Vista Royale Computer Club

Meeting Minutes March 15, 2018

Members: President Mike Johnson welcomed 30 members and guests this week and asked for nominations for President, Vice President and Secretary for the election on April 12th. We currently have 149 club members.

Announcement: Sandy McKenny is planning on doing a genealogy presentation on transcribing old records on Wed afternoon, March 28 at 3pm in preparation for her talk at the Indian River Genealogy Society in April. It will include information on free transcription software and give you lots of tips on what to do with your old letters and records. Anyone is welcome.
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Then Vicky Getz started her presentation with a segment on making sure that you have all your 'user names' & 'passwords'. We had a discussion on passwords after yet another member got locked out of their account because the password recovery options were not valid. Of the 8 severe cases she has had this winter, she was only able to recover the email for 3 people. If you do not understand this, please ask for help. Here is what Vicky recommends you should do to insure that you do not end up in a similar situation.

CHECK YOUR PASSWORD RECOVERY OPTIONS FOR YOUR ACCOUNTS [especially for email accounts and financial institutions] AND MAKE SURE THEY ARE STILL VALID!

WRITE DOWN YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION

When you set up an account, write down your information. Ideally make it type-written especially if your password is case sensitive [upper & lower letters], and include answers to secret questions too.

Username
Password
Secret Questions
Answers to secret Questions.
But they said don't write it down! That's right you shouldn't have the passwords lying around where anyone can find them and use them, but you do need to know all the information should you get locked out of your account, or whole computer.

USE A DIFFERENT PASSWORD FOR __EVERY__ ACCOUNT! If criminals have your password for one account they will try it everywhere.

DON'T USE A SET PASSWORD PATTERN ACROSS YOUR ACCOUNTS. If someone had 5 of your passwords, would a person or a computer be able to spot your pattern. Organized crime has computers analyzing patterns all the time. If these were your passwords for "Quiltersden"," Gmail": and "Amazon" do you think they could guess your password for Chase Bank?

Quiltersden1234
Gmail1234
Amazon1234

WHAT ABOUT PASSWORD GENERATORS? This type of software generates random letters that are impossible to remember, but that makes them more of a security risk because now you actually need to keep a list. Length is more important than making something a non- word. Of the following 3 passwords, Xv6Tu!kL is actually the least secure.

Xv6Tu!kL
Bushel&Peck&Hug&neck
My_horse_is_named_Ed.

New recommendations for passwords came out in 2016. This isn't geared toward the end user, but rather the people that make up the password rules for a site.

https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2016/08/18/nists-new-password-rules-what-you-need-to-know/

WHAT ABOUT PASSWORD MANAGERS? The password manager is a convenience tool that comes with its own set of risks. LastPass, one of the respected password managers has had its set of problems. This article is about LastPass's 2015 breach
https://www.pcworld.com/article/2936621/the-lastpass-security-breach-what-you-need-to-know-do-and-watch-out-for.html

This article is about LastPass's 2017 security flaw
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/03/21/lastpass_vulnerabilities/
Vicky then proceeded to do a segment on **CLOUD STORAGE SERVICES**

Cloud storage is where you keep copies of files at an online storage facility.
Cloud storage is typically accessible anywhere you have internet access.
Free services basically offer you a minimal amount of data, and when you exceed this amount they charge you.
Be careful about what you store on an online service, including a personal cloud based system. Hackers are relentless.
Examples of cloud storage include:
OneDrive - comes with your Microsoft account
GoogleDrive - comes with your gmail account, one for each email address.
Dropbox - free sign-up and ability to purchase more space
iCloud - comes with your Apple account [iPhone, iPad, iMac]
This is a 'must read' if you are considering 'cloud storage':
https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/dropbox-vs-google-drive-vs-onedrive-cloud-storage-best/

Sandy demonstrated DropBox syncing, how she uses it for insuring she has copies of her vital files on her own machine, in the cloud at DropBox and synced to her other computers. It is also good for sharing large files or large quantities of files such as a photo album. She has about 14 GB free due to a promotion where you recommend it to others. She also uses an external hard drive for back-ups.

Allison Findlay spoke about the free Google Drive syncing abilities and how it works for her given that she lives part of the year in two places. She keeps all of her files there to make them easily accessible at all times.
Vicky also showed us how to easy it is to copy a file from a local drive to her Google Drive.
Next week, Sandy McKenny will be showing some basic features of Open Office Writer, the word processor section of Open Office4 which is on all our Lab machines. Everyone needs to know how this works for such things as letters, posters, etc.; even transcribing old documents. You can download this free software suite which is an alternative for the expensive Microsoft Office Suite by following the 'links' page at www.vrcc.info. Bring a friend, spouse, neighbor........ 9:30 Thursday morning March 15th in the Pine Arbor Kitchen.

Sandy McKenny, sec.; Vista Royale Computer Club
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