



Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

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

January 2022
Volume XXXVIII Issue 1

Confirmed meeting dates

2022

January 22
February 26

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,
Participants will be required to wear masks and socially
distance. Meeting rooms are not available
to meet CAEUG needs.

UPDATED MEETING INFORMATION

*** Saturday January 22, 2022 ***

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 Saturday January 22, 2022

An APCUG video on Windows 11 demonstration by Bill James.

REMINDER:

**\$20.00 Membership dues for 2022 are due.
Mail dues to CAEUG, P.O. Box 3150,
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138**

Table of Contents

Page	
2	Lamp 242 by John Spizzirri
5	Geek Free Advantages of New Wi-Fi Standards by Joe Callison
7	Thinking of Buying a New Router? by Jeff Wilkinson
8	Interesting Internet Finds March 2020 by Steve Costello
10	DVD of the Month January 2022

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





Lamp Post 242 January 2022 by John Spizzirri

The Decorah Eagles **(1)** north nest pair has yet to start rebuilding the nest. The south nest has shown no activity as of this writing. The rebuilding should take one to three weeks. The first egg is usually laid in the second to third week of February. Reconstruction should start any time. The Berry College Eagles **(2)** have one eaglet and one egg.

They are much farther south at Mount Berry, Georgia.

- 1) <https://is.gd/0YqTVG>
- 2) <https://www.berry.edu/eaglecam/>

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES **(1)**) has come and gone. It replaced ComDex **(2)**. This year's CES had 40,000 in person attendees viewing 2,300 exhibitors **(3)**. Pre-Covid attendance usually exceeded 160K. This year there was an online attendance. Many companies including; General Motors, Intel, Lenovo, LG, AT&T, Amazon, Ring, Microsoft, Google, and AMD have decided not to participate at CES 2022. YouTube has many news outlets covering CES. I have included UK, Australian, and U.S. links **((4), (5), (6))**.

- 1) <https://www.ces.tech/>
- 2) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COMDEX>
- 3) <https://is.gd/YZGQDn>
- 4) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAzygeV_AsM
- 5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeXkaeXVBjg>
- 6) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfnme5lQIXo>

Bleeping Computer reported that SysJoker **(1)** is new malware that affects Windows, Mac, and Linux. It was discovered last month in the wild **(2)** by Intezer **(3)**. It looks as if it will turn the victim PC into a bot **(4)**. Currently there are no antivirus programs that can detect, prevent, or clean it. The Bleeping Computer article has information about how to know if you have been infected and how to clean up. If you have a paid version of any antivirus program, you may want to ask them when they plan to have protection for this threat.

- 1) <https://is.gd/4RCfYA>
- 2) <https://wp.me/p4VAYd-2p3>
- 3) <https://www.intezer.com/>
- 4) <https://is.gd/WNkgoh>

Congressional select committee investigating the Jan. 6th insurrection **(1)** subpoenaed Facebook, Google, Twitter and Reddit. These companies have apparently been dragging there feet when asked to provide information about "relating to the

spread of misinformation, efforts to overturn the 2020 election, domestic violent extremism, and foreign influence in the 2020 election." **(2)** All of these companies provide various methods of communication via the Internet and wireless devices. Perhaps a subpoena will goad them into cooperation.

- 1) <https://january6th.house.gov/>**
- 2) <https://january6th.house.gov/news/press-releases/select-committee-subpoenas-social-media-companies-records-related-january-6th>**

Apple **(1)**, Acer **(2)**, Lenovo **(3)**, HP **(4)**, and Dell **(5)** remained the top sellers of PCs in 2021 according to Canalys **(6)**. Canalys reports that PC shipments went up 15% to 341 million units over 2020 numbers. The speculations is that customers (businesses) were purchasing additional computers in addition to replacements. Also, students and seniors were purchasing first computers. Canalys' best guest is that this trend will continue due to the work at home movement.

- 1) <https://www.apple.com/>**
- 2) <https://is.gd/IFnOFv>**
- 3) <https://www.lenovo.com/us/en/>**
- 4) <https://is.gd/uoY8JC>**
- 5) <https://www.dell.com/en-us>**
- 6) <https://is.gd/YMG6Bc>**

BlackBerry has terminated the service of all the BlackBerry devices as of January 4, 2022 **(1)**. Liliputing **(2)** reported that not all wireless carriers will stop supporting BlackBerry devices on 1/4/22. If you use one you should get something else soon.

- 1) <https://is.gd/c0MQYe>**
- 2) <https://liliputing.com/?p=148361>**

The Electronic Frontier Foundation **(1)** is advertising its position on why privacy matters to each of us **(2)**. They have created a site to educate anyone who wants to maintain their privacy **(3)**. That site has numerous guides and short courses in phishing attacks, safe data deletion, encryption, VPN, creating strong passwords, use of password managers, and many other things. The National Cybersecurity Alliance Data Privacy Week is January 24 - 28 this year **(4)**. They have a page of tips that can help you stay safe on line **(5)**. Check it out.

- 1) <https://www.eff.org/about/contact>**
- 2) <https://whyprivacymatters.org/>**
- 3) <https://ssd.eff.org/>**
- 4) <https://is.gd/FXJiBy>**
- 5) <https://is.gd/pzIA5X>**

In a related story, Malwarebytes **(1)** reported that Google **(2)** and Facebook **(3)** were fined a total of 210 million Euros (\$240 millions) by the French Government **(4)**. What

was the crime? Not making the ability to refuse cookies as easy as accepting them. Facebook's revenue is based on advertising (98% of it). Google's revenue is based on advertising (80% of it). "Advertisers can bid on specific words and phrases, and target specific demographics, geographies or interests, and this ensures ads show up to relevant users at relevant times, or so the theory goes. To find out who the "relevant users" are ad companies gather massive amounts of information about users, and that is where our privacy comes into play. **(5)**" When it says 'data about users', that means anyone who uses Facebook or Google. That means YOU. Privacy, your privacy, is important no matter who is looking - corporations, government. criminals, or perverts. Some say a case can be made that there is little difference in any of those four categories.

- 1) <https://www.malwarebytes.com/>**
- 2) <https://www.google.com/>**
- 3) <https://www.facebook.com/>**
- 4) <https://is.gd/Pxt4Rc>**
- 5) <https://blog.malwarebytes.com/?p=53519>**

BetaNews reported that Linux Mint (LM **(1)**) has succumbed to Google **(2)** money **(3)**. LM apparently could not get enough corporate sponsors and personal contributions. They have made Google the default search engine on Firefox which is LM's default web browser. Bing **(4)** and eBay **(5)** are also loaded in the selection of search engines. If you use LM as I do, the most recent Firefox upload had these changes in it. If you do not want your browsing history sent to Google, I suggest you change the Search Settings back to Duck Duck Go **(6)** or StartPage **(7)** and delete Google. Further, I would change the Privacy and Security settings no longer allowing any Firefox Data Collection and Use (uncheck all the boxes). It is sad that LM had to resort to this method of revenue collection since it is at the expense of the privacy of it users.

- 1) <https://linuxmint.com/>**
- 2) <https://www.google.com/>**
- 3) <https://is.gd/t1CcYX>**
- 4) <https://is.gd/mDaFzC>**
- 5) <https://www.ebay.com/>**
- 6) <https://duckduckgo.com/>**
- 7) <https://startpage.com/>**

Last month (12/2021) Nvidia **(1)** offered \$40 billions to purchase Arm **(2)**. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC **(3)**) sued Nvidia to stop the purchase as being anti-competitive. According to Barron's the deal now looks 'dead in the water' **(4)**. Nvidia wants to press on but analysts do not hold out much hope.

- 1) <https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/>**
- 2) <https://is.gd/hE6fwO>**
- 3) <https://www.ftc.gov/>**
- 4) <https://is.gd/IMbKeb>**

I read an article in the Chicago Tribune **(1)** and saw a spot on WGN TV **(2)** about a parody conspiracy theory called Birds Aren't Real **(3)**. There are many sites about this conspiracy theory **(4 - 10)**.

- 1) <https://www.chicagotribune.com/>
- 2) <https://wgntv.com/>
- 3) <https://birdsarentreal.com/>
- 4) <https://youtu.be/ScnXkyXqzx8>
- 5) <https://is.gd/knrUzg>
- 6) <https://is.gd/Z8WdUY>
- 7) <https://www.snopes.com/?p=381287>
- 8) <https://www.audubon.org/node/340656>
- 9) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CfiAf50i8k>
- 10) <https://www.facebook.com/birdsarentreal/>

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

Geek Free
Advantages of New Wi-Fi Standards
By Joe Callison Author,
GEEK FREE & FOR~GO (For Geeks Only) blogs;
Convener, Senior Techies SIG
Seniors Computer Club of Greater Kansas City
[https://kcsenior.net/](https://kcsenior.net/sencommemember00)
sencommemember00 (at) gmail.com

Wi-Fi technology and the routers and Wi-Fi adapters using it have advanced a lot in recent years. It is difficult to explain the nuances of Wi-Fi technology without getting geeky, so bear with me a little as I attempt to explain some of the terminologies as simply as I can.

The IEEE 802.11 standards for Wi-Fi have used letters to designate each new generation of design, with b, a, g, and n being the most well-known by consumers as the first four generations. The next generation to appear was ac, which was a confusing change in the naming sequence, so it is often referred to simply as Wi-Fi 5 or 5th generation Wi-Fi. The first generation is designed to take full advantage of new technology that was started but not fully implemented in the n or 4th generation. Both take advantage of 2.4GHz and 5GHz frequencies to provide more and faster channels.

Still, the capability of using multiple inputs and multiple outputs (MIMO) to communicate with a device for even faster or more reliable communications was only standardized under Wi-Fi 5. In addition, MIMO could be used to electronically change

the antenna beam pattern of the router to focus the signal in the direction of the device it was communicating with. Wi-Fi 5 standardized the method of communication between the devices and the router to enable interoperability of the router with all brands of Wi-Fi 5 adapters that support this “beamforming” technology instead of proprietary designs that depended on buying matching equipment from one supplier.

To use beamforming technology (which may go by various names by different brands) with multiple devices simultaneously, multi-user MIMO (MU-MIMO) is required, with the number of antennas and radios supported designated as 2×2 or 3×3 or 4×4 for 2, 3, or 4 simultaneous data streams with Wi-Fi 5. Each MU-MIMO data stream can also be multiplexed (divided up) into up to 3 data streams to provide concurrent single data streams to a total of anywhere from 2 to 24 devices depending on the number of MU-MIMO data streams supported by the router. Non-MIMO communications can connect more total devices with the router, but they take turns, one at a time for each frequency, instead of having simultaneous access to the router.

The newest Wi-Fi standards for consumer products are designated with an ax and referred to as Wi-Fi 6 or 6th generation Wi-Fi and support up to 8 simultaneous MU-MIMO data streams. In addition, there is even an enhanced Wi-Fi 6 called Wi-Fi 6E that adds 6GHz frequency antennas and radios for even more and faster channels of communication. For more information on Wi-Fi 4 through 6E, see the following links:

What Is Wi-Fi 6E? | PCMag

<https://www.pcmag.com/news/what-is-wi-fi-6e>

WiFi standards explained: WiFi 4 vs WiFi 5 vs WiFi 6 (minim.com)

<https://www.minim.com/blog/wifi-4-vs-wifi-5-vs-wifi-6>

Buying a new router? Understand these Wi-Fi basics first - CNET

<https://www.cnet.com/home/internet/buying-a-new-router-understand-these-wi-fi-basics-first/>

For links to articles on the best routers for 2021, see the following:

The Best Wireless Routers for 2021 | PCMag

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-wireless-routers>

The 8 Best Routers To Flood Your Home With Wi-Fi (popularmechanics.com)

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/g36026171/top-wi-fi-routers/>

Why might you need a new router? If your current router is several years old; and you are planning to use a 4K or 8K smart television or streaming video device, or you have many different devices using your router at the same time (the average U.S. home has over ten devices that may be in use), or you are concerned about your router security, or if you or your grandkids are gamers or cryptocurrency miners, then you should probably consider buying a new Wi-Fi 6 router.

At this time, there are not many 6GHz devices utilizing 6E, and the routers and adapters can get expensive. Tests on 6E capable routers that are currently available do not show many advantages over Wi-Fi 6. You would probably benefit more from a router with two 5GHz antennas than a router with one 5GHz and one 6GHz. This may

change in another year, or two and prices should become more reasonable as more 6E hardware becomes available.

Remember that to take full advantage of these new routers, you will need Wi-Fi adapters that use the same Wi-Fi standards and features, such as MU-MIMO as the router. Adapters are available for upgrading laptops and desktops to the new standards, but other devices without USB ports that can support Wi-Fi adapters, like phones, are not upgradeable. They will still work fine with the new routers. In addition, your internet service speed must be high enough to make a meaningful difference in performance with a faster router. You probably will not see much of a speed gain unless you have at least 300Mbps internet service, but speed alone may not be the reason to replace your old router.

Thinking of Buying a New Router?
By Jeff Wilkinson, President, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
April 2020 Gigabyte Gazette
www.scsccl.com
[pres.scsccl \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:pres.scsccl@gmail.com)

Purchasing a new router can be an intimidating task. Trying to decide what you need and how to make the correct selection from the myriad offerings can certainly use some clarification. Having just gone through this experience, I thought I'd offer some guidelines.

If you have a modem/router supplied by your internet service provider and you are tired of paying a rental fee each month, you may also want to consider purchasing your own modem and router.

Overwhelming as it can be, let's see if we can sort it out. Your router is the central hub of your home network. The internet connection is input to the router from the cable modem and the signals are "routed" to your devices by either direct connection or Wi-Fi. You will want to choose a router that is powerful enough and has enough features to service all your current devices and has some expansion or growth capacity for future needs.

A first step would be to estimate the number of devices you expect to connect to your network via Wi-Fi – such as your smartphone, laptop computer, a streaming device like a Roku or Amazon Fire TV, Wi-Fi thermostat, newer IoT appliances, and Kindle devices. Next look at the size of your home and the locations where you will be using any of the wireless devices. If your home is over 2,500 square feet, you may want to consider a mesh wireless system. That requires multiple devices and can become expensive and is generally not needed in our community. Expensive doesn't always mean better!

Then consider the location of your internet connection, where your cable modem is located, or where the internet connection enters the residence. This is the location where you would most likely locate your router and you would want it to allow for strategic placement of the router. Up high rather than on the floor is desired. Open surroundings rather than behind equipment

or in a cabinet would also be preferred.

Looking at routers and their advertised specs, they often sum up speeds of the various bands which is a meaningless number for all practical purposes. If the top speed from your Internet Service Provider (ISP) is 100 Mbps having a router capable of 800 Mbps is not necessary. An AC750 would work well for a single user.

You will want to look at routers with an "AC" prefix on the model number, AC750, AC1750, AC1900, etc. The AC prefix indicates WiFi-5 standards and AX indicates WiFi-6, which is the current latest standard but can be a bit pricey. Many of your current Wi-Fi devices won't support the AX standard. The iPhone 11 and Samsung Galaxy S10 are exceptions.

The numbers after the prefix give you a rough sense of the combined speeds of each of the router's bands - typically 2.4 and 5GHz, and perhaps a second 5GHz band if we're talking about a tri-band router. Since a device can only use one band at a time the number is not all that relevant and is a theoretical number achievable in a controlled lab environment, maybe. Of course, your speed will vary!

For the typical user in our community, someone who uses the internet to check email, surf the internet, buy online occasionally, and has a smartphone, a dual-band router can be had for under \$100. I don't think our internet speed will increase much from where it is today given the infrastructure upgrades required, so a superfast tri-band router is generally not needed although that is what I wound up with.

The common manufacturers are Netgear, Asus, D-Link, TP-Link, and Linksys but there are many others. A router should be easy to set up and require little to no maintenance. You can read users' reviews at many web sites to help you make a decision.

Routers are fairly easy to install and setup. Many come with Apps for your smartphone which can guide you through the process. We also have club members who can help install and set up a new router.

So, in conclusion, a router upgrade can be a major improvement to your home network.



Interesting Internet Finds March 2020
By 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 February 2020.

Understanding Your Google Account Online Space Allocations (For Gmail, Google Drive And Google Photos)

<https://whatsonmypc.wordpress.com/2020/02/08/understanding-your-google-account-online-space-allocations-for-gmail-google-drive-and-google-photos/>

This post explains what takes up space and why in your Google account. I have more than one Google account but have never really understood why I have so much unused space until reading this post.

How To Change The Windows 10 Theme

<https://www.digitalcitizen.life/change-theme-windows-10>

For those that have moved from Windows 7 to Windows 10, and used themes in Windows 7, this post is for you. If you are like me personalization is not something to worry about immediately, but now that I have been using Windows 10 for a while it is getting to be something I will be doing. Check out this post to learn about changing themes in Windows 10.

OTT Explains: Is It Worth Buying Extended Warranties for Tech?

<https://www.online-tech-tips.com/computer-tips/ott-explains-is-it-worth-buying-extended-warranties-for-tech/>

Are you like me in thinking about extended warranties before just declining? If so, check out this post. After reading this, I don't think about it much anymore. (Remember most credit cards will extend your warranty.)

How To Wrap Text Around Images In Google Docs

<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/how-to-wrap-text-around-pictures-in-google-docs>

If you use Google Docs, this is a useful tip.

Ditching Passwords: FIDO & SQRL

<https://firewallsdontstopdragons.com/ditching-passwords-fido-sqrl/>

I wish this was something we could do right now however, this post explains two promising alternatives to passwords. Check it out.

Focus Better With Multiple Desktops

<https://askleo.com/focus-better-with-multiple-desktops/>

The use of multiple desktops is something I sure could have used when I was editing two user group newsletters. Since reading this post, I have started using two desktops to separate my writing and day to day activities. So far it has helped me focus more when writing. If you work on different things and think this might help you, check out this post for yourself and set up however many desktops works for you.

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January 2022 DVD of the Month

- ARI** - Monthly newsletter
AudioBook - Free audio book
AvideMux - Video editor
CrystalDiskInfo - HDD health monitoring utility
DesktopOK - save / restore desktop icon position & screen resolution
DVDOMlists - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month
- Easy Backup** - Backup solution for your files or entire system
FFmpeg - Command-line tool to convert multimedia files between formats
FreeCommander - Alternative to the standard windows file manager
- HDDExpert** - HDD / SSD health & performance - translates S.M.A.R.T. attributes
HitmanPro - All-in-one tool to identify & remove viruses, spyware, & malware
- MajorGeeks Windows Tweaks** - Over 200 tweaks for Windows 11, 10, 8, and 7
MemberContributions - Things members send me
- OldTimeRadio** - Old radio audio files
Password Decoder - Software to recover passwords protected with encoding algorithms
- Reaper** - Record, arrange, edit, and render multi-track waveform audio
Rufus - Utility that helps quickly format and creates bootable USB flash drives
SmartFix - Automatically fixes the most common problems and even cures unknown malware
SystemRescueCd - Bootable CD-ROM or USB stick to administrate or repair your system after a crash
- Ultra Adware Killer** - Adware remover for Windows
VeraCrypt - Free disk encryption software based on TrueCrypt
WiseCleaner11check - Verifying your machine is Windows 11 ready
WonderFox DVD Ripper - Powerful free DVD ripper software that can rip the content of DVD

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 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 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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