

Official Magazine of the MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP INC.

PC UPDATE

Out with the old



in with the new!

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 such effective utilisation by means of:

- 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.

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PC UPDATE

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This line is answered only when a volunteer is available between 10am-3pm Monday to Friday. Outside these hours please leave a brief message and your membership details. An iHelp team member will call you back when available. Alternatively please refer to the Dial Help listing.

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Melb PC BBS	(4 lines, up to 28.8 kbps)	(03) 9553 0488
Internet Service	Melbourne Local Access	(03) 9697 4000
Intranet Service	Melbourne Local Access	(03) 9697 4004
Melb PC Home Page	http://www.melbpc.org.au	
Internet Services Page	http://www.melbpc.org.au/isp/	
Internet Help Service Page	http://ihelp.melbpc.org.au/helpdesk/iuser/index.asp	

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All authors must lodge a complete submission form (available from <http://www.melbpc.org.au/pcupdate/authorrelease.htm>) that confirms that the article is previously unpublished and original content, and grants Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated the right to publish the article on one or more occasions on any medium, including print and the Internet; the right to edit the article and permit republication by non-profit organisations.

If this is not the first publication, the author must have re-publishing rights, and grant Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated the above rights.

SUBMISSIONS

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

GRAPHICS

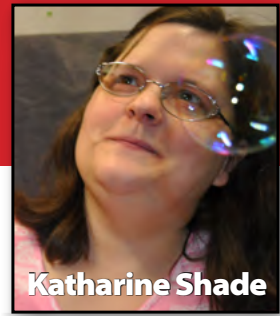
Accompanying graphics should be separate high-quality JPG or PNG attachments – NOT embedded in the document. Just indicate in the text where they should appear.

CLOSING DATE

PC Update magazine submission deadline is the end of the second week of the preceding month, unless other arrangements are made with the editor.

Melb PC Editor's Report

October 2012



Katharine Shade

Greetings Earthlings!

Until we get the cloning experiments working, Charles Wright cannot humanly manage the role of Editor as well as President, particularly as he's in it for the long haul come this AGM.

So, while he remains Editor-in-Chief, I've stepped in as Editor for the time being, which is not something I expected when I became Art Director a few months ago! But it's a role I take on with relish.

So who am I? A percussion playing ex-trombonist with violin and a few other instruments up my sleeve, and a passion for science fiction, technology and psychology, my day job is as a Graphic Designer, working both in print and on the Web. All the while chasing after two children under five...

Originally destined to be an I.T./music school teacher, my path took a different turn when I started editing and laying out club publications. Numerous books, websites, newsletters and magazines later (including the creation of *Frontier: The Australian Science Fiction Media Magazine*), here I am back at the coalface of a club publication.

Make no mistake, this is a paid position. Few people would have the time and dedication to devote to *PC Update* long-term without it taking out an unreasonable chunk of their life.

Kudos to those who have put so much into keeping the magazine going on a volunteer basis. In particular, while Charles is very visible in his presidential-let's-save-this-club-from-certain-doom role, he has also dedicated many, many hours, and a great deal of experience and skill, to editing the last three issues of *PC Update*.

I have been privileged to work with Charles on the magazine since its phoenixal rise from the ashes, he is an editor of the highest calibre, and the club is extraordinarily lucky to have him in this role as well as President.

So this really is my ideal job – working on a magazine with a consummate professional as Editor-in-Chief, on a subject I am well-steeped in, for an organisation I have had a long association with

(I first joined about 17 years ago). I hope to remain in this role for a long while to come, as I derive both personal and professional satisfaction from it.

Thank you for your feedback about *PC Update's* design and content, it has been great to hear your thoughts, suggestions and criticisms. It has also been pleasing to see the increasing number of member contributions, an initiative Charles has undertaken.

Personal stories as in the "My Life with Computers" column are always fascinating reading, and we would like more of them. Unfortunately we don't have one for this month, so please get writing! You might not think what you have to say is of interest to others, but you'd be surprised.

Please send in your experiences to: editorpc@melbpc.org.au, whether it is an overview of computers in your life, one aspect of them, or anything in-between. Anywhere from 500 words to 1000 words (1-2 pages) would be fine.

Unfortunately we didn't have any entries for the photo competition this month either. It's not a competition to see who has the most expensive and sophisticated equipment, so don't feel your little point and shoot is at a disadvantage.

I probably should mention the AGM ... vote, people! This is the first time in a long while there has been need for an election, and it is going to be the start of a reversal of long-standing club problems. The next 12 months will be crucial to the club's survival, so this is the time to get involved.

Please keep your feedback coming in, and don't forget to fill out the online PC Update Survey if you haven't already: <http://ccedesign.com.au/melbpc/melbpc-landing-page.html>.

You'll also find there a link to a sign-up form for SIG email lists.

Enjoy this issue, and I look forward to hearing from you! ☺



Melb PC President's Annual Report

November 2012

However one might describe the events of the past year (the word “surreal” pops into my head), there is no doubt that 2012 was a watershed for Melb PC.

I think it is fair to say that we ended 2011 with a large proportion of the membership in a state of disaffection, if not complete alienation from their committee, largely as a consequence of the decision to abandon the print version of PC Update and replace it with a monthly CD.

While it was perhaps an understandable response, given the print version was the most significant factor in a serious, ongoing shortfall of funds, in retrospect, it was not one of our better decisions.

Like so many of the resolutions we have made in recent years, it was marked by insufficient consultation and inadequate communications between the members and those seeking – with the best of motives – to serve their interests.

A substantial number of members was so dismayed that they didn't even bother to open the monthly envelope containing the CD. Many gave up their membership.

The new committee – or rather, given our recent history of being unable to fill all the management positions, the shell of a new committee – was almost certainly elected on the promise that it would provide members with a free, printed monthly colour magazine.

Unfortunately, most of the relatively small number of members who voted overlooked the fact that we knew very little about those making that pledge.

I don't want to dwell for too long on the alarm-

ing events that followed the election, and the serious questions that have been raised about the conduct of the former treasurer in particular, but I think it is important that they be recorded in our corporate memory.

While I have agonised about whether I should gloss over them, if only because even now I find the mere recollection of them distasteful, there are members who would still be unaware of what happened, and the president's annual report is a vital historical reference for the group.

The events that followed last year's election are a graphic reminder of the need for more care in the selection of those who have control of our club and an equally important need for an adequate mechanism to deal with those who fall short of accepted standards.

It quickly became clear that it was the new regime's intention to commercialise our activities. The treasurer advised members via the magazine that the committee had agreed to introduce substantial financial commissions for unnamed parties who “brought business to the club”.

The fact that this would have been a breach of the Victorian Act under which we are incorporated was apparently lost on him. Indeed he assured the committee, quite wrongly, that we were operating under federal legislation.

In fact I was unable to find evidence that the committee has ever endorsed those commissions, and the former treasurer has steadfastly refused to answer my questions. He has also dismissed incriminating emails sent from his account as forgeries, despite expert confirmation that they are genuine.

Most members remained ignorant of any concerns about the club's administration until April

– yet another indication of the poor communications between the committee and members. At that point it emerged that the former president, Graeme Potter, had been invoicing the club for GST associated with his provision of mobile broadband services, and having the funds remitted to an overseas bank account. A number of concerned members discovered that Mr Potter's company was not registered for GST, and because as a consequence the group was potentially liable to penalties, reported their concerns to the tax office. When they raised the issue with Mr Potter, he announced his resignation as president.

I was then asked and agreed to return as president to try to restore stability to the group and address the concerns of many long-term members about its management.

Almost immediately, I came under attack from the former treasurer's supporters, who formed a small, but vigorous majority on the committee.

Some felt I had been unkind to the treasurer in expressing my disbelief that he could have – as he in fact had – executed a significant contract on the group's behalf without reading it. They also challenged my insistence that the loudest and most aggressive members should not be allowed to dominate committee meetings.

But their principal objection was apparently my determination to seek a commercial settlement of a legal case which the then treasurer had instituted against the company which installed our fibre optic link at Moorabbin.

There was a fundamental disagreement between the former treasurer and his supporters and myself over the meaning of our legal advice. They believed it signified the outcome would be in our favour. I interpreted it as precisely the opposite: the strongest possible counsel, in fact, to negotiate a settlement.

Despite their attempts to prevent, and indeed sabotage any negotiation, I did eventually manage to extract the club from inevitable disaster, principally because Don McKenzie persuaded the committee that my judgment was correct, and I

was finally permitted to talk with the other side. Unfortunately, by that time the case had cost the club \$23,000.

I regard the committee's reluctance and inability to rein in the former treasurer on this, and other matters, including an allegation that he had asked for a kickback from one contractor, as a tragic failure of will and indeed of common sense.

There seemed to be a collective unwillingness on the part of all but a few members to examine the evidence that I was collecting in my necessary process of due diligence. Rather than supporting my inquiries, some of them worked to frustrate them.

The new secretary, Peter Horsley, took to telephoning and emailing members to inform them that I was a dictator and a bully and had taken leave of my senses. At every committee meeting, he took it on himself to raise serial points of order and aggressively challenge my chairmanship, and frustrated my attempts to question the treasurer before committee.

I learned that long-established financial disciplines were not being observed; that despite claiming to be a qualified accountant (he refused repeatedly to provide the group with his CV) the treasurer had apparently interpreted a loss as a profit and conveyed inaccurate financial information to members. I also discovered that he had not provided the necessary budgets to give the committee a benchmark for expenditure and financial performance and that contracts seemed to have been awarded without competitive bids and in my opinion, were not sufficiently well detailed.

I must acknowledge the support of several people during the difficult and highly stressful period that followed my return to the role of president.

Bill Ford restored order to our financial affairs and gave us a budget, as well as support when I was perplexed and/or discouraged. John Swale came forward to re-introduce proper administrative procedures and serve as returning officer. Keith Younger provided valuable information, actions and advice and was steadfast in deflecting

[President's Report, cont.]

some attacks. George Skarbek provided invaluable support. Ian Rankin was tireless in assisting wherever he could. Our office manager, Dianne Vogt, stood up to the former treasurer more than once in defence of the group's interests, and she guarded our finances with great devotion and determination.

It is now history that at a Special General Meeting of the club, more than 800 members voted to dismiss the committee and put our affairs into the hands of an interim committee which included myself, and Messrs Ford, Swale, Rankin and Skarbek, until the annual elections.

It has been an exhausting few months for all of us, but I think we have managed to keep the ship afloat, and even to make a little headway.

I can report a number of positive developments.

I have said many times over the past six months that one of my major goals was to revive sufficient interest in members to motivate them to stand for election. This year, for the first time in too many years, we will require a ballot for members of the general committee.

While there is a good deal more to be done to improve communications, we have already made some progress. The link on our web site to the president's blog at melbpcconduit.org.au was shut down by the ex-treasurer's faction, but despite threats of defamation action continued to keep members informed.

It led to the revitalisation of our newsgroups, largely because the people who frequent them are committed to values like the freedom of fair and honest expression. I commend them as an invaluable resource for our community.

We have seen better attendance at monthly and committee meetings, to some extent because with Bill Dair's help I have been attracting more speakers (and bigger prizes), but also, I think, because members want to be more involved.

We have started two Apple-centric SIGs (thanks

again to Dianne) and we are going to be looking for other new topics for similar groups next year. Lance Lloyd, for instance, whom I commend as a candidate for committee, has been stirring up interest in the Raspberry Pi microprocessor.

We are also working on establishing a CBD SIG, and we aim to hold some of our monthly meetings in a central location.

We have already restored many of our financial and corporate disciplines, and our new finance and administrative sub-committees will ensure more improvements.

We are at last attracting more volunteers to help with the work of the club, and I hope Cindy Perry will be elected to the committee to perform the role of volunteer co-ordinator.

Jan Whitaker – another candidate I hope members will support – is doing valuable work with another sub-committee on the redevelopment of our web site.

Sharman Grant has already been giving us some legal advice and I have asked her to consider taking chairmanship of a disputes committee to resolve differences. She and Jan will also work on a formal charter of members' rights and help improve our business processes.

Jan Weiner has been working with Ron Harper on the PC Update preferences survey. I hope it is only the first of many initiatives to canvass views on important issues. I have also asked Jan to take on SIG co-ordination, looking for ways the group can improve our support for SIGs, and bringing the views of SIGs back to the committee.

I have already indicated that I believe that women provide one of the few opportunities to expand membership and revitalise activities. I am most anxious that we should have more than a token presence of females on the next committee. Had we had a little more female wisdom in our counsels, we may well have avoided much of the chaos that so disrupted our progress in 2012. ☹

PC Update Survey Results: a Teaser

How long did you keep your printed copy of PC Update?

Forever never thrown out	3 months
too long	Until read
3 months	About 5 years
Several years	3 years
for many months	two years
3 years	2-3 months
Till the article becomes out of date	12 months
forever	Stil have most not sure why
I have them all since I joined	Still have
12 months	Have NOT thrown any out
12 years	one year
Years!!!!!!	1 year or so
a couple of years	1 day
a couple of years	2-3 months
Forever	several months
Few months	1 month
2 or 3 months	For ever
Years	Since I joined
12 months	3 Years
months	That's a problem. I hang on to most things until
2 months	there are too many. By then the tech is OLD
Years too long in case it "came in handy"	and I end up throwing them away. But I never
5 years	want to throw it away early on. Even if I've
A month.	finished reading it.

DON'T FORGET TO FILL IN YOUR PC UPDATE SURVEY!

We'd still like to hear from more of you, so if you haven't already, please fill out the online survey (or email your answers via last month's magazine).

Please go to: <http://ccedesign.com.au/melbpc/melbpc-landing-page.html>

AND WHILE YOU'RE THERE:

How about registering for some SIG emailing lists?

As a part of updating our membership database, we are putting together a centralised subscription listing of members' interests in the Special Interest Groups. This will allow the SIG leaders to easily contact interested members directly. Note that if you're already on a SIG mailing list, we'd still like you to register via this online web form to ensure our records are current.

Please go to: <http://ccedesign.com.au/melbpc/melbpc-landing-page.html>



What's On In November 2012

JS12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Colour Codes Black: SIG meetings held at Moorabbin. Blue: SIG meetings held at other locations. Red: Melb PC training courses. Yellow Box: No SIG meeting. Full details of "Special Interest Group" activities, meeting times and training course information in the magazine.				1 AdobeVideo (2pm) Ballarat (7.30pm - 9.45pm) Sunbury Daytime (New Users 9.30am)	2 Essendon (Main Meeting 9.30am) Multimedia (MHE) (Wadham House 10am)	3 Beginning JavaScript
4 [Empty]	5 Introduction to MYOB (session 1 of 2) Melb PC Committee	6 North East Genealogy (10am - 12.45pm) Database Driven Websites with PHP and MySQL Level 1 (Night session 1 of 2) Public Holiday Melbourne Cup	7 Monthly Meeting and AGM Moorabbin 7pm sharp and afterwards the WAFFLE SIG Video Production (Sony Vegas 10am)	8 E-Book (7pm - 9.30pm) NeDay GIG (Photography - Digital Imaging 10am) Sunbury Daytime (New Users 9.30am)	9 Casey PC (Hampton Park 12.30pm - 3pm) Essendon (Open Forum 9.30am) Ripper (Hardware Wadham House 10am) Build a Website with Xara Webdesigner Pro	10 Making Money On The Internet (10am - 12noon) Microcontroller Workshop (11am - 4pm)
11 East Workshop (10am - 2pm)	12 Access (6.30pm - 8.30pm) Linux (6.30pm - 9pm) Peninsula (New Users 4pm) Wyndham (General 7.30pm - 9.30pm) Introduction to MYOB (session 2 of 2) Introduction to MS Excel 2003-07-10 (Night session 1 of 3)	13 Everything Apple (2pm - 4pm) WASINT (10.30am - 12.30pm) New Users East (7.30pm - 10pm) Database Driven Websites with PHP and MySQL Level 1 (Night session 2 of 2) Programming MS Excel with VBA 2003-07-10 (session 2 of 2)	14 Communications (7pm - 9.30pm) Microcontroller (7pm - 9.30pm) East (7.30pm - 10pm)	15 Music (7.30pm - 9.30pm) Bayside (Main meeting 10am) Sunbury Daytime (General Meeting 9.30am) Introduction to MS Excel 2003-07-10 (session 1 of 2)	16 Essendon (Check website for meeting details. 9.30am) Ripper (Digital Photo W'shop Wadham House 10am)	17 Database Driven Websites with PHP and MySQL Level 2
18 MACE (10am - 2pm) Beginners East (10am - 12.30pm) Genealogy (1pm - 3.30pm) Macedon Ranges (Gisborne 2pm - 4pm)	19 Graphics (7pm - 9.30pm) Nth Subs Linux (7.30pm - 9.30pm) Peninsula (Main Meeting 9.30am Graphics 12.30pm Genealogy 2.30pm) Introduction to MS Excel 2003-07-10 (Night session 2 of 3)	20 Windows Advanced (Deploying and Managing Networks. Richmond 7pm) Wyndham (Multimedia 7.30pm) Advanced MS Excel 2003-07-10 (session 1 of 2)	21 Everything iPad / iPhone (2pm - 4pm) Android (Ivanhoe 10am) Linux for Beginners (Night session 1 of 2) Melb PC Marketing (sub-committee 7.30pm)	22 Sunbury Daytime (Maintenance 9.30am. Meeting also held on a 5th Thursday) Introduction to MS Excel 2003-07-10 (session 2 of 2) Writing Android Applications (Night session 1 of 2)	23 Retired and Interested Persons (known as Ripper 10am) Casey Workshop (Hampton Park 10am - 12.30pm)	24 Microcontroller Workshop (11am - 4pm)
25 Web Design (2pm - 4pm)	26 Peninsula (New Users 4pm Add Music To Your Computer) Video Inner East (Balwyn 7pm - 9.30pm) Introduction to MS Excel 2003-07-10 (Night session 3 of 3)	27 Programming (6.30pm - 9pm) North East (Evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm) Yarra Ranges (Meeting 9.15am Workshop 11.30am) Advanced MS Excel 2003-07-10 (session 2 of 2)	28 Video Production (Pinnacle 9.30am) West (7pm - 9.30pm) Linux for Beginners (Night session 2 of 2)	29 Writing Android Applications (Night session 2 of 2)	30 Have A Question Post It On http://groups.melbpc.org.au/~anywhere/	

Melbourne PC User Group Monthly Meeting

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7, at 7pm

Melb PC Headquarters

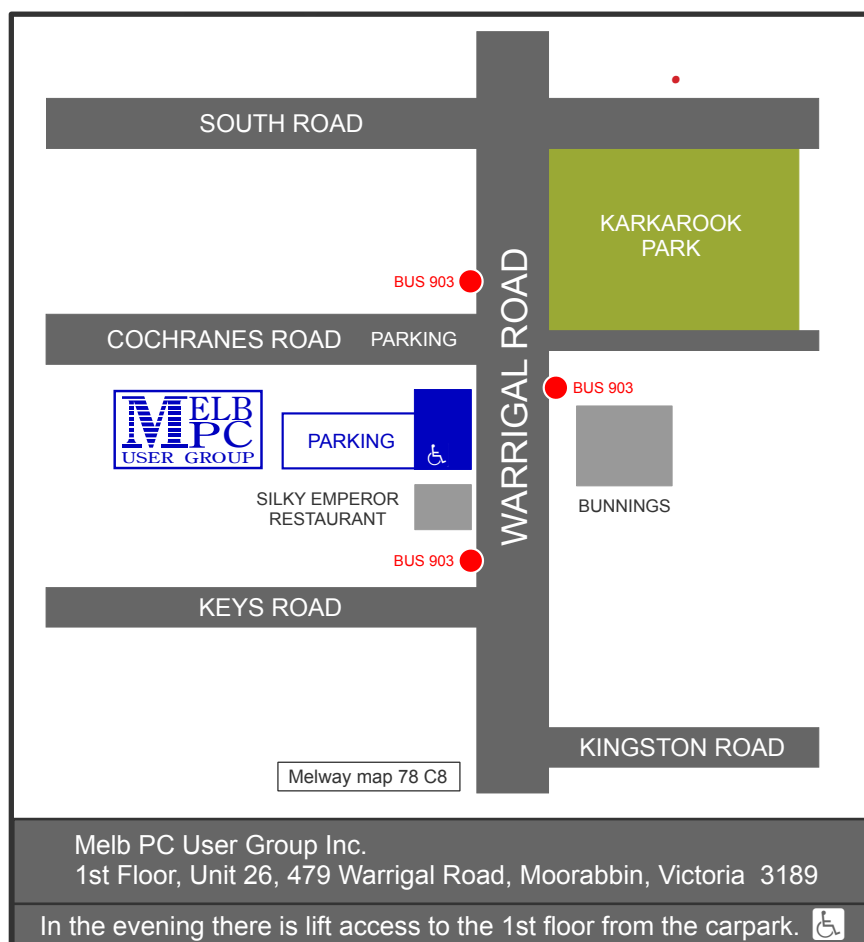
479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin VIC 3189 (Corner Cochranes Rd)

MONTHLY MEETING AND AGM

***Come along and have a say in who your committee is!
See nominee profiles on page 56.***

In addition to the AGM, Western Digital will be presenting an insight into the future of storage technology. Be sure not to miss what will be an interesting and informative presentation.

Also, of course, there will be some fantastic raffle prizes to be won!



Public transport users can take Smart Bus 902 from several train stations.

The closest are Mentone station on the Frankston Line (5 minutes away) and Oakleigh Station on the Pakenham/Cranbourne line (10 minutes).

Photo Competition

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*There were no entries this month – SOMEONE missed out on \$100!
Dust off your SLR, digital camera, phone camera – photos from all
sources will be considered.*



Yes, even from this!

Photograph and win cash! \$\$\$

Each month, *PC Update* will publish the best digital photo submitted by a member.

The winning photographer will receive \$100.

The judge is *The Age's* Imaging columnist, Terry Lane.

To enter: send a low resolution (up to 2MB) JPEG of your image to
editorpc@melbpc.org.au

Please include your full name and address plus details about the photo: camera used, location, description and anything else you'd like to note.

Everything Apple

Convener:

Susan Jensen 9885 7060

Assistant Convener:

Damian Vuleta 9509 9992

E-mail to: applesig@melbpc.org.au

or everythingapple@ausom.net.au

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

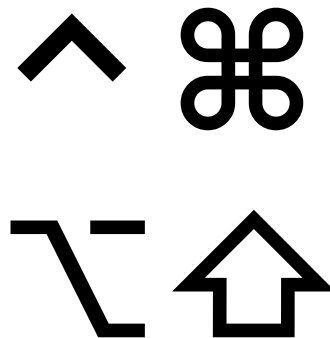
Next Meeting: November 13

2:00 pm

Mac Tips 'n' Tricks

Presented by Damian Vuleta

What's running on my Mac? Where do I find an interrobang (and what is it)? How do I shove everything out of the way? Damian will look at useful techniques when using your Mac.



3:00 pm

GoodReader

Presented by Peter Emery

Do you wish file transfer on the iPad and iPhone was just a little bit easier?

Initially designed as a File Viewer and PDF annotation tool, GoodReader has matured into the "Swiss Army Knife" of file transfer applications.



**2nd Tuesdays, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm
(except January)**

**Moorabbin Interest Group Room
479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin**

I have XP – should I ask for Windows 8 for Christmas?

Harry Lewis

Windows 8 is now available for purchase. Christmas is coming. There's even a special seasonal offer* from Microsoft of an upgrade to Windows 8 for users of Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7, at a reduced price, until the end of January 2013.

So when the Editor received this letter:

I have been using Windows XP happily for many years and I love my PC.

Do I need to ask for Windows 8 for Christmas, or can I wait until next year?

(PS What's a "download" and how do you attach it to a Christmas tree?)

– Nick Weihnachtsmann (Member No. 2512)

... she thought other members might be asking the same question. We set about tapping the vast wisdom of Melb PC to help Nick with his decision. Warm thanks to all who have contributed their advice, which we have distilled for you here.

How tempting is Microsoft's offer? In the words of one commentator: "Windows 8, arguably one of the largest software paradigm shifts in history, is happening". Who could possibly resist a paradigm shift, especially at a reduced price? Just a minute – have you ever been lured in to the post-Christmas sales with huge price cuts, to buy something you might possibly need; only for it to languish in the closet gathering dust?

But of course not! Canny Melb PC members are wise to these sales tricks. But it seems Microsoft thinks some of its clients are not as shrewd as we are ... We know we must look this gift horse in the mouth.

Does anyone actually need Windows 8? Anyone purchasing a new PC may find it has been pre-installed (but Windows 7 will be around for some time too). If you're happy with your present PC, do you have any reason to switch? Looming in the middle distance is 8 April 2014 (that's 2014, not 2013) when Microsoft will withdraw support for Windows XP.

That means: no more security updates; and that means, a serious risk for anyone connecting to the internet while still using XP. So by that date, and probably a few months before it, any XP user really will need a change in operating system.

I am of the opinion that you need a good reason to upgrade your OS. Just because a new version is out, this is NOT a good reason.

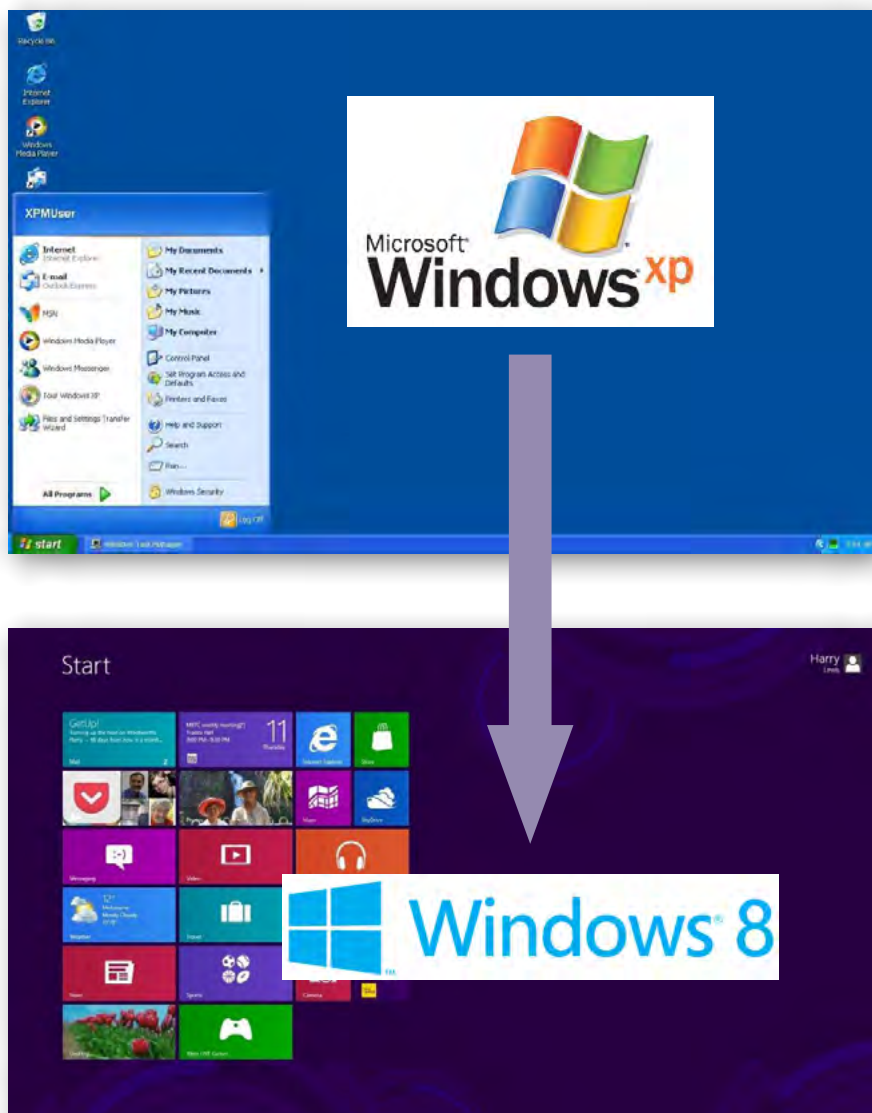
– George Skarbek

* at least, it was expected when we went to press – see note at end. Prices: \$40 for the Windows 8 Pro upgrade when downloaded; \$70 for a DVD of any version [prices in US dollars; Australian prices were not available at the time of going to press]. Offers expected to end 31 January 2013.

How important is your operating system to you? In one way, very important: without it none of your favourite programs would work. But the part you see and use directly, the user interface, only matters to you when you interact with it. If you spend most of your time at the computer using your web browser, your e-mail program, a word-processing program, a spreadsheet program, with the occasional move between open programs, the way the OS looks and feels affects you very little.

And it's this look and feel that has undergone the "paradigm shift" that our friend just referred to: the introduction of the "Modern UI Style" interface (formerly known as "Metro") that Adam Turner discussed in the October issue of PC Update and has been demonstrated at SIGs and at the October Moorabbin meeting by Dave Botherway and others.

There's a more familiar Windows-style interface in there somewhere too, but you have to dig for it. "Modern" is for touch-screen devices, and I'm betting your XP computer is not a touch-screen device. *[cont...]*



[...cont]

Microsoft has made the upgrade offer to XP users as well as to users of its two successors, Windows Vista and Windows 7, because it would rather like the many users of XP to move on, please (and entirely coincidentally, to pay for a new product from Microsoft). However, the upgrade is only of relevance to you if your beloved PC has hardware that will enable Windows 8 to run. Before you're even remotely tempted, you need to check on that.

For Windows 7, Microsoft offered a program for download that would inspect your computer and attached peripherals such as USB drives and printers, and inform you whether your kit was up to the job. With Windows 8 there is a similar tool, but it's built in to the upgrade process, and to employ it you need to pretend to be embarking on the upgrade.

However any Windows 7-capable computer is also Windows 8-capable, and if you can get your hands on a copy of the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor, that will provide a good indication for you. As a rough guide you'll need:

- Processor speed: at least 1GHz
- RAM: at least 2Gb (for 32-bit Windows 8) or 4Gb (for 64-bit Windows 8)
- Graphics: DirectX 9
- HDD: bare minimum 20Gb
- Screen resolution (for Metro/Modern apps): minimum 1024x768; 1366x768 recommended
- If you have a faithful old printer, check its manufacturer's website

If your present computer hardware cannot cope with Windows 8, then the upgrade is not for you. Sooner or later, you need a new computer. Preferably later: the longer you can hold off upgrading, the better, to give your new kit the maximum useful life. (If we all reduced the frequency of our hardware upgrades it would be good for the planet too.)



Let's focus now on the decision for someone whose computer is capable of running Windows 8, and who is a little bit tempted to go for the upgrade. Here are some of the opinions we gathered from Melb PC members who have already been using pre-launch Windows 8:

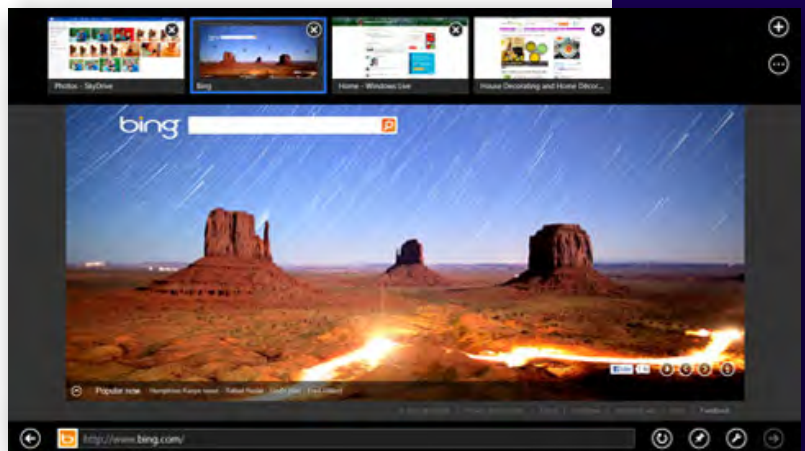
Barry Martin: I have been working extensively with the preview version of Windows 8 64bit, and am not impressed. I am also a great advocate of NOT adopting a new MS Windows version until Service Pack 1 is released for it.

Shane Mason, Yarra Ranges: I'm a Windows 7 user myself and have used Windows 8 in a Virtual Machine. I don't particularly like it. But if I was buying a new machine I'd get it with Windows 8.

Malcolm Dean, Internet Help: From personal experience, Win7 is a great product and not so different to XP in philosophy that would make it too difficult to learn. Win8 with the (previously) Metro style interface is great for the touch interface but markedly different to XP and not terribly productive for a keyboard/mouse user – a significant learning curve for those who have not already embraced the tablet experience. Whilst Win8 also can be operated in something close to (but not the same as) the Win7 GUI [Graphical User Interface], it too is different – a slightly larger jump from XP than Win7.

When contemplating a new system, the choices are expanding for the touch interface, but the keyboard interface is with us for a short while yet – especially where intensive content creation is a significant part of usage. My gut feel is that an awful lot of non-tech users of the internet and computers (like a lot of our members) will find their next purchase only needs to be a tablet. In that case they have the opportunity to choose from the user experience of Apple, Android, Windows and any others (like Chrome OS etc) that come along.

Stephen Davidson, NS Linux and NEast: There are some great features in Win8. Faster bootup and shutdown times. Most software compatible with Win7 should be compatible with Win8.



[cont...]

[...cont]

General hardware support from manufacturers should be good and will improve.

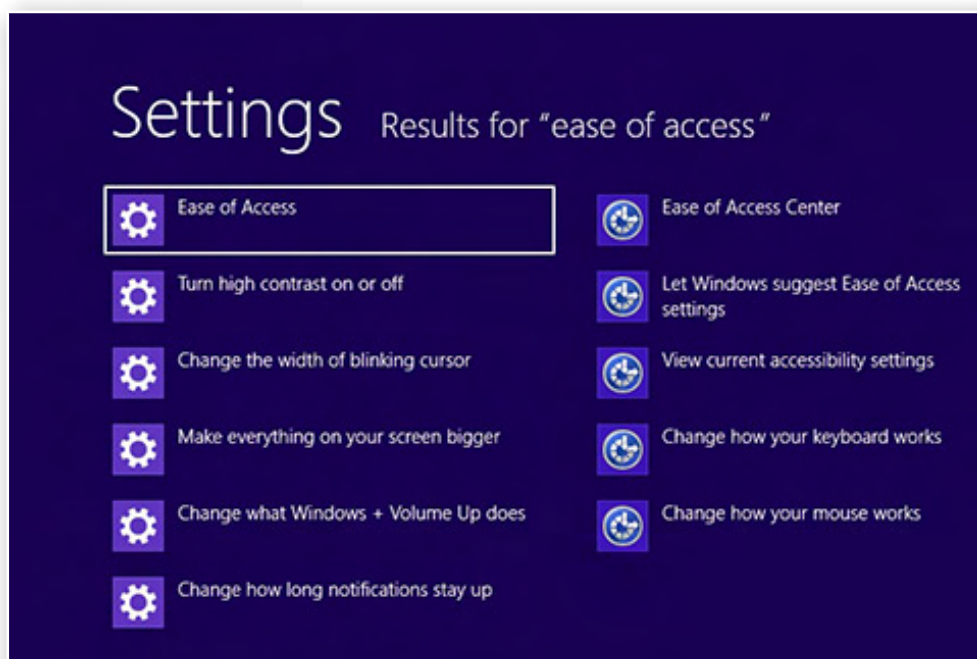
Support for XP is starting to die, slowly at the moment, but will increase.

The overwhelming reason not to upgrade is the cretinous decision by MS to drop the start button on the desktop and instigate the abominable Metro/Modern interface. If people can understand that the Metro interface IS the new Start button/menu and this is the way to launch programs, and if they don't mind too much the inconvenience of learning a new way of operating, and are happy about switching constantly

between two completely different UI interfaces, then upgrading to Win8 may well be worth their time. I can see Metro being good to use on a touch screen device such as a tablet or phone, but on a desktop/laptop it could be a pain.

The loss of the Windows Start button and menus in Windows 8 has attracted much negative comment. Already there are utilities on offer that restore most of its functionality, and we can suggest Classic Shell: <http://classicshell.sourceforge.net>. Once installed, it bypasses the Metro/Modern interface on startup, and leaves you with the Windows 8 desktop which is similar to that of Windows 7.

Others to consider are Start8 and ViStart8. Microsoft has also provided a rich set of keyboard shortcuts (some old, some new) – an interesting bonus for those of us who do not have touch-screens: <http://www.winbeta.org/guides/comprehensive-list-windows-8-keyboard-shortcuts>.



If you do decide to go ahead take out insurance: have a good backup program, do a full disk-imaging backup before you install your new OS.

Also, it's advisable to do a clean install: Backup all your data; assemble all your program installation CDs and downloads, complete with those so-losable key-codes; re-format your hard disk; install Windows 8 from the DVD you created after downloading; reinstall your programs one by one, and finally fetch your data from the backup. (Yes it's a chore; but you'd have the same challenge with a new computer. Also, for XP users the "upgrade" option would still leave you with many of the same tasks to complete as a clean install.)

If you wish to ask for the upgrade for Christmas, you'll probably need to request an earmarked gift of the cost in dollars so that you can manage the download yourself. (Sorry Nick, I forgot: a "download" is a program you get from the Internet – look for Downloads at microsoft.com.) All there'll be for attaching to the Christmas tree is an envelope with the cheque in it.

Managing the download is a challenge if you have limited or slow internet access, as with Melb PC Dial-Up or our wireless modem service from Optus Business (because of the size of the download). For assistance with that process please contact Melb PC Internet Help. (Windows 8 is available on DVD as well as by download, but at a higher price; \$70 US rather than \$40 US.) ☹

This article went to press before the Windows 8 launch date, and is based on information available at the time. For updates post-launch, visit the Melb PC Newsgroups: to read, click the News Forum Link on the Melb PC Internet Services Page, and look for the melbpc.computing.misc group; if you want to join in, navigate to the Anywhere, Anytime SIG web-page and follow the instructions. For help with your own situation, contact Melb PC's Internet Helpteam: 9276 4088 (10-3 weekdays) or e-mail help@melbpc.org.au.





iPhone 5 Review: How Does it Stack Up?

The iPhone 5 marks a major change of direction for Apple, with the larger screen acknowledging the growing threat from Android superphones.

It is actually the sixth iPhone if you count the original model which was never sold in Australia, but the iPhone 5 is the first time Apple has veered from the 3.5-inch screen size which has served it well for so long. The new iPhone sports a 4-inch display, offering extra screen real estate but still falling far short of the Android superphones such as the 4.8-inch Samsung Galaxy S III.

The iPhone 5's larger screen feels somewhat understated because it's taller but no wider than its predecessors. The benefit of this is that the phone still fits comfortably in the average hand, whereas the Android giants can feel a little wide and cumbersome. The downside is that you don't get as much benefit from the bigger display as you might hope. Text and images are no larger than before, you can simply see more at the bottom of the screen.

When reading an email on the iPhone 5 you'll see an extra five lines of text, which works out at roughly 25 per cent more text on the screen than previous iPhones. That's an impressive number but in practice you barely notice the difference because flicking the iPhone's screen with

your thumb to scroll down is such a smooth and intuitive experience. You appreciate the extra screen real estate more when you turn the phone on its side to watch a movie, as a widescreen movie now almost perfectly fits the iPhone's screen.

Of course if you're upgrading from an older iPhone you'll pay a high price for the larger screen in terms of obsolete accessories which no longer fit your phone. Compounding the problem is the fact that Apple has also abandoned the traditional 30-pin connector in favour of a smaller Lightning connector (while continuing to snub the micro-USB standard). Apple offers 30-pin-to-Lightning adaptors, but they won't always be able to come to your rescue.

Under the bonnet the iPhone 5 offers a range of improvements such as extra grunt and an upgraded camera. Apple's new A6 processor and extra RAM shine through when you start pushing the phone to its limits. It's a welcome improvement if your current iPhone is groaning under the load of multi-tasking and the new iOS6 software update. You'll also notice that apps such as the camera load faster. The built-in camera still packs the same 8 megapixel resolution as the iPhone 4S, but does a much better job of handling difficult lighting conditions.

Along with a faster processor the iPhone 5 also gets a boost from access to Australia's new



Adam Turner





high-speed LTE (Long Term Evolution) mobile broadband networks. LTE offers real-world mobile broadband speeds of 40 megabits per second and beyond, although the nature of wireless technologies mean that results can be hit and miss.

Telstra and Optus are rapidly expanding their LTE networks, while Vodafone is expected to offer LTE services in 2013. Once LTE-compatible handsets wander beyond the metro-centric LTE net-

works they fall back to HSPA+, which delivers up to 10 Mbps. Right now Optus has a wider LTE footprint than Telstra, but Telstra users have the advantage of falling back to Dual-Cell HSDPA and enjoying up to 20 Mbps – which is nothing to sneeze at.

Once you cut through the numbers and jargon, it basically means that in areas where Optus users enjoy LTE and Telstra users don't, Telstra users should still get up to 20 Mbps. To be honest you're unlikely to feel the difference unless you're using the phone to supply internet access to a notebook.

Pitted against the Android-powered Samsung Galaxy S III 4G on Telstra's Next G network, the iPhone 5 outshone the Samsung in Dual-Cell HSDPA areas – pulling down 18 Mbps compared to 17.6 Mbps according to the <http://www.speedtest.net> app. But the iPhone 5 couldn't quite keep up the pace on LTE. The most we could squeeze out of the iPhone 5 was 57.18 Mbps whereas the Samsung delivered an astonishing 67.29 Mbps. As for uploads, the Samsung was clearly ahead, delivering 26 Mbps compared to 15 Mbps.

To be honest, the speed differences are meaningless, especially when mobile data speeds are far from consistent. Both handsets are impressive, although LTE performance may suffer as more users come across from the HSDPA networks. On Telstra you've got the advantage of HD Voice, using Wideband Adaptive Multi-Rate coding (WB-AMR) to offer richer and more natural sounding voice calls. Both the iPhone 5 and Galaxy S III support HD Voice, but results can be hit and miss. HD Voice calls on the iPhone 5 sound clearer but harsher, sometimes with noticeable echo. Calls between Android handsets are slightly improved, although once again your experience may vary and other users report excellent HD Voice results.

So what's the verdict? More grunt, faster download speeds and the improved camera help make the iPhone 5 a worth successor to the iPhone 4S, as long as you appreciate the hassles of the changed screen size and connector. Yet none of the iPhone 5's improvements are likely to make Android users jealous. 🐼



Making Your Computer Easier to Use

In these days when almost everyone is using a computer, there are many features of operating systems and software that can help users with physical limitations. Microsoft has enhanced its features in this area, both in Windows 7 and recent versions of Microsoft Office.

NANCY DEMARTE gives an overview of these features and links to some helpful sites for people interested in making the tools work for them. In Windows 7, the accessibility tools are found in the Ease of Access Center (Start – Control Panel – Ease of Access Center). These tools are designed to help people who have problems with vision, hearing, and dexterity.

LOW VISION AND BLINDNESS

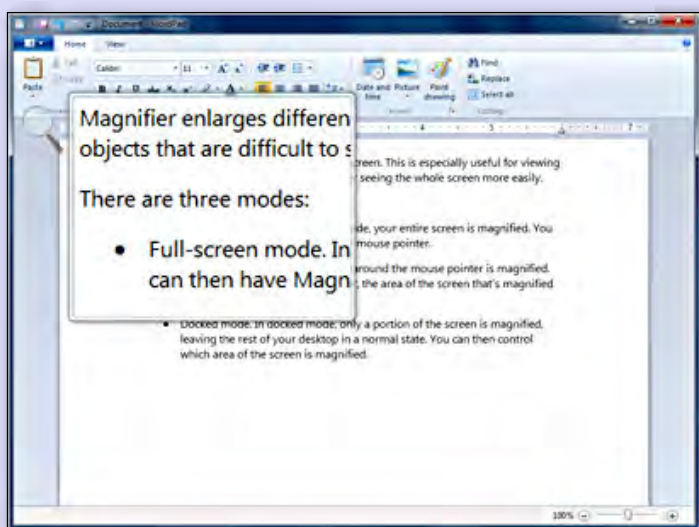
For the person who finds the computer display hard to read, changing a few settings in the Ease of Access Center can make life easier. You can select a High Contrast theme which shows either white text on a black background, or all bold black text on a white background. The setting applies to all text, including toolbars and ribbons. This feature is especially useful for users with conditions like macular degeneration. The Magnifier tool enlarges the portion of the screen where the mouse pointer is located, a lifesaver when trying to read small text in a document or on a webpage. Like other tools, it can be pinned to the taskbar for easy access. Other settings let you remove unnecessary background images or animations, make the flashing cursor thicker and more visible when typing, and sharpen the appearance of window borders to make them easier to see.

A person who is blind can work with a Windows computer through a combination of the Narrator and Voice Recognition tools using speakers and a microphone. Narrator reads text

aloud as it appears on the screen and describes things like error messages. The Voice Recognition tool, introduced in Word 2010, translates the user's speech into text on the screen. It does need initial setup, involving training the tool to understand the user's vocal patterns. Another tool, Audio Description, gives oral narration of the action in videos.

LIMITED DEXTERITY

A number of tools are designed to assist the person with limited finger dexterity. Turning on the Mouse Keys lets you move the pointer on the screen using the arrow keys instead of the mouse.



Magnifier

Sticky Keys let you press keystroke combinations, such as Ctrl+Alt+Del, one key at a time. Toggle Keys play an alert sound when you press the Caps Lock, Num Lock or Scroll Lock keys, saving you from unanticipated results like a sentence in all caps. Filter Keys can be set to ignore unintentional keystrokes, such as several in rapid succession or holding down a key for an unusually long time.

The Voice Recognition tool, besides assisting blind users, is also useful either for those with limited dexterity or inadequate typing skills. The on-screen keyboard lets the hunt-and-peck typist click letters on a keyboard displayed on the screen.

For those who have trouble maneuvering a mouse, one solution is to develop the habit of using keyboard shortcuts in place of mouse clicks. Searching the Internet will provide lists of standard keystroke shortcuts; you can also create your own. Windows' Ease of Access Center also has features that can help. One option lets you hover the mouse pointer over a window to open it, rather than clicking. Other settings for the mouse can be found in the Control Panel – Mouse. Here you can change the speed of the mouse click and create a trail of pointer images behind the moving pointer to keep it in view. You can also change the shape and size of pointer icons.



On-Screen Keyboard

HEARING LOSS

Although computers are more visual than auditory, users with hearing loss need a few tools to assist them. In the Ease of Access Center, you can change alerts in many programs from sound to a text alert or a flash on the screen. Another setting displays text captions for spoken dialogue in multimedia programs.

[cont...]



Narrator



Voice Recognition

WINDOWS 7 ACCESSIBILITY SETTINGS

[...cont]

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES IN MS OFFICE 2010

Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2010 have new features to help make documents, spreadsheets, and presentations more accessible to those with limitations. One is the Accessibility Checker. This tool diagnoses a file for any areas that might make it difficult to view or use. The author of the file can review the list and make any changes needed.

Another new tool is Mini Translator, which translates a word or phrase between languages when the mouse points to it. Clicking the Play button lets you hear the word or phrase pronounced.

A feature new to Office 2010 is the ability to add text descriptions to shapes and images for those who can't view them. Enlarging text in Word 2010 is easy, with the zoom slider in the right bottom corner and a new full screen Reading View option which enlarges and sharpens document text. PowerPoint 2010 has added the capability to add closed captions to audio and video and embed them in a slide presentation.

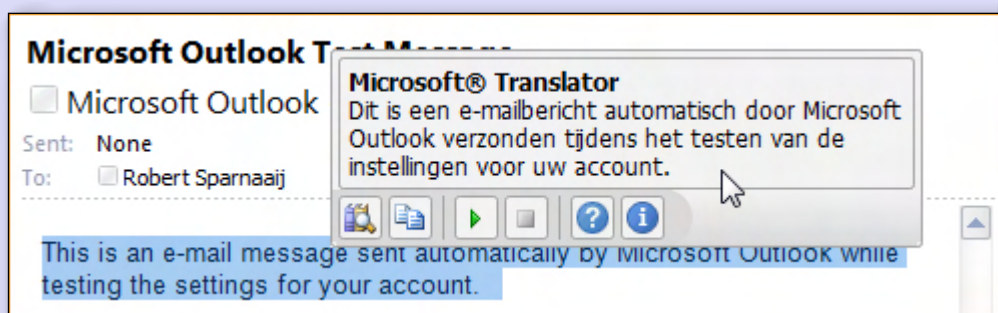
Windows is compatible with many third-party assistive software programs and devices. MS Office 2003-2010 users can turn documents into Talking Books by downloading the "Save As Daisy" add-in. Go to <http://sourceforge.net> and search for and download/install "Save As DAISY for Office (your version)." Then install a DAISY-compatible digital talking book reader, such as the free AMIS reader. www.DAISY.org/amis/download. Versions are available for Office 2007/2010 and for Office 2003 with the Office 2007 compatibility pack installed. Other requirements are listed at the sourceforge.net website.



Save as DAISY

The number of options to increase accessibility to a computer can be overwhelming. This overview will make you aware of some of them, but only you can decide which ones you want to try. You can complete a short questionnaire in the Ease of Access Center to help with your decision.

A few of these tools have a learning curve that can be greatly reduced by watching the video tutorials (some close-captioned) and reading support documents located at www.microsoft.com/enable/products/office. Most can also be accessed directly from links in the Ease of Access Center. Fortunately, the support and setup tutorials for most of these tools are numerous and well done. More information can be found by searching www.microsoft.com/accessibility.



Mini Translator

Nancy DeMarte is a regular columnist with the Sarasota PC Monitor, from the Sarasota PC User Group, Florida. www.spcug.org

Everything iPad/iPhone

Convener:

Dick Johnson 9857 7362

E-mail to: applesig@melbpc.org.au

or everythingipad@ausom.net.au

A joint venture between MelbPC and AUSOM. The emphasis will be on the Apple iPad and iPhone and helping people understand the iOS environment.

Next Meeting: November 21

2:00 pm

Introduction to iPad: Part 2

Presented by Ivan Radywonik

Settings—one iPad app every user needs to be familiar with.

Swipes, taps and hidden menus—getting around your iPad.

Staying in touch—access your emails and surf the net.



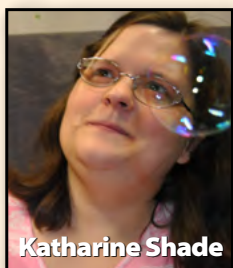
3:00 pm

Question & Answer session

Ivan will take questions about iPads, iPhones and topics for future discussions.

**3rd Wednesdays,
2:00 pm–4:00 pm (except January)
Moorabbin Interest Group Room
479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin**

My New Favourite “Stuff” Program



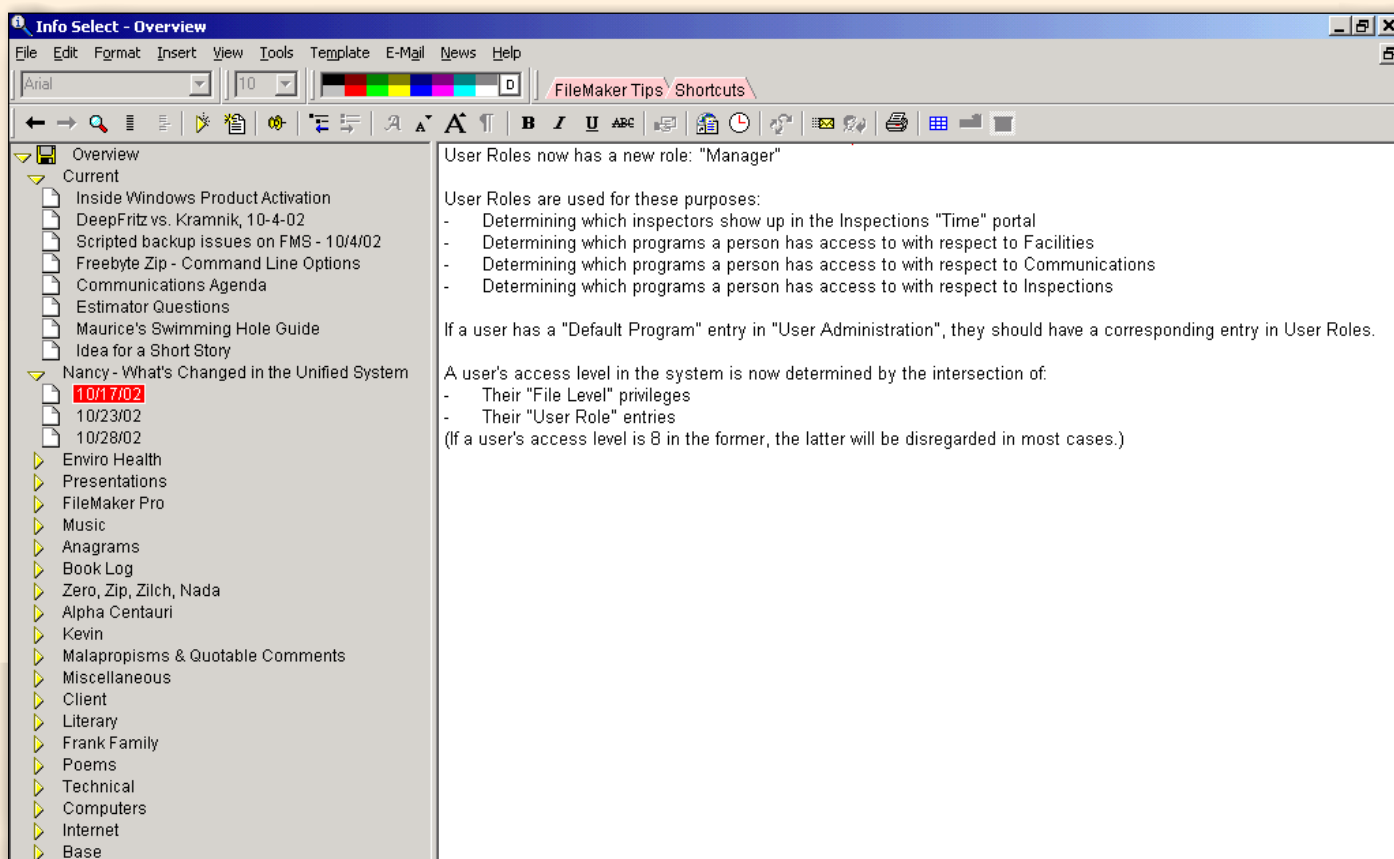
Is it a little weird to grieve the toppling of the “favourite” status of one software program by another?

Many years ago I found the Info Select program when it was highly recommended in Charles Wright’s regular Green Guide column. I was a quick convert, as I’m a “data hoard”, and this was a brilliant way to store it and – just as importantly – retrieve it.

Info Select is at its most basic a “flatfile database” – a storage repository of information. Your “stuff” can be sorted into folders and subfolders, or just dumped in one big data pile. The magic of this kind of database is the easy retrieval of this information and the display of the results, based on keyword searches.

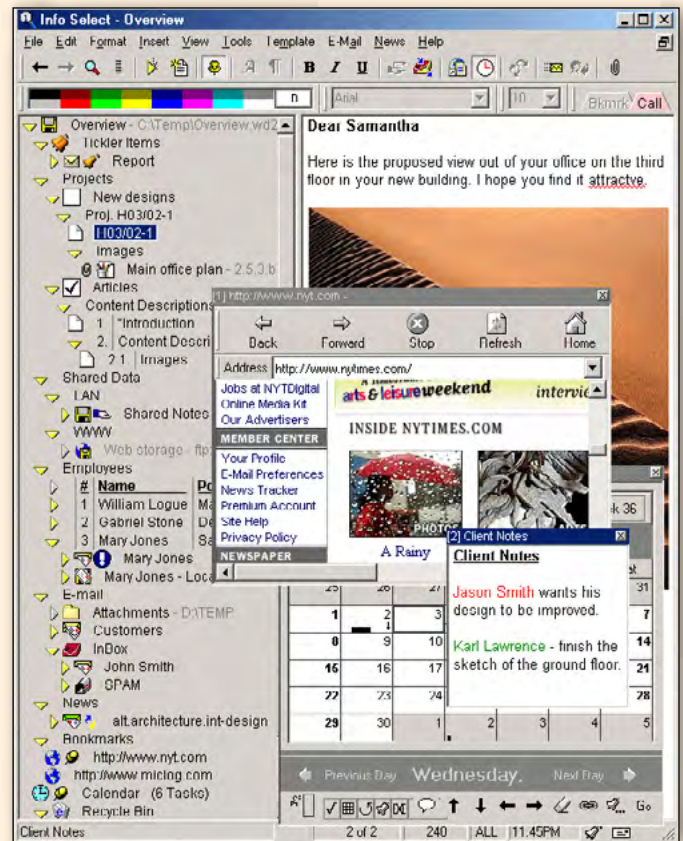
These are some of the things I’ve kept track of in Info Select over the years:

- To do lists
- product research, eg printers, air conditioner, prams, iRoomba
- Text from websites to be read later (although I now use Instapaper for this purpose)
- Keeping track of books I’ve read and books on my wish list
- Pregnancy and birth hints and tips, information, recommendations, my records
- Membership numbers and other details of health insurance, house insurance etc
- Serial numbers and specifications for all my technological devices and software programs



SOFTWARE: FROM INFO SELECT TO EVERNOTE

- Christmas shopping list (it helps to have kept each preceding year to ensure I don't give someone the same present twice!)
- Journaling entries from some childhood diaries I have been transcribing, as well as more recent musings, often copied from blog entries or emails
- Recipes
- Emailed receipts of online purchases
- My health history
- Medical issues I've researched
- Things to remember to do when I upgrade my computer
- Work resources (big section! Eg useful information on book design, links to useful online resources like stock photos, HTML hints, reminders such as "things to check before going to printers")
- Information on all of my clients and their projects (Client XYZ rings up, I can't remember a thing about them, but within a few seconds have scanned the search results on their name in Info Select).



And it goes on! There are other features such as a calendar, email integration, spreadsheets, ticklers and so on, but they really are secondary to the main data storage and retrieval capabilities.

Unfortunately each iteration of Info Select has become more and more bloated, introducing mostly unwanted functionality but not improving the core features as much as I would have expected ... plus getting more expensive.

I have hung on with an older version of the program for lack of anything better, despite having the occasional look around, but recently Charles recommended Evernote to me, having trod a similar path away from Info Select, and I have found my new favourite program!

While there are still some things Info Select does better, these factors are outweighed for me by Evernote's seamless synchronisation across networks and platforms. I use it on my desktop and laptop computers, as well as my iPhone, plus I can access the data on any computer via a browser, as the master database is stored in the "cloud".

There are many plug-ins available from third party developers (the best of which are often integrated into the main program), and the company invests a massive amount of time and resources into researching how Evernote is used, taking on-board feedback, and constantly developing the program to better suit the users. They even have a semi-regular podcast.

[cont...]



SOFTWARE: FROM INFO SELECT TO EVERNOTE

[...cont]

Something I have recently started doing is using my iPhone to take pictures to go directly into Evernote, helping to reduce the frequency of my “where did I put that piece of paper” moments.

Another useful feature (which I felt Info Select never quite got right particularly when used on more than one computer), is being able to dump various files like Word and PDF documents into Evernote, as well as clippings or entire web pages. That means no need for digging through folders of various types of documents or web histories/bookmarks for

the elusive “xyz” file – it can now be all in one place and easily searched for. And the Premium version will even index the PDFs.

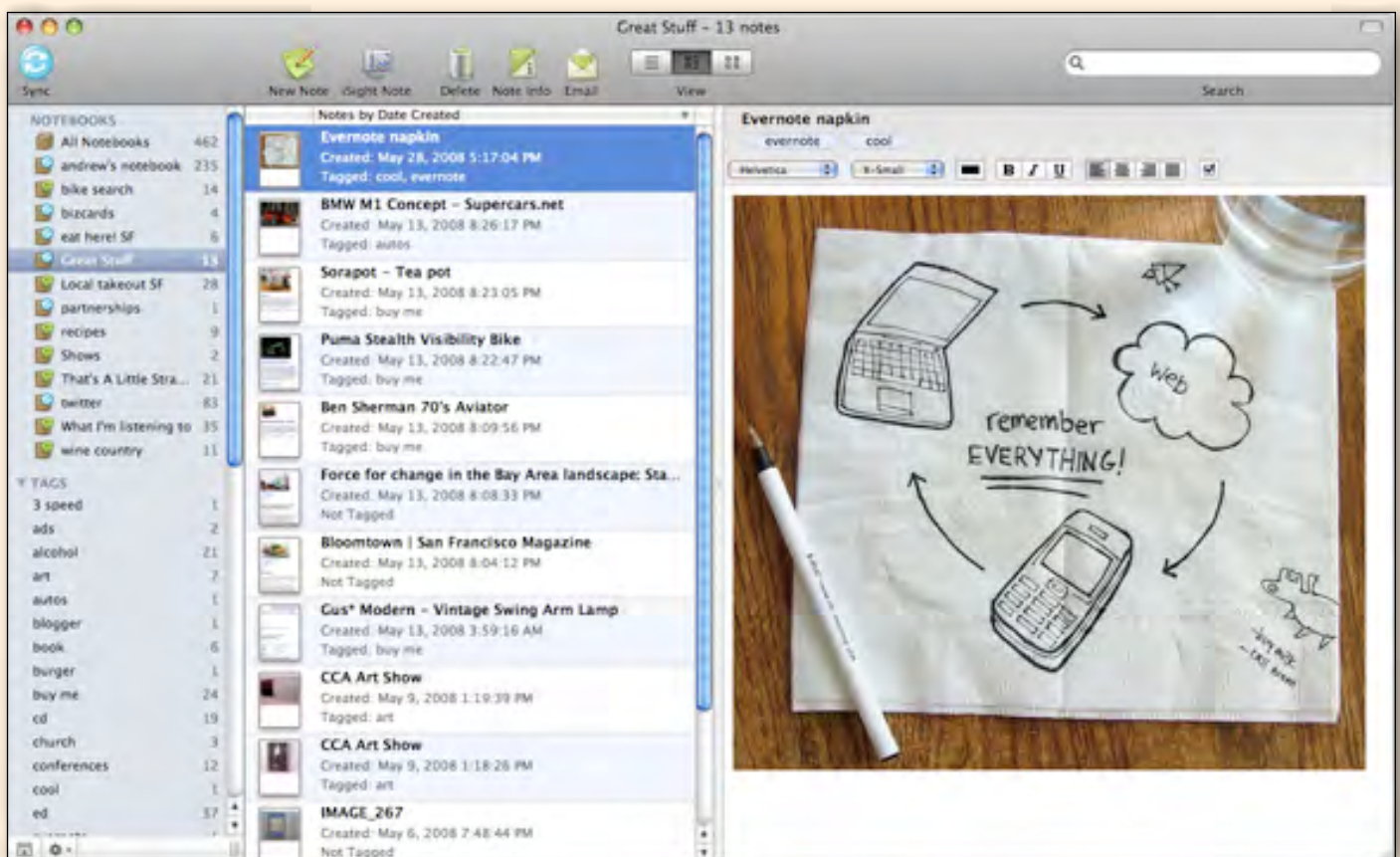
I’m starting to put my useful documents into Evernote, eg product manuals, medical information, kids activities and so on, rather than having them as separate documents within My Documents subfolders. Being able to bring them up on my iPhone is very useful around the house so that I’m not tied to the desktop or even the laptop. And if you have a dataplan on your smartphone, it is accessible from anywhere you have a mobile phone connection.

Synchronisation with the master database

OVERVIEW OF EVERNOTE DATA LIMITS

	Free	Premium
Maximum size per each note	25mb	100mb
Monthly upload	60MB	1GB (additional can be purchased)
Notes	100,000	100,000
Notebooks (number of ‘folders’)	250	250
Tags	10,000	10,000
Saved searches	100	100

Premium: US\$5 per month or US\$45 per year



SOFTWARE: FROM INFO SELECT TO EVERNOTE

in “the cloud” is not a case of uploading your entire database when an entry is changed, as only changed or new notes are uploaded. Which makes synchronisation quite fast, and a lot of updating can be performed each month without easily hitting the monthly upload allowance limit of 60MB (1GB for premium users).

Data storage is done a little differently with smartphones than with desktops/laptops. Searches are done “in the cloud” and just the notes you want are downloaded. (Although Premium users can download their full database.)

I’ve really only touched on the features I use with Evernote, there’s still a lot more to explore, and a lot more you may be interested in.

And while I love Evernote, I’m sad that my beloved Info Select just hasn’t kept up with my needs. I keep it running as I haven’t transferred all of my data over yet (not an easy task) and it is nice to go back to the familiar feel of it, but I’m sorry Info Select, you’ve lost your favoured program status, Evernote has offered me so much more! 🐼

SUPPORTED OPERATING SYSTEMS/DEVICES

Computers

Mac OS X

Windows (XP, Vista, 7)

Windows 8

Linux – no native client, but *Nevernote* is an example of an open source client

Mobile devices

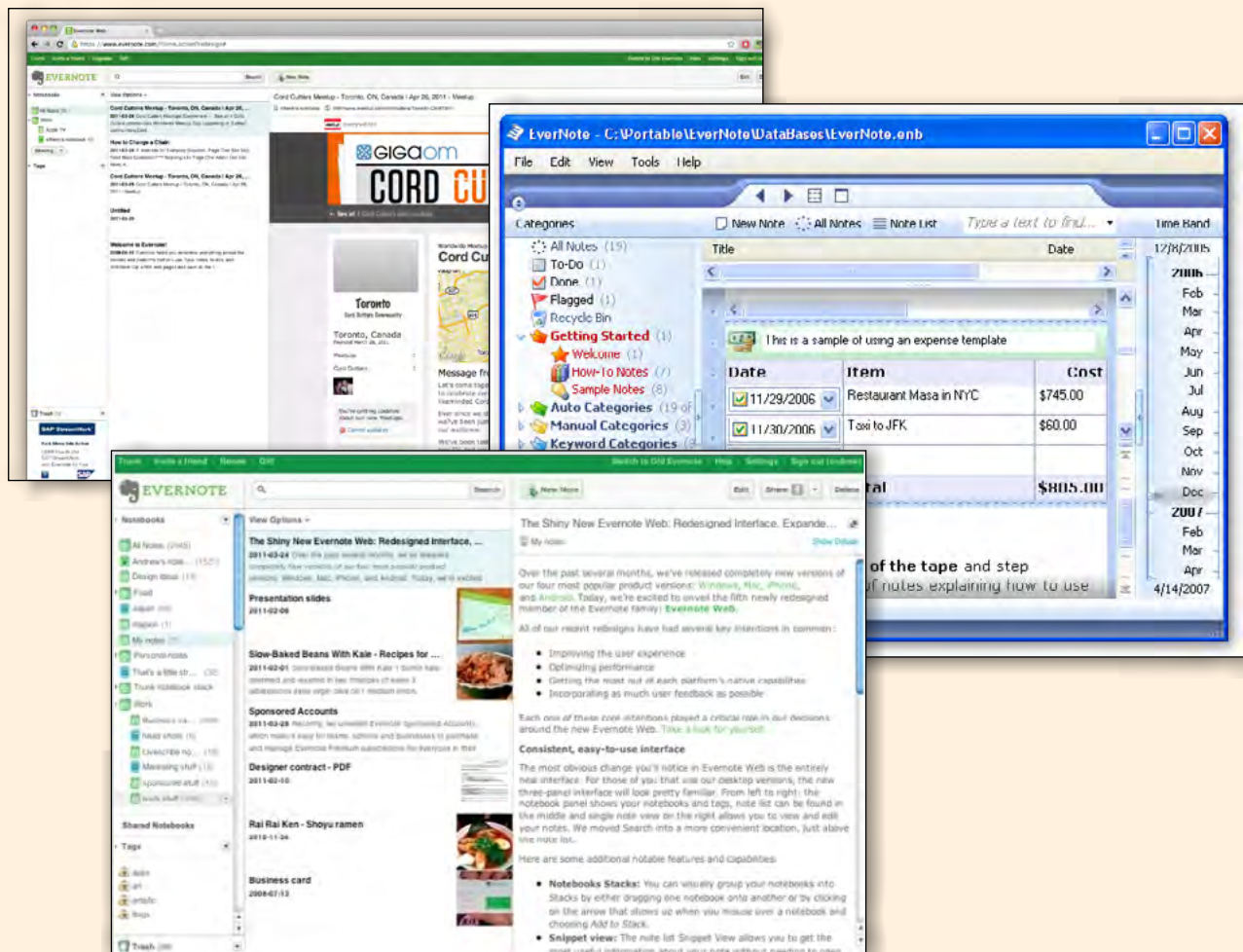
iOS (iPad, iPhone etc)

Android

Blackberry

Windows Phone

Windows



SIG EMAIL PROBLEMS

A recent change to our list-server arrangement has meant that some Special Interest Group convenors may have lost access to the email addresses of their members. If you have not been receiving emails from your SIG convenor, or you would like to be added to a particular SIG email list, please advise the SIG convenor of your details. For contact details go to:

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

We are currently working towards a centralised mailing system that will allow members to subscribe and unsubscribe themselves to the various SIGs.

BEAST Report (Beginners East)

by Jean de Neef

16 September 2012

Dave Botherway opened the meeting and took the email address of anyone who hadn't received his last email, as the mail out system (Mail-Man) had been inadvertently deleted. We are still testing the demonstration model of our preferred new projector.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

One member bought a ten-inch android tablet at www.kogan.com for \$199. It can be plugged into lots of devices. He had to buy an HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) cable for it, but all the other cables were supplied. Kogan is a Melbourne-based electronics company which sources its goods from Hong Kong and Singapore.

Dave had bought a 300 Mbps wireless USB adapter for the very good price of \$14.90. However as his router was only 150 Mbps, he needed to get a matching 300 Mbps router which he found on eBay. It had been advertised for \$37.95 or "Best Offer". They accepted his \$32 offer! It came postage free from Hong Kong and now provides 300 Mbps connection between his server PC and TV.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What's the best way to mail out lots of newsletters?

I have a list of addressees already set up in

an Excel file for when I do a mass mail out. I do things in the following order:

- a. fill in the email subject field
- b. type the email contents
- c. add the attachment
- d. copy the addresses from the excel address list and paste them into the Bcc: (blind carbon copy) field, NOT the To: field – as this could expose the addresses to spammers.

If you've got a lot of addressees, break them down into groups of 20 or 25 per email. You can add a request for a delivery receipt, and possibly also a read-receipt. Details in the To: or Cc: fields are not usually required, but by including yourself in the list of recipients, you can verify that the mail-out worked OK.

If you were dealing with very large numbers of addressees, you would need to use something like Yahoo Groups or Google Mail, which rather than sending attachments, it is better to send a URL where the attachment can be viewed. Commercial users often send out large numbers of emails individually addressed – eg. "Dear Mr XYZ" with programs such as Mail Bomber.

Why won't Win Live Mail forward messages containing pictures in the same form as I received them in; i.e. with the pictures in the body of the email?

Some email engines treat these pictures as attachments, other as in-line. You could put the message

and pictures in a .doc or .pdf attachment, which would be less affected.

My new Photoshop Tutorial DVD plays on my computer with Win XP, but won't play on my laptop with Win 7. Why not?

This sort of problem is often caused by Auto-Run differences on the two PCs.

Why do messages using Webmail with attachments behave differently?

Because different email systems handle things differently.

What is the new Flame Virus?

You can find information in Snopes and Wikipedia, suggesting it has now been minimised.

PC UPDATE

The magazine format has gone from printed copy to DVD-PDF to PDF-Download. There could be a possibility of it coming out as a printed copy again – but an expensive option.

The office currently sends out emails with instructions on how to download PC Update – you have to go to the URL in their email and then use the username and password provided. You should keep this information confidential. If you haven't been getting these emails, advise them at office@melbpc.org.au that you wish to be put on the list.

You have to choose one of three resolutions in order to download the PDF file. Dave demonstrated with choosing the high resolution option. The September edition asks you your preference for receiving the magazine – PDF or print. If you fill in the online questionnaire, you have to type in a word verification (captcha), which prevents a robot from filling in the form.

Two people reported that they filled in the survey and it came back with an error message. Dave advised that this glitch has now been fixed. One

person commented that we should all respond because it's good that the Committee is seeking members' opinions.

MYSTERY TOPIC

The topic was protecting yourself from fraudulent emails. One email purporting to be from the Australian Taxation Office advised that the addressee should click on the link provided to claim his refund. Dave demonstrated how to check on the authenticity of the sender.

In Outlook Express you can do this by closing the email, then right clicking on the email (sender, title, date) as it appears in your inbox. Then left click on Properties / Details. Look for a number with a format similar to this: 203.12.152.74. In Google, type in "who is" and copy and paste the number. You will then see the country of origin plus a map.

Dave discovered that this ATO email came from San Gabriel near Los Angeles.

A second email advising of changes to MS services looked the same as a genuine email advising the same thing. Dave checked the link in the second email, using the above method, and found the email had originated in China!

Another email offering cheap MS software turned out to be from Germany. The police can trace these senders through the Internet Service Provider, by asking who had this address at that particular time.

Dave then explained Microsoft's "Patch Tuesday" update system, and advised people that they should apply these Security updates ASAP to minimise their exposure to Zer-Day scamming exploits.

Answering a query re ".bad" attachments, Dave stated that Melb PC adds .bad to the name of HTML and EXE attachments to protect unwitting Melb PC recipients. If you know the email is from a trust-worthy site, you can rename the attachment to remove ".bad" suffix.

Everything Apple

Report by Susan Jensen

September 2012

There were two presentations on Tuesday afternoon that were completely different.

TIME MACHINE SET UP AND BACKUP/RESTORE FROM

Our first presenter, Alan Brown, showed us many scenarios on how to use Time Machine, which can run on a Mac running Snow Leopard (10.6) onwards. He showed us how to find out more about it by clicking the menu bar Help, searching for Time Machine and then simply following the instructions.

Alan suggested that you should personalise all hard disks with a different name so you can tell at a glance which one is which. Name the backup drive also for the same reason.

The backup drive may need to be formatted, which Time Machine takes care of for you.

It is simplicity itself to set up using any external hard drive. Access the minimal controls via System Preferences, tell the computer the name of the drive you want it to use and turn it on. Tick the box Show Time Machine in Menu Bar. That activates the menu's quick access to: the on/off control; order an immediate backup; or enter the backup itself.

More information can be found in FirstClass/Sig Notes.

POCKETMONEY

Patrick Bravard used a gorgeous French accent in his excellent presentation of PocketMoney. Thanks to Roger Wragg we were able to see what keys Patrick was pressing on his iPad.

Patrick has been using the software for three years and recommends it for keeping track of your spending, your income streams and saving you from shock of a credit card bill when it arrives. There is also a budgeting area for those who want it.

The presentation was very sleek. PocketMoney is available for Mac for \$10.49. Also for iPhone and iPad at around \$5 each from the Mac App store. There are add-ons available, which Patrick mentioned briefly.

The PocketMoney Product Manual is in Everything Apple/Sig Notes/.

October 2012

Ivan Radywonik showed us how to get started in Keynote on the Mac, beginning with the basics of text boxes, adding text, then showing how each box of text could be treated differently. He showed how to add sound, to one slide or the entire presentation, how to position elements such as pictures on the slide, how to change a theme of all the slides at once and how to add a movie with its own sound.

We watched different builds, both in and out, and how to set the order and timing of each element on screen.

Finally, we watched News at High Noon, his keynote intro to each 12pm news program at AUSOM Meetings.

Isabel Collins took matters further, demonstrating how to draw what you want to show, starting by inserting a shape, colouring it and reshaping it to make arms, shoes or even a delicate bee. She warned that if you use Apple's ready-built elements it will mess things up, so delete them when drawing and building your own animations.

We learnt how to animate elements, thus making them move on a slide or three. There was a delicate one with balloons rising and dancing to welcome a new baby.

We were treated to a few of Isabel's keynote presentations, some of which had been in preparatory stages for years.

Thanks to both our presenters for their efforts. The next meeting should cover Tips and Tricks on a Mac and GoodReader on an iPad.

Linux & Open Source Meeting

Report by Stephen Tidswell

October 2012

James Cox introduced the meeting and moved straight into a Q&A session.

Q&A

Questions included:

From a Windows user considering moving to Linux, how does Linux differ from Windows?

There are fundamental differences, although some versions of Linux look not unlike Windows and have superficial similarities.

Linux is free software. It is free in two ways: it is distributed for no charge and the source code may be freely used, modified and distributed under a range of licences, most of which require the same software freedom to be maintained in derivative work. Linux is supported and maintained by the user community.

Linux has roots in Unix and is often described as a Unix-like system. Its file types, file structures and its general structure are different from Windows. Programs written for one system will not run on the other without modification. Some interoperability is possible with special tools. Linux is able to access Windows systems and can run some Windows software using emulation or interpretation layers.

Linux, Windows, Apple and other operating systems share some features; they all access the web using browser software, they all send and receive email and they are able to interact with each other to varying degrees. Some programs, such as the Firefox web browser, are available in different versions for different systems.

Linux is distributed in packages (distros) by a number of organisations. A reasonable starting point would be Linux Mint V13, Maya, using the Mate or Cinnamon desktop. This distro is similar to Windows in impression, is generally approachable and comes with normal codecs installed (some

Linux distros exclude codecs that are commercially licensed). see <http://www.linuxmint.com>.



Are scripts transferable between different versions of Linux?

It depends. Many things can be different; programs, file layouts, desktops. The only way to be sure is examine the script in detail.

How much data is downloaded with SBS television. Does it vary with the system used?

Principal variation will be with quality – low quality could be 300MB/hour high quality could be 500 – 700MB per hour. The system used should not cause significant differences.

How can BigPond data usage be measured?

Usage reports should be available on the BigPond / Telstra website. Try <https://www.my.telstra.com.au/myaccount/home>. There are also third-party tools such as <http://netusage.iau5.com/>. This is aimed at Firefox but there is also an experimental version for Chrome.

Can LibreOffice save files in HTML format?

Yes, in the normal "file/save as" command.

Can a household monitoring program currently running under Windows95/98 be used under Linux?

Not directly, but it may work using Wine, see <http://www.winehq.org/>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

Does Linux have an equivalent to Outlook Express?

Thunderbird is similar to OE (and Evolution is similar to Outlook).

Is there an equivalent in Linux for MS FrontPage?

Not exactly. Bluefish is close but it's not WYSIWYG.

The meeting then moved into a discussion of programming and scripting, ranging over C, Python, Ruby & PHP.

Next meeting: 7pm, Monday 12 November 2012

Adobe Video SIG Workshop

Report by Kathy Rouse

October 2012

18 attended our October meeting, which began at the new time of 1:30pm.

NOTIFICATIONS

Photoshop Elements 11 and Premiere Elements

11 have just been released and you can find out more by going to the Adobe Site.

VIDEO EDITING USING 3 MONITORS

Blair Dixon gave an excellent demonstration showing us how he sets up and uses 3 monitors (1 of them a TV) to optimise his video production workflow.

His current computer specifications are:

MOTHERBOARD: ASUS P8Z68-V-PRO-GEN3

MEMORY: 16GB RAM 1333MHz

CPU: Intel i7 2600K 3.4GHz

GRAPHICS: ASUS NVIDIA 210 CONIA TV 19"

Monitor 3

His disk setup is shown as follows:



MEMBERS' VIDEOS

Chris Hughes showed us a video that he had taken in Hawaii with a little Canon Digital point and shoot camera. This showed what amazing results you can get from these little cameras these days. It had good quality resolution and colours and was quite steady for a hand-held video, without any editing stabilizing applied.

John Healy showed us a recent video of Melbourne taken with a Panasonic HS900 and edited in Premiere Pro. As usual with John's videos, it was well shot and edited, and was very steady despite the camera being hand-held.

OUTPUTTING OUR VIDEOS

Roger Wragg gave us a talk on the options available for outputting our videos and explained how it is a lengthy process outputting to some highly compressed formats such as WMV.

He also showed us just how good the WMV (Windows Media Video) format is for viewing, despite its small size; excellent for sharing over the internet.

ADOBE TV

I showed a video from Adobe TV called [Get Editing Quickly](#) showing how to quickly get started editing in Premiere Pro CS6.

The new Internet connection at the club has made viewing streaming video so much better and is a huge improvement over our old connections. This will be a real boon to groups like ours, where we often want to look at videos on-line during our workshops.

When viewing clips on Adobe TV, there is an option to turn closed captions on or off. Just click on the CC under the monitor.

Here is a link for more excellent tutorials on how to use [Adobe Premiere Pro](#) on the site.

Here is a link to get up to speed with [Adobe Premiere Elements](#).

This site is full of valuable videos on how to use the Adobe products and it is well worth registering, which will allow you to save videos you like to your

library, and enable useful viewing suggestions as you browse the site.

NEXT MEETING – 1ST NOVEMBER 2012

At our meeting in November we will have a look how to work with some of the colour correction tools in Premiere Elements and Premiere Pro.

We will also have a look at what's new in Adobe Premiere Elements 11.

Making Money On The Internet

Report by Paul Hemsworth

October 2012

Recently some people who are totally new to our subject have joined our SIG, and so it was back to basics this month. Fortuitously, at the start a member asked if it were worthwhile updating from XP SP3 to Windows 7 or 8. The answer was a qualified "no". However, this was a good lead-in to a discussion of the website <http://skarbek.com.au> where the complete answer is already given.

Although the URL is <http://skarbek.com.au>, the heading on the home page is "Computer Guide". "Computer Guide" also appears twice quite prominently and three more times buried in the text of the home page. This is one reason the site came up first in Google searches for many years with only minimal updating three to four times per year.

Converting "Computer Guide" to a downloadable e-book instead of a hard copy eliminated most costs. One would expect that price would play as big a part in online sales as it does anywhere else. However, raising the price from \$9 to \$17 had no noticeable effect on sales.

Google Analytics showed that when optimising for browsers Firefox (29%), Chrome (25%) and Internet Explorer (25%) are the only ones that need to be considered. A member reported that IE 5.6 and 6.0 do not comply with the HTML standard therefore they require individual coding. His next website upgrade will ignore IE 5.6 and 6.0.

In response to a question, Wordpress and Kompozer were recommended for one's first attempt at building a website. Kompozer is a little harder to learn but is also a little better than Wordpress. Buying a template was also suggested because templates simplify the process, are relatively cheap and are available in an enormous range.

A member reported that he has started using CuteRank <http://cuterank.net> free software to rank his keywords in various search engines. The results are displayed in graphs. He found it so useful that he is intending to use it weekly. He expects that its real value will become apparent only when it has been in use long enough to show trends in rankings.

Interestingly, the rankings on <http://google.com> and <http://google.com.au> are different. This member lost two thirds of the traffic to his website with the introduction of Panda. He is keen to track which changes increase rankings and thus traffic. He is using Market Samurai <http://www.marketsamurai.com> as well, to compare his rankings with those of his competitors.

The value of quick loading to the ranking of a website was re-iterated. Resizing photographs is one big way to speed up loading. If screen dumps are to be used PNG (Portable Network Graphics) is better than JPEG.

IETester is a free download which shows compati-

bility of a website with various versions of Internet Explorer in IE10.

The question of ways of securing e-book content was raised. The various versions of Digital Rights Management which lock content to a particular computer are worked around so quickly by hackers that they really only hinder legitimate uses. Pirates are not affected. Third parties offer security for a monthly fee. Experience suggests that the problems raised by attempts to secure content mean that in most cases it really isn't worth the trouble. One thing an author can do is to check on e-bay regularly to be sure his content isn't being sold there.

Library News Flash

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO YOUR LIBRARY:

- **Windows 8 Bible** by Jim Boyce and Rob Tidrow
- **Windows 8 Step by Step (Microsoft)** by Ciprian Adrian Rusen and Joli Ballew
- **Windows 8 Secrets** by Paul Thurrott
- **Windows 8 for Dummies** by Andy Rathbone
- **Teach Yourself Visually Windows 8** by Paul McFedries

SOON TO COME:

- **Windows 8 Inside Out** by Tony Northrup

FOR CHILDREN:

Some other new additions to our library are two children's music learning aids which may help some of our members with young children to come to the club rooms. The first is a "Gigantic" Keyboard Playmat and the second is a "Music Style" Playmat both only for use in the club rooms. I haven't had an opportunity to investigate either of these any further but would welcome a review by any of our musicians (or budding musicians).

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

Check the Calendar on page 10.

IS THERE A SIG NEAR YOU?

Any suburb

Anywhere, Anytime

Avondale Heights

Essendon

Ballarat

Ballarat

Balwyn

Video Inner East

Brighton

Bayside

Camberwell

New Users East

Footscray

West

Gisborne

Macedon Ranges

Hampton Park

Casey

Hoppers Crossing

Wyndham

Ivanhoe

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

Montrose

Yarra Ranges SIG & Workshop

Mornington

Peninsula

Mount Waverley

East Workshop,

Multimedia Home Entertainment

Sunbury

Sunbury

Watsonia

Northern Suburbs Linux

Vermont South

Beginners East, East, Genealogy

Moorabbin

Access, Adobe Video, Communications, E-Book, Everything Apple, Graphics/Animation, Linux & Open Source, MACE, Making Money on the Internet, Microcontroller, Microcontroller Workshop, Music, Programming, Retired and Interested Persons, WAFFLE, WASINT, Website Design, Windows Advanced

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP DETAILS

SIGS ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP

Groups of members with specific interests meet regularly to discuss and indulge their interests in a wide range of topics.

This is where Melb PC membership really pays off and you gain all the benefits. Enhance your computer knowledge and widen your circle of friends to include others who have similar interests and very often, similar problems to solve.

Attending a SIG and meeting other members not only helps to enhance your knowledge and understanding of the specific topic. Often you will see presentations by visiting experts and the value of that is clear to all.

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.

ACCESS (DATABASE)

access@melbpc.org.au

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

2nd Monday 6.30pm-8.30pm (except January)

Moorabbin Interest Group Room.

Craig Evans Craig_Evans@racv.com.au

The Access SIG provides an environment in which people can help each other to improve their skills with Microsoft Access. At each meeting there are presentations by members that are designed to cover the scope of Access during a year. Q&A segments are held at each meeting. Members may also address questions to the SIG mailing list and receive opinions for possible solutions.

ADOBE VIDEO

adobevideo@melbpc.org.au

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

1st Thursday, 2.00pm-4.00pm (except January)

Moorabbin Interest Group Room.

Kathy Rouse 9580 6386

The Adobe Video SIG is aimed at videographers, from beginners to the more experienced, wishing to edit and enhance their home videos using Adobe software. The group has lively interactive presentations from various members using the video editing programs Premiere Pro and Premiere Elements. The workshop also includes tips and techniques, shared by the members, on the use of other Adobe software such as Photoshop, Illustrator and After Effects.

ANYWHERE, ANYTIME (NEWSGROUPS)

anywhere@melbpc.org.au

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

Time 24/7 location as you choose. Kevin Martin

(evening only) 9723 5997 or 0407 343 162

The Anywhere, Anytime SIG provides a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week and always-easily-accessed place for all members of the Melb PC User Group to read and write comments, to ask questions on computing or non-computing topics, to receive replies from other Club members and to read their exchanges between each other.

BALLARAT

ballarat@melbpc.org.au

1st Thursday 7.30pm-9.45pm Midlands Golf Club

Heinz Lane Ballarat. Alan Pittard 5339 4235

Ballarat is a general purpose SIG. Usually we have no specific topic; it suits everyone at present to let the meeting run in a direction that is topical

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP DETAILS

on the night. From time to time we have a guest speaker/presenter on something of particular interest to us at the time but free form seems the norm at present.

BAYSIDE

bayside@melbpc.org.au

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

3rd Thursday 10.00am-12 noon St Stephens Church Hall Cnr Cochrane Street & North Road Brighton. Beginners' subgroup meets 12 noon-1.00pm after the main meeting. John Morris 9583 4095 Graham Ackland 9589 6229

BEGINNERS EAST

beast@melbpc.org.au

3rd Sunday 10am-12.30pm (January to November) and 2nd Sunday 10am-12.30pm (December) Vermont South Community Centre Karobran Drive Vermont South Melway 62 G7. Dave Botherway

The East Beginners Group demonstrates how to set up and maintain a computer, how to run software, scan documents, process images, sort out error messages, etc. All procedures are repeated (slowly) until members feel confident with the new knowledge.

CASEY

casey@melbpc.org.au

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

2nd Friday of month 1.00pm-3.00pm (except January public holidays)

Hampton Park Community House: 16-20 Stuart Ave. Hampton Park Melway 96 E8. Jan Weiner 9560 6924 Phillip Roche 9796 2384

Casey offers a friendly, social atmosphere where our members learn from, support, encourage and help each other on computer and communications topics. The Hampton Park meeting is based on presentations and Q&A.

COMMUNICATIONS

comms@melbpc.org.au

2nd Wednesday 7.00pm-9.30pm (except January) Moorabbin Interest Group Room. Philip Lew 9822 2998 BH

The Communications SIG focuses on all aspects of computer connectivity. Topics include modem communications (BBS and Internet dialup); Client/Server software, HTML and other Internet related topics. We also cover topics on Computer Networking (LANs and WANs) and other relevant general telecommunications issues of interest to the well-connected PC user.

E-BOOK

ebook@melbpc.org.au

2nd Thursday (except January) 7.00pm Melbourne PC User Group Meeting Rooms. Dennis Fieldhouse 9557 6847 Keith Younger 0414 945 791

The E-Book SIG is a forum for the sharing of information, experiences and ideas relating to the broad field of E-books and E-Readers. At present the range of E-Book Readers is rapidly expanding and costs are falling, yielding great scope for reviews and performance comparisons. Purchase of E-Books and the software for this purpose is worthy of study as are the various programs for manipulating and editing of text.

EAST

east@melbpc.org.au

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

2nd Wednesday 7.30pm-10.00pm (except January) Vermont South Community House Karobran Drive Vermont South Melway 62 G7. Paul Woolard 9877 1059 Ian Dewhurst 0438 480 500

At East we provide an entertaining and informative session covering a range of computer topics for all levels, some from invited speakers and some from our own members. George Skarbek hosts the popular Q&A segment.

EAST WORKSHOP

eastwsh@melbpc.org.au

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

2nd Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm Wadham House 52
Wadham Parade Mt Waverley rear of Library Melway
61 E12. Ken Gubbins 9898 5478 Jeff Webster 9897
1037

The East Workshop is hands-on, practical, interactive and runs on "Show me how, and I'll do it with your assistance". We handle "how to upgrade", "software doesn't run", "slow computer", "no sound", "no video" problems, and more. Bring your computer.

ESSENDON

essendon@melbpc.org.au

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

1st 2nd and 3rd Fridays 9:30am-12 noon (except
January) Nancye Kirchner Neighbourhood Centre
Doyle Street Avondale Heights Melway 27 D6. John
Guegan 9317 7114

Provides assistance with computer skills including
word processing, spreadsheets, digital photography,
music applications, computer maintenance and
product reviews. 1st Friday-Main meeting. 2nd
Friday-New Users. 3rd Friday-Advanced Users.

EVERYTHING APPLE

applesig@melbpc.org.au

or everythingapple@ausom.net.au

2nd Tuesday 2:00 pm-4:00 pm (except January)
Moorabbin Interest Group Room.
Susan Jensen 9885 7060 Damian Vuleta 9509 9992
President: Ivan Radywonik

Email: president@ausom.net.au

A new SIG and the first joint venture between
Melb PC and AUSOM. The emphasis is on Apple
iDevices (iPod, iPhone, iPad, AppleTV, Time
Capsule, Airport Extreme etc.) and helping people
understand the Mac environment.

GENEALOGY

geneast@melbpc.org.au

3rd Sunday 1.00pm-4.00pm (January to November)
2nd Sunday 1.00pm-4.00 (December) Vermont South
Community Centre Karobran Drive Vermont South
Melway 62 G7. Robert Swindley

The Genealogy SIG is for those beginning genealogy and for those who are advanced but need more computer knowledge to move ahead. Members' trials, tribulations and expertise are openly discussed and freely shared in this self-help group.

GRAPHICS/ANIMATION

graphics@melbpc.org.au

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

3rd Monday 7.30pm-9.30pm Moorabbin Interest
Group Room.

Convener: Yahya Abdal-Aziz, Co-convener: Roger Wragg

The Graphics SIG explores everything to do with
computer graphics, software and hardware. Topics
discussed include paint programs, drawing, animation,
graphic programming, fractals, printing, scanning,
fonts, design, illustration and better photography.
Bring along your questions and problems. Visitors
are always welcome.

IHELP

ihelp@melbpc.org.au

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

Approximately 6 monthly, 7.00pm till 9.00pm,
Moorabbin Meeting Room

Convener: Rotational. The current leader can be
determined from the office.

The function of iHelp is a group of "Users helping
Users" whose main role is to sort out Internet or
General PC problems so that members can get a
full featured online experience. Services include
Telephone First Aid, Email Help and Internet Help.
Volunteers with patience and Computer experience
are always welcome.

LINUX & OPEN SOURCE

linux@melbpc.org.au

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

*2nd Monday 7.00pm-9.30pm (except January)
Moorabbin Meeting Room. James Cox (9885 5503)*

The SIG is a Linux-based group exploring Linux at various levels from beginner to advanced, including server-based solutions. It also looks at open source applications for platforms that include Linux, BSD, Mac and Windows. We aim to have a mix of Q&A, demonstrations and workshops. Presentations will mostly be oriented towards demonstrating an application from the open source world and will include topics of interest to both beginners and those with some experience. We intend to hold Workshops to help users at all levels. On meeting days there is a help workshop before the main meeting, 3.00pm-5.00pm, with one on one, hands on, informal training. Ringing to book is preferred but not essential.

MACE (MELBOURNE ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS)

mace@melbpc.org.au

3rd Sunday 10.00am-2.00pm Moorabbin Meeting Room. Andrew Boschan 5426 1917 AH Roger Davies 9879 1109 Enquiries 0500 818 448

The Atari SIG is dedicated to the joy of Atari. The SIG is fast, furious and action-packed. We welcome all owners and former owners (we know you are out there) to visit us and join in the fun; it's a soul thing!

MACEDON RANGES

mrGPC@melbpc.org.au

3rd Sunday 2.00pm-4.00pm Further Education Centre 18 Hamilton St Gisborne. John Hunter 0406 868 226

The Macedon Ranges members range from beginners to technicians and have a common

interest in computers, with the sole aim of sharing knowledge and experiences, and helping each other. The SIG is a general-purpose group that is free-flowing and may or may not have a specific subject to discuss at the meeting. There are times a special guest is invited to speak on a particular subject that has been requested by a group member. At other times there may be special instruction and demonstrations on particular software or hardware. Members can also bring along any hardware they are having problems with for the group to try and resolve.

MAKING MONEY ON THE INTERNET

amsig@melbpc.org.au

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

2nd Saturday 10.00 am-12 noon (except December and January) Moorabbin Meeting Room. George Skarbek 9561 6362 Paul Hemsworth 9337 4947

Affiliate Marketing (AM) is a way to make money from one's websites by placing links to merchants and taking a commission when someone buys through such links. This SIG covers the basics of building websites (but limited to AM purposes), time-saving tools, and available programs. Members are encouraged to share their experiences and the occasional hot tip at the SIG.

MICROCONTROLLER

micro@melbpc.org.au

2nd Wednesday 7.00pm-9.30pm (except January) Moorabbin Interest Group Room. Philip Lew 0428 567 019 John Hollow 0417 031 164

Microcontrollers are small cheap computer-chips with measurement or sense inputs (e.g. temperature, door-open) and control outputs (e.g. displays, motor control), i.e. all combinations of analog & digital, inputs & outputs. They need very few other components to function, and are in many products (e.g. cameras, cars, toys). Our group is for people to develop microcontroller projects (including the software-programming)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP DETAILS

– gadgets for fun and more serious purposes. We make machines, using microcontrollers and other electronics, to do things. We cater for all levels of knowledge, novice to experienced – users helping users.

MICROCONTROLLER WORKSHOP

microws@melbpc.org.au

*2nd Saturday 11:00 am-4:00pm (except January)
4th Saturday 11:00 am-4:00pm (except December)
Moorabbin Interest Group Room. Robert Brown,
Geoff Lethbridge, John Shirt*

The Saturday Workshop is a “Creative Space”: a space to express your creativity. This workshop is under construction. Its development depends on those who are involved and their interests. The workshops are centred around, but not limited to, microcontrollers. If you are looking for a space that facilitates sharing of ideas and support, a place where you can express your creativity, then this SIG could be what you are looking for. The Workshop is an informal SIG, a place to work on your project, start a new project, or join a group project.

MULTIMEDIA HOME ENTERTAINMENT

multimed@melbpc.org.au

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

*1st Friday 10.00am-12 noon (except January)
Wadham House 52 Wadham Parade Mt Waverley
Melway 61 E12. John Hall 9803 2731 Kelvin Cording
9438 1047*

The aim of the interest group is to assist members in the installation and operation of PC-based hardware and software to run and maintain Multimedia Home Entertainment systems. This would include such things as Personal Video Recorders (PVRs), Media Servers (including Windows Home Server), Internet streaming of video and audio, Sony PS3 and Windows X-Box home entertainment systems, and home networking and storage systems for playback of video and

audio. Attendees are welcome from beginners to expert level. Members are encouraged to bring their own equipment to gain hands-on experience in setup and/or maintenance.

MUSIC

music@melbpc.org.au

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

*3rd Thursday 7.30pm-9.30pm Moorabbin Interest
Group Room. Convener: Yahya Abdal-Aziz,
Co-Convener: David Godfred*

The Music SIG is for members who like to make or listen to music. Bring along your creations, questions and problems. Visitors are always welcome.

NEW USERS EAST

newuser@melbpc.org.au

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

*2nd Tuesday 7.30pm-10pm (except January)
St Mark's Anglican Church Hall Cnr Bourke &
Canterbury Roads Camberwell Melway 45 J10. Peter
Newby 0431 838 295*

New Users East caters for the needs of prospective and new computer users, new members having machine operating or system problems, and those new members wishing to increase their understanding of their equipment.

NEWSGROUPS

See Anywhere, Anytime SIG

NORTH EAST

neast@melbpc.org.au

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

*4th Tuesday 7.30pm-9.30pm (except December)
Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon Street Ivanhoe
Melway 31 F8. John Grant 9467 2709 AH; Choi Lai*

NORTH EAST ANDROID

lampshir@melbpc.org.au

3rd Wednesday 10.00am to 12:00pm (except January)
Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon Street Ivanhoe, parking at the rear, Melway 31 F8. Colin Lampshire 9857 5372 or 0413 640 408 Kelvin Cording 9438 1047

The Android Interest Group provides the opportunity for members to learn how the new rapidly emerging Android Operating System can be used to operate, control, and maintain applications (apps) on compatible mobile devices such as computer tablets and smartphones. All aspects of both hardware and software are considered with a learning experience based on friendly discussions, presentations, and demonstrations to suit both novice and experienced computer users.

NORTH EAST DAYTIME & PHOTOGRAPHY/DIGITAL IMAGING

neday@melbpc.org.au

2nd Thursday 10.00am-12:15pm (except January)
Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon Street Ivanhoe, parking at the rear, Melway 31 F8. Colin Lampshire 9857 5372

We aim to interest and assist all levels of computer users, from beginners to the more experienced. Our General Interest Group meetings feature reviews of useful software and computer add-ons, with plenty of time to assist with members computer problems. Every alternate month we specialise in issues relating to Photography/Digital Imaging.

NORTH EAST GENEALOGY

negen@melbpc.org.au

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

1st Tuesday 10.00am-12.45pm (except January)
Uniting Church Hall 19 Seddon St Ivanhoe. Allan Medforth 9410 9034; Vilma Stargatt.

Now recognized as an important support for members helping members with genealogy and computer skills. A good social atmosphere supported by excellent facilities

NORTHERN SUBURBS LINUX

nslig@melbpc.org.au

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

3rd Monday 7.30pm to 9.30pm (except December)
Community Meeting Room Watsonia Library
Ibbotson St Watsonia Melway 20 E4. David Hatton, Stephen Davidson

The Northern Suburbs Linux SIG provides a focus for members living in the northern suburbs who are interested in learning more about using Linux in day-to-day computing tasks. Meeting topics are influenced by the regular attendees; beginners and visitors are most welcome. For SIG news and last minute updates please see our Web pages.

PENINSULA

pennsula@melbpc.org.au

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

Lindsay Wiles 9775 3069 Terry Said 5975 0327
Main meetings 1st Monday-7.00pm (except January)
3rd Monday-9.30am (except December) Mornington
Information Centre 320 Main St Mornington.

New Users Subgroup 2nd and 4th Mondays-4.00pm
(except school holidays) Mornington Secondary
College Nepean Highway Mornington

Graphics Subgroup 3rd Monday 12.30pm
Mornington Information Centre 320 Main St
Mornington

Genealogy Subgroup 3rd Monday 2.30pm
Mornington Information Centre 320 Main St
Mornington

PROGRAMMING

program@melbpc.org.au

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

4th Tuesday 6.30 pm-9.00 pm Moorabbin Meeting
Room. Mohan Gupta 0421 214 081 Roger Plant
0403 789 593

Tell us about programs you are writing, wrote in the past, or give ideas for interesting programs to write.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP DETAILS

We'll walkthrough the process of writing programs, from user interface design to code cutting and testing. Different programming languages, techniques and tools will be showcased as well as scripts, plugins, extensions, markups, compilers, databases, hopefully something for beginners and pros alike.

RETIRED & INTERESTED PERSONS

ripper@melbpc.org.au

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

4th (not last) Friday 10.00am-12 noon Moorabbin Interest Group Room. Ken Thomas 9884 5309

This general interest group has subgroups Graphics and Digital Imaging and New Users meeting at 9.00 am before the main meeting. The Windows subgroup meets for a further hour from 12 noon after the main meeting. The Hardware subgroup meets at 10.00am on the 2nd Friday of each month.

SUNBURY

sunbury@melbpc.org.au

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

Every Thursday 9.30am-12 noon Sunbury Senior Citizens Centre (back room) 8 O'Shannassy Street Sunbury Melway 382 E4. Kevin Day 9744 2514 Kevin Hale 9740 5786

1st Thursday – New users, but everyone welcome

2nd Thursday – Maintenance, problems discussed, sometimes solved

3rd Thursday – Main meeting, demos, presentations etc.

4th Thursday – Linux, a new experience

5th Thursday – (when there is one) Maintenance

VIDEO INNER EAST

4th Monday (except December) 7.00pm-9.30pm Balwyn Library Meeting Room 336 Whitehorse Road Balwyn. Richard Balsillie 9809 4116

The group covers all aspects of production and related photo and image editing techniques.

WAFFLE

(WINE & FINE FOOD LOVERS EVENT)

trado@melbpc.org.au

1st Wednesday from 9.40pm following the Monthly Meeting at Moorabbin (except January)

At La Porchetta 1017 Centre Rd just west of Warrigal Rd next to Red Rooster & the Car Wash Melway 78 D2. Patrons are welcome even if only for coffee. Tom Rado 9807 4072

How-to-get-there sketch maps are available at the Monthly Meeting.

WASINT

(WEB & SOFTWARE INVESTMENT TOOLS)

wasint@melbpc.org.au

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

2nd Tuesday, 10:30am-12.30pm (except January) Moorabbin Meeting Room. Richard Solly

Become more confident in the use of Web and software tools as part of your financial life. Join others, both at the monthly meeting and through the online Web board to share favourite sites and information sources in the exploding field of online financial information.

WEBSITE DESIGN

webdesign@melbpc.org.au

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

4rd Sunday 2:00pm-4.00pm (except December and January) Moorabbin Interest Group Room. Fleur Stephens 0407 330 963

The aim of the Web Site Design SIG is to help members build and manage their own web sites. So if you are creating, managing or designing a web site and need some help, drop in. Visitors welcome.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP DETAILS

WEST

west@melbpc.org.au

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

4th Wednesday 7.00pm-9.00pm (except December)

Footscray YMC Essex Street Footscray Melway 41 J3.

Tony Bajoras 9306 8595 AH Ernie McCarthy 9365 5159

WINDOWS ADVANCED

winpro@melbpc.org.au

3rd Tuesday 7.00pm (except December) Moorabbin

Interest Group Room. John Bade 9326 8340 BH

Our Group aims to provide a forum for system/network administrators and advanced users. The primary focus is Windows and related products. Typical topics include security, servers and networking.

WYNDHAM

wynd@melbpc.org.au

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

Room 3 Central Park Community Centre Lonsdale Circuit off Franklin Blvd. Hoppers Crossing Melway 206 J1. Chris Hughes 9731 0891; John Healey

General: 2nd Monday 7.30-9.30pm (except January)

Multi-Media: 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm-9.30pm (except December & January)

General: This general interest group exists to provide local information and support to the South-West Region of outer Melbourne. There will

be Q&A Sessions and coverage of PC Hardware and Software issues. There will be a supper break with time for informal discussion.

Multi-Media: With the convergence of both video and still photography and the attendant add-ons, this Interest Group will cater for the media aspects of PC technology. This will include video & photo manipulation and production, animation, presentation, sound & music, illustration, 3D, and various associated add-ons and plug-ins. We will also have visiting presenters and demonstrations to show us the possibilities of what can be achieved.

YARRA RANGES & WORKSHOP

yrig@melbpc.org.au

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

4th Tuesday (except December) Meeting Starts

9.15am followed by the hands-on Workshop Japara

Community House 13r Leith Road Montrose Melway 52

D7. Bryan Paten 0429 430 640 Shane Mason 9733 5390

The Interest Group meets to provide general information and support to members in the Outer East Region of Melbourne. There will be Q&A sessions and coverage of PC Hardware and Software issues, with time for informal discussion. From time to time we will have visiting presenters and demonstrations. The Workshop will cater for the members who experience problems with their computers or programs. Extended answers can be given to questions that need clarification. Alternatively, come along to help other members or just to enjoy the companionship.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Registration for SIG emailing lists

As a part of updating our membership database, we are putting together a centralised subscription listing of members' interests in the Special Interest Groups. This will allow the SIG leaders to easily contact interested members directly, whether it be for meeting details, useful information or anything else SIG-related.

You can register with as many SIGs as you wish. Some won't be utilising this information just yet, but may do so in the future!

SIG subscriptions can be updated at any time, and all correspondence will have the required opt-out information.

Note that if you're already on a SIG mailing list, we'd still like you to register via this online web form to ensure our records are current.

Please go to: <http://ccedesign.com.au/melbpc/melbpc-landing-page.html>

ADOBE VIDEO SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 2012

1.30pm in the Main Room

2nd Floor, Melbourne PC Headquarters

479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin (opposite Bunnings)

<http://member.melbpc.org.au/~adobevideo/index.html>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – LIFT BEING SERVICED

At our meeting in November we will have a look how to work with some of the colour correction tools in Premiere Elements and Premiere Pro. We will also have a look at what's new in Adobe Premiere Elements 11.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



Melb PC User Group Inc.
479 Warrigal Road
MOORABBIN, Vic, 3189
Phone (03) 9276 4000

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Title	First Name	Initial	Last Name	
Address			B/H Phone	A/H Phone
Suburb	State	Post Code	Mobile Number	Job Title

Annual Membership Fees

Individuals	\$65 each	\$
Students* / Pensioners^	\$50 each	\$
Additional Family Members (excludes relatives or friends)	\$12 each	\$
Total	\$	

Email Address

How did you hear about Melb PC User Group?

PC Update ☐ Swap Meet ☐ Friend ☐ Radio ☐

Other

Introduced By No.

Additional Family Members

Name Signature

Name Signature

*Students must attach a photocopy of their student card or letter from their educational institution confirming full time student status. ^Pensioners must attach a photocopy showing both sides of their Centrelink Pension Concession Card. Change of family member(s) must be notified in writing to the club secretary. I hereby apply for membership of Melbourne PC User Group Inc. (A0003293V) and agree to abide by its rules while I remain a member.

Signature

Date

Payment Details / Credit Card Authority

Payment Details

Total Payment \$

☐ Cheque attached, payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc. (A0003293V)

Debit Card ☐ Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Expiry

Name On Card

Signature

Date

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Ian Rankin

November 2012 Monthly Disc

*All programs on the Monthly Disc are free except where shown otherwise.
The Monthly Video is of the October 2012 Monthly Meeting.*

Anti Virus

Avira Free Antivirus 2012–Ver: 12.0.0.1199

Avira AntiVir Personal Antivirus was developed to be a reliable free antivirus solution, that constantly and rapidly scans your computer for malicious programs such as viruses, Trojans, backdoor programs, hoaxes, worms, diallers etc. Monitors every action executed by the user or the operating system and reacts promptly when a malicious program is detected.

Audio

Jajuk – Ver: 1.10.1

Jajuk is software that organises and plays music. It is a full-featured application geared towards advanced users with large or scattered music collections. Using multiple perspectives, the software is designed to be intuitive and provide different visions of your collection.

M-Player – Ver: 0.65

M-Player is a general-purpose music player that allows you to listen to your favourite

music with simplicity. M-Player includes an integrated library which stores your favourite tracks into an organised and simplified structure.

streamWriter – Ver: 4.2.0.0

streamWriter is a free application for windows that records music broadcasted by internet-radiostations.

TagScanner – Ver: 5.1.621

TagScanner is a multifunction program for organizing and managing your music collection. It can edit tags of mostly state-of-the-art audio formats, rename files based on the tag information, generate tag information from filenames, and perform any transformations of the text from tags and filenames.

Backup

SSuite Office – Backup Master – Ver: 2.6

It's a multi-threaded program that can be used to backup your files and folders. The process of backing up data with SSuite Office – Backup Master is pretty fast, but it depends on the amount of files that have to be processed.

Burner

Ashampoo Burning Studio Free – Ver: 6.81.4312

The new Ashampoo Burning Studio Free keeps all the advantages of its predecessor and adds multi-disc file backup, an integrated audio CD ripper and further improved support for the exciting new Blu-ray format with capacities of up to 25 gigabytes per layer.

Desktop

Cool Timer – Ver: 4.2

Harmony Hollow's Cool Timer is a free 99-hour timer with countdown and stopwatch functions plus the ability to play any MP3, WAV, or MIDI sound file as an alarm as well as display a scrolling message to remind you why you set the timer in the first place.

Efficient Sticky Notes – Ver: 3.0.323

Throw away the traditional paper sticky notes and start using the powerful and unique Efficient Sticky Notes! "Stick" your notes on the desktop and you can read important information at any time on the screen.

It saves your money and saves your time!

IsMyLcdOK – Ver: 2.00

IsMyLcdOK is a small program but effective solution to easily check for dead/paralysed/stuck pixels on LCD monitors.

Digital Imaging

ACDSee Free – Ver: 1.1.21

ACDSee is the essential application for acquiring, organising, viewing, enhancing and sharing your digital photos and other media files. ACDSee's Browser lets you copy photos from your camera to your computer, categorize and rate your files, and manage photo collections of any size – from a few hundred to a few hundred thousand.

PicEdit – Ver: 1.70

PicEdit is a powerful, easy to operate, user-friendly image editing software, support a variety of graphic styles (such as arrow, rectangle, polygon, pencil, text, etc.) and a variety of effects processing (such as highlighting, mosaic, blur, brightness, hue, saturation, etc.), while supporting the watermark, stamps, crop, rotate, and so on.

RoboSizer – Ver: 1.0.9.3

RoboSizer is a fully automatic, on-the-fly picture resizer that completely eliminates the need for manual photo resizing. Registration code now included for fully functional product.

Disk Tools

Auslogics Disk Defrag – Ver: 3.5.0.10

Disk fragmentation leads to system slowdowns, PC crashes, slow startup and shutdown and sometimes to system failures. Auslogics Disk Defrag is designed for fast optimisation of today's modern hard disks. Get the maximum performance out of your expensive hardware investments.

Puran Defrag Free Edition – Ver: 7.5

Puran Defrag is a very simple disk defragmenter which will defrag the files and optimise your system, collecting all the fragments of a file and putting them together, as well as moving some frequently used files and all directories to faster disk areas. This process boosts your hard disk performance and thus overall system speed. In addition it reduces wear and tear on your hard disk, thereby increasing its life span.

UltraDefrag – Ver: 5.0.7 Final

UltraDefrag is an open source disk defragmenter for Windows NT 4.0 and later operating systems. It makes use of the same defragmenting API used by many other windows defrag utilities, both open and closed source. However, UltraDefrag has many features that makes it unique.

Games

Dream Chess – Ver: 0.2.0

This application is a nice chess board game, available for windows, Linux and iOS, with high-end graphics and a 3D board. This game has four different beautiful skins that provide better playing experience. You can play against your friend or the computer and improve your skills and logic.

Material Mole – Ver: 1.0

Help the mole guide the transport vehicle to the narrow galleries! This game is a truck game in which you carry load from one point to the other.

Home/Office

Ginger – Ver: 2.6.41

Ginger Proofreader, the first product to be released based on the NLP platform, is a free spelling and grammar checker, intended for both speakers of English as their mother tongue, and English as a second language (ESL).

LibreOffice Productivity Suite – Ver: 3.6.1 Final

LibreOffice was developed to be a productivity suite that is compatible with other major office suites, and available on a variety of platforms. It is free software and therefore free to download, use and distribute.

Multi Reminders – Ver: 3.04

Gone are the days of keeping track of bills, birthdays, and appointments with pencil and a datebook – or at least, gone are the days when that was your only option. Multi Reminders is one of many options for maintaining your schedule on your computer. It's not the most sophisticated program we've ever seen, but it does have some interesting features that make it appealing.

Office Key Remover –

Ver: 1.0.0.6

Office Key Remover is a small tool which removes Microsoft Office's license information on your machine! This way you're able to change the license key of Microsoft Office.

Internet

Fiddler – Ver: 2.4.1.0

Fiddler is a Web Debugging Proxy which logs all HTTP(S) traffic between your computer and the Internet. Fiddler allows you to inspect traffic, set breakpoints, and "fiddle" with incoming or outgoing data. Fiddler includes a powerful event-based scripting subsystem, and can be extended using any .NET language.

JDownloader – Ver: 0.9.581

JDownloader is a free, open-source download management tool with a huge community of developers that makes down-

loading as easy and fast as it should be. Users can start, stop or pause downloads, set bandwidth limitations, auto-extract archives and much more.

KiTTY – Ver: 0.62.1.3

KiTTY is a fork from 0.62 version of PuTTY, a free SSH, Telnet and Rlogin client. The application sports features such as session filters, session icon, automatic login, automatic password protection, shortcuts for pre-defined commands, running a locally saved script on a remote session, etc.

MultiMi – Ver: 1.0.6.11596

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, Picasa, YouTube, email, chat, calendars, contacts, browsers... we've come to love them on their own – but staying on top of them is very time-consuming! MultiMi collects all your accounts and networks so you can connect with friends and family, surf the web, and share pics, vids and files simply by dragging and dropping.

Sleipnir – Ver: 3.7

In Norse mythology, Sleipnir is Odin's eight-legged horse. In the hands of Fenrir's developers, it's a fast and stylish Web browser that brings some of the touch-style functionality of tablets and smartphones to your desktop (sort of like Windows 8 -- coincidence?) especially in fullscreen mode.

Multi Media

GreenForce-Player – Ver: 1.20

GreenForce-Player is a portable alternative media player, with many additional functions. One of these functions is to protect media files. You can encrypt your audio and video files with a password and protect them against screenshots.

Utilities

101 Clips – Ver: 11.16

If you ever wished that you could copy more than a single clip from one document before pasting to another, 101 Clips is for you. With 101 you can copy up to 25 times and unlike other multi clipboards, 101 shows you a preview of each clip before you paste it.

Directory Monitor –

Ver: 1.1.3.0

You can use Directory Monitor for the surveillance of certain directories and it will notify you of file changes, deletions, modifications, and new files in real-time. You can optionally execute an application when a change occurs.

dMaintenance – Ver: 2.0.1

dMaintenance is a tool designed for fully automated and optionally invisible maintenance tasks, with usage in mind for scheduling via Windows Task Scheduler, pushing out via Group Policy on networks, or simply the ability to

run on a remote system and “let it go by itself” so the tech can disconnect the session and get on to other things.

JavaRA – Ver: 2.0

JavaRa is a simple tool that does a simple job: it removes old and redundant versions of the Java Runtime Environment (JRE). Simply select “Check for Updates” or “Remove Older Version” to begin.

Puran Utilities – Ver: 1.0.2

A set of more than 20 software utilities including but not limited to utilities that can help you get the best performance out of your computer. It also provides an automatic and a one click solution to keep your computer clean and error free.

SF Diagnostic Tool – Ver: 5.1

SF Diagnostic Tool is to collect the information required to analyse Blue Screen of Death and other troubleshooting purpose. This Tool will correct MiniDump, Event Log entries for Application and System Logs, System Information and Driver List.

SpeedFan – Ver: 4.47 Final

The main viewing purpose of SpeedFan is to show its user what’s really going in their machine. When minimized, a temperature reading is showed on the button right of the desktop. When Speedfan is in an open window you can see a whole lot

more. From Fan speed to total voltage, you can view any and all of the current fans.

Toolwiz Care – Ver: 2.0.0.3200

Toolwiz Care is a free tool kit designed to speed up your slow PC. With a multi-functional optimisation suite, this Windows system optimizer provides a collection of tools which includes System Checkup, System Cleanup, System Speedup, and 40+ powerful tools to enhance your PC performance, local and network security, and optimise the start-up procedure.

Windows 7 God Mode Tool – Ver: 2.0.0.0

One of the secrets of Windows 7 that is undocumented by Microsoft is the secret option known as God Mode. GodMode is simply a hidden control panel that contains everything about Windows 7 configuration options and settings, all located in one place plus additional features that are not easily found in the ordinary Control Panel

Wise Data Recovery – Ver: 3.1.5

Have you ever deleted some useful files by mistake? Have you ever regretted to remove some files which you want to use later? Have you ever lost some private data as the consequence of a sudden PC crash? Let Wise Data Recovery help you!

Video

Avidemux – Ver: 2.5.6-1

Avidemux is a video editor designed for simple cutting, filtering and encoding tasks.

DVDFab – Ver: 8.2.0.8

DVDFab is the all-in-one software package for copying Blu-ray / DVD and converting video file. The resulting disk is a perfect clone of the original DVD.

Ad-Aware A.E. 9.5; Adobe Reader 10.0; Agent 6.0; Avant Browser 2011.Build 30 Firefox 9.0; Foxit 5.0.2; Irfan View 4.3; Opera 11.5; Paint.Net 3.5.8; Slim Browser 6.00 Spybot 1.6; Thunderbird 9.0; Winzip 15.5; XnView 1.9

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JOHN SWALE reports on Questions and Answers from the opening session of the October monthly meeting and from members' written submissions.



John Swale

Q: I am having trouble with a D-Link DP-301P4 print server which I use to network an HP 1200 series laser printer. I have a mixture of Windows XP and Windows 7 PCs on the network. One of the Windows 7 PCs can only recognise the printer on an irregular basis but I can't get the Windows 7 machines to print consistently. I have downloaded the latest HP printer driver.

A: Check the D-Link web site for any firmware updates, compatibility with Windows 7 or reports of Windows 7 issues.

Q: I occasionally lose the icons on my Windows 7 desktop. I have searched on the internet for a solution but have not had any luck in fixing it. Can you offer any suggestions for fixing the problem?

A: Barry Martin has not seen this problem before and will take it on notice.

New Scanner For Members' Use

The club has recently purchased a photo and negative scanner from Kaiser Baas. The scanner is held at the Moorabbin club rooms but please first check with the office on (03) 9276 4000 for availability. Members will need to bring an SD card to store their picture files as the scanner works in stand-alone mode. Black and white together with colour prints up to A4 size can be scanned at either 300 dpi or 600 dpi. 35mm colour negatives and black and white negative film strips will be scanned at 1200 dpi. Unmounted colour slides can also be scanned one at a time. The resulting picture files will be recorded to your SD card in JPEG format.

Wise members will download the full PDF user manual for "Photo & Negative Scanner" from www.kaiserbaas.com in order to prepare themselves before phoning the office. The scanner must be used at our club rooms and is not available for loan.

Roger Wragg



GEORGE SKARBEEK brings us answers to some curly questions.

COPY PROTECTION OF PHOTOS

Q: *A friend of mine would like to have an expert give him an answer to his question which is "Can I prevent photos of for sale items from being copied from eBay". Can you help?*

A: Yes, I can give a definitive answer. He can't. Computers are very good at copying and you cannot copy protect a photo on e-bay. Even if it was possible, anyone can do a print-screen and then select that photo.

However, there are some steps he can take to discourage others from copying his photos. One is to use a very low-resolution photo that cannot be enlarged even slightly without becoming pixelated.

If the seller want the buyer to zoom in to encourage a sale then a low-res image will not work, so he should add a watermark with his name or a company logo to the image. This will make it useless to others. Watermarks can be added by a number of image-manipulating programs and is relatively easy to do. Even the free image viewing program, Faststone, from: <http://www.faststone.org> can do this. Using the free image manipulating program, Gimp, will give you much more versatility with the watermarks. See: <http://www.simplehelp.net/2008/12/12/how-to-watermark-an-image-using-gimp/> for a tutorial.

REFINING A SEARCH IN GOOGLE

Q: *On occasions when searching on Google I receive many hits containing topics that I do not want. Is there an easy way to prevent this?*

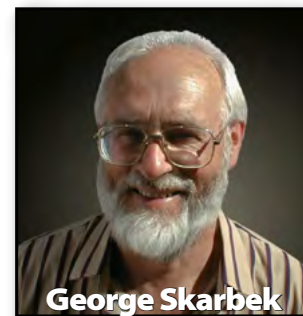
A: Yes, and the answer is very simple. Use the minus sign.

Supposing that you are looking for some reference for software and you have your keyword and the program name as the two words in the search but many of the search items refer to

the Apple Mac as they have a similar program. To eliminate these from appearing just add

-mac at the end of

the search. The -mac is an instruction to the search engine not to include anything that has the word Mac in the search result. You can eliminate several words from appearing in your search. If you add -mac and -android and any search that has either mac or android will not appear.



George Skarbek

PHONE BANKING SAFETY

Q: *Is it safe to use a smart phone for my banking? If so is there any app that should be used?*

A: In my opinion, yes it is relatively safe to use your phone for banking, with a couple of provisos.

The main proviso is that you should not use a public Wi-Fi hot spot if you can avoid it. This is because using the 3G or 4G network will substantially reduce the chance of someone being able to capture your data packets. Capturing data is much easier on a public hot spot.

If your bank provides an app then you should use it as it will be secure. Just ensure that it comes from your bank. That is, you have downloaded it from their site and NOT from a link that was mailed to you and that looks very much like it came from your bank. Realistic fake emails are very easy to create.

If you do not have such an app then using the browser in your phone is quite safe, providing that the web address starts with https://etc and not http://etc. The s in https indicates that this is a secure connection with strong encryption end to end. All relatively new phones have strong encryption capabilities built into their browsers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting and the election of the Committee will be held on Wednesday November 7, 2012 at Melbourne PC User Group, Unit 26, 479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin VIC 3189 at 7.30 pm.

You may vote by completing the postal ballot and posting or delivering it to the Returning Officer or by giving your proxy to another member who can attend the AGM or by personally attending the AGM yourself. Postal ballot papers and proxy forms cannot be submitted by fax, email or via the BBS.

Postal Voting Procedure

- Use the postal ballot paper included with this notice or a photocopy of it.
- Indicate your selections by crossing out the three names you wish to exclude.
- Place the ballot paper in a sealed envelope and mark it Ballot Paper.
- Put this envelope in another envelope then print your name and membership number on the outside of that envelope and sign it.
- Address the envelope to:
The Returning Officer
Melbourne PC User group
Unit 26, 479 Warrigal Road
Moorabbin Vic 3189.
- Post, courier or hand-deliver to arrive by 12 noon on Wednesday 7 November 2012.
- Voting is first past the post.

Proxy Voting

If you cannot attend the AGM you may appoint another member as your proxy by completing a proxy form and posting it or delivering it to the Secretary by the start of the AGM. The proxy form can be downloaded from <http://www.melbpc.org.au/committee/proxy12.pdf> by following the link from the Committee Web page or you may collect one from the Melb PC Office. Your proxy will have to attend the AGM and will be given a ballot paper to complete at the meeting.

Elections

Elections will be held only for the eight general committee positions. There was one nomination only for each of the positions President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and those nominees will be declared elected at the AGM. The following nominations and 100 word statements were received for the eight general Committee positions.

Candidate for President: Charles Wright

Proposer: Dave Harwood, Second: Chris Bird

Candidate for Vice-President: Don McKenzie

Proposer: Charles Wright, Second: Ian Rankin

Candidate for Treasurer: Stephen Tidswell

Proposer: Gordon Loughnan, Second: George Kidson

Candidate for Secretary: Ian Rankin

Proposer: Barry Martin, Second: John Morris

CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEE

In alphabetical order, 8 to be elected.

Barry Atwood

Proposer: Ray Beatty, Seconder: Barry Horn

I have been a member since February, 1991 – Member No. 7155.

I enjoyed attending our main meetings and hearing various presenters; especially when our own members gave non-commercial presentations.

I have attended various SIGs over the years.

I am also a member of:

Corel Down Under (a computer graphics club),

Southern Suburbs Photographic Society, &

Bayside Rostrum Speakers Club

I have received the benefits of being a member. I now have time to support our great club: Melb PC User Group. It is now time to support the new committee and get our club back on an 'even keel'. If elected, I will work hard to achieve these aims.

James Cox

Proposer: Harry Lewis, Seconder: Philip Lew

Sharman Grant

Proposer: Ian Rankin, Seconder: Roger Wragg

Joined the Club in 1997

Education: 1984 Bachelor of Arts (Monash University)

1986 Bachelor of Laws (Monash University)

1995 Master of Laws (University of Melbourne)

Qualifications: 1988 – Admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Victoria and the Federal Court of Australia

Professional Associations:

Law Institute of Victoria

Australian Corporate Lawyers Association

CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEE

Stewart Gruneklee

Proposer: Keith Younger, Second: Charles Wright

I have served on many voluntary organisation committees over the past 40 years including:

- Australian Fire Protection Association
- Standards Association
- 1st Bentleigh Scout Group
- Youth Hostels Association

I currently work full-time as Technical Manager of a large multi-national fire & security company and previously served as company manager of a manufacturing division for seven years.

I have a desire for Melb PC to survive and thrive and am willing to put personal time into helping to make that happen. My goal is for clear communications, integrity, competence and cooperative teamwork with like-minded individuals who put the members' interests first.

Harry Lewis

Proposer: Leighton West, Second: James Cox

Melb PC is not yet safe. Membership is in steep decline (11,236 in 2004; 4,313 now). Expenditure exceeds income; unless balance is restored MelbPC could be cashless in five years. The threat of Committee dysfunction has not been eliminated.

The good work of the interim Committee must be continued.

I have been a member of MelbPC since 2004, member of Internet Help team since early 2011. Background: academic (philosophy) plus various computer support and policy roles, and extensive committee experience. Post-retirement: Secretary, then Treasurer of a bicycle touring club; currently Secretary of a coastal community association.

Lance Lloyd

Proposer: Charles Wright, Second: Keith Younger

I have been a member for ten years and recently active in meetings, attempting to secure an international speaker for a future meeting and a *PC Update* author. As a scientist with 30 years experience, I use PCs in every aspect of my work. I believe my skills and experience in committees and strategic planning will assist the committee. I have been chair or member of about 20 community and government committees, including several ministerial appointments. I have professional and community experience in strategic planning for government authorities, professional organisations and community groups.

Cindy Perry

Proposer: Ron Vinnard, Second: Ken Dobson

The success of this club is important to me, and I would like to be able to make a contribution. I have been a member for 20 years and for 5-1/2 years I convened the 'Ripgig Graphics Group'. I am interested in photography and new to video and attend the Sony Vegas group. I also attend the Multimedia, Hardware and EastSIG groups. I have ideas on how to recruit members and would like to be able to exercise these thoughts with the help of others. My past employment was with the Catholic Education Office, Curriculum.

CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEE

Jan Weiner

Proposer: Barbara Draude, Second: Lyn St Clair

As a frequent and successful user of many of the services MelbPC User Group offers as part of its membership, I would like to help continue the club motto of "Users Helping Users".

I have been a Convener for many years and have found it a most rewarding and satisfying experience in helping others and maintaining contact between the SIGs and the various committees.

I am prepared to work towards what ever task is considered appropriate in achieving a stable and functioning committee dedicated to the club recovery, success and continued advancement in PC technology.

I am at present the Convener of the Casey SIG and Convener of the Casey Workshop.

Jan Whitaker

Proposer: Con Lilley, Second: Jan Weiner

Melbourne PC User Group Member over 10 years

I have a background in IT from a management level, mostly in higher education. I am involved in my local SIG, Casey, serving previously on the committee, and now providing presentations and helping in our workshop.

I see challenges and opportunities for MPCUG in maintaining and growing membership, improving our communication strategies, and tightening up management procedures. I would like to lend my time and energy in those areas as I see them as integral to each other and to our on-going sustainability.

More information: www.janwhitaker.com .

Roger Wragg

Proposer: David Godfred, Second: Kathleen Rouse

Ian Wright

Proposer: Barry Martin, Second: Kathleen Rouse

Note: Keith Younger also submitted a valid nomination but subsequently withdrew his nomination.

Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

MEMBER:

Name
Address
Membership Number

APPOINTS:

Name
Address
Membership Number

being also a member of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated

OR THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MEETING

or failing the person named above, or if no person is named, the Chairperson of the Meeting to vote in accordance with the directions on this form or, if no directions have been given, as they see fit or abstain from voting at the Annual General Meeting of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated to be held on Wednesday November 7, 2012 and at any adjournment thereof.

SIGNATURE:

Motion 1: "That the Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting held on 2nd November 2011, be approved as a true and correct record." ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain

Motion 2: "That the Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 4th July 2012, be approved as a true and correct record." ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain

Motion 3: "That the President's report for 2012 as distributed be received" ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain

Motion 4: "That The Returning Officer's Report be accepted" ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain

Motion 5: "That the statement pursuant to section 30 (3) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 containing the Income and Expenditure of the Group for the year to 30th June 2011 and the assets and liabilities of the Group at 30th June 2012 be accepted." ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain

Motion 6: "That NMM Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd, Registered Company Auditor be reappointed as auditor" ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain

POSTAL BALLOT PAPER

Annual General Meeting
7th November 2012

Candidates for Committee

(Indicate your preferred candidate by crossing out the names of the three candidates you wish to exclude. Candidates are listed in the order determined by lot)

Jan Weiner

James Cox

Ian Wright

Sharman Grant

Lance Lloyd

Jan Whitaker

Stewart Gruneklee

Harry Lewis

Cindy Perry

Roger Wragg

Barry Atwood

For the postal voting procedure, see the Annual General Meeting notice that accompanied this ballot paper.