November 2014

Microsoft REGISTERED Refurbisher

Charlotte County Computer Group

30th YEAR Anniversary

1984 - 2014

The Next General Meeting of CCCGC will be **November 4, 2014**

See us on the Web
www.cccgc.net

Official Publication of the Charlotte County Computer Group Corp.

PROMOTING COMPUTER LITERACY AND EDUCATION IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY

VOL. XXVI

No. XI

Inside this issue:

Charlotte County Computer Group

2280 Aaron Street
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Phone: 941-585-0356
941-625-4175 x244
E-**mail:**
office@cccgc.net

The President's Platform by Ron Wallis, President CCCGC

We got the final word from Microsoft. The new operating system will be released in March or April 2015 and will be called Windows 10.

There will be no windows 9. Maybe because there have been several systems with 9 in the title. There was Windows 95, Win 98 and 98SE and even Millennium which was officially called Windows 9X.
There is quite a bit of speculation about the reason for the change.

Some of us have downloaded and installed it and have been playing with it for a while.

It looks like it is going to be the answer to most complaints about Windows 8. It is sort of a combination of 7 and 8, with a 7 (sort of) menu for 7 users and an accessible tile screen for those who like the 8 tiles.

This is only the developers preview and already it looks good. When the final release come out it should be great.

We will visit this OS preview at another time.

Welcome back to all the returning snowbirds.
Have a scary Halloween.

See you next month.

Ron

Computer Drawing

To start off the winter season and welcome back our snowbirds, we had a really nice refurbished computer system sporting WINDOWS 7, a 20" monitor and a great set of speakers and other parts.

Lydia won the system and comes at a great time when her home computer crashed. Off goes this system. Remember to get your tickets before the meeting to have a chance to win a great machine.

Again, thanks to all that took a chance to win.

50/50 Winner

Ed Kacik won the money. It didn't take long for Ed to discover he was the winner. Up he came to collect his prize. He should be able to find something to buy with the extra cash. The winner next month could by you.

Buy your tickets early.

Door Prize Winners

Left To Right

William Tursellino

Betsy Bascom

Harold Howard

Dick Evans

Allyn Bascom

WELCOME

New Members

Cindy Martin	**Keith Shortuse**	**Jan Shortuse**
John Grebas	**Linda Grebas**	**Gerald Maxwell**
Nancy Wenger	**Hal Wenger**	**Lisa Fleeman**
Ada Lawson	**Gale West**	**Robert Jacobs**
Monica Wawrzyniak	**Robert Wawrzyniak**	**Gene Herrman**
Linda Foster	**Anita Watson**	**Addie Morgan**
Charles Bross	**Sara Vega-Vincent**	

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

69 Members attended our meeting on October 7th.

Dick Evans gave the presentation on

More Pictures. Dick demonstrated...

Getting pictures from a camera or cell phone.

Using Cloud Storage,

Renaming and organizing images,

Edit pictures using Faststone Image Viewer,

Batch resizing, emailing pictures as attachment or as images in an email.

Details of Dick's presentation are on his Blog.

www.rwevans.com

Dick also demonstrated Microsoft's Windows 10 preview.

L ydia

Charlotte Bytes

Charlotte County Computer Group

Information: (941) 295-7672

(941) 625-4175 x244

Official publication of the Charlotte County

Computer Group Corporation

2280 Aaron Street

Port Charlotte, FL 33952

www.cccgc.info

www.cccgc.net

2015 Nominees

The slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for the 2015 business year will be announced by Linda Corrick, Nominating Chairman, at the General Meeting and will be posted on the Website. Any member interested in joining the slate of candidates, please contact Linda.

President: Ron Wallis

Vice President: Dick Evans

Secretary: Ron Muschong

Treasurer: Larry Hurley

Director : John Hegard

Director: Frank Messina

Three other Directors continue to fill their term of office.

Microsoft® REGISTERED Refurbisher

For more information go to www.cccgc.info

View/download Bytes

Please be sure to register online for classes

Charlotte County Computer Group

30th YEAR Anniversary

1984 - 2014

Classes & Events Calendar

November 2014 CCCGC Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 **Libre Office** 2 to 4 PM John Palmer	4 **General Meeting** 7:15 PM Classes 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	5 **Windows Office** 2 to 4 PM Larry Hurley	6 **Open Forum** 2 to 4 PM Dick Evans	7	8
9	10 **AndroidTablets** 2 to 4 PM Yvette Pilch	11 **Office Closed** 	12 **EaseUs Backup** 2 to 4 PM Ron Wallis	13 **Open Forum** 2 to 4 PM Dick Evans	14	15
16	17 **Libre Office** 2 to 4 PM John Palmer	18 **Windows 8.1** 2 to 4 PM Ron Wallis	19 **Windows Office** 2 to 4 pm Larry Hurley	20 **Open Forum** 2 to 4 PM Dick Evans **Board Meeting** 6:30 PM	21	22
23	24 **Windows 8.1** 2 to 4 PM Yvette Pilch	25 **Maintenance** 2 to 4 PM Ron Wallis	26 **Maintenance** 2 to 4 PM Ron Wallis	27 **Thanksgiving Day** 	28	29
30		**NOTICE** All Non Meeting Night Classes will be held in **Our CCCGC Office.**				**Notes:** OFFICE HOURS: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM MONDAY -FRIDAY **Please sign up for classes ONLINE:** http://www.cccgc.info

Charlotte County Computer Group

30th YEAR Anniversary

1984 - 2014

The Charlotte County Computer Group Corp.

Is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization as classified by the Internal Revenue Service.

Donations, gifts, bequests, legacies, devices and transfers are deductible under federal laws.

Officers and Board of Directors for 2014

President: Ron Wallis

Vice President: A Yvette Pilch

Secretary: Ron Muschong

Treasurer: Larry Hurley

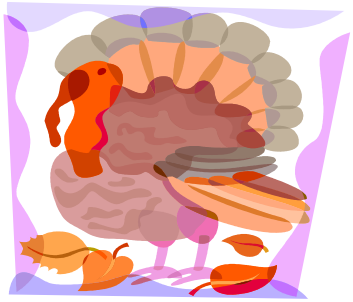
Director: John Hegard

Director: Grover Mudd

Director: Lydia Rist

Director: Frank Messina

Director: Linda Corrick



We're on the Web
www.cccgc.net

Security News Room

Apple and Google to Provide Default Encryption

After some nude photos of celebrities were stolen from Apple's iCloud last month, the vendor went rapidly into damage control mode. Within days of the photos being blasted over the Web, Apple told the world that its new iOS8 software would be encrypted by default, with even the company itself unable to gain access to users' data.

A few days later Google announced that its next mobile operating system, Android L, will also encrypt users' data by default.

These default encryption measures will make it more difficult for private information to be hacked, or handed to law enforcement agencies.

A number of celebrities had their Apple iCloud accounts hacked as a result of targeted attacks, according to information released by Apple. The hackers either knew the email addresses associated with the celebrity accounts or they were able to answer security questions that granted them access to the accounts.

Both Apple and Google have offered encryption for some time, but many users were unaware of its existence or had not enabled it.

Apple CEO Tim Cook posted an online message assuring users the company's philosophy was that a "great customer experience shouldn't come at the expense of your privacy."

A day after Apple's statement, Google announced its stance on privacy, also embracing default encryption. A spokesman said: "For over three years, Android has offered encryption, and keys are not stored off of the device, so they cannot be shared with law enforcement. As part of our next Android release, encryption will be enabled by default out of the box, so you won't even have to think about turning it on."

Both Apple and Google follow in the footsteps of the now somewhat beleaguered Blackberry, which has encrypted data by default for some time.

However, note this: encryption will only apply to data you put on Apple and Android devices, not necessarily to data you put in the cloud.

the How-To Geek
Computer Help from your Friendly How-To Geek

Why You Don't Need an Expensive Smartphone Anymore

iphone 5s vs samsung galaxy s5

Until recently, you needed to spend hundreds of dollars — often $649 or "$199 with a two year contract" — http://www.howtogeek.com/186582/dont-fall-for-it-free-phones-cost-360-199-phones-cost-1040/to get a smartphone with good performance that could run the latest apps. Solid smartphones are now much cheaper.

If you have the money to spend — or if you're going to be locked into a long contract http://www.howtogeek.com/164490/8-ways-your-wireless-carrier-is-gouging-you/anyway — expensive smartphones still have value. They'll have the sharpest screens, fastest hardware, and newest features. But they aren't mandatory to get a good smartphone experience anymore.

Cheap Smartphones Up Until Recently

If you walked into a cell phone carrier's smartphone store just a few years ago, you probably saw cheap smartphones for prepaid customers. http://www.howtogeek.com/174352/how-to-save-hundreds-or-thousands-of-dollars-on-cell-phone-service/Samsung made phones like this — for example, the Samsung Galaxy Ace released in 2011. Phones like this one just weren't very good. If you ever used them — even just in the store — you noticed that the phone's CPU couldn't keep up with its interface. Simple actions like moving between home screens or scrolling in a web browser dragged. Their displays were often very poor, and they had very little room for your apps and other data. Their cameras were often near-unusable. Such phones often had very old, outdated versions of Android and would never get an update to a newer version, like the more expensive flagship phones often did.

These phones technically worked, giving you an Android smartphone experience — just a slow, very limited one. The gap between such a cheap phone and a more expensive Android phone or iPhone was huge.

Even these cheap, bad smartphones were an improvement — before them, you would have gotten a feature phone at the same price. Any smartphone at all would have been out of that price range.

Smartphones for Everybody

Both Google's Android and even Microsoft's Windows Phone are experiencing a lot of growth in the low-end part of the market worldwide. People who don't have $700 to drop on an iPhone are buying smartphones. This increasing focus on cheap smartphones has benefited everyone. With Android 4.4, Google focused on making Android run better on lower-end hardware, dramatically cutting the amount of memory Android needs to function. Windows Phone has always run well on lower-end hardware, too.

Google's "Android One" program is currently attempting to push very capable $100 Android phones. Microsoft is also focusing on the low-end with their Nokia Lumia smartphone business — most people are buying these Windows Phone devices because they're very cheap.

Of course, software is just a small part of the story. Hardware has improved dramatically and has become much cheaper, and this allows for much cheaper — but still capable — smartphones.

Nexus Phones Are No Longer Budget Smartphones

Google's Nexus phones were once seen as budget smartphones. You could get a Nexus 4 for $299 or a Nexus 5 for $349 — both with no contract! That may sound like a lot, but the iPhone 6 will be $649 off contract. When Google dropped the price of the original Nexus 4 to $199 to clear their inventory, they were a great budget option. Now you can get capable options for much cheaper at normal prices.

Conclusion on next page

Google's Nexus phones are looking more like mid-range phones — that's all thanks to the even-cheaper budget options appearing on the market.

Cheap Smartphones Don't Offer a Bad Experience

RELATED ARTICLE

How to Save Hundreds or Thousands of Dollars on Cell Phone Service

Cell phone contracts are bad. You get a seemingly cheap phone up front, but you more than pay for the... [Read Article] http://www.howtogeek.com/174352/how-to-save-hundreds-or-thousands-of-dollars-on-cell-phone-service/

The sub-par experience of phones with slow, laggy interfaces has been banished by some of the cheaper phones available today.

Cell phone contracts are bad. You get a seemingly cheap phone up front, but you more than pay for the... [Read Article] http://www.howtogeek.com/174352/how-to-save-hundreds-or-thousands-of-dollars-on-cell-phone-service/

The sub-par experience of phones with slow, laggy interfaces has been banished by some of the cheaper phones available today.

In the Android arena, Motorola's new Moto G costs just $179 with no contract. It doesn't have a tiny, cheap screen — it has a roomy 5-inch display. It won't be the sharpest display panel if you place it next to a $649 phone, but it's not bad. The phone runs the latest version of Android — Android 4.4.4. Ars Technica found its camera was about as good as the camera on the iPhone 4S — an older iPhone, but one that still costs $450 today. Thanks to the march of technology, this $179 phone's CPU seems about as powerful as the CPU found in the Samsung Galaxy S3. You won't be putting up with an extra-slow, laggy interface — you'll have a nice large screen, a decent camera, the latest version of Android, and the ability to run practically every Android app with good performance — all for $179.

If $179 is too much for you, you can also get a Moto E. It doesn't have the same specs, but is available for just $129.

Cell phone contracts are bad. You get a seemingly cheap phone up front, but you more than pay for the... [Read Article] http://www.howtogeek.com/174352/how-to-save-hundreds-or-thousands-of-dollars-on-cell-phone-service/

The sub-par experience of phones with slow, laggy interfaces has been banished by some of the cheaper phones available today.

In the Android arena, Motorola's new Moto G costs just $179 with no contract. It doesn't have a tiny, cheap screen — it has a roomy 5-inch display. It won't be the sharpest display panel if you place it next to a $649 phone, but it's not bad. The phone runs the latest version of Android — Android 4.4.4. Ars Technica found its camera was about as good as the camera on the iPhone 4S — an older iPhone, but one that still costs $450 today. Thanks to the march of technology, this $179 phone's CPU seems about as powerful as the CPU found in the Samsung Galaxy S3. You won't be putting up with an extra-slow, laggy interface — you'll have a nice large screen, a decent camera, the latest version of Android, and the ability to run practically every Android app with good performance — all for $179.

If $179 is too much for you, you can also get a Moto E. It doesn't have the same specs, but is available for just $129.

Microsoft's Windows Phone has done a good job at the low end, too. The Nokia Lumia 520 can often be purchased for less than $100 unlocked and without a contract — with some deals, it's even been down to $40. This phone has a smaller screen and not-as-fast hardware, and Windows Phone limits its app selection, but it's impossible to deny how good a deal it is. A few years ago, $50 or so would have gotten you a cheap feature phone — now it can get you a smartphone with a full browser and app store, even if it is a Windows Phone.

We're not here to recommend you purchase either a Moto G or cheap Lumia phone — feel free to shop around for a different phone. These are just two of the standout options from the last year that have proven you don't need to spend over $600 or get locked into an expensive contact to have a good smartphone experience. Even if you rely on prepaid service without a contract, you can get a nice phone for less than the $199 you'd pay for a new Apple iPhone or Samsung Galaxy S on contract.

Image Credit: Karlis Dambrans on Flickr, .angels. on Flickr, Karlis Dambrans on Flickr, John Karakatsanis on Flickr, Vernon Chan on Flickr

nakedsecurity
Award-winning news, opinion, advice and research from SOPHOS

5 things you should know about email unsubscribe links before you click

https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/

by Alan Zeichick on September 4, 2014

Filed Under: Spam

We all get emails we don't want, and cleaning them up can be as easy as clicking 'unsubscribe' at the bottom of the email.

However, some of those handy little links can cause more trouble than they solve.

You may end up giving the sender a lot of information about you, or even an opportunity to infect you with malware.

Of course, not everyone who sends you mail is a spammer and if you know that a sender is trustworthy it's safe to unsubscribe. Unfortunately phishing attacks rely on the fact that it's very, very easy to fake who and where an email has come from so it's all but impossible to be 100% sure who has sent you an email.

Here are 5 reasons why unsubscribing can be a bad idea, whether you do it by sending a reply email or opening an "unsubscribe" web link:

1. You have confirmed to the sender that your email address is both valid and in active use.

If the sender is unscrupulous then the volume of email you receive will most likely go up, not down. Worse, now that you have validated your address the spammer can sell it to his friends. So you are probably going to hear from them too.

2. By responding to the email, you have positively confirmed that you have opened and read it and may be slightly interested in the subject matter, whether it's getting money from a foreign prince, a penny stock tip or a diet supplement.

That's wonderful information for the mailer and his pals.

3. If your response goes back via email - perhaps the process requires you to reply with the words "unsubscribe," or the unsubscribe link in the message opens up an email window - then not only have you confirmed that your address is active, but your return email will leak information about your email software too.

Emails contain meta information, known as email headers, and you can tell what kind of email software somebody is using (and imply something about their computer) from the contents and arrangement of the headers.

4. If your response opens up a browser window then you're giving away even more about yourself. By visiting the spammer's website you're giving them information about your geographic location (calculated based on your IP address), your computer operating system and your browser.

The sender can also give you a cookie which means that if you visit any other websites they own (perhaps by clicking unsubscribe links in other emails) they'll be able to identify you personally.

5. The most scary of all: if you visit a website owned by a spammer you're giving them a chance to install malware on your computer, even if you don't click anything.

These kind of attacks, known as drive-by downloads, can be tailored to use exploits the spammer knows you are vulnerable to thanks to the information you've shared unwittingly about your operating system and browser.

So how do you avoid unwanted email without unsubscribing?

If the message is unsolicited then mark it as spam.

Marking something as spam not only deletes the message (or puts it into your trash) it also teaches your email software about what you consider spam so that it can better detect and block nefarious messages in the future and adapt as the spammers change their tricks.

This not only helps you, but also everyone else too.

Charlotte Bytes

See us on the Web
www.cccgc.net

the How-To Geek
Computer Help from your Friendly How-To Geek

CCCGC

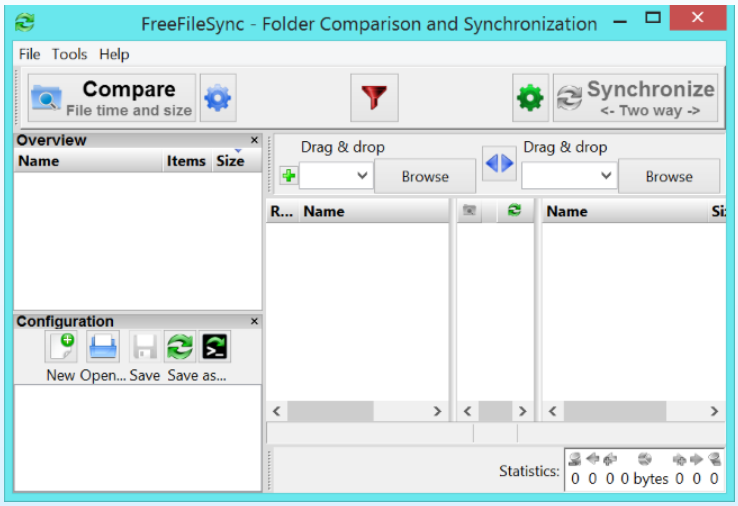
6 Ways to Actually Use 1 TB of Cloud Storage

The cloud storage wars are heating up. Microsoft now offers 1 TB of cloud storage along with Office 365, and both Dropbox and Google are offering 1 TB at just $10 per month.

Flickr even offers 1 TB for free.

But the real reason companies are offering so much storage is because they know most users will never actually use anything near 1 TB of storage. Here's how you actually could.

Back Up to the Cloud!



Backing up all your stuff directly to cloud storage services like Dropbox, OneDrive, or Google Drive was previously not a great idea. These services didn't offer a lot of storage. Instead, it was better to use dedicated online backup services like CrashPlan, BackBlaze, or Carbonite. These services are designed for backups and offer more than enough storage for backups.

With cloud storage becoming so much cheaper, backing up directly to a cloud storage location is now a very decent idea. You don't need a separate online service for your backups. Unfortunately, the backup tools integrated into Windows won't help much — File History on Windows 8.1 can't back up to OneDrive, for example.

Instead, you could just store all your important files inside your cloud storage folder so you'd never lose them. Or, you could use backup tools that would automatically create copies of your important files in your cloud storage folder so they'd be synced and backed up online. There are many tools that do this. For example, FreeFileSync can work well — it's like the open-source, modern successor to Microsoft's classic SyncToy application. Cobian Backup is another often-recommended one. Any backup tool that lets you back up to an arbitrary folder on your computer — select your cloud storage folder here — will work.

Upload High Resolution Photos

Be sure you upload the original, high-resolution copies of your photos whenever you upload them to a storage service. Smartphone apps and photo-uploading programs are often configured to shrink photos you take before uploading them to save on space. With 1 TB available — whether it's at a generic cloud storage service or Flickr — you don't need to shrink your photos ahead of time. Be sure they're set to upload at their "original size."

These services can automatically upload photos from your smartphone, whether you have an Android phone, an iPhone, or even a Windows Phone.

If you take photos with a normal digital camera and copy them to your desktop PC or laptop, you can also use a tool to automatically upload them to your cloud storage service. For example, Dropbox will offer to automatically upload photos when you plug in a camera or SD card with photos.

Continued on next page

the How-To Geek

Computer Help from your Friendly How-To Geek

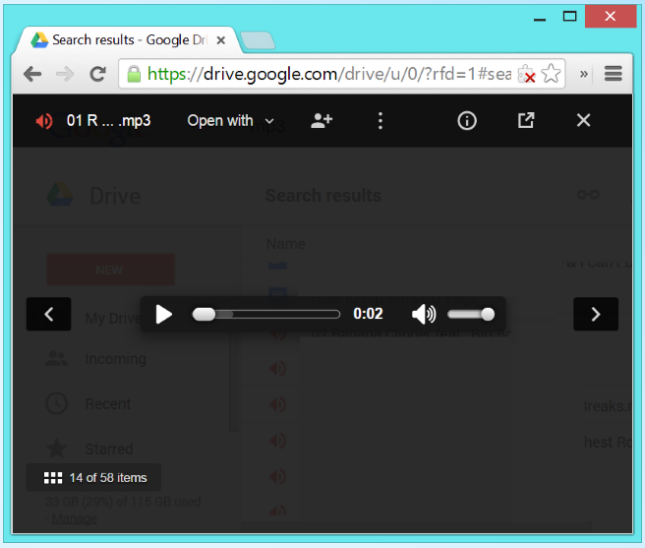
HTG Explains: What Android Data is Backed Up Automatically?

Much of the data on your Android phone or tablet is backed up by Google (or the individual apps you... [Read Article] http://www.howtogeek.com/140376/htg-explains-what-android-data-is-backed-up-automatically/

No, iCloud Isn't Backing Them All Up: How to Manage Photos on Your iPhone or iPad

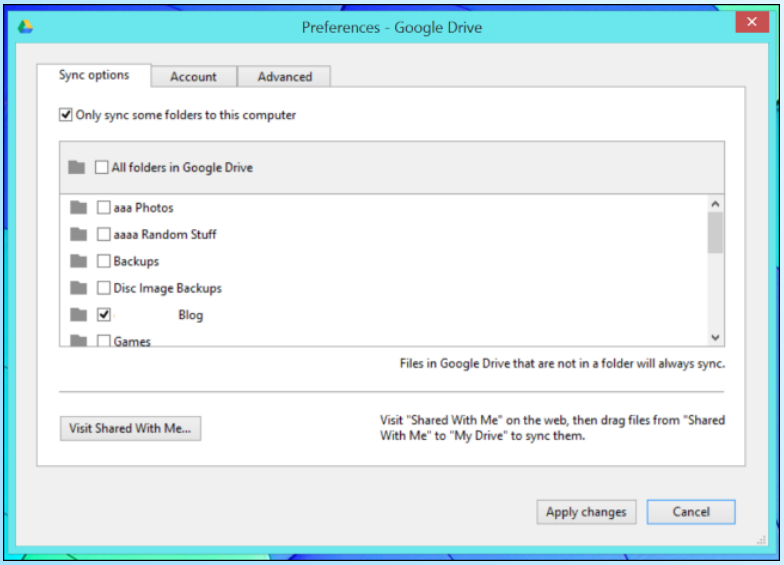
Are the photos you take with your iPhone or iPad backed up in case you lose your device? If you're... [Read Article] http://www.howtogeek.com/175416/no-icloud-isnt-backing-them-all-up-how-to-manage-photos-on-your-iphone-or-ipad/

Upload Your Music Collection



The web is full of music locker services like Amazon Music and Google Play Music, but you can also use your cloud storage service as a music locker. Even if you have hundreds of gigabytes of music — hopefully all ripped from legitimately acquired CDs, of course — you can upload it all to your cloud storage service. You can then download it to all your PCs or access the individual music files and play them in a browser.

This method may not be as "slick" as a cloud storage with their nicer web interfaces and mobile apps, but it gives you an easy way to sync that music collection between all your computers. Every computer you sync it to will get a full offline copy, and your files won't be automatically converted to a worse-sounding-but-smaller music format. If you ripped all your CDs to lossless FLAC **(Free Lossless Audio Codec** *an audio format similar to MP3* **)** files, you can keep all those FLAC files and access them from anywhere.



Store — But Don't Sync — Large Files

There's a good chance you have an archive of large files. Maybe it's a media library, hundreds of gigabytes of old photos, massive amounts of home movies, back-up copies of your physical discs in ISO form, or whatever else. All these files can be stored online in your cloud storage service — there should be more than enough room.

To save space on your local computers — after all, you probably don't want to sync that entire 1 TB back to each computer you use — you can tell the cloud storage service to only synchronize specific folders. You can then download the files using a browser when you need them. To upload new files to these unsynced folders, you can also just use your storage service's browser-based uploader.

Conclusion on next page

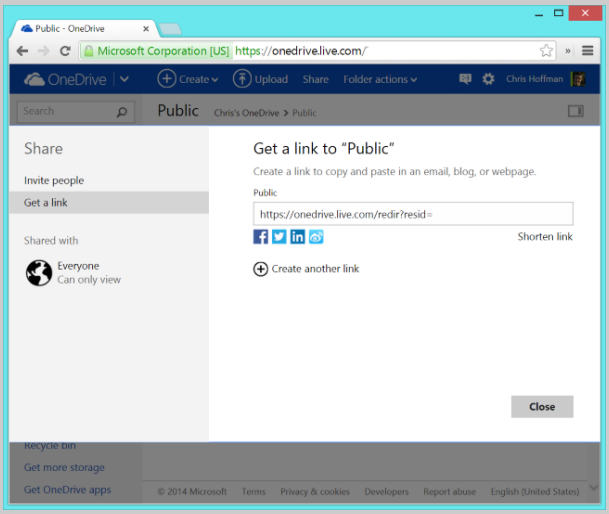
CCCGC
Microsoft REGISTERED Refurbisher

Charlotte Bytes

the How-To Geek
Computer Help from your Friendly How-To Geek

6 Ways to Actually Use 1 TB of Cloud Storage

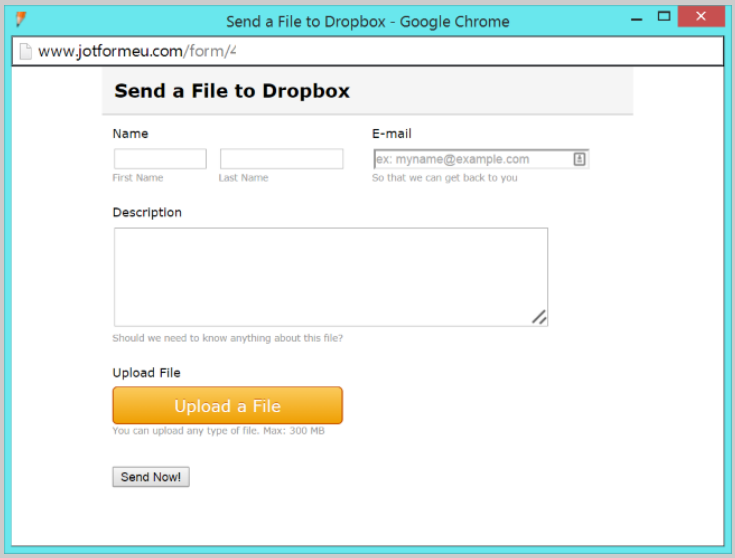
Microsoft's OneDrive is a bit smarter about this on Windows 8.1, and it will automatically present all your cloud storage files, only downloading them when you open them or ask for them to be downloaded. Other services, like Dropbox and Google Drive, automatically download all your files by default.



Use it as a File Server

You can also use your cloud storage as a sort of file server. You can configure certain folders in your cloud storage as "Public" folders, or just share individual files and make them public. You can then give the links to people and they can access the files in their browser. This allows you to share your files with friends, or even host them as if they were on public server — no need to fiddle with typical public-photo-uploading or file-hosting services. Of course, your cloud storage service will only want to provide so much download bandwidth, so you can't let hundreds of thousands of people download your files with this method!

You can also share files with just specific users of the same service, so you and your friends or colleagues could share folders with each other. They'd just be accessible to the user accounts you select, not everyone online with the link.



Receive Files From Anyone

RELATED ARTICLE

How to Send Large Files Over Email

Many email servers refuse to accept email attachments over 10MB in size. While attachment sizes haven't kept up with the... [Read Article] http://www.howtogeek.com/171328/how-to-send-large-files-over-email/

You can also use your large amount of online file storage to receive files from other people. Simply set up a Dropbox Form with Jotform or a Google Apps Script to receive files in Google Drive. Anyone — even people without a Dropbox or Google account — can then access the web form and upload files. The files will appear in your cloud storage service where you can access them later.

This method could be useful if you're a business dealing with clients and you want to give them a way to easily give you files, but it could also allow you to easily receive files from friends. In the past, you might have worried that these files might suck up your limited amount of cloud storage — but no more. This also allows you to bypass the file size limitations of email attachments without relying on yet-another file-hosting service.

These are just a few ideas to use all that space, so you're not letting that cheap 1 TB of storage go to waste. Remember to obey the service's terms of service — this means no using your cloud storage service to store pirated files, and especially not to distribute them via public links!

Image Credit: theaucitron on Flickr

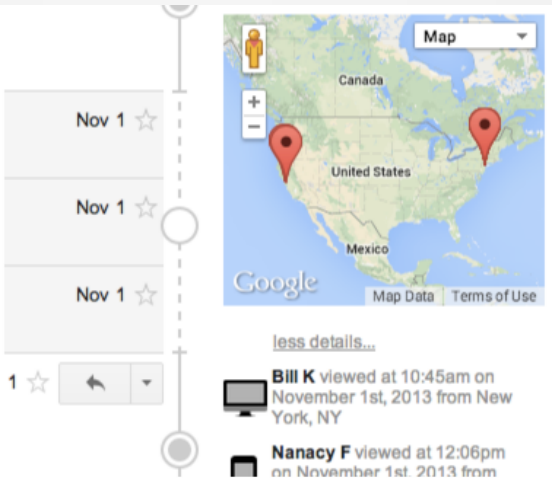
CCCGC

Charlotte Bytes

How emails can be used to track your location and how to stop it

by Lisa Vaas on February 27, 2014

https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2014/02/27/how-emails-can-be-used-to-track-your-location-and-how-to-stop-it/



Filed Under: Featured, Google, Google Chrome, Phishing, Privacy, Spam, Web Browsers

A new, free **Google Chrome browser** extension **called Streak** lets email senders using Google accounts see when recipients open email.

And, oh my, it also lets senders see who, exactly, opened the email, and where the recipient is located.

The extension, part of a customer relationship management (CRM) system that includes tools for sales, support and hiring, places email recipients on a map, with big red dots indicating their locations. It also gives users real-time location updates.

Streak

Streak is a bit creepy. But it's not, of course, "changing the email game", as has been somewhat breathlessly claimed.

Streak may well be in the business of giving marketers the ability to eyeball our whereabouts and our email-opening schedules, but it certainly didn't invent email tracking - not by a long shot.

Email tracking is already used by individuals, email marketers, spammers and phishers to understand where people are, validate email addresses, verify that emails are actually read by recipients, find out if they were forwarded and discover if a given email has made it past spam filters.

The bad news is that if you're thinking that you can just avoid installing Streak if you don't want marketers, creeps, phishers and spammers to see when and where you opened your email, so sorry to tell you, but that's just an irrational thought coming from la-la land.

You know that place, right? It's the place where opt-in is the norm.

In the place where we all actually live, recipients don't have to install anything for email tracking to work and nor will they know if their locations and email openings are being tracked.

It's easy as pie - just sit back, open email as usual, and the email trackers will churn their wheels, no recipient involvement required.

Thankfully it's not all bad news.

Gmail icon and green eyeBecause email is actually quite simple, there are only a very small number of techniques that systems like Streak can use to track you - and they're easy for you to disrupt.

Emails are fundamentally inert (in the vernacular they are not executable) so they can't make your computer run code.

For an email to pull off something like tracking it needs considerable cooperation from your email client and, since you control your email client, that puts you in the driving seat.

Somebody who wants to track you can do two things; they can either send an email with a read receipt, or they can send an email with an embedded image (sometimes referred to as a bug or beacon).

Read receipt requests are included in an email's meta data (its headers). Because the meta data is passive it amounts to no more than a plea to your email software to please ask for a read receipt.

Different email clients don't agree on what a read receipt header should look like so there's no guarantee your read receipt will even be recognised as one.

If it is recognised then, overwhelmingly, email clients will prompt users and ask if they want to let the sender know that they've read the email. It's not a great technique for email marketeers trying to keep your tracking secret. **Continued next page**

Charlotte Bytes

CCCGC

See us on the Web
www.cccgc.net

You are much more likely to be tracked by embedded images.

A tracking email has to be written in HTML. This allows it to reference an image on a remote server owned by the sender (this part isn't underhand, it's just how HTML works).

When the email is opened, the email software loads the image from the remote server by sending it an HTTP request.

A spammer or marketeer sending a mass mailing can choose to give each email an image with a unique URL so they can tell which recipients have opened their emails.

Like all HTTP requests, the one sent by your email software will contain your IP address. Because IP addresses are allocated geographically, that's tantamount to providing location data accurate to what city you're in.

The HTTP request will also contain a user-agent header which provides a brief description of your browser and operating system.

So, from one embedded image systems like Streak can determine:

Who opened their email

What time the email was opened

Where it was opened

What sort of device it was opened on

The answer to protecting yourself from this kind of tracking is straightforward - don't load the images.

You can do this by forcing all your email to render as plain text or by allowing it to render HTML without images.

Most email clients are well disposed to help you with this and will actually do the latter by default, giving you the option to download the images if you decide you want them.

The most notable exception to this is Gmail which loads remote content automatically unless you take back control of your images.

For your part you need only understand that loading images in emails means "tell the sender you've just opened their email and you'd like them to send you the rest of the message".

So, if you don't trust marketers and stalkers with your location and email-reading schedule, it's time to take back remote content loading.

Below are instructions on how to switch off image loading in seven of the most popular email clients:

iOS Mail

Click the **Settings** icon

Click Mail, Contacts, and Calendars

Toggle **Load Remote Images** to off.

Outlook (Desktop - 2007)

Click the **Tool**s menu

Click **Trust Center**

Click **Automatic Download**

Check **Don't download pictures automatically in HTML e-mail messages or RSS items.**

Conclusion on next page

Microsoft REGISTERED Refurbisher

Official Publication of the Charlotte County Computer Group Corp.

PROMOTING COMPUTER LITERACY AND EDUCATION IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY

CCCGC

Outlook (Desktop - 2010)

Click **File | Options**

Click the **Trust Center** on the left

Click the **Trust Center Settings** button on the right

Click the **Automatic Dow**nload (default) link on the left

Uncheck the top checkbox

Outlook.com

Click on the Settings icon (cog)

Click **More Email settings**

Click Filters and Reporting under Junk Email

Select Block attachments, pictures, and links for anyone not in my safe senders list.

Apple's Mail

Click **Mail**

Click **Preferences**

Click **Viewing**

Uncheck **Display remote images in HTML messages.**

Yahoo Mail

Click the Settings icon

Click **Settings**

Click **Security**

Locate **Show images in email**

Select **Never by Default.**

Gmail

Click the Settings icon

Stay in the **General** tab

Scroll down to the Images section

Choose **Ask before displaying external images**

Click **Save Changes.**

Android Gmail app

Tap the menu button

Tap **Settings**

Tap on your email address

Scroll to the bottom of the screen

Tap **Images**

Select **Ask before showing.**

Although this article is mostly about how emails you receive can leak information about you, it's worth understanding that emails you send can too.

When you send an email, each server your message passes through will stamp the email with its IP address. The first IP address in that list is normally yours - the one that can be used to locate what city you're in.

The only way we can think of to avoid this is to use a webmail service (and you have to use its web interface).

In our quick and dirty testing I found that Gmail, FastMail and Outlook will all keep your IP address secret but **Yahoo, the perennial late comers to the security and privacy party, won't.**