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PRESENTATION | January 7 • 7 PM

We will be broadcasting it via Zoom.

PASSWORDS TO PASKEYS - COMPUTER SECURITY

Presented by Phil Sorrentino



Passwords have been around for thousands of years, long before computers ever existed. Their use goes back as far as biblical times and the Roman Empire. Most of us have been trying to get our passwords under control since the beginning of the computer age.

Passwords are essentially used to authenticate a user. Passkeys are a new and potentially better way to do just that. If you have had difficulty controlling your passwords and are frustrated with them, passkeys may be a good alternative.

This presentation will discuss passwords, passkeys, and general security concerns, as well as some of the techniques employed to mitigate potential security problems.

About the Presenter: Phil Sorrentino

Phil Sorrentino is the Secretary of the Sun City Center Computer Club and a past president of the Sarasota Computer Users Group. He has taught a variety of beginner and advanced computer classes and writes a monthly computer article for both organizations' newsletters. He is an electrical engineer and has worked at developing computer hardware and software for his entire career.

Mission Statement

It is our mission to bring to our members quality education in using today's personal technology products, and to provide to qualified Sarasota County citizens refurbished computer equipment.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President's MESSAGE

Welcome to the new year, 2026! For those who do not know me, let me introduce myself. I'm Jim Cerny, and I have been involved in STUG for many years. I thought I would let you know a little about me, and I have asked each member of our board to write a short article about themselves, one each month, so you can get to know them as well. You are welcome to contact any of us – we are listed on the thestug.org website.

I went to college at Northern Illinois University and started work at Western Electric in Cicero, Illinois, in 1970. Although I never studied computer science, I have used computers all my working life. I ended my official working career in 2000 and moved to Sarasota.

My past and current duties at STUG are to coordinate the schedule of classes with our instructors, to teach classes, and to help plan events. Working with the people on the STUG board and other members has been a lot of fun for me. Why don't you join us? You don't have to be a board member or have any technical knowledge to help – anything you can do would help all of us do more for our members.

What do I see coming for STUG in the year 2026? I think our biggest contribution to the community is the Refurb Group, which accepts donated computers and other tech equipment (in any condition) and gets things back into working condition with new apps installed. These computers are then given to students, people who cannot afford them, and seniors, free of charge. Literally thousands of computers have been refurbished and given to others at no cost. Our other contributions are our monthly meetings and many classes or discussion groups held on Zoom, so any member can attend from anywhere. If you have not checked out our classes, please read the monthly *Monitor* publication and your emails from STUG. We hope to continue to provide great presentations and classes to our members.

Yes, of course you can help! Just give me a call at 941-926-7888 or email me at jimcerny123@gmail.com. And WELCOME to 2026!

Jim Cerny

President, STUG 2026

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A past President's MUSINGS

It is my great honor to have turned the reins of the Sarasota Technology Users Group over to my good friend, Jim Cerny. Actually, it was Jim who asked me to take the position of president in 2018. We still met monthly and in person at Sarasota Middle School on Ashton Road. We rented classrooms back then for classes and forums, but our main meeting took place in the school's cafeteria, which had a stage. I remember that Mike Hutchinson held forth every month with teachings on technology, preceding our monthly speaker's hour-long presentation on whatever the subject.

In those days, Bill Crowe was in charge of finding speakers for the monthly meetings. He also taught technology in one of the classrooms along with three or four others. I remember when Sarasota Middle School put up fences all around the property, but still we kept coming every month. There were tables around the cafeteria: a Registration/Sign-In table, a Welcome table, a New Member Orientation table, a Help Desk, a Freebie table, and lots of chairs set up in front of the stage for first Mike Hutchinson and then the speaker to hold forth.

The expense of renting was only one of the reasons we decided to give up our space. COVID had come to town, and we were forced to change gears. It was in 2020 that we changed over to Zoom meetings and carried on our monthly events. We said good-bye to meeting eye-to-eye and found people and speakers from out of town anxious to join us from the comfort of their home offices.

Five years later, I feel we have found the medium we needed for doing business in today's world. We can find great speakers who can educate us from their own homes, wherever those homes may be. And who knows, tomorrow may bring about even greater changes. But one thing we can be assured of is that the Sarasota Technology Users Group is strong and healthy and always moving forward. Together, we can keep it that way! 2026 is just beginning.

Ann Ross

Immediate Past President

BACK TO BASICS



Tribute to President ANN ROSS

Jim Cerny

Honoring Our Past President



Ann Ross

Thank You for Your
Outstanding Leadership



Our past president, Ann Ross, has served eight years as President of STUG and many years as a tireless supporter of our organization and its members. Her leadership has always been calm, kind, heartfelt, and truly special. As she steps down from the position and title of STUG President, she will, thankfully, continue to serve on our board and help guide STUG in the coming years.

Ann served with her whole heart and endured many major life ordeals during her presidency. She was, and continues to be, an example to all of us that no matter what our knowledge or skill level, we *can* contribute and help others.

From all of us at STUG, and from the community that has benefited from the organization you led for so long, our deepest appreciation, Ann. We will continue to look to you for guidance in the years ahead.



COMPUTER TUTOR

Debbie Salerno
Computer Engineering Degree
20+ years Experience

Support & Training For:
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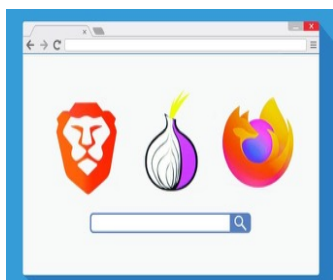
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 Sarasota Technology User Group, Inc.
Advertising Sales Manager
P.O. Box 15889
Sarasota, FL 34277-1889

APPLE NEWS



What are the best browsers FOR PRIVACY?

Bill Crowe

WHAT ARE THE BEST BROWSERS FOR PRIVACY?

The good news is you're not stuck using Chrome or Edge. Today, you have some great alternatives that offer stronger privacy protections than Google's browser. Here are a few privacy-friendly browsers worth checking out:

BRAVE

Brave is a top-rated browser designed to protect your privacy and minimize annoyances. Unlike Chrome or Edge, Brave doesn't collect any personal data. It may collect anonymous usage statistics for things like crash diagnostics and telemetry data, but it gives you the option of disabling this. It features built-in ad blocking and even blocks other privacy threats, such as cross-site trackers and browser fingerprinting. You can block cookies and scripts altogether too, although you probably won't do this for regular browsing since it can disrupt some of a site's normal functions.

Another benefit of Brave is that its code is based on Chromium, the open-source version of Chrome, so it's almost fully compatible with any extensions or add-ons that work with Google's browser. Despite that, it doesn't violate your privacy like Chrome or Edge do. It even has a built-in Tor mode, allowing you to access the internet privately through the Onion Router (a sort of proxy service — more

on that in a bit).

I've personally been using Brave browser for years, and it's far and away my favorite of all the ones I've tried. It takes privacy and security seriously, and it's user-friendly, fast, and responsive. It also works seamlessly with all the extensions I like to use. Note that in some cases, you may have to tweak privacy settings in case Brave's built-in controls cause a website not to work properly, but in my experience, this is rare.

TOR BROWSER

An even more privacy-focused alternative is the Tor Browser. True to its name, this browser is built around the Tor network, an onion-routing service that hides your IP address and location by directing your internet traffic through multiple proxy servers located around the world.

Along with hiding your IP address and location, the Tor Browser also prevents browser fingerprinting. This makes it much

more difficult for websites, advertisers, and anyone else to track your online activity based on your device information, operating system, and other metadata. And since no web history is saved locally and your IP address changes regularly, it's not really possible for third parties to build a user profile while you're using the Tor Browser.

The main advantage of the Tor Browser is also its main drawback. This browser is built for maximum anonymity, so it's not really ideal for everyday use. It can be slow, for instance, as Tor routes traffic through multiple nodes. Furthermore, some websites block Tor exit nodes altogether. The Tor Browser is ideal for sensitive tasks but not ideal for casual web browsing or accessing personal accounts.

FIREFOX

Firefox may not enjoy Chrome's dominant market share, but it's been a popular browser for years, and it's a great choice for privacy-conscious users looking for something a little more "mainstream." Firefox is an open-source web browser owned and operated by Mozilla, an independent nonprofit organization. Much like Brave, it features robust privacy controls, including tracking protection, anti-fingerprinting, and strict cookie options.

However, Firefox doesn't offer as much protection as Brave does "out of the box." In its default configuration, the browser still allows some tracking. And if you want things like ad blocking, automatic HTTPS encryption, and advanced tracking protection, you'll want to install add-ons such as the uBlock Origin and HTTPS Everywhere extensions. Beyond those, you have plenty of other options for privacy-focused extensions, and Firefox is broadly compatible with other popular add-ons.

It's worth noting that privacy add-ons that are available for desktop browsers usually aren't available on mobile devices. (Brave's mobile app has ad blocking and privacy controls built in.) Finally, Firefox also isn't as fast as Brave in my experience, which is something to consider if you're browsing on an older or more basic device.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFO PRIVATE WHILE BROWSING?

The best and easiest way to protect your privacy while surfing the web is by choosing the right browser, such as one of our suggestions above. "If you care about your data being yours, use a browser that doesn't send a report back to HQ every time you check the weather," Gourley advises. "Tor, Brave, and Firefox aren't perfect ... but they don't surveil your browsing habits to sell you ads."

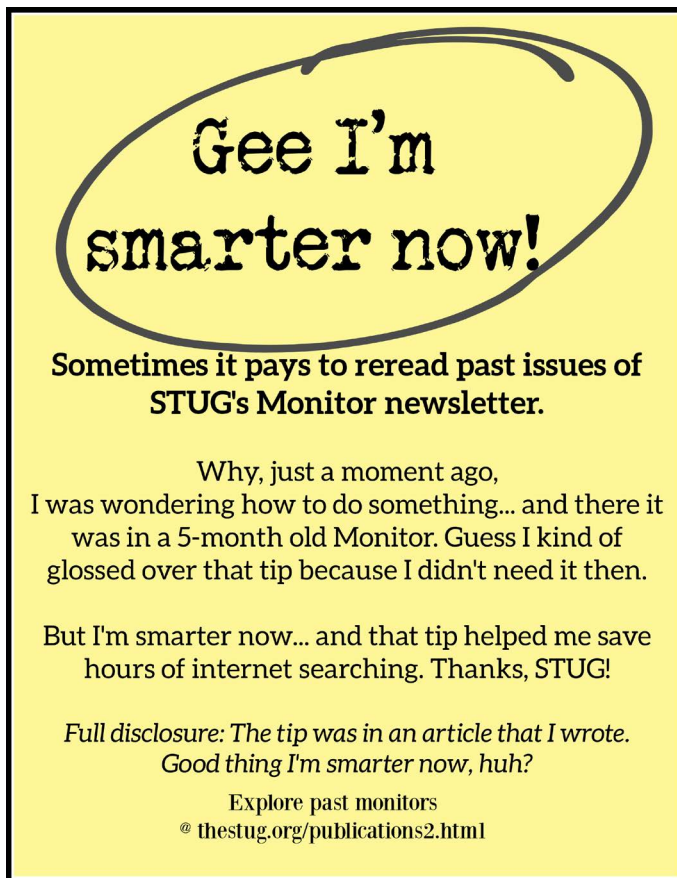
That said, there are some other practical tech tips and habits you can (and should) adopt to harden your security posture and keep your online activities a bit more private:

- **Use different browsers for different tasks.** For example, use separate browsers for work and personal use. In security parlance, this practice is known as siloing.
- **Use a privacy-oriented search engine.** Instead of Google, consider using something like DuckDuckGo or Startpage for internet searches. Brave browser has its own privacy-focused search engine built right in.
- **Use a VPN when traveling or on public Wi-Fi.** Don't trust public Wi-Fi with your personal data, and beware of

scams such as “evil twin” networks. A virtual private network (VPN) is the best way to secure your connection when you’re not at home.

- **Use strong, unique passwords for your accounts.** Don’t use simple passwords, and don’t use the same password for multiple accounts. A password manager is a great way to manage this easily.
- **Use multifactor authentication (MFA) on sensitive accounts.** This is especially important for things like your financial accounts and email.
- **Keep your browser up to date.** Don’t ignore those update notifications. Software updates include bug fixes and security patches, which are essential to keeping your device safe from hackers.

Compliments and Courtesy of Readers Digest.



Gee I'm smarter now!

Sometimes it pays to reread past issues of STUG's Monitor newsletter.

Why, just a moment ago, I was wondering how to do something... and there it was in a 5-month old Monitor. Guess I kind of glossed over that tip because I didn't need it then. But I'm smarter now... and that tip helped me save hours of internet searching. Thanks, STUG!

Full disclosure: The tip was in an article that I wrote. Good thing I'm smarter now, huh?

Explore past monitors
@ thestug.org/publications2.html



new member
DECEMBER '25

Bruce Caplan | Mary DeBoer | Beverly Katzenberger
Carol Krantz | Dennis Schmal

GENERAL MEETING FOR NOVEMBER WAS HELD VIA ZOOM WITH 44 MEMBERS PRESENT.

218 people attended our various Zoom meetings and classes in the month of October 2025.

TOTAL STUG MEMBERSHIP COUNT

December 2025 - 204

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/@sarasotatechnologyusergrou459> to view recordings of past STUG meetings and classes!

TECHNICAL THOUGHTS



Passwords to Passkeys

COMPUTER SECURITY

Phil Sorrentino

Computer security, also known as cybersecurity, is the practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from harm, theft, and unauthorized access. It covers both physical safeguards (like locks and alarms) and digital defenses (like passwords, encryption, and firewalls). According to the encyclopedia, it involves preventing data theft (such as stealing information), deterring vandalism (like viruses that can destroy files), avoiding fraud (such as unauthorized fund transfers), and preserving privacy by keeping personal data safe from prying eyes. In short, it's about making sure your digital world stays safe, private, and functional in a threatening environment.

A very basic concept to help keep your system and data safe is to guarantee that anyone who attempts access to your data is qualified to see or use that data. This is done by **authenticating** the person or system attempting access. It is the digital equivalent of asking for ID when entering a secure facility. Usernames and passwords are the current, common way of authenticating an individual. Passwords are kept secret, known only by the owner of the data, while usernames are typically publicly known. The username identifies the person attempting access; the password ensures that the person has the right to access the data. If two-factor authentication is used, that further ensures the person's qualification.

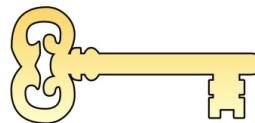
The password is something an individual *knows*, and for two-factor authentication something that the person *has* is required, like a code obtained from a smartphone in that individual's possession.

If you think about it, this is similar to the scheme used by banks to authenticate a person attempting

to access a bank safe deposit box. The box number is similar to the username, which is known to the public, and the key that the person provides is the secret, like a password. It proves that you own the contents of the box.



Safe Deposit Box



Key to Box

Passwords have actually been around for thousands of years, long before computers ever existed, but most of us have only become familiar with them since the dawn of the computer age. Many of us have been trying to get our passwords under control for the last 30 or 40 years, depending on when a computer came into your everyday life. Mine started in 1982 when I bought my first IBM Personal Computer. The use of passwords goes back as far back as biblical times and the Roman Empire. Passwords even played a part during Prohibition in the 1920s and 30s, when they were used to authenticate a person to gain access to the liquor available at a speakeasy.

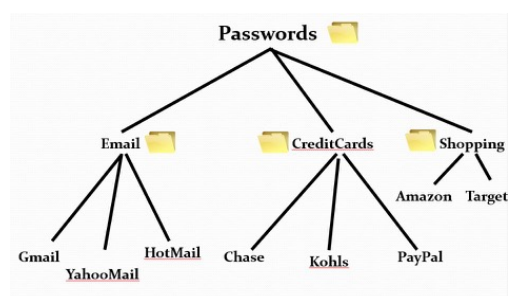
Just a little password history: The first computer password was created in 1961 by Fernando Corbató at MIT for the Compatible Time-Sharing System. Each user had a private password to access their files. And wouldn't you know it, the first

password breach happened the next year, 1962, when a student printed out the system's password file to gain more computer time.

Now, in modern times, the explosion of online accounts has led to **password fatigue**. So now we have password managers, two-factor authentication, and biometric logins like fingerprints and facial recognition.

Just a brief aside: You may never have thought about it, but websites don't actually save your password. This is why you can't get the site to give you your password if you forget it; the site can only give you the ability to create a new password. The website only stores a value that is mathematically related to your password, but because of the mathematics, that value can never be used to recreate your original password. (This mathematical mystery is explained as a "hashing" function.)

Many of us have passwords that number in the hundreds. (I have over 350 passwords.) If you don't use a password manager, there is always writing them down in a book and then hiding the book, putting them in a spreadsheet and protecting the sheet with a password, or writing them on your left hand, the old "Palm Pilot" solution. No matter how you solve the problem, most of us will agree that we hate having to deal with passwords.



Password Organization Solution

So as a possible solution, computer authentication may be moving toward **passkeys** to replace passwords. A passkey is a FIDO authentication credential based on FIDO standards, which allows a user to sign in to apps and websites with the same process they use to unlock their device: biometrics, PIN, or pattern.

FIDO (Fast Identity Online) is a global industry consortium founded in 2013 with the mission to

eliminate the world's reliance on passwords. It is made up of major tech players like Microsoft, Apple, Google, and hundreds more across finance, healthcare, government, and enterprise sectors. With passkeys, users no longer need to enter usernames and passwords or additional factors. Instead, a user logs in with the same process they use to unlock their device (for example, biometrics, PIN, or pattern).

Passkeys employ **asymmetric cryptography**.

Cryptography is the science of securing information by transforming it into a format that unauthorized parties cannot decipher. It's the backbone of digital security, used in everything from online banking to encrypted messaging apps, and now passkeys.

Asymmetric cryptography is different from the more commonly known symmetric cryptography, where a single "key" is shared by the sender and the receiver. In asymmetric cryptography, a key pair is produced: one key is kept secret (the **private** key) by the creator, and the other is released into the public (the **public** key). The key pair works together such that a message encrypted by the public key can only be read after the message has been decrypted by the private key. To send a message in the reverse direction, a different key pair could be used.



Trusted Platform Module

So how will passkeys be used? When you first open an account at a website, a key pair will be created. The private key will be saved by the user, maybe in the TPM (Trusted Platform Module), and the public key will be sent to the site. (This may be an underlying reason for the inclusion of the Trusted Platform Module required in Windows 11.)

When you later attempt to log in to the website, the site will send a challenge (a random string of bytes) encrypted with your public key. Your device will then use the private key to sign the challenge

and return the encrypted challenge back, where it will be compared to the original. If the returned document is identical to the original document, you have been authenticated as the original user.

This scheme is safer than passwords because there are no passwords stored on the site's server, only public keys. If the site is hacked, it is only the public keys that can be stolen, but they are already public. Also, each passkey is tied to a particular site; they simply won't work on a malicious or look-alike site.

Passkeys may sound a bit complex, but they have the potential to rid us of password fatigue and make our computing experiences safer and more secure.

It's Back! Face-to-Face Help Desk!

SARASOTA
TECHNOLOGY
Users Group

Every Tuesday from 10 - Noon

We can help with those "how do I" or "it will not do what I want" questions that so often plague us during our daily usage of these devices. There will be 2 volunteers to help on a first come first served basis. We won't be fixing hardware problems.

Members are invited to make a donation of their choice to help defer the cost of the space rental. Not a member yet? Join the club then and there for is \$30/year, cash or check.

Get hands-on help with tech questions and issues.



**At STUG's Refurb
location, 3949
Sawyer Road (just
south off Bee Ridge)
Sarasota**

Starting 01-06-26, every Tuesday unless it's a holiday.

Help Desk Q n A's



Before our regular monthly meeting on Zoom, we offer our “Help Desk” from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. for anyone who has questions.

The November session brought up some interesting questions and comments from those who attended. Here are the main notes from our last meeting:

TOO MUCH JUNK EMAIL

An attendee expressed exasperation at getting so much junk email (spam) at their Outlook email address. One suggestion was to go to the cloud email server (that is, your email provider’s website) and look for “filters” or “spam identifiers” to cull out the bad email. You can “Ask Google” what options are available for your particular email app and how to adjust them. This may not eliminate a lot of bad emails but may at least keep them out of your inbox.

Another suggestion, if it would not be too much trouble for yourself and those who email you, would be to get a new email address. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a way to eliminate all junk email.

SHOULD YOU “UNSUBSCRIBE”?

This option may appear at the bottom of some email or text messages, usually in a VERY small text font. Unsubscribe does NOT always work, and one person said that when you do, it notifies the sender that you are a real person and tells others that your email address is real too. Another said that sometimes unsubscribe *does* work. But all this depends upon the integrity of the company you are dealing with, and that you cannot control. So, unsubscribe or not, it is up to you.

IPHONE AND IWATCH HAVE INCORRECT TIME

Why would my iPhone and iWatch not have the correct time? One reason is that the option for “Clock” or “Time” may not have “auto-update” turned on. Turning that option on should automatically set your clocks to the correct time. Also, turning your device off and on again (rebooting) may update the time. Again, asking Google will help you find the option needed to auto-adjust your device clocks.

PLEASE JOIN OUR NEXT HELP DESK SESSION A HALF HOUR BEFORE OUR REGULAR MEETING (THAT IS, FROM 6:30 TO 7 P.M.). OUR NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 7.

DON’T MISS OUR NEXT HELP DESK SESSION

Join us **30 minutes before our regular monthly meeting** to get your tech questions answered!

NEXT HELP DESK:

**Wednesday, January 7
6:30 – 7:00 PM (Eastern)
Via Zoom**

Bring your questions, share your insights, and learn something new.

the REFURB GROUP

In November 2025, the Refurbishing Project **refurbished 327** computers. In addition, **0** computers were repaired. For **2025**, the Refurb Project has **refurbished 1856 computers** and **repaired 22 computers**. Since its inception, the Refurb Group **refurbished** a total of **24,810 computers**.

Equipment was donated to individuals referred by many organizations. Some of the organizations that benefited from donations this month include:

Sarasota County School students | Children's Guardian Fund
The Patterson Foundation | Goodwill

If you know of a person that needs a computer, but cannot afford to purchase one, he/she should write a letter or send an email to the Refurbishing Project explaining his/her situation (include a phone number for questions that may arise). The letter will be evaluated to see if the individual qualifies for a computer.

Emails should be sent to refurb@theSTUG.org

Write the letter to: STUG Refurbishing Project
3949 Sawyer Rd., Sarasota 34233.

Donations can be dropped off at the Refurbishing shop (941-539-7401). It is located at the address above. A map and additional information is available on our web page: www.thestug.org/refurb.html

PC REFURBISHING Project

As a continuing part of STUG's contribution to the community, the Refurb Group accepts donated computer equipment for refurbishing and updating. All equipment is cleaned and restored. These items are then donated to other non-profits and individuals in the community who might otherwise be denied access to technology due to economic limitations.

Donations accepted:

Computers on the Windows or Apple platforms — including desktops, laptops, monitors, printers, tablets*, smartphones*, and peripherals (such as hard drives, CD/DVD readers/writers, and other computer-related items) — are accepted.

*Tablets and smartphones are reset to factory settings and all data is deleted.

Donations Return to the Community:

If an individual or non-profit needs computer equipment and cannot afford to purchase it, the Refurb Group may be able to help.

To request equipment, please write a letter or email explaining your situation to the address below. Be sure to include:

- The specific need (e.g., schoolwork, office work, basic internet use, etc.).
- A statement confirming that purchasing a computer is not financially possible.

- A phone number where you can be reached for any questions or updates.

Your request will be reviewed, and if accepted, equipment will be provided as available.

Komputers for Kids:

The Refurbish Group also manages the Komputers for Kids program. Laptops donated by the Sarasota County Schools are refurbished and provided to Sarasota County public school students.

How to contact the Refurb Group:

By telephone: 941-539-7401

By mail: 3949 Sawyer Road, Sarasota FL 34233

By email: refurb@thestug.org

<http://www.thestug.org/refurb.html>

To drop off a donation or to pick up a computer that is ready:

Shop Location: 3949 Sawyer Road · Sarasota, FL 34233

Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 10:00 am - 12 noon

(Please call ahead just to be sure someone is there.)

The Refurb Project and the Sarasota Technology Users Group, Inc. (STUG) are a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization. Under current IRS rules, financial and material contributions are considered federally income tax-deductible. A receipt for each donation will be provided upon request.



So far this year, we have delivered 1,878 computers to the community. We have received notes, letters, and emails from recipients working in local businesses, schools, and educational institutions, as well as from individuals who have received assistance with completing certifications and high school degrees. Our Refurb Project computers are helping them start new jobs, improve their academic performance, gain skills, and boost their work performance, supporting them in making positive changes in their lives.

These days, many donated computers lack working hard drives, and numerous laptops we receive need their batteries or parts replaced. As a result, even though our community's demand has increased and we are filling more orders, our costs are also rising. For example, we spend about \$1,100 each month on shop rent and an average of \$1,350 per month on parts. We have

received grants and donations that have been very helpful; however, they do not cover all our expenses.

Please note that none of your STUG annual membership fees are used for the Refurb Project. STUG members have shown incredible support throughout the year by generously donating computers and equipment to help our community thrive.

If you make year-end donations to various charities, we would appreciate it if you would consider a cash donation to the Refurb Project. You can send a check to STUG/Refurb Shop and please include "Refurb" in the memo area. The address is:

STUG/Refurb Project
PO Box 15889
Sarasota, FL 34277-1889

You can also donate on our website at: http://www.thestug.org/refurb_files/refurb.html



THE UN-EXPERT KATE HOLMES

WHAT I LACK IN TECH KNOWLEDGE
I MAKE UP FOR IN ENTHUSIASM.

New Year's Musings



January 1, or 2, is a good day for focusing on how far we've come in the tech world. First up, of course, has to be the explosion in using AI, which promises to blow our minds in all sorts of ways. But my favorite musing is the computer in your pocket, maybe on your wrist, and how it would have been considered Black Magic to us back in 1969.

July 20, 1969

Fifty-six years ago today, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon, while Michael Collins got to be the loneliest man in the solar system, orbiting alone and probably wondering if he should have called in sick that day.

The Apollo 11 mission was humanity's greatest achievement, accomplished with the computing power of... well, let's just say your smartphone could probably run the entire Apollo program while simultaneously streaming Netflix and ordering pizza.

Here are some mind-boggling stats about the Apollo Guidance Computer (AGC) that got our boys to the moon:

- **Memory:** 4 KB of RAM and 72 KB of storage. For comparison, this blog post uses more memory than the entire moon mission.
- **Processing speed:** 0.043 MHz. A modern toaster has more computational oomph.
- **Weight:** 70 pounds. Today's equivalent would weigh about 2 ounces and cost \$3.
- **Cost:** About \$150,000 per unit in 1969 dollars (roughly \$1.2 million today). You can literally buy a supercomputer online for less.

The computer was so primitive that it couldn't even multitask properly. It kept throwing alarms during the lunar descent because it was overwhelmed trying to do too many things at once.

Yet somehow, this glorified calculator helped navigate 240,000 miles through space, land on a moving target, and bring everyone home safely.

So the next time your laptop crashes while you're updating your Facebook status, just remember: we put people on the moon with less computing power than it takes to run Solitaire.

Now that's what I call working with limited resources.

This article was written by my friend Claudette the AI while I had a second cup of coffee.

JANUARY 2026

Classes & Workshops

All classes are free for current members.

Class REGISTRATION

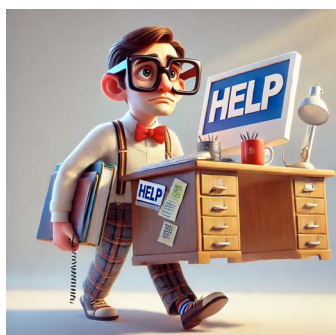
All classes are on Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Notice

A calendar with all our classes, workshops, and forums is available from a link on our website's [home page](#).
Click on [Monthly Education Calendar](#).

HELP DESK

HOSTED BY JIM CERNY AND OTHERS HELD BEFORE OUR REGULAR MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING



Do you have a tech-related problem or question? Then join us at the **Help Desk**, where all STUG members are welcome to ask our panel of experts for assistance. You're also welcome to join just to listen in and learn something new that might help you avoid future issues!

To attend, simply join the **monthly Zoom meeting early at 6:30 p.m. (EST)**.

If you have any questions about the Help Desk session, please contact **Jim Cerny** at: jimcerny123@gmail.com.

BASIC WINDOWS CLASSES

JANUARY 13 AND 27 (TUESDAY 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (EST))
INSTRUCTOR: JIM CERNY

Questions and comments are always welcome during class. Improve your Windows knowledge and share what you know with other STUG members! These classes are useful for ALL editions of Windows.

The **January 13** class will provide an overview of some **FREE GOOGLE APPS** that enable all users who have a Google account (if you have a Google "gmail" address, that is your Google account!) to use very powerful apps. All computer users should be aware of what Google offers. We will do a quick overview of the most popular apps and go into more detail on some of them on **January 27**.

The **January 27** class will cover more details of FREE Google apps like **Google Earth**, **Google Drive**, **Docs** (like MS Word), **Sheets** (like MS Excel), and more. These free Google apps are very popular not only because they are free, but because they allow all Google users to share, update, and edit files (documents, spreadsheets, presentations, etc.).

If you have attended any of these classes in the past, you will receive a reminder email from Jim with the Zoom link. If you would like to attend for the first time, please contact Jim Cerny at jimcerny123@gmail.com.

WINDOWS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

JANUARY 11 (SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM (EST))

The next meeting of the CFCS-STUG WinSIG is Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 1:00 pm. The meeting opens at 12:30 PM ET. You must register 1 time at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>

The Window Special Interest Group is a joint meeting for CFCS & STUG. It covers all things Windows and other general computer items. This SIG has been meeting for over 25 years. The meeting is the 2nd Sunday of the month. The meeting is followed by the main meeting of the Central Florida Computer Society and all STUG members are invited to stay for that meeting using the same link.

iPHONE & iPAD CLASSES

SATURDAYS IN JANUARY

10 AM - 12 NOON ET

INSTRUCTOR: BILL CROWE

Bill is continuing his classes, focusing on the most commonly used applications. The classes are for both beginners and experienced users. Even experienced users always pick up a few tips and learn something new.

So, tell your friends about the series so that you and they can learn the basics and/or improve your knowledge of these devices. All classes will run Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 Eastern Time.

Tell your friends! It's a great opportunity for everyone to build or refresh their Apple skills.

How to Register:

To receive your Zoom invitation, please email wtcrowe@verizon.net at least **one day before each class**.

Include:

- Your **first and last name**
- Your **email address**

*If you have attended one of Bill's classes within the past 6 months, you will automatically receive the Zoom link — **no need to email again.***

Class Schedule:

- **January 17** – *What is new in the Latest iOS*
- **January 13** – *News Application*
- **January 20** – *Apple Watch session 1*
- **February 7** – *Apple Watch session 2*

LET'S TALK AI (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

JANUARY 23 (FRIDAY 1 PM - 2 PM)

Let's Talk AI is for those who understand—or want to understand—what the fuss is about with AI. We will talk about tools, prompts, and some of the many services available for using AI. We will also discuss how your favorite apps are now integrating AI. To receive the link to the Zoom meeting, please email Hewie at hewie@hewie.net.



HELP DESK

Got tech-related questions or issues?

Join us at 6:30 p.m. before our monthly meeting to get help from our experts.

STUG members welcome to attend!

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