

# THE NetworkGuy

JANUARY 2026 \ VOLUME 7 \ ISSUE 1

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## USING AI SAFELY

It's likely that you've been using AI often. How about Alexa or Google voice assistant? Other examples are Grok, ChatGPT, Bing Chat, self-driving cars, facial detection and recognition, maps and navigation, text editors and autocorrect, search recommendations and algorithms, Chatbots, digital assistants, social media, E-payments, and more. In fact, AI touches nearly every part of our day.

AI isn't new but is still evolving. Its future capabilities and regulations overseeing those abilities are still in progress. While AI might offer valuable capabilities, always remember to stay proactive and educated about the risks, including in the workplace. In addition to following your organization's guidance for using AI at work, keep these tips in mind:

- > AI systems learn from user inputs, so refrain from sharing anything you want to keep private, like your workplace's company data or your personal details.
- > Cybercriminals may use AI to fool you. Public tools can mimic a person's voice or image.
- > AI is a tool. Prompting isn't the same as creating. Treat AI as a helpful tool rather than a replacement for your skills.
- > Keep in mind that AI generated material may violate copyrights, since AI models are trained on information produced by humans, including copyrighted material.
- > Never automatically trust results. It's important to verify that all the information is true.

## The Network Guy Quiz Challenge

PenTeleData is giving one lucky winner a \$150 Amazon Gift Card. Just visit [www.ptd.net/quiz-challenge](http://www.ptd.net/quiz-challenge) by **January 31, 2026** to answer the contest question. We will select a winner at random from all correct entries. **Good Luck!**

Click the **Quiz Challenge** link and select the which choice is true about AI.



## Learn from The Network Guy

My computer and phone don't seem to have been hacked, but some of my personal information has been leaked. How is that possible?

### The Network Guy:

There are several ways personally identifiable information could become vulnerable. Here are a few possible scenarios:

- > Your email may have been compromised because you reused a password.
- > You signed up for a service a long time ago, the site was breached, and your credentials ended up on a leak website. Then, someone used that information to access your other accounts. (Word of advice: Never reuse passwords.)
- > Your credit card may have been skimmed at a gas station.
- > A website you used leaked personally identifiable information in a data breach.
- > You clicked a phishing link and entered your credentials.

To help avoid any future breaches, use strong passwords, never reuse passwords, change passwords often, watch for phishing, and use multifactor authentication.



## Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

Semiquincentennial is the term for a 250th anniversary. It breaks down to “semi” (half) + “quin” (five) + “centennial” (100), meaning “half of 500 years”. The term is most famously associated with the upcoming 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026.

A scientist named Heinz von Foerster predicted “technological singularity” around November 2026, a time of great change driven by technological advancement.

The Mars Science Laboratory, which has a robot explorer named Curiosity, uses special power generators. These generators are expected to run out of power around 2026.

The classic movie *Metropolis*, made in 1927, shows a futuristic world that includes the year 2026.

In the short story *There Will Come Soft Rains* by Ray Bradbury, the story happens on August 4, 2026.

The science fiction book *Red Mars* begins its story in 2026.

In the show *seaQuest DSV*, an important meeting happens in 2026. This meeting opens many undeveloped areas for use.

An episode of *Star Trek: Enterprise* called *In a Mirror, Darkly* (from 2005) mentions that a big event called World War starts in 2026 and continues for many years.

“I’m as human as anyone. I love; I get scared. I wake up every morning and despite not knowing what to do, I put one foot in front of the other and I try to make the best choices I can. I screw up all the time. But that is being human. And that’s my greatest strength”.  
- Superman

## PenTeleData is Proud to Serve Jermyn, PA

**The Borough of Jermyn is situated in the northeastern part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Lackawanna County, eleven miles north of Scranton. The town is known as “The Birthplace of First Aid in America”.**

Settlers began to lay claim to present-day Jermyn in the 1820’s and 1830’s. Originally known as “Four Mile Town”, due to its close proximity to the Town of Carbondale, the village was later called Rushdale and Baconville. Among the findings of those original settlers was the discovery of Anthracite, or Hard Coal. In 1868, the name of the village was changed to Gibsonburg, after Judge William Gibson of Philadelphia, a wealthy and extensive landowner in the settlement. It was also around this time that the village settlers wanted Gibsonburg to be its own community. Early in 1868, the townspeople presented a petition to the court to make the village its own entity. The case slowly made its way through the court system. Finally in January 1870, Luzerne County Courts granted Gibsonburg its Borough Charter. The first borough elections were held in 1870 with John Jermyn elected the borough’s first Burgess, or Mayor.

One of the most famous events in borough history occurred in 1874. Jermyn was visited by the infamous Molly Maguires, an Irish American secret society who resorted to intimidation, sabotage and even murder due to the harsh conditions and labor strife in the Anthracite Coal Region of Eastern Pennsylvania. Foreman A.L. Green of the Jermyn Colliery was shot three times by three members of the sect but survived the attack. Workers from the Powder Mills, who had witnessed the incident, intervened killing one and captured one while the third escaped and was later captured. On the basis of Mr. Green’s testimony, both assailants were sent to prison.

Another famous event in borough history occurred in 1899. Dr. Matthew J. Shields conducted the first training class on First Aid in American History at the Windsor Hotel. In attendance were 25 miners of the Jermyn Coal Colliery, believing that many lives could be spared with quick, efficient medical care until a physician could reach the mine. This led to marked decreases in serious mining injuries and fatalities as well as creating laws and guidelines for safer workplaces all over the country.

Today, the spirit of Small Town U.S.A. permeates all that the citizens of Jermyn do. The borough continues to thrive. From the darkest hours of the floods that ravaged portions of Jermyn in September of 2003 to the revitalization projects of community parks and main thoroughfares, the Borough of Jermyn has shown an ability to rebuild and recreate itself without forgetting its historic past.

Source: <https://jermynpa.com/community/history.php>

## Tech Myth Buster

### MYTH:

You should never run software updates as soon as they are available.

### FACT:

While early updates can have bugs, most patches fix critical security issues. Potential minor glitches are much less of a concern than delaying updates and risking vulnerabilities.

