Interface

Lorain County Computer Users Group
LCCUG.com (or) info@LCCUG.com
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scams

2026

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Tuesday
November 10, 2026

Showing How to Use AI Tools



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 November 10th, 2026 at 10:00 am.

Join us 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



How many of us read the daily newspaper?
I have always been a newspaper reader. Occasionally subscribing to all 3 papers: The Chronicle Telegram, Morning Journal , and the Plain Dealer. I still have news- ink fingerprints on some spots around the house

Nowadays I read the 3 papers on my tablet. I believe some of the papers are delivered through the mail. It is nice not to have to walk down the steps through rain or snow to get the print edition from the driveway.

It is a significant change to see the Elyria Chronicle purchased by the same company that owns the Lorain Morning Journal. I am afraid this will have ramifications in local coverage!

When I worked at the Lorain Public library I worked with the microfilm of the Lorain newspaper. I found it amazing to look back at the newspaper from years before that would have pages of classified ads: jobs, cars for sale, rummage sale announcements, etc. That is how the papers got the money to run the paper. Now all those things are online and it is a struggle for the print papers.

The value of having a local newspaper:
Keeping local government accountable.
Providing a watchdog for the community.
Preserving local history.
Giving local organizations a voice.
Celebrating local people and accomplishments.
Connecting people to their neighbors.
Providing reliable, verified information.
Supporting local businesses.
Providing emergency and public-service information.

Creating a permanent community record.

Where do you get your news? Where do the younger generations get theirs? Interesting discussion.

Sandra Ruth

LCCUG President

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

Holiday Get Together

Will be held at:
Ghost Tree Restaurant
300 Church Street
Amherst, OH
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM
Next to the Amherst Theater

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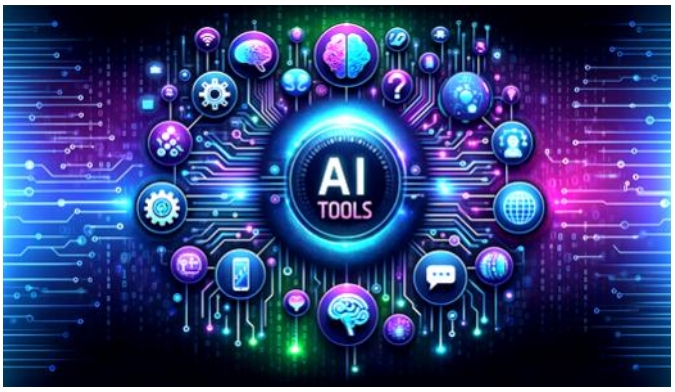
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Tuesday
November 10, 2026

Showing How to Use AI Tools









Michael John Neill
via genealogytipoftheday.com

The Truth of the Newspaper
It is not always true because it is in print.

In *Fields, Fens and Felonies: Crime and Justice in Eighteenth-Century East Anglia* (2016 Waterside Press, United Kingdom), Gregory Durston writes in his introduction that "newspapers were usually *reasonably* reliable when it came to reporting the basic facts of a case and its outcome…" (p. 17). He goes on to comment further that it was not uncommon for newspapers to use a few select words for certain types of crimes quite liberally when there were in fact a variety of specific words assigned to specific types of crimes.

As a result the newspaper may not have been entirely legally accurate.

Durston is discussing newspaper reporting of criminal cases in 18th century East Anglia, and one has to be careful extrapolating his statements to newspapers in general. However, it's important to note that newspapers are not court records and should not be considered as their equivalent. The genealogist should use a newspaper reference to a court case as a means to learn that it exists–not as a completely accurate account of what took place in court.

There could be legal details that for a variety of reasons a newspaper decided not to print.

So when a newspaper says your relative was found guilty of a robbery in 1800, you probably should try and locate actual court records.Those records may use a different word to describe the crime and that word may have had a very specific meaning.

All of this is why one cites exactly what one has used. If a newspaper said a person was convicted of a robbery, then that newspaper should be cited so that you (or someone reading your information and citation) knows that you've not referenced the actual court record–just the newspaper was used. It may be that court records are not extant for the period of interest.

No matter.
Your citation should reference the newspaper and you should remember that, the newspaper may have got the essence of the story right but that there could be a few details that are askew.



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

No Minutes to report



General Meeting Minutes

No Minutes to report

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.

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

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.

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

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, Adobe Stock, Scambusters, Ask Leo, APCUG, Google Images, Microsoft Office art online, AARP

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

ScamBusters.org

Fake Verifications

By Scambuster Elle

Issue #1,247 – November 4, 2026
Growing strong with 20,544 subscribers!
CAPTCHA Verification Scams and the Hidden Dangers: Scambusters #1247

Security checks like “I’m not a robot” help protect users but can be exploited by criminals. They may create fake CAPTCHA screens or send deceptive verification requests to steal authentication codes, risking your personal information and online accounts.

To stay safe, learn how these scams work and watch for warning signs to avoid costly mistakes from seemingly innocent clicks.

Let's get started…

Click, Verify, Compromised:

The Threat of Fake CAPTCHA Verification

CAPTCHA tests help websites confirm that visitors are human, not bots. And most of the tests are safe tools used by trustworthy sites. However, scammers are creating fake CAPTCHA pop-ups that look like real ones. These fake pop-ups try to steal personal information, install malware, or trick users into giving browser permissions. To tell the difference, check the source, the request, and how urgent the prompt seems.

CAPTCHA tests are common, and most people complete them without thinking. Scammers take advantage of this familiarity. They use fake verification screens as a trick because these screens look normal and harmless. This exploits the trust users have in real verification screens.

What is CAPTCHA, and Why Do Websites Use It?

CAPTCHA means "Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart." Websites use CAPTCHA to make sure that visitors are real people, not automated bots.

Bots are frequently used to:

- Flood comment sections and contact forms with unwanted messages.
- Create fake accounts in bulk
- Gather content or pricing data.
- Perform brute-force attacks to guess passwords.

Websites ask users to complete simple tasks, like identifying images, typing distorted text, or checking a box, to block automated traffic that can cause problems. Two popular tools for this are Google's reCAPTCHA and hCaptcha. You can find them on many sites, from login pages to ticket purchase pages.

What Kind of Websites or Companies Use CAPTCHA for Verification?

CAPTCHA is widely used in many industries. Here are some common examples:

- E-commerce sites during checkout or account creation
- Banking and financial platforms during login
- Social media platforms when creating new accounts
- Ticketing websites to prevent bot purchases
- Government portals for service applications

If you see a CAPTCHA on familiar platforms while logging in or submitting a form, it is usually genuine.

Is CAPTCHA Always Safe for Verifying Your Identity When You Enter a Website?

Not always. A CAPTCHA on a trusted, well-known website before you log in or submit a form is usually safe. However, scammers can copy the look of CAPTCHAs to trick you into feeling secure.

A fake CAPTCHA screen can show up unexpectedly. It might appear through a pop-up ad, a suspicious link, or an email. This can happen instead of during normal activities like logging in or submitting a form. If you see a CAPTCHA

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where you didn't expect one, it's a good idea to stop and think.

What is the Difference Between Legitimate Verification and a Scam?

Legitimate CAPTCHA verification has a few clear characteristics:

- You are on a site that you chose to visit.
- It asks you to complete a simple visual task or check a box.
- It does not ask for downloads, permissions, or personal information.
- You can access the content you were trying to reach right after this message.

A scam version usually asks for more than just human verification. It might ask you to click "Allow" on a browser notification, download a file to "prove" you're human, or enter personal details like your name, email, or payment information. Real CAPTCHA tests never ask for your personal data to confirm that you're not a bot.

How Do Scammers Create These Fake Verifications?

Scammers create fake CAPTCHA pages that look real by using the same web design tools as legitimate developers. They often:

- Copy the visual style of Google's reCAPTCHA or hCaptcha closely.
- Put the fake test in a harmful ad network so it appears on regular websites.
- Use pop-ups that look like browser alerts, such as "Please confirm you are human to continue."
- Send users from unsafe or low-quality websites straight into the fake verification process.

Many users complete fake CAPTCHA prompts without noticing anything is wrong because the layout and language look very similar to real CAPTCHA tests.

What Are The Hidden Dangers of Fake CAPTCHA Tests?

Fake CAPTCHA screens are not just annoying. They can be used to carry out different types of attacks.

- Clicking "I'm not a robot" on a fake website can start a hidden file download that installs malware or ransomware on your device.
- Some fake CAPTCHAs ask users to "Allow" notifications. When users do this, their browser gets flooded with spam ads or phishing links.
- Credential theft happens when fake verification pages lead to a fake login screen. These screens are designed to steal usernames and passwords.
- Watch out for data harvesting. Some forms that look like verification steps may actually ask for personal information. This information can be sold or used for identity theft.

What Tactics Are Scammers Using to Get Personal Information?

Scammers use several tactics to steal personal information during a "verification" process, in addition to fake CAPTCHA.

- Urgent message! Your account will be suspended unless you verify it right away.
- Pop-ups that warn you about a virus and say you need to download a "verification tool" to remove it are fake security alerts.
- Fake login pages. These pages look just like real websites (such as banks, email providers, or social media) but are designed to steal your login information.
- Beware of SMS or email verification scams. These messages may ask you to "confirm your identity" by clicking a link and entering personal details.

These tactics create urgency, prompting people to act quickly without thinking carefully about the request.

What Other Kinds of Verifications Are Scammers Using?

CAPTCHA is not the only way to verify users

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today. Other common methods include:

- Two-factor authentication (2FA) – A code sent via text or app to confirm identity after a password is entered.
- Email verification links – A confirmation link sent to your inbox after signing up for a service.
- Biometric verification – Fingerprint or facial recognition used on mobile devices and apps.
- Knowledge-based verification – Security questions tied to personal history, like a previous address.

Scammers can copy any of these formats. So, the same caution you use for CAPTCHA should also apply here.

How Do I Protect Myself When a Verification Request Appears?

Be careful if a verification request doesn't fit what you are doing online. Protect yourself by following these steps:

- •Check the URL – Confirm the web address matches the legitimate site before completing any verification.
- •Avoid downloads – Real CAPTCHA tests never require downloading a file.
- •Don't give unnecessary permissions – Be cautious of prompts that ask you to allow browser notifications during verification.
- •If a CAPTCHA suddenly appears, close the tab instead of trying to interact with it.
- •Keep your security software updated. Regularly update your antivirus and browser security tools to catch harmful redirects.
- •Turn on two-factor authentication – This adds an extra layer of security to your accounts that offer this feature.

The Bottom Line

CAPTCHA is a helpful security tool, but some scammers try to take advantage of it because people know it well. To protect yourself, be aware of what a real verification request looks like. If something seems off, question it, and don't click on prompts that ask for more than just a simple human check.

Before you complete any verification screen, take a moment to check the website, the request, and the situation. This quick pause can make the difference between a normal login and a compromised device.

Stay Vigilant and Stay Safe!

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Microsoft Listened: Now You Can Move the Taskbar! It only took five years.



by Leo A. Notenboom

Windows 11 removed the ability to move the taskbar, and people weren't happy, including me. Five years later, it's back. I'll show you where the new setting lives, what to do if you don't see it yet, and which taskbar complaints are still waiting for a fix.

When Windows 11 came out, one of the biggest complaints was the new taskbar. From the inside, it appeared to have been completely redesigned and reimplemented. From the outside, it added annoying features and took away popular ones… like being able to put the taskbar at the top or sides of the screen.
Five years later, that feature is back.

It's implemented slightly differently than before, so I'll show you how to make it happen.

Move the taskbar

Windows 11 finally lets you move the taskbar to the top or sides of your screen again. Open Taskbar settings, find Taskbar behaviors, and pick the position you want. If you don't see the setting, install the 26H2 update first. Other old favorites, like resizing the taskbar, still aren't available.

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It's a setting now
Right-click on the taskbar and click on Taskbar settings. In the resulting Settings window, scroll down to the "Taskbar behaviors" section.

Taskbar position setting in Windows 11. Click the position you want the taskbar to occupy, and you're done. It's as simple as that.

If you don't have the setting

This setting was added in a recent Windows 11 update, so make sure you're up to date.

Specifically, the 26H2 update, which is basically a rollup of previous updates, should cause the setting to appear. Visit Windows Update in the Settings app.

If you're not sure whether you have it, type +R to open the Run dialog, enter "winver", and click OK.

Related

Open-Shell: Regain Your Start Menu
#6217

The version you're running will be listed.

What's not been fixed
Sadly, other common complaints about the taskbar have not been addressed.

- You can't resize the taskbar to make it thicker.
- You don't appear to be able to add a menu to the taskbar.

I used both of those constantly. You may have other annoyances that haven't yet been addressed.

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Nomination of Officers

Officers are needed,

President
Sandee Ruth
president@lccug.com

Treasurer
Micky Knickman
treasurer@lccug.com

Newsletter Editor
Pam Rihel
newsletter@lccug.com

These offices are not hard to do. If you would like to try our one of these, please let email one of the Officers and let them know you are interested.

You will be trained before you take over as an officer.

All are officers board meetings are Zoom and sometimes we have a lunch for a board meeting.

I have been the newsletter editor for over 20 years and I could use a break. The other officers have also been officers for many years.

We need fresh ideas as to what our members are interested in. So please give it some thought about becoming an officer.

Pamela Rihel
Newsletter Editor

