Random Bits

ECOTUC
East Central Ohio Technology Users Club

In This Issue

NOW SHOWING

Coming Attractions

This Month's Meeting

Our annual picnic will be Sunday, July 19, 2015. Assemble for the July picnic at 1:30 PM, with food/picnic to be start at 2:00 PM sharp.

Club will furnish Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Brats, plates, fork/knife/spoon, cups and miscellaneous beverages. Members are asked to bring all other picnic side dishes.

Raffle: Dave Rauch reminds us of the $1.00 Raffle tickets being sold. The lucky ticket will win a 7" Samsung Galaxy Tablet 4, white, (with Wi-Fi and 8GB). The lucky ticket will be drawn July 19, during the picnic. It's necessary to put name and phone number on back of each ticket. News Flash: A 1 TB Western Digital external hard drive has been added as a 2nd prize to this raffle drawing.

No bonus word/no door prize at July 19 Picnic. Just to tease you a bit, there will be an OPTIONAL, additional surprise drawing that day.

Samsung GALAXY Tab 4

7.0" - Wi-Fi - 8 GB

$1.00 each

Drawing July 19, 2015

You may purchase as many tickets as you wish.
A Legible Name and Phone Number on EACH ticket is necessary or your money is wasted.
YOU are responsible for depositing your completed ticket before the drawing on (July 19).

Member of

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NOW SHOWING

Past Attractions

Previous Program Points

Place text here

* Click on the link to the right to see a video of Past Programs and Meetings   **LCCS Media**

The Soapbox

ACME
SOAP

Place text here

News and Events

2015 July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	01	02	03	04 Repair SIG/Help Desk 1 - 4 p.m.
05	06	07 **Repair SIG/Help Desk** 7:00- 9:00 p.m.	08	09	10 **Linux SIG** 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	11
12	13	14 **Digital Imaging SIG/Help Desk** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18 Repair SIG/Help Desk 1 - 4 p.m. **Executive Mtg** 3 - 4 p.m.
19 **General Meeting and Program** 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	20	21 **iPad SIG/Help Desk** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	22	23	24 **Linux SIG** 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	25
26	27	28 **Facebook Help Desk** 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	29 **Random Bits** Deadline 6:00 p.m.	30	31	01 -
02	03	NOTES				

For the latest information on Events "Click" on the link below
LCCS Google Calendar

The Education Corner

TEACHING PROGRAM

We had three really good classes last month (June). We had a full class for our "Beyond the Basics: What's Next?" advanced computer skills class. We partially filled classes for both our Word Processing class and our Linux Computer for Beginners. We had hoped to offer the "Navigating the Internet" class also, but did not have enough students signed up, so it had to be rescheduled.

July Classes, starting the week of July 6th and 7th

A number of the students in the Word Processing class had such a good learning experience that they signed up for the Spreadsheet class that is being held this month (July) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00-2:00. There are still some spots open for additional students, so if you or someone you know might be interested in learning about how Spreadsheets can assist in our computer world, please e-mail me at: lccs.freejohn@gmail.com and plan on coming next Monday.

We've also scheduled our popular "Everyday Computing with Windows" for July. The Monday/Wednesday afternoon class is already filled so we have started a "waiting list" for a second class that would meet on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00. If we get a few more students, we might have enough to have the second class. If you or someone you know would be interested in the class that really helps you take command of the computer and it's filing system, have them e-mail me at: lccs.freejohn@gmail.com and plan on starting next week as well.

Our final Monday/Wednesday offering is our "Computers for the Total Beginner", which is scheduled to meet from 6:00-8:00. However there are only a few students signed up so there's a chance this class will have to be cancelled. If you know anyone that has just gotten their first computer and have all sorts of questions, here's the class for them. Get in touch with me immediately as we may have to make a final decision by July 4th on whether we have the class or not.

Our Tuesday/Thursday classes begin with the "Navigating the Internet" which now has enough students to be a "go". But we still have room for more. It meets at 12:00-2:00, and as above should you or anyone you know want to take it and really know what they are doing on the Internet, contact me at the same address as above.

The final class that we are offering in July will be a very enjoyable Linux class where students will begin at the beginning, learning the very basics of running commands in the terminal. Come and find out how using some of the following commands: ls, mkdir, rm, cd, mv, and cp make Linux work so much easier, more powerful, and faster. This class will meet from 3:00-5:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. And, as before, if you or someone you know might be interested in getting signed up at the last minute, contact me right away at lccs.freejohn@gmail.com .

SIG Help Desk Reports

Repair SIG / Help Desk

Meeting Times

First Saturday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

First Tuesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Third Saturday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

06-06-2015

Bob Arruda and Bill Toothman spent the afternoon evaluating the accumulated computers in the back room. They suspect there are some old computers which are no longer worth refurbishing.

Jim Amore and Everett McKee collaborated to repair a laptop. They removed malware, spyware and unnecessary/redundant programs.

Ron Simms erased a hard drive for one of our members. The owner is going to reinstall the operating system but, wanted to start with a clean hard drive.

John Kennedy prepared the classroom computers for an upcoming class.

Ken Bixler replaced a hard drive and installed Ubuntu on classroom machine number 8.

John and Ken both ran Linux diagnostics on the Teacher's computer. We tested the CPU, network card and RAM memory under heavy load and found no weakness in the hardware. All four cores of the CPU shared the load equally and individually ran at maximum throughput as needed.

Bob Vance worked on trying to revive some of the laptops that we had gotten from the recycle event. He also preformed anti virus scans and malware checks on some of the computers that local resident and members brought to the event. All this while in the process of trying to breath life into an old iMac G5 system.

20 June 2015

Jim Amore assisted a member who had configuration and usage problems on a laptop.

Chuck Tyndal completed repair of a laptop and returned it to the owner.

Everett McKee assisted a member with re-installtion of Microsoft Windows 7.

Bob Vance continues work on a MacIntosh.

Ken Bixler helped install a genealogy program and import the family database on a new computer.

Vicky Atkins received several membership renewals during the meeting

# SIG Help Desk Reports

Windows Help Me / Show Me

Meeting Times

Second Friday 9:00 - 11:15 a.m.

We are still in need for someone that would be willing to "host" a Windows Help Desk. There are people asking "how to do ....." or need some time of help that's not related to a computer needing a "repair". We need someone that is willing to assist members with their problems using Windows 7, or Windows 8 (including 8, 8.1, 8.1-update). You don't have to be an expert, but someone willing to try and help other Windows users with their software problems.

The Help Desks usually meet once a month, but like Linux you could meet twice; it's up to the host as to what day and time it's held. The time for the Help Desk is open at this point in time. We have any Thursday evening available (either 6:00-8:00, or 7:00-9:00, or even 6:00-9:00), as well as most Friday mornings (either 9:00-11:00, or 9:30-11:30, or 10:00-12:00, or even 9:00-12:00). As you can see, there's days available and time options for starting ans stopping. We mainly need someone to open up the building and close it back up when done. Usually when we have a "host", then we get additional people willing to help provide assistance. Please think about sharing your computer knowledge with others so they may enjoy using their computer.

If interested, please contact one of the club officers and they can help get this all set up.
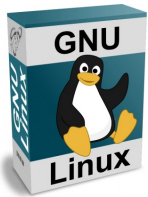
Linux Help Desk

Meeting Times

Second Friday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Fourth Friday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This month the members attending the LInux Help Desk were treated to a game of "musical desktops". Each computer had a Linux operating system that had a different "desktop environment". Almost all of the operating systems were based on Ubuntu, but had a different look/feel like: Unity, Gnome, KDE, Cinnamon, MATE, Xfce, LXDE, and Elementary.

For the most part each operating system worked like all the rest, but some desktops were very fancy, taking lots of resources; and some were very simple, really good on older machines. To play "musical desktops" a timer was set and for 8 minutes members were trying out a desktop. When the time went off, the members would switch to a different computer with a different desktop.

After everyone had checked out each of the different desktop environments, we had an open discussion about what they saw and what they liked or didn't like. A few of the members found a new desktop that they thought they'd give a closer look.

At our second meeting of the month we learned about gettings ISOs. These are files that contain a bootable operating system when burned a special way. We first were shown a couple of good places to find these files so we could download them to our computers. Some files are found in a number of different "host" locations, and we discussed that we probably should go to a host (computer file server) that was close to us. We also learned that some of these ISOs were small enough to fit on a CD (which meant that downloaded in a short amount of time), while others were larger requiring a DVD (which meant that download would take a much longer time).

SIG Help Desk Reports

Meeting Times

Second Friday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Fourth Friday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

After downloading the ISOs we saw two different ways to burn the file as an "image" rather than just copy the files. One way was very similar to how you can prepare files for burning/writing to disk in Windows using the file managing program. The other way was using a piece of software that can be used to create music, video, or data disks; or to write the file as an image that can be booted up.

Finally we saw how to use one of these "live CD/DVD" images to start up an operating system that was totally running off the optical drive and not the internal hard drive. The trick is to get the computer to start up the boot manager, which we found is shown on the monitor as the computer starts up. Once we have access to the boot manager, we just select the CD/DVD drive as our boot-up choice. The computer than gets all it's information from the optical drive and you have a fully functional operating system that does everything your main operating system did; such as surf the Internet, create/save documents, listen to music, watch videos, and anything else.

Everyone was given a blank disk so they could follow along and create their own "live" disk. In fact we all took home a very special kind of live operating disk system that can be used to run repair tools on both Linux and Windows computers. Using this kind of disk even allows a person to run a complete virus scan of a computer before the normal operating system starts up hiding some viruses. As you can see, we do lots of things at our Linux Help Desks. Please join us the second and fourth Friday afternoons for a lot of fun activities with the Linux based operating system

Digital Imaging SIG / Help Desk

The June meeting was concelled due to illness of the keyholder. Hope to meet in July

Meeting Times

Second Tuesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m

SIG Help Desk Reports

iPad / iDevice SIG / Help Desk

The June meeting of the IPad Help Desk was the usual meeting. There were no specific problems that were brought up for discussion. The meeting was more of a sharing session where the members help each other with general tips and tricks.

Meeting Times

Third Tuesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m

Facebook SIG / Help Desk

The Facebook help desk met on June 23rd with five total attendees. The group concentrated on solving issues and answering specific questions that people had. The attendees are able to watch and learn how to setup their Facebook account to provide the security that they want.

If you want to join us, we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Bring your tablet, laptop or use one of the desktop units that are available.

Meeting Times

Fourth Tuesday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m

Featured Articles
What you should know about the Win10 launch
By Susan Bradley on June 18, 2015
http://windowssecrets.com/

Microsoft has begun its major push for Windows 10 on billions of PCs. If you're running Windows 7 or 8.1, there's a good chance you've had alerts for the new OS — on your system.

Link to full article: **CLICK HERE**

NOISE TO SIGNAL   RobCottingham.com
@robcottingham

Dude, you're totally techspreading.

Featured Articles

Freeware / Open Source SIG

March 26, 2015 Notes and Links

By Steve Costello, Moderator, Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida

www.brcs.org

president (at) brcs.org

Freeware/Crapware

Old freeware download site favorites, such as download.com, CNET downloads, Tucows, etc., are now bundling crapware, including Superfish style malware. Even others like Source Forge and File Hippo are not as safe as they once were; they don't wrap their downloads, but they do make it hard to find the right download link.

If what you want is on ninite.com, that is the safest way of getting it. If you must get it from somewhere else, make sure you don't install using the defaults, check and only install what you need, not the crapware. Further, make sure you research it to make sure it is really what you want, and check for/remove malware immediately after the install to make sure.

Sources

http://www.howtogeek.com/210265/download.com-and-others-bundle-superfish-style-https-breaking-adware/

https://discuss.howtogeek.com/t/download-sites-distributing-spyware-crapware/12449

http://www.ghacks.net/2015/03/13/report-all-major-download-sites-serve-potentially-unwanted-programs/

Google Search

Google Search now blocks crapware in the search results for downloads.

http://www.howtogeek.com/210568/google-is-now-blocking-crapware-in-search-results-ads-and-chrome/

f.lux

f.lux is an application to change your display to match the lighting by time of day.

https://justgetflux.com/

Web of Trust

https://www.mywot.com/en/aboutus

Featured Articles

"Web of Trust (WOT) is a website reputation and review service that helps people make informed decisions about whether to trust a website or not. WOT is based on a unique crowdsourcing approach that collects ratings and reviews from a global community of millions of users who rate and comment on websites based on their personal experiences. "

Web of Trust is an add-on for Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, Internet Explorer, and Safari browsers.

From the FAQ:

https://www.mywot.com/en/faq/add-on

"WOT shows you which websites you can trust based on millions of users' experiences around the world to help you stay safe when you search, surf, and shop online."

https://www.mywot.com/

Wi-Fi Slow Down

According to the HowToGeek blog, using slower Wi-Ri devices can slow your entire Wi-Fi network. The post explains why, and what you can do about it.

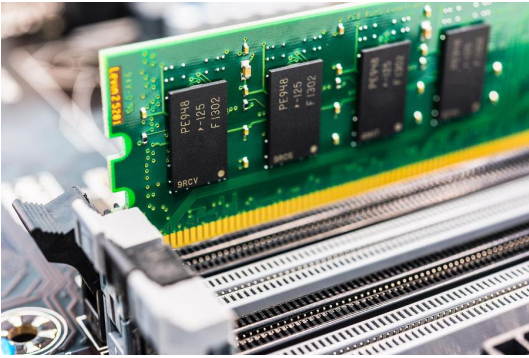http://www.howtogeek.com/210062/how-802.11b-devices-slow-down-your-wi-fi-network-and-what-you-can-do-about-it/

Other Items Discussed

VPN - https://www.witopia.net/

Firefox Add-ons - https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/hello/ and https://addons.mozilla.org/en-Us/firefox/addon/ghostery/

On-line Spell Checker - www.afterthedeadline.com/

Featured Articles

How Much RAM Does Your PC Need?
Probably Less Than You Think
Michael Crider, Digital Trends
June 22, 2015 Yahootech.com

Random Access Memory, usually shortened to "RAM" or simply "memory," is one of the most important parts of any computer. But how much do you need? Current new PCs and similar devices range from around the two gigabyte mark to 16GB or more

Read full article here CLICK HERE

Best techniques for the safe disposal of drives
By Doug Spindler
June 25, 2015 @ http://windowssecrets.com/

The design of today's solid-state drives has made classic data-wiping techniques ineffective.

But there are sanitizing procedures that will effectively render sensitive data on SSDs — and other rewritable storage devices — unintelligible

Read the full article here: CLICK HERE

Club Officers

Below is a list of your Club officers and their information.

Officers

Office		Name	Contact Email	Phone
President		Jim Amore	President@lccsohio.org	740-404-3963
Vice-president		Mary Frances Rauch	Vice.President@lccsohio.org	
Secretary		Nancy Grower	Secretary@lccsohio.org	
Treasurer		Waneta Newland	Treasurer@lccsohio.org	
Agent		David Bibler	Agent@lccsohio.org	740-345-3492
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	2	Vicky Atkins	Vicky.Atkins@lccsohio.org	740-928-0119
	3	Wayne Snyder		
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Meeting Programs		Mary Frances Rauch	Vice.President@lccsohio.org	
Repair/Maintenance SIG		Jim Amore and/or Everett McKee	repair@lccsohio.org	
Digital Imaging SIG		David Clement	digitalimagesig@gmail.com	
Linux SIG		John Kennedy and/or Ken Bixler	Linux@lccsohio.org	
Computer Refurbishing Program		Position Open		
Teaching Program Chairman		John Kennedy	lccs.freejohn@gmail.com	740-348-5229
Webmaster		Jim Amore	President@lccsohio.org	740-404-3963
* Note: Phone numbers listed are in area code 740, except where listed				

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