

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

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

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### The Upgrade Culture: When Is the Right Time to Let Go of Your Gadgets?

[Viola Kailee](#), 4/24/25

In today's fast-paced technological world, the constant need for upgrades seems inevitable. Whether it's a smartphone, smartwatch, or laptop, new models flood the market, leaving consumers questioning if it's time to let go of their current gadgets.

The allure of the latest and greatest innovations can be overwhelming, but it raises an important question: when is the right time to upgrade, and when should you hold onto your device a bit longer?



**“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

This article explores the concept of upgrade culture, examining the factors that influence the decision to let go of your beloved gadgets and whether it's time for a change or not.

### **The Continuous Cycle of Technological Advancements**

Technology is evolving at an incredible rate, and every year, manufacturers release improved versions of existing gadgets. It's easy to fall into the trap of always wanting the next best thing. From high-definition displays to faster processors, newer models promise a better experience and enhanced functionality.

### **The Role of Smartwatches in the Upgrade Culture**

One of the most common gadgets people find themselves upgrading is the smartwatch. Devices like the Apple Watch have become an essential part of modern life, offering everything from fitness tracking to notifications right on your wrist. The constant release of new models, each promising better health monitoring, sleeker designs, and enhanced connectivity, has made it difficult for some to resist upgrading their old models.

Smartwatches, especially the Apple Watch, have become a symbol of status and functionality. Each new generation adds more features, like improved battery life, faster performance, and new health-tracking capabilities. However, the question remains: when should you upgrade, and when is it more sensible to stick with what you have?

So, when it's finally time to sell your watch, consider how the new features can offer enhanced performance and long-term benefits, making an upgrade a worthwhile investment.

Smartwatches, unlike other devices, have a limited lifespan when it comes to software support and hardware performance. If your Apple Watch is still functioning well and the software updates continue to roll in, it may not be necessary to upgrade every year. Many users find that their older Apple Watch still meets their needs, whether it's checking notifications, tracking workouts, or controlling music.

But there comes a point when the performance gap between your current smartwatch and the newest model becomes too significant to ignore. Features like enhanced heart rate sensors, more accurate GPS, or longer battery life might be enough of an improvement to justify an upgrade.

### **The Psychological Aspect of Upgrading**

The decision to upgrade is not just about functionality; it's often driven by psychological factors. Many people feel a sense of excitement or joy in owning the latest technology, while others might feel the pressure of social comparison. The fear of missing out (FOMO) is a strong motivator in the upgrade culture, as we are constantly bombarded with advertisements, peer pressure, and influencers showcasing their shiny new devices.

**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/jerestips/>

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/>

In some cases, the urge to upgrade is driven by a desire to keep up with trends or to feel like you're staying ahead of the curve. However, this can lead to unnecessary spending, as the emotional satisfaction derived from owning a new gadget often fades quickly once the novelty wears off. It's important to reflect on whether the upgrade is truly adding value to your life or if it's simply filling a temporary void.

### The Environmental Impact of Constant Upgrades

One of the most significant concerns in the upgrade culture is the environmental impact of constantly discarding gadgets in favor of newer models. Electronic waste (e-waste) is a growing issue, with millions of tons of discarded devices ending up in landfills each year. Many of these gadgets contain hazardous materials that can pollute the environment, contributing to a variety of ecological problems.

In an era where sustainability is becoming more important, it's crucial to consider the environmental implications of upgrading so frequently. Holding onto older devices for a little longer can help reduce the strain on the environment and minimize your carbon footprint. Reusing, recycling, or selling old gadgets are all effective ways to mitigate the impact of e-waste while still embracing new technology.

### Evaluating the Need for an Upgrade

Before rushing to the store to buy the latest model, it's important to evaluate whether an upgrade is necessary. Consider the following factors before making your decision:

1. **Performance:** Is your current gadget still meeting your needs? If it's slow or no longer supports the latest software updates, it might be time to upgrade. However, if your device still works well, there's no need to rush into a new purchase.
2. **Features:** Does the new model offer significant improvements that will make a tangible difference in your daily life? If the new features are not essential, it might be better to wait until the upgrade provides more value.
3. **Budget:** Upgrading can be expensive, especially when new devices are released at premium prices. If your current gadget is still functional, holding off on upgrading can save you a significant amount of money.

### When It's Time to Let Go

While it can be tempting to hold onto gadgets for sentimental reasons or because they still function adequately, there are clear signs that it's time to let go. If your device is no longer receiving software updates, has significant hardware issues, or no longer meets your needs, it's likely time for an upgrade.

Selling or recycling your old gadget is an excellent way to make the most of its remaining value and prevent it from ending up in a landfill. Some companies offer trade-in programs that allow you to exchange

## 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

your old device for credit toward a new one, making the upgrade process more affordable and environmentally friendly.

The upgrade culture is deeply embedded in modern society, driven by technological advancements, consumer desire, and the pressure to keep up with the latest trends. However, it's important to recognize that upgrading isn't always necessary. By [evaluating your needs](#), considering the environmental impact, and assessing the true value of new features, you can make a more informed decision about when to let go of your gadgets.

Found on <https://www.articlesfactory.com/articles/technology/the-upgrade-culture-when-is-the-right-time-to-let-go-of-your-gadgets.html>.

## Too Many Passwords to Keep Track Of? Here's What to Do

EDITORS NOTE: I originally found an article on <https://www.howtogeek.com/too-many-passwords-to-keep-track-of-heres-what-to-do/>, but it was unclear if I was allowed to print it, SO I asked ChatGPT the same question.

### ChatGPT said:

Managing a ton of passwords can be a real hassle, especially with all the security advice out there telling you to have unique, complex passwords for every account. But don't worry, there are ways to make it easier and safer. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you out:

### 1. Use a Password Manager

- **What is it?** A password manager is a tool that securely stores and organizes all your passwords in one place.
- **How does it help?** You only need to remember one master password, and the manager generates and stores the rest for you. It can even autofill your login details when you visit a site.
- **Recommendations:** Some popular and trusted password managers include:
  - **LastPass**
  - **1Password**
  - **Bitwarden** (open-source, free version available)
  - **Dashlane**

### 2. Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

- **What is it?** 2FA adds an extra layer of security by requiring you to provide a second form of authentication, typically a

## Tidbits of Probably Useless Information

Playing electronic dance music (EDM) could be just what you need to scare away those pesky **mosquitoes** in the summer. According to one 2019 study published in the journal [Acta Topica](#), the **Skrillex** song “Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites” combines “very high and very low frequencies” as well as “excessive loudness and constantly escalating pitch” that discourages the yellow fever mosquito from biting victims and mating.

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

**Mulan** is fierce, brave, and incredibly inspirational. But she's also incredibly deadly. In fact, she was not only the first Disney princess to kill someone on-screen in the 1998 film *Mulan*, but she also has the highest kill-count of any [Disney character](#), according to UNILAD.

It would be nearly impossible to properly read without periods, commas, exclamation points, and question marks. According to the [BBC](#), a librarian named **Aristophanes** from the Egyptian city of Alexandria in the 3rd century B.C. attempted to introduce a form of **punctuation** into a system, that not only didn't use it, but also didn't bother to use capital letters or include spaces between words.

code sent to your phone or generated by an app, in addition to your password.

- **Why use it?** Even if your password gets compromised, the hacker would still need the second factor to access your account.
- **Recommended apps:** Google Authenticator, Authy, or using SMS-based codes (though an app is more secure).

### 3. Adopt Passphrases Instead of Passwords

- **What is it?** A passphrase is a longer string of words (often random) that's easier to remember but much harder to crack.
- **Example:** Instead of “P@ssw0rd123,” you could use a phrase like “PurpleCactus\$JumpOverRock!”
- **Why it helps:** Length and randomness are more important than complexity. You can make your passphrases memorable by choosing something personal but random.

### 4. Take Advantage of Built-in Password Features

- **Browsers like Chrome, Safari, or Firefox** have built-in password managers that securely store your passwords and sync them across your devices.
- **What's good about it?** You don't have to install anything extra, and it's convenient if you're already using one of these browsers regularly.

### 5. Update Passwords Regularly

- **Why should you do it?** If a service gets hacked, it's good practice to change your password (and any other accounts that use the same one).
- **How often?** Maybe every 6 months or if there's a major breach in the news involving a service you use.

### 6. Avoid Reusing Passwords

- **Why it's a problem:** If one account gets compromised, hackers can use the same password to access other accounts.
- **How to fix it?** With a password manager, you can easily create unique, strong passwords for each account.

### 7. Backup Your Passwords Securely

- **What if you lose your password manager data?** Backup your master password (the one you use to access your password manager) in a safe place, such as a physical location or a secure offline method.
- **Tip:** Some password managers offer encrypted backup options.



## Computer & Phone Tips

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

### THESE 7 BAD HABITS SHORTEN YOUR PC'S

**LIFESPAN** (XDA Developers) – PCs and their components will run for decades if you care for them properly. We'd all love our devices to last as long as possible, but intentionally or not, some ways we treat them might be pushing them closer to their demise. Getting a handle on these 7 bad habits is a surefire way to keep your PC running for years.

[These 7 bad habits shorten your PC's lifespan](#)

### 8 SIGNS YOUR WINDOWS COMPUTER MIGHT BE INFECTED WITH

**MALWARE** (MSN.com) – While Microsoft has strengthened Windows security over the years, cyber threats have also evolved and become more sophisticated. A single misstep can compromise your PC, allowing malware to operate undetected. HowToGeek [8 Signs Your Windows Computer Might Be Infected With Malware](#)

### HOW I DITCHED GOOGLE PHOTOS AND BUILT MY OWN PHOTO SERVER

(HowToGeek) – I grew tired of paying for Google One storage just to use Google Photos. Plus, I wanted more privacy and security over my stored pictures. What did I do? I built my own server to replace Google Photos, and you can, too. Learn how to build your server here: [How I Ditched Google Photos and Built My Own Photo Server](#)

## 8. Stay Informed on Security Best Practices

- **What's changing?** Keep up-to-date with password and security trends. For example, services like **passwordless login** (biometrics, magic links) are becoming more common and might make your life easier in the future.

### Final Thoughts:

Managing a ton of passwords is tough, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming. A good password manager, strong security practices like 2FA, and a commitment to regular updates will make a world of difference. By setting these up now, you'll save yourself a lot of time and hassle later!

EDITORS NOTE: I like the answer, but am not sure about option 4.

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

## Does Your Computer Need an Oil Change?

By Bob Rankin

a Translator for the Technology Impaired  
offering Free Tech Support

A savvy AskBob reader says: "I know I need to clean and optimize my hard drive every once in a while. But are there any other regular PC maintenance tasks you recommend doing on a regular basis?" Well, yes! Here are more than ten free programs you can use to clean up and tune up your Windows computer...

### Time For a PC Tuneup? Try These Free Tools

Just like a car, your computer needs regular maintenance to continue performing at its best. Waiting until accumulated minor problems make your computer run intolerably slow is bad for it. A neglected PC works harder than it should and then hardware can start to fail. You may experience a sudden catastrophic crash similar to a car engine seizing up because you never bothered to change the oil.

Of course, computers don't need motor oil, but they do need maintenance from time to time.

And fortunately, there are some free PC maintenance tools that make it a breeze to keep your system in top shape. Their functions generally include hard disk management; optimization of system settings; and deletion of unnecessary, duplicate or temporary files. Some free PC



## Is This for Real?

### **Yanshui, Taiwan, 2/17-19**

In case you thought bottle rockets were boring, imagine a stack of thousands going off at the same time. The Yanshui Fireworks Festival is believed to have originated after a Cholera outbreak when locals invited the God of War to protect them with a display of fire.

15 days after the beginning of the Lunar New Year, the population swells with people hoping for a lucky new year. Their plan? Get hit with as many bottle rockets as possible at the annual Feng Pao bottle rocket festival.

### **Sitges, Spain**

The Sitges Carnival Bed Race is the perfect combination of respectable footrace and Carnival debauchery. Teams of four will strap their fifth team member onto a bed, dress in a costume, and race to the finish line using manpower only.

### **Chiang Mai, Thailand**

Songkran is the Thai New Year's Festival symbolizing transformation and purification. At this unique world festival, you can arm yourself with a bucket, hose, water gun, or really anything you can find, to join in the nationwide water fight.

**Oaxaca, Mexico** Popularized by flower crowns and skeleton face paint, Día de los Muertos is actually about recognizing the deceased. The celebration takes place largely at cemeteries.

maintenance tools include scheduling of maintenance, diagnostic tests, backups, malware cleanup, and system-tweaking options for advanced users.

Smart users perform PC cleanup and tune-up operations at least once a month. Here's what I recommend, and some free computer maintenance tools to help you do the job. Unless otherwise mentioned, all of them work with Windows 7, 8, 10 and 11 computers.

[CCleaner by Piriform](#) is a popular PC cleaner/optimizer/privacy tool that's developed a sterling reputation over many years. CCleaner zaps temp files, web browser history, cookies, and form inputs, to remove all traces of your online activities. It also mops up after Windows, cleaning out your Recycle Bin, removing unneeded log files, deleting memory dumps, and pruning obsolete registry entries. CCleaner does not include a defrag module, but Piriform also offers the free [Defraggler](#), which does the job quite well.

[The Glary Utilities](#) is a PC maintenance suite, downloaded over 40 million times. It, too, does registry, privacy, defrag and junk files cleanup. It includes an application uninstaller that is more sophisticated than Windows Add/Remove app; for example, you can tag multiple applications to be uninstalled in one operation. It also includes a startup programs manager, a memory manager, and a nifty utility to remove unwanted context menu items. Cleanup can include a sweep for duplicate files, empty file folders, and broken shortcuts. It will also backup and restore all your hardware device drivers. The latest version claims to be 800% faster at analyzing your PC for potential problems.

[jv16 PowerTools](#) is another popular and comprehensive Windows utility suite designed to optimize, clean, and repair your computer for better performance and stability. It features a powerful system cleaner that removes unnecessary files and registry entries, a software uninstaller that thoroughly deletes leftover traces of uninstalled programs, and a startup manager to speed up boot times by controlling which apps load with Windows. Additionally, it offers a range of tools for system maintenance, such as file recovery, duplicate file finder, and privacy protection to securely wipe sensitive data. The program also includes advanced options like system tweaking and automation features, making it a versatile choice for both casual users and tech-savvy professionals.

[PrivaZer](#) is a hard drive clean-up utility on steroids. It gets rid of junk files and wipes away traces of activity that could compromise your privacy. PrivaZer zaps duplicate files, temporary files, log files, unneeded Windows update files and old Windows installs left over from a system upgrade. In addition to cleaning files and filesystems, Privazer does a thorough scrubbing of your Windows registry, and will also remove web browsing history, saved passwords, and cookies.

## Future Medical AI is Giving a Boost to Efforts to Monitor Health Via Radar

Researchers are developing technologies that can monitor a person's vital signs at a distance. One of those technologies is radar.

Noncontact health monitoring has the potential to be more comfortable and easier to use than traditional methods, particularly for people looking to monitor their vital signs at home.

Imagine a nursing home where radar quietly watches over residents, [alerting caregivers](#) immediately if someone has breathing trouble, falls or needs help. It can be implemented as a home system that checks your breathing while you sleep – no wearables required. Doctors could even use radar to remotely monitor patients recovering from surgery or illness.

This technology is moving quickly [toward real-world use](#). In the future, checking your health could be as simple as walking into a room, with invisible waves and smart AI working silently to take your vital signs.

Great technology at <https://theconversation.com/ai-is-giving-a-boost-to-efforts-to-monitor-health-via-radar-253325>.

A few notes about defragmenting your hard drive. Traditional magnetic hard drives installed in most computers do benefit from defragmenting, as it speeds up disk access. However, SSD (solid state) hard drives do not require defragmenting, and some people believe that you can shorten the life span of an SSD by defragging. I don't think that's true of newer SSD's, but it's still a best practice to defrag only magnetic drives. Treat hybrid (magnetic/SSD) drives the same as magnetic drives. Also note that Windows 7, 8, 10 and 11 have automatic defrag built in, but you may still benefit by running a third-party defragger a few times per year

My article [Here's How to Optimize Your Hard Drive](#) has links to several programs that will help you identify large, duplicate or unwanted files that are clogging up your hard drive. You'll also find links to recommended software that will help you permanently erase a hard drive, recover accidentally deleted files, or fix damaged drives that won't boot up.

[EaseUS Todo Backup](#) is a popular free software tool for making backups. The Free Edition offers backup, disk cloning, and the ability to transfer your system to a different PC. It can schedule your backups to run automatically, which I consider a must.

The [NirSoft](#) website provides a collection of freeware, including Windows password-recovery tools, network monitoring tools, and some privacy-related utilities.

Speccy and Belarc Advisor are two diagnostic programs I rely on when a computer doesn't seem to be running optimally. See my article [Should You X-Ray Your Computer?](#) to learn how they can help you identify overheating and other potential problems.

The Windows Memory Diagnostic Tool is built into Windows 7 and higher. To run it, click the Start button and type memory in the search bar. Click Windows Memory Diagnostic in the search results. You can choose to restart and check for memory errors, or tell it to check for memory problems the next time you start your computer.

### Don't Forget About Security

Finally, it should go without saying that you need to be vigilant about computer security. Here are the two most important pieces of advice I can give on that subject:

1. Keep Your Software Updated - See my related article [Here's Why You Must Keep Your Software Updated \(and how to do it for free\)](#) to learn how to scan your computer for software vulnerabilities, and how to make sure you have the latest versions and security patches.
2. Use Anti-Malware Protection - [Avast!](#) is a popular free anti-virus program with a rich feature set, and ease of use. Avast! claims it's #1, with 230 million users worldwide. It is updated regularly. The Avast Free Anti-virus protects against viruses,



## Scam Alert

### FOUND ON MY PHONE

Final Notice: Immediate Legal Action – Toll Violation

Pay \$32.50 by May 10 2025 23:59 CT or face: civil lawsuit & full judgment, registration + license suspension, +\$50 penalty every 24 h, court-ordered boot/tow & impound fees, wage garnishment, 7-yr credit damage. Settle now: <https://lihi.cc/fES2k....>

**NOTE:** Looks pretty serious and a bit over-the-top action to collect only \$32.50. The location of the ‘top level’ domain of ‘cc’ is Cocos Islands, an Australian territory. But, I bet I will get another Final Notice soon.

Also, watch out for .sg for Singapore. My credit card identities were hacked by a company there. My banks caught the attempts in time, but I still had to get new cards.

### The AI “Deepfake Family Emergency” Scam

We thought robocalls were bad, but now scammers have AI-generated versions of your loved ones calling you in a panic. Using **deepfake technology**, fraudsters mimic a family member’s voice, claiming they’ve been kidnapped, arrested, or in a terrible accident. Then, they demand money—fast.

Hang up and **call the family member directly** on a known number. Stay skeptical—if the demand is urgent and involves money, it’s a red flag.

spyware, rootkits, and even zero-day attacks that no one’s heard of yet. Its Home Network Security scans your network for weaknesses that could admit malware or hackers. Protection is offered for PCs, Macs, and Android mobile devices.

Each of these free PC maintenance programs has additional bells and whistles for advanced users or troubleshooting. Some have premium versions that you can purchase, to get additional features. Read the product features lists carefully if you have a particular issue that you want to resolve. In my opinion, all of these freebies will do a good job of tuning up your computer for top performance. Try a few of them, and then uninstall the ones you don’t want to continue using.

[https://askbobrankin.com/does\\_your\\_computer\\_need\\_an\\_oil\\_change.html](https://askbobrankin.com/does_your_computer_need_an_oil_change.html).

## \*\*\*\*\* 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.

### High School Student Develops AI to Discover 1.5 Million Unknown Space Objects

*By Gil Caparas, April 23, 2025*

A high school student from California has made a groundbreaking contribution to astronomy by developing an artificial intelligence (AI) model that uncovered 1.5 million previously unknown objects in space. [Matteo \(Matthew\) Paz](#), a [Pasadena Unified School District](#) student, worked with astronomers at [Caltech](#) to improve how [NASA’s NEOWISE telescope](#) data is analyzed. His discovery, whose results were published in [The Astronomical Journal](#), could help astronomers gain deeper insights into the dynamic objects of our universe.

The AI model Paz developed was designed to process massive amounts of data gathered by the NEOWISE telescope, which has been observing space for over 10 years. The telescope focused initially on tracking asteroids and near-Earth objects and collected information on cosmic objects that show variable behaviors, such as fluctuating brightness. These variable objects, including quasars and exploding stars, are challenging to identify with traditional methods, but Paz’s AI was able to spot them with high accuracy.

This research marks a significant leap in analyzing space data and could open doors to discoveries in various fields. Paz’s work on this AI-driven analysis has contributed to the study of space and demonstrated how AI can be applied to other time-based studies, like

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

### **JOKES ABOUT FOOD**

What's the best food to eat before a workout? *Mussels.*

Why did the fisherman put peanut butter into the sea?  
*Because he wanted something to go with the jellyfish.*

What kind of vegetable is not welcome on a ship? *A leek.*

How much room should you give fungi to grow?  
*As mushroom as possible.*

What do you call hot dogs in winter? *Chilly dogs.*

What did the pecan say to the walnut? *We're friends because we're both nuts.*

What do you call cheese that is sad? *Blue cheese.*

What's a vampire's favorite fruit? *A neck-tarine.*

What's a carrot's favorite type of soda? *Root beer.*

What did one blueberry say to the other blueberry?  
*If you weren't so sweet, we wouldn't be in this jam.*

What is a ghost's favorite type of dessert?  
*Ice scream and boo-berries.*

What are twins favorite fruit?  
*Pears.*

What does a grape say when it gets stepped on?  
*Nothing, it just lets out a little wine.*

What do you call a bunch of strawberries playing guitar together? *A jam session.*

financial charts or environmental monitoring. His work is a powerful example of how young researchers can push the boundaries of science and technology, potentially revolutionizing how data is used across multiple disciplines.

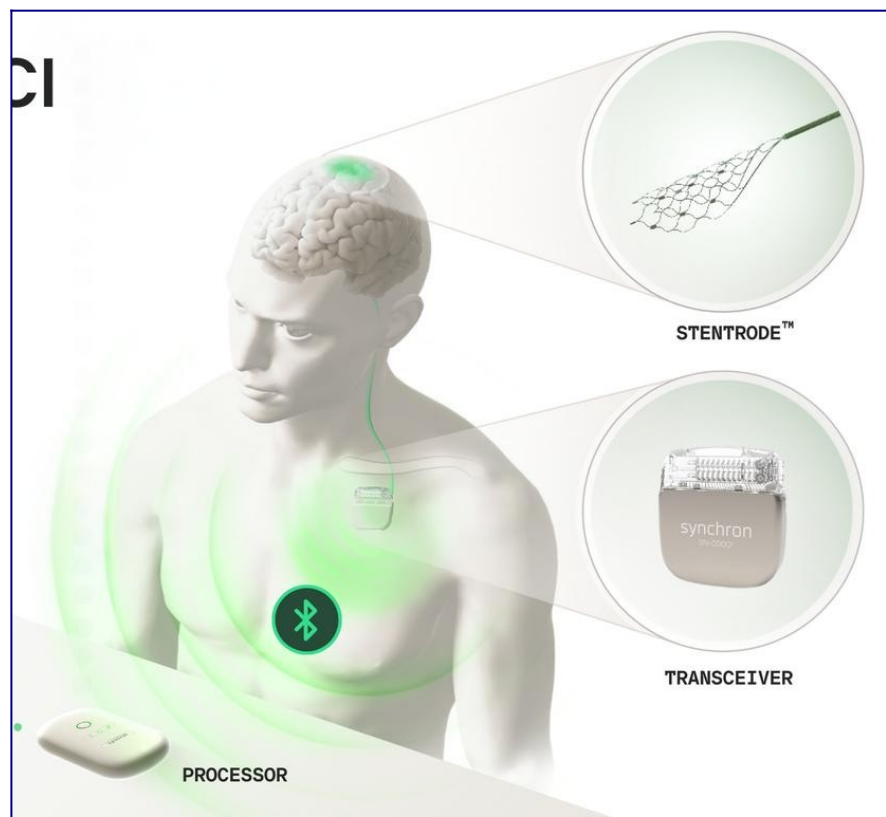
Read more at <https://modernsciences.org/high-school-student-ai-space-discovery-1-5-million-objects-april-2025/>.

## **You Could Soon Control an iPhone With Your Thoughts, Using Apple's New Accessibility Option**

By [Abhimanyu Ghoshal](#), May 14, 2025

Apple is getting into the brain-computer interface (BCI) business, reveals a press release from [New York-based startup Synchron](#). The idea is to enable people with limited mobility to use iPhones, iPads, and the Vision Pro headset by transmitting commands through their minds.

Synchron, which was founded in 2016 by neurologist Dr. Tom Oxley, is a biomedicine outfit that's exploring an endovascular approach to connecting devices to the human brain. The startup, which is backed by Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos, uses a proprietary piece of hardware to detect brain signals without requiring open brain surgery to install – as is the case with [Elon Musk-fronted Neuralink's tech](#).



## Odds and Ends

### Which Country Owns The Most Number Of Oil Rigs?

By Jonathan H. Kantor, 5/20/25

Oil rigs are structures used to extract crude oil and natural gas from beneath the Earth's surface, and there are many spread all over the globe. While most people think of offshore oil platforms as the only types of oil rigs, there are plenty in use on the land as well. Essentially, anywhere people have detected enough oil to bother extracting, someone has come along with an oil rig to dig it out of the ground.

While it's well known that oil-rich nations in the Middle East extract a ton of oil, they're not the only nations involved. The United States, Russian Federation, Venezuela, and many other nations all use oil rigs to get their oil, and these expensive systems are arguably some of the most important machines on the planet.

The United States has the most oil rigs by far. As of May 2025, The American Oil & Gas Reporter revealed that the United States had a total of 584 active rigs. These are broken down into 479 oil rigs, 101 used to harvest natural gas, and four designated for miscellaneous extraction. Next is Canada (195 rigs), followed by Iran (117), United Arab Emirates (62), Iraq (59), followed by many others.

Read More:

<https://www.slashgear.com/1861110/oil-rig-which-country-has-most-highest-number/>.

The company's 'Stentrode' consists of a tubular metal mesh with electrode sensors; it's designed to be threaded through a blood vessel that reaches the brain. When it detects motor signals there, it sends those to a small transmitter at the other end of its wiring, which is worn by the user. The transmitter then beams the signals to a wireless processor, which appears to be the size of a smartphone, to interpret and deliver them as commands in real time to a personal device like an iPhone.

Source: [Synchron](#) via [Business Wire](#) and [www.newatlas.com](http://www.newatlas.com).

### Whole-body Teleoperation System Allows Robots to Perform Coordinated Tasks With Human-like Dexterity

by Ingrid Fadelli , Tech Xplore, May 15, 2025

The ability to remotely control robots in real-time, also known as teleoperation, could be useful for a broad range of real-world applications. In recent years, some engineers have been trying to develop teleoperation systems that allow users to guide the actions of humanoid robots, which have a body structure resembling that of humans, getting the robots to precisely imitate their whole-body movements.

Researchers at Stanford University and Simon Fraser University recently introduced TWIST (teleoperated whole-body imitation system), a new system that allows humanoid robots to closely imitate the whole-body motions of human users in [real-time](#), successfully completing various real-world tasks.

The team's robot can perform whole-body manipulation (e.g., lifting boxes from the ground), legged manipulation (e.g., kicking the football), locomotion (e.g., walking sideways), and expressive motions (e.g., Waltz dance).

"We want [humanoid robots](#) to be truly intelligent and capable in accomplishing real-world tasks," added Ze. "Our next step will be to scale up [data collection](#) and then to enable robots to learn autonomous skills."

Found on <https://techxplore.com/news/2025-05-body-teleoperation-robots-tasks-human.html>.

## CLUB and REGIONAL NEWS

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Check out the newsletters from another continent at:

[https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?](https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=kZEL7m5ZqFKLcN0XPauHE6hc9XKPuzs97fnV)

[code=kZEL7m5ZqFKLcN0XPauHE6hc9XKPuzs97fnV](https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=kZEL7m5ZqFKLcN0XPauHE6hc9XKPuzs97fnV)

(Cape Computer and Technology Club, South Africa).

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## University of Rochester and RIT Develop Experimental Quantum Communications Network

By [Luke Auburn](#) | Director of Communications, Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences, 5/6/25

Researchers at the [University of Rochester](#) and [Rochester Institute of Technology](#) recently connected their campuses with an experimental quantum communications network using two optical fibers. In a [new paper](#) published in *Optica Quantum*, scientists describe the Rochester Quantum Network (RoQNET), which uses single photons to transmit information about 11 miles along fiber-optic lines at room temperature using optical wavelengths.

Quantum communications networks have the potential to massively improve the security with which information is transmitted, making messages impossible to clone or intercept without detection. Quantum communication works with quantum bits, or qubits, that can be physically created using atoms, superconductors, and even in defects in materials like diamond. However, photons—individual particles of light—are the best type of qubit for long distance quantum communications.

While other groups have developed experimental quantum networks, RoQNET is unique in its use of integrated quantum photonic chips for quantum light generation and solid-state based quantum memory nodes. The teams at the University of Rochester and RIT combined their expertise in optics, quantum information, and photonics to develop technology with photonic-integrated circuits that could facilitate the quantum network. Currently, efforts to leverage fiber-optic lines for quantum communication require bulky and expensive superconducting-nanowire-single-photon-detectors (SNSPDs), but they hope to eliminate this barrier.

Ultimately, the researchers want to connect RoQNET to other research facilities across New York State at Brookhaven National Lab, Stony Brook University, Air Force Research Laboratory, and New York University.

Another advancement for our area <https://www.rochester.edu/newscenter/experimental-communications-rochester-quantum-network-roqnet-651182/>.



### 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.**

**[www.rcsi.org](http://www.rcsi.org)**