



# Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,  
Retry,  
Ignore....

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

May 2025  
Volume XLI Issue 5

\*\*\*\*\*

PER GLENSIDE Library (Masks are optional)

Confirmed  
meeting dates

2025

May 31  
June 28  
July 26

:: ::  
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  
:: ::



INFORMATION for Saturday May 31 start time in person at  
Library Board Room is 9:30am or at home Zoom is 10:00am.  
There will be a meeting invitation e-mail Thursday evening  
before the Saturday meeting.

**Editor Note: Apologies for May meeting date confusion  
in April ARI**

Our May presentation we will have various videos about  
converting from Windows 10 to Linux when Windows 10 stops  
support possibly October 2025

**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

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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 279 May 2025 by John Spizzirri

The eagles did not reclutch after their eggs failed to hatch. The eagles are around but the camera operators have trouble finding them ( **1** ). The Canadian Geese had a clutch at the Decorah South nest ( **2** ). The camera views the family at the pond. The bear cams are not yet active.

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

**2) <https://is.gd/YAuMFO>**

Have you heard of the brushing scam ( **1, 2** )? It works like this. You may receive a package or parcel in the mail or via UPS ( **3** ), Amazon ( **4** ), or another third party seller. The package or packages are for things you did not order. They are usually cheap or low quality. There may or may not be a return address. If there is a return address, it may be international. Unbeknownst to you a fake review has been written on line in your name. The company that sent the goods got your name and data illicitly from the dark web or by other means. From here the scam can take a number of turns.

**A.** A QR code could be included for you to scan to 'get more information'. It would take you to an official looking web site that has no relevance to the package(s). The web site would scan your phone and steal more data from you like usernames, passwords, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, and anything else you may have on your phone. This is called Quishing, short for QR code phishing.

**B.** Your address, once found to be valid and you did not complain to authorities, can be used as a drop for merchandise of great value using stolen credit cards. The criminals wait for the delivery and pick up the package(s) before you know anything was delivered. This is a good reason to have a CCTV ( **5** ) or a Ring door bell ( **6** ).

**C.** If people read your fake review of the junk merchandise, they may be tempted to purchase stuff.

What to do if you receive such a package.

**A.** NEVER pay for anything you did not order. You are not obligated, by law, to pay.

**B.** If the box is UNOPENED and it came by parcel post, mark it RETURN TO SENDER and the post office (USPS) will return it.

**C.** If the box is OPENED and you do not want the stuff. Throw it away IF it is safe to do so.

**D.** If the box is OPENED and you like the stuff, keep it. You are under no obligation to pay for it.

**E.** If the merchandise is organic ( seeds, food, plants ) or an unknown liquid or substance, notify the proper authorities and follow their instructions.

**F.** If you receive a package via Amazon, eBay ( **7** ), or some other third party seller, go to their web site and file a fraud report. Ask the company to remove any fake reviews under your name.

Monitor your credit report and closely check your bank statements, credit card statements, and wealth management accounts for irregularities. Change your passwords, if warranted.

- 1) <https://www.uspis.gov/?p=9099>
- 2) <https://ncdoj.gov/?p=361772>
- 3) <https://www.ups.com/us/en/home>
- 4) <https://www.amazon.com/>

- 5) <https://is.gd/ig6hT6>
- 6) <https://is.gd/h8ZH3X>
- 7) <https://www.ebay.com/>

Transportation Security Administration ( **1 TSA** ) is now confiscating portable chargers and power banks ( **2, 3, 4, 5, 6** ). Lithium-ion batteries which are in power banks must never be packed in checked luggage. They are allowed in carry-on bags but only if they meet specific requirements. The battery must be under 100 watt-hours (Wh) unless the airline gives explicit approval. The power bank must have a clearly visible label showing its watt-hour rating. Unlabeled, over sized, or suspicious-looking chargers are at risk of being confiscated. Carrying multiple devices may result in additional screening. TSA agents that can't verify the battery size may seize the item on the spot. Do NOT depend on the mentality of any TSA agent. Don't spend too much on a power bank, put it in your carry on luggage, and expect the TSA to confiscate it.

- 1) <https://www.tsa.gov/>
- 2) <https://is.gd/DnGkHL>
- 3) <https://is.gd/1q4JEm>
- 4) <https://is.gd/QXgMrC>
- 5) <https://is.gd/3kUnqj>
- 6) <https://is.gd/HaNnrP>

Malwarebytes reports ( **1** ) that there is a Android phone ad fraud, known as Kaleidoscope, that bombards users with unskippable ads. It is on about 130 apps at the Google Play Store. These apps get about 2.5 million downloads per month. The way to avoid this 'ad fraud' is to keep your device up to date, don't give an app "Display over other apps" permission unless absolutely necessary, get your apps from the Google Play Store, don't allow ad sites permission to display notifications, and use security software on your Android phone ( or tablet ). Malwarebytes recommends, you guessed it, Malwarebytes.

- 1) <https://www.malwarebytes.com/?p=222552>

Light detection and ranging ( **1 LIDAR** ) is the device used to facilitate self driving automobiles. LIDAR uses laser of varying wavelengths of light to 'see' the area ahead of the vehicle to feed to the computer that directs the controls of the vehicle to determine what to do with the controls. LIDAR is not kind to digital cameras ( **2** ). "Volvo recommends avoiding close-up photography or using a protective filter if you must snap a pic." An iPhone ( **3** ) user found out the hard way. "It was the technological equivalent of staring directly into the Sun. Their phone's camera was toast..." ( **4** ) Elon Musk has yet to use LIDAR on Tesla's because it is expensive ( **5** ). Recently, he has changed his tune and made a big LIDAR purchase ( **6** ).

- 1) <https://is.gd/cBSVV5>

- 2) <https://is.gd/S4RHNE>
- 3) <https://www.apple.com/iphone/>
- 4) <https://is.gd/chmhtr>
- 5) <https://is.gd/TYYTs8>
- 6) <https://techcrunch.com/?p=2765052>

Malwarebytes reported ( **1** ) that Regeneron Pharmaceuticals ( **2** ) purchased 23andMe ( **3** ) with all the customer data. If you used 23andMe in the past your data is now in the hands of another company that may use it in genetic disease research. That may sound like a noble goal until the detail is revealed. No one has any way of knowing how that may turn out. The CEO of Regeneron stated, "We believe we can help 23andMe deliver and build upon its mission to help people learn about their own DNA and how to improve their personal health, while furthering Regeneron's efforts to improve the health and wellness of many." Sounds good but vague. The data they have can be dangerous in the wrong hands. I think that's why the government wants it. The genetic data is NOT covered by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ( **4 HIPAA** ) thus give you no protection from any company or huckster. Remember that if you are related to someone that used 23andMe, part of your genetic data is contained in their genetic data. If you used 23andMe and want to know how you can protect yourself, the Malwarebytes web site cited above ( **1** ) has instructions on how to delete your data and account.

- 1) <https://www.malwarebytes.com/?p=226971>
- 2) <https://www.regeneron.com/>
- 3) <https://www.23andme.com/>
- 4) <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html>

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

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## **Default Apps: Where and What are they?**

**By Phil Sorrentino**

**Secretary & Newsletter Contributor**

**Sun City Center Computer Club**

**<https://sccccomputerclub.org/>**

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Default Apps is a choice in the Apps section of Settings. To get there, click the Start button, then click "Settings," then "Apps," and finally, "Default apps." This is where you can choose what Apps will be used for certain types of files. Windows 10 and Windows 11 both have this feature, but the screens look a bit different. It looks like Windows 10 scratches the surface of this feature, and Windows 11 expands on it. But as an example, let's first look at the more straightforward Windows 10 screens. Let's look at one of these choices,



probably familiar to most computer users, "photo viewer" (the fourth item on my list). Below the choice "photo viewer" is the icon and the name of an App. In my case, it is "Photo Gallery." By default, this App will be used when the user attempts to open a photo file type, like a .jpg file.

Microsoft Photos Gallery Icon

Just a bit of background. Many file types (extensions - the letters in the file name after the period) have been defined, and many are commonly used daily. FileInfo.com maintains a searchable database that contains over 10,000 file extensions. They are used for documents, databases, graphic images, disk images, presentation software, email, virtual environments, file encoding, and other purposes.

Many of these file types are defined and used by specific software and are not often encountered by the average computer user. However, we usually use a few categories of file types in our daily computing lives so frequently that operating systems have identified some categories and provided specific folders for their use, such as documents, pictures, videos, and music. In this same order, you can think of these categories as Text-based, Image, Video, and Audio files. So, now that some basic categories have been defined, we can see what file types might fit into these categories. Some common file types like .docx, .xlsx, .pdf, .html, .odt, .pptx, .zip, and .txt are document file types. .jpg, .jpeg, .jpe, .png, .tiff, .gif, .heic, and .raw are image file types. .mp4, .wmv, .avi, .mov, .flv, and .mkv are video file types. And finally, mp3, .ogg, .wma, .wav, .aac, and .flac are music file types. (If this doesn't make sense, you may not see the file type extension part of your file names. Windows defaults not to show extensions. To change this, in File Explorer, click "View" and then check the "file name extensions" checkbox.) Additionally, there are categories for file types for specific uses like email, maps, and web browsers, which Windows puts into categories for convenience. For example, .msg, .pst, .edb, .ost, and .eml are email file types. .shp, .shx, .kml, .kmz, and .gpx are map-oriented file types. .html, .xps, .css, .asp, and .php are web browser-oriented file types.

So Windows provides control over the Application (or App) that will be called upon to open and/or process a file. When you attempt to open a file by double-clicking it, the "Default" App associated with the double-clicked file type will be used. For example, if you try to open a Photo document (.jpg file type, for example), the Default App (in my situation) Microsoft Photos Gallery will be used. There may be other Apps on your computer that can also do the job. If you want to see what Apps could do the job and maybe even change the Default App, click the current Default App, in my case, the "Photo Gallery" Icon, and you will see a list of the other Apps on your computer that can be used.



When I clicked the "Photo Gallery" Icon, I was presented with a "Choose an App" list that included "Photos," "Faststone Image Viewer," "Microsoft Office Picture Manager," "Movie Maker," "Paint," "Paint 3D" "Photoshop Elements 13 Editor", "Snip & Sketch," and "Look for an app in the Microsoft store." (Microsoft is always anxious to provide or even sell solutions.) This list indicates the apps that could be set as the default apps for photo files. The list on your computer may be shorter or longer depending on the Apps you have installed on your computer. To change the Default App to an App in the list, click the Name of the App and the Default will be changed. Notice that below the Default Apps choice is an option to "Choose default apps by file type." Clicking this allows you to set default Apps for every file type on your computer. My computer's list of file types is quite long, totaling around 500, going from .386 to .zpl. Changing these entries is probably unnecessary, at least not for the average computer user. However, if you have specific and maybe expensive software you want to use for certain file types, this would be the place to make that choice.

Windows 11 "Default Apps" is similar but a little different. When you select Default Apps (under Settings-Apps) instead of a list of a few categories, like "mail," "maps," or "photo viewer," there is a list of all of the Apps on your computer. If you select an app, you will see a list of all the file types associated with the App chosen. At this point, you can change the "Default App" used for the selected file type. This is similar to the "Choose default apps by file type" in Windows 10. As such, in either version of the OS, there is an attempt to give the user complete control over what App is used by default when attempting to open a specific file type.

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**Verify the Safety of Websites**  
**By Terry Harvey**  
**Program Chair and Newsletter Editor**  
**Wisconsin All-Computer Users Club**  
**<https://wauc.apcug.org/>**  
**[terryharvey \(at\) wi.rr.com](mailto:terryharvey@wi.rr.com)**

Verifying the safety and legality of a website is crucial for online security. Here are some steps to follow:

- 1.** Check the website's URL: Ensure it starts with "https://" instead of "http://". The "s" indicates a secure connection.
- 2.** Look for security indicators: A lock symbol or the word "Secure" in the browser's address bar confirms a secure connection. Avoid sites with warnings or certificate errors.
- 3.** Research the website: Search for reviews, ratings, or experiences other users share. Be cautious if there is a lack of information or negative feedback.

**4. Check for contact information:** Legitimate websites provide valid contact details, including a physical address and phone number. Verify if the information is accurate and reachable.

**5. Assess content quality:** Poor grammar, excessive ads, or suspicious content can indicate an untrustworthy site.

**6. Review privacy policy and terms of service:** Ensure they are transparent, well-written, and provide clear information on data collection, storage, and usage.

**7. Use website reputation services:** Online tools like Google Safe Browsing or Norton Safe Web can check a site's safety rating.

Trust your instincts: If something feels off or too good to be true, it's wise to proceed with caution or avoid the website altogether.

Remember, online safety is an ongoing practice. Stay updated with the latest security measures and use reliable antivirus software for additional protection.

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**Live Package Tracking Comes to Gmail**  
**By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society**  
**[https://ckcs.org/](https://ckcs.org/lextown2)**  
**lextown2 \*\* gmail.com**

Gmail users anxiously awaiting a package's delivery may smile when they hear about this late-2022 feature.

Mashable reports, "Gmail will initially ask users in a pop-up at the top of the inbox if they wish to opt-in to receive tracking updates before enabling package monitoring. Users can choose whether to click "Allow" or "Immediately now" based on their preferences."

If users opt in, a small green label with the estimated package delivery day will automatically appear under the sender's name and subject line in the Gmail inbox. Mashable reports that a small truck icon and the order's progress status are shown after the estimated delivery date.

Most major freight delivery companies are expected to provide the new feature. However, according to Tom's Guide, the user must have an order confirmation with a tracking number for Google to offer live tracking in its Gmail service.

Of course, you must be using the Gmail app for this to work. This feature won't be available if you're viewing your Gmail account messages using a different email app (such as Apple Mail, Outlook, Thunderbird, Postbox, or Canary Mail).