



You'd Better Read Me News

May 2022

Here we are in May, sort of the **connection** month between spring and summer. And speaking of connections, that is the topic of the ATX meeting, May 21, 2022.

Well, not connecting spring to summer, but more connecting a computer to everything else. How do you connect an external drive, or other device, to a computer? You use a cable, correct? So which cable? What do the connecting ends look like? And if they match, will they work?

You are most likely old enough to remember Firewire. Some of us even have memories of SCSI, pronounced "suzziel!" No, that is not a word from the Twilight Zone, that really was a computer connection which worked ... most of the time. Then USB came along and people thought everything would be simple.

HA!

For our May meeting, we have invited Larry O'Connor, the founder and CEO of *Other World Computing*, (OWC) makers of all kinds of computer drives, docks, cables, and more, to give us a crash course on connections. OWC is a leading provider of quality computer upgrade products and services for Mac and PC users around the world.

We originally discovered this company at a trade show eons ago and their products were pretty cool and more importantly, *really worked*. We bought some items from them and became more and more impressed with the options and mainly the **quality**. We bought external drives and cables, flash drives, and we still have these units today and they still all work! Then when we were looking to upgrade one of our computers, we realized we would need to update the way we connected some of our external devices, so we called **OWC/MacSales Support**, and to our surprise, we were connected with an intelligent human being, AKA LIVE tech support! Rick also wanted a larger drive and more RAM for an older iMac. He happened to find a the drive he wanted on the OWC/ MacSales website. He called the tech support person who guided him to the correct model, gave him step by step instructions and also directed him to the instructional videos on the website. Rick bought the drive and RAM - which came with all the parts and tools necessary. He changed the drive and increased the RAM in an Intel iMac. Later he did the same for an older laptop, and again, the live tech support gave him the help he needed.

Even though today's newer Macs with Apple Silicon no longer allow much customization after purchase, there are many older Macs around and many PC's that work and could be updated/

upgraded. AND you do or will need drives! Plus there are now so many new types of ports for connections.

So it's time! Time to get re-educated, even for those of us who have been working with computers since the days of SCSI.

We no longer see those SCSI connections, and only rarely Firewire, however to **complicate the alphabet soup of computer connectivity**, we now have a **mouthful** of USB!

We now have USB 1, USB 2, USB 3, USB A, USB B, USB C, plus USB B Device connectors, as well as the USB mini and USB micro versions, including Mini A, Mini B, Micro A, Micro B.

Why didn't they name them **Alice**, **Bob**, and, **Carol**?

And because those tongue twisters were not confusing enough, the engineering powers-that-be, added ...wait for it... **Ted**!

Yes, they added **Thunderbolt**, **Thunderbolt 2**, **Thunderbolt 3**, and now **Thunderbolt 4**. And here's the rub: ***Thunderbolt 3 and Thunderbolt 4 may look and fit just like USB C but they work differently!***

"*If the shoe fits ...*" nope, if the plug fits ... **it may or may not work!**

And you thought all USB was the same!!!

Protocol, connectivity, cables, connections - you need the tools, so you should really attend this exceptionally informative ATX meeting. Be there so you can ask questions!!!

And be there so you can win the **RAFFLE Prize**: A full year of the Adobe Creative Cloud with all the applications!!!!

Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice, if you are old enough to remember!

Here is a link to a blurb about Larry!

<http://www.thomas-pr.com/owc/owclarryoconnorbiography.html>

NOTE: There will NOT be a meeting in June, 2022!!!

Regards and God Bless,

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