



Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

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

May 2026
Volume XLII Issue 5

PER GLENSIDE Library (Masks are optional)

INFORMATION for Saturday May 23 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 May 23
Presentation will be various videos

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

May 23

June 27

:: ::

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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Join CAEUG meeting in Library or from Home,
Stay Safe! Update information on our website at
<https://www.CAEUG.net>



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Webmaster John Spizzirri
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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 290 May 2026 by John Spizzirri

The Decorah bald eaglets are almost as big as the adults (**1**). They will begin branching in a week or two. They are keeping the adults busy with feedings every few hours. Fledging will happen in mid June.

1) <https://is.gd/YAuMF0>

The Boy Genius Report (**BGR (1)**) has an article about when you should restart or reset you router (**2**). It boils down to this. If you are having trouble, restart (i.e. unplug for 30 seconds then plug back in). That process clears caches and refreshes your network connection. If you continue to have trouble you may need to reset the router. To reset press the pin hole button with a paper clip or tooth pick with the power on. This will wipe all settings, SSID names, and passwords. All that stuff will need to be reset up using the administrator application. If you did not set up your router, its best not to reset it without help. BGR also had an article about router guest networks (**3**). It told how guest networks can be used to segment regular high speed wi-fi from lot (**4**) which uses 2.4GHz. band as opposed to the more stable 5GHz. band. There are some trade offs doing this and some cheap routers do a poor job of separation so you will have to research your router purchase.

1) <https://www.bgr.com/>

2) <https://www.bgr.com/2160191/reset-vs-unplug-which-better-for-router/>

3) <https://www.bgr.com/2169851/clever-use-guest-network-router/>

4) <https://is.gd/Vt8Wgi>

National Lightning Safety Awareness Week is the last week of June this year (**1**). Last year was one of the best years in history for the least number of lightning deaths (**2**). Protecting yourself and your electronics is a job that everyone should take seriously. Here are a few ideas on how to do it properly (**3, 4, 5**).

- 1) <https://www.weather.gov/iln/lightningsafetyweek>
- 2) <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-fatalities25>
- 3) <https://i.send2press.com/KRCWa>
- 4) <https://newsroom.statefarm.com/tips-to-protect-your-home-from-lightning/>
- 5) <https://www.cdc.gov/lightning/safety/index.html>

Steve Gibson reports (**1**) that the Microsoft Edge browser stores all user names and passwords in "RAM where they were easily discoverable and exfiltrateable en mass." Microsoft told Bleeping Computer (**2**) that the storing of passwords in the open was "intended behavior." Once it was announce to the world, Microsoft changed its tune (**3**) stating that future versions of Edge would no longer store passwords in the open. The most telling quote in the article was, "This defense-in-depth change will come to every supported version of Edge (Stable, Beta, Dev, Canary, and the Extended Stable channel our enterprise customers run), and we're prioritizing the rollout," said Microsoft Edge Security Lead Gareth Evans. Please note Gareth did not mention any consumer editions of Edge. I surly hope that if you use Edge, you stop now and delete it from your system. Switch to a browser with a good reputation.

- 1) <https://www.grc.com/sn/sn-1079-notes.pdf>
- 2) <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/>
- 3) <https://is.gd/Z5X0OR>

Wired Magazine revealed that Google Chrome has a Gemini Nano AI model running on your computer (**1**), if you use Google Chrome. It uses 4GB of your ram whether you use it or not. According to Google it is there to handle "local scam detection" without involving the Gemini Cloud services. You can Turn it off but doing so will eleiminate the scam detection and give uneven "outcomes when interacting with non-Google web services in the browser." It sounds like Google is trying to scare users into leaving it on without telling them why.

- 1) <https://is.gd/epjRW9>

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



Winhance for MS Windows

By John Spizzirri

When you purchase a new computer with Windows 11 on it (not a particularly good idea this year (**1**)) or you install Windows 11 on an existing computer, Microsoft takes control. It requires that you have a Microsoft account as a user ID (not really). It proceeds to install software you did not ask for or agree to have installed. It sets up back channel communication via the Internet that will spy on you and anyone who uses this computer any time it is connected to the Internet. Why does Microsoft do this? MONEY! They can make lots of money knowing what you write down using MS Word, what you search using Edge - Co-Pilot - Recall, and who you pay your bills to using MS Excel or QuickBooks. They can track anything you do, even if you use Google Chrome, Mozilla FireFox, or any other browser. They can read your email using Outlook, Microsoft Mail, Hotmail, Thunderbird. GMail, or any other online email client. They can track your use of ChatGPT, Grok, Claude, Gemini, Perplexity, or any free or paid AI LLM. With the standard install they make money at your expense. What do they do with all that information? They sell it to advertizers. They give it to the government, if asked. They use it to control your PC and thus control you. You are the product, but you also have to pay for that 'privilege'.

It costs you in higher prices for the hardware (PC's and peripherals). It also costs you in your privacy, your security, and your PC's performance. All the junk they install on your PC slows down your machine and eats your bandwidth. This video explains the situation in the simplest terms (**2**). Rob Braxman, The Internet Privacy Guy (**3**), and does not work for Microsoft, has a number of videos that explain the situation (**4, 5**) in increasing levels of technical details and jargon (acronyms). I recommend that you watch all the videos and take notes in the Braxman videos, stopping when he shows screen shots.

Why did I bring this up? I found a free (open source) tool that helps navigate the maze of menus and registry edits that are needed to correct many of the problems that Microsoft has created for you to use your PC properly. That tool is called Winhance (**6**). The creator of the product has a video (**7**) where he explains the latest version. He goes through the product step by step showing how to enhance your Windows 11 experience.

Starting with the privacy section of the product he takes each item he has selected to modify and show it's setting. He shows if that setting is the Windows default, his recommended setting, and if this setting has been updated since the last version (i.e. new). If you choose, you can apply all the recommended settings on that page (after reading them, of course) with just one click. He then went to the optimization page which had six sub menus. At

the top you can apply all the recommended settings on that page and all the sub menus. It would be best if you went through each menu and read all the choices before selecting all his recommendations. Other pages are gaming and performance, customization, and software & apps. In software & apps you can install apps (similar to ninite (**7**)) or remove unwanted applications by selecting them and clicking the remove button. The developer's video is 37 minutes long. It covers all the things I covered here plus things that everyday users do not use but may be interested in. This product cleans up Windows 11 nicely. My only caveats would be to uninstall Edge, Copilot, OneDrive, Office 365, all the Xbox stuff, Microsoft News, weather, phone link, feedback hub, telemetry, Outlook for Windows, Teams, Recall, and do not have or create a Microsoft account (i.e. login locally only). You can save the way Windows is configured as a custom configuration. Do that before you change anything and you will have a copy of Windows before you did any changes. By saving custom configurations you can use them on other Windows 11 computers, if you have any.

If you decide to use Winhance, you may want to send the developer a few dollars (**8, 9**). Another video that goes through the features slightly faster and more enthusiastically is here (**10**). He reviews the previous version.

PCWorld Magazine reviewed Winhance (**11**). The comment that I thought was hilarious was, "Winhance is an open-source app available free of charge on websites like Git Hub that makes debloating and configuring Windows almost as easy as Linux." Windows Central had a review article (**12**). The quote I like the best was, "It's (Winhance) not a tool built for nerds; it's built so anyone can understand it." Windows Forum had a review (**13**). Their quote was the most conservative, "For now, it (Winhance) earns its place as a must-try for anyone serious about reclaiming their PC from bloat and bureaucracy—always with a backup, and with one hand on the “undo” button, just in case."

By the way, Winhance works on Windows 10 as well.

- 1) <https://youtu.be/moTUpGoxcmc>
- 2) <https://youtu.be/noaYSy-vKOo>
- 3) <https://is.gd/XF5kD3>
- 4) <https://youtu.be/e7a89ZYcTo8>
- 5) https://youtu.be/t1eX_vvAlUc
- 6) <https://winhance.net/>
- 7) <https://ninite.com/>
- 8) <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/memstech>
- 9) <https://ko-fi.com/memstechtips>
- 10) https://youtu.be/Bk_LI3UvEA8
- 11) <https://is.gd/rb1UIb>
- 12) <https://is.gd/raRsrk>
- 13) <https://windowsforum.com/threads/winhance-5-review-the-ultimate-free-windows-optimization-personalization-tool.365759/>