

NEWSLETTER

November 29, 2020

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Archived Newsletters are available on the club's website (www.vptechclub.org).

[Click here to provide feedback](#) on how we can help you better use technology.

Upcoming live virtual meetings & workshops

- **Computer Booters** is offering FREE Microsoft virtual workshops put on by the Microsoft Store of Chandler.
 - * **PC Tune Up in a Snap** on December 8th @ 10am
 - * **Present Your Ideas with Sway** on December 15th @ 10am
 - * **Getting to Know Windows 10** on December 22nd @ 10am
 All times are local Arizona time. The workshop schedule and registration form are on their website [here](#).
- **APCUG**
 - * **Linux Workshop #3—Distros and Desktops** on December 2, 2020 at 10 am AZ Time. [Register here](#).
 - * **Home Automation Workshop—Doing it myself vs. Having it done** on December 9, 2020 – 10 am AZ Time. [Register here](#).
 - * **Linux Workshop #4—Software, Applications and Package Management** on December 16, 2020 at 10 am AZ Time. [Register here for APCUG workshops](#).
- [Aging2 Halifax](#)—December 8 at 3:00pm AT, 12:00pm AZ time
- [Geeks on Tour](#)—Sundays at 2:00pm ET, 12:00 pm AZ time.
- [Tech for Seniors](#)—Mondays at 9:30am AZ time.
- [Tinkering with Tech](#)—Wednesdays at 5:00pm ET, 3:00pm AZ

Board Talk

Jabba has implemented a new billing system for the park's internet service. After you arrive in Viewpoint you will need to contact Jabba at 602-235-0591 to properly setup your account.

On Friday, November 20, the Board discussed holding virtual meetings and presentations and it was agreed that we will keep things as they are for now. We will discuss this again at the next Board meeting on December 18.

We plan to share technology information from clubs in the East Valley Association of Computer Clubs (EVACC).

We will monitor their newsletters and websites for information to share with you in the sections below. Upcoming virtual meetings and workshops offered by these clubs will be listed in the sections above. We thank them for making these available to our members.

Until next time, please stay safe.

Bob King, President

Top Tech Stories

Google adds more COVID-19 details to its Maps app as cases surge. Google is adding more information on coronavirus trends to its maps app, as cases surge across the country and travel is expected to pick up during the holiday season. In September, the search giant launched a tool for the app that uses color-coded maps to give people data on the spread of the coronavirus in states, counties and some cities. Google said it's adding more details, including all detected cases in an area, local guidelines and testing sites. [Read the article here](#)

Warning: This Zoom invite is a clever phishing scam. You don't need a Zoom account to be impacted by this scam. Since so many workers are using Zoom during the pandemic, scammers mention the video conferencing service as part of a scary new tactic. If you get a Zoom invite that doesn't seem right, be careful: It could be the opening volley of a cyberattack. [Read the article here](#).

What is Malware? Everything you need to know about malicious software and viruses, and how to protect your computer. Malware refers to any software that is designed with malicious intent — it generally aims to damage, destroy, or steal data, take control of computers, and aid in criminal activity. There are many kinds of malware, so what any specific example of malware depends on what it was created to do. [Read the article here](#).



Apple iPad & iPhone

- **How to delete your Siri history on any Apple device, so that Apple won't save and analyze your voice files.** Apple allows you to delete Siri's history on every device that uses the assistant. To delete your Siri history, just make sure you're running at least iOS 13.2 on your iPhone, iPadOS 13.2 on your iPad, tvOS 13.2 on your Apple TV, watchOS 6.12 on your Apple Watch, or macOS Catalina 10.15.1 on your Mac. [Read the article here](#).
- **iOS 14.2 Problems: 5 Things You Need to Know.** Apple's iOS 14.2 updates wipe out some glaring issues,

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but the latest upgrades are causing problems for some iPhone users. In this guide to iOS 14 problems we'll take you through the current state of these issues. We'll show you where to find potential fixes for the most common iOS 14 problems and provide you with some resources that should help if you run into trouble. [Read the article here.](#)

- **iPadOS 14.2 Problems: 5 Things You Need to Know.** Apple's new iPadOS 14.2 update squashes several bugs, but issues are present in the latest version of iPadOS 14. In this guide to iPadOS 14 problems we'll take you through the current state of the software. We'll show you where to find potential fixes for the most common iPadOS 14 problems and provide you with some resources that could help if you do happen to run into trouble. [Read the article here](#)
- **13 iOS 14 Battery Saving Tips For iPhone.** Apple experts David & David talk about the best iOS 14 battery saving tips for your iPhone! Even if you've used our tips before, many of these settings have a way of turning back on again. YouTube [Watch the video here.](#)
- **These Are Currently the Best Ways to Back Up Your iPhone.** Chances are, you rely on your smartphone an awful lot—so what would happen if it fell off a cliff or down a well? You should always have a phone data backup in place should the worst happen, and we're going to talk you through the best options currently available. [Read the article here.](#)



Apple Macintosh

- **macOS Big Sur.** Experience Mac to the fullest with a refined new design. Enjoy the biggest Safari update ever. Discover new features for Maps and Messages. And get even more transparency around your privacy. [Read & watch more here.](#)
- **Apple's new MacBook and Mac Mini could change PCs as we know them.** As the insides of computers become more like iPhones, we can expect better battery life, thinner designs and even, maybe, a lower price tag. [Read the article here.](#)



Windows

- **Looking for help with a computer problem?** Several Technology Club members are available to help other club members. Contact Al at # 4926 or Rick at # 0945.
- **19 Time-Saving Tips for Windows.** If you spend a good number of hours sitting in front of a computer, then time-saving shortcuts for operating Windows can make a big difference to how much free time you find yourself left with. Here are some easy ones to try. [Read the article here.](#)



Streaming Media & Smart Homes



- **Is Your Internet Fast Enough for Streaming?** [Here's a breakdown of the basic internet requirements for streaming.](#)
- **Replace Netflix, Hulu and more with free subscriptions.** We've found the best free services to cut your monthly costs and replace pricey subscriptions like Netflix, Hulu, Apple Music, Peloton and more. [Read the article here.](#)
- **How to use the Alexa Care Hub to care for aging loved ones.** Caring for aging family members can be difficult, especially during a pandemic. Helping elders maintain independence and also safety is an important balancing act that can easily lead to conflict and disagreement. Amazon hopes to address this perennial problem with its new Alexa Care Hub feature, which allows caretakers to monitor activity and receive alerts about their aging loved ones without having to constantly bother them with anxiety-driven "check-ins" -- leaving more time, in theory, to call simply because you want to connect. [Read the article here.](#)
- **Do You Need to Opt Out of Amazon Sidewalk?** What is Amazon Sidewalk? The feature was quietly announced late last year and again at this year's fall hardware event. In a nutshell, it's a sort of secondary, shared network for certain connected Amazon devices. The idea is it uses Echo and Ring devices as a bridge to extend connectivity over longer distances. So, say your internet goes down and thus renders your outdoor Ring security camera useless. Not an issue with Sidewalk—you can just tap into a neighbor's Echo or Ring device. Because, oh yeah, Sidewalk pifers a small portion of your bandwidth that then gets lumped together with other Echo and Ring devices in your vicinity to create this separate network.

Many people recently received an email from Amazon saying that Sidewalk's launch was "coming to Echo device later this year." Amazon was quick to give the general gist of what Sidewalk does, it didn't spell out what security and privacy precautions Amazon was taking to make sure this secondary network wouldn't be easily exploited. Instead, it was framed as me, an Echo owner, donating a "small portion" of my internet bandwidth to provide a service to my neighbors. Oh, and in a throwaway sentence near the end, the email said that Amazon Sidewalk would be enabled by default on all supported Echo and Ring devices linked to my account. [Read the article here.](#)

- **Google Nest Hub Max review: Google's best smart home device yet.** The Google Nest Hub Max is the most advanced smart speaker/display unit that Google has put out yet, with all the power of Google Assistant combined with a 10-inch display, a hefty speaker capable of filling a room with music, and a security camera

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mode. [Read the article here.](#)

Other Technology

- **How to Clean Up Your Social Media Accounts Without Deleting Them.** There are many reasons to avoid wanting a social media digital paper trail of your entire life. Maybe there are posts there you think your new employer won't like, or that your new partner's parents won't like, or even ones that you don't believe in anymore. But wiping the slate clean and starting again is only one of your options—you can still tidy up your existing accounts without deleting them. [Read the article here.](#)
- **Google Maps now lets you make calls, listen to music with just your voice.** Google now lets you answer calls, send texts and play music all from within its Maps app, it announced Tuesday. The new update is now rolling out to Androidphones and will let you keep your focus on the road while Google Assistant goes into the new driving mode. This means you can make and receive calls, send and listen to text messages and control your music with just your voice and without having to take your hands off the wheel and your eyes off the road. [Read the article here.](#)
- **How to install Linux -** [Read the article here.](#)
- **How to Install Microsoft Edge on a Chromebook.** Chromebooks are built to run Google Chrome, but with the addition of Linux, you can install other browsers on your Chromebook including Microsoft Edge. Whether you want to try what Microsoft's browser has to offer or are fed up with Chrome, here's how to install Edge on Chrome OS. [Read the article here.](#)
- **From APCUG:** It's that time of year when lots of companies have their biggest sales, and [Take Control Books](#) is joining in the virtual festivities. Now through next Wednesday, we're offering a selection of 17 recently updated books for 50% off. No coupon code or special links required. The one-week sale is now in progress and will end at 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time on Wednesday, December 2. (If you want to confirm what that means in your time zone, [use this handy link.](#))

Here are the books that are on sale:

- [Take Control of Apple Home Automation](#)
- [Take Control of Apple TV](#)
- [Take Control of Apple Watch](#)
- [Take Control of Big Sur](#)
- [Take Control of Home Security Cameras](#)
- [Take Control of iCloud](#)
- [Take Control of iOS 14 and iPadOS 14](#)
- [Take Control of iOS & iPadOS Privacy and Security](#)
- [Take Control of macOS Media Apps](#)
- [Take Control of Notes](#)
- [Take Control of Photos](#)
- [Take Control of Podcasting](#)
- [Take Control of Shortcuts](#)
- [Take Control of Wi-Fi Networking and Security](#)
- [Take Control of Your Apple ID](#)
- [Take Control of Your Digital Storage](#)
- [Take Control of Zoom](#)

More Learning Opportunities...

Since we will not be meeting in person this season, we are accumulating a number of websites that offer learning opportunities for our members. As we discover more opportunities they will be listed here and added to the club's website.

- [Central Florida Computer Society Windows Special Interest Group \(WinSIG\)](#). Minutes from the Windows SIG meetings with links to discussion topics.
- **Hewie Poplock WinSIG Videos**—Monthly meeting videos from Central Florida Computer Society Windows SIG meetings. [WinSIG 2020 - YouTube](#).
- The [Green Valley Recreation Club](#), in Green Valley, AZ, offers these learning links and ideas that you could explore at home. Select [Tips & Free Software](#) from navigation on the left side of the homepage. Select a Filter by Category (includes Apple Info & Tips, LibreOffice, PC's/Windows/Word and others.) There are many other resources on their [Club's website](#).

AGING2 HALIFAX PRESENTS:
BIG TECH AND SMART TECHNOLOGY THAT HELPS SENIORS AGE WELL

Tuesday December 8th 3:00-4:30 AT, 12:00 Noon AZ Time—[Register in advance for this meeting HERE](#)



Seniors need to have the opportunity to live independently and to thrive! Seniors want to age in place and live lives that are joyful, dignified and provide the opportunity to be active and productive members of society. Covid-19 has changed the world we live in. Businesses have had to adapt or perish. Remote work has become the norm. Shopping and schooling are very different. Our lives have been hugely impacted but no one segment of society has suffered as much as seniors.

Social isolation, loneliness and depression are taking a huge toll on the elders in all our communities. Those who are frail or have chronic medical conditions now truly fear for their lives. A vaccine may come soon but the world will never return to the way it was.

Through the use of appropriate technology we can:

- Address social isolation
- Enhance safety
- Proactively monitor health
- Provide Entertainment and Information
- Deliver the care they need at home through telehealth and much more

This Event Will Include:

A keynote presentation by David Frerichs, a self-proclaimed “serial innovator” and a principal engineer with the Amazon Alexa group in Silicon Valley. David will talk about how Alexa has been helping to reduce senior isolation and increase independence, especially during COVID. He will share customer stories about how Alexa has impacted seniors living independently and how Alexa has benefitted care in group settings both in an assisted living facility and in a hospital. He will then discuss the new Alexa Care feature that allows customers to create oneto-one trusted relationship between caregivers and care recipients.

A general discussion on Big Tech and Investments in Telehealth and Aging

An introduction to the Nova Scotia Living Lab, a newly launched project to develop products and services to assist seniors in aging well.