




Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.



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16 February 2025

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5-8	Johns Jots	John Tacey	Q&A	
9-15	APCUG Articles		Various	APCUG
			Secretary	

Meeting Timetable

Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	John Tacey
11pm	Review of the changing face of Microsoft	Fred
	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
1:00pm	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

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

SIGNIFICANT BITS

the Journal of
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PC-type computers*
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CLUB INFORMATION LINES

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The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

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

Editor
Chris Haydock

Proof-reader
John Tacey

Submission Deadline

Friday 7 February 2025

Please use e-mail if possible

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Hi All,

We are off to a good start with lots of talk at the meeting.

Left my phone at home so Authentication Apps now on at February meeting and see just "how it works and is it something we have the have." Plus the relationship to passkeys. The only thing I have tied down, is that Authentication apps are mobile devices and not available for computers.

I have had some issues with browsers or more accurately Google Search engine. I am finding it opening and responding with "I think" Japanese. I have made no changes but up it comes. When lucky it has an option under the criteria bar to select English, but it is not clear. Close down and restart it is not English. Looking for fix it generally want me to sign to the Google account, apparently you can make changes there that will hold. But I don't have a google account; not really true as I do have gmail accounts so suspect that I will have to try through that. Yet more stuff that changes and not helpful.

I did am install of windows 11 on non-compliant hardware. It looked like it was a easy fix. When doing it I downloaded the Win 11 24H2 version and it works ok and is updating so looked good. Till this week when a new feature update was available did the down load but it would no install, it just returned and button to retry. So our concerns that braking the install would in time fail appears to be happening. At least in this install.

All for now

See you at the meeting

Keith

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Reports

Presentation and Education

Presentation:

Morning 11am. Fed update on the changing face of Microsoft as it affects us.

After Afternoon 1pm: Linux Ubuntu Mate workshop

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 11 members at the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report

January 2025

Opening Balance at 01/1/25 2195.30

Income

Bank Interest 0.01

Renewal of Membership 100.00

Total Income 100.01

Expenses

Xmas party 36.50

APCUG renewal 84.00

Wheel case 39.00

Total Expenses 159.50

Month's gain 149.49

Balance at 31/1/25 2045.81

Ross Skyring



Q&A - January meeting

Nothing from me as I was absent.

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

The Best Malware Removal and Protection Software for 2024

By Neil J. Rubenking Jun 03, 2024

We've tested more than 100 anti-malware apps to help you find the top malware protection and removal software for all your devices.

<https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/48370/the-best-malware-removal-and-protection-software>

How Fast Can a Liquid-Cooled GeForce RTX 5090 Card Run? We Tested to Find Out

By Michael Justin Allen Sexton Jan 28, 2025

With an early MSI Suprim Liquid RTX 5090 graphics card in hand, we ran some early benchmark tests and overclocked the most extreme version of the Nvidia flagship.

<https://au.pcmag.com/graphics-cards/109463/how-fast-can-a-liquid-cooled-geforce-rtx-5090-card-run-we-tested-to-find-out>

DeepSeek vs. ChatGPT: 5 Questions That Put These AI Chatbots to the Test

By Emily Forlini Jan 29, 2025

While the chatbots offer similar answers, the free version of China's ultra-efficient model has no messaging limits. But privacy concerns might have you sticking with ChatGPT.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/109468/deepseek-vs-chatgpt-5-questions-that-put-these-ai-chatbots-to-the-test>

Apple Mail Is Actually Useful Now: 16 Things to Try if You're Sick of Gmail

By Lance Whitney Jan 28, 2025

With iOS 18 and iPadOS 18, Apple has added new tricks to its Mail app. Can the new features convince you to ditch Gmail or your favorite email app for Mail?

<https://au.pcmag.com/apple-ios/90470/apples-mail-app-is-actually-useful-now-10-things-to-try>

How to Detect Text Written by ChatGPT and Other AI Tools

By Chandra Steele Jan 27, 2025

We tested a range of AI-detection services with text written by ChatGPT and text written by a human: These are the tools that performed best.

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

The Best Cell Phone Boosters for 2025

By Iyaz Akhtar, Sarah Lord Jan 25, 2025

Cellular signal boosters use big antennas to improve coverage in your home or car. These are the top signal boosters for apartments, houses, and vehicles.

<https://au.pcmag.com/modems-hotspots/69119/the-best-cell-phone-signal-boosters-for-2020>

Top 100 Best Budget Buys: Affordable, Tested Tech That's Actually Worth It

By Pcmag Staff Jan 23, 2025

Our experts review more than 1,500 technology products each year. Our mega-guide, updated monthly, scopes out the very best cost-conscious products across 15 key categories.

<https://au.pcmag.com/guide/93228/the-pcmag-cheap-100-affordable-tested-tech-actually-worth-buying>

HDMI vs. DisplayPort: Which Should I Use for My PC Monitor?

By Whitson Gordon, Alan Bradley Jan 25, 2025

Not sure whether to hook your new monitor up to your computer using HDMI or DisplayPort? Different ports have different capabilities and compatibilities; here's what you need to know.

<https://au.pcmag.com/how-to/58853/hdmi-vs-displayport-which-should-i-use-for-my-pc-monitor>

New Releases

Adobe Air

License: Freeware

File name: 51.1.3.4 File Size: 5.94 Mb

O/S: Windows

Publisher: HARMAN

URL: <https://adobe-air.en.softonic.com/calibre> (64bit)

License: Free

File name: calibre_(64bit)_v7.24.0.msi

File Size: 203MB

O/S: Windows

Publisher:  Kovid Goyal

URL: <http://calibre-ebook.com/>

Glary Utilities 6

License: Freeware

Release Date:

File Name: Glary_Utilities_v 6.210.25.exe

File Size: 26.79 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/>

GnuCash

Publisher: GnuCash Project

License: Free

File name: gncash-5.10.setup.exe

File Size: 168.09 MB

O/S: Linux, Windows

Publisher: GnuCash Project

URL: <https://gncash.org/download.phtml>

Java Runtime Environment (32bit)

License: Freeware

File name:

Java_Runtime_Environment_(32bit)_v8.0.4410.7.exe

File Size: 60.80 MB

O/S: Windows

Publisher: Oracle

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

LibreOffice

License: Freeware

File name: LibreOffice_24.8.4_Win_x86.msi

File Size: 330 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_24.8.4_Win_x86.msi

Mozilla Firefox

License: Freeware

File name: Mozilla_Firefox_(32bit)_v134.0.2.exe
Update

File Size: 62.49 MB

O/S: Windows 7 to 11

Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

Comments:-

To force a manual update:-

Menu Button > Help Button > 'About Firefox'

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

Mozilla Thunderbird

License: Freeware

File name: Thunderbird Setup 128.6.0(GB).exe

File Size: 60.92 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_v8.7.6.exe

File Size: 6.20 MB

O/S: Windows

Publisher: Notepad++

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

Recuva

License: Freeware

File name: rcsetup154.exe

File Size: 25.3 MB

O/S: Windows

Publisher: Gen Digital Inc

URL:

<https://www.ccleaner.com/recuva/download/standard>

Want more? See the New Releases list:

<http://ct.com.com/>

Want more? See the New Releases list:

<http://ct.com.com/>

Tips etc.

What Is a TPM, and Why Do I Need One for Windows 11?

By Tom Brant Jan 22, 2025

Microsoft Windows 11 requires a PC with Trusted Platform Module (TPM), a cause for uncertainty among upgraders and PC builders. What exactly is a TPM? Do you already have one? We explain.

<https://au.pcmag.com/components/87878/what-is-a-tpm-and-why-do-i-need-one-for-windows-11>

Facebook Accidentally Blocks Users From Posting About Linux

By Michael Kan Jan 29, 2025

After Facebook posts about Linux were removed with warnings about 'malicious software,' Meta blames an enforcement error and says 'discussions of Linux are allowed.'

<https://au.pcmag.com/social-media/109478/facebook-accidentally-blocks-users-from-posting-about-linux>

Hacker Traps Newbie Cybercriminals With Malware Posing as Trojan Builder

By Michael Kan Jan 25, 2025

The 'weaponized' remote access Trojan builder has infected more than 18,000 Windows devices.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/109442/hacker-traps-newbie-cybercriminals-with-malware-posing-as-trojan-builder>

Chinese Hackers Hijack VPN's Website to Spread Malware

By Michael Kan Jan 23, 2025

Any user who downloaded the installer from IPany, a VPN provider in South Korea, may be at risk, according to antivirus company ESET.

<https://au.pcmag.com/vpn/109410/chinese-hackers-hijack-vpns-website-to-spread-malware>

Trump To Tariff Chips Made In Taiwan, Targeting TSMC

By Michael Kan Jan 28, 2025

The tariffs would ensnare cutting-edge smartphone and PC-related chips for Apple, AMD and Nvidia if enacted. But Trump is betting his plan will bring more chip production to the US.

<https://au.pcmag.com/computers-electronics/109466/trump-to-tariff-chips-made-in-taiwan-targeting-tsmc>

How to Set Up Multi-Factor Authentication and Safeguard Your Online Accounts

By Eric Griffith Dec 06, 2024

Forget passwords. If you want strong online security, you need to be using multi-factor authentication wherever you can. Here's how to get started.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/91992/multi-factor-authentication-who-has-it-and-how-to-set-it-up>

New FCC Chairman Drops Bulk Internet Billing Ban for Apartments

By Michael Kan Jan 28, 2025

Brendan Carr says the the proposal would have raised internet prices for apartments tenants. His predecessor argued the opposite and said bulk billing arrangements led to unwanted costs.

<https://au.pcmag.com/networking/109464/fccs-new-leader-drops-bulk-internet-billing-ban-for-apartments>

Time to Delete? The Most Invasive Apps List Includes Some of Your Favorites

By Kim Key Jan 29, 2025

The apps on your phone know way too much about you. On this Data Privacy Day, I'll tell you which apps collect the most data and offer suggestions for locking down your private information.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/109470/time-to-delete-the-most-invasive-apps-list-includes-some-of-your-favorites>

How to Sleep Better: The Best Gadgets We've Tested to Catch Your ZZZs

By Angela Moscaritolo January 27, 2025

You can do better than sleeping pills or counting sheep. From free apps and wearable trackers to smart mattresses and climate-control solutions, rest better with the best sleep tech we've tested.

https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-sleep-gadgets?utm_source=email&utm_campaign=whatnewsnow&zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42I80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDlZFhs8z4qnm0Ls_AknqWLvhZpQWW_IdjicVknAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D&lctg=24359534815

Viasat to Take on Cellular Starlink With New Satellite Constellation

By Michael Kan Jan 29, 2025

Viasat partners with the European Space Agency to use the satellites to connect to phones and IoT devices on the ground.

<https://au.pcmag.com/networking/109469/viasat-to-take-on-cellular-starlink-with-new-satellite-constellation>

Update Your iPhone: Apple Warns of Hackers Exploiting iOS Flaw

By Michael Kan

The vulnerability prompted Apple to issue patches for macOS Sequoia and its Vision Pro headset.

Michael Kan Jan 28, 2025

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/109462/update-your-iphone-apple-warns-hackers-exploiting-ios-flaw>

What Is Wi-Fi 6?

By John R. Delaney Dec 06, 2024

Wi-Fi 6 is no longer cutting-edge, but it still offers fast performance and minimal bandwidth congestion. Here's what you need to know, as well as our top picks for routers that support it.

<https://au.pcmag.com/wireless-routers/63154/should-you-upgrade-to-wi-fi-6>

Former Beatle Paul McCartney Says AI Could 'Rip Off' Future Musicians

By Will Mccurdy Jan 27, 2025

The UK government is set to consult on a scheme that allows AI firms to use existing musical works to train their models.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/109450/former-beatle-paul-mccartney-says-ai-could-rip-off-future-generations-of-musicians>

How to Remove the Most Annoying Ads From Windows

By Whitson Gordon Jan 15, 2025

Microsoft likes to promote its own services in Windows 10 and 11. Tweak these settings to stop the irritating tips, suggestions, and pop-ups.

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/103581/how-to-remove-the-most-annoying-ads-from-windows>

A Windows XP User Is Running Windows 11 in a Virtual Machine

By Devesh Beri January 27, 2025

The 32-bit version of Windows XP might also work, but it will likely need a RAM upgrade to surpass the 4GB limit needed to run Windows 11.

https://www.extremetech.com/computing/a-windows-xp-user-runs-windows-11-in-virtual-machine?utm_source=email&utm_campaign=whatsnewnow&zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42I80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDIZFhs8z4qnm0Ls_AknqLvhZpQWW_IdjicVknAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D&lctg=24359534815

Sony Ends Production of Recordable Blu-ray Discs

By Ryan Whitwam January 27, 2025

Optical media continues its long, slow demise.

https://www.extremetech.com/electronics/sony-ends-production-of-recordable-blu-ray-discs?utm_source=email&utm_campaign=whatsnewnow&zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42I80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDIZFhs8z4qnm0Ls_AknqLvhZpQWW_IdjicVknAoSBZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D&lctg=24359534815

7 Simple Steps for Organizing Your Tax Documents

By Jill Duffy Jan 20, 2025

This system for naming and storing all the paperwork you need to prepare your taxes is easy, and you don't have to follow it perfectly for it to work.

<https://au.pcmag.com/tax-software/109366/7-simple-steps-for-organizing-your-tax-documents>

How to Use Microsoft's Copilot AI, and 10 Things to Try Right Away

By Lance Whitney Jan 02, 2025

Copilot and ChatGPT share a lot of similarities, but Microsoft's chatbot offers certain advantages. Here's how to take it for a spin and check out its most compelling features.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/104305/how-to-use-microsofts-copilot-ai-and-10-things-to-try-right-away>

China's DeepSeek Toes the Party Line on Questions About Uyghurs, Taiwan, More

By Emily Forlini Jan 29, 2025

The ultra-efficient AI model may be well-engineered, but it's rife with censorship and propaganda on hot-button political topics.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/109476/chinas-deepseek-toes-the-party-line-on-questions-about-uyghurs-taiwan-more>

Zuckerberg Looks to Double Meta's GPU Stock to 1.3 Million for AI Training

PCMag Australia Jan 25, 2025

Zuckerberg announces the effort as Elon Musk is upgrading his Colossus supercomputer and Sam Altman partners to dump \$500 billion into 'Project Stargate.'

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/109441/zuckerberg-looks-to-double-metas-gpu-stock-to-13-million-for-ai-training>

Here Endeth John's Jots

Authentication App

An issue on Authentication failed as I left my phone at home and it had the MS and Google Authentication apps installed and they were to be used in the demo for the clubs laptop.

A starting point was that this authentication could not be on a computer. It works by having a separate device to do the multiple authentication.

Fred was able to confirm that using an app you can add in passkeys for different devices, so that one app gave you access to all the keys to authenticate the various devices and accounts. That sounds like a time saver for those with more than one device and/or account.

I personally don't like having to use a MS or Google to do the process.

I had a look and there are other Apps on offer. **BUT you need to check them out and make sure you**

understand who they are and how the data is stored and potentially used.

I note that safety needs to be your default in choosing an app. I read that the Last Pass and Authy Authenticators app were subject to a hack. So even the know can be a risk.

How It Works: Authenticator apps generate randomized Time-based One-Time Passcodes (TOTPs) which are used as a second factor of authentication when logging into online accounts. These codes automatically refresh after a few seconds, making it very hard for attackers to steal a code and use it before it resets.

Keith

How to Set Up an Authenticator App

Authenticator apps generate time-based, [one-time passcodes](#) (TOTP or OTP), which are usually six digits that refresh every 30 seconds. Once you set up MFA, just type the code you see in your authenticator app into the secured login page. "Time-based" means the code is only valid for a short time (usually under one minute), making it hard for anyone to steal your code and log into your accounts.

The safety of these apps stems from the developers' underlying principles and protocols rather than any implementation by the individual software makers. In other words, your online safety comes down to your personal decision-making when engaging with apps, browser extensions, or other software. Sometimes, it's worth it to do some research before trusting the company behind the app that is protecting your accounts.

For example, an internet search reveals that 2FAS is an open-source authenticator created by a group [focused on internet safety](#). With that knowledge, you may be more inclined to trust that product over an app created by a profit-driven entity such as Google or Microsoft.

That said, some authenticator apps have security-focused implementations. Microsoft Authenticator can be set up to require biometric logins to access your codes. All of the apps on the list have a way to hide token codes from view, and the Android versions can block screenshots, too.

APCUG ARTICLES

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None this month