# SVECC Newsletter

**Sunland Village East Computer Club**

February 2012

Volume 9 Issue 2

## Using the Internet

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**Monthly Reminders:**

- Run Disk Cleanup
- Run CC Cleaner
- Defrag your hard drive
- Manually Update Windows
- Update Malware Bytes
- Run your Anti-virus

Three popular browsers:

Internet Explorer: This is the web browser that every PC user has, because it comes with every version of Microsoft Windows. Internet Explorer (IE) is certainly the most common browser used online today, but that doesn't always mean that it is the best.

What do you need to do in order to use IE as your web browser, nothing really, you just need to open the program on your computer.

Mozilla Firefox: Probably the second most commonly used web browser, Firefox is one of the products of Mozilla.org. Firefox is open source software. This means that the code for the program is publicly accessible and free to be used by anyone. A community of users work together to constantly improve and upgrade the program.

If you want to try Firefox on your computer, you will need to go to their website at, www.mozilla.org download, and then install the program. We will look at the steps involved in this process in a few minutes.

Google Chrome: This is a fairly new browser from the folks at Google. Chrome was designed to fade into the background while displaying the web pages that you are viewing, so it features fewer toolbars and more compact address and bookmark areas. Chrome is also a bit faster than Internet Explorer.

If you want to give Google Chrome a try, you will need to download and install it from their website at: http://www.google.com/chrome .

Here is how to get each working on your computer:

Internet Explorer:

You already have this browser on your computer, so all you have to do to use it is open it. If you click on your "Start" menu, and IE is not listed at the top of the left hand column, just navigate to "All Programs" and you will find Internet Explorer listed.

Mozilla Firefox:

You will need to download and install Firefox on your computer before

# Using the Internet

**Click on the green button that says, "Download Firefox - Free"**

you can use it. Here is how.

Open Internet Explorer and go to http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/

Click on the green button that says, "Download Firefox - Free"

A dialog box will appear asking if you want to run or save the file. Click on the "Run" button.

A security warning dialog box will appear asking if you want to run the software. Click the "Run" button.

The Firefox Setup Wizard will begin to run. Click the "Next" button in the first two dialog boxes.

In the third setup dialog box, click on the "Install" button.

Once Firefox has been installed, you will see a final dialog box. Click on the "Finish" button.

You will now find Firefox in your Start Menu. If you plan to use it frequently as you progress through this series, you might want to create a copy of the icon on your desktop. Just right click on the Firefox icon in your start menu, point to the "Send To" menu and click on "Desktop (create shortcut)

Google Chrome:

You will need to download and install Chrome on your computer before you can use it. Here is how.

To get started, open Internet Explorer and go to http://www.google.com/chrome

Click on the blue button that says, "Download Google Chrome".

A new web page will be displayed that displays the Google Chrome Terms of Service. Read the terms carefully, and then if desired click on the check box that allows usage and crash reports to be sent to Google. Once you are all set, click on the "Accept and install" button.

Click the "Run" button in the security warning dialog box.

Wait while the Google Installer downloads and when it is finished, you will see a dialog box telling you that Google Chrome is ready to complete your installation. Click on the "Start Google Chrome" button.

Google Chrome will no w be listed in your start menu. I would suggest that you also create a shortcut for Chrome on your desktop. Just right click on the Chrome icon in your start menu, point to the "Send To" menu and click on "Desktop (create shortcut)

# How Not to Kill your laptop battery

Battery technology has come a long way from the days of having to carefully 'condition' a new battery when we first got it to maximize its storage capabilities. Conditioning is performed by fully powering and discharging the battery in succession a couple of times.

Today's laptop batteries are generally lithium-ion based (look for 'Li-ion' on the battery itself) which is far less susceptible to the traditional 'memory' and idle discharge issues that older NiCad (nickel cadmium) and NiMH (nickel metal hydride) suffered from.

Li-ion batteries represent the best power-to-weight ratio and life cycle for your personal electronics, but all batteries lose their storage capacity over time based on how they are used and stored.

Because you are using your laptop as a desktop computer, you are plugged into the wall all the time posing the question: should I remove the battery when I'm plugged in?

(Note: some older laptop designs won't power the laptop at all unless the battery is installed which makes the question pointless.)

The upside to keeping the battery installed while plugged into the wall is you get protection against a power outage. If you remove the battery during general operation, you would want to make sure that you are plugging the laptop into an external battery backup system that would keep you from losing your unsaved work in the event of a power outage.

If you leave your computer plugged in for more than two weeks at a time, the conventional wisdom is to remove the battery and store it in a cool, dry climate.

If you plan on storing a battery for an extended period of time, make sure it has been discharged to 30-50% of capacity and store it in temperatures between 70-75 degrees. Avoid storing rechargeable batteries fully charged or fully discharged as either can cause permanent capacity loss or deactivate the built-in protection circuit.

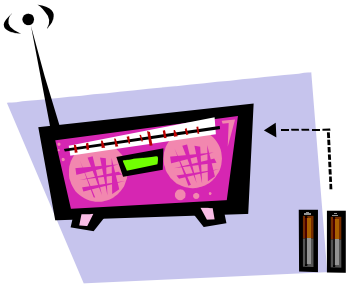
You should always avoid using a battery when the battery itself is really cold or really hot (wait for it to return to room temperature). Heat is the #1 cause of reduced battery life, which takes us back to you using your laptop always plugged in.

If you keep the battery installed while you are plugged in for extended periods of time, it will keep the battery in a heated condition during that extended period when it could have been resting in a calm, cool, submissive state thereby extending its life.

Another way to reduce the battery life is to use the wrong power pack to charge it. If you use a third-party charger that charges your battery at a higher rate than the factory charger, it will diminish the life of the battery.

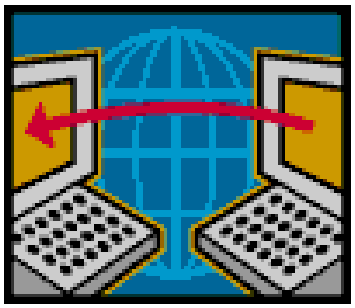
For those that like to use their laptop in bed or on a pillow in your lap, you will likely be restricting the airflow which increases the operating temperature and will also reduce the life of the battery if done often.

In the end, if you simply focus on reducing the heat that your battery is exposed to whenever possible and make sure you store the battery properly, you will extend the useful life of the battery.



**For those that like to use their laptop in bed or on a pillow in your lap, you will likely be restricting the airflow which increases the operating temperature**

# Is Your Computer Connecting To Websites Without Your Knowledge



If you are worried that some programs on your PC are secretly making connections to websites in the background, here's a quick tip that uses a simple DOS command to detect and prevent such suspicious activity:

Type cmd in your Windows Run box.

Type "netstat -b 5 > activity.txt" and press enter. After say 2 minutes, press Ctrl+C.

Type "activity.txt" on the command line to open the log file in notepad (or your default text editor)

The file activity.txt will have a log of all process that made a connection to the Internet in the last two minutes.
It will also show which process connected to which website in this time.
And not just the web browsers (like iexplore.exe or opera.exe), the log will also show your IM clients, download managers, email programs or any software that requires a net connection.

Scroll though the activity.txt file and look for any process names or website addresses that you are not aware of.
If you track one , go to the task manager (or Process Explorer) to find the location of the executable on your computer and eliminate it.

**If you are worried that some programs on your PC are secretly making connections**

## What is dwm.exe

What is dwm.exe And Why Is It Running?

Desktop Window Manager (dwm.exe) is the compositing window manager that gives you all those pretty effects in Windows Vista & 7: Transparent windows, live taskbar thumbnails (that you can resize now), and even the Flip3D switcher that you can disable and replace with Switcher.

What happens in Vista & 7 is that applications write the picture of their window to a specific place in memory, and then Windows creates one "composite" view of all the windows on the screen before sending it to your monitor. Because Vista is keeping track of the contents of each window, it can add effects when layering the windows such as the transparency we're all used to, as well as the live preview thumbnails.

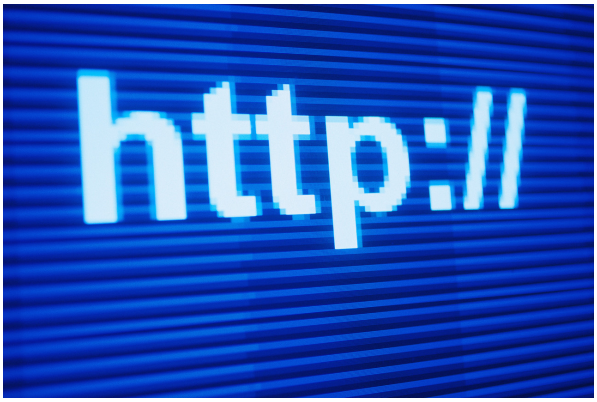
# What is the World Wide Web (WWW) and How Does it Differ from the Internet?

**The Internet**

Just like roads and railroads provide paths for vehicles, the Internet provides paths for data across millions of sub-networks worldwide. The Internet does not contain any data like the World Wide Web does; the Internet is the channel for delivery.

**The World Wide Web**

Coined in 1989, the World Wide Web is the collection of all publicly available data, or hypertext viewable via the Internet Protocol. Web pages usually travel to your computer through IP port 80—reserved for Web data.




## Key Terms

**Computer**: An electronic device with a central processing unit. A computer may have one or more network interface cards

**Network interface card (NIC)**: A computer component with a unique address referred to as a MAC or media access control address. Used to communicate with other network interfaces

**Network**:

For this guide, a network refers to two or more computers in communication. A network is formed through wires (Cat x Ethernet; Coaxial; Fiber Optic etc.) and wireless protocols (802.11 x; WiMax; Bluetooth etc.)

**Protocol**:

A digital communications standard with its own rules, authentication methods, etc.

**Internet Protocol** (IP):

Currently two versions are in use; IPv4 (most common); IPv6 (becoming popular but largely unsupported at vital points in networks.) IP governs the transport of data—mostly viewed as web pages in browsers

**Hypertext**:

Data, organised as information, viewable through a Web browser. Right click this page and click "View Source" to see some hypertext markup language (HTML.)

**Protocol**: A digital communications standard with its own rules, authentication methods, etc.

# 911 Call to help group

What it costs elsewhere

Geek Squad in home call $149.00 per hour

Serving Online Seniors in home call $85.00 per hour

On line help $79.95 subscription + $24.95 per month

**a gratuity to your SVECC helper is recommended**

Name _____Phone_____

Address _____

Brief problem description

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# Computer Help Group

## Group Leader Joe Zagar

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Joe Zagar** | **480-373-9373** | **all systems and programs** |

Depending on the season we have a number of helpers to assist with problems or installations. Contact Joe Zagar for assistance, referral, or recommendation of local service provider.

In addition on most Thursdays from October to March we offer a fix-it session from 1pm to 3pm at the Training Center. Sessions are open to all residents of SVE and are first come first serve. Charge is $15.00.

Call ahead to see if your problem can be solved at a Thursday session.

# February 2012

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Computer Club<br>SLUG Meeting | 7 Computer Classes | 8 Computer Classes | 9<br>ASU Auction | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13<br>Computer Club | 14 Computer Classes<br>Patch Tuesdays | 15 Computer Classes | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Computer Club<br>SLUG Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27<br>Computer Club | 28 | 29 | | | |

## How to tell if your computer is infected with spyware

Spyware is a type of software that is installed on your computer to watch and record your activity. Some types of spyware record your keystrokes and information that you type into websites or other programs and then use that information for targeted advertising or identity theft. These programs can be installed on your computer in many ways but often they are hidden inside of software such as free games, screen savers, or animated cursors.

Here are some signs that your computer might be infected with spyware:

- You notice new toolbars, links, or favorites that you did not intentionally add to your web browser.
- Your home page, mouse pointer, or search program changes unexpectedly.
- You type the address of a specific website into your web browser, but you are taken to a completely unrelated website.
- You see pop-up ads, even if your computer is not connected to the Internet.

Your computer suddenly starts running more slowly that it usually does. Not all computer performance problems are caused by spyware, of course, but spyware can cause a noticeable change in processing speed. Sometimes your computer will show no symptoms, even if a spyware program is running. To help protect your privacy and your computer, we recommend that you run Windows Defender or another antispyware program at all times.

**SVECC**

**Check us out at svecc.com**

President
Arlene Oisten

# Sunland Village East Computer Club

## Founded for the Residents of Sunland Village East

**Mission: To help each other learn about Computers**

**Membership is open to all residents of SVE**

**Dues are $20.00 per Year**

**Due October 1st**

Sunland Village East Computer Club

| True | False |
|---|---|
| ☑ | ☐ |

## Adult Truths

1. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Was learning cursive really necessary?
7. Map Quest really needs to start their directions on # 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind of tired.
10. Bad decisions make good stories.
11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment at work when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection...again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.

**SVECC**

**Check us out at svecc.com**

People helping People