

July 2016



The Next General Meeting of CCCGC will be Aug 2, 2016



Charlotte Bytes

Editor

A Yvette Pilch

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PROMOTING COMPUTER LITERACY AND EDUCATION IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY

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The President's Platform by Ron Wallis, President CCCGC

As most of you already know, there will not be a general meeting on July 5th.

The next meeting will be August 2nd.

The Volunteer of the Month for July is Bob Engroff. Bob works in the recycle department scrapping out the systems that can't be refurbished.

The people who do the recycling work in the back room and are seldom seen by members, but they bring in extra money for the club and keep a lot of stuff out of the landfill. They are an important part of the club and we appreciate the work that they do. Bob is an important part of that team.

Also don't forget that July 29th is the last day for the free Windows 10 upgrade. If you haven't upgraded yet we suggest that you do. If you need help in installing Windows 10 we will be glad to help you however we can, but please don't wait until the last week.

If you need our help to upgrade, please give us sufficient time.

Have a happy and safe 4th of July.

Ron



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COMPUTER DRAWING

Norma VanDe Venter tried and tried and finally was successful in getting the smart looking desktop this month. For all those that purchased tickets, thank you and we hope your picture will be the winner in the future.



50/50 WINNER

Larry Plowman was the winner this month. As you can see by the grin on his face he was willing to take all the money.



DOOR PRIZE WINNERS



- Left To Right
- Garry Ketts
- Floyd Bowser
- George Kopeneck
- Julius Palermo
- Mary Fleenor

WELCOME

New Members

Tim Frisby	Robert Kennett	Celeste Teague
Richard Teague	Ken Vida	Walt Adamiak
Sue Beech	Chuck Pohle	Betsy Pohle
Terry Greig		

The Executive Board and Members of CCCGC welcome each of you to the group. We're Here To Help. Membership Has Its Privileges.

If you have any questions, concerns or need computer help, please contact us at the office. We will endeavor to help you any way we can.

Program High-Lights

Dick Evans entertained us with more features of Windows 10 that we all need to know. The operating system WINDOWS 10, doesn't automatically set the restore point - settings - type in restore - and you will see "create a restore point". This is where your System information, registry files and the most current data that you have in the computer will be backed up. While it keeps most current data, if you just installed a printer or other device, they wouldn't be on the restore point. Restore will automatically be redone on a weekly basis. Make sure you have your settings turned on to take advantage of this very important feature.

Now on to the subject of Maintenance Programs. If you faithfully run these free programs your computer will work well. The maintenance programs are MalwareBytes, Super Antispyware and Glary are three programs we recommend. You can get these programs without downloading viruses from the website www.ninite.com. Check the programs and even if you have them on your system already, Ninite will make sure you have the most up to date. An icon will download and install the programs for you. Also, we didn't mention another program called ccleaner. This is not available on ninite and you would need to go to www.piriform.com. As you know, all these programs are free but they also offer paid programs. Make sure you click the free version and ignore any requests to upgrade or purchase.

In Windows 10 the free built in virus protection is Windows Defender. The previous versions of Windows 7, 8 and 8.1 were covered by Microsoft Essentials.

You can go to www.cccgc.info and get the link to the write up for this class. Thank you for attending our meeting.

Lydia





Microsoft
REGISTERED
Refurbisher



August 2, Meeting



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Why You Can't "Securely Delete" a File, and What to Do Instead

Some utilities have a "secure delete" option that promises to securely erase a file from your hard drive, removing all traces of it. Older versions of Mac OS X have a "Secure Empty Trash" option that tries to do something similar. Apple removed this feature recently because it just doesn't work reliably on modern drives.

The problem with "secure delete" and "secure empty trash" is that it provides a false sense of security. Rather than relying on these sorts of bandaid file-deletion solutions, you should rely on full-disk encryption. On a fully encrypted disk, both deleted and undeleted files are protected.



Why "Secure Delete" Options Were Created

RELATED ARTICLE

HTG Explains: Why Deleted Files Can Be Recovered and How You Can Prevent It

When you delete a file, it isn't really erased – it continues existing on your hard drive, even after... [Read Article] <http://www.howtogeek.com/125521/htg-explains-why-deleted-files-can-be-recovered-and-how-you-can-prevent-it/>

Traditionally, deleting a file from a mechanical hard drive didn't actually delete that file's contents. The operating system would mark the file as deleted, and the data would eventually be overwritten. But that file's data was still sitting on the hard drive, and file-recovery tools could scan a hard disk for deleted files and recover them. This is still possible on USB flash drives and SD cards, too.

If you have sensitive data — for example, business documents, financial information, or your tax returns — you might worry about someone recovering them from a hard drive or removable storage device.

How Secure File Deletion Tools Work

"Secure delete" utilities attempt to solve this problem by not just deleting a file, but overwriting the data with either zeros or random data. This should, the theory goes, make it impossible for someone to recover the deleted file.

This is sort of like wiping a drive. But, when you wipe a drive, the entire drive is overwritten with junk data. When you securely delete a file, the tool attempts to overwrite only that file's current location with junk data.

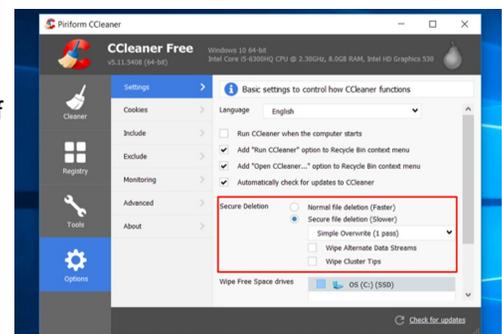
Tools like this are available all over the place. The popular CCleaner utility contains a "secure delete" option. Microsoft offers an "sdelete" command for download as part of the SysInternals suite of utilities. Older versions of Mac OS X offered "Secure Empty Trash", and Mac OS X still offers an included "srm" command for securely deleting files.

Why They Don't Work Reliably

The first problem with these tools is that they'll only attempt to overwrite the file in its current location. The operating system may have made backup copies of this file in a number of different places. You may "securely delete" a financial document, but older versions of it may still be stored on disk as part of your operating system's previous versions feature or other caches.

But, let's say you can solve that problem. It's possible. Unfortunately, there's a bigger problem with modern drives.

For additional information go to: <http://www.howtogeek.com/125521/htg-explains-why-deleted-files-can-be-recovered-and-how-you-can-prevent-it/>



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AVG report lists apps that have the most impact on smartphone performance, battery life and mobile data.



In their report titled “Android App Performance Trends,” online [security](#) company AVG identifies the Android apps people use on their smartphones and tablets that are the biggest hogs on data, storage, battery life, and overall performance. The report uses information collected from their own Android security and battery management apps in use on Android phones.

As smartphones become more and more powerful, apps are created that allow us to do more and more things with them. They keep us connected with friends and relatives. They entertain us, educated us and make us more productive, at home, in the office or on the go. The processing power smartphones put in the palm of our hands is actually rather astonishing when you compare them to what desktop computers were capable of only 25 years ago.

When it comes to installing apps, most people don’t seem too particular about what put on their phones, or the impact they will have on battery life and performance. For all I know, they think the App Fairy just left a great new app on the front porch of the Google Play store, and it’s completely free for the taking. Little do they know the app may be using their bandwidth and data allotment to constantly download or update banner ads to be displayed on-screen the next time they open the app. Or worse, even if they DON’T open the app.

Chances are, the app does come with a price, in the way of collecting your data and using your bandwidth to upload that data to their servers. While this is going on, you may be cursing your phone for sluggish performance and your cellular provider for lousy service. They get the blame, because real offender is operating behind your Home screen, where you can’t see what’s really going on.

Even the AVG app on your smartphone was using resources and mobile data to collect and upload information about your apps and the impact they have your phone’s performance and battery. But, we wouldn’t have this report without it. So, we’ll forgive them... this time.

Even for more advanced users, it’s a difficult task to keep up with identifying and preventing apps from causing soaring data bills, sluggish or unresponsive devices, and batteries that drain faster that you can say, “Where’s my charger!”

The Rundown

The data in AVG’s report was collected in the US, UK and Australia during Q3 of 2015. The apps in question were ranked for averages on battery consumption, storage space used, and mobile data consumed, and impact on overall performance based on real usage.

Here is the rundown, in order of impact, of the ten biggest offenders in each of three categories, including apps that run at start up and apps the user runs after start up.

Overall Impact on Performance (run at start up)

1. Facebook (the app)
2. Google Play Services (not the Play Store app, itself)
 - BlackBerry Messenger (popular with former BlackBerry users)
 - Instagram (a Facebook property)



Continued on next page

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AVG report lists apps that have the most impact on smartphone performance, battery life and mobile data.

Facebook Messenger

ChatON Voice & Video Chat (Samsung)

Facebook Pages Manager

The Weather Channel

Kakao Talk

WhatsApp Messenger

Most of these apps run as soon as your phone start up. None of these apps are actually essential to the phone's operation. But, without Google Play Services, many of your Android phone's features would not work.

The greediest apps run by the user after start up include Snapchat, Amazon Shopping UK, Clean Master, Line, Netflix and Microsoft Outlook. If your phone feels sluggish and the battery life is weak, one of these apps could be a big part of the reason.

Mobile Data (run at start up)

Facebook (see a pattern here?)

Yahoo! Japan

Avast Antivirus & Security (they must be collecting user info too)

The Weather Channel

Instagram

iHeartRadio

Google Play Services (supports many Google features)

APUS Launcher

Groupon (I hope you're saving big bucks!)

WeatherBug



Setting these apps to not run at start up, if the option is available, could save a bucket load of data. Top data hogs run by the user after start up include Netflix, Snapchat, Tumblr, Clean Master, Samsung's WatchON video app, Spotify Music and Microsoft Outlook. Yes, Microsoft's notorious bloat factor now affects Android devices too. Tinder rounds out the top 10.

Battery Drain (run at start up)

Android Firmware Updater

Beaming Service (Samsung)

Security Policy Updater (Samsung)

ChatON Voice & Video Chat (Samsung)



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AVG report lists apps that have the most impact on smartphone performance, battery life and mobile data.

Google Play Services

Facebook

BlackBerry Messenger (BBS) (still popular, and growing)

WhatsApp

Weather & Clock Widget (Android)

WeChat

The reason Samsung-specific apps ranked so high on this list is because, as the report also noted, nine out of the 10 most in-use phones are Samsung models.

The biggest battery drainers run after start up included WatchON Video (Samsung), Snapchat, Amazon Shopping UK, MS Outlook, BBC News, Netflix, Line (call and messaging app), Clean Master, Walmart and Amazon Shopping (global).

The Rest of The Story

Rather than list the biggest storage hogs, suffice it to say that most were apps already listed in one or more categories discussed already. A casual stroll through the Apps list in your phone's Settings will reveal the biggest users of internal memory or storage space.

Excluded from this article are games. It almost goes without saying that many of the most popular Android games are going to use lots of storage and lots of processing power, of which the consequence is rapid battery drain.

Getting Control

The report from AVG was also kind enough to offer their suggestions for boosting battery life, freeing up storage space and reducing mobile data usage.

Limit notifications. Some regular notifications can be useful. But, not all of them. Unnecessary notifications eat up battery and can contribute to sluggish performance.

Reduce background features and the frequency of refresh intervals, location retrieval and in-app notifications.

Clear app caches occasionally, including the cached data in Settings > Storage > Cached Data. If you use a cleaner app, run in manually and make sure it only runs when you start it.

Turn off the Auto-play feature in Facebook so videos only load when you ask them to. Turn off other background data transfers.

Turn off Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and GPS when not in use. Each of these internal radio/receiver components use battery power and should be disabled when not in use. If you scroll to the rear of the Apps drawer, you may find the Power Bar app that you can place on your Home page and gives you quick access to enable/disable those features.

Turn down the screen brightness, or set to Auto. Auto will turn the brightness down when it detects low levels of ambient light. But, you may be comfortable with manually reducing screen brightness to save even more battery power.

*There's more information in the full report, including the top 50 Android apps in use.