SUPERCOM COMPUTER CLUB TECH TIMES

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), Jim Oliver, Keith Kuchar, Sandy George and new member Steve Norgaard. Dick Strong is available on a limited basis for consultations.
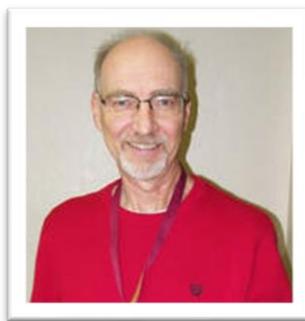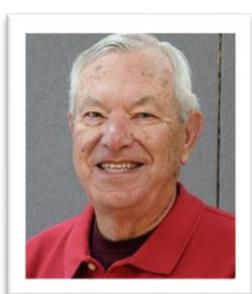
Dick Strong is elder Geek whom we call on for input on tough problems and suggestions from the sidelines. He has earned his "time off".

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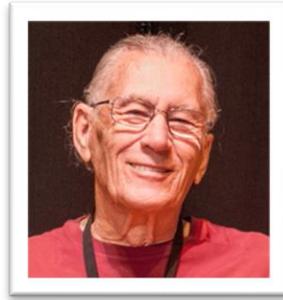
As you can see from our photo gallery above, we have been busy recruiting new members to our Tech Committee. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help us out. Welcome to Steve Norgaard, our newest member.

If anyone is interested in helping with the Apple Products on an as needed basis, please see one of the above Tech Committee members.

Greetings

This will be the final Tech Times for this calendar year! When we have important information that we want to share with our members, this will usually be our means of communication. Occasionally you may receive just an email. Here are the addresses that you want to make sure are in your contacts so that it does not go to your Spam folder: peggytechtimes@gmail.com   or

 pegandbill2@gmail.com

Remember --- All links in our Tech Times Newsletter are safe to click on.

Remember…………DO YOUR MAINTENANCE TO YOUR COMPUTERS and KEEP IT UPDATE!!

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IMPORTANT TIMELY NOTICE:

Dreaming Starts Here: Mesa Public Library in 2020

Post Date:12/30/2019

Curiosity – Learning – Connection – Inspiration – Creativity - **Dreaming *starts here.***

How do you envision your library? January 2020 marks the start of a new vision for Mesa Public Library. We're proud to announce our new mission, vision, values, and strategic plan for the coming years.

You are invited to hear about it at a New Year's open house **Saturday, Jan. 4**:

Main Library, 64 E. First St., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Red Mountain Branch, 635 N. Power Road, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dobson Ranch Branch, 2425 S. Dobson Road, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Collaborative vision boards will be available at all three locations to let you share ideas for what Mesa Public Library should be offering in the new decade.

"While we will be sharing our new mission and vision, we also welcome residents' ideas for the future of the library," Mesa Public Library Director Heather Wolf said. "The open house offers our residents the opportunity to meet staff, tour the library and hear about a lot of new and exciting offerings they may not know about."

Among those offerings are THINKspot, a makerspace at the Main and Red Mountain libraries with

equipment and technology that is free to use. Visitors can also learn about the Stuffbrary, a collection of unusual items like telescopes and cake pans, that are available for checkout. All locations also offer a variety of free events for all ages to inspire lifelong learning.

To read the rest of January's Newsletter, Control + Click here: Mesa Library January 2020 Newsletter

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<u>Submitted by Mike Gerkin</u>:

After reading this article that Mike sent me, I was ready to return to paper, pencil and an eraser!! I'm beginning to think I'm glad I am in the golden years and hopefully might not have to see this happen!!

Quite an interesting read!

Time to worry: Silicon Valley wants to read your mind

Time to Worry   Click the link to see where technology is heading!

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<u>Submitted by Rick Heesen</u>:

Should You Pay Up If You Get Hit by Ransomware?

Dave Johnson   @davejoh   August 1, 2019, 6:40am EDT

It might be your worst nightmare. You turn on your PC only to discover it's been hijacked by ransomware that won't decrypt your files unless you pay up. Should you? What are the pros and cons of paying off cyber-criminals?

It's a difficult problem, and one with many layers. To access your files, you might need to pay a hefty ransom. And then there's the issue of cryptocurrency, which is ransomware's preferred method of payment. Unless you're already a crypto investor, you might have no idea how to begin the process of getting a Bitcoin account—and the clock is ticking.

And don't forget—if you pay, there's a decent chance you won't be able to reclaim access to your files, anyway. There are also ethical questions about paying off criminals. As any good economist will tell you, any behavior you reward, you'll invariably get more of.

Taking the High Road

So, what should you do?   Control + Click on the Blue Heading to read the rest of the article.

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Submitted by Rick Heesen:

What's the Best Antivirus for Windows 10? (Is Windows Defender Good Enough?)

Windows 10 won't hassle you to install an antivirus like Windows 7 did. Since Windows 8, Windows now includes a built-in free antivirus called Windows Defender. But is it really the best for protecting your PC–or even just good enough?

Windows Defender was originally known as Microsoft Security Essentials back in the Windows 7 days when it was offered as a separate download, but now it's built right into Windows and it's enabled by default. Many people have been trained to believe that you should always install a third-party antivirus, but that isn't the best solution for today's security problems, like ransomware.

So, What's the Best Antivirus? Please Don't Make Me Read All This
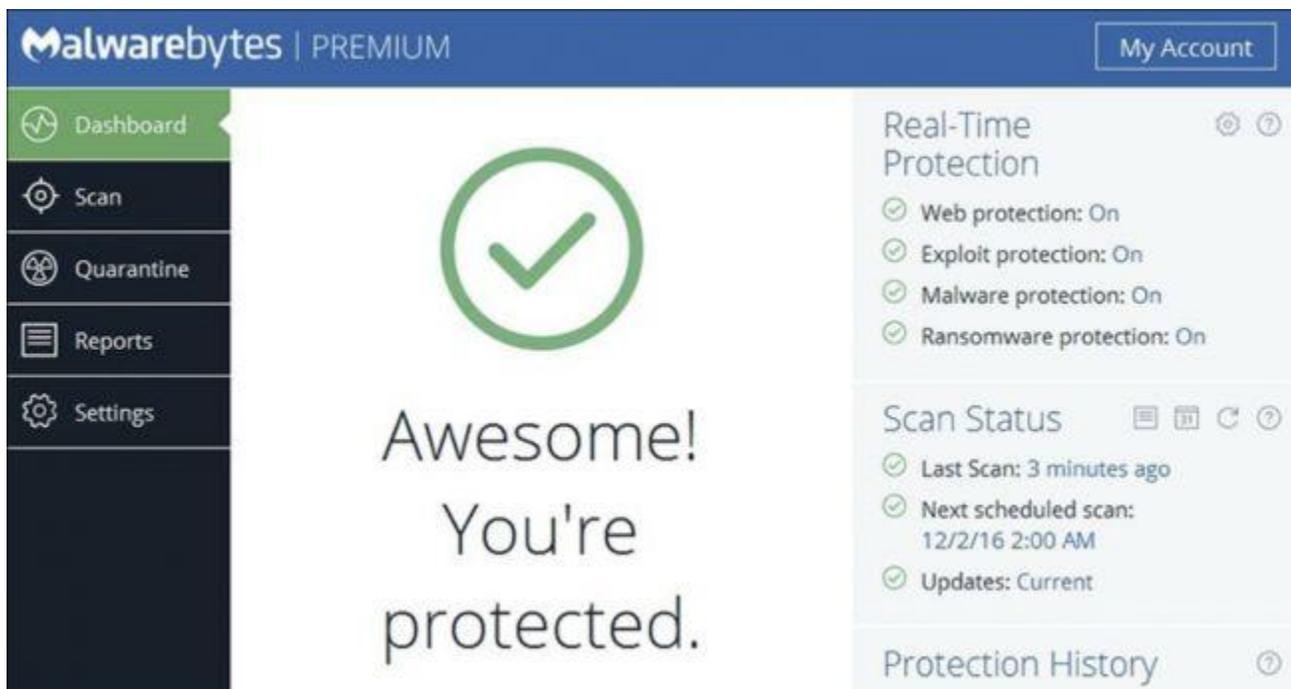
What you need is a great team: Malwarebytes + Windows Defender

We definitely recommend you read the entire article so you fully understand why we recommend a combination of Windows Defender *and* Malwarebytes, but since we know that tons of people will just scroll down and skim, here is our TL;DR recommendation for how to keep your system secure:

- **Use the Built-in Windows Defender for traditional antivirus** – the criminals have moved on from regular viruses to focus on Ransomware, zero-day attacks, and even worse malware that traditional antivirus just can't handle. Windows Defender is built right in, blazing fast, doesn't annoy you, and does its job cleaning old-school viruses.
- **Use Malwarebytes for Anti-Malware and Anti-Exploit** – all of the huge malware outbreaks these days are using zero-day flaws in your browser to install ransomware to take over your PC, and only Malwarebytes provides really excellent protection against this with their unique anti-exploit system. There's no bloatware and it won't slow you down.

Editor's Note: This doesn't even mention the fact that [Malwarebytes](#), the company, is staffed by some really great people that we really respect. Every time we talk to them, they are excited about the mission of cleaning up the internet. It's not often that we give an official How-To Geek recommendation, but this is our favorite product by far, and something we use ourselves.

There is more to read if this piqued your interest. Control + Click on the Blue Title

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Submitted by Peggy Bullock:

Did you get a new Christmas Present? Did you give yourself one? Again, our Tech Committee is reminding you…………………

14 January 2020

Windows 7 is due to reach End Of Life (EOL) on **14 January 2020**, but a large number of the world's computers, most in corporate environments, are still running the nine-year-old system. Microsoft ended mainstream support for Windows 7 in January 2015, with extended support running till **14 January 2020**.

What does end of life mean for Windows 7?

End of life is the term that Microsoft uses to identify the period when the company **will** no longer support an operating system or application. In this case, it means that, as of Jan.14, 2020, Microsoft **will** move on from **Windows 7** and no longer patch security holes in the operating system.

What will happen when Windows 7 support ends?

If you continue **to** use **Windows 7** after **support** has **ended**, your PC **will** still work, but it **will** become more vulnerable **to** security risks and viruses because you **will** no longer receive software updates, including security updates, from **Microsoft**.

What can I do as a member of SuperCom Computer Club?

Contact one of our Tech Support Members and let them help you decided what you should do. They can tell if your computer has enough capacity and speed to run Windows 10. Several of our members have become very proficient in helping upgrade to Windows 10. Don't wait too long though.

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Hope your holidays were Merry and Bright. Looking forward to serving you for the remainder of the SuperSun season and during the summer if you need help.   Your Tech Team   and

Rick Heesen, Mike Gerkin and Peggy Bullock