PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE

January 2020

"JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE'S COMPUTER CLUB"   Volume 26, Issue 1

This Month's General Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
will Start at 3:00 P.M.

FFG Christ Lutheran Church

Windows 7 Security Sunset

Win 7 users should take action soon, as the sun is setting on Windows 7 operating system.

This month's program will be moderated by Carl Nordeen and be in the format of an APCUG video presentation by Greg Skalka, President "Under the Computer Hood User Group".

Greg will discuss the end of support for Windows 7 and user's alternatives and what you can do about it.

Bob Willis will demonstrate, following the video, how to upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10 for free on most computers. plus a how-to handout for those attending today's meeting.

Final support for Windows 7 will end on January 14, 2020.

Inside This Issue

Winter Hours start at **3:00 P.M.** (October through March)

Summer Hours start at **6:00 P.M**. (April through September)

Location: Christ Lutheran Church
481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade TN

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:

Join In	Jul-Sep Annual Dues	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun
Single:	$24	$18	$12	$6
Families:	$30	$22	$15	$7

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.

The GAZETTE is published using the following: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, and Microsoft Windows. The Gazette is the monthly newsletter of the Plateau PC Users Group, Inc.

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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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Printed by, Business Equipment Clinic
539 West Ave. Suite 101 Crossville TN 38557

Up Coming Meeting for February 2020
Note: Winter Hours 3:00 P.M.

The next General Meeting of the
PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP
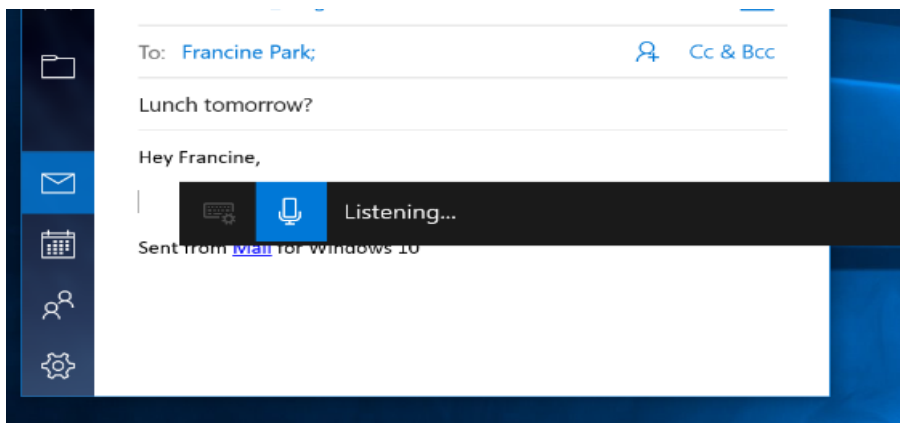**Will be on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. at 3:00 P.M**

Cool Tips & Sites

Use dictation to talk instead of type on your PC
Applies to: Windows 10

Use dictation to convert spoken words into text anywhere on your PC with Windows 10. Dictation uses speech recognition, which is built into Windows 10, so there's nothing you need to download and install to use it.

To start dictating, select a text field and press the **Windows logo key + H** to open the dictation toolbar. Then say whatever's on your mind. To stop dictating at any time while you're dictating, say "Stop dictation."

If you're using a tablet or a touchscreen, tap the **microphone** button on the touch keyboard to start dictating. Tap it again to stop dictation, or say "Stop dictation."

Note
To use dictation, your PC needs to be connected to the internet.

** Visit the PPCUG Website **
At: www.PPCUGinc.com.

Read all about our club activities and scheduled monthly meetings, also current and past issues of the Gazette Newsletter. Links also to the Meeting Handouts on past presentations.

Send your comments and suggestions to the PPCUG Webmaster, Alan Baker
jackal33980@gmail.com (931) 239-0877

Crowns and Computers

Author: Maryellen Amato, M.D., Member, ICON Users Group, MO
July 2019 issue, The ICON Newsletter
Meamato76 (at) gmail.com
www.iconusersgroup.org

Like most professions, dentistry has been deeply impacted by computer technology. Many dentists, for example, have been using digital x-rays. Several months ago in an article entitled Musings on Medicine, I discussed the advantages of using digital radiography, including quicker imaging times and decreased radiation.

Another major facet of dentistry that has been affected by computers has to do with the way dental crowns are made. A crown is a small prosthetic cap that fits over an entire tooth to restore its strength and appearance. A crown may be necessary for a variety of cosmetic and/or functional reasons. A tooth might require a crown if it is broken, racked, heavily decayed, worn, damaged in some way, or compromised by a root canal.

I had a number of crowns made back in the "old days" before the advent of computers. A tray of gooey putty was placed over my teeth for a few minutes and then the impression was sent off to a distant lab where the permanent crown was made. In the meantime, for the next two weeks I had to endure a fragile temporary crown.

All that has changed with CEREC-3d CAD/CAM. CEREC stands for "Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramic Crowns." CAD/CAM stands for 'computer assisted design/computer assisted manufacturing."

CAD/CAM has been used in industry for many years, but dental CAD/CAM applications were not available until the 1980s, and CEREC technology has only become popular in the last decade.

My dentist, Mr. Jeff, DD, was one of the first dentists in Springfield to embrace this technology approximately 10 years ago. He has made several crowns for me with this technique, and it was so much easier than the old method – and much faster, too. Instead of taking two visits and two weeks to get the permanent crown, it only required about two hours total in one visit to have the new crown made and placed in my mouth.

Ceramic tooth material

Here is what is involved: The first thing my dentist does is take a picture using a dental program which allows him to make a 3D map of my teeth, including top and side views. This allows him to design the crown chairside right then and there on his computer monitor, bypassing the need for filling my mouth with goop and sending the impression off to a lab. This computer data is then transferred wirelessly to a milling instrument that carves the crown out of a block of strong nonmetallic ceramic material.

The milling machine used to make crowns using CAD/CAM technology.

A block of a harder material is chosen for back teeth because they are subjected to stronger grinding forces. The milling machine (about two feet long by one foot wide) takes up to 30 minutes to make the crown, which is then bonded into place in the patient's mouth.

This method is so precise that there is virtually no risk of damage to adjacent teeth. My crowns also have a very natural feel because they are customized to my bite. They blend in well with the rest of my teeth and look and feel natural.

Dr. Jeff estimates he has made approximately 3,000 crowns using CEREC CAD/CAM. Currently only about 20% of dentists in the Springfield area have this technology, so if you need a crown, be sure to check if it is available at your dentist's office and ask how many crowns they have made using it, since like everything else with computers there is a learning curve.

In summary, I am very lucky that my dentist is on the cutting-edge of dentistry and that he could offer me this computer-based technology. I can attest from my personal experience that it is definitely easier, faster, and more accurate than the old method of creating crowns.

Thoughts from a Clicker

Author: Tiny Ruisch, Member, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA
August 2019 issue, CCCC Computer News
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This month I'm going to rant, rave, criticize and complain just a little. About a year ago, before I moved to the Baton Rouge area, my wife and I were in one of the home improvement stores. I thought that it would be a good time to pick up a new water filter for our refrigerator. I went over to appliances and told them I needed a new filter for a Whirlpool. He immediately asked me which of the nine filters I needed. Of course, I didn't have the filter number memorized. So, I found our refrigerator on the sales floor and told the salesman, "One to fit that model." I got home and found that it was the wrong size filter. When I went back to exchange it, I found out that a different model year almost always uses a different filter.

What does all that have to do with computers and electronics? It got me to thinking about some things I hate about technology. I've probably got 10 or 20 different USB cables in the junk box in my computer room. Every time you buy something that is USB supported, you get another cable. Why is this? It's because each manufacturer has their own proprietary plug. They have to include a cable because none of my other 20 cables will work with the darn thing. I recently got a new cell phone. Same manufacturer, different model. You guessed it. I've got another USB cable in my collection. Wouldn't it be nice if everything had a standard plug and didn't have the cable included? Think of the money that could be saved. Wait a minute! Then they couldn't sucker people into paying $20 for 3 dollars' worth of wire.

Another thing that makes me mad are End User License Agreements (EULA). I'm one of the few people who research them before installing anything on my computer. My complaint isn't the fact that lawyers write them by lawyers. I can use the internet to explain the legal terms. My objection is that I have seldom found a EULA that can be read full screen. Instead they write them in a little window that usually covers about a tenth of my

screen. I think this is done to discourage people from reading the agreements. Just get them to click "I agree" and get it over with.

I can live with SPAM (I usually don't even see it). I don't mind getting bombarded with internet advertisements (I can always go to other sites). What I hate it when websites pop up a window asking for information that they will likely never use. For instance, there is a website that I won't name that wants to know my age, sex and country. They then store the data in a cookie on my computer. When I tell them that I'm a 28-year-old female, I get the same advertisements as the dirty old men get. Why do they waste my time? I also dislike software that isn't user-friendly. Some programs have windows that can't be resized. I'm getting older and my eyesight isn't what it used to be. If I can't make the window bigger and read the font, I likely won't use the software. Then there is software that won't let you choose where to install it. I don't install all programs into "program files". Many times, I don't even install them on the C drive.

I wonder if Microsoft will ever fix one little thing that has bugged me for as long as I remember. When you use file explorer to copy, move or delete a list of files; Windows estimates how long it will take. If you're doing an operation on a lot of files, the estimated time will change every time you check it. On older systems it can be even more aggravating. Wouldn't it be nice if the estimate was close once in a while?

Hate might be too strong of a word, but I've always disliked how companies will use a proprietary document format. The perfect example is word processing. Why must each program have a different extension? Is it good for a business to make consumers remember .doc, .odf, .wps, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf,.abw,.abi and hundreds of others? Almost all word processing software has a save as feature to save files to other formats. They can't be that much different. Why isn't there a standard where all programs save in a standard format? After all, this idea seems to work well for HTML internet files.

That's enough ranting and complaining. Next month I promise to write something useful for the newsletter. By the way, did I mention that the two water filters had two different prices? Does that remind you of anything else technology related?

Keep on clicking and thanks for reading.

FORMAT

Very Large Array (VLA)

Author: George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ
July 2019
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The VLA is a physical structure about 50 mile west of Socorro, New Mexico. It consists of 27 large disk radio telescopes in a "Y" arrangement, a Control Center and various auxiliary structures. The purpose is to capture and analyze radio waves being emitted from space to create meaningful pictures and data about outer space objects.

It was originally created in 1980 and has been significantly improved since then. It is used by astronomers and others as needed in their respective occupations.

Each disk is massive, weighing 220 tons and is 82 feet in diameter and 94 feet high. It can rotate and tilt so as to aim in any given direction. Any disk can be moved along special railroad tracks. Since each disk presents such a large surface, they are subject to damage in high winds. In this event, the disk is parked pointing upward to present the least surface for the wind.
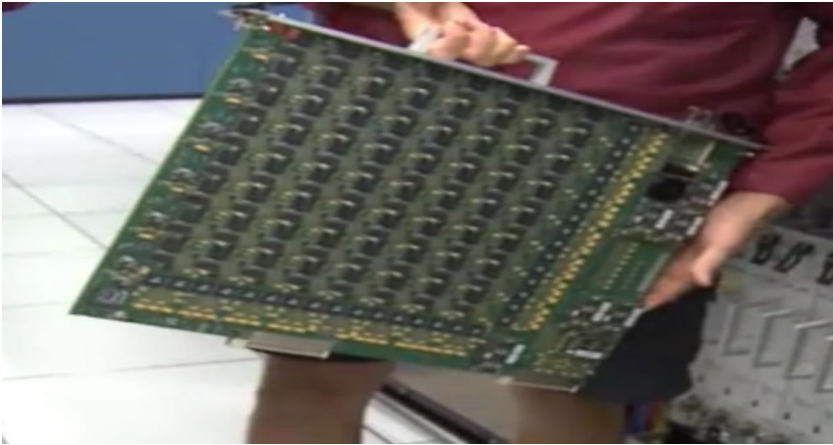

Each leg of the "y" formation contains nine disks, which can be rearranged in several ways. The configuration changes periodically from fully spread out along the "Y" to fully compressed and to two intermediate designs. The effect is to widen the aperture of the telescopes or to narrow them.

The signals from each disk are transferred by fiber optic cables to a system which translates the analog data to digital. The process is quite complicated but is performed by a supercomputer called the correlator.

Each of the boards comprising the correlator contains some 180 ICs each with from 250 to 600 pins. VLA personnel state that it is five times faster than the fastest general- purpose computer in the world!
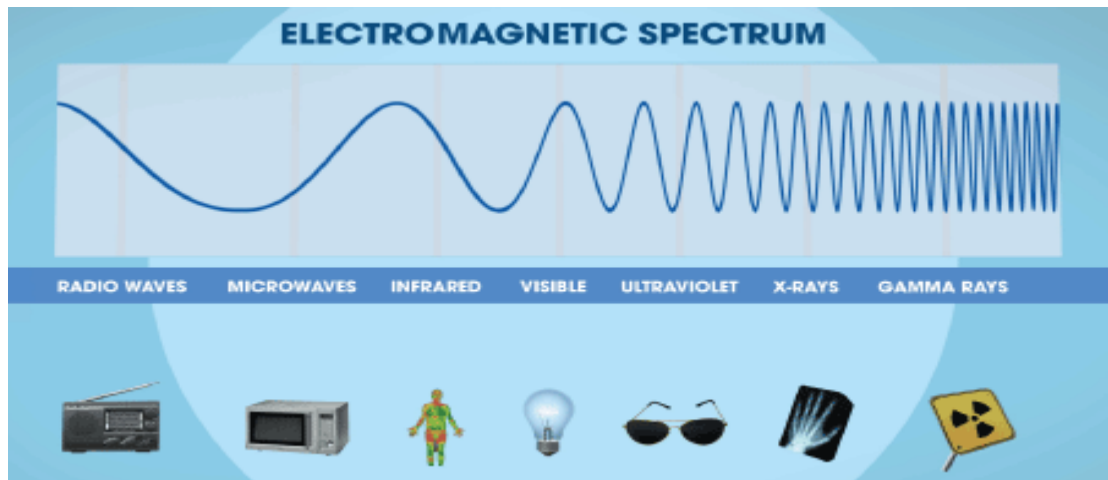
Anyone can access the data produced, for whatever purpose desired. The VLA can be requested for a particular job needed by an astronomer by submitting a proposal. If approved, the proposal is translated into a script for controlling the array for a specific period of time. After completion, the results are given to the requestor and after some months made available to the general public.

The facility is open to the public and a visitor center is available. Tours are provided from time to time.

The site of the VLA is the plains of San Augustin, selected to be as far away from other electronic emanations as possible. Cell phones, for example, emit a radio signal several hundred times louder than the faint signals from outer space. Visitors are asked to keep their phones in airplane mode to mask these signals. In addition, the plains are surrounded by mountains which help to shield the array from man-made radio noise.

For more information see
https://public.nrao.edu/telescopes/vla/

The Very Large Array is owned and operated by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

Sad Story, Happy Ending

By John Roy, President, The PC Users Group of Connecticut
August 2019 issue, The Program
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johnroy1 (at) comcast.net

I have an Android phone and use Google Photos. I wanted to create some storage space on my phone and decided to delete photos that were already residing in the cloud in Google Photos.

Using a local photo application, I started deleting photos off my phone. Being a little tedious doing this one-by-one I looked for a select tool but couldn't find it. I then realized it was available on the Google Photo application so I then started some bulk deletes using Google Photos. I then had this startling revelation that I was deleting my cloud Google Photos and not the dupes residing on my phone.

Panic quickly set in when I realized, in my haste, that I was no longer using the original phone application that was only deleting photos on my phone.

I took a deep breath and searched for recovery solutions. Hooray, there was an easy solution that I had never used. The photos were dumped into a trash bucket that holds deletions for 60 days. Following the steps below recovered the deleted photos.

Recover permanently deleted files from Google Photos in Trash
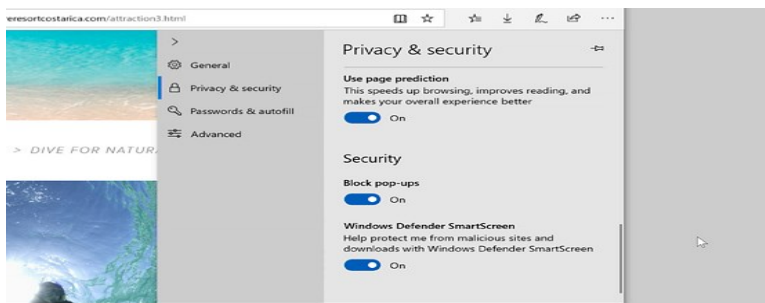
Files that are accidentally deleted from Google Photos will stay in your trash for 60 days. So, if you permanently delete your photos or video on your phone, you can try to fully retrieve them back in Trash during this period.

1. Open the Google Photos app and tap on "Menu." Then select your "Trash" folder.

2. All of your deleted files will be listed. Simply select the photos or videos you wish to recover, and then tap the Restore button to restore them.

Block pop-ups in Microsoft Edge
Applies to: Microsoft Edge

1. Open **Microsoft Edge** and navigate to **Settings and more** > **Settings** > **Privacy & security**.
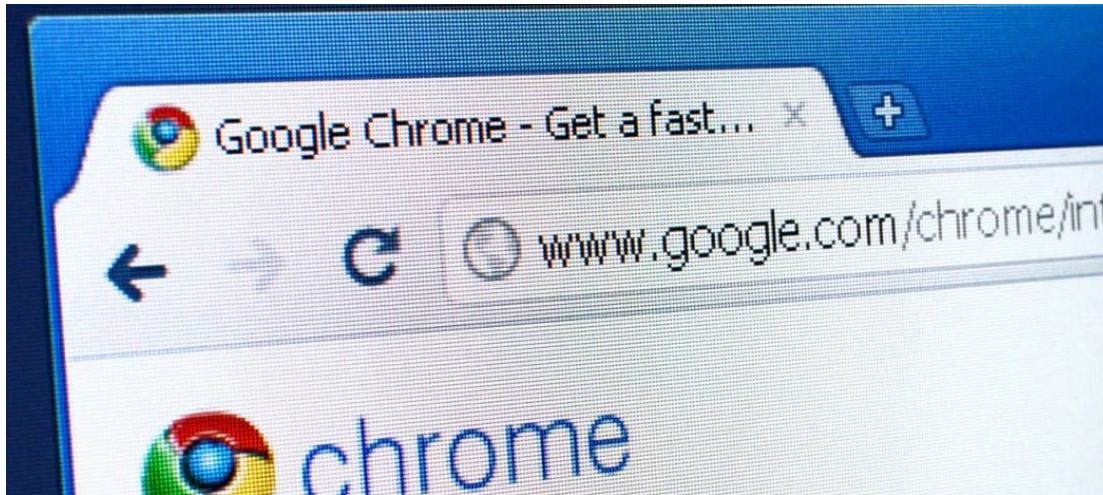

2. Scroll down to **Security**.

3. Switch **Block pop-ups** to **On**.

How to Create a Custom Theme for Google Chrome

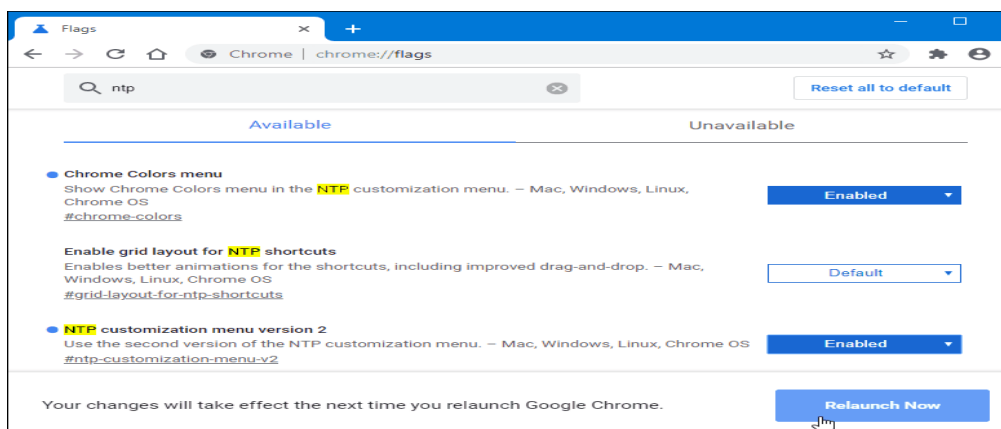By Brian Burgess

Last Updated on September 23, 2019

Just like creating a **custom theme on your PC**, it's nice to change things up on your browser from time to time. You have been able to **change the Chrome theme** for years. The **Chrome web store** is full of different themes you can install. But you might want your theme to be a bit more personal. With the updated Chrome 77, you can create your own customized version of a Chrome theme. Here's how.

Note: To enable the option to create a custom theme, you need to make sure you're running Chrome 77. To verify you're running the latest version click the Menu (three dots) and then head to **Help > About Google Chrome**.

Create a Custom Theme for Chrome Browser

Similar to adding the hidden **Extensions Toolbar menu**, to enable the customization option you will need to enable two "hidden" flags under-the-hood.

To get started launch Chrome and *type:* **chrome://flags** into the address bar and hit **Enter**. Then *type:* **NTP** into the flags search field at the top. Here you need to enable both the "Chrome Colors menu" and the "NTP customization menu version 2" flags. Then hit the "Relaunch Now" button.

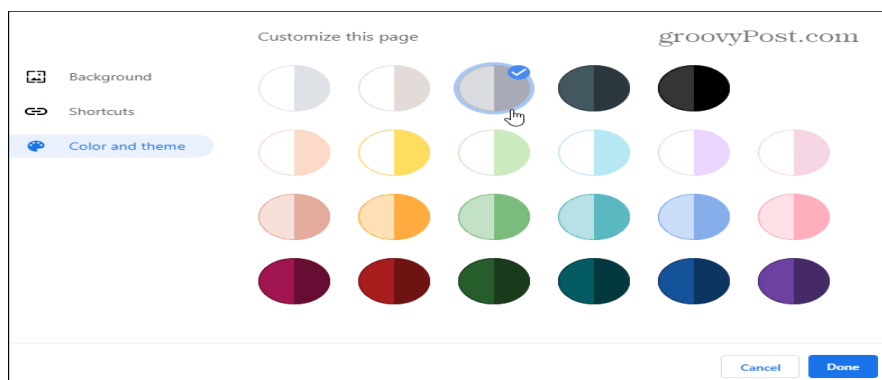Now, open a new tab and click the "Customize" button at the lower-right corner.
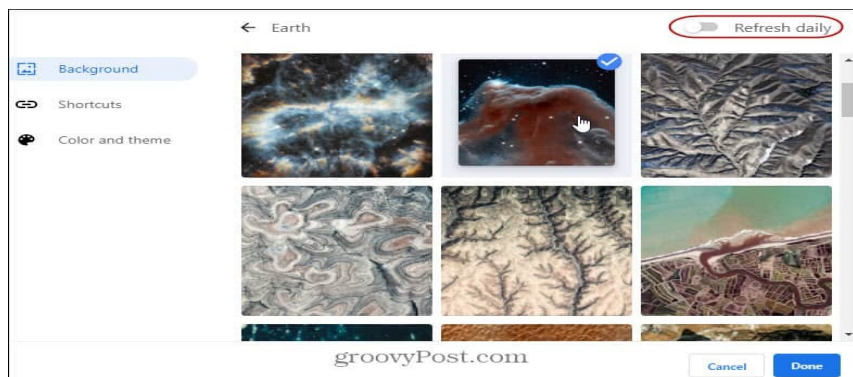

Here you'll notice things look a bit different and this is where you can start customizing the theme. You can go in whatever order you want but you'll notice the "Color and theme" option.

Under the "Color and theme" section you can select from a number of different color combinations. The browser will change color in real-time each time you click on a different color combination.
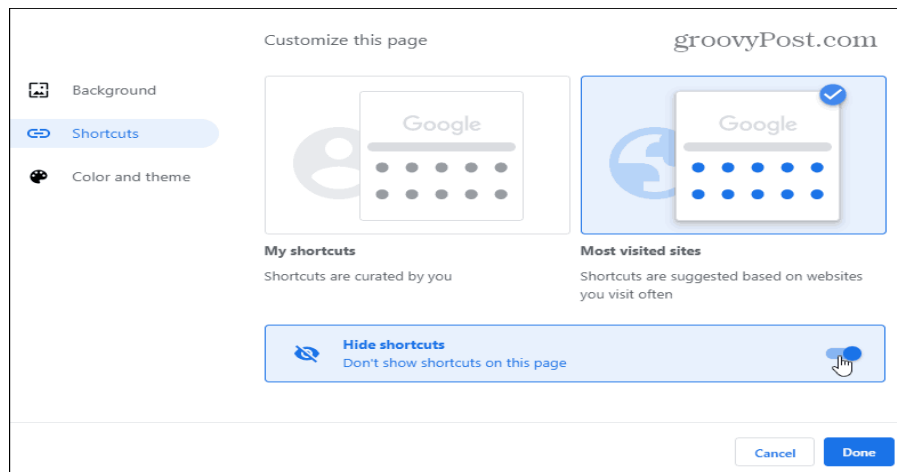

Then you can change the background image. Here you can select a prebuilt background from various categories. Or, upload a photo of your own or simply no background at all. When you choose a background you can also set it to change daily. Just flip on the "Refresh daily" switch.

Of course, you can also select the way your shortcuts will be laid out on the new tab page, too. You can choose to display shortcuts that are curated by you, your most visited sites, or flip on the switch to show none at all.

Chrome is a constantly evolving browser. And keep in mind that here we're using experimental flags that Google could decide to remove at any time. Or, the company could just make the entire process of customizing Chrome's theme much easier in the future.

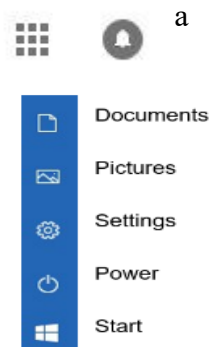Still, if you're one who likes to play around with the look and feel of Chrome, you can use this.

Tiny Icons for Big Functions

Author: Nancy DeMarte, 1st Vice President,
Sarasota Technology Users Group, FL
July 2019 issue, Sarasota Monitor
www.thestug.org - nanellend (at) gmail.com

In recent years, the number of functions that computers and other devices can perform has increased greatly. It appears that to make more room on the screen, tech companies have reduced the amount of text and replaced it with symbols or icons, often without giving users notice. A good example is Google's block of dots representing their many apps. One day about a year ago I found my Gmail contacts list was missing. Eventually, I found it in the center of the Google app icon (shown at right) on the Google home page.
This change to icons was so subtle that many users didn't notice it until they couldn't find a tool or function.

The trend is not only on the Internet, but also in Microsoft's Windows and Office apps.

When I click the Windows 10 Start button, I see a list of important functions represented by icons. Fortunately, Microsoft has tried to make each icon resemble its name, as shown below. But not all the icons are as obvious as the gear for Settings or a house to indicate the Home page.
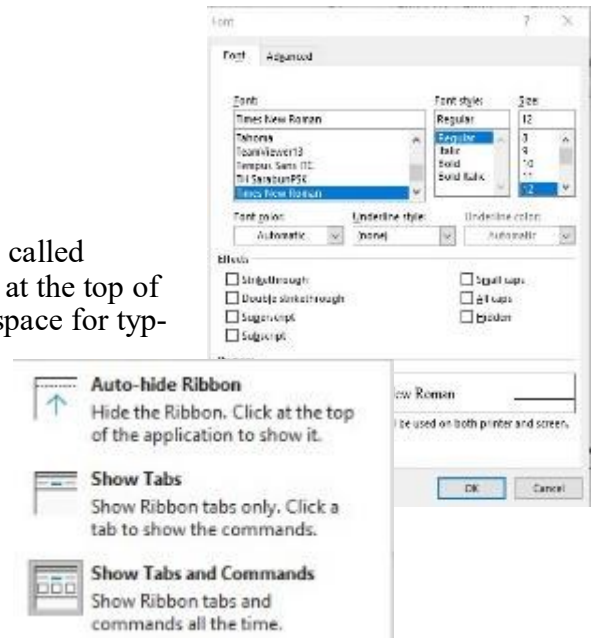
In Office, some icons are so small that they are easy to miss. On the Home tab in Word, for example, several of the groups of tools have a tiny diagonal arrow in the lower right corner. Clicking this icon in the Font group opens a dialogue box which lets me set specific properties for text, as shown. I can make my choices and, if I wish, set them as the default font, meaning that these settings will remain until I change them.

Similar results are found throughout the Office applications.
Another useful, but tiny icon in Windows is often overlooked. It is called 'Ribbon Display Options' and is located at the right end of the bar at the top of the Windows and Office screens. If I want to increase the visible space for typing in Word, I click this icon and choose to hide the ribbon or show only the tabs. It would be hard to guess what this icon means.

One of my favorite icons in Word is 'Layout Options.'
When I insert a picture or object into a document, it is accompanied by the icon shown at the left. Its function is to allow a picture to fit smoothly with the text. I click the icon and choose how I want it to interact with text. It can wrap the text around the photo (as shown) or have it appear in front of or behind the text, among other options.

This view of the Smoky Mountains was taken from the Blue Ridge Parkway, a scenic highway that winds through the Blue Ridge Mountains for 469 miles through Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and ending in Georgia. It is a popular drive with many places to exit or overlook the mountains.

Internet browsers use icons widely, too. Firefox, my current browser, uses icons in the address bar: three dots to indicate 'More information or tools,' and a star icon to open my bookmark list. The icon in the center lets me view my Pocket contents. Pocket is a personal online storage library for articles, videos, etc. that I have copied from many sources. It was developed by Mozilla, the company that created Firefox, and is available for iOS and Android devices as well as computers. Search the web for Pocket to learn more about its features.

On the Firefox home page is an icon group that includes my search history, bookmark sidebars, Last Pass (a password keeper), and an icon for my account which also can synchronize Firefox history and bookmarks with my other devices. Can you identify their icons in the illustration? The three lines at the end of the Firefox icon group give me access to several settings and functions of Firefox.

As you can see, not all icons match their functions. You can avoid frustration by holding your mouse pointer over an icon to see at least its name. Better yet, click the icon and explore its content. Don't be intimidated by these icons, but don't ignore them either. Look around the screen. Some of the most helpful tools and information can be found by clicking those tiny icons.

A Birthday you might have forgotten :-)

Author: Art Gresham, Editor, Under the Computer Hood UG, CA
September 2019 issue, Drive Light
1editor101 (at) uchug.org
www.unchug.org

Last September 19 was the birthday of something you might use every day. At the very least you are familiar with it even if you do not text, write emails, handwritten notes or communicate with other humanoids. In fact, it came into existence before there even existed text messages, the Internet, or email

Back in 1982, none of our modern digital communication methods, or even the networks that evolved, existed. On university campuses there existed something called USENET boards. USER Network message boards on which the locally connected users could carry out discussions, some scientific, some not as much.

Well... It all started on a Usenet message board on September 16, 1982 because some guy wanted to know how a drop of Mercury would react in a falling elevator. (Evidently the Physics department guys had a strange sense of humor.) After several rounds of remarks, some of them with attempts at humor, there developed a discussion about how to indicate to the readers that the message should be read as a playful joke, and not so seriously interpreted.

You can read an excellent summary of the message board conversation here:
https://www.ttlg.com/forums/showthread.php?t=73941

The key entry was on Sunday, September 19, 1982, by Professor Scott Fahlman of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh
> *401298269,0,0*
> *19-Sep-82 11:44 Scott E Fahlman*
> *I propose that the following character sequence for joke markers:* **:-)**
>
> *Read it sideways. Actually, it is probably more economical to mark things that are NOT jokes, given current trends. For this, use:* **: -(**

These symbols, composed of normal keys used in standard text, and available on our keyboard, have long been used, albeit in simpler forms, for a very long time.

A summary discussion of the Emoticon at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoticon
An entertaining version, at https://www.kidscodecs.com/history-of-emoticons/ credits Victor Hugo with perhaps the first digitally transmitted emoticon

> *in 1862, Victor Hugo sent a telegram to his publisher with a single character,* **?***, to ask how his new book Les Misérables was selling. The publisher, equally clever, sent a single character telegram back,* **!***.*

So happy birthday to the smiley face Emoticon **:-)**

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:

Join In	July-Sept Annual Dues	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June
Single:	**$24**	$18	$12	$6
Families:	**$30**	$22	$15	$7

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:

_____

_____

_____

January 2020

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Happy Groundhog Day!	**3**	**4**	**5** **2:00 P.M.** PPCUG Board Mtg.	**6**	**7**	**8**
9	**10**	**11** **3:00 P.M.** General Mtg. Presentation. Followed By Q&A Session	**12**	**13**	**14** Happy Valentine's Day	**15**
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**
23	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**

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