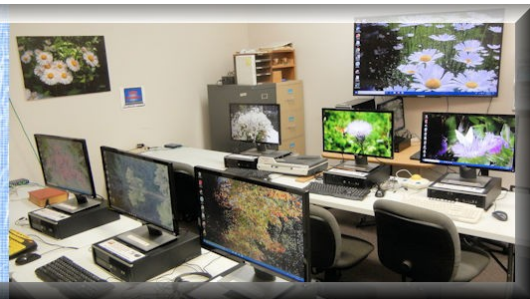


# The Bristol Village Computer Club Newsletter

June, 2025



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## Screen Savers

Screen Savers started back in the days when Pong and other early video games were all the rage. You may recall that these games were displayed on regular TV sets. To attract customers some retailers set a Pong game running on a TV set in their display window. It was soon discovered that if the game was left running for hours, when the TV was turned off the game pattern was permanently etched on the TV screen.



Figure 1: Playing Pong.

Early computers used the same CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) displays as the Pong game. Screen savers were developed to solve the problem of patterns being burned onto the screen surface.

Various moving graphics were created in addition to moving or spinning text. Eventually slide shows of picture collections were used as screen savers.

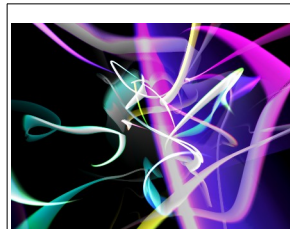


Figure 2: Graphic screen saver.

Since CRT displays are no longer used for computer displays, screen savers are not really necessary. But the tradition of computer screen savers carries on.

For fun, I sometimes use live web cameras as a screen saver. I simply run a YouTube live camera full screen (press F to toggle full screen on and off).

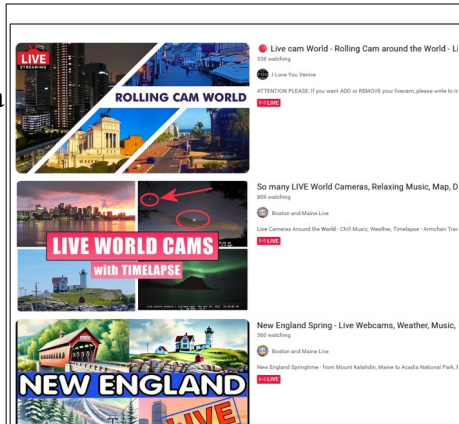


Figure 3: Live webcams.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7SiAaN4ogw>

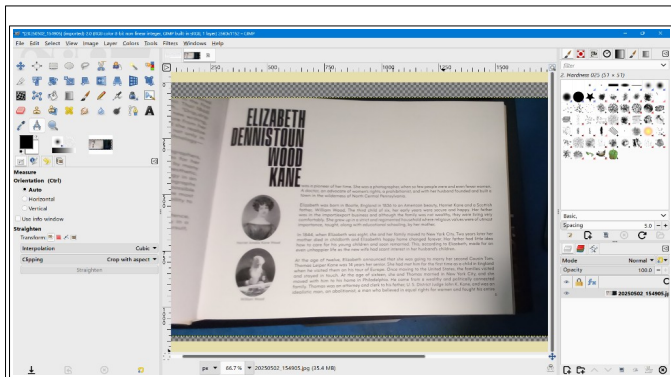
## Picture to Text

Question? How can a picture of text be converted to editable text? In general, converting an image of text to editable text requires a program (or app) in the category of OCR (Optical Character Recognition)

from Wikipedia

Optical character recognition or optical character reader (OCR) is the electronic or mechanical conversion of images of typed, handwritten or printed text into machine-encoded text, whether from a scanned document, a photo of a document, a scene photo (for example the text on signs and billboards in a landscape photo) or from subtitle text superimposed on an image (for example: from a television broadcast)

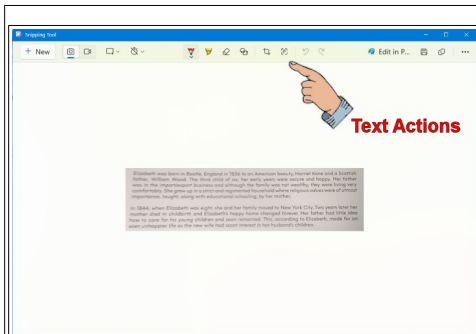
It turns out that Windows 11 includes a Snipping Tool that provides OCR capability. Here is an example. First we need a picture of some text. The following example was made by using a smart phone camera to take a picture of a book and then emailing the picture to myself. The picture file was then opened in Gimp.



**Figure 4: A photo of a page from a book.**

Next, the Snipping Tool shortcut **Windows Key + Shift + S** was used to capture some of the text from the Gimp display.

Once the Snipping Tool was used to capture an area, the **Snipping Tool Window** was opened.

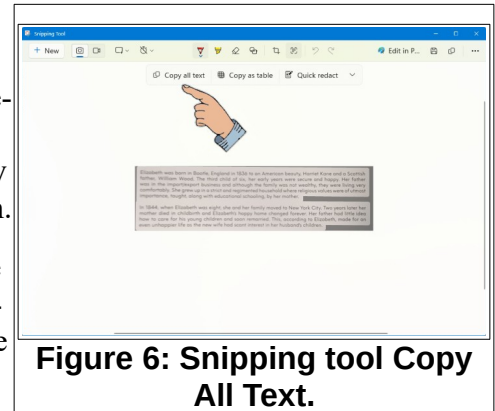


**Figure 5: Snipping tool Text Actions.**

The Text Actions option is available on the row of tools along the top of the Snipping Tool Window.

The next step after the Text Actions was selected was to select the Copy All Text option.

This places the text in the Clipboard. Now the text can be pasted into whatever app is desired.



**Figure 6: Snipping tool Copy All Text.**

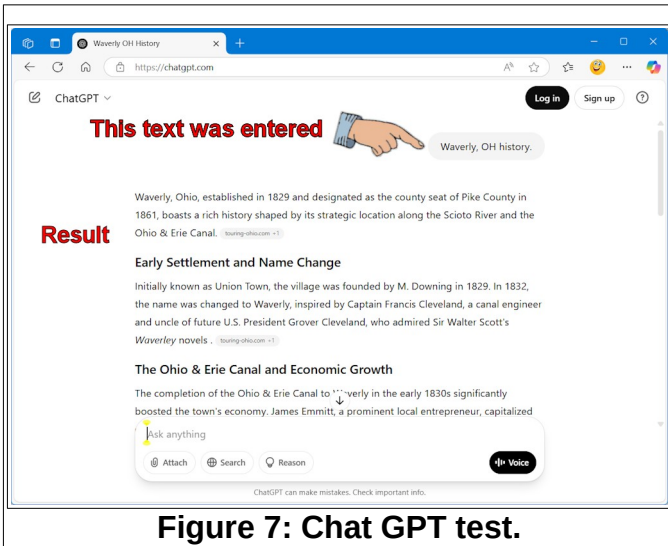
The system adds a character return symbol to the end of every line of pasted text. This means that there is no word wrap. This is fairly easy to fix by simply replacing the unwanted carriage return symbols with a space and then the app can deal properly with word wrap.

## Chat GPT

You may remember that in the February bvcc Newsletter there was an article about Perplexity, an AI program. [Chat GPT](#) is a similar AI program that you can run from a web browser by entering [chatgpt.com](https://chatgpt.com) in the browser address bar.

ChatGPT is a generative artificial intelligence chatbot developed by the American company OpenAI and launched in 2022. It is based on large language models (LLMs) such as GPT-4o. ChatGPT can generate human-like conversational responses and enables users to refine and steer a conversation towards a desired length, format, style, level of detail, and language.[2] It is credited with accelerating the AI boom, an ongoing period of rapid investment in and public attention to the field of artificial intelligence (AI).[3] Some observers have raised concern about the potential of ChatGPT and similar programs to displace human intelligence, enable plagiarism, or fuel misinformation.

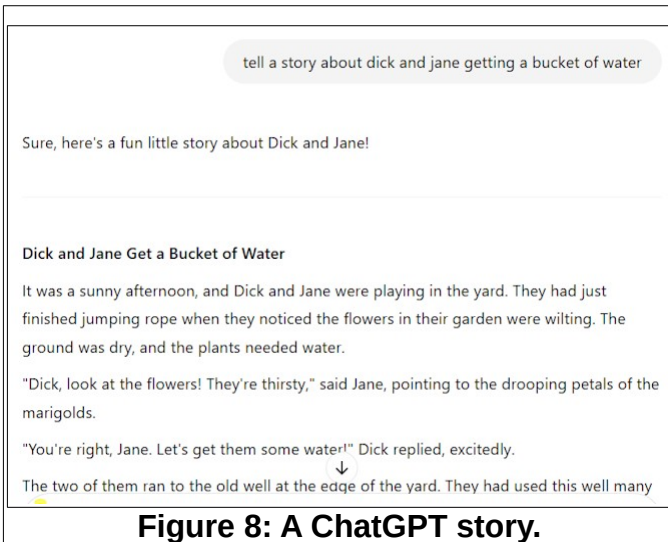




**Figure 7: Chat GPT test.**

As a test, 'Waverly, oh history' was entered. The result is shown in Figure 7.

You can enter ChatGPT searches as a question or as a request. Here is an example request.



**Figure 8: A ChatGPT story.**

ChatGPT can also be used to modify images. However, you must create an account to use this feature. Also converting an image can take some time.

Here is a picture of the Glenn Center entrance.



And a sketch made by ChatGPT.



Observe the artistic license that ChatGPT took in creating the sketch. Amazing!

## Other AI websites

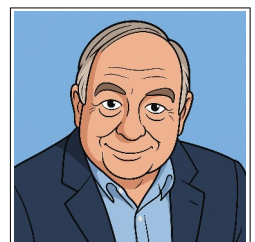
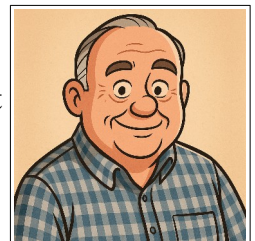
Here are two other AI websites to visit.

<https://www.perplexity.ai/>

Perplexity was discussed in the February newsletter. Some users prefer Perplexity for research, but prefer other AI sites for image modification.

<https://gemini.google.com/app>

Google Gemini is another AI website to try. I have had fun modifying images using Google Gemini.





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