Orange Bytes

NOCCC meetings for Sunday January 7, 2024

MAIN MEETING -

A comparison of Python and BBC Basic on a Raspberry Pi 5
A similarity you may not knew existed

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) & Main Meeting Schedule

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Beginners Digital Photography ....*Science 129*
Questions and Answers about Digital Photography

Linux for Desktop Users………………*Science 131*
Beginners' Questions about Linux

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Noon

3D Printing ....*Science 127*
Questions and Answers about 3D printing

Advanced Digital Photography… ....Science 129
Questions and Answers about Digital Photography

Linux Administration ....*Science 131*
More topics about the Linux operating system

Mobile Computing ....*Science 109*
We discuss smart phones, tablets, laptops, operating systems and computer related news. **We need a new leader.**

12:00 PM Noon – 1:00 PM

3D Printing……………………………… Science 127
Questions and Answers about 3D printing if requested.

PIG SIG ……………………………….. *Irvine Courtyard*
Bring your lunch. Consume it in the open-air benches in front of the Irvine Hall or join the group that goes to the student cafeteria. Talk about your computer and life experiences.

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Main Meeting

We will look at how some of the syntax in nearly identical. Starting with a beginners tutorial that shows code for "Hello world" and some basic external world control code on a patch board. Turn that LED on and off!

……………..…….. **Science 131**

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Board Meeting…………………………………………
Science 129

Verify your membership renewal information by checking your address label on the last page. If it is not right, let the treasurer know.

Mark your calendars for these meeting dates
2024: Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5, Jun ?

Coffee, cookies and donuts are available during the day in the Irvine Hall lobby.
Food and drinks need to remain outside the Irvine Auditorium.

"Friends Helping Friends"
since April 1976

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Special email addresses
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Our Website
WWW.NOCCC.ORG

Reminder: Membership expiration dates are based on the date that you joined the club. **Example**, you joined or re-upped your membership in the club in October of 2023. That means that in October 2024 you should pay your membership dues. In the address label area of the Orange Bytes is your join month/ expiration month.

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Board of Directors

Editor's Report

ODDS and ENDS

You may remember, about sixteen years back that there was a large number of netbooks and other small form factor computers introduced on the market. In 2010, Micro-Star International (MSI), introduced the upgraded "MSI Wind Netbook" Wind stands for "Wi-Fi Network Device". The upgrade was largely to the Intel Atom N450 CPU from the N270. The N450 was a single core, single thread CPU that had a 1.66 GHz clock. The CPUBenchmark single core rating is **205**, and since it only has one thread which is the one core, that is the only possible rating. Compared to the 13th gen laptop CPU: i7-13700, 8 Cores, 16 Threads, 3.4 GHz Base, 5.4 GHz Turbo, Single Thread Rating: **4373, total benchmark = 46,662.**

So I bought my MSI Wind Netbook on sale for $400.00. 120 GB 2.5" HDD, Operating system - Windows 7 Starter, CPU -Intel Atom @ 1.66 GHz N450, Memory -1 GB, Display -10" 1024 x 600 LED-backlit TFT LCD, Keyboard, Touchpad, Microphone, 1.3 Megapixel Webcam,

WINSXS

10/100 Mbit Ethernet, 802.11b/g/n wireless LAN, 3 USB 2.0 ports, 4-in-1 Flash Memory card reader, Bluetooth, Power 6 -cell (5.5 hours). As a travel computer that allowed me to get my email and do some web surfing, it functioned sort of OK. It even "ran" Open Office. With a total of 1GB of RAM it needed to do some virtual memory swapping to a 5400 RPM HDD. To be kind, I will only say that impacted the speed at which Open Office performed.

As technology improved over time, the specs improved, the CPUs got speedier, the screens better, RAM size increased, a transition to NVMe SSDs, and battery life got better. The negative attributes of that latter series of netbooks was that they typically only had 2-4GB of RAM. Even worse, while switching to NVMe SSD dramatically improved disk access, it shrank the average size of an included rotating HDD to a NVMe SSD of 32GB. Micro Center Put one of those units on sale for $145. It was one of the Winbook series of machines. It did not have a particularly fast micro processor being one of the better Intel Atom variety of CPU. But it had a number of nice features including a full 1080p touch screen with good brightness. It had 4 GB of ram, USB 3, HDMI, a micro SD slot, and pretty good battery life. Typically the battery would last 5 plus hours.

But that 32GB of SSD has turned out to be a real bummer. Why? Because Windows is a disk hog. While trying to do an update to the latest version of Win10, it errored out with a message that said: There is not enough disk space to complete the upgrade. We need 873 MBs more space. Try cleaning up your disk.

Using File Manager, it looked like I only had about 6 GB of programs installed. Using File Manager for that kind of investigation is awkward. I remembered that I had a download of "Windirstat" on my main CPU. Windirstat not only provides a table list of largest to smallest root level directories (Folders for you relative newbie's) which are expandable to subdirectories and their size, but also a colorful graphic of rectangles that vary in size based on the directory size. Using this tool it was easy to find that the Windows/winsxs folder was huge. 6.7GB to be exact. Googling what and why the winsxs is, resulted in a number of explanations. The main one was that every update to Windows puts stuff relative to that update in that directory. I thought surely as newer updates have stuff that supersedes the old update stuff it would be deleted, WRONG mostly. I found: Why is my WinSxS folder so large?

The WinSXS folder at C:WindowsWinSXS is **massive and continues to grow the longer you have Windows installed.** This folder builds up unnecessary files over time, including old versions of system components. This folder also contains files for uninstalled, disabled Windows components.Mar 8, 2022
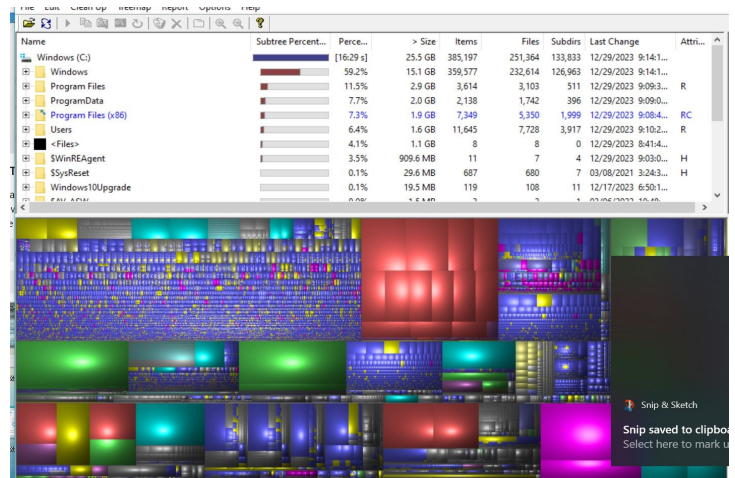
AND: Cleaning up WinSxS folder.
 Open Start. Search for Command Prompt, right-click the top result, and select the Run as administrator option. Type the following command to determine the size of the WinSxS folder and press Enter: **dism /online /Cleanup-Image /StartComponentCleanup**.

So I tried the cleanup and it reduced it from 6.7GB to 5.2GB by getting rid of some stuff that had a 2019 date code, which promptly got raised back to 6.2GB as a couple of updates were installed. SO, if you know about the issue, there are two ways that you can manually "REDUCE" the size of winsxs. But on the surface at least, it appears to me that rather than write more efficient and elegant code, MS has taken the position that large amounts of mass storage is cheap, so why bother.

Just for grins, I looked at the winsxs folder on a nine month old Win11 laptop that I own. It did not really surprise me to see that it was 11.2GB in size.

So a couple of my options are to just uninstall all software and see if that clears up enough space, or create a install media of the latest version of Win10, format and install that and see how much space is left over. Another is to use the proceedure that concatenates an SD card memory with the NVMe disk to make a larger disk. To be continued……

A LITTLE HUMOR

March 2025 - An old man approached the White House from across Pennsylvania Avenue, where he'd been sitting on a park bench. He spoke to the Marine standing guard and said, "I would like to go in and meet with President Joe Biden." The Marine replied, "Sir, Mr. Biden is not President and doesn't reside here." The old man said, "Okay," and walked away. The following day, the same man approached the White House and said to the same Marine, "I would like to go in and meet with President Joe Biden". The Marine again told the man, "Sir, as I said yesterday, Mr. Biden is not President and doesn't reside here." The man thanked him and again walked away. The third day, the same man approached the White House and spoke to the very same Marine, saying "I would like to go in and meet with President Joe Biden." The Marine, understandably agitated at this point, looked at the man and said, "Sir, this is the third day in a row you have been here asking to speak to Mr. Biden. I've told you already several times that Mr. Biden is not the President and doesn't reside here. Don't you understand?" The old man answered, "Oh, I understand you fine. I just love hearing your answer!" The Marine snapped to attention, saluted, and said, "See you tomorrow.

Membership Level ($)	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member	35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	40
Full-Time* Enrolled College Student	20	
Enrolled High School Student	15	
*Minimum 12 Semester Hours		
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	25	
Business Member + Ad (¼ Page, ½ Page)	65,	100
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	175	
Contributing Member	75	
Supporting Member	100	
Advocate Member	250	
Patron Member	500	

Directions to the NOCCC meeting location

Irvine Hall ===>

Enter CA-55 N (Costa Mesa Freeway) crossing Interstate 5 toward Anaheim/Riverside for 9 miles. *Notice freeway and street signs stating "Chapman University."* Exit toward E Chapman Ave. Turn right onto N Tustin St. Turn left onto E Walnut Ave.

1) Turn left past N. Center St. for the **best place to park** in the underground parking structure (Lastinger under the sports field).Pay the small fee ($2) to park Ask members or help@noccc.org about parking details, restrictions, and our price break!

2) Turn left onto N Center St. On the right is the Hashinger Science Center, 346 N Center St. Orange California. Parking on the University side is free. Parking on the residential side is a city violation that may cost you a **tow away and a ticket!**