

Bits of Blue



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Upcoming Meetings:

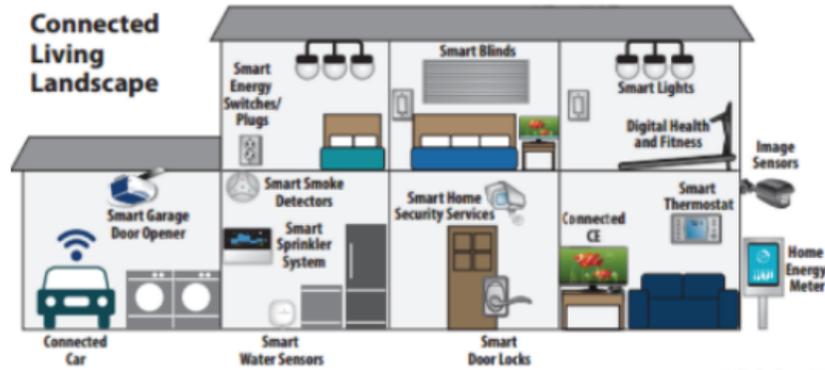
January Meeting: Wednesday, January 10 6:30PM
Bob Gostischa from Avast Software
"If it's Connected it Needs to be Protected"

January 10th Upcoming Meeting Presentation

Our Presentation for the Jan 10th meeting at Pepin Distributing Company will be done by Bob Gostischa who represents AVAST security products to the PC groups across the country who are members of APCUG. It is not often we have a presentation available to us from someone outside of our User Group, so I encourage you to make plans to come out this Wednesday to hear Bob's presentation. I would love to see a full house in attendance if you can possibly be there. - John Witmer

Here is some information about Bob and his presentation:

If it's Connected, It needs to be Protected



Updated information on why and how things that connect to the internet need to be secured and protected.

This presentation will cover: **Computers (Windows and Mac), Tablets, Phones and the IoT (Internet of Things).**

Join presenter Bob Gostischa, as he explains the current dangers that face us on a daily basis. He'll also share what he uses to keep his computers, smart devices and other connected things that are a part of the IoT.



About the Presenter:

Norbert "Bob" Gostischa, after a successful career in banking, enjoys his retirement as an enthusiast IT security expert, most notably for **Avast Software**.

Avast is the creator of avast! antivirus software.

The Avast website has a [discussion and help forum](#),

where Bob has been helping with security-related and general computer issues since 2004.

He has contributed over 35,000 forum interactions. Avast Antivirus s.r.o. is currently the most used antivirus software in the world.

Avast has been making security software for over 25 years and has more than 400 million users worldwide.

Although Bob's presentation is not a sales pitch for Avast, mentioning Avast and their Software in your announcements, would still be appreciated since they pay all the

bills. **There is no charge to the Club, Usergroup or, Organization for Bob's services.** You can also learn a little more about Bob's presentations and passions [in his Blog](#) and [YouTube](#) Channel. BobG. is also a proud member of the [APCUG](#) Speakers Bureau.

The following is an excerpt from an email from the APCUG that should be of interest to us all. - JW

UPDATE YOUR IPHONE AND MAC NOW: APPLE CONFIRMS VULNERABILITIES- iPhone and Mac owners, you're not escaping unscathed from the flaws affecting the processors inside laptops, PCs and smartphones. Apple confirmed tonight (Jan. 4) that the security issues known as Meltdown and Spectre also affect Mac and iOS devices. Read more at this Tom's Guide article:

<http://bit.ly/2m0oJVR>

HOW WILL THE MELTDOWN AND SPECTRE FLAWS AFFECT MY PC? - What Are Meltdown and Spectre? -Spectre is a “fundamental design flaw” that exists in every CPU on the market—including those from AMD and ARM as well as Intel. There is currently no software fix, and it will likely require a complete hardware redesign for CPUs across the board—though thankfully it is fairly difficult to exploit, according to security researchers. It's possible to protect against specific Spectre attacks, and developers are working on it, but the best solution will be a CPU hardware redesign for all future chip
Read more of this How-To Geek article at: <http://bit.ly/2qshuf6>

Other info.....

CALIFORNIA HEALTH OFFICIALS RELEASE GUIDELINES ON CELLPHONE RADIATION – Even though this is specific to California, I thought you might be interested in the information from the Department of Health. California health officials have a new safety message for cellphone users. CBS San Francisco reports that for the first time ever, the California Department of Public Health is releasing guidelines about cellphone radiation and how you can reduce your exposure. Read about the guidelines at: <http://cbsn.ws/2lAMhAr>

LOCK DOWN YOUR TECH IN 2018 WITH THESE RESOLUTIONS - If you're a human person who occasionally engages in commerce, hackers are probably targeting you. This year, resolve to do something about it. You know you need to take better care of your personal information, but you keep putting it off. It's understandable, but this is the year you take your security into your own hands. Here are seven resolutions you can make to lock down your data in 2018. Like going to the gym regularly, it might be annoying to get started, but you'll be better off once you build better habits. Read more of this How-To Geek article at: <http://bit.ly/2qeyB3T>

APCUG's VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE is on February 10. Sessions to date are:

2 Factor Authentication (2FA), Ron Brown, Silvercom Computer and Technology Club

From wildfires in California to hurricanes in Texas and Florida, Toby Scott's presentation will cover how to protect your important tech stuff in the event of a natural disaster. He's the tech guru for the Channel Islands PCUG

Google Apps at Home and on the Go, Phil Sorrentino, The Computer Club

Hate on the Internet, Rick Eaton, Senior Researcher, Simon Weisenthal Center

Becoming Your Own Computer Expert, Phil Bock, Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

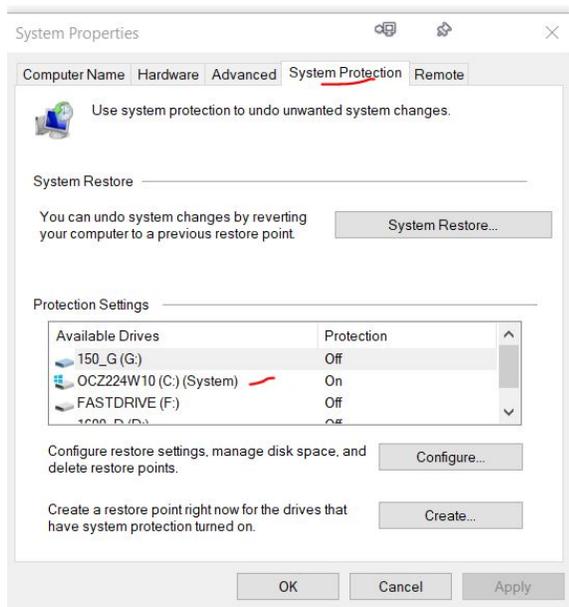
Windows 10 recovery (from disaster).

by Merle Nicholson, Secretary TPCUG

In case you've missed this along the way, every Windows 10 computer needs a recovery USB drive in case of a software failure. This allows you to start the repair process when something goes bad. Believe me, eventually something will go bad, and when it does, you'll be prepared.

The process of recovery has been steadily improving with each new major update, and it's within most users ability to do this successfully, provided you have set things up right. So do this while you can – the preparation obviously needs to be done *before* the disaster – right now.

First a setting needs to be made – or at least checked to make sure it's been done. In Search, type "create a restore point", and select "Create a restore point". That should get you to the System Protection settings.



Notice that the (System) drive (C:) is On, others are off. If you have found that the system drive was off, there are no system restore points. Enable it, then create a new restore point right now. On the Configure page, you can control the amount of storage allocated for this function. Mine is about 2.5G.

After doing two major OS upgrades, I have found that the Microsoft update had set protection Off, much to my annoyance, so it's best to check on it.

The restore point is used for the recovery process. If a software update or failure (virus, malware) happens, you can revert back to a time when it was working well. Most major updates automatically do a new restore point prior to installing, and of course you can initiate it

yourself. I usually do this just before installing any major software.

Now for the recovery process. You need to make the bootable recovery drive USB. You boot from the drive in case Windows is broken and cannot start. It needs to be at least 8GB. Put a label on it and save it somewhere obvious, like taped to the PC or hanging from a cord attached to the ceiling.

To create the drive, find "Create a recovery drive" in Search. Be sure to check "Back up system files to the recovery drive". It will tell you to insert a USB drive.

I've had to rescue a user twice now because Windows would not boot. Fortunately, I had been asked to set up his computer when it was new and I had turned System Protection on then. There is much less risk to personal files if a restore point is available. That's it. You can save yourself a couple hundred bucks when your system goes bad and won't start on it's own because you can maybe fix it yourself.

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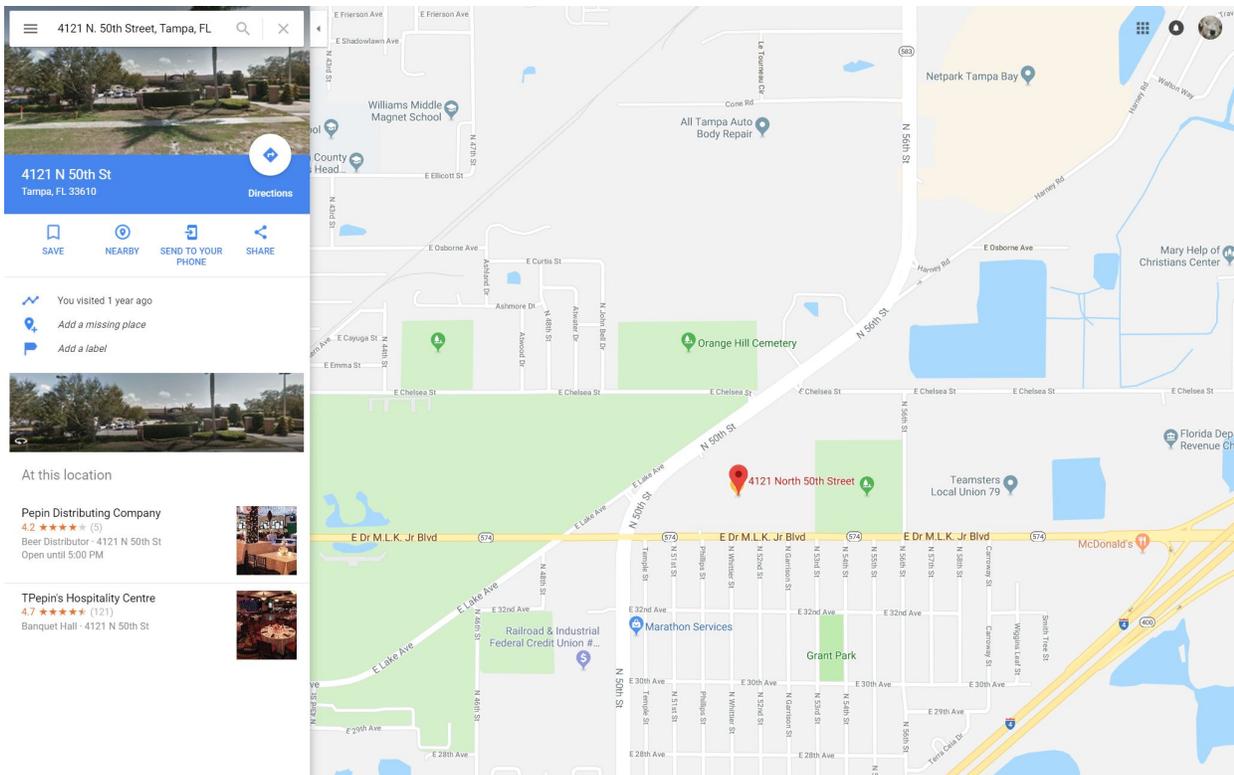
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Affiliations

Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) <http://facug.org>

Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) <http://apcug2.org>



Meeting Location: Pepin Distributing Company, 4121 North 50TH ST, Tampa FL 33610