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Next Meeting OCTOBER MEETINGS

Due to Seniors Week being held in the first week of October OPEN's next MONTHLY MEETING will be held on Wednesday, October 9th 2013, at 1.00pm.

No LCG MONTHLY MEETING

Next LCG get-together will be on November 6th, 2013 at 7:15 pm

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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OPEN NEWSLETTER — OCTOBER 2013

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

With Seniors' Week looming large on the horizon our coordinator Rob Tierney is busy putting the final touches to preparations so no Coordinator's Column this month.

The timetable for Seniors' Week has been reprinted in the next column for your information but if you haven't booked a spot yet you may have 'missed the boat' — some sessions are already fully booked.

There are a couple of special Wednesday sessions coming up in October so please check the notices and timetable on the following pages for details.

Bruce Dineen will be holding **another Android tablets session** on October 16th. To some extent Android users are usually left to manage their own affairs so Bruce's sessions are an excellent way for a group of users to share knowledge and resources.

Rob Tierney will be making a rare Wednesday class appearance on October 30th to provide you with the latest advice on how to **stay safe when using the Internet**. There are more and more traps being set for unsuspecting Internet users so please do yourself a favour and check out the information that Rob has to offer.

Also coming up in October is the first major update to Windows 8. It is hoped that **Windows 8.1** will address and correct some of the difficulties that users have encountered in the first year. If you have the feeling that the problem is 'YOU' then think again — recently it was revealed that Windows 8 has only captured about 5% of the operating system market so disapproval is fairly widespread.

If you intend updating to '8.1' please remember that (1) it is only available as a download from the Windows Store, (2) it will be more than 3 Gigabytes in size, and (3) although it is free you will need to have a registered Microsoft ID or account.

Dennis

SENIORS WEEK TIMETABLE

Tuesday, October 1	10 am to noon	Windows 8 changes
	1 pm to 3 pm	iPad
Wednesday, October 2	10 am to noon	Android Tablets
	1 pm to 3 pm	How to buy a Computer
Thursday, October 3	10 am to noon	Internet Security
	1 pm to 3 pm	Windows 8 changes
Friday, October 4	10 am to noon	eBay
	1 pm to 3 pm	Mobile Phones
Sessions are subject to change or cancellation if tutor becomes unavailable. Bookings close 26th September		
Friday, October 4	6 pm to 8 pm OPEN's 12th Birthday Party. Please bring a plate of food to share.	

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Due to Seniors Week being held in the first week of October OPEN's next MONTHLY MEETING will be held on Wednesday, October 9th 2013, at 1.00pm.

No LCG MONTHLY MEETING

Next LCG get-together will be on November 6th, 2013 at 7:15 pm

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Don't forget that the club telephone is available during class hours.

******* 6343 4928 *******

Members and tutors can be contacted at the clubrooms **during class hours** by telephoning the number shown above.

Monday to Friday 10am – 3pm

Tuesday evenings 7pm—9 pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

SHOW DAY THURSDAY OCTOBER 10

The normal morning and afternoon sessions will be held on this day.

The Windows 8 class that usually takes place from 3:30 to 5:30 pm will not be held on this day.

Windows 8 users are welcome to attend the morning or afternoon classes on this day.

LONG WEEKEND MONDAY NOVEMBER 4th

It is expected that the normal morning and afternoon sessions will be held on this day but please check with your tutor.

The late afternoon Beginners Class won't be held.

VICTOR PHONE NUMBER 0408 174 235

Contact the Coordinator Rob Tierney for assistance with computer problems at home

(Bookings are subject to availability of tutors.)

BACK ON MY SOAP-BOX!

One Friday in September a fellow tutor passed on the news that a Tasmanian wine producer had won an international award for the best in the category.

Did the successful Mr. Josef Chromy ring my colleague? Perhaps she had a friend on the judging panel? Neither, as it turns out—she read about it in the local newspaper.

A newspaper is a wonderful thing—I'm sure that the editorial staff appreciate the fact that they can pass on information to tens of thousands of readers rather than have to make tens of thousands of phone calls or engage in thousands of one-on-one conversations.

I don't have any delusions of grandeur that one day the OPEN Newsletter will rival the circulation of The Examiner but it would be nice to think that more than a handful of members might take 15-20 minutes of their time to read the information that the various contributors provide for the benefit of members.

As I've mentioned previously hardly a day goes without someone asking for assistance to resolve a problem that might never occurred if they had paid attention to the advice and warnings that appear in the newsletter.

I would much rather see members spending their time in class doing something enjoyable rather than twiddling their thumbs while Malwarebytes or Spybot scans their computer to find the 'nasties' that have adversely affected the performance of their computers.

Dennis

ANDROID TABLET INFO SESSION

Wednesday October 16, 2013

10 am to 12 noon

Bruce Dineen will hold another session to provide you with details of the 'apps' and techniques that will make your Android operations more enjoyable.

Join in to share the knowledge and experiences of other Android users.

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT IN 2013 ALL OF JUDY'S
MORNING CLASSES WILL**

START AT 10 AM

unless an earlier starting time is advised

FAMILY HISTORY ON-LINE

New information is being added to our resources on an on-going basis to help you trace your family's origins. Contact the club for more information.

Classes limited to 8 people.

Just one session this month due to Seniors Week

Wednesday October 2, 2013

10 am to noon

Join Margaret G and the tutors for these informative sessions.

STAYING SAFE ON THE INTERNET

Wednesday October 30, 2013

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Rob Tierney will provide information to make you aware of many of the pitfalls you may encounter while using the Internet.

New nasties and devious websites are being concocted all the time so take advantage of Rob's advice to make your browsing experiences more pleasant.

BASIC GRAPHICS

Please check the registration sheets at the club to find out if there are places available.

The dates for the next classes are :

Basic Graphics October 9

10 am to 12 noon

Basic Graphics October 30

10 am to 12 noon

The aim of the Basic Graphics course is to equip participants with the skills required to enhance photos and includes transferring the images to a computer through scanning and from portable media devices.

LEVEL 2 & 3 GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8

Wednesday October 16 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Paint Shop Pro XI Advanced

October 23 1:00 to 3:00 pm

These classes are designed for people who have completed the Basic Graphics classes, and involves more advanced features of the Paint Shop Pro graphics programs.

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions \$6.00

[Some special tutorial materials may incur additional charges]

Monday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Basics and Beyond
	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Beginners Class
Tuesday	10 am –12	O-Learn & Beginners [all day]
	1 pm – 3 pm	Mac [all day]
	7 pm—9 pm	Basics (Night Class)
Wednesday		Special sessions or Meetings
		As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	General & Beginners
Friday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Beginners Class

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SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date	Time	Topic	Details
October 1 to 4 Tuesday—Friday	SENIORS WEEK	Various sessions will be held	Check the timetable on page 3 for details. Some sessions are already fully booked.
October 4 Friday	BIRTHDAY PARTY	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Come along to celebrate OPEN's 12th Birthday. Please bring a plate of food to share.
October 9	10 am—12 noon	Basic Graphics	Workshop Session
	1 pm onwards	OPEN monthly meeting	Current Financial Report and General Business. New members are welcome to attend.
October 16	10 am—12 noon	Android Tablet Session	
	1 pm—3.00 pm	Level 2 and 3 Graphics Class	Advanced graphics using Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8
October 23	10 am—12 noon	Family History	Use Ancestry.com to aid your research for an additional fee of just \$3.00.
	1 pm—3.00 pm	Advanced Graphics Class	Advanced topics using Paint Shop Pro XI
October 30	10 am—12 noon	Basic Graphics	
	1 pm—3.00 pm	Internet Safety	Special Session presented by Rob Tierney to make you aware of how to stay safe on-line.

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BROWSER HIJACKING

by **Bruce Dineen**



A browser hijacker (sometimes called hijack-ware) is a type of malware program that alters your computer's browser settings so that you are redirected to Web sites that you had no intention of visiting.

Recently 2 students were infected by the same hijacker and I was attacked by 4 different hijackers at the same time by just installing free software from the net.

Most browser hijackers alter default home pages and search pages to those of their customers, who pay for that service because of the traffic it generates.

More virulent versions often: add bookmarks for pornographic Web sites to the user's own bookmark collection; generate pornographic pop-up adware and spyware.

A browser hijacker may be installed as part of freeware installation. In this case, the browser hijacker is probably mentioned in the user agreement -- although, obviously, not identified as a browser hijacker.

The problem is that users typically either ignore the fine print or only give it a cursory reading. A browser hijacker may also be installed without user permission, as the result of an infected e-mail, a file share, or a 'drive-by' download.

To avoid contamination experts advise users to read user agreements carefully, and to **be cautious about freeware downloads** and e-mail messages from unknown sources.

Continued in next column

BROWSER HIJACKING (*continued*)

Threats Posed by Browser Hijacker Viruses

- Alters the Default Search Page of Browser
- Changes the Default Home Page of the Browser
- Browser Hijacker Virus Obstructs Reputable Online Resources
- Provides Many Links to Advertisement Web Pages

Browser Viruses pose a few threats as enlisted below:

A few of the common types of Browser Hijacker virus include CoolWebSearch, SafeSearch and IBIS WebSearch. It is not an intricate task to detect Browser Hijacker Viruses within a specific system.

Detecting Browser Hijacker Viruses

A system infected with a Browser Hijacker Virus exhibits frequent errors and browser instability issues as well.

Browser Hijacker viruses sometimes shock a concerned user by setting up adult websites as the default home page. One must bear in mind that it becomes very difficult to remove Browser Hijacker viruses with the help of the commonly available antivirus products. One can always take the help of anti-Spyware tools in a bid to remove a Browser Hijacker Virus.

Browser Hijacker Virus-Removal

Internet resources provide a user with the easy to follow online instructions that can help to remove browser hijacker virus with the least try. It is possible to obliterate registry entries, directories and associated files by merely following the online Browser Hijacker Virus removal instructions.

Continued in next column

BROWSER HIJACKING (*continued*)

It is recommended that novice users never opt for the manual form of virus removal, as it requires detailed system knowledge on the part of the concerned user.

There can be no denying the fact that manual virus removal can be a tough job for a novice computer user. Many individuals opt for automatic Browser Hijacker Virus removal technique. One can always opt for automatic Browser Hijacker virus removal by simply installing efficient antivirus software.

Employing Anti spyware software ensures that one is not only able to remove the concerned program but prevent other forms of viruses from affecting the computer system henceforth.

Browser Hijacker Viruses are programmed in order to serve two main purposes ...

Firstly, Browser Hijacker Viruses are programmed for gaining money from an intended browser usage.

Secondly, Browser Hijacker Virus aims to divert users from visiting a few intended websites. It is essential to remove Browser Hijacker in order to ensure optimum performance of the system.

If you think that your computer has been infected with a browser hijacker, consult your tutors who can advise the best approach for removal.

Be alert when installing any software on your computer, read all messages and un-tick any boxes that say other software will be installed.

If in doubt, DO NOT Install until you have talked to your tutor.

Bruce Dineen

Editor's Note

The problems mentioned in Bruce's article will probably be included in Rob Tierney's presentation on October 30th. Spyware detection and removal is one of the essential ingredients of staying safe on-line.

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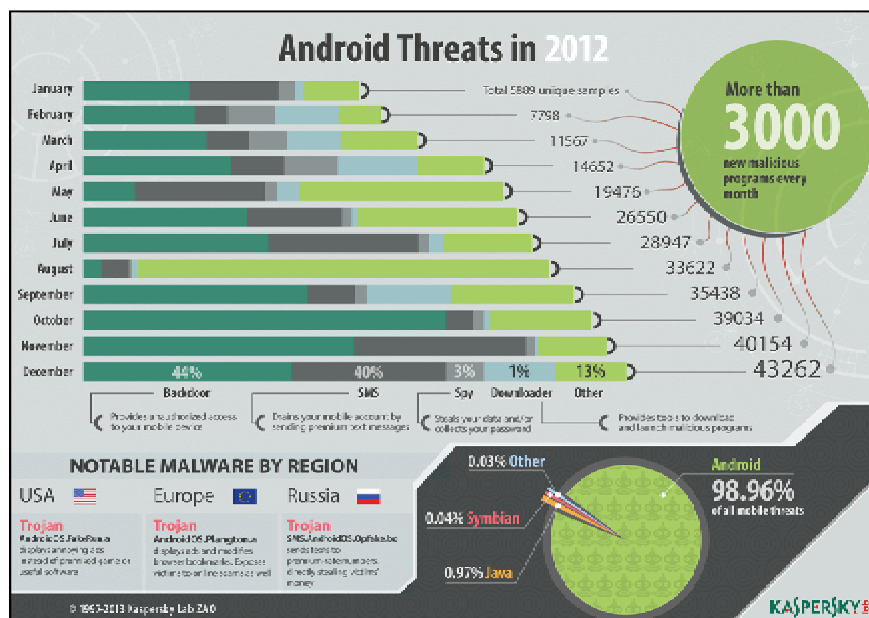
ANDROID MALWARE – A Mobile Threat

Like all Operating Systems, Android is no different when it comes to malicious attacks. The biggest threat to Android devices is in mobile phones where Malware can be spread by email, downloaded apps and SMS. The phones most at risk were older phones running earlier versions of Android.

Android is the fastest growing mobile operating system with more than 500,000 Android phones activated daily. By the sheer number of Android devices available in the market today, there are more devices using that operating system than any other mobile family in the world. However, that popularity also makes it attractive to hackers and malware.

A recent report published says that 79 percent of all mobile threats in 2012 targeted Android. In 2011 it was reported that 80 infected apps were removed from the marketplace, fake versions of popular games and apps were infected with malicious code and several spoofed applications were botnet-enabled, allowing an attacker to remotely control the infected phone.

The Anti-Virus company Kaspersky reported that in 2012 there were 3000 new malicious program every month.



To help avoid these threats you should follow the 1st rule of computing. Backup your data and install Anti-Virus software.

What is the best antivirus program for my phone?

According to a test of 41 different scanners carried out back in March 2012, and products from the following companies had detection rates of 90% and above. Users of products made by these companies can be assured that they are protected against malware.

- Avast
- Dr. Web
- F-Secure
- Ikarus
- Kaspersky
- Lookout
- McAfee
- MYAndroid Protection/MYMobile Security
- NQ Mobile/NetQin
- Zoner (tablet version)

One of the easiest to use was Zoner. It offers comprehensive protection, and is also free. It offers protection against viruses, dialers, Trojans, worms, spyware, adware and other malware and has the following features:

- Theft Protection (find and control your missing device)
- Installed app protection
- On-access and on-demand scan
- Phone filtering (block calls and messages)
- Parental lock for calls
- Permission viewer
- Task Manager
- Automatic and manual database updates
- Home screen widget
- Secure messages

Bruce Dineen

Touring through the final Windows 8.1

By Woody Leonhard

After much public criticism and internal debate, Microsoft made an abrupt about-face and released Windows 8.1 RTM to TechNet and MSDN subscribers — well before the OS's public debut.



With release-to-manufacturer, Windows 8.1 is effectively complete and will roll out to Windows 8 users in mid-October.

As reported in a ZDNet story <<http://www.zdnet.com/microsoft-confirms-windows-8-1-rtm-no-early-access-to-final-bits-7000019894/>> and other sources, Microsoft initially decided that TechNet/MSDN subscribers (Microsoft's developer "partners" — a term I use loosely) would see official Windows 8 RTM bits at the same time as everyone else — the reported Oct. 18 general-availability release date, when consumers will be able to download the Win8 upgrade.

Developers, support people, and folks who write about Windows 8.1 (like me) hit the roof. Leaving IT professionals in the dark until everyone gets the bits is just (to use Bill G.'s favorite word) "stupid!" But, as noted in a Neowin.net article <<http://www.neowin.net/news/windows-81-rtms-msdntech-net-release-came-after-an-intense-internal-struggle>>, sanity eventually prevailed and the near-final, final Win8.1 suddenly appeared on the TechNet and MSDN software-download sites.

That's fortunate for all of us; we can now take an early look at the official Windows 8.1 RTM and not have to rely on "pirated" copies.

Before going through Windows 8.1, I'll cut directly to the 30-second summary: if you have Windows 8, you're going to want to upgrade to Windows 8.1. There are a few gotchas (see below), but by and large Win 8.1 is an improvement.

On the other hand, if you're still using Windows 7 and you're on the fence about migrating to Windows 8, nothing in Win8.1 will sway your decision to upgrade. For traditional Windows users who are perfectly happy with a mouse, a nice screen, and a comfortable keyboard — and who prefer to not

poke at big, blinking boxes — Win8.1 brings nothing new to the table.

Enhancing Windows 8's Start screen experience Win8's tiled (aka Metro) Start screen is what nearly all users love, hate, or love to hate about the new operating system. For the most part, the Win8.1 Start screen is just like Win8's — a full-screen, live-tiled, touch-centric counterpoint to the classic Windows desktop. Most of Win8.1's improvements are somewhat behind the curtains. They include: Tile control: In Windows 8, it's much too easy to mess up the Start screen. For example, you can accidentally move a tile by tapping it the wrong way. Or you can bring up the tile-delete screen by simply wiping downward. In Win8.1, you have to go into a special Customize mode (see Figure 1) before you're allowed to move or delete tiles — which is good.

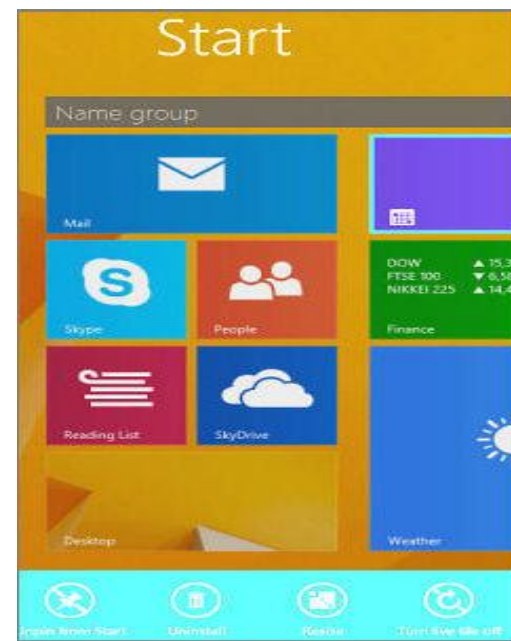


Figure 1. You first must flip into customize mode before you can move

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or delete tiles on the Win8.1 Start screen.

All Apps list: A new down-arrow icon on the Start screen makes it easier to bring up the Apps list. Once there, you can easily re-sort the list by name, date installed, most used, or category. Right-clicking any open space on the All Apps screen pops up the Customize tool, which lets you "Pin to Start" or "Find in Start." In the Taskbar and Navigation properties dialog box, accessed through the Desktop (more on it below), you can also select List desktop apps first in the Apps view when it's sorted by category.

Snap View slider: In Win8, Snap View can display two running Metro apps side by side. (The Win8 Desktop counts as one "Metro program.") One app occupies a 320-pixel stripe on the left or right, the other app takes up the rest of the screen. In Win8.1, you can slide the dividing bar between the two snapped programs, side to side, setting their width to your preference. If you have a monitor more than 1,500 pixels wide, you can now have three Metro apps running side by side. **Charms bar changes:** Win8.1 has beefed up a couple of charms. For example, the Devices charm now has Play, Print, and Project (as in project on a projector) options. And the Personalize options now show up in the main Charms-bar Settings menu. (It was previously buried in the Change PC settings page.) The new Personalize makes it easier to set background and accent colors — of almost any shade and hue — and lets you apply them to an array of background designs. Microsoft might be de-emphasizing the use of the Charms bar. Many of the Win8.1 Metro apps now include their own search boxes. Now, when you do go to the Charms bar, it's a bit more useful.

Metro application improvements: Windows 8.1 RTM reveals some significant changes to its Start screen apps. You can, for example, create folders within the new Mail. I expect we'll see even more changes to the apps before the OS ships in October. Certainly, Xbox Music and Xbox Video are in for changes — they're almost as useless in Win8.1 RTM as they are with Windows 8. Many Windows 8 users have complained about the lack of useful Metro apps. (What's offered in the Windows Store is more of an endorsement for iOS apps and their Android counterparts.) But

to make Win8.1 (and the Windows 8 platform in general) succeed, Microsoft must deliver a solid library of compelling Metro software. Otherwise, many Win8x users will simply bypass the Start screen altogether by adding a third-party Start menu to the Win8x Desktop.

Some odds and ends: Other "enhancements" to the Start screen include a lock screen that can cycle through a folder full of pictures, plus the ability to take a photo without signing in to the Metro Camera app (now that's a feature I really need on my desktop). System setting might be even more bifurcated (trifurcated?) in Win8.1 than in Win8. As noted above with Personalize, the main Charms Settings tab has additional options; the PC settings page has been reorganized — possibly for the better; and then there's still the classic Control Panel, which seems to know nothing about the Metro side of Windows.

A bit of tinkering with the classic desktop I turn rabid when I read reviews stating that the Win7-style Start menu is back on the desktop. That just isn't true — it's not even close to true. In Windows 8.1, there's an icon on the left side of the taskbar that resembles the new Windows icon. If you click on the "Start button" — Microsoft's term for it — you get hurled straight back to the Start screen. It's essentially the same as clicking in the lower-left corner of the Win8 Desktop screen. Only the feeble-minded would mistake that for a Win7-style Start button.

That said, the new ersatz Start button does have one redeeming feature. If you right-click it, you can Sign out, Shut down, or Restart (or Sleep, if you're using a laptop) without making a trip back to the depths of the Start screen.

If you want a real Start menu, you still need to install a separate, third-party application. (See the Feb. 28 Windows 8 story <<https://windowssecrets.com/windows-8/four-apps-that-restore-the-start-menu-in-win8/>>, "Four apps that restore the Start menu in Win8," (paid content). They all reportedly work in Windows 8.1 as well. I still swear by Start8 (site <<http://www.stardock.com/products/start8/>>), which I know works

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fine in Windows 8.1. It'll set you back all of U.S. \$5.

Most of the important improvements to the Desktop are concentrated in one, somewhat hard-to-find dialog box — the Navigation tab in Taskbar and Navigation properties (see Figure 2).

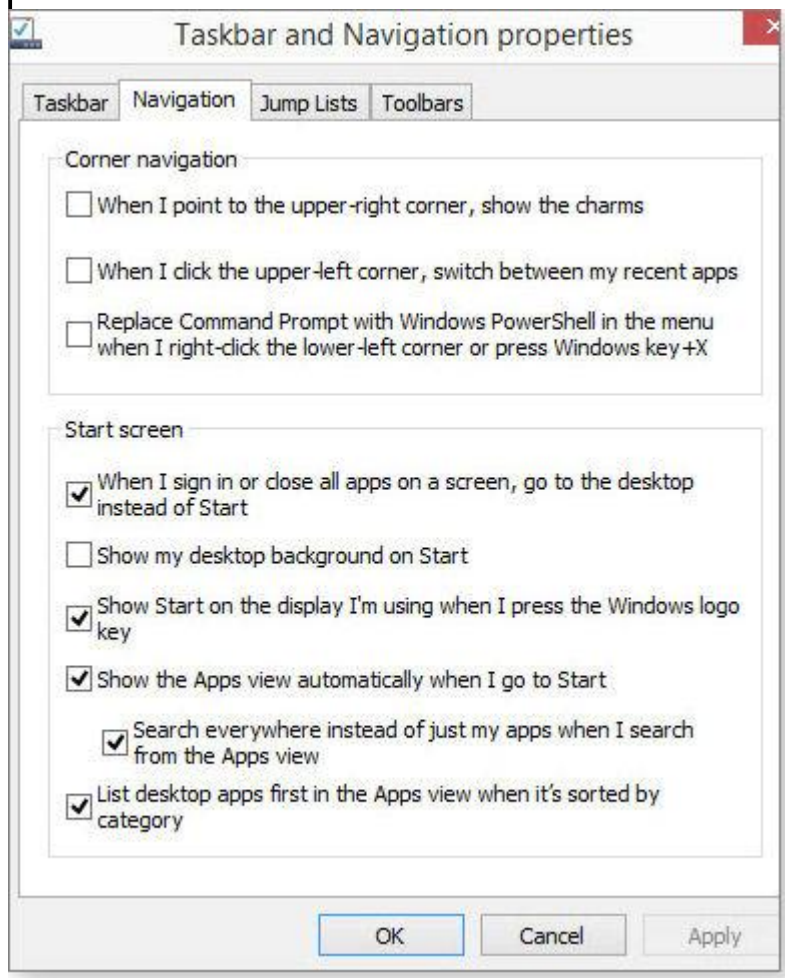


Figure 2. If you find Win8.1's hot corners intrusive, disable them with this new dialog box.

To find that dialog box, right-click any empty spot on the Desktop taskbar, choose Properties, and then click the Navigation tab. (No, you won't find these settings in the Control Panel or the Start screen's PC Settings page.)

In the Corner navigation section, uncheck the box When I point to the upper-right corner, show the charms. This will prevent the Charms bar from popping up if you hover your mouse too long in the upper-right corner of the Desktop — for example, when you're trying to click the X to close a window. (I hate that!)

If you leave the second box checked, Win8.1 will show you the list of currently running programs when you do an upper-left corner hover. If you uncheck the box, Win8.1 lets you hover in the upper-left corner all you like without springing the app list on you. (Tip: Alt + Tab works just as well as it always has for switching among running apps.)

That same dialog box also offers Start screen controls. Those who live in the Desktop will want to check the When I sign in or close all apps on a screen, go to the desktop instead of Start box. (As a Start screen option, this applies only to shutting down Metro apps; it has no effect on Desktop applications.) Uncheck that box, and you'll start booting directly to the desktop — where most Windows users prefer to reside.

A few improvements to both sides of the fence I described Microsoft accounts in the Nov. 15, 2012, Woody's Windows <<https://windowssecrets.com/woodys-windows/microsoft-accounts-the-good-bad-and-indifferent/>> (paid content). If you sign in to Win8.1 with a Microsoft account, SkyDrive appears in all its glory — both on the Metro side (where there's a new Metro SkyDrive app) and the Desktop side (where SkyDrive appears in File Explorer).

The Internet-based version of SkyDrive still has the most features, but the Metro SkyDrive app is at least capable of navigating your local disk,

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making it the closest thing to a Metro-based File Explorer that Microsoft offers.

Skype is included with Windows 8.1, and the Metro-style version is actually usable. Windows 8's Metro Messaging, however, is gone, replaced by the messaging capabilities in Skype. That, too, is a good thing.

Some Windows 8.1 'features' best avoided Windows 8's search charm is a bit funky — it doesn't work the way most people would expect, but at least it isn't a stoolie for Microsoft. In Windows 8.1, that changes drastically. By default, when you enter search terms into the Charms bar search box, Win8.1 uses the new "Smart Search" feature to search Everywhere — not just your local system but the Internet, too. If you don't remember to change the drop-down filter box to something else (such as Files), Smart Search sends every search string you enter to Microsoft. Search your files for "pregnant" or "Aryan nation" or "Anonymous" or "HIV," and those search terms are passed along — with your Microsoft account information — to the company.

Microsoft promotes Smart Search as a way to retrieve information from the Internet that might (but also might not) match your local search. For example, enter steve ballmer into the Charms search box and press Enter without changing the search filter from Everything, and you end up with a

Bing-produced bio page, as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Using the default Charms-bar Search settings might cost you your privacy.

All the better to Bing you with later. When Microsoft talks to consumers about Smart Search, the marketing folks use terms such as "innovative" and "giving people a faster way to find, discover, and do." But when the company talks to advertisers about this feature, here's what it promotes <<http://community.advertising.microsoft.com/msa/en/global/b/blog/archive/2013/07/02/new-search-ad-experience-windows-8-1.aspx>>:

"Bing Ads will be an integral part of the new Windows 8.1 Smart Search experience. Now, with a single campaign setup, advertisers can connect with consumers across Bing, Yahoo! and the new Windows Search with highly relevant ads for their search queries. In addition, Bing Ads will include web previews of websites and the latest features like site links, location and call extensions, making it easier for consumers to complete tasks and for advertisers to drive qualified leads."

That's how your private search information is being sold in Windows 8.1.

To turn off Smart Search, go to the Start screen, bring up the Settings charm, click Change PC settings/Search and apps/Search. Move the Get search suggestions and Web results from Bing to off.

My other big beef with Windows 8.1 is its de-emphasis of Win7-style libraries.

Both Windows 7 and Windows 8 build very useful default libraries for you. Your Documents Library, for example, includes the \Documents folder as well as the \Public\Documents folder; Music Library includes \Music and \Public\Music — and so on with Pictures and Videos.

That makes it easy to find and share files. If you want to share a file, just stick it into one of the \Public folders; it's immediately available to other users on your computer and network. (Fred Langa discusses Windows Libraries in detail in the March 10, 2011, Top Story <<https://windowssecrets.com/top-story/make-the-most-of-windows-7s-libraries/>>.)

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Libraries have been around for a long time, but Microsoft appears to be killing them, starting with Windows 8.1. If you sign in to Windows 8.1 with a Microsoft account that's already been used on Windows 8, your libraries come through as you set them up. The same Windows technology that syncs settings between computers also syncs your libraries between Windows 8 and Windows 8.1.

But if you sign in to Windows 8.1 with a new Microsoft account — or with a local account — your libraries turn into a shambles. Assuming you signed up for SkyDrive during the installation of Win8.1, your Documents Library now includes \Documents and \SkyDrive\Documents, with the \SkyDrive\Documents folder set as the default. Thus, if you have a program that saves files to the Documents Library (for example, Word or WordPad), your new files are saved to SkyDrive, not to your \Documents or \Public\Documents folder.

Of course, Microsoft charges you for exceeding the limited free SkyDrive allotment. Ka-ching!

In this brave new anti-libraries world, your default Music Library includes only \Music. Same for Pictures and Videos. So, for example, if you use Windows Media Player to get at your Music Library, you won't see music stored in the \Public\Music folder unless you manually add that folder to your Music Library. And the only easy way to share those tunes — short of fixing the lousy libraries — is to put them in SkyDrive. Ka-ching!

Microsoft's dissing of libraries is all the more amazing because the Metro Photos app uses the Pictures Library — which is clobbered in Win8.1. I guess somebody on the Metro Photos dev team didn't get the memo.

To show your libraries in Windows 8.1's File Explorer, click on the View tab; under the Navigation pane icon, check the item marked Show Libraries.

To put your libraries back the way they should be, follow the instructions in Fred's article to add the \Public\Documents folder to your Documents Library, add your \Public\Pictures folder to the Pictures Library — and so on for the Music and Videos Public folders.



Out-of-cycle fixit for new zero-day IE threat

By Susan Bradley

When Microsoft issues a security fix outside of its usual Patch Tuesday cycle, it's always for a good reason.

This past Tuesday, Microsoft released Security Advisory 2887505, which reported a newly revealed vulnerability in all supported versions of Internet Explorer.

At this time, there's no patch for this latest threat to IE, but there is an MS fixit.

We should take this notice seriously. Microsoft reports there are already a small number of attacks targeting IE 8 and 9 on Windows XP and Windows 7 systems. At this time, there are no reports of attacks against IE 10.

Bottom line: Be careful about what links you click while surfing the Web with Internet Explorer (or any other browser, for that matter). Website admins should test their sites with the fixit installed in IE. And if you use the fixit, be sure to download the companion undo fixit and save it on your computer. You'll probably need to run the undo when the formal patch is released (date unknown).

What to do: Until there's an official update for this vulnerability, use an alternative browser or download the fixit posted in MS Security Research & Defense blog <<http://blogs.technet.com/b/srd/archive/2013/09/17/cve-2013-3893-fix-it-workaround-available.aspx>> CVE-2013-3898. Advanced users might also consider downloading and configuring Microsoft's Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit, which I discussed in the June 6 On Security column <<https://windowssecrets.com/on-security/microsoft-adds-windows-8-support-to-emet/>>.

The new Windows is obviously an ongoing project — even for Microsoft. Win8.1 fixes a few of the more egregious omissions in Windows 8, but there's obviously much more to come. Given Microsoft's recent reorganization, exactly when those changes will come and where Windows will go next even Microsoft might not know at this point.