

Newsletter - July, 2017

## My Favorite Tech Author [and] Windows 10 Creator's Update

As noted from the Title, we have two topics to explore this month. The first is all about my most favorite Tech Author of all time. The second is about the latest Microsoft Windows 10 Update Drama (sigh).

### **Topic 1: My Most Favorite Tech Author (of all time):**

It has been said that most folks who use the various programs contained within Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher) use only 15% or less of the total capabilities of each product. Microsoft Office has been around for a very long time (25 years) and over those many years, it has continually added more features, functions, and capabilities to make that usage percentage go down even further.

Well, I know of someone who can demonstrate all those features, and even more amazing ways to use them: **Susan Harkins**. Over the last 10 years, I have religiously followed her how-to-use Office articles like a humble acolyte. You could go out and buy a book on Excel or Word, but I have never found any author who can lay out a situation and describe exactly how to solve it. Whether she uses common features in a creative way, a combination of features you'd never expect, or some obscure command you never heard of, Susan Harkins has the answers.

Susan has written for many print and online journals, her current association is with Tech Republic online. Know more: <http://www.techrepublic.com/meet-the-team/us/susan-harkins/>

### **Topic 2: Windows 10 Creator's Update:**

You may have experienced this recently or may soon experience the latest drama from Microsoft: "Windows 10 Creator's Update". Otherwise known as update 1703, (the last version was #1607), this new iteration of Windows adds new features designed to aid creative folks (artists, designers, architects) and people who are using 3-D printers (the so-named "maker movement"), and even manufacturing uses.

**As per Microsoft standard practice, no improvement in Windows comes without some pain.** In my case, the pain point was the encryption software on one of the computers in the Medical Office Systems "Global Headquarters" failed because it was incompatible with Creator's Update. This rendered the machine a virtual "brick" (computer lingo for "paperweight") until a creative solution was proposed by the encryption software vendor. The machine was recovered in full, but not without significant gnashing of teeth on my part. **Lesson Learned:** check the websites of these software vendors before allowing the update to proceed: disk encryption software, backup image software, and anti-virus programs.

Prior versions of Windows are not affected, and your machine may already had the update and nothing went awry. But if you have 3<sup>rd</sup>-party add-ons for encryption, backup, or anti-virus, do a quick check before proceeding with the update.

-John Becker