

## News from



# The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

February 2020

## Hello Worms

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 ;-). I lost track but I can say that more than eight meetings no one has left a chair! Who said an old Worm can't learn a new trick?

## \* SURPRISE WINDOWS 7 UPDATE AFTER THE "END OF LIFE"\*

*Houston Chronicle* by Dwight Silverman

Windows 7 was supposed to be done with free software updates to fix bugs and security issues as of Jan. 14. But a bug discovered in the last update has Microsoft issuing one last fix for the aging operating system.

With the [end-of-life support earlier this month](#), Windows 7 was to receive updates only for those corporate customers who paid for them. But after the [final free update](#) (KB4534310) introduced a flaw that causes an issue with the way desktop wallpaper displays, Microsoft announced it will fix this bug in an update for all users.

“After installing KB4534310, your desktop wallpaper might display as black when set to Stretch,” the software giant wrote in [a support document](#).

According to The Verge, [which first reported the story](#), Microsoft initially planned to only provide the fix to customers who had subscribed to its paid Extended Security Updates program. But after rumblings of online discontent from some still using Windows 7, Microsoft announced the fix would be free to all.

The bug and its fix also apply to Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1.

EDITORS NOTE: Corporate customers pay between \$25 to \$50 per machine per year to enroll in the Extended Security Updates Program so they can continue using Windows 7.

## **\* APPLE DROPPED ENCRYPTION AFTER FBI COMPLAINS\***

Joseph Menn, *Reuters*

Apple Inc ([AAPL.O](#)) dropped plans to let iPhone users fully encrypt backups of their devices in the company’s iCloud service after the FBI complained that the move would harm investigations, six sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The tech giant’s reversal, about two years ago, has not previously been reported. It shows how much Apple has been willing to help U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies, despite taking a harder line in high-profile legal disputes with the government and casting itself as a defender of its customers’ information.

The long-running tug of war between investigators’ concerns about security and tech companies’ desire for user privacy moved back into the public spotlight last week, as U.S. Attorney General William Barr took the rare step of publicly calling on Apple to unlock two iPhones used by a Saudi Air Force officer who shot dead three Americans at a Pensacola, Florida naval base last month.

U.S. President Donald Trump piled on, accusing Apple on Twitter of refusing to unlock phones used by “killers, drug dealers and other violent criminal elements.” Republican and Democratic senators sounded a similar theme in a December hearing, threatening legislation against end-to-end encryption, citing unrecoverable evidence of crimes against children.

Apple did in fact did turn over the shooter’s iCloud backups in the Pensacola case, and said it rejected the characterization that it “has not provided substantive assistance.” Behind the scenes, Apple has provided the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation with more sweeping help, not related to any specific probe.

An Apple spokesman declined to comment on the company’s handling of the encryption issue or any discussions it has had with the FBI. The FBI did not respond to requests for comment on any discussions with Apple.

More than two years ago, Apple told the FBI that it planned to offer users end-to-end encryption when storing their phone data on iCloud, according to one current and three former FBI officials and one current and one former Apple employee. Under that plan, primarily designed to thwart hackers, Apple would no longer have a key to unlock the encrypted data, meaning it would not be able to turn material over to authorities in a readable form even under court order.

In private talks with Apple soon after, representatives of the FBI’s cyber crime agents and its operational technology division objected to the plan, arguing it would deny them the most effective means for gaining evidence against iPhone-using suspects, the government sources said. When Apple spoke privately to the FBI about its work on phone security the following year, the end-to-end encryption plan had been dropped, according to the six sources.

Reuters could not determine why exactly Apple dropped the plan. “Legal killed it, for reasons you can imagine,” another former Apple employee said he was told, without any specific mention of why the plan was dropped or if the FBI was a factor in the decision. That person told Reuters the company did not want to risk being attacked by public officials for protecting criminals, sued for moving previously accessible data out of reach of government agencies or used as an excuse for new legislation against encryption. “They decided they weren’t going to poke the bear anymore,” the person said, referring to Apple’s court battle with the FBI in 2016 over access to an iPhone used by one of the suspects in a mass shooting in San Bernardino, California.

Apple appealed a court order to break into that phone for the FBI. The government dropped the proceedings when it found a contractor that could break into the phone, a common occurrence in FBI investigations. Two of the former FBI officials, who were not present in talks with Apple, told Reuters it appeared that the FBI's arguments that the backups provided vital evidence in thousands of cases had prevailed. "It's because Apple was convinced," said one. "Outside of that public spat over San Bernardino, Apple gets along with the federal government."

However, a former Apple employee said it was possible the encryption project was dropped for other reasons, such as concern that more customers would find themselves locked out of their data more often.

Once the decision was made, the 10 or so experts on the Apple encryption project - variously code-named Plesio and KeyDrop - were told to stop working on the effort, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Apple's decision not to proceed with end-to-end encryption of iCloud backups made the FBI's job easier. The agency relies on hacking software that exploits security flaws to break into a phone. But that method requires direct access to the phone which would ordinarily tip off the user, who is often the subject of the investigation.

Apple's iCloud, on the other hand, can be searched in secret. In the first half of last year, the period covered by Apple's most recent semiannual transparency report on requests for data it receives from government agencies, U.S. authorities armed with regular court papers asked for and obtained full device backups or other iCloud content in 1,568 cases, covering about 6,000 accounts. The company said it turned over at least some data for 90% of the requests it received. It turns over data more often in response to secret U.S. intelligence court directives, which sought content from more than 18,000 accounts in the first half of 2019, the most recently reported six-month period.

Had it proceeded with its plan, Apple would not have been able to turn over any readable data belonging to users who opted for end-to-end encryption. Instead of protecting all of iCloud with end-to-end encryption, Apple has shifted to focus on protecting some of the most sensitive user information, such as saved passwords and health data. But backed-up contact information and texts from iMessage, WhatsApp and other encrypted services remain available to Apple employees and authorities.

Apple is not the only tech company to have removed its own access to customers' information. In October 2018, Alphabet Inc's Google announced a similar system to Apple's dropped plan for secure backups. The maker of Android software, which runs on about three-quarters of the world's mobile devices, said users could back up their data to its own cloud without trusting the company with the key. Two people familiar with the project said Google gave no advance notice to governments, and picked a time to announce it when encryption was not in the news.

The company continues to offer the service but declined to comment on how many users have taken up the option. The FBI did not respond to a request for comment on Google's service or the agency's approach to it.

## **\* SIMPLE METHOD TO CHECK YOUR RADIO FREQUENCY CALIBRATION\***

**By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

There's a very simple way to check the calibration of your rig, using WWV and a computer running a digital modes program. First, connect the rig audio to the computer. At home, I connect the line output of my IC-746PRO to the mic input of my laptop. At WA2HOM, we use a [SignalLink USB](#) to connect the rig's line output to our desktop computer.

Next, set your radio to one of the WWV frequencies. Here in Michigan, we receive WWV best on 10 MHz, so that's the frequency that I use. On my IC-746PRO, I set the receive frequency to 10.000.00 MHz, using the keypad.

Now, fire up the digital modes program and observe the waterfall display on the laptop. WWV broadcasts standard frequency audio tones that alternate during most minutes of the hour. Most minutes feature a 500 Hz audio tone (minutes 4, 6, 12, 16, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 52, 54, 56, 58) or 600 Hz audio tone (minutes 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 53, 55, 57), but note that during some minutes, there is no audio tone.

This tone should be easily discernible on the waterfall display, and the closer it is to 500 Hz or 600 Hz, depending on which tone is being broadcast, the closer your rig is to being properly calibrated. I do this every month or so, just to make sure that my radio hasn't drifted.

For more information on the WWV transmissions, go to <https://tf.nist.gov/stations/iform.html>.

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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 often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep things as simple as possible, but not simpler, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

## \* MICROSOFT MAY SPLIT WINDOWS FOR FASTER UPDATES\*

Editor Note: Last month an article quoting a *techradar* article by Matt Hanson broached this subject.

The INQUIRER BY Chris Merriman

MICROSOFT HAS CONFIRMED it's working on a new feature it just thought of, and nobody else, honestly.

Starting in the spring 2020 (20H1) update to Windows 10, Microsoft will begin to split those nasty updates we always moan about to separate crucial security updates from features, hidden telemetry tools and nagware.

No, you're not going senile. This is exactly how things were before the Windows 10/Nadella era - but somehow, Microsoft only just thought of it.

Ever since the disastrous Build 1809 of Windows last year, not only has there been growing pressure to stop the whole 'one update does it all' policy. Despite a long incubation for the most recent build, designed to let the Insiders find all the issues

before the public, subsequent patches containing a mixture of smaller updates, some necessary, others not, have been a source of ongoing frustration.

Most recently, a patch designed to fix a borked patch actually made things even borkier, breaking the search bar, the start menu and in some cases WiFi on users machines.

The new-old approach is already testing with the insiders. In a recent blog post, Microsoft explained: "As some Insiders have noticed, we're working on making it easier for you to see all optional updates (including drivers, feature updates, and monthly non-security quality updates) in one place. Once optional updates are detected, they will be listed in a new page under Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update > View optional updates.

"For drivers, you no longer need to browse Device Manager for a specific device to update. Windows Update will automatically keep your drivers up-to-date, same as before, but if you're having a problem one of those optional drivers might help."

Oh, my days, Microsoft. Thank f\*\*\* for that. We'd love to say "it was *INQ* wot won it" but the truth is the vast majority of our colleagues in the media and the user base of Windows have been saying with one voice that the way Windows Update was being managed was shockingly bad, and we can only hope this is the first step on the road to recovery.



### **\*CLUB MEETING\***

The next club meeting is February 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

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### \*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.

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### \*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 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	3 <sup>RD</sup> Tuesday monthly, Hillsborough Co ARES	

**WEDNESDAY**

1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
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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-
<b>THURSDAY</b>		
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 444.225 + 146.2 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
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**FRIDAY**

1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
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2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
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**SATURDAY**

0730 3.940 (7.281 Alt.)+/- QRM WCF	WCF Section HF Net	from
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1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
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2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
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**SUNDAY**

0800 3.933	Florida Traders Net	non-affiliated
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1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
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1930 NI4CE system system	WCF Section Net	NI4CE
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2000 147.550 simplex County	550 Simplex Net	Pinellas
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2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
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2100 144.210 USB orientation	Clearwater ARS	vertical
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## **\*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, ICOM IC-756 Pro**, HF and 6M, 100 watts, hand mic, power cord and manual, Local only. See George W1AAG

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## **\*HAMFESTS\***

- 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](http://www.hamcation.com) or call 407-841-0874
- February 21 & 22** Punta Gorda, **5th Annual TECHCON Convention**, Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center, 26571 Airport Rd, , for more info <http://arrlwcfc.org/> or contact Darrell Davis at [kt4wx@arrl.net](mailto:kt4wx@arrl.net).
- April 18**            **TARCFest** makeup day for rained out hamfest, TARC Clubhouse, 22<sup>nd</sup> St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>
- May 23**             **WormFest 2020**, Pinellas Park, admission FREE, tailgate free, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, southeast corner of US 19 and 49<sup>th</sup> 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> .

**August 22**

**TARCFest makeup day for rained out hamfest, TARC Clubhouse, 22<sup>nd</sup> St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>**

**December 11 & 12**

**Plant City, the 2018 Tampa Bay Hamfest is the Florida State Convention and 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 ;-)**



Mid January

Adventure Run, Honeymoon Island

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/wcfttechconference/>

Early to Mid March

MS 150 Citrus Tour bike ride

<http://www.citrustour.org/register.php>

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>

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
<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/">http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/</a>	
July 3/4	Midnight Run in Largo
<a href="http://www.kiwanismidnightrun.com/">http://www.kiwanismidnightrun.com/</a>	
August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Week
<a href="https://illw.net/">https://illw.net/</a>	
October, 3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend	JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around 14.280MHz)
Early December	ALS bike ride in Walsingham Park
December, Second weekend	Tampa Bay Hamfest <a href="http://www.fgcarc.org/">http://www.fgcarc.org/</a>

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### **\*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

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