

Bits & Bytes



Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

November 2015

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

Highlands Crossing Center 1801 Forest Hills Blvd Suite 208 (lower level) Bella Vista, AR 72715

Website: www.bvCompClub.org

Email: jrc@bvcc.arcoxmail.com

Taxes will be done at Computer Lab

The Board has approved the request to taxes to be done here. *Care Community Center*, Kimberly Porter, will be in charge of the details. She is asking for volunteers and may be reached at **479-903-3217**

Meetings

BVCC Board Meeting

5:30 pm

Computer Club Meeting

Community Room at

Highlands Crossing 7 pm

Visitors and Guests are Welcome!

Open House Clinics. Nov. 4 from 1-4 pm and Nov. 7 and 18 from 10 am to 1 pm.

Bring your tower, laptop, tablet or smartphone for problem solving.

Be sure to check the class schedules at the meeting and sign-up for the ones you are interested in. There is no charge for classes to Club members.

NOVEMBER CLASSES

Internet, Microsoft Edge - Nov. 3,5 - 10 am to noon

* Setting up Windows 10 - Nov. 5 - 1-4 pm

* Windows 10 Word Application - Nov. 10, 12 - 10 am to noon

* Understanding Windows 10 - Nov. 10, 12 - 1-3 pm

* PC Maintenance, Protect and Recover - Nov. 11 - 10 am to noon

* Digital Photography, the Camera - Nov. 11 - 1-4 pm

* Windows 10 Excel Application - Nov. 17, 19 - 10 am to noon

* Windows 10 Mail and People Application - Nov. 17 - 1-3 pm

* Using Windows 10 Programs - Nov. 19 - 1-4 pm

Genealogy Special Interest Group - Nov. 21 - 10 am to noon

Sharing Streaming Accounts: Piracy Lite

Have you ever seen a message like this? "Your Netflix account is in use on another device. Please stop playing on other devices to continue." That may happen if you're oversharing. But how much sharing is too much sharing? And when does it rise to the level of a crime?

Netflix recently announced a \$1.00 increase in the monthly fee for its standard subscription, which allows simultaneous streaming to two devices. A Goldman Sachs analyst says, "We believe a targeted price change like this is designed to reduce excessive password sharing by incentivizing users to switch to the 1-screen plan," which costs \$1 less per month.

A Consumer Reports poll found that 46% of Americans have shared their streaming account passwords with someone outside of their home. About 11% of broadband-using households receive Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu Plus, or some other streaming services by sharing someone else's password, according to a May 2015 study conducted by Parks Associates. That translates into a combined \$500 million of lost revenue for all streaming service providers in 2015.

Is Netflix Sharing Illegal?

College students are the worst moochers, with 20% of 18-24 year-olds admitting they use someone else's password to get Netflix or other video streaming services for free. Usually, it's their parents' account, but students have no problem with sharing passwords among themselves.

Officially, Netflix is unconcerned about this "piracy lite," as Parks Associates calls it. The company says it doesn't track revenues lost to password-sharing. None the less, Netflix's terms of service warn subscribers, "The Account Owner should not reveal the password to anyone."

How Much Sharing is Allowed?

Netflix customers have three options. There's the 1-screen account which allows no sharing. Two-screen and four-screen options cost a few dollars extra per month, and are supposed to be limited to sharing within a household. But it seems the company doesn't enforce that restriction, nor do they assess any penalties for violators. Amazon Prime limits customers to two devices for simultaneous viewing. HBO GO allows for three, but Hulu Plus has a limit of one viewing device at a time.

Of course, these restrictions only apply to simultaneous viewing. If you share your password with 10 people, and they're all watching at different times, you won't hit any multiple screen limits. And for the most part, the content providers don't seem to have a problem with that.

In Tennessee, however, sharing a streaming service password is a misdemeanor under a "theft-of-services" law that was updated in 2011 to explicitly include "web entertainment services." Violators face up to a year in jail and up to a \$2,500 fine. I can't find any evidence of prosecutions under this law, and one wonders why the state would have it on the books when the streaming services seems quite capable of managing the situation themselves.

"Piracy lite" may be morally wrong and technically illegal in Tennessee, but it's not very dangerous. Password-sharing is different from the theft and resale of passwords. There is little security risk in sharing a Netflix password with a college-bound child, a significant other, or someone else you know and trust. Streaming services don't provide opportunities to plant malware on an account holder's computer or compromise financial accounts.

On the other hand, couples who share streaming accounts while romantically involved often find it difficult to stop after they break up. A recent article on Slate.com asks, "Do couples need pre-nups for their shared streaming passwords?" <http://goo.gl/h5AA9T> It explores several relationships, some bittersweet and some horrifying, in which people continued to share streaming passwords after their relationships ended. Several examples left me shaking my head and mentally urging the account owners to "just change the darned password!"

Netflix, Hulu, and other streaming services are unlikely to crack down on password-sharing in the near future. Even half a billion dollars is a drop in the streaming industry's bucket, and every freeloader who becomes addicted to streaming media is a potential paying customer when Mom and Dad (or an ex-girlfriend) cut the cord. But Netflix's recent price change suggests that password-sharing needs to be reined in, or at least "disincentivized."

Good password management is a critical part of online security, but it can be difficult to do. The more online accounts you have, the more difficult it is to create strong passwords, keep track of them without exposing them to thieves, and remember to change them regularly. Read on to learn how password managers can simplify the task...

Managing Your Passwords With Ease

If you're not using a password management program, you're probably committing at least one of the cardinal sins against security best practices. Your passwords may be weak or obvious, like the popular "12345678" or simply "password." Or you may be reusing the same password on multiple accounts. Both make for a hacker's dream.

Another definite no-no is storing a list of passwords in unencrypted text on a hard drive, cloud service, or a Post-It Note; that just makes theft easier. If this sounds like you, then please consider using one of these password management programs.

LastPass is a long-standing leader in password managers, consistently achieving highest ratings from reviewers and users. The free version is a cloud-based, client-server product for desktop machines only; if you want synced support across mobile devices, you'll need the premium version for \$12 per year. Download and install the LastPass client, then use it to create a LastPass account and a master password, the only one you'll need to remember from then on.

Best Password Managers 2015

Add website login URLs and credentials manually, or let LastPass import them from your browser's password manager. Once LastPass is installed, it will automatically log you in to accounts, change passwords regularly, and even fill in forms for you. Two-factor authentication is optional.

LastPass was acquired by LogMeIn in October, 2015, and a lot of LastPass users are unhappy about that deal. LogMeIn has a reputation for spiking acquisitions, hiking prices unexpectedly, and eliminating free options. This has prompted many LastPass users to search for an alternative. LastPass competitor, DashLane, reported a huge surge in Google search traffic immediately following the LastPass/LogMeIn merger announcement.

DashLane offers a free version for one Windows, Android or iOS device only. Support for multiple devices costs \$39.95 per year. The free version does not provide Web access to your passwords stored in the cloud, and there is a limit of five accounts that can be shared with others. Like LastPass, DashLane can also store and auto-fill your credit card details, shipping addresses, and other user-specified information. Two-factor authentication is an option.

More Passwords Manager Options

QWERTY? Posting a list of passwords on the wall next to your desk is a bad idea for obvious reasons. But using one of the most common (and easily guessed) passwords isn't much better. See my article [Hey, Is This Your Password?](#) to see if you're using one of the top 25 worst passwords.

RoboForm Desktop excels at filling in complex forms automatically. However, reviewers say it's not as good at capturing login information and replaying it where needed as LastPass and other programs designed originally for these functions are. RoboForm Desktop stores your encrypted passwords locally, while RoboForm Everywhere keeps them in the cloud so they're available no matter which mobile or desktop device you use.

Password managers have suffered feature-bloat due to heavy competition. For those who want a simple, free password manager without the form-filling and "digital wallet" stuff, PassWordBox is a good choice. PasswordBox was acquired by Intel in January, 2015, and the chip giant has made the premium version totally free now. PasswordBox is a browser plugin for Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer. With a compatible browser, it runs on Windows, iOS, or Android devices. When you log in to a site for the first time after installing PassWordBox, it captures your credentials and asks you if you want it to save them. When you revisit a stored site, your credentials are automatically filled in; if you have multiple accounts on a site, a dropdown list lets you pick one to use. PassWordBox offers two-factor authentication, but only via a heartbeat monitoring biometric device sold by Nymi.

If you're still scribbling passwords on a Post-it note, using weak passwords, or the same password for multiple sites, using one of these password managers will boost your security immensely. All of the program listed here include the option to generate strong, non-guessable passwords, store them securely, and automatically fill website login forms. LastPass and Dashlane both have the ability to automatically change your password every 30 days on hundreds of popular sites.

Desk Top Computer for Sale**\$100.00**

Includes

Dell Flat screen Monitor

Dell Tower Optiplex 755

running Windows 7 Professional

(4 Gig memory, 150 Gig hard drive)

Can be updated to Windows 10

Mouse and Mouse pad included

No speakers available

Lexmark 7170 model Printer

attached and software installed

Call to see at 970 390-0748

in Bella Vista

As a Courtesy to our Club Members

We are happy to list your computer related articles that you wish to sell.

There is no charge, but it will be on space available.

Reminders

Be sure to check the class schedules at the meeting and sign-up for the ones you are interested in. There is no charge for classes to Club members.

Check your Membership to see if it is renewal time. We value each one of you!

Club Officers:

Bob Shewmake: President

Rich Clark: Past-President

Vice-President: Chuck Billman

Secretary: Joe Tropansky

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Ryan Smith, Webmaster

Marie Herr, Education

Chuck Billman, Training Center Admin.

Bob Shewmake, Genealogy Liaison

Kathy Clark, Genealogy Communications

Classes and open house clinics are free to Computer Club members. Club membership fee- \$20; ½ price additional family member. Classes and help clinics are held at the John Ruehle Center located in the Highlands Crossings Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd., Suite 208, Bella Vista. Class descriptions at bvcompclub.org

Happy Thanksgiving!