

Windows SIG

052615

“Chips” are Coming to US Credit Cards



- Screen shot of the chip on the back of the new Citi Card MasterCard
- Improved security is the benefit
- All credit cards must contain the new chip by the end of the year

Altice sa

- Altice a European cable provider has purchased a controlling interest in Suddenlink Communications
- The acquisition of Suddenlink is considered to be a precursor to broader involvement of Altice, in the US market
- Time Warner is also considered to be a target

Windows 10 & “Bloatware”

- As you may be aware, vendors of new computers have discontinued providing Users with an installation disk
- Instead they create a partition on the disk and place a copy of the installation in the partition
- Problem is, the reinstallation media typically contains various forms of bloatware e.g. trial versions of antivirus, tool bars, browsers etc.
- If you reinstall from the partition you will reinstall the bloatware
- Windows 10 has a new feature that will resolve the problem
- Users can delete the original vendor partition and if a “refresh or reset” is required Win 10 will perform an in-place reinstall without the need vendor partition
- This also means that in the event of a refresh or reset that updates will not have to be reinstalled

New Vulnerability... Called “Logjam”

- There is a new browser vulnerability called Logjam that exploits secure connections between browsers and websites
- The attack exploits a weakness in an algorithm for secure connections
- You can check each of your browsers at this link
<https://www.ssllabs.com/ssltest/viewMyClient.html>
- When testing my browsers, Chrome and Firefox were vulnerable, IE was not!
- Browser vendors are preparing patches, if your primary browser is vulnerable make sure that you check frequently and apply updates

Hidden Administrator Account

- A vexing Windows problem is that occasionally you are barred from performing some function even though you are the “administrator” of the computer and or have elevated privileges by right clicking and select “run as administrator”
- That is because even though you are the administrator, you do not have total privileges on the computer but there is a hidden account that does provide 100% control. Here’s how:
 1. In Win 8.x, right click the Windows icon and select “Run” from the Menu
 2. In the “Run” box type or copy and paste... **lusrmgr.msc**
 3. In the left pane click Users
 4. In the center pane click Administrator
 5. On the next page you will notice a check opposite “Account is Disabled”
 6. Un-check the account for total privileges access
 7. It is not recommended to use that account on a daily basis, check again to disable

Microsoft Account Recovery

- Installation of Windows 8.x requires a Microsoft Account for full functionality
- Users may use a current email address, apply for an Outlook account or if you have a MSN, Hotmail or Live account you already have a Microsoft Account
- A frequent problem is that users forget their password and cannot access their computer
- There are two ways to recover your Microsoft Account password
 1. You can logon to www.outlook.com, enter your email address, click “can’t access account”, follow the prompts and if your account has been set up properly, a code will be emailed to another address which will permit a User to change their password, or
 2. There is a little known option that will permit a User to get a “code” in advance, that will permit account recovery

How to Get a Microsoft Recovery Code in Advance

- Logon to your Microsoft Account at www.outlook.com
- At the upper right, click the “gear”
- From the Menu, select “options”, then
- On the top Menu, click “Security & Privacy”, then
- On the left “More Security Settings”, you may be prompted for a code, if so follow the prompts)
- Scroll down to “Recovery Code”, and
- You will get a display on a “permanent” security code (or if you were previously issued a code, click replace to view)
- You should print the code and put in a safe place to facilitate account recovery and future hassles

Rehash of 051215 Issues

- All software vendors are moving towards the delivery of products via the cloud (SAS – software as a service)
- Traditional installation disks will disappear and software will be downloadable via and ISO image or .exe file
- Think of an ISO file as a downloadable “box” that contains everything necessary for the installation of the software
- When Windows 10 is released later this summer, there will be two options
 - An “upgrade” of a current installation, via Windows update, if eligible, or
 - A “clean install”
- XP, Vista and possibly Windows 7 will require a “clean install”
- Presumably Win 8.X will be upgradeable
- Presumably a User will be able to do a clean install for any version?

Upgrade vs. Clean Install

- An upgrade is exactly what it sounds like, it modifies the files of an existing installation, so that it will perform as a “new” installation. Upgrading is by far the simplest method of installing a new operating system! However, it is difficult to imagine how an upgrade can be in the long term best interests of a User?
- A clean install is also what it sounds like. The current installation is “erased” from a hard drive and a new operating system is installed from a disk (or in some cases a Flash drive)
- Upgrade or clean install is a matter of choice!
- Users who opt for a clean install should either know how to perform a clean install or make sure they have a Help Center Rep on speed dial!

How to Prepare an ISO Disk?

First a foremost it is important to understand that it is not a difficult task and that is why we recommend that you do a trial run in the previous session. Following is what is required:

1. You need to have the location (URL) of the ISO file to be downloaded, there will be two options 32 or 64 Bit (e.g. <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/preview-iso>)
2. You need to know if your system is 32 or 64 bit so you can select the proper file (in Win7, right click computer, in Win8.x right click “This PC”, select “Properties”)
3. Download the appropriate file to the “Download” folder on your system
4. Install, then boot ImgBurn, then click “write image file to disk”
5. Navigate to your Download folder and select the ISO file that you downloaded
6. Insert a blank DVD disk into your CD/DVD player
7. When the device is ready the icon at the bottom of the page will light, click the icon and the preparation will begin
8. When complete you will have prepared an ISO installation disk

What is Needed to Prepare for a Clean Install

1. You need an ISO installation disk
2. You need copies of your files and folders stored on an external hard drive, flash drive, DVD, or on a “Cloud” device (Amazon Cloud, Google Drive or OneDrive)
3. You should also have a CSV file of your email contacts
4. If the email and items stored in folders is important, you should also export a copy of these items to a file
5. Finally, you should locate disks and license keys for the OS and any special programs that you employ (e.g. Family Tree Maker, Quicken, MS Office etc.)

Copies of Primary Files & Folders the Easy Way

- Click Windows Explorer (the file folder icon on the Taskbar)
- In the left panel, click “Local Disk (C:)”
- In the right panel you will see a folder entitled “Users”, click to open
- Click the name of the User’s files to be copied
- You will see all folders and files associated with that User
- Click to 1st folder to select
- Page down the list to the last folder, hold down the Ctrl & Shift keys and click the last folder and all folders will be selected
- Right click in the “blue” space and select “copy” from the drop down Menu
- Navigate to e.g. your external drive, cloud drive or flash drive, click to open
- In the right panel in some blank space, right click and select “paste” from the Menu, and
- You will have made a copy of all of the files associated with that User, excluding contacts and email

How to perform a Clean Install

- Insert your ISO disk in your CD/DVD player and reboot your computer
- Boot from your CD/DVD drive (depress the F12 key on most machines), if not Google... how to boot from CD with...(add name of your computer)
- Files from disk will be loaded, Windows logo appears, with language and keyboard prompt, click “Next”
- Click “Install Now” and setup begins, accept prompts
- Click... Custom (advanced) and you will see a display of your current disk, with typically numerous partitions
- Start at the bottom partition, click to highlight the partition, then “delete” (N.B. only do this if you have copies of your files and the license code for the operating system, since when you click “delete” all data will be lost)
- Proceed to the next partition, highlight and delete, until there is only one partition, then
- “Next” will light at the bottom right, click and the installation of your new OS will begin