CAEUG Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort, Retry, Ignore....

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

Apr 2025
Volume XLI Issue 4

Confirmed meeting dates

2025

April 26
May 24

:: ::
Hybrid Board Room in person OR Zoom
:: ::
Check website for dates and meeting info
:: ::

!!!! NEW !!! Mailing address:

CAEUG
P.O. Box 153
South Elgin, IL 60177
:: ::

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PER GLENSIDE Library (Masks are optional)

INFORMATION for Saturday April 26 start time
at home Jitsi meeting is 10:00am.
This will be a hybrid meeting.
There will be no meeting in library this month.

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

Our April presentation we will have various videos about Fediverse an alternative to Meta, Google or X

NEW MAIL ADDRESS!!! NEW MAIL ADDRESS!!!

CAEUG,
P.O. Box 153
South Elgin, IL 60177

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Thank you! to all who paid the low $20.00 dues for 2025!
Your support helps pay for our 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

CAEUG OFFICERS

President Carl Wallin

V.P. (Programs) Roger Kinzie
Secretary Position OPEN
Treasurer Kathy Groce
Newsletter Kathy Groce

Board Member
Frank Braman
Joanne Beauregard
Webmaster John Spizzirri
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.

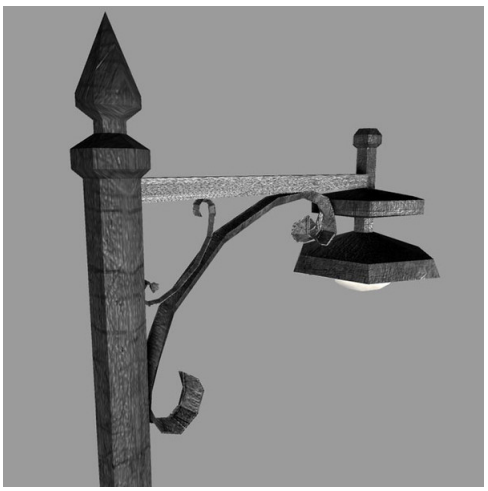
Members Helpline

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 278
April 2025
by John Spizzirri

Unfortunately, the Decorah bald eagles **(1)** eggs failed to hatch. The eagles did not reclutch this year. The eagles are around but there are no young this year. The Canadian Geese had a clutch at the Decorah South nest **(2)**. She had six eggs. On April 14th the goslings were ready to get down to Earth. Each one took the giant step off the edge of the nest to the ground 70 feet below. Five hit the ground without trouble. One hit a branch and did not survive. The five joined their parents in the pond. Night hours will be getting shorter so now is the time to check the Aurora cam sites in your favorites. The Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) cam at Churchill, Manitoba, Canada **(3)** is in the Central Time zone as is the polar bear site **(4)**. If you stay up really late or get up early, try the Alaska Borealis cams **(5)**. Two places to try offer various cams from around the world **(6, 7)**. To check on the space weather (for aurora forecasts) try here **(8)** and NASA **(9)**.

1) **https://is.gd/0YqTVG**
2) **https://is.gd/YAuMF0**
3) **https://is.gd/3RjcRQ**

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4) **https://is.gd/7PDEvO**
5) **https://auroranotify.com/aurora-links/**
6) **https://seetheaurora.com/webcams**
7) **https://lightsoverlapland.com/?p=79**
8) **https://www.spaceweather.com/**
9) **https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/**

In the coming months federal judges will determine how Google **(1)** does business and what it owns. The Verge reported **(2)** on the antitrust case against Google that is now coming to a head. Since Trump became President the part of the case that involved artificial intelligence **(AI 3)** has changed in that the government has backed off its insistence that Google sell its AI investments. It now requires Google to notify the government about its investment in the AI space. Whatever that means.

1) **https://www.google.com/**
2) **https://is.gd/W3fxcU**
3) **https://is.gd/bqZd2c**

Malwarebytes **(1)** amusingly sent an automated email. I'll grant that the content was created by humans (possibly aided by AI). The headline is "Half of all internet traffic now automated". They quoted and paraphrased a report created by an Internet Security company called Imperva **(2)**. The report said that robot (bot) traffic has been increasing each year. There are two kinds of bot traffic; good and bad. The good traffic consists of newsletters and bulletins, sales and ad letters, and other none threatening email. The bad traffic, which is a much higher percentage of all the bot traffic, consists of hostile bots trying to take credentials from users, hijack online accounts, and scraping website data but is not limited to these tricks. The full story is at the Malwarebytes blog **(3)**. The report at Imperva is behind a pay wall that is quite tight.

1) **https://www.malwarebytes.com/**
2) **https://www.imperva.com/**
3) **https://www.malwarebytes.com/?p=205437**

In another item in the Malwarebytes blog **(1)** there is a new twist on the "Hello Pervert" email. The twist is the email comes from your own address. It looks like this;

"*As you may have noticed, I sent you an email from your email account*
This means I have full access to your account
I've been watching you for a few months
The thing is, you got infected with a njrat through an adult site you visited
If you don't know about this, let me explain
The njrat gives me full access and control over your device.
This means I can see everything on your screen, turn on the camera and

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microphone, but you don’t know it
I also have access to all your contacts and all your correspondence.
On the left half of the screen, I made a video showing how you satisfied yourself, on the right half you see the video you watched.
With a click of a mouse I can send this video to all your emails and contacts on social networks
I can also see access to all your communications and messaging programs that you use.
If you want to avoid this,
Transfer the amount of 1200 USD to my bitcoin address (“write buy bitcoin or find for bitcoin exchange if you don’t know”)
My Bitcoin address (BTC wallet): 1FJg6nuRLLv4iQLNFPTpGwZfKjHJQnmwFs
After payment is received, I will delete the video and you will not hear from me again
I’m giving you 48 hours to pay
Do not forget that I will see you when you open the message, the counter will start
If I see you’ve shared this message with someone else, the video will be posted immediately"

All the things in the email are possible but the email is almost probably an empty threat. The cracker says he has been "watching you for a few months" but only wants "1200 USD". If its three months, that is 400 a month. If its four months, that is 300 a month. If its five months, that is 240 a month. Not much pay for a lot of work even if he has done this to multiple people. I have received emails like this on my desktop computer that has no camera connected to it. The microphone that is connected to it only works when I physically turn it on. Obviously, the clown behind the email has not been watching me. The njrat does not work on a Linux operating system (remote access trojan (RAT)). I do not frequent adult web sites. The sites where I may pick up bad things I guard my PC against; first by using Linux, second by not letting my browser accept tracking cookies and clearing all cookies every time I end a browser session, and third by checking my PC for malware periodically. I also practice regular PC health check by keeping the OS and all the applications up to date.

1) https://www.malwarebytes.com/?p=205023

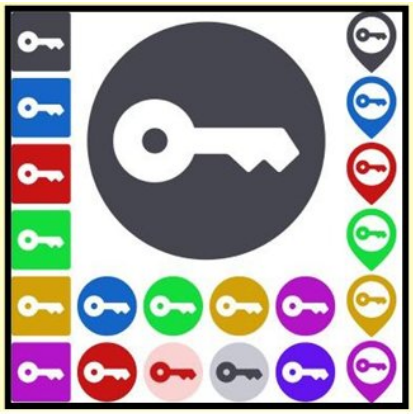
Between you, me and the LampPost. That's all for now.

Jitsi Meet is an open-source video conferencing platform that emphasizes privacy and ease of use. Unlike many other video conferencing tools, it doesn't require users to create an account or provide personal information. Whether you want to host a one-on-one chat or a group meeting, Jitsi Meet makes it simple to connect with others securely.
Where to get jitsi: https://jitsi.org/downloads/

An Internet Safety Guide For Seniors
By Kurt Jefferson, Editor
Central Kentucky Computer Society
https://ckcs.org/
lextown2 (at) gmail.com

“The Internet can be a scary place, especially if you’re old enough to be able to remember dialing a rotary telephone!…” begins the website from Safety Detectives.

But, in reality, age doesn’t matter. Anyone using the Internet is a target.



Still, those of us who are 60 and older are prime targets of cybercrimes.

(Internet using any device and means such as email, website, or social media apps such as Facebook or Instagram.)

Stats
Think about this for a moment. In 2020, Americans 60 and older lost an estimated $1 billion due to cybercrimes. (Source: The FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center, IC3.)

That was a 30% increase over the prior year. Yikes!

While all of this can be quite nerve-racking, you don’t need to bite your nails or bash your head against the wall (although sometimes that’s a tempting thought.)

Protect Yourself
Safety Detectives says despite the threats, “The vast majority of cyber attacks can be easily prevented with the proper tools, some basic education, and plain old common sense.”

The Safety Detective’s website provides an excellent breakdown of common online threats facing folks who are 60 and older.
These include:

- Viruses & Malware
- Phishing
- Data breaches/password theft
- Social media scams
- Banking fraud
- Privacy violations

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Mobile
If you own an iPhone, iPad, or Android phone, scroll down and check out the How to Stay Safe on Your Smartphone & Tablet section.

VPNs
VPNs (virtual private networks) will protect you when using public Wi-Fi networks.VPNs are apps you can pay for and then install.
Many are offered through the different app stores (Mac App Store, App Store, Google Play, etc.) or from the software developer's website.

As the website notes, VPNs can flag unsafe public networks and protect your privacy by sending your Internet connection into an encrypted tunnel while on public Wi-Fi. Safety Detectives tested 52 separate VPNs and selected what it considers the best of the lot. Here are what others say:

- C|net: Best VPN Service of 2021
- Tom's Guide: The Best VPN Service
- PCmag.com: The Best VPN Services for 2021

Password Managers
Using a solid password manager keeps you safe and can make your life easier. A good password manager can auto-fill your login and password on many websites, so you no longer have to type in that information manually. In addition, you no longer have to keep that information in a notebook or on Post–It® notes.

- IPCmag.com: Best Password Managers for 2021
- Macworld UK: Best Password Managers For Mac
- Tom's Guide: The Best Password Managers in 2021
- Check out The (2021).

[Editor Note:

After reading this article a check on the Internet the following updated information was available.

Over 60 reports of fraud
Total Count 101,068

Total Loss $3,427,717,654
Increase from 2022 11%
Avg Dollar Loss $33,915.00
Lost more than $100K 5,920

Also, there is a 21 page pdf document packed full of information about senior fraud, money lost, type of fraud and amount by state. Here is the link to that pdf document.

https://www.ic3.gov/AnnualReport/Reports/2023_IC3ElderFraudReport.pdf]

Geek Fee
Understanding Internet Speed
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/
sencommember00 (at) gmail.com

How fast is my internet connection? Am I getting what I am paying for? These are typical concerns for consumers, especially if they think their internet connection is too slow. We will look at this from the top-down, starting with the service from the internet provider to the residence or business, then the modem/router that provides the local network over wire and Wi-Fi, and finally the adapters in the computing devices connected to the local network.

Internet service is provided under language like “speeds up to” many megabits per second (Mbps). This is the maximum speed that will be delivered with the lightest load on the providers’ distribution system. Suppose many consumers happen to be streaming movies simultaneously on the same network branch that you are connected to. In that case, you may only experience 80 or 90 percent of the maximum speed. This possibility should be considered before you decide on what speed of service you need. Do you know what speed you need? I doubt that most people do. Let’s look at some of the requirements.

Netflix recommends 3 Mbps for standard quality video (SD), 5 Mbps for high-definition video (HD), and 25 Mbps for ultra high definition video (UHD). Hulu recommends 3 Mbps for content from their streaming library, 8 Mbps for live streaming, and 16 Mbps for 4K content. Remember that if you have two people in the household or business who may be streaming videos simultaneously, these requirements will double, and four people would quadruple. To ensure that you always receive at least these speeds from your provider, you should increase the total simultaneous requirements by 25%. Suppose you don’t stream high-definition movies (or games) over the internet at all. In that case, you can use a rule of thumb of 5 Mbps for each simultaneous connection to the internet, which is plenty adequate for email, internet browsing, standard quality video or video conferencing, and such.

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The modem/router which may be leased from your internet service provider or provided by you must be capable of handling the total simultaneous network requirements, in addition to providing each connected device with its needed speed. Old “G” routers (802.11g) generally have either 10 or 100 Mbps for each wired connection and a maximum of 54 Mbps for Wi-Fi connections. The Wi-Fi speed will drop off dramatically as the distance from the router increases.

The “N” routers may have a single 2.4 GHz radio like the “G” routers or may have both a 2.4 GHz and a 5 GHz radio (dual band). The single band generally provides up to 300 Mbps, and the dual band up to 600 Mbps (total for both bands). The wired connections maybe 100 or 1000 Mbps. Newer “AC” routers are all dual-band and are often identified by a total combined Wi-Fi speed such as AC1200 for one with a 300 Mbps 2.4 GHz radio and 900 Mbps for a 5 GHz radio, or AC1900 for one with a 600 Mbps 2.4 GHz radio and 1300 Mbps for a 5 GHz radio. Wired ports are generally rated for 1000 Mbps.

A modem and or router may have a total bandwidth limitation that is less than the sum of the ratings of all individual connections. In other words, a router with four wired ports rated 1000 Mbps each may only be capable of delivering a fraction of that if all ports are active simultaneously. Unfortunately, the bandwidth rating is often a very difficult specification number to find.

The wired Ethernet adapter or Wi-Fi adapter in your computer or other internet-connected devices may also be a G, N, or AC capable type with its own specifications for speed. For the last several years, computers have included wired adapters rated 1000 Mbps. The ratings for Wi-Fi adapters vary greatly, as does their antenna’s capability to send and receive signals over distance. For example, the 5 GHz adapter in the laptop I am using connects to the router at 390 Mbps at a distance of about 20 feet. An external USB 3.0 Wi-Fi adapter I recently tested connects at over 700 Mbps from the same distance. For those with 1000 Mbps internet service, the Ethernet cable used for wired connections can limit achievable speeds. It will generally be necessary for cables over a few feet in length to use CAT 5e or CAT 6 cables to obtain maximum speeds.

Ultimately, the most interesting number is the speed we can actually get at our computer or device. The speedtest.net site is often used to test the speed between your device and a selected server on the internet. For the most accurate test, other background tasks that could be connecting to the internet should be temporarily halted. Also, note that the site recommends using their app for testing connections rated 100 Mbps or more instead of the browser version. I have tested both ways on my 1000 Mbps capable internet service, and the browser version showed 394 Mbps compared to over 900 Mbps with the app. Real-world connections can be much slower than the test speeds because of the load on the servers for a particular website you are connecting to. Using a VPN service also generally results in slower speeds.