

Cal [00:00:08]:

It's the TEH podcast, episode number 232 with Leo Notenboom of askleo.com and Gary Rosenzweig of macmost.com. This week, when tech shuts down, fancy locks, Prime Day, and name Sal.

Leo [00:00:26]:

Hey, Gary.

Gary [00:00:27]:

Hey, Leo. How's it going?

Leo [00:00:29]:

It's been an interesting 24 hours.

Gary [00:00:32]:

Okay.

Leo [00:00:33]:

Yesterday, I decided well, I'm doing some traveling later this month, and I decided it would be a good idea to get my flu shot, my COVID shot, and my b twelve shot all at the same time.

Gary [00:00:44]:

Oh, okay.

Leo [00:00:45]:

And, getting the shots was fine. 12 hours later, I couldn't so it basically knocked me on my butt. I was but last night around midnight, I was in, it was, you know, doing the standard thing. Right? Shivering, achy, you know, kind of nauseous, all that kind of stuff. Fortunately, that was all in bed, so I didn't actually have to accomplish anything. And I'm very fortunate that I just, you know, sort of recovered from it all by this morning. I mean, I didn't, you know, do anything physical today. But, so one piece of advice, if you can, take them separately.

Gary [00:01:19]:

Well, I I wanna add that I also had my flu and COVID shot, and I also had exactly the same thing happen. But it has happened to me every single time.

Leo [00:01:29]:

See, it's new for me. I've I've never never had reactions to these things. And to be honest, it didn't surprise me in the least doubling up like that.

Gary [00:01:38]:

I've I've this is the first time I've gotten the flu and COVID together because, it just happened that way. And I've never I probably had a flu shot every year for at least the last 25 years.

Leo [00:01:51]:

Sure. Yep.

Gary [00:01:52]:

Something like that. Never had any problem with the flu shot. Even like last year, I think I had the flu and COVID shot a week apart just because of how things were scheduled, and I still didn't have any problem with the flu shot. I figured it wasn't gonna make any difference. Every time I get the COVID shot, I'm always laid flat in bed for Interesting. From hours 12 to 36, after getting the shot. And I sometimes I I hesitate to mention that to people because I don't wanna discourage people from getting the COVID shot. Oh, yeah.

Gary [00:02:19]:

The story the the lesson to be learned is it it's horrible for me. I'll do it every year. Yes. Because it's it's better than dying. You know? Exactly. And So I I just go through it every year. I I know to schedule it on a Friday. And I know to have Saturday clear, and not have anything anything planned, and that's what I did.

Leo [00:02:43]:

Yep. I had to today was pretty much optional. I mean, I ended up getting stuff done today anyway, but, you know, knowing that I was getting the shots yesterday, I just sort of said, okay. Well, you know, worst happens then, you know, Tuesday becomes a day off. So

Gary [00:02:56]:

The most infuriating thing about this, and I know other people that get it, including my father who gets it just as bad as I do, is that knowing you you feel bad, but knowing you are absolutely not sick in any way, like like this is a false positive on your nervous systems, you know, part.

Leo [00:03:17]:

It's your body doing the right thing.

Gary [00:03:19]:

Yes. This is this is and that's the number 1 infuriating thing is knowing you're not sick. Number 2 is kind of the funny infuriating thing is that when it's for me at least, when it's over, it's over. It's like just as that you go down hard, he recovers so fast. So, like, a Saturday night, I went to bed and I was like, I think I'm mostly done. Wake up Sunday morning and I'm like, well, you feel weird feeling a 100%. I'm like, that that's not not like, because you're used to, you know, your life, whole life, you get sick. It takes a few days.

Gary [00:03:52]:

You still feel no. This this thing you get with the COVID vaccine, you just bounce back at so fast. It's funny.

Leo [00:04:00]:

The other thing that was, a little different for me, I suspect, as compared to you as I'm sitting there in the in the the office and

Gary [00:04:08]:

Yeah. But,

Leo [00:04:09]:

no, you're over 65. You get the double dose of flu shot.

Gary [00:04:14]:

Oh, well, that that may actually maybe that contributed to it in some way. I did I did hear about that. I didn't know that when you got 65, you you got that double dose. So interesting. Yeah.

Leo [00:04:27]:

Yep. Anyway, so we got some stuff to talk about.

Gary [00:04:30]:

Yes.

Leo [00:04:31]:

One of the things this is this is tech, and I guess in in a way, it's not tech, but it's we're we're seeing it in the tech space. I got email yesterday from my domain registrar. I've been using simpleurl.com for 20 plus years. And he's been in business for, like, 25 years or something like that. He said, yep. Yep. I'm done. I'm shutting her down.

Leo [00:05:00]:

And, you know, here's here's what happens. Here's, what you can do. In reality, you don't have to do anything. But if you do that, here's, you know, he he actually, before the announcement, did up a, you know, some kind of agreement with a different, registrar. These are he's a an Enom reseller. So my assumption is that this person we're moving to is also a an enom reseller. But, basically, you know, everything so far is handled as best you could imagine. Right? I've been kind of thinking that that this guy, since it is a one man operation, I've been thinking that, you know, at some point, he's gonna he's gonna, you know, throw in the towel.

Leo [00:05:43]:

And indeed, that's what happened. So, you know, he basically he got his he he created a plan. He announced his plan, and presumably, we're going to follow that plan, and it looks like a reasonable one. Compare and contrast to our friends at Kaspersky.

Gary [00:06:02]:

I didn't know Kaspersky was, undergoing a transition.

Leo [00:06:08]:

A forced transition. Uh-huh. Couple of months ago, the US Department of something or other decided that, Kaspersky, Security Software could no longer be sold and could no longer even be updated in the United States. And I believe there was a deadline of the end of last month. You know, and of course, that's got all the usual political discussions around it and whether or not they should or shouldn't. And, you know, are the Russians really behind it, or could the Russians do something? Who knows? Right? It became it all became moot. There's always been a long discussion about that, but it all became moot when the US government said, whatever. You can't use it.

Leo [00:06:53]:

Right. So, there wasn't really a plan. There wasn't really a, an anything
Until last week, people who were still using Kaspersky suddenly woke up
and found on their machine a completely different antivirus solution that
they had never heard of before. In fact, I'd never heard of it before,
called UltraAV. And it's you know, the details are sketchy because it's
been very, how do I wanna say this? It's it's all been handled, opaquely.
Yes. It's all been, you know, behind the scenes. Things have been
happening.

Leo [00:07:35]:

There's been no communication about it whatsoever. And it you know, I
mean, Kaspersky at this point doesn't have a whole lot to lose because
they're walk they have to walk away from the American market anyway. So
if they piss off the American market,

Gary [00:07:48]:

sure,

Leo [00:07:48]:

they they don't care. But I just found it such an interesting contrast
that, ultimately, you know, Kaspersky is walking out the door and saying,
good luck, suckers. And, you know, simple URL doing a great job of
setting, managing expectations, and hopefully following through. It's a
good reminder, though, that businesses don't last forever. That's one of
the things that I that that came to mind. I mean, simple URL. Like I
said, I mean, the the industry has been around a long time that, you
know, and especially the small providers. Let's face it.

Leo [00:08:25]:

You know, you and I aren't going to be doing this forever. At some point,
we're going to give up, and that's, you know, the transition plan's a
little bit different, but, presumably, we'll, you know, give people
warning. But especially the small providers, the solo entrepreneurs, the,
the individuals, at some point, yeah, it's gonna happen. And, I have a
lot of respect for the people who take that seriously and do the right
thing. It's just something something I suspect for people to, to be aware
of, to watch out for, and to, and to notice. Have you run into any
companies that I mean, this is actually fairly rare these days right now.
I suspect it's gonna happen more and more, but I'm not aware of any
companies that have just decided to, pack it in.

Gary [00:09:09]:

I'm trying to think. I mean, there's definitely been parts of companies
or software. I remember, like, a famous example is Google had a a service
called FeedBurner in the early days of podcasting.

Leo [00:09:22]:

Yes.

Gary [00:09:22]:

And do you remember FeedBurner, what it did?

Leo [00:09:25]:

Oh, absolutely. I used it. Yeah. It gave me analytics on the podcast. Yeah.

Gary [00:09:28]:

I mean, it was the interesting thing about it is it solved several problems because trying to hook up, you know, you have your content and then you have a feed for that content and then trying to do things like track statistics, how many people downloaded it, get it so that it does appropriate things for different services that require different things in the RSS feed. It was like this all in one solution. You took your your generic RSS feed for your podcast, you fed it into FeedBurner, and then FeedBurner did all this great stuff with it. Very profi tons of features. And then you would then give the, you know, you know, if you were to say, submit your podcast to a, directory or to an app or something, you would give them your FeedBurner feed. Right? So it'll go from your site or whatever you were using into FeedBurner and then the FeedBurner feed was what everybody would get and then it was great. If you were smart like I was, you would not give them your FeedBurner fee, but go have it go back to your server

Leo [00:10:36]:

Yes.

Gary [00:10:36]:

With a little redirect URL, which was a little technical, too technical for a lot of podcasters to do. So they skip that step. But that allowed, like, me when feed when Google said we're not doing FeedBurner anymore, which

Leo [00:10:49]:

kind

Gary [00:10:49]:

of has an asterisk next to it because guess what? They're still doing FeedBurner.

Leo [00:10:52]:

I was gonna say, I just I just brought it up, but I still got Yeah.

Gary [00:10:55]:

They basically they basically closed it, depreciated it, but said, we'll keep the lights on without any fanfare, and then they've just done that forever. But I

Leo [00:11:06]:

think they're just they're not doing any statistics.

Gary [00:11:08]:

It's basically Yeah. They're not they're not doing a lot of stuff and they're not updating it and all, but it's still there. The but the thing was that, you know, I was able to redirect that everybody had a URL that was my domain. That redirected to FeedBurner and FeedBurner was coming back to my domain. So I was just able to basically close that loop or if I wanted to I could have put another service in the middle there. But

other people, you know, had the the panic thing of like, oh no, you know, how do I convince and all these services, simply, assumed that if you gave them a URL for your RSS feed, that that would never change. So suddenly they had to jump around and say, oh, you you need to be able to change to a different feed URL even though the feed is the same. Anyway, there's that.

Gary [00:11:53]:

There's software. I mean, there's tons of stuff like, Apple has of course depreciated things like, Aperture, their photo, software, the original Final Cut, you know, and replaced it with a completely new app that happened to have the same name. Things like that, that kinda left people mind. Even the the Apple's original, suite of apps for office stuff, they had a fantastic suite of office stuff that it they inherited from Clarus early on. And for more than a decade, just came with all the Macs. It had the word processor and all this stuff in it. And then they they came up with their current suite today and they discontinued the old stuff. Different file formats, very different file formats.

Gary [00:12:39]:

Right. You know, so there's a lot there's a lot of that. Yeah. It it it happens having an exit plan, having something where you can translate all that stuff or whatever. It's also, I could say, a pain for a lot of just regular computer users. You know, if you if you've just had here, I've got my AV solution with Kaspersky, and I've just had it for 15 years. Right.

Leo [00:13:01]:

And

Gary [00:13:01]:

it's taken care of, and I don't need to know anything more than that. I can just get on with my life. And now suddenly, you have to know more.

Leo [00:13:07]:

You have to pay attention. Yep.

Gary [00:13:09]:

You have to pay attention.

Leo [00:13:10]:

So It's it's interesting. I've been doing the redirect thing as protection for a long time, to to the point where, I don't typically send people directly to my Facebook page. I sent them to askleo.com/facebook/Twitter/uh, a bunch of other random ones.

Gary [00:13:29]:

I I have my own URL shortener, which I can't code it. It's just a bunch of lines and a text file. And it it because I because macmost.com, that's already 7 letter, you you know, top level domain. So I was like, I'm not I'm not gonna try to do any better than that. So I have a way to just add you a little text file, any link to anywhere, and then I can redirect people. And it has come in handy over the years, particularly when, originally, I used it to redirect people to Amazon. If I would mention

like, oh, you can buy this piece of software to do something, I'd send them to an Amazon, you know, associates link.

Leo [00:14:07]:
Right.

Gary [00:14:07]:
And then Amazon banned my state from their associates program. And I had I would have had all these Amazon links everywhere, but they were all in my URL shortener. I just went through and redirected him to various different places.

Leo [00:14:20]:
Right.

Gary [00:14:21]:
And then back to Amazon when they added I've added it back and, yeah, it it's handy. But, you know, actually, this is oh, go ahead.

Leo [00:14:29]:
Well, I was just saying I've got I've got both. I have, in one file, I've got the ones that are, you know, like the Twitters and the Facebooks and so forth. Actually, those are in my HT access file, which I think you'll recognize. But I actually have a standalone, URL shortener package Yeah. That I've been using for a long time that, you know, gives me an interface and

Gary [00:14:55]:
Sure. Sure.

Leo [00:14:55]:
Some analytics, which is part of what I use it for just to see how people are are still using that and making it very easy to change the targets, when they come up.

Gary [00:15:05]:
Indeed. And, you know, this is a great, this goes right into my next topic.

Leo [00:15:10]:
Excellent. Go for it.

Gary [00:15:11]:
Strangely. Strangely. Okay. And the next topic is about having to replace my smart lock. Because just like with one of these services, like deciding they're going down or Kris Kaspersky, you know, changing overnight. Right. I bought a smart lock when I moved about a year and a half ago. And it's great, a little combo on the door and it was an Amazon they they have a generic Amazon one.

Gary [00:15:33]:
It's got a little keypad. It's just called the Amazon smart lock or something like that. Some like non name name. And it was really cheap. It was like 60 or \$70. And I got that because there were no good systems

available at the time. Like, nothing that worked with Apple Home and other things. I mean, everything had a problem.

Gary [00:15:51]:

So I just bought this one and I installed it on the door and he entered a code and he got in. No key needed. And it was great until, last week. It just stopped working. Just stopped working. Like, you press a button and it it it actually gave an error, and the error was the same as if somebody tried to enter in, like a code or like a bad code 5 times, but there was nobody there entering bad code, and it's only supposed to last for 45 seconds anyway. It was like, obviously, the chip inside just had a fault in it. So pretty scary that it happened.

Gary [00:16:27]:

Thankfully, I was on the inside when it happened, not the outside. So, if I had been on the outside and my wife had been on the outside, I don't know how we'd gotten in. But, anyway, that was like, you know, didn't seem to be anything I could do. Warranty was 1 year. So time to replace it. Okay. Fortunately, I just read an article about a new smart lock that came out that has everything I ever wanted. Fingerprint.

Gary [00:16:56]:

It's got multiple codes and you control it with an app. It works with Apple HomeKit and Apple Home key or key whatever it is. It's the key thing. So in other words, I can hold my phone or my watch to it and it's NFC, right, and it works. And it's Apple's like tech on the phone and watch side which means it even works when your battery is dead. Because technically when your battery is dead, it's still a tiny bit of power in there, enough for NFC to work. And so everything. Right? Exactly what I wanted.

Gary [00:17:29]:

And I was like, great. I will replace it with this, and it's gonna cost a pretty penny. I'll tell you right now. It costs \$300 or it was like 2.79 or something. It's just like cost a lot of money, but this should be my solution, and I'll be pretty happy with it. I was not I've been not been happy with it it at all. It just shows that these products, like, I I assumed buying the most expensive one out there pretty much would just it would be like, well, I'm not gonna have any problems. Like, what about a cheap one from some brand you never heard of.

Gary [00:18:00]:

Right? Right. And it just, you know and it's, like, a \$115 or whatever. It'd probably be all sorts of things. Oh, the instructions aren't translated correctly, and this doesn't work, and you gotta do this. I'd this one should be like the, you know, the one it's called the U200 from Acquara. Anyway

Leo [00:18:18]:

You went for the luxury model with the, you know, enhanced soundproof

Gary [00:18:21]:

Yeah. Yeah.

Leo [00:18:21]:
Heat and seats and all that kind of stuff. Yeah.

Gary [00:18:23]:
Yeah. So right away, the interesting thing is it's supposed to be it claims super super easy installation. Super easy installation. I'm like, great. I want that. I get it. The reason it's super easy installation, and I didn't see this mentioned anywhere, is it's not meant to replace your current deadbolt. It controls your current deadbolt.

Gary [00:18:45]:
So you have a regular deadbolt in a door like the \$50 thing you would get at Home Depot with just a key and it turns, that's all. It keeps the outer part of that, that has the key it keeps the inner part with the little rod through it and then the bolt that then moves in and out it that's all from the old lock you're supposed to have that already

Leo [00:19:08]:
Right.

Gary [00:19:09]:
And all it does is replace the little knob that you turn with your fingers on the inside of the door.

Leo [00:19:15]:
Okay.

Gary [00:19:15]:
It goes over that which is yeah. I could see that being super easy installation if you have that but I'm replacing an Amazon smart lock. I don't have that. That outer part with the key, that's a keypad.

Leo [00:19:31]:
Right.

Gary [00:19:32]:
I could technically have kept the keypad. I would have had 2 keypads on my door, and one of them would not have worked. It would have looked not only ugly but highly suspicious or paranoid to anybody else in my building. The guy with the 2 keypads on this door. It's like, what is going on in there? And yeah. It would have been really stupid. Plus it occurred to me that's like, what if this was a new door? You know, what if brand new door, no deadbolt in it? Then you should maybe know you need to go out to Home Depot and buy a deadbolt

Leo [00:20:03]:
Right.

Gary [00:20:03]:
To go in there. So anyway, so that took me that just delayed everything like 2 days while I ordered the deadbolt and waited for that to come and all. That was disappointing. Then I I get it all put together and the Apple stuff doesn't work because you need the latest Apple TV or HomePod. Because you're not you don't just need HomeKit from Apple. You need

HomeKit with the threaded stuff, which enables matter and then matter will then work with this. So I had to spend more money to get an Apple TV. I have, like, 4 Apple TVs.

Gary [00:20:41]:

Like, it's a little line of marching behind them. And we've got 2 TVs really. And, so I just had to get the latest one, take the one that was the one before the latest one, and push that down the line, and then get that. So I'm out another \$150 with no additional functionality, by the way, on my TV, really. It's just now I can do this. And then even then, I got the NFC to work, and it worked for 2 days and stopped working. The solution I found online and what I tried that eventually worked was remove it from Apple Home, add it back to Apple Home, and now it works again. And now I have zero confidence in it.

Gary [00:21:21]:

Right?

Leo [00:21:21]:

Right.

Gary [00:21:22]:

Right. It's like, oh, great. So there's that. Then then I noticed there's a little depending upon what type of, like the the the I don't know what it's called but the stick that comes out of like the part where you turn the key. It's like the main central little thing. But depending upon the shape of that cause apparently there's like 6 different shapes depending upon where you are in the world and which one you buy. You have these there were these different plastic parts that went in that would fit in and and then kind of make the smart lock work with the stick.

Leo [00:21:56]:

Right.

Gary [00:21:56]:

So I picked that one out. I'm trying to determine which one's the right one and I read the little thing because everything else is metal. This thing is plastic and it has a little thing saying this is a consumable part. It is estimated to last 2 years. At that time, you could either 3 d print 1 from our we will offer you the template for free, or you can order a new set from us. I'm like, what consumable part? And I'm looking at the thing. I'm like, why didn't you just make this out of metal? I okay. So yeah.

Gary [00:22:29]:

So I'm like, well, alright. I'm in this far. I mean, I I was in, you know, almost \$300 for the, you know, after taxes for the thing then Apple TV, \$150, then a deadbolt lock, \$50. So now \$500 in. And then on and then on top of that, it, decided to, stop working in the worst way today where it just it it refused to close or it refused to open. Like, it would open, it would turn, and it was like it wasn't catching. I was like, oh, great. And I've always suspected it made it way too it made way too much noise.

Gary [00:23:08]:

So my solution was, you know, to take it all apart and put it back together very slowly and carefully, checking each way because I knew when I just put the regular deadbolt lock in, it was smooth as butter, Like with a key, close and open. Smooth as can be. And then by the time I had assembled the whole thing, it was actually really clunky. It took a lot of pressure. So I just, I put everything together with like, everything was just as tight as it had to be and no tighter. And from my experience of putting door locks together I was like maybe something was too tight. And when I finished after testing it each step of the way I ended up in a much better configuration and it worked again. It's just that I have very little confidence in the entire system now.

Leo [00:23:55]:

Right.

Gary [00:23:56]:

Imagine I've got a part that's gonna wear out in 2 years, I guess. I've got a, the home key thing could just stop working for no reason anytime. There is a keypad I can enter code. I've got, it may or may not be able to open with, you know, slippage or whatever. Mean, there's so many different parts that, you know, I just don't I don't have the I paid \$500 for this feeling I should have. Like like, literally, if I just taken the deadbolt that I bought, like, I disassembled it all now, put the deadbolt back in and just stuck the key in my pocket. I would have a better feeling about the lock.

Leo [00:24:35]:

Oh, that is how most of the world works. Right?

Gary [00:24:37]:

I know. I mean, I do have a lot of cool features. There's a full log. Everybody's got their own little codes. So I you know, we we have a record of, you know, who goes in and out or whatever, which it's like, well, why do I need that? Well, actually sometimes I wanna know, when I came in. I mean really, it's like sometimes it's like I wanna remember, oh, I went I went and I did that thing yesterday. When I got back when? Oh, I can look in the logs and see that I came in at 345. That, you know, I like that.

Gary [00:25:09]:

It's like a little diary. I've you've got remote, not only remote entry for things, but I could add a remote code so I could be out of town and like a dog sitter or something like that. Could, you know, it's be like, hey, I can't make it today. Is it okay if I send my buddy to walk your dog? I could say, yeah, but give him this code and then issue a one time code from like halfway around the world. I mean, there's like a ton of really cool features. I could even it it even does notifications when the door is open, when the door is closed. I of course disable those at about 15 minutes after I installed it because that's annoying, but I could enable it like when I'm on a trip. A lot of cool things that I'm sure I'll appreciate in the long run, but it is frustrating to get like these things that are like, this will make your life so much easier and so much more complex at the same time.

Leo [00:26:01]:

You know what you need to wait for? Yeah. The AI version.

Gary [00:26:06]:

Yeah. It'll add a new level of complexity. Right?

Leo [00:26:11]:

Right. Right. It's either AI or blockchain that's gonna solve the problem.

Gary [00:26:15]:

Yes. Exactly. That'd be, oh, I lost the blockchain key. Well, now you'll never ever be able to get back in the door ever again, or or neither what anybody else.

Leo [00:26:26]:

It's funny.

Gary [00:26:26]:

I roll it over.

Leo [00:26:27]:

We've been, you know, like I said, in this house for 27, 28 years.

Gary [00:26:32]:

Mhmm.

Leo [00:26:32]:

And it's got traditional dead bolts, on the doors we use the most. And every once in a while, I think, you know, yeah, it'd be kinda cool, but nah. Mostly for two reasons.

Gary [00:26:44]:

Yeah.

Leo [00:26:45]:

1, the story you just told.

Gary [00:26:48]:

Yeah.

Leo [00:26:48]:

Right? And the other is that, my wife is not as comfortable with technology as I am. And therefore, if there's a problem, it becomes a problem, and it becomes my problem.

Gary [00:27:02]:

Oh, yeah.

Leo [00:27:03]:

So I just you know what? Keys work. They do.

Gary [00:27:07]:

Yeah. I did have I had a you know, we had, like, a keypad in my previous residence, which was a house. And let me tell you, it's a lot easier in a house because you have multiple entrances. Right. And this is really a lot about convenience. I mean, it is it is you know, I've experienced in the last week, it's great to be able to hold my Apple Watch up without having to press any buttons or do anything. I could just hold it up to it and unlock, especially when you're walking dogs. Right? Walking my dog, I get back, I've got the whole, you know, dog on the leash, take the dog off the leash, you know, all that stuff.

Gary [00:27:39]:

It's just one less I can hold my left arm up and unlock the door at the same time I'm kind of, you know, gripping the release on the the harness and all that. And that's really cool. So it's convenience. When you were in a house, you usually have well, I I had I think there are at least 3 doors in the last house and the house before that. So you've got other doors with other either keypads or ways to get in

Leo [00:28:07]:

Right.

Gary [00:28:07]:

Things like that. There is even in my old house, we had a garage and the garage had it opened for the cars and in the garage, there was a lockbox And the lockbox was a spare key, you know, that kind of thing. But in a condo, in a building, you're in the weird situation where there is exactly one door.

Leo [00:28:28]:

The alternative, of course, is to,

Gary [00:28:30]:

you

Leo [00:28:30]:

know, get up on the roof, come down the hallway. Yeah.

Gary [00:28:33]:

Yeah. Well, there is yeah. Exactly. We're we're too high up for the window. Even in a house, if you're like, oh, all the doors. Well, you've got windows. You know? You're you're basically weighing your, like, how much is it gonna cost for the locksmith? How much is it gonna cost to replace this window? And which one's the least expensive?

Leo [00:28:50]:

I don't know if I ever told you this, but when we took possession of this house,

Gary [00:28:54]:

the day Oh, I think you did. Yeah.

Leo [00:28:55]:

The day we took possession, we locked ourselves out. And, my wife ended up having to crawl through, a bathroom window that happened to be, you

know, something that was accessible and something where we could kind of work the window open far enough to get in. So but yes, we now like you. We now also have, you know, backup methods. Right? Keypads. Yeah. You know, that kind of stuff.

Gary [00:29:20]:

Oh, yeah. I mean, the great the good thing is that even though I don't like the fact that this lock came with this, you know, you had to have a deadbolt, because the the deadbolt has a key in it, you do have the backup of a key. So now, you know, all I need to do is the next time I see, a relative in the in the area, which won't be long, I'm going to give them one of those keys. Right. And now if I if for some reason the mechanism fails to work, but a key might open it, instead of calling a locksmith or somebody to break down the door or something, I actually had like a way to like, alright, we need to get that key over here and maybe that will do it. So, you know, it's always good to have that as the a backup.

Leo [00:30:06]:

Fun times.

Gary [00:30:07]:

Yeah.

Leo [00:30:09]:

So you you're the the next item here, you're you're finding Prime Day revolting?

Gary [00:30:14]:

Well, okay. So here's the here's the thing. This was actually I thought of this. We usually we see stories, like a, you know, a tech journalist reports something interesting going on. We put it in the list, and then you say, oh, there's a story in whatever about this. Let's talk about it. This the opposite. I thought of this and I searched for somebody talking about this and probably for good reason there was nobody talking about this.

Gary [00:30:41]:

So I've got my little beef with Prime Day, you know, Amazon Prime Day where they have, like, these sales. And do they do it quarterly now? I don't know. They do it

Leo [00:30:51]:

at least twice a year, but, yeah,

Gary [00:30:52]:

it

Leo [00:30:52]:

used to be once a year and I don't know. Can't keep track of it.

Gary [00:30:56]:

Right. And there's there there's all, you know, all these other retailers do have their equivalents to it now. It's almost like if you wanna be a

serious retailer, you need to do this technique now. Right? You have to have your membership. You have to have your special sale day or week. So the thing is is my beef with them is that, of course, the whole goal is to get you to buy things that you don't necessarily need.

Leo [00:31:18]:
Right.

Gary [00:31:19]:
Right? I mean, there are people that say, oh, we need a new vacuum cleaner, but this one will this one will do. Let's just wait for Black Friday or Prime Day, and then we'll buy 1. And that's, like, the feel good version of it. The the reality is that a lot of the stuff purchased is, you see an article about Prime Day. Check out these Prime Day deals. You know, Mac user, check out these Prime Day deals that you need for your Mac. Right?

Leo [00:31:48]:
Right.

Gary [00:31:49]:
You have the Samsung Galaxy, check out these cases and other accessories for the, you know, whatever. That's you know, you go and you can't help you can't resist thinking, oh, maybe there's some really good really good deal on something, you know. So you go and you browse and, ah, they've got you. They've got you in your in their store now. You're browsing these cool gadgets. If it's an article, they're of course making affiliate money off of it, and they're trying to show you the coolest looking gadgets and talk them up. How could you possibly live without this doc for your Mac? It makes life so much easier.

Leo [00:32:22]:
Affiliate link is probably the biggest reason they're reporting on it at all.

Gary [00:32:26]:
Yes. Exactly. And and my problem with it, it's the same problem as with so much tech journalism. Now if you look at the list from all of the sites that are reporting legitimate tech news, but like 1 out of 10 articles is just saying something like, these 4 iPad cases are on sale right now at wherever, or get get the new AirPods, the, the new AirPods Max at its lowest price this year. There's, like, so many articles that just have that. Mhmm. And it's yeah. The the sites, they do it because sometimes they make affiliate money off of it most of the time probably.

Gary [00:33:05]:
They also do it because they it probably gets decent clicks. But I I feel it's kind of like just, you know, I I feel like I'm in that movie, they live, you know, the old John Carpenter movie and there's like the sign that says consume. You know, it says consume. You must consume. You know, and so you see these things and you're like, I was going about my day perfectly fine, not feeling I needed anything. And now suddenly I'm browsing this list of, like, the top 25 travel accessories on sale for, you know, Amazon Prime Day. And I think the problem is and why these

things just get more and more popular and they'll never go away is because it really is a, a combination of the retail store like Amazon and the media, the journalists, the tech journalists, bloggers, YouTubers, every you know, basically both getting something out of it, which doesn't often you know, that's not always the case in things. You know, they're sometimes they're at odds.

Gary [00:34:06]:

Right? There's plenty of tech journalists that'll criticize Amazon all the time, but then turn around and say, oh, check out this check out the sale on, you know, the new whatever, all for Amazon Prime Day. So it will never it will never go away. They'll never be, like, except with the exception of, like, somebody like me. They'll let everybody be anybody that says, oh, I wish they would talk less about sales or or the new MacBook Pro being \$50 cheaper than its normal price or something like like, if you need a MacBook Pro, you know you need a MacBook Pro, you're probably looking at prices. You don't need a journalist to be pushing in front of your face. Like, you didn't need you didn't know that you needed a MacBook Pro today, but \$50. Come on, buddy. Yeah.

Gary [00:34:54]:

And so Amazon Prime Day is never going to is a problem, I think. It caused people to spend money they shouldn't be spending on things they don't need, but it's never going to be fixed because the very people that should be telling you this, it's in their interest to say the opposite.

Leo [00:35:11]:

Promote it. If it makes you feel any better while you were talking, I went ahead and started browsing on Amazon and

Gary [00:35:17]:

Oh, no. For the record,

Leo [00:35:20]:

it should make you feel better. There is nothing here that I want.

Gary [00:35:23]:

Yeah.

Leo [00:35:24]:

So, there's just, you know, and and I actually find that for most of the prime, prime days. It's very rare that there's anything that, that actually appeals. On 1 1 or 2 occasions, there has been, but maybe I'm just better at resisting.

Gary [00:35:42]:

Yes. Probably.

Leo [00:35:44]:

If if I don't need it, I'm not gonna buy it.

Gary [00:35:47]:

I'm pretty good. I think I've I've gotten to have such distaste for it. Just like, a week before Amazon Prime Day in the summer, there was

something I needed. I forgot what it was. It was a couple \$100. It was fairly expensive. And I was shopping at Amazon for this product, you know, they are like 50 different varieties of this thing.

Leo [00:36:08]:
Right.

Gary [00:36:08]:
And I got, the feeling, oh, wait. This is next week Amazon Prime Day. Maybe I should wait and see if one of these is for sale.

Leo [00:36:15]:
Right.

Gary [00:36:15]:
And I thought, no. No. I'm trying to figure out which the best one is now. It's unlikely whichever one I decide is the best one is going to be the one for sale.

Leo [00:36:25]:
Yep. Yep.

Gary [00:36:26]:
And, you know, and it may not even be for sale and then so it was like, no. I believe in the long run. I do better by just saying no. I need this now. I'm gonna find the one I think is the best one for me now. I'm going to buy it. And then when Amazon Prime Day comes and goes, I'm not even gonna go to the site because I don't need anything. And I think I'm actually going to save money in the long run by following that strategy instead of the, you know, wait, save up a bunch of stuff for Prime Day and all.

Gary [00:36:58]:
My my wife, when she was younger used to work in retail and she would used to say all the time that, you know, she would see, you know, there were products that had a a retail price and then the sale price. And she was she would say, there was it was never the retail price. Never once was it in the store for the retail price.

Leo [00:37:19]:
Right. It

Gary [00:37:19]:
was always the sale price, but they could still put the 10% off sticker on it.

Leo [00:37:25]:
Right.

Gary [00:37:25]:
And say this was the regular price. It was like, it was never like that. And there'd be times when they'd have huge sales, advertise them all over the place, and the prices didn't change a bit. You know, they already had

sale sold stickers everywhere. He said, but people would flock in, and they buy tons of stuff. And yeah. Anyway so

Leo [00:37:47]:

Yep. Yep. So yes. So so, the, the takeaway for our listener, of course, is

Gary [00:37:52]:

Yes.

Leo [00:37:53]:

Avoid the urge. You don't you probably don't need it. No.

Gary [00:37:59]:

Yep. So alright. So

Leo [00:38:03]:

You uncovered a mystery.

Gary [00:38:06]:

Yes. There there is a bit of a mystery going on now. I think I'd I may have mentioned this before.

Leo [00:38:11]:

I think you did. Yes. Yes.

Gary [00:38:12]:

Yeah. So but finally, the weird thing that's happening is other YouTubers are taking notice. So it says the mystery of the name salad YouTube comments, what I'm calling it. Right. So it's when you get a comment on your YouTube video, and the comment is, like, two names that could be a first or last name. That's the comment. It's like, you know, you know, I don't know, Michael, you know, something, some Michael Marvel or whatever. I mean, it's just like a nonsense name.

Gary [00:38:42]:

And it's like, what that's a comment? Why is that a comment on this video? Sometimes there'll be a number before it. Sometimes it'll be more than 2 names. It'll be like up to 6, but most of the times it's 2. And I've been getting these for months, like at least 4 or 5 months.

Leo [00:38:57]:

Yep. Me too.

Gary [00:38:58]:

I see them occasionally in other videos as well. After researching and trying to even use AI to figure out what the what the problem is, a few weeks ago, some another YouTuber posted a video about them with a theory. And the interesting thing I I I saw first is she said that she'd be getting for, like, about 2 weeks. They started 2 weeks ago. And I was like, oh, it's been going on a lot longer than that. So even somebody who thought they they knew something was happening wasn't even seeing the full picture. And had a she had a a theory about him that I think was totally wrong.

Leo [00:39:36]:
And

Gary [00:39:36]:
that the theory it was an interesting theory, but the theory was based on the fact that some YouTubers don't want people to know their real name. And so, like, if I would were to not want people to know my real name is Gary, well, first, I would stop saying that in every single video at the very beginning. Yep. But the the other thing is is that, if some, somebody left a comment that knew me and said, oh, thanks for the video, Gary. I would go in and delete that. Oh, no. Don't don't say my name. And after it happened a couple times, I'd probably go into the blocked words list and put my name there.

Gary [00:40:15]:
So if somebody said my name, it would go it would be blocked. It would end up in the moderation queue and then I could say, oh, no. So if somebody said, oh, you look like Gary Sinise, I could say, that's fine. But, and I thought that was interesting except that I totally disagreed because first of all not very many YouTubers try to block their name. And if you figured out somebody's name, I I don't know what the big deal was. Like, why how would that really help, just since other YouTubers are open with their names, like, how would knowing somebody's name who wanted to keep it secret, it wouldn't give you be privy. It just seemed way too convoluted with too little and questionable any payoff to have happened. The other theory that people kept throwing around seemed to make sense, but I couldn't quite get it, but I think I do now.

Gary [00:41:08]:
And that is that you create a bot account, and you can't just create a bot account on YouTube and then post spam. Because what'll happen is the algorithm really quickly quickly will say, oh, this account was created. It immediately posted something with a link, and that's probably spam. Instead the idea is that you would create an account, a normal person will create an account and comment and say thank you on a video or this was really helpful and whatever. And then maybe post a link like a year and a half later, and that would be, like, legitimate. Oh, it's a real person, and they were just posting a link to something related to the video. Right. It would make sense that bots would want to post things to comments and build up a history of comments.

Leo [00:41:55]:
Right.

Gary [00:41:55]:
So that the way they posted the spam, maybe they would be detected. The thing that really got me about this is why post random names

Leo [00:42:03]:
Yes.

Gary [00:42:04]:

Because posting the words thank you would be far better. And in combination, you could come up with a, you know, thank you. I'd like this video. Thank you. This was helpful, or this was helpful. Thank you. I mean, thanks, all sorts of way. TX, you know, lots of things.

Leo [00:42:24]:
And for the record, I'm getting those too.

Gary [00:42:27]:
Yeah. And you get those and and they are

Leo [00:42:30]:
Generic comments Yes. That actually don't reference any content in the video or even in my articles. I get these are cast comments on my articles, that are just, you know, generic And

Gary [00:42:41]:
it makes sense. It makes sense. And the thing is they are hard to detect because sometimes they're real. And I know they're real because I do tend to see the little icons of the people.

Leo [00:42:55]:
Sure.

Gary [00:42:56]:
And I do tend to sometimes recognize.

Leo [00:42:58]:
There are some we recognize. Absolutely.

Gary [00:43:00]:
People. And sometimes I will see a thank you and say, is this spam? And I look and I say, oh, that's Joe. Yeah. I know Joe. I just helped Joe out with the problem last week. Right. Okay. So Joe says thank you and then there's another one that says thank you.

Gary [00:43:16]:
I don't know. Is that spam? I don't know. I mean it's certainly very natural to say that. So why aren't why are these bots posting random names? And somebody else posted a theory that perhaps, it's just the idea is you're not going to have those in block lists. Like real words may be in block lists, even thank you. Right? But names, that's really hard, especially you could put a 100 names in your block list, and then our random name could have none of that. Right? Right. So if your goal is to is to simply get a count of comments that are not blocked, like, get to 400 of those over 5 years and then post your spam.

Gary [00:44:06]:
Posting a random set of names that won't get blocked or recognized as spam in hopes that the YouTuber doesn't even see them. Kinda makes sense. You're not you're thinking it's not the content that matters. That's unimportant. It's just the number. I've posted on, you know, 400 comments. Nope YouTube creator has, you know, blocked any of them or

blocked me, and so I'm good to go. And that that that's when it would make sense to use names, not words, and to use random names.

Gary [00:44:39]:

The only problem is, of course, if you do run it to somebody like me who has a macro on their computer and with but by pressing f 11 will not only delete the comment, but report your account. Then, yeah, that's the risk you're taking.

Leo [00:44:56]:

For those, I use the, hide the account from my from my

Gary [00:45:00]:

I do. Yeah. It's a lot of steps, though.

Leo [00:45:02]:

Well, my understanding is that that one's the most effective, because you're right. There's multiple multiple steps if you wanna report and delete and

Gary [00:45:10]:

I do the whole the whole so I I, you know, my f eleven basically hits the little three dots. It, reports it as spam. It picks the type of spam as the closest thing, commercial spam. And then it says, you know, do you want to hide this user from your channel? Yes. I do. Check. Okay. It does all those steps for me with one key, which is so it's handy, and it doesn't put me out to be have to do them.

Gary [00:45:34]:

Right. And my hope is is that this is exactly what they don't want. Right? They wanna get to a certain number of comments without that happening. And then they're

Leo [00:45:45]:

I have another another theory about these names. Yeah. What you've described makes total sense. For the record, I'm seeing comments that have, like, 4 or 5 random names.

Gary [00:45:58]:

Yes, I've seen that stuff.

Leo [00:45:59]:

You're rather than just a first name, last name kind of thing. I wonder if these are attempts to identify channels that do a bad job of managing their comments. So these 5 word, 5 random word, 5 random name things, they're unlikely to be on block lists there. If the channel owner isn't going to do anything about them, they remain And that way, sometime later, the, the potential spammer can come along and say, okay, let's do a search for these five names because I've used them in certain places. And, oh, look, they're still over on the MacMost channel. Excellent. Let's go send the heck out of MacMost.

Gary [00:46:46]:

I did they don't even have to search for the names. They could just be keeping a database of the the actual, like, where the comment is and what it is. Right? So then a few years down the road or months or whenever, they could simply go in the database, say, this user account made this comment on this video on this channel. Check. Is it there? Oh, it is. Great. Now post spam to another video for that same channel. And yeah.

Gary [00:47:19]:

So the the two things basically aren't exclusive. Like, it's the same thing. Build up comment count and also know that, hey. You know, this this wouldn't even be the first comment left by this user at this channel, so it's even more likely to get through. Yep. Yeah. So in that case, you and I are doing the exact right thing. It's a pain in the ass to have to do it, but it's not good news to know that we are probably making our channel more immune.

Leo [00:47:46]:

What's interesting about it is that somewhat frustrating about it. So, I'm sure like you, you know, like, once a day or maybe multiple times a day, I go over to YouTube studio and go to the comment section and just start perusing the comments. I think we've talked before that, I simply scroll down until I saw the last comment that I left, and then I worked way forward. Yeah. So there's this this this dichotomy where on one hand, you know, if I see that there's a bunch of comments, I'm thinking, oh, great. That's a lot of work. How much of it is spam? I'm gonna have to read all these things, you know, all that kind of stuff. On the other hand, oh, good.

Leo [00:48:29]:

There's a bunch of comments people are engaging.

Gary [00:48:32]:

Yeah. Exactly. Now I know the feeling.

Leo [00:48:34]:

So, yeah, it's it's interesting. It's it's kind of bizarre. But, yeah, it is it is what it is. Mhmm. So yep. Okay. So So You know, we've been kind of a kind of, I don't know, rumping this episode so far.

Gary [00:48:51]:

We've had

Leo [00:48:51]:

things to we've had things to complain about, but let's kick it up a notch and actually get off my lawn. Mhmm. So and you will absolutely understand this because I'm sure you're

Gary [00:49:03]:

Just a few words you've written here on the screen. I know exactly what you're going to say. Yeah.

Leo [00:49:08]:

I got a question the other day that was essentially a small novel. It was, oh gosh, probably 500 or a 1000 words. Right? The size of of of one

of my articles, if not if not. And, you know, it was like the backstory and the this is and and god love them. I appreciate the fact that they're putting in so much effort to to getting their question, you know, presented and asked. But for the life of me, I couldn't see a question in the maelstrom. So, just for the hell of it, I we talked about perplexity last week. I, copy pasted this entire little novel into perplexity preceded by the phrase, can you make sense of this? And what it returned was a beautifully organized outline of all of the issues, all of the things that have been tried.

Leo [00:50:15]:

I mean, it was just it was lovely. Nice. But but yeah. The I I feel bad for people that just spend so much time, and then, you know, failed to ask a question or or any of that kind of stuff. At the other end of the spectrum, of course, and and I know you run into this too. We get the people, and I've had 2 of them that like, this morning, where it boils down to, you know, how do I how do I download this thing where this thing is on their computer already? Or, you know, this doesn't work. Okay. What doesn't work? What were you expecting it to do? I mean, the the usual stuff.

Leo [00:50:53]:

Right? Not nearly not enough information, for me to even take a guess Yeah. At what's going on. I actually have an article about, you know, you know, what information should I provide. And, my ask a question page actually references it. Although since I take a lot of questions directly by email, a lot of people don't see that. But it is something that I then use in my responses to say, hey. You got help me help you. Right? Give me some information, about the problem.

Leo [00:51:22]:

So yeah. So that's my my, you know, little little bit more of a of a grump this week that, you know, too much or too little. I mean, there's a there's a Goldilocks zone in the middle where there's enough information to solve the to

Gary [00:51:34]:

Unlocked zone. Yeah. Yeah.

Leo [00:51:36]:

And, you know, just go from there. So, anyway, that was me.

Gary [00:51:40]:

Instead of having my own, I'm actually gonna just jump right on yours and say, you know, I get that too. And, you know, if if I had an assistant and they were to read these things in advance and say, Gary, I've got 2 questions for you. 1 is 3 sentences long. 1 is 9 paragraphs long. Can you guess which one does not give you enough information to to answer the question? I would say no because it's just as likely that the 9 paragraph one does not give me the information I need to answer the question.

Leo [00:52:14]:

Yeah.

Gary [00:52:14]:

And that the 3 sentence one gives me everything I need there sometimes. A typical example since, macOS Sequoia came out, there's some new camera features that work with the webcam, to replace your background. And, it seems to only work with Apple's cameras, like the ones on the MacBooks and the ones on the Iback. Mhmm. People have been asking me in comments and all this all the time about this feature and failing to what I would consider to be the most important thing. It's a camera feature. Which camera are you using? I mean, if you and I'd say that the people that, are using a back book camera or an IMac have most, just accidentally given me that information. Like, on my IMac, I'm not able to get this to work.

Gary [00:53:04]:

Okay. You don't realize it, but you just revealed that you're using your IMax built in camera, you know. And so I know that. Same thing with the MacBook. But it's been the case where I've had back and forths with people. I'm not I can't get it to work on my Mac. Which Mac do you? You know, what what camera do you use? I'm using my webcam. Yes.

Gary [00:53:26]:

Which Mac model do you have? I have a Mac mini. Do you have the Apple Studio display? No. I don't. Okay. So what camera are you using? I have the Logitech, whatever. Oh, okay. That's that's the important piece of information.

Leo [00:53:40]:

Right.

Gary [00:53:40]:

But I really wanted right up top because it answers the question. And, yeah, it's just but but people can give me so much detail information. I tried this. I tried that, that, that, and still not tell me that they had a Mac Mini and they were using a Logitech camera, which would have been my first thing if I thought camera feature not working. I'm on a Mac, but I'm not using an Apple camera. Anyway

Leo [00:54:02]:

Yeah. Yep. And I will say that in your example, you are a lot more patient than I was because, I too have done these back and forths, which, you know, take forever. And if it shares true for you too, we're doing so many different things at the same time. Each time Yeah. We have to revisit this conversation. It's like another context switch. We have to reload the problem or the state of the problem into our brain.

Leo [00:54:27]:

And that's, oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. This was that one. Well, okay. Here's another little piece of information that doesn't help. Oh, I give I tend to give up fairly. I don't wanna say fairly quickly, but it depends a lot on, on the the the specifics of the question and the person and so forth.

Leo [00:54:45]:

But, yeah, the at some point, you just have to realize that, you know, maybe you'd be better served if someone could actually physically visit you and help you with this problem.

Gary [00:54:53]:

Yeah. Yeah. Call Apple support. You're paying them, not me. So I don't know. Anyway

Leo [00:54:58]:

Oh, and for the record, I do have an assistant who's doing this. Hi, Mark. He actually listens to the podcast because I get, some comments from him from time to time. But, yes, he's seeing this in spades. What part of his job is in fact to, kind of sort of protect me from some of this, both in the, the incoming questions and in the, the comments on the website. Cool.

Gary [00:55:24]:

Alrighty. That is cool. So speaking of cool.

Leo [00:55:26]:

Yeah. Let let's do some cool. So, we've been watching Penguin on Max, and, it's not at all what I really expected out of Penguin, but then I grew up with, you know, the the original original campy penguin in the TV series 50 years ago. But, no, it's it's it's really gritty. It's apparently set immediately after and leverages some of the events of the immediately preceding Batman movie, which we haven't seen. But, it's it's gritty. It's dirt. The acting, dirty it's the acting is awesome.

Leo [00:56:09]:

It's basically a mob story, set in the in the DC universe and which is you know, that makes sense for Penguin as a character, what he's up to. And I just we're we're just enjoying it. We're enthralled by the it's it's really good storytelling and writing, and it really is engaging. So, yeah, Penguin on next. Go for it. Cool.

Gary [00:56:31]:

I I think it's interesting how DC has decided that they're, what they're going to do from now on seems to be we're gonna do Batman, but, there's not gonna be Batman. Like, because because that's just like a majority of the stuff that DC has come out with recently. Batman but with no Batman. But okay. So switching gears, what I'm gonna talk about I don't know if you you you've heard of this, if this if this has been on your radar, but, it's a book called I'm starting to worry about this black box of doom, and it's by an author, by the name of Jason Parjan. He is a, very well known TikToker at this point, but his career in a kind of social media and Internet commentary started way before TikTok existed. Have you ever seen any of his his stuff No. No.

Gary [00:57:23]:

Commentary?

Leo [00:57:24]:

Nope. Nope. First I've heard of him.

Gary [00:57:25]:

Anyway, he he has very thoughtful, thoughtful, interesting philosophical things on society and the Internet and, culture, that he posts very frequently to TikTok. I don't know if he also posts to other channels. He probably does. Instagram probably, I bet. And, so I've been following his stuff, because he's a pretty smart guy and he he conveys ideas really well, about a lot of the same stuff that we talk about, but maybe not the actual technical details, more the, I don't know, the all encompassing, how it's changing society kind of thing. Sure. He writes fiction books. And, the interesting thing is that he's written a couple series of books.

Gary [00:58:05]:

I did read one book from his, of his before, but this new book, I'm starting to worry about this black box of doom, is the one he's been writing while he's been doing all this, you know, these videos on TikTok about what's going on in the world. So getting it and reading it, you're actually seeing that he wasn't doing 2 separate things. He was doing one thing. Like if he was researching one thing one week for the book, that's so the characters could talk about it intelligently, he also did a TikTok video on it.

Leo [00:58:37]:

Okay. Yeah.

Gary [00:58:38]:

So you'd so as I'm reading through it, I'm like, oh, I remember this TikTok video when you talked about this thing or that thing or, you know, all this stuff. So it was fascinating to read it because it's like I feel like this is somebody like if you had a friend that was writing a book and you talk to them every week and they were always bringing up weird topics, and then you read the book and you'd be like, oh, you were researching stuff for the book because it's all in here. Anyway, it's a really interesting book. It's very, it's just this premise is simple. It is a a Lyft driver, young kid in LA, I think it's LA, in California anyway, picks up a young woman with this big black box that he has to load into his Lincoln Navigator and says, I'm going to pay you \$200,000 to drive me all the way across country to Washington DC. But no questions asked. You can't ask me what's in the box, why I'm going, any of that stuff. And she convinces this guy to do it, even though he doesn't want to.

Gary [00:59:42]:

He's an introvert and he does not want to go. But she talks him into it. And one of the other conditions was they have to throw away their phones. Right. At least they're tracked. So he is trying to figure out what's in this box and you hear hear his thoughts about that. And they you think, oh, throwing away so they can't, you know, their devices they can't be tracked, but also means they don't know what's going on in the world. It turns out they become Internet famous and more and more people are following them as this is going on, but they don't know because they don't have phones.

Leo [01:00:16]:

But they're being tracked without the technology to track them.

Gary [01:00:19]:

Oh, well, the whole Internet is on to them. There's, like, subreddits. There's, like yeah. It's a whole thing. And so but it's a thriller, but the whole thing really is mostly a pretext for the conversations that the 2 of them and then also some other people that they meet along the way have about the Internet and society. So they have these long conversations and a long time ago, he made a video about how fantastic a movie My Dinner with Andre was, And I see that in this book. Okay. Except it's 2 younger people on a road trip and they both know a lot about, like, they both have really strong thoughts and feelings about things, social media, and how the Internet's changed the world and all of the new technology and everything.

Gary [01:01:08]:

And they talk it out, and there are opposing viewpoints a lot. And they talk fascinating. I'm I'm gonna It is fascinating.

Leo [01:01:16]:

Throw it to the top of my my read next

Gary [01:01:19]:

question. Interesting stuff all along. And there's just the right mix because they'll talk for a bunch of pages about something really fascinating and don't necessarily feel that they need to come to an agreement either because otherwise it would have been impossible to write. And then the next kind of, like, more thrilling actiony thing would happen, you know. And so we keep going on, you know, like that. There's enough action mixed with enough, like, modern, cultural philosophy to, like, just be perfect and keep you going through this book really quickly. I devoured it in, well, 5, 6 days really fast. So anyway, good good book.

Gary [01:02:01]:

I had high expectations the way he talked it up, and admit those expectations.

Leo [01:02:07]:

So you were not disappointed? No. Cool. Let's see. As we're on our way out here, we'd like to promote some of the stuff we do. This week's article I wanna point people at is something called You're Never Too Old. It's askleo.com/20433. I may have mentioned it in a previous episode sometime ago.

Gary [01:02:25]:

Mhmm.

Leo [01:02:26]:

It's one of my go to articles because I feel so strongly about the topic. One of the reasons that I brought it to, to hear today is because I recently did a republish of it, put a new, YouTube video on it. And the YouTube video is getting a fascinating set of comments, that, you know, from from the very people that I wanted to hear from, you know, the 80 90

year olds who are having a great time with technology. So anyway, yeah, you are not you're never too old. 20433.

Gary [01:02:59]:

Cool. I'll just point to a video I did on the new built in Mac password manager, because, yeah, it's probably the major new app that's part of macOS Sequoia, but also iOS 18 and iPad OS 18. There's been a password manager, but it's always been like, oh, you get to the passwords and settings or, you know, things like that. Now they just kinda brought it out to the front and have a, like, here's the app where you manage all that stuff, and now it's just like everybody else's password manager, not a secret hidden feature that most people don't know about, but, like, right out front. So I thought, you know what? I better just do a full on video on how to use this Yes. Now that it's like that.

Leo [01:03:38]:

Any chance, does it work in any ecosystem other than Mac?

Gary [01:03:42]:

Yes. It there it, I haven't played with it because I don't really have Windows easily running for me. I've got it on a laptop somewhere. Right. Right. In the in the iCloud app that Apple provides, the latest version of it supposedly has access to your passwords, so it's new section in there. In addition, they came out with a Chrome, extension that works on Windows as well. Right.

Gary [01:04:10]:

And from what I understand, it's a Chrome extension that will work on Chrome or Edge. So I think they've got Windows pretty well covered.

Leo [01:04:21]:

Yep. Yep.

Gary [01:04:22]:

Those are Android covered, though, strangely. It's just, you know, iPhone, iPad, Mac, and then they've got these two ways to work with that on Windows.

Leo [01:04:31]:

Right.

Gary [01:04:32]:

Anyway

Leo [01:04:33]:

Alrighty. Cool. Well, here we are. That ought to wrap it up again for another week. As always, thank you for listening and we will see you well, talk to you again here real soon. Take care. Bye bye.

Cal [01:04:47]:

Bye bye. The show notes for this week are at tehpodcast.com/teh232. If you have a comment or question for us, be sure to leave it on the show notes page. The TEH podcast is hosted by Leo Notenboom of askleo.com and Gary Rosensweig of macmost.com and edited by Connie Delaney. I'm your

synthetic announcer, Adam, from 11 labs.com. Thanks again for listening,
and we'll see you here real soon.