

THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

APRIL 2021

VOLUME THIRTY-ONE
NUMBER FOUR

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The Whiteside County Senior Center will not open in April for meetings. We had 15 people at the March meeting with the Zoom app from APCUG. We will have to have another remote meeting in April, hoping they will have a plan to reopen in May.

Neal will host a few help sessions to answer questions you may have. Please try one, it's not that difficult if you have a camera and microphone.

The time will be 7:30pm for all meetings and Fridays only

Apr 2 & 9
Joe Fornero

March
SCUG BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DATE: 3/17/2021

Meeting was called to order by: V.P. Neal Shipley.

Attending the meeting were: Glenda & Terry MacLennan, Neal Shipley, Joe Fornero, Joe Schmitt, Janice Maves, Tom & Nancy Rich.

Treasurer's report was presented by: Joe F.

Discussion Highlights:

1): The donated computers have been picked up from the Illinois Retina Specialists in Peru. The Operating Systems will be updated.

2): The Club Cruise is scheduled to be held at the end of September and early October 2021.

3): Discussed if/when the Senior Center plans to reopen & with what COVID restrictions. SCUG needs a contact person to send a letter to the Senior Center board to determine if there is a plan for reopening.

4): Discussing what direction to go for future program presentations.

Future Programs:
YouTube video TBD
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Secretary Nancy Rich

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An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

Windows Clipboard Secrets Revealed

By Bob Woods

I am sure you have noted that while Microsoft eventually gets around to including free functionality accessories, the freebies often leave a bit to be desired. A shining example is the built-in clipboard. It's there to use, but until recently only gave you one shot and doesn't save anything between reboots. When having to do multiple copy/paste routines, many of us have turned to freeware or shareware to overcome the built-in clipboard limitations.

Several years ago, I purchased a license for the excellent clipboard extender Clipmate by Thornsoft (<http://thornsoft.com/>). Clipmate has many features including saved clipboard contents, editing of the clipboard contents, and the ability to create folders for different clipboard content. But it isn't free, costing \$35.00. However, there are times where I just need to do a few quick copy/paste inserts. On those occasions I will not launch Clipmate, just use the Windows clipboard.

Somewhere along the line, Microsoft has given the built-in clipboard a history lesson. The clipboard can now hold 25 items. That includes text, images, and content from browser pages. But the history functionality is not turned on by default. You must opt to add this feature. To do that hold the Windows key and tap your v key (a Windows hotkey combination). A onetime pop up

will open asking permission to turn on the clipboard history. From then on when you do a Windows key + v key a clipboard pop-up window will open allowing you to select from contents in the clipboard. Each saved item will be in its own small window within the clipboard window. At the right of each window, the ellipsis (three dots) will allow you to delete a saved item, pin it which saves it even if you clear the clipboard or restart, and to clear all.

An article at <https://techplugged.com/how-to-clear-clipboard-on-windows-10/> describes multiple ways of clearing the Windows clipboard.

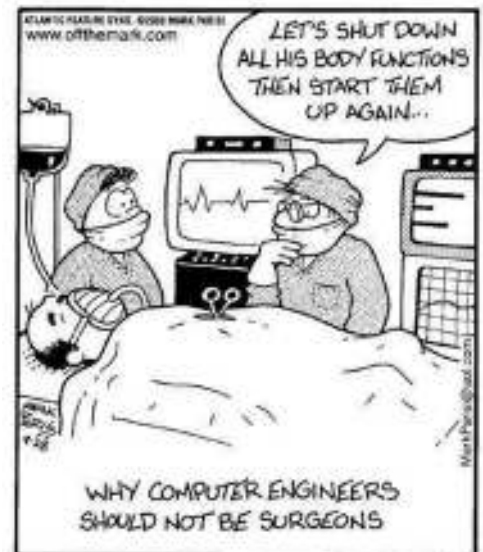
I have found that just opening the clipboard pop up with Windows key + v key and selecting to clear all to be the easiest for me. However, if you only occasionally use the clipboard, you might forget the hotkey shortcut. Setting up one of the methods from the Tech Plugged article might work better for you.

A further update to clipboard functionality is in testing to be released in a future Windows update as discussed in an Infopackets article at <http://www.infopackets.com/news/10797/windows-10-cut-and-paste-get-overhaul>.

By Bob Woods, Webmaster, Under the Computer Hood User Group
September 2020 issue, Drive Light
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The Next Drawing

The regular drawing for next meeting whenever that happens, will be \$50 gift certificate from Candlelight, 2 - \$25 gift cards from local family restaurants and a 1Tb flash drive, a USB flashlight plus some misc. items.



NASTY POPUP ADS

By Jim Cerny

You're going along just fine, enjoying a fun game on your device, you don't know how it happened or maybe you touched the screen just a teeny bit out of place, and BAM, there is a pop-up add or window! It overlays part of your screen and now you are playing a new game you didn't download called "try to get rid of this ad!"

I guess it is pretty standard now that all "free" games on your device come with ads, so here are some tips on how to get rid of them and get back to your game or app.

Naturally, no one way will always work, they are always trying to fool you!

Simple notice box – a short message in a small box that, thankfully, has a small "X" you can touch to get rid of it. It may be an important notice, however, so read it in case you have a problem. Usually, these notices appear in the middle of your screen or the lower right corner "notification area" on your Windows computer.

Larger ad – behold a company catalog page offering clothes or shoes or whatever. Look carefully – where is that "X"? Is it missing? Well, it could be hidden out of sight. Try touching the upper right corner (and if that doesn't work, try EVERY corner) to see if an "X" appears. If so, you "win", now you can touch the "X" and get rid of the ad.



Touch screen ads to swipe away – Ok, some ads do NOT have an "X", these people are getting more clever every year! Try putting your finger on the ad and "swiping" the ad (up, down, left, or right) to get it off your screen. I had a nasty one the other day which appeared on the far left on my iPad and the only way I could get rid of it was to swipe it all the way to the RIGHT to get it off.

An unwelcome web page – Somehow you must have touched on something to open up (or "go to") a web page. Yes, they can do this to you without you opening up your web browser. Good luck finding an "X" on this one. On a touch screen, try swiping up and hope the window goes up and off your screen. Otherwise, hit your "home" button twice (on your device) or swipe HALFway up on your iPhone from the bottom to get all your open apps. Find the one you want to delete and swipe it up to get rid of it. It is a very good idea to do this often on your device to delete all your apps that are remaining open and perhaps slowing up your response on your device.

Timed ads – These, at least, are almost expected. An ad appears (if they are nice they will warn you first) and these ads are "timed" to run for several seconds or a minute. Look for a moving blue bar at the bottom of the ad to see it countdown the clock. Sometimes no bar or

timer appears. Sometimes it is hidden in the corner and when you touch on it only then will it show you the time remaining. As far as I know, there is nothing you can do with a timed ad other than wait until the time runs out – even then you will still have to look for an “X” or something to touch to get rid of it.

Your anti-virus software app on your Windows computer may already have an ad blocker as part of it, so look and see what options are already available for you. Apple products do not have anti-virus apps as they are already part of the iOS (operating system).

Ad blockers. Now having said all that, there are many ad “blockers” and “removers” that are available on the internet. Some are “free” (with pop-up ads of their own!). I would be a little careful here – it would be best to ask someone who is already using the blocker tool before you download it and start using it. Will it work on your device? Will it work on multiple devices? Will it block all ads? Will it work only with your browser (i.e. Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Safari, Firefox, etc.)? Nothing is perfect and those company marketing people are working hard to get you to see their ads. Always look up any ad blocker, or any app for that matter, on Google and read what others have experienced. Pretty soon ads will be popping up on our car screens. Imagine driving along and having an auto insurance ad popping up over your speedometer! Well, I suppose that is a bit better than driving through a billboard!

By Jim Cerny, Help Desk Host, The Saratoga Users Group

August 2020 STUG Monitor

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Start Button is Missing and There's No Taskbar. What Do I Do?

By Leo Notenboom

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Where's the Start button??? (Screenshot: askleo.com)

Taskbar and Start button disappeared? We'll look at solutions for several reasons why this might happen.

Applies to Windows: [10](#), [8](#), [7](#)

All of a sudden my taskbar is gone. I can't find it, so I have no Start button to click on, no menu to start programs from – I

can't even see what time it is! How do I get it back?

There are a couple of different ways the taskbar can disappear (or appear to disappear). Naturally, the solutions are different, as are the workarounds.

Press CTRL+ESC to bring up the taskbar if it's hiding or in an unexpected location. If that works, use Taskbar settings to reconfigure the taskbar so you can see it. If that doesn't work, use Task Manager to run "explorer.exe". If that doesn't work, check for malware and possibly corrupted system files. If none of this resolves the issue, you may need to refresh or reset Windows.

It's hiding

Press **CTRL+ESC**. If your taskbar magically reappears, then it's probably simply been resized too small, repositioned somewhere you didn't expect, or perhaps beneath another application that is running full-screen on your computer.

The workaround? Press **CTRL+ESC** to access the taskbar.



Windows 10 Start Menu. Click for larger

image. (Screenshot: askleo.com)

The article "[How to Manage Taskbar Space](#)" includes a short video showing the settings you can change to make it behave the way you want, and/or the approach to making it "big enough" once again.

Start Button is Missing and There's No Taskbar. What Do I Do? (cont.)

It's not running

If CTRL+ESC didn't bring it back, then the program that displays the taskbar probably isn't running. That program is often called the "Windows [Shell](#)," but it's really "explorer.exe." It displays the taskbar but also responds to the CTRL+ESC sequence. If it's not running then it's not around to do either of those things.

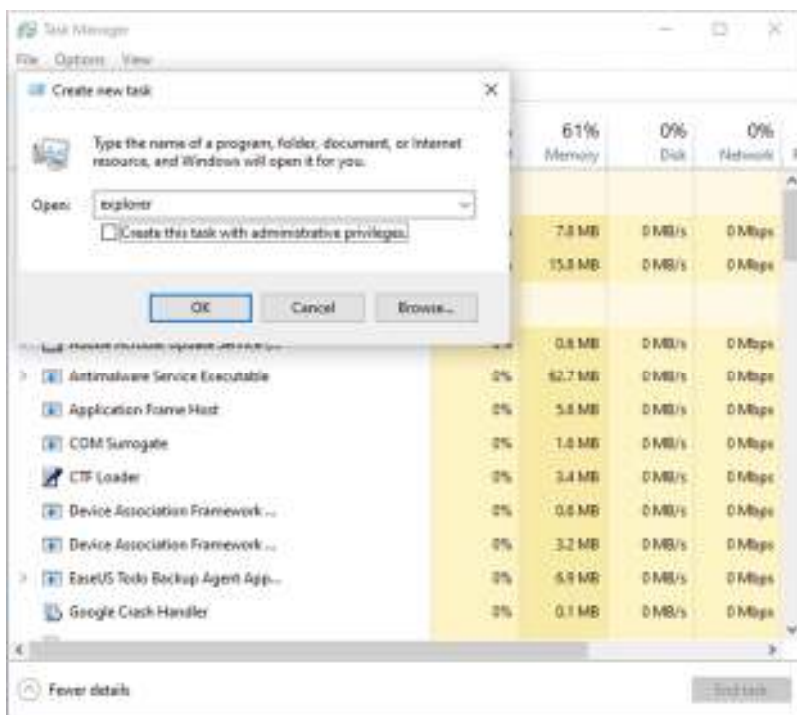
The workaround: press **CTRL+ALT+DEL**, which brings up a menu of options.



The result of pressing CTRL+ALT+DEL. (Screenshot:

askleo.com)

Click on **Task Manager**. In Task Manager, if the File menu is not shown, click on "More details" near the bottom. Then, on the File menu, select **Run New Task**. Type in "explorer" and press **OK**.



Start Button is Missing and There's No Taskbar. What Do I Do? (cont.)

Task Manager: Create new task. (Screenshot: askleo.com)
That *should* restart Explorer and re-display your taskbar.
If it does not, we need to explore other approaches to fixing it.

Fixing a missing Explorer

If you don't have a Start menu from which to run programs, you can use the Task Manager's **File, New Task (Run...)** to run the programs we need.

As always, I strongly recommend you [back up](#) before attempting any of these approaches. If you have no way of running your [backup](#) program, you can use the technique outlined in [How to Back Up a Machine that Won't Boot](#).

My first recommendation is to run an up-to-date [anti-malware](#) scan. If you use Microsoft's built-in security, you can run:

```
%ProgramFiles%\Windows Defender\MpCmdRun.exe -Scan -ScanType 2
```

to run a scan. (More options for the MpCmdRun command can be found [here](#).)

Next, I would run the system file checker as outlined in this article: [What Is the System File Checker, and How Do I Run It?](#) That will check for missing or damaged files in Windows and repair or replace them if possible.

Next, I would attempt a refresh of Windows 10 using one of the techniques outlined in [Refreshing Windows 10 Without a Reinstall or Reset](#).

Finally, you may be faced with re-installing or resetting Windows. [How Do I Reset Windows 10?](#) has the details.

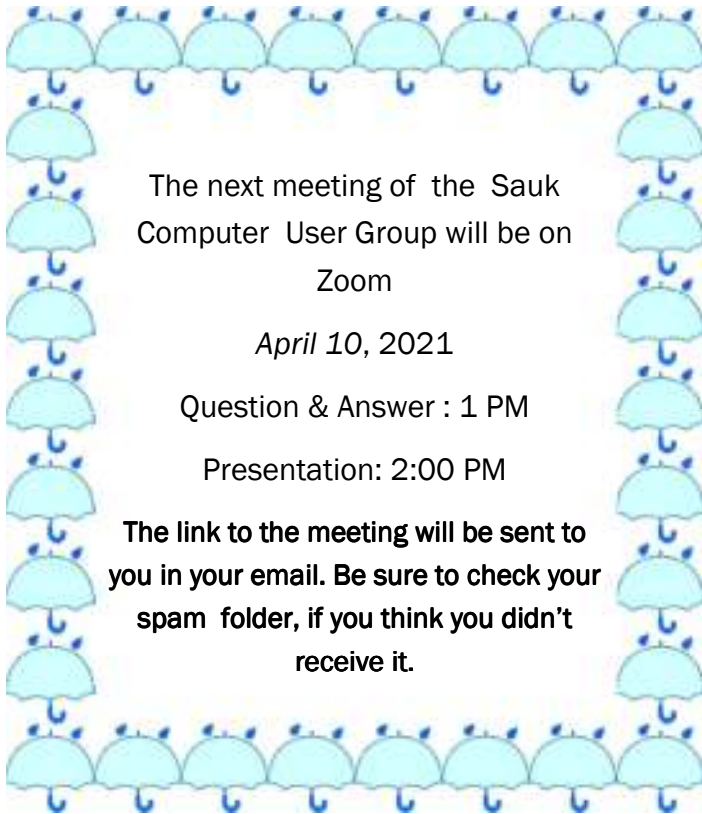
*By Leo Notenboom
Used by Permission
Ask Leo.com*

<https://askleo.com/start-button-is-missing/>

There will be a Question & Answer Session starting at 1 PM on Zoom. Bring any questions you have about your computer or problems you may be having.

It will be conducted by:

Neal Shipley



The next meeting of the Sauk
Computer User Group will be on
Zoom

April 10, 2021

Question & Answer : 1 PM

Presentation: 2:00 PM

The link to the meeting will be sent to you in your email. Be sure to check your spam folder, if you think you didn't receive it.

Neal Shipley will be hosting an online Zoom meeting with a Question & Answer time and will have a presentation on a relevant computer or cell phone topic.