

December
2019

WINDSOR Seniors Computer Users' Group Newsletter



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Computer Help-- There is
NO Drop-In computer help
in December 2019!
Next meeting of User's
Group: 1/13/20--1:00 2:00
pm Questions/Answers
2:00 – 4:00 pm: Our
presentation will be from
Jim Tubb. His presentation
is entitled "The Ultimate
Guide to Security".

*NO Drop-in Computer
Help in December 2019.*



Today's Program: During the first hour today, 1:00-2:00, General Questions & Answers.

Then during the 2:00-4:00 pm time slot, our presentation will be from Redwood Credit Union by **Rebecca Miller**, Assistant Manager Windsor branch. Her presentation is entitled "Navigating Banking Technology: Feeling Secure with Mobile Banking".

In the News:

a) **Google Chrome experiment crashes browser tabs, impacts companies worldwide**
<https://www.zdnet.com/article/google-chrome-experiment>

b) **You need to avoid public USB charging stations – here's why**
<https://www.komando.com/news/you-need-to-avoid-public-usb-charging-stations>

c) **Countdown: The 10 most important tech trends of the decade**
<https://www.cnet.com/news/countdown-the-10-most-important-tech>

Articles for December

a) **Ransomware hits Louisiana state government systems** by Catalin Cimpanu 11.19.19. "A ransomware infection today took down IT systems and websites managed by the Louisiana state government...Impacted services included public state government websites, but also the government's servers that manage email communications and internal applications...The state of Louisiana is one of the few US states that's prepared and has a plan in place for dealing with cyber-attacks...Ransomware attacks on US municipalities and local governments have been rampant this year."
<https://www.zdnet.com/article/ransomware-hits-louisiana-state-government-systems>

b) **Windows 10 November 2019 Update: Version 1909 is available now--here's what's new** by Mark

Kaelin, 11.13.19. "The feature update to Windows 10, Version 1909, adds several performance and quality-of-life enhancements to the operating system," but "nothing a typical user will notice." When compared to previous updates, "this feature update should take only a few minutes and will be completed by a system restart. You do not need to plan for an hours-long process." Subtle changes were made to Windows 10 calendar app and the Start Menu. And some very good news, "there are no reports of Version 1909 breaking applications or otherwise causing problems".
<https://www.techrepublic.com/article/windows-10-november-2019-update-version-1909-is-available-now>

c) **Why You Shouldn't Use Your Web Browser's Password Manager** by Chris Hoffman, 11.15.19. "There are many good reasons to avoid your web browser's built-in tool." Firstly do not use the same passwords over and over. If a website is hacked, "attackers will try to (continued next page)

Thanks for **Refreshments** to Donna Crawford.
Thanks for being **Welcome Lady** to Ines Williams.
Please add wscugroup@gmail.com to your contacts list.
To access past newsletters, presentations and handouts, go to www.sonic.net/wscug.



c) (cont) use that email and password to log into other sites." Your web browser's password manager is better than nothing. However, "built-in password managers in web browsers aren't as powerful and useful as third-party password managers," and are "limited to that specific browser."

Password managers make your passwords available on most devices (including smartphones) and any browsers you use. They can generate strong passwords and share specific passwords with family members. They can also warn you about "weak and reused passwords", and "you can create secure notes containing text like building entry codes and

Wi-Fi passphrases. You can even add file attachments to your vault, which makes it a great place to store tax documents, scanned copies of your passport and driver's license, and other sensitive information."

<https://www.howtogeek.com/447345/why-you-shouldnt-use-your-web-browsers-password-manager/>

d) Edge vs. Chrome: Microsoft's Tracking Prevention hits Google the hardest by Ed Bott, 11.22.19. "On January 15, 2020, Microsoft is scheduled to roll out a completely revamped Edge browser to the general public," and includes a feature called 'Tracking

Prevention'. "Although it's aimed at the online advertising and tracking industries in general, my tests suggest that its effects are likely to be felt most directly by one company: Google...By default, Tracking Prevention is turned on, with the Balanced setting selected...Two questions remain for me: Will Microsoft provide more granular controls for end users who want to tweak these settings?" Read the full article to find out more about the settings and what user control you will have.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/e-with-its-new-edge-browser-microsoft-takes-dead-aim-at-google>

Comments from Ross: I often get asked where to buy a cheap version of Microsoft Office. The answer is...you can't. In all of their infinite wisdom, Microsoft has decided to change to a yearly subscription plan for their flagship product, Office 365, at \$100/year, every year. You can buy a retail version that includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint for \$100 one time fee, but if you need the whole package of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher and Access, you'll be paying \$100 every year forever. If you decide you don't want to pay, you will not be able to access your documents. If you're still convinced that Microsoft is the product for you, here is a comparison of the Office products:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2da8fjm>
As an alternative, and a very good **F-R-E-E** forever alternative, I use LibreOffice. It works the same as Office but without all the hassle of paying Microsoft and the potential for your documents to be blocked from you. Here is a link to their website:

<https://www.libreoffice.org/>

Internet

Tech travel checklist: Don't leave home without these essential accessories

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/tech-travel-checklist-dont-leave-home-without>

Why Is It So Important to Use a Different Password on Every Site?

<https://askleo.com/why-is-it-so-important-to-use-a-different-password>

Using Windows Magnifier to zoom in

<https://newslettercollector.com/newsletter/using-windows-magnifier>

What is the Brave Browser, and How Does It Compare to Chrome?

<https://www.howtogeek.com/449046/what-is-the-brave-browser>

New Windows 10 20H1 test build brings more fixes <https://www.zdnet.com/article/new-windows-10-20h1>

How to Use OneDrive's "Personal Vault" to Secure Your Files

<https://www.howtogeek.com/448488/how-to-use-onedrives-personal-vault>

How to personalize your Windows 10 PC

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/3321920/how-to-personalize-your-pc>

15 incredibly useful sites you wish you knew about before now

<https://www.komando.com/tech-tips/15-incredibly-useful-sites-you-wish-you-knew>

