

SHOALHAVEN PC USERS GROUP

June 2021

*Club Meeting scheduled for
Friday, June 18 at 7.30pm*

Special Interest Group Sunday June 20 at 1.00pm

Note arrangements for both meetings to comply with current Covid19 protocol.



Our meetings have settled into a routine that sees members actively involved as we move through the agenda. We need to keep an eye on the time allocated to each item so that video presentations and other topics can be discussed.

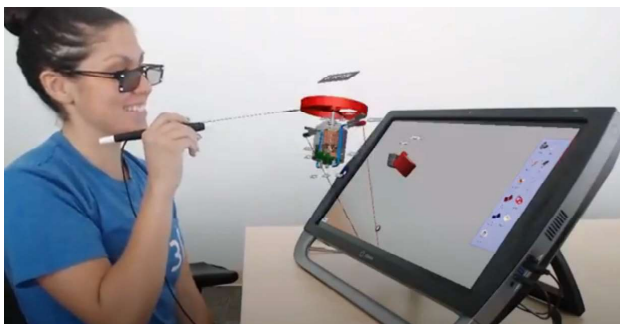
David and Jack typically prepare material for our education and amusement and this is appreciated. You are encouraged to share your thoughts on topics of personal interest that might trigger similar activity by others.

It was suggested at the May meeting that Telstra is planning to cease using franchised retail stores and resume their earlier practise of providing service through Telstra owned centres.

<https://www.cmo.com.au/article/686221/telstra-takes-back-retail-store-ownership-lift-omnichannel-customer-service-game/>

Richard

Jack's presentation introduced us to a remarkable demonstration of emerging technology that we might take for granted in the relatively near future.



For those of us who might have left early or were unable to be at the meeting, try this link and maybe let us know what you think.:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgCU0_BkmQE

Random notes and comment from various sources form the early drafts of the letter each month. The final form is often a surprise to me; and perhaps of interest to casual or regular readers.



David Wastie sent me a 2017 summary of 20 facts that we probably don't remember or did not know but have change the way we communicate and interact at almost every moment of our lives

Such a list is worth more than a casual scan, so I've decided to select just a few of the 'facts' to see the stories. There are links to follow if the mood and time allow.

Your feedback will determine how many others from the list (if any) appear in future issues. You do not have to read it all. **I do suggest you read some of it.**

The space between this line and the end of page one is yet to be put to some use. A brief pause and then...

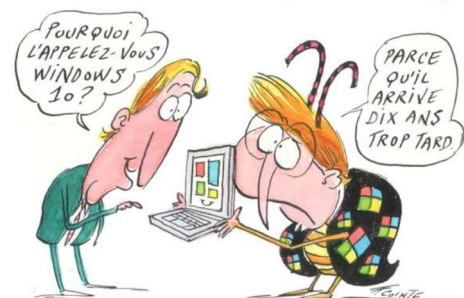
The rest of the letter has been tricky fit the pages as news arrived, thanks to Jack, concerning the future of Windows 10 and computer history related to programmers and computer design gleaned from Wikipedia and other sources.

If those early 'thinkers' had not made the effort, we could not live the life we now enjoy. Each step in emerging technology depends on the collaboration and curiosity characters who persist in figuring out why and how things happen or could be made to happen.

Jack what are these people telling us?

WINDOWS 10, ENFIN!

Frank



Thanks to Gail and Russell for this brief list of stuff covered at the May meeting during questions, answers and other input from members before formal presentations .

Questions and Answers:

Mick Rigg asked if you could put an old 32 bit programme onto a new 64bit computer.
Answer is Yes.

Barbara Baker asked can she could put Word onto her iPad. Apple has an app called Pages that is like Word plus you can put Word onto the iPad. She also asked about Dropbox.

David Lawton stated he does not know how to use Window 10 and how can he install it on his older computer.

A discussion was had by all on the first computers they started using.

Jack Korten is having trouble with his Microsoft Outlook on his laptop. Gail told him that Telstra was finished with Pop and that you had to now have Microsoft 365. Also that Telstra is bringing back their call centres to Australia. She spoke to an Aussie only that week.

Barbara Baker is not happy where Google is on her phone so she was shown how to move apps around.

Max Hunt had trouble with his NBN phone line and Internet. He has to turn it right off and leave it for quite awhile and then back on. Worked after that.

Frank Tynan stated that Telstra were going to take back the franchise shops as they were not giving a good enough service. Meeting asked about our Nowra shop and saying that it has been remodeled. Meeting complained about having to have an appointment but were told that you must do that at Optus also.

David Lawton stated he cannot make a phone call on Windows 10. He was told you can use numerous other ways. David Wastie gave him a quick demo on how to use Windows 10 to make the phone call.

Other:

David Wastie showed how to replace a SIM card in a mobile phone. He also played some email funnies. We watched a movie about camera angles which was very clever.

There is a video downloader to take videos off Face Book. This will be in the newsletter. David gave a demonstration on how to download a video from YouTube called Viddly. VLC is a good programme for playing MP4.

Jack Korten showed a tricky video using 3D glasses. The items on the screen appear to be out in your hand and you can turn them around and dissect them as in the heart, eye and other body parts. Also the interior of a house. The programmes are Zee Central and Zee Space which are available in Australia through HP. Quite expensive.

David Wastie showed a quick video on children from the USA answering questions about geography. It was quite cute and funny.

Your Zee link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txSZnw4qCK0>

And Viddly <https://vidd.ly/how-to-download-youtube-videos>

COMPUTER FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW OR REMEMBER.



David noticed these events and connection while wandering one of those strange places he visits from time to time.

The source, [Computer CPR | Computer Repair & IT Support in Texas](#), have assembled interesting material about the devices we now take for granted and seldom give thought to how they came to be.

20 specific events, connections milestones or uses have been provided...it is not just a set of numbers...

I've taken the liberty of selecting just a few to avoid overload and probed a little further to learn a little more and allow some latitude for their claims...

Our source, Computer CPR tell us...

Computers are a critical part of our daily lives.

In recent decades, computers have revolutionized business, relationships, and shopping, and given rise to a whole new era of marketing and connection. By now, you probably know a computer is an incredible machine, but did you know just *how* amazing?

Here's a list of the top 20 computer facts you might not know:

1. The First Computer Weighed More Than 27 Tons.

Her name was [ENIAC](#), and she took up a modest 1800 square feet of space.

According to Wikipedia, ENIAC...
(Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer)

It was the first programmable, electronic, general-purpose digital computer

It was [Turing-complete](#), and able to solve "a large class of numerical problems" through reprogramming.^{[4][5]}

It had a speed on the order of one thousand times faster than that of [electro-mechanical](#) machines; this computational power, coupled with general-purpose programmability, excited scientists and industrialists alike.

The combination of speed and programmability allowed for thousands more calculations for problems, as ENIAC calculated a trajectory in 30 seconds that took a human 20 hours (allowing one ENIAC to displace 2,400 humans).^[12]

The completed machine was announced to the public the evening of February 14, 1946, and formally dedicated the next day at the University of Pennsylvania. Refurbished in Maryland 1947, it was in continuous operation until 11:45 p.m. on October 2, 1955

5. The First Known Computer Programmer was a Woman

Her name was Ada Lovelace, she lived in England, where she worked as a mathematician and writer. She is famous for work on the "Analytical Engine."

English mathematician Ada Lovelace, the daughter of poet Lord Byron, has been called "the first computer programmer" for writing an algorithm for a computing machine in the mid-1800s.

Who Was Ada Lovelace?

The daughter of famed poet Lord Byron, Augusta Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace — better known as "Ada Lovelace" — showed her gift for mathematics at an early age. She translated an article on an invention by Charles Babbage, and added her own comments. Because she introduced many computer concepts, Lovelace is considered the first computer programmer. She died on November 27, 1852.

Early Years

Ada Lovelace, born as Augusta Ada Byron on December 10, 1815, was the only legitimate child of the famous poet Lord George Gordon Byron. Lord Byron's marriage to Lovelace's mother, Lady Anne Isabella Milbanke Byron, was not a happy one. Lady Byron separated from her husband only weeks after their daughter was born. A few months later, Lord Byron left England, and Lovelace never saw her father again. He died in Greece when Ada was 8 years old.



Lovelace had an unusual upbringing for an aristocratic girl in the mid-1800s. At her mother's insistence, tutors taught her mathematics and science. From early on, Lovelace showed a talent for numbers and language. She received instruction from William Frend, a social reformer; William King, the family's doctor; and Mary Somerville, a Scottish astronomer and mathematician. Somerville was one of the first women to be admitted into the Royal Astronomical Society.

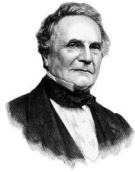
Lovelace's contributions to the field of computer science were not discovered until the 1950s. Her notes were reintroduced to the world by B.V. Bowden, who republished them in *Faster Than Thought: A Symposium on Digital Computing Machines* in 1953. Since then, Ada has received many posthumous honors for her work. In 1980, the U.S. Department of Defense named a newly developed computer language "Ada," after Lovelace.

...Extracts with thanks from:

<https://www.biography.com/scholar/ada-lovelace>

Life fulfilled and recognition compared to 2021?

11. The Parts for the Modern Computer Were First Invented in 1833



A man named Charles Babbage put them together, but the first modern computer came about 120 years later.

Charles Babbage KH FRS was an English polymath. A mathematician, philosopher, inventor and mechanical engineer, Babbage originated the concept of a digital programmable computer and is considered by some to be "father of the computer". Source Wikipedia

Further reading has produced evidence of his skill and understanding of Mathematics well beyond my level of comprehension.

For those of you gifted in the subject, I refer you to:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Babbage

For our purpose, his work as Engineer and Inventor includes these notes ;

Through the Royal Society Babbage acquired the friendship of the engineer Marc Brunel. It was through Brunel that Babbage knew of Joseph Clement, and so came to encounter the artisans whom he observed in his work on manufactures. Babbage provided an introduction for Isambard Kingdom Brunel in 1830, for a contact with the proposed Bristol & Birmingham Railway.

He carried out studies, around 1838, to show the superiority of the broad gauge for railways, used by Brunel's Great Western Railway.[125][126]

In 1838, Babbage invented the pilot (also called a cow-catcher), the metal frame attached to the front of locomotives that clears the tracks of obstacles; he also constructed a dynamometer car.

His eldest son, Benjamin Herschel Babbage, worked as an engineer for Brunel on the railways before emigrating to Australia in the 1850s.

Babbage also invented an ophthalmoscope, which he gave to Thomas Wharton Jones for testing. Jones, however, ignored it. The device only came into use after being independently invented by Hermann von Helmholtz.

In Babbage's time, printed mathematical tables were calculated by human computers; in other words, by hand. They were central to navigation, science and engineering, as well as mathematics. Mistakes were known to occur in transcription as well as calculation.

At Cambridge, Babbage saw the fallibility of this process, and the opportunity of adding mechanisation into its management. His own account of his path towards mechanical computation references a particular occasion:

In 1812 he was sitting in his rooms in the Analytical Society looking at a table of logarithms, which he knew to be full of mistakes, when the idea occurred to him of computing all tabular functions by machinery.

The French government had produced several tables by a new method. Three or four of their mathematicians decided how to compute the tables, half a dozen more broke down the operations into simple stages, and the work itself, which was restricted to addition and subtraction, was done by eighty computers who knew only these two arithmetical processes.

Here, for the first time, mass production was applied to arithmetic, and Babbage was seized by the idea that the labours of the unskilled computers [people] could be taken over completely by machinery which would be quicker and more reliable.

After the attempt at making the first difference engine fell through, Babbage worked to design a more complex machine called the Analytical Engine. He hired C. G. Jarvis, who had previously worked for Clement as a draughtsman. The Analytical Engine marks the transition from mechanised arithmetic to fully-fledged general purpose computation. It is largely on it that Babbage's standing as computer pioneer rests.[

The major innovation was that the Analytical Engine was to be programmed using punched cards: the Engine was intended to use loops of Jacquard's punched cards to control a mechanical calculator, which could use as input the results of preceding computations.[157][158] The machine was also intended to employ several features subsequently used in modern computers, including sequential control, branching and looping. It would have been the first mechanical device to be, in principle, Turing-complete. The Engine was not a single physical machine, but rather a succession of designs that Babbage tinkered with until his death in 1871. [citation needed]

Ada Lovelace, who corresponded with Babbage during his development of the Analytical Engine, is credited with developing an algorithm that would enable the Engine to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers.

Ada Lovelace continued from page 3...

Despite documentary evidence in Lovelace's own handwriting, some scholars dispute to what extent the ideas were Lovelace's own. For this achievement, she is often described as the first computer programmer [failed verification] though no programming language had yet been invented.

Lovelace also translated and wrote literature supporting the project. Describing the engine's programming by punch cards, she wrote: "We may say most aptly that the Analytical Engine weaves algebraical patterns just as the Jacquard loom weaves flowers and leaves.

Babbage visited Turin in 1840 at the invitation of Giovanni Plana. In 1842 Charles Wheatstone approached Lovelace to translate a paper of Luigi Menabrea, who had taken notes of Babbage's Turin talks; and Babbage asked her to add something of her own. Fortunato Prandi who acted as interpreter in Turin was an Italian exile and follower of Giuseppe Mazzini.

What other stories have yet to be written on the intricacies and collaboration of these gifted scholars and their contemporaries from just the three facts selected.

Breaking news

Windows 10 to be retired in 2025, as new OS unveils



Microsoft says it will stop supporting Windows 10 in 2025, as it prepares to unveil a major revamp of its Windows operating system later this month.

When Windows 10 was launched, Microsoft said it was intended to be the final version of the operating system. But from 14 October 2025, there will be no new updates or security fixes for either the Home or Pro versions.

Windows 10 demise continues...

Microsoft says its successor will represent one of the "most significant updates" to the OS in the past decade.

Its predecessor, Windows 7, was retired in 2020, although businesses could pay Microsoft to continue receiving updates for Windows 7 Professional and Windows 7 Enterprise.

Windows 10 was released in July 2015 and dubbed "Windows as a service", which meant the software was gradually updated at no extra charge, rather than the company releasing a new version of its OS every few years.

At the time, chief executive Satya Nadella said it marked a "new era" for personal computing.

Developer evangelist and Microsoft employee Jerry Nixon went further, describing it as "the last version of Windows".

Mr Nadella added he was particularly "excited" by features such as digital personal assistant Cortana, which was intended to compete with Apple's Siri.

But Cortana never really took off and in April this year it was retired on mobile, focusing instead on productivity help in Windows 10, Outlook and Teams.

- A month after Windows 10's release, many popular webcams stopped working, with Microsoft having to patch a bug in the way Windows encoded video
- Hundreds of users complained they lost files and their emails no longer synced, and reported issues with broken Wi-Fi connections and printing
- According to consumer watchdog Which?, some users had to pay for their computer to be repaired, while others said they felt "nagged" to upgrade by the regular alerts

A year after its release, the French data authority said Windows 10 gathered an excessive amount of personal data on users.

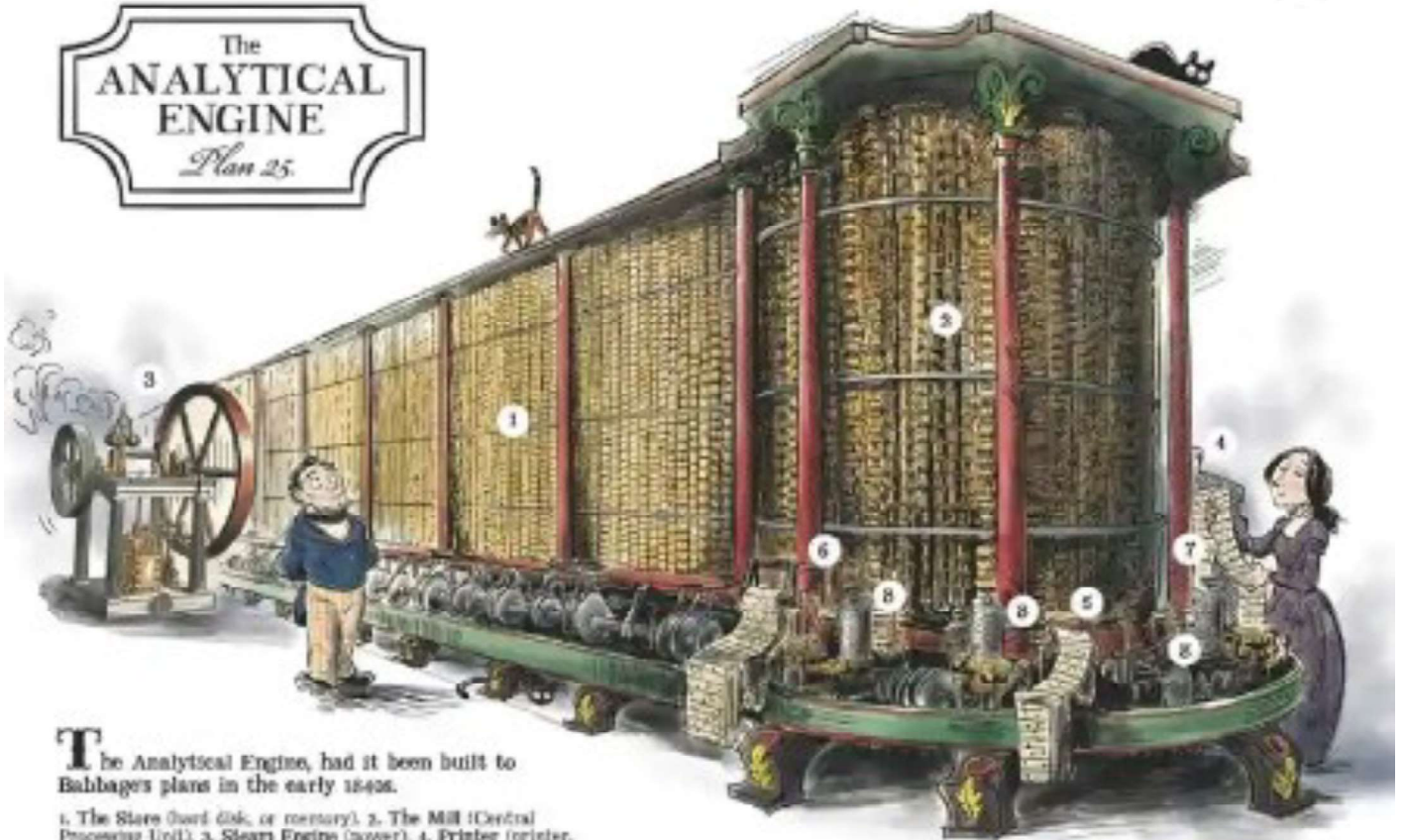
Mr Nadella and chief product officer Panos Panay will launch the new OS at a virtual event on 24 June, with Microsoft now facing stiff competition not just from Apple but also from Google.

While PC sales still dominate - 79.4 million shipped in 2020, according to Gartner - Google's alternative is proving popular, with 11.7 million Chromebooks, which run on Google's Chrome OS, shipping in the same timeframe.

Some commentators suggest the new OS will be given a name rather than numbered 11.

Rebranding rumours aside, it is likely to include a host of new features, a more modern look and a redesigned Start menu.

The
**ANALYTICAL
ENGINE**
Plan 25.



The Analytical Engine, had it been built to Babbage's plans in the early 1840s.

1. The Store (hard disk, or memory). 2. The Mill (Central Processing Unit). 3. Steam Engine (power). 4. Printer (printer, read the other side). 5. Operation Cards (the program). 6. Variable Cards (Addressing system) 7. Number Cards (for entering numbers). 8. The Barrel Controllers (reprogramming).

The Analytical Engine had it been built in the early 1840's

A picture by someone who could translate the written word into a picture that might help us understand

- 1 Hard disc or memory
- 2 The mill Critical Processing Unit
- 3 Steam Engine (power)
- 4 Printer. Around the other side
- 5 Operation cards (program)
- 6 Variable Cards (addressing system)
- 7 Number cards (for entering numbers)
- 8 The Barrel Controllers (reprogramming)

Not quite what you would expect on this page, but that's about the best I could manage this month.

Frank



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