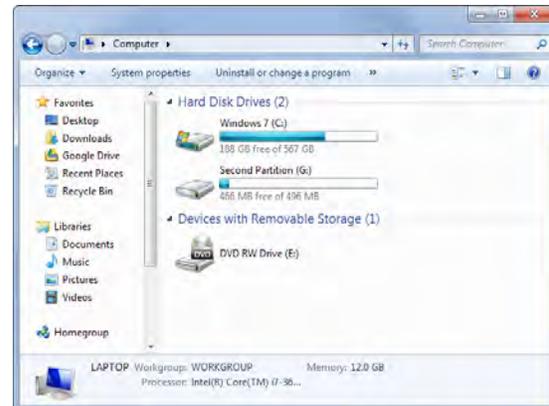
You can also use tools like [the Disk Management tool in Windows](#) and [GParted on Linux](#) to manage partitions on your system drive or other drives. You can't always modify a partition while it's in-use — for example, you can't delete a Windows system partition while you're running Windows from it! — so you may need to boot from a Linux live CD or use an operating system installer disk to make many changes.

These tools allow you to partition your system drives as well as other internal drives, external drives, USB drives, SD cards, and other storage media.

**How Partitions Appear as Disks, But Don't Offer the Same Performance Benefits**

Operating systems display separate partitions as separate drives. For example, if you have a single drive with 500 GB of storage on your computer, you'd have a C:\ drive with 500 GB of space available to you in Windows. But, if you partitioned that drive in half, you'd have a C:\ drive with 250 GB of space and a D:\ drive with 250 GB of space displayed in Windows Explorer.

These drives may look like separate physical devices, but they don't function that way. Although they appear as different disks, they're still the same physical piece of hardware. There's only so much speed to go around. You don't gain the performance benefits from using two separate partitions that you do from using two separate physical drives.



Most people won't have to worry about this, as drives generally come with a single partition set up, operating systems partition automatically, and so on. However, it's helpful to know how partitions work when you need to get your hands dirty. ☺

Tips to Try**Reopen a closed browser tab**

It happens all the time: You have a dozen tabs open in your browser. You mouse over them, click, and accidentally close the wrong tab.

You *could* open up your browser's history and reopen the tab from there, but many people prefer a macro, which can efficiently resuscitate your tab. In this case, just hit Ctrl +Shift+T on your PC or Command+Shift+T on your Mac to automatically reopen the tab you just closed. Now you can get back to your browsing without missing a beat.

By the way, when you want to close a tab quickly press Ctrl+W on your PC or Command+W on your Mac.

Stop autoplay videos on YouTube

You just watched an amazing video. You're reeling from the experience. You would love to savor this moment, but YouTube is already prepping the next video. In a few seconds, you'll have to watch something else, something you didn't ask for and is only semi-related.

Many people don't realize that you can easily stop YouTube's autoplay feature. The next time you play a YouTube video in your browser, look for the small Autoplay toggle switch on the right-hand side of the screen. Toggle it to the off position and it will go gray. From now on, YouTube won't automatically play another video when the one you're watching is done. ☺

Apps—By Google, By Gosh

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

Most of us know Google as a website we visit to get answers to all kinds of questions, but there is a lot more behind the company and the term Google. Google is a company, a website, a number, and a verb. The company, Google, began as a Research Project in 1996 to develop a Search Engine for web pages, and was incorporated in 1998. Google, the company, is currently valued at over \$82 billion. The Google website, which searches and prioritizes other websites, is available in 123 languages and has over 4.5 billion active users. Google, the number (actually Googol), is 1 followed by one hundred zeros or 10 raised to the 100th power. And Google, the verb, was first added to the dictionary in 2006.

But enough esoterica, we want to explore the Google computer Apps that can help us in our daily digital life. So, let me list many of them, and then we can delve further into a few that are very useful. There is, obviously, Google Search, and Gmail, Calendar, YouTube, Google Drive, Google Maps, Google Docs, Photos, Translate, Keep, News, Books, Shopping, Finance, and others. And all of these can be accessed through the Google website, just by clicking on the “All Apps” button on your laptop or desktop computer



All Apps

or, if they didn't come pre-installed on your mobile device, by downloading them from the Google Play Store.



Google Play Store



Google Search

Google Search probably needs the least introduction because it has been around the longest, and we have had it almost from the beginning of our use of the Internet. Google Search answers our questions, not with answers, but by providing an ordered list of websites that will, hopefully, answer our question. We then go to these websites with expectations of finding the answer, and most of the time we do. (Google Search's magic is really done long before we ask our question. It “crawls the web” 24/7, finding and ordering websites so that they can be suggested as places to find the answer, when we ask the question.) So, Google Search is really sewn into the fabric of our digital life, as evidenced by the fact that every time we need an answer, we think or say “just Google that”.



Gmail

Gmail is probably the second best known Google app. Gmail is a free, advertiser supported web based e-mail service that came out of beta in 2009 and currently provides its users with 15GB of e-mail storage space. It allows the user to send e-mails (with attachments) of up to 25MB to any known e-mail address. And it will receive e-mails (with attachments) of up to 50MB. Gmail currently has over 1 billion active users worldwide. Gmail is a great place to keep all your contact information which is then available to your smartphone while you're on the go.



Calendar

Google Calendar is a free time management and scheduling, web based, App. It allows the user to create and edit calendar events with start and stop times, which are then viewable by day, week, or month, on your computer or your smartphone. Google Calendar lets you combine multiple calendars including those for holidays and birthdays. The Calendar App on your smartphone can then help you answer the question, “Can you make an appointment three weeks from today, at 1 o'clock?” Just pull out your smartphone, start calendar, and all of your previously scheduled appointments will be shown, so you don't “double book” a time.



YouTube

YouTube, not originally invented by Google, but bought for over \$1.6 billion in 2006, is a free video sharing website. Registered users can upload video clips, TV show clips, music videos, movie trailers, etc. to the site and unregistered users can watch whatever is on the site. There are instructional videos for just about everything. Try it the next time you want to change the air filter in your car, or need to see a different cooking technique, or want to know more about Windows 10. Beyond education, there are many just downright entertaining videos available, with subjects like kids, puppies, kittens, and ponies.

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How to Reverse Look Up a Phone Number

By Chris Hoffman, reprinted with permission from HowToGeek.com

Original article at: <https://www.howtogeek.com/318012/how-to-reverse-look-up-a-phone-number/>

You get a call from a phone number you don't recognize. There's a good chance it's [just a scammer](#), but it could also be a legitimate business or a person you know. Rather than answering the phone or calling the number back, there are a few quick ways you can identify just who it was who tried to call you.

Search Google

[Google](#)—or another search engine, like [Bing](#) if that's what you're into—is the first place you should turn when you see you've been called from an unfamiliar phone number. Just plug that number into Google or your search engine of choice. You can type the number in

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Apps by Google (Continued from page 7)



Google Drive

Google Drive is a free cloud storage service with over 1 million users. It allows the user to store files on the Google Drive servers (in the cloud) and synchronize, or not synchronize, those files with all the user's devices. (File synchronizing (or syncing) is the process of ensuring that files on two or more devices are kept updated.) Google Drive provides 15GB of free storage and the files stored can be accessed by both your computer and your smartphone. And for Android smartphones, Google Drive has added a feature that lets you easily scan a document and upload it to Google Drive.



Google Maps

Google Maps is a Web-based mapping service that provides satellite and aerial imagery of almost any place on the globe; it also provides street maps of most populated areas. For certain cities, there are 360-degree panoramic street views. It also provides directions and route planning

capabilities for car, walking, and bicycling. The mobile app is available for Android and iOS and provides a turn-by-turn navigation capability.



Google Docs

Google Docs is a free Web-based suite of office applications. It includes a word processor, a spreadsheet app, and a presentation app. It allows the user to create and edit files online, and collaborate with other users. The files produced are compatible with Microsoft Office file formats. Google Docs is tightly integrated with Google Drive in that all files created by the apps are by default saved on Google Drive. Mobile apps are available for Android and iOS.



Google Photos

Google Photos, which was launched in 2015, is not only a photo-viewer app, it is also a storage and sharing service. It provides free unlimited storage, in the cloud, for pictures up to 16 megapixels in size and videos up to 1080p resolution. It analyzes photos identifying various visual features and subjects. Users can then search for photos based on

people, places, or things. (Google Photos has two storage settings: "High Quality" and "Original Quality." High Quality provides the aforementioned qualities. Original Quality preserves the original size of the photos and resolution of videos if they were higher than High Quality, but subtracts these from the users' Google account storage allocation.) 200 million users have uploaded over 13.7 petabytes of photos and videos. (Remember a petabyte is 1,000 terabytes and a terabyte is 1,000 gigabytes, so 1 petabyte = 1,000,000 gigabytes.)



Google Duo



Wallet

Google Wallet

Google provides many more services including a video conferencing app for smartphones, called Duo, that will finally let an Android phone video conference with an Apple iPhone; and Google Wallet, which lets you transfer money to another person with no cost to the sender or receiver. As you can see, Google certainly has a substantial presence in our digital daily activities. ☺

Reverse Look Up (Continued from page 8)

either the form “555-555-5555” or 5555555555 and you should see similar results.

If the number is associated with a legitimate business, you should see that businesses’ website appear in the first few results. If the number appears on that business’s website, you know it’s real.

If the number is a home landline phone number someone has registered through the traditional phone book system—in other words, if it would appear in a paper phone book (remember those?)—there’s a decent chance you’ll see that person’s name in the search results, too.

If the phone number is used by a scammer, however, you’ll likely see links to websites like whocalled.us, 800notes.com, and whocallsme.com. You can also visit these websites directly and plug in a phone number, if you like—but they’ll usually appear when you perform a normal Google search for a phone number associated with scams.

These websites allow users to comment, and people often leave comments about their experiences. Skim through them and, if the phone number has been calling a lot of people with a similar scam, you’ll get an idea that the number is associated with a scammer. You can [block these scammers from calling you](#) in the future, too.

Take the comments with a grain of salt and be sure to double-check whether it’s a real phone number associated with a legitimate business, if you think it might be.

Look Up the Number on Facebook

Not everyone knows this, but Facebook is actually an excellent way to perform a reverse lookup of phone numbers. Google usually won’t help you if you’re trying to find a phone number associated with an individual, but Facebook often will. You don’t even need to be Facebook friends with the person whose phone number this is.

That’s because Facebook has a setting that [allows people to be looked up by their phone number](#), and it’s enabled by default. Even if people hide their phone numbers on their profiles, they often allow people to find them using their phone number.

Just head to [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and type the phone number into the search box. There’s a good chance someone’s name will appear, if that phone number is associated with that

individual. If you see someone’s Facebook profile, they have that phone number associated with their Facebook account and you know who tried to call.

This won’t always work, as some people have disabled this feature and other people don’t use Facebook at all. But it will work a surprising amount of the time. If you see a “We couldn’t find anything for [number]” message, that number is either not associated with a Facebook profile or the person has disabled the lookup feature for their account. But really, it’s amazing how often this works—and it will work even when you can’t find the person associated with a phone number in any other way.

Find Public Information

Websites like whitepages.com can provide some additional information about a phone number. They’ll be able to associate a phone number with a person’s name and address if that information is available in the phone book—which it won’t be, for most phone numbers.

However, they’ll also be able to show you the geographical location where the phone number is registered, whether it’s a landline or a cell phone, and the phone company associated with the phone number. This information can give you some idea of who may be using a phone number.

This type of information is freely available on many different websites. Websites like these often ask for additional payment to try to find more information about a phone number—even the White Pages website does this—but we haven’t used these services and can’t vouch for them. We’d recommend sticking to the freely available information.

If you still can’t identify who tried to call you, you may want to try calling them back or just forget about it. They’ll probably call *you* back if it’s important. ☺

A Note to Members:

Someone at the last meeting was asking about printable calendars, like the old “Calendar Creator” software. Ann Titus says if you Google “printable calendars,” you should be presented with many results.

P*PCompAS Newsletter
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Coming Events:

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

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

Newsletter Deadline: 19 Aug

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

