
The Memory Map

Canton Alliance Massillon Computer Users Group



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President's Corner

No Joy in Techville?

by Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA

April 2019 issue, Drive Light

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Pour a liquid into a glass just up to the midpoint. An optimist would say the glass is half full. A pessimist would say the glass is half empty. An engineer would say the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

A lot of how we perceive reality is influenced by our internal biases and past experiences. As an engineer, I'm used to looking at things in a more clinical, objective way than others might. My wife thinks I am a pessimist, seeing the worst in everything and having a negative point of view. She feels I should be more positive and optimistic. If only I had a better attitude, things would be better. I prefer to think of myself as a pragmatist, dealing with and reacting to things in a more practical manner. I prefer the objective, based on facts, rather than the subjective, dealing with feelings and opinions, to make my decisions.

My wife and I also differ on how we perceive stuff, those material things we own. I have a lot of interests, including technology, and so I have accumulated a lot of stuff. My wife is more of a minimalist and thinks I have too much stuff. Who is right? Again, I think it is a matter of perception. What may be clutter to one person may just be the result of too little storage space to another person.

My attitudes about things are probably shaped a lot by my Midwest farm heritage. My Czech farmer ancestors came to this country in the late 1800s and made the best livings they could farming and raising livestock in Nebraska. There is a lot to admire in the farmer. While farming is a lot of hard work and you often don't have a lot of control over your situation (the weather, resources, crop markets, pests), you usually must become very resourceful, creative and self-sufficient in order to succeed. Farmers must often also be mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, weathermen and veterinarians. My grandfather had a blacksmith shop on his farm so that he could fabricate items he needed, as there was no Home Depot on every (or any) corner. Farmers must also be conservationists, ecologists and stewards of the lands, animals and environment. I still have relatives that actively farm, and though things have

obviously changed for farmers since my grandfather's time, I think a lot the values remain.

The time I spent on the farm in my youth probably helped instill those values and attitudes in me. I've tried to learn all I can about mechanics, engineering, electronics, computers and technology. I've built my own computers and maintain, debug and repair my devices myself as much as possible. I've become the family IT help person, network administrator, repairman and system integrator. As a result, I've accumulated a lot of devices, accessories, cables, adapters, software, tools and utilities over the years, probably way more than most other people. Of course, the collection does not remain static either, for as technology advances and new devices, interfaces and services become popular, my collection of stuff must expand to support them.

Unfortunately, it is often difficult to determine when something that used to be essential (or at least useful) has become obsolete and of no use and should be disposed of. I bought extra PATA (parallel ATA) hard drives at one time when the computer industry was transitioning to SATA (serial ATA) drives, in order to be able to support some of my older computers. I've gotten rid of some of the drives but am still running a couple old machines that could use them, so I continue to keep a few around. I have a number of devices for slide scanning and digitizing video that I need to be using, but I never seem to find the time. To my wife, all these things I'm not currently using are obsolete and junk and should be thrown away. To me they still hold promise; I have the hope that I will eventually get to use them productively again. Now who sounds like the optimist, and who's the pessimist?

I agree that clutter can be a problem but reducing it and organizing things requires time. Early in my career, I found it difficult to keep up with the number of engineering magazines and component reviews I was receiving at work. I'd scan the items for usefulness, but making a binary judgment (1 or 0, keep or toss) right at that moment was difficult. A few things obviously went right in the trash, a few were keepers, but the majority were in that gray area - might be useful, but maybe not right now. I'd sometimes toss things and later wish I could get them back. Rather than waste my time deciding at the moment I received them, I found it easier to put the 'gray area' items in a pile in my office. If I found a need, I could consult the pile for the items that were pertinent. After a year, I'd split the pile in two, and throw away the older half, assuming the information in it was now likely out of date. This worked very well for me. My wife was not happy when I tried to use this method at home, however.

Technology has helped some with physical decluttering, as most information now comes in or can be converted to an electronic form that can be saved on small memory devices or deleted easily. There is the problem of organizing all those files, however. I am now a believer in the all-digital / electronic life, in as much as it is possible. I used to have file cabinets full of financial papers and product documentation. Now I get all my important documents in pdf form online and scan any

paper forms I receive. I used to save the paper manuals for things I bought and filed them away; now I download them and / or scan them. All my important documents, product info, photographs and videos are contained on a few small hard drives. They are not only easier to store but also safer, as I can easily keep copies of the data in a fire safe, safety deposit box or offsite location. If only storing our physical possessions were so easy.

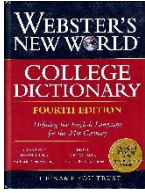
There is a Japanese woman that has become a decluttering celebrity. Marie Kondo, cleaning consultant, author of the bestselling book *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* and star of a related Netflix TV series, has a unique way of determining what to keep and what to discard. I've not read her book or seen her show, but her method, from what I've read about it, involves holding each item, asking yourself if it 'sparks joy', and discarding it if it does not. Those (apparently) few items that do bring you joy are then placed where they are visible and accessible.

I have wondered whether her declutter method could work for me and my tech collection. While putting my hands on every single individual item I own might take some time (I have a medium-sized plastic bin of action camera mounts and accessories alone), the bigger problem I see is the hang up I've always had - determining the worth of the items in my life. What does it mean to 'spark joy'? How does one define joy?

The dictionary (or at least Google) defines joy as "a feeling of great pleasure and happiness." Other equivalent terms might be delight, jubilation, rejoicing, elation, bliss, ecstasy and rapture. Those terms don't seem to describe any tech items I own. This standard also seems very subjective. Everyone's idea of joy could be different, perhaps very different. It reminds me of one of my favorite lines from the original *Star Wars - A New Hope*; it is Han Solo's response to Luke Skywalker, when Luke was trying to persuade him to help rescue Princess Leia. Luke tells Han that Leia is rich, and the reward he would get would be more wealth than he could imagine. Han replied, "I don't know, I can imagine quite a bit."



Nevertheless, I decided to try Marie Kondo's declutter method on a small part of my home office, as I wanted to clear some space to install an Amazon Echo Dot there. The area I was clearing had only quite old things, which sparked negligible joy, so tossing them seemed easy, but I paused on two items. One was a set of Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 98 CDs, for Windows 95. I was going to toss them, but then thought about how things have changed. Once these were valuable and useful sources for information, but now with Google, Wikipedia and the Internet, they are obsolete drink coasters. Into the trash they went.



The other was a Webster's New World College Dictionary (2005 edition), which had been a gift from my wife. It too had been supplanted by the Internet. Though it did not spark joy, I felt a twinge of sentiment over it, as it had been a well-intentioned gift, and would be useful if some calamity caused the Internet to go away. I kept it.

The more I think about it, the more I feel that perhaps none of my tech items could truly spark joy. Do I feel delight when using my laptop? No. Am I rejoicing when holding my Chromebook? I like my Chromebook and it is very useful, but I am sometimes dismayed when I can't do something simple on it effortlessly, as I can on my Windows PC. Do I feel elation when holding my digital camera? I like it pretty well, but I somehow accidentally got it into a funny mode, and only recently, after much grief, figured out how to give it a factory reset and return it to normal settings.

Am I in a state of bliss when holding my smart phone? It is a very useful device, and I do seem to use it more and more, but I don't long for it or anything like that. I do see a lot of people who can't seem to put their smart phones down, when in a restaurant, while walking, or while driving. Is that bliss I see in their eyes? It looks to me more like a vacant hollow zombie-like stare. No joy.

I don't think this Marie Kondo declutter approach works that well for technology, or for most items (or perhaps for any items). There is unfortunately a lot more to life than joy and rapture. A lot of things in our lives are necessary not for the joy they bring but for the benefits they provide, the needs they fill and improvements they make in our quality of life. Is that joy? Not really. I don't feel joy when I hold my toothbrush, but I'm not going to get rid of it, as a little clutter in the bathroom is better than a mouthful of rotten teeth eventually.

And it might be asking a lot to expect Microsoft and Apple and Google and Samsung to be responsible for providing us with joy. That's what family and friends are for. The tech devices these companies do provide can help us keep in touch with them. We just shouldn't let the devices get in the way.

Next CAMUG Meeting, July 15

6 PM SIG: "DuckDuckGo and other search engines" by Jan Bredon and Mike Charney.

7 PM Regular Meeting: "Google Photos: 7 Favorite Features" by Chris and Jim Guld, from APCUG Virtual Technology Conference 5/4/19.

CAMUG June 2019 Meeting Minutes

Shortly after 6 PM, Carol Joliat showed Reader View in browsers.

- Reader View was originally developed for Firefox but is now also found in other browsers. It strips away ads and videos leaving text and pictures.
- Edge Browser: If a page can use Reader View, an open-book icon appears near the right end of the title bar. Click on it to remove ads and videos. To adjust options, left click in a Reader View window. Text size and themes can be changed and the text read aloud with a choice of voices and speed.
- Firefox Browser: If a page can use Reader View, a book-page icon appears near the right end of the title bar. Click on it to remove ads and videos. While in Reader View, options appear on the left side of the window. They include turning off Reader View; type size, font, and margins; narration with choice of voices and speed; and save to pocket for access on other devices.
- Chrome Browser: Carol did not try this, as it requires several steps to enable.

Regular Meeting



President Dennis Smith called the 430th meeting of CAMUG to order at 7:10 PM on Monday, June 17, 2019, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The meeting was held in a different room since Vacation Bible School was also being held that evening. There were 13 members present representing 12 family memberships. Since that is more than 15% of the membership, the meeting was declared valid. Joe Vignos was visiting, having been told about the club by Gerald Schaeffer. Chad Wilson was also visiting; he was a member back in 1983-1984.

The “On Time Drawing” was held. On the first draw, #10 for Tim Elder was selected. Tim was present, was wearing his badge, and was awarded the On-Time Drawing prize.

Dennis introduced the Board members who were present. He reminded members of the renewal credit of \$5.00 for each new member brought in. Dennis asked members to suggest topics for meetings.

Dennis mentioned that the Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 24, 2019, at Panera’s on The Strip.

Dennis asked whether anyone had installed Windows 10 1903 Update; only Bruce Klipec had. Dennis showed how find it in Windows Update. The choice will appear only if all necessary updates are completed. Dennis also suggested making a backup before installing an update. He uses Acronis True Image available at a discount price

for club members at ugr7.com. Chad Wilson uses Aeomi for his backups and Bruce Klipec uses Windows Backup, which is really from Windows 7.

Program: Cognitive Stimulation Exercises

Dennis started by saying that as we get older, there are things we can do to slow cognitive decline. He showed several games:

- 7 Little Words is a word game that is a phone app or can be played on a computer at 7littlewords.com.
- Red Herring is a game for classifying words. There is a trailer online but the game is an app for phone.
- Monkey Wrench from Blue Ox is a fun word search available as a phone app. There is a trailer online.
- Trivia Crack is an app that tests the player's knowledge of trivia.

Liz Milford used a Chromebook to show her choices:

- Word Cookies is a word game available as a phone app or Chromebook app.
- Learning a foreign language is good for the brain. The Stark Library offers Mango and Transparent Languages that teach foreign languages online.

Carol demonstrated several games:

- Free Jigsaw puzzles are available online or as phone apps.
- Sudoku puzzles are popular. Carol showed the Microsoft Sudoku app.
- Word Connect on a PC is part crossword; Word Connect as a phone app is similar to Word Cookies.
- The Moron Test (themorontest.com) is a fun game the group enjoyed seeing.

Other discussion:

The Stark Library has *A Library of Things*. Gerry Schaefer borrowed Kill-A-Watt Electricity Monitor. Bruce has borrowed a Radon detector, and Dennis mentioned a WiFi Hotspot can also be borrowed. You can reserve these items and more at starklibrary.org.

Tim Elder is having problems using Thunderbird for his email.

Dennis said that Ninite will no longer update Java because of licensing changes. It's still free for personal use and can be updated at the Java website.

Tim is having difficulty opening a CAD file. Chad Wilson uses Inkscape, which opens many kinds of image files. It's available on Ninite.

Cherie Parker asked about blogs as a meeting topic, but no one present is doing one.

Jim Albright moved to close the meeting. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Submitted pending Board approval,

Liz Milford, Secretary



June 20, 2019 CAMUG Meeting held in a different room at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Thanks to Jan Bredon for the photo.

Updated Club Web Site: www.camug.com

By Mike Charney

Our club web site has been updated!

First, under Meeting Info, you will find that if you click on the 6pm-SIG or 7pm-Business buttons a popover will appear showing the topics for the next meeting.

Next there is a News Letter button on the left side of the page. Clicking this button will display a popover with the heading Club News Letters with 2019 and 2018 below. Clicking on either 2018 or 2019 will display the newsletters available for that year. We have a rolling 12 months back minus 2 months. For example, this is July and two months back is May, so May 2019 to June 2018 is available. On August 1st, June 2019 will become available. In the previous year the last month will move up one month as 2019 moves ahead one month. So currently it is June 2018 and when June 2019 becomes available June 2018 will no longer be available from the web site. I know it seems a little confusing at first so if you have any questions please let me or any board member know so we can better help you to understand.

Over the coming months more content is going to be added, like a members' area. You will see a members' area button currently that you can click on, and it will even show a popover, but that is all it will currently do. It is there for testing purposes only.

CAMUG Board Discussion 6/24/19

CAMUG Board Discussion...

Senior Director Jan Bredon led the CAMUG Board in a meeting on June 24, 2019, at 7:03 PM at Panera Bread on The Strip in North Canton. Only three of the seven Board members were present; four Board members must be present for a Board meeting to be considered valid. Therefore, the Board discussed several items but could not approve Minutes, Treasurer's Report, or any other motions.

President		Dennis Smith	president@camug.com
Secretary		Liz Milford	secretary@camug.com
Treasurer	Present	Tim Elder	treasurer@camug.com
Senior Director	Present	Jan Bredon	directors@camug.com
Director		Bernie Newsome	
Director		Michael Charney	
Director at Large		Carol Joliat	
Web Page		Michael Charney	webmaster@camug.com
Software and Book Review		Jan Bredon	
Membership		Carol Joliat	membership@camug.com
Newsletter		Liz Milford	newsletter@camug.com
Computer 101		Carol Joliat	
Ways and Means		Jan Bredon and Madeline Burkes	

Review the June Club Meeting Minutes:

Will be approved at the July Board meeting.

Review the Minutes of the May Board Meeting held on June 3:

Will be approved at the July Board meeting.

Review June Club Treasurer's Report:

Will be approved at the July Board meeting.

Membership Report:

There was no membership report since Carol was not present.

Discussion July 15th Meeting

6 PM SIG: "DuckDuckGo and other search engines" by Jan Bredon.

7 PM Regular Meeting: "Google Photos: 7 Favorite Features" by Chris and Jim Guld, APCUG VTC 5-4-19.

Other Discussion:

Tim showed a copy of Senior Forum for Summit and Stark Counties. Our CAMUG meeting is listed there. Jan Bredon had submitted the information.

Tim suggested "The Life Expectancy of Flash Drives and Other Media" as a future meeting topic.

Liz mentioned an email from APCUG's Judy Taylour suggesting that we use Zoom to share our meetings with members who are not present. She also suggested that we look into the APCUG Speaker's Bureau for future programs. No decision was made, because too few board members were present.

Tim stated that there is a free online version of Word available.

The discussion was concluded about 7:19 PM.

Discussion summary by
Liz Milford, Secretary

About CAMUG

Our club is open to anyone with an interest in computers and technology. A household membership is only \$20 per year, and a visitor can attend two meetings free without any obligation.

Monthly meetings are held the third Monday of the month at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7707 Market Ave. N in North Canton, Ohio. Computer 101 begins at 6:00 PM and the regular meeting begins at 7:00 PM. At every meeting, we cover topics ranging from cell phones to computers and from software to the internet and networking. Board meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at Panera Bread on The Strip. Members are encouraged to attend the Board meeting although only Board members can vote.

The club mailing address is CAMUG, PO BOX 80192, Canton, OH 44708, and the website is <http://www.camug.com>.

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CAMUG is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups. APCUG is a worldwide organization that helps groups devoted to the world of technology by facilitating communications between member groups and industry. It offers the Virtual Technology Conferences, provides newsletter articles, and has a list of speakers for club programs

Membership Report

June 2019

by Carol Joliat



Total Family Memberships – 27
No Renewals



CAMUG Monthly Summary

Tim W. Elder, Treasurer 6/17/19

	Cash	Checking	Total
Start Balances	\$60.00	\$1587.05	\$1647.05
Total Income	\$7.00	\$128.99	\$135.99
Total Expenses	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
Transfer	<u>-\$2.00</u>	<u>\$2.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
End Balances	\$60.00	\$1693.04	\$1753.04

CAMUG Officers

President: Dennis Smith 330-477-5893

Secretary: Liz Milford 330-896-4284

Treasurer: Tim Elder 330-875-2323

Senior. Director: Jan Bredon
234-564-0045

Director: Bernie Newsome 330-232-5083

Director: Mike Charney 330-833-0329

Director at Large: Carol Joliat

Membership: Carol Joliat

Asst. Membership: Alice Lungociu

Web Page: Mike Charney 330-833-0329

Newsletter: Liz Milford 330-896-4284

Tim Elder 330-875-2323

Computer 101: Carol Joliat

Ways and Means: Jan Bredon

Madeline Burkes

List of Members

Name	E-Mail
Albright, Jim	jima
Bredon, Jan	janb
Brugger, Bruce	bruceb
Burkes, Madeline	madelineb
Casey, Kathleen	kathleenc
Chapman, Lila	lilac
Charney, Michael	michaelc
Conley, Rose	rosec
Dingman, Morris	morrisd
Elder, Tim	time
Hahn, Gary	garyh
Hill, Susan	susanh
Hirst, Gina	ginah
Hirst, Robert	roberth
Joliat, Carol	carolj
Klipec, Bruce	brucek
Kramer, Cecelia	ceceliak
Kravos, Mary Ann	maryannk
Lungociu, Alice	alicel
McCoy, Myra	myram
Milford, Elizabeth	elizabethm
Newsome, Bernard	bernardn
Noyd, Hal	haln
Parker, Cherie	cheriep
Ponzani, Doris	dorisp
Schaefer, Gerald	geralds
Smith, Dennis	denniss
Trompower, Gary	garyt

To email members, use the email
name above followed by
@camug.com

Visit our Home Page

<http://www.camug.com>

**Need help
with your electronic gadgets?**



Canton Alliance Massillon Users Group
Computer Users Group

Assistance for users of all ages and skill levels

When: 3rd Monday each month

Where: Holy Cross Lutheran Church
7707 Market Ave. N
North Canton OH

Time: 6pm Computer 101 (Less Advanced)
7pm Main Meeting

Ongoing topics include:

Computers

Tablets

Digital photography

Smart phones

eBooks

Toys & Gadgets

www.camug.com