Hello and welcome to our first newsletter. Actually that’s not quite true as year’s ago when the club first got started we had actually published a newsletter. But the publisher has since moved on from our club and as a result we have not had one for a long time. Enter Janet and Fran, two members who have stepped up to help us once again produce another newsletter. This first edition has been made possible by their hard work in putting it together. But, as like anything else they can’t do it alone and that is why I am asking for your help. I am soliciting members of the club to come up with content to be added to future editions of the newsletter. So if you have any good ideas for articles or any tips or tricks related to any software you use please submit them to cpusergroup@hotmail.com.

Our first edition is packed with a lot of good and timely information. The featured article is related to the Equifax breach. Please take time to read the entire article as it has good info on what to do if affected and also how to stay safe online. The history of the club is also part of this first newsletter. Read about how it all got started almost 15 years ago. There is also a tech word search and info on the officers as well as how to join the club. Until next time, happy computing!
To understand the history of the CPUser Group, you first must know the history of its officers. First, we will start with the president, Jon Mazur belonged to a computer club from 1983-2001. The name of the club was the A-K Valley Computer Club. We disbanded in 2001 due to the president passing away. Meanwhile the Vice President of the CPUser Group, Michael Ceschini was then the V.P. of the Natrona Heights club with Paul Fuller, President. This club was first located at the VFW in Natrona Heights and then had to relocate to Paul Fuller’s store because the VFW’s DSL connection kept disconnecting during club meetings. Moving to Paul’s store gave us a much better internet connection, but seating was at a minimum. While at this club, Mike became friend’s with Jack Kossan and Mike would often talk to Jack about how he wished he could find a bigger location with internet and start a new club. After a couple of months, Jack told Mike that he might have found a place in New Kensington with class rooms and free internet. Jack went on to tell Mike that he was taking classes at the Allegheny Valley Institute of Technology in New Kensington and the owner Skip Laratonda was willing to let us use the school in the evenings. Jack also said that if Mike and his dad Gene were interested, he had two friends Dave and Jon Mazur who might be interested in starting a new club. Hence, the first CPUser Group meeting was held at Dave Mazur’s house in May of 2003. Officer’s were picked at this Meeting and the name of the club was decided on. The officer’s were as follows: President Dave Mazur, Vice President Jon Mazur, Treasurer Jack Kossan, Secretary Michael Ceschini, and Member at large Gene Ceschini.

The first official meeting was in June of 2003 with about eight people in attendance. The club slowly grew its membership over the next few years. The club stayed in New Kensington for about one year. Then in 2004 Skip decided to move AVIT to Leechburg, so instead of trying to find another location we moved the club right along with him. That lasted for close to four years, when one day a member noticed in the local newspaper that Skip was selling the building. At that point we needed to scramble to find another location very fast. That’s when Gene Ceschini stepped up and asked the head priest at Holy Martyr’s church in Tarentum if we could use the church hall as a meeting place for our computer club. He said yes and the rest is history.
Guests may come to two meetings to see what the CPUser group has to offer. After the two free meetings the new guest must decide if he/she would like to join the CPUser Group.

Membership dues are $25 per person or $40 per couple for a one-year Membership.

Dues may be paid to the CPUser Group Treasurer George Gross at a meeting or you can email him at the following email address: n3gj73@comcast.net for information of where you can mail a check.

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) is a worldwide organization that helps groups devoted to the world of technology including computers, tablets, smartphones, digital photography, genealogy, etc. by facilitating communications between member groups and industry vendors.

A 501(c)3 non-profit corporation as designated by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, APCUG also assists member groups and their officers fulfill their education goals with support materials and shared knowledge and experience.

APCUG is a cross-platform organization. While many groups are oriented towards the Microsoft Windows operating system, numerous groups include members using a variety of operating systems such as OS X, iOS, Linux, Chrome, and Android. APCUG provides services to meet all of their needs.

Membership is open to all technology user groups.

APCUG itself is not a user group; only user groups themselves are members. APCUG’s product and service are offered to group leaders, who can then share them with their members.

APCUG is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to fostering communication among and between user groups and between user groups and vendors.
We hope everyone had a great summer. Our September meeting brought everyone back together for a great night. Our raffle prize was a Smart TV with built in Roku TV. The winner was Karen Heuser.

President Jon Mazur gave an educational and informative presentation on WISER. WISER is a patient safety training center for healthcare providers at both PITT and UPMC. We learned a lot of important information regarding simulators being used in healthcare.

There was a tech demo by VP Michael Ceschini showing off a new Classic gaming console.
Equifax hack: How to know if you’re Affected

By Brad Chacos
Senior Editor, PCWorld | SEP 15, 2017 5:50 AM PT

Credit monitoring agency Equifax revealed shocking news late September 7: A data breach of the company’s servers from mid-May through July 2017 resulted in the theft of the personal information of up to 143 million U.S. consumers—a huge chunk of the country’s 324 million population. Equifax says the breach leaked highly sensitive information, too, including “names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and, in some instances, driver’s license numbers.”

That’s everything crooks need to open up credit lines in your name, or worse. And now it’s in nefarious hands.

Editor’s note: This article was originally published September 8, 2017, but has been updated with information about Equifax waiving credit freeze fees and the FTC’s warning about fraudulent phone calls.

Equifax hack: Was I affected?

Shamefully, Equifax won’t be contacting most of the 143 million victims directly to let them know they’ve fallen prey to data hackers. The hackers also swiped credit card numbers for 209,000 people, and “certain dispute documents with personal identifying information” for 182,000 more. Equifax will mail those particular victims—far less than 1 percent of everyone affected—a notice that they were affected by the breach.

Finding out if you were affected by the Equifax hack is trickier (and murkier) if you’re not part of that sliver. Equifax created the www.equifaxsecurity2017.com website for U.S. consumers to “see if your personal information is potentially impacted.” Let’s be frank: It looks like a fraud site. It’s frighteningly bare-bones and runs on WordPress, the URL differs from Equifax’s main site, some browsers were throwing up phishing warnings due to back-end configuration issues, and Equifax even asks for your social security number to confirm whether it leaked your social security number. Those are all classic signs of a malicious phishing site, but fear not: equifaxsecurity2017.com is legitimate.

Head to the Potential Impact page of the Equifax Security website to find out if you were affected. Simply click the “Check potential impact” button and supply your last name and the last six digits of your social security number.
If the credit agency doesn’t believe you were impacted, it’ll tell you so and pitch you to register for Equifax’s “TrustID Premier” credit monitoring service, which the company will provide for free for one year regardless of whether or not your data was stolen.

Alternatively, the site may report that “We believe that your personal information may have been impacted by this incident” and again prompt you to enroll for TrustID Premier. Equifax has confirmed that signing up for TrustID Premier will not prevent you from joining a class-action suit over this issue.

Equifax has also set up a dedicated call center at 866-447-7559 for additional questions. It’s open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Eastern time every day, including weekends.

Update: If you receive a call that claims to be from Equifax, don’t provide any personal information. “They’re not from Equifax. It’s a scam. Equifax will not call you out of the blue,” the U.S. FTC warns. Report the con artists to the FTC.

Equifax hack: Monitor your credit report

Regardless of whether you accept TrustID Premier, it’s a good idea to keep an eye on your credit report for fraudulent activity—even if Equifax “believes that your personal information was not impacted.” Experts poking at Equifax’s data breach checker discovered it may be spitting out inaccurate records.

You can get a copy of your credit report online at www.annualcreditreport.com. You can request a free copy of your credit report once per year from each of the major credit monitoring agencies: Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian. Stagger the requests for every few months and you can keep an eye on things throughout the year.

The FTC warns that www.annualcreditreport.com is the only site “authorized to fill orders for the free annual credit report you are entitled to under law,” so steer clear of others making similar claims. If you see any fraudulent activity on your credit report, notify your bank or credit card company immediately.

You may also want to put a fraud alert or credit freeze on your account to thwart would-be identity thieves. Equifax is waiving its usual fee for credit freezes through November 21, Lifehacker reports. If you decide to take preventative action, be sure to read the FTC’s guide to credit freezes versus fraud alerts.
WPS Office Suite—A full office suite that's completely free and genuinely impressive.

WPS Office Free isn't just an alternative to Microsoft Office—it manages to mimic pretty much the entire look and basic set of features. Available completely free of charge (although there are ads associated with certain features), this office suite comprises a word processor, presentation tool, spreadsheet and more, and is fully compatible with Microsoft document formats.

There's a lot to like here. The cloud element is a very nice touch, and while 1GB of free storage is nothing to get too excited about, it's useful for small files like text documents.

Other additions—such as the ability to convert PDF files into Word format—give WPS Office Free an edge over other free office suits, and the incredibly low system requirements mean it's ideal for installing on even the oldest of Windows PCs.

For anyone who likes the idea of working on the move, and taking advantage of the cloud storage, there are iOS and Android versions of the software available, as well as one for Linux. With a raft of supported language, this is an incredible versatile suite.

User experience

If you've ever used a recent version of Microsoft Office, WPS Office Free will feel immediately familiar. It employs the same ribbon interface, and all of the most common tools and options are intuitively placed so you won't spend ages searching for the setting or tool that you need. Performance is swift too, thanks to the light system requirements. Not everyone will be happy with the ads that need to be endured to gain timed access to certain features of WPS Office Free, but that's the only sacrifice you have to make to enjoy this otherwise superb software suite.

THE VERDICT

This suite goes a long way towards proving free software can be simply incredible. For day-to-day office needs, and beyond, it has everything.

Pros
- Excellent selection of powerful tools
- PDF conversion
- Cloud support for cross-platform work

Cons
- Limited free cloud storage space
- Ads on some features
- No database application included

Where to download:
https://www.wps.com/office-free
Tech Word Search

accesspoint
bandwidth
data
dockingstation
ethernet
host
interface
modem
printer
scroll
Where: Holy Martyrs Parish Hall  353 West 9th Avenue   Tarentum, PA 15084-1243

When: Every second Tuesday of the month except July and August

Time: 7:00pm

Website: http://www.cpusergroup.org

Email: cpusergroup@hotmail.com

Phone: 724-230-4619

OFFICERS

President  Jon Mazur  cjcb@verizon.net
Vice President  Michael Ceschini  mceschini@comcast.net
Secretary  Harry Shipman  harrys33@yahoo.com
Treasurer  George Gross  n3gj73@comcast.net
Member-at-Large  Magdeline Freidman  freidms@gmail.com
Member-at-Large  Greg Wall  wallgd@verizon.net
Member-at-Large  James Waltenbaugh  jkwwwaltenbaugh@msn.com

Membership Form

NAME____________________________________
ADDRESS________________________________
CITY_____________________ZIP_____________
PHONE NUMBER__________________________
CELL NUMBER____________________________
EMAIL____________________________________

CIRCLE YOUR INTERESTS: OS: WINDOWS / MAC / LINUX / APPLE iOS / ANDROID / OTHER
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY / SOCIAL MEDIA / DIY / HARDWARE / CODING / GAMING /
3D PRINTING / OTHER

Send check for $25 single/$40 family payable to CPUser Group to George Gross 58 7th Street Extension New Kensington, PA 15068-5217