



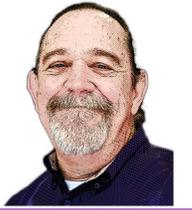
Friendly Customers!
 Friendly Connections!
 Friendly Computers!

April 2015



Technology Today

“Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier, And More Profitably”



“As a business owner, I know you don’t have time to waste on technical and operational issues. That’s where we *shine!* Call us and put an end to your IT problems finally and forever!”

- Bill Schubert, Friendly Computers

Inside This Issue...

Windows 10 Page 1
 Microsoft and Intel Page 2
 Windows 10 Features Page 2
 Friendly Phones.....Page 3
 April Page 4
 Yahoo Passwords Page 4

Technology Calendar

- 2 Good Friday
- 4-11 Passover
- 5 Easter Sunday.
- 11 International "Louie Louie" Day
- 16-26 Fiesta San Antonio
- 22 Administrative Professionals Day



Windows 10 sets a date

Well, that is not true but I didn’t have room for the word approximate in my headline. Most of the rest of this is true.

Windows 10 will be out this summer. My totally uninformed opinion that it would be out targeting the Christmas 2015 season was off the mark. They are targeting your children and anyone else going to school in the fall. The ammunition is pretty potent. First and foremost is that Windows 10 is free. Microsoft has decided that keeping an entire generation of children away from the clutches of the evil Apple empire is worth the investment of offering an excellent system experience for free.

Their thought is not only to get you using Windows 10 but getting you used to Cortana, Microsoft’s improvement over Siri and Google Now. Well, improvement may be a strong viewpoint. Certainly a challenger and one that will move the Artificial Intelligence model forward.

They also want to regain their share in the browser war by laying to rest Internet Explorer and presenting Spartan which, as its name implies, it a cleaner stronger browser in the image of Chrome and later editions of Firefox.

Microsoft is making a big deal of this roll out and the press is favorable, more so than Windows 8. I’m currently on a Lenovo laptop running the technical preview of Windows 10 and so far I like it. That said this technical preview does not have a lot of the features, such as Spartan, that the final version will contain. Microsoft’s strongest suit is how it has integrated the Office products. Slowly but surely MS has been moving its users towards software as a service with Office 365. Adobe and others have done the same and that is what we use, sell, support and recommend in Friendly Computers. Windows 10 is similar. It is a free version of software as a service, an operating system as a service. When it is finally out this summer and those who have all of the devices can have their Office 365 and the One Drive storage available and looking the same on phone, tablet, laptop and PC Microsoft will have come a long way towards their desired goal of being the one service for all platforms. A big gamble but one that may be attainable. See you this summer.

Windows 10 and Intel want to see your face

The latest in my Windows 10 updates. The new operating system is due out this summer (see cover).

I've written previously about what Yahoo is doing for consumer security, what Roboform does for business security and what I think all sites that have any financial component should do to keep their customers safe. But it looks like Microsoft and Intel might be teaming up to seriously raise the bar and make all of that unnecessary.

Microsoft is rolling out, as part of Windows 10, Windows Hello. It is a process that combines with Intel's new RealSense camera, one of the first three dimensional user interface cameras in the main stream market. The camera can tell the difference between a picture of you and your actual face. This allows Windows Hello to be much more effective and credible.

The gist of it that when you turn on the computer it will recognize your face and log in automatically. This is just the beginning. There is a group (including Arm, Bank of America, Google, Lenovo, Mastercard, PayPal, Visa and now Microsoft) who are in the process of developing viable standards for such authentication. The standard is called Fast Identification Online (FIDO) and the intent is to solve not only the PC and phone log in problems but also logins to the various financial sites. Want to get to your bank? Look into the camera and say your name. Or some version of that. No more password.

Windows 10 will promote FIDO and I think we're only a very few years away from it being the standard. One thing this will do is spur hardware sales. The RealSense camera will be on a lot of Christmas lists if they get it out in the fall. It's going to be a close thing.

Designed for tablets, phones and PCs, Windows 10 has 'goodies' for everyone

This month, Microsoft is slated to end the technical preview of Windows 10 and prepare for the release of the new OS later this year. There are some unique features in store.

Linking and syncing is a big feature of the new Windows. Windows will update and manage multiple devices including touch screens, phones, and tablets. Even Xbox One will mesh with Windows. Users will be able to stream games from an Xbox to a computer.

The new Continuum Mode is designed to let users transition seamlessly from PC to tablet and back again.

Other features:

- * **Cortana**, the digital voice assistant. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella is excited about Cortana's new roles in PCs and tablets as well as phones. Cortana gets to know you and customizes her responses. She also caters to pro sports fans.

- * **Project Spartan browser**. New in Windows 10, it offers the ability to mark up the browser with hand-written notes. It has a reading mode, which promises to eliminate distractions as you read.

- * **Universal apps**. Power Point and various standard apps are pre-installed on Windows 10 computers, including programs such as Office, Excel, Word, Photos, Videos, Music, Maps, Messaging, Mail and Calendar.

- * **Free updates. Windows 10 will be a free update for Windows 7, 8 and 8.1 computers or tablets.**

- * **Microsoft HoloLens**. It has sensors, see-through lenses and special sound in what it refers to as its "Holographic Processing Unit." The science-fiction-like stuff from holograms can be accessed with a new head-set called Microsoft HoloLens. It will be available at the same time Windows 10 comes out toward the end of this year.

What if you never had to call a phone company again?

We've finally done it. Friendly Computers now offers Friendly Phones. Whether you've got two phones and just want to dump Verizon or you've got 100 phones spread across multiple locations we can set you up in a custom phone system using your current Internet connection for about the same amount that you are paying your phone company to ignore you and put you on hold.



Friendly Phones won't put you on hold. We won't tell you to call someone else. We won't send you down a complex phone tree trying to find the service you've been paying for over the past years.

Friendly Computers answers the phones in person. Our trained techs use the same system we sell so we can walk you through any problems, help you with expansions or upgrades or just take your call thanking us for getting you set up in such an excellent system.

Until recently the features of these phone systems were only available to enterprise level businesses. They include:

- ⇒ internal and external automated call routing that can be changed depending on time of day, day of the week or holiday scheduling.
- ⇒ The capability to add multiple voice mail messages changeable depending on the situation
- ⇒ Android and IOS integration so that remote cell calls appear as if from the company's main number
- ⇒ Computer desktop integration that sync's Outlook contacts with the PC phone application. See and answer calls through your computer.
- ⇒ On line web portal to control, monitor, and maintain logs of calls and voice mail.
- ⇒ Email to fax system also with web interface. Receive faxes to your email box and send faxes by emailing through your company fax portal. Faxes managed and maintained online.
- ⇒ Unlimited calling both long distance and local for the same flat rate.
- ⇒ Your customers will never get a busy signal. No matter how many customers call at once. The ones that don't get through immediately get your voicemail and you get an immediate alert.
- ⇒ Voicemail to email. All voicemails can be either accessed on line or through an email attachment to as many email addresses as needed.

The most important feature of all is the support included with your phone service. You get the Friendly help you've come to expect (if that isn't the kind of support you've been getting then you REALLY need to call us) and all for the price you are probably already paying for mediocre phone service.

Give us a call. Turn your phones in to Friendly Phones.

Give us a call.



April

Civil War

On the 9th of April, 1865, 150 years ago, the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered to General U.S. Grant signaling the end of the Civil War.

Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain ordered his men to stand in column formation and salute as equals and with respect each Confederate division as it passed his line in “an awed stillness rather, and breath-holding, as if it were the passing of the dead! “.

Arbor Day

National Arbor Day is always celebrated on the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on different dates throughout the year based on best tree-planting times in their area.

In Texas is the first Friday in November.

Yahoo launches a security volley

This is a big deal in the competitive space of destination web pages and email. I'm impressed that Yahoo is making the effort, pushing the security boundaries with something new. As always there are detractors immediately pointing out one or another flaw in the process but Yahoo has stepped out and integrated something to help its users and I say good on them.

In the first days of Austin's South by Southwest Yahoo rolled out its new log in security feature. I've written before about two step authentication and this is similar but without the first step, entering a password.

On Demand Passwords

It is really straightforward and I just set it up on my Yahoo account to see how it works. I went to the security tab on my account and selected Get Started under the On Demand Password section. I verified my cell phone by sending me an authentication code. Then the process had me verify my other email addresses, pretty critical if I don't have my phone with me or it is broken. That was it.

So now I do not need a password for Yahoo anymore. Since I use Roboform to manage my passwords I don't find this as useful as many others might but for most users this is rather nice. The only thing you need is your phone and your user name. When I put in my user name and clicked on the submit button (without entering a password) I get the message “Your account uses on-demand passwords” with a button “Send my password”. Clicking that gets me a phone message with a password like PTNN BTWN or GEAF. Easy enough to enter. I tried it by logging in with my phone and it worked just fine.

PROs – No password. Easy login. Easy passwords sent to the phone. No special characters, upper/lower case stuff. Just a few letters.

CONS – Obviously if you don't have your phone there are a number of further steps involved including getting to another email to retrieve your PW. And someone would only have to have your phone without a security lock on it and your Yahoo user name to get to your account.

All in all I think for the typical Yahoo user (ie – NOT businesses.. Yahoo is NOT a business email system!) this is a good deal. It enables very quick access with no password to make complex, remember, change, and on and on.

And great job to Yahoo for taking a security step forward. They also have a very friendly page that discusses the other aspects of personal and family security online at <https://safety.yahoo.com>.