

SIG-Computing News

December 13, 2015

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News 1/3

Scams: unfortunately, the holiday period brings out a lot of con artists. Please be extra careful with email, phone calls, and other types of media. Ransomware (encrypting and “locking up” data) is all too easy. When in doubt, open e-mail and other messages on safe devices before risking laptop or desktop.

Windows 10 Release 1511 (2015-November) was released a few days ago. If you have upgraded, how is it working for you? It caused some issues for us at work by overwriting device drivers and customizations as it is not a patch. So far it seems faster to me on same hardware!

News 2/3

Microsoft is reducing OneDrive storage for all users as their previous “unlimited” storage offering proved untenable. Some users were using hundreds of terabytes of free storage (and the real cost to provide this is the bandwidth cost). If you are using OneDrive, please check your usage at <https://onedrive.live.com/> as the new plans are much smaller.

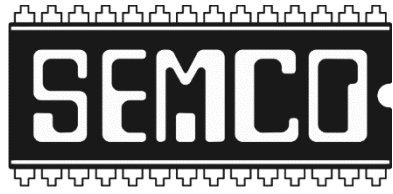
2015 was a bad year for data loss and privacy breaches. A suggested New Year’s Resolution for everyone: start using a password manager, such as KeePass (free), and back it up securely to a locked up USB drive. Try to use different passwords for each account and site.

News 3/3

Highly important to make sure trusted family members or executor have access to the password vault in case of illness.

A great article on setting up KeePass from start to finish is:

<http://www.howtogeek.com/howto/4962/securely-store-your-passwords-with-keepass/>



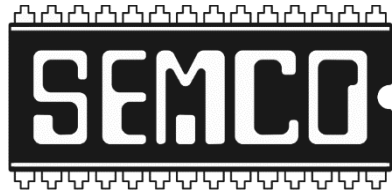
WordPress!

SEMCO's new web site is active! Please check out the Ira Wilsker and APCUG Articles links at the bottom of the SEMCO web site!

Further refinement and comment welcome! If interested please contact webmaster@semco.org

The new site: <https://www.semco.org/>

This is a WordPress site and as Leo aptly mentioned, getting strong with it may be a career builder and/or a valuable extra consulting job.



SIG-Computing Presentation

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Windows 10 1511 (2015-November) Update!

- Bad: this update does an "overlay" install, so any device driver changes manually made AND some customizations will be lost and will have to be re-applied.
- Improves Start Page program limits from ~~400 to ~~2000
- Many replaced and improved device drivers
- Some “glitchy” areas improved, but not yet fully “polished”

Windows 10 1511 Improvements

- Windows 10 will no longer repeatedly overwrite device drivers we manually install, such as video and sound drivers
- Storage footprint improved on low storage devices such as tablets, and some new inexpensive tablets available now in stores take advantage of this (last month's Micro Center presentation covered it)
- Performance issues fixed on some 32 bit systems (although if possible, use 64 bit Windows 10 whenever possible)

Windows 10 1511 Demo

Demo, let's take a look at Windows 10 1511 Update

Windows Server 2016 Technical Preview 4

- On target for release next year
- Negative - for very large systems: Server 2016 may be using a per core, instead of the previous per socket, licensing model. Similar prices for most systems, but larger systems with many cores may be very expensive.
- Negative - Standard and Datacenter editions are again back to having major feature differences, unlike the previous version. Datacenter has richer storage, network, and isolation (including preventing host administrators for accessing contents of sensitive virtual machines)

Windows Server 2016 TP4 More Features

- Support for containers, including Hyper-V containers (isolated from the base operating system, unlike typical containers), allows for developing & testing scalable web applications and integration with Docker
- Scale out storage improved in "Storage Spaces". Server 2016 Essentials might be again interesting for home use! Easy to set up and grow as more storage is needed.

Windows Server 2016 TP4 Hyper-V

- Major improvements to Hyper-V including:
 - nested virtualization (running VM's inside of VM's, which may be useful in home and office lab environments as well as when setting up "private cloud" complex deployments)
 - PCIe hardware pass through (Infiniband, Omnipath, video cards, etc.!))
 - Shielded virtual machines (firewalls, malware honeypots) – in Datacenter Edition, administrators that have host access may not access selected virtual machines, even as “superusers”.

Windows Server 2016 TP4 may be small!

- Nano Server
 - Small server useful for web servers, domain name servers, and other limited services
 - "Hardened" - improved security by eliminating otherwise unused components like file and print services
 - Small storage and system usage
 - Looks great for experimentation / learning use, too!

Windows Server 2016 TP4 Wrap-up

- PowerShell improvements - Server 2016 is 100% configurable using PowerShell, normal Windows GUI (which is now Windows 10-like) may be completely disabled and not even installed
- The preview may be downloaded at www.microsoft.com/windows with free registration. The preview expires middle of 2016.

Demo, let's take a look at Windows Server 2016 Technical Preview 4!

Keeping up with Windows news

Some sites I use to keep up with events in the Windows world:

Microsoft Virtual Academy: <https://mva.microsoft.com/>

Neowin: <http://www.neowin.net/>

Windows IT Pro: <http://windowsitpro.com/windows>

Checking Neowin and Windows IT Pro after “Patch Tuesday” are recommended as any faulty/misbehaving patches get coverage fast!