THE TUG

MOAA Hawai'i Aloha Chapter Computer User Group

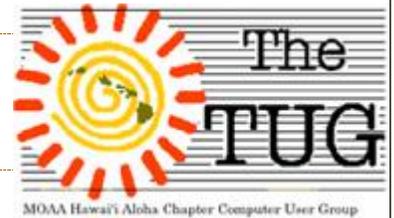## Happy Birthday America!

242 years filled with unbelievable accomplishments; disastrous policy mistakes; population growth; wars and peace; social unrest and social tranquility; forces trying to disrupt this experiment in liberty but equal forces striving to keep it together. With all the problems past, present and future, the good ole US of A is still going strong. *God Bless America*.

Our difficulty getting the OVC wi-fi to cooperate with us continues. We were able to connect, but the signal kept dropping out. According to the folks at OVC, the router is directly overhead from us but the signal strength is minimal at best. So, thanks to the good graces of Dave Bertao we were able to get on line to conduct business. Dave has an iPhone with a built-in hot spot. He allowed us to connect and burn up his data plan. We offered to reimburse him for any overages. Mahalo Dave.

Our business consisted of checking out the many alternative software applications to the Microsoft Office suite. Using https://fossbytes.com/best-alternatives-microsoft-office/ as a reference, we looked at seven applications that similar to Office.

Google Docs, a cloud based set of tools that are free and need no installation on your computer. Google Docs has a word processor, presentation and spreadsheet applications. Drawings and Forms are also a part of the suite. Ease of access, if you have a Google account and an internet connection you can access Google Docs anywhere in the world.

Libre Office is the hands down preferred alternative. LibreOffice has a word processor; spreadsheet; presentation; database; diagram maker and formula editor applications in dozens of languages.

This is also free software. LibreOffice is compatible with and can open many file formats.

Office Online, a rarity, in that it's from Microsoft and it's free. With a Microsoft account you log in and access popular apps, such as, Word, Excel, PowerPoint (or Sway as it's called) and One Note. There is a total of 10 apps available for use.

WPS Office, Another one in the 'best' alternative category. Free, but with non-interrupting ads.

Dropbox Paper, Dropbox used to be a place where you could store your docs. Now you can create, edit and enjoy many of the project management features.

There are a number of more alternatives out there, if you don't want to spring for the price of MS Office, you might want to check these, and the others, for adaptability to your needs. Libre Office, for one, will accept donations to keep the programmers programming to improve the application.

Terry Mayeda brought this to my attention at the last meeting but we didn't have time to cover it. I was going to send out an email with this information but thought I would get better coverage via the newsletter. So, Thanks to Terry for this lead and I suggest everyone take a look. Even though you might be akamai in the basics, a refresher never hurts.

https://stopthinkconnect.org is a site that provides basic web safety tips. Here's their mission statement:

STOP. THINK. CONNECT.™ is the global online safety awareness campaign to help all digital citizens stay safer and more secure online. The message was created by an unprecedented coalition of private companies, non-profits and government organizations with leadership provided by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and the APWG. The campaign was launched in October of 2010 by the STOP. THINK. CONNECT. Messaging Convention in partnership with the U.S. government, including the White House. NCSA, in partnership with the APWG, continue to lead the campaign. The Department of Homeland Security leads the federal engagement in the campaign.

Goals and Objectives
We will encourage all Internet users to be more vigilant about practicing safe, online habits; ensure that Internet safety is perceived as a shared responsibility at home, in the workplace, and throughout our communities; and transform the way the public and private sectors and the U.S. federal government collaborate to make cybersecurity a reality.

Our goal is to help people understand not only the risks that come with using the Internet, but also the importance of practicing safe online behavior. Visit the link above for more on this project.

How-To-Geek **https://www.howtogeek.com/**

A couple of months ago I stumbled across this site. One of those that ranks right up there with Dave's Computer Tips, a newsletter I've promoted in the past.

How to Geek starts off each issue with some trivia fact then goes into links to various computer articles and How To's. Very informative for the novice and the expert alike.

I was going to use some of their product in our newsletter but - fortunately – before I did I checked their Terms of Usage and discovered the following, quoted in full:

Using Our Work

We do not allow anyone to republish our articles. This site has taken literally thousands of hours of work to create and maintain, and every single article is original copyrighted content. I understand that in the how-to/tech world there are only so many ways to do something, so we're not trying to imply that you can't write a similar article or quote one of our articles with a link back, but we are saying you can't copy our words and screenshots. Please don't ask. - unquote

So as to avoid litigation, I'm not going to copy any of their articles or photos but I am going to let you know about the site (see above) and give you a short bullet list of what is in the latest (6/24/18) issue:

- · How to archive your data forever
- · How to fix all Windows 10 annoyances
- · 3 Problems with USB-C
- · Android messages for Web
- · 8 Things you might not know about Chromebooks
- · And much, much more.

Just click on the link above to access their exceptional site and to sign up for their free daily newszine subscription.
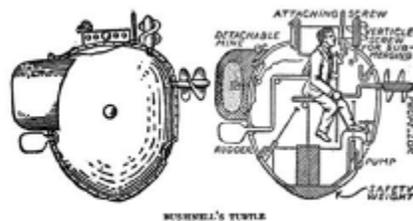
Hottest Tech Trends in 1776

With Thanks to Shelly Palmer for this look at some Tech in 1776!

"A little more than 240 years ago, our forefathers used the best technology available to inspire colonial proto-Americans to revolt against King George. At that time, the "best" technology available was the printing press and the "best" social network required the use of "word of mouth" in Public Houses. Grog was the lubricant that facilitated this communication and the rest, as they say, is history.

But while all this was going on, there were a bunch of entrepreneurs and a few startups that changed the world. In the 1770s, America was a relatively low tech, agrarian society, but as you can see from the list below, all that was about to change. So here, for your Independence Day reading pleasure, are some tech trends circa 1776."

Underwater Warfare

The Submarine – A ship called "The Turtle" was invented by David Bushnell to secretly attach explosives to the undersides of British ships without being noticed. George Washington wasn't a fan of The Turtle (he thought it was "ungentlemanly"), but still okay'd its use – only to see it unsuccessful in its three attempts to destroy British ships. While "The Turtle" wasn't a success in and of itself, it was promising enough to lead to further research and development that would one day yield effective underwater vessels.

Underwater Exploration

Scuba – Englishman Andrew Becker created a leather-covered diving suit, complete with a helmet that featured a window and a series of tubes for breathing. Becker showed off his device in the River Thames in London, where he was able to breathe underwater for an hour. Around the same time, a French inventor named Fréminet had designed a compressed air reservoir as part of a breathing machine that dragged along behind a diver or mounted on his back. Becker and Fréminet's inventions were examples of the earliest scuba gear. At the same time, Charles Spalding (of Scotland) developed an improvement to the diving bell by adding a system of balance-weights to make raising and lowering the bell easier.

High Tech Major Appliances

The Kitchen Stove – The Franklin stove, a metal-lined fireplace designed by Benjamin Franklin, was all the rage! Its original purpose was to heat a home during especially brutal New England winters. But the Franklin stove revolutionized home cooking because it allowed families to cook over an open fire without dealing with the smoke that traditionally accompanied that process. Up until Franklin's inventions, most meat was cooked on a turnspit.
Kitchens in the 18th century also saw a lot of improvements because of rolled sheet iron. Better utensils, fire grates, and the clockwork spit all became possible thanks to this "advanced" metalwork.

Electricity

The Lightning Rod – Another one of Franklin's inventions from the same era would forever change the world of power and energy. In 1749, Franklin invented the lightning rod. Other scientists shared his theory about a link between electricity and lightning, but Franklin's invention allowed him to be the first to test his hypothesis. His invention saved thousands of lives

and millions of dollars worth of buildings. Back then, a lightning strike usually resulted in a conflagration.
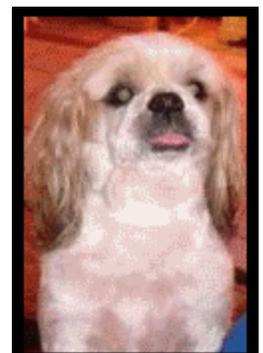
Mechanical Motion

Steam Engines – While mankind has used boiling water to produce mechanical motion for thousands of years, the first steam engine wasn't patented until 1606. Thomas Newcomen designed the first commercially successful steam engine in the early 1700s, but it was relatively inefficient and used mainly for pumping water. In 1769, James Watt developed an improved version of Newcomen's engine by adding a separate condenser. Watt continued to work on his design over the next several years, ultimately improving it enough to turn it into a valuable device for manufacturing and helping advance the Industrial Revolution.

There are some who believe, myself included, that harnessing steam power was the single most impactful technological advancement in history – it allowed humans to multiply the power of their muscles by thousands of times. We are on the cusp of the next great transition as we teach machines to multiply the power of our brains by millions or billions of times.

Yup, I was surprised too, so go out and watch the fireworks, but be safe if you decide to do some on your own.

Aloha,
Lou, and in spirit, Pooky

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