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The Digital

Viking



Twin Cities

PC USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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

June 2020

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General Meeting Tuesday, June 9, 2020 7:00 PM

Annual Meeting And Board of Directors Election

Via Zoom

It's time for the annual meeting and election of officers for TC/PC. Normally, we would then retire to Punch Pizza in Eden Prairie for pizza on the club's tab and good conversation. Since that is not possible at this time, please bring your own pizza and join us for the vote and a lively discussion on what meeting topics you would like to see in the future.

The link for you to join this meeting and Tech Topics is in the email sent earlier to members and on the

Tech Topics with Jack Ungerleider via Zoom at 6pm before the General Meeting.

Note: Saturday SIGs will be virtual meetings this month. Check tcpc.com for links to connect. 

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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Advertising

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 2019-2020 Board of Directors

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

Visit www.tpc.com for meeting details.

President —William Ryder	br@rydereng.com
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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

Organizational Communication

Author: Dick Maybach, Member, Brookdale Computer User Group, NJ

www.bcug.com, [n2nd \(at\) att.net](mailto:n2nd@att.net)

A major responsibility of any organization is to provide communication both among its members and with those outside. There are many ways to accomplish this, including:

- newsletters,
 - mass e-mailings,
 - Websites,
 - Facebook and other social media,
 - computer bulletin boards,
 - face-to-face meetings, and
- voice and video conferences.

Years ago printed newsletters were very important, but high printing and mailing costs have all but eliminated them. Many clubs now publish newsletters on their Website usually as PDFs, making them easier to print than Website pages. Because accessing issues usually requires several clicks, they are less effective than Websites in attracting new members and reminding current ones of upcoming events. They excel in communicating technical information, which often requires study or a paper copy that can be consulted when a PC isn't available. Website newsletter archives make back issues available, making them far more useful than their printed predecessors, but finding information can be tedious unless they are indexed.

Mass e-mail is a good method for announcements, such as meeting reminders and schedule changes. Meetings often don't occur on a fixed schedule, and without reminders, many members will miss them. As with all communications, restraint is important. I get over 40 e-mails a day, and messages from those sending too many go directly to a spam folder.

A well-designed Website is valuable, both for keeping members informed and attracting new ones. Besides making the site available, most hosts collect user statistics that can help gauge its effectiveness by providing such valuable data as

- pages viewed,
 - files downloaded,
 - number of visitors and how long they stayed,
 - viewers' locations,
 - searches made, and
- whether they were using a PC or a phone.

Studying these data can tell you much about how effective your site is. For example, on one I manage 72 percent of the visits lasted less than 30 seconds, and only seven percent longer than 15 minutes. I concluded that many visit only the home page, and that was my only chance to get members to the next meeting or entice non-members to join. They might click once if the button were really obvious, but few would take the time to do more.

As a result, the home page must have enough information about the upcoming events to attract both current members and prospective ones, although some might take the time to click a "details" button. This space also shows members what activities they missed and others that this is an active organization they should consider. Again, there is space only or a short teaser, with details available after a single click.

A club's Website requires daily maintenance, as leaving old information on it implies that the organization is inactive. I recommend Steve Krug's, *Don't Make Me Think, Revisited* as a guide. It says nothing about HTML coding, but a lot about how an effective site looks.

Figure 1 shows the site I manage, designed while keeping in mind that I must communicate my message in less than 30 seconds.



Figure 1. A Website for Busy Viewers.

The two photos are links that take the viewer to descriptions and pictures of recent events.

The three logos near the top are links to the club's sponsor and two charities it supports. Four items in bold text provide links to information on how to join the organization, a plea for members to submit articles, instructions on joining its Facebook group, and information on its activities. Below is a list of upcoming events, most with links to more details. On the left sidebar are teasers with links to articles on recent activities. Finally, at the bottom are links to some related sites. There are also some navigation aids (a menu, a search window, and a "You are here" box), but few 30-second viewers will notice these. Finally, although currently, only about five percent of the visits are via cell phones, this will most likely increase, and keeping the home page simple means these users can view it without frustration.

Figure 2 shows how not to do it. (I've blurred the site's identifying information.)



Figure 2. An Ineffective Website.

Except for the name of the organization, there is little information here. The only thing viewers learn about the club is that its members own nice cars.

While you can build a site using only HTML, a framework such as WordPress, Joomla, or Drupal makes it easy to add valuable features such as content search, navigation, calendar functions, and meeting registration. This complexity will take time to master and make it more difficult to transfer the job to someone else but documenting what you do will ease both tasks.

The site's host can provide substantial help, such as providing the visitor statistics I've already mentioned. Many also will back up your site and host e-mail accounts for your officers, which allows them to place contact information on a site without exposing their private e-mail account.

While a Website or newsletter acts as the official voice of your organization, a bulletin board or Facebook page provides member-to-member communication. (I'm using "Facebook" here as a synonym for all social media.) There is a risk; for example, an intemperate rant against a vendor on your club's page can be interpreted to be club policy. You may wish to allow only members to post to or even to access the page. Facebook has advantages over a bulletin board, in that it allows graphic content and can provide content search. It also collects user statistics, which as in the case of a Website, can tell you how effective the service is. Regardless, you must monitor the site continually to be sure it presents a positive view of the organization. Figure 3 shows a Facebook page.

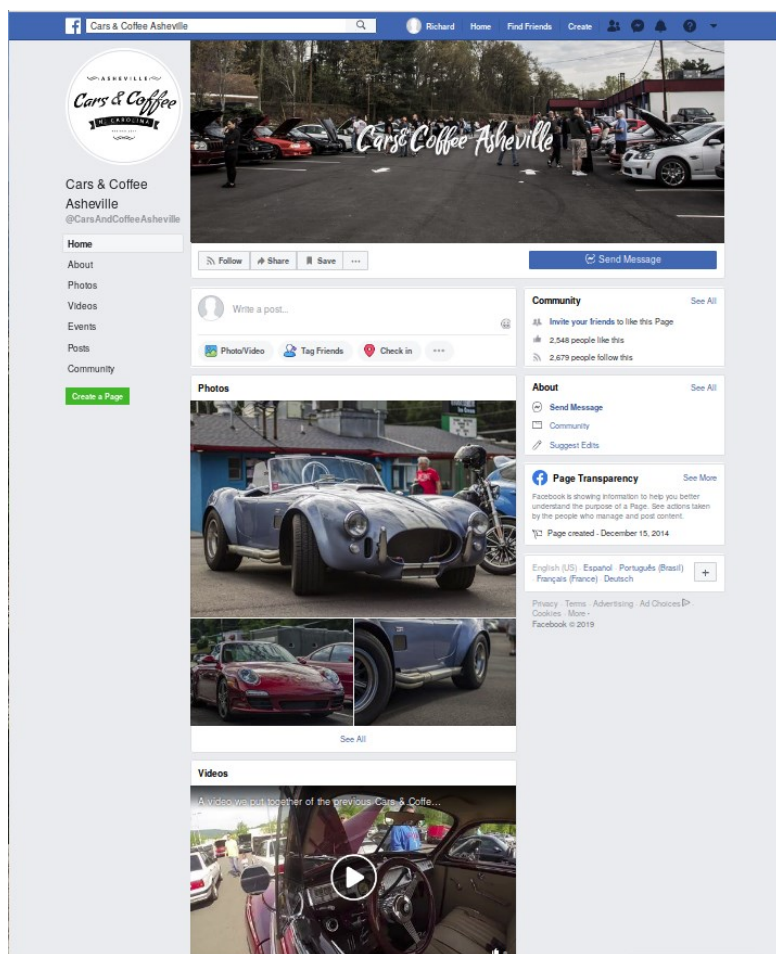


Figure 3. A Facebook Page.

My only criticism is that it's lacking a search feature, which is very helpful as the articles appear in the order they were received. This organization has no Website and finding the time and place of their next meeting requires tedious searching, making it ineffective for

recruiting new members. Choose your communications goals first and then your media, rather than selecting a medium you like and hoping it does what you want.

Face-to-face meetings are essential for most organizations. They allow free two-way communication and provide social bonding like no other forum. They do require travel, which can be difficult for some members, especially at night or in bad weather. Consider making these available as video conferences or podcasts for those who can't attend in person. If they can be recorded, even those with schedule conflicts can see what happened, although they can't participate. Effective meetings have a single purpose. Those interested in preventing malware attacks don't care about which checks have cleared the club account. Details of club business are better handled in separate meetings, open to all members of course, and with their minutes posted on the club's Website or Facebook page.

It's important to measure the effectiveness of your communications, especially after making changes. Too often, these are set up and then ignored. If few of your members check your Facebook page, you should either improve or eliminate it. Ask a non-member to look at your media and tell you his or her impression; then act on it. Finally, periodically review your performance against your goals. If you can't find any improvements, you aren't trying hard enough. 🖥️

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The Samsung SmartSwitch app

A utility for copying apps and data from one Android smartphone to another when you upgrade

Author: John Krout, Member, Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS), www.patacs.org, [jkrout75 \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:jkrout75@yaho.com)

In December 2019, I upgraded from a Samsung Galaxy S7 phone to a Samsung Galaxy S10 phone.

As with any upgrade, I was eager to install my contacts, my apps, and my data on the new phone.

About two years ago, I upgraded from an S5 to S7. At that time, I used the Verizon Wireless app called Content Transfer to copy items from the S5 onto the S7. That app left a lot out of the transfer, most notably my Memos but also a large number of apps.

This time around, hoping for a more complete transfer, there is a new kid on the block, a competitor: the Samsung data transfer app called **SmartSwitch**. The app, like ContentTransfer, provides a capability to transfer data wirelessly between two phones running the app. In this case, to use the wireless method, both phones must be Samsung smartphones.

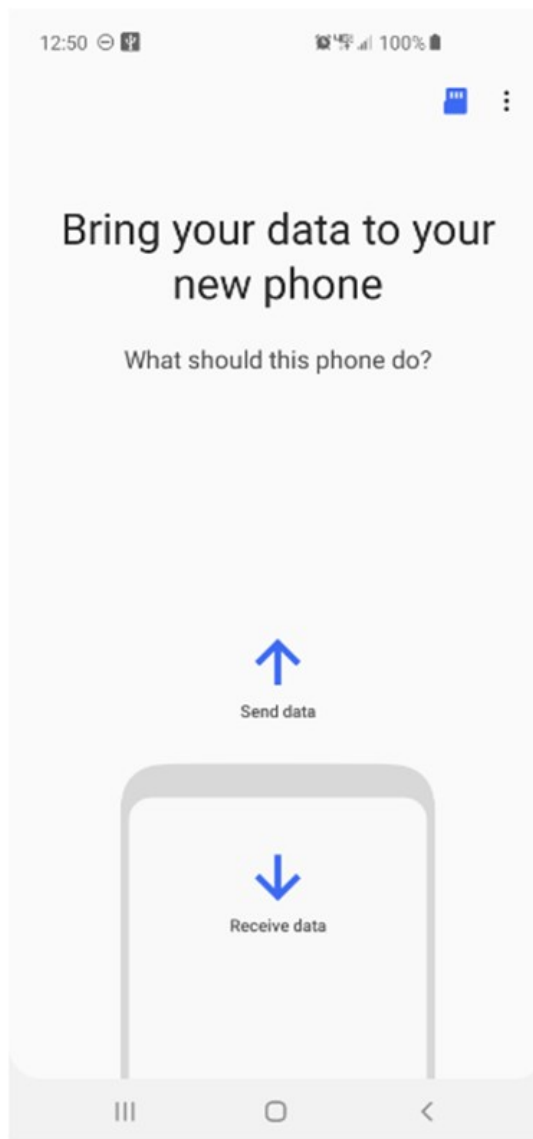
SmartSwitch will also work even if your *old phone is not a Samsung phone*. The Samsung Galaxy S10 includes an On The Go (OTG) adapter, which gives the S10 a USB-A socket, just like the USB sockets on your computer. You can connect the old phone's USB cable to the Samsung Galaxy S10 via that OTG adapter. Then start up SmartSwitch on the S10, and it will treat the old phone as a USB peripheral and reads its contents for transfer onto the S10.

I do not think that the OTG cable transfer method will work at all if the old phone is an iPhone. But it should work on most Android phones.

In my case, since both were Samsung phones, I ran the SmartSwitch app on both. I told the old one to send data, and I told the new one to receive data. Each phone recognized the other quickly using a wireless technique, possibly Wi-Fi or Near Field Communication (NFC).

I decided to write this article because I realized that the apps do not provide useful guidance about what they can and cannot accomplish. I can report what SmartSwitch did and did not accomplish it for me at the end of 2019.

Illustration 1 depicts the SmartSwitch app's main screen that I used the wireless transfer method. Note the two arrows. For wireless data transfer, the app must be running on both phones, the two phones must be close together (no more than 4 inches apart), and the appropriate arrow of each app must be tapped at roughly the same time. Tap the Up



arrow on the old phone to send data. Tap the down arrow on the new phone to receive data.

The SmartSwitch app said about 7 gigabytes would be copied from the S7 to the S10. The transfer took about 18 minutes. That is a data transfer rate a bit less than 0.4 gigabytes per minute.

What got transferred into the S10?

APP TRANSFER

Most of the S5 apps got transferred. The **app layouts on the Home screens** were almost identical to the layouts on those screens on my own phone. This made it very easy to compare screens to confirm that S10 apps were in place.

A few apps were *not* transferred, perhaps because they were stored on my microSD card. The **Firefox browser** and **Keeper Security** showed up as ghosted gray icons on the S10. When I tapped each gray icon, SmartSwitch installed those apps using the Google Play store.

One app, **Amazon Kindle**, did not show up at all. I re-installed it from the Google Play Store.

Another exception was **Yahoo Finance**, which was installed but was not present in my Money folder. So I put Yahoo Finance into the folder.

And the **Memos app** was missing, or so I thought. Read on.

DATA TRANSFER

My **contacts** got transferred to the S10. That was my primary goal. My 200+ **custom ringtones** got transferred also.

Most of my **data** in the phone's internal storage got transferred, including the photo for the Lock Screen and the photo for the Home screen. I was pleasantly surprised about that since the photos themselves were originally on the microSD card. Android must have copied the two photos to internal memory when I assigned the photos to screens.

My **text message conversations** got transferred.

I was especially concerned about the **400+ saved geocache files** that I stored using the c:geo app; those are stored in internal memory, but I had backed up the files onto my S7 microSD card just in case those were not transferred. As it happens, those geocache files were indeed transferred by SmartSwitch and usable by the c:geo app on the S10.

The Memos app itself did not get transferred. When I realized the Memos app did not get transferred, I guessed that perhaps another app with a different name and icon might do the same thing. I came across the **Samsung Notes app** by accident while browsing to identify bloatware on the phone, opened that app out of curiosity, and realized I could see it was loading all my Memos. So my Memos were transferred successfully but to a different app.

SOME CONFIGS TO BE DONE

Some types of configuration data did not get copied onto the S10.

I had to supply the password for the S10 to log onto my home router Wi-Fi.

I had to re-initialize **TypeApp**, my primary email app, with the email account ID and password. I had to re-initialize the **Yahoo Mail app** with my ID and password. I had to re-initialize the **Keeper Security app** with my ID and password. Like email services, Keeper Security has an encrypted backup of my data on its servers, and copies that to my phone when I enter the ID and password I established years ago for that app.

Luckily, Keeper Security on the old phone kept working after the phone was no longer on the phone network, so I could look up those ID and password combos.

In the Google Pay app, I had to re-enter the CVC numbers for the two credit cards I use via that app. One, American Express, also required me to enter a confirmation code sent as a text by American Express to me. These are reasonable config matters considering that neither Google's servers nor the credit card issuers were familiar with my new S10 phone.

Another config issue: on the old phone, I had configured the **WeatherBug app** to include many cities I have visited in the past two years: Richmond, Boston, Cincinnati, El Paso Dallas, Atlanta, Omaha, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, Jackson, Bozeman, and Twin Falls. That config did *not* get transferred. I had to re-enter those cities. The effort did not take long.

THE BOTTOM LINE


Overall, I think the Samsung Smartswitch app did a reasonably complete job. The exceptions I noted above are, in my opinion, few and minor, easily resolved.

I will admit I suspect Verizon's ContentTransfer app probably has been improved quite a bit since I last used it. That app may remain the most widely applicable solution for anyone upgrading from one phone brand to another on the Verizon Wireless network, especially if neither one is a Samsung phone.

I also had about 60 gigabytes of data on a microSD card on the old phone, primarily music and photos. I physically moved the microSD card to the new S10 phone.

However, if instead I had a blank microSD card big enough to contain the data and I put that blank card in the new S10 phone, SmartSwitch can also be told to copy the microSD card data. Give the data transfer rate of fewer than 0.4 GB per minute, a 60 GB transfer would take more than 2 hours and might exhaust the batteries on both phones. So I am glad I did not try that. It might transfer at a much higher rate via the USB method.

The alternative solution is to use a computer to load the data onto the blank microSD card. That will take a few minutes rather than 2 hours.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: John Krout is a past president of the Washington Area Computer User Group (WAC). After his tenure, the group merged with another to form the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS). He has been taking photos since the early 1960s and writing about the uses of personal computers since the early 1980s. His digital photos won a first and second prize in the 2018 Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) digital photo contest. After many years working as a software engineer using C and C++, now John is a tech writer for the Thales Group, supporting the use of that company's advanced automatic fingerprint matching technology in the computer system of a major federal government agency. 

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Is “Refurbished” Worth the Price?

**News and/or Opinion from Paul Baecker, Newsletter Publisher & Editor
Sterling Heights Computer Club
October 2019 issue, WYSIWYG, www.sterlingheightscomputerclub.org
newsletter (at) sterlingheightscomputerclub.org**

I recently went shopping for a cable modem to eliminate the rental cost of the one supplied by my ISP. After doing some online research, I decided on a capable Arris model and found it at a local retailer. The store had some new ones but also had some refurbished ones for about half the price of the new ones.

I thought to myself, well, they've simply been returned by shoppers who had changed their minds because they didn't like the color or style, and the units were probably basically unused. I inquired and learned that they had previously been used in a business somewhere (how would the salesman know?). So next I thought, well, do I want to save a few bucks by buying this so-called refurbished unit? Surely the items would have been repaired (if necessary) and tested by an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) facility so that they operated as though they were new, even if they did have some wear marks on them. A no brainer to save the money, right?

But for whatever reason, I got a bit more inquisitive and asked about to what extent these items were refurbished. To the original manufacturer's specifications? In this case, nope. Well, then, surely the store could vouch for the level of refurbishment done by the

third party. Nope again. I learned that there are businesses that exist to refurbish electronic products to their own specifications, and they are not necessarily noted as to their relationship to the product's original specs. My excitement in getting a great deal was gradually waning. Finally, the store rep tells me that they offer a 14-day return on a purchase of this item, but no warranty beyond that return option. I eventually passed on this offer. I figured that with my luck, the item would last past those 14 days, but die too soon thereafter.

I also checked the details on the web site of a popular online retailer of computers and accessories. I found similar statements about refurbished products being refurbished to the specs of the refurbishing organization. Some refurbished items came with warranties, some could be warranted at extra cost, and some items were 'as is' (such as demos) with no right to complain after the purchase.

So, what this adventure taught me is to carefully vet the retailer of any refurbished item you're considering (whether electronics, furniture, appliances, etc.) and carefully study the purchase agreement and any (often hidden) disclaimers that apply to the purchase.

A definition I found online for the term "refurbish" is "to brighten or freshen up,"

Yikes!!!

This is an online article about doing your homework when shopping for refurbished products. You can snag discounts as high as 50% off on smartphones, tablets, computers and associated devices when looking for a refurbished unit, but you've got to do your homework

. <https://lifehacker.com/when-should-i-buy-refurbished-electronics-5885492> 

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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 Kuhlmeier 952/934-8492
skuhlmeier@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 Kuhlmeier 952/934-8492
skuhlmeier@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. *Virtual Meetings during Covid pandemic.

June
July

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 General Mtg Board of Directors Meeting/ Election 6pm Tech Topics	10	11	12	13 9am-Noon Linux on Saturdays
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 9am-Noon Microsoft Office (including Access)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 9am-Noon Linux on Saturdays
12	13	14 General Mtg TBA 6pm Tech Topics	15	16	17	18 9am-Noon Microsoft Office (including Access)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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You have just read an issue of The Digital Viking.

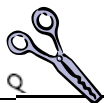
Would you like to receive this delivered directly to your email or business each month?

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



		6/20
Here's the info for my TC/PC Membership:		I'm signing up for:
Full name _____		<input type="radio"/> Individual/Family Membership (\$18)
Company name _____		<input type="radio"/> Business Membership (\$100)
Address _____		If an existing member your # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		Make checks payable to:
<input type="radio"/> Home <input type="radio"/> Business <input type="radio"/> Change address: <input type="radio"/> Perm. <input type="radio"/> Temp. 'til _____		Twin Cities PC User Group
Home phone _____ Work phone _____		341 County Rd C2 W
Online address(es) _____		Roseville, MN 55113
Where did you hear about TC/PC? _____		http://www.tcpc.com
<input type="radio"/> I DO NOT want any of my information disclosed.		<input type="radio"/> Check # _____ <input type="radio"/> Bill me
<input type="radio"/> I DO NOT want to receive any mailings		<input type="radio"/> New member <input type="radio"/> Renewal <input type="radio"/> Prior member
		I'm interested in:
		<input type="radio"/> Training classes <input type="radio"/> Volunteering
		<input type="radio"/> Special Interest Groups: New User, Access, etc.
		List here:
Administrative Use Only Rec'd _____ Chk# _____		

June 9, 2020

**General Meeting
Annual Meeting and
Board of Directors'
Election**

Via Zoom

More info: www.tcpc.com



341 County Rd C2 W
Roseville, MN 55113

FIRST CLASS MAIL