CAEUG — Computers Are Easy User Group

Confirmed
meeting dates

2024

September 28

:: ::

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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PER GLENSIDE Library (Masks are optional)

INFORMATION for Saturday September 28th 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 September 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***

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

https://www.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 272
September 2024
by John Spizzirri

The brown bear cams **(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)** at Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park, Alaska are still active, but not for long. There are still one or two brown bears that do not know enough to come out of the water still fishing. Virtually no salmon are spawning. If you get to the cams in the next week or two, you will get to see a bear but after that your chances are slim. The days are getting shorter. Most bears have found a den for hibernating and are ready to settle in

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**

The National Public Data Breach (NPD) that we were told happened last April **(1)** has been revised. Krebs on Security **(2)** revealed that NPD **(3)** has changed the date back to December 2023. The crackers only began selling the data they stole in April

of this year. Of course, all this was not announced until July and August giving you, the victim, absolutely negative time to respond to the threat. Who are the real criminals here - the crackers or the collectors of your information? You may want to know if you have been a victim of this breach. There are two web sites that can show you what has been exposed about you **(4, 5)**. At the first site, here is the information that was exposed about me;

Exposed Information

NAME	DOB	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
ZIP	PHONE	SSN		
JOHN P SPI******	13-11-****	1 PRAIRIE 240	GLEN ELLYN	IL
60137		*********		
JOHN P SPI******	13-11-****	1 PRAIRIE AVE UNIT 240	GLEN ELLYN	IL
60137		*********		
JOHN P SPI******	13-11-****	1 PRAIRIE AVE 240	GLEN ELLYN	IL
60137		*********		
JOHN P SPI******	13-11-****	1 N 240 PRAIRIE AVE	GLEN ELLYN	IL
60137	630*******	*********		
JOHN P SPI******	None	907 DAWN AVE	GLEN ELLYN	IL
60137	7087904279	*********		
JOHN P SPI******	None	1 N 240 PRAIRIE AVE	GLEN ELLYN	IL
60137		*********		
JOHN P SPI******	None	PO BOX 219	BLOOMINGDALE	IL
60108		*********		

There were 42 other John SPI******'s listed, some of whom I know are dead. All the others are not related to me. All the addresses were correct at one time or another all though they were not correctly stated. My birthday is correct as is my Social Security Number, and phone number in the 630 area code. One listing had my mother's Social Security Number. Out of the seven listings, one has all the information correct. One address I have not used in over 25 years. I really cannot worry about putting this in the newsletter on the website as it has been for sale since April along with the other 42 John SPI******'s and three billion other people (probably including you) that NPD did not protect. The second site was somewhat circumspect with their result;

Name	Address	Zip	SSN	Phone
John SPI******	Redacted	60137	Redacted	Redacted

A button was provided that took me to a page that wanted more data with this blurb;

"If affected, you can fill out our form to provide your contact details. This information will be kept confidential and used exclusively for updates on potential actions that may be taken in response to the breach."

Confidential(?) like they kept my other information confidential? Now they want an email address to keep track of me. This site is run by NPD and I do not trust them. I think that they should be shut down, their servers destroyed, and their owners jailed for as long as it takes for every victim of this mess to regain their identities and be made whole. Do NOT give your Social Security Number to anyone you do not trust. Banks, schools, new employers, accountants and landlords do require Social Security Numbers. Be very suspicious of the motives of all others wanting your information. What should you do? First, check to see if your information has been compromised using these web sites in (4 and 5). Whether it has been exposed or not, contact the three main credit bureaus, set up an account, and request a credit freeze. Get a credit report from each credit bureau and check it for accuracy. The three main bureaus are Equifax **(6)**, Experian **(7)**, and Transunion **(8**). There are other bureaus, but the big three are the ones that most creditors check. As of last year by law you can request a credit report every week for free. Do not get a 'fraud alert' as these are 'services' that cost you money needlessly. You can easily unfreeze your credit if you need to get a new credit line and then freeze it again. Monitor your Social Security account information **(9**). Get a U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Six-Digit 'IP PIN' **(10)** to prevent anyone from filing a tax form in your name. If you have a child, go through all the steps I have outlined here to protect their credit. They may not know that their identity has been stolen until they begin working life unless these steps have been taken. Make sure your deceased relatives identities are handled correctly **(11).**

1)   **https://is.gd/TARyO2**
2)   **https://krebsonsecurity.com/?p=68428**
3)   **https://is.gd/e8tNI6**
4)   **https://npd.pentester.com/**
5)   **https://www.npdbreach.com/**
6)   **https://www.equifax.com/**
7)   **https://www.experian.com/**
8)   **https://www.transunion.com/**
9)   **https://www.ssa.gov/**
10)   **https://is.gd/GVldz8**
11)   **https://is.gd/wGFysj**

There are two web sites that have many tips on battening down the hatches of your own PCs to prevent attacks **(1, 2)**. Both sites are written by the same man (MikeY) and are geared for seniors but anyone can glean the useful information. The first site starts with three handy sites to check if any of your email addresses have been compromised **(3, 4, 5)**. What follows is the standard cautions about changing passwords on exposed sites, use strong password, and use a password manager. He does not list any password checkers **(6, 7)** or password managers **(8, 9, 10)**.

1)   **https://abncparties.com/?p=11274**
2)   **https://abncparties.com/?p=11358**
3)   **https://is.gd/t4f2hj**

4) https://haveibeenpwned.com/
5) https://www.malwarebytes.com/?p=102025
6) https://www.security.org/how-secure-is-my-password/
7) https://www.passwordmonster.com/
8) https://bitwarden.com/products/personal/
9) https://nordpass.com/password-manager/
10) https://keepassxc.org/download/#windows

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

Smartphone Wireless Connections – Help Keep Us Connected
By Phil Sorrentino
Secretary and APCUG Rep
Sun City Center Computer Club, FL
https://www.scccomputerclub.org/
philsorr ** yahoo.com

The smartphone is a wireless marvel. You may not have thought about your smartphone in this way, but your smartphone may be able to connect to up to five different wireless networks. (I'm sure this would have made Nicola Tesla very happy, he is credited with the wireless transmission of energy via his patented Tesla coil, though Marconi got the credit, and the patent, for inventing radio communications.) Just think about the hardware and software that allow your smartphone to participate in five different kinds of networks, all wrapped up in your smartphone package along with all the other electronics needed to support a powerful computer system. I bet even Steve Jobs would be impressed.

Cell Phone Network

The most apparent wireless network your smartphone works with is the one you initially bought your smartphone to use; that is the cell phone network supported by all those antenna towers that have sprouted up all over in the past 40 years. (Not many landlines around anymore.) This network lets you keep in voice contact with just about anyone since over 91% of the people in the world has smartphones; that's over 6.6 billion possibilities. (Even more impressive is that most Americans – 97% now - own a cellphone. The share of Americans that own a smartphone is now over 85%). This cell phone network also provides access to the internet when you are out and about. The internet is considered a "Wide Area Network" or WAN. A WAN is an extensive computer network spread over a wide geographic area. A network's speed is its data speed or data rate and is measured in bps or bits per second. Typically Mega bps or Giga bps. WAN data rates are typically around 150 Mbps. When you are not out and about and are

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within a Wi-Fi network, the Wi-Fi router provides access to the internet. Without this ability to be constantly connected to the internet, I'm not sure how many would own what would only be a competent personal digital assistant.

Wi-Fi Network

So, Wi-Fi is the second wireless network that your smartphone can take advantage of. Wi-Fi is considered a "Local Area Network" or LAN. A LAN is a collection of wired and/or wireless connected devices typically in your home or office. LAN data rates can be from 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps. Using Wi-Fi, you can connect to the many servers on the internet. The use of your smartphone in this manner is sometimes called "Cloud Computing" because you are accomplishing a task on the smartphone by using the resources of a server computer somewhere out there on the internet (in the cloud), like using GPS and the Maps or Waze app on your smartphone to help navigate you from home to a place you've never been to before. Cloud Computing is just a more common term for "Client-Server Technology," which allows our smartphones to take advantage of powerful computer servers connected by the internet.

GPS Network

Remember that every wireless network your smartphone can work with requires a transmitter, a receiver, and an antenna in the smartphone so that it can send data to and receive data from the other network members. (This is only possible because of digital electronic circuitry; this would never have been possible in the analog electronics world. Thanks to micro-miniature integrated circuits that typically get smaller and cheaper over time.) Though GPS, which is a third wireless network, is an exception. Your smartphone only has GPS receivers and antennas, no GPS transmitters. But it has multiple receivers because to determine your location, your smartphone has to receive data from at least 3 GPS satellites. (More detail than that may be the subject of a future article.)

Bluetooth Network

The fourth wireless network supported by your smartphone is Bluetooth. You may not have taken advantage of this feature unless you have a relatively new car and you have introduced (paired) your smartphone to the car's entertainment system. If you have, you are familiar with one of the best safety features in the new cars, the ability to receive and make calls from your smartphone while always keeping your hands on the steering wheel. (Now, if they could only convince the many speeding drivers to stay under the speed limit; another

topic for a future article.) Bluetooth has also become the preferred connection for speakers and headphones (earbuds). Bluetooth headphones are for quiet listening, and Bluetooth speakers are for loud listening (a whole lot louder than the sound capability of the smartphone). Bluetooth is considered a "Personal Area Network" or PAN. A PAN is a computer network for interconnecting devices within a person's workspace. It transmits data among devices such as computers, smartphones, tablets, and personal digital assistants. Bluetooth data rates can be as high as 1 Mbps.

NFC Network

The fifth wireless network may not be available on some older smartphones or even some new ones. This network is called NFC or Near Field Communications. NFC is a set of communications protocols (rules) that enables communications between two devices over very short distances, maybe an inch or two. It facilitates data transfer between nearby smartphones, laptops, tablets, and other devices. NFC data rates are around 400 Mbps. NFC is used for making easy contactless payments with your smartphone using Apple Pay or Google Pay. Just enable the amount in the payment app and touch the smartphone to the NFC reader or terminal. This type of payment protects your payment information with multiple layers of security to help keep your account safe. The payment terminal does not share your card number when you pay, so your private information stays secure.

So, with these five networks, your smartphone helps you keep in touch and connected.

Short History of the Smartphone
By Kurt Jefferson, Editor
Central Kentucky Computer Society
www.ckcs.org
lextown2 (at) gmail.com

Back when I was a young child, I kept a dime in my pocket just in case. Of course, I hoped I never had to use it, but I was prepared. That dime was meant for an occasion where I needed to phone someone for help…in an emergency.

I had been taught how to use the phone, turn the dial, and place a dime into the slot in a payphone. Back then, phone booths were all over the place. Fast forward several decades, and you'd be hard-pressed to find a real-life phone booth.

Public phones are still available in airports, some shopping malls, and sports

arenas. But, for the most part, phone booths belong to an earlier era. They've been replaced by the smartphone–iPhones and Android models making up the bulk of smartphones in America.

The Oxford Dictionary describes a smartphone as "a mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running "downloaded apps."

While Apple and Samsung are responsible for getting modern smartphones into the hands of most Americans, IBM also played a major role in the development of the smartphone.

ThoughtCo.com reports, "IBM had conceived of the idea for a computer-style phone as early as the 1970s, but it wasn't until 1992 that the company unveiled a prototype at the COMDEX computer and technology trade show in Las Vegas. Besides placing and receiving calls, the Simon prototype could also send facsimiles, emails, and cellular pages. It even had a nifty touchscreen for dialing numbers. Extra features included apps for a calendar, address book, calculator, scheduler, and notepad. IBM also demonstrated that the phone was capable of displaying maps, stocks, news, and other third-party applications, with certain modifications."

Sadly, IBM's Simon was not going to be a major success. As ThoughtCo.com writes, "Tragically, the Simon ended up in the heap pile of being too ahead of its time."

One of the major reasons for Simon's failure? Price. It cost $1,100 in the 1990s. As a result, far too few fans bought it.ThoughtCo.com reports that Simon's distributor, BellSouth Cellular, would eventually cut the price to $599 with a two–year contract. Even after that, only around 50,000 were sold.

After IBM's Simon came noteworthy products, including the popular Palm Pilot made by the California–based Palm Inc. and Apple's Newton, and don't forget Handspring, a personal digital assistant (PDA) made by the folks who founded Palm. They founded Handspring after becoming unhappy with the direction of Palm Inc. after 3Com took over the company.

Meanwhile, Nokia's 9000 Communicator and Ericsson's R380 also made major advances toward the smartphones we use today.

And who could forget the leap forward made by Canada's RIM (Research In Motion) with its BlackBerry brand of smartphones? Wikipedia writes, "BlackBerry was one of the most prominent smartphone brands globally, specializing in secure communications and mobile productivity, and well known for keyboards on most of its devices. At its peak in September 2013, there

were 85-million BlackBerry subscribers worldwide. After that, however, BlackBerry lost its dominant position in the market due to the success of the Android and iOS platforms; its numbers had fallen to 23-million in March 2016."

But it was in 2007 when Apple's Steve Jobs took to the stage to introduce a revolutionary new product called the iPhone "that set an entirely new paradigm for computer-based phones," writes ThoughtCo.com. It adds, "The look, interface, and core functionality of nearly every smartphone to come along since is, in some form or another, derived from the original iPhone's innovative touchscreen-centric design."

The same year Apple introduced its iPhone, Android Authority reports, "Google was still working on Android in secret, but in November of that year, the company slowly started to reveal its plans to compete with Apple and other mobile platforms." In October of 2008, the first Android phone went on sale in the U.S. It was dubbed the "T–Mobile G1" (also called the HTC Dream outside the U.S.)

As iOS has improved and added features over time, so did Android. Its first codename was Cupcake in 2009. Later versions of the Android operating system were Donut, Eclair, Froyo, Gingerbread, Honeycomb, Ice Cream Sandwich, Jelly Bean, KitKat, Lollipop, Marshmallow, Nougat, Oreo, Pie, and Android Q, officially known as Android 10. Versions 11 and 12 followed.

I no longer carry a dime in my pocket. Instead, it's been replaced by an iPhone SE – Apple's least expensive smartphone.

Yet, I still marvel at how far technology has advanced since that ten-cent piece was my security blanket resting in my pocket. Today's youngsters no longer carry dimes. Those coins are replaced by shiny Galaxy smartphones and iPhone 11, 12, and SEs in their pockets. We've come to a remarkable distance in the development of smartphones since the era when phone booths stood on street corners in most American towns and cities, and operators stood at the ready to assist.

IBM introduced the Simon in 1992 during the COMDEX computer show n Las Vegas.
Source: wikipedia.org