

SCA Computer Club notes

Classes for the Month of May

To enroll, log into the website at <https://computer.scaclub.org/>. Go to Calendars and select Classes/Events. Click on the class you want to take and under “Action”, click on “**Enroll**”. (Be sure to check the date as there may be multiple offerings of the class). If you need to cancel your enrollment, please log back in, select the class again and click on “**Drop**”. All classes are FREE to Computer Club members in good standing and are geared for **beginners** unless otherwise indicated. A member can take any class as many times as desired.

IMPORTANT: You must have your **SCA Resident ID** with you to check-in at the Monitor desk **AND AGAIN** in the front of the Classroom to ensure you are enrolled on the day of the class. Check-in will begin 20 minutes before the scheduled class time. If you are late, you may be bumped from the class by someone on the waiting list.

If you’ve recently joined our Club we highly encourage you to attend the **New Member Orientation** class to familiarize yourself with our Club’s activities. Learn how to sign up for classes, schedule a house call, volunteer to be a monitor and more. **Current members not familiar with all of the benefits offered by our Computer Club are also encouraged to take this Orientation as a refresher.**

Buying a Computer: Are you considering buying a new computer for yourself or as a gift? Should you buy a desktop, a laptop or a tablet? What are the differences between them? Should you buy a Mac, PC or even a Chromebook? Will it be used for email, to watch movies, organize your photos, write a book, etc.? Have your questions answered before you shop and buy.

We are soliciting ideas for new classes. If you are looking for a class on something we currently do not offer, or a class we haven’t offered in a while, please let our Education Director, Anthony “Tony” Ptak, know. Recommended classes or subjects will be taken into consideration. We are also seeking Instructors. If you would like to volunteer to teach a class, please let Tony know that as well. To send him an email, go to our website at: <https://computer.scaclub.org> and select “**Contact Us**” from the top menu. Click on “**Education**” and then select “**Next**”. Fill in your **name, email address, subject and message**, then select “**Send message**”. It is that easy. We look forward to hearing from you, so don’t be shy.

Special Interest and User Groups

A SIG is a “*special interest group*” that meets on a weekly or monthly basis. “*User Groups*” also meet on a monthly basis. We invite ANY Computer Club member who is interested in learning more about a specific product/application or a specific topic to join in the discussions. All groups meet in the computer classroom. Participants ask questions and discuss various topics at each session.

If you are an Apple user, *Apple Talk* meets monthly to investigate Apple products. Did you recently buy a Mac, an iPad or MacBook Air? Do you have questions regarding specific Apple products or applications? Sit in on this month’s meeting on **Saturday, May 8 from 10 AM - noon** and see if this is the group you have been looking to join.

The *Photography User Group (PUG)* will meet on **Monday, May 10 from 1-3 PM** via Zoom. This is the last meeting before the group takes a “summer break”. Be sure to check out the PUG newsletters that provide summaries of its meetings. They can be found on our website at: <https://computer.scaclub.org> On the menu tab, select “*Documents> PUG Newsletters*”. See what the group has been up to. All experience levels, from beginners to experts, are welcome.

Computer Talk meets **weekly from 9 –10 AM every Thursday** and is designed as a “question and answer” session. Can’t figure out how to do something? Do you have a question regarding a specific product or application? This group is computer related meaning discussions are not limited to any specific product. Bring your Android, Apple, Chromecast, Windows, etc. questions and we’ll try to answer them. New members are always welcome.

A big “Thank You” to our VP, Woody Parks, who coordinated and orchestrated last month’s Computer and Electronic Equipment Recycling Event with *Sustain Vegas* at Liberty Center. It was quite a success. Many of our members took advantage of this event to begin their “Spring” cleaning. Treasurer Rich Blotner assisted Woody on-site to ensure a controlled traffic flow and orderly transfer of equipment and recycled goods that were dropped off. Thanks to all who participated in this very successful endeavor.

USB, The Mystery Solved

By Brian Corr

USB is an abbreviation for Universal Serial Bus and was the unifying replacement for the wide variety of proprietary serial, parallel, keyboard, mouse and even display connectors on early personal computers. USB however is not a static definition and has evolved over the years to provide more and faster connectivity. USB standards in some cases are referring to a connector type and in other cases are referring to speed.

Connectors

The first two connectors associated with the USB standards were the USB-A and USB-B and they first appeared under the USB 1.1 standard in 1998 as a printer cable and were capable of speeds up to 12 Mbps (Million bits per second) which was sufficient for sending data to a printer over a cable length of 3 meters.

In 2000 the next standard USB 2.0 was introduced and included USB Mini-B, used on digital cameras, MP3 players and some smartphones, and USB Micro-B used on Android smartphones and external hard drives. USB 2.0 was capable of speeds up to 480 Mbps in cables up to 5 meters in length, a huge improvement over the original printer cable.

In 2008 USB 3.0 was introduced adding the USB-C connector and ability to support speeds up to 5 Gbps over 3 meters, over 10 times the previous speed. In addition to the new USB-C there was also a change to the USB-B MICRO that allowed it to support the new higher speeds, specifically in hard drives.



In 2013 the USB 3 standard was updated to 3.1 with the same connectors supporting speeds up to 10 Gbps.

2017 brought us USB 3.2 which applies to USB-C connectors only and supports speed up to 20 Gbps.

The latest iteration of USB is USB 4 which depending on the number of connections in the connector used supports either 20 Gbps or 40 Gbps.

One last point on the USB-C connector, it is capable of supporting many other protocols beside the USB serial transmission protocols. It is being used in laptop computers and mobile devices because of its versatility and small size.

Bring on the Thunder!

No doubt you have also heard of Thunderbolt and wondered where it fits in to this story. Early in 2010 Apple first released computers with Thunderbolt ports based on the previous display port connector. It initially was an Apple only technology requiring typically expensive cables. When Thunderbolt 2 was released it was backward compatible with Thunderbolt but still used the mini display port connector exclusive to Apple. When Thunderbolt 3 was announced in 2015 it utilized the USB-C connector and immediately spawned devices using Thunderbolt 3 technology to provide 40 Gbps speed and support for two 4K displays or one 6K display and included audio and chaining of devices and full compatibility with

USB, The Mystery Solved (continued)

USB standards.

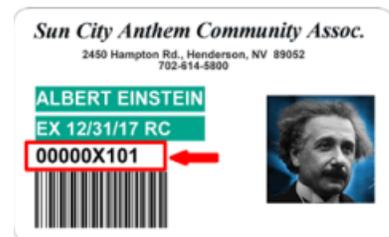
New iMac Ports

The new iMac has two thunderbolt 3 ports supporting up to 40Gbps and fully compatible with USB 3.1 and USB 4 standards, again up to 40 Mbps and including display support up to 6K with audio. The requirement to get adapters for your existing devices is easily outweighed by the versatility and power of the new ports. Technology marches on.

Did you know?

I Forgot My Computer Club Password; Can I Reset It?

Yes, visit www.computer.scaclub.org and click Log In Reset Your Password. Enter your email address or the ID Number on your SCA Activities Card and click Submit.



If you do not immediately see the password reset email in your Inbox, try hitting Send/Receive and possibly checking your spam filter. Reminder: It is an excellent idea to add the **manager@computer.scaclub.org** email address to your list of email contacts so that emails sent to you via the website do not wind up in your spam filter. As soon as the password reset email arrives, open it and click the offered link, then follow the instructions you see on the screen in front of you. You will click Login, type whatever password you want in 2 places, then slide down to the very bottom of the screen and click Save. Please note that the password reset email expires exactly 24 hours after you request it. If you are unable to complete the password reset within that time, you will need to repeat this process, starting with again requesting a password reset.

What Can I Do to Make Sure I Don't Miss Emails from the Computer Club?

Please add the manager@computer.scaclub.org email address to your list of email contacts so that emails sent to you via the website do not wind up in your spam filter.

What Should I Do If a Computer, Copier, Printer, Etc. Is Not Working or Needs Attention?

Please notify the Monitor on duty so that he/she can notify the appropriate Computer Club officials. **Editor's Note: please do not attempt to fix a paper jam. This has resulted in damage to the printer in the past. Let the monitor know so he/she can notify the appropriate Computer Club officials.**

These and other questions and answers are in our 2021 New Members' Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). They can be found on our website at: <https://computer.scaclub.org> From the menu tab, select Documents> Monitor References> New Member FAQ

We encourage all NEW members to attend the New Members Orientation class as soon as possible after joining the club. It provides information regarding your club membership benefits and club policies for which all are expected to adhere.

To click or not to click?

I know, we've heard it before. Don't click on links that are embedded in emails or text messages or articles we read (when we are not sure where they are coming from or where they might go). Even though we have tried to stress this point, many in our Community still cannot resist doing so (and get quite upset when their systems get embedded with malware, viruses, or worst, ransomware).

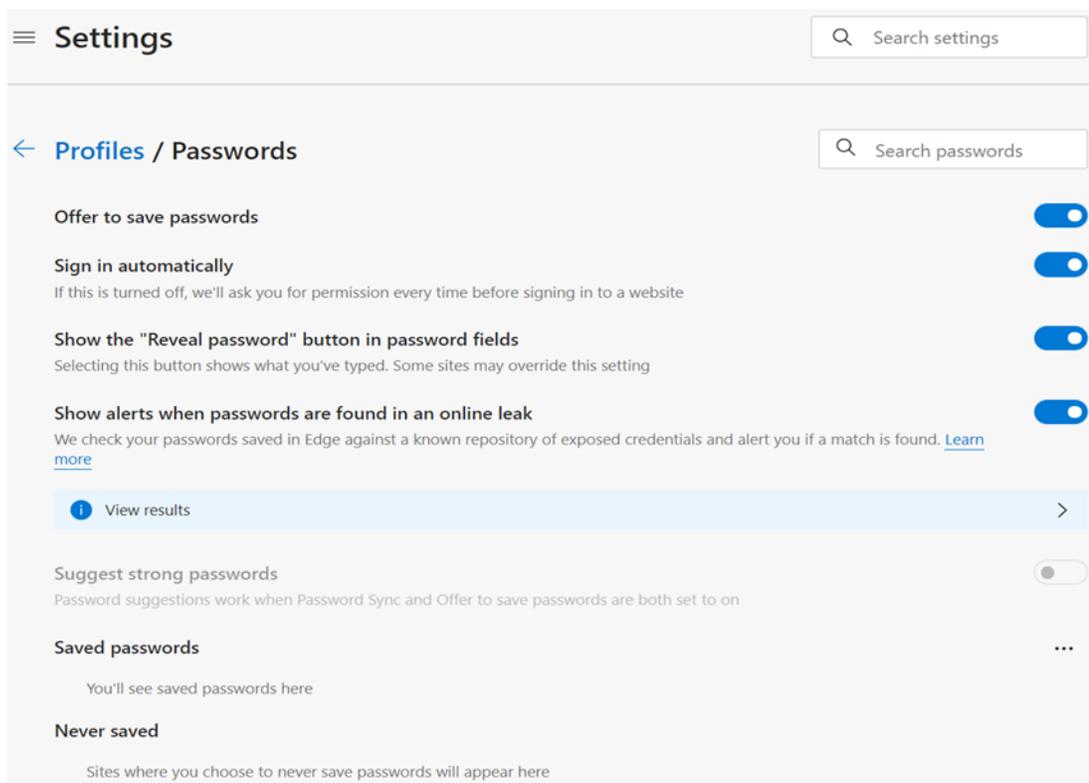
Is it that we are just too trusting or perhaps just too curious to refrain from doing something we know we shouldn't do? Is it because we have never really explained why one should refrain from doing so, only saying it may result in a bad thing? Well, let's try to change this behavior by exploring the why we shouldn't do this. When you are tempted to click on a link (from which you have no idea where it might lead) ask yourself:

- **where is this link from?** Was it in an email or text I received, or was it in a friend's Facebook post? A good rule of thumb is that **IF** an embedded link is unsolicited, then ignore it. Malicious links in emails and texts are an easy way for hackers to do damage to your systems. Hackers are also very good at impersonating what looks to be a legitimate company. Hover over the link to see if it really goes to the site. For instant, a link to Amazon.com may appear as Amzon.com or Amazone.com, both which are not Amazon (the company). Be very cautious with emails you receive that appear to be from banking institutions. If you get an email from your bank, call or go to your bank and verify it was really from them. Do NOT provide any personal information, e.g. passwords, social security numbers, account numbers, etc., especially if prompted to input that information to "verify" that it is you.
- Ask yourself, **why am I clicking on this link?** Are you responding because the email indicated your account has been compromised and they want you to "confirm" your information? Were you threatened in the email that if you don't click on the link, something bad might happen? Or do you think that you could win something by clicking on the link? **Try not to react out of emotions.** It is perfectly OK to simply delete an email with an embedded link without ever clicking on the link.
- Before clicking on a link, look at it carefully. Look for misspellings. Sometimes, in a hurry, we may see something that appears to be correct, but isn't. Yahoo.com is a valid browser, but yahoo.org is not. And neither is ya.hoo.com or george.8624zfe.yahoo.com If you are searching for something on a browser, be sure to check the URL below the page title in the search results to see where the link is from. For example, if you are searching for the latest iPhones on Amazon and the search results come up as New iPhone Best Deals and the Ad's URL happens to be: <http://www.bestdeal4you.net/james87246> you might want to think twice about clicking on it. Hackers use a tactic called "search engine poisoning" to get malicious links to the top of browser search engines for popular topics. It is an attack method in which cybercriminals create malicious websites and use search engine optimization tactics to make them show up prominently in search results. The attackers create websites with names and descriptions associated with popular or trending topics that are displayed near or at the top of the results list.
- **Is there another way to get the information you are looking for, instead of clicking on a link?** If you are receiving a notice about a product from a specific company, go directly to the company's website and look for the product, instead of relying on a link from an unsolicited email.

Remember, a link in an email, text, Facebook post, website, etc. will not automatically open itself. You have to decide to click on it to open it (or not). Sometimes it is just better to ignore the link, delete the email or text, close the browser tab and not give it a second thought. As curious as we are, sometimes it is just better to walk away without knowing. Doing so helps keep us safer online.

Tips and tricks you might want to try

Do you use Edge as your browser? Do you save your passwords in your browser so you don't have to type them in every time you go to the site (requiring a password)? When signing in to a site, do you want to "see" what you are typing in as the password (so you don't make a mistake)? Would you like to be alerted if "your" password is exposed on line? If you answered "yes" or even "no" to any of these questions, you might want to review your settings in your Edge browser to ensure they are set the way you want them to be. How? In the Edge browser, click on "Settings and more" (the three (3) little dots) in the upper right hand corner. Next select "Settings" and under Your profile, select "Passwords". Here is where you make your choices by toggling on or off your desires.



The screenshot shows the 'Settings' page in Microsoft Edge, specifically the 'Profiles / Passwords' section. The page has a search bar at the top right labeled 'Search settings'. Below that, there's a sub-section 'Profiles / Passwords' with its own search bar labeled 'Search passwords'. The main content area contains several settings, each with a blue toggle switch on the right:

- Offer to save passwords**: Toggle is turned on.
- Sign in automatically**: Toggle is turned on. Below it, text reads: "If this is turned off, we'll ask you for permission every time before signing in to a website".
- Show the "Reveal password" button in password fields**: Toggle is turned on. Below it, text reads: "Selecting this button shows what you've typed. Some sites may override this setting".
- Show alerts when passwords are found in an online leak**: Toggle is turned on. Below it, text reads: "We check your passwords saved in Edge against a known repository of exposed credentials and alert you if a match is found. [Learn more](#)".

Below these settings is a blue button labeled 'View results' with a right-pointing arrow. Further down, there are two more settings:

- Suggest strong passwords**: Toggle is turned off. Below it, text reads: "Password suggestions work when Password Sync and Offer to save passwords are both set to on".
- Saved passwords**: Represented by three dots '...'. Below it, text reads: "You'll see saved passwords here".
- Never saved**: Below it, text reads: "Sites where you choose to never save passwords will appear here".

A large right-facing curly bracket on the right side of the image groups the four main settings (Offer to save passwords, Sign in automatically, Show the "Reveal password" button, and Show alerts when passwords are found in an online leak). To the right of the bracket, text reads: "Slide toggle 'on' or 'off' to enable or disable choice".

Archive or delete emails?

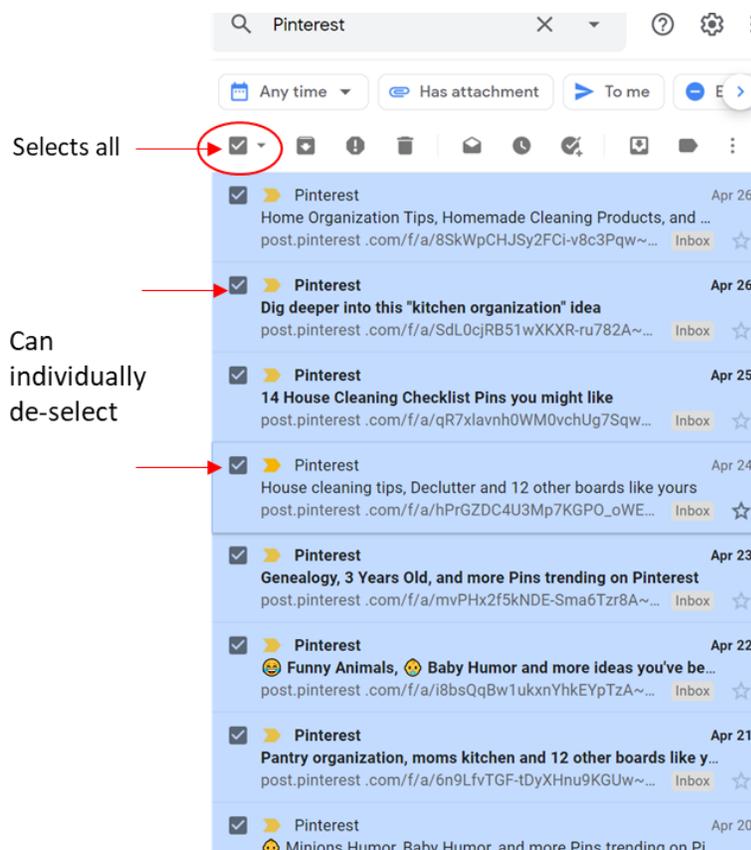
Do you archive every email you receive? Believe it or not, many folks do. Remember when there was basically infinite storage so why not just archive them? Back in the day (e.g. 2004) Google's email service provided 1 GB of free email. At that time, Microsoft Hotmail provided just 2 MB. A year later, Google doubled its free storage to 2 GB, so folks didn't give it a second thought about needing to delete emails to free up space. In 2013, Google once again upped its free storage to 15 GB, but that included all of its services, e.g. Gmail, Google Drive and Google photos. Nowadays, Google One (as well as Microsoft 365 and Apple iCloud) offer increased space IF you pay for it. Microsoft's Outlook.com provides 15 GB free or 50 GB if you have a paying Microsoft subscription. Apple iCloud email uses your iCloud storage, 5 GB free for all of your device backups and iCloud data. Of course you can pay for more storage, if desired.

Tips and tricks you might want to try (continued)

But if you are like a lot of folks, you are thinking, emails are small and don't take up a lot of space. While that might seem true, individual emails are pretty small, but they do add up. And you might have thousands of emails in your account. Although hard to conceive, some folks have 100,000+ emails in their account spanning over 10 years. All of those newsletters, notifications, alerts and other junk take up quite a bit of space and do you really need to archive them? Why not just delete them instead? You'll free up more space and you won't have to pay for storage for useless emails. Also, did you know that in the USA, the Electronic Communications Protection Act (passed in 1986) treats emails as "abandoned" after 180 days, allowing the government to look at them without a warrant? Save those that are important, but delete the rest.

Here's how to delete a large group you probably don't need to save:

- search by user name. If you regularly get ads from say Pinterest, search for "Pinterest" in your inbox. When the results are displayed, check the box to select them all at once, then delete. Or simply save those few you really want right now (uncheck the box).



- attachments can take up a lot of space. Deleting emails with large attachments can be done quickly by using the phrase **"has:attachment"** in the search filter. This results in any email that has an attachment. Save those you need, but delete those you no longer need. Or just save the attachment to a folder you've created in your files.
- Once you delete all of your unwanted emails, don't forget to check your spam and junk folders to see if you have emails there that you don't need, then delete them also.
- Lastly, empty your trash. Just because you deleted emails from your Inbox, does not necessarily mean you have removed them from your account. Be sure to click on "Trash". You can delete all your trash at once by selecting **"Empty Trash Now"**

Windows 10-10 and listening in

In case you are wondering, yes, expect a May update for Windows 10. The good news is that it is not a major update. This may mean that there are no significant issues like in the past. As John Cable, Vice President of Program Management for Windows Servicing and Delivery, explains it:

“Windows 10, version 21H1 will have a scoped set of features improving security, remote access and quality. The features we are releasing in this update are focused on the core experiences that customers have told us they’re relying on most right now. So, we optimized this release to support our customers’ most pressing needs.”

Basically, there is nothing new in the upcoming Windows 10’s 21H1 update, as Windows is still being fixed with important security patches and bug fixes. It should be released in mid-May and should not take long to update. The Winter update is visioned to have several changes and improvements, so stay tuned.



How to delete your search history from your browser

Google Chrome: folks use Chrome on their computers as well as their mobile devices. If your devices are synched to one cloud, deleting your Chrome search history on one device will delete it on all of them.

1. Open Google Chrome on your computer and click the **More** menu, the three dots on top of each other in the top right of the browser.
2. Mouse over the **History** menu, then click the **History** option at the top.
3. To delete individual searches, click on the box to the left of different search listings and click **Delete** in the top right part of the window.
4. To delete your entire search history at once, click **Clear browsing data** from the left menu and select what data you want to delete — just your browsing history or also your cookies and cache. Click the **Clear Data** button once you’ve decided.

Note: You’ll clear up more memory space and get more privacy by clearing out everything.

Google: There are several ways you can delete your history on Google. The fastest and most thorough way is to delete all your activity on there.

1. Log into your Google account. Go to Google and click on your account image – usually the first letter of your name on the upper-right side of the computer screen, or log in.
2. Click on Go to My Activity. Click on My Account and scroll down to My Activity. Go to your activity page then click on the three vertical dots on the right side of your screen. Select Delete activity by >> select All time from the drop-down menu >> Delete. You can also delete activity from yesterday, the past week or the past 30 days. You can also select a specific item from your activity history — go back to your activity page and select Item from the left-side menu.

Firefox:

1. Open Firefox and click the three-line menu.
2. Click on **History**, then **Clear Recent History...** to delete all of your recent search data.
3. A box will pop up asking you the timeframe to clear (last hour, last two hours, current day, everything, etc.). Choose your timeframe and hit **Clear Now**.

How to delete your search history from your browser (continued)

Firefox: (continued)

4. To delete items one by one, click **History**, then **Show All History**. (You'll get a list of all your recent searches. Right-click what you don't want and select **Forget About This Site**.)

Edge:

To clear your search history in Edge:

1. Open Edge and click **Settings and more...** then **Settings** in the browser.
2. Click on **Privacy and services** and find **Clear browsing data**.
3. Select **Choose what to clear** and choose a time range of data to delete from the **Time range** drop-down menu.
4. Next, select the kind of data you want to clear — just search history, cookies, cache, even passwords and form-fill data. (You might consider keeping passwords and form-fill data, unless you prefer inputting everything each time for safety reasons, which is OK to do so).
5. Click **Clear now** and that data will be erased.

Safari:

To clear your search history in Safari:

1. Open Safari and click on the **History** menu tab at the top of your screen.
2. Click **Clear History** on the pop-up menu that appears.
3. Select how far back you want to delete. You might consider going back as far as possible.
4. Click Ok and your browsing history will be deleted.

NOTE: To delete certain searches, in the History tab, select **Show All History** and delete items by clicking on them once, then tap the **delete** key on your keyboard.

For mobile devices, open **Settings, Safari, Advanced, Website Data**, then **Remove All Website Data**.

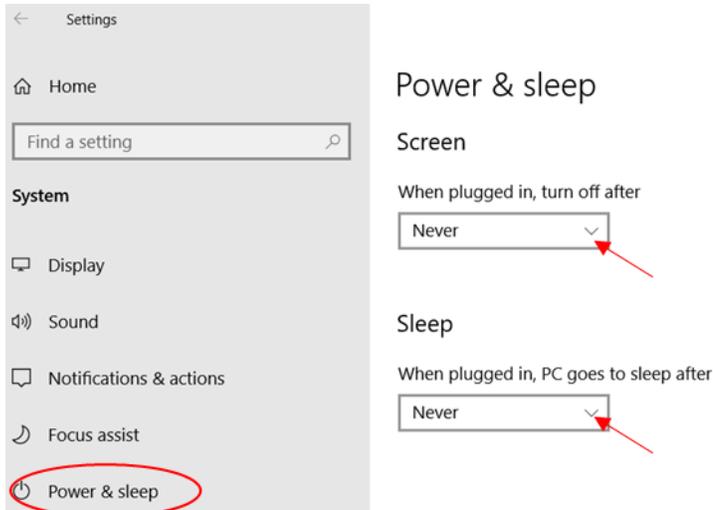
Be sure to bookmark what you want to keep before wiping everything because this will delete *all* data.

As of May 1st, the Sun City Anthem Community Association will allow increased occupancy rates from 50% to **80%** of its authorized capacities and reduce the social distancing from six (6) feet to three (3) feet in our centers and common areas, following the guidance of Clark County. What does that mean for our Computer Club?

Your Computer Club Board decided that at this time, we will leave the computers as they are, e.g. at the six (6) feet separation and not try to re-arrange all of the computers just to reduce the distancing between them. Currently, we are not experiencing over crowding in the lab or classroom. **Masks**, covering both the nose and mouth **ARE STILL REQUIRED** at all times in our computer club, as well as the centers. Thank you for your cooperation.

Useful things you may want to know, or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that we made up ourselves

Q. I bought a new PC. I write fiction novels as a hobby. Sometimes when I am writing, I get lost in thought and before I know it, the screen has locked itself and I need to “log in” again. It is quite an annoyance when this occurs. Is there a way to set it up so I have more time before it locks? Can I set it to not lock at all?

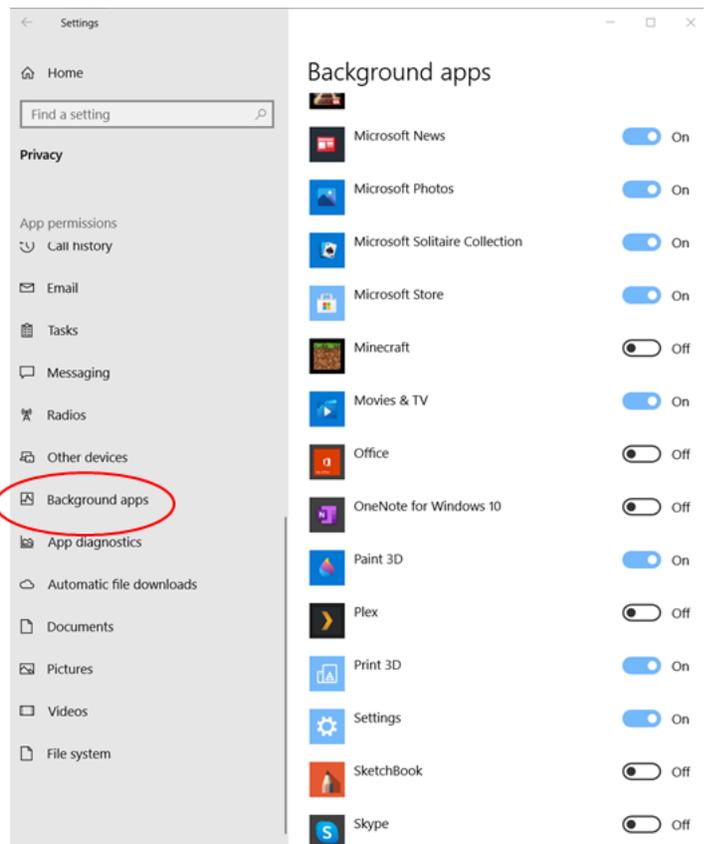


A. Yes, you can control how long it is before your screen and/or computer “times out” and you can set it to never timeout, if you desire to do so. Here’s how: Click on your **“Start Menu”** (bottom left hand corner and the icon looks like a Window). Select **“Settings”** and then **“System”**. Now select **“Power & Sleep”**. You should see both the Screen and Sleep settings and drop-down menus. Click on the down arrow head and you can select the time from 1 minute to Never (use the scroll bar to see all settings). Hope this helps.

Q. My computer seems to run slower than it used to do. I have run Malwarebytes and it indicated all was OK. I have Windows Security and all of my areas are checked green. I realize that as technology improves, older systems may get out dated but my PC is only 2 years old, so is there anything else you could suggest I try? I am pretty sure I do not have any malware or viruses on my PC.

A. Well it sounds like you checked the normal culprits that might affect your PC. Have you considered turning off apps that run in the background? We all have apps that load when our computer starts up (these can be found by going to Task Manager, then selecting the Start Up tab). But did you also know that there are apps that constantly run in the background? Sometimes, by disabling apps that are running in the background (and you don’t really need), one can speed things up. You can try this to see if it helps.

Go to **“Settings”> “Privacy” and “Background apps”** (you need to scroll down to find Background apps). Here is where you can see all of the apps running in the background and you can toggle off those you don’t want running. Toggle off those you don’t even use (if they are On).



Useful things you may want to know, or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that we made up ourselves (continued)

Another thing you might try (if you don't already do so) is to periodically restart your PC. If you leave your computer on for long periods of time, apps you are not using consume resources unnecessarily and can slow down your PC. Periodically, restarting your computer could help.

Another setting you can look at is how your computer uses power. This pertains to using a laptop (more than a desk top). Windows 10 has three (3) power options: Balanced, Power saver and High performance. Selecting High Performance will enable your device to use additional power to run faster. If you choose Power saver, performance may be adversely affected in exchange for conserving one's

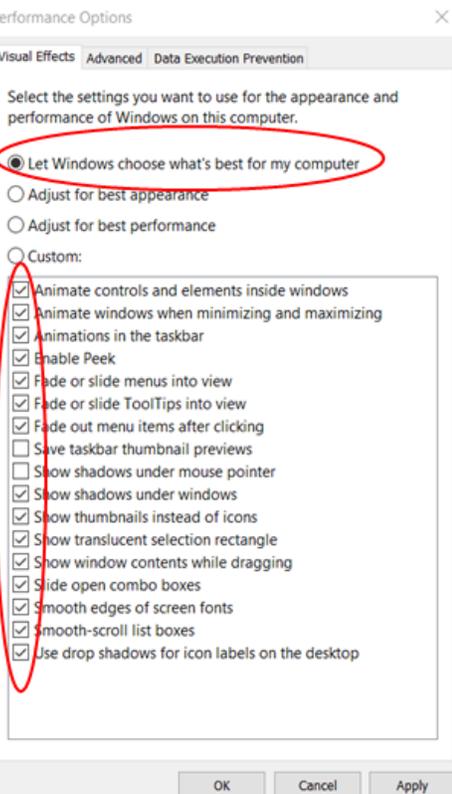
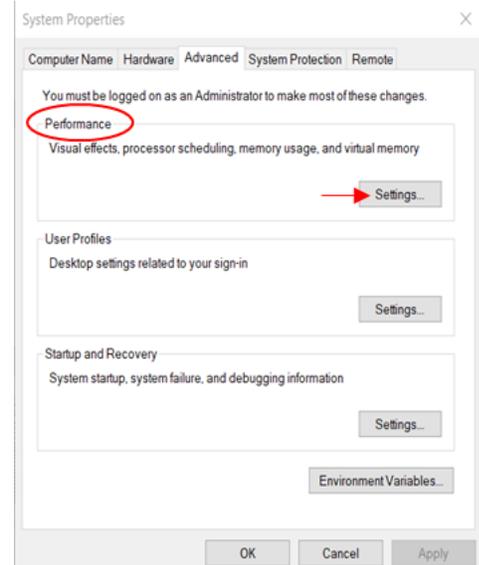
battery. Most folks leave it on Balanced, but it is something you can consider changing to see if it helps.

If you want to dive deeper, turn off extraneous visual effects on your computer. What's that? Well Windows 10 has these fun little effects that are there to

make a visual spectacle (of itself). What? Things like animations, showing window contents when dragging, fading out menu items after clicking, etc. Turning all of these off may improve quickness and performance. Here's how.

Go to **"Settings > System > About"** and then click on **"Advanced system settings"**.

Under **"Performance"** that appears on the **"Advanced" tab**, select **"Settings"**.



You will now see the Visual Effects tab and its settings. Notice that it is set so that Windows chooses what's best for your computer.

To change it, select **"Adjust for best performance"**, then hit **"Apply"**. Now you will see the selections unchecked. This **may** speed up your performance.

Please let us know if any of these suggestions help you. Good luck!

