

BVCC Newsletter - May 2014

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If you are reading this on your computer display, remember that **Acrobat Reader** has a *zoom* feature (under "View" in your top tool bar) for enlarging or reducing text and graphics.

Next Computer Club (BVCC) Meeting

XP Update Review, Election, Questions Answered
May 12, 2014 7:30Pm Glenn Center

Quick Index

If you are reading this using Acrobat Reader, you can jump directly to articles in this newsletter. Just left click on a Contents listing below. Also, if you are reading this newsletter on line, look for links that jump to Internet web pages.

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Notes from Kent

Windows XP in Retrospect

After stressing in the past few issues of the *Newsletter* the problems looming with the demise of Microsoft support for Windows XP, Monday's (May 12th, 2014) meeting will afford an early summary of what has been learned in the aftermath. During April, the club assisted many members with buying

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refurbished microcomputers and has been busy preparing them for use. Although the potential disasters have yet to materialize (as of April 30, 2014), current reports cite a potential weakness in Internet Explorer. While it is not Apocalypse Now, it is clear that we are far from being out of the woods. The Monday program will review what we know and what you should consider in making your choices (for example, read the articles in the March and April issues

http://www.bvres.org/BVWeb2012/Computer_club/bvcc/News.html which analyze your choices).

Your Digital Life After Death

Just as a discerning Bristol Village resident will strive to have his/her affairs in order to ease the burden on families, the same attention needs to be paid to your digital legacy.

The first concerns are inventory and passwords. Without an inventory of all of the accounts that you have, your spouse or executor will be faced with a seemingly endless (and highly frustrating) task to not only identify what accounts your spouse may have had but then to determine the password of each. The author of *Your Digital Afterlife* (Evan Carroll) suggests keeping a list of the sites that you visit in a week or a month that require log-in information. He recommends that the inventory include the site name, your user name and the password. These should be in a secure document on your computer or in a secure location (such as a safe deposit box). The location of the list should be mentioned in the will but not the contents of the list itself because the will is a public document.

Hiller Presser, principal of The Presser Law Firm in Deerfield Beach, Florida, in an article in *Public Management*, “Plan Ahead for Your Online Hereafter” (October 2013), agrees with these cautionary preparation but emphasizes the need to assure the security of your list, relying on a flash drive or other digital archive as well as the list itself. He mentions **AxCrypt**

(<http://www.axantum.com/axcrypt/>) as providing free but strong encryption of such a document. Experiences of some villagers reveal the importance of maintaining complete lists of accounts and passwords.

One way to automate this process is through the use of a master password program. In the January issue of the Newsletter

(http://www.bvres.org/BVWeb2012/Computer_club/bvcc/News



Dashlane Logo

([%20Archives/2014_01_January.pdf](#)), I discussed some free password software, especially **Dashlane**. That review focused on its use to develop strong passwords and simplify dealing with such passwords. Not mentioned in that review but germane to our purpose here, it does keep track of the passwords that it is issued (or discovers existing). This simplifies making the list of passwords as well as providing easy access through a single master password.

Since that time, I won a door prize of **Roboform**, software which is similar to



RoboForm Logo

Dashlane but at a moderate price rather than free. Roboform offers many of the same advantages as Dashlane but without the same need to be constantly aware of attempts to sell you a copy. It also offers ability to use passwords from anywhere. See <http://www.roboform.com>.

Once the essential tasks of identifying password

usage and compiling a record of same have been completed, you should give attention to actually working with your digital assets. While the importance of various digital information will vary with the owners, financial data will probably rank high on your priorities list. Some advisers recommend retaining quarterly or even monthly printouts of your financial accounts but this seems to border on overkill and counters the advantages of digital accounts. Of course, if you opt not to make printouts, close attention to regular digital backing-up is essential.

Beyond these basics, you need to prioritize your on-line accounts. Financial accounts will probably be followed by email. In establishing priorities, you need to carefully consider the **terms of service** of various accounts. For example, most online services give you a non-transferable license, which means that no one can access an account after your death. Naomi Cahn, a George Washington University law professor, in *AARP: The Magazine* (“Online, Forever After,” Feb-Mar 2014) recommends you draft a statement, which can be attached to your will, designating which heirs to your estate should have access to your accounts. Consideration should also be given as to whom will have access to your other digital resources, such as ebooks and pictures kept in the cloud, and such information included in your statement of access.

Amy Welborn, featured in the *AARP* article, described the tribulations she went to in trying to recover her their financial information. While she eventually succeeded, she cautioned, “It is an act of love to try and make life after you're gone as hassle-free as possible.”

Club Elections

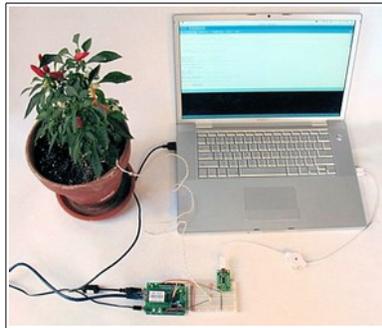
A highlight of the May meeting will be the annual elections. Candidates agreeing to serve if elected include Bill Webb for President, Don Netzley for Vice President, Nancy Seward for Secretary and Len Nasman continuing as Web Master. This evolution in leadership will offer new blood and ideas while continuing expertise. Other candidates may emerge

(agree) before the elections so please attend to assure that your vote is counted.

Do Plants Talk?

by Len

Do you talk to your plants? Do they talk back? A recent article provides a technical way to listen to your plants.



A *Wall Street Journal* article described how a device from [Parrot Flower Power](#) allows you to listen to, or monitor, your plants. According to the *WSJ* writer:



“Using electronic sensors, the device tells me when the plant needs more water or if I’ve been drowning it, whether it gets too much sun or too little, when it needs fertilizer and whether the air is too hot or too cold.”

For a long time there have been people who claim to be able to communicate with their plants. Recent research shows that plants are indeed aware of and respond to their surroundings.

According to an article in *'The Scientist'*:

“Plants communicate and interact with each other, both above ground and below, in surprisingly subtle and sophisticated ways.”

Links to other articles about talking plants:

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304886904579475743470137988?google_editors_picks=true&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702304886904579475743470137988.html%3Fgoogle_editors_picks%3Dtrue

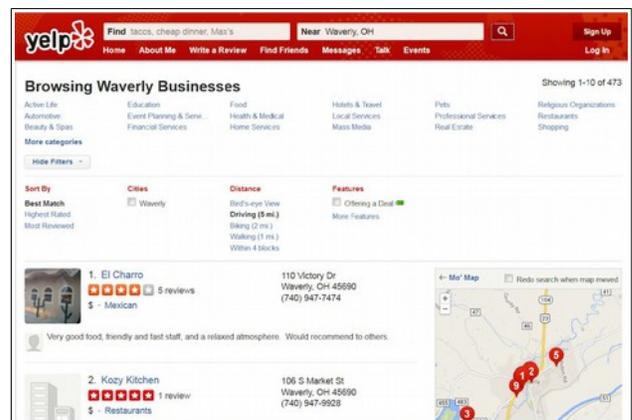
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/13/130507-talking-chili-plant-communication-science/>

<http://discovermagazine.com/2002/apr/featplants>

Locate, Praise, or Complain

By Len

Looking for a good place to eat on your next trip? Want to share your experiences at the Kozy Kitchen? Need to locate medical services near Kane, PA? You might want to visit [Yelp.com](#). Go to the website and enter your location. You can then search for businesses, read reviews, or leave your own review.



Print Your Own Food?

By Len



Yep! The 3D printing industry is now producing 3D printers that can actually print food. Fancy chocolates and other meals are available. Does this have any practical application for seniors? Well this article describes a potential application for seniors or others with specific eating disorders.

<http://3dprintingindustry.com/2014/04/14/3d-printed-future-food/>

There are also increasing examples of using 3D printing in medicine. Here is an article about how one lady helped create a stylistic leg for herself after hers was crushed in a car accident.

Click on the picture to jump to the online article.



While we are on the subject of 3D printing, I notice that the Microcenter in Columbus now is featuring a variety of 3D printers for sale. So, 3D printing has moved from industrial applications to the consumer world.

 A screenshot of a Microcenter website search results page for "3d+printers&N+=". The page shows a grid of six 3D printer listings. Each listing includes a product image, name, price, and stock status.

| Product Name | Price | Stock Status |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 3D Systems Cube 3D Printer - Silver | \$679.97 | 2 in stock |
| Makerbot Replicator 2 Desktop 3D Printer | \$1,999.99 (was \$2,199.99) | 5 in stock |
| Soldoodle 3D Printer 4th Generation | \$999.00 | 2 in stock |
| Flashforge Flash Forge 3D Dual Extrusion Printer | \$999.00 | 3 in stock |
| Printbot 2014 Simple 3D Printer KIT | \$349.99 | 10+ in stock |
| Up! Mini 3D Printer | \$829.99 | 3 in stock |

Microcenter Ad



Fun Stuff

By Len

Article about why accumulating experience is better than accumulating stuff.

<http://www.fastcoexist.com/3028468/stop-accumulating-stuff-and-start-accumulating-experiences>

Click picture to see how to peel apples in a hurry.



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TO THE NEW
OFFICERS**