President's Corner

Wow! It's been a long time between meetings! First, the Christmas break followed by Old Man Winter preventing our January meeting, which will have made a total of about three months— by the next meeting! We'll need to re-introduce ourselves to one another at the February 16th meeting to make sure we remember who's who!
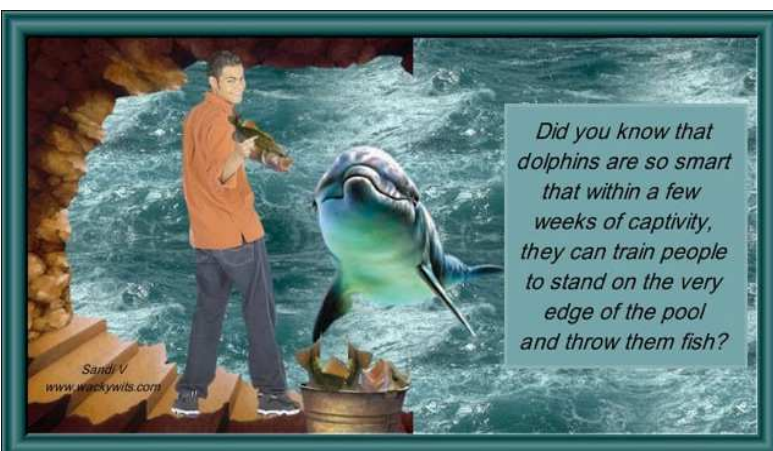
Hopefully it won't come to that, but we do need to become energized once again working our way into this new year. As we put another successful year behind us, let's now concentrate on making the year 2016 an even more successful one.

We'll be smothered by political ads, phone calls and the like, most of the year but voting is so important so that's yet another activity we'll be presented with this year, both for our Country's President, and of course for our Club officers.

Give considerable thought and purpose to your choices. It's your time to express your preferences so take advantage of this privilege and vote! So often folks will sit back and choose not to vote, then spend the following years complaining. Make your choices official, so they count, (and *then* complain:o).

Looking forward to seeing a full party room at Godfather's February 16th. Plan ahead now, so you won't miss this meeting.   …..Your Prez, Joe

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

Sandi V
www.wackywits.com

AOMEI Backupper

Tim Fisher PC Support Expert

AOMEI Backupper Standard is the program I've chosen for this week's Free Software Friday newsletter. This program is easily one of the better completely free local backup tools I've taken a hard look at. It supports full, incremental, and differential backup.

Four backup types are supported with AOMEI Backupper: disk backup, partition backup, file/folder backup, and system backup.

You can also clone a partition or entire disk to another drive with AOMEI Backupper.

All backed up data, no matter the type, is held in one single file, which can be saved to a local or external drive as well as a shared network folder.

AOMEI Backupper supports encrypting a backup with a password, setting a custom compression level, receiving email notifications once backups have completed, splitting a backup into custom slices or predetermined ones (for media like CDs and DVDs), and choosing between an exact backup (copies used and unused space) or an intelligent sector backup (just backs up used space).

Scheduling is supported with AOMEI Backupper so you can choose to run a backup on one occasion only or every day, week, or month, as well as at a continual interval throughout the day. Advanced settings are available to choose a full, incremental, or differential backup.

I have questions!

Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one?

If 4 out of 5 people suffer from diarrhea does that mean that 1 out of 5 enjoys it?

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

If a pig loses its voice is it disgruntled?

Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a racecar is not called a racist?

If it's true that we are here to help others then what exactly are the others here for?

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree and dry cleaners depressed?

If FedEx and UPS were to merge would they call it FedUP?

Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?

What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?

I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use, toothpicks, (instead of chopsticks?)

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?

Is it true that you never really learn to swear until you learn to drive?

Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?

Why, Why, Why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds when they already know you're broke?

Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint you have to touch it to check?

AOMEI Backupper Standard v3.2 (continued from Page 1)

I particularly like the restore function in AOMEI Backupper. You're able to mount a backed up image as a local drive and search through the data as if it were truly in Windows Explorer. You can even copy out individual files and folders. Instead of exploring a backup, you can also restore all the data. with just a few clicks.

What are Fair Use Limits?

A fair use limit in an online backup plan, especially one that allows unlimited storage, is basically a "real world" limit to how much you can back up.

A backup service's fair use policy, if it has one, is usually located in the EULA (End User License Agreement) or TOS (Terms of Service) document which you should be able to easily find on the company's website.

The part you're looking for is usually referred to as *Fair Use* or *Acceptable Use* but it may be mentioned without a heading in any section that discusses the backup size or details on a particular cloud backup plan they offer.

Why Do Some Backup Services Have Fair Use Limits?

If you've ever been to an all-you-can-eat restaurant, you probably carried the expectation that you could eat as much as you want without restriction.

In reality, however, you'd probably be shown the door as you entered the 8th hour of your visit. That's because the restaurant assumes that you understand that *all-you-can-eat* means *all-you-can-eat-at-a-single-meal*.

Since the huge majority of people sit down to eat a single meal at a time, and tend to get full and end that meal after a reasonable time, there's usually little need for a restaurant to worry about someone eating more than what's assumed to be fair.

A service that offers an unlimited cloud backup plan is in somewhat of a similar situation. Most people simply don't have the appetite for 864 TB of data.

So, just to be safe, in an effort to protect themselves from the very high cost of the occasional data hoarder out there, they include a *fair use limit* in the plan's small print.

Do All Cloud Backup Plans Have a Fair Use Limit?

No, absolutely not. In fact, some cloud backup services explicitly advertise that they don't limit the size of your backup in any way whatsoever.

Others are a bit more gray, including language in their TOS or EULA that say things like *"We reserve the right in the future, in our sole discretion, to set commercially reasonable data storage limits (i.e. 20 TB) on all unlimited accounts."*

In that case, the service is allowing themselves an "out" in the future if greater and greater storage use on their servers starts to make their service less profitable to whatever degree they see as problematic.

Should I Worry if an Otherwise Great Online Backup Plan Has a Fair Use Limit?

Not necessarily, especially if that limit is orders of magnitude larger than you have, or planning in the future, to back up.

For example, let's say you find a unlimited cloud backup plan that has all the features you want and fits perfectly into your budget but has a fair use limit of 25 TB. This is a problem if you have 500 uncompressed Blu-ray movies you plan on backing up. This is *not* a problem for the 99.9% of everyone else whose total hard drive capacity is 2 TB or less.

You can find all the details on a backup company's fair use limits in my cloud backup reviews for each service. If you're looking for this information for a service that I haven't yet reviewed, check their small print or start a chat or support ticket with the company to make sure you understand what you're getting.

Editor's Note: No 'Meeting Minutes' this issue—January's meeting cancelled due to inclement weather.

What's New?
"Memrister"

The Next Big thing? The memristor, a microscopic component that can "remember" electrical states even when turned off. It's expected to be far cheaper and faster than flash storage. A theoretical concept since 1971, it has now been built in labs and is already starting to revolutionize everything we know about computing, possibly making flash memory, RAM, and even hard drives obsolete within a decade.

The memristor is just one of the incredible technological advances sending shock waves through the world of computing. Other innovations in the works are more down-to-earth, but they also carry watershed significance. From the technologies that finally make paperless offices a reality to those that deliver wireless power, these advances should make your humble PC a far different beast come the turn of the decade.

32 Core Computers?

If your CPU has only a single core, it's officially a dinosaur. In fact, quad-core computing is now commonplace; you can even get laptop computers with four cores today. But we're really just at the beginning of the core wars: Leadership in the CPU market will soon be decided by who has the most cores, not who has the fastest clock speed.

What is it? With the gigahertz race largely abandoned, both AMD and Intel are trying to pack more cores onto a die in order to continue to improve processing power and aid with multitasking operations. Miniaturizing chips further will be key to fitting these cores and other components into a limited space. Intel will roll out 32-nanometer processors (down from today's 45nm chips) in 2009.

When is it coming? Intel has been very good about sticking to its road map. A six-core CPU based on the Itanium design should be out imminently, when Intel then shifts focus to a brand-new architecture called Nehalem, to be marketed as Core i7. Core i7 will feature up to eight cores, with eight-core systems available in 2009 or 2010. (And an eight-core AMD project called Montreal is reportedly on tap for 2009.)

After that, the timeline gets fuzzy. Intel reportedly canceled a 32-core project called Keifer, slated for 2010, possibly because of its complexity (the company won't confirm this, though). That many cores requires a new way of dealing with memory; apparently you can't have 32 brains pulling out of one central pool of RAM. But we still expect cores to proliferate when the kinks are ironed out: 16 cores by 2011 or 2012 is plausible (when transistors are predicted to drop again in size to 22nm), with 32 cores by 2013 or 2014 easily within reach. Intel says "hundreds" of cores may come even farther down the line.

Editor's Note: Well, it now 2016—What's the maximum you've discovered or heard about?

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FUTURE DEMO'S

Why not be considering what Demo's you might enjoy during future club meeting? We need your input to keep something 'on the table' each meeting that is interesting, educational and informative. What have you been involved with that might be of interest to our members? If not you, how about someone else's activity that has captured your interest? Make your suggestions known at the next meeting.