



# DWPC Technology Newsletter

Technology news from David W. Potts Consulting

[david.w.potts@att.net](mailto:david.w.potts@att.net) [www.oregoncomputer.com](http://www.oregoncomputer.com) 503.659.5588

Volume 3 Number 6 November-December, 2014



**Welcome to the sixteenth 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.

**The holidays are upon us, again!** I can't believe yet another year is coming to an end this soon. 2014 seemed to fly by. Again, Santa has lots of options, this year. New phones, tablets and convertible computer/tablets are still hot. I like the Samsung Galaxy Android devices and the iPad Air. If you want to give a Windows machine, but hate the idea of Windows 8[.1], Dell, Lenovo and Costco still sell computers with Windows 7 (I like the Intel Core series processors). New MFPs (Multifunction Peripherals; print/scan/copy, and sometimes, fax) can be purchased for under \$100 (you can get a great, feature-rich, wireless, MFP for under \$200 . . . I like the Epson offerings). An intelligent, programmable, universal remote control is a welcome gift for those with AV systems who juggle multiple remote controls (I like the Logitech Harmony series). Blu-Ray players with built-in apps (so you can stream NetFlix, etc., with the appropriate subscription(s)) continue to drop in price--and will turn your "dumb" TV into a "Smart" TV . . . essentially. If you're a Comcast customer . . . consider the new X1 Platform (I received more capability and my bill dropped!). LED televisions continue to be much more economical . . . and larger (3D seems to be losing its allure--but I like mine). BlueTooth gadgets like headsets, headphones, keyboards, mice, etc., are great stocking stuffers for kids and geeks. Do you know someone who has issues with their technology (or needs to know how to use their gadgets)? Consider a gift certificate for a visit from David W. Potts Consulting. Have *you* been good, this year? Maybe *you* deserve some of the items, above . . .

**Microsoft scraps Windows 8[.1].** With dwindling sales of Windows 8[.1] (and sales of Windows 7 rising), Microsoft has announced they will not be providing any further major updates [such as the Windows 8.1 update for Windows 8.0], and will concentrate on the development of the next version of Microsoft Windows. Windows 8 was released in October, 2012 . . . just 2 years ago. It is likely some Windows 8[.1] users will be eligible for a free upgrade to the next version of Windows, expected in early 2015.

**The iPhone 6 is here, just in time for the holidays.** The new iPhone 6 sports a 4.7" (1334x750) display and the iPhone 6 Plus has a 5.5" HD (1920x1080) screen (the iPhone 5s has a 4" display at 1136x640). The main camera is 8MP and is able to record HD (1920x1080) at 60fps and has a mode for "slo-mo" (1280x720 at 240fps) and "time lapse" photography (at "dynamically selected intervals"). The batteries are still not "user-replaceable", but provide more life than the batteries in the iPhone 5s. The iPhone 6/6 Plus are also thinner than the iPhone 5 (6.9mm/7.1mm vs. 7.6mm). The iPhone 6 weighs 129g and the iPhone 6 Plus weighs in at 172g (vs. the iPhone 5s at 112g). The iPhone 6 devices come with the latest version of Apple's iPod Operating System, iOS 8, with enhancements to the Siri voice control (you can read more about the iPhone 6 and iOS 8 at [www.apple.com/iphone-6/ios-8](http://www.apple.com/iphone-6/ios-8)). Now let's compare how these features compare to the Samsung Galaxy S5. The 5.1" Galaxy S5 has the same full HD resolution as the larger, 5.5" iPhone 6 Plus, and a higher resolution (and larger display size) than the iPhone 6. The Apple offerings (6.9mm and 7.1mm) are slightly thinner than the Galaxy S5 (8.1mm). The 145g Galaxy S5 weighs in between the [smaller] iPhone 6 and the [larger] iPhone 6 Plus. The Galaxy S5's 16MP main camera is twice the resolution of the iPhone 6/6 Plus and can record 4K video (3480x2160 at 30fps), 4 times the 1080p video capture resolution of the iPhone 6/6 Plus. Another difference is the user-replaceable battery in the Galaxy S5 vs. the non-user replaceable battery of ALL iPhones--one of the main things I dislike about the Apple iOS products. Unless you absolutely hate Android or just "have to" have an Apple iPhone, my choice is still the Samsung Galaxy S5. Please refer to the article "Samsung Galaxy S5 vs. iPhone 5S" from my September-October 2014 newsletter for more details about the Galaxy S5.

**Be extra careful as you make your holiday purchases.** There have been many breaches since the one affecting Target, last holiday season, including one in August, exposing the personal data of 1.2 BILLION users. We can expect more (maybe even worse) attacks on businesses, this holiday season. Use complex passwords, and change them often. Do not use the same passwords for multiple accounts. Be extra careful when using a debit card, as they don't afford the protection granted to credit card users. When making purchases online, ensure you only enter personal information on secure Web sites (sites whose addresses begin with HTTPS://, rather than HTTP:// . . . the "S" stands for "secure" and the connection is encrypted).

**Do I need a new computer?** Clients often want me to repair a computer I find to be 5 years old or older. Depending on the problem(s) and the speed and configuration of the computer, I often suggest, rather than fixing the older computer, the client consider replacing it (although I don't provide Mac support, Apple Macs can last 2-4 years longer). Technology advances and computers continue to get faster and less expensive. I often have clients who, after I have transitioned them to a new computer, exclaim how they wish they would have transitioned sooner. Unless you require a specialty device, basic desktop and notebook computers are both inexpensive. If your computer can keep up with you while you use it, you may be fine (especially if you are not running Windows XP). If, however, you find yourself waiting for your computer often, you may need consulting to resolve performance problems with your existing computer or to help you decide to consider its replacement. If you have considered a new computer but are hesitant to make the leap to Windows 8[.1], there are still new Windows 7 computers available (locally, at Costco, online at lenovo.com and dell.com and others). With Microsoft's recent announcement to stop enhancements for Windows 8[.1], I would strongly suggest not purchasing a new computer with Windows 8[.1]. David W. Potts Consulting can assist you with troubleshooting performance issues with your Windows computer(s) and make recommendations. If the computer is replaced, we can assist with transitioning data from your old computer to your new computer. We will also be happy to help configure your computer(s) (old or new) to be safer.

**Scam and Fraud Resources** are available through the office of the Oregon Attorney General. As scammers are quickly creating elaborate ways to separate you from your money, I strongly suggest you use complex passwords, that you change often, and visit the Oregon Attorney General's Web site at [www.oregonconsumer.gov](http://www.oregonconsumer.gov), to keep abreast of newer scams and help learn ways to keep you and your family safer. You can also contact Ellen Klem of the Oregon Attorney General's office at [ellen.klem@state.or.us](mailto:ellen.klem@state.or.us) or 503.507.1061.

**Java Security Alert!** As Oracle's Java continues to be a security risk, I am continuing to include warnings in my newsletters. 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 David W. Potts Consulting and we will be happy to help you.

**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.

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