THE PRINTER

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BRING YOUR LAPTOP WITH YOU TO THE NEXT MEETING!

Welcome Spring!?

The weather is supposed to get warmer, we can only hope… In the meantime, we have some HOT! HOT! topics to discuss at our upcoming meetings.

Please take a few moments to read Joyce Shue's article about Rebranding ChPCUG on Page 3 and two timely articles by Ira Wilsker, *On the Shelves Now, New Technology Replacing Old Standbys* on Page 4 and *Is Windows Going the Way of the Dinosaur?* on Page 8.

Vote on a new name

At the March meeting the members voted to change our name. Since we did not have a quorum at the April meeting, the vote on the new name was postponed until May. We need to re-think how our organization is perceived by the public. I am proposing that we change our name to reflect the changing times. Very few of our meeting topics are actually just about PCs any more and encompass the ever changing world of technology generally. I propose that we change our name to the **C**hesapeake **A**rea **T**echnology **S**ociety (**CATS**). As a reminder, this is a DBA (Doing Business As) name and not a change to the incorporated organization.

You are welcome to suggest other names for the group and we will hold a vote on each suggestion.

Upcoming meeting topics

May 8, 2013 – Windows 7 tips and tricks with Sam Shepherd.   Vote on the name.

June 5, 2013 - Last meeting of the Season! User Utilities and Show and Tell from everyone! This is the meeting that you should bring your favorite Utilities, Websites, or Tech Toys!
                    REMEMBER THIS MEETING IS ON THE 1ST WEDNESDAY OF JUNE!

September 11, 2013 – Fran Damratowski will demonstrate Ubuntu Linux, which will be installed on all PC's the CRSIG makes available.

October 9, 2013 – Mike Young will demonstrate the latest release of Microsoft Office, Office 2013 highlighting the latest features and tips.

We have a very full and exciting agenda over the next two months.

Michael

Way of the Dinosaur? - cont'd

Windows 8, codenamed "Blue", which will be released as Windows 8.1. The new product will likely be rolled out at a software developers' conference in San Francisco, to be held June 26-28. Supposedly, Microsoft is well aware that the current iteration of Windows 8 is too touch screen focused and is not very intuitive (one Microsoft VP allegedly used the word " counterintuitive" in a blog post on Windows 8). "Product leaders across Microsoft are working together on plans to advance our devices and services, a set of plans referred to internally as Blue," wrote Frank X. Shaw, corporate vice president of corporate communications at Microsoft. Among the changes and improvements rumored to be included in Windows 8.1 includes resizable tiles (already available in Windows 8 smart phones), and the ability to customize the Start Screen without having to go through the Desktop Control Panel. Other rumored improvements to Windows 8.1 includes the ability to "snap" two windows side-by-side, as well as to optionally display four running applications on the display (source: foxnews.com/tech/2013/03/26/windows-8-update-coming-this-summer).

Will "Blue" be able to save Windows 8 from the dustbin of failed operating systems, and stop the hemorrhage of market share currently being suffered by Microsoft? Will Microsoft even survive as a corporation in its current form, as other operating systems win away market share for new technology smart devices, for which Microsoft is currently only a bit player? Is Microsoft the "Titanic" of the software industry, unable to turn in time to avoid disaster? Only time will tell. Good luck Microsoft; I have used your products faithfully for almost 30 years, and would hate to see you go the way of your long ago nemesis, IBM's OS/2.

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) 266-6317   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

Betsy Fravel.......................................**(410) 703-1425**
       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**

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

Rebranding of Chesapeake Personal Computer Users Group's Name

by
Joyce Shue
Chairperson Public Relations and Acting Secretary

Changing the name or rebranding (as it is called in private industry) of the Chesapeake Personal Computer Users Group is a change with the times. Just like the evolution of the personal computers to the smartphones, the computer technology field is in rapid transition. Laptops first started eroding the purchasing of personal computers and now ultrabooks, tablets and smartphones are taking over and out selling personal computers and laptops.

Change is hard and the new devices present a learning curve however one needs to embrace these new devices. Learning how to operate new devices is a pain however it can be rewarding. When you look around in public you realize that we are now in a world that loves these new mobile technology devices. The time has come for our group's name to reflect these changes.

When you think of group or organization names, they reflect a product or service but when I look at the name of our group, I see a group that isn't appealing to the younger generation. Very few individuals under the age of fifty are interested in personal computers; they are into the new technology items. The group has meeting presentations that reflect the current technology but the name doesn't reflect what is current and happening in today's society.

Instant recognition is very important when defining an organization is about and recruiting new members. What does the current name of our group say about who we are and what our meetings are about? Does our group's name appeal to someone younger? Does our name explain our meeting topics? Does our current name make a person want to join our group? We, as members, know what the group has to offer yet the public doesn't have the same perception of what we have to offer. So what is the image you want the group to present to the public?

At the March 13, 2013 computer club meeting with a quorum of members present, it was voted upon and decided that The Chesapeake Personal Computer Users Group name should be changed. At the same meeting there was a motion that the new name for our group be deferred until the next meeting. So now we are at the deciding point of what the name should be. Several names have been suggested for consideration and they are:

- Chesapeake Area Technology Society (**CATS**)
- Chesapeake Region Technology Society (**CRTS**)
- Chesapeake Home Electronics Technology Users Group (**CHETSG**)
- Home Electronics Technology Users Group (**HETUG**)
- Chesapeake Users of Home Electronics Technology (**CUHET**)
- Chesapeake Area Computing Technology Group (**CACTG**)

Acronyms are good and are used to identify a group or company whose name is usually lengthy and the now the acronym is used to easily find the web site. Examples are:

- National Buscuit Company (**NABISCO**)
- Chesapeake Personal Computer Users

Rebranding of ChPCUG - Cont'd

Group **(ChPCUG)**

- Baltimore Gas and Electric **(BG&E)**
- Association of Personal Computer Groups **(ACPUG)**
- International Business Machines Corporation **(IBM)**
- General Electric **(GE)**

So, are acronyms important? **Yes.**

The debate on the name has been going on for several months and now it is time to vote upon the name of your choice. What name will get your vote? Now is the time to attend the next group meeting and let your voice be heard.

On the Shelves Now - New Technology Replacing Old Standbys

by
Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:
http://www.sfgate.com/business/technology/article/Research-firm-PC-sales-plunge-as-Windows-8-flops-4424529.php
http://windowsitpro.com/windows/it-s-official-pc-sales-fell-q4-2012-and-full-year-2012
http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2013/04/12/the-pc-is-dead-and-these-2-stocks-may-be-too.aspx
https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/devices/features-different.html
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ssd

Recently, I was one of several presenters at the Taylor Career Center's Business and Technology Summit. My topic was on the new computing technologies currently on the market that are making the existing technologies obsolete.

According to published reports, during the first quarter of 2013, PC sales (desktop and laptop) dropped 14%, while tablet and smartphone sales soared. Some of the blame for the decline in PC sales has been the lack of widespread acceptance of Microsoft's new Windows 8 operating system, as well the fact that tablet computers are generally less expensive and more portable than traditional laptops and desktops. With over a billion smartphones expected to be sold this year, along with 200 million tablets, many users have decided to forgo purchasing a new PC. Sales of PCs this year are predicted to be about 300 million, down from 353 million in 2012, and far less than Microsoft's "hoped for" 400 million PCs sold in 2013. "This is horrific news for PCs," said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis. "It's all about mobile computing now. We have definitely reached the tipping point."

New Technology Replacing Old Standbys - cont'd

Some pundits are predicting the slow demise of such traditional giants as HP, Dell, and Microsoft as smaller upstarts continue to erode their market shares with newer, less expensive technologies that also add enhanced portability. On the hardware side, HP and Dell are far behind the curve when it comes to technological replacements for the traditional desktop and laptop computer, while Microsoft has not captured much market share with its builds of Windows 8 intended for the portable market. As has been typical, Apple, with its successful iPad series of tablets, tends to be a leader in the introduction of new technologies. A growing threat to the established and traditional software operating systems, best represented by Microsoft's Windows and Apple's iOS, is Google's Android operating system, which has garnered a 75% market share of the operating systems of smart devices, including phones and tablets. Even giant chip maker Intel is feeling the sting, as most of the PCs utilize Intel chipsets, and a decline in PC sales ultimately impacts Intel. In terms of the new portable smart devices becoming so popular, Intel is but a bit player, with many feisty small chip makers picking up a growing share of the CPU chip market with their sales to smart device manufacturers.

A visit to any of the local big box stores will clearly show the increasing market share of tablets and other smart devices, as they devote more shelf space to the smart devices, and much less shelf space to the more traditional laptops and PCs.

One feisty new player in the hardware market is none other than powerhouse Google, which has introduced a line of relatively low cost but highly portable devices that combine the portability of a tablet with the convenience of a traditional laptop or notebook PC. As thin as half-inch, and weighing only a few

pounds. these new devices are being marketed as "Google Chromebooks", which retail for as little as $199, and have screens typically larger and more readable than most tablets. Unlike most common tablets, Chromebooks have a traditional keyboard and are in a form similar to a laptop. Using Google's Chrome operating system, these Chromebooks are complete and ready to run out of the box, without the need to purchase additional software. For those who want even more software, thousands of free apps (applications) are available from Google's Chrome Web Store. Included in all Chromebook models are Google Docs, which can create, read, and write office documents (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, etc.) from and to almost all other major software formats, including Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.). Other included apps are a variety of music, voice and video utilities. Chromebooks include "Google Drive", highly secured data centers with file storage service that stores files safely online, without the need to create backups of critical files. Data files can be accessed from anywhere, and are safe and recoverable even if the Chromebook is lost or damaged.

In terms of security, Chromebooks do not require any additional security software as they use multiple layers of protection providing a "defense in depth" that is generally considered safe from malware, viruses, and other threats. At boot, Chromebooks perform a rapid self-check to verify that the system is secure and free of malware; any necessary security updates are automatically downloaded and installed, meaning that Chromebooks always have the latest security features and updates.

Many users find the boot time of traditional PCs to be somewhat aggravating, often taking several minutes; the typical Chromebook can boot

5

New Technology Replacing Old Standbys - cont'd

in as little as 10 seconds, making its features and apps almost instantly available. Also, many PC users fail to install operating system upgrades as well as software updates; Chromebook users do not have that problem as Chromebooks automatically update themselves and their installed apps for free; there is never a need to purchase or manually install updates and software upgrades with a Chromebook. All Chromebooks are Wi-Fi equipped, and several models offer optional wireless connections through Verizon, with 100 MB of data per month for free. All Chromebooks include an interesting feature, "Google Cloud Print" which can print to many printers without the need for connecting cables.

Chromebooks are currently manufactured by Acer, HP, and Samsung, with other makers soon to have Chromebooks of their own. At present, Chromebooks are available locally at Best Buy, and online from Amazon, TigerDirect, Newegg, Best Buy Online, and HP's online store.

Another new technology which is being used to make smart devices and laptop computers more rugged as well as extending their battery life is the "SSD" or "Solid State Drive". Now built-in to many newer laptop and desktop computers, as well as available for installation into almost all other laptop and desktop computers, the new SSDs are much smaller in physical size, have no moving parts, require less power to operate, do not emit a lot of heat, are silent in operation, have very fast access times, and are generally far more rugged than more traditional hard drives. A typical SSD is very small and light in weight, typically measuring about 4 inches long, by 2.8 inches wide, by 0.4 inches thick, and weigh about three ounces; some are as small as 1.8 inches wide, while some are about the same package size as a 3.5 inch hard drive. Many newer laptops and desktops incorporate an integral mounting for these SSDs, and inexpensive (about $7 - $10)

adapters are available to mount SSDs into most other laptop and desktop computers. Some newly manufactured PCs utilize a hybrid system with an SSD drive containing the operating system and other frequently accessed files, and a traditional hard drive for extended storage capacity; these hybrids often boot much faster than similar PCs can boot with a common hard drive.

Even though prices have dropped considerably in the past year, and prices are projected to continue to drop in coming years, they are still generally more expensive than traditional electromechanical hard drives, and offer less storage capacity, even though some SSDs are available with terabytes of capacity.. It is expected that as storage capacity increases, and prices drop on these SSD devices, the common electromechanical hard drives may go the way of floppy discs, and disappear from the marketplace due to obsolescence.

Considering the "gee whiz" factor when 5.25" floppies replaced 8" floppies, which were in turn replaced by 3.5" floppies; when early 10MB hard drives were scarce and terribly expensive; when colorful flat wide-screen monitors replaced older monochrome CRT monitors; when the first smart phones appeared on the market; when laptops first out-sold desktops; Pocket PC's; Palm Pilots; and other technological wonders appeared, they were greeted with vigor, and then disappeared down the trashcan of history. Do not get too attached to your Windows (or Mac) desktop or laptop with your hard drive, as they too may soon be relegated to functional obsolescence as were our Commodore 64, TI 99/4A, Atari 800, Adam, Amiga, VIC-20, TRS-80, and other popular computer types that we loved during yesteryear. Get ready to say hello and welcome new technologies and devices, as the future is already here today.

Is Windows Going the Way of the Dinosaur?

by
Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:
http://www.zdnet.com/windows-its-over-7000013964/
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324695104578414973888155516.html
http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2013/04/11/windows-8-blamed-for-biggest-pc-shipment-plunge-ever/
http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2013/03/26/windows-8-update-coming-this-summer/
http://www.idc.com/getdoc.jsp?containerId=prUS24065413

  Microsoft has been the major provider of computer operating systems since the earliest days of the personal computer. I have had my own PCs running a series of Microsoft operating systems including MS-DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows ME (no jokes, please), Windows 2000, XP, Vista, and Windows 7. I have tried Windows 8 on a new computer, and setup several computers using Windows 8, and I did not personally find it as difficult to use as some allege that it is. Throughout American and world history, many companies have grown to a huge size with enormous profitability, only to enter a state of decline where if they survive, they tend to be only a shadow of their former greatness. Businesses depending on a specific line of products and services tend to follow the traditional product life cycle known to all business students; introduction, growth, maturity, and then decline. With some thought we can all think of some mega-businesses that have dramatically declined including big steel, big railroads, "Ma Bell", Montgomery Ward, and many others. There are some contemporary pundits who are now adding Microsoft to that esteemed list of big businesses that matured in the past, and may now be in a state of decline.
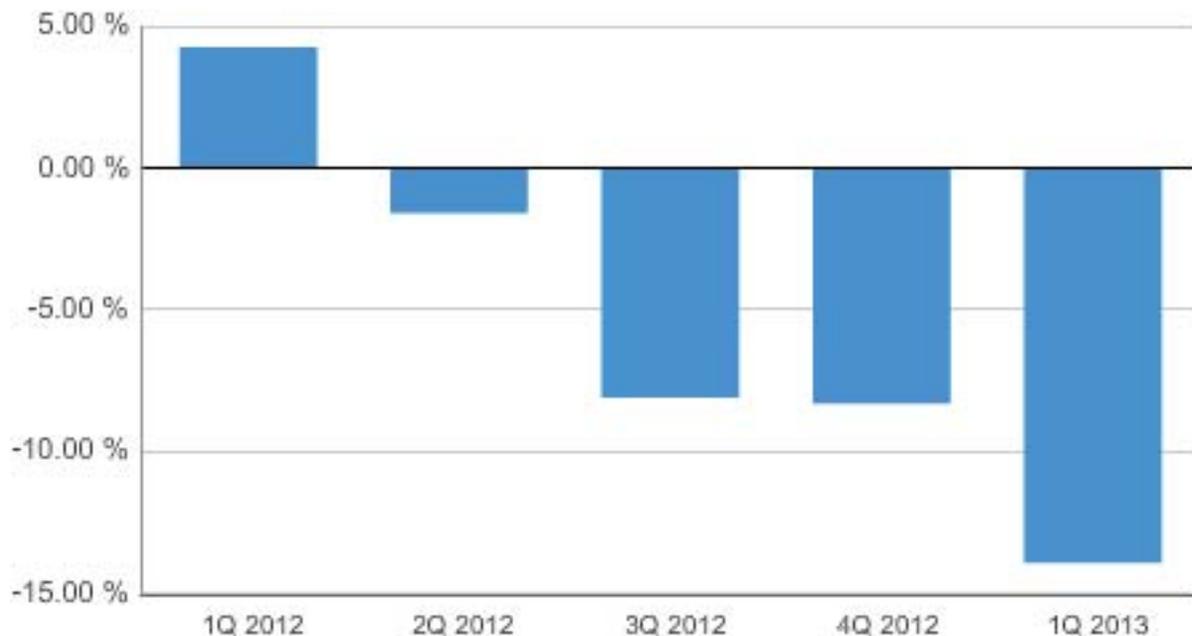
  While some blame the economy, competition, or technological change for the decline of Microsoft and its flagship operating system Windows, there is no doubt that Microsoft's current offering, Windows 8, is no where even close to meeting its sales projections. This failure to meet sales projections has also hurt others in the industry dependent of the sales of Windows based computers, including such manufacturers as Dell and HP, as well as Intel, AMD, and other component makers. According to an April 10, 2013 press release from IDG, "PC Shipments Post the Steepest Decline Ever in a Single Quarter" (source: http://www.idc.com/getdoc.jsp?containerId=prUS24065413), Bob O'Donnell, IDC Program Vice President said, "Worldwide PC shipments totaled 76.3 million units in the first quarter of 2013 (1Q13), down -13.9% compared to the same quarter in 2012 and worse than the forecast decline of -7.7%, according to the International Data Corporation (IDC) Worldwide Quarterly PC Tracker. The extent of the year-on-year contraction marked the worst quarter since IDC began tracking the PC market quarterly in 1994. The results also marked the fourth consecutive quarter of year-on-year shipment declines. ... At this point, unfortunately, it seems clear that the Windows 8 launch not only failed to provide a positive boost to the PC market, but appears to have slowed the market." Sales of PCs in the United States were down 12.7% in the first quarter of 2013, following a plunge of 18.3% over all of 2012. In the fourth quarter of 2012, which included the busy Christmas shopping season US sales of PCs totaled 14.2 million, down 9.6% from the same quarter in 2011, the lowest level since 2006.

7

THE PRINTER *May* *2013* *ChPCUG dues are $40 per year* *ww.chpcug.org/*

Is Windows Going the Way of the Dinosaur? - cont'd

Some of the issues that have dissuaded consumers from purchasing PCs running Windows 8 is the initial appearance of its "Metro" interface that utilizes "tiles" on its default desktop, rather than the more familiar icons used since the earliest days of Windows. While it is fairly simple to display a more traditional desktop on Windows 8, many users find the default tile approach confusing, and notice that the lack of the classical "Start" button annoying. For many users, tiles are a convenient way to have live, real-time content on their desktops which can simultaneously display any of many combinations of social media, news, sports, weather, stock quotes, entertainment, and other content in each of the individual tiles. While many users of tablets and other touch screen devices find that manipulating tiles with a swipe of the finger to be fast and convenient, many users of the more traditional PCs with monitors or laptop computers find working with the tiles confusing and cumbersome. Among the most popular freeware downloads for Windows 8 are utilities that restore the start button of Windows 7 and earlier versions of Windows, as well as set the traditional desktop with icons as the default desktop in Windows 8. Despite the ready availability of free utilities that make Windows 8 look and work more like Windows 7 or XP (very few want Windows 8 to behave and look like Windows Vista), there are many potential purchasers of PCs that have forgone the purchase of a new computer because they do not want a new PC with Windows 8.

Worldwide PC Market YoY Growth Rates, 1Q 2013

With the threat of a disastrous operating system that had the noble idea of unifying the interface used on PCs, tablets and smart phones, Microsoft is well aware of the predicament that it is in, considering the drastic decline in revenues of Windows 8, compared to its previously rosy projections. Microsoft might get a second chance or reprieve when later this summer, it releases an "improved" version of

8

Internet Scammers Take Advantage of Boston and Texas Disasters

by
Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

https://www.bbb.org/us/article/BBB-Warns-of-Charity-Scams-Offers-Giving-Tips-in-Wake-of-Boston-Marathon-B-41366

https://www.bbb.org/charity-reviews/national/

http://money.cnn.com/2013/04/17/pf/boston-marathon-charity/index.html

http://www.boston.com/business/personalfinance/consumeralert/2013/04/beware_boston_marathon_bombing.html

http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/article/309527/0/Email-scam-disguised-as-Boston-Marathon-news-makes-the-rounds

http://www.domainnews.com/en/boston-marathon-blasts-see-cybersquatters-exploit-tragedy.html

https://dallas.bbb.org/article/after-west-texas-explosion-bbb-offers-tips-on-giving-and-warns-of-potential-scams-41438

http://www.antiscamnews.com/texas-fertilizer-plant-explosion-spam/

Americans are a generous people. In times of disaster or crisis countless Americans have always heeded an internal call to do good and contribute to those in need. The recent terrorism in Boston which resulted in at least three dead from the bombings, as well as over 170 injured, many losing limbs, has encouraged Americans to open their hearts and wallets to help those casualties. Donations are also pouring in to help the family of the murdered MIT campus police officer, and the critically wounded Boston Transit officer, allegedly at the hands of the two suspected bombers. Even the owner of the boat that turned out to be the final refuge of the surviving terrorist, has received unsolicited donations from concerned citizens intending to replace his $55,000 boat, which was riddled with police bullets in the final shootout.

Just days after the Boston Marathon bombings, a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, exploded, leading to over a dozen deaths (including several volunteer firefighters), many injuries, and extensive property damage. As Texans always have done in a crisis situation, along with many other Americans, contributions have flooded relief organizations helping the victims of the explosion. Americans really are a generous people.

Inevitably, there are always a bunch of crooks who illicitly siphon off funds intended to help disaster victims, and following these two tragedies these miscreants again crawled out of the woodwork to steal funds intended to benefit the victims. Among the first organizations to sound the alarm warning about these bogus charity schemes allegedly raising money to help the Boston Marathon victims was the Better Business Bureau (bbb.org/us/article/BBB-Warns-of-Charity-Scams-Offers-Giving-Tips-in-Wake-of-Boston-Marathon-B-41366), which as soon as Tuesday, April 16, the day after the Boston bombings, warned donors about the charity scams. In the April 16 press release from the BBB, it said, "At least one poorly-conceived charity scam has already emerged in the wake of the explosions at the finish line of the Boston Marathon yesterday, and more are likely. BBB Wise Giving Alliance ("Alliance"), the national charity monitoring arm of the Better Business Bureau, ... cautions donors about potential red flags concerning tragedy-related philanthropy." H. Art Taylor, president and

Boston and Texas Disasters East Pickings for Scammers - cont'd

CEO of the BBB's Wise Giving Alliance warned, "Tragedies inspire people to give, but, tragedies – whether natural disasters or manmade catastrophes – also inspire scammers to take advantage of that generosity. Social media, in particular, makes it very easy to reach a lot of people quickly, when emotions are running high and people feel the need to take action, any action, to help." Since that preliminary warning from the BBB, several other questionable websites, email campaigns, Facebook and Twitter requests, and other bogus fund raising activities have appeared, all intended to misdirect well intentioned contributions into the pockets of fraudulent charities and thieves.

According to the BBB, there may be much more than simple theft of charitable funds that the concerned citizen intends for the victims of tragedy. Some of the email and social media charitable solicitations are actually a "phishing" scam, where the email or social media alert appears to be from a legitimate and well known charitable organization, but instead links to a counterfeit but authentic looking website complete with an online donation form. In addition to collecting credit card data, which can then be resold to other cyber crooks, some of these bogus websites also collect other personal information in order to commit identity theft. Some of these illicit websites may also load malware onto the unsuspecting donor's computer. I would suggest that if a donor desires to make a contribution to one of the recognized national charities, first check out the charity on the BBB's charity review website at www.bbb.org/charity-reviews/national, and then go directly to that charity's website and make the donation directly. I do not recommend clicking on links sent in emails or posted in social networking pleas, as these can easily be forged, and result in the criminal diversion of the donation.

In a news alert published in Domain News, an industry publication (domainnews.com/en/boston-marathon-blasts-see-cybersquatters-exploit-tragedy.html), is a story headlined "Boston Marathon Blasts See Cybersquatters Exploit Tragedy". Within hours of the bombings, well over one hundred domain names were registered with some permutations of the Boston marathon bombing. Domain News says, "Within half an hour the domains BostonBombing.com, BostonBombing.net, BostonBombing.org, BostonBombing.us and BostonBombing.info were all registered according to Domainer Income and within an hour there were over 125 domains registered relating to the blasts. While a few of these domains are possibly going to be used for genuine charitable or other efforts, the majority are destined to be used as scam-related websites. Scam websites set up using the domain names may be for fraudulent charitable websites or provide links to malware-infected sites." Similar Twitter and Facebook accounts were also quickly created, some of which promoted donations to a variety of supposed charities. Some of these websites and social media pleas contained graphic news photos or edited images intended to tug at the heartstrings of generous people by displaying supposed photos of dead or badly injured victims, including the eight year old fatality. Donations were solicited in the names of these victims, but in most of these appeals, any donations go directly to a scammers account.

The devastating fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas, just two days after the Boston Marathon bombings, also brought out the scammers trying to deceive generous people into making financial donations to the crooks. Jeannette Kopko, a spokesperson for the BBB in Dallas, which covers the region where the fertilizer plant was located, warned, "It's unfortunate that scammers prey on consumers'

Boston and Texas Disasters East Pickings for Scammers - cont'd

sympathies after a tragedy like the West, Texas, explosion in order to swindle consumers. Scams could range from questionable charity appeals to phony websites, emails, social media accounts or messages, and even to home or business repair scams." (Source: dallas.bbb.org/article/after-west-texas-explosion-bbb-offers-tips-on-giving-and-warns-of-potential-scams-41438). What is especially sad in the above BBB statement is the fact that those who had significant property damage could be doubly victimized; first by the explosion itself, and then by " ... home or business repair scams."

Also, just like following the Boston bombings, internet scammers started to plunder those wishing to help the folks in West, Texas by making financial donations to them or to legitimate charitable support organizations. According to a report published in Anti Scam News (antiscamnews.com/texas-fertilizer-plant-explosion-spam), it was less than 12 hours after the shocking videos of the fertilizer plant blast appeared on the news that email boxes started to receive the initial flood of spammed scams soliciting donations for the people of West, Texas. According to the report, "Within 12 hours of the explosion, my email account received spam with "Texas plant explosion" in the subject line. The first one arrived just after 8 am today (4/16). Since then, I've received subsequent versions with slight variations in the subject line. A search of the link included in these emails shows it reported as a virus, with the same type of links also used for emails about the very recent tragedy at the Boston Marathon. ... This malware has been reported by a Kaspersky Lab expert, who explains that the initial link, which is disguised as a "news" story, opens a YouTube video. After a 60 second delay, another link to an executable file is activated, which contains the virus. BEWARE – Do NOT click links to any supposed news stories in any emails you receive. This type of Malware is also being

spread through Social media sites like Facebook. To read updates on news stories, go to known and trusted news sites."

It is really sad that there are people in society who exist by taking unfair advantage of well intentioned and generous people who sincerely desire to help others in need. By being aware of the scams and threats posed by illicit charity and news websites, as well as spam emails, perhaps we can be better assured that our donations will reach the intended victims, and our personal information and computers will not be compromised.

11

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

Wednesday
May 8th, 2013

**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

on

Windows 7 Tips & Tricks
by
Sam Shepherd

**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.

Chesapeake PC Users Group

**1783 Forest Drive #285
Annapolis, MD 21401**

FIRST CLASS

INSIDE THIS VERY ISSUE!

**President's Corner
Rebranding ChPCUG
On the Shelves Now
Windows - Way of the Dinosaur?
Internet Scammers
*.... 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.*

Proudly Affiliated with