

***THE
GIGABYTE
GAZETTE***

The Monthly Newsletter
of the
***SUN CITY SUMMERLIN
COMPUTER CLUB***

<https://www.scscclub.com>

March, 2023

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President's Message

March Winds

by Jeff Wilkinson

Here we are in the third month of a new year already! Your Board of Directors has approved a [budget](#) for 2023 and the membership will vote on it at our April General Meeting. It includes funds to improve our Zoom Hybrid meeting capability and also funds to purchase a Ring doorbell and camera to help in preparation for a class on these devices. The first class will be on March 9, in cooperation with **NPT** (**N**eighborhood **P**reparedness **T**eam). These video doorbells and cameras are very popular here in our community. According to Metro PD, they are a positive deterrent to crimes, allowing us to have one of the lowest crime rates in the city. Our club plans to provide support to members wishing to get the most out of the many features of these devices.

We continue to look for ways to expand our educational programs and are actively seeking seminar leaders to facilitate discussions on subjects of interest to club members. Are you a travel bug with lots of tips on the best deals, or is photography your thing and you would like to share what you've learned? Would you like to share your knowledge of a particular software application that you've mastered? Help us expand our offerings! Contact pres.scsc@gmail.com or tomburt89134@cox.net for more information or to discuss.

Our popular Repair SIG continues with the installation of Solid State drives a big attraction. You can renew an aging computer substantially by replacing the mechanical hard drive with a solid-state hard drive. With prices so reasonable it's a real cost-effective upgrade.

Your input is always solicited and welcomed as we strive to make our club a helpful resource to our community members.

Stay Safe!

Jeff Wilkinson, President
(702) 527-4056 [***pres.scsc@gmail.com***](mailto:pres.scsc@gmail.com)

General Membership Meeting

The March General Meeting will be held at **2 PM on Thursday, March 2** at Desert Vista Room 5 and via Zoom webcast only. The program will be an APCUG video “Preserving Digital Photos”.

For Club information: go to www.scsccl.com, contact Jeff Wilkinson, President at (702) 527-4056 or email him at pres.scsccl@gmail.com.

SCSCC Board of Directors Actions

The Computer Club Board of Directors took the following actions on February 8, 2023

George Lobue made a motion that the **minutes of the January 11, 2022 Board Meeting be approved as submitted**. The motion was seconded by Tom Burt and unanimously approved by the Board.

Tom Burt made a **motion** that the **meeting adjourn**. George Lobue **seconded** the motion, and it was unanimously **approved** by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 11 AM.

March 2023 Printable Calendars

To view this month’s printable classroom and lab calendars, click the following hyperlink:

https://www.scsccl.com/Calendars/scsccl_calendar_2023-03Mar.pdf

Submissions Welcome

We are always looking for new information to share with our club members. If you have computer or technical information or tips you would like to share with members of the club, send your articles to editor **Tom Burt** at tomburt89134@cox.net. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

Welcome New Members

The following new 2023 members have joined the Computer Club from January 31, 2022 to February 27, 2023.

Jessica Adelman
Joyce Arnold
Penny Bianconi
Perry Cance
Carl Conti
Irene Denny
David Dick
Mary Fairhurst

Dorothy Hoffman
Jacques Leger
John Lopes
Vicki Lopes
Dennis Nicpon
Kenneth Pignato
Roger Prochazka
Anu Raizada

As of February 27th, the club has 403 paid memberships for 2023.

As of December 31st, the club had 570 paid memberships for 2022.

The Computer Club is now accepting new and renewed memberships for 2023.

Annual dues are \$10 per person.

Special Interest Groups and Kaffee Klatches

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a forum for general discussion on a specific computer related subject. Admission to all SIGs is on a first-come, first-seated basis and is subject to the maximum allowed by fire code regulations. <W>, <L>, <M> or <H> indicate whether a SIG would be of interest to a Windows, Linux, MacOS or Hand-held Device user.

Apple iPhone / iPad Lab <M/H> *Live in the Classroom*

Zane Clark 702-332-5747

First Wednesday, 9 a.m. monthly

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 2023

The lab sessions will be in the usual format, one-on-one help with your questions. Come anytime, leave anytime.

Repair SIG <W/L/M> *Live in the Classroom*

Chuck Hagen (702-418-2614)

Every Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Repair Lab provides **CLUB MEMBERS ONLY** with no-cost assistance for those having upgrades and / or hardware and software problems with their computers. Bring in only your PC tower, your Mac or your laptop and your problems. Our TECH team will give you our best effort. ***Be sure to mark your cables so you can re-connect when you get home.***

Internet Investing <W/M/H> *via Zoom*

Tom Burt (702-341-7095)

3rd Thursday, 9:00 a.m. monthly

Next meeting: Thursday, March 16th

The Internet Investing SIG provides a forum for members interested in using Internet resources for researching and managing investments to meet, discuss, and learn more about the topic. The SIG's target audience is members with intermediate computer skills and investment experience, but all members are welcome.

Kaffee Klatch <W/M/H> *Live in the Classroom and via Zoom*

Jeff Wilkinson (702-527-4056)

Every Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

This Kaffee Klatch is an open, free-form discussion group for all users, from beginning to advanced. KK discussions are not restricted to any one subject, computer platform or computer-knowledge level but should be computer or technology related. We will try to answer your questions, help you keep your systems updated and provide some useful “tips and tricks.”

Windows 10/11 SIG *Live in the Classroom*

Bill Wilkinson (702-233-4977)

First and Third Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

If you are a novice or near-beginner computer user, or if you just want some refresher information together with a refreshing cup of coffee, then jump-start or recharge your computing knowledge by attending these Windows 10/11 SIG / Q&A sessions. At each session, attendees will explore several topics of interest to beginners and near-beginners. The topics are always announced a couple of days in advance via e-mail to SCSCC members who have subscribed to the club’s SCSCCNews mailing list. Each topic is presented in a step-by-step manner and is supported by “how to” notes that can be easily and conveniently downloaded from the SCSCCBKK.org web page. Following each “up front” presentation of one or more topics (approximately 60 minutes in duration), an informal open-ended Question and Answer period takes place for those who wish to participate, listen, reflect, or inquire.

Seminar and Q&A Offerings

The club's educational sessions are being conducted either as Zoom webcasts, live in-person or a hybrid of the two. Check the weekly calendar on the website to see which mode the session is using. Unless explicitly stated, advance registration is not required for these sessions.



Photoshop Elements – Black & White to Color

Wednesday, March 15th at 1 PM

Presenter: Mary Miles

Location: Classroom *Live*

Mary will discuss and demonstrate how to use Photoshop Elements to add color to black and white photos.



Introduction to MS Excel

Thursday, March 30th at 10:00 AM *via Zoom*

Presenter: Tom Burt

This 1½-hour class will introduce you to some of the features of the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program. We'll be using Excel 365/2019, but this material also applies to Excel 2010, 2013 and 2016 and Libre Office Calc.

You will learn the basic terminology of Excel spreadsheets and workbooks, how to set up a simple spreadsheet, how to enter data into a sheet, how to create and work with formulas and how to save a workbook.

After getting our feet on the ground, we will also cover three example applications: "Home Financial Analysis", "Contact List" and "Outliving Your Money?". We'll also save time for your specific MS Excel questions.

The presentation notes and example spreadsheets are available now at:

[https://www.scscclab.com/smnr/MSEExcel Introduction.pdf](https://www.scscclab.com/smnr/MSEExcel%20Introduction.pdf) and
<https://www.scscclab.com/smnr/MSEExcelIntroExamples.zip>

This session will be recorded and posted to the club's website.



Tom's Tech-Notes

Solid State Drives – What's New

Updated from April 2021

Solid State Drives (SSDs) have been around for quite a while. Prices have come down while capacities and performance have gone up. As a result, adding a SSD to an existing system has gone from being a luxury to a practical way to significantly increase the performance of a desktop or laptop.

Here's a link to a good article describing the technology and performance considerations of current SSD technology: <https://www.promax.com/blog/is-it-worth-paying-more-for-an-nvme-vs-ssd>.



SSD capacities have grown from 32 GB to 64GB ten years ago to 256 GB, 512 GB and 1 TB today. If you're flush with cash, you can get a 2 TB, 4 TB or even larger SSD. SSDs are increasingly popular in Network Attached Storage (NAS) devices featuring high-reliability RAID arrays.

Many SSDs are sold as 2.5-inch drives with a built-in SATA drive controller. These drives look to PC hardware and software just like a regular SATA hard disk drive. Most SATA SSDs are rated as SATA III, which can deliver data between the drive and the motherboard at 6 billion bits per second.

Sequential read / write speeds are now up in the range of 500 Megabytes per second for top-line SATA III drives. For random I/O, high end drives are rated at up to 100,000 input/output operations per second. This makes SATA SSDs about 3 times faster than hard disk drives.

In the past seven years, two new SSD PCIE card form factors have begun to supplant the 2.5-inch SATA format. One is a small card that combines the flash memory chips and SATA



controller. It plugs in to a special M.2 socket on the motherboard. To the PC's CPU, it appears as a secondary SATA controller. These cards are recognizable because they have two notches (B+M) in the connector end. Performance is comparable to that of a 2.5 inch SSD, but the card takes up much less space and uses less power. These are now popular in laptop PCs.



The second new form factor is called NVME (Non-volatile Memory Express). A NVME SSD does not include a SATA controller; it is directly connected to the PCIe data bus of the motherboard via a simple memory controller

interface. The NVME SSD card also plugs in to a M.2 socket on the motherboard. The NVME SSD card only has a single notch (M only) in the connector end.

For more details on the M.2 slot, see the following:

<https://www.howtogeek.com/320421/what-is-the-m.2-expansion-slot/>.

Top line NVME SSDs like the Samsung 980 Pro above can read data at up to 7000 megabytes (56 gigabits) per second if installed on a motherboard supporting PCIe 4.0. This is about 12 times faster than a SATA hard drive. Currently, the 1TB 980 Pro unit retails on sale at Amazon for about \$110. A mid-range unit like the 1TB Samsung 980 EVO (PCIe 3.0) retails on sale at Amazon for about \$80 and can read at up to 3500 megabytes (28 gigabits) per second.

What makes the big performance difference in SSDs is that they can access a block of data anywhere in the drive's memory instantly. By contrast, a hard disk drive must position the read / write heads to the correct track and then wait for desired block to rotate under the heads. This access time can take up to 10 milliseconds or more – easily 5,000 times longer than the SSD. In addition, the newer NVME SSD cards can transfer data at 6 to 12 times faster than a SATA drive can.

Upgrading a PC to use a SSD can take either of two routes: one is to add the SSD to an existing desktop PC while keeping the PC's original hard drive installed; the second is to replace the PC's hard drive with a SSD. For most laptops, the second approach is the only practical one; there isn't room in the laptop for two drives. For desktops, the first approach may be more satisfactory, since it combines high performance while not forsaking high storage capacity. You can use the SSD to store the operating system, applications and very frequently accessed data files and then use the much larger hard disk drive to store all your other documents, photos, music, videos and such.



Most new PC motherboards come with at least one M.2 connector, so it is possible to add a NVME or SATA M.2 SSD if you're building a PC desktop tower. Note in the image at left that there are screw holes for three different lengths of M.2 card. 80 millimeters (the one with the screw) is the commonest. For commercially-made brand-name desktops, you may have to go with a 2.5 inch SATA III drive that connects via a SATA cable to one of the SATA ports on the PC's motherboard. In a laptop, that will also likely be the case; you will replace the laptop's hard drive with a 2.5 inch SATA SSD. However, for a desktop without a M.2 connector, you can also buy a PCIe to M.2 adapter card that has a M.2 connector on the card and plugs into a PCIe slot on the motherboard. These adapters cost \$10 to \$15.

For a tutorial on installing a M.2 SSD, see the following: <https://www.techradar.com/how-to/how-to-install-an-m2-nvmesata-ssd-on-your-pc>.

In upgrading to a SSD, you will need to consider whether to reinstall your operating system (Windows, Mac OS, possibly Linux) and applications from scratch or to attempt to copy (clone) your existing system to the SSD. If you wish to copy your existing hard drive's system, you will need an imaging or cloning tool such as Acronis True Image, Casper or Macrium Reflect. The challenge is to get the size of your operating system's hard disk partition to be no larger than the size of your new SSD. There are many complications related to this and details are beyond

the scope of this article. You might want to stop by our Tuesday Hardware / Software Repair SIG and get some advice before diving into a SSD upgrade.

If you're now convinced a SSD is the way to go, what's the best size and make to buy? Lower end, smaller solid state drives are often on sale for about 5 cents per gigabyte. These drives are OK but may not be as fast as the top end drives. Higher end, larger drives are selling (on sale) for about 11 cents per gigabyte. The Samsung EVO series drives get very high ratings and have some of the best performance specs at very good prices.

Other brands are good also but read the recent reviews carefully. A few years ago, some vendors got good initial reviews on their solid state drives and then switched to cheaper, slower memory chips. Check the usual online stores (Amazon.com, NewEgg.com, Walmart.com, TigerDirect.com) and watch for sales. At current prices, a 500 GB drive is very attractive, and you will most likely not run into capacity issues.



Kretchmar's Korner

Section 230 - Words that Define the Internet

David Kretchmar, Computer Technician

Technology is developing much more quickly than most of us would like. We don't always understand what is going on in our various devices, let alone what happens in cyberspace. In the past we might have counted on the courts, law makers, and even government administrators to protect us, but how could we expect as slow moving a beast as the government to keep current with the rapid advances in technology.

The Current Challenge

Currently, that federal law, Section 230(c)(1) of the Communications Decency Act, protects social media companies such as Alphabet and Facebook from liability when they do things such as decide whether to post or take down content other have posted in their sites. The question is how far that legal protection stretches and whether it includes decisions to recommend and amplify other users' content.

In a case currently being decided by the Supreme Court, the family of an American killed in an Islamic State terrorist group attack in 2015 in Paris sued YouTube (Alphabet) claiming that by directing users to certain content, YouTube was aiding ISIS' recruitment of terrorists.

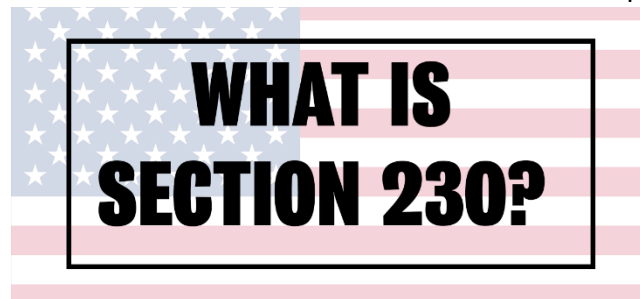
The key part of section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 reads,

"No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider."

These are considered by many to be the 26 words that allowed for the creation of the Internet as we know it today.

Why Section 230 Exists

This statute was enacted with the intent of protecting free speech on the internet by not

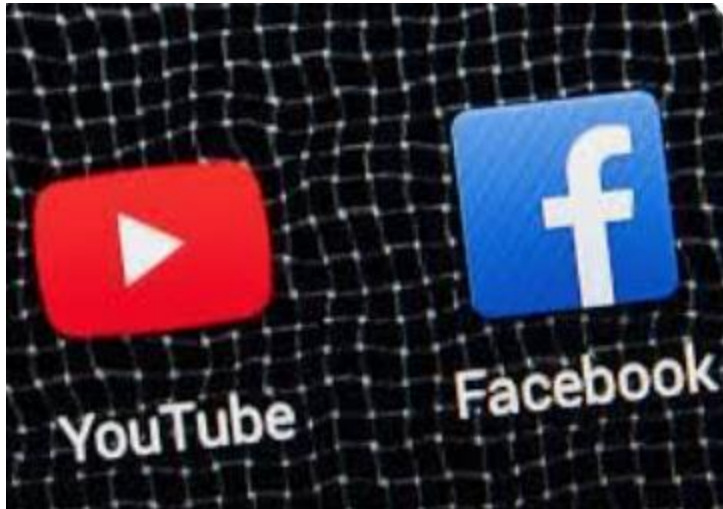


placing a requirement on tech companies to filter content provided by posters. There were many lawsuits in the early 1990s against Internet Service Providers and social media platforms. Section 230 shields companies involved with the Internet from legal liability for most of the content their users post on their platforms. The statute

also granted those companies legal immunity for the content of statements as long as they

make good faith efforts to remove content that is slanderous, libelous, or which advocates violence and illegal acts.

That protection from liability helped fuel the rise of the modern internet. Most of this act was struck down by the U.S. supreme court in a 7–2 ruling in 1997, because the court felt that it too greatly restricted free speech, but they did not change section 230.



An examination of the two largest social media platforms: Facebook and Alphabet YouTube, shows the massively prohibitive task that would be required of these companies if they were legally responsible for the content they host. More than 250 billion photos have been uploaded to Facebook, or 350 million photos per day. Currently 500 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute.

One of the great corporations of our time, Alphabet YouTube, has a strict policy against sexually explicit material, and posting such material could land you in YouTube jail or banned for life. Yet despite the policy and what I believe are good faith efforts by YouTube moderators, vast amounts of pornography still reside on YouTube to this day. Most YouTube users will never (and probably can never) see inappropriate content on YouTube because it is well disguised by secret words and techniques. It is logical that YouTube does not want to host inappropriate content as it is damaging to their reputation, and, more tellingly, they do not get a piece of the financial action. Yet Alphabet cannot stop it.

Serious Unintended Consequences

The problem is one of unintended consequences and exploitation by the same providers who are protected. The unintended consequence has been to permit users to bypass screening by using “code words” when advocating violence against minorities, women, elected officials and so on. Some feel the Internet as we knew it has vanished, swallowed up by those who hide behind false names to insult, denigrate, or attack anyone who disagrees with them, or whom they blame in one or another of various conspiracy theories. Participating in spreading wild conspiracy theories allows some internet users to feel party to “secret” knowledge, and therefore important, even though they might be living in their mother’s basement.

Those who oppose section 230 believe exploitation by the tech companies has been to monetize these deluded “true believers” to increase the tech companies own wealth and power. It is without a doubt a detriment to the over-all good of our society, but the Supreme Court has always been reluctant to build fences around speech protected by the First Amendment. I believe the Supreme Court made the correct decision, and I hope subsequent legislation will not modify this freedom.

What can be done?

Many of us believe in a free and open Internet. Totalitarian states work hard to prevent their citizens from having access to information, especially the Internet. An uncensored Internet today is vital to democracy.

Section 230 shields entities such as ISPs (e.g. CenturyLink and Cox) from liability resulting from bad content accessed by subscribers. Section 230 also protects search engines and social media platforms from liability. Without this protection the Internet as we know it would be over. We need Section 230.

The key to ending this whole abuse is for each of us to block, unfriend, unfollow, report or whatever else a platform might call it, any person or entity proposing violence or what are clearly nutcase theories such as “the holocaust never happened”, “the moon landing was faked”, and “9/11 was an inside job”. But that does require both awareness of being played for a fool, and the willingness to at least try to research the truth. Sadly, a distressing number of Americans will not, or do not know how to make that effort.

APCUG Guest Article

Streaming Surpasses Cable TV as the Way Most People Watch Television

by Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society
<https://ckcs.org/> lextown2 (at) gmail.com

Streaming Is Now King

More people are streaming TV shows and movies for the first time rather than watching cable TV programs. In fact, the total time spent viewing streaming services in July soared nearly 23% over one year ago.

This is a major change in the way most of us watch TV. Nielsen has even confirmed it: Streaming is in. Cable is out. Streaming surpassed broadcast TV viewing in the past, but this is the first time the number of Americans streaming has topped those watching cable TV programming.

A Streaming Snapshot
The Most Popular Streamers
(in order of subscriber numbers)

1. Netflix
2. Amazon Prime Video
3. Disney+
4. Apple TV+
5. hulu
6. Peacock
7. YouTube Premium
8. HBO Max
9. ESPN+
10. CBS All Access

Source: Zippia

Streaming's share of TV viewing hit 34.8% this past July, while cable fell to 34.4%. Broadcast TV stood at 21.6%.

Nielsen monitors monthly TV consumption and says more than one-third of all TV viewing is via streaming.

These figures are for people two years of age and over and tracks monthly viewership between September 2021 and July 2022.

Note that these figures only include streaming programming viewed on a television set.

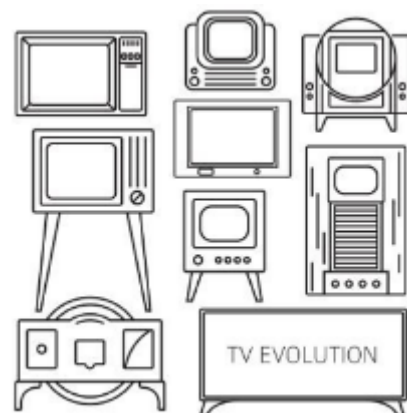
Folks who stream using a web browser on a PC or Mac computer or an app on an iPad, iPhone, or Android phone or tablet are not included in the Nielsen count. Experts say that's a sizable number of

individuals not counted by Nielsen.

Cable TV, combined with traditional over-the-air TV with a UHF or VHF antenna, still has the most viewers overall.

But both are dropping, and experts predict streaming will replace that type of viewing over the next few years. Sports viewing on cable TV slid 15.4% from June and 34% from one year earlier when the 2020 Summer Olympics started.

Cable subscriptions have dropped for many years – with increasing prices cited as the number one reason. **Zippia writes that adults between 18 and 29 are the largest**



group with no cable in their homes. More than one-third of them have no cable TV or satellite TV subscriptions. Many don't watch TV at all.

According to Zippia, 69% of those surveyed say "cable and satellite subscriptions simply cost too much, and 45% say they don't watch TV very often in general."

Other Streaming Tidbits:

Most of us now subscribe to a streaming service (69%), while the number of people worldwide subscribing to cable TV has fallen below 50%, and the number of cable subscribers continues to fall.

Cord Cutters News reports the biggest cable TV providers lost about 825,000 video subscribers in the first three months of 2022. That compares to a loss of about 780,000 subscribers in the first quarter of 2021. These figures are from the Leichtman Research Group, which tracks video subscription trends.

While many Americans grew up with TV, 44% of all adults alive today have never had a cable or satellite TV subscription. Furthermore, 61% of those are between 18 and 29. Zippia writes, "Not only is cable TV actively losing subscribers, but it also isn't gaining young new subscribers who are moving out on their own and separating from their parents' subscriptions."

Well, then, who is watching cable TV? Not younger people. Adults in the U.S. who are 65 and older make up the largest percentage of cable and satellite TV subscribers.

While streaming services are growing in popularity among all age groups, Zippia reports that Disney+ is the fastest-growing streamer, luring more than 100 million subscribers since it launched in November 2019.

Sources:

Zippia Cord Cutting Statistics

Pew Research: Cable and Satellite TV Use Has Dropped Dramatically in the U.S. Since 2015

Lab Monitor Schedule

The Open Lab session is held once per week: 9 am to noon on Saturdays.

March	Monitor Schedule
Jeff Southwell Linda Muench	Saturday 3/4/2023
Fred Cohen Linda Muench	Saturday 3/11/2023
John Zuzich Raymond Pun	Saturday 3/18/2023
Linda Muench	Saturday 3/25/2023