



# The Rochester Computer Society, Inc. a computer/tech club open to everyone

## Our Club

RCSI is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) group open for membership to anyone interested in computers and new technology. Established in 1981, our aim is to provide an exchange of information between users of digital devices. We are not in any way affiliated with any computer manufacturer or software company, and ***we do not sell your data or email address.***

## Program Meetings

**No admission fee for non-members. Everyone is welcome!** Second Tuesday of every month, ***except July and August***, from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Help's Half Hour (Q & A) 6:30pm – 7:00pm. *Members and Guests are welcome to attend and bring their computer related questions with them to get answered. Yes, you may bring the problem computer with you.*

7:00 – 7:15, Club Business

7:15 – 8:30+, Main Presentation  
Come and join in the fun and enjoy a snack! **You are welcome to bring a guest.**

## Become a Member

The club would like to have you as a member, and your subscription will help to keep us going. Go to our website, [www.rcsi.org](http://www.rcsi.org), and download a printed form for use by the Post Office mail, **or** enter your info online and pay with a credit card or PayPal, **or** attend a meeting.



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**Sept 12, 'High-Speed Rail in US', 'Pcloud', 'Free Software', videos by Tony Dellelo**

**Oct 10, 'Cybersecurity from A to Z - 2023', annual security presentation by Bob Gosticha, via Zoom**

**Nov 14, 'Youtube, an Introduction', by Rob Truman, via Zoom**

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## Kretchmar's Korner

### The Russians are Coming

David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician  
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine grinds on, it becomes increasingly likely that Russia will intensify cyberattacks on perceived enemies, especially the United States. As a result, at least one major federal agency is no longer allowing employees to use any USB devices on their government computers. The ability to read/write optical media, CDs, and DVDs, has been completely cut off.

Ironically, the federal government is addressing the least likely avenue a cyber attacker is likely to use to install malware on their systems. The threat is most likely to manifest via an email containing a link to a site that will download a virus to an unsuspecting user's



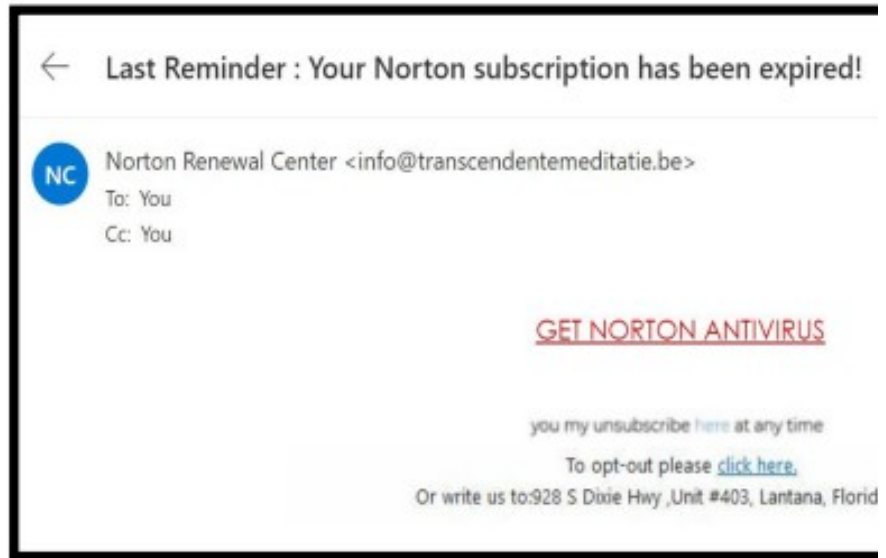
“Your Computer User Group of the Air”, Saturdays from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, with Nick Francesco, Dave Enright, and Steve Rae. Broadcasting on JAZZ 90.1 FM (WGMC) from Rochester, NY. Call 966-JAZZ (585-966-5299) or 800-790-0415, [www.jazz901.org](http://www.jazz901.org)  
*Sound Bytes is the longest running computer call-in show in the known universe.*

**We have stopped printing the Monitor newsletter.** Digital copies can be emailed or obtained from [www.rcsi.org](http://www.rcsi.org) or my Pcloud storage at <https://tinyurl.com/tonydel-rcsi> (this link works in PDF version only). Also includes presentation slides, **past newsletters dating back to 1996** and articles too large for this newsletter.

- Some Past Presentations:**
- Autonomous Cars and Robots
  - Open Source and Free Software
  - Protecting Your Identity
  - Tablets, the Programs and Uses
  - Personal Finance Software
  - Amazing Browser Tips
  - Linux is Like Cars
  - Drones and Their Many Uses
  - Gifts and Gadgets for the Holidays
  - Cut the Cord, Streaming Services
  - 3D Printing, ENABLE project
  - Features, Mac OS X & Windows
  - The New Space Race, 2021
  - Tech of South America
  - Internet Security and Privacy
  - AI and Digital Assistants
  - Emerging Technologies
  - My Favorite Android Apps

computer. The U.S. government does attach a warning to each email received outside the government domain. These warnings are unnecessary on your home computer, not because the threat is not real, but because ALL of the emails you receive comes from outside of your system. And it is almost certain this is the vector hackers will try to use to infect your system. Based on experience, I can safely predict that an infected email arriving in your Inbox will appear to be either from a trusted friend or a business entity with which you might have had some business.

Here is an example; this is an email I received recently:



For at least 20 years, I have not run Norton Antivirus on any computer I have owned; this email was obviously a fake and most likely an attempt to compromise my system. An obvious clue is the sending address: "info@transcendentemeditatie.be." In addition to the not-very-professional sounding name, the sender is obviously based out of Belgium (.be is the internet country code top-level domain (ccTLD) for Belgium.) I happen to know that Norton is based in Mountain View, California. Another term for the activity represented by this type of email is phishing. Phishing is still the world's most common cyber threat. It is estimated three billion fraudulent emails are sent out every day in an attempt to compromise sensitive information. In 2022, according to CyberTalk.org, 30% of phishing email recipients clicked on the malicious link.

**APCUG**, An International  
Association of Technology and  
Computer User Groups  
<https://apcug2.org/>

**Saturday Safaris**  
Exploring Technology in Depth  
**Saturdays:**  
12 pm – 2 pm EST

[https://apcug2.org/  
saturday-safaris/](https://apcug2.org/saturday-safaris/)

**Tech for Seniors**  
[https://  
www.techforsenior.com](https://www.techforsenior.com)  
hosted by Ron Brown  
and Hewie Poplock  
Every Monday from 9-10 AM PT,  
(12-1 PM ET)  
Broadcast with Zoom  
The meeting ID is **526-610-331**  
(there is no password) and you'll  
be placed in a waiting room and  
then admitted.

# # #

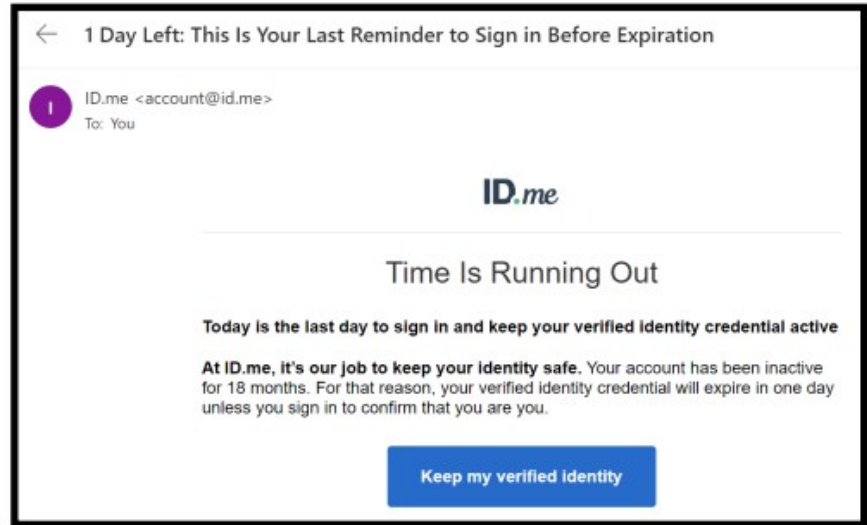
**APCUG Website Help**  
Windows & Android Tips:  
By Judy Taylour  
[https://apcug2.org/  
jerestips/](https://apcug2.org/jerestips/)

Apple Tech Tips:  
[https://apcug2.org/50-best-  
mac-tips-tricks-timesavers/](https://apcug2.org/50-best-mac-tips-tricks-timesavers/)

Penguin Platform (Linux):  
[https://apcug2.org/  
penguin-platform/](https://apcug2.org/penguin-platform/)

Chromebook Tips And Tricks:  
[https://apcug2.org/  
chromebook-tips-and-  
tricks/](https://apcug2.org/chromebook-tips-and-tricks/)

Here is another example, also from my Inbox:



This was easy for me to spot since I do not use ID.me. However, this was a more sophisticated attempt since the ID.me sending address was spoofed. I could see this was not the actual sending address by hovering my mouse cursor over the address, NOT CLICKING.

You are most likely to be fooled by an email that appears to be sent from a trusted friend, as I was several years ago. My friend's computer had been compromised, and the virus perpetuated itself by invading my friend's contact list and sending infected emails to all his contacts. Be aware that the risk you will be exposed to malware infection is higher than it has ever been before. If you have any doubts about clicking on a link in any email message, don't do it.

Reprinted from the <https://www.scscclb.com>, [dkretch@mail.com](mailto:dkretch@mail.com).

**Are You Ready for Your House to Burn Down?**

**It's not a pleasant thought, but you should plan ahead.**

by Leo Notenboom, <https://askleo.com/>  
Making Technology Work For Everyone

What happens to all your carefully backed up data if your house burns down?

Backing up is important, and good on you if you're doing it.

The problem, of course, is that you may not have backed up "enough" — or rather, you haven't backed up far enough away. It's too common for everything in a home to be destroyed all together all at once.



## RCSI Board Members

President:

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### Got Questions?:

Windows: . . . . . Arpad Kovacs  
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Linux & some Mac: . . . . .  
Carl Schmidtman  
[unixgeek@faultline.com](mailto:unixgeek@faultline.com)

### Planning Meeting

Held on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, \* \* ONLINE \* \*. We will be using [Jitsi Meet](#). ANY CLUB MEMBER MAY ATTEND.

### Monitor Newsletter

The Monitor is published monthly by members of RCSI. Articles by our members may be reprinted by other user groups or nonprofits, without special permission. A courtesy copy may be emailed to the author or Monitor editor. Limited copies (probably in black and white) will be printed and available at our meetings.

### Club Mailing Address

Rochester Computer Society, Inc  
PO Box 18516  
Rochester, NY 14618

### Preparing for the worst

Backing up your data is important, but it's not enough. You should also store backups in an off-site location such as a cloud service or a second physical location.

### Backing up

In an article entitled "[Are You Ready for Your Computer to be Stolen?](#)" I discuss the needs for not only backing up but encrypting your sensitive data. Losing it is one thing, but having sensitive personal data in the hands of a thief is just as scary, if not more so.

So by now, you're backing up regularly and keeping those backups in a safe place, right? Like I said, good on you. You're ahead of the majority of computer users.

But that safe place: is it in your house? In the same structure as your computer?

What happens to all those backups and those computers should your house burn to the ground? Or a flood damages everything? Or a mudslide buries it in goo?

### Backing up isn't enough

You need to store copies of your backups off-site. — somewhere physically different than your business or computer's location. That way if the worst happens, you still have your data safely backed up.

Somewhere else.

It doesn't have to be hard. For years, my wife ran a retail business where I also maintained the computer equipment. I purchased two identical external drives — one for home and one for the business. Each night, data was backed up to those drives.

Then every so often, I'd swap the drives.

That way not only was my home data backed up off-site at the store, but the store's data was also backed up off-site here at home.

### It's gotten easier

Today, I don't do that. Not only is [my wife's business](#) long gone, but there are more effective alternatives.

Services like OneDrive, Dropbox, Google Drive, and many others provide online [cloud](#) storage that, while not marketed as such, are perfect off-site [backup](#) solutions. Not only is your information stored on their servers (often in multiple data centers around the world), but you can also set it up to happen almost automatically by simply saving your files in the corresponding folders on your machine.

Cloud services aren't a solution for full-image backups due to the sheer size of those images, but they're a perfect addition to your overall backup strategy.

### Greater distance means greater protection

Offsite backup is at the extreme end of an interesting rule of thumb when it comes to backups. The further your backup is away from the original, the greater the protection it provides.

## Tidbits of probably useless information

I did not verify any of these.

### Did you know:

The opposite sides of a die will always add up to seven.

Playing dance music can help ward off mosquitoes.

A group of hippos is called a "bloat."

Alaska is the only state whose name is on one row on a keyboard.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time—and a very short one at that. Sometime during the late 18th or early 19th centuries, scientist **Gilbert Newton Lewis** defined a jiffy as the amount of time it takes light to travel one centimeter in a vacuum, which is about 33.4 picoseconds or one trillionth of a second.

Dragonflies have six legs but can't walk. Their legs are too weak for them to walk on for lengthy amounts of time.

As they say, an apple a day keeps the doctor away—unless you eat too many apple seeds, that is. The tiny black seeds found in the fruit contain a plant compound called amygdalin that turns into hydrogen cyanide if the seeds are chewed or digested, according to Medical News Today.

Bone is extraordinarily strong—ounce for ounce, bone is stronger than steel. A cubic inch of bone can in principle, bear a load of 19,000 lbs. making it about four times as strong as concrete.

- A backup copy of a file on the same hard drive in your machine protects from accidental modifications and deletion.
- A backup copy on a separate internal drive protects from that plus many types of drive failure.
- A backup copy on an external drive protects from that plus most types of machine failure.
- A backup copy on a completely different machine in your home protects against all that plus problems that could affect both machine and all connected drives, such as [malware](#) or power issues.
- A backup copy stored in another physical location, including the cloud, protects from everything above, plus a complete loss of all equipment in your home.

It's not pleasant to think about, I get that, but it doesn't have to be difficult to set up, and you can be protected from the worst.

### Do this

Consider your backup strategy. Either use cloud synchronization tools like OneDrive, Dropbox, or similar, or another solution of your own devising, but ensure that you're appropriately prepared to recover from the worst. Hopefully, you'll never have to.

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

### END OF ARTICLE ###

\*\*\*\*\* SOFTWARE and HARDWARE \*\*\*\*\*

## Learning Technology Today

Jim Cerny, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Education Chair  
Forums Coordinator  
Sarasota Technology Users Group

In the ancient computer days, ten or so years ago, learning technology was very different than it is today. Before the dreaded COVID days of isolation, classroom settings were very popular for learning technology. Classrooms had individual computers, and the subjects were on general and basic topics everyone needed to learn. Most people then purchased their own computers for the first time and needed to know how to use them. Do you remember having to learn how to use a mouse? How about changing the size of a window on your screen or searching the Internet? In those days, these things were new to most people. Now technology training (not just "computer classes") has dramatically changed.

The big jump off the cliff into something new in learning was the massive changes that COVID brought about. You know the story – training went to online classes, and in-person meetings were all but eliminated. Now that the COVID epidemic is over, have we returned to "normal" learning? I think not. Many of these changes will remain with us. So how do we adapt, and what do the "tech learning classes" look like today and in the future?

**WAIT, WHAT? 5 AMAZING THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR PHONE CAN DO**

– Remember when a cell phone was for calls and a round or two of Snake? Today's phones are pro-grade cameras, PDF scanners and even car keys.

Kim Komando keeps a digital copy of her driver's license on the phone because it's just so handy. Here's how to do that. Paying with your phone is so easy, too. Late to the party? **I have a guide on setting that up.**

There's a ton more your phone can do. Many of these functions are found in the accessibility settings. Developers create them for people who need extra assistance using their phones – but they're handy for just about anyone. [Beyond the basics: 5 incredible iPhone and Android features \(komando.com\)](#)

**I CAN'T IMAGINE USING WINDOWS WITHOUT THE EVERYTHING APP**

– There are very few apps Jason Fitzpatrick, How-To-Geek, can't imagine life without, but at the top of that short list is Everything. He has used it for over a decade, and it's an integral part of his Windows experience.

[Can't Imagine Using Windows Without the Everything App \(howtogeek.com\)](#)

I advise searching the Internet for the specific training you want or need. Here's why:

1. More and more everyday devices will use more and more technology – refrigerators, cars, TVs, doorbells, and toilets. Can you imagine attending a class on how to use your refrigerator? No, I can't either, no matter how cool it would be! If there was a class, how many attending would have the same refrigerator with the same controls or options?
2. There are too many options, and no one uses all of them. I am still learning my car's options and have been driving it for four years! A word-processor app like Word has options I am not even aware of and will probably not use anyway but may be very useful for a few people.
3. Use of multiple devices – cell phones, TV adaptors, tablets, laptops, etc. Now you can get your email, watch a movie, or do your banking on different devices –each one will have a slightly different way of doing the same thing. Likewise, teaching even the same topic or app can be used differently on other devices.
4. We tend to have specific needs from our technology. Do any of these questions sound familiar? -- "How do I put text on a photo?", "How do I read my email on my cell phone?" or "How do I get the sports channel I want on my TV?". Our needs and wants are now getting much more specific. A class on a specific topic and device would be attended by only a few people wanting that specific knowledge.
5. We don't want to waste time learning things we will probably not use or already know. In any class, people come with different and unequal levels of experience and knowledge.
6. People are used to "convenience learning" when they have time and do not have to travel. Many colleges provide "at home" learning using the Internet.

All this is to say that the Internet is probably the best source for learning a specific task for a particular device. Ask Google, "How do I ..." and be very specific. Enter the name, model, and year of your car, the make and model of your refrigerator, or your phone or tablet. Google loves specificity. Demonstration videos and text instructions will magically appear for you on any topic. It is truly a learning gold mine of knowledge – give it a try!

From the <https://thestug.org/> , [jimcerny123@gmail.com](mailto:jimcerny123@gmail.com).

## Scams

From the [www.consumerfraudreporting.org/](http://www.consumerfraudreporting.org/)

### **Phone scams**

This includes telemarketers violating the [Do Not Call list](#), Robodialers, scammers calling up pretending to be from a bank or credit card company. The National Do Not Call Registry (U.S.) or the National Do Not Call List (Canada) offer consumers a free way to reduce telemarketing calls. Scammers call anyway, of course, and they've even found a way to scam consumers by pretending to be a government official calling to sign you up or confirming your previous participation on the Do Not call list! A good example of this is the ["Your Microsoft license key has expired" scam call](#) - which you can hear and read about on this page. [Medicare scam text messages](#).

**Scam Text Messages** - It looks like a text alert from your bank, asking you to confirm information or 'reactivate your debit card' by following a link on your smart phone. But it is just a way to steal personal information.

### **Loans Scams / Credit Fixers**

False promises of business or personal loans, even if credit is bad, for a fee upfront. Or a scam that promises to repair your credit for a fee.

### **Recovery/Refund Companies**

A scammer contacts and claims you owe money on a debt or the scammer offers to recover money lost in a previous scam.

The **APCUG Wednesday Workshops (WW)** presentations have received high praise from attendees and presenters. Both have enjoyed the Zoom meeting format instead of the VTC Webinar presentations. With the WWs, cameras are an option for everyone. The presenters like seeing the many people attending the workshop and having more time to answer Chatbox questions since more questions can be answered live without a time limit. WWs have either an in-depth two-hour presentation by a single presenter, a panel of presenters, or two presentations with open mic Q&A following the presentations. Everyone likes the biggest feature where the mics are open for general questions, comments, and sometimes socializing. We have people that attend just about every workshop, even from Australia. We've become a Wednesday family. **9 am PT, 10 am MT, 11 am CT, 12 noon ET** Typically, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays are for Windows or ??? workshops, and the Linux workshop is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

## Use StoryGraph to Find the Books You Want to Read

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor  
Central Kentucky Computer Society

If you're constantly searching for a good book, you might want to check out a new app called StoryGraph. It's a competitor to Amazon-owned Goodreads. <https://www.thestorygraph.com>

StoryGraph's slogan: Because life's too short for a book you're not in the mood for.

StoryGraph is available through the Mac App Store, for Windows PCs, through the App Store for Apple's Mobile devices, and via Google Play for Android devices. You can also log into the website and use it instead of the app.

Desktop App details for Mac and Windows  
(Mac version available through the Mac App Store; )  
<https://webcatalog.io/apps/the-storygraph/>

iOS and iPad OS details (download through the App Store)  
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/storygraph-reading-tracker/id1570489264>

Android App details (download through Google Play)  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thestorygraph.thestorygraph&gl=US>

StoryGraph tracks your reading and helps you choose your next book based on your mood, favorite topics, and themes.

One of the neatest features is seeing how your reading changes over time and using the StoryGraph app or website to help you pick better books. StoryGraph will show you a graph revealing the number of books you've read, the number of pages, the "moods" of books, how fast you read the book, and other interesting facts.

## Virtual Tours

**Niagara Falls, Canada** – see live video feeds of these world famous falls on EarthCam.

**The Northern Lights, Canada** – another great live webcam to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights. Remember to watch this in the evening Canadian time.

**Mount St Helens, USA** – travel back in time and witness the day Mount St Helens erupted back in 1980.

**Sahara Desert, Africa** – explore the world’s largest desert without getting sand in your eyes.

**Victoria Falls, Zambia** – a magnificent virtual tour of the world’s largest waterfall.

**Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, USA** – one of our favorite virtual tours from the whole list. Not only is it mesmerizing, but you can also learn so many interesting facts on this tour.

**Mount Everest, Himalayas** – the only way to trek the world’s highest mountain without training is going on this virtual tour. Remember to click on the arrows to explore around.

**Grand Canyon, USA** – enjoy a virtual hike and explore one of the most famous national parks in the USA.

**Yellowstone National Park, USA** – a nature lover’s paradise. Make sure you use Google Chrome for this tour.

9to5Mac’s Lauren Rosenberg began using StoryGraph after she was frustrated with the Goodreads App and its limited functionality:

As a devoted reader and someone who has been a member of the Goodreads community since 2013, I have found myself consistently frustrated with the app, especially in recent years, for everything that Goodreads doesn’t do and doesn’t offer. Aside from the fact that the app has barely updated since its inception – making for an antiquated user experience – some palpable misses would help me better understand what kind of reader I am and, perhaps, what type of reader I want to be. It’s within this space that The StoryGraph shines.

Rosenberg adds:

In addition to taking its user wants into the app’s development, The StoryGraph also gives much-needed space to independent authors. Cofounder Rob Frelow:

Suppose today you’re interested in a dark murder mystery set deep in the woods featuring a kidnapping, and tomorrow you’re in the mood for an emotional but funny romantic comedy set in a big city. In that case, you can find that on The StoryGraph.

You aren’t stuck by your old ratings or past preferences. You won’t see any ‘promoted’ books, which indie authors can typically never afford. You have complete control.

She adds that StoryGraph allows you to:

- Rate, review, and track books
- Engage in a “Buddy Read” with someone in your community
- Keep a reading journal
- Enter book giveaways
- Set reading goals by the number of books, pages, or hours
- Browse book recommendations by mood, pace, type, or page number
- View personalized analytics

Read the full 9to5Mac article:

<https://9to5mac.com/2022/11/21/finally-a-formidable-response-to-amazon-owned-goodreads-introducing-the-storygraph/>

From the Central Kentucky Computer Society, <https://ckcs.org/>, [lextown2@gmail.com](mailto:lextown2@gmail.com).



## Interesting Internet Finds

by Steve Costello  
[scostello@sefcug.com](mailto:scostello@sefcug.com)

### **How to Change Name on Zoom on PC or Mac**

<https://www.groovy/post.com/howto/change-name-on-zoom>

Do you Zoom? If so, did you know you can change your name? Check out this post to learn how to change your name on Zoom.

### **Faster And Safer Internet? Here's How...**

[https://askbobrankin.com/faster\\_and\\_safer\\_internet\\_heres\\_how.html](https://askbobrankin.com/faster_and_safer_internet_heres_how.html)

Do you want to know how to have faster and safer internet? I am sure you do, so check out this post from Bob Rankin. I have done this on PCs, Linux, and Android devices for years.

### **Share What You Want!**

<https://cynmackley.com/2022/10/24/share-what-you-want/>

Sometimes I want to only link to a specific part of a story. Now thanks to Cyn Mackley's post. I know how to do it. (Note: I have tested this, and it works with Google Chrome and Vivaldi but not Firefox. I found and am using the "Link to Text Fragment" add-on for Firefox.)

### **Why Don't We Have World's Fairs Anymore?**

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/posts/why-dont-we-have-world-fairs-anymore/>

I was intrigued when I started reading this post.

**Editor's Note:** To continue reading the following articles, you may copy the long URL at the end of the article and enter it into a web browser **or** click on the URL in the PDF or web versions of this newsletter.

## AI Is Building Highly Effective Antibodies That Humans Can't Even Imagine

[Amit Katwala](#), August 9, 2023

Robots, computers, and algorithms are hunting for potential new therapies in ways humans can't—by processing huge volumes of data and building previously unimagined molecules.

At an old biscuit factory in South London, giant mixers and industrial ovens have been replaced by robotic arms, incubators, and DNA sequencing machines. James Field and his company [LabGenius](#) aren't making sweet treats; they're cooking up a revolutionary, AI-powered approach to engineering new medical antibodies.

In nature, antibodies are the body's response to disease and serve as the immune system's front-line troops. They're strands of protein that are specially shaped to stick to foreign invaders so that they can be flushed from the system. Since the 1980s, pharmaceutical companies have been making synthetic antibodies to treat diseases like cancer, and to reduce the chance of transplanted organs being rejected.

But designing these antibodies is a slow process for humans—protein designers must wade through the millions of potential combinations of amino acids to find the ones that will fold together in exactly the right way, and then test them all experimentally, tweaking some variables to improve some characteristics of the treatment while hoping that doesn't make it worse in other ways. "If you want to create a new therapeutic antibody, somewhere in this infinite space of potential molecules sits the molecule you want to find," says James Field, founder and CEO of LabGenius.

He started the company in 2012 when, while studying for a PhD in synthetic biology at Imperial College London, he saw the costs of DNA sequencing, computation, and robotics all coming down. LabGenius makes use of all three to largely automate the antibody discovery process. At the lab in Bermondsey, a machine learning algorithm designs antibodies to target specific diseases, and then automated robotic systems build and grow them in the lab, run tests, and feed the data back into the algorithm, all with limited human supervision. There are rooms for culturing diseased cells, growing antibodies, and sequencing their DNA: Technicians in lab coats prepare samples and tap away at computers as machines whir in the background.

*This article appears in the September/October 2023 edition of WIRED UK magazine.*

Continue the article at [https://www.wired.com/story/labgenius-antibody-factory-machine-learning/#intcid=wired-verso-hp-trending\\_e6cfaof7-36b2-49a4-bb2a-58c6267c1foo\\_popular4-1](https://www.wired.com/story/labgenius-antibody-factory-machine-learning/#intcid=wired-verso-hp-trending_e6cfaof7-36b2-49a4-bb2a-58c6267c1foo_popular4-1).

**\* \* Jokes & Quotes Stolen  
from Everywhere \* \***

*Last month I typed in the words 'cat jokes'. This time I typed the words 'dog jokes'.*

Why aren't dogs good dancers?  
Because they have two left feet!

How do dog catchers get paid?  
By the pound!

Where do dogs go after their tails fall off? The re-tail store.

What kind of construction are dogs best at? Roofing.

I almost kicked my dog out, but we renegotiated the terms of his leash.

Have you heard about the new dog movie? It's called Jurassic Bark.

The Dalmatian was hiding because he didn't want to be spotted.

My dog's not fat. He's just a little husky.

What dog does Dracula own? A blood-hound.

Dachshunds always nap in the shade because they don't like being hot dogs.

My favorite vegetable is collie-flour!

What do you call a dog magician? A Labracadabrador.

My dog's favorite band is The Beagles.

Unleashing all kinds of joy this season!

Happy Howlidays!

Dear Santa Paws, I have been a very good puppy this year.

**Norway Fines Meta 1 MILLION Crowns Per Day Over Data Harvesting for Behavioural Ads**

Facebook's behavioural advertising has enraged European regulators, August 8, 2023

Meta's litany of European privacy sanctions in 2023 just got a little longer. After a [€390mn](#) fine for illegal personalised ads, another [€5.5mn](#) hit for similar violations in WhatsApp, and a GDPR record [€1.2bn](#) for unsafe data transfers, this week yet another punishment arrived — and the sentence did not disappoint.

NOTE: The **General Data Protection Regulation** is a European Union regulation on Information privacy in the European Union and the European Economic Area.

Norwegian regulators have demanded a gloriously round figure that would make Dr Evil proud: 1 MILLION crowns (€89,000) *per day*. The penalties are due to begin on August 14, but Meta wants a temporary injunction against the order, Reuters [reports](#).

The ruling follows [news](#) last month that Norway will temporarily ban behavioural ads on [Facebook](#) and Instagram over [privacy](#) breaches. At the time, the country's data protection authority, Datatilsynet, warned that Meta would also be fined if it didn't address the violations.

The regulator cited various risks of using online behaviour for ad targeting, from fuelling discrimination to undermining democracy.

"Invasive commercial surveillance for marketing purposes is one of the biggest risks to data protection on the Internet today. Users must have sufficient control over their own data, and any tracking must be limited," Tobias Judin, head of Datatilsynet's International Sector, said in a statement.

Check it out at <https://thenextweb.com/news/norway-fines-meta-privacy-violations-behavioural-advertising-ad-targeting-facebook>.

**EDITORS NOTE:**

The EU General Data Protection Regulation has fundamentally transformed how businesses handle personal data. Any company that does not follow these new norms face [severe fines](#), potentially up to €20 million or 4% of annual global revenue, depending on the severity and circumstances of the violation. In other words, GDPR compliance is not optional.

While the GDPR is an EU law, it applies to any company that makes its website or services available to EU citizens, including US companies. Our GDPR compliance checklist for US companies is meant to complement our general GDPR checklist and clarify what a US company's responsibilities are under the GDPR.

Read about the EU compliance regulations at <https://gdpr.eu/compliance/>.

## Odds and Ends

### Portable and Radiation-Free Imaging with Magnetic Nanoparticles



Researchers at the University of Würzburg in Germany have developed a portable scanner that is the first to be able to image humans using Magnetic Particle Imaging (MPI). The technology could provide a radiation-free alternative to techniques such as X-ray fluoroscopy and digital subtraction angiography for minimally invasive endovascular procedures, and is well suited for viewing processes such as blood flow. Previous inceptions of MPI technology were too large and expensive and were primarily designed for use in experimental animals. This is the first version of the technology that is small enough for portability and it has been designed for human patients. The procedure involves administering magnetic nanoparticles to the patient, and then the scanner measures changes in their response to a magnetic field over time to visualize internal processes in the body.

Found on <https://www.medgadget.com/2023/08/portable-and-radiation-free-imaging-with-magnetic-nanoparticles.html>.

## How Brightline is Changing Passenger Rail in the U.S.

By [Liam Mays](#), [Jeniece Pettitt@Jeniecep](mailto:JeniecePettitt@Jeniecep)

When it comes to passenger rail in the the U.S., Americans have one option — Amtrak, which is often plagued with [high ticket prices](#) and delays. But one Florida-based company is working on changing that. Brightline, which is owned by Fortress Investment Group, thinks that privatized passenger rail in the U.S. could be a better way.

Brightline opened a line from Miami to West Palm Beach in 2018. It was the first privately funded passenger rail built in the U.S. in over 100 years. It will open up an expansion line to Orlando in late August. The total project cost \$6 billion, according to Brightline.

“When you look at all the city pairs that exist, the places around the country that would be attractive to you, Miami to Orlando jumps off the top of the page,” said Wes Edens, co-founder and principal of Fortress Investment Group and the mastermind behind Brightline. “It’s kind of a lousy drive between them. It’s this 230 mile trip between the two places with lots and lots of trouble in between.”

Brightline is also making strides to create the first dedicated [high-speed passenger rail line](#) in the U.S. connecting Los Angeles to Las Vegas. It’s hoping to break ground later this year. Brightline is aiming to finish the line before the LA 2028 Olympics.

“We are planning to make our project, as I call it, the blueprint for America’s high-speed rail industry. And so what that means is we are building in America, we are utilizing American union labor, and we’ll create about 35,000 construction related jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs that are localized within the region that we’re building in,” said Sarah Watterson, president of Brightline West.

Visit the website and check out the videos at

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/04/how-brightline-is-changing-passenger-rail-in-the-us.html>.

EDITOR’S Note: California is currently building the nations first high speed rail system through the Central Valley region, but has become a slow process.

## Rethinking Sound in Space: Physicists Demonstrate How Sound Can Cross the Vacuum

By University of Jyväskylä, Finland

The iconic movie *Alien* once claimed: “In space, no one can hear you scream.” However, physicists Zhuoran Geng and Ilari Maasilta from the Nanoscience Center at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, beg to differ. Their recent research suggests that under specific conditions, sound can indeed be transmitted powerfully across a vacuum.

Their findings, published recently in the journal *Communications Physics*, reveal that in certain scenarios, sound waves can “tunnel” through a vacuum gap between two solid objects, provided those objects are piezoelectric. These particular materials generate an electrical response when subjected to sound waves or vibrations. Given that an electric field can be present in a vacuum, it can effectively carry these sound waves across.

“In most cases the effect is small, but we also found situations, where the full energy of the wave jumps across the vacuum with 100 % efficiency, without any reflections. As such, the phenomenon could find applications in microelectromechanical components (MEMS, smartphone technology) and in the control of heat,” says Professor Ilari Maasilta from the Nanoscience Center at the University of Jyväskylä.

This was found at <https://scitechdaily.com/rethinking-sound-in-space-physicists-demonstrate-how-sound-can-cross-the-vacuum/>.

## Club and Regional News

### [New technique may help achieve mass production fusion energy](#)

University of Rochester, July 10, 2023

#### **Dynamic shell formation has been demonstrated experimentally for the first time at the University of Rochester’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics.**

Fusion, which replicates the same reaction that powers the sun, has long been viewed as an ideal energy source due to its potential to be safe, clean, cheap, and reliable. Since the early 1960s, scientists have pursued the possibility of using high-powered lasers to compress thermonuclear material long enough and at high enough temperatures to trigger ignition—the point at which the resultant output of inertial fusion energy is greater than the energy delivered to the target.

Scientists achieved ignition in December 2022 at the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, but many hurdles remain in making fusion energy technically and commercially viable for mass production and consumption.

#### **Dynamic shell formation: more feasible, less costly**

Dynamic shell formation is an alternative method to create targets in which a liquid droplet of deuterium and tritium is injected into a foam capsule. When bombarded by laser pulses, the capsule develops into a spherical shell, then implodes and collapses, resulting in ignition. Dynamic shell formation does not require the costly cryogenic layering that conventional methods of generating inertial fusion energy employ, because it uses liquid targets. These targets will also be easier to make.

Researchers at the [University of Rochester’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics](#) (LLE) have, for the first time, experimentally demonstrated a method called dynamic shell formation, which may help achieve the goal of creating a fusion power plant. The researchers, including Igor Igumenshchev, a senior scientist at LLE, and [Valeri Goncharov](#), a distinguished scientist and theory division director at LLE and an assistant professor (research) in the [Department of Mechanical Engineering](#), discuss their findings in a [paper](#) published in *Physical Review Letters*.

I found this at <https://www.rochester.edu/newscenter/dynamic-shell-formation-mass-production-fusion-energy-563262/>.

### **Got Questions?**

Send an email to either person below and they will get back to you. The questions can be related to the OS (Operating System) or hardware related issues. Please give them time for a response, as they do this service on a volunteer basis. Thank you.

Windows OS: . . . . . Arpad Kovacs, [podcomputer@gmail.com](mailto:podcomputer@gmail.com)

Linux & some Mac: Carl Schmidtman, [unixgeek@faultline.com](mailto:unixgeek@faultline.com)

**Our Meeting Place**  
**St John’s Meadows** at Johnsarbor Drive, is on the left, past Clinton Avenue, when going West on Elmwood Avenue. The opening in the white fence is Johnsarbor Drive. At the ‘T’, turn right. The meeting is in the **SECOND** building on the left – **Chestnut Court**. Our meeting place can change. Please check our website before each meeting. **www.rcsi.org**