



THE SEED

A Newsletter From Your...

DENVER APPLE PI
Macintosh User Group

January 2020

<http://www.denverapplepi.com>

Vol. 41, No. 1

Denver Apple Pi
Mac SIG & Help SIG Meetings are held at
Applewood Community Church
12930 W 32nd Avenue
Golden CO 80401
7 to 9 pm
SEE WEBSITE FOR MAP

| 2020 Calendar | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Mac SIG | Jan 21 | 3 rd Tues |
| Help SIG | Jan 23* | 4 th Thurs |
| Mac SIG | Feb 18 | 3 rd Tues |
| Help SIG | Feb 27 | 4 th Thurs |
| Mac SIG | Mar 17 | 3 rd Tues |
| Help SIG | Mar 26 | 4 th Thurs |
| Mac SIG | Apr 21 | 3 rd Tues |
| Help SIG | Apr 23* | 4 th Thurs |
| Mac SIG | May 19 | 3 rd Tues |
| Help SIG | May 28 | 4 th Thurs |
| Mac SIG | Jun 16 | 3 rd Tues |
| Help SIG | Jun 25 | 4 th Thurs |

*Applewood Community Church may have shelter obligations on these dates. You will be notified by email if DAPi meetings are to be cancelled.

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Mac SIG

January 21, 2020
7-9 pm

Presenter: Larry fagan

Social Media security, how to report hacking attempts, PDF manipulating, how to use BBC, and other subjects of Interest.



MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR JANUARY 2020

Members who owe dues in January 2020

Fred Berkman Robert Wing

Membership dues for DAPi are \$15 per year and you will receive the monthly newsletter, *The Seed*, via email in PDF format. If you prefer, you can pay \$20 and receive a snail mail copy of the newsletter. You can bring your payment to the monthly meetings or you can mail your remittance to the club mailing address: Denver Apple Pi, 6501 Welch Court, Arvada, CO 80004.

COMING EVENTS:

Mac SIG, February 18, 2020

Jeff Gamet, Catalina MacOS 10.15 and other items of interest.

REMINDERS:

- Help SIG—Call Elissa to get your name/problem on the list so our DAPi Help people will be prepared. You will need to bring your computer, your own power cord, mouse, and keyboard. Elissa will keep a sign-up list for those asking for help at the Help SIG meetings so members can be helped in a prioritized way. Drop-ins are welcome. Contact Elissa at elissamc@comcast.net or at 303.421.8714.
- Tom King says if you have questions about Excel for Mac, the spreadsheet software program, bring your questions to the Help SIG meeting. Please call Elissa in advance.
- Need help with iPad, iPhone? If you would like assistance with navigating and synchronizing your iPad and iPhone, bring them to the Help SIG meeting. Notify Elissa what help you need, and we will try to get the problems resolved.



KIM KOMANDO TALKS TO WHITE-HAT HACKING EXPERT "SNOW"

View the entire SKYPE interview on YouTube between Kim Komando and Stephanie Carruthers ("Snow") dated September 18, 2019:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYYKEiWsn6Y> (click on skip the ads)

Snow has been labeled "the best social engineer" and "chief people hacker" by her

employer IBM Security X-Force Red team. The team's job is to identify security flaws in companies before the bad guys do.

One of Snow's exploits was to bypass the security methods put in place by a financial company in NYC and to identify weaknesses in their security. After some pre-visit research, she made a "copy" from an online visual of their security badge. With this fake, unauthenticated badge, she followed someone thru the "secure" gate. When he asked if she had a badge, she showed her fake badge and entered. She called this "social engineering."

Social engineering, as described by Kapersky (a global leader for cybersecurity in the home), is a form of techniques employed by cybercriminals designed to lure unsuspecting users into sending them their confidential data, infecting their computers with malware or opening links to infected sites.

Another exploit was to hack Kim Komando's cell phone. After some pre-vishing (voice phishing) research, she dialed Kim's cell phone. The caller was identified as Kim Komando's husband, but in fact it was Snow calling. Snow was able to show the caller as anyone she chose using her skills to determine phone numbers. If she were a black-hat hacker, she could use the false identity to gain information from an unsuspecting person.

Exploiting someone's special interests in an email is another method. Often urging the email recipient to respond quickly to get special tickets, or whatever, might ask you to click a link, or download a PDF, and this

will allow malware to be downloaded to your computer and forward data to the black hatter. Just a click will reveal what operating system and type of browser being used so the hacker knows what specific environment he/she is hacking into. The bad guys are becoming more sophisticated; no more emails with misspelled words, copied logos or from a prince in a foreign land asking for money.

Recommendations from "Snow" to avoid being hacked:

- Slow down. Be suspicious. Take time to make online decisions. An email with urgency is warning sign.
- Enable two-factor ID. Adds extra layer of security. Lie on security question—don't give mother's actual maiden name.
- Use password manager.

Kim and Stephanie talked about attending "DEF CON" (defense readiness condition), the world's longest running and largest underground hacking conference" <https://defcon.org> in Las Vegas, Nevada. Each had interesting comments about what happened to them. Kim said when she walked through the entrance, all the text messages from her smartphone appeared on a screen in front of her. Snow attended for three years and eventually won the social engineering contest. Considering that this conference attracts the best of the best hackers, her skill in social engineering is significant!

FROM MUO (MAKE USE OF)

This article suggests 28 websites every Apple Fan should bookmark.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/20-websites-every-apple-fan-must-bookmark/>.

MUO's comments about a few of the listed websites:

- Macprices.net: <https://www.macprices.net/> - Check here for the best prices on Apple products. MacPrices supplies free price trackers for each individual product.
- AppleInsider: <https://appleinsider.com/> - Up and running since 1997 (the oldest website listed by MUO), AppleInsider has a focus on news, leaks and rumors.
- AppAdvice: <https://appadvice.com/appnn> - Mostly focusing on software and iOS apps, AppAdvice also covers Mac as well. You can find news about freebies and deals, accessories and gadgets.
- OSXDaily: <http://osxdaily.com/> - Although the current, correct format for our Mac operating systems is MacOS, this site uses the old format but has good information in Tips & Tricks, News, iOS as well as a troubleshooting category for Mac OS iPhone and iPad.



Think before you click.



"JUICE JACKING"—PUBLIC CHARGING STATIONS CAN TRANSFER DATA FROM YOUR DEVICE

Thanks to DAPi member Ken McIntire for suggesting this subject

When you use your USB cable to plug into a public charging station, not only can you charge your device, you can transfer data from your device through the data pins in your cable back to a hacker. This method used by hackers, called "juice jacking," enables them to install malware on devices connected to public charging stations. There is an inexpensive fix for this, and if you need public USB cable charging, it would be wise to have this device. Your USB cable plugs into the device, and the device then plugs into the public charging station.

Blocking devices are sold online under several brand names including PortaPow Data Blocker, USB Defender, and SyncStop (originally called "The Original USB Condom"). The device is always on, so you can leave it connected to your device and remove it only when you want to sync data.



Comments about PortaPow Data Blocker:

- SmartCharge chip – no slowdown and the possibility of increased charging speed.

- Visible Security – the data wires have been physically removed from USB-A connector. Window allows visible proof [No Data] that no data is being transferred.
- Compact size so connector doesn't block neighboring sockets.
- Use at work to charge phone with no data syncing.

Negative comments include:

- Did not provide speedy charging
- Device damaged ports on airplane ports
- Not enough power to charge iPads

Guidelines include, check your device to make sure it can use a USB port (not USB-C, for example). An alternative to these data blocker devices is to use "power-only" cables, also available from PortaPow, or plug into a wall power outlet with your own USB adapter. Make sure it is compatible with your device—Apple, Android, etc.

Another alternative is to carry your own power bank. These portable batteries are to be carried with your carry-on luggage only. Airlines, both domestic and international, have their own regulations, so check before you go.



EU PARLIAMENT DEBATES FORCING APPLE TO KILL THE LIGHTNING PORT

Headline from Cult of Mac, Jan 13, 2020

In 2014, "European Union lawmakers called for a common charging standard, asking device makers to voluntarily choose one." Since then nearly all phone makers have

gone to the USB, and now USB-C as the common standard for high-end handsets. Apple has not complied to date. The charging standard currently with the Apple iPhones is the Lightning port.



Figure 1. Lightning (left) and USB-C cables

Apple says "More than 1 billion Apple devices have been shipped [worldwide] using a Lightning connector in addition to an entire ecosystem of accessory and device manufacturers who use Lightning to serve our collective customers..." Just think what would happen if the EU Parliament enforced this new rule. There would be billions of devices that would require new adapters and new cables to conform to this rule. Note: recent MacBooks and iPad Pro tablets use USB-C

Here are some alternatives for Apple devices:

- Make a special version of its iOS handset just for EU.
- Add a second charging port to future iPhones.
- Withdraw the iPhone from the EU.

Along with all this discussion is the rumor that the 2021 high-end iPhone Pro will be

completely wireless. Comments from users on YouTube say about wireless charging:

- I often plug my iPhone into a charging device and continue to use it while it's charging. This wouldn't be possible if charging required me to lay the phone on a charging pad.
- Why is wireless charging still a niche feature? Ultimately, it boils down to its ironic inconvenience.



Figure 2. WPC's Qi technology charging pad

So, stay tuned. What will the EU do? What will Apple do?



STOP iPhone SCREEN FROM TURNING OFF AUTOMATICALLY

| | |
|--------|---|
| Open | Settings. |
| Select | Display and Brightness |
| Tap on | Auto-lock and select from 30 seconds to 5 minutes to never! |

Denver Apple Pi Membership Information

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MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$20.00 per year for a monthly hard copy of The Seed and \$15.00 per year for a monthly PDF copy. Fill in the form below or ask for an application to send with your check to the Club mailing address: DENVER APPLE Pi, 67501 Welch Ct, Arvada CO 80004. For information, call Elissa McAlear at 303.421.8714 about Apple II, GS and Mac. Email elissamc@comcast.net. Our web site is: <http://www.denverapplepi.com>

Mac SIG meets the THIRD Tuesday of the month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Troubleshooter Group Help SIG meets the FOURTH Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. unless a holiday necessitates a change. Seed articles should be mailed to jjetherton@comcast.net, subject: Seed article.

Membership Form

Date _____ Renewal New Change
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Phone(s) _____
Email _____
Kind of Computer: Apple II _____ GS _____ Mac _____ OS _____

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Vice President (Help) _____ Tammy Hanson
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