

### 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 – 7:10, Club Business

7:10 – 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.

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



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**\*\* July and August, summer hiatus - No Meetings \*\***

**Sept 9, 'Potluck Video Night', members can bring  
a 5 to 10 minute video to show [any topic]**

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### All the "Ishings" Trying to Scam You

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

Scammers gonna scam.

The concept of phishing has spawned a variety of "ishing" terms. They represent different ways scammers try to achieve a common goal: to scam you. I'll review what they all mean.

**Question:** I get phishing, but what's *quishing* or *vishing*?

Gotta love technology, where not a day goes by that we don't make up a brand new word. What matters most is that you understand the technique each word represents, since they are all attempts to fool you into giving up your accounts, your identity, and/or your money.

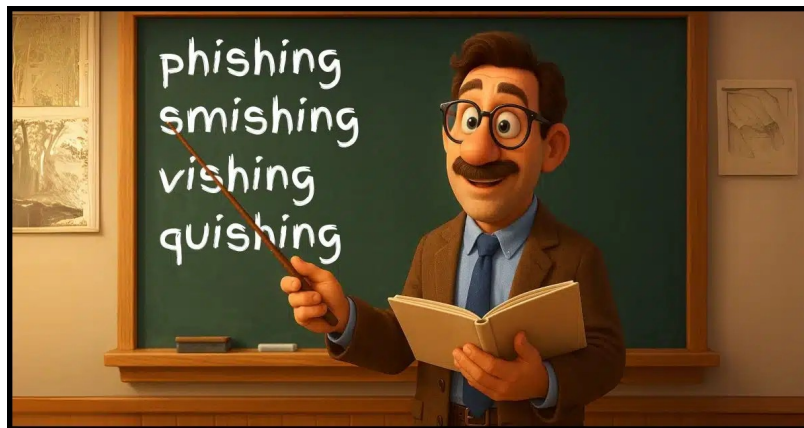


**“Your Computer User Group of the Air”**, Saturdays from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, with Nick Francesco, Dave Enright, and Steve Rae. Broadcasting on JAZZ 90.1 FM (WGMC) from Rochester, NY. Call 966-JAZZ (585-966-5299) or 800-790-0415, [www.jazz901.org](http://www.jazz901.org) *Sound Bytes is the longest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

**Digital copies of this newsletter** 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  
What are Dark Factories  
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  
Gifts and Gadgets for the Holidays



(Image: ChatGPT)

Let's define the “ishings”.

### **In Short The many ways of scammers**

*Phishing, smishing, vishing, quishing* — they're all sneaky scams trying to trick you into giving up personal information, money, or account access. Whether it's by email, text, phone, or QR code, the key to staying safe is to remain skeptical and double-check before you click or reply.

#### **Phishing**

This is probably the one you're most familiar with.

A [phishing attempt](#) tries to fool you into clicking a link that takes you to a malicious website. It typically includes several characteristics.

- It appears to be from a reputable source, like your bank, a shipping company, the government, or some other official entity you recognize.
- The message almost always includes a sense of urgency: you need to take some kind of action soon or risk some kind of loss.
- That action usually involves clicking on a link provided in the message.
- That link takes you to a malicious, fake website designed to *look like* the official site you expect.
- That fake website instructs you to fill in some kind of sensitive information. It could be as simple as looking like you're signing into a service you already use, or it could be a payment page or something else. Because it's all fake, you're handing sensitive information to a scammer.

[Phishing](#) refers to scam attempts via email.

#### **Spear phishing**

In general, phishing is a game of numbers. The scammer casts a wide net and captures anyone who falls for the scam. There's no effort to choose who gets scammed.

**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/>

### Tech for Seniors

[https://](https://www.techforsenior.com)

[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/jeerstips/>

Apple Tech Tips:

<https://apcug2.org/50-best-mac-tips-tricks-timesavers/>

Penguin Platform (Linux):

<https://apcug2.org/penguin-platform/>

Chromebook Tips And Tricks:

<https://apcug2.org/chromebook-tips-and-tricks/>

*Spear phishing* uses the same techniques but targets a specific individual or group of individuals.

This is more common in corporate or similar environments. Spear phishing allows the message to be highly personalized to help fool the intended recipient. It's one of the ways data breaches happen. An unsuspecting employee falls for the bait, and the scammer gains access to corporate resources.

### Smishing

*Smishing* is SMS1-based phishing. In other words, it uses text messages to fool you.

Once again, the goal is typically to get you to click or tap a link taking you to a malicious website. On mobile devices, it can also be an attempt to get you to download and install malware.

The single most effective approach to dealing with smishing is to ignore any text from someone you don't know. This also protects you from a variety of other text-based scams.

### Quishing

*Quishing* is QR-code-based phishing.

For example, if there's a QR code posted in a public place — perhaps to get more information about an upcoming event — scammers can print their own QR codes on stickers and paste them over the original. The replacement QR code leads you to a malicious fake website that collects data from you.

A more specific example I heard of recently is on-street parking. Some parking lots have you scan a QR code on the parking meter to download the associated app, which you then use to pay. Scammers replace that code with one of their own, which behaves exactly the same way... except they take the money, and you get a ticket for not having paid for your parking.

Unfortunately, quishing can be difficult to detect and avoid.

### Vishing

*Vishing* is voice-based phishing.

You get a call from someone claiming to be from a trusted authority. The goal, like any of the "ishing" attacks, is to get your personal information, including credit card information, and steal your money or worse.

The so-called "tech support scam" is a great example of vishing. You get a call from someone claiming to be from your ISP or Microsoft or some other computer-related company, telling you that your computer is causing problems. They trick you into giving them access to your computer, at which point they harvest all the personal and account information they can.

## RCSI Board Members

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### Got Questions?:

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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 Zoom. 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

## Do this

The single best way to avoid getting "ished" is to remain skeptical at all times and take nothing at face value. Ignore calls and texts from people you don't know, and be extra cautious when dealing with email notifications of any sort.

### END OF ARTICLE ###

## Spring Into Financial Security: Refresh Your Fraud Awareness This Season

BrandPoint, 03/25

As flowers bloom and the days grow longer, it's the perfect time for a little spring cleaning - not just for your home, but for your financial security too! Last year, consumers worldwide lost a staggering \$1 trillion to all types of scams. Just as you declutter and refresh your space, take this opportunity during Fraud Prevention Month to dust off your fraud awareness and fortify your financial safeguards with tips from Cecilie Fjellhøy and Mastercard.

"A scam can potentially leave you in a challenging financial position and feeling personally ashamed. As someone who became a victim, I want others to be alert and aware of the tactics fraudsters use to deceive others," said Fjellhøy, advocate and whistleblower in the Netflix documentary 'The Tinder Swindler.' "This Fraud Prevention Month, I am partnering with Mastercard to help empower people with tips to better identify fraud before it happens."

Too good to be true? It probably is! If an offer seems unbelievable or over-the-top, it may be a scam. Fraudsters might dangle promises of guaranteed wealth or pretend to be a friend or loved one in urgent need. Consider whether a message could really be true and verify its legitimacy.

Don't get swept up in pressure tactics: Scammers thrive on panic, pushing fake emergencies or "limited-time" deals to make you act fast. Pause, take a breath and consult a trusted source before making any decisions. Be wary of urgent requests for money - especially if they involve gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency. If you haven't met in person, or if you are not sure, don't send funds!

Turn on transaction alerts to get notified of unusual activity. Regularly review financial statements and report anything unfamiliar. Identity thieves may open fraudulent accounts in your name. Credit monitoring services help flag suspicious activity early so you can take action before damage spreads.

Report it, don't ignore it: If you spot a scam, act quickly. Contact your bank to lock down your accounts, file a police report, and report fraud to agencies like the FTC or your local authorities. If unauthorized payments pop up, request a freeze or reversal ASAP. Many banks can stop fraudulent transfers if caught in time.



## Tidbits of Probably Useless Information

### PETS:

With advancements in veterinary medicine and increased awareness of pet health issues, more pet owners are becoming aware of the possibility of their **pets being allergic to humans**.

**Cats "talk" to humans** – They meow mostly to communicate with people, not with other cats.

**Dogs can smell your emotions** – They can detect chemical changes in your body that signal stress, happiness, or fear.

**Guinea pigs "popcorn" when happy** – They literally jump in the air with joy, especially young ones.

**Pet dogs love music** – Especially classical music, which has been shown to calm their nerves.

**Parrots can form deep bonds** – Some even experience jealousy if their favorite human gives attention to someone else.

**Dogs understand human pointing** – They're one of the few non-primates that naturally understand pointing gestures.

**Rats laugh when tickled** – Scientists have recorded ultrasonic "laughter" when rats are tickled gently.

**Purring isn't just for happiness** – Cats also purr when in pain or stressed, possibly to self-heal using sound vibrations.

Zero Liability has your back: Financial institutions that issue Mastercard cards won't hold consumers responsible for "unauthorized transactions," provided they are promptly reported, and the cardholder used reasonable care in protecting the card from loss or theft. As a Mastercard cardholder, Zero Liability applies to your purchases made in the store, over the telephone, online or via a mobile device, and ATM transactions. With protections like that, paying with your card brings more peace of mind than paying with cash or check.

"Fraud prevention has come a long way since I met my scammer, but it is still important to learn the red flags, trust your gut and stay vigilant," said Fjellhøy. "Whether paying online, in stores, in apps or using a device, Mastercard provides valuable security benefits to help keep cardholders protected. That peace of mind is invaluable."

Whether you're sipping iced tea in the sun while hunting for deals online or exploring local markets in a new city, these tips will help keep you safe. So, embrace the season, stay scam smart, and with cyber smarts, enjoy your spring shopping!

Reprinted from

<https://www.brandpointcontent.com/article/44220/spring-into-financial-security-refresh-your-fraud-awareness-this-season>

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

### Unlocking the Power of AI: How Artificial Intelligence is Revolutionizing Business Operations

By Raju Dey, 4/29/25

AI for business is quickly becoming a powerful tool that companies of all sizes are using to improve their day-to-day operations, save time, and make smarter decisions. With the help of AI, businesses can automate repetitive tasks, enhance customer interactions, and gather valuable insights from their data to guide their strategies. In this article, we'll dive into how AI is making a real difference in business operations and how companies can benefit from it.

#### 1. Automating Time-Consuming Tasks

One of the most noticeable benefits of AI is its ability to handle repetitive, time-consuming tasks that don't require human creativity or problem-solving skills. Businesses can use AI to automate things like data entry, scheduling, and answering common customer queries. This can be a game-changer for teams, as it gives employees more time to focus on higher-level tasks that require human insight and creativity.

Take customer service, for example. Many companies use chatbots powered by AI to handle basic customer questions or complaints. These chatbots can respond instantly, 24/7, providing customers with

## Computer & Phone Tips

[www.apcug2.org](http://www.apcug2.org)

### **HOW TO ADD EMERGENCY INFO TO YOUR PHONE'S LOCK SCREEN (IPHONE AND ANDROID PCMag) –**

. This simple tip could save your life: Make your emergency medical information and contact numbers visible on your locked phone. What would happen if you were out in public and needed urgent care but couldn't communicate with first responders? Do you have an ID on you? Is there any way for them to know your drug allergies? Are you wearing a medical bracelet that indicates any major health issues? How will they call your emergency contacts?

Your phone, even when it's locked, could be your lifeline. There's a way to put emergency information on your phone and make it accessible from the lock screen. It's extremely important to do it, and everyone should know how to find this information in case someone near you has an emergency. We're here to walk you through the process for any phone you have. Read more here: [How to Add Emergency Info to Your Phone's Lock Screen | PCMag](#)

### **6 SIMPLE TRICKS I'VE LEARNED THAT MAKE MY WINDOWS PC BOOT FASTER –**

Does Windows take a long time to start up? Don't wait forever! Check out this PC Mag article to see if these six tips work for you. [6 Simple Tricks I've Learned That Make My Windows PC Boot Faster | PCMag](#)

quick answers and allowing human agents to step in only when needed for more complex issues. This not only speeds up response times but also frees up employees from answering repetitive questions.

## **2. Enhancing Customer Relationships**

Customer experience is everything, and AI is helping businesses create more personalized, seamless interactions with their customers. By analyzing customer data—like past purchases, browsing history, and preferences—AI can offer tailored recommendations, making it easier for customers to find what they're looking for.

For example, e-commerce giants like Amazon and Netflix use AI to suggest products or shows based on what customers have previously bought or watched. This personal touch helps improve customer satisfaction and loyalty, as customers feel like businesses understand their needs and preferences. AI can also predict when a customer might need assistance, offering proactive support that prevents issues from escalating.

## **3. Making Smarter Decisions with Data**

Businesses today have access to more data than ever before, but making sense of all that information can be overwhelming. This is where AI really shines. It can sift through massive amounts of data to find patterns and trends, helping businesses make better, more informed decisions.

For instance, AI can analyze sales trends to help a company predict which products will be in high demand next season. It can also examine customer behavior to see which marketing campaigns are performing well. By using AI to guide decisions, businesses can avoid guesswork and make choices based on real insights, which can lead to more successful outcomes.

## **4. Improving Marketing Strategies**

Marketing is another area where AI is having a huge impact. With AI tools, businesses can create more effective marketing campaigns by understanding exactly what resonates with their audience. For example, AI can help marketers identify the best times to post content, the types of posts that generate the most engagement, and even the best platforms to use for reaching specific demographics.

AI is also used to personalize marketing efforts. Instead of sending out the same generic email to everyone on a mailing list, AI can segment customers based on their behavior and interests, delivering targeted messages that are more likely to convert. This helps businesses get the most out of their marketing budgets and ensures their messages reach the right people.

## **5. Streamlining Operations**

AI is helping businesses streamline their operations in many different ways, from supply chain management to resource allocation. AI can predict which products will be in demand, so companies don't

## Is This for Real?

A whale washed up on the **Oregon coast** in 1970. It was too big to bury. Too smelly to leave. So someone suggested: “Let’s blow it up.” They used dynamite. The explosion sent blubber flying everywhere. One piece flattened a car parked far away. The beach? A total mess. Let’s just say, it wasn’t their best idea.

This event is held annually in Sonkajärvi, Finland, and sees **men compete by carrying their wives** through a challenging obstacle course featuring various hurdles such as water and sand traps.

This strange event takes place on Cooper’s Hill in Gloucestershire, England. Participants **chase a large wheel of cheese** down a steep, uneven hill, often resulting in spectacular tumbles and falls. The first person to reach the bottom and catch the cheese wins the competition.

This originated in Nanaimo, British Columbia. The event sees participants **race custom-built bathtubs** converted into watercraft across a designated course, typically in a body of water such as a river or harbor. Competitors showcase their creativity and engineering skills in crafting their bathtub vessels, resulting in a colorful and entertaining spectacle.

overstock or run out of inventory. It can also optimize delivery routes, saving both time and fuel costs for logistics companies.

For example, AI-driven tools can predict when a machine in a factory is likely to break down, allowing businesses to schedule maintenance before it becomes a costly problem. In this way, AI doesn’t just make operations more efficient—it can also prevent costly downtime and reduce operational costs.

### 6. Strengthening Security

As businesses become more reliant on digital tools, security becomes more critical. AI is helping companies protect themselves from cyber threats by identifying potential security breaches before they happen. AI systems can track user behavior on a network and flag any activity that seems unusual or suspicious, helping to detect fraud or data breaches.

In the financial sector, AI can monitor transactions in real time to spot patterns of fraud. In the case of a potential security threat, AI systems can respond immediately, alerting the security team and preventing damage. This kind of proactive approach to security is invaluable for businesses that handle sensitive information.

### 7. Cutting Costs and Increasing Efficiency

Cost savings are one of the top reasons businesses turn to AI. By automating routine tasks, AI reduces the need for human labor in certain areas, which can lead to significant cost savings. For example, a customer service department can cut down on staffing costs by using chatbots for basic inquiries.

AI can also help businesses optimize their resources and reduce waste. In industries like retail, AI can predict customer demand so that companies only produce or order the necessary amount of products, avoiding excess inventory that may go unsold. This helps reduce costs related to storage, inventory management, and overproduction.

### 8. The Future of AI in Business

The role of AI in business is only going to grow. As technology continues to evolve, so will the possibilities for AI. In the future, we can expect even more advanced AI applications, such as smarter virtual assistants, more personalized customer interactions, and more precise predictions of market trends.

Adopting AI may seem like a big step for some businesses, but those who embrace it early will likely see a significant competitive advantage. As AI tools become more accessible and easier to integrate, businesses will be able to streamline processes, improve customer relationships, and make smarter decisions that drive growth.

## Conclusion

AI for business is not just a passing trend—it’s a transformative tool that’s reshaping how companies operate, make decisions, and interact

## Future Medical Insect Protein Blocks Bacterial Infection

RMIT University, 6/2/25

Scientists in Australia have developed a smart, bacteria-repelling coating based on resilin the ultra-elastic protein that gives fleas their legendary jumping power. When applied to surfaces like medical implants or surgical tools, the engineered resilin forms nano-droplets that physically disrupt bacterial cells, including antibiotic-resistant strains like MRSA, without harming human tissue. In lab tests, the coating was 100% effective at keeping bacteria from sticking and forming biofilms, a key cause of infection after surgery.

Bacteria are often found on implants following surgery, despite sterilisation and infection controls. These can lead to infections requiring antibiotics, but with antibiotic resistance becoming more common, new preventative measures are needed.

"Unlike antibiotics, which can lead to resistance, the mechanical disruption caused by the resilin coatings may prevent bacteria from establishing resistance mechanisms", Wanasingha said.

Reported in

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/06/250602154856.htm>.

with customers. Whether it's automating tasks, personalizing customer experiences, or improving decision-making with data, AI offers businesses a chance to be more efficient, cost-effective, and innovative. For companies looking to stay competitive in today's fast-paced digital world, embracing AI could be the key to long-term success.

Visit my website for more info:

<https://mentorsreview.com/aidigimaker-review/>

## Recover Your Wi-Fi Password

David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician  
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

Computer users often seek technical support when they cannot access the Internet via their home wireless system.

First, the technician will usually walk the user through the reset procedure for the router or router/modem (turn them off and on). If that does not fix the problem and it is determined the modem is receiving a good signal, the subsequent conversation often goes something like this:

**Technician:** What is your password for your router?

**User:** I don't have a password.

**Technician:** If your router is not secured (i.e., password protected), you should be able to connect.

**User:** I don't have a password. I click the Google (or other browser) icon and get online.

At this point, the Technician explains to the User that the password is stored on the User's computer and that a few steps are required to access that password. The technician might guide the user through the process of recovering the password using the following procedure:

### If the computer connects to the Wi-Fi, automatically.

Microsoft has buried the Wi-Fi password on a computer more deeply with the latest version of Windows 10 and 11 than with prior versions. It is the same procedure for both 10 and 11. You can still find your Wi-Fi password using the following steps (note ... where I use the term "click," I mean a single click on the left mouse button or a single tap on a touchscreen.):

### Find your way to the "Wireless Properties."

Open your Control Panel (Type "Control Panel" into the search box to the right of the Windows button on your Taskbar and Enter). Click on Network and Internet. Click on Network and Sharing Center, then click on the name of your network, which appears in blue. In the Wi-Fi window that opens, click on Wireless Properties. In the new



## Scam Alert

### FOUND ON MY PHONE

Your BITCOIN withdrawal has been completed and will reflect in the next 30 minutes  
If this was not you please contact us so we can stop it:1844232....

**NOTE:** This showed a phone number from the (929) 519 exchange in New York City.

### 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 Dot Not call list!

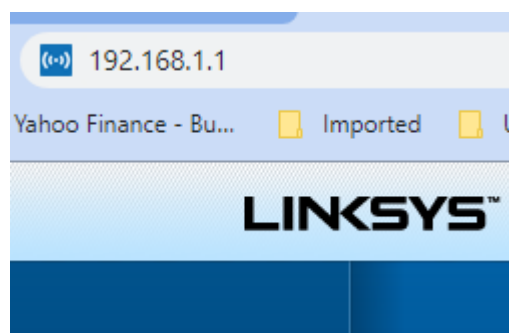
**Scam Text Messages** - It looks like a text alert from your bank, asking you to confirm information or 'reactivate your debit card' by following a link on your smart phone. But it is just a way to steal personal information.

### 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.

window that opens, click on the Security tab, then check the box on Show Characters.

### If you only own a smartphone/tablet or have a PC that has not stored the Wi-Fi password



Log in to your router as an administrator. You can access your router by entering its IP address into your browser, such as Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. You can research the default IP address of your router by Googling "IP address [brand name of your

router]. Every router I've dealt with had an address of "192.168.X.X". The most common value for X is the number 1 (for both Xs). If that does not work, try substituting the numbers 0 or 2 for one or both of the Xs. After you log in, you should be able to find the Wi-Fi settings on the Administrative pages of your router. There, you can look up your password.

### IP settings

IP assignment:	Manual
IPv4 address:	192.168.1.211
IPv4 subnet prefix length:	24
IPv4 gateway:	192.168.1.1
IPv4 DNS servers:	192.168.1.1

*Note. On Windows 10/11, you don't have to guess. You can find the internal IP address of your network router by going to Settings > Network and*

*Internet > Status and, under the name of your Wi-Fi (or Ethernet) connection, clicking Properties. A screen will display; near the bottom are the IP settings. The IPv4 gateway IP address is the internal address of your router.*

### If you are like many people

The Wi-Fi password is often written on a sticker on the back of your router. This is how I usually set up home routers, and it might be a good thing to do after you have recovered your Wi-Fi password. This is a simple but effective strategy since it is easy to find. A burglar would have to break into your home to steal your password, and they probably would focus on more tangible items.

From the website of <https://www.scscclb.club>, [dkretch@gmail.com](mailto:dkretch@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

Check out the newsletters from another continent at:  
<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=kZEL7m5ZqFKLcN0XPauHE6hc9XKPuzs97fnV>  
(Cape Computer and Technology Club, South Africa).

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

What do you call a parade of  
rabbits marching backward?  
A receding hare line.

What do dentists call their X-  
rays?  
Tooth pics!

How does a penguin build its  
house?  
Igloos it together.

What do you call an alligator in  
a vest?  
An investigator.

A man walks into a library and  
asks the librarian for books  
about paranoia.  
She whispers, "They're right  
behind you!"

Why did the chicken cross the  
playground?  
To get to the other slide.

I have an inferiority complex—  
But it's not a very good one.

Why don't blind people  
skydive?  
Because it scares their dogs.

I've been really depressed  
lately. A friend told me I should  
go to the petting zoo, as it  
would cheer me up.  
I went today, but not one person  
would stroke me.

You know, it was so cold in  
D.C. the other day, I saw a  
politician with his hands in his  
own pockets.

Worrying works!  
Case in point: 90% of the things  
I worry about never happen.

**\*\*\*\*\* BITS and PIECES in the NEWS \*\*\*\*\***

**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.

**Chicago's Rodents are Evolving to Handle City Living, 6/25**

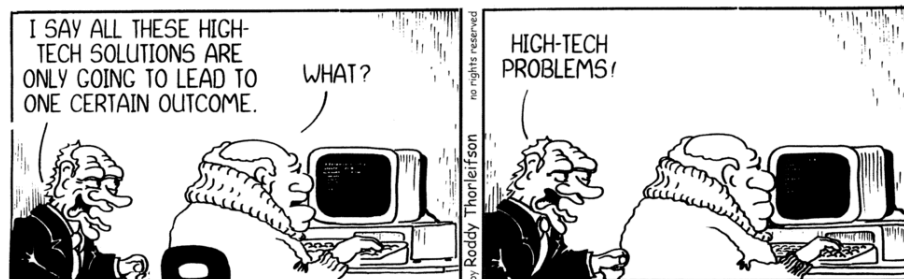
In general, evolution is a long, slow process of tiny changes passed down over generations, resulting in new adaptations and even new species over thousands or millions of years. But when living things are faced with dramatic shifts in the world around them, they sometimes rapidly adapt to better survive. Scientists recently found an example of evolution in real time, tucked away in the collection drawers of the Field Museum in Chicago. By comparing the skulls of chipmunks and voles from the Chicagoland area, collected over the past 125 years, the researchers found evidence that these rodents have been adapting to life in an increasingly urban environment.

The Field Museum's mammal collections are made up of more than 245,000 specimens from all over the world, but there's especially good representation of animals from Chicago. The researchers picked two rodents commonly found in Chicago: eastern chipmunks and eastern meadow voles. Chipmunks are in the same family as squirrels, and spend most of their time above ground, where they eat a wide variety of foods, including nuts, seeds, fruits, insects, and even frogs. Voles are more closely related to hamsters. They mostly eat plants, and they spend a lot of time in underground burrows.

While these rodents have been able to evolve little changes to make it easier to live among humans, the take-home lesson isn't that animals will just adapt to whatever we throw at them. Rather, these voles with smaller ear bones and chipmunks with smaller teeth are proof of how profoundly humans affect our environment and our capacity to make the world harder for our fellow animals to live in. This is a wake-up call.

Reported in <https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1088505>.

**Editor's note:** This is not the usual tech that I usually report on. More than half the humans, around the world, live in cities. We are learning to adapt to city life and so are the rodents.



## Odds and Ends

### New Plastic Dissolves in the Ocean Overnight, Leaving no Microplastics

By [Michael Irving](#), 3/27/25

Plastics are durable and strong, which is great while they're being used but frustrating when they end up in the environment. Scientists at RIKEN in Japan have developed a new type of plastic that's just as stable in everyday use but dissolves quickly in saltwater, leaving behind safe compounds.

The benefit of plastics is that they're made with strong covalent bonds that hold their molecules together, meaning they take a lot of energy to break. This is why they're so sturdy, long-lasting and perfect for everything from packaging to toys.

But those same strong bonds become a problem after the useful life of a plastic product is over. That cup you used once and threw away will sit in landfill for decades, even centuries, before it fully breaks down. And when it does, it forms microplastic pieces that are turning up in all corners of the [natural world](#), including our [own bodies](#), where they wreak [havoc on our health](#) in ways we're only just beginning to understand.

Read about this on <https://newatlas.com/materials/plastic-dissolves-ocean-overnight-no-microplastics/>.

### New Snapdragon AR1+ Gen 1 Chip Could Make Glasses Smarter and Self-Reliant

By [Devesh Beri](#) June 11, 2025

Qualcomm has launched the Snapdragon AR1+ Gen 1 processor for smart glasses. The chip lets smart glasses run AI directly on the device without needing a phone or cloud connection for processing or other functions. The idea is that users can go about their daily tasks using only their smart glasses.

A big change in the AR1+ Gen 1 is its smaller size, which is about 28% more compact than the previous AR1 Gen 1 chip. The chip also uses less power during tasks such as computer vision, wake with voice, Bluetooth playback, and video streaming, the report said. The new processor also improves image quality for smart glasses. It supports binocular displays, image stabilization, and a multi-frame engine. The camera on the glasses can capture 12MP photos and 6MP videos, and it supports features like face detection and facial landmark detection.

Saving the best for the last, on-device AI powered by Qualcomm's third-generation Hexagon [NPU](#). The chip can run small language models with up to 1 billion parameters, such as Llama 1B, directly on the glasses. This lets users interact with an AI assistant by speaking commands and seeing responses displayed as text on the glasses. The company says this is the first time an autoregressive generative AI model has run completely on a pair of smart glasses.

Reported on <https://www.extremetech.com/electronics/new-snapdragon-ar1-plus-gen-1-chip-could-make-glasses-smarter-and-self>.

## CLUB and REGIONAL NEWS

### Help's Half Hour

Q: A visitor says that his iPhone does not go to cellular when he is out of network range.

A:: We made sure that he could access the St. John WIFI and he could. We tried to adjust his settings so that, when in his car, his cellular will take over.

Q: A visitor wanted to use her new Chromebook but cannot get it to come up online and asked how to scroll.

A: Bob was able to get her online and knew how to scroll – she was used to a touch screen.

Q: Jean stopped by with questions about her iPhone and her iPad.

A: Jan could not help her on her iPad but did walk her through a few things on her iPhone, including updating the IOS and showing her how to move pictures from her Messages to her phone's photo

collection. She also was not sure how to listen to voicemail messages so she now knows how to get those, too.

Q: A visitor has a printer that used to work with her old network but not Spectrum

A: She will have to link up the printer to the St. John's network. It was suggested she check the manual or maybe Google/Facebook to find out how to set up the printer.

Q: How can he print off a document that does not show properly.

A: We tried to set it up as a Word document and eventually was able to center the first paragraph. He was going to go back to his room and see how it looks.

Q: A visitor was trying to print from his phone.

A: We turned on his phone sharing, hoping that will help. We also suggested that he could send it via email to it's destination so that that user can save it and/or print it off.

## Researchers Develop Cybersecurity Test for AI Being Used by Google

by [Scott Bureau](#), June 10, 2025

**Rochester Institute of Technology** experts have created a new tool that tests artificial intelligence (AI) to see how much it really knows about cybersecurity. And the AI will be graded.

The tool, called CTIBench, is a suite of benchmarking tasks and datasets used to assess large language models (LLMs) in Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI). CTI is a crucial security process that enables security teams to proactively defend against evolving cyber threats.

The evaluation tool comes at a time when AI assistants claim to have security knowledge and companies are developing cybersecurity-specific LLMs. For example, [Microsoft Copilot](#) has an integrated security platform.

Until now, there has been no way to tell if an LLM has the capability to work as a security assistant.

CTIBench is the first and most comprehensive benchmark in the Cyber Threat Intelligence space. The tool is already being used by Google, Cisco, and Trend Micro.

"We should embrace using AI, but there should always be a human in the loop," said Rastogi, assistant professor in RIT's [Department of Software Engineering](#). "That's why we are creating benchmarks—to see what these models are good at and what their capabilities are. We're not blindly following AI but smartly integrating it into our lives".

Read more at <https://www.rit.edu/news/researchers-develop-cybersecurity-test-ai-being-used-google>.

### 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 Schmidtmann, [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.**

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