



## May 2015

Visit our website at [www.pcs4me.com](http://www.pcs4me.com)

Ken Johnson, Newsletter Editor

# CALENDAR

SIG = Special Interest Group

### This Week's Schedule

**May 9 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM**

**General Meeting - Leader: Ray Carlson**

**Location: Prescott Public Library**

### **First Hour: Browser extensions and email tracking**

The software you use for browsing - Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer - offers extensions that will assist with a variety of tasks like translating foreign languages, taking pictures of content you come across, diagnosing your Wi-Fi connection, checking the weather radar, etc. He will look at some of these separating useful ones from those that are more dangerous such as ones that try to direct you to malicious websites. He will also look at how people can identify whether you read their email messages and extensions that can help you hide from this tracking.

**Second Hour: Phil Ball will present Tips and Tricks with insights into various topics that assist with regular computer activity.**

**In addition to the presentations, the following are typical events which take place at our General meetings:**

- 1) We hold an informal Flea Market in which you are encouraged to bring in your excess computer equipment or software and make them available for others to enjoy at no charge. Please deposit give-away items on the table in the back marked "Free Stuff." Any items left here at the end of the meeting are subject to disposal.
- 2) If you have items that are just too good to give away, you may set up a separate table and hold your own sale.
- 3) We conduct a raffle of gift cards at the end of the meeting, so make sure to get a pair of tickets from whoever is in charge and place one on the item you'd like to win.
- 4) We will also accept your used ink and toner cartridges for recycling. They are turned in to Think4Inc for credits which PCS uses to purchase office supplies from them.

### **Future Meetings**

**May 16, 2015**

**There will be no PCS meeting today.**

### Future Meetings, Continued:

**May 23 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM**

[Special Topics SIG](#) - Leader: JB Burke

Location: Prescott Public Library

This month, JB will delve into topics related to computer hardware, software, the Internet and the World Wide Web. You are sure to find something educational and/or entertaining and/or interesting in this fast-paced enjoyable session. As always, questions and comments will be welcome. After all, JB has to be learning something from these sessions too!



**May 30 - Saturday - 12:00-2:00 PM**

PCS Annual Picnic - Leader: Murray Smolens

Location: Goldwater Lake



Our condolences to Bob Ellis at the passing of his wife, Margie last month and to Allan Isham at the passing of his wife, Jean last month as well.



*Note that these dates are correct at time of publication but are subject to change. Up to date information can be found on our website, [www.pcs4me.com](http://www.pcs4me.com)*

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings are usually held in the Founder's Suite at the Prescott Public Library.*

<b>Prescott Computer Society</b>			
<b>Officers &amp; Board of Directors</b>			
<b>2013-2014</b>			
<b>Officers:</b>		<b>General Directors:</b>	
President	Ray Carlson	Joan Baum	Murray Smolens
Vice Pres	Phil Ball	John Carter	Dick Mason
Secretary	JB Burke	Ken Johnson	
Treasurer	Edi Taylor-Richards		

Welcome to

**NEW MEMBER!**

Say Hello to

**John Billings**

**CEAInnovate!**

**By George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ**

**December 2015 issue, TCS eJournal**

**www.aztcs.org**

**georgehardingbd (at) eartlink.net**

I attended a program put on by CEA, the parent organization that produces the Consumer Electronics Show, presented in Las Vegas the beginning week of January.

The program included a session called Technology Trends to Watch in 2015. It covered some of the hottest subjects today: 3-D printing, the Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data Analytics, Digital Health and Entertainment.

The panel on 3-D printing stated that the technology for home use is not mature and someone trying to use the reasonably priced models available today will have difficulty using them to do anything significant. The business versions, however, are very useful. The latest James Bond movie blew up a golden Aston Martin. It was created from a 3-D printer! It was actually a miniature, but was, nevertheless, an accurate replica of the car. The panel anticipates high growth in this product area over the next few years, as more uses are found for creative products.

The Internet of Things refers to the universe of applications which connect devices to the Internet resources without human interaction. There are many examples of this already in place: refrigerators advising you of the need to replace food; the many home situations that can be controlled by remote devices like smart phones; wearable technology to monitor and measure your health quality; GPS mapping in automobiles; self-driving cars. The current state of IoT has just begun and will expand dramatically in the future, according to the panel.

Big Data Analytics refers to the collection of usage data from you and others, in order to analyze and predict actions. This may be to identify the products you want more efficiently, to broaden product categories to better satisfy customers and increase sales and profits. Whether you know it or not, you are surrounded by Big Data collection and analysis. Every time you use a credit card, the data associated with the purchase goes to combine

with other data to better serve our needs and the needs of business. An associated issue is that of privacy. There is as yet no consensus about whether Big Data is good or bad, whether it should be allowed or controlled in some way.

Digital Health is also known as Wearable Tech. This is a fast developing field, with quite a large number of products already on the market. The continued development will be in making products do more and do it better. It may go from the ability to track and measure health and fitness to actual diagnosis of disease.

Entertainment is big now, of course, but it shows no signs of slowing down. The personal game devices and the online gaming continue their rapid growth. What is just starting its big growth is the streaming of movies and shows. The trend is driven by the growing reluctance to be tied to a television set for one's entertainment.

It will be very interesting to see how these areas develop and grow over the next decade.

### **Tech Armor case for iPhone6**

There are many cases available for the new iPhones. One of the best is Tech Armor's case for iPhone6 (there's also one for the iPhone6 Plus).

The new iPhones are different in several ways: thinner, larger and with screen that is rounded at the edges. The Tech Armor case handles

all of these.

Not only is it attractive, being a steel gray color, but it is tough enough to protect your phone from bumps, drops, scratches and knocks. The case has a slightly rough surface, making it easy to grasp and hold.

The cutouts for the various buttons are well done, making it easy to press the buttons when needed.

The back is clear plastic, hard and protective of the iPhone back. The case does not come with a screen protector, but Tech Armor has that, too.

The case comes with a lifetime warranty and is reasonably priced.

*Continued on pg 4*

*Continued from pg 3:*

About: Tech Armor case for iPhone6

Vendor: Tech Armor

www.techarmor.com

Price: \$15, screen \$7

### **Ventev**

This company produces wireless infrastructure products and mobile accessories. I was provided with several of the mobile accessories to test.

#### **Powercell 6000.**

This external battery can be easily charged in any wall socket. The back of the

charger has two prongs which fit the wall socket and fold into the charger case. You can charge one or two mobile devices with the built-in USB sockets, one providing 1 amp output at 5 watts, the other 2 .1 amps at 10 watts . The higher capacity output can be used for a tablet, or a smart phone. In fact, you can charge two mobile devices at the same time, if needed. Price \$75.

**Dashport r900.** This is a charger, too, but designed to be used in your car. It plugs into the power outlet in the car's dash and provides power whether or not you are near an outlet. It comes with a cable for standard USB connection and also micro-USB. Price \$40.

**Chargesync cables.** There are several versions of this product, but each is designed to connect your mobile device to its charger or to another type of charger. What's really great about these cables is that they are flat, which means that they do not get tangled up like the round ones. They come in different colors, too. Whether you have an iPhone with 30-pin connection or one of the newer iPhone 5 or 6 cables, or even something else, you'll be able to find one of these cables for you.

Price: \$15 - \$25

About: Ventev

www.Ventev.com

### **WeMo by Belkin**

We've known Belkin for many years for electronic gear, but they recently opened a new product area for exploration, capitalizing on the use of the Internet to connect disparate things, the so-called

IoT (Internet of Things).

I received their WeMo LED Lighting Starter Set for review. It contains two light bulbs and a Link device, plus a set of very brief instructions.

The light bulbs are equivalent in illumination to 60 watt tungsten bulbs. We have been urged to replace tungsten bulbs with CFL (compact flash light) bulbs, with the incentive that illumination is equivalent but electrical usage is much lower. The bulbs in this kit are LED and go further in reducing electrical usage.

The bulbs look like what we're used to, but have some wizardry inside to allow connectivity through the Internet.

So, what does the kit do for you? It allows you to control two light fixtures separately and to turn each off or on at specified times, on specified days.

The procedure is to plug the Link into a wall socket. An LED comes on to tell you that it's connected. Next, you replace an existing bulb in a lamp or other fixture with one of the WeMo bulbs. You can use both bulbs in the same fixture (a chandelier, say) or in two separate fixtures. Each is controlled separately.

Next you download the WeMo app. There is one for Apple as well as Android. You next connect through the app to the WeMo network, then to your home or office network. Once this is done, the app searches for devices. When it finds the bulbs, it stores them and takes you to a page where you can set up your rules.

The rules involve On time, Off time and day(s) of the week. There is also an Away From Home setting, which is different from the standard setting. One other feature is the ability to fade in or out when the bulb turns on or off.

With the bulbs and the app, you have control over your lighting, no matter where you are, provided you have Wi-Fi, 3G or 4G service.

Belkin has other devices in the WeMo line: Light Switch, Switch/Motion, Crock Pot, Holmes Heater, Holmes Humidifier, Mr. Coffee and Holmes air Purifier.

Continued on pg 5

Cont'd from page 4

About: WeMo

Vendor: Belkin

www.belkin.com/us

Price: \$100, additional bulbs \$30

**Windows 8/8.1 Corner**

**Downloading, Purchasing and Installing Apps**

**By Rosita Herrick, Yahoo Forum Moderator,  
Sarasota Technology User Group, FL**

**<http://thestug.org/>**

In addition to being a computer operating system, Windows 8.1 is blurring the line between the old ways of working on a computer and the access to information used by tablets and smart phones. The distribution of apps that perform individual tasks is one of the ways.

In additions to apps that come with the operating system, Microsoft has created a store for apps distribution.

**The Store APP**

The Store app can be found either on the Start screen or on the Task bar.



**Access to the Internet is required for accessing the Store.**

- You access the store app by clicking on the tile/icon.
- When the app opens you have quite a few options to search for items of interest.
- Once you find an app of interest, just click on it and on the page that opens you will find information about the app such as number of downloads, reviews with rating and a description of the app.
- The app might be free, might have a price or it can be

- Usually a Microsoft account is required.
- To install the app, just click on the *Install* button.

**Maintaining Apps**

Periodically, there are updates for apps to either enhance them or fix some problem.

To check for updates go to the Store app.

On the upper right side of the screen, if there are updates available for any of the apps, you will see a link in green:



In this case there are updates available for 3 of my installed apps (not distributed with the system).

Clicking on this link displays the 3 apps that are scheduled for an update.



The check mark on the right corner shows that the update is selected to install. It can be unchecked with a right click. Now I can update the remaining apps by clicking on the install icon at the bottom of the page.



Continued on pg 6

Continued from pg 5

The amount of time and download and install takes, depends on the speed of your internet connection, the size of the update and the speed of your computer.

Once the download and install are completed the next message on the screen will be:

Your apps were installed.

You can now close the Store app.

### Thoughts about Smartphones (And People That Use Them)

By Ken Johnson, Messenger Newsletter Editor,  
Prescott Computer Society, Prescott, AZ

[kjohnson244@cableone.net](mailto:kjohnson244@cableone.net)

It was time to upgrade my wife's Android phone so we discussed the relative differences between that phone and my Windows Phone.

We thought it would be a good idea to if she looked at how mine works and see if she thought it easier to learn than the Android, which she had not gotten comfortable with in the time she had it.

Since we never got to do that, we decided to go to the Verizon store in Prescott Valley to compare them there with the help of one of their personnel. This was quite an experience. The woman we spoke with seemed incredulous that we might want to get her a Windows Phone. She took us over to the WP and spent about one minute looking at it and then said we could get an iPhone 6 for the same price as the Samsung ATIV SE. So we went over to the iPhone and she gave us the "pitch" about how easy it was to use while hitting features at 100 mph and having it not do what she was trying to demonstrate.

When I tried to discuss the WP she said that she never sold one in her 8 years at Verizon and she uses an iPhone (interestingly, a 4S) and knows that they are better.

We decided to excuse ourselves and go home to compare my WP to my daughter's iPhone 6.

My daughter (who calls me our in-house tech support) showed my wife her i6 and an hour later, my wife came to me and said she was going to get the i6.

Suddenly I realized that my experience in computers, other electronic devices (I built a TV kit in 1947, amp-

lifiers and other devices as well as two electronic organs since then), mechanical, electrical devices and telephones has no relationship to knowing which smartphone is the one to choose for my wife of 59 years. Interesting!

After further consideration of this situation, I realized that smartphones are not like Personal Computers, TV's home phones or probably any other devices because they are *emotionally personal* items!

I also realized that everyone I showed my new WP to when I got it last year, sort of glazed over and wanted to talk about something else. These people included family, people with iPhones and Androids (I didn't meet a Blackberry user) as well as all of you, my friends, at the Prescott Computer Society.

I also noticed that it seems that the only place you can even find a WP is at the cellphone service providers and one no-contract phone at Walmart.

Now when you consider Microsoft is working hard to gain a larger presence in the cellphone market (presently about 3%) by investing heavily on the transparency of Windows 10 through PC's, Tablets and smartphones, wouldn't you think they would make an effort to provide incentives to Costco, Sam's Club, Target and all the other vendors to at least show the WP?

I guess it's like voters, "my father voted (fill in blank) so I vote the same". Perhaps by some miracle people someday will begin to evaluate based on facts instead of emotion. Don't hold your breath!

In any case, I have found that the Windows Phone 8.1 I now have provides me with a much better option for my needs and I think that if Microsoft succeeds in introducing the Windows 10 as proposed, that they will see a substantial increase in sales (if people open up their minds and take a look).