

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

July 2021

*Club Meeting scheduled for
Friday, July 16 at 7.30pm*

Special Interest Group Sunday July 18 at 1.00pm

This is subject to possible Covid19 protocol changes over the next day or so.



We're all in the same boat.

But not everyone has yet realised that Covid19 is alive and stealthily seeking to enter our personal space.

In addition to getting the jab, we need to note and follow advice from State and Federal authorities to minimise the risk of infection.

Some people feel they are bullet-proof or above the law. To the extent that we are able, do what you can to encourage safe practice within family and family groups.

Remember that many of our volunteer groups cop the unpleasant and dangerous task of supporting first responders to accident, fire, flood, disease and threat of disaster in any form.

Freedom comes at the price of acting responsibly and encouraging other to do the same.

Recent meetings have been well-attended and conducted in accordance with Covid 19 club protocol.

Hope to see you there.

Richard



If you have one minute and fifty six seconds for an unusual Einstein story, try this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsUf7FZGrjA>

How many of us still write letters to friends or family, address envelopes, and then mail them with an expectation that a reply will arrive in the fullness of time?



I look forward to doing it at least once each month. Much of this particular letter is written as these few thoughts are shared with you. When enough seems to have been done, I read it to find errors or perhaps a chance word or phrase that might offend the wide cross section of readers.

You are invited to respond at any time if what I say triggers the urge to add, or offer a different view on the printed word. It's no big deal; in conversation we interact easily to join in discussion (demonstrated at each meeting on almost any issue raised).

This month, the newsletter takes advantage of digital links to several topics in semi-headlined fashion so you are able to learn a little more by reading a story behind the few words written.

This was not possible when our letters were printed and physically distributed. If any one of you have a problem with this approach, we can easily show how to take your own personal journey into a chosen subject and exit when you've seen enough.

Just ask at our meeting...or maybe ask, using the digital device each of carries with us at all times.

Writing letters is about interacting with people.

Reading or hearing about people of interest prompted me, as a young lad from the bush, to write personal letters expressing my thoughts. Several of them became close friends but few ignored the invitation to correspond.

We are in physical *lockdown*, required to isolate and unable to interact at will. Facebook and other social media provide a mechanism for many, but intrusion on our privacy is a price too high for many of us.

I'll try and finish the last page or so and post this later today.

Frank

Extracts from the June meeting courtesy of Russell Field

General Business:

Frank Tynan told of his disgust at the treatment he received during a recent trip to the Telstra Store in the Stockland's Shopping Centre in Nowra. Following discussion at our meeting it was obvious other members had also had unsatisfactory experiences there. Others pointed out similar experiences at Centrelink in Nowra.

Questions and Answers:

Jack Korten suggested that, when making a phone call where a list of options was presented, it is best to press the number relating to 'Sales' as the response is usually much quicker and the Salesperson can redirect the call for you. They may even be able to answer any query you make directly.

Faye asked if all connections on the NBN were made by Telstra as she had received a phone call from someone saying they were from the NBN and that there was a problem with the Telstra connection. She said she was not with Telstra. Richard said it was a scam call as although most connections to the NBN are made by Telstra it is not necessarily so.

Richard advised that all those using the Google Chrome Browser need to update their browser with the latest security patch as a security hole has been discovered. This can be done by opening the browser, moving to the hamburger on the top right-hand corner, selecting 'Help' and then selecting 'About'. The browser can then be updated.

Gail said she has problems with reception with her Modem to which Richard replied the SIM card in the modem was probably not connected.

Gail told of a problem where all the icons on the screen of her computer moved to the right of her screen but she had no idea as to why. She moved them all back but could not say if the problem was solved as she had not been back on her computer since. Richard said that if one made changes to the screen it is necessary to right-click on the screen (in Windows 10) and select 'Refresh'. Otherwise the changes will not be saved.

It was noted that Windows 11 is to be released soon – the official announcement is to be on 24-Jun-21. There is information about the release together with a link to further information in the latest Club Newsletter.

Jack Korten noted how the digital version of the Newsletter has many useful links to sites which is why digital copies are so useful. Frank Tynan noted that he considered the last Newsletter to be quite long and asked for comments as to what should be in future Newsletters. Several members present said they considered the Newsletters to be excellent and the meeting confirmed their comments by acclamation.

We then moved to interesting video and discussion to complete a very interesting meeting.

David Wastie showed two interesting videos, the first was on how the Internet works and the second was on how Google stores the information we upload and download to and from the Internet. Richard described some of the difficulties of building Data Centres.

David then gave a demonstration of a Windows 10 application called 'Quick Assist' which allows one user of a Windows 10 computer to remotely control a computer used by another computer running on Windows 10 provided, of course, the second person agrees. David demonstrated the use of Quick Assist by using his own computer to show a short video and photos that Jack had on his computer.

Richard commented on the security aspects of using Quick Assist and similar programs that are available for other platforms. He said the free application 'Anydesk' can be used on all operating systems and can even allow a person to remote into an iPhone or an iPad.

Jack Korten finished the meeting with videos and photos of interest.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:25pm

Russell

COMPUTER FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW OR REMEMBER.

You might remember we mentioned three from a list of 20 in the June issue

We now know the first electronic computer weighed more than 17 tons, the first known computer programmer was a woman and the parts for the modern computer were first invented in 1833.

Other interesting facts from the list include;

2. About 90% of the world's currency only exists on Computers.

-Currency, or money (we'll use the terms interchangeably for the purposes of this discussion), can be defined as a unit of purchasing power.

The forms and functions of currency have changed over the last 3,000 years or so, generally falling into four categories; Commodity currency, Coins, Paper money and **Electronic currency**.

The first coins were minted in Lydia, an ancient empire in the area of modern Turkey. The Lydian king Croesus started making small metal ingots stamped with an imperial emblem around 640 B.C.

This Lydian custom spread to the Greeks and eventually to the Romans. Coins were usually made of silver or gold, and their value was enforced by the authority of the government that issued them. If the Athenian officials declared that all coins minted in Athens, with the official stamp of Athens, were 97 percent silver, then those coins would be traded at that value.

One of the long-standing myths about modern currency is that it is backed by the U.S. gold supply in Fort Knox. That is, you can trade your greenback dollars to the U.S. government for the equivalent amount of gold bullion at any time.

At one point, this was true of most paper currencies in the world. However, the U.S. took away the government backing of the dollar with an actual gold supply (known as leaving the gold standard) in 1971, and every major international currency has followed suit.

The obvious question is, "Without gold, what does guarantee the value of our money?" The answer is: nothing at all.

Tell me more after you look at ;

[How Currency Works](#) | [HowStuffWorks](#)

12. The First Gigabyte Drive Cost \$40,000

In 1956, the first hard drive to be sold commercially was invented by IBM. This hard drive, shipped with the RAMAC 305 system, was the size of two refrigerators and weighed about a ton. It held 5MB of data, at a cost of \$10,000 per megabyte.

Memorex was the first company separate from IBM to produce an IBM-compatible disk drive in 1968.

By 2012 almost all the world's hard drives were being produced by only three manufacturers – Seagate, Western Digital (which acquired Hitachi) and Toshiba, acquiring Fujitsu's hard drive division in 2009. All three companies were shipping 4TB drives between 2011 and 2012.

Drives filled with helium instead of air are planned to be on sale in 2013, allowing a greater capacity of disk platters in a given space.

Hard drives are beginning to be replaced with solid state drives in some laptops due to their higher speed and increased durability. However price and capacity limitations mean that they are still a less popular choice, mainly used in netbooks and ultra portable computer systems.

Many of us are using hard disk drives in our laptops, and other digital devices. Some of these devices fit in a small handbag and it seldom occurs to us that technology has, with incremental change opened a world to us that we can personally visit.

If this interests you, there is more to be told on:

<https://thinkcomputers.org/the-history-of-the-hard-drive/>

14. The Worst U.S. Security Breach of All Time Happened Because of a USB Stick

Someone found the stick (which a foreign intelligence agency infected) in a parking lot and plugged it into their computer. The computer had links to the U.S. Central Command.

The attack happened in 2008 and resulted in the theft of thousands of classified and unclassified documents. The Pentagon spent about 14 months cleaning up the damage from the worm.

It is an interesting story to follow by going to:

Operation Buckshot Yankee
[2008 cyberattack on United States - Wikipedia](#)



My son Patrick thought this insight to how 'The Media' works might be of interest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMjuEcwWIEs>



And now for the good news or is it?

Jack spends his time in a journey down many pathways and generally comes good each month with a story that some might regard as good news. This is it for July.

Others might well dismiss it as an effort to just 'keep the show on the road' for Microsoft while some could see it as a reason to upgrade hardware to cope with new system requirements.

We offer the short story here, with a suggestion that further reading might set your mind at rest.

By Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols, Computerworld
6 JULY 2021 21:00 AEST



'ANALYSIS

The real reason for Windows 11. It's all about security, and it's going to be a costly upgrade — because most of us will need to buy new PCs to make it work.

I've been puzzling over the "why" of Windows 11 for a while now. I'm not the only one. As Computerworld's Preston Gralla wrote, the Windows 11 release news "was often flat-out wrong or misleading. It may well have been the most botched product announcement in Microsoft's long history."

Amen, brother! I've covered every Windows launch since Windows 95 rolled out in Atlanta and nothing else comes close. And, yes, I'm counting 95's Steve Ballmer and Bill Gates dance routine.

So, why is Microsoft releasing this? And why now? Clearly, it's been done in a hurry. Even a month ago, no one outside of Microsoft saw Windows 11 coming.

Continued next column

Continued Widows11...

Microsoft had made it clear that it sees the future of the desktop on the Azure cloud with Microsoft Cloud PC.

It's not money. Windows 11 will be a "free" upgrade for current Windows 10 users. And it sure isn't the "Eh" updated interface or new features.

I mean, being able to run Android apps on Windows is nice, but the reason for a whole new release? I don't think so.

So, what's really going on? After taking a deep dive into what Microsoft is saying and the current, "If it's Tuesday, there must be a new security disaster" world, I think what Windows 11 is really all about is security.

Even as I write this, there's another major Windows zero-day popping up — and it's nasty.

PrintNightmare. Yes, your machine can be taken over via an attack on your Windows printer spooler.

Of course, security isn't sexy. It also means tacitly admitting that Windows 10 is just as much a security mess as ever.

But it's not all Microsoft's fault. Intel's security is a mess, as well. Remember the nasty Meltdown and Spectre security bugs. They're still around, and we're still dealing with their fallout. Put them together in WinTel, and we have a real mess.

The answer? Microsoft, after confusing everyone about what hardware Windows 11 will or won't run on, finally revealed what's what.

And, along the way it pulled back the curtain on why it's doing this. And the answer is, indeed, security.

Windows 11 raises the bar for security by requiring hardware that can enable protections like Windows Hello, Device Encryption, virtualization-based security (VBS), hypervisor-protected code integrity (HVCI), and Secure Boot.

These features in combination have been shown to reduce malware by 60% on tested devices. That's why all Windows 11-supported CPUs have an embedded TPM, support secure boot, and support VBS and specific VBS capabilities.

What does that mean for us? Bad news. Most of us aren't going to "upgrade" our Windows 10 systems. Instead, we're going to buy new PCs.'

Like a real whodunit, there are a few clues/guesses in the remainder of the Vaughan-Nichols story at:

<https://www.computerworld.com/article/3623772/the-real-reason-for-windows-11.html>

If you have not reached this stage in life,
one day you will!
I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager)



I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne. Life is great. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

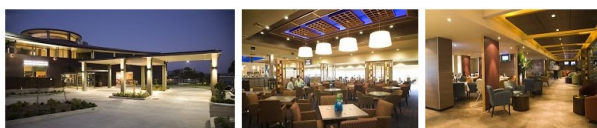
Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course, I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.

Now, I'm wondering: did I send this to you, or did you send it to me?



Bomaderry Bowling Club
Worth Going Out
Of Your Way For

Jack does not always look so serious, sometimes he smiles.



Nineteen Newfoundlanders go to the cinema. The ticket lady asks "why so many of you?" Buddy replies, "the film said 18 or over."

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70. Forget it, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

I was at an ATM yesterday. A little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.

Statistically, six out of seven dwarfs are not happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30 a.m. Can you believe that! 2:30 am? Luckily, for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.

My girlfriend thinks that I'm a stalker. Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.

An East Indian fellow has moved in next door. He has travelled the world, has swum with sharks, has wrestled bears and climbed the highest mountain. It came as no surprise to learn his name was bindair dundat!

I think we used a couple of these before but they make me smile when called to mind. Frank

That's about it folks for this month but remember, Ballerinas are only human... Frank



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wnEd1_hs7I

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