Computer News

Scheduled Events

August - September 2014

Board of Directors Meeting   August 1, 2014 10:AM - 12:00 Noon

House @ Napa Senior Center

Investor SIG Meeting   August 11, 2014 5;30 PM - 7:30 PM
September 8, 2014 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
23 Skipping Rock Way, Napa

Mac SIG Meeting   August 14, 2014 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 PM
September 11, 2014 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 PM
Napa Senior Center / 1500 Jefferson St., Napa

Annul Potluck Picnic   August 9, 2014 12:30 PM - 6:00PM
Peterson's Christmas Tree Farm 1120 Darms Lane, Napa

General Meeting   August 20, 2014 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
September 17, 2014 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Napa Senior Center / 1500 Jefferson St., Napa

General Meeting
Wednesday August 20, 2014
August General meeting will feature the Yountville Geek **Lawrence Koga.**

Lawrence will be talking about and demonstrating the **Linux** open source operating system. In fact if you want an OS that you can make work the way you want, **Linux** is for you.

Besides there are thousands of free applications available for **Linux**.

Lawrence is an expert on computers and can probably tell you how you can run **Linux** on your computer. For those that are still using the unsupported **Windows XP** this might be the answer. **Linux** is running thousands of computers around the globe including many server systems. If you want to know where to get your copy of **Linux** and apps to run on it don't miss this meeting. You can contact Lawrence at lawk107@gmail.com or call him at 694-7442.

From the President
by
Ron Dack

OK, so July is almost over and one of our favorite functions is coming up. No, I don't mean the Board of Directors meeting. I am referring to our annual picnic. Even though I usually get to do the barbecue duty it is still fun watching everyone have a good time. As usual NVPCUG will supply the tri-tip, chicken, hotdogs, and soft drinks it is the potluck items brought by each of you that I really like to try. As usual I am sure this picnic will be a lot of fun and great food. I am sure Dianne has a few games to play and maybe even a few prizes for the winners.

If you haven't signed up for the picnic yet there is still some time left, but not much. I would suggest you do so t the earliest time possible. Remember you have to e-mail Dianne at Prior_Di@hotmail.com and let her know what you are bringing for the potluck and how many of you are coming. You might be able to phone your info in if you don't know how to e-mail. **Dianne Prior** 252-1506. Remember no e-mail/phone call no picnic. I hope to see each and everyone of you there. Take care, Ron President@nvpcug.org

July Presentation Review
by
Ron Dack

Dylan Williams and **John Hayes** from **Valley Tech Solutions** 255-1585. Dylan and John came to talk about computer scams and the new wi-fi being installed in downtown Napa.

The first scam they talked about is called "cryptolocker".

Cryptolocker is defined by Wikipedia: "CryptoLocker is a ransomware trojan which targets computers running Microsoft Windows[1] and was first observed by Dell SecureWorks in September 2013.[2][3] A CryptoLocker attack may come from various sources; one such is disguised as a legitimate email attachment. When activated, the malware encrypts certain types of files stored on local and mounted network drives using RSA public-key cryptography, with the private key stored only on the malware's control servers. The malware then displays a message which offers to decrypt the data if a payment (through either Bitcoin or a pre-paid voucher) is made by a stated deadline, and threatens to delete the private key if the deadline passes. If the deadline is not met, the malware offers to decrypt data via an online service provided by the malware's operators, for a significantly higher price in Bitcoin."

They then talked about the "heartbleed" virus.

Wikipedia describes the "heartbleed" virus as:

Heartbleed is a security bug in the OpenSSL cryptography library that gained widespread attention in April 2014. OpenSSL is a widely used implementation of the Transport Layer Security (TLS) protocol. Heartbleed may be exploited whether the party using a vulnerable OpenSSL instance for TLS is a server or a client. Heartbleed results from improper input validation (due to a missing bounds check) in the implementation of the TLS heartbeat extension,[3] the heartbeat being the basis for the bug's name.[4] The vulnerability is classified as a buffer over-read, [5] a situation where software allows more data to be read than should be allowed.

At the time of disclosure, some 17% (around half a million) of the Internet's secure web servers certified by trusted authorities were believed to be vulnerable to the attack, allowing theft of the servers' private keys and users' session cookies and passwords. The Electronic Frontier Foundation, Ars Technica, and Bruce Schneier all deemed the Heartbleed bug "catastrophic". Forbes cybersecurity columnist Joseph Steinberg wrote, "Some might argue that [Heartbleed] is the worst vulnerability found (at least in terms of its potential impact) since commercial traffic began to flow on the Internet.

Dylan and John talked about false URLs or URL redirection.

"Universal resource locator" can be used to direct you to direct you to the website you are looking for but they can also be taken over for misuse like phishing for information,

Wikipedia describes URL as: The uniform resource locator, abbreviated as URL (also known as web address, particularly when used with HTTP), is a specific character string that constitutes a reference to a resource. In most web browsers, the URL of a web page is displayed on top inside an address bar. An example of a typical URL would be "http://en.example.org/wiki/Main_Page". A URL is technically a type of uniform resource identifier (URI), but in many technical documents and verbal discussions, URL is often used as a synonym for URI, and this is not considered a problem. URLs are commonly used for web pages (http), but can also be used for file transfer (ftp), email (mailto) and many other applications.

Wikipedia describes URL redirection as: URL redirection, also called URL forwarding, is a World Wide Web technique for making a web page available under more than one URL address. When a web browser attempts to open a URL that already has been redirected, a page with a different URL is opened. Similarly, Domain redirection or domain forwarding is when all pages in a URL domain are redirected to a

different domain, as when wikipedia.com and wikipedia.net are automatically redirected to wikipedia.org. URL redirection can be used for URL shortening, to prevent broken links when web pages are moved, to allow multiple domain names belonging to the same owner to refer to a single web site, to guide navigation into and out of a website, for privacy protection, and for less innocuous purposes such as phishing attacks.

Dylan and John discussed several other issues such as secure passwords and e-mail hijacking.

All in all the group and I enjoyed the presentation and learned a lot.

Iy still baffles me that there are people out there who have nothing better to do than write malicious programs. If they put half the effort into something good think what they could accomplish.

Valley Tech Solutions is involved with the new wi-fi being planned for the Napa downtown area. They talked about beginning installation next year. So when you are downtown in the future you can find a safe wi-fi to connect with.

Thanks Dylan and John for the presentation.

We hope to have you back for another presentation soon.

After XP - What next?
by
Beth Pickering

After XP - What Next?

For most of us support for XP ended in April. Why most? Because a few large companies with special service contracts who are willing to pay $200 per computer per year will be supported indefinitely.

I was going to continue with XP as long as I could without support. Fortunately I broke the screen on my laptop. Why fortunately? Because right now there are still operating system choices - and that is important.

I am Treasurer for a not-for-profit organization. Recently they bought a Win 8.1 laptop for me to use. I ~~dislike~~ ~~detest~~...I am trying to erase the word "hate" from my vocabulary, but you get the picture...using it. As far as I am concerned Win 8 is the best reason I know to get a Mac. But I wanted to be able to use my XP

programs. I decided to look at Win 7. 6 original versions - 3 still available online - which one should I get?

Susy Ball was using Win 7 on her old laptop, so I consulted her. Then we brought up some comparison charts. As Susy had said most of the differences between home premium and professional were for businesses and not something I would need. There was one feature only in professional - XP mode - that I liked. I checked one more chart and discovered the end of support dates. For all versions of Win 7 *except professional* support ends in 2015. Support for professional ends in 2020. Bingo! Decision made.

Am I happy? Well, there is a learning curve and right now I still prefer XP. Paint has changed and one feature I frequently used is gone.

My refurbished laptop has some new features, like the fingerprint reader, that I like and will use a lot. The price was definitely right and Win 7 is a thousand times better than Win 8.