

Wind Turbine Farm being set up near Meridian and Tittabawassee Roads. Plan is for 77 turbines operational sometime in 2021. Narrow country roads don't handle large trucks that are needed to haul equipment so required some modifications of the roadways, especially at intersections. Might be good to avoid traveling too far South on Meridian Road, unless you don't mind delays.

Amazon Alexa has three options alarms/reminder/timer for setting notifications for future events. You can have multiple alarms/reminders/timers. They can be set up by voice command. You can also view and change some settings through the Alexa app on your device.

Note: reminder/timer/alarm is only heard on the device it is set on so, if you have more than one device, make sure to create it on the device you will be closest to when it activates. For example, probably would not want to set an alarm on an Alexa device in the kitchen to wake you up in the morning.

Reminder lets you set the time and reason. Reminders are good for longer term items. For example, a reminder to watch a specific television show next Thursday. "Alexa, set a reminder." Will then be prompted for a name for the reminder and the date and time. Can also add the information in the command: "Alexa, set a reminder to watch Channel 781 at 9pm this Thursday."

Timer is generally for a shorter time period, e.g., when cooking. Include the name for the timer and the number of minutes/hours to set it for in the command. "Alexa set egg timer for 3 minutes." or "Alexa, set laundry timer for 30 minutes." Can ask how much time remaining on timer: "Alexa, how much time is left on the (egg) timer?"

Alarm can be used as a replacement for traditional alarm clock. When the alarm goes off, the device will play the sound you set up. "Alexa, set an alarm." Alexa asks for the day and time and then sets the alarm. Can also set a recurring alarm: "Alexa set a recurring alarm for 7am every Monday."

Can check what you have set, e.g., "Alexa, what are my reminders?" or "Alexa, what are my alarms?"

Can cancel at any time. "Alexa, delete [name of reminder], or: "Alexa, delete all reminders." Or "Alexa, delete all alarms."

Bookmarks/Favorites


Save website addresses to go back to them later. General agreement that it is good to only save pages that are most important. Can easily expand to an unmanageable collection of hundreds of websites.


Edge browser calls their collection Favorites.

Goggle Chrome browser calls their collection Bookmarks.

When adding bookmarks in Chrome or favorites in Edge, can create folders to group them by subject. Select More option to create New folder. If folders already exist, have option to specify which Folder to save to.

To add Favorites to Edge browser, while viewing web page you want to save in Favorites, click star icon with + in it at end of the address bar.


To add Bookmark to Chrome browser, while viewing web page you want to Bookmark, click star icon at end of the address bar. 

Note: if web page is already saved in Google Bookmarks or Edge Favorites, star will be filled in with blue color 
(However, blue color may not appear for web pages saved in Edge Favorites bar).

While there might be an app that provides the functionality, it is not usually possible to synchronize bookmarks/favorites between different browsers. If you are using Google Chrome browser on multiple devices, can log into the browser using your Google account and set it to sync Bookmarks in Chrome across devices.

To access all bookmarks/favorites

In Chrome browser, click three vertical dots in upper right; click Bookmarks; then click Bookmark Manager.

In Edge browser, click Star in upper right with horizontal lines on right side , in dropdown menu, click three horizontal dots (More options); click Open favorites page.

Can have most important bookmarks displayed on a bar that appears at the top of the browser window, below the address bar. Google Chrome calls it the Bookmarks bar. Edge calls it the Favorites bar. To display the bar, when using above steps to access all bookmarks/favorites, select option to Show favorites bar or Show bookmarks bar so the bar displays in the browser.

When backing up, make sure to include Bookmarks and Favorites in the backup. If setting up a new computer, can use feature in browsers to export from one computer and import into another computer.

To manually locate favorites folder or bookmarks file:

Edge favorites can be found in File Explorer in your user directory in folder called Favorites.

Chrome bookmarks are a little harder to find. They are saved in a file in your user directory in a hidden folder. To access the file, will have to enable view of Hidden Items. Open File Explorer, click View tab; in menu bar, click to place checkmark in box to left of Hidden items.

The bookmarks file can be found in: AppData/Local/Google/Chrome/User Data/Default
After locating/copying the bookmarks file, make sure to disable view of Hidden Folders by unchecking the box to left of Hidden items.

Howard mentioned a book called What If by Randall Munroe. Munroe is creator of web comic XKCD. Howard describes the book as Dear Abby for mad scientists.

AI has the digital version: What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions.

Larry

Continues to look for opportunities for learning. He recently found Hoopla through Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. It is a separate login to the library or you can log in directly at: hoopladigital.com. They have multiple courses available. Can watch online for free. Each course has a time limit in which you need to complete it, e.g., 3 days to 21 days. When streaming on Hoopla, can't make copy like can with Great Courses DVDs obtained through the library.

Finds MasterClass as presenting somewhat frivolous classes, geared to a younger, affluent clientele. Can watch online or download and watch offline. Unclear if you can keep class after you complete it. Individual MasterClass priced at \$90 (good option for gifting a class to someone). Annual Membership, which includes unlimited access to all classes, is \$180.

Recently ran across a television station he describes as both boring and interesting. CSPAN-3 (Spectrum Channel 720). Oral book reports and interviews.

Currently participating in a Great Course called The Aging Brain which he acquired free through Hoopla.

VPN – SurfShark
<https://surfshark.com/>

Right now they are having a special offer for \$2.49/month for two years – one payment of \$59.76. <https://order.surfshark.com/>

Links to download programs and apps for different platforms. <https://surfshark.com/download>

Larry mentioned one review listed SurfShark as #4 but don't know source of that review.

Larry's experience when signing up:

"I did sign up for SurfShark for 2 years. I haven't had time to play with it. It seems to work only with Firefox browser--because that is the extension it put on my computer. Like other VPN's I have used, the instructions are not clear at all, and a lot of the reviews mention this point. When you sign up, they seem to indicate that it will cost another \$0.99/month to get all the features they advertise. That's a 40% increase in price, so I said no. Then they want you to sign up for a 3rd year at \$2.09/mo. I again said no."

Looking forward to hearing more about Larry's experience with SurfShark in future meetings.

Note: If you are considering a VPN, make sure to read the terms and conditions carefully. One reason to use a VPN is to keep our browser information private so it is important to understand what the privacy policies are for the company you sign up with.