



Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.

Supporting inexperienced users with local expertise

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SDCUCI

Contacts: Web Site: — <http://sdcuci.com>
E-mail: — sdcucinc@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: David Porteous — daibhidhp@aussiebb.com.au

M eetings 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



Are You Confused Whether Windows is Better Than Linux?



The Brownpaddock Chatter

Linux vs Windows

Linux vs Windows is the age-old battle that has been deliberated upon for years now. It is important to stress that the *best* operating system cannot have a single answer, as *best* really depends upon the requirements of the user. Whilst discussing the pros and cons of both systems, we hope to give a fair review on specific criteria.

Difference between Linux and Windows

Before we begin, we need to know the differences between Linux and Windows a little better.

What is the Windows Operating System?

The Windows Operating System (OS) was first released in 1985 by Microsoft. It now boasts the largest user base on the globe. With updates over the years, every OS comes with a unique graphical user interface, that allows users to view files and work on their system. Most of the systems we see today work on the Windows OS, which is designed to work on the x86 hardware, including Intel, AMD and more. The latest version of Windows is Windows 10, which was released in July 2015 as the successor to Windows 8.1

What is the Linux Operating System?

The Linux Operating System is an Open-Source OS created in the early 1990s by Linus Torvalds. Based on UNIX, Linux allows users to modify the existing code and produce different versions or distributions of it, which they can re-use and even sell. Linux has emerged as the top choice for setting up servers,

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(continued from page 1) why most web pages on the internet are served via systems backed by one of its distributions. The Linux OS is also popularly used in desktops, mobile, consoles, eBook readers and much more.

1. Price and Licensing

The Linux OS and most of its utilities and libraries are entirely free and open-sourced for use and modification. While paid distributions of the Linux OS with additional support are available in the market, they are very moderately priced. Linux, under GNU General Public License, allows users to modify, re-use in umpteen numbers of systems and even sell their own modified versions.

Microsoft Windows OS comes with the Microsoft License, which does not give users access to the source code, thus, no modification can be performed at the standard user level. The Microsoft License ranges from 70\$ to 200\$ for its standard versions, and can only be installed on the 'n' number of computers specified in your purchase.

2. Ease of Use

This might be a tough comparison to make, as it may vary from person to person. However, Linux has revamped its usability standing over the years through constant modernisation. With the release of distributions such as Linux **Mint XFCE 64 Bit**, the installation, and setup process has been made simpler. Through continuous updates, people with little or no technical knowledge can also install software and perform normal activities such as email, play music and videos and browse the internet.

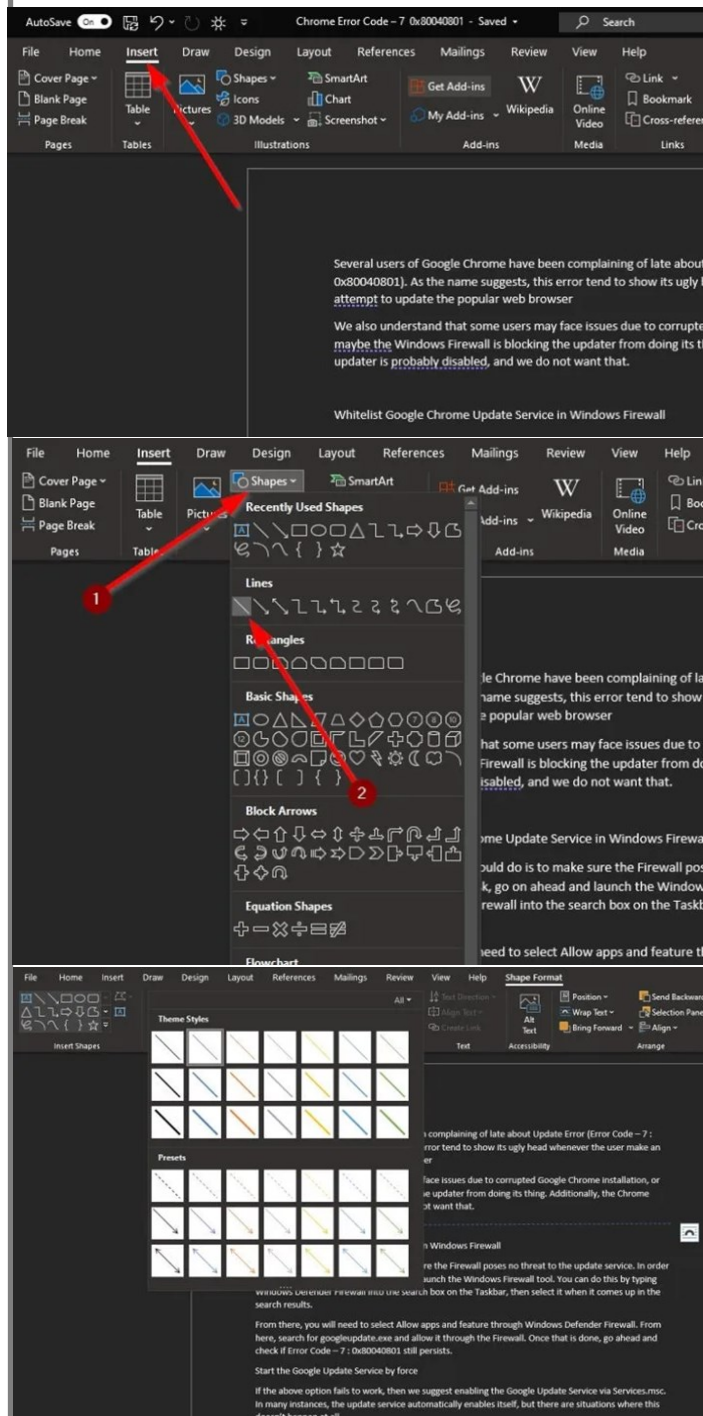
Due to its market dominance, Windows comes pre-installed on many devices. If you are purchasing a new device, there is a high chance that it will come with a Windows OS version installed. With the supremacy it has on the market, a vast majority of users are already accustomed to its interface. Moreover, the easy to use toolbar and easy installation of programs make it an excellent choice for both new and old users alike.

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Inserting dashed or dotted lines in Microsoft Word



Word is quite powerful in terms of its features. There are many, especially those on the advanced spectrum, that most people have yet to learn about. One such feature is the ability to add dotted lines to documents.

1] Having opened a Word document, click on the **Insert** button via the *Ribbon*. This should highlight several options. Select **Shapes> Line** shape and draw a line in your Word document where you want it to appear (including as an underline or a line in any direction).

2] Go to **Shape Styles** on the Ribbon. Once you have added your line, navigate to **Shape Format>Shape Styles**.

Click on the **More** menu button to reveal a host of shape styles.

From the **Presets** menu, choose a dotted line, and right away, the line you created in your document will change to the format you have just selected.

3] Use a shortcut to create a dotted line

If you use the dotted line option frequently, probably the easiest way to create a dotted line in future, is to create a shortcut. Place the cursor where you want the line to start, then type three asterisk signs (***) without the braces. Press the **Enter** key and watch the asterisks transform into a dotted line.

If you're not interested in using asterisks, then take advantage of the following options. All of these work very well, so try each of them out to determine which one is best for what you need to do.

- three dashes (“—“)
- three equal signs (“===“)
- three underscores (“___“)
- three hashes (“###“)
- three tildes (“~~~“)

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

NVIDIA to stop supporting Windows 8/7

NVIDIA has announced that it would shut down the support for **Windows 8.1, Windows 8 and Windows 7** drivers in **October 2021**. NVIDIA has taken this decision saying most GeForce customers have moved to Windows 10.



NVIDIA's decision is not surprising per se. By making NVIDIA drivers exclusive for Windows 10, the company wants its other customers to make a better shift to Windows 10 from Windows 7 and 8.

There is no doubt Windows 10 is a far better OS when considering the security, tech support, and availability of new features.

Windows 8.1 is set to receive extended support, but it will be available only until January 2023. Long story short, Microsoft has made it clear that sticking to the previous versions of Windows OS is not the brightest idea.

In the support note, NVIDIA has made a few more announcements as well. For instance, Windows 7 and 8 devices will receive critical security updates until September 2024.

“Effective October 2021, Game Ready Driver upgrades, including performance enhancements, new features, and bug fixes, will be exclusively available for systems utilizing Windows 10 as their operating system. Critical security updates will be available on systems utilizing Windows 7, Windows 8, or Windows 8.1 through September 2024,” [NVIDIA says](#).

It must be noted that these critical security updates are designed to protect the device from GPU-based security threats. Therefore, these updates would not provide new features.

Similarly, the last fully-fledged update for Windows 7 and Windows 8 devices will be launched on the 31st of August 2021.

Starting from the 4th of October 2021, however, all updates from NVIDIA would be targeted towards Windows 10 only. The company has provided customers with enough time to upgrade to Windows 10.

It is worth noting that a considerable percentage of Windows PCs across the world still rely on Windows 7, 8, and 8.1. Windows 7, for instance, still accounts for 15 percent of all Windows versions.

Nevertheless, Microsoft and third-party developers are urging users and enterprises to make the inevitable upgrade.



Emojis — Whaat They Are and What They Mean



Emojis are everywhere, be it your social media account or any personal chat service. We are all so used to use emojis in our conversations that it

is almost difficult to chat without them. Using an emoji is perhaps one of the best ways to express emotions, whether we are happy, sad, surprised or want to hug someone, an emoji can convey just about everything.

The problem occurs when someone uses an emoji but does not know what the emoji that is used really means yet uses it regardless. This tends to happen most with people who have just started using Smartphones and are not yet well aware of emojis, what they mean, and what they are used for. Occasionally, an emoji appears in our chat box that we have not encountered before. This leads us to wonder what the sender actually wants to say.

First, an Emoticon is built from keyboard characters that, when put together in a certain way, represent a facial expression. An Emoji, on the other hand, is an actual image.

There are countless emojis available on the internet but it is impossible to know about all of them. Some of the better known are referred to below.

The most commonly used emoji, often mistaken as a normal smile emoji, is actually a sarcastic smile — a subtle way to say I am happy for you but not interested.

Smiling face with smiling eyes 😊. Generally used when we want to say that, I am happy for you.

Blushing smile 😊

This happy smiling face with smiling eyes and red cheeks denotes real happiness. Some people also use it as a shy emoji.

Upside down Face 😊

You can use this emoji when someone says a silly thing in chat, . This is also known and used as a sarcastic smile.

Smiling face with tears 😊

This is a face with tears of joy often used to express extreme joy or laughter. You can also use the 😊 emoji to express your laughter.

Grin with smiling eyes 😊

You can use this emoji to show your excitement or happiness or to express your laughter. Some other emojis like 😊 and 😊 also mean the same.

Grin with sweat 😊

This wide-opened mouth with a drop of sweat denotes embarrassment or awkwardness or say, a smile to avoid the awkwardness. Some people also use it when they are unsure of something.

Star-struck grin 😊

Use this emoji when you are awestruck to see something or someone beautiful. You can also use this emoji to compliment someone.

Heart Eyes 😊

This smiling face with heart-eyes is used to show your love and gratitude or as a romantic emoji when someone makes you feel loved and special.

Disappointed face 😊

This is simply an unamused and disappointed face used to express the disappointment. Some other emojis like 😊 and 😊 more or less mean the same.

Money-mouth face 😊


This is an uncommon emoji. It shows money in the tongue and you can use it in any money related conversation. Or, when someone shows you an expensive thing, you can use this emoji to say that ‘yeah man, you are rich’.

Straight Face 😊

This is an expressionless face and often used to express annoyance and anger. You can also use the 😊 emoji for the same.

Front Fist 🙌

This is quite similar to the high-five emoji and can also used to show that you agree. Friends often use this emoji when they set a plan together.

There are, or course dozens more 

Password Managers – June 2021 Meeting

Tim Mathie's presentation at our June meeting was in depth, informative and well presented, and covered password managers, multifactor authentication, the strength of passwords and encryption. What you may think is a strong password may well not be. Consider the number of websites you visit where you are asked for a username and a password. I.e. the council, gas and electricity providers, your bank, government departments, Netflix, Kogan, etc. and the need for strong passwords. Tim advised he has over 100 accounts to access, hence his need for a password manager.

A password manager is a software application or online service that provides storage and access to your passwords. It will save your login credentials (username & password), has encryption, provides secure access to data with end to end encryption, supports multiple platforms, supports multiple browsers, prefills your login information and you only need to remember one strong password.


A few password managers mentioned in the presentation were Bitwarden, LastPass, 1Password, and Dashlane, however there are others on the market. Some are free but have limitations. Tim uses Bitwarden.

Multi-factor Authentication – 2 factor authentication (2FA) is a type of MFA with 2 factors of authentication ie a password and a smart phone or token. An example is a MyGov account. You enter your username and password and receive a code via your smartphone. You can then access your account. Google and Microsoft offer 2 factor authentication for recovering your password. The use of biometrics ie fingerprint or face ID were also featured in the presentation.

The following websites are worth a look: Weak passwords - Check whether you have a weak password at <https://bitwarden.com/password-strength/>

Create a strong password with a password generator at <https://bitwarden.com/password-generator/>

Check whether your email address has been compromised at <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

A big thank you to Tim for a great presentation and an insight into digital security. 

Why not register for

Be Connected

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

As Linux has a huge user-base around the globe, there is massive online support available . The Linux OS community provides support to users through forums, question boards, and support websites.

Windows OS has easily accessible support through integrated and online help systems, dedicated websites and forums. In addition, numerous videos and books about Windows are available online, for people of all skill levels.

4. Variety

As Linux is open-source and can be easily modified, there are a lot of distributions available which are highly customizable, based upon the needs of the user. If you have knowledge of code, you can even alter the code yourself and modify the OS.

In the Windows OS, customisation is not easy and few user customisations are available.

5. Speed

When it comes to speed, Linux easily triumphs over Windows . Unlike Windows, Linux tends to minimise the ‘boggling’ when it comes to the use of multiple processes. The Linux Ext4 file system does a commendable job at keeping the device efficient. Defragmentation is now dead and buried in Linux. There is no harm in stating that even sensible and minimal use of any Windows OS can slow it down to intolerable and agonizing levels, which can only be avoided if a strict use plan is followed as Memory and Disk hogging is common when multiple processes are being used.

6. Privacy

Over the past few years, Windows has become increasingly advertisement driven. Even though the users can opt out, Microsoft has now set its view on the advertisement. Moreover, Windows knows what you are doing on your PC, with the sync with OneDrive and behaviour analysis through Cortana, to make the assistant better. Many people are fond of the tools that Microsoft Windows offers, but they are intrusive regardless.

Linux users, on the other hand, have an Operating System that takes into consideration the privacy of its users. Linux devices are also equipped with a built-in state of the art encryption, which means that users can be sure of better security and less intrusion from third-party applications.

7. Security

Linux is generally more secure than Windows. Even though attack vectors are still discovered in Linux due to its open-source technology, anyone can review the vulnerabilities, making the identification and resolving process faster and easier. Meanwhile, even though Windows has taken long strides in improving its security system over the years, it is still the primary target for malicious hackers. Due to its large user base, Microsoft is always vulnerable to new threats.

A run level can be defined as the state of init (the first process started during booting) and the whole system which defines what system services are in operation. The run levels are identified using numbers. While Linux can stop at different run levels, Windows will reboot at run level 3 for an administrator to fix the encountered problem.

9. Command Line Usage

In the Linux OS, the command line is a very handy and powerful tool, used for administration and daily tasks. In Windows, the '*cmd*' command can be used to open a command line and perform a basic set of operations. It has PowerShell to make up for the limited applications of the command line.

10. Reliability

The Linux OS has set a strong focus on system security, process management, and uptime since its initial release. Over the years, Linux has never gone wayward on its focus on these. Therefore, it can be termed as a notoriously secure and reliable Operating System.

To the contrary, even though Microsoft has made improvements in its reliability quotient over the years, it is still not on a par with Linux. It has let go of many features for the sake of user-friendliness and ease of access. This may lead to system instability and security vulnerabilities, thus making Windows fairly unreliable in comparison to Linux.

11. System Updates

In the Linux OS, the user has full control over when and what updates to install. Moreover, without the reboot, the update process is even quicker.

Microsoft, however, is infamous for its random updates which pop up at inconvenient times. For novice users who do not know much about update settings, there is no option but to lay back and leave the computer alone while it downloads and installs the updates before a restart is required.

12. Gaming

Whilst Linux is slowly climbing its way into the gaming market, with the introduction of beta support for many games, it still has a really long way to go. If you purchase a Linux OS, you will be missing out on a large number of games.

Windows, on the other hand, wins the gaming race by a large margin. Steam, Epic, and many other clients are available to Windows, providing users with the opportunity to play with both AAA titles and small indie games. Moreover, Graphic card manufacturers focus their support on Windows due to the larger user base.

Linux vs Windows: Key Points to be Remember

Linux is an open-source OS while Microsoft is a commercial OS.

Linux users can access the source code of the OS and make

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(continued from page 8) amendments as per their whims and fancies, while the Windows users cannot do so, or not easily.

Linux runs faster than the Windows OS, especially on moderately powerful systems, whereas the Windows OS tends to become slower as time passes.

Windows collects data to enhance the consumer experience while Linux refrains from intruding on user's privacy.

In the reliability quotient, Linux is far more reliable than Windows.

In gaming, Windows has an upper hand by a huge margin as most developers create games for Windows only.

Linux is a highly secure system, and bugs and vulnerabilities can be fixed easily due to its open-source platform. This is not the case with Windows.

Over the past few years, Linux has emerged as the go-to system for large business owners due to its features and applications.



There was a saying that Linux is not user-friendly, doesn't offer many software choices, needs expert-level knowledge, the user interface is not beautiful, and generally not easy to use etc. All those things are no longer applicable. Linux is now user-friendly, intuitive and easy-to-use interface, providing a centralized software management system with hundreds of different choices.

I want to share a joke with you:

What do air-conditioning and computers have in common ?

They are both useless when you open Windows.




Editorial

It was decided at the Club's last Committee Meeting that a section would be included in the news letter relating to a member's "First" something or other, perhaps excluding the subject of their First Marriage.

I thought I would start the ball rolling whilst it is fresh in my memory.

As many of you know, I have just moved house for only the second time and the first time without my late wife's help. I am now residing in a retirement unit at

Camden Park run by Auscare. I chose to dress my house up for sale. This involved removing most of my furniture and replacing with hired furniture to make it more attractive. I was lucky in that I was able store my furniture in the garage of my future unit. I packed all my gear away in a large number of boxes. This worked well except that I still have LOTS more boxes to unpack and I am having great trouble remembering where I have put everything. I have rashly promised that the September Committee can be held here! I still have a lot of work to do to meet that deadline. But enough of that.

Jim has provided a most interesting comparison between Windows and Linux which has almost filled this issue. Happy reading! 



Jest a Minute

Two for the price of one!

If you ever feel like your brain is inadequate... Think of this guy!



My wife sent me a text that said, "Your great"

So, naturally, I wrote back, "No, you're great"

She's been walking around all happy and smiling.


Should I tell her I was just correcting her grammar or leave it?

~ THIS MONTH'S Topic ~
“ENCRYPTING FILES & USING THE BIOS”
Presenter: Jim Brownpaddock

— For Your Notes —


Our August Members' Meeting

Lindsay Chuck will enlighten us on removing history and features of those wonderful things we all love to use and which we know as Browsers.

It promises to be a most interesting evening. 

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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