SOUTHERN DISTRICTS COMPUTER USERS CLUB INC.

January 2010

Club Web Site http://videocam.net.au/sdcuci/indexhtml
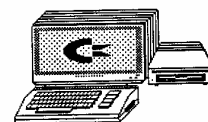
MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of the Month, at Christ Church O'Halloran Hill 1708 Main South Road O'Halloran Hill at 7.30pm
Visitors most welcome.
Cost $2 per person, which includes the Newsletter plus coffee/tea and biscuits.
Subscriptions for twelve months Single $18
Family membership $24
Novice and experienced computer users will be warmly welcomed

Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.
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The President's Page

Our Secretary Trevor Francis is on the sick list and will not be able to join us for some time as he is recovering from major surgery.

Trevor over the last few months has had his endurance extended to the limit.

In mid December 2009 Trevor had an 8 hour surgery.

The Club wish him a speedy recovery

Our thoughts and prayers are with Trevor, Kay and his family.

The committee will be sharing his duties for the time being

Ron Stephens was admitted to Flinders Private Hospital on February 19th and probably will be in hospital for a week. We wish him a speedy recovery

Jim Greenfield   *President*

South Australia
Public Holidays 2010

New Year's Day	Friday	1st	January
Australia Day	Tue	26nd	January
Adelaide Cup	Monody	8th	March
Good Friday	Friday	2nd	April
Easter Monday	Monody	5th	April
Anzac Day	Monday	26th	April
Queen's Birthday /	Monday	14th	June
Labour Day	Monday	4th	October
Christmas Day	Saturday	25th	December
Proclamation Day	Tuesday	28th	December

If you want to make enemies, try to change something.
Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)

What is SKYPE?

Skype is a software application that allows users to make voice and video calls over the Internet. Calls to other users of the service and, in some countries, to free-of-charge numbers, are free, while calls to other landlines and mobile phones can be made for a fee.

Additional features include instant messaging, file transfer and video conferencing.
Skype was written by Estonia-based developers Ahti Heinla, Priit Kasesalu and Jaan Tallinn, who had also originally developed Kazaa. The Skype Group, founded by Swedish-born entrepreneur Niklas Zennström and the Dane Janus Friis, has its headquarters in Luxembourg, with offices in London, Stockholm, Tallinn, Tartu, Prague, and San Jose, California. One of the initial names for the project was "Sky peer-to-peer", which was then abbreviated to "Skyper". However, some of the domain names associated with "Skyper" were already taken. Dropping the final "r" left the current title "Skype", for which domain names were available.

The company was acquired by eBay in September 2005 for $2.6 billion eBay has written Skype down to $1.7 billion on its books and announced a public stock offering for 2010 to spin Skype off as a separate company. Some media outlets have characterized the proposed sale and ongoing provision of Skype as being under threat, because of a software licensing dispute with the original creators. On September 1, 2009, a group of investors led by Silver Lake bought 65% of Skype for $1.91 billion. Later this amount was adjusted as eBay and the new investors settled a lawsuit that had been brought by a holding company set up by the original founders. It was discovered that the holding company had always owned the underlying peer-to-peer technology. The lawsuit was eventually settled with ownership being divided with the new investors owning 56%, the original founders owning 14% and eBay retaining 30%.

System requirements for Skype version 4.1 for Windows

A computer running Windows 2000, XP, Vista or Windows 7. (Windows 2000 users require DirectX 9.0 for video calls).
Internet connection – broadband is best
Speakers and microphone – built-in or separate.
For voice and video calls we recommend a computer with at least a 1GHz processor, 256 MB RAM and of course a webcam.
For High Quality Video calls you will need a high quality video webcam and software, a dual-core processor computer and a fast broadband connection (384 kbps).

A computer walks into a bar and sits down to order a drink. The bartender looks over at him and says, "I'm sorry but we don't serve computers here. You are going to have to leave." The computer looks hurt but gets up to leave. A little while later, the same computer walks into the bar and sits down to order a drink. The bartender looks over and says, "It's like I told you before fella, we don't serve computers here. You are going to have to go somewhere else." The computer gets up and leaves. The computer goes down the street, installs itself with **Vista**, and walks back to the bar to order a drink. The bartender now clearly agitated says, "Listen aren't you the same computer I threw out of here twice today already?" The computer looks back and says, "Nope, I'm just a pile of crap!!"

Hints for
SKYPE USERS

<u>USB LIMITATIONS</u>

You may not be sending great video because you're using other USB devices. Try disconnecting them or try connecting your webcam to an alternative USB Port. If you have connected your webcam via a USB hub, consider changing toa direct USB connection on your computer to improve video quality. Sometimes the front USB on the computer is not as fast as the rear port.

<u>CALL QUALITY</u>

Video calls have recommended system requirements of a minimum 2.5GHz Processor, 512 MB RAM and using Windows XP or higher.

If you are using a laptop, you may have problems with video calls when in Power saving mode. Change your computer to AC power or switch your computer to maximum performance.

<u>YOU CAN VIEW A LIST OF ALL YOUR CALLS, FILE TRANSFERS AND VOICEMAIL MESSAGES BY CLICKING THE "HISTORY" BUTTON</u>.

A new window will appear with a list of all your calls and the duration of each call. You can delete your history by clicking the "Clear history" button in the left corner of the window.

To view chat history for a specific contact, select the contact from your Contact List and go to: "Contacts" "View Chat History". A browser window will open showing your previous chat sessions with the selected contact.

<u>IMPROVING SOUND QUALITY</u>

To get the best possible sound quality, we highly recommend you try the following:

- Use a headset with a built-in microphone. Headsets are available for purchase in the Skype Store and at most computer retailers and will dramatically improve sound quality.
- Tell your friend to get a headset. Note that voice quality is affected by the equipment on both sides of the conversation. The best way to ensure high quality sound is for both users to have a headset.

If you don't have a headset, you are still likely to improve sound quality if you:

- Use headphones instead of your computer speakers.
- Try moving the microphone closer or further away from your mouth.
- Use an external microphone (note that most laptops use low-quality microphones).
- Update your soundcard drivers if applicable.

Note that if you don't own a microphone, you may be able to use a pair of headphones as a temporary solution by connecting these to the microphone jack of your sound card. Try it!

Have you recently acquired, or do you just want to learn more about operating, your computer?

The Club conducts classes on a wide range of subjects, at a very moderate charge.

The maximum number in class is five.

(Our aim is to conduct the classes in a friendly non-threatening atmosphere)

Some of the classes that are available:-

1. Basic Computing (Stage One and / or Stage Two)
2. Advanced Word
3. Internet workshops
4. Digital Cameras

For more information contact a committee member.

I had a call from a friend who said
"The only reason my computer didn't get thrown in the bin was because it wouldn't fit!"

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While every attempt has been made to verify that the information in this newsletter is correct, the Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc accept no responsibility for any inaccuracies.

Likewise no member of the committee or member of the Southern Districts Computer Users Club will accept any liability for any damage occurring to a computer, to any computer system and/or data from following instructions given in this newsletter.

MEETING RULES

NO SMOKING   NO DRINKING   NO SWEARING

We are allowed to use the facilities at Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill 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.

By Tim Weber
Business editor, BBC News website

When talking about Microsoft, it is useful to remind yourself of the sheer scale of its reach. Windows powers about 90% of the world's computers; by the company's own reckoning more than one billion people use it.

Windows also powers Microsoft. During its last financial year, a $58.4bn (£35.7bn) turnover generated an operating profit of $20.3bn (net profit: $14.6bn). Windows accounted for well over half of that.

For years, critics have claimed that Microsoft's virtual monopoly is about to end.

They say it will be brought down by a resurgent Apple, insurgent open-source rival Linux or a revolution in how we use computers, when the actual computing moves from desktop machines to the "cloud" where software runs on remote servers.

Microsoft Corporate Vice President Julie Larson-Green says Windows 7 has been planned better than Vista

Windows without a Vista

In reality, Microsoft has been its own worst enemy. Ruthless behaviour towards rivals earned it the attention of regulators such as the European Commission and the US Department of Justice.

More importantly, three years ago Microsoft botched the release of Vista, the operating system that preceded Windows 7.

Vista - a bloated, difficult to install operating system - left many early users with suddenly unusable hardware and software. The disaster badly undermined Microsoft's credibility with consumers and software developers.

Today, Vista is still outshone by its eight-year-old predecessor Windows XP. One (particularly low) estimate from web metrics firm Net Applications suggests Vista has a mere 18.6% share of the market. Others put it at just over 35%, which is still a poor figure.

Among companies, "Vista is the worst-adopted operating system", according to Annette Jump, research director at Gartner, a technology research firm.

The president of Microsoft International, Jean-Philippe Courtois, opts for understatement: "We don't feel great about Vista adoption."

Windows reloaded

Windows 7 is Microsoft's one and maybe only chance to redeem itself. "We have learned a lot from what went wrong with Vista," is a mantra repeated by every Microsoft executive.

For starters, Windows 7 is on time, arriving less than three years after the launch of Vista, which was two years overdue.

Early users report it to be fast, reliable, secure and easy to use on the move.

Most importantly, Microsoft went out of its way to avoid a repeat of its biggest Vista mistake, when it failed to prepare its partners for the new system.

Windows 7 loves Windows 95

"The Windows ecosystem is the broadest in the world, and we have to take care of that," says Mr Courtois.

Microsoft's partners have noticed the change in tack. "The preparations for Windows 7 have been a remarkable step up from the days of dealing with Vista," says Alex Gruzen, the man in charge of consumer products at the computer giant Dell.

"In the past, Microsoft looked at its operating system in isolation, and gave it to [manufacturers] to do whatever they wanted," he says. "Now they collaborate, help to figure out which third-party vendors are slowing down the system, help them improve their code."

Microsoft, promises Mr Courtois, has "worked very hard with Windows 7 to achieve applications compatibility." When it rolled out the first service pack for Vista, there were a mere 2,700 applications certified to work with the system.

At launch, Windows 7 boasts 8,500 certified apps.

And if you want to use old software on your computer, Microsoft has built in a "compatibility tool" that allows you to run applications that were built for operating systems as old as Windows 95. Windows 7 also has a smaller "footprint" than Vista. It needs less computing power so older PCs run it quite happily. "Our PCs have gained another two years lifetime," says Chris Page, who deployed Windows 7 on nearly 700 computers in schools run by Warwickshire County Council.
Just one five-year-old laptop refused to run the new operating system, he reports.

The bottom line
At Dell, Alex Gruzen sounds bullish too. Many companies have kept old computers running for at least a year longer than they would normally do. Now "there is some optimism that the refresh cycle will begin over the next year; Windows 7 certainly helps, it provides a good catalyst for it."
A changed digital world is also driving change. Consumers and corporate computer users are becoming more mobile and Windows XP simply was not built for that.
Forcing the issue, Microsoft has said it will stop supporting Windows XP in April 2014. And even if there is an extension, by then most makers of third-party software for XP will have phased out their support, says Steve Kleynhans, vice-president of research at Gartner, "which will increase the pressure to upgrade" to Windows 7.
Also, organisations testing Windows 7, such as the UK accounting firm Baker Tilly and the City of Miami, report sharply lower support and energy costs, and higher productivity, according to Stella Chernyak, the product manager for Windows 7 Enterprise.
Gartner's Steve Kleiynhans also counsels companies against the traditional wait for "Service Pack 1", because these days Microsoft rolls out upgrades and updates continuously. The service pack will be a mere catch-up for those who have failed to install them.
The bottom line for Mr Courtois: "We expect business to adopt Windows 7 much faster" than previous operating systems.
Watching rivals
At Gartner, Annette Jump is more cautious: "We don't expect that Windows 7 will drive PC shipments," although companies "really will have to" upgrade to Windows 7, because otherwise "the support costs for older PCs will be piling up".
Microsoft's timing has been helped by the fact that one of its arch rivals, Google, won't launch its lightweight operating system Chrome OS before the middle of next year, which will be plenty of time to establish Windows 7 firmly in the netbook market.
last hurrah?
"I really have to go back to Windows 95 to remember people being so excited about a new operating system," says Mr Courtois, a 25-year veteran of Microsoft.
"Windows 7 is everything that Vista promised to be and more," enthuses AMD's Richard Huddy.
Dell's Alex Gruzen calls the software "outstanding."
This may be hyperbole. Gartner analyst Annette Jump, for one, calls Windows 7 "a polishing release of Windows Vista".
But most reviews have been positive, even enthusiastic. "The fact it's an operating system I see nobody complaining about [suggests] you have something that's really good and solid," argues Mr Huddy.
That alone will not banish the fundamental threats to Microsoft's business model, though.
Over the next few years there will be "a big shift to [operating system] neutral applications like browser-based apps, Java, Silverlight, Flash, .Net", says Mr Kleynhans at Gartner.
"That will limit the dominance, the factors that drive people to have Windows."
Should Microsoft rest on its Windows 7 laurels, it might end up being its most, but also its last, successful operating system.

Shock tactics best way to awareness

PARAMEDIC Steve Holmes is using shock tactics to save lives.

He runs heart-attack awareness clinics for the SA Ambulance Service and has put the hard word on more than 6000 people.

He says there is no excuse for delaying a crucial ambulance call. "People who die from their heart attacks are often the lucky ones," he says. "There's nothing macho about hesitating to call an ambulance. If you respect your family and yourself, you'll get one quickly."

Mr Holmes knows that heart attack patients who are not treated quickly have poorer outcomes, so he decided to spread that word around.

"If you get any pain, tightness or heaviness anywhere from your upper tummy to your jaw, particularly associated with paleness, sweatiness or nausea, you need to jump on the phone and call an ambulance," he says.

The Heart Foundation is also running an awareness campaign on recognising the signs of a heart attack. They say while chest pain or discomfort is the most common sign, some people have no pain; just feeling vaguely unwell or "not quite right".

Cardiovascular disease kills an Australian every 10 minutes, and affects one in five people. Call the Heart Foundation on 1300 362 787 or go to www.heartfoundation .org.au. If you have heart attack symptoms call 000 immediately. »

Close call

saved: MORPHETT Vale man Roy Buckle had a heart attack just a month after he went to one of Mr Holmes' sessions. He thought it was indigestion, but when the pain did not go away after he took some medication he remembered the message and called an ambulance.

Now he is home and healthy again.

"It was due to everyone's speed and ability that I was able to survive it," he says. "I just feel that everybody should attend one of these talks. It was only the fact that I'd listened to that talk that we did the right thing. It really made a big impression on me. I can only applaud the way (Mr Holmes) went about delivering the message." »

Heart attack victim Roy Buckle with paramedic Steve Holmes.

Someone...somewhere...has got to appreciate a motor-cycle joke...

A mechanic was removing a cylinder-head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop...The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come take a look at his bike when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?" The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, Look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, repair any damage, and then put them back in, and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I make $39,675 a year (a pretty small salary) and you get the really big bucks ($1,695,759) when you and I are doing basically the same work?" The cardiologist paused, smiled and leaned over! , then whispered to the Mechanic..."Try doing it with the engine running."

32 BIT OR 64 BIT

Not only are there several Windows 7 editions, but you will also need to decide if you are going to run a 32 bit or 64 bit version of the operating system. If your CPU is more than a few years old there is a good chance that you can only run the 32 bit version of Windows 7, however if you have a modern processor you may have to decide between each version.
The 32 or 64 bit architecture refers to the memory address length that can be referenced by the processor. This also has an impact on the maximum amount of memory that can be utilized, which is 4GB for a 32 bit CPU (but in reality the maximum accessible ram is closer to 3.4GB due to other hardware allocations).

Having a 64 bit OS doesn't automatically make all applications faster because much of today's software is written and optimized for a 32 bit era. You'll need software specifically optimized for 64 bit processing to take advantage of any speed improvements. Fortunately, many games are already including such enhancements. You may think that using a 64 bit OS for a 64 bit processor is an obvious decision, but it is not so straightforward. Introducing a new architecture will cause new compatibility and driver problems that wouldn't exist under the old 32 bit version.

Pros and Cons of a 64 bit system:

You can address much more than 4GB of memory, which is ideal for avid gamers, CAD, video editors and heavy multi-taskers. However, any 32 bit software you use will still be restricted to 4GB memory – you need a 64 bit CPU, OS and applications to take full advantage of the extra RAM.

16 bit applications will no longer run. Although this is unlikely to be a problem, if you use very old software (from the Windows 3.1 days!) then it will not work under a 64 bit OS.

Existing 32 bit drivers no longer work. If you have older or poorly supported hardware you may find that it can no longer be used. Got a 7 year old scanner that just about works in Vista? You may not be able to get it working in 64 bit Windows 7. Unsigned kernel-mode drivers no longer work. Along with the issue above, the inability to run unsigned kernel mode drivers will cause problems for old hardware. (There is reportedly a way to bypass this check).

Running some 32 bit applications on a 64 bit OS could actually be slower. The additional overheads in running 32 bit software in 64 bit mode could cause a slight degradation in performance. It will take some time for 64 bit software to become the norm. The conclusion? Well, it depends on what you use your system for. If you have a 64 bit capable CPU but use older hardware, it would be safe to stay with a 32 bit version for the time being to ensure that you don't need extra upgrades.

If you've got the latest hardware and drivers are available, then it would be worth while taking the step up to a 64 bit OS. If you regularly work with resource hungry applications that are 64 bit optimised (such as video editing, CAD and image packages) then it would be especially beneficial to be able to work with over 4GB of RAM amongst the other improvements. In the not too distant future, 64 bit computing will be a common standard – as all hardware from the last couple of years has been designed with this in mind. Until a complete upgrade cycle has passed for the majority of users, there is still a strong case for some users to stick with 32 bit Windows for the time being. Once more 64 bit applications start to appear, it would be a good time to make the switch to the new architecture.

Before adjusting the contrast and brightness on you monitor It is necessary you have a basic understanding of the Dark Sucker Theory

A Light in the Dark (Part I)

The following article is reprinted from the Journal of Dark Sucker Theory (Bell Laboratories).

For years it has been believed that electric bulbs emitted light.
However recent information from Bell Labs has proven otherwise.
Electric bulbs don't emit light, they suck dark. Thus, they now call these bulbs dark-suckers. The dark theory, according to a Bell Labs spokesman, proves the existence of dark, that dark has mass heavier than that of light, and that dark is faster than light. The basis of the dark-sucker theory is that electric bulbs suck dark.
Take for example the dark-suckers in the room where you are.
There is less dark right next to them than there is elsewhere. The larger the dark sucker, the greater its capacity to suck dark.
Dark-suckers in a parking lot have a much greater capacity to suck dark than the ones in this room.
As with all things, dark suckers don't last forever. Once they are full of dark, they can no longer suck. This is proven by the black spot on a full dark sucker. A new candle has a white wick. You will notice after the first use the wick turns black, representing all the dark which has been sucked into it. If you hold a pencil next to the wick of an operating candle, the tip will turn black because it got in the way of the dark flowing into the candle. Unfortunately, these primitive dark suckers have a very limited range.
There are also portable dark suckers. The bulbs in these can't handle all the dark by themselves, and must be aided by a dark storage unit. When the dark storage unit is full, it must either be emptied or replaced before the portable dark sucker can be operated again. Dark has mass. When dark goes into a dark sucker, friction from this mass generates heat. Thus, it is not wise to touch an operating dark sucker. Candles present a special problem, as the dark must travel in the solid wick instead of through glass. Thus, it can be very dangerous to touch an operating candle. Dark is also heavier than light. If you swim deeper and deeper, you notice it gets darker and darker. When you reach a depth of approximately fifty feet, you are in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats to the top. The immense power of the dark can be utilized to man's advantage. We can collect the dark that has settled to the bottom of the lakes and push it through turbines which generate electricity and help push dark to the ocean, where it maybe safely stored.
In conclusion, Bell Labs stated that dark suckers make all our live much easier. So, the next time you look at an electric bulb, remember that it is indeed a dark sucker!

**For help on understanding the Dark Sucker Theory (D.S.T)
contact the Editor**

DID I READ THAT SIGN RIGHT?

TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW

In a Laundromat:
AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT

In a London department store:
BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In an office:
WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

In an office:
AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD

Outside a secondhand shop:
WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Notice in health food shop window:
CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

Spotted in a safari park:(I sure hope so)
ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR
! !
Seen during a conference:
FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

Notice in a farmer's field:
THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

Message on a leaflet:
IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS

On a repair shop door:
WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

Your Notes