

Gray Matters

Tech Tips Scam of the month

Anyone can get scammed! Police in Eagan, Minnesota announced that Minnesota Vikings linebacker Dallas Turner was recently scammed out of \$240,000 in an alleged financial fraud scheme, according to multiple news sources. The scam involved a caller impersonating a banker who convinced Turner to transfer money to prevent a theft, as reported by ESPN and other outlets.



this issue

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Our inaugural issue

Technology can be a source of great satisfaction—getting meals from your favorite restaurants, ordering your favorite items from an online store, or finding the one piece you were missing to complete your collection.

Technology can also be liberating—making video calls to far flung relatives and friends, planning trips and getaways, or just seeing the world through online travelogues or videos on places like YouTube.

Technology can also make life easier—instead of keeping paper files, you can get financial records, medical records, or investment documents online when you need them through various online portals and tools.

All that being said, technology can also be a source of stress. Scams are everywhere—in emails, texts and on the phone. Technology is also always changing, so once you get used to doing things one way, it may be different next month.

The goal of this newsletter will be to give readers the tools to take advantage of the positive things that technology can bring us, while minimizing the negatives.

This will be a partnership between me and those of you who will be reading. Let me know your questions, your thoughts, and your concerns. Together, we can make life better for everyone!

--Brett Vannatta, President, Gray Matter Tech Services



Why does technology go out of date?

This is a question that I get a lot. People will ask, “I can drive a 20-year-old car, why can’t I use a 20-year-old computer?”

The reflex answer is “because tech companies want to sell more of their products”, but it is more complicated than that.

In 1965, Gordon Moore, one of the co-founders of Intel, made an observation that the number of transistors on computer chips were doubling every 2 years.

In the tech world, this became known as “Moore’s Law” and essentially means that computing power doubles every 2 years for the same price.

This means that a new iPhone’s processor is twice as fast as a 2-year-old one, 4 times as fast as a 4-year-old one, and 8 times as fast as a 6-year-old phone. Following this logic, the processor on a new computer is over 1000 times faster than a 20-year-old one!

When it comes to apps and programs, people usually want the latest and greatest, so programmers right their new programs to take advantage of the speed in new devices.

Imagine if every two years, the road between Salem and Eugene doubled in length. Your car would go at the same speed, but it would take twice as long to get there. That is what is happening to your phone or computer!

EYE ON IT

Current Industry Trends

Robots have come a long way, but have you thought about one to keep your house or apartment clean? The newest robots will learn the floor plan, avoid obstacles, and even recognize pets—no vacuuming up Fluffy! Many even combine a mop feature for hard floors with the vacuum for carpet. One of the most popular, the iRobot Roomba 104 is currently on sale on Amazon for \$249!

SOFTWARE

Monthly Picks

Love to take walks, but are always wondering what a particular plant or flower is? Well, try PlantNet Plant Identification app. It is available on both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, it will allow you to take pictures of a plant, and tell you what it is! You can also look up a particular plant, and see pictures of leaves, seeds, etc.

This Month’s Q&A Technology Tips

Q: What is the row of apps on my iPad at the bottom of the screen, no matter which screen I’m on?

A: It is called the “dock”, and it is used for apps that you use all the time. It is separated into two sections. On the left of the center divider is a row of apps that don’t change. By default, Apple puts the Safari, iMessage and Mail apps there. On the right are

several recently used apps. These will constantly change as you open different apps, showing the most recent.

You can also change the “always there” apps on the left. Just tap and hold until the apps start to wiggle. Then you can drag an app from the upper part of the screen down to the left side of the dock so that you will always see it!