

**7 Everyday Technology Skills Every
Boomer (some of us are Zoomers!)
Should Have**

**SCV Computer Club
October 2017**

Agenda

- Voice Recognition
- Searching
- Texting
- Accessibility
- Uber
- Downloading Apps
- Curiosity



Use Your Voice

- Who would have thought that dictation would be a contemporary tech skill?
- Every device, from computer to smartphone now has the capability to turn your speech into text.
- Speech recognition, also known as voice-to-text, has improved dramatically, providing a wonderful alternative to the awkwardness of using an onscreen keyboard.



Use Your Voice

- Speech recognition, also known as voice-to-text, has improved dramatically, providing a wonderful alternative to the awkwardness of using an onscreen keyboard.
- Even commands can be spoken (“open email”...“send a text”).



Use Your Voice

- At first, speaking text or commands into a smartphone or tablet takes a bit of practice and may feel like patting your head and rubbing your stomach (think what you want to say...tap microphone icon...speak...tap 'done'...repeat).
- With a little practice it quickly becomes natural.



Use Your Voice Going Forward

- More and more devices have voice features, including virtual personal assistants such as Apple's Siri, Windows' Cortana, and Google Now.
- These programs recognize natural speech patterns making it easy to get driving directions, find a restaurant or play music.
- The Amazon Echo, for example, is exclusively voice activated.



Use Your Voice Going Forward

- Request it to play music or news, provide current weather and it can be paired with devices to control your home environment.
- More importantly, voice commands are empowering for users with vision impairment or physical limitations such as a tremor.



Conduct a Search

- Basic internet searching is pretty simple – just plugging in a few words will usually get you what you need.
- Having good search skills is like having a super power.
- Find an old email with a favorite recipe, locate a ‘missing’ App on your smartphone, or locate a specific phrase in a document or website



Conduct a Search Going Forward

- Using search is more than the Internet. Rather than trying remember where Microsoft, Apple or Google hid a particular setting, use the search feature on your device (e.g., printer setup).
- Apple has even added a search feature on iPad and iPhone for settings alone – a nod to the frustration that many of us have experienced trying to locate a feature.



Send a Text

- Appeal of texting is in the immediacy – like a non-verbal phone call.
- Many fewer steps to send (and receive) a text message
- Greater likelihood the recipient will see the text right away (assuming, of course that their cell phone is at hand...).



Send a Text

- Sometimes only way to get in touch with kids, grandkids, etc.
- Texting a great way to communicate on the fly.
- Average open rates for e-mail hover in the 15-22% range and e-mail is more likely to hit the spam folder before anyone sees it.



Send a Text

- Open rates for text messages is 98% and most are read within 15 minutes of receiving them.
- Text messages don't need the Internet; can send day or night; can use text speak



Send a Text Going Forward

- Sign up for emergency alerts.
- When traveling, let people know when you will arrive.
- Receive text confirmations for hotel rooms, car rentals, or other services you have reserved, ensuring that you have all of the information you need right at your fingertips.



Send a Text Going Forward

- If you are traveling by airplane, most airlines offer free SMS notifications of changes to your flight's schedule.
- Track packages.
- Get notifications of appointments.
- Get discounts and special offers from businesses.



Accessibility Settings

- Devices from smartphones to laptops have dozens of “accessibility features” that allow custom adjustments to make your device (computer, tablet or smartphone) easier to touch, see and hear.
- On smartphones you can make icons bigger/bolder, increase the font size on email.
- On laptop and desktop computers, you can increase the size of the mouse “pointer” on your screen



Accessibility Settings Going Forward

- As we age, these settings will be invaluable



Order an Uber

- Access to transportation is freedom.
- Will Prop M really make a difference?
- With Uber, reasonably priced transportation is available with a few taps on the app.
- Your credit card information is stored when your account is set up and all payment is done through the app.



Order an Uber

- Uber's no tipping policy means that at the end of the ride, cash nor credit card need be presented.
- Uber app shows available cars in your area, giving you immediate information on the wait time for a car (which in even suburban neighborhoods may be only a few minutes).



Order an Uber Going Forward

- Using Uber is increasingly essential to older adults who may not wish to drive at night, or may want to not keep a car at all.
- It is also a great emergency backup transportation mode in the event of a car breakdown or bad weather.



Download an App

- Mobile devices come loaded with a great assortment of apps, but there the fun really begins when you find apps that leverage your interests and enjoy that crazy innovation we are seeing.



Download an App Going Forward

- Downloading an app is not particularly difficult, but it often entails locating a password and updating credit card information on a device.



Be Curious

- Technology comes so easily to children
- They are naturally programmed to explore through touch, ask questions, and practice.
- We need to model their behavior and keep learning
- What's on your bucket list to learn?

