



THE COMPUTER CONNECTION

SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

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June Meeting Notes

June 14, 2025

Open Meeting: by (Win 11).
Neal
Question and answers: 1) Patch My PC- updates to software; 2) MS will offer paid support (\$35 first year), only updates for Win 10; 3) Middle mouse button (wheel) - press and get auto scroll, Win 11 can scroll volume with wheel, right click for different set of menus; 4) Check on driver updates occasionally- click on optional updates (Win 10) and advanced updates

Treasurer's report: by Joe1 and approved.

Old business:
N/A

New business: 1) Club outing at Pizza Ranch on Saturday, 07/12/25, 11am to 1pm, \$2/ person for tip, can bring a guest, Joe to send out an email to missing members from club meeting, dining room located straight back before playroom; 2) No

board meeting for month of June.

Adjournment:
meeting adjourned.

Program: Wrap up of AI information- Use Win Co-pilot to open Ai questions (queries); Gemini is Google AI, Co-Pilot is MS's.

August month's program: TBA

Submitted by:

Tom Rich, Secretary



Quick Links

- How Trend Micro QR Scanner Differs From Other Apps
- How to Use the Trend Micro QR Scanner

Scanning a QR code is quick and easy, but scammers often use them to disguise malicious URLs. Fortunately, this amazing app will warn you if you scan something bad, making it an excellent first line of defense—and it's completely free.

How Trend Micro QR Scanner Differs From Other Apps

The app I use is Trend Micro QR Scanner. It's a very simple QR code scanner that requires no additional subscription or purchase

of a product, although Trend Micro does have an excellent free online virus scanner that I would recommend. Its main forte is that it can analyze QR code URLs before you click on them to see if they go somewhere bad. That way, you can get a heads-up not to click a link and avoid scams before you can even see them.

How to Use the Trend Micro QR Scanner

First, grab the Trend Micro QR Scanner app from Google Play or the Trend Micro Mobile Security app from the Apple Store. If you're on an Android device, you can access the QR code scanner simply by opening the app; for iOS, you'll need to open the Mobile Security app,

then tap the QR code scanner icon in the top-right.

Now, scan a QR code. For the sake of this article, I demonstrated

Trend Micro QR Scanner's abilities by scanning three URLs:

1. The URL for MakeUseOf.
2. The URL of a scam website I logged months before writing this article.
3. The URL of a scam website logged on the day of writing this article.

The app then informed me if the website was safe to visit or not.

Trend Micro QR Scanner marked MakeUseOf as safe. This is because we're a reputable site with

Jokes

no history of peddling malware, so it gave me the go ahead to visit it.

The app told me it was dangerous to visit the malicious website spotted months ago. Trend Micro had plenty of time to identify and log the website as malicious, so anyone scanning this QR code would be properly informed of its bad nature.

However, when I scanned the QR code for the malicious website spotted while writing, the app told me it was unverified. Trend Micro hadn't logged the website yet, so it couldn't tell if it was safe. If I encountered this message in the wild, I would take the proper steps to identify if the QR code was fake before clicking the link and entering my per-

sonal data.

The Trend Micro QR Scanner app takes a lot of guesswork out of identifying a bad QR code, but it's not perfect. You do have to consider the QR code you're scanning and the website you're attempting to visit. Always apply common sense when scanning a code, even if the app says it's fine. And if in doubt, err on the side of caution.

Printed from <https://www.makeuseof.com/how-use-trend-micro-app-avoid-malicious-qr-codes/>

The Programmer with the Cigarette

A man sits down on a bench smoking cigarettes and blowing smoke rings into the air. He was having a nice time until his girlfriend walked up to him and rebuked him for his doings. Out of irritation, she said, "can't you see the warning on the pack of cigarettes? Smoking is hazardous to the health!"

To this, the man replied, "I am a programmer. We do not worry about warnings; we only worry about errors."

An Optimist, a Pessimist, and a Programmer

An optimist will say, "the glass is half full."

A pessimist will say, "the glass is half empty."

A programmer will say, "the glass is twice as large as necessary."

Shortcuts

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By Mike Moore

Why do some icons on your desktop have a little white arrow embedded in the picture?

These are shortcuts (sometimes called links). They are small files that represent and “point to” the real thing. When you double-left-click on a shortcut icon, Windows reads the location of the file to open from within the shortcut file, then opens the target file. Shortcuts are, in the lingo of computer programmers, symbolic links to actual files. They don’t contain any of the file’s infor-

mation—they just point to it. In real terms: if Peoria, Illinois was a file, then its shortcut would be the map telling you how to get there.

Why do we use shortcuts? Why not just put the real, actual file on your desktop? There are several reasons. First, since a shortcut does not contain any of the target file’s information, it can be deleted without damaging the file it points to. Therefore, placing shortcuts on the desktop (or in any directory) is safer. Accidental deletion of these links will not affect anything other than you may lose

track of where your file was!

The other reason is that you can have many shortcuts and place them anywhere you might need quick access to your file. For example, when we give away computers, we organize the software links in various folders on the desktop. There’s a folder for Educational software and Game software links, and for the software that is both Educational and Fun, we put links to the same program in both the Educational and Game fold-

Shortcuts (cont.)

ers. You can re-name shortcuts to anything you want, and it won't affect the real name of the file they point to.

Shortcuts are also portable! If I know for sure that a program will be in a certain place on nearly every PC, I can e-mail a link to someone and tell them to place it on their desktop. Double-clicking on it should open that file on my recipient's PC! E-mailing a link is much more of a sure bet than e-mailing an executable file—because most e-mail servers just

won't allow executables (files ending in .EXE) to be sent! How does one create a link? The best way is to find the file you want the link to refer to, then do a single right-click on it. This brings up a context menu where you can create the shortcut. Once the shortcut is created you can move it to any directory or to the desktop. For creating desktop links, Windows provides a shortcut wizard that allows you to create a shortcut for any file type including a web page or another folder. From anywhere on the desktop, right click and

select 'New' and then 'Shortcut' to activate this wizard.

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Adding a Break to Your Document

by Allen Wyatt

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As you are typing in Word, you will notice the program automatically keeps track of where you are. When your document no longer fits on a single page, Word automatically inserts a page break (indicated by a thin dashed line when viewing your document in Normal view) and wraps your text to the next page.

There may be times, however, when you want to insert a break in your text manually. Word supports the following types of breaks:

- **Page breaks.** Causes the following text to begin at the top of the next page.
- **Column breaks.**

Causes the following text to begin at the top of the next column. (If there is only one column in your page layout, the column break functions the same as a page break.)

- **Section breaks.** Causes the following text to begin a new section of your document. Where the actual break occurs depends on the type of section break you use. There are four different types of section breaks that can be inserted in your document.
- **Text-wrapping breaks.** These breaks are closely akin to line breaks (**Shift+Enter**). A text-wrapping break breaks a line of text and moves the text to the next line. This type of break is intended for use with

text that wraps around graphics.

To insert a break in your document, follow these steps:

1. Position the insertion point at the position where you want to insert the break.
2. Display the Page Layout tab of the ribbon or Layout tab (Word 2016 or a later version).
3. Click the Breaks tool, in the Page Setup group. Word displays a list of breaks you can insert.

Click the type of break you want to insert.

Written by [Allen Wyatt](#) (last updated March 8, 2022)

This tip applies to Word 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2021

Heavy ChatGPT Use Tied to Loneliness and Emotional

By Abhimanyu Ghoshal, March 30, 2025

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A pair of

studies conducted by OpenAI and MIT Media Lab found a small percentage of test subjects who used ChatGPT extensively reported increased loneliness and emotional dependence, as well as reduced social interaction.

In other words, the research indicates that lonely people are more likely to seek emotional connection with AI-powered bots. That says a lot about how people are navigating relationships, how we're increasingly relying on technology, and how we're incorporating it deeply into more aspects of our lives than just getting things done. It also raises the question of how we'll interact with chatbots in the future, and the sort of effect that could have on us.

One study, conducted by the OpenAI team, analyzed more than 4 million ChatGPT conversations from 4,076 participating users, who voluntarily reported how they felt about using the service.

In case you didn't immediately make the connection: OpenAI develops and markets ChatGPT. So yes, this is quite a self-aware move on the company's part to examine whether its own product has a negative effect on its target audience, and if there's anything if it can learn about preventing those from worsening.

That's not to say AI chatbots are bad for us in every way. For some people, they can provide meaningful ways to ease feelings of loneliness and find ways to privately express and reflect on what they're going through.

Read more about the studies from MIT Media Lab and from OpenAI, and find Newton's thoughtful newsletter here. Source: MIT Media Lab

Continue at <https://newatlas.com/ai-humanoids/chatgpt-conversations-isolation-loneliness/>.

Zoom Sessions

Neal is hosting a weekly evening Zoom; (Each Friday) @ 7:30 PM Central Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3975898877?pwd=RjF5ZTM3R25qNXhHRjdWRVZzQ1M2ZzO9>

Meeting ID: 397 589 8877 Passcode: 4ukxAh

Phone users:

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 397 589 8877 Passcode: 936460

You're welcome to check in and visit, or ask a question, maybe even get an answer.



Scanning this QR code should take you to our web page.

There will be a No Question & Answer this month.

The next meeting of the Sauk
Computer User Group will be

July 12, 2025

Our Annual Outing at

Pizza Ranch

From 11 AM – 1 PM

ANNUAL OUTING AT PIZZA RANCH