



Veterans Day  
Nov. 11, 2023



VOL. 2024 #11

NOVEMBER 2024

## USS HENRY L. STIMSON ASSOCIATION SSBN655 NEWSLETTER

### Association Officers & Board of Directors 2023 - 2025

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <u>Jerry [CJ] Blevins</u>	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> <u>Ray [Rita] Kreul</u>	<b>SECRETARY</b> <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	<b>TREASURER</b> <u>Ken [Diane] Meigs</u>	<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> <u>Tom [Marie] Krauser</u>
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### Other Positions 2023 - 2025

<b>HISTORIAN / CUSTODIAN</b> <u>Larry [Linda] Knutson</u>	<b>WEBMASTER / NEWSLETTER</b> <u>Nick [Linda] Nichols</u>	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> <u>Bruce [Vicki] Stefanik</u>
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### REUNION CONTROL CENTER 2025 Stimson Reunion October 1 - 5, 2025 Groton CT

From the Reunion Committee -  
John & Gretchen Glaub

The Reunion has been moved to **October 1 through October 5, 2025** so that we can go to the Nautilus Museum before it shuts down for 10 days for maintenance.

I encourage you to go ahead and reserve your hotel room. You can cancel your room anytime up to 48 hours before the registered date. The hotel link for reservations is on the reunion web page at: **655 Reunion #13**

The Registration form will be sent to all hands sometime in November and also linked on the Reunion Page. Beginning with the December newsletter the form will be attached as the last 5 pages. There are three tours that will go onto the base and you will be required to ride the bus. There is a form 5512 that is required to enter the base for the tour. **RETIRED MILITARY AND SPOUSE WITH A VALID RETIRED ID CARD DO**

NOT NEED THIS FORM. Everyone else will need to complete. This form will be sent out with the registration form when it is ready.

Questions Email: **655reunion2025@gmail.com**



From the Association President -  
Jerry Blevins, LT(SS) B 76-79,  
USSVI USS Groton Base, 655  
Assoc Life Member:

CJ and I wish all a happy Thanksgiving Day. As President Washington proclaimed in 1789, a day of "sincere and humble thanks."

Our New London reunion is now less than a year away. We all need to commend Gretchen and John on their amazing progress and I hope that the most challenging hurdles are behind them.



Chaplain's Corner - Bruce Stefanik, MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655  
Assoc Life Member, USSVI USS  
Asheville Base, Holland Club:

Most of the numbers are in for the North Carolina Mountains.

May you be blessed this day. Remember to give God thanks for all you have this November.



some items that were lost. This months picture is the Commissioning Plaque that was mounted in the CO's passageway.



Also, if you were on the Gold Crew during any time when Bob Weeks was the CO you completed a check-in card for him. Email the secretary if interested [655webmaster@ssbn655.org](mailto:655webmaster@ssbn655.org).



**From The Editor & Secretary -**  
**Nick Nichols, TM1(SS) G/SY1/B**  
**70-75; FTCS(SS) B COB 85-89,**  
**655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI**  
**Charleston Base, Holland Club**

You should all be proud of the actions taken by these shipmates. When I sent the email the fund had raised a little over \$3000. Within a week after the email the fund was sitting at almost \$9000. I looked at the names and during that short time almost everyone who donated belonged to either the Stimson Association, Charleston Base SUBVETS or the FRA Branch.

### Submarines Lost During the Month of October

USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)	October 3, 1944 – 15 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)
USS S-44 (SS-155)	October 7, 1944 – 5 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war
USS WAHOO (SS-238)	October 11, 1943 – 7 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 80 souls
USS DORADO (SS-248)	October 12, 1943 – New - training	Lost with all hands – 77 souls
USS ESCOLAR (SS-294)	October 17, 1944 – 1 <sup>st</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 82 souls
USS DARTER (SS-227)	October 24, 1944 – 4 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	No loss of life
USS SHARK II (SS-314)	October 24, 1944 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 87 souls
USS TANG (SS-306)	October 25, 1944 – 5 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became POWs and survived the war
USS O-5 (SS-66)	October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal	Lost with 3 souls

## Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost





2. The Wall That Heals was in Summerville 16-20 October. This is a three quarter size replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington. I was called and asked, as the Charleston Base Chaplain, to deliver the prayer for the Welcome Home Service on the 17th. What a privilege to be able to do this for all those on the Wall.

[illegible]

**HELP A SHIPMATE:** I would like to give you the chance to do something good for one of our fellow Stimson Shipmates.

Don Ort has been working hard to find those on the Sailing List with no email address and has done an excellent job.

He recently talked to Bobby J. Putnam MMCS (SS) G 75-78. Bobby is 85 does not have a computer therefore has no email. He would like to receive the newsletter by US Mail.

Here's your chance to help. I'm asking for someone who is willing to print the newsletter each month and mail it to Bobby. Please let me know if that is something your willing to do. To date he is the only shipmate who has asked about this.

Again here's a chance for you to help someone out. When you contact me I'll give you the mailing info.

[illegible]

**Submitted Articles:** As usual, you'll find some interesting articles at the end of the newsletter. All are very good reading. I hope you enjoy them.

- **The Scorpion** by Jim Gutierrez
- **Using Test Trees to find Missing Links** by Tom Krauser & Don Ort
- **USS Albuquerque Propulsion Loss and Recovery** by Dennis Navarete
- **Privacy in Windows 10 and Windows 11** by George Birmingham
- **What Is Spoofing** by RD.Com

[illegible]

## SHARING PICTURES WITH SHIPMATES:

If anyone has pictures you would like to share with your shipmates please either email them to me or contact me and I will send you directions to upload to our Stimson Dropbox file.

**655webmaster@ssbn655.org**

[illegible]

## SUBMARINE QUALIFICATION CARD & CERTIFICATE

In addition to the qual card page, I am now adding your qual year (if I have it) to the online Sailing List. This can be whether you qualified on the Stimson or another boat. Take a look at the list and if your qual date is missing send it to me with the qual year and command info to

**655webmaster@ssbn655.org**

Another good month to receive qual cards. There were two added. It would be great if any of you can send me an email with copies of your SS qual cards and pictures of getting your dolphins. Check out the **SS Qual Card & Certificate** webpage. When you find your card either scan it or take a good picture and send it to me at **655webmaster@ssbn655.org**. Your name will be added to the new page with a link to your certificate. This is for all Stimson shipmates, not just the ones who qualified on the 655. No matter what boat you qualified on if you were on the Stimson send me a scan or picture and it will be added to the website.

You can include any item related to your SS qualification: Qual Certificate; Qual card, picture receiving your dolphins; etc.

### Qualification Cards of Stimson Sailors



The following Stimson Shipmates have  
departed on Eternal Patrol.

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**STS1(SS) Michael J. Kidder G 65-67 COMM**

**STSCS(SS) Retired**

**Eternal Patrol: July 7, 2024**

**HMCS(SS) Raymond J. Capaul G 89-93 Decom**

**Eternal Patrol: September 6, 2020**

**LT William A. 'Bill' Ragland B 74**

**Eternal Patrol: October 19, 2024**

**?? John A. Martin III**

**crew unknown maybe mid 70s**

**Eternal Patrol: August 23, 2024**

(only information that was reported; if you knew  
John please send me some more info.)

**ENCS(SS) George A. McGuire 65-66**

**Decom/COMM**

**Eternal Patrol: February 21, 2010**

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The direct link to the Association Eternal Patrol  
page is: [http://ssbn655.org/eternal-patrol/  
eternal-patrol.html](http://ssbn655.org/eternal-patrol/eternal-patrol.html)



### **WELCOME ABOARD: Found & Updated Shipmates**

(Shipmate has been added or information has  
been updated on our Sailing List. Please check  
the online Sailing List for shipmates contact info.)

**NOTE:** Don Ort, MM1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74,  
CWO4 Ret, continues to locate our Stimson  
shipmates who are on our Sailing List be without  
an email address.

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**MT3(SS) Robert 'Bob' Farwell 74-76**

[updated by shipmate]

**RMSN(SS) L. Randall 'Randy' Chapman  
G/SY2/G 81-85**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**MM1(SS) Mark A. Chitty G 83-89**

**MMCM(SS) Retired**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**MM1(SS) Douglas 'Doug' Brill B 85-88**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**YN2(SS) Bill Carey B 67-70**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**MM1(SS) Bruce C.E. Fleming G 77-79**

[updated by shipmate]

**STS2(SS) Gary R Ditttrich B 67-70**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**MT2(SS) David Goza G 75-77**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**TM3(SS) Michael 'Mike' Plue B 72-75**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**MM1(SS) Glen Clark G 77-80**

[updated by shipmate]

**MMCM(SS) Michael Pruitt G /SY2/B 81-85**

**MMCM(SS) Retired**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**MMCS(SS) Bobby J. Putnam G 75-78**

[found by Don Ort & updated by shipmate]

**BINNACLE LIST UPDATES:** If you know of a  
shipmate who should be on the binnacle list  
please let me know. I will contact the shipmate for  
permission to add them to this list. I only add  
those who have given permission.

I am using the binnacle list as an ongoing story for each person on it. This way you will be able to understand the update better than if you do not remember what their health issues were.

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**Jay Andress, MMCS(SS) [CMDCM Ret] B SY1/72-77, USSVI Caroling Piedmont Base, Holland Club**

Cards to: 128 Mariner Pointe Ln Mooresville NC 28117

10.30.24: Jay was in the hospital from Oct. 7th to Oct. 17th. He initially was diagnosed with pneumonia in his right lung. He ended up with fluid that had to be drained by surgery which was done on Oct. 11th. He is recovering at home with his personal nurse [Barb] ensuring he does what is necessary to get his strength back. Please keep Jay and Barb in your prayers for a quick recovery.

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**George Stevens, MT2(SS) G 68-71**

Cards to: 3025 Winterhaven Dr., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

**10.28.28: Email from George:** I am awaiting the results of a recent monitor to come in at which point a decision will be made on method of treatment.

*9.17.24: Email from George: Basically the Dr said if I don't get my heart fixed, at the rate it's going, long-term prospects are not good. I am trying to get to see my electro cardiologist ASAP. An ablation and or pacemaker and or meds are options.*

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**John Cole, LT B WEPS 78-80, USSVI Member-at-Large, CDR Ret.**

Cards to: 5914 Ruby Dr Pearland TX 77581-8926

**NO RECENT UPDATES**

**7.31.24: Email from John:** We pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and happy. Susan and I are doing well as we fight the continuing battle against Parkinson's, Left Shoulder Surgery and now my C1-C6 surgery as well. It just seems like all of the parts are wearing out as time seems to fly by faster and faster. The things I miss the most are hunting, hiking, gardening and just being in the mountains. I must be content with the

flowers and a few pots of garden plants on our patio. Bye for now, Very Respectfully. John F. Cole Cdr., U. S. Navy Retired, 100% Disabled 05/12/1964 To 08/01/1994, E1-E9 & O1E-O5 Vietnam through Desert Storm

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**Bruce Stefanik, MS1(SS) B 73-77, 655 Assoc Life Member, USSVI USS Asheville Base:**

Cards to: 50 Fairway View Dr., Etowah NC 28729

**9.22.24: Email from Bruce:** Things good here, ALS IS GOING VERY SLOW. Thanking the good Lord for His blessings

*6.15.24: Email from Vicki: Bruce is doing great. His neurologist was a little surprised at his May clinic visit at how Bruce has not progressed but Bruce reminded him that he is on both Rx's to slow the progress. He decided Bruce doesn't have to go back to clinic for 6 months instead of 3.*

*4.17.24: Email from Vicki: The only thing new is that we now have a Toyota Sienna Hybrid Conversion Van equipped to transport Bruce's 425 pound power chair with a 6-way front passenger seat to make it easy for him to transfer into it. Of course he doesn't need it currently but we are prepared for when the need comes. He did have to go to the VA hospital in Salisbury for a driving evaluation which was like taking the test for a first license which Bruce passed with flying colors. The examiner said Bruce was only the 2nd ALS client she had that has passed.*

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**Elam Lee Mauk, EMCM(SS) B 65-69 COB 66-68 Plank, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI USS Sailfish Base Holland Club**

Card to: 4000 Ibis Way Unit 201 Venice FL 34292

**NO RECENT UPDATES**

*2.20.2024: Email from Gretchen Glaub: John has joined the USS Sailfish Base and received the following email from the Base Commander. Elam is a member of the USS Sailfish Base:*

- I called his home and spoke with his wife. He is in the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home in Port Charlotte with dementia. I have added him to our binnacle list. Bill Heck, USS Sailfish Base Commander*



9.17.2023: Email from Angie Mauk: Elam Lee has been in dementia for the past two years, Of course we cannot travel. Hope your reunion is a great success, We will miss you all

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**Sandy Hastie, CAPT B 80 (Oct-Dec) CO-1 patrol**

Cards to: 75 Lambeth Dr., Asheville NC 28803-3425

**10.26.24: Email from Donna:** Dear Friends – A Hallelujah Message,

We saw our oncologist Wednesday, October 23, 2024 to get the results of the Sunday PET/CT scan. It was a very enjoyable experience! The new treatment regime significantly reduced the cancer! Our oncologist was very pleased and said he was amazed at the cancer reduction.

As a result, the new regime treatment will continue. We will make any needed adjustments after each of the succeeding PET/CT scans. The biggest change with the new routine is it makes me tired which is a common result of using the chemo drug I am using, Alimta. Patients often stop the Alimta for that reason Their tiredness usually tends to increase as the treatments continue. We intend on using the new regime as long as Sandy can have a good quality of life.

We thank you for your support and prayers, they work. We are very thankful we have a God who answers prayers!

Warmly, Donna and Sandy

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**Ron 'RG' Hyson, STS1(SS) B 70-75, Assoc. Life Member, USSVI Hampton Roads Base, Holland Club, STSCM(SS) Retired**

Cards to: 3425 MacDonald Rd., Virginia Beach VA 23464

**No recent updates**

3.26.2024: Email from Jean: The results of Ron's evaluation on January 2024, compared to last year, scored significantly lower on a test of global cognition. His doctor reported that Ron has transition to the Moderately Severe Stage of dementia. Also, he was prescribed an additional medication to help with his anxiety and agitation. The medicine is working great!! We now have a

happier and calmer household.

Thank you for all the prayers, caring thoughts, cards, letters, pictures, and memories Ron has received. They really brighten his day.

Jean/Ron

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**GREAT LINKS TO SPEND TIME WITH**

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**655 Association Website**

[www.ssbn655.org](http://www.ssbn655.org)

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**US Navy Submarine School | NSB New London | Groton, CT | A Day in the Life of a Submariner**

An in-depth look in the day and life of a US Navy Submariner-in-training. Submarine Veterans can \*

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**SEA STORIES, COMMENTS and JUST GOOD THINGS From Our Shipmates**

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*Editor NOTE: Based on an article I put in the newsletter in September I received the following email:*

*Submitted by Tom Clark, FTCM(SS) G COB 76-77, USSVI Charleston Base, Holland Club*

Thank you for a great job in putting out the Stimson Draft. I always enjoy reading it.

BTW, you mentioned data breaches and I'd like to offer an idea for consideration.

I FROZE my credit accounts with the big three. Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. A simple explanation and guide is at: <https://www.usa.gov/credit-freeze>

I froze my credit accounts over 20 years ago based in an article I read in Readers Digest. In the ensuing time I've had maybe a half dozen occasions to "unfreeze" to allow a credit check. Easy, to do – takes several minutes and of course memory of or access to my "unlock" codes provided when I signed up.

This does not prevent unauthorized use of your credit card for charging on it, but it DOES prevent anyone or any entity from establishing credit or debt in your name – whether they have your SSN, birthday, and mother's maiden name or not.

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## ***The Lean Submariner***

Here's the latest posts on the blog. Still going strong. The link to his blog is

<https://theleansubmariner.com/>

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### **A cautionary Tale on Moving Companies – why you should never use US Prime Overs Inc from Linden New Jersey**

By **Mister Mac** on October 3, 2024

Greetings from Summerville South Carolina I know it's been a while, but we have been very busy getting settled into our new home and there hasn't been much time to write. We did make it to the pool at least once and it was very nice. We have even had some nice conversations with people [...]

**Continue reading**

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### **Random thoughts to wrap up October 2024**

By **Mister Mac** on October 30, 2024

Happy October 30<sup>th</sup>

Some random thoughts as I waited for a family member to come out of his medical procedure here at the Medical Center in Charleston. He has been in pain for a long time, and I hope they can find the root cause of the problem [...]

**Continue reading**



#### **The Computer Corner**

**By: George Birmingham ET1(SS)  
G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life  
Member, SV Carolina Piedmont  
Base, Holland Club**

### **Customizing Windows 11 to the look and feel of Windows 10**

Last month we concluded the steps necessary to update your Windows 10 PC to Windows 11, or you purchased a new system running Windows 11. Either way, you should now have a running Windows 11 system at your fingertips. If you have not yet completed those steps, then this article will not be of benefit. And this is your exit point.

If you have used Windows 10 for any period of

time, then you will notice that the Start Button, and the displays that are activated when it is clicked on are just a bit different in Windows 11. For some it may generate excitement (your mouse won't appreciate all the clicking around...), but for others it may create that "What have I done" moment. But fear not, there is a way to make Windows 11 look and feel like Windows 10. The information I am about to provide was tested by me on my own Windows 11 Laptop and it worked with no issues! So here's what it takes to go Back to the Future...

The following video will take you step by step through "Make Windows 11 look like Windows 10". I highly recommend watching it a couple of times before following the steps it details. That way you hear all the finer points of what is being done, before you move forward. It is almost 19 minutes in length and worth the viewing:

### **Make Windows 11 Look Like Windows 10**

Make sure your Windows 11 PC is connected to the Internet as you will be downloading two items, an executable and a set of icons.

The two links are noted in the topmost comment on the video page:

#### **Explorer Patcher**

For this package, you will click on the right side of the GitHub site (which he demonstrates in the video) on the Latest button. Be sure to go to the download folder and run your Anti-Virus checker on the file. I downloaded it in June and my Norton 360 AV gave it a clean bill of health.

The next download is optional, but could be useful elsewhere. I created a folder called Icons on my C: Drive and downloaded the file here for use. These are replacement icon files. In the video the presenter had an issue with the Recycle Bin icon, so these new icons provide a replacement.

#### **Winaero Windows 10 icon pack**

This .zip file also got a clean bill of health from Norton 360.

Now once you have watched the video, and downloaded the appropriate files, then the next step is to create a Restore point for your system. The video covers how to do this. Don't skip this



step.

Once you have viewed the video and completed the steps involved, you should have a Windows 11 system that has the look and feel of Windows 10 and the improvements Windows 11 brings.

There is one unknown that I feel needs consideration. At this time, we do not know if future Windows 11 updates might somehow update and remove the changes we made with Explorer Patcher. This is why creating a restore point before every update might be a good strategy to follow. And make sure to understand the built-in system recovery procedures for your particular PC.

I hope you enjoyed the journey from Windows 10 to Windows 11 and are enjoying Windows 11 and what it has to offer.

And finally, I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends.

As always, shipmates, comments and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at [subvet\\_ssbns@bellsouth.net](mailto:subvet_ssbns@bellsouth.net). And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out if I can. //George

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## The Security Corner

**By: George Birmingham ET1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life Member, SV Carolina Piedmont Base, Holland Club**

### Privacy in Windows 10 and Windows 11

Welcome back to the Security Corner! This month we are going to take a look at actions you can take to improve your personal privacy in Windows 10 and Windows 11. With AI invading our lives, keeping our privacy perimeter protected is of vital importance. The information below comes from the Computerworld newsletter and website.

**This is a very long article but also full of very important information. There is a PDF at the end of the newsletter containing the complete article.**

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## What Is Spoofing, and How Can You Spot It?

**By Brooke Nelson Alexander RD.com**

Just when you think you know how to avoid security threats online, cybercriminals keep getting savvier. Spoofing—a scam in which a criminal pretends to be someone else so they can commit fraud, spread malware or carry out other cyberattacks—is the latest in a long list of online scams to keep on your radar.

Here's the good news: Taking simple security measures, like learning about spam texts to delete immediately, the area codes phone scam and the four-word phone scam, can make it harder for fraudsters to fool you. To help you stay safe, we've asked cybersecurity experts to explain how spoofing works and what you can do to avoid falling victim to online scams.

### What is an example of spoofing?

A spoofing scam might be an email, text message or phone call that appears to be from a trusted source, like a loved one or even a popular brand. But in reality, a fraudster is behind the fake email address or phone number, hoping to convince you to download malicious software, send money or share personal information or data with them.

Spoofing attacks can take many forms. In one recent example, hackers created phony Zoom invitations for virtual meetings at community associations and school boards. Victims who clicked on the document attached to the emails infected their devices with malware. Other examples of spoofing include emails posing as a request from PayPal or eBay for your login information, or text messages that appear to be money transfers from an online wallet or bank.

**The full story is at the end of the newsletter or at: SPOOFING**





<https://www.va.gov/>  
And FLEET RESERVE

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**PTSD VA Ratings: What You Need to Know**

**Why You Should Get a Veterans Designation on Your Driver's License**

**The US Navy's Warship Production Is In Its Worst State in 25 Years. What's Behind It?**

**Medal of Honor, Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal: What's the Difference?**

**Why Military Homeowners May Be at Greater Risk of Title Fraud**

**Military Retirement and State Income Tax**

**Hearing Aids for Military Retirees**

**These Resorts and Hotels Are Just for Veterans and Military Members**

**Veterans' Preference in Federal Hiring**

**Amid Struggle to Build Subs, Navy Gives Company Running Ads and Website a \$1 Billion Contract**

**Dutch Adopt US War Graves to Harbor Memories of the Country's Liberation 80 Years Ago**

**This Dental Nonprofit Will Fix Veterans' Teeth for Free**

**Do you qualify for a Veterans Pension?**

**VA Hospitals Earn High Marks in New Federal Ratings**

**State Tax Information for Military Members and Retirees**

**Free Lifetime National Parks Passes for Veterans and Gold Star Families: Do You Have Yours Yet?**

**Veterans at 5 VA Medical Facilities Will Have to Start Making Copayments on Prescriptions Again**

**PTSD VA Ratings: What You Need to Know**

**Confusion, Misinformation and the VA Loan**

**Veterans Benefits Safe After Senate Approves \$3 Billion in Additional Funding Before Deadline, BUT!**

**Veterans Not Covered by Toxic Hazards Legislation Wait Decades for VA Recognition, Report Finds**

**PACT Act: Presumptive Conditions**

**Flag Etiquette and the US Flag Code**

**Navy Ships List / Guide from the Mesothelioma Veterans Center**

**Veterans Nationwide Can Now Use Their Phones to Get Emergency Care from VA**

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**China's Sub Mishap Hurts Military Growth**  
**Vessel that sank in spring was part of a broad effort to expand military and compete in the Pacific**

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 28 SEP 24) ... Chun Han Wong

The reported sinking of a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine at a Wuhan shipyard highlights the difficulties Beijing faces in building an advanced oceangoing navy that can challenge U.S. maritime power.

China has been racing to expand its relatively modest fleet of nuclear submarines as part of a campaign to modernize its military and tilt the strategic balance with Washington in Beijing's favor.

Building a potent nuclear submarine force would help China tighten control over its peripheral waters and shipping lanes, project power globally and improve its ability to seize the island

democracy of Taiwan. The effort hit a snag this spring when, according to U.S. officials, China's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine sank near the central city of Wuhan, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

"Nuclear-powered submarine technology is one area where China has lagged, remains relatively weak and is trying to play catch-up," said Nick Childs, senior fellow for naval forces and maritime security at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a London-based think tank.

While the causes remain unclear, the mishap would at least "raise new questions about the design, quality control and training involved in China's efforts to rapidly develop its submarine force," Childs said.

Some analysts said that such accidents are par for the course in any effort to develop complex weapons systems, and the incident isn't expected to deal lasting damage to China's submarine program. The new vessel was salvaged but will take time to be rendered seaworthy.

"Any nation that is attempting what China is now doing is going to run into problems," said Sam Roggeveen, a defense analyst at Lowy Institute, a Sydney-based think tank. "Even the most competent military forces will have accidents with submarines."

The U.S. has suffered similar setbacks, such as the 1969 sinking of the nuclear-powered USS Guitarro at a California shipyard.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has steered an ambitious modernization drive for the People's Liberation Army over the past decade, comprising personnel shake-ups, organizational restructuring, arms procurement and technological research.

The goal is to forge a 21st-century fighting force that can match up with Western militaries—particularly at sea, where Chinese forces increasingly confront U.S. counterparts while asserting Beijing's sovereignty claims over Taiwan and swaths of the South China Sea.

Xi's military overhauls have run into teething problems over the years, including recurrent corruption scandals. Authorities have opened probes against more than a dozen senior

generals and defense-industry executives over the past year or so, including on two former defense ministers who were expelled from the Communist Party in June.

The U.S. and other powers have boosted military spending and forged new coalitions to counter China's growing military might. In 2021, the U.S., U.K. and Australia formed an alliance, known as Aukus, to help Canberra acquire nuclear subs and cement the West's advantage in undersea military technology—a development that added urgency to Beijing's quest for more capable submarines.

China boasts the world's largest navy in terms of hull count, with more than 370 ships. While this numerical advantage is set to grow as Chinese shipbuilders continue cranking out warships, analysts say the PLA Navy remains some distance from matching its U.S. counterpart as a genuine oceangoing force that can project power well beyond coastal waters—in part because of Chinese deficiencies in undersea warfare.

China still relies heavily on diesel-powered submarines, which have shorter range and must surface much more frequently than nuclear-powered ones.

At the end of 2022, the Chinese navy's submarine fleet featured 48 diesel-powered craft and 12 nuclear-powered units, including six attack subs and six ballistic-missile subs, according to a Pentagon report issued last year on China's military power.

The U.S. submarine force, meanwhile, is entirely nuclear-powered and comprises 53 attack submarines, 14 ballistic-missile submarines and four guided-missile submarines.

"Nuclear-powered attack submarines are considered the apex predators of naval warfare," said Roggeveen, the Lowy Institute researcher. China's problem is that "they don't have enough nuclear-powered submarines, and even the ones they do have are simply not of a high standard," he said.

The U.S. Defense Department expects China to keep upgrading its submarine fleet by producing new diesel units to replace older ones



and adding next-generation nuclear subs that can carry longer-range ballistic missiles. In its 2023 report, the Pentagon projected that China would operate 65 submarines by 2025 and 80 by 2035.

In terms of submarine warfare, China “fully recognizes that this is one area where they are lacking in,” and where “they feel the urge to close the gap as soon as possible,” said Collin Koh, a senior fellow and maritime-security specialist at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

For China, mishaps in submarine development are “part and parcel of negotiating a very steep learning curve,” Koh said. “These accidents might even compel them to put more emphasis on the program.”

[https://www.wsj.com/world/china/chinas-nuclear-submarine-mishap-points-to-challenge-of-catching-up-with-u-s-58721ce9?mod=world\\_feat1\\_china\\_pos2](https://www.wsj.com/world/china/chinas-nuclear-submarine-mishap-points-to-challenge-of-catching-up-with-u-s-58721ce9?mod=world_feat1_china_pos2)

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## **U.S. Navy Is Recruiting Submariners With A Puzzle Game On Reddit**

**VML campaign is a Reddit-wide role-playing game with clues to solve throughout October** (ADAGE.COM 01 OCT 24) ... Garrett Sloane

The U.S. Navy has been holding a sub-hunt on Reddit, an interactive marketing campaign that will run through October. The multimedia ad was dubbed “Sub Reddit Hunt,” a nod to the tens of thousands of communities on the site known as subreddits.

The campaign encourages Reddit users to decipher codes, search for clues and analyze images and sounds that will lead them to more clues they need to complete the game. The Reddit-wide role-playing game is a way for the U.S. Navy to market to the “next generation of submariners,” according to an announcement from VML, the agency behind the campaign.

“To ensure we attract the very best and brightest future sailors, including submariners, the Navy is constantly seeking innovative ways to interact with prospective candidates on ... social and digital platforms,” said Rear Admiral James P. Waters, commander of Navy Recruiting

Command, in the announcement.

The campaign is likely to appeal to people with penchants for puzzles, asking them to click on clues to un-redact messages and determine the answers to the Navy’s riddles. The clues will lead Redditors to posts left by the Navy, which contain more clues. With each clue solved, the participant is encouraged to direct message the U.S. Navy with the answers.

There are five “directives” participants must complete. For instance, one clue will be an audio message, which will contain a hidden meaning. Another directive includes poring over a high-pixel image for secret answers.

The effort launched this week with a video that sets the tone of the campaign, resembling a mission launch out of a spy movie. Reddit is sometimes known for highly immersive, bespoke ad campaigns that use the native tools of the platform. However, it also has more traditional ad units with sponsored posts within subreddits, shopping ads and in-feed video ads.

In March, Reddit launched its initial public offering, when it also revealed ad revenue of \$476 million in the first six months of 2024, up from \$340 million in the first six months of 2023.

The U.S. Navy has been an advertiser on the site since 2018, according to VML. The Navy’s Reddit strategy has evolved over the years to develop a voice and style that is distinct to users of the site, according to a VML spokesperson.

The Navy adjusted the language it uses in its marketing to be more relatable on Reddit, and it has hosted “Ask Me Anything” sessions during tentpole times of the year, such as on May 4, the “May the Fourth” Star Wars day.

The new decoder game is a more immersive and interactive campaign compared to previous efforts, and “it asks Redditors to go deeper than ever before to solve a problem and learn about the Navy,” according to a VML spokesperson.

<https://adage.com/creativity/work/us-navy-recruiting-submariners-puzzle-game-reddit/2584271>

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## **Navy Announces Site for New Navy Museum**

(SEAPOW MAGAZINE 18 OCT 24) ... Brett Davis

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro highlighted a site selection ceremony for the future of the National Museum of the United States Navy on Oct. 18.

“This is a moment of immense pride and anticipation for the Navy, for our nation, and for all who cherish maritime heritage,” Del Toro said, standing near two dilapidated buildings that will be part of the new museum campus.

The site is adjacent to the Navy Yard in Washington and a short walk from the current Navy museum, housed in an aging facility largely off-limits to the general public. The new museum is intended to be a state-of-the-art look at the U.S. Navy, will be open to the public and is near a vibrant neighborhood that also boasts the stadiums for the Washington Nationals baseball team and the DC United, DC Power FC and Washington Spirit soccer teams. It’s expected to attract up to two million visitors annually, well over the 100,000 annual attendance of the current museum, most of whom are already in the Navy.

Del Toro said he is well aware of the draw of Nationals Stadium, and said “I want half of them over here before the game and after the game.”

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, the district’s congressional representative, highlighted the city’s historic ties to the Navy. She said 30,000 city residents are veterans and “deserve the full equality of statehood,” as district residents don’t have voting rights in Congress.

### **A Long Road Ahead**

While service officials now know where the museum will be located, they haven’t yet raised the money, don’t know what it will look like and don’t yet know what artifacts will be in it. All of those efforts are underway by the organizations that will create it: the Navy Museum Development Foundation that will raise the money (\$475 million or more) and construct the building and the Naval History and Heritage Command that will select what goes in it. Once the museum is built, the foundation will give it to the Navy, which will staff

and operate it.

Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox (retired), director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, gently poked fun at the museums of the Marine Corps and Army, which he described as being “out in the wilds of Virginia” while the new Navy museum will be next to an all-hours neighborhood.

The new museum, still years away — a groundbreaking is tentatively planned for next October and the first phase likely won’t open until 2030 — has already been a long time coming. Nina Albert, D.C.’s deputy mayor for planning and economic development, was one of the speakers at the event and noted she had served on a Navy museum site selection committee 17 years ago.

“The vision will be worth the work and it will be worth the wait,” she said.

Part of the delay was a prolonged and what Cox called “tortuous” process to acquire the land from the city in a swap that saw the Navy Yard give up some of its land on the other side of the base near the river to acquire the plot that will house the new museum.

The museum will ultimately be 240,000 square feet and filled with meaningful artifacts, such as the bell from the USS Jacob Jones, sunk in 1917 off the coast of Cornwall, England, by a German U-boat and rediscovered in 2022. It was the first U.S. Navy destroyer sunk by enemy action. The bell, recovered by the British Ministry of Defence and transferred to the U.S. Navy earlier this year, is being prepared for display, said Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral James J. Kilby.

The museum is carrying high hopes for Navy officials. Former Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite II said “it will not be a musty old hall with a bunch of old artifacts ... it will be the spark that will draw people to the service of our country in the uniform of the United States Navy. This will be a new crown jewel in this city.”

<https://seapowermagazine.org/navy-announces-site-for-new-navy-museum/>

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## **Navy Submarine Honored With Top Unit Award For 3 Secret Intelligence Missions**

(MILITARY.COM 22 OCT 24) ... Konstantin Toropin

The USS Washington, a Navy fast-attack submarine, has been awarded a prestigious unit award for its work in securing key intelligence while deployed to the European theater, the service revealed in a statement.

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine, also known as the "Blackfish," was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for "outstanding performance in action while conducting operations within U.S. Sixth Fleet" during a recent six-month deployment, a Navy statement announced Friday.

The citation can be awarded to any U.S. military unit that has distinguished itself through outstanding performance and heroism in action against enemy forces. The Navy's submarine service has a long history of earning the honor for secret and clandestine activities that have begun to become public only in the last several decades.

According to the Navy, the Washington "completed three demanding missions vital to national security that resulted in obtaining sensitive and unique intelligence information."

No other information was provided by the service. Navy officials told Military.com on Tuesday that "due to the sensitive nature of the deployment, no other details are available."

The sub left its homeport of Norfolk, Virginia, in May 2023 and returned in mid-December 2023. The Sixth Fleet oversees operations in the waters of Europe, and its website shows that its area of responsibility "covers all of Russia." The Navy statement notes that the boat made port visits in Faslane, Scotland -- a town north of Glasgow -- and Grottsund, a town located on the northern tip of Norway.

The crew was also awarded the newly announced Arctic Service Medal "in recognition of the Blackfish's exceptional service and dedication during operations in the strategic Arctic region." The statement suggests that the sub had to loiter in the waters in the Sixth Fleet area of responsibility for exceptionally long periods of

time. It praises "the crew's superb planning, discipline, and material management [that] ensured the submarine remained on task through long periods without readily accessible support."

The Washington "garnered more days on station than any East Coast deployment on record," the Navy's statement added.

Vice Adm. Rob Gaucher, commander of the Navy's submarine forces, called the Presidential Unit Citation "a profound honor, signifying the crew's exceptional dedication and strategic impact."

"Their work in challenging, high-risk environments completing vital national-level missions demonstrates the key role our submarines play in ensuring maritime security and global stability," Gaucher added.

The Navy's silent service has a quiet tradition of espionage and intelligence work that will occasionally bubble into public view when a boat receives a prestigious award like the Presidential Unit Citation.

Before the Washington, it appears that the last submarine in recent memory to publicly receive a similar honor was the Seawolf-class submarine USS Jimmy Carter, more than a decade ago.

The Carter is somewhat famous in Navy circles for having an aura of secrecy about the ship and its missions, as well as just what its capabilities actually are.

In 2013, the Carter and her crew were awarded the presidential citation for conducting what is only known as "Mission 7." According to the award citation, the ship "performed under a wide range of adverse and extremely stressful conditions without external support," adding that "this deployment continued USS Jimmy Carter's tradition of excellence in pursuit of vital national security goals."

Carter's submarine predecessor was the USS Parche -- widely considered to be the most decorated vessel in U.S. naval history.

Among that submarine's achievements, according to the authors of the book "Blind Man's Bluff," was successfully tapping into Soviet underwater military communication cables in the

Sea of Okhotsk as part of a joint CIA and National Security Agency mission called Operation Ivy Bells.

Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew, the authors of "Blind Man's Bluff," wrote that the mission to the Sea of Okhotsk was actually a trial for the Parche -- "to prove herself before anyone dared to send her to that other, far more dangerous sea."

The book explains that, after the submarine was successful in the Pacific, she was sent to the far more crowded and dangerous Barents Sea where, in order to stay hidden, the submarine moved under the Arctic ice before making her way into congested shipping lanes.

Based on the Washington's port calls and Arctic award, it appears that the ship operated in the same area for at least some of its deployment.

By the time the Parche was decommissioned, she had amassed a staggering 10 Presidential Unit Citations, nine Navy Unit Citations, and 13 Expeditionary Awards, among other honors.

According to the Navy's statement, the Washington's crew was presented their citation by outgoing commander Capt. Timothy Poe at his change of command ceremony July 19 at Naval Station Norfolk.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/10/22/navy-submarine-honored-top-unit-award-3-secret-intelligence-missions.html>

### **SECNAV Del Toro Names Attack Boat For Atlanta**

(USNI NEWS 23 OCT 24) ... John Grady

Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro announced that the future Virginia-class submarine (SSN-813) will be named USS Atlanta during a ceremony at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum in the city on Wednesday.

"It has been 25 years since the Navy has had a ship named after the proud legacy of the city of Atlanta. Today, it is my honor and privilege to name the next Virginia-class submarine, SSN-813, USS Atlanta," he said in a Navy release.

The submarine's naming is in line with the precedent of selecting cities as names for the

Virginia-class boats. Five other ships have been named for the Georgia capital.

"We envision the future USS Atlanta sailing and submerging as a testament to some of the same values that this city holds ...protecting this nation with courage and strength," Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens said at the ceremony.

"The naming of this ship is a testament to Atlanta's history as the cradle of the civil rights movement," Rep. Nikema Williams (D-Ga.) said. "As this vessel sails across the globe, it will carry with it the legacy of civil and human rights leaders like Congressman John Lewis and President Jimmy Carter, embodying Atlanta's unbreakable spirit and the fight for justice that continues today."

Former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms will serve as the ship's sponsor. "The ship's sponsor fills a vital role throughout the life of a warship, serving as the bond between the ship, her crew, and the nation they serve," Del Toro said.

The last Navy ship named for the city was a Los Angeles-class nuclear attack submarine that decommissioned in 1999.

Twenty-two Virginia-class boats have been commissioned so far. They are the Navy's replacements for the Los Angeles class.

During the ceremony, Del Toro praised former President Jimmy Carter for his service as a Navy officer advancing the nuclear-submarine program with Adm. Hyman Rickover and in the White House for "growing our submarine, aviation, and surface forces."

The third and final submarine in the Seawolf class is named for Carter. USS Jimmy Carter (SSN-23) was commissioned in 2005. In a news release, General Dynamics said the submarine was "modified by Electric Boat to accommodate advanced technology for naval special warfare, tactical surveillance and mine warfare operations."

The \$887 million modification required alterations to the basic Seawolf design in the areas of ballast control, mission-management spaces, and various services. A unique feature of the modification was the creation of a flexible ocean interface, referred to as the "wasp waist,"



which enables the Navy to deploy and recover various payloads without having to use torpedo tubes, the news release said.

A building at the Naval Academy was named in Carter's honor in 2023. Carter, who celebrated his 100th birthday on Oct. 1, graduated from the academy in 1946.

As the naming ceremony concluded, USNI News reported that General Dynamics Electric Boat is slowing its rate of production on the Columbia-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine and the Virginia-class boats due to a lack of "major components."

GD CEO Phebe Novakovic said Electric Boat work would slow to keep pace with a supply chain that's lagging construction.

"EB continues to be severely impacted by late deliveries from major component suppliers, which has delayed schedules and is continuing to impact costs," Novakovic said during GD's Fiscal Year 2024 third-quarter earnings call with investors.

Novakovic touched on the ongoing contract negotiations between the Navy and GD over 17 future submarines in the call. The shipbuilder is now negotiating the cost of two Fiscal Year 2024 Block V Virginia-class attack boats – Baltimore (SSN-812) and Atlanta (SSN-813) – that have seen almost \$2 billion in estimated cost increases since Congress funded \$9.34 billion for the purchase.

<https://news.usni.org/2024/10/23/secnav-del-toro-names-attack-boat-for-atlanta>

### **New London Sub Base Completes Micro-Grid To Supply Its Own Electricity**

(THE DAY 24 OCT 24) ... Kimberly Drelich

GROTON — Navy, state and local officials on Wednesday celebrated the completion of a micro-grid at the naval submarine base, a project they said will make the base more energy resilient and serve as a model for other military installations across the country.

Capt. Kenneth M. Curtin, Jr., commanding officer of the Naval Submarine Base, called the project, which was more than a decade in the

making, a "game changer" that will ensure energy resiliency and efficiency at the base.

A micro-grid system allows the Navy to generate its own electricity and ensures the base will have electricity, if there should be a power outage from the public grid, Curtin explained. He said the micro-grid at the base is the first of its kind of this scale in the Navy.

### **New course of energy resilience**

Officials toured the power plant at the base and then gathered at the waterfront for a ribbon-cutting ceremony that featured speeches about the importance of energy security, efficiency and resiliency for the Navy.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D- Conn., said the project sets the Navy on a new course of energy efficiency, reliability, resilience and readiness.

Blumenthal said the monumental day began with a meeting years ago between former Gov. Dannel Malloy and former Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, who was committed to energy efficiency.

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D- 2nd District, said the meeting took place as a result of two "near death experiences" the base had, first in the 1990s and then in 2005.

In the wake of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission decision to keep the base open, officials realized the need to look at what was identified as a weakness of the base: that the base was reliant on the outside grid, Courtney said.

The project for an inside grid would help make sure the base would score higher if there ever was another round of BRAC.

Meredith Berger, assistant secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and the Environment, said the micro-grid provides renewable, reliable, and redundant energy, and supports "mission assurance" for the base. She said it is an example of what all bases, stations and installations should look like.

Berger said the micro-grid project helps build energy resilience in the face of climate threats, whether it is sea level rise or increased storms,

that cause power interruptions.

Gov. Ned Lamont said the micro-grid will make sure "the lights stay on" at the base, which he said is "important for our security and the world."

Rear Adm. Carl Lahti, commander of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic who served as 50th commanding officer of the base, was described as the "architect" of the project.

He said the Navy will continue to improve and modernize the micro-grid, just like the rest of the base.

### **Energy improvements**

Curtin said that before the micro-grid, the base had an aging generator that by itself would not supply all the power the base needed if it lost power from its external source of Groton Utilities.

Now the micro-grid can power all of the base's mission-essential needs — any submarines, as well as buildings and the submarine school — internally, should the base lose its external power source, Curtin said.

The system also has energy efficiencies so there are cost savings, he said. He said energy is the largest cost for Navy installations so the savings free up money that can be used in the fleet.

Curtin said, with the micro-grid, the base always will buy some power from the public grid, but typically makes a greater portion of energy than the amount it buys.

Curtin said more than \$235 million was invested in the base for energy reliability, security and resiliency, at no cost to the Navy. The Navy said the state, Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative, Danbury-based FuelCell Energy, Massachusetts-based NORESO, and contractors and sub-contractors are key contributors to the project.

Curtin said two earlier projects laid the foundation for the micro-grid.

Under the Navy's "Enhanced Use Lease," program, CMEEC sub-leased the Navy's under-utilized land parcel adjacent to the on-base power substation to Danbury-based FuelCell Energy, Inc. for a fuel cell park, Curtin said.

Normally, the park supplies energy to Groton's

electric distribution system, but during emergencies, the energy can be isolated to flow through the micro-grid for the Navy's sole use for the base, said CMEEC CEO David Meisinger.

The base worked with NORESO, a New England-based energy services company, to pursue an energy savings performance contract, which resulted in an energy-efficient heat and power system, Curtin said. The state also funded an energy-efficient boiler.

The third step was creating the micro-grid by connecting it all together and adding controlling software and smart grid components, he said.

FuelCell Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Mark Feasel and NORESO Senior Vice President of Strategy and Growth Darcy Immerman also spoke at the event.

"The completion of the microgrid at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton marks a significant achievement in enhancing energy resilience and national security," state Rep. Aundré Bumgardner, D- Groton, said in a statement. " Groton Utilities and CMEEC were key partners in this collaborative effort, providing local expertise and resources to ensure the project's success."

"This advanced system allows the base to operate independently from the public grid during disruptions, a vital step forward in both climate resilience and energy independence," he added. "I'm proud to have supported the state budget, which made \$5 million in microgrid design and construction costs reimbursable."

After the ceremony, Lamont visited Robert E. Fitch High School, where he met with about 200 students from AP Government, College Prep Civics, and Fitch's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in the auditorium, according to the school district.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/10/24/new-london-sub-base-completes-micro-grid-supply-its-own-electricity.html>

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## Submarine Shipyard Fire In England May Affect Australia's Deal

(SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 30 OCT 24) ...  
Rob Harris

A significant fire has broken out at nuclear submarine shipyard in north-west England, threatening to cause major delays to the rollout of Australia's \$380 billion AUKUS deal.

Videos and pictures posted on social media showed flames and smoke at the 150-year-old BAE Systems facility in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. The British defence giant – known for designing, developing and manufacturing weapons – has built and assembled the nation's nuclear submarines on site since 1963.

Police said two people were taken to hospital and advised residents nearby to remain indoors while urging there was "no nuclear risk" to the community. A coastal town of 67,000 people on the fringes of the Lake District, Barrow has been a manufacturing town since the 19th century.

Local media reported the fire was believed to have started at Devonshire Dock Hall, the vast complex where both Vanguard-class submarines and the state-of-the-art Astute-class submarines were built. Covering around 2.4 hectares, the hall is the second-largest indoor shipbuilding complex of its kind in Europe.

It is also where the first SSN-AUKUS boats – the largest, most powerful and advanced attack submarines the Australian and British navies have ever operated – will be designed and built.

Australian politicians, including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Defence Minister Richard Marles, have been regular visitors to the site in the past two years since the announcement of the Australia, UK and US deal.

The federal government has described AUKUS as the "biggest procurement" in Australia's history, with estimates suggesting it could cost 0.15 per cent of gross domestic product between now and the mid-2050s.

Under the deal, Australia will buy two second-hand nuclear-powered Virginia-class boats in the early 2030s, with a third arriving towards the end of that decade.

The UK and Australia are also working on their own joint submarine project, known as SSN-AUKUS, with the custom-built nuclear-powered fleet to enter service in the late 2030s in the UK and early 2040s in Australia.

The Australian Department of Defence was monitoring early reports of the blaze and seeking further information, a federal government source said.

BAE said in a statement it was working with emergency services to deal with the blaze at the site, which employs 12,500 workers.

"Two colleagues have been taken to hospital having suffered suspected smoke inhalation. At this time there are no other casualties and everyone else have been evacuated from the Devonshire Dock Hall and are accounted for," the company said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/submarine-shipyard-fire-in-north-east-england-may-impact-australia-s-deal-20241030-p5kmok.html>



If any of you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps was played. This brings out a new meaning of it.



Here is something Every American should know. Until I read this, I didn't know, but I checked it out and it's true:

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps.' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes.



But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.



During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.



The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform.

This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.



The words are:  
Day is done. Gone the sun.  
From the lakes from the hills.  
From the sky. All is well.  
Safely rest. God is nigh.

Fading light. Dims the sight.  
And a star. Gems the sky.  
Gleaming bright. From afar.  
Drawing nigh. Falls the night.

Thanks and praise. For our days.  
Neath the sun Neath the stars.  
Neath the sky As we go.  
This we know. God is nigh

I too have felt the chills while listening to 'Taps' but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along.

I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

Remember Those Lost and Harmed While Serving Their Country.



Also Remember Those Who Have Served And Returned; and for those presently serving in the Armed Forces.



Please send this on after a short prayer. Make this a Prayer wheel for our Soldiers ... please don't break it.



**This article was written by Jim Gutierrez LTJG G 66-67 Commissioning Plank Owner. It is his take on the loss of the Scorpion.**

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### **The Scorpion was lost in the Atlantic in May of 1968**

When I was working as a Construction Engineer at River Bend Nuclear Power Station in 1983, I became friends with Bill Witcraft, another Submariner. He had some problems on a sub out of New London. With the help of his mother who worked for the Department of The Navy in Washington, he was transferred to San Diego to get a fresh start. *He was well connected.*



In the lower level of the Turbine Building one morning, he related to me a story about a Soviet sub that had a meltdown in the Atlantic near the Canary Islands. The Scorpion, which had just completed a Med cruise was sent there to try to recover the **crypto gear**.

The Soviet sub was the K-27



The Soviets reported that the meltdown occurred in the Barent Sea on May 24, 1968. The K-27 was underway on an around the world tour. The first thing you do when you have a meltdown is you come to the surface and ventilate. The beauty of being a submarine is

you don't need to tell the world where you are. However, if you are down around the Canary Islands on the surface, somebody is going to see you. Since The Scorpion was just coming out of the Med. Let's go get the crypto gear!



The nuclear reactors of K-27 were troublesome from their first criticality, but the K-27 was able to engage in test operations for about five years. On 24 May 1968, the power output of one of her reactors suddenly dropped sharply. Radioactive gases were released into her engine room and the radiation levels throughout K-27 increased dangerously. This last piece of the puzzle was not found until 2024 when I was searching the internet for Soviet subs having melt downs.

In 1993, 25 years after the Scorpion was lost, I set out to find the true story. After 31 years of research and my experience as a Naval Officer on Subs I am prepared to share the story of what really happened beneath the waves during the Cold War. The Navy went through elaborate means to show that they were searching for the Scorpion, but they knew where she went down because they were in radio contact when she was run over by a Soviet vessel.

Scorpion was running on the surface in radio contact with COMSUBLANT. She was being harassed by one or more Soviet vessels.



Photo # NH 97223-KN Sail of sunken USS Scorpion, 1986

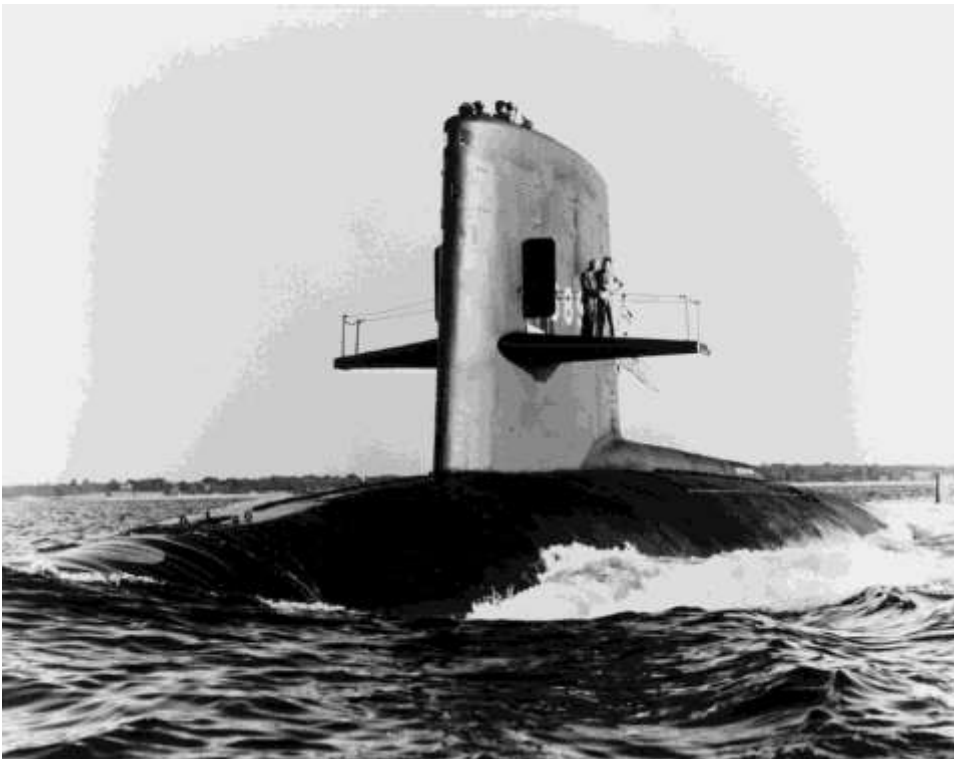
The above picture of the sail was rotated to show clarity of the sail in true orientation. This is a published picture at the bottom of the Atlantic apart from the hull of the boat. The jagged edge is where it was ripped from the hull. Note that the starboard running light is rigged out. She was running on the surface at night.

Transiting nuclear boats run submerged. She was running on the surface probably due to mechanical difficulties. The attachment to the hull is a strong attachment. It must be, the sail causes a great deal of drag when the boat is running fast submerged. The only thing that could rip off the sail is a collision with another vessel. Setting up a collision course at night is simple, just keep the target vessel on the same bearing and **WHAM** there will be a collision. Scorpion was run over by a Soviet vessel. The picture of the Scorpion that was not published by the Navy was the top of the ops compartment where the sail was attached, which flooded after the collision sending the Scorpion to the bottom. 99 officers and men were lost. They died in combat but since the Navy covered it up their dependents were not granted the benefits due.

Edd Offley, In the book *Scorpion Down*, published in 2008 stated that the Navy had covered up the fact that the Soviets were involved in the demise of Scorpion. He went back to his experience as a newspaper reporter and in 2018 he published an article after interviewing the enlisted men on watch at COMSUBLANT the night the Scorpion was run over. They were no longer in the Navy. They confirmed that there was a coverup. He came down hard on COMSUBLANT. The Silent Service remained silent to cooperate with the **COMMANDER IN CHIEF** to avoid **Unlimited Undersea Warfare**.

The Scorpion was not able to recover the crypto gear which is why a few years later the USA spent a ton of money and converted a ship to go down and grab the K-129 in deep water in the pacific. It was all about **crypto gear**.

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. We put the K-129 on the bottom for good reason, The Soviets just wanted to get even.



In the eyes of a submariner, she was beautiful. The Corvette of subs, light weight but with the 15,000-shaft horsepower S5W nuclear engine. The same reliable engine which powered each one of the 41 For Freedom Fleet Ballistic Missile Subs which were much larger.



# Using Test Trees to Find Missing Links

**Don Ort - Gold/SY1/Blue 69-74 and Tom Krauser - Blue 72-74**

Sometimes you can try to create a “test tree” to research a possible link to your tree. For example, in Tom’s “Krauser” line he only knows from an obituary that his great grandfather, Charles Fritz Krauser (1866-1937), came to America from “Germany” when he was 17 (about 1883). He has no other information about him before that date. Tom assumed his name may be Karl Fredrick Krauß which is the German equivalent of Charles Fritz Krauser.

To try to find connections to ancestors further up the tree he created a test tree called “Krauser Research Tree.” He added the basic information that he already knew about the Krauser line up to his great grandfather.

You can attach a DNA test you manage to that Profile in your test/research tree to see if DNA matches and/or ThruLines that can help you fill out missing links in that test/research tree. However, a DNA test can only be attached to one tree at a time so when you are done you have to re-attach it to your normal tree. For example, in the Krauser Family Research Tree Tom attached his father’s half-sister to her profile in the test tree to see if any of her DNA “cousins” could help Tom fill in that tree up the Krauser ancestor line.

Tom attached his father’s half-sister’s DNA to her Profile in the test tree since she is “more Krauser” than he was. Remember that each generation down the tree loses 50% of the DNA, thus, generations farther up the tree will give more DNA cousins for that line. Then you can use ThruLines and DNA matches in the “test tree” to try to expand it up.

To Link DNA to a different tree do the following steps:

- In Ancestry click on your **Profile** picture in upper right corner of the screen.
- Click **Account Settings**.
- Click **DNA** on left side under **Settings**.
- Find the person you want to connect to a different tree and click the “>” on right side of their name.
- Under **DNA and family tree linking** click the “>” to right side of **DNA link**.
- Under **Link to a different family tree** select the desired tree from the drop down list.
- Fill in the **First Name** and **Last Name** as it appears in that tree.
- Select the correct name when it appears.
- Click on **Link DNA results**.
- That person’s DNA is now linked to the new tree.

When ready to transfer the DNA back to the original tree repeat the process above to link it back to the original tree.

You do not have to be as careful in the “test tree” when importing other family trees looking for links upward, since eventually you will probably delete this tree after importing “verified information” to your actual tree.

Tom found several DNA matches who are listed as “distant” cousins that have Krauser, Krause, Krau, Crouse, or a version of that name in their family trees. Creating a test tree, you can start with records for the DNA match “cousin.” Then you start working “up” their family tree(s) to see where they could possibly tie into one of your distant grandfathers in that family line.

From a previous article, showing the Cousin Chart, you can see that a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin has the “same 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather” as you. A 4<sup>th</sup> cousin should have the same 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather, etc.

Doing this, in the test tree using DNA matches for cousins, Tom has traced back to “potential” great grandparents in a particular region of Germany. If a DNA match is likely a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> cousin, then that means that they should have the same 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather as Tom to connect the trees. Thus, if you can find distant cousins, and go up their trees, u should be able to link them together and have “possible” siblings to come down the tree in your line to connect to your great grandfather.

If the DNA cousin has a great grandparent in common with you, but it is several great grandparents up the tree, you will need to add some hypothetical great grandparents to fill in the missing gaps between what you know and the assumed great grandparents of the DNA cousin. For example, you know your great grandparent, but the DNA cousin link appears to connect at the 6<sup>th</sup> great grandparent, you will need to add hypothetical 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> great grandparents to reach that point in the test tree using about 20 years average between generations.

Then you look for other possible DNA cousins and repeat the process to add them to your test tree. Hopefully, you may find common ancestors between the different DNA cousins to tie their trees together. Using this process Tom was able to take his family line back several generations to a common region of Germany. Tom is still missing a couple of hypothetical great grandparents to fill in his tree but has been able to link his tree to several generations in Germany using DNA cousins and a test tree. Then you may be able to use Hints and other data to try to fill in the hypothetical grandparents to connect to what you know.

Then you can start adding the new information to your actual tree.

Hopefully, this process will fill in missing voids in your tree.

# Mayday! Mayday! USS Albuquerque Adrift!

USS Albuquerque was on its way to the start of a week's worth of presentations and major command events. She was to meet up with the USS Bullhead to kick off the week's events in a formation passing the local populace, showing the commitment to our community.

"Sir, we've lost the stern lights."

"Helm, All Stop."

"Answering All Stop, Sir."

This is supposed to be a simple surface transit to our rendezvous point, thought the captain. We just finished cleaning the boat and prepping for presentation; what now?

"Engineering, what's the status?"

"Sir, the shaft is cracked, and propulsion is compromised!"

WHAT?!?

That's the submariner in me trying to put the recent base incident in our old dialect. The reality is an equally harrowing tale of near loss and amazing recovery - a testament to the ingenuity of the submarine service.

Bullhead Base members were scheduled to meet at the southwest corner of the Coronado Mall with the models of the USS Albuquerque and the USS Bullhead in preparation to participate in the 2024 New Mexico State Fair Parade. Jay Schreffler was towing the USS Albuquerque model from its storage location in the East Mountains to the parking lot of the Coronado Mall when, just a half mile from the destination, his truck informed him the trailer lights were suddenly disconnected. Jay cautiously pulled off the road and determined the trailer frame was severed just aft of the hitch! The only thing holding the trailer together was the wooden decking! After evaluation, Jay concluded the trailer would hold long enough for the drive to the meeting location. With hazard lights flashing and extremely slow driving, the USS Albuquerque made it to the rendezvous point. That was where our base members stepped up to the challenge.



With no significant tools on site and limited support in the area (it was - after all - just the parking lot of a local mall at 0730 on a Saturday morning), members of USSVI Bullhead Base gathered round to assess the damage. One of those members was A-ganger extraordinaire, Dennis Navarette. Within minutes, Dennis had assessed the situation and was off to the

local hardware store to collect the needed supplies. Minutes later the USS Bullhead model arrived. Base members focused on stabilizing and disconnecting the USS Albuquerque from Jay's truck. Base leadership decided to send the USS Bullhead to the State Fair Parade staging area with some of the team, while the rest stayed to determine the fate of the USS Albuquerque.

The USS Bullhead arrived at the parade staging area and was placed among the other 150+ parade participants as scheduled. While some of the base members completed the final preparations of the USS Bullhead for the parade, Dennis arrived back at the USS Albuquerque with c-clamps and angle iron. Within minutes, Dennis had "jerry-rigged" the trailer of the USS Albuquerque. The team decided the fix would work well enough to participate in the parade and - although well past the designated muster time - proceeded to the parade staging area.

Amazingly, the USS Bullhead and the USS Albuquerque models successfully participated in the 2024 New Mexico State Fair Parade and actually won 3rd Place in the Vehicles-Floats category!



You would think this is the end of the story, but no... After the parade, Jay dropped off base members at the mall to collect their vehicles and drove the USS Albuquerque model 25 miles back to his property (where he kindly donates a portion of his barn for storage of these models). That afternoon Dennis, his wife Karen, Allen, his wife Bobbi, and Jay started permanent repairs to the trailer frame. Without removing the 350+ pound model from the trailer, this team worked together on Saturday and Sunday to restore trailer frame, wood decking integrity and repair the trailer lighting. This effort ensured the USS Albuquerque model was ready for its next event Monday afternoon at the USS Albuquerque Sail Monument press conference.

Dennis, and others that stepped up during these challenging events, displayed outstanding "never say die" attitude and "I can fix this" spirit - true submariner characteristics. The success of the Base in returning the USS Albuquerque model to fully operational status reminds us how, as submarine sailors, we rely on each other to Surface the Boat.

At our October 6th, 2024, Bullhead Base Get-Together, the Base Commander, Dan Rose, presented Dennis with a USSVI Diamond Anniversary Coin.





## The Security Corner

**By: George Birmingham ET1(SS) G/SY1/G 69-74, Assoc. Life Member, SV Carolina Piedmont Base, Holland Club**

### Privacy in Windows 10 and Windows 11

Welcome back to the Security Corner! This month we are going to take a look at actions you can take to improve your personal privacy in Windows 10 and Windows 11. With AI invading our lives, keeping our privacy perimeter protected is of vital importance. The information below comes from the Computerworld newsletter and website.

**Worried about privacy in Windows 10? Here's what you can do.**

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/1614198/how-to-protect-privacy-windows-10.html>

There has been some concern that Windows 10 gathers too much private information from users. Whether you think Microsoft's operating system crosses the privacy line or just want to make sure you safeguard as much of your personal life as possible, we're here to help. Here's how to protect your privacy in just a few minutes.

*Note: This story has been updated for Windows 10 version 22H2. If you have an earlier release of Windows 10, some things may be different. If you have Windows 11, see "[How to protect your privacy in Windows 11](#)."* Here's the link:

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/1616461/how-to-protect-your-privacy-in-windows-11.html>

#### In this article:

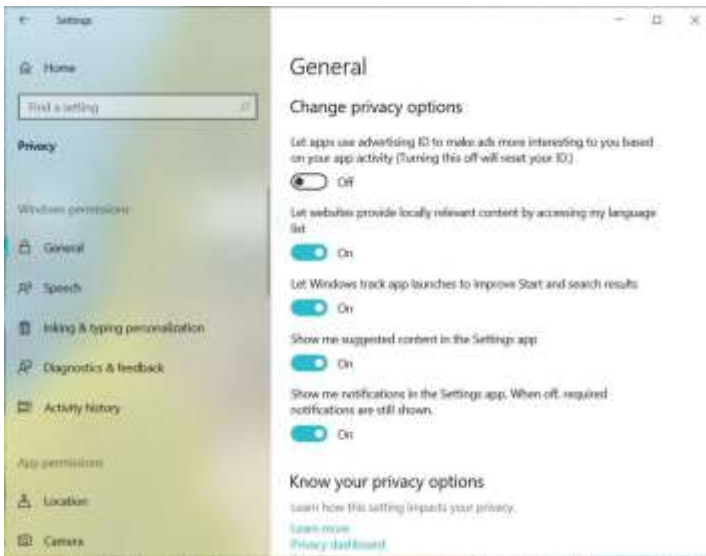
- Turn off ad tracking
- Turn off location tracking
- Turn off Timeline
- Curb Copilot
- Ditch a Microsoft account for a local account
- Change your app permissions
- Control and delete diagnostic data
- Use Microsoft's Privacy Dashboard
- Get granular in the Settings app
- Tips for the truly paranoid

#### Turn off ad tracking

At the top of many people's privacy concerns is what data is being gathered about them as they browse the web. That information creates a profile of a person's interests that is used by a variety of companies to target ads.

Windows 10 does this with the use of an [advertising ID](#). The ID doesn't just gather information about you when you browse the web, but also when you use Windows 10 apps. Your advertising ID isn't synced to other computers, and it operates independently of your Microsoft account, if you're using one.

You can turn that advertising ID off if you want. Launch the Windows 10 Settings app (by clicking on the *Start* button at the lower left corner of your screen and then clicking the *Settings* icon, which looks like a gear) and go to *Privacy*. Click *General* on the left. On the General pane in the main window, you'll see a list of choices under the title "Change privacy options." The first controls the advertising ID.



You can turn off Windows 10's advertising ID if you want.

Move the slider from On to *Off*. You'll still get ads delivered to you, but they'll be generic ones rather than targeted ones, and your interests won't be tracked.

To make absolutely sure you're not tracked online when you use Windows 10, and to turn off any other ways Microsoft will use information about you to target ads, head to the [Ad Settings section of Microsoft's Privacy Dashboard](#). Sign into your Microsoft account at the top right of the page.

Then go to the "See ads that interest you" section at the top of the page and move the slider from On to *Off*.

### Turn off location tracking

Wherever you go, Windows 10 knows you're there. Some people don't mind this, because it helps the operating system give you relevant information, such as your local weather, what restaurants are nearby and so on. But if you don't want Windows 10 to track your location, you can tell it to stop.

Launch the *Settings* app and go to *Privacy > Location*. Underneath "Allow access to location on this device," click *Change* and, on the screen that appears, move the slider from On to *Off*. Doing that turns off all location tracking for every user on the PC.



Clicking the *Change* button lets you turn location tracking on or off for every user on the Windows 10 device.

This doesn't have to be all-or-nothing affair — you can turn off location tracking on an app-by-app basis. If you want your location to be used only for some apps and not others, make sure location tracking is turned on, then scroll down to the "Choose which apps can use your precise location" section. You'll see a list of every Windows 10 app that can use your location. Move the slider to *On* for the apps you want to allow to use your location — for example, Weather or Maps — and to *Off* for the apps you don't.

That doesn't cover desktop apps, though. So after you turn on location tracking, go to "Allow desktop apps to access your location" and turn the slider to *On*. When you do that, a list of desktop apps that use location tracking appears. Move the slider to *On* for each of the apps you want to use your location and *Off* for each app you don't.

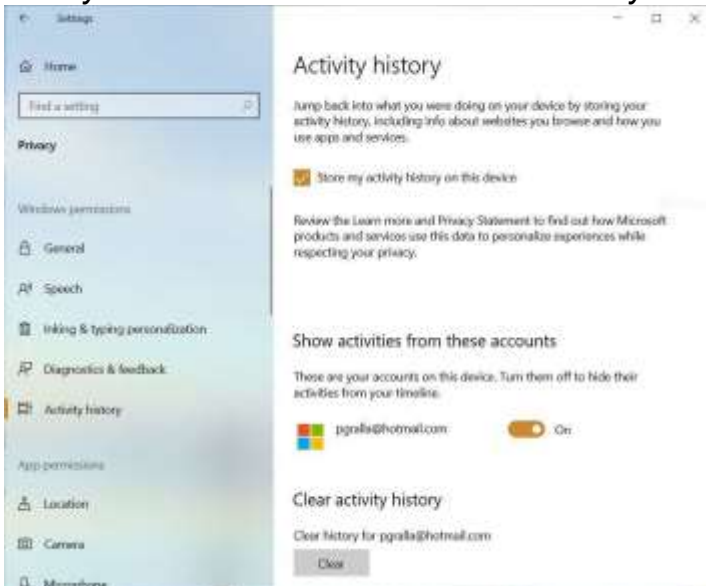
When you turn off location tracking, Windows 10 will still keep a record of your past location history. To clear your location history, go to the [Privacy Dashboard](#), sign in, scroll down to the Location setting, and click it. You'll see a list of your most recent location data; to see all of it, click *Show all activities*. You can click *Clear all activities* to delete all the data, or delete any individual entry by clicking the trash can icon at its far right.

There's a lot more you can do to protect your privacy when you're there. For details, see "[Use Microsoft's Privacy Dashboard](#)" below.

### Turn off Timeline

Timeline is a Windows 10 feature that lets you review and then resume activities and open files you've started on your Windows 10 PC, as well as any other Windows PCs and devices you have. (Although Timeline has been removed from Windows 11, it still lives in Windows 10.) So, for example, you can switch between a desktop and a laptop, and from each machine resume activities you've started on either PC.

In order to do that, Windows needs to gather information about all your activities on each of your machines. If that worries you, it's easy to turn Timeline off. To do it, go to *Settings > Privacy > Activity history* and uncheck the box next to *Store my activity history on this device*.



Here's how to turn off Timeline so that Microsoft doesn't gather information about your activities on your PC.

At that point, Windows 10 no longer gathers information about your activities. However, it still keeps information about your old activities and shows them in your Timeline on all your PCs. To get rid of that old information, go down to the "Clear activity history" section of the screen and click *Clear*.

Note that you'll have to take these steps on all of your PCs to turn off the tracking of your activities.

### Curb Copilot

Microsoft's [generative AI Chabot Copilot](#) is the most powerful new feature Windows 10 has seen in recent years. Some people believe it can also be a privacy invader. That's because your chat requests and responses are sent to the cloud, where they are processed — and they're kept there as well.

If this worries you, there are things you can do about it. Start with the most basic. If you're extremely worried about your privacy and don't think Copilot offers anything for you, simply don't use it. Keep in mind, though, that you'll be losing out on its benefits, including the ability to get detailed information fast.

There is a middle ground between doing nothing to protect your privacy in Copilot and not using Copilot at all. First, don't share your personal data when interacting with Copilot — things like specific financial information, your place of work, and so on.

Next, delete your Copilot chat activity on a regular basis. You can delete individual chats or all of them en masse. To delete individual chats, go to <https://copilot.microsoft.com/> and log into your Microsoft account. On the right-hand side of the page, you'll see your most recent chats. Move your mouse over any you want to delete, then click the trash icon next to it. To see more chats, click *See all recent chats*.

If you instead want to delete all your Copilot chats, go to the Microsoft [Privacy Dashboard](#), log in, click *Browsing and search*, and scroll down to the bottom of the page, to the "Copilot activity history" section. Click *Clear all Copilot activity history and search history*. You'll have to do this on a regular basis if you want to keep your activity as private as possible.



Here's how to delete all your Copilot activity at once.

### **Ditch a Microsoft account for a local account**

When you use your Microsoft account to log into Windows 10, you're able to sync your settings with all Windows devices. So, for example, when you make changes to your settings on a desktop PC, those changes will also be made on your laptop the next time you log in.

But maybe you don't want Microsoft to store that information about you. And maybe you want to cut your ties as much as possible to anything Microsoft stores about you. If that's the case, your best bet is to stop using your Microsoft account and instead use a local account.

To do it, go to *Settings > Accounts > Family & other users*. Then click *Add someone else to this PC*. From the screen that appears, select *I don't have this person's sign-in information*. On the next page, select *Add a user without a Microsoft account* and follow the instructions to create and use a local account.

**Keep in mind that when you do this, you won't be able to use Microsoft's OneDrive storage or download and install for-pay apps from the Microsoft Store. You can, however, download and install free apps from the Microsoft Store.**

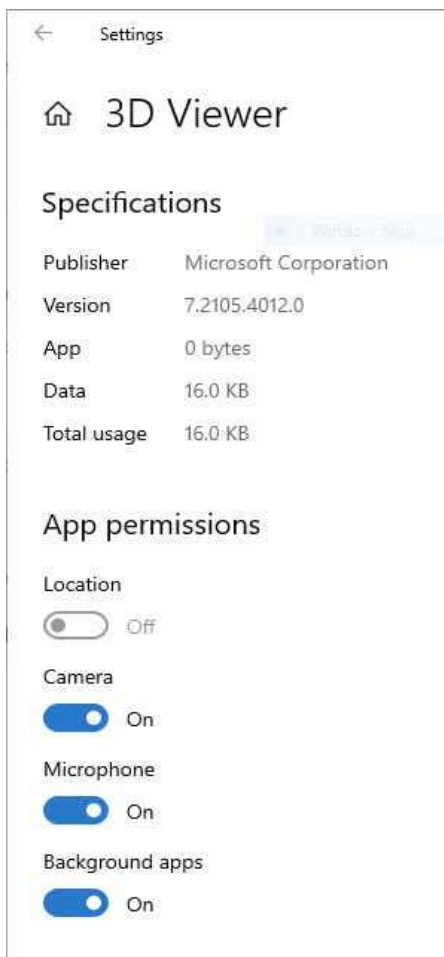
### **Change your app permissions**

Windows apps have the potential to invade your privacy — they can have access to your camera, microphone, location, pictures and videos.

But you can decide, in a very granular way, what kind of access each app can have.

To do this, go to *Settings > Apps*. Below "Apps & features" you'll see a list of your installed apps. Click the app whose permissions you want to control, then click *Advanced options* and set the app's permissions by toggling them either on or off.





Setting permissions for Microsoft's 3D Viewer app.

Note, though, that not all apps have an “Advanced options” link. And of those that do, not all let you customize your app permissions.

However, there's another way to change app permissions. To do it, go to *Settings > Privacy* and look under the “App permissions” section on the left-hand side of the page. You'll see a list of all of Windows' hardware, capabilities and features that apps can access if they're given permission — location, camera, microphone, notifications, account info, contacts and so on.

Click any of the listed items — for example, *Microphone*. At the top of the page that appears, you can turn off access to the microphone for all apps. Below that you'll see a listing of all the apps with access to the microphone, where you can control access on an app-by-app basis. Any app with access has a slider that is set to On. To stop any app from having access, move the slider to *Off*.

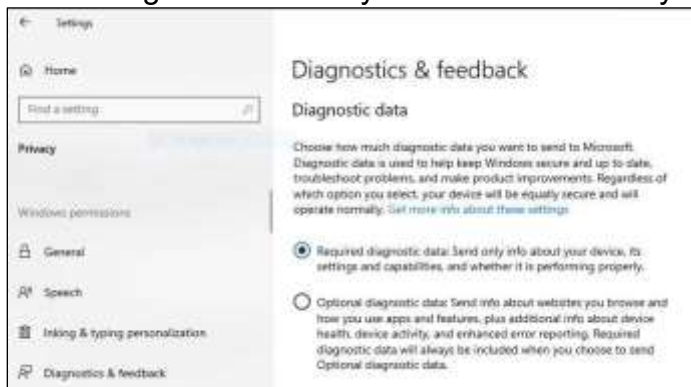
### Control and delete diagnostic data

As you use Windows 10, data is gathered about your hardware and what you do when you use Windows. Microsoft says that it collects this data as a way to continually improve Windows and to offer you customized advice on how to best use Windows.

That makes plenty of people uncomfortable. If you're one of them, you can to a certain extent control what kind of diagnostic data is gathered about you. To do it, head to *Settings > Privacy > Diagnostics & Feedback*. In the “Diagnostic data” section, you can choose between two levels of diagnostic data to be gathered. Note that there's no way to stop Microsoft from gathering diagnostic data entirely. Here are your two choices:

- **Required diagnostic data:** This sends information to Microsoft “about your device, its settings and capabilities, and whether it is performing properly.” If you're worried about your privacy, this is the setting to choose.
- **Optional diagnostic data:** This sends the whole nine yards to Microsoft: It will “send info about the websites you browse and how you use apps and features, plus additional info about

device health, device usage, and enhanced error reporting.” It also sends along required diagnostic data. If you’re worried about your privacy, don’t make this choice.



Go here to control what diagnostic data Windows 10 gathers.

Next, scroll down to the “Tailored experiences” section and move the slider to **Off**. This won’t affect the data Microsoft gathers, but it will turn off targeted ads and tips that are based on that information. So while it won’t enhance your privacy, you’ll at least cut down on the annoyance factor.

Now scroll a bit further down and in the “Delete diagnostic data” section, click **Delete**. That will delete all the diagnostic data Microsoft has gathered about you. However, after you delete it, Microsoft will start gathering the data again.

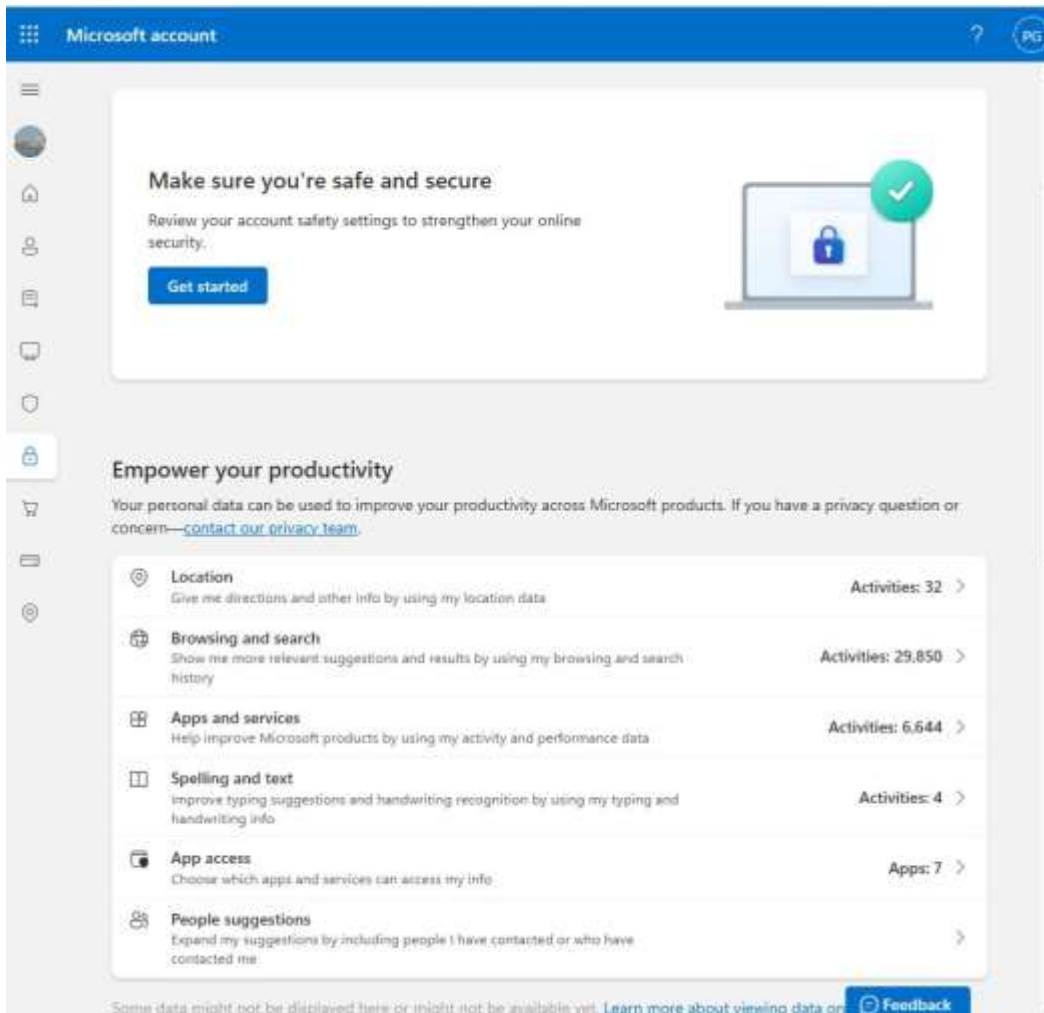
Finally on this screen, consider scrolling up to the “Improve inking and typing” section and moving the slider to **Off**. That will stop Windows 10 from sending to Microsoft the words you input using the keyboard and inking.

One final note about diagnostic data. You may have heard about a tool Microsoft has been hyping, called the Diagnostic Data Viewer, which you can download from the Microsoft Store. Microsoft claims it lets you see exactly what kind of diagnostic data Microsoft gathers about you. Don’t believe it. It’s something only a programmer could love — or understand. You won’t be able to use it to clearly see the diagnostic data Microsoft collects. Instead, you’ll scroll or search through incomprehensible headings such as “TelClientSynthetic.PdcNetworkActivation\_4” and “Microsoft.Windows.App.Browser.IEFrameProcessAttached” with no explanation of what it means. Click any heading, and you’ll find even more incomprehensible data.

### Use Microsoft’s Privacy Dashboard

Microsoft has built an excellent, little-known web tool called the [Privacy Dashboard](#) that lets you track and delete a lot of information Microsoft gathers about you. As covered earlier in this story, here you can turn off ad targeting and delete your location and Copilot history. You can also view and delete your browsing history, search history, voice activity, media activity, and more.

(Note that for your browsing and search history, it only tracks your activity when you use Microsoft Edge or Internet Explorer. It doesn’t track data when you use other browsers, like Chrome or Firefox. And it only tracks your location history when you’re using Microsoft devices, not those that use iOS or Android.)



Microsoft's little-known Privacy Dashboard is a great place to delete much of the information Microsoft gathers about you.

To use it, head to the information you want to view and clear, then click the appropriate link — for example, to view and delete your browser history in Microsoft Edge. Note that in some instances, you won't have full control over deleting and managing data.

In the dashboard you can also customize privacy settings for other Microsoft products, including Xbox and Microsoft 365.

### Get granular in the Settings app

All this shouldn't take that long and will do a great deal to protect your privacy. If you want to dig even deeper into privacy protections, launch the *Settings* app and click *Privacy*. You'll see the same General pane that we covered in the first tip in this story. (If for some reason you're in a different section of Privacy, click *General* on the left-hand side of the screen.)

Below the switch to turn off your advertising ID are three more privacy settings you can disable:

- **Language list:** The list of languages you have enabled on your machine is your own business.
- **App launches:** This is used to build the "Most used" list on the Start menu and influences search result order — likely not a must-have for the privacy minded.
- **Suggested content:** This is used, [in Microsoft's words](#), to "suggest new content and apps you might find interesting." Trust me, it's unlikely you'll find them interesting.

Turn all three of these off to further protect your privacy.

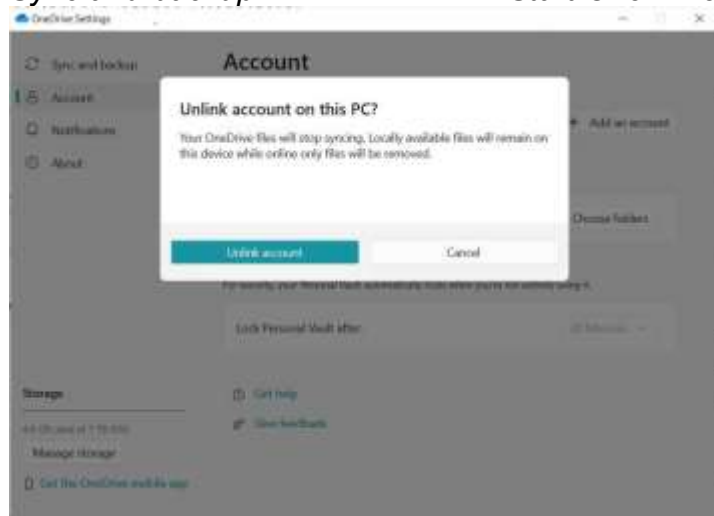
And there's a lot more beyond the General pane. On the left-hand side of the screen, you'll see additional areas where you can get even more granular about privacy — for example, in the "Inking & typing personalization" section you can change your global privacy options for inking and your typing history.

### Tips for the truly paranoid

If you want to take privacy even further, there are a few more things you can do.

### Stop using OneDrive

If you don't like the idea of syncing your data to Microsoft's OneDrive cloud storage service, you can stop using it. (There's no way to uninstall it.) Right-click the OneDrive icon on the notification tray at the bottom right of the Windows desktop and select *Settings* from the menu that pops open. In the OneDrive Settings window, go to the *Account* tab, then click the *Unlink this PC* button. Next, click the *Sync and backup* tab and uncheck *Start OneDrive when I sign in to Windows*.



Unlinking OneDrive so it no longer syncs.

### Don't sync Windows settings across devices

In addition, you can say no to syncing your Windows settings among different devices. When you sync your settings, the way you've customized and set up Windows 10 will be synced to Microsoft's servers. If you want to turn it off, go to *Settings > Windows Backup* and move the slider from On to Off in "Remember my preferences" and "Remember my apps."

### Turn off app diagnostics

Changing this setting isn't a particularly big privacy-enhancer, but if you're a real privacy fiend, every bit helps. It doesn't affect desktop apps like Word or Excel, and instead targets built-in Windows apps and the apps you download from the Microsoft Store. Turning off app diagnostics stops any of those apps from getting details about other apps — things such as their internal names, package names, the user name of the person running the app, and techie details such as memory usage. Developers use this information all the time, but your garden-variety apps shouldn't need any of it.

To turn it off, select *Settings > Privacy > App diagnostics*, and in the "Allow access to app diagnostic info on this device" section, click *Change*. When a slider appears, move it to *Off*.



Turn off app diagnostics to prevent built-in Windows apps and Microsoft Store apps from getting details about other apps.

### Don't share Windows updates

Finally, you can change the way Windows updates. In *Settings > Update & Security > Delivery Optimization*, turn off the switch next to *Allow downloads from other PCs*. When turned on, this function lets your Windows 10 system share its update files with other Windows 10 computers on the internet through peer-to-peer distribution.

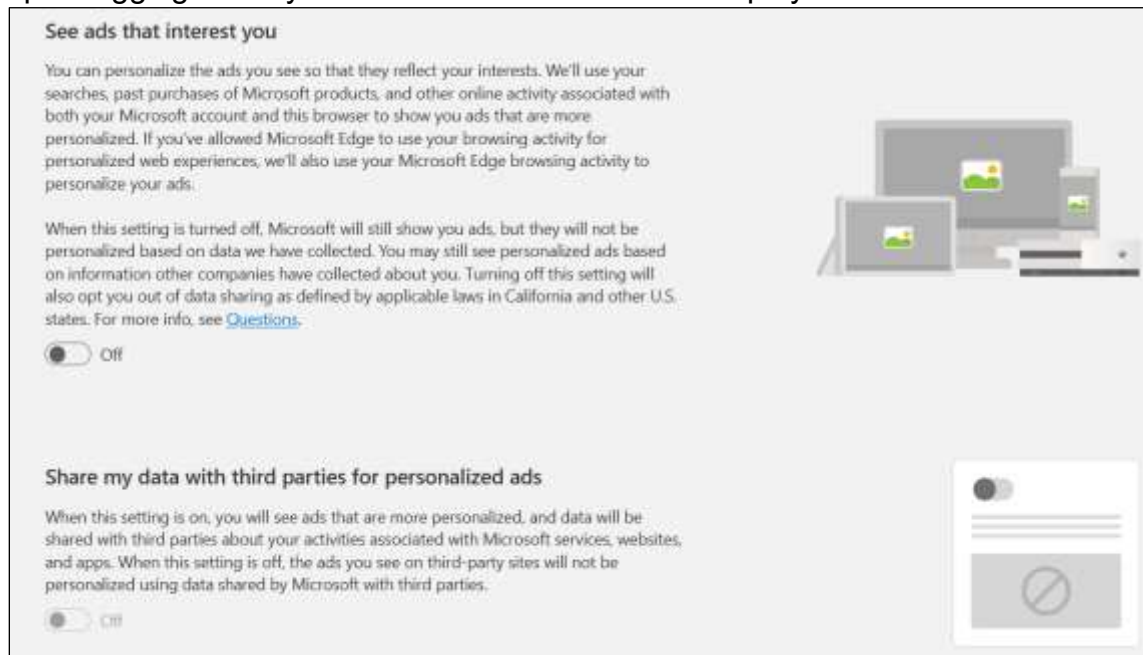


These steps can take you a long way towards making sure that Windows 10 doesn't cross the line into gathering data you'd prefer remain private.

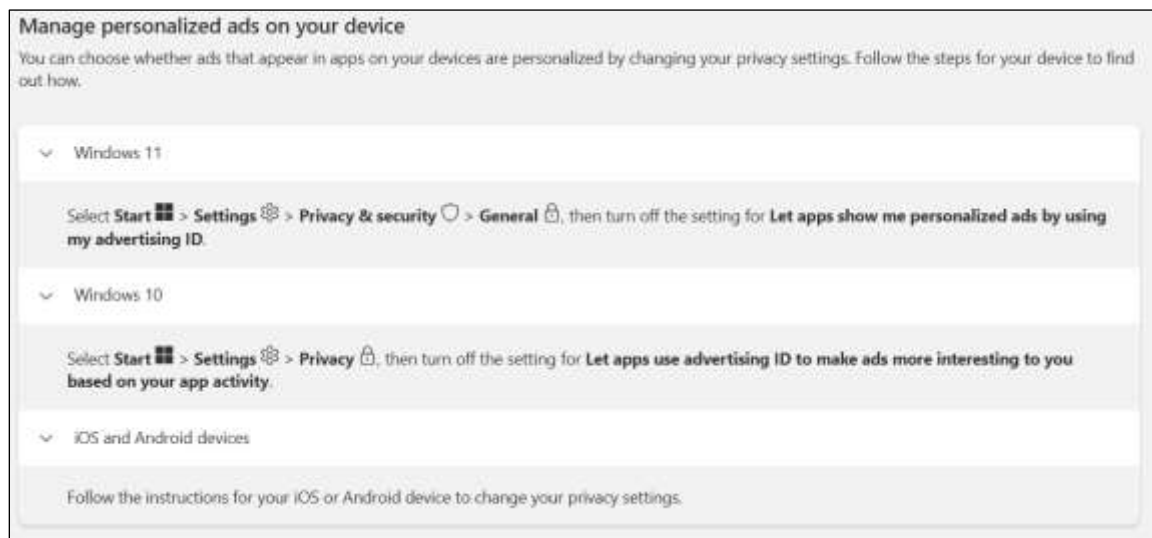
*This article was originally published in January 2016 and most recently updated in August 2024.*

So I followed the information in the article:

To make absolutely sure you're not tracked online when you use Windows 10, and to turn off any other ways Microsoft will use information about you to target ads, head to the [Ad Settings section of Microsoft's Privacy Dashboard](#). Sign into your Microsoft account at the top right of the page. And upon logging into my Microsoft account I see this displayed:



Going further down that same page is some guidance on turning off the Ad tracking, depending on device and Windows version



As always, shipmates, questions, comments, and suggestions for future topics are welcomed. Contact me at [subvet\\_ssbn@bellsouth.net](mailto:subvet_ssbn@bellsouth.net). And if you have a difficult computer or network problem you need help with, contact me. I'm always glad to help out if I can. //George

## What Is Spoofing, and How Can You Spot It?

By [Brooke Nelson Alexander RD.com](#)

Just when you think you know how to avoid security threats online, cybercriminals keep getting savvier. Spoofing—a scam in which a criminal pretends to be someone else so they can commit fraud, spread malware or carry out other cyberattacks—is the latest in a long list of online scams to keep on your radar.

Here's the good news: Taking simple security measures, like learning about spam texts to delete immediately, the area codes phone scam and the four-word phone scam, can make it harder for fraudsters to fool you. To help you stay safe, we've asked cybersecurity experts to explain how spoofing works and what you can do to avoid falling victim to online scams.

### What is an example of spoofing?

A spoofing scam might be an email, text message or phone call that appears to be from a trusted source, like a loved one or even a popular brand. But in reality, a fraudster is behind the fake email address or phone number, hoping to convince you to download malicious software, send money or share personal information or data with them.

Spoofing attacks can take many forms. In one recent example, hackers created phony Zoom invitations for virtual meetings at community associations and school boards. Victims who clicked on the document attached to the emails infected their devices with malware. Other examples of spoofing include emails posing as a request from PayPal or eBay for your login information, or text messages that appear to be money transfers from an online wallet or bank.

### Is spoofing a crime?

Spoofed emails, phone calls or text messages that lead to criminal acts such as attempted hacking, fraud or financial theft are illegal, according to Karim Hijazi, CEO of cyber intelligence company Prevaillon and a former contractor for the U.S. intelligence community. It happens more often than you think too. In a recent FBI report, people reported losing more than \$82 million to spoofing scams in 2021.

If you are the victim of spoofing or other online fraud, you can file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), as well as your local police station if you lost money. FYI, these Venmo scams, Amazon scams and Facebook Marketplace scams could also steal your money.

### Spoofing by text

#### How it works

In spoofed text messages, fraudsters disguise their sender ID to appear as someone or something they are not. They might claim to be your boss or family member, or they might impersonate a familiar company like Amazon or your bank. Either way, their goal is to trick you into sharing personal data or clicking a link that infects your phone with a virus.

Unfortunately, it's now easier than ever to create spoofed text messages. Most criminals use a software that allows them to create any sender ID they choose. "It used to require a business phone system to spoof caller ID, but now anyone can download an app from the App Store enabling them to make spoofed calls or texts," says Aaron Higbee, co-founder and chief technology officer at cybersecurity firm Cofense.

#### Why it's dangerous

The biggest danger of spoofing by text message: It is extremely difficult and sometimes impossible to recognize. "Spoofed text messages can sometimes be indistinguishable from legitimate messages, so the reader really has to pay attention," says Andrew Barratt, vice president of technology and enterprise at cybersecurity firm Coalfire.

Not only are spoofing texts tough to spot, but they can also cause serious harm to victims. For example, by clicking a link attached to the text message, you could accidentally download malware that allows someone to spy on your iPhone. If a fraudster can convince you that they are from your

bank, you might share financial or other sensitive information with them. Victims can also be fooled into sending money to a criminal if they believe they are texting a loved one.

### **How to recognize a spoofing text**

Beware of any text message from a phone number that you don't recognize, says Higbee. If you receive a message that appears to be a fraud detection or billing alert from a company you do business with, like your bank, look up the company's publicly listed number and call them directly to confirm the message. These alerts are among the most popular tricks that fraudsters use today, Higbee says. You should also learn [how to stop spam texts](#) in the first place.

## **Spoofing by phone call**

### **How it works**

Like spoofed text messages, spoofing by phone call relies on technology that allows criminals to create a fake caller ID. Then they can place calls pretending to be Amazon, PayPal, your bank or any other familiar business in order to steal money or sensitive information.

For example, attackers may call someone to warn them about a fraud alert on their account and then offer to help, according to Higbee. By tricking the victim into sharing their login information, fraudsters can gain access to the person's account and to any sensitive data it contains, like credit card numbers. These free password managers can help keep your log-ins secure from hackers.

### **Why it's dangerous**

People often fall victim to spoofed phone calls because mobile carriers are not able to block these calls or alert people that the call may be a scam, according to Hijazi. "For the recipient of the call, everything appears legitimate," he says. "When your bank's name appears in your caller ID, it's easy to be fooled."

Hijazi also notes that criminal call centers have gotten very good at imitating the real customer service procedures of legitimate organizations like banks, which makes it even harder for the victim to realize they're being conned. Stay ahead of spoofing phone calls by learning [how to stop robocalls](#) for good.

### **How to recognize a spoofing call**

If you receive a suspicious call, Barratt recommends paying attention to the quality of the audio. "The perpetrator is likely to be using a low-grade internet phone service that results in poor call quality," he says. Always verify that the call is legitimate by contacting the company directly before handing over any sensitive information like your login credentials or credit card numbers.

Urgent requests to share information, send money, click a link or download an attachment should be viewed with suspicion, according to Hijazi. "These scammers are very good at preying on our anxieties, and they will also try to move quickly to prevent the person from having time to think," he says.

## **Spoofing by email**

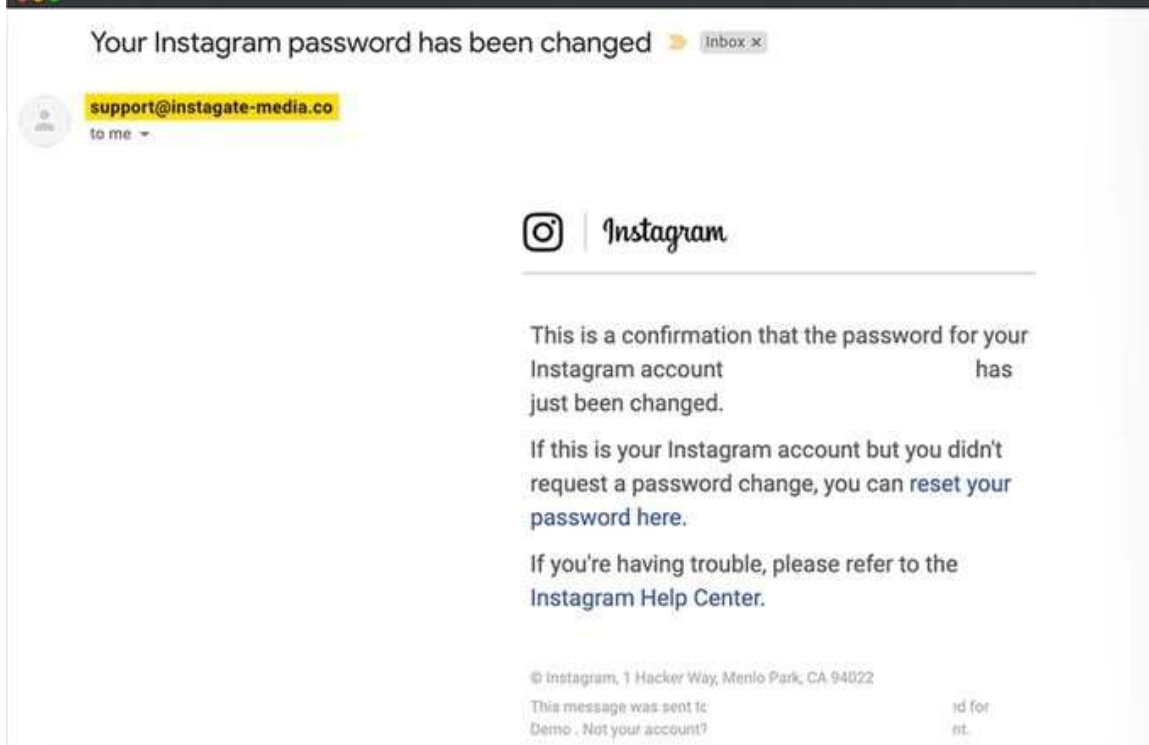
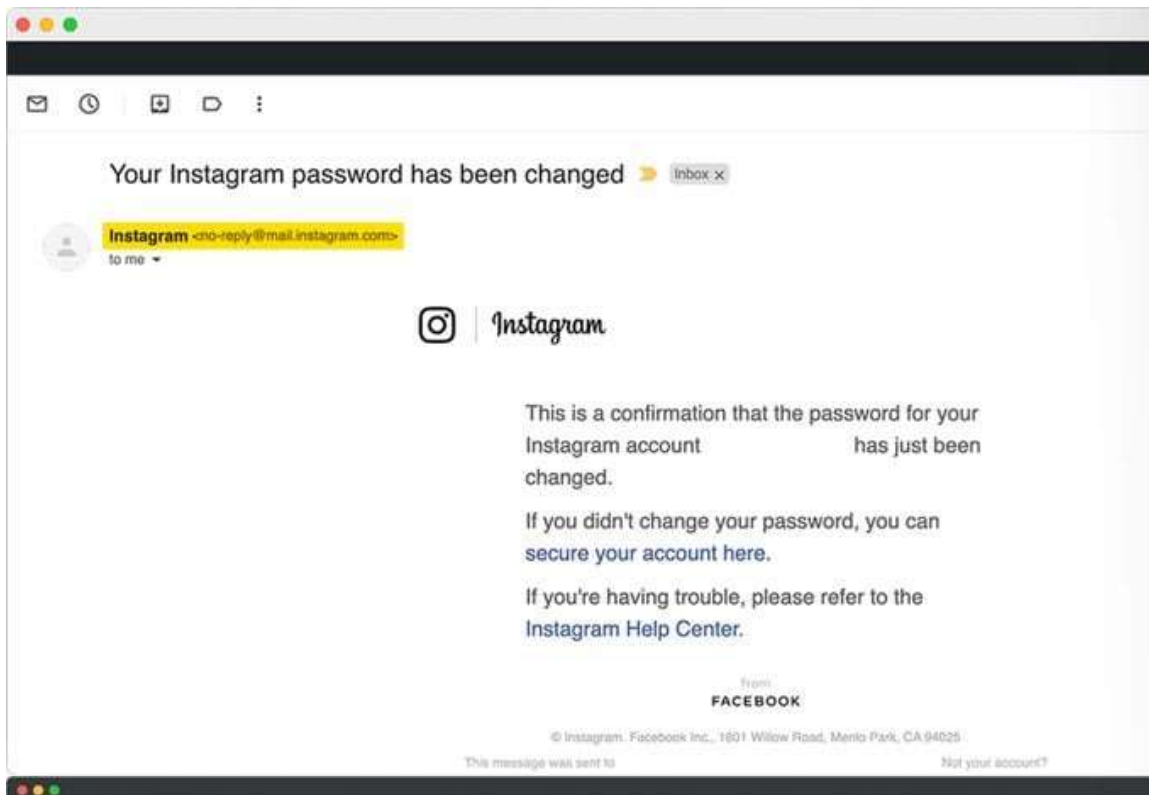
### **How it works**

Believe it or not, spoofing is one of the many things hackers can do with just your email address. "Email historically has been very [easy] to spoof," Barratt says. All fraudsters need to do is create a forged sender address that looks like yours, making small and tough-to-spot changes, like adding a period or swapping a number with a letter. Then they use the email address to send "spoof" messages containing harmful malware or urgent requests for money.

Keep in mind that "spoofing isn't the same thing as hacking," Hijazi says. "When a person's email is spoofed, it hasn't actually been compromised by the hacker. It's just been copied."

You could receive spoofed emails too. With email spoofing, attackers are hoping to fool you by assuming the identity of a person or organization you know and asking you for money, sensitive information or other favors. The sender's title mimics the real person's or organization's name, but the email address is slightly different from their actual one.

Which one of these emails is the real one?



If you said the first one you are correct. Check the email address which sent the email.

### Why it's dangerous

A spoofed email address looks legitimate, so email spoofing allows scammers to bypass the spam filters on most email accounts. Once spoofed emails make it into an inbox, victims are much more likely to open and fall for them. "People assume that when a sender's name appears in their inbox, it's the real person," Hijazi says. "But this is very easy to fake." Email is also one of the most sought after scam methods, such as in the Geek Squad scams for instance.

Email spoofing is the number one way people and companies get hacked, according to Hijazi. "You can be scammed out of money or personal information, lose access to your accounts or wind up



with a malware infection on your device,” he says. Malware attacks that rely on phishing emails, such as these Apple ID phishing scams, are on the rise as well.

What’s more, spoofed emails might be linked to sextortion schemes, which lure the victim into engaging in a private conversation or sending sensitive images of themselves that are later used for blackmail. Hackers may also impersonate a law enforcement agency and claim they have proof that you have engaged in illegal activities, like accessing child pornography, Hijazi warns.

### **How to recognize a spoofing email**

Receiving any emails from a contact through a new sender address should be a red flag that you might be dealing with a spoofing attack. Higbee advises being skeptical of any explanation as to why the sender is using a new email address. “When an attacker spoofs the friendly name, they will usually have a lie to explain why they are using a new email address,” he says. Instead, reach out to your contact in person or by phone call to confirm that the message is real.

For spoofing emails from companies or brands, Hijazi recommends checking the sender address to make sure it matches the sender’s name and actual email address. He also suggests looking for grammar and spelling mistakes, as well as any errors in the email format, which could indicate the email is not legitimate.

Luckily, “many online mail providers are already picking up spoof emails with the additional security they provide to help users with spam,” Barratt says. Still, you should always stay alert for spoofing emails and other phishing attacks in your inbox.

### **Other types of spoofing**

There are many other types of online spoofing to watch out for, and not all of it is related to financial fraud, experts say. For example, name spoofing—when fraudsters spoof the names of people with large audiences online to promote pyramid schemes or cryptocurrencies—is common on Twitter, YouTube and other social media platforms, Higbee says.

Don’t assume screenshots of text messages are legitimate, either, Higbee says. People can fabricate a conversation with someone by spoofing their phone number, screenshotting it and claiming the messages are a real conversation. This can cause personal and reputational damage for the spoofed person.

To keep your own info from falling into the wrong hands—and potentially leading to a spoofing attack—know the security risks of using public Wi-Fi networks and prevent companies from buying and selling your personal information.