

Bowie Senior Computer Club Minutes for May 18, 2017

Vice-President and Program Manager Dan Lee presided.

Visitor Penny Wagener said she was looking for advice on laptops, tablets, etc.—something she could use while she was sitting in her easy chair.

Pros and cons of Apple vs. Microsoft: Apple hardware is more expensive but more reliable and easier to use. It relies on Unix, a predecessor of Linux, which is slightly more secure than Windows. Apple hardware and software are “closed”, i.e., tightly controlled by Apple. Microsoft is more open with many vendors authorized to interact with it. Windows has an “automatic” update interface which is routinely updated monthly or more often.

She and others asked about which security suite would be safest: Windows Defender or the FiOS-supplied McAfee Security Suite. The consensus was Windows Defender. Even safer would be Kaspersky Internet Security or Norton Internet Security, but these are not free. Information about detailed tests of anti-virus software is available at <https://www.av-comparatives.org/>.

The discussion then turned to the pros and cons of Comcast vs. FiOS vs. DSL (Dan Lee, believe it or not, until recently, was relying on DSL).

Dan said that he received an invitation from Nancy Van der Veer for the Club to produce a show for Bowie Community TV. If we did, it would cost us \$100. Dan said she offered us a tour of the BCTV studio in the Kenhill Center.

Irv Salzberg demonstrated the “Miracast” and “Chrome Cast” screen mirroring technologies that allows you to show anything displayed on your Android smart phone on a TV screen. Miracast uses a Microsoft 1733 adapter and Chrome Cast uses a Google adapter. Miracast is accomplished directly without the use of Wi-Fi.

Irv also discussed other devices that could stream content to your TV, such as Apple Play and Amazon’s Fire Stick.

Nomorobo was mentioned again as a way to reduce or eliminate retail robo calls. It is free for your home phone and \$1.99 for mobile phones.

Bob Blum mentioned that Cybereason’s Ransomfree is effective against the massive cyber attacks that install the WannaCry ransomware. It is available for Windows only.

Steve Deming of Microsoft will speak at the June 1st meeting. He’s a popular speaker and the room will probably be packed. Get there early and prepare to stay late.