

WINDOWS 8/HARDWARE SIG MEETING NOTES

Date of meeting: January 4, 2012
SIG leader: George Harding
Location: Pima County Medical Society

GOOD IDEAS AND ADVICE FROM OTHER USER GROUPS:

Several TCS members are former members of the Los Angeles Computer Society. They have lots of great ideas:

[PC Self-Help & Other Stuff](#)

from Jim McKnight of the Los Angeles Computer Society

[Creating a Usable Computer with Low-end Hardware and Free \(Not Trial\) Software--the "Free Willie" Project](#)

from Richard Hall of the Tulsa Computer Society

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES: RICHARD'S DELL COMPUTER

Richard brought in his pre-owned Pentium 4 "Dell" tower:
Someone sold him a copy of "Windows XP" minus the 25-character activation key!

Francis gave him a "Puppy Linux" LiveCD.

We started installing "Puppy Linux" onto the computer's hard drive but we did not complete the final "Grub 2" installation step.

Attendees advised him to continue running "Puppy Linux" in "LiveCD" mode.

We also recommended that he bring the computer to the "Linux SIG" meetings on the 4th Sunday of each month.



Microsoft's "End of Extended Support" Dates for Windows XP and Windows Vista:

April 8, 2014 for "Windows XP"

April 11, 2017 for "Windows Vista"

Your ancient "Windows.." PC should be safe to use until one of these dates! After the "sunset date" for your old PC, it will be safer for you to do a "Physical to Virtual" ("P2V") and run it as a virtual machine (inside a more modern computer)

since a virtual machine is easy to clone and restore if it malfunctions due to malware.

Extended Support End Dates for all of Microsoft's software products can be found at

<http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifeselect>

[Microsoft Support Lifecycle Policy](#)

First Impressions of Acronis True Image Home 2012

When you start the Synchronization function in "Acronis True Image Home 2012", they force you to sign up for an "Online" storage account and give you a 30-day trial for free but they apparently want money every month after the 30-day trial concludes. Click on the above title to read our other squawks about this latest version of "Acronis..".

[Advice about Backing Up Computer Hard Drives with Acronis True Image..., Macrium Reflect Free, Clonezilla, etc.](#)

Acronis True Image Home 2012 = late 2011
Acronis True Image Home 2011 = late 2010
Acronis True Image Home 2010 = late 2009
Acronis True Image Home 2009 = late 2008
Acronis True Image Home 11 = late 2007
Acronis True Image Home 10 = late 2006
Acronis True Image Home 9 = late 2005
Acronis True Image Home 8 = late 2004
Acronis True Image Home 7 = late 2003
Acronis True Image Home 6 = late 2002

See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acronis_True_Image

Using Legacy Fax Machines, Fax Modems, and Credit Card Machines on "Voice Over IP"(VOIP) Phone Lines

Analog Telephone Adapter for Attaching Legacy Telephone to a VOIP Phone Line

With "Windows 7.." you get a bundled applet called "Windows Fax and Scan". The fax function within this applet is a virtual fax machine that you can use to send and receive faxes using an (real) analog modem that is connected to a landline telephone line. This allows you to avoid the cost of maintaining a real fax machine and its corresponding costs for paper and ink or toner cartridges. Step-by-step instructions for using the fax function of "Windows Fax and Scan" are available at

http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/winhardsig/windowsfax/windowsfax.htm

By using your own computer, fax modem, and phone line to send and receive faxes, you are guaranteed that any information that you send or receive remains confidential. However, the use of Microsoft's "virtual fax machine" is more work for you than using the free Web-based services in the following section:

If you do not have a fax modem or you want to send faxes with less work than needed for Microsoft's "virtual fax machine", you can fax for free from any Web browser by using the following "Software as a Service" applications:

<http://faxzero.com>

or

<http://www.myfax.com/free/>

See

<http://websearch.about.com/od/usefulsite1/tp/free-fax-online.htm>

for more free fax options.

[FaxTalk FaxCenter Pro](#) is a commercial software product that provides many capabilities that "Windows Fax" does not have. "FaxTalk.." does not have have the above-mentioned "bug" that "Windows Fax" has. "FaxTalk.." offers a free, 15-day trial.