August 2023

WINDSOR Seniors Computer Users' Group Newsletter

WSCUG Bd of Directors:
Donna Crawford- Founder
donna@sonic.net

Ross Guistino- Retired Consultant
rossg@sonic.net

Jim Tubb- Retired Consultant, Drop-in Computer Help, Moderator
drdelta91@gmail.com

Andrea Antonik- Retired Consultant, Drop-in Computer Help, Editor
aantonik@sonic.net

Sandy O'Halloran- Welcome & Refreshment Coord. quilt14me@att.net

Computer-Help: Drop-In 2-4 PM Monday Aug 28, 2-4 PM. Please use the signup sheet when you arrive.

Next general meeting will be Sept 11, 2023, 1 PM, Windsor Senior Center. There is Computer help after our general meeting.

Sept Drop-In Computer Help: Monday Sept 25, 2-4 PM. First come first served.

Aug 14, 2023: General meeting starts at 1. We will discuss the newsletter, the latest news in technology and answer questions**.**

After our general meeting on August 14, we will have **a Drop-In computer help session**, **(2-4 PM approximate)**. **Jim, Ross and Andrea** will be available to help with your computer/smart-phone problems.

In the News:
a) Hackers force hospital system to take its national computer system offline
b) 5 Ways AI Will Reshape the Cloud Industry
c) Google plans to scrape everything you post online to train its AI
d) FTC Launches Crackdown on Illegal Robocalls, Telemarketing
e) The Secret Life of the 500+ Cables That Run the Internet
f) We're not ready for the impact of generative AI on elections

Articles for August

a) Microsoft 365 makeover: Office docs are getting a new default look by Hans-Christian Dirscherl, 07.21.2023**.** "Microsoft Office, which was renamed Microsoft 365 a while ago, is about to undergo drastic visual changes. Everything from fonts to colors to even line weights are getting new default settings. The changes are intended to make documents created with Microsoft 365 look more modern and accessible. Microsoft is not yet disclosing when all Microsoft 365 users will be swapped over to the new default theme." Read the article to learn about the new changes.
pcworld.com/article/2004293/microsoft-office-facing-massive-changes
related articles: The New Outlook for Windows is Coming in August and Meet Aptos: Microsoft Office has a new default font to replace Calibri

b) How Can Four Random Words Possibly Be More Secure Than 16 Random Characters? by Leo A. Notenboom. "Passphrases are better. There are as many, or more, combinations of four or five random words as there are 16 random characters. Given that they can be just as secure and significantly easier to remember, passphrases can be a useful approach to password-based security." The article goes into great detail comparing passwords and passphrases. And if you use "simple variations like capitalization and spacing — 'Correct Horse Battery Staple' — the number of possible passphrases resulting from the various combinations of words explodes. Every word takes on multiple variants depending on length and capitalization, and every passphrase takes on even more possibilities as we vary the characters separating the words." Consider using passphrases instead of passwords. Read the article to learn more about using passphrases (cont)

d) your Google account: komando.com/security-privacy/google-account-security-checkup

b) for your accounts. askleo.com/how-can-four-random-words-possibly-be-more-secure related article: askleo.com/is_it_really_that_easy_to_get_someones_password

c) What to Do When You're Involved in a Data Breach by Joy Okumoko, 08.04.2023. "A breach can leak personal data such as your email address, credit card details, social security number (SSN), driver's license, or health information. Irrespective of the type of data involved, its scale, or its severity,

c) a data breach can leave you confused about what to do next. If you've never been breached, knowing what to do in the event of a breach can help to prevent further damage. Everyone is at risk of data breaches, including individuals, businesses, institutions, organizations, and governments." This article and the related article contain very useful information for everyone. reviewgeek.com/159338/what-to-do-when-involved-in-a-data-breach related article: askleo.com/cant-i-just-delete-my-hacked-account

d) Security tip: Unlink third-party apps from your Microsoft account by Albert Khoury, 07.14.2023. "Many Big Tech companies let you use your credentials with them to log into third-party apps and services. They usually explain that it will 'enhance your experience' or something along those lines. While convenient, you should keep an eye on this feature." This article explains how to manage the apps connected to your Microsoft account. komando.com/tech-tips/unlink-third-party-apps-microsoft
To remove devices from

Comments from Ross-- Passwords and Communication: This past week I have had to deal with two people who have either passed away or were incapacitated in the ICU. I was asked by their family to help log into their phones and computers but unfortunately there was no log of user names and passwords. In the case of one person who had Apple products, my only option was to erase the phone if I didn't have the password. In the other case, I was able to access the computer but unable to gain access to an important Point-of-Sale software which held the information needed to help run the business that was left by the deceased. The main point of this article being to either have your user names and passwords in a password-keeping software like LastPass and then give your main password to one trusted person or to keep your info in a binder or logbook and then tell a trusted person where to find that book in the event of an emergency. Having access to this important information after a loved one has passed or is otherwise unable to communicate, will save a lot of time and headache.

Editor's Note: What is also helpful in these situations is to have a list of your bills with account numbers and how they are paid. i.e. PG&E, acct number and how you pay it: check, credit or debit card (list card number) and if it's on AUTOPAY.

Internet

Every iPhone and Android user should know these genius commands komando.com/kims-column/iphone-android-voice-commands
What Is a Burner Phone, and When Should You Use One? howtogeek.com/712588/what-is-a-burner-phone-and-when-should-you-use-one
PSA: Scammers Are Using Parking Meter QR Codes to Rip You Off howtogeek.com/psa-scammers-are-using-parking-meter-qr-codes
Tech News Weekly: Issue 44 martinbrinkmann.substack.com/p/tech-news-weekly-issue-44
HDMI splitter vs. HDMI switch: They actually serve opposite purposes cnet.com/tech/hdmi-switch-vs-hdmi-splitter-everything-you-need-to-know

Give iPhone or Android satellite messaging powers with this handy device zdnet.com/article/give-iphone-or-android-satellite-messaging-powers-with-this-handy-device
Here's How Virtual Credit Cards Can Protect You When Shopping Online howtogeek.com/how-virtual-credit-cards-can-protect-you-when-shopping-online
Samsung Unpacked recap: Every Galaxy product that was announced zdnet.com/article/samsung-unpacked-recap-everything-announced
AI-Generated Books of Nonsense Are All Over Amazon's Bestseller Lists vice.com/en/article/v7b774/ai-generated-books-of-nonsense