

June
2023

WINDSOR Seniors Computer Users' Group Newsletter



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**Computer-Help: Drop-
In 2-4 PM June 26,
2023.** Please use the
signup sheet when
you arrive.

**There are NO
WSCUG
meetings in July.**

Next general meeting
will be **Aug 14, 2023, 1
PM**, at our newly
renovated **Windsor
Senior Center.**

**Aug Drop-In Computer
Help: Monday Aug 28,
2-4 PM.** First come
first served.

June 12, 2023: We will discuss the newsletter, the latest news in technology and answer questions.

After our general meeting, we will have a **Drop-In computer help session, (2-4 PM)**. **Jim, Ross and Andrea** will be available to help with your computer/smart-phone problems.

There will be NO July meetings of the Windsor Senior Computer Users' Group.

See you in August!

In the News:

- a) [Disruption of Snake Malware Network Controlled by Russia's Federal Security Service](#)
- b) [Google I/O's Big Reveals: Pixel Fold, Pixel 7A, Android 14, AI and More](#)
- c) [European legislators vote to impose tighter controls on AI](#)
- d) [Montana bans TikTok for all residents](#)
- e) [Every hardware product Apple announced at WWDC today](#)
- f) [China bans major chip maker Micron from key infrastructure projects](#)
- g) [Microsoft Catches Chinese .Gov Hackers Targeting US Critical Infrastructure](#)

Articles for June

a) **Log in or lose it: Google will start deleting your unused personal accounts** by Lance Whitney, 05.16.23. "Any account that hasn't been signed into for at least two years could have its content removed from Gmail, Docs, Drive, Calendar, YouTube, and Photos. The new and revised policy applies only to personal Google accounts. Before an unused account is deleted, Google will send the user multiple notifications to both the Gmail address and any recovery address provided." zdnet.com/article/log-in-or-lose-it-google-will-start-deleting-your-unused-personal-accounts and pcworld.com/article/1919355/google-delete-inactive-accounts-gmail-youtube-docs

b) **Is It Bad to Leave a Phone Plugged in All the Time?** by Joe Fedewa,

b) **05.4.23.** This article explains how charging works and some of the safety features smartphones have to prevent the battery from overheating and combusting. Read the article to learn the answer and how to keep the battery from degrading too quickly. howtogeek.com/889007/is-it-bad-to-leave-a-phone-plugged-in-all-the-time

c) **The one and only password tip you need** by Mark Stockley, 05.4.23. "How strong, long, and complicated your password is almost never matters in the real world. The most common type of password attack is credential stuffing, which uses passwords stolen in data breaches. It works because it's so common for people to reuse the same password in two places and it is completely unaffected by password strength. The next most common attack is password spraying, where criminals use short lists of very simple passwords on as many compu-(cont)

Thank you to our Welcome Coordinator,
Sandy O'Halloran.

Please add wscug@wscug.org to your contacts list.
To access past newsletters, presentations and
handouts, go to <https://wscug.org>



c) ters as possible. In both situations a laughably simple but unique password is good enough to defeat the attack." The "one thing that really can transform your password security, which is using two-factor authentication (2FA)". (also called MFA, multi-factor authentication). Read the article for details on how this keeps your log-ins to websites more secure than just your username and password. malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2023/05/the-one-and-only-password-tip-you-need

d) How Long Do USB Thumb Drives Hold Data? by Sydney Butler, 05.10.23. "A good USB drive can function for 10

d) years or longer. However, actual data lifespan varies depending on build quality, write cycles, temperature, and storage conditions of a thumb drive." The article explains how data is stored on a USB thumb drive and the factors that affect its ability to retain data. The article also includes tips for extending the lifespan of a USB thumb drive. howtogeek.com/887618/how-long-do-usb-thumb-drives-hold-data; related article askleo.com/flash-drive-plugged-in

e) How to spot a scam email (and scam texts) by Josh Norem, 05.11.23. "While email providers and the best Windows antivirus

e) solutions can often do a decent job at spotting the false missives from Nigerian princes that hit your inbox, both remain far from fool-proof—so you need to know how to spot a scam email to avoid falling prey to their tactics. -Always know (and verify) the sender -Always check links in email -Spelling mistakes are a huge red flag -Be wary of email from big companies -Texts are just as dangerous as email -Stay vigilant, don't click, stay safe" Please read the article to learn more about each one of these tips. pcworld.com/article/549422/how-to-spot-a-scam-email

f) Meta threatens to block news in California if journalism proposal passes by Julia Mueller, 05.31.23. "... Meta is threatening to remove news content on its platforms Instagram and Facebook in California if the state legislature passes a new proposal that would make tech companies pay publishers for news content. The bill would require covered platforms to pay a 'journalism usage fee' for content from local outlets — and require publishers to devote 70 percent of the proceeds from these fees to creating and maintaining journalism jobs in California."

thehill.com/policy/technology/4029328-meta-threatens-to-block-news

Comments from Ross--

Getting a new laptop or desktop computer? Most people don't know that you don't get Microsoft Office with a new computer and if you have an old version of it, it most likely won't work with Windows 11. Your options are:

1. Buy a subscription to Office 365 for \$99 EVERY YEAR until you don't want it any longer,
- or 2. Download and install the free LibreOffice. I have had two clients this past week who bought new computers and were surprised to hear that Word wasn't included. Furthermore, they were surprised to hear that they have to pay Microsoft nearly \$100 every year just to keep opening their Word documents. Personally, I prefer to not pay Microsoft anything and I use the free LibreOffice. So when you are factoring in the cost of a new computer, don't forget to include the price of any software that you'll need. [Is a Microsoft 365 Subscription Worth It?](#)

Internet

About AARP Fraud Watch Network aarp.org/money/scams-fraud

Your PC might have a malicious Chrome extension installed pcworld.com/article/1942295/your-pc-might-have-a-malicious-chrome-extension-installed

Tools you didn't know were built into your iPhone komando.com/smartphones-gadgets/built-in-iphone-tools

33 States Charge Electric Vehicle Drivers for Not Pumping Gas. cnet.com/roadshow/news/32-states-charge-electric-vehicle-drivers-for-not-pumping-gas-is-yours-one-of-them

Phones that emit the most (and least) radiation komando.com/gadgets/smartphone-radiation-rankings

10 Firefox Features You Should Be Using howtogeek.com/891045/10-firefox-features-you-should-be-using
Threats by artificial intelligence to human health and human existence gh.bmj.com/content/8/5/e010435

8 SSD Myths and Misconceptions People Still Believe howtogeek.com/891272/ssd-myths-and-misconceptions-people-still-believe
Malvertising via brand impersonation is back again

malwarebytes.com/blog/threat-intelligence/2023/05/malvertising
Don't be a victim: Leaving your phone's Bluetooth on is a major security risk komando.com/kims-column/bluetooth-security-risks