

Bowie Seniors Computer Club

Meeting Minutes for Meeting of June 1, 2017

Carl Bulger opened the meeting at 12:30. Our guest speaker was Stephen Deming, Sr. Tech Solutions Professional. Steve is a 15 year veteran in his position with Microsoft.

Steve began his presentation with a discussion of “Wannacrypt” ransomware. Wannacrypt was discovered by NSA and patches were developed before it got widespread. He explained how malware is discovered and dealt with by Microsoft and other operating systems companies and anti-malware companies. He explained that malware vulnerabilities are generally discovered early by specialists that search for them. When they are discovered the information is shared with other specialists and measures are developed to implement protective patches before hackers discover them.

Steve next discussed Microsoft’s application OneDrive. He demonstrated how he uses it. Noting that it is part of windows Office suites and is available separately.

Steve noted that he uses Windows built in anti-malware and that he feels one anti-malware application running at a time is enough, but that more than one at a time should work OK.

The meeting included extensive discussion of problems with the Windows Creator edition. Steve explained that Creators Edition has new special new features notably 3D and Paint. He advised that as a precaution before installing Creators Edition, one’s BIOS should be updated to latest revision. Updates to Windows that provide new features rather than malware protection are developed and released on a 6 month schedule whereas malware updates are provided immediately.

Steve provided a extensive discussion of Microsoft’s TechNet service.

Bob Blum voiced his feeling about Microsoft’s failure to give adequate consideration of the effects of it’s updates. Steve responded with a discussion of Windows OS noting that Apple deals with upgrade and compatibility issues by maintaining total control over customer changes to Apple computers.

Steve explained what a “Microsoft Account” is and its purpose and features noting that it is unnecessary but there if you want it.

Bill Long asked Steve about what vulnerabilities might exist when a Windows computer is in Sleep mode. Steve explained that a computer in sleep mode can be awakened by anything else on the network but that there is a BIOS setting that can be set to prevent that.

Steve briefly mention the Windows ‘Kiosk Mode’

