COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE

CUE Newsletter — September 2023 (Volume 40 Number 9)



September CUE Meeting

The next general meeting will be in person, instead of by Zoom, on Thursday September 14th at 5:00 PM. Instead of the regular general meeting, it will be the CUE picnic for CUE members! Look for incoming email messages, and check the CUE website (www.cuerie.com), for more information.



Visit the CUE Website at:

www.cuerie.com



CUE is a member of APCUG



CUE Calendar



Calendar events are subject to change. SIG stands for Special Interest Group. (look for notices outside of the newsletter for delays or special news on meetings)

CUE Membership Meetings (typically 3rd Thursday of each month)

No CUE Membership Meeting in September (other than CUE Picnic)

Thursday October 19th at 7 PM

Chromebook SIG Meetings

No current local meetings but weekly national meetings at techforsenior.com Chromebook tips from APCUG at apcug2.org/chromebook-tips-and-tricks

Digital Photo SIG Meetings

No current local meetings for now

Genealogy SIG Meetings (typically 1st Tuesday of each month)

Tuesday September 5th at 7 PM Tuesday October 3rd at 7 PM

MAC SIG Meetings

No current local meetings for now

Smartphone & Tablet SIG Meetings (typically 4th Monday of each month) (RSVP John Fair)

Monday September 25th at 7 PM Monday October 23rd at 7 PM

Windows / Beginner's User Group (BUG) Meetings

No current local meetings for now

CUE Picnic

Thursday September 14th at 5 PM

CUE Christmas / Holiday Party

Thursday December 7th at 6 PM

Save That Date! Thursday September 14th 2023

The Erie Runner's Club pavilion at beach #1 is reserved for the CUE Picnic! Try to keep that date open for a time of food and fellowship! (Eating starts at 5 PM)

Directions: Entering the park, just stay in the left lane, take the 2nd or 3rd left turn directly to the Pavilion. Either the 2nd or 3rd left turn works fine. You arrive in the immediate parking lot. Or, heading to the park, stay in the left lane, passing Sara's. There is a sign directing you to the Beach #1. You will turn left into the beach parking areas. The beach change building and the Erie Runner's Club pavilion are adjacent.









Warning: Subliminal pictures above may cause hunger!

Al Responds to Al Benefits and Dangers

By ChatGPT, requested by Don Grim at Computer Users of Erie

Don's prompt: What are the benefits and dangers with using artificial intelligence? What are the specific possibilities for students to use AI to cheat in research and reports? What options do educators have, now and in the future, to stop the cheating by students? How can AI be used to copy voices for use in identity theft? How can identity theft, generated by AI, be stopped, now and in the future?

ChatGPT's response: Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents a wide range of benefits and dangers, and its impact on education and potential for cheating can be both positive and negative. Here's a breakdown of the issues:

Benefits of AI:

Personalized Learning: All can help create personalized learning experiences for students, catering to their individual needs, strengths, and weaknesses.

Enhanced Learning Tools: Al-powered educational tools can offer interactive and engaging learning experiences, making education more accessible and enjoyable.

Automated Grading: AI can speed up the grading process, providing prompt feedback to students and freeing up educators' time for other tasks.

Data Analysis: Al can analyze large datasets to identify learning trends, helping educators and policymakers make informed decisions.

Virtual Assistants: Al-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can be valuable

resources for students, providing instant answers to questions and guiding them through complex topics.

Dangers of AI:

Automation of Jobs: Al and automation may lead to job displacement for certain professions, potentially creating unemployment issues.

Bias and Fairness: If not properly developed and monitored, AI algorithms can perpetuate biases present in the training data, leading to unfair outcomes.

Privacy Concerns: Al systems that collect and analyze data may raise privacy concerns if not handled responsibly.

Ethical Issues: The use of AI in sensitive areas, such as decision-making processes, raises ethical concerns about accountability and transparency.

Specific Possibilities of AI for Student Cheating:

Plagiarism: Al can be used to generate essays or research papers, enabling students to submit plagiarized work.

Automatic Text Summarization: Alpowered tools can create summaries of books or articles, potentially promoting academic dishonesty.

Cheating in Exams: All can be employed to provide answers or assist students in real-time during exams.

Al Benefits and Dangers Continued

Options for Educators to Combat Student Cheating:

Educate Students: Teachers can educate students about the consequences of academic dishonesty and the importance of integrity.

Anti-Plagiarism Software: Schools can utilize anti-plagiarism tools that detect copied content in research and reports.

Proctoring Tools: Online exams can be proctored using Al-powered tools to monitor students' activities during assessments.

Continuous Assessment: Regular assessment with smaller tasks can reduce the incentive for cheating.

Al for Voice Copying and Identity Theft: Al has the potential to create voice replicas that can be used for identity theft or fraud. By analyzing voice samples, Al systems can mimic someone's voice convincingly.

Stopping AI-Based Identity Theft:

Multi-Factor Authentication: Implementing multi-factor authentication methods can add an extra layer of security to prevent unauthorized access.

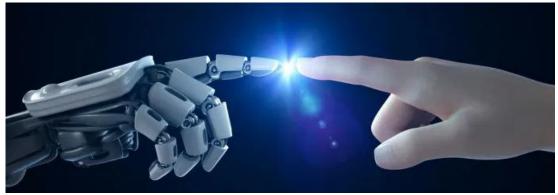
Voiceprint Recognition: Developing advanced voiceprint recognition systems can detect Al-generated voices.

Real-Time Fraud Detection: Employing Al systems that monitor and detect unusual patterns of voice usage can help identify potential fraudulent activities.

Regulation and Legislation: Governments and tech companies need to work together to establish laws and guidelines to regulate the use of AI for identity theft.

While AI has immense potential to improve various aspects of education and society, it also requires responsible development, proper oversight, and ethical considerations to mitigate the potential dangers and ensure a positive impact.





A Conversation with BARD

By Art Gresham at Under the Computer Hood User Group (https://uchug.org)

Two months ago, I published two related articles in the March Drive Light. The first titled "What is ChatGPT and why does it matter?" which briefly introduced the chatbot that had recently been released from OpenAI (https://openai.com/api/). That was followed by an article about a subject with which I am quite familiar as an Electrical Engineer (BE EECS).

The second article is "What is Electricity? (Hint, the answer is not what you think)" The initial implication one might get upon starting to read this article with My name as the byline is that I had written about a subject I am familiar with. And I stated I had found the answers to some basic questions. However, as I conclude at the end, the content of these answers was NOT written by me, but by an AI Chat Bot from OpenAI.

Many other AI systems exist, with more being made available, evolving, and moving into new areas of application. The 60 Minutes (CBS) story "The Revolution" https://youtu.be/TUCnsS72Q9s introduced what is going on at GOOGLE. Their chatbot is named BARD.

So I signed up for access and asked Bard the same questions. The results are shown below, unedited. I find them to be quite similar to ChatGPT, as they should when providing factual answers to scientific questions. Equally as accurate, although some are less 'chatty', or perhaps slightly less complete. (https://bard.google.com/signup)

What caused the failure of the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable?

BARD's Response:

The first transatlantic telegraph cable failed for a number of reasons, including:

- Mechanical problems: The cable was made of a copper wire surrounded by gutta-percha insulation, which was then wrapped in hemp and iron wire. The cable was very heavy and difficult to handle, and it was prone to breaking.
- Electrical problems: The cable was not insulated well enough to withstand the high voltages that were used to transmit signals. This caused the insulation to break down, which led to short circuits.
- Environmental factors: The cable was exposed to a variety of environmental factors, including salt water, which corroded the copper wire and the insulation.
- The failure of the first transatlantic telegraph cable was a major setback, but it paved the way for the successful laying of subsequent cables. Today, transatlantic cables are an essential part of the global communications infrastructure.

Is electricity actually an EMF wave or movement of electrons? Electricity is both an EMF wave and the movement of electrons. An EMF wave is a disturbance in the electric and magnetic fields that propagates at the speed of light. When an EMF wave passes through a conductor, it causes the electrons in the conductor to move. This movement of electrons is what we call an electric current.

A Conversation with BARD Continued

In everyday electrical and electronic devices, the signals travel as electromagnetic waves typically at 50%–99% of the speed of light in vacuum, while the electrons themselves move much more slowly; see drift velocity and electron mobility. For example, when you turn on a light switch, an EMF wave is generated by the switch. This wave travels through the wires to the light bulb, where it causes the electrons in the filament of the bulb to move. This movement of electrons heats up the filament, causing it to glow.

So, electricity is both an EMF wave and the movement of electrons. The two are closely related, and they both play an important role in the way that electricity works.

Sources info:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speed_of_electricity

Do electrons move through a DC circuit at the speed of light? No, electrons do not move through a DC circuit at the speed of light. The speed of light is the speed at which electromagnetic waves travel through a vacuum. In a DC circuit, the electrons move through a conductor, such as a wire. The speed at which the electrons move is much slower than the speed of light. The exact speed depends on the material of the conductor and the strength of the electric field. For example, in a copper wire, the electrons move at a speed of about 1 million meters per second, which is about 0.01% of the speed of light.

The reason why the electrons move so slowly is because they are constantly colliding with the atoms in the conductor. These collisions slow down the electrons and prevent them from moving at the speed of light.

And Bard can provide alternate answers with other details. Here is the Draft 2 of the above question, which is actually more like the way I personally would have expressed it.

Draft 2

No, electrons do not move through an AC circuit at the speed of light. The speed of light is the speed at which electromagnetic waves travel in a vacuum. When an EMF wave passes through a conductor, it causes the electrons in the conductor to move. However, the electrons themselves do not travel at the speed of light. The speed at which the electrons move is called the drift velocity, and it is much slower than the speed of light.

In an AC circuit, the EMF wave is constantly changing direction. This means that the electrons are constantly being pushed back and forth. The average speed of the electrons is zero, but the individual electrons are moving back and forth at a high speed.

The drift velocity of electrons in an AC circuit depends on a number of factors, including the frequency of the AC current, the resistance of the conductor, and the type of material. In a typical copper wire, the drift velocity of electrons is about 1 millimeter per second. This means that it would take about 10 minutes for an

A Conversation with BARD Continued

electron to travel the length of a 10-meter wire.

The reason why the electrons move so slowly is because they are constantly colliding with the atoms in the conductor. These collisions scatter the electrons, which slows them down. The higher the frequency of the AC current, the more collisions there are. This is why the drift velocity of electrons is lower in a high-frequency AC circuit than in a low-frequency AC circuit.

The type of material also affects the drift velocity of electrons. In a conductor with a high density of free electrons, the electrons are more likely to collide with each other. This also slows them down.

The speed of light is a fundamental constant of nature, but the drift velocity of electrons is not. It can be affected by a number of factors, and it is always much slower than the speed of light.

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End of content written by BARD

total time to research, write, edit, 1 hr 27 min

Genealogy Report for 8/1/23 SIG Meeting

The CUE Genealogy Special Interest Group met via Zoom on the first Tuesday of August with nine members attending.

Sue gave an update on the 1930 letter found in an Erie home. Even though a family member was found on ancestry.com, it took a while for them to respond but the owner of the letter has now sent it on to them. We hope it was a happy ending to this particular mystery.

Everyone was reminded of the upcoming Family History Fair sponsored by the Erie Society of Genealogy Research (ESGR) at the Watson-Curtze Mansion. Many members of the CUE Genealogy SIG also belong to ESGR and will be participating.

Sue shared two videos on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for genealogy. While it can't do your research and might make up false information to create a story, it can sometimes be used to our advantage. For example, in one case, AI created a helpful chart from downloaded information.

The two videos were:

By Lisa Louise Cooke:

https://lisalouisecooke.com/2023/06/22/ai-chatbots-genealogy/

By Amy Johnson Crow:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnBKjprPTPo&t=43s

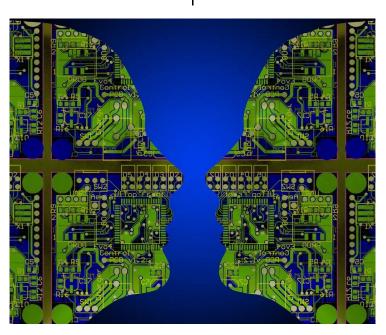
Dave Cunningham has been looking for his grandparents in the 1920 census with no luck. Sue suggested searching by street name and even by first names.

Send Sue any ideas you have for future Genealogy SIG meeting topics.

The group was reminded of the CUE picnic scheduled for 9/14/2023 at the Runners Club Pavilion on Presque Isle.

The next Zoom meeting will be on September 5th.

Submitted by Connie Edwards



Smartphone & Tablet Report for 8/28/23 SIG Meeting

The day of our July meeting Apple issued iOS 16.6, iPadOS 16.6 and Watch 9.6.1. Since we didn't have a chance to talk about the new OS versions in July, we described the update at the top of this month's meeting. No significant new features were introduced and most of the changes are behind the scenes. Fixes to security vulnerabilities and bugs made this a mandatory update for all users.

Mid September will see the next major OS update with iOS 17 and iPadOS 17. We watched a video by Marques Brownlee which described his view of the top 5 changes coming as of the first public beta of OS 17. Next month we'll look into more details of the OS following its release.

Apple's weather app may not be the most accurate although it does contain lots of details. You can expect over a dozen new features when iOS 17 and iPadOS 17 are released. There are many alternatives with The Weather Channel and National Weather Service being among the most prominent. By opening weather.gov in Safari, selecting your location and using the share sheet to add to home screen, you can create a home screen icon for the NWS. We demonstrated all three on an iPhone.

Text Replacement that uses a few keystrokes to replace a frequently typed word, phrase, etc. requires you to remember those few keystrokes. Go to Settings/General/Keyboards/Text Replacement to establish the link. I had not used this feature until I came across a video that contained a suggestion to link "@ @" to your email address, since that is something you frequently type and don't

want to get wrong. I demonstrated this within Notes.

I consider accumulating tabs within Safari somewhat of a nuisance and a bother to close. So I can get carried away and close a tab I wanted to keep. We shared an iPhone Life tip of opening Safari, selecting the Tabs icon and long pressing the "+" in the lower left of the screen to open a list of recently closed tabs.

Paul Francis had sent me an email saying he had an Apple Watch Series 5 which was adequate for his needs but he wanted to know what subsequent models added to that capability. I reviewed the data Apple provides comparing Watch models and shared my conclusions. The only significant changes occur with Series 6 and Series 8. Series 6 adds a 20% faster processor, blood oxygen sensor, U1 (Ultra Wideband) chip and third generation optical heart sensor. Series 7 only added faster charge and a 1mm larger case. Series 8 added a temperature sensor, crash detection, dust resistance certification and an upgraded Bluetooth specification. The Ultra features a brighter screen, larger case, dual speakers and beam forming mic array, standard GPS+Cellular capability and a much higher price.

We looked into the U1 chip which "brings spatial" awareness to Apple's product line using Ultra Wideband (UWB) technology. Using the U1 chip Apple devices can locate each other with a level of accuracy far beyond the capability of GPS or Bluetooth alone. The chip was also introduced in the iPhone 11 series and was added to many Apple devices

Smartphone & Tablet Report Continued

including iPhones, iPads, Apple Watches, Airpods, AirTags, and HomePods. Although Apple doesn't specifically link the U1 chip to capabilities, certainly the AirTag exists only because of U1. It is also the basis for using your device to unlock certain new cars, improving AirDrop, and other capabilities we saw in a video on U1 and UWB. More features that require the U1 chip are expected in the coming years.

Paul's conclusion after our discussion was that he needed to upgrade his Watch.

The next meeting of this SIG will be on Monday, September 25, 2023.

John Fair





Secretary's Report for the 7/20/23 CUE Meeting

Business meeting was called to order at 7:05 by President Conrad Sobczak.

Members Present: Larry Brown, David Cunningham, John Fair, Paul Francis, Don Grim, Ed and Nancy Group, Suzanne Matthews, Sue Mueller, Anne Rosthauser, Conrad Sobczak, John Szympruch, Lee Williams, and Carl Zalewski. The number of members present met the quorum requirements.

There were no additions or corrections to the July meeting minutes which were published in the August newsletter.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report, John Fair reported the current bank balance with the only recent expenditures the Runner's Club pavilion rental fee (\$118.50) the \$3 monthly bank service fee. So far 35 members have paid their dues.

Membership Report, John Fair: One new member—Kathy Montgomery who is interested in joining our genealogy group. While membership dues are due in this month, John verified that members could pay at the picnic in September without a penalty.

Special Interest Groups:

• Genealogy, Sue Mueller reporting: Meets first Tuesday of each month via Zoom. Our discussion in August centered around artificial intelligence and how it is already impacting our genealogy research. We also learned that since artificial intelligence's focus is a natural language process, it does not do research and is not designed to be a search engine. Al wants to please us and may make things up in

order to return an answer. We viewed an example and Al's subsequent confession that it had "made up" the results.

• Smartphones and Tablets, John Fair reporting: Meets fourth Monday of each month via Zoom: In July we discussed Apple's latest iOS and learned that 16.6 was released on the day of the SIG. We also discussed the battery health app and two related shortcuts. Apple watch: can be used to control your iphone camera. We watched a subscription video on photo editing on the i-phone/i-pad.

Unfinished Business:

- Reminder that the CUE picnic will be Thursday, September 14, at the Erie Runners' Club pavilion on Presque Isle. This pavilion is located near Beach 1.
- Holiday Party: Paul reported on the places he had contacted and potential problems. He proposed a new option at the Wayside Presbyterian Church where we would use the services of a caterer. Parking is easy, no stairs to navigate, and the caterer could offer a gluten-free meal if requested. The caterer offers an extensive menu selection and could also do appetizers and/or desserts. Thursday, December 7, is the date for the holiday party. Paul asked for volunteers to help select the menu. Sue volunteered to serve on the committee, and Paul will put out a general CUE message for additional volunteers.
- Treasurer John Fair reminded members that the \$10 holiday party reimbursement is probably nearing the end of its time as far as being financially feasible.

Secretary's Report Continued

New Business:

No one had suggestions for upcoming general meeting presentations nor any computer problems or questions.

Adjourn Meeting:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Presentation:

It turns out that Bill James, our planned speaker, had double-booked and was unavailable. Members used the time to discuss ways in which Google was and could be used.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Mueller, Secretary



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E.

A Note from the Editor

As usual, feel free to contribute information for the CUE newsletter. Whether it is small, large, an article, a tip, information, or pictures, you can send it to me and I will plan to include it in the newsletter. You can reach me at grimcyber@yahoo.com.

Remember that you can find recent news at the CUE website (cuerie.com). At times,

the website will have more recent news than the CUE newsletter since the website is updated continuously and the newsletter is updated monthly.

Stay Safe!

Editorially Speaking, Don Grim



PLEASE PRINT

COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date_		

Last Name	First Name
Address	
City, State	Zip
Home Phone	Cell Phone
Your Email	

The yearly dues are payable in August of each year. The dues are \$24 annual.

For NEW members only, when you join outside the annual cycle your initial dues are based upon the month you join. Follow the schedule below.

August \$24	September \$22	October \$20	November \$18
December \$16	January \$14	February \$12	March \$10
April \$8	May \$6	June \$4	July \$2

Information provided on this form will be placed into a CUE Membership Directory

What is your Computer or Device: (Circle)
Windows Mac Android iPhone iPad
Tablet Linux Other

What is you level of expertise? (Circle)

Novice I know some I want to learn more

Expert Geek

Send your completed application

Computer Users of Erie

PO BOX 8941

Erie, Pa 16505-0941

What do you wish to gain by joining Computer Users of Erie?

Student membership is just \$15 per year (provide proof of student status)

CUE Officer Information

Officers

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Genealogy	Susan Mueller	suepasta@roadrunner.com	814-622-1262
MAC	Tom Kuklinski	tkuklinski@gmail.com	941-676-0101
Smartphone & Tablet	John Fair	johncfair@gmail.com	814-474-3055
Windows / BUG	Tom Kuklinski	tkuklinski@gmail.com	941-676-0101

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Directions to Wayside Presbyterian Church for Special Meetings

Wayside Presbyterian Church, at 1208 Asbury Road, is approximately three blocks north of the intersection of Asbury Road and Route 5. This intersection is at the northwest corner of the Erie International Airport property. Following Asbury, turn left at the first marked driveway for the church. Sometimes, the entry is through the two sets of blue double doors. Use the buzzer to gain entry if the doors are locked. At other times, use the double doors on the south side of the Christian Education wing. Signs are posted in the building to direct you to the meeting room.

From West of Erie International Airport: Follow Route 5 to the intersection of Asbury and Route 5. Turn hard left onto Asbury Road. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.

From South of Erie: Take Interstate 79 north to the 26th Street (Route 20) Exit. Bear left onto 26th Street (Route 20) west. Follow Route 20 about 3.4 miles west to Asbury Road. Turn right (at the Sheetz Gas Station) onto Asbury and follow it straight across Route 5. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.

From East of Erie International Airport: Follow 26th Street (Route 20) west to Asbury Road. Turn right onto Asbury and follow it straight across Route 5. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection. OR, follow 12th Street (Route 5) west past the airport to Asbury Road. Turn right onto Asbury Road. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.



About the Newsletter

The CUE Newsletter is published monthly by the Computer Users of Erie (CUE), an independent nonprofit computer user group, dedicated to the education and support of our members. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors or the editor, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CUE. This publication is Copyright © 2018 by the Computer Users of Erie. All rights reserved. Permission to reprint is hereby granted to any Nonprofit Organization, as long as proper credit is given, or not restricted by the original author or source. Advertising: Advertising is welcome from both our members and commercial sources. For current advertising rates, please send an email to the Editor requesting a copy of the Ad Rates file. Address Changes: Any recipient of the newsletter is urged to submit a change of address notification to the Editor, either via US Mail to the address shown below, or (preferably) via email, so we may keep our records accurate. Newsletter Exchange: CUE welcomes newsletters from other user groups. If you would like to exchange newsletters, either by US Mail or via electronic (Internet) delivery, please send your newsletter to the address listed below. We will add your name to our mailing list and send you our newsletter in return. Submissions: Submissions are always welcome from our members or outside sources. Submissions may be articles, images, cartoons, etc. For first time authors, please request a copy of our Submissions Guidelines from the Editor, prior to submitting any items. This will help to eliminate publication delays. Submissions are due by the 5th of each month. Correspondence: General correspondence to CUE may be sent via US Mail to: Computer Users of Erie, PO Box 8941, Erie, PA 16505-0941 USA. Email to: cuerie@gmail.com. Editor Email to: grimcyber@yahoo.com.

CUE Membership Benefits Member of M







As the largest computer users group in northwest Pennsylvania, CUE has served Erie and surrounding communities since 1982. CUE provides a forum for people to learn about computers and have fun doing so. The group meets the third Thursday each month, with the exception of the special occasions like, possibly (dates can vary), a Spring Break meeting in April, a Picnic in September, and a Holiday meeting in December. CUE meetings are normally by Zoom but can possibly be at Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1205 Asbury Road, Erie.

Our monthly meetings are open to the public regardless of age or ability. Many of our members are senior citizens who span a wide range of capabilities and interests but share a desire to know more about how to use computer related technology. Our role is to provide a forum for continuous learning from each other. CUE has a closed Google gmail group that is used to communicate with members and to post questions/problems to seek answers from the membership. Members pay an annual membership fee of \$24 to receive a membership directory, monthly newsletter, availability to monthly general meetings, and any of the Special Interest Group (SIGs) meetings, usually held in a member's home. Locations and times vary, so check the online EVENTS Calendar on the website for the latest information. SIG topics include:

- Digital photography [and photo safari]
- Genealogy
- Macintosh computers

- Computer troubleshooting
- Beginners users group (BUG)
- Handheld smartphones and tablets

CUE is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG). APCUG is an International, platform-independent, volunteer-run, non-profit organization devoted to helping member User Groups offer enhanced services to their members. Some of the membership benefits include:

- Speakers bureau
- Free virtual technology conferences
- Regional conference

- Push newsletter articles
- Discounts and special offers from vendors
- User group newsletters online

Find us online at http://www.cuerie.com/. And Facebook @curerie

Computer Users of Erie PO Box 8941 Erie, PA 16505-0941

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