

Bits of Bytes

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

Volume XXXVIII

January 2018

Issue 1



The Prez Sez

by Toni Logan,
President,
P*PCompAS

Happy New Year to all. This club has been in existence for more than 35 years and has seen the full gamut of computer technology. It is amazing to see us still meeting and sharing our many different computer interests and problems.

We had our election of officers for the coming year and I am happy to say that we retained all but one of our officers. Pat Krieger is the new Secretary, although she has held the office before, so she is not entirely new. The Volunteer Lunch will be held on January 27, 2018 this year as a thank you for all the members who volunteered in some way this past year.

Last month we were treated to an APCUG video and look forward this month to whatever the Program Chair has in store for us. I missed the breakfast in December, but hope there were a good number of you there. That is it for now; see you at the meeting. ☺



Meeting Minutes

by Greg Lenihan,
Meeting Scribe,
P*PCompAS

The 2 December 2017 Membership Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Toni Logan. A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes in last month's newsletter. Toni thanked Cameron at Starbucks for donating coffee, which is free to first-time guests.

Next P*PCompAS meeting: Saturday, 6 January 2018

The topic has not been announced.

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President Cary Quinn said today's presentation would be an APCUG technology conference video. The topic for January may be on social media, but nothing is set up yet.

Treasurer Bill Gardner stated that with interest and \$126 in dues, we have a total of \$5580.62. Next month we expect a one-time \$20 dividend from the credit union.

APCUG Rep Joe Nuvolini said we paid our APCUG dues and we are in the drawing for an Echo Dot.

Editor Greg Lenihan passed out a few copies of the newsletter and said the next deadline was the weekend after the breakfast (on Toni's birthday).

Membership Chairman Ann Titus said she is taking dues for the coming year, and asked that members check their addresses.

Barista David George reminded those that bring doughnuts to leave their receipt in the can for accounting purposes.

Hospitality Pat Krieger and Soundman AJ Whelan had nothing to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Logan thanked Stanley Rapaport for the items on the raffle table.

The Volunteer's Luncheon is on 27 January at Old Chicago's on N. Academy. President Logan would like to know if anyone is planning on bringing a guest.

AROUND THE ROOM

See the club's webpage.

OLD BUSINESS

President Logan said we would donate \$300 to the church for allowing us to meet in their room.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Gene Bagenstos presented the slate of 2018 club officers. Elected were:
President—Toni Logan
Vice President—Cary Quinn
Secretary—Pat Krieger
Treasurer—Bill Gardner
New BOD member—Ann Titus

PRESENTATION

Cary Quinn presented an APCUG video on Home Automation Security.

DRAWING

Ream of Paper—T. Logan, AJ Whelan, J. Wood
Pen— G. Lenihan
USB Adapter—C. Quinn ☺

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Officers

President: Toni Logan
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Vice President: Cary Quinn
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Secretary: Pat Krieger
pkrieger@centurylink.net

Treasurer: Bill Gardner
wgplace@comcast.net

Staff

APCUG Rep/Webmaster: Joe Nuvolini

Barista: David George
Drawings: Bob Logan
Editor: Greg Lenihan
Librarian: Paul Godfrey
Membership: Ann Titus

Committees

Audio: A.J. Whelen
Hospitality: Pat Krieger
Programs: Cary Quinn
Publicity: Cary Quinn
Nominating: Gene Bagenstos

Board of Directors

John Pearce
Joe Nuvolini
Peter Rallis
Paul Godfrey
Ann Titus

For Music Lovers

A club member passed along an e-mail with the links below that brought much enjoyment, and this person was nice enough to share these links with the club. Sorry, but if you're reading a hard copy of this newsletter, you won't be able to access the links. You'll need the digital version of the newsletter.

Artists:

- 1) Elvis Presley 2) Roy Orbison 3) Beatles 4) Abba 5) Bee Gees 6) Michael Jackson 7) John Lennon 8) Celine Dion 9) Frank Sinatra 10) Creedence Clearwater Revival 11) Julio Iglesias 12) Queen 13) Neil Diamond 14) Paul McCartney 15) Rolling Stones 16) Pink Floyd 17) Bruce Springsteen 18) Elton John 19) U2 20) George Harrison 21) Cliff Richard 22) Tina Turner 23) Bob Marley 24) Andrea Bocelli 25) Dire Straits 26) Barbra Streisand 27) Eagles 28) Madonna 29) Simon & Garfunkel 30) AC/DC 31) Bob Dylan 32) Dean Martin 33) Andr? Hazes 34) Tom Jones 35) Eric Clapton 36) John Denver 37) Eros Ramazzotti 38) Deep Purple 39) Led Zeppelin 40) Rod Stewart 41) Status Quo 42) Louis Armstrong 43) Fleetwood Mac 44) Bryan Adams 45) Jimi Hendrix 46) Barry White 47) Nat King Cole 48) Santana 49) Michael Buble 50) Gipsy Kings 51) David Bowie 52) Adriano Celentano 53) Robbie Williams 54) Charles Aznavour 55) Metallica 56) Doors 57) Shakira 58) Beach Boys 59) Cat Stevens 60) Bon Jovi 61) UB40 62) Joe Cocker 63) Whitney Houston 64) Phil Collins 65) Enrique Iglesias 66) Ricky Martin 67) Ray Charles 68) K3 69) ZZ Top 70) Van Morrison 71) Ringo Starr 72) Stevie Wonder 73) Gloria Estefan 74) Supertramp 75) Jethro Tull 76) Black Sabbath 77) Marco Borsato 78) Guns N? Roses 79) Neil Young 80) Chuck Berry 81) Billy Joel 82) Sting 83) Kinks 84) R.e.m. 85) Laura Pausini 86) Genesis 87) Who 88) Monkees 89) Animals 90) Simple Minds 91) Prince 92) Aretha Franklin 93) B.b. King 94) Iron Maiden 95) Pearl Jam 96) Christina Aguilera 97) Alice Cooper 98) Depeche Mode

Top 70 Songs:

- 1) Always On My Mind - Elvis Presley 2) Fernando - Abba 3) Dancing Queen - Abba 4) Oh Pretty Woman - Roy Orbison

Continued on page 3



The club has learned that former long-time member Pete Demario passed away in December. The club gives its condolences to Pete's family and loved ones.



VP Cary Quinn prepares to show an APCUG video at the December membership meeting.

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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.

Channel Your Inner Musician with the Best Free Audio Editing Program

by Spencer Williams at Komando.com (tip from 11/1517)

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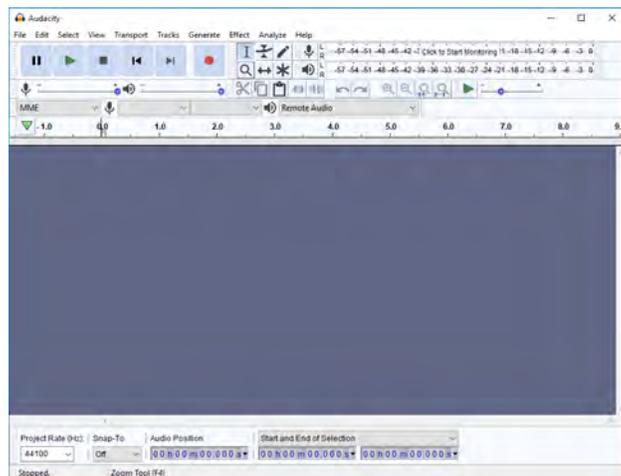
Is there a musician in you just dying to break out? Maybe you pick up a guitar every now and then but would love to edit some riffs into a song, maybe you have a few friends that play music and you want to try your hand at making an album. Or, perhaps you're just a fan of music and want to come up with your own beat. Today's download is perfect for music lovers of all types.

If you have ever tried editing audio files using a beat-maker or other professional software, you probably found it to be a bit daunting. Audio track editing can be very complex and some professional software designed for this task can cost hundreds of dollars. Luckily for you, we have found a free software that is perfect for professionals and beginners alike.

Edit music like a pro

Audacity is a free and easy-to-use open source audio editor. It can record live audio and computer playback, and even convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs. So dust off those vinyls! If you have the means to route the audio through your computer, you can use

Audacity to create a sound file for each track, so you can listen to them in your car or from your phone.



This is your blank canvas, just drag and drop music files to populate the area.

Adding audio tracks to the program is as simple as drag and drop, and aligning them works the same way. Use the numbers at the top of the screen to

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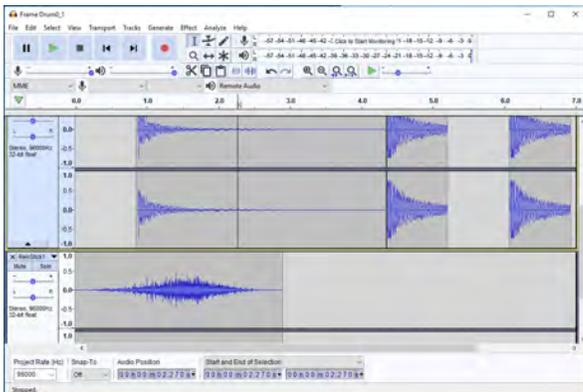
Music Lovers (Continued from page 2)

- 5) **Spanish Eyes** - Elvis Presley 6) **Are You Lonesome Tonight?** - Elvis Presley 7) **Chiquitita** - Abba 8) **Massachusetts**- Bee Gees 9) **Love Me Tender** - Elvis Presley 10) **Imagine** - John Lennon 11) **Suspicious Minds** - Elvis Presley 12) **California Blue** - Roy Orbison 13) **My Way** - Elvis Presley 14) **Billie Jean** - Michael Jackson 15) **In Dreams** - Roy Orbison 16) **Blue Bayou** - Roy Orbison 17) **Only The Lonely** - Roy Orbison 18) **I Have A Dream** - Abba 19) **Yesterday** - Beatles 20) **Mamma Mia**- Abba 21) **Thriller** - Michael Jackson 22) **Amazing Grace** - Elvis Presley 23) **Unchained Melody** - Roy Orbison 24) **Can't Help Falling In Love** - Elvis Presley 25) **Jailhouse Rock** - Elvis Presley 26) **Ave Maria** - Celine Dion 27) **And I Love You So** - Elvis Presley 28) **Blue Moon** - Elvis Presley 29) **Hey Jude** - Beatles 30) **I Started A Joke**- Bee Gees 31) **My Way** - Frank Sinatra 32) **Hotel California** - Eagles 33) **A Big Hunk O' Love** - Elvis Presley 34) **Bridge Over Troubled Water** - Elvis Presley 35) **The Winner Takes It All**- Abba 36) **Bad Moon Rising** - Creedence Clearwater Revival 37) **Ben** - Michael Jackson 38) **Waterloo** - Abba 39) **Stayin' Alive** - Bee Gees 40) **Words** - Bee Gees 41) **How Deep Is Your Love** - Bee Gees 42) **Crying** - Roy Orbison 43) **Blue Suede Shoes** - Elvis Presley 44) **Blue Christmas** - Elvis Presley 45) **Beat It** - Michael Jackson 46) **A Day In The Life** - Beatles 47) **Bohemian Rhapsody** - Queen 48) **Let It Be** - Beatles 49) **Only You** - Roy Orbison 50) **Sweet Caroline** - Roy Orbison 51) **A Hard Day's Night** - Beatles 52) **Bad** - Michael Jackson 53) **Earth Song** - Michael Jackson 54) **Woman** - John Lennon 55) **Imagine (live)** - John Lennon 56) **Heal The World** - Michael Jackson 57) **Stand By Me** - John Lennon 58) **Sweet Caroline** - Neil Diamond 59) **O Sole Mio** - Andrea Bocelli 60) **Bridge Over Troubled Water** - Simon & Garfunkel 61) **Man In The Mirror** - Michael Jackson 62) **Strangers In The Night** - Frank Sinatra 63) **Black Or White** - Michael Jackson 64) **Only You** - John Lennon 65) **My Sweet Lord** - George Harrison 66) **What A Wonderful World** - Louis Armstrong 67) **24 Horas** - Julio Iglesias 68) **Everybody Loves Somebody** - Dean Martin 69) **I Just Can't Stop Lovin You** - Michael Jackson 70) **Smooth Criminal** - Michael Jackson ☺

Audacity (Continued from page 3)

place tracks and the proper intervals. Music is math, so making a good rhythm is pretty easy if you follow the time stamp at the top of the screen.

With Audacity, audio tracks can be copied, spliced and mixed together using an intuitive stacking design. I made a simple beat myself in just minutes. Nothing amazing, just some drum symbols and a rain stick, but when you put it on loop, it doesn't sound half bad.



If you are looking for a fun new hobby or just want to try your hand at editing together some music, try Audacity first. Tutorials for the program are available on YouTube so you never have to feel lost. Good luck, and I look forward to hearing your first album.

Download for Windows: <https://www.audacityteam.org/download/windows/> ☺



Another Komando Tip: Erase Facebook History

Would you believe that Facebook keeps the same kind of records as Google? If anything, Facebook's data is even more personal, such as clubs and pastimes, because of the tidbits we share with our social network.

Facebook also mines when you've looked up an ex or a neighbor. If someone accesses your account, even by accident, that information is fully available.

Facebook tracks where you're logged in. You can erase that. Facebook also tracks you in photos. You can review all the photos tagged with you in them. To review these data points on your Facebook account, [click here for the steps along with other hidden Facebook settings to check.](#)

Fortunately, you can wipe away your Facebook search history with a few clicks. To clear past searches, log in to Facebook and go to the upside-down triangle in the top-right corner. Click on Activity Log. The Activity Log is where Facebook tracks your actions within the site.

In the left column of the Activity Log, under Photos, Likes and Comments, click on the More link. Then scroll down and click on the Search link. Here you'll see a list of every Facebook search you've ever made, organized by date. You can clear searches individually by clicking the crossed-circle icon on the right.

Then click Remove in the box that appears. To clear every search, click on the Clear Searches link located at the top-right of the list. ☺



Besides the good food and good fellowship, the digerati received a visit from Santa Claus. He walked into our room and said we had all been good, and was impressed by the turnout of our group. I suspect a few of us slipped out of the room to hold a private conversation with the big man to be sure he knew the make and model of the devices on our lists.

How to Turn an Old Android Tablet into an Auto-Updating Digital Photo Frame

By Michael Crider, reprinted with permission from HowToGeek.com

Original article at: <https://www.howtogeek.com/335161/how-to-turn-an-old-android-tablet-into-an-auto-updating-digital-photo-frame/>

When's the last time you touched your Android tablet? If it's been more than a year or so, it might be time to find some other use for that thing—after all, it's not like it's getting any software updates, right? Here's how to use it as a digital photo frame.

You could recycle it or use it as a kid's computer or [any number of other useful things](#), a photo frame is today's project—and not a lame digital photo frame, like you got at the office Christmas party back in 2008. We're talking about a high-resolution, Wi-Fi connected, auto-updating photo viewing experience. And more importantly, it's one you can set up at a family member's house, update remotely, and never have to think about again.

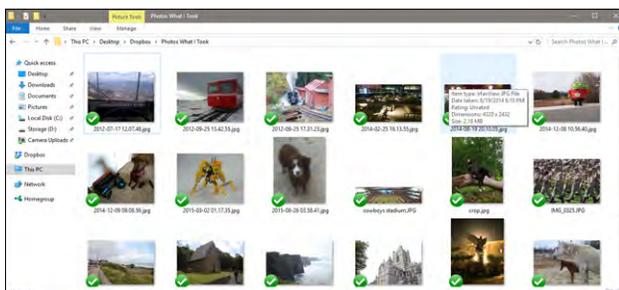
What You'll Need

To do this, you'll need just a few simple things:

- **A tablet stand:** because you need some way to display your project when you're done. [I like this one from Anker](#) (\$10), I've used it for years.
- **A tablet charger:** because you're going to plug it in forever.
- **A Wi-Fi network:** you'll want one for auto-updating the pool of photos from the web. Got all that? Great, let's go.

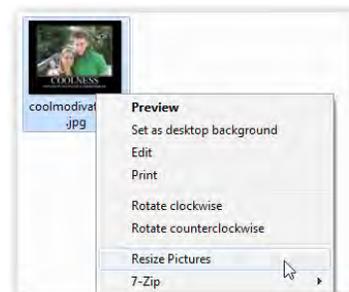
Step One: Put Your Photos On a Cloud Service

To start, you need to get all the photos you want together and stick 'em on the Internet. I prefer [Dropbox](#) for this option, but the app we're going to use also supports [Google Drive](#), [Google Photos](#), and local storage servers. If you already use something else, like [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#), you'll need a different app for your tablet...but surprisingly, a lot of the apps on the Play Store kind of suck. (Suppress your gasps of shock, please.) So it might be easiest just to use Dropbox here, even if you don't use it for anything else.



You'll want to make a single, specific folder in your Dropbox account (or other service) dedicated to the photos for your viewer. Then place the images you want to use in the folder. This is easiest to do on a desktop running Windows or macOS with the Dropbox syncing program, but you can also do it through a desktop web browser or even the Dropbox mobile app, if all your photos are on the device (or if you can download them there). But seriously, it's much, much easier on a desktop.

If you're running into storage limits for your photos, you can save tons of storage space by resizing them to the resolution of the tablet. Having the photos on cloud storage at full resolution isn't really practical anyway, since your tablet can probably only display a fraction of that size, and even the stingiest of online storage plans can hold thousands of photos at 1080p resolution. [Here's a handy tool for batch resizing photos on Windows](#), and [here's one on macOS](#).



Once you have all the photos you want in the right Dropbox folder, it's time to switch over to the tablet itself.

Step Two: Download and Set Up Fotoo

To turn your tablet into a photo frame, I recommend [Fotoo](#), a frame app on the Play Store that has a 4.3-star review rating. In my opinion, it has the optimum combination of features and ease of use. Oh, and it actually works, which I can't say for most of the dozen or so apps I tried during my testing.



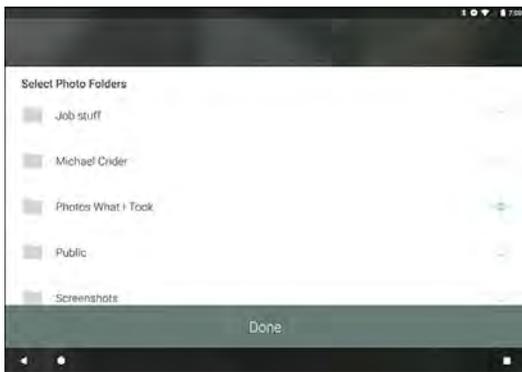
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Tablet to Picture Frame (Continued from page 5)

Anyway, [download and install Fotoo](#). It's free, but there's a \$2 upgrade to remove advertising (only in the menus) and add some extra transition options.

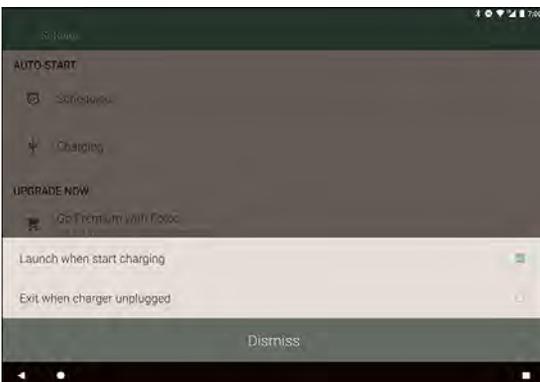


From the main menu, tap Dropbox, Google [Drive], Google [Photos], or Local [storage server]. Log in with the relevant account and you should be able to access the folder you created in Step one. You can also add any other folder on the account.



Step Three: Set Up Charging Tools

Now press the “Back” button until you get back to the main Fotoo menu page and tap “Settings.” There’s a lot of stuff you can tinker with here, and you should—it’s all pretty easy and self-explanatory. But the one setting you really want to enable is under “Charging.”

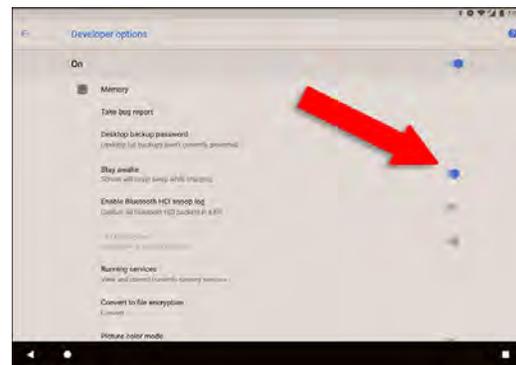


In the mini-menu, tap “Launch when start charging.” Now when you plug in the tablet (which is how it’s going to spend almost all its time as a photo frame), Fotoo will automatically start and begin its slideshow.

But there’s one more thing you need to take care of. Slide down from the top of the screen to open the notification bar, then tap “Settings” or the gear icon. If you haven’t done so, you need to [enable Developer Options](#). To do so, head to System > About Tablet, then tap on the item named “Build number” over and over again until you see the message “You are now a developer!”

You’re probably not a developer. It’s fine, your tablet doesn’t know that. I won’t tell if you won’t.

Go back one or two menus until you see “Developer Options,” and tap on it. Towards the top of the list you’ll see an option for “Stay Awake.” This will keep the screen on for as long as you leave the charger plugged in. Enable it.



Step Four: Display Your Tablet

OK, you’ve got your app all set up, and your tablet’s screen is set to stay on as long as it’s charging. Before you finish, make sure the place you’re planning to put the tablet has Wi-Fi access, and the tablet itself is up and running on the local network. You might also want to turn the volume for notifications all the way down to zero—nobody likes a noisy picture frame.



Now just set the tablet on the tablet stand somewhere decorative, and plug it into

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How to Get Detailed Information About Your PC

By Walter Glenn, reprinted with permission from HowToGeek.com

Original article at: <https://www.howtogeek.com/80108/how-to-get-detailed-information-about-your-pc-2/>

Sometimes, you need to find information about your PC—things like what hardware you’re using, your BIOS or UEFI version, or even details about your software environment. Join us as we take a look at a few Windows tools that can provide varying levels of detail about your system information.

Use the Settings App to Check Basic Info

If you just need a basic overview of your system, you can find it in your Settings app in Windows 8 or 10. Hit Windows+I to open the Settings app, and then click the “System” icon.

On the System page, switch to the “About” tab on the left.

On the right, you’ll find two pertinent sections. The “Device Specifications” section shows basic information about your hardware, including your processor, amount of RAM, device and product IDs, and the type of system (32-bit or 64-bit) you’re using.



The “Windows Specifications” section shows the edition, version, and build of Windows you’re running.

Windows specifications

Edition Windows 10 Pro
Version 1709
OS Build 16299.125

[Change product key or upgrade your edition of Windows](#)

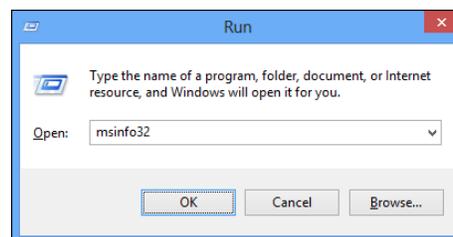
[Read the Microsoft Services Agreement that applies to our services](#)

[Read the Microsoft Software License Terms](#)

Use the System Information App for Hardware and Software Environment Details

The System Information app has been included with Windows since before Windows XP. It provides a much more detailed look at system information than you can get just using the Settings app.

To open up System Information, hit Windows+R, type “msinfo32” into the “Open” field, and then hit Enter.



The “System Summary” page you open up to already provides a lot more information than we saw in the Settings app. You can see details about your version of Windows and the manufacturer of your PC, along with hardware details like your BIOS version, motherboard

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Tablet to Picture Frame (Continued from page 6)

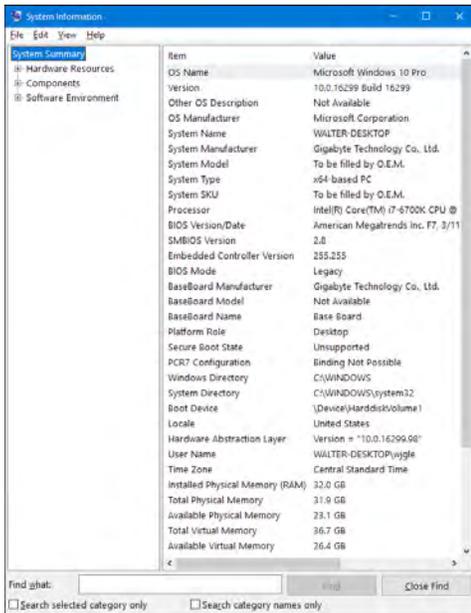
the charger. Fotoo will launch automatically. Adjust the brightness to your liking, and you’re done: you shouldn’t need to touch it ever again. Even if the power goes out

and it loses its battery charge, you can just turn it on, plug it in, and Fotoo will once again launch. The “stay awake” developer option will keep the tablet on for as long as you like.

Whenever you want to add photos to the tablet’s running slideshow, just drop them into the Dropbox/Google Drive/local server folder you created in Step one, and they’ll get folded into the slideshow. ©

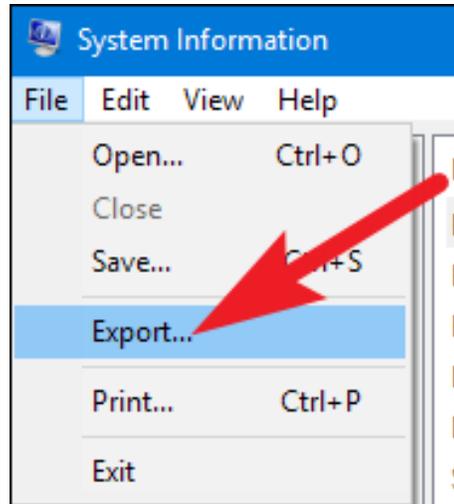
PC Information (Continued from page 7)

model, installed RAM, and more.



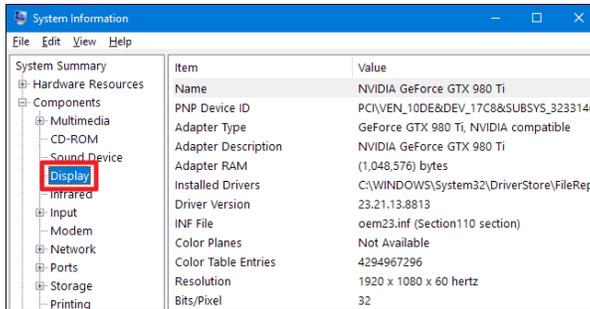
Information app. You can also select any specific node to have only the details for that node exported.

Next, open the "File" menu and click the "Export" command.

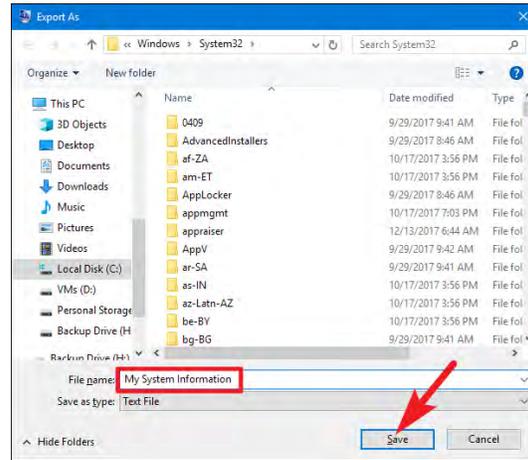


But that only scratches the service. Expand the nodes on the left-hand side, and you can dive into a whole other level of detail. A lot of this information, like the stuff you see under the "Hardware Resources" node is fairly esoteric. But, you will find some real gems if you dig around a bit.

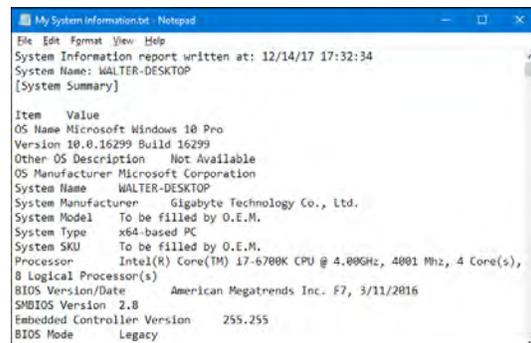
For example, click the "Display" component, and you can see the make and model of your graphics card, its driver version, and your current resolution.



Name the text file you'll create, choose a location, and then click the "Save" button.



Open up that text file any time to see all the details about your system.



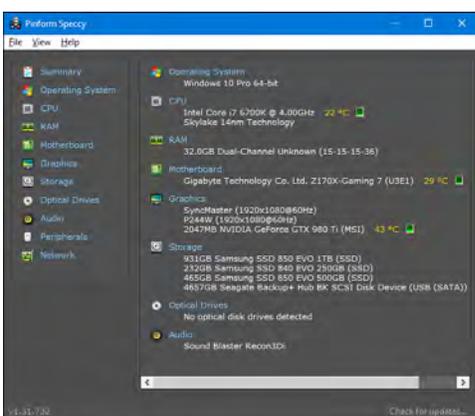
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PC Information (Continued from page 8)

Use Speccy for Better, More Focused Hardware Details

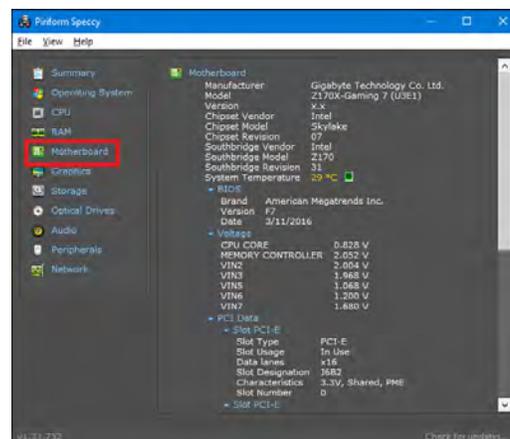
While the System Information app provides a lot of useful details on hardware and your software environment, if you're willing to download a third-party app, we recommend [Speccy](#) as a better option for most people. The free version works just fine; the professional version (at \$19.95) offers automatic updates and premium support if you feel you need those features.

Speccy provides a cleaner interface than the System Information app, focusing on just the hardware specs for your system—and providing additional specs that System Information does not. Even on the “Summary” page in Speccy, you can see that it includes temperature monitors for various components. It also provides extra details—like your [motherboard's model number](#)—that System Information skips. The “Summary” page also includes vital information like graphics card and storage details right up front.



And, of course, you can dive deeper by clicking any of the specific hardware categories to the left. Clicking the “RAM” category gives you additional details about your installed memory, including the total number of memory slots you have and how many are in use. You can also see details about your RAM, including the type of memory used, channels, and latency details.

Switching over the “Motherboard” channel, you can see details about your motherboard's manufacturer, model number, what chipset is in use, voltage and temperature details for various components, and even what type of PCI slots your motherboard features (and whether they're in use or free).



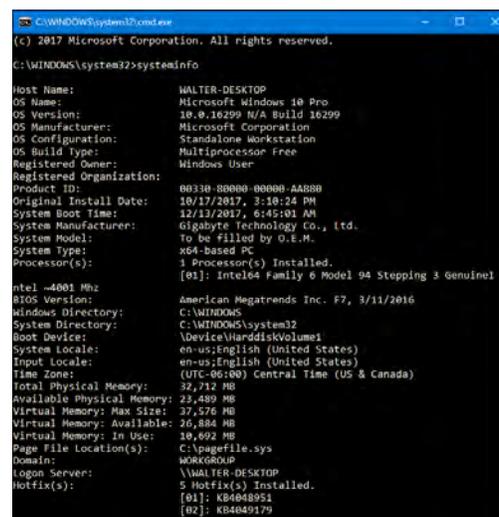
Use the Command Prompt When You Can't Boot Into Windows Normally

Windows also has a command available for seeing a fair bit of system information right at the command prompt. While it doesn't include as many details as the System Information app—and is arguably a bit harder to use—the command is useful in the event that you can only boot your PC to a command prompt window.

Type the following command at the prompt, and then hit Enter:

```
systeminfo
```

You'll get a number of useful details about your OS build and version, processor, BIOS version, boot drive, memory, and network details.



Of course, you can also find other third-party tools that deliver even more (or better targeted) information. For example, HWMonitor is a great tool for monitoring various aspects of your system like CPU and GPU temperatures and voltages. The Sysinternals Suite from Mark Russinovich (owned by Microsoft) is a collection of more than 60 individual tools that can provide you with a startling amount of information. ☺

P*PCompAS Newsletter
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e-mail: glenihan@comcast.net



Coming Events:

Next Membership Meeting: 6 Jan beginning at 9 am (see directions below)

Next Breakfast Meeting: 20 Jan @ 8 am, Country Buffet, 801 N. Academy Blvd.

Newsletter Deadline: 20 Jan

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

