



# 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. 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 September, 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.*

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.**



***\*\* We are back and meeting in person again \*\****

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**December 14, 'Windows 11', Francis Chao, via Zoom**

**January 11, 2022, TBD**

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RCSI editor

## 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.

## Scammers Are Using Google Ads to Steal Cryptocurrency

By [Dave LeClair, @davegleclair](#)

[Cryptocurrency](#) is fascinating to look at from the outside, but it's a bit like the wild west in some ways. Scammers know this, and they're targeting unsuspecting crypto owners with malicious Google ads that direct them to fake crypto wallets.

The report of the new scam comes from [Check Point Research \(CPR\)](#) (via [The Verge](#)), and it says that it has seen more than \$500k worth of crypto stolen in a single weekend, thanks to these fake crypto wallets.

Essentially, this is a phishing scam where the malicious individuals buy a Google ad and create a site that looks like a popular [crypto wallet](#).



“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** and leaving hard copies at some area computer repair shops. Digital copies can be obtained from [www.rcsi.org](http://www.rcsi.org) or my Pcloud storage at <https://tinyurl.com/tonydelrcsi> (*this link works in PDF version only*). Also includes presentation slides and articles too large for this newsletter.

**Some Past Presentations:**

- Autonomous Cars and Robots
- Open Source and Free Software
- Protecting Your Identity
- Keeping Mobile Devices Secure
- 3D Printing, ENABLE project
- Internet Security and Privacy
- Flash Drives-Not Just for Storage
- Features, Mac OS X & Windows
- 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

Specifically, the scammers target Phantom and MetaMask wallets, which are popular for the Solana and Ethereum ecosystems. However, if the scam keeps seeing success, you should also be careful with other wallets and currencies.

When someone searches on Google for these wallets, an ad will appear at the top of the search results linking to a site that looks like the actual wallet. Upon going to the website, it will trick users into providing their wallet key so the attacker can steal their cryptocurrency. If they try to create a new wallet, the website actually links to the attacker’s existing wallet, and any funds they place in will go directly to the attacker.

As far as what cryptocurrency owners can do, CPR advises them to stay on high alert. “I strongly urge the crypto community to double-check the URLs they click on and avoid clicking on Google Ads related to crypto wallets at this time,” said Oded Vanunu, Head of Products Vulnerabilities Research at Check Point.

Whether you’re dealing with cryptocurrency or any other [phishing scam](#), you should always check the URL to make sure you’re on the website you’re supposed to be. Don’t ever give out your wallet passphrase or key to a website that you’re not sure about. Also, scroll down a little further and click the actual search result instead of an ad, as you can be more confident in the validity of the website.

Printed from <https://www.howtogeek.com/766481/scammers-are-using-google-ads-to-steal-cryptocurrency/>.

**\*\*\* New Meeting Place \*\*\***

Our usual meeting place is being renovated, but St John’s has set aside another space for us to use. Jennifer Kelley (the recreation director) has found us a new room at Chestnut Court, which is the next building over. The room is straight back through the lobby (where the sun room is in the other building) and it has a TV with an HDMI hookup so we won’t need a projector.

Did you bring it with you? - The cloud is always with you

By Phil Sorrentino, Newsletter Contributor  
Sarasota Technology Users Group

There is just so much room on your phone for pictures, videos, music, and such. So, what if someone asks about that video of your grandchild or pet or that list of current movies that you keep up to date? They are probably right there on your computer... at home. And you probably think you can’t bring your computer everywhere. Well, you’re right; you probably can’t or at least don’t want to bring your computer with you every place, even if it is a lightweight laptop. You especially don’t want to bring it if your computer is a desktop. So, here’s a solution to this, not really too serious, problem. Keep those items in the cloud, your own personal cloud. You always have your phone with you, or at least that’s what the statistics and casual

## Special Interest Group

### Linux Sig

Carl Schmidtman



After nearly 15 years of running the Linux SIG, Carl has decided to retire this venture. Over the years, the SIG has met in various locations around the city, including Microcycle on Humbolt Street, College Avenue, Rochester Hackerspace and Gates Library. Those who attended the SIG, were able to bring their computer system in and get expert help from several Linux gurus and have their questions about Linux and FOSS (free and open source software) answered.

Due to Covid, the SIG started meeting online. Carl sent out a link last year to try an online meeting, using Jitsi. You could not bring your machine in, but you could still ask questions and share screens during the meeting. Anyone attending online could help answer questions. Like most other online meetings, people got burned out and attendance dropped. Carl feels this is the right time to end the SIG.

THANKS, CARL FOR  
HELPING TO PROMOTE LINUX  
ALL THESE YEARS.

### Free, Virtual Technology Conferences, ONLINE presented by APCUG

The 2022 schedule

**Saturdays:**

Not announced yet  
from 1 – 4 pm, EST

For Conference Descriptions  
& Registration Links, go to  
**[apcug2.org/category/  
virtual-tech-conference](https://apcug2.org/category/virtual-tech-conference)**

observance leads us to believe. (85% of Americans have a smartphone [96% for people between 20 and 30], and from casual observance, 99% of those who have smartphones carry their phone all the time.) Smartphones don't have hard drives, and their storage is limited, so the cloud is essentially your phone's hard drive.

The cloud we're speaking of is the personal storage services available to all of us with a connection to the Internet. Many cloud storage services are available, such as Microsoft's Onedrive, Google's Google Drive and Google Photos, Apple's iCloud, Amazon's Drive (formerly known as Cloud Drive), Dropbox, Box, SugarSync, Evernote, SpiderOak, and iDrive. Each of these provides a certain amount of memory storage for free. For example, OneDrive gives you 5GB, Google Drive gives you 15GB+, iCloud gives you 5GB, Amazon Drive gives you 5GB, Dropbox gives you 2GB. (The amount of free storage is subject to change, so check with the specific provider before you start sending all of your pictures to your new cloud storage account.) If you need more storage, in addition to the free amount, the cost for additional storage is pretty reasonable. For example, OneDrive will give you 50GB for \$2/month, Google Drive will provide you with 100GB for \$2/mo, Amazon will give you 100 GB for \$12/year or 1TB for \$60/year. Of course, prices for bulk amounts of storage vary from provider to provider. There are several different plans even from one particular provider, so check out the plans and prices before you start to upload your total picture and video libraries.

Today, Google Photos limit is 15MB, but up until this past June 1<sup>st</sup>, it had a little additional twist. Google Photos would store as many pictures and videos as you were willing to upload. There was a limitation on the quality of the pictures and the videos, but within those limits, they would store as many as you uploaded to Google Photos. (The picture limit was a photo of 16 megapixels, and the video limit was a resolution of 1080p.) Are you wondering why Google was so magnanimous? I know I was. When you use any of these services (and most Apps, for that matter), you agree to their policy agreement. The language in the agreement grants the company broad rights to reproduce, use, and create "derivative works" from the contents stored on Google Photos. (A "derivative work" is based on one or more preexisting works, which in this context implies pictures or videos, so it sounds like your picture or video could become part of a future picture or video creation. Some of the things they offer to users are albums of pictures of particular people or events of your choice. These albums are derivative works.) While the agreement confirms that the user retains the intellectual property rights, privacy advocates raise concerns that the license grants Google the right to use the information and data to customize the advertising and other services that Google provides. Basically, Google can use this information to develop targeted advertisements. They want to get to know you and your habits, and what better way than through your pictures and videos. After all, with the convenience and quality of the smartphone cameras, we could be creating a picture diary of our lives stored in Google Photos.

## RCSI Officers

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Hour: . . . . . Jan Rothfuss  
Linux SIG: . . . Carl Schmidtman  
unixgeek@faultline.com  
Programs and *Monitor* editor: . . .  
. . . . . Tony Dellelo

## 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

The fact that these popular cloud storage services are free and easy to use will probably make them useful for most people. But if security is a concern for you, you might consider the less known Tresorit storage service. The Tresorit storage service claims that “Many of the popular cloud-based services such as Dropbox, Box or OneDrive usually employ server-side encryption.” In essence, this means that any data you store on their servers is encrypted using a master key to which the server administrators have access, but you do not. With this type of encryption, you have to trust that your cloud storage provider will not be subjected to a court order to hand over data. (If you have that kind of concern, you may need to rethink the whole reason you are using the cloud.) More probably, the concern would be that it might be hacked by an outside party or disgruntled employee. Tresorit says that it uses a different approach in that its encryption technology secures your files so they cannot be decrypted in the cloud. This makes them much safer because you control the encryption key. No one else can access your data, not even the company’s administrators. Only you can unencrypt your files. So, if security is your main concern, you might want to look at the Tresorit storage service. But for most of us, without an unusual need for security, the popular storage services will probably do just fine.

So, by using one or many of these storage services, you can now have all of your information available to you anywhere, anytime. You’ll always be able to show those latest pictures of your grandchildren or the one of two cats playing with a cute little dog (as long as you have a connection to the cloud).

Reprinted from [www.thestug.org](http://www.thestug.org), [philsorr@yahoo.com](mailto:philsorr@yahoo.com).

## Tricky Spam Emails

By Jim Cerny, Forums Coordinator / Instructor  
Sarasota Technology Users Group

You probably are all aware by now of those awful spam emails that come to you in your inbox. But recently, I had a very sneaky and tricky spam email that appeared to come from a friend, and I need to tell you about it so you can be very careful.

First, I received a brief email from a friend of mine who was also listed in my contact list, but I found out later that the source email address was not really his. It “looked” like his, even having his wife’s first name in it, but it was NOT his email address; it was from a different email provider, which he never used. Yes, that was tricky all right, but later that week, I received one even worse. The email sent to me appeared to come from another friend and, being very careful, I “hovered” my mouse on the email address, and it did show his actual email address, exactly as it is entered in my contact list! But it was NOT from him. Fortunately, I called him, and he confirmed that someone had “stolen” his email address and was using it to try to get gift cards from people.

So, in addition to the usual email precautions, I would like to offer these to help you from being scammed –

## Tidbits of probably useless information

The tallest bridges in the world measured by their tallest points from the ground

With a height of 1,104 feet, the **Millau Viaduct** is the tallest bridge in the world. The Millau Viaduct, which is located in Creissels, France, is such a marvel of engineering that many were skeptical that the bridge could even be built. The multi-span cable-stayed bridge spans the length of the Tarn Valley. The Millau Viaduct is actually 62 feet (19 m) taller than the Eiffel Tower.

The **Pingtang** bridge is the tallest bridge in China (1089 ft). Located in China's Guizhou Province, the massive cable-supported viaduct spans across a huge canyon and is a major part of the Pingtang-Luodian Highway. The bridge's center tower is the tallest reinforced bridge tower in the world. The bridge opened in 2020, and you can now drive to Pingtang from Luodian in about an hour; before the bridge was built the trip took two and a half hours.

The **Hutong Yangtze River Bridge** is a vital part of the Nantong Shanghai railway which opened in July 2020. The towers of the bridge stand 1,082 feet (330 meters) tall. The sturdy bridge, which connects Suzhou and Nantong, can withstand collisions from cargo ships, deadly typhoons, and even powerful earthquakes. The top part of the bridge consists of a six-lane highway and the lower part of the bridge has four rail tracks.

+ Brief emails from a "friend" that say something like "Can you help me?" or "Can I ask a favor?" are clues that they are bogus. Call your friend to confirm if they really need your help. As they say, *if it was really urgent, they would have called you*, not sent an email.

+ If you do reply to such an email by mistake, you will get a follow-up email with a sad story and an urgent request for something like a "cash card" or donation. Don't do it!

+ Do not reply or provide ANY personal information in ANY email. Emails can be forwarded to anyone anywhere. Valid email addresses are traded like stolen credit card numbers.

+ Do NOT send money or credit card information in any email. Instead, use your online banking to pay bills.

+ THINK – did the email text really appear to be something your friend would write to you? If there is the least bit of oddness about it, call the person.

How do these scammers get started? Our neighborhood has a directory provided to all residents, which includes phone numbers and email addresses. Many people purposely do not provide their personal information in such a directory. Once you get an email address, I suppose it is possible to tap into some emails sent by that address and thus obtain many more email addresses.

Finally, it appears a scammer can send an email that appears to come from someone else's address, and yet they still receive replies to the scammer's email inbox. How they do this, I have no idea, so be careful.

One final story – I was at the Walmart customer service desk when an older man was requesting a money transfer to his son, who needed money quickly. The Walmart people knew right away that it was a scam and refused to fulfill his request. The man was angry, but it was the right thing to do. He wanted to send "his son" several thousand dollars!

Reprinted from [www.thestug.org](http://www.thestug.org), [vp1@thestug.org](mailto:vp1@thestug.org).

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

## Windows 11 First Impressions

After all the fanfare, what's it really all about?

by Leo Notenboom, <https://askleo.com/>

Making Technology Work For Everyone

I installed Windows 11, and share some of my impressions.

When it became available, I installed Windows 11 on one of my virtual machines so I could give it a try before committing to it. I gotta say... I'm kinda underwhelmed. But that may be OK.

There are a lot of Windows 11 reviews out already, and I'm not going to try to duplicate what they have to say. Instead, I'm going to focus on the

## Jere's Tech Tips

By Jere Minich, Apcug Advisor,  
Region 5 (AL, FL, GA, SC)

### WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOGLE TV AND ANDROID TV?

– Google TV is the company's platform for smart TVs and set-top boxes. But wait, didn't Google already have a TV platform called Android TV? And what about the Google TV app? Let's dive into another Google naming mess. First and foremost, Google TV is still Android TV. The simplest way to think about Google TV is to imagine Android TV with a fresh coat of paint.

Read more at [What's the Difference between Google TV and Android TV?](http://www.howtogeek.com/100000/what-is-the-difference-between-google-tv-and-android-tv/)

### HOW TO MAKE A BOOTABLE CD/DVD/USB TO INSTALL WINDOWS

– Need installation media to reinstall Windows? Here's how to create a bootable CD, USB, or DVD with an ISO from scratch! Having a bootable version of Windows on a DVD and a USB drive can be a real lifesaver. Today you'll learn how to create bootable versions of Windows ISOs on CD, DVD, and USB. Make Use Of has the steps, screenshots, and terminology explained here.

<https://bitly.co/901v>

### HOW TO QUICKLY SELECT EVERYTHING IN A

DOCUMENT AT ONCE – Have you ever needed to select all the text and images on a web page or other document at the same time?

How about all the cells in a spreadsheet or all the data contained in an input box?

Rick's Daily Tips has the answer right here. <https://bitly.co/8iUl>

changes you'll notice right away, and the things that will impact the average (not power) user.

### Windows 11

Windows 11 is prettier, with some cleaner, updated user-interface elements and major changes to the taskbar and Start menu. It also expands on a couple of Windows 10 features. At this point, however, unless you're really eager to try it, there's no compelling reason to upgrade to Windows 11.

#### It's... pretty?

The first thing you'll notice is that Microsoft has refreshed the look and feel of Windows once again. Icons and controls have all been updated to a new standard. Windows File Explorer is a good example.

It's pretty, and that's what you'll notice first, especially on the taskbar and Start menu. I can't say that it adds a lot of value, but neither does it detract from anything.

In the same category as "pretty", I suppose, the sounds associated with Windows have been updated.

#### The taskbar & Start menu

The next thing you'll notice is that your taskbar has changed.

It's on the bottom. Only. You can no longer move it to the side or top of your display. This is both good and bad. On one hand, having it on the side allowed you to make better use of screen real estate on wide displays, as I do. On the other hand, people are often very confused when the taskbar seems to move itself to somewhere they don't expect. Dealing with that is [one of my most popular YouTube videos](#).

This change reduces complexity at the cost of flexibility.

The only real configuration change you can make to the taskbar's location is to have it align to the left instead of its new, centered default.

The Start menu looks different as well, having discarded the "live tiles" introduced in Windows 8.

The option to resize tiles has been removed. The collection of pinned apps will scroll (note the two dots on the right, indicating that there are two pages of pins), and clicking on "All apps" slides into the familiar A-Z listing of everything on your Start menu.

Many people didn't like live tiles or tiles in general, so it'll be interesting to see how their removal will be welcomed — or not.

#### More layout options

One feature you may like is that hovering over the maximize button on a window will display a selection of layout choices. Click on the image representing the layout and position you want, and the window will move and resize to that position on your desktop. It's a lot like FancyZones from the Windows PowerToys collection. I expect I'll use it a lot when I get that far.

## Scam Alerts

**These are actual text messages sent to my cell phone.** They are getting better and are actually using my name instead of generic names.

1410100019

Take 1min-Netflix survey For 1 year Free 4k Subscription Plan Code: 5OGEGBG  
<http://oresulief.mobi/Netflix....>

1410100018

A \$100 Walmart's Anniversary Coupon Did you claim yours ?  
<http://aitary.shop/walmart....>

1410200515

Weekend Special! Extra points to Qualify For a \$100 Walgreens GIFT  
<http://odenisout.mobi/walgreen....>

1410200514

Hello From CVS, You Have enough ExtraCARE pts to Qualify for a \$100 GIFT CID#646162  
<http://wiedann.mobi/cl/5508....>

1410100017

Is your Partner CHEATING on you? Time to find out!  
<http://capelaud.shop/cl/5406....>

gift030@at-t.net

Congratulation ,You have been selected to get a reward from AT&T <http://gavisith.com/cl/....>

1410200512

Home-Depot Customer Appreciation Giveaway 100\$ credits for customer ID:67141  
<http://miscoky.com/cl/....>

(657) 464-0200

Final Reminder: Your ATT refund of \$391.03 is still registered in our system as pending.

## Other additions

Microsoft Teams is included, and its chat icon is present in the Windows taskbar. (Of course, you can remove it if you don't use Teams.)

A new feature called "Widgets" displays a collection of, well, widgets, when clicked in the taskbar. This looks very much like a similar feature added to Windows 10's taskbar (to less than stellar reviews) not long ago.

This leads to another observation.

## Not everything new is new

Many of the features Microsoft mentions as being new in Windows 11 are actually in Windows 10 already (or easily added).

- Microsoft Teams can be installed in Windows 10.
- The new Microsoft Store looks very much like the old Microsoft Store, with the revamped Windows 11 look and feel and additional marketing from Disney.
- Windows Security is being touted in some of Microsoft's materials. It's already built into Windows 10.
- Virtual Desktops have been improved, but I'm not seeing how. They work fine for me in Windows 10, and I use them heavily.

Before you use new features in Windows 11 as a reason to upgrade, make sure you don't have them available already in Windows 10.

## Not everything new is good

It turns out that it can be extremely difficult to set a new default browser in Windows 11. At its worst (and, naturally, the worst turns out to be the most likely scenario) it now involves making multiple changes in the Settings app to make the switch. I honestly expect and hope that this will be one of the first issues addressed in Windows 11 updates. As it stands, it's bound to cause a significant amount of not-very-positive feedback.

## Getting Windows 11

There are three approaches to getting Windows 11.

- Get a new machine with it pre-installed.
- Run Windows Update, and eventually it'll show Windows 11 as an available update.
- Download and run the [Windows 11 Installation Assistant](#), or create an [ISO](#) image.

## You don't need to update to Windows 11

That's just a cursory overview of my initial reactions to Windows 11. It's nice, but there's no rush.

And, to be clear:

- You do not need to update to Windows 11.
- No one is forcing you to update to Windows 11.
- You probably don't need a new machine to update to Windows 11, unless your machine is quite old.

## Great Stocking Stuffers

If you're at a loss when it comes to a good, cheap gift for the techie in your life, you can't go wrong with a Chromecast. The latest [Chromecast with Google TV](#) is the one to get right now and it doesn't matter if your giftee uses Google products already. Like other Chromecasts, this one lets you stream movies and TV shows from major services like Netflix, YouTube, Hulu and HBO Max, among many others.

Most of us have someone in our lives who misplaces everything — their keys, wallet, purse or backpack, the list goes on. If that person in your life happens to also own an iPhone, [AirTags](#) make great gifts and you can buy one for only \$30. (You could even get an [AirTag case](#) for them, too, and still spend less than \$50.) These quarter-sized Bluetooth trackers pair almost immediately with iOS devices and can then be tracked using the Find My app.

Suckers for '90s nostalgia will be thrilled to find an [original Tamagotchi](#) in their stocking. The digital pet from 1997 is back and, at least with this model, not much has changed. You'll still be tasked with feeding, cleaning and taking care of your Tamagotchi using the three buttons on the egg-shaped device. Yes, you can even discipline the creature when it's bothering you — just make sure not to neglect it to the point of starvation.

Flash drives, memory cards, portable SSDs and the like are gadgets that many people don't have when they need them the most. [Samsung's EVO Select microSD card](#) would make a good gift.

- Windows 10 will be supported at least into 2025 — a full three years from this writing.

As I said, I'm somewhat underwhelmed with Windows 11. I suspect that's a good thing. The number of changes aren't overwhelming, and certainly none are what I'd consider to be catastrophic (except maybe for that default browser change thing). It's an upgrade that's not compelling, yet interesting enough to perhaps take at your leisure.

Right now, though, unless you just can't contain yourself, I recommend *not* updating to Windows 11. Wait for more of the dust to settle and issues to be discovered and worked out.

Windows 10 is just fine.

### End of Article

Dan's Desk

## Tips for not getting scammed

By Dan Douglas, President, Space Coast PCUG  
**PLEASE PRINT THIS AND KEEP IT NEAR YOUR PC AND READ IT BEFORE RESPONDING TO ANY POTENTIAL SCAMS.**

Unfortunately, I have seen a dramatic increase in people seeking help after being scammed on their computers. This includes some of our own SCPCUG members. This article covers some precautions you can take to minimize your exposure to getting scammed on your computer. First, let's look at the most common ways of enticing people to fall for these schemes:

1) Phone Calls - Receiving or placing a phone call, supposedly from or to some recognizable, well known/trusted organization, such as Microsoft, Dell, Amazon, HP, etc.

Prevention and best practices to avoid falling victim:

1. If you want to contact an organization, go to their official website, and click on the link to contact us.
2. Do not search for contact info.
3. Scammers pay to be listed first on common searches and act as if you are calling the real company. I've seen this many times with people trying to contact HP for printer issues or supplies. They do a web search and call the first number that comes up, and the person convinces the caller that their printer may need an update, and if they give them remote access, they can check it out, and then it's game over.
4. It is extremely unlikely you would ever receive a phone call regarding your PC or any activities you perform on it.
5. If you don't screen your calls, immediately hang up on anyone claiming to be calling from one of these organizations.
6. Never answer your phone with 'yes.'

2) PC Messages - Receiving a screen message on your PC that informs you - take your choice - you have been hacked, you are in danger of losing



## Around the World

**Climate change is the greatest risk facing us all.**



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

“Securing a brighter future for our children and future generations requires countries to take urgent action at home and abroad to turn the tide on climate change. It is with ambition, courage and collaboration as we approach the crucial COP26 summit in the UK that we can seize this moment together, so we can recover cleaner, rebuild greener and restore our planet.”  
[Prime minister of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson]

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought devastation to millions around the world, disrupting many parts of the global economy. Governments, including our own, have stepped up to protect lives and livelihoods. But climate change has continued, and it ultimately threatens life on earth.

Around the world storms, floods and wildfires are intensifying. Air pollution sadly affects the health of tens of millions of people and unpredictable weather causes untold damage to homes and livelihoods too.

But while the impacts of climate change are devastating, advances in tackling it are leading to cleaner air, creating good jobs, restoring nature and at the same time unleashing economic growth. Despite the opportunities, we are not acting fast enough. To grip this crisis, countries need to join forces urgently.

your banking passwords, your PC has been used for illegal acts and you will be reported to the FBI, your IP address has been traced, etc. The message usually states to not turn off your PC and to call some number immediately. These are commonly delivered through your browser (Edge, Chrome, Firefox, etc.) but can be cleverly designed to hide where they originated from or look exactly like a familiar company's messages by using their logos and copies of sections from their actual web pages.

Prevention and best practices to avoid falling victim:

1. Do not click on the message.
2. Immediately force your computer to shut down completely (NOT sleep) – pull the plug if you need to.
3. Scammers will usually disable many common ways to close the program/browser normally, such as preventing you from clicking on the close X in the top right-hand corner, so forcing the power off may be the only way.
4. Usually, the scam will not permanently infect or corrupt or access any of your information if you shut it off immediately.
5. If you let the scammer have remote access to your PC, you may need to change your accounts' (at a minimum, credit cards and financial) passwords to be safe.
6. Download the free version of Malwarebytes from [www.malwarebytes.org](http://www.malwarebytes.org) if you want to be sure any traces are removed.

3) Email – Opening an attachment or clicking on a link embedded within an email can launch any one of many forms of 'attacks.'

Prevention and best practices to avoid falling victim:

- If an email looks suspicious, check the sender's email address. Your email program may always show this address, or you may need to hold the mouse over the name to see the actual email address used to send the email.
- Flag as Spam anything that doesn't look normal, such as a domain name that is not the same as the company name or a sender's ID that seems made up, such as [dsae12345@myname.com](mailto:dsae12345@myname.com).
- Report the email as phishing. Phishing is where the scammer tries to get you to log on to a website that looks like a legitimate one but captures your login information. Common ones are banks, PayPal, and Amazon.
- Never open an attachment without checking the sender's email address first.
- Malwarebytes is a good program that may be able to block many scam programs before they are active if you are using the *premium version*.

From the [www.scpcug.com](http://www.scpcug.com), [datadan@msn.com](mailto:datadan@msn.com).

**\*\* Jokes Stolen from  
Everywhere \*\***

**Alternative 10 Laws of  
Computing**

The more acronyms on a page, the harder the topic is to understand.

Inside every program is a small module struggling to find a life of its own.

Developeritus. Developers get their programs working perfectly on their machines, but they forget that their potential customers may have very different computer environments.

Computer project teams avoid monthly progress reporting because it demonstrates their lack of progress.

Program complexity grows until it exceeds the abilities of the programmer who must maintain it.

You will never solve any computer problem if you are in a bad mood.

When troubleshooting computer problems, people always assume that problem is the most obscure combination possible. Whereas, in reality the fault is invariably the simplest fault.

Every computer program expands to fill all the available memory.

If a computer supplier says a part is interchangeable, for example tape drives - they lie.

Remember that your computer makes as many mistakes in two pico seconds as fifty men working for a year.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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 web version of this newsletter.

**Australia Aims to Launch Water-Hunting Lunar Rover in 2024**

By [Ryan Whitwam](#) on November 5, 2021

The moon is a big deal again. NASA is currently working toward a return to the lunar surface with the Artemis program and the (heavily delayed) Space Launch System rocket. Recently, the Australian Space Agency announced it would cooperate with NASA to send a rover to the moon in 2026, but a private Aussie rover [could beat it there by two years](#). This robot, designed in cooperation with the University of Technology Sydney, will search for signs of water on the lunar surface, which could help support future exploration efforts.

This will be a pint-sized rover with limited capabilities, but the designers have come up with some interesting gimmicks. The 22-pound (10 kilograms) rover will measure just 60x60x50cm, slightly larger than your average proverbial breadbox. It will ride to the lunar surface aboard the Hakuto lander. Both the rover and the lander are being designed by ispace, a Japanese aerospace company that gained notoriety during the Google Lunar XPrize contest.

Continue at [www.extremetech.com/extreme/328801-australia-aims-to-launch-water-hunting-lunar-rover-in-2024](http://www.extremetech.com/extreme/328801-australia-aims-to-launch-water-hunting-lunar-rover-in-2024).

**COVID-19 Affects More of the Brain than Expected, New Study Finds**

by [Modern Sciences Team](#), November 8, 2021

New research published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience* reveals alarming insights into the true damage caused by COVID-19 on an infected person's body. A collaborative effort between researchers from Germany, France, and Spain, successfully showed COVID-19's capability to destroy cells in the brain known as *cerebrovascular endothelial cells*.

These cells, known in general as *endothelial cells*, form the internal walls of blood vessels all over the body, known as the *endothelium*. They are thus crucial in the distribution of oxygen and other nutrients across the body through the blood. Killing off these cells means severely impacting the performance of these blood vessels, restricting blood flow to these parts of the body.

This new finding comes as the latest in a long line of findings about [the current pandemic that has swept through the world](#). Earlier research into the SARS-CoV-2 virus has revealed [how it entered cells in our bodies](#), as well as showcase [just how dangerous the new dominant variants of COVID-19 really are](#). And while new medicines are being developed to fight against COVID-19, much like the [recently-developed](#)

## Odds and Ends

### SpinLaunch's rocket-free kinetic launch system conducts first test flight

By [Nick Lavars](#)



For more than half a century we've been sending vehicles and humans into space with the help of rockets, but what if there was another way? Startup SpinLaunch has been exploring such possibilities through the development of what it calls the world's first kinetic space launch system, and it's recently completed its first test flight.

SpinLaunch has been developing its alternative launch system since 2015, imagining a future where satellites and spacecraft can escape the Earth's atmosphere with zero emissions. It aims to achieve this with the help of a giant accelerator powered by an electric drive that it says could cut fuel use by four times and the costs by 10 times compared to traditional rocket launches, while also firing multiple payloads into orbit each day.

For more info, <https://newatlas.com/space/spinlaunch-rocket-free-kinetic-launch-system-first-flight/>.

[Munipiravir](#) by pharmaceutical company Merck, it nevertheless remains a priority for researchers to identify the extent of the damage the widespread infection imparts on the people it infects.

To finish this scary article, proceed, <https://modernsciences.org/covid-19-affects-more-of-the-brain-than-expected-new-study-finds/>.

### Earth's lower atmosphere is rising due to climate change

By [Freda Kreier](#)

#### Higher temperatures are forcing the upper boundary of the troposphere to expand upward



The troposphere (seen here in orange) is the lowest layer of Earth's atmosphere and where nearly all weather occurs. Over the last 40 years, the boundary between the troposphere and the neighboring stratosphere (pink) has risen as a result of climate change.

Image Science & Analysis Laboratory/NASA Johnson Space Center

Global temperatures are rising and so, it seems, is part of the sky. Atmosphere readings collected by weather balloons in the Northern Hemisphere over the last 40 years reveal that [climate change is pushing the upper boundary of the troposphere](#) — the slice of sky closest to the ground — steadily upward at a rate of 50 to 60 meters per decade, researchers report November 5 in *Science Advances*.

Temperature is the driving force behind this change, says Jane Liu, an environmental scientist at the University of Toronto. The troposphere varies in height around the world, reaching as high as 20 kilometers in the tropics and as low as seven kilometers near the poles.

As reported on [www.sciencenews.org/article/earth-lower-atmosphere-rising-climate-change-troposphere](http://www.sciencenews.org/article/earth-lower-atmosphere-rising-climate-change-troposphere).

University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry

## All eyes on vision restoration with latest NEI Audacious Goals Initiative Grant

[Juliette McGregor, Ph.D.](#), assistant professor in the department of Ophthalmology, leads one of three new projects funded by the [National Eye Institute's Audacious Goals Initiative](#) (AGI) aimed at testing regenerative therapies for blindness due to retinal degeneration and monitoring transplanted cells as they integrate with host tissues.

The NEI awarded \$3.7 million per year for five years for the projects "that aim to develop models that can gauge the survival and integration of regenerated cells, including light-sensing photoreceptors and retinal ganglion cells (RGCs), which carry visual signals from the retina to the brain," according to a [press release from NEI](#).

The AGI for Regenerative Medicine is an effort by the National Eye Institute (NEI) to push the boundaries of vision science and restore vision through regeneration of the retina. "By facilitating cross-disciplinary research, we are tackling the most devastating and difficult-to-treat eye diseases," according to the AGI [website](#).

[www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/news/all-eyes-on-vision-restoration-with-latest-nei-aud.aspx](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/news/all-eyes-on-vision-restoration-with-latest-nei-aud.aspx)

## RCSI

The **planning meetings are held online** the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm and are open to any member. We use Jitsi, and a link will be emailed to members before our next planning meeting. ANY CLUB MEMBER MAY ATTEND and voice their opinions about club operations.

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.

### **New Meeting Place**

Our Usual Meeting Place is being renovated.

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

## **LINUX SIG**

After nearly 15 years of running the Linux SIG, Carl has decided to retire this venture. Over the years, the SIG has met in various locations around the city, including Micrecycle on Humbolt Street, College Avenue, Rochester Hackerspace and Gates Library. Those who attended the SIG, were able to bring their computer system in and get expert help from several Linux gurus and have their questions about Linux and FOSS (free and open source software) answered.

Due to Covid, the SIG started meeting online. Carl sent out a link last year to try an online meeting, using Jitsi. You could not bring your machine in, but you could still ask questions and share screens during the meeting. Anyone attending online could help answer questions. Like most other online meetings, people got burned out and attendance dropped. Carl feels this is the right time to end the SIG. THANKS, CARL FOR HELPING TO PROMOTE LINUX ALL THESE YEARS.