

User Friendly

LACS
A Computer and
Technology
User Group

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Watch your email for APCUG
workshops and
other upcoming events.



**LACS IS A MEMBER OF
APCUG**

**An International
Association of Technology
and Computer User Groups**

www.apcug2.org

www.facebook.com/APCUG

www.X.com/apcug (Twitter)

JULY 9, 2024 GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM — via Zoom

Socializing and Questions & Answers: 6:30

Speaker: Chris Taylor, APCUG Speakers Bureau
President, Ottawa PC User's Group

Topic: **Typography—the Art and Science of Written
Communication**

Typography, the art and technique of arranging type, has been around for hundreds of years and is constantly evolving. Good typography makes text easy to read and can be eye-catching. Bad typography can be distracting and hard to read. Chris will describe the somewhat arcane terminology used. He will discuss some of the historical significances of type. He will delve into the subjective nature of choosing typefaces: what makes a typeface more or less readable, how and when to combine multiple typefaces, what emotions are evoked in readers, and how to avoid common faux pas.

Meet Our Presenter

Chris Taylor worked for Canada's federal government for 35 years in user and server support, IT architecture and IT security. He has been active in user groups for over 40 years and is currently the President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group. He has given over 500 presentations at branches of the Ottawa Public Library. He authored articles for Glass-Wire's *Cybersecurity News* and was on the Community Review Board for the SANS Institute's *OUCH! Newsletter*. Chris has been awarded 15 times as a Microsoft Most Valuable Professional. He received the Ottawa Mayor's City Builder Award and the Ontario Volunteer Service Award in recognition of his volunteer efforts.



LACS members on the PC groups.IO list will receive the Zoom link to this meeting before or on **July 7**. Just click on it to enter the meeting.

Guests may ask for the link by emailing Leah Clark at leahjc@sbcglobal.net before or on **July 7**. See pages, 8, 9, 10 and 20 for help in using Zoom, or email Leah. See more information about LACS at www.lacspc.org.


FROM YOUR PRESIDENT / EDITOR


LACS NEEDS A SECRETARY

LACS needs a member to be secretary. The secretary attends the board meetings on the first Monday of the month, and takes notes. The secretary uses the notes and the recording of the meeting to write a brief summary of the main items covered at the meeting. We need and want YOU!

USER FRIENDLY

At the June LACS Board meeting, I mentioned that at times I find it hard to find enough articles to fill our 20-page User Friendly. Members suggested I could go to a 16-page newsletter, but I would much rather keep it at 20 pages. I would appreciate members submitting articles, or recommending sources. I do have to be careful not to use copyrighted material.

LACS LUNCHEON MEETING

On June 20, we met again at the Culver City Sizzler for good food and fellowship. It's awesome how many different things we can talk about and ideas we can share! Here are pictures to show what a fun meeting it was. The next lunch is planned for September.

APCUG

At the June LACS board meeting, Irv Hersman noted that many members don't know much about APCUG. He asked me to publish the "About Us" column from the APCUG website, <https://apcug2.org>. See page 5. See page 17 for more information on the website. View APCUG articles on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/APCUGVideos/videos> or <https://tinyurl.com/mwpzs85d>.

APCUG is one of the benefits of LACS membership. We thank all who do so much for us.

SMARTPHONES

On page 14 of this issue, there's an article by Greg Skalka where he discusses his favorite ways to use his smartphone. It could be interesting if LACS members shared their favorite smartphone uses. I can publish a list in *User Friendly*. I often use Google Lens to identify plants or flowers in a photo.

LACS HISTORY

LACS member, Allen Greenberg, sent me newsletters from 1987– 1991 when LACS was the UCLA PC Users Group. They have articles written by him and other members. I plan to republish some in future issues..



GENERAL MEETING REPORT

June 11, 2024

By Leah Clark, LACS President/Editor

Social Media for Seniors or Anyone

By Judy Taylour



Social Media are websites, apps, and services that allow users to communicate easily with one another using their computers, smartphones, or tablets. They can share messages, information, pictures, and videos. Friends and family can stay in touch, long-lost friends can be found, interests can be shared, and more.

Judy suggests setting up a separate email for your social media accounts. This, along with using a very strong password, two-factor authentication if possible, and a recovery email and phone number, ensures your personal security and peace of mind.

Fake news, lies, conspiracy theories, propaganda, and biased news and opinions thrive online. Misinformation can spread around the world in seconds. Be sure to verify a post before sending it on. Verification sources include Snopes.com, MediaBias/FactCheck.com, and TruthorFiction.com. Be careful about what you share on any social media platform.

YouTube

YouTube has 2.49 billion monthly active users. Many seniors think of YouTube as social media. It has diverse content, including text, images, and video, from entertainment to education. It is a learning hub with many do-it-yourself videos. On YouTube, you can be both a consumer and a creator.

Facebook

Post things that are important to you and your friends, things they want to know about, major life events, and important news. Be sure to get permission from anyone you want to post about. Don't post anything stupid—an insurance company or human resources can use it to your disadvantage. Don't get into an argu-

ment with anyone. Don't post any personal or sensitive information, your location, when you'll be away from your home, or anything that could be used against you.

Remember, social media accounts come with built-in security features. By being vigilant and not clicking on suspicious links or email addresses, reporting scammers, and always signing out, you can take control of your online safety and security.

Share posts that will be helpful or interesting. Local events or resources can also be shared on Nextdoor. It's not a good idea to respond to surveys.

Tagging is identifying people in a picture that has been posted — get a person's permission before tagging.

You can get Facebook notices via email.

Don't respond to a friend request if you don't know that person.

Facebook has a Marketplace where you can sell things. Some people have had success with it, but you should be careful.

You can join groups of people with common interests. Some APCUG computer user groups have a Facebook group, which may be a way to recruit members.

Judy showed us her Facebook Home Page.

In Settings and Privacy, make sure everything is how you want it. Judy showed a list of all the things you can do. Facebook offers a privacy checkup so you can check and customize your settings. Set up a legacy contact to manage your account after you are gone, set up a memorial account, or request the account to be removed.

Don't post anything on social media you wouldn't hang on your front door for everyone to see. If you can't say something nice, don't say anything. Post only about others, as you would have them post about you.

Judy reiterated her list of things to be beware of. Trust your instincts. There are

many ways Facebook uses your personal information — Read Facebook’s privacy policy.

Instagram

Instagram is popular among younger users. It’s a mobile app for sharing photos and videos. Judy warned about phishers who lure Instagram users to into sharing their profile information.

Twitter

Twitter, now called “X”, allows you to send and receive short posts called tweets. It’s one way of keeping up with what’s happening in the world.

Pinterest

Pinterest is all about images, like a virtual corkboard. People who follow you see your pins in their feeds, and you see theirs. You can get a detailed recipe or a set of instructions for a project. You can save images of anything. It’s more of a “how-to” rather than a social interaction platform.

Nextdoor

Nextdoor is a private social network for your community. It’s a good place to advertise your computer user group meetings — you can post your meeting flyers. You get local information from your city departments, ask for help with special needs, find lost pets, warn about suspicious people in the area, express gratitude to a helpful neighbor, share, buy, or sell items, and more.

MeWe

MeWe is a Facebook alternative for those with privacy concerns. It also has a calendar for your activities.

This excellent presentation was followed by a lot of Q&A about social media and more information about scams, other things to watch out for, how to avoid being a victim, and how to report a crime. LACS members received a link to the recording of this meeting. There was too much information presented to put into this short report.

Resources

Judy recommended the book, *My Social Media for Seniors*, an AARP Real Possibilities book by Michael Miller. She uses it for her presentations on Social Media.

- **Techboomers.com**



- **Facebook**

<https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/how-to-use-facebook>

<https://sproutsocial.com/insights/facebook-terminology-glossary/>

<https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/facebook101/>

- **Twitter**

<https://help.twitter.com/en/glossary>

<https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/twitter>

APCUG — ABOUT US

From <https://apcug2.org>

Submitted by **Irv Hershman**,
LACS Board Member

APCUG, an international, cross-platform (Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, iOS, Android, and Chrome) association, is a valuable resource for technology and computer user groups, helping them stay connected, informed, and effective in their mission to support and educate their members.

The association offers various services to member groups, including three monthly Wednesday Workshops and quarterly Saturday Safaris. These workshops provide presentations on various topics to enhance group members' knowledge and expertise in multiple technology areas. In addition, the videos are available on YouTube for member groups to use at monthly or Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings. (*You can also view them personally.*)

Other member group benefits include the popular Speakers Bureau; member groups may request an interactive presentation for their meeting from over 100 topics. Member group editors receive articles they can use in group newsletters (PUSH). The articles are written by group members, sponsors, etc. APCUG has also received permission from many online authors to use their articles in group newsletters. Groups occasionally receive information regarding discounts or special offers to share with members.

APCUG was founded in 1986 and is dedicated to helping its member groups succeed by providing them with resources and support for their members. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Mission Statement

APCUG's mission is to:

- Encourage, promote, and enable communications and the exchange of information among its member groups;
- Assist member groups in the fulfillment of their educational and charitable missions and other activities that support those missions;
- Promote the awareness of the value of user groups to the community and the technology industry; and
- Facilitate communication among member groups, the community, and the technology industry.

APCUG itself is not a user group; only user groups themselves are members.

APCUG provides products and services to group leaders, who can then share them with their members.

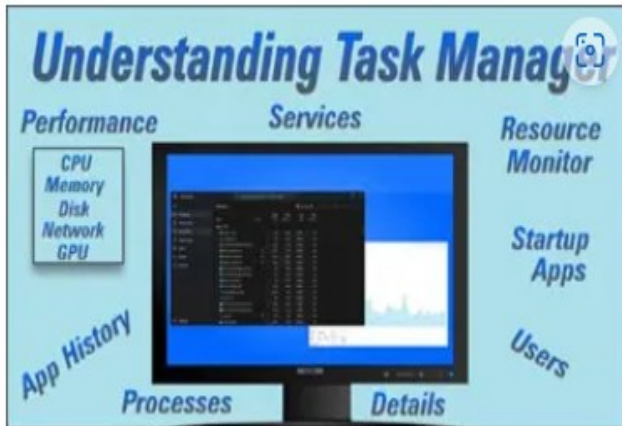
Member groups receive messages about updates, changes, or special news and information. APCUG does not share e-mail addresses. The organization is not a part of, nor a representative of, any manufacturer, product, reseller, dealer, consultant, or business. (*The Los Angeles Computer Society is a member of APCUG. LACS members should take advantage of all they have to offer.*)

[APCUG By-Laws Approved 2010-12-0](#)

[APCUG-Articles of Incorporation-Transcribed-2010-08-25](#)

(See page 17 for more examples of what can be accessed at www.apcug2.org.) ❖

APCUG Helps Member Groups Help Their Members



UNDERSTANDING WINDOWS TASK MANAGER

By **Jim Canfield**

Dave's Computer Tips, June 2024

<https://davescomputertips.com/>

Windows Task Manager (Basics)

Windows Task Manager is a powerful application that is part of the Windows OS. It provides valuable information and insight into system resource usage. This group of articles details each aspect of Task Manager, how to perform the functions, and how to use the results to troubleshoot.

This article discusses how to access Task Manager in Windows 10/11.

Accessing Task Manager

There are several methods to open the Task Manager:

- Ctrl + Alt + Del or Ctrl + Shift + Esc
- Use search for "Task Manager"
- Right Click on Start and Select "Task Manager"
- Right-click the taskbar and select "Task Manager."

The first time Task Manager is opened, the default screen "Processes" will be displayed. To change this default in Windows 10, click on **Options** in the top menu and select **Set default tab**.

Performance View

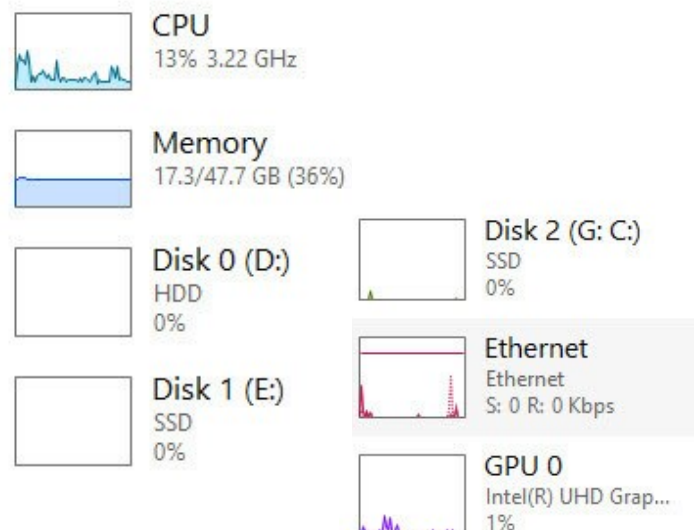
Performance, the second tab in the Task Manager, is the only tab that is laid out differently between versions. Both have the same functionality, but the layout of the screens is just different enough to believe one option is missing. In Windows 10, the "Open Resource Monitor" option is always visible at the bottom of the screen.

In Windows 11, however, it is hidden as an option behind the three dots (ellipsis) in the upper right corner. Getting there may be slightly different, but both have the same abilities.



Performance Tab

The Performance tab gives an overview of your system's four main resources: CPU, Memory, Disk, and Network in Windows 10. Windows 11 also includes the GPU as a resource. The left pane contains a very small graphic chart of each resource.



The number of graphs visible depends on several factors: the number of CPUs you have, the number of Disk Drives in use, and the number of GPUs, if any. The right pane contains a larger view of the resource selected in the left pane. In the image below, each spike indicates traffic on my ethernet.



This enlarged view of the resource at the right provides additional information to help you understand the features of the resource. It is a basic overview of a resource, and the information at the bottom of the chart is different for each resource. The available data changes to information that is meaningful to that resource.

CPU

60 seconds			
Utilization	Speed	Base speed:	2.59 GHz
13%	3.18 GHz	Sockets:	1
		Cores:	6
Processes	Threads	Handles	Logical processors:
259	3864	234213	12
Up time		Virtualization:	Enabled
20:22:49:24		L1 cache:	480 KB
		L2 cache:	3.0 MB
		L3 cache:	12.0 MB

Memory

Memory composition			
<div style="background-color: #add8e6; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div>			
In use (Compressed)	Available	Speed:	2667 MHz
17.6 GB (178 MB)	29.7 GB	Slots used:	2 of 2
Committed	Cached	Form factor:	DDR4
18.9/54.7 GB	26.9 GB	Hardware reserved:	279 MB
Pagefile pool	Non-paged pool		
1.7 GB	1.3 GB		

Disk

Disk transfer rate			
<div style="background-color: #90ee90; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div>			
60 seconds			
Active time	Average response time	Capacity:	932 GB
0%	0.6 ms	Formatted:	932 GB
Read speed	Write speed	System disk:	Yes
65.9 KB/s	214 KB/s	Page file:	Yes
		Type:	SSD

Ethernet

Send	Adapter name:	Ethernet
0 Kbps	Connection type:	Ethernet
	IPv4 address:	192.168.0.79
Receive	IPv6 address:	fd0b:5822:f1a6:38e0:3063:0169:f1b0:22f2
8.0 Kbps		

GPU

Utilization	Shared GPU memory	Driver version:	32.0.101.5439
1%	0.9/23.9 GB	Driver date:	4/5/2024
GPU Memory:		Display version:	12 (FL 12.1)
0.9/23.9 GB		Physical location:	PCI bus 0, device 2, function 0

Summary

The Performance Tab is good for an overview of resources, and you may quickly spot an issue, but it does not provide the details and breakdown given in the **Resource Monitor View**, which will be discussed in the next article. Use it to see any obvious issues, like if you are reaching the maximum use of Memory, Slow disk read/writes, or excess Ethernet traffic. If you do see an issue, you can then use the Resource Monitor view to get the details you will need to troubleshoot a problem. ❖

LACS INFORMATION

USING PAYPAL OR ZELLE

To pay LACS by PayPal, go to this link: www.paypal.com/paypalme/00001024 and then click on **Send**. Log in to your PayPal account or sign up for an account so that PayPal will know where to get the money to send. Follow the prompts. Once you have entered the amount to pay, click on **Add a note**. Tell us what the payment is for. If paying dues, add any updated information: physical address, email address, phone number, and what type of dues you are paying: regular, electronic *User Friendly*, etc. or if you don't want your contact information published in the roster.

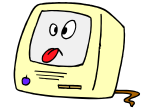
To pay LACS by Zelle, log into your bank with your username and password. Select **Transfer Money > Send Money with Zelle**. Follow the instructions. The name of the recipient is **Los Angeles Computer Society**. Select **Send by email**. The email address is: lacomputersociety@gmail.com. The wording may be a little different on your bank's site. Email questions to Gavin at gmfaught@gmail.com

HOW TO JOIN LACS'S MAIL LIST

LACS has an active general email list: PC@LACS.Groups.IO which goes to all members on the list. Members will receive meeting notices and Zoom links via this list. You can also ask questions, offer suggestions, and help others.

New LACS members should receive an invitation to join our list with two weeks to accept. Other LACS members who want to join the list should send an email to Stephanie, our Groups.IO Coordinator, at nordlacs@AOL.com and she will send you an invitation to join. If you have any problems or questions about joining, please contact Stephanie.

FIX YOUR PC FOR FREE?



LACS member and presenter, **Jim McKnight**, has an open offer to LACS members to diagnose, repair, disinfect, or upgrade members' PC's for free. There are certain limitations to Jim's offer, so see the details by clicking the "Fix my PC for Free?" link at www.jimopi.net.

Non-members can wisely invest in a one-year **new regular** LACS membership (\$40.00), and Jim will fix your PC problem, too. Contact Jim for specific considerations.

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Go to www.lacspc.org. Click on **Member Forms** in the bar under the picture. Under **Membership Update**, select **Click Here** to select either the DOC or PDF form. Fill it out, and email it with your changes to Membership@lacspc.org or snail-mail it to
Los Angeles Computer Society
11664 National Blvd. #343
Los Angeles, CA 90064-3802.

ATTENDING A ZOOM MEETING

LACS members who are on our PC email list will receive a link, meeting ID, Passcode, and instructions to attend the LACS general meetings a couple of days before the meeting. **Please let Leah Clark know by the morning of the meeting if you don't have it or have a problem.**

You can put an icon to the link on your desktop so it's handy at meeting time.

1. Right-click a blank spot on your desktop.
2. Select **New** from the drop-down menu.
3. Select **Shortcut**.
4. Type or copy and paste the link in the box that says "Type the location of the item."
5. Click **Next**.
6. Type a name for the shortcut.

LACS CALENDAR

July



LACS Board Meeting, Monday, July 1

Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30 P.M.)

Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

LACS General Meeting: Tuesday, July 9

Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30 P.M.)

Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

Please log in early so we can start on time. Allow time to be sure you have the link, to get or update your Zoom software if you have not used it before or recently, or to solve other issues before the meeting starts.

July 1: LACS Board Meeting

July 4: Independence Day

July 9: LACS General Meeting



VISIT OTHER APCUG COMPUTER USER GROUPS AND SEE THEIR NEWSLETTERS

LACS heartily welcomes visitors from other user groups, and we are welcome to join other groups' meetings.

Go to www.APCUG2.org . Click on **Member Benefits**, then on **Groups Sharing Meetings** or on **Newsletters Online**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

July 9: Typography, The Art and Science of Written Communication, Chris Taylor

August 13: Gmail and Google Drive, Rob Truman

Please watch your email and *User Friendly* for changes and updates.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Members on our PC email list will receive, via email, an invitation to join LACS Zoom general meetings. Click on the URL in the invitation before the meeting and follow the prompts.

If you have any questions or if you don't receive the link by the morning of the meeting day, contact Leah Clark at leahjc@sbcglobal.net

ZOOM RECORDINGS

LACS members and meeting guests will receive links to the recordings of Zoom meetings via email.

HYPERLINKS

Underlined text (blue in the color edition) in *User Friendly* usually means it's a hyperlink to a website. Click on the link in the online version to see the referenced place. You can also copy and paste it into your browser's search or address bar.

USER FRIENDLY BACK ISSUES AND INDEXES

To see back issues of *User Friendly*, go to <http://www.lacspc.org/category/user-friendly/>.

For indexes to past issues, go to <https://www.lacspc.org/category/uf-index/>

To find a specific article or topic, use the search box on the top right.



MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

LACS members volunteer to help other members solve hardware and software problems by telephone or during the hours listed below. Select the topic from the list and then contact a person whose number is listed next to it.

Find a helper's email address and phone number on your roster. If you don't have your roster, call 424-261-6251. Only members in good standing may receive a roster. We hope you find this LACS free service useful.

If you are experienced using a particular program or hardware, please volunteer to be a consultant. You don't have to be an expert. To volunteer for this list or to make corrections, please email Leah Clark at leahjc@sbcglobal.net or call her at 424-261-6251.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|
| Adobe Creative Suite: PDF, InDesign, Photoshop, etc. - 10 | Hardware - 7 | PDF - 8 |
| Android Smartphones - 8 | Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 7 | Photoshop - 10 |
| Apple devices - 11 | Mozilla Firefox - 7 | Quicken - 8, 12 |
| Anti Malware and Backup - 7, 8 | MS Excel - 8, 11, 12 | Thunderbird - 7 |
| Dragon Naturally Speaking - 3 | MS Word - 1, 3, 8, 12 | Utilities - 7, 8 |
| Genealogy - 8 | MS Outlook - 1, 8, 10 | Windows - 7, 8 |
| Groups.IO - 8 | MS PowerPoint - 8, 11 | WordPerfect - 8 |
| | MS Publisher - 2 | Zoom - 2, 9 |

Preferred Time for Phone Calls			
Number	Name	From	To
1	Beckman, Loling	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
2	Clark, Leah	7:00 AM	5:00 PM
3	Hershman, Irv	11:00 AM	11:00 PM
7	McKnight, Jim	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
8	Nordlinger, Stephanie	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
9	Presky, Mark	Any	Any
10	Rozek, E. J.	Noon	8:00 PM
11	Van Berkomp, Paula	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
12	Wilder, Joan	9:00 AM	9:00 PM

Note: Times are Pacific Times

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

TITLE	NAME	TERM
President	Leah Clark	2024
Vice President	Stephanie Nordlinger	2024
Secretary	Open	2024
Treasurer	Gavin Faught	2024
Director	Loling Beckman	2025
Director	Donna Benton	2025
Director	Mark Presky	2025
Director	Irv Hershman	2024
Director	E. J. Rozek	2024
Director	Annette Tossounian	2024
Director	Paula Van Berkom	2024
APCUG Representative	Leah Clark	
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger	
Database Manager	Loling Beckman	
Groups.IO Email Lists	Stephanie Nordlinger	
Newsletter Editor	Leah Clark	
Program Chair	Stephanie Nordlinger	
Publicity – Press	Mark Presky	
Publicity – Online Media	Open	
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark	
Webmaster	Paula Van Berkom	

Mailing Address: 11664 National Blvd., #343, Los Angeles, CA 90064-3802

Website: <https://lacspc.org>

Contact the President/Editor at 424-261-6251. Follow the prompts. This is a Google Voice number.

Please use your LACS roster for email addresses and phone numbers to contact any officer, board member or other member. If necessary, you may leave a message at the above number. **Only LACS members may receive a roster.**

Please note: The 2024 roster was in the middle pages of the May User Friendly. It was mailed to all LACS members, including those who usually receive only the electronic version. The roster will not be sent to anyone electronically. Be sure to keep it where you can find it when you need it.

STARLINK – IT MAY BE IN YOUR FUTURE

By **Phil Sorrentino**

Secretary & Newsletter Contributor
Sun City Center Computer Club
<https://sccccomputerclub.org/>
philsorr (at) yahoo.com

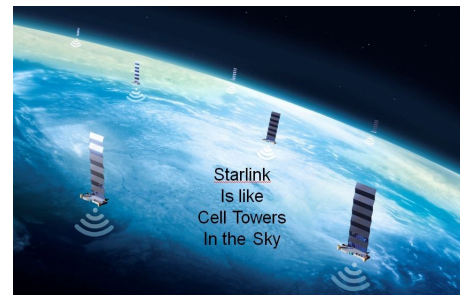
Starlink is a satellite constellation built and operated by SpaceX. It currently provides satellite internet access coverage to over 53 countries. Starlink is the world's first and largest satellite constellation using a **Low Earth Orbit** (LEO) to deliver broadband internet capable of supporting streaming, online gaming, and video calls. Starlink will become a critical element in the client-server technology used by the internet in many worldwide areas.

Client-server technology is the network architecture that connects our devices to powerful servers at the far ends of the country and, in some cases, the world. The internet provides this connection, so the devices and servers appear close in adjoining rooms. To make this a reality, the internet connection must be high-speed. This type of internet connection is called a **low-latency connection**. A connection that is so fast that a message might go from New York to Los Angeles and back in less than 0.1 seconds (100 ms). Starlink can deliver high-speed, low-latency internet to users worldwide, though it may be a little expensive now.

To take advantage of the Servers on the internet, our devices (computers, smartphones, tablets) must be able to connect. Either of the two mechanisms traditionally does this. If you are stationary, typically in a building, you can connect to the internet through your Internet Service Provider (ISP) and more than likely connect via a wireless wi-fi network. If you are moving in a vehicle, you can connect through your Wireless Internet Provider via the Cell Towers in all major

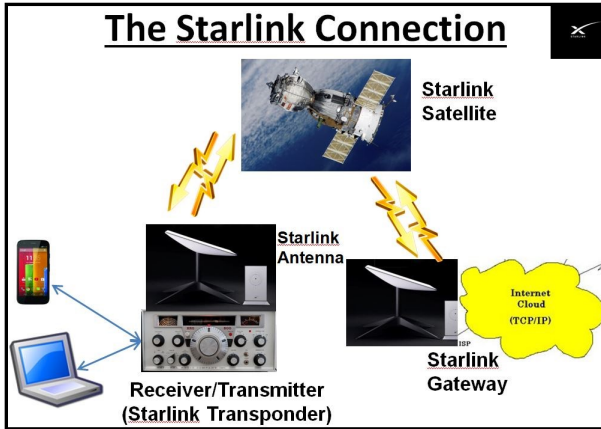
populated areas and along most major highways in the U.S.. Access to the internet is excellent in the U.S.. Ninety percent of the people in the U.S. have an internet connection available to them. New Jersey and Connecticut have the best broadband coverage at about 99%. As expected, the major cities, Washington DC, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and New York, have the highest internet participation. But the rest of the world is not covered very well. Europe has a participation rate of about 90%, but the numbers are much lower for underdeveloped countries like India at about 48% and China at about 70%. With all things considered, worldwide internet participation is reported to be about 60%, which leaves a large population without access to the internet.

The Starlink satellite constellation currently has around 4,500 satellites and will eventually have around 12,000. They will cover most of the earth, providing an internet connection to any site with a direct view of the satellites as they pass overhead. Think of the satellites as Cell Towers in the Sky.



The Starlink satellites are in Low Earth Orbit, about 340 miles above the earth, and have a speed that creates a 90-minute orbit around the planet, about 17,000 mph. When the constellation is entirely built out, a satellite will be accessible by almost every place on the earth. A device will send/receive data to/from the internet via the Starlink Transponder, overhead satellite, other satellites, and finally, the Starlink Gateway (Ground Station). The connection of the Starlink transponder to the overhead satellite will continue until the satel-

lite moves out of view and another satellite comes into view. At this time, the connection from the transponder will switch to the new satellite, and the data flow will continue.

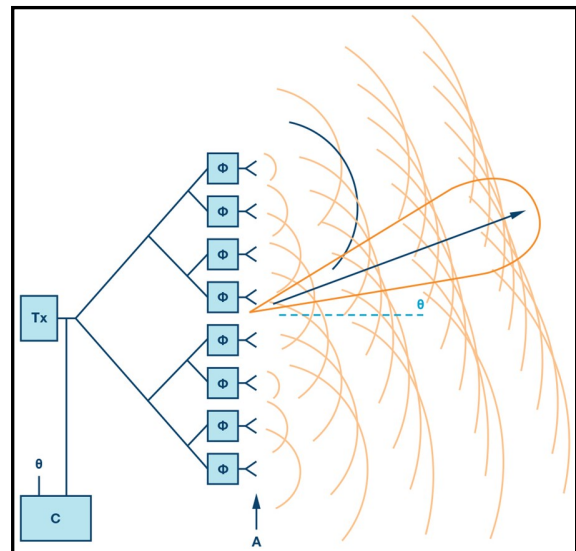


The Starlink Transponder controls tracking the satellites when they are in view and switching the data stream to a new satellite. The heart of the transponder is a sophisticated computer-controlled phased array antenna system.

Phased array antennas are a key component of the Cell Tower Communications systems we use as we travel on the Interstate Highway. The phased array antenna was invented by Karl Ferdinand Braun in 1905. The initial experimental antenna was a three-element array that transmitted a beam whose direction could be aimed electronically in 3 specific directions, 120 degrees apart. The military experimented with phased arrays in the 1970s, the first industrial phased array systems were introduced in the 1980s, and Cell Tower antennas appeared in the 1990s. Today's phased array antennas have large numbers of elements and can form several very narrow beams and steer them independently in very small angle increments. The technology behind phased array systems is steeped in the propagation of electrical energy from Gauss's laws for static electric and magnetic fields to Maxwell's equations that relate electric and magnetic fields to each other. It is a collection of technology concepts that would make Nikola Tesla proud.

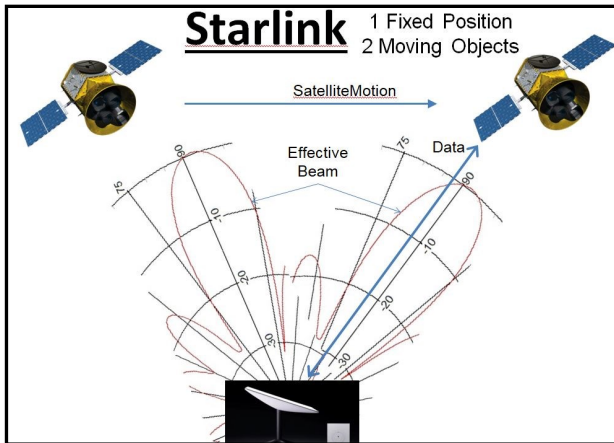
Just a little technical talk. A phased array

antenna is a collection of antenna elements assembled such that the radiation pattern of each element constructively combines with neighboring antennas to form an effective radiation pattern called the main lobe. The main lobe transmits radiated energy in the desired direction, while the antenna is designed to destructively interfere with signals in undesired directions, forming nulls and side lobes. The antenna array is designed to maximize the energy radiated in the main lobe while reducing the energy radiated in the side lobes to an acceptable level. The radiation direction can be manipulated by changing the amplitude and phase of the signal fed into each antenna element.



Phased Array pattern showing antenna elements creating a central lobe

As we travel down the highway, the closest cell tower tracks us with a phased array antenna that allows us to connect to the internet. The tracking allows the Cell Tower System to transition a vehicle to the next Cell Tower in the direction the vehicle is moving, thus allowing the communications to continue uninterrupted as the vehicle is handed off from cell tower to cell tower. This is all coordinated using the phased array antennas on the Cell Towers.



This cell tower hand-off is similar to the hand-off used to transition from one satellite to another as the satellites move in the sky. The phased array antenna in the Starlink Transponder tracks the satellites and coordinates the hand-off when needed so that the communications continue without interruption.

Starlink is an enormous project that combines many technologies to hopefully provide global access to the internet so that we all can take advantage of the Servers at the other end of the internet, just as if they were in the adjoining room. It may just be in your future. ❖

MY SMARTPHONE, MY FRIEND

By **Greg Skalka**, President
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I got my first smartphone, a low-cost (\$150) Samsung Galaxy J3, in 2017. I was a bit apprehensive about this new device, so I used it mainly for phone calls, texts and select apps. I saved web browsing and email for my computers and laptops as the phone screen seemed too small. As I warmed up to the smartphone, I found it essential for navigation (with Google Maps).

As poor as it was compared to my Panasonic Lumix digital camera, having a camera handy

became another feature I used constantly. As time passed, I added more apps but was selective about what I chose to install. I had no time for games and no use for social media, but I used several smart home apps to control the various devices I bought. I refused to do banking or conduct any financial transactions on the phone, preferring the relative security of a computer for any online banking or shopping.

Every business seemed to have a smartphone app to promote, but I only installed a few that I thought were safe and offered compelling benefits worth the risks. One of the riskiest apps I use is Google Maps, as I have found over the years that it has been tracking me, even when the app is not running.

However, its benefits are so compelling that I've made that bargain with the Google devil and accepted being tracked in exchange for its navigation capabilities. Having every store and sandwich shop app seems like a foolish risk that is usually not worth it. I don't want Google to know what I will do in the future and whom I associate with, so I refuse to use a calendar app on my phone or computer.

One app I do accept is the Southwest Airlines app, as it is so much handier than checking in for flights online with a computer. The Southwest app finally drove me to buy a new smartphone in 2022, as their app developer stopped supporting my old phone. I bought a Samsung Galaxy S22 and am hopefully spending real money (\$700) to buy more performance and tech longevity.

As with my first Samsung, I bought myself a very rugged case for my S22 to allay my fears of damaging the phone. With the belt clip front, the phone is fully enclosed when I carry it. I use magnetic USB adapters and charging cables to protect the phone's USB type C connector from excessive wear. I mostly charge my phone from a battery pack in a fast-charge mode and now use settings in the phone to limit charging to 85% of

capacity most of the time to extend battery life.

Over time, I've found that my phone use has only increased. With a higher resolution camera in my S22, I use it much more, and my dedicated digital cameras much less often.

Last fall, the number of prescription drugs I needed to take increased, and some came with restrictions I had to follow. I found the smartphone to be very useful in medication management. One medication required it to be taken at least two hours after eating and at least one hour before eating; I found the best time to take it was immediately upon waking (I don't believe I do any sleep-eating). The problem is that I usually get up early and leave the house for work in less than an hour; this meant I often had to wait around a bit before eating breakfast and going to work.

I found my smartphone could be very useful in helping me manage this. The first thing I do when I get up is take this particular medication. I then immediately note the time on my phone and write that time into a document on the phone (for reference, should I get confused). I then set an alarm on the phone to melodically go off in an hour, indicating when I may eat breakfast. I often have to wait a little, but even though the time I get up can vary, this system keeps me from eating too soon after the meds. I have another medication I must take with food at dinner; another alarm set for a nominal dinner time each day helps remind me. I also take another medication once a week on a specific day, so another alarm on my phone reminds me of that.

The breakfast alarm could also be done using Alexa, but my talking to set it could be more disturbing to my sleeping wife. The other alarms on my phone can remind me even if I have gone out for dinner.

I used to wake up to a plug-in, battery-backed-up alarm clock at my bedside. It is more of a wake-up alarm of last resort, as I typically wake up before it goes off. I always kept my

phone in another room at night as I didn't want to be awakened by late-night spam calls. We had to temporarily move into our guest bedroom when we remodeled our bathroom last fall. I didn't want to change my alarm clock, so I just used my smartphone alarm (which I do when I travel). I got used to it, and since there were no overnight spam calls, I've kept using my phone as my alarm clock since moving back into our bedroom.

My phone is also a convenient memory aid; I keep many lists on it in the Samsung Notes app. In addition to shopping lists, it has many pieces of information that I don't want to have to keep looking up. Printer cartridge part numbers, oil filters, and oil types for cars are easy to look up on my phone when I'm in the store.

Sometimes, when I get an idea for a newsletter column, I write down a few notes on my phone. I can keep an inventory of my mom's supplies on my phone, which can be easily updated when I visit her assisted living facility. Then, the needed items can be ordered when I get home.

Text messages are also a convenient way to keep track of information and events that can be referenced later.

My siblings have a text chain that we have used over the last few years to disseminate information about our elderly parents. It is easy to look in that text chain to see the events significant to my dad's passing, when my mom had medical issues, and how things have changed over time. Now that I'm overseeing my mom's care, my text reports to my siblings are good for keeping records.

Communication is a primary function of the smartphone, though how well it works often depends on the capabilities at the other end of the link. My mom has a "senior-oriented" smartphone but only uses it for phone calls.

She can't send or receive text messages or photos connected to them.

My wife found a great gift for my mom this last Christmas. It is a photo frame with an added capability. Its display cycles through the photos in its memory, but its Wi-Fi connection can add pictures to the frame. My siblings and other relatives can send photos to the frame from anywhere using a smart-phone app. My brother even wrote a short note, took a picture of it, and sent it as a kind of text message.

I'm constantly finding new ways to use my smartphone. As new ways are continuously developed, it continues to become a closer friend. ❖

APPS YOU RUN ON YOUR COMPUTER ARE ".EXE" FILES

By Jim Cerny, 1st Vice President
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Your device (Windows or Apple computer, iPhone, iPad, or whatever) runs "apps," which is a term short for "applications". An app is a program or a set of instructions for the computer to execute or "run." They are why you have your device. Although apps can run on any device, to keep it simple, let's look at how an "app" runs on a Windows computer (almost the same on any device).

When you purchase your device (Windows computer), it comes with many apps that have already been installed and are ready to go. Some very helpful apps with Windows are WordPad, Paint, Calculator, and many others, such as some games, utility apps, and more. You are probably unaware of all the apps that come with Windows that have already been installed. If you want an app you do not have, like a game, Microsoft Word, or Firefox, you must **download** and **install** it on your device. You are downloading and installing an **executable** computer file; that is, it can "run" on

your device. This file type has a name that ends with ".exe," meaning "executable."

You are probably already aware of a "file" on your Windows computer. A file can be a text document, a photo, or a spreadsheet. If you wanted to create or write a new app from scratch, you would write the app using computer language and write it in a file, too. But what you are doing by writing an app is you are giving commands or instructions for the computer to follow.

If you were writing an app to play tic-tac-toe on your computer; you would have to write instructions for the computer to recognize where each X or O is on the grid and where to place the next move. This app is written as a file like any other file except the name of this kind of file ends with ".exe." If you have downloaded the file (copied a file from some where else, like a website), you probably have noticed that the name of the file you downloaded ends with ".exe." In Windows, one way to run such a file is to click your mouse on the file name – your computer sees it as an executable file and runs it. It is the same if you double-click an app icon on your desktop; you tell the computer to run that app.

Maybe you get notices that there is an update to an app you already have. If you download the update, it is an executable file (a ".exe" file) that you click on to run the update.

Exe files are not for you to open and look at or change. They are in computer or machine language that you would not be able to understand. But they are just files stored on your computer in a program or apps folder. To remove an app from your device, you must uninstall it using a Windows or another utility app. Please do NOT attempt to find the executable file yourself and delete it.

To learn more about executable files or apps, ask Google and watch a short video or two about it. Most of us want the app to run so we can use our device how we want. ❖

From [APCUG2.org](https://apcug2.org)**MICROSOFT COPILOT IN WINDOWS 11
YOUR LATEST AI ASSISTANT**

The first generative AI built into an operating system is here. We take Microsoft Copilot out for a spin. A colorful new icon will soon appear on your Windows 11 taskbar, and it leads to a new era in desktop computing in the form of Microsoft Copilot. This AI chat sidebar powered by OpenAI, Bing, and Microsoft technologies can change computer settings or open apps. It can not only generate text and images, but also create either based on the other. Learn more about Copilot in this PCMag article.

[Hands On With Microsoft Copilot in Windows 11, Your Latest AI Assistant | PCMag](#)

**11+ SECRET IPHONE CODES YOU NEED
TO TRY**

The dialer on your iPhone is much more than just a place to enter phone numbers and place a call. You can use it to enter secret codes to learn more about your iPhone, assist in troubleshooting, and even hide your caller ID during outgoing calls. developers and technicians primarily use to fix smartphones. In some cases, entering the code initiates an action immediately. But sometimes, you need to tap the Call button to activate it. [11+ Secret iPhone Codes You Need to Try \(makeuseof.com\)](#)

**LINUX 6.6 KERNEL RELEASED WITH
MAJOR NEW FEATURES**

Linux kernel 6.6 is a big update that delivers an array of improvements, including a new CPU scheduler that promises to improve performance and reduce latency, a new memory-friendly events subsystem, and improved drivers for a slew of gaming hardware. And as with most kernel updates, developers are laying the groundwork for the future with 'initial support' for upcoming hardware, including new CPUs and GPUs from Intel. OMG Ubuntu. <https://www.omgubuntu.co.uk/2023/10/linux-kernel-6-6-new-features>

**GOOGLE LOOKS TO BE PREPPING A
NEW STANDARD FOR CHROMEBOOK
EXCELLENCE WITH 'CHROMEBOOK X'**

It seems Google could be right on the cusp of delivering a new way for consumers to make sense of the growing – and sometimes confusing – Chromebook market. For a few years, Google has used the 'Premium' and 'Plus' labels both on the official Chromebook site and in stores like Best Buy, but I seriously doubt most consumers knew what to do with that info. The idea was solid – group Chromebooks by their general capabilities – but the execution was lacking. And Google has since deprecated it for what is coming next. Read more at

<https://chromeunboxed.com/google-chromebook-x-branding-standard-quality/>

**APCUG WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS AND
QUARTERLY SATURDAY SAFARIS**

To learn more about various technology topics, check out the APCUG Wednesday Workshops and quarterly Saturday Safaris. These online Zoom events feature presentations by enthusiasts and experts in different aspects of computing, such as the Windows, Linux, and Mac operating systems, backups, AI, home automation, and more. Interact with the presenters through chat or open mic at the end of the presentations. You can attend these free workshops if you belong to an APCUG member group (*Like LACS*). If you don't belong to a group, check for one in your area: <https://apcug2.org/locate-a-user-group/>

Register for the workshops by completing a Google form one of your group's officers forwards to you. You will receive a registration confirmation and an email with the Zoom link and password after the registration deadline.

(You may see some of the presentations on APCUG's YouTube channel later.) ❖

FOR MANY HELPFUL TIPS AND TRICKS

Go to <https://www.apcug2.org> for all aspects of computing and operating systems.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Go to the APCUG website at <https://apcug2.org/discounts-special-offers-for-user-groups/> for discounts and special offers for Members of User Groups. Avast Anti-virus and Acronis True Image, and several book, media and training sites offer discounts including the two mentioned below.

- Members can save at the **Pearson Technology** websites: InformIT, Cisco Press, Pearson IT Certification, Que Publishing, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.
Informit.com/user_groups/index.aspx
Code for print books: **ITCOMMUNITY**.
Code for eBooks: **DIGITALCOMMUNITY**
- See books on digital imaging and photography, gaming, animation, film and video, post-production, audio, music technology, broadcast and theatre at [Routledge](http://Routledge.com) | [Focal Press](http://Focal Press.com) today! They offer discounts to User Group members.

TECHBOOMERS.COM

For learning how to use internet-based websites and applications for free.

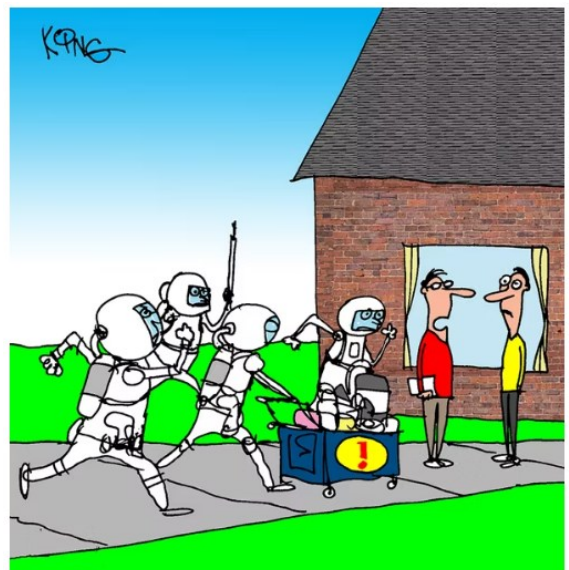
- <https://TechBoomers.com>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2-bwYIYu1I>

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LAUGHING OUT LOUD

"Yes, I'm watching TV through a mirror. If it's spying on me, I don't want it seeing me."



"Your kids called us about your dirty mouse, keyboard and computer. It sounded serious."

Cartoons from How-To Geek**NOTICE**

The columns, reviews and other expressions of opinion in *User Friendly* are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Los Angeles Computer Society. LACS became a California non-profit corporation on July 17, 1991. Its predecessor was the UCLA PC Users Group.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION and BENEFITS of MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership Dues:

Regular New and Renewal,	
Printed Newsletter	\$ 40
Electronic Newsletter	30
Family-Associate	12
Students	18
Contributor	50
Supporter	75
Benefactor	100
Gift Membership	20

A subscription to *User Friendly* is included with membership.

Associate members use the same mailing as a regular member; they do not receive their own subscriptions to *User Friendly*, but may read it on the LACS website. **Students** must prove full-time status. A member may give a 1-year, 1-time gift to a non-member.

Monthly general meetings are via Zoom.

In-person or hybrid meetings may take place in the future.

Members also enjoy these special benefits:

- **Monthly Newsletter**
User Friendly. We publish your article submissions or free classified ads to buy or sell your computer items.
- **Get FREE help** by phone or email (See your roster) from knowledgeable members who are Quick Consultants listed in *User Friendly*.
- **Get help by email** by using our group email list. Send your questions to PC@LACS.Groups.IO

- **Receive important news** and announcements via *User Friendly* and LACS's email list.
- **Free APCUG** (International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups) **Webinars, virtual conferences, programs, and technical information**. Check *User Friendly* and your email to see what's offered.
- Occasional **free software and computer books**, if you review them for *User Friendly*.
- **Annual Holiday Party**
- **Social Interacting** with others who have like interests in computers and technology.
- **Special Interest Groups** (SIGs) on various topics may be created by members.

All renewals are due in January. New members will pay the annual amount when they join.

Check # _____ **LACS** New or Renewal Membership Application

Date _____ Dues may be paid by PayPal, Zelle, or check. If paying by check, make the check out to "Los Angeles Computer Society", and mail it with this form to:
Los Angeles Computer Society, 11664 NATIONAL BLVD. #343, LOS ANGELES CA 90064-3802

Please PRINT Clearly New Renewal

- New / Renewal with printed newsletter - \$40.00 Associate - \$12.00 Student - \$18.00
 New / Renewal with electronic, no paper, newsletter - \$30.00 Gift Membership - \$20.00
 Contributor - \$50.00 Supporter- \$75.00 Benefactor - \$100.00 Other

Name: First _____ Last _____

Name of Associate: First _____ Last _____
 (Same address as a primary member)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip + 4 _____

E-mail Address: _____ E-mail of Associate _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Publish Contact Info in Roster Yes No

Did a member of LACS invite you to join? If so, who? If not, how did you hear about LACS?

First Class Mail

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Los Angeles Computer Society

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE ON ZOOM.

Before each meeting, members and invited guests will receive an email with the URL link to the meeting. **Just click on the link.** If you haven't received it by the morning of the meeting, let Leah Clark know. When you click on the link, you will enter a waiting room. Then the host or a co-host will admit you to the meeting.

Please try to arrive at least a few minutes before the meeting start-time so you don't interrupt the meeting and any technical problems can be solved. If you need to take a break during a meeting, do not click on Leave or End. If you do, the meeting will be interrupted for someone to re-admit you from the waiting room. You may turn off your video when you are gone.