Meeting Timetable
Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	John Tacey
11pm	Win 11 on old hardware	Fred
	Presidents Report	Keith
1:00pm	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
2:00pm	Linux Ubuntu Mate Workshop	Keith All

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

20 October 2024

17 November 2024

22 December 2024

19 January 2025

16 February 2025

16 March 2025

20 April 2025

18 May 2025

15 June 2025

20 July 2025

17 August 2025

21 September 2025

19 October 2025

16 November 2025

21 December 2025

Magazine

Submission Deadline

Friday 4 October 2024

Please use e-mail if possible

From the President's CPU

Keith Catts — President

Hi All,

The AGM was held last month and the Minutes of that meeting are included at the end of the Magazine.

The election of officers carried out, with John Tacey doing the honours. There were three formal nomination, and with no further nominations, John declared the following members elected; Keith Catts President, Gary Woodforth Secretary, Ross Skyring Treasurer.

My thanks to John for presiding over the elections and to Gary and Ross for continuing on the committee.

I don't know about but the rush to AI is over whelming and understanding how it is permeating into a range pf programmes and just what it is doing is a worry for me.

We have a new year to catch up with it.

All for now

See you at the meeting

Keith

PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL VIA DIRECT FUNDS TRANSFER

Brisbug PC User Group Inc

BSB No: 034-083
Account No: 185711

Remember to enter your name and membership number in the comment field

Reports

Presentation and Education

Presentation:

Morning 11am. AGM and elections.

After Afternoon 1pm: Linux Ubuntu Mate workshop

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 11 members at the September meeting. With 1 visitor.

Treasurer's Report

September 2024

Opening Balance at 01/9/24	**2145.51**
Income	
Bank Interest	0.01
Renew for 2026 Enrico Maronese	10.00
Total Income	**10.01**
Total Expenses	**0.00**
Month's gain	**10.01**
Balance at 30/9/24	**2155.51**

Ross Skyring

Treasurer

John's Jots
By John Tacey

John's Jots

Q&A - September meeting

Keyboard Not Working

Cordless unit not working, Mouse O.K.

Tried new batteries, two sets.

No Joy

New MBB Modem Battery Problem?

The modem uses a cable connection to the Desktop PC, other devices (TV etc.) use the WiFi ports.

Battery runs out of puff when left on all day.

Battery capacity probably inadequate.

Ensure that it is fully charged.

Log service duration.

Check the performance specification.

Try running it with the charger on, ensuring adequate ventilation for cooling.

As it is an MBB device it is possible that continuous use for a full day was not envisioned by the maker.

As it is used as a substitute for an NBN service, a Telstra 5G Home Internet Service may have been a better option.

This uses mains power, no battery required.

https://www.telstra.com.au/internet/5g-home-internet

Another option is to use a USB modem plugged into the Desktop PC with the WiFi Ports for the other devices, no battery required.

Laptop does not start.

When on battery, check that battery is charged.

Battery may have failed/died.

Try using the power pack.

We did not have a Power Pack with which to check.

Bring it all to the next meeting.

Unable to Access Camera

Unable to download photos from camera.

Used to work O.K.

Possible causes:-PC Driver or camera makers software.

The camera could be faulty or inadequate battery charge.

If the camera uses an SD card for storage it can be removed and used with a USB card reader.

Some early cameras had the storage built in, Non-removable.

Also the battery was built in, Non-removable.

Bring it, charger and cables to the next meeting.

Browser and Search Engine, what are they?

Difference between Search Engine and Web Browser

https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/difference-between-search-engine-and-web-browser/

A web browser is an application software that explores the World Wide Web and requests web documents and services from servers.

https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/web-browser/

https://techterms.com/definition/web_browser

A search engine is software that searches a database of information according to the user's query

https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/searengi.htm

https://techterms.com/definition/searchengine

Do all search engines give the same results?

Not necessarily. Search engines use proprietary algorithms to index and correlate data, so every search engine has its own approach to finding what you're trying to find. Its results may be based on where you're located, what else you've searched for, and what results were preferred by other users searching for the same thing. Each search engine uniquely weights these and offers you different results.

https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/do-all-search-engines-give-the-same-results/

Athletic Cursor

Typing on the Laptop PC.

The cursor moves to another place in the document.

The usual cause is a Thumb contacting the Touchpad.

The simplest remedy is to deactivate the Touchpad and to use a Mouse.

Note: This record of the Q&A session topics relies on my biological volatile memory (a.k.a. the 'forgettory').

Gleanings from e-newsletters and other sources.

Reviews

What's New in the Windows 11 2024 Update?

By Michael Muchmore October 1, 2024

New core code, convenience features, and eye candy, along with exclusive Copilot+ PC bonuses, grace the 24H2 version of Windows 11.

https://www.pcmag.com/news/whats-new-in-the-windows-11-2024-update?utm_source=email&utm_campaign=whatsnewnow&zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D&lctg=24359534815

The Best AI Search Engines for 2024

By Michael Muchmore September 28, 2024

Generative AI is infiltrating everything you do on the web, and search is no exception. If you want to embrace the revolution, here are the best AI search engines we've tried.

https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-ai-search-engines?utm_source=email&utm_campaign=labreport&zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnmoLs_AknqwLVhZpQWW_ldjjcVkNAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D&lctg=24359534815

The Best Point-and-Shoot Cameras for 2024

By Jim Fisher Sep 27, 2024

If you aren't willing to haul around a heavy SLR or mirrorless camera but still want something better than a smartphone, a compact model might be the way to go. These are the best point-and-shoot cameras we've tested.

https://au.pcmag.com/digital-cameras/29037/the-best-point-and-shoot-cameras

New Releases

Essential PIM 12.0.6

License: Free

File name: Essential PIM.exe   File Size: 68.80 MB

O/S: Windows

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

Glary Utilities 6

License: Freeware

Release Date:

File Name: Glary_Utilities_v 6.14.0.20.exe

File Size: 26.45 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) 129.0.6668.71

License: Freeware

File name: ChromeSetup.exe

File Size: 106.56 MB MB   O/S: Windows

Publisher: Google

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

Java Runtime Environment (32bit)

License: Freeware

Filename:Java_Runtime_Environment_(32bit)_v8.0.4210.9.exe

File Size: 59.51 MB   O/S: Windows

Publisher: Oracle

URL: http://www.java.com/

LibreOffice

License: Freeware

File name: LibreOffice_ 24.8.1_Win_x86.msi

File Size: 329.28 MB   O/S: Windows

Publisher: The Document Foundation

Comments: Contains the functions:-

Writer

PDF

Presentation

Spreadsheet

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

Mozilla Firefox   60.40 MB

License: Freeware

File name: Mozilla_Firefox_(32bit)_v130.0.1.exe Update

File Size: 60.40 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/

Mozilla Thunderbird

License: Freeware

File name: Thunderbird Setup 128.2.3(GB).exe

File Size: 60.72 MB   O/S: Windows XP SP2 to 10

Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

URL: http://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/thunderbird/

NotePad++ (32bit)

License: Freeware

File name: NotePad_v8.7.0.exe

File Size: 6.18 MB   O/S: Windows

Publisher: Notepad++

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

XnView

License: Freeware

File name: XnView_v 2.51.7.exe

File Size: 5.99MB

O/S: Windows XP SP3 to the last version of Windows 10.

Publisher: XnView.com

URL: http://www.xnview.com/

Want more? See the New Releases list:

http://ct.com.com/

Tips etc.

How to Teach Kids the Basics of Cybersecurity

By Kim Key Sep 05, 2024

Since it isn't a priority in public schools, parents must teach kids the fundamentals of online safety. Here's where to start.

https://au.pcmag.com/security/95332/5-tips-for-teaching-kids-the-cybersecurity-basics

Meta Faces $101 Million Fine for Storing Facebook Passwords in Plaintext

By Michael Kan September 27, 2024

Five years after the incident was uncovered and fixed, a European regulator is penalizing Facebook parent company Meta for violating the European Union's GDPR laws on data privacy.

https://au.pcmag.com/security/107432/meta-faces-101-million-fine-for-storing-facebook-passwords-in-plaintext

Microsoft Gives Controversial Recall AI Feature Some Extra Security

By Kate Irwin Sep 28, 2024

Microsoft promises its Recall feature won't screenshot your personal or financial information. It'll also require Windows Hello verification.

https://au.pcmag.com/ai/107435/microsoft-gives-controversial-recall-ai-feature-some-extra-security

0patch Explained: How It Works and What It Means for the End of Windows 10

By Chris Hoffman Oct 01, 2024

0patch promises to keep delivering security updates to Windows 10 even after Microsoft stops next year. Should you use it? We help you decide.

https://au.pcmag.com/security/107465/0patch-explained-how-it-works-and-what-it-means-for-the-end-of-windows-10

5 Android Features That'll Make You Toss Your iPhone

By Gabriel Zamora Sep 28, 2024

Pledge your allegiance to Apple? Even with iOS 18's enhancements, some things are just better on an Android phone.

https://au.pcmag.com/apple-ios/107442/5-android-features-thatll-make-you-toss-your-iphone

Copilot+ PC Upgrades Include 'Click to Do' for Quick In-App Suggestions

By Michael Muchmore Oct 02, 2024

Microsoft Store apps also add Photo Super Resolution and Generative Fill and Erase capabilities.

https://au.pcmag.com/ai/107480/copilot-pc-upgrades-include-click-to-do-for-quick-in-app-suggestions

First Look: New Google AI Summarizes & Translates Right on Your Chromebook

By Matthew Buzzi Oct 01, 2024

At its fall showcase, Google debuted nifty AI features for all Chromebooks, alongside fresh models from Lenovo and Samsung. We went hands on with it all, including a cool Duet detachable.

https://au.pcmag.com/laptops/107478/first-look-new-google-ai-summarizes-translates-right-on-your-chromebook

Lose the Cables: How to Connect Your Printer to Your Wi-Fi

By M. David Stone Sep 29, 2024

Still printing? At least do it wirelessly. We'll walk you through how to connect your Brother, Canon, HP, or Epson printer to your Wi-Fi network so you can access it from multiple devices.

https://au.pcmag.com/printers/30806/ready-to-print-how-to-connect-a-wireless-printer

How to Turn Your Smartphone Into a Wireless Webcam

By Whitson Gordon & Jason Cohen Oct 01, 2024

While most laptops come with built-in webcams, desktops do not. Here's how to turn your smartphone into a wireless webcam with some free software.

https://au.pcmag.com/video-conferencing-software/90139/how-to-turn-your-smartphone-into-a-wireless-webcam

Devices Connecting to the Wrong Network? How to Change Wi-Fi Priority

By Whitson Gordon Oct 01, 2024

If your laptop or phone is ignoring your preferred network, and sticking to a weak one, here's how to adjust the connection priority in your device's Wi-Fi settings.

https://au.pcmag.com/networking/86338/device-connecting-to-the-wrong-wi-fi-network-how-to-change-its-connection-priority

Feeds Full of Junk? How to Reset Your Social Media Algorithms

By Eric Griffith Aug 17, 2024

Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube filled with garbage? Follow these easy steps for a fresh start on seven popular social media platforms.

https://au.pcmag.com/social-media/106818/feeds-full-of-junk-how-to-reset-your-social-media-algorithms

California Governor Vetoes AI Safety Bill for Only Targeting Large Models

By Emily Dreibelbis Oct 01, 2024

Gavin Newsom says the bill gives the public 'a false sense of security' by targeting Big Tech, which lobbied against the bill, and ignores the threats presented by smaller companies.

https://au.pcmag.com/ai/107456/california-governor-vetoes-ai-safety-bill-for-only-targeting-large-models

Epic Games Sues Google, Samsung Over Auto Blocker, App Store Competition

By Kate Irwin Sep 30, 2024

The game publisher alleges Samsung and Google are breaking US law by prohibiting app store alternatives on Samsung devices with features like Auto Blocker.

https://au.pcmag.com/android-apps/107450/epic-games-sues-google-samsung-over-auto-blocker-app-store-competition

'Octo2' Trojan Malware Poses as VPN, Chrome Apps to Steal Funds

By Kate Irwin Sep 28, 2024

A new malware variant spreads across Android devices, infecting victims and targeting bank accounts by posing as NordVPN or Google Chrome.

https://au.pcmag.com/security/107429/octo2-trojan-malware-poses-as-vpn-chrome-apps-to-steal-funds

Zillow to Show Climate Risks for Properties in the US

By Joe Hindy Sep 29, 2024

Over 80% of home buyers now consider climate risks when buying a home, according to Zillow, which will soon display flood, wildfire, wind, heat, and air-quality data.

https://au.pcmag.com/mobile-apps/107444/zillow-to-show-climate-risks-for-properties-in-the-us

US Charges 3 Iranians for Hacking Trump's Campaign

By Michael Kan Sep 28, 2024

The unsealed indictment identifies three Iranians accused of hacking Trump's campaign, all of whom allegedly work for the country's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

https://au.pcmag.com/security/107437/us-charges-3-iranians-for-hacking-trumps-campaign

Modem, Router, Switch, and Access Point: What's the Difference?

By Whitson Gordon Sep 28, 2024

What is a modem? What is a router? Do you know a switch from a hub? If you don't know the difference between all the devices that help you get online, this guide explains it all.

https://au.pcmag.com/networking/90118/modem-router-and-access-point-whats-the-difference

Kaspersky Antivirus Replaced by UltraAV? Here's Why, and What You Can Do

By Neil J. Rubenking Sep 25, 2024

Some US Kaspersky security users got a big surprise when their protection was suddenly replaced by UltraAV due to a government ban. But Kaspersky's demise has been looming for years.

https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/107376/kaspersky-antivirus-replaced-by-ultraav-heres-why-and-what-you-can-do

MacOS Sequoia Causing VPN, Web Browsing, Antivirus Software Problems

By Kate Irwin Sep 24, 2024

MacOS 15 users find some VPNs and antivirus software aren't working anymore, while others can't use Chrome or Firefox after the update.

https://au.pcmag.com/security/107354/macos-sequoia-causing-vpn-web-browsing-antivirus-software-problems

Here Endeth John's Jots

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Apps You Run on Your Computer Are ".exe" files

By Jim Cerny, 1st Vice President. Sarasota Technology Users Group

https://thestug.org/

Your device (Windows or Apple computer, iPhone, iPad, or whatever) runs "apps," which is a term short for "applications". An app is a program or a set of instructions for the computer to execute or "run." They are why you have your device. Although apps can run on any device, to keep it simple, let's look at how an "app" runs on a Windows computer (almost the same on any device).

When you purchase your device (Windows computer), it comes with many apps that have already been installed and are ready to go. Some very helpful apps with Windows are WordPad, Paint, Calculator, and many others, such as some games, utility apps, and more. You are probably unaware of all the apps that come with Windows that have already been installed. If you want an app you do not have, like a game, Microsoft Word, or Firefox, you must DOWNLOAD and INSTALL it on your device. You are downloading and installing an EXECUTABLE computer file; that is, it can "run" on your device. This file type has a name that ends with ".exe," meaning "executable."

You are probably already aware of a "file" on your Windows computer. A file can be a text document, a photo, or a spreadsheet. If you wanted to create or write a new app from scratch, you would write the app using computer language and write it in a file, too. But what you are doing by writing an app is you are giving commands or instructions for the computer to follow. Suppose you were writing a game app to play tic-tac-toe on your computer; you would have to write instructions for the computer to recognize where each X or O is on the grid and where to place the next move. So this app is written as a file just like any other file except the name of this kind of file ends with ".exe." If you have downloaded (that is, copied a file from somewhere else, like a website, for example), you probably have noticed that the name of the file you downloaded ends with ".exe." In Windows, one

way to run such a file is to click your mouse on the file name – your computer sees it as an executable file and runs it.

It is the same if you double-click an app icon on your desktop; you tell the computer to run that app.

Maybe you get notices that there is an update to an app you already have. If you download the update, it is an executable file (a ".exe" file) that you click on to run the update.

Exe files are not for you to open and look at or change. They are in computer or machine" language that you would not be able to understand. But they ARE just files stored on your computer in a program or apps folder. To remove an app from your device, you must UNINSTALL it using a Windows or other utility app to do that. Please do NOT attempt to find the executable file yourself and delete it.

If you want to learn more about executable files or apps, ask Google and watch a short video or two about it. But most of us want the app to run so we can use our device how we want.

Backup Tools and Procedures
By Tom Burt, Vice President. Sun City Summerlin Computer Club.
https://www.scscc.club

It's been a few years since I've written about tools and procedures for backing up your computer. With the growing popularity of smartphones and tablets, the need for backup has expanded to include those devices and traditional Windows, Macintosh, and Linux PCs. I can't stress enough how important it is to make regular backup copies of your data files and of your computer's entire hard drive. The backup landscape has changed somewhat, so it seemed a good time for an update.

What is Backing Up?
Backing up means accurately copying some or all of the data and software stored on your computer's storage drive. The copy is commonly stored on some type of external storage device that is not generally connected to your computer. The external device may be a USB hard drive or flash drive, a removable rack-mount hard drive, a folder or partition on another computer on your in-house network, or a server elsewhere on the Internet such as Dropbox, MS OneDrive, or Google Drive. A personal backup solution may include some or all of the above.

Why Back Up?

The reason to make backups is that (putting it politely) **BAD STUFF HAPPENS!** Computer equipment is highly reliable and may run for years without failing, but sooner or later, storage devices fail. More commonly, accidents (drops and spills, turning off the PC's power, power failures and power surges, and so forth) happen, causing a storage device or other device component to fail. A vast array of malicious software waits for any opportunity to attack, damage, or lock up saved data. There's also a fundamental human error – accidentally deleting a file or a folder.

Without a safe backup copy, data saved on your computer may be irretrievably lost. For example, consider digital photos, videos, music, and financial / tax records. Also, if you had to start over with a new, blank hard drive, it would be relatively easy to reinstall Windows, Linux, or MacOS, but what about all the other programs, settings, and all your data?

Full Disk Backup – Cloning and Imaging

A **clone** of a hard drive is a complete copy to another hard drive. All information needed to boot and run the computer and all the programs, settings, and data are written on the backup hard drive. A clone fills up all the backup hard drive; only ONE clone can be written to the backup drive. To **restore** after the computer's internal hard drive has failed or been corrupted, one can either clone from the backup drive to the computer's (possibly new) internal drive or remove the failed drive and install the backup drive in its place. Cloning back should be the first choice on a laptop or all-in-one computer, provided the internal drive hasn't failed. Removing and replacing a laptop's internal drive is a challenging task.

An **Image** of a hard drive is a complete copy written to a single compressed file on another storage device. The compressed image file doesn't typically use as much space as the original data; only the actual space is backed up. Keeping several image files on a single external storage device is usually possible. As with a clone, the image file contains all the information needed to boot and run the PC, along with all the programs

and data. However, the image file is not itself bootable.

A bootable recovery disk (CD or DVD) or flash drive is required to restore either a clone or an image file. All the primary backup tools include a tool to create bootable recovery media.

Popular Full Disk Backup Tools for Desktop Computers

There are several well-known software tools for backing up the hard drives of desktop PCs and Macs.

Acronis Cyber Protect Home (2023)
- **https://www.acronis.com/en-us/ or https://ugr7.com/**
- Integrated suite of backup, anti-virus, and ransomware protection.
- Excellent for backing up entire hard drives or partitions.
- Makes both "clones" and "images."
- Can "mount" a backup image as a logical drive.
- Can make bootable "Rescue Media" for both backup and restore.
- It can also back up individual files and folders.
- Single PC essential subscription lists at $50 / year, family pack of 3 about $80 / year
  There are premium offerings, including cloud storage.
  User Group Relations (Gene Barlow) prices are 50% lower. https://ugr7.com/

CASPER by Future Systems Software
- **https://www.fssdev.com/products/casper/**
- Makes "images".
- Features bootable images.
- The single system price is about $60; a family pack of 5 for $80.
- Has a 30-day free trial.

Macrium Reflect 8 Home
- https://www.macrium.com/products/home
- The free version has been discontinued but continues to work on Windows 10 and 11.; you can subscribe to the "Home" edition for an annual fee of $49.99 or buy a one-year license for $70 (no support after the first year). They offer a 30-day free trial.

- Can back up entire hard drive or partitions.
- Makes both "clones" or "images."
- Can "mount" a backup image as a logical drive.
- Can make bootable "Rescue Media" for both backup and restore.

EaseUS ToDo Backup FREE
- **https://www.easeus.com/backup-software/tb-free.html**
- See feature comparison,
- Makes "images". You can "boot" from an image.
- You can upgrade to a fuller-featured "Home" edition for $39.99 annually, one year free upgrade, or a "Lifetime Upgrades" edition for $79.95.

I tried using EaseUS ToDo Backup to back up my C: drive to a USB 3 external 7200 RPM hard drive. It required 52 min to back up 300 GB of data. The resultant image size was 184.5 GB. A substantial number of MP4 files on the C: drive had already been compressed.

Windows 11 Backup (Windows 7) FREE (built-in to Windows 10 and 11)
- This backup tool is reached via: Control Panel > All Control Panel Items > Backup and Restore (Windows 7)
- You can use it to back up key library folders or "Create a system image." Once there, you can add additional drives or partitions to the basic C: drive partition set.
- I set it up and let it run to make an image of my C: drive (300 GB of data). It ran for 92 minutes. The final image file size was 300 GB; there was NO compression.

Macrium Reflect Free Edition has been my favorite of the above offerings. It's fast, easy to use, and does everything I need for whole disk backup. And the price was right! However, I'm presently evaluating free and paid alternatives. Here's a link to a good article listing some free backup software tools:

https://www.techradar.com/best/best-free-backup-software. I'm disenchanted with the built-in Windows 7 backup. It's too slow, and the images aren't compressed. I'm also disenchanted that

Acronis and Macrium will use an annual subscription model. EaseUS ToDo Backup Free edition looks promising as a replacement for the Macrium Reflect 8 Free edition.

File Backup Tools
Full disk backups are great, but users don't typically run them daily because they take time, and the backup drive has to be retrieved and connected to the computer. This creates a risk that data files that change may not be accurately reflected in the backup. Consider your saved email and contacts, financial and accounting files, and other documents and spreadsheets you may be working on.

Windows File History or MacOS Time Machine
One approach is to use an automated file backup tool that scans a designated set of folders at some specified time interval (say every hour). It makes a copy of any new or changed files to a backup storage device such as a flash drive, external hard drive, or a shared folder on another computer. I use File History, checking once an hour, to supplement full disk backups for specific key file folders.

Windows File Explorer or MacOS File Manager / Finder
For simple one-shot backups, you can still use the built-in file manager programs to select a set of files and copy them to an external flash drive, hard drive, or network-shared folder.

Cloud Backup Tools
There are many free and paid cloud backup services. Most of these include an automatic sync tool that copies files from your computer to your private space on the cloud server. Here are some of the free ones:

Google Cloud (Google Drive) - *FREE*
- **https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/my-drive**
- Requires a Google / Gmail account
- 15-17 GB of free cloud storage
- **Install Google Backup and Sync** app (Windows)
- Use Settings to specify a set of folders to be monitored and backed up to the Google

Cloud whenever a change is detected (very similar to Windows File History)

Microsoft OneDrive - FREE
- **https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/**
- Requires a Microsoft Account
- 5 GB free (more if you've had a Microsoft ID for a long time). If you're subscribed to Microsoft 365 (the Office suite), you get 1 TB per license user, up to 6 TB in total.
- Syncs from a OneDrive folder on your PC or device to your OneDrive cloud storage.

Apple iCloud – FREE
- **www.apple.com/icloud**
- Requires an Apple ID (Account)
- 5 GB free, can add more space for a fee
- Built into all Apple devices, can install an App for Windows
- Syncs across all your devices

What About My Smart Phone or Tablet?
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Android Phones and Tablets
If you have a Google account and have configured your device to link to it, you get quite a lot of automatic backup of files to your Google Drive cloud space. You will want to be connected to a WiFi router when this happens, or your Android device may use up a lot of your monthly data allotment.

You can also connect your Android device via a USB cable to your desktop computer and use the Windows File Manager or MacOS Finder to copy files from the mobile device to a folder on the desktop computer. You can also copy files from the desktop computer to the Android mobile device.

To fully back up all your Android device's data, you can purchase and install third-party backup Apps. Try a web search for **Android Full Backup** to see what's available.

Apple Phones and Tablets
If you have an Apple ID, all your devices, including iPhone, iPad, Mac, and Apple Watch, already have built-in iCloud support and will back up data files to your iCloud private storage space on Apple's servers. If you have several Apple devices, a concern is using up your free 5GB allocation; you may have to buy extra space to cover backups from all your devices.

You can connect your iPhone or iPad to your PC or Mac via a USB cable and then use Apple's iTunes program to synchronize various file types between your mobile device and your desktop computer. This isn't quite as general as what Android offers, but it takes care of many file types. iTunes also provides an easy way to fully back up all the data on your Apple mobile device into a file on your desktop computer.

Having the iCloud backup enabled on your mobile device is a good idea. This takes care of frequently changing files. Use the iTunes full backup occasionally to ensure ALL your devices' files are backed up.

With these backups in place, if your phone or tablet is damaged, goes up in flames, or gets lost, you can replace the phone or tablet with relative ease, restore all your saved data files, and be back in business.

Backup Tools and Procedures
By Tom Burt, Vice President. Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
https://www.scscc.club
tomburt89134@cox.net

It's been a few years since I've written about tools and procedures for backing up your computer. With the growing popularity of smartphones and tablets, the need for backup has expanded to include those devices and traditional Windows, Macintosh, and Linux PCs. I can't stress enough how important it is to make regular backup copies of your data files and of your computer's entire hard drive. The backup landscape has changed somewhat, so it seemed a good time for an update.

What is Backing Up?

Backing up means accurately copying some or all of the data and software stored on your computer's storage drive. The copy is commonly stored on some type of external storage device that is not generally connected to your computer. The external device may be a USB hard drive or flash drive, a removable rack-mount hard drive, a folder or partition on another computer on your in-house network, or a server elsewhere on the Internet such as Dropbox, MS OneDrive, or Google Drive. A personal backup solution may include some or all of the above.

Why Back Up?

The reason to make backups is that (putting it politely) ***BAD STUFF HAPPENS!*** Computer equipment is highly reliable and may run for years without failing, but sooner or later, storage devices fail. More commonly, accidents (drops and spills, turning off the PC's power, power failures and power surges, and so forth) happen, causing a storage device or other device component to fail. A vast array of malicious software waits for any opportunity to attack, damage, or lock up saved data. There's also a fundamental human error – accidentally deleting a file or a folder.

Without a safe backup copy, data saved on your computer may be irretrievably lost. For example, consider digital photos, videos, music, and financial / tax records. Also, if you had to start over with a new, blank hard drive, it would be relatively easy to reinstall Windows, Linux, or MacOS, but what about all the other programs, settings, and all your data?

Full Disk Backup – Cloning and Imaging

A **clone** of a hard drive is a complete copy to another hard drive. All information needed to boot and run the computer and all the programs, settings, and data are written on the backup hard drive. A clone fills up all the backup hard drive; only ONE clone can be written to the backup drive. To **restore** after the computer's internal hard drive has failed or been corrupted, one can either clone from the backup drive to the computer's (possibly new) internal drive or remove the failed drive and install the backup drive in its place. Cloning back should be the first choice on a laptop or all-in-one computer, provided the internal drive hasn't failed.

Removing and replacing a laptop's internal drive is a challenging task.

An **Image** of a hard drive is a complete copy written to a single compressed file on another storage device. The compressed image file doesn't typically use as much space as the original data; only the actual space is backed up. Keeping several image files on a single external storage device is usually possible. As with a clone, the image file contains all the information needed to boot and run the PC, along with all the programs and data. However, the image file is not itself bootable.

A bootable recovery disk (CD or DVD) or flash drive is required to restore either a clone or an image file. All the primary backup tools include a tool to create bootable recovery media.

Popular Full Disk Backup Tools for Desktop Computers

There are several well-known software tools for backing up the hard drives of desktop PCs and Macs.

Acronis Cyber Protect Home (2023)
- **https://www.acronis.com/en-us/ or https://ugr7.com/**
- Integrated suite of backup, anti-virus, and ransomware protection.
- Excellent for backing up entire hard drives or partitions.
- Makes both "clones" and "images."
- Can "mount" a backup image as a logical drive.
- Can make bootable "Rescue Media" for both backup and restore.
- It can also back up individual files and folders.
- Single PC essential subscription lists at $50 / year, family pack of 3 about $80 / year
  There are premium offerings, including cloud storage.
  User Group Relations (Gene Barlow) prices are 50% lower. https://ugr7.com/

CASPER by Future Systems Software
- **https://www.fssdev.com/products/casper/**
- Makes "images".
- Features bootable images.

- The single system price is about $60; a family pack of 5 for $80.
- Has a 30-day free trial.

Macrium Reflect 8 Home
- https://www.macrium.com/products/home
- The free version has been discontinued but continues to work on Windows 10 and 11.; you can subscribe to the "Home" edition for an annual fee of $49.99 or buy a one-year license for $70 (no support after the first year). They offer a 30-day free trial.
- Can back up entire hard drive or partitions.
- Makes both "clones" or "images."
- Can "mount" a backup image as a logical drive.
- Can make bootable "Rescue Media" for both backup and restore.

EaseUS ToDo Backup FREE
- **https://www.easeus.com/backup-software/tb-free.html**
- See feature comparison,
- Makes "images". You can "boot" from an image.
- You can upgrade to a fuller-featured "Home" edition for $39.99 annually, one year free upgrade, or a "Lifetime Upgrades" edition for $79.95.

I tried using EaseUS ToDo Backup to back up my C: drive to a USB 3 external 7200 RPM hard drive. It required 52 min to back up 300 GB of data. The resultant image size was 184.5 GB. A substantial number of MP4 files on the C: drive had already been compressed.

Windows 11 Backup (Windows 7) FREE (built-in to Windows 10 and 11)
- This backup tool is reached via: Control Panel > All Control Panel Items > Backup and Restore (Windows 7)
- You can use it to back up key library folders or "Create a system image." Once there, you can add additional drives or partitions to the basic C: drive partition set.
- I set it up and let it run to make an image of my C: drive (300 GB of data). It ran for 92 minutes. The final image file size was 300 GB; there was NO compression.

Macrium Reflect Free Edition has been my favorite of the above offerings. It's fast, easy to use, and does everything I need for whole disk backup. And the price was right! However, I'm presently evaluating free and paid alternatives. Here's a link to a good article listing some free backup software tools:

https://www.techradar.com/best/best-free-backup-software. I'm disenchanted with the built-in Windows 7 backup. It's too slow, and the images aren't compressed. I'm also disenchanted that Acronis and Macrium will use an annual subscription model. EaseUS ToDo Backup Free edition looks promising as a replacement for the Macrium Reflect 8 Free edition.

File Backup Tools
Full disk backups are great, but users don't typically run them daily because they take time, and the backup drive has to be retrieved and connected to the computer. This creates a risk that data files that change may not be accurately reflected in the backup. Consider your saved email and contacts, financial and accounting files, and other documents and spreadsheets you may be working on.

Windows File History or MacOS Time Machine
One approach is to use an automated file backup tool that scans a designated set of folders at some specified time interval (say every hour). It makes a copy of any new or changed files to a backup storage device such as a flash drive, external hard drive, or a shared folder on another computer. I use File History, checking once an hour, to supplement full disk backups for specific key file folders.

Windows File Explorer or MacOS File Manager / Finder
For simple one-shot backups, you can still use the built-in file manager programs to select a set of files and copy them to an external flash drive, hard drive, or network-shared folder.

Cloud Backup Tools
There are many free and paid cloud backup services. Most of these include an automatic sync tool that copies files from your computer to your private space on the cloud server. Here are some of the free ones:

Google Cloud (Google Drive) - *FREE*
- **https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/my-drive**
- Requires a Google / Gmail account
- 15-17 GB of free cloud storage
- **Install Google Backup and Sync** app (Windows)
- Use Settings to specify a set of folders to be monitored and backed up to the Google Cloud whenever a change is detected (very similar to Windows File History)

Microsoft OneDrive - FREE
- **https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/**
- Requires a Microsoft Account
- 5 GB free (more if you've had a Microsoft ID for a long time). If you're subscribed to Microsoft 365 (the Office suite), you get 1 TB per license user, up to 6 TB in total.
- Syncs from a OneDrive folder on your PC or device to your OneDrive cloud storage.

Apple iCloud – FREE
- **www.apple.com/icloud**
- Requires an Apple ID (Account)
- 5 GB free, can add more space for a fee
- Built into all Apple devices, can install an App for Windows
- Syncs across all your devices

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Can Two Files Have the Same Name?

By Jim Cerny, 1st Vice President. Sarasota Technology Users Group

https://thestug.org/ JimCerny@mail.com

It was the usual family gathering. And, as usual, Uncle Backup and Aunt Fowlder were arguing. They both use Windows computers, and both save files into folders. Uncle Backup said, "NO, of

course not; you cannot have two files with the same name; Windows won't allow it!"

"Oh, don't be silly," said Aunt Fowlder. Of course, you can. I do it myself whenever I copy a file—it copies it with the same name!"

Well, dear reader, who's right? This is a great trick question to bring up over beverages whenever you are in a tech discussion with friends.

The answer? Well, the answer is they are both right! Well, sort of. Fortunately, their argument was overheard by the good doctor, Doc Ewewmint.

"May I help you?" interrupted the good doctor, "Yes, you CAN have two files with the same name if they are in different folders! Let me explain. If you copy a file to a different folder, it can have the same name. But now you must remember carefully which folder you put it in. If you change one of the files but not the other, even if they have the same name, they will now be different."

"Oh, that could cause trouble," said Aunt Fowlder, "so when I copy my files to back them up on a different device, I name the folder "Backup" and the date or something. That way, I know they are not the ones I actively use and change daily. I am thankful that Windows keeps track of the date of each file."

It happens that Aunt Fowlder's husband also overheard the discussion. "Well," he said, "that's all true, of course, but you can have two files that appear to have the same name in the same folder – but they would be of different file types! You could have a word processing document file created in Word, for example, and another with the same name created by Word Pad. They would have different file types -- ".docx" (or ".doc" for Word) or ".rtf" (for WordPad) -- but other than that, they could have the same name." "That's because the file type is part of the name!" said Aunt Fowlder. "My husband is so right about that."

"Yes," said the good doctor, "and the computer keeps all this straight. The computer recognizes the folder path to get to the file you want because you can have the same file name (even with the same file type or extension) in different folders. You could say that the "path" of the folders to get to the file is also part of the file name. Thus, you can never have two files with the same name!"

Well, I'm glad we all settled that and agreed! Now, should I use "Save" or "Save as"?

Minutes of Brisbug PC User Group Inc

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at

Mitchelton Library, 37 Heliopolis Parade, Mitchelton QLD 4053

15 September 2024

1.   President's Opening Remarks

The President, Keith Catts opened the meeting at 11:45 pm, and welcomed all those present.

2.   Attendance

Attendance was as per the attendance register, 11 members. A Quorum was present.

Apologies:- nil

3.   Minutes of the Previous meetings:

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2023; advised that those minutes had been published in the August and September edition of the Club's magazine.

It was moved by G Woodforth and seconded by I Arney that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 18 September 2023, as published in the Club's magazine in August & September 2024 be taken as read and confirmed as a true record of the meeting. Carried.

4.   Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5.   Correspondence

Correspondence Inwards has been received as follows:

- Office of Fair Trading

The usual form has been received from the Office of Fair Trading to be completed after the Annual General Meeting.

Correspondence Outwards

Application to the Mitchelton Library for use of the room through next year.

6.   President's Report

Keith Catts advised that his report was published in the magazine and he confirmed another successful year at the library. Keith thanked members for their support during the year.

The report is repeated here.

President's Report for 2023-2024

Another year has passed and the club has 14 members and average 10 members attending each meeting.

We were grateful for the use of the Mitchelton Library meeting room with its excellent facilities.

I wish to give my thanks to the members of the committee for their continued service to the club in keeping it active and meeting the Association requirements.

Also my thanks to John Tracey for his continued leading of the Q&A sessions and the time and effort he puts in for "John' Jots" in the magazine, a lot of useful information and links to further detail on the information he provides. Thanks to Chris Haydock for continuing with editing the magazine. Both these are valuable contact with members.

This year we explored the alternatives for Microsoft Windows namely Linux. With the increasing minimum specifications for Windows OS making many computer obsolete and the new to buy a later product, the question was asked, Do We Need Windows? And again Do We Need Office.

In reality most of us do not need the Microsoft at the costs now being imposed. Determined that Linux was now suitable for many of us and its "window's like" presentation was more than a suitable replacement and the cost is Free. We found at least 3 alternative "office" offering that were compatible to read and save files from Microsoft Office so able to work with files from other sources that are MS Office users creations.

I personally look forward to our meetings for what I can pick up and where I can assistance with some computer issues.

Without a doubt the area is becoming more and more crowded with ever expanding apps and what they can do, together with the increasingly sophisticated ways we are at risk from intrusions attempts on our computers and other devices, and now AI is "among us".

I hope you as members enjoy the meetings and from time to time find new ways the use the computer or to increase your knowledge and skills.

Join me in the coming year for a continuing examination of the changes in technology and its impacts.

Regards Keith

Treasurer's Report

Ross Skyring presented the Treasurers report for the year of 2023/2024.

The Financial Statement setting out the financial activities for the year is included in the September magazine, and will form part of the Annual Return of Association to Office of Fair Trading.

R Skyring moved that the Financial Report be accepted and passed as a true record of the Club's financial transactions for the year. Seconded by H Mitcham:- Passed and carried.

The treasurers Report is repeated here.

Financial Statement for Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

Financial year 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024

Profit and Loss statement

INCOME	2024	2023	2022
Member's renewal subs	140.00	0.00	420.00
New member's subscriptions	30.00	0.00	0.00
Raffle	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canteen	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	0.11	0.12	0.12
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	170.11	0.12	420.12

EXPENSES			
Bankfees and charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canteen / Xmas	77.75	40.12	26.50
Subscriptions (APCUG)	76.92	78.03	73.14
Equipment	328.42	57.45	120.00
Dept of Fair Trading	60.05	58.60	57.60
Hire of hall	0.00	0.00	0.00
Internet expenses	15.95	139.86	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Printing and stationary	0.00	0.00	0.00
Raffle	0.00	0.00	0.00

Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**559.09**	**374.06**	**277.24**
NET PROFIT/LOSS	**-388.98**	**373.94**	**142.88**
AVAILABLE FUNDS			
Opening balance	2534.46	2908.40	2,765.52
Net profit/loss	-388.98	-373.94	142.88
Total cash funds	**2145.48**	**2534.46**	**2,908.40**
CASH ASSETS			
Westpac Solutions One account	436.72	707.23	1,081.29
Westpac Solutions Cash Reserve Account	1827.29	1827.23	1827.11
	2264.01	**2534.46**	**2,908.40**
NON CASH ASSETS			
Hardware	0.00	0.00	0.00
Software	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**

NOTE: All Assets are written off with no value. Two items Laptop and Projector remain in use.

NOTES:

Brisbug is a SMALL Association having income and Assets less than $300,000.

The Office of Fair Trading Queensland does not require an audit for this level of association. The financial statement for the year is to be verified by the President and Treasurer.

Brisbug derives its total income from membership subscriptions and interest on it bank accounts

Brisbug has a bank account with Westpac Bank and holds its funds in a Cash account and is an interest account.

Brisbug's assets have been written off as of no value, but it retains the following equipment Dell Laptop, Samsung tablet and the Epson projector. Old software is retained as proof of license.

There are no liabilities.

Remuneration Disclosure: No remuneration have been made to any member.

Verification of Financial Statement.

The above statement of accounts has been prepared from the records kept by the association and it is declared that the association keeps financial records in a way which properly records the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities. Purchases during the year are consumable items and written off in the year.

Signed

K. Catts   President   Date

R. Skyring   Treasurer   Date

Ross noted that the Financial report at the end of August 2024 was a balance of $2,145.51. There was no expenditure and income consisted of 3 cents on the bank account.

Keith declared all positions vacant and adjourned the meeting for the election of Office Bearers for the next year. John Tacey assumed control of the meeting.

7.   Election of Office Bearers

John advised that he had three Formal nominations, received from the Secretary and as no other nominations were forthcoming it was agreed that they be submitted to the meeting.

John Tacey:- received the written nominations and being no other nominations declared that the nominations duly seconded and accepted, that

Keith Catts is elected as President.

Gary Woodforth is elected as Secretary.

Ross Skyring is elected as Treasurer.

John Tacey thanked the committee for their work throughout the year.

Keith thanked John for officiating for the elections, and resumed control of the meeting.

Keith thanked those present for electing the committee, and the members of the committee for standing again for the offices.

8.   General Business

Keith advised a request for the continued use of the library room had been submitted.

There will no change to the fee structure for the next year being $10.00 for renewals and $30.00 for new members.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed.

9.   There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:15pm.