THE LOS ANGELES COMPUTER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 43 Issue 8
August 2025

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.

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, AUGUST 12, 2025
GENERAL MEETING

Topic: How the Electric Telegraph Changed the World
Speaker: J.B. Burke
Prescott Computer Society, APCUG Speaker Bureau
Meeting Time: 7:00-9:00 PM – via Zoom
Socializing and Questions & Answers: 6:30 PM

The 1800's saw the birth of the telegraph. This remarkable technology transformed the world, shrank vast distances into mere dots and dashes, and allowed instantaneous communication over long distances. We'll see its impact on many aspects of life, commerce, news, warfare, and society. This will help you appreciate the telegraph's pivotal role in shaping our modern world, setting the stage for today's digital age. Don't miss this fascinating story of the telegraph and its immense effect on our lives.

Meet Our Presenter

J. B. Burke grew up in Chicago. He graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1963. He moved to Silicon Valley in 1968 and worked in the tech sector for 36 years. In 2004, he retired, and he and his wife moved to Prescott, Arizona. He joined the Prescott Computer Society and became its President and speaker. He provides tech support for friends and neighbors and dabbles in photography. He teaches tech classes for retired folks and is a Tech Committee member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Yavapai College.

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 **August 10**. Click on it to enter the meeting.

Guests may email Leah at leahjc@sbcglobal.net to ask for the link or to ask questions. on or before **August 10.**

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT / EDITOR

IN MEMORIAM

Eugene (Gene) Howard Jacobs
By **Joseph Jacobs**

Born: 1927 in Chicago, Illinois
Passed: 2025 in Los Angeles

Gene served in WWII as Sergeant in the 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion, training for the invasion of mainland Imperial Japan. He was honorably discharged in 1947.

After his military service Gene moved with his parent and brother to attend UCLA on the GI Bill. Gene received his MS in Mathematics and was working on his PhD when, in 1951, he received a job offer as mathematician for the RAND Corporation. He was at RAND until 1959 when he joined the RAND-derived System Development Corporation until 1971.

In 1962 Gene married Angeline, the love of his life. They had two children. Gene was a wonderful husband and father—a man of great humor and compassion.

In the 1970s, Gene joined Kirk Paper Company as Vice President, Management Information Systems. He retired in the mid 1980s, and he and Angie traveled around the USA, Europe and Asia. He was also active in the Los Angeles Computer Society and was a member of Elks Lodge 906 in Santa Monica.

Gene was a member of the Association for Computing Machinery, and he served three terms as president of the Digital Computer Association. He had a lifelong interest in computing, having worked on the RAND JOHNNIAC and with the IBM 701. Gene enjoyed an amazing technological era when computers went from room-filling monoliths to pocket-sized smartphones.

As a lifelong Amateur Radio enthusiast, Gene was a General class operator, and he used his skills as a volunteer radio operator for LA County Disaster Communications and the Los Angeles Fire Department. He also used his radio skills as a member of the California Civil Air Patrol and his neighborhood CERT chapter.

Gene was laid to rest with military honors at the Hillside Memorial Park in Culver City near his father, Martin Jacobs and his mother, Elsie Jacobs. He is survived by his loving wife, Angeline Jacobs, his son, Joseph, and his daughter, Deborah. He was predeceased by his younger brother, Dr. Earl D. Jacobs.

Gene is missed by his family, friends, and professional colleagues. A donation in his memory may be made to the Computer History Museum (computerhistory.org), as it has the JOHNNIC computer that Gene worked on during his time at RAND Corporation.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER TO LACS

Cliff Cheng

COMPUTER TRIVIA

- CAPTCHA stands for “Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.”
- The @ symbol was chosen for email because it was rarely used in names.

GENERAL MEETING REPORT

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

July 8, 2025

Topic: 1. Digital Wallets
2. Netiquette

Speaker: Judy Taylour, APCUG Speaker, Wednesday Workshop coordinator, and member of the Santa Clarita Tech Club.

DIGITAL WALLETS

Judy talked about what we are all responsible for when we use a digital wallet. "Contactless Payment" methods greatly increased during the pandemic and are now among the preferred payment methods. They are more sanitary, faster, and reduce cash handling. Mobile wallets, e-wallets, and digital wallets are the same thing.

A digital wallet securely stores our payment information and passwords. It's very convenient, and it can be used worldwide. Digital wallets can store your credit and debit cards, event and airline tickets, boarding passes, and much more. California allows you to have your driver's license in your digital wallet. Making payments is simplified.

iPhones default to Apple Pay, and Android devices use Google Pay or Samsung Pay, but you do not need to use these.

The FBI says you must make your phone completely and absolutely secure. Verify your identity using a fingerprint scanner, facial recognition, a strong passcode with 18 characters, or a passkey. Use a password manager and antivirus software. There are security measures not available when paying with a physical card. When using a digital wallet, all information is encrypted, and financial information never leaves our devices. Use **Find My Phone** if your phone is lost or stolen.

Judy explained *Near Field Communication* (NFC). It's a form of wireless communication that uses radio waves to identify and find objects. She described its uses and functions in detail. She listed warning signs to watch for and advised us to report suspicious activity to our local police department, to the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC), and to the app. Do you have antivirus software on your phone?

Mobile Wallet Services Protection

Judy then provided information and links for the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), as well as instructions on how to freeze your credit with Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion, and how to check your credit reports.

Mobile Payment Apps You Can Use

Judy provided information on these apps, including costs and pros and cons.

- Apple Pay
- Google Pay
- Samsung Pay
- PayPal
- Venmo
- Cash App
- Amazon Pay
- Target Circle & Wallet Pay
- Walmart Pay
- Sam's Club Scan & Go™ App

Setting Up a Wallet

Judy showed slides with instructions for setting up and using the amenities for each of these wallets.

- Android Wallet
- Google Wallet
- Apple Wallet

NETIQUETTE

Email—When Did It Begin

There was limited use of what we now recognize as email in the 1960s. By the early 1990s, it was more widely available with AOL, Prodigy, and CompuServe. Hotmail started in 1996. In 2000, 43% of U.S. people used email—in 2025, it is 93%. The number of sent and received emails per day is projected to increase to 347.3 billion per day. 56.5% are spam!

The most widely used browser and webmail services are Gmail, Outlook/Hotmail.com, AOL, Proton Mail, iCloud, and Yahoo. Email is highly relevant, easy to use, and accessible. But it's not private. Don't ever say anything in an email you wouldn't want to see hung on your front door.

Netiquette Rules and Helpful Tips

- Keep it short.
- Have a clear and concise subject line that makes sense.
- Using all caps is like shouting.
- Using all lowercase letters is confusing.
- No punctuation makes it hard to read.
- You may use bold for headings, bullets, and numbers.
- Avoid many emoticons.
- Explain acronyms.
- Keep slang to a minimum.
- Use a happy face or a grin emoji when using humor or sarcasm.
- Your username in your email address is how you want to be addressed. Women shouldn't use their first and last names.
- Avoid fancy fonts and different colored letters in text.
- Use bullet points or numbers.
- Check spelling and grammar.
- Be courteous.
- Use BCC so other recipients' email addresses are not seen by hackers.
- Reply only to the sender unless the reply needs to go to all recipients.
- Include previous message when replying.
- Verify information before forwarding.
- Mention that there is an attachment. Don't send many attachments with one email.
- Add attachments first so they aren't forgotten
- Always have a greeting and a closing.
- Include a signature line with your contact information, the name of your organization, your position, and other relevant details. Include how to unsubscribe. An email sent from a group should have a disclaimer.
- Check if the recipient can open the attachment with different extensions. You can convert documents to a PDF and graphics to a JPG.
- Delete addresses in an email forwarded to you before forwarding it to someone else.
- Don't keep everything in your inbox. Create folders, labels, or save to a hard drive.
- Put contact information in the Contacts folder.
- One can use *Search* to find emails.

Judy provided tips for changing your email address, using the Spam button, recognizing suspicious emails, password security, and email closings.

For details about the items mentioned here, access the Zoom recording and the PDF slides sent to all LACS members and guests.

WHAT IS "OFFICE CHAIR BUTT"?

TikTok's viral term for a real health problem

By **Eve Upton-Clark** From Kim Komando
Submitted by **Judy Taylour**, APCUG
https://www.komando.com/episode/reset-your-social-feeds/
https://www.fastcompany.com/91355743/what-is-office-chair-butt-tiktoks-viral-term-for-a-real-health-problem

Sitting for hours at your desk can flatten your glutes and can lead to more significant health issues.

TikTok has declared war on **Office Chair Butt**, the slow flattening of your glutes from too much sitting. The formal diagnosis? *Gluteal muscle group atrophy*. Symptoms include sagging cheeks, back pain, and a general vibe of "my body quit." Now people are squatting between Zooms and lifting water jugs like resistance bands.

Rather than the Sunday scaries or toxic bosses, employees have unlocked a new workplace fear: Office Chair Butt.

While not a new concern, the term has resurfaced on TikTok to describe how sitting for long stretches affects the appearance of your buttocks—what medical professionals call atrophy of the gluteal muscle group.

"A lack of conditioning in your gluteus maximus and surrounding tissue leads to weakness, making it build up fat tissue and appear flatter or saggy," occupational therapist Michael Milicia told the Cleveland Clinic.

And it's not just an aesthetic issue. Other symptoms of "office chair butt" can include poor posture, lower back pain, and limited mobility over time. There's a reason researchers have dubbed sitting "the new smoking," linking chronic sitting to serious health problems including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, depression, and anxiety.

The term has now gone viral on TikTok. And they're not taking it sitting down.

"I refuse to be a victim," posted one TikTok user, showing the routine of squats, lunges, and standing leg lifts she performs at her desk. ❖

Image generated by Chat GPT by Leah Clark

BACKUP VS. IMAGE, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

By **Phil Sorrentino**, Sun City Center Computer Club, July 2025
https://scccomputerclub.org
philsorr (at) yahoo.com

This topic can be very confusing due to the similarities and differences between backups and images. Backups and images are similar in that they are both copies of something. The difference is in the "what" and the "how." Usually, a **backup** is thought of as a copy of a file, a folder, or a collection of files and folders (that is the "what"). The backup copy is just a copy, an exact duplicate, and is not processed in any way (the "how"). The backup files can be used by any programs that could use the original files. The reason for having a backup file is to restore a file if it is accidentally destroyed or deleted.

An **image**, on the other hand, is a copy of the operating system and all of its components (referred to as the operating environment), as they exist in the memory of your operating computer (that's the "what"). The image can only be created by an imaging

program (the how), and the image created can only be used by that same imaging program. The reason for having an image is to be able to reinstall your operating environment if, or rather when, a virus or hardware problem makes your system unusable.

The topic can also be confusing because people, as well as the literature, often use the terms “backup” and “image” in inconsistent ways. Often, you will see or hear the term “backup image,” which is meant to refer to a copy of an image. Well, an image is already a copy of something, so is it an image or is it a copy of an image? To keep things clear, I have tried to use the term “backup” to refer to an exact copy of a file that needs to be saved. (I know that sometimes backup copies are “zipped” or compressed to save space, but those files are no longer exact copies of the originals and are not directly usable, so I would not call them backups; I would call them “zipped backups” or “compressed backups” to be accurate.) And I use the term “image” to refer to the resultant file (or file collection) that is produced by an imaging program such as AOMEI, Acronis True Image, Macrium Reflect, or even Windows.

To be completely protected against potential problems (viruses and/or hardware problems), you must address both issues: backup and image. You have to back up all your important files, those that you really do not want to lose, and you must have an image of your operating environment for reinstallation when needed. (Just as a point of interest, Windows includes the ability to do both via the Backup & Restore Control Panel.) The files to back up are those that you have created or collected, such as your pictures, music, videos, Word documents, and spreadsheets. Any file that you would really be hard-pressed to reproduce if it were lost is a good candidate for backup.

How often to back up depends on the file in question. Files that are changing daily should probably be backed up daily, but files that don’t change need only be backed up on a weekly or monthly schedule. For backups in general, follow the advice **Backup early and often**. Also, be aware that there are many ways of backing up your files, since it is only a copy operation.

However, there are many programs that make the job quick and easy. If you have a folder of pictures and you only add a few pictures to the collection weekly, then there is no need to copy all of the pictures each week. You only need to back up the new pictures. Backup programs such as Synctoy, FreeFileSync, and Synchromagic check the collection of files to be backed up against the last backup and only copy the new files or those that have changed since the previous backup. These programs make the backup process quick, efficient, and so easy that you will probably do it often enough.

By now, you are probably feeling that you have a good idea of backups, but **where do you store these backup files?** The best place for backup files is on an external hard drive that is normally not connected to the computer. Right before you are ready to back up your file collection, connect the external hard drive, fire up the backup program, and run the backup task. After the backup is complete, disconnect the external drive and store it in a safe location.

Creating an image is a little more difficult than creating backup files because imaging is not just a simple copy operation. An image is a structured copy of your computer’s boot and/or data drives; the imaging program must know a lot about the detailed layout of those drives. This is very specialized knowledge and is the essence of an imaging program. The imaging program must be installed on your computer for use in creating an image. It must also be

able to recreate a bootable disk to use when your system is not operating correctly. The image it creates can usually be put on a system drive (other than the C: drive) or an external hard drive. The image file created is usually a very large, compressed collection of files that may total from 20 to 60 GB, or even hundreds of GBs.

The imaging process can take many hours, depending on the size of the image, the speed of the source and target drives, and the amount of compression that is selected. Imaging is a very lengthy process, and it creates large files, so you probably only want to do it when absolutely necessary. A new image is only necessary when the operating environment changes, when you add or delete programs, or when you update your operating system. You may not add or delete programs very often, but the operating system is updated at least monthly, so you might want to create a new image every three or four months or whenever a big change is made to the operating environment.

As you can see, there is a great difference between a backup and an image. However, both are necessary if you hope to recover from a future hardware failure or malware infection completely. ❖

HOW MANY EARTHS COULD FIT INSIDE THE SUN?

Need To Know Facts
www.needtoknowfacts.com

While it may look like a small dot in the sky, the sun is actually a bit bigger than the Earth. In fact, it is a lot bigger than the Earth. Roughly 1.3 million Earths can fit inside of the sun, so that makes the sun over a million times larger than our tiny little planet. Another interesting fact about the Sun is that it is not actually yellow, it is white, but our atmosphere refracts its light at an angle that makes it appear yellow, just like how the sky looks blue, but is actually black. ❖

AI IS GIVING A BOOST TO EFFORTS TO MONITOR HEALTH VIA RADAR

The Rochester Computer Society, Inc.
June, 2025
www.rcsi.org

Researchers are developing technologies that can monitor a person's vital signs at a distance. One of those technologies is radar. Non-contact health monitoring has the potential to be more comfortable and easier to use than traditional methods, particularly for people looking to monitor their vital signs at home.

Imagine a nursing home where radar quietly watches over residents, alerting caregivers immediately if someone experiences breathing trouble, falls, or needs assistance.

It can be implemented as a home system that checks your breathing while you sleep – no wearable devices required. Doctors could even use radar to remotely monitor patients recovering from surgery or illness.

This technology is moving quickly toward real-world use. In the future, checking your health could be as simple as walking into a room with invisible waves and smart AI working silently to take your vital signs. Learn more about this great technology at https://theconversation.com/ai is-giving-a-boost-to-efforts-to monitor-health-via radar-253325 ❖

WINDOWS 10 VS. WINDOWS 11

From https://apcug2 org

Even if you're perfectly content with Windows 10, updates will soon cost extra, and you'll eventually need to switch to Windows 11. This article compares the two operating systems so you know what to expect upon upgrading.
Windows 10 vs. Windows 11: Should You Upgrade Now? | PCMag

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.

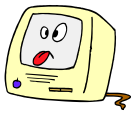
USING PAYPAL OR ZELLE

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 any problem.**

You can put an icon to the link on your desktop so it's handy at meeting time.

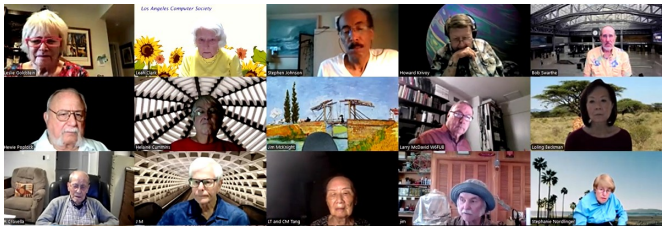
1. Right-click a blank spot on your desktop.
2. Select **New** from the drop-down menu.
3. Select **Shortcut**.
4. Type or copy and paste the link in the box that says "Type the location of the item."
5. Click **Next**.
6. Type a name for the shortcut.
7. Click **Finish**.

LACS CALENDAR

LACS Board Meeting, Monday, August 4
Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30 P.M.)
Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

LACS General Meeting:
Tuesday, August 12
Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30 P.M.)
Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

August 4: LACS Board Meeting
August 12: LACS General Meeting
August 26: International Dog 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

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

September 9: Chris Taylor
How To Buy a PC

Please watch your email and *User Friendly* for changes and updates.

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	9:00 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.

START A WINDOWS APPLICATION AUTOMATICALLY

By **John Krout**

Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (www.patacs.org) December 2024

Any application you use frequently can be started automatically by Windows when Windows starts. That might be your Web browser, Windows File Explorer, Zoom, or any other application. You can enable applications to start automatically. Here's how:

Introduction

This technique came to my attention when I began searching for Windows applications that could provide alarms when my Windows laptop's battery reached a high level during charging or a low level during discharging. It made sense for such an application to run automatically when Windows started.

In a nutshell, making an application start automatically takes just the two steps described below.

1. To start an application whenever you start Windows, you must find or create a shortcut for that software. Shortcuts may already be on your Windows Desktop.
2. To arrange for Windows to start the software automatically, you must paste a copy of the shortcut into a specific folder on Drive C.

How to recognize a Shortcut

A shortcut is a pointer to an application. Double-click the shortcut to start the application. Using a shortcut is similar to clicking on a link (URL) in a web page to open the page identified by that URL. Shortcuts are tiny files.

In **Illustration 1**, you can see two of the shortcuts on my desktop. Notice that each has a curved arrow in the lower left corner.

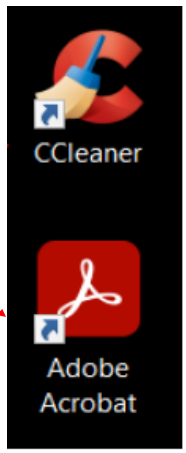


Illustration 1

That curved arrow indicates that the icon is a shortcut.

If a shortcut for the software already appears on your Desktop, then you can skip the next section and go to "Where to Paste the shortcut". Copy the Desktop shortcut by right-clicking on the shortcut and selecting **Copy** from the list.

How to create a shortcut

If you cannot find a shortcut, create one. In the **Windows 10** Start menu, one way to do so begins with the alphabetical list of installed applications. That Start menu option is named Apps. You can see that in **Illustration 2**. The Apps list appears as a sub-menu outside of the Start menu. (I have customized the startup menu.) In a standard **Windows 10** startup menu, the Apps list may appear inside the Start menu, without clicking any icon or button.

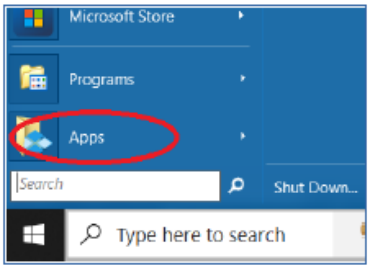


Illustration 2

In **Windows 11**, the option is **All apps** and appears in the upper-right corner of the Start menu. You can see that option in **Illustration 3**. Click it, and the Apps list appears inside the Start menu as a scrolling list.

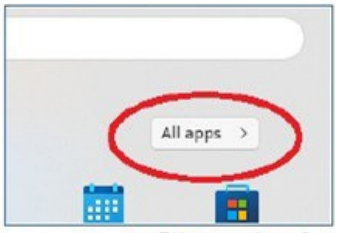


Illustration 3

The following steps apply to Windows 10 & 11.

Scroll through the Apps list and find your desired application. Click and drag your application to your Desktop screen. That action creates a shortcut in the Desktop folder. Once that shortcut exists, you can right-click on the item and select copy, **OR** open File Explorer, browse to the Desktop folder, find the shortcut there, and copy it.

For example, **Illustration 4** shows Windows File Explorer with my Desktop folder selected in the left pane. Shortcuts appear in the right pane of that folder. Shortcuts for Calendar and Clock appear in the upper right corner. I used the method described above to create them.

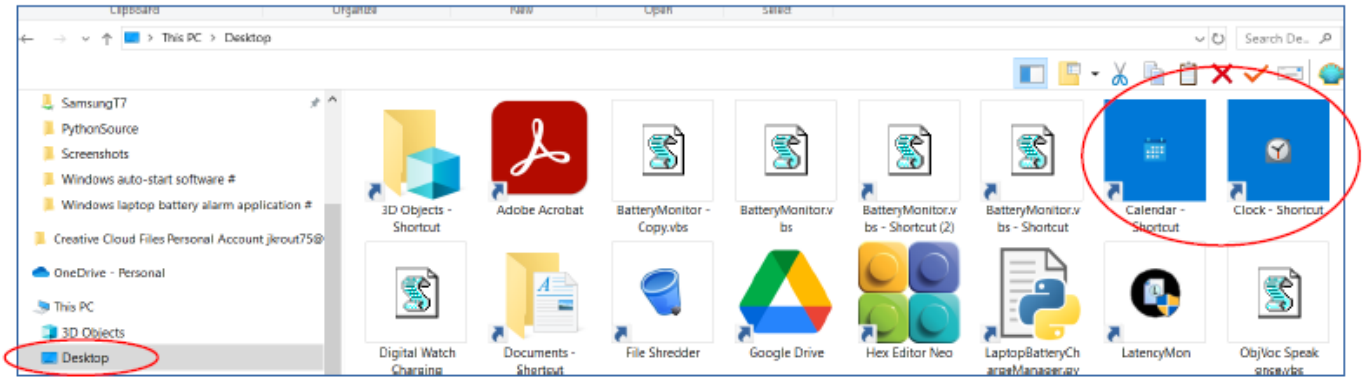


Illustration 4

Where to Paste the Shortcut

Paste the shortcut in the following folder to automatically start it when Windows starts.

C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\StartUp

It turns out that the C:\ProgramData is invisible by default. Initially, you will not see it. You can make the **Program Data** folder visible by configuring Windows File Explorer to show Hidden items.

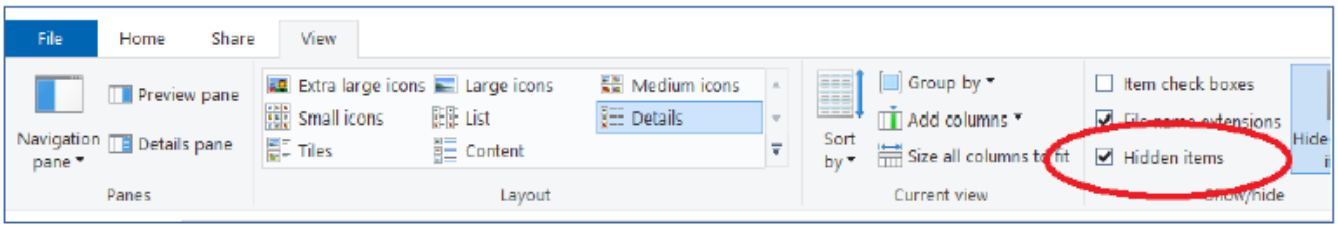


Illustration 5

In **Windows 10**, in the upper left corner of File Explorer, click the **View tab**. On the right-hand side, above the right-hand pane listing files (in the Current View mini-menu), find the Hidden items box. In **illustration 5**, that box is circled and contains a checkmark. To place that checkmark in the box, click it. When the box is checked, hidden folders are visible.

In **Windows 11**, File Explorer does not contain tabs. It takes a few clicks to find the option to display Hidden items. In File Explorer, the first step is to locate the ellipsis (three dots) to the right of the word **View**, as circled in **Illustration 6**. When the mouse hovers over it, the words **See More** appear. Click the ellipsis. A menu drops down.

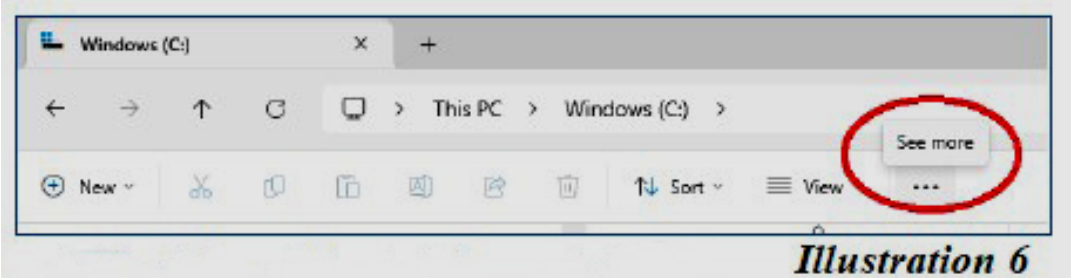


Illustration 6

See the menu in **Illustration 7.** In that menu, choose the **Options** choice at the bottom.

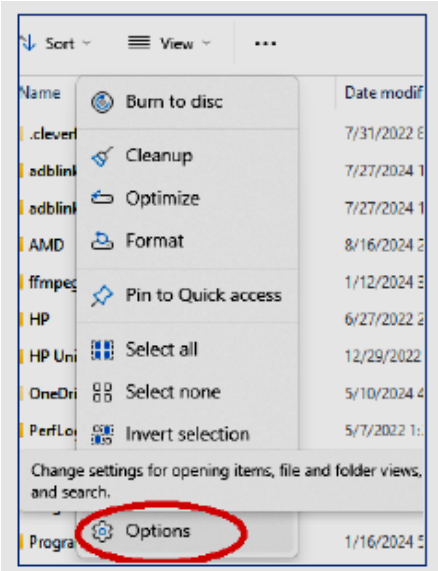


Illustration 7

The menu disappears. The **Folder Options** dialog box appears (**Illustration 8**). Click the **View** tab, which is circled in the illustration.

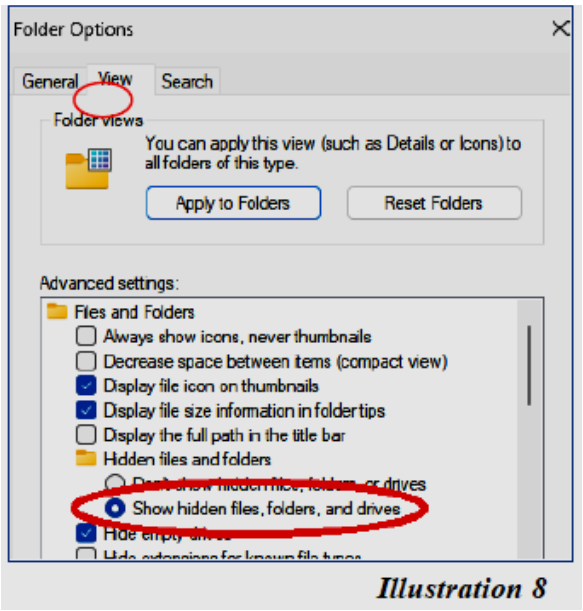


Illustration 8

The **View tab** of the dialog box includes a scrollable list of File Explorer **Advanced settings** options.

The option to show **hidden files**, **folders, and drives** is close to the top of the list.

After selection, the circle to the left of the option description words is blue and thick. By default that option is not selected; click it.

After doing that, click the OK button at the bottom of the dialog box. The dialog box closes. The hidden folders are now visible, along with the folders they contain.

Use File Explorer to browse inside the **Program Data** folder to the **Startup** folder and paste your copied shortcut there. ❖

LINUX – PCLinuxOS

by **Alex Morrison**
Durham (Australia) Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter, June 2025
https://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/news.html

PCLinuxOS: A Hidden Gem in the Linux World (With help from AI)

If you've spent any time exploring the vast ecosystem of Linux distributions, you know that there's a flavor for every kind of user—from bare-bones minimalists to bleeding-edge tech enthusiasts. But nestled quietly among the mainstream giants, such as Ubuntu, Fedora, and Arch, lies a lesser-known yet powerful distribution that deserves a moment in the spotlight: **PCLinuxOS.**

A Brief History

PCLinuxOS, often abbreviated as **PCLOS**, started as a set of modified RPM packages for Mandrake Linux (now Mandriva) back in the early 2000s. Founded by Bill Reynolds, better known in the community as **Texstar,** PCLinuxOS was initially intended to make Mandrake easier to use and more stable. However, it grew into its own stand-alone distribution.

Texstar's philosophy was simple: deliver a Linux distro that "just works" out of the box for desktop users. That approach has stayed consistent over the years, and today, PCLinuxOS

remains an independent, rolling-release distro with its own package management system and a dedicated, if small, user base.

Noteworthy Features

So what makes PCLinuxOS stand out in the crowded field of desktop Linux distributions?

1. **Rolling Release Model**

   Unlike Ubuntu's fixed release schedule- or Debian's lengthy stable cycles, PCLinuxOS employs a **rolling release model**. That means you install it once and update continuously without needing to reinstall every six months or year. It combines the freshness of Arch with the stability of Debian— thanks to cautious and well-tested updates.

2. **Synaptic and apt-rpm**

   PCLinuxOS uses RPM packages under the hood, but it relies on apt-rpm and Synaptic for package management. This is a unique hybrid approach that brings the user-friendly interface of Debian's APT system to an RPM-based distribution.

3. **Out-of-the-Box Experience**

   One of the defining features of PCLinuxOS is its excellent out-of-the-box hardware support. The distro includes a wide array of firmware, multi media codecs, and proprietary drivers, something many other distributions tions leave out for legal or philosophical reasons.

   For users just switching from Windows or for those who don't want to fiddle with terminal commands right after installation, PCLOS can be a breath of fresh air.

Desktop Environments Galore

PCLinuxOS isn't locked into one desktop environment. It offers official spins for:

- **KDE Plasma** – The flagship version, polished and highly customizable.
- **XFCE** – Lightweight and efficient, great for older hardware.
- **MATE, LXQt, and Openbox** – For those who prefer simplicity and speed.

What's more, each spin is crafted and maintained with care by members of the community, ensuring consistency and reliability across the board.

Community Matters

The PCLinuxOS community is one of the distro's most endearing qualities. While it may not have the same number of users as Ubuntu or Fedora, it more than makes up for it in friendliness and accessibility. The official forums are active and welcoming, with members often going out of their way to help newcomers.

The PCLinuxOS Magazine

This community-produced digital publication, is another gem. Released monthly, it includes tutorials, opinion pieces, reviews, and community news. It's an excellent resource for both beginners and seasoned users alike.

Is PCLinuxOS Right for You?

PCLinuxOS is best suited for users who:

- Prefer a system that just works post-installation.
- Appreciate a rolling release model but value stability.
- Are looking for a Windows-like experience without the hassle of proprietary systems.
- Want to be part of a tight-knit, helpful community.

However, it's worth noting that the distro does have its quirks. It's a relatively small project with limited developer resources. While updates are generally reliable,

support for niche or newer hardware may lag behind larger distros. Also, users looking for a server-oriented system or bleeding edge software may want to look elsewhere.

Final Thoughts

In a Linux landscape increasingly dominated by corporate-backed distributions, **PCLinuxOS stands as a reminder of the passion-driven, community-oriented roots of open source**. It may not have the marketing budget of Canonical or Red Hat, but what it lacks in scale it makes up for in stability, usability, and soul.

If you're looking for a robust desktop Linux experience that's easy to maintain and refreshingly user-focused, PCLinuxOS might just be your next favorite distro.

See page 9 of the June, 2025 issue of the Durham (Australia) Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter for links to *Linux in the News*.
https://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/news.html ❖

EIGHT TECH THINGS YOU DID FOR THE LAST TIME WITHOUT REALIZING

From How-To Geek, July 17,2025
By **Bertel King**

Time goes on, and technology changes. Many of us (who aren't retro enthusiasts) have done many things for last time without realizing it. Here is a list in honor of the tech we no longer use and the things we no longer have to do.

8. Blow into a Cartridge

Whether it was a Super Nintendo Entertainment System, a Sega Genesis, or a Nintendo 64, if a game froze or wouldn't come on in the first place, you blew into the cartridge to get out the dust and fix the problem.

Did it work? I remember reading precisely that it doesn't. Yet it sure seemed to—so much so that everyone I knew did it. I now have work colleagues who grew up on the other side of the world, and they did it, too!

7. Waggle Antenna

Back before TV had hundreds of channels, remote controls, or even buttons, they had antennas. Watching TV wasn't just a matter of turning to the right channel. Your antenna also had to point in the right direction.

Not only do TVs no longer have antennas on top, but many of us no longer even have antennas on the roof of our homes. We stream the local news, like everything else.

6. Flip Over a USB Plug

Okay, so this one isn't yet quite dead, but it's close. USB-A plugs were once dominant on everything, from flash drives to game controllers. Now, they've largely been replaced by USB-C. USB-A ports have to be plugged in the right orientation, which just so happens to be the angle you got right the first time, yet somehow it did not fit until you flipped it over at least twice. USB-C plugs, thankfully, work regardless of whether they're upside down.

5. Buy a Game on Multiple Discs

When *Final Fantasy VII* launched on the original PlayStation, the game didn't ship on just one disc. It came on three! You started on disc one, and when you reached a certain point in the game, you switched to disc two. This wasn't out of the norm for JRPGs. *Final Fantasy IX* came with four!

This practice largely went away by the release of the PlayStation 2, whose games were on DVDs instead of CDs. DVDs could hold more data, enabling most developers to fit the entire game on a single disc. These days, discs have grown significantly larger. Xbox Series X/S discs can hold 50GB. The Ultra-HD Blu-ray discs used by

the PlayStation 5 can hold up to 100GB! And even when a disc can't fit the entire game anymore, rather than insert a second disc, modern games prompt you to download the rest instead.

4. **Defrag Your Hard Drive**

Do you know what it means to defrag your hard drive? I only vaguely know my self. Doesn't matter. It's something I have not had to think about for well over a decade. Yet when I first got a computer, defragging a hard drive was a fundamental part of PC upkeep.

I'm no longer a Windows user, but this doesn't seem to be a chore Windows folks are bogged down by anymore. After all, must of our computers now run off SSDs that don't need to be defragged in the first place.

3. **Dock Your iPod Into a Speaker**

Before the iPhone became ubiquitous, it was preceded by the iPod, an iconic MP3 player with a scroll wheel. There were countless accessories made for these things with perhaps none more prominent than the speakers that served as iPod docks.

Back before Bluetooth connections, companies made speakers you simply plug your iPod (and only your iPod) directly in to, with the iPod standing upright so that its screen and controls were accessible.

I never owned an iPod, yet I've still been gifted one of these speakers whose proprietary connector I couldn't make use of. These speakers were everywhere, so much so that their absence today some times feels striking.

2. **Use a Pencil to Rewind a Cassette**

I still purchase and download my music as MP3s This makes me feel old-fashioned now that MP3 players have largely been replaced by streaming apps. Yet we have to go back to way before, not just MP3s, but also the physical CD-ROMs before them, to get back to the humble cassette of my childhood.

You couldn't skip tracks on a cassette. You had to manually rewind or fast-forward by holding down a button that reversed or sped up how fast the tape turned inside the cassette. And if you did not have a cassette player on you, you got even more manual by spinning the wheel inside the cassette by using a pencil. If only there were such a tactile way to fix Spotify when it messes up.

1. **Enter a Product Key**

When you purchase software, you don't actually purchase the bits of data that make up the program. You purchase a license to use the program. This is typically a string of numbers and letters unique to you. These days, the license is largely invisible. But there was a time, back when PC software came in boxes, that you had to manually enter product keys to use both apps and games. In those days, you couldn't just snap a picture and copy the text, either. Smartphones weren't a thing. You had to type the key out by hand.

While it's easy to feel nostalgic for certain elements of the past, this is one most of us are happy to leave behind.

Like all things, tech comes and tech goes. We are left saying goodbye to tech all the time, be that signing into MySpace or driving a Pontiac. Some changes come suddenly and with heartbreak (RIP Dreamcast). Others simply fade quietly into the past. ❖

FOR MANY HELPFUL TIPS AND TRICKS

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TECH LIFE UNITY

Formerly TechBoomers

https://www.techlifeunity.com

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

LAUGHING OUT LOUD

"I put duct tape around my head so my passwords won't go in one ear and out the other."

"We keep getting car ads. Our TV must know our car has 250,000 miles on it."

Cartoons from https://www.howtogeek.com

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

Revised July 2025, ljc

First Class Mail

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