

Notes include comments from several meeting attendees

VPN discussion

Nord VPN – 3 years - \$100 – from Netherlands

<https://nordvpn.com/>

CyberGhost – offered one time subscription at \$68 for 1st year. Offer appears to be crippled version. Unable to get it to work. For more money get more networks. Appears to be good response to support requests.

https://www.cyberghostvpn.com/en_US/

Tails – used for short time. Linux OS – run from DVD or flash drive.

<https://tails.boum.org/>

Smartwatch

Amazfit Bip Smartwatch by Huami - \$60 to \$100. Heartbeat, steps, vibration notification of phone calls and text messages from smartphone. Vibration fairly powerful.. GPS built in, also compass. Can replace band

Emergency notification

ROAD ID – not auto alert but band that contains ID and contact information for emergency personnel. For fee (\$9.99/year) can create online profile for storing additional emergency information.

<https://www.roadid.com/>

Revolar – Wearable panic button. Requires smartphone for app and pairing. Three alert levels – can add up to five contacts and specify which alert(s) they receive. If want/need to add more contacts, can purchase service plan.

<https://revolar.com/collections/all>

Gizmo Gadget or Gizmo Pal – from Verizon Wireless – two versions of watch for children that allows them to call, or receive calls, from select contacts. Parents control contacts. Has GPS and parents can track location from smartphone app. Purchase watch and pay \$5 monthly fee for service.

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/3268312/wearables/lq-gizmogadget-review-this-touchscreen-gps-watch-for-kids-is-loaded-with-features.html>

Computer Games

Free Cell gets wiped out when updated Wiindows 10. Can reinstall and doesn't lose history.

Microsoft Solitaire Collection – ads in Daily games only. Collection included in Windows 10 or can download free from Microsoft app store.

One Drive and cloud storage

One Drive encrypts data to and from but not on their servers. Can encrypt before sending or pay extra for them to encrypt.

When choosing cloud storage, good to check if your data is encrypted on their servers.

Passwords

No one currently using password manager.

Many keep passwords on computer in spreadsheet or document or handwritten. If on computer, may want to password protect.

Router update

If you own your own router, important to keep firmware updates current. If you've registered the router, the manufacturer will generally notify you via email when an update is available. The router software may also notify you when update is available, but may only see notification if log into router interface.

Not known if ISP, e.g., Charter, AT&T, regularly check/update routers that they provide.

Will ISPs be raising rates for streaming?

Average downloads increasing over last few years as more people are streaming to their computers, televisions, home assistants, cell phones, etc. Also, some people are eliminating cable television subscriptions as more programs are available over their network/internet subscription through Smart TVs, devices like Roku and Amazon TV, using streaming services like YouTube, Directv Now, Amazon offerings.

Book recommendations

Fifty Inventions That Shaped the Modern Economy – Tim Harford - 2017, 128 pages

The Assault on Intelligence – Michael V Hayden - 2018, 303 pages

Things that Matter – Charles Krauthammer – 2013 (reprint 2015), 416 pages