

Windows SIG

060915

Computer World... on IT Support

- Computer World has reported on a Penn State University study that... “support without “explanation can have a negative effect on Users”
- The study proves the societal principal... “if someone will do it for you, there is no need to learn how to do it yourself”
- “IT support has the potential to, paradoxically, make more ignorant Users”
- “Support staff should, within reason, explain what they are doing and why they are doing it, when confronted with a User problem”
- “Support staff should explain what they are doing and why they are doing it when confronted with a User problem”
- Here’s a link to the full article <http://www.computerworld.com/article/2927580/cloud-computing/by-improving-support-it-might-be-making-users-dumber.html#tk.rss>

IBM Security... on Breaches

- 80% of cyber crime is attributable to “organized crime” and many believe that China is attempting to build a national database of personal information of US citizens
- It is a vocation and a job for most, perpetrators get up in the morning and spend the day trying to steal and sell stolen, personal information
- A stolen credit card is widely available on the Internet for a \$1
- Stolen medical records are available for \$50
- Security professionals claim there are two types of organizations, ones that have been breached and those who do not know they have been breached!
- You cannot prevent a breach, your protection is to employ “best security practices”, “strong” passwords, frequent check of credit score, plus credit card and bank “alerts”

Password Management Tools

- We have frequently talked about Password Management applications, principally Dashlane, KeePass, LastPass and RoboForm
- At one time or another I have used each of the forgoing
- I have finally settled on LastPass, which I now consider the “best of breed”
- A password management tool permits a User to get serious about security
 - ✓ Only one password to remember
 - ✓ Generates random passwords
 - ✓ Generates strong passwords
 - ✓ Generates a separate password for each site
 - ✓ Remembers all passwords
 - ✓ Fills forms automatically
 - ✓ Maintains credit card data
 - ✓ Supports “dual authentication”
 - ✓ Multiple appliance and mobility support
 - ✓ Supports family sharing of passwords
 - ✓ Everything is encrypted
- I have recently upgraded to the paid version, \$12 a year, it is a bargain!

A Scam Making the Rounds...

Bill Buppert

From: Alert <bmachado@my.uri.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 5:28 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Suddenlink Update

Dear Account Owner
Suddenlink! will shut down all Unverified/Unused account within 48hours due to the congestion of all unused email account,
[Update to fix](#)



Suddenlink! Customer Care Team

Do not ever get lulled into clicking on questionable email link

Microsoft Announces Win10 Release Date

- Microsoft has announced the release date for Windows 10... it's July 29th!
- Microsoft has begun notifying certain Windows 7 and Windows 8.x Users of an early reservation system for Windows 10 via "Windows Update"
- Information has started to appear in the "System Tray" and "Control Panel"
- Allegedly "reserving" will permit a download of Windows 10, prior to the official release date
- "Reserving" and downloading does not commit a User to the installation of Win10
- You can delete the icon by going to the "notifications" area (in System Tray click ^ > Customizations > under header GWX > hide icon and notifications

A Way to Reserve Win10 for Win7 & 8.x Users



System Tray Icon, Bottom Right



Also Appears in Control Panel

A screenshot of the Windows Update page in the Control Panel. The breadcrumb trail at the top reads 'Control Panel > System and Security > Windows Update'. On the left, there are links: 'Control Panel Home', 'Check for updates', 'Change settings', 'View update history', and 'Restore hidden updates'. The main content area is titled 'Windows Update' and features a green vertical bar on the left. To the right of the bar, it says 'Windows 10 upgrade reserved' in blue, followed by 'We'll let you know when the upgrade is ready to be installed on this PC.' and a 'Learn more' link. Below this, there is a 'Show all available updates' link. At the bottom, it shows the 'Most recent check for updates' as 'Today at 7:04 AM', 'Updates were installed' as 'Today at 7:06 AM.', and 'You receive updates' as 'For Windows and other products from Microsoft Update'. A 'Rectangular Snip' watermark is visible in the bottom right corner.

Win10... Known Upgrade Issues

- Will files be lost? No, all files will be retained, but to be sure make copies of important files!
- Applications, a different story. Many will require reinstallation, make sure you have disks and license keys
- If there are compatibility issues you will be notified and provided the opportunity to proceed or not
- Windows features lost... Windows Media Center, DVD playback, Gadgets, Games (updated version available), floppy drive support, Windows Live Essentials (new version available), Windows Updates (new platform) and Virtual PC with XP Mode
- Will upgrade be available as an ISO? Yes, an ISO will be available but only with a license key and you must upgrade first!
- Will a clean install option be available? Yes, but only after performing an upgrade and acquiring an ISO
- The same license key will be used for the system from which you are upgrading
- NB... Hope for the best and prepare for the worst! You can run a compatibility check beforehand and test thoroughly. Win7 and 8.x Users should have minimal issues except for legacy apps!

Win10... Minimum Requirements

Firmware UEFI 2.3.1 Secure boot enabled
Memory 2GB for 64-bit 1GB for 32-bit
Storage >= 16GB for 32-bit OS >=20GB for 64-bit OS
Graphics DirectX 9
Tablet Buttons Required – Power, Volume Up/Down Optional – Start, Rotation lock

Win10... New Security Features

- The RTM version of Windows will introduce biometrics to allow Users to securely log into the operating system.
- The biometric features, called Windows Hello and Microsoft Passport, can use multiple biometrics to authenticate your identity for access to the system and the information on it.
- These new features (special equipment required) will use facial recognition, iris scanning and or your fingerprint to identify you and grant access.
- Fingerprint scanning on recent Win10 builds is already available
- A “fingerprint” scanner and Win10 are required, and
- Fingerprint scanners are available from Amazon for as little as \$11

Win 10 Summary... What We Know now

- The official release date for Win 10 is scheduled for July 29, 2015
- Win 10, for valid owners of Win7 (SP1) & 8.x (only) will be free, if upgraded within one year
- Microsoft is providing the option for certain Users to opt into an early release of the upgrade. Apparently, portions of the upgrade will be disseminated prior to 07/29
- Opting for an early upgrade does not commit a User to actually install Win 10
- Brand computers after 07/29 will come with Win 10 installed
- A Win 10 ISO download will be available after 0729 but only after upgrading to the free version and with a valid license key
- Users will be permitted to do a clean install, but only after upgrading and downloading an ISO and will require a valid license key
- For those considering a new build , a Win 10 license for the “Home” version will approximate \$110
- If Win 7 or 8.x is currently running, no equipment upgrades will be required
- If a User is not eligible for a free upgrade purchase of a “brand” computer or a new build is the best option
- Certain features running on 7 & 8.x will be replaced e.g. Windows Update and Windows Live Essentials
- Presumably no files will be lost in the upgrade, however duplicate copies of essentials docs in recommended
- Some apps will have to be reinstalled, securing an installation disk and license keys is essential
- Windows 10 appears to be a worthy update, it seems to combine the best of 7 & 8.x
- Assistance for Computer Club Members for various aspects of the coming upgrade will be available in the Help Center

Get Ready... Recommendations

1. If an icon appears in your system tray, opt in to the upgrade of Win 10 ASAP
2. Start collecting installation disks and license keys for specialty programs e.g. Photoshop, Quicken, Turbo Tax etc.
3. Create a separate CSV file and copy of your Contacts
4. If you employ an email client, practice creating a “backup”
5. Get in the habit of creating, duplicates of your essential files
6. Understand the difference between an upgrade and a clean install and make a conscious choice that suites you best
7. If you decide to explore a clean install... understand how to create and employ an ISO disk