



THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

DECEMBER 2025

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This is the last issue of The Computer Connection newsletter. I hope that I've been able to bring you news about computers, our group and maybe an occasional laugh with the jokes. Our membership in APCUG over the years have provided Push Articles which made it easy to put together a newsletter. They have stopped doing this and most of the other computer groups are no longer doing a newsletter. This makes it very difficult to find articles that are not copyrighted for our newsletter. It has been a privilege to be your newsletter editor since February 2009. I will try to still send you a copy of the monthly meeting and board meeting minutes.

I look forward to our Christmas Party with house chicken, onion rings and French fries from Benny's Red Apple and pies from Busy Bee Bakery located at the Sterling Farmer's Market. You can bring a side dish if you want, but we will have plenty of food.

Lunch will start at noon.

Santa Joe will present Christmas Music Video Bingo with artists doing Christmas songs. Should be a lot easier than games in the past. I will give you the artist's first name, but only their last name and song title will be on the Bingo card. Should be fun with lots of prizes. Hope to see you there.



HELPING OTHERS INTERGRATE TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR DAILY LIVES

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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Jokes

Meeting was called to order by: Neal
Attending the meeting were: Neal, Joe1, Cheryl, Lorraine, Joe2, Tom, and Nancy.

Treasurer's report was presented by: Joe1

Discussion Highlights: 1) List sent around for email and/or text preference for club notification and communications; 2) Pie preference list sent around for holiday party; 3) Holiday Party starts at 12:00 noon to eat, then Santa Joe games

and prizes;
4} Newsletter ends January 1, 2026;
5} Discussion and decision to be made regarding continuing APCUG website and \$50 fee.

Future Programs:

Looking for suggestions for future programs.

Adjournment: Motion by Cheryl, 2nd by Lorraine.

*Respectfully submitted
by Nancy Rich, Secretary*

Life before the computer:

Memory was something that you lost with age. An application was for employment. A program was a TV show.

A cursor used profanity. A keyboard was a piano. A web was a spider's home. A virus was the flu.

A CD was a bank account. A hard drive was a long trip on the road. A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.

And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy..... you just hoped nobody found out.

by Tony Dellelo

Hard drives are slowly being replaced with SSDs (Solid State Drives). They are many times faster than a traditional hard drive, very quiet (no moving parts), can withstand rigorous vibration, and are less prone to breaking. But, they are more expensive for the storage capacities they provide. For those diehards relying on traditional mechanical hard drives, myself included, SSD development now rivals traditional drives in reliability and may be better. Traditional drives usually give you an indication of impending failure, by making unusual noises, but what about SSDs?

For those who do plan to

change, manufacturers rate their drives by three key factors: age of the drive, total terabytes written over time (TBW), and drive writes per day (DWPD). Yes, SSDs have limits on their use and can wear out, just like a magnetic drive. When you write files on a fresh storage drive, the files are written as a continuous block of data (usually in 4 KB chunks). When you delete files, the space those files occupied are marked as free. Sometimes, depending on the file system and OS, new files are written in these free blocks. But if the file can't fit in the block, it gets split up and saved in the next available space. This is called fragmentation.

Defragmentation is rearranging files so that all these data chunks are placed in one spot.

The reason to do this is to improve hard drive performance so that the data pick-up head does not have to move all over the place.

Defragmentation isn't useful on SSDs because they can access data in a random fashion much more quickly than a hard drive and it requires a lot of writing, which would be added to the TBW factor.

So, you bought an SSD and have been using it for awhile, or you have one that is several years old and wonder what the life expectancy

How to Check Your SSD Health on Windows 10 (cont.)

might be. There are several methods to check this in Windows 10, by using built-in tools like Defrag and Optimize Drives, command level tools such as CHKDSK (Check Disk), and WMIC (Windows Management Instrumentation Command-line).

Let's start with the first option: press the 'Windows key' and 'x' at the same time, select 'Search' and type Optimize Drives and 'Defragment and Optimize Drives' appears. Select the drive you want checked. Windows will run the Defragmentation tool for Hard Drives and the Trim tool for SSDs. This will help improve access times and overall performance. By

default, Windows does this automatically once a week, but you can modify this time frequency. The other two options run in the CMD (Command) window and as an example; CHKDSK C: and press 'Enter'. The command line confuses most people and none of the above methods will give you much in the way of usable information. There are third party tools, like CrystalDiskInfo, which is a free and Open Source utility that monitors and displays the health of your hard drive or SSD, including basic information, S.M.A.R.T. values, and disk temperature. Also available as a portable version. I downloaded this software

from www.majorgeeks.com, but there are other sites that have it. The parent site is <https://crystalmark.info>. This gives quite a few details about a drive, including the 'power on time', mine is currently 17,938 hours. It might be time for me to look for a replacement drive, possibly try out an SSD. In any case, always backup your data, since a failure can happen at anytime. This software also works with Windows XP/Vista/7/8/8.1/11 and Windows Server 2003 – 2025.

*by Tony Dellelo
Rochester Computer Society*

November Meeting Minutes

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November 8, 2025

Open Meeting: by
Neal

Question and answers: 1) MyChart is being used by CGH now for patient portal (currently being used by OSF-Dixon); 2) To show multiple windows on screen at one time- settings/system/multitasking, turn snap window on, drag window to top of screen and select format wanted.

Treasurer's report: by
Joe1 and approved.

Old business: Next meeting (December 13) is Xmas Party- Xmas music videos by Santa Joe, attendees can bring salad if you like.

New business: Board meeting Wednesday 11/12/25 at Angelo's-Dixon at 5:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion made and 2nd.

Program: Getting pictures from your phone to computer, flash drive, etc.- Android: connect phone to computer, allow data transfer, open folder on pc, click this pc, click name of phone, allow access to phone, go to storage, go to DCIM folder, then camera, select photos, right click on highlighted photos, click copy, select picture file, click paste; iPhone: connect to pc, allow access to using phone, click this

pc, new device, open storage, click on DCIM, select photos, copy, paste in pictures file; use snapdrop.net to transfer files between various devices (it is a peer to peer method, since all devices are connected in same network).

Next month's program: Christmas Party on December 13, 2025 at noon at WCSC.

*Respectfully submitted by Tom Rich,
Secretary*

By Pieter Arntz

A critical vulnerability has put Samsung mobile device owners at risk of sophisticated cyberattacks. On November 10, 2025, the US [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) added a vulnerability, tracked as [CVE-2025-21042](#), to its [Known Exploited Vulnerabilities \(KEV\) catalog](#). The KEV catalog lists vulnerabilities that are known to be exploited in the wild and sets patch deadlines for Federal Civilian Executive Branch (FCEB) agencies.

So, for many cybersecurity professionals, CISA adding this vulnerability to the list signals both urgency and confirmation of active, real-world exploitation. CVE-2025-21042 was [reportedly](#) exploited as a remote code execution (RCE) zero-day to deploy LANDFALL spyware on Galaxy devices in the Middle East. But once that happens, other criminals tend to quickly follow with similar attacks.

The flaw itself is an out-of-bounds write vulnerability in Samsung's image processing library. These vulnerabilities let attackers overwrite memory beyond what is intended, often leading to memory corruption, unauthorized code execution, and, as in this case, device takeover. CVE-2025-21042 allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code—potentially gaining complete control over the victim's phone—without user interaction. No clicks required. No warning given.

Samsung [patched this issue in April 2025](#), but CISA's recent warning highlights that exploits have been active in the wild for months, with attackers outpacing defenders in some cases. The stakes are high: data theft, surveillance, and compromised mobile devices being used as footholds for broader enterprise attacks.

The exploitation playbook is as clever as it is dangerous. According to research from [Unit 42](#), criminals (likely private-sector offensive actors operating out of the Middle East) weaponized the vulnerability to deliver LANDFALL spyware through malformed Digital Negative (DNG) image files sent via WhatsApp. DNG is an open and lossless RAW image format developed by Adobe and used by digital photographers to store uncompressed sensor data.

The attack chain works like this:

- The victim receives a booby-trapped DNG photo file.
- The file, armed with ZIP archive payloads and tailored exploit code, triggers the vulnerability in Samsung's image codec library.

This is a “zero-click” attack: the user doesn't have to tap, open, or execute anything. Just processing the image is enough to compromise the device.

It's important to know that Samsung addressed another image-library flaw, [CVE-2025-21043](#), in September 2025, showing a growing trend: image processing flaws are becoming a favorite entry point for both espionage and cybercrime.

What should users and businesses do?

Our advice to stay safe from this type of attack is simple:

- **Patch immediately.** If you haven't updated your Samsung device since April, do so. FCEB organizations have until December 1, 2025, to comply with CISA's operational directive.
- **Be wary of unsolicited messages and files**, especially images received over messaging apps.
- **Download apps only from trusted sources** and avoid sideloading files.

Use up-to-date [real-time anti-malware solution](#) for your devices.

Zero-days targeting mobile devices are becoming frighteningly common, but the risk can be lowered with urgent patching, awareness, and solid security controls. As LANDFALL shows, the most dangerous attacks today are often the quietest—no user action required and no obvious signs until it's too late.

Device models targeted by LANDFALL:

Galaxy S23 Series

Galaxy S24 Series

Galaxy Z Fold4

Galaxy S22

Galaxy Z Flip4

We don't just report on phone security—we provide it

Cybersecurity risks should never spread beyond a headline. Keep threats off your mobile devices by [downloading Malwarebytes for iOS](#), and [Malwarebytes for Android](#) today.

Posted: November 11, 2025 by [Pieter Arntz](#)

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.

There will be a No
Question & Answer time
at the Christmas party

The next meeting of the Sauk
Computer User Group will be

December 13, 2025

Lunch: Noon

Game about 1:30 PM

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

**CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH SANTA
JOE & CHRISTMAS MUSIC
VIDEO BINGO**