# PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE

## January 2016

"JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE'S COMPUTER CLUB"                    Volume 22, Issue  1

### This Month's Meetings

**Photo Editing Workshop**
**Thursday, January 14 at 1:00 P.M.**
**At FFG Library Bldg.**

**General Meeting**
**Monday, January18 at 3:00 P.M.**
**At 127 S. Senior Center**
**Note Winter Hours**

**Plateau Photography Club**
**Thursday January 21 at 1:00 P.M.**
**At FFG Library Bldg.**

### January Program Topic

### Windows 10. Microsoft Edge

Carl Nordeen will discuss Microsoft Edge, the new replacement for Internet Explorer in Windows 10.

Microsoft Edge is significantly different from Internet Explorer so that it will take some time to get familiar with it.

The changes will be demonstrated with a live demo.



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### "FREE" Table

We have set up a table at our member meetings to share our "extra" goodies with other club members.

If you have something to give away, bring it in and put it on the FREE table. It's first come, first served. If you see something you want, help yourself.

### 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 Date | Jan. 1, 2016 | Apr. 1, 2016 | July 1, 2016 Annual Dues | Oct. 1, 2016 |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 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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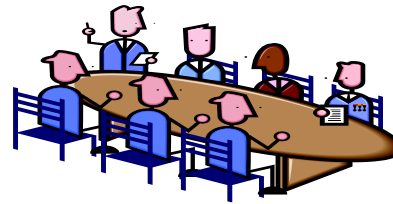
**2015- 2016**

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#### Directors at Large

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| Alan Baker | Gordon Botting | Dolores Crabtree |
| Barbara Duncan | Bob Willis | Linda Yates |

#### Director Emeritus
#### Don Lewis

#### SIG Leaders

| Photo Editing Workshop | Ed Thornblade | (931) 456-6020 |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Plateau Photography Club | Jim Mansfield | (931) 484-6920 |

## Up Coming Meeting Febuary 2016

**The next General Meeting of the
PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP
Will be on FEBUARY 15 at 3:00 P.M.
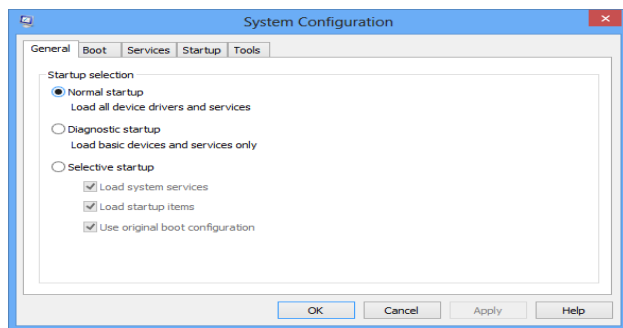at 127 S. Senior Center
Note: Winter hours**

### Classes

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

### Cool Tips & Sites

### Reduce the number of programs running at startup

If your PC is taking too long to boot, it's probably because you have far too many programs running at startup. Reducing this is easy, it will make your PC launch noticeably faster and lighter upon first load. To change the items running at startup, go to Run using the hotkey Windows key + R, and type "msconfig." A small window will appear (see the screenshot below), select the Startup tab. From here you will be able to turn off many startup programs, which can shave several seconds (or minutes) off your boot time. (Note Windows 8 has moved this functionality to the Task Manager). Try to make sure you research what you are turning off as some processes might be needed by third party programs or drivers you have installed.



### PPCUG ISP
**We wish to thank the following for providing ISP connections:**

**Frontier for DSL at the :
127 Senior Center, Crossville, TN**

## 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

A photo editing workshop 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 Ed Thornblade.

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

# General Meeting Minutes November 16, 2015
### "Gifts for Geeks for Christmas"
### By Steve Rosenstein & Carl Nordeen

The first question of this Q&A period was asking for the solution to a failed keyboard on a laptop. Carl thought the cost of repairing was likely prohibitive but suggested that a new USB keyboard would work just fine if you don't mind the extra piece if you use the laptop as a mobile unit.

Another person wanted an explanation of what is ICloud? Carl explained that it is web based storage particular to Apple. If you have ITunes you have access to ICloud. Apple furnishes a block of free storage with additional available on a fee basis. Microsoft cloud storage is called One Drive it currently provides 5gb of free storage with additional also fee based. Google also has an online storage application with similar features.

Someone else had concerns about emails from unknown sources which turned out to be trying to get private information. Carl recommended a program called IPTrackeronline.com to allow finding where the source of these emails is coming from.

A question for those who may be using an office suite other than MS Office such as Libre Office or Open Office as to how to convert .odf extension files to Word format for use with MS Office, brought an answer to open the .odf file then save as a doc. or docx. file. The same would be true for other files such as .odt. save as.xlx or. xlxs format.

Several members expressed concern over email security breaches. Carl recommended using the BB (blind carbon copy) address line for sending emails especially important when sending to a group of addresses. The only address he suggests putting on the TO address line your own. This hides all but your address to anyone trying to "mine" the other addresses for the own purpose.

Carl was asked again about how and when to convert to Windows 10. He reminded us to first go to the manufacturer of the computers website that you intend to install Windows 10 on, and check to see if that computer is compatible for Windows 10. The free offer to upgrade from Microsoft does not guarantee that your machine can do it just that they will allow the upgrade to a compatible machine. It is also important to remember that after a successful upgrade to Windows 10, you do have a thirty-day trial period during which it is possible to revert back to the previous OS.

The last questioner raised the question as to what is the recommendation form computer security software. Carl's recommendation was to use MS Security Essentials along with SuperAntispyware and Malwarebytes Anti-Malware. These all have free versions available for download. CCleaner is another suggested free program.

At the end of the Q&A portion of the meeting and a short break, President Steve Rosenstein called to order the business portion of the meeting. Steve pointed out that during the history of this organization many years ago the needs of the public have changed in regard to basic use and familiarization with home computers. In the beginning almost everything about home computers was new and foreign to all. Our club was instrumental in helping many overcome the initial fear and confusion with these new devices. Our purpose and charter are public education. Most people today have become at least minimally capable of accomplishing what they want and need to do with their computers and attendance at organizations such as ours has declined. The board of directors is always looking for ways that will allow us to be relevant and attuned to the needs of our membership. The demographics of our community and membership are divided. In an effort to provide service we are looking in to holding at least some meetings in the Fairfield Glade area in the near future. After taking a quick poll of those in attendance it was evident that the majority of people at the meeting were in fact from the "Glade". Look for announcements of meeting locations in the future. We are hopeful that we can continue to provide our service to you as well as increasing numbers of new members.

The next order of business was Steve and Carl presenting the results of their search for new and interesting computer geek Christmas present suggestions. Some of these were serious and useful, some,,, maybe not so much, but I'll leave it up to you to decide which are which!

Steve actually bought himself one of the first items. This was the Sentry 2 Automatic Call Blocker available from Amazon for $59.95. Steve claims that it works well and does give options for custom settings.

Major improvements over SENTRY V1.0
· Preload White List at set up.
· Fully automatic blocking, No need to touch it again after setup.
· 100% effective on all spam calls, new or repeated
· Easy setup, then fully automatic and carefree. Great for seniors.

Steve's second item was from Uncommon Goods. It is a smart phone sanitizer system. Put the phone in the device and it kills the germs by exposing it to ultra violet lights. You can imagine how much bio hazard exists on the touch screens today. $19- $59.

How about a cardboard frame to hold your tablet making it look like a TV? $30.

There was also a Polaroid Mobile Printer using special paper for $139.

Steve found a USB powered audio pre-amplifier which allows downloading phonograph vinyl records to your computer library. $200+.

Then it was Carl's turn to play Santa. He came up with an Emoticon Keyboard. $80-$100.

A useful item was the always popular solid state hard drive from 120GB-1TB. $69-$140

Linksys AC 3200 3 Band Router 1GB. $182

Something for every homeowner, a porchlight with a hidden security camera to see who is there. $200

Carl thought this was clever, a laser projection keyboard allowing any flat surface to be used as a keyboard. $150

Would you care to give a micro sized drone to some deserving soul? $35

How about USB flash drives in virtually any shape you can think of.

Carl also found a programmable remote lawn mower. $1,799

Also available are robotic programmable items to clean windows, vacuum floors clean your BBQ grill grates and I have no doubt there is one out there to walk your dog!

I'm sure you can all find something for anyone you care to please.

Merry Christmas to you one and all. See you next year.

Submitted by:

Dick Del Frate
Secretary

# Beyond Doing Basic Backups

*By Gene Barlow*
*User Group Relations*
*Copyrighted December 2015*

For almost 20 years I have lectured and written articles about the importance of doing backups of your PC. Doing regular backups of your main computer hard drive on your PC is the most important thing all end-users need to do to maintain and protect their computer system. Without a good backup system, your computer may crash and you will not only lose all of your important files and photographs, but your computer will be dead and expensive to repair. Having followed my advice over the years, thousands of computer users have avoided such loss.

## Basic Computer Backups

There are many different approaches to doing backups of your computer. Unfortunately, most of these approaches are just plain inadequate to totally protect your computer. That is why I have emphasized the Perfect Backup Approach as the most effective way to do backups. It consists of backing up your entire main hard drive on a weekly basis and storing these backups on a dedicated external hard drive. This is not a partial backup of a few of your data files or photographs, but the entire content of your main hard drive is backed up. Your Windows operating system, all of your application programs and setting files, as well as your important data files (photographs, videos, graphics, spreadsheets, databases, etc.) are protected. A good Image Backup system is needed to do this properly. I recommend you use the top rated *Acronis True Image* product for either the PC or the Mac computer. If you follow my instructions on how to do these weekly backups, then you computer and important data files will be very well protected.

## Beyond the Basic Backups

Every end-user needs to faithfully do the Perfect Backup Approach mentioned above and for most computer users this will be adequate to protect you. However, there are a few ways to give your computer an added level of protection. The purpose of this article is to introduce you to these more advanced backup approaches. Please note that these should never be used as your only backups, but they should be used in addition to the Perfect Backup Approach described above. Together with the Perfect Backup Approach, they will give you a higher level of Protection than the Basic Backup can do by itself.

**Critical File Backups:** While I recommend a backup of your entire main hard drive on a weekly basis, you may have a few critical files on your computer system that need to be backed up more frequently. *Acronis True Image* has the ability to backup individual files on a daily basis or even more often. The Continuous Backup feature in *True Image* will watch over these critical files and back them up every five minute or so if they have changed. Do not be tempted to backup all of your files using this approach. It could cause your computer un-needed extra work. Just select those very important files on your hard drive to get this frequent backup action.

**Protecting your Backup Images:** Making regular backups and storing them on an external hard drive attached to your computer is very important. But, then protecting your backup hard drive from damage is a very important next step. Let me recommend you do two things to protect your important backup hard drive. First, unplug the backup external hard drive from your computer between backups. That way, a virus attacking your computer will not be able to destroy your backup external hard drive when it crashes the main hard drive inside the computer.

Second, get a second backup external hard drive to serve as your remote backup hard drive. Then you will have both a local backup drive and a remote backup drive. Store the local backup drive near your computer for the convenience of doing your next backup. Then after 3-4 months, move your local backup hard drive to a remote

location (safety deposit box, your office, a friend's house, etc.) and start using your remote backup hard drive as your local backup drive. The remote backup hard drive will protect you from theft, fire, earthquakes, flood, and hurricanes that may destroy your local backup hard drive. The swapping of these two backup hard drives will protect you against these rare physical destruction of your local backups. You will still lose a month or two of information using this swap approach.

**Cloud Backup Storage:** A fairly new backup approach takes advantage of Internet storage to save your backups to. Then, if anything should happen to your computer location (fire, theft, tornados, earthquakes, etc.) that destroys your computer and local backup storage, your very important files will still be safe on the Internet. Just remember that Cloud backups are very slow and more expensive than local backups. So, the most practical use of Cloud backups is to save your most important data files and photos and not to backup your entire main hard drive. Continue to use local weekly backups of your entire main hard drive to protect your entire main hard drive. This combination of weekly local backups and daily Cloud backups will protect your computer and important files in the best way possible.

To order *Acronis True Image 2016 for PC/Mac, Acronis True Image 2016 Cloud* or *Acronis Disk Director 12* from us, go to www.ugr.com and select the product you wish to purchase. Once you are on that product's page, click on the appropriate **Buy Now** button to place your order. We charge only $25 for a single license or $60 for a three license package of our local software products. That is half what these excellent product normally sells for from Acronis or from your retail computer store. We also offer Acronis Cloud storage for the first time. If you order our *Acronis True Image 2016 Cloud* product, you get a license to our popular backup utility plus unlimited Cloud storage for one year to be used by one computer and up to 3 smart devices (smartphones, tablets, etc.). The cost of this *True Image Cloud* package is only $50, again half the normal price of this package. When checking out of the shopping cart, enter in the special order code of **UGNL1215**. Not only do we provide the best prices for these excellent products, we also give our customers much better support than they will get from Acronis or other distributers.

If you have questions about this article or the *Acronis True Image for PC/Mac, Acronis True Image Cloud* or *Acronis Disk Director* products, send an email to support@ugr.com and I will try to help you with your questions.

## New Products Can Eliminate Most Annoying Robocalls

by Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:
http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2015/07/rage-against-robocalls/index.htm
http://consumersunion.org/end-robocalls/problems/
https://www.nomorobo.com
http://robocall.devpost.com
https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/contests/zapping-rachel
http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/if-first-you-dont-succeed
http://consumerist.com/2015/07/28/consumers-put-robocall-blocking-devices-to-the-test/
http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2015/06/are-you-a-target-for-robocall-scams/index.htm
http://consumerist.com/2015/07/22/45-attorneys-general-agree-phone-companies-should-give-consumers-ability-to-block-robocalls/
https://consumersunion.org/end-robocalls/
http://consumerist.com/2015/07/07/ftc-and-florida-ag-sue-company-thats-allegedly-behind-medical-alert-robocalls/
http://consumerist.com/2015/06/18/fcc-votes-to-give-consumers-the-right-to-block-annoying-spam-robocalls-and-texts/

 I have not heard from "Rachael, at Credit Card Services" recently, nor have I recently received the calls that I will receive a free medical call alert system.  I am sorry to say that I will no longer be informed that I have won a free cruise nor will I be told that I can save having my mortgage refinanced at super low rates, or that my computer is infected with hundreds of viruses.  The reason is that I am using a free service connected to my phones that automatically blocks most robocalls.

For several years, despite some internet rumors and hoaxes, the Federal Trade Commission's National Do Not Call Registry (donotcall.gov) has attempted to eliminate or minimize many of the "junk" phone calls that we receive on a regular basis.  Just as many other laws on the books are only obeyed by honest people and ignored by the criminal element, honest telemarketers have generally followed the regulations  promulgated by the Do Not Call program, but illicit marketers, phone spammers, crooks, and scammers still flaunt the law with a blatant disregard for us and our privacy.  According to a recent article in the July, 2015 issue of Consumers' Reports magazine online, "Every month more than 150,000 consumers complain to the Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communications Commission about "Rachel from Cardholder Services" or Microsoft "representatives" warning about a computer virus. "Robocalls have eclipsed live telemarketing calls" as a source of consumer complaints, says Bikram Bandy, program coordinator for the National Do Not Call Registry ... . Aaron Foss, founder of Nomorobo, a call-blocking technology, estimates that 35 percent of all calls placed in the U.S. are robocalls. "For every 10 phone calls you get, roughly three to four of them will be unwanted robocalls," he says."  Consumers' Reports continues, "Just to be clear: Robocalls refer to autodialed or prerecorded telemarketing calls to landline home telephones or cell phones, or unsolicited text messages to wireless numbers. Autodialed informational messages, such as those announcing school closings or weather alerts, are permitted according to the FCC, as are calls to landlines on behalf of nonprofit groups and political campaigns."

I have two distinct VoIP (digital phone service) phone lines from two different providers; one line is our primary family home phone line, and the other dedicated to important family communications. That second digital phone line only for important family communications has an unusual phone number, is provided from a very reputable provider that has a strict privacy policy on not releasing or publishing phone numbers, and only members of my immediate family have that phone number, fully cognizant to keep it confidential.  That number has never been posted online, and should be reasonably secure, but over the past several months I have received countless robocalls on that line.  My primary household digital phone line, using the same phone number that I have had for nearly four decades, was getting several annoying robocalls per day.

Recently, the number of robocalls and other junk phone calls that I have received on my two digital phone lines has decreased precipitously.  I have signed up for a free robocall blocking service from Nomorobo (nomorobo.com).  I read about Nomorobo in a recent column in the Consumerist (consumerist.com), an informational blog operated by the Consumer's Reports magazine.  In a recent posting, the Consumerist (consumerist.com/2015/07/28/consumers-put-robocall-blocking-devices-to-the-test) reviewed several commercially available hardware devices and online services that claim to block robocalls and other unwanted calls.  After reading the reviews I decided to sign up for the free service from Nomorobo.  One of the reasons why I chose Nomorobo was the fact that it won the "FTC Robocall Challenge" (robocall.devpost.com), defeating several other hardware and software competitors.

Nomorobo offers its free blocking service for digital phone subscribers connected through most of the major digital phone carriers, including Time Warner, Vonage, Ooma Premier, AT&T U-Verse, Comcast Xfinity, Verizon Fios, and several other VoIP digital phone providers.  Nomorobo is currently unavailable for traditional analog land lines and wireless phone services.  Signing up for the service was very fast, and no credit card or other personal information was required.  Simply choose your type of device and carrier, enter a valid email address, enter the digital phone numbers that are to be protected, verifiy the phone number, and the service almost immediately takes effect.  Nomorobo detects and evaluates the caller on the first ring, and asks subscribers not to answer any

call on that first ring, and to wait until the second ring before answering. Coincidentally, within five minutes of signing up and activating my Nomorobo service, the caller ID display on my phone, TV, and computer monitor showed a strange number as our primary digital phone rang once; it did not ring a second time as Nomorobo blocked the call.  By the end of the evening, Nomorobo blocked three more calls.

Nomorobo only blocks illicit robocalls, and explicitly does not block or interfere with legitimate automated phone calls, and will still receive legal robocalls about prescription reminders, school closings, reverse 911 calls, doctor's appointment reminders, and other valid forms of automated calls.   Just this morning I received an automated call from my pharmacy informing me that a prescription auto-refill was ready, and could be picked up, that call getting through fine, not being blocked by Nomorobo.   What is being blocked on a massive scale are the endemic telemarketing robocalls, often being made in clear violation of existing laws and regulations, frequently with "spoofed" (counterfeit) caller ID, and sometimes showing a faux local number on the caller ID.  This deception is being done in order to deceive the recipient and encourage him to pick up the phone.  According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), telemarketing fraud cost American consumers an estimated $350 billion in 2011, predominantly initiated by a robocall.

A pernicious robocall example that I have written about In previous columns here, have been about the robocall scams that victimized local individuals.  One of the most common and most egregious robocall scams locally and nationally is from a foreign caller with a spoofed (often local) phone number falsely claiming to be from Microsoft, Windows Technical Support, Geek Squad, or some other legitimate sounding service informing the recipient that his computer is badly infected with viruses and needs to be cleaned immediately.  Instructing the recipient to allow remote access to the computer, this pseudo expert (who is really a crook working on a fat commission of whatever he scams from the victim) takes control of the computer and appears to remove hundreds of viruses and other malware.   Sometimes the thief  also sells and installs useless security software for an extra cost, typically charging a fee from $39 to $600 on the victim's credit card.  On several computers that I have personally cleaned after scammer does his nastiness, I have found evidence of identity theft (personal documents, email, spreadsheets, tax information, and other sensitive information downloaded by the crook), as well as new malware installed including key loggers to steal passwords and account numbers, a variety of software hijackers, and other malware.  The crook also now has your credit card number, which is often resold on illicit websites by stolen credit card brokers.  All of this damage done because the victim fell for the pitch in an illicit robocall.

According to the FTC, 77% of us find these robocalls to be very annoying.  For those of us using digital phone services, such as those provided by cable companies, internet service providers, or third party VoIP providers (Vonage, Ooma, and others), this free robocall blocking service from Nomorobo (nomorobo.com) is definitely worthy of consideration.  Signup is fast and easy, and the service can be stopped and discontinued at any time.  If you are among the 77% that find robocalls annoying, Nomorobo may improve your quality of life by minimizing this common annoyance.
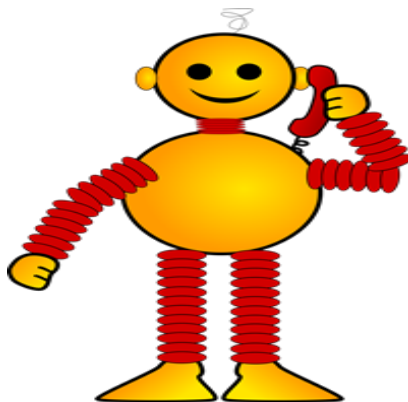
# Microsoft Upgrading Windows 10;
## May "Automatically" Upgrade Windows 7 and 8.1 to Windows 10

By Ira Wilsker
WEBSITES:
http://www.techrepublic.com/article/massive-windows-10-update-could-turbo-charge-windows-7-machines-says-microsoft/
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-10/upgrade-to-windows-10-faq
http://www.techrepublic.com/article/five-ways-microsoft-plans-to-get-you-to-upgrade-to-windows-10/
www.zdnet.com/article/windows-10-growth-sluggish-as-windows-7-windows-8-users-stick-with-their-os/
http://www.zdnet.com/article/my-biggest-problem-with-windows-10-stability/
https://netmarketshare.com
http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsofts-big-windows-10-goal-one-billion-or-bust/
http://gs.statcounter.com/#desktop-os-ww-monthly-201508-201510-bar
http://www.zdnet.com/article/dont-let-the-grinches-put-you-off-windows-10/

Several months ago, Microsoft offered millions of users of Windows 7 and 8.1 a free online update to the then newly released Windows 10.  While Microsoft has claimed that as many as 110 million Windows 7 and 8.1 users did accept the free offer to upgrade to Windows 10, Microsoft has also expressed some concern that as many as a billion other Windows 7 and 8.1 users have not yet upgraded to Windows 10.  According to several published reports, Microsoft has expressed concerns that the rate of Windows users upgrading from the older versions of Windows to Windows 10 has slowed, and this decline in the rate of people upgrading to Windows 10 may cost Microsoft substantial potential revenues.

According to an article published on ZDnet in November (zdnet.com/article/windows-10-growth-sluggish-as-windows-7-windows-8-users-stick-with-their-os), the results of upgrades to Windows 10 during the month of October had slowed compared to previous months.  Despite heavy promotions and the springtime appearance of the "Get Windows 10" icon in the system tray of countless Windows computers running Windows 7 or 8.1, the rate of increase in Windows 10 usage has slowed.  In October (2015), the number of PCs running Windows 10 was a paltry 7.94%, up 1.31% from the 6.63% rate tallied the month before (September).  In September the rate of Windows 10 upgrades was 1.42%, slighter greater than the following month of October, documenting that the rate of increase of Windows 10 upgrades has been slowing.  Microsoft has not been as successful as they had hoped in getting people to upgrade their PCs from earlier versions of Windows to Windows 10, as the proportion of desktop PCs running Windows 7 in October was well over half at 55.71%.  In the first week of December, 2015, according to the website NetMarketShare.com, considering the early holiday sales of PCs, the rate of desktop PCs running Windows 7 increased slightly to 56.11%, and the number of PCs running Windows 10 was up to 9%, but this 9% number includes both PCs upgraded from earlier versions of Windows as well as the sales of new PCs with Windows 10 factory installed.  Despite the lamentations expressed by many of the users of Windows 8.1 about the foibles of that operating system, Windows 8.1 users have apparently not flocked to Windows 10 to the degree that Microsoft has apparently wanted.  According to the article on ZDnet, referencing the October figures, "Windows 8 and 8.1 users just aren't migrating at all (cumulative the usage share for this OS is at 13.22 percent, down only 0.10 of a percentage point)."

Despite the pronounced efforts of Microsoft to get users of Windows 7 and 8.1 to take advantage of the free upgrade to Windows 10, there is still significant resistance in the PC community to the upgrade.  While some users of earlier versions of Windows are inherently resistant to change, being relatively happy with the current functionality and performance of Windows 7 on their computers.  ZDnet and other online publications have expressed mixed results with PCs upgraded from Windows 7 or 8 to Windows 10, an attitude common among individual users who have performed the upgrade.  It is also useful to note that an unknown but probably sizea-ble number of users who did indeed download the Windows 10 upgrade who went on to perform the upgrade

decided to go back to Windows 7 or 8 taking advantage of a little known feature of the Windows 10 upgrade process that allows users to roll back their Windows 10 upgrade to their earlier operating system, and option only available to upgraders for a finite number of days, typically 31 days, after the upgrade. The rollback can be accomplished by clicking on the Start button, then Settings, "Update and Security", and finally "Recovery and Uninstall Windows 10". If all works as it should, the PC should be restored to its prior operating system.

Earlier this fall, in September, ZDnet published an item, "My biggest problem with Windows 10: Instability", by Mary Jo Foley (zdnet.com/article/my-biggest-problem-with-windows-10-stability). In this article, Ms. Foley summarized her Windows 10 experience as, "Windows 10's strength -- its comprehensiveness -- is also its biggest weakness. Too many moving parts are making for an unstable computing experience for me." While many users were delighted with Windows 10 after their upgrade, this article reflects the results and frustrations that many individual users experienced following the upgrade to Windows 10.

Microsoft has been well aware of the concerns expressed by many Windows 7 and 8 users over such factors as boot time, privacy, reliability, speed, complexity, and other issues which discouraged users from upgrading to Windows 10 (zdnet.com/article/dont-let-the-grinches-put-you-off-windows-10). To help overcome these objections by millions of users who have not taken advantage of the free upgrade to Windows 10, as well as to address issues of performance and other concerns of Windows 10 users, Microsoft recently released a major upgrade to Windows 10. In a recent article in TechRepublic, dated November 12, and written by NIck Heath, "Massive Windows 10 update could turbo charge Windows 7 machines says Microsoft. The first major update to Windows 10 hits today - with Microsoft promising great things for those upgrading from Windows 7, as well as significant new features for business users." (techrepublic.com/article/massive-windows-10-update-could-turbo-charge-windows-7-machines-says-microsoft).

This new update to Windows 10 is a huge download of slightly less than 4GB, and is claimed by Microsoft to speed up the PCs' boot time by up to 30%, making Windows 10 boot faster than the Windows 7 which had previously been running on the same machine. According to Jeremy Korst, general manager of the Windows and Devices team at Microsoft, "There's a bunch of things under the hood that we've improved with this update to make it an even better experience." Microsoft has indicated a desire that the improved features, performance, compatibility, and stability of the upgraded Windows 10 will help convince Windows users who have not yet upgraded to Windows 10. Microsoft has planned some strong encouragement for those users, because in early 2016, Microsoft will start to "push" the upgrades of Windows 10 to PCs still running Windows 7 and 8.1.

Starting in 2016 (the exact official date has not yet been published, but a variety of commencement dates have been suggested), Windows 7 and 8.1 will automatically begin installing the upgraded Windows 10 after a user confirmation during the conventional Windows update process. According to Jeremy Korst, "(T)he customer will have the ability to delay it for some period", that "period" being unspecified. As with the previous, more voluntary upgrades, the user may be able to restore his prior operating system within 31 days of installing the free upgrade to Windows 10. Jeremy Korst continued, "We'll be taking customer feedback throughout this process and the intent really is to make the upgrade even easier for customers." This corroborates an earlier article (October 30) by Nick Heath in TechRepublic (techrepublic.com/article/five-ways-microsoft-plans-to-get-you-to-upgrade-to-windows-10). This article, "Five ways Microsoft plans to get you to upgrade to Windows 10" explains that Microsoft, "(In order) To achieve its goal of getting one billion people onto Windows 10, Microsoft is getting more forceful in how it pushes Windows 7 and 8.1 users towards its new OS." Primarily this will occur when Windows 10 automatically begins installing itself as a "Recommended Update", which means that the majority of Windows users who have the default "Install Updates Automatically" setting will transparently have Windows 10 installed. Microsoft has stated that users will need to confirm the installation before it begins, but it is well known that most users blindly "OK" Microsoft's recommendations. Being aware that many internet users have metered or limited access, Terry Myerson, Microsoft's executive VP of the Windows and Devices Group, says that "(Users) have the option of turning off automatic updates" but does not recommend that they do turn off

automatic updates due to, " ... the constant risk of internet threats".  Microsoft will also make it easier for those who want to initiate the upgrade to Windows 10, rather than wait for the updates that will be pushed to them; the "Get Windows 10" icon in the system tray will soon get an "Upgrade Now" option, which will immediately start to download the huge upgrade file, and commence the upgrade process.  For those who may have multiple PCs which they would like upgraded to Windows 10, will shortly find that the process has been made much easier.  Microsoft has released its "Media Creation Tool" which can create an image file that can be installed to a USB flash drive or a DVD disc, and then used to upgrade multiple machines without having to download the huge file to each of the PCs.  This "new and improved" single image file will be able to upgrade PCs to an
appropriate flavor of Windows 10, including 32 and 64 bit versions, as well as the Home or Professional versions of Windows 10, all from that single image file.  This image file can also be used for a "clean install" of Windows 10 provided the user has a valid Windows license.

The new year 2016 will be an interesting one for Windows PC users still using Windows 7 or 8.1.  I expect some users to be happy with the new, somewhat "forced" upgrades to Windows 10, while many others to complain loudly.

Happy new year, Windows users.

## What is the difference between a 32-bit and 64-bit CPU?



http://www.computerhope.com

The two main categories of processors are 32-bit and 64-bit. The type of processor a computer has not only affects its overall performance, but it can also dictate what type of software it uses
.

**32-bit processor**

The 32-bit processor was the primary processor used in all computers until the early 1990s. Intel Pentium processors and early AMD processors were 32-bit processors. The operating system and software on a computer with a 32-bit processor is also 32-bit based, in that they work with data units that are 32 bits wide. Windows 95, 98, and XP are all 32-bit operating systems that were common on computers with 32-bit processors.

**Note:** A computer with a 32-bit processor cannot have a 64-bit version of an operating system installed. It can only have a 32-bit version of an operating system installed
.

**64-bit processor**

The 64-bit computer has been around since 1961 when IBM created the IBM 7030 Stretch supercomputer. However, it was not put into use in home computers until the early 2000s. Microsoft released a 64-bit version of Windows XP to be used on computers with a 64-bit processor. Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Windows

8 also come in 64-bit versions. Other software has been developed that is designed to run on a 64-bit computer, which are 64-bit based as well, in that they work with data units that are 64 bits wide.

**Note:** A computer with a 64-bit processor can have a 64-bit or 32-bit version of an operating system installed. However, with a 32-bit operating system, the 64-bit processor would not run at its full capability.

**Note:** On a computer with a 64-bit processor, you cannot run a 16-bit legacy program. Many 32-bit programs will work with a 64-bit processor and operating system, but some older 32-bit programs may not function properly, or at all, due to limited or no compatibility.

**Differences between a 32-bit and 64-bit CPU**

A big difference between 32-bit processors and 64-bit processors is the number of calculations per second they can perform, which affects the speed at which they can complete tasks. 64-bit processors can come in dual core, quad core, six core, and eight core versions for home computing. Multiple cores allow for an increased number of calculations per second that can be performed, which can increase the processing power and help make a computer run faster. Software programs that require many calculations to function smoothly can operate faster and more efficiently on the multi-core 64-bit processors, for the most part.

Another big difference between 32-bit processors and 64-bit processors is the maximum amount of memory (RAM) that is supported. 32-bit computers support a maximum of 3-4GB of memory, whereas a 64-bit computer can support memory amounts over 4 GB. This feature is important for software programs used in graphic design, engineering, and video editing as these programs have to perform many calculations to render their images.

One thing to note is that 3D graphic programs and games do not benefit much, if at all, from switching to a 64-bit computer, unless the program is a 64-bit program. A 32-bit processor is adequate for any program written for a 32-bit processor. In the case of computer games, you'll get a lot more performance by upgrading the video card instead of getting a 64-bit processor.

In the end, 64-bit processors are becoming more and more commonplace in home computers. Most manufacturers build computers with 64-bit processors due to cheaper prices and because more users are now using 64-bit operating systems and programs. Computer parts retailers are offering fewer and fewer 32-bit processors and soon may not offer any at all.



*"Judging by the security on your site, I'm guessing you leave an extra key to your home under the mat."*

# Customize the Start Menu in Windows 10

The new Start Menu is such a huge improvement over what came with Windows 8.1 that it's almost impossible to describe the relief. It combines the best elements of Windows 7 and Windows 8. And it's also fully customizable.

You can resize tiles in the Start menu by right-clicking them and choosing Resize, and then selecting a size from the pop-up menu. You can also unpin them or uninstall them completely. I admit the first thing I did is unpin all of Microsoft's tiles and then shrink the size of the menu so it looks a lot like Windows 7

For a while, during some of the Windows 10 Technical Preview builds, you could pin the Recycle Bin to the taskbar, which makes it a bit more like OS X. Unfortunately, that functionality seems to be gone in the release version, though you can still pin it to the Start Menu as a tile.



# Find the original Control Panel in Windows 10

The new Settings panel is easy to navigate and makes more sense than the crafty old Control Panel, but you'll still need the latter to access some deeper options in the system.

It's easy to call up, even though it's hidden; just right click on the Start button on the bottom left of the screen and choose it from the pop-up menu, or type Control Panel in the Search bar at the bottom left in the taskbar.

When you right-click the Start button, you'll see all kinds of useful things there, such as Computer Management and Disk Management; for what it's worth, those options bring you right back to the familiar Windows 7-style apps in each case.

# 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 no later than July 1 of each year. Annual dues are $24.00 per single person / $30.00 per family starting July 1, 2014. with partial dues as follows.

| Join Date | Jan. 1, 2016 | Apr. 1, 2016 | July 1, 2016 Annual Dues | Oct. 1, 2016 |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Single:   | $12          | $6           | $24                      | $18          |
| Families: | $15          | $7           | $30                      | $22          |

_____
Date

_____--
Last Name                    First Name                Family Members (if family Membership)

_____-
Address:

_____
City                   State        Zip Code          Phone Number

_____
E-Mail address

I have used PCs since (year): _____     I have belonged to a Computer Club before. Yes ___ No ___

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

_____

_____

_____

I would like more information about the following areas:

_____

_____

_____

11/10/15

# February 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
| **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** ASH WEDNESDAY | **11 1:00 P.M.** Photo Editing Workshop Mtg. | **12** | **13** |
| **14** | **15 3:00 P.M.** Q & A Session Followed by General Mtg. PRESIDENTS' DAY | **16** | **17** | **18 1:00 P.M.** Plateau Photography Club Mtg. | **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.