



# Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,  
Retry,  
Ignore....

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

August 2024  
Volume XXXX Issue 8

\*\*\*\*\*

PER GLENSIDE Library (Masks are optional)

INFORMATION for Saturday August 24th 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 July presentation various short  
video presentations

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

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**Thank you! to all who paid the  
low \$20.00 dues for 2024!**

**Your support helps pay for our PO Box and  
APCUG membership and CAEUG website**

Confirmed  
meeting dates

**2024**

**August 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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webmaster(at)caeug.net

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 271 August 2024 by John Spizzirri

The brown bear cams ( **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, **6** ) at Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park, Alaska are live. The bears are actively fishing. The sows are training the cubs to fish. The salmon have started their trek up the river to spawn. The fishing is good.

- 1) <https://is.gd/5XSkeR>
- 2) <https://is.gd/8qsdz0>
- 3) <https://is.gd/5RsMdk>
- 4) <https://is.gd/BYn1NE>
- 5) <https://is.gd/c7jg58>
- 6) <https://is.gd/ERw674>

For our more senior members I found Senior Planet ( **1** ) a service of American Association of Retired Persons ( **AARP 2** ). It has on line classes, in person classes, articles, various resources, and ways for you to volunteer and donate. The in person classes are not available in the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Maine, Alaska, West Virginia, Hawaii, Rhode

Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Delaware, and Alabama. There is a zipcode locator for the in person classes so you can find the closest one.

- 1) <https://seniorplanet.org/>
- 2) <https://www.aarp.org/>

I don't know if you have noticed that the news has been laced with the word fake news and fake stories lately. This claim is not new. I used to get email from various people with outlandish claims or reports. I would get busy, look up the veracity of the claim or report and show the sender how he or she may have been misled. Now with the news media just repeating the claims or reports without checking the facts it is becoming almost impossible to keep the facts straight. For all of you that want an easy way to check the facts here are some web sites for just that purpose ( **1, 2, 3, 4, 5** ).

- 1) <https://www.snopes.com/>
- 2) <https://www.factcheck.org/>
- 3) <https://www.politifact.com/>
- 4) <https://www.truthorfiction.com/>
- 5) <http://hoaxslayer.com/>

Malwarebytes ( **1** ) reports The Heritage Foundation ( **2** ), the producer of The 2025 Project ( **3** ), has had a data breach. The Foundation deny the breach, but The Daily Signal confirmed that a breach occurred ( **4** ). Malwarebytes estimates 500,000 user's data records were compromised. In an additional article Identity Theft Resource Center ( **ITRC 5** ) reported that the number of data breach victims was up 1,170 percent quarter two (Q2) 2024 over quarter two (Q2) 2023. The actual numbers are 1,041,312,601 victims in Q2 2024 over 81,958,874 for Q2 2023. The ITRC has some resources on its home page ( **6** ) that are useful to check if you have been compromised. I checked two of my email addresses. One has no problems. The other has been cracked but not completely. I checked them both on the Malwarebytes site which has more details. The cracked email showed two physical addresses - one was mine the other was 6176 Valley View Road, Oakland, CA 51033. It listed three phone numbers one of which was mine the others were 743-668-7206 and 128-181-4193. The first is in Ann Harbor, Michigan. The second is gibberish. It also had my correct date of birth. It said I had not been "exposed on AT&T". Neither checker found any exposed passwords.

- 1) <https://www.malwarebytes.com/?p=113923>
- 2) <https://www.heritage.org/>
- 3) [https://static.project2025.org/2025\\_MandateForLeadership\\_FULL.pdf](https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf)
- 4) <https://www.dailysignal.com/>
- 5) <https://www.idtheftcenter.org/?p=51157>
- 6) <https://www.idtheftcenter.org/>

Arstechnica ( **1** ) reported another artificial intelligence ( **AI 2** ) misuse that is causing emotional distressing situation for women, girls, and their families. The misuse is called 'nudification'. The process happens when a bad actor copies ( scrapes ) a picture of a woman or girl or anyone for that matter. The bad actor goes to one of a number of sites that provide the 'nudify or undress' AI service. The web site takes the face from the bad actor's picture and creates a naked human body for it. The bad actor then has a naked picture of the person he originally copied. This obviously is done without the permission or consent of the person whose picture was copied. The city attorney for San Francisco is suing sixteen of these sites on behalf of the victims in the city. His aim is to get these sites shut down. There are many more than sixteen, but the ones he is suing are the most popular. The city attorney put the news conference on Youtube ( **3** ). The question you have to ask yourself, is my picture on the Internet? Further, is your naked picture on the Internet?

- 1) <https://arstechnica.com/?p=2043812>
- 2) <https://is.gd/bqZd2c>
- 3) <https://www.youtube.com/live/HangZtsK1IY>

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

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**AI – What Next?**  
**By Tom Burt, Vice President**  
**Sun City Summerlin Computer Club**  
**<https://www.scsccl.com>**  
**tomburt89134 (at) cox.net**

I recently came across an article from TechRepublic reviewing Intel's new Core Ultra and Xeon CPU chips with onboard support for AI. Here's the link to that article:

**<https://www.techrepublic.com/article/intel-ai-everywhere-event-2023>** .

I shared the article with our Tuesday Kaffee Klatch group. A friend replied, "Really interesting! What's Next?" In this article, we'll explore that question.

My first thought was, "What is AMD doing?" I ran a quick web search and immediately found that AMD has a family of Ryzen AI CPUs offering AMD's XDNA architecture. Here's a link to AMD's web page:

**<https://www.amd.com/en/products/processors/consumer/ryzen-ai.html>**

My next thought was, "What is ARM doing?" Sure enough, ARM also has CPU

chips with onboard support for AI. ARM CPUs are the dominant chips on cell phones, tablets, and recent Apple devices. Here's a link to ARM's web page:

**<https://www.arm.com/markets/artificial-intelligence>**

So, all the major CPU chip families used in servers, PCs, laptops, and mobile devices incorporate onboard AI support. AI apps like ChatGPT, Bard, and Claude can run on your PC, laptop, or mobile device rather than on a cloud-based server farm. As this technology rolls out over the next few years, it will augment the available worldwide AI processing power by several billion devices.

### ***Futurism***

Usually, I avoid trying to predict the future, especially with technology. Reality tends to outstrip even "far-out-there" predictions. However, I'll have to make a few SWAGs in a "What's Next?" article, especially since I'm writing this at the beginning of the new year. However, I'll probably look at this a few years from now and laugh wryly at my naiveté. Let's look at areas where this new onboard CPU support for AI may significantly impact.

### ***Speech Recognition and Generation***

Speech recognition has come a long way since my software engineering days at Citibank's Transaction Technology Institute in the mid-1980s. Today, we are at the point where humans can talk to machines using natural, colloquial language and be understood. Even accented speech can be understood. Further, machines can now speak in natural voices and be easily understood by humans.

Machines can also translate textual content from one language to another. Combining translation with voice recognition and synthesis brings us to the realization of the science fiction concept of a universal translator.

A quick search on Google turned up two Android apps and an iOS app that offer this functionality today:

**[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.speakandtranslate.voicetranslator.alllanguages&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.speakandtranslate.voicetranslator.alllanguages&hl=en_US&gl=US)**

**[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.erudite.translator&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.erudite.translator&hl=en_US&gl=US)**

**<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/itranslate-voice/id522626820>**

For desktop computer users, Google Translate can recognize speech and

translate it.

Currently, these apps, while very capable and well-rated, seem to depend on cloud-based servers for the actual translation intelligence. This means their ability to function depends on having an Internet connection. As the new CPU chips mentioned above become commonplace in mobile devices, look for more of this functionality to operate on the mobile device itself with better performance.

If you're a regular Zoom user, you've likely come across its live captioning and transcription features. Zoom can do real-time voice recognition of all the voices on a Zoom session and display the speech as text in a running window at the bottom of the screen. This is a huge aid to hearing-impaired participants. Similar technology is now providing captioning for online videos and other audio streams. For Android and iOS smartphones, there are Live Transcription apps:

**<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.audio.hearing.visualization.accessibility.scribe>**

**<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/live-transcribe/id1471473738>**

Looking ahead, with advanced CPU chips in smart TVs, it becomes feasible for the TV to automatically generate live captions of any incoming audio stream and do on-the-fly translation of the source audio stream language to another language.

### ***Customer Service***

Customer service is a fertile area for applying voice recognition and synthesis. Consider a service application that can run on your smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop or a service kiosk, displaying a photo-realistic human face and torso, that can converse colloquially with you in any language and has a vast knowledge of the business's products, services and policies, federal, state and local regulations and has the reasoning and operational skills needed to resolve virtually all classes of customer support problems.

Customer Service is a huge cost for all businesses, a large part of which is recruiting and training service representatives. The service activity often has a high turnover rate, meaning the training expense is recurring. Also, policies and products may change frequently, requiring training updates for existing staff. An essential virtue of a "smart" customer service application is that only one master copy of the application needs to be updated, and those updates can be replicated automatically and nearly instantly in all instances of the application. Another virtue is that a "smart" service application is tireless – it will work 24 hours/day, 365 days/year, and doesn't get sick, take vacations, or

lose patience with demanding customers.

Every business is somewhat different; consequently, its customer service applications must be customized. Having on-chip AI support in the CPUs of the business's in-house servers will make it easier to keep this customization and give better performance than depending on cloud-based servers. It also gives the business greater control over what data stays "in-house."

### ***AI Companions***

AI companions are an evolution of "smart" assistants like Siri, Alexa, and Cortana. Here are two articles that discuss the state of AI companion services:

**<https://cybernews.com/tech/ai-companions-explained/>**

**<https://theweek.com/tech/the-pros-and-cons-of-ai-companions>**

These systems today run on cloud servers, but with advanced AI CPUs, they should evolve to run directly on users' devices. This will provide better performance and prevent some concerns about personal information learned by these companions from being in the cloud.

### ***Merging of AI and Robotics***

In the past few years, there have been significant advances in robotics. Robots can now "see" via cameras, radar, and lidar and "hear" via microphones. This has helped in factory automation and many other repetitive actions. Self-driving vehicles are a reality, though they still need refinement.

There's also a lot of work on humanoid robots – robots with a head, torso, arms, hands, and feet that can perform tasks traditionally done by humans. These robots have been research projects but are beginning to be deployed in manual labor settings. Here are two links that survey what's current in the field. The YouTube video is quite remarkable.

**<https://builtin.com/robotics/humanoid-robots>**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFp18nW7p34>**

The humanoid robotic form has some challenges: The mechanical and software algorithms to keep the robot upright, especially on stairs and uneven terrain, are complex. The many small actuators needed to animate the robot's limbs draw a lot of power, which requires a large battery pack and regular recharging every few hours.

With advanced AI support in the CPU chips powering robots of all types, the robots should have more autonomy; they won't need to access the Internet cloud as much to provide their "intelligence." We can foresee a time not very far in the future when humanoid robots may serve as effective caregivers, nannies, servants, and companions in home and institutional settings. This could significantly improve the quality of life for aging seniors who are often alone and frail.

## ***Final Thoughts***

As is often the case, I've barely scratched the surface of the vastness of artificial intelligence. I kept thinking of more things to discuss as I wrote this article. I'll return to this topic now and then in 2024, both in articles and in a few of my monthly seminars.

Robotics and AI are not without concerns. Human workers, especially those in lower-skilled manual and clerical jobs, will likely be displaced. Even in creative professions, AI may be able to replace many workers by automatically synthesizing new works of art. Society must have a plan for repurposing these displaced workers.

AI will affect business, generally making it more efficient and productive. However, it can also make it easier for companies to manipulate consumers.

AI can amplify the power of government for good and evil. In the hands of despots, AI could become the ultimate tool for imposing tyranny. Used for good, AI may vastly elevate happiness and prosperity worldwide.

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**Pack your bags!**  
**By Lynda Buske**  
**Published in Ottawa PC News (June 2023)**  
**Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada**  
**(<https://opcug.ca>)**  
**Editor: [brigitte@opcug.ca](mailto:brigitte@opcug.ca)**

As you already know, one of my interests is travel photography, and we are entering the season when many of us travel far (or near) to experience and photograph new locations. A stay at an area B&B or a friend's cottage can provide ample opportunity to enjoy a different life from your normal routine. Perhaps you have time to notice nature's beauty when the pace is slower and your schedule is not so packed. Maybe you also have the chance to view familiar things from a different perspective. Finding beauty that others walk by is a comment I often hear with respect to my photos.

I have often written about travel photography, so here are some links to past articles you may find useful.

Tips for travel photography. Review my five tips for better travel photos.  
**<https://opcug.ca/Photography/TipsForTravelPhotography.pdf>**



Rainy day photos. Don't spend vacation days inside when rainy days offer enticing photographic opportunities.

**<https://opcug.ca/Photography/RainyDayPhotos.pdf>**

Shooting near water. Canadians have abundant opportunities to visit lakes and seashores, so review these tips before heading to the beach!

**<https://opcug.ca/Photography/ShootingNearWater.pdf>**

Don't miss the road shots! Don't miss photo opportunities from the passenger seat or on a bus.

**<https://opcug.ca/Photography/RoadShots.pdf>**

What to do with all those travel photos? How to organize your pics once you are home. Please note that the article refers to Shutterfly.com. As of March 2023, setting up a personalized site for sharing on Shutterfly is no longer an option. I would suggest trying a site like Flickr, where you can post 1000 free photos and provide links to friends.

**<https://opcug.ca/Photography/WhatToDoWithAllThoseTavelPhotos.pdf>**

Happy travels!

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## UP

Lovers of the English language might enjoy this... How do non-natives ever learn all the nuances of English?

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is "UP".

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP.

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for elections and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends and we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this up is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP;

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it wets UP the earth. When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so....Time to shut UP....!