

Interface

Lorain County Computer Users Group
LCCUG.com (or) info@LCCUG.com
Volume 36 Number 05 April 2025

scams



2025

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Tuesday
May 13, 2025
10:00 AM



Upgrading from Windows 10 to Windows 11



LCCUG

Our links can be found at:

LCCUG.com/links, There you will find many interesting places to visit. Check them out and see what you can find interesting

**This meeting will be held in person and on Zoom
Resuming our Tuesday meetings. Next meeting will be
on May 13, 2025 10:00 am.**

Join us in person at:

LCCC Community Learning Center
201 W Erie Ave, Lorain, OH 44052

**Please Email: info@lccug.com
if you have any questions or concerns!**



A Word From Our President



The Tech Revolution: Then and Now

Back in the 1990s, technology felt exciting but manageable. Home computers were just becoming common, the internet was dial-up slow (and noisy!), and a mobile phone was something you kept in the car—if you were lucky. We sent emails from chunky desktops and took photos on film. It was a time when technology felt like a helpful tool, not a lifestyle. Fast forward to today, and we carry more power in our pockets than NASA had during the moon landing. Social media, smart homes, streaming everything—tech has moved from a convenience to a constant companion.

Now in 2025, the pace of change is dizzying. Artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and even self-driving cars are becoming part of daily life. It can feel overwhelming, especially if you remember the days of floppy disks and payphones. The key to keeping up isn't learning every new app—it's staying curious. Understanding the basics of cybersecurity, being open to voice assistants or AI tools, and asking for help when needed can go a long way. Technology will keep evolving, but with a little patience and willingness, we can stay comfortably connected in this fast-moving world.

Our May meeting will be looking at changes with the Windows operating system. There will be presented several things that we need to be thinking about!! **Please note that we will be returning to Tuesday meetings until next year.**

From your club president, and guest contributor Chat.gpt

Sandra Ruth
LCCUG President

JOIN US



LCCUG Officers For 2025

President	Sandee Ruth president@lccug.com
Secretary	Don Hall secretary@lccug.com
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lccug>

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**Tuesday
May 13, 2024, 10AM**

Upgrading from Windows 10 to Windows 11



**Presented
By
LCCUG OFFICERS**

**Windows 10 will lose support on October 14th 2025.
We will discuss options to upgrade to Windows 11 or to change to a different operating system, with examples.**

Also on display will be an example of one of the cheap Windows 11 mini PCs available that are powerful enough for most people's everyday use.

Genealogy Tip of the day

Michael John Neill April 27, 2025

Rootdig.com mjnrootdig@gmail.com

There's This One Genealogy Trick...

The reality is that there is no trick or instant solution to genealogical research problems. However, generally speaking the following approaches are helpful:

- citing your sources;
- learning as much as you can about all the records in the area;
- learning the history of the area;
- having contemporary maps;
- obtaining as many records as possible;
- using compiled sources (published genealogy books, online trees, etc.) as stepping stones to original records;
- realizing assumptions may not be true;
- continuing to learn about genealogical

research in general;

- proofing and double checking your work.

Not one trick and not a guarantee, but these general suggestions will go a long way.

Woohoo

Your renewal dues have been changed from \$15.00, To 3 years for \$15.00. When everyone else is raising their prices our Computer Club is lowering their dues, so tell your friends to come and Join in the fun and learn computer information.

Tell your family and friends about this great deal. Once in a lifetime opportunity.

LCCUG
Director of Membership,
membership@lccug.com.



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

APRIL 6, 2025

The board meeting for April was attended by Sandee Ruth, Don Hall, Micky Knickman and, Pam Rihel at the Blue Sky Restaurant on April 6..

The board discussed potential programs that might interest members. The decision to continue with programs from the Internet will continue.



General Meeting Minutes

APRIL 10, 2025


President Sandee Ruth called the hybrid meeting to order. A motion to accept the minutes as shown in the April issue of the **INTERFACE** was made by Ellen Endrizal and seconded by Micky Knickman. Motion passed by voice vote.

Sandee advised members starting in May meetings will resume on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 AM.

Next month the program will be about Windows 10 stopping updates.

Sandee and Micky presented a program of videos from the Internet starting with hearing aids you purchase and install yourself.

There was considerable time spent by attendees discussing the subjects presented.



Member of Association of Personal Computer Users Groups

MEMBERSHIP WITH LCCUG:

Yearly dues are now \$15.00 For 3 years. For more information contact:

LCCUG
Director of Membership,
membership@lccug.com.

Meeting Location:
At a new time: from 10 am. - noon
in a new location: LCCC facility at
[201 W. Erie, Lorain](#)

Our meeting space is on the first floor – easily accessible – larger – refreshments available! Please email info@lccug.com if you have any questions.

Newsletter Editor: Pam Rihel using Microsoft Publisher, 2019

This Month's contributors: Micky Knickman, Sandra Ruth, Pam Rihel, Don Hall, Neil Higgins, Michael John Neill, Kurt Jefferson, Jim Cerney, Adobe Stock, Scambusters, Ask Leo, APCUG, Google Images, Microsoft Office art online, AARP

Newsletter is now
Online at:
lccug.com/newsletters or lccug.com



The Lorain County Chapter of OGS

is having its next meeting online:

Check our webpage for the next program.

<http://loraincoogs.org/events.html>


We are having our meetings virtually only, using Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6681479672?pwd=amh0NmtmalZWa0lmRWVBWEwySkxmZz09&omn=92912561207>

Lorain County Chapter is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Meetings are free and the program begins at 7:00 PM.

John Kolb





Another Day. Another Scam. Don't Fall for it.

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society
<https://newsite.ckcs.org/>
lextown77@mymetronet.net

I wonder how many Americans this very minute are being taken for a ride and giving away their personal information to a criminal. You might be surprised. At all hours of the day, people are turning over credit card numbers and more to thugs.

As Aura writes, "When Mary Anne May received a text from UPS on the day after Mother's Day, she assumed a family member sent her a gift that she wasn't home to receive. But when she clicked on the link in the text to re-schedule the delivery, and was asked for her credit card number, she started to get suspicious.

While Mary Anne's caution was well-founded, millions of Americans have fallen victim to package delivery scams like this one."

In recent days, I've received a number of bogus text messages on my phone. I simply report them as junk and delete them.

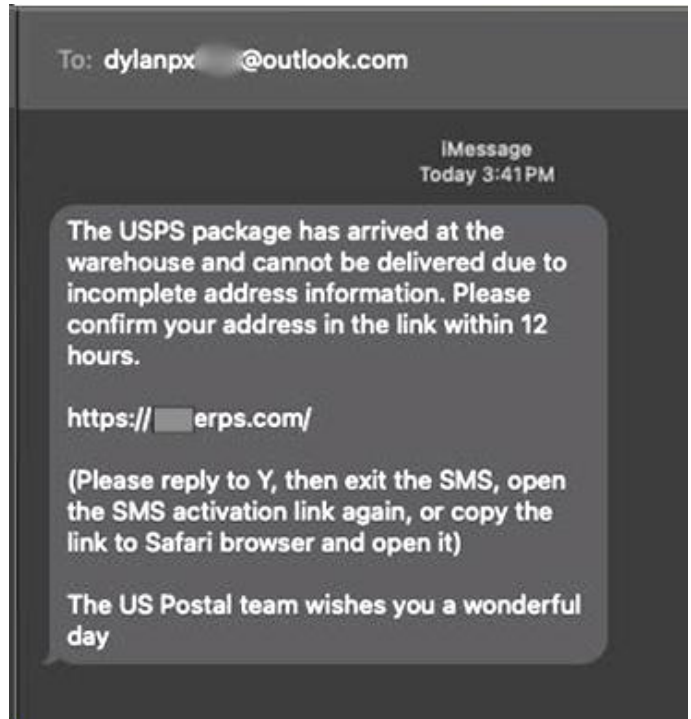
Here's an example. The bogus text message alerts me that the US Postal Service is holding a package at its "warehouse" and cannot deliver it because it lacks complete street address details. Look who supposedly sent the text. It's from a guy named Dylan. This is the first red flag. Think about it. USPS will never text you using a bogus email address starting with "dylan."

Second, the letter carrier has been delivering mail and Amazon packages to my house for years. USPS doesn't have my address? Then who's the guy who's been delivering junk mail to my mailbox for years?

Third, the USPS doesn't have "warehouses." They don't use that phrase. The USPS has

distribution centers. And I'm very glad to know that the bogus US Postal team is wishing me a wonderful day! Finally, the USPS doesn't use bogus web addresses, as shown in the text. A legitimate message would read usps.com or something similar.

If I click on the link shown in the text, I'll get a website where I can easily enter my credit card number to be scammed by Dylan or whoever is trying to turn me into a victim. Hey Dylan, have a wonderful day!



AARP Fraud Watch Network

Did you know that AARP makes available free articles on preventing scams & fraud? Visit this site for more information:

<https://www.aarp.org/membership/benefits/finance/fraud-watch-network/>



Unsubscribe and Opt-Out Links!

Note 1: *Easily change your subscription information by clicking the link at the very bottom of this newsletter.*

Note 2: *Please share this newsletter with 3 or 4 of your friends or colleagues who you think will benefit from it.*

Email scams are everywhere. Scammers try to sell fake products or trick you into giving them your personal information. They use sneaky methods to fill your inbox with these messages to scam you.

But be careful in how you unsubscribe from them!

Unsubscribe and Opt-Out Links! Are They Safe?

Many of us are familiar with the feeling of having too many emails in our inbox. Often, these are from lists we don't remember joining. To help with this, most emails include an "unsubscribe" or "opt-out" link at the bottom. A genuine unsubscribe or opt-out request typically originates from a legitimate company or organization. However, not all unsubscribe links are safe, and clicking them can sometimes lead to more problems instead of solving them.

Is Clicking "Unsubscribe" Safe?

Not always. Legitimate companies include unsubscribe links to follow email rules, but scammers may use fake links to trick you. If the link is unsafe, here's what can happen:

- **Phishing Access** – Clicking an unsafe link can direct you to a fake website designed to steal personal details like login credentials or credit card information.
- **Tracking Confirmation** – Scammers often include links that notify them you've interacted with their email. This confirms your email address is active, making you a target for further spam.

- **Malware** – Scammers can attempt to download malware when you click on a link.

How To Determine if an Unsubscribe Link is Safe

- **Check the Sender's Email** – Legitimate businesses will have a recognizable, professional domain (e.g., support@example.com). Random email addresses or domains with unusual spellings are red flags.
- **Hover Over the Link** – Hover your cursor over the unsubscribe link before clicking. If the destination URL looks suspicious or unfamiliar, don't click it.

If you're not sure about an email or don't recognize the sender, don't interact with it. Instead, mark it as spam or go to the company's website to update your email preferences if you trust it.

Does Opt-Out Work?

Legitimate emails usually have opt-out links that work well. When you opt-out, the sender should take you off their mailing list within a few business days. Some scam emails include fake opt-out options that don't really stop future emails. Instead, these forms can confirm your email address and lead to more spam.

If you keep getting emails after you unsubscribe, the sender might be a scammer. Mark those emails as spam to keep your inbox clean.

Can Scammers Spoof Email Addresses?

Scammers will do anything to get you to reply. They may use fake email addresses and add links to unsubscribe or opt-out. Their goal is to gain your trust so they can steal your personal information.

Scammers can fake email addresses by tricking email systems into showing a made-up sender name or domain. This spoofing makes emails look like they come from trusted sources, such as your bank, social media, or government organizations. The scammer is attempting to gain your trust once again.

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Spoofing itself doesn't require access to your account. It's a way for scammers to impersonate others without breaching your email. However, spoofing is often part of larger phishing schemes designed to steal sensitive information.

Here are some indicators of spoofed emails to watch for:

- The sender's name doesn't match the email address.
- Poor spelling, grammar, or formatting in the email body.
- Act now to keep your account active. If you don't respond immediately, your account will be deactivated.

Whether you're struggling to obtain credit cards or wipe out debt, [the methods in Credit Repair Hacking will help](#).

The eBook is packed full of knowledge, including:

- Over 75+ pages of credit repair knowledge, tips, tricks & secrets!
- Dispute letters you can use to wipe debt from your credit reports. (starts on page 41)
- A list of 20+ credit sources for obtaining credit. (page 65).
- Tips and tricks to ensure your credit score keeps going up year after year. (page 23)
- What you can sue for. (page 62)

It's time you took full control of your financial future. The only thing standing between you and that future is taking the first step today. Blocking a sender ensures their emails won't land in your inbox. However, here's what happens behind the scenes:

- Blocked emails are typically redirected to the spam or junk folder.
- Some email services immediately delete blocked emails, depending on your settings.

Scammers cannot see directly if their email is blocked. However, they might guess it if their emails bounce back or if they stop getting responses to their phishing attempts. Blocking an email can stop a scammer from emailing you directly, but the scammer will still try to contact you by simply using another email address.

Red Flags for Emails from Blocked Addresses

If blocked senders are still reaching your inbox, here's what to look out for:

- **Slightly Altered Email Addresses** – Scammers often tweak email addresses to bypass filters. An example would be support@brand.com to supp0rt@brand.com.
- **Disguised Attachments** – Phishing emails might use fake attachments or links to get you to engage with them.
- **Repetition** – Frequent identical emails from multiple addresses may indicate an ongoing attack.

Mark such emails as spam and avoid further interaction.

What Happens When You Report Spam or Block Phishing Emails?

When you mark an email as SPAM, your email provider takes note. Here's how your action helps:

- **Filters Are Updated** – Your email provider uses this data to improve spam filters.
- **Reports Are Sent to Security Databases** – Some email providers forward phishing reports to anti-spam organizations or cybersecurity agencies to investigate and take action.

Reporting does not directly alert the scammer, but it is important for keeping email systems safe and clean.

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Tip of the Day: How to Navigate File Explorer's Left Pane with the Keyboard

If you're a keyboard jockey, like I tend to be, navigating in the left-hand pane of Windows File Explorer can be quite efficient if you know just a few keystrokes.

In the left-hand pane:

- Up and down arrows (↑↓) move your selection up and down.
- The right arrow (→) expands (or opens) a folder in the tree.
- The left arrow (←) collapses (or closes) a folder in the tree.

Enter shows the contents of the currently selected folder in the right-hand pane.

It's a quick and easy way to move around.



Tip of the Day: Really Erase That Disk Before Discarding

by [Leo A. Notenboom](#)

Every so often, I hear about discarded computers or hard drives found to contain massive amounts of personal data that hadn't been erased prior to the device being taken out of service. Be it recycling centers, secondhand stores, or even that hand-me-down laptop from a family member, personal information is left for anyone to find.

When you're done with a machine, a [hard disk](#), a thumb drive — any form of data storage — take the time to erase your content from it. You want to erase *everything*: your data, but also the programs and operating system, which are typically not allowed to be given to someone else.

Here are three approaches for PCs.

1. [DBAN](#) is a utility devoted to this very task. It'll completely erase any hard disks attached to a PC, including the all-important system drive.

2. I'm usually happiest with a full format, because it's easier and I can keep using the computer while it formats external drives. Right-click on the drive in Windows File Explorer and click on **Format**. Make sure "Quick Format" is *not* selected, as you want to fully format the drive. Click on **Start** to overwrite everything on the drive.

3. Encrypt the drive and throw away the key. Specifically, enable BitLocker or use [VeraCrypt](#) whole-disk [encryption](#) to encrypt the entire hard disk. Then "lose" the key.

For solid-state drives (SSD) and thumb drives, the jury is out on whether or not a quick format is enough or whether a full format will have the desired results without causing excessive wear. My approach is simple: if the drive held truly important data, then a full format or full encryption it is. Otherwise, a quick format should be enough.

There's also the option to destroy the disk physically, if you're really serious. (Pro tip: Wear goggles. 😊)

Regardless of which approach you choose, ignoring the issue and giving your data away should never be an option.

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The Artificial Intelligence Explosion, an ever-changing topic

By Jim Cerny, 1st Vice President and
Hewie Poplock, 2nd Vice President
Sarasota Technology Users Group
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Artificial intelligence (AI) is a term we've all encountered, and its impact is already evident in various sectors such as business, education, entertainment, art, manufacturing, research, and health care. However, this is just the beginning. The potential of AI to revolutionize our lives is immense, possibly surpassing the transformative effects of computers and electronics. Are you prepared for this future?

Many people see the AI revolution as bringing huge benefits. If you have been using a search engine on the internet to get information you want or need, AI can do more by providing intelligent results to your searches. Try using the following free AI internet sites and seeing the results of your inquiries:

- ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>) - Chatbot from OpenAI that can have natural conversations and generate human-like text on various topics.
- DALL-E 2 (<https://labs.openai.com/>) - AI image generator from OpenAI that creates images from text descriptions.
- Hugging Face Spaces (<https://huggingface.co/spaces>) - Platform to build, train, and deploy machine learning models, mainly focused on natural language processing.
- Perplexity (<https://www.perplexity.ai/>) The answer to any question.
- Anthropic Claude (<https://claude.ai/chat/>) - Conversational AI assistant trained to be helpful, harmless, and honest.

- Gemini (<https://gemini.google.com/>) is a conversational AI chatbot from Google. It is meant to function similarly to ChatGPT, with the biggest difference being that Google's service pulls its information from the web.

- Co-Pilot from Microsoft. An AI-powered digital assistant that aims to provide personalized assistance to users for a range of tasks and activities. Copilot is integrated with Microsoft Edge. <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/edge/>

- Leonardo (<https://leonardo.ai>) is a generative AI platform that empowers users to effortlessly generate captivating images and artwork.

- NightCafe (<https://creator.nightcafe.studio/>). Create unique artworks in seconds using the power of Artificial Intelligence.

Since AI is going to affect almost every area of life on this planet, how is AI going to affect you, and how are you going to handle it? The STUG organization has some experienced AI users who will help guide STUG in helping our members understand and use AI. No matter what your life interest is, AI will affect it. You can start by asking Google or an AI website something like "How will AI affect art?" or "How will AI help with my investments?" or "How do I use AI to create a photo?" Yes, AI already affects all areas of your life, even if you do not realize it. You can watch many videos to learn more about all aspects of AI.

Creative AI can write stories, create works of art, and amaze us. Humans may review what AI has created, "touch it up," or add pieces later. As an example, AI is already affecting those who make their living writing by doing most of the work.

AI technology impacts many industries, transforming how they operate and interact with customers and employees. Here are some sectors that are being heavily affected by AI: These are just a few examples of industries that AI is

(Continued on page 10)

- **Marketing:** AI can predict what customers might want to buy. It helps companies show customers suitable ads.
- **Retail:** AI helps keep track of inventory and can recommend products that each customer might like. Some stores even have robot helpers that can answer customer questions.
- **Insurance:** AI can quickly process claims and detect fraud to help the company run smoothly.
- **Banking/Finance:** Banks use AI chatbots and virtual assistants to make banking more accessible for customers. AI also watches for fake charges on your account.
- **Education:** AI tutors can adapt to each student and help them learn at their own pace. It can grade papers and free up time for teachers.
- **Healthcare:** AI is making significant advancements in healthcare, from diagnosing diseases and analyzing medical images to drug discovery and personalized medicine. It has the potential to improve patient outcomes and streamline healthcare processes.
- **Manufacturing:** AI is integrated into manufacturing processes to optimize production, improve quality control, and enable predictive maintenance. It is revolutionizing the way products are designed, produced, and delivered.

These are just a few examples of industries that AI is heavily impacting. However, it's important to note that AI is a rapidly evolving field, and its impact is not limited to these industries alone. AI can potentially disrupt and transform other sectors, such as transportation, agriculture, energy, etc.

There are also downsides to AI. Many jobs will

be affected, and people must adapt to different situations. For example, when steam trains went to diesel, firemen were no longer needed—and now there are no train cabooses either!

Perhaps a good AI concept summary example could be in the area of law. An AI "lawyer" would have all the knowledge of previous similar court cases and create a perfect prosecution or defensive argument. The judge and jury would have to make the decision. But what if AI makes the decision itself? Would that not be better than any human judge?

Can you imagine more of what AI will do? It staggers my human intelligence!

