

January 2025

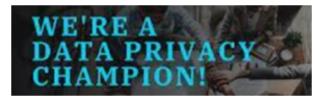
(since 1983)

Volume 41, Issue 09

Data Privacy Week January 27-31, 2025

Sponsored by the National Cyber Security Alliance

Published by APCUG Administrator, December 31, 2024



Become a champion and celebrate DPW! Champions represent those dedicated to empowering individuals and encouraging businesses to respect privacy, safeguard data and enable trust.

2025 Theme

You have the power to take charge of your data. This is why we are excited to celebrate Data Privacy Week 2025 with the theme:

Take control of your data:

Your online activity creates a treasure trove of data. This data ranges from your interests and purchases to your online behaviors, and it is collected by websites, apps, devices, services, and companies all around the globe. This data can even include information about your physical self, like health data – think about how an app on your phone might count how many steps you take.



Data Privacy Week January 27-31, 2025



"Members Helping Members" (since 1983)

Board of Directors

2024-2025

President Diane Carlson president@lcace.org

Vice President Mike McEnery vicepresident@lcace.org

Secretary OPEN secretary@lcace.org

Treasurer Linda Busch treasurer@lcace.org

Programs Lester Larkin programs@lcace.org

Membership OPEN membership@lcace.org

> Public Relations Linda Koudelka pr@lcace.org

Volunteers

Webmaster J.J. Johnson webmaster@lcace.org

Newsletter Editor Cynthia Simmons editor@lcace.org

Hospitality Judy and Eric Rehberger hospitality@lcace.org



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 <u>http://www.lcace.org</u>.

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

Table of Contents

1. Privacy Week Jan 27—Jan 31, 2025

National Cyber Security Alliance with APCUG: How to Protect Your Data

2. Masthead and Policies

L.C.A.C.E.

- 3. Table of Contents
- 4. Diane Carlson Thoughts

Diane Carlson, President

5-6 LCACE Holiday Party Photos Thank You to the Volunteer

Photographers

7-8 Getting Ready for Winter Photograpy

By Lynda Buske, Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada

- 9-11 Data Privacy Week Continued
- 12 Free Technical Help Sessions

Grayslake Library Tech Specialists

- 12 APCUG Video Library
- 13 Digital Corner
- 14 Windows & Android Tips
- 16 Members Business Cards





January 2025 Program



Lester Larkins—L.C.A.C.E. Programs Director

- Show up with stuff that is causing you a conundrum.
- Or, IF the thing is too big to carry, then just tell us about it.
- But PLEASE BE CLEAR!!! So that we may all share OUR pain. And we will listen. (Gloating is also allowed.)



Diane's Thoughts

Happy New Year!

New year's day marks the end of the holiday season of 2024. The last 2 months put us in a festive spirit with enjoying friends and family time, cookies, holiday music and scrumptious holiday meals. It's a time to look back at 2024. LCACE had some memorable events:

- Cynthia Simmons and assistant editor, J.J. Johnson, our LCACE News Journal staff, won 2nd place in the 2024 year APCUG Newsletter contest. Each month the newsletter keeps improving with more articles and an appealing look to the newsletter. Kudos to Cynthia and J.J.!
- Mike McEnery and Roger Busch were selected for the Lake County Honor Flight held in October for veterans.
- We enjoyed a picnic lunch in July and a holiday luncheon in December at State Bank of the Lakes.

We had presentations on various topics including Cyber Security and decluttering digital devices. January 1st is the time to start thinking about the new year. Are you making a new year's resolution? Mine will be to declutter the house which includes getting rid of old electronics. The SWALCO website is a good place to search for locations in Lake County that accept recycled items.) It's time to start gathering information for that famous April 15th (income tax due) date. Do you need a new app to help with keeping track of your finances? Are you planning on taking trips? Do you need help in using your cell phone's camera? If you would like information on these topics, contact your friendly LCACE board members. We can schedule a presentation at one of our meetings.

On December 25th, we lost one of our members, Howard Jacobs. I did not know Howard very well but remember seeing him at our meetings. Please extend your condolences to Howard's partner in life, Bobby Jacobs.

There will be no board elections in 2025 as the board members hold their positions for 2 years. We are still looking for people to fill the roles of secretary and membership. If you can spare a couple of hours a month, please consider taking on one of these roles.

We had several surveys on what the members would like for presentations. We are planning our meetings for the year. If you have suggestions, please contact one of the board members.

Just a reminder, the membership dues are \$20 per individual/family. The membership runs from April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026.

I would like to thank our board members: Linda Koudelka, Lester Larkin, Linda Busch, Mike McEnery, Judy and Eric Rehberger, Cynthia Simmons, J.J. Johnson and Liz Barnett for all their hard work for our club.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Diane Carlson

L.C.A.C.E. President

December 2024 Holiday Party.











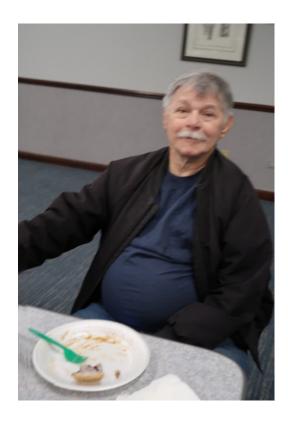


December 2024 Holiday Party.









This is the second article by the Canadian photographer, Lynda Buske, selected by APCUG to be shared with members.

Getting ready for winter photography!

By Lynda Buske

Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada (<u>https://opcug.ca</u>) Editor: brigittelord(at)opcug.ca

While winter photography might take a bit more prep time regarding what to wear, it is well worth the effort to take advantage of a completely different environment from summer. I thoroughly enjoy taking photos during (if safe) and after a snow/ice storm and of rivers, just as they are freezing or breaking apart.

There are some advantages to winter

shooting, especially in the Ottawa area. We get many crisp sunny days with pristine snow and little slush. The sun is low throughout the day, so you don't have to avoid noon-hour photography. If you do want to catch the sunrise, it is later than in the summer months (no mosquitos!), and the sunset might well be before dinner!

You may want to consider additional items for your kit to make winter photography easier. For instance, I use gloves that have fabric only halfway up my fingers for easy button pushing, but they also have a Velcro flap to go over all the fingers to keep them warm when I don't need the dexterity. If you are standing around waiting for the sunrise or long exposures, your feet can get cold, so I recommend heavy socks with a high wool content. I save them for photography as wool does not wear as well as synthetic fibers, and at around \$20-\$30 a pair, I don't want to buy them often. Any winter photographer would welcome these as a Christmas gift!

In terms of camera gear, I recommend a lens hood to prevent flares and to keep falling snowflakes off your lens. You may wish to get special feet for your tripod to better grip on ice and



snow. Also, a polarizing filter can help with the intense glare/reflection of the sun on white snow.

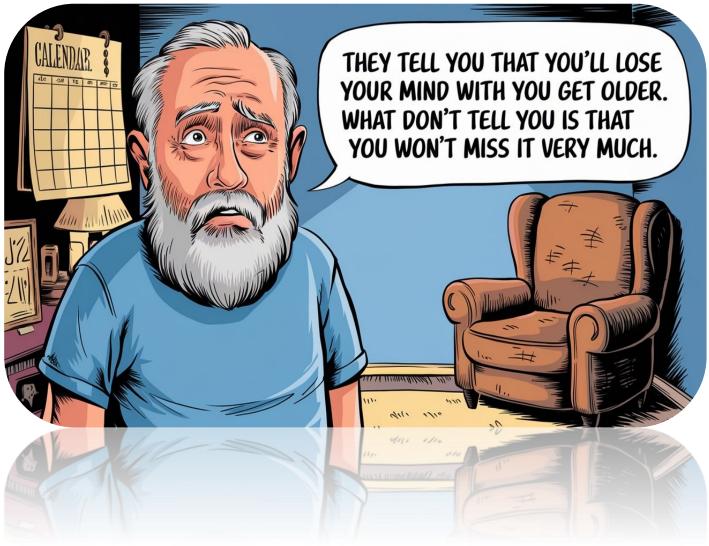
When shooting a mostly snowy scene, your camera will assume it is an overly bright object and may try to underexpose it. If your camera has a *Snow scene* mode, use that setting by all means (don't forget to take it off afterward). I prefer to ensure the camera is not on *Auto* and then choose P, A, Tv/S, or M. I can slightly over-expose my image with the EV adjust in any of these shooting modes. It usually is a button with two triangles on the back of the camera. Set the scale to +1 over the baseline of zero.

If you are shooting a scene with many trees or

other objects along with the snow, your camera may meter on those, and you will find your snow over-exposed. In this instance, set your EV adjustment to -1. If it appears a bit too dark when viewing on your computer, you can lighten it with photo editing software (<u>https://opcug.ca/</u> <u>Photography/</u> <u>UsingMasksInPhotoEditingSoftware.pdf).</u>



When you are done for the day, you may have to modify your summertime routine to protect your camera. Let your camera come to room temperature in the bag before unloading images, recharging the battery, cleaning the lens, etc. This will prevent condensation from forming and entering the interior of your camera.





You cannot control how each little piece of data about you and your family is collected. However, you still have a right to data privacy. You can help manage your data with a few repeatable behaviors. Your data is valuable and you deserve to have a say!

Check out our resources below to better manage your personal information and make informed decisions about who receives your data.

About Data Privacy Week

The goal of Data Privacy Week is to spread awareness about online privacy. We think data privacy should be a priority both for individuals and organizations. Our goal is twofold: we want to help citizens understand that they have the power to manage their data and we want to help organizations understand why it is important that they respect their users' data.

Why Is Data Privacy Week Important?

Our data is collected everyday — your computer, smartphone, and pretty much every other internet-connected device gathers data, which might even include your wristwatch or car! But you often have some choices when it comes to how this data is collected, shared, and sold.

Personal data can be stored indefinably. Data can be used to make inferences about your socioeconomic status, demographic information, and preferences. Even seemingly in-



nocuous information, such as your favorite restaurants or items you purchase online, can be

used to make assumptions about you and your habits. Many companies have the opportunity to monitor the data of their users and consumers, and they sell the data for profit. If this reality is sending chills down your spine, don't fret! You can take steps to control how your data is shared. You can't lock down all of your data — even if you stop using the internet, credit card companies record your purchases and the government knows your Social Security number. But you can take simple steps to manage it and take more control of who it is shared with. #####

Here are a few resources you might want to share with your members.

Data Privacy Week, About Data Privacy Week, What is Data Privacy? Become a Champion, Respect Privacy, Take Control of Your Data, Manage Your Privacy Settings, How to Be a Data Snob, Past Data Privacy Week Videos. Manage Your Privacy Settings – Stay Safe Online

FTC – Protecting Consumer Privacy and Security

Consumer Information Blog | FTC Consumer Information

#####

DATA PRIVACY WEEK: PRIVACY ADVICE -

Two-to-five-minute security videos hosted by Lisa Plagueimeier, Executive Direction, National Cybersecurity Alliance, with Consumer Reports, Mozilla, etc. representatives. https:// www.youtube.com/playlist?

list=PL7QHbjPSF0r4Sx1R znbzDVfGds5og7 Z

DATA PRIVACY WEEK — HACKERS: THE **NEW GHOSTS IN THE MACHINE** – Hackers

are like ghosts in the machine – they make their presence known when they want to. Although some malware can be visible (such as ransomware), most cyber threats work invisibly. This is why it's so important to learn how to spot these ghosts. Also, know what you can do alone to protect yourself against them. Cyber threats are on the rise, which has

brought a new level of dangers for people everywhere. Learning what to look out for when it comes to cyber threats will help you stay safe in today's digital world. Read on to find out more! <u>https://techgenix.com/hackers-the-newghosts-in-the-machine/?</u>

<u>utm_source=email&utm_medium=tgnewsletter</u> <u>&utm_campaign=tgweekly-</u>

<u>220125&hq_e=el&hq_m=2195366&hq_l=12&h</u> <u>q_v=de747fd81f</u>

DATA PRIVACY WEEK — FREE APPS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE DOWNLOAD-

ING – There are tons of free apps available for Android and Apple users worldwide. But what you might not know is whether or not these apps are safe to use. We'll discuss all the pros and cons of free apps and how to avoid malware threats when downloading them. Free apps are a great way to get the app you want without paying for it. But not all free apps are safe, so before downloading any app, make sure you know what you're getting yourself into. Free apps offer a fantastic array of benefits over paid versions, but they also have significant risks. Free apps have many advantages and disadvantages when compared with their paid counterparts. Saving money is always better than not being free unless there's malware involved!

https://techgenix.com/free-apps-what-youneed-to-know-before-downloading/? utm_source=email&utm_medium=tgnewsletter &utm_campaign=tgweekly-220125&hq_e=el&hq_m=2195366&hq_l=8&hq v=de747fd81f

DATA PRIVACY WEEK: WHY YOUR "UNIMPORTANT" ACCOUNTS MATTER, Even

the unimportant ones can cause you problems, Leo Notenboom – One of the pushbacks I get when I reiterate the importance of securing your online accounts relates to accounts you might consider "unimportant". You may feel that extra security measures are more hassle than they're worth. As a result, you might use a poor password, re-use a password, or fail to set up recovery mechanisms. My concern is twofold. First, accounts often become more important over time. Second, a breach of even a so-called "unimportant" account can still cause you massive headaches. <u>https://askleo.com/</u> <u>why-that-unimportant-accounts-matter/</u>

DATA PRIVACY WEEK: TAX SCAM EMAILS

ARE ALIVE AND WELL AS US TAX SEASON

STARTS – Many countries have taxation forms with names that have entered the general vocabulary, notably the abbreviations of documents that employers are obliged to provide to their staff to show how much money they were paid – and, most importantly, how much tax was already withheld and paid in on the employee's behalf. Here at Naked Security, we know the names of these forms, amongst numerous others, because they often show up in tax scam emails, presumably to give those messages an air of realism. Anyway, given that it's the last week in January, and thus that US tax filing season is about to get underway, we weren't surprised to receive a tax-related scam email today, and to see the W-2 form mentioned explicitly. <u>https://</u>

nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2022/01/25/taxscam-emails-are-alive-and-well-as-us-taxseason-starts/

DATA PRIVACY WEEK: WHY YOU SHOULD DELETE YOUR YOUTUBE HISTORY OFTEN (AND HOW TO DO IT) – Like many social media apps designed to suck you in, Google uses what it knows about you—including your YouTube watch history—to serve you an endless stream of content that it thinks will hold your interest. If you have hours to go down a rabbit hole of comedy or cute animals, that might be fine.

But let's say you searched for something you'd like to keep private, and the algorithm is now serving you a lot of content on that topic. Or you had to watch a video for school or work, and the videos you actually care about are being drowned out by something extremely boring.

Good news: You can delete some or all of your YouTube watch history to better curate your recommended video feed. Here's more on why you should do it often—and how to do it in a few quick steps.

https://lifehacker.com/why-you-should-delete -your-youtube-history-often-and-h-1848414082?

<u>utm_source=lifehacker_newsletter&utm_medi</u> <u>um=email&utm_campaign=2022-01-25</u> <u>Why You Should Delete Your YouTube History</u> <u>Often (and How to Do It) (lifehacker.com)</u>

DATA PRIVACY WEEK: HOW TO DOWNLOAD EVERYTHING AMAZON KNOWS ABOUT YOU

(IT'S A LOT) – Here's a fun thought experiment; picture the amount of personal data you think tech companies keep on you. Now, realize it's actually way more than that (hmm, maybe this isn't that fun). Even as privacy and security become more talked about in consumer tech, the companies behind our favorite products are collecting more and more of our data. How much? Well, if you want to know the information, say, Amazon has on you, there is a way to find out. And it's a lot. <u>https://lifehacker.com/ how-to-download-everything-amazon-knowsabout-you-its-1848412242?</u> utm_source=lifehacker_newsletter&utm_mediu

<u>m=email&utm_campaign=2022-01-25</u> <u>How to Download Everything Amazon Knows</u> <u>About You (It's a Lot) (lifehacker.com)</u>

DATA PRIVACY WEEK: 200 BAD PASS-

WORDS – Is your password on the list of the 200 most commonly used passwords? The folks

at Nord Pass put out a list of which passwords turn up most often on the hacked list. Hacked passwords. Not surprisingly there are variations on the old 123456 and password. (password1 is still quite popular.) But you might be surprised to see iLoveYou and superman on the list. Qwerty is still very popular for those folks who don't like to move too far around the keyboard, but so is qazwsx and 1qaz2wsx. 200 Bad Passwords – Cyn Mackley

Join <u>APCUG</u>

Membership in APCUG is open to any noncommercial organization whose primary purpose is to help its members learn about technology. It is a cross-platform organization.

L.C.A.C.E. are already members of the APCUG because L.C.A.C.E. is a member of APCUG.





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.

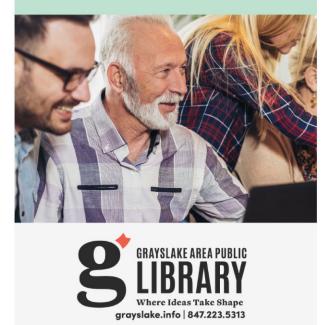
But please be patient! We're not making hard and fast promises to grant your wishes.

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."





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.



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





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"



<u>Ctrl+ click white arrow to go to our</u> <u>YouTube site</u>

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 <u>https://www.pcmag.com/news/</u> <u>reasons-to-upgrade-to-windows-11-now</u>

HOW TO RESET WINDOWS 11 WITHOUT LOS-ING YOUR APPS, FILES, AND SETTINGS – Win-

dows 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 <u>How to reset Windows 11 without losing your apps, files, and settings | ZDNET</u>



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: <u>888-713-3495</u>





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



Learn Technology



L.C.A.C.E.