

The Digital

(membership includes
monthly subscription)

Viking



Twin Cities

PC USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota USA • Vol. 45 No.8 • March 2025

*TC/PC Exists to
Facilitate and Encourage
the Cooperative Exchange of
PC Knowledge and
Information Across
All Levels of Experience*

March 2025

Membership Info.....2

**The Artificial Intelligence
Explosion.....3**

**YouTube as a
Knowledge Resource... 6**

**YouTube, An Online
Video Sharing Service.. 9**

Where to Get Ebooks . 12

TC/PC Calendar. 14

Membership Application 15

Maps to Events 16

4

General Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

7:00 PM

Senior Fraud Prevention

Presenter: Deputy Tara Hardin

Via Zoom Only

This month we will watch a video with tips on how seniors can avoid scams. This webinar was presented at an APCUG workshop and comes highly recommended by TC/PC member, Sheri Trout. Tara Hardin, Deputy with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office and TRIAD program, brings sound advice and real life stories to make you aware of scams to watch out for and ways to protect yourself and your finances from being scammed.



Note: All TC/PC Meetings and SIG Groups will be virtual until further notice. Visit tcpc.com for info.

Tech Topics with Jack Ungerleider via Zoom at 6pm before the General Meeting.

TC/PC is a
Member of



24-Hour Information • www.tcpc.com
Application form inside back cover

The Digital Viking

The Digital Viking is the official monthly publication of the Twin Cities PC User Group, a 501(c)(3) organization and an all-volunteer organization dedicated to users of IBM-compatible computers. Subscriptions are included in membership. We welcome articles and reviews from members. The Digital Viking is a copyrighted publication and reproduction of any material is expressly prohibited without permission. Exception: other User Groups may use material if unaltered and credited.

Disclaimer: All opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the TC/PC, its Board of Directors, Officers, or newsletter staff. TC/PC does not endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available; therefore, readers are cautioned to rely on the opinions presented herein exclusively at their own risk. The Digital Viking, its contributors, and staff assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any advertisement, article, or other item. All refunds in full or in partial, for advertising, membership or any other item shall be at the sole discretion of the Twin Cities PC User Group Board of Directors.

Advertising

Full page (7½ x 9½)	\$100.00
Two-thirds page (7½ x 6)	80.00
Half page (7½ x 4¾)	65.00
One-third page (7½ x 3)	50.00
Quarter page (3½ x 4¾)	40.00
Member Bus. Card (2 x 3½)	10.00

Multiple insertion discounts available.

Contact Sharon Walbran at: SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Deadline for ad placement is the 1st of the month prior to publication. All rates are per issue and for digital or camera-ready ads. Typesetting and other services are extra and must be requested in advance of submission deadlines.

Payment must accompany order unless other arrangements are made in advance. Please make checks payable to: **Twin Cities PC User Group**

TC/PC 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Meets once or twice per year. All members welcome to attend.

Visit www.tcpc.com for meeting details.

President —Lee Kaphingst	leekap@comcast.net
Vice President —Curtiss Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
Secretary - Sharon Walbran	sharon.walbran@gmail.com
Treasurer - Sharon Trout	strout@troutreach.com
Newsletter Publisher Sharon Walbran	952-925-2726 sharon.walbran@gmail.com
Web Master Curt Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
Board Members:	
Steve Kuhlmeier	skuhlmeier@hotmail.com
Lon Ortner	612-824-4946 lon@csacomp.com
Lee Kaphingst	leekap@comcast.net
Jeannine Sloan	Ambassador for Friendship Village
Curtiss Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
Sharon Trout	strout@troutreach.com
Jack Ungerleider	jack@jacku.com
Sharon Walbran	sharon.walbran@gmail.com

TC/PC Member Benefits

Product previews
and demonstrations

Special Interest Groups
Monthly Newsletter

Discounts on products
and services

Contests and prizes

Business Member Benefits

All of the above PLUS:

FREE ½ page ad on
payment of each renewal

20% discount on all ads
Placed in the *Digital
Viking* Newsletter

Up to 5 newsletters mailed to
your site
(only a nominal cost for each
additional 5 mailed)

Newsletter Staff

Editor Sharon Walbran

The Artificial Intelligence Explosion, an ever-changing topic

By Jim Cerny, 1st Vice President and

Hewie Poplock, 2nd Vice President

Sarasota Technology Users Group

<https://thestug.org/>

JimCerny (at) gmail.com

Hewie (at) hewie.net

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a term we've all encountered, and its impact is already evident in various sectors such as business, education, entertainment, art, manufacturing, research, and health care. However, this is just the beginning. The potential of AI to revolutionize our lives is immense, possibly surpassing the transformative effects of computers and electronics. Are you prepared for this future?

Many people see the AI revolution as bringing huge benefits. If you have been using a search engine on the internet to get information you want or need, AI can do more by providing intelligent results to your searches. Try using the following free AI internet sites and seeing the results of your inquiries:

- ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>) - Chatbot from OpenAI that can have natural conversations and generate human-like text on various topics.
- DALL-E 2 (<https://labs.openai.com/>) - AI image generator from OpenAI that creates images from text descriptions.
- Hugging Face Spaces (<https://huggingface.co/spaces>) - Platform to build, train, and deploy machine learning models, mainly focused on natural language processing.
- Perplexity (<https://www.perplexity.ai/>) The answer to any question.
- Anthropic Claude (<https://claude.ai/chat/>) - Conversational AI assistant trained to be helpful, harmless, and honest.
- Gemini (<https://gemini.google.com/>) is a conversational AI chatbot from Google. It is meant to function similarly to ChatGPT, with the biggest difference being that Google's service pulls its information from the web.
- Co-Pilot from Microsoft. An AI-powered digital assistant that aims to provide personalized assistance to users for a range of tasks and activities. Copilot is integrated with Microsoft Edge.
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/edge/>
- Leonardo (<https://leonardo.ai>) is a generative AI platform that empowers users to effortlessly generate captivating images and artwork.
- NightCafe (<https://creator.nightcafe.studio/>). Create unique artworks in seconds using the power of Artificial Intelligence.

Since AI is going to affect almost every area of life on this planet, how is AI going to affect you, and how are you going to handle it? The STUG organization has some experienced AI users who will help guide STUG in helping our members understand and use AI. No matter what your life interest is, AI will affect it. You can start by asking Google or an AI website something like "How will AI affect art?" or "How will AI help with my investments?" or "How do I use AI to create a photo?" Yes, AI

already affects all areas of your life, even if you do not realize it. You can watch many videos to learn more about all aspects of AI.

Creative AI can write stories, create works of art, and amaze us. Humans may review what AI has created, "touch it up," or add pieces later. As an example, AI is already affecting those who make their living writing by doing most of the work.

AI technology impacts many industries, transforming how they operate and interact with customers and employees. Here are some sectors that are being heavily affected by AI:

Marketing: AI can predict what customers might want to buy. It helps companies show customers suitable ads.

Retail: AI helps keep track of inventory and can recommend products that each customer might like. Some stores even have robot helpers that can answer customer questions.

Insurance: AI can quickly process claims and detect fraud to help the company run smoothly.

Banking/Finance: Banks use AI chatbots and virtual assistants to make banking more accessible for customers. AI also watches for fake charges on your account.

Education: AI tutors can adapt to each student and help them learn at their own pace. It can grade papers and free up time for teachers.

Healthcare: AI is making significant advancements in healthcare, from diagnosing diseases and analyzing medical images to drug discovery and personalized medicine. It has the potential to improve patient outcomes and streamline healthcare processes.

Manufacturing: AI is integrated into manufacturing processes to optimize production, improve quality control, and enable predictive maintenance. It is revolutionizing the way products are designed, produced, and delivered.

These are just a few examples of industries that AI is heavily impacting. However, it's important to note that AI is a rapidly evolving field, and its impact is not limited to these industries alone. AI can potentially disrupt and transform other sectors, such as transportation, agriculture, energy, etc.

There are also downsides to AI. Many jobs will be affected, and people must adapt to different situations. For example, when steam trains went to diesel, firemen were no longer needed—and now there are no train cabooses either!

Perhaps a good AI concept summary example could be in the area of law. An AI "lawyer" would have all the knowledge of previous similar court cases and create a perfect prosecution or defensive argument. The judge and jury would have to make the decision. But what if AI makes the decision itself? Would that not be better than any human judge?

Can you imagine more of what AI will do? It staggers my human intelligence!



[Go to Page 1](#)



YouTube as a Knowledge Resource

By Tom Burt, Vice-President

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

<https://www.scscclb.com> tomburt89134 (at) cox.net

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

Example 1 – Adjust the Brakes on a Walker

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

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

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

After that upgrade, this laptop became so slow it was almost unusable for about 15 minutes after booting, even with software tuning to minimize Microsoft's "instrumentation." After booting, Windows 10 launches a variety of scans of the hard drive, all running simultaneously, that fight each other and overwhelm the system. While this happened, it often took Windows over a minute to respond to a mouse click.

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

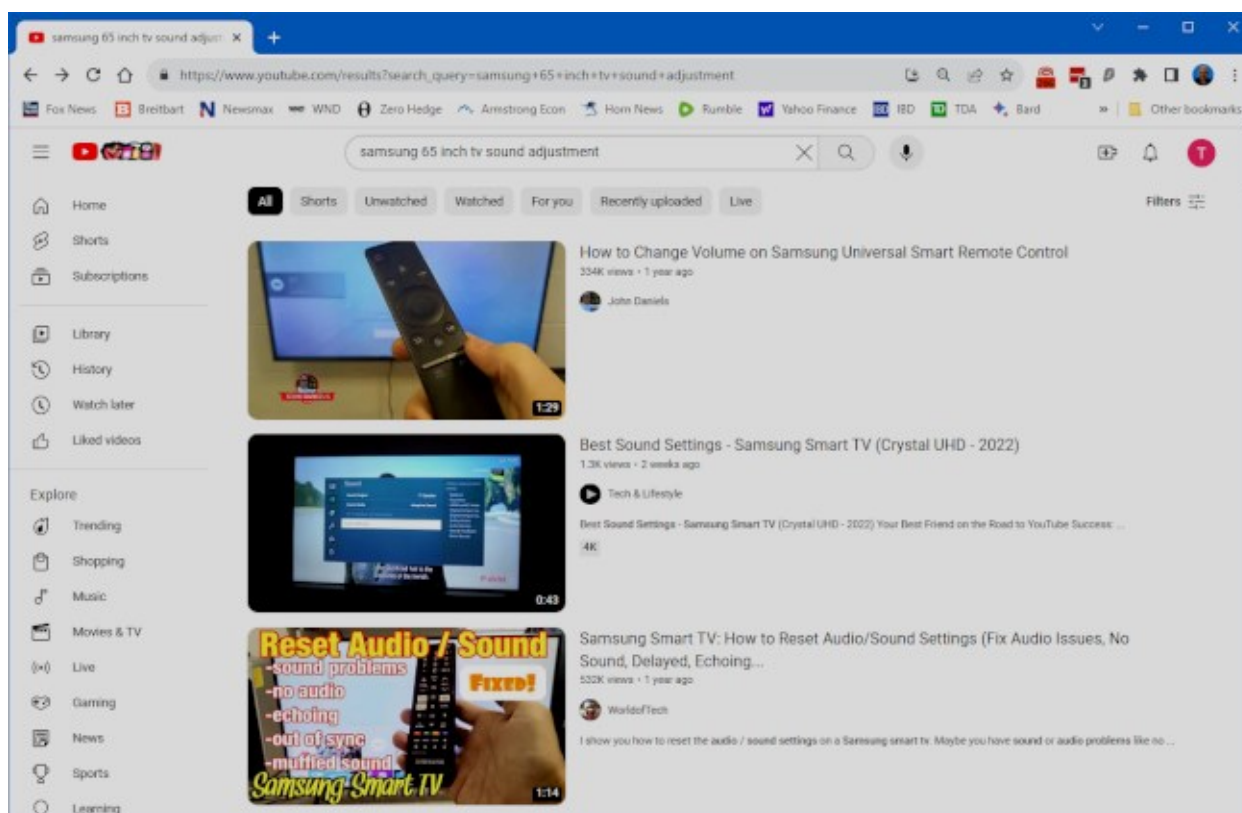
I decided to look into what it would take to upgrade to a solid-state drive on my HP laptop. I browsed YouTube and entered the search phrase: "**replace hard drive on hp pavilion 17z laptop**". YouTube offered me a selection of similar searches, one of which I picked. I got an excellent selection of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

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

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

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

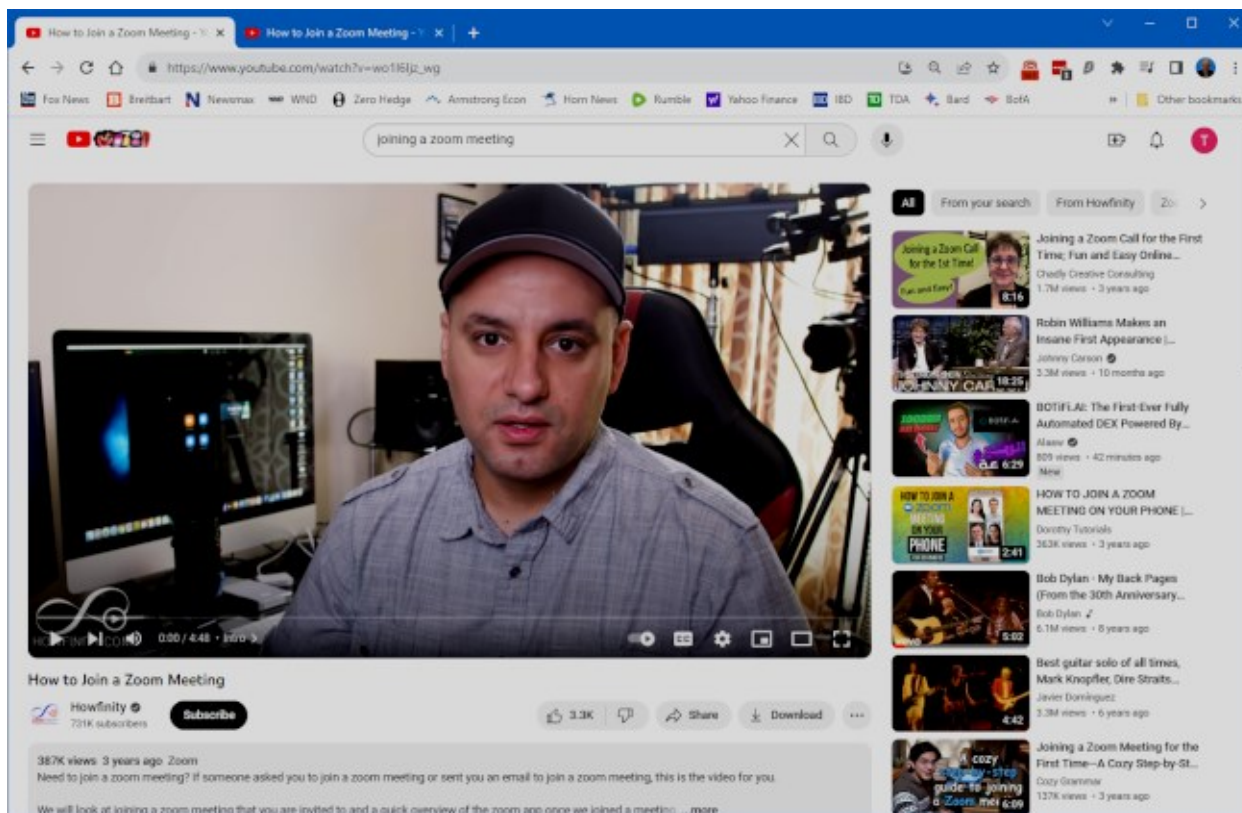
I decided to see what YouTube could tell me. I browsed to YouTube and entered the search phrase: “**samsung 65 inch tv sound adjustment**”. I got several useful hits, as shown below. The middle hit video showed an advanced setting for Adaptive Sound, which I needed.



Example 4 – Tutorial on Using Zoom

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

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



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

Closing Thoughts

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



[Go to Page 1](#)

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

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

<https://ecotu.club/>

newsletter (at) ecotu.club

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

Example 1 – Adjust the Brakes on a Walker

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

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

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

After that upgrade, this laptop became so slow it was almost unusable for about 15 minutes after booting, even with software tuning to minimize Microsoft's "instrumentation." After booting, Windows 10 launches a variety of scans of the hard drive, all running simultaneously, that fight each other and overwhelm the system. While this happened, it often took Windows over a minute to respond to a mouse click.

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

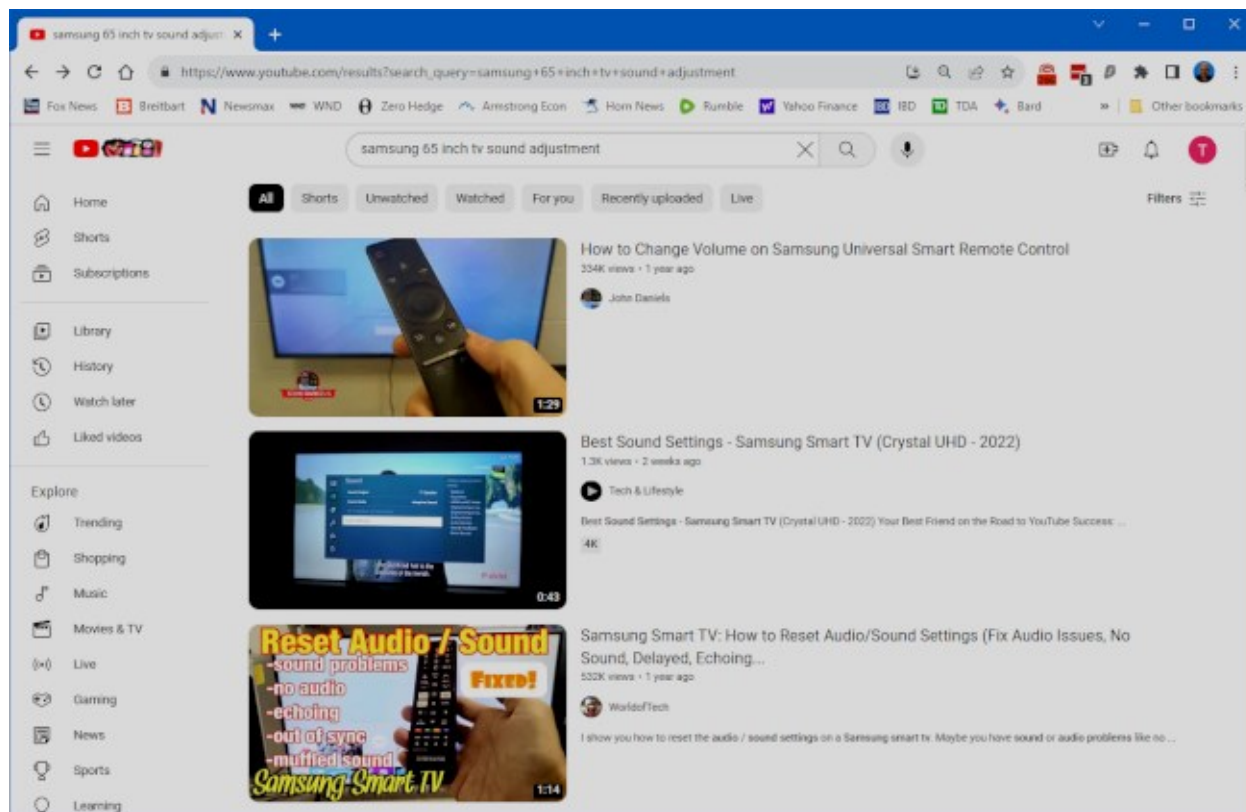
I decided to look into what it would take to upgrade to a solid-state drive on my HP laptop. I browsed YouTube and entered the search phrase: **"replace hard drive on hp pavilion 17z laptop"**. YouTube offered me a selection of similar searches, one of which I picked. I got an excellent selection of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

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

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

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

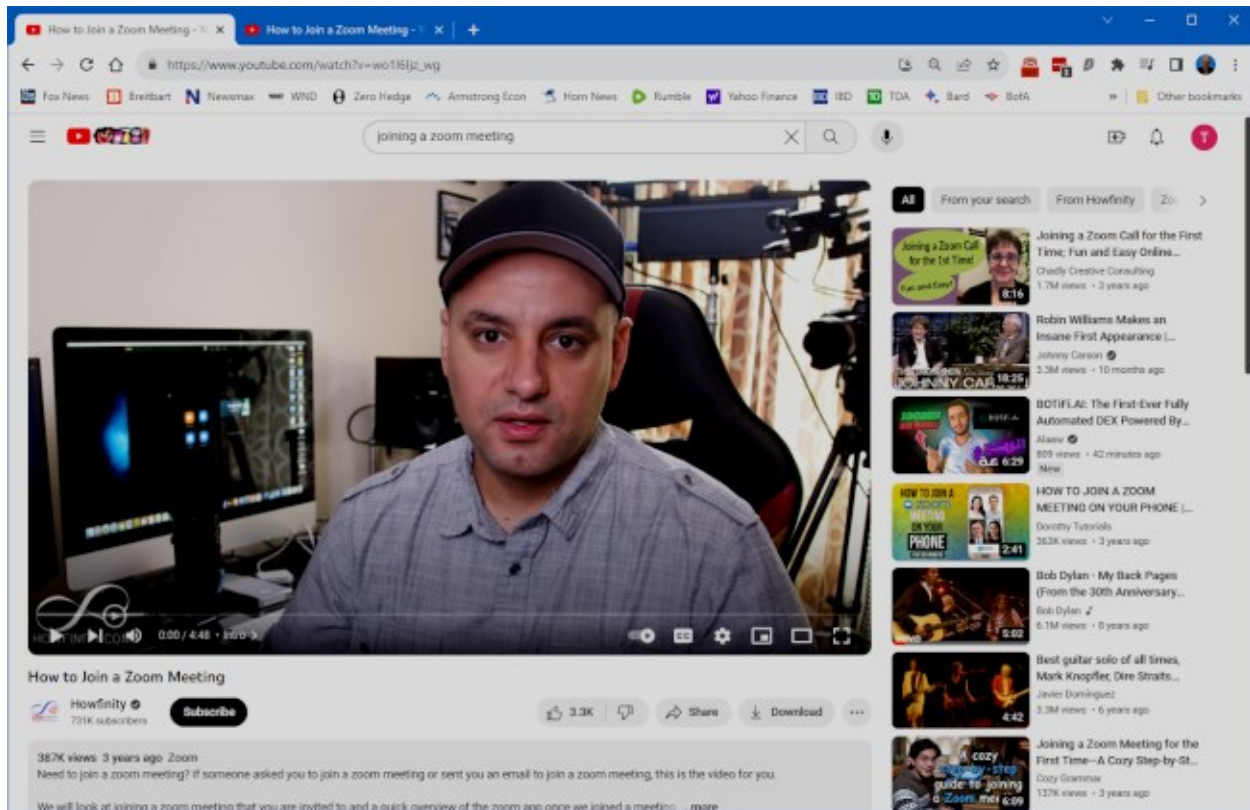
I decided to see what YouTube could tell me. I browsed to YouTube and entered the search phrase: **“samsung 65 inch tv sound adjustment”**. I got several useful hits, as shown below. The middle hit video showed an advanced setting for Adaptive Sound, which I needed.



Example 4 – Tutorial on Using Zoom

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

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



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

Closing Thoughts

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



[Go to Page 1](#)

Where to Get E-Books

By Tom Burt, Vice President

Sun City Summerlin Computer Club

<https://www.scscclb.com>

tomburt89134 (at) cox.net

As we approach summer, a perennial challenge is to find new, interesting, fun books to read. Lately, e-books have been a popular choice. With the maturing of the electronic book (e-book) format and industry, it should be more accessible than ever to find the right title, purchase it, download it to your book reader, smartphone, or tablet, and read it. In practice, things aren't quite that simple, so you may want to read on.

This article is based on a seminar I gave in December 2020 titled "E-Books and E-Readers."

My seminar slides are at:

https://www.scscclb.com/smnr/E-Books_and_E-Readers_Seminar.pdf

E-book formats

There are two main e-book formats: Amazon Kindle and E-Pub. There are hardware and software readers for each. Both formats support digital rights management (copy protection) so that the purchaser of a book can't share it with more than a few others. Amazon mainly uses the Kindle format. E-Pub is used by Barnes & Noble and Kobo and for many self-published books. Adobe PDF and HTML are also often used for e-books. Apple's iBook format is a variation of E-Pub.

When buying an e-book, it's essential to know its format so you can be sure your reader device or program can retrieve and display the book. A common problem for Amazon's Kindle or Fire tablet owners is that they do not support the E-Pub format; you need to convert the EPUB file to Amazon's proprietary format, AZW, using a conversion tool like Calibre.

E-Book Websites

Here's a list of e-book websites with links to each:

Amazon Kindle Store www.amazon.com

Barnes & Noble <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Google Play Store Books <https://play.google.com/store/books>

Kobo www.kobo.com

Las Vegas / Clark County Library (via OverDrive) <http://lvccld.org>

Apple Books <https://www.apple.com/apple-books/>

Open Library <https://openlibrary.org/>

Project Gutenberg (60,000 free e-books) <https://www.gutenberg.org/>

Let's look at a few of them in more depth.

Amazon Kindle

The Amazon bookstore is vast. You can buy books in hardcover, paperback, audio, and e-book format. As with all Amazon shopping, the search is very smart, and you can set filters to narrow

choices. You can click on items in the search results to view details and add them to your shopping cart.

E-books are delivered (downloaded) to the reading device you specify if buying for yourself. You can also specify that you are buying for someone else and enter the giftee's information so they can receive the book.

You need an Amazon Kindle or Fire Reader tablet or Amazon's free Kindle Reader app to read Kindle books. There are Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, and iOS versions.

If you subscribe to Amazon Prime, you can access an extensive collection of e-books at no charge via the Prime Reading service. You can access up to ten e-books for as long as you wish. When you want another, return or buy one of the ten you have.

The **Amazon Fire HD 8** tablet with 64 GB of storage currently costs \$129.99.

Barnes and Noble

Barnes and Noble sells books in "Nook book" (E-Pub) format, paperback, and hardcover. B&N also sells a family of Nook reader tablets and has a free reader app. You can set up an account on B&N and enjoy special pricing, free e-books, and other perks.

The Nook book reader is a 10.1-inch Lenovo Tab M10 HD Tablet, Android 9.0, with 32GB Storage. It has full access to the Google Play Store apps. This would include the free Amazon Kindle Reader app for Android. So, a Nook reader tablet could double as a Kindle Reader, allowing you to shop for books in either Nook or Kindle format.

Project Gutenberg

Project Gutenberg was founded by Michael Hart, who invented e-books in 1971. Its website claims to have 60,000 titles in its library. All these titles are completely free. Most are "classics" that are out of copyright. For example, I searched for Albert Einstein and found an English translation of his Special and General Relativity expositions.

I tried downloading a copy of Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" in Kindle format and was able to read it using the free Calibre book reader app on my PC. The Amazon Kindle Reader app wasn't able to open the book. I'll try to find out why and see if I can copy the e-book to my Amazon Fire tablet and read it there.

Hopefully, that will help you learn more about e-books and how to get them. I love them because of their convenience and ease of reading. And they take up zero space in the house.



[Go to Page 1](#)

Meetings start at 7:00 PM (9:00 AM on Saturday) unless otherwise noted. *Virtual Meetings during Covid pandemic.

March

April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Linux on Saturday SIG 9am—Noon
9	10	11 7pm General Mtg TBA 6pm Tech Topics	12	13	14	15 MS Office SIG (includes Access) 9am—Noon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 7pm General Mtg TBA 6pm Tech Topics	9	10	11	12 Linux on Saturday SIG 9am—Noon
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 MS Office SIG (includes Access) 9am—Noon
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
						<u>Go to Page 1</u>



You have just read an issue of The Digital Viking.

Would you like to receive this delivered directly to your email or business each month?

As a member of TC/PC, the Twin Cities Personal Computer Group, one of the benefits is reading this monthly publication at www.tcpc.com.

As a member of TC/PC, you may attend any or all of the monthly Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and be eligible for software drawings. The small membership fee also includes access to real-live people with answers via our helplines, discounts, and various other perks.

Does membership in this group sound like a good way to increase your computer knowledge?

It's easy to do! Simply fill in the form below and mail it to the address shown.
(If you use the form in this issue, you will receive an extra month for joining now.)



3/25

Here's the info for my TC/PC Membership:

Full name _____

Company name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Home ☐ Business ☐ Change address: ☐ Perm. ☐ Temp. 'til _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Online address(es) _____

Where did you hear about TC/PC? _____

☐ I DO NOT want any of my information disclosed.

☐ I DO NOT want to receive any mailings

I'm signing up for:

☐ Individual/Family Membership (\$9)

☐ Business Membership (\$100)

If an existing member your # _____

Make checks payable to:

**Twin Cities PC User Group
341 County Rd C2 W
Roseville, MN 55113**

Or sign up on our website:

<http://www.tcpc.com>

☐ Check # _____ ☐ Bill me

☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Prior member

I'm interested in:

☐ Training classes ☐ Volunteering

☐ Special Interest Groups: New User, Access, etc.

List here:

Administrative Use Only Rec'd _____ Chk# _____

**March 11, 2025
7:00 pm
General Meeting**

Senior Fraud Prevention

**Presenter: Tara Hardin, Deputy,
Oklahoma Sheriff's Office**

Via Zoom Only



**341 County Rd C2 W
Roseville, MN 55113**

FIRST CLASS MAIL