



Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.



Vol 41 No 5

17 May 2026

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		Editor	APCUG

Meeting Timetable

Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

12 noon	Q&A	Keith
After Q&A	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
Presentation	Libra Office Write	Keith and 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

Due to work at Mitchelton Library
the May and possibly the June
Meetings will be at
May Ashgrove Library
June Everton Park Library.

CLUB INFORMATION LINES

Info Line (07) 3353 3121

The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

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,

Bit of a muck up with Mitchelton Library being unavailable for May and possible June meetings. This month we have a room at Ashgrove Library from 12 Noon to 5pm.

We will be able to have the same facilities. The library is at 87 Amarina Ave Ashgrove. Hope you can make it.

All for now.

Cheers

Keith

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Reports

Presentation and Education

12 Noon: Q&A

Lunch and Club Report following Q&A.

Presentation: Libra Office Write

Linux Work Shop if time and when we decide to stop.

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 9 members sign up at the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report

APRIL 2026

Opening Balance at 1/3/26	2063.16
Income	
New Member	
Total Income	0.00
Expenses	
	0.00
	0.00
Month's Gain	00.00
Balance at 31/3/26	2063.16

Eric Maronese

Treasurer



Q&A - April meeting

Nothing from me as I was not at the meeting.

I have been advised not to drive for 6 months, so will not be at a meeting until October.

Gleanings from e-newsletters and other sources.

Reviews

Kensington VeriMark NFC+ USB-C Security Key

Kim Key

Senior Writer, Security

Updated Apr 29, 2026

The Kensington VeriMark NFC+ USB-C Security Key is expensive, but if you're looking for a security key that requires zero setup or additional downloads, it may be right for you.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/117351/kensington-verimark-nfc-usb-c-security-key>

Mullvad vs. Proton: The VPN Privacy Showdown You Can't Ignore

Justyn Newman

Senior Writer, Security

Updated Mar 23, 2026

Mullvad and Proton are leaders in privacy, but which VPN should you actually choose? After thoroughly testing both, I compare their value, user experience, speed, and more to help you decide.

<https://au.pcmag.com/vpn/116662/mullvad-vs-proton-the-vpn-privacy-showdown-you-cant-ignore>

New Releases

Glary Utilities 6

License: Freeware

Release Date:

File Name: Glary_Utilities_v 6.41.0.45 .exe

File Size: 27.20 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) 147.0.7727.117

License: Free

File name: ChromeSetup.exe

File Size: 10.96 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Google

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

Java Runtime Environment (32bit)

License: Freeware

Filename:Java_Runtime_Environment v8.0.4810.10.exe

File Size: 36.03 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Oracle

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

Keepass

License: Freeware

File name: Keepass-2.61-Setup.exe

File Size: 4.38 MB

O/S: Linux, Windows

Publisher: Dominik Reichl

URL: <https://keepass.info/>

LibreOffice (64Bit)

License: Freeware

File name: LibreOffice_26.2.2_Win_x86.msi

File Size: 355.47 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: The Document Foundation

Comments: Contains the functions:-

Writer Document

Calc Spreadsheet

Impress 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 150.0

License: Freeware

File name: Mozilla_Firefox_(32bit)_v150.0.exe
Update

File Size: 73.20 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 150.0.0(GB).exe

File Size: 73.20 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_v8.9.4.exe

File Size: 6.44 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Notepad++

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

PDFCreator

License: Freeware

File name: PDFCreator_v6.2.21.exe

File Size: 102.15 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: pdfforge

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

VLC Media Player (64bit)

License: Freeware

File name: VLC_Media_Player
(64bit)_v3.0.23.exe

File Size: 42.50 MB O/S: Windows XP SP3 to the last version of Windows 10.

Publisher: VideoLAN Project

URL:

<https://get.videolan.org/vlc/3.0.21/win64/vlc-3.0.7.1-win32.exe>

XnView

License: Freeware

File name: XnView_v 2.52.5.exe

File Size: 7.48 MB 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.

Microsoft Will Finally Give You More Control Over Windows Updates

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/117325/microsoft-finally-tackles-frustrating-windows-updates>

Microsoft Says Defender Antivirus Is Good Enough. I Say Nope

Neil J. Rubenking

Principal Writer, Security

Microsoft claims Windows Defender is all the protection you need. The evidence from real-world testing and competing security tools says otherwise.

<https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/117376/microsoft-says-defender-antivirus-is-good-enough-i-say-nope>

Infosec This Week: AI Accountability Slips, Windows Defender Turns Attacker, and... Someone Tracked a Warship

Alan Henry

Managing Editor, Security

Updated Apr 24, 2026

This week's security news includes a restricted AI security tool ending up with Discord users and a \$5 Bluetooth tracker being used to locate a \$500 million frigate, among other incidents.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/117301/infosec-this-week-ai-accountability-slips-windows-defender-turns-attacker>

We Tested 200 Laptops. This One Just Clocked 40+ Hours of Battery Life

John Burek

Executive Editor and PC Labs Director

Updated Apr 29, 2026

The first laptop to win PCMag's Lab Award, the MSI Prestige 14 Flip AI+ just wouldn't die in our battery test, logging more than 42 (!) hours of video runtime.

<https://au.pcmag.com/laptops/117360/we-tested-200-laptops-this-one-just-locked-40-hours-of-battery-life>

Starlink to Drop Tech That Helps Beat GPS Spoofing. Maritime Users Are Alarmed

Michael Kan

Principal Reporter

Updated Apr 29, 2026

SpaceX will restrict a little-known, but accurate, location feature that boat owners use to counter GPS jamming and spoofing around the Red Sea. They're urging the company to reconsider.

<https://au.pcmag.com/networking/117362/starlink-to-drop-tech-that-helps-beat-gps-spoofing-maritime-users-are-alarmed>

5 Simple Chrome Tab Tricks I Swear By for Faster Browsing

Lance Whitney

Contributor

Updated Apr 28, 2026

Enhancements such as split view mode and vertical tabs can supercharge your productivity.

<https://au.pcmag.com/browsers/117330/5-simple-chrome-tab-tricks-i-swear-by-for-faster-browsing>

I Asked AI to Generate Passwords. They're So Bad, It's Scary

Kim Key

Senior Writer, Security

Updated Apr 28, 2026

You would think AI could create secure, random, and strong passwords, but that's not actually true. In many cases, AI-generated passwords are surprisingly predictable, making them easy targets for hackers. Here's what to do instead.

<https://au.pcmag.com/password-managers/117334/i-asked-ai-to-generate-passwords-theyre-so-bad-its-scary>

Here Endeth John's Jots

Some "Make Use of" interesting articles

I ran Ethernet throughout my house and realized it's the cheapest upgrade you will ever make

The modern home requires internet access, and that means a nice, fast broadband connection. But once that connection enters your home, you need a way to send it to all the devices dotted around your house. There are computers, game consoles, smart home devices, and more that all need internet access. And if you're anything like me, Wi-Fi just won't cut it. That's why I took matters

into my own hands and went old-school. I ran Ethernet throughout my house, and it's been a revelation [Read the article here](#)

Claude can edit your photos now – and it makes darktable feel like likeroom

I've been using Adobe Lightroom for as long as I've been taking photos on a DSLR, which is about a decade now. And when you use an Adobe program for as long as I have, the subscription model starts looking a lot like you're being held hostage. Adobe keeps bumping the price up every few years, often at the cost of its more affordable subscription plans, and all you can do is continue to pay up if you want to maintain access to your own photos. [Read the article here](#)

I cleaned up a messy imported spreadsheet in minutes using an excel tool I'd ignored for years.

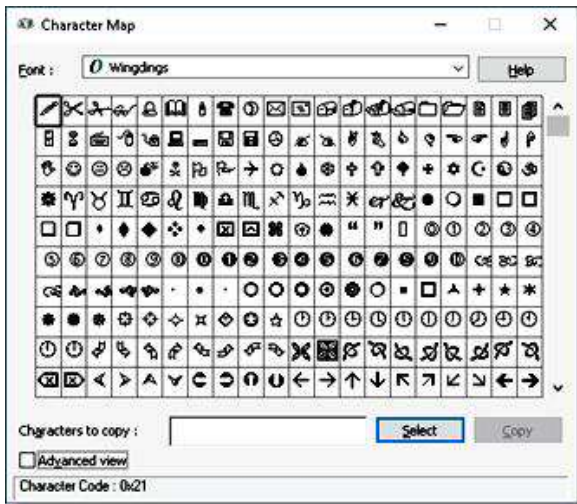
Imagine you're a data analyst tasked with creating a master sales dashboard, but instead of starting with a clean dataset, you inherit a Monthly_Logs folder packed with 50 CSV files covering different regions and months, a PDF containing shipping cost data, and access to a Supabase PostgreSQL database storing product costs. You have to turn all of that into a single clean, normalized table that you can actually work with. [Read the article here](#)

APCUG ARTICLES

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Tip of the Day: Enter Characters that Don't Have Keys

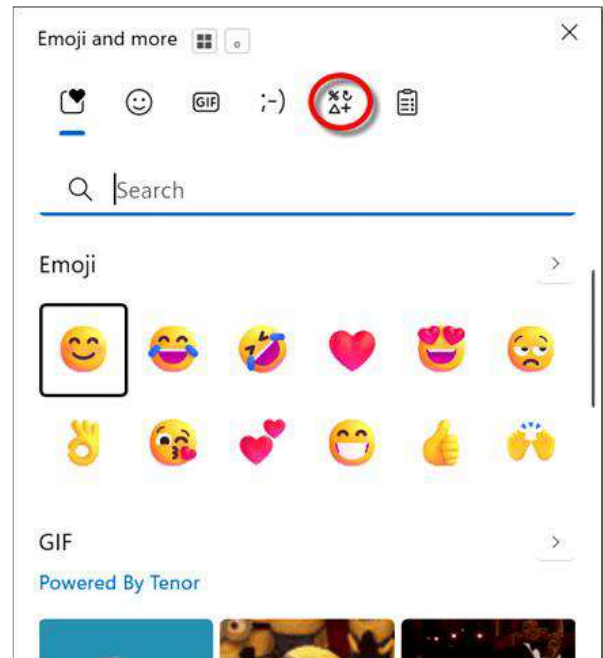
Applies to Windows: 11, 10, 8, 7, Vista, XP
Do you ever want to enter a character that doesn't have a corresponding keystroke? Like, say, a summation sign Σ — as one example. It doesn't happen often, but it happens. Windows includes a utility called the character map that allows you to access all characters made available by all the fonts installed on your PC. In Windows 10 or 11, just search for "character map" and click on it when it shows in the results. In other versions of Windows, you'll generally find it in the Start Menu under Windows Accessories.



Character Map relies on copy/paste to do its job. Select the font you want in the top dropdown (I've selected "WingDings" in the example above), and double-click on any character in the resulting grid to copy that character to the "Characters to copy" field below. When you're done, click on Copy and then paste the characters into the document or other application you're using. There are a lot of characters across a lot of fonts, so it's worth exploring a little. Just remember that when using different fonts online, in email, or even across multiple machines, that font may also need to be installed on the machine where you want things to be displayed. Visit Tip of the

Day: Enter Characters that Don't Have Keys for moderated comments, related links, and updates.

Tip of the Day: The Emoji Keyboard Is for More Than Emojis Applies to Windows: 11, 10 Some people would never use an emoji. However, they may not know that the emoji keyboard offers a variety of symbols. Emoji keyboard. (Screenshot: askleo.com)



Type plus period to bring up the emoji keyboard. At the top, you'll see several categories to explore. In Windows 11, click on the small icon of four symbols (circled in the image above) to display an assortment of symbols instead of emojis. In Windows 10, click the omega character



Symbols offered in the emoji keyboard. (Screenshot: askleo.com)

Scroll through the list of characters offered; there are many. If there are characters you use often, you'll find them in the "Recent" section

at the top. Additionally, the icon to the furthest right gives you access to your clipboard history.

LibreOffice Basic Programming using ChatGPT

By Alan German, Treasurer
Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada
Published in Ottawa PC News (August 2023)
<https://opcug.ca> brigittelord@opcug.ca

ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/chat>) is an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that, amongst other things, can create text based on a request from an end user. So, I thought I would use it to write an article for the newsletter by entering

"Write an article for OPCUG's newsletter on LibreOffice Basic Programming." Had I gone ahead with this, you would now be reading the following:

"LibreOffice is a free and open-source productivity suite that provides several applications, including Writer, Calc, Impress, and Base.

These applications are designed to provide a comprehensive set of tools to meet the needs of any user. LibreOffice also comes with a builtin programming language called LibreOffice

Basic, which allows users to automate tasks and create custom solutions to enhance the functionality of the suite."

But, first let me explain the scenario. I have a LibreOffice document (ODT file) that contains the lists of topics that have been covered over the past three years in our weekly online Q&A sessions. Each week, I build an agenda for the upcoming session as a simple text file (TXT) that lists the titles of the topics to be discussed next. This text file is used for various purposes, one of which has been manually adding the list of new topics to the main ODT index file. I wanted to automate this latter process by developing a macro that would read the topics from the text file and add them to the end of the ODT file.

I don't know all that much about object-oriented programming, so, when I want to create a macro for a document in LibreOffice Writer, my practice is to use Google to search for code extracts that I can then modify and string together to produce the final product. And, this is precisely what I did to build the required macro but then I saw a YouTube video of an individual using ChatGPT to create computer code in a number of programming languages by simply telling the AI bot what was required. Now, perhaps LibreOffice Basic is a bit of a backwater item in terms of mainstream programming, but I figured that it would be worth a shot to see if I could use ChatGPT to develop the code for my macro.

I know how to read and write lines of text from an ASCII file. My problem is that the ODT file isn't a simple text file. The ODT format is a special type of ZIP file that contains a number of XML and other components. So, the trick is to have the macro open the ODT file, identify the component that contains the body text of the document, add the desired lines at the end, and close the file.

At present, it's possible to use ChatGPT at no cost. All that is required is to create an account on the system or login using an established Google account. Once logged in, one enters a request as a string into a text box. My request was "Write a program in LibreOffice Basic to add a string to the end of an odt file."

The result was amazing – as shown, in part, by the following screenshot:



ChatGPT effectively produces a custom tutorial on building the macro. Each required step in the process is explained, and the relevant code extract displayed. Finally, all the code that has been developed for the requested macro is shown as a complete block:

```
Sub AddStringToODTFile

Dim oDoc As Object
Dim oText As Object
Dim oEnd As Object

' Open the document
oDoc =
ThisComponent.Load("/path/to/
file.odt")

' Retrieve the text object
oText = oDoc.getText

' Insert the string at the end of the
document
oEnd = oText.getEnd
oText.insertString(oEnd, "This is the
string that will be
added to the end of the file.", False)

' Save the modified document
oDoc.store
End Sub
```

In essence, this code segment is very close to the macro code that I had produced over some considerable time, having had to research several web postings to identify the required techniques.

Clearly, it is very generic code and only covers part of what is required for the final macro. But, it is evident from this simple test that the AI bot is fully capable of generating "modules" of code that can readily be adapted for the desired purpose and that such modules could be quickly consolidated into a fully functional macro.

The other consideration is that the current version of ChatGPT is at an early stage in the development of AI tools. As such applications become more sophisticated and the computer systems running them become more powerful,

it is highly likely that their use in computer programming will become ubiquitous. Even now, ChatGPT is perfectly capable of de-eloping useful code in a number of popular programming languages. For example, in addition to producing macros for LibreOffice Basic, it is just as easy to develop Python scripts. So, ChatGPT is a useful tool for anyone seriously developing programs, macros, and scripts, and is a really interesting option for those who wish to learn the techniques.

Bottom Line

ChatGPT (Proprietary, webbased system)
OpenAI