



# Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,  
Retry,  
Ignore....

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

May 2023  
Volume XXXIX Issue 5

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PER GLENSIDE Library (Masks are optional)

INFORMATION for Saturday May 27th meeting  
The start time in person at Library Board Room is 9:30am or at home  
Zoom is 10:00am. This will be a hybrid meeting.

There will be a meeting invitation e-mail Thursday evening before the  
Saturday meeting.

Our May 27th, 2023 will bbe an **APCUG presentation**  
**by Rob Truman**  
**Beginners guide to YouTube.o** join us on Zoom.

### REMINDER 2023:

\$20.00 Membership dues for 2023 are due.  
Mail dues to CAEUG, P.O. Box 3150,  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

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**Thank you to all who have paid 2023 dues!**

Confirmed  
meeting dates

**2023**

**May 27**

**June 24**

Hybrid  
Board Room  
in person  
OR Zoom

:: ::

Check  
website for  
dates and  
meeting info

:: ::

Mailing address:

CAEUG  
P.O. Box 3150  
Glen Ellyn, IL  
60138

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Join CAEUG meeting in Library or from Home,  
Stay Safe! Update information on our website at

<https://www.CAEUG.net>

## CAEUG OFFICERS

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The Glenside Public Library address is at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored. 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, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

## Members Helpline

Any member can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.  
Hardware problems, Win 7, Win 10, Linux and Virus Removal

- John Spizzirri

## About DVD of the Month

Unfortunately, the DVD of the Month is no longer creating an income center for the club. August 2022 will be the last issue of the DVD. Starting in September, I will feature a review of a freeware program in the ARI... Some of these programs may be elaborate and complicated others may be very simple. I may include screen shots if that can be accommodated.



## Lamp Post 257 May 2023 by John Spizzirri

The Decorah, Iowa eaglette is going on seven weeks old ( **1** ). The fledging will happen in another six to seven weeks. There is no way to tell what sex the eaglet is because there are no outward indications. It is becoming more aggressive with regards to food the adults bring to the nest, but this is normal behavior at seven weeks. The south nest camera has two sets of cameras because there are two nests that are 700 feet apart. The eagles are the main focus right now. When the other nest becomes interesting, it will be featured. The one nest is occupied by eagles and the other nest is currently occupied by geese. If you go to the south nest url, you may see geese some of the time and eagles most of the time. When the goslings hatch they stay in the nest until they can walk. Once they can walk they jump out of the nest. Most of them survive the fall. The parents march them to the nearest pond or stream for swimming lessons. The north nest ( **2** ) has been abandoned. Hopefully, next year another pair will take residence. The Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) are still available on various cameras; Churchill, Manitoba, Canada ( **3** ), Alaska Borealis cams ( **4** ), or Yellowknife cam ( **5** ). Another place to try offers various cams from around the world ( **6** ).

**1) <https://is.gd/YAuMF0>**

- 2) <https://is.gd/0YqTVG>
- 3) <https://is.gd/3RjcRQ>
- 4) <https://is.gd/Fz90S2>
- 5) <https://is.gd/tk0XQg>
- 6) <https://seetheaurora.com/?p=82>

There is an Android app called Anima an AI friend and Companion ( **1** ). It is a boy friend or girl friend that you choose. It is a chatbot with virtual artificial intelligence. It is hyped as a friendly AI 'therapist in your pocket' for better mental health. It says it is private and secure. I checked what the app wants access to on you phone. here is the list; access to your camera, pictures and videos, microphone and recorde audio, modify and delete contents of your shared storage, read the contents of your shared storage, advertising ID permission, run foreground service, read image files from shared storage, control vibration, Google play billing service, have full network access, use biometric hardware, view network connections, prevent phone from sleeping, play install referrer API, view Wi-Fi connections, use fingerprint hardware, show notifications, and receive data from the internet. After reading that list I wonder what their definition of private and secure is. It looked like it might be fun app until I read that list. If you were thinking about this app or one like it, check what the app has access to and what it may cost you in privacy and dollars. Anima is supposed to sell you things in order to pay for itself. There are a number of competitors; Replika ( **2** ), My AI Friend ( **3** ), AI Pal ( **4** ), gemsouls ( **5** ), and Paradot ( **6** ). Some of these seem to have a target audience of children but most seem to target men with an occasional nod to women.

- 1) <https://myanima.ai/>
- 2) <https://is.gd/CDdw2l>
- 3) <https://is.gd/pFhEhc>
- 4) <https://is.gd/7xoau2>
- 5) <https://is.gd/NKYhkj>
- 6) <https://is.gd/f4JLGK>

MalWarebyte ( **1** ) posted a warning about tech support scams in one of their recent blogs ( **2** ). It covered the usual things to watch out for including; do not give credit card information to people that call you, do not give remote control of your computer to people that call you, if you call someone, make certain that it is the valid phone number for the company or entity you want to call, most scam operations are operated overseas ( nowadays in south and southeast Asia ), there are virtually no prosecutions of perpetrators, and you should report to the FTC ( **3** ) if you have been a victim. They cited an FBI ( **4** ) crime report ( **5** ). Just scanning that report was a real eye opener. It shows that all cyber crime has grown from just under three billion dollars per year to just over ten billion dollars per year in the last five years. The killer statistic for our club is that the older you are the more apt you are to fall victim to cyber crime ( check page 18 of the FBI crime report ). If you are going to use Windows, I

recommend using Avast ( **6** ) software to avoid viruses and malware. You can pay for Avast but it is not necessary. Bob Gostischa ( **7** ), an APCUG ( **8** ) speaker, and former employee of Avast recommends using it for free. You could always use Malwarebytes for a fee. I do not recommend using McAfee ( **9** ) or Norton ( **10** ) because of their use of system resources. My main suggestion is to stop using Windows, pick a version (distribution) of Linux ( **11** ) and start using it.

- 1) <https://www.malwarebytes.com/>
- 2) <https://is.gd/pBRBus>
- 3) <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/>
- 4) <https://www.fbi.gov/>
- 5) <https://bityl.co/lnLB>
- 6) <https://www.avast.com/>
- 7) <https://is.gd/1swX95>
- 8) <https://apcug2.org/>
- 9) <https://www.mcafee.com/>
- 10) <https://us.norton.com/>
- 11) <https://distrowatch.com/>

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

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## **Are Free Public Phone Charging Stations Safe? 'Juice Jacking' Might Load Malware on Your Phone or Tablet as It's Charging**

by Kurt Jefferson

Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

<https://ckcs.org/>

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You're on a layover at a major airport when you realize your iPhone or Android smartphone's battery is draining fast, and the battery power is down to single digits.

The battery icon has just turned from green to red, meaning your phone is nearly drained. Soon it will be as useless as an electric kettle in a cave.

There's a convenient public charging station nearby. You're in a bind. Your jet leaves in half hour. And yet you've read about the dangers

of charging your phone or tablet at a public charging station. So what's a person to do?

How can you be sure the public charging station is safe? Reviewed.com reports, "As the latest security alerts prove, USB cables and chargers are like chewing gum—if you find it lying around in public, don't use it. It's not free candy. The Los Angeles District Attorney recently warned that charging your phone via those public USB ports can lead to "juice jacking." That's when hackers use the connection to transmit dangerous malware onto your device and steal your personal information or data."

Reviewed.com's executive editor, T.J. Donegan, recommends an alternative. He recommends you buy a USB portable battery pack, "many of which can even charge laptops on the go—so you don't have to crowd around the one outlet with 15 other people."

Reviewed.com recommends what's called the Jackery Bolt portable battery pack. It says the portable battery pack "has an incredibly high capacity that can charge your phone three times over (!!)" before the charger needs to be recharged. Plus, it's slim and compact, so it's easy to tote around and has multiple ports so you can charge more than one device at a time." Amazon currently sells the Jackery Bolt for \$32.99.

The Wirecutter, a website that reviews and tests nearly everything (and purchased by The New York Times), gives high marks to the Zendure SuperMini 20w Power Bank. Amazon currently sells this model for \$45 (using the Amazon on-page clipped coupon.) The Wirecutter writes in its Zendure review, "about as small and lightweight as a power bank can be while still offering enough capacity to juice up most smartphones up to three times. Its USB-C Power Delivery (PD) port can charge most handheld devices (and recharge the power bank itself) at top speed with the included USB-C cable and a compatible wall charger (the one that came with your phone will work). The USB-A port can handle any older, non-USB-C devices you might have kicking around, too."

The HyperJuice 18W USB-C+ Lightning Battery Pack also gets a good Wirecutter review. It contains built-in cables, so you don't have to mess with cables that can easily get lost, tangled, or misplaced. It's currently \$60 from the Hyper website.

The Wirecutter also gives thumbs up to the TravelCard Charger, which sells for \$30 from TravelCard. "It has the lowest capacity of any power bank we've tested," writes The Wirecutter, but the review claims it's the best portable charger "for someone who wants to have an emergency boost of power always on hand."

Reviewed.com:  
Here's Why You Should Never Use A Public Phone Charger

The Wirecutter:  
The Best Portable Chargers and Power Banks for Phones and Tablets



### FBI Issues Warning Over Public Charging Stations

The FBI says don't do it even if you're tempted to use a public charging station so your phone or tablet won't die on you.

It's a risky business, according to the team at the FBI, watching malware spread on mobile devices throughout the U.S. and abroad:

"Cybersecurity experts have warned that criminals can load malware onto public USB charging stations to maliciously access electronic devices while being charged.

Malware installed through a dirty USB port can lock a device or export personal data and passwords directly to the perpetrator. Criminals can use that information to access online accounts or sell it to other bad actors."

FBI tech experts add, "Don't let a free USB charge wind up draining your bank account." Here are some tips to help you avoid becoming a juice-jacking victim:

- Avoid using a USB charging station. Use an AC power outlet instead.
- Bring AC, car chargers, and USB cables with you when traveling.
- Carry a portable charger or external battery.
- Consider carrying a charging-only cable from a trusted supplier, which prevents data from sending or receiving while charging.

## **Most of Us Get It Wrong: Not Just Teenagers Depend Upon the Internet**

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

<https://ckcs.org/>

lextown2 (at) gmail.com

70% of seniors are now online and using technology, reports the World Economic Forum in July 2019. When it comes to the Internet, the website claims it's – No Longer Just For the Young.

“Young people may roll their eyes at older people who can't use technology as fast as they do, but it's wrong to say that older Americans can't use technology. Remember, a baby boomer, Tim Berners-Lee, invented the World Wide Web, so why should we be surprised that they continue to create, adapt, and use new technology?” reports the World Economic Forum.

In January 2022, Pew Research revealed its latest technology poll results. It discovered: “When it comes to internet use, virtually all adults ages 18 to 29 now say they use the Internet (99%). A similar share of those 30 to 49 (98%) say the same. And 96% of those 50 to 64 use the Internet, compared with 75% of those 65 and older who report being internet users.”

So, if you're over 50 and depend on the Internet, how do you protect yourself against the onslaught of cybercriminals who want your money? Let's start with good advice from Reviews.org.

First off, don't share your information online. I'm amazed at the number of folks who scream to the world on Facebook or Instagram that their baby is due on a specific date. Isn't that an invitation to a burglary? I mean, mom and dad are obviously at the hospital. Who's at home watching the turf? Just don't make major personal announcements on social media. You're visiting New Zealand over the summer? Keep it to yourself. Why in the world would you list your departure and return dates online? Talk about an opportunity for burglars.

Before clicking on a web link, hover your cursor over it. You should see where the link takes you in your browser's status bar. This prevents you from visiting a rogue website disguised as a legitimate one.

Use only secure public websites and a trusted VPN (virtual public network.) Logging onto unsecured Wi-Fi at a motel, restaurant, library, or airport is just crazy. If you must log onto an open wireless network, ensure your VPN is up and running. (I use a VPN even when a Wi-Fi password is required.)

Experts say you should only log onto websites that begin with https:, but this isn't always possible. For example, if I visit a specific school from the home page of the largest school district in central Kentucky, the page won't automatically load on my version of Firefox. I have a Firefox add-on installed called HTTPS Everywhere, which blocks the page and tells me it's not secure.

A button allows me to continue to the http-only site, but the browser add-on is a red flag alerting me to a possible security problem.

There are plenty more basic security tips on the Reviews.org page. Check them out if you want more security suggestions.

Just because you're over 50 doesn't mean you have to fall for traps designed to steal your money. Be smart. Be safe. Be vigilant. Scammers are out there, even if you cannot see them.

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## Interesting Internet Finds June 2022

by Steve Costello  
scostello AT sefcug.com

While going through more than 300 RSS feeds, I often encounter things I think might interest other user group members. The following are some items I found interesting during June 2022.

*How To Use Google Chromecast Without Wi-Fi*

**<https://www.groovypost.com/howto/use-google-chromecast-without-wi-fi/>**

If you have a Chromecast and, for some reason, end up without wi-fi access, this post offers some suggestions for still using the Chromecast. (Note: I have saved this where I know I can access it as I live in Florida and it is hurricane season.)

*How To Legally Download A Windows Virtual Machine*

**<https://www.maketecheasier.com/legally-download-windows-virtual-machine/>**

If you want to check out the Windows operating system, this post is for you. In this post, you find out how and where to download a legal Windows virtual machine and how to secure it for use.

*The Write Conversation: Why NOT To Give Away Your Presentation Slides*

**<https://thewriteconversation.blogspot.com/2022/06/why-not-to-give-away-your-presentation.html>**

This article is for those who give presentations to user groups or other gatherings. The author outlines several reasons you should not giveaway your presentation slides and suggestions of what to do instead.

*Peppering Your Passwords*

**<https://firewallsdontstopdragons.com/password-manager-paranoia/>**

In this post are some suggestions for creating and keeping track of your passwords. This is not an all-encompassing solution by any means. (Note: I am interested in password security, so this kind of post always gets my interest.)

*Stop Using Your Tablet Like An eReader*

**<https://www.reviewgeek.com/121521/stop-using-your-tablet-like-an-ereader/>**

This post explains, and I agree, why you should stop using your tablet as an ereader, and instead get a dedicated ereader (not necessarily a Kindle) for reading ebooks. (Note: I have both a Kindle and a tablet but, I use the tablet only for reading emagazines not ebooks.)

*If I Leave My Computer Always On, Am I More Likely To Be Hacked?*

**<https://askleo.com/if-i-leave-my-computer-always-on-am-i-more-likely-to-be->**



## **hacked/**

I hear this question all the time myself. Leo Notenboom explains the pros and cons. Also, Leo explains how to make sure it is the least likely to be hacked.

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## **Interesting Internet Finds July 2022**

by Steve Costello  
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*Google One Explained: Is It Worth Subscribing To?*

**<https://helpdeskgeek.com/reviews/google-one-explained-is-it-worth-subscribing-to/>**

If your 15GB Google Storage is not enough, check out this post that explains just what Google One is, how it works, and its advantages and disadvantages. (Note: I have already been using different options, so I decided this was not worth it.)

*Does Your Internet Provider Know That You're Using A VPN?*

**<https://www.reviewgeek.com/122229/does-your-internet-provider-know-that-youre-using-a-vpn/>**

If you use a VPN to obscure your identity, this is a good post to read.

*How To Find Out Which Kindle Model You Have*

**<https://www.online-tech-tips.com/computer-tips/how-to-find-out-which-kindle-model-you-have/>**

If there is a problem with your Kindle or you need an accessory for it, you will need to know which model you have. Check out this post to learn how.

*Tor Browser's Connection Assist Takes The Frustration Out Of Censorship Circumvention*

**<https://www.ghacks.net/2022/07/16/tor-browsers-connection-assist-takes-the-frustration-out-of-censorship-circumvention/>**

If you use the Tor browser you should read this post.

*Wordpress Users Need To Watch Out For Fake Copyright Infringement Warnings*

**<https://www.techlicious.com/blog/wordpress-users-need-to-watch-out-for-fake-copyright-infringement-warnings/>**

Are you a Wordpress user? If so, you need to read this post so you know how to protect yourself.

*How To Spot Fake Amazon Reviews*

**<https://www.dailybits.com/how-to-spot-fake-amazon-reviews/>**

I get a lot of stuff from Amazon, and I am always looking for ways to spot fake reviews. Sometimes the fake reviews are to make us buy certain items or sometimes not to get them.

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