



GRAND BYTES

Grand Computers Club Newsletter

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President's Column: ChatGPT - Whaaaatttt?



Barbara Vivian
President

Over the past few weeks, I've been seeing articles or broadcasts about the new "ChatGPT" everywhere. I'm NOT a "Techie" by a long stretch so I had to take some time to wrap my head around what this really is and more importantly, if I should care. - Is it Good? Bad? Neutral? Will it have an impact on the Club and what we offer to our members? Will it help me in my daily life?

So I thought maybe a ChatGPT for Dummies explanation might be useful to many of us. I know some of you already have a good grasp on this but here goes the kindergarten explanation that I needed:

Have you heard of Chatbots? - We've all experienced them when we've "chatted" online with a business. Oh - did you think a real live person was on the other end of your conversation? Likely not. It's actually a computer program that simulates a human and with your input and is able to narrow down what you're looking for and may (or may not) give you the answer you're looking for, OR have a "conversation" attempting to understand what you need. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is used to build these chatbots and they are "trained" with experience (data) to handle questions or comments from customers.

ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer) is a chatbot developed by the company, **OpenAI** and launched in November 2022. It is evolving into a very articulate store of knowledge and through human "training" has become quite capable of performing tasks including preparing reports, giving advice (maybe unsolicited), creating a news story, writing a poem, rendering artwork and much more.

Talking with ChatGPT is much different than traditional searching or "googling". Until now, an individual asking a question on Google is presented with a list of websites - it is up to the individual to analyze the information on

them and figure out the answer. Now, ChatGPT does that work for you - it scans through available information about what you're asking about, it does the analysis and synthesizes an answer.

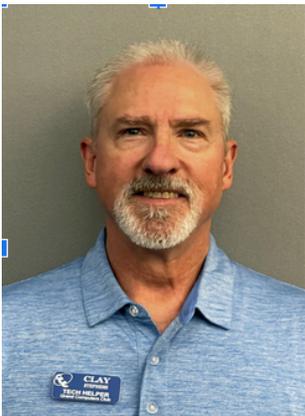
It's become so "smart" that students are able to use it to write a term paper and the usual methods used by teachers to detect this do not work. However, if YOU want a comprehensive report about a topic, it's there for you!

Microsoft and Google have invested BILLIONS in this technology so it is here to stay. Stay tuned as it is integrated into Microsoft Bing search engine and Edge Browser. There's a waiting list though....

This new development does have drawbacks and detractors but as any big tech advances, it will evolve. We'll stay tuned at the Computers Club and see how it can benefit us. In the meantime, be nice to those Chatbots - they seem to have feelings too!

Tech Help: Buying a new Personal Computer (PC)

Buying a new computer can be a daunting and frustrating experience. This article is intended to provide you with very general ideas and information which will help make this task easier and help ensure you get the right computer for your needs.



Clay Stephens
Tech Team Director

First off, we need to talk about "consume" and "create". When it comes to how you utilize your computer, in general, you are either a "consumer" or a "creator". If you primarily leverage your computer to do searches on the internet, read/send email, shop, read books, play solitaire or similar types of games then you can consider yourself a "consumer". If you leverage your computer for all or most of what a consumer would, and you often **use, edit, or create** any or all the following then you can consider yourself a "creator".

- Spreadsheets (like Microsoft Excel or similar)
- Documents (like Microsoft Word or similar)
- Presentations (like Microsoft PowerPoint or similar)
- Modifying or editing large picture files (same for music)
- High end gaming

In general: if you are a **consumer**, you will not need the power (chip set etc.) and capacity (storage, memory etc.) in your computer that a **creator** would need.

Basic Computer "types" which are of interest to most of us:

- Desktops - these are normally larger "boxes" that sit on the floor and have a separate monitor and keyboard. In general, there is no need for most of us to buy a desktop computer as a laptop or tablet works just as well and is portable.

- Laptops and Notebooks are basically the same thing - they are small portable personal computers. There are different sizes for laptops, and they have an array of power/storage options (see * and **), with some easy in person shopping you can find the one that is right for you. Good choice for some **consumers and most creators**.
- Tablets and Netbooks are basically the same thing - they are ultra-portable computers that are even smaller than traditional laptops. These are normally not as powerful as a laptop and are in general, a better option for most **consumers**.

*Personal Options.

1. Screen size: this depends on your comfort level and eyesight capability. In general, I would suggest you stay in the 12-inch to 17-inch screen size.
2. Brand: There are many very good brands of Laptops and Tablets on the market. Most of them are similar in capability and cost. I would focus on the RAM, Hard Disk, and Screen size you need.
3. Most of us don't need a "gaming laptop" so if you see a laptop described as a "gaming laptop" be aware it probably has more power (i.e. cost) than you really need.
4. Ensure the computer has: Wi-Fi, Camera/WebCam, and USB etc. ports
 - a. **In today's laptop and tablet market, it often is necessary to purchase a USB Type-C Hub or a "port replicator" to ensure you have the ports you need.**

**Power and Capacity Suggestions:

Random Access Memory (RAM):

Suggested for a **Consumer**: 4 GB or 8 GB

Suggested for a **Creator**: 16 GB

Probably more than you need: 32 GB (extra cost)

Note: if you see acronyms like DDR4, LPDDR4X or similar...don't be confused just focus on the size.

Hard Disk (now often called a Solid-state Drive or SSD)

Suggested for a **Consumer**: 128 GB or 256 GB

Suggested for a **Creator**: 512 GB

Probably more than you need: 1 TB (extra cost)

Note: if you see acronyms like PCIe NVMe or similar...don't be confused just focus on the size and ensure it is SSD.

Operating System: Any new Laptop or Tablet should have **Windows 11** installed.

Note: If you save money on a Windows 10 computer understand that Microsoft has set the end date of Windows 10 support to October 14, 2025. After that point, Windows 10 will no longer receive new security updates from Microsoft, and Windows 10 will be considered end-of-life (commercially dead).

Chip Set (power and speed): In general, most new laptops and tablets will have a functional and feasible chip set so I would focus more on RAM, Hard Disk, Screen size than on the chip set. Common manufacturers are Intel (i3-i9, Celeron) and AMD (Ryzen series).

With this information you can now start to look at the laptops and tablets available and have an idea on what you need. Note that there are many websites you can use to compare and contrast different makes, models, and costs for laptops and tablets. One that I have used is: www.bestproductsreviews.com (search on laptop or tablet).

Also remember, if you are a Computer Club Member, bring any questions you have regarding new computers, and which one might work for you to Tech Help which is every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30. See our Club Website for details: <https://www.grandcomputers.org>

New To Computers: How to use your public library online to access digital books

The New to Computers group provides topics of general interest for beginning technology users. It is open to anyone in Grand, club member or not. The discussions are introductory and a place to ask questions.

Anyone can attend - no registration needed - non-members are welcome.



Tuesday, March 14 9:30 am at the Chaparral Center, Hopi Room

How to use your public library online to access digital books.

Did you know that you can access all the books in the Maricopa County Library system online ? There is a full catalog of books, magazines, movies and more that are available to be checked out online, without ever physically having to go to the library. Learn how. Also hear

the latest news about what will happen soon when our local library near the Surprise Stadium changes from Maricopa County to the City of Surprise.

Please contact Tom Shepherd at NewToComputers@grandcomputers.org if any questions.

Education: Classes are being offered in the classroom and online.



Marie Frasca
Education
Director

We have a variety of classes waiting for you.

Our computers have been updated to PC Windows 11 and Mac Ventura. If you still have Windows 10 you can take most of our classes. You do not need to know Windows 11 to take our classes.

There is one class that is for Windows 11. - **Windows 11 Basic (Class 3)**
(Prerequisite: Basic PC knowledge)

Classes that are highlighted have been added from the Wait List request or instructors are available to teach a class.

The classes are divided into three groups: PC, Mac and 'Other'

PC Classes		
<u>Excel Microsoft 365 Windows 10 & 11 - Part 1 (Prerequisite: Windows 10 or 11)</u>		
Register Mar 8 (Wed), 10 (Fri) at 10:30 am	Jane Barry	(1 seat)
<u>Excel Microsoft365 Windows 10&11-Part 2 (Prerequisite: Windows 10 or 11 Level 1 or equivalent)</u>		
Register Mar 15 (Wed), 17 (Fri) at 10:30 am	Jane Barry	(5 seats)
<u>PowerPoint Microsoft 365 (Windows 10 & 11 (Prerequisite: Basic PC or Mac skills)</u>		
Register Apr 3 (Mon), 7 (Fri) at 10:30 am	Denise Wassenaar	(8 seats)
<u>Windows 10 &11 Photos App (Class 7) (Prerequisite: Basic PC knowledge)</u>		
Register Mar 8 (Wed) at 3:30 pm	Larry Laursen	(8 seats)
<u>Windows 11 Basic (Class 3) (Prerequisite: Basic PC knowledge)</u>		
Register Apr 3 (Mon), 6 (Thu) at 1:00 pm	Thomas Shepherd	(3 seats)

Mac Classes		
<u>Contacts for Mac (Prerequisite: Familiarity with using a Mac)</u>		
Register Mar 15 (Wed) at 1:00 pm	Janice Oeswein	(6 seats)
<u>Mac 4: Customize Your Mac (Prerequisite: Some familiarity with a Mac)</u>		
Register Mar 13 (Mon) at 1:00 pm	Janice Oeswein	(1 seat)
<u>Mail for Mac (Prerequisite: Familiarity with using a Mac)</u>		
Register Mar 27 (Mon), 29 (Wed) at 1:00 pm	Janice Oeswein	(9 seats)
<u>Numbers for Mac - Introduction (Prerequisite: Familiarity with using the Mac)</u>		
Register Mar 6 (Mon) at 10:30 am	Robert Babicke	(2 seats)
<u>Pages 1 for Mac (Prerequisite: Familiarity Mac OS X Ventura)</u>		
Register Mar 20 (Mon), 22 (Wed) at 10:30 am	Dennis Hilgers	(3 seats)
<u>Pages 2 for Mac (Prerequisite: iWork: Pages 1)</u>		
Register Mar 29 (Wed), 31 (Fri) at 10:30 am	Dennis Hilgers	(5 seats)

Other Classes		
<u>All About Apps for your iPad/ and iPhone (Prerequisite: iPad iPhone)</u>		
Register Mar 6 (Mon), 8 (Wed) at 1:00 pm	Nancy Collins	(6 seats)

Apple Music / Apple Books / Apple TV (Prerequisite: Access to MacOS, iPhone, iPad or Android)		
Register Mar 16 (Thu) at 1:00 pm	Robert Babicke	(3 seats)
Apple Watch-Almost All You Want to Know (Prerequisite: None)		
Mar 20 (Mon), 23 (Thu) at 1:00 pm	Robert Babicke	(0 seats)
Register Apr 6 (Thu), 13 (Thu) at 10:30 am	Robert Babicke	(8 seats)
Elements 3a Text in Photo Editor (Class 3a) (Prerequisite: Basic Computer knowledge)		
Register Mar 2 (Thu) at 3:30 pm	Joeann Posey	(6 seats)
Elements 3b More Text (Class 3b) (Prerequisite: Basic computer knowledge PC or Mac.)		
Register Mar 3 (Fri) at 3:30 pm	Joeann Posey	(7 seats)
Elements 6 Camera Raw (Class 6) (Prerequisite: Basic computer skills)		
Register Mar 6 (Mon) at 1:00 pm	Rita Skarbek	(7 seats)
Elements Project:10a Improve Portraits (Class10a) (Prerequisite: Taken Photo Editor: Intro)		
Register Mar 20 (Mon) at 3:30 pm	Jane Connors	(6 seats)
Elements Project:10b Scrapbook Page (Class 10b) (Prerequisite: Taken Photo Editor: Intro)		
Register Mar 22 (Wed) at 3:30 pm	Jane Connors	(6 seats)
Google Photos Basic (Prerequisite: Basic PC or Mac computer skills)		
Register Mar 6 (Mon), 13 (Mon) at 3:30 pm	Joseph Scanlon	(2 seats)
Home Entertainment Basics (Class 1) (Prerequisite: Basics of audio/visual devices)		
Register Mar 13 (Mon), 16 (Thu) at 10:30 am	Joseph Parla	(7 seats)
Home Entertainment Cutting the Cord (Class 2) (Prerequisite: Completion of Basics class)		
Register Mar 23 (Thu) at 10:30 am	Joseph Parla	(6 seats)
iMovie for Mac, iPad and iPhone (Prerequisite: Familiar using a Mac)		
Register Apr 3 (Mon) at 3:30 pm	Ira Simmons	(8 seats)
iPad Basics - Set up (Prerequisite: Familiarity with an iPad)		
Register Mar 10 (Fri) at 1:00 pm	Barbara Vivian	(11 seats)
iPad/iPhone Text Messages (Prerequisite: None)		
Register Mar 27 (Mon) at 10:30 am	Pamela Kostel	(8 seats)
Mailchimp for Mass Email (Prerequisite: Intermediate computer skills)		
Register Apr 10 (Mon), 12 (Wed), 14 (Fri) at 1:00 pm	Maxine Kirchgessner	(9 seats)
Music and Podcast Mobile Applications (Prerequisite: Basic Smartphone Knowledge)		
Register Apr 5 (Wed) at 8:00 am	Klaudia Jurewicz	(9 seats)

Ways to Create Amazing Videos-Smartphone (Prerequisite: Basic Smartphone Knowledge)		
Register Mar 29 (Wed) at 8:00 am	Kludia Jurewicz	(6 seats)
YouTube 101 - Introduction (Prerequisite: None)		
Register Mar 9 (Thu) at 10:30 am	Thomas Shepherd	(2 seats)

Want to know what the classes are all about:

Go to the **Education Tab** of the grandcomputers.org website and on the drop-down menu click **COURSE LISTING**. Here you will read the class description and requirements for the class.

To register for the classes, go to the **Education Tab** and on the drop-down menu click **REGISTER FOR CLASSES**. Classes held in the classroom click **REGISTER** button.

If the class is full add yourself to the Wait List. Login to the website and Click **EDUCATION tab>Wait List for a Class<**.

To members who are on the Wait List, if a seat is available, you will receive an email stating that you have been added to the class. The class has to be paid the same day the invoice is created. If not paid the invoice will be deleted. As soon as you pay the invoice for the class, the handout will be available for you to download, taking an online class, the link to the class will be emailed to you from "Zoom" when the invoice is paid.

The club has added three classes because there were a number of members wanting to take the same class and the instructors scheduled another class.

If you are not sure how to register for a class click on the **Education Tab >Registration Information>Booklet**. Here you will find all the information you need to get started.

Having trouble registering for a class, come to the computers club and the monitor will guide you through the process of registering for a class.

The instructors want you to learn and make it an enjoyable experience for all who are attending the class.

For questions on the education courses, contact Marie Frasca, Education Director at education@grandcomputers.org.

Devices SIG: Streaming/Smart TVs - Come join us on Mon 3/27



In March the primary topic for the Devices SIG is **Streaming/Smart TVs**. We will go beyond merely cutting the cord to finding how and what you can watch on the new generation of smart TVs that have their own streaming infrastructure built-in. And as always, we'll give you a Computers Club and The Grand technical update plus all the latest relevant devices-oriented news.

So come join us on Monday, March 27, 3:30PM in the Chaparral Center, Hopi room
For more information, contact Ira Simmons at devices@grandcomputers.org

Financial Education SIG: MARCH Meetings



The upcoming Financial Education SIG calendar for March 2023 includes:

MONTHLY SEMINAR: March 10th, 1-3:00 Chaparral Center, Hopi Room. Our guest speaker will be Pamila Prine, Keystone Capital Management. The title of her presentation is, "**Legacy Landmines**". Stories are often told of family relationships that are disrupted during estate distribution. Join us for an informative session on this important topic and invite a friend to attend as well.

INVESTING WORKSHOP: March 6; 8-9:30 Chaparral Center, Apache Room An interactive session for all things investing. Stocks, bonds, commodities, etc. Our Topic of the Day will be "**The Value of Asset Allocation, 2008 - 2022**" presented by John Pierson. Following a Q & A on the topic of the day, we will have a time of general discussion. All topics allowed - except politics! So, bring your perspectives and questions.

The second INVESTING WORKSHOP will be March 20; 8-9:30 AM at the Chaparral Center, Apache Room. Topic of the Day, "**Websites for All Investors,**" presented by Bob Adams.

Check the Financial Ed SIG calendar for updated information on topics.

WEBSITE APPLICATIONS: March 2nd and 16th; 8-9:30 Chaparral Center, Computer Club Classroom. We access financial websites with information you need for intelligent investing.

For more information, contact Scott Wallick or Harold Tilstra at financial@grandcomputers.org

New Technologies SIG: MARCH Topic OCR and RFID



The New Technologies Special Interest Group (SIG) is the place to go to keep abreast of the latest in technology. The SIG shares ideas and information about leading edge devices, technologies, and innovations. We have an interesting and informative schedule of events coming up in 2023.

Thursday, March 16, 3:30 - Chaparral Center, Grand Computers Club Classroom
Anyone can attend – no registration needed – non-members are welcome.

Topic - OCR and RFID - Finding OCR and RFID can be like a game because they are found in so many places. Join us for an overview of **Optical Character Recognition and Radio Frequency Identification** with some spot-the-tech photos. We will also look at the latest developments in **AI**, including ChatGPT, Bard, Dall-E and others.

Please contact Tom Shepherd - tomshepherdaz@gmail.com if any questions.

Send comments, corrections, suggestions and Grand Bytes newsletter articles to publicity@grandcomputers.org