



Computers Are Easy User Group

**Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....**

Founded 1984 ARI is the
Official Newsletter of
Computers Are Easy User Group

September 2021
Volume XXXIX Issue 9

Confirmed
meeting dates

Sept 25
Oct 23

Zoom
meeting
10:00am

:: ::

Check
website for
dates and
meeting info

:: ::

Mailing address:
CAEUG
P.O. Box 3150
Glen Ellyn, IL
60138

:: ::

MEETING
will be
held using
Zoom
until further
notice

***PER GLENSIDE WEBSITE As a precaution,
all summer programming will be virtual or held outside.
Participants will be required to wear masks and socially
distance. Meeting rooms are not available
to meet CAEUG needs.***

UPDATED MEETING INFORMATION
* * * Saturday September 25, 2021 * * *
4th Saturday at 10 AM via Zoom.
A meeting where you get to stay at home.

**There will be a meeting invitation e-mail Thursday evening
before the Zoom meeting on Saturday morning at 10:00**

**Our September 25, 2021
How Technology Has Changed the Way We Listen to Music
by Ray Baxter.**

REMINDER: \$20.00 Membership dues for 2021 are due.
Mail dues to CAEUG, P.O. Box 3150, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

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**Join CAEUG meeting from Home, Stay Safe!!!!
Stay tuned for updates!!!**





Lamp Post 239 September 2021 by John Spizzirri

The days are growing shorter as the equinox draws near (September 22). The brown bears are still fishing at Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park, Alaska **(1)**, but there are not as many as a few weeks ago. The salmon are at the end of the spawn so the bears have slim pickings. Some bears even fish at night, if there is enough moon light. There will only be a few more week to see the bears so tune in now.

1) <https://is.gd/5XSkeR>

Microsoft (**MS (1)**) has announced that it will be eliminating passwords on it Windows and Office products **(2)**. MS will be rolling out its Microsoft Authenticator App **(3)** over the next few weeks (just in time for Windows 11). The Authenticator App is something that has been available to corporate users for quite some time. It allows the user to use a finger print or 'facial recognition' on a cell phone to login to their account. I must assume that the account must be an MS e-mail user name as required by Windows 11. The Microsoft Authenticator App is the brain child of Bret Arsenault, MS chief information security officer. He thinks that everyone that loves passwords are criminals. He must also think that everyone that has a computer has a cell phone (the app runs on a cell phone). He must also think that the 20 plus percent of the population in the United States that in not 'white' can be accurately identified by 'facial recognition' (**(4), (5), (6)**). Some people may not want MS knowing one of their fingerprints. The App itself has a long list of requirements. The App needs to know precise location (GPS and network-based), take pictures and videos, read the contents of your USB storage, modify or delete the contents of your USB storage, find accounts on the device, add or remove accounts, receive data from Internet, full network access, control vibration, close other apps, draw over other apps, run at startup, create accounts and set passwords **(7)**. That is giving MS a lot of power over your phone just so you do not have to type in a password. MS can look at and delete any picture on your phone. It can listen to and delete any audio file on your phone. It can review and delete any document you created or downloaded on your phone. Maybe MS has solved the dark skin 'facial recognition' problem. Maybe this App might be a good thing for some people. As for me, I don't think so.

1) <https://www.microsoft.com/>

2) <https://is.gd/W5sq4u>

3) <https://is.gd/eUZ51P>

4) <https://wp.me/p7da6m-4Of>

5) <https://is.gd/hfnHKF>

6) <https://is.gd/mq9zRy>

7) <https://is.gd/vULqD1>

Wired Magazine **(1)** has an article this month on how to get through to customer service when you have to call **(2)**. The article gets right to the point in a step by step manner. It is a short read.

- 1) <https://www.wired.com/>**
- 2) <https://is.gd/LY6fRV>**

Proton Mail **(1)** is a Swiss based e-mail provider that has free and paid accounts. Its distinguishing feature is that, if both sender and receiver are using Proton Mail, the e-mail is encrypted end to end. Up until a few weeks ago Proton Mail advertised that "by default, we do not keep any IP logs which can be linked to your anonymous email account." A few months ago a Swiss court ruled that Proton Mail start logging a particular users IP address i.e. meta data for Interpol **(2)**. Interpol had reason to believe that the particular user was breaking the law of one or more countries. The contents of the e-mails were not compromised as Proton Mail cannot access them. Since this story was revealed **(3)** Proton Mail has changed its advertising to reflect its new policy. It says, "ProtonMail is email that respects privacy and puts people (not advertisers) first." It recommends that customers use the TOR browser **(4)** when using their service so as to remain IP anonymous.

- 1) <https://protonmail.com/>**
- 2) <https://www.interpol.int/en>**
- 3) <https://arstechnica.com/?p=1792492>**
- 4) <https://www.torproject.org/>**

A site with over 100 swear word alternatives some of which you may have already used or heard **(1)**. It also has baby names, parenting, and child care advise.

- 1) <https://wehavekids.com/parenting/101-Great-Cuss-Word-Alternatives>**

You may have heard that Litecoin **(1)** and Walmart **(2)** entered into an agreement where Walmart would accept Litecoin as payment for goods. This story, covered by Reuters **(3)**, is completely false **(4)**.

- 1) <https://litecoin.org/>**
- 2) <https://www.walmart.com/>**
- 3) <https://www.reuters.com/>**
- 4) <https://is.gd/uSLdGj>**

NSO Group **(1)** (NSO standing for Niv, Shalev and Omri, the names of the company's founders is an Israeli technology firm) **(2)** maker of Pegasus spyware **(3)** has been linked to a list of 50,000 phone numbers believed to be of interest to clients of the NSO Group. According to NSO Group the software is to be used to track criminals and terrorists and is only sold to military, law enforcement and intelligence agencies **(4)**. The list contains politicians, heads of state, business executives, activists, several Arab royal family members, and more than 180 journalists from around the world.

NSO denies misuse of its software and is 'investigating'. A couple of people whose phone number was on the list were murdered. Any connection? Hmmm. When I look at what this software can collect and do it reminds me of Microsoft Authenticator App. Pegasus can do two or three additional functions but other than that they seem to be identical. I wonder if NSO Group sold the software to MS or if MS sold it to NSO Group.

- 1) <https://www.nsogroup.com/>
- 2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NSO_Group
- 3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegasus_\(spyware\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegasus_(spyware))
- 4) <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-57881364>

Between you, me and the LampPost, that's all for now.

Apps and Applications – Mobile and Desktop
By Phil Sorrentino, Newsletter Contributor
Sarasota Technology Users Group
January 2021 issue
STUG Monitor
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When we talk about computer software nowadays, we typically use the term Apps, referring to any software that is running on a computer, smartphone, or tablet. The term Applications was originally used for software other than the Operating System, but that seems to have changed over the last few years with the advent of Mobile devices - Smartphones and tablets. Also driving the change has been the migration towards the "Client - Server" architecture, where smaller Apps running in a client device (smartphone or tablet) can control a much more elaborate collection of Applications software running in a much larger server (in the cloud). Computing has been moving in this direction ever since the internet and the World Wide Web have become available to us. The term "App" has become very popular. In 2009, technology columnist David Pogue even proposed that the new mobile smartphones be nicknamed "App Phones".

And in 2010 App was listed as the "Word of the Year" by the American dialect Society.

So, here are some definitions, at least for this discussion. A computer program is a generally structured collection of instruction sequences that perform a specific task when executed by a computer. (How's that for a "Nerdy" definition?) Software is a general term and will refer to all types of computer programs for all types of computers. An Operating System is a collection of computer programs that manage computer hardware and software resources and provides common services for

Application programs. An Application program is a computer program designed to perform a group of coordinated functions, tasks, or activities for the benefit of the user, for example, a Word Processor, a Spreadsheet, an Accounting program, a Web Browser, or even a computer game. These applications are designed to run on the computer hardware with the assistance of the Operating System (like Windows10, macOS, or Android), which is mainly involved with managing the computer hardware.

Before the Smartphone, circa 2007, we only had Desktop Applications, because we only had Desktop computers. Yes, I know laptops were available and they could be easily moved around, but basically, they were just portable desktop computers. So, Desktop Applications are software programs intended to be run on a desktop (or laptop) computer. Then came the Smartphone (and shortly later, circa 2010, the tablet), and these devices were very much different in that their screens were noticeably smaller and there was no mouse for selection/navigation, only a touch-sensitive screen. So, applications that could be used in this new smaller environment had to be created specifically to run on a small screen using your finger as a pointer/navigation device. These applications are software programs intended to be run on a mobile computer, a smartphone, or tablet, with limited input and output capabilities. So, a mobile app is a computer program designed to run on a mobile device, like a smartphone or tablet, with the assistance of the Mobile Operating System (like Android or iOS, or even Windows 10 for tablets).

Desktop applications are usually "fuller featured", whereas the Mobile app equivalent is usually smaller, "lesser featured", simpler, and may or may not be easier to use. This should not be unexpected when you consider that most desktop Apps are built to be used with the more capable input and output devices, (a mouse, a keyboard, and a much larger display), whereas mobile Apps are intended to be used with only a finger and a much smaller screen.

With the arrival of mobile devices, many popular Desktop Applications were the basis for new mobile Apps for the new mobile devices. Many Google desktop applications have been recreated for mobile devices. Your Google email can be accessed from the desktop application or the mobile App. Both devices will provide the same information from the Google email server. But, as we have noted, Mobile Apps are different from Desktop Applications in that they have to run on a much smaller device with limited input and output capabilities. And not only is there a display size and input/output capability difference, but the mobile devices are different way down at the hardware level, the central processing units, most of which are slower than their desktop counterparts. So, many applications exist as both desktop and mobile versions. Microsoft Word is available in a desktop version, the one that most of us learned word processing on, and Microsoft has released a mobile version that is available for both Android and iOS devices. This also holds for Excel and PowerPoint. Adobe Photoshop image editor is a desktop application and Adobe Photoshop Sketch is a mobile app that lets you draw and paint on a mobile device but is a condensed version of Photoshop.

Besides the Apps that have migrated from the Desktop world, there are hundreds of thousands of Apps that have been developed for mobile devices that take advantage of the fact that these devices are mobile. These Apps use the power of the server to provide capabilities to the user that could never have been accomplished with only the processing power of the device itself. Maps and navigation immediately come to mind. The memory and the processing power required for these capabilities, at least with the current technology, would never fit into a device the size of a smartphone. And some Apps take advantage of the fact that they know your location; remember smartphones have GPS and other techniques for location determination. For example, Glympse lets you send your current location to another device, so the user of that device will know where you are (for as long as you choose to give him that information). There are even some Apps that use your location to notify you if one of your friends (or contacts) is nearby. The capabilities that can be developed for the mobile devices have only scratched the surface. It almost looks like the software applications development emphasis has moved from desktop Applications to mobile Apps.

Chromebook Update
By Jeff Wilkinson, President
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
<https://www.scsccl.com>
pres.scsccl (at) gmail.com

I have become more interested in Chromebooks as an alternative for our club members who need to replace an outdated desktop or laptop computer. Many, if not most, of these users don't need the features of today's typical laptops and since so many of the tasks are accomplished online without the need for local storage, a Chromebook becomes a very attractive option. With a Chromebook and a free Google account; email, web browsing, video streaming and a host of Android applications are available.

In addition to its comparatively low cost, a Chromebook offers a useful synergy with Android phones and applications along with light weight and long battery life. The complete Google Suite of Cloud applications is available free and offers a useful alternative to Office software suites.

Another attraction is the ability to repurpose outdated laptops with the installation of Google's Neverware CloudReady software. The free Home version listed as being "useful for Tinkerers, Parents and Students, and Other Humans Ready for a better OS" was right up my alley. I successfully converted two old laptops that were not upgradable to the current Windows operating system. Both worked well although they had some limitations. With a new HP Chromebook I was able to make use of all the latest features of the Chromebook operating system including one of the latest updates for scanning. By simply logging into my Google account with my Gmail address and password I had all my browsing bookmarks, photos and Gmail available to me.

So, when I saw a recent news report about the tracking of Chromebook users it

raised some concern. As has been discussed before, an inquiry about a specific product or service, more often than not, results in the sudden appearance of ads for that product or service or similar products in many of your search results, popups on YouTube views, social media pages and emails. The gist of the new report I saw was the concern for the profiling of Chromebook users and the use of the collected information to target market to that user. The main way of collecting the metrics used to target market are cookies that are ostensibly used to "customize" your web experience. While a "do not track" setting is available in the Chrome and Edge browsers, be aware of this official Google statement "Most websites and web services, including Google's, don't change their behavior when they receive a Do Not Track request". Chrome doesn't provide details of which websites and web services respect Do Not Track requests and how websites interpret them. Do Not Track is not available on iPhones or iPads.

Does it work? Not very well ... seems every time I search for anything, I get pop ups and ads for that or similar items for days. Of course, the data collection is true of virtually all the so-called free software in which your usage data is the real product. So be aware, while Chromebooks offer an attractive alternative to a Windows or IOS laptop they tightly integrate with Google in ways you may not realize.

<https://www.usatoday.com/videos/tech/2018/09/25/-google-chrome-tracking-you/37935707/>

<https://clark.com/technology/google-chrome-do-not-track/>

<https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/how-to-get-google-to-quit-tracking-you>

<https://www.wired.com/story/google-tracks-you-privacy/>

<https://9to5google.com/2020/02/06/google-chrome-x-client-data-tracking/>

<https://lifehacker.com/what-data-of-mine-does-chrome-send-to-google-5763452>

How the Internet Has Changed the Real Estate Industry

Speaker: Wade Huie, LACS, Realtor

**Meeting review by Leah Clark, Los Angeles Computer Society Editor
and President**

October 2020 issue, User Friendly

www.lacspc.org editor (at) lacspc.org

Wade has been a real estate agent in Los Angeles since 2003. He talked about the days of face-to-face contacts, door knocking, sending out cards, etc. Those who wanted to buy a house would look through newspaper ads, drive through a neighborhood looking for "For Sale" signs, then they would call the agents listed on them.

The agents had all the information on properties for sale in Multiple Listings Services (MLS) books. Some of the listings would be obsolete by the time the books were printed. Before the internet, the system was not very efficient.

There has been a tremendous cosmic shift in the real estate business, as in other companies, due to the internet. It has mostly been for the better. Realtors are no longer the gatekeepers to all the information. MLS became automated with listings on

the computer rather than in the out-of-date books.

The clients are now in charge.

The internet's connection with Real Estate is here to stay. No one misses the old-school way of buying and selling property. Most homebuyers now begin their search on the internet, which is mostly kept up to date. Much can now be done on a smartphone. Most documents and contracts can now be made online with electronic signatures. Pricing a house is still an art, not a science. The estimated value of a home can vary on different sites. Improvements or defects may not be considered in the estimates.

Wade said the best thing the internet has done for real estate has been what it has done with pictures. Without going to a home, a buyer can get a feeling about it from images. Visuals are the most important, but photos can make or break a sale. Wade showed posted images of homes with much clutter and untidiness visible. Wade then talked about "staging" a home by putting in cool furniture, a few paintings, rugs, etc. enabling it to be sold for more money. The buyer can imagine what a house may look like. Staging may raise the price of a home; it does cost to bring in all that stuff. Thanks to the internet and software, a seller may provide "virtual staging" which costs much less.

The use of video has become common in real estate. Cameras pan around each room to give a sense of what's there. Using drones to depict the home and surrounding neighborhood makes it like walking around in a house. Agents must now become, or hire, filmmakers.

Buying and selling real estate in the U.S has been becoming highly competitive, and both Wall Street and Silicon Valley want in on it.

iBuyers will buy your home, fix it up, then resell it on the open market. The "i" stands for instant. Wade thinks we may see more of them in the future, especially for those who may need to move quickly.

The internet is not going to go away It will continue to evolve, and it will be making buying a home easier. Real estate, from a family perspective, is still a local activity. Buyers want someone with the knowledge and skills to help them make what may be the most important financial decision of their lives. If agents don't embrace the new technology, they may deserve to go obsolete.

Interesting Internet Finds July 2020
Steve Costello
scostello (at) sefcug.com

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some items I found interesting during the month of June 2020.

Why Am I Getting Calls When Do Not Disturb Is On

<https://www.guidingtech.com/why-getting-calls-do-not-disturb-on/>

This is a question I had myself. After reading this post and applying what I learned, it is no longer a problem for me. If you keep getting calls while do not disturb is on, check out this post for a solution.

The Ultimate Guide To Privacy On Android

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3545530/ultimate-guide-to-privacy-on-android.html>

If you are an Android user, like me, you should check out this post. About every six months, or so, I run checks on most of the items outlined here. I use a paid VPN whenever I am not using my home Wi-Fi, and I encourage others to do the same.

Why Am I Connected To Wi-Fi But Not The Internet?

<https://www.howtogeek.com/676918/why-am-i-connected-to-wi-fi-but-not-the-internet/>

I am sure that at one time or another you have shown to be connected to Wi-Fi but not connected to the internet. If you would like to know more about why that happens and what might be a solution, check out this post.

Vivaldi Browser Tips And Tricks

<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/vivaldi-browser-tips-and-tricks/>

I have been using Vivaldi (on both Windows 10 and Linux) off and on for a few months now, and I like it. This post gives some tips and tricks, that should make using it a better experience.

Can You Use Bluetooth Speakers If Your TV isn't Bluetooth Ready?

<https://thevisualcommunicationguy.com/2020/06/22/can-you-use-bluetooth-speakers-if-your-tv-isnt-bluetooth-ready/>

I have two TVs that are over 10 years old but work fine. I have plenty of Bluetooth speakers and headphones, but neither TV supports Bluetooth. (Note: I have a soundbar hooked to the main TV now, and it supports Bluetooth.)

How To Reduce Microphone Background Noise On Your PC

<https://www.maketecheasier.com/reduce-microphone-background-noise-on-pc/>

I have been attending a lot of Zoom conferences since the COVID-19 crisis started. There are sometimes where participants have a lot of background noise in their audio. So, I thought this would be good to post for those having problems.

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As long as you attribute this article, you can use it in part, or whole, for your newsletter, website, or blog.

September 2021 DVD of the Month

ARI - Monthly newsletter

AudioBook - Free audio book

DesktopImages3D - Photo viewer

DVDOmlists - Contents of CDs and
DVDs of the Month

Giada - Audio looping software

ISOWorkshop - CD DVD burning &
organizing software

iTopScreenRecorder - Screen recording software

LicenseCrawler - Finds license keys on
all software

MajorGeeksWindowsTweaks - Set of
200 tweaks

MemberContributions - Things members
send me

MonkeysAudio - Audio media player

Mp3tag - Audio media meta data editor

MusicBee - Audio media player

NirSoft - Set of over 100 utilities

OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files

SandboxIE - Sand box software

SonicVisualiser - Audio editor

Textify - Extract text from dialog boxes

TightVNC - Remote control software

UltraVNC - Remote control software

Meeting Location and Special
Accommodations

The Glenside Public Library address is
at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale
Heights, Illinois. Please park away
from the building. Thank you. The
meeting(s) are not library sponsored
and all inquiries should be directed to
Mike Goldberg at

Individuals with disabilities who plan
to attend this program and who require
certain accommodations in order to
observe and / or participate in the
program are requested to contact
CAEUG president, Mike Goldberg at
at least five (5) days prior to the
program, so that reasonable
accommodation can be made.

Mailing address:

CAEUG

P.O. Box 3150

Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

Members Helpline

Any member can volunteer to be
on the Members Helpline.

Hardware problems, Win 7, Win
10, Linux and Virus Removal

- John Spizzirri

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