DWPC Technology Newsletter

Technology news from David W. Potts Consulting, LLC

Welcome to the twenty-fourth edition of the *DWPC Technology Newsletter*. We hope you find this information helpful. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send us an email, indicating such. If you received this newsletter from a friend and wish to be added to the mailing list, please send an email to the address above and indicate your desire to receive the newsletter. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your friends.

Microsoft Windows 10 update—your privacy I expect you have heard stories about how, with Windows 10, Microsoft is trying to sell your information to market to you. There are some truths there, but there are also things that can be done to limit the intrusion of advertisements (and how much information is collected), by selecting specific settings in Windows 10. By default, there are also settings in Windows 10 that could compromise your security on wireless networks. If you would like any assistance customizing and securing Windows 10, migrating to Windows 10 or selecting a new Windows 10 computer, David W. Potts Consulting will be happy to help.

Is your cool Christmas gift being unused? Did you get a new video drone or smart remote control and it's now sitting in a box, because you didn't want to sort through the manual? We know you don't want to spend your time learning to use your technology . . . you just want it to work, with simple instructions. We specialize in integrating your technology and making it work for you . . . without you needing to have an engineering degree. Please let us help you make your magical technology come to life for you—without it being a pain!

Microsoft Windows 8.0 End of Life Microsoft is requiring that users who have not yet upgraded to Microsoft Windows V. 8.1 (from Microsoft Windows 8.0) will be required to do so, as Microsoft stopped supporting Windows 8.0, as of January 11, 2016, so users of Microsoft Windows 8.0 will not receive any more updates to the operating system. If you have a computer running Microsoft Windows V. 8.0, it must be upgraded to Windows V. 8.1 before you are eligible to [take advantage of the free] upgrade to Microsoft Windows V. 10. Users of Microsoft Windows V. 8.0 can upgrade to Microsoft Windows V. 8.1, free of charge, from the Microsoft Store. Microsoft Windows 10 brings back the Start Menu and integrates the "Live Tiles" of the "Modern" or "Metro" interface into the right pane of the Start Menu. *We strongly recommend performing an image backup, before upgrading your operating system!*

Microsoft Web browsers End of Life Microsoft has announced that it has stopped supporting older versions of its Internet Explorer (IE) Web browser. As of January 12, 2016, only the latest version of IE [for a supported Microsoft Windows Operating System] will receive technical support and security updates. This means that Microsoft Internet Explorer V. 9 is [the only] supported [version of IE] in Microsoft Windows Vista and Microsoft Internet Explorer V. 11 is the only supported version of IE in Microsoft Windows V. 7, 8.[1] and 10.

Are you protected against viruses? I have recently visited some clients and found that, although they were under the impression they were protected against current viruses, they either did not have antivirus software on their computer or their subscriptions had expired. Especially nowadays, we need to do whatever we can to protect our information and identities. There are many people writing malicious software designed to damage your computer, hold your files hostage or use your information to make money. Antivirus software and firewalls are needed to help protect you from this malicious software. For more information on keeping yourself safer, please review the article "*How else can I protect my computer*" at http://oregoncomputer.com/site/Technology_Newsletter_V2_%234.pdf. Beside the free Microsoft Security Essentials (for Microsoft Windows Vista and Microsoft Windows 7) and Microsoft Windows Defender (for Microsoft Windows 8[.1] and Microsoft Windows 10), Comcast and CenturyLink offer free Norton security software, to many customers. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like any assistance with your computer security.

LED lamp update In an earlier newsletter, I outlined ways to help decrease your utility bills. One of these was to replace your incandescent or compact florescent (CF) lamps with their LED counterparts. I have found great deals on these LED replacement lamps at Costco . . . often with discounts (I have seen lamps for less than $2.00 each). Not only have I replaced most all of my lamps with LED lamps from Costco, but have also purchased their LED replacements for 4 foot florescent tubes . . . direct replacements, without needing to rewire your florescent fixture— and they are brighter than the florescent lamps they replaced! I have also replaced my landscape lighting with LED lamps (also using some cool LED RGB floodlights, creating neat color-changing effects). In addition to the LED lamps being more efficient, LED lamps are "instant on" (unlike the florescent lamps) and can be disposed of in the regular trash (unlike the florescent lamps, which must be disposed of at an appropriate disposal center). My experience has shown the LED lamps to far outlast most florescent or incandescent lamps.

Changes to DWPC for 2016 As of January 1, 2016, David W. Potts Consulting is now David W. Potts Consulting, LLC. I have revamped my Website (mainly updates). Please check it out at www.oregoncomputer.com, or by using the QR code at the top right corner of this newsletter. After over 15 years, I am instituting my first change in rates. We are trying to let everyone know about the new changes, before performing work for them, this year.

Mandatory FAA registration of drones As of December 21, 2015, any new drone, between .55 pounds and 55 pounds, must be registered with the FAA [before flying, outdoors. You must be a minimum of 13 years old to register a drone. Your registration number must be attached to the drone(s). You are required to have a copy of your registration with you, when flying. This registration copy can be electronic. Only one registration is needed, for all drones owned by an individual. You can find more information on requirements and can register your drone(s) at http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/.

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, 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 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. 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 email 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.