



An International  
Association of Technology  
& Computer User Groups

## APCUG SPEAKERS BUREAU PRESENTATIONS As of March 2025

*If you want one of the below presentations at your meeting, go to [www.apcug2.org/speakers-bureau](http://www.apcug2.org/speakers-bureau) and complete the request form. Receipt of the form will be acknowledged, and you will hear from the requested presenter on their availability.*

### **RAY BAXTER, COORDINATOR, PAYSON COMPUTER MEET-UP CLUB**

**Technology Always Seems to be Changing the Way We Listen to Music at Home and in the Car.** We've all experienced the changes technology has provided over the last several decades in almost every facet of our lives. I think how we listen to our favorite tunes at home and in our cars has probably seen the most changes. I'll review how we've listened to the music we choose in our homes, starting with the 78-rpm record and all the devices in between, bringing us up to date with today's various streaming options. Then, the focus will move to how we consume music on the road, starting with when it was so "cool" to have a push-button AM radio in the car. I'll also focus on utilizing your existing Compact Disc collection now that new cars no longer have a CD player and streaming from an online service, using Bluetooth, flash drives, smartphones, and more.

This is a presentation Ray is constantly updating, so there is always something new to present.

**Plex.** Free Streaming Service or Media Server -- Choose to Use One or Both—streaming service -- Over 50,000 free on-demand titles for you to watch. Media server free app -- Plex scans and organizes your files and automatically sorts your media.

### **RON BROWN, Tech for Senior**

See his ever-growing presentations list at <https://www.techforsenior.com/apcug-presentations>

### **JB BURKE, PRESIDENT, PRESCOTT COMPUTER SOCIETY**

**How the Electric Telegraph Changed the World.** The 1800's saw the birth of the telegraph. This remarkable technology transformed the world, shrank vast distances into mere dots and dashes, and allowed instantaneous communication over long distances. We'll see its impact on many aspects of life, commerce, news, warfare, and society. It'll help you appreciate the telegraph's pivotal role in shaping our modern world, setting the stage for today's digital age. Don't miss this fascinating story of the telegraph and its immense effect on our lives.

**Touring the Web #11: End of 2024 Edition.** On this Tour, you will learn what OneDrive really is, see some iconic photos from the 20th Century, and learn how an 8-story 11,000-ton building was turned 90° while work went on inside. Plus, a bit about WWII innovations, favorite ice cream flavors worldwide, how to launch a satellite without a rocket, historic aircraft, and why you should switch to a Chromebook. Unsure of AI? We'll have some tips about how to get into it. Plus, videos, links galore, and much, much more.

How does JB get information for his *Touring the Web* presentations? A quick search tells him there are about 4.2 billion indexed pages. Some are interesting, informative, educational, or entertaining, and some are weird. So, he looks for all those while making his morning coffee, eating lunch, and

whenever he finds a spare moment. He saves them to create his *Touring the Web* presentation. It consists of web pages, videos, images, and other tidbits that will, he hopes, keep you entertained for an hour or so.

**FRANCIS CHAO** – See his ever-growing presentation list at [aztcs.apcug.org/fc.pdf](http://aztcs.apcug.org/fc.pdf)

## **BILL JAMES, VICE PRESIDENT, COMPUTER CLUB OF OKLAHOMA CITY**

**A Blend of Linux & Windows Apps - Syncing Files and File Sharing.** Cloud storage usage is everywhere in today's multi-platform environment. One of the issues with Linux is file synchronization with other non-Linux devices, such as x86, macOS, iOS, and Android. It is not as complicated as it may appear; this presentation discusses how it can be done from a Windows user's point of view.

**All Things Google Updated**—Google apps are constantly evolving; this presentation discusses the more popular apps, including an interesting twist on Google's newest app, Bard AI.

**Chromebooks, an Alternative.** A Chromebook does what many people want a computer to do: better and faster than any other laptop, regardless of price. It is the most secure portal to the Web that has ever been built because of super-fast updates and sandboxing. A Chromebook can pair with your Android phone for messaging and video calling. It is perfect for anyone who wants to grab a laptop, sign in, and spend an afternoon watching Netflix or shopping online. You can also use it as a terminal to connect to your Windows PC or Mac. Chromebooks are Fun! Learn more from this informative presentation.

**Home Automation – An Introduction.** This presentation shows how Home Automation technology allows us to control our connected devices and appliances from a central hub using smartphones or tablets. The presentation will explain setting up a system using widely available home automation devices. Are you worried about home automation devices listening in on your conversations? Do you wonder if your devices can be hacked and do not know how to keep them from being hacked? Bill will answer these questions and more in this presentation, making it a bit easier to take the first step to automate your home and get a better price for it when you sell.

**Home Automation Security.** Bill's presentation covers home networks and automation, hackers, privacy, Smart TVs, and security for your router and home automation devices.

**Mac OS vs. Windows OS.** Many individuals are familiar with the Apple ecosystem, primarily through an iPhone or iPad. However, using a Mac PC, such as a Mac Mini or MacBook Pro, presents a new opportunity to gain experience with MacOS. As a newcomer to the Mac Operating system and transitioning from a Windows environment, it was intriguing to compare the functionality of Mac to Windows. Furthermore, it was imperative to evaluate how the knowledge and skills gained from Windows could be applied to the Mac, considering the Mac is just another PC. Through this evaluation, Bill sought to understand the similarities between the Mac and Windows keyboard and the similarities and differences between built-in applications. This presentation aims to share his discoveries, particularly the similarities between the two operating systems, specifically focusing on web-based cross-platform applications.

**Microsoft Backup Solutions: What are they, and should you use them?** Backing up your documents and other files in Windows is always advisable if the originals get lost or corrupted. That's especially true for critical, sensitive, or irreplaceable files. Ideally, you want a seamless and automated way to back up your files so you don't have to keep doing it manually. You can turn to

various third-party backup programs. However, a tool built into Windows, namely File History, is worth trying.

**Microsoft's Edge.** The new Microsoft Edge is a Chromium-based browser that brings a lot of new features to the table. Bill explores many of these features; the more you learn about Edge, the more you can decide if this browser is for you. You will also learn how to earn \$\$ by using Bing.

**Windows File Explorer Secrets – Windows 11.** File Explorer is an indispensable app with a simple user interface (UI) to navigate, access, and help organize the files, folders, and apps stored on your computer's hard drive, external drives, and anywhere in your network. Have you ever thought you knew exactly where an item was, only to spend hours searching your home for it? Folders and files on your hard drive can cause the same chaos. File Explorer can help by putting you in charge of working with your documents. Just like a filing cabinet, you determine your filing method. However, unlike a filing cabinet, you can change how files are displayed, grouped, and shared.

**My Favorite Android Apps.** Smartphones – The Swiss Army knives of Mobile Devices- can do many tasks. Selecting the right apps makes your phone a multi-functional device. Bill discusses productivity, communication, remote control, entertainment, games, and social media. His presentation features a live demo of how he uses his Smartphone.

**Mesh Routers.** Dealing with an unstable Internet connection or a poor Wi-Fi connection nowadays is one of the most annoying things imaginable. You might think about getting a Wi-Fi range extender if your home is huge or there are too many people using the Internet, but don't! This presentation discusses the pros and cons of mesh routers and why you might consider acquiring one.

**Modems, Routers, and Wi-Fi.** In the early days of networking, the term modem was used to describe a device that transformed speech into analog signals (and vice versa) to be transmitted over telephone lines. This presentation will discuss Modems, Routers, and Wi-Fi and how to set up your devices for the best performance since we all want fast, reliable, and secure Internet. First, Bill will give us information on the latest modems, router hardware developments, and best practices for setup and deployment. Next, he will discuss Wi-Fi as the best option and how it fits into Home Automation, demystifying terms like WPA, Wi-Fi 6, 802.11, Ethernet, and DOCSIS 3.1. Finally, he will also cover the pros and cons of using a professional tech service to solve technical difficulties.

**Privacy and Security for Windows 10 and 11.** Security concerns data safeguarding, whereas privacy concerns user identity safeguarding. The specific differences between the two are more complex, and there can certainly be areas of overlap. This presentation discusses both and how to apply the safeguards built into Windows 10 and 11 to protect both privacy and security.

**Synchronizing Your PC with Other Devices.** There are numerous ways to sync desktops, laptops, tablets, and phones, from complex to relatively simple solutions. This presentation discusses the simple and easy ways to share files and folders with other devices.

**The Dark Web.** This presentation delves into the enigmatic realm of the dark Web, aiming to demystify this concealed segment of the Internet. We will explore its origins, structure, and the diverse ways it influences the digital and physical worlds. By examining the complexities of the dark Web, we will highlight its legitimate uses and its more notorious aspects. Bill aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dark Web, equipping you with the knowledge and awareness needed to navigate and comprehend this often misunderstood digital frontier.

**Windows 11 and 10** look quite different, but much of what we like to use is still the same. Bill's presentation takes us through what's New, what's Changed, and what is no longer included. Then, he will start you on your journey to decide if Windows 11 is for you or if you will stay with Windows 10 longer. Of course, you have until 2025 to choose, but learning something new keeps us sharp.

**Mini-presentations – choose two for your meeting.**

**Another level of security for your Windows PC.** Admin versus Standard User to sign on to your Win 10/11 PC.

**Backing Up Windows 10 and 11 Using Windows File History.** Backing up your documents and other files in Windows is always advisable if the originals get lost or corrupted. That's especially true for important, sensitive, or irreplaceable files. Ideally, you want a seamless and automated way to back up your files so you don't have to keep doing it manually. You can turn to a variety of third-party backup programs. However, this presentation discusses a tool built into Windows that is worth trying: File History.

**Configure Storage Sense to Free Up Disk Space - Windows 10/11.** Microsoft Storage Sense is a little-known utility built into Windows 10 and 11. It is on by default. Learn about what it is and how to use it.

**Create a Restore Point - Windows 10/11.** How to create a restore point is made easy.

**Edge Browser Secrets.** A discussion of Microsoft Edge secrets and more you might want to know. This presentation discusses what they are and why you might want to use them.

**Mesh Routers - Pros and Cons.** Mesh routers are a relatively new technology that has recently gained popularity. This presentation covers their popularity, router placement, longevity, the latest Wi-Fi standard, and many pros and cons so you might be able to decide if a mesh router is for you.

**Safeguarding Windows Against Malware: Exploring Microsoft's Powerful Scanning Tools—MSRT and MSERT.** Microsoft offers two malware-scanning tools for Windows: the Microsoft Malicious Software Removal Tool (MSRT) and the Microsoft Safety Scanner (MSERT). The latter, the Microsoft Safety Scanner, is less known. It is a scan tool designed to find and remove malware from Windows computers. Microsoft Safety Scanner is a portable executable that scans on demand and doesn't appear in the Windows Start menu or as an icon on the desktop.

**Software App Stores.** App stores are digital platforms where users can browse, download, and install apps for Internet devices. This presentation discusses the stores maintained by Apple, Microsoft, Google, and Linux, where to find them, and how to use them within the applicable operating systems.

**Windows and Mac: Bridging the Gap.** Regarding computer operating systems, Windows and macOS have long been considered rivals, each with unique features and designs. However, amidst their differences, intriguing similarities are worth exploring. Despite their distinct interfaces and underlying architectures, Windows and macOS share common ground regarding functionality and user experience.

In this presentation, we will delve into the fascinating parallels between these two operating systems, highlighting how their functions converge and offering insights into the benefits of their shared features.

## **JOHN KENNEDY, WEB ADMIN, EAST-CENTRAL OHIO TECHNOLOGY USERS CLUB**

**An Introduction to Linux: What is it, and why would I want to use it?** Freedom and security, maybe? Linux is a free, open-source, and very secure operating system that looks, acts, and meets most people's everyday computing needs. Learn what it is, what it does, why people are switching to Linux, how well it works on new and older computers, AND that it remains free to all.

**AnyDesk – Providing free tech support from the comfort of your home (and in your fuzzy slippers).** A "picture is worth a thousand words," as we are told. The same goes for "seeing" people's computer problems. This program lets you see someone else's computer screen and discuss their problems. And when they are having trouble trying to do what you tell them, you can take over their keyboard and mouse with yours. For example, I solved a computer problem with AnyDesk in about 10 minutes, which I could not do after 25 minutes over the phone.

**Backing Up with FreeFileSync.** Whether or not you should back up is no longer open for discussion. The bottom line is that you have to back up. But the method you choose and what you use is up to you. You want something easy to use, gets what you want backed up in a way that makes sense, and it won't hurt if it turns out to be free. One part of the recommended "3 step back up plan" is to have your important files backed up to an external drive. Join John as he shares his program of choice, FreeFileSync, and shows you how easy it is to use. He can back up whatever it is that he wants in whatever way he wants. The process is straightforward: decide what you want backed up, where you want the backup to go, and what kind of backup you want. John will take you through these steps to set up your plan and then show you how to keep your files up to date using FreeFileSync.

**Easy and painless migration from Windows to Linux.**

**Explaining Cloud Storage using pCloud.**

**Trustworthy Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS).**

**Linux is Like Cars (Why are there so many?).** One of the many "concerns" about Linux is that there are so many different versions/distributions (or distros, as Linux users call them) that a new user doesn't know which one to use. A similar question is: Why are there so many cars? Because everybody does not like the same car, that also pertains to the Linux desktop. John will take you through the 'Linux showroom" so you can see what Linux is all about.

**Linux Software Store.** John will share information about the vast free software choices for Linux users and provide software examples related to all our daily computer tasks. Attendees will see that running a Linux operating system does not hinder them from doing anything. Much of John's software is also available for Windows and Macs.

**Password Management featuring Bitwarden.** Are you using a password manager? Do you try to remember your passwords? Do you keep them in a notebook? On your hard drive? John discusses why you should use a password manager and what Bitwarden can do for you. He says that he uses a Password Manager for two main reasons: "speed" and "convenience." He proves that with his app demonstration.

**Securing your communications, events, files, and online activities with Proton.** You do everything possible to prepare for the unexpected and keep your family safe. But extending this protection online is difficult unless you're particularly tech-savvy — until now. The Proton Family plan lets you protect your loved ones by giving them access to all Proton services and premium features.

Up to six family members share 3 TB of storage space, and everyone gets their encrypted email address, calendar, secure storage for their files, and VPN to browse securely.

**SUE MUELLER, GENEALOGY SIG ORGANIZER, COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE, PA; TEACHER, MONTHLY GENEALOGY CLASSES FOR THE ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (NOW VIA ZOOM)**

**How to Get Started with Family History.** This session will focus on getting started and is designed for true beginners ready to explore their family history. Focus on your family, gather records and pictures, and interview your family. Software? Online tree? Names, place names, facts, stories. Plus, a word about DNA and social media.

**Beginning Genealogy.** Designed for the beginning genealogy researcher, this session will focus on free online resources for research. Topics include starting and avoiding mistakes, library resources nationwide, free genealogy websites and resources, and a word about DNA and social media.

**Technology's Impact on Genealogy.** From equipment to software and apps, as well as tools and backup storage to increased access to records, the ability to do online genealogy research has increased exponentially. DNA analysis, artificial intelligence, and photo restoration provide tools for the genealogist. Apps for your Smartphone and tablet put genealogy on the go in your hands. Let's also realize there may be a right and a wrong way to use some of these technological advances.

**General and Lesser-Known Sites**

**Genealogy Websites You May Have Been Missing.** Enhance your research with this potpourri of free genealogy sites that you'll wonder how you've missed. Genealogy Potpourri, out-of-the-box genealogy resources: useful websites that may not be on your radar: From finding county and family history books going beyond Cyndi's list to using obituaries to find live people, learn about free sites that will enhance your genealogy research.

**The Frugal Genealogist.** How to do genealogical research without breaking the bank! This class focuses on free resources found on the Internet by exploring county, city, and university libraries, free sites you may not know, using social media, and connecting with relatives you've had trouble finding. Bring your laptop to visit some of these new genealogy sites.

**Basic Level Skills and Sources**

**Death Records for Genealogy.** Locating and using death indices, certificates, obituaries, cemeteries, and beyond, emphasizing free online resources, and locating death records from official records to funeral homes and cemeteries.

**Immigration Records for Genealogy.** Who came when; finding your immigrant ancestor's origin; searching passenger lists; destinations—why and where; naturalization records.

**Finding Female Ancestors.** Special challenges; how and where to search; using indirect proof; women and the law; military; immigration and naturalization

**Finding and Using Historical Newspapers.** Newspapers record basic details about your relatives, stories about their lives, and information important to their communities. This session will help you understand digitized collections and locate free newspaper sources online. Learn how to search and what you can find.

**Census Records—More than you think.** Explore federal and state census records, where and what you will find on the census, family and neighbor clues, linking census clues to other sources, other census schedules, and census substitutes.

**Military Records for Genealogy.** Why, what, and where to find military records. Which records are public, and who can access other records? Service records; Pension and land grant records; Extended strategies; Destroyed records.

**Solving Genealogy Puzzles with Land Records.** Where to find deeds and maps; What you'll find; migration and neighbors; heirs and inferential data

**Wills, Probate, Estate, and Orphan Court/Guardianship Records.** What they are, where to find them, and what you can learn. Many of these valuable records are not indexed but are findable and browsable (just not searchable).

### **Intermediate Level Skills and Sources**

**DNA for Genealogy.** What you can and cannot learn and why? Choosing your test: explore differences among testing companies. Adding a tree to your results and extending them with gedmatch is important.

**Finding, Dating, Identifying, and Sharing Old Family Photos.** Online resources for finding family photos. Use photo clues, such as hairstyles and fashions, and photo formats to date and identify those in the photos. Then, learn how to share your findings easily with family and friends.

**Finding/Using Alternatives to Vital Records.** Can't find birth, marriage, and death records? What happens when your research predates vital records? Or when vital records are not readily available? Where to find and use newspapers, yearbooks, city directories, census clues, church, tax, military, and court records.

**Genealogy Focus 1880-1920.** What's new in the 1880 census? What happened to the 1890 census, and what to substitute? Getting the most out of the 1900/1910 censuses.

**Historical events that impact your research.** Spanish-American War, WWI, and Flu epidemic, with special attention to researching your WWI veteran ancestors.

**Impact of History and Geography on Genealogy.** Immigration and migration--what made your ancestors come/go? State and county boundaries changed: Did your ancestors really move? Disease, epidemics, and your ancestors. The military and your ancestors.

**Enhancing Your Genealogical Story with Social History.** What is social history? Benefits of incorporating social history into your genealogy. What to look for, where to find social history resources.

**Finding State Records.** Birth, marriage, divorce, and death records--What state records are in the public domain, and how can you find them? Explore free online resources. Can social media help? What's the cheapest/fastest way to get state records if you have to purchase them?

**Using City Directories for Genealogy.** Information you might be missing in these resources is found in city and county directories. Locating city directories. Hints for using city directories. Abbreviations. Other historical directories.

**Researching Criminal Ancestors.** Could historical criminal records yield clues about your family? Explore records for criminals, courts, and prisoners. Follow the paper trail documenting activities, whereabouts, and other valuable information to trace family history.

### **Genealogical Searches**

**Getting better results with your Genealogical Searches.** Understand how site searches and digitized collections work; it's where you search and how—tips on improving your online search techniques. Find browse-only collections. Understand terms and clues in historical documents and newspapers.

**Assuring Accuracy in Genealogy Research.** Should you use software to document, source work, back up your data, and share your research?

**Genealogy Road Trip—It's all about the Prep Work.** Are you making a trip to your ancestral roots? What should you know before you go? Research places and facilities online and via phone. Prepare for cemetery visits. Make your list and check it twice! Social media (Facebook) is your friend—the benefits of personal contacts before your trip.

**Lineage Societies.** What is a lineage society? Why join? Proof documents: what's acceptable and what's not. Useful websites for finding acceptable proofs.

### **Specific Sites and Software**

**Family Tree Maker 2017 (genealogical software).** Participants should have the software or plan to purchase it, as the class will focus on using this genealogy software. Ideally, participants will bring a laptop with FTM 2017 installed. Creating a new tree; Uploading/downloading trees to/from ancestry; Entering data; Adding media files; Troubleshooting/fixing mistakes.

**Genealogy Site Ancestry.** Getting the most out of ancestry.com. Learn how non-subscribers can benefit from using the ancestry index, free state resources, and windows of free access to limited collections. Learn more about getting the most out of your ancestry DNA test. Ancestry subscribers will learn to take full advantage of all ancestry offers and what they've been missing.

**Genealogy Site FamilySearch.** Explore FamilySearch's extensive informational wikis. Learn to go beyond a simple records search, search specific collections, and use the family search catalog. Enter the world of browsable-only collections that have not been indexed yet. Understand FamilySearch wiki trees.

**Facebook for Genealogy.** Connect with family. Establish a family group. Understand group privacy settings. Connect with a broad range of genealogy-related groups. Connect with others to learn your family history story.

## **HEWIE POPLOCK, VICE PRESIDENT, SARASOTA TECHNOLOGY USER GROUP, AND AI HOST OF THE "LET'S TALK AI" AND THE STUG-CFCS WINDOWS SIG**

**Embracing the AI Age with Practical Applications for Seniors.** Hewie will demonstrate how we are embracing the age of artificial intelligence (AI) and exploring practical applications for seniors. He provides an overview of what AI is, explaining that it is a technology that helps computers think and learn like humans. Hewie highlights the chatbot ChatGPT as an example of AI to have human-like conversations.



The presentation then delves into the various ways AI is being used, such as in developing medicines and vaccines, medical imaging analysis, and autonomous vehicles. It also covers concerns about AI, including unemployment, bias, accountability, privacy, and ethics. There will be many examples of AI that will amaze you.

**PC & Laptop Ports Explained: What are all those connections?** We will explore the various connectors found on a computer, including those used for data transfer, audio and video output, and power supply. The article will briefly overview each connector, its function, and where it is typically found on a computer. Additionally, the article will touch on the evolution of computer connectors, from the early days of serial and parallel ports to the modern USB-C standard, and discuss some of the challenges and considerations involved in choosing and using connectors.

**What You Need to Know about SD Cards.** SD cards are small portable memory storage devices used in digital devices such as cameras, smartphones, and tablets. They come in various sizes and capacities and use flash memory technology to store data. SD cards are compatible with many devices and can be easily removed and replaced. There are different types of SD cards, each with a different capacity limit, and they can be protected by a password or encrypted for increased security. This presentation explains the various symbols on SD cards, what they mean, and which ones to use in your device.

## **JERRY ROGAN, PAST PRESIDENT SUNLAND SPRINGS VILLAGE TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

**Apple Health App & Smart Watch.** Learn how the Apple Health application can be one of the best apps you didn't know you had on your iPhone. Your complete medical information is securely stored in one place. When teamed with a Smart Watch, it can be a life-saving combination!

**Apple Watch.** Most Activity Health Monitoring capabilities are discussed. The health focus is on essential features for seniors, such as Blood Oxygen Monitoring, EKG/ECG Testing, and Fall Monitoring.

**A review of iOS18 by Jerry Rogan.** Although Apple Intelligence shows promise, it's currently unavailable for hands-on testing. Therefore, this review will highlight some of Apple's new products, briefly mention Apple Intelligence, and primarily focus on iOS 18, particularly in aspects beyond AI. This focus is especially relevant since it represents how the iOS experience will appear to most users globally.

**Intro to Home Automation.** In this presentation, you can learn how simple it is to use home automation for your safety and security with a minimal investment of under \$200. If time allows, we may also look a step or two further.

**Introduction to Pages, Numbers, and Keynote.** This presentation will demonstrate how these Apple apps can Open, Modify, and save files in Apple format, Microsoft Office documents, PDF format, etc.

**iPhone Security –** Apple does a tremendous job of keeping us as safe as possible, but many settings on the iPhone are left up to us, as users, to set up. This presentation covers many of those settings with step-by-step instructions. Don't be a victim; be proactive; it's easier than you think.

**Your Choice.** I can offer a presentation on iPhone or iPad, covering almost any subject you'd like. Just ask!

## **MARK SCHULMAN, MEMBER, CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPUTER SOCIETY**

**Backups in a Busy World.** Given enough time, every hard drive eventually fails, and most often, this means that all your photos, documents, and videos -- everything! -- is lost. And recent evidence suggests that even under the best circumstances, hard drives don't last as long as previously thought. Backups are the only defense against serious data loss, yet most people don't bother. So, instead, discover essential strategies to ensure your data is safe with the least amount of trouble.

**Being an IT Hero.** Whether we want to or not, most computer geeks wind up being front-line computer support for parents, siblings, and close friends. Learn what you can do right now to keep the people you love -- and even yourself -- safe from computer disasters.

**Computers to the Moon.** Did the spacecraft have computers? What were their goals? How did we accomplish the goals and land on the moon? Mark will answer these questions and more during his presentation.

**Email Privacy.** Mark discusses how email is not as private as we might want and offers methods to use email to exchange information securely. He also covers encryption, disposable email addresses, and secure email services.

**Keeping Your Data Private with VeraCrypt.** VeraCrypt is one of the most popular "on-the-fly" encryption programs. It enables you to store sensitive data on your PC in an encrypted format and access it usually without constantly thinking about encrypting and decrypting it. VeraCrypt is based on the older TrueCrypt application and is free and open source.

Topics in this presentation include:

- Creating and using encrypted containers
- Encrypting flash drives
- Encrypting your laptop's hard drive
- Backing up your encrypted data
- Caching passwords
- Using hidden containers

**Encryption Software.** Losing a laptop or flash drive might mean you're out of money, but it doesn't have to mean that your private data leaks into the world. Learn how to use encryption software to protect your private data on a PC, laptop, external hard drive, or USB flash drive.

**Internet Privacy.** Do you think your Internet activities are safe from prying eyes just because you turned on your browser's Privacy Mode? Think again. Learn what's safe and what's not and how to cover your tracks and keep your Internet activities secure and private, especially when using public Wi-Fi hotspots.

**Microsoft PowerToys.** PowerToys is a free collection of small, useful Windows utilities designed to make life with Windows easier and more productive in various ways. Each PowerToy addresses one simple task, but often with very useful results. This presentation reviews all the PowerToys available in 2025.

**Preserving Digital Photos.** Digital photos ought to last forever. Digital images don't fade with time and can protect against natural disasters like fire and floods. That's the theory, anyway. And yet, if you're one of the millions of people with a digital camera, the chances of your great-grandchildren ever seeing your digital photos are slim. Find out why the odds are stacked against you and what you can do to increase the chances your family historian 200 years from now will be able to enjoy the

photos you're taking now.

**Virtualization.** Want to be able to try Linux without committing to giving up Windows? Want to run Windows on your Mac? Like being able to go back to Windows 7 or XP whenever you want but still have Windows 10 most of the time? Want to test out the next version of Windows? Want to be able to try things that might be dangerous without fear of messing up your computer? Then, you're a candidate for virtualization. Free virtualization software enables you to create a computer within your computer -- a simulated world in which you run different operating systems, try new software, and experiment without worrying about affecting your computer.

## **CHRIS TAYLOR, PRESIDENT, OTTAWA PC USERS' GROUP**

**Fun with Fonts - the art and science of typography.** Dive into the fascinating world of typography with Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group. Chris will demystify the terminology of typography and explore its rich history. Learn what makes a typeface readable or distracting, how to effectively combine multiple typefaces, and the emotions different fonts can evoke.

Whether your next project is a greeting card, poster, newsletter, business card, logo, or anything else that incorporates text, Chris can help you avoid common typographic pitfalls. Practical tips on choosing the right typeface and creating visually appealing and readable text will be shared. For the design novice or seasoned pro, this presentation will enhance your appreciation and understanding of typography's powerful impact. (90 minutes)

**How to Buy a Digital Camera.** When buying a digital camera, you face a bewildering array of choices. Chris Taylor, Ottawa PC Users' Group President, and Orleans Photo Club Vice-president, will help "focus" your search for the ideal digital camera to fit your budget and suit the style of photography that interests you. (60 minutes)

**How to Buy a PC.** When buying a PC, you are faced with many choices: laptop or desktop, how many cores in the processor, Intel or AMD processor, size of storage, how big a monitor, whether it is better to buy a faster processor or more memory... Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will help sort out the choices so you can buy the right computer for your needs. (90 minutes)

**How to Secure a Home Wireless Network.** Many wireless routers do not default to the most secure configuration. Make sure you are not the "low-hanging fruit" that someone will decide to attack. It is surprisingly easy to make sure your network is secure. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will show you how easy it is. (60 minutes)

**Keeping Passwords Safe.** We are told not to write down passwords, do not reuse passwords, and make passwords long and complex. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will show you how to use free software that stores all your usernames and passwords along with related information and protects them with a single, very strong password. Don't let your online accounts get compromised. It's easy and free. (90 minutes)

**Protecting Your PC.** The average time it takes for an unprotected computer to be compromised after connecting to the Internet is under 15 minutes. Don't let it be yours. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will show you the simple steps you need to take to keep your PC from being hacked. And best of all, it can be done for free. (90 minutes)

**Quick PC Tips: Enhancing capabilities and performance with free tools.** Learn how to extend the battery life of your PC laptop, discover the handy Microsoft PowerToys, detect fake USB flash drives before you lose data, learn why you should avoid PC "fix-it" utilities and embed music in PowerPoint

presentations. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will help you with these quick and effective remedies. (90 minutes)

**Whoa, back up! Effective strategies for keeping your computer files safe.** Think about all the data on your PC: videos of the grandkids playing in a park, photos of your trip to Patagonia (lucky you!), tax records, emails... Now, think about whether those files exist anywhere else. If the answer is no, you need to think about backup.

You could lose data due to viruses, fire, theft, tornado, hard disk failure, making an unintended change to a file, or a wayward finger deleting a file. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will discuss various ways to ensure your essential data survives any catastrophe. (90 minutes)

**Who's the Boss - You or Your Camera?** Take your photography to the next level by getting your camera off "Auto" to achieve your desired creative effects. Learn how to tell your camera to capture what you see - don't let it decide for you. Topics covered will include an understanding of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, which can be applied to any camera that has a dial for selecting exposure settings (e.g., "A" or "Av," and "S" or "Tv"). Presented by Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group and Vice-president of the Orleans Photo Club. (90 minutes)

**Windows Performance Tune-up.** If your Windows computer is sluggish, you don't have to re-install Windows to regain lost performance. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will demonstrate and explain how to safely use many native and free 3rd party tools to help speed up Windows. (90 minutes)

## **JUDY TAYLOUR, PRESIDENT, SCV COMPUTER CLUB**

**Accessibility – Help! Can't see, can't hear, can't touch.** Accessible and assistive technology has been designed for the needs of many different users. This presentation will explore software, hardware, peripherals, and accessible and assistive technology to help make the computer, phone, or tablet easier to use.

**Cool, Fun, & Helpful Google Stuff.** Games, Google tours.....

**Cybercriminals are Out to Get Us.** ID theft, phishing, vishing, spoofing, and other forms of fraud increasingly target seniors. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), elder fraud complaints rose by 14% to \$3.4 billion in 2023, with associated losses increasing by about 11%. The average victim of elder fraud lost \$33,915 due to these crimes. This presentation will explore the various scams targeting seniors and discuss prevention strategies.

**Creating a Safe Environment on Facebook.** This presentation covers the advantages and disadvantages of being on Facebook. Learn what you need to do to be more secure when using the app. Don't put your privacy at risk; choose carefully when you sign up and customize your settings. What to do about friend requests and how to avoid scams, fake news, ads that drive you crazy, and more.

**Declutter Your Digital Life.** You spend a lot of money on your equipment – learn to optimize your devices to make them last longer and help you be more productive. Unfortunately, digital clutter slows down your computer over time, and routine device decluttering is necessary for top performance. Judy's presentation will show you how to declutter your digital life and be more organized to work faster, smarter, and less stressed.

**Protect Your Digital Legacy: Secure Your Online Future.** In today's digital age, your online identity is a valuable asset – even after you're gone. Criminals are increasingly targeting the deceased to steal personal information and commit identity theft. Learn how to safeguard your digital legacy with practical strategies for protecting your online accounts and appointing a digital executor. Discover essential steps to ensure a smooth transition of your digital assets and prevent unauthorized access.

**Discovering Digital Wallets: Exploring New Ways to Pay.** In this presentation, we'll explore the world of digital wallets and their transformative impact on how we pay. We'll explore various digital wallets, from mobile apps to online platforms, and understand their benefits, including security, convenience, and speed. Join us to learn how digital wallets reshape consumer behavior and pave the way for a cashless future!

**Do I Really Need to Back Up?** This presentation is an overview of backing up your hard drive and Smartphone.

- You don't want to lose any or all of your important data: documents, photos, music, or videos.
- A virus could hit your computer
- Ransomware could hold your files hostage,
- You should be prepared for a natural disaster
- Hard drives / SSD drives can fail

**Ergonomics: You, Your Computer, Tablet, and Smartphone.** Sit straight! Shoulders rounded! Arms relaxed! Feet on the floor! Wrists/hands are floating! Cumulative trauma! Repetitive stress syndrome!

We have all been using technology for many years; are we still practicing good ergonomics? Or are we stressing our bodies daily without realizing it by extending our wrists, slouching, sitting without foot support, and bending our heads to look at poorly placed monitors?

We started using tablets and smartphones and encountered different ergonomic issues. This presentation will take us down memory lane on computer ergonomics and give us ideas on properly using our tablets and smartphones.

**Home Automation for Seniors.** What do you want to accomplish? Do you have a plan? Do you have a budget? How secure is your home? Which system is best for you? This presentation will cover all this and more.

**Netiquette & Email Tips & Tricks.** Do you communicate effectively when you send an email? Do you know which closing gets more positive responses? Do people take offense because you SHOUT? Email etiquette and netiquette skills are becoming more crucial as our world grows more virtual. This presentation includes tips and tricks to help you become a better communicator via email.

**Protect Yourself from ID Theft.** Identity theft is a serious crime. It happens when someone uses information about you without your permission. Judy's presentation covers how your ID can be stolen, how to help prevent it, and what to do if you become a victim.

**Safeguarding Your Digital World: The Importance of Backing Up.** In today's digital age, backing up your data is essential for safeguarding against various risks and ensuring the security and accessibility of your information. By investing in backups, you mitigate the potential loss of valuable information and maintain peace of mind, knowing that your data is protected and accessible when needed. Judy is on a mission to have all APCUG group members back up their data.

**Social Media for Seniors.** What is social media? Do you want to find old friends, make new friends, and keep up with what your children and grandchildren are doing? What to share and not to share. How often should you post? More will be covered in this presentation. Plus, social media, doctors say, is also healthy—it keeps seniors mentally and socially vital.

**Tech Skills for an Easier & Safer Computing Experience.** No matter how savvy we are, we must deal with certain things when using a computer—and we do not always do so efficiently. So here are a few tech skills that everyone can (and should) learn to keep their computer fast, safe, and easy to use.

**Embrace the Cloud.** Are you harnessing its power? Surprisingly, many still aren't. The term "Cloud" might seem like just another tech buzzword, but it's more relevant to our daily lives than you might think. You'd be amazed at how integrated the Cloud already is in our routines and the untapped potential it holds.

Today, we don't rely on a single computer anymore. We've got smartphones, tablets, and often a second or even a third computer. The Cloud makes accessing and sharing our data easier anytime, anywhere. Don't miss out on the full potential of the Cloud.

**Beyond Just 'Google It': Exploring Google's Ecosystem.** This presentation delves into the expansive world of Google's apps and hardware. Google aims to offer the most comprehensive and diverse suite of free apps and hardware that work harmoniously together, positioning itself as your ultimate go-to ecosystem. All of Google's apps are web-based, designed to integrate seamlessly with one another, providing a fluid user experience.

We will also take you on a tour of Google's office in Venice (approx. 2011) and YouTube's first office in Playa Vista near LAX.

**Troubleshooting Your Computer 101.** Before you make that \$99 tech support call, you can do many easy things to troubleshoot problems you encounter with your computer. Can't start your computer? Does your hard drive make grinding noises? Is it taking forever to start? Does it randomly turn off and restart? Has your printer stopped working? This presentation covers problems and solutions that might help if and when....

**Utility Apps.** What is a utility? An app that performs a specific task and adds functionality to your computer or helps your computer perform better. We all have our favorites: system monitoring, backing up, system maintenance, password management, virus protection, and more. Judy shares some favorite apps in this presentation. Please plan to share one of your favorites during the Q&A part of the meeting. Hopefully, we will all learn about at least one new utility we want to try.

**What is a Password Manager, and Why Should I Use One?** How does it work? Why should I have one? Why am I so resistant to using one? How safe are they in the Cloud? Will a PM sync between my devices? Free vs. yearly fee. Should I use one as a source for my digital asset manager to close my accounts?

**What's cooking? Home Automation in your Kitchen.** Turn your kitchen into one that works for you and makes everyday tasks fun.

**Ideas for Revitalizing Your Computer Club.** In 2007, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016, APCUG member groups were surveyed about their group's top challenges; 50-60 groups usually responded. Over the years, the topics have mostly remained the same: lack of volunteers, maintaining and increasing membership, officer burnout, presentation ideas, finding presenters, and attendance at meetings....

This presentation answers some of those questions for your group.

**ROB TRUMAN, WEBMASTER, COMPUTER BOOTERS OF SUN LAKES** – See his list of presentations at <https://geezertek.us/speaker/>

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**BOB GOSTISCHA, IT ENTHUSIAST**

Check out his ever-growing list of videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/@bob3160/videos>

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