

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

NEWS JOURNAL

“Members Helping Members”

October 2024

(since 1983)

Volume 41, Issue 06

ACADEMIA ON AI

DePaul experts assess the impact of artificial intelligence

DePaul Magazine, issued quarterly by my alma mater, DePaul University, dedicated its Spring 2024 issue to "Academia on AI." A full PDF is available for free to be downloaded at:

<https://via.library.depaul.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1332&context=depaul-magazine>

The 37 pages may appear too long and cumbersome to read. (But it's mostly articles publicizing new academic programs and a few alumni who are excelling in very unusual careers - like the law student who stopped being a lawyer to become the designer of custom-made suits for celebrities.)

However, pages 22-26 are very straightforward about how AI can be helpful or harmful, depending upon how it is trained to analyze data. And how students are instructed to use AI along with their standard course assignments. It doesn't seem to be mysterious; articles mostly focus on AI's ability to notice trends that could be hidden by lots of extra details and events happening at the same time. AI seems to have extra sensitivity, like a purebred bloodhound that sticks to the trail it's been told to follow or the super-computers used to track

weather, with so many variables that humans cannot sort the data out into meaningful projections.

The academics from various DePaul departments interviewed cover: marketing to specific types of customers, physics, advertising, law (intellectual property law, asking at what point does an AI entity become a partial owner of the product it helps create), library cataloging, tracking computer bias that may interfere with data analysis, improving the academic experience for students who closely partner with AI when thinking creatively and critically, policing the use of AI to generate scripts for screen writers, and finally, the director of the first-year writing program states that "It's crucial to ensure that our own voices, creativity and innovation are not surrendered to AI." (Erin Workman)

There is also specific bio-medical research, where AI is being used in research for lung cancer, and COVID19, and some less easily understood connections between brain injuries and violence.

Surprisingly, AI is learning to recognize handwritten text, similar to the optical character recognition used for typewritten text.—Cynthia Simmons, L.C.A.C.E. Editor

*"Members Helping
Members"
(since 1983)*

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Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

c/o Group Ambassador

"J.J." Johnson

News Journal

The LCACE News Journal is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions which will be acknowledged in this newsletter. Send articles to editor@lcace.org Permission is granted to reproduce any or all parts of this newsletter in other User Group publications, provided that credit is given to LCACE and the individual author(s). Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

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 open to the public and usually held on the second Saturdays at the Grayslake Heritage Center, 164 Hawley St., Grayslake, IL 60030. (Excepting July and December.) At 11:30 the meeting room opens, with a free Help Desk from 11:30-12 noon. At 12:00 the business meeting begins .

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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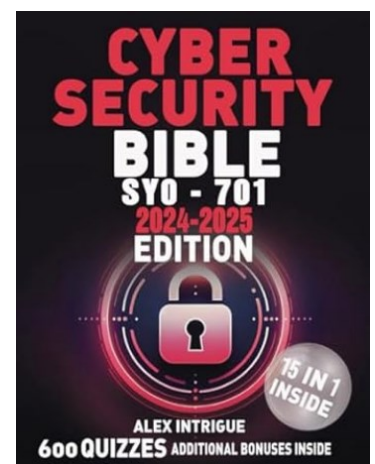
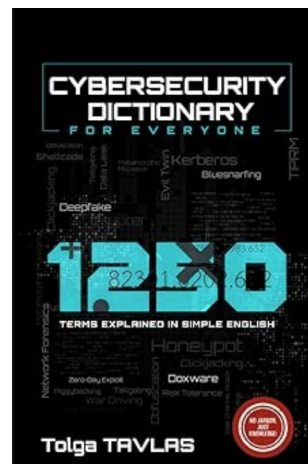
October is Cybersecurity Month

October 12th L.C.A.C.E. Program

“Cybersecurity for Seniors”

Lake County Cyber Crime Lab Director

Mr. J.B. Brooks



**Amazon 2024 Offerings on
CYBERSECURITY:
The Cybersecurity Dictionary
*Cybersecurity Bible***



Deliberations and Passing Thoughts

In our club we have many veterans that have served our county. Two of our veterans, Roger Busch and Mike McEnery, have been selected to be on the Lake County Honor Flight #26 in October. Lake County Honor Flights celebrate America's veterans with a multi-day trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. At our last meeting JJ Johnson talked about his experience being a previous honor flight. At our meeting in November, hopefully Mike and Roger will give us feedback on their trip experience. And to all our members who are veterans, Thank You For Your Service!

November 5th is another important date on our calendars: **Election Day!** This year there are elections for county, local, state and president. If you don't know much about a candidate or a referendum, use Google to learn more. You can also use a search engine to do fact checking. You can vote early, by mail-in ballot or on election day.

Be Sure To Vote.

We have all heard and read about the various hacking that has occurred. October is Cybersecurity month. The October meeting will be a presentation on Cybersecurity for Seniors by J.B. Brooks, Director of the Lake County Illinois Cyber Crime Unit. Be sure to attend as this should be an enlightening presentation.

Our December holiday party is just around the corner. Judy and Eric Rehberger will be looking for members to help in planning the party. Consider being a part of the planning committee.



Diane Carlson

L.C.A.C.E. President

PERSONAL DIPLOMACY



The whole world is learning that treaties, constitutions, ordinances, and bonds are good only to the extent that they are made coincident with basic human relationships which have the approval of that sensitive quick-acting dominant power, the public opinion of the world.

OWEN D. YOUNG



The Honor Flight organization is a national non-profit initiative dedicated to honoring American veterans by transporting them to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials dedicated to their service. The organization operates through the Honor Flight Network, which consists of over one hundred independent hubs across the United States. These flights are provided at no cost to the veterans, ensuring that as many veterans as possible can participate.

The primary focus has been on World War II veterans, but the program also accommodates veterans from the Korean and Vietnam Wars, as well as terminally ill veterans from any service period. The organization began in 2005 and has since transported over 244,000 veterans to Washington, D.C.

Veterans are accompanied by volunteer guardians who assist them throughout the trip. The experience includes visits to various memorials, and veterans are often greeted with applause and ceremonies both upon arrival and return. The Honor Flight Network emphasizes the urgency of their mission, given the aging veteran population.

The Lake County Honor Flight hub was established in 2014 by Paula Carballido after she acquired the funds to take a few veterans to Washington DC. Upon returning the veterans suggested this to become a regular event. Unlike Chicago and Milwaukee who only offer single day Honor Flights, LCHF conducts three multi-day trips (April, August and October) per year taking 23-24 veterans on an Honor Flight.

The veterans are only allowed to carry a camera phone or smartphone, and the guardian will be handling any-

thing else as well as the wheelchair that will be provided to each veteran whether they need it or not. The trips include an EMT, a photographer, and a crew to handle other equipment. As of this year, Lake County Honor Flight has taken twenty-six flights and 538 veterans with a waiting list of over 208.

I had the pleasure of traveling on **Honor Flight trip #16** in August 2019 with my daughter as my guardian. I was selected to be one of the four veterans to place the wreath on the grave of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

Our Lake County veteran's flight is out of General Mitchell Airport in Milwaukee, with local police departments, motorcycles, and veterans in their cars escorting them to and from the airport. I counted over 20 police cars, 70 motorcycles, and 20+ Corvettes in my escort home. We are escorted back to the North Chicago Veterans Memorial Park where our friends and family are there to celebrate our Home Coming!

Dwight "J.J." Johnson, United States Navy (ret)

[Lake County Honor Flight Website](#)

[Honor Flight #16: Photo Gallery](#)

[Honor Flight # 16: Videos](#)

[Honor Flight # 26: Photos Gallery](#)

[Lake County Honor Flight](#)





By Jasmine Blue D’Katz
<https://www.avg.com>

Over the years, I have tried several virus and malware protection programs on my computer, but AVG has become my program of choice. In the realm of cybersecurity AVG Internet Security has long been a familiar name, although it faces off with its own sibling, Avast who purchased AVG in 2016. I purchased the multi-computer package which allows me to install AVG on up to ten computers, although I do not own that many computers.

Microsoft Defender, formerly known as Windows Defender, has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a basic antivirus program. Today, it is a comprehensive security suite offering a robust set of features to protect your devices from a wide range of threats. Although Defender is FREE, I still prefer to use AVG Internet Security.

In the ever-evolving landscape of online threats, choosing the right security software is crucial. AVG Internet Security, a veteran in the field, offers a comprehensive suite of features for protecting your digital life. But is it truly the guardian angel you need? Let us delve into its pros, cons, and pricing to help you decide.

Pros:

- **Rock-solid malware protection:** AVG consistently scores high in independent tests like AV-TEST and AV-Comparatives. Its multi-layered defense, including real-time scanning, behavior analysis, and cloud-based threat detection, effectively shields against viruses, ransomware, spyware, and other malicious software.
- **Intuitive interface:** AVG's interface is user-friendly and easy to navigate, even for tech novices. The main dashboard is clear and concise, with quick access to all essential features. Additionally, helpful tutorials and contextual menus provide

guidance for those unfamiliar with security software.

- **Performance-friendly:** Unlike some resource-heavy antivirus programs, AVG operates with minimal impact on your system's performance. You will not experience significant slowdowns during scans or while using your computer for everyday tasks.
- **Feature-rich suite:** Beyond core antivirus protection, AVG Internet Security offers a plethora of additional features to enhance your online safety. These include:
 - Enhanced firewall: Monitors incoming and outgoing network traffic to block unauthorized access and prevent intrusions.
 - Web shield: Protects you from malicious websites, phishing attempts, and unsafe downloads.
 - Email protection: Scans incoming and outgoing emails for malware and phishing links.
 - Webcam and ransomware protection: Prevents unauthorized access to your webcam and blocks ransomware attacks that encrypt your files.

Free version available: A limited free version of AVG Antivirus provides basic malware protection, web shield, and email protection. This option can be a good starting point for users on a tight budget.

Overall:

AVG Internet Security delivers solid malware

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protection and a user-friendly interface at a competitive price. However, concerns about data privacy, aggressive upselling, and the lack of advanced features may deter some users. If you prioritize strong malware protection and a user-friendly experience, AVG is a good option. However, if you need advanced features or have privacy concerns, you might want to consider alternative security solutions.

Remember, the best antivirus software is the one that meets your specific needs and budget.

FREE eBook



[DOWNLOAD](#)

Which Face Is Real?

Seeing through the illusions of a fabricated world

Can you identify the real face?

By Jasmine Blue D’Katz

WhichFacesReal.com is a website created by researchers to help educate people about deepfakes and synthetic media. The site presents pairs of facial images and asks users to guess which one is a real photograph and which is an AI-generated fake.

While the site is educational, it's important to note that AI technology is continuously improving. The ability to distinguish real from fake images may become increasingly difficult for humans, emphasizing the need for technological solutions and media literacy

Since the site's creation, there have been further advancements in AI image generation, such as DALL-E, Midjourney, and Stable Diffusion, which can create a wide variety of images from text prompts, not just faces.

This website serves as a valuable tool for raising awareness about the capabilities and potential impacts of AI-generated media in our increasingly digital world. It underscores the importance of developing both technical and critical thinking skills to navigate the evolving landscape of digital information.

[What Face is Real](#)





Protect Yourself From Text Message Cyberattacks.

Sourced by Perplexity AI

Every day, cyber criminals create new methods of obtaining private financial information from unsuspected individuals most commonly employing tactics like emailing strangers and convincing them to either share personal information or take an action that compromises their system and devices.

Known as “phishing,” please cybercrimes attempts cannot also come by way of short message services SMS or text messaging, and when they do it is called smishing.

Scammers use smishing to prompt victims to click on enter net links or send classified or personal information through text and other messaging apps, making individuals vulnerable to identity theft and even extortion. However, understanding their methods can help you protect yourself. Here is what to know: cyber criminals often use tactics called spoofing, when they impersonate a known sender or transmit messages from a legitimate number. Even if you know the sender, it is still important to verify the message’s legitimacy before responding, opening an attachment, we are clicking on a link that could potentially compromise your device.

Cyber criminals also share stolen credentials and personal information more readily now and work in gangs, ultimately amplifying their threat. Through social engineering of their political available information often gleaned

from social media and private data procured illicitly, scammers are able to craft text messages pacifically designed to lower their defenses. This means communication may look like it is being sent from a known person or number, possibly making reference to sheer knowledge. Fund raisers may apply this sense of urgency or other scary tactics that prompt you to react quickly instead of taking the time to scrutinize a request.

Additionally, the ever-growing capability of generative artificial intelligence AI tools have made it easier for scammers to develop smishing attempts that closely mere conversations, making it simpler and more affordable to distribute cyber-attacks successfully to a large audience.

Weather previous missing and phishing messages often do not make sense if generative AI advances, these messages contain fewer grammatical or spelling errors. As a result, users are less able to distinguish them from legitimate conversations,

Vigilance is key especially as attacks become more sophisticated. One way to verify senders’ identity is by cross checking short codes be 5- or 6-digit number used by companies to deliver text messages to your phone. Each of these unique codes is used for certain purposes

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to transmit card activity alert for instance.

mini companies such as PNC Bank, have a stablished sources to enable customers to verify the legitimacy of text messages appearing to come from them. By referring PMC's short code page for example, you can verify whether a text message originated from a legitimate short code, help you detect and avoid possible impersonation fraud.



Use these additional strategies to help you thwart smishing attempts:

1. If you are not expecting the message, precced with cautions.
2. Do not immediately respond.
3. Do not click on any links within a text message. Nav gate to the URL missing a different meaning to vali date it.
4. If the message appears to come from a familiar com pany, contact them on a different channel to confirm legitimacy.
5. Getting a text is sequential call does not increase legitimacy. Hang up and call the company or finan cial institution directly using a known telephone number.
6. Screenshot and send any suspicious message ap pearing to come from a company to them to verify and alert.
7. To report smishing to all mobile telecom carriers' screenshot and send the message to 7726. For add ed protection use the "Report Junk" feature on your mobile carrier's system.
8. Visit the FCC website for more information on how to avoid dismissing scams.



When it comes to having a backup plan, Navy SEALs go by the rule that "Two is one and one is none." They're not often one-upped, but in the world of computer back up, even two is none. The gold standard until recently has been the 3-2-1 rule—three copies of your data on two different media with one copy stored off-site.

The 3-2-1 rule still has value, especially for individuals who aren't backing up at all. But today, the gold stand ard is evolving. In this post, we'll explain why 3-2-1 is being replaced by more comprehensive strategies; we'll look at the difference between the 3-2-1 rule and emerging rules, including 3-2-1-1-0 and 4-3-2; and we'll help you decide which is best for you.

Why Is the 3-2-1 Backup Strategy Falling Out of Fa vor?

When the 3-2-1 backup strategy gained prominence, the world looked a lot different than it does today, technology-wise. The rule is thought to have originat ed in the world of photography in Peter Krogh's 2009 book, "The DAM Book: Digital Asset Management for Photographers." At that time, tape backups were still widely used, especially at the enterprise level, due to their low cost, capacity, and longevity.



The 3-2-1 strategy improved upon existing practices of making one copy of your data on tape and keeping it off-site. It advised keep ing three copies of your data (e.g., one primary copy and two back ups) on two different media (e.g., the primary copy on an internal hard disk, a backup copy on tape, and an additional backup copy on an external HDD or tape) with one copy off-site (likely the tape backup).



DIGITALEARN.ORG

Digital Learning

Use a Computer to Do Almost Anything!

By Jasmine Blue D’Katz (Perplexity AI)

DigitalLearn.org is an online platform developed by the Public Library Association (PLA) that provides resources and training for digital literacy. It offers a variety of free, accessible courses aimed at helping individuals improve their computer and technology skills. The platform features short, video-based courses that cover essential topics such as using computers, navigating websites, managing email, and understanding internet privacy. These resources are available in both English and Spanish, making them accessible to a wider audience.

DigitalLearn.org offers a variety of digital literacy courses covering essential technology skills. The main categories of courses available include:

1. Computer Basics: This category covers fundamental skills such as:

- Using search engines and navigating websites
- Setting up and participating in video conferences (e.g., using Zoom)
- Online safety, including account/password management and avoiding frauds/scams
- Setting up and using email accounts (e.g., Gmail)
- Operating systems basics for Windows 10 and macOS
- Managing files and folders

2. Tablet Basics: Courses focused on using tablet devices

3. Microsoft Tools: Courses covering various Microsoft applications, including:

Excel (data management, charts, formulas, and advanced features)

PowerPoint (creating presentations, adding visuals, and animations)

Publisher (creating flyers, greeting cards, and calendars)

Word (document creation, formatting, and advanced features)

4. Google Tools: Courses on using Google Drive for file management and sharing

5. Accounting Apps: Training on accounting software like QuickBooks, covering topics such as company setup, customer and vendor management, and financial reporting

6. Digital Connections Video Series: Aimed at 6-8th grade students (**but very useful to other audiences**), covering topics like:

- Digital habits and finding balance online and offline
- Online communication
- Managing digital drama and cyberbullying
- Online safety and avoiding scams
- Navigating misinformation
- Digital identity

7. Telehealth Basics: A course on the fundamentals of telehealth

These courses are available in both English and Spanish, making them accessible to a wider audience. The platform provides short, video-based lessons with narration, designed to be easily digestible for learners of various skill levels. Additionally, DigitalLearn.org offers resources for trainers, including instructor guides, activity sheets, handouts, and PowerPoint presentations, to facilitate both in-person and online training sessions.

[DIGITALEARN.ORG](https://www.digitalearn.org)

Recover Your Wi-Fi Password

By David Kretchmar,
Hardware Technician
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
<https://www.scscclb>

dkretch (at) gmail.com

Computer users often seek technical support when they cannot access the Internet via their home wireless system.

First, the technician will usually walk the user through the reset procedure for the router or router/modem (turn them off and on). If that does not fix the problem and it is determined the modem is receiving a good signal, the subsequent conversation often goes something like this:

Technician: What is your password for your router?

User: I don't have a password.

Technician: If your router is not secured (i.e., password protected), you should be able to connect.

User: I don't have a password. I click the Google (or other browser) icon and get online.

At this point, the Technician explains to the User that the password is stored on the User's computer and that a few steps are required to access that password. The technician might guide the user through the process of recovering the password using the following procedure:

If the computer connects to the Wi-Fi, it automatically.

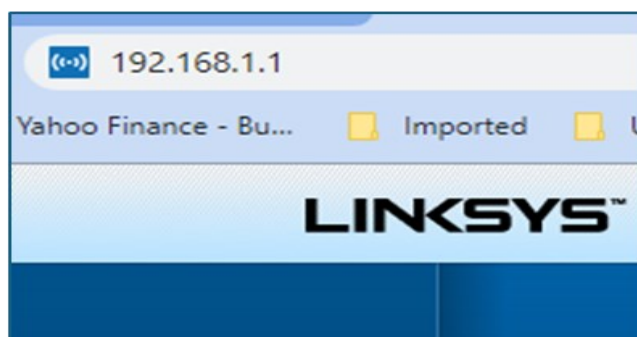
Microsoft has buried the Wi-Fi password on a computer more deeply with the latest version of Windows 10 and 11 than with prior versions. It is the same procedure for both 10 and 11. You can still find your Wi-Fi password using the following steps (note ... where I use the term "click," I mean a single click on the left mouse button or a single tap on a touchscreen.):

Find your way to the "Wireless Properties."

Open your Control Panel (Type "Control Panel" into

the search box to the right of the Windows button on your Taskbar and Enter). Click on Network and Internet. Click on Network and Sharing Center, then click on the name of your network, which appears in blue. In the Wi-Fi window that opens, click on Wireless Properties. In the new window that opens, click on the Security tab, then check the box on Show Characters.

If you only own a smartphone/tablet or have a PC that has not stored the Wi-Fi password



Log in to your router as an administrator. You can access your router by entering its IP address into your browser, such as Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. You can research the default IP address of your router by Googling "IP address [brand name of your router]". Every router I've dealt with had an address of "192.168.X.X". The most common value for X is the number 1 (for both Xs). If that does not work, try substituting the numbers 0 or 2 for one or both of the Xs. After you log in, you should be able to find the Wi-Fi settings on the Administrative pages of your router. There, you can look up your password.

IP settings	
IP assignment:	Manual
IPv4 address:	192.168.1.211
IPv4 subnet prefix length:	24
IPv4 gateway:	192.168.1.1
IPv4 DNS servers:	192.168.1.1

Ed. Note. On Windows 10/11, you don't have to guess. You can find the internal IP address of your network router by going to Settings > Network and Internet > Status and, under the name of your Wi-Fi (or Ethernet) connection, clicking

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Properties. A screen will display; near the bottom are the IP settings. The IPv4 gateway IP address is the internal address of your router.

If you are like many people

The Wi-Fi password is often written on a sticker on the back of your router. This is how I usually set up home routers, and it might be a good thing to do after you have recovered your Wi-Fi password.

This is a simple but effective strategy since it is easy to find.

A burglar would have to break into your home to steal your password, and they probably would focus on more tangible items.



Which character appears in the upper right hand corner during the opening credits of the Brady Bunch?

- ⇒ Carol
- ⇒ Greg
- ⇒ Marcia
- ⇒ Cindy



Windows 11 Surprise!

By Jasmine Blue D'Katz

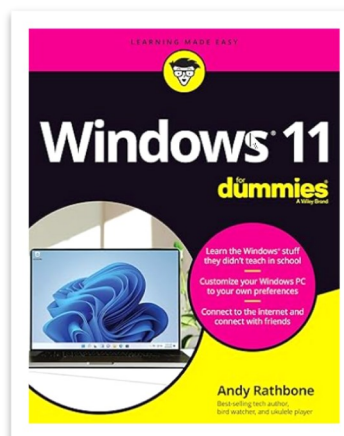
I had been hesitant to upgrade to Windows 11, knowing that my four-year-old main computer was not eligible for the upgrade. Last year, I purchased a new HP laptop with Windows 11, which I use only for travel and presentations, so I had some familiarity with the new operating system.

My main computer runs 24/7, and I typically restart it after installing new software and perform a weekly restart on Sunday nights. To my surprise, on a recent Monday morning, I noticed a drastic change in my desktop: the icons on my taskbar were now centered, and other icons had been repositioned.

I was not fully prepared for Windows 11's redesigned interface and its "streamlined look." I had to do some exploring to reconfigure my system to a more familiar setup, particularly the menu. Many of my shortcut icons had been removed, and I found the process of restoring

them slightly different from what I was used to.

While I understand that Windows 11 comes with advanced built-in security features, I am now facing an unexpected learning curve. As I become more attuned to this new operating system, I may have more questions and observations to share.



FREE eBook



Seize The Day—Carpe Diem (My personal account...)

I was on a roll, tackling old mail and making good progress, when suddenly **I STOPPED**. At the Sumer issue of the Lake County Forest Preserve's *Horizon* magazine. Its cover photo has an outrageous display of brilliant red-scarlet flowers filling some space beneath tall deciduous trees. The image "felt" full-frame, but the photo printed size was 7"x7". I was very curious, so I checked the credits:

"During a morning bike ride along the Des Plaines River Trail, nature enthusiast Jason Cristino paused to admire cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*). Captivated by the vivid reds scattered across the understory of this restored woodland, he snapped this photo with his cell phone."

Still impressed, I called the Forest Preserve for more information and was told that Cristino uses an iPhone13 mini. (An iPhone that is reasonably priced, especially for refurbished phones.) I hope to speak with Cristino. There's a rule in graphics that when images are enlarged, quality is usually lost. Unless the photographer is very talented and skilled. My personal lesson from this is to "Seize the Day," to open my eyes to the possibilities around me. I hope that you too gain from this example of a person who is watching carefully for possibilities. The seasons are changing, these moments may pass quickly. Cynthia Simmons, L.C.A.C.E. Editor



Microsoft Snip and Sketch

By M.H. Members

Windows Snip and Sketch is Microsoft's new dedicated utility that allows users to quickly capture, annotate, and share screenshots. It serves as a replacement for the traditional Snipping Tool, offering enhanced functionality and a more user-friendly interface.

To begin using Snip and Sketch, users need to download it from Microsoft's online store, as it is not built into Windows like its predecessor. Once installed on Windows 10, users can easily access Snip and Sketch by pressing Window key+Shift+S or assigning it to the PrtScn hotkey.

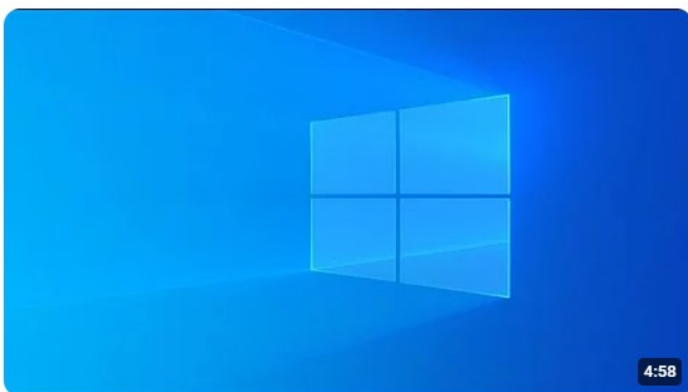
The tool provides various capture options, allowing users to capture the entire screen, a specific window, or a custom portion using either a rectangle or freeform tool. While it lacks the ability to scroll windows for capturing webpages extensively, it compensates with features like a 3- or 10-second delay to adjust screen content before capturing.

The editing capabilities of Snip and Sketch are robust, offering tools to draw over screenshots with different pen and pencil thicknesses and colors. Users can also utilize a ruler and protractor tool for precise modifications.

However, some features present in the beta version of Snip and Sketch were removed in the final release, such

as voice annotation and video exporting. This limitation may disappoint users who relied on these functionalities for tasks like narrating diagrams or sketching plays. For more advanced needs like video recording, users are advised to explore alternative tools like Snagit or Screen-cast-O-Matic. Despite these drawbacks, Windows Snip and Sketch remains a valuable tool for basic screenshot needs. It allows users to save screenshots as GIFs, JPGs, or PNG files and offers seamless sharing options via email, OneNote, or Twitter.

While it may fall short compared to premium screen-capture utilities in terms of advanced features like OCR support or GIF creation, it caters well to individuals seeking a simple and free solution for capturing and annotating screenshots. In conclusion, Windows Snip and Sketch is a practical utility that meets the fundamental requirements for capturing and editing screenshots efficiently. Its user-friendly interface, basic editing tools, and easy sharing options make it a suitable choice for casual users looking for a straightforward solution without the need for complex features found in more advanced screen-capture software.



[CLICK IMAGE TO WATCH VIDEO](#)



At a gathering, an older woman thought she'd have some fun by asking a young man to guess her age. While he hesitated, she said, "You must have some idea how old I am."

"Yes I do," the young man replied with a smile. "But I can't decide whether to make it ten years younger because of your appearance, or ten years older because of your intelligence."

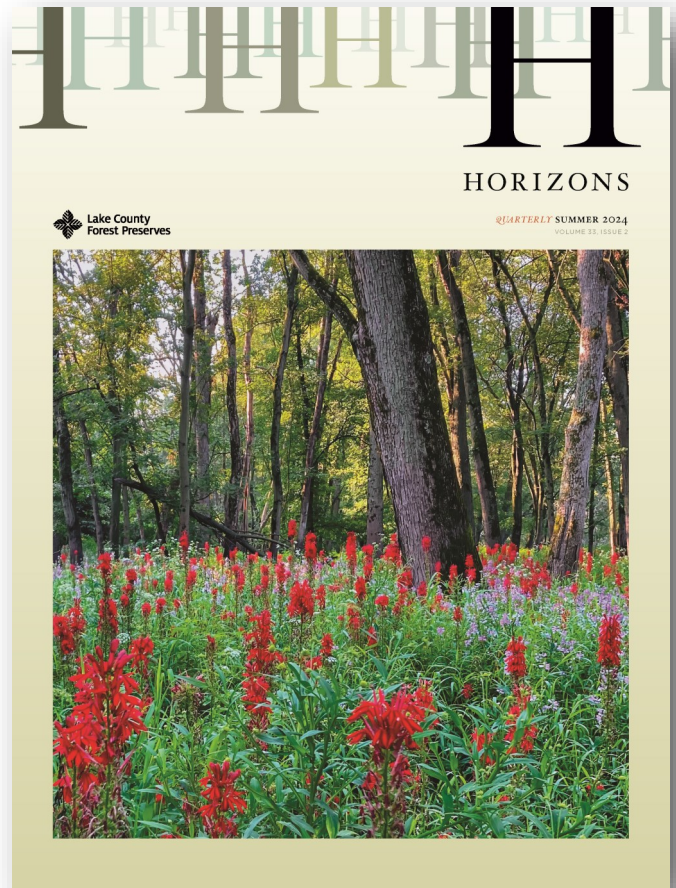
Continuing with Photography

As a tool to increase our awareness of the world around us and the passing of the seasons, on this page are: a thumbnail of the Summer *Horizons* quarterly magazine published by the Lake County Forest Preserve, with Jason Cristino 's photo on it's cover.

And below that is a commercial photo from iStock, showing (perhaps) a too-perfect autumn evening. But this is the proper time and place for viewing , for encountering the fullness of ripe pumpkins. Don't miss that moment if it is in front of you.

On the next page is an article by a Canadian photographer, Linda Buske, member of the Ottawa PC Users' Group in Ontario, Canada. She has written several articles on photography that were selected by APCUG to be shared with other user groups.

Buske's article gives commonsensical and simple math guidelines to help you decide the sizes and quality of photos you may print from an image file.—CS



Printing Your Photos

By Lynda Buske

Published in Ottawa PC News (Month Year)
Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada

<https://opcug.ca>

Editor: brigittelord(at)opcug.ca



Despite our digital world, it is really nice sometimes to print a photo that you can stick on your fridge, display on your wall, or even frame and give as a gift. The main thing to remember is that the print size for a digital image may be limited.

All digital cameras and cell phones have sufficient megapixels to provide the resolution for a 4x6 or 5x7 photo enlargement. Many would have enough for much larger prints (e.g., 8x10 or 11x14). However, cropping in post-production will reduce your image dimensions.

The best starting point is determining what a good quality home or commercial printer will provide. In most instances, the gold standard is 300 dpi (dots per inch), which you can equate to 300 pixels. That means if you want to print an 8x10, the long side of your image would ideally be at least 3000 pixels (10x300). For 16x20, you would probably like the long side to have around 6000 pixels.

The table below provides a rough guideline for the maximum print size of good quality that you can expect based on the number of megapixels your camera has.

Camera resolution	File size at high resolution (pixels)	Max print size at 330 dpi
2 megapixels	1200 x 1600	4 x 5
3 megapixels	1536 x 2048	5 x 7
	2448 x 3264	8x 10
8 megapixels	2592 x 3888	8 x 14
	2800 x 4000	8 x 14
10 megapixels	3264 x 4920	11 x 14
	3744 x 5616	12 x 18
12 megapixels	4000 x 6000	16 x 20
16 megapixels		
21 megapixels		
24 megapixels		

If you have a 24MP camera, your images will probably be 6000x4000 pixels. This means you can do a lot of cropping before going under the 3000-pixel threshold. If you shoot with a 12 MP camera and then crop your images significantly, you may not be able to print an 8x10. However, if your cropped image dimension is still around 1200x1600, based on the chart above, you could print a 4x6. Some older cell phones have only 5 or 6 megapixels, so be careful when deciding what size to print. Unfortunately, many family pictures we want to treasure are taken at social events with cell phones, so get close to minimize the need to crop. Unless you are sure your cell phone has an optical zoom on the camera, don't "zoom" with the finger spread as that is just cropping and hence losing resolution. Even if cell phones tout 20MP or 100MPs, almost all only output 12MP due to pixel binning [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pixel_binning].

The easiest way to see your image's dimensions in the Windows environment is to go to *File Explorer* and right-click on the photo. Then click on *Properties*, select the detail tab, and find the dimensions below.

One final consideration when making prints is the viewing distance. If you print a 4x6, there is a good chance it will be held in your hand or an album and, hence, very close to your discerning eye. If, on the other hand, you make an 11x14 print for your wall, it may never be viewed at less than a few feet, and therefore the resolution does not have to be as good.

You may have to experiment as to which image dimensions produce an adequate enlargement for your viewing needs and which printing service provides the quality you want. I recommend printing one 8x10 as a test before committing to a company. When submitting digital photos online, many services will warn you if the resolution is not adequate for the print size you requested.

I have found the quality of prints at Shutterfly and Photobook Canada to be very good, but there are significant delivery fees. On the other hand, Staples has the quality but no delivery fees if you pick it up at the store. However, it takes five business days. If you want a quick turnaround of 4x6 prints, a place like Walmart is probably all you need.

Private Browsing: Is it all it's cracked up to be?

By Chris Taylor, President

Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada

<https://opcug.ca>

Published in *Ottawa PC News*

(November 2023) Editor: brigittelord (at) opcug.ca

For well over 10 years, web browsers have offered **private browsing**, designed to keep your browsing—well—private.

Google Chrome calls it an **Incognito window**, Firefox, Opera & Brave call it a **Private window**, and Microsoft Edge calls it an **InPrivate window**. The easiest way to get there is to right-click the browser's icon on the taskbar and choose the appropriate **New...** item from the pop-up context menu.

When in a private browsing window, browsing history, cookies & site data (such as images and contents of webpages), and information entered in forms are not saved to your computer. Other users on your computer will not be able to see your web browsing activities. When browsing, web servers won't automatically recognize you as a returning user, and you won't be automatically signed into websites.

When you close a private browsing window, the browser discards site data and cookies created during that session. Note that you need to close the private browsing window to remove traces. Until you do, a simple click on the back button will return you to the previous page visited in that window.

Private browsing deactivates extensions. You can enable extensions in private browsing windows if you need them. For example, in Google Chrome, click the kebab menu (☰) at the top-right of the window. Choose **Settings**. Find the extension you want to allow in Incognito windows and click **Details** under that extension. Toggle on **Allow in Incognito**.



Private browsing is not a panacea

It does not prevent all tracking. While websites do not have the luxury of using cookies to track you, there are many other means of tracking. For example, a web server can know your operating system, browser version, extensions you have loaded, screen resolution, IP address, and more. These data items can be used to fingerprint and track you.

Private browsing does not prevent ads. It does not prevent malware. It does not hide where you are browsing from your ISP or employer.

As Gizmodo reported in October 2022, ***Even Google's Own Staff Thinks 'Incognito Mode' Isn't All It's Cracked Up to Be*** - <https://gizmodo.com/google-incognito-mode-google-chrome-1849648071>

Where is private browsing useful?

If you are using a computer at a public kiosk, it will prevent the next person using the computer from easily seeing where and what you browsed.

If you use multiple accounts on a single website, a private browsing window can help you keep things separate.

If you are using another person's computer, it can be helpful in making it less likely you leave traces behind.

Strangely, I have encountered shopping sites that required private browsing for the checkout process to work properly. I guess they didn't want to sell things to me all that badly.

For more information about private browsing, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_browsing.

SENIOR PLANET CLASSES

Live Online Classes for Seniors

Tech Discussion Group—Lunch & Learn

Class Description

Join this Tech Discussion Group to have open conversations about technology and your struggles. Come discuss different topics related to the latest technology trends and news.

Click group meeting every Thursday

13:30 GMT Central Time

[Join "Tech Discussion Group"](#)



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.

Every Monday @ 4:00PM CDT

Join "WACI Group"



[Ctrl+ click white arrow to go to our YouTube site](#)

Windows

&

Android Tips

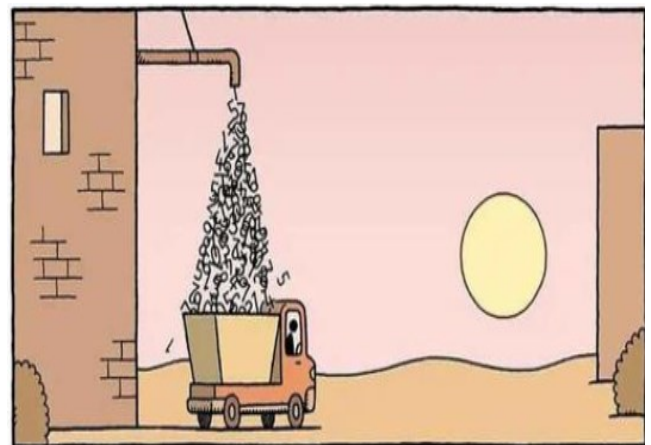


10 MAJOR REASONS TO

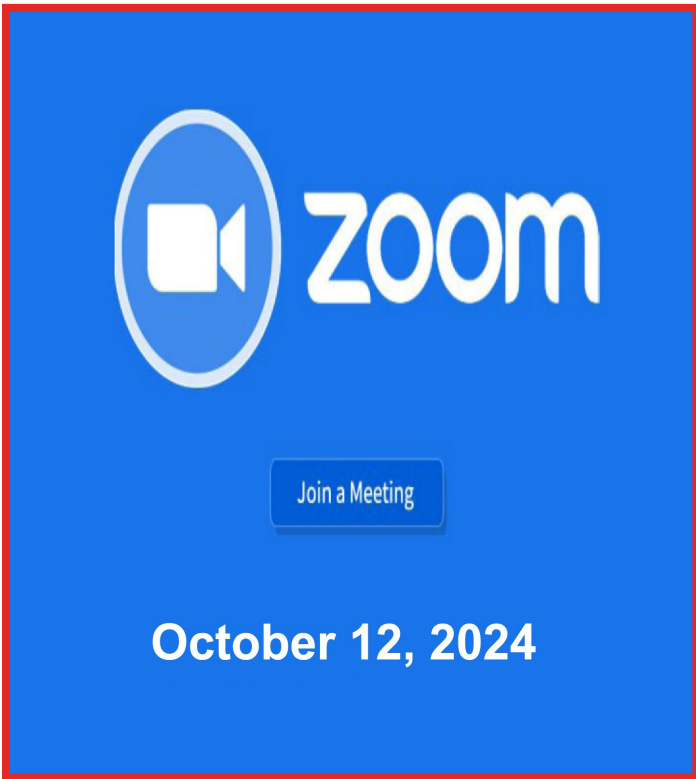
UPGRADE TO WINDOWS 11 NOW – A slick new interface, better security, Copilot AI, updated apps, and info widgets are just some of the perks of upgrading to Windows 11. Here's why you should do it sooner than later. Read more at <https://www.pcmag.com/news/reasons-to-upgrade-to-windows-11-now>

HOW TO RESET WINDOWS 11 WITHOUT LOSING YOUR APPS, FILES, AND SETTINGS

– Windows 10 and 11 offer a reset feature that you can run if you're bumping into technical troubles with the operating system. But there's a downside to performing a traditional reset. All your installed applications and customized settings are lost, forcing you to reinstall and set them up from scratch, even if the reset fixes the problem. With Windows 11, however, there is another option. Find out more at [How to reset Windows 11 without losing your apps, files, and settings | ZDNET](#)



EVERY FRIDAY, A TRUCK PULLS UP AT THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT TO COLLECT ALL THE USED NUMBERS. THEY WILL BE CLEANED, SORTED AND SOLD ON TO MANUFACTURERS OF CALENDARS, RULERS AND CLOCKS.



Computer Services

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

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<https://whiteboxcomputers.org>

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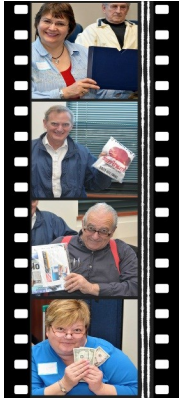
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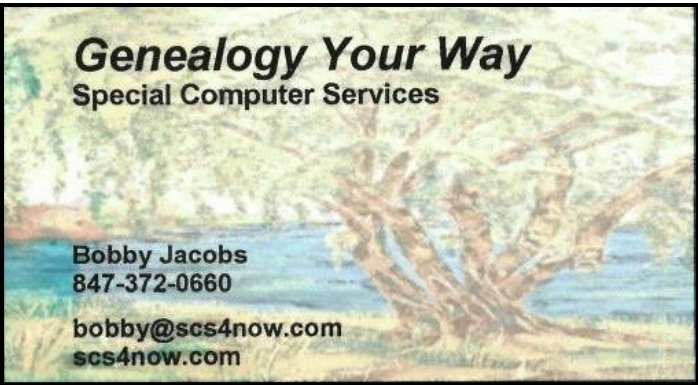
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