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 biscuits

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 Yardbroom Report — 07/19

Welcome to the July meeting of our Club.

This month's Committee meeting devoted quite a bit of time to the composition of the Committee for the next 12 months, ie the next 12 month period until October 2020. A number of present members will not be continuing. It is important to note that the Club needs to have a Committee. No committee = no club. I thought I would start the recruitment drive early!

We noted some interesting statistics relating to the usage and number of hits on our web page as well as our Facebook page. Feedback on both pages as well as the Newsletter will be welcome. Tell us what you think.

We discussed the raffle we conduct at each meeting. Is it still relevant? Do the members still want a raffle each meeting? Is the present format the best way? Should we change? Should we even continue? Lots of questions. I will be looking for answers during the evening.

The planned presentations for the next few months offer a variety of interesting topics. An example of this is tonight's presentation on Smart Phone Apps. Trevor will be discussing and demonstrating some of the weird, wonderful and useful things you can do with a smart phone.
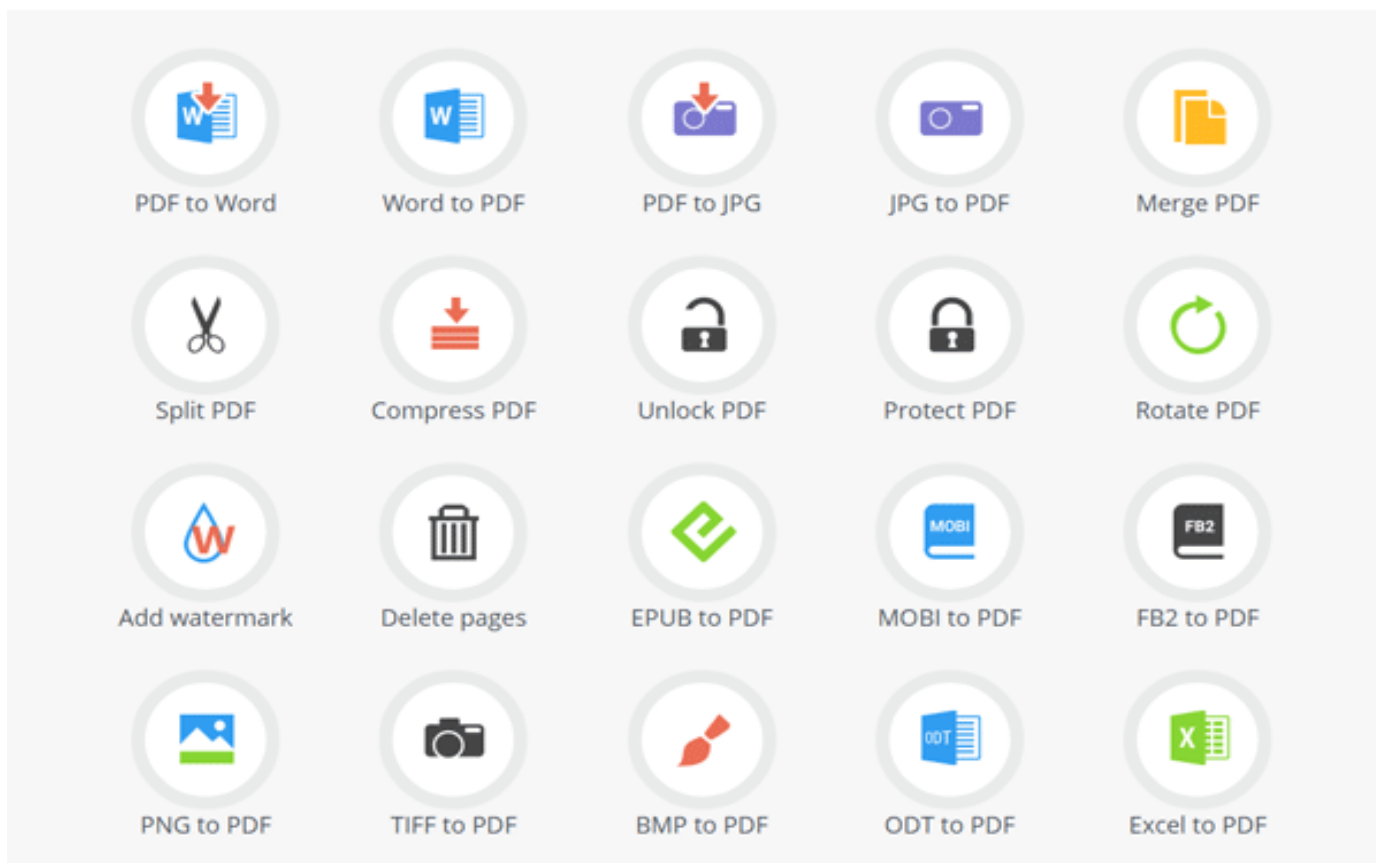
Have a good evening **YB**

Our August Members' Meeting

In August, we will hear from Jason of IT & Computers about the difficulties they are currently experiencing.

PDF Candy – An All in One PDF Management Tool

PDFCandy   Convert from PDF   Convert to PDF   Other tools

PDF to Word	Word to PDF	PDF to JPG	JPG to PDF	Merge PDF
Split PDF	Compress PDF	Unlock PDF	Protect PDF	Rotate PDF
Add watermark	Delete pages	EPUB to PDF	MOBI to PDF	FB2 to PDF
PNG to PDF	TIFF to PDF	BMP to PDF	ODT to PDF	Excel to PDF

Most file types can be converted into PDF or Portable Document Format, but PDF files are difficult to edit. If you do use PDF's, have a look at **PDF Candy** an app produced by Comodo. The web site is at (https://pdfcandy.com). In its web format, the program provides 24 different web apps (pictured above) to help you process PDF files. It converts more or less anything to or from a PDF file. It will also Split, Merge, Rotate, Compress, Watermark PDFs and more! Using the website to perform a particular task appears to be free, but if you download the program, there is a cost.

VideoUtils — A One-stop Online Converter and Editor

We all often want to edit our video, audio, image and PDF files — but how?

VideoUtils is a free online multimedia converter that lets you convert, compress, or edit your videos, images, audio and PDF files. While there are other free and paid tools available to do that, have you considered doing it online? VideoUtils is an online site that performs these functions without installing anything on your computer. Access the program at: www.videoutils.com

Video Converting and Editing Tools

Compress MP4: Compresses an MP4 file's size so that it can easily be transferred.

Compress MOV: Compresses MOV files to reduce their size.

Grayscale Video: Converts an RGB coloured video into the grayscale format. Good for a retro effect on your videos.

Increase Video Volume: Increases the volume of a video.

Video Converter: Converts any video file to MP4, MOV, AVI, WMV, MKV,. enabling you to make your videos compatible with other devices.

Audio Remover: Helps you remove a noisy audio from your video.

Convert MP4 to MP3: Converts an MP4 Video file to an MP3 Audio file. Useful when you want to listen to some video on an MP3 player.

Audio Extractor: Helps you extract just the audio out of a video file.

Video Stabilizer: Stabilizes shaky videos recorded from mobile phone camera.

Add Music to Video: Lets you add music or any audio file to a video. The new music file will replace existing audio.

MP3 to MP4 with Image: Use this feature to create a video file out of an audio file. It creates a static video with an image and audio.

Resize Video: Lets you change the resolution of your video, scaling down your video can also decrease size.

Video Downloader: Can download videos from multiple sources including YouTube, Dailymotion, Facebook, and Instagram.

Convert MP4 to GIF: Converts an MP4 Video to GIF image format for easy sharing and display on web pages.

Repair Video: This tool repairs broken video files. It can automatically fix some common errors with video files.

Loop Video: Creates a longer video by looping one video over and over.

Reverse Video: Converts your video into its reverse format.

Change Video Speed: Speeds up or slows down your video.

Audio Editing Tools

Compress MP3: Reduce the size of MP3 Files without degrading quality on certain players.

Convert MP3 to M4R: Converts MP3 audio files to M4R format.

MP3 Volume Booster: Boosts your MP3 file's volume for all devices.

Audio Converter: Converts any audio file to MP3, WAV, WMA, M4A, M4R.

Image Editing Tools

Compress Image/GIF: Reduces the size of an image/GIF file.

Grayscale Image: Converts a coloured image to a grayscale image.

Convert Image to PDF: Converts any image to PDF format.

Split Animated GIF: Splits an animated GIF into its various frames.

PDF Editing Tools

Compress PDF: Reduces the size of a PDF file.

Grayscale PDF: Converts a coloured PDF to grayscale format.

Convert PDF: Converts Word to PDF, ODT to PDF, XPS to PDF, and PDF to Image.

Unlock PDF Password: Unlocks a protected PDF with or without password.

Repair Corrupted PDF: Repairs and fixes common issues with PDF files.

Crop PDF: Trims some parts of the PDF.

All the tools are fast and responsive. The files you upload are deleted from the server within a few hours. VideoUtils is certainly a very useful website if you need to perform common compression, conversion, or other tasks on your Video, Audio, Image, and PDF files.

Why not register for

Be Connected

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

Holiday Travel Cyber Security — Tips to Help You Stay Safe

Brrrr! Winter! Time for a vacation in warmer climes . Everything is readily available online — from booking your hotel to car rental. There are, however, things to do or not do to avoid scams that may leave you hanging off a cliff, waiting for help. Stay safe on holiday by following these cyber security tips.

1. Rental Scams

Although it's easy to book accommodation, food, and hire cars online, always read the fine print before signing.

Some so-called tourist guides may have their own websites showing the services they offer, but behind such websites, there might be cyber-criminals. Ensure you are not talking to a cyber-criminal who claims to be a vacation expert.

2. Book things in advance

Get recommendations from your friends and family for traveling – good travel agencies, or personal recommendations to hire a room where you'd are likely to relax. There are all sorts of offers that promise you the moon in hand. Stay away from such agents.

Look for reviews related to the hotel that you want to book. These reviews are available on different websites and also on **Google Maps**. You can further search the Internet using the word 'reviews' with your probable hotel name. For example, if you wish to check out XYZ Hotel, search for 'XYZ Hotel reviews." You can also add the place you are visiting, to the search term. It would look like this "XYZ Hotels, California, reviews." This will help you see what are people, in general, are talking about any particular hotel.

Same applies for car rentals in case you want to hire one for enjoying your tours and detours.

Don't pay upfront until you are sure that you have an honest bargain at hand. But keep an eye on 'too good to be true" offers too.

3 Look out for Extra Charges

Check out the extra costs on everything you book. They may be hidden deep in the terms and conditions or in the name of tax. You should ask about taxes in the place you want to vacation so that you know how much extra you will have to spend on accommodation, rental cars, and even on food.

Do not believe when someone offers you a vacation for free or at low cost. Check with the providers to see what all is covered and how much you may require on the vacation gift you just got. Do not accept the "free" vacation if it asks you to pay some fee upfront.

Dangers of Public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi is a security risk since any cybercriminal may easily gain access. When travelling always remember:

1. Use Public Wi-Fi only if you need a connection to browse **harmless** sites.

2. For **online transactions**, use a dedicated Internet dongle. If the dongle isn't available, encrypt the browsing session on Public Wi-Fi using a Virtual Private Network (VPN). Some of these are free but most now charge.

3. To **secure the device(s) further**, use a **strong** password for the device(s) on the login screen. That applies to all smart devices – smartphones, tablets, lap-tops and things like smart watches.

If your device uses Bluetooth, your device will be visible to others who might be scanning for Bluetooth devices.
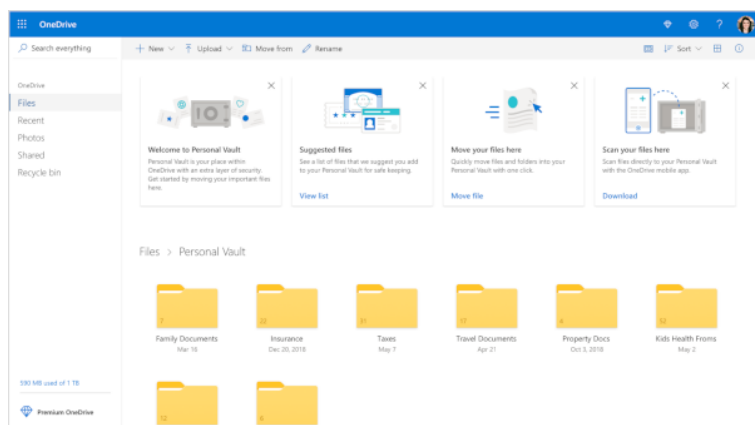
If possible, **don't use charging points** available at airports or similar such locations. If it is a USB connection for charging, you may suffer data theft as the USB cable can easily be used to procure and send information to the device you are charging.

Most importantly, **always keep a backup** of all data/files you deem necessary. A cloud backup like OneDrive makes backing up much easier.

In Previous issues, I have referred to Phishing. You might get localized information on texts and WhatsApp, but **don't click any links in the messages** as they may (will) compromise your device. Also, the URLs in SMS or WhatsApp tend to be short URLs; you don't know where they lead to. Use URL expansion tools to see if a link is false.

OneDrive gets Personal Vault, Additional Storage and More

Microsoft is making some useful changes to OneDrive with a recent update. The most important addition is the improved security, and following that, an extra 50GB of storage to the standalone plan which now stands at **100GB** for a few dollars per month.

For many users, that may be enough cloud storage. According to Microsoft, 100GB is enough to store over 50,000 photos at 2MB each. For those currently on the 50GB plan, keep watching as it will increase to 100GB shortly, at no additional cost. Microsoft is probably making this change due to the competition from such as Google and Amazon. It just shows

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that good competition can really benefit consumers.

OneDrive Personal Vault

If you use OneDrive on a mobile device, why not take advantage of the new security features. Those using Android or iOS can now make use of a finger-print scan or face unlock to protect their files. There is also a PIN option, so if someone manages to gain access to your OneDrive account, they should be locked out of your personal section.

Send new files to Personal Vault

With the OneDrive app for mobile devices, you can scan documents, take pictures, and record video directly to your personal vault. As your video is being recorded, it won't be saving to the phone's memory, but directly to OneDrive.

Automatic locking

One improvement in the new OneDrive Personal Vault is the automatic locking feature. Whenever you are away from the computer for a time, OneDrive will automatically lock your personal vault from prying eyes.

Microsoft OneDrive appears to be the only cloud storage service with such advanced security features doubtless, others will follow suit. With many users taking advantage of cloud storage, companies will have little option but to boost security to stay relevant in the marketplace.

Why is Huawei so Controversial?

The arrest in late 2018 in Canada of a top Chinese Huawei technology executive sent stock markets at the time plummeting. So what is Huawei and why does it seem like it's continually being targeted by foreign governments?

Huawei is a multinational Chinese telecommunications and electronics company founded in 1987 and based in Shenzhen. It says it operates in more than 170 countries, has 180,000 employees and serves more than a third of the world's population. They build telecommunication networks, make smartphones and deliver cloud services, among many things. In the second quarter of 2018, Huawei overtook Apple in smartphone shipments, sending more than 50 million phones around the world.

In 2018, the Australian Government banned Huawei from taking part in the rollout of 5G mobile infrastructure over national security concerns regarding the long term concern that Huawei is not that separated from some of the

Chinese security apparatus and there are suggestions its equipment could be used for spying. Potentially, if Huawei technology was used to build Australia's 5G network there could be security risks. Laws in China require their national companies to participate in state espionage if they're ordered to do so, however, Huawei denies it poses any security risk and says it abides by the laws of each country.

Earlier last year at a US Senate Intelligence Committee hearing, heads of major intelligence bodies, including the FBI, CIA and NSA, warned that Americans should not purchase Huawei products, citing concerns about their use as spying devices.

Nigel Inkster, a senior advisor at The International Institute for Strategic Studies and 30-year veteran with British intelligence service MI6, indicated that there are clearly vulnerabilities as, although it takes great pride in being a private corporation, and I believe genuinely wants to be one, Huawei has to do what the Chinese Communist Party tells it to do. So, there is always a risk that Huawei will, in certain circumstances, be co-opted by the Chinese state to do things that it does not want to.

Revo Uninstaller

In the April edition of the SDCUCI News, under the heading of "Keeping Your Computer Clean", I made mention of a program called "Revo Uninstaller". It is generally considered one of the best third party uninstallers.

Uninstalling a program using its own uninstaller, will most likely leave some, if not a lot of, left-over bits and pieces spread all over your computer. Because of the way Windows operates, the more of this "junk" left on your hard disk, the slower it will become. Using a program like Revo Uninstaller to uninstall a program can remove much, if not all, of this :junk".

In C-net's review, they say that Revo Uninstaller adds some serious power to uninstalling programs, but not a lot of speed. It certainly runs circles around the default option in Windows.

Revo Uninstaller free, although lacking some of the pro version features, can delete some of the Registry errors that often come when deleting programs, but it doesn't remove all of them. To do that, you need the pro version.

Upgrading to the Pro version doesn't add any speed to the process. That is sorely missing. It makes you wait until one program is finished before start-

-ing to uninstall another. It is also rather annoying that part of the procedure that Revo goes through is the built-in uninstall process of the program chosen for removal. On the other hand, choosing programs to uninstall is very easy thanks to the program's icon-oriented menu (pictured left). You just click the icon of the program to be deleted and Revo does the rest automatically.

There are plenty of options to tweak your uninstalls. You can choose from options that include a light uninstall or a deep cleaning that rips all traces of the program off your hard drive. There's even a really neat "hunting" mode that lets you uninstall programs or kill tasks without fully loading the program.

Revo Uninstaller is an interesting mix of registry-cleaning and uninstall programs, both of which it does really well. Having used the trial version, if you really like the program, you might want to upgrade to the pro version. It's fairly priced and adds some essential features not available in the free version.

At the time of writing (6 July) there is a promo price at https://www.revouninstaller.com/revo-uninstaller-promo-search.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIvKe60pGf4wIVE9RkCh0GwQClEAAYASAAEgJPuvD_BwE of $12.47 for a one year licence for one computer instead of $ 24.95 or $19.95 for two years instead of $39.95. These might be in American Dollars but are still quite a good deal. Below is a comparison between the free and pro versions.

The company states "By purchasing our product, you receive life-time technical support and free updates during the subscription period. After your subscription expires, you can continue using the program with all of its functionality but you will not be able to update to our newest version until you renew your subscription manually, or switch to our annual subscription. You can cancel your subscription at any given moment."

I had hoped after my plea in last month's SDCUCI News that I might have received at least one or two Letters to the Editor. Sadly, there was nary a one.

I don't know whether you, our members, are aware or not, but if you copy and paste the address below into Google, you can see lots of photos of the Club's earlier years, and what's more, they are downloadable:

https://photos.app.goo.gl/q8TUWW1H8aqve6iu8.

We keep talking about computer safety because it is so important. This issue of the SDCUCI News refers specifically to some of the dangers an d how to avoid them. On page 5 is an article helping keep you safe when you are on holidays. On pages 6 and 7, there is some advice on the new Personal Vault that One Drive has introduced to assist you in ensuring that your Cloud Storage remains safe.

Jest a Minute

Below is part of a submission by one of our members. More maybe later.

Lexophiles

Lexophile describes those that have a love for words, such as "You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish" or "To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

The New York Times hold an annual competition to see who can create the best original lexophile. This year's winning submission is: ***"If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine".*** Below are a few more entries:

- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- If you don't pay your exorcist, you can get repossessed.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- A crossed-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U. C. L. A.

~ Tonight's Topic ~
SMART PHONE APP UPDATE
Presenter — TREVOR FRANCIS

— For Your Notes —

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, Morphett 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.