



THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

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November MEETING MINUTES

DATE 11/12/2022

Open Meeting: by Neal

Question and

answers: 1) Windows updates very slow; 2) New Windows update 22H2; 3) Neal presented Bill S. Power Point on Windows updates and support dates; 4) When updating MS Office with 2016 or newer version, all older versions have to be removed; 5) Gmail for email applications is easy to use and universally available.

Treasurer's report: Presented by Joe F. and approved

Old business: 1) Love on a Leash-

club has secured a date to begin support of program; 2) Club did 45 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child; 3) Club Christmas party during next meeting- chicken George, sweet potato fries, onion rings, bring a salad if you would like, cruise participants are also invited; 4) Cruise was fabulous; 5) Same schedule is continuing at computer lab, have 4 public computers now.

New business: 1) December club meeting (Christmas party) moved to 3rd Saturday (12/17/22), 2)

Board meeting at Angelo's-Dixon Wednesday 11/16/22;

3) Dues for APCUG due 12/31/22.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned

Program: John Miller was unavailable. Neal presented Using Excel for Other Than Spreadsheets, and Misconceptions of MS Excel. Reference material website locations listed on SCUG website.

Next month's program: Meeting moved from 12/10/22 to 12/17/22. Christmas Party with Santa Joe.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Rich

Club Information

Sauk Computer User Group
PO Box 215
Sterling, IL 61081-0215
Neal Shipley - President
topgun05@gmail.com

Website
www.saukcomputerusergroup.org

SCUG Email
saukcomputerusergroup@gmail.com

Editor and Printing done by:
Joe Fornero & Neal shipley
j4nero@thewisp.net

Member of



An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

**November Board
Minutes 11/16/2022**

Meeting was called to order
by: Neal

Attending the meeting were:
Joe Fornero, Neal Shipley,
Gloria Schneider, Tom &
Nancy Rich, Lorraine Arm-
strong & Cheryl Johnson. .

Treasurer's report was pre-
sented by: Joe F.

Discussion Highlights:

1): December meeting,
12/17/22, will feature
Santa Joe. Chicken George,
Sweet Potato Fries, Onion
Rings & pies from the
Sterling Farmer's Market
will be provided by the club.
Members to bring a salad to
pass which is optional.
Dues for club membership
will be accepted, \$20.00
for annual single member-
ship or \$26.00 for couple
membership. There is a one
-time offer to club members
during the **December meet-
ing only** to join the WCSC
senior center for 2023 for
\$10 for a single or \$15 for

a couple. A separate
check made out to WCSC
and application form
must be filled out and
received at the meeting.

2): Our SCUG sponsored
Love on a Leash dog will
be visiting during the
January '23 meeting.

3): Nominations and
election of club officers
and members at large
will be done during the
January '23 meeting.

4): Former club Presi-
dent, Art Bendick's,
picture has been hung on
the Veteran's wall at the
Senior Center.

Future Programs:

The January '23 meeting
program will present
more on Excel.

**The meeting was
adjourned.**

*Respectfully submitted
by
Secretary Nancy Rich*

Jokes

Murphy's Laws of Computing.

1. When computing, whatever
happens, behave as though you
meant it to happen.

2. When you get to the point
when you really understand
your computer, it's probably
obsolete.

3. The first place to look for in-
formation, is in the section of
the manual where you least
expect to find it.

4. When the going gets tough,
upgrade.

5. For every action, there is an
equal and opposite malfunc-
tion.

6. To err is human....to blame
your computer for your mis-
takes is even more human, it is
downright natural.

7. He who laughs last probably
made a back up.

8. If at first you do not succeed,
blame your computer.

9. A computer system that does
not work is invariably found to
have evolved from a simpler
system that worked just fine.

10. The number one cause of
computer problems is comput-
er solutions.

11. A computer program will
always do what you tell it to do,
but rarely what you want to do.

Streaming Surpasses Cable TV as the Way Most People Watch Television

By Kurt Jefferson

Streaming Is Now King

More people are streaming TV shows and movies for the first time rather than watching cable TV programs. In fact, the total time spent viewing streaming services in July soared nearly 23% over one year ago.

This is a major change in the way most of us watch TV. Nielsen has even confirmed it: Streaming is in. Cable is out. Streaming surpassed broadcast TV viewing in the past, but this is the first time the number of Americans streaming has topped those watching cable TV programming.



Streaming’s share of TV viewing hit 34.8% this past July, while cable fell to 34.4%. Broadcast TV stood at 21.6%.

Nielsen monitors monthly TV consumption and says more than one-third of all TV viewing is via streaming.

These figures are for people two years of age and over and tracks monthly viewership between September 2021 and July 2022.

Note that these figures only include streaming programming viewed on a television set.

Folks who stream using a web browser on a PC or Mac computer or an app on an iPad, iPhone, or Android phone or tablet are not included in the Nielsen count. Experts say that’s a sizable number of individuals not counted by Nielsen.

Cable TV, combined with traditional over-the-air TV with a UHF or VHF antenna, still has the most viewers overall.

But both are dropping, and experts predict streaming will replace that type of viewing over the next few years. Sports viewing on cable TV slid 15.4% from June and 34% from one year earlier when the 2020 Summer Olympics started.

Cable subscriptions have dropped for many years – with increasing prices cited as the

Streaming Surpasses Cable TV as the Way Most People Watch Television

(cont.)

number one reason. Zippia writes that adults between 18 and 29 are the largest group with no cable in their homes. More than one-third of them have no cable TV or satellite TV subscriptions. Many don't watch TV at all.

According to Zippia, 69% of those surveyed say "cable and satellite subscriptions simply cost too much, and 45% say they don't watch TV very often in general."

Other Streaming Tidbits:

Most of us now subscribe to a streaming service (69%), while the number of people worldwide subscribing to cable TV has fallen below 50%, and the number of cable subscribers continues to fall.



CordCutters News reports the biggest cable TV providers lost about 825,000 video subscribers in the first three months of 2022. That compares to a loss of about 780,000 subscribers in the first quarter of 2021. These figures are from the Leichtman Research Group, which tracks video subscription trends.

While many Americans grew up with TV, 44% of all adults alive today have never had a cable or satellite TV subscription. Furthermore, 61% of those are between 18 and 29. Zippia writes, "Not only is cable TV actively losing subscribers, but it also isn't gaining young new subscribers who are moving out on their own and separating from their parents' subscriptions."

Well, then, who is watching cable TV? Not younger people. Adults in the U.S. who are 65 and older make up the largest percentage of cable and satellite TV subscribers.

While streaming services are growing in popularity among all age groups, Zippia reports that Disney+ is the fastest-growing streamer, luring more than 100 million subscribers since it launched in November 2019.

Zippia Cord Cutting Statistics

Pew Research: Cable and Satellite TV Use Has Dropped Dramatically in the U.S. Since 2015

Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

<https://ckcs.org/>

lextown2 (at) gmail.com

Fixing a Nasty Computer Hack

By David Kretchmar

I recently completed a repair on a club member's computer after he allowed a "helpful" technical representative, probably from the other side of the world, to remotely access his computer. Unfortunately, the victim in this case apparently failed to read or heed my article in the November 2021 *Gigabyte Gazette* (https://www.scscclab.com/Gigabyte/gg_2021-11Nov.pdf) warning that these types of scams were becoming increasingly prevalent.

The "bait" in this instance was an official-looking email, supposedly from Cox, stating that the victim had been substantially overcharged on his Cox bill and he was due a refund of \$400. The victim telephoned the scammer using the phone number in the email. Next, he went online and downloaded and installed remote access software at her instruction. He then allowed the purported technical representative to initiate a remote access session and log into his system. The victim began to feel uneasy when he saw that things were being done on his

computer that had nothing to do with Cox. He finally became alarmed and hung up on the scammer when she asked for his bank account information "to process his refund."



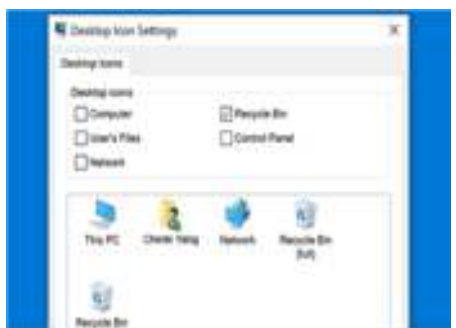
Unfortunately, this victim did not immediately shut off his computer, so the scammer could continue to mess with his system remotely, I suppose as a departing coup de grace for a failed scam. The victim could no longer access his computer, which displayed the Windows 11 "Gray screen of death" right after he entered his PIN during login. Microsoft has finally replaced its famous "Blue screen of death," which provided a bit of mostly useless information, with a "Gray screen of death," which provides no information.

The victim, who runs an online business, called me in a panic. This was

especially interesting to me since I have had minimal experience working with pooched Windows 11 machines. I was curious to see if there was a substantial difference in addressing issues in Windows 11 versus Windows 10 (there was not, at least for this user's issue).

I researched the gray screen issue online and did not find much helpful information. Many writers suggested the problem was bad video drivers or a bad hardware connection. I knew there was no physical issue since the miscreant obviously never had physically assessed the victim's computer. And I doubted the graphics card drivers were the problem since messing with them would cause an immediate catastrophic system failure, even if it could be done remotely on the fly. After providing answers that did not solve the issue, many sites did offer to sell me their software, which they said would fix the problem. No thanks.

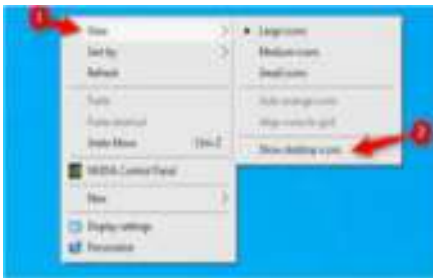
I finally decided to approach the Windows 11 system the way I would Windows 10. Getting past the gray screen of death was straightforward; I booted into Safe mode and repaired the Windows startup. When I finally got into the victim's computer, I removed the remote access software. Then I did a system refresh, keeping all of his original data files and programs but replacing all of the system files. I wanted to assure the club member that there were no nasty surprises on his system due to his encounter with the scammer.



Yet when I could finally boot to the victim's desktop, I saw something very strange. The victim's desktop icons, files, and folders had disappeared. I considered that the scammer could have put the victim's computer in tablet mode, which messes up the desktop. I learned that Windows 11 does not have a dedicated tablet

mode. Again, an online search for the problem was mostly useless. Most writers suggested going to Personalize themes, Icons and checking the icons I wanted to appear on the desktop. This did not ad-

dress the issue of nothing showing on the desktop, files, folders, and icons. Naturally, many of those offering useless advice online had a software package to sell, which they assured would fix any problems. Again, no thanks.



I found an article that suggested I right-click on the desktop, left-click on View (#1), then make sure “Show desktop icons” was checked (#2). Yes, that sneaky scammer had hidden everything on the victim’s desktop with three clicks of her mouse. However, when I left mouse clicked on “Show desktop icons,” the victim’s desktop appeared normally. This was the first time I had seen a scammer throw two problems onto a victim’s computer.

When contacted, a scammer will often state that to help you, they must remotely access your system. They will try to get you to download remote access software that will give the scammer access to your computer. Just say NO! There are few legitimate reasons someone needs to access your computer to provide assistance.

I mentally divide computer hacks/scams into two categories: tarantulas and scorpions. Tarantulas are big and scary looking, yet their bite is virtually harmless to humans. The most dangerous scorpions are the tiny ones you are likely not to see until they have stung you, and they can send you to the emergency room or at least to bed for a day or two. The unfortunate victim in this story ran into a scorpion that stung him twice. The sting would have been even worse had he allowed them access to his bank account.



*David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club*

<https://www.scsccl.com>

Zoom Sessions

Neal is hosting a weekly evening Zoom; (Each Friday) @ 7:30 PM Central Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3975898877?pwd=RjF5ZTM3R25qNXhHRjdWRVAzQ1M2ZzO9>

Meeting ID: 397 589 8877 Passcode: 4ukxAh

Phone users:

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 397 589 8877 Passcode: 936460

You're welcome to check in and visit, or ask a question, maybe even get an answer.

There will be no Question &
Answer at the December meeting

The next meeting of the Sauk
Computer User Group will be

December 17, 2022

Christmas Party will start at Noon

Games & Prizes will be after lunch

Place: **Whiteside Senior Center**
1207 West 9th Street
Sterling, Illinois 61081

**DECEMBER MEETING IS OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
PARTY WITH GAMES & PRIZES BY SANTA JOE
STARTING AT NOON**