



Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

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

May 2022
Volume XXXVIII Issue 5

Confirmed meeting dates

2022

May 28

Hybrid
Room A
in person
OR Zoom

:: ::

Check
website for
dates and
meeting info

:: ::

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

:: ::

PER GLENSIDE Library Late breaking news
meeting Room A is available to meet. Masks are optional.

INFORMATION for Saturday May 28th meeting

The start time at the library is 9:30am or Zoom is 10:00am.

This will be a hybrid meeting. We will meet at the library Room A and use Zoom video conferencing software.

In person meeting Room A OR where you get to stay at home and view meeting via Zoom **The library may close due to the covid level in DuPage County. The air conditioning has failed and will not be repaired until June 1st at the earliest.** Watch for email.

There will be a meeting invitation e-mail Thursday evening before the in person at 9:30 meeting OR Zoom at 10:00 on Saturday morning. Our **Presenter** for Saturday May 28, 2022 will be a couple of Youtube videos by Kalle Hallden and DasGeek demonstrating how to browse the Internet anonymously.

REMINDER:

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

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Join CAEUG meeting in Library or from Home,
Stay Safe! Stay tuned for updates





Lamp Post 246

May 2022

by John Spizzirri

The Decorah Eagles (**1**) north nest eaglets are testing there wings. The adults drop off food. The eaglets try to feed themselves. The adults patiently show them how to tear the fish or rodents into small edible pieces. The eaglets will fledge in the first ten days of June. They will stay near the nest through mid July.

1) <https://is.gd/0YqTVG>

The headline read, "SpaceX shut down a Russian electromagnetic warfare (EW) attack in Ukraine last month — and the Pentagon is taking notes" (**1**). That almost says it all. Elon Musk (**2**), owner of Starlink (**3**), the communications satellite system the Russians tried to shut down, stopped the attack in its early stages and kept the Ukrainians communicating on the Internet and with each other via StarLink. Russia's other alternatives to stop that communication would have international implications that would be difficult to overcome. Alternatives like bringing down satellites with explosive or high energy weapons. Both alternatives create space debris and may damage other satellites. Musk deployed computer code to foil the Russians. Who he got to do it, how he got it done, and where he came up with the idea are all questions that the Pentagon people are asking themselves. To me it resembles the way open source solutions happen. A problem is detected [Ukrainian outside communications ceased]. The problem is posted on a worldwide bug report. Interested people / coders create solutions. People in charge of the code examine the posible solutions, test the solutions, select the best working solution, and implement it. From start to finish the time from problem to solution is minimal. The cost is minimal. The solution is maximal. Anyone can post a problem or bug. If it has been seen before, it will be returned to sender. If it is new, the process to find a solution starts. In the case of the Russian shutdown, the solution was implemented the "next day". The Pentagon as well as the Russians [operate the same way] are locked into the detect a problem, study the problem, put out a request for bids, let a contract, go through the cost over run process, finally get the finished product (that may or may not work as per specifications) days, weeks, or months late. Musk seemed to get this done as if it was open source. We may never know.

1) <https://is.gd/27RF6l>

2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk

3) <https://www.starlink.com/>

I was working with a client that had to reinstall Windows 10 due to a hard drive glitch. Everything went fine until it wanted the user name and password. We entered the username (an e-mail address) and Windows RECOGNIZED it as a valid username. We

entered the password that had last been used. The only password that had ever been used, and it was rejected. We started the process of password recovery. This is the process that Microsoft (MS (1)) claims is easier because it uses the Internet as opposed to being a local password. We started the process by clicking the 'forgot password' phrase under the enter password box. That opens a dialog box that shows part of the username e-mail address with some asterisks obscuring part of the name. There is a box with instructions to put the correct letters/numbers in the box that the asterisks are obscuring. Once the characters are filled in an e-mail will be sent with a code that will allow an change in the password. That does not work because the number of asterisks does not correspond to the number of characters in the e-mail username. The e-mail cannot be sent and the password cannot be changed. MS then has an alternative method of identification. It wants to know my client's first name, last name, birthday (did you give MS your birthday when you first logged into Windows?), did she ever buy a MS product?, list 2 previously used passwords on this Windows device, did you ever use Skype (2)?, what was the credit card number used to buy the MS product?, what was the name you used on Skype? I found all the questions other than my client's name to be extraneous and detrimental. My client is eight years older than I am (that is over three quarters of a century). Living in Willow Brook, the MS purchase was made at the store that used to be located at 63rd Street / Hobson Road and Rt. 83 about 25 years ago. The store no longer exists nor does the credit card she used at that time. Needless to say no one keeps records for 25 years except hoarders. My client stopped using Skype when her friend moved to the United States (from India) about 5 years ago. We filled in the answers to the questions that could be filled in and left the rest blank (the only option). That left us in a recurring loop cycle with no way to actually recover the password for the username that MS RECOGNIZED in the first place. A multi-billion dollar company that does not care for its customers won't have them forever. I'll grant that my client and I are not long for this world and that desk top PCs are on the way out as well, but the people that thought up the waste of time that I just described are a good reason to bring back electroshock therapy (now called electro-convulsive therapy) to straighten out their thinking. Microsoft failed my client. The only solution was to install Windows 10 as if it was my client was new. We changed the user name slightly and used the same password. I have told my client to use a password manager (3) and have different (unique), strong, and long passwords (4) for all her accounts. That is something I am working on [with her]. The time spent on this problem was over one and one half hours, not counting the Windows 10 installation time.

- 1) <https://www.microsoft.com/>
- 2) <https://www.skype.com/>
- 3) <https://is.gd/NPeQVI>
- 4) <https://is.gd/mUf0Nh>

If you did not know it already, Windows 11 Pro requires a Microsoft Account as a username (1) just like Windows 11 Home. That means that no matter what new Windows machine you get, you must register all you information with Microsoft in order to use your PC. To start your machine for the first time you must have an

Internet connection. You must agree to the End User License Agreement which states in part, "...By accepting this agreement and using the software you agree that Microsoft may collect, use, and disclose the information as described in the Microsoft Privacy Statement ..." (**2**). The Microsoft Privacy Statement says in part, "If you choose not to provide data required to provide you with a product or feature, you cannot use that product or feature." (**3**) So there you have it. Give MS your first born or stop using their software.

- 1) <https://is.gd/ejWV4k>**
- 2) <https://is.gd/z1T8xX>**
- 3) <https://is.gd/c6rfhg>**

The Windows Club (**1**) web site seems to think that there are benefits to having a Microsoft Account. They list six benefits that I cannot verify because I do not have an account (in my name). The first benefit on their list is the ability to move from PC to PC and retain your settings as if you were on the same PC. Second benefit is downloading apps from the Windows Store many(?) of which are free. The third benefit on the list is gigabytes of free storage on OneDrive. The fourth benefit is that all contacts are kept in one place. I do not want any advertisers (MS, Facebook, Google, etc.) to have access to my contacts. I try to keep my friends information private as I hope they keep mine. The fifth benefit is millions of streaming songs through the music app in the Windows Store. I checked the Windows Store but only found music apps for iTunes, Spotify, Pandora, Amazon, SiriusXM, and other third party names. No MS music app. The sixth benefit is the best gaming experience through the Xbox account. Not my cup of tea.

- 1) <https://www.thewindowsclub.com/?p=66241>**

In Windows 10 you may get a notice of an "account problem" periodically. what this amounts to is a MS nag screen to get you to use a MS e-mail account as a username to log into Windows 10. There are ways to get rid of that nag for good. Here are the steps (**(1)**, (**2**), (**3**));

Click on the Start button to bring up the menu OR press the Windows key
Click on the Gear icon (Settings)
Click on System.
Click on Shared Experiences in the left column.
Turn off Nearby Sharing
Turn off Share across devices

If it still shows after doing the above procedure try this alternative (**4**);

Click on the Start button to bring up the menu OR press the Windows key
Click on the Gear icon (Settings)
Click on Accounts
Click on Email and Accounts

If a Microsoft account shows, click on it and click the remove button

That should hopefully remove the problem, but knowing MS it may persist from time to time. Just ignore it.

- 1) <https://www.bruceb.com/?p=10298>
- 2) <https://wp.me/p9h7lg-4Dq>
- 3) <https://is.gd/ej3Kdm>
- 4) <https://youtu.be/91XdcbbjYko>

If you want to test your privacy on line, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF (**1**)) has an on line test for your browser. Just go to the test web site called Cover Your Tracks (**2**). It will take about a minute to report to you how secure your browser is on the Internet.

- 1) <https://www EFF .org/>
- 2) <https://coveryourtracks EFF .org/>

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

Adiós, Dashlane. Hello Keeper! **Dashlane No Longer Supports Desktop App**

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, CKCS Newsletter

October 2022 Issue

<https://ckcs.org/>
lextown2 (at) gmail.com

After using Dashlane for many years, I stopped using the popular password manager. Why? The company decided to no longer support its desktop app on either Mac or Windows.

Let me be clear.

I wish Dashlane well. But because Dashlane was one of the most expensive, secure, well-designed password managers, I would expect the company to continue providing both a desktop app that sits on the Dock of my Mac along with a web extension for Safari, Firefox, Brave, Chrome, and other popular browsers.

Dashlane developers have decided to only provide a web browser extension on Mac and Windows machines.

This means there will no longer be any updates for the desktop app. Password manager apps are one of the most important apps on your computer – and they need to be updated to keep your data secure.

I rely on both tools – a desktop app that I can open at any time by simply clicking on

the Dock icon and a browser extension I can use when using Firefox or Safari (my two most-used browsers.) A January 2021 Dashlane blog announced the news: "Today, we're sharing an update that we plan to discontinue support for the Mac and Windows apps. We estimate we'll be sunsetting the app at the end of 2021, and in the meantime, you can continue to use the desktop apps; however, we'll no longer be updating their design, features, or functionality."

Why the change? Dashlane writes in its blog, "We made this decision because we believe it's the highest quality and most secure experience we can deliver to our customers, putting us closer in line with our principles. In addition to details in this post about this new web experience, we'll provide frequent updates between now and when we stop supporting the desktop apps—so there'll be no surprises."

Surprises? Dashlane might be surprised to discover that many long-time users may well abandon ship.

It seems to be a strange time for a major password manager developer to alienate its user base. But, with the Delta variant and other strains of Covid still raging in Kentucky, the U.S., and the world, a supply chain that is broken beyond belief, and entire industries pleading for workers to apply for jobs, is now the right time to kill a major part of your software package?

Anyway, since I had used other leading password managers, including LastPass and 1Password, I opted for another top-tier product: Keeper.

In its 2021 review, PCMag.com rates Keeper "Outstanding." (The Only one of the bunch to receive the outstanding rating.)

Dashlane, LastPass, Bitwarden, LogMeOnce, and Password Boss all received the "Excellent" rating.

PCMag rates 1Password, NordPass, RoboForm, Sticky Password, McAfee True Key, and Zoho "Good."

PCMag writes, "Keeper Password Manager & Digital Vault delivers an excellent experience across a ton of platforms and browsers. It also offers top-notch features such as robust two-factor authentication support, good sharing capabilities, and full password histories. As a result, Keeper is an Editors' Choice password manager."

It adds, "Keeper offers apps for Windows, macOS, Android, iOS, Kindle, Windows Phone, and Linux, as well as browser extensions for Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, and Safari. Keeper also maintains a Microsoft Store version."

As soon as I began using Keeper, I felt right at home. It works well. If I want to check a password, look up a secure note, or retrieve a credit card number, I can easily open the Mac app on my Dock without opening a web browser. Isn't that how password managers should work?

Interesting Internet Finds November 2021
By Steve Costello scostello AT sefcug.com

While going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might interest other user group members.

The following are some items I found interesting during October 2021.

Do Random Words Make Better Passwords?

<https://askleo.com/do-random-words-make-better-passwords/>

In this post, Leo Notenboom explains why using three or more random words can be better for making passwords than the current method of long strings of random characters. Caveats to the random word method are also presented. Check it out and find out if random words work out better for you.

How To Charge Laptop With HDMI?

<https://www.techtricksworld.com/how-to-charge-laptop-with-hdmi/>

I did not even know it was possible to charge a laptop with HDMI until I read this post. So now, if I forget my laptop charger on vacation, I have other solutions than ordering a new one from Amazon again.

What's The Reason For Free Software?

https://askbobrankin.com/whats_the_reason_for_free_software.html

I used to get this question when moderating the BRCS Freeware SIG. (Some files from the SIG meetings are still available at <https://app.box.com/v/brcs-freewaresig> and are probably still useful.) Bob Rankin provides a detailed answer to the question in this post.

What Is A VPN Kill Switch And Why You Should Enable It?

<https://www.online-tech-tips.com/computer-tips/what-is-a-vpn-kill-switch-and-why-you-should-enable-it/>

OK, I know there has been a lot of talk recently about using a VPN with unsecured Wi-Fi. If you are using a VPN for security with unsecured Wi-Fi, you need to know if it has a kill switch enabled or even has one. This post explains why the kill switch is a must-have. (Note: I use two different VPNs, and they both have a kill switch enabled.)

Beware QR Code... Articles

<https://firewallsdontstopdragons.com/beware-qr-code-articles/>

The author of this blog explains that contrary to recent articles warning about malicious QR codes, QR codes are not malicious in and of themselves. Furthermore, he explains how to make sure QR code scams do not take you in. I think this is a must-read to clear up a lot of confusion.

Can I Use The Web Anonymously From My Android Phone?

<https://www.askdavetaylor.com/use-web-anonymously-privately-from-android-vpn-incognito-tor/>

Dave Taylor answers this question with a few possible solutions.

What Is DNS-Over-HTTPS and How Does It Work?

<https://www.makeuseof.com/what-is-dns-over-https/>

This post explains what DNS-Over-HTTPS is, how it works, the advantages and the disadvantages.

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May 2022 DVD or the Month

ARI - Monthly newsletter

AudioBook - Free audio book

Autorun Organizer - Select what programs run at startup

DVDForge-ImgDrive - Copy DVDs / mount ISO files as if they were drives

DVDOMlists - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month

ForestHPDFutil - PDF utilities

Futuremark SystemInfo - Searches hardware on your system

MemberContributions - Things members send me

Ocenaudio - Updated audio editor

OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files

SigmanorCryptoNotepad - Text notepad that saves in crypto

Stefan Trost Media - Replacing, deleting, inserting and formatting of text

Steve Chaison Software - Safely inspect and analyze suspicious web links

Tor Browser Bundle 64-Bit - Protects your privacy and defends you against network surveillance

TweakNow WinSecret for Windows 11 - Designed to help users explore the hidden settings in Win 11

Video Shaper - Easy to use and free video conversion software

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

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