Los Angeles Computer Society Newsletter

User Friendly

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
http://www.apcug2.org
www.facebook.com/APCUG
www.X.com/apcug **(Twitter)**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 GENERAL MEETING

Meeting time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM – Via Zoom
Socializing, Questions & Answers: 6:30 - 7:00

Topics: 1. Edge Browser's Secrets
2. Windows and Mac: Bridging the Gap
Speaker: William (Bill) James
APCUG Speakers Bureau

The Edge Browser is more than a way to get to a place on the internet. It has Bing, Copilot, and other features. Many of us use more than one browser, and it's good to know how each one operates.

The Windows & Mac talk is something most of us don't know much about. Some members have Apple equipment and/or iPhones, so it is good to learn more about using them.

Meet Our Presenter

Bill James has been an officer of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City, an APCUG Regional Advisor, and otherwise active in APCUG for many years. Bill has also been a long-time member of Microsoft's Insider Program. He worked for the Federal Aviation Administration's Logistics Center in Oklahoma City, OK, for 38 years.

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 (at) sbcglobal.net

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT/EDITOR

fromin's
DELICATESSEN
RESTAURANT

1832 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica
(310) 829-5443
Would like to welcome
The Los Angeles Computer Society
on
Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
Visit www.fromins.com for menu and prices

A LITTLE WARNING

Often, when I log into a website, ads pop up, covering the page. Recently, I logged into a site that asks me for my ID and password. A page came up with a form to enter an ID and password, looking much like what I was expecting. As I moved the cursor to do so, I noticed that the heading at the top of the page was from an unrecognized site. I saw it in time to log out of that site to see the site I wanted to log into. Be sure to check the surroundings before entering any information.

LACS HOLIDAY PARTY

The LACS annual holiday party will be on **Saturday, January 24**, **2026 at 1:30 PM.** We will celebrate having had a good year in 2025, and looking forward to all that 2026 will offer for learning and friendship.

Please invite your spouse and any guests to join you.

**We will meet at Fromin's Deli
1832 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica
310-829-5443**
www.fromins.com **for menu**

We will have a separate area, will order off the menu, and have separate checks. Our treasurer, Gavin, may play his guitar for us. A 15% tip is minimum; you may choose more. **Please RSVP with the number of people attending before January 21 to Mark Presky or Leah Clark.**

Happy New Year to our LACS members, their families, and friends!

May the year ahead bring you smooth updates, strong connections, fewer error messages, and plenty of opportunities to learn, share, and stay curious together.

THESE AMAZING WINDOWS APPS ACTUALLY STARTED ON LINUX
And They Are All Free
By Nick Lewis
How-To Geek, December 2025

If you're looking for a few free or open-source alternatives to your conventional Windows apps, some of these options are a great place to start.

KDE Connect

Windows 11 can connect to a mobile device using Phone Link, but it requires an account, and I've never actually had great luck with it.

My favorite alternative is an app called KDE Connect, which was actually originally developed for Linux and then moved to Windows. Unlike Phone Link, it doesn't require an account. Just connect both devices to the same Wi-Fi network, install the KDE Connect app, and you're good to go.

You can control one device using the other, send and receive files, and even send texts from your PC. Because it only works over your local network, you can be confident that your data is private and secure.

File transfers are also as fast as your Wi-Fi speed, which is more useful than you might guess. I moved more than 100GB of videos off my phone onto my PC in a fraction of the time it would have taken to upload them to the cloud and redownload them, or transfer them over USB.

VLC

VLC has been available to Windows users for such a long time that everyone has forgotten, but it was originally released for Linux in 2001.

Since then, it has become a mainstay among Windows users, since it can play just about any media file without missing a beat. Like most Linux apps, it is completely free, which is a very welcome change. There are still a surprising number of paid media players out there that VLC goes toe-to-toe with. As an added perk, VLC is completely ad-free, and always has been. You don't have to worry that an accidental misclick is going to land you on some suspicious website trying to sell you a supplement.

Kdenlive

Adobe Premiere and DaVinci Resolve are probably the two most popular video editing programs for Windows users, and DaVinci Resolve even has the added benefit of being free.

However, Kdenlive, which was originally developed for Linux, is robust, capable, and remains one of my favorite apps for Windows, even though I don't use it as much as I used to.

If you're looking for an app that can do most video editing, runs on a low-power PC as well as you could reasonably ask for, and costs nothing, Kdenlive should be near the top of your list. It receives a stream of feature updates that keep it on par with the premium, paid alternatives.

Calibre

I collect all sorts of PDFs from Humble Bundle, Project Gutenberg, and many other places. Somewhere, I have a folder with the manuals for almost every PC component I've ever owned.

Calibre is a Linux app that was ported to Windows that lets you sort books by author, publisher, series, and more. You can also use Calibre to mark up the digital books much like you would a real book, Using a highlighter or a pen.

LACS INFORMATION

HOW TO JOIN LACS' MAIL LIST

LACS has an active, general email list, PC@LACS.Groups.IO, that goes to all members on the list. Members will receive meeting notices and Zoom links via this list. Members can also 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 may join the list by sending an email to Larry McDavid, Groups.IO Manager. See the roster for contact information. They will receive an invitation to join. Contact Larry with any questions about joining.

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.

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 knows 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*.

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
6201 W. 87th 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
January 2026

LACS CALENDAR

LACS Board Meeting
    Monday, January 5
    Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30)
    Place: Wherever you are via Zoom
LACS General Meeting
    Tuesday, January 13
    Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30)
    Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

January 1: New Year's Day

January 5: LACS Board Meeting

January 6: 12th Day of Christmas

January 13: LACS General Meeting

January 19: Martin Luther King Day

January 24: LACS Holiday Party

"I have a dream."

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/EVENTS

January 13: 1. Edge Browser's Secrets
2. Windows and Mac: Bridging the Gap

January 24: Holiday Party
        Froman's Deli, See page 2

February 10: TBA

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**.

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 (at) sbcglobal.net

Android Smartphones	Moxilla Firefox	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 Berkom	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.

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND LEADERS

POSITION	NAME	TERM
President	Leah Clark	2026
Vice President	Stephanie Nordlinger	2026
Acting Secretary	Stephanie Nordlinger	2026
Treasurer	Gavin Faught	2026
Director	Loling Beckman	2027
Director	Donna Barton	2027
Director	Howard Krivoy	2027
Director	Mark Presky	2027
Director	Jim McKnight	2026
Director	Paula Van Berkon	2026
Director	**Open**	2026
APCUG Representative	Leah Clark	
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger	
Database Manager	Loling Beckman	
Groups.io Manager	Larry McDavid	
Newsletter Editor	Leah Clark	
Program Chair	Stephanie Nordlinger	
Publicity	Mark Presky	
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark	
Webmaster	Paula Van Berkon	

Lacs Mailing Address: 6201 W. 87th 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 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 >.

SCAMMERS' THREE COMMON LIES

By **Leo A. Notenboom**
Confident Computing
November 2025
https://askbobrankin.com/

Scammers' favorite tricks include old lies told in new ways. I'll show you how these scams work, how to spot them before it's too late, and the simple steps you can take to protect yourself, your money, and even your identity.

It's no secret That scams are rampant and and that older folks (Which these days includes me) are being heavily targeted.

The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recently posted False alarm, real scam: how scammers are stealing older adults' life savings. It details some of the techniques scammers are using and steps you can take to stay safe.

I want to highlight some of what they said because too many people still aren't getting the message.

Lie #1: Someone is using your accounts.

This lie might start with someone pretending to be your bank, flagging so-called suspicious activity, or pretending to be Amazon with a message about an illicit purchase.

These lies are all designed to get you to react emotionally without thinking. Supposedly, something is happening to your money without your knowledge or consent.

The scam is that the contact information provided — be it via email, text message, voicemail, or any other path — leads you not to someone who can help you "fix" the issue, but rather to someone who'll scam you out of your money.

It's a lie. There was no suspicious activity or unauthorized purchase to begin with.

Lie #2: Your information is being used to commit crimes.

This lie may come from a supposed government officer or agent, warning that your Social Security number is linked to a crime like drug smuggling, money laundering, or even child pornography.

Once again, these lies are designed to scare you into acting inappropriately without thinking. In this case, rather than your money being at risk, it's *you*. The wording often threatens legal repercussions, including heavy fines or even jail time.

The scam is, once again, that the contact information provided is not to some official agency that can help you clear things up, but instead to a scammer who collects information from you and uses it to either drain your bank accounts or steal your identity, leaving you with massive debt as they open accounts and take out loans in your name.

It's a lie. There is no crime associated with your name or Social Security number.

Lie #3: There's a security problem with your computer.

This lie often starts with a fake on-screen security alert that looks like it's from Microsoft or Apple, with a number to call. If you call, they say your online accounts have been hacked.

These lies are designed to leverage the complexity of computers and your lack of knowledge about how things work under the hood.

As with the preceding lies, the contact information you're given leads not to a reputable company to help you "clean things up" but to a scammer. They take your information, including your credit card number. In some cases, they offer to take remote control of your computer to help, only to install [malicious software](#).

It's a lie. These messages or phone calls do not indicate a security issue with your computer or accounts.

Three things you can do to keep yourself and your money safe

1. Don't move money to "protect it."

Never transfer or send money to anyone, no matter who they say they are, in response to an unexpected call or message. Even if they say it's to "protect it."

Scammers can be very persuasive. They love this technique because once you "move" the money into something suggested by the scammer, of course, it's theirs. There are scams in which individuals are even convinced to purchase gold, which they then hand over for "safekeeping" to someone who turns out to be a scammer.

Never. Just… never.

2. Hang up and verify.

Hang up the phone and call the company or agency directly using a phone number or website you know is real. Don't trust what an unexpected caller says, and never use the phone number in a computer security pop-up or an unexpected text or email.

I'll emphasize that last part: **never use the contact information provided by the caller.** Also, never use Caller-ID information for validation or for call-back, as that can be easily spoofed. Look up the real number for the company or government agency that they claim to be from, and call that number yourself.

Oh, and if you threaten to hang up and they get angry, or they call back immediately, that's a very strong sign that something's amiss.

Do not engage.

3. Block unwanted calls.

Learn about your call-blocking options to stop many of these scammers before they reach you.

Honestly, that statement's not strong enough for me. Yes, do look into your call-blocking options, but don't assume that's enough. Instead:

- Don't answer calls from numbers you don't recognize.
- If it's important, they'll leave voicemail (scammers rarely do).
- You can then evaluate that voicemail without pressure.

If that voicemail leaves a callback number? If it sounds like anything we've discussed above, or you're the least bit concerned, **don't call it**. If they claim to represent a company or organization, look up the organization's number instead.

Legitimate folks don't work that way.

One of the more frequently overlooked realities of these situations is that legitimate organizations don't use the techniques we discussed above.

- Banks won't call you. If there's a problem, they just lock your accounts and assume you'll contact them.[2]

- Government agencies won't send you an email or call; you'll either get a physical letter in the mail or an officer on your doorstep.[3]

- No legitimate organization communicates via random pop-ups on your computer.

If you get contacted via email, text message, or some other digital mechanism, that contact should:

- **Not** include any callback or contact information.

- Instead, instruct you to contact them via contact methods you already have: your online account or the phone number(s) you look up yourself.

- For instance, "*Please sign in to your online account for an important message from Chase*" is probably legitimate. "*We've detected suspicious activity on your account. Please reply to this text or call us at 1-866-###-####*" is extremely suspicious, and you should *not* follow those instructions.

Do this.

I know this might seem like a lot, and in a way it is. It's a sad state of affairs that we have to be so careful. But we must. The stories of loss are heartbreaking.

If there's one simple rule, it's this: *be skeptical*.

Legitimate businesses and agencies will not mind. They might even laud your efforts to stay safe and secure.

Scammers will just get angry… and there's your sign to just hang up.

[Subscribe to Confident Computing](#)! Less frustration and more confidence, solutions, answers, and tips in your inbox every week. ❖

COLOR DISPLAYS 2025

BY **Tom Burt**, Vice-President
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
Gigabyte Gazette, December 2025

Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) color monitors and TVs have now superseded the old tube-based displays. Resolutions have become incredibly high, offering amazingly fine-detailed color images. In August 2015, I wrote about the details of how these LCD color screens operate to display the images we now take for granted. 10 years later, much of the display technology we use still operates the same way, using 24-bit color displays. However, as always, there have been advances in display technology, and prices have come down, bringing near theater-quality viewing to our home TVs and computer monitors.

An LCD display is a rectangular array of dots (pixels). Screens are characterized by the size and shape of this array. Older displays used a ratio of 4 pixels wide to 3 pixels high (4 by 3). Most displays and TVs now use the ratio 16 pixels wide by 9 high – the standard for high-definition TV. However, other ratios such as 21 by 9 are

used as well. A typical 24-inch computer display screen is 1920 pixels wide by 1080 pixels high, for a total of 2,073,600 pixels. The latest "Ultra HD / 4K" HDTVs have doubled the resolution to 3840 pixels wide by 2160 pixels high, for a total of almost 8.3 million pixels
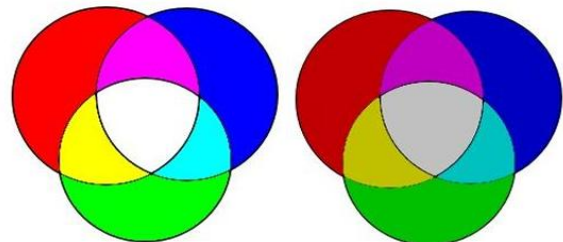

Hisense 75" U6 UHD (4K) QLED, 1 billion colors

The above image was taken from a "Black Friday" ad on Amazon. The TV shown was priced at $750. It features 4K resolution, High Dynamic Range, wide-color gamut, Quantum Dot LED technology, and an AI-based up-scaler to convert standard definition and regular HD content to the 4K resolution. Some of this technology was very expensive 10 years ago, and some had not yet come to the market. We'll elaborate on these new technologies as we go.

In the older, but still common 24-bit (3-byte) color schemes, each individual pixel of an LCD display is made up of 3 separate sub-pixels – one for each of the three primary colors: red, green, and blue. When these sub-pixels are illuminated in various intensities (from 0 to 255), that pixel can be made to display any of 16,777,216 distinct colors. So, a high-definition (1920 by 1080) LCD color screen with 24-bit color actually contains 6,220,800 individually addressable sub-pixels.

A liquid crystal sub-pixel operates like a shutter. It can be completely transparent, allowing all light from behind it to shine through or it can be completely opaque, allowing no light from behind to shine through. To illuminate the colored sub-pixels, a light source is behind the LCD matrix. In low-priced displays, this backlight comes from a pair of fluorescent lamps at the edges. In QLED displays, the backlight comes from an array of white LEDs.

An LCD sub-pixel's opacity is controlled by how much current is passing through it. In 24-bit color displays, the current level for each sub-pixel can be varied across 256 discrete levels (0-255), giving 256 possible intensity levels for each of the three colors that make up a pixel. In 30-bit color displays, the current level can be varied in 1024 discrete levels (0-1023). To the human eye, adding together combinations of red, green and blue in various intensities gives rise to the full spectrum of colors.
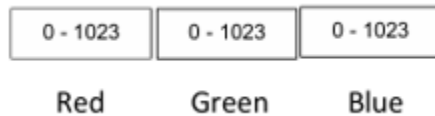

Red (255, Green (255), Blue (255)   Red (192), Green (192), Blue (192)

Above are two diagrams of the blending of colors in a 24-bit color space. The left has all three colors at their brightest level (255); the right has all three colors at 75% of their brightest level (192).

Within an LCD display device is a block of memory that is used as a display frame buffer. In 24 bit color that frame buffer has one 8-bit byte per sub-pixel (i.e. 3 bytes per pixel) allowing for an intensity range of 0 to 255 for red, green and blue for each pixel: 0 - 255 Red 0 - 255 Green 0 - 255 Blue In 30-bit color that frame buffer has one 10-bit field per sub-pixel (i.e. 4 bytes per pixel) allowing for an intensity range of 0 to 1023 for red, green and blue for each pixel:

0 - 255	0 - 255	0 - 255
Red	Green	Blue

In 30-bit color, that frame buffer has one 10-bit field per sub-pixel (i.e., 4 bytes per pixel), allowing for an intensity range of 0 to 1023 for red, green, and blue for each pixel:

0 - 1023	0 - 1023	0 - 1023
Red	Green	Blue

The actual physical format of 30-bit color data in the buffer uses a more complex packing scheme to optimize space but effectively is as shown above.

A controller chip scans this frame buffer one pixel at a time and drives the current flows to the screen's 6.2 million (HD) or 25 million (4K) sub-pixel elements to control their opacity. On the LCD screen you see the entire colored image with a range of 16.8 million or 1 billion colors. The entire display is typically refreshed (re-scanned) 60 or 120 times a second, though higher refresh rates are often found in monitors for gaming.

High Dynamic Range and Wide Color Gamut

Most new HDTVs and many computer monitors now use the 30-bit color scheme which allows for 4 times as many red, green, blue color levels.

In conjunction with separately controlled mini LED backlighting, black pixels can be made blacker and white pixels can be made brighter. Putting these together allows the LCD display to show much more vivid colors and subtler interplay of light and shadow.

Above is an example of the difference between a standard HD picture (left) and one displayed with high dynamic range and wide color (right). ❖

NEW YEAR COMPUTER TRIVIA
By **ChatGPT**

- In tech terms, January is basically "Version 2026.0" of your life.
- Just like your PC, sometimes all we need for the New Year is a good reboot—coffee optional.
- The Year 2000 bug taught us that even small shortcuts can cause big headaches—good advice for tech *and* life.
- January 1st is when most people finally install the Windows updates they postponed since July.
- Early personal computers often had less memory than a single modern digital photo.

These Amazing Windows Apps Actually Started on Linux

Continued from page 7

I find the ability to annotate things I want to come back to particularly handy.

GIT

[Git](#) doesn't get much glory, but it is the unsung hero of the programming world. For many people, it is just one of those things at the beginning of a command you're pasting when following instructions online.

The reality is different. A huge percent of the programming world relies on Git. Git is a "version control system" for developers, which basically lets you keep track of all the changes they make while writing code. You can manage different branches, adjust the structure of a project, synchronize changes, and do anything else you might need to do.

I don't write large bits of code much anymore, but when I do, Git is something I can't do without. It helps keep me on track and keeps my sanity intact when attempting to figure out what happened between different versions of some code I've written.

Popular websites like [GitHub](#) and Source-Forge act as repositories that you can interface with using Git, so you can store your coding projects on the cloud to ensure they're safe, or to make them easily accessible to others.

Despite being very different operating systems, a surprising number of Linux apps also have Windows versions available. If you see one recommended on the internet that strikes you as interesting, don't dismiss it as "Just a Linux app." You may be pleasantly surprised to find it also has a Windows client, too.❖

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)
From APCUG2.org
https://apcug2.org/artificial-intelligence-ai/

I'M A WRITER AND CREATIVE; THESE ARE THE AI TOOLS I ACTUALLY USE

by **Cianna Garrison,**

I didn't use AI tools until someone told me, as a writer and creative, I should learn to work alongside them. Since embracing AI, I've enhanced my workflow, boosted my creativity, and optimized my time. If you are just getting into using AI to help you with your articles and don't know how AI works, this is a must-read article (Judy). Read about the tools she uses daily at https://www.howtogeek.com/author/ciannagarrison/

WHY I PREFER EDITING MY PHOTOS WITH AI TOOLS
By **Jayric Maning**, MakeUseOf

People still dismiss AI as a shortcut or crutch in photo editing, but Jayric has found it very useful. While some prefer a hands-on approach, he has a couple of reasons why he's come to rely on AI tools. Using AI photo-editing tools allows you to streamline the photo-editing process by analyzing your images and providing recommendations, and other time-saving features such as auto adjustment and auto mask. The output will need further refinement, but overall, he finds it saves him more time than doing everything manually. If you've been hesitant about trying AI for editing, give it a shot. Like Jayric, you may find yourself reaching for AI tools whenever you want to enhance or transform your photos. https://tinyurl.com/yc8rk6tk ❖

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 on books, media, and training sites, including these:

- **Pearson / Que / Informit / Sams Program – 35% Discount**
Contact: community@informit.com
Enroll in the program at http://bit.ly/2dK4L for well-known Pearson technology brands, including Addison-Wesley Professional, Cisco Press Exam Cram, IBM Press, Prentice Hall Professional, Que Publishing, and Sams Publishing.

- **Take Control Books – Apple and Windows eBooks**
Use the form at https://apcug2.org/contact-us/ to request the discount code.
Subject – General
Body of form – Name of your computer club and discount code.

LAUGHING OUT LOUD

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TECH LIFE UNITY (TechBoomers)
https://www.techlifeunity.com
For learning how to use internet-based websites and applications for free.

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

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

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. 87th 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

Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip +4

Email Address: Email of Associate

Preferred Phone: Publish Contact Info in the roster [ ] Yes [ ] No

To Contact in Case of an Emergency: Name: _____

    Phone: _____   Email: _____

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 Mall

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 .

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 while you are gone.