

Interface

Lorain County Computer Users Group
LCCUG.com (or) info@LCCUG.com
Volume 37 Number 5 May 2026

scams



2026

Inside This Issue

President's Letter	Pg.2
LCCUG Officers	Pg.2
Program	Pg.3
Genealogy Tip Of The Day	Pg.3
Minutes	Pg.4
Curiosity Posts: What You Need To Know	Pg.6
Enter Characters That Don't Have Keys	Pg.7
My Smartphone, My Friend	Pg.7



**Tuesday
May 12, 2026**

Security, AI & other interesting topics



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

Back to our regular meeting day & time

Tuesday May 12, 2026 at 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



I've been thinking about Electric and Hybrid Cars lately. I am fascinated by the self-driving cars. I know several people with these kinds of cars now.

Here is some information that I have found on these vehicles:

Electric Vehicles for Seniors: Benefits and Experiences

"Electric vehicles (EVs) aren't really new anymore. Today, EVs make up about 10% of US sales, and new vehicle shoppers who say they're "very interested" in buying an EV recently reached a two-year high of 29%. If you're a senior who's considering making the transition to an EV, it is absolutely the right move for you. That's because you're someone who prizes driving affordability, safety, comfort, and cleanliness.

EVs are ideal for a senior driver today. Here are some reasons why.

So easy and fun to drive. As people gradually experience EVs and notice their benefits, word of mouth spreads across family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. EV drivers appreciate how smooth and enjoyable an electric powertrain is. They love the extra control that regenerative braking offers — on many trips you don't even need to brake! They're quiet — no chugging engine that drowns out conversation, no gears churning up and down.

More affordable than ever. Quality EVs with decent power and range are cheaper than they've ever been. One critical change that has been driving consumer sales is that some governments have been requiring that automakers try harder: battery costs have been falling year after year. The cheaper battery prices are leading to cheaper electric cars, which is leading to a spike in EV demand. We've seen this story time

LCCUG Officers For 2026

President	Sandee Ruth president@lccug.com
Secretary	Don Hall secretary@lccug.com
Treasurer	Micky Knickman treasurer@lccug.com
Newsletter Editor	Pam Rihel newsletter@lccug.com
Director of Education	Neil Higgins education@lccug.com
Statutory Agent	Sandra Ruth statutory_agent@lccug.com

and time again. It happened with solar cells and modules, and it will continue happening with EV batteries and EVs. In fact, someone told the article's research said that having an EV was a great "pension stretcher."

Range to get you where you're going can be a concern. Range anxiety was a much more common concern a few years ago, as was charging anxiety — uncertainty of finding an available and functional charging station when needed.

It would be interesting to hear our members' thoughts on these vehicles. Do you know anyone with one? Would you be interested?

I hope you can join our May 12 LCCUG meeting at 10AM as usual. We will again be looking at short videos on new and interesting subjects.

Sandra Ruth
LCCUG President



Tuesday
May 12, 2026



Tech for Seniors

Presented by
APCUG



Join us for our May Meetup where we will once again share fun & informative videos & discussions of interest concerning security, AI, and other various topics.

Genealogy Tip of the day

Michael John Neill Rootdig.com
Genealogy Tip of the Day
8 May 2026

That "Wrong" Bit of Information

I had the death certificates for two siblings. The mother's maiden name was not the same. They were clearly different and the script was precise and legible. One was Fox and one was Conner. Further research indicated the mother's woman's last name at birth was Conner and that after her Conner husband died, she married a man with the last name of Fox.

So the Fox reference was not to her maiden name, but to a different married name. The informant made an error, but gave me another name from that woman's past. Many times those "wrong" pieces of information are clues to something else (the exception to this seems to be dates--people often didn't know their age or lied about it). Any other piece of information that appears to be wrong just may have a different connection to the person than what is stated on the document.

Genealogy Tip of the Day
6 May 2026

No Source May Be Right

Researchers who encounter two different years of birth for a relative in records that only provide an age may wonder which is "correct." The reality is that neither may be right. Both ages could be off

and the actual year of birth could be in between the two that are suggested by the available records. Don't just "average" them and call it a day. Include each year of birth in your records as an alternate date and cite the source from which it was taken. There may be no other sources for the date of birth and it may be impossible to tell which of the two records is most likely to be accurate. Of course one should look for other records as much as possible, but sometimes the only sources for someone's date of birth may be a few census records of questionable accuracy

LCCUG is on Facebook

Come and visit our Facebook page for interesting facts and ideas. You can get a lot of computer information from our Facebook page. Have a question ask it on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lccug>

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 4, 2026

The board Zoom video meeting for March was attended by Sandee Ruth, Don Hall, Micky Knickman and Pam Rihel.

Sandee brought up the subject of a lunch get-together in the coming months. No action taken.

The board discussed different activities the members might enjoy besides computer/internet information.

Sandee is working on next week's program from Tech For Seniors.



General Meeting Minutes

APRIL 14, 2026

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

Sandee and Micky Presented a program "TECH FOR SENIORS" which will make your computing work easier and safer. It dealt with changing your G mail account and 10 password habits.

ATTENTION-ATTENTION

The Board would like to have another get together at a restaurant, maybe in June.

If you are interested in this get together, please let one of the officers know, so we can get a rough count.

Not sure what restaurant, until we know who is interested.

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, Greg Skalka, Adobe Stock, Scambusters, Ask Leo, APCUG, Google Images, Microsoft Office art online, AARP Newsletter is now

Online at:
lccug.com/newsletters or lccug.com

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/>



Member of Association of Personal Computer Users Groups

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
secretary@loraincoogs.org

Curiosity Posts: What You Need to Know Before You Click – Scambusters #1,220

You may have seen posts that say, “Click the comments to read more.” Sometimes, these posts are just a way to grab attention, but other times they can lead to fake links, phishing pages, or attempts to steal your personal information. Before you click, take a moment to understand what these posts might really be trying to do.

Click the Comments: Harmless Trend or Hidden Scam?

If you use social media, you may have seen posts saying “click the comments to read more” or “the full story is in the comments.” At first, this seems like a harmless way to engage people. Sometimes, it is just that. But scammers often use this tactic to get your attention and trick you into falling for a scam.

I have personally seen several posts like this, where I start reading an interesting story or an experience someone is sharing. Just when the story gets exciting, it tells you to “click” below in the comments to read more.

Knowing why people use this method and what happens when you follow their instructions can help you stay safe online and protect your personal data.

Why Do People Say “Click the Comments”?

Many social media users, brands, and content creators want more people to interact with their posts. When you open the comments section, reply, click “like,” or spend more time viewing a post, the social media algorithms notice.

In simple terms, more interaction means the platform will show that post to more people. Creators also use this technique to spark curiosity. By leaving out key details in their main post or video, they encourage viewers to click and see what happens next. This method increases their engagement and visibility.

Is It Always a Scam?

Not every post that asks you to check the comments is harmful. Many creators use this approach for good reasons, like sharing a long story, providing context without making the video too busy, or linking to a verified news article.

However, scammers know that this approach works. People often click links out of curiosity before thinking it through. Since this method avoids immediate suspicion, scammers use it to hide harmful links away from the main post.

How Scammers Exploit This Tactic

The real risk starts when you open the comments section and engage with what you see there. Scammers often pin their own comments to the top or use fake accounts to flood the section with dangerous links. If you click these links, you may be directed to:

- Phishing pages – Websites designed to look exactly like your bank or a popular social media login page.
- Fake giveaways – Pages claiming you won a prize, requiring a small “shipping fee” to claim it.
- Investment scams – Sites promising high returns on cryptocurrency or stock market investments.
- Malware downloads – Links that automatically download viruses or tracking software to your device.

(Continued on page 6)



365-2288 - Elyria 1-800-238-8973 - USA
591 Cleveland Street Elyria, Ohio 44035

<ul style="list-style-type: none">* COMPUTER REPAIR* PRINTERS & SUPPLIES* UPGRADES* CUSTOM PC'S & LAPTOPS* CALL FOR BEST PRICES* EDUCATION DISCOUNTS* LCD MONITORS & TV'S	
---	---

Shop at www.ROYALBUSINESS.com and save \$\$\$
Financing Available - 90 days same as cash

(Continued from page 5) Curiosity Posts...

- Fake customer support pages – Sites that instruct you to call a fraudulent number for immediate technical help.

The Goal Is to Steal Your Information

Scammers often try to collect your personal information, such as your name, address, and Social Security number. Once they have this information, they can access your accounts, steal your money, or commit identity theft.

They specifically look for:

- Your full legal name
- Email addresses and phone numbers
- Your home address
- Account passwords
- Credit card and banking information
- Your date of birth

Even if a website does not ask for your password or credit card number, clicking on a suspicious link can still be risky. Malicious links can run harmful scripts in the background that steal your online information.

This data can be collected without you having to enter anything yourself, and it may include:

- Your exact IP address
- Device details (such as your phone model or operating system)
- Browser information
- Location data
- Online behavior and browsing patterns

If you interact with a scammer's post or leave a comment, it shows that your account is active. Scammers might then send you direct messages with more fake offers or attempts to steal your information.

Watch for These Red Flags

To protect yourself, you need to spot warning signs before you click. Be very careful if a post or top comment shows any of these red flags:

- Urgent warnings – Messages claiming your account will be suspended if you do not act immediately.
- Unexpected prize claims – Notifications that you won a contest you never

entered.

- Requests to log in – Links that take you to a login screen, even if you are already logged into the app.
- Verification codes – Anyone asking you to forward a text message code to prove your identity.
- Pressure to act fast – Limited-time offers are designed to cause panic or rush your decision.
- Requests for payment – Demands for gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.
- Promises of easy money – Work-from-home offers that sound completely unrealistic.

If a post seems rushed, uses very emotional language, or sounds too good to be true, take your time and look at the situation more carefully.

How to Protect Yourself Online

You can significantly reduce your risk of falling victim to social media scams by adopting basic digital safety habits. Use these straightforward security measures:

- Do not click unknown links – If you do not recognize the destination URL, do not click it.
- Never enter passwords from comment links – If you need to log into an account, navigate to the official website or app directly.
- Keep your personal information private – Never share your address, phone number, or banking details through social media links.
- Verify offers independently – If a company advertises a major sale or giveaway, go to their verified, official website to confirm it is real.
- Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) – Turn on 2FA for all your important accounts to block unauthorized access, even if a scammer gets your password.
- Report suspicious activity – Use the platform's reporting tools to flag dangerous posts and block scam accounts immediately.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) Curiosity Posts...

The Bottom Line

The phrase "click the comments" isn't always a threat; it often serves as a tactic to grab attention. However, scammers use the same strategy to spread malware and steal personal information, so it's important to be cautious about such posts. Don't let your curiosity mislead you. To stay safe online, take a few seconds to pause, think, and verify before you click. By spotting warning signs and protecting your personal information, you can use social media safely and keep your digital life secure.

Remember, Stay Alert and Stay Informed!

Copyright Audri and Jim Lanford. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission. Subscribe free to Internet Scambusters at

<http://www.scambusters.org>



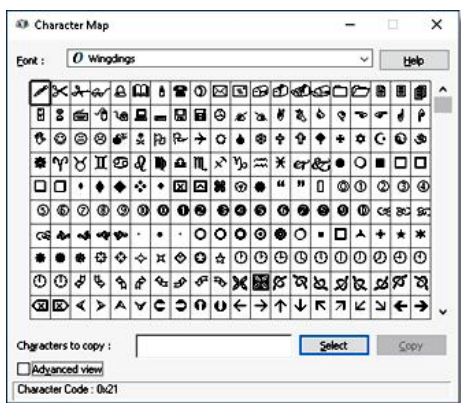
Tip of the Day: Enter Characters that Don't Have Keys

Applies to Windows: [11](#), [10](#), [8](#), [7](#), [Vista](#), [XP](#)

Do you ever want to enter a character that doesn't have a corresponding keystroke? Like, say, a summation sign — Σ — as one example. It doesn't happen often, but it happens.

Windows includes a utility called the *character map* that allows you to access all characters made available by all the fonts installed on your PC.

In Windows 10 or 11, just search for "character map" and click on it when it shows in the results. In other versions of Windows, you'll generally find it in the Start Menu under Windows Accessories.



The character map open to the Wingdings font. (Screenshot: askleo.com)

Character Map relies on copy/paste to do its job. Select the font you want in the top drop-down (I've selected "WingDings" in the example above), and double-click on any character in the resulting grid to copy that character to the "Characters to copy" field below. When you're done, click on **Copy** and then paste the characters into the document or other application you're using.

There are a lot of characters across a lot of fonts, so it's worth exploring a little. Just remember that when using different fonts online, in email, or even across multiple machines, that font may also need to be installed on the machine where you want things to be displayed.

Visit [Tip of the Day: Enter Characters that Don't Have Keys](#) for moderated comments, related links, and updates.

This work by Ask Leo! is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](#). Additional information is available at <https://askleo.com/creative-commons-license/>.

My Smartphone, My Friend



Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group

<https://uchug.org/>

President (at) uchug.org

I got my first smartphone, a low-cost (\$150) Samsung Galaxy J3, in 2017. It was not that powerful and I was a bit apprehensive about this new device, so I used it mostly for phone calls, texts and select apps. I saved web browsing and email for my computers and laptops as the phone screen seemed too small. As I warmed up to the smartphone I found it essential for navigation (with Google Maps). Having a camera handy, as poor as it was compared to my Panasonic Lumix digital camera, became another feature I used constantly. As time passed, I added more apps but was selective about what I chose to install. I had no time for games and no use for social media, but I used sev-



(Continued on page 8)

eral smart home apps to control the various devices I bought. I refused to do banking or conduct any financial transactions on the phone, preferring the relative security of a computer for any online banking or shopping.

Every business seemed to have a smartphone app to promote, but I only installed a few that I thought were safe and offered compelling benefits worth the risks. One of the riskiest apps I use is Google Maps, as I have found over the years that it has been tracking me, even when the app is not running.

However, its benefits are so compelling that I've made that bargain with the Google devil and accept being tracked in exchange for its navigation capabilities. Having every store and sandwich shop app seems like a foolish risk that is usually not worth it. I don't want Google to also know what I'm going to do in the future and whom I associate with, so I refuse to use a calendar app on my phone or computer.

One app I do accept is the Southwest Airlines app, as it is so much handier than checking in for flights online with a computer. The Southwest app finally drove me in 2022 to buy a new smartphone, as their app developer stopped supporting my old phone. I bought a Samsung Galaxy S22 and am hopefully spending real money (\$700) to buy more performance and tech longevity.

As with my first Samsung, I bought myself a very rugged case for my S22 to allay my fears of damaging the phone. With the belt clip front, the phone is fully enclosed when I carry it. I use magnetic USB adapters and charging cables to protect the phone's USB type C connector from excessive wear. I mostly charge my phone from a battery pack in a fast-charge mode and now use settings in the phone to limit charging to 85% of capacity most of the time, to extend battery life.

Over time I've found my use of the phone has only increased. With a higher resolution camera in my S22, I find I'm using it much more and my dedicated digital cameras much less often. Last fall the number of prescription drugs I needed to take increased and some came with restrictions I had to follow; I found the smart phone to be very useful in medication management. One medication required it be taken at least two hours after eating and at least one hour before eating; I found the best time to take it was immediately upon waking (I don't believe I do any sleep-eating). The problem is that I normally get

up early and leave the house for work in less than an hour; this meant I often had to wait around a bit before eating breakfast and going to work.

I found my smartphone could be very useful in helping me manage this. The first thing I do when I get up is take this particular medication. I then immediately note the time on my phone and write that time into a document on the phone (for reference, should I get confused). I then set an alarm on the phone to melodically go off in an hour, indicating when I may eat breakfast. I often have to wait a little, but even though the time I get up can vary, this system keeps me from eating too soon after the meds. I have another medication I must take with food at dinner; another alarm set for a nominal dinner time each day helps remind me. I also take another medication once a week on a specific day, so another alarm on my phone reminds me of that.

The breakfast alarm could also be done using Alexa, but my talking to set it could be more disturbing to my sleeping wife. The other alarms on my phone can remind me even if I have gone out for dinner.

I used to wake up to a plug-in, battery-backed-up alarm clock at my bedside. It is more a wake-up alarm of last resort, as I typically wake up before it goes off. I always kept my phone in another room at night as I didn't want to be awakened by late-night spam calls. When we remodeled our bathroom last fall, we had to temporarily move into our guest bedroom. I didn't want to change my alarm clock, so I just used my smartphone alarm (which I do when I travel). I got used to it, and since there were no overnight spam calls, I've kept using my phone as my alarm clock since moving back into our bedroom.

My phone is also a convenient memory aid; I keep many lists on it in the Samsung Notes app. In addition to shopping lists, it has many pieces of information that I don't want to have to keep looking up. Printer cartridge part numbers, oil filters, and oil types for cars are easy to look up on my phone when I'm in the store.

Sometimes, when I get an idea for a newsletter column, I write down a few notes on my phone. I can keep an inventory of my mom's supplies on my phone, which can be easily updated when I visit her assisted living facility, and then needed items can be ordered when I get home.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8) *My Smartphone , My Friend*

Text messages are also a convenient way to keep track of information and events that can be referenced later.

My siblings have a text chain that we have used over the last few years to disseminate information about our elderly parents. It is easy to look in that text chain to see the events significant to my dad's passing, when my mom had medical issues, and how things have changed over time. Now that I'm overseeing my mom's care, my text reports to my siblings are a good record to keep.

Communication is a primary function of the smartphone, though how well it works often depends on the capabilities at the other end of the link. My mom has a "senior-oriented" smartphone but only uses it for phone calls. She can't send or receive text messages or photos connected to them. My other siblings live out of the area, limiting.

My wife found a great gift for my mom this last Christmas. It is a photo frame with an added capability. Its display cycles through the photos in its memory, but its Wi-Fi connection can add pictures to the frame. My siblings and other relatives can send photos to the frame from anywhere using a smartphone app. My brother even wrote a short note, took a picture of it, and sent it as a kind of text message.

I'm constantly finding new ways to use my smartphone. With new ways to use it being developed all the time, it continues to become a closer friend.



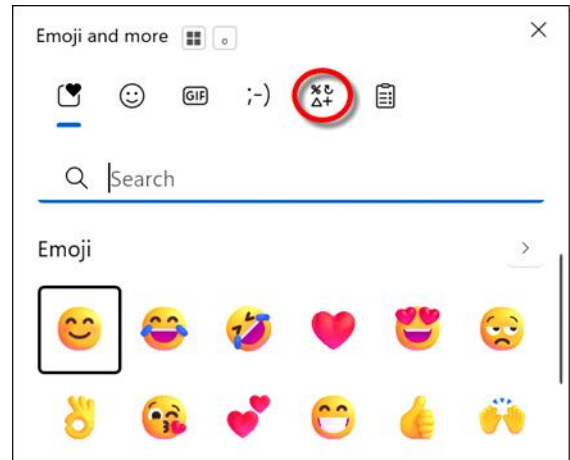
Tip of the Day: The Emoji Keyboard Is for More Than Emojis




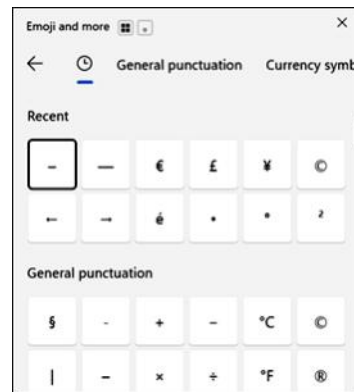
Applies to Windows: [11](#), [10](#)

Some people would never use an emoji. However, they may not know that the emoji keyboard offers a variety of symbols.

Emoji keyboard. (Screenshot: [askleo.com](#))



Type  plus period to bring up the emoji keyboard. At the top, you'll see several categories to explore. In Windows 11, click on the small icon of four symbols (circled in the image above) to display an assortment of symbols instead of emojis. In Windows 10, click the omega character (Ω).



Symbols offered in the emoji keyboard. (Screenshot: [askleo.com](#))

Scroll through the list of characters offered; there are many. If there are characters you use often, you'll find them in the "Recent" section at the top. Additionally, the icon to the furthest right gives you access to your clipboard history.

Contents Copyright ©
Leo A. Notenboom & Puget Sound Software, LLC.
Ask Leo! is a registered trademark ® of Puget Sound Software, LLC