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**SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP**

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**JULY 13, 2019 MINUTES: SCUG CLUB MEETING**

July was our annual picnic. It was catered this year by Smoked on Third. We had beef brisket, pulled pork, rolls, vegetable pasta salad, homemade potato chips and double chocolate brownies with ice cream. Also Gloria Schneider brought in a delicious dessert, cheese-cake with cherry topping. A excellent meal and time was had by all.

**Club Information**

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JUL 17, 2019

Meeting was called to order.

Attending the meeting were President Art Bendick, Treasurer Joe Fornero, Vice President Neal Shipley, Secretary Nancy Rich and Board Members Terry and Glenda MacLennan, Tom Rich and Joe Schmitt. Treasurer's report was presented by Joe F.

Discussion Highlights: Fry's trip is August 3, 2019. Leaving from Sterling Walmart at 8:30 & Dixon Walmart at 8:45 am.

Moving the wall in computer lab was assigned to the Senior Center and has not been done.

Terry has old computer equipment that he wants to find a place for. It was suggested that he sell it on Craig's List or donate it to a museum.

Senior Center wants this computer club to sponsor Bingo once a month – the board decided no at this time.

Future Programs:

August- USB charging and Android tablet by

Neal and Terry

September- John Miller – topic unknown at this time

October- APCUG video presentation and packing of OCC Christmas shoe boxes

November- Tom Rich - Basic cleaning of computers to optimize performance

December- potluck with chicken George and Santa Joe

Adjournment:

Motion made by Nancy and seconded by Joe F.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Nancy Rich, Secretary*

## August Drawing

For August a \$50 gift certificate from either Galena Steak House or Candlelight as large prizes. You can only win a large prize once per year. Smaller prizes will include a 2-\$25 gift cards from Walmart, Pizza Ranch or Menards, along with a 256 Gb 3.0 flash drive and other misc. items and you can win them as often as your ticket is drawn, but only one per month.

# Who remembers



# the first search engine?

## More About Browsers

By John Fair

If you open a website you are using a browser. Your computer or mobile device came with a browser installed, but is it the "right" one or the only one you should use? Why would you consider installing one of the other browsers? Since the CUE program "About Browsers" in March I have continued reading more articles describing the latest browser news and I wanted to share some of my research and opinions.

Browsers are more complex and powerful than most folks appreciate. Their components include front end and back end user interfaces, networking, data storage and engines for rendering and executing Java Script. A web server that you contact by typing a web address into the front-end user interface or clicking on a link responds by sending your computer a string of information that your browser must turn into a web page. The rendering engine of the

browser reads the content which contains HTML and CSS code to create the image you see on your screen. The Java Script interpreter allows you to change what you see on the screen.

Browser function also includes encryption and decryption. If the site provides secure communication by public-key encryption (the "s" in https), the browser checks for a valid certificate issued by a trusted source. Once validated, the browser creates a password, encrypts it and sends it back to the server to be decrypted with the server's private key and then the secure communication begins using the shared secret password. All in the virtual blink of an eye! Look for the https with any website that asks for personal information.

Probably because of the complexity of modern browsers and the difficulty for each to be compatible

across all web sites, the number of different browser engines in use has dwindled over time. Apple uses WebKit in the Safari browser for computers and will allow only WebKit to be used for any browser installed on mobile devices. Chromium Blink, a fork of WebKit, is the foundation of the Google Chrome browser as well as Microsoft Edge, Opera, Vivaldi, Epic, Brave, and a number of minor players. Firefox and Tor use the Quantum engine. These browser engines are all open source but the bells and whistles that distinguish each browser may not be. Although Internet Explorer (and its proprietary engine Trident) at one time dominated with a 95% market share, IE is being discontinued by Microsoft and with obvious implications for support and insecurity. No one should be using a version older than the current IE 11 and even that version has had recent security problems. Microsoft is replacing IE and the

original Edge with a Chromium based version of Edge, soon to be released.

Full disclosure, I am an Apple device user and as such have become accustomed to using Safari. I realize that Safari is not the best browser and it is not compatible with all features of some websites. For example, I have been frustrated when filling out a form on a website only to find the "submit" button does not work. If I open Chrome or Firefox on my Mac, I have no such problem with the same website. So if you are an Apple person, the easy answer to the question of how many browsers you should have is more than one. (I have four browsers installed on my Mac: Safari, Chrome, Firefox and Brave.) In fact, my answer to all users whether Apple, Windows, Android or Unix is the same: have

more than one browser.

Which of the available browsers to install is a deeper question. Chrome has about a 2/3 market share of all browsers worldwide and it has a huge library of extensions to add functions and features to the basic browser. Google, however, has a history of harvesting and monetizing your information which makes some users limit their use of Chrome. Firefox, a product of the not-for-profit Mozilla Foundation, is designed for security and privacy as outlined in the Mozilla Manifesto (suggested reading). I have both on all my devices, and I currently favor Firefox Quantum.

In addition to the focus on privacy and security, here are some features I like about Firefox for a computer. The newer code in the Quantum engine is designed to make use of multicore processors rather than the single core used by Chrome. As processors gain more cores, the browser will

work faster. Chrome also uses more RAM and slows as more tabs are opened. While the speed of both browsers is initially similar in most tests, Firefox is designed to gain speed as CPU technology improves. Also, as a traditionalist, I like the ability to add a separate search bar since I was never a fan of combining url and search functions in the same bar. I like taking screenshots and that function is built into Firefox, but then again, it is built into the Mac OS. Reader View and Pocket are built in, not ad-ons. Like Chrome and Safari, Firefox can be synchronized across devices so that bookmarks I add on my Mac as well as search history automatically appear on my iPad and iPhone. By the way, if you are weary of the ad-supported search results that appear at the top of a Google results list, you may want to look into DuckDuckGo as your search engine as I have in Firefox. Try them both and you will be surprised at

the difference in quality of results. You also won't see the mysterious ads for products you researched as happens with Google.

You should carefully choose from the many extensions or ad-ons for either of these browsers and here are ones that remove distractions and enhance privacy and security. uBlock Origin is favored over Ad Blocker to limit advertisements. You may choose to "white list" some sites that object to the use of ad blockers of any type. My opinion: if they didn't have such obnoxious ads, perhaps I wouldn't be motivated to use the ad blocker in the first place! HTTPS Everywhere is a great extension to force secure connections when available. Browsers may have a similar sounding function built in but are less assertive. Privacy Badger is the recommended tool to prevent third party tracking. Privacy Essentials by

DuckDuckGo also prevents tracking but has the additional feature of giving the site a privacy grade as well as blocking trackers. I have all four installed on both Chrome and Firefox and they do not interfere with each other. Users have reported no interference in any of the forums I have visited.

There are a handful of other add-ons or extensions that I believe enhance everyday functionality. I installed the Last Pass extension in all browsers so I can use that password manager. I recommend using a purpose-built and maintained password manager rather than a similar function that comes built into a browser. Just Read provides the same functionality to Chrome as Reader View which is built into Safari and Firefox. It provides a clean text without clutter and ads and is great for printing an article. Wikiwand reformats Wikipedia

pages for a more modern, easier to read look in either Chrome or Firefox.

Finally, make sure your browser is set to automatically update itself. These updates are necessary for security. Both Chrome and Firefox may receive updates every several days to block vulnerabilities and keep current the information needed for proper functionality. If the browser you are using has only monthly updates (IE was known for this), it is an inviting target for exploit by hackers.

*By John Fair, Vice President,  
Computer Users of Erie, PA  
May 2019 issue, the CUE  
newsletter  
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johncfair (at) gmail.com*

## Review: Honey App By Judy T aylour

Do you use the Honey app when you shop online? I do. It even works at Amazon.

I imagine there are many members who remember White Shoulders – one of my favorites and I still use it. I buy it at Fragrance.net. When giving hugs at church I sometimes hear....you smell just like my mother did ;-).



### About Us

*FragranceNet.com has been trusted online since 1997. We have shipped over 20 million packages and have sold over \$1 billion in beauty products. We carry 17,000 genuine, brand name*

*fragrances, skincare, makeup, haircare, aromatherapy and candles all at discount prices. We offer Free Shipping in U.S. with a minimum order. FragranceNet.com has received an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau.*

*(Stock Symbol: FGNT.PK)*

I received an email that White Shoulders was on sale, so I took a look. I only buy White Shoulders so those are the only emails I receive. On another site, it was \$22 for the spray cologne with no discount or Honey

coupon available.



When the Honey coupon was applied, it ended up being a total of 37% off. There is shipping and tax; sometimes shipping is free with the promotion or by the amount of sale. I didn't pay shipping (I bought more than one).

**White Shoulders**  
eau de cologne spray 4.5 oz  
1 x \$14.48 = \$14.48 \*



On another purchase, I saved a lot when purchasing two (what I call teacher carts—I had one for each class I taught) carts for the senior center bingo volunteers to use. They cost \$29.99 each and were on sale at Staples for \$24.99. With my teacher discount they were \$20.99 and with the Honey discount, I paid \$15.99 for each cart.

After starting this article, I checked my email and had received one from a store where I buy t-shirts. They were having a 10% off sale; with the Honey coupon I saved \$17.00. \$49 before

10% off / paid \$32. They were two shirts I wanted but only on sale.

I have a PayPal account and use it when I shop. Don't use your Debit card and don't ever buy anything online unless you see this in the address line.



Apprehensive about shopping on line? Use a credit card with a low limit, one where you receive alerts when it is used, or a virtual card (as of April 2019 - America, Capital One and Citi).



*Judy Taylour, President,  
SCV Computer Club  
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There will be a 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  
August 10, 2019

Question & Answer : 1 PM

Business Meeting : 1:30 PM

Presentation: 2:00 PM

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

**August Presentation will be:  
USB charging and Android tablets by Neal and Terry**