

# East SIG Report – December 2018

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Unfortunately the traditional pre meeting Christmas BBQ was cancelled this year due to a weather forecast predicting extreme storms. The storms did eventuate but not at the time of the BBQ. However a feast of nibbles and drinks were had indoors enabling members to mingle and chat.

A shortened meeting followed, commencing with Q&A conducted by **George Skarbek**.

Q: I plan to build a desktop computer for my wife over the break and can't decide whether I should use an Intel or AMD CPU? The computer will be used for Office programs, internet and email but also for some turn based games such as Civilization. I plan to use a dedicated graphics card rather than on board graphics.

A: I recently went with an AMD Ryzen CPU when building my new PC. For a much lower price I was able to get the same performance as an Intel CPU. There are a few provisos however. You said you were going to get a graphics card. AMD CPUs come with or without graphics on the chip. Having graphics on the CPU is not as good as an expensive Graphics card, but certainly good enough for most use. The two types of CPUs are around the same price and on most PCs you can get near the same performance with on board graphics due to multithreading. For example, an 8 core AMD Ryzen CPU with multithreading gives the equivalent of 16 CPU cores. To see which cores are being used, open Windows Task Manager, select Performance and right click on the graph of the CPU. When editing videos or using programs such as Photoshop most CPU cores will be in use, whereas a program like Excel will use only one core.

Q: I occasionally get large files of up to 15MB sent to me by email. When I go to send them on I run into 2 problems, the first being the size of the attachments. The Optus helpdesk advised me files can be of any size whereas Optus webmail has a size limit of 10MB. Optus also suggested I use Microsoft Outlook, which I'm currently using anyway. Recently I sent on a 14MB file which was received 27 times. When I looked at my outbox it showed the file was still being sent. The file concerned was a PowerPoint hence I wonder whether this is a problem with Outlook or MS Office?

A: Reply from an audience member: Normally the upload speed is a tenth of the download speed, unless you're on NBN, so could that be the cause?

George: That would not explain why so many copies of the same emails were received. The problems most likely something to do with the Optus server handling a certain type of capacity. Webmail and Outlook will go through the same server, so the limit is on the server which Optus told you is 10MB. With your MelbPC Office 365 account you have at least 1 TB of storage. Upload your file to the cloud, either OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox etc., mark the file as private and set a password. Next email a link and password to your receiver for them to download the file from your cloud storage. Alternatively a file splitter program is a second solution to this problem. I don't think this an Office or Outlook problem but a server problem. However I cannot explain why so many copies of the same email were received.

Q: I also have an email problem with large attachments. When I tried to send 2 large files of a total size of 46MB in one email, the email failed to send. I then tried sending the files separately and those emails also failed to go through. As the receiver only needed the first page of one of the pdf files, I extracted the single page. When I tried to send that ½ MB attachment that email also failed to go through. I'm running Outlook and my ISP is TPG and the email is directed to a Gmail account. Have you any thoughts that could help here?

A: It doesn't make sense that the ½ MB file could not be sent. I'd try a reboot and see if that helps. The server limit is the likely cause why the large files could not be sent.

Q: My daughter has a Gmail account and when she sends emails to my TPG email address they don't arrive. When the same email is sent to my MelbPC account her emails arrive without any problems. A recent example of this occurrence was an email with a very small MYOB account attachment. Do you have any ideas why this might happen?

A: There could be a number of causes. TPG may think the email is spam, is offensive, is infected, is too big or again it could be a server issue. I'd talk to your ISP to resolve your problem. You may even find that the email may have arrived in your junk folder so it's worth looking there for the email.

Q: I use Thunderbird for emails and until recently could save and forward emails with large file attachments. Lately Thunderbird won't allow me to save emails with large attachments. Any thoughts on what could be the cause?

A: I don't think it's a physical storage problem. Try sending some large files to yourself. Start at 8MB, 10MB, 12MB etc. to see what the limit is and then talk to your ISP. I don't think the cause is a hardware problem but the server at the other end.

Reply from an audience member: A recent version of Thunderbird had problems so check you have the latest version and that may solve your problem.

After Q&A **Stuart Bedford** posed the question "Is privacy dead". Stuart then detailed how we are being tracked every day via our mobile phone, CCTV cameras, ATMs, Supermarkets, Reward cards, service stations, Police using number plate recognition and apps such as Facebook. The conclusion was "Privacy is dead".

Following on from Stuart was a presentation by **George Skarbek** on "What's New". George covered a broad range of topics including software licence agreements, the Chinese lunar lander, taking samples from a nearby asteroid, Japan's first 8K TV broadcast, Samsung's new 8 nanometre chip, the latest developments in parachute technology, the current definition for 1kg, a Seiko's watch incorporating GPS and leap second correction and an aircraft that fly's without fuel or any moving parts and finally how NASA plans to send a spacecraft to Mercury.

**Frank Maher** standing in for convenor **Paul Woolard** thanked everyone involved in a successful 2018 and wished members a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. Normal meetings will resume on the second Thursday in February 2019.

Neil Muller