

Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc

Supporting inexperienced users with local expertise



January 2018

Vol. 18

No. 1

Club Web Site <http://sdcuci.com>
Email Address: sdcucinc@gmail.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 Morphet Vale. (Corner Bains Rd and Main South Rd)

Visitors most welcome.

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

Cost \$3 per person, which includes the Newsletter, plus coffee/tea and biscuits.

Subscriptions for twelve months
Single \$20.

Family membership \$30.

Novice and experienced computer users will be warmly welcomed



2017 Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday 3rd December we had our Computer Club Christmas Dinner. 29 people attended.

We commenced with people mingling and getting to know other Computer Club members by sharing nibbles and drinks before everyone was seated. This was followed by 2 courses of Christmas food – ham, turkey, chicken, salads, Christmas pudding, pavlova and Christmas biscuits, tea and coffee.

Between main course and dessert the committee entertained everyone with a couple of very funny skits, according to the laughter from the audience. Firstly Lou Costello entertained us with his experience trying to buy a computer from his local computer shop run by Bud Abbot. Then our President and his blond girl friend entertained us with their experience attending the local movie theatre.

Thankfully there were lots of willing hands to wash the dishes and clean up afterwards. When we left the hall it was spotless again. Thanks to all those who helped with the set up and clean up.

SENSATIONAL STORIES CAN BE “CLICKBAIT”

What is Clickbait?

It's a term describing web content that is aimed at generating online advertising revenue, at the expense of quality or accuracy, relying on sensationalist headlines to attract your eye so that you will click on it. . . .

(Also known as Social Engineering.)

You should be aware that if you click on sensational headlines on the internet even though they may seem harmless, they could be collecting your information when you visit their page.

Food, fake dead celebrities, slimming remedies and intriguing headlines are particularly favoured ways of getting people to click on webpages. Other ways of enticing you to click on 'ad-like' material may be 'too good to be true' offers where you are able to 'win' something by liking or sharing in Facebook.

Remember: If an offer looks too good to be true, then it probably is.

View them with skepticism and don't believe everything you see

BOGUS INVOICES

So you receive an email with an invoice from a company / business that looks incredibly good. You then go to click on a link in the email to pay your invoice.

STOP!

The first thing you should do is stop and look at the address where the email is coming from.

While the invoice may look on the level, it is obviously fake when you look at the address that it was sent from.

If you have been caught out paying a bogus bill contact your bank immediately!

They may be able to stop the transaction.

Copied from the COTA Mag

**I finally realized it..
People are prisoners
of their phones
that's why they are
called Cell Phones.**



Congratulations to our Secretary



Award presented by Hon Amanda Rishworth MP. Member for Kingston, South Australia

Trevor Francis

Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc
Hon Secretary and Life Member



Nominated by John Kirby

Trevor has been a member of the club since 2005 and an outstanding secretary since 2009, constantly updating our website and Facebook. He has been instrumental in organising course notes for 7 'up to date courses' for members and others. He gained three external government funding grants totalling approximately \$6,000. He framed our new constitution, bringing it up to date with the latest requirements. He organised the availability and transparency of data for committee members by setting up a 'cloud' facility. Trevor is an initiator in the club advancing our current knowledge of the latest Microsoft Operating Systems and Microsoft Office Suite.



Why Rebooting Your Router Fixes So Many Problems (and Why You Have to Wait 10 Seconds)

by **Justin Pot** on December 4th, 2017

Rebooting a Computer Fix So Many Problems? **Your router is the same!**

Every reason that rebooting a computer can solve problems —
also applies to your router.

Just like on your computer, you're not actually solving whatever is causing the router to crash, but you are allowing it to run properly again.

Sure, this doesn't fix systematic problems, but it generally solves things in the short term.

Do You Really Need to Wait 10 Seconds?

The above answers why unplugging helps, but why do you need to unplug for 10 or 30 seconds? Well, have you ever unplugged a gadget only to see the power indicator light stay on for a few seconds? There's a reason that happens, and it's connected to our answer here.

Most electronics make liberal use of capacitors, which are basically tiny batteries. You've seen these before if you've ever taken apart a computer or gadget.

They don't store a lot of energy, but can at times have just enough to keep a memory chip running for a few seconds. Waiting 10 seconds ensures that every capacitor is fully drained, and thus every bit of memory is cleared. This ensures that all the settings on your router are actually reset, including anything that might have caused the crash in the first place.

There are multiple reasons your router might need to be reset. Not all of these problems will require a 10 second discharge, which is why some problems can be solved without the wait. If you're troubleshooting a new problem, however, the 10 second wait might be the difference between working and not working.

What Causes Routers to Crash?

As with any piece of hardware, there are all sorts of potential reasons your router might crash and require a restart.

Here are a few potential reasons:

Disclaimer: The information contained herein is of a general nature. Always do your own research and seek advice before proceeding on information you don't understand.

:What Causes Routers to Crash?

As with any piece of hardware, there are all sorts of potential reasons your router might crash and require a restart. Here are a few potential reasons:

Run-of-the-mill crashes. As a computer, your router can crash because of bugs in the firmware eating up too much memory or causing a kernel panic.

IP Address conflicts. Your router manages both private and public IP address, and sometimes it messes up. If two devices on your network have the same IP address, or if your router doesn't have an up-to-date public IP address, your connection might break. Restarting the router resets these IP assignments so things can start working again.

Overheating. Like any computer, your router can overheat—especially if you keep it in an enclosed space to hide it from view—causing it to crash.

There are more potential reasons, but these are the most common. And there are a few relatively simple solutions for them.

One Solution: Update Your Firmware

When your computer has persistent bugs, a software solution is often the fix. The same goes for your router: it needs updates too.

Another Solution: Check for Overheating

Computers crash when they overheat, and your router is the same way. If it feels hot when you unplug, consider trying to solve for heat.

Your router likely has vents; ensure that they aren't covered up, just like you do for your computer. If your router is full of dust, consider cleaning it out with some compressed air.

The Easiest Way to Fix Wi-Fi Issues: Move Your Router (Seriously)

It's also a good idea to sure your router is out in the open, not in a small cabinet surrounded by other electronics. I know, routers are ugly, but they really need to be out in the open—it'll help with heat management and give you better signal range, so it's really win-win.

A Temporary Solution: Automatically Reboot Your Router

In the meantime, while you're trying to troubleshoot the problem, you can solve some of your rebooting woes by rebooting your router on a schedule—that way, hopefully, you'll need to do it manually less often.

Why You Should Upgrade Your Router (Even If You Have Older Gadgets)

If none of this helps, it may be time to bite the bullet and upgrade to a new router. Just like a computer that won't stop having problems, sometimes it's just time to move on. You'll remove a piece of hardware that is constantly breaking from your life, and you'll get access to all kinds of new features. Seriously: wireless technology has come a long way in the past few years, so if you're using something a bit older, you'll definitely get your money's worth by upgrading to something more modern anyway. And you won't need to do the unplug-wait-replug ritual anymore.



A Huge Intel Security Hole Could Slow Down Your PC Soon

by **Chris Hoffman**

on January 2nd, 2018

Intel chips have a massive design flaw, and both Microsoft and the Linux kernel developers are scrambling to fix it. The security hole can be patched, but the patches will make PCs (and Macs) with Intel chips slower.

We don't know how much slowdown you'll see yet, but one developer says a 5% slowdown will be fairly typical—at least on Linux—while certain tasks could experience slowdowns as high as 30%.

What's Going On?

We don't know the exact security flaw yet, as it hasn't been publicly revealed. But we can deduce much of what's going on from the changes being made in the Linux kernel, where development happens publicly. Microsoft is also making similar changes to Windows, which are currently active in Insider Preview builds. Apple will be forced to make similar changes to macOS, as this is a flaw in Intel CPUs.

Programs running on your computer run with different levels of security permissions. The operating system kernel—the Windows kernel or the Linux kernel, for example—has the highest level of permissions because it runs the show. Desktop programs have fewer permissions and the kernel restricts what they can do. The kernel uses the processor's hardware features to help enforce some of these restrictions, because it's faster to do it with hardware than software.

But Intel messed up somewhere, and the hardware that was enforcing these restrictions apparently doesn't always work properly. So, to ensure that programs with fewer permissions can't sneak into places they don't belong and see things they shouldn't, the restrictions will need to be strengthened in software (through the aforementioned patches).

So, in a worst case scenario, JavaScript code running in your web browser could reach down into the kernel and access things it shouldn't. The fix being put into place means it won't be able to escape its restrictions. Unfortunately, putting these extra checks into place means some operations are now slower.

AMD hardware is not affected. This change (and possible slowdown) only affects systems with Intel chips.



How Much Slower Will My PC Be?

We don't know how much this will affect day-to-day PC use yet. Dave Hansen, a Linux kernel developer who works at Intel, wrote that the changes being made in the Linux kernel

will affect everything. According to him, most workloads are seeing a single digit slowdown, with a roughly 5% slowdown being typical. The worst case scenario was a 30% slowdown on a networking test, though, so it varies from task to task. The fix slows down system calls, so tasks with a lot of system calls, such as compiling software and running virtual machines, will likely slow down the most. But every piece of software uses some system calls. These are numbers for Linux, so they may not apply to Windows at all. The changes being made to Windows may be different, and we may see less (or more) of a performance hit. How much this will actually end up noticeable in normal day-to-day computer use is still unclear.

We really don't know what's going to happen, and we won't until the embargo is lifted and people have time to benchmark the updated versions of Windows.

But one thing *is* clear: Your computer is definitely not getting any faster with this patch. If you have an Intel CPU, it can only get slower.

When Will the Patch Affect My PC?

The Register expects Microsoft to publicly release this patch on the next Patch Tuesday, which is January 9, 2018. The changes will appear in an upcoming version of the Linux kernel, and we'd also expect Apple to patch macOS with similar changes fairly soon.

While a performance hit sounds bad, we strongly recommend installing these patches anyway. Operating system developers wouldn't be making such massive changes unless this was a very bad bug with serious consequences



MEMBER PROFILE — David Porteous



Born in the UK of Scottish parents, the family immigrated to Australia in 1952 for David's father's health and settled in Beaumont where David lived for 60 odd years.

Following secondary education at Saints, David took a position with the Adelaide City Council as a rating valuer, retiring in 1994. He was responsible for designing their computerised Land Information System which won an international prize. During his career, he was Secretary of the Municipal Officers Association for over 10 years and was the inaugural President of the Municipal Officers Credit Union until it amalgamated (several times) to ultimately become the People's Choice Credit Union — one of the largest Credit Unions in Australia.

Just before retiring and for the next 20 years, he was the inaugural Secretary of the SA Institute of Rate Administrators in which he shared the task of educating council rating personnel in the administration of the council rating system and local government electoral enrolment.

Always interested in Scouting, he was a leader with Beaumont for over 25 years, ultimately being elected a Life Member of Scouting SA. Following retirement, he was appointed to the Scout Property Committee, establishing a comprehensive property database and undertaking valuations of all that organisation's property.

Retired, he joined S.A.'s Scottish Community becoming Secretary, then Chief of the Royal Caledonian Society. For over 10 years, he compiled and produced a quarterly, 20 odd page A3 newsletter. He is also a member of the Mt. Barker Caledonian Society compiling and producing their quarterly, 20 page A4 newsletter. More recently, he joined the SA Robert Burns Society, and is currently its President. He also compiled and produced that Society's quarterly, 20 page A4 newsletter for a number of years.

He has been a member of Burnside Men's Probus Club for over 20 years and was Secretary for ten years. He instituted and still runs their monthly Computer/IT Group, helping members with their computer problems. For 18 years he has produced the Club's monthly 4 page A3 newsletter.

David joined Freemasonry in 1967, becoming Master of his Lodge in 1981. He taught himself to play the organ and, before his wife took seriously ill in 2012, was playing for 13 lodges. Following her death in 2016, he has recommenced playing and now plays for 7 lodges.

To further his computer knowledge and help others he joined the S.D.C.U.C.I. in 2017.

Foolish Tech Predictions

"I think there is a world market
for maybe five computers."

*Thomas Watson, president
of IBM, 1943*

At the dawn of the computer industry, nobody really knew where this new technology would take us. But the explosion of desktop computing that put a PC in nearly every American home within 50 years seems to have eluded the imagination of most mid-century futurists.

After all, when IBM's Thomas Watson said "computer," he meant "vacuum-tube-powered adding machine that's as big as a house." It's fair to say that few people ever wanted one of those, regardless of the size of their desk.

(IBM did stay in the business.)



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Still confused as to why I need
to put my cake in the oven at
120 degrees



90 Degrees

120 Degrees

Where does the Phillips head screwdriver get its name?



Henry F. Phillips invented both the screw and the driver that bear his name. The Oregon businessman patented two versions of a fastening device for crosshead screws in 1934 and 1936. Phillips intended the screw for use with automatic screwdrivers and marketed it for mass-production industries such as auto manufacturing.

Henry Frank Phillips was a U.S. businessman from Portland, Oregon. The Phillips-head screw and screwdriver are named after him.



Tonight's Topic
To be presented by Cheryl McDonald
Movie Maker - Edit and Enhance Videos Easy -
Split Videos into Parts Cut Out Unwanted Segments
Add Titles and Music Insert Smooth Transitions

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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

Virus removal

New software & Upgrades

Peripheral units:

Wireless Keyboard Mouse

Sound Boards & Systems

External & Internal Hard Drives

Full Service Professional

Computer Repair

Home or Office

Networking



Tell IT & Computers
you are from
S.D.C.U.C.I.

S.D.C.U.C.I can
recommend the
customer service
offered by
IT&Computers