User Friendly

LACS
A Computer and Technology User Group

IN THIS ISSUE

LACS WEBSITE

https://www.lacspc.org

Watch your email for APCUG workshops and other upcoming events.

apcug

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)**

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025
GENERAL MEETING

Topic: Google from 30,000 Feet
Speaker: Rob Truman, APCUG Speakers Bureau
Computer Booters of Sun Lakes Computer Club, AZ
Meeting Time: 7:00-9:00 PM – via Zoom
Socializing and Questions & Answers: 6:30 PM

Rob Truman will show us how to use these popular Google products: Search, Google Drive, and Google Docs. How do they compare with other programs? Any limitations? He will also discuss Google tracking and how to minimize your exposure when you are online.

Meet Our Presenter

Rob is the Vice President and Web Director of Computer Booters of Sun Lakes Computer Club. He has over 40 years of experience in Information Technology and Internet-related fields. He is a retired U.S. Navy Chief Electronics Technician and worked for Microsoft for years. Rob earned a B.S. in Information Technology and a M.A. in Adult Education. He runs the Geezer Tek website/blog. It focuses on helping seniors with their technical needs.

LACS 2025 ROSTER

Please send updates and corrections to the 2024 roster to Leah Clark. The 2025 roster will be sent in May. Let her know if you don't want your phone number or email on it. Only LACS members will receive it, and it won't be online. The roster enables members to communicate.

TO JOIN THE LACS GENERAL MEETING
April 8, 2025

LACS members on the PC Groups.IO list will receive the Zoom link to this meeting before or on **April 6**. Click on it to enter the meeting. Guests may ask for the link by emailing Leah Clark at leahjc@sbcglobal.net
before or on **April 6.** See pages, 8, 9, 10, and 20 for help in using Zoom, or email Leah with questions.
See more information about LACS at www.lacspc.org.

🌼 FROM YOUR PRESIDENT / EDITOR 🌼

LACS 2025 ROSTER

I plan to send the 2025 LACS Roster with the May *User Friendly.* Please send me any changes or additions to the 2024 roster as soon as possible. If you don't have it to check, please email me or call me with your name, preferred phone, and email address quickly. I will need everything before **April 15**.Thank you for your consideration.

From a Neighbor on NextDoor

If you are ever lost while hiking, get stranded with a broken-down car, etc., and you notice your mobile phone is either low on battery or has no signal, here is a tip that may save your life.

Change the voicemail on your phone to a message that gives your approximate location, your situation (lost, out of gas, car broken down, injured, etc.), and any special instructions, such as you are staying with the car, walking toward a town, etc. If your mobile phone dies or stops working, voicemail still works, so anyone calling your phone looking for you will hear the message and know where to find you or where to send help. Pass this on.

EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

I want to create an emergency contact list for LACS members, but only four members responded after I published the notice in the February User Friendly and sent an email to all members on February 6.

It would be accessible to only two or three board members. It would be on an Excel spreadsheet with your name, the name of a contact, their relation to you, and their contact information.

If you want to be on the list, please give me the information to put on it by email or phone call.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO LACS

Leslie Goldstein, Steven Johnson, and Jeff Marcus

THANKS TO ALL WHO RENEWED THEIR LACS MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2025

The LACS Luncheon Was on March 20

We enjoyed the company of 18 people at the Sizzler. We got acquainted with new members and we saw Zoom attendees in person. We had active conversation and delicious food. Our next luncheon will be in June—we can hardly wait!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
April 20-26, 2025

A huge thank you for all the amazing work LACS volunteers do. Your time and effort make such a big difference, and we could not exist without you. You're awesome!

Thank You!

LACS BOARD OPENINGS

We still have openings for a board secretary and one director position. We especially need a secretary to stay in compliance with our 501(c)(3) non-profit status. We can't keep LACS a viable organization without volunteers.

We will help you. Why not give it a try?

GENERAL MEETING REPORT

By **Leah Clark,** LACS President/Editor

March 11, 2025

Automobile Software: Android Auto, AppleCar Play, and Other Apps

Bill James, APCUG Speakers Bureau and Member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City

Announcements

- The 2025 roster will be with the May issue of User Friendly. Please send Leah any changes to the 2024 roster as soon as possible.

- Members who haven't paid their 2025 dues by the end of March will be dropped.

Bill James talked to us about using our car's software. It has been said that our cars are now computers with wheels that take us places. Your smartphone plays an intricate part in interacting with your car's software. Bill showed a video discussing your car's Infotainment System, which delivers entertainment and information to the driver and passengers by connecting with smart technologies. This facilitates safe and productive driving.

Bluetooth is short-range wireless technology using radio waves to connect peripherals, audio streaming, and IoT applications.

The video showed connecting your smartphone to your car's system. You use the charging cable that comes with your phone to connect it to the car. Android Auto is essentially a system that mirrors your smartphone onto the display screen in your car. You can even use voice commands to change music, call a friend, or use navigation apps. You keep your focus on the road—don't need to take your hands off the steering wheel. Many third-party apps for navigation, music, etc. are available. Bill answered questions about the different applications to access in your car.

Bill then showed a video on Apple CarPlay. There are similarities between the two, but the interfaces are different. The icons are the same as on an iPad. It mirrors your smartphone onto the car's display screen, as does Android Auto, and its methods are about the same as Android Auto.

Your car also has its own infotainment system, so you can use the functions of that system by exiting out of Android Auto or Apple CarPlay. Bill showed shots of this and what is available in his car. He uses the navigation system that came with his car.

Bill showed pictures of the steering wheel controls in his car. In his car, the left is for cruise control and there is a logo on the right to press for voice control to make a call or to tell Google or Sirius to do something. When the phone was connected, all the contacts were downloaded.

Navigation

Waze is a community-driven GPS and navigation app that guides you through the shortest route while driving in real time, letting you know about any traffic issues.

Google Maps, a web-mapping platform, offers satellite imagery, aerial photography, street maps, street view, traffic conditions, route planning, and more.

Many cars have their own built-in navigation systems.

Entertainment

Sirius XM is a subscription service in most cars. There is an app for your phone that allows you to listen without being connected to the car.

Spotify, a music streaming service**,** is a subscription service that you can use on any device.

Pandora, another music streaming service**,** has an app you can download to your phone and use in your car.

Bill then opened the meeting for questions.

LACS members and visitors received Bill's slides and the link to the recording of this meeting. You can click on the links to the videos in the slides. As usual, you can access much more detailed information from the videos and slides. ❖
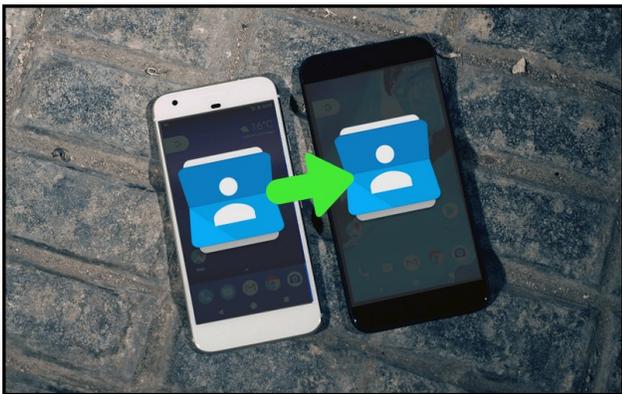
HOW TO TRANSFER CONTACTS FROM ANDROID TO ANDROID

Tech Life Unity
 Formerly TechBoomers
https://www.techlifeunity.com
By **Kay Fleury**, August 21, 2024

If you just got a new Android smartphone, chances are, the first thing you'll want to do (after discovering how wonderful all the latest features are) is move your contacts over. You also might have lost your old Android smartphone, and need access to your information if you can't locate the old phone. Either way, we have you covered, and we can help make transferring contacts from Android to Android as easy as possible.

There are a few different ways you can sync contacts to your new Android device, and we'll explain each one, and give you step-by-step instructions for each method. We will break down each way to do this, which we've

ranked in the order we would recommend them based on how easy they are to perform, and how much time they will likely take. In this article, we'll cover how to:

  1. Transfer contacts to a new Android device using Google.

  2. Export your contacts to the SIM card on your device.

  3. Use device-specific software (if available to you).

  4. Use a third-party app to transfer cotacts.

To kick things off, let's review how you can transfer contacts to your new Android mobile using Google.
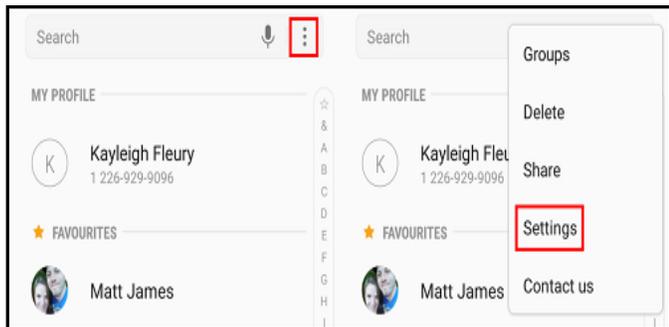
Method 1

Transfer contacts to a new Android device using your Google account

For this to work, you must have created a Gmail account before switching to your new phone, or you will need to create a Gmail account now. However, with your old Android, chances are you have already created one to use many features such as the Google Play Store or other Google services.
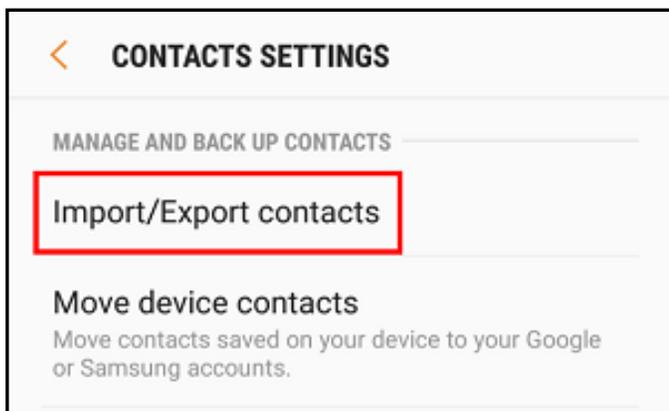
These instructions may vary slightly depending on the model you had, and the one you have now, but they should be roughly the same for the most part. Begin by opening the **Contacts** app on your mobile device.
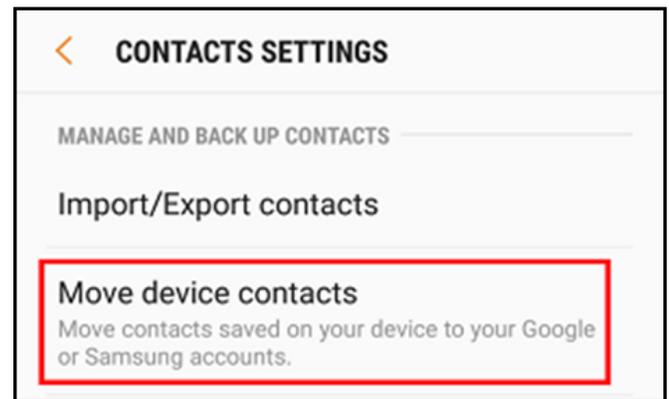
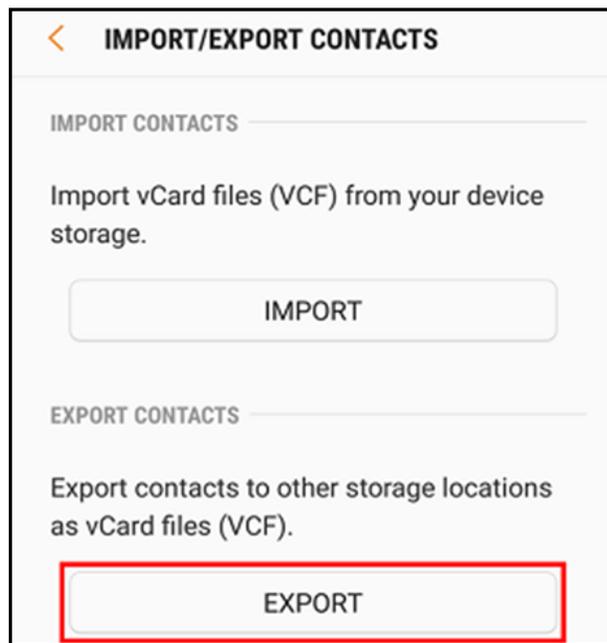Tap the **More** button (three vertical dots), and then tap **Settings**.

Tap **Import/Export Contacts**.

HINT: If you have a newer model Android device, you may be able to skip all steps below by tapping **Move Device Contacts**. This will allow you to sync contacts to your Google account directly, so once you tap it, tap the name of the Google account that pops up (or choose between multiple accounts if you have more than one) to backup your contacts.

If this menu option isn't available to you, continue with the following steps. Select the **Export** button. This will create a VCF (vCard file) of your contacts, which can be transferred to your Google account.

From there, copy the vCard file to your PC using your preferred method; you can email it, send it over Bluetooth, or connect your smartphone to your PC with your USB charging cable. Add the file to your PC using one of these methods.

From there, open an Internet browser, head to google.com/contacts, and ensure you are signed in to your account. In the left-side menu, click **Import Contacts**. *See Figure 1 on page 6*.

When the window opens, click **Choose File**. From there, browse through your PC file explorer to the location where you stored the vCard file. Double-click it to open it, and then click the blue **Import** button. *See Figure 2 on page 6*.
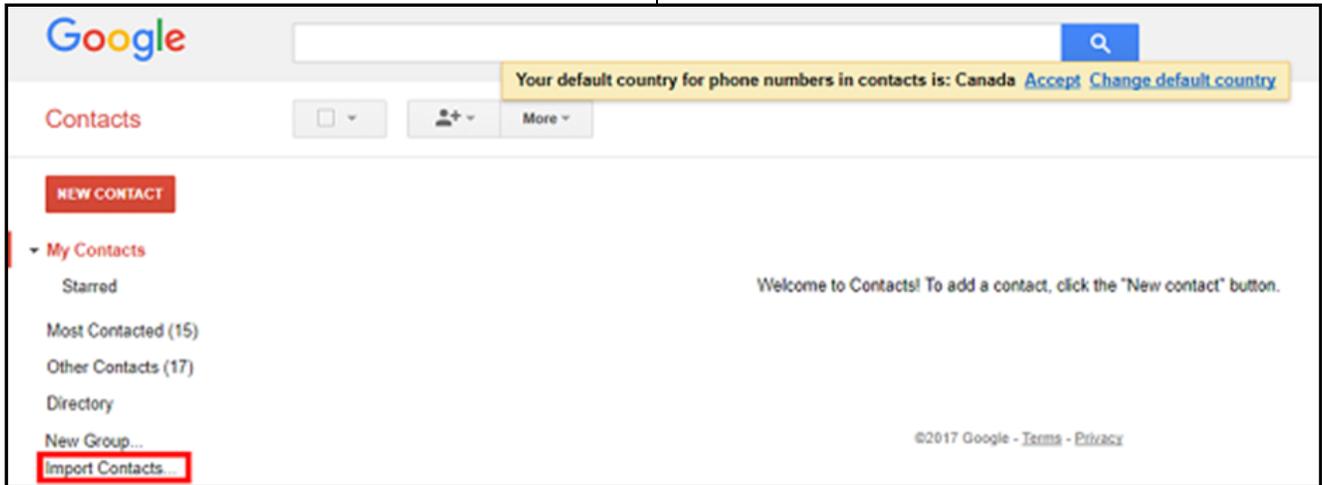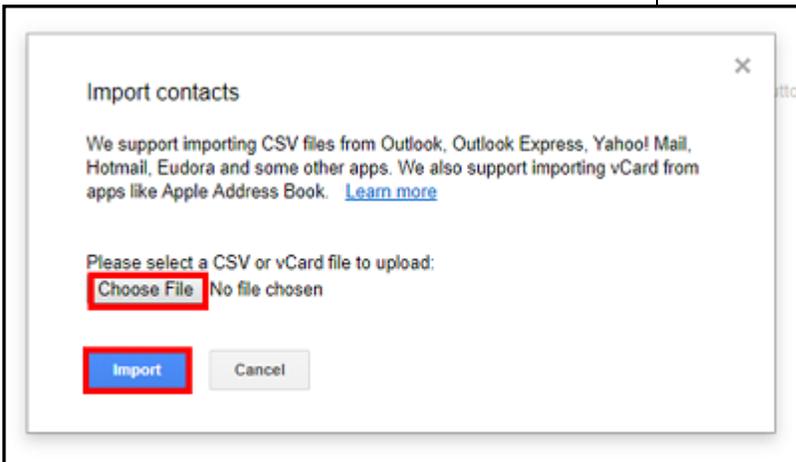
Figure 1

Figure 2

Then, all you need to do is wait! Google will import your contacts for you. Now, as soon as you sign into this same account on your new mobile device, your contacts will be immediately available to you, and will automatically sync as soon as you sign in! If you don't want a Gmail account, or have issues with this for any reason, you can also choose to export the contacts to your SIM card.

Method 2
Export your contacts to the SIM card on your device

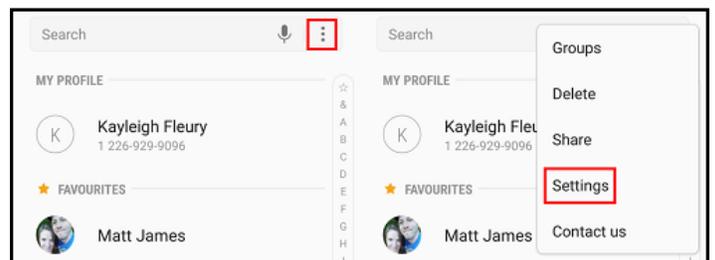This method is similar to the above method; instead of exporting your contacts to another file, you simply export them to your SIM card.
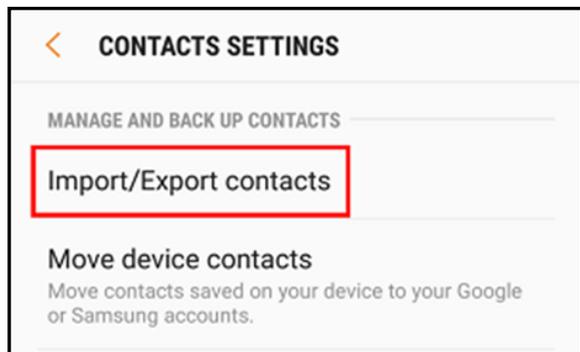
To do this:

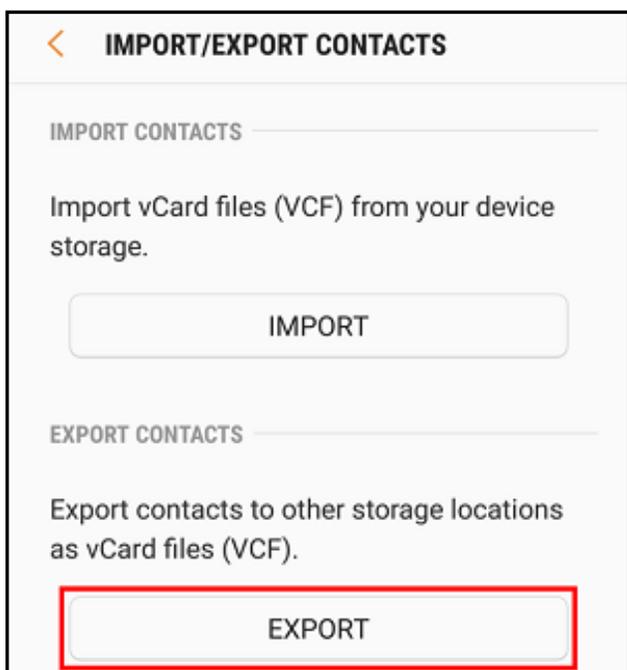Open the **Contacts** app from your Android home screen.

Tap the **More** button (three vertical dots), and then tap **Settings**.

CONTACTS SETTINGS

MANAGE AND BACK UP CONTACTS

Import/Export contacts

Move device contacts
Move contacts saved on your device to your Google or Samsung accounts.

Tap **Import/Export Contacts**.

IMPORT/EXPORT CONTACTS

IMPORT CONTACTS

Import vCard files (VCF) from your device storage.

IMPORT

EXPORT CONTACTS

Export contacts to other storage locations as vCard files (VCF).

EXPORT

On this menu, select **Export**.

Select **SIM Card** from the options that pop up.

Export contacts to

Device storage

SIM card

Take out the SIM card, and place it in your new Android phone.

Now, your contact data will be saved on your SIM card, which you can place in your new Android device. You may be prompted by the device to determine if you want to draw contact data from a SIM card, so if this happens, select **Yes**.

Method 3
Use device-specific software

If neither of these methods work for you, or you don't have a Google account or a SIM card, you can also use device-specific software that may come built-in to your Android device, depending on your phone brand.

Some smartphones have software pre-installed to help you transfer data such as contacts to a new phone. Samsung has Samsung Smart Switch, for example. The instructions will be specific to your mobile type, but in most cases, you download the appropriate app from the Google Play Store, open it, and then follow the prompts.

Most likely, you will need both mobile phones to be on and charged, as the app will use a USB, Bluetooth, or an NFC connection to link the two devices and transfer all of your important data.

Method 4
Use a third-party app to transfer contacts

One final option for transferring Android contacts is to use third-party software to facilitate the data transfer. One thing we'll mention right from the start is that though most third-party services are harmless and are designed to help you, it's possible they can do malicious things to your device such as taking and storing your personal data.

That's why we've listed this method fourth on our list of ways to sync contacts to a new Android device – but that doesn't mean it can't be useful! Essentially, these apps take out the extra work of transferring contacts by creating a vCard file, but you don't need to go through all steps of moving through your own settings to get it.

No matter what app you download (see the list on page 16), the basic steps will be the same.

LACS INFORMATION

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 Larry McDavid, our Groups.IO Coordinator. (See your roster for contact info.)
He will send you an invitation to join. If you have any problems or questions about joining, please contact Larry.

USING PAYPAL OR ZELLE

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 recipient is **Los Angeles Computer Society.** Select **Send by email**. The email address is: **lacomputersociety@gmail.com**. Add a note telling what the payment is for and your contact information.
The wording may be a little different on your bank's site.

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. Enter the amount to pay, then click on **Add a note**. Say what the payment is for. If it is for dues, add your physical and email addresses, preferred phone number, and if you want a hard copy or the electronic version of the newsletter.

Email questions to Gavin Faught. See our roster for his contact info.

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.

CHANGE CONTACT INFORMATION

Go to www.lacspc.org. Click on **Join LACS** in the bar under the picture. Under **Membership Update,** select **Click Here** to select either the DOC or PDF form. Fill it out; email it with your changes to Leah Clark. See the LACS roster or pages 9 or 10 of UF.
Or 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 few 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.
7. Click **Finish**.

LACS CALENDAR

LACS Board Meeting, Monday, April 7
Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30 P.M.)
Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

LACS General Meeting: Tuesday, April 8
Time: 7:00 P.M. (Open from 6:30 P.M.)
Place: Wherever you are via Zoom

> **April 01:** April Fools' Day
> **April 08: LACS General Meeting**
> **April 12:** Passover
> **April 15:** Tax Day
> **April 20:** Easter & Orthodox Easter
> **April 20:** National Volunteer Week
> **April 22:** Earth Day

NO APRIL FOOLS IN LACS!

Thanks, LACS Volunteers

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

April 8: Google from 30,000 Feet*
Rob Truman

May 13: Gmail from Start to Finish,
Rob Truman

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

From 30,000 feet is an expression that relates from flying over a place in an airplane at 30,000 feet. It means you are stepping back from a situation and looking at *"the big picture"*.

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

See back issues of *User Friendly at* 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 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.

Android Smartphones - 5
Apple devices - 7
Anti-Malware and Backup - 4, 5
Dragon Naturally Speaking - 3
Genealogy - 5
Groups.IO - 9
Hardware - 4
Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 4

Mozilla Firefox - 7
MS Excel - 5, 7, 8
MS Word - 1, 3, 5, 8
MS Outlook - 1, 5
MS PowerPoint - 5, 7
MS Publisher - 2
PDF - 5, 8

Photoshop Elements - 2
Quicken - 5, 8
Thunderbird - 4
Utilities - 4, 5
Windows - 4, 5
WordPerfect - 5
Zoom - 2, 6

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
4	McKnight, Jim	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
5	Nordlinger, Stephanie	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
6	Presky, Mark	Any	Any
7	Van Berkom, Paula	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
8	Wilder, Joan	9:00 AM	9:00 PM
9	McDavid, Larry	Contact by email	

Note: Times are Pacific Times

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

TITLE	NAME	TERM
President	Leah Clark	2025
Vice President	Stephanie Nordlinger	2025
Secretary	**Open**	2025
Treasurer	Gavin Faught	2025
Director	Loling Beckman	2025
Director	Donna Benton	2025
Director	Mark Presky	2025
Director	Irv Hershman	2026
Director	Jim McKnight	2026
Director	**Open**	2026
Director	Paula Van Berkom	2026
APCUG Representative	Leah Clark	
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger	
Database Manager	Loling Beckman	
Groups.IO Email Lists	Larry McDavid	
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.

QR CODES: WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW TO USE THEM

By **Dorothy Fitch**
Green Valley Recreation Computer Club, AZ
Editor, *Green Bytes ,* GVRCC' s newsletter
https://www.ccgvaz.org, dmfitch@cox.net.
As printed in the Golden Gate Computer
Society's newsletter, February 2021

QR codes are popping up frequently these days. I began to wonder what they were all about. I did some investigating and tried creating and using them. It was a lot easier than I had expected and rather entertaining. Now, when you go to a restaurant, you can see the menu on your smartphone by scanning the QR code at the table.

What is a QR code?

Like barcodes on supermarket items, a QR code (short for Quick Response) is a two-dimensional way to store much information.

Known as a matrix barcode, the QR code was first designed in 1994 in Japan by Denso Wave, a subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp. Its goal was to "increase the efficiency in product tracking, item identification, time tracking, document management, and general marketing. Because a QR code carries information in both vertical and horizontal directions, it can store several hundred times the amount of data carried by a bar code. In fact, over 7,000 numeric characters can be encoded in one QR code."

The QR code's design was inspired by Go, an ancient Japanese strategy game that uses black and white stones in a grid. Masairo Hawa, the person assigned to develop a solution for Denso Wave, had his "aha" breakthrough while playing Go during a lunch break. This led to the invention of the QR code.

A QR code can link to a website, share contact information, send a text message, make a phone call, open a restaurant menu, allow you to check in for an appointment, play a video, and much more.

I created QR codes to link to specific websites that would be difficult to enter on a phone. You can immediately open the web page by scanning the QR codes. Try them!

How To Scan a QR Code

On an iPhone, use the built-in camera, which can automatically read QR codes.

On an Android phone, there are several ways to scan a QR code, depending on your specific model. Many free apps are available in the Google Play store that can scan QR codes, but you may not need one.

The camera in newer versions of Android (10 and up) can scan them automatically. Try this to check: point the camera at a QR code and hold for a few seconds. If the camera doesn't scan it, long-press the Home button, then press the Google Lens icon (shown below), just to the left of the microphone icon at the bottom of the screen. Tap the shutter button to search for its meaning.

Google Lens icon, referenced above

You should see the URL for the website and link directly to it. I also found I could easily use a free QR code scanner without installing the app. Swipe down from the top of the phone and click the Search (question mark) icon to get to the Finder Search. Type QR, then locate and click the QR Scanner icon. Once it scans the code, press OPEN to follow the link.

How To Create a QR Code

I created the QR codes using this free website: goqr.me. All I had to do was type in the web address I wanted. The code to take me

to it automatically generated the QR code, which I could then download. Try scanning these QR codes and see where they take you.

What's special about February 10, 2025?

Read a good classic Book!

Can you read this fun limerick?

In addition to using QR codes to link to websites, you can create ones that store text: not SMS text messages, but plain text, as in a birthday message or poem.
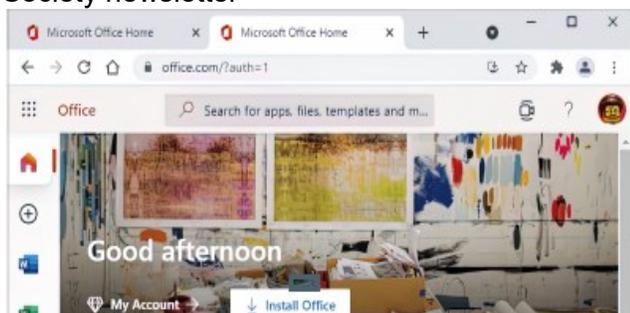
Here's a challenge for you: create a QR code and email it to a teenager. They will think you are so cool, knowing about QR codes! ❖

HOW TO USE MICROSOFT WORD FOR TRANSCRIPTIONS

By **Leo A. Notenboom**
https://askleo.com/?s=transcribing+with+MS+Word
As printed in the Golden Gate Computer Society newsletter

Screenshot: askleo.com

MICROSOFT WORD ONLINE has the option to create transcriptions of audio recordings for Microsoft Office subscribers. A variety of services will upload an audio recording, "listen" to it, and produce a text transcript of what was heard.

I think of it as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for audio. If you have the right subscription to Microsoft Office, you have one at your fingertip — just not where you'd expect.

Transcriptions Using Word

Using the online version of Microsoft Word with an Office subscription, the "Dictate" main menu item includes a "Transcribe" option. Use that to upload audio files for Word to process into text, optionally including speaker identification and timestamps.

Creating a transcript using Word

The "trick", such as it is, is to visit office.com on the web and use the **online** version of Microsoft Word to perform the task. The desktop version doesn't have this feature.

Start with a blank document and click the small down-arrow next to the "Dictate" microphone icon. (Don't see a down-arrow? Ensure you're visiting the web version of Word, not running your installed desktop software.)

Transcribe menu item. (Screenshot: ask-leo.com

Click on **Transcribe** in the resulting menu; this will open a panel on the right-hand side.

(See **Figure** 1 on page 14)

You can click on **Start recording** to simply speak and have a transcription created. That seems of limited use, to be honest. More interesting is to click on **Upload audio** and upload an audio file. Once you do so, the transcription will begin processing.
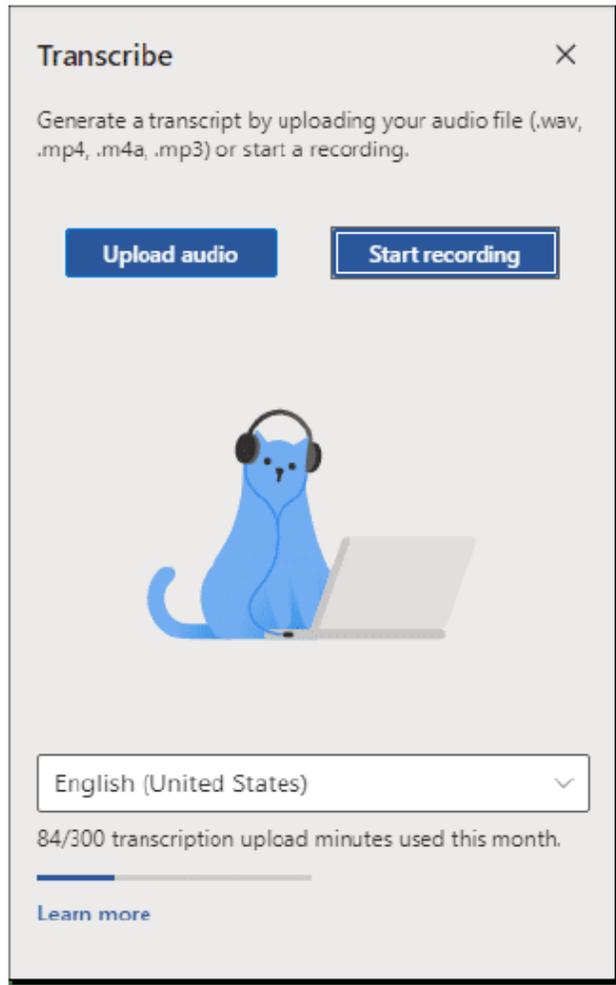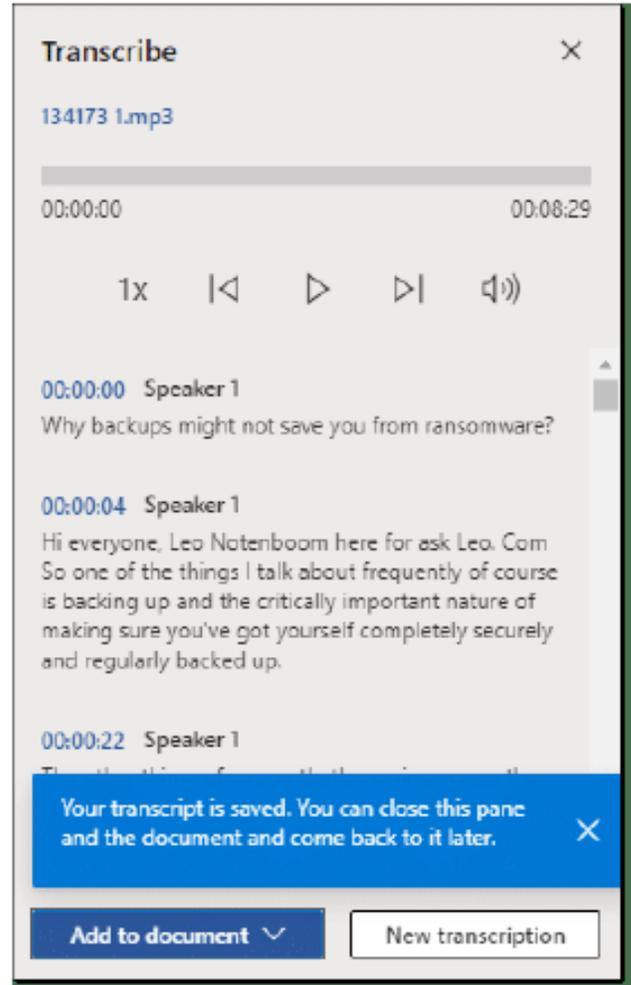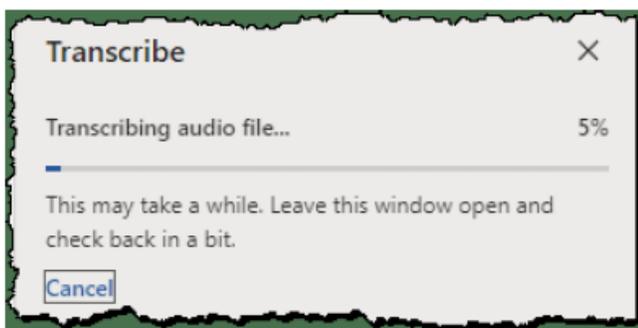
Figure 1: Transcribe panel in Word. (Screenshot: askleo.com)

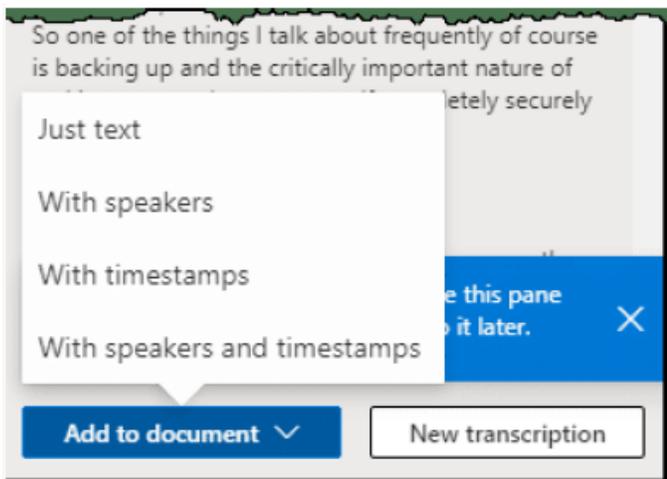*Transcription in panel, ready for editing. (Screenshot: askleo.com)*

Transcription in process. (Screenshot: askleo.com)

It may take some time, depending on the length and quality of the recording. Once completed, the transcription, along with audio play controls, will appear in the panel.

In this interface, you can listen to the audio and make corrections to the transcript simultaneously. Automated transcription is always inaccurate to some degree, so using this tool, you can listen to segments of the audio and make manual edits to the transcription.

For example, I might replace the "?" with a period in the first sentence, since it's a statement and not a question, and I'd replace "ask Leo. Com" with the correct "askleo.com". You can do this later, after the transcript has been transferred to the document, but this allows you to do so while simultaneously listening to the audio, one segment at a time.

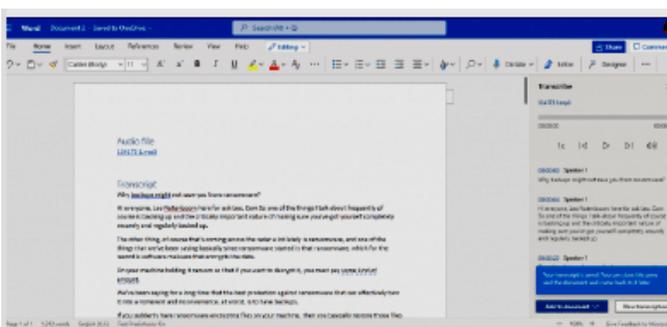When you're done, click on **Add to document** for a list of options.

Options for adding a transcript to the document. (Screenshot: askleo.com)

As you can see from the transcript, the document can include three types of information:

- The transcript of the spoken words.

- An attempt to differentiate and identify the speaker.

- A timestamp identifying when the words were spoken in the recording.

You can choose to add the text to your document with or without the additional information. Just click your choice.

Transcription transferred to Word document. (Screenshot: askleo.com)

Click the "x" in the Transcribe pane to close it. You can work with your transcript as you like.

Transcription Alternatives

If you look closely at the images above, you'll see a five-hour-per-month limit on up-loaded files for transcription. And, as I said, you need a Microsoft Office subscription to access this feature.

Alternatives Include:

- Paid services, such as **HappyScribe**, produce automated transcriptions for a relatively low fee, offering higher-quality human-processed results for an additional cost.

- **Google Recorder** is an Android app (currently only available for Pixel phones) that produces transcriptions. While you can't upload audio files, you can position your device in front of a speaker with the recorder running and play your audio into it to get a transcription. It seems a bit of a hack, but I've done this.

- **YouTube** can also be used. Convert the audio file to a video, upload it to YouTube as "unlisted", and wait. Eventually, YouTube will analyze the audio for subtitles. Visit **YouTube studio**, edit your video, and click on Subtitles on the far left. Click on the vertical ellipsis, and "Download" will be an option.

I'm sure others exist, but the Microsoft Word approach seems both useful and simple, if you have it available to you.

How Long Does Word Take To Transcribe?

The amount of time Word takes to produce a transcription varies based on many factors, including the length of the audio, the quality of the audio, and possibly how busy the transcription service happens to be. As one example, though, a short audio file of about five minutes of clear speaking took a couple of minutes to transcribe. ❖

How to Transfer Contacts from Android to Android

Continued from page 7

1. Search for the app in the Google Play Store on your old and new Android devices.

2. Select it from the results, and download and install it by tapping **Install**.

3. Give the app permission to access your contacts.

4. Follow the app-specific prompts on your phone(s) to transfer your contacts.

You can choose from a few apps, and you should choose the one that works best for you. Some available third-party contract backup and sync apps with 4+ star user ratings include:

- Google Contacts
- Copy My Data
- My Contacts – Phonebook Backup & Transfer
- Transfer Contacts
- Move Contacts Transfer/Backup

Now you know the best and fastest ways to transfer contacts from Android to Android. If you want to learn more about the great things you can do with your new Android device, check out our Android tips and tricks articles to make the most of your new phone! We also have other guides on using your Android device. ❖

Your phone

Old Phone

New Phone

to Galaxy

A NEW CATALYST CAN TURN METHANE INTO SOMETHING USEFUL

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Dec 4, 2024
As published in the Rochester Computer Society, Inc. newsletter, January 2025

MIT chemical engineers have devised a way to capture methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and convert it into polymers. Although it is less abundant than carbon dioxide, methane gas contributes disproportionately to global warming because it traps more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide due to its molecular structure.

MIT chemical engineers have now designed a new catalyst that can convert methane into useful polymers, which could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new catalyst works at room temperature and atmospheric pressure, which could make it easier and more economical to deploy at sites of methane production, such as power plants and cattle barns.

Capturing Methane

Methane is produced by bacteria known as methanogens, which are often highly concentrated in landfills, swamps, and other sites of decaying biomass. Agriculture is a significant source of methane, and methane gas is also generated as a byproduct of transporting, storing, and burning natural gas. Overall, it is believed to account for about 15 percent of global temperature increases.

In this study, the researchers used a zeolite called iron-modified aluminum silicate paired with an enzyme called alcohol oxidase. Bacteria, fungi, and plants use this enzyme to oxidize alcohols.

Reported on https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/1066741

MIT is now working on catalysts that could be used to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. ❖

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS

From the APCUG Zoom Team
John Kennedy, Host/Moderator
Judy Taylour, Coordinator/Chatbox
Bill James, Zoom Help
https://apcug2.org

Discover a range of technology topics with APCUG's **Wednesday Workshops** and quarterly **Saturday Safaris**. You can search APCUG's YouTube channel by workshop or presenter name to find sessions that interest you. https://www.youtube.com/user/APCUGVideos/videos.

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.

You can engage with the presenters during the open mic Q&A sessions at the end of each presentation. These free workshops are available to members of any APCUG group. If you aren't a group member yet, search for one in your area by state and join in the fun. 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. After clicking *Submit*, you will receive an acknowledgment that you have been added to the registration spreadsheet. After the registration deadline, you will receive an email with the Zoom encrypted link.

The APCUG Wednesday Workshops and Saturday Safaris are ways to explore technology in-depth and learn new skills. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your horizons and discover new possibilities with APCUG!

Wednesday Workshops began in May 2020. APCUG started having them once a month and now has three: 2nd, 3rd (Linux), and 4th Wednesdays. WWs have two one-hour presentations, each by a single presenter, a panel of presenters, or two-hour presentations with open mic Q&A. ❖

HOW DOES THE ATMOSPHERE AFFECT OCEAN WEATHER?

By **Luke Auburn**, U of R, 1/31/25
As published in The Rochester Computer Society, Inc. newsletter, *Monitor*

A new Rochester study of satellite imagery and high-resolution climate model data upends previous assumptions about how those surface winds and ocean weather patterns interact.

Much like the windy weather patterns that affect the Earth's surface, our oceans experience their own distinct weather patterns. These weather patterns, known as "eddies", are circular currents of water that are typically about 100 kilometers wide.

A new study of satellite imagery and high-resolution climate model data by scientists at the University of Rochester upends previous assumptions. It provides insight into how those surface and ocean weather patterns interact. Scientists formerly believed atmospheric wind had a damping effect, slowing the eddies. The study, published in *Nature Communications*, offers a new theory that better explains the complexities of how atmospheric wind affects eddies.

"It's actually more interesting than what people had previously thought," says Hussein Aluie. "There's a marked asymmetry in how the wind affects these motions, and it depends on the direction they spin," Aluie says that prevailing winds that move longitudinally across the globe, such as the westerlies and trade winds, will slow the eddies when they move in the opposite direction but energize them if their spin is aligned. In addition to improving climate modeling, being able to predict better the ocean's weather patterns could have practical applications for fisheries and help better direct commercial ships. For the whole report, go to https:/tinyurl.com/53vw7nj9. ❖

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. 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 Focal Press . They offer discounts to User Group members.

TECH LIFE UNITY
Formerly TechBoomers

https://www.techlifeunity.com

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

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LAUGHING OUT LOUD

"The replay clearly proves your runner was safe. But those on social media didn't see it that way."

Cartoon from https://www.howtogeek.com

WHY COULDN'T THE TREE GET ON HIS COMPUTER?

Because he could not log on.

Submitted by Sylvia Davis, LACS member

Q How many programmers does it take to change a light bulb?

A It takes 3—One to hold the light bulb and 2 to pick him up and turn him around.

from Stardock Forums

NOTICE

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.

   — 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.

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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 it 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?

Revised Jan. 2025, ljc

First Class Mail

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.

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 you to re-enter.

You may turn off your video when you are gone.