

SIG-Computing News

January 10, 2016

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News 1/3

Happy New Year!

As mentioned in December, 2016 would be a good time to adopt a password manager such as KeePass, LastPass, 1Password, Dashlane, etc. Keep your identity secure, but please make sure family have access in an emergency.

Wide Open West (WOW) cable bought by Crestview. Financials could be better ☹️ So far, no direct customer impacts. 300/20 now in SE MI!

News 2/3

Microsoft expected to intensify Windows 10 upgrade initiatives, including marking it as a “Recommended Upgrade”. Please pass the word to be careful to dismiss the upgrade if moving to Windows 10 is not desired.

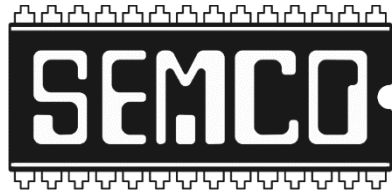
2016: SSD upgrade prices expected to hit all-time lows. Good time to upgrade legacy hard drive systems to SSD's. Please keep making backups, SSD's are not infallible!

ConFusion 42 (2016) at the Novi Sheraton January 22-24.

News 3/3

Proxmox Virtual Environment 4.1 released just after December 2015 SEMCO meeting. Great environment for home virtualization and container (Docker-type) experimentation, easy to set up and manage. Free to use with Windows and Linux VM's. www.proxmox.com

Got a 4K TV or Monitor yet? Well, 8K (7680x4320) units are being released soon! LG just announced "Super UHD" units to be revealed at CES. Sure to be initially quite expensive and beyond current graphics cards, but might drive down 4K & 5K costs.



SIG-Computing Presentation

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File Organization and The Cloud 1/3

Organization for you, family, colleagues, and perhaps those that come after you

Search engines like Apple's Spotlight, Google Desktop, Windows (Bing) Search help, but sometimes are let downs. Although, try Office Delve!

Often the old "tried and true" folder organization works best, but also consider file naming and tags, where usable.

INTERLUDE

The best time to organize something is AT INCEPTION when the document/file is created.

... but, better late than never!

Demo of Jeff Marraccini's storage arrangements

NO SCREEN SHOTS OR CAMERAS, PLEASE – SOME OF THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL TO JEFF, HIS FAMILY, AND HIS WORKPLACE.

The purpose of showing this to you is to highlight one way to organize around 100,000 documents and ~50 gigabytes of e-mail history. Don't record the specifics, just the generalities, please.

**** Let's look up Standing Desks via search and folders! ****

File Organization and The Cloud 2/3

Consider folders like:

-- IN PROCESS – DUE THIS WEEK –

-- NEEDS BACKUP –

Documents – HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

Documents – OK to share

(or the equivalent tags if you are comfortable with those)

File Organization and The Cloud 3/3

“The Cloud” in the title – what is the tie in?

This same organization is necessary there, even with new-fangled “Object Storage”.

Some cloud services offer terabytes of space at very low cost. Not being organized means chaos, and could prevent using them to their full potential.

Cloud Services for File Storage 1/5

Personal Clouds (those you run yourself):

BTSync

OwnCloud

Some NAS devices such as FreeNAS, QNAP, Synology

Commercial:

Amazon, BackBlaze*, CrashPlan*, DropBox, Google Drive, Mozy*,
OneDrive, OneDrive for Business, SpiderOak, ~~Wuala~~

Cloud Services for File Storage 2/5

Wuala is an example of a cloud service that ended. Didn't download your files from there? OUCH.

Lesson: keep an eye on cloud services you do not run yourself, and for critical data, keep your own copies. Be prepared, if a service ends or changes service terms, to rapidly move data off – which could be costly and time-consuming.

(run your own cloud service? Well, be careful, what happens if your server fails? Keep copies of critical data elsewhere OFFLINE!)

Rolling your own – Cloud 3/5

BTSync, OwnCloud, and having a couple NAS systems often is enough to serve your family or another small group. Costs are minimal.

Advantages: can be secured via your own encryption, and as long as you keep the services up to date, are highly secure and competitive.

Disadvantages: expensive to scale. Jeff has ~10TB of personal materials, next step up is quite expensive, even as storage has continued to get less expensive. Some families need LOTS of TB's.

Demo – BTSync and OwnCloud setup sites

Quick look:

BTSync:

<https://www.getsync.com/features>

OwnCloud:

<https://owncloud.org/features/>

Public Cloud & Security 4/5

Consider using encrypted disk images, like VeraCrypt (Linux/Windows), Apple “sparse disk images” procedures are easily available. Complicates mobile / tablet access, and is probably only needed for sensitive materials, but keep in mind that even pictures in the public cloud can reveal where you live/travel/friends/fraudulent passport photos if they get out.

Be sure to back up critical keys and passphrases for encrypted materials in password vaults, and for critical materials, both keys and the actual disk images should be backed up somewhere OFFLINE.

Jeff & The Public Cloud 5/5

As shown in the demo, I do not believe in a single provider at present.

I used to use Wuala, and it's gone!

So, I have some stuff in Dropbox, some in Google Drive, some in OneDrive, and some on my own cloud. Some in encrypted disks on each service. My family has the keys to all in an emergency.

Using folder organization and hints in my password vault, I know what is where! Please diversify and be careful with public cloud passwords.

PowerShell Quickie! 1/2

Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows Server 2012R2 and 2016 may be totally administered using PowerShell.

Replaces .BAT files and is extensible. Automate services, system rebuilds, complex network share creation/updating, and remote access

Unfortunately, DOES NOT look like Linux/Unix style scripting, although there are resources to adapt.

Easy cut/paste at LAST! If you have pasted into cmd.exe-it's better!

PowerShell Quickie! 2/2

Resources:

1. <http://powershell.org/wp/ebooks/>
2. https://mva.microsoft.com/en-US/training-courses/getting-started-with-powershell-3-0-jump-start-8276?l=r54lrOWy_2304984382
3. <https://developer.rackspace.com/blog/powershell-101-from-a-linux-guy/>
4. <http://blogs.msdn.com/b/powershell/archive/2015/05/06/powershell-dsc-for-linux-is-now-available.aspx>