



### Note From the Editor:

#### Riddle:

I have keys but no locks and no rooms.  
You can enter, but you cannot go outside.  
What am I ?

(Make a guess now, and you'll find the answer at the end.) (Answer. last page)

Trivia: What is the meaning of "Bon voyage" in French? (a) Good Morning; (b) Happy Birthday; (c) Have a good trip; (d) Good Evening. (answer last page)

**Here is my favorite quote:**

**"Knowledge is Power"**

Stay up to date with your tech knowledge and join the Computer Tech Club. ONLY \$10 per year.

### Agenda of Articles:

- ◆ Q & A
- ◆ 6 awesome tech-related websites that I visit (almost) every day
- ◆ Stream for Free - well, maybe (Article by Kim Komando newsletter)
- ◆ Toll Payment Scams Are on the Rise: Here's How to Spot One
- ◆ Consumer Alert (s) & More...
- ◆ Why it's not rude to ignore "hi, how are you?" text messages from strangers
- ◆ Stop Using QWERTY: Four Easy Tips for Better Passwords
- ◆ SSD vs. HDD: Which Storage Device Should You Choose? Hard drive or solid-state drive? Here's how you choose.
- ◆ Android Phones Now Have RCS Editing, New Google Home Widget, and More
- ◆ 21 Essential Tips Every Amazon Prime Subscriber Should Know
- ◆ Excel Expertise? Eight Concepts You Need to Learn Right Now
- ◆ Club information
- ◆ Word Search
- ◆ Advertising
- ◆ Answers - Word Search/Trivia, Fun Quiz, etc.
- ◆ Happy JUNE...

### Q and A from Tech Tips:

Question from Paul: I recently switched my email from another service to Gmail and I have a question that I hope you can answer.

My Gmail inbox shows short previews of the email text beside each email's subject line.

I've found that the previews make the screen look crowded and they are distracting to me.

Can you please tell me how to disable the previews so I'll see nothing but the subject lines?

Tech Tips answer: Paul, I happen to like the previews (which are referred to as snippets in Gmail) because they provide quick clues as to the topic of the emails.

But that being said, I can certainly understand why you might want to ditch them. After all, they really do add a lot of extra text to the Gmail Inbox.

Luckily, it only takes a quick settings tweak to remove the snippets. This short video shows how:

Notes: You can watch this video at full screen by

clicking the little "square" icon in the lower-right corner of the video after it begins playing.

This tip only applies to the Desktop version of Gmail and not the Gmail mobile app.

If you prefer following written instructions, here you go:

1 – Open Gmail in your browser and click the "gear" shaped Settings icon in the top-right corner of the window.

2 – Click See all settings.

3 – Make sure the General tab is selected, then scroll down to the "Snippets" section near the bottom and select No snippets.

4 – Click the Save Changes button at the bottom of the window.

That's all there is to it. Your Gmail Inbox should now be free of the snippets (previews) that you and so many others find distracting.

(Find a video on this article at the Computer Tech Club Website on the Mouse Pad Page: <https://www.computerclubrhcc.com/>.)

## **6 awesome tech-related websites that I visit (almost) every day**

I'm often asked which websites I use the most often throughout my workday.

Well, there are a bunch of great sites that find myself visiting over and over again, and I thought I'd take this opportunity to tell you about a few of them.

Here's a short list of the six websites I visit most often while researching and writing posts for this tech blog:

1 – Google – I seem to spend at least half of every workday researching the latest and most accurate information I can find on the topics I write about. And I believe it goes without saying that Google is a researcher's best friend.

For example, many of the tech questions I receive are about hardware upgrades such as “What's the fastest CPU I can buy for this motherboard?” or “What's the best video card that will work with a 375 watt power supply?”

Google makes it easy to find good answers to questions like that, and it helps me find them in a hurry!

2 – Crucial – I head over to Crucial when I need to find out what type of RAM a particular computer uses. All I have to do is enter the brand and model of the PC, and voilà...there it is!

What's more, if a computer comes into my shop for a RAM upgrade I can run Crucial's handy System Scanner and find out what type of RAM it uses, how many RAM slots are inside, how many RAM sticks are already installed and the maximum amount of RAM the system can use – all without even taking the cover off the case!

3 – TomsHardware – If there's a single go-to place on the Internet for computer information and assistance, it's Tom's Hardware.

The charts and data pages on this site are updated regularly with information on the latest CPUs, video cards and other hardware components, and I can almost always find a forum post discussing most any wacky computer issue that I might not have seen before.

4 – TechRadar – I try my best to keep up with the latest gadgets and cutting-edge technologies, and TechRadar is my go to site for tech news of that sort.

Whether it's a review of the latest new smartphone or the latest news about the Net Neutrality controversy, TechRadar is likely to have it first (and have it right).

5 – OlderGeeks – Most sites where you can download free software tend to bundle extra add-on software along with their downloads.

And of course the companies that are hawking those add-on programs pay the download sites big bucks for that bundling service.

The problem is the end user ends up installing software they don't want along with the program they came to download in the first place!

The folks at OlderGeeks take a different approach to earning revenue from their site: They accept donations.

If you download a free program from OlderGeeks and you're happy with the service, you're more than welcome to donate a few bucks to help support the site.

But if you aren't inclined to make a donation, that's fine too. You're still welcome to come back at any time and download any other programs you might need or want. No pressure, just an excellent service.

Continued from previous page...

Either way, your downloads will always be malware-free. What's more, there won't be any irritating add-on programs attached to their installers either!

6 – Amazon – I know, you're thinking "Amazon isn't a tech website!", and you're right. But it is a website that I use virtually every day.

Remember how I mentioned above that Crucial is my go-to website for quickly gathering all the information I need concerning RAM compatibility?

Well, after I find out what kind of RAM I need to buy,

I usually head straight to Amazon and order it. In fact, I order almost all of my tech items from them. This post explains why I absolutely love shopping at Amazon.

There you have it – my top six most-visited tech-related websites.

Bonus tip: If this list had included seven websites instead of six, the seventh one would have been Webopedia, the online encyclopedia for computer and Internet terms. Check it out! May 10, 2024.

### **Stream for Free - well, maybe (Article by Kim Komando newsletter)**

I heard a stat the other day I had to share: The average U.S. household spends \$61 per month on streaming TV. Plus, you still need to pay for cable or another way to get the internet. We're in the midst of a streaming arms race, and prices are only going up.

Last October, Apple, Amazon and Disney upped their streaming prices by \$3 monthly. Netflix also nudged up its monthly basic plan rate by \$2 last October. Just yesterday, Max raised the price of its cheapest streaming plan by \$1 to \$16.99 per month. Yeah, that's with ads, people.

TL;DR: If you subscribe to only the basic plans for those services, your bills have gone up \$12 per month in the past year. Wanna cut that down? I have seven streaming platforms that are completely f-r-e-e free.

Pluto TV: Pluto's owned by Paramount, so you get over 250 free channels, including news, sports and lifestyle options. It's got a solid selection of old TV shows, plus some movies. It's also compatible with most streaming devices and platforms, like Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Chromecast, Roku and PlayStation TV.

Tubi: Tubi gives you over 50,000 movies and TV shows, thanks to content from big studios like MGM, Lionsgate and Paramount. You can watch it on your smartphone, laptop and pretty much any other streaming or gaming console.

YouTube: You know it, you love it, but I bet you didn't know you can find thousands of TV show episodes and even feature films on it for free (with ads). Not to mention, creators like MrBeast have full-length, high-production shows that give regular TV a run for its

money. And you get my shows for free, too.

□ Speaking of ... Here's a list of the 100 best free flicks available on YouTube. ("Back to the Future," anyone?)

The Roku Channel: Get thousands of free movies and TV shows, along with over 350 live channels, on any Roku streaming device, compatible Samsung smart TVs or Amazon Fire TVs, or the Roku app. The content is constantly updated, and they have some surprisingly solid originals, too, like "Weird: The Al Yankovic Story" and "The Great American Baking Show."

Crackle: If British TV is your jam, Crackle might be your best bet. It has a lot of BBC shows, like the sitcom "Peep Show" and comedy-drama series "Shameless," plus a big library of movies and classic TV series, including "The Dick Van Dyke Show." The downside? Long ads before and during programming. Bollocks ...

Freevee: Freevee is Amazon's free arm, so you'll need an Amazon Prime account for this one. But once you're in, it has thousands of free movies and TV episodes with fewer ads than network TV. It also has some excellent original content, like "Jury Duty," which was nominated for an Emmy last year and is wet-your-pants funny.

Kanopy: This one's my ringer. Kanopy lets you watch thousands of films completely ad-free using your public library card. They have a great selection of classic, critically acclaimed and foreign films. Stream 'em on your phone, tablet or almost any other TV streaming device, including Apple TV, Roku and Chromecast.

I can practically hear your streaming bills dropping. June 3, 2024 KK.

## **Toll Payment Scams Are on the Rise: Here's How to Spot One**

### Key Takeaways

- ◆ In toll payment scams, scammers send fake texts about undue toll charges, enticing people to click on the link and expose financial or personal information.
- ◆ These texts create urgency, request payment through unusual methods, threaten recipients with serious consequences, and are generic with no personalized information.
- ◆ If you receive such a text, confirm that it's fake and report it to the relevant law enforcement authority in your state.

Have you received a text asking you to pay an overdue toll charge to avoid incurring late fees or penalties? While the text could be genuine, scammers are targeting people with similar messages nationwide.

So, how does the toll payment scam work, how can you spot it, and what should you do if you encounter it?

### How Does the Toll Payment Scam Work?

The toll payment scam is a smishing scam where scammers pose as representatives from a tolling agency and send a text message claiming that the recipient has unpaid tolls. They add a link that directs recipients to a website where they are instructed to pay the overdue toll charges.

Believing the message to be genuine, recipients click the link and are directed to a fake website closely resembling the official website of the toll collection agency, appearing authentic. Unaware, recipients proceed to make the payment through this counterfeit website, inadvertently sending the funds to the scammers.

As a result, victims not only lose their money but also expose their personal and financial information to scammers, who can then use it for fraudulent activities. The FBI, on their official website, recently reported an increase in such scams and instructed drivers to be vigilant. But how can you identify such a scam?

### How to Spot a Toll Payment Scam

If you pay close attention, spotting a fake toll payment scam text is simple. Here are a few signs that might indicate you're dealing with a scam:

You haven't used the route that the tolling agency covers, yet you're being asked to pay toll charges.

You're being asked to use unusual payment methods, such as cryptocurrency or wire transfers, to pay the toll charges.

The text doesn't mention any details about your vehicle and is generic with no personalized information.

The text creates a sense of urgency for paying the unpaid toll.

The message threatens serious consequences if you don't pay the toll urgently, such as canceling your vehicle registration.

The URL provided in the text to pay the unpaid toll doesn't look like the official website of the tolling agency and may have misspelled words.

Try to remain calm and ask yourself these questions; you'll figure out whether it's a scam or not quickly.

### What Should You Do When You Receive a Toll Payment Message

When you receive a text about an undue toll payment, check the phone number it came from and confirm it belongs to the tolling agency mentioned in the text.

Instead of clicking the link in the text, search online for the tolling agency's official website. Make sure not to click on any search advertisements, as scammers might use them to direct you to a fake website. Double-check the website's URL to confirm you're on the official site.

On the official website, enter your license number and other details to check if there is an overdue toll fee. If there is, call the tolling agency's official number and speak to a representative to confirm. Only pay the charge if you're sure it's legitimate.

If the text turns out to be a scam, file a complaint with IC3, including the phone number you received the text from and the link to the fake website mentioned. Also, delete the fake text and block the number to avoid further phishing messages.

If you've already clicked on a phishing link, ensure your phone hasn't been hacked, change passwords saved on the browser, and take other necessary precautions. If you've exposed your financial details, freeze your credit or debit card (or the account itself) to prevent misuse.

Hopefully, you now understand how toll payment scams work and how to protect yourself. Since such scams are on the rise, spread the word to your contacts to raise awareness. (end)



**Consumer Alert (s):**

No one is using your Social Security number to commit crimes. It's a scam. The phone rings. Your caller ID says it's the Social Security Administration. You hesitate. You're not expecting a call from them, and you've heard about impersonation scams. But something inside you makes you pick up. And everything you're about to hear is designed to scare you into doing whatever the caller says.

The caller says he's a Social Security Administration agent with an urgent warning: Your name and Social Security number are linked to serious crimes like money laundering and drug trafficking.

You're panicked when he says there's an arrest warrant for you and the courts want to seize the money from your bank and retirement accounts. The only way to protect it, he claims, is to buy gold. The agent says he'll send someone to pick it up and will keep it safe until he can clear your name of any wrongdoing.

You're in a rush because he says you must go to the bank immediately. You're nervous, so the agent offers to stay on the line with you while you're at the bank and tells you what to say.

You're so stressed out. And terrified the police are coming to arrest you. You want to take a minute to call someone, but he says you don't have time. And he insists you can't trust anyone but him.

You hesitate. It seems strange that he's telling you to buy gold. What if it's a scam? You do a quick search and find that someone with the name he gave you is an employee at the Social Security Administration. But can you be sure it's him? Maybe he's just using that name.

On the other hand, the caller ID did say Social Security Administration. And he does know some personal details about you. Should you go ahead?

**STOP. IT'S A SCAM.**

Anyone who tells you to buy gold, or withdraw cash, and give it to someone is a scammer.

Report them to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud).

If a caller tells you someone is coming to pick up gold or cash at your house, call the police.

This is an elaborate impersonation scheme to rip you off. (source...FTC Consumer Advice website, 5/9/2024).

**MORE on Consumer Alerts:****Hurricane season 2024: How to avoid scams before and after a weather emergency**

Weather forecasters are predicting an active hurricane

season, but if you live in large parts of the country — including those hit by tornadoes over Memorial Day Weekend — you've probably noticed more active storms of all types. To get started preparing for hurricane season or any storm, while avoiding scams, check [ftc.gov/Weather Emergencies](https://www.ftc.gov/Weather-Emergencies) for new information to help you spot, avoid, and report scams as you prepare for, deal with, and recover from extreme weather and natural disasters.

Like all the FTC's free resources, the site is mobile-friendly — giving you ready access to information when and where you need it. When it comes to planning for a possible weather emergency, the more you know — and the earlier you know it — the better prepared you'll be to avoid weather-related scams and frauds.

To stay ahead of weather-related scammers, here are steps you can take now.

Update your insurance policy. To avoid surprises later, check to make sure your insurance policy is current and find out what is covered — and what isn't.

Check out contractors before you need one. Ask people you know and trust for recommendations. Then search online for the company's name with words like "scam" or "complaint."

Research online sellers before you buy. Unusually low prices are a sign of a scam. If you see an ad for what seems like a familiar company but you're not sure the ad is real, check it out. But go to the company's website using a page you know is real — not the link in the ad. (source...consumeralert, 5/28/24.

**Why it's not rude to ignore "hi, how are you?" text messages from strangers**

A text message from an unknown number that simply says: hi, how are you? seems harmless. Your first instinct might be to respond to see if it's someone you know. Or maybe tell them they made a mistake. But it's best to ignore these type of text messages. Scammers are using this tactic as a conversation starter, so don't text back. If you do, here's what happens next.

The person (a scammer) on the other end of the text will probably apologize...and find a way to keep the conversation going to befriend you. Then, once they have your trust, they'll try to offer you advice on investing in cryptocurrency or claim they can teach you the secrets to making big money in the crypto markets. For a fee, of course. But it's all a scam and they'll just steal your money.

Even if you just reply to the text but don't engage in conversation, you've still confirmed they reached a working telephone number. Which could lead to more

## **Stop Using QWERTY: Four (4) Easy Tips for Better Passwords**

Don't have the password to get into the speakeasy? You're out of luck unless you can trick the bouncer into telling you the password is "Swordfish." A simple password like that would be a terrible choice to protect your email access or a bank site. And yet, chances are good you're using something just as bad, because stronger passwords are too hard to remember.

The only safe way to store proper passwords is in a password manager. If you're not using one, you probably rely on a highly crackable password like baseball or 12345, or you've memorized one complex password and use it everywhere. Password security is no small matter. Given the enormous scale of risk, you need to do everything you can to keep your passwords safe.

Even the best password manager doesn't guarantee the safety of your accounts—not if you use it to store the same old, tired passwords. You have to switch out your old and weak passwords for new and stronger ones.

Once you've replaced all your lame passwords with strong, unique ones, you can relax, at least until a data breach forces a change. The National Institute of Standards and Technology no longer recommends changing passwords every 90 days. NIST now recommends using long phrases like "Correct-Horse-Battery-Staple" and changing them only when necessary. But if you're using terrible passwords, "when necessary" means right now.

Just what makes a bad password? Let's look at some of the attributes of terrible passwords, then give you some pointers on how to make them the right way.

1. Stay Out of the Dictionary: Every few months a news outlet posts a list of the worst passwords. We see a lot of easy-to-type options, like the aforementioned 12345 and qwerty. Easy for you to type? Sure. But also easy for hackers to crack. Other common (and poor) passwords consist of simple dictionary words. We've seen baseball, monkey, and starwars in the list of worst passwords. These, too, are easy to crack.

Some secure websites lock down after a given number of wrong password attempts, but many don't. For those with no bad guess lockout, hackers can cross a list of

email addresses with a list of popular passwords and set up an automated process to keep trying combinations until they get in.

A properly secured website doesn't store your password anywhere. Instead, it runs the password through a hashing algorithm, a kind of one-way encryption. The same input always produces the same output, but there's no way to get back to the original password from the resulting hash. If the password you type hashes to the same value that's stored, you get access. Even if hackers capture the site's user data, they don't get passwords, just hashes.

But smart hackers can crack weak passwords even when they're hashed if they know what hashing function the site used. They start by running a huge dictionary of common passwords through the hashing function. Then they look for the resulting hashes in the captured data. Each match is a cracked password. Sites with the very best security enhance the hash function with a technique called password salting, which makes this kind of table-based cracking impossible, but why take the risk? Just stay out of the dictionary.

2. Think Differently: A friend once told me her perfect password: 1qaz2wsx3edc4rfv. She could "type" it by just sliding a finger down four slanted columns of the keyboard. It was so perfect, she used it everywhere. And that was a big mistake.

Hardly a week goes by without news of a breach at some company or website, exposing thousands or millions of usernames and passwords. Smart victims change their passwords immediately. Those who ignore the problem may find themselves locked out of their own accounts after the hackers reset the password.

### How Your Password Was Stolen

Those hackers know that all too many people recycle their passwords. Once they find a working username and password pair, they try the same credentials on other sites. You may not be so worried about losing access to your old Club Penguin Rewritten account, but if you used the same login on your bank's website, you've got big trouble.

It gets worse. If someone else takes control of your email account, they can first lock you out by changing

the password. Then they can break into your other accounts by having a password reset link emailed to that account. Worried yet?

3. **Don't Get Personal:** Using personal information as the basis for your passwords is awfully tempting, but it's a bad idea. Whether your dog's name is Fifi or Khaleesi, that name probably appears in the dictionaries hackers use for brute-force attacks. Other possibilities such as the initials and birthdate of a family member probably won't fall to a brute-force attack, but if someone wants to hack your account specifically, that personal data can fuel a trial-and-error guessing attack.

#### Recommended by Our Editors

Don't think for a minute that your personal details are private. There are dozens of sites people can use to find details about anybody: address, birthdate, marital status, and more. Your social media posts can be another source of personal info, especially if you haven't properly secured your accounts. A determined hacker (or a nosy neighbor) can probably guess any password that you build based on your own data.

4. **Close the Back Door:** If you're not using a password manager, you've surely experienced forgetting the password for a site. It's all too common, which is why virtually every login page includes a "Forgot your password?" link. Some sites send a reset link to your email address, while others let you reset the password after answering your security questions. And that opens a back door to anyone wanting to hack your account.

Most sites offer abysmal options for security questions. What is your mother's maiden name? Where did you go to high school? What was your first job? As noted, your personal life is an open book to anyone with internet searching skills. When possible, ignore the preset questions. Create your own question, with a unique answer you'll always remember but nobody else could guess.

It's harder when the site doesn't let you define your own questions. In that case, your best bet is to use a memorable answer that's a total lie. My mother's maiden name is Fauci. I went to school at More Science High School. For my first job, I was a linotype operator. There is an element of risk since you might

forget which lie you chose. I would suggest storing these oddball answers as secure notes in your password manager—but if you were using a password manager you wouldn't have this problem in the first place.

#### What to Do Now That You Care

I hope I've convinced you that using common passwords is a rotten idea, as is building passwords from personal information. And even the best strong, random password becomes a liability if you use it everywhere. If you're ready to spring into action, here are some starting points:

- ◆ Use a password manager
- ◆ Switch to a better password manager
- ◆ Remember an extremely secure master password for your password manager
- ◆ Take advantage of a random password generator to upgrade your old, bad passwords
- ◆ You could even create your own random password generator in Excel
- ◆ Enable multi-factor authentication wherever available. (source...PCMag,5/23/24). To see full article with video (bottom of article), see our website, Mouse Pad page).



## **SSD vs. HDD: Which Storage Device Should You Choose? When you need to upgrade your storage, should you opt for a hard drive or solid-state drive? Here's how you choose.** May, 2024

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ◆ SSDs are faster than HDDs and can expedite things like file transfers and booting your computer.
- ◆ HDDs are cheaper for storage but more vulnerable to damage due to their moving components.
- ◆ SSDs offer increased energy efficiency, while HDDs offer better data recovery and have a lower cost per GB.

If you want to purchase a new computer or upgrade your existing machine, you're probably weighing up SSDs and HDDs. So, what is the difference between SSDs and HDDs, and which is better? Here's what you need to know.

What's the Difference Between an SSD and an HDD?

The difference between HDDs and SSDs is simple: Hard Disk Drives (HDDs) store data on a magnetic disk, while Solid State Drives (SSDs) store data in electronic "flash memory." Because of how different the two storage implementations are, HDDs and SSDs have some major differences:

SSDs are much faster at reading/writing files than HDDs.

HDDs are easier to damage than SSDs.

More storage space is cheaper on HDDs than SSDs.

It's easier to recover data from HDDs than SSDs.

What Is an SSD?

Solid State Drives (SSDs) use NAND flash memory chips and are often smaller than HDDs. Like HDDs, SSDs come with SATA III ports and can easily be installed in the same system. SSDs also have PCIe connections, which can be linked directly to the motherboard and offer significantly faster data transfer speeds.

What Is an HDD?

Hard Disk Drives (HDDs) store and access data by spinning a magnetic disc (known as the platter) and a mechanical read/write arm. Most HDDs use a SATA connection, and modern HDDs use SATA III. HDDs are highly affordable, and premium HDDs with several TB capacities are readily available.

(More on this article - see our website Mouse Pad Page - more charts and info available...MUO, May 2024)

### **Android Phones Now Have RCS Editing, New Google Home Widget, and More**

Android does one major update every year, and for this year, we have Android 15. Google keeps phones updated with fresh new features in between these major updates, including system app upgrades. Now, Google has unveiled some of the latest changes that are arriving to Android phones and devices.

Google has unveiled a suite of enhancements designed to improve messaging, connectivity, smart home management, payments, and vehicle access for Android devices. These come just as Google unveiled a few more changes to Android as part of the Google I/O 2024 conference earlier this month. Most of the announcements from I/O won't arrive until Android 15, but the changes Google has announced today are rolling out to everyone on existing versions of Android.

First, Android users can now edit sent RCS messages within a 15-minute window, correcting errors or clarifying their intent. This long-awaited feature brings a new level of flexibility to text conversations. Given how RCS has been basically functioning as Google's competitor to iMessage, it's a bit weird that we didn't have this yet, given it's a staple feature on most instant messaging apps. We're also getting a new instant hotspot feature that simplifies connecting Android tablets and Chromebooks to phone hotspots with a single tap, eliminating the need for passwords. Additionally, you can now seamlessly switch between devices during Google Meet calls.

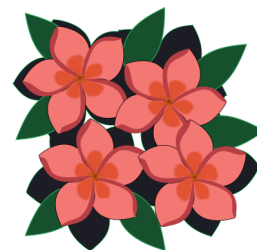
You can now also add a Google Home Favorites widget to your home screen, letting you quickly access your frequently used smart devices. This Public Preview feature allows you to adjust room temperature,



## How to View a Saved Password in Microsoft Edge

### Forgotten an important website password?

It happens to the best of us: Sometimes, you can't remember the password to a website. Luckily, if you have previously chosen to save a password in Microsoft Edge, you can easily recover it on Windows 10, Windows 11, or a Mac. Here's how.



First, open Edge. Click on the ellipses button (which looks like three horizontal dots) in the upper-right corner of any window. In the menu that appears, select "Settings."

On the Settings screen, ensure you're on the "Profiles" tab, scroll down until you reach the section labeled Microsoft Wallet, then click "Passwords."

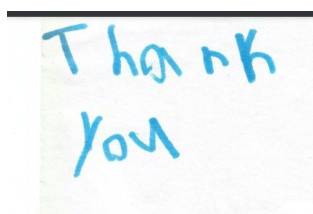
On the Passwords screen, you will see a list of every website for which you've saved a username and password in Edge. Look through the list, find the website you want the password for, then click it.

On both Windows and Mac, a box will pop up asking you to authenticate your system user account before the password can be shown. Enter the password (or PIN) you use to log into your computer and click "OK."

After you enter your system account info, you'll see your username (or email, depending on how the website handles logins) and your password hidden with some asterisks. Click the small eye icon next to your password to reveal it. (source...MUO...also see article on our club website)



**Jim Wilson, Veterans Club submitted the following:** A message to all Veterans and family members of Veterans given by a beautiful little girl of about 8 years old. While I stood at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Clement, she walked up, smiled, handed me one of the folded papers in her hand, and continued to hand them to other Veterans. See below the note.



Article continued from page 8...

control lights, and more with a simple tap. If you happen to have a Wear OS smartwatch, you can also take this one step further with a new Google Home Favorites tile and complication. This allows you to manage various smart devices like door locks, lights, and thermostats directly from your wrist.

On the subject of Wear OS, Google Wallet is now expanding payment options on Wear OS watches, allowing users in the U.S. and Germany to make secure payments with PayPal. This feature, in a nutshell, lets you use your PayPal account as a regular card you would add on Google Wallet. Presumably, it would be as simple as just tapping your wrist to pay with PayPal just like you would tap it to pay with any of your debit or credit cards. It's extremely convenient, especially if you don't happen to have the PayPal debit/credit card.

Google Wallet is now also getting support for more digital car keys from more car makers. Now, select MINI, Mercedes-Benz, and Polestar models are compatible with the app, meaning that if you happen to own one of the new eligible cars, you can add its digital key to your phone and use your phone as your key. You can use it to lock, unlock, and start your cars, and you can also open your trunk. The app also allows you to share access to your key with friends and family, if a family member ever needs to borrow your car.

All of these features should be rolling out now to your phone. You might see some appear sooner than others, as they might depend on factors such as staged rollouts or even regional availability. You'll likely have to wait before you see everything we've detailed here. Source: Google, 5/20/2024.

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Continued from page 5...

calls and texts from scammers.

### What's the best way to avoid scams if you're getting messages from numbers you don't recognize?

- ◆ Don't reply to text messages from unknown numbers. It could lead to a scam. Delete and report them using your phone's "report junk" option or forwarding unwanted texts to 7726 (SPAM) and unwanted emails to your email provider.
- ◆ Never click links in an unexpected message. Some links might steal your information, or install malware that gives scammers access to your device.
- ◆ Don't trust anyone who says you can quickly and easily make money. Every investment has risks. Only scammers guarantee you'll make lots of money in a short time with zero risk. (consumer advice, June 3, 2024)

## **21 Essential Tips Every Amazon Prime Subscriber Should Know**

Ahead of Amazon's big Prime Day sales event in July, here's a primer on how to find the best deals, get faster deliveries, and even track prices over time.

At one time, shopping online seemed ridiculous—and also dangerous. People were afraid to enter their credit card numbers in a browser window, hidden fees were the norm, and scams and fraud issues were unnervingly common. These days, though, online shopping is a way of life, thanks in large part to one internet behemoth: Amazon.

Love it or hate it, the Seattle-based company has made online shopping mainstream. Amazon sells almost everything, delivers your goods quickly (even if it's not as quick as it used to be), offers services such as streaming video and music, and makes an entire line of tablets, ebook readers, and smart speakers and displays. Its web and app options let you shop on any platform, while its AWS servers power at least a third of the web, according to Statista. Amazon also owns some brick-and-mortar stores, including Whole Foods. Much of the experience with Amazon is improved if you're willing to pay the yearly fee to be a member of Amazon Prime.

We're closing in on Amazon's upcoming Prime Day shopping event. It's coming this summer. The tips below can help you get the most out of your shopping experience on Prime Day or any other.

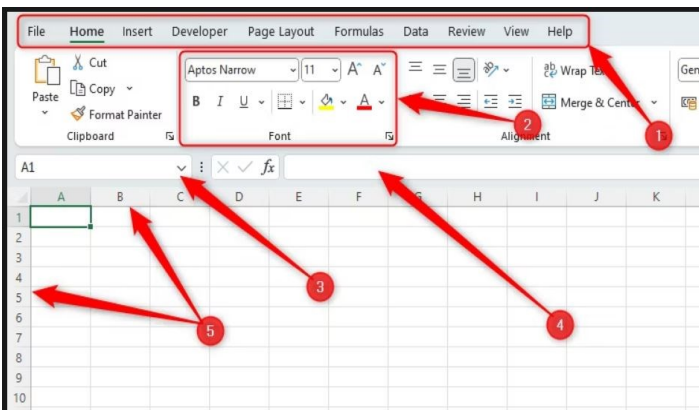
To see the list - go to our Computer Tech Club Website at: <https://www.computerclubrhcc.com/>.

## Excel Expertise? Eight (8) Concepts You Need to Learn Right Now

Article covers - The Excel Interface, Order of Operations, Cell References, Data Types, Key Data Analysis Formulas, Filtering and Ordering Ranges and Tables, Pivot Tables, Macros and VBAs.

Can you explain what a ribbon is? Do you know the three types of cell references? Do you know how to convert a number to a currency? If not, then look no further, as we take you through some key Excel features you need to know to show your expertise.

### The Excel Interface



First, let's take a look at what Excel looks like, what its key elements are called, and what each of those elements do.

The ribbon and tabs—Excel has hundreds of different menus and drop-downs, and they're all accessible through the ribbon, which is the area above where you do your work. The ribbon choices labeled number 1 in the screenshot above—such as Home and Insert—are the tabs. Anytime you want to make things happen, you first need to go to the ribbon and make sure you have opened the correct tab. For example, for formatting, you'll need the Home tab on the ribbon, and if you want to add a chart, you'll need the Insert tab.

The groups—Once you have opened a tab on the ribbon, you'll see the different groups in that tab. These groups are designed to clump together similar functions, making it easier for you to find the function that you're looking for. For example, in the Home tab on the ribbon, you can see the Font group, where you can

embolden your text, change the typeface, or make your font larger.

The name box—If you select a cell or range of cells, this box shows you the cell reference. In the screenshot above, the name box reads A1, because this is the cell we have selected in this worksheet. The name box is useful for jumping to a specific cell or range of cells you have named, especially handy if your workbook has lots of tabs.

The formula bar—When you type a formula into a cell, the formula bar is where you'll see what you have typed and, if needed, edit your formula. Essentially, the cells show you the final product, and the formula bar shows you the formula you have used to create it.

Columns and rows—The columns (A, B, C, and so on) run vertically in your sheet, while the rows (1, 2, 3, etc.) go across.

### Order of Operations

Remember your math lessons in school when you were told that you had to follow a certain order to make sure your equations worked correctly? Well, because Excel doubles up as an advanced calculator, it also has a particular order that it follows when dealing with your formulas, and it's important to know what this order is so that you know what to expect when performing calculations.

At its most basic level, Excel follows the PEMDAS order—parentheses, then exponents (also known as indices), then multiplication and division, and finally, addition and subtraction.

There are other elements in a formula that Excel has to follow (including cell references, percentages, and logical operators), but knowing PEMDAS will be enough to show you understand how Excel's calculation process works.

### Cell References

A cell reference is the name of a cell or range of cells in your Excel workbook, and you can use these in formulas. For example, if you click cell A1 and type =SUM(A2+A3) into the formula bar, you're telling Excel to reference cells A2 and A3, and add their values together. There are three types of cell references in

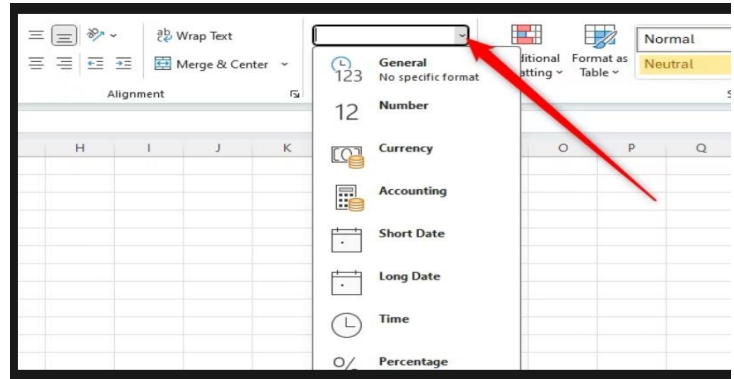
Article continued from page 11

### **Excel—relative, absolute, and mixed.**

A relative reference (the default reference type in Excel), refers to the relative position of the cell. If you type a formula in cell A1 that involves A2, you're referencing the cell that is one below where you're typing. If you were to copy the formula to another cell, the reference would automatically perform the same relative action as in its previous location.

An absolute reference does not change if you copy the formula into another cell. For example, if you type a formula that references cell A1 using an absolute reference, it will always reference cell A1, regardless of where you copy that formula to. To create an absolute reference, we place the dollar (\$) symbol in front of the column and row reference: \$A\$1 (or press F4 after having typed the reference). A mixed reference combines relative and absolute references at the same time. For example, \$A1 is a mixed reference that tells Excel to continually refer to column A, but switch the row number relative to where the formula is located.

**Data Types** There are many different types of data that can be entered into an Excel cell, and the importance of having the right data type is that it helps Excel to perform the correct operation according to the type of data. Before you enter any data into a cell,



the data type is set to General by default—this is Excel's way of telling you it's waiting for something to be entered into the cell so that it can then read what you enter and change the data type accordingly.

The data type can be seen in the Number group of the Home tab on the ribbon, and you can click the drop-down arrow to see the different data types available.

If you were to type \$12 into a cell, Excel would see the dollar symbol and automatically change the data type to Currency. Likewise, if you typed Apr 14, Excel would read this as a date. If Excel doesn't identify the correct data type, you can change it manually using this drop-down list. (To see the remaining article and video - see our club website at: <https://www.computerclubrhcc.com/>. 6/2024)

- ◆ The Computer Tech Club now has a (SIG) **Significant Interest Group on “Journaling”** - as Journaling may take a variety of uses. You can journal in all types of mediums. You may just keep a list or the common knowledge of a diary. However, “Creative” Journaling encases all types of medium. If you notice your cell phone has added a “Journal” app. We are going to focus (at first) on “Digital Journaling.” What is “Digital Journaling” ? See our website for more explanation and samples.
- ◆ **DID YOU KNOW** you can journal on any subject, as it may be a hobby, a craft, necessary information, inventories, lists, family related, memories of your life, things you want to remember in later years or at the present, entertainment in some form, household items and on and on. Journaling is difficult to explain, as it can take on all various forms of YOUR particular interest. PLUS, it is a good way to stay organized and something to draw out your interest and keep you busy. It also lends itself to you're the health of your brain and your over well-being.
- ◆ There is also “Creative” Journaling for those who like paper crafting and various artistic mediums.
- ◆ **Computer Tech Club Classes COMING in the Fall- Digital Journaling Class for those interested.** We now have a Facebook page if you would like to join. All kinds of ideas and sharing for Journal makers. **Facebook Link: Creative Journaling, Fun w/paper, glue, scissors - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184456324746535>.** Email Di Binder for more Digital Journaling Info at [dbinder2004@comcast.net](mailto:dbinder2004@comcast.net). Class Coming this Fall. JOIN the Facebook Club Group - Free. TRY it out - you may find you like it.

**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

E	S	U	T	W	B	W	O	V	A	R	M	F	L	A	G	D	A	Y
C	D	S	U	J	E	G	U	M	U	E	A	E	N	Z	D	L	U	C
I	N	R	X	C	S	D	T	A	K	M	L	U	O	F	I	M	A	H
T	E	O	E	N	C	C	D	E	O	M	M	R	W	Q	H	X	L	T
S	P	C	I	Y	V	R	O	I	N	U	H	Y	H	W	U	S	E	N
L	X	C	Z	T	C	N	O	I	N	S	Y	V	C	P	E	I	X	E
O	E	G	M	N	A	E	R	L	D	G	S	S	H	B	K	V	A	E
S	D	E	S	L	Q	C	S	Y	A	D	Y	T	R	I	H	T	N	T
X	A	M	B	N	P	Y	A	D	S	R	E	H	T	A	F	Q	D	E
C	N	I	P	K	Z	O	M	V	Y	G	J	N	A	Y	G	U	R	N
H	O	N	E	Y	S	U	C	K	L	E	P	O	E	E	C	O	I	U
Q	M	I	L	O	N	G	E	S	T	D	A	Y	W	D	T	W	T	J
G	E	A	A	A	T	K	B	A	R	B	E	C	U	E	R	W	E	L
D	L	Z	J	P	A	M	O	L	P	I	D	U	N	D	C	A	N	E
V	Q	R	E	M	J	P	I	C	N	I	C	U	M	U	D	W	G	T
X	I	A	O	W	K	U	L	T	M	Z	H	F	P	X	R	A	K	T
N	R	H	D	S	E	W	N	O	I	T	A	U	D	A	R	G	Y	M
L	X	K	O	C	E	L	F	E	N	K	I	E	H	P	X	E	F	K
X	S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	C	D	N	S	B	K	A	W

ALEXANDRITE

BARBECUE

D-DAY

DIPLOMA

FATHER'S DAY

FLAG DAY

GARDEN

GEMINI

GRADUATION

HONEYSUCKLE

JUNE

JUNETEENTH

LEMONADE

LONGEST DAY

OUTDOORS

PEARL

PICNIC

ROSE

SOLSTICE

STRAWBERRY

SUMMER

THIRTY DAYS

VACATION

WEDDING

**Answers page 15 . DON'T LOOK !**

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What is the correct term for a single strand of spaghetti? (answer last page)

- (1) Orzo
- (2) Spago
- (3) Spaghetini
- (4) Spaghetto

**Did you Know?**

AirTags are tiny Bluetooth trackers that allow you to keep track of and locate your personal belongings. You can attach AirTags to everyday items, and here's how they work. (For more information see our club website - <https://www.computerclubrhcc.com/>).

**See You next Month - Know someone that would enjoy “The Mouse Pad”, Why not share it with them!** ***The Mouse Pad***

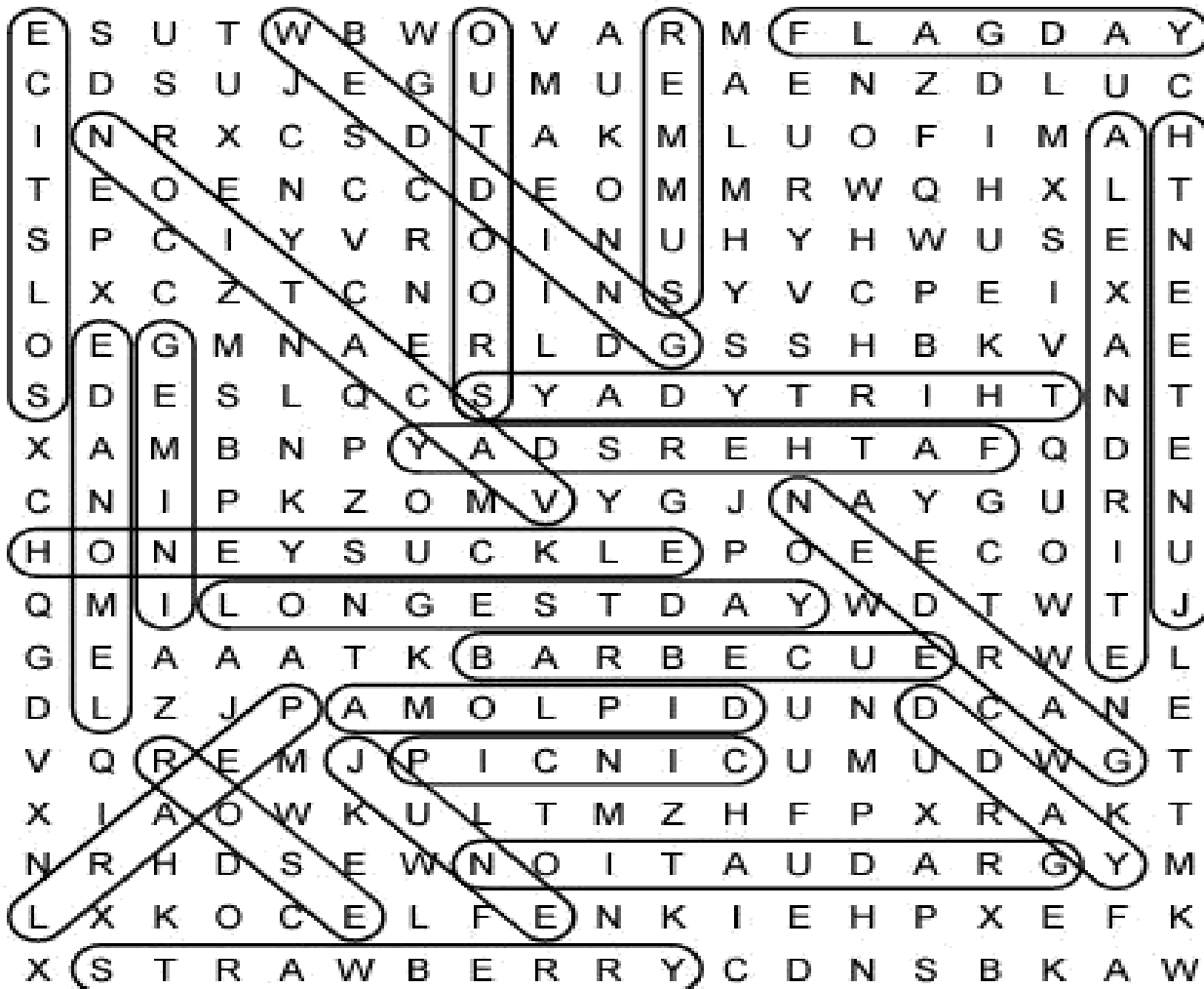
**Website of the Month - NEW Feature monthly**

Our club website is the website of the month:  
<https://www.computerclubrhcc.com/>

Sign-up to receive The Mouse Pad in your email at our website on the contact page: <https://www.computerclubrhcc.com/>

# SOLUTION

## Word Search Answers



### YOU can “Participate” in The Mouse Pad:

Residents - Free

- Send in your tech questions to be answered in the next issue.
- Do you sell a needed item - send me your ad - Free - if space available.
- Do you offer help of any kind to residents - Send me your information.
- Do you provide a service to residents - Send me your information.
- **Thank You’s - Would you like to “Thank” someone? Send me your information.**

Sign-up to receive these issues of the Mouse Pad in your email - Contact me email: [dbinder2004@comcast.net](mailto:dbinder2004@comcast.net).

### Riddle & Trivia Answers from Front page:

1. Keyboard
2. Have a good trip
3. Spaghetti (answer for page 14)

### *The Mouse Pad*

Receive this newsletter, The Mouse Pad - Sign-up at our website on contact page: <https://www.computerclubrhcc.com/>