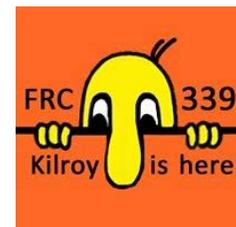# FPCUG Notes for October 2018

Editor: Frank Fota (fotafm@gmail.com)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (7:00 PM - Falmouth Fire House, Butler Road):

-- **Tues, Oct 2:** **Technology Workshop (Josh Cockey)**
-- **Tues, Oct 9:** **BoD Meeting (Patty Davis, Presiding)**
-- **Thu, Oct 11:** **General Meeting.** The Commonwealth Governor's School Kilroy Robotics Team will again demonstrate some of the robots they have constructed. The team is sustained by its members: they develop marketing strategies to obtain financing, as well as design, construct, program, and operate robots for regional, state and national robotics events. Members participate in a variety of activities throughout the year such as presentations to sponsors (e.g., the FPCUG), and other schools. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.
-- **Tues, Oct 16:** **Windows 10 Workshop (Ed Alexander)**
-- **Thu, Oct 18:** **Experimac Workshop - 1865-106 Carl D. Silver Parkway**
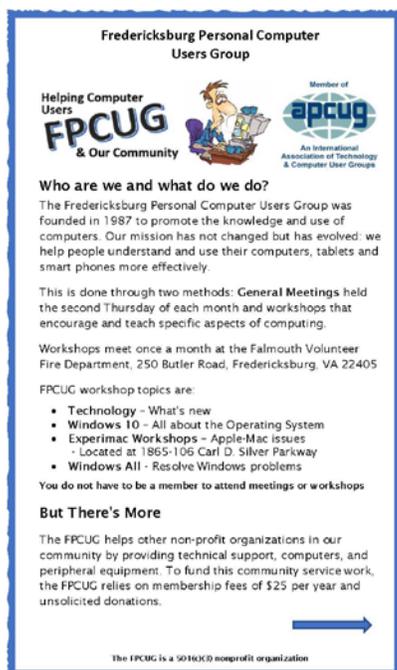-- **Thu, Oct 25:** **Windows All Workshop (Jim Hopkins)**

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING – CANCELLED

The September meeting was cancelled out of an abundance of caution due to Hurricane Florence. We will try to schedule Gabe Goldberg to present early in the new year.

A NEW FPCUG BROCHURE

Your humble newsletter editor revised the FPCUG Brochure. It will be printed on 5" x 8" card stock and distributed at local libraries and Computer Geek hangouts 😊

THE iPhone XR / XS / XS MAX A GOOD DEAL?

Apple has released a number of new iPhones. Writing for the BusinessInsider, Dave Smith says, "The iPhone XR starts at $749 for 64 GB of storage, but can cost up to $899 for 256 GB of storage. The iPhone XS starts at $999 for 64 GB of storage, but can cost up to $1,349 for 512 GB of storage. The iPhone XS Max starts at $1,099 for 64 GB of storage, but can cost up to $1,449 for 512 GB of storage. the XS starts at ~$750. This is over $100 more expensive than the previous iPhone." Dave suggests that the cost conscience consider the iPhone XR. It has nearly the same features for ~250 less. Apple consumers are likely to overlook the ~15% increase in price for the XR when comparing it to ~$1500 XS Max. Writing for the Cult-of-Mac, Luke Dormehl says, "With the iPhone XS Max running up to $1,449 for the 512GB version, Apple's smartphones have never been pricier." Apple's Chief Executive Officer, Tim Cook says that the expensive iPhone is worth the cost because it replaces many separate devices. However, he admits that the high-priced phones cannot be purchased by everyone. That is why Apple is offering three iPhone models. "We want to serve everyone," Cook said. "We understand that there is a wide range of what customers are looking for and a wide range of prices that people will pay." You can check out the best iPhone Apple has to offer in this 1-minute video.

CRYPTOCURRENCY CRASH WORSE THAN THE DOT-COM CRASH

The MVIS CryptoCompare Digital Assets 10 is an index of crypto-currencies and benchmark for the digital assets market. From its high in January to September 12, 2018, the MVIS CryptoCompare Digital Assets 10 Index showed an 80% loss in the market value. Writing for Bloomberg, Michael Patterson says, "The tumble has now

surpassed the Nasdaq Composite Index's 78 percent peak-to-trough decline after the dot-com bubble burst in 2000." Michael recounted the excitement that cryptocurrency investors had when betting on a, "…seemingly revolutionary technology." Those investors, especially those who invested in start-up cryptocurrencies or "alt-coins," have suffered the greatest losses. Neil Wilson, chief market analyst in London for Markets.com, is quoted as saying, "It just shows what a massive, speculative bubble the whole crypto thing was -- as many of us at the time warned. It's a very likely a winner takes all market -- Bitcoin currently most likely." Many investors thought that "Bitcoin" would become "digital gold." They may be right. However, cryptocurrencies are not widely accepted by Wall Street and potential investors believe their value has been exaggerated and manipulated by the market.

GOOGLE A CULT OF CENSORSHIP, FEAR AND DISCRIMINATION

James Damore: fired from Google for having the "wrong" views. *YouTube*

Writing for ITWire, Co-founder Stan Beer says, "In recent days we have seen a number of employees resign, including one of the company's most senior engineers, over Google's agreement with the Chinese Government to deliver a censorship-ridden search engine product. However, we should not be surprised at this, because Google is no stranger to censorship." Since Google acquired YouTube in 2006, they have total control of this video space. Google recently decided to "demonetize inappropriate content." When Google (i.e., YouTube) deems the contents of your videos to be at odds with their political views, they refuse to run ads on your webpage (i.e., you cannot derive income from your website). The first indication that your website contents are considered inappropriate is a content warning. In some cases, however, Google has simply deleted an offender's account. Consider the tumult created when a site with hundreds of videos and thousands of subscribers suddenly vanishes. Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and his alternate right leaning news channel "Infowars" had 2.6 million subscribers before Google deleted the account. Alternate left leaning YouTube channels have also suffered demonetization (e.g., comedian Jimmy Dore). James Damore (pictured above) was a Google engineer who was fired from Google in August 2017 for suggesting in a memo that "…perhaps reverse discrimination in hiring practices was not the way to go." Mr. Damore used as an example that ~20% of Google job applicants were women, but women were ultimately hired to fill ~50% of the jobs. According to Mr. Beer, Mr. Damore's memo was produced to promote discussion at Google but the mainstream media painted him as an anti-diversity bigot. The irony is that Google's firing of Mr. Damore illustrates their own bigotry. In a "Thank God it's Friday" meeting of Google employees and executives a few days after the 2016 Presidential election, Google founders and their Chief Executive Officer, Sundar Pichai, spoke of the "tragedy" that occurred with the election of Donald Trump. Mr. Beer says that Google executives promised to use all their resources to rectify the result. Mr. Beer compares Google to an insidious and dangerous cult. "The idea that an entire company's senior executive team would hold such homogeneous political views is disturbing enough in itself. However, even more horrific is that the entire crowd of hundreds — perhaps thousands — of employees also appeared to be 100% in agreement with those views." Diversity of thought is not evident in the Google video leaked to Breitbart).

RED CROSS APP FOR BASIC PET FIRST AID

Writing for lifehacker, Emily Price says"… the app offers advice on what's normal behavior for your pet, and what to do in situations where your pet is having trouble." Has your pet gotten into an accident, eaten something toxic/poisonous, having an allergic reaction, stopped breathing? The app won't make you a veterinarian but it may prepare you to act until you can get your pet to an animal hospital (e.g., can you perform CPR on your pet?). If you have a pet, consider downloading the Red Cross app "Pet First Aid." In case your wondering, the Red Cross has a First Aid app for people too 😊.

TEXT ALERT TEST

Due to Hurricane Florence, the planned National Test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) has been rescheduled to October 3rd beginning at 2:18 p.m. EDT. I learned of this test through Cyn Mackley's Tech Tips. This system was developed in 2016. No action is required when you receive the test message.

EXTENDED SECURITY UPDATES FOR WIN 7 FOR SOME AT A COST

Writing for All About Microsoft at ZDNet, Mary Jo Foley says, "Microsoft is announcing it will offer, for a fee, continuing security updates for the product through January 2023." This type of extended support is not new but, Microsoft's public marketing of the extended support is. The extended support is part of Microsoft's Windows 7 migration campaign. According to Mary Jo, "The paid Windows 7 Extended Security Updates (ESUs) will be sold on a per-device basis, with the price increasing each year. These ESUs will be available to any Windows 7 Professional and Windows 7 Enterprise users with volume-licensing agreements, and those with Windows Software Assurance and/or Windows 10 Enterprise or Education subscriptions will get a discount. Office 365 ProPlus will continue to work on devices with Windows 7 Extended Security Updates through January 2023." In the past, Microsoft offered extended update services to their largest customers (e.g., those with Premier Support Agreements). The ESUs are being offered through Microsoft's Volume Licensing Unit and according to Jared Spataro, corporate vice president of Microsoft 365, Core Windows Engineering "…is producing these updates like a product." It's hoped that this approach encourages Windows 7 users to move to Windows 10 rather than compelling them to do so.

FACEBOOK EXPANDS FACT-CHECK TO PHOTOS AND VIDEO

In an effort to combat "fake news," Facebook will expand its fact-checking in 17 countries to include photos and videos. Erin Carson at CNET says she learned from a Facebook blog post that Facebook has "…built a machine-learning model that flags possibly false content for fact-checkers to look at." Both Facebook and Twitter are attempting to understand and deal with the spread of fake news and misinformation that they suggest influenced our elections. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is quoted as saying that they have, "…developed sophisticated systems that combine technology and people to prevent election interference on our services." So why is Facebook telling us that they are policing themselves? Firstly, they don't want Washington regulators (e.g., the FCC) to do so. Secondly, they violated their own rules by allowing the developer of an app (i.e., thisisyourdigitallife) to share the Facebook profile data from more than 87 million Facebook users. Users of the app were not informed that their Facebook profile data would be forwarded to the UK-based data analytics firm, Cambridge Analytica, and used for political purposes. To make matters worse, Facebook recently learned that Cambridge Analytica may not have deleted all the profile data they collected; users are justifiably outraged. Erin says that, "The scandal touched off a series of apologies, an overhaul of Facebook privacy settings and an expensive investigation into its relationships with app developers." If you would like to know more about the Cambridge Analytica data mining scandal see, "*Facebook, Cambridge Analytica and data mining: What you need to know.*"

HOW TO REMOVE GPS AND OTHER DATA FROM PHOTOS ON YOUR iPhone or iPad

By *Bill Crowe*, Instructor, Sarasota Technology User Group, FL, July 2018 issue, STUGMonitor
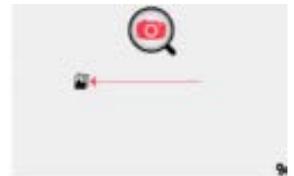www.thestug.org / wtcrowe@verizon.net

The general term for data saved with your picture is Exchangeable Image Format, also known as EXIF. It is a set of data that's attached to every image you take. Most cameras and smartphones these days add basic parameters such as the mode in which the photo was taken, the shutter speed, ISO, aperture data, and even the location of the photograph. This presents a peculiar problem — when you click a picture of a beautiful bird perched on the windowsill in your house, your camera automatically adds the location of the picture, which could reveal your home address when you share it with others online. Most social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter remove all this data from photos when you upload them. However, when your photo is shared via email, messages or cloud storage services such as Google Drive or Dropbox, this data is still present on pictures. To protect your privacy, it's best to remove some or all of the EXIF data from images. Here's how you can do it.

Remove GPS data your iOS Device using: "Photo Investigator"

You can remove GPS info from photos on your iOS device, but you'll need a third-party app to do so. There are a couple of options available, but here's how to do it with the free app Photo Investigator. ($2.99 for the Pro version)

1. Install the "Photo Investigator" App

2. Open the application, tap the photo icon, and allow the application access to your pictures

3. Select a photo album and then the photo you would like to view the metadata.
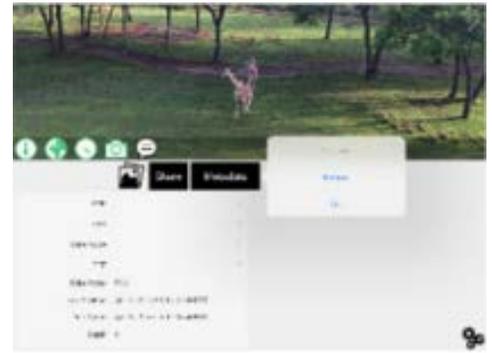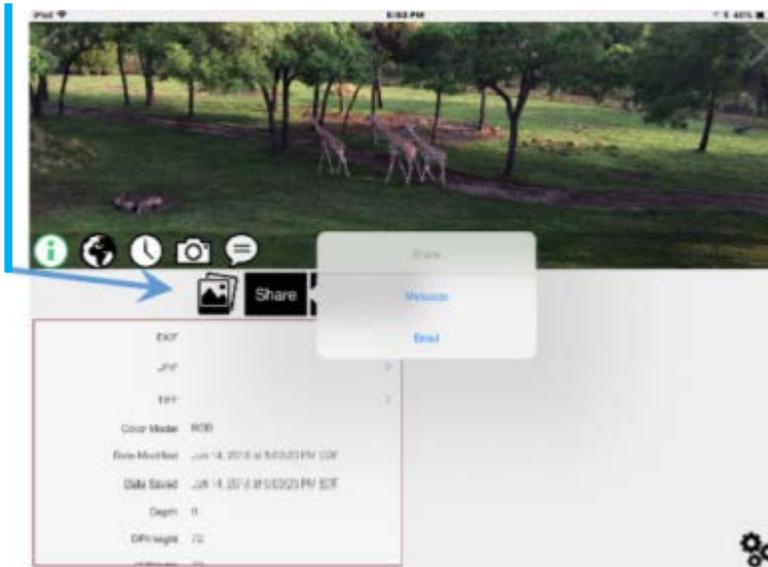

4. To see what the data looks like you can tap the various fields in the lower left box and see the data in the lower right box. I have done it here for the GPS data.

5. Tap Metadata box. You can remove all the meta data from here or edit individual items of the meta data by paying the $2.99 for the pro edition.

6. You will then be asked if you want to keep both the original and the modified picture or remove the original picture.

7. Now you can share the modified picture with others via email or message. By taping the share box.

8 . To process another photo, click the photos icon.

BONUS: Keeping GPS metadata off your phone in the first place

If you want to be 100% sure that this data is removed by making sure that photos taken on your iPhone don't have GPS info captured in the first place, you can do so by going to:

Settings / Privacy / Location Services / Camera / Never. Keep in mind that doing this will eliminate the ability to make albums based on location. Also, this setting only applies to the default Camera app; if you use a third-party camera app, it will still be allowed to tag your location in your photos unless you alter that setting as well.   *Source and Compliments of igeeksblog.com*
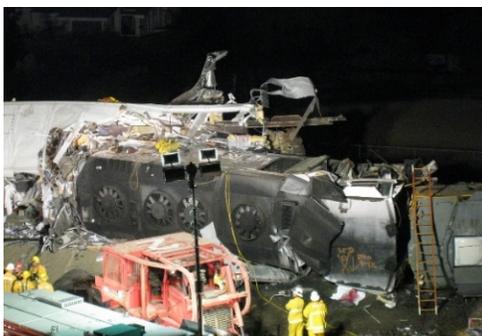
NOTE… the FPCUG does not endorse products or services of any kind ☺.

EVENTS IN COMPUTER HISTORY

(Paraphrase and additions to the Iceni Technology Blog by Iceni Technology Contributor Rebecca Coe and historical data from the website http://www.computerhistory.org/tdih/)

-- Oct 1 --

"Chatsworth train crash wikinews" by Craig Wiggenhorn - http://midnight.caltech.edu/craig/gallery/v/craig/lapasadena/traincollision/20080913-021646.jpg.html. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Commons - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chatsworth_train_crash_wikinews.jpg#/media/File:Chatsworth_train_crash_wikinews.jpg

A Metrolink engineer at the helm of a commuter train in Los Angeles, CA, was found to have been text messaging seconds before colliding with a freight train (2008). 25 people were killed in the accident and numerous injured. Many states have passed laws enforcing hands-free only cellular use that restricts drivers from the distracted driving inherent in hands-on texting and cellular phone.

-- Oct 3 --

John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley patented the transistor (1950). The three AT&T Bell Laboratories researchers had successfully tested the first of their devices two years earlier. The transistor started a revolution in computer engineering that led to the development of the semiconductors, microprocessors, and integrated circuits common in modern computers.

-- Oct 5 --

The Linux Kernel (operating system) was released October 5, 1991. Twenty-one year old Linus Torvalds created the Linux Kernel while studying Computer Science at the University of Helsinki. In 1991, Torvalds asked in a Usenet message for feedback and advice on an operating system he was developing as a hobby. Torvalds and thousands of programmers from all over the world collaborated to produce a General Public License for the Linux Kernel. Tux, the penguin, is an instantly recognizable icon of Linux. Tux is said to have been named by James Hughes as an abbreviation for Torvalds UniX, and was created by programmer Larry Ewing.

-- Oct 6 --

Instagram launched in 2010. Prior to setting up Instagram with Mike Krieger, co-founder Kevin Systrom interned at Odeo, (i.e., Twitter). He worked for two years at Google; on Gmail and the Google Reader during his first year, and with the Corporate Development team during the second. Instagram has 30 million+ users, and following its launch, Instagram for Android was downloaded over 1 million times on the first day! A deal was struck with Facebook for the $1 billion purchase of Instagram in April 2012.

-- Oct 9 --

The first consumer use of home banking via computer by the United American Bank occurred in Knoxville, TN on October 9, 1980.

-- Oct 11 --

Microsoft Office 2013 was released on October 11, 2012. A product key was issued by Microsoft for this edition of Office, rather than the usual disc format, providing users with a quicker installation via Microsoft's application streaming system. Changes to Microsoft's licensing agreement for Office 2013 meant that transferring software from one machine to another was no longer permitted (i.e., digital download software restrictions applied).

-- Oct 11 --

Dorr E. Felt was granted a patent for the Comptometer (1887). He experimented with an adding device that he built in a "macaroni box." The Comptometer, an adder, displayed a single register of results. Subtraction was carried out by nines-complement arithmetic, and multiplication by repeated addition. The device was a commercial success for businesses, and "Comptometer schools" were established early in the 20th century to teach the efficient operation of this machine.

Steve Jobs Introduced the NeXT Computer he conceived of after moving on from Apple Computer Inc., which he co-founded with Steve Wozniak. Although the NeXT ultimately failed in the marketplace, it introduced several features new to personal computers, including an optical storage disc, a built-in digital signal processor that allowed voice recognition, and object-oriented languages that simplified programming. It's relatively high price of $6,500 limited sales. NeXT Computer Inc. eventually became NeXT Software Inc. and then was bought by Apple in 1997.

-- Oct 13 --

Ameritech Mobile Communications (now Cingular) launched the first US cellular network in Chicago, Illinois (1983).

-- Oct 14 --

October 14th is the anniversary of the British Computer Society (BCS), founded in 1957. BCS is one of the several international societies that have an affiliate membership relationship with the IEEE Computer Society. Since 1984 BCS has operated under a Royal Charter which requires it to: "...promote the study and practice of Computing and to advance knowledge therein for the benefit of the public."

-- Oct 16 --

Control Data Corp. released its model 1604 computer, the first in the line from the company formed by a group that left Sperry Rand Corp., led by William Norris (1959). The 1604 was the most powerful computer in its day, designed by Seymour Cray, who would go on to a career in super-computers. Applications of the CDC 1604 included real time data processing, controlling weapons systems, solving large-scale scientific problems, and commercial applications.

-- Oct 17 --

Intel introduced the 32-bit 80386 CPU in 1985. The CPU was the first Intel/*86 chip to handle 32-bit data sets and was backwards compatible with previous generations of 80×86 CPUs.

-- Oct 17 --

The Internet Movie Database (IMDb) launched on October 17, 1990. The IMDb was created by Col Needham, following an initial posting on Usenet, which listed actresses with beautiful eyes. The posting went viral and Actors and Directors lists were added. Needham developed a search function for the database to cope with millions of entries. In 1998, the IMDb was sold to Amazon.com for an undisclosed sum. Needham remained as Chief Executive and the IMDb continued to operate from his home in Bristol. The IMDb website attracts over 160 million visitors each month.
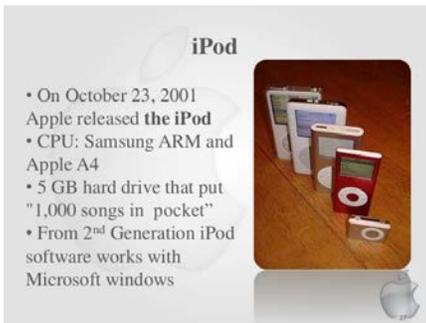
-- Oct 21 --

An Wang patented magnetic ferrite core memory (1949), calling it "pulse transfer controlling devices. " Computer designers wanted to record and read magnetically stored information without mechanical motion. Wang's magnetic core memory was key to later computer design. Wang Laboratories was founded 2-yrs later.

-- Oct 22 --

Microsoft Windows 7 was released worldwide for retail sale on October 22, 2009. The release occurred a short 3 years after Windows Vista.

-- Oct 23 –

Apple introduced the iPod (2001). Originally equipped with a miniature hard disk; future versions used flash memory. Apple said the iPod let users "put 1,000 songs in your pocket." Although not the first handheld player for digital music, the iPod, in tandem with the iTunes music store, radically altered the way people bought, stored, shared, and listened to music.

-- Oct 23 --

The Mac OS 9 was released on October 23, 1999. This was the final major release of Apple's Classic Mac OS.

-- Oct 25 --

Windows XP was released on October 25, 2001. Over 400 million copies were sold in the 5 years preceding the introduction of Windows Vista in 2007.

-- Oct 26 --

Microsoft Office for Mac 2011 was released October 26, 2010. It provided seamless integration to 1 billion+ Mac users of MS Office. Office for Mac 2016 was released September 1, 2015.

-- Oct 26 --

Microsoft released Windows 8 to mixed reviews on October 26, 2012. Slowly accepted by users, between October 2012 and January 2013, 60 million licenses for Windows 8 were sold. Windows 8.1 was released in October 2013, returning a visible start button to the task bar and the ability to boot to the desktop rather than the start screen.

-- Oct 26 --

The London Ambulance Service was thrown into chaos when a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system failed (1992).
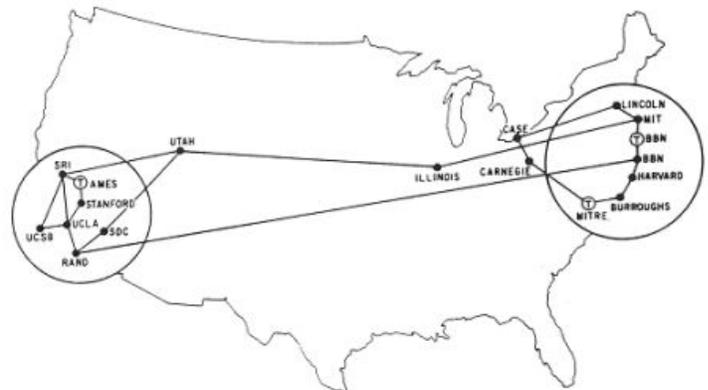
-- Oct 27 --

The first major network crash (4 hours) occurred October 27, 1980. The crash of the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET) resulted from a redundant single-error detecting code that was used for transmission but not storage, and a garbage-collection algorithm for removing old messages that was not resistant to the simultaneous existence of one message with several different time stamps. This system could not simultaneously cope with these events.
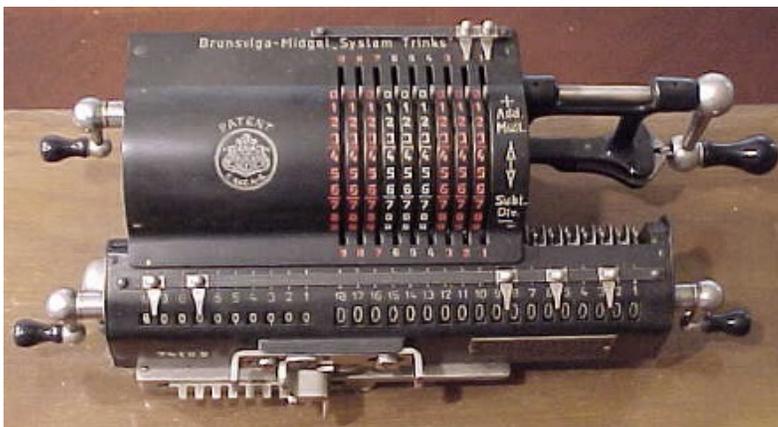
-- Oct 29 --

At 10:30pm on October 29, 1969 the first message was sent on the ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network). The ARPANET was set up by the Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). ARPANET was recognized as a pioneering operational packet switching network and the first to implement TCP/IP. The modern internet is based on ARPANET technology.

ARPANet

MAP 4   September 1971

-- Oct 29 --

Willgodt T. Odhner was granted a patent for a calculating machine that performed multiplications by repeated additions (1878). The patent, a modified and compact version of Gottfried von Leibniz's stepped wheel, was acquired and embodied in Brunsviga calculators that sold into the 1950s (*an amazing product lifetime*).

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