



# PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



## May 2026

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"JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE'S COMPUTER CLUB"

May 2026 Volume 32 Issue 5

### This Month's General Meeting

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026  
will start at 3:00 P.M. @  
FFG Christ Lutheran Church**

### May 12th Presentation

**@ 3:00 P.M.**

**Representatives from TCAT will discuss AI and its benefits, uses and risks.**

**An open question/discussion will follow on relevant technology in general.**



## Monday, May 25, 2026



**FUTURE OF AI:  
ETHICAL OR  
DANGEROUS?**

©iabac.org



**TENNESSEE COLLEGE  
OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY**  
DICKSON  
& CLARKSVILLE CAMPUS

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**Please Note: All Meetings will now be on the second Tuesday of each month. Starting at 3:00 P.M.**

**Location: Christ Lutheran Church  
481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade TN**

**Join the Club!**

Anyone interested to attend the general meeting or any of the SIG meetings as a guest will be charged \$3.00 per person for any or all meetings in that month. Afterwards, you are encouraged to become a member of the Plateau PC Users Group. Our Club cannot exist without you, the members.

**Membership Dues**

Our annual dues are now payable July 1<sup>st</sup>. of each year. Annual dues are \$24 per single person / \$30 per family. Persons/families joining during the fiscal year have dues payable as follows:

<u>Join In</u>	<u>July - Sept</u>	<u>Oct - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Mar</u>	<u>Apr - June</u>
Single	<b>\$24</b>	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	<b>\$30</b>	\$22	\$15	\$7

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCLAIMER**

All members of the Plateau PC Users Group are willing to help one another in the area of advice and tutorial instruction over the phone. If you should require more involved services or instruction, we have a few members who are very knowledgeable in several areas. As a responsible consumer, it is up to you to discuss, before retaining a member, any and ALL charges for repair services and time consuming tutorial activities.

It is not the desire of this Board of Directors to set fees for individuals for services rendered, nor the responsibility to intervene between members who enter into a contract among themselves.

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## Scan with caution: When QR codes become a security risk



Here's how “quishing” (yes, *quishing*) works and what you can do to reduce the risk.



### **Kristin Burnham**

Author of Security Intelligence. Veteran tech journalist. Cybersecurity synthesizer.

You likely see them nearly everywhere you go: QR codes. Those square, black-and-white images you scan with your phone's camera and that open a website were supposed to make life frictionless. No more fumbling with menus, no more typing in URLs, no more downloading apps just to complete a simple task. Point your phone, scan, *donezo*.

That ease of use is exactly why scammers have taken an interest.

A growing number of **consumer alerts and police warnings** have focused on QR code scams — often called “quishing” (how's that for a *terrible* name...) — where attackers replace or tamper with legitimate QR codes in public places. The result is a redirection to a malicious site designed to steal credentials, capture payment details, or install malware.

And unlike **email phishing or sketchy text messages**, QR scams are typically embedded in *physical* spaces, which can make them feel official, and *safe* — and that's the danger. Luckily, most QR codes *are* totally fine, but when they're not, as with most things, a little awareness goes a long way.

### **How QR code scams work, and why they're so effective**

Most QR code scams are surprisingly low-tech, which is part of the reason why they're so effective. In many cases, a scammer simply prints a sticker with a malicious QR code on it and places it over a legitimate one — on a parking meter or restaurant table, for example. Sometimes the fake code closely mimics the real one and sometimes it's barely disguised at all.

When someone scans the code, they're redirected to a site that *looks* convincing enough at a glance: a parking payment page, a digital menu, a tip portal, or a familiar-looking login screen. The branding feels right, the situation makes sense, and because QR codes don't always show a visible, complete

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### **\*\* Visit the PPCUG Website \*\***

**At: [www.PPCUGinc.com](http://www.PPCUGinc.com)**. Read all about our club activities and scheduled monthly meetings, also current and past issues of the Gazette Newsletter. Links also to the Meeting Handouts on past presentations.

Send your comments and suggestions to the PPCUG Webmaster,  
Alan Baker @ [jackal33980@gmail.com](mailto:jackal33980@gmail.com) (931) 239-0877

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URL before you scan them, users lose one of their most important safety cues before they even realize they've taken a risk.

That's where QR scams differ from traditional phishing. Email and text scams rely on surprise or urgency arriving out of nowhere. QR scams rely on contextual trust. A code posted in a physical space feels vetted — less like clicking a link, more like following directions.

Ultimately, QR code scams work because people are doing exactly what the design encourages them to do: Trust the environment, scan quickly, and keep going.

### Scan safely

The use of QR codes has blurred an important line: What feels like a harmless convenience can quietly become a shared security risk. When a malicious QR code succeeds, it erodes trust in the business or venue associated with it. While staying safe is about individual vigilance, it's also about how organizations design and maintain these frictionless experiences. Here's what both consumers and businesses should be thinking about.

For consumers, this means:

- **Examine the physical code first.** QR stickers placed over existing signage, mismatched branding, or codes that look hastily applied are red flags, especially in high-traffic areas.
- **Pause before handing over anything sensitive.** A legit QR code may lead to a menu, schedule, or general information. It should rarely ask for login credentials or personal data without clear confirmation.
- **Pay attention once a page opens.** QR codes typically don't reveal their destination before you scan them, but once a site loads, take a moment to look at the domain in the browser. Misspellings are warning signs.
- **If something feels off, don't force it.** Typing in a known website, asking an employee, or paying through a kiosk might take a few extra seconds, but it dramatically lowers risk.

If you work at a company that uses QR codes for *employees* to reach a certain destination, keep the above tips in mind. Additionally, for businesses that use *consumer*-facing QR codes, this means:

- **Regularly inspect QR signage.** Examine all posted QR codes in public-facing or high-traffic environments where tampering could go unnoticed.
- **Avoid linking QR codes directly to sensitive actions.** Login pages, payment portals, or account access should require additional verification beyond a single scan.
- **Set clear expectations.** Let customers know what a QR code is for and what it *won't* ask customers to do.
- **Recognize that convenience shapes behavior.** The faster you encourage people to move, the easier it is for attackers to exploit that momentum.

Of course, QR codes are generally perfectly safe to use, and in most cases, they work exactly as intended. But a little pause, a little context-checking, and a willingness to slow down when something feels off can go a long way in keeping a simple scan from turning into a costly mistake.

# Understanding the New Task Manager in Windows 11 (Complete Guide)

- by John Edward

Tags: **WINDOWS 11**



If you've been using **Windows** for years, you probably rely on **Task Manager** whenever your computer slows down, an app freezes, or you simply want to see what is happening behind the scenes. With **Windows 11**, Microsoft has redesigned the Task Manager with a **modern interface, better performance monitoring, and improved navigation**.

While the core purpose remains the same monitoring system resources and managing running applications the **new Task Manager in Windows 11 is more powerful and easier to use** once you understand its layout and features.

In this guide, I'll walk you through the **new Windows 11 Task Manager like a Windows expert would**, explaining what each section does and how you can use it to **optimize performance, troubleshoot problems, and take better control of your PC**.

## **What Is Task Manager in Windows 11?**

Task Manager is a **built-in system monitoring tool** that allows you to:

- View running applications and background processes
- Monitor CPU, memory, disk, and network usage
- End frozen or problematic tasks
- Manage startup programs
- Track system performance in real time

In **Windows 11**, Microsoft introduced a **fresh UI, left-side navigation panel, efficiency mode, and dark mode support**, making it more user-friendly than the older versions.

## **How to Open Task Manager in Windows 11**

There are several ways to launch Task Manager. Knowing multiple methods is useful when your system becomes unresponsive.

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### **Method 1: Keyboard Shortcut (Fastest)**

1. Press **Ctrl + Shift + Esc**
  2. Task Manager will open instantly.
- This is the **most efficient method** recommended by Windows experts.

### **Method 2: Using the Start Menu**

1. Right-click the **Start button**
  2. Click **Task Manager**
- ### **Method 3: Using Run Command**

1. Press **Windows + R**
2. Type:

taskmgr

3. Press **Enter**
- ### **Overview of the New Task Manager Interface**

The Windows 11 Task Manager has a **cleaner design with a navigation sidebar** on the left side.

Main sections include:

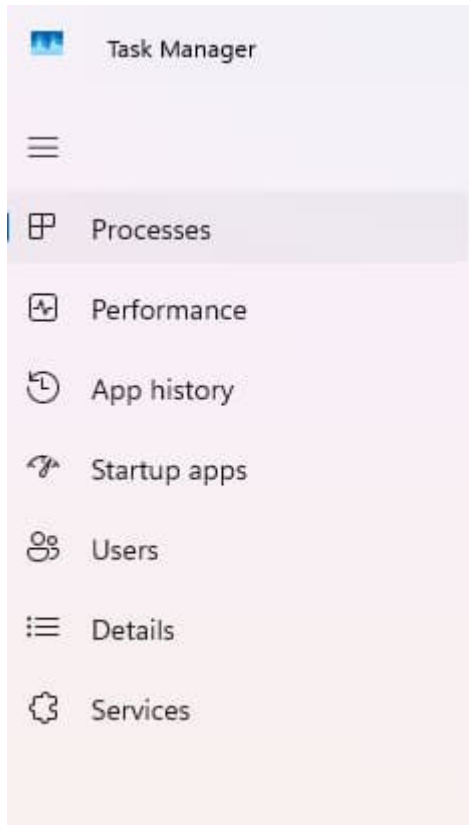
- Processes
- Performance
- App History
- Startup Apps
- Users
- Details

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- Services

Each tab serves a different purpose for monitoring and managing your system.



### 1. Processes Tab (The Most Used Section)

The **Processes tab** shows everything currently running on your system.

It is divided into three categories:

- Apps
- Background Processes
- Windows Processes

For each process, you can see:

- CPU usage
- Memory consumption

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- Disk activity
- Network usage
- Power usage

### **How to End a Frozen Program**

If an app stops responding:

1. Open **Task Manager**
2. Go to **Processes**
3. Select the frozen application
4. Click **End Task**

#### **Expert Tip:**

Avoid ending processes under **Windows Processes** unless you know what they do. Stopping essential system services may cause instability.

## **2. Performance Tab (Real-Time System Monitoring)**

The **Performance tab** provides detailed information about your computer hardware.

You can monitor:

- CPU usage
- RAM usage
- Disk activity
- GPU performance
- Network activity

### **How to Check CPU Performance**

1. Open **Task Manager**
2. Click **Performance**
3. Select **CPU**

You'll see:

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- CPU usage percentage
- Speed
- Core count
- Logical processors
- Uptime

This is extremely useful when diagnosing **slow PC issues**.

**Expert Advice:**

If CPU usage constantly stays above **90%**, one or more processes may be overloading your system.

### **3. App History Tab**

The **App History tab** tracks resource usage for applications over time.

It shows:

- CPU time
- Network usage

This feature is especially useful for **laptops and battery management**, as it helps identify apps that consume the most resources.

### **4. Startup Apps (Speed Up Boot Time)**

One of the **most important sections for performance optimization** is the **Startup Apps tab**.

This tab shows programs that automatically start when Windows boots.

Too many startup apps can significantly **slow down boot time**.

### **How to Disable Startup Programs**

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1. Open **Task Manager**
2. Go to **Startup Apps**
3. Select a program
4. Click **Disable**

Recommended programs to disable if not needed:

- Game launchers
- Updaters
- Messaging apps
- Media players

**Expert Tip:**

Keep security software and essential drivers enabled.

## **5. Users Tab**

The **Users tab** displays all user accounts currently logged into the computer.

For each user, you can see:

- CPU usage
- Memory usage
- Disk usage
- Network usage

System administrators often use this tab to **monitor multiple users on shared computers.**

You can also:

- Disconnect users
- Sign them out

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

## **6. Details Tab (Advanced Users)**

The **Details tab** is a more advanced version of the Processes tab.

It shows:

- Process ID (PID)
- Status
- CPU usage
- Memory usage
- Priority levels

### **Changing Process Priority**

Sometimes you may want a program to run faster.

Steps:

1. Open **Task Manager**
2. Go to **Details**
3. Right-click the program
4. Select **Set Priority**
5. Choose one of the options:
  - o Low
  - o Below Normal
  - o Normal
  - o Above Normal
  - o High

*(Continued on page 12)*

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**Warning:**

Avoid setting programs to **Realtime**, as it can destabilize the system.

## 7. Services Tab

The **Services tab** lists background services running in Windows.

Services are small system components that support Windows features and applications.

From here you can:

- Start services
- Stop services
- Restart services

This is useful when troubleshooting software issues.

Example: Restarting a stuck service can fix some application problems without restarting the entire PC.

### **New Feature: Efficiency Mode**

One of the best improvements in the Windows 11 Task Manager is **Efficiency Mode**.

Efficiency Mode helps reduce CPU usage by limiting the resources used by certain processes.

### **How to Enable Efficiency Mode**

1. Open **Task Manager**
2. Go to **Processes**
3. Right-click a process
4. Click **Efficiency Mode**

*(Continued on page 13)*

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This is useful for **battery saving and improving system responsiveness**.

### **Expert Advice:**

Use Efficiency Mode on **background apps that you don't actively use**, such as browsers running multiple tabs.

### **Dark Mode Support**

The Windows 11 Task Manager also supports **Dark Mode**, which many users prefer for reduced eye strain.

### **Enable Dark Mode**

1. Open **Settings**
2. Go to **Personalization**
3. Click **Colors**
4. Choose **Dark Mode**

Task Manager will automatically adapt to the theme.

### **Pro Tips From a Windows Expert**

After years of working with Windows systems, here are a few practical tips:

#### **1. Always Check Task Manager Before Restarting**

Many problems can be fixed simply by **ending a misbehaving application**.

#### **2. Monitor Memory Usage**

If your system constantly runs above **80% RAM usage**, you may need to:

*(Continued on page 14)*

*(Continued from page 13)*

- Close unnecessary apps
- Upgrade RAM

### **3. Watch Disk Usage at 100%**

If disk usage stays at **100%**, the likely causes are:

- Windows indexing
- Antivirus scanning
- Slow HDD drives

Upgrading to an **SSD** often solves this issue.

### **4. Use Task Manager for Malware Detection**

Suspicious processes may appear with:

- Unknown names
- High CPU usage
- No publisher

If you notice such behavior, scan your system immediately.

The redesigned **Windows 11 Task Manager** is more than just a tool to close frozen apps—it is a **powerful system monitoring utility** that helps you understand how your computer operates.

With its **modern interface, efficiency mode, performance monitoring, and startup management**, it gives users better control over system resources than ever before.

Once you learn how to navigate its sections, Task Manager becomes an essential tool for **troubleshooting, performance optimization, and system management**.

Whether you're a casual user or a power user, mastering Task Manager will help you **keep your Windows 11 PC running smoothly and efficiently**.



**Plateau PC Users Group, Inc.**

**Application for Membership for 2026-2027**

----- New Member

----- Renewing Member

Return this application with a check for annual dues payable to "PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP"  
Return to the club Treasurer during our meeting or mail to  
"PPCUG Treasurer. 221 Tomlon Road, Crossville TN 38555"

**Our annual dues are now payable July 1<sup>st</sup>. of each fiscal year.**

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Single	<b>\$24</b>	\$18	\$12	\$6
Family	<b>\$30</b>	\$22	\$15	\$7

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by Cash \_\_\_\_\_, or Check (# \_\_\_\_\_)

-----  
*Last Name*                      *First Name*                      *Family Member (if family membership)*

-----  
*Address:*

-----                      -----                      ----- (-----) -----  
*City*                      *State*                      *Zip Code*                      *Phone Number*

E-Mail address: -----  
Please Print

I have belonged to a Computer Club before: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I have used PC's since (year): \_\_\_\_\_

I have knowledge in the following areas that I would be willing to share with club members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# June 2026



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
	1	2	3 10:00 A.M. PPCUG Board Mtg.	4	5	6
7	8	9 3:00 P.M. General Mtg. Presentation. Followed by Q&A Session	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				