



*Midland Michigan*

# BITS AND BYTES

SEPTEMBER 2020

<https://mcc.apcug.org/>

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## **GENERAL CLUB MEETING**

Midland Public Schools Administration Building  
600 E Carpenter Street - Room D

**Wednesday, (date)**

**6:00 P.M.**

## APCUG Workshops

### Password Manager Workshop with Kenneth Tubaugh, Columbus Computer Society

With this workshop, you will learn how to solve password management problems using an open-source solution called Bitwarden.

4 pm PT, 5 pm MT, 6 pm CT, 7 pm ET

September 29 – Password theft is a serious problem. Everyone should be using a password management program and Bitwarden is one of the easiest and safest ways to store all of your logins and passwords while syncing them between all of your devices.

October 1 – Bitwarden Installfest where you will have the opportunity to work along with Kenneth as he shows attendees how to set up Bitwarden, create passwords, troubleshoot any problems you might have, and more.

[Click here to Register](#)

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### Linux Wednesday Workshop: Orv Beach (Linux Guru), Sharan Kalwani (SouthEastern Michigan Computer Organization), and John Kennedy (Advisor, Regions 3 & 6/7)

October 28 - 9 am PT, 10 am MT, 11 am CT, 12 pm ET

As John Kennedy asks: Why are there so many cars? Because everybody doesn't like the same car and that also pertains to the Linux desktop. Are you a fan of open-source software or you have heard about it and would like to learn more? This Linux team will introduce you to many Linux distros (short for distribution), a term used to describe a specific distribution of Linux that is built from the common Linux operating system and includes additional applications. Unlike Windows or Mac, you can choose a distro that meets your needs.

[Click here to Register](#)

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### Quick Assist

By Carol Picard, Midland Computer Club, Midland MI — capmidmi (at) yahoo.com  
September 2020 —Bits & Bytes - www.apcug.org

Quick Assist is a Windows application that enables sharing a Windows 10 computer remotely. Both computers must be running Windows 10. The sharer can share their computer with the helper to receive assistance. Initial contact to discuss issues and request sharing should be made via phone for security. Helper cannot gain access to sharer's computer without sharer giving permission each time.

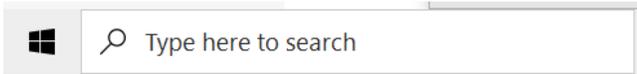
**NEVER** allow anyone to access your computer using Quick Assist, or any other program, if you don't know them, if you have not called them, using a known, good phone number, or you are unable to verify with absolute certainty that they are who they say they are. Do not respond to a pop-up on your computer, email, or phone call from someone requesting access to your computer. If you are searching the Internet for a phone number for a computer manufacturer or a software company, do multiple searches to see if you find the same number. Many fake websites appear to be valid. Giving someone access to your computer can cause serious problems, unnecessary cost, and result in your personal information being stolen.

Sharer has full control of their computer while it is being shared and can exit the session at any time. Depending on how sharing is set up, helper may have full access to sharer's computer or may only be able to view the screen.

Neither sharer nor helper need to be logged on to their computer under a Microsoft Account or an account with administrator access to use Quick Assist. However, the helper will have to enter their Microsoft account information when prompted.

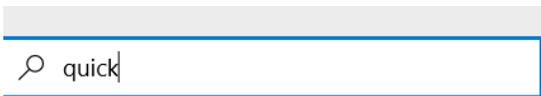
This article contain steps in sequence that both sharer and helper complete.

Both sharer and helper click in the search bar next to the Windows Start Menu icon

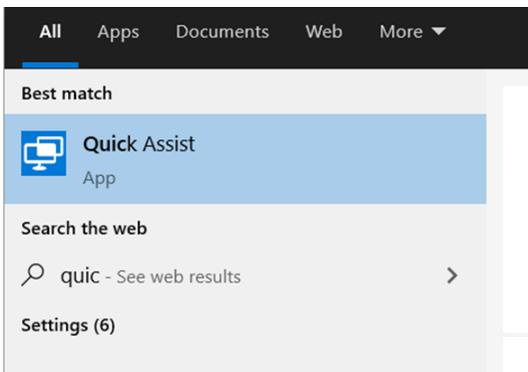


If you only see a magnifying glass, click on the magnifying glass to display the search bar.

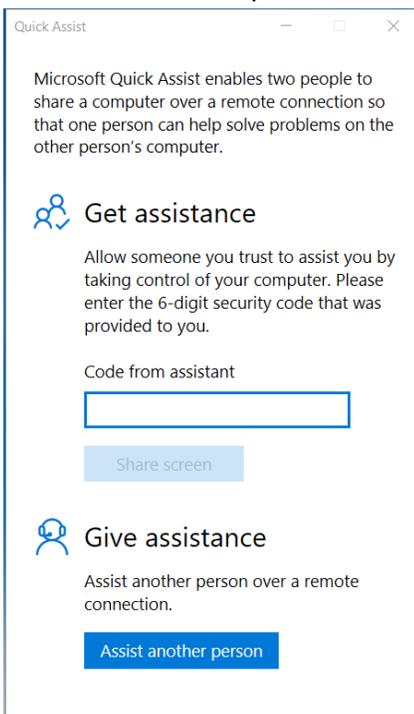
Search for Quick Assist, by typing the word quick in the search bar



In the results, click *Quick Assist* App

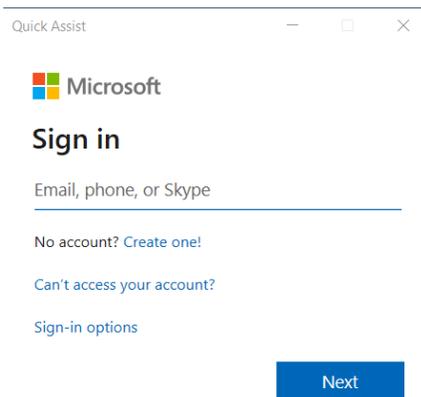


Both sharer and helper see the following screen:



Helper clicks *Assist another person*

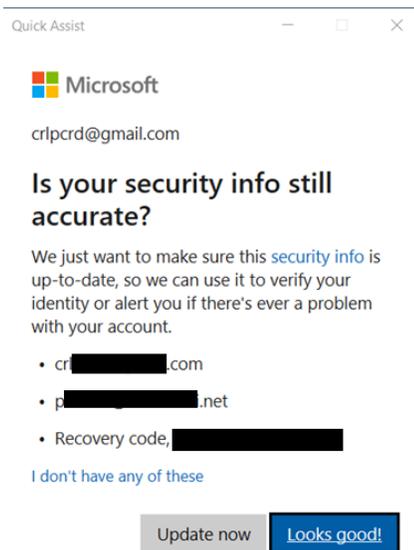
Helper is prompted to enter their Microsoft Account information.  
Will receive this prompt even if already signed on with Microsoft account.



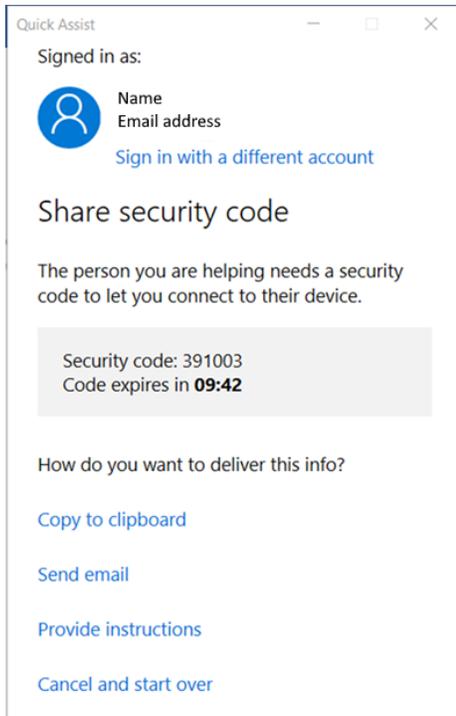
Enter Sign in information, then click Next

If prompted, enter account password.  
Click Next

If prompted, verify security information.

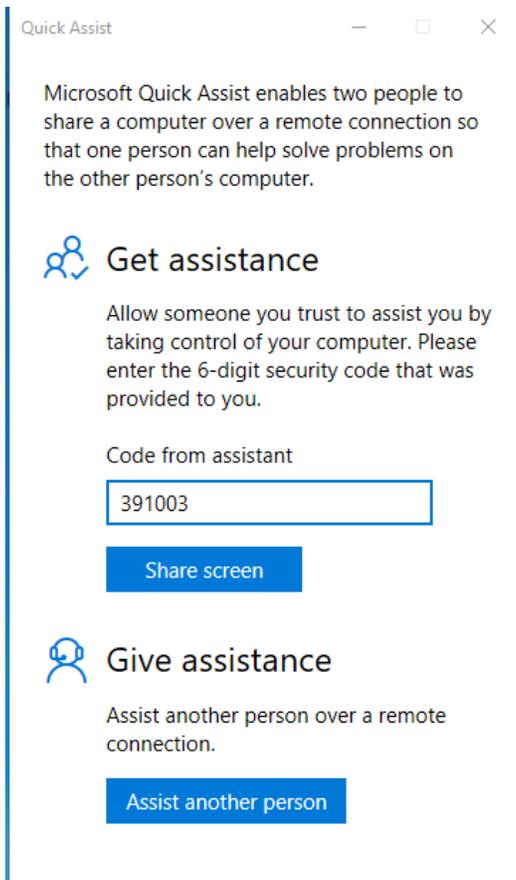


Click *Looks good!!*



Helper gives code to sharer.

Sharer types code in box under Code from assistant



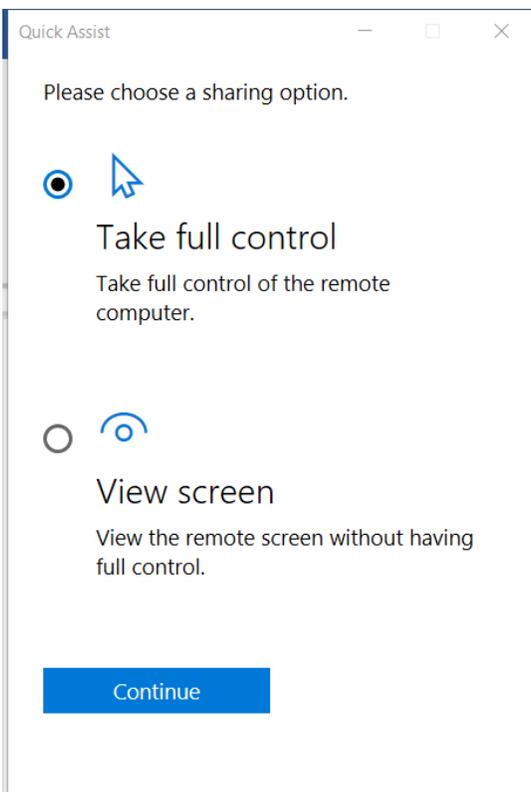
After entering code, sharer clicks *Share screen*

Sharer sees:



Waiting for helper to set up this session

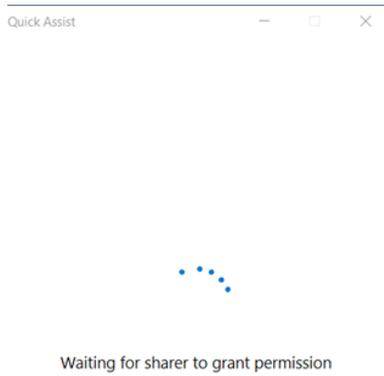
Helper sees:



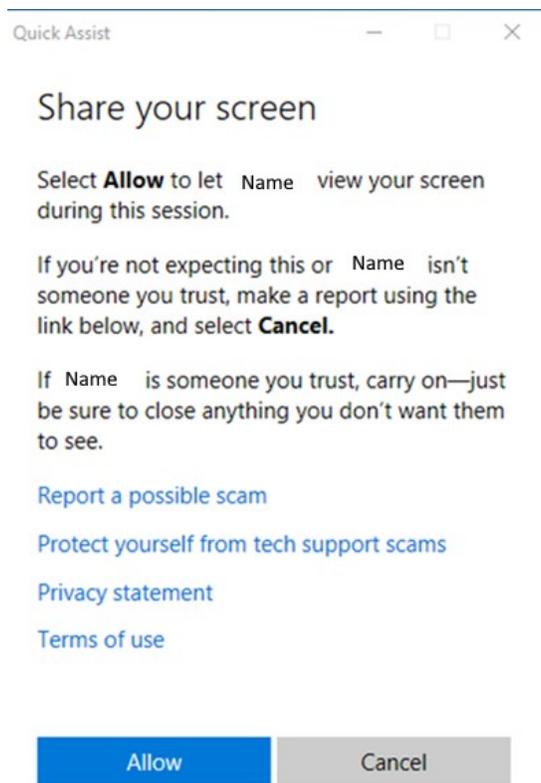
Helper clicks in circle to left of: Take full control or in circle to left of View screen

Click *Continue*

Helper sees:



Sharer sees:

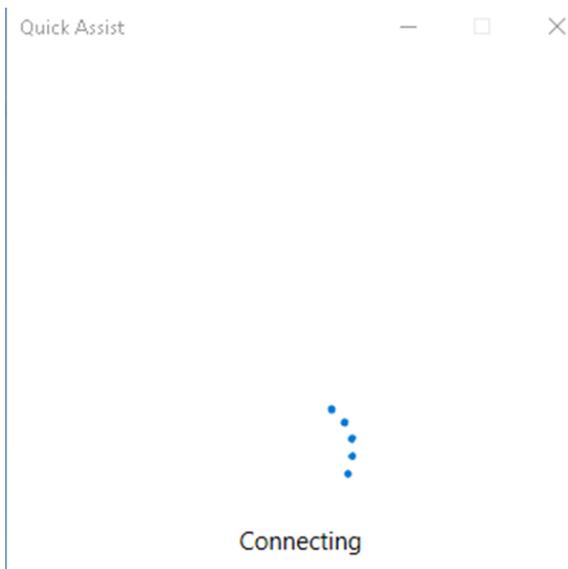


Name of helper will be shown in the three areas above in place of the word Name

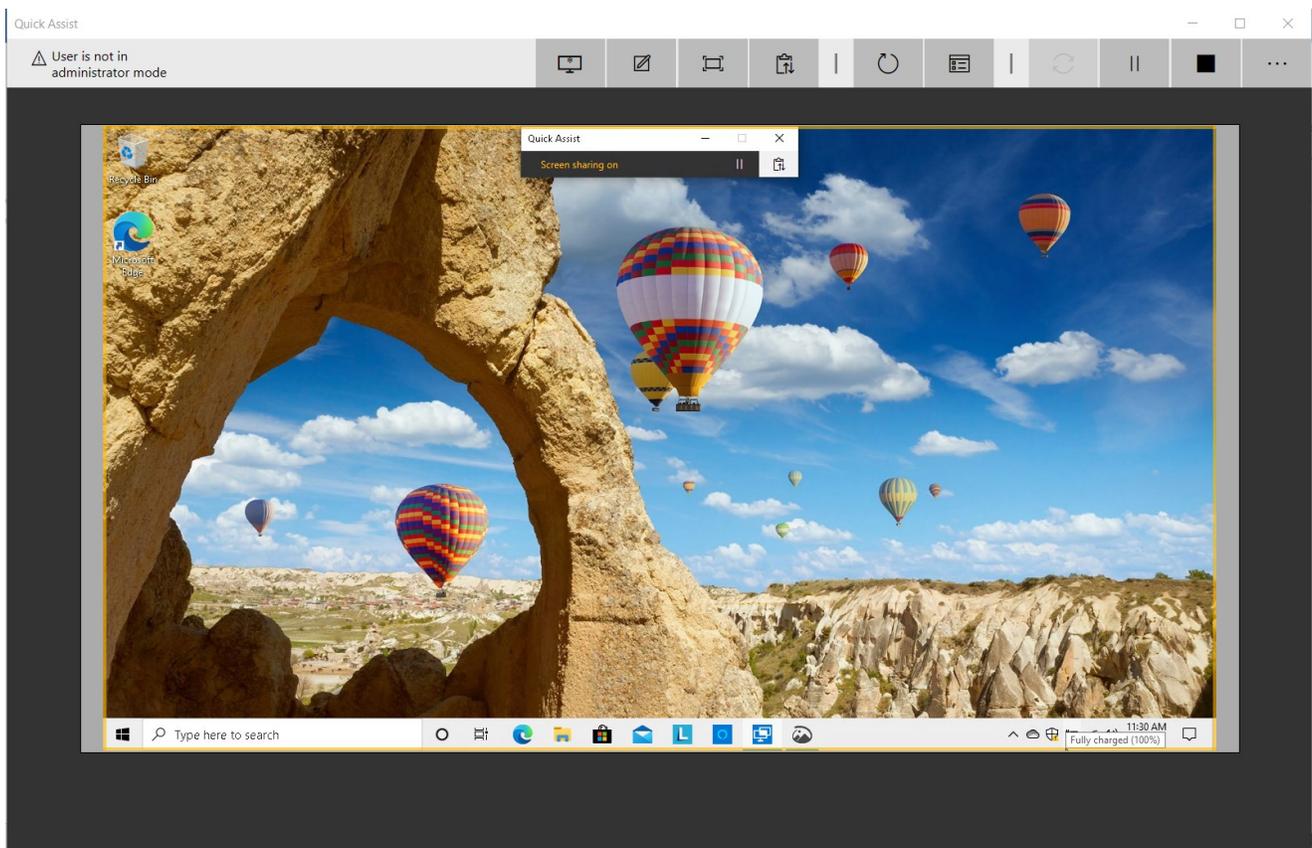
If name displayed in all three locations is correct, sharer clicks *Allow*

Otherwise, click *Cancel*

After sharer clicks Allow, both will see following screen while connection is made.



Helper sees sharer's computer screen and, if Full Control was taken, will be able to perform actions on that computer.



Sharer sees their screen (portion seen above enclosed by yellow border).

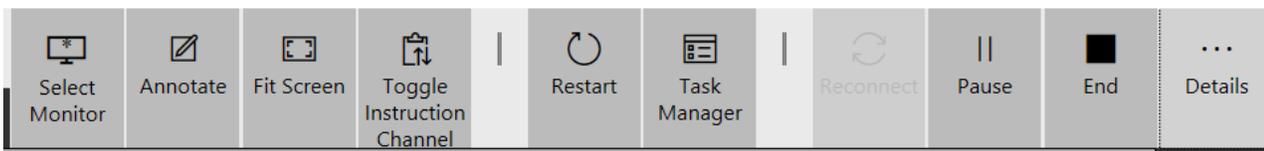
Both see Quick Assist toolbar in the middle top of the screen, which is displayed on screen being shared.



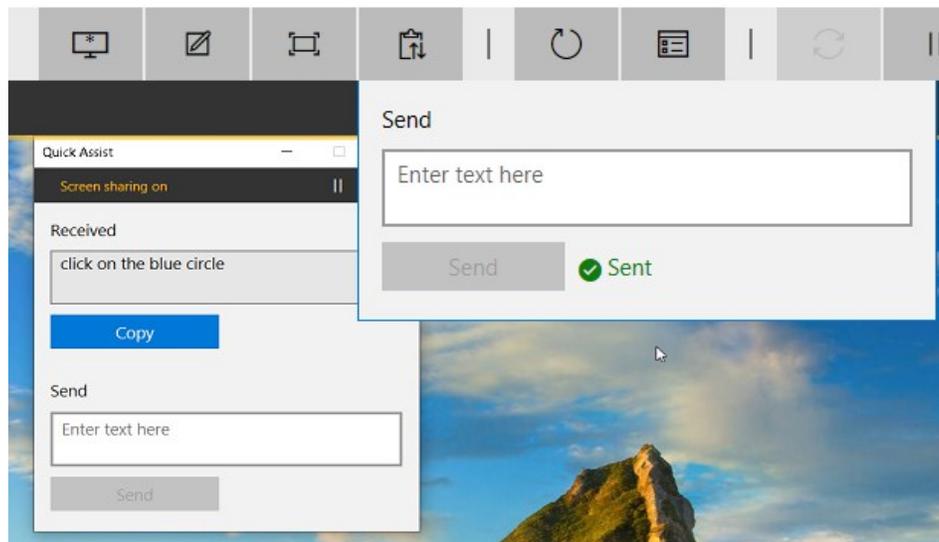
Both can use icons in the Quick Assist toolbar:

- Pause screen sharing - click on the two horizontal lines and the icon changes to a triangle. Regardless of who pauses the screen, only the sharer can un-pause by clicking on the triangle.
- Toggle Instruction Channel – click on clipboard icon with the up/down arrows, enter text, click Send. Other person clicks on clipboard icon to see text that was sent. Both can type and send additional text.
- Minimize icon - removes Quick Assist toolbar from the screen. Either person can display bar again by clicking on Quick Assist icon in the Windows tool bar at the bottom of the shared screen.
- Exit Quick Assist - click X in Quick Assist toolbar at the top of the shared screen.

Helper sees a row of icons above the screen being shared. Clicking three horizontal dots at end of the row of icons shows description for icons



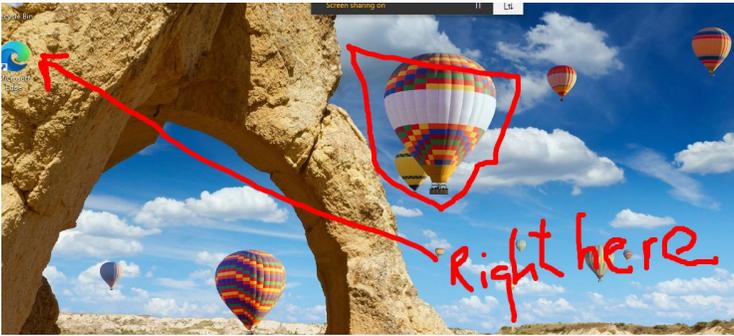
Helper can Toggle Instruction Channel from the row of icons. However, after sharer clicks the clipboard on their screen to read the text, helper will see both windows.



Helper can close the first window by clicking on the Toggle Instruction Channel icon in the row of icons.

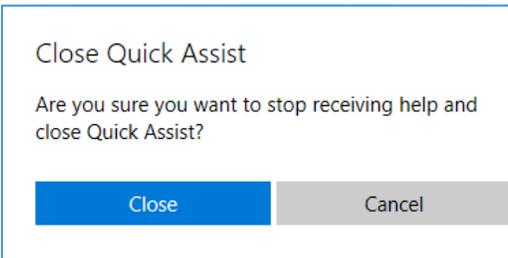
May be easier for helper to use Toggle Instruction Channel icon from the Quick Assist toolbar on the shared screen instead of accessing it on the row of icons.

Annotate allows helper to highlight or indicate specific areas of the screen.



At any time, either sharer or helper can click X in the Quick Assist toolbar to exit Quick Assist.

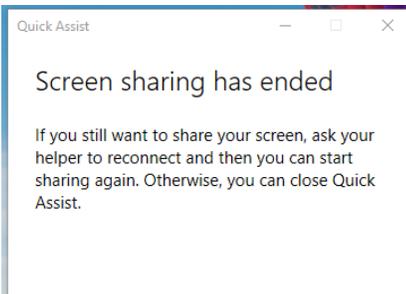
Both see:



If X was clicked accidentally, click Cancel to continue session.

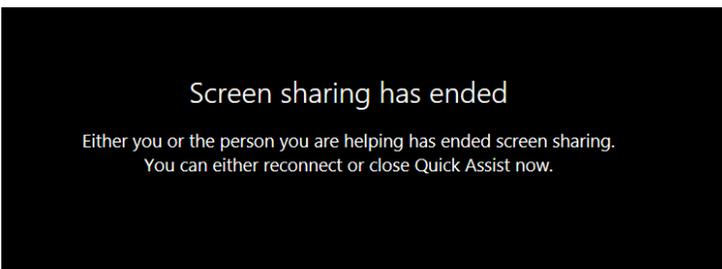
To continue exiting Quick Assist, either person can click *Close*

Sharer sees:

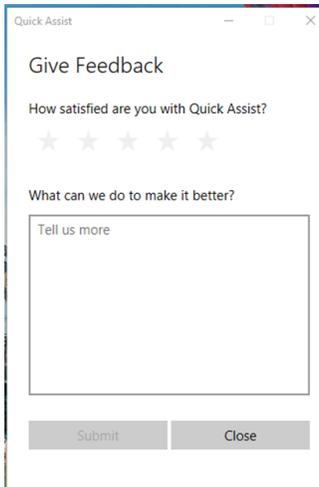


Click X in upper right of the above Quick Assist window.

Helper sees:



Click X in upper right of Quick Assist window.



May be prompted to Give Feedback:

If desired, enter feedback and click Submit

or,

Click *Close*

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## President's Corner

### Lessons from the Lockdown - Tech and Other Observations While in Captivity

by Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA  
May 2020 issue, Drive Light — [www.unchug.org](http://www.unchug.org) — president (at) uchug.org

**Tech to Stay Connected** - Most people seek the company of others and want to stay connected, but all the stay-at-home, work from home, self-isolation, and social distancing prevent most of our usual interactions with others. Technology can help. Video conferencing, phone calls, text messaging, and, to a lesser degree, emails, can all help us stay connected with those we can no longer interact with in person.

Text messaging is the preferred method of communication for my son and daughter, who are millennials. Texting is difficult for my 82-year-old mother, so I call her. The most personal way to keep in touch without being there in person, however, is video conferencing. Services like FaceTime, Skype, and Zoom are used by businesses, schools, and individuals to communicate, learn, conduct business, and fulfill that need for personal contact.

I don't have an Apple device for FaceTime and have not used Skype much recently outside of work. I have used Zoom a lot. I've attended Zoom seminars, like APCUG's VTCs (Virtual Technology Conferences) and other meetings where there is mostly a one-way transmission of information, perhaps with questions and answers. I conducted our last UCHUG meeting on Zoom, which was mostly presentations, but with an open forum "Random Access" session at the end.

I've also run or participated in other Zoom meetings that were held more like a group discussion. Our last two board meetings were held in this way and worked nearly as well as in-person (no snacks or drinks, however, unless you BYO). I've had many Zooms with friends and family; it works great when you can't physically get together. My extended local (Southern California) family always gets together for Easter dinner. This year we had to eat separately, but most of us got together on Zoom in the afternoon. It wasn't the same as sharing holiday food and drink together, but it was much better than having no connection at all.

Zoom works on most tech devices that can connect to the Internet, but some work better than others. As with most online activities, the experience is better with faster connection speeds and more processing power. I've connected with my smartphone, Chromebook, laptop, and desktop. A smartphone works, but the small screen limits what you can see. A tablet is a little better but similar. Chromebooks work pretty well, as do laptops. A camera and microphone are essential if you want to participate fully. For the best experience, use headphones or earbuds, rather than speakers, and a headset (headphones with a mic) rather than a device's built-in mic if possible. My gold standard for Zoom equipment is now a Win10 desktop with a big monitor (or duals), an external HD webcam, and a gamer headset.

**Tech to Stay Alive** - Internet services can help in many ways to keep up life's normal activities while restricted to home. A lot of things can be done online or ordered to be delivered, eliminating the risks in going out. Online banking and bill payment allow most financial transactions to be done from your computer or phone. Many institutions will even allow deposits of paper checks through a photo on your phone's banking app. You can get cash from ATMs (remember to bring a sanitizing wipe for the keyboard), but if you are not going out much, you probably don't need much cash anyway.

Online ordering and delivery services can help keep your household supplied with food and essentials, but they are not without issues. Most everyone used Amazon before COVID, but now, with greater demand and fulfillment also affected by the virus, all online deliveries are getting delayed. Gone is the two-day Amazon Prime typical delivery; even in-stock items can take weeks to receive. I've found items can be out of stock online while store shelves are full. I've been trying to buy some bar soap I like from Walmart.com but it has not been in stock since the crisis. I finally went to the Poway Walmart store yesterday and found it was readily available there.

Grocery delivery is something Amazon and others have been trying to bring into the mainstream for a while, and COVID-19 might help, though it seems the execution is still poor. I'm in the camp that wants to pick out my own produce, thank you, and so I don't have any interest in online groceries beyond packaged goods. My wife feels the same but has much greater concerns about going out to stores, and so has been trying for weeks to place an order through Amazon Fresh. Unfortunately, the demand for delivery times was very high in the first weeks of the quarantine, and she could never get one. She has had much better luck ordering online from Target and getting curbside pickup.

All restaurants are closed for dining, but some have stayed open for take-out and delivery. I've read that the delivery services are costly to the restaurants, so I won't use them. My wife and I have ordered meals for pick-up a few times since the lockdown, but I am generally dissatisfied with the experience. I don't mind picking up In-N-Out or a pizza, as these places make take-out their business and their prices keep that in mind. I find take-out from normal sit-down restaurants to be expensive for so-so food. I'm more willing to pay \$10-\$12 for a sit-down burger as a significant part of the value is in the experience of going out. Having the same food in a box at home (perhaps cold or missing something) is not worth it to me at the normal menu price.

Unless you filed early, you probably didn't get your tax returns in before the restrictions hit. My daughter had an appointment with a tax preparer for after the lockdown that she canceled. Fortunately, all of us late filers caught a few breaks. The Federal and most state deadlines for filing and paying have been extended to July 15. Except for those very few with complex tax situations, almost everyone can fill out their returns online or through a tax program like TurboTax and file without involving anyone else. I'm using TurboTax again as usual, but without a near-term deadline, I've put off completing mine.

**Shortages** - We have all seen or experienced the shortages in some items since the pandemic. Toilet paper, water, gloves, cleaning supplies, and masks have been in short supply and are still often rationed in stores when in stock. A few other more unusual shortage items I have seen or heard about are laptops and USB webcams. I was fortunate enough to buy a new laptop in January for the prior, now insignificant crisis of Windows 7 expiring. I've heard that companies buying up laptops to supply their employees now working from home have created a shortage. I expect the same thing has happened to Chromebooks (especially the lower-cost models) and other items useful for remote learning since the schools closed.

I bought a new desktop PC for my mom to move her to Windows 10 in January. I wish I'd thought to buy her a webcam then. Since the COVID crisis, I've tried to get one for her, so she could more easily participate in family Zoom meetings. With everyone trying to videoconference, they are now out of stock.

**Hoarding is Not Always a Bad Thing** - It is reported that a lot of the shortages we have experienced recently were caused by hoarding, where some bought up large quantities of certain items, far more than for their immediate needs. Some were probably hoping to turn around and sell some at a profit due to the self-created shortage, but fortunately, price gouging laws, purchase limits, and strict return policies have limited these bad hoarders.

My wife calls me a hoarder, which is perhaps not totally inaccurate, though I don't rise to the level of things you might see on TV. I like to get full utilization out of the items I buy; value is usually the most important thing to me. I have lots of older tech gear, spare parts, and speculative items I got at very low prices. When we found we would have to move our group's meetings to Zoom, I was able to find in my stockpile two old Microsoft webcams I had kept from 2009 and 2012. They had no problems being recognized by Windows 10 and still work great, allowing the desktop PCs my wife and I use to work well with Zoom. If I'd not saved them, I'd be scrambling now to find some webcams at any price.

I also have a garage full of extra fasteners (screws, nuts, etc.), leftover paint, wire, pipe, and spare lumber from prior projects. These supplies have allowed me to fix a few things and complete some household projects without making additional and possibly risky visits to Home Depot.

**Price Gouging** - I've always been suspicious of Amazon's pricing. It would be easy for them to show different pricing to different customers, determined by Amazon's perception of their likelihood to pay more. I have seen small price changes in items I have bought multiple times, but recently I've seen a 45% increase for one item. While California's legal definition of price gouging includes only "essential" consumer goods and services, it still stings when you see a big price increase on something you really could use.

When we started our planning for conducting Zoom meetings, I decided I wanted a better headset (headphones with microphone) and bought a NUBWO gamer headset with a noise-canceling mic for \$29 on Amazon. I made the mistake of showing it to my wife, who preferred it to her speakers and the mic in her webcam. I gave it to her and figured I'd just order another for myself but found the price for the same item had gone up to \$38 in about a week. I refuse to be gouged, so we have to share the one headset. I keep looking at it online, but it is now up to \$42.

**Old Folks Get Some Perks** - No one likes being called old, except when stores provide senior-only shopping hours and priority entrance for seniors. I'm just barely into the age group considered at greater risk for COVID-19, and so am happy to go right in while others wait in line to enter Costco. I've yet to take advantage of senior's hours as they are typically while I'm at work.

**What I'm Doing More of - and Less of** - I'm doing a lot less shopping, both in-person (to decrease exposure risk) and online (why wait two weeks for things). I used to enjoy "recreational" shopping at Costco and Fry's - can't do that anymore. I routinely delete all the Fry's ads and Groupon and Living Social emails I get; I'm not buying any experiences if I'm not sure when I'll be able to use them. I miss going out to eat and seeing family and friends. Zoom helps a lot, so I'm doing a lot more of that. I have a Chromebit (a Chrome OS stick computer) plugged into one of the HDMI inputs on our main TV, and I use it a lot more now (we watch our local Sunday Mass broadcast over YouTube on it).

Though I still go to work, we are now on ten-hour days so I'm driving a lot less. I'm stuck in less traffic and spend less time in line to buy cheaper gas. I have been driving more from San Diego to Orange County, however. Every few weeks I've been delivering batches of meals my wife has made to my parents there, so they don't have to leave the house as much. Though my evenings are typically free (nothing is open late anymore), I'm not spending more time on the computer or with the TV. After a long day at work or at home trying to catch up, I'm beat.

**Bad Things Don't Stop Happening Just Because You're in Lockdown** - Dealing with life's problems can be difficult in the best of times. During a pandemic, everything gets harder. People may be deferring maintenance or repairs until after COVID; hopefully, a catastrophic failure won't occur. We discovered in the big day of rain we had a couple of weeks ago that we have a roof leak, but we will hold off on repairs, hoping social distancing ends before the next rainy season begins.

My wife had a crown fall out not long after the stay at home orders were put in place. Our dentist had closed his office to normal work but agreed to come in to deal with this emergency situation. I've had several recent medical appointments, including my annual physical, canceled, and rescheduled due to the coronavirus. I have a friend with cancer that is having to weigh the risks between having surgery now

during a pandemic and holding off on treatment of a cancer that appears to be slowly growing. One of our members had a death in the family a few weeks ago; my heart goes out to them in having to deal with this tragedy in tragic times.

**Life Still Goes On, So the Show Must Go On** - With everyone under restrictions, life must still go on, in as normal a manner as is possible under the circumstances. Though we must be isolated, the needs of life must still be met. Food must still be obtained, bills paid, laundry done, and housing cleaned. We are seeing that our tech devices like smartphones and computers, along with connections to the Internet, are our lifelines. They help us get the news, order our food, manage our finances, apply for unemployment, and communicate with others. Keeping those lifelines in place is important. There are still backups to be made, scams to be avoided and devices to be maintained and recharged.

Though we all will have our own issues, with luck we can keep our group going through this pandemic. It may be some time before we can meet again at Wesley Palms (if ever, perhaps). With only a month to go, it is unlikely we will have a physical member picnic in June. Even the fate of our December party looks hazy. Having our newsletter arrive in the inbox, and at least getting together virtually on Zoom can help things seem somewhat normal. Now more than ever, we probably need that social connection

There will still be new tech items to be understood, computer problems to be solved, presentations to be given, questions to be answered, broken things to be fixed or replaced, scams to be warned about and software bugs to be debugged. Hopefully, our group can survive COVID-19 and continue to provide useful benefits to our members and the public. Our tech is based on microelectronics; I'd hate to see UCHUG become another casualty of this microorganism.

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## Add a Caption to a Picture in Word

By Nancy DeMarte, Vice President, Sarasota Technology Users Group  
The STUG Monitor — [www.thestug.org](http://www.thestug.org) — vp1 (at) the stug.org

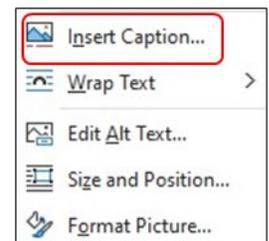
Any Word document can be enhanced by a picture. To clarify what the picture represents, like its name or location, you can include text in the form of a caption. Word makes it easy to add a caption. Here is how it's done:

Open Word. Add a picture from your Pictures folder by clicking the Insert tab > Pictures. This opens your Picture Gallery. Click a picture > Insert. The picture will appear in your document, but often it is too large. To change its size, click in any corner of the picture and drag your mouse diagonally toward the center until it is your desired size.

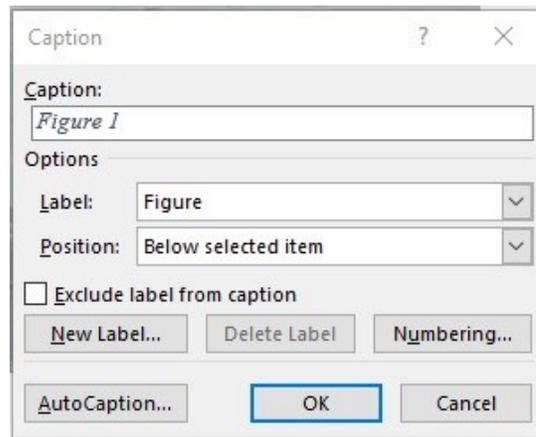
You can also move the picture to a different place in your document, but not until you change the layout option. Click the picture and then the Layout Options icon (shown at right). Next click the top left option called Square. Then drag the picture where you want it to be in the document. This icon also allows text to wrap around the picture.



To add a caption, right click the picture and select "Insert Caption" from the dropdown menu. *Figure 1* will be in the caption box if this is the first picture in your document. You won't be able to get rid of the text *Figure 1* until you have entered your caption text. Type your caption in the Caption box and click OK to make your caption appear below the picture.



Now you can click after *Figure 1* and backspace to remove it, leaving only your text. Using the Home tab, you can then remove the italics, center the caption, or change the font and size.



*This is a Caption*

To be sure that your caption remains with its picture, “group” the two together. First click the picture to select it. Small “handles” will surround it. Then hold down the Shift key and click the caption so that both are selected. As soon as you have done that, you will see a new tab on the command ribbon at the top of the screen. It may say Shape Format or Picture Format. Click either one.



Next, toward the right end of the ribbon, you will see an icon called Group. Click Group, then Group again, and your picture and caption will become one box, ready to move anywhere on the page.

## Interesting Internet Finds April 2020

By Steve Costello — scostello AT sefcug.com

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some items I found interesting during the month of March 2020.

*Are VPNs Legal Or Illegal? Everything You Need To Know*

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/are-vpns-legal-illegal/>

If you use a VPN and travel, be sure to read this MakeUseOf post.

*Call The Geek Squad? (Yes Or No)*

<https://askbobrankin.com/call-the-geek-squad-yes-or-no.html>

No matter the skill level of computer user group members, this question often crops up. Check this post out and then print it out to hand out when someone asks the question in your group.

*Why Do Routers Have USB Ports?*

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/why-do-routers-have-usb-port/>

Before reading this post, I never really thought about this. Now, I have connected a 1TB external HDD to my router as another place to back up the data I am working on. It works well.

*DIY Hand Sanitizer Recipe*

<https://coastalanglermag.com/how-to-make-your-own-hand-sanitizer/>

This is not really technology related but, in these times it is very useful. If you can find the ingredients, making your own sanitizer is easy and inexpensive compared to finding commercial sanitizer. (Note: I fish frequently and go through a lot of hand sanitizer.)

### *What Is DHCP? How Does It Work?*

<https://www.digitalcitizen.life/dhcp>

This is another one of those things most people don't think about because it usually just works. I read this post because, when I see something about technology that I haven't really thought about, I like to check it out.

### *10 Easy Ways To Boost Your Router's Performance While Working At Home*

<https://www.techhive.com/article/3533465/how-to-boost-your-router-performance-while-working-at-home.html>

With everyone working from home, and students in online classes, you may find that you're router's performance is not that good anymore. If you find that to be true, check out this post for some ways to boost the router's performance.

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## **Thinking of Buying a New Router?**

By Jeff Wilkinson, President, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club  
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Purchasing a new router can be an intimidating task. Trying to decide what you need and how to make the correct selection from the myriad offerings can certainly use some clarification. Having just gone through this experience, I thought I'd offer some guidelines.

If you have a modem/router supplied by your internet service provider and you are tired of paying a rental fee each month, you may also want to consider *purchasing* your own modem and router.

Overwhelming as it can be, let's see if we can sort it out. Your router is the central hub of your home network. The internet connection is input to the router from the cable modem and the signals are "routed" to your devices by either direct connection or Wi-Fi. You will want to choose a router that is powerful enough and has enough features to service all your current devices and has some expansion or growth capacity for future needs.

A first step would be to estimate the number of devices you expect to connect to your network via Wi-Fi – such as your smartphone, laptop computer, a streaming device like a Roku or Amazon Fire TV, Wi-Fi thermostat, newer IoT appliances, and Kindle devices. Next look at the size of your home and the locations where you will be using any of the wireless devices. If your home is over 2,500 square feet, you may want to consider a mesh wireless system. That requires multiple devices and can become expensive and is generally not needed in our community. Expensive doesn't always mean better!

Then consider the location of your internet connection, where your cable modem is located, or where the internet connection enters the residence. This is the location where you would most likely locate your router and you would want it to allow for strategic placement of the router. Up high rather than on the floor is desired. Open surroundings rather than behind equipment or in a cabinet would also be preferred.

Looking at routers and their advertised specs, they often sum up speeds of the various bands which is a meaningless number for all practical purposes. If the top speed from your Internet Service Provider (ISP) is 100 Mbps having a router capable of 800 Mbps is not necessary. An AC750 would work well for a single user.

You will want to look at routers with an "AC" prefix on the model number, AC750, AC1750, AC1900, etc. The AC prefix indicates WiFi-5 standards and AX indicates WiFi-6, which is the current latest standard but

can be a bit pricey. Many of your current Wi-Fi devices won't support the AX standard. The iPhone 11 and Samsung Galaxy S10 are exceptions.

The numbers after the prefix give you a rough sense of the combined speeds of each of the router's bands - typically 2.4 and 5GHz, and perhaps a second 5GHz band if we're talking about a tri-band router. Since a device can only use one band at a time the number is not all that relevant and is a theoretical number achievable in a controlled lab environment, maybe. Of course, your speed will vary!

For the typical user in our community, someone who uses the internet to check email, surf the internet, buy online occasionally, and has a smartphone, a dual-band router can be had for under \$100. I don't think our internet speed will increase much from where it is today given the infrastructure upgrades required, so a superfast tri-band router is generally not needed although that is what I wound up with.

The common manufacturers are Netgear, Asus, D-Link, TP-Link, and Linksys but there are many others. A router should be easy to set up and require little to no maintenance. You can read users' reviews at many web sites to help you make a decision.

Routers are fairly easy to install and setup. Many come with Apps for your smartphone which can guide you through the process. We also have club members who can help install and set up a new router. So, in conclusion, a router upgrade can be a major improvement to your home network.



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## Thoughts from a Clicker – April 2020

By Tiny Ruisch, Member, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA  
April 2020 issue, CCCC Computer News — [www.clickers.org](http://www.clickers.org) — tsa70785 (at) gmail.com

I love going to a carnival. I don't go on many of the rides anymore, but I love all the fun things there are to do. Unfortunately, carnivals can be dangerous too.

There are always pickpockets who will steal everything they can. We often hear of rides that injure people. About the only thing that is safe at a carnival is the healthy food you can buy. The internet is a lot like a carnival. Everyone knows about the dangers and we all keep our antivirus programs updated. I know that all the Cajun Clickers club members have their router firmware updated. Their firewalls are active to keep the bad guys away. Since everyone is so safe, I thought that this month I'd talk about some fun things to do on the internet. After all, many people are spending a lot more time at home trying to avoid the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). It is keeping a lot of people at home with lots of spare time on their hands. There are a lot of fun sites. I know that everyone doesn't have the same idea of what's fun. Maybe if I tell you about my favorite sites, you might find something entertaining.

One of the things you can find a lot of on the internet are free games to play. If you're looking for games to play, a good place to start is Gizmo's list of Best Free PC Games. This site is updated often and all the games are free to play. My personal favorite online game is Texas Hold'em Poker. There are a lot of places to play, but you'll usually find me at World Series Poker at AOL Games. There are lots of online games on the site, but I haven't played many of the others. If you like to play hearts, I recommend you try the Microsoft Gaming Zone. The Gaming Zone has been around for a while and they have lots of games.

I've never been much of a television or movie watcher, but I love to listen to the old-time radio shows. Most evenings I'm listening to The Lone Ranger, Gunsmoke, Jack Benny, or my personal favorite, Fibber McGee & Molly. My network drive has about 21 GB of radio program files. You can get them and many more at the Old Time Radio Internet Archive.

In December 1995, Bill Watterson retired from cartooning. I lost my daily dose of one of the funniest cartoons ever. Now, thanks to the internet, I can still read Calvin & Hobbes every day. You can find a daily comic you'll like at GOCOMICS, Comics Kingdom, or ArcaMax Publishing. None of the comics sites require registration.

"The Alphabet has been Updated with 15 Exciting New Letters" is only one of the funny satires you'll find in The Onion. This fictional, satire paper started in 1988. They've been around more than twenty years, so they must be doing something right. Their news stories seem so genuine that they have occasionally been cited as real. I've got to warn you though. There is often adult language used in the paper. Another satire site I like is the Babylon Bee. For a great description, check out their About Us page.

I'll show my age a little. I don't mind being called a "senior" because it usually includes a 10 percent discount. If you like senior citizen humor, you also might like to check out Geezer Guff.

As you might or might not know, I'm a transplanted Northerner. When I talk with my brother and sisters on Facebook, I usually translate into Southern for them. Everybody gets a few laughs. Translating into a dialect is easy when you use The Dialectizer. As I write this you can convert into nine different dialects. It hardly ever fails to make me laugh. Here is a sample:

As y'all might o' might not know, I'm a transplanted No'therner. When ah talk wif mah brother an' sisters on Facebook, ah usually translate into Southern fo' them, dawgone it. Ev'rybody gits a few laughs. Translatin' into a dialect is easy when yo' use Th' Dialeckizer. As ah write this hyar yo' kin cornvaht into nine diffrent dialects. It hardly evah fails t'make me laugh.

That's just a few of the things I like to do on the internet for fun. I hope you enjoyed them too and found a new site you'll visit often.

Thanks for reading.

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