
The Memory Map

Canton Alliance Massillon Computer Users Group



Volume 44, Issue 6

June 2024

Next CAMUG Meeting, June 17, 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: "A few tips for Google Photos" by Carol Joliat

7:05 PM: "Wi-Fi Basics" by Eric Gunn and Jan Bredon

askleo.com/why-ive-stopped-using-google-search/

Why I've Stopped Using Google Search ...and what I use instead.

by [Leo A. Notenboom](#)

5/8/24

Google search used to be the winner by far, but recent decreases in its trustworthiness and the improved offerings of other search engines make switching a pragmatic choice.



Is Google Sinking? (Image: DALL-E 3)

In the past, Google's search engine was the best. I would regularly try searches in some of its competitors, and I always came back. Google's results were more accurate and gave me what I needed more often than not.

In recent months, that's flipped. Google's results are disappointing at best and misleading at worst.

There's a word for it.

Google search on the decline

Google Search's declining quality and annoying ads have led to what many call its "enshitification." It's caused me to explore alternatives like Bing, DuckDuckGo, and Kagi, which offer better privacy, fewer ads, and in some cases, completely ad-free experiences.

"Enshitification"

Coined by technologist Cory Doctorow, the term *enshitification* has caught on because it clearly encapsulates a process we see happening with so many online services.

1. First, they are good to their users.
2. Then they abuse their users to make things better for their business customers.
3. Finally, they abuse those business customers to claw back all the value for themselves.
4. Then they die.

I'd say that [Google search](#) is somewhere between steps 2 and 3 right now. Google's search function has become an ad-delivery service that occasionally includes search results.

There's a case to be made that promoting ads over search results is downright nasty, especially when the ads themselves are sometimes explicitly malicious and/or misleading.

And it's unlikely to get better any time soon. Let's look at some alternatives.

Alternative #1: Bing

I want to like [Bing.com](#), I really do. I've been trying it periodically ever since it was released. The search results have certainly improved.

Unfortunately, Microsoft has pegged Bing at a solid step 2 in the enshitification process by ramming Bing down our throats in Windows. Their most common technique is to ignore default browser and search engine settings.

Hence, I don't use Bing. I guess it's a form of protest.

But, in a sense, I kinda sorta do.

Alternative #2: DuckDuckGo

Perhaps the most oddly named search engine, DuckDuckGo.com is a popular alternative that sells itself as a "privacy first" search engine. Unlike Google (and possibly Bing), your searches aren't kept or monetized.

DuckDuckGo gets its results from [a variety of sources](#), including Bing. It is funded by ads on some search results pages. However, the ads are based on the results of your search, not on you or your previous online behavior.

For increased privacy and integration, DuckDuckGo now also offers its own web browser, though it's not quite as feature-rich as some others.

I use DuckDuckGo as my default search engine of late. The results are better than Google's and are significantly less cluttered with potentially misleading ads.

Alternative #3: Kagi

This is a new alternative I've been trying for about a month. What makes Kagi unique is that it's a *paid* search engine.

Zero ads. None.

Like DuckDuckGo, Kagi uses [several sources](#) when you search for something. You might say it's an aggregating search engine.

So far, I've been quite pleased with both the results and the experience. This may become my primary search engine.

Additional sources

There are many other search engines. A few more that I've only briefly experimented with:

- AOL. Still around!
- [Brave](#). From the creators of the privacy-focused browser.
- [Perplexity.ai](#). AI-driven, of course.

-
- Yahoo.com. Also still around!

I'm sure there are more.

Do this

You don't have to stick with Google search. Given that its results are sub-par and its ads are distracting, sometimes misleading, and even malicious, there's no reason to stay.

Experiment with some of the alternatives I've listed and see if one works better to securely meet your needs.

More solutions, techniques, and ideas are available if you [subscribe to Confident Computing!](#) Less frustration and more confidence, solutions, answers, and tips in your inbox every week.

CAMUG May 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 488th meeting of CAMUG on May 20, 2024, starting at 6:15 PM with general chit-chat.

Computer 101:

At 6:30 PM Dennis Smith presented "Ninite and Belarc Advisor." Both programs are for Windows only and are free for home use.

- Ninite - <https://ninite.com>
 - Ninite will install shareware programs and keep them up-to-date, prevents the need for after-install reboots, and does not allow apps to install extra toolbars.
 - At the website, select from the many programs the ones you want to install or update.
 - Then download the Ninite installer.
 - Run the program allowing Ninite to make changes to the computer. Ninite will then download the chosen programs that are not on the computer and update those chosen programs that are already on the computer.
 - Dennis then demonstrated how to use Ninite.
- Belarc Advisor – <https://www.belarc.com>

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- At the website, choose “Try a free demo” and then enter your email plus your first and last names and click Submit Request. Belarc will then send you an email with a link to access Belarc.
 - Belarc will complete a “Computer Profile Summary” which includes information about the computer’s hardware, software installed, security information, and network information.
 - Dennis then demonstrated how to download the information and all the types of information available.

Main Meeting:



After a short break, the main meeting started about 7:22 PM. There were 11 members present including two on Zoom. This represented 10 family memberships. Since this is more than 15% of the membership, the meeting was declared valid. There were no visitors.

Bruce Klipec, who was attending via Zoom, won the On-Time Drawing, was wearing his badge, and was awarded the prize. He donated it to the club.

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

Program:

The program was a “Round Table Discussion.” Here are a few of the topics discussed:

- Jan wished he knew how to create a ringtone on an iPhone. Eric said it’s easy on Android.
- Jan explained that AT&T has been hacked and all customers’ info is out there. You are eligible for one year’s protection.
- The group named their internet providers: Spectrum, AT&T, Massillon Cable, and Straight Talk (Verizon).
- Liz wants to keep a landline, but stop using AT&T while keeping the same number. Several solutions were suggested, all using the internet, including Spectrum, Google Voice, and itpvoip.com. Liz will probably choose Spectrum.
- Can you still listen to police and fire radio? Most are encrypted.
- Bruce, who was attending via Zoom, showed a diagram with the most common 4-digit passwords.
- Jan said when he was shopping online, he filled his cart and then accessed chat and asked whether any discounts were available. He got a 10% discount.
- Tim asked how to turn a microfilm image to text. Copying to Notes will work.
- Gerry noted that WhatsApp is encrypted and thus very secure.
- There was a discussion of wills, avoiding probate, passing such information as passwords to family members, etc.

- Gerry wondered where to get an economical replacement car key fob. Quick Key and Hartville Hardware (downstairs) were mentioned.
- Jan demonstrated how the website SUNO.AI could create a song using information he provided.

50-50 Drawing

Since less than \$20 was collected, there was only one prize. Dennis won the prize and donated it to the club.

Adjourn:

Jan Bredon moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Gerald Schaffer seconded the motion, The meeting was adjourned at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted pending Board approval,
Liz Milford, Secretary

CAMUG Board Meeting 5/28/2024

President Dennis Smith called the CAMUG Board meeting to order shortly after 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, via Zoom. All seven members were present; therefore, the meeting was declared valid. Carol Joliat was also present.

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
Software and Book Review	Present	Jan Bredon	
Membership	Present	Carol Joliat	membership@camug.com
Newsletter	Present	Liz Milford	newsletter@camug.com
Computer 101	Present	Carol Joliat	
Ways and Means	Present	Jan Bredon	
Others Present			

Approval of Minutes:

May Regular Meeting: The May Regular meeting minutes had been emailed to the Board by Liz Milford. Tim Elder moved to accept the May 20, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. Eric Gunn seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

April Board Meeting: The April Board meeting minutes were printed in the May 2024 newsletter. Alice Lungociu moved to accept the April 22, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. Jan Bredon seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Reports:

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

Membership Report: Carol Joliat reported that we have 24 family memberships. Liz Milford and Cecelia Kramer have renewed.

June meeting topic:

June 17th meeting will be held in-person and on Zoom.

6:15 PM: Chit Chat

6:30 PM: "A few tips for Google Photos" by Carol Joliat

7:05 PM: "Wi-Fi Basics" by Eric Gunn and Jan Bredon

Old Business:

Audit: Alice Lungociu has completed the audit and has sent a letter to the Board reporting that the treasurer's figures and all bank statements are in agreement.

Motion to Adjourn:

At 8:12 PM Jan Bredon moved to adjourn. Liz Milford seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted pending Board approval,
Liz Milford

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>.

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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>.

Lines from Liz – Liz Milford

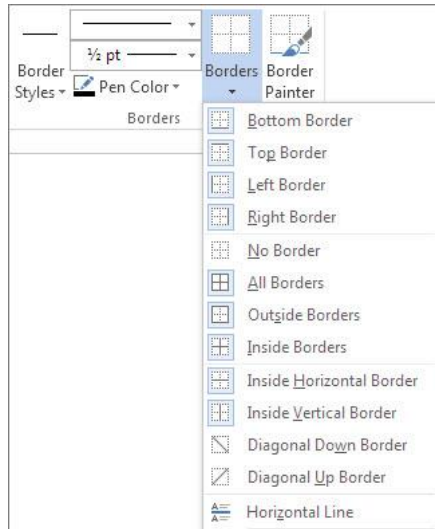
I'm writing this because I need to remember how to **Add a border to some text in Microsoft Word, text that is not in a text box**. I use it sometimes to add or remove a border around the "About CAMUG" article above. The following is copied from the link below:

[Add a border to some text - Microsoft Support](#)

1. Select a word, line, or paragraph.
2. Go to **Home > Borders**, and then open the menu of border choices.

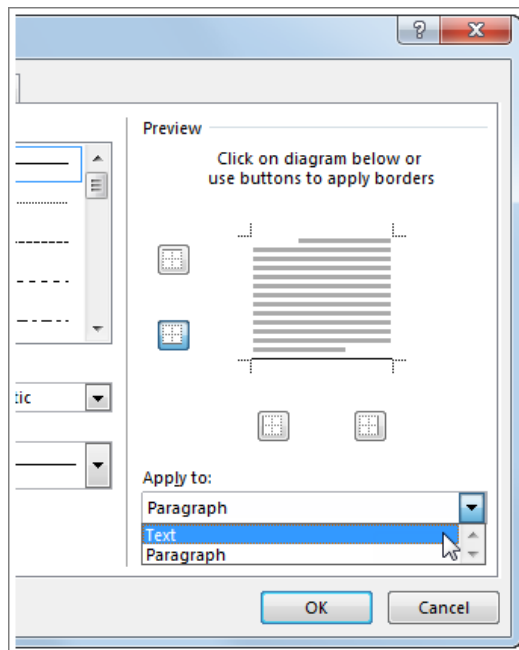


3. Choose the type of border you want:



Customize the border

1. After you've selected your text and found the basic type of border you'd like, open the **Borders** menu again, and choose **Borders and Shading**.
2. Make your choices for style, color, and width, and then apply the choice with the buttons in the **Preview** section of the dialog box. When the preview is the way you want it, click **OK**.



Note: Make sure that the **Apply to** box has the correct setting: **Text** or **Paragraph**.

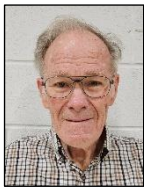


Membership

By Carol Joliat
March 2024

Renewals: Cecelia Kramer and Liz Milford

Total Family Memberships: 24



CAMUG Monthly Summary

Tim W. Elder, Treasurer 5/20`/24

	Cash	Checking	Total
Start Balances	\$60.00	\$510.57	\$570.57
Total Income	\$24.00	\$20.00	\$44.00
Total Expenses	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
Transfer	-\$19.00	\$19.00	\$0.00
End Balances	\$60.00	\$524.57	\$584.57

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	mitchc
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