

*Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts*

# **NEWS JOURNAL**

**“Members Helping Members”**

**December 2024**

**(since 1983)**

**Volume 41, Issue 08**

## **LCACE Wins**

**APCUG — Newsletters of Excellence**

**2nd Place 2024!**

L.C.A.C.E. should be proud as a club to receive this award.

As a present to ourselves, let's un-pack what this honor means. APCUG stands for American Personal Computer User Groups. L.C.A.C.E. is a member. APCUG includes technology user groups that are not limited to Personal Computers, and User Groups who are located outside of the US. In particular, APCUG has some Canadian as well as US groups.

The newsletters that we publish each month include content written by User Group members from across the country, coast to coast. From San Diego, California to Sarasota, Florida, and along the way Las Vegas, East Central Ohio, and Tennessee... 50 groups.

The content used in the *News Journal* has been selected by APCUG as informative and well-written enough to share with other groups.

Note that among the shared content are articles by J.J.



The links to free ebooks are from similarly varied sources. And so are Zoom classes and workshops offered to our readers.

**This is totally awesome.**

And sometimes overwhelming. A major project for the new year is to begin an index of some of these resources. But only resources that have actually appeared in our newsletters. Volunteers willing to help in this project should contact me.  
Cynthia Simmons, LCACE Editor.

Right now we need some people to kick some tires to see if this will start up and go somewhere.

*Cynthia Simmons, LCACE Editor.*  
[editor@lface.org](mailto:editor@lface.org)

*"Members Helping  
Members"  
(since 1983)*

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2024-2025

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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](mailto: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.

## **NOTICE**

*LCACE WILL NOT CONDONE or knowingly participate in copyright infringement of any kind.* The *LCACE News Journal* is published by and for LCACE members. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of LCACE, the membership, the board of



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# *Diane's Thoughts*

## *Season's Greeting To Everyone!*



*December is the time of fellowship. On December 14<sup>th</sup> we will be enjoying our annual LCACE Holiday party. The Hospitality team has been busy planning the event. The club will be providing the main course and the side dishes list has been filling up with what our members are bringing. While dining on a delicious buffet we will have a chance to visit with people we haven't seen in awhile. The Hospitality group is planning activities for the afternoon. It will be a fun afternoon for all.*

*Guests are also invited. If you haven't signed up to attend, please contact Liz Barnett or Judy Rehnberger at [hospitality@lcace.org](mailto:hospitality@lcace.org)*

*Our board is working on new ideas for next year's programs. We will continue to bring you information on new technology trends and how the internet is changing. If you find a topic you would like more information on, please feel free to contact any member of the board.*

*Note: Our January and February meetings will be Zoom only meetings, to avoid the winter weather.*

*For the remainder of the year, check out newsletter calendar each month: most meetings will be both in person at the Grayslake Heritage Center and by Zoom. BUT the July meeting will be replaced by a Picnic, and the December meeting will be replaced by our Holiday Party.*

*David and I want to wish you Happy Holidays! It's a time to enjoy being with family and friends and eating lots of cookies. It's a time to enjoy parties, holiday events, concerts, and religious festivities. It's a time to reflect on this past year and what the future may hold for us.*

*Enjoy the holidays!*



*Diane Carlson*

*L.C.A.C.E. President*





*Dear Officers and Members of Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts,*

*As we embrace the warmth and joy of the holiday season, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you. May this time of year bring you **peace** and **joy** in every moment, filling your hearts with happiness and your homes with love.*

*This season is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the connections we've built as a community. Your enthusiasm and dedication have made our group a vibrant place for learning and sharing. I am truly grateful for each of you.*

*As you celebrate with family and friends, I hope you find time to relax, recharge, and create beautiful memories. May your holidays be filled with laughter, warmth, and all the things that bring you joy.*

*Wishing you all a magical holiday season and a prosperous New Year ahead. Here's to more exciting adventures in technology together in 2025!*

*Warmest regards,*

*J.J. Judy & Jasmine Blue*

*LCACE Founder*





## HOLIDAY PARTY

You, family and friends are cordially invited to the Lake County Computer Enthusiasts annual Holiday Party.

- ⇒ Door Prizes
- ⇒ 50/50 Raffle
- ⇒ Games and Fun!
- ⇒ Food, Food, and more Food!

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE**

(Something Healthy)

**December 14, 2024**

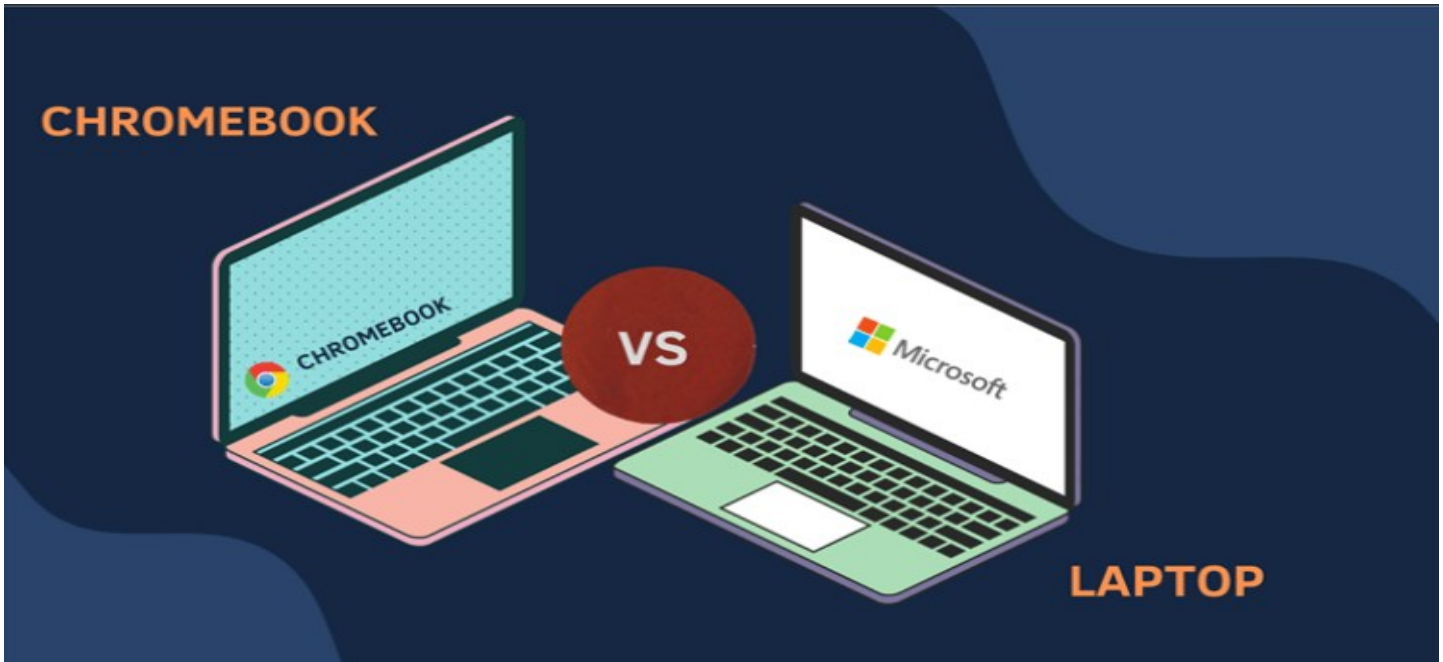
**12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**



Directions @ [www.lcace.org](http://www.lcace.org)  
847-623-3815 or 847-372-8186

**State Bank of the Lakes**

50 Commerce Drive  
Grayslake, Illinois



## Things to consider when looking at a laptops.

*By M.H. Members*

When considering a Chromebook versus a traditional PC laptop, there are several key factors to evaluate:

### Chromebooks:

- Run Chrome OS, a lightweight, web-based operating system centered around the Chrome browser and Google apps/services.
- Generally more affordable than comparable Windows laptops or MacBooks.
- Less hardware-intensive, so they can have longer battery life and be lighter/have thinner profile.
- Limited to mostly web-based apps from the Google Play Store and some Android apps. No option to run traditional desktop programs without workarounds.
- Simple and secure with automatic updates. Less vulnerability to viruses/malware.
- Best suited for basic web browsing, email,

media streaming, and cloud-based productivity apps.

### PC Laptops (Windows or Mac):

- Run full desktop operating systems (Windows or macOS) with access to a vast ecosystem of programs.
- Generally more expensive but with more powerful specs like faster CPUs, more RAM, and dedicated GPUs for intensive tasks.
- Can handle demanding workloads like video editing, gaming, programming, graphic design, etc.
- Larger internal storage options like 512GB SSD or 1TB HDD.
- More customization options and upgrade paths.
- Compatible with peripherals like external displays, printers, etc.

In summary, Chromebooks are best for casual use focusing on web-based activities, while traditional PC laptops offer more capabilities and horsepower ideal for productivity, creativity, and multitasking - at a higher price point. Choose based on your computing needs, budget, and preferences for desktop vs web-based apps.





On this page is a bookmark from the Grayslake Public Library, with an offer of free technical services.

We (The *News Journal* Staff and the L.C.A.C.E. Board Members) have noticed that some local libraries are offering free services that are very handy for people who have technical interests. And also handy for persons who wish to know about any number of things.

Some Information about some services will appear in later issues of the *News Journal*.

Such as... Cook Memorial Library has equipment to convert vinyl records and videos into DVDs.

Please speak out at meetings if you are hunting for something special.

But please be patient! We're not making hard and fast promises to grant your wishes.

## TECH TIME

*By Appointment Only*

Need assistance on your laptop, phone, or other personal device? Call (847) 223-5313 or visit us online to schedule an appointment with one of our tech specialist librarians!

*A Grayslake library card is no longer required for appointments. Limit of two appointments per patron, per month.*



Just well-intended "maybes."

# Why You Should Only Charge Your Smartphone to 80%

## The Science of Battery Longevity

By Jasmine Blue D'Katz

There are a few reasons why it is recommended to only charge smartphones up to 80% capacity:

1. **Battery longevity:** Lithium-ion batteries, which are commonly used in smartphones, tend to degrade faster when they are regularly charged to 100% capacity. Stopping the charge at 80% can help extend the overall lifespan of the battery.
2. **Heat generation:** Charging a battery to 100% generates more heat, which can also contribute to faster degradation of the battery over time. Limiting the charge to 80% helps reduce the heat buildup.
3. **Overcharging prevention:** Leaving a smartphone plugged in and charging after it has reached 100% can lead to overcharging, which can damage the battery. Stopping at 80% helps avoid this issue.

**Optimizing usage:** For most daily smartphone usage, charging up to 80% is sufficient and you can get through the day without needing a full 100% charge. This helps maintain the battery's health.



The tradeoff is that you may need to charge your phone more frequently if you only charge to 80%, but the benefits to your battery's longevity are worth it for many users. Adopting this 80% charging habit can help maximize the lifespan of your smartphone's battery over several years of use.

## Tech for Seniors **LIVE**



Ron Brown, Hewie Poplock, Bob Gostischa, Ray Baxter & Bill James

## Tech for Senior- Live on Thursday

[Click this Button for a video on how to join TFS-Live](#)



# Security Facts, News and Advice.

And other topics of interest

## Passkeys & Password Managers

### A Match Made in Cyber Heaven



Are you ready to ditch the password puzzle and embrace a future where your online security is as easy as unlocking your phone? Let's dive into the world of Passkeys and discover how password managers are joining the party to keep your digital life safe and sound.

**What Are Passkeys** - Passkeys are the new-age solution to the age-old password problem.

They're unique digital keys that live on your device and work with your biometrics—think of them as your personal digital fingerprint for the internet.

**Setting Up Passkeys** - Easy-Peasy, it's a piece of cake, whether you're an Apple aficionado, a Windows warrior, or an Android ally.

**On iPhones** - Head to the sign-in page, tap 'Create Passkey,' and let Face ID or Touch ID do the rest.

**On Macs** - Choose 'Create Passkey' when signing up or converting an old password in System Settings > Passwords.

**On Windows** - Create a Passkey in account settings and authenticate with Windows Hello. Manage them via Windows Settings > Accounts > Passkeys.

#### **The Perks of Passkeys:**

- 1 - Phishing-resistant - Passkeys are like kryptonite to phishing attempts.
- 2 - Unique - Each Passkey is as unique as your DNA.
- 3 - Convenient - Your device remembers your Passkeys, so you don't have to.
- 4 - Secure - Built with advanced cryptography, they're tough nuts to crack.

#### **Password Managers:** Your Passkey Sidekicks

Password managers like Dashlane, NordPass, RoboForm, Keeper, 1Password, and Google Password Manager are now supporting Passkeys.

They're like Robin to Batman, making sure your Passkeys are used correctly and securely.

#### **How Password Managers Make Passkeys a Breeze:**

- 1 - Remember One, Forget the Rest - Just remember your password manager's master password, and it'll handle all your Passkeys.
- 2 - Auto-Fill Magic - Password managers auto-fill your Passkeys, making logins faster than a speeding bullet.
- 3 - Cross-Device Harmony - They sync your Passkeys across devices, so you're always ready to go.

#### **The Bottom Line:**

Passkeys and password managers are the dynamic duo of the digital world.

Remember the two P's (Passkeys and Password Managers) - They're making online security a no-brainer, so you can focus on the important stuff—like binge-watching your favorite show or conquering that

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next level in your game.

So, let's bid a fond farewell to passwords and welcome the new era of Passkeys with open arms and devices. Your future self will thank you!

Stay safe, stay secure and I hope this information provides a fun and informative look at Passkeys and password managers. 😊🔒

If you're interested, I have a video on this topic which you can watch here:

<https://youtu.be/nW5Vjq2FWDA>

Don't forget to like, share, and subscribe. Thanks.

I used AI to help in the creation of this article.

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## Bill's Gadgets

### Flat Panel Book Light Lamp

**Bill James TFS**

According to a 2021 Gallop Poll, Americans read an estimated 12.6 books annually, not counting books that are begun but not finished. The average adult in America reads slightly more than five novels a year if fully read volumes are taken into account. In a poll of more than a thousand readers, Preply found that 13% of respondents liked science fiction, 12% fantasy, 10% thrillers, 10% self-help, 10% historical fiction, 10% mysteries, 8% biographies, 7% romance, and 20% of respondents selected other genres. The modes and locations in which Americans read vary depending on their lifestyle, technology, and personal preferences. Even with the growth of digital media, print books are still widely used.

One's home is the most common place for reading, whether in a cozy nook, or a bed, or a dedicated home library. Reading can be relaxing for many reasons.

Reading slows your heart rate and relaxes your muscles. It can calm your mind and help you avoid dwelling

on stressful thoughts.

Many Americans still prefer the feel of a real book in their hands despite the proliferation of e-books and digital reading devices. The tactile experience of holding a book, turning its pages, and even the distinct smell of paper and ink contribute to a sensory engagement that digital formats often lack. The weight of a book, the texture of its cover, and the sound of flipping pages provide a sense of immersion and physical connection to the content that enhances the overall reading experience.

Reading physical books can also help mitigate the negative effects of prolonged exposure to electronic screens. Blue light emitted by smartphones, tablets, and e-readers can disrupt the body's natural circadian rhythms by suppressing the production of melatonin, a hormone that regulates sleep. This disruption can lead to difficulty falling asleep and poorer sleep quality. By opting for physical books, readers can avoid blue light exposure before bedtime, promoting better sleep hygiene and overall health.



Studies have shown that reading from a physical book can enhance focus and comprehension compared to reading on a screen. The absence of digital distractions, such as notifications and the temptation to switch to other apps or websites, allows readers to immerse themselves more fully in the text. The linear nature of a printed book encourages deep reading and sustained attention,

Reading can boost your creativity levels, especially at bedtime when your brain goes through REM cycles, and you might have vivid dreams. Reading before bed can improve your cognitive function, vocabulary, and general

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knowledge. Reading in bed can also be part of an effective bedtime routine. Opening a book around the same time each night can signal to your brain that it is time for bed and helps you shift your focus from real-life tensions to a more relaxed state. One study found that reading for at least six minutes before bed can reduce stress by 68%.



The issue with reading in bed is lighting. As previously mentioned, light from electronic devices and light from incandescent bulbs can interfere with your sleep pattern. Also, if you are sharing a bed with a spouse or partner, then you are also interrupting their sleep if they are not into reading along with you. Our gadget this week, the Book Light, solves these problems.

The book light adopts a new lighting structure design, which is a panel/ board/ plate, and its entire clear transparent panel will light up when turn it on, being able to provide clear and warm light in the reading position that it covers without stray light escaping to bother anyone else that near you. The clear panel plate Book Light Lamp reduces eyestrain in a portable and lightweight design. It is powered by 3 AAA batteries. The size is 6x6.8 inches.

Available from Amazon in black for \$6.89 and white for \$6.99.

<https://tinyurl.com/k782nx7e>



- ⇒ [Discord: A Modern BBS](#)
- ⇒ [Is Your Car Spying on You?](#)
- ⇒ [Artificial Intelligence and Scams](#)
- ⇒ [Keeping Your Data Private with VeraCrypt](#)
- ⇒ [EaseUS Todo Backup](#)
- ⇒ [Extending the Life of Your Smartphone Battery](#)
- ⇒ [Your Health and Your Technology](#)
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- ⇒ [Discovering Digital Wallets](#)
- ⇒ [Computer Buying Guide](#)

## Hewie's Views & Reviews

### Presenting to Seniors, Tech for Seniors



Hewie Poplock has been helping seniors to understand and use technology since the early 80's Tech for Seniors is his goal.

[www.hewie.net](http://www.hewie.net)

# TIPS & TRICKS

Here are 14 helpful tips and tricks for Windows 11, highlighting usability, customization, and productivity features:

- 1. Snap Layouts for Multitasking** Windows 11 makes multitasking easier with Snap Layouts. Hover over the maximize button on any window to see various layout options, allowing you to snap your windows into an organized setup for better productivity.
- 2. Widgets Panel for Quick Access to Information** Access the Widgets panel by clicking the taskbar icon or pressing Windows + W. This customizable panel provides quick access to news, weather, calendar events, and traffic information at a glance.
- 3. Virtual Desktops for Better Organization** Virtual desktops enable you to create customized workspaces. Access them by pressing Windows + Tab and clicking "New Desktop." You can rename each desktop and set unique wallpapers, making it easy to manage different projects or activities.
- 4. Direct Storage for Faster Data Access** Windows 11 includes Direct Storage, which accelerates data access for compatible applications by transferring data directly from your SSD to the GPU. This improves load times and enhances the performance of certain applications.
- 5. Focus Sessions in the Clock App** Focus Sessions in the Clock app allows you to set work intervals with integrated Microsoft To-Do and Spotify support. Set a timer, link tasks, and play music to improve productivity with structured work and break intervals.
- 6. Revamped Settings App with Enhanced Search** The new Settings app has a cleaner design and improved search functionality. Use the search bar within Settings to quickly locate configurations, making customization easier and more intuitive.
- 7. Improved File Explorer with Tabs and Quick Access** File Explorer now includes tabs, allowing you to open multiple folders within a single window. This makes transferring files or managing multiple projects simpler and more efficient without window clutter.
- 8. Voice Typing with Auto-Punctuation** Enable voice typing by pressing Windows + H, which now includes auto-punctuation. It's a useful tool for drafting notes, emails, or documents hands-free with greater accuracy for spoken content.
- 9. Auto HDR for Enhanced Visuals** For compatible media, Windows 11's Auto HDR feature enhances colors and contrast, providing richer visuals for a more vibrant display experience without the need for extra adjustments.
- 10. Customize the Start Menu and Taskbar** Windows 11 allows you to personalize the Start Menu by pinning apps and creating folders. You can also customize the taskbar settings, including icon alignment, which lets you center or left-align icons based on your preference.
- 11. Clipboard History for Quick Text Retrieval** Windows 11 includes a clipboard history feature accessible by pressing Windows + V. This allows you to view and retrieve previous text or images you've copied, making it easy to reuse content without re-copying.
- 12. Dynamic Refresh Rate for Smoother Scrolling** For devices that support it, Windows 11 offers a dynamic refresh rate feature, which adjusts the refresh rate depending on your activity. This can provide smoother scrolling in apps and help extend battery life when high refresh rates aren't

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needed.

**13. Power Automate Desktop for Workflow Automation** Windows 11 includes Power Automate Desktop, a tool for creating custom workflows. You can automate repetitive tasks like organizing files or sending emails, saving time and reducing manual work through automation.

## Want to Stay on Windows 10

# After 2025?

## It'll Cost You

Individual users can extend support for one year, but will only receive critical security updates.



Microsoft will end support for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025. To continue using Windows 10 after this date, consumers can purchase an Extended Security Update (ESU) license for \$30. This one-year license will provide critical security updates, but no new features, bug fixes, or technical support. Microsoft encourages users to upgrade to Windows 11 or purchase a new PC with Windows 11.

# AARP Foundation<sup>®</sup>

## Digital Skills Ready@50+

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
**SENIOR PLANET**  
FROM AARP



AARP Senior Planet offers a variety of online classes and workshops designed specifically for older adults. These classes cover topics such as technology, health and wellness, financial literacy, and more. Some examples of classes offered by Senior Planet include:

- Digital skills training (e.g. using a smartphone, browsing the internet)
- Fitness classes (e.g. yoga, tai chi)
- Language classes (e.g. English as a second language)
- Financial management classes (e.g. budgeting, managing debt)
- Art and creativity classes (e.g. painting, writing)

These classes are often led by experienced instructors and are designed to be engaging and accessible for older adults. They can be taken online or in-person, depending on the location.

## [Senior Planet Classes](#)

# Tricks to Simplify Your Digital Life





# Boarding Pass to Your Data?

**Airline apps might know more than you think.**

*By Ron Brown – Tec for Senior*



**Boarding Pass to Your Data?** - Fasten your seatbelts, folks! We're about to take off on a journey through the not-so-friendly skies of airline app data collection. It seems that our trusty travel companions might be doubling as undercover agents, collecting more than just our boarding passes.

**The Check-In** - You know the drill: download the airline app, check in, and get your digital boarding pass. But while you're picking your favorite seat, the app might be picking out details from your phone. From passport details to your snack preferences, these apps are getting a first-class ticket to your personal info.

**The Layover** - Cybernews' investigation into 14 major airline apps revealed a startling truth: some apps have the potential to access a treasure trove of sensitive data on your device. We're not just talking about the usual suspects like your name and email. These apps could be eyeing your location, peeking at your contacts, and even noting down your device

ID. It's like having a travel buddy that's a little too interested in your personal life.

**The Frequent Flyers** - Among the apps investigated, American Airlines and United Airlines were like the data-hungry monsters of the group, collecting more info than their peers. On the other end of the spectrum, Philippine Airlines played it cool, collecting the least amount of data. It's like the difference between a nosy neighbor and the one who just waves from across the street.

**The Fine Print** - Here's where it gets interesting: the "Data Safety" section on the Google Playstore is supposed to tell you what data these apps collect. But guess who fills out that section? The developers themselves. It's like asking a fox to report on the henhouse security. So, can we really trust them to spill the beans?

**The Destination** - So, what's the final destination for all this data? Some of it might be used for those 'personalized' ads that follow you around like a lost suitcase. But with the US Department of Transportation stepping in for a privacy review, we might see some new regulations on how our data is handled at 30,000 feet.

**The Baggage Claim** - Before you swear off airline apps and go back to smoke signals, remember that not all apps are created equal. Some are just doing their job, while others might be taking advantage of the open skies policy a



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bit too literally. It's all about reading the fine print and keeping your data on a short leash.

The Credits - For a more detailed account of which apps might be flying too close to the sun with your data, check out the original article by Paulina Okunyté on Cybernews. It's an in-depth look at the data collection practices of the airline industry that might just make you want to keep your feet on the ground.

You'll find that article at: <https://cybernews.com/security/airlines-apps-data-collection/>

If you're interested, you'll find my video on this topic at: <https://youtu.be/NqG2kufIA34>

If you find it helpful, don't forget to like, share, and subscribe. Thanks.

---

## Do You Need a KVM Switch

Using Multiple Computer with a Single Keyboard/Mouse

By Perplexity AI

A KVM (Keyboard, Video, Mouse) switch is a hardware device that allows a single set of keyboard, monitor, and mouse to control multiple computers or servers.

### Key Features of a KVM Switch

- Allows you to access and control multiple computers from a single keyboard, video display, and mouse.
- Saves space and reduces cable clutter by eliminating the need for separate peripherals for each computer.
- Enables fast and easy switching between connected computers, typically via a button, hotkey, or remote control.
- Supports various video interfaces like HDMI, DisplayPort, DVI, VGA for connecting monitors.
- Provides USB ports to share peripherals like keyboard, mouse, printers, scanners across connected computers.
- Some models support audio switching, allowing shared speakers or microphones.

### Use Cases for KVM Switches

- Home/Office Setups: Control a work computer and personal/gaming PC from one desk.
- Server Rooms/Data Centers: Manage multiple servers from a single console, reducing hardware costs.



Computer Labs/Classrooms: Instructor can monitor and control student computers.

Industrial/Manufacturing: Control multiple systems for testing, monitoring, or maintenance.

### Factors to Consider When Choosing a KVM Switch

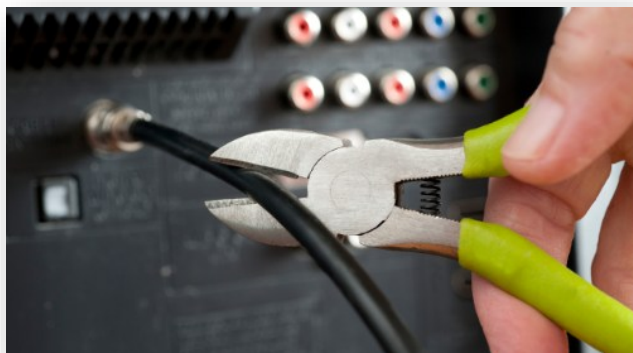
- Number of computers/servers to connect
- Video interface requirements (HDMI, DisplayPort, etc.)
- Number of monitors to support
- USB peripheral sharing needs (keyboard, mouse, other USB devices)
- Switching methods preferred (hotkeys, buttons, remote, software)

In essence, a KVM switch is an efficient way to control multiple computer systems using just one keyboard, monitor, and mouse, saving space and increasing productivity in various environments

# Cutting the Cord

## Embracing Freedom in Entertainment

Ron Brown Tech for Senior



In an age where technology shapes nearly every aspect of our lives, the way we consume entertainment has undergone a revolutionary transformation. Gone are the days of being tethered to traditional cable subscriptions, as more and more individuals are choosing to "cut the cord." But what exactly does this term mean, and why has it become such a pervasive trend in modern society?

To put it simply, cutting the cord refers to the act of canceling traditional cable or satellite TV subscriptions in favor of alternative methods of content consumption. These alternatives often involve streaming services, digital antennas, or a combination of both. The motivations behind this shift vary from person to person, but several key factors have contributed to its widespread adoption.

**Cost-Effectiveness:** One of the primary drivers behind cutting the cord is the desire to save money. Traditional cable packages can be prohibitively expensive, with monthly bills quickly adding up. In contrast, streaming services typically offer more affordable subscription options, allowing consumers to pay only for the content they want to watch.

**Flexibility and Customization:** Unlike cable TV, which often requires subscribers to purchase bundled packages containing numerous channels they may never watch, streaming services offer a la carte options. This means individuals can select the platforms and services that align with their interests, resulting in a more tailored and personalized viewing experience.

**On-Demand Content:** Another significant advantage of cutting the cord is the ability to access content on-demand. With streaming services, viewers can watch their favorite shows and movies whenever they want, rather than being beholden to scheduled programming. This level of convenience has fundamentally changed the way we consume media, empowering

December 2024



### AI for Older Adults

AI promises to change the way we live and work, but what is it really, and what does it mean for older adults? This guide provides the facts about this new technology: the benefits, the risks, and how it can address the distinctive health-related, financial and lifestyle needs of people age 50+.

SENIOR PLANET  
FROM AARP

Curious about artificial intelligence, or AI? In Senior Planet from AARP's free online classes, we'll talk about how AI is being used in everyday life, how you can spot it, what the current advances and limitations are, and how it will shape the future!

[CLICK IMAGE](#)

individuals to watch what they want, when they want.

**Wider Variety of Content:** The proliferation of streaming platforms has led to an explosion of diverse content offerings. From original series and documentaries to classic films and niche programming, there's something for everyone in the world of streaming. This abundance of choice has democratized entertainment, giving voice to stories and perspectives that may have been overlooked by traditional media outlets.

**Improved Technology:** Advancements in technology have played a crucial role in facilitating the cord-cutting phenomenon. High-speed internet connections, smart TVs, and streaming devices have made it easier than ever for consumers to access online content from the comfort of their own homes. Additionally, the rise of over-the-air digital antennas has enabled individuals to

*(Continued on page 18)*



(Continued from page 17)

access local channels without the need for a cable subscription.

Despite its many benefits, cutting the cord is not without its challenges. Streaming fatigue, the frustration of navigating multiple platforms, and the potential for internet outages are just a few of the issues that some cord-cutters may encounter. Additionally, the fragmentation of content across various streaming services has led to concerns about the rising cost of piecemeal subscriptions.

Nevertheless, the overall trajectory of the entertainment industry seems to be moving away from traditional cable

towards a more decentralized and on-demand model. As technology continues to evolve and consumer preferences evolve with it, the concept of cutting the cord will likely remain a defining characteristic of how we engage with media in the digital age.

In conclusion, cutting the cord represents a paradigm shift in the way we consume entertainment, offering greater freedom, flexibility, and choice to consumers. While there are challenges associated with this transition, the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks for many individuals. As we look to the future, it's clear that the era of cable dominance is waning, making way for a new era of digital empowerment in entertainment.

# Hard Disk Sentinel

Monitor your drives for potential issues

By Jasmine Blue D’Katz

Hard Disk Sentinel is a comprehensive software tool designed to monitor and analyze the health and performance of various storage devices, including internal hard drives, external drives, SSDs, USB sticks, and memory cards. This versatile application offers a wide range of features that cater to both casual users and IT professionals alike.

## Key Features

### Health Monitoring

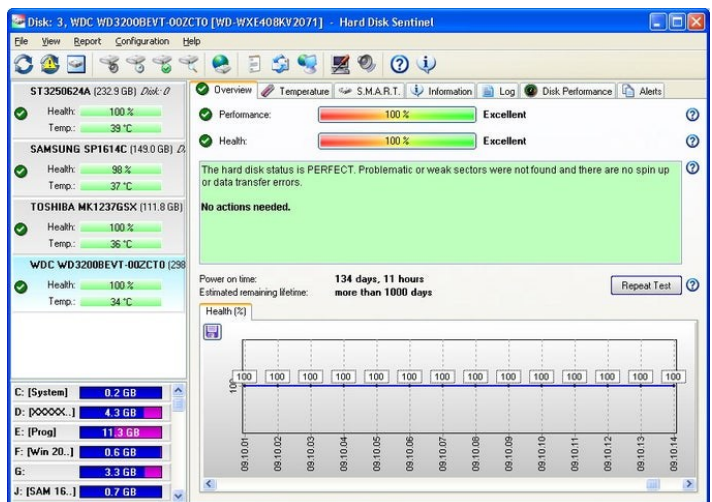
At its core, Hard Disk Sentinel utilizes S.M.A.R.T. (Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology) to provide real-time information about drive health. The software goes beyond standard S.M.A.R.T. monitoring, offering a more nuanced view of overall drive condition. This proactive approach allows users to identify potential drive failures before they occur, potentially saving valuable data and preventing unexpected downtime.

### Performance Analysis

Hard Disk Sentinel offers detailed performance metrics, allowing users to track read and write speeds, temperature, and other crucial parameters. This information can be invaluable for diagnosing issues and optimizing system performance.

### User-Friendly Interface

The software features a straightforward interface that makes it easy for users to quickly assess the



status of their storage devices. Detailed reports and clear visualizations help users understand complex technical information without requiring extensive expertise.

### Compatibility

Hard Disk Sentinel supports a wide range of storage devices and interfaces, including SATA, PATA, SCSI, and NVMe drives. This broad compatibility ensures that users can monitor virtually any storage device in their system.

### Benefits

(Continued on page 19)

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### Data Loss Prevention

By providing early warnings of potential drive failures, Hard Disk Sentinel helps users take preemptive action to backup data and replace failing drives before catastrophic failures occur. This feature alone can justify the software's cost for many users, especially those dealing with mission-critical data.

### System Optimization

The detailed performance metrics offered by Hard Disk Sentinel can help users identify bottlenecks and optimize their storage configuration for better overall system performance.

### Long-Term Reliability

Regular monitoring with Hard Disk Sentinel can contribute to improved long-term reliability of storage devices. By catching issues early and facilitating timely maintenance, users can extend the lifespan of their drives and maintain optimal performance.



### User Feedback

Users consistently praise Hard Disk Sentinel for its accuracy and reliability. Many report that the software has helped them identify and address potential drive failures before they resulted in data loss. The developer's responsiveness to user questions and concerns is also frequently mentioned as a positive aspect of the product.

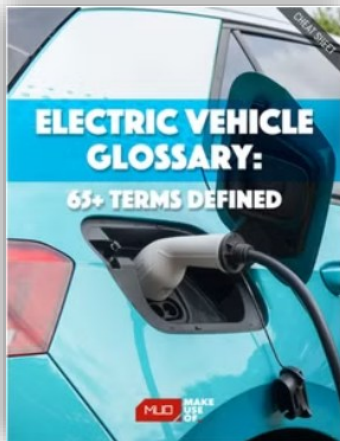
### Conclusion

Hard Disk Sentinel stands out as a powerful and user-friendly tool for anyone concerned about the health and performance of their storage devices. Its ability to predict potential failures and provide detailed performance analysis makes it an invaluable asset for both individual users and IT professionals managing multiple systems. While it may offer more features than casual users need, its core functionality of early warning and health monitoring makes it a worthwhile investment for anyone looking to protect their data and optimize their storage performance.

## Electric Vehicle Glossary

### 65+ Terms Defined

In accordance with the COP26 declaration, most countries have pledged to transition to electric vehicles over the next decade. Even the US government has committed to accelerating electric vehicle adoption. With this move away from regular cars, it's vital that you stay on top of electric vehicle lingo—all the talk of batteries, charging, and range can be confusing at first. That's why we've compiled this glossary, to help you understand the most common EV-related terms.



[CLICK HERE](#)



Let me recommend some of the best websites specifically designed for or particularly useful to seniors.

[CLICK HERE](#)







"Pass It On" is an FTC (Federal Trade Commission) campaign designed to help older adults recognize and avoid fraud. The campaign provides resources to help people protect themselves from scams and share that knowledge with others in their community.

[Download Resources](#)

## The Best and Most Reliable Security Planner

Central Florida Computer Society Zoom Meeting

Consumer Reports has launched the [CR Security Planner](#), a free and user-friendly tool designed to enhance online safety. This resource offers personalized recommendations and expert advice on various digital security topics, including:



- **Protecting Social Media Accounts:** Guidance on securing accounts against hacking.
- **Device Security:** Tips for locking down devices such as smartphones and home security cameras.

**Reducing Online Tracking:** Strategies to minimize data collection by websites.

### Key Features

- **Personalized Action Plan:** Users answer a few questions about their devices and security concerns to receive tailored recommendations. This includes steps for safeguarding online accounts, choosing password managers, and enabling multifactor authentication.
- **Accessibility:** No personal information is required to use the tool, ensuring privacy and confidentiality. Users can save their plans for future reference or print them out.
- \* **Expert Guidance:** The tool is updated regularly and is backed by Consumer Reports' commitment to transparency and consumer safety. It aims to simplify the overwhelming amount of digital security advice available, focusing on the most relevant steps for **individual users**.

### Target Audience

The CR Security Planner is particularly beneficial for high-risk communities, such as journalists and activists, who may face specific cyber threats. It includes resources on preventing SIM swapping attacks, using security keys for en-

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hanced protection, and addressing issues like online harassment.

By providing a structured approach to digital security, Consumer Reports aims to empower users with the knowledge needed to protect their personal information effectively.

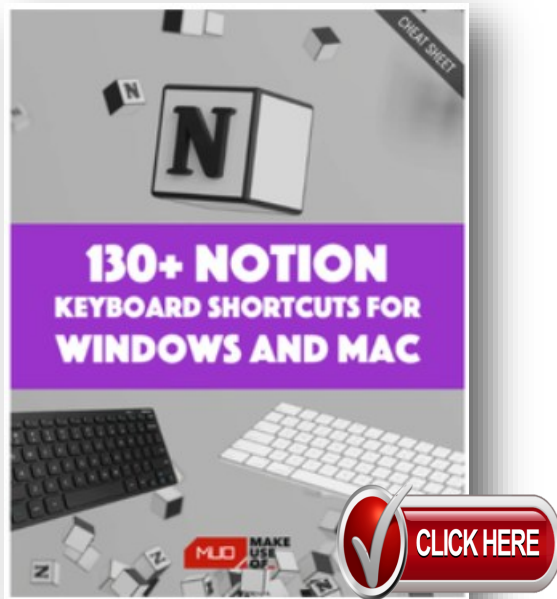


## Is cloud backup safe?

From Kim Komando & Komando.com

**Q:** We used to do a lot of file backup online, but with all the hacks and ransomware, we've trying to figure out the best way to back up personal and business file. Any suggestions

**A:** Cloud backup is still the way to go. You just need to make sure you're using a safe, reliable company to get the job done. My pick is **iDrive**. Your data is encrypted with 356-bit AES encryption on transfer and storage. You can set your privacy to the highest level by creating a private key for your account during setup. That means no one but you will have access to your data.



Using keyboard shortcuts can save you time and increase your productivity, which is why we've put together this list of Notion keyboard shortcuts for Windows and Mac, available as a free PDF cheat sheet.

## PUZZLE TIME

<p>D D N N A A H H</p>	<p><b>TIME</b> <i>a, b, d, e, f...</i></p>	<p>YOUR HOMEWORK</p>
------------------------------------	--	----------------------



## **Tony's Take on Tech Tech for Non Teckies**

You've undoubtedly gotten email from your bank or financial institution encouraging you to go paperless. Today we'll go over what that means, how to prepare for it, and how to deal with those paperless statements.

Generally, "going paperless" means your institution will stop sending you paper statements, notices, and so on. Sometimes they'll send you that stuff in email and other times they'll just send you a notice that they have something for you. In the former case you'll have the item attached to the email or a link to download it and in the latter you'll have to go to the institution's website to view and download the item. In both cases, though, you'll have an electronic version of the document which you can look at, possibly print if you're so inclined, or save for your records.

Usually the document is a PDF (Portable Document Format) which you can view or print with a PDF viewer - a program that's specifically created to view a PDF. The PDF format was created by Adobe Systems a long time ago as a way of, among other things, distributing documents that retain the look of a printed document complete

with fancy fonts, pictures, signatures, and so on - basically a way to capture the image of a document suitable for transmission via electronic means (e.g. e-mail) that would otherwise need to be printed and mailed or carried to everyone that needed to see it.

Once you get notice of a new paperless document, you should download it, either by downloading the attachment if it was sent to your email or logging in to the institution's site and downloading the document. Pay attention to the document's name! It may be

something innocuous that won't help you figure out what it is later - something like, maybe, "StatementAug08." I encourage you to change the name to something that is a bit more descriptive. Maybe something like "BigBankChecking-2023-08-16.pdf." Make sure to name them all in a way that all the documents from a given institution show up together, that is, make sure that you name everything from your BigBank with names that start with BigBank. Better yet, if you're comfortable creating directories, create a BigBank directory and store all your documents from BigBank in that directory. If you're not comfortable or don't know how to create a directory, check <https://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000742.htm> - it has instructions for Windows and MacOS. It should go without saying that you should do similar things with your BigCreditCard and your UtilityCompany documents as well as receipts for payments for things like taxes, insurance. Consider doing the same for big ticket items like a new TV or washer, and even for repairs and such.

When it comes to storing all those documents, you might think that once you've got them stored on your computer, you're done, right? Well, what happens if

*(Continued on page 23)*



(Continued from page 22)

your computer's hard drive fails? All those documents are gone. For that reason, I store mine in two other places: a small external drive I bought just for this purpose AND I store them in a cloud storage service. Let's deal with these one at a time.



Small, external drives can take many forms but the smallest, least expensive, and most easily portable are USB drive, also known as "thumb drives." These come in all sorts of different sizes and speeds but, for the most part, if you're only copying a few files to it each time the speed doesn't matter much. How big a drive should you get? Well, it depends on how you want to organize things. If you want to have one drive for each year then you probably don't need a very large drive - 16GB or 32GB should be more than sufficient, depending on how many documents you need to store. For most of us who don't run a business, even 8GB is probably enough but 16GB and 32GB USB drives are still pretty inexpensive - you can get several for \$20-\$30 on Amazon. The downside to having one per year is it becomes more difficult to search for a particular item in your documents. Honestly, there's nothing wrong with getting a few 32GB drives and putting everything on one until it gets nearly full then starting up a new one.

Cloud storage scares many people - they're afraid their accounts will be compromised and their documents will be leaked. Personally, I use Google Drive and OneDrive as my cloud storage backup for my local document storage. If you really want to make sure your documents are protected in the cloud, you can always encrypt them before uploading them or, if you use OneDrive, you can use its Personal Vault and choose which files and folders are to be encrypted - they will be stored in an encrypted format in your Personal Vault. You can read more about it at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/onedrive/personal-vault>. There are other alternatives, too, which I won't cover but I will mention if you want to check them out. They tend to be rather expensive. One provider that's known for their overall security is Proton and their Proton Drive (<https://proton.me/drive/security>). If you want to check out some others, see <https://www.cloudwards.net/best-encrypted-cloud-storage/>.



The very nature of competition is changing. You have to think about completely different industries that you would never have thought of before as a potential source of competition. We have to avoid burning bridges. The competitor you burn today you may have to partner with tomorrow

**KIM POLESE**

# Firefox Browser

## What is new and improved!

By Jasmine Blue D’Katz



During a Zoom meeting with one of my Milwaukee computer clubs and Senior Planet “Lunch and Learn” there was a discussion about Firefox web browser. I do not personally use Firefox and my main browser but decided to give it a quick look to see what is new.

Firefox constantly receives updates with new features and improvements, so some of the new features might depend on which version you are using. Here are some of the noteworthy features recently added to Firefox:

### Enhanced Privacy:

- **Copy Link Without Site Tracking:** This feature ensures that copied links no longer contain tracking information attached by websites. This is a handy tool for preventing your browsing activity from being monitored across different platforms.

### Firefox Copy Link Without Site Tracking feature

- **Global Privacy Control:** This opt-in feature allows you to inform websites that you do not want your data shared or sold. It is enabled by default in private browsing mode and helps you take control of your online privacy.

### Firefox Global Privacy Control feature

- **Enhanced Canvas Fingerprinting Protection:** Firefox’s private windows and ETP-Strict privacy configuration now include improved protection against canvas fingerprinting, a technique used to track users based on their unique browser configurations.
- **Cookie Banner Blocker:** This feature automatically blocks cookie banners and refuses cookies for supported websites in private browsing mode. It is currently being rolled out for users in Germany and might become available in other regions soon.
- **Firefox Cookie Banner Blocker feature**
- **URL Tracking Protection:** This feature removes

unnecessary tracking parameters from

- URLs, making it harder for websites to track your browsing activity across different platforms. It is enabled by default in private windows for all users in Germany and might be expanded to other regions later.

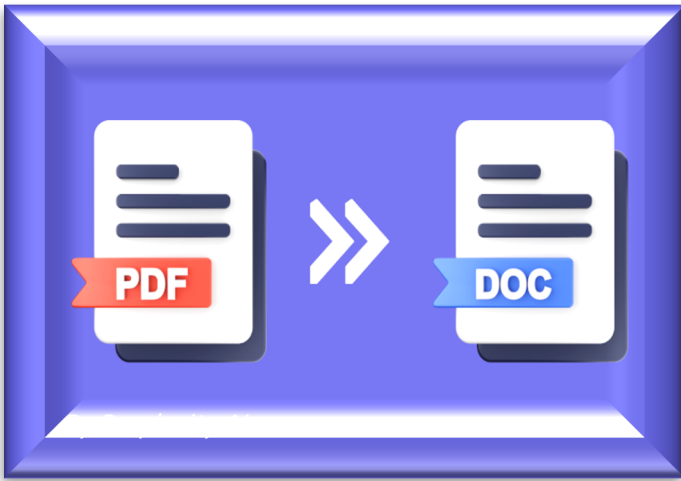
### Improved Performance and Functionality:

- **Hardware decoding support for AV1 video codec:** This feature enables smoother playback of AV1 videos by utilizing your computer’s graphics hardware. It requires the Microsoft AV1 Video Extension on Windows systems.
- **Firefox AV1 video codec hardware decoding**
- **Voice Control commands on macOS:** Mac users can now control Firefox using voice commands, making browsing more convenient and hands-free.
- **Wayland compositor on Linux:** Firefox on Linux now defaults to the Wayland compositor when available, leading to improved touchpad and touchscreen gestures, swipe-to-navigate functionality, better graphics performance, and more.
- **Larger and clearer focus indicator:** The focus indicator highlighting the currently active element in Firefox has been improved with increased size, contrast, and a white box-shadow for better visibility.

These are just some of the recent new features in Firefox. The browser is constantly evolving, so be sure to keep an eye out for future updates that might bring even more exciting improvements and privacy protections.

I hope this gives you a good overview of some of the cool new things you can find in Firefox! Let me know if you have any other questions.





To open a PDF file and convert it to a document file, you have several options depending on the tools you have available:

### Using Adobe Acrobat

Open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat: Right-click the PDF file, select Open with, and choose Adobe Acrobat.

Export to Word: Click the File menu, select Export To, and choose Microsoft Word. Then, select Word Document and save the file to your desired location.

### Using Microsoft Word

Open the PDF in Word: Open Microsoft Word, go to File > Open, and select the PDF file. Word

will convert the PDF to a Word document. Edit and Save: You can edit the document as needed. To save, go to File > Save As, choose a location, and ensure the Word Document format is selected before saving.

### Using Google Docs

Upload the PDF: Go to [Google Docs](https://docs.google.com), sign in, and click the folder icon to upload the PDF.

Open with Google Docs: Once uploaded, click the Open with menu and select Google Docs.

Download as Word: To convert, go to File > Download > Microsoft Word (.docx) and save the file.

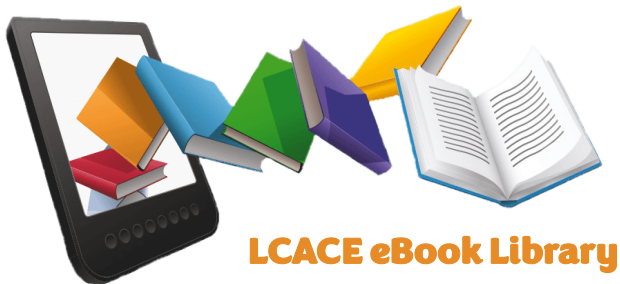
### Using Adobe Acrobat Online Tool

Access the Online Tool: Go to the Adobe Acrobat online PDF to Word converter.

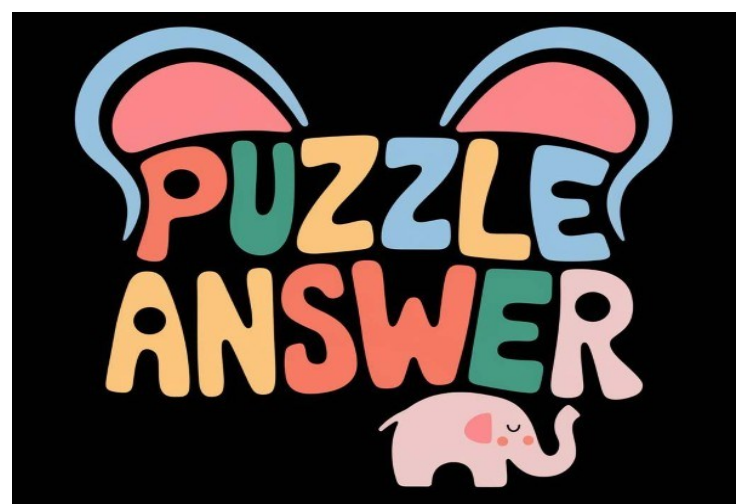
Upload the PDF: Drag and drop your PDF file into the tool.

Download the Word File: The tool will automatically convert the PDF to a Word document, which you can then download.

Each method has its advantages, such as retaining formatting or being free to use, so choose the one that best fits your needs.



- ⇒ [Winning the Inbox Battle](#)
- ⇒ [Linux Bash Keyboard Shortcuts](#)
- ⇒ [How to Use ChatGPT for Learning](#)
- ⇒ [200 Secret Netflix Codes](#)
- ⇒ [How to Sleep Better with Tech](#)
- ⇒ [WhatsApp Tips and Tricks](#)
- ⇒ [Tricks to Simplify Your Digital Life](#)



- A: Two Hand Up
- B: Long TIME, no "c"
- C: Turn in your homework

# TRIVIA

What was the first soda brand to be sold in an all-aluminum can?

- ⇒ A&W
- ⇒ Mr. Pibb
- ⇒ RC Cola
- ⇒ Dr Pepper



## HOW TO CAPTURE BEAUTIFUL TREE PHOTOS

It's been a while since I've shared on Digital Corner. With smartphone cameras constantly improving, capturing the beauty of our natural surroundings has become more accessible than ever. Let's dive into the art of photographing trees.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Program Director is working on the 2025 program schedule and your input is needed. Take the survey and select the presentations you would be interested in seeing.



## The 150 Top Emojis Explained



Your Article



Your Article

**Every month, I reserve space for your article.  
Will be looking forward to it next month.**

*Jasmine Blue D’Katz— LCACE Co Editor*

To write an effective article, follow a structured approach that encompasses topic selection, audience understanding, research, and clear organization. Here’s a comprehensive guide to help you through the process:

### Step-by-Step Guide to Writing an Article

#### 1. Choose Your Topic

Select a focused topic that can be adequately covered in a single article. Ensure it is relevant and engaging for your intended audience.

#### 2. Understand Your Audience

Identify who your readers are. Consider their age, interests, knowledge level about the subject, and what questions they might have. This will guide your tone and content.

#### 3. Conduct Research

Gather information from credible sources to support your arguments or insights. This may include academic articles, interviews with experts, or existing articles on the topic to understand what has already been covered.

#### 4. Create an Outline

Organize your thoughts by creating an outline that includes main points and subtopics. This helps in structuring your article logically and ensures you cover all necessary aspects.

#### 5. Write the Draft

**Title:** Craft a compelling title that reflects the content and includes relevant keywords for SEO purposes.

**Introduction:** Start with an engaging hook—an interesting fact, question, or statement—to draw readers in. Clearly state what the article will cover.

**Body:** Divide the body into sections with headings (H2 or H3). Each section should cover a specific point related to the main topic. Use short paragraphs for readability and incorporate visuals where appropriate.

**Conclusion:** Summarize the key points discussed and provide a call to action or thought-provoking closing statement.

#### 6. Edit and Revise

Review your draft for clarity, coherence, and grammatical accuracy. Reading aloud can help identify awkward phrasing or flow issues. Make necessary adjustments to improve readability and engagement.

#### 7. Finalize Your Article

Ensure all elements are polished, including formatting, visuals, and citations if applicable. Prepare a meta description for search engine optimization and make sure the URL is clear and descriptive.

By following these steps, you can create well-structured articles that effectively communicate your message to your audience while maintaining their interest throughout the piece.



## 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

14:30 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](#)

## SENIOR PLANET

FROM **AARP**

Senior Planet is a program from AARP that helps older adults learn how to use technology to improve their lives

If you're an older adult, these live online classes are designed just for you! Learn about Finance, Wellness, Fitness, Computers and Technology, and so much more. You'll learn so much, and also find a real community of fellow life-long learners. ***Need help joining a class?***

[Senior planet](#)

Call the free Senior Planet Hotline: [888-713-3495](tel:888-713-3495)



# WINNER



Linda



Jean

## Computer Services

**Desktops,  
Laptops,  
All-in-Ones  
and more**



The following services have been highly recommended by club members for their reliable service.

### 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



## Seniors Helping Seniors



Trivia Answer: RC Cola

## Learn Technology



**Member's Area**



**BUSINESS CARDS**



**Pegasus**  
OPEN AIR PHOTOBOOTH

847.372.8186  
pegasusphotos.smugmug.com

**Alluring Spectrums**



Creative designs of  
Stained Glass & Copper

email: tereiden22@gmail.com

**Terry Eiden**  
Glassmith-Artist

847-989-7352  
Grayslake IL 60030



**Liz Barnett**  
Chief Cookie Baker

Phone: 847-494-4222  
E-mail: Liz@LoveMyCookies.com

www.LoveMyCookies.com  
www.facebook.com/LoveMyCookiesLizB

*Custom Cookie Treats for any Occasion!*



**LAKE COUNTY HONOR FLIGHT**

847.282.0374  
info@lakecountyhonorflight.org

P.O. Box 1187, North Chicago, IL 60064  
www.lakecountyhonorflight.org




**PHONE:** (847)623-3815  
(224)303-4420

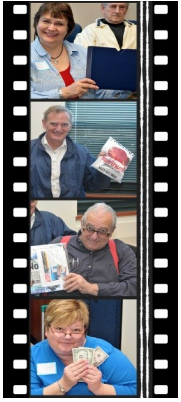
**Members**



**BLUETOAD AUCTIONS**

Take a good  
look, you just  
might see  
yourself.



**LCACE Video Library**

**Genealogy Your Way**  
Special Computer Services

**Bobby Jacobs**  
847-372-0660  
bobby@scs4now.com  
scs4now.com

Member of



**An International  
Association of Technology  
& Computer User Groups**