



PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



April 2022

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"JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE'S COMPUTER CLUB" Volume 28 Issue 4

This Month's General Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
will start at 3:00 P.M. @
FFG Christ Lutheran Church
Social Distancing is recommended.
Face Mask coverings are Suggested.

April 12th Presentation
@ 3:00 P.M.

Protect your Computer and your Identity

Bob Willis, one of our Directors will be this month's presenter.

Your computer and other electronic devices are particularly vulnerable to hackers. Viruses and malware can infect your computer and steal personal information.

Learn about the various types of viruses and malware and how to protect your electronic devices.

Passwords and keeping your computer and its programs current is your first line of defense, but more can be done.

Away from home, free Wi-Fi may be costlier than you think, learn how to minimize these risks too.



Sunday, April 17, 2022

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Please Note: Meetings will now be on the second Tuesday of each month. Starting at 3:00 P.M.

Location: Christ Lutheran Church
481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade TN

Join the Club!

Anyone interested to attend the general meeting or any of the SIG meetings as a guest will be charged \$3.00 per person for any or all meetings in that month. Afterwards, you are encouraged to become a member of the Plateau PC Users Group. Our Club cannot exist without you, the members.

Membership Dues

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st. of each year. Annual dues are \$24 per single person / \$30 per family. Persons/families joining during the fiscal year have dues payable as follows:

<u>Join In</u>	<u>July - Sept</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - June</u>
Single	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	\$30	\$22	\$15	\$7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCLAIMER

All members of the Plateau PC Users Group are willing to help one another in the area of advice and tutorial instruction over the phone. If you should require more involved services or instruction, we have a few members who are very knowledgeable in several areas. As a responsible consumer, it is up to you to discuss, before retaining a member, any and ALL charges for repair services and time consuming tutorial activities.

It is not the desire of this Board of Directors to set fees for individuals for services rendered, nor the responsibility to intervene between members who enter into a contract among themselves.

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539 West Ave. Suite 101 Crossville TN 38557

Cool Tips & Sites

A Common Computer Problem and How to Fix It

By Mark Presky, Director, Los Angeles Computer Society
User Friendly, January 2022 issue
<https://www.lacspc.org/>
leahjc (at) sbcglobal.net

Over the years, computer hard drives have gotten larger and larger. But programs and the other files we load onto our computers have also gotten larger and more numerous. Eventually, this often becomes a problem when one's computer starts running slower or informs you that it just cannot hold anymore.

One way to deal with this problem is to free up space on the hard drive or SSD (solid-state drive). Use the built-in Disk Cleanup tool in Windows 10. Click on the Start menu. Choose All Programs—select Accessories, then System Tools. Click on Disk Cleanup. Under the Files to delete heading, choose which file types you want to remove. If you're unsure which file types to get rid of, select each one in turn and read its description. When you've selected the file types to delete, click OK.

Another method to free up space is to manually go through your files and delete the many of them that you don't need or want. Image (photos), audio (music), and video (audio and image) files can take up vast amounts of file space. How many photos of little Tommy or Grandma from your last birthday celebration do you need? I'll bet you have many duplicates of virtually every shot. Delete the copies, at the least. Have music files on your computer that you never listen to? Again, delete 'em. Now repeat this process with your vacation photos. Lots of old photos of your ex? Remember that song from the movie "South Pacific?" Wash those files right out of your computer.

Another trick here is to reduce the file size of those photos. Most cameras produced in the last several years take photos over two megabytes (MB) in size. Unless you plan to print those large file-size photos, you might think about reducing each image to between 200 and 400 kilobytes (KB). The reduced file size photos won't look any different when you view them on your computer. One can even reduce the photo file sizes en masse. If taken on your iPhone, the phone will ask you what size you want the file to be when you send them, via email, to your computer. I use IrfanView, but several other programs do this.

Going through those extra, unneeded files can be laborious and time-consuming, but that might beat having to buy another computer, having a larger hard drive installed and having all the files transferred, or having your computer crash

**** Visit the PPCUG Website ****
At: www.PPCUGinc.com.

Read all about our club activities and scheduled monthly meetings, also current and past issues of the Gazette Newsletter. Links also to the Meeting Handouts on past presentations.

Send your comments and suggestions to the PPCUG Webmaster, Alan Baker
jackal33980@gmail.com (931) 239-0877



LEARNING TIPS FOR EVERYONE

Asking Google is so easy and convenient

By Jim Cerny, Forums Coordinator and Class Instructor

<https://thestug.org/>

jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

Everyone enjoys learning IF it is a fun and helpful experience. For example, if you get a new car with all those electronic options, it can be fun learning those which will keep you safer and offer a more pleasant driving experience. Everyone enjoys learning in different ways. Some enjoy a classroom experience with others. Some feel that the best way is with a personal tutor to help them precisely with what they need or want to learn. But first, why not just Ask Google and see what happens? Then, let's explore some learning "tricks" to help you learn more easily and have fun while learning right on your computer.

1. Make a list of what you THINK you would like to learn. This list will always be modified and edited, so write this in pencil.
2. Pick one thing on your list that you think should be a short learning curve. This will help you get started.
3. Set a time limit of just 10 or 15 minutes with a "reward" at the end waiting for you. (I like chocolate!)
4. Ok, now start by "Asking Google." Ask as you would a private tutor – "How do I create a new folder in Windows?", "How do I copy my photos to Google Photos?", "How do I make sure my virus protection is working?" etc. Try to be specific with such phrases as "using Windows" or "using my iPhone" in your question.
5. You will get a long list of options AND a list of questions similar to yours that you can click on to get results and answers. You will also see (if you are lucky) a quick checklist of steps to do what you asked. This is great as a short reminder of something you have done before but forgot.
6. Scroll down the list and look for a short video to watch to answer your question. Pick one and click on it. If you find it is not what you wanted, just X out of it and try another one.
7. Write down the answer you think is best.
8. Now, right away, minimize that browser window and actually DO IT. You can always go back to that window to see the next steps if you need to. Do not be afraid of making a mistake; you will not hurt your computer.
9. If you were successful, check your written answer and see if anything needs to be changed. For example, was it hard to find that box to click on? Did you have to scroll down to get to the option you wanted? Note the helpful information you needed to know for your use, which may not have been that clear in the instructions you saw.
10. Keep your note! This is the one thing you learned today. If you DO IT three times, you will be much more likely to remember it (and where to find it in your notes in the future).

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11. Yes, you can easily keep notes on a computer file too, but it is yet another window to keep open as you go from window to window. So some people like to keep their notes in a paper notebook. But do what you want.

12. You should sort the things you learn by category – such as computer security, using your browser, working with files, photo storage, iPhone settings, etc.

Hey, if you learned one new thing a day, in a month, you will be amazed at yourself and will deserve an extra reward! Classes and tutors are great too, but using your computer to learn is so convenient and free. So, take the next step to learn something fun and see what happens.



Inkjet Printer Ink Cartridges

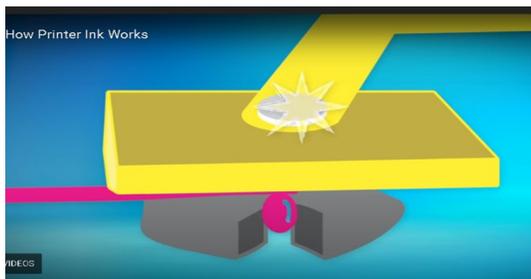
by Jeff Wilkinson, President, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
<https://www.scscc.club>
pres.scscc (at) gmail.com

There are two methods of ink deposition that are widely used in household inkjet printers: thermal bubble and piezoelectric.

Thermal Bubble Printing

Inkjet printing technology was proposed as early as 1960 and became commercially available in the early 1980s in the Canon Bubblejet and the HP Digital Printer. In March 1993, Epson entered the inkjet printer market with Micro Piezo inkjet technology using a piezoelectric crystal in each ink nozzle.

With the bubblejet technology, current is passed through a resistor in the nozzle path, heating the ink, vaporizing it, and depositing a small amount of ink on the media. As a result, a slight vacuum is created, drawing more ink into the nozzle for the next cycle. This happens as often as 36,000 times per second.



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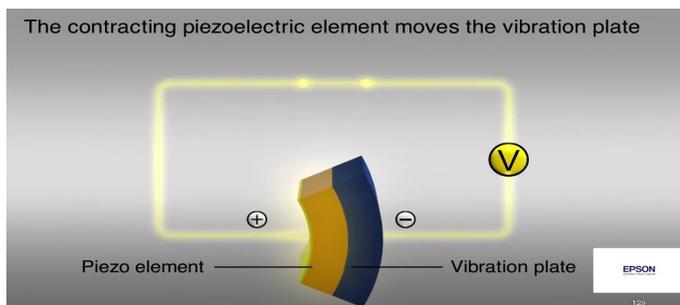
Using "bubblejet" technology, the typical ink cartridge has hundreds of tiny holes or nozzles, about 15 microns in size. The precision digital manufacturing process ensures the nozzles are correctly sized and placed on the printhead for correct placement of the ejected drops. As small as 4-picoliters, the tiny ink drops are launched through these precision nozzles. A picolitre is a millionth of a millionth of a liter! As many as 32 drops of ink are used to produce each color dot, and images may contain thousands upon thousands of dots. Therefore, the chemical formulation of the ink is very important, and poorly formulated inks may cause clogging or oxidation on the printhead nozzle.

Partially because of the complexity and development costs and a somewhat captive market, the price of inkjet cartridges was initially quite high. This spawned a compatible cartridge market in which vendors, big and small, qualified and not so qualified, began offering replacement inkjet cartridges. However, their only option was to refill inkjet cartridges with the existing patents since a replacement could not be legally manufactured. This created a secondary market for empty inkjet cartridges with various recycling and collection schemes used to get cartridges to refill.

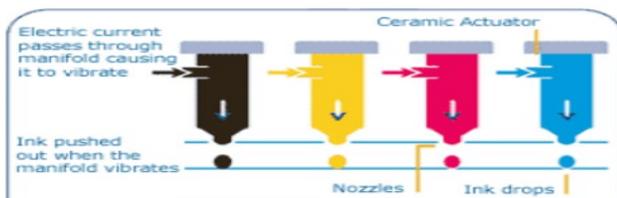
As the compatible market matured, the OEM manufacturers added protection in the form of a semiconductor chip used to prohibit non-OEM cartridges. Of course, workarounds appeared almost immediately, and the back and forth battle has been going on for many years. There is no question the best quality comes from OEM ink cartridges. Still, many users feel that the cost/quality ratio is too high for everyday printing and opt for compatible cartridges. Furthermore, since the printing functionality comes almost entirely from the cartridge, a faulty cartridge can be replaced and renew the entire imaging system.

Piezoelectric Printing

Epson inkjet printers use the piezoelectric process in their printers. With this process, the printer contains the printheads rather than the printheads being part of the cartridge. Printheads have a piezoelectric element in the printer that contracts when a voltage is applied. The element and vibration plate move, much like the loudspeaker's cone, and force out a precise amount of ink out of the nozzle.



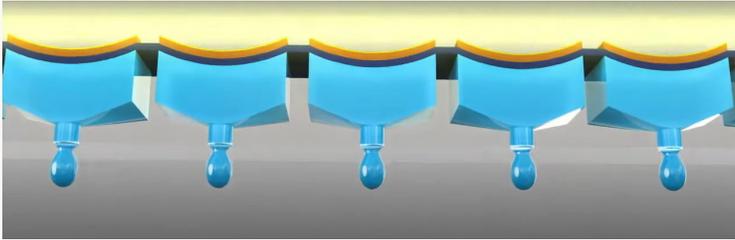
This eliminates the need to heat the ink to create a bubble, reducing the complexity of the ink formulation. Printheads with 128 black nozzles and 192 color nozzles (64 for each color) produce a resolution of 720 dpi, for example.



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Since the ink does not need to be heated, it can be tailored to the media to which it is applied, in many cases giving more flexibility to the ink formulation.



The internal printheads contain rows of these elements, which fire at precisely the right time, releasing the correct amount of ink as many as 40,000 times per second!

Since the ink cartridges for these printers do not contain the printhead, they are easier to duplicate, and many compatible cartridges are available. However, once again, the manufacturer has countered these efforts with onboard chips which warn you about the use of third-party inks.

Printer manufacturers have made numerous attempts to use firmware and onboard chips that won't allow the use of third-party inks and multiple corresponding class-action lawsuits against these actions.

Each user has to choose which ink cartridges to use but armed with some understanding of the printer ink systems you can add, make a more informed decision.



When Will Microsoft Stop Supporting Windows 10?



BENJ EDWARDS

@benjedwards



Now that Windows 11 is here, you might be wondering how long you can keep using Windows 10 safely with continued security updates from Microsoft. We have the answer.

Desktop Windows 10 Support Ends October 2025

According to Microsoft's lifecycle website, the company will officially support Windows 10 Home, Windows 10 Pro, Windows 10 Enterprise, and Windows 10 Education editions until October 14, 2025. At that

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point, all regular desktop editions of Windows 10 will reach end-of-life status, which means that they'll no longer receive security updates from Microsoft.

(Support for the less commonly used Long Term Support Channel releases Windows 10 2019 LTSC and Windows 10 IoT 2019 LTSC will end on January 9, 2029.)

After Windows 10 support ends, you'll need to upgrade to Windows 11 to keep receiving security updates. In our richly connected world, those updates are essential for maintaining your personal privacy and data security. And don't worry, you can get around Microsoft's restrictions even if Windows 11 doesn't support your PC.

When Will Windows 10 Stop Getting Security Updates?

As mentioned above, Windows 10 Home, Pro, Education, Enterprise, and IoT Enterprise will no longer receive security updates after October 14, 2025.

Windows LTSC, a specialized version of Windows for businesses that need long-term support, will continue to receive updates for a few more years after that. Windows 10 2019 LTSC and Windows 10 IoT 2019 LTSC will stop receiving security updates on January 9, 2029.

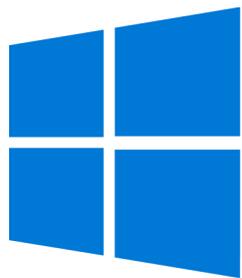
Once security updates stop, you're on your own. Any new vulnerabilities found in Windows 10 after those dates might not be patched by Microsoft (although rare exceptions to this rule have happened). Still, you definitely can't rely on it, so it's best to upgrade to Windows 11 by October 2025. On the bright side, Windows 11 includes many useful new features, so it shouldn't be a painful upgrade.

How Long Can I Keep Using Windows 10?

Windows 10 won't magically stop working in October of 2025 even if Microsoft stops providing security updates. That means that you can technically keep using it (as some loyal holdouts have done with older versions of Windows in the past), even though it's generally not a good idea.

With sophisticated phishing attacks, remote exploits, and ransomware being common these days, the stakes are simply too high for most people to risk their personal data by using an unsupported operating system.

So, update when you're ready—you have until 2025 to do it safely—but know that technology constantly changes and time marches on. Someday, we'll all look back at Windows 10 running in a museum and recall the good ol' days. Stay safe out there!



Windows 10

USB Explained: All the Different Types (and What They're Used for)



SUZANNE HUMPHRIES @yeah_books



USB, short for Universal Serial Bus, is a common type of computer port that makes it easy to charge a device or transfer data between two devices. Since it was first developed in the '90s, USB has continued to evolve alongside technology, progressively becoming smaller, faster, and more powerful. With so many devices that use USB, it's easy to get confused by the different connectors. But fear not—we're going to demystify all of that today.

When it comes to USB, there are really only four things that matter: form factor, transfer speeds, power delivery, and video delivery. Let's dig in.

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Form Factor

USB-A

USB-B

Micro-USB

Mini-USB

USB-C

Lightning

Data Transfer Speed

Power Delivery

Video Delivery

How to Know if You're Using a Safe USB Cable

USB 1.0 - 2.0



A



B



Mini-A



Mini-B

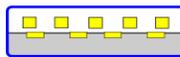


Micro-A

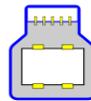


Micro-B

USB 3.0 - 3.1



A



B



Micro-B



C

There are multiple types of USB that have popped up over the years, each with a unique design and use case. The most common types are USB-A, Micro-USB, and USB-C, but we'll briefly discuss all of them.

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USB-A

USB-A, or USB Type A, is the original flat and rectangular connector that no one could ever figure out how to plug in correctly the first time. These cables always have USB-A on one end with a different port type on the other, and can be used for device charging and data transfer. USB-A is still widely used and can be found on devices like computers, gaming consoles, TVs, and all kinds of peripherals.

USB-B

USB-B is pretty much only used on large devices, like scanners or printers. Visually, this connector looks almost square. Most of these are USB-B to USB-A cables, though some newer devices have moved on from USB-B to smaller options, like Micro-USB or Mini-USB.

Micro-USB

Micro-USB was the standard a while back for certain portable devices, like Android tablets and smartphones because it can transfer data and provide charge. It comes in both Type-A Micro and Type-B Micro flavors, and is smaller than USB-A. Some manufacturers still opt for using Micro-USB parts for their devices, as they're less costly than those for USB-C.

Mini-USB

As its name suggests, Mini-USB is a smaller version of USB-B. It was the standard for charging or transferring data from devices like tablets before Micro-USB was. There are also Type-A and Type-B versions of this connector. It's uncommon to see many products using Mini-USB today, though you can still find them on older electronics like MP3 players or the PlayStation 3 controller.

USB-C

This is the current standard, and it marries power and data delivery with display connectivity. USB-C is what you'll see on most new devices like smartphones, game controllers, earbud cases, microphones, and laptops. Its form factor is small, oblong, and reversible, so it can be plugged in either way (take that, USB-A). The port's 100-watt connection makes it perfectly suited for fast charging and data transfers, even with larger devices.

USB-C can do more than other USB types can, and get it done faster. USB-C has the potential to replace all other cables, thanks to its diverse multi-tasking abilities. It has the ability to power even the most power-hungry devices, like laptops and TVs. It can also transfer 40 gigabits of data per second (Gbps), and can be used to deliver 4K video to external monitors.

While manufacturers continue to release new products with ports other than USB-C (looking at you, Apple), we aren't yet able to live in a single-cable society, but we're getting there we, and we may eventually be freed from the burden of lugging around multiple cords.

Lightning

Technically, Lightning is not USB, but rather Apple's proprietary connector type that works similarly to USB. You'll see it on Apple's devices, like the iPad and iPhone. It's similar to USB-C in that it is reversible. It supports speeds similar to USB 3.0.

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Data Transfer Speed



In addition to coming in a variety of shapes and sizes, USB types also have multiple speed standards. Keep in mind that some USB cables are data transfer only, and others are power delivery only, but also that there are options that can handle both tasks. Be sure to verify a cable's abilities before purchasing it.

The first, USB 1.x, is old and incredibly slow, and can only move 1.5 Mbps. Your odds of finding a device in the wild still on 1.0 are slim to none. The slightly less old (and comfortably slow) USB 2.0, however, is still relatively common, though you'll really only find it on older electronics. 2.0 has a full-speed option that can handle 12 Mbps, and a high-speed version that can handle 480 Mbps. SuperSpeed USB 3.x can transfer data between 5-20 Gbps.

The latest entries, USB 4.0, Thunderbolt 3, and Thunderbolt 4, are where you'll find the highest data transfer speeds: a maximum capable throughput of 40 Gbps. Thunderbolt is another transfer speed standard used in some USB-C cables—all Thunderbolt 3 and 4 cables are USB-C, but not all USB-C cables are Thunderbolt. So if Thunderbolt is what you're after, you'll need to make sure that's part of the cable you're buying.

These super-high transfer rates are impressive, but they don't matter much if you aren't regularly transferring hundreds of GB of data or doing something wild like editing video on an external hard drive. If you are, however, you'll want at least Thunderbolt 3.

Power Delivery

As we mentioned above, some USB cables are only capable of delivering power or transferring data, though most can do both. PD (power delivery) standards fall into one of three main categories: power only, slow charge, and fast charge.

USB 2.0 supports 2.5W charging and USB 3.0 supports 4.5W charging. To put things in perspective, 10W is enough power to slow charge your phone, and 18W is enough to fast charge your smartphone or power a Netbook or similar bare-bones laptops.

In contrast, USB PD can handle up to 100W, which is powerful enough to power things like a MacBook Pro, monitors, docking stations, and most TVs. It can also fast-charge smaller compatible devices like your phone or Nintendo Switch. PD also only provides the necessary charge to your device but won't overcharge it. Newer battery banks are starting to support USB PD, which are more capable of keeping your power-hungry devices powered and fully charged.

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Video Delivery



Being able to transfer data *and* power a device is already impressive. But you can also choose to use USB-C to connect to monitors in place of a bulky HDMI or VGA cable. USB-C also has support for 4K video delivery to a screen. Thunderbolt 4 cables can handle displaying 4K content on two monitors at a time, or 8K on a single monitor. Again, this isn't going to be the use case for most people, but as 4K and 8K video becomes more commonplace, you'll eventually need a cable that can keep up.

How to Know if You're Using a Safe USB Cable

The rule of thumb is that you should always use the cable that came with your device and that you should buy any replacements from the manufacturer as well. That cable is specifically engineered to be used with your phone, tablet, or computer.

However, if you want to purchase one from a third party, be sure to stick with trusted established brands like Anker, Aukey, or Belkin, or at least look to see if a different brand lists the cable's USB certification. Otherwise, you could end up with an inferior cable that lacks official USB-IF certification and could potentially damage your device.

And the Scams Just Keep Coming

David Kretchmar, Computer Technician
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
<https://www.scscclub.dkretch@gmail.com>

If you're on the phone with some nice, polite person who asks you to download some software onto your computer that will allow them to remotely fix something that has been a problem, please think twice about it. Then do not do it. The chances are high that you are dealing with a scammer trying to get financial and personal data about you.



It is probably generally a very bad idea to give a stranger access to your computer. Yes, there are exceptions; I have allowed a Microsoft Tech to access my computer remotely to fix an Operating System in-

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stallation problem. But anything short of that, such as reactivating a permanent version of Microsoft Office after a hard drive failure, did not require me to relinquish control of my computer to a stranger. Therefore, it is extremely unlikely that any issue you might be having would require you to give a stranger remote access to your computer.

My Experience



I was having problems installing AOL Gold on a client's new computer. A Google search led me to what appeared to be a legitimate AOL site, or at least it fooled me. I called the number and spoke to a nice, polite young lady, who might have been on the other side of the world. She explained that to fix the problem preventing AOL Gold from loading, I would have to give her access to my computer.

She asked me to download and install a program that would allow her to access my computer, which I foolishly did. She then sent me a code by text or email, which I had to enter to activate a remote session.

Then for the first time, I wondered, why does she need to do that? I told her I was a computer tech who could probably follow her instructions, and she gave me an unsatisfactory answer. So, I terminated the call and uninstalled the remote access software.

Remote access programs such as TeamViewer, AnyDesk, LogMein, and dozens of others are legitimate programs, but they can be used for nefarious purposes

Scammers expertly reproduce the logos of legitimate software providers, such as AOL and McAfee. They can even spoof their email address, so an email appears to be coming from a legitimate company.

Fake antivirus email scam



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Scammers might come at you via your email. For example, one message I have seen purports to be from McAfee or Norton, stating that your credit card will be charged for another year's subscription unless you contact them via a phone number or hotlink in the email. This message sounds authentic to many users, who might have had McAfee or Norton in the past, or who got a free trial that comes with many new computers.

When contacted, the scammer will state that for you to avoid additional charges, the scammer must remotely access your system. They will try to get you to download remote access software to give the scammer access to your computer. Just say no. There is no legitimate reason someone needs to access your computer to remove a program.

As we approach the holidays, computer scammers and hackers seem to step up their attacks on computer systems. Users are especially vulnerable to messages from vendors such as Amazon stating there is a problem with their order since many of us do order gifts from online vendors this time of the year. So don't let your guard down!



Need Help

**I PUT THE
THINGAMABOB INSIDE
THE WHATCHAMACALLIT,
TURNED THE
DOOHICKEY AND THE
WUTEVERITIS STILL
DOESN'T WORK.
ANY IDEAS?**



Plateau PC Users Group, Inc.

Application for Membership for 2022

----- New Member

----- Renewing Member

Return this application with check for annual dues payable to "PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP" Return to the club Treasurer during our meeting or mail to "PPCUG Treasurer. P.O. Box 3787, Crossville TN 38557"

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st. of each fiscal year.

Persons// families joining during the fiscal year have dues payable as follows:

<u>Join In</u>	<u>July - Sept</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - June</u>
Single	\$24	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	\$30	\$22	\$15	\$7

Date: Amount Paid: \$ by Cash, or Check (#)

Last Name *First Name* *Family Member (if family membership)*

Address:

----- ----- ----- (-----) -----
City *State* *Zip Code* *Phone Number*

E-Mail address: -----

Please Print

I have belonged to a Computer Club before: Yes No

I have used PC's since (year):

I have knowledge in the following areas that I would be willing to share with club members:



May 2022



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
1	2	3	4 2:00 P.M. PPCUG Board Mtg.	5	6	7
8 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!	9	10 3:00 P.M. General Mtg. Presentation. Followed by Q&A Session	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 memorial DAY	31				