

Bowie Seniors Computer Club

Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2016

The meeting was opened at 12:37 by Program Chairman Dan Lee. President Carl Bulger was absent. This was followed by a short discussion of the holiday party plans. Dan then introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Brian Dykstra, president and CEO of Atlantic Data Forensics (ADF). ADF specializes in the protection and recovery of digital data. Mr. Dykstra began the presentation with an overview of ADF and description of ADF's roles in the recovery of data that was lost in the Ellicot City flood of July 30, 2016. This was followed by an informative 2-hour question and answer session.

Notes from the question & answer session:

Mr. Dykstra provided some cloud back-up recommendations: Mozy and Backblaze.

The club members were briefed on the dangers of erasing/deleting email data that might be subpoenaed and of refusing to provide court-ordered passwords and of Duty-to-Preserve.

DuckDuckGo was recommended as a privacy browser.

Some case-instances of Ransomware infections were described. He noted that if Ransomware encrypts your computer's data, your problem is magnified if your backup device (e.g., a USB hard drive) or cloud backup are connected to your computer as they'll get encrypted too! Mr. Dykstra noted that he uses Bitcoin to pay for Ransomware payments.

Kaspersky and Malwarebytes were recommended.

The subject of terrorist attacks on the Internet was discussed

The hazards of Internet-connected household devices were presented.

“The Onion Router” (TOR) “<https://www.torproject.org>” was described as a means of private internet communication.

“DriverSavers” was recommended as a source for hard drive data recovery.

Attendees noted that this was one of the best meetings ever. Members are encouraged to show their appreciation for Mr. Dykstra's presentation by writing to him at brian.dykstra@atlanticdf.com



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