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Newsletter of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society

December 2025, Volume 8

My turn……

Well friends, this is my last Posts and my last newsletter as your editor. Generally, it's been a pleasure working for you and generally I've enjoyed it very much.

You're probably asking why I decided to quit? It's time. I have other things I want to do in my life with whatever time is left. I'm a realist and I know that no one knows the answer to the—how much time is left?— question. Well, no one I talk to, anyway.

Additionally, there have been changes in the way things are done in the publishing of the newsletter and I often find it hard to change the way I do things, so that's another reason for me to step aside.

But not to worry. I'm not planning on going anywhere—permanently, anyway—and I will continue to be a member and support the club in other ways.

If you want to see me in person, that's easy: get Leti (Lebell) to cater a meal on the 3rd Saturday at the Roberts Road meeting location and be sure it involves some kind of sheet cake! Unless it's snowing or I'm away, I'll be there!

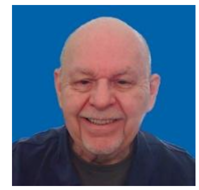
Due to the available white space, I've filled it with a couple of photos taken in March 2025 on a photo workshop in the Lofoten Islands, about 600 miles more or less due north of Oslo, Norway

I wish you all the best.

Next printed issue? Good question……………………..

Thank this issue's proofreaders: Doris Bloch, Paul Howad, Steve Kalin, Martin Muenz

Changing Password Managers - LastPass to Bitwarden

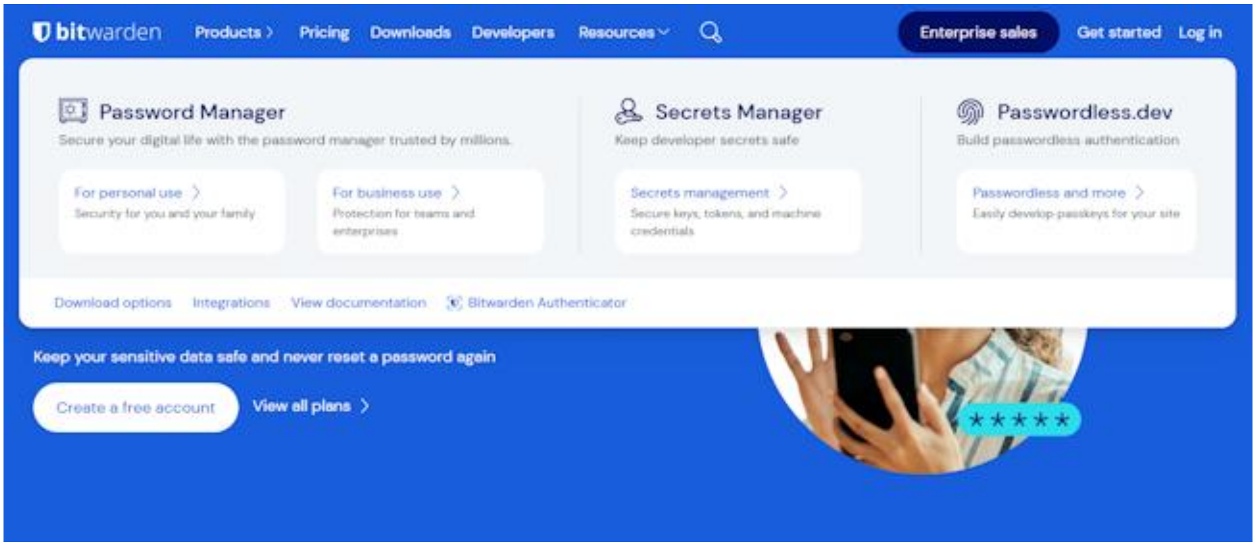


by Tom Burt, Vice President
Sun City Summerlin Computer club
https://www.scscc.club tomburt89134@cox.net
(dated January 2025)

In my October 2024 article ("A New Desktop for a New Year"), I laid out the hardware setup for building a new Windows 11 desktop AI PC workstation. Since then, I've moved along, bought the components, built the PC and have been installing and configuring software. I'm writing this article on that new PC. One of the decisions I had to make was what to use for a password manager. On my previous Windows 10 desktop, I'd been using LastPass in the Google Chrome browser. However, LastPass only allows one device on its free account. Further, in December 2022, a cloud backup service used by LastPass suffered a major security breach, allowing some customer information, but not login IDs or passwords, to be stolen. This was not LastPass's fault, but it was still considered a negative. I've heard good things about the Bitwarden password manager and decided to switch to using it on my new PC.

Setting Up a Bitwarden Account

The first step is to navigate to the https://Bitwarden.com website and create an account. Bitwarden has several tiers of accounts for personal use with progressively more features, but the free tier offers all the features a normal user requires.



If you're interested in learning more about Bitwarden, try their Learning Center at: https://bitwarden.com/learning/

Your Bitwarden account has an email address as the user ID and a master password which controls access to the account and to the Bitwarden cloud server's master copy of your password vault. This master password is not saved anywhere on the Bitwarden servers, so it's very important that you record it in a safe place locally. If you forget it, you will not be able to access your password vault.

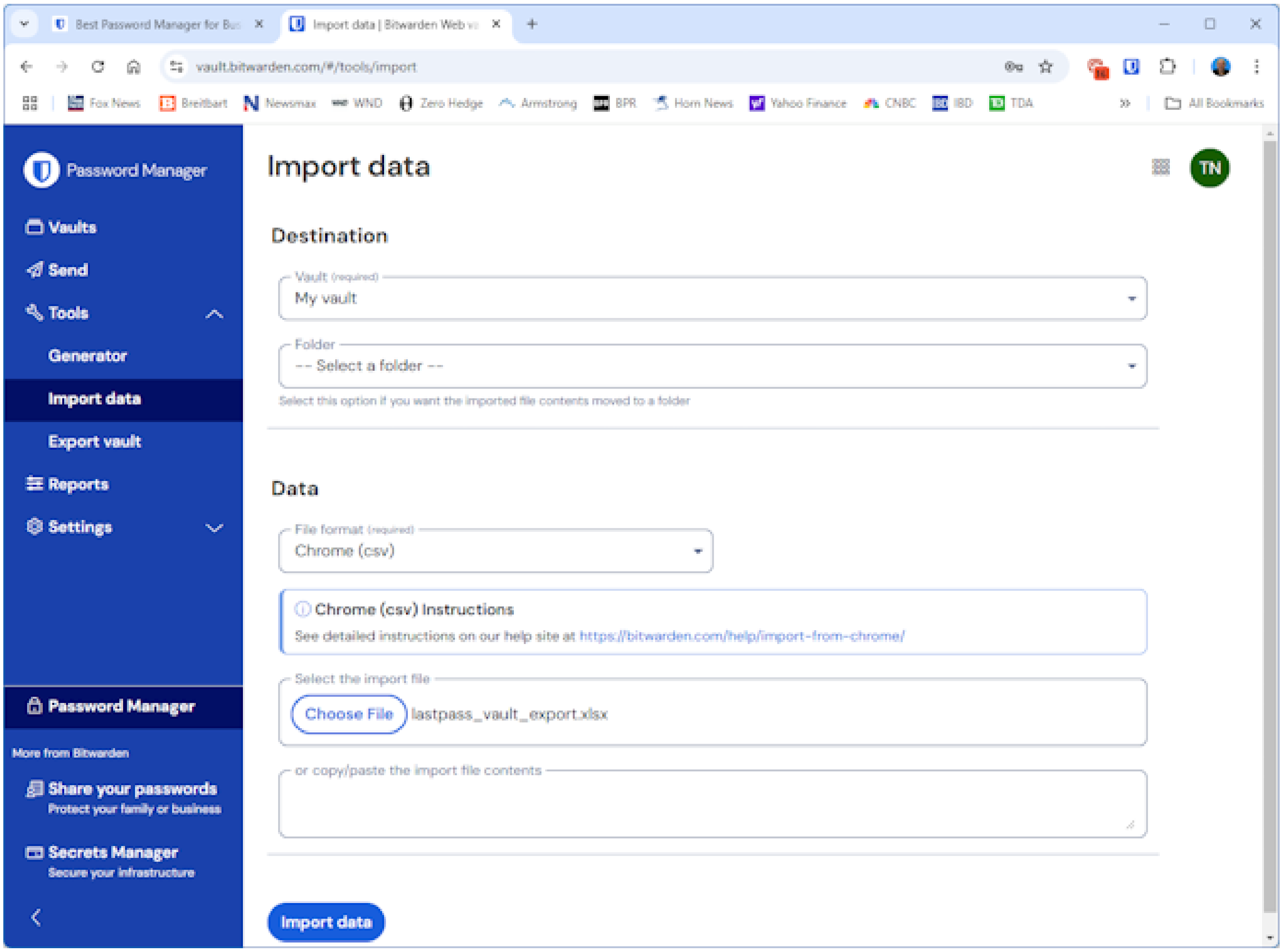
Migrating My LastPass Vault to Bitwarden

Once the account was set up, I needed to transfer the contents of my LastPass vault into my Bitwarden vault. The Bitwarden website was helpful in providing a step-by-step procedure for doing this. The first step is to export the LastPass vault's contents to a .csv (comma separated value) file on your local PC. This can be done via the LastPass browser extension in your browser. I had to reenter my LastPass User ID and master password to be granted permission to do the export.

The export file has one row per saved URL / User ID / Password item. Here's a sample of what the fields look like. There are several extra fields that can be used for notes and for grouping:

url	username	password	totp	extra	name	grouping	fav
https://www.albertsons.com/account/sign-in.html	tomburt89134@cox.net	[illegible]			albertsons.com		0

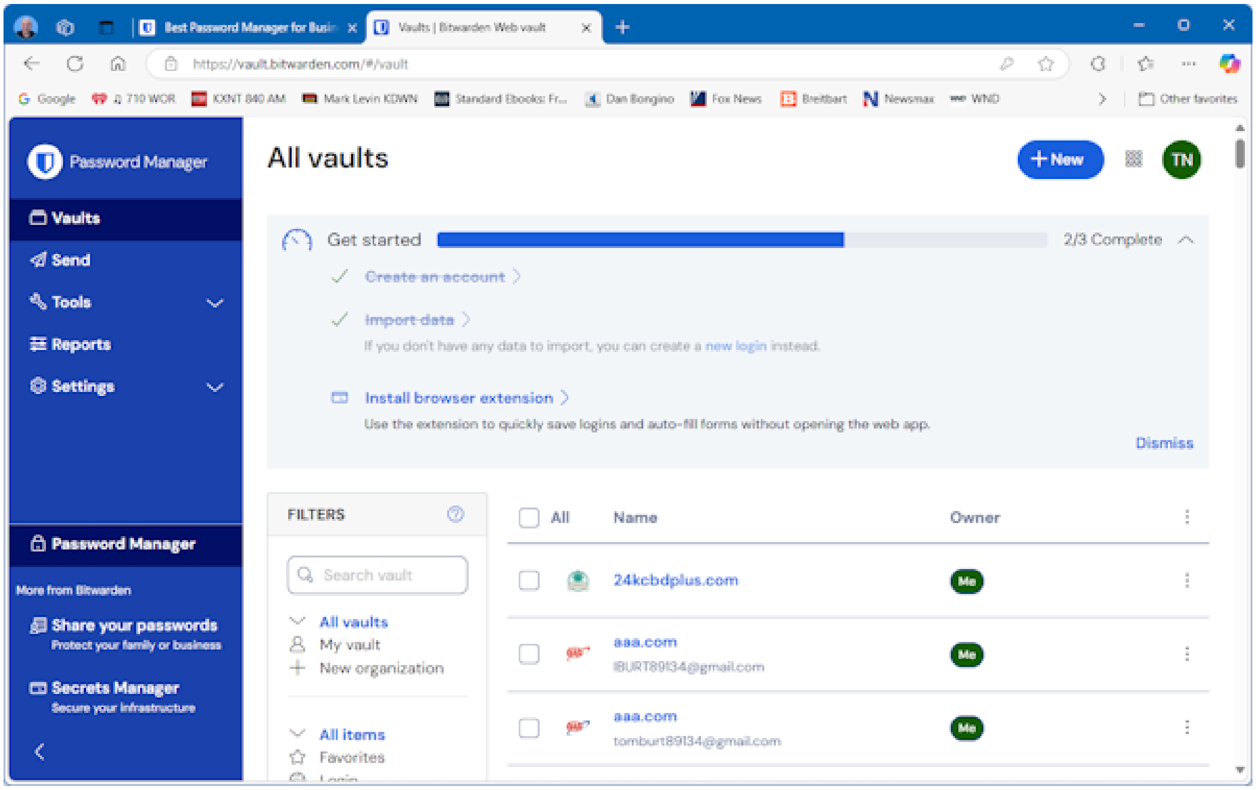
Once the export file was saved, I logged in to the https://bitwarden.com website. In the lefthand pane, I clicked on Tools and then Import Data. I filled in the fields to define the Import file format and the path\filename of the exported file and then clicked the "Import Data" button.



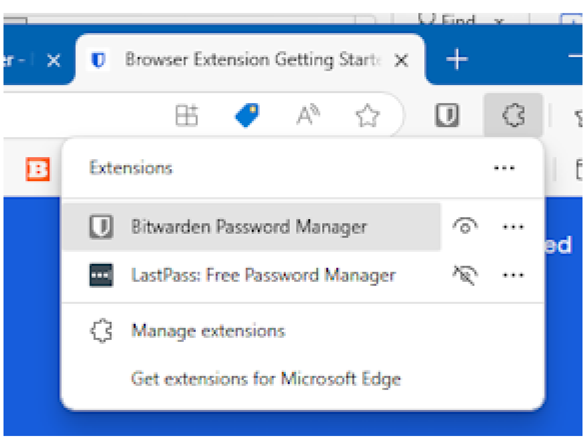
In a few seconds, the import was completed, and all my LastPass vault information was now accessible on the Bitwarden website and would be accessible to the Bitwarden extension in each of my PC's three web browsers. If I wanted to install Bitwarden on my smartphone or tablet, the vault would also be accessible to those devices. You can directly edit your password vault by logging in to https://Bitwarden.com. Any edits you make will very quickly be replicated to all your devices.

Installing the Bitwarden Extension in My Web Browsers

The next step was to install the Bitwarden extension into my new PC's various web browsers and connect those extensions to my Bitwarden vault. I use Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge, with Chrome set as my default. (Screenshots here are from the Edge browser.) In each browser, I navigated to the https://bitwarden.com website and clicked "Log in". I then entered my User ID and master password. This took me to a screen with a link to "Install browser extension".



I clicked the link, and it took me to a page with a "Get" button. I clicked that and within seconds the Bitwarden extension was added to the Edge browser. Next, I clicked the small icon that looks like a jigsaw puzzle to open an Extensions menu, listing the extensions installed in the MS Edge browser.



I clicked the 3 dots (...) menu icon next to the Bitwarden Password Manager entry and chose "Show in Toolbar". The Bitwarden icon appeared in the Ms Edge Extensions toolbar.

Finally, to activate Bitwarden, I clicked the Bitwarden icon and entered my User ID and the master password. With that step completed, Bitwarden was active and ready to serve up saved IDs and passwords from the vault and to capture new IDs and passwords in the vault.

Final Thoughts

So far, I'm quite happy with Bitwarden. The price ($0) is certainly right. It seems to work well at keeping track of and entering my User IDs and passwords for the websites I visit. I like the cross-device synchronization feature. All my devices and their web browsers now are synchronized to a common encrypted master copy of my password vault. Each device keeps its own encrypted copy of the vault, so performance is excellent. The default sync interval is 15 minutes, but that can be made longer or shorter.

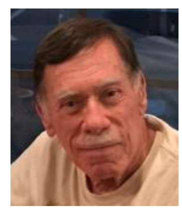
I'll mention one slight surprise from Google Chrome. When I was checking the Extensions in Chrome on my new PC, I was surprised to find that LastPass was installed. I had not explicitly installed LastPass. However, on reflection, I realized that Google synchronizes everything related to Chrome, notably settings and bookmarks, across devices. Apparently, that also includes extensions.

Not wanting to have *two* password managers running at the same time, I went to the Chrome Extensions menu and removed LastPass. That action went through with no problems on my new PC. Later however, when I checked the Chrome browser on my old PC, I found that the Bitwarden extension was now present and the LastPass extension had been removed. I activated Bitwarden in Chrome on the old PC and, sure enough, it had the Bitwarden vault, so all was well. But be aware that Chrome's synchronization activity is very far-reaching.

Most of what I've described here will apply to other password managers, with minor variations. Also, these steps would apply to any new PC setup effort. With Windows 10 losing support on October 14th of 2025, many of you may be setting up newly purchased Windows 11 PCs and will have to potentially migrate passwords. If you already have a password manager and don't need to change to a new one, the migration may be almost automatic.

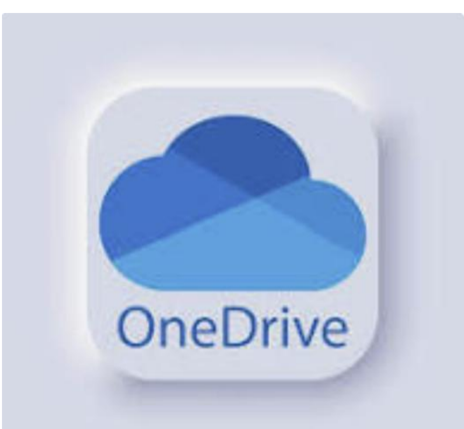
###

Save your Smartphone Photos on OneDrive



By: David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
https://www.scscc.club dkretch@gmail.com
(dated June 2025)

OneDrive is a cloud storage and file-sharing service provided by default on new computers with Microsoft Windows. It has become an integral part of the Windows 11 Operating System (OS) and will likely be even more important in Windows 12.



OneDrive gives users the power to save, retrieve, and share files from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. Many users, including me, consider OneDrive a virtual storage drive in the cloud. OneDrive synchronizes with your devices and protects your data from corruption due to a hack, a drive crash, or mischief caused by ransomware.

The OneDrive desktop application integrates with the Windows 11 File Explorer, allowing you to manage files in your OneDrive account as if they were on your local drive. You can also access OneDrive through a web browser.

I have been using OneDrive since 2006, when it was named SkyDrive. For many years I had the free account with 15GB of OneDrive storage, consisting of the 5GB free plan that is available to all users, plus a 10GB "loyalty bonus". I developed the need for additional storage from Microsoft 365, so I upgraded to *Family*, providing six (6) users each with 1TB, now (late 2025) costing $129.99 a year. Microsoft 365 *Personal*, provides one account with 1TB of cloud storage, for $99.99 a year. My affection for OneDrive only increased when I found that using OneDrive made upgrading from my old Windows 10 computer to a new Windows 11 computer virtually painless.

OneDrive on your iOS device or Android

If you take and keep many photos and videos using your iPhone or Android, you will likely get a warning that your storage has reached capacity and you need to buy additional cloud space to back up your data. You can use OneDrive to solve this problem.

First make sure the OneDrive app is downloaded and installed on your device. To automatically save iPhone (or any smartphone) or iPad photos to your OneDrive storage, enable the "Camera Upload" feature in the OneDrive app. This setting sets the pictures you take to save to your OneDrive account as well as your device. You can also adjust settings to include videos.

Wait Until Bedtime

If you have large videos or need to upload lots of images, you may see some marked as "Remaining". Microsoft recommends using Bedtime Backup to upload your photos with OneDrive's dedicated upload mode. You can specify if you want to upload using cellular data (eating up your data plan and battery) or wait until bedtime. Make sure your device is connected to Wi-Fi and charging, then select "Turn on Bedtime Backup". Once uploads are complete, you can "Turn Off Bedtime Backup".

If you try to upload pictures while your device is on battery power, the phone's OS may go to "sleep" during a large camera upload, not completing or making the upload take a long time. Apple iOS won't let OneDrive backup your photos if the battery is less than 20%. Also make sure your device is not in Low Power Mode.

The sync is one way

The camera roll on your device only uploads to OneDrive - it does not sync photos both ways. That means you can delete photos and videos from your device, and the copies of these files residing on OneDrive won't be affected.

One account at a time

You can only upload your photos and videos to one account at a time. Your phone's OneDrive app must be signed into the OneDrive account to which you want to upload photos. Flip the toggle on for the OneDrive account you want to enable Camera Upload.

Keep OneDrive open

To best utilize OneDrive, Apple recommends that you leave the OneDrive app running in the background. Automatic uploading cannot work if the app has been forcibly closed.

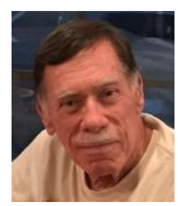
Conclusions and Recommendations

OneDrive is a valuable tool for backing up files on your computer, as well as any other device you can connect to the internet. Download and install OneDrive on the device you use to take photos and videos to ensure these files are saved.

With OneDrive installed on your smartphone, you can access any file, picture, video, or document in OneDrive anywhere you can connect to the internet.

###

The Birth of Quantum Viability?



By: David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
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(Dated January, 2025)

I discussed the potential and problems relating to a new type of computer, the quantum computer in the October 2024 *Gigabyte Gazette* Kretchmar's Korner, https://www.scscc.club/Gigabyte/gg_2024-10Oct.pdf. Most data scientists agree the quantum computer has the potential to revolutionize many aspects of our world; quantum computing has the promise of being the most important technological advancement of the 21st century. But that will take many years, possibly even a decade or longer, or our world might end before quantum computing becomes a reality.

Most of us do not have the education or intelligence to even begin to understand how quantum computers function, but neither do any but a handful of our fellow humans. What we can do is to "Follow the Money" and see where the money flows into entities that have the potential to ride the wave of the coming quantum revolution. What can this tell us about the brave new world of quantum computing?

Google shakes up the world

On December 9, 2024, Google's Hartmut Neven, Founder and Lead, Google Quantum AI, announced a breakthrough in quantum computing by their latest quantum chip, Willow. Willow performed a standard benchmark computation in under five minutes that would have been impossible for today's fastest supercomputers. Neven stated that, "Willow moves us significantly along that path towards commercially relevant applications". Google has been developing the Willow chip over the past 10 years – this was no overnight success.

While Neven's claim has been met with a mix of excitement and skepticism in the scientific community, it underscores the revolutionary potential of quantum computing technology. Over the next two days Google stock jumped by $20, over 10%, to an all-time high.

Google is a $2.3 billion dollar corporation earning profits of 100 billion dollars a year. There is no way even a significant advancement in quantum computing is going to add anything to Google's bottom line, probably for at least the next decade. Quantum computing is currently nothing but a cash drain on Google and anyone else involved in quantum research, yet the market rewarded Google's announcement. Investors are not required to act rationally, but when we see that kind of activity in one of the most significant companies on earth, there must be something going on.

IBM is a leading player in the development of quantum computers, and this seems to play into IBM's concept of huge, centralized computers. Yet IBM's stock price has fallen a few percentage points since Google's announcement. This indicates that investors either think IBM is on the wrong track, or maybe just that IBM, even with decent technology, lacks the capacity to be a successful quantum player.

Pure quantum plays

Some much purer and more speculative quantum stock plays took even bigger jumps than Google. IonQ, Inc. rose over 300% in December 2024. Rigetti Computing, Inc. was happily bumping along at less than $1 per share as late as October 2024. As I write this article the money flow into Rigetti mainly during December 2024 has pushed the share price to over $16. Rigetti trading volume has increased from a few million shares a day to over 200 million shares per day – out of the 280 million shares it has outstanding! Each of these quantum computing companies had their own positive announcements concerning corporate quantum activities and progress.

The universe of pure quantum stocks is tiny. Obviously just a bit of news can result in dramatic price swings. I mention IonQ and Rigetti specifically because these seem to be the quantum stocks followed most closely by analysts. I was unable to identify a mutual fund or ETF that could serve as a proxy for pure quantum plays. Defiance Quantum ETF (QTUM) is a well-known fund that sounds like it would be a good candidate, but no more than 15% of its assets are in pure quantum plays. Its two biggest holdings are IonQ and Rigetti.

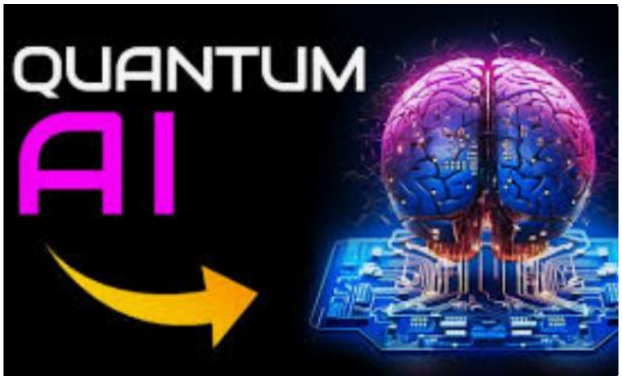
Public interest in quantum computers

CBS's *60 Minutes* television show featured a piece on the state of quantum computing that was rebroadcast on December 24, 2024. The original episode aired on July 28, 2024, and that episode was an update of a December 2023 piece. This was an unusually technical topic for mainstream TV audiences, but it introduced many quantum concepts and was interesting even for non geeky viewers. In that segment *60 Minutes* visited Google's quantum lab in California and explored one of the first quantum computers working in the real world at Cleveland Clinic. Stories such as this have helped stimulate the general public's interest in quantum computers and possibly precipitated some of the cash that is now being poured into quantum stocks.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum computers

The value that real world quantum supercomputers will provide the world will only be realized by leveraging the power of AI to bridge the gap between quantum and conventional computers. The power of AI can be increased exponentially when AI is combined with the power of quantum. This is becoming clear to those working in quantum computing, and that realization is forcing greater corroboration between AI and quantum experts.

For the past 70 years AI has been around mostly as a concept. Only in the past several years has AI started to live up to its hype and promise and now is appearing increasingly in our world.



The manifestation of AI in the real world was preceded and accompanied by massive flows of money into AI companies and corporate entities like the Magnificent Seven that have data gathering capabilities. This has enabled them to accumulate vast amounts of data, the new gold. Nvidia, the biggest beneficiary of the world's adoption of AI technology, is often mentioned as a company with the potential to connect quantum computing and AI.

Conclusions

Could the flow of money into quantum stocks be an indication that the world is on the verge of an even more sophisticated—and possibly more life-changing technology—that will have its century in the sun?

Huge entities like Google have the capacity to support internal quantum development, but others will feel the need to acquire this capacity by buying smaller pure quantum plays. This might have contributed to the runup in the stock price of many of the pure quantum companies.

Will the success of companies like those comprising "the Magnificent Seven" be echoed in the stocks in corporations with significant quantum computing exposure? The world's most successful corporations, like "the Magnificent Seven", will require quantum computing technology to remain magnificent. We might be witnessing the birth of the quantum revolution at the end of the year.

Or is the nascent bubble in quantum stocks a tiny blip in the long-term story of the market? Could the runup in these stocks be telling us that quantum is the next bubble, successor to investor's frenzied buying of AI stocks or cryptocurrencies? Is quantum computing the "Next Big Thing"?

I believe the quantum revolution is for real, but we can expect bursts of optimism and deluges of disappointment over the next few years.

###

Use and Fix Autofill

By: David Kretchmar, Hardware Technician
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
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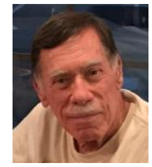
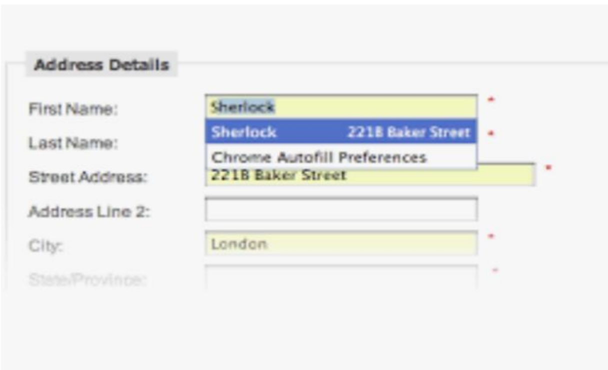


Autofill is a valuable tool built into your web browser (i.e. Google Chrome) that streamlines tasks by automatically completing forms. Autofill significantly reduces the time it takes to fill out information on web forms, such as your address, payment details, and other account details, since it fills in this information with a single click. By replacing manual keyboarding, autofill virtually eliminates the chance of typos and data entry errors. Using your saved information, the autofill feature from a browser is more secure than copying and pasting credentials. The system clipboard can be read by other applications on your device, while autofill cannot. Autofill also makes it impossible for keyboard loggers to steal your data.



How it Works

When you complete a form on a website, your browser detects the different fields that need to be filled. Depending on the detected field and the information you've previously saved, autofill either makes suggestions (if there are multiple data possibilities) or automatically fills in the required data. Data are available to be pre-filled only for domains for which data have been saved. You can then either select the correct information or confirm the pre-entered auto-filled data to complete the form.

Set up Autofill

As shown in the table below, among the major browsers, only Safari does not enable autofill in its default configuration.

	Enabled autofill	Required user action to fill in data	User action
Google Chrome	Yes	Yes	Interaction with the site (keystroke, mouse click)
Mozilla Firefox	Yes	No	
Safari	No	Yes	Selection from drop-down list
Microsoft Edge	Yes	Yes	Interaction with the site (keystroke, mouse click)

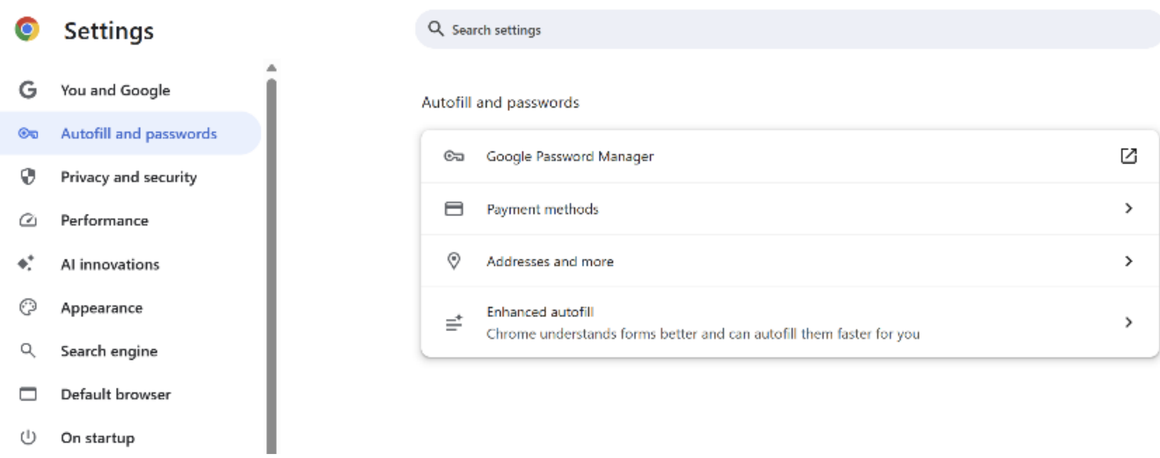
To enable autofill in Safari on an Apple iPhone, tap on the Settings app, tap Safari, Apps, Safari, then tap AutoFill. Toggle on Use Contact Info and select your contact card under "My Info," or turn on "Credit Cards" to use saved credit card information for purchases.

Edit Autofill Information

As useful a tool as Autofill is, it can be less than worthless when it "remembers" bad information. I'm going to describe how to edit passwords and autofill information saved in Google Chrome, by far the most frequently used browser, but all major browsers have similar editing procedures.

Example In desktop Google Chrome

Log into Google Chrome. Left mouse click on your profile picture (if you've provided one) or your account icon at the top right side of the page, which is often just your initial or initials. Click "Passwords and autofill". Then choose the category you want to enable or correct autofill for (Passwords, Payment methods, Addresses and more). Turn on the relevant toggle to Save and fill that information.



Security Concerns?

Google states that your data is encrypted when it is transmitted between your device and Google's servers, and when it is stored to protect it from unauthorized access. I have never found that passwords and other data stored with Google have been compromised. Other browsers such as Edge and Firefox have similar data encryption protocols.

Many Websites Store Your Information

If incorrect information is still being entered after you have corrected data in Google Chrome (or other browser), your information is being stored for that individual website, in browsing data on your device (usually cookies). You will have to enter credentials for the website (logon and password). Then click the input field to open the dropdown list of suggestions. Use the down arrow key to highlight the incorrect entry you want to delete, then Press Shift + Delete (on Windows/Linux) or Shift + Fn + Delete (on Mac) to remove it.

Images are from Google Chrome

###

Parting Shots

Some of the fishing fleet in the harbor at Heimøya, Lofoten Islands, Norway.

Canon R5M2, 1/80th s, f/8, ISO 100, 50mm Canon RF24-105 f/4 L IS USM

My first view of the Aurora Borealis, aka the Northern Lights, on March 22nd, 2025 on the beach at Vik Strand, Vestvågoy, Nordland, Norway.

Canon R5M2, 3.2 s, f/22, ISO 3200, 24mm, Canon RF 24mm f/1.4 L VCM

And last, but not least……
An exit (for me) sign at the Lofotr Vikingmseum in Vestågoy, Nordland, Norway.

Canon R5M2, 1/160th s, f/9, ISO 320,
24mm, Canon RF24-105 f/4 L IS USM

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Join the discussion at PATACS Groups.IO. First, register: https://groups.io/register, so you can change your subscriptions. It's free. Then go to https://groups.io/g/patacs to sign up. EZ PZ.

Colophon: This issue of *PATACS Posts* was prepared with Microsoft Word 365 (www.microsoft.com). The typeface is mostly Century size 12 through 16. Public domain clip art is from openclipart.org. Artwork from other sources is attributed.

E-mail article submissions and reprint requests to editor@patacs.org.

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First Class

AFFIX
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TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Meeting schedule (Zoom=Online Only, Hybrid=Online/In-person)

1st Wednesday	7:00 – 9 PM	Arlington General Meeting	Hybrid
3rd Monday	7:00 – 9 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Zoom
3rd Saturday	12:45 – 3:30 PM	Fairfax General Meeting	Hybrid
4th Wednesday	7:00 – 9 PM	Technology & PC Help Desk (in Arlington)	Hybrid

Arlington Mtg: 5711 S. 4th St., Arl. VA **Fairfax Mtg: 4210 Roberts Rd., Fairfax, VA**

Meetings are Hybrid or Zoom (as above)
Fairfax Health/Safety: https://www.patacs.org/fairfaxattreqmts.html
Online Meeting Access Will Be Sent Via Email

PATACS Event Information
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Website: **https://www.patacs.org**

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