Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

August 2013

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Saturday, August 17th

As we get deeper into hurricane season, we begin looking at the weather more often. And, as more of us get smartphones, we find ourselves wondering about which of the eleventy gazillion apps in the App Store are worthy of the moniker "Smart", and of a place in our phone.

HAAUG members Rick Roberts and Phil Booth have taken on a tagteam assignment: to provide an informative and entertaining session at the August HAAUG meeting, addressing both these topics. Rick will talk about Smart apps, while Phil will discuss the weather apps and related websites that feed our hunger for information.

The SIGs start at 9am and the Main Presentation begins at 11:15.

We'll see you there on the 17th!



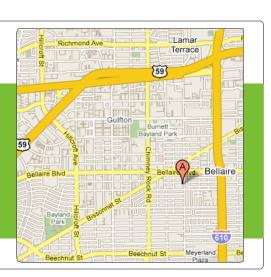
P.O. Box 570957 Houston, Texas 77257-0957

Meeting Location

Bellaire Civic Center

7008 South Rice Avenue Bellaire, TX 77401

Just outside Loop 610 and south of Bellaire Blvd.

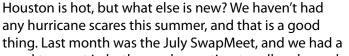


Volume 35 | Number 8

Members Helping Members Since 1978

Boss HAAUG Speaks

Monthly Address from the HAAUG President



good turn out in both people wanting to sell and people wanting to buy. I saw several people walk out with new (for them) computers. I am sure that the folks that bought the machines were as happy as the folks that sold the machines. At the January SwapMeet, I purchased a G-5 tower and put my old hard drive in it, and it is still working like a champ. I am waiting for Apple to release the new tower, and then I know that I will have some big changes in my computing experiences.

Dear HAAUG,

August will be a tag team of presenters: Rick Roberts will present on Smart Apps, and I will do a round up of Weather apps and websites. I was a hot air balloon pilot in a previous incarnation, and I gained an appreciation of weather and the ability of people to gather and interpret weather information.

In September we have scheduled Reagan Atkinson of Houston Camera Exchange to present on the latest and greatest of digital photography for the holiday season. October will see the return of Macworld's Chris Breen. As you can see, we have an interesting few months planned for you.

Coming soon to a theater near you is Jobs the Movie, based on the biography of Steve Jobs. It stars Aston Kutcher who took over from Charlie Sheen on CBS'"Two and a Half Men". I have seen one ad for the movie and Kutcher's make up nails Steve Jobs. I am sure someone will write a review. The release date is scheduled for 8/16.

Apple released their second quarter results, and proved that they know how to make money. They recorded revenue of \$35.3 Billion with a net profit \$6.9 Billion. Earnings per share was \$7.47. While the results were not quite as good as second quarter 2012, there are many companies that would love to have these results. The company sold 31.2 million iPhones during the quarter, which was greater than last years second quarter. iPad sales were good with 14.6 million sold, but not as good as last year with 17 million sold.

Following the results were headlines in the tech and business press that Apple has lost its edge and that Android had eclipsed the iOS devices. There were analysts who were saying that Apple had lost its way and the sky was falling. Meanwhile, Michael Dell is having trouble getting his shareholders to agree to his buyout to take Dell private. Yes, Apple has not released a new product like the iPhone or iPad lately. Prediction: Apple will release new versions of the iPhone and iPad in late September, along with new versions of OS X and iOS 7, and a new tower computer. The company is in good shape.

Like Apple, HAAUG is in good shape with about 180 members and a very healthy bank balance. We will use that money to bring you better programs in the future. HAAUG welcomes new members all the time. If you have a friend that recently

(cont'd on p. 8)

Security Beat

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com



One of the "Myths of the Mac" that I am called upon to address (over and over, it seems) is that "Macs are immune from malware." Normally couched in the more technically-specific term "Macs are immune from computer viruses", a myth is still a myth nonetheless. OS X shares a lot of source code (and the vulnerabilities therein) in its various components with the various flavors of *nix and Linux, and there have been plenty of bugfixes announced for Webkit (the engine used by the Safari browser in both OS X and iOS.)

While it is true that Macs haven't experienced the onslaught of computerized evilbits that plague their Windows-running brethren, this is not due to some awesome superpower imbued by Steve Jobs on his creations. Rather, it is due to several factors, mainly that since the early 1990s cybercrime has been a big reason for writing malicious software, and the bad guys go for the soft targets - in this case, the massive population of home and business PCs running vulnerable versions of Microsoft Windows. Another factor that protected Mac users was that Apple didn't use the Intel processor for quite a few years, and so the malware authors couldn't simply recompile their code (some of the key pieces of which were written in assembly language) to run on OS X.

Things began to change about the time Apple switched over to the Intel CPU, and more people started migrating to OS X from Windows (in part due to the latter's poor reputation with regard to viruses.) Some pundits began sounding the warning that these new users, bringing their bad computing habits with them from the Windows world, would attract the attention of the bad guys; while others pooh-poohed this idea, proclaiming that the Mac was, always has been, and always will be, virus-free.

The past few years have been a mixed bag of results, as far as this 'debate' is concerned. The much-feared Macpocalypse has not yet come to pass, and we haven't seen malware on the scope of Conficker or Stuxnet targeting the OS X operating system itself. On the other hand, there have been reports of Macpowered botnets (one running into the hundreds of thousands of compromised systems), and user applications, such as Adobe Reader, Flash Player, and Java, have proven fruitful grounds for malware authors looking to make a quick exploit.

And then, sometimes, you don't have to write very many lines of malcode in order to directly target the weakest part of the modern PC: the person sitting at the keyboard.

QuickTip

Few of us ever REALLY want Caps Lock turned on; when we do hit it, we do



so accidentally. There are workarounds.

You can just disable the key entirely, of course. To do so, go to System Preferences, and choose Keyboard. Then click the Modifier Keys button at the lower right of the Keyboard tab. Finally, set Caps Lock to No Action (or, alternatively, have it pull side duty as a bonus Control, Option, or Command key).

That's a great solution for those of us who only ever trigger Caps Lock unintentionally. But what about folks who genuinely want the option to quickly enter a mode for NONSTOP CAPITALIZATION, yet still want to avoid entertaining said mode accidentally? For those troubled typists, the solution is a free utility called CapSee. It displays an unmissable on-screen indicator when you're in Caps Lock mode. ISN'T THAT GREAT?

http://hints.macworld.com/ article.php? story=201308011910503973

(cont'd on p. 8)

FBI Public Service Announcement: Ransomware Purporting to be from the FBI is Targeting OS X Mac Users

07/18/13—In May 2012, the Internet Crime Complaint Center posted an alert about the Citadel malware platform used to deliver ransomware known as Reveton. The ransomware directs victims to a drive-by download website, at which time it is installed on their computers. Ransomware is used to intimidate victims into paying a fine to "unlock" their computers. Paying the fine does nothing to solve the problem with the computer; do not follow the ransomware instructions. The ransomware has been called "FBI Ransomware" because it uses the FBI's name.

The newest version of ransomware targets OS X Mac users. This new version is not malware; it appears as a webpage that uses JavaScript to load numerous iframes (browser windows) and requires victims to close each iframe. The cyber criminals anticipate victims will pay the requested ransom before realizing all iframes need to be closed.

The ransomware is pushed to victims' computers when they browse common websites, specifically when they query popular search terms. Once the web browser is exploited, the victim's computer displays a pop-up warning that appears to be from the FBI. Cyber criminals use "FBI.gov" within the URL to make the warning appear more legitimate.

As the FBI saw in 2012, the warning accuses victims of violating various U.S. laws, then locks the user's computer. To unlock the computer and avoid legal issues, victims are told they must pay a \$300 fine via a prepaid money card. Attempts to close the warning page results in additional messages that reappear each time victims try to close their web browser.

The simplest way to remove the ransomware's iframes is by clicking on the Safari menu and choosing the "Reset Safari," option, making sure all check boxes are selected. You may also hold down the Shift key while relaunching Safari, which will prevent Safari from reopening windows and tabs from the previous session. Victims can also disable the reopening feature across OS X from the General pane of System Preferences.

Ransomware messages are an attempt to extort money. If you have received a ransomware message, do not follow payment instructions. Be sure and file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

This FBI Public Service Announcement was shared through <u>InfraGard</u>.

Classifieds

Products and support for the Macintosh community

Got a story, or photo you would like to see in the monthly edition of the Apple Barrel?

The Apple Barrel is always looking for good, meaty material for its monthly publication. If you have a personal story, review of a new product or just a funny or helpful thought, feel free to spread the word via the Barrel.

Submit your story, review or photos, etc. to: abe@haaug.org

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1/3 Page Ad

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3X \$65

1/4 Page Ad

Dimensions: 3.75" x 5"

Frequency: 1X 65, 2X 60, 3X 55

1/6 Page Ad

Dimensions: 5" x 2.5" **Frequency:** 1X \$40, 2X \$35,

3X \$30

Business Card Ad

Dimensions: 3.5" x 2" **Frequency:** 1X \$30, 2X \$25,

3X \$15

* Dimensions of advertisements may vary as a result of document layout.

Minutes

HAAUG Board of Directors Meeting – Saturday, June 15, 2013

Location: Bellaire Civic Center, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas.

Attendees: Philip Booth, David Jaschke, Ed Truitt, Clair Jaschke, Jack Adair, Mike Epstein, Mike King

Call to Order: By President Philip Booth at 12:53 PM following the conclusion of the June General Meeting, with a quorum of the voting members being present.

General Announcements: We had a good meeting with Patrick Lockett as our presenter.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Secretary - Jack Adair: The minutes for May 2013 were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report - Clair Jaschke: Clair presented the financial reports for May 2013. Our checking account balance as of the end of May was \$10,345.92, and we have \$5,012.52 in our certificate of deposit. All bills are paid, and all monies received have been deposited.

We paid MacExperts for June, and one week later the June payment was credited back.

Vice President - Greg Wright: Greg Wright was not present. Phil Booth reported that we couldn't get Jean McDonald from Smile Software for our August meeting as she is committed to the AppCamp for Girls in Portland, OR in August. She has given Phil another name to contact.

Confirmed topics for the remainder of the year are as follows:

- Saturday, July 20: Semi-annual Swap Meet
- Saturday, October 19: Chris Breen from Macworld

 Saturday, December 14: Doug Smith (Holiday shopping special)

Membership - David Jaschke: Dave reported that we ended the month of May with 173 members, which is down from 176 members at the end of April, and 179 members as of May 31, 2012. Dave reported that May was a low activity month with only seven renewals. We had four renewals by KAGI and two by credit card. We had three 2-year renewals and one lapsed renewal.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems - **Ed Truitt:** Ed reported that we had no website issues this month. He will start July's Apple Barrel this week. There is a hard limit of Saturday, July 6 for new content for the next Apple Barrel. He got access to the mailing list manager stuff from Dave Jaschke that was discussed last month. We are still a little behind schedule in getting our meeting announcements out.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Phil Booth indicated that there is no report yet from the Audit Committee.

Phil introduced an interest in HAAUG doing some type of project for the community. He reported that Jean McDonald of Smile Software is starting the AppCamp for Girls this August, and suggested that we consider sponsoring someone from the Houston area to attend this conference via a "scholarship" as a project for HAAUG. Ed Truitt suggested that we consider conducting a "mini camp" at one of our meetings, with the winner getting the scholarship. This could be a way to start reaching out to the younger generation as well, and also as a way to give back to our community. Phil agreed to talk to Jean McDonald about possibly doing this in 2014.

(cont'd on p. 8)

7 <u>www.haaug.org</u>

Minutes...

(cont'd from Page 7)

Security Beat...

(cont'd from Page 3)

Phil has received a proposed deal from HAL-PC regarding classes that they want to start. Several of these classes involve Mac topics such as iPhoto, iPad, and digital photography. This is an indication that HAL-PC is getting more interested in HAAUG's area.

Phil will talk to the city of Bellaire about getting a credit for being unable to use their projector at the monthly meetings in May and June. We are not going to pay for the projector for August and September.

Phil also got a communication from Bob Clary of Google Analytics inviting HAAUG to join their support program where they give away free training to our membership base. Phil will fill out the contact form required to move forward with this.

Adjournment: At 1:23 PM.

Boss HAAUG...

(cont'd from Page 2)

purchased an iOS device or a new Mac, encourage then to attend a meeting. My recurring message is that we need new leaders and that new volunteers are always welcome! See a member of the Board if you would like to volunteer. Your involvement can be as large (or as small) as you would like. Take, for example, the subject of this month's PSA from the FBI: the Reveton ransomware. This "malware", based on code which is related to the ZeuS financial/banking Trojan, displays a warning on the user's screen which claims to be a notice from law enforcement, claiming that the user has been "caught" in some form of illegal activity, and demanding payment of a fine in order to unlock their computer. The most recent variant, which targets Mac users running OS X, uses Javascript to create large numbers of browser windows: each time a window is closed, even more are created. The bad guys apparently think the users will pay up, rather than deal with the hassle of closing all those browser windows.

They may have a point: stranger things than this have happened, as evidenced by the 21-year old in Virginia who turned himself, and his PC, into the police after being popped by a variant of Reveton. It turns out that he had been surfing the darker side of the 'Net, and the cops found inappropriate images on his machine when they investigated. Needless to say, he was surprised when informed that the "FBI warning" was a fake (but the indictment on three counts of possession of child pornography weren't.)

The moral of this story: Computer security isn't just about running some piece of software. Just as important is the attitude, and awareness, of the person using it.

Oh, and stay far, far away from the Dark Side of the 'Net.

H	II nex	t month:	keep	'em sa	te!

Got Questions?

If so, please send them in to abe@haaug.org.

Upcoming Events

Houston Area Apple Users Group 2013 Officers and Directors

President
Phil Booth

Vice President

Greg Wright

Secretary

Jack E Adair

Treasurer Clair Jaschke

Membership Chairman **David Jaschke**

Media & Communications
Ed Truitt

Director-at-Large 1
Michael Epstein

Director-at-Large 2
Michael King

Senior Advisor **OPEN**

Saturday, September 21st, 2013

Digital Photography Update

Reagan Atkinson from Houston Camera Exchange gives us his yearly pre-Holiday seasonal update on photographic goodies.

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Saturday, October 19th, 2013

Chris Breen, Sr Editor of Macworld

This meeting should be on your "must attend" list. Reserve the date! **Location:** Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **www.haaug.org**

Saturday, November 16th, 2013

To Be Announced

Watch this space for details.

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Locations, Directions + Parking

Bellaire Civic Center

7008 South Rice Ave. • Bellaire, TX 77401

The Bellaire Civic Center has been a great location asset of HAAUG for the past 4 years and includes many amenities such as wireless internet and both open and closed spaces for Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and other functions.

Find out the latest news on future HAAUG meetings...

www.haaug.org/meetings/

STARTRONICS

George McKenzie Macintosh/IBM Services, Maintenance & Repair Specialist

> 4141 SW Freeway Suite #470 Houston, Texas 77098 713-524-5646 FAX 713-524-4635

August 2013 Event Schedule

	Main Room	2nd Room	3rd Room
9 a.m.	Mac 101	iOS	Mac One-on-One
10 a.m.		Digital Photography	
11 a.m.	Club Business		
11:15 a.m.	Main Presentation: A Duet of Apps by Rick Roberts and Phil Booth		
1 p.m.	Clean-up	Board of Directors meeting; followed by social time/lunch	

Main Presentation: A Duet of Apps - Rick Roberts and Phil Booth tell us about Smart apps and Weather apps.

Mac 101 & Fundamentals: Jonathan Magnus - The SIG for basic to advanced Macintosh topics.

iOS: Rick Roberts - iPad, iPhone and the apps that make our lives better.

Digital Photography: Ed Truitt – I'll bring in my new Lytro light field camera, and we can discuss: just another fad, or the future of photography?

Mac One-to-One - Our newest SIG, focusing on personalized help with guestions and problems.

Ad hoc: Groups are welcome to use the casual spaces to meet on other topics. Scheduled SIGs take precedence.

Got Junk?

Computer recycling opportunities in the Houston area

Houston area recycling centers:

Environmental Service Center

11500 South Post Oak Road • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

Westpark Recycling Center

5900 Westpark • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

Goodwill COMPUTER WORKS

12230 Westheimer Houston, TX 77077 281-589-1215

Commercial electronics recyclers:

ScrapComputer.com

350 W. 38th St., Houston, TX 77018 • 713-691-9995

**Accepts all computer-related items free; offers free pickup for large amounts.

Altech Metals, Inc.

10612 Hempstead, Building A • 713-680-9325 **No TVs or monitors

ARM Trading, Inc.

2476 Bolsover, Suite 557 • 713-665-0213

Compucycle

620 W. 6th St. • 713-866-8021

ONYX Environmental Services

Baytown • 1-800-624-9302

Houston Computer Recycler

6102 Brittmoore, Suite N • 713-937-3334

Recycle America Waste Management Asset Recovery Group

2102 Atascocita Road, Humble • 281-540-8900

Eagle Electronics

10612 Hempstead, Building A • 713-934-8585

QuickTip

You already know that you can use Siri to ask for directions. You



might say, "Give me directions to 1 Infinite Loop in Cupertino, California," or you might say "Take me home" when you're out and about.

But there are a few other things you can say to Siri whilst your iOS device is helping you navigate, and you might not know about these options.

Ask Siri, "Are we there yet?"—or similar, less obnoxious incarnations of that query—and you'll get an update on your estimated time of arrival. You can get more specific, too. Ask, "When is my next turn," and Siri will give you the number of minutes until you should encounter it.

Tank running low? Ask Siri where the nearest gas station is, and you'll get suggestions for fill-up spots along your current route. If you tap one, though, you'll cancel your current navigation in lieu of the new destination instead.

http://hints.macworld.com/ article.php? story=20130725141843364

Become Part of the Action

Join or renew your membership with the one and only Houston Area Apple Users Group today!

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Paying for your membership online with a credit card is secure, fast and easy!

Visit **www.haaug.org/join** for details on joining.

Join by Mail:

Please fill out and complete the following form. Send a check or money order payable to HAAUG and mail it to the address shown below. Dues for regular members are \$35 per year. Student memberships are available for full-time students at a high school, community college, or university for the rate of \$10 per year.

Your membership card will be mailed to you. You may pick up your starter kit at the next HAAUG meeting.

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		Two Year Renewal (\$70.00)		Student (\$10.00) Requires Student ID)			
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Do you know someone who would be interested in joining HAAUG? Y N							
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		0957 X 77257-0957					

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Attn.: Membership Chairman

Membership Benefits

Enjoy the benefits of being a HAAUG member.

Monthly Meetings

This is where the excitement begins. On the third Saturday of each month, members of HAAUG meet for a day filled with activities, including presentations by major software and hardware vendors, special interest group (SIG) meetings, raffles, and much, much more. SwapMeets are held twice each year, in January and July.

Social Media & Internet Presence

The HAAUG web site at http://www.haaug.org is the place to go for up-to-date information on what we are doing. In addition, there is a HAAUG group on Facebook, where people can go to interact with fellow HAAUG members on topics of interest related to Apple and its products.

Club Magazine

Club and industry news, meeting information and special member offers are published in our monthly newsletter - The Apple Barrel, which is available to members on the HAAUG web site in Adobe PDF format.

Mentor Program

The HAAUG Mentor Program puts people with hardware, software, system or network problems in contact with volunteers who can provide solutions. Contact with the mentors can be made through the HAAUG Hotline, e-mail, or at the monthly meetings.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

People with common interests, including Macintosh and OS X basics, iOS, internet, games, educational computing, databases, publishing, graphics, desktop video, programming and more gather for in-depth discussion, product demonstrations, tutorials and general knowledge sharing.

HAAUG Hotline

Call the HAAUG Hotline at 832-305-5999 for the latest meeting information and to leave voice mail for officers.

Lots of Fun & Friendships

HAAUG is a not-for-profit volunteer group founded in 1978, three years before there was an IBM PC. Approximately 200 members enjoy the benefits of HAAUG. We range from beginners to experts, but we all know the secret to making our computers more valuable - a HAAUG membership.

Learn more about the benefits of HAAUG membership at www.haaug.org.

Reviewers Wanted!

Ed Truitt, Media & Communications Dir.

Do you like to read technical books? Do you fancy yourself a literary critic? Do you like to share your opinions with others? Why am I asking all these questions?

If your answer to most of the questions above is "Yes", then we have something for you: several publishers (including O'Reilly and Wiley) make copies of their book available, at no charge, for review. We are always looking for member-written content for the Apple Barrel, and your book review, published in the HAAUG newsletter, will satisfy both needs.

If you are interested, please see me at the meeting, or email me at abe@haaug.org.

The Apple Barrel is a monthly publication of the HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP (HAAUG) P.O. Box 570957 Houston, Texas 77257-0957.

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If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG Hotline at (832) 305-5999 or sign up via our web site at www.haaug.org.

Annual membership is \$35 for regular members, and \$10 for student members (limited to students enrolled full time at a high school, community college, or university.) The Hotline is also the Mentor line if you need help. Guests are welcome to attend one or two meetings to get acquainted with HAAUG, but participation in certain presentations and activities may be limited to members only. HAAUG is an independent support group of Apple product users and is not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. The following are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., Apple, Apple II, Apple IIGS, eMac, Macintosh, iMac, iBook, iPod, iPhone, iPad, PowerBook, ImageWriter, LaserWriter and the Apple Logo. All other brand names mentioned are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective holders, and are hereby acknowledged.

First Impressions: Macbook Air Lock - Security Skin

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

Last month, I wrote about my first impressions of the new 2013 model Macbook Air. One of the few shortcomings I discovered, which I decided to remedy right away, I mentioned in the article when I said

"...because Apple opted to leave out the security lock slot, I picked up a MacBook Air Security Skin and lock combo from <u>MacLocks.com</u>."

I really didn't want to wait on this, because I was taking the new Air not only to work, but also to a week long security class: despite whatever you might have heard to the contrary, personal property can - and does - go missing in such places. So, I ordered a Security Skin from the vendor's website, and anxiously awaited for it to arrive.



Security Skin's security slot (photo by Ed Truitt)

When it arrived, I noticed it has two mounting options. The first (and easiest) is to simply slip the top and bottom pieces over the Macbook Air: this is also known as "security through 'I hope you don't notice that this isn't really fastened to the laptop." The other option involves removing five screws from the bottom portion of the Air's unibody, attaching the Security Skin, then securing it with replacement screws (which are slightly longer, to accommodate the thickness of the Security Skin.) A 5-star screwdriver was also (thoughtfully) provided. Assembly took about 10 minutes, mainly because I had to be careful (and try several times) to get those little tiny screws aligned properly so as not to strip the threads.

Thanks in large part to the clear plastic, the Security Skin does not appear to alter the dimensions of the Macbook Air to any appreciable extent. While it is probably a little thicker than before, it is still a whole lot

thinner than the Lenovo laptop my employer issued to me.

I have secured it to various desks and other semi-immovable objects using the supplied lock cable, and so far, so good. The function this device performs may not be really cool or sexy, but (for those of us without unlimited funds) it is an essential one. And, to date, the Security Skin has performed as advertised. The fact that it also protects the finish of the Air from stains and scratches is the proverbial icing on the cake.

The Macbook Air Lock and Security Skin Bundle retails for \$69.95, and is available from their web site.

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