

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

March 2019

Hello Worms

Hi Worms,

I had a busy month and actually never got around to doing the newsletter so there is not much to it this month.

Talk-in is on the Wormhole repeater system. For those coming to the meeting who cannot hit the repeater we will also monitor the Honeywell club repeater on 443.050 +141.3. Bring a folding chair for the meeting if you have one.

* SYMANTEC: POPULAR MICROSOFT APPS HIJACK PC*

Infopackets by John Lister on February, 21 2019

At least eight apps in the official Microsoft Store were secretly designed to use a computer's resources without permission. It undermines Microsoft's efforts to promote the store as a "safe source of software."

In the past few years, Microsoft has heavily pushed the idea of Windows users getting software from an app store - similar to the way mobile devices work - rather than the more traditional method of getting programs from a third-party sources and installing them directly to the PC or smartphone / tablet.

There's even a special 'S' mode for Windows 10 that only allows the computer to run software from the Microsoft Store. The company specifically says this mode is

"streamlined for security and performance." It also says applications in the store are "Microsoft-verified for security."

Battery and Video Download Apps Compromised

Now security firm Symantec says eight apps that were in the store at some point in 2018 pose a risk, namely:

- Battery Optimizer (Tutorials)
- Clean Master+ (Tutorials)
- Downloader for YouTube Videos
- Fast-search Lite
- FastTube
- Findoo Browser 2019
- Findoo Mobile & Desktop Search
- VPN Browser+

While the apps appear to carry out their stated purpose, they are also running code in the background that carries out cryptomining.

Cryptomining means using the computer's (or smartphone / tablet) resources to try to verify transactions made with virtual currencies such as Bitcoin. That might seem like an odd thing to hijack a computer for, but the way such "cryptocurrencies" work is that whoever wins a race to verify a batch of transactions is rewarded with a unit of the currency.

The currency can then be sold for "real world" currencies such as dollars. Combining the power of hijacked computers greatly increases the chances of winning the race as the calculations are often split up among multiple systems, making it much more efficient.

Cryptomining on hundreds of thousands and potentially millions of devices simultaneously is great news for the hijackers - but bad news for users. It can mean slower device performance and potentially overheating batteries on laptops as their machines run consistently at full power.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there was no mention of the 'behind-the-scenes activity' in the privacy policies of the apps in question via their Microsoft Store listings.

The apps are no longer in the store and users should remove them from their machines if they have them. The big question now is how they were able to bypass Microsoft's security checks and get into the store.

*** SYMANTEC: POPULAR MICROSOFT APPS HIJACK PC***

This article from The Daily DX by way of Jack Hartley

Antarctic Activity Week ([AAW](#)) 2019 is under way until February 24, with special call signs on the air. The goal of the event is to promote interest in Antarctica, where many countries have established research facilities.

Some of the call signs to listen for are: Australia, VK2ANT; Austria, OE16AAW, OE88WAP, OE89ANT, and OE90AAW; Belgium, OR16ANT; France, TM16AAW, TM16WAP, and TM1ANT; Italy, II2ANT, II5ANT, IO5SP, IR18AAW, IR1ANT, IR4ANT, and IV3BOVE; The Netherlands, PA6ANT and PF19ANT; Poland, SP0ANT; Spain, AO1WAP, Ukraine, EM16UAP, and US, K4A, K4K, and KB0ANT.
— Thanks to [The Daily DX](#)

*** ENERGIZER PHONE HAS MONSTER BATTERY***

INFOPACKETS by John Lister on February, 26 2019

Energizer has made a smartphone that is not surprisingly all about the battery. Though to be fair, it's got six times the capacity of some leading models. The few people who've seen the phone say it's bordering on impossibly big, but that it does provoke debate about the way phones suck up electricity.

The Android-based handset is called the Energizer Power Max P18K Pop. It has a battery capacity of 18,000 mAh. To put that into context, it's three times more than a Motorola phone that's specifically marketed around long battery life. It's also around six times more than many flagship Android handsets. According to Energizer, that translates to two straight days of video use, 90 hours of talk time, or 50 days on standby. You can usually take manufacturer claims with a dose of skepticism, but it

certainly seems likely the average user wouldn't have to recharge much more than once a week.

The downside is that the battery (and phone) are understandably huge, with the phone measuring 18 millimeters thick. The weight hasn't been confirmed yet, but hands-on reviews suggest the size and weight of the handset is roughly equivalent to having two 'standard' phones taped together. The battery reportedly charges in just two hours. One useful feature is that it can act as a power bank, meaning a user can hook it up to a friend's phone that needs a recharge

Critics have noted that despite its heft, the phone doesn't have particularly impressive protection against knocks, drops, dust or water. That might rule out one potential benefit in being able to take it while on extended off-grid expeditions.

Realistically the sheer bulk may put many users off. The few people who have reviewed it weren't allowed to take it away for extended real-world testing. It's also questionable whether it could fit in a pocket comfortably.

That aside, it has provided a talking point by reopening the issue of whether smartphone manufacturers go too far to make handsets as slim as possible at the expense of battery life. While this beast of a handset goes too far in the opposite direction, it is odd that using the most expensive phones on the market can often mean having to recharge before the day is done.

EDITOR: For a picture of the phone go to <https://www.macrumors.com/>.



CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting is March 2nd. We meet on the first Saturday every month at 11:00 Saturday morning at the Minnreg Building located at 6340 126th Ave N, Largo. Members are welcome to come in the rear area through the fence gate on the southeast corner of the property. Talk-in is on the Wormhole repeater system. For those coming to the meeting who cannot hit our repeater we will be monitoring the Honeywell club repeater on 443.050 +141.3. We will keep an eye peeled for you. We will take advantage of the cooking facilities with an after-the-meeting Social and Wormdog picnic.

CLUB NETS

Check in on the club net Thursdays at 1930 and 2000 (or at the end of the 2M net).
2M at 146.850 – with a tone of 146.2. Our 6M net runs after our regular 2M net on
53.150 – 1MHz offset 146.2 tone. We are always looking for volunteers to be the net
control operator. Anyone interested, talk to one your club officers.

LOCAL NETS

MONDAY

1730 147.030 + Receiver sites and tone info <http://www.qsl.net/wd4scd/> St Pete
Yacht Club ARC

1830 147.060+ no tone St Pete ARC daily net St
Petersburg

1900 144.210 USB CARS, vertical polarization
Clearwater

1900 147.135 +146.2 Zephyrhills ARC
Zephyrhills

2000 147.165+ 136.5 Brandon	Brandon ARS	from
2000 50.135 County	Pinellas ARK	Pinellas
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net,	NI4CE system
2030 145.450 County	Pinellas ARK	Pinellas

TUESDAY

1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
1900 50.200 USB ARS	6M net	Brandon
1900 28.450 Clearwater	WCF section net	
1900 NI4CE system system	WCF Section VHF ARES	NI4CE
1930 145.170 & 442.4 both pl 156.7	Pinellas ACS net	Clearwater
1930 444.900 +141.3	Sheriff's Tactical ARC	Tampa
2000 NI4CE system	WCF Skywarn net	NI4CE system
2000 147.105+ 146.2 Tampa	Tampa ARC net	from
2000 28.365 USB	simplex	Brandon ARS
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
2100 28.465 USB	10/10 net	from Orlando

1900 146.490 simplex
simplex Net 3RD Tuesday monthly, Hillsborough Co ARES

WEDNESDAY

1830 147.060 no tone
Petersburg St Pete ARC daily net from St

1930 52.020 simplex
Petersburg Suncoast 6'ers from St

1930 NI4CE system
system WCF Section Digital Info Ne NI4CE

2000 147.105 146.2
Tampa Greater Tampa CERT net from

2000 146.97- 146.2
Clearwater Clearwater ARS from

2030 NI4CE system
system EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net NI4CE

2100 NI4CE system
affiliated Tampa Bay Traders Net non-

THURSDAY

1800 146.52 simplex
Tampa Hillsborough ARES/RACES North

1830 147.060 no tone
Petersburg St Pete ARC daily net from St

1900 444.750 +146.2
Tampa Fusion net from

1915 224.660- no tone
Petersburg St Pete ARC from St

1930 146.6385 -127.3 Lakeland	Lakeland ARC	from
1930 440.100 + 162.2 Tampa	Hillsborough ARES/RACES	from
1930 146.850- 146.2 Petersburg	Wormhole	from St
2000 53.150 -1MHz 146.2 Petersburg	Wormhole	from St
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
FRIDAY		
1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
SATURDAY		
0730 3.940 (7.281 Alt.)+/- QRM WCF	WCF Section HF Net	from
1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
SUNDAY		
0800 3.933	Florida Traders Net	non-affiliated
1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St

1930 NI4CE system system	WCF Section Net	NI4CE
2000 147.550 simplex County	550 Simplex Net	Pinellas
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
2100 144.210 USB orientation	Clearwater ARS	vertical

FOR SALE / WANTED

Anyone having something for sale or who might be looking for an item let me know. I will not print phone numbers or email addresses unless specifically told to since this newsletter might end up on the web. The exception is when I get the information off the web. If you are a member of the Wormhole then you have all the information you need on a club roster and if you are not a member .. why not? OK, if you are not a member you can contact me at the email address at the end of this newsletter, I will give you the information to contact the person involved.

FOR SALE, Mosley TA-33M 10-15-20M beam with the 40M add on kit. Antenna is on the ground and in good shape. There are several parts that need replacement. The 40M kit is new in box. Antenna is broken down into six or seven feet sections so easy to handle. Asking \$300, talk to me, Bill AG4QX at arrl dot net or see me at the meeting.

FOR SALE, Cushcraft A4S 10-15-20M beam, on the ground. There are several parts that need replacement. Asking \$250, talk to me, Bill AG4QX at arrl dot net or see me at the meeting.

HAMFESTS

2019

- March 3** Punta Gorda, Charlotte County Hamfest, Punta Gorda Boat Club, 802 West Retta Esplanade, talk-in on 147.255 + 136.5, <https://www.prra.club/hamfest.html>
- March 16** New Port Richey, Millennium Academy, 10005 Ridge Road, nothing on club website
- March 23** Sarasota, Sarasota ERC, American Red Cross, 2001 Cantu Court, \$2 entry, \$5 tailgate, \$15 inside, limited space, For info e-mail SERC@comcast.net
- April 6** Odessa, Suncoast ARC, Gunn Highway Flea Market, 2317 Gunn Highway, talkin 145.350 no tone, for info Don Nystron , KA2KDP 727-868-0176
- April 13** **TARCFest**, TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, \$ entry plus \$ to tailgate, inside tables \$ in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>
- May 11** Dade City, East Pasco ARS, 37745 Church Ave, \$5 entry and tailgate, info at http://eparsonline.org/public_html/eparsonline.org/
- May 25** **WormFest 2019, Pinellas Park, FREE, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, southeast corner of US 19 and 49th Street, Park opens at sunrise for vendor setup, hamfest starts at 0800. Talk-in on 146.850 - 146.2. For a map and directions see <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org> .**
- August 17** **TARCFest**, TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, \$ entry plus \$ to tailgate, inside tables \$ in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>
- November 9** Pinellas Park, **SPARCFest**, admission FREE, tailgate free, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, Southeast corner of US 19

and 49th Street, Talk-in on 147.060+ no tone. VE testing at 0900.
For more information go to <http://www.sparc-club.org/sparcfest.html>

December 13 & 14 **Plant City, the 2018 Tampa Bay Hamfest is the West Central Florida Section Convention, Friday and Saturday, at the Expo Building in the Strawberry Festival grounds, advanced admission \$9, at the door \$10, for information contact Bill Williams AG4QX, chairman@fgcarc.org or go to <http://www.tampabayhamfest.org> or you can just ask me, Jim or Dee at a meeting ;-)**

2020

February 7-9 **Orlando Hamcation and State Convention, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Tickets \$15 in advance, \$17 at door. Talkin 146.4760 - no PL or D-Star 146.850 -, all the information at www.hamcation.com or call 407-841-0874**

February 21 & 22 Tampa, **5th Annual TECHCON Convention**, for more info <http://arrlwcf.org/> or contact Darrell Davis at kt4wx@arrl.net.



Mid January	Frogman swim in Tampa Bay. http://www.tampabayfrogman.com/
Last full weekend January	Winter Field Day, https://www.winterfieldday.com/
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
Late February	West Central Florida Tech Conference http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/
March/April	MS Walks
March/April	Mass Casualty Exercises
Late April	Southeastern VHF Society Conference, http://www.svhfs.org
Late April	Florida QSO Party

Mid May	March For Babies (was March of Dimes) https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events
Early to Mid May	MS 150 Citrus Tour bike ride http://www.citrustour.org/register.php
Mid-May	Annual Armed Forces Crossband Test
Mid-May	Florida Hurricane Exercise
May, Memorial Day Weekend	Wormfest
Early June	Museum Ships on the Air
Fourth weekend in June	Field Day http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/
July 3/4	Midnight Run in Largo http://www.kiwanismidnightrun.com/
August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Week https://illw.net/
October, 3 rd weekend	JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around 14.280MHz)
Early December	ALS bike ride in Walsingham Park
December, Second weekend	Tampa Bay Hamfest http://www.fgcarc.org/

YOUR WORMHOLE OFFICERS

Bill AG4QX is President and editor of this newsletter, Treasurer is Jim KD4MZL, Paul KA4IOX is the Secretary, Dee N4GD is the Repeater Trustee and Mike K4ZPE is both our club Vice President and webmaster.

YOUR WORMHOLE REPEATERS

53.150 -1Mz PL 146.2

442.625 +5Mz PL 146.2

146.850 - 600Kz PL 146.2

The Wormhole repeaters are both now dual mode Yaesu DR-1X. FM analog as always and now Yaesu Fusion, a C4FM/FM digital mode.

The Wormhole website is at: <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org>.

West Central Florida Section website: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/>.

The ARRL website is at: <http://www.arrl.org/>

This newsletter is written for The Glorious Society of the Wormhole, an ARRL affiliated amateur radio club located around the Seminole section of Pinellas County Florida. Anyone wishing to be added or removed from The Glorious Society of the Wormhole mailings please write to me at the address below and thy will be done.

73,

Bill Williams

AG4QX

ag4qx AT arrl DOT net