

Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.

Supporting inexperienced users with local expertise

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SDCUCI NEWS

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Meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 7.30 pm, in the hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church on the Corner of Bains and Main South Roads, Morphett Vale

Cost \$3.00 per person per meeting. This includes a copy of our Newsletter, plus coffee/tea and supper

Visitors are most welcome

After 3 visits, you are requested to become members

Annual Subscription:
Single — \$20.00
Family — \$30.00

Both Novice and Experienced computer users will be most warmly welcomed



The Brownpaddock Chatter

This month I must start with the sad news of the death of our esteemed member, Michael Dean Howard — known as Dean!

Dean commenced membership with the Club in 2002 and within a year or two became President.

He then found he had other commitments that precluded him being at Club meetings but, in the last 5 years, became our resident “go to” man for Apple applications and advice.

He was a close friend and neighbour of Lorraine and Ian Loader for 48 years.

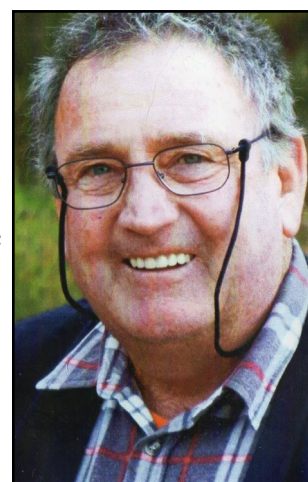
He will be sadly missed.

On a happier note, I am pleased to report that tonight you will witness a presentation using our two new Epson projectors. I trust you enjoy the bright new appearance of the screens.

At our last Committee meeting, much discussion took place on members and others experiencing difficulties with Live Mail. We have decided that our focus to members for emails will now be on Thunderbird. Much effort has been put into ensuring that all existing data from other programs can be safely imported into Thunderbird.

Also discussed, was the always vexed questions on backing up and privacy. More on these later.

Jim Greenfield





Your 2019/2020 SDCUCI Committee

Back row from the left: — Trevor Francis (Secretary), John Kirby (Vice President), Ann Leddra, Jim Greenfield (President), David Porteous (Editor),

Front Row from the left: — Lorraine Loader, Val McMartin, Linda Kirby, Cheryl McDonald (Treasurer), and Lindsay Chuck.

The Committee usually meets monthly in various Committee members' homes on the Monday one whole week before the Members' meeting. Members are more than welcome to attend these meetings, but please let the Secretary (0438 846 186) know **at least three working days before the meeting** in order to be advised where the meeting is to be held and so that additional seating can be arranged by the host Committee member. 📞

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Lessons from an International Traveller

Recently Colin and Cheryl McDonald had a seven day holiday in India followed by a 14 day cruise from Mumbai to the Maldives, Sri Lanka and back to Mumbai. Altogether we had 4 days in Mumbai.


India is an amazing place with such a lot of history and incredible buildings , some built many hundreds of years ago. We visited Delhi, Agra, Jaipur (the Golden Triangle) with two extra days at the Ranthambore National Park where we saw tigers in the wild. The people were so friendly, beautifully dressed, looked healthy and were always smiling. My lasting memories of India will be the people.

We had to apply online for an entry visa before we left home and another one for Sri Lanka.

In 2015, we went to the USA where we also had to apply for a USA ETSA Visa Waiver. I went onto the Australian Government web site “Smartraveller.gov.au” and was asked where we were going. I keyed in USA and up came travel advice that included entry requirements and a link to the USA Government web site. Our visas cost US\$14 each. When our daughter applied for visas for the two of them, they were told the amount to pay was US\$172 each. Quickly, I told her to cancel out of that site and go into “Smartraveller.gov.au”. Sure enough, the cost was just US\$14 each.

Earlier this year, when I had to apply for our visas for India, I went into the “Smartraveller” web site but couldn’t find the link to the Indian Government site. I rang the travel company through which we had booked and they gave me the name of the company they use. When I completed the necessary details the cost was US\$1800 for the two of us. I cancelled that application. I tried another web site and the cost was US\$400 for the two of us. Again I cancelled. I went back into the “Smartraveller” site, keyed that I was going to India and scrolled a long way down the page until I found “entry/exit requirements” and the link to the Indian Government web site. After keying the relevant information the cost was just US\$40 each.

I have tried to find the relevant information again on the “Smartraveller” site. It took 20 minutes before I found the information and up came a message “How did I like their new web page?” I answered that I did not like it at all. The Indian Government site address is “<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa>”.

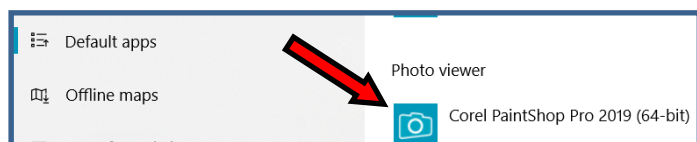
The moral of the story is to make sure that the web site you are entering does not have “adv” printed in very small letters in pale blue because this is an advertisement and they charge for completing the documentation after you have filled in a similar form for their information. 

Undo “Always Use This App to Open Files” Option

If you are like me you will occasionally click on the tick box to “Always use this program to open *** files” and then press “Enter” when you didn’t mean to. You are now stuck using that program to open that type of file. DAMN!

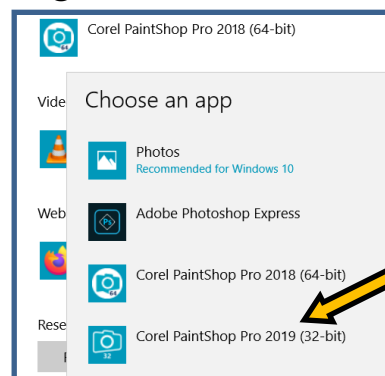
There is a relatively simple way to undo the error.


1. In Windows 7, click on “Start” then click on “Set program Access and Defaults” On the screen that comes up, again click on “Set Program Access and Defaults”, then select one of the three buttons and the relevant double down arrows on the right hand side of the screen then select the program and the respective default.
2. In Windows 8.1, click Start>Control Panel>Default Programs>Associate a file type or protocol with a program.
3. In Windows 10, right click on the Start Button and then click on Apps and



Features>Default Apps then look for an icon for the app you want to change, let’s say its your image view-

er (above, it is “Paintshop Pro 2019 [64 bit]”). To change it, hover over the current program until it changes to a grey background, then click on the name of the program to be changed. After a few seconds a new box containing a list of suggested programs will appear (right). Click on the program you now want to open it with (let’s say Corel Paintshop Pro 2019 [32 bit]) arrowed yellow, right. Click on the name of the new program and several seconds later the old name will change to the one you have just selected — be a bit patient!



This exercise will replace your action for the “Always use this app to open files option” with your amended selection. 

Why not register for

Be Connected

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/>

Securing Windows 7 After End of Support

Quite a few of our members were still using Windows 7 at the time of the Survey conducted by the Club early last year (2019).

Support for Windows 7 will officially end on January 14 this year, at which point, this popular operating system will no longer receive any further updates. Microsoft has advised that they will not roll out any security or feature updates for this decade-old operating system. For its own reasons, Microsoft has been asking Windows 7 users to upgrade. On the other hand, if you want to keep using Windows 7, this article is just for you. There can be many reasons why you would want to stay, but, be aware that the Windows 7 Operating System is now open to any security vulnerability. The lingering threat on an old unprotected OS is now even more significant, especially with Ransomware in the picture. Below are some suggested steps you can take to protect and secure Windows 7 after End of Support.

“Win7” users still account for around 30% of Windows users and that is several million users! It is going to be almost impossible for them to stay secure if they keep connecting to the internet. This figure tells us why Microsoft rolled out Windows 7 Extended Security Updates, as they do not want businesses to say unguarded.

Securing Windows 7 After End of Support

Whilst I would recommend upgrading to Windows 10, some Members may not want to invest in buying a new licence, because it could potentially lead to a hardware upgrade (but see page 7). For many, it is a software upgrade issue as well. It is not going to be easy, but one day you will have to upgrade. Here are some steps which Windows 7 users can take to minimize the risks and mitigate potential security problems:

Use a Standard User Account

If you always run your computer as an Administrator, or a User with Administrator privileges, a hacker can more easily gain control of your system to install rootkits, keyloggers, and other suspect services without you knowing. A malicious program can also modify and delete files, and even prevent devices from booting. Using a low privilege Account can block most attacks.

Subscribe for Extended Security Updates and Use Good Total Internet Security Software


This must go without saying (even if you have to pay!!).

Keep ALL Your Installed Software up-to-date

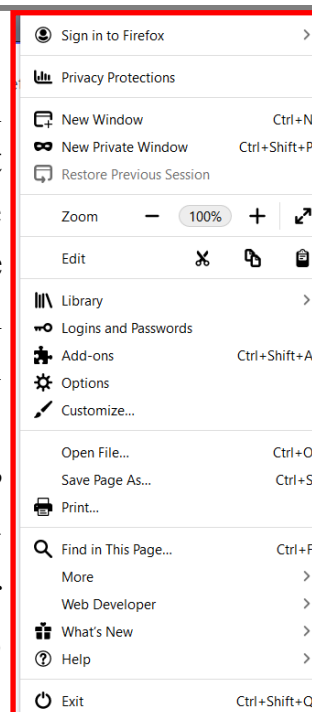
Doing so ensures that the latest patches, including security, if any, are installed.

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(continued from page 5) **Switch to an Alternative Web Browser**

Some browsers are better than others, particularly in regards to privacy and security. Do your own research, but Firefox is considered one of the better ones with a wide range of options. Click the three horizontal bars  at the top of your screen to reveal something like what is edged in red, to the right. Clicking on many of the items on your screen will open more information and further options.

Be particularly careful that you tick the “Do not track me” box. Also make sure that your browser does not retain any of your browsing history. Click the box telling your browser not to retain history and then click the option to “Clear History”.



Use Alternative Software Instead of Built-in Software

As Microsoft has advised that it will not roll out updates for their software, it is a good idea that you start looking for alternatives. There are a plethora of alternatives for almost every Microsoft product including:

Media players — “VLC”, and “Real Player” are two very good alternatives;

MS Office — “Free Office” (almost totally compatible with MS Office); “Libra Office” and “Integra”. Both of the latter have some compatibility problems with MS Office. There are many others but less and less like MS Office.

Windows Explorer — Perhaps first on the list is “XYPlorer”, an excellent MS substitute with loads of features, tabbed browsing, and customizable fonts and colours. There is a free and a paid version. Another very good substitute is “Directory Opus”. This is a little more complicated than Windows Explorer but, if you are prepared to take the time to learn it, it is an excellent substitute.

Book Marks — Those sites that you have book-marked can be a privacy issue. Once again, there are many alternatives available. The one I like best is “Linkstash”. I purchased the earliest version in 2006 and still use it. The latest version (3.6) costs about \$50.00 American. There are many other alternatives but, in my opinion, “Linkstash” is one of the best.

Email clients — There are a heck of a lot of e-mail providers without having to use Outlook.

Use an Independent Anti-virus Program — There are hundreds of anti-virus software programs available — some you pay for and others are free. Just

(continued on page 7)

keep in mind that the paid for ones are not always much better than other free ones. There is a comprehensive article on this subject in the January 2019 SDCUCI NEWS. From that article, the best with a Protection Rating of 6 are: Avira; Bitdefender; BullGuard; Kaspersky; eScan and Norton.

Use an Additional On-demand Antivirus Scanner — There may be times where you might want a second opinion. At such times, you may use an on-demand antivirus scanner, for example, before loading a “foreign” USB. An infected USB can infect your whole computer. There is no way for the average user to control what USB drives will do when connected. I **recommend** that you **always** scan **every** USB with your antivirus software to ensure it has no nasties on it; then, and only then, access the files on it.

Harden Windows 7 Security by Tweaking It — Click “Control Panel” and harden your security settings. Alternatively, download “Ultimate Windows Tweaker” for Windows 7 from: “<https://www.techspot.com/downloads/6167-ultimate-windows-tweaker.html>” which makes the job much easier.

Take Backups Regularly and Religiously — This goes without saying. Everyone should do this anyway.

Use Strong Passwords — A “No Brainer”. See the article in the SDCUCI NEWS on page 6 of the November 2018 issue.

Beware What You Download from the Internet and E-mail — ALWAYS and without fail!

Enable Show File Extension — Show Hidden Files — Always keep the option to show file extensions turned **ON**. With extensions visible, you will notice if a file is not a regular format like .doc, .pdf, .txt, etc. You will be able to see the real extensions of the files and thus make it a bit more difficult for malware to disguise itself and get onto your computer.

Take Windows 7 Offline — Keep Windows 7 running but don’t connect to the internet. Keep it offline. To update anything, download it from another computer, scan it, then connect to Windows 7 to install it.

One last point to consider. If price is holding you from upgrading to Windows 10, did you know that, if you have a valid licence for Windows 7, you may still be able to upgrade to Windows 10 for free. At least, this appears to be working for consumers – albeit not for business. Also, if you don’t have decade-old hardware, the chances are that what you have may well run Windows 10. The minimum hardware requirement for Windows 10 is not very high, and minor upgrades like switching to a Solid State Disk might help.

Above all, take every precaution. 

Protection from Attacks via E-mail

A common point of access to your computer from hackers and malware creators is via your e-mail. It can take many forms but two very popular ones are either to include malware amongst a program you have downloaded or hidden in a graphic or in an e-mail from an unknown sender's name hidden behind a fake e-mail purportedly from some body or company that you most likely deal with such as Telstra, for example.

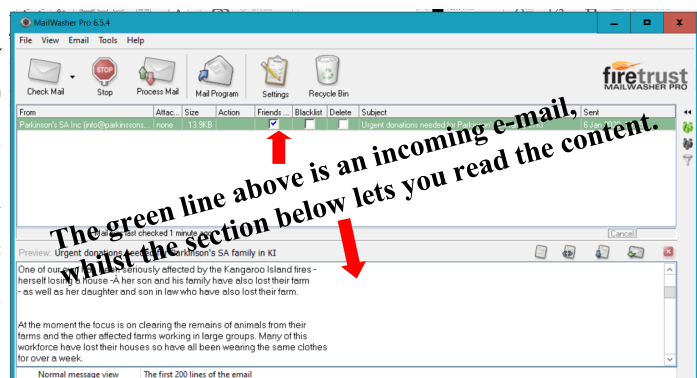
For example, the hacker will copy the format of a real Telstra letter to customers and insert his own message, often asking for your account details “to check that they are correct”! Phooey! They don't have your details at all — but they want them so they can extract some money or whatever from them. If you get an e-mail like this, or anything that looks suspicious — DO NOT REPLY. JUST DELETE IT.

On the other hand, there is a better way! President Jim and I were discussing how one's browser and internet provider each retains a record of one's history. So, I thought I would check them out. I was pleasantly surprised to find that there was no history in either of them. Initially, this puzzled me until I remembered that, in the case of my browser (Firefox) I had instructed them to delete all history after every session. This they had done.

As to my own e-mail, I have used a program called “Mailwasher” (right) for many years. My program is no longer the current version but still works well. There appears not to be all that difference in the current version. I purchased mine for a once only charge; they have now amended it

to an annual charge. Having said that, I get ALL my e-mails firstly via “Mailwasher”. This program allows one to read e-mails on the “Mailwasher” server via your own screen. One can delete all or any individual e-mails from “Mailwasher”. Deleted e-mails will **never** be downloaded to your computer. Importantly, after the unwanted e-mails have been deleted, the other e-mails read and downloaded onto my computer, I close Mailwasher. This has the effect of deleting all the remaining e-mails from the server to the program's recycle bin. Providing you clear this periodically there will be no stored e-mails.

“Mailwasher” is set up in much the same way as you would set up your e-mail account with the same e-mail account user name and password. There are a number of options and a variety of different fields you can set up. Despite the annual fee, in my opinion, it is a very useful program.



Turning On and Seeing Facebook Story Archive

Upload a story on Facebook, viewable for just twenty-four hours. If you shared something important via Facebook Story and want to save it in your profile, then the following may help. Here is how to turn on and see Facebook Story Archive helping you save all the vanished images and video clips from your story. Facebook Story Archive is where you can find all of them. In other words, it is where you can find all the expired stories.

Sometimes we share something important via Facebook story and forget to save it locally. If you tend to do the same, this functionality of Facebook might be helpful for you. As a Facebook user, you can turn it on and use this function for free.

You can use the Facebook Story Archive on the web version and mobile application. If you are using the mobile version of Facebook (m.facebook.com), you might not get it.

To turn on the Facebook Story Archive on your Facebook profile, follow these steps:

1. Open Facebook website from a computer and log into your account;
2. Click the Archive tab;
3. Click the button saying Turn On Story Archive.

To get started, open Facebook.com website and enter your username and password to log into your account. Then open your profile and click the “Archive” button, visible alongside Timeline, About, Friends, Photos, etc.

You should then see the button “Turn On Story Archive” (arrowed red left). Click this button to turn on this feature.

You should now be able to find all the expired stories in the same tab.

Hover your mouse over an expired story, you will get a “Share” option to share the image or video on your timeline as well as Story.

To turn off Facebook story archive:

1. Open Facebook profile
2. Go to the “Archive” tab
3. Click the “gear button” on the right-hand side
3. Click the “Turn Off Story Archive” button.

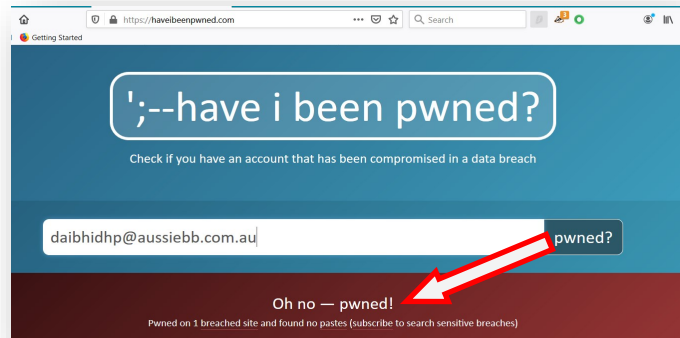
Log in to your Facebook profile and visit the Archive tab from where you turned on the functionality then click the settings gear button Click the “Turn Off Story Archive”.

You can still find all the expired stories even after turning it off.





Have you ever heard of a site called “have i been pwned?” I did recently and, just for fun, I had a look at the site, entered my e-mail and found that my address had been stolen amongst millions of



others. I had a suspicion that my computer had been hacked. It has not only been a wake-up call (despite all my previous caution) but has involved an enormous amount of my time and effort, and to some extent — expense, to resolve the issue — and it is still not fully resolved.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!

In this issue, I have spent a fair bit of time advising what to do if you still want to continue using Windows 7. All Microsoft support finishes on 14 January. In light of what I have said above, if you **MUST** continue using Windows 7, **PLEASE** take every step you can to avoid having your computer compromised by evil doers. ***Prevention is MUCH better than cure!***



Jest a Minute



~ Tonight's Topic ~
DRONES
TREVOR FRANCIS

— For Your Notes —


Our next Members' Meeting, 19 February, 2020

We will be enlightened on the vagaries of Twitter, Instagram and Podcast by C Rawlings.

Committee will meet at 1300 on 10 February at a venue to be determined. 

MEETING RULES

We are allowed to use the facilities at the Hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church, on the corner of Bains and Main South Roads, Morphet Vale in return for a small fee plus respect for their property. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above.

Whilst we have no control over what our members do away from our Club meetings, piracy of copyright material cannot be condoned at our meetings. Please respect copyright laws at all times. 

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

IT & COMPUTERS

Shop 6, 76 Beach Road
Christies Beach 8186 2736

(Same block as Woolies on Beach Road)

Contact: Jamle 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



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S.D.C.U.C.I.

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customer service
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