PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE

February 2018

"JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE'S COMPUTER CLUB"   Volume 24, Issue 2

This Month's February Meetings

Photo Editing Workshop
Thursday, February 8 at 1:00 P.M.
At FFG Library Bldg.

General Meeting
Now Tuesday, February 13 at 3:00 P.M.
At Christ Lutheran Church FFG

Plateau Photography Club
Thursday February 15 at 1:00 P.M.
At FFG Library Bldg.

The February Program at FFG Christ Lutheran Church

Learn about the New 2018 Income Changes

Bob Willis, our local tax expert, will present an overview of the New 2018 Tax legislation. *"The Tax Cut and Jobs Act,"* passed in December of 2017 made major revisions to our tax code. Most became effective for this year. The presentation will also briefly review the current tax code that is the basis for this year's tax returns and compare the tax a typical taxpayer will pay in both 2017 and 2018.

The health insurance reporting that has been required for the past several years is still required for both 2017 and 2018 tax returns, but ends with your 2019 tax return.

Come learn about the new tax laws and if you will actually save as much as is being claimed by our politicians and the media.

President's Day Monday, February 19, 2018

Winter Hours start at **3:00 P.M.** (October though March)
Summer Hours start at **6:00 P.M.** (April through September)

Location: Christ Lutheran Church
481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade

NOTE: Meeting Dates are now on 2nd Tuesday's of the month

Join the Club!

Anyone interested to attend the general meeting or any of the SIG meetings as a guest will be charged $3.00 per person for any or all meetings in that month. Afterwards, you are encouraged to become a member of the Plateau PC Users Group.

Our Club cannot exist without you, the members.

Membership Dues

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st of each year. Annual dues are $24 per single person / $30 per family starting July 1, 2014.with partial years dues as follows:

Due Date	Jan-Mar 2018	Apr-Jun 2018	Jul-Sep 2018 Annual Dues	Oct—Dec 2018
Single:	$12	$6	$24	$18
Families:	$15	$7	$30	$22

Student memberships (21 and under) are $10 annually. Corporate memberships are $30 a year for the first two memberships and $10 a year for each additional membership from the same company.

Contact the PPCUG Treasurer (931) 707-3677 for pro-rated dues of these types of memberships.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCLAIMER

All members of the Plateau PC Users Group are willing to help one another in the area of advice and tutorial instruction over the phone. If you should require more involved services or instruction, we have a few members who are very knowledgeable in several areas. As a responsible consumer, it is up to you to discuss, before retaining a member, any and ALL charges for repair services and time consuming tutorial activities.

It is not the desire of this Board of Directors to set fees for individuals for services rendered, nor the responsibility to intervene between members who enter into a contract among themselves.

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All images used in the newsletter, website, blogs, class materials or handouts ("media") are obtained from a "free use" source, preferably images that have been released as "CCO Public Domain".

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Plateau Photography Club	Jim Mansfield	(931) 484-6920
Photo Editing Workshop Club	Jim Gries	FGPhotoworkshop@gmail.com (331) 442-9763

Up Coming Meeting for March 2018

Note: Winter Hours & Location & Date

**The next General Meeting of the
PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP
Will be on Tuesday, March 13 at 3:00 P.M.
at Christ Lutheran Church
481 Snead Drive FFG
(corner of Snead & Lakeview Drive)**

Classes
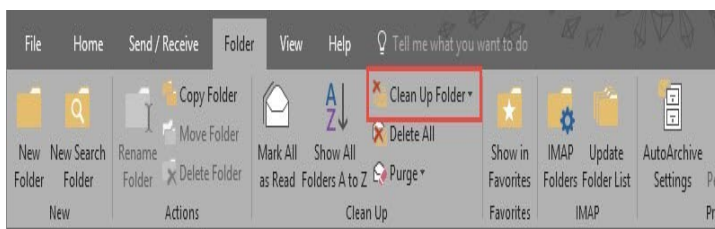Please send ideas for new classes to Alan Baker.
(ambaker@citlink.net)

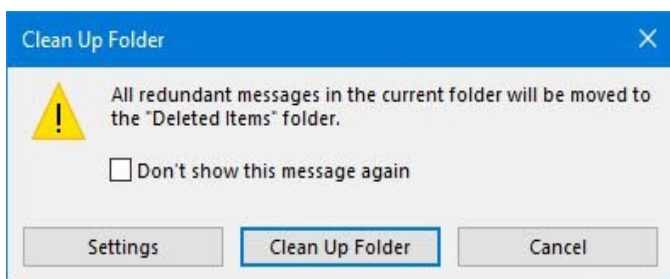## Cool Tips & Sites

Remove Duplicate E-mails

If you merged an old Outlook database with your current account and are now seeing duplicate emails, you can clear them out with this easy function.

1. From the main page, go to the "Folders" tab and click on "Clean Up Folder", and "Clean Up Folder" again.

2. Hit "Clean Up Folder" one last time in the warning box that comes up.

News of the Special Interest Groups

The PPCUG sponsors several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) tailored to meet the varied needs of our many members. Each SIG is a small group whose leader prepares material for presentation and encourages open discussion and questions. We urge you to attend the SIGs and hope you will find one or more of interest to you. Ideas for additional groups are welcome, as are volunteers to form and lead new SIGs.

Plateau Photography Clubs

The Photo Editing Workshop Club is held at 1:00 PM at the Fairfield Glade Library Bldg. on the Second Thursday of each month. Members meet to discuss & demonstrate various editing software programs available to enhance their photographs. The SIG leader is Jim Gries. at "FGPhotoworkshop@gmail.com"

The Photography Club, a PPCUG SIG, meets the Third Thursday of each month at the Fairfield Glade Library Bldg. at 1:00PM. Topics vary each month but we show and discuss member's photos each month. The SIG leader is Jim Mansfield.

The Photo Club/SIG website

The Photo Club/SIG website is now up. Access to it is through the PPCUG website, using the "Photo Club" navigation link at the top of each PPCUG page. I think that this is a big improvement, and could not have been done without the work of Dallas Richards.

PPCUG Website

Visit our website at www.PPCUGinc.com. The Learning Center class schedule and Gazette are all available on our web site.

Send your comments and suggestions to the Webmaster, Alan Baker Webmaster@ppcuginc.com (931) 788-2201

PPCUG General Meeting Minutes January 15, 2018

Steve Rosenstein, President of PPCUG, welcomed members and guests. A brief business meeting announced a change in general meetings starting next month February to the second Tuesday, February 13 at 3:00 P.M.

Gordon ask members if they are not receiving a flyer Thursday or Friday before the meeting as a reminder. If not they need to get their email address to him. He also added that the board members have served for several years now and we need some new members, please offer to become a board member and ask any member you know to help.

This month's program, **All about Libre Office** presented by PPCUG member, Alan Baker.

He began with a video from APCUG member John Kennedy saying, John known as free John because he likes free. John gave the descriptions and demonstrations of Libre Office, a no-cost open source alternative to MS Office software suite.
This program most likely should meet most member's needs; Libre Office is continually under development.

Alan demonstrated some other features of Libre Office comparing to them to MS Office. You can download Libre Office, as there is not a CD offered. You can also download the help file and user guide.

Those of you interested, Alan has posted a handout online at the PPCUG website. It includes link to this Video on our website.

Questions:

Bob Willis commented sometimes you get an email from someone and cannot open it. MS Office excel viewer or power point viewer can open it but you can't make changes. Libre allows you to open and make changes.

How to print photos from CD? There are free programs, Xn View, Irfan View and Photoshop Express these will modify, allow text to be added and print.

Power point will also do the same thing and it is easy according to a member.

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 13, 3:00 P.M. March 13, 3:00 P.M. also.

Submitted by,

Cindy West

Secretary

High-Tech Remembering

By Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
October 2017 issue, Drive Light
www.uchug.org
president (at) uchug.org

As we get older, our human memory seems to fail us. For some of us, this seems to start at a relatively early age, while others have good recall into our twilight years. Sometimes we have a greater problem retaining short-term memories, like what we had for dinner the night before or where we left our car keys, but can recall in detail events of many decades ago. Most of us just slowly start forgetting things. Of course, a blow to the head or a stroke can degrade even the best of memories.

Our technology today is filled with memories of various kinds - volatile and non-volatile, fast and slow, large and small capacity. The SDRAM (synchronous dynamic random access memory) used for the main storage in most computers and smartphones is the ultimate in short-term memory. If power is removed, all the information stored in it quickly fades away. Flash memory (for small capacity applications) and magnetic media like hard drives (for large capacity) are non-volatile, and can retain their stored data for long periods of time without power. All of these memory types can suffer losses of data due to electrical, magnetic and cosmic ray abuse, and do also degrade over time just from normal use.

In these respects, the memories in our tech devices suffer from the same issues as our human, brain-based memories. Just as with our brains, semiconductor and magnetic memories lose their ability to reliably store information over time. Abuse to these memory devices, through actions like static discharge, extremes in temperature or mechanical shock (to a hard drive) can cause permanent damage, as a concussion or stroke does to a brain.

One means of information loss in our tech memories that does not really have an equivalent in the brain is in deletion. Information in semiconductor memories or hard drives can be deleted or overwritten. We humans don't really have a way to intentionally delete or forget information (this might be convenient for lost loves or humiliating experiences), though trauma may cause memories to be repressed or unconsciously blocked. In theory, therapy may be able to recover repressed memories in humans. In theory, there are also techniques that may be effective in recovering deleted files in semiconductor and magnetic memories.

Deleting a file from your computer (stored on a hard drive, or in semiconductor memory device like a flash drive or memory card) does not initially eliminate the data file, but instead removes the file's location from the computer's file system. In Windows, the deleted file goes into the recycle bin, from which it can be easily recovered. Even if the recycle bin is emptied, the file's data remains in the storage media until it is overwritten. Special software tools (data recovery software) can often recover these deleted files from hard drives, USB flash drives and memory cards. I recently had need of such software, as I accidentally deleted photos and videos from the memory card in my smartphone.

When my wife and I went on vacation to Nebraska to view the total solar eclipse on 8/21/17, I left my Windows laptop at home and instead traveled with my smaller and lighter Chromebook. For its main job, it was well suited - accessing the internet and viewing web pages while on travel. It was less capable at its secondary task, copying photo and video files from the many cameras we took with us to a mass storage.

With four still and four video digital cameras being packed for this trip, I did not want to bring the multiple memory cards for each camera that would be necessary to hold all the files we would generate over the week we would be traveling. On past trips, I'd simply copied the contents of the memory cards from the cameras to

the hard drive in my laptop, and then erased the cards for reuse. Since the Chromebook has no large internal storage, I planned to use it to copy my photos and videos to an external USB hard drive I brought.

I practiced copying these files before we left, and this all worked well for the files on my digital still cameras and digital video cameras. For some cameras, I removed the SD memory card and used the Chromebook's SD card reader. For others, I accessed the camera memory through a cable between the camera and the Chromebook's USB port. I also copied the photos and videos from the memory card in my smartphone, also through a USB cable. Since I had switched the micro SD card in my phone to be a 128 GB card the day before we left, I was in no risk of filling it up and really did not need to copy from it, but I did it anyway to be consistent. This later proved to be a big mistake on my part.

I am very familiar with the Windows file manager, but not so much with the file manager in the Chrome OS. While copying the folders of photos and videos from my Samsung Galaxy J3 Prime, an Android-based smartphone, to the external USB hard drive late one night in our hotel room, I got an error message that some files did not copy. I should have stopped right there and then, but haste and late nights make waste. I decided to delete those incompletely copied folders from the hard drive and try again, but due to my lack of familiarity with the Chrome OS file manager, I accidentally deleted the photo folders on my smartphone instead.

In the panic of the realization of what I had just done, I doubled down on my error and immediately copied those folders back from my external drive to the smartphone memory card. After reviewing the photos now on the smartphone, I found many photos and videos, including all I had taken in the last few days on the trip, were missing.

Fortunately, I finally stopped and calmly took stock of my situation. I had deleted all the photos from my smartphone, but fortunately I had backups of all but for the last few prior days of my trip. The photos taken with my smartphone were mainly just supplementals; most of my photography was done with my digital cameras. There were only a few cases where I had lost unique photos not duplicated by my cameras, amounting to perhaps several dozen files. If those missing smartphone photos were lost forever, it would not be the end of the world for me, but I would still like to get them back. If I stopped further photography with my smartphone, I could try to recover the missing files when I returned home. Unfortunately, I had already copied back to the memory card the files I did have on the external drive, and so may have already overwritten some files, and thus lost them forever.

When I returned home, I started looking for a solution to my deleted file problem. A web search turned up many software options for file recovery from memory cards. There were a few programs that were free, but many were not. I then recalled a program I had seen demonstrated at one of the Southwest User Group Conferences. I believe it was Terry Currier of the WINNERS group (WINdows usERS) that gave the presentation, and one program he recommended and demonstrated was Recuva. I decided to make this attempt with something I had seen, rather than an unknown.

Recuva is produced by Piriform (www.piriform.com), the same company that makes CCleaner. Recuva comes in a free version, as well as a Pro version for $19.99 (both as downloads). My recollection was that Terry used the free version, so I downloaded it and installed it on my Windows 7 laptop. To make things as simple as possible for Recuva, I removed the micro SD card from my phone and put it in an SD adapter I could plug into my laptop's memory card reader, rather than connect through a USB cable on the phone.

When Recuva starts, it uses a wizard to simplify the process, though you can easily skip it. Being relatively unfamiliar with the program, I used the wizard, which asks just a few simple questions of the user. The first

wizard screen asks you to select the type of files you are trying to recover. Since it would not allow the selection of multiple types (pictures and video), I selected "all files". In the next screen, I specified the location of the SD memory card (drive letter). The final screen had a start button, which initiates the search for deleted files. It also has a check box for "deep scan", which I skipped initially.

The first pass took only a few minutes and found 32 files. I selected them all to be copied to a folder on an external hard drive. I examined the folder and found the files recovered were all JPEG photos, almost all from before my trip, and none of the ones I really wanted.

I ran through the wizard a second time, this time with the deep scan selected. It took about two hours, but this time Recuva found 351 files. I had it save them all to a second hard drive folder. There were a lot of files that I already had from back-ups, but there were also the JPEG and MP4 files that I was looking for. It appears that Recuva was able to recover all of the missing files that I could remember.

It will take me a while to sort through them and remove the duplicates, but between the back-ups and what Recuva recovered, I believe I did not lose a single file in my accident. Now I can view those photos and videos and relive those moments. I'll be more careful in deleting files with my Chromebook in the future, and I'm sure glad Recuva works so well and is there when I'm not so careful. I sure wish there was a Recuva program for the human memory.

Back to Basics
The HDMI Cable and Connectors

Jim Cerny, Forum Leader, Sarasota Technology User's Group, FL
April 2017 issue, Sarasota Monitor
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As technology changes, hopefully for the better, more and more devices are available to us. For most of us who use technology for personal and home use, we would like to connect some devices to our TVs to enjoy the big screen video and great sound experience. The latest connection cable type that does this for us is HDMI which stands for "High Definition Media Interface". The cable connectors (the standard size and a mini size) are shown in the photo. They have a shape to them that allows them to be inserted only one way, so do not force it into the port, try turning it over (180 degrees) and try again.

The purpose of HDMI is to replace different kinds of connectors and cables with one type that, hopefully, can handle all your device connections. Do you remember the old days when there were separate audio/stereo and video cables? Today almost all of the newer devices (laptops, TV's, DVD players, etc.) will come with at least one HDMI connector port. The older style connectors may also be present, but if possible, HDMI should be your first choice to make those connections.

Your TV remote control will have a button labeled "input", and when you press this button different input options (that is, what is coming INTO your TV) will be displayed and allow you to select which one you want. One option will be "cable" which means your TV will show your cable programs – the cable you pay for each month. But other choices will include one or more HDMI inputs, usually labeled HDMI-1, HDMI-2, etc. If you have more than one device connected to your TV it is best for each device to connect to its own

HDMI port on the back of the TV. You select which of the inputs you want to view on your TV by using the "input" button on your remote. Of course, there must be something (video and sound) coming <u>into</u> that port to the TV for you to see anything. For example, you may have a DVD player connected to HDMI-1, but if your DVD player is not on and playing something, you will not see anything on your TV when you select that input option. If you have some older devices which may not have an HDMI connector, you can purchase a converter device to allow it to connect.

Lastly, I am always amazed by the cost of cables – after all, they are just wires with plugs on the ends, right? If you checkout the prices of cables at stores and the prices on the internet, you will be shocked at the high prices they can charge for these things. Yes, some cables are higher quality than others and may come with better "shielding" to protect the signal, but most prices are much too high for what you get. My advice would be to shop on-line and get the cheapest cable that meets your needs, but make sure you can return it if you are not happy with it. If it doesn't work for you, then return it and move up to the next higher-priced (and hopefully better quality) cable.

You can find out more about HDMI cables and connectors by asking Google, of course. But connecting them is easy, even for us amateurs.

Microsoft's Varied Word-Processing Options

By Nancy DeMarte, 1st Vice President, Sarasota Technology User Group, FL
July 2017 issue, Sarasota Technology Monitor
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When we hear "word-processing," most of us think of Microsoft Word. A key application in the Office Suite, Word has the greatest number of features (sometimes more than we want) and is the most popular word-processing program in the world. But Word isn't the only word-processing program that Microsoft offers, and some of the others are free.

WordPad (.rtf), for example, has been included free with Windows since Windows 95. In Windows 10, it isn't in the apps list; you can only find it by typing "WordPad" in the search box on the Desktop. It is a

stripped-down version of Word, but with enough features to complete most standard tasks, as shown in its command ribbon (Fig 1). Its file type, rich text format(.rtf), is readable by almost any word-processing program.

Figure 1 - WordPad Command Ribbon

NotePad (.txt), another long time free feature of Windows, is even more basic. It removes all formatting from the text, leaving no colors nor fancy text effects, just a few fonts and font sizes, bold and italics. (Fig 2) It is perfect for adding text to web pages or creating and editing text files. It too must be searched for in Windows 10.
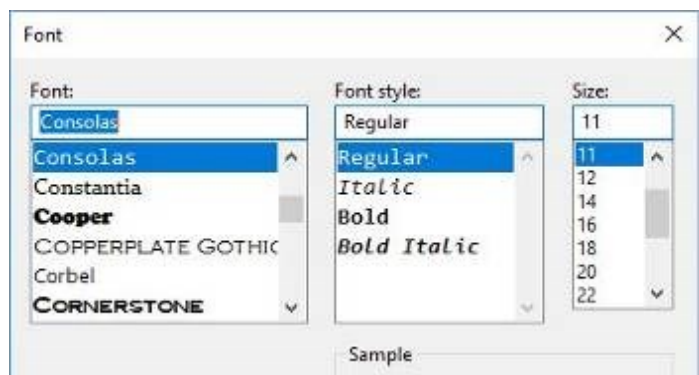

Figure 2 NotePad text options

In 2003, **OneNote**(.one) became part of the Microsoft Office suite and has been upgraded twice since. This application is available for the computer or as a mobile app for smartphones and tablets. OneNote gives you a simple way to organize your ideas or schedules. It is advertised as a note-taking app for college students and a way to organize events. It lets you create tabs for each aspect of your activity and pages inside each tab. Plus, you can import photos, maps, schedules, and web pages to keep the details handy, as I did for a trip a few years ago. (Fig 3)
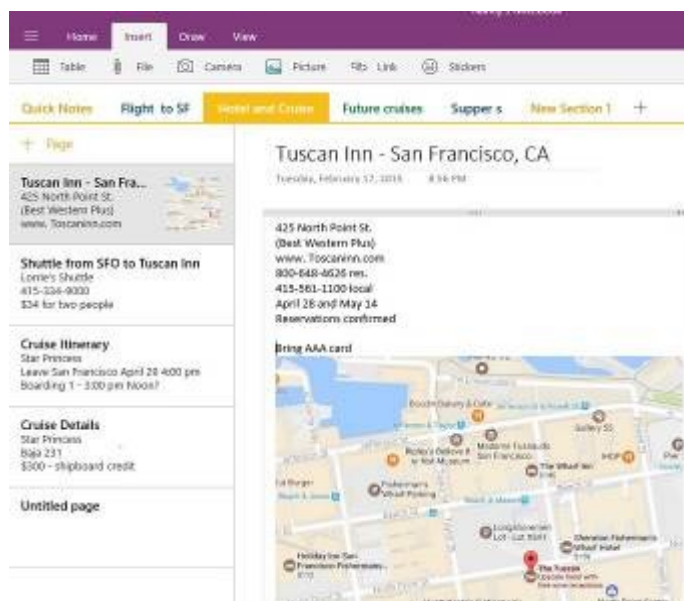
Figure 3 OneNote Workbook with tabs and the Hotel page open

If you make To Do lists, as I do, you'll love **Sticky Notes**. It has been a free feature of Windows since Windows 7. You can search for it or find it in the app list. When you click the app, it puts a yellow post-it type note on the screen. Other colors are available. If your computer has a touch screen, you can write on the Sticky Note with a stylus or your finger. If not, you can type your note. Notes can be resized or moved, as you would any digital object. To get a new Sticky Note, click the + sign. (Fig 4)

Figure 4 Sticky Notes on the Desktop

In Windows 10, if your note is an appointment reminder with a date and time, Cortana, the voice-activated assistant, can be set to remind you verbally prior to your appointment. If you add a street address, clicking "View Address" will show a map of the location.

Minimize your notes by clicking the Sticky Notes icon on the taskbar. Click again to make them reappear in whatever screen you are viewing. To remove a note, click the trash bin icon on the top right corner of the note. If you use the Sticky Notes app often, you can make it handy by right-clicking the app icon and choosing "Pin to Start." Whether you are an author or a list-maker, Windows has a word-processing app for you.

Back to Google Earth

By Len Nasman, Webmaster, Bristol Village Computer Club, OH
September/October issue, BVCC Newsletter
http://bvres.org/bvcchome.html
Webmaster (at) bvres.org

There seems to be no end to the global data base available through Google Earth. To start with, here is a link to a video that explains how Google Earth 3D images are created. I was surprised to learn that the 3D images of buildings are generated from pictures taken from airplanes.


The Google Street View image collection continues to expand with pictures taken from cars, carts, back pack cameras, and even underwater cameras.

Now Google has increased their data collection efforts by allowing regular folks to add to the collection using something called Snap. You can take your own pictures and add them to the Google Earth database. You can even use 3D cameras (now available at consumer level prices) to add dynamic 360-degree views.
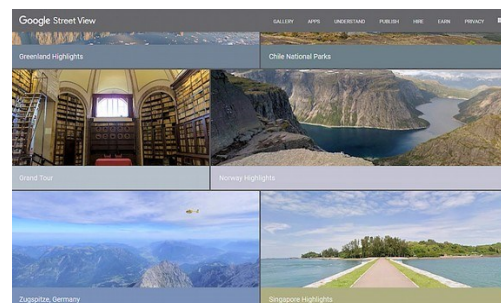
An interesting tool that has important implication for historical record keeping and scientific analysis is Google Timelapse. Using Google Earth
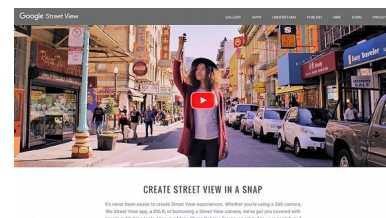
Engine you can scroll through 22 years of aerial photos and see how the landscape of an area has changed. This is useful in everything from urban growth studies to glacial movement analysis to forest coverage studies. I have looked at the Timelapse aerial photos of the woods I grew up in near Kane, PA, and found it a bit depressing. The area of our 'secret fishing crick' that used to require a several mile hike through unmarked forest has been destroyed by numerous oil wells and access roads. You might be amused by checking Timelapse photos of your places of interest.

What do you do with your Computer – Besides shopping?

By Phil Sorrentino, Contributing Writer, The Computer Club, Florida
The Journal of The Computer Club, Inc.
http://scccomputerclub.org / Philsorr.wordpress.com
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A long time ago, circa 1980, when personal computers first made their appearance, there was very little that us ordinary citizens could do with them. But as they found their way into the hands of some very smart people, who were also practiced in the art of programming, useful programs, or what we now call Apps, started to appear. You may have a slightly different view, but to my recollection, replacing the typewriter was the first "killer app" that appeared. Word processing took advantage of the computers capabilities and allowed many people to create works of literature quickly, accurately and by themselves. Over time, word processing on a computer completely replaced the typewriter and the many thousands of people it took to keep them operating; the typing pool disappeared. Many people were caught off guard. Because many people always had a person to create their inter-office memos, they never had to learn to use a keyboard. (Fortunately, I was forced to take a keyboarding course in the 9th grade. Its value became quite evident later when I had to use a keypunch machine to create lines of source code for a main-frame computer.) So, now with word processing available, most people could create their own inter-office memos and eventually turn those memos into emails (initially only within the company). Email was one of the next "killer apps" to appear. These early applications started before and without the benefit of the internet.

But before we get to the internet, there were many other "killer apps" that became part of computing. Here's a brief walk down software memory lane. Spreadsheet software started as VisiCalc and evolved thru SuperCalc, Lotus 1-2-3, MultiPlan, and finally to the current Excel. Graphics software, software that allows one to manipulate images on the computer, came on the scene early and now is represented by Adobe Photoshop, CorelDRAW, Microsoft Paint, and probably some others that I am not familiar with. Presentation software, that provides a sequence of slides for presentation before a large group, became a popular addition to other software used in an office setting. Presentation software is currently dominated by Microsoft's PowerPoint. Photo Editing software became popular after picture file types, like .jpg, .png, and .bmp, were invented, around the mid-nineties. Music player software became available after the invention of music file types, like .mp3, again, in the mid to late nineties. Video player software also arrived in the nineties, with the invention of video file types like mpeg-1, mpeg-2, and mpeg-4. Boy, the nineties were a busy time for inventing useful computer file types. Database software was also another "killer app" that came on the scene in the late 1980s and early 1990s; remember dBase II, or FoxPro, or Paradox.

Communications software and the internet changed everything. They allowed computers to communicate with other computers which allowed people to take advantage of computers that were in remote locations. Networking software made computer to computer communications possible. Networking software, which was initially an addition to the Operating System, eventually became, and is currently, an integral part of the Operating System. In the very early nineties, the World Wide Web appeared and with it, browsers. Browsers are another "killer app" and are what give us the ability to visit any website on the internet. You may remember some of the first browsers; MidasWWW, Lynx, NCSA Mosaic, Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, and Opera. Safari, Firefox, and Chrome came along a little later. It's through using the browser that you can get to all those wonderful retail sites for shopping on the internet.

So, early on, before the internet, the answer to the question of what you will do with a computer was simpler and was probably one of the following: Word processing, Graphics manipulation, Database development and uses, Communications. The uses were pretty limited. But today, there is a much wider choice of activities to answer the question. The computer is a very versatile machine and today you could be using your computer in many ways, to accomplish many different things, such as:

1) Keeping in touch with your friends and family using email or social networking apps.

2) Watching movies or videos, (that you have purchased, borrowed, or created), on your living room big screen TV.

3) Watching movies that you are streaming from the internet (Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, etc.) on your living room big screen TV.

4) Listening to music, from your local music database of tunes that you have purchased or "ripped" from CDs or converted from older tapes or vinyl.

5) Listening to music that you are streaming from a cloud music source (server) like iTunes, Pandora, Google Play Music or Spotify.

6) Organizing your picture database so you can locate a particular event or specific picture.

7) Showing certain photos, from your picture collection, to your family and friends, on your living room big screen TV.

8) Fixing the exposure on some of the pictures you recently took with your smartphone.

9) Creating "Movies" of your latest vacation from the pictures and video clips you took with your camera or smartphone, while on vacation.

10) Managing your home family finances using a few basic financial spreadsheets, or a financial software App like Quicken or MSN Money.

11) Scanning old paper pictures to create a pictorial family history.

12) Scanning documents to create a database of important documents for your estate or your children.

13) Writing your own personal history to pass down to your children or other family members.

14) Checking your calendar for today's activities or to see if you can make an appointment for 2 o'clock, in three weeks.

15) Reading or keeping up with the current news.

16) Checking on your financial accounts.

17) Checking on the stock market, or a particular stock, or trading stock in your brokerage account.

18) Sharing 200 pictures of the wedding you recently attended, with other wedding attendees using your OneDrive cloud account.

19) Researching "hip injury" using Google because of a twinge you noticed when you woke up this morning.

20) Checking "The Computer Club's" website to see when the next "File Explorer" class is scheduled.

21) Writing an article for the next month's newsletter.

 22) Creating a PowerPoint presentation to give at the next club meeting.

23) Backing up your computer so your very valuable data will never be lost.

24) Playing the latest shoot-em-up, or "brain training" game.

And finally, 25) Shopping on the internet.

One reason for knowing what you do with your computer is to help you decide on what computer to buy, or more importantly, how much computer you may want to buy, the next time you purchase a computer. You don't really need the fastest computer around if all you are going to do is shop on the internet, a Chromebook might even be appropriate.

Chromebooks for Seniors

by Rich Davis, Communications Director, Computer Booters of Sun Lakes, AZ
October 2017 issue, The Computer Booter
www.computerbooters.org

Chromebooks are laptops that use Google's operating system. They are quite inexpensive as compared to a Windows or Apple machine. My newest Chromebook is 15" and was $129.00 as a refurbished item.

I had a back injury some years ago when I heard about Chromebooks as they had just been rolled out. The critics slammed them as being quite useless. I seemed to be drawn to them after reading a lot about how they work. This looked like a good computer to me. I decided to challenge the critics and make this my main machine if I could. I would be able to spend some time learning as I was laid up.

One drawback that the critics named was storage. My first Chromebook had only 18gb of hard drive. I had a Gmail account and found that I had 15gb of space for free. I could also add an SD card to give me much more. Also, when you buy a Chromebook you get an extra 100gb of online storage for free for a couple of years. Another, or maybe equal to the first was that you had to be online to use your Chromebook. I always am so that didn't bother me. Improvements have made the Chromebook useful offline as of now.
The third obstacle was that you couldn't load software.

True, but instead we use apps that are downloaded. In my opinion, they are better than software. Some of the apps are not as robust as a complete software suite. But, hey, I have slowed down with work and the apps work fine for me. Also, Google sets up a drive in the cloud, which means on their servers, for the user. Included is a software suite almost as good at Microsoft Office and compatible with it.

Once I got the knack of using my Chromebook I never looked back. Updates take a few seconds. The laptop starts in 7 seconds. The battery life is about 10 hours. I can watch Netflix movies, Skype, Email, create documents and slideshows, and much more. There is no need for antivirus software.

It is perfect for me. Did you know that 70 percent of schools use Chromebooks because of their price and functionality eclipsing iPads and Windows machines for students? So, the critics were dead wrong. They didn't give something new a fair chance. A couple of years ago my grandson, 14, told me how cool my Chromebook was. I sure was proud of my decision to go with my gut and try something new.

PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

___ New Member   ____ Renewing Member

Return this application, with check for annual dues payable to "PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP." Return to the club Treasurer during our meeting or mail to PPCUG Treasurer. P.O. Box 3787, Crossville, TN 38557. Our annual dues are now payable on July 1st of each year. Annual dues are $24 per single person / $30 per family starting 7/1/2014 with partial years' dues as follows:

Due Date	Jan Mar 2018	Apr—Jun 2018	Jul—Sep 2018 Annual Dues	Oct—Dec 2018
Single:	$12	$6	$24	$18
Families:	$15	$7	$30	$22

Date: _____   Amount Paid: $ _____ :.00, by Cash ___ , or   Check (#_____)

_____   _____   _____

Last Name   First Name   Family Members (if family membership)

_____

Address:

_____   _____   _____   _____

City   State   Zip Code   Phone Number

E-Mail address: _____-

I have belonged to a Computer Club before. Yes _____   No _____ _

l have used PCs since (year): _____

I have knowledge in the following areas that I would be willing to share with club members:

_____

_____

_____

Jan 2018

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	**2**	**3**
4	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8** <u>1:00 P.M.</u> Photo Editing Workshop Club Mtg.	**9**	**10**
11	**12**	**13** <u>3:00 P.M.</u> **General Mtg.** Presentation. Followed By Q&A Session	**14**	**15** <u>1:00 P.M.</u> Plateau Photography Club Mtg.	**16**	**17**
18	**19**	**20**	**21** <u>2:00 P .M.</u> PPCUG Board Mtg.	**22**	**23**	**24**
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30** GOOD FRIDAY	**31**

Note: Please see page #15 for the Plateau PC Users Group, Inc. **Application for Membership form.**