

March 2013

It's almost Spring and I couldn't be happier! I'm looking forward to flowers and trees bursting forth with new life and being able to open windows to let fresh air in! And speaking of "Windows", there's a lot to cover again this month. I'm sure that the number one question is going to be Java, and now we can add Adobe Reader and Flash Player to the list!

The news isn't very good for Java. For a while it looked like they were going to let us put it back on our machines because they had finally tackled the security flaws in the software. WRONG! Just a few days ago they announced that there were more problems that have developed. Two more serious flaws appeared and they caused attacks at Microsoft, Facebook, Twitter and Apple. So if you can hang on a while longer it's a good idea. I think that a lot of the websites that run on Java are looking for an alternative way to run their programs, so that might be the answer that we're looking for.

Another warning came out, and this time for Adobe. They've also had security problems, and if you're running Adobe Reader And/Or Adobe Flash, make sure that you update them both right away. I've also made a change on my machine with my Anti-Virus Software. I know that many of you have said that AVG has been a problem because you start out with the free trial and end up with the paid version. It can get very confusing! It's not to say that AVG isn't a good piece of software, but I'm leaning toward Avast Free Anti-Virus. Why? Because it doesn't have all the popups and it doesn't give false positives on a scan which can lead to some confusion. If you want to switch, let me know and I'll answer any questions you might have. You'll need to remove the AVG and run a removal tool to get this new software to run properly. You can download

Avast at this link.

http://download.cnet.com/Avast-Free-Antivirus/3000-2239_4-10019223.html?tag=main;pop

One last thing to do with security regards Facebook. When you're on fb you can almost forget that you're subject to viruses and malware. It seems like the "safe place to be". Please read this article so you know what to look out for. <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/prevent-remove-facebook-malware-or-virus/> Remember the old saying; "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"! In case you didn't know, even President Obama has been working on ways to make us safer from cyber-attacks. Watch this clip to see what's being done. <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/video/state-union-2013-president-obama-growing-cyber-attack-18484175>

Kodak has turned its world upside-down since filing for bankruptcy last January. It's trying to survive and emerge from bankruptcy, and in the process has sold off its consumer-printer segment and other businesses. It's still trying to sell its photo kiosk, scanning and film businesses, Dow Jones reports. A judge approved Kodak's plan to sell some of its digital-imaging patents to a number of technology companies, including Apple, Microsoft & Google. The company has agreed to license its name to **JK Imaging**, a personal electronics company in Los Angeles. Executives there plan to unveil the new Kodak camera sometime between April and June. Good Question Lori!

I think we've had enough of the serious stuff for now. Let's look at some interesting sites to visit and some free things for you to download. This is always my favorite thing to share!

Have you ever wanted to send a large file to someone and your internet provider bounces it back to you? Many of the IP's have a limit on size that you can send for a file, so this "free" program is a must for anyone who's run into that kind of a problem. It's called "We Transfer".

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

<<http://www.wetransfer.com>> You can send .pfd files, movies, slideshows etc. Here's a link that will answer all your questions that you might have about it. www.wetransfer.com/questions

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○ My friend, Ro has been working on puzzles for a while now and after seeing them at her home, I got hooked on doing them myself. She had told me that after doing a big puzzle to do a “little” one to just take a break in between. I know what she means! So I found a website that will let you work on a puzzle that’s made from one of your photos. It’s only 50 pieces, so it shouldn’t be too stressful!

<http://puzzle.watype.net/>

○ Has your computer ever told you that it’s buffering? I’d be very surprised if you never saw this message when you were watching a video on-line! With the YouTube craze we’re finding more and more links to these movies in our emails. Some are really good but stop running when you’re watching them because your computer just can’t keep up. (It’s buffering!) There’s an easy way around that, download the YouTube Downloader. This way you can watch them and keep them if you want to. Just make sure that when you install it that you uncheck all the 3rd party programs that they offer. If you miss one, it’s ok because you can always uninstall it from the control panel.

http://download.cnet.com/Free-YouTube-Downloader/3000-2071_4-75219434.html

○ This is a great website for downloading printable forms. You can get stationary, business card templates, Jewish Calendars, family tree charts, pie charts, greeting cards, banners, tags etc. All are free and the only drawback is that they put in small type the name of their website on the bottom of the document that you print. If you don’t want the lettering on your printout, there’s a \$3 fee to download one that doesn’t have the web address on it. Isn’t that why we buy stickers; to cover things like this up? ☺ I don’t think that most of us will mind it though since it’s free. <http://www.freeprintable.net/>

○ Apps! That’s what we hear about all the time, and some of us use them on our tablets, phones or iPads. Now for all of us who wish we could do the same with our Windows machines (view those apps on a big screen!), there’s a free player for you to download called “Bluestacks App Player”. I just installed it and was able to download some apps from Amazon.com and view them on my 23”screen! Here’s the link if you want to try it out. http://download.cnet.com/BlueStacks-App-Player/3000-18513_4-75593133.html?tag=main;dropDownForm

Download Angry Birds for a challenging game. Believe me when I say it can become addicting! You can also sync your Android device to your

computer for your apps to be used in Bluestacks.

o Want an iPad app that's free? Get the Betty Crocker Cookbook App and you can plan your dinner with some amazing recipes!

- If you do you your taxes on your PC, you'll want to check out this video from Data Doctors. They'll show you how to check your computer to make sure it's secure so no one can get your information.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAbfyMy5B6I&feature=youtu.be>

Geek Speak of the Week: PEBKAC

PEBKAC is an acronym which stands for "Problem Exists Between Keyboard And Chair". It is most commonly used to describe that the problem was not in the computer but was actually caused by the user operating

And one more.....

Botnet - The term *bot* is short for robot. Criminals distribute malicious software (also known as malware) that can turn your computer into a bot (also known as a zombie). When this occurs, your computer can perform automated tasks over the Internet, without you knowing it.

Criminals typically use bots to infect large numbers of computers. These computers form a network, or a *botnet*.

Criminals use botnets to send out spam email messages, spread viruses, attack computers and servers, and commit other kinds of crime and fraud. If your computer becomes part of a botnet, your computer might slow down and you might inadvertently be helping criminals. Great, huh?

One more thing.....Windows 7 is selling out quickly at the on-line websites.

If you want to avoid Windows 8 and you're thinking of upgrading your computer, don't wait too long. I'd say that in the next 30 to 60 days you won't be able to purchase the Windows 7 operating system on a new machine. Once they're gone you won't have any choice except to purchase Windows 8. You can't find machines in the stores with Windows 7....just in case you were wondering. J

So, that's it for this month. I hope you have a blessed Passover and Easter! And Ralph, thank you for telling me how much you enjoy the newsletters!

Warm Regards,

Shirl

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