SOUTHERN DISTRICTS COMPUTER USERS CLUB INC.

December 2013

Vol. 13
No. 12

Club Web Site http://sdcuci.com

MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm, in the Hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church Morphett Vale. (Corner Bains Road and Main South Road)

Visitors most welcome. After three visits, visitors will be requested to become members.

Cost $2 per person, which includes the Newsletter, plus coffee/ tea and biscuits.
Subscriptions for twelve months
Single $18
Family membership $24

Novice and experienced computer users will be warmly welcomed

Editors: Bib and Bub

Our next meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday 15th January 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Topic: "What to do when your computer won't start"

The Committee in 2013 / 2014

PRESIDENT:	**Lionel Leddra**	**lleddra@bigpond.net.au**
VICE PRESIDENT:	**John Kirby**	**john.kirby@adam.com.au**
SECRETARY:	**Trevor Francis**	**tjfrancis@adam.com.au**
TREASURER:	**Cheryl McDonald**	**cherylm@cobweb.com.au**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Emma Boss	**eboss16@bigpond.com**
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Jim Greenfield	**jamesg@esc.net.au**
Peter Janmaat	**p_janmaat@dodo.com.au**
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Lorraine Loader	**lorian23@bigpond.com**
Wanda McDonald	**rmcd3779@bigpond.net.au**
Robert Zeugofsge	**Zogs22@bigpond.com**
Ann Zeugofsge	**Zogs22@bigpond.com**

2013-14 Committee Members
Southern Districts Computer Users Club
L_R: Peter Janmaat: Cheryl McDonald (Treasurer)
Lionel Leddra (President) Bob Zeugofsge: Lindsay Chuck
Emma Boss: Trevor Francis (Secretary): Anne Zeugofsge
Wanda McDonald: Ann Leddra: Lorraine Loader
John Kirby (Vice President) Jim Greenfield (Past President)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Lorraine Loader (Bub)
lorian23@bigpond.com

Wanda McDonald (Bib)
rmcd3779@bigpond.net.au

Last month's meeting - Movie Maker

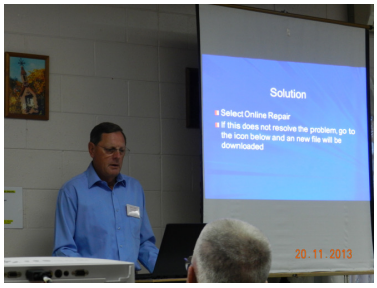
A good turnout with 4 visitors who were made welcome by our Yardbroom President, Lionel.

Frank Mishado was presented with his 5 year certificate.

Lionel introduced the committee members who were present.

John Kirby gave a ' 5 minute' talk on **Office 365.**

- If you upgrade Office 2013 to Office 365 and have a problem, you will need to do a repair.
- You had to buy Office 2013, but Office 365 is a yearly license which includes upgrades. This fee gives a license for 5 computers for $119 per annum, so think about getting a group together to share the cost.
- The license can be cancelled at any time.



Then it was **Anne's** turn to present **MovieMaker.** Some points:

- Anne spoke of the MovieMaker course scheduled for January next year.
- She gave a brief history of MovieMaker - was called Windows Live MovieMaker but changed with Windows 7.
- MovieMaker 12 is the current version - this gives voiceovers, some music, export format has been changed to Blueray & MP4, video stabilisation and background & text versatility.
- Hints:
  - Have some idea of photos and videos you want to use and adjust them first.
  - Select either widescreen or 4:3 first otherwise you could get black strips around your photos.
  - Divide into 30 minute sections or your computer may crash.
  - Save your project regularly.
  - Any change to photos or video does not change the original one.

MOVIEMAKER, con't

Anne then created her movie and used her photos and videos of elephants from her recent trip to Botswana. This was quite interesting in itself.

A brief overview of MovieMaker:

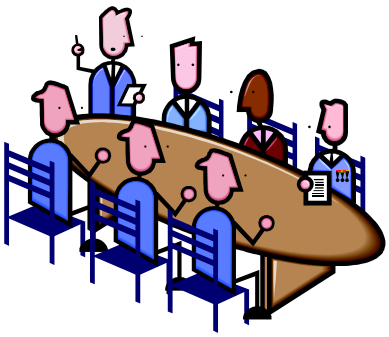
- Put movies and photos in order
- Change duration of pictures being viewed (transitions)
- Put captions at beginning and during.
- Can add credits at the end (or beginning) of the movie.
- Save your project to a file while working on it.
- Add music
- Save movie (best on High Definition Display). This finalizes the movie ready for burning to a DVD.

Old scanned photos and videos can also be downloaded and used. Best to scan as Jpeg photo.

This was a most enjoyable presentation and I am sure a lot of us would love to do the course.

Committee Capers.

The committee meeting is to be held next Monday 9th so there will be no Committee Capers this month.



CAN ANYONE HACK MY COMPUTER IF I AM OFFLINE IN AN INTERNET CAFÉ?

The practical answer is No, it is not very likely, BUT, it actually depends on a number of things.

First, are you really offline?

Simply choosing offline (as you can do in browsers or email programs) does not take your computer offline: it only stops those applications from trying to access the internet. The biggest risk is simply that you are not offline when you think you are.

Disable the wireless adapter

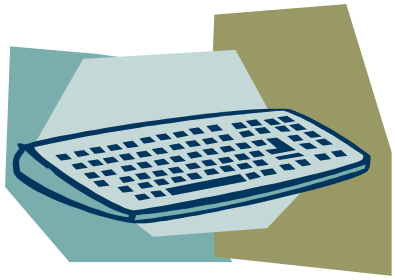
The most effective approach is to disable the wireless adapter in your computer. Some laptops even have a physical switch that you can use to do exactly that. Use it. That removes the network from the equation.

Turn off Bluetooth.

Does your computer have Bluetooth? Consider disabling that as well. It is not at all common, but it is another wireless protocol and it could be vulnerable to short range access.

Disable the wireless keyboard.

You are probably not using one of these if you have a laptop, but some wireless keyboard adapters have fundamentally poor security. And they could be listened on or worse …. typed at without you realising it.



Physical security.

Someone could be looking over your shoulder as you type sensitive information like your password. Even surveillance cameras in the café could be used for that. Disabling the WiFi adapter is more than enough for most situations.

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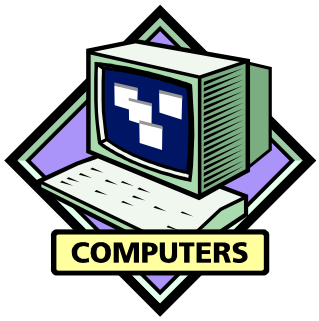
WHY DOES REBOOTING A COMPUTER FIX SO MANY PROBLEMS?



I had a call from a friend a few weeks ago. "Jim, I am having problems with my computer" My response was "have you tried rebooting it?" This seems like a flippant response, but rebooting a computer can actually solve many problems.

So what's going on here? Why does resetting a device or restarting a program fix so many problems rather than use the blunt hammer of "reset it"?

Bear in mind that this solution isn't just limited to Windows computers, but applies to all types of computing devices. You will find the advice "try resetting it" applied to wireless routers, iPads, Android phones and more. This same advice even applies to software - is Firefox acting slow and consuming a lot of memory? Try closing it and reopening it!

Some problems require a restart!

To illustrate why rebooting can fix so many problems, let us take a look at the ultimate software problem a Windows computer can face: Windows halts, showing a **blue screen of death**. The blue screen was caused by a low-level error, likely a problem with a hardware driver or a hardware malfunction. Windows reaches a state where it doesn't know how to recover, so it halts, shows a blue screen of death, gathers information about the problem, and automatically restarts the computer for you. This restart fixes the blue screen of death.

Windows has gotten better at dealing with errors - for example, if your graphics driver crashes, Windows XP would have frozen. In Windows Vista and newer versions of Windows, the Windows desktop will lose its fancy graphical effects for a few moments before regaining them. Behind the scenes, Windows is restarting the malfunctioning graphics driver.

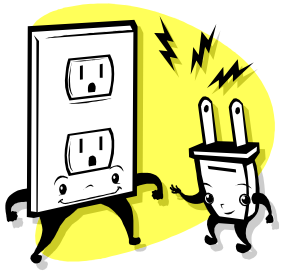
Buy why does Windows simply fix the problem rather than restarting the driver or the computer itself? Well, because it can't - the code has encountered a problem and stopped working completely, so there is no way for it to continue. By restarting, the code can start from square one and hopefully it won't encounter the same problem again.

Examples of Restarting Fixing Problems

While certain problems require a complete restart because the operating system or a hardware drive has stopped working, not every problem does. Some problems may be fixable without a restart, though a restart may be the easiest option.

REBOOTING con't

- **Windows is slow -** Let's say Windows is running very slowly. It is possible that a misbehaving program is using 99% CPU and draining the computer's resources. I could head to the task manager and look around, hoping to locate the misbehaving process and end it. If an average user encountered this same problem they could simply reboot their computer to fix it rather than dig through their running process.
- **Firefox or Another Program is Using Too Much Memory -** In the past, Firefox has been the poster child for memory leaks on average PCs. Over time, Firefox would often consume more and more memory, getting larger and larger and slowing down. Closing Firefox will cause it to relinquish all of its memory. When it starts again, it will start from a clean state without any leaked memory. This doesn't just apply to Firefox, but applies to any software with memory leaks.
- **Internet or Wi-Fi Network Problems -** If you have a problem with your Wi-Fi or Internet connection, the software on your router or modem may have encountered a problem. Resetting the router - just by unplugging it from its power socket and then plugging it back in again - is a common solution for connection problems.



In all cases, a restart wipes away the current state of the software. Any code that is stuck in a misbehaving state will be swept away too. When you restart, the computer or device will bring the system up from scratch, restarting all the software from square one so it will work just as well as it was working before.

Soft Resets vs Hard Resets

In the mobile device world, there are two types of "resets" you can perform. A "soft reset" is simply restarting a device normally - turning it off and then on again. A "hard reset" is resetting its software state back to its factory default state.

When you think about it, both types of resets fix problems for a similar reason. For example, let's say your Windows computer refuses to boot or becomes completely infected with malware. Simply restarting the computer won't fix the problem, as the problem is with the files on the computer's hard drive - it has corrupted files or malware that loads at startup on it's hard drive. However, reinstalling Windows (performing a Refresh or Reset your PC operation in Windows 8 terms) will wipe away everything on the computer's hard drive, restoring it to its formerly clean state.

This is simpler than looking through the computer's hard drive, trying to identify the exact reason for the problems or trying to ensure you have obliterated every last trace of malware. It is much faster to simply start over from a known, good, clean site instead of trying to locate every possible problem and fix it.

By Jim Greenfield

Recipe Corner

Traditional Christmas Pudding

Ingredients

85g almonds
750g raisins
750g mixed dried fruit
250g dates
6 large eggs
6 tablespoons brandy
500g butter
250g plain flour
2teaspoons mixed spice
1 teaspoon nutmeg
250g sugar
250g white breadcrumbs
1 cup milk
castor sugar

Method

- Blanch and skin almonds, then chop fruit and mix together.
- Cut butter into small pieces and rub into sifted flour and spices.
- Add sugar, fruit and breadcrumbs. Beat eggs, add milk and brandy then stir into the dry ingredients and mix well
- Fill a greased pudding basin with mixture and cover with buttered paper. Cover again with a pudding cloth dipped in boiling water and tie securely.
- Plunge pudding into boiling water and boil for six hours.
- Hang the pudding in an airy place to store until needed. Boil a further 2 hours on the day of serving.
- Serve sprinkled with castor sugar or brandy custard.

Expert Assist List.

Keep this Contact list handy and phone these people first if you have a problem with any one of the subjects mentioned below.

Email, Windows Live Mail	Lionel Leddra	8381 2821
Email, Thunderbird	Trevor Francis	8186 1138
E-readers, Tablets	Lionel & Anne Leddra	8381 2821
Hardware & operating systems, re-loads, CD DVD fix	Jim Greenfield	8382 4912
Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Publisher	Trevor Francis	8186 1138
Microsoft Movie Maker	Lorraine Loader	8382 7243
Photographic, Windows Photo Gallery, Paint Shop Pro	Anne & Lionel Leddra	8381 2821
Photographic, Photoshop	Trevor Francis	8186 1138
Tablets	John Kirby	7007 4819
Video programming to CD/DVD	Cheryl McDonald	8382 3660
Wi-Fi connections & Tablets	Emma Boss	8386 2723

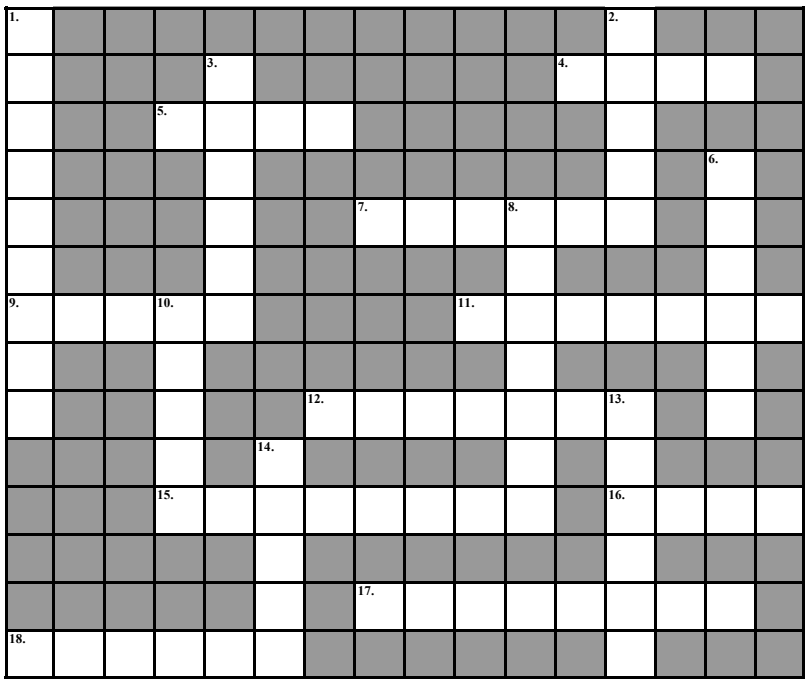
Computer Courses for 2014.

- Windows Live Movie Maker scheduled for 14th and 21st January 2014. Cost $40.
- Computer Basics I & II for Windows 7 & 8
- Photos: Camera to Computer Image Management Course

If you wish to attend any Course, please contact Anne Leddra on 8381 2821.

If you have a special request regarding a program, eg Word, Publisher, Excel etc, please let a committee member know. We may be able to schedule a course to suit, sometime in the future.

Twelve Days of Christmas



ACROSS

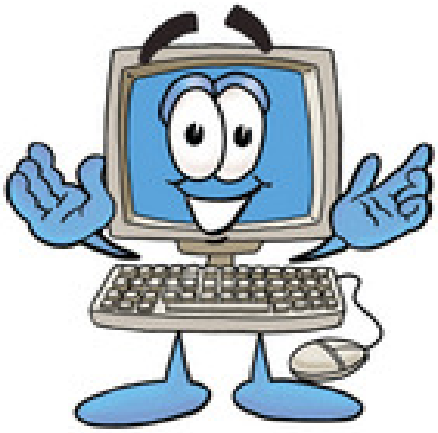
4. Poultry (4)
5. There are seven in a week (4)
7. Number of days (6)
9. Ladies, eight in total (5)
11. What the ladies were doing (7)
12. There are five of them (7)
15. What the seven swans were doing (8)
16. A single true one (4)
17. Twelve in total (8)
18. Eleven of them (6)

DOWN

1. The festive season (9)
2. Laying (5)
3. Nine ------ Dancing (6)
6. Hens from a European country (6)
8. What the lords were doing (7)
10. Just two of these (5)
13. Precious Rings (6)
14. Find them in a tree (5)

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand, "lollipop" with your right.

SANDS COMPUTER GROUP



Coordinator: Lindsay Chuck
Email: Lindsay.chuck@gmail.com
Website: http://lindsaychuck.wix.com/scg

A HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Christmas pudding, also known as plum pudding (because of the abundance of prunes), originated in England. It is traditionally made five weeks before Christmas, on or after the Sunday before Advent. That day was often deemed "Stir-up Sunday", and each family member or child in the household gave the pudding a stir and made a wish.

Many households stirred silver coins (for wealth), tiny wishbones (for good luck), a silver thimble (for thrift), a ring (for marriage) or an anchor (for safe harbour) into the mixture, and when served, whoever got the lucky serving, would be able to keep the charm. When silver coins were not as readily available, the practice ended because people were apprehensive to use alloy coins in their pudding. Today small token coins and other objects are made just for this use.

After the pudding has been steamed, it can be kept in a cool, dry place for several weeks or longer. It will then be steamed a few more hours on the day it is served. There are different ways the pudding can be served. Some decorate it with a spray of holly, douse it in brandy or set it on fire.

Christmas pudding is eaten with brandy butter, rum butter, hard sauce, cream, custard or with caster sugar.

Southern Districts Computer Users Club wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the Council of the City of Onkaparinga for their generous support.

*** Items For Sale ***

Computers and Printers for Sale

Computers 1 & 2 - Windows XP with 'mouse' keyboards and flat screen monitors, all cables, plus some software. **$50 each**

Computer 3 - Windows 98 - **$25**

Printer 1 - Canon Pixma MP 240. Needs a new black ink cartridge - **$15**

Printer 2 - Canon Pixma IP 4600. Comes complete with 2 sets of continuous ink supply system and a lot of ink. **$120 negotiable**.

Phone Peter on 0438 827 178

If you have something for sale, please let us know. Fill in the sheet at the front desk, or email:

Lorraine at **lorian23@bigpond.com**
Or Wanda at **rmcd3779@bigpond.net.au**

We will keep running your ad until you advise the item is either sold or "taken off the market".

Advertising on this page is FREE!!

MEETING RULES

We are allowed to use the facilities at the Hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church Morphett Vale. (Corner Bains Road and Main South Road) in return of a small fee plus respect for their property. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above. While we can not control what our members do away from our club meetings, Piracy of copyright material can not be condoned at our meetings.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Mystery, statistical coincidence or …….

Abe Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
JFK was elected to Congress in 1946.
Abe was elected President in 1860.
JFK was elected President in 1960.
The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters.
Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.
Both their wives lost children while living in the House.
Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.
Both were shot in the head.
Both were in the presence of their wives.
The Secretary of each warned them not to go to the theatre and Dallas respectively.
Lincoln's Secretary was named Kennedy.
Kennedy's Secretary was named Lincoln.
Both were assassinated by Southerners.
Both were succeeded by Southerners.
Both successors were named Johnston.
Andrew Johnston who succeeded Lincoln was born in 1808.
Lyndon Johnston who succeeded Kennedy was born in 1908.
John Wilkes Booth who assassinated Lincoln was born in 1839.
Lee Harvey Oswald who assassinated Kennedy was born in 1939.
Both names have fifteen letters.
Booth ran from the theatre and was captured in a warehouse.
Oswald ran from a warehouse and was captured in a theatre.
To cap it off, Booth and Oswald were both assassinated before trial.

How eerie is that?

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80 Elizabeth Road

Christie Downs
Adelaide , 5164.
South Australia

08 81863571
mob 0438827178
p_janmaat@dodo.com.au

NOTES

IT & COMPUTERS

Shop 6, 76 Beach Road
Christies Beach 8186 2736
(Same block as Woolies on Beach Road)
Contact: Jamie or Ash
For all your computing needs
available locally

Need help with your computer?
Looking to purchase a new one?
Need additional peripherals?
Home site visits available !

Looking for excellent customer and after sales service?

New Computers
Repairs
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