ASCIIriber

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Fun and Free for the PC

There are no new articles for this month's newsletter but that doesn't mean there isn't information out there.

Of course you can always google for specific topics and received a flood of links to articles and videos but what if you just want to browse?

Well there are a number of sites that publish PDF versions of magazine that can either be downloaded or viewed on line. This months will take a look at some of them.

There is also a lot of good software that is free for the taking. There is even commercial software you can download at no cost. Again, we'll look at some sites at this month's meeting.

Finally, we can talk about VR – it's already here for phones but later this year it's going to hit the PlayStation 4 and other major devices. This month will be a good time to talk about what is coming.

See you on Sunday

NEXT MEETING:
SUNDAY, May 1st, 2 P.M.

Weekly Download Section

from Jim McGorry

Welcome members and visitors alike to this new section I hope it will be of interest and use to you.

Each month I will try and have interesting and useful programs for you to download and try on your systems as you see fit. Some are free and some may have a nominal fee.

A brief write-up and link to download page will be displayed here so you can determine if you wish to get it and use it.

ALSO NOTE: Some web addresses may not be a direct link. If not, then just copy and paste the address into the "Address Location" window and hit enter.

Test Your Password Strength

Steve tipped me off to a great little site that checks the strength of your password. The aptly named "How Secure Is My Password" will let you check the strength of your password and estimate how long it might take to crack it.

When you head over there, the first thing you'll probably notice is this warning telling you that any site that asks for your password might very well be stealing it.

The interface is simple, you just type in a password and it judges the strength and tell you how long it estimates it would take to crack your password on a PC.

For example, let's pretend my password is named after my dog Kevin. According to the site, that could be cracked instantly.

If I click on show details, the site explains why it's not a good choice. My password is short, common and contains only letters.

If I change it up a little to something like BoxerKevin2012, it becomes much more secure.

Realize that these calculations are for a human using a PC, not for some super-fact program designed to break passwords, but this password is still much more secure. Though I would caution against using your dog and his birth year for passwords. That's the kind of information that people can find out rather easily and pet's names and family birth years are among the first things a hacker would try when guessing your passwords.

We did a tip about a method for creating a password that it takes years to crack. Let's check out a password generated using that trick.

That does indeed seem like a few years. If you don't want to put your actual passwords in here, you can just try passwords of similar length or chosen by a similar method as yours to test it out.