

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

August 2019

Hello Worms

Not much to talk about this month, I seem to be always busy but don't seem to do anything. I know it is about the same with all retirees; we seem to have more to do after retirement than when we worked.

The TARCfest is August 17th.

You might notice some of us Worms talking about doing stuff and going into the building after the meeting. The Honeywell club's EchoLink station has been having problems mostly caused by the Minnreg internet distribution system making it too hot inside the common container. After the Wormhole meeting we will be adding a new wall cabinet for our gear probably including an exhaust fan. For those who do not know, EchoLink is a "connect to the world using your UHF radio" system. The software is free and the Honeywell repeater has a pretty good footprint so give it a try if you have any interest. Google EchoLink and you will get more information you need.

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. Every meeting someone says they forgot their chair, see if you can avoid being the one this month ;-)

*** MICROSOFT WARNS ABOUT SUPER STEALTH MALWARE ***

Microsoft has warned users about a complicated but cunning malware attack that might not be caught by all security tools. The "Astaroth" malware doesn't actually exist as a file in its own right.

The main risk to users from Astaroth is that it includes a keylogger. This means it can access everything victims type, including passwords and other sensitive data. That's one of the reasons sites such as online banks often ask users to type specific characters (such as third and eighth) rather than an entire password.

What makes Astaroth so hard to detect is that it uses a technique dubbed "living off the land." It's a sophisticated executable files. Instead, it runs within legitimate Windows processes.

That's a big problem for many security tools that work by scanning computers and monitoring downloads to look for files that are either known to be malicious or show suspicious characteristics. Such tools don't usually interfere with Windows processes as this could affect the smooth running of a computer and deter people from using the security tools.

The good news is that other anti-malware techniques can spot Astaroth, including Microsoft Defender ATP. That was previously a commercial product aimed at businesses but is now built into Windows 10 by default.

These techniques involve monitoring activity on the computer for signs of something amiss. A Microsoft spokesman said that "Some of the fileless techniques may be so unusual and anomalous that they draw immediate attention to the malware, in the same way that a bag of money moving by itself would."

The way the malware gets onto computers in the first place is nothing new: it's spread by bogus emails that encourage users to click on a link to a file. In this case the file is in .LNK format, which is normally used for shortcuts to Windows applications, such as those that appear on a desktop. Once the .lnk file is clicked, it downloads the malware.

* WHO'S LISTENING WHEN YOU TALK TO GOOGLE ASSISTANT? *

WIRED Business by Tom Simonite 7/10/2019

Google, Amazon, and Apple say their AI-powered virtual assistants make it easier to get things done on smartphones or at home. Last month, a couple in the Waasmunster area of Belgium got an unexpected lesson in how these supposedly automated helpers really work.

Tim Verheyden, a journalist with Belgian public broadcaster VRT, contacted the couple bearing a mysterious audio file. To their surprise, they clearly heard the voices of their son and baby grandchild—as captured by Google's virtual assistant on a smartphone.

Verheyden says he gained access to the file and more than 1,000 others from a Google contractor who is part of a worldwide workforce paid to review some audio captured by the assistant from devices including smart speakers, phones, and security cameras. One recording contained the couple's address and other information suggesting they are grandparents.

Most recordings reviewed by VRT, including the one referencing the Waasmunster couple, were intended; users asked for weather information or pornographic videos, for example. *WIRED* reviewed transcripts of the files shared by VRT, which published a report on its findings Wednesday. In roughly 150 of the recordings, the broadcaster says the assistant appears to have activated incorrectly after mishearing its wake word.

Some of those captured fragments of phone calls and private conversations. They include announcements that someone needed the bathroom and what appeared to be discussions on personal topics, including a child's growth rate, how a wound was healing, and someone's love life.

Google says it transcribes a fraction of audio from the assistant to improve its automated voice-processing technology. Yet the sensitive data in the recordings and instances of Google's algorithms listening in unbidden make some people—including the worker who shared audio with VRT and some privacy experts—uncomfortable. Privacy scholars say Google's practices may breach the European Union privacy rules known as GDPR introduced last year, which provide special protections for sensitive data such as medical information and require transparency about how personal data is collected and processed.

VRT began talking with the Google contractor in the wake of a report by Bloomberg that described how audio from Amazon's Alexa—including unintended recordings—is transcribed by company staff and contractors in locations including Boston, Costa Rica, and India. The Google contractor said that he transcribed around 1,000 clips per month in Dutch and Flemish, and that he was concerned by the sensitivity of some of the recordings. He showed VRT how he logged into a private version of a Google app called Crowdsourcing to access recordings assigned to him.

In one case, the contractor said, he transcribed a recording in which a woman sounded like she was in distress. "I felt that physical violence was involved," he said in the English

subtitles on VRT's video report. "It becomes real people you are listening to, not just voices." The contractor goes on to say that Google had not provided clear guidelines on what, if anything, workers should do in such cases.

In a statement, a Google spokesperson said the company has launched an investigation because the contractor breached data security policies. The statement said Google uses "language experts around the world" to transcribe audio from the company's assistant, but that they review only around 0.2 percent of all recordings, which are not associated with user accounts.

Google's reviewers may not see account data, but they still get to hear very private information, for example related to health. Jef Ausloos, a researcher at the Centre for IT & IP Law at the University of Leuven, in Belgium, told VRT that means Google's system may not comply with GDPR, which requires explicit consent to collect health data.

Google's privacy policy and privacy pages for its home devices do not describe how the company uses workers to review audio. The company's privacy pages for Google Home say that the company "collects data that's meant to make our services faster, smarter, more relevant, and more useful to you." Under the heading "Is Google Home recording all of my conversations?" those pages say that no information leaves the device until its wake word is detected—obscuring the fact that the system can mistakenly detect it.

Michael Veale, a technology policy researcher at the Alan Turing Institute in London, says those disclosures don't appear to meet GDPR requirements even for data not considered sensitive. The group of national data protection regulators in charge of applying GDPR has said companies must be transparent about data they collect and how it is processed. "You have to be very specific on what you're implementing and how," Veale says. "I think Google hasn't done that because it would look creepy."

The Google spokesperson said the company will review how it could clarify to users how data is used to improve the company's speech technology.

Veale has filed a complaint about Apple's Siri with the Irish data regulator, arguing that the service breaches GDPR because users cannot access recordings made by Siri. He says Apple has responded that its systems handle the data

carefully enough that the audio files of his own voice don't count as personal data. Google and Amazon allow users to both review and delete their recordings; Amazon now allows users to call out, "Alexa delete everything I said today," to purge your history.

Amazon's privacy policies don't describe how reviewers handle some Alexa audio. Like Google's, its privacy pages say Alexa does not record all conversations, but don't explain that it may inadvertently eavesdrop. Apple's documents don't describe reviewing processes either, although a security white paper says some Siri audio is retained for "ongoing improvement and quality assurance." Amazon and Apple declined to comment.

CAN YOU COPY 20 WPM BY HAND?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was sent to the CWOps mailing list:

From: Fusaro, Norm W3IZ [<mailto:w3iz@arrl.org>]

Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM

Subject: W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate

Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.

That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73,

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ
Director of Operations

Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at KB6NU.Com), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, "How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?" When I replied, "Typing," he countered, "On page 98 of the July 2019 QST, it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...'"

To this, I replied, "Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can't copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it's really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I'm guessing that I'm not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think."

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, “By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine.” I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven't yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, “Copy one of W1AW's qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible).”

NOTE: You can find an image of the new certificate at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Code-Proficiency-Certificate-Vibroplex-768x597.jpg>

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and is one of the presenters the ICQPodcast (ICQPodcast.Com). Feel free to reply to his CW CQs at any speed you so choose.

CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting is August 3rd. 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 ARS from
Brandon

2000 50.135 Pinellas ARK Pinellas
County

2030 NI4CE system EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net, NI4CE system

2030 145.450 Pinellas ARK Pinellas
County

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	3 RD 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

- August 17** **TARCFest**, TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, \$5 entry plus including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>
- September 28** **Pasco County Hamfest**, Gunn Hwy Flea Market, 2317 Gunn Highway, , talk-In: 145.350 (no tone), no info on the website, for info contact Don Nystron , KA2kdp 727-868-0176
- October 26** **Gulf Coast ARC Hamfest**, New Port Richey, Millennium Academy, 10005 Ridge Road, admission \$6, tailgate free, Talk-In on 146.670 - no tone, For info contact Ralph McCullough , WA3YFQ 727-247-4790, no information on their website
- 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://arllwcf.org/> or contact Darrell Davis at kt4wx@arll.net.

May 23 **WormFest 2020**, Pinellas Park, admission FREE, tailgate free, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, southeast corner of US 19 and 49th Street, 33782. Park opens at sunrise for vendor setup, hamfest starts at 0800. Talk-in on 442.625 + or 146.850 – both with a tone of 146.2. For a map and directions see <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org> .

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://arllwcf.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