Avoiding a Meltdown

The January 3, 2018, edition of the New York Times reported that "Computer security experts have discovered two major security flaws in the microprocessors inside nearly all of the world's computers. The two problems, called Meltdown and Spectre, could allow hackers to steal the entire memory contents of computers, including mobile devices, personal computers and servers running in so-called cloud computer networks."

Oh great. Now what? Do we unplug our PC's, never to view cute kittens on YouTube? Or stop Googling the origins of porridge?

The answer is quite simple:

1. **Keep your operating system up to date**. Microsoft has already updated Windows 7, 8, and 10, and Apple has fixed MacOS.
2. **Consider installing an ad-blocking "extension" to your web browser(s).** Clicking on an ad can install software you don't want. I installed **U-block Origin**, and so far, I'm impressed. It uses an extensive filtering scheme to remove ads, including those on Google searches. It's available for Mac and Windows versions of Chrome and Firefox, and Mac Safari.

If you need help adding a browser extension, stop by the PSRC Computer Lab on Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4 p.m., or Friday's from 10 a.m. to noon.