The Gigabyte Gazette

The Monthly Newsletter

of the

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

https://www.scscc.club

December, 2021

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Issue Contributors

Tom Burt ***Peggy Cushman***

Kathy Kirby ***David Kretchmar***

Jeff Wilkinson ***Jasmine Blue D'Katz***

President's Message

Looking Back and Ahead

by Jeff Wilkinson

As we complete another year with Covid restrictions and mandates your club continues to thrive, even with reduced club activities. While in-person activities have been limited, our Tuesday repair sessions and Saturday open labs have continued. Monthly meetings, seminars and classes have been presented on Zoom and with the recent improvements to the closed captioning feature of Zoom, these events are even more valuable to our over 600 club members.

We have been holding our monthly meetings on Zoom with some interesting and valuable live and video presentations by speakers from APCUG – Association of PC User Groups. The seminar covering Chromebooks as an alternative to a Windows computer, offering size, weight and cost reductions, covered a great many of our club users' needs for email, web browsing and the full suite of Google applications. A video presentation with advice on buying a new printer gave viewers much useful information. Our live Zoom presentation by Corey Enus from the Las Vegas Valley Water District was full of information and guidance about the current water situation in the Las Vegas Valley.

As we move into 2022, we have budgeted for a new classroom Windows computer and Apple iMac. We are working to have the internet bandwidth increased fourfold from 25 Mbps to 100 Mbps. Our supply of solid-state drives, available at cost to members attending our Tuesday repair sessions, will be maintained for immediate availability.

Our officer election is normally held at our December general meeting, but due to a glitch, it has been rescheduled to our February general meeting. We are also revising our club By-Laws to more closely align with current times; these will be presented for membership approval at our January meeting.

So, as we close out a trying year, your club wishes you Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Jeff Wilkinson, President
(702) 527-4056 pres.scscc@gmail.com

General Membership Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held at **2 PM on Thursday, December 2nd**. The location and presentation topic are TBA. The meeting's Zoom link can be found on the Computer Club home page at **https://www.scscc.club**. Our presentation will be Hewie Poplock from APCUG discussing the Windows 10 "Tips" feature.

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

SCSCC Board of Directors Actions

The Computer Club Board of Directors took the following actions on November 10, 2021

George Lobue made a motion that the **minutes of the October 13, 2021 Board Meeting be approved as submitted.** The motion was seconded by Tom Burt and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chuck Wolff made a **motion** that the meeting adjourn. Chuck Hagen **seconded** the motion, and it was unanimously **approved** by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 AM.

December 2021 Printable Calendars

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

http://www.scscc.club/Calendars/scscc_calendar_2021-12Dec.pdf

Notice of Bylaws Ratification Vote

The club's Board of Directors has updated the club's bylaws for consistency with the CCOC Policies and Procedures and to add flexibility in the allowed number of directors at large. At the general and business meeting to be held at **2 PM on January 6, 2022**, a vote of the general membership will be held to ratify these updated bylaws.

Notice of Spending Plan Ratification Vote

At the general and business meeting to be held at **2 PM on January 6, 2022**, a vote of the general membership will be held to ratify the club's 2022 spending plan as approved by the club's Board of Directors.

Notice of Board of Directors Election

Due to a miscommunication with the Link editor, the Computer Club's election notice for the Board of Directors election incorrectly listed the election date as November 2. Because of requirements to give 60 days notice of the election, the election date has been moved to the general and business meeting to be held at **2 PM on Thursday, February 3**.

Following is the current slate of nominees, as of November 30th, for the club's 2022 Board of Directors.

President	**Jeff Wilkinson**	**Secretary**	**Peggy Cushman**
Vice President	**Tom Burt**	**Treasurer**	**Neal Gronich**
Director at Large	**Janet Bailey**	**Director at Large**	**Mary Miles**
Director at Large	**Chuck Hagen**	**Director at Large**	**Jerry Sanderson**
Director at Large	**Kathy Kirby**	**Director at Large**	**Chuck Wolff**
Director at Large	**George Lobue**		

Past President Howard Verne (not elected)

Submissions Welcome

We are always looking for new information to share with our club members. If you have computer or technical information 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 members have joined the Computer Club
from October 29th to November 28th.

Mark Bianconi	**Daniel Marlin**
James Huie	**Carolyn McDuff**
Luz Huie	**Sandy Zisakis**

As of November 28th, the club has 598 paid memberships for 2021
and 34 paid memberships for 2022.

As of December 31, 2020, the club had 614 paid memberships.

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 SIG<M/H> via *Zoom*
Advance Reservations Required!

Gail Weiss (702-355-6220)
Third Monday, 10 a.m. monthly
Next meeting: Monday, December 20th

Gail will presenting her regular SIG, featuring a theme topic, followed by group Q&A. The SIG covers Apple iPhones, iPads, Macs and popular iOS or MacOS apps.

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

Chuck Wolff (702-233-6634) and 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. in even months
Next meeting: December 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> *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 SIG *Live in the Classroom*

Bill Wilkinson (702-233-4977)
First and Third Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.
Suspended (DARK) in December due to COVID restrictions.

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 Win 10 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 Offerings

The club's Seminars, SIGs, Q&As and Kaffee Klatches 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 Seminar sessions.

Do You Need Photoshop Elements 2022?

Wednesday, December 15th 1 PM to 2 PM via Zoom
Presenter: Mary Miles
Location: Zoom Webcast

Mary's seminar will cover new features available in Adobe Photoshop Elements 2022, pricing, current system requirements, etc.

Image Editing with GIMP

Wednesday, December 29th 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM *via Zoom*
Presenter: Tom Burt
Location: Zoom Webcast

One of the most popular **free** programs for advanced editing of images is the GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP). GIMP is an open-source image editor with a rich and powerful set of features. It's available for Windows, MacOS, Linux and other "ix" platforms.

While we can't begin to cover the full scope of GIMP's capabilities, this 1½-hour seminar will demonstrate how to use GIMP in restoring and enhancing your photos to turn them from snapshots into photographic art. We'll first cover all of the common image edits. Then we'll reach beyond the basics, demonstrating layers and other advanced techniques you'll want to use in your "digital darkroom". We'll do this via a set of image editing demonstration projects.

You can never have too many image editing tools – especially when the price is right ($0.00). So come check out GIMP and see if it belongs in your image editing tool kit.

The presentation notes will be available about December 24th at: http://www.scscc.club/smnr.

We will be recording this seminar and posting it to the club website.

Tom's Tech-Notes

Shopping for a New Smart Phone

I've been looking at new smart phones for a few months and now, with "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" sales in full force, it seemed like an interesting topic for a monthly column. As with most technology, the purchase process has become very complex. Smart phones have evolved to where what you're buying is a mobile computer that can also make calls on the cellular phone network.

Here at Casa de Burt, both Mrs. and I have fairly simple, low-end LG Android phones with 5-inch screens, modest cameras and minimal storage. Originally, we had these mainly for emergency use when out and about. However, inevitably, they become more integral to one's daily existence in the modern technical world. Also, LG is existing the smart phone business and our phones' versions of Android are well out of support, so compatibility with future apps is a growing concern.

Carrier Technology (4G / 5G)

The cellular phone / data network has evolved over the years through successive generations: 2G, 3G, 4G, 4G LTE and now 5G. A 6G standard is already in the works. If you're interested in a deep dig, here's an extensive article describing the history and current state of signaling technology: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cellular_network.

The older generations of the 3G GSM standard are now being phased out. Older cell phones that can only access GSM cell networks may no longer work after mid-February, 2022. If buying a new phone, just check to see if it's compatible with T-Mobile/Sprint, Verizon or AT&T. Most new unlocked phones are compatible with all three.

All newer phones support 4G and 4G LTE; many support 5G. The main difference between 4G and 5G is that 5G offers higher data speeds. If you're not getting reliable 5G service from your carrier, there's little benefit in having a 5G phone.

Phone Brand and Hardware Specs

The major makers of cell-phones include Apple, Samsung, LG, Motorola and Google. Apple and Samsung are the major players in the US, with a combined 78% market share. LG is reportedly leaving the cell phone business.

Key hardware features to pay attention to are:

Processor cores and speed

New Apple iPhones use custom Apple-designed 6-core processor chips (A14, A15) that support the ARM (Advanced RISC Machines) instruction set with Apple extensions. New Android phones use ARM architecture processors primarily from QualComm (Snapdragon series), Samsung (Exynos series), MediaTek (Dimensity series), HiSilicon (Kirin series) and Google (Tensor series).

The latest Android phones are coming with 8-core 64-bit processors running at up to 2.8 Ghz clock speeds, so they compare well to mid-range desktop processors.

As you might expect, a higher-end processor yields better performance for running apps on our phone.

RAM memory

New smart phones come with 1G-byte to 4 G-bytes of internal RAM (memory for running active programs). More RAM is better but will increase the price of the phone. I'd recommend at least 2 G-bytes of RAM for running newer versions of Android (10 or 11).

Onboard solid-state storage

Newer phones now offer anywhere from 16 G-bytes to 512 G-bytes of onboard solid-state data storage. The data stored includes the operating system, all apps and all end-user data. If you use your phone to store videos, pictures or music, you'll want a phone with at least 32 G-bytes of storage. Most phones allow you add in a SD flash card for additional storage.

Screen size and pixel resolution

Most new phones have a physical screen size close to 6.5 inches by 3 inches. Resolutions (pixels per inch) vary, with higher resolutions costing more. A typical mid-range screen (Moto G) is 1600 x 720 – about 267 pixels per inch. Some Apple 13 iPhones with Retina displays have 460 pixels per inch resolution.

WiFi connectivity

Virtually all smart phones can connect to a WiFi router and use it to connect to the Internet for web surfing, email and many "connected" apps. Most phones now support connecting via either the 2.4 GHz or 5 GHz bands using the 802.11AC standard. Some newer phones now also support the WiFi 6 (802.11AX) standard. When shopping, look for 802.11AX or WiFi 6 to "future proof" your phone. However, 802.11AC (WiFi 5) is still fine.

Bluetooth connectivity

Bluetooth is a short-range radio connection alternative to WiFi. It's handy for connecting to your car's in-dash entertainment console for hands-free phone operation or for connecting your phone to a Bluetooth headset (again for hands-free calling). With appropriate apps, you can also use Bluetooth connect to other users' phones when there's no WiFi router nearby.

Motion sensing / Accelerometer

Many newer phones have a built-in accelerometer. These are often used by gaming and virtual reality apps so that your phone's motion can be tracked, allowing it function as a game controller or a game weapon. Or it might be used to sense activity while you're working out.

Headphone Jack

A headphone jack is important if you want to plug in wired headphones so you can listen to music or videos on your phone without disturbing others. There are now also inexpensive rechargeable wireless Bluetooth earbuds that allow you to listen, even if the phone lacks a headphone jack.

USB connector

Newer Android phones come with a USB-C (small, symmetric) connector that can be used for both charging and for passing data between the phone and another device. Older phones used a “micro-USB” d-shaped connector. The charging cable for your phone should have the correct connector on one end and a USB-A (rectangular) connector on the other.

Battery Life

Most new smart phones have batteries rated 4000 to 5000 milliamp hours, which translates to 36 to 40 hours of talk time. Generally, a higher capacity battery gives more talk time, but this will depend also on the processor speed, the amount of RAM and storage, the apps you use and how much data is transferred over the WiFi connection.

Phone Software Features

Apple iPhones run Apple’s proprietary iOS (12, 13 or 14) operating system. Phones from other makers primarily run Google’s Android operating system; newer phones typically are running Android 10 or 11. Some inexpensive Chinese phones may be running Linux-based operating systems that can also run Android apps. For example, Huawei, which is now banned in the U.S., uses its own HarmonyOS in its Chinese smart phones.

Out of the box, the features of a smart phone are determined by its operating system and the built-in apps. For the Apple iPhone, the Apple app store offers an extensive catalog of additional free and paid iOS-compatible applications. Similarly, for Android phones, the Google Play store offers an extensive catalog of free and paid Android-compatible applications.

Baseline bundled apps for all phones include a phone app (includes contacts), a text messaging app, the settings app, a file manager app, a camera app and an app to interface to either the Apple app store or the Google Play store. Commonly you will also find a photo viewer, a music player, a video player, a web browser and an email app. There may also be vendor-specific apps added by your phone carrier.

Many new phones offer facial or fingerprint recognition to secure your phone while not requiring a PIN or password to unlock the screen.

Shopping Options

You can buy a new phone at many retail stores or at online retailers. Many of these are packaged with a prepaid plan from one of the carriers. You can also buy phones directly from the various carriers at the retail or online stores. Often, the carriers have the best pricing, but the phones will be “locked” to that carrier’s network. “Unlocked” phones (compatible with many or all carriers) can be bought, but prices tend to be higher. Be careful buying phones on eBay – especially “used” phones.

Many of the carriers offer phones at large discounts but require an expensive phone plan to get the good pricing.

After you buy the phone, you may need to get a SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card for it from your preferred carrier and then activate the phone on that carrier’s network.

Buying a New Phone from a Carrier's Phone Store – Experiences

As noted above, you can often find some really good deals by shopping your current carrier's online or brick and mortar store. Phones you buy from your carrier will be "locked" to that carrier's network, but if you like your current plan, that should not be a problem.

Mrs. Burt has a low-cost prepaid phone plan with Boost Mobile (subsidiary of T-Mobile / Sprint) and we were able to buy her a very nice Motorola Moto G Pure phone for $59.99 (pre-Black Friday special) In the screen shot from the Boost Mobile website, the price had dropped to $49.99 on Black Friday). The Moto G Pure has 3GB or RAM and 32GB of onboard storage and is powered by a MediaTek 8-core CPU and runs Android 11. For Mrs. Burt, it's a perfect fit for her needs. As I write, we're waiting for the new phone to arrive. Her current LG phone and the new Moto G both use a "nano" SIM. So, once the new phone arrives, it's a fairly simple matter to move the SIM card from her current LG phone to the new Moto G and register the new phone on the Boost Mobile website.

My experience with the AT&T website was less successful. All their phones for regular plans are offered on a 36-month time contract. You pay a certain amount per month ($5 to $20, depending on the phone) and, after 36 months, you own the phone. However, to get those good prices, you have to buy a plan that costs at least $75 a month! After 36 months, you can trade the old phone in and get a new one, starting another 36-month time contract. Effectively, the customer is renting the phone.

The AT&T prepaid plans offer a small selection of phones for flat purchase prices. All these phones are locked to the AT&T network.

I looked at Verizon and their plans, phone prices and terms are about the same as AT&T's.

I'm strongly considering switching from AT&T to Boost Mobile and getting a Moto G for myself.

Final Thoughts

Your choice of smart phone depends a lot on your needs for connectivity as well as how you use the phone as a mobile computer. Phones eventually wear out, but most succumb to mishaps like getting dropped, dunked or lost. With care, a phone should last 5 years or more – long enough to where it will become obsolete before it wears out.

Lastly, in buying a smart phone, don't forget its phone functionality. You won't be happy if your phone drops calls or has poor reception. Read the online reviews before buying and look for comments about phone reception.

Kretchmar's Korner

The AX6 Wireless Router

David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician

Could a new wireless router featuring the newest AX6 protocol solve internet connection issues in your home?

My old wireless router was a Linksys EA7500 Dual-Band Wi-Fi Router (AC) which was advertised as supporting up to 15 wireless devices. The dual-band feature, almost universal on routers today, supports connections at either 2.4GHz or 5GHz. Theoretically you could take the maximum speeds of a band and then divide it by the number of devices on that band to determine the bandwidth available for each device.

The Linksys EA7500 router is a very adequate router for its AC (Wi-Fi 5) class, with a total speed of 1.9Ghtz and other specs that far exceeded the broadband I was getting from Cox. It sells today on Amazon for $150.

That might sound like plenty of capacity, but wireless routers never reach their advertised maximum speeds. Real world speeds are much slower and can vary throughout the day. A speed of around 5Mbps per device is sufficient for most purposes, but if the speed to a device is dropping to low single digit Mbps, that could cause problems. The 5GHz band is generally faster but it has a shorter range, making it work best for devices that are close to the router.

There are 11 channels on the 2.4GHz band; however, many of these channels overlap. The "clean" channels – 1, 6, and 11 – are the most popular for Wi-Fi connections. A router will automatically pick a channel to use when it's set up. The problem is the more popular channels are also subjected to more radio interference from everyday appliances such as microwave ovens, and other technology, which means they can struggle to deal with lots of connected devices. Most "smart" home devices use the 2.4GHz channels, which can further clog things. You can often ease the load by switching to another channel (1, 6, or 11).

Too many devices

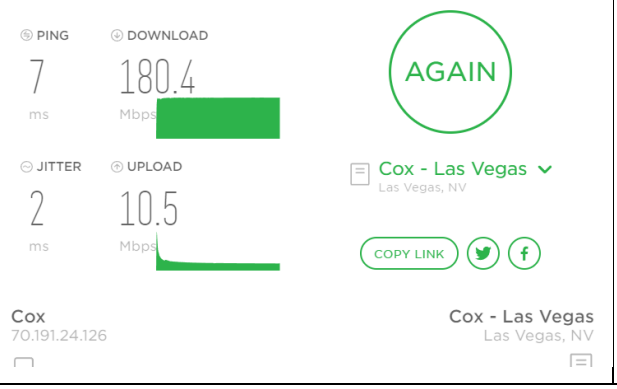
When I installed the Linksys router shortly after its release in 2016, the maximum 15 supported devices provided plenty of head room, yet in 2021 that no-longer state of the art home router seemed less than adequate. I was experiencing slow down and connection issues on my wireless devices. A quick audit of my wireless devices showed that router was supporting a

Ring doorbell, a printer, a tablet, 2 smartphones, 2 Alexas, 3 security cameras, 3 smart TVs, and up to 4 wireless computers. If you are counting that is as many as 17 devices being supported by one router! All 17 devices would never be making demands on the router simultaneously, but the number of potential clients could produce enough traffic to overwhelm my router.

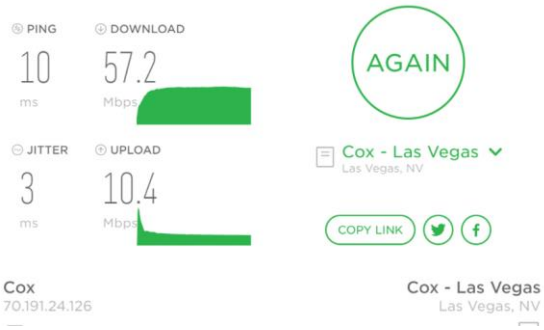
Speed Tests

I set out to determine the source of my troubles. I tested 2.4GHz wireless speeds in my home using free PCMatic software. My ISP is Cox Internet Preferred 150, nominally 150Mbps.

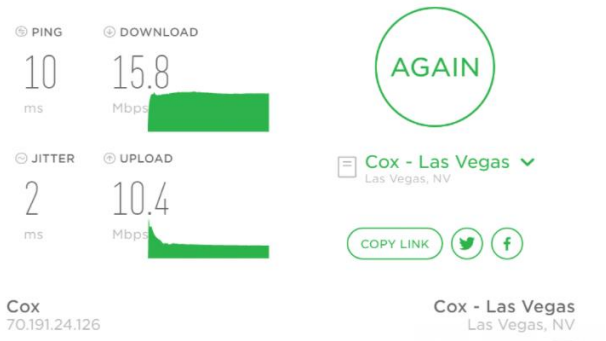
Internet computer connection speeds via Ethernet connection to the router. ***180.4 Mbps***



Internet computer connection speeds via close wireless connection (< 10 feet distance from router). ***57.2 Mbps***



Internet computer connection speeds via farthest wireless connection (40+ feet distance from router). ***15.8 Mbps***



So, I was receiving a fast internet connection, 180Mbps, yet this seemed to be too rapidly dissipating in my home, especially at a distance from the router.

The two devices in my home connecting me to the internet are the modem and the router. If you have cable internet, broadband from a provider that uses coaxial cables to deliver bandwidth, like Cox, you have a DOCSIS modem or model/router combo. There are two DOCSIS standards, 3.0 and 3.1. The most significant difference between DOCSIS 3.0 and 3.1 is that 3.1 can support download speeds ten times faster than DOCSIS 3.0, up to 10Gbps.

A new modem?

My modem, a 6-year old DOCSIS 3.0 unit, was my first suspect, since I was aware that DOCSIS 3.1 was the newest standard for modems. But my internet plan comes with top speeds of less than 200Mbps. If you rent your modem or modem/router combo from Cox, and your plan provides less than 200Mbps, the modem included with your equipment is likely a DOCSIS 3.0 model, which is adequate for supporting most home internet connections. I learned I would likely see little or no performance improvement by using a DOCSIS 3.1 device over a DOCSIS 3.0. And considering the price difference, replacing the 3.0 with a 3.1 would probably be a waste of money.

A new router?

The logical solution seemed to be to try a new router. More specifically, a router that has Wi-Fi 6 capabilities (which should help in the future as more mobile devices become compatible with the latest standard), and routers that can switch between bands automatically. This means that Wi-Fi 6 routers detect when certain devices are using a lot of bandwidth and slowing everything down, then move them to the 5GHz band or back to help manage speeds. It's a great feature that self-manages the problem.

The new Netgear Nighthawk AX6 router

Costco had a great special on the highly rated Nighthawk AX6 wireless router, so that seemed like a logical option. The new router was fairly easy to install, and the improvement was dramatic. Download speeds more than doubled at my most distant wireless device, and almost tripled at my closest wireless device. As might be expected, the download speed of my Ethernet connected computer was unchanged.

The only issue was that an older network adapter on one laptop required a driver update to recognize the AX6 signal. And it is a hassle to reset some networked devices, such as Ring.

If you are having connection issues and your router is a few years old, consider upgrading to the newest protocol, an AX6 router.

APCUG Guest Article

Rosie, the Wyze Robot Vacuum

By Jasmine Blue D'Katz
Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts
www.lcace.org jj1450xl (at) yahoo.com

For the past, several weeks I have listened to several attendees on Tech for Seniors talk about the Wyze Robotic Vacuum and comparing it to the Roomba models. This new vacuum is more affordable than other brands and uses a new top-notch laser system to map an efficient cleaning route, unlike other models that use the bump and turn technique.

Using a laser sensor to map your home has been used in the more expensive models, but I now have this feature for as little as $249.99. In addition, I can use the app to select certain rooms and send the vacuum straight there or create virtual walls to cordon off areas I want the vacuum to avoid. For example, the Wyze works quickly and methodically, effectively collecting debris and cat hair from the kitchen hardwood floors and the carpeting in the living room.

This mapping is done with the several group sensors that map my home and navigate around obstacles. The most notable of these sensors is the Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) scanner on the top. The scanner casts thousands of invisible laser points to measure the surroundings and generate an editable map of my home floor plan. Once the map is created, I can label each room and select which one I want cleaned and send the vacuum directly there. Creating virtual walls will keep the vacuum from areas I want it to avoid, like a mess of cords under my home theater system. The vacuum even avoids falling down the stairs and automatically returns to its base station when done.

The Wyze Robot Vacuum offers three suction levels: quiet, standard, and strong. I chose the most powerful level. It may pick up more dirt but is slightly slower.

Download the Wyze app (available for Android and iOS), create an account, give your vacuum a name (Rosie), and once fully charged, I was ready to start cleaning. Unfortunately, the vacuum only took passes to generate a map of my rooms, unlike other models, which take two or three passes.

The Wyze vacuum's battery life is about 110 minutes in the standard mode. This has sufficient time to clean my house, but if the battery runs low, the vacuum will return to its docking station to charge, then pick up where it left off. I have not had that problem since it is only cleaning two rooms of my house, the living room and kitchen.

Rosie did an excellent job of cleaning along the edges of the walls on its first pass. The app makes it easy to edit the map, but since it only vacuums the two rooms, I did not need to edit or give the rooms names. The app also allows you to adjust the suction levels, view the cleaning record, and create cleaning schedules. For example, I generally set my Wyze to clean early morning three times a week.

Maintenance is as simple as using the included brush to wipe off the dustbin and HEPA filter, occasionally removing and cleaning the main and edge brushes, and wiping off the sensor on top of the vacuum. Depending on usage, Wyze recommends swapping out the main brushes every six to 12 months, and I will keep that in mind since I have only had mine for a few weeks.

Wyze Robot Vacuum

Watch the video

Lab Monitor Schedule

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

December	Monitor Schedule
Jeff Southwell Linda McMullin	Saturday 12/4/2021
Fred Cohen Gail Weiss	Saturday 12/11/2021
John Zuzich Marilyn Gramms	Saturday 12/18/2021
Closed	Saturday 12/25/2021