



# DWPC Technology Newsletter

Technology news from David W. Potts Consulting

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**Welcome to the eleventh edition** of the David W. Potts Consulting *DWPC Technology Newsletter*. I hope you find this information helpful. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send me an email, indicating such. If you received this newsletter from a friend and wish to be added to the mailing list, please email me at the address above and indicate your desire to receive the newsletter.

**Malware Prevention.** To keep your computer safe, it is necessary to keep your software updated (e.g. Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office, Mozilla Firefox, Adobe Flash Player, Adobe Reader, Java, etc.), keep your antivirus software current and update and run your anti-malware software on a regular basis. When updating software, it is important to read the notices, as many updates (e.g. Java, Adobe, etc.) attempt to also install ancillary software that is not needed (and, likely, not desired). Generally these update utilities automatically select to download and install these ancillary components, unless you select to not include them with your update. According to Microsoft, the "User Account Control" feature in Microsoft Windows Vista, Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft Windows 8 allow these operating systems to be 30% less likely to be infected by viruses and malware than earlier versions of Microsoft Windows (including Microsoft Windows XP). It is important to read notices during installation to help ensure your safety. In addition to keeping your computer updated, you must practice safe computing (not opening unsolicited or unexpected email attachments and not visiting questionable Web sites, etc.). When searching to download software, ensure you research the download and that you are downloading from a safe Web site, before downloading and installing software. For those who prefer not updating their computers themselves, David W. Potts Consulting offers remote and onsite preventative maintenance for computers running Microsoft Windows. Please contact us for details.

**What is "4K" TV?** 4K TV is the latest in consumer video. "1080p" or "1080i" (the "p" indicates a "progressive" scan; displaying lines 1, 2, 3, etc. sequentially, where the "i" indicates "interlaced", where the odd lines are displayed, then the even lines are displayed) resolution is 1920x1080. The 4K standard is twice the vertical and twice the horizontal resolution [of 1080x]; 3840x2160 (the 4K refers to the horizontal resolution of nearly 4,000). At this juncture, there is little 4K content available to the consumer. Unless you have awfully good eyes, lots of money to burn or must be the first on the block to have new technology, I'd wait before making the jump to 4K . . .

**How does all this new stuff work?!** So, you now have some new technology . . . but installing the new equipment and reading all the manuals can be time consuming and frustrating. That can take a bunch of the fun out of getting new equipment. Consider having David W. Potts Consulting set up your new equipment, migrate you to a new computer, teach you how to use your new tablet, or help you with all your technology needs.

**Java Security Alert!** I hate to sound (write?) like a broken record, but Oracle's Java continues to be a security risk. The Department of Homeland Security has warned that Oracle Java, a method to run programs on your computer [mainly through your Web browser(s)], contains vulnerabilities that could be exploited to compromise the security of your computer. They strongly suggest disabling Sun Java, unless it is necessary for programs used on the computer. The issues with Java are present in Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac OS X.x and the Linux operating systems. One recent article stated Kaspersky Labs indicated half the exploit-based attacks in 2012 were targeted at Oracle Java. Although Oracle recently released security updates to help thwart attacks through Java, the Department of Homeland Security warns there are still Java vulnerabilities that could allow a computer to be compromised. Many users do not need Java. Oracle has published a Web page that details how to disable the Java program. Please visit the page at: [http://www.java.com/en/download/help/disable\\_browser.xml](http://www.java.com/en/download/help/disable_browser.xml). If you do need to run Java, ensure you are using the latest release and remove any old versions. If you have any questions about this or other security issues (or any other computer questions), please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to help you.

**Windows XP End-of-Life Countdown!** Again . . . sorry to continue to repeat myself . . . but I know many people who are still using their Windows XP computer(s). If you are still using a computer that is running Microsoft Windows XP, you will need to stop using that operating system by April 8, 2014, when Microsoft stops supporting Windows XP (*only 4 months away!*). After April 8, 2014, Microsoft will stop delivering updates to Windows XP, causing it to be more vulnerable. In many cases, it is most cost-effective to replace Windows XP computers with new computers (Microsoft provides no direct upgrade path from Windows XP to Windows 7 or Windows 8/8.1). The good news is that a new computer can cost under \$400 (you can get a great computer for \$500 or so). If you are still using computers running Microsoft Windows XP and would like assistance migrating to Microsoft Windows 7 or Microsoft Windows 8, or new computers, please allow David W. Potts Consulting to assist you with your transition.

**How do I . . .** Please submit questions to me via email to the address at the top of page 1. Questions may be answered in future issues of this newsletter, or may be addressed individually. I often have clients who exclaim, after my correcting their issue, how they have been frustrated by working on an issue for weeks before calling me. Often the problem takes less than an hour to correct. Many mention how, next time, they will call me first to avoid the frustration! I have helped people do things from selecting and programming a high-tech remote control to setting up a company's network infrastructure.

**David W. Potts Consulting** will be happy to assist you with your hardware, software and network selection, purchase, integration, troubleshooting and training. We specialize in Microsoft Windows computers and networking and can also assist you with home theatre and other electronics and technology consulting.

***David W. Potts Consulting wishes you and yours a very happy and safe holiday season!***

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