ignificant Bits

# Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.





**Vol 40 No 5** *19 May* 2025

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			Secretary	<b>*</b>

(		Meeting Timetable	
	Mitch	nelton Library Helios Parade A	<b>Nitchelton</b>
	9:30am	Q&A No Meeting	John Tacey
	11pm	Kicking off planed Linux tour	Fred
		Lunch GM - Report to the Club	Keith
	1:00pm	Linux workshop	Keith All
	If you have the meeting	a question that may need a bit of a look up, le	et me know before
	Presentation	n done using Power Point and shared screens.	)



# **Significant Bits**

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

## SIGNIFICANT BITS

the Journal of BRISBUG PC USER GROUP INC. A Computer Club for users of PC-type computers

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The Members' Web Page

## **Meeting Days**

## Magazine

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## **Submission Deadline**

## Friday 6 June 2025

Please use e-mail if possible

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## Hi All,

Back to our meeting this month.

We think the workshop in Linux is worth the effort and learning from the work up to date we need to put some structure as laissez-faire is not the best learning method and not extending our journey.

It has again been set back, as I have had to do full updates (one way or another) to the next version 24.04. This has shown an issue with the update via the installed version, as at least 50% fail and leave the computer unbootable. We will not do any future update of the version but concentration on learning and getting comfortable with the Linux first.

Fred has done a lot of thinking on this and he has agreed to take the lead in guiding us. He has nutted out a programme and that will keep us moving forward.

Can I ask you all that we follow the stages together and not work individually? That will ensure we are all progressing.

The workshop is an ideal way for members to share what they learn. If during the programme you are "waiting to get on" that is the time to see if you can help another member with some process, that way we all learn and move on.

There is a real gain to become comfortable with Linux and become as comfortable that you can do all your computing with it.

As discussed it will offer savings in money and some of the angst from MS.

We will not drop Windows or other topics of interest.

See you at the meeting

Keith



# Reports

## **Presentation and Education**

Presentation: Linux presentation on programme.

Morning 11am. .

After Afternoon 1pm: Linux Work Shop

## Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

No Meeting April as library closed meeting.

# Treasurer's Report

## **April 2025**

<b>Opening Balance at 1/4/25</b>	2046.81
Income	
	00.00
Total Income	00.00
	00.00
Expenses	
No expenses	0.00
Total Expenses	0.00
Month's gain	00.00
Balance at 30/4/25	2046.81
Ross Shyring	
Treasurer	



#### **Q&A - March meeting**

#### Browsers

Some websites prefer Chrome or Edge or maybe others.

Web Portals May Open OK, can't access linked pages

We are aware of numerous websites breaking because of only supporting the latest Chrome or Firefox versions. December 19, 2024

https://www.seamonkey-project.org/news

#### Home Page, Own

This has icons for pages frequently visited

I built mine some years ago using the WISIWIG "Composer" in SeaMonkey.

SeaMonkey Internet Suite - Composer

https://www.seamonkey-project.org/releases/2.53.20

7 Best Open Source Wysiwyg HTML Editor

Best HTML WYSIWYG Editors from our top picks based on features you need for creating or enhancing your website.

https://www.rgbwebtech.com/blogs/page/bestwysiwyg-html-editors

No Power, Charge Phone or Tablet

Automobile using the system USB connector or a In-Car Plugin Charger using the Cigarette Lighter or Power Socket

These come in a variety of device connection configurations.

Power Bank, various capacities available, including Uniden UPP80S Portable Solar Power Bank.

#### Home Phones

1. The standard arrangement using the NBN modem providing a VOIP service and a Land Line home phone.

The Telstra Smart Modem will connect to their cellular system if the NBN is down however; if there is a power failure the modem becomes non-functional.

2. Cellular network: myhomefone is a cordless home phone that runs on the 4G network. No landline or nbn connection is needed. myhomefone is the phone for people who don t want nbn at home or need a back-up phone that works regardless of the availability of nbn.

#### https://myhomefone.com.au/dt7x/

When to disconnect PV System, Energex

For detailed information and solar PV safety checklists, download our handy electrical safety guide (PDF 1.8 mb).

https://www.energex.com.au/safety/safety-at\_home-orwork/solar-power-and-battery-storage-safety

#### Note: This record of the Q&A session topics relies on my biological volatile memory (a.k.a. the 'forgettory').

Gleanings from e-newsletters and other sources. Reviews

Is Your Antivirus Spying on You? Yes, and Some Are Worse Than Others

By Neil J. Rubenking Feb 06, 2025

Every security suite sends data back to its home base to check for malware and keep you safe. But you'd be surprised how much other information they collect and share. Here's what you need to know.

https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/109568/is-yourantivirus-spying-on-you-yes-and-some-are-worsethan-others

The Best Antivirus Software for 2025

By Neil J. Rubenking Apr 17, 2025

Antivirus apps protect your PC's personal information, data, bank accounts, and much more. We've tested more than two dozen utilities to help you choose the best antivirus for your needs.

https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/8949/the-bestantivirus-protection

#### New Releases

Adobe Air

License: Freeware

File name: 51.2.1.1

File Size: 5.99 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: HARMAN

URL: <u>http://www</u>

#### Essential PIM 12.2.0

License: Free

File name: Essential PIM.exe

File Size: 71.29 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher:

URL: <u>https://www.essentialpim.com/pc-version</u> Glary Utilities 6

#### Giary Utilities 6

License: Freeware

Release Date:

File Name: Glary\_Utilities\_v 6.25.0.29.exe

File Size: 27.00 MB

Platform: Windows 8, 7, 2000, XP, Vista. 32/64bit version.

#### Publisher: Glarysoft Ltd

Languages: 44 Languages [Help Translate] URL: http://www.glaryutilities.com/

#### **Release Notes:**

Optimized Disk Cleaner: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Tracks Eraser: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Software Update: optimized the version comparison algorithm, and increase the comparison speed by 30%

Optimized Empty Folders Finder: add folder delete validation to prevent accidentally deletion of non-empty folder

Minor GUI improvements

Minor bug fixes

Glary Utilities is a freeware with registry and disk cleaning, privacy protection, performance accelerator and amazing multifunctional tools. It can fix dogged registry errors, wipe off clutters, optimise Internet speed, safeguard confidential files and maintain maximum performance.

It is designed for both novice and professionals. Userfriendly interface shows clear & detailed directions. For novice, all work can be done with just 1 or 2 clicks, while for professionals, abundant options are available.

Key features:

Optimise, clean and boost the speed of your Windows.

Protect your privacy and security.

Block spyware, trojans, adware, etc.

Fix certain application errors.

Simple, fast and user friendly interface.

For private use only.

URL: http://www.glaryutilities.com/

GnuCash

Publisher: GnuCash Project

License: Free

File name: gnucash-5.11.setup.exe File Size: 169MB

O/S: Linux, Windows

Publisher: GnuCash Project

URL: https://gnucash.org/download.phtml

Google Chrome (32bit) 136.0.7103.49

License: Free

File name: ChromeSetup.exe File Size: 114.42 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Google

URL: https://www.google.com/chrome/

Java Runtime Environment (32bit)

License: Freeware File name: Java\_Runtime\_Environment\_(32bit)\_v8.0.4510.10.7ex e File Size: 35.95 MB O/S: Windows Publisher: Oracle

#### URL: <u>http://www.java.com/</u>

Keepass License: Freeware File name: Keepass-2.58-Setup.exe Linux. Windows File Size: 4.34 MB O/S: Publisher: Dominik Reichl URL: https://keepass.info/ LibreOffice License: Freeware File name: LibreOffice\_25.2.2\_Win\_x86.msi File Size: 331 MB O/S: Windows Publisher: The Document Foundation Comments: Contains the functions:-Writer PDF Presentation Spreadsheet URL: https://mirror.freedif.org/TDF/libreoffice/stable/6.2.0/ win/x86/LibreOffice 24.84.4 Win x86.msi Mozilla Firefox License: Freeware File name: Mozilla\_Firefox\_(32bit)\_v138.0.exe Update O/S: Windows 7 to 11 File Size: 64.85 MB Publisher: Mozilla Corporation Comments:-To force a manual update:-Menu Button > ? Button > 'About Firefox' URL: https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/ Mozilla Thunderbird License: Freeware Thunderbird Setup 138.(GB).exe File name: File Size: 66.23 MB O/S: Windows XP SP2 to 10 Publisher: Mozilla Corporation URL: http://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/thunderbird/ NotePad++ (32bit)License: Freeware File name: NotePad\_v8.8.exe File Size: 6.34 MB O/S: Windows Publisher: Notepad++ URL: https://notepad-plus-plus.org/ **PDFCreator** License: Freeware File name: PDFCreator\_v6.0.1.exe

101.00 MB O/S: Windows

May 2025

File Size:

Publisher: pdfforge Glary Utilities is a freeware with registry and disk cleaning, privacy protection, performance accelerator URL: https://www.pdfforge.org/ and amazing multifunctional tools. It can fix dogged **XnView** registry errors, wipe off clutters, optimise Internet License: Freeware speed, safeguard confidential files and maintain XnView v 2.52.1.exe File name: maximum performance. File Size: 4.31 MB O/S: Windows XP SP3 to the It is designed for both novice and professionals. Userlast version of Windows 10. friendly interface shows clear & detailed directions. For novice, all work can be done with just 1 or 2 clicks, Publisher: XnView.com while for professionals, abundant options are available. URL: http://www.xnview.com/ Key features: Want more? See the New Releases list: Optimise, clean and boost the speed of your Windows. http://ct.com.com/ Protect your privacy and security. **Tips etc.New Releases** Block spyware, trojans, adware, etc. Adobe Air Fix certain application errors. License: Freeware Simple, fast and user friendly interface. File name: 51.2.1.1 For private use only. File Size: 5.99 MB **OS:** Windows URL: http://www.glaryutilities.com/ Publisher: HARMAN GnuCash URL: http://www Publisher: GnuCash Project Essential PIM 12.2.0 License: Free License: Free File name: gnucash-5.11.setup.exe File name: Essential PIM.exe File Size: 169MB O/S: File Size: 71.29 MB O/S: Windows Publisher: GnuCash Project Publisher: URL: https://gnucash.org/download.phtml URL: https://www.essentialpim.com/pc-version Google Chrome (32bit) 136.0.7103.49 Glary Utilities 6 License: Free License: Freeware File name: ChromeSetup.exe Release Date: 114.42 MB O/S: Windows File Size: File Name: Glary\_Utilities\_v 6.25.0.29.exe Publisher: Google File Size: 27.00 MB URL: <u>https://www.goog</u>le.com/chrome/ Platform: Windows 8, 7, 2000, XP, Vista. 32/64bit Java Runtime Environment (32bit) version. License: Freeware Publisher: Glarysoft Ltd File Languages: 44 Languages [Help Translate] Java\_Runtime\_Environment\_(32bit)\_v8.0 URL: http://www.glaryutilities.com/ .4510.10.7exe Release Notes: File Size: 35.95 MB O/S: Windows Optimized Disk Cleaner: added support for 'Corel Publisher: Oracle VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014' URL: http://www.java.com/ Optimized Tracks Eraser: added support for 'Corel Keepass VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014' License: Freeware Optimized Software Update: optimized the version comparison algorithm, and increase the comparison File name: Keepass-2.58-Setup.exe speed by 30% File Size: 4.34 MB O/S: Linux, Windows Optimized Empty Folders Finder: add folder delete Publisher: Dominik Reichl validation to prevent accidentally deletion of non-empty URL: https://keepass.info/ folder LibreOffice Minor GUI improvements License: Freeware Minor bug fixes File name: LibreOffice\_25.2.2\_Win\_x86.msi File Size: 331 MB O/S:

Windows

name:

Linux, Windows

Publisher: The Document Foundation Comments: Contains the functions:-Writer PDF Presentation Spreadsheet URL: https://mirror.freedif.org/TDF/libreoffice/stable/6.2.0/ win/x86/LibreOffice\_24.84.4\_Win\_x86.msi Mozilla Firefox License: Freeware File name: Mozilla\_Firefox\_(32bit)\_v138.0.exe Update File Size: 64.85 MB O/S: Windows 7 to 11 Publisher: Mozilla Corporation Comments:-To force a manual update:-Menu Button > ? Button > 'About Firefox' URL: https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/ Mozilla Thunderbird License: Freeware File name: Thunderbird Setup 138.(GB).exe File Size: 66.23 MB O/S: Windows XP SP2 to 10 Publisher: Mozilla Corporation URL: http://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/thunderbird/ NotePad++ (32bit) License: Freeware File name: NotePad v8.8.exe 6.34 MB O/S: Windows File Size: Publisher: Notepad++ URL: https://notepad-plus-plus.org/ **PDFCreator** License: Freeware File name: PDFCreator v6.0.1.exe 101.00 MB O/S: Windows File Size: Publisher: pdfforge URL: https://www.pdfforge.org/ **XnView** License: Freeware File name: XnView\_v 2.52.1.exe File Size: 4.31 MB O/S: Windows XP SP3 to the last version of Windows 10. Publisher: XnView.com URL: http://www.xnview.com/ Want more? See the New Releases list: http://ct.com.com/ Here Endeth John's Jots

### **APCUG ARTICLES**

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# Microsoft Windows 11 Copilot: how not to remove it

The horse's mouth, Copilot AI, did not answer my how-to-remove question accurately or completely.

by John Krout, Newsletter Contributor and Presenter

Potomac Area Technology And Computer Society <a href="https://patacs.org/">https://patacs.org/</a>

## Introduction

Automatic installation of un-requested software is a behavior that I do not favor.

Microsoft forced a double whammy on my Windows 11 desktop computer on February 17.

The February 17 PATACS+OPCUG joint monthly meeting was Zoom-only due to adverse weather. At about 3 PM during that meeting, Zoom froze on my computer, and a minute later, it was apparent the entire computer was frozen. I pulled the power plug and then re-inserted it. When starting up, the computer installed a Windows 11 operating system update, displaying an increasing completion percentage. The download of that update probably caused the initial freeze.

After about 10 minutes, I was able to rejoin the Zoom meeting.

After the meeting, I checked Settings on that computer. I found what I expected: long ago, I had used Settings to create a "NO UPDATES" time range of 9 AM to 2 AM daily. Microsoft led me to have faith in that setting and then clearly ignored the setting.



illustration 1

One day after the meeting, I found an unfamiliar icon in the right corner of my Windows 11 gray taskbar. You can see it in **illustration 1**. The icon is on the right and includes the letters PRE.

A click on the icon revealed a "preview" of Microsoft **Copilot**, their generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) brand. Either a left-click or rightclick on the icon opened a tall, thin dialog window, inviting me to ask a question.

I also found a scalable Copilot logo graphic in the <u>C:\Windows</u> folder tree. You can see that in **illustration 2**.

Obviously, Microsoft wants to beat its generative AI competitors to desktops. The competitors include mega-firms like Google, Adobe, and Autodesk and startups like OpenAI.



illustration 2

## Where does AI do its work?

In a nutshell, today and for the indefinite but no doubt long future, AI will be executed on servers, not your computer. Personal computers just don't have the hardware for storage and execution of generative AI.

Consider the following consequences of that situation.

First and foremost, those servers will capture and retain EVERYTHING you use AI to accomplish, and maybe a lot more (see third consequence). The owners of that AI service and servers will seek to monetize that valuable information about you.

I am against such monetization.

Second, AI services won't be available everywhere because the Internet is unavailable everywhere.

Certainly not where cell towers are blocked by terrain or are overloaded. And laws may prohibit the use of generative AI in some locations, especially overseas.

The third consequence is speculative, I admit. I wonder if Copilot will be running behind the scenes, invisible to the user, monitoring the use of non-Microsoft apps, listening to conversations through microphones, and watching through webcams. Microsoft sees profit in such behaviors.

I see violations of privacy and unwarranted use of bandwidth that I pay for.

## My first interactive generative AI experience

You can see my dialog with Copilot below. My input is identified as You. I added italics to clarify the two major sub-headings in the generative AI answer.

As you will see below in the dialog, the answer was incomplete. Perhaps I should have asked how to remove the Copilot preview *from my computer*. Maybe I should be glad that the AI could not read my mind.

## You:

how to remove the Copilot preview

## **Copilot:**

Certainly! If you'd like to remove the Copilot preview from your Windows 11 taskbar, there are a couple of options:

## Remove Copilot from Taskbar (Temporary):

This method will hide the Copilot icon from your taskbar without completely deactivating it.

Follow these steps:

Open the Settings app (you can search for it in the Start menu).

Click on Personalization.

Scroll down and select Taskbar.

Toggle off the Copilot option.

Disable Copilot Completely (Permanent):

If you want to permanently disable Copilot, follow these steps:

Click on Start and search for gpedit to open the Group Policy Editor.

In the left-hand panel, navigate to User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Windows Copilot.

Double-click on Turn off Windows Copilot in the right-hand panel.

Click Enabled, then click Apply and OK.

Remember that if you ever want to enable Copilot again, you can follow the same steps and choose "Not configured" or "Disabled" instead of "Enabled" in the last step.

That's it! If you need further assistance with Windows, feel free to ask.  $\bigcirc$ 

## <end of dialog>

I did try the permanent removal option. I encountered a problem: **gpedit** was not found on my Windows 11 computer. I searched on the Windows Store and did not find it there. It appears to be part of Windows 11 Pro only. I am disappointed that Copilot did not say so.

I searched the Web and found a page of scripts for installing gpedit, one for Windows 10 and one for Windows 11. When the script is finished, I can start Gpedit by typing Gpedit.msc in the Windows 11 search field.

Using the remaining instructions, I could find and complete the steps. Alas, the icon remained active after that, so I assumed a restart was also required, which was also not mentioned by Copilot. When the computer restarted, the icon was indeed no longer in the taskbar corner.

## Copilot is also found elsewhere on the computer.

A day later, I found the Copilot icon in another place, the popup that appears when the Search field in the taskbar is clicked. You can see that second icon in the upper right corner of **illustration 3**. The second icon does *not* contain the letters PRE.

And yes, that second icon is active. Using gpedit to disable Copilot, as described by Copilot, did not remove or disable the second icon.

I decided not to include the URL for gpedit installation scripts in this article because using GPEDIT did not remove the Copilot icon anywhere other than on the right end of the taskbar.

More Web research followed. I found a page on which a registry edit was described to disable Copilot. I tried that registry edit method. It did not work for me.

I opened Windows Settings and used Search to find references to Copilot in Settings. None were found. The same not-found result happened in the Windows Control Panel.

## Is removal from a computer not possible?

My Web research also turned up a Microsoft forum page on removing Copilot. A Microsoft rep posted an answer repeating the gpedit technique and reiterated a familiar refrain: **Copilot is now a part of the Windows 11 OS and** *cannot be removed*.

In court many years ago, Microsoft sang that same song about an earlier version of Windows and the Internet Explorer (IE) Web browser. Microsoft claimed IE could not be removed without seriously harming the Windows OS. An outside expert demonstrated in court how to remove IE without impacting the Windows OS. In short, Microsoft may have believed that the company made IE removal from Windows impossible, but the company was proven wrong.

Microsoft may have learned much since then, but so have outside experts who use critical thinking skills to test and challenge Microsoft's claims. Perhaps the story of Copilot and its removal of it is just beginning. Microsoft has demonstrated that it is willing to install what the company considers the latest Microsoft killer app **without giving its Windows customers a choice before or after the installation**. Giving customers a choice might limit Microsoft's profit potential.

That lack of a choice shows that Microsoft does not treat customers respectfully.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: John Krout is a retired software engineer who has worked on contracts for many Federal agencies in the Washington DC



## illustration 3

metro region. He began writing and speaking about creative uses of personal computers in the early 1980s. More recently, he has also covered interesting uses of smartphones, tablets, and electric vehicles. He lives in Arlington, VA. John is also an avid photographer and recently enjoyed a trip to Texas to photograph the eclipse, one of the

## YouTube, an Online Video Sharing Service, Parts 1 and 2

By Ron Sherwood, Member, East-Central Ohio Technology Users Club

#### https://ecotu.club/

#### newsletter@ecotu.club

YouTube is an online video-sharing service currently owned by Google. According to the Wikipedia entry for YouTube, it is second only to Google Search as the most visited website. According to wyzow, YouTube Stats: Everything You Need to Know In 2023! "An average of 2,500 new videos are uploaded to YouTube every minute," so there is plenty to watch. Content covers the gamut from humor to science; my favorite is the how-to videos. Access is free; anyone with an account (any Google account will work) can have their own "channel" and upload content. As you might expect, this "anyone can upload" policy means the accuracy of the content varies from excellent to what I consider just plain junk. As you should with any Internet content, use caution and common sense when judging the accuracy of YouTube content.

To access YouTube, type YouTube.com into your browser's address box. The opening page shows a variety of videos available for viewing. Keep scrolling down for more and even more possibilities. To narrow the video choices, use the search box at the top of the page. I often search for "how to" videos. For example, I just replaced the weather strip around some doors. I've done this before, but I thought I'd see if I could find any "secrets" of the pros to simplify the job. I viewed several videos, and the creators generally agreed on what to do. Some said to start at the top; others started with the sides, but otherwise, there was agreement.

One tip I picked up was mitering the corners for a better seal. I also learned when and where to install foam wedges.

Want to learn how to cook a particular dish? Type the name into the search box, and you will likely get hundreds of videos to view.

Some content creators post new videos as often as daily. Other channels change infrequently. If you find a channel you want to follow, click the "subscribe" button to begin a list of channels for easy access. This is similar to "favorites" in other applications. You will need to sign in with a Google address to create a subscription list.

**Part 2 – The YouTube Video Player YouTube content: is it treasure or trash?** You make that decision. But, if you view YouTube videos, here is an introduction to some basic controls that you may find helpful. Let's start with the primary playback menu at the video's bottom.



At the far left is the play-pause control. This image appears as an arrow or triangle on its side because the video is paused. Click on the arrow, and the video starts playing. The arrow changes to two parallel bars. These symbols should look familiar since they are used on most audio and video playback devices.

Tapping the space bar, clicking on the video, or pressing the letter "k" will also stop and start playback. The next icon, the arrow with a vertical bar, another icon used on most playback devices, jumps to the end of the current playback and starts a new video.

Next on the control bar is the volume control. Again, the symbol may be similar to other audio-video devices.

Placing the cursor over the "speaker" image brings up a slider control used to increase (slide to the right) or decrease (slide to the left) playback volume. This control differs from the Windows volume control, which affects the entire system. To quickly mute a video, click on the speaker or slide the control left. An "X" will appear over the speaker when playback is muted.

The numbers to the speaker's right indicate the current playback position in minutes and seconds and the total time for the video. For example, this video is at the 2minute 48-second position of a 15-minute 20-second video. "Nitecore EDC27 is the title of this presentation. The greater than character (>) opens a list of chapters if the video is set up with them.

Skipping to the right, the following control turns Autoplay on or off. In the image above, with the button to the right, Autoplay is on. Moving the slider to the left turns off Autoplay. With Autoplay on, playback will go to a new video and start playing it when the current selection ends.

Moving to the right, the CC icon turns closed,



captioning on and off. Generally, it works well, but I have seen some strange words pop up in the caption dialog. Tapping "c" also opens captioning. Not all videos have the closed caption option.

The Settings gear lets you choose Annotations, Playback speed, and Video Quality.



Next, click on the open square of the screen. YouTube calls this "Miniplayer." Again, we have a one-key

shortcut. This time, it's the "I" key. The shortcut key is a toggle: opening the picture-in-picture with a press, then reverting to the standard view with another touch of the "I" key.

The next icon, an open rectangle, controls "theater" mode. The standard view lists additional videos to the right of the one playing. Theater view toggles this list on and off. The shortcut key "t" does the same.

The four corner brackets that form an "open square" is the "full screen" icon. Click it to enlarge the current video to full screen. Pressing Escape returns to the standard view. The "f" key is a toggle for full screen and returns to the standard view.

We touched on the basic controls for viewing YouTube videos, but the site has many other features, such as sharing, clipping, saving, and transcripts. I encourage you to explore these features if you are a YouTube regular or just an occasional user.

### YouTube as a Knowledge Resource

By Tom Burt, Vice-President Sun City Summerlin Computer Club https://www.scscc.club tomburt89134@cox.net

**YouTube** (<u>www.youtube.com</u>) is Google's online platform for user-created videos. Over the years, users have posted an amazing collection of videos, which grows larger daily. YouTube is my "go-to" resource when I'm looking for arcane bits of knowledge especially "how-to" examples. This month, we'll look at a few examples of YouTube videos that quickly convey helpful knowledge in an audiovisual format.

## Example 1 – Adjust the Brakes on a Walker

Take, for instance, my 4-wheeled rollator walker. It has brakes for the rear wheels that need tightening every couple of years. I turned to YouTube, entered the phrase "how to adjust brakes on a drive rollator" into the search window, and immediately found several helpful videos. After watching a few to ensure I had all the necessary information, I was able to make the adjustment using just a pair or two of pliers.

## Example 2 – Replace the Hard Drive in an HP Laptop with a Solid-State Drive

Among the various computers in Casa de Burt is a 2014 vintage HP Pavilion laptop that originally came with Windows 8. Its disk drive is a 500 G-byte 5400 RPM hard drive. Its CPU is an AMD A8, and it has 4 G bytes of RAM. I upgraded the operating system to Windows 10 in early 2016.

After that upgrade, this laptop became so slow it was almost unusable for about 15 minutes after booting,

even with software tuning to minimize Microsoft's "instrumentation." After booting, Windows 10 launches a variety of scans of the hard drive, all running simultaneously, that fight each other and overwhelm the system. While this happened, it often took Windows over a minute to respond to a mouse click.

The Computer Club experienced this same effect with laptops in our training lab. The club's volunteer maintenance team eventually mitigated the problem by installing solid-state drives in those laptops. However, the procedure is complex and requires careful handling and sequencing of the steps to disassemble and reassemble the laptop.

I decided to look into what it would take to upgrade to a solid-state drive on my HP laptop. I browsed YouTube and entered the search phrase: "replace hard drive on hp pavilion 17z laptop". YouTube offered me a selection of similar searches, one of which I picked. I got an excellent selection of hits on step-by-step" videos that detailed the procedure. I played a few of these to get a sense of how complex the upgrade would be. Ultimately, I decided to pass on the upgrade, not because I felt I couldn't do it, but because, even after upgrading the laptop with a new SSD, the rest of the system components were over eight years old. The other hardware specs (CPU, RAM, chipset) would not be compatible with Windows 11. I concluded that installing Linux Mint on that laptop in place of Windows 10 would be better.

This was an example of YouTube helping me decide NOT to do something.

## Example 3 – Adjusting the Sound Settings on My Samsung Smart TV

A few months ago, I "cut the cord," abandoning DirecTV in favor of streaming YouTube TV, Paramount+ (CBS), Amazon Prime Video and its companion FreeVee, the free tier of Peacock TV (NBC), and Samsung's own 100+ channel free streaming TV service. The video quality of these services has been excellent, and I've got more content available than I could ever have watched. One frustration, however, has been that the sound level varies a lot between the various services. I must frequently adjust the TV volume depending on which service I'm currently streaming.

I decided to see what YouTube could tell me. I browsed to YouTube and entered the search phrase: "samsung 65 inch tv sound adjustment". I got several useful hits, as shown below. The middle hit video showed an advanced setting for Adaptive Sound, which I needed.



Example 4 – Tutorial on Using Zoom

I do two monthly teaching sessions – one on investing and one on some technology topics of current interest, such as AI, networking, or photo editing. My preferred presentation venue is Zoom, which I can use to teach from my home office. Zoom works well, but one problem has been that some of our Sun City seniors have found getting Zoom to work difficult. It would be nice to teach a class on using Zoom; however, teaching a class on Zoom via Zoom is a classic "Catch-22". What to do?

I browsed to YouTube and entered the search phrase: "**joining a zoom meeting**". I got several helpful video hits. Below is a screenshot of one of the videos.



The video was a simple tutorial focusing solely on how a novice user could join a Zoom video session. That is the only procedure my class attendees would need to attend my Zoom sessions. Once I had reviewed the video, I copied the URL of that video so that I could include it in my email notice of the meeting as a helpful tutorial aid for beginners.

## **Closing Thoughts**

The possibilities for finding online tutorials on YouTube are vast, all available for free. Alas, in this article, we've barely scratched the surface. A caveat is that, like all Internet content, there's no guarantee that it's up-to-date or even factually correct. The quality of videos can vary, and speakers make many with difficult-to-understand accents. Patience is the key to finding the gem that you are seeking.