



## MORE Tech with Thomas Friday, May 29th, 2020

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### USB Hub – What Is It and What to Look For

**Question:** I keep adding peripherals to my 2017 iMac, such as multiple scanners for every imaginable genealogical purpose! Instead of switching out cables constantly, should I use a USB hub? I have skimmed over the general info on these but wanted to make sure in my case that a hub would not reduce performance of my EpsonV600 or my Fujitsu Scan Snap. *Lisa*

**Response:** I don't use a USB hub, but I usually trust CNET for the best reviews and best info on computer peripherals. However their latest review is dated 2019. So there is one from Laptop Magazine (<https://www.laptopmag.com/articles/best-usb-type-c-hubs>) In Lisa's situation, I think a USB hub would work. I would NOT purchase a cheap no name USB hub (many Apple peripherals can be had for cheap from China and other companies but they don't perform well in general). I also would purchase a USB hub on Amazon since it has a rather liberal return policy OR make sure your vendor accepts returns. As long as you use a new USB hub that uses USB 3.0 you should NOT see any degradation in performance of your printer or scanner.

### Upgrading to Windows 10

**Question:** My computer (4 yr. old 14" Dell Latitude E7440 with a 1 year old 1TB solid state drive and 577GB free space on it) has thousands of some of my photos organized in Photoshop 10 and all my comprehensive info in Legacy 9 on it. I'm still running Windows 7 OS. If I upgrade the operating system to Windows 10 what will happen to my data in Photoshop 10? *Judy*

**Response:** Upgrading to Windows 10 is important and as far as I know the upgrade is no longer FREE. However, check with Dell on their website and see if your purchase qualifies for a free upgrade to Windows 10 via Dell. Upgrading should have no impact on access to files in general. However PhotoShop 10 is outdated – from 2017 I believe – and you may need to update that program in order to access your images.

### Mobile Phone Screen Shots

**Question:** How to show mobile phone screen shots in a presentation? *Robin*

**Response:** The method of taking a screen shot on a mobile device or tablet depends on what type of device you are using. My best resource is the article ***How to Take a Screenshot on Any Device*** at PC Magazine (updated October 2019):  
<https://www.pcmag.com/news/how-to-take-a-screenshot-on-any-device>.

## **SPAM Emails and RSS Feeds**

**Question:** Years ago, I somehow got on this awful mailing list from "Spokt." I have no idea what it is, but I think one of my LANDES family cousins added me on here because it applies to the LANDES family. Every time someone replies to a posting, everyone on the list appears to get a copied. Dozens of emails come around. I've tried to get rid of it, but when I contacted Spokt, they wanted a password, which I do not have. Now, I simply get no reply from them at all. The emails go into my SPAM folder now. Sending a snip of the one going around now. In the Tech talk with Thomas last Friday, he mentioned RSS feeds. When I was still working, our IT Dept. told us not to subscribe to an RSS feed because it was too difficult to get rid of them. Is this something like that? This is quite a nuisance. Thanks for giving us lots to watch and listen to while sheltering at home during these horrific days. *Dee*

**Response: Spokt** (<https://spokt.com/>) is a site that "enables you to privately organize and share your best moments with the most important people in your life." For ANY website you sign up for, it is important to understand the terms and conditions as well as privacy controls. The password reset info is at [https://spokt.com/forgot\\_stuff](https://spokt.com/forgot_stuff) for Spokt and you should be able to reset the password and then go to your settings and disable email notifications. If that doesn't work, try marking the emails as spam. There isn't much else you can do.

As for RSS feeds, there is no danger in signing up for them. But your IT department may have a policy on using RSS feeds especially with your email account. Doing so could result in a lot of emails AND really lead to overworked email servers. I would use **Feedly** (<https://feedly.com>) to sign up for RSS feeds or use **Google Alerts** (<https://www.google.com/alerts>) to stay on top of the latest genealogy news.

## **PowerPoint Presentations – Cursor Settings**

**Question:** How do you change your cursor into a spotlight to highlight a portion of your screen when doing a presentation? *Robin*

**Response:** Cursor settings depend on two factors: what program are you using to create slides and run the slide show for your presentation such as PowerPoint or Google Slides AND if you are using an online meeting platform like Zoom or GoToWebinar. I did not find a "spotlight" function on PowerPoint but you can change the cursor color, the arrow style and size, and also highlight slide text in a color.

## **Using DjVU Browser PlugIn**

**Question:** How to access DJVU to view documents from Poland. – *Jean*

**Response:** I assume Jean you're referring to records at sites such as JewishGen.org that point to Polish archives that require the DjVU download to view the records (see <https://jri-poland.org/warsaw/warsmarr.htm>). DjVU (<http://djvu.com>) is a digital document platform that many libraries and archives started using in the late 1990s. Visit <https://djvu.com/download/> to download the browser add-in and then use it to view records at the sites that require the app.

## **WikiTree and Legacy Family Tree**

**Question:** I have recently stumbled across WikiTree and am interested in Thomas' impressions of the product. Also, if you were starting a genealogy "start over" is WikiTree a product to use along with Legacy? At least as far as outreach to other researchers is concerned? *Trudie*

**Response:** WikiTree (<https://www.wikitree.com/>) is a great way to set up and share a FREE family tree. What I love most about WikiTree is that as a user you have to ask permission from another WikiTree user managing an ancestor profile BEFORE you can make changes and especially MERGE profiles. PLUS they have a Genealogists' Code of Honor to which you must agree before using the program. WikiTree has no syncing ability with Legacy Family Tree or any other genealogy database software. You would need to enter data in both platforms.

## **A Substitute for The Master Genealogist**

**Question:** If I want to start my "Genealogy Do Over" and I was a Master Genealogist user, which software do you recommend? I am an ancestry user and would like to link/import facts as I find them. – *Lisa*

**Response:** The Master Genealogist (<http://www.whollygenes.com>), aka TMG, was a genealogy database program which ceased operation in 2014. The program was immensely popular with genealogists and those users have migrated to other programs. While some have started using **Family Historian** (<https://www.family-historian.co.uk/>) or **History Research Environment** (<https://historyresearchenvironment.org/hre-for-users-of-the-master-genealogist/>) I would recommend using Legacy Family Tree software – the Premium version – when starting your Genealogy Do-Over.

## **Using Dual Monitors on a Computer**

**Question:** I hear you talking about having a second screen. I am interested in how to set up the second screen, and how do I have of them up and running at the same time? I would love to have my Legacy Tree open on one screen, and using the Internet such as MyHeritage, Ancestry and any other website up on the other screen. - *Lynette*

**Response:** Using two (or more!) monitors for your desktop or laptop computer has become very popular lately. The best way to determine the proper setup is to visit the website for your computer (Dell, HP, Apple, etc.) and search the knowledgebase for help articles on "dual monitors." You'll find information like this article from Dell (<https://www.dell.com/support/article/en-us/sln129825/how-to-setup-multiple-monitors?lang=en>). Also check out this video **How To Set Up Multiple Monitors in Windows 10** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czIktHrDbAk>).

## **MS Word Indexing**

**Question:** I'd like to know how do you get the index function on Word to work? It would be great to make indexing easier when working on a family history project. – *Denise*

**Response:** Ugh. Indexing in Microsoft Word is not easy. In fact indexing a book is not easy – did you know there are professional indexers out there who do this for a living? See American Society for Indexing (<https://www.asindexing.org/>). Indexing, despite advances in technology and even the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence, is still often a process of “manually marking” entries to produce an index. The Word MVP Site has some of the best MS Word resources. Visit <https://wordmvp.com/FAQs/Formatting/CreateIndex.htm> for instructions on indexing.

## **Managing Multiple Sets of DNA Test Results**

**Question:** Are DNAGEDcom, GenomeMate Pro and RootsFinder the only choices we have to manage all our DNA matches in one spot? Also is there a good DIY way to do this? – *Robin*

**Response:** The sites you mention are useful as is **GEDMatch** (<https://www.gedmatch.com/login1.php>). I have not found a way of managing multiple DNA test results via spreadsheets, but that would be the best approach. See the Spreadsheets category of articles at **DNAExplained** by Roberta Estes (<https://dna-explained.com/category/spreadsheets/>).

## **Genealogy Research Using Evernote or OneNote**

**Question:** Has Thomas used note capturing tools like Evernote or OneNote or does everything go into his spreadsheets for genealogy research? – *Sheri*

**Response:** I use Evernote as opposed to OneNote (for various reasons). I don't store research documents in Evernote; however I do use the Web Clipper function in Google Chrome to save articles and other items. Then I can reference these as needed and include them in my Slack or Trello platforms.

## **Improving JPG Photos**

**Question:** Is there any way to take a low resolution JPEG photo and improve on it so it is not blurry? – *Nancy*

**Response:** There really is no effective way to “reconstitute” a JPEG or JPG file to its original resolution especially if it was based on a high-resolution image such as BMP or TIFF formats. Each time you edit a JPG file, it loses a small part of its resolution since it is a “compressed” file format. My recommendation is to use a photo editing program such as Vivid-Pix RESTORE (<https://genealogybargains.com/vividpix-restore>) which offers a one button restoration option for digital images.

## **Best Way to Save Scanned JPG Images**

**Question:** I have a ton of old black and white photos I saved with Flip Pal. They are in jpeg format. I know each time you save a jpeg some of the detail is lost. What is the best format to save in to preserve the original file detail? How do I convert from jpeg to the recommended format? I want to have these ultimately converted to color in My Heritage. Thanks. – *Fred*

**Response:** Great question. I worked closely with the makers of the Flip-Pal mobile scanner for years and here is what I know about their JPEG format files. They use the highest “lossless” JPEG format for digital images. So while this format is not ideal as compared to TIFF, it is still better than the usual JPEG formats used by many scanning programs. I would do this: copy all of your scanned Flip-Pal images in to a folder labeled MASTER IMAGES. Then copy that folder and rename it WORKING IMAGES. Then use the Working Images to edit the images ... this way you always have a master image to fall back on. Again, I would use Vivid-Pix RESTORE (see above) to make improvements in the images. It makes no sense to convert from JPEG to TIFF or another format – this will not improve resolution issues.

## **Backing Up Files on Google Drive**

**Question:** Backup your files. My files are on Google Drive. How do I backup my Google Drive? Help, please. – *Cassandra*

**Response:** Cassandra presents a common but tricky situation: you have files in a cloud program like Google Drive but you also want to make sure they are backed up. Many users think they don’t need backups when files are in a cloud program, but here’s my recommendation: Use the 3-2-1 Backup Method. This means: three (3) different backups, two (2) different media, and one (1) backup MUST BE OFFSITE (i.e. a cloud program). From what I know about Google Drive, there are several ways to do this. First, you could download each file and then store them on an external hard drive or flash drive. Second, you could install the desktop version of Google Drive that lets you work “offline” and take those files and copy to a backup location. The main issue will be this: any procedure you develop needs to ensure REGULAR BACKUP. So if your process is manual, you will need to do this every week or every month. Try to automate the process as much as possible.

## **When will the 1950 US Census be available?**

**Question:** I can’t wait for the 1950 Census when I will actually know so many people listed. When will we be able to do our research in the 1950 Census? – *Veronica*

**Response:** Excellent question especially since my own personal focus right now is the 1950 US Census! The data will be made available on April 1, 2022 which is when the privacy regulations expire (based on the “72 year rule” passed by the US Congress). While you may not be able to access this data now, you can get ready for the 1950 US Census release by create a list of anyone you want to find and their ADDRESS! Remember, just like the release of the 1940 US Census in April 2012, the images will NOT BE INDEXED! You will need to know the Enumeration District in order to locate the images, then browse through them and locate your family members, ancestors, etc.

## **Locating Files with Metadata Tags**

**Question:** Can Thomas demonstrate using a computer search for finding files that have been modified with meta data or tags? I've seen several videos showing how to set the data, but not sure how to use it to find the files. *Sheri*

**Response:** I'm a big advocate of using file metadata to categorize digital documents as well as add copyright and source citation info. Once you've created Tags, and assuming you are using Windows 10, here's how I search for files by Tag:

- Open Windows Explorer and navigate to the folder to be search.
- Perform a basic search using a surname, name etc.
- In the menu bar at the top a new **Search** tab will appear.
- Under the **Other Properties** dropdown, select **Tags**.

For more information on Metadata for Digital Images see my video at Flip-Pal at <https://flip-pal.com/metadata-and-digital-images/>.

## **Insert a Link to a File in Excel**

**Question:** Can you show how to insert a link to a file or tag into a research log? – *Sheri*

**Response:** Inserting a link to a file is easy to do depending upon the format used for your research log. I use Excel so it would be these steps:

- Enter the word LINK in the cell where the link should appear.
- Place cursor over the word LINK, right-click and select Hyperlink.
- In the Address field at the bottom enter the URL of the link.
- If linking to an internal file on your computer, then locate it in the Address field.
- Click OK and the word LINK will appear with the underlying hyperlink to the file.

## **Is There Such a Thing as a “Lossless” JPG file?**

**Question:** We are often told to steer away from saving pics in .jpg format because it is “lossy,” But is that also true when you save as .jpg with NO compression as you can do with Adobe Photoshop? Will those pics degrade with each closing, too? – *Denise*

**Response:** Most platforms that allow you to convert one image file format to another produce what are called “lossless” JPG files. Adobe Photoshop does this, and the software used to scan and save Flip-Pal mobile scanner files uses the same “lossless” technology. I still believe that TIFF is the best format for saving a master digital image, and then create a working copy JPG off of the master file. If TIFF is not available, I would treat the lossless JPG the same way: create a master image, create a working image, etc.



## **How Do I Expand My Computer's Storage**

**Question:** What is the best method to gain more computer storage? What do you do to have your files on a computer: one very big drive or 2+ drives. Using one for programs and one for research image folders. SSD, internal, external drive? – *Launa*

**Response:** My first action would be to determine if I should get a new computer. Seriously, the price of computers has come down and most now have 250GB or 500GB SSDs (solid state drives). If I had a computer that was several years old and had not yet been upgraded to Windows 10, I'd get a new computer.

That being said, I prefer to use a traditional external hard drive to expand storage on my computer. I currently use a 4TB portable external hard drive using 3.0 USB technology. I am looking to “future proof” my hard drive storage to SSD in the next year.

As for “parsing” program files and research files, it can be confusing to remember what is where. For that reason I don't keep some things on my computer hard drive and others on my external hard drive or in the cloud. Good programs like Carbonite, BackBlaze or iDrive (which I use) will let you be “selective” in terms of what gets backed up and where. Change the settings so program files aren't backed up but only data files.

## **Automated Typing Using Voice Recognition**

**Question:** Is there a better program than Google Docs for Voice Typing? I find it slow, it often doesn't understand me and it is not faster than typing it out myself. – *Beverly*

**Response:** I've used **Google Voice Typing** and I agree it is not a perfect product and doesn't always produce perfect results. My preference has always been the **Dragon Naturally Speaking** products for years now.

## **Moving Files to a New Computer**

**Question:** What is the best way to convert all files, images etc. from an old computer to a new one? I am a Windows user. – *Audrey*

**Response:** Moving your data files and program from one computer to another is never an easy endeavor. And for this reason, many genealogists put off upgrading their computer until it is too late.

First, realize that most computer vendors (Dell, HP, Lenovo) have automated programs that will transfer files for you. Second, if you are like me, you have a specific way you want your files and folders, so you'll need to come up with your own method. Using the DIY method is good if you want to create a different folder/file structure on the new computer. Also BACKUP your data BEFORE doing any file transfer!

If you do want to take the DIY approach, see ***How to Transfer Files to Your New PC*** (<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/tech-tips-and-tricks/how-to-transfer-files-to-a-new-computer.html>) by Intel.

## Adding Annotations to Digital Images

**Question:** Thomas, I'd be interested in hearing some suggestions about how to save annotations for pictures we scan as part of our researches. I've heard of three systems: 1. Save notes as separate text files with filenames that match the images; 2. Save notes as metadata in the image files themselves; 3. Save notes in a separate database with links to the photos. And, of course, there may be other systems. Who's got a good system that can work with PCs and Macs and can survive into the future? – *Bill*

**Response:** This is a big issue now that most genealogists have become accustomed to scanning photos and working with digital images. My ideal annotation situation for digital files (documents as well as images) would be this:

- Ability to easily add an annotation to the digital file, either via watermark on the image or metadata.
- Ability to have a user see the annotation, whether it is visual or metadata.
- Restrict the ability of a user to remove or edit metadata.

Unfortunately meeting these requirements is difficult for any one program. I recommend an “approach” using several methods:

- Add text to meta data fields such as Title, Subject, Tags and Comments. I usually place my copyright statement (©2020, copyright Thomas MacEntee. All rights reserved.) in the Comments as well as the Source Citation for the document. And consider using programs by **QromaScan** (<https://genealogybargains.com/qroma-offer>) to add metadata using voice recognition.
- Use a watermark program to add annotations to the digital image.
- Use a platform like **ThingLink** (<https://www.thinglink.com/>)

## Zoom Issues

**Question:** When you start a Zoom class, the audio and video can or cannot be on depending upon what you want to do. But... sometimes people can't be heard or can't hear. If you want a question and answer period, both ends have to be able to hear. Audio settings are critical. So how should you set them up? Also, which is better for the organizer to mute and unmute or for people to unmute themselves. If both are doing it at one time, it doesn't work. – *Bobby*

**Response:** Great question Bobby! I am a brand new user to Zoom after having used Webex, GoToMeeting, GoToWebinar and other platforms for years. There are so many dependencies involved ... the most important is this: are you using the FREE version of Zoom or the PAID version? Remember there are always more features with a paid version of a freemium product.

Assuming that a host or organizer (the one who sets up the meeting) has all the features, you can specify user behavior settings. When I have a large group of people especially when the event has been advertised publicly and I don't know people from Adam, I make sure that everyone is muted as they enter, and I don't allow them to unmute themselves. This also depends on the nature of the event. If it is a webinar, where a speaker presents then takes Q&A, I would turn on the ability to unmute at the



end during the Q&A or only allow questions entered via chat panel (this is my preference). I also don't allow people on Zoom attending a webinar to show their webcam. This can be too distracting especially for a public event.

On a Zoom meeting for a genealogy society board etc. the settings would be different – people can mute/unmute themselves, share webcam etc. For me running a smooth Zoom event means **MANAGING EXPECTATIONS** ahead of time. This can also mean sending a brief “Zoom etiquette” message to participants ... covering do's and don'ts for a successful meeting. See **Zoom Meetings: Etiquette and Best Practices** (<https://www.technology.pitt.edu/blog/zoom-tips>).

## **RESOURCE LIST\***

These resources are mentioned above and list here in alphabetic order for your convenience:

- **American Society for Indexing**  
<https://www.asindexing.org/>
- **Best USB Type C Hubs** (Laptop Magazine)  
<https://www.laptopmag.com/articles/best-usb-type-c-hubs>
- **DjVU**  
<http://djvu.com>
- **DNAExplained**  
<https://dna-explained.com/category/spreadsheets/>
- **Dragon Naturally Speaking** (Amazon)  
<https://genealogybargains.com/amazon-dragon-disc>
- **Evernote Web Clipper**  
<https://evernote.com/features/webclipper>
- **Family Historian**  
<https://www.family-historian.co.uk/>
- **Feedly**  
<https://feedly.com>
- **GEDMatch**  
<https://gedmatch.com>
- **Google Alerts**  
<https://www.google.com/alerts>
- **Google Voice Typing**  
<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/4492226?hl=en>
- **History Research Environment**  
<https://historyresearchenvironment.org/hre-for-users-of-the-master-genealogist/>

- **How to Set Up Multiple Monitors** (Dell)  
<https://www.dell.com/support/article/en-us/sln129825/how-to-setup-multiple-monitors?lang=en>
- **How To Set Up Multiple Monitors in Windows 10** (Hewlett-Packard)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czIktHrDbAk>
- **How to Take a Screenshot on Any Device** (PC Magazine)  
<https://www.pcmag.com/news/how-to-take-a-screenshot-on-any-device>.
- **iDrive** (backup)  
<https://genealogybargains.com/idriveoffer>
- **How to Transfer Files to Your New PC** (Intel)  
<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/tech-tips-and-tricks/how-to-transfer-files-to-a-new-computer.html>
- **Metadata for Digital Images** (Flip-Pal)  
<https://flip-pal.com/metadata-and-digital-images/>.
- **QromaScan**  
<https://genealogybargains.com/qroma-offer>
- **Spokt**  
<https://spokt.com/>
- **The Master Genealogist**  
<http://www.whollygenes.com>
- **WikiTree**  
<https://www.wikitree.com>
- **Word MVP Site – Indexing**  
<https://wordmvp.com/FAQs/Formatting/CreateIndex.htm>
- **Vivid-Pix RESTORE**  
<https://genealogybargains.com/vividpix-restore>
- **Zoom Meetings: Etiquette and Best Practices** (UPITT)  
<https://www.technology.pitt.edu/blog/zoom-tips>.

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