



# THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

## SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

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*The Whiteside County Senior Center board met on 6/23/2021. Not certain what the final outcome of when the Senior Center will open. We will not be meeting there in July. We will have our July 10th meeting at Pizza Ranch. I have reserved the back private room for us. We have the room starting at 11:30, feel free to arrive from then to noon. We decided to pay for the entire cost so money doesn't need to be handled. You can invite your spouse or a friend to this meeting, but you need to RSVP me at [j4nero@thewisp.net](mailto:j4nero@thewisp.net) if you plan on attending and the number of people. Please plan on leaving at least a \$2 tip per person.*

*Joe Fornero*

June  
**SCUG BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
DATE: 6/16/2021

Meeting was called to order by: President Art Bendick

Attending the meeting were: Art Bendick, Neal Shipley, Joe Fornero, Janice Maves, Tom & Nancy Rich, Gloria & George Schneider, Ken Hughes and Cheryl Johnson also Terry MacLennan by phone

Treasurer's report was presented by: Joe F.

### Discussion Highlights:

Senior Center board meeting to be held 06/23/21 to determine opening

plans, Joe F. will send out email with details on meeting results.

Four laptop computers are available from club at \$45.00 each.

SCUG is evaluating getting our own Zoom account for hybrid club meetings.

A motion was made and approved for next month's picnic that the club will pay \$10.00 per person with each individual making up the difference to cover costs.

**Meeting adjourned.**

*Respectfully submitted by  
Secretary Nancy Rich*

### Club Information

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## Interesting Internet Finds

By Steve Costello

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members. The following are some items I found interesting during the month of December 2020.

*PSA: Gmail Has Your Old Chat Logs From Google Talk (And Hangouts)*

<https://www.howtogeek.com/711404/psa-gmail-has-your-old-chat-logs-from-google-talk-and-hangouts/>

Did you use Google Talk and or Hangouts? If so, your logs are still stored in your Google account and taking up space. Check out this post to learn how to access and delete them.

*Megapixels Explained – Cyn Mackley*

<https://cynmackley.com/2021/02/01/megapixels-explained/>

Do you wonder what megapixels are? Cyn Mackley provides an informative explanation of megapixels that is not too technical.

*How To Set Up Voicemail On Google Voice*

[https://www.online-tech-tips.com/google-](https://www.online-tech-tips.com/google-softwaretips/how-to-set-up-voicemail-on-google-voice/)

[softwaretips/how-to-set-up-voicemail-on-google-voice/](https://www.online-tech-tips.com/google-softwaretips/how-to-set-up-voicemail-on-google-voice/)

This post explains how to set up voicemail on Google Voice. If you don't have Google Voice yet, it also explains how to get started with Google Voice. (I have been using Google Voice for years.)

*Google Meet Adds Green Room To Test Video And Audio Quality*

<https://www.makeuseof.com/google-meet-video-audio-quality-test/>

I belong to a group that has started using Google Meet instead of Zoom for online meetings. When we first started there was a lot of time spent making sure our audio and video were working correctly. Recently, on the day of the February 2021 meeting, I saw this post. Using the information in this post, I checked out my audio and video, making sure everything was working correctly before the meeting.

*How Often Should I Reboot My Computer?*

<https://askleo.com/how-often-should-i-reboot-my-computer/>

Leo Notenboom answers this recurring question. As with most of his answers, there are pros and cons discussed. (Note: I leave my desktop on 24/7 unless there is a problem or software update. I turn off and unplug my laptops when they are not in use.)

## The Next Drawing

We will not be having a raffle at the July meeting, since it is at Pizza Ranch. Hopefully we will resume if we can meet at the Senior Center in August.

*Are VPNs Illegal?*

<https://www.addictivetips.com/vpn/are-vpns-illegal/>

I know some users are concerned about the legality of VPNs. If you are one of them, check out this post. (I use a VPN whenever I connect to public wi-fi on my phone and other devices. I do this for safety and privacy, not to get around geographical restrictions.)

*Google Storage Changes Coming In June*

<https://davescomputertips.com/google-storage-changes-coming-in-june/>

Do you use Google's free storage? If you use Gmail, I am sure you do, whether you know it or not. This post has the information you need to be aware of about changes coming after June 1, 2021. I suggest you read this post and make your decision(s) before then.

*Interesting Internet Finds  
March 2021*

Steve Costello  
scostello (AT) sefcug.com

## Do You Trust Your Technology? By Greg Skalka

Our world runs on technology, yet many of our most contentious disagreements involve whether certain technologies can be trusted, or whether society can be trusted to use them correctly. Is climate change real and man-made? Is nuclear power dangerous? Are electronic voting machines accurate? Are vaccines safe? Does cell phone use cause cancer? Is it time to put on a tinfoil hat?

A strict application of the scientific method should be able to answer our questions and reveal the truth, but only if we all trust science. Unfortunately, with humans involved, there are biases, conflicts of interest, and preferences for one outcome over another. Another problem is that humans are imperfect, and so everything we make and do is also imperfect. Nothing we create is all good; there are always downsides to everything. Often the detrimental aspects of some new thing are not fully realized until much later. Asbestos seemed like a useful fireproofing technology until its toxicity became apparent. When the good aspects outweigh the bad (in some subjective determination), the tech is beneficial. Things are usually not black and white, however, so it is left to individuals and to society to judge their worth.

How we weigh the advantages and costs can be based on reputable information, but it can also come from rumors, false narratives, and speculation. Good things can get bad reputations (like vaccines), while bad things can get marketed as desirable (like tobacco products).



At the individual level, we all have choices to make concerning which technologies we trust and which we do not; which are worth the cost, and which should be avoided. Everyone approaches this differently, bringing our standards, biases, concerns, and experiences. Usually, the benefits are apparent, but the downsides of a particular technology are often hidden and difficult to confirm. They usually involve aspects of safety and security, and it is very difficult to prove something is completely free of risk. The risks are generally to our personal and financial data. Can we get hacked? Can we get tracked? Is someone able to steal from us, or just accumulate more information about us than we'd like? Differences of opinion on these risks can lead to things that are popular with many being shunned by some.

There are lots of examples of mainstream technologies that are not trusted by some nominally rational people. I have some relatives that don't feel safe flying and now only travel by car, bus, or train (though they had traveled by plane in the past). I feel from its safety record that flying is generally safe enough, but have never questioned them on why they hold this view. John Madden, the former football coach, and sportscaster is reportedly afraid of flying and used a bus to travel to games. Some attribute his fear to a Cal Poly football team plane crash in 1960. I am not aware of any specific incident that would be the cause of my relatives' concern; they obviously must have a point of view different from mine on this.

I didn't think much about these differences in points of view until the start of the pandemic last year when I found some good friends who refused to use Zoom. I had set up a personal Zoom account in 2015 to use for some purpose related to UCHUG but never used it much. That changed greatly in March 2020, when we were forced to hold our board meeting virtually on Zoom. Since then, with the help of APCUG, we have been able to use their paid Zoom accounts to hold all our board and general meetings. There are some members we have not seen during this time, but we don't know why. I am aware of security concerns about Zoom but have researched them, and now have used it so much that I feel it can be trusted.

Before the pandemic, I met for lunch periodically with a group of longtime friends that I worked with at one time or another. After we could no longer meet in person due to COVID, I set up Zoom virtual lunch meetings so that we could stay in touch. Many in this group participated, but some would not; they were concerned about the security issues and "just didn't do Zoom." This is unfortunate as I would like to see more of them. I periodically remind them that they could join our Zoom lunches, but I'm always rebuffed. I'm starting to feel like I'm trying to talk them into using heroin. I don't think they are paranoid, as there are other things that these friends do that I find too risky.

There are a few popular things that I don't trust at this point. One is social networks. While I do have an account on LinkedIn (for job search and career purposes), I've never had a Facebook or Twitter account. I don't have any interest in them, and since I do have security and privacy concerns about participating in these sites, I just don't. There are no doubt some things I miss out on by avoiding social networks. My church has a private social network that would probably provide useful information, but my feelings about Facebook have kept me from investigating it further.

Some people don't trust online banking and bill payment. I once felt that way. While I do still have security concerns, the overwhelming convenience of these services has won me over. I take every precaution I can to keep my online financial activities secure, and so feel my use is safe enough. I sure wouldn't want to go back to banking in person or by phone or having to mail paper checks in for payments. The postal system seems less secure than it used to, so mail theft of my paper statements now seems a greater risk than an online breach.

I also have reservations about password managers. I have less distrust in them now but originally feared that if they were not secure and could be hacked, all your passwords would then be vulnerable. I developed my own process for managing passwords and prefer it, but would recommend a password manager to others at this point

Voice-operated assistants (or smart speakers) can be very useful, but there are certainly privacy concerns to consider in their use. While I have several Amazon Alexa devices, I don't

trust them fully. I realize I am trading some loss of privacy for their convenience. It is the same with Amazon in general, and with Google. I love Google Maps but have concerns about all the location data I am providing when I use it. It is always a risk/reward evaluation for each service; there are some Google services I don't feel are worth the risk, and so don't use them.

A smart or connected home can be a concern for some. I have a lot of smart home devices that I feel are fairly benign, like smart lights, thermostats, and cameras. While I agree it would be handy, I'm not trusting enough to consider a smart lock for my home just yet. I was once very concerned about home Wi-Fi and kept it disabled when not using it directly. As I found reasons to use it more and hardened my home network with more secure equipment and practices, I became more trusting. Still, the majority of my home computers and the ones I use for my most sensitive computing are on my wired network.

Antivirus is something I've become less trusting of. After research and consideration, I'm now in agreement with those that believe that any external security program opens holes in the operating system and thus increases risk. I'm now using the security built into Windows 10, rather than an external antivirus program (and saving money). I am much more suspicious of security and "cleaning" programs now, as some exhibit malware-like behaviors.

And then there is Windows itself. Some don't trust Microsoft and prefer alternatives like Linux or Apple's products. I don't trust Microsoft on everything, but since I must live in a Windows world at work, I find it easiest to stick with the adversary I know best. Linux seems like a lot more work, and since I don't trust Apple any more than Microsoft, why should I pay a lot more for a computer I'm still concerned about?

No matter what technology you consider, there is probably some way it can be misused, subverted, or hacked. Each of us must consider the benefits against the risks when personally using any tech product or service. Those considerations must be made with the best, most accurate, and unbiased information available. We can't depend on the tech vendors or the government to protect us from harm; we must be our defenders. Perhaps the best we can hope for with our tech is not trust, but a truce.

*President's Corner*  
*Do You Trust Your Technology?*  
by Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group  
[www.uchug.org](http://www.uchug.org)  
*president (at) uchug.org*

## Windows 11 vs. Windows 10: Should you upgrade?

Just like Windows 10 was a free upgrade to Windows 8.1 and Windows 7, Windows 11 will be a free upgrade to Windows 10. But there's a catch. That upgrade only applies as long as your PC passes the tests in Microsoft's [PC Health Check app](#) – which is already causing a fair share of controversy, especially in regard to the [TPM 2.0 requirement](#). (Link below, for downloading The PC app, Health Check app.)

<https://mspoweruser.com/microsoft-windows-pc-health-check-windows-11-2/>

Another catch, if you are upgrading from Windows 10 Home, you must have a Microsoft account and must have Internet connection.

Even if you pass the test, with the PC Health Check, you might be wondering if you should upgrade.

Microsoft says it will roll out Windows 11 to PCs by the end of the year 2021, and throughout 2022. That's when Windows 11 should be most stable and you can install it safely on your PC. Even then, maybe it's best to wait.

Windows 10 will continue to be supported through October 14, 2025. Microsoft hasn't said how many more updates Windows 10 will officially have till October 2025. It is not really important to update to Windows 11 right away unless you really want to try out the new features.

### **Support Dates:**

Windows 10 Home and Pro    Started 07/29/2015 Retirement 10/14/2025

Version 20H2                      Started 05/27/2020 Retirement 12/14/2021

Version 20H2                      Started 10/20/2020 Retirement 05/10/2022

Version 21H1 (Latest version)    Started 05/18/2021 Retirement 12/13/2022

Office 2010    Mainstream Support = No Longer    Extended Support = 10/13/2020

Office 2013    Mainstream Support = No Longer    Extended Support = 04/11/2023

Office 2016    Mainstream Support = 10/13/2020    Extended Support = 10/14/2025

Office 2019    Mainstream Support = 10/10/2023    Extended Support = 10/14/2025

### **Windows 11 will be a free upgrade**

As mentioned above, Windows 11 will ship later this year, and will be offered as a free upgrade for Windows 10 users. Microsoft says there's no time limit on this, meaning you won't have to upgrade to Windows 11 right away if you don't want to.

The license itself isn't free, but if you upgrade from Windows 10, you get to retain your license and therefore remain activated. This is exactly how it worked with the move from Windows 7 and Windows 8 to Windows 10. We also expect Windows 11 to be available for standalone purchase to consumers, like Windows 10.

## Windows 11 vs. Windows 10: Should you upgrade?

**Windows 11 is back to one major update a year**

**Windows 11 hardware requirements**

Windows 11 doesn't have too many strict hardware requirements to run well, but Microsoft has thrown down the gauntlet on security. A Trusted Platform Module (TPM) is required, and what that means is causing a lot of confusion for some users. I have used the Microsoft Health Checkup on 7 computers. Three units are able to run Windows 11, per the Health Checker. The other four units, all failed the Health Checker, which I do know why and Health Check gave no reason, except 3 units were updated from Windows 7 in the past. I believe the other computer, could have been or it failed the TPM requirement.

**Plus:** Microsoft has built a new Start menu and Taskbar experience, now centered by default. Gone are live tiles, and in their place is a grid of app icons that can be rearranged. Pinned and running apps in the Taskbar are now also centered. The System Tray and Action Center has been tweaked to match this, with Notifications and Quick Actions now split into two separate menus.

Quick Actions are now known as Quick Settings and appear when you click on the System icons on the far right of the Taskbar. From here, you can connect to Wi-Fi or a Bluetooth device, enable night light, configure focus mode, and much more. Clicking on the date and time will open your calendar view and notifications.

Microsoft is also introducing a new "Widgets" panel that houses features such as To Do, Calendar, Photos, and news from MSN.

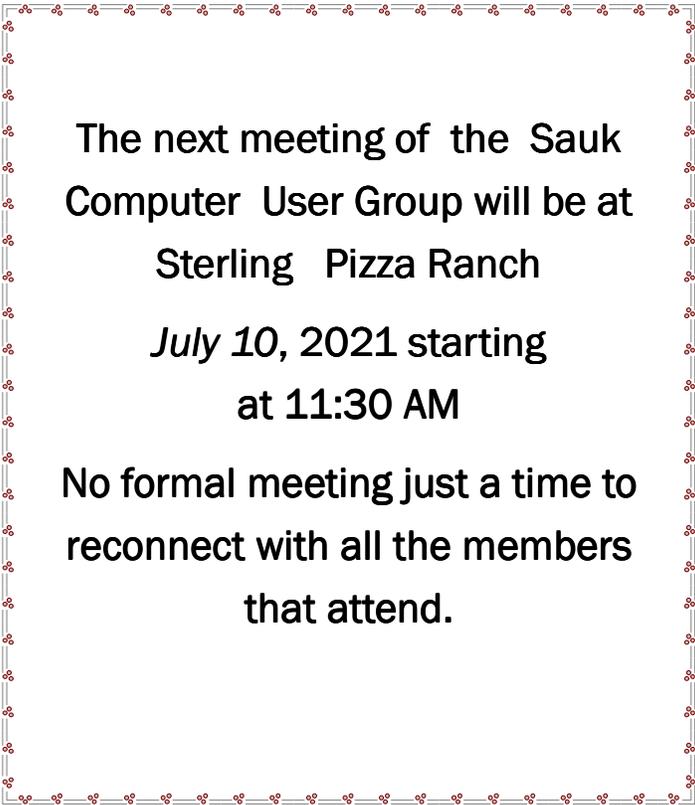
Windows 11 has a new Microsoft Store, which Microsoft says it's adding its own apps, such as Teams, Office, and Visual Studio to the new Microsoft Store to show the world that it's serious about this new Store effort, and that it hopes other app developers like Mozilla and Adobe follow suit.

Microsoft also announced that Android apps such as TikTok will be supported on Windows 11 and the new Microsoft Store!

*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 7:30 pm for all meetings and Fridays only. Dates are June 18 & 25 and July 2 & 9 7:30 pm



The next meeting of the Sauk  
Computer User Group will be at  
Sterling Pizza Ranch

*July 10, 2021* starting  
at 11:30 AM

No formal meeting just a time to  
reconnect with all the members  
that attend.

**If you plan on attending RSVP me with the number coming to:**

**[j4nero@thewisp.net](mailto:j4nero@thewisp.net)**