

# THE C.A.T.S. Eye



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**BRING YOUR LAPTOP WITH YOU TO THE NEXT MEETING!**

## The Chesapeake Area Technology Society (CATS)

### A Somewhat Delayed Welcome Back!

As everyone knows by now, we were “kicked” out of Sever River Middle School less than a week before we were to have our first meeting of the the 2013-2014 Season. It took a while, but with super human effort on Kathy Walker’s part and many phone calls to Recreation and Parks and the school, we were able to get meeting space in the 2nd Floor Media Center at Broadneck Senior High School. The facility is different than what we’re used to at Severn River and because of their schedule, we’ve had to move the main meeting from the 2nd to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. There is an aerial map of the school in this issue, but because of safety concerns, they do not publish a floor plan of the school on line. There is an elevator for handicapped use at the end of the corridor for the main (1st entrance) to the school. The custodial staff has been very accommodating to us and will be available to operate the elevator for anyone who needs it on Wednesday.

*And now, back to our regulary scheduled article.*

I hope everyone has had a great summer! We are kicking off the season of meetings with Fran demonstrating the Linux operating system that is being supplied with the systems in the Refurbishing SIG. This will be the first of many great meetings that we plan to have over the course of the next year. I hope you participate in the meeting agenda and making our organization a great place to learn and express ideas. As mentioned below, we are short in a couple of critical roles in our group. If you can help out with these tasks, it would be greatly appreciated.

#### **HELP WANTED:**

**WEBMASTER-** Our One & Only Web Master, Mike ‘Tony’ DeLucia has chosen to step down from his duties. He has been our only Web Master for many years. He leaves big shoes to fill. We need to replace him with someone who has web design experience and has the time to make the necessary updates to the page.

**SECRETARY -** Our interim Secretary, Joyce Shue is stepping down from her duties. Joyce has done a tireless job of recording club business and promoting our organization in many local publications. We need someone to take over these roles.

If you have interest in these roles, please contact any member of the Board of Directors for more information.

## Alternative Streaming - cont'd

selling VUDU enabled TVs and Blue-ray players from Mitsubishi, Vizio, LG, Magnavox, Philips, Samsung, and Sony. Walmart also offers specials and deals on VUDU movies, including a “99-cent Movie of the Day” over a thousand \$2 - two day rentals. Obviously going after industry leader Netflix, VUDU claims to offer most major studio, newly released DVDs to its customers long before they are available to Netflix’ streaming customers. Specifically, VUDU claims that “Almost all of our movies are available the same day they come out on DVD and Blu-ray” compared to Netflix’ 28 day delay on physical DVDs mailed to rental subscribers, and up to seven years after release to be streamed on Netflix!

Apple is also offering streaming TV and movies through iTunes ([apple.com/itunes/charts/movies](http://apple.com/itunes/charts/movies)). iTunes members can purchase or rent TV shows and movies thru their existing iTunes account and stream them to TV, a computer, iPod, or iPhone. Apple also offers a \$100 hardware device, Apple TV, which allows streaming and downloaded content from iTunes, Netflix, Vimeo, and other sources to be played in 1080p HD on most HD TVs. The Apple TV device can also stream video and games from Apple (iOS) devices, PCs and Macs to TVs. The Apple TV device has HDMI and digital optical output, and can be connected to home networks running 802.11n (also called wireless-N or WiFi-N) or with a traditional Ethernet cable.

With these reasonably priced alternatives to the more traditional sources of electronic entertainment, consumers have some excellent choices. Some (VUDU, Walmart, iTunes, YouTube) offer free membership, where the user only pays for downloaded content, while others such as Netflix and Hulu Plus offer a flat rate of \$7.99 per month, with Amazon Prime available at \$79 per year. With choices like these, anyone with a decent broadband connection has quite a bit to choose from.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER - cont'd

### Upcoming meeting topics

**October 16, 2013** – Fran Damratowski will demonstrate Ubuntu Linux, which will be installed on all PC's that the CRSIG will have made available.

**November 20, 2013** – Mike Young will demonstrate the latest release of Microsoft Office, Office 2013. Mike will show you some of the latest features and some tips and trick on how to best take advantage of this newest release of Office.

Joyce has been trying to schedule the guys from Best Buy for a return visit, but we haven't gotten a date yet. Please let us know of any other meeting topic that you'd like to see in the future.

Hopefully the map below will help you find the school and our new meeting room.

*Michael*



# Support for Windows XP Ends April 8, 2014

by

*Fran Damratowski*

Some of you may love Windows XP, it's a nice stable operating system, but as you may know Microsoft will stop supporting Windows XP on April 8, 2014. Once support stops Windows XP will be vulnerable to attacks by hackers. Here is one of several articles that have been written about the issue. This article is a worst case scenario. You can just keep your anti-malware up to date, but we don't know how long the anti-malware programs will support Windows XP.

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/2046548/windows-xps-retirement-could-spark-a-hacker-feeding-frenzy.html>

If your computer has the minimum system requirements you can just reformat your hard drive and load windows 7.

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/products/system-requirements>

**Windows 7 will be supported until January 14, 2020.**

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/products/lifecycle>

*If your computer does not have the requirements to run Windows 7 you have 3 options:*

1. Buy or build a new computer with Windows 7. There a few of them still out there look for them on line.
2. Buy a Windows 8.1 Pro computer. The official release date is October 18, 2012. There are sales available for Windows 8 especially RT. If you consider one of these look at the differences between the RT and Pro editions. Do a search for Windows 8 RT vs. Windows 8 Pro. Look especially at the processor and software. In a nutshell Windows 8 RT has an ARM based processor and will only run software written specifically for it you will not be able use your legacy software. Windows 8 Pro has an x86 processor so you may be able to run your software.
3. Try a different operating system such as a form of Linux.

At the next meeting Ubuntu a form of Linux will be demonstrated. As a member benefit there will be raffle of an Ubuntu laptop.

- a. Intel Core Duo @2.2 GHz
- b. 2GB RAM
- c. 80 GB Hard Drive

Ten second prizes will also be offered. Five copies of Ubuntu 12.04.2 LTS, on CDs, and five copies of 12.04.3 LTS on DVDs will be offered. The 12.04.3 must be loaded on a DVD because it is over 700 MB, 12.04.2 fits on a CD.

This is a **MEMBERS ONLY** raffle! Members can purchase tickets for \$5 since this is a member benefit guests will not be able to participate in the raffle.

# Free Utilities to Boot and Repair “Crashed” PCs

by  
Ira Wilsker

## WEBSITES:

<http://www.avg.com/us-en/avg-rescue-cd>  
<http://youtu.be/fGX-592qty8> (Video on AVG Rescue CD or USB)  
<http://www.ultimatebootcd.com/index.html>  
<http://partedmagic.com/doku.php?id=programs>  
<http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/probably-best-free-security-list-world.htm?page=0,20>  
<http://support.kaspersky.com/viruses/rescuedisk?level=2>  
<http://esupport.trendmicro.com/solution/en-us/1059379.aspx>  
<http://www.imgburn.com>

One day last week I received a phone call from a prominent media personality asking for help; his Windows 7 computer would not fully boot into either normal Windows mode or safe mode. During the boot process it would either spontaneously reboot before the desktop loaded, or would start to boot when the infamous “Blue Screen of Death” flashed on for just a second or two, and then the computer would self-reboot, and fail again.

I went to his house and found that he had a custom built Windows 7-64 “Professional” machine that was assembled for him by a major local computer store. The machine was about three years old, and had been problem free until this incident occurred. My first steps in trying to get his computer to boot was to carefully observe his boot process, trying to read the error codes on the “Blue Screen” before they flashed off. After several reboots, I noticed that the error codes were inconsistent, as they were different with each reboot.

After several unsuccessful attempts to boot into safe mode, trying safe mode by itself, safe mode with networking, and safe mode command prompt, I finally was able to boot once into regular safe mode. I asked him if he had installed any new software or hardware recently prior to this problem, and he said no. I went to System Restore and found a restore point from a few days prior to this boot problem, checked the utility to see if any files were in jeopardy (none were), and ran the

system restore. The process appeared to complete successfully, and rebooted the computer, but the problem continued; it was in an “infinite loop” of boot - reboot.

I tried several times again to boot into safe mode (F8), with only temporary success. I tried to check his startup using MSCONFIG, but the computer often self-booted too quickly to accomplish the task; after about the fifth attempt, I was able to uncheck everything unnecessary and save the revised startup settings just before the computer rebooted itself again. Fully aware that if it was a malware problem that had impacted his startup process, the malware might not show up in the startup listing. I inquired as to the security system that he had installed on the computer; he replied with the name of a major, very popular, freeware antivirus product. I inquired if it was just the antivirus utility or the entire security suite, and he informed me that it was just the antivirus product. Now I became even more suspicious of the cause of his boot problem, as viruses are now only a small minority of contemporary malware threats, and traditional antivirus software, even when frequently updated, may not provide any protection from the myriad of threats being widely circulated.

I proceeded to boot his computer using a bootable CD that I had with me so I could backup his critical personal files to his external USB hard drive using the included backup utility, and then

*cont'd on Page 6*

**5**

## Free Utilities - cont'd

run several repair utilities that have worked well in the past to boot previously unbootable computers. The bootable CD that I had with me was a well regarded commercial product (not freeware) that had been recently sent to me for review and testing. Despite running each of the included utilities, followed by an on-screen confirmation that they appeared to be successful making changes to his hard drive and critical system files, his computer still would not successfully reboot. Stymied, I offered to return with some additional utilities.

There are some excellent freeware utilities that can be used to create bootable CDs (and in some cases bootable USB drives), and contain a wide variety of repair and recovery utilities. Since they are frequently updated, I chose to download and create fresh CDs of each, rather than use the older CDs that I already had. While most of the computer security software publishers, such as TrendMicro (TrendMicro Rescue Disk) and Kaspersky (Kaspersky Rescue Disk 10), offer a free downloadable utility to create a bootable CD that can detect and clean a malware infected computer, a process that is often adequate to enable a heavily infected computer to successfully reboot, my personal preference is for a bootable CD that can scan for malware as well as offer additional repair utilities that may be useful in repairing damage caused by malware or other issues. My preference is to create bootable CDs rather than bootable USB drives because virtually any CD drive equipped PC can be booted with a CD, but only some of the newer PCs support booting from a USB drive.

While I commonly create four or five different bootable CDs in order to deal with almost any reasonable contingency, there are two that are my primary “go to” CDs. In the event that there might be a malware problem influencing a boot problem, my personal choice is the AVG Rescue CD ([avg.com/us-en/avg-rescue-cd](http://avg.com/us-en/avg-rescue-cd)), a 106mb download that is an ISO formatted file. ISO files cannot simply be burned or copied to a

CD to make it bootable, but must be created using the ISO function included on most CD burning utilities, or by using the excellent free ImgBurn utility ([imgburn.com](http://imgburn.com)) which will quickly and easily utilize the ISO file to create a bootable CD. For those who may prefer a bootable USB drive, a version of AVG Rescue is available that can be used to create a bootable USB drive; for either choice, AVG offers a YouTube with simple instruction on how to use the Rescue service at [youtu.be/fGX-592qy8](http://youtu.be/fGX-592qy8).

Once the bootable device, CD or USB is created, the computer is booted with that device; some computers may need to be set in the BIOS or boot selection choices in order to boot from the chosen device. Once booted using the Rescue CD or USB, a license agreement will be displayed, all hard drives mounted (become accessible), and the AVG will go online in order to download any updates. After following the on-screen prompts (it may be necessary to use the cursor keys, up, down, right, or left), the hard drives can be scanned and the detected malware removed, renamed (typically prevents it from reloading), or ignored. After the successful removal of malware, return to the main menu and select the “Miscellaneous Utilities” if desired; these miscellaneous utilities include a selection of diagnostic programs, file management tools, troubleshooting programs, and repair tools. In my experience, this AVG Rescue CD (or Rescue USB) is typically adequate to clean an infected PC from malware and restore it to operating condition.

For someone that wants “everything including the kitchen sink”, there is an incredibly powerful free utility “Ultimate Boot CD” ([ultimatebootcd.com](http://ultimatebootcd.com)) that may create what is generally accepted as the most comprehensive set of free repair and recovery tools available on any free bootable CD. A huge download, a 561mb ISO file, this file can be used to create a bootable CD using ImgBurn or the ISO function available in most CD burning utilities. For those who prefer creating and using a bootable USB drive, detailed instructions are found under the heading “Making

cont'd on Page 7

UBCD memory stick" online at [ultimatebootcd.com/customize.html](http://ultimatebootcd.com/customize.html). What is so amazing about this "Ultimate Boot CD" is the enormous selection of over 100 diagnostic and repair programs that are included on this CD (or USB drive). When I first boot with the Ultimate Boot CD, I typically perform a malware scan using the included F-PROT and ClamScan security software, cleaning any detected malware, and then using any necessary additional utilities to accomplish my task of repairing the computer, unless the problem is primarily a hardware problem and not a software problem.

While there are often multiple utilities on the Ultimate Boot CD that can perform the same basic functions, the included utilities can be used to reset the BIOS, clean the CMOS, test the CPU chips, examine and repair the master boot record (MBR) and other bootable sectors of the hard drive, reset system passwords, edit and repair the registry, diagnose and manage the hard drives (both generic and brand specific), copy or clone the hard drive, edit or wipe the contents of the disk, install a new hard drive (both generic and brand specific), repair or reset a hard drive partition, test the PC's memory, scan for malware

using multiple anti-malware programs, test the video card and other peripherals, test overall system performance, and generate detailed reports about the computer's hardware. Included on the Ultimate Boot CD is a huge collection of over 100 additional utilities included in the "Parted Magic" collection. This "Parted Magic" group of utilities ([partedmagic.com/doku.php?id=programs](http://partedmagic.com/doku.php?id=programs)) provide extensive extra functionality including hard drive utilities, file system tools, boot loaders, dozens of practical utilities (X Utilities) that enable traditional computer functionality without Windows being loaded, and dozens more "Console Utilities" that offer the user the ability to perform other diagnostic and repair functions.

I have found Ultimate Boot CD to be a most valuable and useful tool in diagnosing and repairing problem computers, and the AVG Rescue CD an effective bootable CD in cleaning the malware from badly infected computers and restoring the computer to full functionality. With both of these free bootable CDs (or bootable USB drives), any technically competent user can easily diagnose and repair most software related problems that may have previously rendered a PC un-bootable.

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## Evaluating Online Health Info - cont'd

The NLM-NIH video also warns about any advertising displayed on the webpage; is it clearly labeled as an advertisement, a common practice on legitimate websites, or is advertising incorporated into the website content, without attribution that some content is advertising. Likewise, NIH-NLM recommends that users check the "Contact Us" information to see if the contact information is complete and realistic, or is simply a contact to reach a webmaster. While not totally within its purview, I like to check the Better Business Bureau website ([bbb.org](http://bbb.org)) for the URL (web address), name, or phone number to attempt to verify the bona fides of the site and those behind

it. A web search for references on Google, Yahoo, Bing, or other search engines may not be totally reliable because unscrupulous website operators also often create bogus secondary websites with glowing reports, or plant glowing reviews in online blogs and social media websites. There are also many cases of people who are paid to post positive reviews in the social media to create a "positive buzz" about a particular company, again to trick people into believing that a crooked website is really legitimate.

The internet should not be used as a substitute for discussing medical concerns with your healthcare practitioner, so if there are any

# Alternative Streaming Video Sources

by  
Ira Wilsker

## WEBSITES:

<http://www.targetticket.com/home/premium>

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

<http://www.hulu.com/plus>

<http://netflix.com>

<http://www.amazon.com/Instant-Video/b?ie=UTF8&node=2858778011>

<http://www.walmart.com/cp/Video-On-Demand-by-VUDU/1084447>

<http://www.vudu.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/movies>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/movies/videos?flow=grid&view=26> (FREE MOVIES)

<http://www.google.com/tv>

<http://www.apple.com/itunes/charts/movies>

Isn't rapidly evolving technology wonderful? While we can still watch a handful of free TV channels over the air with a simple antenna, relatively few people still do. Stores that rent DVDs still exist in relatively small numbers compared to just a few years ago, and VHS rentals have just about gone the way of the dinosaur. There are still thousands of limited selection kiosk type vending machine video rental boxes, typically adjacent to supermarkets, convenience stores, and fast food restaurants, but they still require time and mileage to rent and return videos. Most cable and satellite TV providers offer some form of video streaming on demand at varying prices, but they are now facing significant competition from alternative streaming video services that send TV and movies over the internet directly to the consumer.

On a recent visit to see my grandkids in Georgia, my daughter had full length movies from Netflix streaming on her internet connected flat screen TV in her living room; my three year old granddaughter had an inexpensive Android tablet connected to the home Wi-Fi, and expertly manipulated the screen selecting movies and cartoons on the child-safe "Kids Netflix". For the few who may be totally unaware, Netflix

(netflix.com) is currently the industry leader in streaming movies and TV to computers, smart devices (phones and tablets), TVs, and other network connected devices. According to the Netflix website, "For only \$7.99 a month, you get unlimited movies & TV episodes instantly over the Internet to your TV or computer. There are no commercials, and you can pause, rewind, fast forward or rewatch as often as you like. It's really that easy!" As of June 30, 2013, Netflix had 29.8 million subscribers to its streaming service in the U.S. (an increase of 633,000 in the second quarter of 2013), and another 7.75 million outside the U.S. While originally an online DVD rental company, Netflix has seen dramatic decreases in its DVD members as they mostly switch to streaming videos and TV; as of June 30, Netflix was down to 7.51 million DVD subscribers, a loss of 475,000 subscribers in the same quarter (Source: [news.yahoo.com/numbers-netflix-subscribers-205626746.html](http://news.yahoo.com/numbers-netflix-subscribers-205626746.html).)

While Netflix is the premier streaming video provider, it is by no means the only provider, as other powerhouses including Amazon, Google's YouTube, Google TV, Walmart, hulu, VUDU, iTunes, and now Target join the fray. Amazon claims to have, "Over 150,000 top

## Alternative Streaming - cont'd

movies and TV shows to rent or buy, including thousands available to Amazon Prime members at no additional cost.” While most of the 150,000 movies and TV shows are available for streaming at modest prices, Amazon offers a \$79 per year “Prime” account which includes the streaming of over 15,000 full length movies and 3100 TV shows at no additional charge. The \$79 annual fee for Amazon prime also includes several non-video related services including thousands of “free” Kindle books to “borrow”, and free second day shipping of Amazon products with no minimums.

For the past few years, Google has been quietly offering both free and nominally priced full length movies and TV episodes over its extremely popular YouTube service. As Google expands its “Google TV” ([google.com/tv](http://google.com/tv)) offerings, there is much buzz in the media that Google TV will incorporate the paid YouTube movies, as well as other content into its streaming TV service. According to Google, “As well as making it easier to find stuff to watch from your existing TV service, Google TV enhances the TV you’re used to with over 100,000 movies and TV episodes on demand, thousands of YouTube channels, apps, & more content coming all the time.” At present Google TV requires a fast broadband internet connection along with a compatible connected TV or a converter box, several of which are available from a variety of manufacturers, ranging from the tiny \$35 Google Chromecast HDMI Streaming Media Player, to a variety of more powerful and sophisticated devices that are mostly in the \$75 - \$150 range.

Hulu has been around for several years, initially offering thousands of free commercially sponsored TV episodes (still available), and is now offering its \$7.99 per month Hulu Plus service as a direct competitor to Netflix, with a heavy emphasis on TV shows. Hulu Plus ([hulu.com/plus](http://hulu.com/plus)) can stream directly to almost all smart devices, including phones and tablets, as well as almost any internet connected or networked HDTV, most modern game consoles, Kindle,

Nook, Nintendo, computers, and other streaming media devices.

In recent days, the Target department store chain announced the limited “beta” (pre-release) availability of “Target Ticket” ([targetticket.com](http://targetticket.com)). While still in its early stages, and not yet available to the public, it is currently only available to employees and customers who are part of the store’s REDCard program. Target Ticket has, “... instant access to 15,000 titles, new releases, classic movies and next-day TV, there’s always something new to watch and love.” Target Ticket allows the user to, “... stream or download movies and shows in your library for playback on your PC, Mac, iOS, & Android products.” Members will be able to purchase or rent digital content that can be viewed on smart phones, tablets, TVs, Blu-ray players, and game consoles. At present, Target Ticket offers network TV content from ABC, AMC, CBS, CW, Fox, FX, HBO, The WB, NBC, Showtime, Starz, and USA. As a bonus, Target Ticket will allow users to access some of the newer DVDs before their official release date. Being a commercial service, new movies will be available for purchase, projected to be in the \$12 - \$15 range, with movie rentals around \$4. TV episodes can be rented for about \$3, with entire seasons available for purchase after the end of a season at around \$35.

Walmart has also joined the streaming media craze by partnering with the established streaming provider VUDU ([walmart.com/cp/Video-On-Demand-by-VUDU/1084447](http://walmart.com/cp/Video-On-Demand-by-VUDU/1084447)). With this partnership (or a personal membership directly with [vudu.com](http://vudu.com)), members can rent or purchase the latest videos for immediate streaming that can be viewed on a variety of devices including iPad, PlayStation 3, computers, VUDU-enabled TVs, and compatible Blu-ray disc players. VUDU claims to offer the largest library of HD movies where the users only pay for what they watch, with no subscription or late fees. In its partnership with VUDU, Walmart is

cont'd on Page 10

# Evaluating Online Health Information

by

Ira Wilsker

## WEBSITES:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webeval.html>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webevaldownload.html>

<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer>

Now that the internet is universally available, with most homes having an internet connection, and with almost all smart phones and smart devices having some form of internet connectivity, it is only inevitable that we would use the internet for medical information. As with all other sources of information, the quality and accuracy of medical information varies greatly from reliable to outright dangerous and lethal. A search on any of the search engines for any medical term or drug will display a plethora of information. The problem is that the displayed information may not be reliable as while there are honest and accurate health information resources, possibly the majority are inaccurate. Much of the inaccuracy is due to bias, as parties interested in promoting a particular cause, device, or drug often “spin” or slant the information in order to persuade the viewer into purchasing a particular product.

Several weeks ago, following the news that President Bush received a stent in order to improve blood flow, several “cardiac experts” appeared in the national media and on the internet touting an exciting, new medical device. According to these “experts” a new miracle device could be inexpensively and non-invasively used in any doctor’s office to detect and predict future cardiac events. I looked up the device on the internet and found glowing physician testimonials on the manufacturer’s website, along with a list of physicians that had purchased the device; none of my local physicians were listed as purchasers of the product. Being favorably impressed with what I read on the internet, during a recent, routine office visit, I asked my primary

care physician about the test and device. Fully aware that it is totally normal for physicians to disagree on medical topics, he informed me that the device was of questionable value, has not been universally adopted in the cardiology community, and was (in his opinion) an unproven device of questionable value. While the promoters of the device may be serious about identifying potential cardiac problems, and lowering cardiac risks for patients, a careful rereading of the manufacturer’s website made me slightly suspicious about the efficacy of this particular product.

Internet users may ask themselves about where and how they could find valid and accurate medical information. While no large website has absolute credibility with all users, some websites, such as WebMD, have a very good reputation as they use a peer review system to validate articles and postings.

To try and help consumers find reputable and reliable medical information, the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health (NIH-NLM) has released a 16 minute, self-paced video “Evaluating Internet Health Information: A Tutorial from the National Library of Medicine” available online at [nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webeval.html](http://nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webeval.html). The video requires that the user’s browser has the latest version of Adobe Flash Player installed. If necessary, the site connects to the proper Adobe Flash Player website to download and install the latest version of Flash Player. For those who may prefer to download the presentation to their own computer, rather than view it online, a downloadable version is available as a ZIP file (compressed format usable by Windows),

## Evaluating Online Health Info - cont'd

at [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webevaldownload.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/webeval/webevaldownload.html).

This NIH-NLM video presentation opens with a somewhat provocative warning, "Using the Internet to find health information is like going on a treasure hunt ... you could find some real gems, but you could also end up in some strange and dangerous places !" In a subsequent slide, the NIH-NLM provides the viewer with some questions that you might want to answer before blindly accepting the information presented on the site. These questions are, "Who runs the site? Why have they created the site? What do they want from you? Who is paying for the site? Does the site's information favor the sponsor?" Finding and interpreting the answers to these questions could provide the user with substantial insight as to the accuracy and reliability of the information that is presented.

In my own experience, not stated on the NIH-NLM website, I get especially suspicious when some miracle cure or product is so effective that it claims that a cabal of government agencies and drug makers is trying to suppress the displayed information in order to protect the drug makers' profits from superior competition. Parallel to this, I saw on one particular herbal drug website that was touting miracle cures, weight loss, and the anti-cancer properties of a particular herbal supplement that both of the federal agencies, the FTC and the FDA were trying to ban their miracle product in order to protect the "big pharma" drug companies. The website warned that if the reader was even remotely interested in this product, they need to buy a lot of it right now, and stock up on it, before it is banned by the government, and no longer available. I might see how some conspiracy theorists with their aluminum foil hats might fall for this ploy, but rational readers might be suspicious about this product and the seller that is touting it.

The NIH-NLM video continues with additional questions for the viewer; "Is the information reviewed by experts? Where did

the information come from? Does the site make unbelievable claims? Is it up to date? Do 'they' want your personal information? What do they do with it?" Responses to these inquiries might appear to be self explanatory, but consider the sources of the information; while the author of the page may make the sources sound impressive and credible, a simple web search could uncover additional, possibly contradictory information. Consider the desperation of people with advanced stage cancer, crippling orthopedic problems, complications of diabetes, and other debilitating illnesses. Do another web search for any of the above ailments, and there are multitudes of websites offering unbelievable cure rates, miracle surgeries in foreign clinics, and rare non-conventional drug treatments. For some outrageous sums of money, these websites can "guarantee" a cure of whatever malady ails you.

In the NIH-NLM video is an example of how misleading information can be found on the internet. Using a fictitious high cholesterol example, the video displays two impressive (but fake) sample websites to demonstrate how charlatans ensnare the unwary. One of these faux websites has the impressive moniker "Institute for a Healthier Heart", while the other is an equally impressive "Physicians Academy for Better Health". At first glance these sites appear to be very professional, and include some truthful and readily available information on cholesterol. This apparent "first impression" of credibility can trap the user into falsely believing that the other content is also truthful, when in reality it borders on fraud. The NIH-NLM video recommends that users click on the "About Us" link to get information on the people or organization running the website, but keep in mind that people who will mislead a user into entrusting them with untold sums of money promising miracles, may also be less than honest about their identities on the "About Us" page.

cont'd on Page 7

The Next Regular Meeting will be at  
The Broadneck Senior High School

**Wednesday**  
**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Meeting will be held in the 2nd Floor Media  
Room at BSHS.

It starts at 7:00 P.M. with club business  
and a short discussion period.

*You're invited to a presentation*

*on*

**Ubuntu Linux**

*by*

***Fran Damratowski***

Members and their friends are welcome to  
come, ask questions and become enlightened.

## How to Find: Broadneck Senior High School

BSHS is close to Cape St. Claire, MD. From Annapolis and points south, take Rt. 50 East towards the Bay Bridge. Take Exit 29 B (cross over Rt. 50) at the light, turn **LEFT** on College Parkway, at next light , then **RIGHT** on Greenholly Drive. At the first light, turn **Right** on to the road that leads to the school and the Broadneck Public Library. BSHS will be ahead and slightly to your left. (Of course, if you are coming from points North, you could turn left onto College Parkway) and follow it 4.1 miles & turn **LEFT** on Greenholly. The first entrance you see, is the **Main Entrance, the left door has been open at 7 pm.** Go through the second set of doors and follow the corridor to the staircase. The Media Room is on the second floor, just off the stairs. Signs will be posted to direct you to the **MEDIA ROOM** where we will be meeting.

**The meetings are held at the BSHS in the  
Media Room.**

The Chesapeake Area Technology Society



1783 Forest Drive #285  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**FIRST CLASS**

### INSIDE THIS VERY ISSUE!

President's Corner  
Windows XP- The End  
Free Crash Utilities  
Alternative Streaming - Video  
Evaluating Online Health Info  
*.... and nothing more!*

**Note:** The date above your name on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership. Contact the Membership Chairman (page 2, column 2) to update.

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