Tech Resources for 2025

DRAFT

These sites are valuable resources for seniors looking to stay informed about the latest in consumer technology. We have no financial relationship with any of the listed resources.

Tl;dr: Easy Recommendations

1. **Senior Planet (from AARP)** has <u>great</u> tech resources: You can call their Hotline: 888-713-3495, Monday through Friday 9 am to 8 pm ET and Saturday 9 am to 2 p.m. ET with any questions about your devices, apps, websites, email, etc.

   ❤️ https://seniorplanet.org/: **Senior Planet** is operated by Older Adults Technology Services and supported by AARP - it offers online content, including articles, courses, lectures, and workshops aimed at older adults. **All Senior Planet classes and offerings are completely free and made possible through donor support.**

   🚚 **You can sign up for weekly newsletters to be informed about upcoming classes: https://seniorplanet.org/get-involved/newsletters/**

   - 🔍 To find <u>classes</u> on Senior Planet website, go to: https://seniorplanet.org/search/ and enter topics such as: "Digital Legacy", and others.

   - Senior Planet Classes: https://seniorplanet.org/classes/

   - AARP eLearn Catalog: https://elearn.aarp.org/Users/Catalog.aspx

   - Many "tip" video tutorials are available: https://seniorplanet.org/videos/

   - Glossary of Tech Terms: https://seniorplanet.org/glossary/

   - AARP Podcasts: https://seniorplanet.org/podcast/

   - Senior Planet Personalized Tech Help: https://seniorplanet.org/tech-help/

- How to efficiently ask for Tech help:

  https://seniorplanet.org/articles-techspert-tech-support/

- **AARP Driving Tech and EV/Hybrid Cars**

  - AARP Online Driver Tech:
    https://elearn.aarp.org/Users/Catalog.aspx?Option=466
  - AARP EV/Hybrid Workshops, via Zoom:
    https://aarp.cvent.com/c/calendar/933cf240-b1b3-4265-9d88-9fd27811c2b2
  - AARP Online EV/Hybrid Self-Paced Course:
    https://elearn.aarp.org/Users/LearningActivityInformation.aspx?LearningActivityID=NWV7QFG%2buUeHXy9%2bU6%2flvg%3d%3d
  - AARP Guide to Selecting Electric Cars:
    https://www.aarp.org/benefits-discounts/members-only-access/info-2024/electric-cars-smart-guide.html

Other personalized easy-help resources:

2. Get in-person or online help by a <u>paid</u> subscription to **BestBuy Geek Squad**

3. Free Apple devices Support, online or in-person **https://support.apple.com/**

Public Libraries & Senior Centers

- Search your <u>local</u> resources for personalized help
- UW Senior Auditing opportunities - these greatly vary every semester but are free for seniors: https://acsss.wisc.edu/senior-guest-auditors/

These popular websites are often recommended:

TechRadar

- Provides purchasing advice, product comparisons, and current tech news
- Covers phones, computers, games, and online safety
- Offers contests and giveaways for readers

CNET

- Provides trusted tech reviews, news, and advice on a wide range of consumer products and trends
- Known for detailed product reviews and practical advice
- Focuses on how technology can enhance daily life
- Offers helpful how-to guides that make technology easy to understand

[Wired](#)

- Focuses on how tech, science, and culture intersect
- Covers complex topics like AI, quantum computing, VR
- Provides in-depth analysis on tech trends

Internet Privacy and Security:

- **Recent UWRA Electronic Technology Committee member report for online privacy and security:** contains **i**nformation about Device Protection, Antivirus, Mobile Security for Android & iOS, Identity Theft Protection and many other relevant topics.
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1evvxnuZKCzdIztN8DuA3ASnHPeg3wUYxFPnEFDEGFp4/edit?usp=sharing
- The Security Blog From Malwarebytes: https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog

Accessibility Features on PCs and Macs:

- https://www.perplexity.ai/search/what-accessibility-features-ex-kP8kYhzDSTSkZU.I82esdQ
- https://www.makeuseof.com/try-these-windows-accessibility-features

Other Sources of Help and Information

🌐 Need help getting home Internet service? https://agingconnected.org/

- ☀️ **YouTube videos!** You can find the tech answers to almost anything, but sorting through them may take a little work. **Here's some great advice on finding what you want on YouTube:** https://www.perplexity.ai/search/given-the-huge-number-of-youtu-ggGKQw6UTgqR7rzUZ5nD_g
- ☀️ **Community Forums: [Discord](#)** servers and **[Reddit](#)** can provide expert advice and problem-solving opportunities. (Setting up your Discord account takes [several steps](#)). Others: Instagram, TikToc
- **Documentation from Tech Companies:** AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud provide free learning guides
- https://www.khanacademy.org **Khan Academy:** Free online courses for anyone, not only teachers.
- https://www.edx.org **edX**: Courses from top universities including Harvard and MIT
- https://www.coursera.org **Coursera**: Partnerships with 250+ universities and companies, offering diverse tech courses

- https://www.classcentral.com/ **Class Central** is a learning content aggregation directory with courses from numerous universities and institutions, as well as more than 80 providers.
- https://www.solveyourtech.com/ **SolveyourTech** has videos and short tutorials for Windows and Macs
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p009sbnn **BBC Webwise** provides beginner-friendly guides on computer basics, internet usage, and online safety.
- https://seniornet.org **SeniorNet** is a nonprofit group dedicated to bridging the divide between older adults and technology.
- https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/ **GCFLearnFree** offers cost-free online lessons on a variety of topics.
- https://www.seniorsguidetocomputers.com **Seniors Guide to Computer**s shows you the ins and outs of personal computers using simplified terms, examples, pictures and videos actually described in easy-to-understand English.
- https://www.techlifeunity.com/ **Tech Life Unity** (formerly Tech Boomers) is a free-to-use educational website that teaches technology users of all ages and skill levels how to use technology
- https://www.getsetup.io/ **GetSetUp** is on a mission to help those over 55 learn new skills, connect with others, and unlock new life experiences.
- https://cyberseniors.org/ **Cyber-Seniors** provides free technology support and training for older adults. It pairs seniors with student volunteers for one-on-one tech support and training.
- https://www.generationsonline.com/ **Generations on Line** can guide someone who has never touched a computer to learn to use the Internet, email, texting, photos, apps, video chats, and all the basic tools on any tablet or smartphone. https://golhelp.org/
- https://www.seniortech.org/ **Senior Tech** has free tech support for citizens of South Florida
- https://cyberseniors.org/: **Cyber-Seniors** provides free technology support and training for older adults.
- https://skillfulsenior.sense-lang.org/index.php **Skillful Seniors** offers very basic computer skills

AI Specific Info:

- AARP Senior Planet has Zoom classes on basics of AI
- Google Cloud Introduction to Generative AI Learning Path: A free course covering generative AI fundamentals, large language models (LLMs), and responsible AI practices

- [Microsoft's Generative AI for Beginners](#): A comprehensive course with 18 lessons covering generative models, LLMs, and prompt engineering, available for free on GitHub
- https://www.deeplearning.ai DeepLearning.AI offers short courses on generative AI topics like prompt engineering and LangChain for LLM application development.
- https://learnprompting.org Learn Prompting: An open-source course focusing on prompt engineering basics and advanced techniques.
- https://www.udemy.com Udemy: Features over 80 courses on generative AI, including tutorials for non-programmers.
- https://towardsai.net Towards AI: A community platform with tutorials, news, and articles on trending AI topics. Access to most content is free
- https://openscholar.allen.ai/ —a collaborative effort between the University of Washington and the Allen Institute for AI. OpenScholar is a retrieval-augmented language model (LM) designed to answer user queries by first searching for relevant papers in the literature and then generating responses grounded in those sources.

Other Tech Websites:

These sites offer a mix of product reviews, tech news, buying advice, and analysis that can help the general public stay informed about consumer technology. They present information in accessible ways for non-experts while still providing depth for those who want more details.

1. **[The Verge](#)**
   - Covers breaking news, reviews, and other topics in the tech industry
   - Wide range of articles on gadgets, software, science, and culture
   - In-depth information on topics like electric cars, space, and latest tech gadgets
   - Written by experts providing valuable insights
2. **[MakeUseOf](#)** Reviews & tips on tech
3. **[Engadget](#)**
   - Focuses on consumer tech reviews from smartphones to VR headsets
   - Offers buying guides to help choose the right gadgets
   - Covers latest tech news and trends
4. **[Gizmodo](#)**
   - Focuses on design, technology, and science
   - Engaging articles with hands-on product reviews
   - Covers how technology impacts our lives
   - Discusses privacy and online safety issues
5. **[Tom's Guide](#)** Newsletters, reviews and how-to info
6. **[Mashable](#)**

- Offers tech news, reviews, and social media trends
- Known for honest and unbiased opinions on latest tech
- Covers tech product reviews and emerging trends

7. **Digital Trends**
- Covers phones, laptops, games, and smart home gadgets
- Discusses topics like cryptocurrency and blockchain
- Features content on people developing new technologies
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8. **Ars Technica**
- Known for detailed articles on software, hardware, and tech news
- Covers topics like cybersecurity and software development
- Offers an online community for tech discussions

9. **The Next Web**
- International technology news, business, and culture
- Covers gadgets, apps, and tech culture
- Provides news from around the globe

10. **PCMag**: Delivers thorough reviews and analyses of computers, peripherals, and upgrades, along with technology news and trends.

11. **TechCrunch**: Focuses on the business side of technology, covering startups, venture capital funding, and Silicon Valley developments.

12. **Digital Trends**: Offers the latest coverage on tech-related subjects with detailed product reviews and videos, including the best tech deals.

13. **Mac Guides**: Cult of Mac, MacRumors, Apple Insider, MacWorld, Cult of Mac, 9to5Mac, iMore,

14. Google Info: 9to5Google

15. https://www.howtogeek.com/

16. PCWorld, TechHive (moving to PCWorld)

17. ZDNet

18. Computerworld