



PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



January 2023

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“JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE’S COMPUTER CLUB” **Volume 29 Issue 1**

This Month’s General Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

will start at 3:00 P.M. @

FFG Christ Lutheran Church

Social Distancing is recommended.

Face Mask coverings are optional

January 10th Presentation

@ 3:00 P.M

Home Security,

Video Surveillance and Scams.

At today’s General Meeting our speaker will be the Administrative Captain Mark Rosser, with the Fairfield Glade Police Department ,who will update us on Home Security, Video Surveillance and Scams. Past and present.

Come and enjoy this very informative meeting.

Regular questions and answer session will follow to help with most computer problems.



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Please Note: All 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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Cool Tips & Sites

Outlook Email Warning- Prepare to Lose OneDrive Space

An important warning to users of Microsoft's Outlook email. If you have an Outlook email address, attachments in your inbox will soon count against the amount of space you have on your OneDrive.

Previously email attachments did not count against your OneDrive space. Everyone with an Outlook address gets 5GB of storage space in OneDrive.

Folks who pay for Office programs with Microsoft 365 receive 1TB of drive space. There are also several paid storage options for OneDrive.

So if you're someone with a lot of photos, documents, or other attachments sitting in your emails, your drive space could fill up fast. This change goes into effect February 1, 2023.

Now is a good time to give your inbox a thorough cleaning to either delete attachments you no longer need and to download ones you wish to save before deleting old emails.

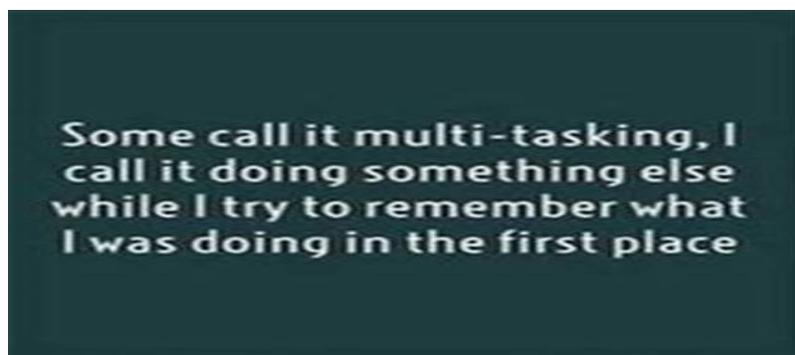
Quickly Show Your Desktop

In previous versions of Windows, the **Show Desktop** button was located in the lower-right corner of the screen next to the time and date.

Now, there is a feature called the Action Center. The **Show Desktop** button is still there; it has just been significantly trimmed down.

If you click the small, rectangular spot just to the right of the Action Center, you will be taken to your desktop.

Alternatively, use the keyboard shortcut **Windows Key + D** to instantly go to your desktop.



**** 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

Talk, Texts, Data – How much, and for how much?

By Phil Sorrentino, By Phil Sorrentino, Newsletter Contributor, Sarasota Technology Users Group
www.thestug.org
philsorr (at) yahoo.com

As you probably know by now, along with a smartphone comes a phone plan. This plan defines how you will be charged, by your Wireless provider, for using your phone.

Some of the more popular Wireless providers are AT&T, Verizon, & T-Mobile, because those three companies own the three major wireless networks in this country. In addition to those three, there are resellers like Consumer Cellular, Mint Mobile, Ting, and Boost Mobile. (A reseller is an organization that sells wireless services under its own name but uses the networks of other service providers, for example, Ting uses T-Mobile.) If you have a “completely unlimited” plan, that is, no limits on the number of talk minutes, texts, and especially data, the rest of this article is just academic because you pay one price no matter how or how much you use your phone, but if you don’t have a completely unlimited plan, this may be interesting.

Many plans that sound like (completely) unlimited plans are unlimited talk and text with typically a very large Data allotment, but not complete data. (A completely unlimited plan for a single phone may be around \$70/month, but less if you have multiple lines. For example, I have seen an unlimited plan advertised as \$37.50/month each for two lines; that’s \$75/month for two unlimited lines.)

“**Talk**” time is the number of minutes you can use your phone for voice cellular phone calls. This would be the time you spend on your phone talking to people who are using smartphones, flip phones, or even home phones. Phone calls are from phone to phone, so you need a phone number for the phone call recipient. Phone calls typically go via the cellular phone network (cell phone towers), though you may be able to use wi-fi calling under certain conditions.

Talk minutes are relatively inexpensive; they are almost free with most plans. If you want a plan with only talk minutes, they can currently be had for around \$20/month with unlimited minutes or about \$15/month with around 250 minutes. Talk used to be the whole reason for having and using a phone, but now there are many more uses for the smartphone.

“**Texts**” is the number of typically short typed-in messages that are sent immediately to the phone number you have chosen from your contact list. Texts (text messages) can only be sent from one phone to another, so you need a phone number to be the recipient of the text message. (Smartphone, Flip phone, probably not a home phone.) Texts typically go via the cellular phone network (cell phone towers) but can go via wi-fi if you are in the vicinity of a wi-fi router. (Note: Data is used for attachments to texts.)

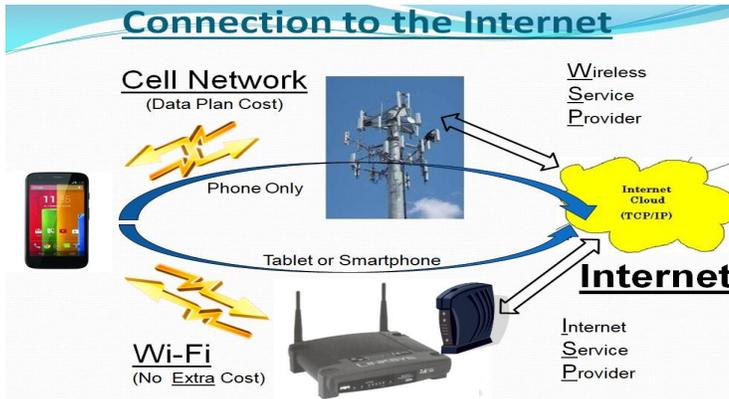
Texts have become a fairly common way to keep in touch with people because of their instant messaging nature. A text is immediately sent to the recipient, giving him the message and the ability to answer immediately or at a future time.

“**Data**” is the amount of “data” that is transmitted over the cellular phone network (cell phone towers). Data allotments typically come in GigaByte or half GigaByte increments (some may even be in hundreds of MegaBytes). Data allotments may be on a per-line basis, or with some plans, the data can be shared among a group of phones in a so-called family plan.

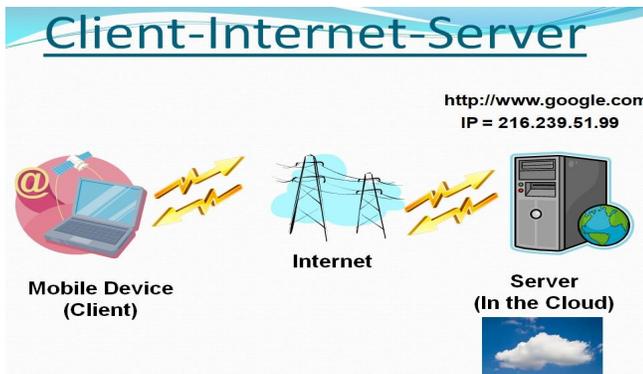
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When you are out and about, even traveling in your car, all the data transmitted to and from your phone is charged against your monthly data allotment. Fortunately, when you are not out and about and you are in the vicinity of a wi-fi router, the data that gets transmitted is not charged against your monthly data allotment. (You have already paid the Internet Service Provider for the use of the wi-fi as part of your monthly Internet bill.)



Data may be transmitted from your phone by any widget or open App. (Keep in mind that widgets are open as long as your phone is not powered off. Fortunately, most widgets use very little data.) Many Apps need a constant flow of data to keep their information current; Maps and Waze are two apps that come to mind. All of the Apps on your phone are designed to be the Client in the Client-Server computing model. These Apps can only do their job when connected to their server. (The internet provides the connection via cell phone towers or wi-fi.)



If an App is not closed after it is used, it may still be transmitting data to, and receiving data from its server, even if you are not looking at one of its screens. So, if you don't have an unlimited plan, make sure you close any app you will not use. If you don't want to use any data at a given time, most phones can turn off the Data, typically in "Settings."

Make sure you leave yourself a reminder to turn Data back on afterward. (With the Data turned off, you will still be able to make and receive voice calls and probably texts, though you will probably not be able to receive attachments, like pictures, to texts.) Data is really what makes the smartphone so

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useful and versatile. Data makes the smartphone a personal digital assistant with endless uses, gives you access to enormous databases, and provides answers almost instantaneously.

As you can see from the amount of information describing talk, texts, and data, the emphasis is on data. The cost of most plans is directly correlated to the amount of data; it almost seems that talk and texts are just about thrown in at no extra charge.

It is the fact that your smartphone can interact with a much more capable server at the other end of the internet that gives your smartphone all of its various amazing capabilities. It is data that lets us check our email, consult our calendar, find the nearest Japanese restaurant, keep in touch with people, and research and purchase items on Amazon or many other retailers on the internet, all without us moving from the comfort of our homes, offices, or automobiles.

“Default” apps or programs in Windows

By Jim Cerny, Vice President, Education Chair, and Forums Coordinator
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<https://thestug.org/>
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Most of us know what “default” means when talking about computers or technology. But in case you forgot, “default” means: “This is what you get until you change it to something else.”

Computer technology is full of defaults (you may have also heard the term “default settings”). The best way to understand this concept is to use an example. Suppose you are writing a document using Microsoft Word (or some other word processor app); you can start typing words in your document immediately without selecting the FONT or FONT SIZE first. That’s because the app has a default font setting (such as “Times New Roman” in the font box and “12” in the font size box).

Yes, you can go to those boxes and pick any other font size you want, but the app already starts with something in the box. That’s the default. Other examples in everyday life are thermometers using Fahrenheit, but you can change it to Centigrade, or your speedometer from miles-per-hour to kilometers-per-hour. If you don’t like the default setting, change it to something else.

Let’s go one step further and discuss using that essential Windows app called “File Explorer.” With file explorer, you can find any file on your computer. And when you find the file you want, you can OPEN that file by double-clicking on the file name. Of course, there are many different types of files – photo files, document files, spreadsheet files, and many more. So, when you double-click on a file name in Microsoft File Explorer, Windows uses the DEFAULT app to open that file. Let’s take a photo file as an example. In File Explorer, if I double-click on a photo file (a file type of “.jpg”), it will open the photo in the Windows Photo Viewer app, and I can see the photo.

But if I want to open that photo in a different app, say the Windows Paint app, I have to open that app first and use the app to open the photo file.

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It turns out that your Windows computer already has selected specific apps for many file types to use as the default apps. And it's no surprise that your default apps are Windows or Microsoft apps.

Here is one more example. If you click on a web page link, your computer will open and use the default web browser to go to that web page, probably Microsoft Edge. But you can change your default web browser to Google Chrome, Safari, Firefox, or any other browser you want.

To do this, click on the Windows start button in the far bottom left corner of your desktop, type in "Default apps" in the search results, select "Default apps," and then click on the Web browser to see a list of the web browser apps you have and click on the one you want as your new default browser.

This is how to change ANY default app on your computer to a different one. You can also get to the "default apps" area through your computer "settings" or "control panel." In addition, you can change the default app used for different file types. It is not difficult to do this.

For example, to learn how to use Google search on the internet, enter "How do I change my default app for .jpg file types" or anything else.

The benefit of knowing about default apps is that you will understand why a specific app is used when you click on something to open it. This also explains the question you sometimes get "Select the app you want to use to open this file," which could mean you may not have an app that can open it.

The best way to make sure you use the specific app to open a file is to open the app first and use the app to select the file.

Unfortunately, the default is not the de-fault of your computer!



Most of Us Get It Wrong: Not Just Teenagers Depend Upon the Internet

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society
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70% of seniors are now online and using technology, reports the World Economic Forum in July 2019. When it comes to the Internet, the website claims it's – No Longer Just For the Young.

“Young people may roll their eyes at older people who can't use technology as fast as they do, but it's wrong to say that older Americans can't use technology. Remember, a baby boomer, Tim Berners-Lee, invented the World Wide Web, so why should we be surprised that they continue to create, adapt, and use new technology?” reports the World Economic Forum.

In January 2022, Pew Research revealed its latest technology poll results. It discovered: “When it comes to internet use, virtually all adults ages 18 to 29 now say they use the Internet (99%). A similar share of those 30 to 49 (98%) say the same. And 96% of those 50 to 64 use the Internet, compared with 75% of those 65 and older who report being internet users.”

So, if you're over 50 and depend on the Internet, how do you protect yourself against the onslaught of cybercriminals who want your money? Let's start with good advice from Reviews.org.

First off, don't share your information online. I'm amazed at the number of folks who scream to the world on Facebook or Instagram that their baby is due on a specific date. Isn't that an invitation to a burglary? I mean, mom and dad are obviously at the hospital. Who's at home watching the turf? Just don't make major personal announcements on social media. You're visiting New Zealand over the summer? Keep it to yourself. Why in the world would you list your departure and return dates online? Talk about an opportunity for burglars.

Before clicking on a web link, hover your cursor over it. You should see where the link takes you in your browser's status bar. This prevents you from visiting a rogue website disguised as a legitimate one.

Use only secure public websites and a trusted VPN (virtual public network.) Logging onto unsecured Wi-Fi at a motel, restaurant, library, or airport is just crazy. If you must log onto an open wireless network, ensure your VPN is up and running. (I use a VPN even when a Wi-Fi password is required.)

Experts say you should only log onto websites that begin with https:, but this isn't always possible. For example, if I visit a specific school from the home page of the largest school district in central Kentucky, the page won't automatically load on my version of Firefox. I have a Firefox add-on installed called HTTPS Everywhere, which blocks the page and tells me it's not secure.

A button allows me to continue to the http-only site, but the browser add-on is a red flag alerting me to a possible security problem.

There are plenty more basic security tips on the Reviews.org page. Check them out if you want more security suggestions.

Just because you're over 50 doesn't mean you have to fall for traps designed to steal your money. Be smart. Be safe. Be vigilant. Scammers are out there, even if you cannot see them.

Are Free Public Phone Charging Stations Safe?

'Juice Jacking' Might Load Malware on Your Phone or Tablet as It's Charging

by Kurt Jefferson

Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

<https://ckcs.org/>

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You're on a layover at a major airport when you realize your iPhone or Android smartphone's battery is draining fast, and the battery power is down to single digits.

The battery icon has just turned from green to red, meaning your phone is nearly drained. Soon it will be as useless as an electric kettle in a cave.

There's a convenient public charging station nearby. You're in a bind. Your jet leaves in half hour. And yet you've read about the dangers of charging your phone or tablet at a public charging station. So, what's a person to do?

How can you be sure the public charging station is safe? Reviewed.com reports, "As the latest security alerts prove, USB cables and chargers are like chewing gum—if you find it lying around in public, don't use it. It's not free candy. The Los Angeles District Attorney recently warned that charging your phone via those public USB ports can lead to "juice jacking." That's when hackers use the connection to transmit dangerous malware onto your device and steal your personal information or data."

Reviewed.com's executive editor, T.J. Donegan, recommends an alternative. He recommends you buy a USB portable battery pack, "many of which can even charge laptops on the go—so you don't have to crowd around the one outlet with 15 other people."

Reviewed.com recommends what's called the Jackery Bolt portable battery pack. It says the portable battery pack "has an incredibly high capacity that can charge your phone three times over (!) before the charger needs to be recharged. Plus, it's slim and compact, so it's easy to tote around and has multiple ports so you can charge more than one device at a time." Amazon currently sells the Jackery Bolt for \$32.99.

The Wirecutter, a website that reviews and tests nearly everything (and purchased by The New York Times), gives high marks to the Zendure SuperMini 20w Power Bank. Amazon currently sells this model for \$45 (using the Amazon on-page clipped coupon.) The Wirecutter writes in its Zendure review, "about as small and lightweight as a power bank can be while still offering enough capacity to juice up most smartphones up to three times. Its USB-C Power Delivery (PD) port can charge most handheld devices (and recharge the power bank itself) at top speed with the included USB-C cable and a compatible wall charger (the one that came with your phone will work). The USB-A port can handle any older, non-USB-C devices you might have kicking around, too."

The HyperJuice 18W USB-C+ Lightning Battery Pack also gets a good Wirecutter review. It contains built-in cables, so you don't have to mess with cables that can easily get lost, tangled, or misplaced. It's currently \$60 from the Hyper website.

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The Wirecutter also gives thumbs up to the TravelCard Charger, which sells for \$30 from TravelCard. "It has the lowest capacity of any power bank we've tested," writes The Wirecutter, but the review claims it's the best portable charger "for someone who wants to have an emergency boost of power always on hand."

The Wirecutter:
The Best Portable Chargers and Power Banks for Phones and Tablets



FBI Issues Warning Over Public Charging Stations

The FBI says don't do it even if you're tempted to use a public charging station so your phone or tablet won't die on you.

It's a risky business, according to the team at the FBI, watching malware spread on mobile devices throughout the U.S. and abroad:

"Cybersecurity experts have warned that criminals can load malware onto public USB charging stations to maliciously access electronic devices while being charged.

Malware installed through a dirty USB port can lock a device or export personal data and passwords directly to the perpetrator. Criminals can use that information to access online accounts or sell it to other bad actors."

FBI tech experts add, "Don't let a free USB charge wind up draining your bank account." Here are some tips to help you avoid becoming a juice-jacking victim:

- Avoid using a USB charging station. Use an AC power outlet instead.
- Bring AC, car chargers, and USB cables with you when traveling.
- Carry a portable charger or external battery.
- Consider carrying a charging-only cable from a trusted supplier, which prevents data from sending or receiving while charging.

Is Your Life Boring? Spice it Up By Becoming a Victim of Scammers and Thieves!

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society
<https://ckcs.org/>
lxtown2 (at) gmail.com

If you're bored to tears, why not put more excitement into your life by becoming a victim?

Follow the tips below, and you're sure to find yourself quite busy as you try and dig yourself out of trouble. But at least you won't be bored!

Write your PIN number on the back of your ATM and credit card! How else are you supposed to remember that vital number to tap into your finances?

Why waste time by shredding documents? Just toss those financial statements, online credit card notices you printed, and your retirement account papers into the green bin. I mean, it's filled with cat litter, coffee grounds, and tea bags. Who would dig into your garbage to retrieve a few slimy documents?

Don't be stingy when someone using an unrecognizable phone number calls you and asks for a donation! Instead, make sure you open your heart by making sure the person on the other end has correctly typed your credit card number. It's a good cause, and you're helping out in a big way. I mean, doesn't it feel good to share your credit card number with the \$20,000 account limit to a charity you've never heard of before? Sure! You're a big sweetheart.

Why in the world would you waste your time by bothering to monitor your banking account online? Jeeze. The sun is shining. Go outside and have fun! No need to bother yourself with numbers on a website or an app. Even though there might be a few purchases you can't identify - heck - it's no big deal! No reason to contact the bank and speak to that helpful customer service rep that you cannot understand, anyway.

Sarcasm is a powerful tool to get across a message. We've been using it throughout this article to get your attention. Now that you're reading this —

What's currently the leading cause of financial loss by fraud? Romance scams. There's big money being lost here by thieves targeting the lonely.

In 2020, more Americans of all ages lost more money through romance scams than any other means.

Wow. That is an eye-opener!

Talk about the way to rob someone in the 21st century. In 2020, victims of romance scams lost \$304 million – and people 70 and older had more money stolen that way – on average, \$9,475 – than any other age group. Whew!

Here's how it's done. First, the scammer creates a fake profile on social media or dating sites and tries to start a relationship through texting or chatting.

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Romance scammers usually make one excuse after another why they cannot meet their victim, um, "loved one," in person. For example, romance scammers often ask their "loved ones" for money by requesting gift cards. But instead, they never share their real photos, opting for faked headshots cropped from Instagram, Facebook, or even models displayed on websites.

Don't be gullible. Don't become a victim.

Be smart. Be aware. Be vigilant.

How to delete your email and phone number from Facebook

If any of your friends have ever uploaded their contact list to Facebook then Meta probably has your phone number, even if you've never had an account. Here's how to delete and block that.

Posted: November 2, 2022 by Jovi Umawing
Malwarebytes Labs

It's common knowledge that Facebook knows everything about you, even the data you choose to withhold. Take, for example, your contact number or email address. Many of us opted out of giving this away when we signed up for Facebook, Facebook Messenger, or Instagram because we didn't want to be searchable using these pieces of data.

But, alas, many of us have realized that even if we don't provide data to Meta directly, someone else will. When someone signs up to any of Meta's services, they are asked if they want to share their entire address book to make it much easier to find connections. This is how Facebook got hold of details even if the user had never had a Facebook account.

Thankfully, we now have a tool to delete and keep our contact numbers and email addresses from Facebook permanently, even when someone we know agrees to share their entire address book.
A tool no one's talked about

According to Business Insider, Meta quietly rolled out this tool sometime in May 2022, but the company didn't say anything about it. The link to the tool appears to be pretty much tucked away in an obscure page in Facebook's help section where no user typically ventures.

Below are steps to remove your contact number or email address from all of Meta's apps.

1. Visit the contact info removal tool page.
2. You can then choose from three options: your mobile number, landline phone number, or email address. You can only pick one, so to remove all the above info from Meta, you must repeat these steps for each option.

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For this example, we pick "mobile number."

3. Enter your mobile number. The tool also asks where it wants you to look for your data: Facebook and Messenger, Instagram, or both. You can tick both.
4. If you picked mobile number, you'll receive an SMS from Facebook containing your confirmation code. If you picked landline phone number, you'll receive an automated voice call to that number to give you a confirmation code. If you picked "email address," the tool will email you the confirmation code.
5. Clicking "Next" takes you to a page that tells you Meta has found your number and that someone (if not you) has uploaded it to Meta's platforms. By clicking "Confirm", you tell Meta you want your mobile number deleted from its database and block the number from being re-uploaded.
6. Once you have confirmed, the tool takes you to a page saying it has deleted and blocked your mobile.
7. During testing, I double-checked whether the tool had worked by going through the steps again with my mobile number. After entering the confirmation code the tool sent via SMS, I got the message that Meta doesn't have my mobile number anymore.

While many will take having their contact numbers and email address permanently removed or blocked in the future as a sign that Meta is serious about user privacy, Heather Burns, author of the book "Understanding Privacy", thinks that the tool is just "privacy labor."

"They collected data they should not have collected in the first place, and are now shifting responsibility on you to remove it," she told Insider.

We don't just report on threats—we remove them

Cybersecurity risks should never spread beyond a headline. Keep threats off your devices by downloading Malwarebytes today.



Boot Windows 10 in Safe Mode

Safe Mode is rather useful in troubleshooting computer issues like **Windows 10 not booting**. Different from Windows 7,

Windows 10 Safe Mode is not that easy to access, making it one of Windows 10 hidden features. But you can still find it as long as you follow steps below:

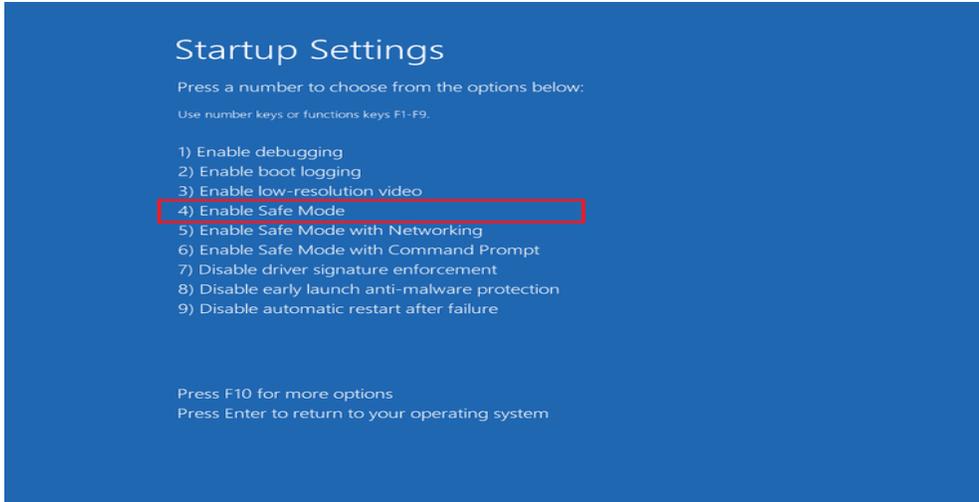
Step 1. Press **Shift** and hold on, then press **Restart**.

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Step 2. When you see the blue screen, follow this path: Troubleshoot > Advanced Options > Startup Settings > Restart > **Press No 4 on your keyboard.**

Step 3. Your computer will restart and then you are in the Safe Mode.



How to Get Out of Safe Mode Windows 10

To get out of Safe Mode in Windows 10, you can follow the steps below realize it.

Step 1. You can press **Windows** and **R** key on the keyboard. And then input **msconfig** and hit Enter again to open the **System Configuration** window.

Step 2. Tap **Boot** icon and **uncheck the Safe boot option**, and click **OK**. Then your Windows 10 computer will boot in normal screen next time you start the PC.





Plateau PC Users Group, Inc.

Application for Membership for 2022 / 23

----- New Member

----- Renewing Member

Return this application with a 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:



February 2023



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