



Happy Birthday, America

We're starting to show our age at 235, but we're still moving forward. Even with all the bruises and scratches and missteps and mistakes along the way, we're still the best the world has to offer. Let's keep it that way.



At the June meeting we held a layman's course on internet browsers. Jim directed the mouse and showed five browsers in their order of popularity. Naturally, after warning the assembly of the propensity of the latest version of Firefox to crash, it promptly crashed. So not much time was spent on it. Although we did revisit it after Safari.

I don't have the space here to go into detail of all the new features of each browser but I'll try to give you an brief overview of each.

In the halcyon days of the internet, Netscape was *the* browser. It was the first to provide graphical images. On-line Service Providers like AOL, CompuServe and a few others used Netscape, in a modified format, as their portal. Then Microsoft got in the game. It's sole purpose was to overtake Netscape and become the premier browser. Internet Explorer came bundled with Windows whereas one had to download Netscape separately.

In just a few short years Netscape fell to second place among browser users. This came about because of a combination of Mi-

crosoft's aggressive marketing and Netscape coming out with a new, but klutzy version. It was so bad, in fact, that users abandoned it in droves.

It eventually ceased to exist in its previous form and was reincarnated at Mozilla's Firefox. Like it's predecessor, Firefox is currently the second most popular internet browser on the planet.

Microsoft Internet Explorer version 9 was released recently. It is getting mixed reports, but for the most part is becoming more accepted. And, in keeping with the Microsoft bashing, there is a tongue in cheek motivational poster going around the internet that states,



"Microsoft Internet Explorer 9. The New Internet Explorer.

Allows you to download Firefox or Chrome even faster."

This version of IE seems to be more stable and faster than IE8. I did have problems with some unknown add-ons that crash IE9 on my notebook but clicking through the Cancel buttons it loaded and worked just fine. You can start IE without add-ons by going into Programs, Accessories, System Tools and clicking on Internet Explorer (No add-ons) if you experience this problem.

Subsequent updates have eliminated that problem. I think it might have been a Java utility.

IE9 doesn't work in XP. You have to have Vista or Win7.

IE9 uses a gear icon to get you the drop down menu to make any adjustments you want. It has a pin to task bar feature which is kind of neat, and useful, if you visit the same site(s) often. Open the site you want, drag the browser tab to your task bar and it will pin that link. Then all you have to do is one-click to go to the page. You don't have to open the browser first.

Mozilla Firefox is an open source browser, which means, anyone who can write a utility that enhances or adds to Firefox can submit it and if approved, will be released for free use. In Firefox, click on Tools, Add-ons to see which ones are already installed and click on the Get Add-ons button to scroll the massive list of those available for installation.



These add-ons, for all the browsers, can be compared to the apps for the Smart phone. You've most likely heard the phrase, "There's an app for that.", right? Well, there is an add-on, too.

Google Chrome is becoming very popular because it is can inte-

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(Continued from page 1) *Smartphones*

grate with all the other Google features. I just wish they'd change their icon. It looks like a colorful Roomba to me.



Chrome has a slimmed down look. The wrench sits all alone at the top right next to the address bar (Omnibar in Chromese). Click on the wrench and you get a drop down menu that allows you to open new tabs or windows; copy and paste; open a privacy session (incognito page) and manage your bookmarks.

The Options choice has even more user configurable features in three sections: Basic, Personal and Under the Hood. In these areas you can set home page; manage passwords, and do internet searches. Import bookmarks and settings from other browsers. Sync with your other computers. You can print to Google Cloud as well.



Opera is from Norway and is the smallest (in size) and nearly the fastest (in speed) of all the browsers and claims to be the safest. Because it too is an open source program it has the look and feel of Firefox in some areas. But, and this is

important, it doesn't crash like Firefox.

The Opera icon in the upper left hand corner is also the drop down menu to get you started. You can open a private tab or private window. Maintain your mail and chat accounts. Synchronize data and Opera Unite lets you upload files and webcam videos to be viewed by anyone you chose as long as you send them the unique URL.

And, you can talk to Opera. With the voice option installed you can browse the internet by giving voice commands to Opera. You can tell it which page to open; highlight text and have it read to you

With a mini- and mobile-version you can have it on your tablet or phone.

Many, many more features you might want to check out.



Safari from Apple is by far the most attractive in appearance of all the browsers. It claims to be the fastest of them all. It works on the PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch.

All of these browsers have similar features, such as,

Tabs—You can have numerous web pages open but in a tabbed format so you can merely click on the tab you want to view the page.

Private surfing—This feature allows you to open a web page or new window and when closed ALL evidence of you every being there is deleted from your computer. Nothing is saved from that session. You can switch between private and non-private pages, but you probably don't want to lest you enter, in a wrong window, something you wanted to keep pri-

vate.

Search engines—any search engine you prefer can be made the default. You partial to Google? Then set it as the primary search engine.

History—this feature keeps track of where you have been surfing, except for private sessions as mentioned above, and lets you click to go back to that page. History can be deleted by you or retained for as long as you want. Firefox lets you open closed windows and pages.

Synchronization—Sync with your other computers, Smartphones and the like.

The similarities are many but each has its own way of performing. You'd have to give them a try to really appreciate their respective features.

You can download and have them all on your computer without running into difficulties. I had all five open at one time on the notebook and only saw a slight decline in the system performance but that is due to the limitations of my notebook.

Happy surfing.

Jim

You can download the browsers from the sites listed below. The tinyurl one is Google Chrome.

<http://www.ieaddons.com/en/>

<http://www.mozilla.org/>

<http://tinyurl.com/44glht3>

<http://www.opera.com/>

<http://www.apple.com/safari/>



The July meeting will be help on the 9th due to the activities planned for the Independence Day weekend.

CONVERTING DOCUMENTS TO PDF



by Wayne Comstock,
Member, South
Walton Computer &
Technology Club,
Florida

One technique I frequently use to save an online article or publication is to convert and save it as a PDF file. Once converted, Adobe Reader software then becomes an excellent way to open, view and read any converted document off of your computer screen. PDF documents can also be easily emailed to others as an attachment.

You can convert to PDF from any file you can print, including Microsoft Word, Works, Excel, PowerPoint and digital pictures. Rather than being printed ink to paper the file becomes a PDF file. If the document is already a paged PDF file you can convert the file to just the pages you select and select your PrimoPDF printer to convert.

You will need PDF conversion software to accomplish this. I recommend the Free PrimoPDF program. It's free, easily installed and available at:

WWW.PRIMOPDF.COM/INDEX.ASPX
Downloaded 15,000,000+ times.

PrimoPDF is the world's most popular free PDF creator.

1. Browse Primo web site and download one of the two installers available for 32 and 64-bit versions of Windows. Ensure that the version you download corresponds to your operating-system.

2. When prompted, select a download location which you can find easily, such as your 'Desktop' or 'My Documents' folder, and click

OK.

3. When the download is complete, double-click the file named Free-warePrimoPDFXX.exe (XX being a 2-digit number) which would have appeared in the location you selected in the previous step.

4. Follow the simple instructions to complete the installation. A system-restart is NOT required.

PrimoPDF installs itself as a virtual printer in the Windows Printers and Faxes device group. This allows any software with print functionality to output files to PrimoPDF for quick and easy PDF conversion.

To Convert a Document to PDF:

1. Open a document in any printable program (e.g. Microsoft Word, Works etc.), and select File >Print.
2. In the printer dialog, select PrimoPDF from the dropdown menu and click OK to complete the print, and launch the PrimoPDF interface.
3. Select one of the Creation Profiles for the document Quality you need to achieve. A detailed explanation can be found in the PDF Creation profiles section of this guide. Point your cursor at each button to define.
4. Select the Save As dropdown menu to set a name and location for the created PDF.

- Ask when creating PDF – Allows you to rename the PDF and select a save-location.

- Specific Folder – Allows you to select a save-location while using the name of the document which is being converted. This option returns you to the PrimoPDF interface should you wish to change other settings for the same conversion.

5. Click the Create PDF button to convert your document.

6. Alternatively, if you wish to save the PDF under a different name of directory, just click Cancel and you

will be returned to the Save As dialog. There are many more options and features available.

(Appending a PDF) Go to the web site below and download the PDF Pimeo detailed User Guide for instructions.

http://www.primopdf.com/pdfs/PrimoPDF_V5_User_Guide.pdf

Easily view, print, and collaborate on PDF files with free Adobe Reader X software.

Adobe Reader software is the global standard for electronic document sharing. It is the only PDF file viewer that can open and interact with all PDF documents. Use Adobe Reader to view, search, digitally sign, verify, print, and collaborate on Adobe.



Ed. Note.: The authors of PrimoPDF, Nitro, started in Australia and is HQ'd in SFran. Maybe that's why there's a surf board in their logo.

This is just one of the articles in the May e-PUSH e-zine. We receive these monthly.

Computer users from around the world contribute articles of interest for publication.

The full May e-PUSH issue, along with previous issues, can be found on our website. Lots of good stuff in each issue.

Go to our site and click on the APCUG e-PUSH link. Enjoy.



Prez Lou

Read and all of Lou's previous columns, @ Oceanic Around Town. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/363qew>

Da Prez Sez column is on hiatus until further notice. Lou and his column will return in the near future.



HTTPS?
WWW?

Glossary of computer and internet terms and abbreviations

Modem?

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—Program Directors—

Herman Jordan and Bear Maher

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Contact info is on our web site

www.the-tug.org

You've seen and heard most of these while using your computer and surfing the internet. I thought I'd consolidate a few of them into the newsletter so you have a mini-reference handy when needed.

Of course, you could do a search on line, as I did, to find these but, why not have this "at the ready" when you are not near a computer? So, for your edification, here is a Glossary of Terms, not in any particular order.

ISP—Internet Service Provider. The company you pay for access to the web.

WI-Fi—wireless method of communicating

HDD—Hard Disk Drive. The device on your computer that stores the operating system, programs and all your data for easy access.

DVD—Digital Video Drive used to read and write files, videos, music, movies, etc.

RAM—Random Access Memory. The "chips" on the motherboard that allow more programs to run.

WTF—Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, on any calendar printed in English. In some instances, an off-color exclamation when your computer crashes at an inopportune time.

MODEM—Modulator/Demodulator. The device that brings a signal into your computer and decodes it so you can see it on your screen. The device your ISP sets up for you upon initial installation.

HTML—Hyper-Text Markup Language. This is the language that Web pages are written in.

HTTP—HyperText Transfer Protocol. This is the protocol used to transfer data over the World Wide Web.

HTTPS—HyperText Transport Protocol Secure is the same thing as HTTP, but uses a secure socket layer.

Bandwidth— refers to how much data you can send through a network or modem connection. It is usually measured in bits per second, or "bps."

Cloud computing—is a general term used to describe Internet services. These include social network services, backup services and applications that run within a web browser.

Path—also known as a "file path" or "directory path," defines the location of a file or folder.

Plug and Play—sometimes, abbreviated PnP, is a catchy phrase used to describe devices that work with a computer system as soon as they are connected. In the early stages of its development the PnP was sardonically referred to as "Plug and Pray".

Piracy—When someone installs and uses commercial software without paying for the program, it is called "pirating" the software. This name comes from the traditional meaning of the word "pirate," which is a sea-faring criminal that steals and loots belongings from others.

WADITWB—We always did it that way before. Used mostly on line but voiced by many a staff officer when the new boss wanted to change an established procedure.

GOLF—Gentleman Only, Ladies Forbidden. Humorous acronym for the not so humorous game. Yes, it found it's way to the chat world.

GTRDUN— Git 'er dun. Larry the Cable Guy is popular in the chat rooms as well.

P911—Parent alert! Used mostly be those teenagers and adolescents who are on line in a chat room they shouldn't be visiting.

If you look at some of the chat acronyms, you'll find that most are innocuous but many can be offensive. The younger set thinks it's "kewl" to be texting and typing some of these thoughts, which can only be classified as vulgar, because they think they are talking with their peers. That may not always be the case.

If you'd like to while away an hour, or so, you can see the entire computer and internet list by visiting <http://www.sharpened.net/> and click on the Glossary tab.

Other tabs of interest are the Emoticons; Chat Acronyms; File Extensions, and Resources for keyboard shortcuts, internet tools and more.

Aloha, Jim