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PRESENTATION | May 6 • 7 PM

We will be broadcasting it via Zoom.

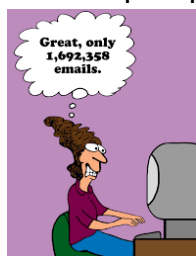
TAMING THE EMAIL MONSTER

Presented by Bill Crowe

Most of us receive a "ton" of emails every day, sometimes more than 100. Unless we manage them, checking email can quickly become unpleasant, and the problem only seems to get worse.

This was not as much of a problem with regular mail because it costs money to send "junk mail," and it is usually easy to identify and discard. With email, however, marketers can send messages to thousands of people with very little effort or expense. As a result, our inboxes can become crowded with messages we do not want or need.

How many promotional emails do you really need? Can you stop the madness? Join this presentation and learn simple tips to help you:



- Get rid of junk email
- Organize your inbox
- Find messages quickly
- Keep email from taking over your life

These tips are useful whether you use Gmail, Microsoft Outlook, or Apple Mail.

About the Presenter: Bill Crowe



Bill Crowe has a B.S. in Mathematics Education from the University of California, Pennsylvania. He worked for IBM for 34 years as a programmer, systems analyst, and manager, and has taught computer-related courses at several colleges and training centers.

He currently teaches classes in computers, Windows, Excel, Word, iPhone, and iPad for Sarasota Adult and Community Enrichment (ACE) and the Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG), where he also serves on the board.

Bill is known for his enthusiasm, patience, and ability to help students truly understand technology. His favorite expression is, "No learning takes place unless there is a transfer of knowledge."

MUSINGS



A PAST PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

April 15 and 16 were the dates of this year's Giving Challenge, and we did well! Thanks to the generosity of our friends and members, and with matching funds received during that 24-hour period, we will have just over \$10,000 to give to the Refurb Group. These funds will help them continue their mission of providing free computers to people in our community who cannot afford one.

This event occurs every other year, and we are truly grateful to our friends and members for their generous support. Thank you!

Ann Ross

Director at thestug.org



Come Play!

 **Thursday, May 14**
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

 **Sahib Hot Sands**
Tiki Hut and Bar
1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

-  **This gathering is simply for fun.**
Bring a friend or come and make new ones.
-  **Feel free to bring a game and find others to play with.**
Options might include Scrabble, Mexican Train dominoes, Scattergories, solitaire, bridge, Mahjongg, Euchre, cards, or any favorite game you enjoy. You are also welcome to join in with others. Perhaps someone will even teach a new game or two.
-  **Not interested in games? No problem.**
Come for lunch, conversation, and a good time.
-  **You might even want to take a photo in the large Adirondack chair out front to share with family and friends.**

In short, come as you are and enjoy the company.

BACK TO BASICS

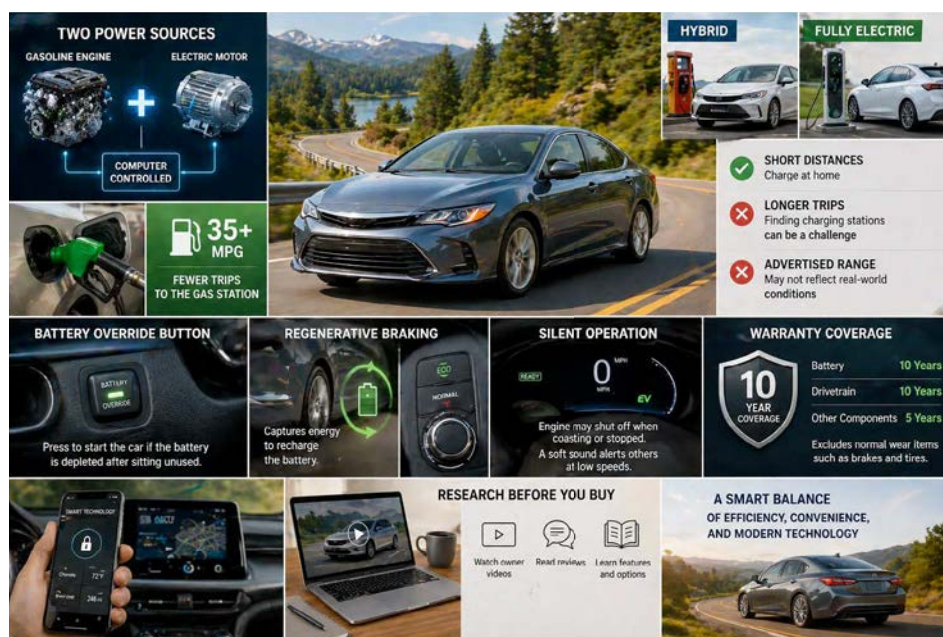


IS A HYBRID CAR FOR YOU?

Jim Cerny

Some months ago, I purchased my first hybrid car, and it has proven to be an excellent choice for me. Without mentioning specific brands, I would like to share some information to help you decide whether a hybrid might be a good option for you.

I purchased a hybrid sedan nearly a year ago and have been very pleased with its performance. A hybrid vehicle uses two power sources: a gasoline engine and an electric motor. The system is fully computer-controlled, so all you need to do is drive. Battery weight varies by make and model, typically ranging from under 100 pounds to over 250 pounds.



Hybrids generally cost a bit more to purchase, since you are essentially getting two motors. However, this added cost is often offset by significantly improved fuel efficiency. In my case, I consistently achieve 35 miles per gallon or more, which means fewer trips to the gas station.

Why not choose a fully electric vehicle? If you primarily drive short distances and can charge at home, an all-electric car may work well. However, for longer trips, finding a reliable charging station can sometimes be a challenge. Also, advertised ranges such as "up to 350 miles" may not reflect real-world conditions. For these reasons, a fully electric vehicle was not the right fit for me.

I did encounter one issue. After the car sat unused for more than a week, the battery was depleted, and the car would not start. Fortunately, there is a "battery override" button on the dashboard. Once pressed, the car started immediately. The dealer later explained that many newer vehicles, hybrid or not, may experience this issue because systems continue to operate even when the car is off, such as circulating air in the cabin. In warm weather, this can drain the battery more quickly. If this happens, using the override feature may resolve the issue without needing a jump start or tow.

Overall, I have found the driving experience to be smooth and comfortable. The car offers different driving modes, such as economy, sport, and normal. When braking, energy is captured and used to

recharge the battery. At times, when coasting or stopped, the gasoline engine shuts off completely. Because the car becomes very quiet in these moments, it emits a soft sound at low speeds to indicate that it is still running.

Eventually, the battery may need to be replaced. For that reason, warranty coverage is important. In my case, the dealership offers free battery replacement for 10 years. The drivetrain is also covered for 10 years, while most other components are covered for five years, excluding normal wear items such as brakes and tires.

Automotive technology has advanced significantly in recent years. Today's vehicles come with many features and options, some of which can be controlled through your smartphone. Before purchasing a new car, it may be helpful to watch online videos from other owners and reviewers. This can provide practical insights and make the learning process easier than relying solely on the owner's manual.

A hybrid vehicle may not be the right choice for everyone, but it offers a strong balance of efficiency, convenience, and modern technology that is well worth considering.

DISCOUNT COMPUTERS, Inc.



**Sarasota's Oldest
PC Store
1989 - 2025**

**Quality Intel PC's,
Laptops, & Nuc's**
"Lifetime Free Training"



Be spoilt with our FREE services!
FREE individual classes, with your own personal teacher. **Free** Phone Help.
Free Remote access for support.
Free Data transfer to your new PC.
Local support with a company you can trust!

"Your Local Computer Store!"
6524B S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
sales@dcisrq.com www.dcisrq.com
(941) 925-2215





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!

{ ADVERTISE WITH US }

 ads@thestug.org

 Sarasota Technology User Group, Inc.
 Advertising Sales Manager
 P.O. Box 15889
 Sarasota, FL 34277-1889



Welcome

NEW MEMBERS APRIL '26



Sary Beidas | Sandra Bushart |
Monica Mullen | Susan Smitten



GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (MARCH)
Held via Zoom with **46 MEMBERS PRESENT.**



TOTAL MONTHLY ATTENDANCE
244 PEOPLE attended our various Zoom meetings
and classes in the month of March 2026.



**TOTAL STUG
MEMBERSHIP COUNT**

204 April
2026



VIEW PAST RECORDINGS!

youtube.com/@sarasotatechnologyusergrou459

Visit our official channel to view recordings of past STUG meetings and classes.

COMPUTER TUTOR

Debbie Salerno

Computer Engineering Degree
20+ years Experience

On or Off Site
Service



Support & Training For:
Microsoft, Apple, or Android
Computers, Smart Phones, & Tablets
Network all of your Technology
Remove Virus & Spyware
Backup & Data Recovery

941-377-9373

321-279-5866

computertutor24@comcast.net

**More HELP
than ever!**

**Sometimes you just need a little guidance.
And who better than the Refurb Crew?**

That's why members can now get help one-on-one
at the Refurb Group's workspace at
3949 Sawyer Road, Sarasota

any Wednesday from 10 to noon

Bring your device. Bring your questions. Tell your friends. For the simple cost of membership, \$30,
HELP is there for you for an entire year.

Read about the Refurb Shop and more at stugsrq.com and thestug.org

APPLE NEWS



How to change SNOOZE TIME ON iPhone

Bill Crowe

How do you change the snooze time on an iPhone? For years, Apple would not allow you to change snooze length on the iPhone, and the only way around that was to set multiple alarms. Now, that's all changing with the newest version of iOS. Here is how to change the snooze time on an iPhone.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS TIP

- Change how long it takes before your morning alarm sounds again.
- Choose the snooze duration that works best for you.
- Help make sure you wake up on time.

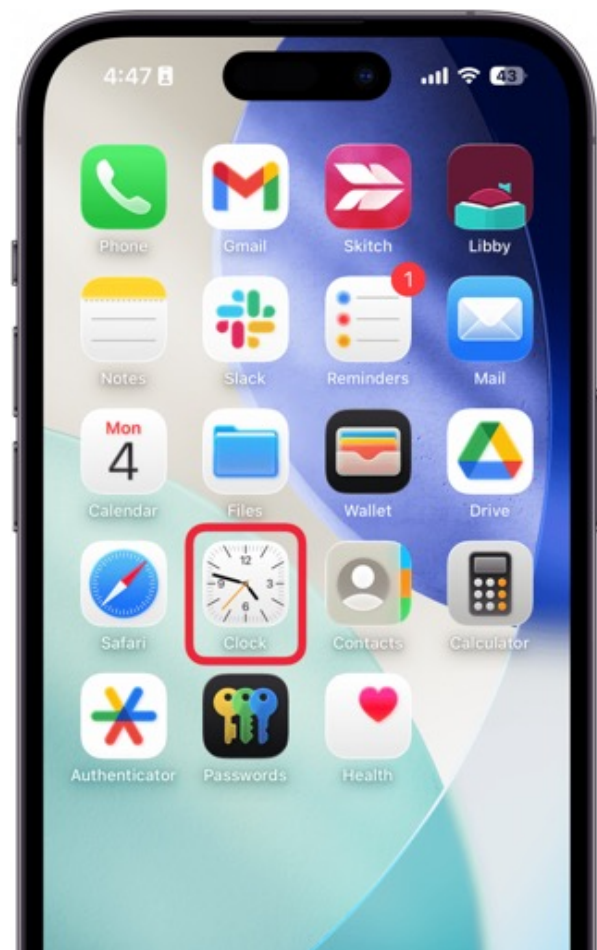
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

This feature is available in iOS 26. If your iPhone is running iOS 18 or your device is not compatible with iOS 26, you will not be able to change the snooze time.

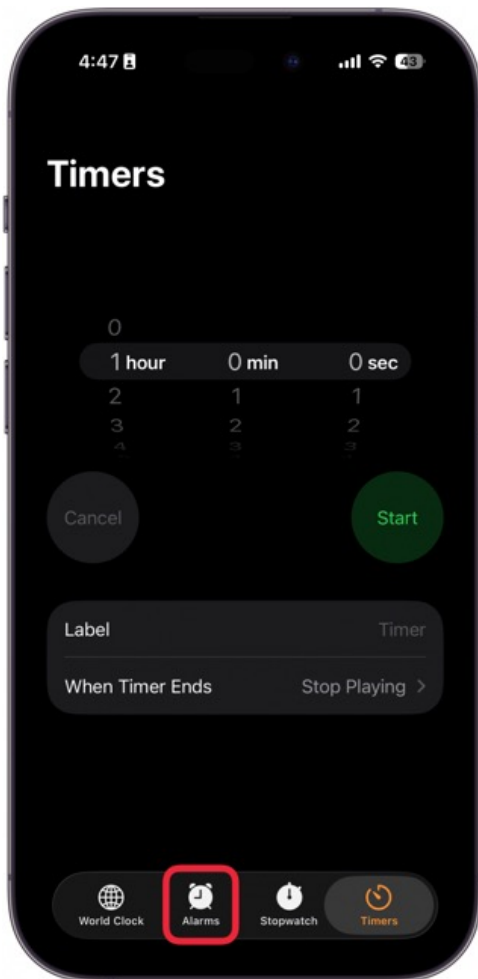
So why has the iPhone snooze time traditionally been nine minutes? According to Apple Explained, the reason goes back to the physical limitations of mechanical alarm clocks. Setting a 10-minute snooze interval was not possible with some older clocks. Why Apple kept the nine-minute snooze interval for so long on the iPhone is a question only Apple can answer. Humanity survived this mystery somehow.

Now, with iOS 26, you can change the snooze duration. Here's how:

1. Open the **Clock** app.



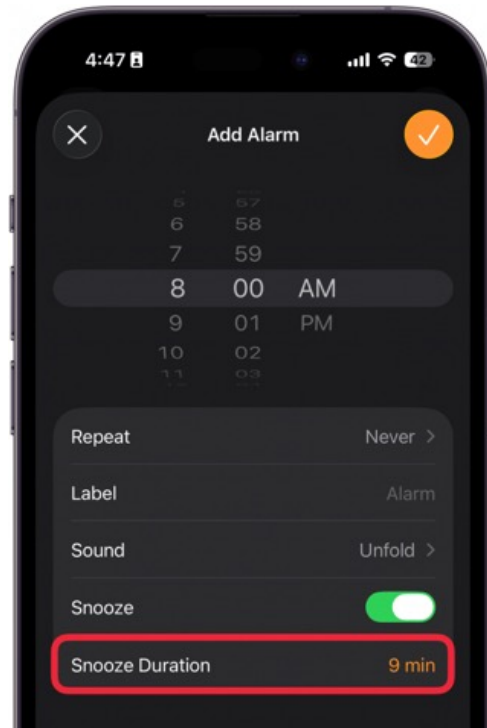
2. Tap the **Alarm** tab if you are not already there.



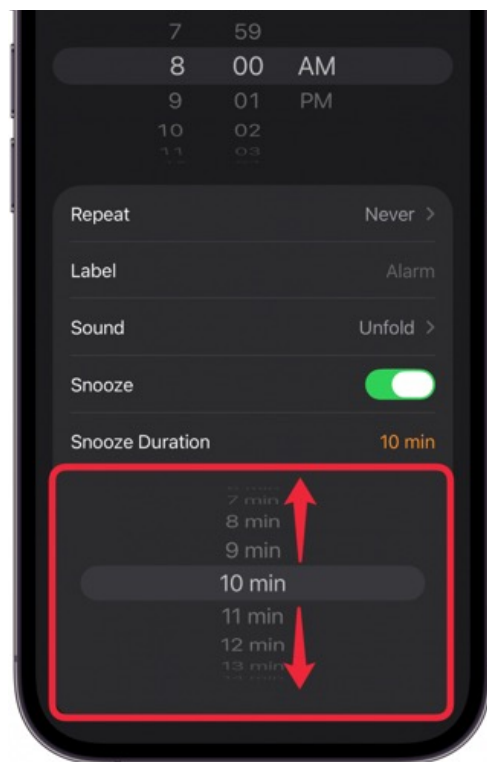
3. Tap the **plus icon** in the upper-right corner to create a new alarm.



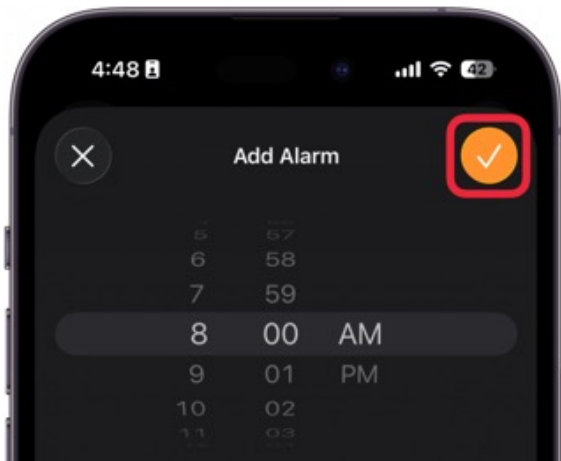
4. Tap **Snooze Duration**.



5. Use the scroll wheel to choose your preferred snooze time. You can set the snooze duration anywhere from **1 to 15 minutes**.



6. Tap the **checkmark** in the upper-right corner to save it.

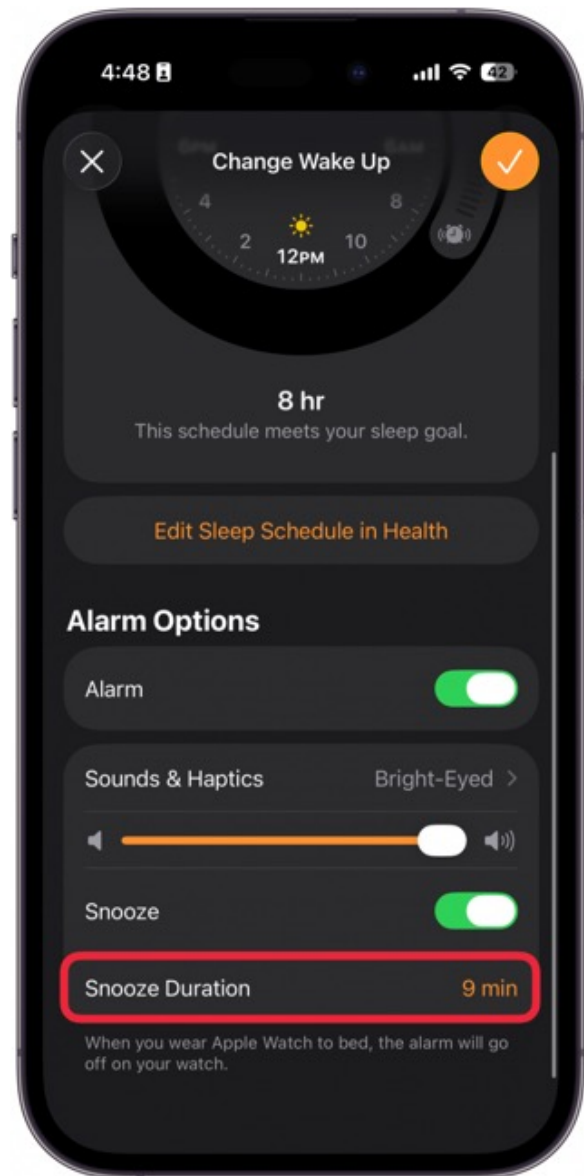


If you use **Sleep Focus**, you can also change the snooze duration on the Wake Up alarm:

1. Tap **Change** next to the Wake Up alarm.



2. Scroll down and tap **Snooze Duration**.



3. Choose your preferred snooze time, just as described above.

That's how to adjust the snooze time on your iPhone. If your device does not support iOS 26, you can still set multiple alarms with your preferred time interval between them. If you use that method, it is best to disable snooze so you do not end up with several alarms snoozing at the same time.

Complements and courtesy of iPhone Life



MAY LUNCH & FUN

STUG Members & Friends

Thursday • May 14 • Noon – 3 PM

Hot Sands & Tiki Bar

at Sahib Shrine
600 N. Beneva, Sarasota

No attendance fee
Order and pay for your
own meal and beverages

SARASOTA TECHNOLOGY

Users Group

TECHNICAL THOUGHTS



WI-FI SPEED CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Phil Sorrentino

Internet service speeds and Wi-Fi performance together determine how satisfying your online experience will be. In general, faster speeds lead to a better experience. The overall speed depends on every component in your setup, and fortunately, Wi-Fi technology has improved significantly over the years.

Wi-Fi is based on the IEEE 802.11 standard, which defines how wireless local area networks operate. This technology allows you to connect to the internet without a physical cable, whether you are at home, in an office, or in a public space like an airport or shopping center. While wired Ethernet connections can still offer faster and more secure performance, Wi-Fi provides unmatched convenience.



Wi-Fi technology has evolved through several generations, each improving speed and reliability. Early versions in the late 1990s offered speeds as low as 11 Mbps, while modern standards such as Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7 can reach speeds of several gigabits per second under ideal conditions. Most modern devices support these newer standards, but performance is limited by the slowest device in the connection. In other words, your network is only as fast as its weakest link.

It is also important to understand that internet speed involves both downloading and uploading data. Download speed refers to how quickly you receive information, while upload speed refers to how quickly you send it. Many internet providers advertise download speeds, which are often higher than upload speeds. Additionally, speeds may vary depending on network traffic in your area.

To check your connection speed, you can use a tool such as the Ookla Speedtest app. This will give you a snapshot of your current upload and download speeds. When testing over Wi-Fi, the results will reflect both your device's capabilities and your router's performance.

Because many factors influence internet speed—including your provider, router, device, and network conditions—slow performance can sometimes be difficult to diagnose. However, understanding how these elements work together can help you make informed decisions and improve your overall experience.

Help Desk Q n A's



TAX SEASON IS HERE

We had a great discussion about taxes and using apps such as TurboTax or H&R Block. The basic versions are free, and there were no negative comments about either program. Our main meeting, which followed, included an excellent demonstration by Mr. Tom Burt on how to use a tax app.

Don't forget that you can ask specific tax questions using AI, Google, or other online question-and-answer tax resources. AARP also provides free in-person tax help at selected locations, such as libraries.

CAR DISCUSSION—HYBRIDS

Several people recommended hybrid vehicles for overall high gas mileage and comfort. Dealers should offer a long warranty for battery replacement, if needed. Unlike fully electric cars, hybrids do not need to be plugged in to recharge. The engine and braking system charge the batteries as needed. It is all computer-controlled, so you simply drive and fill the gas tank less often. Hondas and Hyundais (Kia is part of Hyundai) were mentioned favorably.

MEMORY FULL NOTICE BANNER

One person reported a "banner" or large text box appearing on their Windows computer screen whenever the computer was turned on. Discussion determined that this message was coming from Google and was a reminder that the person's Google account had reached its free storage limit of 15 GB.

This was not a notice about the computer's memory,

Before our regular monthly Zoom meeting, we host a "Help Desk" session from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., where members can ask questions or discuss technical issues. Each session brings up a variety of topics that benefit everyone who attends. One of the advantages of the Help Desk is hearing different perspectives and approaches to solving problems. Below are highlights from last month's session:

but rather about online Google account storage in the cloud. If you receive this notice, you should either delete items from your Google Drive or pay a small fee to increase your Google storage. Your Google account storage includes email, videos, documents, photos, and other files. One option is to copy large files from your Google Drive to a plug-in drive and then delete files you no longer need.

USING AI—TIPS

AI can provide a great deal of helpful information, entertainment, how-to instructions, and more. Suggestions were made to be as specific as possible when asking AI a question so the answer better fits your needs. You should also compare results from more than one AI tool. The website <https://sneos.com/> offers a free trial where you can ask up to six AI tools at one time.

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

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, May 6
6:30 – 7:00 PM (Eastern)
Via Zoom

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



the PC REFURBISHING Project

Your donations—whether technology or financial contributions—help us provide “like-new” devices that open doors for children, young adults, and others in need of technology for education, employment, and staying connected with family and friends. Thank you for your support.

The Refurb Project accepts Windows and Apple computers, as well as monitors, printers, tablets*, smartphones*, and related accessories. *(*If a device has a passcode, please provide it when donating.)*

Each item is carefully cleaned, with all data securely wiped. Devices are evaluated for updates, and usable parts are assessed for future use. All equipment is reset to ensure complete data privacy before refurbishment. If a device cannot be repaired or reused, it is responsibly recycled through Urban E-Recycling to help reduce landfill waste.

In March 2026, the Refurbishing Project **refurbished 180** computers. In addition, **1 computer was repaired**. For **2026**, the Refurb Project has **refurbished 580 computers** and **repaired 3 computers**. Since its inception, the Refurb Group **refurbished** a total of **25,595 computers**.

Refurbished machines are distributed to individuals referred by partner organizations. In February 2026, key recipients included:

Sarasota County School students | Goodwill
The Patterson Foundation | CareerSource

REQUESTING A REFURBISHED COMPUTER

Individuals or nonprofits in need may apply by submitting a letter or email that includes:

- A description of your need (e.g., schoolwork, job searching, home use, communication)
- A statement confirming financial hardship
- A phone number and email address for follow-up

Email requests to refurb@thestug.org, or mail to:

STUG – Refurb Project
3949 Sawyer Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34233

Applications will be reviewed to determine eligibility.

DONATING EQUIPMENT

Donations may be dropped off at the Refurb Shop (please call ahead to confirm availability: 941-539-7401) at the address above. If your device has a passcode or key, please provide it so we can properly reset the equipment.

Additional details and a map are available at: www.thestug.org/refurb.html

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.

Computers for Kids:

The Refurbish Group also manages the Computers 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.

The Refurb Project plays a critical role in bridging the digital divide, providing access to technology for children, young adults, and seniors. We are proud to have surpassed 25,000 refurbished computers distributed to individuals, families, and organizations in our community.

STUG members have demonstrated remarkable generosity over the years. Your continued support ensures that we can keep this vital program strong and impactful.

CONTACT US

Postal: PO Box 15889, Sarasota FL 34277

Phone: 941-677-0246

Internet: www.thestug.org

Email: info@thestug.org

education@thestug.org

membership@thestug.org

treasurer@thestug.org



THE UN-EXPERT KATE HOLMES

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

The very First Google Doodle

The first Google Doodle appeared on August 30, 1998, before Google was even officially incorporated. Created by founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, this inaugural doodle was simple and playful—a stick figure placed behind the second “o” in the Google logo. The figure referenced the Burning Man festival in Nevada, signaling that the founders were out of the office.



This lighthearted change was never intended to start a tradition, but it marked the beginning of one. By altering their logo to reflect an event, Page and Brin showed a willingness to bring personality and creativity into their brand.



What could be a better URL than doodles.google/? Explore past doodles by country, your birthdate, or even search by color!

Personal recommendation:
Do NOT miss
<https://tinyurl.com/STUGcharlie>



Today, Google Doodles celebrate a wide range of subjects, including historical figures, scientific achievements, cultural holidays, and major events. What began as a simple stick figure has evolved into an important part of Google’s identity.

From basic designs to interactive, full-screen experiences, Google Doodles have become a recognizable tradition that highlights creativity, connects to global events, and occasionally offers thoughtful commentary. Not bad for what was essentially a “we’re out of office” note.

MAY 2026

Classes & Workshops

All classes are free for current members.

Class REGISTRATION

All classes are on Zoom unless otherwise noted.

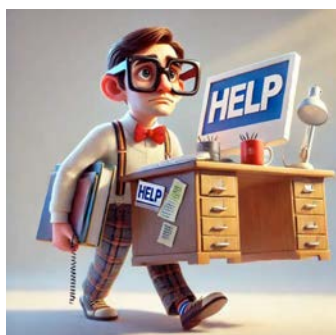
Notice

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 problems!

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.

WINDOWS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

MAY 10 (SUNDAY 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM (EST))

The next meeting of the CFCS-STUG WinSIG is Sunday, May 10, 2026, at 1:00 pm. The meeting opens at 1:00 PM ET. You must register 1 time at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvc6grz8qGdyZenMWbknhMmKkQP8Rq01->

The Windows Special Interest Group is a joint meeting for CFCS and STUG. It covers all things Windows and other general computer topics. This SIG has been meeting for over 25 years and is held on the second Sunday of each 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 APRIL

10 AM - 12 NOON ET

INSTRUCTOR: BILL CROWE

Bill is continuing his classes on using your iPad and iPhone. These classes are helpful for both beginners and experienced users. Even experienced users often pick up useful tips and learn something new.

Please tell your friends about the series so that you and they can learn the basics and improve your knowledge of these devices.

All classes will be held Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eastern Time.

How to Register:

To register, 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 six months, you will automatically receive an invitation — **no need to email again.***

Class Schedule:

- **May 2** – *Student Questions and Answers*
- **May 9** – *Latest Update to Apple's iOS*
- **May 16** – *The Rundown on the Family of iPhones and iPads*
- **May 23** – *Bill's Day with the iPhone: Apps He uses All The Time*
- **May 30** – *Special Ways to Use your Device, including Cut and Paste, Gestures, Notifications, and Wallet*

LET'S TALK AI (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

MAY 22 (FRIDAY 1 PM - 2 PM)

Let's Talk AI is for those who understand, or want to understand, what all the fuss is about with artificial intelligence. 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 using AI.

To receive the Zoom link, please email Hewie at hewie@hewie.net.



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.

