



Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

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

Aug 2026
Volume XLII Issue 8

PER GLENSIDE Library (Masks are optional)

INFORMATION for Saturday August 22 start time in person at
Library Board Room is 9:30am or at home Jitsi is 10:00am.
There will be a meeting invitation e-mail Thursday evening
before the Saturday meeting.

On Saturday August 22
Presentation will be various videos
on smart phone privacy

NEW MAIL ADDRESS!!!

NEW MAIL ADDRESS!!!

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

***Thank you! to all who paid the
low \$20.00 dues for 2026!
Your support helps pay for our
APCUG membership and CAEUG website***

Confirmed
meeting dates

2026

August 22

**Sept 25
Jitsi meeting
Only**

:: ::
Hybrid
Board Room
in person
OR Jitsi

:: ::
Check
website for
dates and
meeting info
:: ::

**!!!! NEW !!!
Mailing
address:**

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



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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) Position OPEN

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



Lamp Post 293 August 2026 by John Spizzirri

The brown bear cams appear to be live (**1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**) in Katmai, Alaska. They are not. They will go live on August 25th. The cams are not live due to a treaty with the peoples that live in that area. The shut down (**7**) provides them privacy as they harvest the sockeye salmon near the bears. Before the shut down on August 10th the fishing in Brooks River was good. Bears

were in the water. The salmon were trying to climb the falls (most of them successfully). The bears and gulls were eating well. Check in on the Tuesday after our meeting to see the bears live.

- 1) <https://is.gd/5XSkeR>
- 2) <https://is.gd/8qsdz0>
- 3) <https://is.gd/BYn1NE>
- 4) <https://is.gd/5RsMdk>
- 5) <https://is.gd/c7jg58>
- 6) <https://is.gd/ERw674>
- 7) <https://tinyurl.com/3aa6u6e5>

Have you been Flocked? Flock (**1**) is the company that provides license plate readers to government agencies for a price. It also maintains a huge data base of all the plates that have been read with the place, time, and personal information associated with each plate. This data is available to subscribers (government agencies) without a warrant. A problem for Flock and its subscribers has surfaced in that some individuals have used the information to stalk relatives, ex's, and strangers for personal reasons. All that is clearly

illegal. Law suits have been filed. So far no criminal charges have been filed. This activity has caused a backlash. Some subscribers have canceled to avoid bad press (**2**) Flock has announced policy changes (**3**) but that remains to be seen. A web site called Have I been Flocked? (**4**) lets you know if your plate has been read (if available) and other information about who has that information. For instance, you could find out that Seymour, Indiana (**5**), population 21,569, has a Flock account for the police department. Unless you live there you cannot find out how much they pay for that account. You won't find out from Flock. Every town that a member of CAEUG lives in has a Flock account. I guess we all live in hot beds of criminal activity.

- 1) <https://www.flocksafety.com/>
- 2) <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/08/09/flock-cameras-backlash-cancellations-01026242>
- 3) <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/flock-safety-camera-network-changes-b3033199.html>
- 4) <https://haveibeenflocked.com/>
- 5) <https://gogl.to/4ORQ>

Wired Magazine has an article, Self-Driving Cars Are Interfering With First Responders (**1**) in which it says that U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (**NHTSA 2**) issued a public 'call to action' to automated vehicle (**AV 3**) developers regarding a pattern of interference with first responders. Over the last few years a pattern has emerged. AVs have driven into active emergency scenes blocking the paths of ambulances, firefighters, and police officers. This behavior would be cause for arrest for humans. The secretary of NHTSA wants AV programmers to end this type of activity by the end of next year. There did not seem to be any penalty if compliance was not met.

- 1) <https://tinyurl.com/45jyh26x>
- 2) <https://tinyurl.com/4xdj74hw>
- 3) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-driving_car

Blazing Saddles (1974 (**1**)) is now available on YouTube (**2**) for free (**3**) (you have to log into a Google (**4**) account to show you are over 18 years old). It stars Cleavon Little as Sheriff Bart, Gene Wilder as The Waco Kid, Madeline Kahn as Lili Von Shtupp, and Harvey Korman as the villainous Attorney General, *Hedley* Lamarr played by Harvey Korman in the movie. Using the Lamarr name cost Mel Brooks, the producer, a few million dollars settling a law suite from Hedy Lamarr (**5, 6**). In the real world she was the inventor / movie star who developed the technology that made torpedoes accurate and jam proof. That tech led to the ability of Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and cell phones to function.

[**Editor note** from the Internet: Hedy Lamarr November 9, 1914 – January 19,

2000. During production, retired longtime film star Hedy Lamarr sued Warner Bros. for \$100,000 (equal to \$652,834 today), charging that the film's running parody of her name infringed on her right to privacy. Brooks said that he was flattered and chose to not fight it in court; the studio settled out of court for a small sum and an apology for "almost using her name".

Inspired by an early Philco wireless radio remote and player piano rolls, she (Hedy Lamarr) worked with composer George Antheil (who created a symphony played by eight synchronized player pianos) she invented a frequency-hopping system for remotely controlling torpedoes during World War II. (The frequency hopping concept appeared as early as 1903 in a U.S. Patent by Nikola Tesla). The invention was examined superficially and filed away. At the time, Allied torpedoes, as well as those of the Axis powers, were unguided. Input for depth, speed, and direction were made moments before launch but once leaving the submarine the torpedo received no further input. In 1959 it was developed for controlling drones that would later be used in Viet Nam. Frequency hopping radio became a Navy standard by 1960. Due to the expiration of the patent and Lamarr's unawareness of time limits for filing claims, she was never compensated. Her invention is used today for WiFi, Bluetooth, and even top secret military defense satellites. While the current estimate of the value of the invention is approximately \$30 billion, during her final years she was getting by on SAG and social security checks totaling only \$300 a month.]

- 1) <https://tinyurl.com/5cs5ppab>
- 2) <https://www.youtube.com/>
- 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpRcKXGZKpw>
- 4) <https://www.google.com/>
- 5) <https://tinyurl.com/4kushax2>
- 6) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hedy_Lamarr

Petlibro (**1**) made the news this month. Petlibro makes smart pet feeders. There was a failure that affected many users that failed to feed pets and notify pet owners of the failure. The Verge (**2**) broke the story behind a paywall. Arstechnica (**3**) released it widely. The failure now seems to be settled but many pet owners no longer trust Petlibro or smart feeders in general.

- 1) <https://petlibro.com/>
- 2) <https://tinyurl.com/53mmbb38>
- 3) <https://tinyurl.com/pc5nuasn>

Flying Magazine ran a story about the largest battery electric airplane in it's latest on line issue (**1**). It is the Heart Aerospace X1 demonstrator, a precursor to its model ES-30. It flew out of Plattsburgh International Airport (KPBG), New York for 27 minutes using \$5 of energy. It was configured to carry 30 passengers and a pilot. Other companies have developed larger electric

aircraft but have not flown.

1) <https://tinyurl.com/y5ay832z>

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (**FBI 1**) is warning people about cybercriminals targeting adults' and children's social media and other online accounts to steal sexually explicit images or videos (**2**) to use in sextortion (**3**) schemes. the criminals may just use existing pictures and videos to convert to explicit pics and videos using advanced Artificial intelligence (**AI 4**).

1) <https://www.fbi.gov/>

2) <https://tinyurl.com/b87dr96n>

3) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sextortion>

4) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_intelligence

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



Unchecky: A Review
Stop installing unwanted software.
By Jasmine Blue D'Katz
Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts
<http://www.lcace.org/>
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I have been using several programs suggested by Bob Gostischa (Tech for Senior) and Judy Taylour (APCUG), and recently, I had to rebuild one of my computers, and the program Unchecky gave me lots of help reinstalling the software. Unchecky is a free, open-source program that automatically unchecks unwanted, preselected boxes during software installation. It is a lifesaver for anyone who has ever been frustrated by the sneaky tactics used by some installers to trick users into installing additional software or signing up for unwanted services.

How it Works

Unchecky works by monitoring your computer for software installation processes. When it detects an installer, it automatically scans the installer for pre-selected boxes. If it finds any, it unchecks them for you. This way, you can be sure that you are only installing the software you want, without any unwanted extras.

Benefits of Using Unchecky

There are many benefits to using Unchecky. Here are just a few:

- Saves time: Unchecky can save you a lot of time by automatically

unchecking unwanted boxes. No more clicking through endless installation screens!

- Saves money: Unchecky can help you save money by preventing you from installing unwanted software you might have to pay for.
- Protects your privacy: Unchecky can help protect your privacy by preventing you from installing software that tracks your activity or collects your personal information.
- Easy to use: Unchecky is extremely easy to use. There are no settings to configure, and it runs silently in the background.

Is Unchecky Safe?

Unchecky is entirely safe to use. It is a reputable program with a large and active community of users. It is also open source, so you can be sure its code is clean and free of malware.

Overall

Unchecky is an essential tool for anyone who wants to take control of their software installations. It is free, easy to use, and can save you time, money, and frustration. I highly recommend it to everyone.

Here are some additional things to keep in mind about Unchecky:

- Unchecky does not work with all installers. Some installers are designed to bypass Unchecky and other similar programs.
- Unchecky may not always be able to detect all unwanted boxes. Double-checking the installation screens yourself is always a clever idea before clicking "Install."
- Unchecky is not a replacement for common sense. It is important to be careful about what software you install, even if Unchecky can uncheck the unwanted boxes.

I would also like to add that Unchecky is an excellent program for anyone concerned about their privacy. By preventing you from installing unwanted software, Unchecky can help protect your personal information from being collected and used by third parties.

The Perks of Being Over 60

Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.

Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.

People no longer view you as hypochondriac.

There is nothing left to learn the hard way.

Things you buy now won't wear out.

You can eat dinner at 4pm.

You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it.

You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.

You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.

You sing along with elevator music.

Your eyes won't get much worse.

Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.