

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP NEWS June 2019

*Our next meeting is Friday, June 21
It begins at 7.30 pm and Visitors welcome*

Sunday Special Interest Group Sunday, June 16 1.00 pm

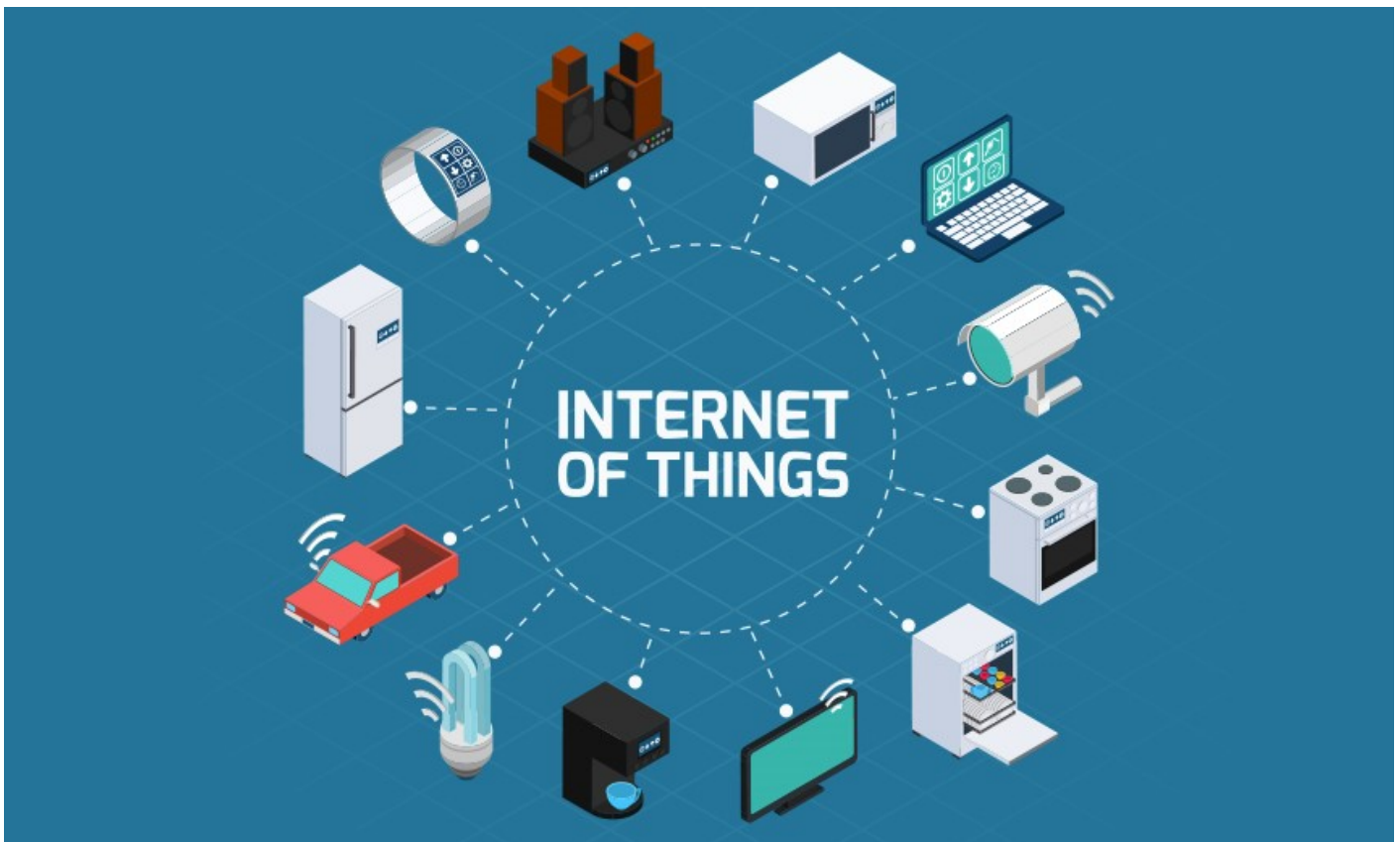
I noticed this 'early' warning by Jeremy Kirk (jeremy_kirk) • dated August 28, 2017 a few days ago.

Is it news to you or am I alone unaware of the potential loss of privacy with all this new gear?

He tells us:

In the great 'Internet of Things' (IoT) gold rush, early adopters have largely left behind identity and access management. As a result, many organizations are scrambling to deal with the consequences as the IoT is vulnerable to hacks that can give malicious actors control over connected devices. Recent DDoS attacks and connected car hijackings highlight the need for greater IoT security.

Managing and securing the IoT is a critical step for organizations looking to use connected devices to deliver on their digital business objectives, like personalization and real-time data analysis. Legacy Identity and access management cannot meet today's IoT requirements.



The potential for a large attack harnessing IoT devices has been made clear once again by the attention drawn to a large list of devices with weak or default telnet credentials.

We should perhaps take advantage of the collective skills in our group to learn more of this apparent threat and how we deal with it.

Further reading go to: <https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/calling-telnet-effort-focuses-on-fixing-iot-devices-a-10228>

President's Report



Richard mentioned in conversation last week that our May meeting went well although a few members, including myself were unable to attend.

In addition to an active discussion session, Geoff reminded members of earlier applications and went on to provide examples of Gif. Geoff has followed that up with a summary of his presentation in this issue.

Richard has been very active with SES duties during recent fires, storms and bitterly cold weather in addition to his regular clients and digital devices.

It prompted us to insert this picture as a reminder that some people are 'doing it hard'...sometimes a phone call or a few minutes of our time in conversation will make a vast difference for someone lacking a friend.



Our health and awareness are taken for granted while we possess them and friends do not always recognise the drift that quietly comes upon us as we age.

There are times when those needing assistance are reluctant to seek or accept it. Computing is only a part of our life...at times, the least important.

Never let yesterday use up
too much of today.

...Will Rogers

5G What does it mean?

New names fit easily as we speak with expectation of improved performance as each generation of a device is announced. If you are as uninformed as I am, these notes might be of interest.

'Each generation of cellular networking has introduced radical changes to what the network does and how it does it.

Previous generations have seen communications moving from analogue to digital, have introduced data services, have moved to a simplified architecture, have increased the data speed available to end users and increased bandwidth efficiency.

How is 5G different?

Many of the changes introduced by 5G will be in the base stations and core network. These are less apparent to end users, but very important for the network operators.

A 5G network will make use of much higher frequencies for radio communications than has been used in cellular networks in the past.

Since higher frequencies attenuate (weaken) with distance more rapidly than lower frequencies, 5G will use much smaller cell sizes than previous generations. In urban areas, cell sizes might only be a few hundred metres in diameter.

Small cell sizes make available previously unused radio frequencies — but introduce additional complexity in managing interference and handover of mobile stations from one base station to another.

A 5G network will also support very large numbers of devices per cell. One of the working parties developing 5G standards specifies a minimum of one million devices per square kilometre.

Being able to support such large numbers of devices is important for the 'Internet of Things' — where household devices and machinery are also connected to the internet.

A 5G network will make use of sophisticated signal processing techniques such as Multi Input, Multi Output (MIMO) antennae — which will improve the efficient use of bandwidth. Because the frequency is higher, the wavelength is smaller (about one millimetre). Optimal antenna size is related to the wavelength. Small wavelengths mean more antennae can be used per mobile node than has been possible in the past which is the basis of MIMO. *Continued next column...*

...5G continued

Another significant change for 5G will be to centralise much of the processing that in the past was carried out at the base stations. Dealing with the high density of devices and doing sophisticated processing requires a great deal of computing power. Rather than having each base station doing it, the raw data will be transmitted to a central location and be processed there.

China's Huawei has taken a leading role in the development of 5G. It has made substantial contributions to the standards development process and has been among the first to carry out substantial trials.

China is expected to be the largest global market for 5G with some predictions of more than 400 million connections by 2025.

Note: China's Huawei has been the subject of major concerns for future security and will apparently not play a part in Australia's development of 5G.'

Will our phone service improve?

I suggest this should be a subject for learned input and discussion at one of our meetings.

In the meantime you might be inclined to visit:

<https://www.smartcompany.com.au/industries/telecommunications/australia-5g-mobile-network/>

Travelling to the USA ?

Have you noticed this impending requirement for Visa applications?

Anyone submitting an Online Non-immigrant Visa Application (DS-160) to visit the US will be required to provide the details of their social media accounts over the last five years.

And we have been warned that non-compliance will have serious consequences.

The aim of these measures is rather simple. US authorities are going to collect information from new sources and collate it with existing intelligence to enhance the screening and vetting of travellers.

And the focus for the most part is on trying to identify potential terrorists.

For example, geo-tagged posts from an applicant's social media account can be crosschecked with the details provided in an application.

Dear Members,

The monthly letter has been very brief over the last couple of months as I enjoyed precious time with distant family members and friends while able.



Talking with Norm this past week, he has agreed to share a few thoughts on his role as Master of the vessel Curranulla for several years and perhaps explain some of computer-driven devices available to current crews that make life safer and simpler. This should occur on his return from a brief journey north to escape the severe southern chill.

In recent weeks and in different locations I've been involved with community groups varying in size from about 25 to about 120 members. A couple of them have been operating for more than 40 years and show no signs of winding up. It's interesting to consider what makes outfits like this last the distance.

One thing in common seems to be their perceived need to build on the work of earlier members...to preserve and enhance the group's value in whatever terms fit the local situation.

Another element of the 'survivor group' seems to be the collective personality of a core team of versatile and dedicated characters around whom the outfit gets the job done.

A willingness to recognise changes in their 'market' and to adjust interaction at all levels to be seen as relevant in the chosen catchment.

Our 'users helping users' slogan reflects a shift from users building computers to users faced on a daily basis with new 'trouble free' hardware but tricky software that challenges the digital migrant.

Younger generations who might potentially be inclined to take over from us will be dealing with very different aspects of the digital device.

We need to be alert to the emerging needs of users who currently know more about the subject than we do. Perhaps we should pause and invite them to sharpen our perception of what this is all about.

Listening rather than teaching might help them to help us. **Frank**

Will Rogers, who could communicate with the young and old members of his generation tells us

**Even if you're on the right track,
you'll get run over if you just sit there.**

Greetings and salutations all.

None of us can be in two places at once. There are often times when we have to choose between two perhaps equally demanding claims on our time. And so it was with Editor Frank last month. And being absent from the meetings, he is somewhat at a disadvantage when writing up our newsletter.



Being responsible for part of last month's activity I thought it fell to me to help him out. A couple of things came out of it.

I alluded to the "poor man's movie" that was all the rage 25 years ago. I refer of course to animated gif's. They are just a series of still images in one image file that are viewed in sequence, giving an impression of a movie.

No need to explain that more at this point except to say they were popular as embellishments on web pages for which they are uniquely suited. But they were often overused and really a web page is just for conveying a story or information.

Embellishments that distract attention are a waste of time. A good corollary is in movies that contain music. Music that enhances atmosphere but doesn't intrude or dominate is what's required.

The best example I have seen is the movie Avatar. I downloaded the music and was astonished that I couldn't remember it in the movie. So I played the movie again and watched for it. All I can say is 'marvellous'. But I digress.

In my presentation I discussed some recent work of mine like a flying bluebird, a gramophone with rotating flickering candles, a roaring tiger and a movie signoff signature, all of which are actually true movies, not animated gifs.

Our illustrious President observed that it would be nice to have an animated signature for emails. Been there, done that, and foolishly I said I'd make him one.

Continued next column

Gifs continued...

The movie signoff is 83 frames, all individually drawn - hours and hours of work! Oh well. So long as he is not in a hurry. I no longer have an animating program so that's a starting point. But more than that it occurred to me that a discussion and presentation on gifs might be a fruitful topic for one of our evenings in a month or so.

Geoff Spencer.

Lyll also reminds us that cat scans might be old fashioned but we are happy to use them when needed.



We know facetious is a word that uses all the vowels. If we exercise moderation in drinking or eating, people will also use the vowels in order when saying we are Abstemious.

Do you know any more?



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We meet at Bomaderry
Bowling Club
each month
on the third Friday at 7.30 pm
and
the third Sunday at 1.00pm
Visitors welcome