Real-Times Virus Attacks

- http://map.ipviking.com/

Windows SIG

LastPass "Hacked"

- Apropos of our previous comment… "There are two types of organizations, one's that have been hacked and those that do not know that they have been hacked"!
- There are several issues related to the LastPass hack
  1. It was discovered more timely than most
  2. All data except for password reminders is encrypted
  3. The is no indication that the encryption has been or can be broken
  4. LastPass issued a recommendation that master passwords be changed
- As a User you cannot prevent hacking, your best "protection is"
  1. Password management software
  2. A separate password for each website that you visit
  3. Employ strong passwords (upper and lower case alpha, letters and symbols, eight digits or more in length)
  4. Activate "alerts" on bank accounts, credit cards and investment accounts, and
  5. Employ User "best of practices"

File Maintenance Tool

- Analyzing, finding files and maintaining a disk can be a chore!
- There is a free tool available called "WinDirStat" that makes disk maintenance a breeze
- The tool is available at www.Ninite.com , under the header "Utilities", put a check opposite the app, click get "Get Installer" and follow the prompts
- Boot the WinDirStat app, select the drive to be analyzed, and
- You will get a display of the % of disk utilization and distribution of files by type, in a "tree" format
- Files can be easily located and deleted
- It is suggested that you download the app to see if it should be added to your repertoire?

Hard Drive Evolution

- Computer hard drive technology is changing rapidly and you should be aware of your options
- In the event of a drive upgrade, you currently have three options:
  - A "mechanical" drive (moving parts), least expensive, slowest
  - A "hybrid" drive, that combines a solid state drive with a mechanical drive on one device, faster
  - A "solid state drive" (SSD) no moving parts, most expensive, fastest
- Drive warranties vary from one to five years (longer the warranty, higher the price for similar capacity)
- Current state of the art, to maximize speed, is a separate SSD and hard drive
  - The SSD is used to install programs, and
  - A separate mechanical drive is used for storage
- Western Digital is a leading vender of mechanical and hybrid drives, Samsung is a leading vendor of SSD drives

Major Cloud Providers Your Best Protection?

- In my view major "cloud" providers like Amazon, Google and Microsoft offers Users protection and backup that is hard to replicate!
- Major cloud vendors provide a variety of significant features
    1. Free basic storage that can be expanded at a very reasonable price
    2. A staff dedicated to "security" (Google, questionable?)
    3. Website multi level security
    4. *Multiple backups and multiple locations
- The risk in cloud utilization is the "browser" and User passwords
- Downloading the desktop app minimizes security issues
- For those that may be interested, following is a link to a video on "Microsoft security", it's not a commercial for Microsoft… Amazon and Google employ similar approaches: https://youtu.be/a5JLkGD515I

Are You Backing Up Correctly?

- An effective backup plan contemplates storing data in a variety of places and in a variety of ways

- Murphy's law applies not only to computers but also to backups!

- Guidance:
  1. Backup locally to an external hard drive (preferred), a flash drive or DVD
  2. Backup externally to a service e.g. Carbonite or CrashPlan
  3. Backup files to a cloud vendor e.g. Amazon, Google or Microsoft
  4. Have at least two separate backup of files that you can actually see
  5. The "best" tools for backup and copying
     A. Windows Backup (built into the operating system) image & files/folder capability
     B. ToDo Free from EaseUS (free and paid versions) image & files/folder capability
     C. Bvckup (minimal, special pricing for CC Members) best for coping files and folders
     D. TeraCopy, free available www.Ninite.com under header "Utilities" best for copying files and folders
  6. System images will be of little value until after your system is updated to Windows 10
     A. As soon as your system is updated to Windows 10, all historic updates should be deleted and a "fresh" update initiated immediately

Microsoft Problem Resolution

- A little know fact is that Microsoft provides more than 500 automated and semi-automated problem fixes

- For resolving "basic" problems Microsoft provide 30 tools for Windows 7 and 8.X Users, known as trouble-shooters
  - ➤ Users can access trouble-shooters as follows… click Start > Control Panel… under the header "System Security" you will see… Find and Fix problems
  - ➤ You will see four categories, clicking a category provides more options

- Microsoft provides online support at https://support2.microsoft.com/fixit/
  - ➤ You can follow Microsoft's three step process for narrowing your options or you can employ "search" which sometimes is quicker

- If all else fails you can employ "google" to find your solution!

Six PC Myths to Understand…

1. There are safe "freeware" websites. Myth… they all provide varying amounts of crapware!
   - There is only one freeware website that is free of crapware… www.Ninite.com
   - If an app is not available on Ninite, only download from the venders website and even then be vary careful of what you are agreeing too

2. You should employ "driver updater software" to update your computer. Myth… driver updates are a primary origin of malware!
   - Software should only be updated via Windows Update or directly only from a vender website, and then only if you are experiencing a problem

3. There is paid software that will "optimize" your computer. Myth… there is only one program that we have found that will resolve problems and potentially, increase performance and that is available free at www.tweaking.com > "Windows Repair All-In-One". There is a paid version that has some additional features, but primarily a means of "support" the developer

4. Clearing my browser cache will speed up performance. Myth… it will do the opposite and if checked in e.g. CCleaner it will remove cache data, which although it will remove some data initially, it will reload the cache data the next time you visit the website. Net, net it's an inconvenience, not an improvement

5. When prompted, I should download codec and player to watch a video. Myth… never download if prompted, it is more than likely a scam! The best "player" is VLC which is available at www.Ninite.com under the header "Media", VLC has all the codecs that are required

6. I have a paid antivirus program and I am protected. Myth… there is no antivirus or malware program that provides total protection, free or paid. The best potential software is in a User's mind.

Window 10 Overview

1. Windows 7 & 8.X Users can opt into an "early" download of Win 10
2. If eligible, Users will see a Windows icon in the system tray at the bottom right, click the icon and follow the prompts to opt in
3. You can verify your opt in by clicking Start > Control Panel < System Security > Windows Update
4. Opting in does not commit a User to actually installing Win 10
5. Apparently, those that opt in will begin to get "partial" and the final download prior to July 29th
6. The download will approximate 3 GBs
7. If you do not elect the early opt in, you will have one year from July 29th to receive the "free" option
8. If Win 7 or 8.X is running adequately on your existing hardware, Win 10 should upgrade without issue
9. The Win 10 upgrade is free (for the life of the system)
10. I am not aware of any reason that an eligible User should not elect the early opt in?

Win 10 Feature Deletions and Additions

1. Windows Live Mail will not be available for Windows 10, there will be a new mail app
2. Windows Media Center, DVD playback and Gadgets will not be available
3. Windows Update will be replaced
4. Updates for Win 10 Home Users will be "automatic", apparently there will be no "install" options
5. Windows 10 can be customized to your preferences in many different ways, including , colors, lock screen, themes, etc.
6. IE will be replaced with a new browser called code name "Spartan"
7. The GUI (Graphical User Interface) has been completely revised and combines the best feature of Windows 7 & 8.X
8. Cortana can be activated by voice or via search and provides numerous convenience features
9. Search has been revised and dramatically improved!
10. Win 10 will feature enhanced security including access by dual authentication, fingerprint and eye scans (additional hardware required)
11. Win 10 looks to be a "winner" and the best ever operating system!

The Upgrade Process

- A "best practice" to prepare for an upgrade is to have a current backup of files and folders (an image is of no value in an upgrade), ensure that you have a copy of all license keys and disks for legacy apps

- When the Win 10 download is complete, click on the file and follow the prompts

- No User files will be lost during the upgrade, however a backup copy of all files and folders is a "best practice"

- Certain legacy apps maybe lost and may require reinstallation?

- The upgrade process should be somewhat time consuming but painless except for the issue of legacy apps

- Remember Murphy's law applies to computers and upgrades, be prepared!

Windows 10 Issues

1. After Win 10 upgrades the new installation will use your Win 7 or 8.X license key

2. Win 10 "free" apparently is defined as for the "life of the motherboard"? Apparently, failure of a motherboard will require a new license
   - ➢ Apparently replacing a hard drive and or memory will not invalidate your license

3. For those who want a clean install, the process is as follows:
   A. Ensure that you have a copy of all important files and folders, license keys and installation disks
   B. First, upgrade your current installation to Windows 10
   C. Next, provide verification of the upgrade and your license key to Microsoft to be eligible for an ISO download of Win 10
   D. Download the ISO file
   E. Prepare an ISO disk of Win 10
   F. Insert the ISO disk in the DVD drive and boot from the ISO disk
   G. Follow the prompts, format the existing hard drive (all data will be lost)

Win 10 Confusion

- Window 10 is being advertised widely, as free, subject to:
  - Exercising the option to upgrade within one year of 07/29/15
  - Apparently the Win 10 license only attaches to the life of the motherboard not to the User as with previous versions
- On Monday June 22nd there was a release by Gizmo Freeware that indicated that Win 10 would also be available to Mac and Linux Users, free
- The catch?
  - Joining the "Insider" program, which is free
  - Installing the preview on another machine or virtually
  - Having a Microsoft account, which is also free (those that have a Hotmail, MSN, Live or Outlook account already have a Microsoft account), and
  - When Win 10 is RTM they will be provided with a free upgrade
- The free for "everyone" seems to run counter to the hoops Microsoft is employing for current Win 7 & 8.X Users?
- Stay tuned!