User Friendly

LACS
A Computer and Technology User Group

IN THIS ISSUE

LACS WEBSITE
For information about LACS
go to https://www.lacspc.org

Watch your email for APCUG
workshops and
other upcoming events.

apcug

LACS IS A MEMBER OF APCUG
An International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups
www.apcug2.org
www.facebook.com/APCUG
www.X.com/apcug **(Twitter)**

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025
GENERAL MEETING
Topic: 1. Digital Wallets: Exploring New Ways to Pay
        2. Netiquette: Email Tips and Tricks
Speaker: Judy Taylour
Meeting Time: 7:00-9:00 PM – via Zoom
Socializing and Questions & Answers: 6:30 PM

1. Learn how digital wallets are transforming the way we pay, exploring their features, benefits, and increasing influence on everyday transactions. We'll cover major digital wallet platforms, ranging from smartphone apps to web-based services, and delve into the benefits: security, convenience, and speed. See how these innovations are shaping consumer habits.

2. As our world becomes increasingly virtual, email etiquette is more important than ever. Judy will offer practical tips for clear, effective communication, like which closings get better results and how formatting choices can impact tone. Learn simple strategies to improve your digital interactions and avoid common mis-

Meet Our Presenter

Judy Taylour is an APCUG Speaker, Wednesday Workshop coordinator, and a 38-year member of the Santa Clarita Valley Tech Club. She served for over 23 years with the Southwest Technology Conference, contributing to its long-standing success. Her commitment to education extends to teaching adult technology classes for over 20 years. Judy's belief in lifelong learning underscores her dedication to empowering others with tech knowledge. Judy is a member of the Los Angeles FBI Senior Scams Working Group and the Pierce College Computer Applications and Technologies Department Advisory Committee where she collaborates on course suggestions and hardware recommendations.

TO JOIN THE LACS GENERAL MEETING
LACS members on the PC Groups.IO list will receive the Zoom link to this meeting before or on **July 6**. Click on it to enter the meeting. Guests may ask for the link or ask questions by emailing Leah at leahjc@sbcglobal.net before or on **July 6.**
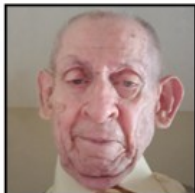
🌼 FROM YOUR PRESIDENT / EDITOR 🌼

IN MEMORIAM
Irv Hershman

It is with sadness that I report the sudden passing of our member, Irv Hershman. He joined LACS in 1992. He was a LACS board member and a faithful proofreader for *User Friendly*. He had also written articles for *User Friendly*. A member said she had enjoyed his sense of humor.

Irv first became interested in electronics having a crystal set as a youth. Later he became interested in amateur radio and passed the tests for the Second Class and First Class FCC licenses. He had enjoyed ballroom dancing. After retirement, he lived in Sun City in Las Vegas.

When Irv wasn't responding to my emails and phone calls, I got concerned. After contacting his landlady, the Las Vegas police, etc., I finally learned that he passed from the Las Vegas coroner's office. I have been unable to get in contact with any next of kin or other contact person to express our sympathy. This is why I've been trying to encourage members to submit the name of a contact person in case we cannot get in touch with someone. If you want to, please give me the information by email or phone call. Please email me if you have concerns or questions about this list. Thank you.

AI Generated Image by Hewie Poplock

LACS LUNCHEON MEETING

About 18 LACS members had a good time at the Sizzler lunch meeting on Wednesday, June 18. It was enjoyable to be together in person.

GENERAL MEETING REPORT

By **Leah Clark,** LACS President/Editor

June 10, 2025
Topic: Embracing the AI Age
Speaker: Hewie Poplock

Hewie Poplock, a APCUG speaker, from the Sarasota Technology User Group and the Central Florida Computer Society in Florida, demonstrated how we are embracing the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and concerns about its use. He opened with an AI-generated welcome from George Washington.

What is AI?

AI is a technology that helps computers to think and learn like humans. It has the potential to change the world in many ways.

ChatGPT is a chatbot that can generate responses that sound human. It has been trained on a vast amount of text to learn patterns and generate responses based on what you have typed. The technology is complex, using neural networks inspired by the human brain. It doesn't understand language or have real thoughts.

An AI search and a Google search are different ways of finding information on the internet. An AI search is more interactive and creative, while a Google search is more informative and comprehensive. AI may give you the answer, while a Google search may tell you where to find the answer.

Hewie showed an example of using AI to translate languages. He showed the different results from asking AI for pictures of hard-boiled eggs. The results varied depending on how the question was phrased. He showed recipes using items in a refrigerator.

How Does AI Impact Health Care

- AI is used in the development of medicines and vaccines, including cancer treatments.

- AI can enhance care in the world's poorest places and watch for medical errors.

- AI can help doctors diagnose diseases more accurately and quickly. It can analyze medical images to detect early signs of disease, which can lead to faster treatment.

- AI can personalize treatment plans for patients, making them more effective with fewer bad side effects.

- AI can enhance accessibility to parts of the world where quality health care is limited.

- AI is venturing into predicting health risks before they become serious.

Autonomous Autos

AI is used to improve self-driving cars' safety and increase fuel efficiency. Developers use data from image recognition systems, machine learning, and neural networks. Tesla's algorithms learn from the decisions, reactions, and movements of millions of actual drivers.

Creating Prompts

Start by stating your role, such as "I'm a teacher." Then create a task like "I'm going to write an article." Then, show the format you want, such as a list or a PDF. Try out a prompt. Prompt engineering is a technique used in AI to teach computers to understand and respond to human language. Hewie demonstrated some examples of AI asking it to depict an image of a bird with specific characteristics. The results were amazing.

Adding Life to Your Image

In your prompt, specify the action you want taken, the desired mood, and other relevant details. "A cat riding a red bicycle with confidence in the rain along a peaceful road" was an example he used. *(See page 17 in this issue.)* Hewie showed more images from different prompts.

AI Tools

NightCafe is a text to image program. Hewie showed some of his creations, including a collage that he had created using different prompts. There are many "cheat sheets" available to help you get the proper prompt wording to create the image you want. Many of the ads we see are created with AI.

There are numerous AI tools available; Hewie has posted several lists. There are also many AI newsletters to help you stay informed. Hewie described and included many AI programs, websites, and YouTube links in the slides from this presentation.

With *suno.com Styles of Music*, Hewie recorded and played a song entitled *Second Tuesday Tech Time,* about LACS. (*See the column to the right*.)

Issues and Concerns with AI

- **Unemployment –** There is concern that AI systems may displace human workers, leaving people unemployed.

- **Bias –** AI can pick up biases from its training data, leading to racial, gender, or other discrimination.

- **Accountability –** When AI systems make mistakes or cause harm, determining who is responsible can be difficult.

- **Existential threat –** Could AI become uncontrollable and threaten humanity?

- **Privacy –** Collecting data required to train advanced AI could raise privacy and security issues.

- **Ethical issues –** AI raises numerous ethical questions regarding biases, transparency, accountability, and other related concerns.

- **Autonomy –** There are concerns about AI operating independently without human oversight and control.

- **Lack of trust –** More work needs to be done to build trust and acceptance of all technology.

Hewie then showed some weird pictures of things that can go wrong with AI.

Hewie posted invites to programs that he does online: *Let's Talk AI, Tech for Seniors,* and the *STUG WinSig.*
Visit https://linktr.ee/hewiep to connect with Hewie and view his programs and videos.

Hewie opened the meeting to questions.

All LACS members on the mailing list received links to the recording of this meeting and a link to Hewie's slides.

Second Tuesday Tech Time
Words of an AI Generated Tune

Verse 1: Second Tuesday every month, we gather 'round

Through our screens on Zoom, we make that digital sound

Since the eighties, we've been here, building something strong

Los Angeles Computer Society, where we all belong

Chorus: We're a digital community, sharing what we know

From hardware tips to software tricks, helping each other grow

L-A-C-S is here for everyone, nonprofit and free

Building skills and solving problems, that's our legacy

Verse 2: Got a question 'bout your PC? We've got answers here

Phone or email, group discussions, help is always near

User Friendly in your mailbox, webinars galore

A-P-C-U-G benefits and knowledge, always something more ❖

HARD DRIVE PARTITIONING: MYTHS, MISTAKES, AND MISCONCEPTIONS

By **Bob Rankin**
https://askbobrankin.com/

Are Hard Drive Partitions a Smart Idea?

In general, I disagree with the idea of having multiple partitions on a hard drive. Unless you are running a dual-boot system, with one partition for Windows and another for Linux or another operating system, I recommend sticking with one large partition. I know I'll get some flak for this, but read on to see why I think that's the best strategy for most users.

Years ago, some hard drive controllers, as well as older versions of the Windows and Mac operating systems, were unable to accommodate hard drive partitions larger than 2 GB. (That 2 TB hard drive is 1000 times larger!) In those days, if you had a hard drive larger than 2 GB, you needed multiple partitions to utilize the full capacity of the drive. So a 10GB drive required five 2GB partitions, which would end up being the C:, D:, E:, F:, and G: drives on a Windows computer. But the hardware and software to support large hard drives have been around for almost 20 years now, and these gyrations are no longer necessary.

Modern versions of Windows, Mac OS, and Linux can handle partitions of almost any size, even the multi-terabyte drives now available on the market. A terabyte is 1,000 gigabytes, and a gigabyte is 1,000 megabytes. (My first hard drive was 10 megabytes.)

Partitioning Myth #1: You Need Lots of Partitions

Some people go hog-wild with partitioning and advise creating separate partitions for the operating system, another for the Windows swap file, and additional partitions for installed software, music, and photos. The rationale is usually that if your Windows operating system becomes compromised by viruses or spyware, you can reinstall Windows, and your programs will remain safe on another partition. But, they're forgetting about the Windows Registry, which tells Windows where all the user-installed software resides on the hard drive. If the Registry gets whacked by a virus, or you reinstall Windows, ALL of your software will have to be reinstalled.

Another problem with the "operating system on C: and programs on D:" idea is that some programs don't even ASK where you want to install them. They plop themselves down on the C: drive. And if you blindly copy them to the D: drive, they may not work, due to Registry problems. And even if the installer does give you a choice, the C: drive is always the default. Novice or casual users will probably not remember to change the target drive to D: or E:, resulting in a mishmash of programs installed on multiple partitions.

Partitioning Myth #2: A Swap File Partition Will Boost Performance

Some people believe that having a separate partition for the swap file will improve performance. However, everything I've read suggests the opposite. Your system performance will be optimized when the swap file is on the same partition as the operating system, because that minimizes the movement of the drive head. And what if you make your Windows or swap file partitions too small? It's easy to underestimate how

large the swap file might grow. And it's not so easy to tweak the size of a partition if you run out of space.

Partitioning Myth #3:
Moving Your Windows Partition Makes You Safer

Others claim that installing Windows on a drive other than C: will provide protection from malware or ransomware because hackers are assumed to be stupid and always target the C: drive. Well, that's just not true. To protect yourself from viruses, spyware, and other threats, always practice safe computing habits and install adequate anti-virus protection. Along those lines, I recommend that you read my article on PC Matic and Whitelisting.

Partitioning Myth #4:
Partitioning Protects Your Data from Hardware Failure

Using partitions to separate different types of data is not a form of data protection. If the hard drive fails, all partitions on it are likely to be affected. Making backups of your data to a separate drive or cloud storage is necessary to protect from hardware failure.

Partitioning Myth #5:
Partitioning increases disk space

Partitioning your hard drive doesn't magically create more disk space. A partition merely divides existing disk space into separate sections. You may end up with LESS usable disk space in some situations. For example, let's say you split a 100 GB drive into C: and D: partitions, each with 50 GB. If the C: drive has lots of space and the D: drive is full, you'll need to shrink the C: partition and expand the D: partition to add more files to the D: drive. That's an unnecessary nuisance.

One Partition to Rule Them All?

There are other reasons why I disagree with the multiple partitions school of thought. It makes using and maintaining your computer

that much harder. You'll always have to remember where things are supposed to be stored. "Uhh, did I put Photos on the D: drive, and Music on the E: drive? Or is it Programs on the D: drive, Music on the E: drive, and Photos on the F: drive? With a single partition, you have a lot less hassle.

Also, tasks like maintaining and optimizing your computer and backing up your files become more of a chore. And again, if you "outgrow" a partition, it's not trivial to make it larger. Oh, and if you think backing up one partition into another partition on the same disk is a good idea, think again. If the drive fails due to a power surge, head crash, or other mechanical defect, all of your partitions will be lost. Always back up on a separate drive or external media.

Modern operating systems are very smart with managing large amounts of data on a hard drive. They don't need multiple partitions to take full advantage of the hardware, organize your files, improve performance, or enhance your security.

Give your system one big chunk of disk space, organize it with as many folders as you like, and let it do its thing! ❖

BIG CHANGES COMING TO MICROSOFT STORE, INCLUDING IMPROVED APP MANAGEMENT

From *Tech for Seniors*
By **Hewie Poplock**

www.techforsenior.com

Big changes are on the horizon for the Microsoft Store, as the platform prepares to introduce significant updates that will improve both user experience and developer engagement.

Among the most anticipated improvements is the long-awaited ability to update Win32 apps

directly through the store—something users have requested for years. This enhancement brings the Microsoft Store closer in functionality to mobile app ecosystems like Apple's App Store and Google Play, which have long supported streamlined app updates.

Microsoft is also eliminating onboarding fees for developers starting in June. This means individual developers will be able to register and publish their applications to the Microsoft Store at no cost. The company positions this as a landmark shift, claiming it will make the Microsoft Store the first global digital storefront to offer free app publishing.

In addition, Microsoft is rolling out App campaigns via its Advertising Platform, currently in open beta. These campaigns will allow developers to promote their apps not only within the Microsoft Store but across other Microsoft properties as well, enabling broader reach and easier tracking of user engagement after installation.

For users, several enhancements promise a more transparent and seamless experience. The Microsoft Store will now show when an app was last updated, a change driven by developer feedback and aimed at boosting user trust and app quality perception.

Win32 apps, including those installed via MSI or EXE formats, will finally receive update support directly through the Microsoft Store interface, allowing users to install the latest versions either from the product page or through downloads.

Additionally, the Partner Center's Health Report will be upgraded. Users and developers will gain deeper insights into app performance through new health metrics such as crash rates, hang rates, and the number of affected devices. These insights will be accompanied by proactive alerts for failure spikes and tools for comparing app performance across versions, devices, and architectures.

The acquisition report will also be enhanced by

installing success rate metrics, providing clearer visibility into how well an app is converting.

Altogether, these updates mark a significant evolution for the Microsoft Store, bringing it in line with modern user expectations while making it more appealing and accessible to developers worldwide. ❖

Confused about how to find things on Tech for Senior.
======
Finding your way around TFS
https://youtu.be/mMVJhQC-atY
Searching our Index
https://youtu.be/KaRMsS6WML0
Finding Past Episodes
https://youtu.be/hQl78cdB_x0
Watching TFS on YouTube
https://youtu.be/XcOxxcgcPag
TFS Live Stream Explained
https://youtu.be/RQR8pB-XBf4
TFS's Newsletter " Hidden Secrets "
https://youtu.be/Af5ymfc9dSU

TECH FOR SENIOR LIVE IS ON HOLIDAY FOR JULY

LACS INFORMATION

HOW TO JOIN LACS'S MAIL LIST

LACS has an active general email list: PC@LACS.Groups.IO which goes to all members on the list. Members will receive meeting notices and Zoom links via this list.

You can also ask questions, offer suggestions, and help others.

New LACS members should receive an invitation to join our list with two weeks to accept. Other LACS members who want to join the list should send an email to Larry McDavid, our Groups.IO Coordinator. (See your roster for contact info.) He will send you an invitation to join. If you have any problems or questions about joining, please contact Larry.

USING PAYPAL OR ZELLE

To pay LACS by Zelle, log into your bank with your username and password. Select **Transfer Money > Send Money with Zelle.** Follow the instructions. The recipient is **Los Angeles Computer Society.** Select **Send by email.** Enter **lacomputersociety@gmail.com** Add a note telling what the payment is for and your contact information.

The wording may be a little different on your bank's site.

To pay LACS by PayPal, go to this link: www.paypal.com/paypalme/00001024, and then click on **Send**. Log in to your PayPal account or sign up for an account so that PayPal will know where to get the money to send. Follow the prompts. Enter the amount to pay, then click on **Add a note**. Say what the payment is for. If it is for dues, add your physical and email addresses, preferred phone number, and if you want a hard copy or an electronic copy of *User Friendly*.

FIX YOUR PC FOR FREE?
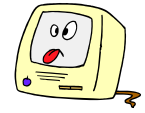
LACS member and presenter, **Jim McKnight**, has an open offer to LACS members to diagnose, repair, disinfect, or upgrade members' PC's for free. There are certain limitations to Jim's offer, so see the details by clicking the "Fix my PC for Free?" link at www.jimopi.net.

Non-members can wisely invest in a one-year **new regular** LACS membership ($40.00), and Jim will fix your PC problem, too. Contact Jim for specific considerations.

CHANGE CONTACT INFORMATION

Go to www.lacspc.org. Click on **Join LACS** in the bar under the picture. Under **Membership Update,** select **Click Here** to select either the DOC or PDF form. Fill it out; email it with your changes to Leah Clark. See the LACS roster. Or mail it to
Los Angeles Computer Society
11664 National Blvd. #343
Los Angeles, CA 90064-3802.

ATTENDING A ZOOM MEETING

LACS members who are on our PC email list will receive a link, meeting ID, Passcode, and instructions to attend the LACS general meetings a few days before the meeting. **Please let Leah Clark know by the morning of the meeting if you don't have it or have a problem.**

You can put an icon to the link on your desktop so it's handy at meeting time.
1. Right-click a blank spot on your desktop.
2. Select **New** from the drop-down menu.
3. Select **Shortcut**.
4. Type or copy and paste the link in the box that says "Type the location of the item."
5. Click **Next**.
6. Type a name for the shortcut.
7. Click **Finish**.

LACS CALENDAR

LACS Board Meeting, Monday, July 7
Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30 P.M.)
Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

LACS General Meeting: Tuesday, July 8
Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30 P.M.)
Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

July 4:	Independence Day
July 7:	**LACS Board Meeting**
July 7:	World Chocolate Day
July 8:	**LACS General Meeting**
July 20:	National Ice Cream Day

VISIT OTHER APCUG COMPUTER USER GROUPS AND SEE THEIR NEWSLETTERS

LACS heartily welcomes visitors from other user groups, and we are welcome to join other groups' meetings.

Go to www.APCUG2.org . Click on **Member Benefits**, then on **Groups Sharing Meetings** or on **Newsletters Online**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 8:   Judy Taylour
1. Digital Wallets
2. Email Netiquette

August 12: J.B. Burke
How the Electric Telegraph Changed the World

ZOOM MEETINGS

Members on our PC email list will receive, via email, an invitation to join LACS Zoom general meetings. Click on the link in the invitation before the meeting and follow the prompts.

If you have any questions or if you don't receive the link by the morning of the meeting day, contact Leah Clark at

leahjc@sbcglobal.net

ZOOM RECORDINGS

LACS members and meeting guests will receive links to the recordings of Zoom meetings via email.

HYPERLINKS

Underlined text (blue in the color edition) in User Friendly usually means it's a hyperlink to a website. Click on the link in the online version to see the referenced place. You can also copy and paste it into your browser's search or address bar.

USER FRIENDLY BACK ISSUES AND INDEXES

See back issues of *User Friendly at* http://www.lacspc.org/category/user-friendly/.
For indexes to past issues, go to https://www.lacspc.org/category/uf-index/

To find a specific article or topic, use the search box on the right.

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

LACS members volunteer to help other members solve hardware and software problems by telephone or during the hours listed below. Select the topic from the list and then contact a person whose number is listed next to it.

Find a helper's email address and phone number on your roster. If you don't have your roster, call 424-261-6251. Only members in good standing may receive a roster. We hope you find this LACS free service useful.

If you are experienced using a particular program or hardware, please volunteer to be a consultant. You don't have to be an expert. To volunteer for this list or to make corrections, please email Leah Clark at leahjc@sbcglobal.net or call her at 424-261-6251.

Android Smartphones - 5

Apple devices - 7

Anti-Malware and Backup - 4, 5

Genealogy - 5

Groups.IO - 9

Hardware - 4

Legacy Family Tree - 5

Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 4

Mozilla Firefox - 7

MS Excel - 5, 7, 8

MS Word - 1, 5, 8

MS Outlook - 1, 5

MS PowerPoint - 5, 7

MS Publisher - 2

PDF -5, 8

Photoshop Elements - 2

Quicken - 5, 8

Thunderbird - 4

Utilities - 4, 5

Windows - 4, 5

WordPerfect - 5

Zoom - 2, 6

Preferred Time for Phone Calls			
Number	**Name**	**From**	**To**
1	Beckman, Loling	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
2	Clark, Leah	7:00 AM	5:00 PM
4	McKnight, Jim	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
5	Nordlinger, Stephanie	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
6	Presky, Mark	Any	Any
7	Van Berkom, Paula	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
8	Wilder, Joan	9:00 AM	9:00 PM
9	McDavid, Larry	Contact by email	

Note: Times are Pacific Times

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

TITLE	NAME	TERM
President	Leah Clark	2025
Vice President	Stephanie Nordlinger	2025
Secretary	**Open**	2025
Treasurer	Gavin Faught	2025
Director	Loling Beckman	2025
Director	Donna Benton	2025
Director	Mark Presky	2025
Director	Jim Mc Knight	2026
Director	Paula Van Berkom	2026
Director	**Open**	2026
Director	**Open**	2026
APCUG Representative	Leah Clark	
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger	
Database Manager	Loling Beckman	
Groups.IO Email Lists	Larry McDavid	
Newsletter Editor	Leah Clark	
Program Chair	Stephanie Nordlinger	
Publicity – Press	Mark Presky	
Publicity – Online Media	**Open**	
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark	
Webmaster	Paula Van Berkom	

Mailing Address: 11664 National Blvd., #343, Los Angeles, CA 90064-3802

Website: https://lacspc.org

Contact the President/Editor at 424-261-6251. Follow the prompts. This is a Google Voice number.

Please use your LACS roster for email addresses and phone numbers to contact any officer, board member or other member. If necessary, you may leave a message at the above number. **Only LACS members may receive a roster**.

Please note: The 2024 roster was in the middle pages of the May User Friendly. It was mailed to all LACS members, including those who usually receive only the electronic version. The roster will not be sent to anyone electronically. Be sure to keep it where you can find it when you need it.

CHKDSK: WHAT IS IT AND HOW DO I RUN IT?

It's a tool for disk maintenance and repair.
by [Leo A. Notenboom](#)
The Best of Ask Leo!
https://askleo.com
leo@askleo.com

CHKDSK, short for Check Disk, is a utility that checks the integrity of the files and file structure of your hard disk. I'll walk you through it.

CHKDSK is a command-line tool that checks disks. I'll talk about what the command line is as well as what it means to check a disk.

I'll also show you how to run CHKDSK step by step.

CHKDSK

CHKDSK checks your hard disk for problems and tries to fix them. You run it using Command Prompt. It can find missing information, fix file errors, and even identify bad sectors on the disk. It's useful if you suspect disk-related issues.

Checking a Disk

Files on a disk reside in folders; folders can reside in other folders; and everything lives on your disk, which may be a partition on or a portion of a larger disk. Additionally, there may be security information regarding who is authorized to access what and in what manner they're permitted to access it.

That's pretty confusing. All you really care about is getting what you expect when you access a file.

All that confusing stuff is information — data — stored on the disk, keeping track of your files and folders. CHKDSK's primary job is to ensure that all the administrative information about the files, folders, permissions, and more is correct.

Normally, all of that information *is* correct. The system keeps it correct from startup to shutdown.

Unfortunately, a variety of errors can cause it to be *in*correct. Issues such as not shutting down your computer properly, software problems, and hardware errors can cause problems and damage the administrative information on the disk. CHKDSK's job is to try to repair those errors.

What's a Command-Line Tool?

Most programs in Windows appear as, or in, a window.

Command-line tools do not. They don't know about on-screen windows and don't display their results in them. They rely on the Command Prompt, which is nothing more than a non-windowed environment that mimics the days before Windows, when *all* programs were command-line tools under MS-DOS.

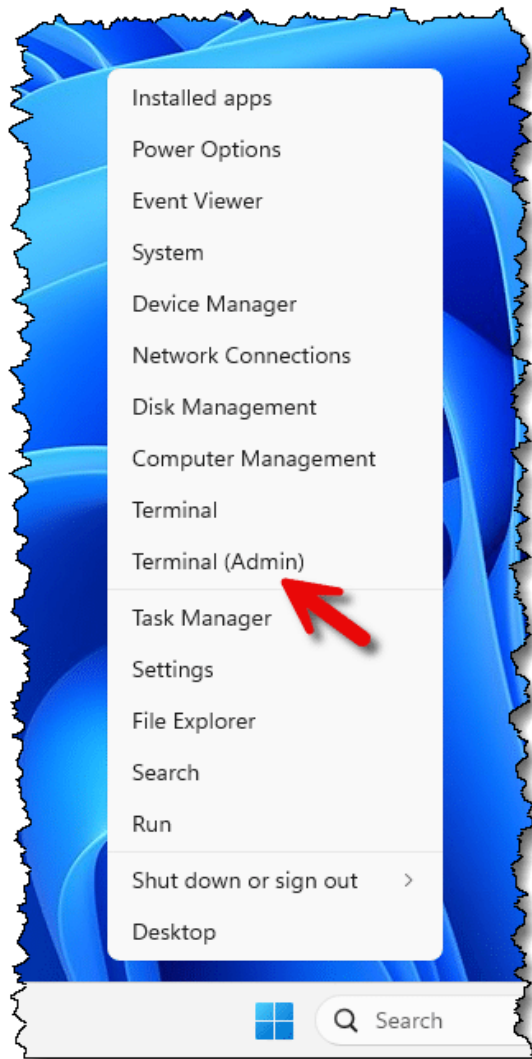So, to run CHKDSK, we start with a Command Prompt.

Running CHKDSK

You'll find either **Command Prompt, Power Shell, or Terminal** in your Start menu. Any of the three will do.

Right-click the Start menu, and it should be listed. You'll want the "(Admin)" version so it runs with full administrative privileges.
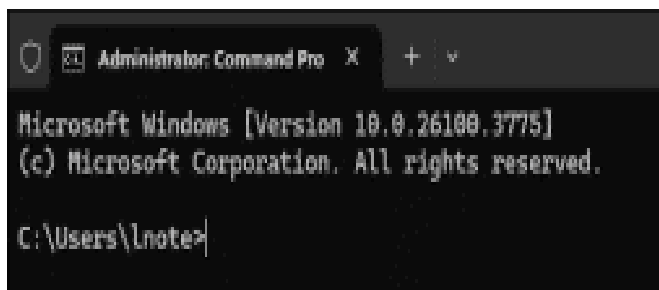
Figure 1 *(Screenshot: askleo.com)*
Terminal (Admin) in the Start menu

After a UAC[1] (See page 15) prompt (since we're running "as" administrator), a new window opens that looks something like this.

A Command Prompt window.
(Screenshot: askleo.com)

Command-line tools are run by typing the command (you may need to click on the Command Prompt window first to ensure it gets your keystrokes) and pressing the **Return** or **Enter** key. Any output the tool generates shows up in the window below what you've typed.

How Long Should CHKDSK Take?

Several factors affect how long CHKDSK takes to run, but a scan that requires an unusual amount of time may signal additional problems.

Running CHKDSK

Try it now: after opening a Command Prompt window and/or clicking it to make it active, type CHKDSK followed by the Enter key.

You may see something like this.

- Access Denied, as you do not have sufficient privileges.

- You must invoke this utility while running in elevated mode.

That means you haven't run Windows Command Prompt *as Administrator*. Close the Command Prompt (either by clicking the "x" in the upper-right of the Window or typing "exit" followed by the Enter key), and start it again, this time being sure to select the "(Admin)" version listed (see image on the left).

Without any parameters (I'll describe a few in a moment), CHKDSK does nothing more than check the disk. It won't try to fix anything; it'll simply report any problems it finds.

```
C:\Users\lnote>chkdsk
The type of the file system is NTFS.

WARNING!  /F parameter not specified.
Running CHKDSK in read-only mode.

Stage 1: Examining basic file system structure ...
  504064 file records processed.
File verification completed.
 Phase duration (File record verification): 8.29 seconds.
  33170 large file records processed.
 Phase duration (Orphan file record recovery): 15.99 milliseconds.
  0 bad file records processed.
 Phase duration (Bad file record checking): 0.29 milliseconds.

Stage 2: Examining file name linkage ...
  77269 reparse records processed.
 Phase duration (Reparse point and Object ID verification): 167.49 milliseconds.

Stage 3: Examining security descriptors ...
Security descriptor verification completed.
 Phase duration (Security descriptor verification): 44.54 milliseconds.
  65289 data files processed.
 Phase duration (Data attribute verification): 0.29 milliseconds.
CHKDSK is verifying Usn Journal...
  39811296 USN bytes processed.
Usn Journal verification completed.
 Phase duration (USN journal verification): 229.04 milliseconds.

Windows has scanned the file system and found no problems.
No further action is required.

  66852863 KB total disk space.
  32040052 KB in 197469 files.
    184204 KB in 65290 indexes.
         0 KB in bad sectors.
    628803 KB in use by the system.
     65536 KB occupied by the log file.
  33999804 KB available on disk.

      4096 bytes in each allocation unit.
  16713215 total allocation units on disk.
   8499951 allocation units available on disk.
Total duration: 16.96 seconds (16961 ms).

C:\Users\lnote>
```

A Run of CHKDSK. (Screenshot: askleo.com)

"Windows has scanned the file system and found no problems" is good news.

CHKDSK Parameters

By default, CHKDSK operates on the "current" disk, which in almost all cases is C:. (If you run into problems, see the next section below.)

To have CHKDSK check a different drive, simply follow the CHKDSK command with a space and then the drive designator.

CHKDSK D:

This directs CHKDSK to check your D: drive.

To have CHKDSK fix any problems it finds, include the "/F" (Fix) parameter.

CHKDSK D: /F

This command checks the D: drive and, if any errors are found, CHKDSK attempts to repair them. The results are relayed to you via on-screen output.

[Where Do I Find CHKDSK Results After a Reboot?](#)

CHKDSK must sometimes be run at boot time. I'll show you where to find those CHKDSK results; click the link above.

The next most common way we use CHKDSK is to check for bad physical sectors using the "/R" (Repair) option.

CHKDSK D: /R

When running /R, CHKDSK checks the entire disk surface for bad sectors and attempts to repair or work around any it finds if it can. Running /R accomplishes /F as well.

The special case of C:

C: is special. CHKDSK can't repair drives that are in use, and if Windows is running, C: is in use. If you try to run CHKDSK /F on drive C:, you're likely to see this.

See **Figure 2** on page 16

Answer **Y** followed by Enter, and then re-boot your system. CHKDSK will run before Windows starts, so it can repair the drive before Windows starts using it.
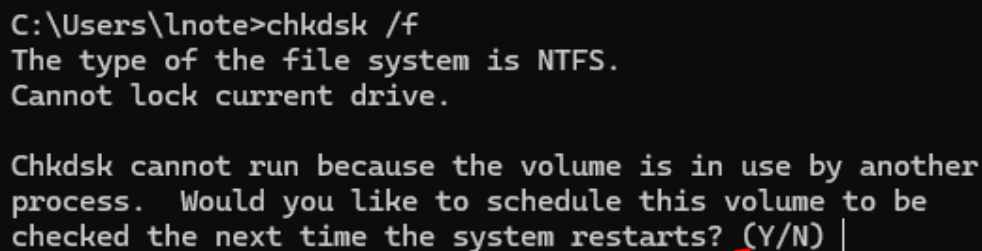
Do this

Run CHKDSK if you suspect disk-related issues. The most common ways to use CHKDSK are:

- **CHKDSK /F** to check and fix the current drive (a reboot might be required)

- **CHKDSK D: /F** to check and fix a specific drive (in this case, D:)

- **CHKDSK D: /R** to check, fix, and look for bad sectors on a specific drive (in this case, D:)

You can also run CHKDSK /? to get a list of additional options.

[1]*User Account Control (UAC) is a Windows security feature designed to protect the operating system from unauthorized changes. When changes to the system require administrator-level permission, UAC notifies the user, giving the opportunity to approve or deny the change.* ❖

Figure 2 *(CHKDSK /F reporting that it can't work on drive C*
(Screenshot: askleo.com)

HOW TO WHITELIST FILES IN MICROSOFT DEFENDER

By Jim Hillier / June 3, 2025
Daves Computer Tips
dave@davescomputertips.com

All antivirus solutions will occasionally flag a harmless file as malicious, and these instances are generally referred to as false positives. The problem with antivirus software is that it is unable to distinguish between the *potential* for malicious use and actual malicious use, so it errs on the side of caution… which is a good thing.

A typical example is password extraction software, such as NirSoft's MailPassView, which can be used to extract email passwords. Antivirus software has no way of knowing whether this type of software is being used by a legitimate user to extract their forgotten passwords or for some nefarious purpose, so it's flagged as malicious.

Now, Microsoft Defender does a very good job of protecting users, but it does include an annoyance. Well, an annoyance to me anyway. That is, it will flag a file as malicious instead of allowing the user to decide whether the file is malicious or not. It will automatically and instantly remove the file from its original location and quarantine it.

Now, admittedly, you can then take steps to restore that file back to its original location, but that involves a somewhat convoluted process. It's much simpler to whitelist the file in the first place.

Add Files To Defender's Exclusions

The initial process of navigating to the appropriate setting differs slightly between Windows 10 and Windows 11:

- **Windows 10**: Navigate to **Settings** > **Update & Security** > **Windows Security** > **Virus & threat protection** > **Manage settings**. Scroll down to "Exclusions" and click **Add or remove exclusions**, then click **Add an exclusion**

  Windows 11: Navigate to **Settings** > **Privacy & security** > **Windows Security** > **Virus & threat protection** > **Manage settings**. Scroll down to **Exclusions** and click **Add or remove exclusions**, then click **Add an exclusion**

Alternatively, in both Windows 10 and Windows 11, open Windows Security (click the icon in the notification area of the Taskbar) and click **Virus & threat protection**, then follow the steps as above.

Clicking the **Add an exclusion** button will initiate a dropdown menu, select **File**, and then browse to and choose the file you want to exclude from Defender's scans:
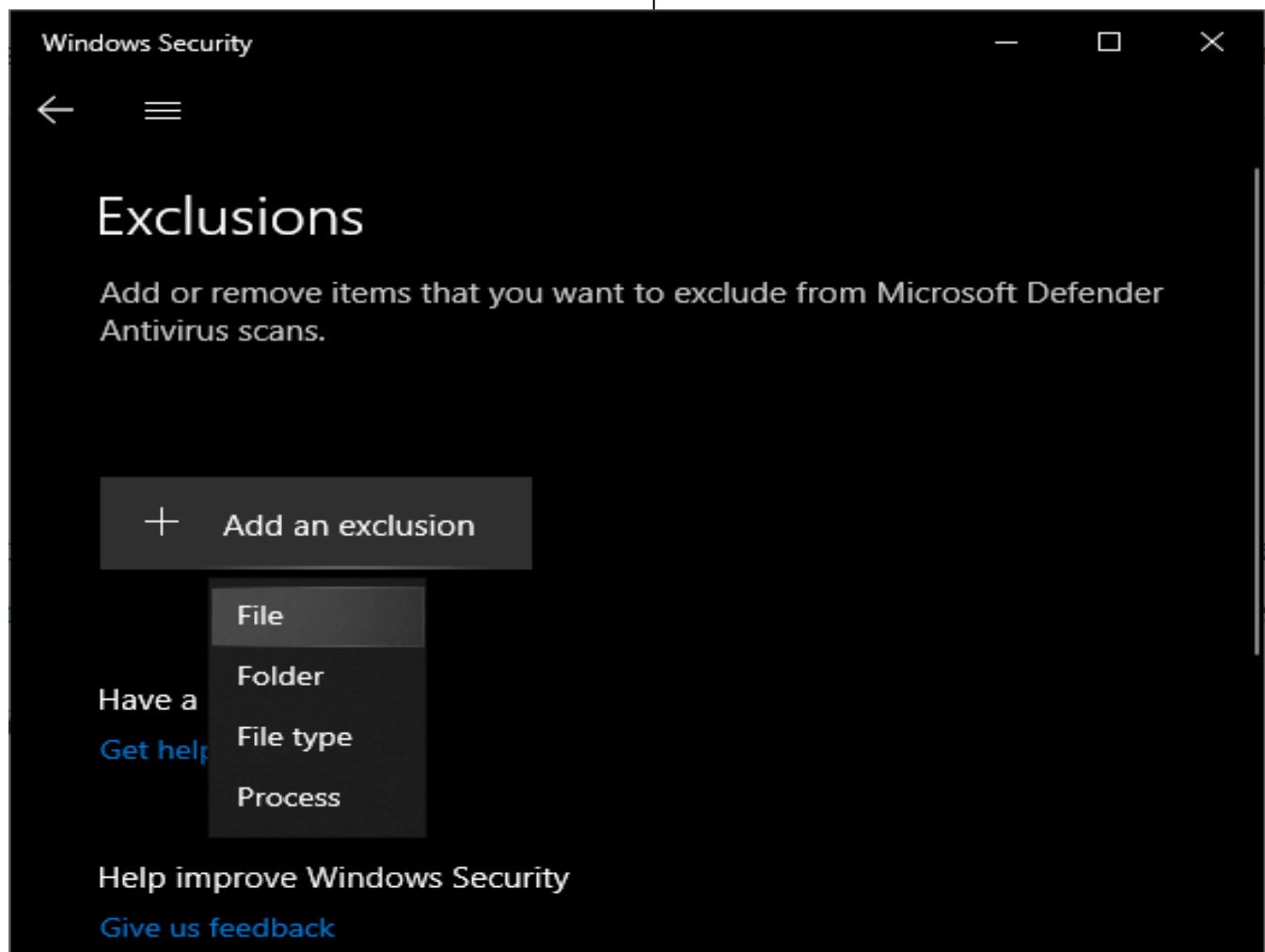
That's it, all done.

Defender Exclusion Options Explained

- **File:** Excludes a <u>single</u> file from future scans

- **Folder:** Excludes a <u>folder and its contents</u>, including subfolders

- **File type:** Excludes all files with a particular extension. For example, ".png" would exclude all files ending with the .png extension

- **Process:** Excludes a process by name. For example, "CPix.exe" would exclude files opened by c:\CPix\CPix.exe

BOTTOM LINE

Of course, this all depends on the user knowing that Microsoft Defender will flag a safe file in the first place. However, if Defender flags and quarantines a file that you want to keep, you can follow our guide <u>To Recover Microsoft Quarantines</u> and then go through the above process to exclude that file from future scans. ❖

AI generated image by Hewie Poplock

FOR MANY HELPFUL TIPS AND TRICKS

Go to https://www.apcug2.org for all aspects of computing and operating systems.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Go to the APCUG website at https://apcug2.org/discounts-special-offers-for-user-groups/ for discounts and special offers for members of User Groups. Several book, media and training sites offer discounts including the two mentioned below.

- Members can save at the **Pearson Technology** websites: InformIT, Cisco Press, Pearson IT Certification, Que Publishing, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.
  Informit.com/user_groups/index.aspx
  Code for print books: **ITCOMMUNITY.**
  Code for eBooks: **DIGITALCOMMUNITY**

- See books on digital imaging and photography, gaming, animation, film and video, post-production, audio, music technology, broadcast and theatre at Routledge Focal Press . They offer discounts to User Group members.

TECH LIFE UNITY
Formerly TechBoomers

https://www.techlifeunity.com

For learning how to use internet-based websites and applications for free.

LAUGHING OUT LOUD

SO IT TURNS OUT THAT BEING AN ADULT IS MOSTLY JUST GOOGLING HOW TO DO STUFF.

For those who don't want Alexa listening in on your conversations, they're making a male version.....it doesn't listen to anything.

MY MIND IS LIKE MY INTERNET BROWSER
19 TABS OPEN
3 OF THEM ARE FROZEN &
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE MUSIC IS COMING FROM

NOTICE

The columns, reviews and other expressions of opinion in *User Friendly* are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Los Angeles Computer Society. LACS became a California non-profit corporation on July 17, 1991. Its predecessor was the UCLA PC Users Group.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION and BENEFITS of MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership Dues:

Regular New and Renewal,
   Printed Newsletter $40
   Electronic Newsletter   30
Family-Associate   12
Students   18
Contributor   50
Supporter   75
Benefactor   100
Gift Membership   20
A subscription to *User Friendly* is included with membership.
Associate members use the same mailing as a regular member; they do not receive their own subscriptions to *User Friendly*, but may read it on the LACS website. **Students** must prove full-time status. A member may give a 1-year, 1-time gift to a non-member.

Monthly general meetings are via Zoom. In-person or hybrid meetings may take place in the future.

Members also enjoy these special benefits:

   — **Monthly Newsletter** *User Friendly*. We publish your article submissions or free classified ads to buy or sell your computer items.

   — **Get FREE help** by phone or email (See your roster) from knowledgeable members who are Quick Consultants listed in *User Friendly.*

   — **Get help by email** by using our group email list. Send your questions to PC@LACS.Groups.IO

   — **Receive important news** and announcements via *User Friendly* and LACS's email list.

   — **Free APCUG (**International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups) **Webinars, virtual conferences, programs, and technical information.** Check *User Friendly* and your email to see what's offered.

   — **Annual Holiday Party**

   — **Social Interacting** with others who have like interests in computers and technology.

   — **Special Interest Groups** (SIGs) on various topics may be created by members.

All renewals are due in January. New members will pay the annual amount when they join.

Check # _____   *LACS*   **New or Renewal Membership Application**

Date _____   **Dues may be paid by PayPal, Zelle, or check. If paying by check, make it out to "Los Angeles Computer Society", and mail it with this form to:** *Los Angeles Computer Society,* **11664 NATIONAL BLVD. #343, LOS ANGELES CA 90064-3802**

Please PRINT Clearly   [   ] New   [   ] Renewal
[   ] New / Renewal with printed newsletter - $40.00 [   ] Associate - $12.00 [   ] Student - $18.00

[   ] New / Renewal with electronic, no paper, newsletter - $30.00   [   ] Gift Membership - $20.00

[   ] Contributor - $50.00   [   ] Supporter- $75.00   [   ] Benefactor - $100.00   [   ] Other

Name: First   Last

Name of Associate: First   Last
(Same address as a primary member)

Address:

City, State, Zip + 4

E-mail Address: E-mail of Associate

Preferred Phone: Publish Contact Info in Roster [   ] Yes   [   ] No

Did a member of LACS invite you to join? If so, who? If not, how did you hear about LACS?

Revised Jan. 2025, ljc

First Class Mail

Los Angeles Computer Society

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE ON ZOOM.

Before each meeting, members and invited guests will receive an email with the URL link to the meeting. **Just click on the link**. If you haven't received it by the morning of the meeting, let Leah Clark know.

Please try to arrive at least a few minutes before the meeting start-time so you don't interrupt the meeting and any technical problems can be solved. If you need to take a break during a meeting, do not click on Leave or End. If you do, the meeting will be interrupted for you to re-enter.

You may turn off your video when you are gone.