# THE COMPUTER CONNECTION
## SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

### Club Information

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## May Meeting Minutes 5/13/2023

**Open Meeting:** Neal

**Question and answers:** 1) Memories of Terry, 05/28 Celebration Of Life for Terry at Dixon VFW from 1-4 PM with military rights, 2) After taking driver's license written test on line, continue to get adds for it- check for something in the up arrow in lower right hand corner of screen, check task manager; scan for spyware, go to settings/ apps and remove cause, 3) Copy/ paste separate documents to merge into one document

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

**Old business:** None

**New business:** 1) Have a new additional (mesh) network at WCSC, 2) Students from Whiteside Career Center have ended their school year, 3) Board meeting at Angelo's-Dixon on Wednesday at 5:30 PM, 4) Pre-cruise meeting on June 10th, 5) Summer picnic meeting in August.

**Adjournment:** Nancy, George 2nd.

**Program:** 1) Computer timeline – use windows/tab keys to show things done in last approximately 30 days, also click on task view icon on task bar, 2) Immersive reader- use icon on address bar at top of Edge page and can be modified with many options, 3) Tech for Seniors presented by Howie Poplock on Mondays at 11:00 AM, 4) Cloud Computing (The Cloud Is Here, don't Get Left Behind) by Judy Taylour. MS Google and Amazon are large clouds. It' a method of storing data and programs over the internet instead of locally. It can share data and is an effective backup for data. They are located on server farms (data centers). Idrive is #1 cloud provider service. MS security app and Malwarebytes are good antivirus softwares. Use of two factor authorization (2FA) is more dependable than password alone. Almost everyone uses the cloud. Evernote app documents anything on the cloud. Edge Collections can also be used to document ideas (notes) on the web. Google Voice communicates via the cloud utilizing streaming. Can do reading and use Internet of Things (home automation) using the cloud.

**Next month's program:** TBD, maybe some computer pointers.

*Respectfully submitted by*
*Secretary Tom Rich*

## MAY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
### DATE 5/17/2023

**Meeting was called to order by:** Neal

**Attending the meeting were:** Neal, Joe F, Gloria, George, Lorraine, Cheryl, Nancy & Tom and Glenda.

**Treasurer's report was presented by:** Joe F.

**Discussion Highlights:** 1) Lab is holding steady- Neal provides tech help as needed, 2) Joe I attached a paper of links for topics to Judy's presentation, 3) Neal passed out instructions for switching default search engine on MS Edge from Bing to Google. Education needed on how to change search engines and how to make internet short cuts.

**Future Programs:** June program - Use some Tech For Seniors videos, i.e., digital wallet, PayPal, and Google Pay.

**Adjournment:** Gloria/ Cheryl

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Secretary Nancy Rich*

# Jokes

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve.

Surprise! Surprise!
It was an apple.
But with extremely limited memory.
Just 1 byte.
Then everything crashed.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

A blonde's office computer had technical issues

IT support came over to the desk and said he needed password to access her account.

"It's 'MickeyMinnieBatmanSupergirlWonderwomanLondon'" she replied.

"A bit unusual for a password, how did you come up with it?" the support dude asked.

She went "Because computer said the password has to be at least 5 characters and have a capital"

My boss calls me "the computer"

Nothing to do with intelligence,
I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

I got invited to test a new car made entirely of spare computer parts

It was a hard drive

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Three engineers

Three engineers are riding in a car. A Mechanical Engineer, an Electrical Engineer and a Computer Engineer.

The car suddenly stops running in the middle of the street. The Mechanical Engineer says, "I know what's wrong. It is a mechanical problem and I can fix it."

The Electrical Engineer say, "No! It is an electrical problem and I can fix it."

The Computer Engineer says, "I don't know what is wrong, but if we all get out of the car and then get back in, maybe it will start."

**HELPING OTHERS INTERGRATE TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR DAILY LIVES**

# How Long Do CDs and DVDs Last?

## By SYDNEY BUTLER

How-To Geek

CDs and DVDs last anything from two years to several hundred years, depending on factors like storage condition and disc quality. Do you have a CD or DVD collection holding precious data or your impressive music and movie collection? The lifespan of CDs and DVDs can vary depending on a number of factors, but we'll explain what you need to know.

## The Lifespan of CDs and DVDs

In general, factory-pressed CDs and DVDs are expected to last many years if you store them under ideal conditions, but the exact lifespan can vary. Some studies have suggested that factory-pressed CDs and DVDs may last for up to 20 years or more under ideal conditions, while others have found that they may begin to degrade after just a few years.

RELATED4 Reasons You Should Still Keep an Optical Drive Around

For example, a study conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with the Library of Congress, found that the lifespan of CDs and DVDs can range from as little as two years to more than 30 years. What makes the difference is the discs' quality and storage conditions.

In contrast, CDs and DVDs burned at home may have a significantly shorter lifespan. This is because burn-ing can often make lower-quality discs more susceptible to damage and degradation. That

# How Long Do CDs and DVDs Last? (Cont.)

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means you should store burned CDs and DVDs under ideal conditions and back them up regularly to ensure that the data they contain isn't lost.

For backup purposes, you may want to buy special archival-grade blank discs, which if handled correctly are rated for decades or even centuries.

These archival grade disks will probably outlast you and your grandchildren

Factors That Affect the Durability of CDs and DVDs

Some of the most important factors that can affect the lifespan of CDs and DVDs include:

· Disc quality
· Disc type
· How you store the disc
· How you handle the disc
· The type of data stored on the disc
· The quality of the CD or DVD player you put the disc in

Maximizing as many of these factors as possible will increase the odds that your discs will last as long as possible.



## How to Extend the Lifespan of CDs and DVDs

You can take several steps to extend the lifespan of CDs and DVDs and ensure that the data they contain remains accessible for as long as possible. Some tips for increasing the longevity of CDs and DVDs include:

· Store CDs and DVDs in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and other sources of heat and moisture. Exposure to high temperatures and humidity can cause CDs and DVDs to warp or be damaged, reducing their lifespan.

· Handle CDs and DVDs carefully to avoid scratches and other physical damage. Avoid touching the disc's surface, and use a soft cloth to clean any dirt or fingerprints on the disc.

· Avoid leaving CDs and DVDs in a car or other hot, humid environments. The heat and moisture in a car can also cause CDs and DVDs to warp or become damaged.

· Use high-quality CD and DVD players that are less likely to cause scratches or other physical damage.

· Back up the data on CDs and DVDs regularly. This will ensure you have a copy of the data in case the disc becomes damaged or lost. With all of that in mind, you should also consider using alternative storage methods for essential data. CDs and DVDs may not be the most reliable data storage method in the long term. Consider using other storage methods, such as hard drives or cloud-based services, for valuable data you want to protect. Using multiple forms of media is always better than putting all your eggs in one basket.

**SYDNEY BUTLER**
@gendowasright
How-To Geek

# Don't Let Your Identity be Compromised!
## By Jeff Wilkinson

Where did you grow up: **STOP**
Favorite color: **GIVING**
First pet's name: **PEOPLE**
Street you grew up on: **YOUR**
Favorite Childs Name: **PERSONAL**
Favorite sports team: **INFO**
High school mascot: **TO**
Favorite food: **GUESS**
What was your first car: **YOUR**
Moms name before she married: **PASSWORD**
First job: **AND**
Favorite band: **SECURITY**
Favorite food: **QUESTIONS**

We should all be cautious answering those seemingly innocuous questions posted on social media sites such as *"What Year Did You Graduate High School,"* or *"What City were you Born in,"* *"Can you remember your childhood phone number*?*"* or *"Who was your first-grade teacher*?*"* and on and on. These interesting questions appear harmless and appealing as you develop friendships and reminisce with old and new friends on social media, but beware! Many of these answers can be used to answer or reveal security question answers you chose when you set up accounts at your bank, utility company, etc.

For example, when you forget your password, as happens all too often, you will be asked to answer security questions from when you initially set up your account, in most cases some time ago! In addition, answers to these types of questions posted on social media or quizzes can be used to build a profile on you with the information needed to open a new account!

Keeping your identity secure on social media is essential to your financial and personal safety. Unfortunately, identity theft is evolving, with thieves using the latest technology to move from credit card counterfeiting to checking and savings account takeover. A May 2020 study by Javelin Strategy and Research found ac-count takeovers — identity theft where a criminal gains unauthorized access to an online account belonging to somebody else — are trending at the high loss rate, up a staggering 72 percent over the prior year.

Remember that when you first create a social media account, you provide personal information such as name, age, email address, etc. And I venture to guess that most of us have never read the small print terms of service provided by the host. As you traverse the various pages, forums, postings, etc., data mining creates a profile of your behavior, likes, and dislikes. This information is often monetized by the host sites you visit, meaning sold to third parties. Facebook collects data from all devices you have installed their app on. The language used and time zone can include your device

# Don't Let Your Identity be Compromised! (cont.)

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location, data provider, or internet service provider. Data on sites you like or visit via a link on Facebook is also collected.

What can the consumer do to protect themselves?

· Keep your software up to date

· Log out of social media sites when finished, particularly when in a public location or using a public computer

· Use two-factor authentication wherever possible.

· Used strong passwords - keep track of them with a password manager

· Use a screen lock on portable devices

· Don't conduct business or share critical information on public Wi-Fi

· Put a credit freeze on your accounts with credit bureaus. Equifax, Experian, Innovis, TransUnion

· Protect your social security number – only give it out when absolutely necessary

· Be aware of billing cycles – if financial information is late or doesn't come, follow up

· Be cautious of participating in viral memes such as "name your most memorable concert."

· Set strict privacy settings on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, and LinkedIn

If you are a victim of identity theft, report it to the FTC online and create an account to create a report and generate a recovery plan. You will gain access to recovery plan updates and prefilled form letters to send to creditors. You should also report medical identity theft to Medicare's fraud office and tax identity theft to the IRS.

It should be clear that you want to avoid this, so a little awareness and preventative steps can help prevent potentially serious problems.

By Jeff Wilkinson, President Sun City Summerlin Computer Club https://www.scscc.club

president.scscc (at) gmail.com

**HELPING OTHERS INTERGRATE TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR DAILY LIVES**

## Zoom Sessions

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3975898877?pwd=RjF5ZTM3R25qNXhHRjdWRVAzQ1M2Zz09
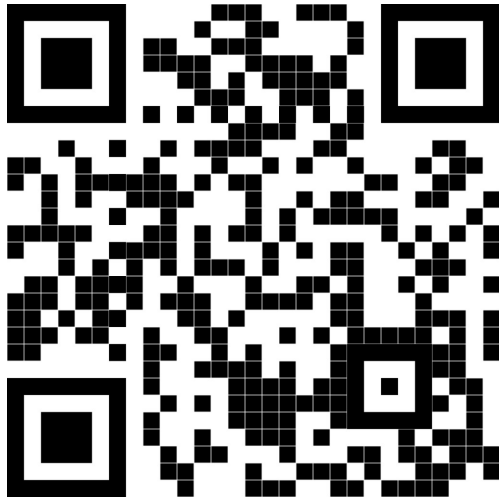
Meeting ID: 397 589 8877     Passcode: 4ukxAh

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.*

Scanning this QR code  should take you to our web page.

The next meeting of  the  Sauk Computer  User Group will be

June 10, 2023

Question & Answer : 1 PM

Presentation: 2 PM

Business Meeting : 3 PM

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

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There will be a Question & Answer. Bring any questions you have about your computer or problems you may be having.
It will be conducted by:
**Neal Shipley**

# NEAL WILL BE SHOWING SOME VIDEOS FROM "TECH FOR SENIORS" ON DIGITAL WALLETS AND ELECTRONIC PAY