



Regular Meeting

June 17, 2010

10:00 AM

Northwest Florida State College

908 W. Hwy 90

Room 214

DeFuniak Springs, Florida



Program - page 3

Inside this Edition

NY Times Technology	2
Pot Luck	3
Meeting Program	3
Moving from XP to Win 7	5
Deleting FaceBook	6



Password Protection

By Sandy Berger, Compukiss.com
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When technology is good, it is very, very good, but when it is bad it can be truly atrocious. So it is with the hacking of Sarah Palin's Yahoo email account. The bad guys are out there using technology for their own advantage. Whether they are serious hackers who want information for devious purposes or young students who just want to show their technological prowess, this theft shows that everyone is vulnerable.

The recent hijacking of Sarah Palin's email account is also a great example of how a hacker can gain access to an email account and how email accounts need to be better protected against such penetration.

We currently rely on passwords to protect most of our online activity. Professional hackers often see "password crackers" to guess

passwords. Anyone can easily find these hacker tools on the Internet. They can even be purchased on CD. There are wordlists for common passwords and dictionary combinations of possible passwords in a variety of different languages. These tools are all aimed at giving a person all the technical tools that they need to guess passwords.

In Sarah Palin's case, however, the perpetrator didn't even have to use tools like this. A hacker identifying himself as "Rubico" claims to have been able to change the password on Sarah Palin's Yahoo Mail account quite easily. All he had to do was use her email name to log into the Yahoo Mail's interface and select the option to reset the password. Yahoo then asked him to provide her birth date and zip code, which have become public knowledge. He then had to answer her self-chosen security question which was where she met her husband, the answer to that question also became public knowledge. Sarah Palin was thrown into the public arena quite quickly, (See Passwords - page 4)

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CCC Listserv: email to waltonccc@freelists.org

Free computer help by using the club listserv. Post a problem by email and obtain an answer (most of the time).

The listserv is a service provided to members of the Chautauqua Cyber Club and invited guests. It is used for problems solving, posting club news and special bulletins, and to maintain a user friendly communication network.

New York Times Technology - (View online - click URL)

Practical Traveler - Online Deals: Scams or Deals?

<http://tinyurl.com/38pe6wx>

Digital Domain: YouTube Want You to Sit and Stay Awhile

<http://tinyurl.com/36hhml2>

When Patients Meet Online - Are There Side Effects?

<http://tinyurl.com/3acsbae>

Healing by 2-Way Video: The Rise of Telemedicine

<http://tinyurl.com/37pbm2z>

Pot Luck

J. B. Hillard - President



We are all just about ready for a summer vacation. This month is our last meeting for a couple of month. We will come back together in September. The Snappers Photo Group at the senior center

are taking a break as well.

This month Cyber Chat has an excellent article on transitioning from Windows XP to Windows 7. I've had the 7 Upgrade for months but just never got around to install it on my laptop. Actually, I did try it but messed up the laptop something awful. So I went back to Vista which has served me well. But, it's time to get busy and do it right this time. I need to get some experience with 7 before the college switches the lab in the months ahead.

I'm actually slow to change on just about anything. I think this goes with advancing wisdom, being slow that is! I'll keep the old XP machine for standby. It isn't broke so no need to fix it.

I expect to be in and out of town over the summer but will keep in touch and keep Cyber Chat going. Our little newsletter is a staple in the community. Every month we have readers make a special trip to the library for a copy. Others pick up a copy in the local computer shops where they are available.

People learn we exist by reading Cyber Chat.

In preparation of a new meeting season next September we need to line up some neat programs. If you have any ideas please let me know so we can get started early and set things up.

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Monthly Meeting—Program

May 20, 2010

Regular Meeting

10:00 AM Room 203

"Home Backup Service"

presented by

Robert Nelson

I Fix Computers

Passwords - from page 1

but even those of us who are not public figures may find that their passwords and answers to security questions can be easily guessed. Do you use the name of your spouse, children, pet, favorite sport, birthday, or wedding date as your password? Have you entered security questions like place of birth or favorite color that are easy to guess?

Privacy as we knew it before the Internet is now a thing of the past. With the Internet, more of our lives are online than most of us realize. Many people use blogging as a past time and post information on MySpace, Facebook, and other social networking websites. Once posted, all of that information is publicly known. And the Internet is archived, so even when you remove current information, previously posted information can still be found in Internet archives.

That information can be used to guess passwords and access personal information. So here are a few ground rules that may help keep your private information a little safer online:

Use passwords that are not easy to guess and cannot be easily cracked. (Look for more on how to choose good passwords in next week's column.)

Choose a security question that others will not be able to guess the answer to. Or answer the security question with an answer that you create which is not necessarily the true answer.

Use unique passwords, especially for important services and websites like banking sites and email. Keep your passwords private. Don't leave them on a sticky note on your computer screen or keep them in an unencrypted file on your computer.

Change your passwords often.

Do not change your password by clicking on a link in an email from someone claiming to be a system administrator, bank representative, or other seemingly reputable party. They may not be who they say they are. When you want to change your password, always type in the address yourself so you know you are at the real website rather than a bogus one.

Use one credit card for all online purchases. This will limit your financial exposure.

Keep your operating system up-to-date.

Use a good anti-virus and anti-spyware programs.

Consider using an encrypted password manager program.

Check the Compu-KISS website at www.compukiss.com for more information on choosing good passwords.

Facebook - from page 6

By the way, after signing up with **Facebook** a year ago I used a similar "Deactivate" procedure to delete my **MySpace** account, along with the same 14-day delay requirement. A few days ago I decided to try logging on to MySpace with my previous account ID and password just to see what would happen.

Guess what - I logged in with no problem and saw that many of my family's and friends' accounts were also still active. MySpace said they would delete my account, but they obviously didn't.

Moving From XP to Windows 7

By Vinny La Bash, Contributing Columnist,
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Installing Windows 7 from XP is more complex than a straightforward upgrade from Vista. You need to perform a custom install, and you can do this with an Upgrade package of Windows 7. A normal upgrade won't work, but Microsoft describes the installation process as the option to "either completely replace your current operating system or install Windows on a specific drive or partition". Microsoft also allows a multi-boot system to be installed. In other words, you have the option of running both your current version of XP and Windows 7 if you want. Switching back and forth may not be the best choice as the interfaces are very different.

Completely replacing XP will not eliminate it from your system. The setup program creates a folder on your primary hard disk which it names Windows.old . The process then places all the major XP folders such as Windows, Documents and Settings, and Program file folders in the Windows old folder. Nothing happens to your data files. You can still access them, but your applications will have to be reinstalled.

No matter which option you settle on, back up everything on your system first, especially your data files. Back up your data files

at least twice and keep a copy in a separate physical location. Backing up more than one copy may seem like paranoia, but if anything goes wrong you'll be glad you did.

There are lots of ways to back up programs and data. If you use a third party program go to the manufacturer's web site and make sure the program will be modified to work with Windows 7. If you can't verify compatibility with Windows 7 or you don't use a third party backup utility, you will probably turn to XP's backup utility which Microsoft calls the Windows NT Backup-Restore Utility. Microsoft developed and released it specifically for restoring backups created in XP to restore in Windows Vista. It's pretty safe to believe that Microsoft will adapt it to work in Windows 7. If you can't verify that your third party backup utility will work in Windows 7 or you don't trust Microsoft that it will modify its special XP utility, make copies of all your important data files to CD or DVD.

Read the article called Step-by-Step: Windows 7 Upgrade and Migration on the Microsoft TechNet site. It provides some great information about a utility called Windows 7 Easy Transfer. This program lets you transfer all your data and settings from XP to Windows 7. The Windows 7 installation disks contain a copy of the program and during installation a copy will be installed on your computer. You can then use the program to copy all your data files and settings to Windows 7.

Microsoft has recognized the popularity of low cost net-books, and Windows 7 was designed to operate on systems that many people consider underpowered. You won't need

(See Windows 7 - page 6)



Windows 7 - from page 6

terabyte sized hard disks or 6 gigabytes of RAM to run Windows 7. If your XP system was manufactured in the last few years, there is a high probability that Windows 7 will run just fine. To be safe, run Microsoft's Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor on your old system before rushing out and buying Windows 7.



factured four there is a ability dows 7 just fine. run Mi-Windows Advisor

The Advisor does a complete check of your internal hardware, installed programs, and any externally connected devices. If there are any compatibility issues the Advisor will report it, and even make suggestions on how best to eliminate incompatibilities, and select upgrade options. Go to the Microsoft Download Center to download and install a copy of this utility to your system. It will make you much better prepared for the upgrade to Windows 7.

You won't be the only one changing to Windows 7. Don't be shy about asking questions, and please share any good information you get with other members of the PC community. A good place to start is the Getting Ready for Windows 7 section of the Microsoft Answers web site. Don't forget your local PC User Group. There is no better source for good, accurate information. Even Microsoft will acknowledge that.

FACUG Technology Conference Cruise to Mexico

Details: <http://tinyurl.com/2v97hbr>

Deleting Facebook

Deleting Facebook

Henry Turner, along with many others, has asked how to remove himself from Facebook. Well, it's relatively simple...

- Log on to your Facebook account.
- In the upper right corner of the page click on the down-arrow next to **Account Settings**.
- Click on **Deactivate Account**.
- Here you will be asked a number of questions about why you want to quit Facebook. Answering them is optional.
- Click on **Deactivate My Account**.

IMPORTANT: Be aware that the actual deactivation will not happen until **14 days** later. If you log onto the account during this period the deactivation will be set aside. Then you would have to start over and have the actual deactivation delayed for another 14 days.

Also, you can reactivate your account at any time. Facebook makes this very easy to do. They really don't want to lose you. They're harvesting information, too.

(See Facebook - page 4)





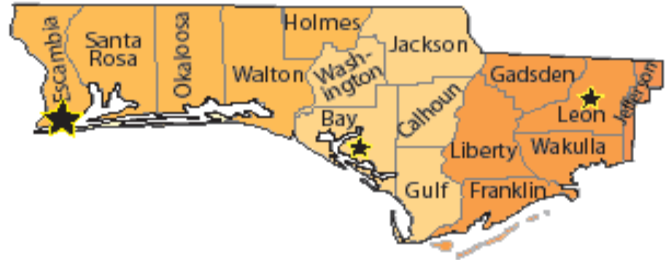
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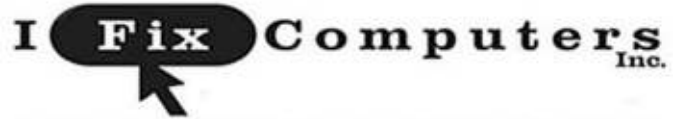
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