

NEWS JOURNAL

“Members Helping Members”

May 2024

(since 1983)

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Handy Communication Hub with Voice Calling on All your Devices.

By Member Helping Members

I've had a Google Voice number for several years, but just recently started to use it more in place of my personal cell phone numbers, and it has reduced the number of unwanted calls and text. Although I still use my "leave me alone" greeting message. With Google Voice, I can decide who can reach me and when.

Google Voice is a free calling and voicemail service from Google that aims to centralize and improve your calling experience. One of its standout features is the ability to get a free phone number that routes calls to all your devices.

Getting started with Google Voice is simple - just sign up with your Google account. You'll then

choose a phone number within your desired area code. This becomes your Google Voice number that can ring multiple phones, send calls to voicemail when you're unavailable, and provide features like call screening, blocking, and recording.

Once set up, Google Voice acts as a central hub for various calling functions. Calls to your Google Voice number will ring all your linked phones simultaneously. For example, calls could ring your home landline, cell phone, and office line all at the same time, allowing you to answer from whichever device is most convenient. You can customize exactly

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*"Members Helping
Members"
(since 1983)*

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2023-2024

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News Journal

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Membership

LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at <http://www.lcace.org>.

Meetings

LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

Newsletter Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page - \$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card - \$5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

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J.J. Johnson

President Emeritus

Spring has arrived, and we had a good turnout for the April meeting, despite the last-minute notification that we could not use our usual meeting location, necessitating a Zoom meeting instead. Unfortunately, due to the change in venue, we were unable to celebrate our 41st anniversary as planned. This change also delayed the nominations and election of the new board of directors.

Hewie Poplock delivered an insightful presentation on AI for seniors. Since AI is a new concept for many of us, I hope this presentation provides valuable insights into how it can be integrated into our everyday lives. Most of us already utilize smartphones and voice assistants like Alexa or Google, which means we have been using AI for quite some time without realizing it. Now that you are aware of other ways AI can be utilized, I hope you feel more confident and empowered to explore and embrace this technology.

Our May presentation, "Help! Can't See, Can't Hear, Can't Touch" by Judy Tylour, focuses on the importance of accessibility technology. As a member of the APCUG Speaker Bureau, Judy has presented several other informative and engaging presentations for us. She is a passionate advocate for lifelong learning and empowering individuals through the use of accessible technology. Judy Tylour is an experienced and knowledgeable speaker on the topic of accessibility technology. The presentation "Help! Can't See, Can't Hear, Can't Touch" will explore the various assistive technologies available to support individuals with different abilities.

Currently, we have several members nominated for the board, and with Mike's decision to step down as president, we eagerly anticipate someone new taking the helm. Nominations for board positions re-

main open, and if you are interested in serving on the board of directors, please do not hesitate to express your interest. We encourage all members who are passionate about our organization to consider putting their name forward for consideration.

We are currently seeking individuals to fill the vacant board positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary. Hopefully, someone will step forward and volunteer to help the club resume operations with a fully staffed board of directors. The board plays a crucial role in guiding the organization, and we are seeking engaged, passionate individuals to help shape our future direction. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved and make a meaningful contribution.

If you have any questions about the nomination process or the responsibilities of board members, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are happy to provide more information and support your consideration of this important role.

We value your feedback and continue to seek it regularly. On a weekly basis, we provide you with e-books, e-bulletins, and web watch information through our Google Groups. However, we are uncertain whether you find this information valuable. Google Groups has been our primary mode of communication to keep our members informed about club events and new technological developments. In this ever-changing technological landscape, we believe this approach allows us to keep our members updated on the latest technological advancements and news.

A few months ago, I was introduced to the concept of [Ethical Hacking](#). I learned about how this practice is being utilized. Subsequently, I was informed that there will be an article explaining how someone could potentially exploit or take advantage of another person. Although Ethical Hacking can be used for non-malicious hacking, this was not the case. However, this month's newsletter article delves into a different type of hacking – one with malicious intent. This article focuses on how an individual has exploited or taken advantage of someone through these malicious hacking techniques. This information is crucial for everyone to understand, as it empowers us to protect ourselves from potential threats. Therefore, everyone should read, as it addresses this important topic.

M.T.F.B.W.Y.

How to write an article

best practice



in 20 Minutes

1. Keep an idea list. When inspiration for a post strikes, scribble it down in a notebook or a word file. For many bloggers and content creators, finding the topic to write about takes up half the time. Keeping an idea list lets you leap into a new post quickly when you're ready to write.
2. Let your ideas incubate. If you try to force yourself to come up with supporting information for your brilliant idea right away, it's going to take ages. Let that topic sit for a few days, though, and you can add new ideas as they occur to you – and when you're ready to write, you'll already have all the supporting info you need.
3. Edit before you start You've probably got twice as many ideas as you need at this point, so it's time to be brutal. Cut out any supporting idea that doesn't fit with

the main topic of the article. Remember, we're talking about how to write an article in 20 minutes, not an epic. You can always use the ideas you don't need for later posts.

4. Use bullet points Bullet points, or numbered points like "10 Ways to Get More Subscribers", can make writing an article a lot simpler in terms of organization because you no longer have to figure out transitions from one idea to the next. The great side benefit is that readers like lists; they're easier for the eye to follow.
5. Keep it short If you want to finish that article in 20 minutes, try to keep it under 500 words. Don't feel like you're skimping on quality content, either: this article is only about 500 words but it's chockfull of information. Make every word count and you'll save time without letting quality slip.
6. Come back later If you find that you're stuck, don't try to force the words to come. Save the article and work on something else for a while. If inspiration strikes, open up that document again. You can even switch from one blog post to another, spending a few minutes on each as ideas come to you. It's a huge time-saver.
7. Never save a good idea It's tempting, when you look through your list of ideas, to save the best ones for later because you think they'll be easier to write. You don't want to save time later; you want to save time now. Do the articles you know will come easily and make the most of that time. Follow these simple steps and you'll be on your way to brilliant articles in a fraction of the time.



23 Google Map Tricks You Need to Try

Google Maps is the Swiss Army Knife of apps, chock-full of navigation, geospatial-search, and customization tools. These tips and tricks will help you unlock its full potential.

[READ](#)



Which cartoon character served as a spokesman for the IRS in the 1940s?

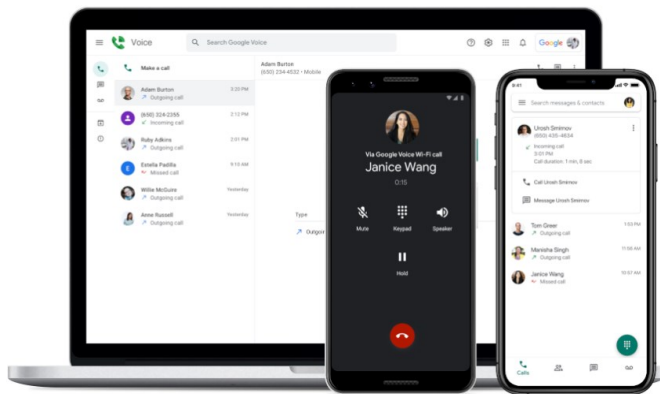
- ⇒ Popeye
- ⇒ Donald Duck
- ⇒ Betty Boop
- ⇒ Porky Pig

(Continued from page 1)

which devices ring on a per-call basis.

Another useful feature is voicemail transcription and messaging. Google Voice voicemails are automatically transcribed into text and emailed to your Gmail account. The transcription is impressively accurate and makes browsing long voicemail inboxes much easier. Received voicemails can also be accessed with visual voicemail features in the Google Voice app. And as an alternative to voicemail, you can enable text messaging notifications when you get a call which allows you to reply with a text instead.

Call screening is another neat and unique aspect of



Google Voice. When an incoming call arrives, Google Voice first answers with a recorded message that asks the caller to say their name. You see a transcript of their recording and can choose to pick up, send to voicemail, block the number, or report spam all before your phone ever rings. For avoiding unwanted calls, this can be a very useful tool.

Google Voice neatly ties into other Google services. For example, it uses your free Gmail storage for voicemail recording storage space. The Google Voice app lets you send SMS texts for free in the U.S. and call international numbers for low rates using your Google Account balance or linked cards. And if you use Android devices, Google Voice has deep system-level integration with features like automatic caller ID and spam labeling based on crowdsourced data from all Google Voice users.

In summary, Google Voice combines call management, voicemail, call screening, free messaging, and inexpensive international calling all under your existing Google account and phone number. Its fea-

tures and seamless integration across devices make it an essential calling tool for anyone with multiple phone lines or communication channels to manage. The service is reliable as expected from Google, available on just about any device, and could be considered an indispensable upgrade to your basic calling experience.

How to acquire:

Visit the Google Voice website (<https://voice.google.com/>) and sign in with your Google account.

Choose a new phone number or port your existing one (US numbers only).

Set up your voicemail greeting and other preferences.

LocalSend

Share files to nearby devices.



Based on the search results, LocalSend is a free, open-source, cross-platform application that allows users to securely share files and messages between nearby devices over a local network without requiring an internet connection or third-party servers.

The app works by directly connecting devices on the local network, without relaying on any external server or cloud storage service.



Bill's Gadgets

The MeatStick Wireless Meat Thermometer

By Bill James

Computer Club of Oklahoma City

Disclaimer: Our column is produced solely for the purpose of providing information and amusement about the most recent and interesting products on the market today. Without further investigation on the part of the readers, Tech for Senior does not promote or encourage the purchase of these items. The products mentioned here may or may not be appropriate for your specific situation or need.

The history of the meat thermometer spans centuries, with its exact origins not well-documented. However, the concept of using a thermometer to measure meat's internal temperature likely evolved as people sought safer cooking methods. An early reference to a meat thermometer-like device appears in Hannah Glasse's 1747 cookbook, ***The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy***. She describes a method for roasting meat using a long, narrow glass tube filled with alcohol to gauge oven heat, resembling an early precursor to the modern meat thermometer.

Cooking meat to the correct internal temperature is crucial for food safety, as it eliminates harmful bacteria and pathogens like Salmonella and E. coli that can cause foodborne illnesses. Avoiding overcooking is equally important since it prevents meat from becoming tough, dry, and less flavorful. Accurate temperature monitoring ensures that meat reaches the desired doneness without compromising quality. Different preferences for meat doneness, such as rare, medium-rare, medium, or well-done, can be achieved precisely with a meat thermometer, guaranteeing consistent results every time. Using a meat thermometer eliminates guesswork, providing confidence in your cooking by relying on precise data instead of visual cues or estimated cooking times.

Efficient meal planning is facilitated by knowing the exact internal meat temperature, which is especially beneficial when cooking multiple dishes or entertaining guests. Accurate temperature monitoring reduces the risk of ruining a meal due to overcooking or undercooking, minimizing food waste, and saving money. Maintaining the quality of your dishes is ensured by cooking meat to the right temperature, resulting in tender, juicy, and flavorful results. Avoiding undercooked meat is essential for safety, as it guarantees that harmful bacteria are destroyed. A meat thermometer ensures that you serve safe, well-cooked meat.

Over time, meat thermometers have evolved, becoming more precise and accessible. Today, they come in various types, including digital instant-read and oven-safe probe thermometers, making it easier for cooks to accurately monitor meat's internal temperature, ensuring both doneness and safety. This week's gadget is the MeatStick Wireless Meat Thermometer. The classic MeatStick is durable: dishwasher-safe and deep-fryer proof, with a 24+ hour battery life for slow cooking like smoking and *sous vide*. It has duo sensors: one internal (Max. 212°F/100°C) and one am-



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bient (Max. 572°F/300°C).

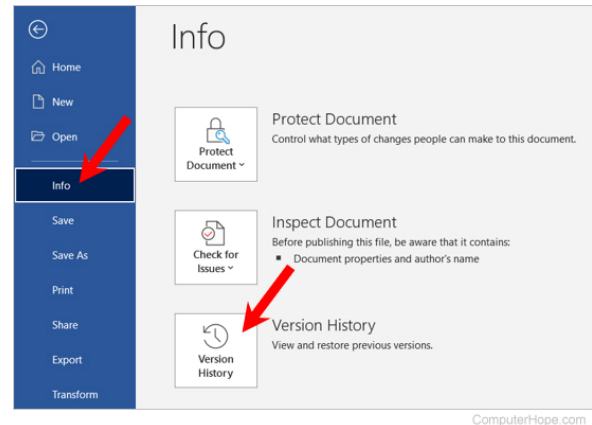
Get rid of wires and mess in your cooking with the Classic MeatStick – this versatile leave-in meat thermometer can be inserted into any type of meat and left to cook, with an oven or air fryer in your kitchen, or grilling and smoking outdoors.

Monitor your meat from up to 260 feet away using Xtender™ built-in MeatStick X Charger for hassle-free culinary experience. Enhance your cooking with The MeatStick App, your smart sous-chef. It offers pro features: CookTime™ Smart Alerts, guided cook list, intuitive interface, and Cook Notes (iOS only). Avoid over/undercooking with real-time monitoring. Works on iOS/Android, even Apple Watch, for cooking freedom.

Features

- Classic Duo Sensors: 1 Internal Temp Sensor (32-212°F); 1 Ambient Sensor (32-572°F)
- High Durability: Deep-Fry, Sous-Vide & Dishwasher Safe
- Max 260ft Range Extension using Xtender™ built-in MeatStick X Charger
- 24+ hours Long-Lasting Battery Life
- App Controlled: The MeatStick App (iOS/Apple Watch/Android) with CookTime™ Smart Alerts
- Charger with Magnetic Back for Easy Access - Powered by 2 AA Batteries (not included)

Microsoft Version History?



Version history provides a running record of changes made to your files over time. It allows you to access old copies of your files and shows you the number of each version, the size of each version, as well as who created each version and when¹. Specifically, here's how it works in different contexts:

Microsoft 365 (SharePoint and Office Apps):

When versioning is enabled, you can track changes to items or files.

You'll see when an item or file was modified and who made the changes.

For example, if someone adjusts the due date of a list item, that information appears in the version history.

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint):

In the desktop version of Office apps, you can:

View and restore previous versions of documents.

Compare different versions to understand the document's progress.

To use version history:

Open an Office app (e.g., Microsoft Word).

Create a blank document.

Click on File and then Save.

Save the file inside the OneDrive folder (version history won't work if you use a different location).

Click the Version History button in the top-right to view and restore specific versions.

Remember, version history is a valuable tool for collaboration, tracking changes, and safeguarding against accidental modifications.

Lamicall 3-in-1 Cord Spring Clip Holder

By Bill James – Tech for Senior

Computer Club of Oklahoma City

This little clip holder is especially useful with the plethora of devices in typical households, where they all require charging and/or power cords. This phenomenon places a myriad of cords and cables underfoot creating a tangled mess. If you are facing a spider web of cables, you are not alone. The basics for good cable management involve a few simple principles that can help keep your cables organized and easily accessible:

Plan Ahead: Before setting up your devices, consider the layout of your space and how you want to arrange your cables. Think about where your power outlets are located and how you can minimize the distance between devices and power sources.

Use Short Cables: Whenever possible, use cables with the appropriate length for your setup. Shorter cables reduce clutter and minimize risk of tangling.

Bundle Cables Together: Use cable ties, Velcro straps, or cable sleeves to bundle together cables that run parallel to each other. This helps

prevent tangling and makes it easier to identify and trace individual cables when needed.

Separate Cables by Function: Group together cables that serve similar functions, such as power cables, data cables, and audio/video cables. This can help you quickly identify and troubleshoot issues related to specific devices or connections.

Label Cables: Use labels or color-coded tags to identify cables at both ends. This can be particularly helpful when you have multiple similar-looking cables connected to the same device or outlet.

Route Cables Neatly: Route cables along walls, baseboards, or cable management channels to keep them out of sight and reduce tripping hazards. Avoid running cables across high-traffic areas or under heavy furniture where they might get pinched or damaged.

Regular Maintenance: Periodically check your cable management system to ensure that cables

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are still neatly organized and properly secured. Remove any unused cables or accessories to prevent clutter from building up over time.

By following these basic principles, you can create a clean and organized cable management system that not only improves the appearance of your space but also makes it easier to maintain and troubleshoot your devices.

Use Cable Management Accessories: Invest in cable management accessories such as cable clips, cable trays, or cable raceways to help keep cables organized and secure. These accessories can be mounted to walls, desks, or other surfaces to provide additional support and protection for your cables. This week's gadget, the Lamicall 3-in-1 Cord Spring Clip Holder, is designed to help you manage your cables. Compared with the older versions of cable holders, this spring clip cord organizer uses a more unique design. It is also smaller in size, making one clip hold three wires. There is one spring clip holder in the middle and two hole clips on both sides. With the spring design, the wire cords can be pressed in and out smoothly yet gripped sturdily.

This cable management holder features a strong Acrylic adhesive pad tape that can sturdily adhere to any clean surfaces and hold various wire cords stably. Also, the stickers can be cleanly removed and replaced, allowing to easily change the clip location without residue adhesive or damage on desk, wall, nightstand, car, office, etc.

The extension length of the middle spring clip is 2.5-8mm (0.1-0.32inch); this desk cord holder spring clip can be applied to almost all the household cables, including iPhone charger cables, USB cords, HDMI thick cables, computer power cords, ethernet cable, etc. The both sides hole holder secures small cables with diameters 3mm-5mm.

You will need to tear off the sticker on the base back of the cable holder and stick it to a smooth surface, wood, marble, plastic, glass, metal, etc. Then press the different size cables into the hole holders or

spring clip. The spring clip construction has a certain room for cable adjustment, allowing the cords to stretch back and forth for easy placement and access.

By investing a little time and effort into cable management, you can create a cleaner, more organized home environment while also making it easier to maintain and upgrade your devices in the future.

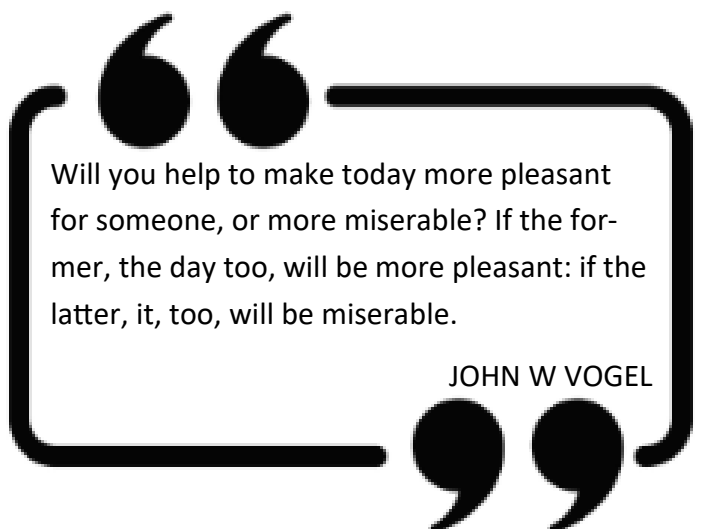
Available from Amazon in 3 and 6 packs:

<https://tinyurl.com/4p626s3e>

A graphic for 'UPCOMING EVENTS' featuring a calendar background with several pushpins (red, blue, yellow) pinned to it. The text 'UPCOMING EVENTS' is written in white on a dark blue rectangular background. Below the graphic, a list of events is provided in blue text.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 11: Help! Can't see, Can't hear, Can't touch**
- June 8: Ask the Guru/Q&A**
- July 13: Annual Picnic**
- August 10 : Fun with AI Graphics**
- September 14: TBD**

A graphic containing a quote by John W Vogel. The quote is enclosed in large, stylized black quotation marks. The text of the quote is in a serif font, and the author's name is in a smaller, all-caps serif font below it.

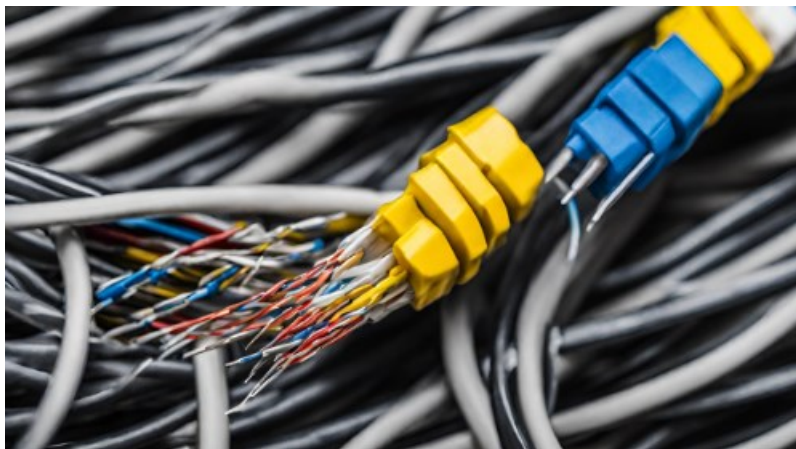
Will you help to make today more pleasant for someone, or more miserable? If the former, the day too, will be more pleasant: if the latter, it, too, will be miserable.

JOHN W VOGEL

Fiber vs. Cable

By Ron Brown
Tech For Senior

<https://www.techforsenior.com/>



In the world of internet connectivity, two technologies stand out: fiber-optic and cable internet. Both offer high-speed internet access, but they have significant differences in terms of speed, reliability, and availability. In this post, we'll delve into the comparison between fiber and cable internet to help you understand which option might be best for you.

What is Fiber Internet?

Fiber-optic internet delivers data using light signals through flexible, transparent fibers made of glass or plastic. It's known for its incredible speed and reliability. Fiber-optic internet offers some of the fastest download and upload speeds available, making it ideal for activities like online gaming, streaming 4K video, and video conferencing.

What is Cable Internet?

Cable internet, on the other hand, uses the same coaxial cable lines that deliver cable television to transmit data. While not as fast as fiber-optic internet, cable internet still provides high-speed internet access. It's widely available and typically more affordable than fiber-optic internet.

Speed and Bandwidth

Fiber-optic internet offers the fastest internet speeds currently available to residential and business consumers. With speeds reaching up to 1 Gbps (1000 Mbps) for both uploads and downloads, fiber-optic internet is ideal for households with multiple users who stream high-definition video, play online games, and download large files simultaneously.

Cable internet speeds can vary depending on the provider and the package you choose. While some

cable internet plans offer impressive speeds, they generally can't match the lightning-fast speeds of fiber-optic internet. Cable internet speeds usually range from 25 Mbps to 500 Mbps, with higher speeds typically costing more.

Reliability and Stability

Fiber-optic internet is known for its reliability and stability. Because fiber-optic cables are made of glass or plastic, they are not susceptible to electromagnetic interference, inclement weather, or signal degradation over long distances. This means that fiber-optic internet connections are less likely to experience slowdowns or outages during peak usage times.

Cable internet, while generally reliable, can be affected by various factors such as network congestion, signal interference, and weather conditions. Additionally, because cable internet connections are shared among multiple users in the same neighborhood, speeds can slow down during peak usage times.

Availability

One of the biggest advantages of cable internet is its widespread availability. Cable internet is available in most urban and suburban areas, making it accessible to a large portion of the population. However, in rural areas and some remote locations, cable internet may not be available, leaving residents with limited options for high-speed internet

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access.

Fiber-optic internet, while growing in availability, is still not as widely available as cable internet. Fiber-optic networks are primarily found in urban and suburban areas, with limited coverage in rural areas. However, many internet service providers are expanding their fiber-optic networks to reach more customers.

Price

When it comes to price, cable internet is generally more affordable than fiber-optic internet. Cable internet plans are often priced lower than fiber-optic plans, making them a more budget-friendly option for many households. However, it's essential to consider the value you're getting for your money. While fiber-optic internet may be more expensive, it offers faster speeds, greater reliability, and higher bandwidth, making it a worthwhile investment for many users.

Conclusion

In conclusion, both fiber-optic and cable internet have their pros and cons. Fiber-optic internet offers lightning-fast speeds, incredible reliability, and unmatched performance, making it ideal for users who demand the best internet experience. Cable internet, while not as fast or reliable as fiber-optic internet, is widely available, more affordable, and suitable for users with moderate internet needs.

When choosing between fiber and cable internet, consider factors such as speed, reliability, availability, and price to determine which option is best for you. Whether you're streaming your favorite movies and TV shows, working from home, or gaming online, both fiber-optic and cable internet can provide the high-speed internet access you need to stay connected in today's digital world.



Over 3,000,000 online manuals to save you time and effort.

By M.H.Members
(Compiled by Claude AI)

The advantage of watching "Tech for Seniors" every week is learning about new products and websites that can make life easier. In a recent episode, Hewie Poplock provided a review of "Manuals Lib," a website that I found to be very helpful.

As Hewie mentioned, Manuals Lib is a valuable resource for finding instruction manuals for various products. I personally found it useful when I misplaced the manuals for a few of my previous purchases and needed guidance on resetting the devices. Manuals Lib had the exact manuals I was looking for, saving me a lot of time and frustration.

The website is easy to navigate, and the search function allows you to quickly find the manual you need. The wide range of products covered, from electronics to appliances, makes Manuals Lib a one-stop-shop for all your manual needs.

ManualsLib is a comprehensive online repository that aims to provide users with easy access to a vast collection of product manuals and user guides. Boasting an extensive library of over 5 million manuals spanning across numerous product categories, this website serves as a valuable resource for anyone seeking information on how to operate, maintain, or troubleshoot various devices and appliances.

One of the standout features of ManualsLib is its

(Continued on page 12)

user-friendly interface. The website's clean and intuitive design makes it easy to navigate and search for the desired manual. Users can either browse through the available categories or perform a quick search using relevant keywords or product names. The search functionality is reliable and efficient, often yielding accurate results within seconds.

The breadth of ManualsLib's collection is truly impressive. From consumer electronics and home appliances to automotive and industrial equipment, the website covers a wide range of products from countless manufacturers. This extensive coverage ensures that users can find the necessary information for almost any device they own or need to operate.

In addition to providing access to manuals, ManualsLib also serves as a platform for users to share their experiences and insights. Each manual page includes a comments section where users can ask questions, offer suggestions, or share valuable tips with others who may be facing similar challenges. This community aspect adds an extra layer of value to the website, fostering a sense of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among users.

Another notable feature of ManualsLib is its commitment to ensuring the authenticity and quality of the manuals available on the website. The team behind ManualsLib carefully vets and verifies the manuals before making them accessible to users. This attention to detail helps maintain the integrity of the information provided, ensuring that users can rely on the accuracy of the content they access.

While ManualsLib excels in many areas, there are a few potential areas for improvement. For instance, the website's interface, while user-friendly, may benefit from a more modern and visually appealing design. Additionally, the availability of manuals for certain niche products or older models could be expanded to cater to a wider range of users.

Overall, ManualsLib is an exceptional resource for anyone seeking product manuals and user guides.

Its vast collection, user-friendly interface, community features, and commitment to quality make it a valuable tool for both individuals and professionals alike. Whether you're trying to set up a new appliance, troubleshoot an issue, or simply gain a better understanding of a product's capabilities, ManualsLib is a reliable and comprehensive source of information.



Overall, the review of Manuals Lib on "Tech for Seniors" was spot-on. It's a fantastic tool that can make life easier by providing quick access to the information you need to use your products effectively.

ManualsLib (<https://www.manualslib.com>)

YOUTUBE VIDEO

An illustration of two elderly men in a room. The man in the foreground has a white beard and is wearing a blue jacket over a white shirt and dark pants. He is holding a drumstick and appears to be playing a drum set. Behind him, another man with glasses and a striped shirt is also playing the drums. The room has a lamp, a small plant on a table, and a window with curtains. The entire scene is framed by a blue border.

“If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.’

HENRY DAVID THOREAU



Zen Color

Digital Coloring Book for Your Artistic Outlet

By Jasmine Blue D’Katz

I have been enjoying various games on my iPad, but I realized that I was spending too much time on them. To strike a better balance, I designated Wednesdays as a "No Game Day." Recently, my friend Judy introduced me to a new app called Zen Color, which has somewhat replaced my game play, even serving as a substitute for my Wednesday No Game Day routine.

Zen Color is now my go-to iPad app for relaxation and creative expression. Instead of gaming, I find myself spending time coloring digital pictures, which has proven to be a therapeutic and calming activity. I have posted a few of my completed artworks on Facebook and discovered that I am not the only one in my social circle enjoying this app. It seems that Zen Color has a growing following among those seeking a tranquil and artistic outlet on their devices.

At its core, Zen Color provides a vast library of intricate line art "canvases" that users can methodically fill in using a selection of gorgeous color palettes and brushes. From traditional mandalas and paisley patterns to more freeform abstract compositions, the app's artwork spans a wide range of moods and styles to suit any taste.

What elevates Zen Color above being merely a sophisticated digital coloring book is its meticulous design and array of thoughtful features geared towards cultivating a truly mindful experience. The app's clean, minimalist interface banishes any visual clutter, allowing your selected artwork to take center stage. Soothing background music and ambient nature sounds help drown out external distractions.

As you begin filling in each section of the artwork with taps of your finger or stylus, the app's responsive brushwork and smooth color gradients make the process incredibly satisfying and therapeutic. You can easily zoom and pan across the canvas, while tools for adjusting brush size, opacity, and color blend mode allow for tight control and creative experimentation.

Zen Color's "Color" technology takes this a step further by using AI to automatically suggest harmonious color palettes that can breathe new life into any drab canvas with a single tap. For those who prefer to work improvisationally, there are also "Infinite" mode canvases that generate boundless, ever-morphing line art patterns to color freehand.



But what really sets this app apart is the way it inadvertently schools' users in core principles of mindfulness. Working incrementally section-by-section, brushstroke-by-brushstroke, you find yourself fully immersed in the present moment. The repetitive motions lull you into a state of "effortless presence" akin to meditation. Yet, the creative act of choosing colors and shaping the artwork's evolution guards against inattention or boredom.

It is akin to a moving mandala - a ritual act of art-making that roots you firmly in the here and now, gently quieting your mind's incessant churn of thoughts about the past and future. Time seems to melt away as you become absorbed in manifesting your personal vision on the digital canvas.

For those feeling uninspired or just looking for a dose of creativity on-the-go, Zen Color's "Gallery" presents an ever-evolving showcase of completed

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

artworks by a global community of users. In addition to admiring these pieces, you can download any to use as inspiration or a starting point for your own work.

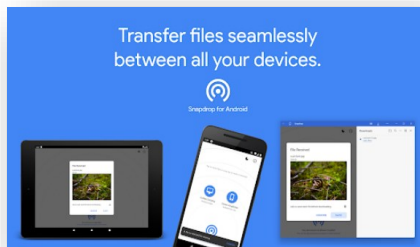


Whether you opt to engage with the app for mere minutes at a time or lose yourself in it for hours on end, Zen Color is a richly engaging tool for anyone seeking mobile mindfulness practice or creative refuge from their harried daily life. In a world of endless virtual realities, it is refreshing to encounter an app singularly devoted to grounding us in the beauty of the present moment.

[View My ZenColor Preview](#)

[YOUTUBE VIDEO](#)

PairDrop



- **Pairing devices:** This allows for easier discovery of specific devices you transfer files to frequently.

Overall, PairDrop is a handy tool for quickly and easily sharing files between devices, especially if you're using a mix of operating systems.

Easiest Way to Transfer File Between Your Mobile and Desktop

By M.H. Members

PairDrop is a tool that lets you share files between devices on your local network, similar to Apple's AirDrop. Here's the key advantage of PairDrop:

- **Cross-platform:** It works on pretty much any device with a web browser, including Windows, Mac, Linux, Android and iOS - unlike AirDrop which is limited to Apple devices.

Here's a quick rundown of how it works:

1. Open PairDrop in the web browser on both the sending and receiving devices.
2. Select the files you want to send on the sending device.
3. The receiving device will appear as an icon on the sending device's screen.
4. Drag the files onto the receiving device's icon to transfer them.

In addition to local file sharing, PairDrop also offers a couple of other features:

- **Public rooms:** You can join temporary public rooms to share files with people on other networks, although this is not as secure as local file sharing.

[Tech for Seniors Video](#)



Take Control Books

Expert Advice from Leading Tech Authors

Take Control Books:

- **Wide Variety of Topics:** Take Control Books covers both Apple-related and non-Apple-related subjects, making it a valuable resource for tech enthusiasts.
- **Accessible and Understandable:** Their clear explanations break down complex topics into digestible chunks.
- **Non-DRM Formats:** Books are available in PDF, ePub, and Mobi formats, allowing flexibility across devices.
- **Reasonably Priced:** Most books are priced below \$15, offering affordability and productivity gains.
- **Diverse Topics:** From technical to non-technical areas, Take Control Books caters to a wide audience.
- **20th Anniversary:** Recently celebrated 20 years of empowering readers in the Apple ecosystem.

In summary, Take Control Books is an invaluable resource for mastering tech subjects!

"The Marked Heart" - Or How My Computer Was Hacked

By Cynthia Simmons

News Journal Editor, L.C.A.C.E.



This past winter, on Netflix I watched the beginning episodes of a foreign language TV-series - "The Marked Heart." The story is about two women. The first woman is introduced as a wife, mother, and musician. Because that woman is a musician who plays the trumpet, she has strong lungs and a strong heart. Her strong heart *marks* her to become the heart donor for a second woman.

The second woman is the beautiful, young and innocent wife of a corrupt, very powerful man. That husband loves his wife to the point of murder, because his wife desperately needs a heart transplant or she will die.

Then the first woman is kidnapped. She escapes and runs for her life. She plays hide and seek with her would-be murderers, but is recaptured. In the next scene she is on an operating table, anesthetized and unconscious. She briefly opens her eyes in one flickering moment of animation before her chest is cut open and her heart is removed.

The story continues with the two women joined together, when the heart of one lives only in the body of the other. (That's when I stopped watching. I don't like mixing horror with romance.)

My marked heart is my computer. Like many people, I put what is important to me on my computer. But, my computer now exists in a very changed and compromised state: one hard drive is missing, the system name is changed, it is now a workstation, a

second user exists with admin privileges. And so on. It has been prepared to be owned by another person, without my permission.

Through perhaps a misunderstanding, someone who offered me technical assistance came to believe that I no longer need or want my computer. And that person hacked my computer before I was ready to give it away. My lesson is, receiving free technical assistance can become a dangerous situation that is ripe for a hack.

To balance things out ethically, I am troubled when I receive assistance from a volunteer I don't know. Because I believe that volunteers should be fairly compensated, somehow. One way is to give that volunteer previously-owned hardware, following the "Reuse and Recycle principle." But as in organ donations - consent is paramount. Without consent, it causes harm.

I introduced my article with the storyline of "The Marked Heart" because it illustrates the legal and moral requirements of organ donations. OK, hacking someone's computer is not murder. BUT before changing someone else's computer - **CLEAR CONSENT IS REQUIRED!**

"It's easier to ask pardon than permission." doesn't work with heart transplants or computers.

Hello Helpful Persons - The common phrase "It's easier to ask pardon than permission." doesn't work with heart transplants or computers.

Make Your Batteries Last Longer

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

<https://ckcs.org/>

lxtown2@gmail.com

When the battery was first invented, no one could imagine that we'd rely so heavily on them in the 21st century.

Wikipedia.org notes, "Experimentation with lithium batteries began in 1912 under American physical chemist Gilbert N. Lewis, but commercial lithium batteries did not come to market until the 1970s in the form of the lithium-ion battery."

Batteries operate our cell phones, tablets, laptops, landline phones, flashlights, wireless mice, trackballs and some trackpads, and many more items. They even power our EV (electric) cars. Batteries are everywhere.

But as all of us know—batteries die. They need to be continually charged. There are steps you can take to extend your batteries' lives. The Cliff Notes version is here: keep them away from heat. Don't leave them in a hot car. Don't leave them sitting in the sun or lying in front of a heat register in your home in the winter.

The How-to-Geek website explains: "You can't fully stop batteries from discharging, but you can do one simple thing across all battery types to lower the discharge rate: keep them cool."

Don't put your devices in the freezer. How to Geek says, this causes condensation that can wreck the electronics as you constantly take the devices in and out of the freezer.

On the other hand, keep battery-powered devices in a cool spot. "You might consider charging and storing your power tool batteries in your cool basement instead of leaving them in your sweltering detached garage. You'll also want to keep electronics



out of hot cars and store them in the coolest part of your home if they aren't in use for a while," adds How to Geek.

"If your batteries are discharging rapidly enough that you practically need to leave them on the charger to ensure they are ready to use when you need them, then it's time to replace them. Batteries degrade over time, even with the best care, and if a battery is no longer properly holding a charge, it should be recycled and replaced." writes the website.



Join us for WACI Tips every Monday at 4:00 PM CST.

Got a Windows or Android device? This group is for you! Share your knowledge and ask questions about your computer, smartphone, and the internet. Volunteers Michael and Judy Yublosky will assist participants with all things *not* Apple.

[Zoom Link](#)

[WACI SHARED DRIVE](#)



Security Facts News and Advice

Security the Cloud-Navigating the Sky of Data Protection

Bob G (Tech for Senior)

In the vast expanse of the digital age, the cloud has become the cornerstone of modern computing, offering businesses and individuals alike a flexible, scalable, and cost-effective solution for data storage and management. However, as the reliance on cloud services grows, so does the complexity of securing these virtual environments. This article will explore the intricacies of cloud security, the prevalence of data breaches, and the labyrinth of compliance issues that organizations must navigate in an increasingly cloud-dependent world.

The Complexities of Cloud Security - Cloud security is a multifaceted discipline that encompasses a range of technologies, policies, services, and controls designed to protect data, applications, and the associated infrastructure of cloud computing.

It is a critical component of an organization's cybersecurity strategy, as it addresses the unique challenges posed by the cloud, such as remote accessibility, multi-tenancy, and the shared responsibility model.

Understanding the Shared Responsibility Model - At the heart of cloud security is the shared responsibility model, which delineates the security obligations of the cloud service provider (CSP) and the customer.

While CSPs like Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform (GCP), and Microsoft Azure are responsible for the security of the cloud infrastructure, customers are accountable for securing their data within the cloud. This model requires a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities to ensure that no aspect of

security is overlooked.

Cybersecurity Threats in the Cloud - The cloud's omnipresence makes it a prime target for cyber threats.

According to CrowdStrike's 2024 Global Threat Report, cloud environment intrusions have surged, with a significant year-over-year increase in both cloud-conscious and cloud-agnostic cases. The report highlights the importance of robust cybersecurity measures to protect against sophisticated attacks that seek to exploit cloud vulnerabilities.

The Prevalence of Data Breaches - Data breaches in cloud computing are becoming more frequent and severe.

The Thales 2022 Cloud Security Report revealed that nearly half of businesses experienced a cloud-based data breach or failed audit in the previous year, marking a concerning upward trend. These breaches often result from complex multi-cloud environments, misconfigurations, and human error, underscoring the need for comprehensive security strategies and rigorous compliance with data protection standards.

The Cost of Data Breaches - The repercussions of a data breach are far-reaching, with the average cost escalating to millions, not to mention the potential damage to an organization's reputation and customer trust.

Encryption and key management are cited as essential security technologies to safeguard sensitive data in the cloud, highlighting the critical role of data protection in mitigating the risks of breaches.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Navigating Compliance Issues - Compliance in the cloud is a complex puzzle, with regulations varying by industry and geography. Organizations must grapple with maintaining compliance amidst the evolving landscape of cloud services and the increasing governance complexity that comes with cloud migration.

Regulatory Challenges - Noncompliance can lead to regulatory investigations, reputational damage, and legal liabilities.

As such, companies must balance innovation with adherence to compliance requirements, often turning these challenges into competitive advantages by implementing strong cloud security strategies that include layered controls across their infrastructure and network.

Best Practices for Cloud Governance and Compliance - To effectively manage cloud governance and compliance, organizations should adopt best practices such as enhancing visibility and control over cloud environments, addressing security risks and vulnerabilities proactively, and ensuring adherence to industry regulations and data privacy laws.

To wrap things up - Securing the cloud is akin to navigating a sky filled with data protection challenges. As organizations soar higher into the cloud, they must equip themselves with the knowledge and tools to safeguard their digital assets against the ever-evolving threats.

Stay safe, stay secure and realize that by understanding the complexities of cloud security, preparing for data breaches, and adhering to compliance standards, they can ensure that their journey through the cloud is both secure and compliant, protecting their most valuable asset: data.

You'll find my video on this topic at <https://youtu.be/q3w9CzxWoE8>

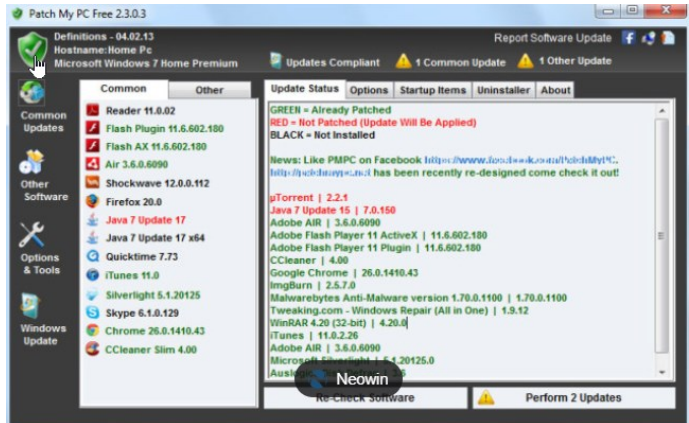
(Copilot (AI) was used to aid in the creation of both the article and the video.)

Patch My PC

PATCH MANAGEMENT MADE EASY

A Comprehensive Review

By M.H. Members



Patch My PC is a robust solution for keeping your computer environment secure and up-to-date. As an automated patch management tool, it stands out for several reasons:

Ease of Use: Setting up Patch My PC within Intune is a breeze. The patching process is seamless, making it an excellent choice for both beginners and experienced users.

Fantastic Patching Capabilities: Patch My PC excels in delivering timely security patches and software updates. Its extensive catalog covers a wide range of third-party products, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

Intuitive Interface: While the interface may not win any design awards, it gets the job done. All buttons are easy to find, and the software “just works.”

Responsive Support: The Patch My PC team is highly responsive. Their knowledge base articles provide clear guidance during setup, and they actively engage with the user community to implement improvements and feature requests.

Integration with SCCM: The ease of integration between Patch My PC’s custom publisher and SCCM (ConfigMgr) is remarkable. It streamlines the patch deployment process and enhances overall efficiency.

No-Brainer Choice: Compared to other similar tools, Patch My PC is a no-brainer. It

offers a comprehensive package, including auto-packaging apps for deployments and task sequences.

Contributors to the Community: The team behind Patch My PC actively contributes to the Microsoft ConfigMgr community. Their free videos and commitment to user success set them apart.

In summary, Patch My PC is a great tool for maintaining security and staying current with software updates. Whether you are a large enterprise or an individual user, this solution ticks all the right boxes. Highly recommended!

Link: [PATCH MY PC](#)

Is Public Wi-Fi Safe?



Generated by Claud AI

Public Wi-Fi networks can pose security risks, so it's important to take precautions when using them. Here are some key points about the safety of public Wi-Fi:

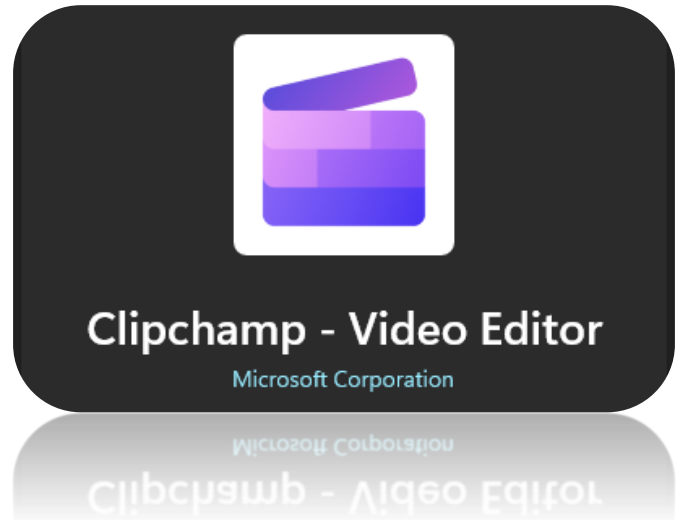
Public networks are unsecured, meaning anyone could potentially intercept the data you send over the network. This makes it easier for attackers to access information like login credentials, emails, financial information, etc.

Malicious individuals could set up a rogue Wi-Fi hotspot with a name similar to the legitimate one to trick users into connecting to their network instead.

Public networks make your devices more susceptible to malware distribution, remote access by hackers, and man-in-the-middle attacks where the attacker inserts themselves between your device and the network.

However, using HTTPS encryption when browsing websites and using a virtual private network (VPN) can improve security substantially on public Wi-Fi.

The risks are lower if you are just browsing basic websites that don't require logins or transmitting sensitive information. But for accessing email, online banking, work networks, etc., it's best to avoid public Wi-Fi altogether or use a trustworthy VPN if you must use it. Overall, being very cautious and limiting activities is recommended on open public networks.



ClipChamp is a free, web-based video editing software that allows users to edit videos online without having to download any additional software or apps. Some key features of ClipChamp include:

1. Trimming and cutting videos
2. Combining multiple video clips
3. Adding text, titles, and annotations
4. Applying video filters and effects
5. Adjusting video speed
6. Recording voiceovers
7. Adding background music or audio tracks
8. Converting videos to different formats
9. Compressing videos for easier sharing

ClipChamp provides a user-friendly, drag-and-drop interface that makes video editing accessible even for beginners. It supports importing videos from various sources like your computer, Google Drive, Dropbox, or by simply pasting a video URL.

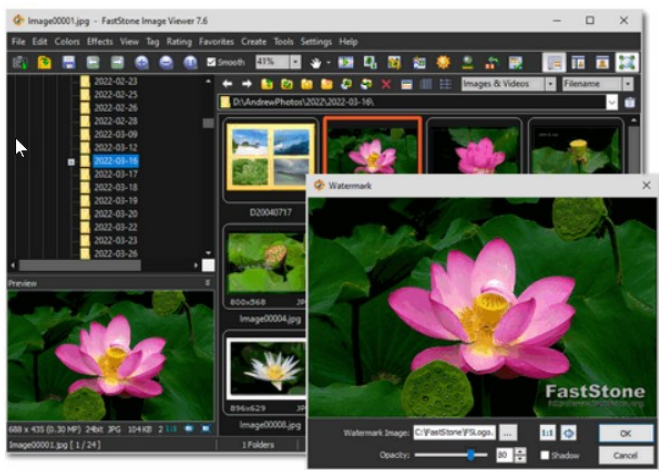
(Continued on page 21)

My Favorite Apps

By Jasmine Blue D’Katz

FastStone Image Viewer UninstallView

Image browser, converter and editor that supports all major graphic formats.



FastStone Image Viewer is a fast, stable, user-friendly image browser, converter and editor. It has a nice array of features that include image viewing, management, comparison, red-eye removal, emailing, resizing, cropping, retouching and color adjustments. Its innovative but intuitive full-screen mode provides quick access to EXIF information, thumbnail browser and major functionalities via hidden toolbars that pop up when your mouse touches one of the four edges of the screen. Other features include a high quality magnifier and a musical slideshow with 150+ transitional effects, as well as lossless JPEG transitions, drop shadow effects, image annotation, scanner support, histogram and much more.

Overall, FastStone Image Viewer is a comprehensive solution for users who need a fast, stable, and feature-rich image viewer, converter, and editor in a single package.

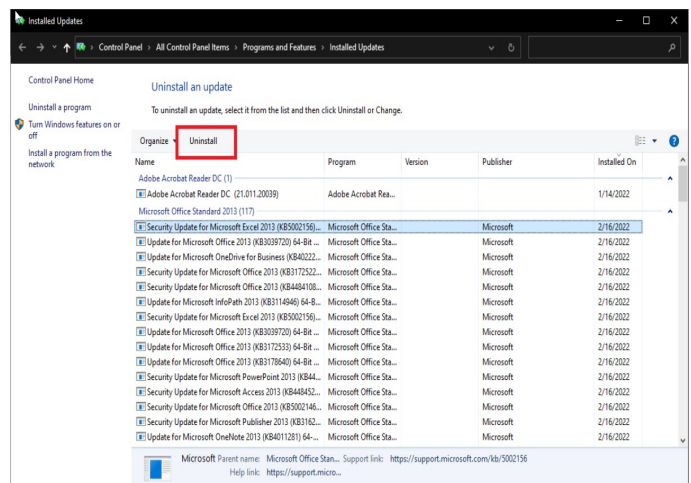
[FastStone Image Viewer Tutorial](#)

Collects information about all the programs installed on your system and displays details.

UninstallView is a portable utility developed by NirSoft that provides a comprehensive list of all installed programs on a Windows computer. It displays detailed information about each program, including its installation date, location, registry entries, version details, and more. One of the key features of UninstallView is its ability to quickly and easily uninstall programs with just a few clicks, eliminating the need to search for individual uninstallers.

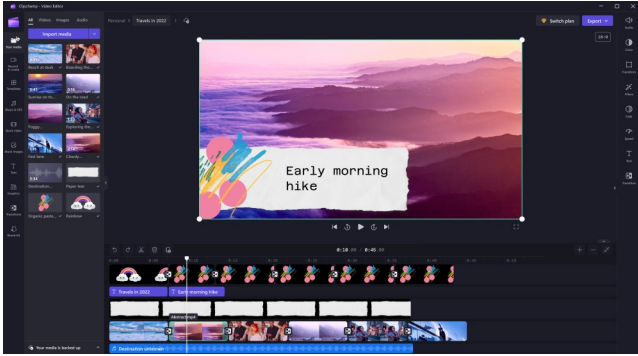
Unlike traditional uninstallers, UninstallView requires no installation itself, making it a highly portable tool that can be run from any location as long as the executable file is available. Additionally, UninstallView offers the capability to remotely uninstall programs on other computers within the same network, making it a valuable tool for system administrators.

UninstallView also allows users to modify the installation options of programs, providing greater control over the uninstallation process. For users with cluttered systems or those seeking a more efficient way to manage installed software, UninstallView is an invaluable tool that streamlines the process of identifying and removing unwanted programs.



(Continued from page 19)

One of the main advantages of ClipChamp is that it runs entirely in your web browser, eliminating the need to install any software locally. This makes it a convenient option for quick video editing tasks or for users who don't have access to traditional desktop video editing software.



While ClipChamp is a free tool, it does offer some premium features and options through paid subscriptions, which provide additional tools, effects, and higher export qualities.

Hewie Poplock: ClipChamp Video

Members Helping Members

Just think you could have submitted a paragraph or two that would help your fellow Members



Hewie Poplock

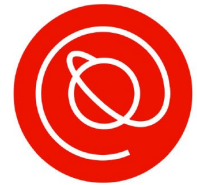
[Video Library](#)

Check out Hewie's library of videos, shorts, playlist and more. Most recent is his video on Local Send and Manual and User Guides. Hewie also explores AI tools for seniors.



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 www.seniorplanet.org

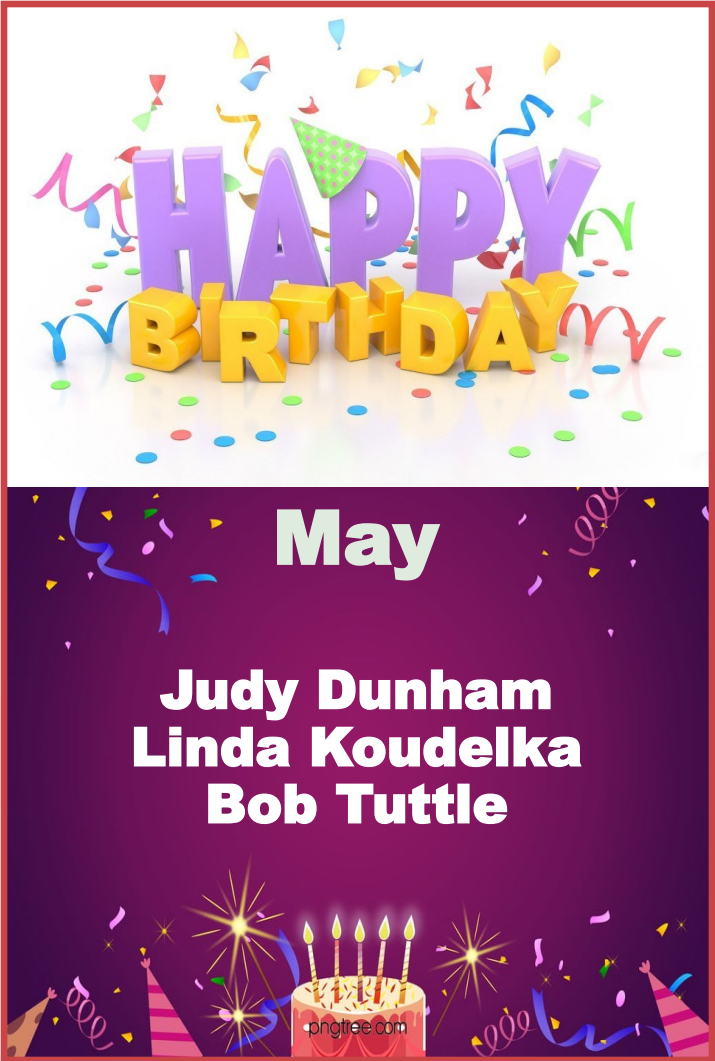
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Computer Services

**Desktops,
Laptops,
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and more**



During our October Zoom meeting the following two computer services were mentioned.

White Box Computers

They say they are the place for all your computer repairs & upgrades at nearly half the prices of the competition.

<https://whiteboxcomputers.org>

847-833-9324

ZYTEK Services

Has been around for over 30 years and offers the best in fast, friendly, high-quality, fair price computer service solutions

847-336-2259



Answer: With the country facing wartime shortages in late 1941, the Treasury Department turned to Walt Disney to spearhead a nationwide campaign for their new tax programs. Eager to assist Uncle Sam, Disney produced a seven-minute short titled

"The New Spirit," showcasing Donald Duck dutifully filling out his tax forms. The short earned an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary, so naturally, a sequel, The Spirit of '43, went into production in time for the next tax season. Donald Duck, a beloved icon in the Disney universe, was chosen as the spokesman due to his immense popularity at the time.

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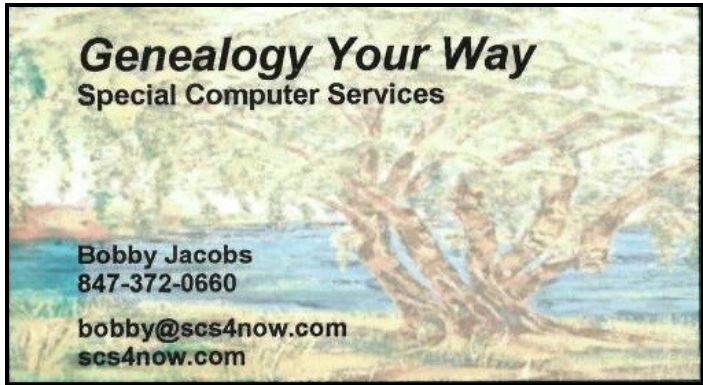
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