

Show: Tech Bytes

Host: Todd Miller

Overview: Tech Bytes is a technology podcast, produced by the Digital Services department at Niles-Maine District Library about technology news and useful technology tips.

Episode: Tech Bytes #1 - Introduction & AI in Smartphone Cameras

This week, we discuss an application of artificial intelligence that you may already be using without knowing it!

[Music - Tech Bytes theme]

Hello and welcome to Tech Bytes - a brand new technology podcast, produced by the Digital Services department at Niles-Maine District Library.

My name is Todd, and I'll be your host, but you won't be hearing from just me. Occasionally, I'll be joined by other members of the Digital Services staff as well.

Now - You may be wondering- What exactly is a tech byte? Good question.

Everyday at the Niles-Maine District Library technology desk, the digital services staff are asked questions that range from topics like how to download and print a pdf - how to apply for jobs online -to how to create a website, and so many others.

According to Tech Target, a byte is the smallest addressable unit of memory in computing. Or we'll just say that it's something that is very small.

The goal of the Tech Bytes podcast is to provide our library community with technology insights and information in small, easy to digest micro episodes. These episodes will be short, generally under five minutes and will share just a little bit of tech information that we have learned while serving patrons at the Digital Services tech desk.

Thanks for listening and we're really glad you're here.

After the break we'll be back with a quick story about artificial intelligence and how you may be already using it without knowing it.

[Music - Tech Bytes theme]

Artificial Intelligence is a technology story that has been dominating news headlines since the arrival of ChatGPT in November of 2022.

There have been stories about the robots coming to take over the world, or our jobs. There have been stories about the usefulness of AI and the dangers of it.

The field has been moving at lightening speed over the last few months, and there is, in my opinion, room for both curiosity, worry and skepticism.

Last week, writer J D Biersdorfer in the New York Times looked at a function of AI that many of us have already adopted and frequently use- possibly without knowing it. The story is about the use of AI technology in smartphone cameras.

You may have seen commercials for a Google smartphone that claims to be able to remove an object from the background of a photo. This is known as an “eraser tool.” Other AI camera applications are fixing focus, blurring backgrounds, or fixing small blemishes like red eyes in photos.

According to Biersdorfer, “In a nutshell, apps that incorporate AI tools typically analyze an image and make adjustments based on what an aesthetically pleasing photograph is supposed to look like.”

My main takeaway from this article is to understand that AI is more than chat bots that can write college essays or that generate images with weird-looking hands.

Not all applications of AI are scary, and it turns out that some simply make getting the perfect picture of your child’s soccer goal a little bit easier.

Tech Bytes is recorded in Studio A on the lower level of Niles-Maine District Library, where Niles cardholders have access to the recording equipment and software that were used to produce this episode.

The New Your Times article mentioned in the podcast, from April 4, 2023, can be accessed through the Library’s subscription to the New York Times full text database.

Thank you again for listening, and if you ever have a technology question that is giving you issue, you know where to find us, on the lower level of the Niles-Maine District Library, at the technology desk. You can also email us at [digitalservices@nileslibrary.org](mailto:digitalservices@nileslibrary.org).

[Music - Tech Bytes theme]