Stan Palen's Komputer Korner

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

In my last column, I mentioned askwoody.com. I was having trouble getting access to the newsletters and files. I found out that my reset password etc. was going to spam. The account I was using thinks almost everything is spam. My other accounts do a fairly good job. I have it all straightened out now. If you are having trouble with something, you will find folks on Ask Woody with the same problem. Quite often with solutions.

Are you still using XP? Microsoft has issued a security patch for it. You need it if you are connected to the Internet. You can try to do it with a manual update, but if that does not work, download it directly from Microsoft. Windows 7 also has a similar patch. Many companies are still using Win 7. Would you believe T-Mobile is one of the large companies still using Win 7. Microsoft has made available support for volume users, but is it many dollars per machine and goes up every year. This way they are encouraging folks to upgrade. Independents like us have no avenue of support.

Patches keep flying out of Microsoft for Windows 10. The recommended procedure if you have automatic updates disabled is to set up a restore point, then do a manual update. This is so you can go back if you need to. Several of the updates have caused crashes of some machines. The other side of the coin is that some of the patches are necessary security patches.

If you want to see your updates in Win 10, just ask Cortana for updates or type updates in the search block on the lower left of your screen. You will see several options. One being Update History. Click on that and see what you have. If you click on the K number you can see what that update was for. You will also see update options where you can turn updates on and off.

Have you heard about Tablet Mode for your PC? I had not either. I was doing a presentation for a speaker in a large group. All of a sudden it went full screen, with no icons at the bottom or the ability

to minimize what was on the screen so I could get to the next presentation. During the lunch break I was finally able to get to settings and discovered a setting for Tablet Mode and turned it off. I do not see any reason for Tablet Mode on a PC. There is an option is display icons at the bottom like Chrome, Folders etc.

How about a good "Freeware" program. Searching a hard drive can seem to take forever and uses up a lot of CPU time and disk access time. SwiftSearch is a really fast search engine that finds what you are looking for in a hurry. It is available from SourceForge.net. It is a very safe site to download from. Go to SourceForge.net/projects/SwiftSearch. I downloaded it and tried it out. Unbelievably fast. It does not work like most programs. It is not installed like other programs. You run it from the downloads directory. You can go in downloads, create a shortcut, then copy it to your desktop. There is a lot of free software on SourceForge. Some in development. I found one for digitally signing pdf documents. I might try that one of these days.

Contact Stan 540.775.7027

spalen@crosslink.net