

## User Friendly

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LACS

A Computer and  
Technology User Group

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### 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](http://www.apcug2.org)  
[www.facebook.com/APCUG](https://www.facebook.com/APCUG)  
[www.X.com/apcug](https://www.X.com/apcug) (Twitter)



### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 GENERAL MEETING

**Topic: Butt, Neck, Eyes. Oh My!**  
**Surviving Screen Time**

**Speaker: Judy Taylour**, APCUG Speaker

In our digital world, our bodies are paying the price for long hours spent in front of screens. This presentation explores the hidden toll of modern technology on physical health, focusing on common but often overlooked conditions, including Computer Neck Syndrome, Tech-Related Eye Strain, Mouse Shoulder Syndrome, Computer Back Issues, Butt Syndrome, and Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI).

**Judy Taylour** is a Wednesday Workshop coordinator and a member of the Santa Clarita Valley Tech Club. She served for over 23 years with the Southwest Technology Conference. She is dedicated to education and believes in lifelong learning. To empower others with tech knowledge she taught adult technology classes for over 20 years. She is a member of the Los Angeles FBI Senior Scams Working Group and the Pierce College Computer Applications and Technologies Department Advisory Committee, collaborating on course and hardware recommendations.

### TO JOIN A LACS GENERAL MEETING

LACS members on the PC Groups.IO list will receive the Zoom link to meetings two days before the meeting. Click on it to enter.

Guests may ask for the link two days before at  
[leahjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leahjc@sbcglobal.net)

# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT/EDITOR

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER TO LACS

Joel Owens

#### MICROSOFT PUBLISHER RETIRED

I have been using Microsoft Publisher since I started publishing *User Friendly* over ten years ago. So, I switched to the newsletter function in Microsoft Word. I found most of the ready-made templates a bit too busy in design, and most had three columns. It doesn't have some of the useful tools that I liked in Publisher. It's harder to position images and to arrange items the way I want. Any changes cause the content to shift down for several pages, affecting all of them. I have found that putting content in textboxes helps a little.

I haven't found a way to include the month in a footer or header with the page number. I have a lot to learn.

So, I'm asking my readers to be patient with me as it may take a few months to become efficient with it. I may also try Canva in the future. I will appreciate any suggestions for improving the layout and for better ways to do things.

Chat GPT told me, "Publisher was built on older code and never modernized for the cloud era. Unlike Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, it didn't get robust collaboration, web-based editing, or cross-platform support; it was Windows-only."



### LACS BOARD NOMINEES, 2026

Refer to pages 4 and 5 of this issue to see the candidates running for the 2026 board. Note that they are all incumbents. We are greatly thankful for these dedicated members. **Nominations will be taken at the October General Meeting and published in the November U.F. We still need a board secretary, and there are openings for two directors.**

The secretary notes those present, the motions and decisions made, the voting results, and those who agreed to do something. When I was a secretary, I found it helpful to print the agenda in double or triple space to make room to jot down what took place under each item. All board members will help new members as needed.

The bylaws say that the board may appoint someone to fill a vacancy. Please volunteer, or you may get appointed!

The directors attend the monthly Zoom meetings, make and vote on any motions, and offer ideas. That takes only slightly over an hour of your time once a month.

### LACS's NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Use this address to mail checks for dues or any other snail mail to LACS.

**6201 W. 87<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045**

### THE GOOGLE VOICE NUMBER

**424-261-6251** will no longer be used. It had been over six months since it was used, so it's not worth keeping.

# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## GENERAL MEETING REPORT

By Leah Clark, LACS President/Editor

September 9, 2025

**Topic:** How To Buy a PC

**Speaker:** Chris Taylor

APCUG Speaker

President, Ottawa PC Users Group



Chris talked about the options available to you when you buy a PC. There are thousands of PCs available, so you must narrow down your choices. See the presentation recording and the PDF slides, which LACS members and guests received, for the detailed information Chris gave us. There's no way I can include it all in this brief report.

### Laptop Vs. Desktop

Chris first discussed choosing a laptop versus a desktop, listing advantages and disadvantages for each. The main advantage of a laptop is portability. Disadvantages include small screens and cramped keyboards. Desktop computers may be less expensive, easier to fix, and have bigger monitors and keyboards. They are not portable, and you need to add a keyboard, mouse, speakers, etc.

### Components

Chris listed the many components and details you need to consider and the choices you need to make for each. He defined many terms, gave pros and cons, and reasons for various choices. Make sure the programs you want to use will run on the PC you buy. His slides show the URLs for further information for each.

- **CPU:** There are numerous factors to consider in the performance of the Central Processing Unit (CPU). Chris covered many technical details about CPUs and how to compare CPUs.

- **Memory Requirements** have doubled for Windows 11 from previous versions. The minimum for Windows 11 would be 4 GB, but you may need 16 GB or more, depending on what you do on your computer.
- **Storage** (internal): Most laptops have a single Solid State Drive and need 512 GB to 1 TB. Some Desktops also have an HDD with 1TB or more. External storage is great for backups and for adding storage. Chris described the different types and their uses.
- **Video/Graphic Cards:** Chris explained integrated graphics, dedicated/discrete graphics cards, video ports, and HDMI capabilities.
- **Webcams** are easy to add to a desktop or laptop. Chris discussed resolutions, frame rates, field of view, autofocus, built-in microphones, mounts, and software controls.
- **Optical Drives** (CDs, DVDs, etc.) are rarely needed, but external USB optical drives are available if you need them.
- **USB Ports** are ways of getting information in or out of the computer. They can be located at the back and front of the computer, and there are multiple flavors.
- **Card Readers** are useful for digital cameras and some smartphones. If needed, you can buy a USB card reader.
- **Desktop Networking** is primarily used to access the internet with wired gigabit Ethernet. Some desktops will include wireless. Laptops typically have both wireless and wired connections.
- **Printers** include inkjet or laser. Inkjet ink is expensive. Laser printers are not as good for photo printing.

# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

Chris then discussed various computer form factors, including thin and light, convertible / hybrid, all-in-one, tablets, Chromebooks, gaming, Next Unit of Computing (NUCs), and single-board computers. He explained the features, uses, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Chris explained some backup methods, including image backups on high-capacity USB drives and real-time backups.

## Narrowing the Field

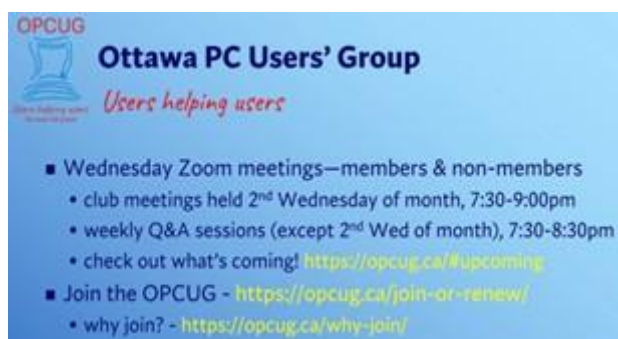
How are you going to pick out the computer that's right for you?

- List the features you absolutely need and those that will be nice to have.
- Look for the makes and models that have those features.
- Look at review sites.
- Look for computers with your required and desired features at computer stores.
- Ask LACS members.

Once you find something interesting, Google for reviews. Read many reviews.

After the presentation, there was further discussion, questions, and answers.

Chris invited us to attend the OPCUG Zoom meetings. Clickable links are on his PDF slides at <https://opcug.ca/opl/apcug-buypc-2025-09-09.pdf>.



**OPCUG**  
**Ottawa PC Users' Group**  
*Users helping users*

- Wednesday Zoom meetings—members & non-members
  - club meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month, 7:30-9:00pm
  - weekly Q&A sessions (except 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of month), 7:30-8:30pm
  - check out what's coming! <https://opcug.ca/upcoming>
- Join the OPCUG - <https://opcug.ca/join-or-renew/>
  - why join? - <https://opcug.ca/why-join/>

## LACS BOARD NOMINEES, 2026

### LEAH, CLARK PRESIDENT INCUMBENT



I joined LACS in 1998. I met a member at an RV park after I retired from working as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at UCLA for 43 years. Joe and I saw much of the USA in our motor home. LACS has kept me busy with volunteering and constantly learning new things. I have been welcome chair, director, secretary, and Genealogy SIG leader. I am now president and newsletter editor. This has enabled me to learn, make friends, and have fun.

### STEPHANIE NORDLINGER VICE PRESIDENT, INCUMBENT



The Vice President invites general meeting speakers and may stand in for the president. I want to give the VP job to another member because it is better to have new and younger officers from time to time. I prefer to help a new VP and to be a Director. LACS's wonderful members and speakers have taught me many better ways to use PCs and other devices. I joined the UCLA PC Users Group by 1985 and helped to incorporate LACS in 1991. I have been its President, VP, Editor, temporary Secretary, unpaid counsel, and other jobs. I would like to have more time for my other needs and hobbies.

# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

**GAVIN FAUGHT**  
**TREASURER, INCUMBANT**



My name is Gavin Faught, and I'm looking forward to my sixth year as Treasurer of LACS. I do have other leadership experiences. At UC Davis, my alma mater, I was Vice President for the fraternity Phi Beta Lambda and at CSU Sacramento, I was Treasurer for the Accounting Society. Computer topics that interest me are information technology (IT), cybersecurity, and cloud computing. My hobbies include playing and recording music and working out. I am looking forward to making LACS the best it can be.

**MARK PRESKY**  
**DIRECTOR, INCUMBENT**



In the early 1970s, UC Davis bestowed Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biological Sciences and Microbiology on me. I also took courses in anthropology and animal ethology. After internship and licensing, I worked in the departments of pathology at UCLA and Tarzana Medical Centers. In 1997, I came into a middle school in Culver City and met a group of people speaking a strange language, computerese. With my anthropology/ethology studies, I have been studying this group since. Later, I joined them on their Board of Directors and have been terrorizing the members of that body since.

**LOLING BECKMAN**  
**DIRECTOR, INCUMBENT**



I was born in China and raised in Argentina; therefore, I am fluent in three languages: Chinese, Spanish and English.

In my IT career, I started as a programmer/Analyst and ended up as Department Manager for the Procurement System at an aerospace company (now Northrup Grumman) with a \$10 million yearly budget.

I joined LACS in 2001 and was the coordinator for the Culver City Senior Center Friday Computer Lab monitor group.

I am the LACS Database Manager, maintaining the Membership Database. I am happy to be able to contribute and help our computer club.

**DONNA BENTON**  
**DIRECTOR, INCUMBENT**



Donna was raised in Virginia; then ended up in Los Angeles. She learned people skills bartending at Shanghai Red's. While working in the music biz, she educated songwriters with copywriting their works and generating money from their efforts. She studied for her real estate license. Now, she is happy to educate buyers and sellers to fulfill goals. She obtained her first laptop in '88. Luckily, there were many classes to educate her. Computers are ever evolving, and LACS assists with keeping current. She is happy to be a member and serving on the board.



# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## 4 WAYS HOBBYISTS ACCIDENTALLY FUTURE-PROOFED THE INTERNET

By **Sidney Butler**

How-To Geek, August 2025

<https://www.howtogeek.com>



The internet is almost certainly the most complex machine humanity has ever created. You might not notice it simply because, most of the time, the internet and services like the Web work without a hitch, but under the hood, there's an enormous number of things that have to all work together seamlessly.

What makes it more mind-blowing is that many of the fundamental technologies that underpin the internet were created by accident, or at least not with the scalability that would be necessary in mind, just like these key examples.

### 4. Open Standards Beat Proprietary Systems

Plenty of private companies have tried to close and privatize the internet effectively. Think of services like AOL and CompuServe, which tried to create walled gardens meant to act as the entire online experience.

However, the protocols that make the internet work—TCP/IP, SMTP, HTTP—weren't handed down by corporations. They were published as RFCs (Requests for Comments), which anyone could contribute to or critique. RFCs capture the opinions and comments of different members of a technical community—some from industry, some from the government, some from academia, and so on.

For example, [RFC 761](#) outlined the proposal for TCP, and then, after input from outside stakeholders, was replaced by [RFC 793](#). This community approach has driven the open standards that make the open internet and web possible.

Since anyone can, for example, run their own server and connect it to the internet using these community-developed rules that are later adopted as open standards, it's no surprise that the likes of AOL never managed to confine people to their own little corner of the world. Though you might argue that platforms like Facebook have succeeded where AOL failed, nothing actually stops a Facebook user from simply visiting any other destination on [the web](#)!

### 3. The Rise of Open-Source Software

Open-source software is the bedrock of internet technology, and most of it got started as hobby projects by bedroom coders. Linus Torvalds created the Linux kernel because he thought MS-DOS sucked, and he wanted a free UNIX-like OS for his new i386 PC. So he went ahead and created it. Now, most of the servers on the internet [run on Linux](#).

The beauty of open-source software is that anyone with the skills can contribute, and a small project can quickly become an essential software project that millions of people rely on. There are [pros and cons to open-source software](#). Still, there's no denying that it's kept the internet free and open, and has secured a future path for technology stacks that could support the whole world's tech needs if all proprietary software suddenly disappeared overnight. Like the mythical hydra, whenever one branch of an open-source project falters, it simply forks into more heads as needed.

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## 2. Open Documentation and Knowledge Sharing

Think about how much of the information you read on the internet is free. You could argue that this began with the culture of RFCs I mentioned above, which initiated the concept of open documents that anyone could comment on and contribute to. But hobbyists on the internet—people not paid to write a single word—took that idea and really ran with it.

Of course, there are things like [Linux MAN pages](#), which someone had to write, but there are also video game guides, blogs, Wikis, forums, and so much more. There's a reason AI corporations set up their machine learning systems to collect the contents of Reddit, because smart people with little desire to profit from their knowledge continue to give it away for free.

## 1. Preservation Through Obsession

There's a saying that goes: "the internet is forever" which could not be more wrong. When the servers go down and the hard drives die, that information is *gone*. Sometimes information is simply lost because no one knows how to read the format it was recorded in.

The creators and custodians of content and information on the web often seem unwilling or unable to preserve what they've made as soon as it no longer brings in any money, but that hasn't stopped hobbyists from slurping up everything they can and preserving it for posterity.

One of the most obvious is the Internet Archive and [its alternatives](#). Then there are sites that store [abandonware](#), which is a legal grey area, and peer-to-peer networks that store anything you can think of, most often illegally, across the hard drives of millions of contributors.

There's a pretty good chance that one day this obsession with backing up every little thing that's ever been on the internet is going to save the bacon of some essential source code, application, or lead to the recovery of lost media. In fact, I won't be surprised if something a random geek saved on their hard drive turns out to be how we defeat a future alien invasion someday. Then who's the weird one? ❖

## LACS LUNCHEON

September 17, 2025

By Leah Clark

We had a small group at the Sizzler, but we enjoyed the socializing and food. We met our new member, Andrea, who is quite technology savvy, and she gave me some hints for using Word for User Friendly. She found that she had known other members from other places. I thought I had photos of all attendees, but some were missing on my phone. I am so sorry. My phone is getting old!



# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## LACS INFORMATION

### HOW TO JOIN LACS' MAIL LIST

Lacs has an active, general email list, [PC@LACS.Gro.IO](mailto:PC@LACS.Gro.IO), which goes to all members on the list. Members will receive meeting notices and Zoom links via this list. Members also can ask questions, offer suggestions, and help others.

New LACS members will receive an invitation from Groups. IO to join this list with two weeks to accept. Other LACS members who want to join the list should send an email to Larry McDavid, the Groups IO Coordinator. (See the roster for contact information.) They will receive an invitation to join. Contact Larry with any problems or questions about joining.

### 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](https://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](http://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](http://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  
6201 W. 87<sup>th</sup> St. # 4095  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

### 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 and indexes of *User Friendly* at <https://www.lacspc.org>.



# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## LACS CALENDAR



### LACS Board Meeting

**Monday, October 6**

**Time: 7:00 P.M.** (Open from 6:30)

**Place:** Wherever you are via Zoom

### LACS General Meeting

**Tuesday, October 14**

**Place:** Wherever you are via Zoom

**October 1:** Yom Kippur

**October 6:** LACS Board Meeting

**October 13:** Indigenous Peoples' Day

**October 14:** LACS General Meeting

**October 31:** Halloween



## 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](http://www.APCUG2.org). Click on **Member Benefits**, then on **Groups Sharing Meetings** or on **Newsletters Online**.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**October 14:** Judy Taylour  
Butt, Neck, Eyes. Oh My!  
Surviving Screen Time

**November 11:** Chris Taylor  
Artificial Intelligence (AI):  
Fun and Useful Tips

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

## ATTENDING A ZOOM MEETING

LACS members who are on our PC email list and guests 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 problems.**

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

**You can put an icon to the link to a meeting 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**.

# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

LACS members volunteer to help other members solve hardware and software problems by telephone or during the hours listed below. Please select a topic from the list below 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, email Leah Clark at the address below. 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, to make corrections, or to ask questions, please email Leah Clark at

[leahjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leahjc@sbcglobal.net)

Android Smartphones – 5	Mozilla Firefox – 7	Photoshop Elements - 2
Apple devices – 7	MS Excel - 5, 7, 8	Quicken - 5, 8
Anti-Malware and Backup - 4, 5	MS Word - 1, 5, 8	Thunderbird - 4
Genealogy – 5	MS Outlook - 1, 5	Utilities - 4, 5
Groups.IO – 9	MS PowerPoint – 5 ,7	Windows – 4, 5
Hardware – 4	PDF – 5,8	WordPerfect - 5
Lotus Word Pro, Approach – 4		Zoom – 2, 6

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

**Note:** Times are Pacific times.

# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND LEADERS

<i>TITLE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>TERM</i>
President	Leah Clark	2025
Vice President	Stephanie Nordlinger	2025
Secretary	<b>Open</b>	2025
Treasurer	Gavin Faught	2025
Director	Loling Beckman	2025
Director	Donna Benton	2025
Director	Mark Presky	2025
Director	Jim McKnight	2026
Director	Paula Van Berkom	2026
Director	<b>Open</b>	2026
Director	<b>Open</b>	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	<b>Open</b>	
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark	
Webmaster	Paula Van Berkom	

Mailing Address: **6201 W. 87<sup>th</sup> St. # 4095, Los Angeles, CA 90045**

**LACS Website: <https://www.lacspc.org>**

Please use your LACS roster for email addresses and phone numbers to contact any officer, board member, or other member. **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 electronically to anyone. Be sure to keep it in a location where you can easily find it when you need it. If you don't have the roster, please contact Leah Clark at < leahjc (at) sbcglobal.net >.

# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## SHARING FILES AMONG WINDOWS SYSTEM ON YOUR HOME LAN

By **Joel Ewing**, President  
Bella Vista Computer Club  
Bits & Bytes, April 2025

<https://bvcomputerclub.org>

president (at) bvcomputerclub.org



The simplest and least technical way to share files between two different computers in your home is to write the files on a USB memory stick or some other transportable media on one computer and then connect that media to the other computer to copy or work with the files, but that requires you to physically move between the computers.

If you have a cloud storage service on the Internet that is defined for both computers, you can store shared files on that cloud storage and access those files from multiple computers. This makes you dependent upon the Internet for access, and you must entrust a 3rd-party with the care of your files. You will need to deal with limits on the total size of files in your cloud storage and longer access times, which can be significant for uploading large files.

An Internet Service Provider's upload speed is typically much less than their more widely-advertised download speed. My high-speed Internet upload speed is only around 50 Mbps, which with overhead in the file transfer protocol means less than 6.25 MB/sec, making a 100 MB file take more than 16 seconds to upload to a cloud Internet service. Contrast that with typical effective transfer rates of 115 MB/sec

over a 1Gbps home network or LAN (Local Area Network).

It's faster if you utilize the speed of your home network to transfer files directly from one computer to another on your LAN, or perhaps just read and work remotely with the file stored on another home computer, without even making a permanent local copy of the file.

### Windows File Sharing

If you have a large number of files that consume a significant amount of space and you want to ensure they are accessible to all devices on your LAN at all times, consider setting up a dedicated computer as a File Server for your home. For many users, that may be a greater level of complexity than they need.

Simple Windows File Sharing, which utilizes Server Message Block (SMB) protocol, may be sufficient for some users. Microsoft Windows, by default, supports File Sharing using the SMB protocol to serve files to and receive files from other Windows systems. There is also free Linux support for SMB protocol using the Samba software packages, which easily supports Linux Read/write access to Windows File Sharing files on a Windows system using the Linux equivalent of File Manager.

Using the same SMB protocol to make files belonging to a Linux user available to Windows systems is also possible, but less attractive because it requires some research to manually set up configuration files, start a Samba server service, and open firewall ports to make it work. SMB could even be used to share files between two Linux systems, but there are much easier methods to use when both systems run Linux.

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With all current Windows systems, the SMB protocol now uses only TCP port 445 for communication. Any router by default blocks incoming Internet traffic on port 445, limiting SMB file sharing to your LAN. While it would be possible to configure a router to forward port 445 traffic to a computer on your internal LAN to allow file sharing to the Internet, this is inadvisable and dangerous, as it would expose that computer to unauthorized access, malware injection, and ransomware attacks.

Obviously, your Wi-Fi should also be protected by a password to prevent outsiders from gaining access to your LAN and potentially accessing your shared file directories.

## **Enabling Windows 10 or 11 To Share Directories Via SMB**

First of all, file (and printer) sharing should only be enabled on a network that you trust, which Windows calls a "Private" network. A network that Windows calls "Public" is an untrusted network that can be accessed by devices beyond your control. These terms can be confusing until you realize they describe the network, not whether your computer should be private or open to the public.

Your home LAN network and Wi-Fi, assuming Wi-Fi access is restricted and encrypted by a password, would normally be regarded as a private and trusted network. If your mobile device is connecting to a Wi-Fi network for the first time, you should be asked whether this is a Public or Private network. If it is a Wi-Fi network in a public place, you should specify "Public" for untrusted.

If you mis-categorized your home LAN connection as Public and need to change it, go to "Settings", "Network & internet", under "Network status", click on "Properties", and under "Network profile", click on "Private"

Starting with Windows 10, guest access (access without a username and password) to SMB on Windows was disabled by default, and this is the only safe choice. You must now have the credentials for a valid Windows login on the remote computer from which files are shared in order to log in for SMB shared file access. If you don't want to expose your normal login credentials on that machine for SMB use, one possibility would be to define a new user/password on the target system just for SMB logins, put folders under that user for all files you want to share, and share read/write authority to those folders to your usual login user on that machine so that user can view and change files in the shared folders.

Previously, you had to explicitly share the folders you wanted to make visible from other computers. With Windows 10 and 11, it appears that if you say any folder under any user should be shared, Windows actually enables "sharing" for the \Users folder, effectively granting access to all folders and files that are associated with the user account used for the SMB login.

To share Windows directories on your LAN, each machine with an instance of Windows needs a distinct device name. If a default name was assigned when the system was installed, it will contain some characters that appear random and are probably unique, like



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DESKTOP-TA4FG20. You can check what is assigned by right-clicking on the Windows Start icon, selecting "System", and checking the "Device name" under "Device specifications". You can rename the system name using the "Rename this PC" to assign a shorter and more useful name, but be sure it is unique from any other computer on your LAN. To effect a name change, the Windows system must be restarted.

To enable file sharing, you must go to "Control Panel", "Network and Sharing Center", select "Advanced sharing settings", and verify that for Private Networks, and Private Networks only, that you have checked "Turn on file and printer sharing".

There is also an option to "Turn on network discovery" and "Turn on automatic setup of network connected devices", but I would recommend turning this "off": it is not required to make File Sharing work, has been known in the past to be an avenue for attack, and is a slow way to locate machines on your LAN that only works for machines on the same LAN sub net.

From the File Manager, under "Network" in the navigation frame, you may be able to see which other computers on your LAN have sharing enabled, but only if your computer and the other computers all have "Network discovery" turned on and are on the same subnet.

Even then, it may take 15 seconds to locate the other computers. Even if all that works, it is still unlikely that you could select one of the computers from the navigation screen and see anything useful because this route doesn't give you an opportunity to do a correct login to the other system.

The only real advantage of having "Network discovery" turned on everywhere is that you don't have to know the actual LAN IP address of the computer to see its shared files.

However, if the target computer is used regularly, its IP address tends to remain constant. If you want it always to remain constant, there are ways to configure your router to ensure it always receives the same IP address.

Determining the IP address currently assigned to a Windows computer is simple. Just open a Command window (search for Command and click on the Command App), enter the command "ipconfig", and write down the IPv4 Address (four numbers separated by periods, such as 192.168.0.198), and type "exit" to terminate the command window.

The only method that consistently works with shared files is to map a remote shared folder to a letter drive on the current PC. Select "This PC" in the navigation frame of the File Manager, then, for Windows 10, click on "Map network drive" in the top toolbar and "Map network drive", or for Windows 11, click on the "... (more)" in the top toolbar and "Map Network Drive". You then fill in the remote folder address.

How do you find this? Use File Manager on the remote machine, select the shared directory, right-click, Properties, select the "Sharing" tab, and write down the "Network Path" value. In this case, it was "\\WIN10VM-A\Users\Joel\Documents\WShare", where the "WIN10VM-A" is the computer name

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I manually assigned to that system.

You generally will need to check the "Connect using different credentials" so you can specify if a login that is valid on the remote machine (this must be the actual username & password, not a PIN code). If you want to always connect to that same remote shared folder after a reboot, check the "Reconnect at sign-in" as well. Then click "Finish" and supply the username and password on the remote system to connect.

If it can find the named machine, fine. If not, you might need to replace the computer name with its current IP address, which in this case would make the remote folder "\\192.168.124.198\Users\Joel\Documents\WShare".

Looking at the files displayed on my new Z: drive, I see that it actually took the final "WShare" as the name for my Z: disk and connected it to the Documents folder. Apparently, it only mounts the highest-level folders associated with the user on the remote computer.

Once you have a remote folder connected at a local drive letter, you simply use File Manager and applications to access files on that drive as if they were local files.

Upon rebooting the machine, if you checked "Reconnect at sign on" when mapping the drive, it will automatically reconnect without requiring a re-entry of the sign-on credentials. If you don't want the mapping to persist, don't check the "Reconnect..." box.

If you later want to break the connection, right-click on the shared disk and select "Disconnect".

This will disassociate the shared remote folder from the system, and it won't reconnect again until another Map Network Drive is done. ❖

## ULTIMATE COLD

By **Don Grim**

Computer Users of Erie, February 2025

<https://www.cuerie.com>

There's a group in Erie, PA that has been helping people coexist with new technology for the past 40 years. The group is called Computer Users of Erie, or **CUE**. It was founded by a man named Tom Kuklinski in 1982. Don Grim has been a CUE member for 31 years.

When was the coldest day in history? To measure the full extent of coldness, you look at the temperature and wind speed, giving the wind chill factor, for what the coldness feels like.

I lived near the coldest day in history in Ohio! The record wind chill in Ohio was -56 degrees on January 20, 1985, in Akron, Ohio, not far from Youngstown, Ohio, where I worked at the time. I remember opening my car door on that day, and it gave a weird sound, like the door hinges were crying! The record wind chill in Pennsylvania was -50 degrees on January 21, 1985, in Bradford, PA, not far from Erie, PA, where I currently live.

The record wind chill in the United States was -108 degrees on February 3, 2023, in Mount Washington, New Hampshire. That is not very long ago.

Youngstown, Ohio, had a record low

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temperature of -22 degrees on January 19, 1994, but not the coldest wind chill. Youngstown had a temperature of -20 on January 20, 1985, and January 21, 1985, with a steady wind of 20 MPH (a wind chill of -48) and wind gusts up to 35 MPH (a wind chill of -55).

So, I was there, feeling the -55 degree wind chill, just one degree "warmer" than the -56 degree wind chill in Akron, Ohio. Erie had a record low of -18 degrees on February 16, 2015, (-36 degrees wind chill with an 8 MPH wind speed), and -18 degrees on January 19, 1994, (-46 degrees wind chill with a 21 MPH wind speed).

I was there on both days in Erie, feeling -36 and -46, but not as bad as when I was in Youngstown at -55 in 1985.

You have to be colder to freeze, to a solid, for carbon dioxide at -109 (dry ice), oxygen at -362, hydrogen at -434, and helium at -458. However, mercury freezes at just -38 degrees! Due to the Earth's atmospheric pressure, carbon dioxide is never a liquid on Earth, so it transforms directly from gas to solid. Oxygen becomes a liquid (blue in color) at -297, hydrogen becomes a liquid at -423, and helium becomes a liquid at -452.

Mercury is a liquid between -38 degrees and +674 degrees. Mercury is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature. God created it all! The wind chill formula is interesting and even uses powers! I verified the formula for a few of the numbers in a wind chill chart. You can find the formula and a wind chill chart at the following link. Keep warm!

Wind Chill Chart at:

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold-wind-chill-chart> ❖

## SAVE YOUR SMARTPHONE PHOTOS ON ONEDRIVE

By **David Kretchmar**

Hardware Technician

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

June 2025

<https://www.scscc.club>

OneDrive is a cloud storage and file-sharing service that is provided by default on new computers running Microsoft Windows. It has become an integral part of the Windows 11 Operating System (OS) and will likely be even more important in Windows 12.

OneDrive gives users the power to save, retrieve, and share files from anywhere in the world with an internet connection.

Many users, including myself, consider OneDrive a virtual hard drive in the cloud. OneDrive synchronizes with your devices and protects your data from corruption due to a hack, a hard drive crash, or mischief caused by ransomware.

The OneDrive desktop application integrates with the Windows 11 File Explorer, allowing you to manage files in your OneDrive account as if they were on your local drive. You can also access OneDrive through a web browser.

I have been using OneDrive since 2006, when it was named SkyDrive. For many years, I had the free account with 15GB of OneDrive storage, consisting of the 5GB free plan that is available to all users, plus a 10GB "loyalty bonus". I developed a need for additional storage from Microsoft 365, so I upgraded to Family, which provides five users each with 1TB, now costing \$129.99 per year (just raised from \$99.99). Microsoft 365 Personal, which provides one account with 1 TB of

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cloud storage now costs \$99.99 per year. My affection for OneDrive only increased when I found that using OneDrive made upgrading from my old Windows 10 computer to a new Windows 11 computer virtually painless.

## **OneDrive on Your iOS Device or Android**

If you take and keep many photos and videos using your iPhone or Android, you will likely get a warning that your storage has reached capacity and you need to buy additional cloud space to back up your data. You can use OneDrive to solve this problem.

First, make sure the OneDrive app is downloaded and installed on your device. To automatically save iPhone (or any smartphone) or iPad photos to your OneDrive storage, enable the "Camera Upload" feature in the OneDrive app. This setting sets the pictures you take to be saved to your OneDrive account as well as your device. You can also adjust settings to include videos.

## **Wait Until Bedtime**

If you have large videos or need to upload lots of images, you may see some marked as "Remaining". Microsoft recommends using Bedtime Backup to upload your photos with OneDrive's dedicated upload mode. You can specify if you want to upload using cellular data (eating up your data plan and battery) or wait until bedtime. Make sure your device is connected to Wi-Fi and charging, then select "Turn on Bedtime Backup". Once uploads are complete, you can "Turn Off Bedtime Backup". If you try to upload pictures while your device is on battery power, the phone's OS may go to "sleep" during a large camera upload, not completing or making the upload take a long time. Apple iOS won't let

OneDrive backup your photos if the battery is less than 20%. Also, make sure your device is not in Low Power Mode.

## **The Sync Is One Way**

The camera roll on your device only uploads to OneDrive - it does not sync photos both ways. That means you can delete photos and videos from your device, and the copies of these files residing on OneDrive won't be affected.

## **One Account at a time**

You can only upload your photos and videos to one account at a time. Your phone's OneDrive app must be signed into the OneDrive account to which you want to upload photos. To enable Camera Upload, flip the toggle on for the OneDrive account you want.

## **Keep OneDrive Open**

To best utilize OneDrive, Apple recommends that you leave the OneDrive app running in the background. Automatic uploading cannot work if the app has been forcibly closed.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

OneDrive is a valuable tool for saving files on your computer, as well as any other device you can connect to the internet. Download and install OneDrive on the device you use to take photos and videos, ensuring these files are saved.

With OneDrive installed on your smartphone, you can access any file, picture, video, or document in OneDrive from anywhere you have an internet connection. ❖

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## 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 [Discounts & Special Offers For User Groups – APCUG](#) for discounts and special offers for members of User Groups. Books, media, and training sites offer discounts, including these:

- Members can save at the **Pearson Technology** websites: InformIT, Cisco Press, Pearson IT Certification, Que Publishing, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press. [InformIT: The Trusted Technology Source for IT Pros and Developers](#)  
Code for print books: **ITCOMMUNITY**. Code for eBooks: **DIGITAL-COMMUNITY**
- See books on digital imaging and photography, gaming, animation, film and video, post-production, audio, music technology, broadcast and theater at [Routledge Focal Press](#). They offer discounts to User Group members.

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## LAUGHING OUT LOUD



From [How-ToGeek.com](http://How-ToGeek.com)

Why did the scientist remove his doorbell?

He wanted to win the no-bell prize.

From [jokes@smtp1.wittycats.com](mailto:jokes@smtp1.wittycats.com)

Why don't programmers like nature?  
Too many bugs.

From Chat GPT

## TECH LIFE UNITY (TechBoomers)

<https://www.techlifeunity.com>

For learning how to use internet-based websites and applications

## DISCLAIMER

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.



# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

## 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 address as regular members; 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.

### Benefits of LACS Membership

**Monthly meetings** with presentations via Zoom.

**Monthly Newsletter, *User Friendly*** —

Your article submissions and free ads to sell your computer items

**Free help** by email or phone — See page 10.

**Group mailing list** to contact or ask questions of all members at [PC@LACS.Groups.IO](mailto:PC@LACS.Groups.IO)

**Important news** and announcements via *User Friendly* and LACS's mail list.

**Webinars, virtual conferences, programs, and technical information** free from APCUG, an International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups

**Annual Holiday Party**

**Social interaction** with others who have interests in computers and technology

**In-person luncheons** at a restaurant

**Renewals are due in January. New members' dues will be prorated quarterly.**

**Check # \_\_\_\_\_ New or Renewal Membership Application.**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_** Dues may be paid by Zelle, PayPal, or check. If paying by check, make it out to "Los Angeles Computer Society" and mail it with this form to  
**6201 W. 87<sup>th</sup> St., # 4095, Los Angeles, CA 90045**

**Please Print Clearly**    ☐ **New**    ☐ **Renewal**

☐ New/Renewal with printed newsletter - \$40    ☐ Associate - \$12    ☐ Student - \$18

☐ New/Renewal with electronic, no paper newsletter - \$30    ☐ Gift membership - \$20

☐ Contributor - \$50    ☐ Supporter - \$75    ☐ Benefactor - \$100    ☐ Other

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Associate: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email of Associate \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Publish Contact Info in the roster ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

# Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

*First Class Mail*

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## **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 at [leahjc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leahjc@sbcglobal.net).

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 when you re-enter. You may turn off your video when you are gone.