

# NEWS JOURNAL

“Members Helping Members”

January 2024

(since 1983)

Volume 40, Issue 08

## Use StoryGraph to Find Books You Want to Read

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor  
Central Kentucky Computer Society  
<https://ckcs.org/>  
lxtown2@gmail.com

If you're constantly searching for a good book, you might want to check out a new app called StoryGraph. It's a competitor to Amazon-owned Goodreads.  
<https://www.thestorygraph.com>

**StoryGraph's slogan: Because life's too short for a book you're not in the mood for.**

StoryGraph is available through the Mac App Store, for Windows PCs, through the App Store for Apple's Mobile devices, and via Google Play for Android devices. You can log into the website and use it instead of the app. Desktop App details for Mac and Windows

(Mac version available through the Mac App Store; )  
<https://webcatalog.io/apps/the-storygraph/>

iOS and iPad OS details (download through the App Store)  
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/storygraph-reading-tracker/id1570489264>

Android App details (download through Google Play)  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thestorygraph.thestorygraph&gl=US>

StoryGraph tracks your reading and helps you choose your next book based on your mood, favorite topics, and themes.

One of the neatest features is seeing how your reading changes over time and using the StoryGraph app or website to help you pick better books. StoryGraph will show you a graph revealing the number of books you've read, the number of pages, the "moods" of books, how fast you read the book, and other interesting facts.

(Continued on page 10)



*"Members Helping  
Members"  
(since 1983)*

### **Board of Directors**

**2023-2024**

#### **President**

Mike McEnery  
[president@lcace.org](mailto:president@lcace.org)

#### **Vice President**

[vicepresident@lcace.org](mailto:vicepresident@lcace.org)

#### **Secretary**

[secretary@lcace.org](mailto:secretary@lcace.org)

#### **Treasurer**

Linda Busch  
[treasurer@lcace.org](mailto:treasurer@lcace.org)

#### **Programs**

David Carlson  
[programs@lcace.org](mailto:programs@lcace.org)

#### **Membership**

Diane Carlson  
[membership@lcace.org](mailto:membership@lcace.org)

#### **Public Relations**

Linda Koudelka  
[pr@lcace.org](mailto:pr@lcace.org)

#### **Volunteers**

#### **Webmaster**

J.J. Johnson  
[webmaster@lcace.org](mailto:webmaster@lcace.org)

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Cynthia Simmons  
[editor@lcace.org](mailto:editor@lcace.org)

# Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

c/o Group Ambassador

"J.J." Johnson

## **News Journal**

*The LCACE News Journal* is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions which will be acknowledged in this newsletter. Send articles to [editor@lcace.org](mailto:editor@lcace.org) Permission is granted to reproduce any or all parts of this newsletter in other User Group publications, provided that credit is given to LCACE and the individual author (s). Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

## **Membership**

LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at <http://www.lcace.org>.

## **Meetings**

LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

## **Newsletter Submissions**

Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

## **Newsletter Advertising**

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page - \$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card - \$5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

## **NOTICE**

*LCACE WILL NOT CONDONE or knowingly participate in copyright infringement of any kind.* The *LCACE News Journal* is published by and for LCACE members. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of LCACE, the membership, the board of directors, and/or our advertisers.



# **L.C.A.C.E. Presidential Thoughts**



**Fellow L.C.A.C.E. Members,**

I am so sorry I couldn't join you for this year's Holliday Party. From what I have been told it was another great success.

The holiday season is a time for celebration and joy, and spending quality time with loved ones and friends. One event that often marks the beginning of the festivities is our annual holiday party. It is a time to come together, let loose, and create lasting memories. As the year ends, it is important to express gratitude to those who have organized such a wonderful event.

First, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in planning and executing this year's holiday party. From the organizers who dedicated their time and effort to ensure everything ran smoothly, to the volunteers who helped with decorations and set-up, and to the members who shared their culinary efforts, everyone's contribution was invaluable. The atmosphere I hear was filled with warmth, joy, and a sense of togetherness, truly capturing the spirit of the season.

I was told the attention to detail was remarkable and that attention resulted in delicious food, lively entertainment and door prize raffles that made the event truly unforgettable. The laughter, conversations, and smiles shared by all created an atmosphere of happiness and camaraderie. It was a perfect opportunity to reconnect with club members and maybe meet new faces, fostering a sense of community within the organization.

I would like to again express my deepest gratitude to everyone involved in making this holiday party a success. Your efforts brought joy and happiness to all attendees, and the memories created will be cherished for years to come. Thank you for yet another great holiday party, and here's to a new year filled with more celebrations, camaraderie, and success.

***In Conclusion, I wish Happy Holidays and a Very Happy New Year to all.***

***Mike McEnery***

***President L.C.A.C.E.***













## Definitions of the Month

# CACHE

A cache is like a super-fast, short-term memory for your devices, whether it's your phone, computer, or even a web server. Imagine it as a kitchen pantry where you keep frequently used ingredients so you don't have to run to the grocery store every time you need them.

### Here's how it works:

- When you access something for the first time, like a website or an app, your device downloads and stores a copy of it in the cache.
- The next time you access the same thing, your device checks the cache first. If it finds the copy, the copy loads up immediately, that's much faster than the device downloading it again from scratch.
- This saves you time and data, and it makes your device run more smoothly.

### Here are some different types of caches:

- **Browser cache:** This stores images, videos, and other website files, so your web pages load faster.

- **App cache:** This stores data and files for apps, so they can launch and run faster.
- **CPU cache:** This stores frequently used instructions and data for the processor, so it can access them quickly without having to go to main memory.
- **DNS cache:** This stores the location (IP address) of websites you've visited recently, so your device doesn't have to look it up every time.

**Overall, caches are essential for making our devices faster and more efficient. They help us save time, data, and battery life, and they make for a smoother user experience.**

Here are some additional things to keep in mind about caches:

- Caches are not permanent. They can get full, and old data may be deleted to make room for new data.
- Sometimes, the data in the cache may be outdated. If you're having trouble with a website or app, you may need to clear your cache to get the latest version of the data.
- Clearing your cache can also be a good way to free up space on your device.





# Firefox.

out for users in Germany and might become available in other regions soon.

**URL Tracking Protection:** This feature removes unnecessary tracking parameters from URLs, making it harder for websites to track your browsing activity across different platforms. It is enabled by default in private windows for all users in Germany and might be expanded to other regions later.

## Firefox Browser

### What is new and improved!

By *Jasmine Blue D’Katz*

During a Zoom meeting with one of my Milwaukee computer clubs and Senior Planet “Lunch and Learn” there was a discussion about Firefox web browser. I do not personally use Firefox as my main browser but I decided to give it a quick look to see what is new.

Firefox constantly receives updates with new features and improvements, so some of the new features might depend on which version you are using. Here are some noteworthy features recently added to Firefox:

#### Enhanced Privacy:

- **Copy Link Without Site Tracking:** This feature ensures that copied links no longer contain tracking information attached by websites. This is a handy tool for preventing your browsing activity from being monitored across different platforms.
- **Global Privacy Control:** This opt-in feature allows you to inform websites that you do not want your data shared or sold. It is enabled by default in private browsing mode and helps you take control of your online privacy.
- **Enhanced Canvas Fingerprinting Protection:** Firefox's private windows and ETP-Strict privacy configuration now include improved protection against canvas fingerprinting, a technique used to track users based on their unique browser configurations.
- **Cookie Banner Blocker:** This feature automatically blocks cookie banners and refuses cookies for supported websites in private browsing mode. It is currently being rolled

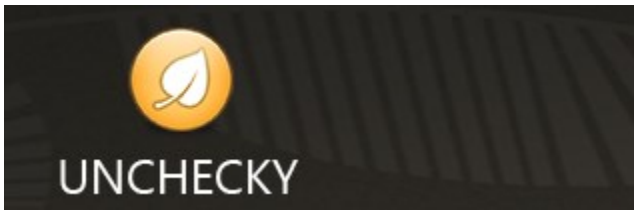
#### Improved Performance and Functionality:

- **Hardware decoding support for AV1 video codec:** This feature enables smoother playback of AV1 videos by utilizing your computer's graphics hardware. It requires the Microsoft AV1 Video Extension on Windows systems.
- **Voice Control commands on macOS:** Mac users can now control Firefox using voice commands, making browsing more convenient and hands-free.
- **Wayland compositor on Linux:** Firefox on Linux now defaults to the Wayland compositor when available, leading to improved touchpad and touchscreen gestures, swipe-to-navigate functionality, better graphics performance, and more.
- **Larger and clearer focus indicator:** The focus indicator highlighting the currently active element in Firefox has been improved with increased size, contrast, and a white box-shadow for better visibility.

These are just some of the recent new features in Firefox. The browser is constantly evolving, so be sure to keep an eye out for future updates that might bring even more exciting improvements and privacy protections.

I hope this gives you a good overview of some of the cool new things you can find in Firefox! Let me know if you have any other questions.





# Unchecky: A Review

**Stop installing unwanted software.**

*By Jasmine Blue D’Katz*

I have been using several programs suggested by Bob Gostacha (Tech for Senior) and Judy Taylour (APCUG) , and recently, I had to rebuild one of my computers, and the program Unchecky gave lots of help reinstalling software.

Unchecky is a free and open-source program that automatically unchecks unwanted pre-selected boxes during software installation. It is a lifesaver for anyone who has ever been frustrated by the sneaky tactics used by some installers to trick users into installing additional software or signing up for unwanted services.

## How it Works

Unchecky works by monitoring your computer for software installation processes. When it detects an installer, it automatically scans the installer for any pre-selected boxes. If it finds any, it unchecks them for you. This way, you can be sure that you are only installing the software you want, without any unwanted extras.

## Benefits of Using Unchecky

There are many benefits to using Unchecky. Here are just a few:

- **Saves time:** Unchecky can save you a lot of time by automatically unchecking unwanted boxes. No more clicking through endless installation screens!
- **Saves money:** Unchecky can help you save money by preventing you from installing unwanted software that you might have to pay for.
- **Protects your privacy:** Unchecky can help

protect your privacy by preventing you from installing software that tracks your activity or collects your personal information.

- **Easy to use:** Unchecky is extremely easy to use. There are no settings to configure, and it runs silently in the background.

## Is Unchecky Safe?

Unchecky is completely safe to use. It is a reputable program with a large and active community of users. It is also open-source, so you can be sure that its code is clean and free of malware.

## Overall

Unchecky is an essential tool for anyone who wants to take control of their software installations. It is free, easy to use, and it can save you a lot of time, money, and frustration. I highly recommend it to everyone.

## Here are some additional things to keep in mind about Unchecky:

- Unchecky does not work with all installers. Some installers are designed to bypass Unchecky and other similar programs.
- Unchecky may not always be able to detect all unwanted boxes. It is always a clever idea to double-check the installation screens yourself before clicking "Install."
- Unchecky is not a replacement for common sense. It is important to be careful about what software you install, even if Unchecky is able to uncheck the unwanted boxes.

I would also like to add that Unchecky is a great program for anyone who is concerned about their privacy. By preventing you from installing unwanted software, Unchecky can help to protect your personal information from being collected and used by third parties.

## Who do I turn to when my computers need service?

By J.J. Johnson

Computers have become more complex over the years, and unlike years ago, we no longer can build a complete computer during the club meetings. I am no longer up to the task of updating my computer, therefore, I reach out to my favorite service center.

Over the past couple of years, I had ZyteK Services resurrect a computer when “The Geek Squad” had no idea what to do. Paul at ZyteK replaced the mother board at just a small price, just above the \$90.00 that the Geek Squad had charged me just to tell me they found they could do nothing. A second dead computer needed a new hard drive and Paul upgraded it to a 1TB SSD, and not only that, but he also installed the special 3D scanning software that computer was designed for.

Most recently, another computer was unable to connect to the internet after a Windows update and Paul reset it for no charge. And my main computer needed to have its small SSD drive updated to a 1TB SSD. The turnaround for both computers was less than a couple of days. Again, Paul’s discount for senior and military customers was well worth the price and I avoided the price rip-off of Best Buy’s Geek Squad.

So, if you need quick and fairly-priced service, I highly recommend Paul at ZyteK Services.

847-336-2259

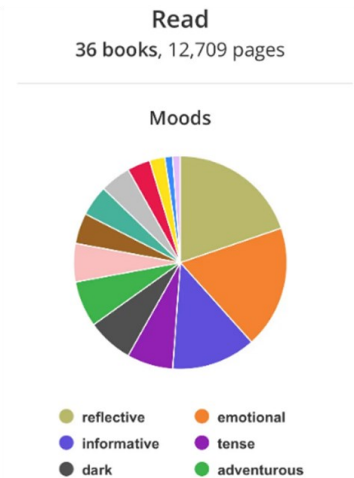
ZyteKservice.com

Check the link in the newsletter (p13.)

## Use StoryGraph...

9to5Mac’s Lauren Rosenberg began using StoryGraph after she was frustrated with the Goodreads App and its limited functionality:

As a devoted reader and someone who has been a member of the Goodreads community since 2013, I have found myself consistently frustrated with the app, especially in recent years, for everything that Goodreads doesn’t do and doesn’t offer. Aside from the fact that the app has barely updated since its inception – making for an antiquated user experience – some palpable misses would help me better understand what kind of reader I am and, perhaps, what type of reader I want to be. It’s within this space that The StoryGraph shines.



Rosenberg adds:

In addition to taking its user wants into the app’s development, The StoryGraph also gives much-needed space to independent authors. Cofounder Rob Frelow: Suppose today you’re interested in a dark murder mystery set deep in the woods featuring a kidnapping, and tomorrow you’re in the mood for an emotional but funny romantic comedy set in a big city. In that case, you can find that on The StoryGraph.

You aren’t stuck by your old ratings or past preferences. You won’t see any ‘promoted’ books, which indie authors can typically never afford. You have complete control. She adds that StoryGraph allows you to:

- Rate, review, and track books
- “Buddy Read” with someone in your community
- Keep a reading journal
- Enter book giveaways
- Set goals by number of books, pages, or hours
- Browse book recommendations by mood, pace, type, or page number
- View personalized analytics

Read the full 9to5Mac article:

<https://9to5mac.com/2022/11/21/finally-a-formidable-response-to-amazon-owned-goodreads-introducing-the-storygraph/>



## Simplify your life with these smartphone apps

Visit [play.google.com](http://play.google.com) or open your iTunes application and search within the App Store to download these.

App name	How it works
Flashlight	Turns your screen into a flashlight
Google Maps	Provides maps and directions using GPS
Dragon Dictation*	Lets you send texts and emails without typing
GasBuddy	Finds cheap fuel in your area
FaceTime*	Allows video chats with friends and family
Triplt	Organizes flights, hotel reservations, and more
Laser Level	Helps hang pictures straight
Lose It	Lets you create and follow a diet plan
RedLaser	Compares prices by scanning bar codes while you shop
The Weather Channel	Keeps up with local weather
iPharmacy Drug Guide & Pill ID	Identifies your pills and finds lowest drug prices
Tip Calculator	Computes your tip and splits the bill among friends



\*iPhone only

## Members Helping Members

*Just think you could have submitted a paragraph or two that would help your fellow Members*



**Ctrl+ click white arrow to go to our YouTube site**



# Cloud Storage



## What is Cloud Storage?

- A method of storing data on external servers which can be accessed over the internet
- Simultaneously back up your files and free up space on your device
- Access your files from any device
- Most services come with a limited amount of free storage
- [Google Drive](#)
- [OneDrive](#)
- [iCloud](#)
- [Dropbox](#)



## Cloud Storage Basics

- Access files from desktop app, web browser, or mobile app
- Back up files across devices
- User friendly
- Easily share files
- Compatible with PC & Mac
- Compatible with iPhone & Android



iCloud

## Mobile Cloud Storage

- Google Drive pre-installed on Android devices
- iCloud pre-installed on iPhones & iPads
- Organize files, music, and photos
- Sync files across devices



**SENIOR PLANET**  
FROM JAMES

© Copyright 2021 Older Adults Technology Services, Inc.  
A charitable affiliate of AARP. All rights reserved.  
Discover more at [seniorplanet.org](http://seniorplanet.org).





Join a Meeting

January 13, 2024  
February 10, 2024  
March 9, 2024

## Computer Services

**Desktops,  
Laptops,  
All-in-Ones  
and more**



During our October Zoom meeting the following two computer services were mentioned.

### White Box Computers

They say they are the place for all your computer repairs & upgrades at nearly half the prices of the competition.

<https://whiteboxcomputers.org>

**847-833-9324**

### ZYTEK Services

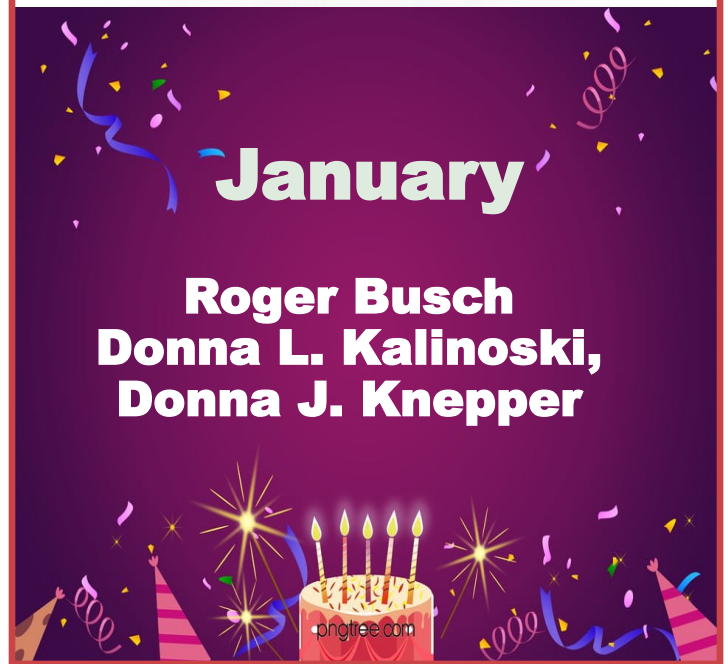
Has been around for over 30 years and offers the best in fast, friendly, high-quality, fair price computer service solutions

**847-336-2259**



# January

**Roger Busch  
Donna L. Kalinoski,  
Donna J. Knepper**



# QUOTE

### **Inspirational:**

"The computer was like the movies brought to life, with the possibility of offering not just a new way to see things, but a new way to think and create."

- Steve Jobs

Member's Area



**BUSINESS CARDS**

**Hotline** 



**Phone: (847) 623-3815**



**Pegasus**  
OPEN AIR PHOTOBOOTH

847.372.8186  
pegasusphotos.smugmug.com

**Members**



**JIM JACOBS TRIO**  
*Jazz Standards*  
THURSDAYS 6:00-9:00 PM



*Deerfield Italian Kitchen*

CONTACT JIM AT 847.372.0656 OR JIMJACOBSMUSIC@GMAIL.COM



Take a good look, you just might see yourself.

LCACE Photo Albums





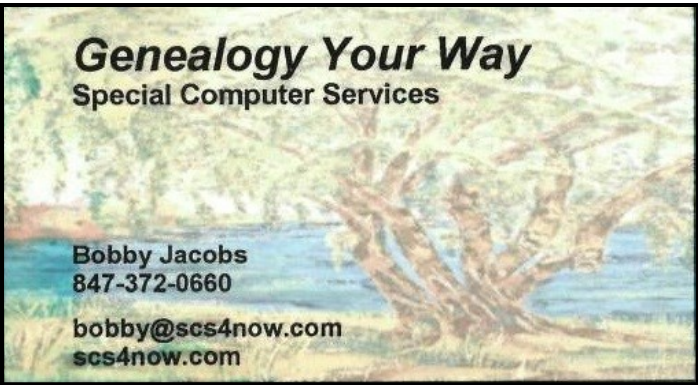
**Liz Barnett**  
Chief Cookie Baker

Phone: 847-494-4222  
E-mail: Liz@LoveMyCookies.com

www.LoveMyCookies.com  
www.facebook.com/LoveMyCookiesLizB

*Custom Cookie Treats for any Occasion!*

**Genealogy Your Way**  
Special Computer Services



**Bobby Jacobs**  
847-372-0660

bobby@scs4now.com  
scs4now.com

**LAKE COUNTY HONOR FLIGHT**

847.282.0374  
info@lakecountyhonorflight.org

P.O. Box 1187, North Chicago, IL 60064  
www.lakecountyhonorflight.org

Member of



**An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups**