

# WINDSOR Seniors Computer Users' Group

Newsletter for Today 2/12/18



**1. Questions/Answers???? - General Discussion.** Computer dialog - what's new, what's different, what works or doesn't work? Upcoming events and Computer classes: SRJC, SR Cm Center, Windsor HS, Healdsburg HS, SSU Ext, and Healdsburg Senior Center. Computer Consultants: Ross Guistino, [rossg@sonic.net](mailto:rossg@sonic.net), Jim Tubb, [drdelta91@gmail.com](mailto:drdelta91@gmail.com) and Andrea Antonik, [aantonik@sonic.net](mailto:aantonik@sonic.net).

WSCUG Bd of Directors: Ross Guistino, Jim Tubb, Donna Crawford, Andrea Antonik, Ines Williams, and Ernie Lopez

## 2. News – This Month's Latest News:

a) **TabGeeks 2018** February 14-16, Las Vegas, Where Tech Support Gets Support--<https://www.tabgeeks.com/>.

b) **Cloud computing: Here's how much a huge outage could cost you** <http://www.zdnet.com/article/cloud-computing-heres-how-much-a-huge-outage-could-cost-you>

## 3. Articles:

a) **Windows 10 privacy guide: How to take control-by** Ed Bott January 25, 2018--"Windows 10 is a mix of software and services. With every session, a Windows 10 device exchanges a great deal of information with Microsoft's



servers. That's neither unusual nor alarming....All those devices collect data to perform their assigned job, with additional data collection to identify problems that need attention by software engineers." In this post, he walks you through the "big privacy settings for Windows 10" which include: The Network, The Browser, The Operating System, Cortana and personal data, your input, Files and settings, Telemetry, and The Apps. You can "decide which settings are right for you."

<http://www.zdnet.com/article/take-control-of-your-privacy-in-windows-10>

b) **"Passwords have become bane of modern life"** was published in the Press Democrat, February 4, 2018, D10. Donna was kind enough to find the original article online: **"Passwords: Hawaii's governor isn't the only one who can't remember them"**, by Leslie Gray Streeter, January 25, 2018. "The results of an Intel study from 2016 revealed that the average person has 27 logins for various personal and professional accounts, and that 37 percent of those surveyed forgets at least one of them every week. Coming up with unique and hard-to-guess combinations can be made even more difficult with the accepted wisdom that passwords should never be repeated....One of the most popular solutions,... let technology do the heavy lifting for you and embrace a password manager".

Jim Tubb has these comments, "I fully agree...(password managers) allow you to have more secure passwords because you don't have to try to

remember them." Ross Guistino has this suggestion, "If you don't remember the main password to get into the program, it is impossible to regain your passwords. So you better be sure as hell that you commit to memory the main password to get into the (password manager) software."



<http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/lifestyles/password-s-hawaii-governor-isn-the-only-one-who-can-remember-them/UOR3R0C1ytbCsLuqxxFSI/>

c) **How to Mute Individual Browser Tabs in Chrome, Safari, and Firefox**, by Chris Hoffman on January 23rd, 2018. Ever been viewing a website and all of sudden music starts playing or the audio from a video ad starts playing? There is a handy little trick to turn off these audio distractions. This article contains directions for turning off the audio for individual browser tabs in Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, and Microsoft Edge.

<https://www.howtogeek.com/231959/how-to-mute-individual-browser-tabs>



d) **Spectre reboot problems: Now Intel replaces its buggy fix for Skylake PCs**, By Liam Tung, February 8, 2018--"Intel has released new microcode to address the

stability and reboot issues on systems after installing its initial mitigations for Variant 2 of the Meltdown and Spectre attacks. The stability issues caused by Intel's microcode updates resulted in Lenovo, HP, and Dell halting their deployment of BIOS updates last month as Intel worked to resolve the problems...Intel has released Spectre microcode for several Skylake-based platforms, with updates for other architectures due shortly...As per the first round of fixes, Intel's new microcode will be delivered as firmware updates from OEMs." This means you will need to go to the manufacturer's website for the device to get these 'new' updates.

<http://www.zdnet.com/article/spectre-reboot-problems-now-intel-replaces-its-buggy-fix>

See also #4 below for URL to How-to-Geek article on Meltdown and Spectre.



Happy Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day



4. **Internet** -Web sites: (If these don't work, let me know – Editor Andrea)



**How to charge your devices the right way--**<https://www.popsci.com/charge-batteries-right>

**How to Check if Your PC or Phone Is Protected Against Meltdown and Spectre--**  
<https://www.howtogeek.com/338801/how-to-check-if-your-pc-is-protected>

**What Are Altcoins, and Why Do They Exist?-**

<https://www.howtogeek.com/341972/what-are-altcoins-and-why-do-they-exist>

**Print pages off the web without all the ads-** <https://www.komando.com/downloads/422889/print-pages-off-the-web-without-all-the-ads>

**How to Opt Out of Targeted Ads Around the Web--**<https://www.howtogeek.com/341487/how-to-opt-out-of-targeted-ads>

**The Best Free Password Managers of 2018 --**<https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2475964,00.asp>

\*\*\* Favorite Web Sites: What is yours? Let me know and I'll include\*\*\*

**5. Comments From Ross:** We have all needed technical support with hardware or software at one time or another. But who do you call for support? Then you remember something that Ross said at one time...Google is your friend when looking for help. So you Google for help with, say, your HP printer and lo and behold, the search page returns many phone numbers for "HP support". S - T - O - P !!! There is a 99.9% chance that the "HP support" number you see is FAKE. I'm going to go so far as to say that if you called that "HP support" number, you



will be connected with someone with a very heavy Indian accent. And I'm also going to guess that when you ask them if they are with HP, the answer will be "Yes, we support HP products". Look at that sentence, did they really answer your question? Are they with HP? The answer, of course, is no. They are with a bogus scam company who most likely will talk you into letting them control your computer, installing who-knows-what on your once-secure computer, then tell you that you have hundreds of errors and oh, by the way, for just \$299 (or \$399 or even \$499) they will cure all of your ills. **HANG UP IMMEDIATELY AND SHUT OFF YOUR COMPUTER.** Then call someone you can trust to clean up the mess that the "HP support" caused. In the future, if you need help, go to the actual website, in this example [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com), and click on their Support button. All software and hardware manufacturers have their own website so always start there. **Thanks, Ross**

**7. Thanks for Refreshments** to Ines Williams.

**8. Thanks for being Welcome Person** to Lynda De Martini.

**9. Computer Lending Library**—Be sure to check out new books from O'Reilly. Thanks to Ernie Lopez for coordinating this important task.



Note O'Reilly Media discounts: [www.oreilly.com](http://www.oreilly.com)

**10. Today's Program:** During the first hour today, 1:00-2:00, Jim Tubb and Andrea Antonik will be giving a short talk on Smartphone Tricks and Tips: **"Talking to Your Phone"**.



Then during the 2:00-4:00 pm time slot, our speaker will be Paula Walsh from Vinecrest Tax Group. Her topic is **"Computer Tax Prep: the DIY Do's and Don'ts"**. Paula has extensive experience in Tax preparation as well as teaching tax preparation to adults. We are very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable speaker.

**11. Computer Help – Drop-in.** Next meeting will be:

----- February 26, 2018 – 2:00 – 4:00 pm

----- March 26, 2018 - 2:00 – 4:00 pm

**12. Next meeting of User's Group 3/12/18** – All senior computer enthusiasts are invited to join us. This information gathering shares ideas, resources and networks. *No preregistration.*

1:00 – 2:00 pm General Question/Answer

2:00 – 4:00 pm Program: Our speaker will be our own Jim Tubb who will be discussing\demonstrating "The Smart Home". He has been installing and using some of the new 'Smart Home' devices and will share his experiences with us.

**If you have questions,** please call me (home 838-4737), (e-mail: [donna@sonic.net](mailto:donna@sonic.net)) or you can call the Senior Center 838-1250 for dates/times of computer events. See [www.sonic.net/wscug](http://www.sonic.net/wscug) for Computer Information.



**This is your User's Group - What are your goals? Help to make this group what you want it to be.**

*"What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?" – Vincent Van Gogh*