



THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

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DECEMBER 8, 2019 MINUTES: SCUG CLUB MEETING

The December 8, 2018 meeting began with Margery Fornero giving the prayer before the Christmas Buffet. Pizza Ranch Catered the lunch and members and guests enjoyed chicken and pizza. There was also a few homemade treats along with the desert pizza to finish the buffet.

Guests of the club sponsored Panama Cruise planned by trip coordinator, Glenda McClellan were invited to enjoy the lunch with us .A few clips of previous trips were shown. There was a beautiful wedding performed on the cruise Evelyn and John Wessels were married

in a lovely ceremony and a video of the wedding was shown to members and guests. Santa Joe took over the meeting with games and many wonderful prizes. Rule one to one hundred was Santa was always right. Santa made sure everyone had a great time and everyone went home with more than one prize.

The January 12, 2019 meeting will be the election of next year's officers. Please tell a board member or present officers if you would be willing to hold an office next year.

*Respectfully submitted by
Darla Stigall, club secretary*

Club Information

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**BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR
DECEMBER 12, 2018**

Drawing

The December board meeting was held at Copper Kitchen at 6:00 PM. Attending were President Art Bendick, Vice President Neal Shipley Treasurer Joe Fornero, board member, Terry McClennan and trip coordinator Glenda McLennan. Due to many missing members a formal board was not held. We had an informal meeting, election of officers coming up in January. Darla will not be being running for secretary so we will need to find a replacement and also will need to find one more person for Member at Large. We will have an informative video from APCUG at our January meeting.

Respectively submitted by Joe Fornero for Darla Stigall, Club Secretary.

The board decided to try something different for the new year. We will still have 3 more Amazon Fires as large prizes, but you can also chose a \$50 gift certificate from either Galena Steak House or Candlelight May add Forest Inn in future. Only one of the above given out each month and you can only win a large

prize once per year, starting in January. Smaller prizes will include a \$25 gift card from Walmart, Menards or Pizza Ranch. Two awarded each month along with a flash drive and other misc. items and you can win them as often as your ticket is drawn, but only one per month.



Help, I'm Stuck! What do I do Now?

By Dorothy Fitch

Have you ever forgotten how to do something you have done before in a software program or operating system? Or perhaps you know you should be able to do something you need to accomplish, but don't have a clue how to do it? Wandering through menus and settings can be laborious and often, not very productive. So, how can you get "unstuck" in your task?

There are lots of resources you can try. If you aren't in a hurry, you can check out your local library.

If you need immediate help, your first instinct might be to use the program's Help system. However, I sometimes think that people who write Help information aren't really using the program in a "real-world" setting and don't cover everything you might encounter. They tell you what they expect you want to know, not what you really do need to know.

The best way I have found to get "unstuck" is to search the Internet instead. In your favorite search engine, type name of the program and exactly what you are trying to do. I am relearning InDesign, an Adobe product for graphic

design, and it is very complex. The version I have is older and pressing F1 for Help doesn't work, as the product is no longer supported. All I wanted to do was to put a box around some text, and so I googled this: indesign put box around text.

I immediately got lots of answers, some with video tutorials (which you aren't going to find in the application's Help system). Not only did I find many ways to put a box around text, but I also learned how to remove a box, which might come in handy someday. And how was I to know to look for the Glyphs menu to insert a special character? The Web to the rescue yet again.

Sometimes, a Help system doesn't mention what you are looking for because the product can't do it. I had to search the Web to learn that Paint.net, my favorite (free) graphics editing software, supports RGB color format, but not CMYK, which was what I needed. Their Help information didn't even mention CMYK.

And what do you do if you get an error message you don't understand? Just google the text of the message! I encountered this cryptic error message in InDesign when creating a PDF and couldn't

figure out how to resolve it.

"The document's transparency blend space doesn't match the destination color space specified in the Export Adobe PDF settings. To avoid color appearance changes in the PDF, click cancel and change either the document's transparency blend space, or the destination color space."

When I searched for indesign the document's transparency blend space doesn't match, I got several suggestions of what to do, and eventually figured out how to fix the problem.

The bottom line is that people who answer questions in a User Forum or blog, those who take the time to create tutorials and videos, and authors of Tips and Tricks columns are more likely to get you "unstuck" than any product's Help system. All you have to do is ask the Web for help.

*By Dorothy Fitch, Editor, GVR
Computer Club, AZ
October 2018 issue, Green
Bytes
www.ccgvaz.org
newsletter (at) ccgvaz.org*

By Phil Sorrentino

It seems like everybody is into, or onto, the cloud these days. Most of the time, for the average user, it means taking advantage of one of the Cloud Storage services like OneDrive, Dropbox, Google Drive, or Box. Many users even backup their data to one of these cloud services. Cloud services provide a great way to store a fairly large amount of data, like all your pictures, music, and videos. OneDrive will give you 5GB for your own use, and Google will give you 15GB, and allow you to store an unlimited number of pictures and videos, if they are within a limited size and resolution. With these services, your pictures and videos are stored in some mass storage location somewhere on the internet. You must have a connection to the internet to access any of the data stored in the cloud, but a connection to the internet is almost a given for most of us nowadays. But there is another alternative, a personal cloud that you setup in your home. This cloud takes the form of a Network Attached Storage (NAS) device connected to your router. The data on the

NAS device is shared by all the devices (wired and Wi-Fi) on your local area network (those indicated under "Network" in File Explorer). And the NAS device drive acts as a cloud by allowing you to access it from any remote location over the internet, even if your home computers are turned off. The NAS device installation is quite easy all it basically requires is an Ethernet cable connection to the router, and the router password. NAS devices are available from many of the same storage companies that make the hard drives we have in our laptops and desktops, like Western Digital and Seagate. Western Digital has a line of "My Cloud" NAS devices and Seagate calls their line the "Personal Cloud". Qnap, Synology, and Buffalo also have NAS product lines. The product literature boasts that "Today's NAS devices allow you to extend that file-sharing access to people outside the local area network, which essentially gives you the personal cloud storage." If you have only one or

two computers and you don't need a central storage facility, you probably don't need an NAS device. Most people probably don't have thousands of photos and gigabytes of digital music and large video collections, but some people do; so, if you are one of these people, you just might think of adding a NAS device to your network.

Aside from data streaming, it seems to me that the NAS device can be used in two different ways. (Data streaming on a network might be a future article.) First, the files stored on the NAS device could be copies of files from each of the computers on the network, or second, the files on the NAS device could be a database to be used by all the computers on the network. If the files on the NAS device are copies, then the NAS device is providing a backup capability. If the files on the NAS device are the primary storage files for all the network computers, then the NAS device is providing a

database capability. (By the way, a much cheaper alternative to installing a NAS device is to set up file sharing on one of the networked computers and configure it to allow other computers to use its files and folders. Though this is a reasonable way to share files, the shared computer must always be powered on or the other computers will not have access to the shared files, so for some it may not be a good choice.) Currently, reasonably priced NAS devices for home use are in the 2 to 8 TB range, and they are built with 1 or 2 bays (a bay holds 1 hard drive). A two-bay device can then be setup in a couple of different arrangements depending on how much storage is needed and how dependable the access to the data needs to be. For example, a two-bay device with two 4 TB hard drives could be arranged as one large 8 TB of storage, or a mirrored 4TB of storage. If arranged in a mirrored 4TB arrangement, the hard drives would be configured in a RAID configuration where the data is stored (mirrored) on both drives so that if one drive fails the

other drive will still have the latest data. RAID is the term used to describe the coordinated use of multiple hard drives. It stands for Redundant Array of Independent (or Inexpensive) Disks and is a data storage technology that combines multiple hard drives into a single logical unit for the purposes of data redundancy, performance improvement, or both. The data is distributed across the hard drives in one of several ways, referred to as RAID levels. Each level defines a different desired level of redundancy and performance. The arrangement that gives 8TB of storage from the two 4GB hard drives is an example of RAID 0. The mirrored 4TB arrangement of two 4TB hard drives is an example of RAID 1. RAID 0 and RAID 1 are the simplest, but there are at least 5 RAID levels defined that provide a different balance among the goals of reliability and performance. RAID arrangements beyond 0 and 1 are probably overkill for a typical home use. So, when it comes to cloud data storage there are at least two choices; cloud storage services or an NAS

device right on your own local area network. With the expense of a NAS device and the extra hardware to maintain, I wonder if it is practical for most home networks. Especially since the Cloud Storage companies are giving a reasonable amount of memory for free, and additional memory at a reasonable price. But, then for those who have large amounts of data, or may be a little on the paranoid side, or for someone who just doesn't trust their data to the cloud storage providers, this may be a better choice. With a NAS device, your data is always secure and physically within your reach, and not housed in some far away data center, where it may be the object of some far away hackers. It's your choice.

By Phil Sorrentino, Contributing Writer, The Computer Club, Florida Technical Thoughts, Sarasota Technology Users Group, Florida
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Someone's Sending from My Email Address! How Do I Stop Them?!

By Leo Notenboom

Email spoofing is rampant. Spammers often send email that looks like it came from you, and there's little that you can do about it.

//

People are telling me I've sent them email I know I haven't. Supposedly it's [spam](#), and that's not something I do. Has my account been hacked? How do I stop it?

While possible, it's highly **unlikely** your account has been hacked. Whatever is happening is something significantly more benign. Sadly, it's something you can do almost nothing about.

There are a couple of variations, so before we begin, let me also mention some articles that might more closely match your situation.

Become a [Patron of Ask Leo!](#) and go ad-free!

Variations

If email is being sent *to your contacts* without your having done so, *and* you find messages in your "Sent Mail" folder *that you did not send*, your email account has most likely been hacked or compromised. See [Someone's Sending Email that Looks Like it's from Me to My Contacts, What Can I Do?](#)

If you're getting email that appears to be "From:" your name or a name you recognize, but showing as "From:" the wrong *email address*, read this: [Why Am I Getting Email from Someone with the Wrong Email Address?](#)

Finally, if people you *don't* know are getting email "From:" you — the most common scenario of all — there's probably nothing wrong. Keep reading.



It's not your fault

You're minding your own business, and one day you get a message from someone you've never heard of, asking you to stop sending them email. Worse, they're angry about it. Or worse yet, they accuse you of trying to send them [malware!](#)

But you don't know them, you've never heard of them, and you know you've never sent them email.

Welcome to the world of

email malware, where you can get blamed for someone else's infection. And there's worse news to come.

Before I get to that, there is a small possibility your email account has been compromised. The solution there is quite simple: change your password *immediately*. Assuming you choose a strong password, that should prevent someone from continuing to

use your account for malicious purposes. (If you find that your account has indeed been compromised, you may want to do more. Check out [Email Hacked? 7 Things You Need to](#)

[do NOW.](#))

Account hacks, while they happen, are *not* the most common cause for the situation that I've described; spammers are. What's worse? There's almost nothing that you can do.

Related

A very common variation on "From:" spoofing? This one: [Why Am I Getting Spam from Myself?](#)

"From:" forgery

Spammers forge the

“From:” address for the email they send. This technique is referred to as “[From: spoofing](#).”

Spammers use any email address they can find. That could include other email addresses they're sending to, email addresses fed to them by a [botnet](#), email addresses harvested online, or perhaps even the addresses in the address books of infected machines. For instance, your email address can end up in the address books of people you don't know. Some email programs automatically collect email addresses included on messages received, or possibly from forwarded email.

If they can, spammers try to make it look like the email comes from someone you know, often by discovering who your friends are on social media and other sites.

They use all this information to create and send email messages with your name and email address in the “From:” line — email *you* never sent.

Peter, Paul, and Mary's email

Let's use a concrete example.

Peter's address book includes entries for his friends, Paul and Mary. Paul and Mary have never met, have never exchanged email, and do not know each other; they each just know Peter.

Peter's machine becomes infected with malware of some sort, which collects information from his address book. The [virus](#) on Peter's machine sends email with the virus to Paul, *looking like* it came from Mary. Paul may wonder who the heck this Mary person is and why she's sending him a virus, *but she was never involved*. From Mary's perspective, you can see how frustrating it would be to be accused of something you had nothing to do with and have no control over.

Spammers have also been known to use other sources of email addresses, including database breaches, harvesting email addresses from public webpages, or even purchasing lists of email addresses from one another.

Thus, the simple “friend of a friend” example I used with Peter, Paul, and Mary is just the tip of the iceberg. It's certainly not the only

way your email address could show up on a forged “From” line.

What's important is this: one way or another, spam messages lie about who the sender is.

There's nothing you can do

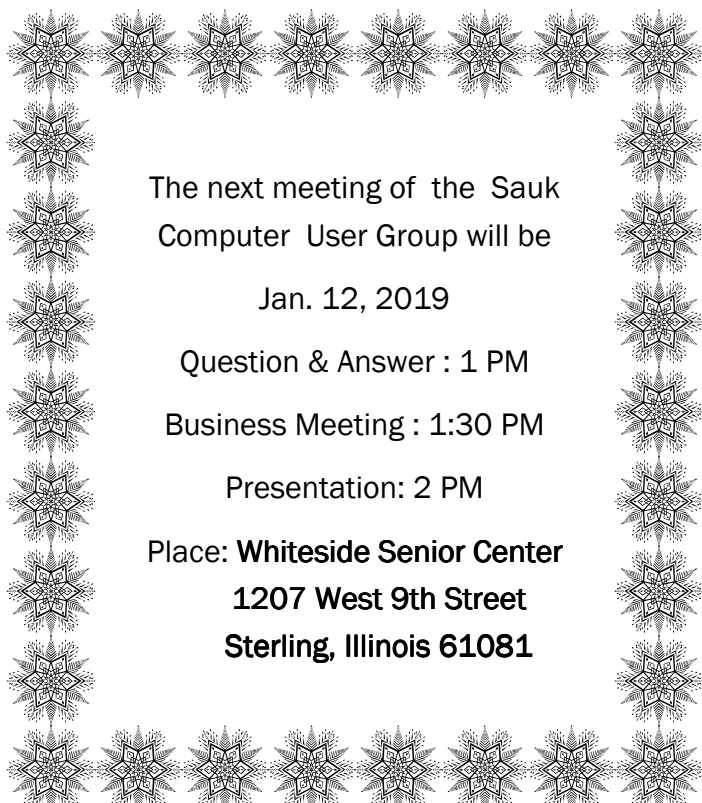
If someone accuses you of sending spam, and you are *positive* you did not do it, you have very little recourse other than to try to educate them about how viruses work.

Point them at this article if you like. But be clear: your machine is not necessarily infected with malware, nor is your account necessarily compromised. It's some third party — the spammer — making all this happen. (Identifying that third party is difficult, which is why spammers use this technique.)

In other words, there's nothing you can do.

*By Leo Notenboom
Ask Leo.com*

There will be a half hour Question & Answer session starting at 1 PM. Bring any questions you have about your computer or problems you may be having. It will be conducted by:
Art Bendick & Neal Shipley



The next meeting of the Sauk
Computer User Group will be

Jan. 12, 2019

Question & Answer : 1 PM

Business Meeting : 1:30 PM

Presentation: 2 PM

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

**JANUARY PRESENTATION WILL BE AN INFORMATIVE
VIDEO FROM APCUG**