



Jake Nonnemaker
CEO & Chief Geek
AXICOM

It's National Apple Month! October 2016

AXICOM
Networks • Computers • Security • Service

Computer Network Solutions and Management Services

AxiNews

Inside AxiNews

p1: National IT Issues
p1: Computer Energy Reductions
p3: Great Apple Recipes
p4: Inquiring Minds

National Apple Month

Did you know that...

- National Apple Month first started as National Apple week in 1904.
- There are over 7500 varieties of apples grown world-wide and 2500 varieties are grown in the U.S. 100 varieties are grown commercially.
- In colonial times, apples were called winter banana or melt-in-your-mouth.
- Apples are a member of the rose family.
- The top apple producing states are Washington New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, California and Virginia.
- One of George Washington's hobbies was pruning his apple trees.
- Some apple trees live to over 100 years.
- The science of apple growing is called pomology.



Tech Briefing by Jake Nonnemaker.

Information Technology Issues at the National Level

Although AXICOM's primary focus is on small business IT solutions, it's still important for us, as IT providers, as well as our clients to understand the direction and the issues of IT on a national level. In my opinion, there are three major issues that face our country today and which might be addressed during the election and in the presidential debates.

Encryption

Encryption is a very important issue for the United States. Terrorists and criminals use encryption to communicate and hide their illegal dealings and deadly plans. But encryption is also critical to e-commerce and banking as well as police and military communications. The double-edged sword of encryption gained prominence when the FBI sought Apple's help in gaining access to an encrypted iPhone used by the San Bernardino terrorist. Apple CEO Tim Cook cited liberty and privacy in his refusal to weaken the iPhone encryption for law enforcement.

There is a significant concern of forcing companies, such as Apple, to create



backdoors so law enforcement could go around or circumvent encryption. And that is, if a backdoor exists, it is guaranteed to be found and exploited by cyber criminals, tech-savvy terror groups and state-backed foreign cybersecurity teams from countries such as China, North Korea, Iran, etc. Backdoors are also a threat to our personal privacy and the security of our individual data, email and voice calls and other communication.

Privacy

Privacy has become an important issue especially since WikiLeaks and Edward

(Continued on page 2)

Potential Energy Reductions for Computers

By then end of 2016, it is anticipated that the California Energy Commission (CEC) will set energy reduction guidelines for computer electronics. If so, California will be the first state to do so.

Effects of Guidelines

One of the first effects will most likely be an

increase in the cost of new computers. Despite the increased cost, there will be an anticipated decrease in energy costs since the computer electronics will probably be using far less energy. Over a period of five years, the CEC anticipates a cost savings of about \$30-40 per month per household in energy in the five years following implementation of the guidelines. Additionally, the CEC expects

(Continued on page 2)



National IT Issues (cont.)



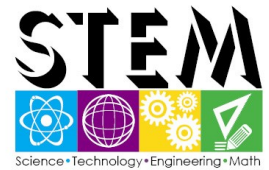
(Continued from page 1)

Snowden released documents unveiling National Security Administration (NSA) surveillance activities on American citizens. Much of this surveillance has come in the form of the collecting of phone records of citizens both in the US and overseas in bulk and indiscriminately. As of November 28, 2015, the USA Freedom Act has stipulated that phone data will now be held with telecom companies and the NSA will have to go to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance (FISA) court to get access. Additionally, the FISA court is being forced to declassify some information about its rulings and allow some challenges from outside bodies.



STEM and Preparing for a Tech-based Economy

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics says the US will need “approximately 1 million more STEM professionals than the U.S. will produce at the current rate over the next decade if the country is to retain its historical preeminence in science and technology.” The US BLS reports that as of July 2015, there were 5.8 million unfilled jobs primarily due to a job-skills gap in engineering, technical and science related jobs.



Energy Reductions to be Set by California (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

that electrical consumption will be reduced by half.

Typical Usage

According to the CEC, about 10% of all energy usage in California results from computers including monitors, servers, laptops and tablets with about 7% of that being commercial use. A particular focus on these guidelines will be on desktops which are considered the “energy hogs” of computer electronics devices. Desktops use about 45% more power than laptops.



Reasons for Guidelines

The federal government has already created Energy Star 6.1 voluntary standards but due to California’s demographics and usage rates, the



CEC felt more rigorous demands were warranted. A report from the Natural Resources Defense Council estimated that about 300 million computers in the United States spend between 50 to 77% of their time turned on but not being used.

Challenges to New Guidelines

The Consumer Technology Association believes the guidelines are not needed because the computer industry is improving energy efficiency voluntarily. Others feel that the guidelines will be difficult to implement in the timeline set out by the CEC.

No matter what is eventually decided, expect new computer electronics to have more energy savings, whether because it is mandated or voluntary, and that is a good thing. In the meantime, turn off your computer when not using it!

Johnny Appleseed

Let us not forget Johnny Appleseed, born John Chapman, who was an American pioneer during the late 1700s and early 1800s. He introduced apples to many parts of the eastern United States. He not only championed apples but also conservation. He did not randomly scatter appleseeds on his journeys as commonly depicted but helped to start and plant nurseries, provided fencing and returned to evaluate their progress.



Yummy Apple Recipes

Most of the time, this section is used for a deep-dive into a technical topic. But, with a theme like apples, there needs to be substantial space devoted to recipes so here goes!

Sauteed Apples

1/4 C. butter
4 large tart apples— peeled, cored and sliced 1/4 inch thick
2 tsp. cornstarch
1/2 C. cold water
1/2 C. brown sugar
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

In a large skillet or saucepan, melt butter over medium heat; add apples. Cook, stirring constantly, until apples are almost tender, about 6 to 7 minutes.

Dissolve cornstarch in water; add to skillet. Stir in brown sugar and cinnamon. Boil for 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and serve warm.



All recipes courtesy of allrecipes.com. It's a good idea to read the reviews before starting so that you can customize if needed. :-)

Apple Pancake

3 T. butter
1 large apple, cored and sliced
1/2 C. white sugar, divided
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
4 eggs
1/3 C. milk
1/3 C. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 pinch salt

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

Melt butter in an oven-safe skillet over medium heat; cook and stir apple slices, about 1/4 cup sugar, and cinnamon in butter until apples are tender, about 5 minutes.

Beat eggs, milk, flour, remaining 1/4 cup sugar, baking powder, vanilla extract, and salt in a large bowl until batter is smooth; pour batter evenly over apples.

Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, about 10 minutes. Run a spatula around the edges of the pancake to loosen. Invert skillet over a large plate to serve.

Apple Pie

1 (9 inch) deep-dish pie crust
5 cups apples—peeled, cored and thinly sliced
1/2 C. white sugar
3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/3 C. white sugar
3/4 C. all-purpose flour
6 T. butter

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C.)

Arrange apple slices in unbaked pie shell. Mix 1/2 cup sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over apples.

Mix 1/3 cup sugar with flour; cut in butter until crumbly. Spoon mixture over apples.

Bake in preheated oven until apples are soft and top is lightly browned, about 40 minutes.



AXICOM

Networks • Computers • Security • Service

October 2016

31352 Via Colinas #104
Westlake Village, CA 91362
(818) 865-9865
support@axicom.net

www.AXICOM.net

*Make all of my computer problems go away
without the cost of a full-time I.T. staff*

*Ask us about our fixed price service agreements with
computer support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for
just like rent!*



AxiGuard

Our printed newsletters are always
available online! Check it out at
www.AXICOM.net.

Inquiring Minds...

Robot Cars and the Future

According to Lyft, a ride-hailing company, autonomous self-driving cars will replace cars driven by humans within the next five years for their company. Uber, another car-hailing service, has recently tested out ride-hailing autonomous cars in Pittsburgh. Ride-hailing is an on-demand service where customers can call up cars to drive them where needed, usually at a price that is more affordable than taxis.



Apple Picking in Southern California

With California's great growing climate, apple orchards do very well here. Some that are relatively close to the Los Angeles area are based in Yucaipa and Oak Glen near the foothills of the San Bernadino National Forest. Visit Parrish Pioneer Ranch in Yucaipa to pick some apples and then head over to the Apple Dumplin restaurant for some yummy farm fare. Other orchards in that area include Willowbrook Apple Farm, Los Rios Rancho and Riley's Farm Fort Crossing. If you want to venture farther afield, why not head toward Julian, CA in San Diego County where Julian has elevated apple pie making to an art form with multiple restaurants in the town including the famous Julian Pie Company. Or, head toward Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo County where there are some wonderful farms for apple-picking such as the Avila Valley Barn where customers not only have the opportunity to pick different fruit and vegetables including many varieties of apples but also feed their animals and go on hayrides. Apple Lane Farm, McCall Farm B&B and SLO Creek Farms are some others to visit in those areas.



Pocket

Pocket is a great app that allows you to download content—articles, books, etc. to your smartphone. Give it a try—it's a great alternative once you're done reading emails, checking Facebook and sending texts.

**"If you never tasted a bad
apple, you would never
appreciate a good apple
because you have to
experience life to
understand life."**