

January
2025

WINDSOR Seniors Computer Users' Group Newsletter



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**Computer Help-Desk
Drop-In sessions are
every **second** and
fourth Mondays of the
month **1-3 PM**. Please
use the sign-in sheet
when you arrive.**

**Monday Jan 13, 1-3
PM and Monday,
Jan 27, 1-3 PM**

**Help-Desk is a free
drop in program to
assist Seniors with
their tech issues.
Seniors can get help
with their computers:
PC, laptops, tablets:
Android and Apple,
and phones: Android
and Apple.**

In the News:

- a) [How NASA plans to back up data on lunar soil](#)
- b) [The Latest on Perplexity AI vs. Google](#)
- c) [FBI, CISA urge Americans to use secure messaging apps in wake of massive cyberattack](#)
- d) [Scientists create diamond battery that can last thousands of years](#)
- e) [Google's quantum breakthrough is 'truly remarkable'](#)
- f) [Microsoft Wants to Replace Your Passwords With Passkeys](#)
- g) [US Treasury says it was hacked by China in 'major incident'](#)
- h) [Agents are the 'third wave' of the AI revolution](#)
- i) [Digital Trends' Top Tech of CES 2025 Awards](#)

Articles for January

a) How AI is Revolutionizing Scams: Can We No Longer Trust Our Eyes or Ears? by Leo A. Notenboom."

"Scams are bad enough. Throw AI into the mix, and things only get worse. Here are four AI functions that scammers use:

- Text-based AI
- AI image generators
- AI video generators
- AI audio generators.

AI is amplifying scam tactics, making fraud more realistic using convincing voice impersonation, deepfake videos, and polished phishing messages.

Scammers use these tools to exploit trust, impersonate loved ones or public figures, and deceive with high-tech precision. Protect yourself: verify identities, ignore unsolicited contacts, and always be wary of too-good-to-be-true offers." Read the article to learn more about how scammers are using AI.

askleo.com/175501

b) What's new when shopping for a laptop in 2025? 8 things to keep in

mind by Chris Hoffman, 01.02.2025. "Buying last year's laptops isn't a good-value move anymore." Chris Hoffman "used to recommend buying last year's laptop models on clearance because hardware hasn't really improved much year over year. "But this year is different. With the latest CPUs, improved battery life, lower power consumption, standard Wi-Fi 7 support, OLED displays and AI features, "it may finally be worth splurging on a current-gen laptop." If you are in the market for a new laptop, read the article to learn more about what you should look for in a laptop.

pcworld.com/whats-new-when-shopping-for-a-laptop-in-2025 related article: pcworld.com/confused-about-laptop-cpu-model-names

c) **Your Google Maps app is about to look different. Here's what's changing** by Bryan M. Wolfe, 12.11.2024. "...there is a small design update coming to the Google Maps app that aims to enhance its visual appearance and user experience...Google Maps is set to change its signature blue accent for buttons and other user interface elements to a dark shade of teal. In addition to this (cont)

c) color change, text labels within the app will transition from blue to a black hue. This shift may improve readability, particularly in different lighting conditions, and help users focus on the content without the distraction of vibrant colors."

digitaltrends.com/your-google-maps-app-about-to-look-different

d) How Do My Mobile Data Connection, Internet Connection, and Wi-Fi Connection Relate? by Leo A. Notenboom. "Under-

standing how your devices connect to the internet is useful, especially when the power goes out. Mobile data, home internet, and Wi-Fi are different but interconnected. Mobile networks support voice, SMS, and data. Home internet

d) provides data connectivity at your router, and then Wi-Fi connects your devices to the router providing internet service. Phones can switch between Wi-Fi and mobile data and/or act as mobile hotspots to share internet access." This article explains how each of these components work (with diagrams) and whether or not you will have internet connections when the power goes out.

askleo.com/176099

e) Stop Buying PCs Expecting Them to Last 10 Years by Ismar Hrnjicevic, 12.11.2024. This article discusses 'building' a PC. Most of us don't do that, but the summary points are also valid for buying a PC. "Spending double your budget on a PC won't double its lifespan or performance due to diminish-

ing returns. New tech can quickly render high-end hardware obsolete. Striking a balance between current needs and future upgrades is more cost-effective when building a PC." Read the article to learn how to use the summary points to guide you when buying a new PC. howtogeek.com/stop-buying-pcs-expecting-them-to-last-10-years

g) It's not just bogus calls and emails by Kim

Komando, 01.06.2025. "Cybercriminals are pros at making their tricks feel real, and their methods are constantly evolving. It's not just calls. Here's a breakdown of common scams they're using right now and how to stay protected.

- Fake banking apps
- Phony bank emails with verified logos
- One-time passcode theft



g)-Social media 'banking representatives' -QR code scams -Scammers thrive on fear and urgency".

Read the article to learn more on each of these scams and how to protect yourself.

komando.com/cybersecurity/its-not-just-bogus-calls-and-emails

h) What Is Patch Tuesday? Microsoft's Monthly Update by Megan Crouse,

01.01.2025. "On the second Tuesday of each month, Microsoft and other tech companies release patches for consumer and enterprise users. These updates... are known as 'Patch Tuesday.' Windows monthly updates provide you with the security fixes to help keep your devices protected. The monthly update is an important opportunity to ensure that security features and applications are up to date." You should check your devices each month to be sure your Windows Update settings are up to date.

techrepublic.com/article/what-is-patch-tuesday



URLs

Scams & Fraud

aarp.org/money/scams-fraud

ChatGPT vs. Perplexity: battle of the AI search engines

digitaltrends.com/chatgpt-search-vs-perplexity-battle-ai-search-engines

How to find your saved passwords in Chrome

pcworld.com/how-to-find-your-passwords-in-chrome

5 Things Edge's Mobile Browser Does Better Than Chrome

howtogeek.com/things-edges-mobile-browser-does-better-than-chrome

Move Over, Siri and Alexa, AI Agents Are the Digital Assistants We've

Wanted cnet.com/move-over-siri-and-alexai-ai-agents-are-the-digital-assistants-weve-wanted

Procedural filtering for better adblocking brave.com/privacy-updates/31-procedural-filtering

How to Create Distraction-Free Holiday Memories With Apple's Photo Clean Up Tool cnet.com/how-to-create-distraction-free-holiday-memories-with-apples-photo-clean-up-tool

What is a brain-computer interface? digitaltrends.com/what-is-a-brain-computer-interface

Here's How Robots are Farming Your Food howtogeek.com/heres-how-robots-are-farming-your-food

Why Apple's Future Could Depend on Siri

cnet.com/tech/mobile/why-apples-future-could-depend-on-siri