

ACEC NEWS

OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 10

ACEC Member Satisfaction Survey

2022

Opening
October
24th

WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

ANNUAL MEETING DRIVE-THROUGH
Annual Director Voting Results



POWER COST
ADJUSTMENT
EXPLAINED

FAREWELL TO
5-TERM
DIRECTOR

FALL FLY-IN



A MESSAGE FROM *Your General Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

HIGH FUEL COSTS AT THE HEART OF POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative and our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative work to keep your lights on. Especially this spring with an anticipated grim reliability forecast from the regional grid operator.

Safe, reliable electricity is our top priority, but electricity production has cost more than expected during our peak summer months due to high electricity demand, delayed coal deliveries, and increased fuel costs (primarily natural gas). Dairyland experienced higher-than-budgeted purchased power costs in the energy market, and those costs are passed on to the cooperatives purchasing power from Dairyland, including ACEC.

What is PCA?

Power Cost Adjustment is the difference in the cooperative's monthly increase or decrease in the wholesale cost of power as compared to the cost at the time the current rates were designed.

When you received your July bill, there was a PCA charge of .53 cents (\$0.0053) per kilowatt-hour (kWh) used in July. Therefore, the average member using 1,000 kWh per month would have an extra charge of \$5.30 on their bill.

Throughout the year, we have been adjusting to cover rising costs on nearly everything we purchase – equipment, materials, fuel, paper. Unfortunately, the regional power market is not immune to rising prices for materials and fuel. PCA charges paid by our members directly help pay the increased cost of our wholesale power bill. This money does not pay for anything else locally at our cooperative.

The PCA provides a monthly adjustment dependent on any differences in the base cost of

wholesale power. Having the PCA benefits members by covering monthly power cost fluctuations without having to restructure electricity rates continually.

What impacts the PCA?

The PCA changes based on the cost of wholesale power, which fluctuates for various reasons. During summer, when the electricity demand is high, power may need to be purchased at market price, including additional generation costs. Increased fuels like natural gas costs also impact wholesale power prices.

The current PCA charge results from multiple factors in July and August 2022, including high energy prices in the market, delayed coal deliveries, and higher-than-budgeted fuel costs. Dairyland owns two combustion turbine plants (also called peaking plants) – the RockGen Energy Center and Elk Mound Combustion Turbines. These plants run on natural gas and are only intended to be called upon when the electricity demand is at its peak. In the last year, however, RockGen and Elk Mound had set generation records because they needed reliable, baseload electricity on the grid when they utilized all other available resources. Having these facilities in Dairyland's portfolio has supported reliability in our region. In addition, power sales from their operation have helped moderate – but not eliminate – higher-than-budgeted power expenses.

"July and August were challenging months. The tremendous unit availability of Dairyland's owned generation facilities helped reduce, but not eliminate, Dairyland and our member cooperatives' exposure to high market prices for electricity," Dairyland Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Phil Moilien said. "Dairyland has been working all year on cost management measures to help keep wholesale power rates stable for our member cooperatives and their members at the end of the lines. But we are still vulnerable to market fluctuations."

What is Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative doing to help?

Times are tough as the cost of gasoline, groceries, and other essential needs are rising. ACEC is working hard to keep internal costs down, but we can't control rising fuel costs.

Dairyland uses a diverse mix of fuel sources for electricity. Last year, they comprised their generation mix of coal (37%), natural gas (38%), wind/solar (22%), and hydro/other renewables (3%). This diverse fuel mix and power plant ownership and power purchase agreements (PPA) help reduce more dramatic fluctuations in generation costs.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric offers a variety of programs and services to help members save on their energy bills. Including energy efficiency resources, home energy audit information, Co-op rebates, and low-income assistance for the winter.



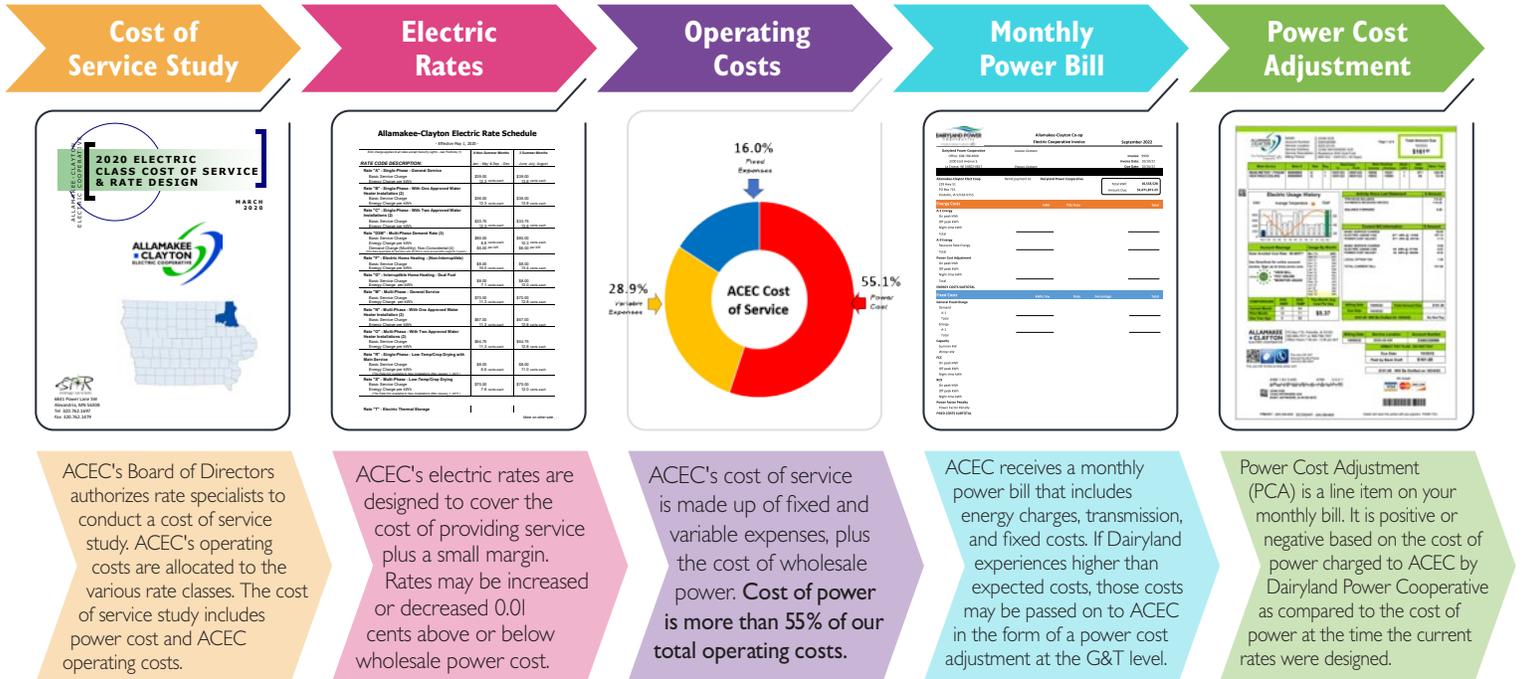
We are here to help. Contact us with questions about your bill or ways to save energy.

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative is a distribution cooperative that receives power from Dairyland Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission G&T cooperative in La Crosse, Wis. ACEC is a member-owner of Dairyland, just like you are an owner of ACEC. As a G&T cooperative, DPC is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, one of seven regional transmission

organizations in the United States. MISO was created in 1998 to provide safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power across all or parts of 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba.

Through MISO, Dairyland sells the power it generates and purchases the power it needs for its members. Employees in DPC's System Operations Center balance members' electricity needs against MISO's pricing for electricity. ■

#1385-1A



BOARD BRIEFS | September 26, 2022 Meeting

- **Board Re-Organization meeting:** Held Board Re-Organizational meeting directly before the regular meeting: The board appointed Jeff Bradley as President, Mike Gibbs as Vice-President, and Cindy Heffern as Secretary/Treasurer. The Board also welcomed new Director, Brice Wood, Lansing.
- Reviewed DPC Capital Credit Retirement Information
- Approved 2023 Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's Healthcare Participation Agreement
- Received a recap of the Annual Meeting drive-through held on Sept. 12, 2022
- Received New Cooperative, Inc. Cyber Attack details from Jeni Kolsrud, IT Manager
- Approved a labor rate increase for Environmental Alarm System work
- Approved a .30/kWh charge for EV charger in Harpers Ferry and the Osborne Nature Center
- Approved annual membership request of \$1,500 to Allamakee County Economic Development



PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update

SEPTEMBER

Number of miles driven: **498 miles**

Level 2 charger @ACEC: 197kwhs x \$.123

Cost to Charge: **\$24.23**



ACEC Member Satisfaction Survey

2022

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The Cooperative is opening a Member Satisfaction Survey beginning October 24. This is a short (10 minutes or less) online survey, and the Co-op will enter all completed surveys into a drawing for prizes. Please go to acrec.com to access the survey. The survey is open from Oct. 24 – Nov. 7. We're grateful for your feedback!



**ALLAMAKEE
CLAYTON**
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

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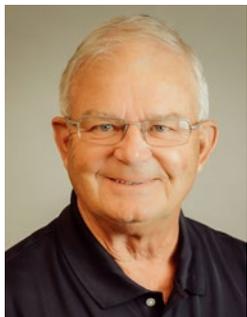
Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative held its 84th Annual Meeting in a drive-through format last month.

Being a cooperative means members have a voice in how the business is run by voting each year. This year we had record mail-in ballots and increased attendance in our drive-through. The board of directors and employees thank all members who could vote for their board directors and visit with us during the drive-through. It is our privilege to continue to serve you with dependable, reliable, and affordable electricity.

Voting members returned incumbents Roger Arthur, Sumner, and Al Steffens, Clermont, to the Board and elected Brice Wood, Lansing, to the Board.

The board of directors held their reorganization meeting during the September 26 Board Meeting to appoint the officers. Appointed: Jeff Bradley, president; Mike Gibbs, vice president; and Cindy Heffern, Secretary/Treasurer.

The Cooperative drew names for prizes from all mail-in ballots and all registered members during the drive-through. We have listed all prize winners on the adjacent page. Congratulations to you all! ■



Roger Arthur, Sumner, re-elected



Al Steffens, Clermont, re-elected



Brice Wood, Lansing, elected



ACEC's, Teri Wagner, assists the nominating committee with ballot counting during the drive-through in September.



ACEC staff prepare to serve the to-go meal consisting of a Smokin' Monkee brisket with two sides and Country View Dairy hard-packed frozen yogurt. The Cooperative served approximately 480 people.



Ryan Wagner, left, and Jason Leonhart, take a few moments to chat with retiree, Norm Schultz, during the set-up of the drive-through on Sept. 12



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Thank you to the 2022 Nominating Committee for your time selecting candidates to run for the board and for your time on the evening of Sept. 12 counting ballots. We appreciate you! ■

Serving on the 2022 Nominating Committee are, l-r: John Rea, Lansing; Justin Grove, Monona; John Orr, Fayette; Secretary, Joni Spies, Hawkeye; Chair, Jean Pape, Maynard; Vice Chair Person, Mike Jacobson, Clermont, and Diana Gunderson, Postville.

PRIZE WINNERS

\$50 BILL CREDIT

Bernard Berns, Waukon
Lewis Bishop Jr.,
West Union
David Dudley, Garber
Richard Moose, Monona
Elmer Schuety, Saint Olaf

\$20 BILL CREDIT

Lester Baade, West Union
Beverly J. Bacon, Postville
Robert L. Beck, Milan
Charles Berns, Jr., Waterville
Mike Blake, Dorchester
Keith Bresnahan, Lansing

Robert Brown, Colesburg
Ervin Bugenhagen, Luana
John Cahalan, Waterville
Mike Carroll, Mc Gregor
William Christofferson,
Postville
Leo Conway, Lansing
Betty Deal, West Union
Carol Deering, Postville
Patrick Delaney, Lansing
Phyllis Dettman, Monona
Bonnie Garlow, Guttenberg
Ron Gulla, Waukon
Linda Hauschild, Garber

Mary Heiden, Elkader
Kathleen Kisner, Hawkeye
Sandra Koehring, Postville
Rose Lansing, Elgin
Kenneth Larson, Dorchester
Francis Livingood, Postville
Betty Marmann, Elkader
Lanny Marting, Postville
Duane Martins, Waukon
Damien Matt, Clermont
Conner Meyer, Postville
Thomas Mitchell, Hawkeye
Dan Moon, Monona
Christina Mueller, Postville

Diane Nolting, Waukon
Carroll Oleson, Garnavillo
James Piffner, Harpers Ferry
Robert Saacke, Farmersburg
Allan Schlatter, Hawkeye
Lillian Schmieden,
Waterville
Anna Schroeder Tst.,
Monona
Norman Schultz, Postville
David Schutte Est., Postville
Nick Steinlage, West Union
Neal Struthers, West Union
Erma Swenson, Postville

John Thiese, Guttenberg
James Walter, Luana
Roger Wettleson, Postville
Fred Wilker, Postville
Doug Ziemann, Postville

I-5 YR. SUNSOURCE SOLAR PANEL SUBSCRIPTION

Kathryn Jones, Wadena
Douglas Nelson, West Union
#3169



FAREWELL TO A FOUR-TERM DIRECTOR

Arlyn "Butch" Fossum steps down as ACEC Board member after serving 15 years

Your board of directors fulfills many vital roles for the Cooperative that can be both challenging and rewarding. Not only are they the ultimate decision-makers when setting the direction of the cooperative, but they are also the local connection to the cooperative membership.

We said farewell to Arlyn "Butch" Fossum during our 2022 annual meeting drive-through on Mon., Sept. 12. Butch, a member of ACEC since 1969, was elected to the board in September 2007 during the ACEC Annual Meeting in Postville to serve his first three-year term. And he was committed to members who elected and re-elected him to serve four additional terms. Butch did not seek re-election during the 2022 annual meeting. "I enjoyed serving on the board and hearing from members about important issues that needed to go to the board," said Butch. "I'll miss my time on the board, but I

leave you in the good hands of the current directors."

During Butch's tenure with ACEC, he always remembered the constituents who elected him and was grateful for the ACEC employees who went above and beyond to get the job done. "I enjoyed working with the board and staff at the Cooperative," said Butch. "I liked being responsible to the people who elected me, and I always wanted those residents to feel they could come to me with questions or comments."

The Cooperative presented a photo book to Butch, encapsulating his years of service. Thank you, Butch, for your dedication and time. Enjoy your family time watching your grandkids show cattle and participate in local, state, and national sports.

Butch, on behalf of Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, we are grateful for your commitment to the Cooperative, and we wish you the absolute best! ■



ACEC presented Butch with a photo memorial book capturing his time serving on the board



ACEC staff gather with Butch for a farewell photo during the Sept. 12 drive-through.

FALL FLY IN

Iowa Rural Power advocates participate in fall fly-in to D.C.

Iowa electric cooperative board directors and staff attended meetings and events coordinated by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and other Midwest cooperatives and statewides as part of our annual Congressional advocacy work. In consultation with NRECA, Iowa's electric co-ops highlighted issues of concern related to permitting reform, the 2023 Farm Bill, land-use policy for renewable energy projects, and supply chain uncertainty.

Over two days in D.C., co-op advocates met with all 6 members of the Iowa Congressional delegation to continue the dialogue about policy issues that impact Iowa's electric cooperatives and the rural



communities we serve. The group also visited with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute to learn more about the group's national perspective and the promise of small modular reactor technology. #6127A

We appreciate the service of Iowa's elected officials and the tireless work of their staff, who help look out for Iowans in the Halls of Congress. The next planned trip for Iowa Rural Power advocates will come in the spring of 2023 as part of the NRECA's annual Legislative Conference.

ACEC's mgr. of econ. dev. & comm. relations, Brenda Hackman, along with other REC reps., met with Congresswoman Ashley Hinson in D.C. during a trip to the capital last month.

They discussed concerns and topics in District 1, which included:

- Funding for fiber
- The workforce, housing and daycare shortages
- Opportunities to increase the amount loaned to the REDLG program
- Supply chain issues, and
- All-The Above Opportunities for energy strategy ■



REC participants in the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's Fall Fly-in are pictured here with Senator Chuck Grassley, center.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Allamakee County Sheriff Deputy Ross Kolsrud, and his partner K9 Deputy Tyr, accept a donation from ACEC for their fundraising efforts during their second annual community golfing tournament. Tyr (as in "tear" drop) is a Belgian Melanois (pronounced ma-luhn-waa) imported from the Czech Republic in Germany, and he lives with deputy Kolsrud. Tyr is trained to find narcotics, patrol, and perform building searches among other things. "I thank everyone in the community who contributed and supported us," said Kolsrud. "Without them, we would not have Tyr." Money raised during the events helps with the purchase of Tyr (German deity: "God of War") and subsequent training and equipment. *Note: It was extremely challenging for staff who met with officer Kolsrud and Tyr not to pet Tyr!* ■



CO-OP HOSTS EXTERNSHIP

The Iowa STEM Teacher Externship Program aims to help teachers answer that age-old question, "When will I ever use this?" During the summer, STEM educators work alongside knowledgeable and skilled industry employees who help bring the classroom curriculum to life. The STEM program invited Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative to host one of these externships, so we welcomed Madyson Larson, a middle school science teacher at MFL MarMac, to spend three weeks with us in July.

During Madyson's time at ACEC, she:

- ✓ Spent time with various departments,
- ✓ Cross-referenced IT equipment,
- ✓ Update content on the website for multiple departments, and
- ✓ Reviewed and scheduled staff Cybersecurity training.

"Throughout my experience at ACEC, I was able to learn about many opportunities that a cooperative offers members and non-members," said Madyson. "I had been oblivious to the number of resources available for the community and all the behind-the-scenes work that goes on to ensure that the community is the best it can be."

This program aims to provide educators with the exposure to answer



"After observing the day-to-day operations, I have a range of job opportunities to talk with my students about. I honestly think that all of my students will benefit from my experience, just as much as I did!" – Madyson Larson, teacher, MFL MarMac Middle School.

questions about real-world applications, prepare students for careers they may have in the future, and improve educational experiences. "We were happy to be invited to participate in this program," said Jeni Kolsrud, IT Manager. "We hope Madyson's time spent here working on projects this summer will help change how she approaches certain topics in her classroom."

For more information, go to iowastem.org/externships. ■

MEMBER RECIPES



PRESSURE-COOKER AUTUMN CHICKEN

- 4 bone-in chicken thighs (about 1-1/2 pounds), skin removed
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 T. canola oil
- 1/2 c. apple cider or juice
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup barbecue sauce
- 1 T. honey
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 medium Fuji or Gala apples, coarsely chopped

1. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Select sauté or browning setting on a 6-qt. electric pressure cooker. Adjust for medium heat; add oil. When oil is hot, brown chicken; remove and keep warm.
2. Add cider, stirring to loosen browned bits from pan. Stir in onion, barbecue sauce, honey, garlic, and chicken. Press cancel. Lock lid; close pressure-release valve. Adjust to pressure-cook on high for 10 minutes. Let pressure release naturally for 5 minutes; quick-release any remaining pressure. Press cancel. A thermometer inserted in chicken should read at least 170°.
3. Remove chicken; keep warm. Select sauté setting and adjust for low heat. Add apples; simmer, stirring constantly, until apples are tender, about 10 minutes. Serve with chicken.

Anonymous submission

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jenny McIntyre, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email jmcintyre@acrec.coop.

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed. Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before intended publication.

Recipe Themes:

Nov.-PUMPKIN, Dec.-CRANBERRIES, Jan.-SOUP

Looking for a PAST newsletter recipe? We've uploaded every recipe that we have printed in our newsletters to acrec.com/member-recipes. Search through hundreds of recipes by a specific name or by category.

APPLE FRITTER BREAD

- 1/3 c. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2/3 c. white sugar
- 1/2 c. butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1 apple, peeled and chopped (any kind is fine), mixed with 1 T. granulated sugar and 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Glaze:

- 1 c. of powdered sugar+ 1-3 tablespoons of milk or cream, mixed together to a drizzling consistency

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour a 9x5-inch loaf pan.

Mix brown sugar and cinnamon together in a bowl.

Beat white sugar and butter together in a bowl using an electric mixer until smooth and creamy. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, until incorporated; add vanilla extract.

Combine flour and baking powder together in a bowl; stir into creamed butter mixture. Mix milk into batter until smooth. Pour half the batter into the prepared loaf pan; add half the apples and half the brown sugar mixture. Lightly pat apple mixture into batter. Pour the remaining batter over apple layer; top with remaining apples and brown sugar mixture. Lightly pat apples into batter; swirl brown sugar mixture through apples using a finger or spoon.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean, 30 to 40 minutes.

Let cool for about 15 minutes before drizzling with glaze. Then, enjoy!

Anonymous submission

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Requires six-month advanced payment.
Payment must be made by Dec. 31, 2022.

FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – two are worth a **\$5** bill credit, and one is worth a **\$10** bill credit if found. The Service Location number must be yours to claim the credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.



CONTACT ACEC

HEADQUARTERS

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Postville, IA 52162

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acrec.com

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Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

IOWA STATE ONE CALL

811

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JEFF BRADLEY, President, Wadena

MICHAEL D. GIBBS, Vice President, Waterville

CINDY HEFFERN, Sec./Treas., Harpers Ferry

ROGER ARTHUR, Sumner

NELSON CONVERSE, Postville

GREG FORMANEK, Farmersburg

JERRY KELEHER, Elkader

AL STEFFENS, Clermont

BRICE WOOD, Lansing

MANAGEMENT STAFF

HOLLEE McCORMICK, EVP/General Manager

DAVID DECKER, Director, Finance & Administrative Services

BRENDA HACKMAN, Manager, Economic Development & Community Relations

JENI KOLSRUD, Manager, Information Technology

JENNY McINTYRE, Manager, Marketing & Communications

JASON TROENDLE, Director, Operations & Engineering

RYAN WAGNER, Manager, Member Services



Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Recognize and report phishing attacks.



Use strong passwords and a password manager.



Update software regularly.



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