



THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

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**DEC 14, 2019
MINUTES: SCUG
CLUB MEETING**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FOR
DECEMBER 18, 2019**

Open Meeting: No formal meeting was held today. Margie Fornero offered up a prayer before the meal.

Today's Christmas lunch of Chicken George, onion rings, sweet potato fries & many other delicious dishes brought by members was enjoyed by all. Christmas misc. & movie trivia and hits from 50's & 60's games were played, followed by lots of fun & Christmas prizes given by Santa Joe.

*Respectfully submitted
by Nancy Rich,
Secretary*

Meeting was called to order: Called to order by President Art Bendick

Attending the meeting were: President Art Bendick, Treasurer Joe Fornero, V. President Neal Shipley, Secretary Nancy Rich and Member at Large Tom Rich.

Treasurer's update was presented: by Joe F.

Please pay your 2020 dues if you have not done it yet. Joe F will not be at the January 2020 meeting, so pay Neal.

The 2020 club trip will be a Caribbean Cruise October 4 - 15.

2020 Club Officers are open for volunteers. If no new candidates are offered, they will be as follows:

Art Bendick - President
Neal Shipley - Vice President

Joe Fornero - Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Nancy Rich - Secretary

Tom Rich, Terry and Glenda McLennan, Joe Schmitt - members at large

Future Programs: January 2020 program will be presented by Neal; a You Tube tutorial on cell phones. The board would like suggestions for future programs and volunteers to present.

Adjournment: Motion made by Nancy and seconded by Neal.

*Respectfully submitted
by Nancy Rich,
Secretary*

Club Information

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An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

\$200 for nothing–fleeceware: a new threat By Sven Krumrey

January Drawing

Do you remember the scene where Indiana Jones is chased by a giant boulder threatening to crush him? Think of the boulder as major Ashampoo projects and me as Indiana Jones—but less agile and with somewhat rusty hips. That's what it's been like around here recently! *And every boulder caught me straight on!* The blog was the first victim of this deadline frenzy and, though it hurt, there was nothing I could do about it. Naturally, a lot has happened during my forced absence as blog writer so let's start with a particular crummy topic that could potentially cost cellphone users hundreds of dollars each month: **fleeceware!** Time and time again, both Google and

Apple are plagued by shady apps that sneak into their stores while *pretending to be regular apps*. The latest wave of these nasties has been dubbed Fleeceware and it uses an old scam, but in digital form: **hidden subscriptions**. On the outside, fleeceware apps look just like any other app and offers useful features, e.g. a QR scanner, a calculator or photo optimization. Users are free to test them under a trial period, so nothing out of the ordinary yet—except that users are asked to submit their payment details the first time they run the apps.

(continued on page 6)

The regular drawing for January will be \$50 gift certificate from Forest Inn, a \$25 gift card from Pizza Ranch and Menards and a flash drive, plus some misc. items. There will also be a separate drawing for a computer system including monitor, keyboard and new printer. Tickets for this drawing will be \$5 each

Joke from Web



A DVI Story

By Jim Sanders



DVI-I (Single Link)



DVI-D (Single Link)



DVI-I (Dual Link)



DVI-D (Dual Link)



DVI-A (Analog)

Sometimes learning experiences occur for simple reasons. This particular learning experience happened because of the way I organized my test bench. This experience revolves around the video interfaces on the computers that most of us use. You know, the connection to the monitor that puts the pretty picture on the display. In particular, the VGA port, the DVI-I port and the connectors they use. Just to refresh your memory on what those acronyms stand for:

VGA stands for "Video Graphics Array." The VGA standard was originally developed by IBM in 1987 and allowed for a display resolution of 640x480 pixels. Today, it typically supports up to **1080p**. The quality of the signal begins to drop off above 1920x1080 (**1080p**) which **will** cause a drop in image quality due to the analogue nature of the signal. With a good enough cable (shorter is better) and

transceiver on either end it **can** be used for resolutions up to and including 2048x1536, your mileage may vary.

DVI stands for (D)igital (V)ideo (I)nterface. It is a video display interface developed by the [Digital Display Working Group](#) (DDWG). The [digital](#) interface is used to connect a video source, such as a [video display controller](#), to a [display device](#), such as a [computer monitor](#). It was developed with the intention of creating an industry standard for the transfer of digital video content. This interface is designed to transmit [uncompressed](#) digital video and can be configured to support multiple modes such as DVI-A (analog only), DVI-D (digital only) or DVI-I (digital and analog). The single link DVI-D can produce a near

perfect 1920x1200 ([WUXGA](#)) image @ 60Hz on displays and the dual link a near perfect 2560x1600 ([WOXGA](#)) image @ 60Hz on displays.

In order to reduce the clutter around the test area, I bought a very flexible, small diameter, VGA cable to hook the 1920 x 1080 monitor to whatever computer I was working on at the time. Depending on age and other factors, most end-user computers have either VGA only ports, or DVI-I only, or both. For computers that only have one of the three Analog capable DVI connectors, I have acquired the three different DVI to VGA adaptors. Newer computers may have HDMI and/or Display Port ports as well.

One of the learning experiences here was that I didn't need three DVI to VGA adaptors, just one, the DVI-A pin out adaptor. The female, Analog capable, DVI connector that is on any one computer, can be one of the three shown



in the diagram. As you can see in the above chart, the DVI-A will mate with the other two pin outs. The other two pin outs have limits.

A second learning experience had to do with my long-term assumption (remember the definition of assume!) that contained within the DVI to VGA adaptor was a clever little integrated circuit that did the conversion. WRONG! Heretofore, I had not bothered to look up WHY there are different pin outs on DVI connectors. I just acquired the right cable or adaptor that worked with a given system. If it mechanically mated and electronically worked, life was good. When I was forced to research my problem, it only took a view minutes on Google to learn the facts of DVI life. Whereupon, I really felt the weight of one definition of assume! If that is confusing go here: <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Assume>

A DVI to VGA adaptor doesn't contain a clever little IC that converts the digital signal to an analog signal. That clever little IC (that contains DACs, Digital to Analog

Converter) is on the Mother Board or Video Card and makes the analog signals available on pins of the DVI connector. The only adapting the DVI to VGA adaptor does is to run wires from the correct pins on the DVI connector that contain the analog video signals, to the appropriate pins on the VGA connector.

What precipitated this learning experience? I was upgrading a clients computer to a new RX 570 video card which has Display Port, HDMI and DVI-D connectors. My test monitor only has VGA and DVI-I dual link connectors. If you look at the chart, it is obvious that none of my DVI to VGA adaptors can plug into a DVI-D female connector. Not to mention, there are no analog signals in a DVI-D connector anyway! It turned out that I had 4 DVI cables of differing lengths in stock, but all of them were DVI-I dual link cables. It being late and wanting to finish the job, I figured what the hey, I will modify one cable by breaking off the four pins surrounding the blade that keep it from mating. I did that and it still would not seat in the DVI-D connector. Looking closely, I could see that the blade in a DVI-I male connector is wider than the female slot in the DVI-D connector on the RX 570 video card. A little grinding with the Dremel tool and it slid right in and worked.

A few tidbits: The digital video signals in a HDMI connector are the same as DVI-D which makes it easy to make an adaptor cable you can buy for under \$10. HDMI connectors come in three sizes, standard, mini, and micro. A HDMI 2 in 1 T Adapter Connector Female To Mini HDMI Male And Micro HDMI Male Adapter is handy for connecting phones and tablets to a standard HDMI cable. There is a long list of powered adaptors that allow you to connect devices with different connector types and electronic signals to each other. Most are under \$50.00. In part because there is a royalty fee on HDMI connectors, for several electrical, mechanical, and economic reasons, Display Port is becoming the preferred video port. In the future, maybe, hopefully, Display Port will be the one and only to deal with.

*Author: Jim Sanders, Director,
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September 2019 issue, Orange
Bytes
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Deleting Tab Stops

By Allen Wynett

There may be times when you don't want to clear all the tab stops in your document—you only want to clear a few of them. To clear individual tab stops for a paragraph, follow these steps:

1. Make sure the insertion point is in the paragraph whose tabs you wish to clear.
2. Display the Tabs dialog box. (Display the Home tab of the ribbon, click the small icon at the bottom-right of the Paragraph group, then click Tabs.) (See Figure 1.)

1. In the tab list below the Tab Stop Position box, select the tab stop you want to clear.
2. Click on Clear.
3. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for each tab stop you want to clear.
4. Click on OK.

If you have the ruler displayed on-screen, then you can also delete tabs by following these steps:

1. Make sure the insertion point is in the paragraph whose tabs you wish to clear.
2. Use the horizontal scroll bar to scroll left

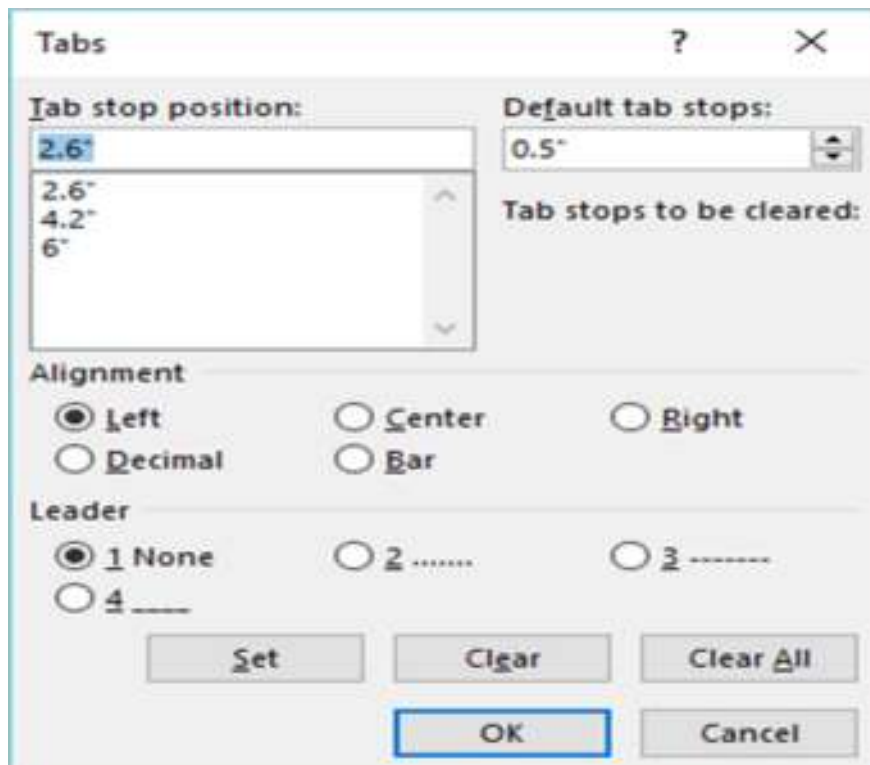
or right until you can see the offending tab on the ruler.

3. On the ruler, click on the tab indicator and drag it off the ruler. When you release the mouse button, the tab should disappear from the ruler.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 for each tab stop you wish to clear.

By Allen Wyatt

With more than 50 non-fiction books and numerous magazine articles to his credit, Allen Wyatt is an internationally recognized author. He is president of [Sharon Parq Associates](#), a computer and publishing services company.



Without this, the apps refuse to start. Once entered, **disaster strikes**, thanks to a loophole in Google's Play Store terms. The trial period usually *only lasts three days*, during or after which most users remove the apps in the belief that the payment details they provided no longer apply. Here's the thing: uninstalling an app is not the same as unsubscribing. By submitting their payment details, and ignoring the fine print, **users have already subscribed.**

Removing the affected apps does not cancel the subscription. It's the subscription price that earns fleeceware it's foreboding name: **\$200 or more** is not uncommon-per month! The only way to escape the trap?

Unsubscribe from within the apps and then uninstall them. Currently, Play Store imposes a cap for subscription fees of €300 in the EU and \$400 in the US. That still leaves plenty of room to overcharge users.

Naturally, Google have already sprung into action and removed some of the apps, but *more will likely follow*. Google's dilemma is that, while shady, **overcharging is not illegal** under their terms. And, unlike malware, fleeceware apps behave as advertised. They don't execute malicious code or steal sensitive information. By providing their payment details at

first launch, users willingly enter into a subscription agreement. And keeping their subscriptions alive after they've uninstalled the apps can make sense, e.g. when users are migrating from their old to their new cellphones and wish to keep their settings and apps. Most users are totally unaware they've subscribed, especially those who quickly uninstalled because of the short trial period. Here's how to cancel subscriptions on your Android device:

1. Open Google Play Store.
2. Make sure you're signed in to the correct Google Account.
3. Tap "Menu ≡" >

"Subscriptions".

4. Select the subscription you want to cancel.

5. Tap "Cancel subscription".

Follow the instructions.

If it's less than 48 hours since you purchased, you can request a refund:

1. Click "Order History".

2. Find the affected order.

3. On the order, click "More ⋮".

4. Select "Request a refund" or "Report a problem" and pick the option that applies to your situation.

Complete the form and include that you request a refund.

And it's gone ...

Is fleeceware an Android-only phenomenon?

Hardly! iOS saw a

VPN app that charged users \$400

back in 2017 and a QR scanner app that cost \$3.99 a week, not much by comparison but still.

That's when Apple decided to display a notification in iOS 13 when users remove an app with an active subscription. Let's hope Android will quickly follow suit. A detailed summary of all price, subscription and trial conditions would also be much appreciated!

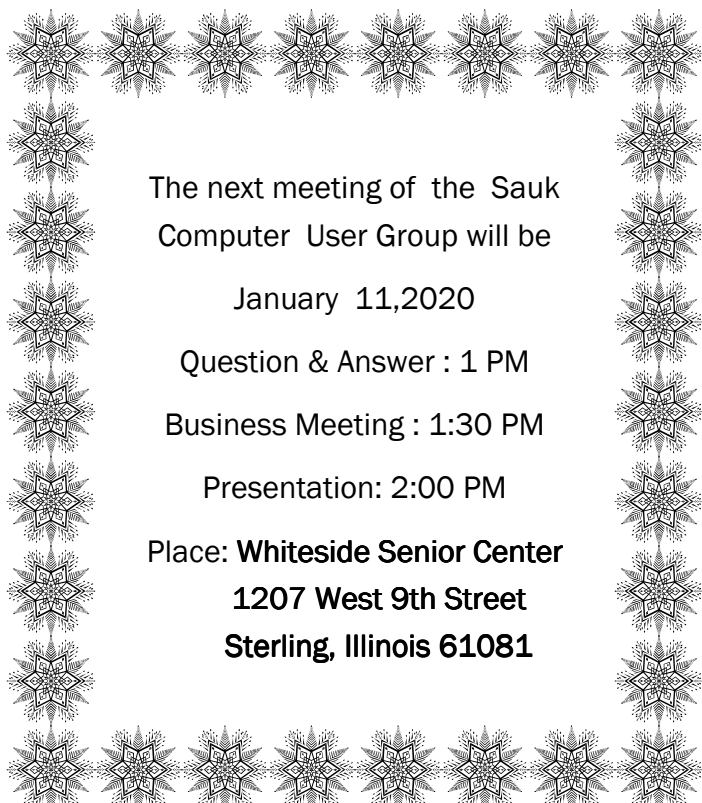
So how do you spot a fleeceware app? **Take a closer look!** With

billions of smartphone users, it's unlikely you'll be the first victim. So *check the reviews for warnings and cuss words* that are a clear indicator that something's amiss!

You can also check popular online magazines or portals for hands-on feedback. Though the screening process for Google's Play Store is shorter than for Apple's equivalent, both can't guarantee 100% app safety. That's why we'll once again have to rely on the security center between our ears and **think before we click!**

By Sven Krumrey
Ashampoo Blog
2019/11/22

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

January 11,2020

Question & Answer : 1 PM

Business Meeting : 1:30 PM

Presentation: 2:00 PM

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

**Neal Shiply will be doing the January presentation with an
APCUG or You Tube Video on Cell Phones**