

Official Magazine of the MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INC.

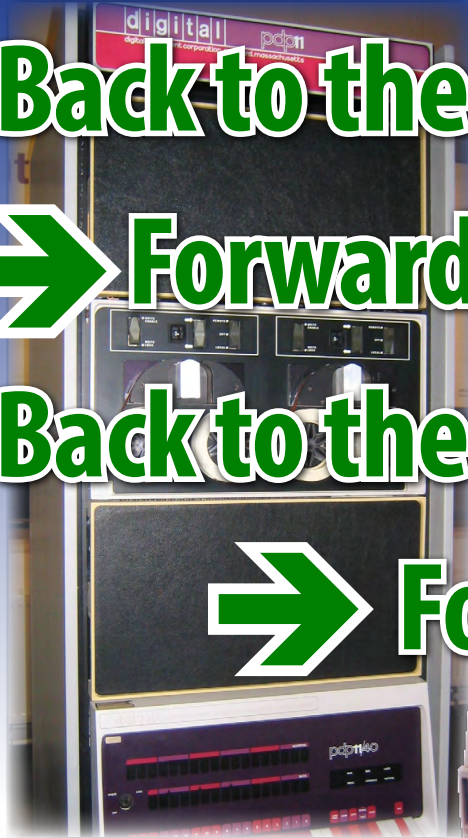
PC UPDATE

Back to the early computers ←

→ Forward to online assessment

Back to the Sony Walkman ←

→ Forward to MP3 players



Plus:

- Easily update software with Ninite
- Windows 7 configuration
- Random Access, Q&A



www.melbpc.org.au

MELB PC PURPOSES

THE PURPOSES OF THE GROUP are to conduct, on a non-profit basis, activities aimed at the effective utilisation of the personal computer and to endeavour to achieve this by:

- Advancing computer literacy
- Advancing the art and science of information processing through education and interchange of ideas
- Keeping members abreast of developments in computing and information technology and enabling members to exchange information and experience
- Representing computer users in public debate and by acting and speaking on their behalf where they would be affected by proposed legislation or other regulatory measures
- Providing a forum for the exchange of views among computer users and between computer users and the computer industry
- Co-operating supporting or joining with, or in, other organisations with similar purposes
- Undertaking other activities beneficial to the Group

In order to further its purposes the Group shall have the rights, powers and privileges of a natural person.

PC UPDATE

JULY 2014 • VOLUME 31 • ISSUE 4

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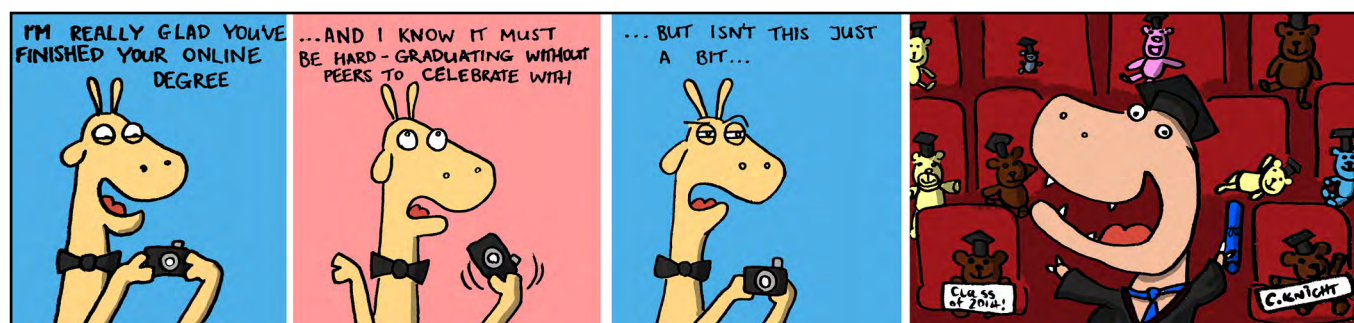
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Terrible Lizard



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iHELP (See [Page 44](#) for more details.)

iHelp

The main iHelp system for Melb PC members:

<http://ihelp.melbpc.org.au/helpdesk/iuser/index.asp>

First Aid and Internet Help Line

For simple and urgent problems.

(03) 9276 4088, Monday to Friday 10am – 3pm if no web page access.

Or select Live Chat from the “Internet Help” link above.

Dial Help

Volunteer list: <http://www.melbpc.org.au/help/>

ONLINE SERVICES

Melb PC Home Page

<http://www.melbpc.org.au>

Internet Services Page

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/isp/>



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Email your submissions as file attachments to editorpc@melbpc.org.au. Standard document formats are accepted (e.g. .txt, .rtf, .doc, .docx). Please keep formatting to a minimum.

Accompanying graphics should be separate high-quality JPG or PNG attachments – NOT embedded in the document.

Members’ free ads must be technology related and include the member’s full name.

AUTHOR RELEASE

All authors must lodge a completed submission form, available from <http://ccedesign.com.au/melbpc/release-form>.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

August Melb PC Newsletter: 18 July

September *PC Update*: 6 August
(13 August for SIG reports)

PC Update Editor's Report

July 2014

By Katharine Shade

editorpc@melbpc.org.au

Is it safe to come out to play on the Internet again? Well, Internet Explorer's zero-day bug was patched up very quickly (zero-day means that the flaw was discovered after it was exploited, hence zero days to install a patch). Even Windows XP got that fix, although in that case I think it was a matter of shutting the gate after the horse has bolted.

How's the Internet's blood pressure? Not looking too good – Heartbleed is still quietly leaving hundreds of thousands of servers around the world vulnerable. Those who are going to fix it most likely have already done so. The most widely used sites are have been properly patched, but there's still around two percent world-wide still vulnerable. This is despite the extensive coverage in the media.

Unfortunately, every time something like this comes up in the news media the general public probably thinks the tech industry is playing "The Boy Who Cried Wolf". They aren't they generally seeing the fall-out personally – mostly because companies are scrambling to fix things as soon as they're discovered. A bit like the Millennium Bug* – the world wasn't plunged into darkness as was feared, precisely *because* the IT professionals worked so hard to avoid it.

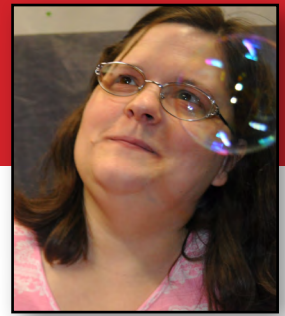
As everything gets more interconnected and technical, it's no surprise many people just choose to tune it all out.

They are probably thinking: what the hell is Open SSL anyway? My computer is working fine, why should change anything? How am I supposed to remember all my passwords? Why are people (still) ringing me and telling me they're going to fix my computer's problems remotely? Why did all my Facebook friends get spammed after I logged onto a fun looking website using my Facebook ID? (Well, they could probably work that last one out.)

With all this doom and gloom, why don't you take a look back to the simpler days of computing with Karol Doktor on [Page 11](#). We'll hear more from Karol in the next issue of *PC Update*, and I'd love to hear some more tales about the "olden days" of computing, so please get writing and send them in!

Recently I've been digging through some newspaper archives on technology issues, and it's interesting how often it's a case of "the more things change, the more things stay the same". Except when journalists started trying to predict the future of technology and got it spectacularly wrong! ☹

** Yes I know it wasn't technically the end of the Millennium.*



Monthly Meeting Live Streaming

The Monthly Meeting is streamed live over the Internet. The URL is <http://tv.mpcug.mobi> and the streaming runs from 7-9 pm with a break of around 20 minutes in the middle.

Monthly Meeting Videos for Download

Members will also be able to access videos of the meetings after they have occurred at <https://websec.melbpc.org.au/videos/>. Access them using your Melb PC username and password.

Melb PC President's Report

July 2014



By Harry Lewis

Melb PC Finances

As we come to the end of the financial year your Committee will be reviewing Melb PC's finances. Regular readers are well aware that our Group has been living beyond its means in recent years. Just a year ago our then Treasurer calculated an economic subscription rate: roughly twice our actual rates.

Since then we have worked hard to reduce costs, and on all fronts. The most visible to readers of *PC Update* is the change to our publication schedule, with *PC Update* appearing in alternate months, and a more modest Newsletter in the intervening months.

Also familiar to readers is the planned reduction in the costs of our Internet facility in Burnley, which has been \$50,000 in this year. That saving will not show in the 2013-2014 financial report because we cannot close down our Burnley facilities until our replacement at Moorabbin has been fully tested and all services migrated across. The process is well under way as you read this – but you are reading it in the new financial year.

Staff costs for our highly-valued office have been reduced substantially during this year. Other less visible costs have been scrutinised and reduced, including insurance and electricity, both of which are significant.

An area where we have turned a corner this year is the provision of mobile broadband services, as a reseller of Optus Business Mobile Broadband to members. We are on track to convert a loss of \$20,000 last year into a profit of \$10,000 this year for our mobile broadband services. Overall, however, the signs are that our Group's overall loss on the year just ended will be slightly higher than in the previous year. But we expect the budget for

2014-15 to show a substantial reduction in the loss over the year, as the cost reductions mentioned take their effect. Further efforts to reduce costs and to increase income will still be needed.

By next month we expect to have a clearer view of the coming year. On the matter directly affecting readers of *PC Update* we shall be consulting all members during August. We need to know what you most value in our publications, and what price you are willing to pay.

Windows & Co

On the day I am writing this, the following headline appeared in the *Melbourne Age*: "Windows XP no risk, say police". The reader might wonder: Since when have Victoria Police been authorities on the risks arising from using an unsupported operating system?

What the article below the headline hinted at was that our state police have probably purchased expensive support from Microsoft to tide them over a six-month period while they complete a move to Windows 7. Individual users of Windows XP are not in position to purchase that kind of support. The safest action for our own members remains a move to a later operating system; and until that's arranged, a change of browser from Internet Explorer to a more secure alternative, such as Firefox or Google Chrome. Also desirable is a change of email program from Outlook Express.

Many members have been able to obtain low-cost replacements for computers which were able to support Windows XP but cannot cope with the newer operating systems. An alternative for some members will be replacing Windows with Linux – it's likely you can find a Linux version which will work quite happily on your old computer and will

be much safer from infection than Windows XP.

The downside is that none of your Windows programs will work on the new OS. Many of those programs may exist in Linux versions; but Microsoft Office (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint) is not one of those. However, there are free alternatives. What suits you best may depend on which Office components are most important to you. (For example, serious Excel users will need to check the functions available in the spreadsheet component.)

Several members who are pensioners have been able to purchase low-cost replacements for their outdated XP computers from Connect IT, a non-for-profit computer refurbishment programme based at WorkVentures Ltd in North Sydney.

You can find information here:

<http://www.workventures.com.au/connectit> (take care to check your eligibility – there's a link on the left of the page). These computers come with Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010 Home & Business Edition pre-installed.

We expect to hear of other possibilities at the July monthly meeting during the presentation by Tim Engelhardt from eStore (formerly City Software).

In our series on the main non-Windows operating systems, we enjoyed an entertaining as well as informative account of iOS and the iPad from Susan Jensen at our June meeting. Next in line is Linux (in July or in August; final arrangements are not complete at the time this goes to press). ☺

Secure your Melb PC email account!

It is important to add additional and verified contact details to your Melb PC email account hosted at Outlook.com. This helps to keep your account secure, and also makes the account more useful to you by improving the facilities offered. Finally, it makes it far easier to change your own password, or to perform a reset if you lose it.

Here's what to do:

- Log in to Outlook.com webmail with your Melb PC email address and your new email password.
- Click the settings (cogwheel) icon, top right next to your name, and select "Options" "Options"
- On the new page that comes up, click on the first menu item on the left: "Account details (password, addresses, time zone)"
- Another new page comes up. Now select "Security and password".
- To access this service, you will be invited to provide a new contact point. (You can tell if you have one already: instead of that invitation you will be told to enter a code using your existing contact point.)
- Your new contact point can be a phone number or an alternative email address.
- If you have a mobile phone you can just follow the prompts – make sure to change the country to Australia or your SMS message will not arrive.
- If you want to use an alternative email address then

click the downward pointing triangle opposite "A phone number" and select that option. Then follow the prompts.

- If you want to use a land-line number, correct the country to Australia, enter the phone number including the area code, and make sure to click the circle next to "Call" below.

From this point you can follow the prompts. You will be sent codes to the phone number or email address you have provided (so have your phone handy or your other email inbox in view). You will need to enter the codes into boxes on the web pages that come up.

When you emerge from this process onto the "Protect your account" page you will see your new contact point already listed. You have succeeded in adding your new contact details.

The process will have opened a new tab on your browser (or a new browser window) which you can now close after signing out (click your name, top right, to get the "Sign out" option). The email window you started from should still be visible, but you may find yourself signed out there too (in which case you can sign in again if you wish).

For help on this and other features of our email system go to: www.melbpc.org.au/newemail/

Comments or questions on this topic? Send an email message to: switchover@melbpc.org.au

E-assessment & E-learning

By Patrick Brennan

You just failed an online test. Consequently, you missed out on the interview for your dream job or desired place at university. You believe it's all your own fault and that you have no one else to blame but yourself. But think again; you may have been the victim of a poorly-designed e-assessment.

E-assessment is online or offline testing, via a computer-to-human interface. It doesn't use paper and is cost efficient. Get used to it. Recruitment agencies are already using it to screen job applicants before the interview stage.

Both trees and dollars are saved and the environmentalists and bean-counters are happy. For these two reasons alone, the day is surely approaching when pressure will be put on the traditional written test to retire and make way for its electronic equivalent. But will that day be a happy one?

We all want testing regimes to be fair. We want to remove all influences so that a test result accurately reflects a candidate's true ability. So, can e-assessment ever be considered a form of standardised testing?

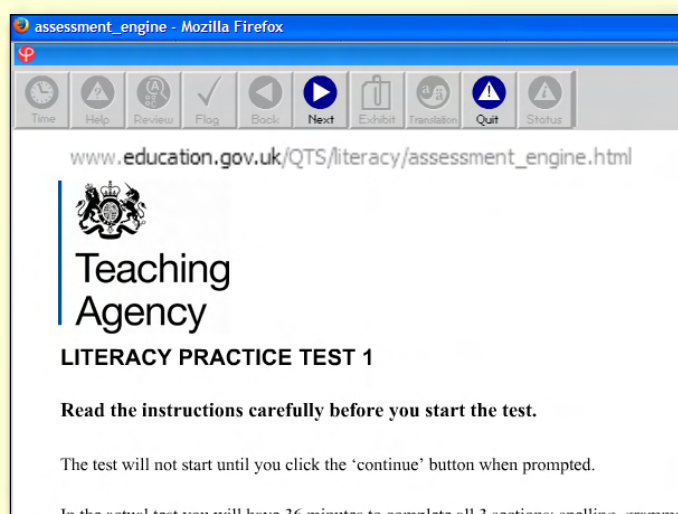
Given that a web browser is typically used as the computer-to-human interface in an e-assessment, we are already in trouble, for different brands and versions of browsers are notorious for displaying the same content in a different manner.

Now what happens to our so-called "standardised test" if the screen resolution, aspect ratio, colour depth and fonts are not the same for all candidates? And what about browser toolbars taking up space?

On some screens, only one question might be showing. This might lead the candidate to think that it's a one question per page scenario. They answer the question and click the NEXT button at the top of the screen to move on.

If, in reality, three questions were on the page, the next two only visible by scrolling down, two questions have been missed. In fact, there are so many variables, that you might think that it's a wonder e-assessments are used at all.

To put yourself in the picture, why not try the online test entitled Practice Test 1 located at: http://www.education.gov.uk/QTS/literacy/assessment_engine.html



Was the test unfair in any way, in content or in design? Did you fail this test or did the test fail you?

Did you note the indistinct vertical scrollbar, the clumsy window-within-window design, or the flawed location of the NEXT button at the top of the window? Many features of the design can trip up the unwary, causing them to skip questions accidentally.

Enter e-learning standards. These are the key to ensuring that e-assessments are consistent with other standardised tests. Designers use skills not only from information and communications technology, but also from quality management. Common sense is essential. The ability to get into the mind of, and view the e-assessment from the point of view of the candidate, is also essential.

Like any other assessment tool, the e-assessment should be tested on both peers and candidates. Feedback should be obtained and used as part of a continuous improvement process. Quality management is vital. How consistent are the e-results with standardised, written test results?

An email support contact should be provided at both the start and end of an e-assessment.

At the start of an e-assessment there are usually practice questions. These are designed to let candidates explore the style, design and content of actual questions in the test. Answers are also provided to the practice questions. But what if there is an error in the practice answers? What can a candidate do if the practice answers do not make sense? If no one can be contacted for help, should the test be attempted or deferred?

At the end of an e-assessment, candidates should be able to comment on not only the content but the design as well. Candidates are entitled to be outraged if the content, design or another technological aspect has caused them to lose marks.

Consider the following example question in Figure 1. It is from a current psychometric test.

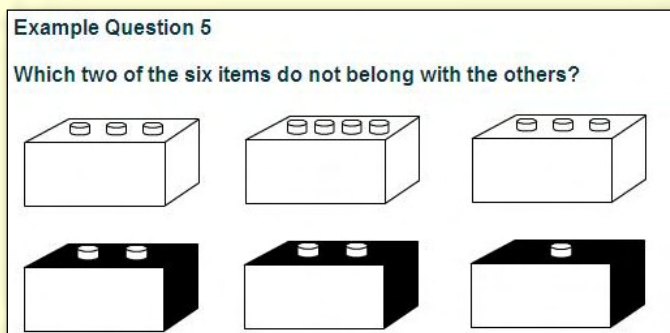


Figure 1

Here is the answer to the example question.

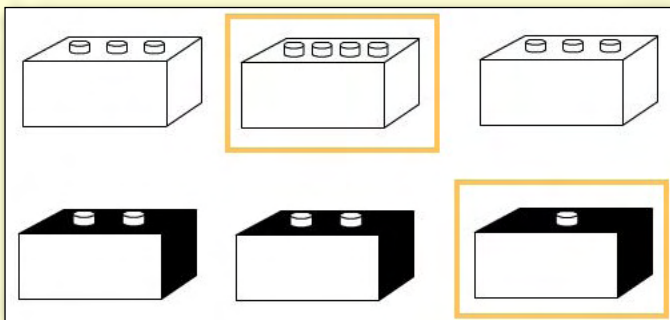


Figure 2

Their explanation for the answer:

The answers are highlighted in orange. They do not belong with their respective groups, as one of them is the only shaded shape with a single knob, and the other is the only non-shaded shape with four knobs.

[continued...]

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the Internet. In addition to traditional course materials such as videos, readings, and problem sets, MOOCs provide interactive user forums that help build a community for students, professors, and teaching assistants. MOOCs are a recent development in distance education which began to emerge in 2012.

Source: Wikipedia

MOOCs in Australia

Open Universities Australia, a private distance and online education organisation, has stepped into the world of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) with a new online platform called [Open2Study](http://www.open2study.com). Paul Wappett, Open Universities Australia CEO, said students wouldn't "pay a cent" for courses with no hidden costs for textbooks, student admin or exams. "We're focused on delivering outstanding quality, but without the price tag", he said. But, he maintained, these courses would not be a replacement for tertiary studies. The courses were designed "unashamedly to let the student taste what is available, getting them familiar with higher learning, so they can build the confidence to go onto further study."

Source: <http://www.networkedblogs.com/JvKNh>

Links

<http://www.open.edu.au>

<https://www.open2study.com>

<http://www.mooc-list.com/countrys/australia>

<https://www.edx.org>

<https://www.coursera.org>

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/distance-learning>

[...continued]

Is this mind-numbing, gobbledegook answer from planet Mars supposed to help you? Was this answer ever reviewed for clarity? The simple answer is: the two items that cannot form a pair do not belong.

Content, as distinct from design, can also cause problems in e-assessment. Consider the case of a psychometric e-assessment tool, purchased by an Australian company from a UK supplier, that uses pounds and pence or UK rugby union score values in some of the numeracy questions.

You should be beginning to realise that everyone has their part to play in improving e-assessment quality. The designers cannot do it alone. Educators, students, parents of students, recruitment agency staff and job seekers all have a part to play.

If an e-assessment has bitten you, bite back with some constructive positive or negative feedback.

And what of e-learning; should we be wary of it too? e-learning really shines when it comes to delivering course materials. Electronic documents can be downloaded, uploaded, deleted, modified or replaced at will. Links to relevant resources can also be included online. But e-learning must be used appropriately. A couple of case studies can demonstrate why.

1. A child asks a parent to teach them how to tie their shoelaces. The parent directs them to an online video. Appropriate? No. A face-to-face demonstration was an option and would have been better.
2. Two girls who want to learn the ukulele. Both are absolute beginners. One lives in town and has plenty of money and has a number of teachers available to her. She buys a book that has a DVD with video lessons included (effectively e-learning via DVD). Appropriate? No. There are just some things that a video cannot convey: fitting strings correctly, tuning up, and subtle matters of technique. The second girl lives in a remote area, has less money and no teacher is available. The DVD is entirely appropriate for her.

The use of e-learning will often be a compromise and should be recognised as such. If it's the best you can get at a particular time and place, then go for it. Unfortunately, e-learning alone might not enable you to reach the standard you desire in your chosen field. If this is the case, face-to-face learning, with a subject matter expert, will be required. ☹

Patrick Brennan is our former Training Coordinator.

BREAKING NEWS – Our Melb PC Online SIG

We offer assistance to members with all sorts of household and personal dilemmas. Lately we've been discussing varied topics such as the servicing of Brivis heating appliances, rechargeable batteries and their tolerance of high temperatures, and an enquiry as to where to buy poppyseed cake.

Our Online SIG (Newsgroups) responds to all sorts of requests for assistance, at all hours, seven days a week.

We have fourteen groups within our Online SIG, each with a different emphasis. You can read some of the conversations by logging into <http://forum.melbpc.org.au/newsforum> with your Melb PC username and password. When you are ready to start a topic, join a conversation or ask for help, you can set up a newsreader utility on your computer, e.g. Thunderbird. We will help you with this. Here's the place to start: <http://www.melbpc.org.au/faq/newsgroups.htm>



My Life With Computers (Old Times)

By Karol Doktor

Has been long.
And complicated.

I saw my first computer in the late 1950s. It consisted of about 16 full height (6') cabinets arranged in a rectangle. It was being operated by about 12 people (men) in white coats. It was housed in the center of an indoor basketball court with a public gallery up along one of the walls. At the time, this computer was used to analyse some differential equations for the Physics Department of the Academy of Science. It was an analog computer.

I worked on my first digital computer some years later (early 1960s). It consisted of two full-height cabinets and was built on valves. It had an operating memory of 4K 36-bit words which was on a magnetic drum. It had 128 data heads/tracks and one clock track. All heads were located on about 10 rails spaced around the circumference of the drum.

Each track recorded 32 memory locations spaced every seven positions apart. It was done so a two-argument instruction could get (if the programmer was clever enough) both of its arguments from some other tracks and complete the operation before the next instruction showed up under the reading head. If you were not careful it could take three full drum revolutions to complete the same instruction.

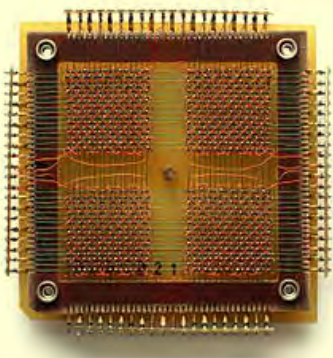
There was also a newer

version of this machine, built on transistors and with core memory. Needless to say that it was dozens of times faster. It was the size of a large desk. The only input-output device for both computers was a 7 chars/sec (WWII design) teletype. To have your program loaded you had to use 32 console switches to enter a 7-instruction loop to read the perforated 5-channel paper tape.

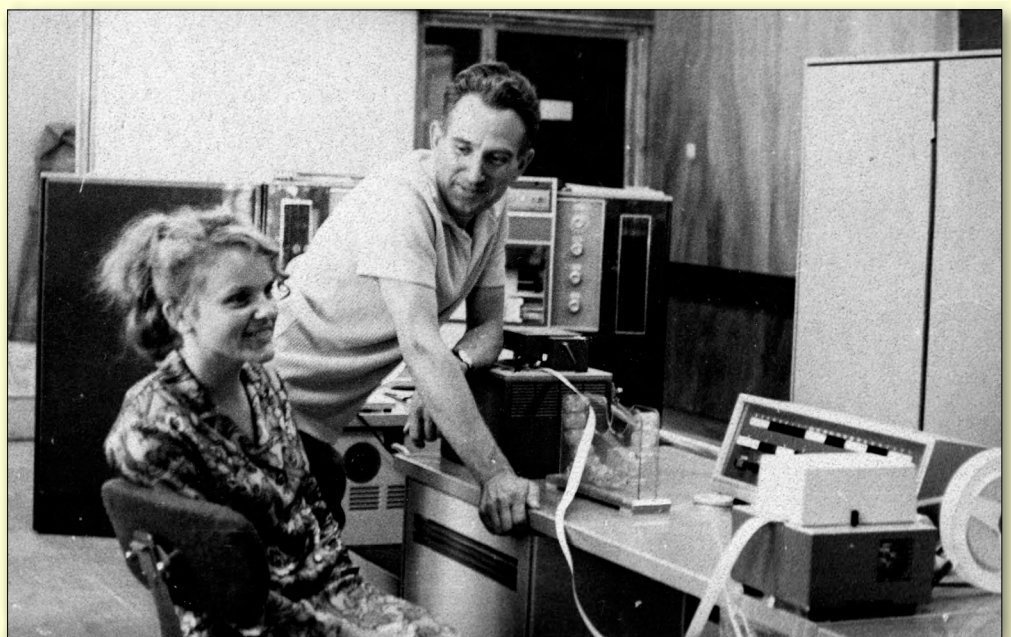
That was the time when I got hooked on software. In fact, my thesis was "A translator for logical formulas" which was a program to simulate logical networks. It was used to verify designs of new computers.

My first paid job was on final assembly in a computer factory. I would get a computer (ZAM-41) from the production line and had to make it work. This computer was also made on transistors and had core operating memory.

The basic model was 2 cabinets but you could order it with an optional floating-point unit, which was another 2 cabinets.



Core memory, the RAM of its day. Source: Wikipedia



Operators running Final Acceptance tests on ZAM-41.

[continued...]

[...continued]



Main constructors of K-202 testing the prototype (April 1972)

After a few days we found the culprit, it was a U shaped piece of wire hanging on one pin and just touching the one below. The slightest vibration would put the machine into a spin.

The next job was one of the most challenging I had, which was to design and program a kernel of an operating system for a minicomputer. It was K-202, built on integrated circuits rather than transistors, under the direction of Jacek Karpinski. It was a suitcase-sized machine. For personal reasons however, I had to leave this interesting project about a year after I started.

Then I ended up working for Control Data in a Steel Foundry.

For input it could use a teletype but it also had an optical paper-tape reader (up to 1500 chars/sec) and a paper-tape punch. Importantly, it also had a line printer.

The backplanes of these cabinets had kilometres of point-to-point wires. Some of them were wired incorrectly. I had to find them. Many errors were found during final QA control where all cabinets were populated with dummy cards that had lights corresponding to each of the backplane connector pins. Voltage was applied to one of the pins and a check was made that all other pins (as specified by the wiring diagram) were lit.

This, however, frequently missed an extra connection, when a wire was drawn to a wrong place and then a proper connection was made without removing the first connection. During the final QA an extra lamp would light but this was difficult to spot among dozens of other lights wired correctly.

The worst problem we had (I had a technician to help me) was when we got a machine that would literally light-up when you would walk past it. Just about anywhere we put our oscilloscope to check for signals there were some. It was clear that there was a connection somewhere that was making a closed loop and once a pulse appeared it would travel around and trigger the cycle again.

They used several CDC-3300s to run an online application to control building-sized hot rollers. Operators of the equipment would get detailed instructions about the processing needed for the next hot slab coming their way. Again teletypes were used but this time because of their superior electrical noise immunity.

At the places where they were installed there were hundreds of amperes being switched, propelling these gigantic machines. My job was to analyse so called "panic-dumps", which contained the



CDC3300 Console. Image: <http://www.computerhistory.org>

contents of the entire computer memory at the time of a system crash.

Next, I ended up in a very similar job working for Sulzer Brothers in Winterthur, Switzerland. When I arrived, there were three piles of panic-dumps from the floor to the ceiling waiting for me. I already had years of experience doing just that. This was a routine job but important as any system crash had serious repercussions on the production line.

After I had gone through all the dumps plus any new ones arriving at the time, the system stability improved enough that Sulzer decided to go it alone without the support of Control Data. So, I had to look for another job.

I found it in Melbourne, in a medium-sized software company. It was the late 1970s. They were using PDP-11s and BASIC (programming language) to develop sophisticated accounting packages. These were developed using their in-house system of Application Generator. Needless to say the generator was also written in BASIC.

Firstly, they wanted me to somehow connect all their computers so they could easily transfer files. It took engineers (i.e. people who knew how to hold a soldering iron) a few minutes to procure a serial cable with crossed wires, so the output pin of one was connected to the input pin of the other computer and vice-versa. Then it was only a matter of disabling the echo (normally a computer would echo back whatever character you typed in on a terminal), setting the line to the same high speed and the job was done. It was networking but point-to-point, i.e. each computer had a separate line to any other computer.

Some time later, when the company decided to become a reseller for Tandem Computers it, naturally, wanted to port all their software to the new system. The problem was that Tandem only had a Pascal-like language and COBOL. We had to develop BASIC. All up it took us two years. By that time PCs started to appear.

Power to the People

There is no doubt that personal computers were game changers. I remember buying my older daughter (and myself!) a Commodore VIC-20. A few months later, as a Christmas present, she printed for me (there was a neat printer-plotter attached) a very nice card. When I talked to her and congratulated her, my younger daughter (not even five at the time) wouldn't stop grinning. To wipe the smile off



PDP-11. Image: Wikimedia Commons



Commodore VIC-20. Image: Wikimedia Commons

her face I asked her if she knows how much is $5 + 7$. Without a word she turns around and walks away. Intrigued, I follow her. She turns on the VIC-20, turns on the old TV set we used as a monitor, types "?" (which on VIC-20 stands for PRINT), types "5 + 7" and hits RETURN. Back on the screen comes 12. "Twelve" she says, still with a smile! I was speechless. It, obviously, helps to have an older sister.

Once PCs were introduced, the computing power available to the average person was beyond the imagination of anybody 50 years ago. Now, we are two orders of magnitude advanced again – but about that we'll talk next issue. ☺

Ninite – A different way to install programs

By Laurie Comerford

A recent article in Techlife pointed me to Ninite (<https://ninite.com>), a simple, free, single source for downloading common applications. Ninite has had extensive reviews (See Figure 1).

It's difficult to put a label on Ninite, but quite easy to describe the four-step process to use it.

1. Log onto the Ninite site <http://www.ninite.com>
2. Select the programs you wish to install from the list of over 90 programs (See Figure 2).

3. Select "Get Installer". The installer for the selected programs will download to your Downloads folder.
4. Run this downloaded file to install the programs.

This is only a four step process: the installer does not stop for any user input.

Note that you may encounter a SmartScreen error when attempting to run the file in Windows 8.1, which is Windows checking for malicious software. In this case it gets it wrong (see Figure 3). If this happens, right click the Ninite package and choose "Run as Administrator".

Ninite: Trusted by Millions

Millions of users and the press agree Ninite is great. People around the world use Ninite to install over 15,000,000 apps every month. Here are some of our reviews that we are most proud of:

I'll bet the service saved me a couple hours PCWorld	Ninite.com frees up your day The Christian Science Monitor	This post can be fairly short because Ninite works exactly as advertised. Lifehacker	Save time. Grab the must have Ninite! Tom's Hardware	as useful as it is simple TechCrunch
I can't think how it could get any easier Chris Pirillo	it works beautifully. DVCE	installs the apps on your PC without introducing additional crapware PCWorld	something I'd feel safe sending to a tech-challenged friend CNET News	one of the easiest ways to get many of your favorite apps Gizmodo
a hassle-free way to install great, free software Download Squad	awesome free service Uncrate	Repair Tool of the Week Technibble	so easy that even Grandma can pull it off. How-To Geek	It's an awesome service bit-tech

Figure 1: Ninite reviews.

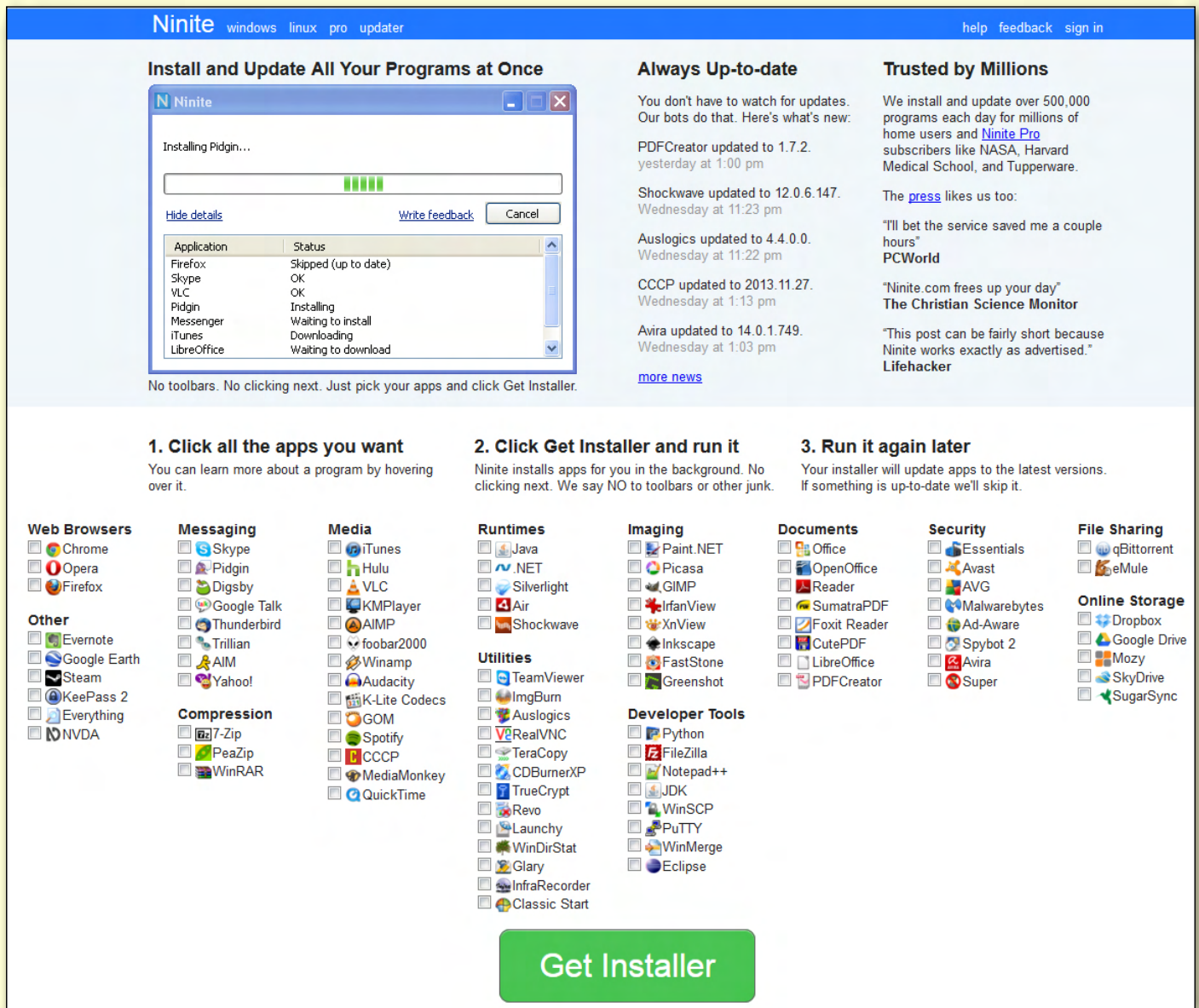


Figure 2: Ninite home page.

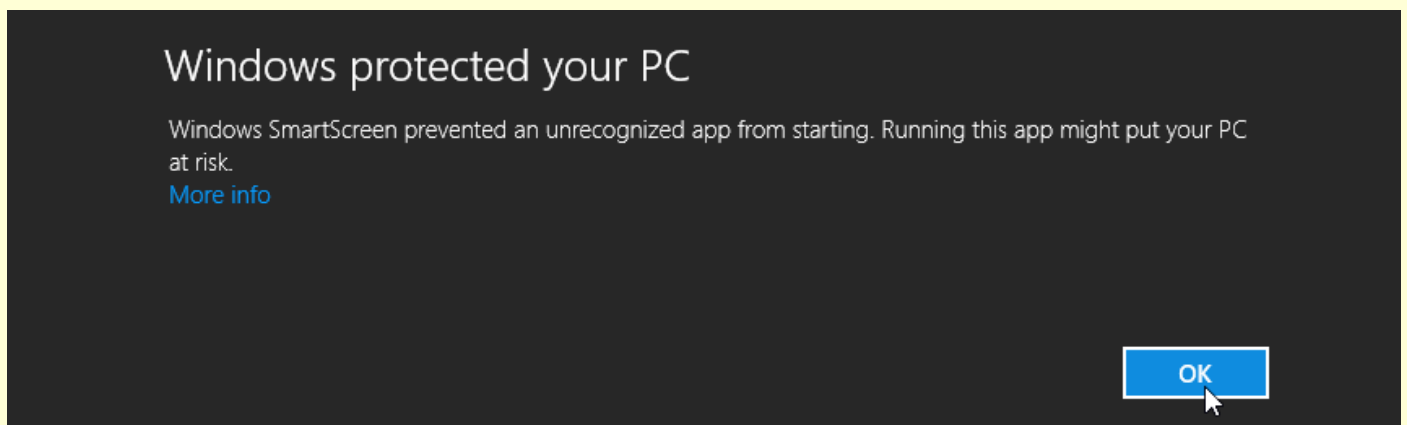


Figure 3: Windows being over-protective.

[continued...]

[...continued]



 Ninite 7Zip Audacity Chrome Everything Firefox Installer.exe	28/11/2013 10:45 ...	Application	260 KB
 Ninite Glary Installer.exe	28/11/2013 10:00 ...	Application	260 KB

Figure 4: Ninite installer programs

Behind the Scenes

The programs available with Ninite are an excellent selection of freeware.

When you select programs from the list, Ninite creates an executable file named after the programs selected. See Figure 4, where I've created one which includes a number of programs, and a separate one for just Glary Utilities. Each installer is 260 KB in size and contains a reference to an entry in the Ninite database.

When you run the installer, the program does the following:

- checks your computer for 32-bit or 64-bit and which operating system
- checks your computer to see if the program is already installed
- checks the Ninite database for the latest version of the program
- uninstalls any earlier versions of the program
- if necessary, downloads and installs the latest version
- installs to the default folder for the software without stopping to ask any questions
- cancels out any software which may have been packed into the program's installer.

This last step is very handy. I'm sure most of us have been caught by an installation program including unasked for and unwanted programs, such as McAfee software or browser toolbars, when we accept the default install option and miss the tiny boxes which need to be checked/unchecked to prevent this.

You can run the Ninite installer you downloaded at any time you are connected to the Internet and where applicable it will upgrade your program(s) to the latest version.

Pro Version

Needless to say, like a lot of freeware, Ninite has a "Pro" version with extra features.

These include:

- tools for multiple computer installations (more relevant to IT Managers than home users)
- the ability to install programs not in the Ninite database
- a much wider range of switches when running the program from the CMD window.

Prices for Pro start at \$US20 per month for up to 100 computers and go up from there. Note that the free version is ad-free. ☹

BREAKING NEWS – Our Melb PC Online SIG

We get to hear about interesting news items, for instance: The operator of two Melbourne La Porchetta restaurants who paid more than 100 young workers in pizza and soft drink has been fined \$335,000 after an investigation by the federal workplace watchdog.

Quirky news items are often posted in the Online SIG (Newsgroups)

We have fourteen groups within our Online SIG, each with a different emphasis. You can read some of the conversations by logging into <http://forum.melbpc.org.au/newsforum> with your Melb PC username and password. When you are ready to start a topic, join a conversation or ask for help, you can set up a newsreader utility on your computer, e.g. Thunderbird. We will help you with this. Here's the place to start: <http://www.melbpc.org.au/faq/newsgroups.htm>



MP3 Player Woes

By **Graham Hunt**

It all started when my beloved Sony Walkman packed up. (For the young ones, these came out circa 1978. They played audio from magnetic tape. You may have heard of it.) I could hear the motor spinning but it wasn't moving the tape. Probably a broken drive belt.

It would be about 20 years old and not worth repairing, so my first reaction was to do an eBay search for portable cassette players. I found plenty of them, mostly from Hong Kong, for around \$15 postage paid. Very tempting.

Then I thought, maybe it's time I moved into the 21st century. A bit of Googling revealed that what I really needed was a portable MP3 player. I'd heard of these, but had no experience. eBay found lots of them, so

I chose one which claimed "MP3 MP4 WAV + free 4gig microSD card included". At \$12 it looked pretty good to me. Two days later it arrived in the mail – excellent service.

The first surprise was the size of this thing. It must be a triumph of space-age miniaturisation. It looked OK in the pictures but in fact was so tiny that you could fit it into a matchbox and still have room for some matches. (Why do they have to make these things so small?)

It had a little blue backlit screen about a centimetre square that on a good day, with my magnifying glasses on, I could just about read, and a slot in the side for the microSD card. It even had a built-in microphone, but without any instructions I had no idea how to use it. (Why would you want a microphone in a music player?)

I eventually located the card, rattling around in the packaging. It's slightly smaller than my thumb-nail and looked rather fragile. (How do they get 4 GB of storage on this little bit of plastic? Beats me.)

This can't be too difficult to get going, I thought. The kids do it, don't they? So I put the card into the player and plugged it into a USB port using the cable provided. Ding! "New hardware detected.

Mass storage device. Drive E:"This was looking good, so I attempted to drag a music file down to it. Ding! "Error. Insert disc into drive E:" *What?* My computer thinks this thing is a disc drive.

Email to the supplier: "What am I doing wrong?"

Reply:

"Step 1. Copy music files to microSD card.

Step 2. Insert card into player.

Step 3. Press button PLAY."

Second email to supplier: "How do I accomplish step 1?"

Reply: "You need a microSD card reader."

Of course I do. Thanks for telling me.

Now I've heard of card readers, but I always assumed they were things used by scammers to read stolen credit cards before emptying your bank account. Apparently not.

Anyway, it was back to eBay and search for "microSD card reader." Heaps of 'em, about \$3. It arrives two days later. I plug the card into the reader and the reader into the USB port. Ding! "New hardware detected." Then nothing.

The problem was that it didn't appear under My Computer or Windows Explorer or anywhere else for that matter.

Email to the card reader supplier telling him my troubles.

His Reply: "We've sold hundreds of these. Have you tried another computer?"

"Nope. Only got one."

"Looks like you might have a faulty SD card."

Sigh. eBay again. Search for microSD cards. Pages of 'em. Order one (\$6.90) and wait another five days for it to arrive. Plug it into the reader. Success at last!

Drop the original card into the rubbish bin. Drag some music files down. Remove the card from the reader and put it in the MP3 player. Press button PLAY. "Empty card." Groan.



MicroSD card.
Actual size.

[continued...]

MP3 PLAYER WOES

[...continued]

By this time I'm just about ready to cut my losses and bin the whole project. But I had one last thought. The only music files I have are in WAV format, used for burning to CDs. The advert said it should play them but what if it prefers MP3s? Google again. Search for "WAV to MP3 converter." Loads of 'em. Choose the first free one and download it, praying that I'm not getting some horrible virus at the same time (sometimes "free" programs come at a cost). Replace the WAV files with MP3s. Switch on the player. Eureka! It works at last!

Epilogue

So it turned out that the faulty card was the problem all along. Well, almost. Actually, I can now read the files on the card with the player connected to the computer, but not write to them. To do that, I still have to go via the card reader. Don't know why.



But I do know why MP3 format is preferred. A typical Beethoven symphony in a WAV file is about 500 MB. Convert this to MP3 and it comes down to 45 MB, a 90 per cent reduction. On that basis I should be able to put my entire music collection of about 90 CDs on one chip.

As a footnote, I later found a clever program that would read a music CD as if it were a data disc and produce an MP3 file directly for each track. This cuts out the need to go via WAV and saves hours of recording time.

[Ed: Many music player programs such as iTunes can be set up to automatically import music from CDs as MP3s on insertion of the disc.]

There is a downside, though. My little player will only play for about two hours before its internal battery need recharging. It's completely sealed, so when that battery finally expires, I suppose I'll be looking for a new MP3 player. Such is modern life. ☹

What is an MP3 player?

A mobile digital media player (M-DMP), portable media player (PMP), and digital audio player (DAP), are all portable digital consumer electronics device capable of storing and playing digital media such as audio, images, and video files. The data is typically stored on a flash memory, microdrive, or hard drive.

Often mobile digital audio players are marketed and sold as "portable MP3 players", even if they also support other file formats and media types.

Other electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets and digital cameras may also have a mobile digital media player as a secondary function.

Source: Wikipedia



Sony Walkman's latest MP3 player is the wearable, 28 g/10 cm long Walkman B Series with Quick Charge, Bass Boost and a detachable clip.



Apple's iPod Touch

What's in an MP3?

MP3 files are not just for listening to music. Other options include:

Audio books. Many local libraries now have a free audiobook download service, or they can easily be sourced online, either purchased or as free public domain audio books.

Radio. An easy way to listen to radio programs from around the world whenever you want is to download them as MP3s. Most regular programs are available for downloading, and you can even set up a podcast application ("podcatcher") to automatically download new episodes as they are released.

Other podcasts. Anyone can create what is essentially their own radio show and publish it online. As with radio program podcasts, you can subscribe to podcasts and have them automatically delivered to your computer (or directly to your MP3 player if it is Internet and wireless enabled). Podcasts range from amateur to extremely professional, with podcasts on any topic you can envisage, including music, news, science, education, self-guided tours, advocacy, television commentary, comedy and health, just to name a few!



Podcatcher programs

iTunes <http://www.apple.com/au/itunes/podcasts/>

Juice: <http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/>

Winamp <http://www.winamp.com>

Symbian Podcatcher <http://www.symbian-freeware.com/download-symbian-podcatcher.html>

Podcast examples

ABC Radio National, Life Matters <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/>

ABC Radio National, The Science Show <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/>

StarTalk Radio Show with Neil Degraass Tyson <http://www.startalkradio.net/shows-archive/>

The Bugle, with John Oliver and Andy Zaltzman <http://thebuglepodcast.com/>

Stuff You Should Know <http://www.stuffyoushouldknow.com/podcasts/>

Skeptoid with Brian Dunning <http://skeptoid.com/>



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Katharine Shade

Hiren's BootCD

By Bruce Howells

Since first encountering Hiren's BootCD (HBCD) a few years ago, I have found it to be an invaluable resource when confronted with a variety of computer-related problems. By booting from it and choosing one of its operating systems, it makes an excellent system rescue disk.

HBCD, created by "Hiren" and "Pankaj", has previously been regarded as a hacker tool due to its inclusion of commercial software, but these days almost all of the software it offers is either shareware or freeware.

<http://www.hiren.info/pages/bootcd>

Downloading HBCD

It is recommended that HBCD be downloaded from links that point directly to the <http://www.hirensbootcd.org> domain, as some sites

are offering license keys for it. HBCD is actually free to download.

It is available for download as an ISO image intended to be burned to a CD or USB stick.



HBCD Programs Menu

At first glance HBCD seems to be nothing more than a huge variety of utilities arranged in many different categories (see Figure 1).

Within each category there will normally be many separate utilities to choose from.

[Ed: many of these utilities will not be the latest version, so it is recommended that you check the website of a program for its latest version. – KS]

Clicking Help – View ReadMe displays a text file providing brief descriptions of each of the available utilities. I have found that most utilities don't include built-in help screens, which makes using a program more difficult than necessary.

Clicking Help – Install on USB Pen Drive attempts to connect you to <http://www.hiren.info/bootcd-on-usb-disk>, which details the additional utilities to download and the six steps required to create a USB form of HBCD.

HBCD Boot Menu

When a computer's operating system or hard drive refuses to behave, HBCD can become a vital tool in helping restore your system and perhaps your sanity.

Booting via HBCD displays the first screen of its boot menu, providing the operator with a choice of operating systems, or the opportunity to either immediately perform one of many hard drive/memory/system tests, or to view other choices on later screens. (See Figure 2.)

Selecting an operating system from HBCD can often provide immediate access to the hard drive when it is

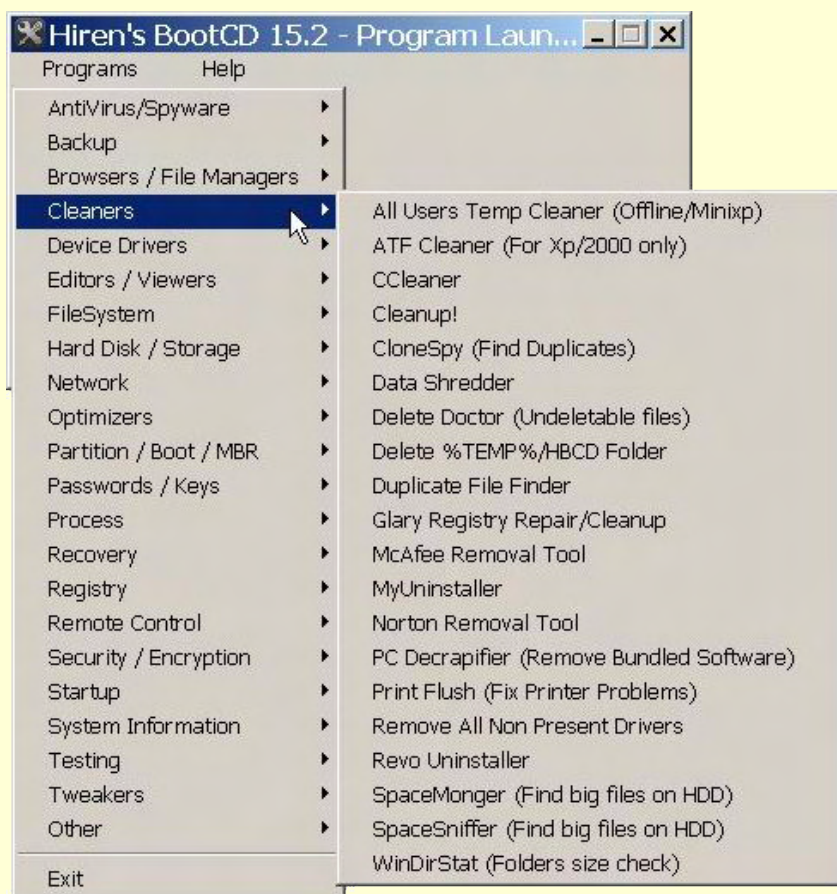


Figure 1: Hiren's Program launcher menu

otherwise unable to boot normally. Thus vital data might be urgently backed up *before* attempting to fix the hard drive's boot problem, in the case of your normal backup processes having failed.

The HBCD mini-Windows GUI provides most of the usual Windows features plus lots of external programs which may prove useful. (See Figure 3.)

One of HBCD's most important features is that it allows the operator to access the hard drive in a clean environment by booting from the CD instead of the hard drive. This ensures that any rootkits, trojans, viruses, key-loggers or malware installed on the hard drive will not be active during this session and may subsequently be detected and removed by use of suitable detection/cleaning software.

It seems most appropriate for me to mention

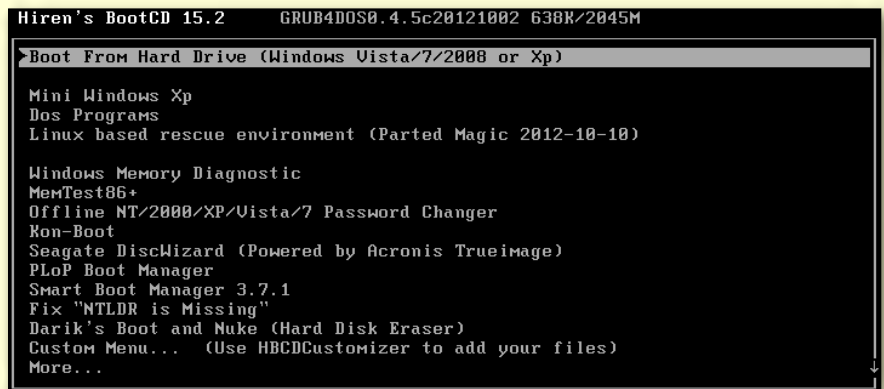


Figure 2: Hiren's BootCD Boot menu

that this article was written using Notepad++ <http://notepad-plus-plus.org>, a Notepad replacement and source code editor (supporting several languages) which I first found on Hiren's Boot CD! ☺

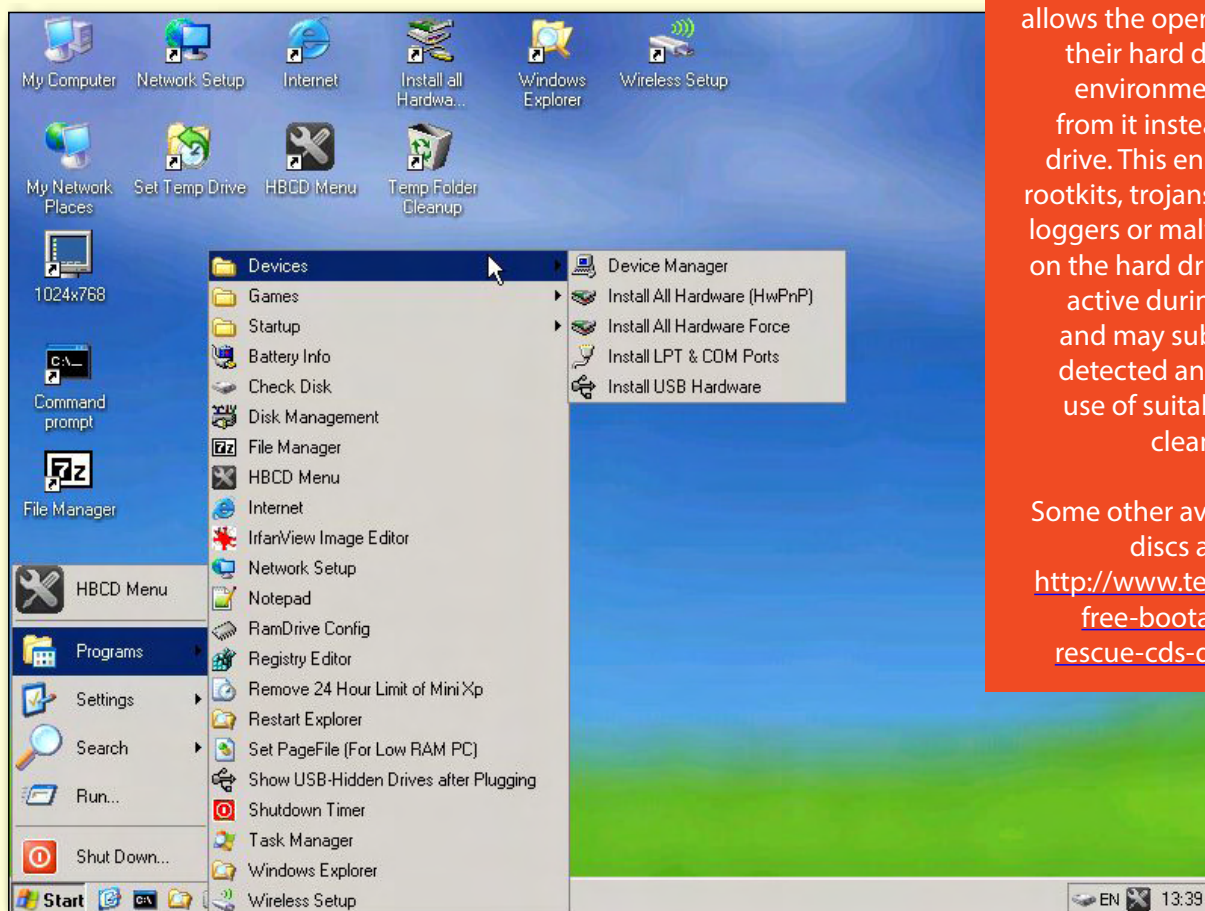


Figure 3: Mini Windows Gui & Programs Menu

One of HBCD's most important features is that it allows the operator to access their hard drive in a clean environment by booting from it instead of the hard drive. This ensures that any rootkits, trojans, viruses, key-loggers or malware installed on the hard drive will not be active during this session and may subsequently be detected and removed by use of suitable detection/cleaning software.

Some other available rescue discs are listed here: <http://www.techmixer.com/free-bootable-antivirus-rescue-cds-download-list/>

Configuring a New Windows 7 Installation



By Geoffrey Keenan

Part 1 of this article "Preparing a new Windows 7 Installation" appeared in the May 2014 issue of PC Update.

We have installed our Windows 7 operating system, now we need to make it more friendly and easier to use.

In the following steps, click means click the left mouse button, Right click means click the right mouse button.

Personalising the desktop settings

If you like a clean look on your PC, you might prefer the Classic Windows settings, as made popular in the Windows NT days.

1. Right click on any empty desktop space.
2. Click on Personalise option.
3. Scroll down to bottom of My Themes list and click on Windows Classic.
4. Choose your colour then close the window.

Change the Start Menu

1. Right click on the Start button.
2. Click on Properties.
3. Click on Taskbar tab.
4. Click on "Lock the Taskbar" (if needed) to uncheck it.

If you prefer small icons in the launch bar at bottom, check the box "Use small icons", otherwise leave it as the default large icons.

Changing the desktop screen resolution

1. Right click on the Desktop.
2. Click on "Screen Resolution".
3. Move the pointer on "Screen Resolution" to your desired position.

Note that you will get optimal results if you leave it on the monitor's "native" resolution, which it is likely to be set as its default.

4. It may ask you to confirm this new setting, then do so.
5. Click on the OK button to save and exit.

Adjust the mouse pointer

I prefer a larger mouse pointer, and invert the colour to make it stand out better. If you'd like to do this:

1. Go to Start – Control Panel.
2. Click on Mouse.
3. Click on Pointers Tab.
4. Under the Scheme window box, click on the dropdown box, select Windows Inverted (extra large).
5. Click on OK button.
6. Close Control Panel.

Show hidden folders and files

I use my PC to manage folders and files, so I show all file extensions, all folders and files and also the protected operating system files. Don't make these latter changes if you think that other people may misuse these settings.

1. Click on Start, and in the search bar type in "file ext". Click on "Show or hide file extensions". The folder options dialog box will appear with the View tab opened.
2. Click on "Show hidden files, folders and drives".
3. Uncheck "Hide empty drives in the Computer folder".
4. Uncheck "Hide extensions for known file types".
5. Uncheck "Hide protected operating system files (Recommended)". When the Warning dialog box appears, click on the Yes button. (See Figure 1.)
6. Click on Apply button, then on Close button. Reboot the PC for changes to take effect.

Moving the My Documents folder

I believe in having a "minimalist" C: drive, i.e. I only have the OS on it, and all my data files are on other partitions. In this way I have a different backup strategy for my OS than for my data folders.

Folders like My Documents, My Pictures, My Videos or the Downloads folder can take up a lot of space. If you have another partition or hard drive, consider moving some of these system folders to it. Note this step is essential if you have a Solid State Drive (SSD) as you will quickly run out of room.

Because the locations of system folders are listed in the Windows Registry and sometimes “hard-wired” by programs, personal system folders cannot be moved by conventional methods, nor can you use a standard shortcut file. For redirecting personal system folders, Windows 7 has a built-in procedure, it works this way:

1. Open the Start menu and click your user name to open the User folder.
2. Right click the personal folder you want to redirect to another location.
3. Select “Properties”.
4. Click the tab “Location”.
5. A dialog box will open.
6. Click the button “Move”.
7. An Explorer dialog “Select a destination” will open.
8. Browse to the location where you want to redirect this folder. You can select another location on this computer, another drive attached to this computer, or another computer on the network.

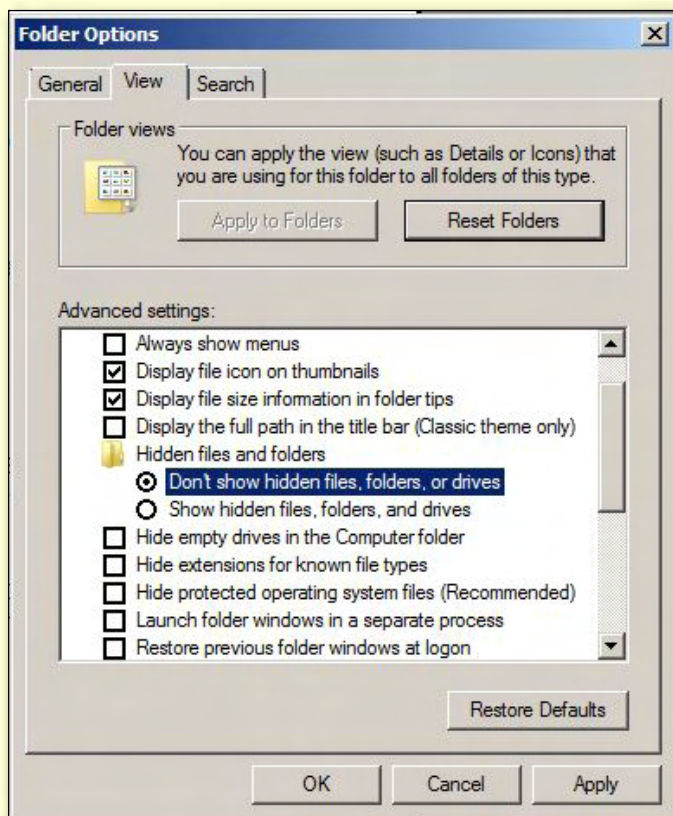


Figure 1

9. Click the folder where you want to store the files.
10. Click the button “Select Folder”.
11. Click “OK”.
12. In the dialog that appears, click “Yes” to move all the files to the new location.

Power settings

With LCD screens there is no longer any need to use screensavers – they waste energy. It is better to allow the screen to blank (to a black screen) after a given time.

1. Click on the Start button.
2. In the Search Bar, type in “Power”.
3. Click on “Change when the computer sleeps”.
There are two options here: when the Display is automatically turned off and when the computer is put to sleep. Make your changes and close the settings box.

Default browser: Firefox

1. Start Firefox.
2. Click on Tools – Options.
3. Click on Advanced tab.
4. Insert check in box “Always check to see if Firefox is the default browser on startup”.
5. Click OK then close Firefox.
6. Re-start Firefox.
7. In the opening dialog box, uncheck “Always perform this check when starting Firefox” and click on the Yes button.

Default browser: Internet Explorer

A new Windows 7 installation will have IE as the default browser, so this is in case you have changed it to something else and wish to change it back.

1. Start Internet Explorer.
2. Click on Tools – Internet Options.
3. Click on Programs tab.
4. Insert check in box “Internet Explorer should check to see if it is the default browser”.
5. Click OK then close Internet Explorer.
6. Re-start Internet Explorer.
7. In the opening Dialog box click on Yes button.

You now have made a number of changes which will simplify your computer experience and make it more enjoyable. ☺

Book Review: Geek Sublime – Writing Fiction, Coding Software

By Vikram Chandra
Faber & Faber 2014, 258 pages.

Reviewed by Tim McQueen

This is a book that most Melb PC members will be sure to enjoy – the first few chapters in particular are wonderful. Chandra investigates a long-running argument about the relationship between coding and art. He supported himself by programming while writing his first novel *Red Earth and Pouring Rain*, so has an insight into both disciplines.

Chandra gives one of the clearest outlines of the

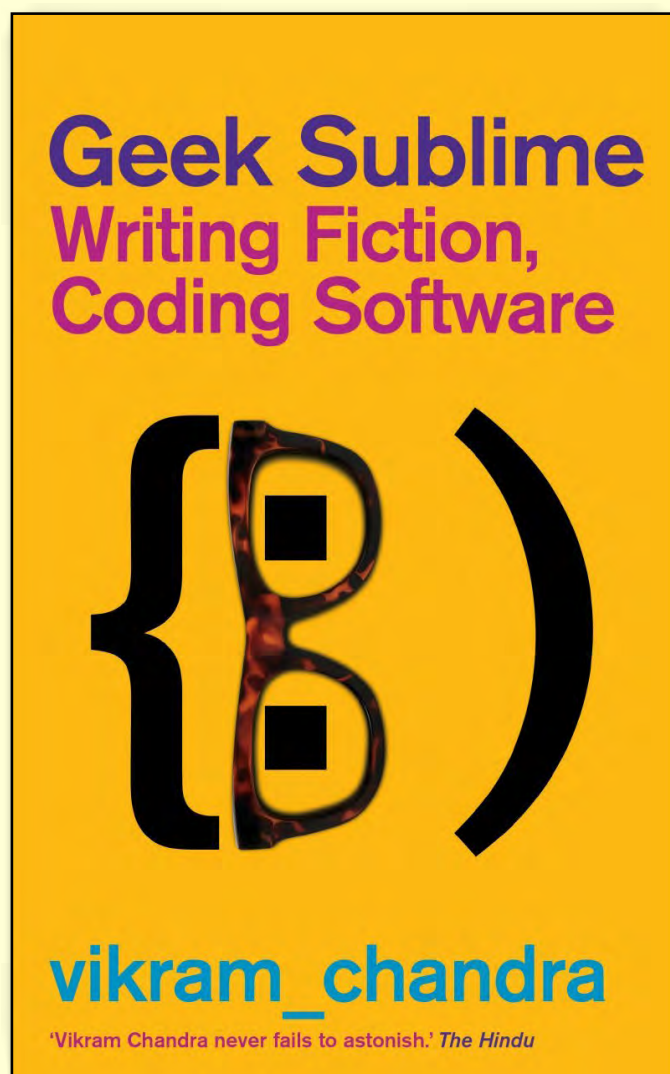
way computers work that I've ever come across. He uses "Hello World" in C#, assembly language and machine code to illustrate the transition from something humanly understandable to binary code. There are also examples of "Hello World" in Fortran, brainfuck [Ed: yes you read correctly – see box on facing page] and Malbolge, but not COBOL for some reason.

He then tackles internal operations starting with Boolean Algebra. I wasn't aware of the Lego logic gates built by Martin Howard. The book has photos of these, but as is often the case in paperbacks the reproduction isn't sufficient to see the detail. Fortunately, he provides a link (<http://www.randomwraith.com/logic.html>).

After introducing binary numbers, adders and half-adders, he covers the inner workings of computers in less than 50 pages. Although technology has changed, the fundamentals have not: I was particularly struck by one example he quotes – Ganssle's description of an iPhone built using ENIAC technology.

Anyone who has ever earned a living as a programmer, or just dabbled in coding, will recognise the characters Chandra introduces: real programmers, Einsteins, Elvises and Visual Basic users. There are also problems we've all seen: elegant code in use for decades where a bug is suddenly discovered, and great big balls of mud with impenetrable dependency diagrams, not to mention the ancient COBOL and untested spreadsheets that lurk just below the surface of the Web. His prime example is the Pentagon's payroll system – it makes mistakes in payroll calculations, but parts of the code are decades old and the documentation has long since been lost. It's too difficult to fix, but too costly to replace from scratch.

Chandra's opinion is that we write code for other people – those who eventually need to maintain the system – rather than for the computer. He was a member of HAL-PC (Houston Area League of PC users) when they claimed to be the world's largest PC user group. (I wonder who claims that crown these days?)



An Indian living in the US, Chandra traces the development of coding from ENIAC days and shows that the prevailing macho view of programming is very much an American cultural construct. He covers the development of engineering education in India since independence, which has led to the current prominence of Indian code cutters in so many fields.

Chandra then turns to Sanskrit and linguistics and their influence on formal programming language development. Over the centuries, Indian philosophers and poets have discussed the relationship between language and beauty. (Which is more beautiful: the poem, the language it's written in, the way it looks on the page or sounds?) He traces analogies with the much shorter history of improving programming through Object Oriented Programming and event sourcing. He also looks at DNA as coding and synthetic biology – currently advancing at five times the speed of Moore's law. There's a discussion of Tantric practices and the messages from the unseen world left by Alan Turing.

Finally, Chandra contrasts the "hell" of fiction writing with the self-absorption of programming. He sees both as exercises in writing for others, but whereas ambiguity can be essential in fiction, it is usually fatal in coding. Perhaps that's why he considers that although software code can undoubtedly be elegant, it doesn't make the cut as art. ☹

An esoteric programming language (sometimes shortened to esolang) is a programming language designed to test the boundaries of computer programming language design, as a proof of concept, as software art, or as a joke.

"Brainfuck" is an esoteric programming language noted for its extreme minimalism. The language consists of only eight simple commands and an instruction pointer.

It is designed to challenge and amuse programmers, and was not made to be suitable for practical use.

It was created in 1993 by Urban Müller.

Source: Wikipedia

BREAKING NEWS – Our Melb PC Online SIG

Our technical experts are quick to respond to requests in the Online Groups. They recently assisted with recovering files from a USB stick, and answered questions about software for converting videos as well as finding drivers for hardware running under Windows 8.

Computer questions are asked and puzzlements are solved at all hours (i.e. 24/7) by the Online SIG (Newsgroups) community.

We have fourteen groups within our Online SIG, each with a different emphasis. You can read some of the conversations by logging into <http://forum.melbpc.org.au/newsforum> with your Melb PC username and password. When you are ready to start a topic, join a conversation or ask for help, you can set up a newsreader utility on your computer, e.g. Thunderbird. We will help you with this. Here's the place to start: <http://www.melbpc.org.au/faq/newsgroups.htm>



Review: USB modem E3276 v2

By Leighton West (Melb PC iHelp)

This modem has two aerial sockets, one under the usual aerial cover and a second one inside the memory card cover. Both aerials can operate in (Dual channel) DC-HSPA+ mode using two connections at the same frequency in order to double the throughput on a 3G network.

The actual connection made can vary depending on the tower capabilities, the signal and the duty being performed.

I have tested this modem in normal and low signal areas and found it to be much better than the E367 modem we have been selling through Melb PC.

Firstly it has a throughput of more than three times, but more importantly it will run down to a signal level of one bar or less without dropping out. By comparison with the mini Wi-Fi modem it offers external aerial connections and is more compact and robust.

Existing standard 3G SIMS can be used as the data cost is the same for both 3G and 4G, however members signing a new plan will pay more, since this modem is about three times the cost. Optus advise the APN varies with the SIM in use and can be "Optus Business", "Connectme", or "Connect". You can check this with Customer Care or just try each of these in the presets provided.

The Outgoing email server could be mail.optusnet.com.au, but it is much better to use pop-mail.outlook.com or imap-mail.outlook.com if you want to keep a record of outgoing email at Outlook.com.



The connection interface has a My Usage link to the Optus website, however I recommend signing up at www.optus.com.au to ensure reliable connection.

To create a new logon you will need the SMS phone number for your SIM which can be obtained from the My Usage Link or from Customer Care.

This method is more accurate than any third party program, uses less resources and can be set to email you when usage is high.

The Mini Wi-Fi is still useful where multiple devices are to be connected, or where the signal is much better in a different room to the computer. However, my recommendation is to avoid the E367 from now on. ☺

The new Black 4G USB Modem is model E3276 v2. It operates at the following frequencies:

- **4G Bands (MHz) LTE 1800/2300 MHz (4G)**
- **3G Bands (MHz) UMTS 900/2100 MHz (WCDMA, HSPA, HSPA+, DC-HSPA+)**
- **GSM Bands (MHz) GSM: 850/900/1800/1900 MHz (GPRS)**
- **External Interface Standard USB 2.0 high speed Standard micro SD card interface**

System Requirements: Win XP SP3, Vista SP1/SP2, Win 7, Win 8, Mac OS X 10.5/10.6/10.7/10.8

FREE MEMBER AD

EPSON SCANNER

I have an Epson scanner which is in excellent condition but can not be used under Window 7.

Scanner plus cables and installation CD free to a good home in the Melb PC family!

Contact: Ton Westerveld, Surrey Hills, (03) 9898 7979 or (03) 9898 6792.

JOHN SWALE reports on questions and answers from the opening session of the June-monthly meeting as well from members' written submissions. George Skarbek gave this month's answers.



FORWARDING EMAIL

If someone sends email to my AlphaLink address, can I have it automatically sent to my Gmail address?

It is possible in a number of cases, depending on the filters. You need to get into the AlphaLink webmail (which is what you would use to read your email if you were travelling) and check the settings. Different ISPs provide different bells and whistles, one of which is a set of filters. You are looking for something that will enable you to set up a filter so that anything that is addressed to you or CC'd to you is to be forwarded to your Gmail address. Don't forward all email, as you will be getting the junk mail as well as those you want.

[Ed: you'll also miss out on legitimate BCC email to you such as mailing lists, so you'll have to weigh up the pros and cons, which is very much dependent on how well AlphaLink and Gmail filter out junk mail. –K. Shade]

ADDING MEMORY

I have an Acer laptop with 4 GB of memory and I want to upgrade it. Acer seems to suggest it can only go to a maximum of 8 GB. Could it be upgraded to 16 GB? I use SolidWorks (an AutoCAD program) and would like more memory.

If the manual states it can only go to 8 GB then it is a function of the motherboard and is a physical limitation with the circuitry, which means it will not take the higher capacity memory chips. This is often to keep the cost down.

Put in the 8 GB and use the Task Manager/ Resource Monitor on your system to monitor free and available memory you have left.

Windows caches memory to speed things up so although there may be little free memory, the cached memory can be discarded when it is needed for something else. So the free memory is the important one to see if you are hitting the limit.

Note that you will need to be using a 64-bit operating system to utilise more than 4 GB of RAM.

IE WITH WIN 7&8

Is it OK to use Internet Explorer with Windows 7 and Windows 8?

Yes. The latest version is 11B. Make sure you download and apply all the patches by making sure automatic updates are turned on. People who have tested browsers suggest it is still not as good as Firefox version 26.

DISK SPACE PREMIUM

Does Windows 8.1 take up more much more space than Windows 8?

Not much, and it is worth having. Note that you need to apply the Update for 8.1 or you will not get further 8.1 updates. Also note that you'll want to remove the Windows.old folder after you're confident your files and settings are all okay after the upgrade. ☺

Random Access – Over to You

Please contact me if you have any comments on the answers given, can provide a reply for an unanswered question or if you cannot attend a meeting and would like a question asked and included in this column. Contact me via the office or email jswale@melbpc.org.au.

GEORGE SKARBEEK brings us answers to some curly questions.



Send your questions to george@melbpc.org.au

ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE

George, in your opinion what is the best anti-virus program, and is the free Microsoft product any good?

There is no definitive answer for a number of reasons. One is that the anti-virus products keep changing and having just anti-virus protection is almost redundant – ISPs have anti-virus on their servers and will stop many nasties from arriving to your inbox.

As well as anti-virus protection, you must also have a good two-way firewall, and protection against hijacking of your computer and various worms that can cause much damage.

Also, protection against keyloggers is needed as well as from “drive by” browsing where just visiting a poisoned site and without downloading anything can cause your computer to become infected.

Then there is malware that redirects your browser to use questionable search engines. You also should have spam filters to help with your inbox and prevent some phishing attacks.

The best protection for a number of these threats, in particular phishing, is not Brand X software, but having your brain in gear before clicking on what seems like a genuine email request.

A case in point is that recently I switched my electricity account to a new supplier and had agreed to receive the bill by email.

Yesterday a bill arrived, addressed to me, seemingly from them with their letterhead, fine print on the bottom with the ACN, address etc. and the bill offering an additional three per cent discount if paid by the stated date, seven days from today, and the amount was approximately

what I expected. A bold but not a big Click Here to pay was present to make this transaction easy.

All very realistic – the only thing that rang an alarm bell was that it was addressed to “Dear Customer” and not to me personally. Alerted, I traced that link which took 13 hops to a server in Russia. So rather than Click Here I clicked on Delete.

This is a long-winded explanation for why you should have more than just anti-virus software (though not running at the same time) and be alert when receiving email from what appears to be trusted sources.

I base my answer about the best anti-virus program on a couple of organisation that evaluate virtually all security products. The assessments include the following:

- What percentage of threats are found.
- What is the increased delay in start-up, what memory usage is taken up and how each product impacts on performance.
- How many false positives it gives.

Microsoft scored about 90 per cent overall, similar to some of the lower scoring commercial products. Some users may regard this score as satisfactory, however, it is at the low end.

In alphabetical order, the top half dozen commercial products in a recent surveys are: Avira, BitDefender, Emsisoft, Kaspersky, Norton and Panda.

A few others were very close, although one commercial product was no better than Microsoft’s free product.

On my main computer, a couple of years ago I switched from a free product to one from the above list.

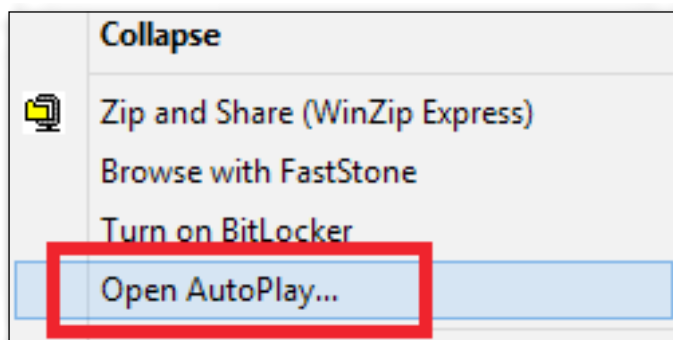


Figure 1

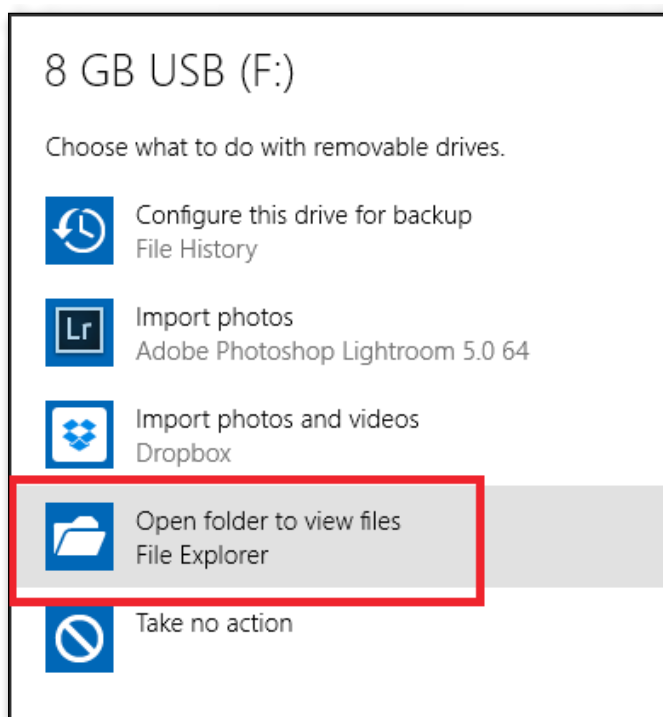


Figure 2

AUTOMATIC OPENING IN WINDOWS

I am running Windows 8.1 and when I used to insert a USB drive, Windows Explorer opened and showed that drive. Now Dropbox opens and asks if I want to import images. I click on "No" or "Never show for this device" but it always appears. How can I get it to open automatically in Windows Explorer?

Insert a USB drive, open Windows Explorer manually (Windows key +e), right-click on that drive and select Open AutoPlay. Then select Open Folder to view files in Explorer. This will bypass the Dropbox problem. (Figures 1&2.)

[Ed: Alternatively, from the Windows Start Menu, type Autoplay then Select the "Choose AutoPlay defaults" option. You will see where you can change the default action away from Dropbox. (Figure 3.) –K.Shade]

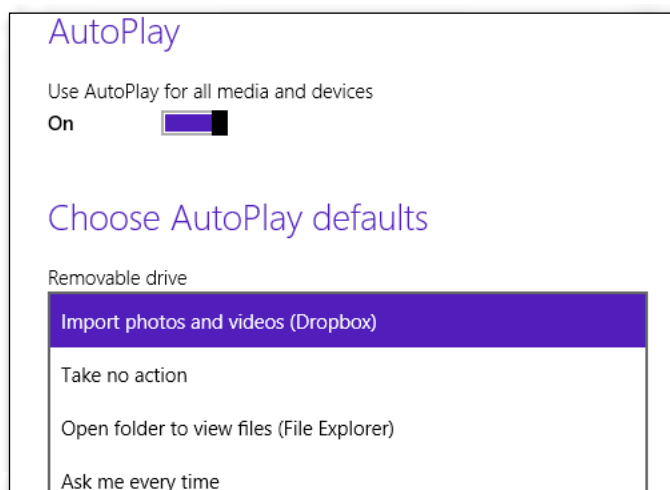


Figure 3

BREAKING NEWS – Our Melb PC Online SIG

One of our members posted fascinating thermal imaging photos taken within a roof space during one of our recent heatwaves, showing just how high the temperatures just above our ceilings can be.

There's always something new to see and learn on the Online SIG (Newsgroups).

We have fourteen groups within our Online SIG, each with a different emphasis. You can read some of the conversations by logging into <http://forum.melbpc.org.au/newsforum> with your Melb PC username and password. When you are ready to start a topic, join a conversation or ask for help, you can set up a news-reader utility on your computer, e.g. Thunderbird. We will help you with this. Here's the place to start:

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/faq/newsgroups.htm>



Everything Apple

Convener:
Susan Jensen (03) 9885 7060
Assistant Convener:
Damian Vuleta (03) 9509 9992
E-mail to: applesig@melbpc.org.au or
everything-apple@ausom.net.au

This is a joint venture between Melb PC and AUSOM. The emphasis will be on Apple iDevices (iPod, iPhone, iPad, AppleTV, Time Capsule, Airport Extreme) and helping people understand the Mac environment.

July Meeting: 8th July

2:00 pm

Application Access

Presented by Susan Jensen

The Mac has simple ways to quickly access applications and your own documents.

We will explore the dock, how to customise it to your liking and how to add your own files to it.

We will increase/decrease its size, and change its position on screen.

3:00 pm

Aliases: what, why and how?

Presented by Susan Jensen

After a short break for refreshments we will explain aliases, what they are and how to make them. We will then play with the new tagging feature.

There will be a 15-minute break for tea and coffee, and time for questions afterwards.



August Meeting: 12th August

2:00 pm

Mail Merging in Pages? Word?

Presented by Susan Jensen

How are you going to address tens or hundreds of letters at a time? Using Pages we look at how to merge information from a spreadsheet or an address list into your word processing document.

3:00 pm

Q & A Session

Presented by Susan Jensen and Damian Vuleta

Bring your Mac or iDevice questions and we will try to answer them.

There will be a 15-minute break for tea and coffee, and time for questions afterwards.



**Second Tuesdays (except January),
2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Melbourne PC Headquarters,
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin**

LOCAL/GENERAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Introduction

Groups of members with specific interests meet regularly to discuss and indulge their diverse interests. There are also local groups which cover more general topics. Often you will see presentations by visiting experts on a wide range of subjects.

This is where Melb PC membership really pays off. Enhance your computer knowledge and widen your circle of friends to include other members who have similar interests and, very often, similar

problems to solve. All members are most welcome.

This is part of your Melb PC membership, so feel free to contact any of the conveners listed here. Ask them about future meetings; ask them about the format of their meetings and anything else you need in order to get started.

Many of the groups have their own web page – follow the links from here: <http://groups.melbpc.org.au>

IS THERE A GROUP NEAR YOU?

Any suburb

Online SIG (was Anywhere,
Any-time – Newsgroups)
iHelp

Avondale Heights

Essendon

Ballarat

Ballarat

Balwyn

Video Inner East

Brighton

Bayside

Gisborne

Macedon Ranges

Hoppers Crossing

Wyndham

Wyndham Multimedia

Ivanhoe

North East Genealogy
North East Daytime
North East Photography/
Digital Imaging
North East Android
North East

Montrose

Yarra Ranges
Yarra Ranges Workshop

Mount Waverley

East Workshop
Multimedia
Hardware
Digital Photography
Raspberry Pi

Mornington

Mornington Peninsula
Mornington Peninsula Digital
Imaging
Mornington Peninsula Family
History

Narre Warren

Casey
Casey Workshop

Sunbury

Sunbury
Sunbury New Users,
Maintenance, Linux

Watsonia

Northern Suburbs Linux

Vermont South

Beast (Beginners East)
Geneast (Genealogy East)
East
East Workshop

Moorabbin (Melb PC Headquarters)

Access (Database) and Excel
Communications
E-Book
Everything Apple
Everything iPad
Graphics/Animation
Hardware Workshop

Lan-slide Gaming
Linux & Open Source
Linux & Open Source
Workshop
MACE
Microcontroller
Microcontroller Workshop

Music
Programming
Sony Video Production
WASINT (Web & Software
Investment Tools)
Website Design
Windows 7&8

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?
Check the calendar on [Page 52](#).

Access and Excel

by Craig Evans

During our meeting we discussed:

- Installing an add-in to Access to enable code to run.
- Writing code in Excel that only runs when the user selects a cell inside a desired range.

Our meetings are usually Q&A. Occasionally we have a demonstration of database or spreadsheet magic.

A detailed explanation of the topics above is available on our web page at: <http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~access/sigtxt/SIGJUN13.htm>

Beast (Beginners East)

by Jean de Neef

May 2014

Recent Acquisitions

- Win 8.1 installed as a laptop OS upgrade.
- Google Nexus tablet, which taps into Wi-Fi hot spots
- An Akoya/Aldi “transformer” laptop that becomes a 12” tablet with a touch screen when the two sections are separated. Cost \$599, with great specs – 4 GB memory, 64 GB SSD in tablet section, extra 500 GB HDD in keyboard base – running Win 8.1 64-bit OS. Has mini-HDMI output and audio output, plus three USB 2 and one USB 3 port.
- Onix dual-SIM Android-based phone from Aldi for \$119; free AVG Virus checker added, as smart phones also need virus checkers, even though they are not targeted as much as PCs.

Beware

- The Heartbleed bug allows third parties to access bank accounts and passwords. This threat has now mainly been cleared up. A Firefox add-on marks suspect web sites with a red heart. Type “test heartbleed vulnerability” into Google to find the add-on.
- A scam email is telling people that they are scheduled to appear in a local court and to download a notice (a zip file!) giving details. What would happen if you opened it? If it were to infect your computer with the Cryptolocker virus (supposedly the number one threat for 2014), all your personal files (including network-attached files) could be encrypted. They then demand payment using Bitcoins (worth about \$300) to unlock them. There is no guarantee that having paid the money, the key to unlock your files would be sent to you – and would work!
- The best recovery option is to have an external

backup of your key files, which is not constantly connected to your computer. Even better, a good backup should be kept off-site at, say, a friend’s house.

Questions & Answers

Why have some of the keys changed on my upgraded computer’s keyboard?

Check what country your keyboard is recorded as. Sometimes there is a hot-key to change over from a British to a U.S. keyboard.

Transferring Stuff Safely

Presentation by Dave Botherway

1. Why and what to transfer

We receive or download: Programs and updates from software suppliers. documents, photos, music, small videos, larger videos from libraries such as YouTube.

We send or upload: Documents, photos, etc and larger videos to libraries such as YouTube. Most transfers are via the Internet.

Alternatives: sneakernet (i.e. carrying a USB stick).

2. Transfer Issues

- **Different upload and download speeds**

The ADSL (Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line) service caters for the fact that most users download more than they upload, so more bandwidth is allocated to downloading than uploading – meaning downloads are faster than uploads. As an example, the download speed may be 20 Mbits per second, but the upload speed is only 0.5 Mbits per second. The speeds are sold as “up to” and may be lower when there is heavy Internet usage, or you are some distance from your local telephone exchange.

BDSL (Business Digital Subscriber Line), however,

usually provides the same speed for uploads and downloads – for example, 6 MB download and 6 MB upload, and is generally used by commercial web servers.

- **Internet costs**

Examples: Average domestic ADSL could be \$30 per month. Once exceeding the download allowance, either the speed could be lowered (shaped) or excess data could be charged. By comparison, Business DSL for 6 MB download/6 MB upload could be \$399 per month.

3. Transfer Programs

- **Email** – Opening email should be optional, rather than auto preview. Sender address may have been spoofed and is difficult to assess, while any attachment or embedded URL may be bogus/virus-laden.
- **Web browsers** – Beware of bogus URLs, virus files, drive-by viruses (unintended virus download from a web site), Zero Day viruses (viruses for which a fix is not yet available). You may need add-ons for your browser, e.g. Firefox's Heartbleed checker.
- **Special software** – FTP – File Transfer Protocol (used to transfer files between computers on a network), FTM – File Transfer Manager (handles restarts). Torrent Clients – for multi-source downloads.

4. Email Transfers

The maximum size for outgoing attachments via an ISP is usually 5-10 MB. The receiver's mailbox may be full; the email may be rejected as spam, or displayed in a way that is difficult for the receiver to read. A delivery and/or read receipt may be requested. Thus delivery can be questionable.

5. Using Intermediate Storage

If you have a small video (say 15 MB), emailing it is not appropriate. Instead, perhaps upload it to Cloud Storage, specify whether it is public or private, and then advise others of the link. Free systems include Microsoft OneDrive, Dropbox and Google Cloud. You can also upload videos to YouTube and photos to Flickr, and then advise intended recipients of the web address.

6. Safety – recommended procedures.

- Any external link to a PC could be dangerous – be it Internet or a USB drive.
- Administrator Rights – by default, most of us run as a User with full Administrator rights (which is needed to install/update programs). If a virus gets in while we are active, the virus also gets those rights. One solution is to set up and use a second User without those Admin rights – and put up with the annoying overrides needed.
- Automatic updating of AntiVirus/Firewall software – some may have daily updates.
- Have regular second level independent scanning, e.g. Malwarebytes (free). A quick scan takes about 10 minutes, and a thorough scan could be 1½ hours.
- Have proven regular backups – could be automatic weekly backups, but need to be stored off-line for CryptoLocker protection.
- Acronis True Image (\$US25) is recommended for backups. Go to <http://ugr.com>, where you will be asked for a password. ("MelbPC" will usually do.) There are good articles on the website and if you have a problem you can send an email to the site.

Transfer Demonstrations

- **Speed test.** At <http://www.speedtest.net> click on "Begin Test" to measure upload and download speeds.
- **Dropbox.** Dropbox is a free application for easily storing files, photos and videos in the Dropbox cloud. You can enter email addresses of people you want to see your photos, etc. The Dropbox files can also be accessed by tablets and mobile phones.
- **Capturing YouTube video.** For Firefox, use add-on Download Helper or equivalent. Then choose preferred download size, based on target player (PC or Phone) .
- **uTorrent.** This program uses peer-to-peer file sharing method to download large files like movies. It works by parallel downloading small bits of files from many different peer users at the same time. As sources are not guaranteed, there are possibilities of getting viruses.

Everything Apple

Susan Jensen

June 2014

Susan was at pains to follow instructions to set page and column guides into a word processing document to make a three-fold brochure, alter text and assign styles to suit. All without using a template.

A graphic was added and masked to show only

the part of a picture that readers needed to see.

After the break we worked with a man who had brought his desktop Mac. We managed to solve a couple of problems and told him where to find answers to his email questions.

Geneast (Genealogy East)

Faye Barkla

May 2014

Ron welcomed everyone back after the Easter break and updated us on the recent club news. He also greeted a new member and hoped she would find our meetings and advice helpful as she begins the task of tracing her family tree.

Faye next gave a brief summary of some software that she has recently been trialling to assist with transcribing of digital documents, which she has found very helpful and intuitive to use. "Transcript" is a free download for private, non-commercial use. A paid version is available with some additional features.

<http://www.jacobboerema.nl/en/Freeware.htm>

The main presentation by Ron encompassed the genealogical environment in England. He started by noting that the recording of life events was a Church responsibility from the start of Parish records around 1530 (when church non-attenders were likely not to have life events recorded) to the civil registration of such events from 1837.

Other notable events included the Commonwealth period (1643-7) where records were poorly kept and/or hidden, the charges for recording life events (1694-1706) leading to people refraining from having records made, to 1927 when stillbirths were first required to be recorded.

Other factors influencing the recording of genealogical events were the calendar change in 1752, the major disease epidemics, the (mis)handling of food, water, waste and hygiene in general, including the average lifespan at various historical points.

It was very interesting to hear how difficult life was for our ancestors in past centuries, with all the follow-on implications.

Brian's Brick Walls & Breakthroughs

We spent some time advising our new member on the best way to commence researching her family tree. As the majority of her research will be in the U.K. several options were advanced. These included GENUKI, optimising sites such as Ancestry, Family Search and Find My Past.

Local libraries and genealogical societies often run free courses for people just starting out and may offer free access to some paid sites. Another thing to consider is how to organise and record your data including the use and choice of a family history software program.

June 2014

Robert convened the meeting this month in the absence of Ron, who had a family commitment. We were all sorry to hear that Ken Moncrieff, a regular attendee, had recently passed away. Ken was always a willing and cheerful helper at our meetings, and our condolences go to his family and friends.

Dennis gave the main presentation "Norfolk Island Genealogy". Dennis has a particular interest in Norfolk Island because of his personal ancestry which he can date back to the 1790s. We learnt some interesting facts about Norfolk Island's history as a penal settlement and about the island as it is today.

Dennis told us how he researched various documents to source his family history. He also recommended a novel "Morgan's Run" by Colleen McCulloch, for those with an interest in the topic of convicts and transportation.

<http://www.randomhouse.com.au/books/colleen-mccullough/morgans-run-9780099280989.aspx>

Brian's Brickwalls & Breakthroughs

Gene had an intriguing problem this month. He has been tracing the history of a National Trust building situated at the top end of Collins Street. The building was of interest because he had boarded there for a period of time when he first arrived in Australia.

He discovered that in 1890 a murder had taken place and a man subsequently arrested. However, when the trial took place the man was acquitted of murder on the grounds that the victim had committed suicide. Gene was surprised at the verdict

because all the evidence presented at the original inquest appeared to leave little doubt of a guilty verdict. He has tried to follow through on the trial evidence but hasn't been able to locate any more documents.

It was suggested that he read the original trial documents at the Public Records Office or search via the name of the Judge who officiated at the trial.

For those who are interested in learning more or fancy their skills as a detective the following link provides background information: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic/TragedyatParliamentPlace>

Yarra Ranges

Bryan Paten

May 2014

Bryan Paten opened the meeting and updated the members present on the present status of Harold O'Brien who is in rehab at the Mansfield Hospital and John Sapsford who has finally been able to have his knee replacement operation in the Maroondah hospital.

It was also announced that Ken Moncrieff passed away a couple of weeks ago. He was 96 years of age and he will be sorely missed as he was a regular attendee at the YRIG meetings.

Bryan then explained to members that Charles Wright had resigned from the position of Vice-President of the Melb PC User Group.

Several individual matters were dealt with and then we then discussed the use of Cloud storage

and members were encouraged to give it a try.

There have been a number of potentially useful Gismo's freeware (<http://www.techsupportalert.com>) releases recently and we examined them in some detail during the meeting. Examples included:

- [View 85,000 Historical Newsreel Videos For Free](#),
- [Six Useful Keyboard Shortcuts for Windows 8.1 Update](#)
- [Get A Disposable, Secure Email Address On Demand. For Free.](#)

We considered a report of a GPS unit which was left on the dashboard of a car in the sun and exploded, causing extensive damage to the car. BEWARE of leaving any devices such mobile phones , cameras etc. in full sun in your car.

What's a Yottabyte?



You've heard of Kilobyte, Megabyte, Gigabyte and Terabyte. But do you know the future sizes of file storage?

A byte is a single unit of measure in computing, capable of storing one character. A kilobyte (KB) is comprised of 1,024 bytes. (Bytes not measured using the decimal system, so the numbers are not "even").

Then, you go up in measure:

1 megabyte (MB) = 1,024 KB

1 gigabyte (GB) = 1,024 MB

1 terabyte (TB) = 1,024 GB

Currently, terabyte drives are as large as they get. But we do know the names of the storage amounts that may be available in the future:

1 petabyte (PB) = 1,024 TB

1 exabyte (EB) = 1,024 PB

1 zettabyte (ZB) = 1,024 EB

1 yottabyte (YB) = 1,024 ZB

To put that into perspective – A yottabyte is 1,208,92 5,819,614,629,174,706,176 bytes. That's 1 septillion.

Source: <http://www.worldstart.com/a-what-abyte/>

GROUP DETAILS

Blue headings are special interest groups at Melb PC Headquarters, Moorabbin.

Green headings are local/general groups.

Red indicates a recent change.

Details of the interest groups are also available at: <http://groups.melbpc.org.au>

ACCESS (DATABASE) AND EXCEL

access@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~access/>

Convener Craig Evans Craig_Evans@racv.com.au

Date Second Monday
(except January)

Time 6.30pm-8.30pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

ADOBE VIDEO

Currently in recess.

BALLARAT

ballarat@melbpc.org.au

Convener Alan Pittard 5339 4235

Date First Thursday

Time 7.30pm-9.45pm

Venue Midlands Golf Club Heinz Lane Ballarat

BAYSIDE

bayside@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~bayside/>

Convener John Morris 9583 4095
Graham Ackland 9589 6229

Date Third Thursday

Time 10am-12 noon main meeting
12 noon-1pm beginners' subgroup

Venue St Stephens Church Hall, Cnr Cochrane
Street and North Road Brighton.

CASEY

casey@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~casey/>

Convener Jan Whitaker 9705 9009
Jan Weiner 9796 2807

Date Second Friday
(except January)

Time 12.30pm-3pm

Venue Narre Warren Library (Fountain Gate)
Overland Drive Narre Warren 3805
Melway 110 D4

CASEY WORKSHOP

Convener Jan Weiner 9796 2807
Jan Whitaker 9705 9009

Date Fourth Friday

Time 12.30-3pm

Venue Narre Warren Library (Fountain Gate)
Overland Drive Narre Warren 3805
Melway 110 D4

COMMUNICATIONS

comms@melbpc.org.au

Convener Philip Lew 0418 567 019

Date Second Wednesday
(except January)

Time 7-9.30pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Convener Ian Bock 9807 3701
bockey@melbpc.org.au

Date Third Friday
(except December)

Time 10am-12 noon

Venue Wadham House 52 Wadham Parade
Mount Waverley Melway 61 E12

E-BOOK

ebook@melbpc.org.au

Convener Dennis Fieldhouse 9557 6847
John Swale 0417 530 766

Date Second Thursday (except January)

Time 7pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

BEAST (BEGINNERS EAST)

beast@melbpc.org.au

Convener Dave Botherway daveb@melbpc.org.au

Date Third Sunday (February to November)
Second Sunday in December (no January
meeting).

Time 10am-12.30pm

Venue Vermont South Community Centre
Karoobran Drive, Vermont South. Melway 62 G7

GENEAST (GENEALOGY EAST)

geneast@melbpc.org.au

Convener Dave Botherway daveb@melbpc.org.au
Date Third Sunday (February to November)
 Second Sunday in December (no January meeting).
Time 1pm-3.30pm
Venue Vermont South Community Centre
 Karobran Drive, Vermont South. Melway 62 G7

EAST

east@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~east>

Convener Paul Woolard 9877 1059
 Ian Dewhurst 0438 480 500
Date Second Wednesday (except January)
Time 7.30pm-10pm
Venue Vermont South Community Centre
 Karobran Drive, Vermont South. Melway 62 G7

EAST WORKSHOP

eastwsh@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~eastwsh>

Convener Ken Gubbins 9842 8875
 Jeff Webster 9078 0879
Date Second Sunday
Time 10am-2pm
Venue Wadham House 52 Wadham Parade
 Mt Waverley rear of Library. Melway 61 E12

ESSENDON

essendon@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~essendon>

Convener John Guegan 9317 7114
Date First, second, and third Friday
Venue Nancye Kirchner Neighbourhood Centre,
 Doyle Street Avondale Heights
 Melway 27 D6
Date First Friday: Main meeting.
 Second Friday: Open Forum.
 Fourth Friday: Varies
 (check website for details).
Time 9:30am-12 noon

Multimedia/General

Date Fourth Wednesday
 (except January)
Time 7pm-9pm

EVERYTHING APPLE

everything-apple@ausom.net.au

Convener Susan Jensen 9885 7060
 Damian Vuleta 9509 9992
Date Second Tuesday (except January)
Time 2pm-4pm
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
 Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

EVERYTHING IPAD

everything-ipad@ausom.net.au

Convener Dick Johnson 9857 7362
Date Third Wednesday (except January)
Time 2pm-4pm
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
 Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

GRAPHICS/ANIMATION

graphics@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~graphics>

Convener Yahya Abdal-Aziz
 Roger Wragg rdwragg@fastmail.fm
Date Third Monday
Time 7.30pm-9.30pm
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
 Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

HARDWARE

Convener Kelvin Cording 9438 1047
kcording@bigpond.net.au
 Bill Dair 9802 4242
wedair@melbpc.org.au

Date Second Friday (except January)
Time 10am-12 noon
Venue Wadham House 52 Wadham Parade
 Mount Waverley Melway 61 E12

HARDWARE WORKSHOP

Convener Barry Martin barrymar@melbpc.org.au
Date Fourth Saturday
Time 10am-12 noon
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
 Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

iHELP

office@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~ihelp>

Convener Rotational
 (check with office for current details)
Date Approximately 6 monthly
Time 7-9pm
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
 Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

GROUP DETAILS

LAN-SLIDE GAMING

<http://www.lanslide.com.au>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/lanslide>

Convener Brendon Taylor, Craig Mattson

Date 5 July-6 July 2014

Time 26-hour gaming event
10am Saturday until 12 noon Sunday

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

LINUX AND OPEN SOURCE WORKSHOP

linux@melbpc.org.au

<http://member.melbpc.org.au/~linux>

Convener James Cox 9885 5503

Date Second Tuesday (except January)

Time 4pm-7pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

LINUX AND OPEN SOURCE

linux@melbpc.org.au

<http://member.melbpc.org.au/~linux>

Convener James Cox 9885 5503

Date Second Tuesday (except January)

Time 7pm-9.30pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

MACE (MELBOURNE ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS)

mace@melbpc.org.au

Convener Andrew Boschan 5426 1917 AH

Enquiries 0500 818 448

Date Third Sunday

Time 10am-2pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

MACEDON RANGES

mrgpc@melbpc.org.au

Convener John Hunter 0406 868 226

Date Third Sunday

Time 2-4pm

Venue Further Education Centre
18 Hamilton St Gisborne

MICROCONTROLLER

micro@melbpc.org.au

Convener Philip Lew 0418 567 019
John Hollow 0417 031 164

Date Second Wednesday (except January)

Time 7pm-9.30pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

MICROCONTROLLER WORKSHOP

microws@melbpc.org.au

Convener John Shirt 0409 568 267

Rob Brown 0419 285 806

Date Second Saturday (except January)
Fourth Saturday (except December)

Time 12 noon-5pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

MULTIMEDIA HOME ENTERTAINMENT (MHE)

multimed@melbpc.org

<http://www.melbpc.org>

Convener John Hall 9803 2731

johnhall@melbpc.org.au

Kelvin Cording 9438 1047

kcording@bigpond.net.au

Date First Friday (except January)

Time 10am-12 noon

Venue Wadham House 52 Wadham Parade
Mount Waverley Melway 61 E12

MUSIC

music@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~music>

Convener Yahya Abdal-Aziz, David Godfred

Date Third Thursday

Time 7.30pm-9.30pm

Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

pennsula@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~pennsula>

Convener (interim) Lindsay Wiles 9775 3069
lwiles@westnet.com.au
(interim) Ian Thomson
iaroth@netspace.net.au
(interim) Colin Ackehurst
colin_a_ackehurst@bigpond.com
Date Third Monday (except December)
Time 9.30am Day (general) Meeting
Venue Mornington Information Centre
320 Main St Mornington

MORNINGTON PENINSULA DIGITAL IMAGING

pennsula@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~pennsula>

Date Third Monday (except December)
Time 12.30pm
Venue Mornington Information Centre
320 Main St Mornington

MORNINGTON PENINSULA FAMILY HISTORY

pennsula@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~pennsula>

Date Third Monday (except December)
Time 2pm
Venue Mornington Information Centre
320 Main St Mornington Family History
Group (Genealogy)

NORTH EAST GENEALOGY

<http://member.melbpc.org.au/~negen/>

Convener Allan Medforth 9410 9034
Lynnette Hammett
Date First Tuesday (except January)
Time 10am-12.45pm
Venue Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon Street
Ivanhoe, parking at the rear, Melway 31 F8

NORTH EAST DAYTIME

neday@melbpc.org.au

Convener Colin Lampshire 9857 5372
or 0413 640 408 lampshir@melbpc.org.au
Date Second Thursday (except January)
Time 10am-12.15pm
Venue Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon Street
Ivanhoe, parking at the rear, Melway 31 F8

Every alternate month we specialise in issues relating to
Photography/Digital Imaging.

NORTH EAST PHOTOGRAPHY/DIGITAL IMAGING

neday@melbpc.org.au

Convener Colin Lampshire 9857 5372
or 0413 640 408 lampshir@melbpc.org.au
Date Second Thursday of every **second** month
(except January)
Time 10am-12.15pm
Venue Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon Street
Ivanhoe, parking at the rear, Melway 31 F8

NORTH EAST ANDROID

Convener Colin Lampshire 9857 5372
or 0413 640 408 lampshir@melbpc.org.au
Kelvin Cording 9438 1047
Date Third Wednesday (except January)
Time 10am to 12 noon
Venue Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon Street
Ivanhoe, parking at the rear, Melway 31 F8

NORTH EAST

neast@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~neast>

Convener Lynnette Hammett
lynnhammet@netspace.net.au
Choy Lai 9497 3128
Date Fourth Tuesday (except December)
Time 7.30pm-9.30pm
Venue Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon Street
Ivanhoe, parking at the rear, Melway 31 F8

NORTHERN SUBURBS LINUX

nslig@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~nslig>

Convener David Hatton, Stephen Davidson
Date Third Monday
(except December)
Time 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Venue Community Meeting Room Watsonia Library,
Ibbotson St Watsonia Melway 20 E4

ONLINE SIG

online@melbpc.org.au

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/faq/newsgroups.htm>

Convener Kevin Martin (evening only)
5964 7627 or 0407 343 162
Venue Melb PC Newsgroups and Forum

GROUP DETAILS

PROGRAMMING

program@melbpc.org.au

Convener Yahya Abdal-Aziz
John Viney
Date Fourth Monday
Time 6.30pm-9pm.
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

RASPBERRY PI

Convener John Hall 9803 2731 johnhall@melbpc.org.au
Lance Lloyd 9884 5559
lancelloyd@melbpc.org.au
Date Fourth Friday
(except December)
Time 10am-12 noon
Venue Wadham House, 52 Wadham Pde
Mount Waverly, Melway 61 E12

SONY VIDEO PRODUCTION

Convener Roger Wragg rdwragg@fastmail.fm
Bob Flack
Date Second Wednesday
Time 10am-12 noon
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

SUNBURY

sunburydaytime@gmail.com
<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~sunbury>

Convener Kevin Day 9744 2514
Kevin Hale 9740 5786
Date Every Thursday
Time 9.30am-12 noon

New Users

First Thursday.
Everyone welcome.

Maintenance

Second Thursday.
Fifth Thursday (when there is one).
Problems discussed, sometimes solved.

Main Meeting

Third Thursday. Demos, presentations etc.

Linux

Fourth Thursday.
A new experience.
Venue Sunbury Senior Citizens Centre (back room)
8 O'Shannassy Street Sunbury Melway 382 E4

VIDEO INNER EAST

<http://users.tpg.com.au/adslo8nb/vie/index.html>

Convener Richard Balsillie 9809 4116
Date Fourth Monday
(except December)
Time 7pm-9.30pm
Venue Balwyn Library Meeting Room
336 Whitehorse Road Balwyn.

WAFFLE (WINE & FOOD LOVERS' EVENT)

Convener Phillip Lew 0418 567 019
Tom Rado 9807 4072
Date First Wednesday
Time After the monthly meeting
Venue Fong's Chinese Restaurant, 725 Centre Rd
Bentleigh East. Cnr. Francesco St. Melway 77 J1
BYO and licensed. Budget supper get-together.
Patrons are welcome even if only for coffee.
How-to-get-there sketch maps are available at
the monthly meeting.

WASINT (WEB AND SOFTWARE INVESTMENT TOOLS)

wasint@melbpc.org.au
<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~wasint>

Convener Richard Solly
Date Second Tuesday (except January)
Time 10.30am-12.30pm
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

WEBSITE DESIGN

webdesign@melbpc.org.au
<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~webdesign>

Convener Fleur Stephens 0407 330 963
Date Fourth Sunday
(except December and January)
Time 2pm-4pm
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

WINDOWS 7&8

Convener John Swale jswale@melbpc.org.au
Jan Weiner 9796 2807 (co-convener)
Date Third Saturday
(except January)
Time Windows 7 10am-12 noon
Windows 8 1pm-3pm
Venue Melb PC Headquarters
Level 1, 479 Warrigal Rd, Moorabbin

WYNDHAM

wynd@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~wynd>

Convener Chris Hughes 9731 0891, John Healey
Venue Room 3 Central Park Community Centre
 Lonsdale Circuit off Franklin Blvd.
 Hoppers Crossing. Melway 206 J1
Date Third Tuesday
 (except December and January)
Time 7.30pm-9.30pm

WYNDHAM MULTIMEDIA

wynd@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~wynd>

Convener Chris Hughes 9731 0891, John Healey
Date Second Monday
 (except January)
Time 7.30pm-9.30pm
Venue Room 3 Central Park Community Centre
 Lonsdale Circuit off Franklin Blvd.
 Hoppers Crossing. Melway 206 J1

YARRA RANGES

yrig@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~yrig>

Convener Bryan Paten 0429 430 640
 Shane Mason 9733 5390
Date Fourth Tuesday (except December)
Time 9.15am (followed by the Workshop)
Venue Japara Community House
 13 Leith Road Montrose Melway 52 D7

YARRA RANGES WORKSHOP

yrig@melbpc.org.au

<http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~yrig>

Convener Bryan Paten 0429 430 640
 Shane Mason 9733 5390
Date Fourth Tuesday (except December)
Time After the 9.15am main meeting
Venue Japara Community House
 13 Leith Road Montrose Melway 52 D7

Everything iPad/iPhone

This is a joint venture between MelbPC and AUSOM with an emphasis on the Apple iPad and iPhone, and helping people understand the iOS environment.

Convenor: Dick Johnson 9857 7362
 E-mail to: everything-ipad@ausom.net.au

**Next Meeting:
16 July**

Presented by Dick Johnson

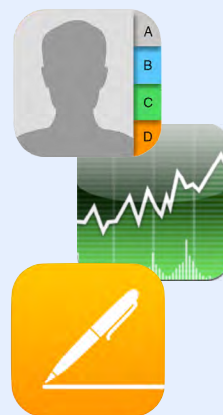
2:00 pm This month Dick serves up a mixture of leftovers, followed by a spicy new dish.

Calendars & Contacts: Never miss an important meeting or event and stay in touch with those who matter with these essential apps.

Stocks & Shares, Currency: For those who need to keep up with the latest stock and share trends and currency conversion rates, there's a plethora of apps keep you up-to-date.

The New Pages: Apple's own word processing and page layout app underwent major changes recently, in part to prepare for the new Handoff feature that will be available in iOS 8.

This will be a full two hour session with lots of time for questions and comments and there will be a short break around 3pm.



Third Wednesdays, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (except January)

Moorabbin Interest Group Room - Level 1, 479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin

Melb PC needs your help

We need more members of Melb PC and you can help!

Do you wish your friends and neighbours to enjoy the benefits of Melb PC that you do?

Did you know that if we recruit new members (and you are nominated as a referrer) you can receive a rebate on your membership fees?

Furthermore, if we gain more members it will:

- help Melb PC become more sustainable and continue to provide great benefits to its members, and
- help Melb PC keep membership costs down.

So how else can you help Melb PC gain more members?

Do you exercise by walking around your local area? If so, why not ask the office to send you some of our recent flyers which you could drop off into neighbourhood letterboxes while you walk? It's easy to do (just avoid those letterboxes with "No Junk Mail" stickers) and gives you a reason to find new areas to walk around.

Ring the office on (03) 9276 4000 or email office@melbpc.org.au and one of the Office team will post you out a batch.

**INTERESTED IN
COMPUTERS,
SMART DEVICES
AND TECHNOLOGY?**

Join the Club...



"Members helping Members"

Since 1984



www.melbpc.org.au

Tel: 9276 4000

Melb PC Library Information

As a service to members of Melbourne PC User Group, a reference library of approximately 600 computer books is provided at our library at our Moorabbin offices.

Members who come in to the office may browse the library in person. Books may be borrowed for one month, with a limit of three books on loan to any one member at one time.

To assist in book selection, a link to the catalogue of the available books is shown together with a copy of the library rules for the information of members.

Catalogue Listing to Dec 2013: <http://www.melbpc.org.au/library/>

Some of the newer books include:

Windows 7 Inside Out
Windows 7 Step by Step
Windows 8 Bible
Windows 8 Secrets
Windows 8 Step by Step

Windows 8 Teach Yourself Visually
Windows 8 for Dummies
Windows 8 Inside Out
Windows 8 Plain & Simple
Windows 8.1 for Dummies



Committee 2013–14

To contact a member of the Committee, please go to:

<http://melbpc.org.au/CommitteeContacts/>



PRESIDENT
Harry Lewis



VICE-PRESIDENT
Roger Wragg



TREASURER
Geoffrey Keenan



SECRETARY
Ian Rankin



MEMBER
Norman Elliman



MEMBER
Phil Lew



MEMBER
Lance Lloyd



MEMBER
Don McKenzie

The overall responsibility for Melb PC business lies with the Committee (except for matters reserved to general meetings). Our rules and Committee decisions have identified specific responsibilities as follows. Members wishing to discuss any of these matters are invited to contact the responsible person from this list, and on any other matter to contact the President or the Secretary, via <http://melbpc.org.au/CommitteeContact>.

President	Harry Lewis
Vice-President	Roger Wragg
Secretary	Ian Rankin
Treasurer	Geoffrey Keenan
Buildings and facilities	Roger Wragg
Email upgrade	President
Internet management committee	President
Librarian	Yahya Abdal-Aziz
Membership and marketing	Lance Lloyd

Monthly meetings	
Sourcing presentations	President
Hosting	Stewart Gruneklee
SIG Co-ordinator	Norman Elliman
Website	
Development	President
Content	President
Technical development	Craig Mattson

Note: all the above are members of the Committee 2013–14 except for Yaha Abdal-Aziz, Craig Mattson and Stewart Gruneklee.

INTERNET HELP (IHELP)

For members needing assistance, iHelp is a group of “Users helping Users.” Their main role is to sort out Internet or general PC problems. Assistance can be obtained in various ways depending on your connectivity and convenience.

Internet Help (iHelp)

The main iHelp system for Melb PC members is accessed from the [Internet Services Page](#) on the Melb PC website under the link titled “Internet Help”, which goes to <http://ihelp.melbpc.org.au/helpdesk/iuser/index.asp>.

After entering your Membership Number and First Name, you are able to “Log a Service Request”, with details of your problem.

When an appropriate iHelper is available, they will contact you at your registered phone number or email address, which should therefore be kept up-to-date at the office.

All efforts will be made to ensure someone replying to your request is familiar with the issue, however if the problem cannot be solved

to your satisfaction, you may wish to refer to other Group resources as detailed below.

Phone First Aid

This is a telephone support number for simple and urgent problems: call (03) 9276 4088, Monday to Friday between 10am and 3pm or select Live Chat at <http://ihelp.melbpc.org.au/helpdesk/iuser/index.asp>.

Outside these hours, or if iHelpers are not available, just leave a message on that number (including your membership details), and it will be passed onto the iHelp team.

If the problem cannot be resolved within 15 minutes it is generally referred to Internet Help, where an appropriate iHelper will follow up the inquiry.

OTHER WAYS TO GET HELP

FAQS

On the [Internet Services Page](#) there is a link to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on using the Melb PC Internet Service. In many cases a solution will have already been documented.

Online SIG (Newsgroups)

For those familiar with using newsgroups, we suggest that you subscribe to melbpc.connectivity, melbpc.computing.misc, or melbpc.general.

Alternatively, you can access the messages via an online web-based forum, via the [Internet Services Page](#). See the following page for more details.

SIG Meetings

Most SIGs hold monthly meetings in locations around Melbourne. These provide the

opportunity for one-on-one discussion with knowledgeable local members. Details of SIGs can be found in *PC Update*, or from the [Internet Services Page](#) from the top link titled “Interest Group Pages.”

SIG Workshops

Some SIGs hold monthly workshops, in locations around Melbourne. These provide the opportunity for hands-on assistance with your PC from local knowledgeable members.

Details of SIG workshops can be found in *PC Update*, or from the [Internet Services Page](#) from the top link titled “Interest Group Pages.”

Please contact the Convener at least 24 hours before attending so they can research the problem, and bring to the meeting any hardware or software that might be needed.

Monthly Meeting Q&A

At the Moorabbin Monthly General Meeting, besides interaction with other members, there is always a Q&A session hosted by one of the Group's computer experts. If you have a straightforward question, this is often a good place to get a precise answer with additional feedback from the audience.

Dial Help

The Dial Help service is described here:

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/help>.

If your problem relates to one of the listed categories, the relevant volunteer may be telephoned for specific advice. Calls can be made

between 9am to 5pm and 6.30pm to 9pm.

Please keep all calls short, particularly during business hours, and don't expect a volunteer to call you back on a mobile phone number.

Home Visit Assist

This service is only for members who are restricted in their activities or mobility. This generally means those with an Age or Disability Pension.

The contact for Home Visit Assist is the Office Phone: (03) 9276 4000, or by email to: office@melbpc.org.au.

NEWSGROUPS VIA ONLINE WEB-BASED FORUM

Accessing the forum is a two-step process. The first step gains read-only access using your Melb PC credentials. i.e. username and password as for email or Webmail:

fdagg yourpassword

The second step, to enable posting of messages, requires a separate forum username and password i.e. you need to join the forum. Currently the only way to do this is to post a message in one of the newsgroups (use melbpc.general) using a news client such as Thunderbird. A forum membership is then automatically generated based on the name and email address used:

Fred Dagg fdagg@melbpc.org.au

This can be done on a member's behalf by sending an email to online@melbpc.org.au detailing the name and email address you wish to use. Please use your real name as we're a friendly bunch, and note that the newsgroups are private and only accessible by fellow Melb PC members. You don't have to use your Melb PC email address.

Once the forum membership has been created you will receive an auto-generated email to confirm you really do want to join. Confirm and then use the forum's "forgotten password" link to generate a new password. This is all handled between the forum software and the user nominated email account so no-one else has access to the password.

Please note that using the forum for posting newsgroup messages is still somewhat experimental, but does work quite well.



Membership Drive

Introduce a new member* to Melbourne PC User Group and receive credit towards your membership fees.

Dear Member,

Your friend will receive all the benefits you already enjoy – the digital magazine [*PC Update*], the help lines, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), the monthly meetings, workshops, discounted products, email addresses and access to mobile broadband – and you will be helping your club to grow.

Each new member* you enrol gives you two months' credit towards your membership renewal (approx. \$12 value against a full membership). The more new members you enrol, the more credit towards your next membership renewal. No limits apply.

You know how much you enjoy being part of Melbourne PC User Group. So why not bring along a friend to enjoy it too? Prospective new members are always welcome at the monthly or SIG meetings.

And every time you enrol a new member, you get 2 months' credit registered against your next membership dues.

(*This does not include family members and anyone re-joining within 12 months of leaving Melb PC)



ABN 43 196 519 351
(Victorian Association Registration No. A0003293V)
Unit 26, 479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin VIC 3189
Telephone: (03) 9276 4000
Email: office@melbpc.org.au
Web: www.melbpc.org.au

PCUPDATE Subscription for print version

Name		Membership Number	
Address		Current Contact Email Address	
Suburb	Post Code	Phone	

For	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	\$	
Month												Amount		

Price: \$4.00 per magazine if you collect it from the office or purchase at the monthly meeting.

Add an Extra \$1.00 postage and handling if we mail your order.

Price for a yearly subscription is \$55.00 inc mailing to your home address.

****Please note current members receive a \$10 discount on the full year subscription.****

Payment Details

Name on Card	Expiry Date on card	Signature	Date
			/ /

MELB PC APPLICATION FORMS



MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Title	First Name	Last Name
Address		
Suburb		Post Code
Phone		Mobile Number
DOB	Preferred Email Address	
Referred by member: _____ full name or membership number /SIG _____		

Annual Membership Fees — 15% Discount if you renew/join for 2 years!

Individuals	\$75 each
Additional Family Members (Spouse and children)	\$22 each
Pensioners/Adult students A (25+)*	\$60 each
Students B (14-25 yrs)	\$35 each

Please provide emergency contact details below.

Full Name
Phone no.
Mobile no.

Additional Family Members

Name	Signature
Name	Signature

Terms and conditions

- Adult students A must attach a photocopy of their student card or letter from their educational institution confirming full student status.
- All student B members must have a Student Card and have evidence of their age at time of joining.
- Pensioners must attach a photocopy showing both sides of their Centrelink Pension Concession Card. Change of family member(s) must be identified in writing to the club secretary.

I hereby apply for membership of Melbourne PC Users Group Inc. (A000329V) and agree to abide by its rules while I remain a member.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Payment Details

Name on Card	Expiry Date
Credit Card Number	
Signature	Date ____/____/____

Email User Name Selection

List the user ("login") names you would like in order of preference. Write very clearly, to avoid our confusing certain letters. User names are expressed in lower case letters and must represent your real name in some recognisable way e.g. "John J. Jones" might request user names such as "john", "johnj", "jjones", etc. Any user name that is already allocated or deemed unsuitable in the opinion of the system administrators will not be allocated.

- Choice 1. _____@melbpc.org.au
- Choice 2. _____@melbpc.org.au
- Choice 3. _____@melbpc.org.au
- Choice 4. _____@melbpc.org.au

MELB PC APPLICATION FORMS



ABN 43 196 519 351
(Victorian Association Registration No. A0003293V)
Unit 26, 479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin VIC 3189
Telephone: (03) 9276 4000
Email: office@melbpc.org.au
Web: www.melbpc.org.au

EMAIL ACCOUNT APPLICATION

Membership No.	First Name	Last Name	DOB
Address		Current Email Address	
Suburb	Post Code	Phone	Mobile Number

Email User Name Selection

List the user ("login") names you would like in order of preference, up to eight (8) lowercase letters, numbers may be used in place of letters. Write very clearly, to avoid confusing certain letters and numbers. User names are expressed in lower case letters only e.g. "John J. Jones" might request user names such as "john", "johnj", "jjones", "jjones2", etc. Any user name that is already allocated or deemed unsuitable in the opinion of the system administrators will not be allocated.

Choice 1.

Choice 2.

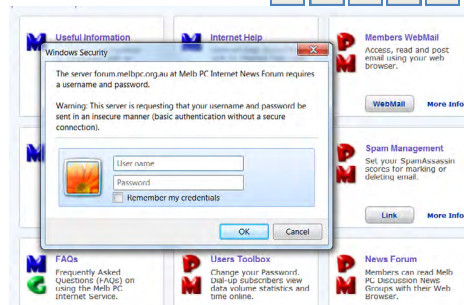
Choice 3.

Choice 4.

For email account hosted at melbpc.org.au webmail which can also be accessed from any mail reading application such as Gmail, Outlook, Thunderbird etc.

Access to the Melb PC newsgroups and a discussion forum where you will find a friendly, helpful bunch of people. Discussions include computing and almost every other topic under the sun!

<http://melbpc.org.au/isp/>



ABN 43 196 519 351
(Victorian Association Registration No. A0003293V)
Unit 26, 479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin VIC 3189
Telephone: (03) 9276 4000
Email: office@melbpc.org.au
Web: www.melbpc.org.au

Subscription for Monthly Disc

Name	Membership Number
Address	Current Contact Email Address
Suburb	Post Code
Phone	

For Month	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total Amount \$

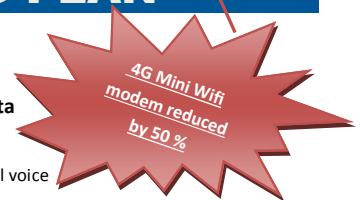
Price: \$3.00 per disc if you collect it from the office or purchase at the monthly meeting.

Add an Extra \$1.00 postage and handling if we mail your order.

Price for a yearly subscription is \$44.00 inc mailing to your home address.

Payment Details

Name on Card	Expiry Date on card	Signature	Date
			/ /



Melb PC Mobile Broadband Internet Terms and Conditions

A. Definitions

"Melb PC" means Melbourne PC User Group incorporated or its assignee:

"Member" means a financial member of Melbourne PC User Group and includes:

a) "Full Member" a person accepted into the Group after payment of the current full membership fee, or the related Student or Pensioner concession fee.

b) "Family Member" A domiciled spouse, partner, child or relative of a full member accepted to participate in activities of the Group and use that Member's Internet account after payment of the Family Membership fee: the subscriber" means the MelbPC full member who has accepted the Melb PC Internet Agreement and paid fees for the subscription period and includes both Full and Email account subscribers. (see Level of Description); "subscription periods" means the period in advance for which the subscriber has paid in full being one of the periods of subscription offered by Melb PC from time to time.

B. Subscription type & Details.

Subscription Type	Annual Fee or Monthly Fee	email & Newsgroup Storage or Mail Quota (Limit)	Browsing	Time Limit	Home Page Storage	Download Limit	When Limit Reached
3G Mobile Broadband 2GB 3G Mobile Broadband 4GB 3G Mobile Broadband 6GB 3G Mobile Broadband 8GB 3G Mobile Broadband 10GB 3G Mobile Broadband 15GB	\$210pa or \$20 pcm \$30 pcm \$35 pcm \$40 pcm \$45 pcm \$55 pcm		Yes			2GB pcm 4GB pcm 6GB pcm 8GB pcm 10GB pcm 15GB pcm	Excess data usage on all plans costs \$7.50 per 1GB or part thereof
4G Mobile Broadband 3GB 4G Mobile Broadband 6GB 4G Mobile Broadband 9GB 4G Mobile Broadband 12GB	\$30 pcm \$40 pcm \$50 pcm \$60 pcm		Yes			3GB pcm 6GB pcm 9GB pcm 12GB pcm	Excess data usage on all plans costs \$7.50 per 1GB or part thereof
4G Voice and Data Plan	\$35 pcm		Yes			1GB pcm	Excess data usage on all plans costs \$7.50 per 1GB or part thereof
Email account (www.outlook.com)	\$0	5GB	nil		Nil	nil	
ADSL Coming Soon	NA						

The above charges and details are subject to change from time to time. Limits and Time Quota: daily (non-cumulative) plus bonus time in non-peak periods.

Email Account Subscriber (available to all Melb PC Members without charge)

C. Description of Service(s)

General:

Melbourne PC User Group Inc. A0003293V (Melb PC) Internet Service network (the Network) is a service owned and operated by Melb PC for its members. It is a subscriber-funded service administered by the Internet Management Subcommittee (the subcommittee).

Function of the Melb PC Network: The primary function of the Network is to support the transfer of information to and from Melb PC members and the International community, subject to the terms of this agreement.

Access Software: The subscriber will need to acquire suitable mail, news and Web software from our shareware library or other resources. However, Melb PC makes available a configuration kit that automates his process for those who require it.

Accounts: Accounts are issued only to individuals, not company names; Melb PC may reject an application without stating a reason.

Support: Volunteers offer their help in local newsgroups and via an Internet Help team with interaction through Web Boards, e-mail and direct telephone support.

Duration: The subscription to the Network is for one year from the date of acceptance. It automatically terminates upon expiry of membership of MelbPC if that occurs earlier.

Acknowledgment: Successful applicants will include individuals whose forms are correctly filled out and whose funds have been transferred to the Melb PC Bank account.

Net Etiquette: Melb PC endorses adherence to ("Net etiquette" or "Netiquette") as deemed by the subcommittee from time to time and to prevailing International standards widely accepted as suitable behavior for using the Internet.

D. Terms of Agreement

- The subscriber asks Melb PC to provide a level of Internet access and Melb PC agrees to do so.
- This agreement starts when an authorized officer of Melb PC has executed it and Melb PC has received a cleared payment for the subscription period.
- If the subscriber renews this agreement for a further subscription period, this agreement applies to the renewed subscription period unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.
- The subscriber acknowledges that:
 - Continuity and speed of the Internet access depends on a wide range of factors many of which are beyond the control of Melb PC.
 - Melb PC has no control over the accuracy of appropriateness of any information on the internet.
 - Melb PC is not responsible for any material available on the Internet.
 - The subscriber's Internet access may be interrupted by equipment failure, the need for routine maintenance peak demand and so on.
 - Melb PC cannot guarantee that the subscriber will be able to secure access at any given time or that fluctuations in demand by other subscribers will not prevent the subscriber from using the full amount of the maximum daily time allowance on any given day.
 - Melb PC cannot guarantee that subscriber's home pages will always be available.
 - Dial up and Mobile Broadband Internet Subscribers are responsible for writing and uploading their own home pages and keeping backup copies of same. Melb PC does not back up these home pages. Subscribers will need to reload their own home pages in the event that the Melb PC facilities suffer any data loss.
 - The right to publish and communicate using home pages is granted to full Internet subscribers in the spirit of user group activities of sharing and furthering the computing experience. The quality of the Melb PC Internet service will be protected by Melb PC reserving its right to suspend the access to any publications of a subscriber who generates a disproportionate amount of Internet traffic. Subject to matters of the kind referred to in the previous clause and to the subscriber's access limits, Melb PC will use its best endeavors to keep Internet access available continuously and to allow the subscriber to have access for the current daily time allowance as set from time to time.
- The subscriber will indemnify Melb PC against any liability, claim, action, suit, demand, loss, cost or expense arising out of or in any way connected with this agreement or Internet access, including without limitation any negligence by Melb PC, its servants or agents.
- The subscriber will pay fees according to Melb PC's standard pricing list from time to time, and a copy of the list certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the prices applicable at any time.
- Any notice given about any matter concerning this agreement may be given by clicking an accept button following the display of the agreement on a web page, by fax, e-mail or post at the last fax number email or postal address notified to the sender and is deemed to have been received at the time when it would have arrived in the ordinary course of the relevant type of transmission.
- Melb PC may change any term of this Agreement or make additional rules at any time by means of notification delivered in accordance with clause 9. Subscriber may refuse to accept any such change and terminate or her Internet access and receive a pro-rata refund for any paid subscription if a request to this effect this received within 14 days from the deemed receipt date of a notice of changes. Should a subscriber continue to keep using the service past the date of the notice deemed received as described in clause 9, the subscriber shall be deemed to accept the changes. A copy of the rules certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the rules applicable at any time. The rules from time to time will apply as if they were set out in full as terms of this agreement.
- The subscriber must not deliberately or recklessly do anything that damages Melb PC's equipment, software, setup or services.
- The subscriber must not use Internet access to annoy, harass or harm other Internet users including sending of viruses either wittingly or unwittingly and the sending of spam or unsolicited bulk email.
- The subscriber must not use Internet access for any unlawful purpose or in any unlawful manner.
- Melb PC does not review any publications or communication and does not verify, endorse, or otherwise take responsibility for the content of same.
- Subscribers are legally responsible for their own publications and communications.
- The subscriber will keep safe and confidential any access numbers; codes or passwords allotted to them by Melb PC and notify Melb PC without delay of any compromise of that information.
- Melb PC may suspend or terminate the subscribers Internet access immediately if the subscriber breaches this agreement wittingly or unwittingly or fails to promptly pay any money owed to Melb PC or ceases to be a member of Melb PC.
- Melb PC may delete without notice any material found on its storage disks without giving any reason for doing so.
- Melb PC may make and keep any record it requires for the purpose of this agreement or the rules or for the operation of its services or as required by the law or its officers.
- The subscriber must not transfer, sell or share internet access rights, or allow the account to be used by any other person, other than those Melb PC Family Members who are listed on this application and have paid the relevant charges.
- The user's last name must be displayed in all e-mail and news messages. The user's first name or initials may be displayed as desired.
- Commercial traffic, in the form of private messages and advertisements in newsgroups designated for that purpose, is permitted within the bounds of Net etiquette.
- The 'Organisation' field in private email or public newsgroup article headers must always be Melbourne PC User Group Australia, the name of the service provider. Any other organisation or business name is permitted only in the four-line (maximum) "signature" text that is optionally inserted at the end of the message or article.
- The "From" field used in email and news messages may be the Melb PC assigned email address. e.g. jjones@melbpc.org.au or a "Spam-trap" address, e.g. jjones@notspam.org.au or, subject to Clause 22 an external address. e.g. jones@hotmail.com.
- Melb PC may assign its rights and obligations to full Internet Subscribers under this agreement to an Internet access provider that is of equal standard to Melb PC and after notice of assignment is given to the subscriber, this agreement shall have operation as if it had been entered into between the assignee and the subscriber and Melb PC's rights (except for its right to recover any money owed to it immediately before the assignment) and obligations under this agreement shall be at an end. Services to Associate internet Subscribers shall be limited to the period Melb PC is able to provide them from its own resources.
- The parties submit to the law of Victoria, Australia in relation to any the interpretation of this agreement, or any dispute arising out of it.
- To the extent permitted by law and except as expressly provided to the contrary in this Agreement, all warranties whether express, implied, statutory or otherwise, relating in any way to the subject matter of this Agreement or to this Agreement generally, are excluded Where legislation implies in this Agreement any condition, or warranty and that legislation avoids or prohibits provisions in a contract excluding or modifying the application of or the exercise of or facility under such term, such term shall be deemed to be included in this Agreement. However, the liability of Melb PC for any breach of such term shall be limited at the option of Melb PC, to any one or more of the following if the breach related to goods, the replacement of the goods or the supply of equivalent goods; the repair of such goods; the payment of the cost of replacing the goods or of acquiring equivalent goods, or the payment of the cost of having the goods repaired; and if the breach relates to services the supplying of the services again; or the payment of the cost of having the services supplied again. To the extent permitted by law and except as expressly provided to the contrary in this Agreement Melb PC shall not be under any liability (contractual, tortious or otherwise!) to subscriber in respect of any loss or damage (save for only personal injury and death) howsoever caused, which may be suffered or injured or which may arise directly or indirectly in respect to the supply of goods or services pursuant to this Agreement or the act, failure or omission of Melb PC.
- Accounts may be suspended without notice to stop transmission of network packets that threaten or have the potential to threaten the security or normal operation of any computer or device on the local or wider network. Such packets are categorised solely by the Internet Management Subcommittee. Users of accounts suspended without notice will be advised by telephone or writing within two working days of the nature of the packets originating from their account. Lifting of the suspension will require the registered account holder to provide evidence of confirmed action being taken to prevent further the transmission of such threatening or potentially threatening packets.
- The Description of Service "Internet Access Agreement" and the services as described on this application form constitute the entire agreement between the partner and neither of them relies on any term, condition, warranty, collateral contract, representation or promise not set out in those parts of these forms.
- Authorised by Melb PC Committee, 1st September 2013

I have read the terms and conditions

signed.....dated.....

Melbourne PC User Group Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, 2 July at 7pm

LINUX

In the second of our series on operating systems, David Hatton will talk to us about Linux. He will tell us how we can try Linux for ourselves, how it can be installed in a virtual machine, and will explain some of the applications that are freely available.

HOW TO BUY YOUR NEXT COMPUTER

Tim Engelhardt from eStore (formerly City Software) will guide us through the sometimes bewildering choices we face when purchasing a new computer (and associated peripherals).

MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INC.

Melb PC Headquarters Suite 26 Level 1, 479 Warrigal Road Moorabbin (Corner Cochranes Rd)

Melway: 78 D8

In the evening there is lift access to the 1st floor from the carpark. 

Public transport options

Public transport users can take Smart Bus 903 from several train stations.

The closest are:

- Mentone station on the Frankston Line (5 minutes away).
- Oakleigh Station on the Pakenham/Cranbourne line (10 minutes away).



Other ways to access the Monthly Meeting

Live Streaming

The Monthly Meeting is streamed live over the Internet at: <http://tv.mpcug.mobi>.

The streaming runs from 7-9 pm with a break of around 20 minutes in the middle.

Download

Members may also download videos of the meetings at: <https://websec.melbpc.org.au/videos/>.

Use your Melb PC username and password to access them.

On Disc

Members may purchase the videos of each meeting on disc for \$3 each (\$4 with postage) or \$44 for an 11-issue subscription (postage included).

Pick up from monthly/SIG meetings or Melb PC office.

Subscription form on [Page 48](#).



What's On In July 2014

js14

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Have A Question Post it on a Newsgroup http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~anywhere/		1 North East Genealogy (10am - 12.45pm)	2 Monthly Meeting Melb PC H.Q. Moorabbin 7pm sharp	3 Ballarat (7.30pm - 9.45pm) Sunbury Daytime (New Users 9.30am)	4 Essendon (Main Meeting 9.30am) Multimedia and Home Entertainment (Wadham House 10am)	5 LAN-Slide Gaming 26 hour gaming event
6 LAN-Slide Gaming 26 hour gaming event	7 Melb PC Committee	8 WASINT (10.30am - 12.30pm) Everything Apple (2pm - 4pm) Linux Workshop (4pm - 7pm) Linux (7pm - 9.30pm)	9 Video Production (Sony Vegas 10am) Communications (7pm - 9.30pm) Microcontroller (7pm - 9.30pm) East (7.30pm - 10pm)	10 E-Book (7pm - 9.30pm) North East Daytime (Includes Photography - Digital Imaging Ivanhoe 10am - 12noon) Sunbury Daytime (New Users 9.30am)	11 Casey PC (Narre Warren Library 12.30pm - 3pm) Essendon (Open Forum 9.30am) Hardware (Wadham House 10am)	12 Microcontroller Workshop (12noon - 5pm)
13 East Workshop (Wadham House Mt Waverley 10am - 2pm)	14 Access (6.30pm - 8.30pm) Wyndham (General 7.30pm - 9.30pm)	15 Wyndham (Multimedia 7.30pm)	16 Everything iPad / iPhone (2pm - 4pm) North East Android (Ivanhoe 10am - 12noon)	17 Music (7.30pm - 9.30pm) Bayside (10am - 12 noon) Sunbury Daytime (General Meeting 9.30am)	18 Essendon (Check website for meeting details. 9.30am) Photoshop (Digital Images Wadham House 10am) Deadline for August Newsletter articles and SIG reports.	19 Windows 7 & 8 (Windows 7. 10am - 12noon Windows 8. 1pm - 3pm)
20 MACE (10am - 2pm) Beginners East (10am - 12.30pm) Genealogy (1pm - 3.30pm) Macedon Ranges (Gisborne 2pm - 4pm)	21 Graphics (7pm - 9.30pm) Nth Subs Linux (7.30pm - 9.30pm) Peninsula (Meeting 9.30am Graphics W'shop 12.30pm Genealogy 2pm)	22 North East (Evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm) Yarra Ranges (Meeting 9.15am Workshop 11.30am)	23 Video Production (Pinnacle 9.30am) Essendon (7pm - 9pm)	24 Sunbury Daytime (Maintenance 9.30am. Meeting also held on a 5th Thursday)	25 Casey Workshop (Narre Warren Library 12.30pm - 3pm) Essendon (Check website for Meeting Details 9.30am) Raspberry Pi (Wadham House 10am)	26 Hardware Workshop (10am - 12noon) Microcontroller Workshop (12noon - 5pm)
27 Website Design (2pm - 4pm)	28 Programming (6.30pm - 9pm) Video Inner East (Balwyn 7pm - 9.30pm)	29	30	31	<div> Colour Codes Black: SIG meetings at Melb PC H.Q. Moorabbin. Blue: SIG meetings held at other locations. Dotted Box: No SIG meeting held this month. </div> <p>For information on "Special Interest Group" activities and meeting times see the group details in PC Update or go to http://groups.melbpc.org.au</p>	