VISTA ROYALE COMPUTER CLUB

February 13, 2020

President Mike Johnson opened the meeting with a couple of announcements regarding our upcoming speakers. There were 38 members & guests and he raffled off the old Lab shredder to a member. We will be doing the same for our Windows 7 laptop soon. Ned Lynch, Vice President, and Steve Getz, Webmaster, will be our speakers for new week. Ned: live demo of the app 'Discord' and Steve: 'Why you should use our Website: VRCC.info'.

Our program this week was a presentation by Vicky Getz on Browsers and she generously provided the notes below from her Power Point. Thanks, Vicky, for all this great information. We appreciate all the time and effort our speakers put into their program.

_____

Browsers

> Edge, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera, Safari (Apple Only), and Silk (Amazon Only) are some of the better-known browsers.

You Should Have More Than One Browser

> Not all websites are compatible with all browsers.

> Different browsers have different features.

- How they print, (print a selection, print simplified)
- The Extensions that are offered.
- Bookmark or Favorites handling
- PDF handling

> Browsers don't share cookies with each other, so you can be logged into the same website simultaneously under two different accounts in different browsers.

> Safe links to Chrome and Firefox are on the Links page of the VRCC.INFO website.

Keep your Browser and Plugins Updated

> One leading cause of malware infections are attack tools stitched into hacked or malicious web sites that exploit unpatched or undocumented vulnerabilities in widely-used browser and browser plugins.

This is one of the reasons that the old Internet Explorer should not be used. It has known vulnerabilities. And this is a reason XP and Vista should never go on the internet, there are no updates for any browsers that run on these platforms.

Legacy Edge

The old Edge browser has the best PDF handling of any of the browsers. It is the only browser that offers read aloud capability, and does the best at form filling. The read aloud for PDF's on Legacy Edge is much better than the Read Aloud in the Adobe desktop application. The form filling is best on the Legacy Edge too.

New Edge

Based on Chrome

Lighter than Chrome

Uses Chrome Extensions as well as extensions from the Microsoft store.

Is Cross Platform browser. It is available on Windows 7, 8, 8.1, 10, Mac, Android and iOS and plans are there to make it available on Linux.

The browser was released on Jan 15 and will slowly trickle out to users between now and November. This browser can be downloaded now if you want to give it a try.

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/edge/features

Multi-Platform Browsers

Multi-platform browsers can sync your favorites and saved passwords from one device to another. The New Edge, Firefox and Chrome allow you to sign into your browser if you want to store your bookmarks and passwords in the cloud and synchronize them with your other devices. To some extent Safari does that too, only across Apple platforms though. You do not have to sign into a browser, it is a choice. Beware, Chrome often is set to automatically sign a user into chrome, if they sign into their Gmail account using the chrome browser!

Set up each Browser

Set up a **Home Page**

Select the **default search engine** for searching from the address line of the browser.

Make sure that the **Download** options are set to **Save As** or **Always As**k so that you can give a file a meaning full name when you download it. Did you know there is a limit of 256 file with the same name in the folder? After 256 times, new files with that same name can no longer be saved until you clean up your downloads folder. That has been the answer to many problems where people can't open their travel itineraries.

Set up your "**New Tab**" option. Each browser by default provides you with very distracting click bait articles on the New Page tab. If you don't like finding yourself clicking through 47 pages to find out what happened to that cute baby elephant, or who Brad and Jennifer are hooking up with these days, do yourself a favor and customize your "new page" setting.

Favorites (aka Bookmarks)

Create a favorite to access your important financial sites.

Avoid "direct navigation," which involves manually typing the bank's address into a browser; a fat-fingered keystroke may send you to a look-alike phishing Web site that grabs asks you to login, so they now have your banking credentials to make free with your funds.

Printing

Printing from a browser rarely prints the way it displayed on the screen.

Always preview your printing before you print. <u>Do not use Ctrl+P on FireFox</u>, it bypasses the preview screen!

Look for printer icons or PRINT links embedded in the document

Email Print icons are usually buried in a menu for the individual email.

Printing Varies by Browser

Print Selection

New Edge, Internet Explorer, Chrome, and Opera browsers all allow you to print just a highlighted selection. Opera is the only browser that jumps directly to print selection if something is selected on the screen, the rest require you to dig into the dialog to find the setting.

Print Simplified

Legacy Edge and Firefox offer a simplified printing instead of print selection. <u>On web pages that support simplified</u> printing, this option can be quite useful. Unfortunately, those web pages are few and far between.

Common Browser Keyboard shortcuts

Ctrl+F or F3 - Find on current page

CTRL+Tab - Cycles through tab

ALT+Tab - Cycles through open Windows

CTRL+Shift+T - Restores tab that was accidentally closed

Research Tricks

Pull a tab off the browser for side by side comparisons

Duplicate a tab Right Click on the tab.

Rearrange your tabs by dragging them along the tab line.

Remember that a long press or (right click) of the back and forward buttons let you navigate to a specific step in the current tab's history.

Use a different browser to login to a different account on the same site for side by side comparisons.

Productivity

Extensions can be very helpful.

Extensions should be chosen with care; they are powerful but can be malicious.

Extensions can help you cut down on ads, they can override the native PDF handling, they can be used to grab a video clip off a web page, grab an image of the whole web page, not just what is showing, analyze your DNA.

If you want to check out a particular extension, go ahead and install it on one of our lab computers, it will be gone after the next reboot.

Vicky's favorite Browser: FIREFOX

- This browser warns when closing the window instead of one of the tabs.
- This browser is great for handling of bookmarks

- This browser consistently lets me give names to downloads, (Chrome usually stops after 10 downloads a session)
- This browser uses less resources than Chrome when multiple tabs are open
- This browser respects my privacy.
- Easier to change default search engines when navigating through the address bar, the "This time Search with to switch search engines on the fly is a wonderful feature, the only other browser that has this is Internet Explorer.
- The ability to add a text-based menu is very helpful.

See you all next week.

Sandy McKenny, sec; Vista Royale Computer Club