

## Vista Royale Computer Club

Fri, Feb 11, 2022

Mike Johnson welcomed everyone and announced that we have 63 members so far this season and are still accepting your \$20 cash dues for 2022 any day in the Lab. We had 20 members attend this program. He then introduced Jurgen Schwantiz of ACT Computers who did a great seminar on 'PC/INTERNET SECURITY'. We always look forward to his programs and send members with problems to his shop on US 1 by the US Post Office. They are presently updating their showroom and will have room for more product. He is suggesting that we create a VRCC Facebook Page to generate more participation in our club; something we can look into as we already have a Facebook Account.

Jurgen gave us lots of great information and vital advice so we can be 'smarter than the crooks' as he put it. I will try and relay many of them for you.

**UP WINDOWS:** If you get some pop-up windows that are scary and unexpected, using the X in the right upper corner to close them may install a virus. RE-BOOT your computer immediately or turn it off. You may have to hold down the 'On' button for 3 seconds for that. Also, an easy way to get rid of those windows is to hit Alt F4 or if you have a small keyboard: Alt Fn 4 all at the same time.

### **Ransomware:**

This is a virus that can invade your machine, lock it down and encrypts it with a password which the crooks hold you hostage for by demanding crypto currency or gift cards. Attachments, even .PDF files can contain viruses. Here are some of Jurgen's own rules:

DO NOT open attachments

DO NOT allow macros in Excel or Word Documents

Back-up: 1 exterior hard drive, 1 off-site back up and 1 cloud back up

Windows Defender (anti-virus) which is part of Win10 and Malwarebytes are essential. Only download Malwarebytes from our own website, VRCC.info, in the links section as it is safe. He is not a real fan of Norton now that it has been purchased by another company, but thinks your computer will be safe with Windows Defender if you keep your machine updated.

### **Using Wifi:**

Keep your anti-virus up to date

Turn off file sharing in the Control Panel under Security

You can use a VPN, virtual private network

Turn on your windows firewall

IoT based DDoS attacks=Internet of Things & Denial of Service usually target larger companies by flooding their web page or system with thousands of hits all at the same time, thus bringing them down.

### **Using Search Engines:**

Do not blindly trust search engine results, such as Google, as many of them are advertisements of companies who pay to get a priority place in the search. Mostly everyone uses Google and DuckDuckGo also uses it as but with less ads. DuckDuckGo bookmarks however do not transfer to a new computer like Google Chrome ones do.

Do not let anyone log in your computer remotely. Microsoft does not want to 'fix' your computer and will not send you emails, call you or have a giant blinking phone number on your screen. Beware of offers to log on to your computer and take care of you.

### **Using Mobile Apps:**

Lock your phone with a password.

Turn on location services or 'Find My Phone' in case you lose it or it is stolen.

Back up your phone on your computer, don't just rely on your cloud back up.

Apps can contain viruses, especially some of the more common ones: i.e., flashlight apps, games, etc.

Do not let apps have access to your contacts for instance if they ask, for example.

### **How Did I Get Infected?**

Do not download free stuff, games, fix-it utilities such as software to make your internet faster---it does not work. 70% of free fix-it utilities will cause more harm than good. You are better off to upgrade your laptop to a solid-state hard drive if you want 'faster'.

Do keep Windows, Java and Adobe Reader up to date.

Install some anti-virus, even on Apple products; they get viruses as well.

Do not allow any remote access.

Do not allow any registry cleaner.

Never give anyone your credit card information.

Do not sign in to websites with your 'Facebook' account, make a separate password for each website.

Always have different passwords and do not use an online password vault; keep your passwords the old-fashioned way on paper in a safe place.

### **What Can I Do:**

DISCONNECT immediately.

Re-boot in safe mode and run a full virus scan.

Consult a professional to clean your machine or give you safe advice.

You can install 'AVG anti-virus', just not the free version.

You can erase all your cookies quite easily.

### **Windows 11:**

Windows 11 is a face-lift of Win10 which is very safe. Win11 has the look & feel of an Apple product...it is pretty. As with any upgrade, the driver software has lagged behind and Win11 may not play well with your printer or other accessories. You can move a Win7 w/8mg RAM to Win10 operating system probably by just adding a solid-state drive.

Google Chrome is now a whole interface and is always hooked up the solid-state internet in the background, but you can turn off 'notifications'. A Chrome Book HAS to have an internet connection to work and Jurgen only recommends them for children because they are cheap, good for games and browsing.

As usual a big thanks to Jurgen and his assistant, Selina, for another great presentation; we look forward to his next visit on March 10, 2022.

For our Genealogy buffs, RootsTech from Salt Lake City is going to be March 3-5. As last year, it will be Free. Sign up to participate here: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/rootstech-2022-registration> If you already have a FamilySearch.org account, sign in first for more benefits.

Next week Vicky will be here with Part 2 of Spoofs & Spam including some examples. Coming up will be Darryl Daniels on travel apps and Sandy McKenny with a demo probably of Google Earth. Don't forget your dues and bring a friend next time.

Regards, Sandy McKenny, sec.

Past meeting minutes can be viewed at our website <http://www.vrcc.info/>