Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

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21 May 2023

Meeting Timetable
Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	John Tacey
11pm	Microsoft office alternatives?	Keith
1:00pm	Lunch -- Report to the Club	
2:00pm	Linux Zorin / Mint; or other member topic	Keith

If you have a question that may need a bit of a look up, let me know before the meeting

Presentation can be done using Power Point and shared screens.

SIGNIFICANT BITS

CLUB NOTICES

CLUB INFORMATION LINES

Info Line (07) 3353 3121

The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

21 May 2023

18 June 2023

20 August 2023

17 September 2023

15 October 2023

Magazine

Submission Deadline

Friday 5 May 2023

Please use e-mail if possible

Hi All,

Scams are on the rise and clearly many people do not use their common sense and the basic check before clicking links and inviting the baddies in or sending off their personal details.

I think even more than ever it is YOU that fails the test, of last resort, as the weakest link in the protection of your data and privacy. It is not easy and very time consuming but the cost if you get it wrong can be large.

Can you afford the loss last year $3.1 Billion was lost by Australians to scams, that is real money and most, if any, not recovered. The figures are unbelievable, but they are on the record

We can set up firewalls antivirus and malware protection but if you open up access or send out access details it is all by passed and the protection is nullified.

With the 'forced" use of the internet by Government and business and the collection of personal; data, as we have seen with Optus, Medibank and many more, we now rely heavily on them to keep that data safe, and they are failing us.

So take great care with your online activities, and watch those scam phishing emails, and text messaging and phone calls. Read the messages and the details, and remember "if it looks to good to be true" it most likely is a dud; If in doubt "through it out".

It looks like it is time to catch up with the AI monster that appears to be gathering pace. I notice a number of topics showing up on email drops and news feeds. John is turning up various links in his Jots new release column.

I will start to have look and see if it something I can come to grips with?

All for now

See you at the meeting

Keith

Reports

Presentation and Education

Presentation:

Morning 11am. Alternate to MS Office.

Afternoon 1pm: Linux Zorin or Mint.

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 9 members at the April meeting.

Scams using AI are happening.

Uptick in malware disguised as ChatGPT-related software. "Since March alone, our security analysts have found around 10 malware families posing as ChatGPT and similar tools to compromise accounts across the internet," Meta said in a report. Meta says (Opens in a new window) the goal behind the ChatGPT-themed malware is "to run unauthorized ads from compromised business accounts across the internet." One of the identified malware strains, dubbed NodeStealer, can also steal passwords from a victim's computer by looting the cookies and login information on the browser.

Treasurer's Report
April 2023

Opening Balance at 1/4/23	**2674.29**
Income	
Bank Interest	0.01
Total Income	0.00
	0.01
Expenses	
	0.0
Total Expenses	**0.0**
Month's Gain	**0.01**
Balance at 30/4/23	**2674.30**

Ross Skyring
Treasurer

**Just once,
I want the prompt for username
and password to say,
"Close enough."**

John's Jots
By John Tacey

Q&A - April Meeting

John was on sick leave so I tried to fill the shoes. but not that well.

My note taking and memory is much worse than John's so here is the best I can recall.

Browsers and search engines?

The question was posed as to what is the difference between a browser and search engine.

First up I went simple and basic.

The Browser is no more than a vehicle to get us to the internet, and in simple you access by entering a known address into the address line. To find a site you did not know the address of you needed to enter a criteria. Early days this was a Boolean value that was a structured statement. The clearer the statement the more likely you got the result you were after.

The World moved on and now we have Search Engines that add to the process of finding 'stuff' on the web.

The two work together to give us access to the web and to find sites and data.

Simple

Browser + Search engine = access to the web and its numerous web sites.

Browsers are Edge from Microsoft, Safari from Apple, Chrome from Google, Firefox from Mozilla, and many more.

Search engines were developed becoming a huge data bases of data links, and programming to search and access that base for the answer to our queries.

Everyone knows Google and it probably lead the way, but by no means was it the only one. But it is the biggest, and possibly the best. There are some search engines that are specifically targeted at a selective set of data and only accessibly by accreditation. Medical is an example.

The world has further moved on with most Browsers now including propriety search engines, i.e. Chrome has Google; Edge has Bing, Samsung has its own search engine as does Apple.

All (I think I can say this) browsers have setting where you can make any engine you prefer the default for the Browser.

So if you use a propriety browser and then search it has the function built in.

This question lead me to diverge into browser settings.

I believe everyone when loading any programme needs to access it settings and check how you can customise it to meet your security and privacy requirements.

With Browsers this is usually easy to do using the Ellipse (three dots) or the stack of minus signs (a hamburger) you will find on the top bar on the left side.
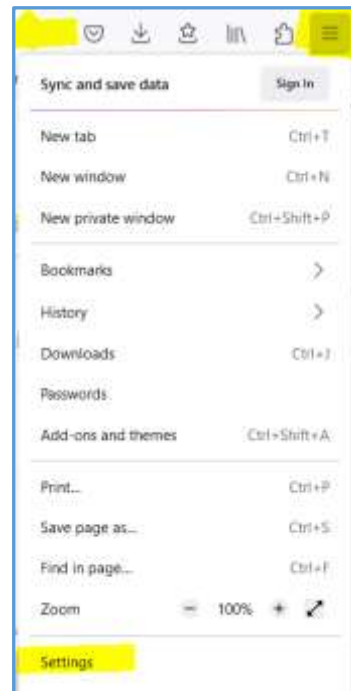
You will find a number of options but click in Settings.

This is Edge setting link.
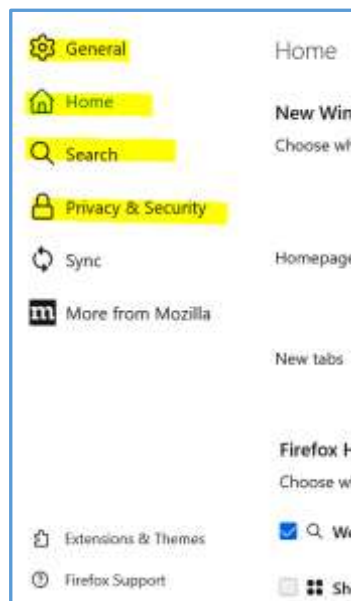
This is Firefox's option list.

Of particular use is the privacy and security one.

The other options will allow you to customise as you wish and maybe set your default search engine.

We looked at some other Browser function but that was the overview from the initial question.

TIP

We looked a bit at Add In and Fred told us about uBlock Origin.

This extension stops adds when you use You Tube

I have installed it and find is it working nicely, and the very annoying ads are gone.
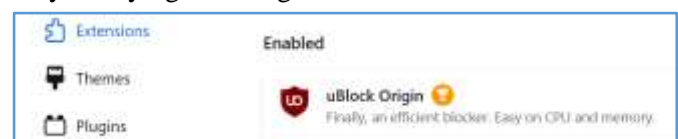
I am using it on Firefox and Edge Browsers   Keith

John's Jots (April meeting)

Gleanings from e-newsletters and other sources.

New Releases

Essential PIM 11.5.0

License: Free

File name: Essential PIM.exe

File Size: 69 MB   O/S: Windows

Publisher:

URL: https://www.essentialpim.com/pc-version

Glary Utilities 5

License: Freeware

File Name: Glary_Utilities_v5.204.0.233.exe

File Size: 20.18 MB

Platform: Windows 8, 7, 2000, XP, Vista. 32/64bit version.

Publisher: Glarysoft Ltd

Languages: 44 Languages   [Help Translate]

URL: http://www.glaryutilities.com/

Release Notes:

Optimized Disk Cleaner: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Tracks Eraser: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Software Update: optimized the version comparison algorithm, and increase the comparison speed by 30%

Optimized Empty Folders Finder: add folder delete validation to prevent accidentally deletion of non-empty folder

Minor GUI improvements

Minor bug fixes

Glary Utilities is a freeware with registry and disk cleaning, privacy protection, performance accelerator and amazing multifunctional tools. It can fix dogged registry errors, wipe off clutters, optimise Internet speed, safeguard confidential files and maintain maximum performance.

It is designed for both novice and professionals. User-friendly interface shows clear & detailed directions. For novice, all work can be done with just 1 or 2 clicks, while for professionals, abundant options are available.

Key features:

Optimise, clean and boost the speed of your Windows.

Protect your privacy and security.

Block spyware, trojans, adware, etc.

Fix certain application errors.

Simple, fast and user friendly interface.

For private use only.

URL: http://www.glaryutilities.com/

Google Chrome (32bit) 112.0.5615.87

License: Freeware

File name: ChromeSetup.exe

File Size: 88.12MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Google

URL: https://www.google.com/chrome/

LibreOffice

License: Freeware

File name: LibreOffice_7.5.2_Win_x86.msi

File Size: 323 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: The Document Foundation

Comments: Contains the functions:-

Writer

PDF

Presentation

Spreadsheet

URL:
https://mirror.freedif.org/TDF/libreoffice/stable/6.2.0/win/x86/LibreOffice_6.2.0_Win_x86.msi

Moon Reader

License: Freeware

Updated: 23 Sep 2022

File name: moonreader_v7.7-707003_Android-4.4.apk

File Size: 22.4 MB O/S: Android

Publisher:

URL: https://androidapksfree.com/moon-reader/com-flyersoft-moonreader/download/

Mozilla Firefox

License: Freeware

File   name: Mozilla_Firefox_(32bit)_v110.0.2.exe Update

File Size: 53.68 MB O/S: Windows 7 to 10

Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

Comments:-

To force a manual update:-

Menu Button > ? Button > 'About Firefox'

URL: https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/

NotePad++ (32bit)

License: Freeware

File name: NotePad_v8.5.2.exe

File Size: 4.17 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Notepad++

URL: https://notepad-plus-plus.org/

The Sage VII English Dictionary and Thesaurus

Category: English Dictionary and Thesaurus

License: Non-commercial users can use the evaluation license indefinitely.

File name: TheSage_Setup_7-48-2802.exe

File Size: 72 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Sequence Publishing

URL: https://www.softpedia.com/get/Others/Home-Education/TheSage-English-Dictionary-and-Thesaurus.shtml

WordWeb Version: 10

Category: Dictionary - Thesaurus

Languages: English, Spanish, German, Indonesian, Italian, Portuguese, More...

License: All users may use WordWeb for 30 days for evaluation purposes.

After 30 days you may use it only if you take fewer than three flights in any 12-month period (i.e. at most one return flight per year).

If you fly more than this you must purchase WordWeb Pro to continue using the software after 30 days.

See licensing for details. See wordweb.info

File name: wordweb10.exe

File Size: 23.2 MB O/S: Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows 10

Publisher: WordWeb Software

URL: https://wordweb.en.downloadastro.com/

Tips etc.

Why Windows 11 Isn't Ready for Antivirus Software Tests

By Neil J. Rubenking Mar 21, 2023

Updating our security testbeds is a massive undertaking. We explain what goes into the decision of making the move to Windows 11 for our hands-on testing of antivirus apps.

https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/99279/why-windows-11-isnt-ready-for-antivirus-software-tests

Microsoft: Sorry, But No More Feature Updates for Windows 10

By Michael Kan Apr 28, 2023

Last year's release of version 22H2 for the OS 'will be the final version of Windows 10,' Microsoft says. That means you'll need to get Windows 11 for major enhancements.

https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/99845/microsoft-sorry-but-no-more-feature-updates-for-windows-10

25 Windows 11 Tricks You Need to Know

By Michael Muchmore Mar 01, 2023

Customize your Windows experience, learn about the best new features, and make sure you're squeezing the most out of your desktop OS with these insider tips.

https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/90373/the-best-windows-11-tips-and-tricks

Microsoft Decides Outlook, Teams Will Open Links Using Edge by Default

By Matthew Humphries May 3, 2023

User preferences be damned! Microsoft will ignore your default browser setting.

https://www.pcmag.com/news/microsoft-decides-outlook-teams-will-only-open-links-using-edge?zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D

Microsoft Edge Now Displays Bing Ad on Google Bard Site

By Marco Marcelline Apr 30, 2023

Spotted in a developer version of Edge, the Bing AI ad appears next to the Google Bard URL.

https://au.pcmag.com/browsers/99869/microsoft-edge-now-displays-bing-advert-on-google-bard-site

Support Passkey Sign-Ins

By Michael Kan May 3, 2023

Google is starting to nudge users to try out passkeys, a replacement for traditional passwords that can stop phishing attacks and make sign-ins easier.

https://www.pcmag.com/news/go-passwordless-google-accounts-now-support-passkey-sign-ins?zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D

Mastodon Makes It Easier for Beginners to Get Started

By Rob Pegoraro May 2, 2023

The platform acknowledges that its setup process is confusing, so it'll suggest default servers at sign-up. Also on tap: quote-tweet and search features ripped from Twitter, its top rival.

https://www.pcmag.com/news/mastodon-makes-it-easier-for-beginners-to-get-started?zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D

AI Can Give Us a Productivity Boost, But Will Everyone Get a Fair Shot at It?

By Rob Pegoraro May 3, 2023

In a Web Summit talk, Google Chief Decision Scientist Cassie Kozyrkov Cassie Kozyrkov warns about an 'unequal distribution of these powerful tools.'

https://www.pcmag.com/news/ai-can-give-us-a-productivity-boost-but-will-everyone-get-a-fair-shot-at?zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D

Headset Maker Says 'Ransomware Time-Bomb' Bricked Its Devices

By Michael Kan May 3, 2023

Orqa claims a 'greedy former contractor' secretly installed malicious code into the headset's firmware years ago. But the contractor claims it all boils down to a licensing dispute.

https://www.pcmag.com/news/headset-maker-says-ransomware-time-bomb-bricked-its-devices?zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D

Beware the AI Scams: Meta Blocks 1,000+ Links Tied to ChatGPT-Themed Malware

By Michael KanMay 3, 2023

Hackers pounced on ChatGPT's popularity to create malware posing as OpenAI's chatbot, and then circulated links to it on Facebook, many to dangerous browser extensions.

https://www.pcmag.com/news/beware-ai-scams-meta-blocks-1000-plus-links-tied-to-chatgpt-themed-malware

What Is PCI Express 5.0, and Why Does It Matter for the Newest SSDs?

By Tom Brant & Michael Justin Allen Sexton May 3, 2023

The latest version of PCI Express brings massive bandwidth increases to PCs, enabling truly blistering SSD read and write speeds up to 14,000MBps. Here's what you need to know to get your PC storage on this high-speed bus.

https://www.pcmag.com/news/what-is-pci-express-50-and-why-does-it-matter-for-the-newest-ssds?zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D

Facebook Is in Hot Water Again for Alleged Violations of Kids' Privacy

By Michael Kan May 3, 2023

The FTC claims Facebook parent company Meta has violated users' privacy once again. It also wants to bar Meta from launching new products until they've been vetted for privacy.

https://www.pcmag.com/news/facebook-is-in-hot-water-again-for-alleged-violations-of-kids-privacy?zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D

5 Ways to Detect Text Written by AI

By Chandra Steele May 01, 2023

The best way to figure out if an artificial intelligence wrote something may be to ask AI. We test AI-detection services with text written by ChatGPT and text written by a human: Here are the results.

https://au.pcmag.com/help/99874/5-ways-to-detect-chatgpt-written-text

How to Trim Your SSD and Defrag Your Hard Drive in Windows

By Whitson Gordon Updated May 2, 2023

Having computer problems? Here is how to defragment a hard drive or trim an SSD in Windows so you can get your PC back in working order.

https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/how-to-defrag-your-hard-drive-in-windows-10?zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D

Here Endeth John's Jots

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