

# WINDSOR Seniors Computer Users' Group

Newsletter for Today 1/08/18

**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 Late

**a) CES (Consumer Electronics Show) 2018--** It attracts the world's business leaders and pioneering thinkers— Las Vegas, CA. January 9 - 12 -AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Robots are big this year. <https://www.ces.tech/>



**b) AI Assistant Summit, San Francisco, January 25-26, 2018** <https://www.re-work.co/events/ai-assistant-summit-san-francisco-2018>

**c) DeveloperWeek 2018, San Francisco, February 3-7.** World's largest Developer Expo and Conference Series. <http://www.developerweek.com/>

## 3. Articles:

**a) How Will the Meltdown and Spectre Flaws Affect My PC?--** by Chris Hoffman, January



4th, 2018 "Computer processors have a massive design flaw, and everyone is scrambling to fix it. Only one of the two security holes

can be patched, and the patches will make PCs (and Macs) with Intel chips slower... There are in fact *two* major vulnerabilities here, now dubbed "Meltdown" and "Spectre". Meltdown is largely specific to Intel processors, and affects all CPU models from the past few decades.... The software patch in question will fix the Meltdown flaw, and some software patches can help mitigate the Spectre flaw. But Spectre will likely continue to affect all modern CPUs—at least in some form—until new hardware is released to fix it." (*Ed. Note: The article explains the difference between them and what you need to do now.*)

<https://www.howtogeek.com/338269/a-huge-intel-security-hole-could-slow-down-your-pc-soon>

**b) Update on above article: How the Meltdown and Spectre security holes fixes will affect you,** By Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols, January 5, 2018-- <http://www.zdnet.com/article/how-the-meltdown-and-spectre-security-holes-fixes-will-affect-you>

**c) Windows Meltdown-Spectre patches: If you haven't got them, blame your antivirus--**By Liam Tung, January 4, 2018--"By now Windows users should have received the patches Microsoft released yesterday to plug the widespread Meltdown bug and its companion Spectre, which expose most computers and phones to speculative execution side-channel attacks that affect chips from Intel, AMD, and Arm... But if you're a Windows user and haven't received Microsoft's patches yet, Microsoft warns that the reason is your antivirus isn't compatible with its Windows update....'If you have not been offered the security update, you may be running incompatible antivirus software and you should follow up with your software vendor,' the company explains. Microsoft yesterday released the Meltdown and Spectre fixes as part of cumulative update for the Windows 10 Fall Creators Update, labelled KB4056892, which brings the OS Build up to 16299.192."



<http://www.zdnet.com/article/windows-meltdown-spectre-patches-if-you-havent-got-them-blame-your-antivirus>

**d) How to protect yourself from Meltdown and Spectre CPU flaws-** by Sean Hollister and Stephen Shankland, January 4, 2018-- This article contains information on fixes for your smartphones, tablets and browsers for the Meltdown and Spectre flaws.

<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-fix-meltdown-spectre-intel-amd-arm-windows-mac-android-ios>

**e) Mozilla patches critical bug in this popular email client--** By Francis Navarro, December 28, 2017, "Do you use Mozilla's popular email client Thunderbird? If yes, then you may want to apply these important updates soon. The company just issued five security patches including fixes for one critical and two high-level bugs.... The newest version is Thunderbird 52.5.2."



The article contains information on how to update Thunderbird. <https://www.komando.com/happening-now/435705/mozilla-patches-critical-bug-in-this-popular-email-client>

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

10 things in cybersecurity that you might have missed in 2017-

<http://www.zdnet.com/article/10-things-in-cybersecurity-that-you-might-have-missed>

What Is Microsoft Azure, Anyway? - <https://www.howtogeek.com/337961/what-is-microsoft-azure>

Which is better, Amazon Echo or Google Home? -

[https://www.komando.com/tips/431298/which-is-](https://www.komando.com/tips/431298/which-is-better-echo-or-google-home)

[better-echo-or-google-home](https://www.komando.com/tips/431298/which-is-better-echo-or-google-home)

Get Free & Bargain Bestselling Ebooks--<http://booktalk.bookbub.com>.

Apple apologizes for iPhone slowdowns, slashes price of battery fix - <https://www.cnet.com/news/apple-sorry-iphone-battery-slowdown>

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



5. Comments from Ross: "Desktop vs Laptop - What's the right choice? For Christmas a friend wanted a laptop so her husband went to Costco and bought one. A few days after Christmas, my friend called me to say that she thinks she made a mistake in asking for a laptop and wanted to know my opinion on what to do. She didn't like the fact that the laptop was all silver in color including the keyboard and it was hard for her to see the keys. Plus she just couldn't master the laptop's touchpad. I told her she could add a mouse and keyboard but that would take away the point of having a portable device. I asked her why she thought she needed a laptop in the first place and she said that she thought she would use it around the house and when she went on trips. But it turns out she would rather use her iPad tablet. The point of this story is that one should weigh the pros and cons before making a major purchase and it wouldn't hurt to ask for advice BEFORE you buy. My friend does a lot of photo editing, lots of Word documents and art projects, all of which are better suited to a desktop with a keyboard, mouse, and big monitor. Sure, you could add these things to a laptop but why pay more for a laptop and then just use it in a stationary location just like a desktop? Desktops are generally cheaper than a laptop, are less prone to being broken from being dropped, can be more powerful, no batteries to replace. Luckily for my friend, Costco has a generous return policy so she can return the laptop and get a desktop."

8. 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)

9. 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: "How to Send Text Messages."



Then during the 2:00-4:00 pm time slot, our speakers will be Detective Sean Kerr and Criminal Investigator David Kahl from NC3TF (North California Computer Crimes Task Force). They will be discussing/demonstrating "Emergency procedures, Computer Crime and Identity Theft". They will also be talking about External disc backup and Cloud backup. We are very fortunate to have such knowledgeable speakers

10. Computer Help - Drop-in. Next meeting will be

❄ January 22, 2018 - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

❄ February 26, 2018 - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

11. Next meeting of User's Group 2/12/18 - 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 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.



6. Thanks for Refreshments to Vivian and Francis Prine.

7. Thanks for being Welcome Lady Marie Powers.

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.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere." Martin Luther King, Jr.