



Promoting Computer Literacy and Education in Charlotte County. The largest gathering of computer knowledge in Charlotte County.

March 2023 Page I



Charlotte Bytes

Editor: A Yvette Pilch

March 7, 2023

**Military Heritage Museum
 Auditorium, 1st Floor
 900 W Marion St.
 Punta Gorda, FL**

6:00 pm—Open Forum

7:00 pm— Member Mtg

No Zoom Available

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CCCGC President's Message Mary Fleenor, President

Members

The next CCCGC general meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda. The Open Forum (general questions and answers) will begin at 6PM, followed by the main program at 7PM. This month's topic will be Scam Recognition and Prevention presented by the Punta Gorda Police Department.

The Favorite of the Month for March is Uberduck.ai, which converts text to speech, and enables the text to sound like it's being read by a famous figure, such as a celebrity or even a fictional character. Please check the Events Calendar for the course offerings and click the links to register. Remember all classes are free to members! Please notify the instructor if you have questions you would like answered in the scheduled session. Let us know if you have special knowledge you would like to share with us as an instructor or presenter. Know anyone who needs a little sunshine due to illness, injury or loss of a loved one? Contact the office and let us know. If you would like to contribute to CCCGC by volunteering in the office on the front desk or providing technical support, editing the Bytes, becoming an instructor/presenter or have suggestions to improve CCCGC, please contact us. Looking forward to getting your input:

cccgcoffice@gmail.com , 941-585-0356
 or click on the Suggestion Box on <http://cccgc.info/> .

Stay safe and healthy!
 Mary Fleenor, President





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Welcome New Members

Dolores Drenner
 Kamali Williams

The Executive Board of Directors 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, by telephone or via the website. We will endeavor to help you any way we can.

2023 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



President
Mary Fleenor
 cccgcpresident@gmail.com



Vice President
Gary Skillicorn
 cccgcvp@gmail.com

(pending)

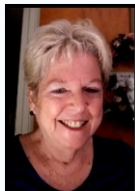
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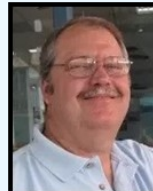
Mary Burns



Kinga Cook



Tony Flores



Mark Krider



Fran Robitaille

It is a pleasure to serve you in 2023 thru classes, presentations and individual assistance.

Please help to spread the word about CCCGC to your friends and neighbors.

Stay safe, enjoy the holidays and hope to see you throughout the new year.



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February Member Meeting Report



Winners of \$25 Door Prizes:

Harold Howard

Shirley Brewer

Sandy Todd



Winner of 50/50

Carolyn Brundel



Computer Door Prize

Karen Noonan



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Future Events & Presentations

[March 2023 CCCGC Classes & Programs](#)

Mar 7 Member Meeting
Member Meeting
Military Heritage Musuem Auditorium
900 W Marion St, Punta Gorda
6-7 PM Open Forum
7-8 PM General Member Meeting

Mar 6 ipad and iphone
2-4 PM Office
Rose Kopenc

Mar 9 Maintenance
2-4 PM Office
Lydia Rist

Mar 14 Open Forum
2-4 PM, Office + Zoom
Mary Fleenor
[Fleenor Class Link](#)

Mar 16 Zoom Basics
2-4 PM, Office
Mark Krider

Mar 23 Maintenance
2-4 PM, Office
Lydia Rist



Feb 24 Board of Director Meeting
2:00 pm
514 E Grace St, Punta Gorda
[CCCGC BdMtg](#)



An International Association of Technology and
 Computer User Groups

As members of CCCGC, you are automatically members of Association of Personal Computer User group (APCUG) who offer free ZOOM classes and presentations to members. However, you must register with them to attend. Check the website for course options and registration: <https://apcug2.org/>

APCUG past presentations can be viewed on YouTube. These are handy links for review if you attended them or had to miss the original presentation. Click the link below to see all the options.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=apcug

Program for March 7th
 "Scams, Recognition & Prevention" by Lt. Davout of Punta Gorda Police Department



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Computer/Tech Information

Clicking on Google Search Results Could Cost You All Your Passwords

BY DAVID RUTLAND

PUBLISHED 3 DAYS AGO

Don't immediately click on the first link shown on Google results pages: they could be fake phishing pages that collect your private data.

Readers like you help support MUO. When you make a purchase using links on our site, we may earn an affiliate commission. [Read More](#).

It's an age-old truism that you need to spend money to make money, and it can be especially effective in the world of online advertising.

For criminals looking to break into online password managers, the payouts are potentially huge if their fake login pages are at the top of Google search. Here's a very real reason why you should take care to avoid clicking on adverts in search results.

Google Adverts Look Like Real Search Results

The Google search results page isn't what it used to be. In the early days of the search engine's rise to dominance, you'd type in your search term, hit return, and see a page of search results, sorted by Google's algorithm to be useful.

More recently, the top of the page is typically devoted to craft Google wants you to see. Typical culprits include a snippet taken from a website or dictionary, a range of similar questions to your query, two or three adverts, and then the actual search results.

The visual style of most of these elements is different enough from the meat of the results that it's easy to scan past them and scroll down. The adverts, however, are not immediately recognizable.

They use the same link color as regular results, and have the same length of summary and selection of sitelinks to URLs within the website. There isn't even a dodgy tracking URL.

The only clue that you're looking at a paid ad instead of a genuine organic search result is the word "ad" in black to the left of the URL, and above the headline. That means it's easy to accidentally click on an ad, and believe you'll be taken to the most relevant search result.

Clicking adverts by accident is a familiar and frustrating feeling. It's made worse by the fact that there's a tendency among older computer users to simply type the name of the service they want to use into the search field and then click on the top result, rather than type in the actual URL.

Do Cybercriminals Buy Top Search Results on Google?

Given how easy it is to be fooled by ads which appear as search results, it makes sense for malware mongers, hoaxers, grifters, phishermen, and other unsavory sorts to buy ad slots on Google.

After all, if you want people to sign into your carefully mocked-up spoof login page for outlook.com, it would take years of dedicated SEO work to even reach the front page—even then, you'll never knock the genuine Microsoft domain from the top spot. But if you buy an ad slot so that when someone searches for "outlook", your ad appears above the search results, and it is virtually indistinguishable, there's a good chance they'll attempt to log in. You then have their Outlook username and password.



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Computer/Tech Information

How Are Hackers Using Search Results to Hack Into Password Managers?

But having a user's email address and password can only get criminals so far. Security conscious citizens of the web have, in recent years, started to use password managers. These services allow you to generate and store fiendishly difficult unique usernames and passwords which are unique for each site.

Naturally, these password vaults are especially attractive to criminals as they contain the keys to your entire online life.

In late January 2023, Reddit users reported that searching for the term "bitwarden password manager" returned adverts for fake Bitwarden sites above the search results (according to Cyber Intel Mag).

Clicking on the links led users to the domains, bitwardenlogin(dot)com and appbitwarden(dot)com.

The sites appear identical to the genuine Bitwarden vault login page, and it would be easy for you to enter your email address and master password without ever realizing anything was wrong. With these details, criminals could easily access the rest of your passwords.

The domains have since been taken down, and are blocked by multiple DNS providers, but as anyone can buy ads on Google for any search term, there's no guarantee they won't return, using different spoof domains or target other password managers.

How to Protect Yourself From Malicious Ads

The simplest way to protect yourself from malicious ads posing as genuine services is to pay close attention to the results on the Google search results page. If the text "ad" or "sponsored" appears anywhere near the entry, avoid it, as there's no guarantee where you'll end up.

The genuine URL should appear below the text of the result, so check it matches up with the genuine URL. If you feel you'd be better protected by not seeing adverts in your Google search results at all, using an add-on such as uBlock Origin in conjunction with Firefox can help.

You should also type out the actual URL of the site you want to visit rather than searching and clicking on the top result. If this is likely to prove too arduous, and it's a site you regularly visit, bookmark it or add it to your favorites instead.

Phishing Is a Huge Threat to Your Security

Criminals will always want to steal your money and personal data, and the methods they use evolve as they seek out new opportunities and exploits.

Phishing is, by far, the most effective way they have of achieving their aims, which is why you need to know the best ways to avoid falling for it.



Log in or create a new account to access your secure vault.

Email address (required)

david@example.com

Remember email

Continue

New around here? [Create account](#)



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Computer/Tech Information cont.

Mozilla Is Rebuilding Thunderbird “From the Ground Up”

CORBIN DAVENPORT

@corbindavenport

FEB 9, 2023, 11:51 AM EST | 1 MIN READ

Development on the Thunderbird email app has been ramping up over the past year, with a major “Supernova” update on the way. Mozilla has now outlined the future of Thunderbird in a blog post.



Mozilla released Thunderbird 102 back in June 2022, marking the first phase of a multi-year revamp of the popular mail client. It had a few much-needed setup improvements and bug fixes, as well as some design tweaks. There’s also a more significant update planned for later in 2023, named “Supernova,” which was already teased as a major redesign. However, it’s not just a redesign — the app is being rebuilt “from the ground up.”

Mozilla explained in a blog post, “Thunderbird is undergoing a massive rework from the ground up to get rid of all the technical and interface debt accumulated over the past 10 years. This is not an easy task, but it’s necessary to guarantee the sustainability of the project for the next 20 years. Simply ‘adding stuff on top’ of a crumbling architecture is not sustainable, and we can’t keep ignoring it.”

The Thunderbird team says it now has a proper organization and long-term roadmap in place, to ensure the mail client remains sustainable. There’s ongoing work to remove “crusty old code that only creates problems,” and work on the interface will continue for the next two years, at least. Mozilla is quick to point out that long-time Thunderbird users won’t suddenly be forced to use a completely different interface — the app will remain customizable to some degree.

Mozilla also still plans to use the Firefox web browser as the core platform for Thunderbird. That leaves Thunderbird as one of the few cross-platform mail applications that isn’t an Electron app or based on web technologies in some way — even Microsoft is switching Outlook for Windows to a new web-based architecture. The Android version will have a different codebase, as it’s evolving from the K-9 Mail app that Mozilla acquired.

The next few months and years should be exciting for Thunderbird. You can download the current stable version of Thunderbird from the project’s website.



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Please register using the link on a calendar date or sign-up form on the website if you are planning to attend a class:
www.cccgc.info

For more information

www.cccgc.info

Forms, Supplements, Membership, Classes, Bytes, etc.

The Charlotte County Computer Group Corporation

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.

Articles in the Bytes are courtesy of these Tech Sites

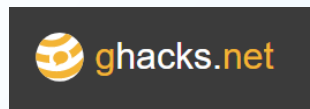
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www.cccgc.info



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News, tips, advice, support for Windows, Office, PCs & more. Tech help. No bull. We're community supported by donations from our Plus Members, and proud of it