

\$3.00

(membership includes monthly subscription)

The Digital

Viking



Twin Cities

PC USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota USA • Vol. 41 No.9 • Apr. 2021

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

April 2021

Membership Information 2

About Reading and

Using GoodReads.....3

Those Nasty

Pop-Up Ads5

E-books7

SIG Information.....13

TC/PC Calendar.....14

Membership Application.15

Maps to Events16

General Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
7:00 PM

Play Games Online with
Tabletop Simulator
APCUG Webinar

Via Zoom

John Kennedy from APCUG and his son Chris show us how to install and use Tabletop Simulator on the Steam platform. Father and son demonstrate how to play a number of classic games like Clue and Sorry that have been added to the simulator as well as how to play card games, including how to shuffle cards, deal, and draw. Tabletop Simulator gives you access to dozens of classic games and current games for free. The simulation is very sophisticated and allows for multiple players (who must have installed the simulator on their devices) to interact at the same time and to chat as well. If you enjoy cards or board games and want to play with others virtually, you will want to learn about this. If you are playing fun games online, share those with the group. 🖥️

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

TC/PC is a Member of



24-Hour Information • www.tnpc.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.

Disclaimer: All opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the TC/PC, its Board of Directors, Officers, or newsletter staff. TC/PC does not endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available; therefore, readers are cautioned to rely on the opinions presented herein exclusively at their own risk. The Digital Viking, its contributors, and staff assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any advertisement, article, or other item. All refunds in full or in partial, for advertising, membership or any other item shall be at the sole discretion of the Twin Cities PC User Group Board of Directors.

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 2020-2021 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
Vice President —Curtiss Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
Secretary - Sharon Walbran	sharon.walbran@gmail.com
Treasurer - Sharon Trout	strout@troutreach.com
Newsletter Publisher Sharon Walbran	952-925-2726 sharon.walbran@gmail.com
Web Master Curt Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
Board Members:	
Steve Kuhlmeier	skuhlmeier@hotmail.com
Lon Ortner	612-824-4946 lon@csacom.com
William Ryder	br@rydereng.com
Jeannine Sloan	Ambassador for Friendship Village
Curtiss Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
Sharon Trout	strout@troutreach.com
Jack Ungerleider	jack@jacku.com
Sharon Walbran	sharon.walbran@gmail.com

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

About Reading and Using Goodreads

By Steve Costello

Retired, former user group officer and newsletter editor, grandfather, blogger, creative writing prompt blog participant, and loves to read.

Computers, Technology, and User Groups Blog: <http://ctublog.sefcug.com/>

Creative Writing and Book Review Blog: <http://sefccw.wordpress.com/>
scostello (at) sefcug.com

A Little Background

I read or want to read and review, as well as getting recommendations for new books to read. She has asked me to put together an article about how I use Goodreads so, the following will show you how I use it, and hopefully it can help you in these times of social distancing and isolation.

I have been using Goodreads since the beginning of 2012. As of this writing, I have read almost 1500 books since I joined up.

Get Started

First, go to goodreads.com. You will come to a page where you can read about Goodreads, and sign up for your own account, which is free.

Once you have signed up, set up your profile and account settings.

In your profile the only required field is your First Name, the rest of the fields are optional include as little or as much as you feel comfortable with, you can always go back and edit the profile later.

In settings, you can set privacy preferences, who can view various items, send private messages, and more.

The Home Page

When you sign in Goodreads will open to the Home page. The Home page contains information about what you are currently reading, if anything, and ad, a link to News & Interviews, the current year's Reading Challenge progress, a list of your current bookshelves, and more on the left-hand side, the right-hand side will show updates from your friends.

The My Books Page

The top section of the page has a search box where you can search for a book or author to add books to your shelves.

On the left-hand side, is a listing of your bookshelves with a count of the contents; reading activity links, add book links, and tools.

The right-hand side contains columns of your recorded books, which can be sorted in many ways. The way I use these columns is to go to my want-to-read bookshelf or a specific bookshelf, and sort by date added to figure out my next read.

Browse Page

On this page, you will find links to Recommendations, Choice Awards, Giveaways, New Releases, Lists, Explore, and News & Interviews.

I use Recommendations when I am looking to find a new author to read, and this is only occasionally as I have over 2,000 on my want-to-read shelf.

I check the Giveaways link daily to see if there is something I would like to get for review. This is also a way to find a new author. The giveaways can be either print or Kindle versions, and you will receive an email if you win telling you how and when it will be received.

The other link I use from this page is the New Releases. I use this at the beginning of each month and then place a hold at my local library site for new releases from authors I like to read.

Community Page

This page has links to Groups, Discussions, Quotes, Ask the Author, Trivia, Quizzes, Creative Writing, People, and Events.


I don't know much about these links, but some might be interested.

Conclusion

I hope that this gives you a good idea of what Goodreads is all about, and gets you to sign up and start recording what you are reading. If you want to get an idea of what I read check out my Goodreads at <https://www.goodreads.com/sefcccw>. If you have joined up, you can also follow me, add me as a friend, message me, and compare books at the same URL after signing in.

Also, I like to go back and read early books in a series if I like the author. Just check the author's page to see if there is a listing of the books in a series, which will be in book number order, and then see if your library has a copy you can borrow, or find on Amazon, Google Play Books, thrift stores, yard sales, or anywhere else that might have them.

Happy reading!

This work by [Steve Costello](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#). As long as you attribute this article, you can use it in part, or whole, for your newsletter, website, or blog. 

[Go to Page 1](#)

Those Nasty Pop-Up Ads

By Jim Cerny, Help Desk Host, The Saratoga Users Group

August 2020 STUG Monitor, www.thestug.org, jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

You're going along just fine, enjoying a fun game on your device, you don't know how it happened or maybe you touched the screen just a teeny bit out of place, and BAM, there is a pop-up add or window! It overlays part of your screen and now you are playing a new game you didn't download called "try to get rid of this ad!"

I guess it is pretty standard now that all "free" games on your device come with ads, so here are some tips on how to get rid of them and get back to your game or app.

Naturally, no one way will always work, they are always trying to fool you!

Simple notice box – a short message in a small box that, thankfully, has a small "X" you can touch to get rid of it. It may be an important notice, however, so read it in case you have a problem. Usually, these notices appear in the middle of your screen or the lower right corner "notification area" on your Windows computer.

Larger ad – behold a company catalog page offering clothes or shoes or whatever. Look carefully – where is that "X"? Is it missing? Well, it could be hidden out of sight. Try touching the upper right corner (and if that doesn't work, try EVERY corner) to see if an "X" appears. If so, you "win", now you can touch the "X" and get rid of the ad.

Touch screen ads to swipe away – Ok, some ads do NOT have an "X", these people are getting more clever every year! Try putting your finger on the ad and "swiping" the ad (up, down, left, or right) to get it off your screen. I had a nasty one the other day which appeared on the far left on my iPad and the only way I could get rid of it was to swipe it all the way to the RIGHT to get it off.

An unwelcome web page – Somehow you must have touched on something to open up (or "go to") a web page. Yes, they can do this to you without you opening up your web browser. Good luck finding an "X" on this one. On a touch screen, try swiping up and hope the window goes up and off your screen. Otherwise, hit your "home" button twice (on your device) or swipe HALFway up on your iPhone from the bottom to get all your open apps. Find the one you want to delete and swipe it up to get rid of it. It is a very good idea to do this often on your device to delete all your apps that are remaining open and perhaps slowing up your response on your device.

Timed ads – These, at least, are almost expected. An ad appears (if they are nice they will warn you first) and these ads are "timed" to run for several seconds or a minute. Look for a moving blue bar at the bottom of the ad to see it countdown the clock. Sometimes no bar or timer appears. Sometimes it is hidden in the corner and when you touch on it only then will it show you the time remaining. As far as I know, there is nothing you can do with a timed ad other than wait until the time runs out – even then you will still have to look for an "X" or something to touch to get rid of it.

Your anti-virus software app on your Windows computer may already have an ad blocker as part of it, so look and see what options are already available for you. Apple products do not have anti-virus apps as they are already part of the iOS (operating system).

Ad blockers. Now having said all that, there are many ad “blockers” and “removers” that are available on the internet. Some are “free” (with pop-up ads of their own!). I would be a little careful here – it would be best to ask someone who is already using the blocker tool before you download it and start using it. Will it work on your device? Will it work on multiple devices? Will it block all ads? Will it work only with your browser (i.e. Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Safari, Firefox, etc.)? Nothing is perfect and those company marketing people are working hard to get you to see their ads. Always look up any ad blocker, or any app for that matter, on Google and read what others have experienced. Pretty soon ads will be popping up on our car screens. Imagine driving along and having an auto insurance ad popping up over your speedometer! Well, I suppose that is a bit better than driving through a billboard!



[Go to Page 1](#)

E-books

By Dick Maybach, Brookdale Computer User Group

www.bcug.com

n2nd (at) att.net

Although still small in comparison to print versions, the market share of e-books is growing, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-book>. In particular, the printed technical manual is disappearing, and when you purchase equipment, the printed material covers little more than its power switch and the URL where you can download detailed information. If open-source software has a manual, it's available only on-line or as a downloadable e-book. Not surprisingly, the largest commercial e-book vendor is Amazon, and Barnes & Noble also has a substantial stock. Many print magazines are also available in lower-cost electronic form.

There are many good sources of free literature, Project Gutenberg, <https://www.gutenberg.org/>, has an extensive selection of classic books. The Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/index.php>, has free books, software, music, and movies. Open Textbook, <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>, as its name implies, has textbooks, most contributed by college faculty trying to lower the cost of education. Some organizations publish good e-zines covering topics they support, for example, the MagPi, <https://magpi.raspberrypi.org/>, covering the Raspberry Pi, and Full Circle Magazine, <https://fullcirclemagazine.org/>, on Ubuntu Linux. Finally, don't overlook your local public library.

E-book media can have several formats, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_e-book_formats. The Portable Document Format (PDF) is popular, especially for manuals. It suffers from the disadvantage that line lengths are fixed, making the material awkward to read on small screens and difficult for those with impaired sight. True e-book formats, such as EPUB, are more flexible. Unlike PDF, they aren't images of printed pages, but just their contents plus embedded formatting commands that the reader software uses to set the displayed font sizes and line breaks. There are many variants; in particular, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and others have their own proprietary forms. Many readers understand several.

Some readers can convert the format, but this isn't always possible, and often the results are unsatisfactory. I've found that conversion from PDF to EPUB never works well, and it's always better to put up with PDF's fixed formatting. Conversion from a document format, such as docx to EPUB often fails, because EPUB is fussy about formatting. For example, if images are anchored as characters, the conversions can be satisfactory, but if they are anchored to pages, it fails. Here too, the safest course is to save the document as PDF and put up with the fixed format.

Digital Rights Management (DRM) limits e-book usability, <https://blog.the-ebook-reader.com/2010/10/09/the-ebook-drm-guide/>. If you purchase a print book, you can sell it, loan it, or give it away, but this is usually not so for e-books encumbered with DRM. E-books are typically licensed to one person, and perhaps to only one device. The terms vary widely; some allow the use of any device that the purchaser owns, and some allow lending. Some have geographical restrictions. If you cross a border and your reader has GPS, you

may find some media unreadable until you return to the United States. But despite the rants circulating on the Internet, DRM is a legitimate feature that was developed to ensure authors and publishers receive payment for their work, but this doesn't mean it's convenient for readers.

You can view e-books on your desktop PC, your laptop, a dedicated e-book reader, or a cell phone, and you will probably use more than one. At home, the large screens on desktops and laptops make for comfortable viewing, and of course, the PC is right there for Internet searches and computing. Laptops are usable away from home, but unless power is available, only for relatively short times. You probably always have a cell phone, and using it is always convenient, although its small screen and limited battery life mean it's really useful only for very short reads. However, you can extend the time with an external battery that powers your phone through its USB port. Often, a short time is all you need. For example, I have my camera's manual on my phone, which has been helpful to figure out it's more obscure features when on a trip. If you want to read a book on a long flight, there is really no substitute for a dedicated reader, such as Kindle, especially one with a passive, monochrome display, as the battery life of such devices is multiple days.

There are many e-book software readers available for Linux, OS X, Windows, iOS, and Android. However, I know of no Linux readers for books with DRM, although there are techniques, of at least questionable legality, for removing DRM. If you like new e-books from sellers such as Amazon and want to borrow them from your public library, you will need a commercial reader that supports DRM, such as a Kindle hardware reader or the equivalent software, which means Linux users will be buying hardware. For reading DRM-free books on a PC I prefer Calibre, <https://calibre-ebook.com/>. With it, you can organize your collection into virtual libraries, edit your books, and change file formats, but with the caveats, I've mentioned. Organizing is straightforward. Editing is possible only if the book is in Amazon's AZW3 format (without DRM) or EPUB (both are a form of HTML), and this requires some expertise to edit.

As with most data sets, it's important to keep your book collection organized. Calibre assists this with its virtual libraries. Figure 1 shows Calibre's opening screens with my virtual libraries displayed in a bar just above the book list. They are Calculator, Fiction, PC, Photography, and Technical, and Photography, which has been selected in the figure.

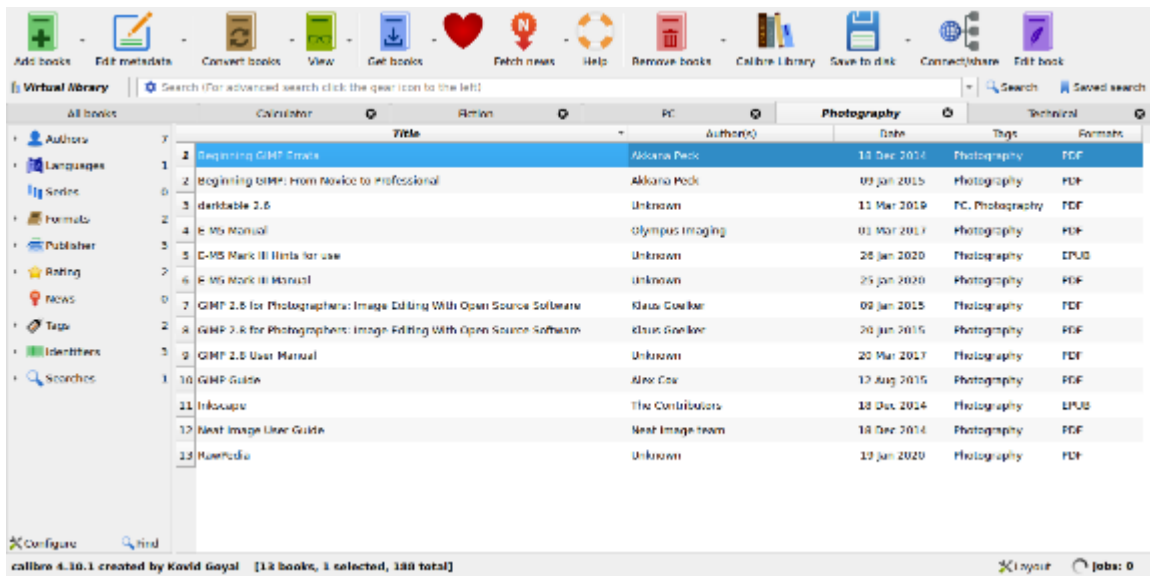


Figure 1. Calibre Opening Screen.

Figure 2 shows an EPUB book open, with its table of contents displayed on the left. You click on the “X” icon at the top right of the panel to close it.

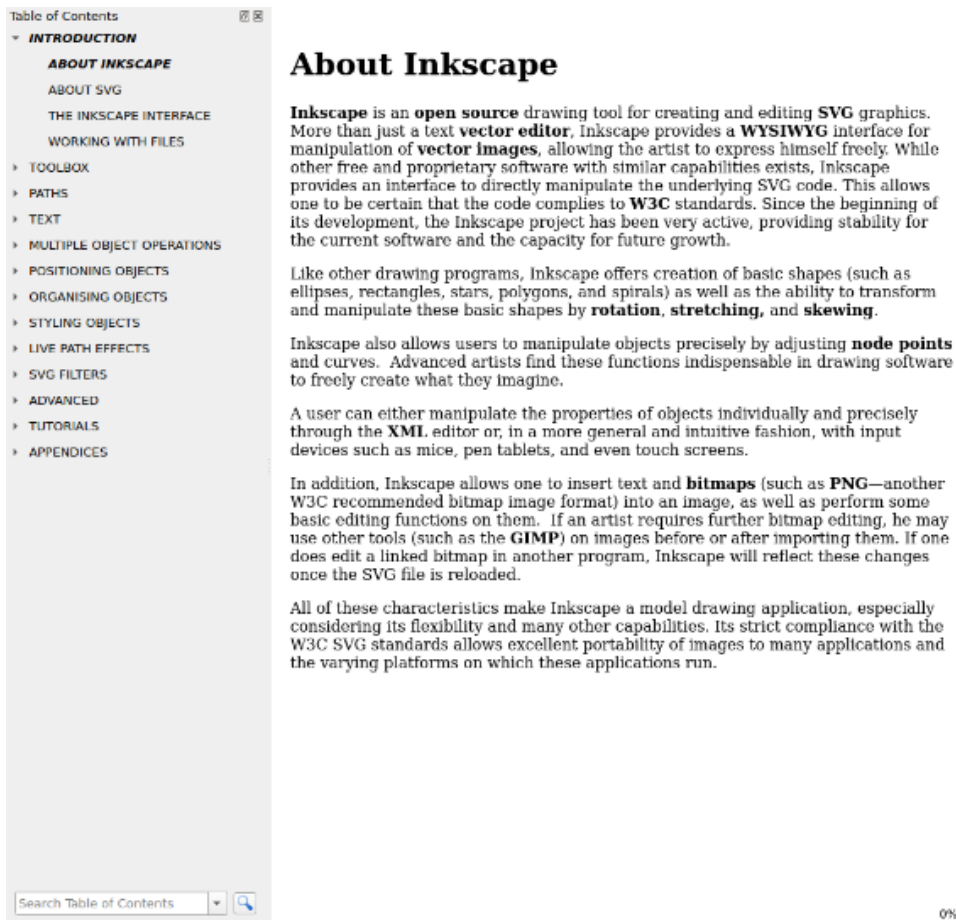


Figure 2. EPUB Book Open for Reading.

You can right-click any time on a page to display the menu shown in Figure 3. This is available only for books in EPUB or similar formats; in particular, it's not available for PDF books.



Figure 3. EPUB Book Menu.

One of the advantages of EPUB and similar formats is that you can change the font size to suit your screen size and vision. Figures 4 and 5 show the same passage with different font sizes. Note that the line lengths have adapted, and you don't have to scroll horizontally.

CHAPTER I.

YOU don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; but that ain't no matter. That book was made by Mr. Mark Twain, and he told the truth, mainly. There was things which he stretched, but mainly he told the truth. That is nothing. I never seen anybody but lied one time or another, without it was Aunt Polly, or the widow, or maybe Mary. Aunt Polly—Tom's Aunt Polly, she is—and Mary, and the Widow Douglas is all told about in that book, which is mostly a true book, with some stretchers, as I said before.

3%

Figure 4. Passage in Normal Font.

CHAPTER I.

YOU don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; but that ain't no matter. That book was made by Mr. Mark Twain, and he told the truth, mainly. There was things which

3%

Figure 5. Same Passage in Larger Font.

Calibre uses your default PDF viewer for such files, and this may provide some advantages. For example, Figure 6 shows an e-book with a note I've attached (highlighted with yellow). Normally you see only the small icon to the upper left of the note and display the note by selecting the icon. (Selecting the "x" at the note's upper right hides it.) This feature is not available in Calibre when reading books with EPUB and similar formats.

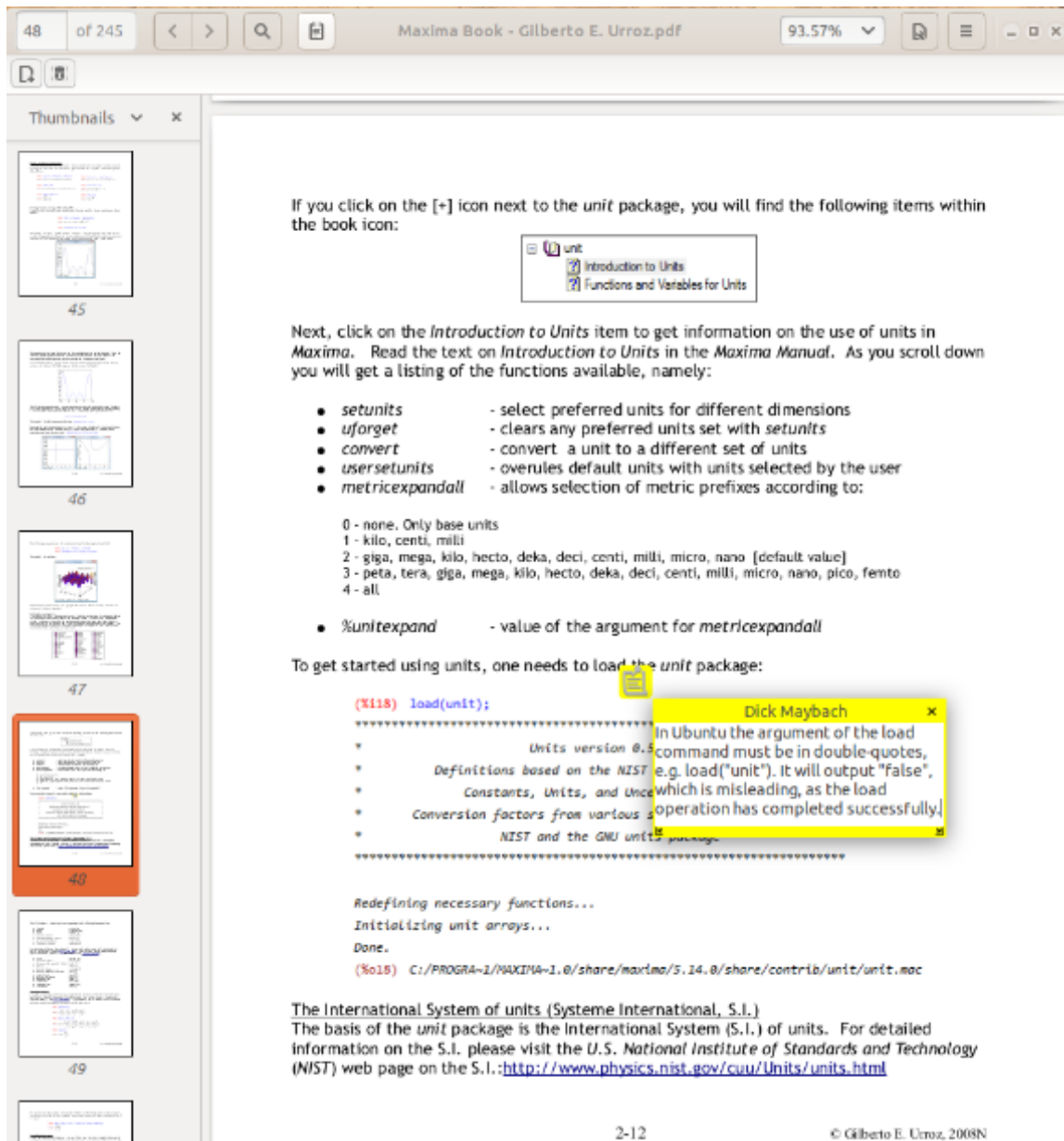


Figure 6. Note Added to a PDF Document.

Also note the page thumbnails displayed in the left panel, which help you navigate through the book. Some PDF books have a table of contents, but you normally have to scroll to their starts to see it. Fortunately, you can make a bookmark to return to your reading.

E-books will continue to proliferate, and to use them efficiently you need a good reader that helps you keep your collection organized. Realistically, no single one will cover all your needs, as your collection will likely be spread over all your devices and into the cloud. As with all your data, take some time to ensure your books are securely backed up, especially if they reside on portable devices. 📁

[Go to Page 1](#)

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.

April

May

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



You have just read an issue of The Digital Viking.

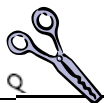
Would you like to receive this delivered directly to your email or business each month?

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.)



Here's the info for my TC/PC Membership:	I'm signing up for:	4/21
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# _____		

April 13, 2021
7:00 pm
General Meeting

**Play Games Online with
Tabletop Simulator**

Via Zoom

More info: www.tcpc.com



341 County Rd C2 W
Roseville, MN 55113

FIRST CLASS MAIL