

## **Stan Palen's Komputer Korner**

**This column includes hints, helps, suggestions and news for IBM compatible computers.**

**Cyber security is getting more and more critical to keep yourself and family safe. Most any smart device can be listening to you and in some cases watching you. With enough time and energy, anything can be hacked. Do you have a router in your house? Is the password still admin? (You need to change it.) Quite a few houses have two routers. One the cable company (or other Internet source) provides. This one is probably the cheapest they could get away with. The one from the cable company in my house has poor wifi coverage and poor security. I have very few devices hooked to it.**

**I have added a Linksys multichannel, multiantenna wireless router. This router also accepts 2 hard drives for multi avenue storage and backup for all my computer devices. I can also easily share files with other computers. I can also update the firmware in it. I cannot with the company provided router. My company provided router has a USB slot for a thumb drive or hard drive, but that option is disabled.**

**If your router is over 3 years old it should probably be replaced. Wifi 6 is coming with some of the new routers. Wifi 6 is much more stable and secure. It has more channels and bandwidth. Not may devices can use it, but it is coming.**

**Back to Security. Most of the common browsers and gathering data from your on line activity and selling it. Cyber folks are recommending you replace them with ones like Duckduckgo. I have installed Duckduckgo and it seems to work well and notifies me when a site tries to place cookies. I have installed it on my Android phone also. Occasionally it will block a site and tell you why. You can override or use another browser.**

**They also recommending that you do not let your browsers keep your logins and passwords. You can Click on the upper right 3 dots, click on settings, passwords, 3 dots to the right, and it will allow you to export what is stored to a file. Print it or import to a password manager (or both). Then, delete the passwords on your browser.**

**There are several sites that will walk you through settings on you browsers to minimize tracking. You need to do this for Chrome, Edge, FireFox and others. Probably not Duckduckgo. I have all three on my computer, partially because I need to check out how my webpage changes work on all of them. Sometimes my computer insists that I have the latest changes and I know it does not. I have to bring it up in another browser or computer.**

The same for you Iphone or Android phone. With the standard settings you are wide open to everything.

I have a dead fairly new Windows 10 laptop. I turn it on and eventually it comes up with the background picture, but it will do nothing else. I needed to get to Advanced Startup Options. There are several ways of getting there. Click on Restart with the shift key down, Hit F12 as it starts up, or maybe use the settings menu. None of these worked in my situation. What does work is to power down the computer. Then power on the computer and as soon as the computer company logo shows up, Hold the power key down until the computer completely shuts down and then do it again 2 or 3 more times. I will then come up with Options. The one you want here is trouble shoot. Sometimes this will find the problem. This can take hours. Mine will eventually come up, but that is useless to me when I am traveling. If it ever shuts down, I have to start over.

Do you ever need to print something from a web page and do not want all the extraneous stuff? Select with your mouse all that you want to print. Then select print, Select PDF as your printer. Then go to the bottom of more settings and check the box Selection only. Your selection will show up in a panel. Save will come up and you can name it and then open in Adobe and Print it. The App Snip will do the same thing, but with fewer clicks.

How about free Office by Microsoft? Go to Office.com, sign into Microsoft or create an account. Do not download office, it will cost money. Just click on the app you want like Word and you are in. The versions of office here are more than most people need. They are missing 3% or so of the features of Office 365.

If you have received your vaccine, I recommend you take a picture of it so you always have it with you.

If you have questions about computers, I may be able to help you.  
Spalen@crosslink.net.

Some of my sources of information are AskWoody.com and  
DavesComputerTips.com.