

WHITE HORSE VILLAGE

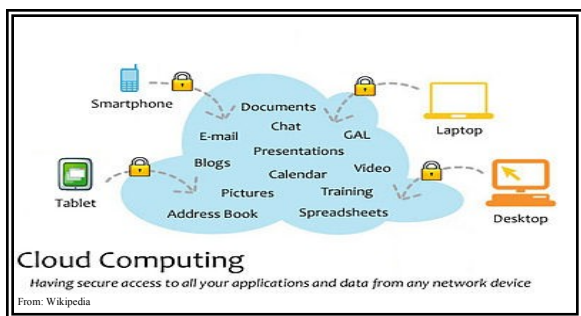
Computer Group May-June 2011

Are you ready for The Cloud?

Joe Spampinato

Cloud Computing has been in the news lately, rekindled by Apple's announcement last week of its new iCloud service. Apple is belatedly following Microsoft and Google in making this technology easily and freely available. This is of particular importance to those of us who have or are anticipating getting multiple computers and portable devices like datapads (e.g., iPads) or smartphones.

Quite simply, Cloud Computing is the accessing of a synchronized master version of your common dedicated data files and applications that are stored on line. As portrayed by the blue cloud shown in the figure, with Cloud Computing your pictures, videos,



address book, documents, calendar, etc, are accessible at any time via a web browser and the internet on your laptop, desktop, smartphone, or tablet.

The advantage of this is that no matter what changes you make to a file on any device you are working on, it is automatically synchronized with the Cloud version, and then available to all devices on your network. Say, for example, you are in a meeting in the Clubhouse, and the time for the next meeting is being set. You would call up your calendar on your portable device, check for schedule conflicts, and then enter in the agreed-upon meeting date and time. When you go home and want to check on your upcoming commitments for the month, you can call up your desktop calendar, and that new meeting will be there. The same capability is true for documents, pictures, and email.

This capability requires some means of wireless or cellular connectivity. Fortunately, free Wi-Fi is becoming more and more generally available.

Bought a New Computer?

Dispose of your old one responsibly by recycling it. Twice a year, WHV brings old computer equipment to County collections. Contact Joe Cooper at 610 675-2042 for details.

A Spring Teaser

Joe Spampinato



This problem involved an interaction between How Gregg and myself.

Our current modus operandi is to make our newsletter available on line via the computer group website, rather than printing out multiple copies. Not only do we save money and labor by avoiding printing and distributing time and effort, it is also more ecologically responsible. A final plus: reading it on line allows viewing in color, and clicking on any embedded links provides instant access to sites that are referenced in an article.

In this process, I compose each newsletter, send it out to How and Marty Shane for comments and additional proofing, and after I incorporate their comments, send an updated version back to How, who posts it on the White Horse Village Computer Group Newsletter page (<http://www.whitehorsevillage.net/page5.htm>). How then informs me that it is posted, and I send out a broadcast email to the Group with a link to the page (plus the latest phone and email lists).

After going through this procedure on our last newsletter and hearing from How, I checked to see if indeed it had been posted. To my chagrin, it did not show up on my screen! I immediately called How, who insisted it WAS posted, and he confirmed it on his own computer!



After a few minutes discussion, How figured out what the problem was, and I was able to confirm for myself that it was indeed posted and available on my own computer. What did we do?

See answer on page 5



**How's Corner
RSS Explained,
Again
by How Gregg**

RSS....stands for **Real Simple Syndication**. What does that mean to you? How would you like to have your favorite internet pages automatically update to their latest version and then tell you they did? This is what RSS does.

RSS has two parts, a reader to subscribe to feeds and supporting sites to link to it and automatically update.

How does RSS Work? Receiving RSS feeds is as simple as downloading an RSS reader (or an extension to your web browser) and then finding which favorite sites offer RSS feeds. Follow the instructions provided with the reader to move around and to install RSS capable sites.

Here are some RSS Readers to try:

Bloglines

<http://www.bloglines.com>

Google Desktop

<http://desktop.google.com/>

Google Reader

www.google.com/reader

My Yahoo

<http://my.yahoo.com>

Feedreader

<http://www.feedreader.com/>

To add a site to the RSS Reader:

Go to a favorite site in your web browser and look for a link to an RSS feed. It should look like one of the icons below:



Click on the icon and the Reader downloads it and renders each of the items in it as a separate headline and synopsis of that article or content, complete with a link. RSS readers continually scan each RSS feed and then inform the user when new content is found. Each of these items consists of a title, a link to that content on the site and a brief description.

Notable Quotes

"Average age at which women consider themselves to be "old," according to a study by a British funeral planning company: 29; at which men do: 58."

Harpers Index

**MUST HAVES!
Updated Security Software &
Wireless Network
Password Protection —
Joe Spampinato**

In several of my recent HELP visits, I have noticed that some of our WHV personal computer user systems and networks are not as secure as they should be. In some cases, for one reason or another, virus protection software is either non-existent, or the regular updating has been allowed to elapse. In other cases, personal Wi-Fi systems have been set up without password protection.

Both of these situations make our computers vulnerable and put our personal information, identity, and finances potentially at risk. Without regularly updated virus protection, any computer that is used to access the internet is vulnerable to viruses that could corrupt your software, or, even worse, malware that can take over your computer, often implanting persistent programs that solicit a purchase with one of your credit cards, or which steal your passwords.

Similarly, personal wireless networks which are not password protected are open to any passerby with the capability to sense your signal, read your files, and capture your keystrokes, including passwords and PINs. See page 4 for a complete discussion of how easy it is for hackers to penetrate unprotected Wi-Fi networks, and what to do about it.

Luckily, these vulnerabilities can be easily avoided at no cost. For those who use Comcast as their ISP, a robust anti-virus, spyware and firewall suite is available for free with a simple download. In fact, Comcast has just enhanced their package with the addition of a "Constant Guard" adjunct that provides even more identity and password protection. Verizon customers can purchase virus and firewall protection from Verizon, Norton, MacAfee, or any one of several companies. However, there are also free options, like AVG and AVAST, which provide perfectly adequate protection.

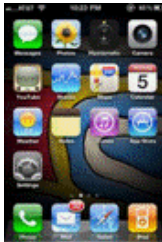
Wi-Fi password protection is fairly simply implemented by following the instructions provided with your router or modem or on Page 4. The Computer Group will be happy to help you install either of these safeguards; contact me at joenpat40@comcast.net or 484 422-8195. The only unacceptable option is to do nothing and leave yourself unprotected.

It all began with an iPhone... (with thanks to Jim Nichols)

March was when my son celebrated his 15th birthday and I got him an iPhone.

He just loved it. Who wouldn't?

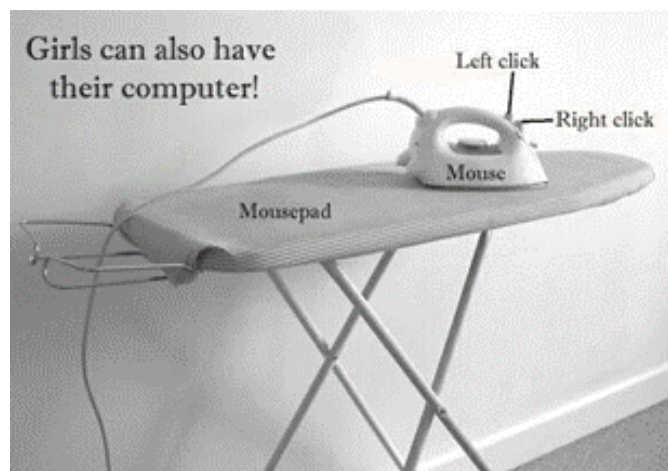
I celebrated my birthday in July and my wife made me very happy when she bought me an iPad.



My daughter's birthday was in August so I got her an iPod Touch.



September came by, so for my wife's birthday I bought her an iRon.



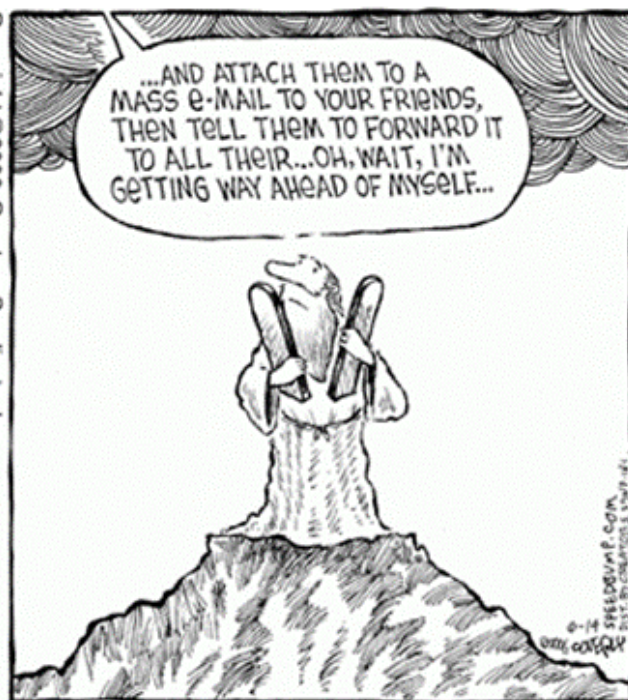
It was around then that the fight started...

What my wife failed to recognize is that the iRon can be integrated into the home network with the iWash, iCook and iClean.

This unfortunately activated the iNag app...

Which led me to the iHospital and -
iGet out Thursday.

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Are You Still Paying for AOL? If So, You Are Wasting Your Money!

Another reminder: One more thing we have noticed in our HELP visits is that some people are still paying AOL monthly. These are people who started with AOL when dialup was the only option, are familiar with and like the AOL interface, and do not want to go through the trouble of changing their email addresses. Subsequently, they have upgraded to the broadband speeds provided by DSL or cable, and are also paying either Verizon or Comcast/Xfinity for this internet connection service. As we indicated in our two previous issues, they are paying AOL for services that AOL will provide for free.

AOL desperately wants to keep you as a visitor to its site and user of its services, even though you are not paying them anything. Don't be afraid to cancel the charge. You can still keep your AOL email, homepage, bookmarks and address book.

Of course, if you are one of the handful of people who use AOL for **dialup** internet connectivity, **this does not apply**. If you have any questions about this, please contact Joe Spampinato at joenpat40@comcast.net or 484 422-8195.

Four Good Reasons Why You Need Wireless Protection

If you've got a wireless network at home and don't take special care to protect it, you're playing Russian roulette -- and the chamber is loaded with multiple bullets. According to Preston Gralla in ComputerWorld, here are four reasons to take the extra effort to protect your Wi-Fi network.

Reason No. 1: You may be aiding criminals

There are lots of wireless piggybackers out there -- people looking for a convenient, unprotected Wi-Fi network to hop onto in order to do something illegal, quasi-legal or just downright nasty. They won't be breaking in to your PCs, but they'll be using your bandwidth and IP address for nefarious purposes.

For example, in Arlington County, Va., police tracked down the IP address of a suspected pedophile who traded child pornography online. Armed with a warrant, police knocked on the door of the person who used the IP address and found an elderly woman who they quickly realized wasn't the suspect. Someone had hopped onto her wireless network to do the deed. Even if you don't have moral qualms about someone using your network for trading child pornography (and you certainly should), do you really want police knocking on your door to investigate if you're a pedophile?

Reason No. 2: The recording industry may sue you

As we all know, for the past several years, the recording and entertainment industry has used the courts to sue many people who the industry claims were illegally sharing or downloading copyrighted music and other digital files.

But what's less well known is that they're also trying to convince the courts that even if someone piggybacks onto your network and does the illegal download, *you* should be liable for the copyright infringement. Which means you'll have to hire a lawyer or get ready to pay through the nose.

Reason No. 3: It's the bandwidth, stupid

Got enough bandwidth? Of course you don't. The most basic rule of networking is that no matter your upload and download speeds, they're not fast enough. So how would you like sharing your measly bandwidth with strangers and neighbors, especially those who want to suck up all your bandwidth by downloading multigigabyte movies?

Don't let the entire world use your precious bandwidth. Instead, protect your network!

Reason No. 4: It's vital to protect your privacy

If someone gains access to your home wireless network, they may be able to gather enormous amounts of information about you. Do you store any personal or financial records on a PC attached to your network? Do you bank on line and/or use your credit card for on line purchases? If so, they're at risk if you don't take the right precautions. So if you worry about theft of your hard-earned assets and/or your identity, or simply don't want someone poking around your PCs, make sure to turn on protection.

So, What Do You Do About It?

For a complete description of how to ensure protection, with step by step instructions, go to the following website: [How to protect your wireless network](#). Here are some minimal steps.

Enable encryption on your router — Using 128-bit encryption or higher makes your Wireless Network more secure. Use WPA encryption or, even better, WPA2 if it is supported.

Set the router access password — Anybody who gains access to the router configuration settings can disable the security you have set up. This password prevents that.

Use secure passwords — Don't use easily guessed passwords for your network or router access passwords, such as "ABC123", "Password", or a string of numbers in order. Use something hard to guess that contains both upper and lowercase letters as well as numbers. The longer the key, the better. Try to make a little mental effort -- good passwords might be hard to remember, but they are harder to crack.

Change the Service Set Identifier (the network name or "SSID") from the default to something unique — A default SSID indicates to hackers that the network was set up by a novice and that other options (such as the password) are also left as the default. Use a name you can remember and identify, as the SSID has no influence on the security of your network.

Disable remote login — Router worms force their way into the router in this manner. Routers normally have this disabled by default. Be sure to confirm that it is disabled when you first set up your router and periodically thereafter.

Disable wireless administration — Finally, change the setting that allows administering the router through a wireless connection to 'off' (meaning that you can only connect via a cable.)

**OUR WEBSITE IS A GREAT,
READILY AVAILABLE
RESOURCE!**

Go to the WHV Residents Homepage at:

www.whitehorsevillage.net

Click on the **WHV Computer Group** icon

For

Past Newsletter issues, Tutorials and Information
and Communications Tools

And

Click on the **WHV TV Channel 14** icon

For

The Channel 14 Program Guide and
Online Programs

Answer to Teaser on Page 1—

One phone call to How resolved the issue. He was correct — the newsletter was posted on the website.

Why couldn't I see it on my computer? The answer is simple. I was using Google Chrome as my internet browser, and as anyone who uses Chrome, knows, it is much faster than Internet Explorer (IE). It gains that extra speed edge by modifying some functions that IE normally performs. For example, if you have previously gone to a website, and you have not cleaned out your temporary files (like with CCleaner) Google Chrome will go to where that web page was stored ("cached") on your computer, and load it rather than going to the site to get the latest version. This displays the page much faster than downloading it directly from the site.

I had previously been to the newsletter web page weeks earlier, well before How had posted the new newsletter, and that's the version cached in my computer and displayed on my screen.

At How's prodding, while I was looking at the (unbeknownst to me) cached web page, I did a Right Click on my mouse, and from the menu that came up, selected *Reload*. This forced Chrome to go to the web site and download the latest version of the page. Voila! A revised version was downloaded, showing that the new newsletter was there, just like How said it was.

Just to test, I then accessed the web page with Internet Explorer, and found that the new newsletter showed up, without a need for a *Reload*.

The learning here is that when you are surfing the net and you don't see something that you would ordinarily expect to be there, it is good practice to do a *Reload* or *Refresh*. More and more, software developers are sensitive to users' demands for speedy response, and are stripping functions out of their latest versions to provide this speed. Windows 7 is a good example of this. It attains its faster response by eliminating a lot of the functions formerly built into Vista and XP.



Still More Stephen Wright Quotes

"I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize "

"82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot "

"If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain "

"All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand"

"Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now "

"To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research "

"A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking"

PLEASE NOTE: *If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter, or if you know others who would like to receive it, please tell me at joenpat40@comcast.net or leave a message at 484 422-8195. The latest and preceding newsletters are available on our website. If someone you know at WHV has difficulty in accessing this online version, please let me know so that we can provide assistance.*



WHITE HORSE VILLAGE

Computer Group

MONTHLY MEETINGS All are welcome!



Tue Jun 21: Brandon Miniman — “A Google Survey—Google is much more than a search engine”

Tue Jul 26: How and Joe Q & A—”Useful Websites”

August: NO MEETING

Tue Sep 27th: How and Joe Q & A

Tue Oct 25: Bob Curley on Wireless Networking Services

Tue Nov 22 How and Joe Q & A

December - NO MEETING

Note: If there is some particular computer subject you would like us to cover at our monthly meetings, please let us know and we will try to accommodate it. Notify How Gregg at howgregg@msn.com or Joe Spampinato at joenpat40@comcast.net.

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL TEAM

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HELP! Activities: Arlene Flick

Publicity & Meetings: Marty Shane

Distribution: Joe Spampinato

Please send material for the newsletter to:
joenpat40@comcast.net

and visit our Website at:

www.whitehorsevillage.net/



HELP ACTIVITIES

Recent HELP activities included:

AVG ANTIVIRUS INSTALLED FOR — Archives Office, George Webster, Jen Bryan

RESOLVED PRINTER ISSUES FOR — Eleanor Smith, Gloria DiSylvestro

INSTALLED NEW PC BATTERY FOR — Gay Grieve, Jen Bryan

SYLVIA MCKEE — installed Acrobat Reader & Office 2007 compatibility pkg; fixed AVG problem

ARCHIVES OFFICE — installed wireless router & wireless cards in 3 PCs; updated Windows on all 3 systems

TONY POTTS— set up replacement PC speakers

SUE ANN PARK— added her photo to SKYPE

The HELP! Committee, Chair Joe Spampinato

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