

SUPERCOM COMPUTER CLUB TECH TIMES

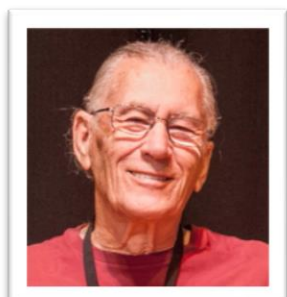
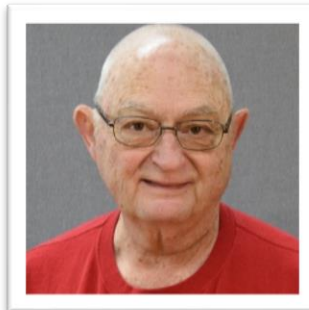
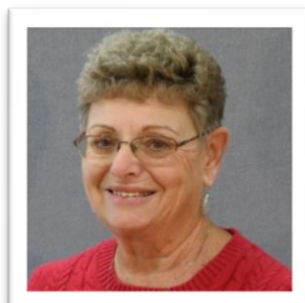
Volume 17 February 2018

Objective:

To bring the latest technology news to you, our members. Tips and suggestions will help you to keep your device(s) running smoothly and help you be aware of threats. Technical tips will be coming to you through our Technical Committee.

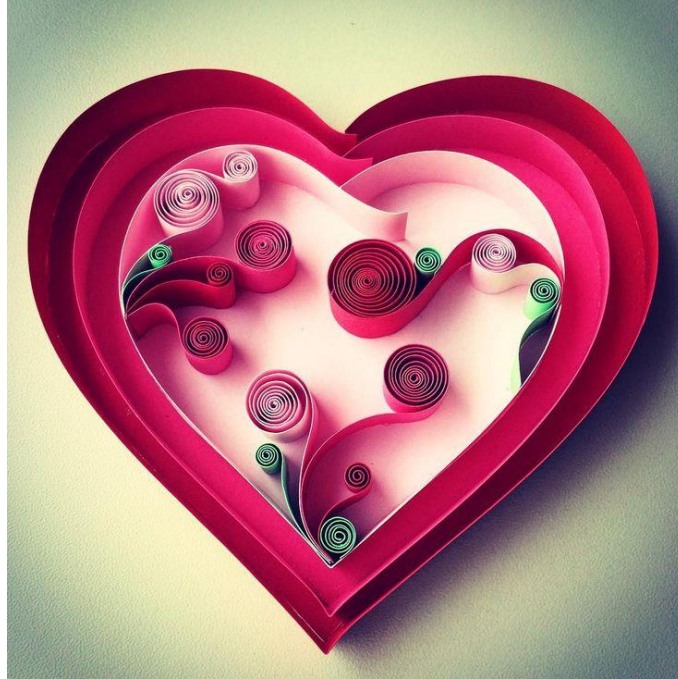
Committee Members: (Pictured Below)

Ben Tarbell, Mike Gerkin, Peggy Bullock, Jim Mills, Rick Heesen, Lowell Lee, Steve Andreasen (Apple/Mac) and Mike Smith. Jim Oliver and Dick Strong.



Dick Strong and Jim Oliver are on "time off" for season 2017-2018.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



It's been awhile since we have published a Tech Times containing important information for you to read and act upon. Although we will be putting this information in an email, we want to save it in this platform for future use. So, if you accidentally (or deliberately) delete your email, you can still come to the website and review this information. The website is: www.supercomcc.org.

All links in our newsletter are safe to click on.



Mike Gerkin submitted:

DEVICE PROTECTION

All members should use some form of security and maintenance programs on their devices to reduce the risks in using your devices, to keep current on recovery tools, and for doing routine cleanings.

Through the years the SuperCom Techs have endorsed and recommended several programs for our members security and maintenance usage. These recommendations have changed as programs change and new and better sources become available.

The Tech recommendations are not the only programs available but ones we feel might best meet the needs of the majority of SuperCom members. Others may offer their preferences, but your club techs

have your best interests in mind, not business profits. All of our recommendations have a free version, although a Pro or paid subscription version is often available also for those who prefer more automation, usually in the form of updates or scheduled scans. The SuperCom Techs usually have other programs in test at any given time.

Today, everything is smart: smart phones, watches, thermostats, and TVs are established in our homes and businesses, and they transformed our personal and work lives into digital environments. As the 'real' world increasingly merges with a digital world, cyber criminals take advantage of it to exploit new ways of making money, such as stealing personal and business data, gaining access to people's bank accounts, harvesting and selling personal information, and demanding ransoms in return for valuable data.

Let's look at some of these critical tools.

ANTI-VIRUS

An anti-virus program or app is critical for desktop operating systems such as Windows (and increasingly so on Mac). We don't think that *virus protection* is as important on mobile devices (Android and Apple) as long as you download apps only from the approved app marketplaces run by Apple, Google, and Microsoft. Only one such program on a device at a time is suggested. More is not better. In fact, multiple anti-virus programs on a device will probably conflict with one another.

Windows 10 has a pretty good anti-virus program built into it. It is **Windows Defender**. Our two labs use Windows Defender. While you may prefer to use another anti-virus app or program, understand in Win 10 it is unnecessary. Many computer stores and some phone shops may try to sell you another security app or program, but now you know you do not need it. Some other anti-virus programs are AVG, AVAST, Bit Defender, Norton, Kaspersky, and there are many more. Most are subscription-based apps, not free.

ANTI-MALWARE/SPYWARE

Spyware, malware, ransomware are all different than a virus. So, anti-spyware apps or programs have different objectives than anti-virus ones. Malware and spyware is much harder to detect, as it doesn't really behave like a normal virus. Spyware is meant to hide behind an actual application usually. Spyware is not anything new. The term Spyware was coined in 1995 but it gained the prominence around 2000 and since about 2007, spyware has become one of the top security threats to computer systems irrespective of the Operating Systems.

We know many PC users tell us that they have had bitter experiences with spyware and adware. Getting spyware on your PC is almost inevitable. Your PC is prone to spyware attack and can be infected in many ways. It may be just from opening a wrong email or loading a wrong website or downloading music/movies/anything from a wrong source. Whenever you download a program or file or click on a pop-up ad, there is always a danger of downloading spyware and adware into your system. It happens every day.

The key anti-spyware apps we recommend today is **Super AntiSpyWare** (I know it sounds fakey) and **Malwarebytes**. We think most SuperCom members should have these two free apps downloaded on their devices. Subscription versions are also available. There are numerous other anti-spyware apps some of which we have recommended in the past.

We suggest that that you do not try an unfamiliar anti-virus or anti-spyware app before you check with a Tech Team member since there are dangerous apps lurking out there.

CLEANUP AND MAINTENANCE

Just as your home and your auto require housekeeping and regular checkups, your digital devices do too. If you want your device to be fast and responsive for years, you need to maintain it well.

Failing to run free computer maintenance programs can lead to not only a slow computer, but also create errors in any computer that may freeze or crash your computer. The average computer user stores thousands of files on their computer, but many types of files that are stored on a hard drive are saved without you even knowing. Simply deleting files in the Recycle Bin is not enough computer maintenance to keep your computer running quickly and efficiently.

Every computer systems runs more quickly and efficiently if regular computer maintenance is completed. Some tools to do this are built into the operating systems. In Windows there is **Disk Cleanup** which locates and deletes unnecessary files of various types.

Another very good maintenance tool is **CCleaner**, a free program that functionally is similar to Disk Cleanup but much more powerful. Run in concert with Disk Cleanup they overlap to find most unnecessary files.

Your Tech Geeks have added another versatile maintenance program called **Glary Utilities** to our 14 lab computers and most are trying it on our own computers. We have now recommended it to our membership at a Friday meeting.

If you need help downloading or using any of the mentioned software, attend a class or talk to one of your SuperCom techs for assistance.

BACKUP

There is really no good reason to lose data from your computer because it is so easy to create a backup. There are many reason why you might lose information. The top three are:

Hardware Failure: Inevitably, a hard drive or SSD will die, and even an external hard drive isn't safe from viruses or external destruction like water or drop damage. Hard drive failure is the most common cause of data loss, and once a hard drive fails, there is little chance of recovery.

Virus/Hackers: Software issues are another reason why computer back up is necessary. Viruses can be downloaded by accident by yourself, family members or maliciously sent to users. Once they take hold, it can be difficult to have them removed without damaging your existing databases.

Hackers also implant viruses in order to gather important information, usually credit card numbers, passwords, or other classified information that can be used against you or your business.

Thief: While hackers steal digital information, thieves will have no problem stealing actual computers, smart phones, hard drives, or even servers from homes, businesses, or storage facilities. Once stolen, it is unlikely you'll ever see it again.

Back up your computer and data now!

Backing up your computer means you are taking a proactive approach. Consider it your way of taking an insurance policy out on your computer that will protect you from the internal and external forces that threaten its safety. If you don't back up your computer today, you are at risk for viruses, hackers, and hard drive failure that can cause you to lose your data forever.

Finally, you should attend every Friday meeting you can. You cannot find a better gathering place to learn about technology.

Some new Tech Tips have been added to the Tech Tips website page:

Use Google to [find your phone](#)

[Printer connection problems \(offline, etc\)](#)

[Purchasing a Smart Phone](#)

Please be vigilant in keeping your Windows Update up-to-date, especially if you have a Windows 7 Operating System machine. We have had lots of problems keeping them up-to-date for members. Also, it is important for Windows 10 to be kept up-to-date considering all the recent threats. Problems with updates have also been encountered. If you need help with any of these, please contact one of our Tech Geeks.

Your Techs for this time:

Mike Gerkin

Peggy Bullock