



Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.



Vol 41 No 1

18 January 2026

| Page | Article | Author | Position | Club |
|------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| 3 | From the President's CPU | Keith Catts | President |  |
| 5-9 | Johns Jots | John Tacey | Q&A |  |
| 9-11 | APCUG Articles | Various | Editor | APCUG |
| | | | | |

Meeting Timetable

Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

| | | |
|--------|--|------------------|
| 9:30am | Q&A | John Tacey |
| 11pm | KVM follow up on interest frm last meeting | 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*
Telephone No. 07 3353 3121

Web Address:
<https://www.brisbug.asn.au>

President

Keith Catts 07 3353 3121
E-mail: president@brisbug.asn.au

Treasurer

Eric Maronese 0406 715 892
E-mail: treasurer@brisbug.asn.au

Secretary

Gary Woodforth 07 3399 7939
E-mail: secretary@brisbug.asn.au

Webmaster

Keith Catts 07 3353 3121
E-mail: president@brisbug.asn.au

Newsletter Editor

Christine Haydock 07 3350 1573
or 0412 678 598
E-mail: chaydock@powerup.com.au

CLUB NOTICES

CLUB INFORMATION LINES

Info Line (07) 3353 3121

The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

19 January 2026
15 February 2026
15 March 2026
19 April 2026
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

COPYRIGHT

Material in this magazine may usually be copied by PC User Groups without fee. This is provided that the copyright rests with the Brisbug PC User Group Inc., so please first check with us to avoid possible infringement. This permission is also on condition that the copy is not used for commercial advantage and that the origin of the material and this permission to copy are acknowledged in the reprinted item.

LIABILITY

Although it is policy to check all published material for accuracy and usefulness as far as possible, no warranty is offered against any loss resulting from the use of any material in this magazine. All content reflects the opinions and experience of the author and does not necessarily reflect the policy of the Brisbug PC User Group Inc. Most hardware, software and products mentioned are registered names and trademarks of the vendors or makers concerned. Brisbug will not be held responsible for claims made by advertisers, and advertisers are not to be bound by errors and omissions in publication.

Hi All,

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR

We have a year that is going to be full of new issues with AI being added into everything we touch and the need to understand the impacts and just what we can control especially our data being exposed as we use it.

Fred has done a lot of work with presentation on Linux and what it is. This year we will get into the hands on in the workshop sessions, so you can be comfortable of making the swap away from Windows / Microsoft if you wish.

It is easy to say make the change but Linux throws up the little unknowns and hopefully, the workshop can see us moving along on the journey.

I was trying to install on an old Acer with low specifications and no way could I get Ubuntu Mate up. Made numerous BIOS changes but could not crack it. Strangely I reached a full install but when I put in the password it went to a blank screen, even stranger is that if I changed to a guest login it opened up OK but in guest no changes are saved.

I swapped disks to one that had Mint on it and it worked. Changed back to the hard drive and then installed Mint and it installed and opened OK. Such is life.

A reminder your renewal of membership for 2026 is now due. We have a few members yet to make the payment to renew.

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

9:30am : Q&A

11am: Morning Presentation : Fred on KVM following some interest at the December Meeting.

12 noon Lunch and Club Report.

1pm Afternoon Presentation: Linux and Linux Work Shop

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 11 members at the December meeting.

Treasurer's Report

December 2025

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Opening Balance at 1/12/25 | 1981.76 |
|----------------------------|---------|

Income

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Renewal X 6 | 60.00 |
|-------------|-------|

| | |
|------------|-------|
| New Member | 30.00 |
|------------|-------|

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Total Income | 90.00 |
|---------------------|--------------|

Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Canteen for Xmas Lunch K Catts | 28.30 |
|--------------------------------|-------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Canteen for Xmas Lunch I Arney | 0.30 |
|--------------------------------|------|

| |
|--------------|
| 68.60 |
|--------------|

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Month's Gain | 21.40 |
|---------------------|--------------|

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Balance at 31/11/25 | 2003.16 |
|----------------------------|----------------|

Eric Maronese

Treasurer



Q&A - December meeting

MBB Modem

Unlock from original Service Provider

To unlock your mobile modem/phone from a service provider, you typically need to contact your current carrier and request a unlock. They will provide you with instructions, which may include entering an unlock code or completing a software update, and the process can take a few days to complete.

In this case the service provider determined that the device was eligible for unlocking.

The unlocking code was provided, but no way was obvious to enter said code.

Sadly no information was provided as to the unlock process.

After several attempts to enter the code, the penny dropped.

It was necessary to log into the modem utilising the web browser to access the appropriate screen to locate the entry slot in the displayed page.

How do I unlock my phone from the Telstra network using IMEI?

<https://www.telstra.com.au/support/mobiles-devices/unlock-phone-imei>

A web search with 'unlock mobile device from service provider' will provide a list of ways' including paid services which are not necessary.

MBB Modem Running Warm

The modem is running in the No Battery mode and is using the Charger as the power supply.

It is normal for the device to run warm, not hot, if constantly on.

The temperature is determined by how hard the modem is working to maintain connection to the cellular network and the WiFi connections and the air temperature.

It is prudent to ensure that adequate air space/circulation is available.

E-mail Client

Setting up Service provider Parameters

There are a number of e-mail services to set up.

The information was available in a number of formats.

Each provided an explanation of POP3, SMTP and IMAP.

One was excellent in providing the data in a clear table for each mode.

The other two, unhelpfully, had the data buried in explanation text, so it had to be winkle out.

Can't open PDF in Adobe Reader

Surprise! Libre Office Draw opened it O.K.

Some PDFs can be opened with a web Browser.

PDFs can have various security settings applied/- Password required to open, Text cannot be copied out, etc.

Great PDF Tools

<https://tools.pdf24.org/en/lock-pdf>

Mental Note on a Piece of Paper

If something is written Remembrance is Enhanced.

Even though the note is not available the content may be remembered.

If the same content is typed it is no way as beneficial.

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

Gleanings from e-newsletters and other sources.

Reviews

There are no Reviews

New Releases

Essential PIM 12.5.5 .

License: Free

License:Free

File name: Essential PIM.exe

File Size: 48.87 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher:

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

Glary Utilities 6

License: Freeware

Release Date:

File Name: Glary_Uilities_v 6.36.0.40 .exe

File Size: 27.16 MB 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: gnuCash-5.14.setup.exe

File Size: 175.96 MB O/S: Linux, Windows

Publisher: GnuCash Project

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

Google Chrome (32bit) 143.0.7499.170

License: Free

File name: ChromeSetup.exe

File Size: 10.25 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Google

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

LibreOffice (64Bit)

License: Freeware

File name: LibreOffice_25.8.4_Win_x86.msi

File Size: 348.24 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: The Document Foundation

Comments: Contains the functions:-

Writer Document

Calc Spreadsheet

Imress Presentation

Draw Drawing

Math Formula

Base Database

URL:

https://mirror.freedif.org/TDF/libreoffice/stable/6.2.0/win/x86/LibreOffice_24.84.4_Win_x86.msi

Mozilla Firefox

License:Freeware

File name: Mozilla_Firefox_(32bit)_v146.0.1.exe
Update

File Size: 71.00 MB O/S: Windows 7 to 11

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 146.0 1(GB).exe

File Size: 70.34 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_v8.9.exe

File Size: 6.42 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Notepad++

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

PDFCreator

License: Freeware

File name: PDFCreator_v6.2.1 .exe

File Size: 102 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: pdfforge

URL: <https://www.pdfforge.org/>

Want more? See the New Releases list:

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

Tips etc.

Goodbye Monthly Fees:

I Made My Own VPN With a Raspberry Pi 5

By Justyn Newman

Senior Writer, Security - Updated Jun 25, 2025

Don't want to pay for an expensive VPN subscription? You can host one for free with a Raspberry Pi and a little know-how. I'm here to walk you through the process.

<https://au.pcmag.com/vpn/111738/goodbye-monthly-fees-i-made-my-own-vpn-with-a-raspberry-pi-5>

Here's How to Upgrade Your PC to Windows 11, Even If It's Incompatible

By Lance Whitney

Contributor Updated Dec 04, 2025

If you've been dragging your feet on an OS upgrade, there are a few ways to switch for free.

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/114584/heres-how-to-upgrade-your-pc-to-windows-11-even-if-its-incompatible>

What Cyber Experts Fear Most in 2026:

AI-Powered Scams, Deepfakes, and a New Era of Cybercrime

By Kim Key Senior Writer, Security Updated Jan 01, 2026

The internet is entering an age where AI drives both the attacks and the defences—and experts worry the balance is tipping.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/115043/what-cyber-experts-fear-most-in-2026-ai-powered-scams-deepfakes-and-a-new-era-of-cybercrime>

Florida Is Building a Highway That Can Wirelessly Charge EVs

By Emily Forlini

Senior Reporter Updated Dec 31, 2025

After Indiana researchers demonstrated earlier this month that wireless highway EV charging works, Florida confirms it's breaking ground on another highway test in 2026.

<https://au.pcmag.com/cars-auto/115040/florida-is-building-a-highway-that-can-wirelessly-charge-evs>

All Aboard for the Creative Works Entering the Public Domain in 2026

By Rob Pegoraro

Contributor Updated Jan 01, 2026

The list of 1930 classics that will no longer have copyright protections on Jan. 1 includes the first appearances of The Little Engine That Could, Betty Boop, Nancy Drew, and Disney's Goofy.

<https://au.pcmag.com/news/115041/all-aboard-for-the-creative-works-entering-the-public-domain-in-2026>

Tech Trainwrecks:

The Biggest Fails of 2025

Updated Dec 31, 2025

Think you had a bad year? At least you didn't hire a North Korean, share war plans in the group chat, or DDoS yourself. Here's a look back at the year's most notable flops.

<https://au.pcmag.com/computers-electronics/115035/tech-trainwrecks-the-biggest-fails-of-2025>

You're Using Windows 11 Wrong—Until You Learn These 31 Game-Changing Tricks

By Michael Muchmore

Principal Writer, Software Updated Dec 31, 2025

Unleash Windows 11's hidden features, maximize the power of its AI tools, and fine-tune your PC like a pro with these powerful tips.

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/115030/youre-using-windows-11-wrong-until-you-learn-these-31-game-changing-tricks>

DeSantis Breaks With Trump on AI:

'Fake Videos' Are Not 'Some Kind of Utopia'

By Emily Forlini

Senior Reporter Updated Dec 30, 2025

Following President Trump's executive order targeting state-level AI bills, the Florida governor warns that the technology could become an 'existential crisis for self-government.'

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/115024/desantis-breaks-with-trump-on-ai-fake-videos-are-not-some-kind-of-utopia>

Still Using Passwords? Yikes.

Here's Why You Should Switch to Passkeys Now

By Kim Key

Senior Writer, Security - Updated Dec 23, 2025

Passkeys offer stronger protection than passwords—and they have the potential to eliminate passwords altogether if more people adopt them. We break it all down and show you how to get started.

<https://au.pcmag.com/password-managers/98421/passwordless-authentication-what-it-is-and-why-you-need-it-asap>

ChatGPT Remembers Everything

Eight Privacy Tricks I Use to Prevent It From Learning Too Much About Me

By Lance Whitney

Contributor Updated Dec 18, 2025

It's never a good idea to spill your most intimate secrets to an AI chatbot, but there are ways to

limit the data ChatGPT collects from your conversations.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/114892/chatgpt-remembers-everything-8-privacy-tricks-i-use-to-prevent-it-from-learning-too-much-about-me>

Here Endeth John's Jots

Here Endeth John's Jots

APCUG ARTICLES

These APCUG articles are republished with permission of APCUG. All copyright rests with APCUG and/or the original writer.

CHATGPT GLOSSARY: 61 AI TERMS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW, Imad Khan, CNET

AI is moving fast and bringing a whole new vocabulary with it. This glossary will help you stay up to date. As people become more accustomed to a world intertwined with AI, new terms are popping up everywhere. This list includes some important AI terms you should know.

This glossary is regularly updated.

[ChatGPT Glossary: 61 AI Terms Everyone Should Know – CNET](#)

WELCOME TO 9TO5 AI – What is 9to5 AI all about? This newsletter is your go-to guide for exploring how artificial intelligence intersects with your everyday work and life. My goal is to make AI approachable, actionable, and relevant to professionals balancing their 9-to-5 responsibilities with a curiosity for cutting-edge technology. Free or pay, subscribe here [Welcome to 9to5 AI](#)

This is your plain-English guide to where AI is going to show up, what it will do, and what you should watch out for. Cyn's Tips by Cyn Mackley, Tech Whisperer.

AI in 2026: What It Actually Means for Regular People at Home



If you've felt like the word "AI" is following you around, you're not wrong. It's in the news, your apps, your car, your TV, and probably somewhere in your toaster's marketing copy.

Cyn Mackley

AI IN 2026: WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS FOR REGULAR PEOPLE AT HOME – If you've felt like the word "AI" is following you around, you're not wrong. It's in the news, your apps, your car, your TV, and probably somewhere in your toaster's marketing copy.

But what does AI in 2026 really mean for a normal person at home? Not a programmer, not a Silicon Valley founder. Just someone with a PC, a phone, a TV, and a low tolerance for nonsense.

Short answer: AI is going to be built into almost everything you use.

Some of it will be genuinely helpful.

Some of it will be annoying.

All of it will come with strings attached.

Setting Up Ransomware Protection in Windows 11 – A Simple and Complete Guide
By Dellenny • by John Edward



Ransomware is one of the most dangerous types of malware people face today. It locks your files and demands payment to release them. Many users think ransomware only affects businesses, but home computers are just as much at risk. Cyber-criminals often spread ransomware through websites, email attachments, or fake downloads. If your computer is not protected, you could lose

important photos, documents, and personal information in seconds. Thankfully, Windows 11 includes powerful ransomware protection features built right into the system. You do not need expensive paid antivirus tools to stay safe—Microsoft provides strong protection that only needs a little setup. In this guide, we explain step-by-step how to turn on ransomware protection in Windows 11, what features are included, and some extra tips to keep your files safe.

What is Ransomware?

Before we set up protection, it helps to understand what ransomware is. Ransomware is a type of malware that:

- Infects your computer
- Locks or encrypts your files
- Shows a message asking for money (a ransom)
- Threatens to delete your files if you do not pay.

Even if someone pays, there is no guarantee they will get their files back. That is why prevention is always better than trying to recover after an attack. Windows 11 has a built-in feature called Ransomware Protection, located inside Windows Security, to protect your important files before something goes wrong.

Built-In Ransomware Protection in Windows 11

Windows 11 includes several layers of security. The main tool for ransomware defense is:

Controlled Folder Access

This tool stops suspicious apps from changing your protected files. If a strange app tries to access files in protected folders, Windows blocks it immediately and shows a warning. Even if ransomware slips past other security tools, Controlled Folder Access can stop it from locking your files.

How to Turn On Ransomware Protection in Windows 11

Now let's go through the steps to enable it:

Step 1 – Open Windows Security

1. Click the Start button
2. Type Windows Security

3. Click the app to open it

Step 2 – Open Virus & Threat Protection

Inside Windows Security, click Virus & threat protection. This section controls malware defenses and scanning tools.

Step 3 – Find Ransomware Protection

Scroll down the page until you see Ransomware protection. Click the link to open it.

Step 4 – Enable Controlled Folder Access

You will now see the main ransomware settings page. Find Controlled folder access and turn the toggle On. Windows may ask for permission from an administrator—click Yes to confirm.

Once activated, this feature starts protecting your files immediately.

Customizing Ransomware Protection Settings

1. Add More Folders to Protect

Windows automatically protects important system folders, such as:

- Documents
- Pictures
- Videos
- Music

However, you may have files stored in other folders—for example, on the desktop or in a custom project folder. To protect them:

1. Under Controlled Folder Access, click **Protected folders**
2. Click **Add a protected folder**
3. Browse and choose the folder you want to secure

Now ransomware cannot modify files inside that folder without your permission.

2. Allow Apps You Trust

Sometimes Windows may block a safe app that needs access to your folders.

For example, video editing or backup apps might need permission. If that happens:

1. Go back to the Controlled Folder Access settings
2. Click Allow an app through Controlled folder access
3. Choose the app you trust This keeps protection active while letting your programs work normally.

Turn On Cloud-Based Protection

Windows Security also includes cloud-based protection and real-time scanning. These help Microsoft detect new malware threats faster.

To check if they are on:

1. Open Windows Security
2. Click Virus & threat protection
3. Click Manage settings under Virus & threat protection settings Make sure the following are turned On:
 - Real-time protection
 - Cloud-delivered protection
 - Automatic sample submission

Together, these tools make your system much harder for ransomware to attack.

Enable OneDrive Backup for Extra Safety

Even with strong protection, it is possible for malware to sneak through. That is why backups are important. Windows 11 works well with OneDrive, a cloud backup service that can automatically save your files online. If something goes wrong, you can restore your folders later.

To set up OneDrive backup:

1. Open Settings
2. Go to Accounts
3. Select Windows Backup
4. If OneDrive is not active, sign in and set up backup This gives you another layer of security because even if ransomware encrypts your files, you can restore clean versions from the cloud.

How to Stay Safe from Ransomware –

Extra Tips Windows 11 protection is strong, but your habits also matter. Follow these tips:

- Do not open email attachments from unknown senders
- Avoid unofficial download websites
- Keep apps and Windows updated
- Use a strong antivirus if available
- Do not click suspicious links
- Use a strong password or password manager Cyber-criminals often trick users into installing ransomware without realizing it. Safe browsing habits can make a huge difference.

What If You Get Infected Anyway?

If ransomware has infected your computer:

1. Disconnect from the internet immediately
2. Open Windows Security and run a Full scan
3. Check backups to see if your files can be restored
4. Do not pay the ransom—there is no guarantee

You can contact professional support if necessary, but having protection enabled early keeps you out of most trouble. Ransomware is a serious threat, but Windows 11 gives users effective protection tools for free. By turning on Controlled Folder Access, enabling real-time and cloud security features, and using good backup habits, you greatly reduce the risk of losing important files. The setup only takes a few minutes, but it can save you hours of stress and possibly years of memories stored on your device.

With everything working together—Windows security settings, safe browsing habit, and backup strategies—you can use your computer with confidence knowing your personal files are safe from ransomware attacks.