

Club Bytes



Brought to you by the Lake Gaston Computer Club

While the Computer Club is on hiatus due to Covid-19 we decided a monthly informational letter (it's becoming an epistle) that would let the members know you have not been forgotten. So, until the club can get back together face-to-face you will be getting "Club Bytes" from us on all sorts of computer related issues that might have been meeting topics and more. There will also be some fun topics too.

Gus Best, Paul Bernard and Nancy Nicholson (contributing geeks). Since we may run out of brain power, other club members will be tapped to be contributing geeks too.



Word of The Month

Li-Fi: Light-Fidelity is a mobile wireless technology that uses light rather than radio frequencies (Wi-Fi) to transmit data. The technology is supported by a global ecosystem of companies driving the adoption of Li-Fi, the next generation of wireless that is ready for seamless integration into the 5G core. I am curious how they are going to beam up my cell phone signal inside my pocketbook. If you are curious too check out this link. <https://purelifi.com/lifi-technology/>



Apple TidBits

The big news from Apple is that they are going to start transitioning away from Intel chips to its own chips which will bring a whole new level of performance with more powerful Macs that are more energy efficient. Better performance is its main goal which will further boost the Mac's capabilities and make it stand out from the competition. This switch in processors will have some pluses and minuses. Not all types will be changed at once. Maintaining compatibility of the Intel based Macs is important for the time being and there will probably be bumps in the road. At least for now it looks they will sell some Mac's with Intel chips and others with their own chip. Down the road the price of some Mac's should lower while still allowing Apple to develop capabilities that are not possible with Intel chips.

You can now buy the iPhone SE starting at \$399. It comes with a 4.7" Retina HD display. The iPhone XR which I use has a 6.1 Liquid Retina display and starts at \$599. The new iPhone 12's will be coming this fall. Rumor is that there are four new phones with all OLED displays and 5G connectivity and the new A14 chip. Prices starting at \$649. The Apple Watch 6 is also coming this fall and a low-cost iPad is rumored. Mac OS Big Sur will be macOS 11.0 will also be released this fall. Safari, Mac's web browser will be getting a major rework, I cannot wait to see it. Apple's reliability and resistance to malware will remain some its most important aspects. There is a world of difference between the Mac and the Microsoft PC when it comes to problems associated with malware.



Android Info

Your phones are just as important as your computers. They are your computers too just smaller and need just as much protection and attention. One thing that can save you is turning on your backup. It is usually found under Settings, System, Backup. It should save your contacts, settings, and pictures to the cloud.



Repair Shop

- Open Mondays (8:30am-2:30pm) except major holidays for curbside drop-off and pickup of computers/devices. **No walk-ins will be allowed.** The shop door will be locked, and members must call when in the parking lot for drop-off and pickup. All drop-offs must include member's name, phone #, log-in information and a description of the problem/issue.
- **Appointments** will be accepted for member assistance remotely over the phone and will make use of the Windows Quick Assist app if necessary. The Quick Assist app allows a shop technician to access a customer's computer remotely to troubleshoot, diagnose and resolve issues.
- If assistance remotely is not feasible and a more hands-on approach is necessary, appointments will also be accepted for in-person service at the shop. **You must have an appointment and wear a mask to enter the shop.** Call **252-586-9919** when you arrive for your appointment.

There will only be a limited number of appointments that can be accommodated, and they will be granted up until 1:30pm on a first come, first serve basis. Please accept our apologies if same day service cannot be granted.

Email: repair.shop@lakegastoncc.org to schedule an appointment. We are working with reduced staff.



Are You Leaving Behind Too Much Digital Exhaust?

Written for NortonLifeLock

While driving on the information superhighway, you search, fill out forms, chat, shop and are generally very social. All that digital traveling can leave behind something known as digital exhaust, which can tell others where you have been, what you like and more. If you are not careful, digital exhaust can illuminate a trail that leads right back to you.

Digital exhaust is the stream of personal information left behind the web user, which is similar to the way car exhaust streams behind the motorist. The more actions you take online, the more potential exists to grow your digital exhaust, and in some ways, it can be traced back to you. Before you unintentionally share too much of your information, be aware of how much digital exhaust you're leaving behind.



Social Media

Whether you voice an opinion about a business or politics, post a photo of a pet or like a series of photos, your personal information can be used by data stalkers or hackers to generate phishing attacks against you. Log out of your accounts.



Geo-Position Tags

Many apps, cell phone companies, and websites may log the GPS information of your geo-coordinates kept by apps and websites for future use. Geo-Location can be turned on and off through web browsing settings.



Online Forms

Many businesses survey prospective customers by asking them to complete online forms to gain knowledge about them. The information you provide can be tracked and saved for sales, marketing or research.



Search History

It is legal for Internet companies to sell your search history. What you search may not remain private unless you either use Dark Mode (Incognito) or a VPN, your search engines become a research engine for broadband companies.



Cookies

Online cookies are files that help websites track your online activity to provide a personalized experience. Cybercriminals can access cookie data that logs you into websites and steal your identity. You can easily delete or set expiration dates for your cookies.

Digital exhaust can dissipate to harmless market research or be sucked up by cybercriminals. New methods of persistently storing and tracking data are always in development, but security experts are constantly working on ways to remove them. Maintaining excellent digital security and privacy practices such as using a software, which offers real-time device protection, secure VPN, and dark web monitoring, can help provide protection.



Botnet Emotet Attacks

Gmail users need to be alert after multiple researchers revealed **Emotet**, arguably the most damaging botnet, has returned to attack email accounts five months after it was last seen. As reported by [Ars Technica](#), researchers discovered **Emotet** sent out over 250,000 messages on 7/19/2020 alone as it attempts to install [ransomware](#), [trojan](#) access to your bank accounts and multiple types of malware. Typically, these attacks take the form of malicious attachments or links which, when opened, install **Emotet's** backdoor on your

computer. **Emotet** previously delivered 1.8M messages in February and, before that, surfaced in May and September 2019. Consequently, the pattern of attacks tends to be short but intense. **Emotet** can target any email service but, given Gmail's [recent spam filter problems](#), users should be particularly alert if they spot suspicious looking emails in their inbox.



What's in your computer?

The Capital One Banking advertising you've seen on TV ends with the comment "What's in your wallet?"

With reference to Microsoft's Windows 10 update status maybe the question "What's in your computer?" would be appropriate. Major updates are issued twice a year and subsequent updates are published every month on the second Tuesday. The Major updates are identified by year and month of issue, Version 1909 indicates that the update was issued in 2019 and in September. The latest update is 2004. This shows that it was released in 2020 and in April.

Everyone should periodically check to see if they are up to date, this can be done by opening the Windows search bar and typing in "WINVER" and hit the "Enter" key. This will open a dialog box that will show the Version presently installed in the computer. If you do not have Version 2004, go to the "Update & Security" section of the "Settings" Panel. The Update section can also be opened by just typing "update" in the search bar and select "Enter". Once in the "Windows Update" section just select "Check for updates". This procedure should be done at least monthly to ensure updates are downloaded and installed. Microsoft's procedure is that the updates will be done automatically, but that does not always happen due to factors such as power settings in the computer.

This Update section not only shows the Versions to be updated but Microsoft will also download and install updates for security, flash player and framework portions of Windows 10 if they are scheduled for installation.

So, the question is still a good one, "What's in your computer"?



I didn't know!

If you used a computer between 1997 and 2005, you probably burned valuable data to at least one [recordable CD](#) (CD-R) or DVD-R. Unfortunately, these have a limited lifespan, and many have already become unreadable. That's why it's important to back up your recordable discs before it's too late—here's how to do it.

<https://www.howtogeek.com/682807/the-cds-you-burned-are-going-bad-heres-what-you-need-to-do/>

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