

# THE PRINTER

Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

It's the middle of winter and many people have extra time to use their computers. Please let everyone know when you find an interesting website or program that others may also find useful.

If you have a laptop, please bring it to future meetings to *"follow along"* with the presentation. We have a wireless router that keeps an open Wi-Fi connection and if necessary, we can connect your laptop to the projector and allow you to show any issues or questions that you may have.

#### Live Drive for all members!

Over the past year or so we have discussed the importance of making backups of your data. Specifically we have discussed in depth the importance of keeping your backed up data off site. Now the Chesapeake PC Users Group is offering a **FREE** membership to the Live Drive ([www.livedrive.com](http://www.livedrive.com)) backup service. If you would like an account, please send an e-mail to [president@chpcug.org](mailto:president@chpcug.org) and request a Live Drive account.

This is an unlimited account. You can backup an unlimited amount of data from an unlimited number of computers. With the Live Drive service you can also restore your data to any other computer. An example of this would be; you have your data backed up, a catastrophe happens and your computer is completely destroyed. So

you get a new computer. You can restore all the data to the new system. It's that easy!

We try to give you value for your membership donation and this is one example. Similar backup services normally cost about \$60 a year. Please take advantage of Live Drive as well as the many other services provided by **YOUR** users group.

#### Upcoming meeting topics

**March 14** – Abby Stokes, author of *"Is This Thing On?"* will discuss her book. *"IS THIS THING ON?"*, a Computer Handbook for Late Bloomers, Technophobes, and the Kicking & Screaming.

**April 11** – Fran Damratowski will discuss PowerPoint 2010. She will show how to make a simple PowerPoint presentation. Be sure to bring your laptop, with PowerPoint loaded, to follow along and ask questions.

**May 9** – Mike Young will give an overview of new digital cameras, in particular Micro 4/3's cameras.

**June 6** – Bring in your toys and favorite software - Smart Phones, Tablets and other fun toys!

*See you at the next meeting!*

*Michael*

# Stellarium - cont'd



The default system includes 600,000 stars along with a full Messier catalog of Nebulae. The constellations of 10 different cultures are included. Various upgrade modules, plug-ins, and scripts exist (for example, you can expand to view over 200 million stars). Depending upon your needs, you can change the projected view of the sky – stereoscopic, fish-eye, cylindrical, etc. There is a text-entry search window quickly locate objects.

Download a free copy at [stellarium.org](http://stellarium.org) (Linux users, find with your package manager). Smartphone versions are available for iOS (Android users, use Google Sky instead).

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# OFFICERS

## President

**Mike Young.....(410) 551-4411**  
**president@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Vice President

**Mike Regimenti.....(301) 509-6091**  
**vice-president@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Co-Treasurers

**Kathy Walker (410) 268-3860 Bill Somers (410) 647-9429**  
**treasurer@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Acting Secretary

**Joyce Shue.....(410) 263-3510**  
**secretary@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Publisher/Editor

**Mike Regimenti.....(301) 509-6091**  
**editor@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

# CHAIRPERSONS

## Programs Chairperson

**Craig Barlow.....(410) 266-6829**  
**programs@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Education Chairperson

**Sam Shepherd.....(410) 647-6077**  
**education@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Membership Chairpersons

**Margaret Duggan.....(410) 647-2722**  
**membership@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Public Relations Chairperson

**Joyce Shue.....(410) 263-3510**  
**pr@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

## New Users Group

**Sam Shepherd.....(410) 647-6077**  
**MidShore Computer Users Group SIG**

**George Ireland ..... (410) 745-2361**  
**mscug@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Technology SIG

**Mike Regimenti.....(301) 509-6091**  
**internet@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Computer Refurbishing SIG

**Fran Damratowski.....(410) 923-1550**  
**refurbishing@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

## Webmeister

**Mike DeLucia.....(410) 721-2991**  
**webmeister@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org**

# Prepare and File Your Federal Income Taxes for Free

by  
Ira Wilsker

## WEBSITES:

<https://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-income-tax-filing-software.htm>

<http://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/>

<http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=118986,00.html?portlet=106>

<https://www.freefilefillableforms.com>

[https://www.taxact.com/s\\_taxact/free\\_taxact.asp](https://www.taxact.com/s_taxact/free_taxact.asp)

It is that time of year again. We are in the process of receiving W-2 forms, 1099's of various types, and other documents that we will need in order to prepare our income taxes. While many people still use the paper-pencil-calculator method of completing the mandated Federal tax forms, there are a variety of free online and downloadable tax software packages that are available, as well as several popular commercially available income tax packages, with TurboTax and H&R Block at Home (formerly known as TaxCut) being the top selling commercial packages. For those who prefer to have others prepare their taxes, CPA firms and store front tax services are readily available.

As it has done in the past, the IRS has compiled a list of 16 approved online tax preparation services on its FreeFile website ([apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/](http://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/)) that will for free, prepare and e-file Federal income taxes for eligible individuals. While the eligibility standards for each of the IRS listed free services varies, the IRS still claims that about 70% of all individuals are eligible for the free filing services. What is new is that the IRS (through a third party, [www.freefilefillableforms.com](http://www.freefilefillableforms.com)) has now made electronic versions of many of its forms available which can be completed by anyone for free, and e-filed without using one of the other free online services or other commercial tax preparation products. These free fillable forms

can be filled out on the computer or printed and filled in by hand, and then e-filed. Unlike the online and commercial tax software that computes the users' taxes, the free fillable forms are just interactive blank forms, and do not carry out any calculations or give any advice.

Something else that is available this year is an independent third-party rating of the free tax services by Gizmo's TechSupportAlert.com. The Gizmo community based service has tested and rated all of the free tax services listed on the IRS FreeFile website, and has posted its reviews, ratings, and recommendations ([www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-income-tax-filing-software.htm](http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-income-tax-filing-software.htm)). While the IRS FreeFile list has 16 services listed, the Gizmo ratings can only recommend eight of those listed. In addition to the eight free online services recommended by Gizmo, there is also one top-rated "10 Star" stand-alone tax program that can be downloaded and run on the user's computer. This downloadable free program is TaxACT Free Edition, and has earned "Gizmo's Freeware award as the best product in its class!" ([www.taxact.com/s\\_taxact/free\\_taxact.asp](http://www.taxact.com/s_taxact/free_taxact.asp)). Available for Windows computers only, this free program is limited to a single tax return, but can process almost all Federal forms and schedules. College students may find TaxACT Free Edition helpful as it also includes a "College Student Financial aid worksheet".

Gizmo's community of reviewers, in its ratings and evaluations, has recommended the following free online tax preparation services in this order based on their overall score: TaxACT Free Edition Online (rated a "10"), was also

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# Old “Windows Tech Support” Scam Hits Locally

by  
*Ira Wilsker*

## WEBSITES:

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/avoid-phone-scams.aspx>

[http://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/windows\\_vista-security/scam-phone-call-claiming-to-be-from-windows/193f0a33-4ad9-4a07-96eb-9a7e3debb269](http://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/windows_vista-security/scam-phone-call-claiming-to-be-from-windows/193f0a33-4ad9-4a07-96eb-9a7e3debb269)

[http://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/windows\\_xp-security/phone-call-scam-received-call-from-a-technician/6ed2b99c-20ff-468b-a69b-aec78b93f287](http://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/windows_xp-security/phone-call-scam-received-call-from-a-technician/6ed2b99c-20ff-468b-a69b-aec78b93f287)

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/06/16/tech\\_support\\_scam\\_calls/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/06/16/tech_support_scam_calls/)

<http://windowssecrets.com/top-story/watch-out-for-microsoft-tech-support-scams/>

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/phonefraud/report.shtml>

<https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>

Yesterday I received an email from a member of the local computer club about a phone call that she had just received. “I received a call on my home phone today from someone named “Janet” who claimed to be from the “Tech Department at Windows”. She said they detected a virus on my computer and that if I would get on the computer now she could tell me how to correct it. She told me that the virus was slowly eating away at my computer. I told her I was busy and would have to call her back. I asked for her phone number, which she gave me - 347-489-xxxx. She had a very thick accent - probably Indian. I assume this is a scam?” Yes, it is a well

documented scam that has resulted in big losses for a lot of people who do as the caller says.

What often happens with this scam, is the callers ask you to turn on the remote access feature built into Windows that allows remote servicing. Once the caller has access to your computer, they may steal usernames, passwords, address books, personal information, and other valuable data. They may also plant keyloggers to capture any banking information, logins, and other sensitive information, all for the purpose of identity theft. They also often plant other types of malware as well, and often try to sell additional services to the user. Most of these calls are VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol, phone calls placed over the internet) and often come from Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Ukraine, Nigeria, China, and other unfriendly places. In the example above “Janet” gave a Manhattan phone number which either was false, or it was a portal on to a VoIP system that could be picked up anywhere in the world.

In an article published in The Register (UK) last summer, citing a recent Microsoft security survey, this fake tech support scam is very widespread. Microsoft surveyed 7,000 computer users in the UK, Ireland, US, and Canada and found an average of 16 per cent of people had received such calls. According to Microsoft, these scammers allege that they are calling from Microsoft or a recognized security software company, and inform the victim that his computer is infected, and that the caller will perform a free security check, or otherwise clean the malware off of the computer. According to a posting by Microsoft, the callers most often claim

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# Beyond Bullet Points: Using Microsoft PowerPoint to Create Presentations That Inform, Motivate, and Inspire

by

*Cliff Atkinson, Microsoft Press / O'Reilly*

*Reviewed by Greg West, Vice President, Sarnia CUG, Canada*

All of us have had, or were forced, to sit through a PowerPoint presentation wishing we were somewhere else. The speaker was so boring, the presentation slides were cheesy and extremely confusing, and our insides screamed for us to get up and leave the room.

Beyond Bullet Points is designed in such a way that this will never happen when you give your next presentation. This book takes us through the proper steps in creating the most interesting and very definitive presentation possible. Here is where we learn the importance of telling a story with our slides. Layout is another import issue that is fully covered in Chapter 4: "Planning Your First Five Slides." This is where you learn how to grab your audience right away and keep them focused on your presentation.

You will learn why graphics are so important and how they can make or break a presentation. Chapter 8 is where the fun begins as you learn how to add graphics to various areas within your slides. You will learn how to use the graphics you already have on your computer, and how to get graphics from "Stock Photography Web Sites".

Your PowerPoint presentation comes together in Chapter 9: "Delivering Your...Presentation". The amateur presenters are separated from the professionals. This chapter prepares you for the delivery of your presentation. Here you are shown the basic ground rules for removing distractions, prompting a dialogue and how to enhance your presentation effectively.

A real treat is found in Appendix A where ground rules and checklists act as an overview ensuring you have created a very professional presentation. Added features: This book comes with website links for "Companion Content" with key tools and a bonus Chapter 11, introducing a "Visual Improv," PDF version of the ground rules and checklists. You also get a voucher for your free online version of this book. For anyone who is serious about their presentations, this book is a keeper.

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## Google killer - cont'd

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though each of the businesses will continue to frame it that way. Each of them will seek methods to keep their product locked into its own ecosystem....even Google with their "free," "open source," platform will be undergoing some growing pains trying to leverage control in the arena. But I think there is still a lot of room for all

the contenders to continue to grow and develop. The core of the article is accurate. Google is in no danger of being killed by Siri. "Basically, Siri itself doesn't pose a threat to Google. It is an Assistant, not a search engine. It utilizes pre-existing search mechanisms to access and acquire information."

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# ICE Your Cell Phone - Save Your Life

by

*Sandy Berger, CompuKISS*

*Sandy (at) compukiss.com*

*www.compukiss.com*

You may have never heard of the ACEP, American College of Emergency Physicians, but their new consumer website is one you might want to visit. With the number of emergency room visits growing rapidly, this organization has put together a website where patients can access health information, share stories, and get involved in advocacy efforts. [www.acep.org](http://www.acep.org)

Visits to the emergency department hit a new high in 2006. A record 119.2 million people, up from 115 million, were recorded by the Centers for Disease Control, with an average of 227 visits per minute. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) predicts those numbers will only keep rising.

According to the report, age groups with the highest visit rates were infants under 12 months of age and those over the age of 75. In fact, people aged 65 and older are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population and are the most likely to be admitted to the hospital of all emergency patients. Researchers conclude that visits for patients between 65 and 74 could nearly double from 64 million in 2003 to 111.7 million by 2013. Despite these numbers, emergency departments continue to close - causing delays for people with serious medical conditions like heart attacks.

In honor of its 40th anniversary, ACEP will be making available video clips featuring emergency medicine pioneers, vintage photographs and

radio public service announcements. In addition, the organization is launching a new consumer website, [EmergencyCareForYou.org](http://EmergencyCareForYou.org), which features extensive public information. The year-long campaign is sponsored in part by General Motors OnStar, Ultrasonix and ZOLL Medical Corporation.

The [EmergencyCareForYou](http://EmergencyCareForYou.org) website is a comprehensive site that you will want to visit. It has information on everything from “how to tell if it is an emergency” to “family disaster preparedness”.

One important section of this website talks about how “ICE” and Your Cell Phone Can Help Save Your Life.

The website states, “Emergency physicians are recommending that people with cellular phones add “ICE” entries into their cell phone address books. This stands for “In Case of Emergency,” and medical professionals are using it to notify the person’s emergency contacts and to obtain critical medical information when a patient arrives unconscious or unable to answer questions.”

I didn’t know about this, yet it sounds like a great idea! Check it out. It may save your life. More information can be found at the [ICEforHelp](http://ICEforHelp) website. [www.iceforhelp.com](http://www.iceforhelp.com)

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# Stellarium

by

Cal Esneault, President of the Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA

and leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGs

December 2011 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News

<http://cccclinuxsig.pbwiki.com>

[www.clickers.org](http://www.clickers.org)

ccnewsletter (at) cox.net



In my youth, I would take a copy of my uncle's *Star and Telescope* magazine and go to the center section to use the two-page star map guide. Twisting and turning the map to match my view, the many constellations and other night time wonders of the universe could be identified. Today, we can use vastly superior computerized versions to guide us through the night sky. One excellent program is *Stellarium*, an open-source program available for *Windows*, *Mac OS X*, *Linux*, and *BSD* operating systems. Although there are more sophisticated programs designed for professional and advanced amateur stargazers, *Stellarium* fits in the "fun" group by providing simple but detailed functions in a user friendly manner. The essential concept is to get an annotated view of a portion of the sky, adjusted for location and desired viewing time, which can be adjusted horizontally and vertically to match your viewing perspective.

Initial use can be confusing. It starts up in full screen mode with no menu items visible. Move your mouse to the left or bottom border to activate the command tool bars (see below). Those items on the bottom turn on the various viewing items (constellation names, constellation connectors, planet id's, horizon types, etc.). Those items on the left set up the system controls (location, time, item luminosity to display, etc.).



The default location is Paris, France. Go to the "Location window" icon to choose your city from a dropdown list (or input latitude and longitude). Next, go to the "Date/time window" to set your local time. By using up/down arrow controls you can see what the sky will look like at any future or past time (for example, what can I see if I go out tonight at 10:00 PM?).

Below is a screenshot of a night time view. I have added an azimuthal grid and constellation connectors. If you have a telescope with an equatorial mount, you can also display an equatorial grid. Clicking on any object will display key information (apparent magnitude, hour angle and declination, and azimuthal information updated for passage of time). Using the "ocular" view, you can see any listed object as viewed by a telescope of approximately 80x magnification.

cont'd on Page 2

# but, is Siri a Google killer?

by

Linda Gonse, Editor/Webmaster, Orange County PCUG, California

December 2011 issue, nibbles & bits

[www.orcopug.org](http://www.orcopug.org)

editor (at) orcopug.org

The following two points of view offer interesting observations projecting the value and usefulness, and duplication of Siri in other OSs. Siri is an artificial intelligence feature built into the iPhone 4S. David Coursey begins. He has been a tech writer for the past 25 years for major computer publications. Rebutting Coursey's article is Jon Jones, NCMUG's newsletter editor and president of Lunarparcel Media. His videos explaining 4S iPhone features, such as Siri, are at <http://bit.ly/vPOZcy>. — Linda Gonse

To start, in his Five Reasons Siri Is Not A Google Killer on Forbes.com, David Coursey said, "I don't mean to minimize the impact Siri will have on mobile devices, remote controls, etc. But, we are very early in the game and saying that Siri is going to kill anything is way premature. Let's revisit this in a year and see what the competitive landscape and Siri's market share look like then. "I understand how much many in the Apple community want something bad — really bad — to happen to Google, but I don't think it's Siri, at least not yet." <http://onforb.es/v7mAuK>

Jon Jones responds: "Interesting points. I think he's mostly right, but not all of the points are on target. In Point 3, he seems to make the mistake of categorizing iPhone users as the "typical Apple devotee" niche, and that's just not the case at all. Most iPhone users couldn't care less about Apple, and don't own or use other Apple products.

"He's also a bit zealous in his statement about Google's inherent wisdom in Point 4. I wouldn't give them such latitude. They do their share of experimentation to see what sticks, and will continue to make bad calls along the way, just as everyone else exploring new territory will as well.

"While it is definitely true that Siri heralds the developing method in which folks will typically engage their technology, it will in no way be a Google killer. I think folks just use that type of

terminology to be sensationalistic and baiting. While Eric Schmidt has categorized Siri as a threat to Google, the reality is that some of Siri's functionality still finds Google's fingerprints under the hood, as well as a significant helping of Wolfram Alpha's mojo, which was also posited as a Google killer, which was never to be. They're different animals living in the same zoo. In broadcast news terms, Google is the info coming off the wire, and Wolfram Alpha is the guest commentator framing it for viewers. Siri is up on the roof re-positioning the rabbit ears.

"By that analogy, I mean both Google and Wolfram Alpha have demonstrated their unique approaches to gathering and presenting their data. I equate Google with a straight up clinical presentation of data. Wolfram Alpha serves more to contextualize the data for practical use, and Siri provides a more convenient method of tuning in to these pre-existing channels of accessing data — whether that is through a simple search, or a more intelligent and nuanced exploration of relevance.

"Google already has some of the basic framework on how a similar interface might be realized, and they've been ahead of the game on that front for quite a while. What they are lacking is the AI component that Apple invested in, but I know that both they, as well as Microsoft, have been exploring similar avenues for a while. I personally don't see this in the context of competitiveness,

*cont'd on Page 5*



to be calling from Windows Helpdesk, Windows Service Center, Microsoft Tech Support, Microsoft Support, Windows Technical Department Support Group, or the Microsoft Research and Development Team (Microsoft R & D Team). Of those receiving one of these scam phone calls, about one person in five followed the scammers’ instructions, and gave the criminal remote access to their computers. Once that access has been granted, the crooks typically load malware onto the computer, opening the computer to future attack.

A common type of felony crime committed by these crooks is identity theft, where either by accessing files or by installing keyloggers (malware that records keystrokes and sends them to a remote location), the criminal can steal banking information, credit card information, user names, passwords, security questions, and other valuable personal information. In some cases the crooks, in an action reminiscent to the infamous “rogue antivirus” scams, asks for the victims’ credit card information in order to pay for the service or for the sale of security software. While nothing is really purchased, a charge does show up on the victims’ credit account, and the credit card information is also likely to be posted for sale on illicit websites where credit card information is bought and sold for the purpose of fraudulent transactions.

According to the Microsoft survey findings, 79 percent of those who allowed the illicit remote access to their computers suffered identified financial losses, ranging from a low of \$82 to a high of \$1560, with an average financial loss of \$875. In addition to financial losses, the malware that may be loaded onto the computer may be used to provide a continuing revenue stream to the crooks by using the compromised computer as a part of a “botnet” (remotely controlled collection of hijacked computers) to send out spam email by the thousands, for which the crook charges his clients a fee. Of course the

spam, and any related scams or pornography sent in the spam emails, cannot be tracked back to the creator of the spam or the crook who hijacked the computer, but instead would track back directly to the victim’s computer.

While not likely, it is possible that Microsoft or one of its authorized partners may contact a computer user about a security related issue. On the Microsoft website ([www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/avoid-phone-scams.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/avoid-phone-scams.aspx)), they explain the explicit times and circumstances in which Microsoft may contact a user directly. “There are some cases where Microsoft will work with your Internet service provider and call you to fix a malware-infected computer—such as during the recent cleanup effort begun in our botnet takedown actions. These calls will be made by someone with whom you can verify you already are a customer. You will never receive a legitimate call from Microsoft or our partners to charge you for computer fixes.” Microsoft warns that if you receive a phone call claiming to be from Microsoft, do not purchase any software or services offered by the caller, or if there is some type of subscription fee attached to the support offer. Microsoft also warns not to allow remote access to your computer unless you can confirm that the other party, “... is a legitimate representative of a computer support team with whom you are already a customer.” It is imperative that you should never give any personal, financial, or credit card information to any caller who says that he is from Microsoft Technical Support, because a legitimate Microsoft representative would never ask for such information. Even if the caller provides a phone number that you can use to return the call, that does not mean that the phone number is an authentic Microsoft location, because whoever answers the phone can falsely answer with “Microsoft”, and with VoIP, the call can be routed anywhere in the world, even if the phone number looks realistic.

*cont’d on Page 11*

## Free Tax Prep - cont'd

listed as “Gizmo’s Freeware award as the best product in its class!”; H&R Block’s Free File (9 star rating), which also offers free state filing for residents of AL, AR, GA, IN, MI, MN, MO, NY, NC, OK, OR, SC, VA; TaxHawk (8 star rating); FreeTaxUSA IRS Free File Edition (8 stars); FileYourTaxes.com (7 stars); Jackson Hewitt Online (6 stars); TaxSlayer (6 stars); and TurboTax Freedom Edition (6 stars).

The Gizmo community also reviewed the IRS’ new “IRS Free File Fillable Forms”, but only gave it a rating of 5 stars (below Gizmo’s minimum recommended rating of 6 stars). While these free fillable forms are available to everyone, without limitations, Gizmo states that these, “... online versions of paper forms [are] designed for people comfortable preparing their own tax returns. No interview process. No help screens. Many values must be transferred manually from the Schedules to other places in the return. Many calculations must be done manually, ... Federal only, no state returns.”

While the IRS claims that 70% of taxpayers can use the free online tax services for preparing and e-filing their taxes, eligibility for each of the 16 listed services varies. Generally, users of these free online services must have an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$57,000 or less (the \$57,000 AGI is the upper limit for the IRS approved FreeFile services), with some services having even lower eligibility requirements. The TurboTax Freedom Edition is one example, offering its free service to anyone with an adjusted gross income of \$31,000 or less, unless active duty military, then the \$57,000 or less eligibility kicks in. Anyone eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit can also use the TurboTax Freedom Edition. Several of the services have eligibility restrictions based on the states of residence, and are either available only to residents of certain specified states, or are available to the

residents of any states except those explicitly listed. For example, there are several of the free filing services listed by the IRS that are available to residents of most states, but not Texas (and others). Those services as listed by the IRS that are explicitly not available to Texas residents are OnlineTaxPros.com, Free1040TaxReturn, Tax Simple, 1040NOW.NET, and ezTaxReturn.com. The other 11 free services listed by the IRS allow eligible Texas residents to use their services. Some of the services are for the residents of all states, while a few are only for residents of a small number of states; obviously this can be a strong influence on which service to select based on the state of residency.

Some of the free services are only available for tax payers of certain age ranges (with some exceptions); TaxSlayer is for people age 25 or younger (with some exceptions), while FreeTaxUSA IRS Free File Edition is only available to people between the ages of 23 and 64. 1040NOW.NET is for age 72 or younger, while Free TaxACT is for those between 19 and 55. Details and eligibility requirements for each of the IRS approved FreeFile providers is available on the IRS website at [apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile](http://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile), and should be reviewed before selecting a free online tax preparation service.

Since the eight Gizmo top-rated free online tax preparation services, and the free downloadable software from TaxAct, all use an interview method to collect relevant tax information, make all necessary calculations, and check for errors before e-filing, those would be the ones that I would recommend to eligible taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$57,000. Since 70% of taxpayers can use these free online services to prepare and e-file their federal income taxes, eligible taxpayers can save a lot of time and money by utilizing these services.

If by some chance you have fallen for this scam, look at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website “Reporting Phone Fraud” at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/phonefraud/report.shtml](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/phonefraud/report.shtml) and follow the contact instructions provided. It would also be prudent to perform a security scan with one or more of the free malware scanners such as MalwareBytes ([malwarebytes.org](http://malwarebytes.org)) or SuperAntiSpyware ([superantispyware.com](http://superantispyware.com)). Since much of the contemporary crop of malware is engineered to protect itself, if these malware scanners will not load and run, it is then very likely that the computer is badly infected, and may require a more sophisticated malware removal process. If the security report scan indicates that the computer is clean, it would be wise to change all of your passwords (email, banking, eBay, PayPal, etc.), and to contact your financial institutions and credit card companies to inform them that you may have been the victim of fraud. Since it is possible that the phone crook

deactivated or neutralized your security software, it may also be a good idea to reinstall and update your security software.

It is a sad state of affairs that any of us may fall victim to criminal activity at any time, but in this case the crook does not use a weapon, but instead a caring, often female, voice offering to help us clean our “infected” computers. With an average loss, as reported by Microsoft, of \$875, and the ability of the crooks to make thousands of such calls a day, the aggregate losses will be very substantial. Still, as an individual, not many of us can readily absorb an \$875 loss. If you get a call from some permutation of “Microsoft Technical Support” informing you that your computer is infected, and either for free or for a fee they offer to clean it for you, simply hang up. Although in a different context, and over 25 years ago, Nancy Reagan gave the best advice when she said, “Just say NO!”



**FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**  
PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

**NOTE:** You will need to have Javascript enabled in order to use the FTC Consumer Assistant.

## Before You Submit a Complaint

The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, collects complaints about companies, business practices, and identity theft under the FTC Act and other laws we enforce or administer.

**Why:** Your complaints can help us detect patterns of wrong-doing, and lead to investigations and prosecutions. The FTC enters all complaints it receives into Consumer Sentinel, a secure online database that is used by thousands of civil and criminal law enforcement authorities worldwide. **The FTC does not resolve individual consumer complaints.**

**Your Privacy:** How much personal information you provide is up to you. If you don't provide your name and certain other information, it may be impossible for us to refer, respond to, or investigate your complaint. To learn more about this information collection and its purpose, authority and use, read our [Privacy Act Statement](#).



Click here for the Complaint Assistant form

Click [here](#) to file a complaint with the FTC.

Haga clic [aquí](#) para acceder al Asistente de Quejas de la FTC en Español.

The Next Regular Meeting will be at  
The Severn River Middle School

**Wednesday**  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Meeting will be held in the large meeting room.

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

*You're invited to a presentation*

*of her book*

**“Is This Thing On”**

*by*

**Abby Stokes**

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

## How to Find: Severn River Middle School

SRMS is close to the Arnold, MD campus of the Anne Arundel Community College. From Annapolis and points south, take Rte 2 (Ritchie Highway) north about 3 miles from the intersection of Rt. 50, **turn right on College Parkway**. At the first light, turn left on Peninsula Farm Road. (Of course, if you are coming from points North, you would turn left onto College Parkway) about a half-mile down the road the large SRMS school building, set back off a large two level parking lot, will be visible on your right. Park here and go to the main entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the **Large Group Room** where we will be meeting.

**How to find: The Technology SIG, A ChPCUG  
Special Interest Group\*\***

The meetings are held at the SRMS in the Library.



1783 Forest Drive #285  
Annapolis, MD 21401

FIRST CLASS

## INSIDE THIS VERY ISSUE!

President's Corner  
Stellarium  
Google Killer  
Free Tax Prep  
Windows Tech Scam  
.... and a little bit 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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