



## Leave the Guessing to the Groundhog

Since 1887, the world's most famous weather predicting groundhog has been right only 40% of the time. While we love a good tradition, your technology deserves a much higher success rate. Don't trust your essential tech to an amateur. We provide the proven expertise you need to take the frustration out of technology through reliable troubleshooting, education, and hands-on support. We're here whenever you need us to ensure your devices, and your knowledge, keep moving forward.



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# EaZy Tech Talk



## The Internet of Things (IoT)



The Internet of Things (IoT) is transforming the way we live, work, and interact with technology. Simply put, IoT refers to everyday devices that are connected to the internet and can communicate with each other, collect data, and often act automatically. These devices range from smart home gadgets like thermostats and security cameras, to wearable fitness trackers, connected cars, and even industrial machinery.

Some examples of devices used in everyday life that fall under the IoT umbrella:

- A smart thermostat can adjust your home's temperature automatically based on your habits and the weather forecast.
- A fitness tracker or smart watch can monitor your heart rate, steps, and sleep patterns, then provide insights to improve your health.

- In industry, sensors like the check engine light can detect equipment issues and display alerts before they cause downtime, saving time and money.

These devices provide convenience, efficiency, and responsiveness. For consumers, it can mean more control over your home, easier access to important information, and even energy savings. For businesses, IoT enables smarter decision-making, better resource management, and predictive maintenance that reduces costs.

However, with greater connectivity comes greater responsibility. Security, privacy, and proper device management are critical. Since IoT devices share data online, they must be protected from cyber threats, and users need to ensure that devices are updated and configured correctly.

Looking ahead, IoT is only expected to grow in scale and influence. As more devices become connected, we'll see smarter homes, safer cities, and more efficient industries. In essence, IoT bridges the physical and digital worlds, allowing technology to respond, adapt, and improve our daily lives in ways that were once unimaginable.



## Peacock Important Changes

Recent changes in the structure of Peacock owner Comcast have caused changes in the streaming lineup. Peacock is keeping the local NBC channel and Bravo, but Comcast has moved several other well-known cable channels into a brand-new, independent company called Versant Media Group. In addition, NBC Sports Boston, which was previously included with Peacock Premium Plus, is now a separate add-on and not included with any of the subscriptions.

- **Networks Lost:** USA Network, Syfy, E!, Oxygen, CNBC, MSNow (MSNBC), The Golf Channel
- **NBC Sports Boston:** No longer included in any plan and instead a \$14.95 per month add-on.

If you subscribe to Fubo and have used Peacock to access NBC, our recommendation is to switch to YouTube TV and add a separate NESN subscription. You'll get more content and pay less money.

## Antivirus Slowing You Down?

Antivirus software is essential for keeping your computer safe, but not all antivirus programs are created equal when it comes to performance. Many popular antivirus solutions can slow down computers, especially older machines.

Norton and McAfee can add identity protection, VPN, and a password manager along with antivirus. These packages, because of what they include, become very expensive and you may find you're paying for features you're not even using! Check your subscription cost and the features included.



## Olympic TV Coverage

The Winter Olympics are in Milan, Italy from Feb 6 to Feb 22, 2026. Since Italy is 6 hours ahead of eastern time, many events will be happening live in the early morning hours. Replays will be broadcast later in the day for some, but not all, sports and events. There will not be an "Olympic Channel" network.

### Quick Guide:

- **Peacock Premium:** All live events and dedicated always on coverage.
- **NBC:** Best for big events and a nightly recap show.
- **USA Network:** Good for hockey, curling, and team sports.
- **CNBC:** Watch here for extra coverage and curling.

Use the link below to visit our website to access a printable schedule. Click on the Olympic logo in the right side of the page to view or print the schedule.

### **Olympics TV Broadcast Schedule**



Antivirus plans without all the add-ons:

- **McAfee** - \$149 annually unlimited devices
- **Norton** - \$95 annually up to 3 devices
- **MalwareBytes** - \$60 annually up to 3 devices

If you're paying more than this you may want to re-evaluate your needs. Let us know if you need any assistance and we'd be glad to help out!

# From the Gadgets Watercooler

## Update your iPhone and iPad to iOS 26.2.1

iOS 26.2.1 fixes security bugs that could compromise your iPhone, sometimes just by visiting a fraudulent website or opening malicious content. These flaws could allow spying, data theft, or even taking control of the device. The update closes dangerous back doors and makes your phone much safer to use day-to-day.

**Bonus Tip:** Not a fan of the transparency and “bubble” appearance? Go to Settings → Accessibility → Display & Text Size. Turn on Reduce Transparency and Increase Contrast.



## Links in Text Messages and Emails

Think before you follow that link! Scams rely on urgency and curiosity to push people into reacting without pausing to question the source. Following a fake link can expose personal information, compromise accounts, or install harmful software on your device.

Take a moment to slow down, check who the message is really from, and does it make sense? When in doubt, go directly to the source company to check and do not follow the link.



## Windows Security Infection Scams

Ever had your screen lock with a “Windows Error” or “Virus Infection” message that you couldn’t get out of? It’s a common scam called a browser locker. Full screen mode is used to hide your desktop and make a website look like a system crash. The warnings are fake and the phone number a direct connection to danger. Real security alerts from Microsoft or Apple will never ask you to call a phone number.

How to escape:

1. Press and hold the Escape key to exit full-screen.
2. Close your browser.

To be sure your computer is safe, you need to follow up with a full virus and malware scan and clear your browser cache. Any click on the scam website could install malware, a virus, or software that would allow unauthorized access to your computer.

A professional clean-up of the computer is highly recommended. We can help with that and provide protection from this happening again.

We appreciate you being a part of the Gadgets Made EaZy community. Together, we can achieve amazing things!

*Thank You*

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