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

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Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Next Monthly Meeting
August 4, 2025

Family Services Center
21500 Gibralter Drive
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Click Here For Directions

3:00-4:00 Q&A Session
4:00-5:00 Presentation

Zoom Link

Summer office hours
are in effect

President's Message
Mark Krider

Dear Members of the CCCGC,

Hope all had a great 4th of July!

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on recent developments and share some updates with you.

Windows 10's end of life looms

The official end-of-support date for Windows 10 is October 14, 2025. After this date, Microsoft will no longer provide security updates or technical assistance for the operating system. To assist in preparation, the August presentation will discuss possible options. We will also touch on the latest Windows 11 update fails. There are some reports of the July update either failing completely (not even reaching the reboot phase) or getting stuck before hitting 100%. There are other reports of the update actually freezing the PC, requiring a hard reset or of an installation failure itself, whereby the update appears to work, but upon rebooting , Windows 11 ends up rolling back the upgrade (with an error) or they get the amazing disappearing Task Bar (which I experienced!).

Website Update

We continue to update and improve the CCCGC website. A new tab was added to provide "Useful Links" where you can find links to the Monthly Favorites, Past Presentations, Software /Tools, and APCUG information. The updated site and its new features can be explored at CCCGC.INFO.

Summer Office Hours

A reminder of CCCGC summer office hours are in effect till September 1st. Office hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10 AM to 2 PM. Members are encouraged to schedule appointments to ensure their needs can be accommodated during this period.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with CCCGC. And when you have the opportunity thank the Volunteers that keep CCCGC operating!

Warm regards,
Mark Krider
President, CCCGC

The Dog Days Of Summer - August 2025

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Welcome New Members

Carolyn McConnell	Peggy Boutelle	Gary Korenstra
Judy Korenstra	Linda Wilkinson	William Meyer
Dawn Toomey-Meyer		

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.

2025 Officers & Directors

**President
Mark Krider**
cccgcpresident@gmail.com

**Vice President
Jane McDonald**
cccgcvp@gmail.com

**Secretary
Ron Muschong**
cccgcsecretary@gmail.com

**Treasurer
Lydia Rist**
cccgctreasurer@gmail.com

Rosemary Sexton

Shirley Hammond

Vera Hendricks

Janice Krumwiede

Fran Robitaille

It is a pleasure to serve you in 2025 thru classes, presentations and individual assistance.

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

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Charlotte County Computer Group (CCCGC) Needs Volunteers!

If you love technology, we need your help in any of these areas: teaching, presenting, troubleshooting, hardware, software and leadership of the organization. General office help is also needed. We can use your help.

CCCGC is a nonprofit with the mission to promote computer literacy. We are an all-volunteer run agency that refurbishes computers that are then distributed to non-profits, to students, and Veterans. Members can drop off their computers for repair and they can stop by our office if they have a computer challenge. Monthly, we provide computer classes and technical presentations.

Please call CCCGC for more information at
941-585-0356

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Charlotte Bytes

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July 7, 2025 General Meeting

Regular Session

July's Presentation

July's presentation, by Mark Krider, was all about Passkeys. What they are and how they work. Passkeys look like they are going to replace passwords over time. A couple of examples of Passkeys would be facial recognition and fingerprints. We already do a lot of that on our phones. Computers are a little more complicated because many don't have fingerprint readers and most desktops have cameras that may not work with facial recognition. I bought what I thought was a decent webcam for my desktop and found out later that facial recognition won't work with it. Only certain webcams appear to have the specifications to allow facial recognition. Microsoft's system is called Windows Hello. With the right camera, Windows will use facial recognition to log you in. Here's an article about Windows Hello and cameras.

https://tinyurl.com/hjrrermk

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July 7, 2025 General Meeting

Regular Session

July's Presentation

Passkeys continued

One other choice for a possible passkey that seems to come up is simply using a pin to authenticate a device. For the longest time I thought, what's the difference, a pin or a password but I think what makes a pin work is that it becomes a passkey for that device only, I think. I'll have to test that theory out.

Here's the YouTube video explaining Passkeys.

https://tinyurl.com/3j73uy39

Here's a PDF version of the same thing.

https://askleo.com/what-is-a-passkey/

Yes, it's still confusing.

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Member Drawings

July 7, 2025

Attendance at the July 2025 meeting was 25 members.

Linda Wilkinson, a new member, was
the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing.
She won about $30.

Marie Mayberry won the $25
Amazon gift card.

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Future Events & Presentations

August 2025 CCCGC Classes & Programs

August   4   **Family Services Center**
        Monthly Meeting
        3-5 PM
        Zoom Link

August   14   **Windows Open Forum**
        2-4 PM
        Mark Krider

August   21   **Maintenance & Backup**
        2-4PM
        Lydia Rist

August   28   **Board of Directors Meeting**
        2PM
        Zoom Link

August 28   **Board of Director Meeting**
                  2:00 pm
                  514 E Grace St, Punta Gorda
                  CCCGC Board Meeting Zoom Link

apcug   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 <u>must</u> 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

Please register for a class by first clicking on this link.

Events

Next, click on the desired class on the date you wish to attend. Finally, click on and complete the RSVP form.

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Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info

Everything you always wanted to know about hard drives but were afraid to ask.

Hard drives have come a long way over the years. Size, capacity and speed/performance have all changed dramatically. Today, many new computers come with what's called an M.2, NVME drive. The drive is about the size of a stick of gum. They're fast, very fast.

To get a visual idea of how far we've come, here's an article by Urvika Tuteja of Stellar Information Technology discussing the evolution of hard drives.
The NVME drive mentioned earlier, as well as SSD's, are considered flash memory and are in a different category than traditional, mechanical hard drives.

Maybe next month we'll have a quiz to see if anybody looked at this article and if anyone can answer a question that I ask about the article, we'll dig up some sort of a prize for them.

https://www.stellarinfo.co.in/hdd/history-evolution-of-hard-disk-drive.php

Here's the story of the evolution of flash memory by Jha Nivedita also of Stellar.

https://tinyurl.com/ycxkkckz

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Tech Info

Here's an article from Yasir Mahmood of MUO or Make Use Of detailing the six things you should never do to your HDD.

https://tinyurl.com/3fm3kn6f

Two comments. First, you should never fill up an SSD. It wears out the drive more quickly. Second, never defrag an SSD. That also wears out an SSD. Solid state drives only get so many read/write cycles. They get a lot but it's not infinite. Filling up an SSD doesn't leave a cushion for future data. Buy a larger drive than you need. It will last a lot longer.

Finally, here's another article by Yasir Mahmood detailing 6 free tools that you can use to gauge the health of your hard drive. Some are more complicated than others.

https://tinyurl.com/59dr55na

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Tech Info

Windows 11 notification settings you should review

This was in the June 2025 issue of the Bytes. I think it's worth repeating. If you're new to Windows 11 or have never looked at any of these settings, they're worth checking out. It should make for a more pleasant user experience.

Windows 11 comes with many default settings that allow various notifications to show up on your computer. Some are valuable others are simply Microsoft advertisements. Here are some of the notification settings you should review and possibly change. I turn most of them off.

1. Settings/Privacy and Security/General

2. Settings/Privacy and Security/Account Info

3. Settings/System/Notifications - for individual apps - most off

4. Settings/System/Notifications then all the way down to Additional Settings

The last one is the one you need to change to stop Microsoft from advertising on your computer.

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Final Thoughts

When Windows 10 support ends in October of this year, should we be worried? I don't think so. Note that Microsoft has said that support for Windows Defender (antivirus) will continue until at least 2028. That's important.

Here's a brief video explaining why the world won't end come October because Microsoft has stopped support for Windows 10.

https://tinyurl.com/4wb2ktz5

Microsoft has also said they would continue support for at least an additional year for a price. I believe the amount is $30 for one year. Several other possibilities have also been proposed to pay for that additional year. One would be to setup OneDrive to backup some of your computer. We'll have to watch this to see what the requirements are. The third possibility mentioned is to use Microsoft Rewards points to pay for a year. My first reaction was that I don't have any points because I don't use Edge or Bing and use only the free OneDrive account. To my surprise, when I checked my Microsoft account I found I had 2200 points. The number I believe I saw was 1000 points per computer. I was shocked. So, go to Microsoft.com. Log into your account. Click on All Microsoft (top right) then Microsoft Rewards and once there, click on Go To The Dashboard to see your points. You might be pleasantly surprised and possibly get a year of free updates.

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Final Thoughts

APCUG - What is it?

The APCUG is an association of computer and technology user groups. The Charlotte County Computer Group is a member. In turn, as a member of CCCGC, you have access to APCUG benefits. The most obvious are periodic Wednesday and Saturday Zoom calls on various technology and computer related topics. The sessions are very informative and participants get the opportunity to ask questions. Recent sessions have been about Virtual Machines, Custom Text Tones for your smart phone, Google Docs and Linux.

To be invited to sign up for Zoom sessions you must first register with APCUG. You must also be a member of the CCCGC.

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Final Thoughts

APCUG - What is it? (Continued)

Here's a link to sign up with APCUG to start getting invitations to their workshops. Remember, you must be a member of CCCGC.

http://eepurl.com/hp90DP

Once you are signed up, you will begin to receive emailed registration forms for the upcoming sessions which you must complete and submit. These forms must be completed for each session. Here are several APCUG related links.

www.apcug2.org

www.facebook.com/APCUG

www.youtube.com/apcugvideos

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Final Thoughts

APCUG - What is it? (Continued)

Finally, here's a rough outline of the schedule that the APCUG follows for its meetings.

Wednesday Workshops are held on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month. The 3rd Wednesday Workshop of each month is about Linux while the other two Wednesdays are about general technology topics.

The Saturday Safaris are held 4 times a year in February, May, August, and November.

Contact me if you have any questions. webmaster@cccgc.info

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Events
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For more information

www.cccgc.info

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

We're on the Web www.cccgc.info

apcug

An International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups

TechRegar just tech stuff

dotTech

Digital Citizen

ghacks.net

The How-To Geek Daily Article
Daily Computer Help from your Friendly How-To Geek

makeuseof

DavesComputerTips

INTO WINDOWS

AskWoody
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