

Minutes from July 26, 2024 Zoom Meeting

- + we should have some presentation at each meeting that is of general interest so that most members would have a reason to attend
- + to be an official UMB club we need to have 4 officers: President, Treasurer & two Event Planners. to be an officer you must attend a special training session that will be held in early August. one person has already appeared, so we need 3 more students
- + Glenn will help the Club officers so that no one has to work too much on Club matters
- + Woodley has created a channel on the Discord server for people who want to study for CCNA and 13 or 14 people have signed up and has found some resources that the group can use. Tom has some spare equipment that people can use to get some hands on network experience
- + Ryan mentioned that Cisco makes available a network simulation tool called Packet Tracer
- + Packet Tracer is also free from Cisco and is helpful in learning networking
- + Jason said the CCNA exam has two components: networking concepts and Cisco specific networking. but you have to know the basic networking concepts before you can tackle the Cisco part
- + Tom said he has hardware that the students can use but they can't do anything with wireless because campus IT objects. but that can be done off campus
- + Ryan said that subnetting was not covered in depth when he took IT 246, so Club members could figure it out together because it is complicated
- + Mitchell talked about the difficulties he had in setting up the IT Club several years ago, but the only advantage of official status is getting money from the school. but we can do a lot on our own before we get official status.
- + Glenn talked about difficulties migrating to a new Mac Studio. he mentioned Computer Loft in Alston as a great Mac dealer where the people are helpful and know their stuff. he has been using them for years
- + we discussed the CloudStrike problems that brought down computers all over the world, but only on Windows machines. in Windows CloudStrike operates inside the kernel whereas it does not in Macs. Michael said that he had heard that CloudStrike fired their Quality Assurance people about a year ago
- + Jason talked about how CloudStrike works on Windows. it runs in the kernel and it was the security definition, not the driver that caused the BSOD (Blue Screen of Death)
- + Jason used the term TLDR which means "Too Long Didn't Read"

- + Glenn mentioned a great technical podcast he has been listening to for a long time called Hard Fork. their latest episode went into this problem in some detail
- + Ryan mentioned a major vulnerability with Apple M2 and M3 chips. it involves speculative execution, where the the chip tries to guess what will next need to be done, and prepare for this, which makes things run faster. if you have access to the machine and can plug in a thumb drive you can write software that takes advantage of speculative execution and write software that dumps security information into a space in memory where it is accesible through USB
- + Tom mentioned that when we moved from the Science Building we were promised a server room with an operators room, but that never happened. our own server room would allow us to take students inside, under supervision, so they could see how things work. we need it as a learning tool for our students
- + Tom set up a Radius server last week. together with PortMaster students can learn a lot. Jason said this was great. his knowlege of networking improved dramatically once he had acces to a real serer room
- + Jake said if we had our own server room that students could access it would give our students a huge leg up compared with students from other colleges
- + there was talk amoung Tom, Jason and Michael of network best practises
- + Tom talked about some of the things he was doing to work around some of the obstacles he faced with Camput IT