



# Significant Bits

**Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.**



**Vol 41 No 4**

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Page	Article	Author	Position	Club
3	From the President's CPU	Keith Catts	President	
5-7	Johns Jots	John Tacey	Q&A	
8-10	APCUG Articles	Various	Editor	APCUG

## Meeting Timetable

### Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	John Tacey
11pm	"Steps to a Usable Win 11 Install"	Fred
	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
1:00pm	Linux workshop	Fred / Keith All

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



# Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

## SIGNIFICANT BITS

the Journal of  
**BRISBUG PC USER GROUP INC.**  
*A Computer Club for users of  
PC-type computers*  
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## CLUB NOTICES

### CLUB INFORMATION LINES

Info Line (07) 3353 3121

The Members' Web Page

### Meeting Days

17 May 2026

21 June 2026

19 July 2026

16 August 2026

20 September 2026

18 October 2026

15 November 2026

20 December 2026

## Magazine

### Editor

Chris Haydock

### Proof-reader

John Tacey

Please use e-mail if possible

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Hi All,

G'day welcome to a Brien Develin who join the club at the March meeting, make him welcome. We Continue with the Linux workshop and now need to see how members are going. We are starting to look at adding in apps to expand the use and personalise the Linux. What are you doing with Linux? Is it something you will change to?

Linux remains a useful and easy change away from Microsoft Windows and using the existing hardware you own. This may become more pressing as the next Windows(windows12) will have yet again increased Hardware requirements, so we may see yet another round of computers that will not support Windows nest version on existing hardware.

I have not come across any talk of processes that are needed, will be via software (BIOS) or the like, that can be upgradable to stop the fast hardware obsoleting.

As we go along we are now looking at apps that add to the functionality of the Linux programme. Is there particular functions you would like to have? Let me know and we can look at those and do installs.

Cheers

Keith

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and membership number in the  
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# Reports

## Presentation and Education

9:30am: Q&A

11am: Morning Presentation: "Steps to a Usable Win 11 Install. Fred's experience.

12 noon Lunch and Club Report.

1pm Afternoon Presentation: Linux and Linux Work Shop

## Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 10 members and a new member sign up at the March meeting.

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## Treasurer's Report

**March 2026**

Opening Balance at 1/3/26	2033.16
<b>Income</b>	
New Member	30.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>30.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
	0.00
	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Month's Gain</b>	<b>30.00</b>
<b>Balance at 31/3/26</b>	<b>2063.16</b>

*Eric Maronese*

*Treasurer*

# John's Jots



By John Tacey

## Q&A - March meeting

John has been in hospital for test and so we have no Jots this month.

Members John have for many years been keeping us up to date on various programmes and readings. I think we need to add in to that distribution of information members come across either from discussion with friends or readings and articles you may read or follow.

How about sharing here?

They don't have to be learned articles just something you have come across that members may find interesting.

It is all part of Members helping Members.

Send the in to Chris as the editor or myself to add into the magazine.

Have something of interest but no details send that along with any links or search details and we can follow it up.

Regards Keith

A report from eSecurity Planet read link for full story here

[https://www.esecurityplanet.com/threats/5m-microsoft-activation-key-fraud-ends-in-prison-term/?email\\_hash=7038bc024333ce1011d77065359f1217&utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=MicrosoftWeekly\\_03.09.26\\_Thoropass\\_86b8m8fdg&utm\\_term=microsoft-active-weekly](https://www.esecurityplanet.com/threats/5m-microsoft-activation-key-fraud-ends-in-prison-term/?email_hash=7038bc024333ce1011d77065359f1217&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MicrosoftWeekly_03.09.26_Thoropass_86b8m8fdg&utm_term=microsoft-active-weekly)

a woman in U.S.A has been goaled selling MS licenses used in the Grey Ware trade.

**Here Endeth John's Jots**

## Some “Make Use of” interesting articles

### I cleaned my Windows 11 Cache

**Lately**, my Windows 11 laptop has started feeling unusually slow. Simple tasks were taking longer than they should, apps were lagging, and the overall experience just felt difficult. It got to a point where using it daily became frustrating. I did everything I could on my end. I limited background apps that were draining power, tweaked battery settings, and made sure I wasn't overloading the system with unnecessary programs. Those changes definitely improved battery life, but sluggish performance didn't completely go away.

Out of curiosity, I cleared the cache on my Windows 11 PC, and the improvement was almost instantaneous. The system felt lighter, apps opened faster, and overall performance improved noticeably. If your Windows 11 machine has been acting slowly even after basic optimizations, clearing the cache might be the simple fix you're overlooking. Sometimes, a small cleanup is all it takes to make your PC feel fresh again.

Clearing the cache on Windows 11 means removing temporary data your system no longer needs. Over time, Windows stores temporary files, leftover update files, system logs, and cached website data to speed up certain tasks. The problem is, the data keeps piling up. When it becomes excessive or outdated, it can start doing more harm than good.

By clearing the cache, you remove these unnecessary files and free up storage space, sometimes even several gigabytes. This gives your system a bit more breathing room. Apps may load faster, random lag can be reduced, and small glitches caused by corrupted temporary files often disappear.

It is not a magical fix for every performance issue, but it does help your PC run cleaner and smoother. Once the junk is gone, Windows 11 can focus on what actually matters instead of dragging around old, useless data.

[For full article](#)

### I replaced my entire Microsoft Office setup with free alternatives By Yasir Mahmood

I've had a Microsoft 365 subscription for a while, and it's a solid suite if you use everything it offers. The problem is that I don't. I never touched OneDrive's full storage, I don't need Teams, and paying for Microsoft Office features I ignored every month started to feel pointless.

So I swapped my entire Office setup for free alternatives — Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Thunderbird, and LibreOffice — and my workflow hasn't suffered for it. If you're in the same boat of paying for more than you actually use, these free tools cover more ground than you'd expect.

Read the whole article [here](#)

### I used a single open-source tool to clean my Mac, Windows and Linux Drives

Part of my daily work routine requires switching between macOS, Windows, and Linux, and one of the hardest parts of working across these platforms is how it breaks my storage organization. Several files proliferate, and within each system, I end up with multiple duplicates. I have screenshots in different default folders; I have downloaded the same documents several times on the same devices, and I have near-identical copies of files from cloud sync.

Part of my daily work routine requires switching between macOS, Windows, and Linux, and one of the hardest parts of working across these platforms is how it breaks my storage organization. Several files proliferate, and within each system, I end up with multiple duplicates. I have screenshots in different default folders; I have downloaded the same documents several times on the same devices, and I have near-identical copies of files from cloud sync.

I tend to use cleanup tools that feel more native to the OS, and even when they are effective, it's difficult to maintain different

habits across different devices. So I turned to dupeGuru, a tool that finds and removes duplicates. It works a bit like AllDup, but is ideal because it doesn't change behavior across platforms.

Read full article [here](#)

### **5 things you should do with a new laptop before using it**

There's nothing quite like setting up a brand-new laptop. And for most of us, that means installing favorite apps, transferring essential data, and personalizing the look and feel of the desktop. But that shouldn't be all. Not if you care about performance, privacy, and longevity.

Spending a few minutes before you settle into your laptop as a daily driver can make a big difference. Simple tweaks made early on can keep the battery healthier for longer, prevent unnecessary slowdowns, and reduce how much data your system shares in the background. And the good news is that these are all one-time steps.

Read full article [here](#)

### **This everyday kitchen appliance can interfere with your wifi**

Moving around your kitchen, you want to know where everything is. Searching through drawers to find something as you're in the middle of a 12-part recipe can cause you to fall behind on one portion and ruin the meal. That's why it's important to keep your kitchen in order and keep the area clean.

You may have some smart home devices in your home that have made your life easier, such as hubs that can show you recipes while you cook. Unfortunately, you can do everything right, have a spotless smart kitchen, and still not be able to have your kitchen return the favor to the rest of your house. Your microwave could be causing your Wi-Fi to slow down. But there is something you can do about it.

Read the full article [here](#)

### **I took control of Netflix with a few simple changes and it is better now**

Netflix has always been my go-to streaming service. Whether I am in the mood for something comforting, mysterious, thrilling, or downright spooky, it is usually the first app I open without a second thought. I trust Netflix's recommendations and do not mind paying a monthly subscription for an actual 'ad-free' experience that rarely disappoints.

That said, the default isn't always perfect. I realized there was still room for improvement that could make my experience even better. With a few small tweaks that were neither complicated nor time-consuming, Netflix began to feel even better, smoother, and more enjoyable to use. These subtle changes definitely changed the way I watch, the quality I got, and how easily I discovered new content. Now, Netflix really feels like a streaming service that's tuned to my taste.

Read full article [here](#)

### **Theres a hidden clipboard history in Windows it change my work**

Windows always had a clipboard. But Windows quietly gave it the power to "remember more" and made it far more useful with a clipboard history. The clipboard isn't just a way to do our favorite keyboard habit (copy and paste!), but with the clipboard history enabled, it's a lightweight workspace. For me, this space sits between research, drafting, and publishing.

Once I started using it deliberately, my newsletter/writing workflow became faster. It's not just that I spend less time retyping or switching windows. The clipboard history works like a dumpster truck, helping me collect data in one place before I throw it into the assembly line of my work.

Read full article [here](#)

Cheers Chris

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### **Twelve Microsoft Boasts for 2025 (Durham Personal Computer Club – Dan Delong)**

Those who recently updated Edge may have paged through some self congratulatory screens/features. Specifically they are:-

1. Jan. – Copilot with AI Assist
2. Feb. – Translation of web page text
3. Mar. – Video Summary as text
4. Apr. - 50th Anniv. For MS; 10th for Edge
5. May – Game Assist with guides and chats
6. June – Streaming with Media Control Centre – Pic-in-pic and translation
7. July – Tab Manager for groups
8. Aug. – Scareware Blocker
9. Sept. – Memory saving with sleeping tabs
- 10 Oct.– MAI – image generation upgraded
11. Nov. – Shopping – cash-backs from Walgreens and Best Buy
12. Dec. – Pinning of sites, which saves time typing

One final screen provides many text example queries to try out Copilot

### **An Old Gmail Address Can Be Changed**

Mine still can't be changed because Google is rolling this feature out, area-by-area. Actually, I see no need to change mine, even though I've had it for almost a couple of decades. However, those who took out an email name that they find silly, or old hat, after all those years, may wish to make a change to the part the comes before *.gmail.com*. Google will allow only one change per year, and up to three in a lifetime. Another reason; Some users have taken out their account in a different first language, and may wish to change it to a more current language.

Google still advises saving all photo and documents before making this kind of change, although Google will do its best to redirect all mail, still addressed to the old account, to the newly named account. Also, some WiFi controlled home appliances might need

reprogramming after this change. *[Some long abandoned accounts may be revived by this offer to change the user's name.]* <https://www.howtogeek.com/google-is-finally-letting-users-change-their-gmail-address/>

### **Windows 12? Not Anytime Soon!**

Even if you find offers to obtain Win12 for free, the download will not be from Microsoft, nor will it be sanctioned by Microsoft – because MS plans to support and upgrade Win11 for the long term. Should Win12 be announced, it may not be until 2027, and it might include further hardware demands. Even so, online ads for a new version of Win12 claim more AI, and improved security, in the next version.

### **Best Practices. We Say It a Lot.**

But do we do it? Whether malware or hardware failure, both are disastrous – unless we take a few proactive measures.

1. Microsoft's Tuesday updates are more than a suggestion; they often plug a lot of holes.
2. Keep Windows Defender and the Firewall active.
3. The link seemed so tempting, when offered in social media. Don't click on it! Hover over it to see where it goes first – the real URL. *[I've made this mistake a few times, freezing my screen with fake emergency warnings. The offending tab would not close... so had to use the Task Manager to end the process (and close the offending tab before it could open, redirecting right back to the same fake screen.)]*
4. Weak passwords are now quite easy to crack. Either change them often or make them so complex that they are almost impossible to crack.
5. Backups can be in the Cloud, on a NAS, or on a removable hard drive or key. If you have regular backups in two extra places, one of which is offsite, you should be safe(r) and secure(r).

### **Linux – Linux Commands Alex Morrison**

The command line in Linux is very useful. You do not need it if you are intimidated by the thought of typing commands in a terminal/konsole.

If you want to use the terminal/konsole here are a few commands you should be familiar with.

Top 50 Linux Commands You Should Know as a Regular User

1. **ls** - The most frequently used command in Linux to list directories
2. **pwd** - Print working directory command in Linux
3. **cd** - Linux command to navigate through directories
4. **mkdir** - Command used to create directories in Linux
5. **mv** - Move or rename files in Linux
6. **cp** - Similar usage as mv but for copying files in Linux
7. **rm** - Delete files or directories
8. **touch** - Create blank/empty files
9. **ln** - Create symbolic links (shortcuts) to other files
10. **clear** - Clear the terminal display
11. **cat** - Display file contents on the terminal
12. **echo** - Print any text that follows the command
13. **less** - Linux command to display paged outputs in the terminal
14. **man** - Access manual pages for all Linux commands
15. **uname** - Linux command to get basic information about the OS
16. **whoami** - Get the active username
17. **tar** - Command to extract and compress files in linux
18. **grep** - Search for a string within an output
19. **head** - Return the specified number of lines from the top
20. **tail** - Return the specified number of lines from the bottom
21. **diff** - Find the difference between two files
22. **cmp** - Allows you to check if two files are identical
23. **comm** - Combines the functionality of diff and cmp
24. **sort** - Linux command to sort the content of a file while outputting
25. **export** - Export environment variables in Linux
26. **zip** - Zip files in Linux
27. **unzip** - Unzip files in Linux
28. **ssh** - Secure Shell command in Linux

29. **service** - Linux command to start and stop services

30. **ps** - Display active processes

31. **kill and killall** - Kill active processes by process ID or name

32. **df** - Display disk filesystem information

33. **mount** - Mount file systems in Linux

34. **chmod** - Command to change file permissions

35. **chown** - Command for granting ownership of files or folders

36. **ifconfig** - Display network interfaces and IP addresses

37. **traceroute** - Trace all the network hops to reach the destination

38. **wget** - Direct download files from the internet

39. **ufw** - Firewall command

40. **iptables** - Base firewall for all other firewall utilities to interface with

41. **apt, pacman, yum, rpm** - Package managers depending on the distribution

42. **sudo** - Command to escalate privileges in Linux

43. **cal** - View a command-line calendar

44. **alias** - Create custom shortcuts for your regularly used commands

45. **dd** - Majorly used for creating bootable USB sticks

46. **whereis** - Locate the binary, source, and manual pages for a command

47. **whatis** - Find what a command is used for

48. **top** - View active processes live with their system usage

49. **useradd and usermod** - Add a new user or change existing user data

50. **passwd** - Create or update passwords for existing users

Many of the above listed commands need a secondary command or operand after the command to be useful. You may be able to use a different command to get information on the above commands.

EG: type `man wget` and press enter.

This will produce a description of the `wget` command.

A very good guide to commands can be found here ---

<https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/linux-commands>

Your Linux system may not include all of the listed commands but your systems package

manager will often have the commands available if you want to install them. Don't be afraid of the command line – some of the commands are a lot of fun to use. neofetch and fastfetch are two of my favourite commands

These two images illustrate these commands.

```
[alex@pclinux2 ~]$ neofetch
```

```
[alex@pclinux2 ~]$ fastfetch
```