WAUCTALK

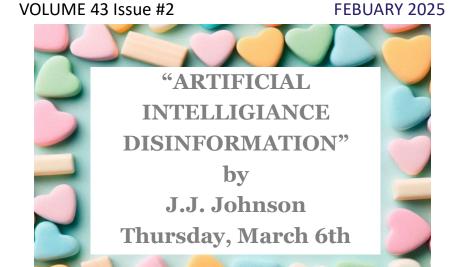
Wisconsin All-computer Users Club

https://wauc.apcug.org

Main@WAUC.Groups.io







Jackson Park Lutheran Church

4535 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

February 6th General Meeting

February 13th Tutorial SIG

February 20th Q & A SIG

February 25th WAUC Lunch

February 26th Investment SIG**

February 27th Smartphone SIG

ALL SIGS ARE HELD ON ZOOM https://tinyurl.com/33xwntkv

*The Brass Key

**On Zoom for February

4952 W. Forest Home Ave.

Milwaukee. WI



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JANUARY 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WAUC Members,
I LOVE BEING A MEMBER OF
WAUC!! I hope you do!!

I am asking each of you to read this newsletter! You will get twice as much information about the club, computers and phones by reading

this after attending the meetings! I know, I DO!

Would you like to help the club become better? Please consider attending the Leadership ZOOM and add your suggestions! This is YOUR club!

We missed a lot of you at the 5th Thursday Event in January. I am sure we could have helped you in some way! I know that Jim Hempel scanned about 100 slides and saved them on a SD card for a member. Yes, with a little notice, we can assist the members of our club with unusual archiving requests. We can help archive slides, VHS tapes, super 8 tapes, cassette tapes and more! Just ask us!!

Last of all, have you backed up your computer and phone recently? If not, do so now! Don't lose all your info!!

I encourage each of you to actively participate in the events and activities planned throughout the year. Your ideas, feedback, and involvement are invaluable in shaping the direction of our club.

Here's to a year of growth, learning, and shared successes!

Best regards,

Don Skarda

YOUR President, Wisconsin All-computer Users Club (WAUC)

SMARTPHONE CAMERA TIP

To quickly access your camera, PRESS TWICE on your POWER BUTTON on the side of your smartphone.

JANUARY 2025 TUTORIAL SIG

Bill Vlach, J.J Johnson, Bill James, Jan Mlagan, Richard Durand, Julia Rice, Brian Behling, Jim Hempel, Don Skarda, Margaret Cortez, and Kathy Mueller were in attendance.



We started the meeting with a video from Senior Planet called "AI All Around". The video is an introduction to artificial intelligence (AI) and its practical applications in everyday life.

It categorizes AI into two main types: Predictive AI and Generative AI (GenAI).

Predictive Al

Predictive AI refers to a type of artificial intelligence that uses statistical analysis and machine learning algorithms to identify patterns in data and forecast outcomes, essentially predicting what might happen based on what happened already and current information; it allows organizations to make informed decisions by anticipating potential events or behaviors. Common applications include personalized recommendations, such as shopping suggestions, and voice assistants that automate tasks. For example, Amazon uses this to suggest what you might also like to see. Another way to look at is "if you like this, then you may like that".

Generative Al

On the other hand, Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is a type of AI that can create new content, such as text, images, music, and videos. It uses machine learning models to analyze large amounts of data and learn patterns to generate new content. It also answers complex questions and customizes responses based on user input, offering tools for summarizing lengthy documents or simplifying tasks like email composition.

AI is all around us in everyday life. Siri, Alexa and Google Maps help you get around town and on



your vacation travel, thus making life easier for you. Streaming platforms like Spotify and Netflix provide personalized recommendations for you to enjoy.



Are you looking for something to make for dinner? AI can help you find recipes based upon ingredients in your house.

Another example, it could create a resume for you.

Are you going on vacation? You can use AI to do more than plan your route. It can help with dining, lodging and points of interest along that route. You can get your entire itinerary planned and printed out for reference. Online shopping also gets a boost from AI helping you find items, make decisions about them and even ask questions. For example, Amazon products now include the AI feature and helper, Brutus. You can ask Brutus questions about the product you are looking at and it will even give you suggestion questions to ask.

Do you have Privacy Considerations?

You should! When using Al tools, it's crucial to manage privacy settings, avoid sharing sensitive information, and opt out of certain data collection



features, such as AI training. Here are a few tips for using it.

- GenAl collects data from your prompts to learn how to respond to your requests.
- Clearing chat history only erases from your view.
- Don't share personal information when using AI tools.
- Remember that you can choose to use apps/ programs without using AI tools.

The video we watched had a one-page handout that highlights examples of AI tools in action, such as smart home devices, virtual assistants, and generative AI apps like ChatGPT and DALL-E. It emphasizes the importance of understanding these tools to make daily



may some inaccuracies.

tasks more efficient while SENIOR PLANET staying mindful of data privacy. For more details, you can

https://seniorplanet.org/wp-content/ uploads/2024/06/AI-All-Around-Handout-05.31.24.pdf J.J. then added some great comments about the prompt that you create and feed into the AI of choice and how important these prompts are in getting the results you want. He also said we should be a bit wary of the results. Although it is relatively accurate, there

view the full handout directly on Senior Planet's site

Richard had some questions about AI related to pass-

words that he previously used. J.J. commented that AI would not be able to handle those questions about your passwords.

Julia chimed in on the discussion and said previously she was hesitant to use AI; but she has changed her mind about it after seeing the video. She didn't realize how often she was already coming into contact with AI. She is going to give it a try and see if she can have some fun with it.

Last week was one of the biggest tech events, with



CES taking place in Las Vegas and hundreds of brands, including Samsung, Google, Nvidia, Asus, Lenovo, and LG, announcing upcoming products. We decided to

take a look at some of them.

First up were some smart glasses that have a smart display built into the lens. It was just one of eight of the most advanced smart glasses available



at the show. Another vendor had smart glasses with built in hearing aids with adjustable volume and noise tracking features.



TCL showed off a new television. It unveiled its QM6K, which brings the company's Mini LED technology to its entry-level QLED TV at an aggressive price. This TV sports the

kind of brightness, contrast, and color depth you'd typically find in a much more premium model at a more affordable price. It starts at \$999 for the 65" model. There were a lot of other new television models on display from LG, Hisense and others, all incorporating AI.

Have you ever thought of going to bed wearing headphones? Probably not. I certainly have not. These Ozlo Sleepbuds could change your mind,



and they happen to be the official pick for the Best of CES in Wellness. Not only are they super comfortable even for side sleepers, they did a fantastic job at blocking out outdoor noises and offer 10 different sleep sounds, a morning alarm and a timer to shut down when you've had enough.

We all have to spend time making sure our smartphones are charged up and this process can take quite a while to complete. The Swippitt charges your smartphone in just two seconds. Yes, two seconds. Well not exactly. The Swippitt looks like an ordinary toaster. You simply insert your phone along with the compatible battery phone case on it into the Hub, and your case battery gets swapped out for another fully charged 3,500mAh battery that should last you a full charge. The machine holds five fully charged batteries which should be enough for family use.



We've talked about robotic vacuums in the past. The new twist on them is one that can pick up socks, toys, etc. left lying around,

The Roborock Saros Z70's mechanical arm uses OmniGrip technology to remove obstacles under 8 oz while it mops and vacuums your floors.

There were too many to on display to discuss in detail. Here are a few more:

A high-tech exoskeleton, stretchable television screens for 3D effect, headphones that clean your ears, over the counter glucose monitors, and... I can't leave without mentioning the flying vehicles.

Xpeng is a China-based company that claims to be the world leader in flying cars. The company was showing off The Land Aircraft Carrier. Xpeng Aeroht showed off its hybrid car that house (and charges!) your very own electric vertical take-off and landing Aircraft, or eVTOL, in the back. Just

drive to where you'd like to take off, and open the trunk: The eVTOL will unfold itself, Transformersstyle, from the rear of your car. So many



great things to watch for in the future.

Jim Hempel



JANUARY 2025 QUESTION & ANSWER SIG

Those present included Jim Hempel, J.J. Johnson, Don Skarda, Louise Dahms, Betty Robinson, Julia Rice, Karen Fenney, Kathy Mueller, Terry Harvey, Rita Bruce, Richard Durand, John Schwarzmeier, Jan Mlagan, Brian Behling, and Margaret Cortez.

Julia is having difficulty connecting an over-the-air antenna to the television so she can get PBS. Her apartment building furnishes Spectrum cable television but it doesn't have PBS. To attach an over-the-air antenna, locate the antenna's coaxial cable. Connect one end of the cable to the antenna's OUTPUT



PORT. Connect the other end of the cable to the TV's INPUT PORT. Turn on the TV and select the correct INPUT SOURCE. Go to the TV's SETTINGS menu and search for channels. Set the CHANNEL SEARCH to AU-

TO. Performing a CHANNEL SCAN on your television to refresh the channel list should solve the problem. If Julia's television is a Roku or Fire Stick television she will need to download and activate the dedicated "PBS" app. With this type of television, you may need to use the app to watch PBS. If Julia continues to have problems, she will let us know.

While Terry was working on getting past some audio glitches, Jim played a video from the Consumer Electronic Show in Las Ve-



gas. In the video they showed a yacht with a flying vehicle. The Manta M4 is a revolutionary manned drone. This cutting-edge flying vehicle offers a thrilling ride and doesn't even require a pilot's license to operate. The price? Around \$300,000. It could be a game-changer in personal aviation.

Terry rebooted her laptop and is back with working audio. When she rebooted her laptop the night before she received a large Windows update to which she attributes her audio issues. Since no one else had a question, she asked how to get a file she converted from a YouTube video to an MP3 in her music folder



on her phone. To start from the beginning, choose the mu-

sic you want on YouTube. Copy the URL. Go to the website https://ezmp3.cc/v4. In the center is a box

with the words,
PLEASE PASTE THE
YOUTUBE VIDEO URL
HERE greyed out. This



is where you paste the URL. Then click on CON-VERT. If you scroll down, this site has very simple, explicit instructions on converting your favorite music, podcasts, tutorials, inspirational, or motivational speeches. This is a great website with a clean interface that will convert your unlimited YouTube videos for free. J.J. also sent a website on Zoom's CHAT about how to save the file in the proper folder. Terry will experiment on her own.

Kathy has a problem with her HP printer. She is no longer able to print in color. Then Jan added she was also having a problem with her HP printer in that she was having difficulty resizing things she wants to print larger. They both used to have these features but are now having problems. One suggestion was to search for an updated driver.



Go to the HP Printer Drivers page, search for your printer model, select the driver you want to download, open the downloaded file and follow the installation instructions. Re-

start your computer and your printer. Brian suggested going into the Windows SETTINGS, click on MORE DEVICES AND PRINTER SETTINGS, right-click on the HP printer icon, then select PRINTING PREFERENCES or PREFERENCES. Verify that the default settings are configured for color printing and not black and white.

For Jan's problem she may need to adjust the PRINT SCALING or RESIZE feature in her printer's properties. Go to PRINTING PREFERENCES, under paper options click on CUSTOM and make your adjustments. If either Kathy or Jan continues to have problems, they should uninstall and reinstall their

printers.



Jim suggested another way to enlarge a document would be to use IRFANVIEW. This is a free graphic

IrfanView

viewing program available from https://www.irfanview.com/ or one of Jim's favorite download sites https://oldergeeks.com/. This is a highly

recommended and safe site to download programs and drivers. Another program to consider for resizing is GIMP. This is another free image editing program.



Karen asked if anyone had digitized their photos. The most common method is to use a flatbed scanner to scan your physical prints, ensuring you clean the scanner glass beforehand, and then save the digital image



to your computer. You can also use a dedicated scanner app on your smartphone to capture photos directly, though the quality may be lower compared to a dedicated scanner.

Choose a high enough resolution to

capture details in your photos, usually around 300 DPI for most purposes. Always scan in color, even for black and white photos, to preserve the most information. Save your digitized photos in a standard image format like .JPG for easy compatibility. If you have a large number of photos, you may want to consider a photo scanner. These devices start about \$150 and go up.

Google Photos is offering many new AI features to include: Magic Eraser to remove distractions like people or objects from your pho-



to, Magic Editor to help you make complex edits to photos, Auto Frame helps you to extend the edges of photos with realistic details, Photo Unblur helps you to clear up blurry shots, Portrait Light which helps you adjust the position and brightness of light in portraits, and Enhanced Wallpaper which helps you generate new images, replace backgrounds, and auto-enhance images.

It's also possible to identify people in your Google Photos using its Face Groups feature. This feature groups photos of people with similar faces together. You can then add labels to people in your photos. Open the Google Photos app, sign in to your Google Account, tap our initials or profile photo. Tap PHOTO

SETTINGS, PRIVACY. Turn FACE GROUPS ON. At the top of a







face group, click ADD A NAME. This is an awesome feature that automatically organizes your photos to include all pictures with that face.

We watched a YouTube short on, "How to Use AI





in Life." Many of us are already using AI in navigation, smart home automation, email filtering, facial recognition, and language translation.

Other ways include voice recognition, Venmo, DuoLingo, music streaming services, vacuum robots, health apps, ticket purchases, and much more.

We watched another YouTube short on, "How to Copy Text From an Image." Go to Google Drive, then upload an image that you would like to



copy text from. Click on the three image. It allows basic editing like annotations, highlighting, or cropping the captured image. In Windows, you can find it by searching for it in the START menu or using a keyboard shortcut like holding down the WINDOWS key, hold down the SHIFT key and tap S.



Jim had just one more YouTube short for us to watch. This one, "How to Remove a Background" is super easy and fun. In Windows, locate Paint. This is a

free app that comes preinstalled on Windows. DRAG and DROP your photo into Paint. Then, up on the ribbon, click on the REMOVE BACK-GROUND icon. It's below and between the EDIT and VIEW categories. Just like that the background is gone!

Terry L Harvey

ONE MINUTE YOU'RE YOUNG AND FUN, AND THE NEXT, YOU'RE TURNING THE RADIO DOWN SO YOU CAN SEE BETTER

JANUARY 2025 SMARTPHONE SIG

Terry Harvey, Jim Hempel, Kathy Mueller, Don Gardner, Jan Mlagan, Margaret Cortez, Louise Dahms, Rita Bruce, Julia Rice, Don Skarda, Bill James, John Schwarzmeier, Richard Durand, Louise Bozek, Bill Vlach, and Betty Robinson we all in attendance.

Our meeting began with a discussion Groups.io of the meeting link that is sent out via the Groups Notification reminder system. It was received by all. but Julia and Richard had a couple of questions about the link.

LINK

Julia told us that the link in her notification was not working. We guizzed the other WON'T members and they indicated the link worked properly for them. Julia stated that she joins

manually by entering the meeting number and the passcode that is in the notification. We had a long discussion without reaching a solution for her. My thoughts on it are the changes in the way Zoom operates after creating a Zoom Workplace.

We all learned how to use Zoom during the Covid pandemic. At that time, when you clicked on the meeting notification link, it would open a new tab in the browser you were using and it would do this quite fast. More recently, Zoom upgraded their program to something they call the Zoom Workplace. Now when you click the notification link, Zoom goes on to open the new Zoom Workplace. This may result in a new tab being created on your browser. Alternatively, depending on your method of meeting entry, it may open a new app on your computer which is a bit slower. If this happens, the new Zoom Workplace app opens and appears in your Windows Task bar, usually on the bottom of the screen. It appears as a blue circular icon with the letters ZM inside the circle. In any case, the link for all WAUC meetings uses the same meeting credentials and when you click on it, you should go to the proper location. Look for a new tab, or the blue icon in the task bar. It can ingisschedule be seen on my task bar shown on the far right in this picture.

Richard, being very observant, noticed the notification links sent out for previous meetings looked different than this meetings link. The hot links that are created and sent out have two parts. In the first part, you actually see the meeting number. The second part is the

encrypted version of the meeting passcode. If a Zoom meeting was originally scheduled for different days, even if it uses the same meeting number and passcode, the encrypted portion for the passcode can be different, but they will both work. That explains why the older link Richard was using ended with a few different digits than the current one. They are for the SAME meeting, just different encryption.



After that, we started the meeting with some newsworthy items. First, this is Milwaukee Museum week which goes from January 23rd to Feb-

ruary 2nd. During that period, 22 museums will have discounted or free admission during Milwaukee Museum Days. Included are Harley-Davidson Museum, Pabst Mansion, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee Public Museum and others.

The Wednesday prior to our SIG, there was an event called Samsung Unpacked. During this presentation they announced the

new Samsung S25 model smartphones that will be available soon and pre orders can made at

Samsung Unpacked

discounted prices. Among the changes, there are some style changes, larger screens, upgraded ultrawide angle camera lens, and as you might expect, more AI features like a Circle to Search that can be used for sounds.



Terry asked why she was getting a short video on her smartphone when she was in PHOTO mode. Jan said she had the same issue some time ago. With the Samsung camera app open, on the top task bar, the little square icon is the second from the right. Tap it. Motion photo ON or OFF. Make sure it's OFF.

Rita recently read if watching a video while charging your phone, it could explode. We researched and found this to not be true. It is safe to watch videos while charging your phone. It is always recommended to use quality charging cables.

Bill showed us an old power bank he had; the battery leaked and the power bank was deformed.



Jan's husband has been having issues with their desktop computer. When it is booting up he gets a message to the effect, Your Device Has Problems, then the computer keeps rebooting. Problems with RAM often cause rebooting problems. Jan was referred to Bri-

an Behling, WAUC's expert in computer repair.

For a diversion from tech, I came across a good description of the generational differences, their names and their traits. For example, they noted that "Baby Boomers reached young adulthood during the 1960s and '70s, an era defined by the strife of the Vietnam War; revolutionary changes in cultural attitudes about women, sexuality, and race relations; and the attendant transformation of film, music, and pop culture." For more on these generational identifiers, here is a link. https:// wordsmarts.com/generation-names/

Terry reported her 6-month-old laptop has only a 3' charging cable and she has accidently yanked it out numerous times. She's concerned at some point the charging port, a USB-C, will become damaged. Bill suggested purchasing a magnetic cable. We looked on Amazon and found a 6'6" magnetic charging cable that also swiveled. Terry would also need a 67W USB C wall charger, which she also purchased. She later reported it's all working very well.



We went on to look at a website called "AI or Not". It is designed to help you determine is a particular item is real or AI created. To use it, you simply upload an image by clicking the

"Upload Image" button and selecting the image file from your device. Alternatively, you can provide a URL and simply paste the image URL into the "Enter Image URL" field and click "Analyze Image." It will help you check for generative AI in seconds to reduce fraud rates and prevent the latest scam. It can even work with sound. For example, it can detect if a song is being sung by the original artist or if it is a fake AI generated song. The user can get ten image

checks monthly for free. For VERIFICATION WITH \$5 a month, the user would get 100 image checks per

AI DETECTION

month as well as other benefits like audio checks. This website is https://www.Alornot.com/

We followed that website with a look at rather odd one. Oddity Central is all about the oddities of our world. If you're looking for bizarre events, unique travel destinations, weird inventions, freaky characters or odd art, you'll most likely find here. Simply put, Oddity Central is a collection of oddities gathered from all around the world.

With all the weird stuff happening on a daily basis, it's hard to keep up, so if you find something you think deserves a place among the oddities on this site, get in touch and share it with the rest of us bizarre lovers. More at https://www.odditycentral.com/about

Have you ever wondered if your phone is acting weird or is something else happening, like network issues. It happened to me recently when I was talking with my daughter and in a matter of about ten minutes, our call dropped out four times. We switched to land lines to complete the discussion but I couldn't stop there. I had to investigate the reason for this and I came across a website that can help with this.

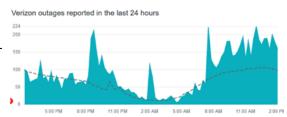


This is when I found Downdetector. It is powered by user reports and problem indicators from around the web.

Downdetector helps people all over the world understand disruptions to vital services such as the internet, social media, web hosting platforms, banks, games, entertainment, and more. With insight into all the services and platforms that power connectivity, Downdetector empowers consumers and informs enterprises when customers are experiencing issues.

Downdetector is a part of Ookla®, a trusted global leader in connectivity intelligence and network insights. We looked at Verizon in the US and got the chart below. The dotted black line represents the average interruptions while the blue graph is the actual numbers. The graph tells the tale that about 9pm the

interruptions were significantly above normal.



The next app we examined came from AARP to help you in the kitchen. It is a recipe analyzer that can be found at https://nutrition.aarp.org/recipe-analyzer

This app will do a nutrient analysis on your favorite personal recipes. You just enter your ingredients and get your detailed nutrient break-



down. After a quick trial with a sample potato recipe, we moved onto Gmail.



SENIOR PLANET The video came from Senior Planet and provides

some tips and tricks for using Gmail. You can watch the entire video plus a few more, all contained in this link. https://seniorplanet.org/videos/ You will see important features like spellcheck, formatting emails, searching your inbox, adding a signature, and attaching files. It was accompanied by an easy to read and understand handout. When writing emails in a professional context, it's especially important that you communicate clearly and effectively. Luckily, Gmail's formatting tools can help you do just that!

https://seniorplanet.org/wp-content/ uploads/2022/07/GmAII-Tips-Tricks-handout-4.8.22.pdf

We closed the meeting with grins and giggles from Don G., who likes cat videos and music. Its about a cat who sings, "Sometimes I'm Alone" accompanied by a very talented musician.

https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/ relatedvideo?q=cat+sings+sometimes+i% 27m+alone&mid=7193094136448ADF00B171930941 36448ADF00B1&FORM=VIRE

Jim Hempel

INVESTMENT SIG FOR MARCH 6-8 PM Wauwatosa Public Library 7635 W. North Avenue Wauwatosa, WI

FEBRUARY 2025 LEADERSHIP REPORT

Those present were, Don Skarda, Jim Hempel, Terry Harvey, Richard Durand, Tom Martini, Suzanne Holcomb, and Jan Mlagan.

Remember in June we will have a Drone presentation at the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department. Our April General Meeting presentation will be Protecting your PC. This is a subject we can all benefit from, so join us for a great learning opportunity;

We have decided to have Italian sausage and hot dogs for our May Picnic. Jim offered to make the Italians. Thank you, Jim!

Don Gardner needs to be contacted to make sure he is in town and will bring the Bingo cards and raffle tickets for the picnic.

Tom Martini will be moving to Green Bay in March. He will still be part of the club and will continue to remotely do those jobs he does for the club. We will need to find a replacement for him at the sign-in table, are you looking to help the club? Please let Don know if you can help.

Don is working on submitting information about the club to various locations on Facebook.

Before Tom moves, we need to get the trifold brochures from him. Richard took trifolds to the Greenfield Library and he noticed that they put them out. The next time he went there, they were all gone so he needs more. Tom has offered to try to recruit new members from his senior living residence in Green Bay, so he might need trifolds too.

Tom will continue to send out hard copies of the newsletter to those who pay for them.

The January 5th Thursday Event was another success. Karen Fenney and Jim Hempel went through about 500 slides, digitized them and put them on an SD card. She needs to purchase a converter to move her information from an SD card to a USB-C.

Everything went very well again. If you are not participating in these events, you are missing out on a great opportunity to get help and learn things you didn't know you needed.

Jan Mlagan

WAUC: Wisconsin All-computer Users Club, WAUC was established to provide an educational forum for people interested in learning about computers and related devices. WAUC provides educational programs and publications for its members, as well as providing social and charitable opportunities for the membership. While WAUC is a private club and doesn't share any member information outside the club, we encourage members to interact with other members and to facilitate this we publish a membership directory, an email, and promote via a public Facebook group where we often add pictures of group events and our public website.

WAUCtalk is a publication of the Wisconsin All-computer Users Club. WAUC is a computer club dedicated to promoting and instructing the use of computers by WAUC members. WAUCtalk is emailed to all WAUC membership. Free advertising is available to all WAUC members. We are not responsible for omissions or errors.

WAUC Application for Membership / Renewal

Name			
Address			
email			
City	State	Zip	
What do you want to do with your computer?			
To inim MALIC misses sound a commission form clamp with a ch	2001 for \$20 (\$45 offer live 44	at) to cover due of	

To join WAUC, please send a completed form along with a check for \$30 (\$15 after July 1st) to cover dues from January 1st through December 31st, 2025.

WAUC

% Bob Banerian

P.O. Box 340883

Milwaukee, WI 53234-0883

First Class

