

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 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 — 6/19

Welcome to the June meeting of our Club.


Firstly, I would like to add my two cents worth regarding the presentation to **Jim Greenfield** at the May meeting. Jim is a very smart computer enthusiast. His contribution to the success of this Club has been huge. It was very fitting that this contribution be formally acknowledged. I would have liked to be there. Well done, Jim!

I can report that the proceeds of our successful application for a community grant have arrived. We now have 12 months in which to put the money to good use. As mentioned previously, our printing facilities will be upgraded and the rest of our ageing equipment will be closely examined for possible replacement or upgrade.

Our Club continues to be part of the “Be Connected” program with monthly statistics being sent to the program coordinators.


The committee discussed ways and means of making our website and newsletter as up-to-date and topical as possible. Both are very reliant on contributions from members so, if you have any interesting or useful information, please pass it on.

Tonight, **Anne** will talk to us about all things OCR.

Have a good evening. YB 

Our July Members' Meeting

Smart Phones are an amazing invention.

Trevor Francis will tell us about some of the wonderful things one can do with them. 

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.


Dell SupportAssist Tool Leaves PCs Vulnerable

If you are using one of the latest Dell laptops or PCs, be careful of using the **Dell SupportAssist Utility**. This pre-installed utility exposes your machine to a remote attack allowing hackers to execute remote code to take over your computer systems. Whilst Dell has released a patch, many Dell machines are still vulnerable. Through the SupportAssist utility, hackers trick users to download and run files from a malicious webpage giving hackers complete access to the computer systems. As the tool has Admin level access, it can automatically install all the available updates to your computer.



The vulnerability was first noticed and reported by a 17 year old security researcher, Bill Demirkapi. *Demirkapi* says, ‘Hackers can easily use public WiFi networks or large enterprise networks to compromise machines and launch their remote code. Hijackers can also compromise a local WiFi router and alter DNS traffic directly. He explains the attack clearly in his blog including a video to show how easily the attackers can use Dell SupportAssist to access your Dell machines.

Dell has taken the report very seriously and has already released a patch as well as the SupportAssist v3.2.0.90 for all Dell users who are advised to download the latest version of the tool.

Go to Demirkapi’s blog at <https://d4stiny.github.io/Remote-Code-Execution-on-most-Dell-computers/> to find out more about this vulnerability. 

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Digital Estate Planning by Lindsay Chuck.



Lindsay provided a very detailed explanation of what a Digital Estate is and what it means to have your personal information available on the internet – both from a living person point of view (through incapacity or identity theft) as well as when we reach the end of the conveyor belt of life.

The information contained in the presentation was of a general nature, developed from resources on the internet and elsewhere and the disclaimer states: *You should do your own research and seek appropriate advice when implementing any personal planning strategies.* However:

What is a Digital Asset? Anything you own or have rights over that exists online or is shared on computers or other digital technology

Most of us have Wills as well as Health and Financial Directives (or should have) together with allocated executors to handle our physical and mental states when we either become incapacitated or die. – BUT what happens to the information left on your computer or other device. Who- besides yourself has access to the passwords and ID's to your email address: - to your online photos: to any financial accounts: Government agencies (viz Centrelink??): do you have accounts that require a confirmation from another device – eg smart phone or tablet. (You're Centrelink - My Gov account does!!) – as do others. Could your executor's get past the opening password on your smart phone?

What about online investments, shopping, and streamed music (e.g. Spotify).

Why consider having a Digital Estate Plan – ie A Digital Register

1. To make things easier on your Executors and Family Members;
2. To prevent Identity Theft :(in USA an estimated annual 2.5 million identities are stolen from deceased individuals. We don't have Aust data.);
3. To Prevent Financial Losses to the Estate;
4. To avoid losing the Deceased's Personal Story;
5. To Prevent Unwanted Secrets from being Discovered;
6. To Prepare for an Increasingly Information Drenched Culture.

How does one prepare a Digital Register

1. Identify your digital assets and record them;
2. Nominate your digital executor;
3. List the locations and Access Methods;
4. Store in a safe place.



Digital property and accounts are constantly changing: you will need to review them regularly.



File types supported by Windows Media Player

Windows Media Player (WMP) is the default desktop application in Windows 10. When you fresh install Windows 10, you can use this to play audio, and video files on your computer. However, WMP doesn't support all formats out of the box. To enable you to get a handle on what program types it does support, below is a list of files types supported by Windows Media Player 12.

(The "File Type" is shown on every file by the last two, three or four characters after the dot in the file name) You may need to turn this facility on. Whilst Windows 10 comes preinstalled with the same version, make sure to check your version by using ALT+H key combination. Next, click on About Windows Media Player from the menu.

You may also have to turn on

1. Windows Media formats (.asf, .wma, .wmv, .wm)
2. Windows Media Metafiles (.asx, .wax, .wvx, .wmx, wpl)
3. Microsoft Digital Video Recording (.dvr-ms)
4. Windows Media Download Package (.wmd)
5. Audio Visual Interleave (.avi)
6. Moving Pictures Experts Group (.mpg, .mpeg, .m1v, .mp2, .mp3, .mpa, .mpe, .m3u)
7. Musical Instrument Digital Interface (.mid, .midi, .rmi)
8. Audio Interchange File Format (.aif, .aifc, .aiff)
9. Sun Microsystems and NeXT (.au, .snd)
10. Audio for Windows (.wav)
11. CD Audio Track (.cda)
12. Indeo Video Technology (.ivf)
13. Windows Media Player Skins (.wmz, .wms)
14. QuickTime Movie file (.mov)
15. MP4 Audio file (.m4a)
16. MP4 Video file (.mp4, .m4v, .mp4v, .3g2, .3gp2, .3gp, .3gpp)
17. Windows audio file (.aac, .adt, .adts)
18. MPE\G-2 TS Video file (.m2ts)
19. Free Lossless Audio Codec (.flac)

While Windows Media Player includes support for popular codecs like MP3, WMA, WMV, it doesn't have in-built support for modern formats that includes Blue-ray Disc files, and some uncommon ones like FLAC files, or FLV files.

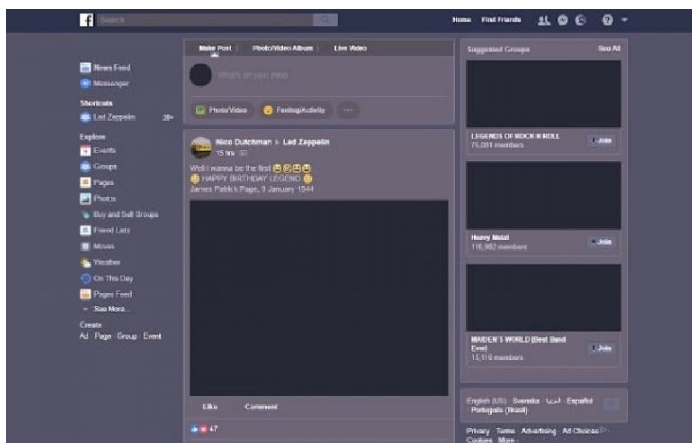
When you try to play a format for which the codec is not available on Windows, you'll receive a message like "A codec is required to play this file" or

["Windows Media Player encountered an error."](#)



How to Change Facebook Background Colour, Scheme and Style

Many of us use Facebook on a daily basis, most of the time on the social platform to send messages to friends, share videos, photos, use various in-built apps, check on friends' activities and so on. Facebook has had many changes since it began, but one thing that remains constant has been the blue colour scheme. Here is a step by step method to change Facebook colour schemes for Google Chrome and Firefox using the **Colour Changer for Facebook** browser extension.



scheme. However, if you would like a change, you can modify the colour scheme using add-ons for the web browser.

You can get away with the boring colour schemes with the useful extensions for web browsers like Firefox and Chrome that allows you to change the colour scheme to multiple themes. The add-ons are easy to use, and you can change the colour of Facebook fonts, header, text, and buttons. The extensions are also handy to customize the chat layout as well as Facebook background.

Change Facebook Colour Scheme in Chrome

Google Chrome has several browser extensions that enable you to change the colour scheme for Facebook if you want. Out of many available add-ons, Colour Changer for Facebook is a popular one to customize the colour scheme. Follow the steps below to set your desired colour as Facebook's colour scheme.

1. Launch the Google Chrome web browser.
2. Search for Colour Changer in the search box.
3. Select the **Colour changer for Facebook** from the search results.
4. Click *Add to Chrome* button to download and install the extension.
5. After installation, the extension will appear on the browser's header bar.
6. Launch Facebook and Sign in to the Facebook page with your login address as well as password.
7. Click on the extension at the browser's header bar. The tool opens a new window displaying a wide range of colours from the colour picker.
8. Select the colour scheme that you want to set for your Facebook.
9. Restart your browser.

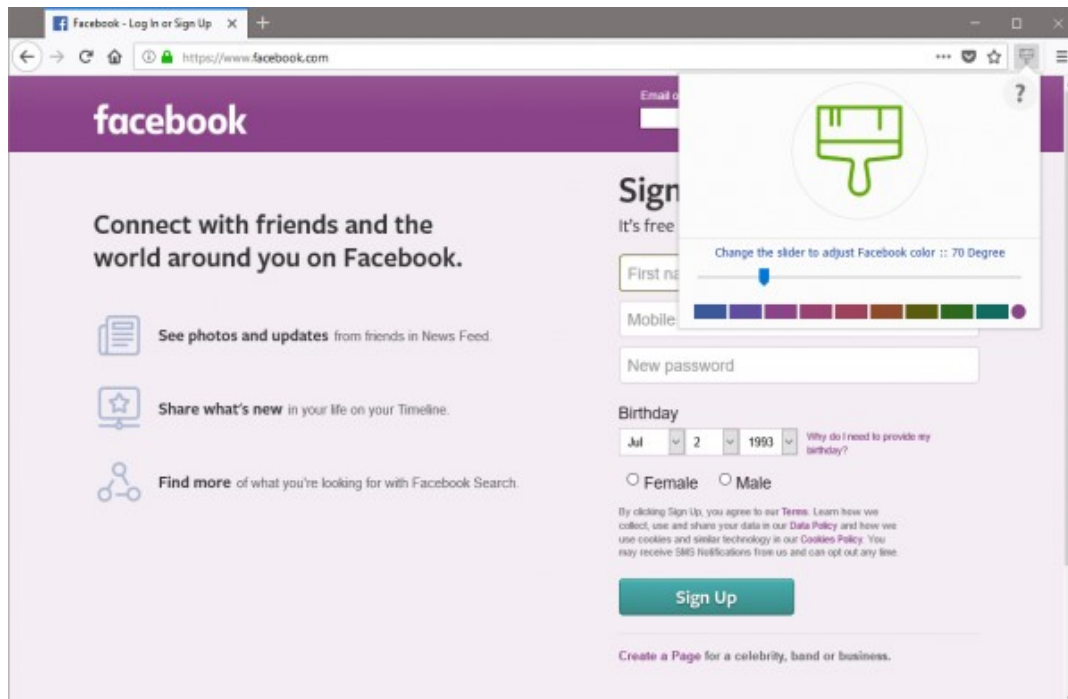
(Continued on page 6)

Once you select the desired colour, the tool immediately applies the new colour scheme for your profile.

Change Facebook Background Colour and Style in Firefox

1. Launch Mozilla Firefox and click on the three horizontal bars at the top corner of the browser.
2. In the menu list that pops up, click Add-ons. This will open the Add-ons Manager in the new window.
3. In the search box, type “Facebook colour scheme”. The browser will display a list of add-ons that are available to change the colour scheme.
4. Select **Facebook Colour Changer** and Click the Install button.
5. Once the installation is complete, the extension will appear on the browser’s header bar.
6. Launch Facebook and Sign-in to the Facebook page with your login address and password.
7. Click on the extension on the browser’s header bar. The tool opens a new window displaying a wide range of colours from the colour picker.
8. Select the colour scheme that you want to set for your Facebook.
9. Restart your browser.

Once you select the desired colour, the tool immediately applies the new colour scheme for your profile (below).



Why not register for

Be Connected

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

Laptop Heat & Radiation – Truth or Myth?

Laptops emit harmful electromagnetic frequency (EMF) waves that can be dangerous to users. Another danger from a laptop is the amount of heat we absorb while working on it. Thankfully, there are solutions for reducing the effects of both hazards .

Do Laptops produce Radiation?

Unless connected to Wi-Fi, undoubtedly NO. On the other hand, Wi-Fi can be dangerous. The other issue from the laptop is the heat, — just don't place the laptop on your lap. You can put it on a table, use a heat-absorption pad, or something else to avoid the heat. There are pads available on the Internet that absorb both probable radiation and heat. Don't ever use a pillow. This is dangerous as the heat will be trapped inside the laptop and will enter your body through your wrists and hands as you type or use the touchpad. Keeping it on the bed is the same as keeping it on a pillow. There are laptop tables available on the Internet and having one will allow proper ventilation and dispersion of heat and radiation.

EMF radiation from laptops is the same as that of cell phones, microwaves, and other radio streaming devices, including when you are connected to a wireless Internet such as router Wi-Fi. Also, think about USB Dongles as they work on the same lines of cell phones.

Prolonged high amounts of Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) exposure, are known to cause fatigue, dizziness, headaches, breathlessness, insomnia, etc. Some reports suggest that such prolonged high-level exposure can also cause fertility problems as well as cell and DNA damage, whilst others say that such reports are inconclusive. Nevertheless, there is no harm in taking precautions.

How to protect yourself from Laptop Radiation

The first thing to do to protect yourself is to keep Wi-Fi usage to a minimum and, if possible, switch to wired connections. The second thing is to use a laptop base shield. There are many designs available so you can pick one that keeps you comfortable while working.

Laptops emit radiation only when connected to wireless Internet, such as Wi-Fi, so the best option would be to turn off the Wi-Fi when you don't need it. Alternatively, you can hook up to the Internet using an Ethernet cable. Just check out if your laptop has an Ethernet port, most do. Ethernet cables are not expensive, and you can easily get them at your local electronic outlets. You just have to measure the length of the cable you need so that it can be connected to the router and the laptop. If you work in your bedroom but still need to move the laptop to the living room when meeting clients or friends, you could use a LAN cable in the room you work in most and Wi-Fi elsewhere.

Do not use your laptop when it is being charged. Like cell phones, laptops emit the maximum radiation when charging. It is always better to disconnect the charger before you use them.

If you do not use any wireless connection you need not worry — unless your neighbours are using strong Wi-Fi!



Presentation to Jim Greenfield by Trevor Francis

Very sadly, some three months ago, Jim Greenfield found it necessary to hand in his commission on the Management Committee of our Club.

At our May meeting, the Club acknowledged Jim's drive, enthusiasm, and commitment to our Club — *in particular* — *his efforts at committee level where his input has been invaluable*.

The Club started in 1984 and Jim has been a *continuous member* from that time — and (as far I can find out) a *continuous committee member*. Not only was Jim President for something like 12 years, but also Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Software and Hardware technical Guru and involved in all Committee activities. His role within the Committee has seen Jim undertake much more than generally required of any committee member anywhere!



Jim's guidance, good advice on new advances with computers and the directions he has provided, have seen our Club stay at the forefront of computer technology. His understanding of the implications that “change” makes, has kept our Club up to date and fully aware of the latest in software — to use caution in being aware of viruses, hacking and scams, continually admonishing us to backup, backup, backup and how to look after our computers in general — oh, and not forgetting **how to**

clean CD's and DVD's. **Jim taught us** not to use a circular motion, but from the centre outwards, using a nice clean cloth or, in his case, a dirty hanky plucked from his back pocket!


He makes his time available to us — *he visits us* in our homes: he *takes computers to his home*; he spends hours — if not days — identifying and repairing problems and getting things working again. Over time, Jim has literally fixed thousands of sick computers (and I do mean thousands) and made so many owners happy — all for essentially no compensation, except the love of it!

Jim does this all of this out of the goodness of his heart. As a Club and as a Committee, we would not be where we are now without him. For his efforts within the Club he was awarded Club **Life Membership** in 2004.

Jim's time and effort have been not only for our Club members, but also for the much broader general community and in 2015, he was awarded the prestigious **Neighbour of the Year Award** by the Onkaparinga Council. (Continued on page 9)

Jim's offbeat, quirky humour is legendary and most of us here have been exposed to it at one time or another! Recently, he was telling me he was a bit miffed with his wife, Val. Having asked her out for morning tea with cake and biscuits, she declined; she didn't like the idea of having to give blood first!

Whilst Val may not be thrilled with the idea of giving blood to get a cuppa, Jim has been "giving blood" to us for so long with a willingness and promptness coupled with a sense of enthusiasm that is hard to match with his Committee activities et al. Tonight, we wish to show our appreciation by asking Jim to accept the small gift we have for him — a set of caravan levellers that we know he will enjoy!

So — James Brownpaddock — a Founding Father of the Southern Districts Computer Users Club, please come forward. 




Facebook Security et al

Doubtless, many of our members have a Facebook Account., but have you considered whether that account and your data is really secure? For example, do you "Log Out" when you have finished? This is one of the very best security measures you can take. Logging out immediately puts an obstacle in the way of anyone with malicious intent to use your Facebook account for no good.

A strong password is essential in any electronic-based application including Facebook. In our June, 2019 issue of the SDCUCI News, we covered the kinds of passwords NOT to use, so let's have a quick look at what constitutes a strong password and how it can be tested.

A password should be at least 8 characters long, not be a dictionary defined word (in any language) and contain a mix of letters, numerals and symbols (the latter could include font-derived graphics) but don't use alpha-derived numerals such as "1" for "A" or "0" for "O" etc. — hackers well know this trick.

A good place to start is a phrase or even a poem; ideally one you or a friend have composed but not published on line.

The password example in the last issue of the SDCUCI News rates as 4/4 for strength. Beware, though, of most strength checkers; many save the password or pass it on to third parties. One highly regarded strength checker can be found at <https://lowe.github.io/tryzxcvbn/>. For further information, go to this site and watch the video at the end: <https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2016/03/31/beware-the-password-testing-tool-that-saved-and-shared-your-passwords/> 




If you use a relatively new DELL computer, be aware that it may be at risk of being compromised. See the article on page 2.

Many of our members are users of Facebook, so I have included an article about how to change the colour of your Facebook facility.

Did you like the article in last month's **SDCUCI News** on Managing Your Wardrobe? Let me know your thoughts. If you did, would you like other "fun" programs included on an occasional basis? Are any of you into games and, if so what type? There are lots of tips and tricks available about Games that I can include on an occasional basis if you would like.

Hey! This is **YOUR** magazine. **Please let me know what you would like to see in it**, otherwise I am flying blind. For example, what about occasionally including news about our Members — Articles about happenings in the computer world — The odd recipe — A specific problem/query you have — Members' life stories — Letters to the Editor?

Please don't just sit there silently, let's make it a two-way street — I'll talk to you through **your magazine** and you can talk to me about what you would like included in it. **I would love to hear from you with your ideas, requests (and criticisms, if you like).** My e-mail is daibhidhp@aussiebb.com.au . 



Jest a Minute

This could be us someday!

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair "Want anything whilst I'm in the kitchen?" he asks.

"Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?"

"Sure."

"Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?" she asks.

"No, I can remember it."

"I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?"

He says, "I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries."

"I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?" she says.

Irritated, he says, "I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream — I've got it, for goodness sake!"

He toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

"Where's my toast?" 


~ Tonight's Topic ~
OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION — (OCR)
 ~ PRESENTER — MRS ANNE LEDDRA ~

— *For Your Notes* —

[illegible]

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. 



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



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