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The Digital viking



Twin Cities
PC USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota USA • Vol. 38 No.4• Nov. 2017

*TC/PC Exists to
Facilitate and Encourage
the Cooperative Exchange of
PC Knowledge and
Information Across
All Levels of Experience*

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General Meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2017 7:00 PM

**Securing Your Site with Free HTTPS
Pantheon Recorded Webinar and Discussion**

**Summit Place
8505 Flying Cloud Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344**

Curt Trout will be showing a webinar on HTTPS and leading a follow-up discussion. He says, "Earlier this year, Pantheon presented a webinar featuring Josh Aas, founder of Let's Encrypt, which discussed how HTTPS works in general, and particularly how Let's Encrypt works. The presentation includes a very good introduction of how the HTTPS protocol works. We're going to view the webinar and then discuss it. We'll try to answer any questions attendees may have." 📄

Tech Topics at 6PM with Jack Ungerleider

TC/PC is a
Member of



24-Hour Information • www.tcpc.com

Application form inside back cover

The Digital Viking

The Digital Viking is the official monthly publication of the Twin Cities PC User Group, a 501(c)(3) organization and an all-volunteer organization dedicated to users of IBM-compatible computers. Subscriptions are included in membership. We welcome articles and reviews from members. The Digital Viking is a copyrighted publication and reproduction of any material is expressly prohibited without permission. Exception: other User Groups may use material if unaltered and credited.

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Full page (7½ x 9½)	\$100.00
Two-thirds page (7½ x 6)	80.00
Half page (7½ x 4¾)	65.00
One-third page (7½ x 3)	50.00
Quarter page (3½ x 4¾)	40.00
Member Bus. Card (2 x 3½)	10.00

Multiple insertion discounts available.

Contact Sharon Walbran at: SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Deadline for ad placement is the 1st of the month prior to publication. All rates are per issue and for digital or camera-ready ads. Typesetting and other services are extra and must be requested in advance of submission deadlines.

Payment must accompany order unless other arrangements are made in advance. Place make checks payable to: **Twin Cities PC User Group**

TC/PC 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Meets once or twice per year. All members welcome to attend.

Visit www.tnpc.com for meeting details.

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TC/PC Member Benefits

Product previews
and demonstrations

Special Interest Groups
Monthly Newsletter

Discounts on products
and services

Contests and prizes

Business Member Benefits

All of the above PLUS:

FREE ½ page ad on
payment of each renewal

20% discount on all ads
Placed in the *Digital
Viking* Newsletter

Up to 5 newsletters mailed to
your site
(only a nominal cost for each
additional 5 mailed)

Newsletter Staff

Editor Sharon Walbran

Contributors:

Jeannine Sloan

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, December 12th, 7:00PM—Computers in Manufacturing. Presenter: Bill Ryder

Tuesday, January 9th, 7:00PM—Show Us Your Gadget

GNU Octave

By Dick Maybach, Member, Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ

June 2017 issue, BUG Bytes, www.bcug.com, n2nd (at) att.net

Engineers, scientists, and educators use computer math tools extensively, and students would also find these helpful, but their costs are often a barrier. Fortunately, free programs such as GNU Octave (<http://www.gnu.org/software/octave/>) and Scilab (<http://www.scilab.org/>) provide similar power to their commercial kin and both are available for Windows, OS X, and Linux. They are modeled after the popular commercial program Matlab (<https://www.mathworks.com/>), which sells for \$50 for the student version and up to \$2150 for the standard one. If you are a parent, you may be concerned that if your student uses such a tool, he or she may use it to avoid learning math, but in my experience, this doesn't happen. While teaching engineering, I found that many in my class had not mastered basic math, and I introduced computer tools to provide them with alternate approaches. However, the only students who made use of these were those already skilled in math. Apparently, people who had the initiative and talent to master computer math had already used these same assets to learn what was being taught in the math classroom, and they used the computer tools to gain additional advantages over their slower friends. Life isn't fair.

I'll discuss GNU Octave in this article, mostly because it is closer to the widely-used Matlab than is Scilab; indeed, many Matlab programs will run without change on Octave. Becoming proficient with any math tool takes considerable time, and if possible you should choose one that gives you skills you can transfer later. Octave is basically a programmable scientific calculator; that is, you enter a math relation and it computes a numerical result. Figure 1 shows the program in operation.

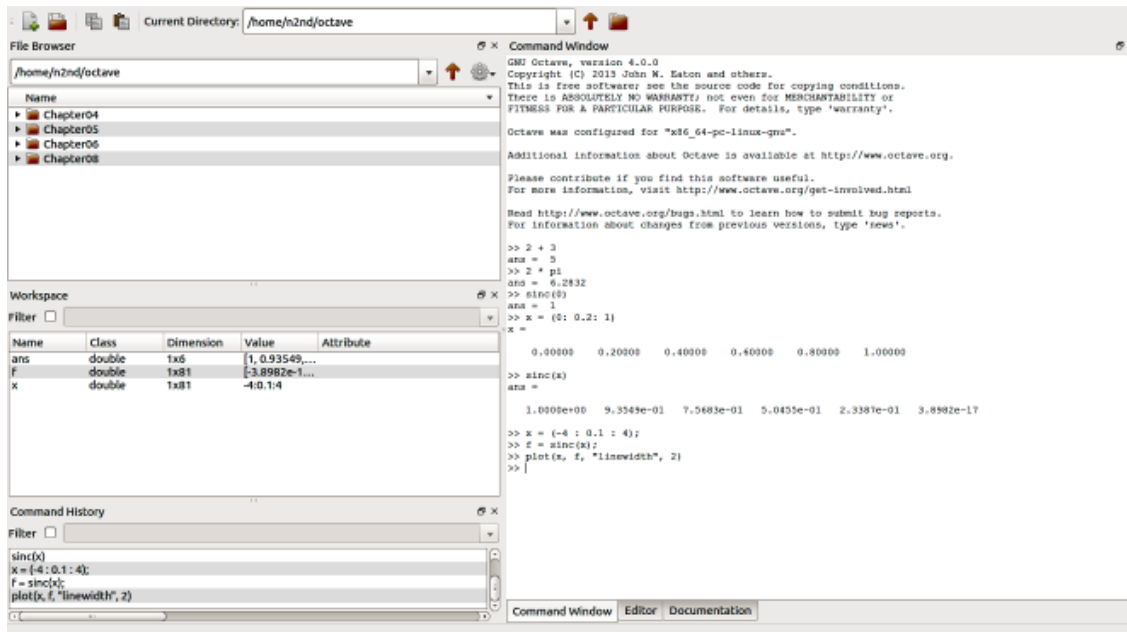


Figure 1. Gnu Octave Window.

Its window has four panes

- upper-left – file browser,
- center-left – workspace, showing the active variables,
- lower-left – command history, and
- right – commands and results.

The command pane is where you work and is essentially a view into a command-line terminal. You can do only primitive editing here, usually with the arrow keys, backspace, and delete, but you can also copy and paste. The “>>” character pair is the command prompt. Note the tabs below the command pane, which give you access to a real editor and extensive help.

Let’s look at the simple examples shown in Figure 1.

- You do simple arithmetic just by entering an expression followed by a tap of the Enter key. Here, we see that $2 + 3 = 5$.
- There are built-in constants such as π (“pi” in Octave-speak), which you can use in your expressions, and we see that $2\pi = 6.2832$. Note that multiplication must be declared explicitly using the “*” character.
- Higher-level functions are available, such as $\text{sinc}(x)$, which is defined as $\sin(\pi x)/(\pi x)$, except that $\text{sinc}(0)$ is defined as 1.0. (This exception is needed because $0/0$ isn’t defined.) Figure 1 shows this verified.
- When using Octave, you will often be working with vectors, arrays, and matrices, and there are shortcuts to help in defining these. The example shows one, where $x = (0 : 0.2 : 1)$ defines x as an array with values starting at 0, increasing by 0.2, and ending at 1.
- We can use this array as an argument for sinc , to find $\text{sinc}(x)$ for $x = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,$ and 1.0 .

Finally, we can redefine x to be an array with values from -4 to $+4$ and separated by 0.1 and plot the sinc function. (The arguments “linewidth” and 2 make the trace thicker than its default, which I felt was too thin.) The result appears in Figure 2.

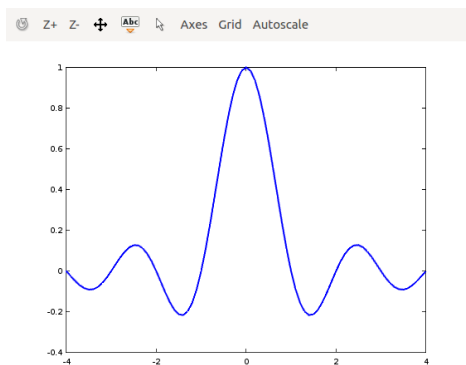


Figure 2. Plot of the sinc function.

You can often gain more insight from a simple plot than from an expression or a table of values. Let’s show a more complex example using the sinc function, as shown in Figure 3.

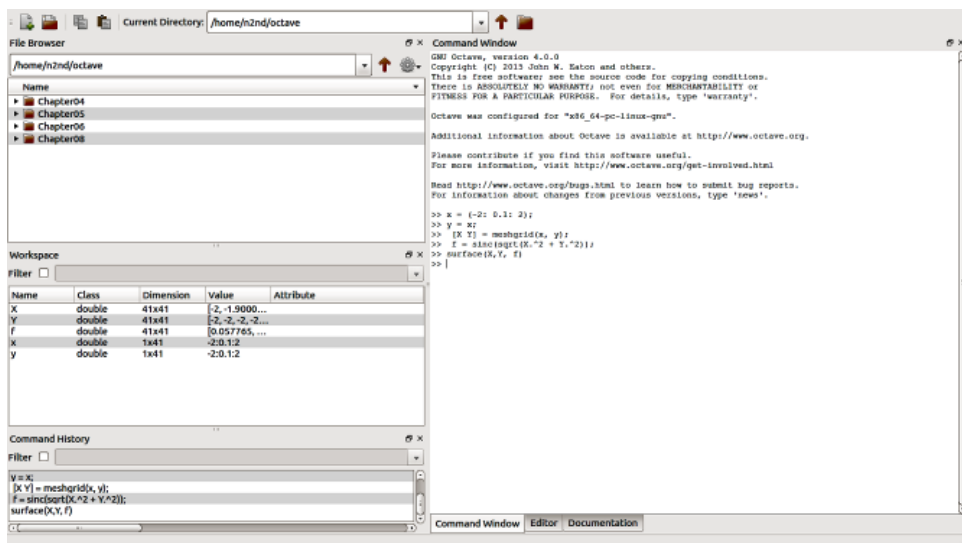


Figure 3. Three-dimensional Plotting Commands.

Figure 3 shows the following steps. (If your math is rusty, the details may be gibberish, but that's unimportant. The point here is that defining a plotting complex functions is easy and provides insight that is difficult to achieve by just looking at the expressions.)

- Define an array `x` with values from -2 to +2 in steps of 0.1. (The semicolon at the end of the line prevents printing the 41 values.
- Define a second array `y` with the same values as `x`.
- Define a two-dimensional array `[X Y]` with each element being a pair of numbers from `x` and `y`. Its top row is (-2, 2), (-1.9, 2), ... (2, 2); its second row is (-2, 1.9), (-1.9, 1.9), ... (2, 1.9); and so on.
- Evaluate `sinc` for every element of `[X Y]`. Note that the expression `X.^2` causes the elements of the array to be squared individually. If instead we had used `X^2` (without the `."`), we would have multiplied the entire array of `X` values by the same array. With the operation shown, `f` is a 41 by 41 array whose elements are the sum of the squares of the elements of `[X Y]`. This is shown in the Workspace pane.

Finally, we make a surface plot of the result, shown in Figure 4. (The button at the upper-left corner of the screen enables rotating the plot by dragging its corners.

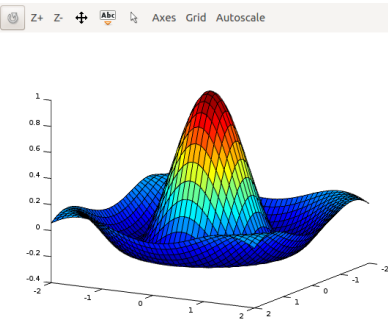


Figure 4. Surface Plot of the Sinc Function.

Octave can also solve simultaneous linear equations (beloved by algebra teachers and feared by their students). Figure 5 shows an example.

$$\begin{aligned} 2x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 &= 1 \\ 4x_1 - 2x_2 - 2x_3 &= 3 \\ -x_1 + 0.5x_2 - 0.5x_3 &= 1.5 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 5. Simultaneous Equations.

We can restate this, using matrix notation, as $Ax = b$, where the matrices are defined as shown in Figure 6. Compare Figures 5 and 6 and you'll see that `A` contains the coefficients of the equations. Its top row holds those of the top algebraic equation and so on. Matrix `b` is similarly defined by the constants on the right.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & -3 \\ 4 & -2 & -2 \\ -1 & 0.5 & -0.5 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 1.5 \end{bmatrix} \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 6. Simultaneous Equation Matrix Definitions.

Again, using matrix notation, the solution is $x = A^{-1}b$, where the -1 exponent indicates that the matrix `A` is inverted. (Using Octave commands, this becomes `be x = inv(A)*b.`) Finding the inverse of a matrix, even only a 3 by 3 one, using paper and pencil is time-consuming and error-prone. As a result, those of us who were educated BC (before computers) relied on algebra instead. All this changed when personal computers and mathematics programs became available. Figure 7 shows this problem solved using Octave.

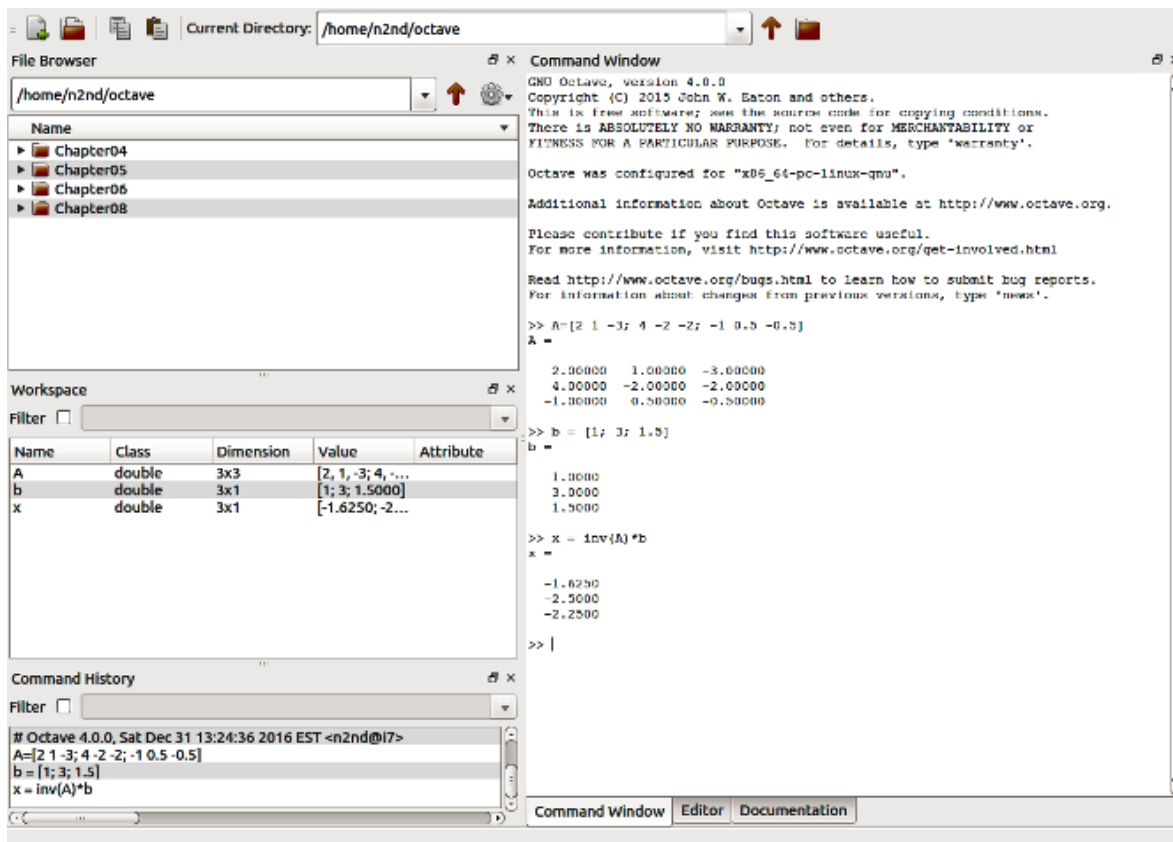



Figure 7. Simultaneous Equation Solution Using Octave.

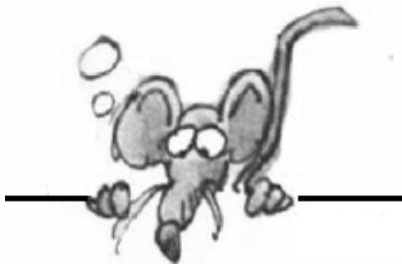
As you can see, it required entering only three lines, one to define A, one to define b, and one to request the solution, which is $x_1 = -1.6250$, $x_2 = -2.5$, $x_3 = -2.25$.

This has been a brief introduction to Octave with the goal of letting you know what it is and the sorts of things it can do, and I've covered only a very few of its capabilities. In particular, I haven't discussed Octave programs, which you can write to solve complex problems. Although it can't compensate for a lack of math skills, it can be invaluable for those that have them. There are many applications packages that add additional capabilities. These are listed on the Octave Website, and some are discussed in the references below.

A good starting tutorial for learning more is the 280-page *GNU Octave Beginner's Guide* (<http://jordi.platinum.linux.pl/octave/Jesper%20Schmidt%20Hansen%20-%20GNU%20Octave%20for%20Beginners.pdf>), which you will also see available in print. The user interface has evolved since this was written, but the commands are unchanged and its examples work. Also, see the 300-page and more up-to-date *Octave at BFH-TI Biel* (<http://web.ti.bfh.ch/~sha1/Labs/PWF/Documentation/OctaveAtBFH.pdf>). It shows the current user interface, but has a more academic approach than the Beginner's Guide. Unfortunately, both documents don't always use standard ASCII characters. For example "*" is not always the asterisk that Octave uses for multiplication. As a result, pasting the examples into the program often produces errors, but you will quickly find what to look for. The official manual is the 1000-page *GNU Octave* (<https://www.gnu.org/software/octave/>). This too is up-to-date, but its heavy reading and is a command reference rather than a tutorial. Finally, an Internet search will turn up several getting-started guides.

A math program like Octave won't compensate for deficient math skills, but it will add insight and speed up finding solutions for those who already have them. 

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NIBBLERS

By Jeannine Sloan

Google Books Library Project – An enhanced card catalog of the world's books

The Library Project's aim is simple: make it easier for people to find relevant books – specifically, books they wouldn't find any other way such as those that are out of print – while carefully respecting authors' and publishers' copyrights. Our ultimate goal is to work with publishers and libraries to create a comprehensive, searchable, virtual card catalog of all books in all languages that helps users discover new books and publishers discover new readers.

<https://www.google.com/googlebooks/library/>

The Best Tech-Focused Documentaries of All Time

These tech-themed documentaries will entertain and inform in equal measure. https://www.digitaltrends.com/movies/9-best-tech-documentaries/?utm_source=feedly&utm_medium=webfeeds

Street view goes to the “top of the world”

Last summer, our team threw on the Google Trekker and explored the park's incredible terrain—it was the furthest north Street View has ever gone. Wilderness and extreme isolation characterize this area, where fewer than 50 people visit each year. The park's name itself translates to “the top of the world” in Inuktitut, the local indigenous language.

<https://www.blog.google/products/maps/street-view-goes-top-world/>

RBDigital from HCLib.org

RBDigital Magazines--Formerly Zinio is a source for online magazines which can be read in your web browser or downloaded via app. No limit to how many you can check out and they may be kept indefinitely.

<https://www.rbdigital.com/hennepinmn/service/magazines/landing?>

Have your library login info handy. Links to apps and help are at the bottom of each page. Need detailed instructions, go here:

<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-check-out-free-digital-magazines-from-your-library/>

eMMC vs. SSD

Know the difference before buying a laptop. Embedded MultiMediaCard (eMMC) storage is mostly found in phones, as well as compact, budget laptops or tablets. The “embedded” part of the name comes from the fact that the storage is usually soldered directly onto the device's motherboard. eMMC storage consists of NAND flash memory — the same stuff you'll find in USB thumb drives, SD cards, and solid-state drives (SSD) — which doesn't require power to retain data. Despite both containing a type of NAND memory, SSDs and eMMC storage are quite different.

<https://www.windowcentral.com/emmc-vs-ssd>

How to Tread Water Efficiently

Save your life, know this technique:

<https://lifehacker.com/how-to-tread-water-efficiently-1819386226>

How To Manage Bluetooth Devices on Windows 10

Bluetooth is a ubiquitous wireless technology that allows you to quickly connect peripherals to your computer to send and receive data over a short distance, and it helps you to get rid of cables around your desk.

<https://www.windowscentral.com/how-manage-bluetooth-devices-windows-10>

ICE

Image Composite Editor (ICE) is an advanced panoramic image stitcher created by the Microsoft Research Computational Photography Group. Given a set of overlapping photographs of a scene shot from a single camera location, the app creates high-resolution panoramas that seamlessly combine original images. ICE can also create panoramas from a panning video, including stop-motion action overlaid on the background. Finished panoramas can be saved in a wide variety of image formats, including JPEG, TIFF, and Photoshop's PSD/PSB format, as well as the multiresolution tiled format used by HD View and Deep Zoom.

<https://www.microsoft.com/enus/research/product/computational-photography-applications/image-composite-editor/>

Blockchain Gains Traction in Fintech

Banks and financial tech companies are increasingly embracing blockchain's native capabilities as the basis for crossborder payment networks.

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3234192/financial-it/blockchain-gains-traction-infintech-as-payment-networks-emerge.html>

New Products from Google

Pixel Buds headphones can translate between languages in real time using Google Translate on Pixel. It's like you've got your own personal translator with you everywhere you go.

<https://www.blog.google/products/pixel/pixel-buds/>

Google Clips: Clips is a 12-megapixel camera. But the revolutionary part is the software. Google Clips uses artificial intelligence (A.I.) to choose when to take pictures. To "use" the camera, you twist the lens to get it started, place it somewhere then forget about it. It has the advantage of taking pictures where there's no photographer around to change the actions of the photographed.

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3230132/mobile-wireless/google-sclips-camera-offers-a-snapshot-of-things-to-come.html>

Mesh Network

Basic Definition: Mesh networks connect computers and devices directly to each other without passing through any central authority or centralized organization (like a phone company or an ISP). Network nodes can "talk" directly to each other without requiring the assistance of an Internet connection, comparable to the old party line phone system.

<http://internetofthingsagenda.techtarget.com/definition/meshnetwork-topology-mesh-network>

A mesh network can function locally making local sites and services available, but when one user connects to the Internet, all users will have access to it as well.



How to know whether to trust a website in Microsoft Edge

If you see a lock button next to a website's address in Microsoft Edge, it means:

- What you send and receive from the website is encrypted, which makes it difficult for anyone else to get to this info.
- The website is verified, which means the company running the site has a certificate proving they own it. Click the lock button to see who owns the site and who verified it.
- While a gray lock means that the website is encrypted and verified, a green lock means that Microsoft Edge considers the website more likely to be authentic. That's because it's using an Extended Validation (EV) certificate, which requires a more rigorous identity verification process.

Internet Governance--The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

The Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe was opened for signature in Budapest in November 2001. Fifteen years later, it remains the most relevant international agreement on cybercrime and electronic evidence. The Budapest Convention is part of The Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (gfce) <https://www.thegfce.com/news/news/2016/12/07/budapest-convention-on-cybercrime>

Who Owns and/or Controls Data

Moscow's biggest complaint is that the Budapest framework, in Article 32 (b), allows the owners of data to control its use, rather than governments. Moscow wants state control of information. Read the Washington Post article here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9hysdya>

Material Difference: What Future Products Will be made of

Materials science is rapidly transforming the way that everything from cars to light bulbs is made. <http://www.economist.com/technology-quarterly/2015-12-05/new-materials-for-manufacturing>

Dark Web vs. Deep Web

The two terms "deep web" and "dark web" get mixed up a lot, but the difference between them is pretty simple. The Dark Web is a term that refers specifically to a collection of websites that exist on an encrypted network and cannot be found by using traditional search engines or visited by using traditional browsers. <https://www.wikihow.com/Access-the-Deep-Web>

If you reveal your secrets to the wind, you should not blame the wind for revealing them to the trees. — Kahlil Gibran

Internet of Things Definitions

There's an often-impenetrable alphabet soup of protocols, standards and technologies around the Internet of Things. Here's our attempt to w: away some of the fog, in the hopes of making the language of IoT just a little bit clearer. This article at Network World provides definitions and explanations: <http://tinyurl.com/y858e8jh>

Computer Maintenance Guide

Run this checklist every week to make sure that your computer maintenance schedule keeps your equipment alive! <https://www.process.st/checklist/computer-maintenance-guide/#relevant-checklists> (editor's note: Know what operating system hard drive type you have and choose procedures accordingly.)



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Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

w Work phone h Home phone c Cell phone
* Meets at an alternate location

Most SIGs will meet at Edina Executive Plaza, Conference Room #102, 5200 Willson Road, Edina, MN

Confirm with a SIG group if they meet elsewhere.
For more info contact the SIG Leader(s) listed here.

Get SIG announcements!
Link from www.tpc.com

Board of Directors*

All members are welcome! Check www.tpc.com for location.

Selected Saturday mornings

Linux on Saturday

This is for the Linux newbie and those trying to come over from Microsoft to a different operating system.

Second Saturday @ 9 AM-Noon

Note: No Meetings June-August

Jack Ungerleider 612/418-3494 c
jack@jacku.com

Tech Topics

Technical presentation/discussion on various technical topics from the following areas:

- Web/Internet
- Mobile Devices and Apps
- Playing with Programming
- DIY (3D Printing, R-Pi, other hobby electronics, etc.)

Second Tuesday @ 6:00-7:00 PM

Every month
Right before the general meeting.

Jack Ungerleider 612/418-3494 c
jack@jacku.com

Microsoft Access

All levels. Presentations by expert developers within the group and by MS reps.

Third Saturday 9:00 AM—Noon

Note: No Meetings June-August

Steve Kuhlmeiy 952/934-8492
skuhlmeiy@hotmail.com

Microsoft Office

Addresses the use, integration, and nuances of the Microsoft Office applications.

Combined with Systems on Saturday

Third Saturday of the Month

9:00 AM—Noon

Note: No Meetings June-August

Steve Kuhlmeiy 952/934-8492
skuhlmeiy@hotmail.com

Directions to Summit Place for General Meetings:

Proceed to Eden Prairie Center Flying Cloud Drive . [Flying Cloud Drive runs along the West side of the Eden Prairie Center.] Once you have driven past Eden Prairie Center (on the left) along Flying Cloud Drive you will come to a stop light at Prairie Center Drive. The next intersection with a stop light and left turn lane is Fountain Place. Turn left at Fountain Place and go straight into the parking lot. Turn left again to the first covered entry way of Summit Place. There is plenty of parking in the large parking lot in front of the first Summit Place covered entry way. When you enter the door at the first covered entry way, ask to be directed to the Performance Room for the TC/PC meeting. For a map of more detailed directions and *info on Web SIG and Board meeting*, check the TC/PC website.

Directions to **Edina Executive Plaza** for **Systems on Saturday, Access, Word and Picture Perfect SIGs**: Take Highway 100 to the 50th Street/Vernon exit. [If you have come from the north, cross back over Highway 100 to the east side.] Take the first right and go past Perkins [The golf course will be on your left.] and continue on the east frontage road (Willson Road) to the next building—5200 . There is ample parking in the building's lot. Conference Room #102 is on 1st floor.

Help yourself by helping others!

Join the team & share your knowledge with others.

Contact TC/PC at www.tpc.com

Meetings start at 7:00 PM (9:00 AM on Saturday) unless otherwise noted. *Meets at Edina Executive Plaza.

November December

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Linux on Saturday 9AM-11AM
12	13	14 General Mtg HTTPS 7PM 6PM Tech Topics	15	16	17	18 MS Office and Access 9AM-Noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Linux on Saturday 9AM-11AM
10	11	12 General Mtg Computers in Manufacturing 7PM 6PM Tech Topics	13	14	15	16 Linux on Saturday 9AM-11AM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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Educational, Fun, and Interesting Web Sites - June 2017

by Howard Lewis, Midland Computer Club, MI, <http://mcc.apcug.org/capmidmi> (at) yahoo.com

<https://forvo.com/>

Forvo is the largest pronunciation guide in the world, the place where you'll find millions of words pronounced in their original languages. If you have a word you would like to know how to pronounce – whether it be English or one of the hundreds of languages around the world – you might be able to find help at this site. If there is a word you would like to know how to pronounce, you can request someone to pronounce it for you.

<http://www.techrepublic.com/article/what-kinds-of-people-fall-prey-to-identity-theft-phishing-and-hacks-itsnot-who-you-think/?ftag=TRE684d531&bhid=51477600>

Who's most likely to be the victim of hacks and identity theft? Surprisingly, it is not who we normally think that fall prey to the various scams running around. This article looks into some of the data and draws mixed conclusions. Interesting reading!


<https://betanews.com/2017/03/08/disable-ads-file-explorer-windows-10/>

If you are getting ads in Windows 10's File Explorer, here is how to disable them (at least temporarily).

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/office-training-roadmaps-62a4b0dc-beba-4d8e-b79c-0ad200e705a1>

Microsoft offers free basic training on the use of several of the Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and Access). They are in pdf format and can be downloaded to view at your leisure.

<http://deep-web.org/how-to-research/deep-web-search-engines/>

We all search the web at various times and we sometimes hear about the “dark web” (you don't want to go there unless you know the ramifications!). But did you know there is also the “deep web”? The web as we know it is really just a small portion of the Internet that the major search engines (Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc.) view. But there is much more out there that can be searched with the appropriate search engine. This site lists some of the specialized search engines to find that really hard to find information. 

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DuckDuckGo, The Private Search Engine, Has Doubled Its Traffic. Do You Use It?

By Ciprian Adrian Rusen Published on Digital Citizen | September 10, 2017 <https://www.digitalcitizen.life/duckduckgo-private-search-engine-doubled-traffic>

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About the author:

Ciprian loves technology and has worked in IT for more than a decade. He is the co-founder of Digital Citizen and its chief editor. Alongside his work as an editor, he is also an author. He has written and published 7 books, most of them about Microsoft products and technologies. Recognized for his technical expertise and involvement in the community with the title of Microsoft MVP - Windows Consumer Expert.

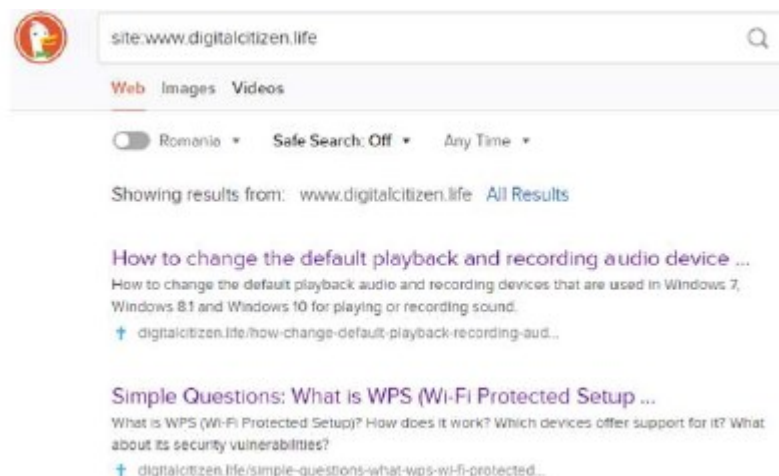
The neutrality of the internet is under fire, and an increasing number of countries and governments are planning to regulate it, and implement or extend practices like data retention about their citizen's online activities, prioritized traffic lanes based on local regulations, and so on.

Because of that, users are trying to find ways to protect their privacy while online, and they are more interested in using search engines that safeguard their privacy.

Due to this trend, DuckDuckGo has doubled its popularity during the last year. Here's what happened and why:

What is DuckDuckGo?

DuckDuckGo is a privacy-oriented search engine that does not track its users. It offers less clutter than Google and real privacy. One important difference is that, unlike when using Google, when you search for something, you don't immediately see ads about what you have searched. Also, unlike Google, DuckDuckGo doesn't log what you have searched. If you would like to learn more about their privacy policy, you can read it here.



DuckDuckGo also has an extensive list of features, including cool geeky things like random password generation, a tool that checks whether websites are down or not, rhymes generation (in case you want to poems), an app search feature, link shortening, a loan calculator, and more.

DuckDuckGo has become the 250th most popular website in the USA, and it is growing

As reported by Neowin, the popularity of this search engine has increased a lot over the last year, and it has entered the list of the 400th most visited websites in the world.

When looking at individual countries, DuckDuckGo is the 250th most popular website in the USA, the 173rd in Germany, 188th in France, and 190th in the UK.

You can view by yourself how the popularity of DuckDuckGo evolves, on Alexa.

Net Neutrality is in peril and DuckDuckGo can help you increase your privacy

It looks like the neutrality of the internet is under fire in many parts of the world. In the USA, the Trump administration wants to roll back net neutrality protections put in place during the Obama administration. In the UK, Theresa May (the Prime Minister) wants to create a new internet that would be controlled and regulated by the government.


Even Sweden is considering extending its data retention plans.

In an internet which is more intensely regulated and monitored, people are more conscious about their privacy and security when online.

While Google works very well and does an excellent job at finding what you seek, it also means that Google knows everything that you do online, it serves ads about things it knows are interesting to you and governments working closely with Google can access your data.

Switching to DuckDuckGo is one way of making sure that you are less tracked, and that more of what interests you online remains private.

It is not a silver bullet to all your privacy needs, but it is a good first step.

You should try it out and see for yourself if it is a good match. 



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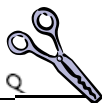
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As a member of TC/PC, the Twin Cities Personal Computer Group, one of the benefits is reading this monthly publication at www.tpc.com.

As a member of TC/PC, you may attend any or all of the monthly Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and be eligible for software drawings. The small membership fee also includes access to real-live people with answers via our helplines, discounts, and various other perks.

Does membership in this group sound like a good way to increase your computer knowledge?

It's easy to do! Simply fill in the form below and mail it to the address shown.
(If you use the form in this issue, you will receive an extra month for joining now.)



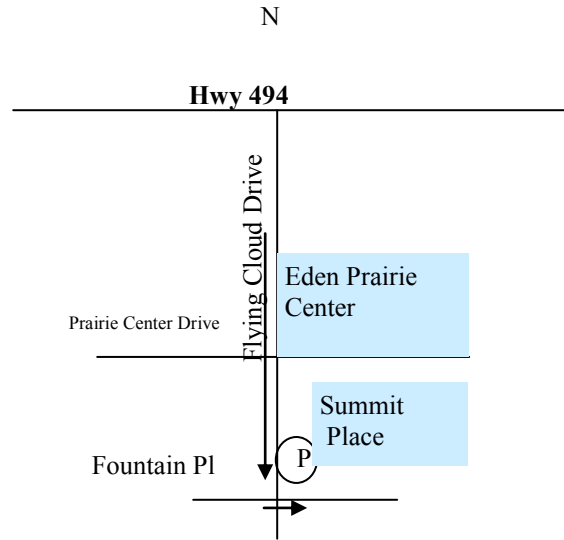
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November 14, 2017
General Meeting 7:00 PM

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