

# Scug News

February 2016

Newsletter of the Sandwich Computer Users Group

[www.scug.org](http://www.scug.org)

## Last Month

Last month was "Show and Tell". Members brought their gadgets to the meeting and told us what they are and what they do. We had good participation from the membership and learned about many neat gadgets.

## February Program ~ Windows 10

Jerry Kell and Jerry Grommes will be doing a review on Windows 10, which is Microsoft's newest operating system, as well as Microsoft Edge. Microsoft is offering free upgrades from Windows 7 and 8 to Windows 10 (Microsoft skipped Windows 9 altogether!). Windows 10 has some new bells and whistles, like Cortana (Windows 10's version of Siri) and multiple desktops. Microsoft Edge is a web browser included in Windows 10 and replaces Internet Explorer as the default web browser. Come join other computer users – guests are always welcome – to learn more about Microsoft's newest operating system.

SCUG has members with various levels of computer experience and believes in members helping members. As novice members learn from more

experienced users, they in turn can share the knowledge they've learned. At each meeting there is a question and answer session and club members enjoy great fellowship as they share ideas and offer solutions to common computer problems. For more information visit [www.SCUG.org](http://www.SCUG.org) or contact any club member. We meet at the Federated Church in Sandwich 403 N. Main Street on the third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

### Inside this Issue

Favorite Sites .....	2
Theresa's Notes .....	2
From the Net.....	2
Humor from the Net.....	3
Reasons to Upgrade.....	4
February Presentation..	4
To SSD or Not to SSD ....	4
Free Phone Service .....	6

### Upcoming Programs

SCUG will now post our program announcements for each month to the web site [www.wspynews.com](http://www.wspynews.com). Visit this website for local news and events.



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## February Birthdays

2/15 Carol Baird

2/25 Inge Poulsen

2/28 Joan McEachern

## March Birthdays

3/2 Bev Ludwig

3/3 Allen Burd

3/4 Jorgen Poulsen

3/9 Lyn Cole

3/11 Briante Bagg

3/13 Bob Stoltenberg

3/16 Irene Yingling

3/18 Carol Wilkerson

3/19 Beverly Gillett

3/21 Laura Olson

3/27 Jerry Kell

3/29 Pat Scull

3/30 Laura Caupert

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## Favorite Sites

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A former cargo ship, the Benson Ford, now sits hanging over a cliff on Lake Erie and serves as a holiday home. It originally transported iron and coal for the Ford Motor Company. She was built in 1924, and was decommissioned in 1981 after nearly 50 years of service. It was left to rust for four years until Frank J. Sullivan bought it, had the ship's forecandle separated from the ship's hull, and had it transported to its present site on an 18-foot cliff

jutting above and overlooking Lake Erie.

<http://tinyurl.com/zuv78bc>

Neat Old Stuff from Yesteryear!!!  
We're all too young to remember these times, right?

<http://tinyurl.com/gwkbcs1>



## How to entertain retired people

This should keep you busy for an hour or two. Really good for your Eye-hand coordination.

<http://tinyurl.com/lqno>

15 Life Hack things do with binder clip.

<http://tinyurl.com/j9htahg>

*Jake D.*

## Death of Conversation:

Thanks to cellphones, we are more connected than ever before, but disconnecting is also more painful. The following cartoons, as well as the 'Death of Conversation' project by Babycakes Romero, illustrate some of the funny and not-so-funny side effects of our plugged-in lifestyle.

<http://tinyurl.com/qbz9v78>

Absolutely Sensational Air New Zealand Safety Video!  
Now this is one airline safety-video that is NOT boring.

<http://tinyurl.com/ob2j2ue>

Since time immemorial, our climate has been and will always be changing. Patrick Moore explains why "climate change," far from being a recent human-caused disaster, is, for a myriad of complex reasons, a fact of life on Planet Earth.

<http://tinyurl.com/q6pwgm6>

A 240 - year - old doll that can write:

This clip will fascinate just about all the engineers, artists, clock makers, doll makers, computer programmers, want - to-be inventors or basically anyone out there that likes to tinker. This is more than tinkering. When you view this, think computers. Remember, this was built in the 1770's.

<http://tinyurl.com/lzmxldp>

*Alice M.*

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## Theresa's Notes

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### Theresa's notes:

There were 28 members present at the January 21, 2016 meeting and one guest, Chris Schank. Jerry Grommes won the door prize which was a remote control wall outlet, and Janelle Burd won the Early Bird drawing. We had a great show and tell program. Lots of interesting items were shown. We hope to see everyone at the February meeting.

*Theresa Bagg*

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## From the Net

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### Brain Farts

**Doors:** Do you ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind — to get something, perhaps? — Only to completely forget what that purpose was? Turns out, doors themselves are to blame for these strange memory lapses.

Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what's known as an "event boundary" in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next, just as exiting through a doorway signals the end of a scene in a movie. Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room, and prepares a blank slate for the new locale. Mental event boundaries usually help us organize our thoughts and memories as we move through the continuous and dynamic world, but when we're trying to remember that thing we came in here to do... or get... or maybe find... they can be frustrating indeed.

Doors is just one of the top 5 Brain Farts, see the rest at:

<http://www.livescience.com/19996-top-5-brain-farts.html>

## Paraprosdokians

First time I heard about paraprosdokians, I liked them. Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them)

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ... but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

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## Humor from the Net

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### Lecture

Ron, 89 years of age, was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and was asked where he was going at that time of night.

Ron replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

Ron replied, "That would be my wife."

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A man and his wife were awakened at 3:00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

"Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3:00 in the morning!"

He slams the door and returns to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife.

"Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers.

"Did you help him?" she asks.

"No, I did not, it is 3:00 in the morning and it is pouring rain out there!"

"Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself! God loves drunk people too."

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain.

He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?"

"Yes," comes back the answer.

"Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband.

"Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark.

"Where are you?" asks the husband.

"Over here on the swing set," replied the drunk.

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### MERGER TIPS FOR 2016

For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks.

#### Watch for these consolidations in 2016:

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W. R. Grace Co. will merge and become: **Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.**
2. Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: **Poly, Warner Cracker.**
3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become: **MMMGood.**
4. Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: **ZipAudiDoDa.**
5. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become: **FedUP.**
6. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: **Fairwell Honeychild.**
7. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: **PouponPants.**
8. Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: **Knott NOW!**

The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because nobody was married - Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T. Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara, and of course Opie...all single.

The only married person was Otis, and he stayed drunk.  
*Just an observation...*

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## Reasons to Upgrade

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### Top 10 Reasons to Upgrade to Windows 10

Sandy Berger, COMPUKISS  
www.compukiss.com  
sandy (at) compukiss.com

If you are still on the fence about upgrading to Windows 10, it is everything that Windows 8 should have been, but wasn't. Here are 10 reasons why you should upgrade.

1. Windows 10 is a free upgrade for anyone using Windows 7 or Windows 8.1. This offer is good until July 28, 2016. After that time it will cost \$119.
2. When Windows 10 starts, you are dropped immediately into the Windows 7- type desktop. Although there will be some new things to learn, end users will find that the transition to Windows 10 will be much smoother than the transition to Windows 8.
3. Windows 10 is faster and more secure than Windows 7 or Windows 8.
4. Windows 10 is easy to use with a keyboard and mouse and just as easy to use with a touchscreen. If your computer has a touchscreen as well as a keyboard and mouse, you get the best of both worlds.
5. As a service, Windows 10 will be constantly updated to keep it more secure and more capable.
6. The new Edge web browser that comes with Windows 10 is faster and more secure than Internet Explorer. It also offers useful new features like the ability to make notes on a web page and send them to a friend and the ability to save a web page to read later.
7. Several apps like Mail and Photos have been dramatically improved.
8. Although the Start Menu is back, it is larger and more distracting than it was in Windows 7. Fortunately, it is customizable so you may want to spend some time getting it to suite your taste.
9. Cortana, a voice assistant like Apple's Siri is built into Windows 10. You can ask her questions and she can even help you find your files.
10. The new File Explorer is much improved. It now shows a list of useful Quick Access locations and folders you use frequently in addition to Recent Places.

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## February Presentation

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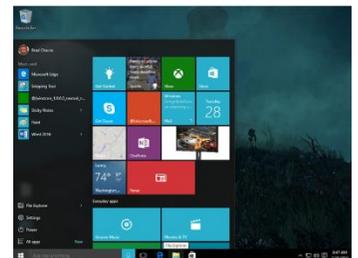
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### Windows 10

Can you believe it's been more than six (6) months since the initial release of Windows 10? Many of our members have upgraded, and others are planning to upgrade while it is still free. We plan on showing some of the new programs and features as well as some of the old ones at the February Meeting.

Some of the things that we plan on covering in the Windows 10 Presentation are:

- Edge browser
  - Favorites
  - Settings for browser
  - Internet options
  - Top row of built in keyboard
  - How to place web site shortcut on desktop
- Internet Explorer
- Start Menu
  - Live Tiles
  - All Apps
- Settings/control panel
  - New Control panel
  - Old Control panel
- Default programs
- Accessories
- Cortana
- Multiple desktops



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## To SSD or Not to SSD

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### To SSD or Not to SSD? – That is the question.

By Phil Sorrentino,  
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June 2015  
<http://scccomputerclub.org>  
[Philsorr.wordpress.com](http://Philsorr.wordpress.com)  
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Whether 'tis Nobler in the mind to suffer the Slings and Arrows and stay with Hard Drives, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles and Convert to a Newer Technology (Solid State Drives). Well, maybe that's not quite what Shakespeare had in mind, but it does bring up the question. Should we begin to move to Solid State Drives in our computing devices? (Are we starting to see a replacement for the traditional mechanical Hard Drive?) Mechanical Hard Drives have been around since the beginning of Personal Computers. The IBM PC XT in 1983 included an internal 10MB (yes,

that's Megabyte) hard disk drive. Anyone remember the name "Winchester Drive"? The term Winchester actually comes from an early type of disk drive developed by IBM that had 30MB of fixed storage and 30MB of removable storage, so the inventors labeled it a Winchester disk, after the Winchester 30/30 rifle, but I digress.

## Shall we upgrade to SSDs

The question is shall we upgrade to SSDs? And I think the answer is "yes", where it makes sense. So, let's look at where it might make sense. Consider that our computing devices fall into the following categories; desktops, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Right off the bat, tablets and smartphones only come with solid state memory, so there is no decision to be made there. So that leaves desktops and laptops for our consideration. Though the number of desktops and laptops are expected to drop over the next few years, many of us will have at least a laptop for the foreseeable future. (A forecast made by International Data Corporation, a provider of market intelligence for information technology markets, indicates that around 85% of the Worldwide Connected devices by 2017 will be Smartphones and Tablets. For the other 15%, Laptops will outnumber Desktops by about 2 to 1. )

## Why upgrade to an SSD

So, let's look at why we might want to upgrade to an SSD in the first place. An SSD is a replacement for a traditional, mechanical disk drive. An SSD is a mass data storage device that uses solid-state memory to store non-volatile data for future access, in the same manner as a traditional hard disk drive. Traditional hard drives are electromechanical devices that employ spinning disks coated with magnetic material, and moveable read/write heads which "fly" over the disk at a height of less than 1 millionth of an inch. (A human hair is approximately 2,000 millionths of an inch.) In contrast, SSDs use microchips which retain data in non-volatile memory chips and contain no moving parts. SSDs allow for easy replacement because they are manufactured in the same physical form factor, and use the same electronic interface, as traditional hard drives. SSDs are typically more reliable, they are less susceptible to physical shock, and with no moving parts they are silent. But it is the fact that SSDs store and retrieve data faster than traditional hard drives that make them a desirable upgrade. On the down side, SSDs are more expensive and typically support a limited number of writes over the life of the device, which is probably only a consideration for a super power user.

So, let's consider the question of upgrading a laptop or a desktop. Two common reasons for upgrading either of these might be lower cost or some type of improved performance. Today, for larger SSDs, lower cost is not in the cards. In fact, currently, large SSDs (say 1TB) are about four to five times as expensive as the equivalent hard drive. A large 1TB traditional hard drive would currently be about \$75 and a 1TB SSD would be about \$400. However, for smaller drives (say 100GB) the cost difference is much less. A small SSD might cost only around \$50 but here a comparison is difficult because traditional hard drives only start at around 500GB. So

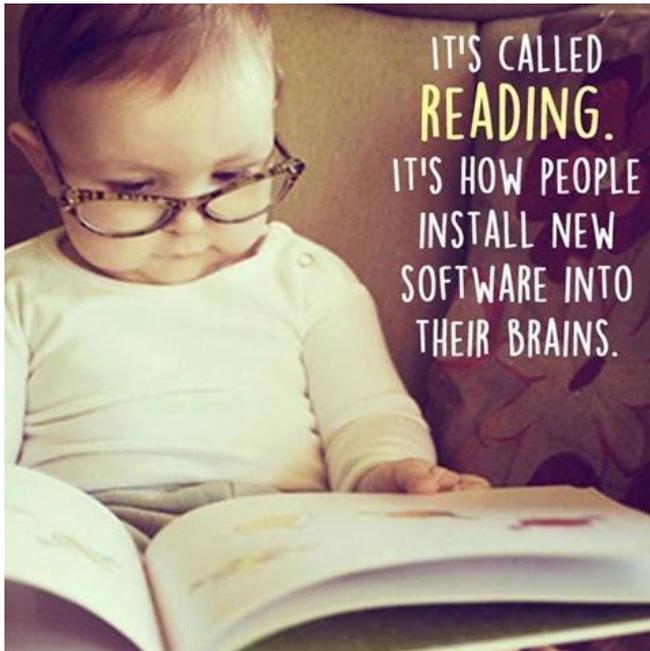
on the low end, the SSD begins to be cost competitive. (Keep this in mind when we look at the desktop upgrade.)

## Improved performance

So with cost not an advantage, then the reason would have to be improved performance, and in fact this is where the SSD really shines. A PC with an SSD will boot in tens of seconds, definitely less than a minute. The same PC with a hard drive will take much more time to boot and will be slower during typical use. So, the PC with an SSD will boot faster, launch applications faster and will generally exhibit faster overall performance. A minor side benefit with the SSD is that there is no need for de-fragmentation; because of the way the data is stored, the effects of fragmentation are negligible. (In fact you should never defragment an SSD because the defragment activity will lower the number of writes available.)

Now that we know that the main benefit of an SSD will be increased speed, and to a lesser degree increased reliability (remember no moving parts), what else should we consider. First, let's look at a laptop upgrade. Most laptops have space for only one drive, so we should probably put in a drive large enough for the laptop's intended uses. With only one drive, the Operating System and Applications and Data all have to share that one drive. The OS and Applications could take 80 to 100 GB, so a 256 GB drive might be the smallest to consider. Currently, 256GB drives can be had for somewhere in the \$100 to \$150 range. For someone with large music, picture, and/or video collections, a drive closer to 1 TB may be in order. Currently, 1TB drives can be had for somewhere in the \$350 to \$550 range. It is always good to have more space, but with the price premium of SSDs it may pay to buy only what you think you will need. 512 GB may be enough for most users. Currently, 512 GB drives can be had for somewhere in the \$250 range. If this cost is no problem, then the laptop upgrade probably makes sense.

Finally let's consider a desktop upgrade. (I bet the audience for this upgrade is a whole lot smaller than for the laptop, but let us press on.) The nice thing about the desktop is that there is usually space for multiple drives. Two, three, or four spaces are not unusual. In this arrangement, the C: drive can be separated from the other drives. This allows the C: drive to be only as big as needed for the OS and Applications (data can go on the other drives). Maybe 120 GB is all that is needed, so this upgrade may be less than \$100. The other drives can still be traditional hard drives. With this mix of SSD and mechanical drives, the boot speed and the general operation will definitely be improved. (Although some data intensive operations where the mechanical drives are being used a lot may not show as much of a speed improvement.) This is a really inexpensive upgrade and it affords a lot of bang for the buck, so it, too, probably makes sense.



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## Phone Service w/o Paying

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### Phone Service without Paying

Tom Kuklinski  
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June 2015 issue, Horizon – The Official Journal of the  
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Phone service without a plan or contract? I like that but I still don't want to pay anything for it either. Okay, I am a cheapskate! There I said it.

So for years now, about 55 years, I have had a landline service. I did not even think that I could go on with life without it. Remember when you would pay \$1.00 per minute for a 'long distance' call? If you are under 30 years old then look it up on your internet.

One day my wife announced that she wanted a cell phone. This was sometimes in the late 1990's. I could not justify it but she did. I could live without one as long as I had my trusty landline. Well, the day came and she brought home a flip cell phone. They were so nice at the Verizon store that they gave her a 'free' phone and a monthly bill that was three times what I paid for the landline phone.

That flip phone could not do much more than being a nice phone with an address book in it. She was limited in talk minutes but when more were needed, Verizon was very friendly in selling her more.

As years went by, I dropped the land line and got one of those cell phones of the day. It also was a flip phone. Time progressed and so did technology. The iPhone 3G was introduced and upset everything.

Phones were no longer phones. These manufacturers put small computers in them and called them 'smart.' It was now at this point that I was hooked. However, it also became expensive to have one of these. Still, millions, no change that to billions of people around the world got one. I was one of them.

It only took a short while to realize these smart phones were expensive to own. Somehow when you looked at the smart phone in the phone store, it did not look that expensive. It only took a few months after owning one for me to 'smart-up' and realize the actual expense. I wanted more for less.

Let's fast forward to today. The phones are very smart. In addition, they are faster and bigger. They hold more information. It is now that the state of the art smart phones are approaching laptop functionality. Today there are more apps for the smart phones than there are programs for computers.

So let me repeat what I said earlier, I am a cheapskate!

Each and every month when the bill was due, I kept thinking -- there must be something else cheaper and better. I repeated that each month till today. I found the solution. Yes I could do cheaper and close to better. All this is made possible by the competition among the cell phone providers, the wealth of the consumer, competition by manufactures, apps and stinginess.

Okay, if you look around, you will see almost everybody you know with a cell phone. You know people that wait every two years to get the latest offerings by manufacturers. You see ads by AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint, Straight Talk, MetroPCS, and many more providers. You see ads and reviews on the news about the latest offerings by Apple and Samsung and other manufactures. Where do you fit in?

Are you one of those waiting for the latest offering no matter what it costs? Or are you one of those people that does not need the latest and gripe about how much you pay for a cell phone. Here is a solution for the second character that does not need the latest.

There are a lot of 'old smart phones' that are not being used because the owner upgraded to a later version. Basically the new one does what the old one does except the newer one may be larger and faster. Not much of a difference. They both make phone calls, text, email, surf the internet and have access to thousands of apps. What is the older phone doing now? It is probably collecting dust on a shelf somewhere. This is gold for a prospector like me.

The previous owner may not think the old phone is worth much. Many people are happy to sell the old phone for pennies on the dollar. If you are a good friend or related to

that person then they may even give it away to you. If that happens to you I suggest that you take it.

Several providers will give away smart phones that are refurbished and may be one to two generations old. If you go to [www.straighttalk.com](http://www.straighttalk.com) you may shop for smart phones. Usually Straight Talk features a 'free' or \$9.99 smart phone, IF you buy a month's plan. The plan costs \$45.00 and features unlimited everything for 30 days. Not a bad deal. After that 30 days, you can do whatever you want to do with this smart phone. This is a NO CONTRACT phone. You are not bound to a contract. Make sure the smart phone is an Android phone.

If you shop around, you will see that other providers do similar deals. Currently Verizon offers a Motorola G for \$25.00 for use on their No contract - month to month plan. This phone retails for \$179.00 and is a very good choice. If you don't like Verizon then check out [www.textnow.com](http://www.textnow.com) for FreedomPop, Cricket and MetroPCS are other providers that have similar deals. Currently MertoPCS offers a very good phone for ZERO dollars after rebate and two months of service. It is the LG Leon LTE. It features a 4.5 inch screen and Quad core processor. (Deal ends June 30, 2015)

Use the phone for one or two months and the phone is free to you to use anyway you wish. Do you get the idea?

You also need to shop around for your best current deal. Go on line to [www.dealnews.com](http://www.dealnews.com) as a resource.

So now you did get one of these phones and are out of any contract and now want to know what to do with it.

You go to the Google Play Store or Amazon App Store using your phone through a local Wi-Fi if you are Android. Do a search for Apps that will give you VOIP service. By the way, VOIP stands for Voice Over Internet Protocol. It makes an app turn your off-line phone act like an active cell phone. It does not use the cell towers or cell service of a phone company so you do not need to pay anyone. However, it will do the same as a cell phone by using the Internet. The Internet service is a key component in making this work. If you do not have internet then this will NOT work. You can use hot spots that are around and free.

On the Android phone, I like an App called GrooVe IP Lite. This app is free but does have ads in it. You may purchase the ad free version for \$4.99 if you wish. This App does not have Text function yet so you will need a Text App if you like to text. GrooVe IP will give you a phone number to use that is free. That is your new phone number. You may call free anywhere in the USA. If someone calls you and you do not have the phone running then the caller can leave a voice message to you. This voice message will then be sent to your email. So you never have to miss a call. This app has many options and is the best one that I found. Sorry but it is not available for iPhone.

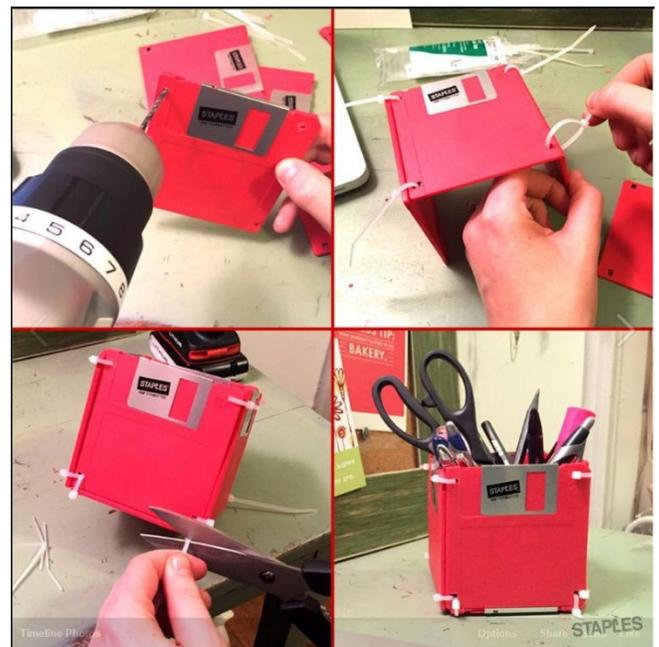
When you look for VOIP programs you will have several to choose from. Try them out. They usually are free but not always so read the description carefully. Other apps include some of the brand products like Magic Jack or Freedom Pop. Usually Google Voice is available but I found it confusing to configure to my needs.

Here are some apps for the iPhone or Android: Skype - free between Skype users but on as a phone. If you pay you can get it just like a phone. Cost per year will run about \$40.00. This is available for Android also.

TEXTNOW CLASSIC - You get a free dedicated phone number, Texting, Picture Messaging, Calling and VoiceMail. You earn credits by watching Ads or you can buy them. It is cheap. This also works on Android. What is interesting about this App is that this company partnered with Sprint. If your phone is Sprint compatible then you can get very low cost service. It starts at \$18.99 per month and no contract. This is optional and not required.

Again, there are many more apps so I advise you to check it out and get the one you like. The idea is to get a phone number and use your out of service smart phone with VOIP service. I hope that you get some understanding about what is happening here. The smart phone - cell phone industry is changing. It is competing as it should. There will be casualties. Fruit can be shaken from the tree. That is your gain to go after.

So now you have a fully (almost) functional smart phone. You DO NOT pay any fees to have it either. Now this is what I am talking about. I hope this article helps you.



**One of our members wanted to know what to do with old floppy disks. Here's a creative idea that only requires a drill and zip ties.**