

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP NEWS October 2019

***Our next Friday meeting is October 18.
It begins at 7.30 pm and Visitors are welcome***

Special Interest Group Sunday, October 20, 1.00 pm

A few words from the President



The Victorian Government is investigating the scale of a ransomware attack by "sophisticated cyber criminals" on some of the state's major regional hospitals that has forced healthcare providers to go offline.

It's not only large organisations that are under threat. Individuals or organisations that don't believe they have much to offer hackers can still be targeted. So even if you think you're a small target, you might still be at risk.

Illusion of trust?

Corrupt individuals and groups thrive on gathering information that can be used to enhance their attack strategies.

Hackers are becoming more focused and active on [spear-phishing](#) attacks, tailored to individual people, and any information about you can be of help.

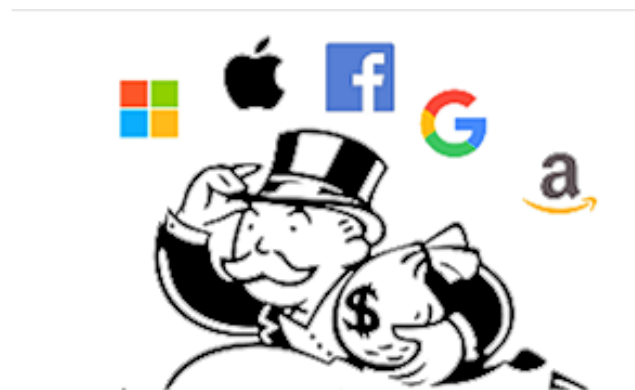
Key to the hacker is the issue of trust. Information gathered is used to build a profile of the target with the aim to have enough data that allows the hacker to appear trustworthy.

In most cases, the hacker will attempt to impersonate an entity that is trusted by you. The more information the hacker has on you, the more likely they will be able to maintain the illusion long enough to achieve their aims.

Cyber attacks again! We discussed this at our meeting on Friday night. We should look at the Victorian attack and understand how you could be next.

- Do your updates Do we all understand how it safeguards us?
- Make sure antivirus is up to date
- Why do some choose to stay with unsupported Operating Systems on their network.

At our next meeting we should have a short **TFU session.**



‘Big Tech’ isn’t one big monopoly, it’s 5 companies

All in different businesses

Apple, Facebook, Google, and Amazon pretty much dominate every facet of our lives—from email from friends and family to what’s in your pocket to how you get everything in your house to how you pay. As far as acronyms of global power go, it works.

In the US, Google, Apple, Facebook, and Amazon are generally praised as examples of innovation.

In the French press, and for much of the rest of Europe, their innovation is often seen in a less positive light—the ugly Americans coming over with innovative approaches invading personal privacy or new ways to avoid paying their fair share. Take Google: its tax affairs in France are being challenged (paywall)—which comes soon after it has been forced to institute a “right to be forgotten” and threatened with being broken up.

But the spread of the term “GAFA” may be as much to do with cultural resentment as taxes. “I think it’s more about distribution of power in the online world than tax avoidance,” Liam Boogar, founder of the French start-up site, ‘Rude Baguette’, tells Quartz. France, after all, is a country with a long history of resisting US cultural hegemony.

What is cultural hegemony?

Why is the fifth global power
not named in the text ?

Do we care enough to discuss it?



Do you agree with this classification of skills?

Hard Skills

VS

Soft Skills



The balance between them is the key for success



Hard skills include the specific knowledge and abilities required for success in a job.



By definition

Soft skills characterize your relationships with other people, or are about how you approach life and work.

Hard skills are teachable abilities that can be defined and measured much more than soft skills. Hard abilities are easy to quantify.

Measurable or not

Soft abilities are personal-driven and subjective skills. They are really hard to measure.



Hard skills are easy to prove with certificates, education degree, awards and etc.



How to prove them

Soft skills related to your personal characteristics and traits and are difficult to prove.

- Basic computer skills
- Data analysis skills
- Mathematical and numeracy skills
- Knowing foreign languages
- Physics knowledge

Examples

- Communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Flexibility and adaptability skills
- Decision-making skills
- Creativity



Let's take software developers. Their hard skills are the knowledge of development language such as Java and C++.



Particular Example

The soft skills of a software developer are his abilities to work successfully in a team and to communicate.

A new report from TAFE Enterprise suggests most in-demand skills are likely to be on the soft side.

I have some difficulty with the classification and am happy to explain why at our meeting.

Hard skills are defined as "Specific, quantifiable knowledge or abilities required for a job."

Increasingly the most sought-after hard skills will be in Information Communication Technology, machine learning algorithms, data science, drone piloting, information security, mechatronics and remote equipment management."

Let's call them the 'doing skills'. These skills are ones that you can learn through the more traditional education techniques and tend to be career-specific.

Soft skills are otherwise described as "human", "social", "emotional", "interpersonal", "people" skills.

They include communication, collaboration, customer service, ethics, creativity, complex problem solving, critical thinking, digital literacy, adaptability/'learn-ability', cognitive flexibility, emotional intelligence, initiative, judgement, decision-making, negotiation and persuasion, people management and conflict management.

Let's think about them as 'human' skills. These are skills that are about being human and interacting with other humans. And they are the most in-demand skills because they are transferable between jobs and even industries.

Dr Geethani Nair of TAFE NSW explains. "People need the agility to be able to learn as they go, be able to change their tactics, and be 'in the moment' as the technology and role changes."

"You teach me, I forget.
You show me, I remember.
You involve me, I understand."

Do our conversations and discussion add to individual appreciation of computers or are we overwhelmed by the amount of data we receive and respond to on a daily basis?



What do we need to know? Our meetings in recent weeks have set me thinking about changes or events we anticipate, regret or hope for.

I spent time last week with a 'mature age' student and came to learn how some 'new-to-me' but older words are now used to describe the changing world we inhabit.

The first word is ***Liminal***.

You can define **liminal space** in several different ways. It's talked about as a threshold, and indeed, the etymology of liminal comes from the Latin root word "limen," which means threshold. Liminal spaces are transitional or transformative spaces. They are the waiting areas between one point in time and space and the next.

We are on the threshold of change in many aspects of life as we know it.

The second word is ***Hegemony***.

Hegemony derives from a Greek term that translates simply as "dominance over".

The term *hegemony* is today often used as shorthand to describe the relatively dominant position of a particular set of ideas and their associated tendency to become commonsensical and intuitive, thereby inhibiting the dissemination or even the articulation of alternative ideas.

The associated term *hegemon* is used to identify the actor, group, class, or state that exercises hegemonic power or that is responsible for the dissemination of hegemonic ideas.

Business enterprises listed on page one appear to have by-passed the borders to infiltrate nations with incompatible Social, Political, Economic, Cultural standards and little apparent prospect of change.

I don't have any answers but did find comment in the concluding remarks of a paper on the Subject of BREXIT and attempts to resist Hegemony on this site:

<https://doc-research.org/2018/08/european-union-hegemony-new-medievalism-revisited/>

Might be a bit heavy for this letter but you might forgive my brief journey into the Academic world.

Frank

Sister Mary Ann, who worked for a home health agency, was out making her rounds visiting home-bound patients when she ran out of gas.

As luck would have it, a Woolworths Petrol Station was just a block away.

She walked to the station to borrow a gas can and buy some gas. The attendant told her that their only gas can had been loaned out, but she could wait until it was returned.

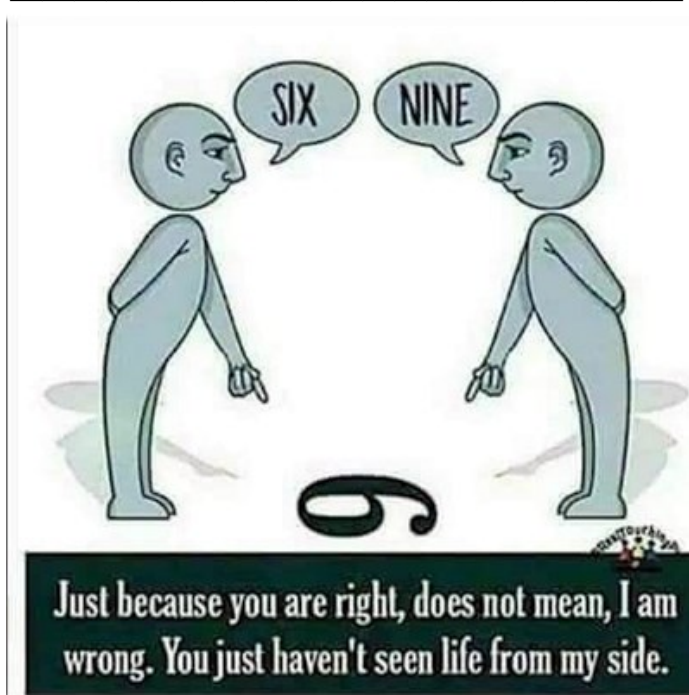
HOWEVER, Sister Mary Ann was on the way to see a patient, so she decided not to wait... and walked back to her car.

She looked for something in her car that she could fill with gas and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the patient!

Always resourceful, Sister Mary Ann carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with gasoline, and carried the full bedpan back to her car.

As she was pouring the gas into her tank, two Protestants watched from across the street.

One of them turned to the other and said, 'If it starts , I'm turning Catholic.'



Faye also reckons taking
a dog named
SHARK



to the beach is not smart.

Your are probably aware that Faye has a knack of sending a thoughtful, humorous sometimes risqué message just when it is likely to be most welcome.

These are just what we need as we pause to consider what happens around us on a daily basis and the need to understand why someone is doing what they do.

Even if we hold a different view.

Thanks Faye

You never appreciate what you have till it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example.

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Computer Consultant

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Of Your Way For

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