



Senior Tech Connection

October 2026



Volunteers:

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**Computer Help-
Desk Drop-In
sessions are every
second and fourth
Mondays of the
month 1-3 PM.**

**Oct Help-Desk
sessions: Oct
12, and Oct 26,
2026, 1-3 pm.**

**Help-Desk is a free
drop in program to
assist Seniors with
their tech issues.**

In the News:

- a) [UN panel warns that current AI safety measures cannot keep up with smarter AI agents](#)
- b) [Is AI conscious? Why experts are worried](#)
- c) [Bill Gates issues chilling AI doomsday warning](#)
- d) [“We’re building Copilot as a new OS,”](#)

- e) [Show Your ID to Unlock Windows? Microsoft’s Next Upgrade Gets Terrifyingly Personal](#)
- f) [From the iPhone Duo to New AI Features, Here’s When](#)
- g) [Not just AI. China is building technologies that challenge U.S. dominance](#)
- h) [Trump’s AI website confirms he lost 2020 election](#)

Articles for October

a) **Should you shut down your PC every night? Here's what it actually does to your computer** by Sydney Butler 09.20.2026. Modern computers do not need to be shut down every night. Today’s PCs are designed to manage power efficiently and can perform updates and maintenance while you are away. Sleep mode or leaving the computer on is generally fine for everyday use. However, if your computer is acting strangely, a "Restart" can be more effective than simply shutting it down because Windows’ Fast Startup feature may preserve some of the previous session. **Why it matters to you:** You don’t need to follow the old rule of shutting down your computer every night. Use Sleep for short periods, Shut Down when you won’t be using the computer for a while, and Restart when you need to give Windows a fresh start. howtogeek.com/should-shut-down-pc-every-night-heres-what-actually-does-your-computer

b) **How Passkeys Work (A No-Tech Version)** by Leo A. Notenboom, 09.06.2026. Passkeys are a safer and easier alternative to passwords. Instead of typing a password, you unlock a passkey using your device’s PIN, fingerprint, or facial recognition. Passkeys

b) are unique to each account and device, making them much harder for criminals to steal through phishing, data breaches, or keylogging. If a device is lost or stolen, its passkey can also be revoked. **Why it matters to you:** Passkeys can make signing in both easier and safer. When a website offers you the option to create a passkey, it is worth considering—especially for important accounts. askleo.com/195933

c) **Why the DOJ’s OpenAI copyright stance is the real threat to national security** The Department of Justice has argued that using copyrighted material to train AI systems such as OpenAI’s models can qualify as “fair use.” David Gewirtz questions that position, arguing that allowing AI companies to use huge amounts of copyrighted material without licensing or compensation could ultimately threaten the information ecosystem that AI itself depends on. The dispute could help determine how copyrighted books, news stories and other online content can be used to train AI. **Why it matters to you:** This is about more than AI companies and publishers. The outcome could affect the future of online information, the ability of writers and news organizations to earn a living, and what information remains available for people—and AI—to use. Read the article to learn more: (cont)

c) zdnet.com/innovation/doj-openai-copyright-stance-national-security-threat/

d) **I'm Drowning in Spam. What Can I Do?** by Leo A. Notenboom 09.21.2026.

You cannot completely stop spam, and blocking individual senders usually doesn't work because spammers constantly change or disguise their addresses. The best approach is to let your email service's spam filter do the heavy lifting. When unwanted messages reach your inbox, mark them as "Spam" rather than simply deleting them. This helps train the filter to recognize similar messages in the future. Why it matters to you: Don't spend your time trying to block every spammer. A full Spam or Junk folder actually means your email system is doing its job. Concentrate on keeping unwanted

d) messages out of your regular inbox and marking those that get through as spam. Read the article to learn more: askleo.com/13576

e) **Who gets what with Copilot** by Peter Deegan 10.05.2026 Microsoft's Copilot offerings have become increasingly confusing, with different features available depending on whether you have a free Microsoft account, share a Microsoft 365 subscription, have your own Microsoft 365 plan, or use a business plan with Copilot. The available AI features and limits are also changing frequently, making it difficult to know exactly what you are entitled to use. **Why it matters to you:** If you use Microsoft 365 or Windows, don't assume that everyone gets the same Copilot features. Before paying for an upgrade, check exactly what AI features your current Microsoft plan already includes—and remember that Microsoft's Copilot offerings are continuing to change.

e) askwoody.com/newsletter/who-gets-what-with-copilot/#windows-11

f) Use our WSCUG credentials to access this article and the next:

username: WSCUG

password: Woody2023!!

How to manage and control your updates in Windows 11 by Lance Whitney 09.28.2026. Windows 11 gives you more control over when and how updates are installed than you might realize. Lance Whitney explains the different types of updates, including the regular monthly security updates, optional preview updates, annual upgrades, and emergency updates. He recommends leaving preview updates turned off, using "Pause updates" when needed, and turning on notifications when a restart is required. Windows also lets you review your "Update history" and, when necessary, uninstall a recent update that is causing serious problems. Mr. Whitney has included many screen shots for easy reference. **Why it matters to you:** Windows updates are



f) important for security, but they can sometimes cause problems or restart your computer at an inconvenient time. A few changes to your Windows Update settings can give you more control and help prevent unwanted surprises.

askwoody.com/tmog-modernizes-the-windows-task-manager/#windows-11

g) **Microsoft Paint - new for Windows 11** by Nathan Segal 10.05.2026. Microsoft Paint has come a long way since it was introduced with Windows in 1985. The Windows 11 version now includes "players, transparency, improved image tools, and support for more file types", making it much more useful for basic photo editing and creating simple illustrations. Paint also includes some AI-related features, although their availability depends on your Microsoft 365 subscription and location. The author found the 'Remove background' tool particularly useful, while noting that Paint still lacks many of the advanced features found in professional image-editing programs. The article uses many images for reference. **Why it matters to you:** If you occasionally need to crop, resize, annotate, or make simple changes to a photo, you may not need to buy special software. The improved Paint is already included with Windows 11 and can handle many everyday image-editing jobs.

askwoody.com/newsletter/who-gets-what-with-copilot/#windows-11

URLs

The First Googlebooks Are Here
cnet.com/googlebooks-hands-on-first-look

Flock cameras are tracking people as well as cars
malwarebytes.com/flock-cameras-are-tracking-people-as-well-as-cars

Sam Altman to Decoded: The world should accept some bad things
politico.com/sam-altman-decoded-interview-ai

From the iPhone Duo to New AI Features
cnet.com/apple-2026-hardware-and-feature-release-dates

1Password's price hike sent me looking for alternatives
zdnet.com/password-manager-alternatives-proton-pass-bitwarden-switching

Best Windows backup software for PCs and laptops
pcworld.com/best-windows-backup-software

How to debloat Windows without installing suspicious tools or ISOs
howtogeek.com/how-to-de-bloat-windows-without-installing-suspicious-tools-or-isos

How to Get a Piece of Apple's \$250M AI iPhone Settlement
cnet.com/apple-250-million-ai-iphone-settlement-when-who-eligible-claim/

The 50-year Takeaway Looking forward by looking back.
<https://askleo.com/67362>

How You Can Stop Illegal Robocalls
aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/robocalls