
The Memory Map

Canton Alliance Massillon Computer Users Group



Volume 44, Issue 5

May 2024

Next CAMUG Meeting, May 20, 2024 Both Zoom and In Person!

- Join us in person at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7707 Market Ave. in North Canton, Ohio.
- OR use the Zoom link that Dennis will email.

Program

6:15 PM: Chit Chat

6:30 PM: "Ninite" and "Belarc Advisor" by Dennis Smith

7:05 PM: Round Table Discussion

8 Signs You Need a New Laptop

howtogeek.com/signs-you-need-a-new-laptop

May 8, 2024 By Shan Abdul

Time for a new laptop!



Lucas Gouveia / Hannah Stryker / How-to Geek | Getman / Shutterstock

Quick Links

- Your Device No Longer Serves the Intended Purpose
- Your Laptop Doesn't Support Software Updates
- Your Laptop Remains Overheated
- You See Graphics Glitches and Hear Loud Fan Noises
- Long Boot-Up and Shutdown Times
- Costly Repairs or Replacement
- Can't Upgrade Because of Bottlenecks
- Future-Proofing

Key Takeaways

- If your device no longer serves its intended purpose or cannot support newly released software upgrades, it's time to consider getting a new one.
- When repair costs are high, or there's a risk of bottlenecks when upgrading any component, investing in a new laptop to future-proof your needs would be a wise decision.

When you first unbox your laptop, it operates at peak performance, with longer battery life, minimal overheating, and efficient resource usage. However, as your laptop ages, it stops serving the intended purpose. Here are a few signs suggesting that it may be time to look for and invest in a new device.

Your Device No Longer Serves the Intended Purpose

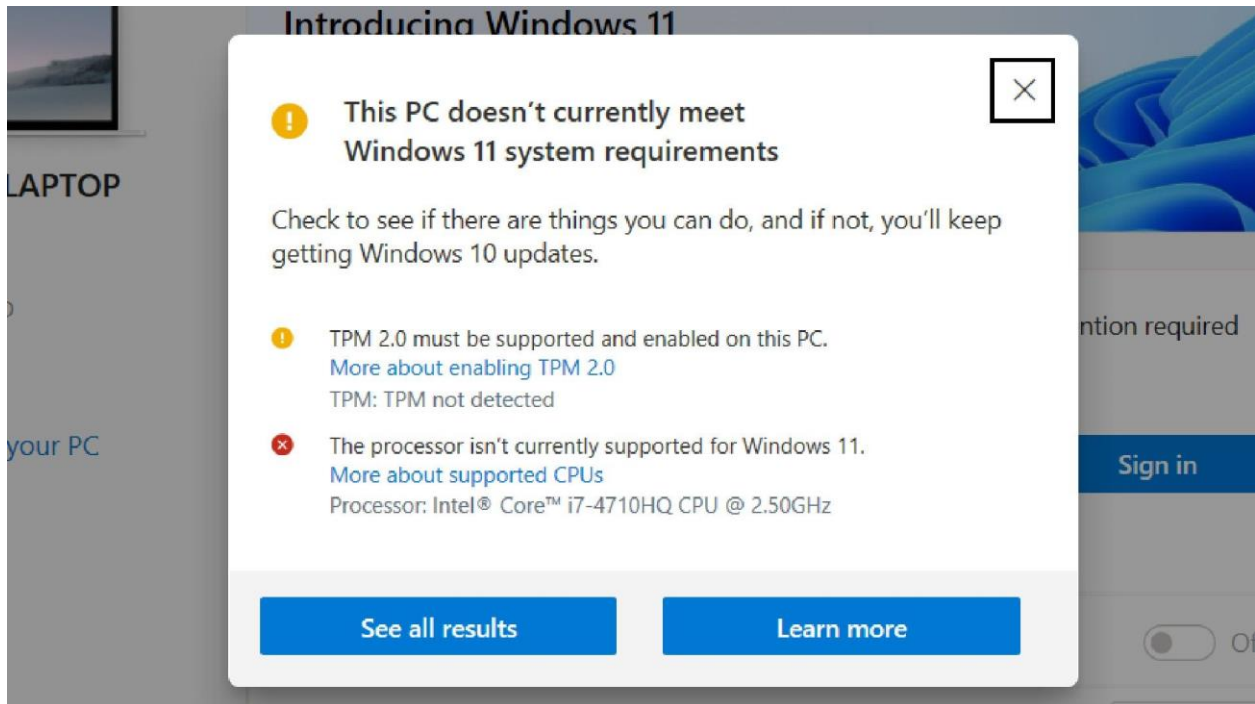
If your laptop no longer fulfills its intended purpose, it's a clear sign that it's time to start searching for a new one. This could be evident if tasks that were once handled smoothly now lead to overheating and sluggish performance. If the laptop's size becomes a problem when transitioning from a work-from-home gig to an office job, it may be time to upgrade.

Likewise, any other factor that hinders your laptop's ability to serve the intended use indicates the need for a new device better suited to your requirements.

Your Laptop Doesn't Support Software Updates

Most laptops support new software upgrades for a few years until the system requirements for the upgrades outpace the hardware.

For instance, to install Windows 11, your laptop must have Secure Boot capability and be equipped with the Trusted Platform Module (TPM), among other requirements. Even with workarounds available to install Windows 11 on an unsupported PC, you're likely to encounter bugs and issues when running Windows 11 on such a system.



Microsoft

Similarly, Macs from 2016 and older cannot run the latest macOS 14 Sonoma. To run it, you need a MacBook Air, MacBook Pro, or Mac Mini from 2018 or newer. If your laptop no longer supports a new software upgrade release, and you don't want to miss out on the latest features and enhanced security that the upgrade offers, consider getting a new laptop.

Your Laptop Remains Overheated

Over time, software updates tend to put more strain on your laptop. Newer versions of software often require more processing power and memory, which can strain older hardware. This strain can lead to overheating, especially if the laptop's cooling system (the fans and heat sinks) weren't designed to continuously cool the system while it was under maximum load.

Overheating can also be caused by things such as dust accumulation, which hinders airflow and acts like insulation. Regularly cleaning vents and taking other recommended measures can mitigate this issue. However, if overheating persists,

especially when running certain software, it might indicate that the hardware is unable to handle the demands of the software.



Kobzev Dmitry/Shutterstock.com

Upgrading components like the RAM and storage can be a temporary solution, but if the system is aging and struggling to meet today's demands, replacing it may be more practical in the long run.

You See Graphics Glitches and Hear Loud Fan Noises

Visual anomalies such as flickering, odd colors, distortion, strange GPU noises, frequent crashes, and other warning signs suggest that the GPU might be struggling to render graphics properly. These issues become more noticeable as the GPU ages or experiences a hardware fault.

When you see these signs, you should first ensure that the exhaust vents are clear, the GPU fans are spinning properly, and rule out other potential GPU-related issues. If no obvious cause is found, check the GPU's compatibility with other system components, such as the motherboard, RAM, and other components. Rarely, driver updates can introduce new problems.

If other components are impeding the GPU's performance and fixing the graphics issues would require replacing multiple parts, it is usually more practical to invest in a new device.

Similarly, if your laptop doesn't have a dedicated GPU, but you need to run graphics-intensive software that requires the additional power, your only option may be to purchase a laptop equipped with a powerful GPU.

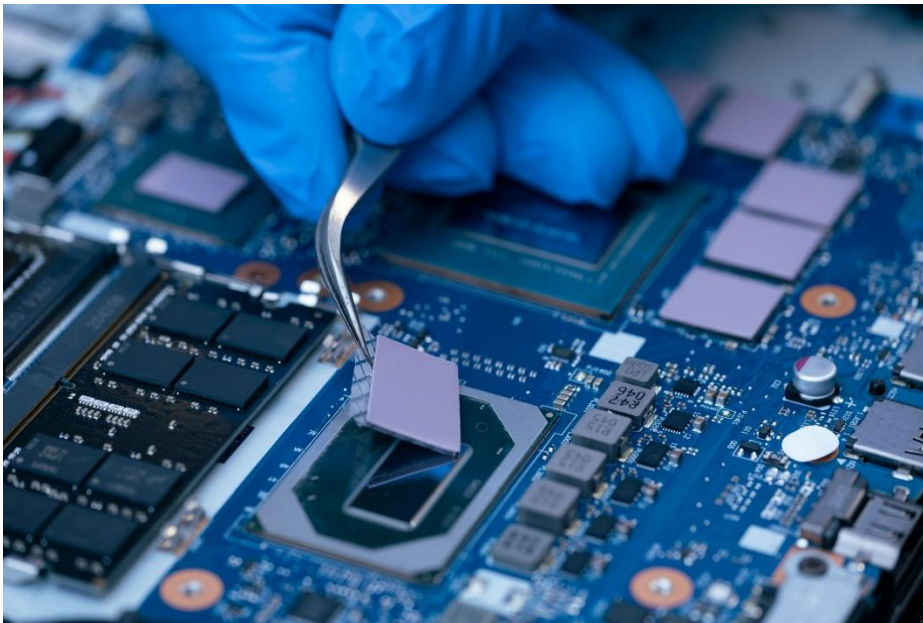
Long Boot-Up and Shutdown Times

If your computer takes forever to start up or shut down, there are some things you can try to speed it up. If those steps don't work, you may have to replace the storage drive. However, if you have an outdated or underpowered CPU that can't handle startup tasks quickly, simply swapping out the drive won't solve the problem.

For instance, if your laptop's motherboard only supports older interface standards like SATA II or SATA III, upgrading to a faster SSD won't significantly improve boot times. RAM can also be a problem. If your RAM is too slow, or there isn't enough, it can significantly slow down your startup time.

If other components are likely to cause bottlenecks, and you anticipate slow boot times even after upgrading the storage drive, it may be wise to invest in a new device.

Costly Repairs or Replacement



9Robot/Shutterstock.com

Some PC hardware components, like a laptop battery, can be replaced or repaired at a relatively low cost. In contrast, others, such as motherboards or display screens, may need a more hefty investment.

If you've spilled liquid on your laptop, cracked the screen, or encountered any other costly hardware issues, you should carefully assess whether repairing your current laptop is worth the investment compared to buying a new one.

If the repair costs are high and your laptop is showing signs of age, it's wise to invest in a new device.

Can't Upgrade Because of Bottlenecks

A bottleneck occurs when one system component restricts another component from operating at its maximum capacity. For instance, a low-end processor or insufficient RAM can bottleneck the performance of a high-end GPU. Thus, despite investing in a high-performance GPU, you may experience lower-than-expected performance due to these limitations.

Likewise, upgrading some components is either impossible or relatively more difficult and expensive in a laptop compared to a desktop computer. If you anticipate potential bottlenecks or encounter hardware limitations when upgrading a specific component, consider investing in a new laptop with the desired specifications instead.

Future-Proofing

While having the budget to invest in a new laptop isn't a major deciding factor, it's a wise choice to upgrade and future-proof your needs when you have the means. If you're embarking on a new career path and may need a device with specific specifications, in that case, it's worth investing in a new laptop for your upcoming journey.

Just make sure to research and purchase a device that can fulfill your computing needs for years to come.

While we've covered most of the signs indicating that it might be time to invest in a new laptop, ultimately, the choice is yours to make. If your current device serves you well, the issues it's experiencing don't impact your workflow, or if you're on a tight budget, you can choose to postpone upgrading and go for a replacement in the future.



CAMUG April 2024 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in person at Holy Cross Lutheran Church; it was also held on Zoom using a Zoom account provided by APCUG. President Dennis Smith was host and presided over the 487th meeting of CAMUG on April 15, 2024, starting at 6:15 PM with general chit-chat.

Computer 101:

At about 6:30 PM Dennis Smith showed two videos by Hewie Poplock. They are available on youtube.com.

- [Better Battery Management on a Phone](#)
 - Identify which apps are draining the battery.
 - Minimize Background App Refresh.
 - Reduce screen brightness.
 - Shorten screen timeout.
 - Turn off location services and/or Bluetooth if not needed.
- [Handling Fake Facebook Friend Requests](#) – for when you get a friend request for a friend who's already a friend.
 - There are several reasons this may happen. Some are legitimate but many are due to the account being hacked or cloned.
 - If you get a repeat friend request from someone who is already on your friend list, check with the friend.
 - There are several reasons to be suspicious of requests including looking fake.
 - If you're sure it's a fake account, decline the request, block the account sending it, and/or delete the request.
 - You can also report fake accounts. Hewie gave the steps.

A five-minute break was called to allow members to grab snacks and buy 50/50 raffle tickets.

Main Meeting:



After a short break, the main meeting started about 7:15 PM. There were 12 members present including two on Zoom. Since this is more than 15% of the membership, the meeting was declared valid. There were no visitors.

Linda Middleton won the On-Time Drawing, was wearing her badge, and was awarded the prize.

Dennis mentioned that there is a renewal credit of \$5 for each new member brought in.

Program:

Dennis Smith presented *The Whys and Hows of Disk Partitioning*.

- Why you might want to partition a disk drive:
 - Better data organization
 - Easier backup
 - Data protection
 - Multiple file systems
 - Dual booting
 - HDD efficiency
- Why you might NOT want to partition a disk drive:
 - False sense of security
 - More complex
 - Storage overload
- How to partition a disk drive:
 - Before Windows 8
 - You had to use a third-party utility, such as *Partition Magic*
 - These utilities were not free, and not officially supported by Microsoft
 - Windows 8 and newer
 - Windows now includes DISKPART. Dennis showed examples using DISKPART.
 - Also, the Control Panel has Disk Management. Dennis showed how to use Disk Management.

50-50 Drawing

Since more than \$20 was collected, there were two prizes. Alice Lungociu won the first prize, chose the money, and donated it to the club. Linda Middleton won the second prize and chose some bungee cords.

Discussion:

Dennis Smith demonstrated looking at the 1950 Census on Ancestor.com by looking up the records of a couple of our members. Both the 1940 and 1950 censuses are available on Ancestor.com for anyone.

The group discussed the eclipse that happened last Monday. It was a total eclipse for most members and several showed photos they had taken.

Adjourn:

Tim Elder moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Jim Albright seconded the motion, The meeting was adjourned at 8:58.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Milford, Secretary

CAMUG Board Meeting 4/22/2024

President Dennis Smith called the CAMUG Board meeting to order about 7:04 PM on Monday, April 22, 2024, via Zoom. All seven members were present; therefore, the meeting was declared valid.

President	Present	Dennis Smith	president@camug.com
Secretary	Present	Liz Milford	secretary@camug.com
Treasurer	Present	Tim Elder	treasurer@camug.com
Senior Director	Present	Alice Lungociu	directors@camug.com
Director	Present	Bruce Klipec	
Director	Present	Jan Bredon	
Director at Large	Present	Eric Gunn	
Web Page	Present	Dennis Smith	webmaster@camug.com
Membership		Carol Joliat	membership@camug.com
Newsletter		Liz Milford	newsletter@camug.com
Computer 101		Carol Joliat	newsletter@camug.com
Ways and Means	Present	Jan Bredon	
Others Present			

Approval of Minutes:

April Regular Meeting: The April Regular meeting minutes had been emailed to the Board by Liz Milford. Jan Bredon moved to accept the April 15, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. Tim Elder seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

March Board Meeting: The March Board meeting minutes were printed in the April 2024 newsletter. Jan Bredon moved to accept the March 25, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes as corrected. The heading for the Board minutes in the newsletter had the wrong date although the minutes themselves were correct. Eric Gunn seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Treasurer’s Report: The April Treasurer’s report had been emailed to the Board by Tim Elder. Alice Lungociu moved to accept the April 2024 Treasurer’s report. Liz Milford seconded the motion, and the report was approved.

Membership Report: Carol Joliat was not present and there was no membership report.

May meeting topic:

May 20th meeting will be held in-person and on Zoom.

6:15 PM: Chit Chat

6:30 PM: “Ninite” and “Belarc Advisor” by Dennis Smith

7:05 PM: Round Table Discussion

Old Business:

Audit: Alice is in the process of auditing the books. She will have the report at the May Regular meeting.

By-Laws Review: Dennis has comments from Mike Charney and Tim Elder and will add his own comments. The Board will review this and then present it to the membership for a vote.

New Business:

The club has a Software and Review Committee, but we no longer receive items from vendors so we don't need the committee anymore. Liz Milford moved to remove the committee and Jan Bredon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn:

At 8:26 PM Jan Bredon moved to adjourn. Eric Gunn seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted pending Board approval,
Liz Milford

How Does Google Voice Work

Written by CoPilot

Google Voice is a **voice over Internet protocol (VoIP)** phone service that was founded in **2009**. Here's how it works and why you might consider using it:



1. Functionality:

- **Calls**: Google Voice allows you to make and receive phone calls.
- **Text Messages**: You can also send and receive text messages.
- **Call Forwarding**: Easily forward calls from one number to another, managing all communication from your phone.
- **VoIP Service**: Since Google Voice operates over the Internet, it works wherever you have an internet connection.
- **Device Agnostic**: Use it on any device with a microphone and speaker—laptop, smartphone, or tablet.

2. Affordability:

- **Free Service**: Signing up for Google Voice is free.
- **Domestic Calls and Texts**: Communicating between your Google Voice number and other U.S. numbers is entirely free.

-
- **International Calls:** For overseas calls, you'll need to add credits to your account, but fees are minimal (just a few cents per minute).
3. **Setting Up Google Voice:**
- **Broadband Connection:** Google Voice works over a broadband connection, whether at home or the office.
 - **Porting Your Number:** When signing up, you can use your existing phone number (port it to Google Voice) or get a new one.

Think of Google Voice as a portable phone that you can use across devices, making communication flexible and cost-effective!   [12345](#)

About CAMUG

Our club is open to anyone with an interest in computers and technology. A household membership is only \$20 per year, and a visitor can attend two meetings free without any obligation.

Normally, monthly meetings are held the third Monday of the month at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7707 Market Ave. in North Canton, Ohio, and also on Zoom. Computer 101 begins at 6:30 PM and the regular meeting begins at 7:05 PM. At every meeting, we cover topics ranging from cell phones to computers and from software to the internet and networking. Board meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM using Zoom. Members are encouraged to attend the Board meeting although only Board members can vote. Members can email Dennis Smith (denniss@camug.com) to get the Zoom link to the Board meeting.

The club mailing address is CAMUG, PO Box 80192, Canton, OH 44708. The web site is at <http://www.camug.com>. CAMUG has a Facebook page called CAMUG Users Group at <https://www.facebook.com/CAMUG-Users-Group-100732168306718>. CAMUG also has a blog at <https://camugoh.blogspot.com>.

"The Memory Map" is a non-copyrighted newsletter. Permission is given to reprint the original articles as long as full credit is given to the author and source. The publication of information in this newsletter constitutes no guarantee of accuracy, and its use by readers is discretionary. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CAMUG.



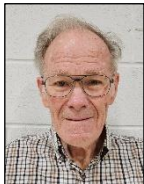
CAMUG is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups. APCUG is a worldwide organization that helps groups devoted to the world of technology by facilitating communications between member groups and industry. It offers the Saturday Safaris and Wednesday Workshops, provides newsletter articles, and has a list of speakers for club programs. Explore the APCUG website at <https://www.apcug2.org>, and the APCUG Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/APCUG>.



Membership

By Carol Joliat
March 2024

Total Family Memberships: 24



CAMUG Monthly Summary

Tim W. Elder, Treasurer 4/15/24

	Cash	Checking	Total
Start Balances	\$60.00	\$498.57	\$558.57
Total Income	\$22.00	\$20.00	\$42.00
Total Expenses	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
Transfer	-\$17.00	\$17.00	\$0.00
End Balances	\$60.00	\$5.10.57	\$570.57

CAMUG Officers

President: Dennis Smith 330-477-5893
 Secretary: Liz Milford 330-620-5178
 Treasurer: Tim Elder 330-875-2323
 Senior. Director: Alice Lungociu
 Director: Bruce Klipec
 Director: Jan Bredon: 234-564-0045
 Director at Large: Eric Gunn: 330-495-4990
 Membership: Carol Joliat
 Asst. Membership: Alice Lungociu
 Web Page:
 Newsletter: Liz Milford 330-620-5178
 Tim Elder 330-875-2323
 Computer 101: Carol Joliat
 Ways and Means: Jan Bredon

List of Members

Name	E-Mail
Albright, Jim	jima
Bredon, Jan	janb
Brugger, Bruce	bruceb
Curtis, Mitch	mithc
Dorety, Janet	janetd
Doyle, Michael	michaeld
Elder, Tim	time
Girt, Jesse	jesseg
Gunn, Eric	ericg
Joliat, Carol	carolj
Klipec, Bruce	brucek
Kramer, Cecelia	ceceliak
Krantz, Cheryl	cherylk
Lungociu, Alice	alichel
McCoy, Myra	myram
Middleton, Linda	lindam
Milford, Elizabeth	elizabethm
Parker, Cherie	cheriep
Persons, Pauline	paulinep
Ponzani, Doris	dorisp
Schaefer, Gerald	geralds
Shockling, Dale	dales
Smith, Dennis	denniss
Watkins, Ross	rossw

To email members, use the email name above followed by @camug.com

Visit our Home Page:

<http://www.camug.com>

Our Facebook Page:

CAMUG Users Group

Our Blog:

<https://camugoh.blogspot.com>

**Need help
with your electronic gadgets?**



Canton Alliance Massillon Users Group
Computer Users Group

Assistance for users of all ages and skill levels

When: 3rd Monday each month

Where: Holy Cross Lutheran Church

7707 Market Ave. N

North Canton, OH

Currently, we are also meeting via Zoom

Email us for a Zoom invitation!

Time **6:15 PM:** Chit-Chat

6:30 PM: Computer 101

7:00 PM: Five-minute break

7:05 PM Meeting

Ongoing topics include:

Computers Tablets Digital Photography

Smart Phones eBooks Toys & Gadgets

info@camug.com

www.camug.com