



## Be careful when installing new apps or programs.

Only update software or download apps/programs from the company who made the software or from your device’s built-in tools. Never trust random popups, emails or sketchy sites.

Use Google Play for Android devices and the Apple Store for Apps on any Apple device. Use the main Microsoft site for Windows PC updates.

Also, hackers are posing as Apple and Google to infect Macs! Don’t fall for fake browser updates! Windows PCs and Android phones are also being targeted.

PAUL BERNARD HAS A VIDEO WITH MORE DETAIL!  
**Membership**

The Club has 271 households which is 464 individual members.

## **Current Software**

- Windows 10 22H2 build 5487
- Windows 11 24H2 build 3194
- MAC OS Sequoia 15.3.1
- Mac OS Sonoma 14.7.4
- iPhone iOS 18.3.1
- iPad OS 18.3 1
- iWatch OS 11.3.1

## **March 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

Mark Sminkey, our head of Education and Communication will talk to us about education options. This is a very important technology transition year for club members and Mark has easy options for club members to get up to speed.

There will also be an update on the 2024 ye financial picture for the club.

## **Shop news:**

31 computer devices repaired at the Shop during January as activity slowed down this year. With the new Windows 11 PCs and the conversions to Chromebook the shop expects to be very busy but is staffed for an increase.

## **February 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Recap**

Once again, we welcomed back Susan Bersch to talk to us about changes affecting your Income Tax that you need to know about when submitting your taxes. Susan’s presentation is available on our web site if you would like to view a copy. See: lakegastoncc.org and look under education then meetings for February 2025

## **Ways to stay safe**

A CAPTCHA verification failure can occur due to a number of reasons, including an outdated browser, poor internet connection, or browser extensions. A legitimate CAPTCHA will never ask you to download anything or provide unusual or personal permissions.

Use strong, unique usernames and passwords. A long password that you never reuse on other accounts is best.

Prevent criminals from taking over your phone and draining your bank account. Ask your cellphone carrier if you can lock or freeze your phone number so a secret password or PIN must be provided before the carrier will make changes to your account.

Malware campaigns and especially those targeting Macs have really exploded in popularity over the past few years. This is why you need to be extra careful online, update your devices and their software regularly.