February 2023

WINDSOR Seniors Computer Users' Group Newsletter

Computer-Help: Drop-In 2-4 PM Feb 27, 2023. Masks are only required on non-vaccinated attendees.

Next general meeting will be Mar 13, 2023, 1 PM, at Bluebird Windsor Senior Recreation Center Then we start our **after-meeting Drop-In computer help session**, **(2-4 PM)** Please use the sign-up sheet. Hope to see you there.

Mar Drop-In Computer Help: Monday Feb 27, 2-4 PM. First come first served.

Feb 13, 2023: General meeting, **at the temporary Bluebird Windsor Senior Recreation Center (BWSRC)**. We will discuss the latest news in technology and answer questions.

After our general meeting, we will have **Drop-In computer help session**, **(2-4 PM)**. **Jim, and Ross** will be available to help with your computer/smartphone problems. Please be sure to use the **sign-up sheet**. We hope to see you there

Masks are only required on non-vaccinated participants**.**

In the News:
a) Here's everything Samsung announced at Unpacked 2023
b) DOJ disrupts major ransomware group
c) The iPhone 14's Prize Feature Kicked Off 2023's Biggest Phone Trend
d) How-To Geek's Best of CES 2023 Award Winners
e) If you bought one of these defective laptops, Apple might owe you money
f) US school district sues Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok over harm to kids
g) Latest tech sector layoff looks ugly. But it may not be as bad as you think.

Articles for February

a) Is Using the Cloud Safe? by Leo A. Notenboom. "The cloud is nothing more than services provided online over the internet. It's nothing more than a fancy marketing term. Ultimately, it has no real meaning. As security compromises seem to happen regularly, many ask, 'Is using the cloud safe?' It's as safe as you make it." The article gives 7 guidelines for using online services safely. Ultimately, "You do have to assume responsibility for your own security, and that includes taking reasonable precautions to prevent problems and additional steps to minimize the impact should an issue arise."

askleo.com/is_the_cloud_dangerous

b) How to Buy a PC Monitor: A 2022 Guide by Scharon Harding, 04.11.2022. If you are in the market for a new monitor, this is the article for you. It explains resolution (pixels), refresh rates, sizes,

b) and more."

tomshardware.com/reviews/monitor-buying-guide,5699 and howtogeek.com/863865/do-you-need-a-144hz-240hz-or-300hz-refresh-rate-display

c) AI Isn't Really Artificial Intelligence by Andrew Heinzman, 01.27.2023. "At its core, today's AI is incapable of comprehension, knowledge, thought, or 'intelligence.' This name is little more than a marketing gimmick. It cannot 'know' or 'think' anything. Existing AI is just a mess of code attached to a big pile of data, which it remixes and regurgitates. You can ask ChatGPT to write you a resume, and it'll spit out something based on the resumes in its dataset (plus whatever info you share). This is useful, it automates labor, but it's not a sign of intelligence... today's hot topic is AI writing and art. And both of these applications require a huge amount of human labor. As we saw with CNET's little AI journalism experiment, AI can't be expected to do a good job without constant oversight from humans...(cont)

c) But more notably, this AI technology is rooted in plagiarism." Read the article to learn more about AI. reviewgeek.com/143948/ai-isnt-really-artificial-intelligence

d) This AI can spoof your voice after just three seconds by Alex Blake, 01.10.2023. "Microsoft is working on an AI that can imitate anyone's voice after being fed a short three-second sample.The new tool, dubbed VALL-E, has been trained on roughly 60,000 hours of voice data in the English language, which Microsoft says is 'hundreds of times larger than existing systems'. Using that knowledge, its creators claim it only needs a small smattering of vocal input to understand how to replicate a user's voice." To mitigate the threat of potential risks of "misuse", "Microsoft says 'it is possible to build a detection model to discriminate whether an audio clip was synthesized by VALL-E.' Despite the apparent risks, tools like VALL-E could be especially useful in medicine, for instance, to help people to regain their voice after an accident." digitaltrends.com/computing/microsoft-vall-e-ai-can-replicate-your-voice

e) Why Do Phone Batteries Still Only Last a Day? by Joe Fedewa,01.26.2023. "Smartphones have been in our lives for nearly two decades, and we've seen huge improvements in that time. However, one thing has mostly remained the same—charging your phone every day. Smartphones have gotten better faster than batteries have. Sadly, the batteries found in smartphones today are still based on technology from the 1990s." Read the article to find out whats in store for smartphone batteries. howtogeek.com/865428/why-do-phone-batteries-still-only-last-a-day

f) Revive your old computer by turning it into a Chromebook by Justin Pot, 01.31.2023. "...before you abandon your old laptop, consider giving it new life by turning it into a dedicated Chrome device. Google's free operating system **f)** makes it possible and it's fairly easy to set up. ChromeOS Flex can turn any old PC or Mac into a Chromebook... You won't be able to install Android apps... a warning—installing this version of ChromeOS will completely delete everything on your computer, so before you start, make sure you back up any data you don't want to lose." The article gives step by step instructions for installing ChromeOS Flex. popsci.com/diy/chromeos-flex-guide

Internet

5 things you didn't know your keyboard's Shift button can do komando.com/tech-tips/shift-button-shortcuts
AARP Bookstore Technology aarp.org/entertainment/books/bookstore/technology
Google and Microsoft Are in a Race to Ruin Search With AI reviewgeek.com/144963/google-and-microsoft-are-in-a-race-to-ruin-search-with-ai
6 everyday objects that can threaten your cybersecurity komando.com/tech-tips/physical-cybersecurity-threats
AARP Member Exclusive— Unlimited $55 for 2 savings.consumercellular.com

9 hidden Android features you're missing out on popsci.com/hidden-android-tricks
Everything You Need to Get Started Filmmaking reviewgeek.com/141998/everything-you-need-to-get-started-filmmaking
More People Should Transfer iPhone Photos and Files This Way cnet.com/tech/mobile/more-people-should-transfer-iphone-photos-and-files-this-way
Windows 11's big yearly update comes to your PC: 5 new features to try first pcworld.com/article/1487513/windows-11-yearly-update-comes-to-your-pc-5-new-features-to-try

Comments from Ross-- Spell Check Quick Tip: I often see people struggling to correct typos in their email and documents. There is a simple step to **correct typos**. Let's look at this sample:

Nowe is the teme for all good people to come to the aid of their country.

See the red line under the words Nowe and teme? If you **right click on each word**, you will be given a choice of word or words to choose from and by simply **clicking the word you want, the typo is fixed**. Here are examples of what you would see when right clicking the misspelled words:

Nowe is t
Now

teme for all
teem
time
tame