Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.

Supporting·inexperienced·users·with·local·expertise

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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 3/19

Welcome to the March meeting of our Club.

At the committee meeting this month we discussed ways and means of making the general meetings more enjoyable and more attractive socially. The perception is that many problems are solved by means of one on one informal discussion and if we could facilitate this it would bring about a win-win situation. While there will always be a place for specific presentations there will be active encouragement of more informal interaction (within reason).

At the February general meeting we trialled a borrowed portable Wi-Fi modem. You may not have noticed, but, we did. There was no breakup of signal and the speed was more than adequate. The Club will therefore purchase a new portable Wi-Fi modem for use at future meetings.

Tonight David Porteous will give a presentation on the lesser known attributes of MS Word. MS Word is probably the most widely used word processing program, but, not many of us know what its capabilities really are. Listen up!!!

Have a good evening. YB

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.

From the Editor — Welcome Back, Everyone

Our February meeting was the first for 2019. Welcome back everybody. Incidentally, despite the hot night , we had a good turn out as indicated above:

Missing from the picture was our indefatigable speaker for the night, **Lindsay Chuck** (inset, right above) and, of course, yours truly who was behind the camera.

Lindsay gave a very informative talk on "Be Connected", a government initiative to try to bring the general populace up to speed — or at least to dip their toes into the world of computers. The site provides a surprisingly large number of courses (which are all free) on a great many issues that seniors, in particular, encounter when trying to use a computer. I can only say: "Give it a try" you will be doing the Club a favour by logging in. Page 6 f our January issue tells you how. I have been using computers for about 20 years or more and thought I was fairly familiar with the programs I use, but I learned a couple of things I was not aware of.

I don't know whether you keep previous issues of our monthly magazine but I do and occasionally have cause to refer back to a particular matter. To facilitate this, I have created a Master Index back to the November, 2018 issue which I will put up on our computer site. It will be maintained in alphabetical order based on subject. From this issue on, there will also be a local index included. ***Please let me know whether or not you found the indices useful.***

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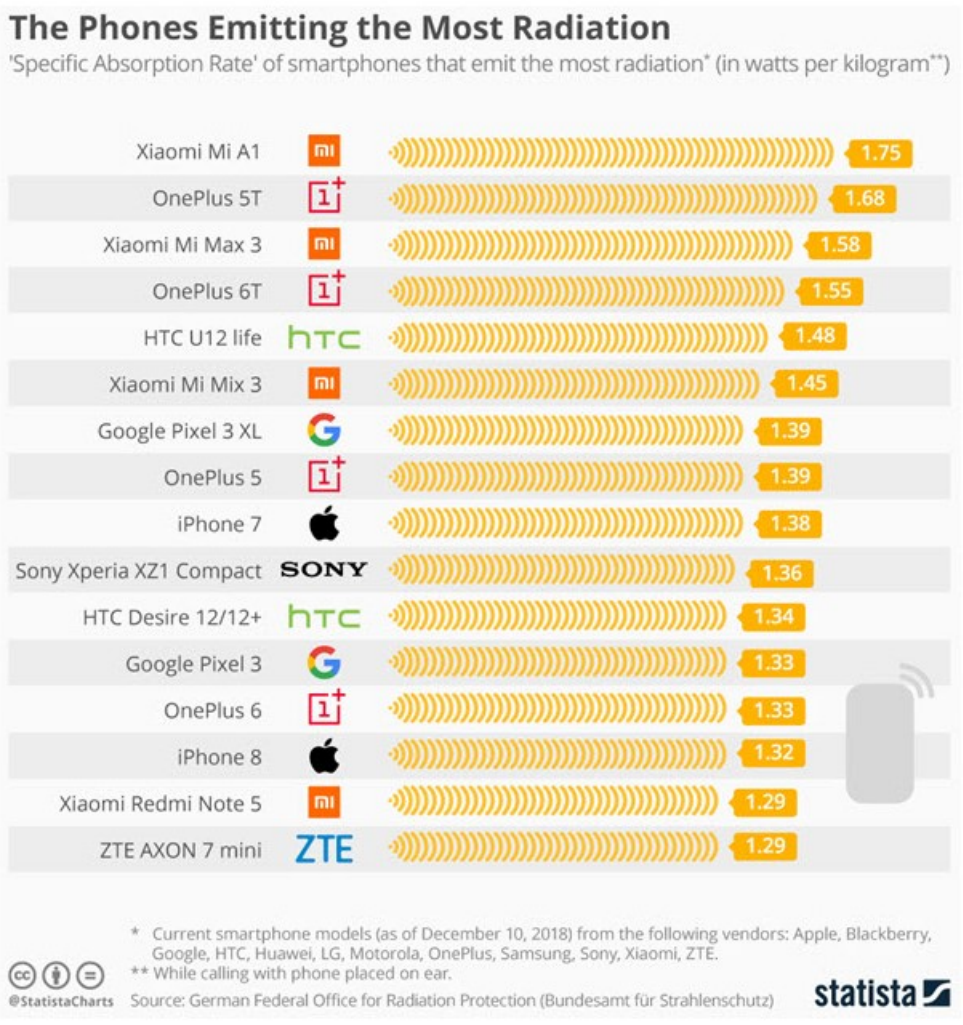
Cell-phones with the Highest and Lowest Emissions

Someone from Microsoft once tweeted to me that smartphones are the super computers of the future. Looking at the current technology that brings in artificial intelligence (AI), GPS (Ground Positioning Systems), and Big Data, it won't be a hype to say that smartphones will replace the traditional laptops and tablets. A phone, too, could be harmful – depending upon how it is built and used! This article looks at a list of phones with the highest and lowest emissions.

This article is based on the data released by the German Federal Office for Radiation Protection. The German authority recently conducted research to show those phones with the highest and lowest emission.



Smartphones with the highest emissions

Xiaomi Mi A1 tops the list of phones with highest emissions. Four models of Xiaomi feature in the list left.

At second place is OnePlus whose four models feature in the list of phones with the highest emission. OnePlus 5T is second, OnePlus 6T is in the fourth place on the list. iPhone 7 is also present among other models that feature in the list of phones emitting more radiation that allowed.

Cellphones with the lowest emissions

Samsung is mentioned in the list on page 4 of phones with the lowest emissions. This list contains many Samsung models. For example, there is Samsung Galaxy Note 8, Samsung Galaxy A8, Galaxy S8+, Galaxy S7 Edge, Samsung Galaxy S9, and Samsung S8. The others feature the Chinese company ZTE whose three models are listed as shown in the image on the following page.

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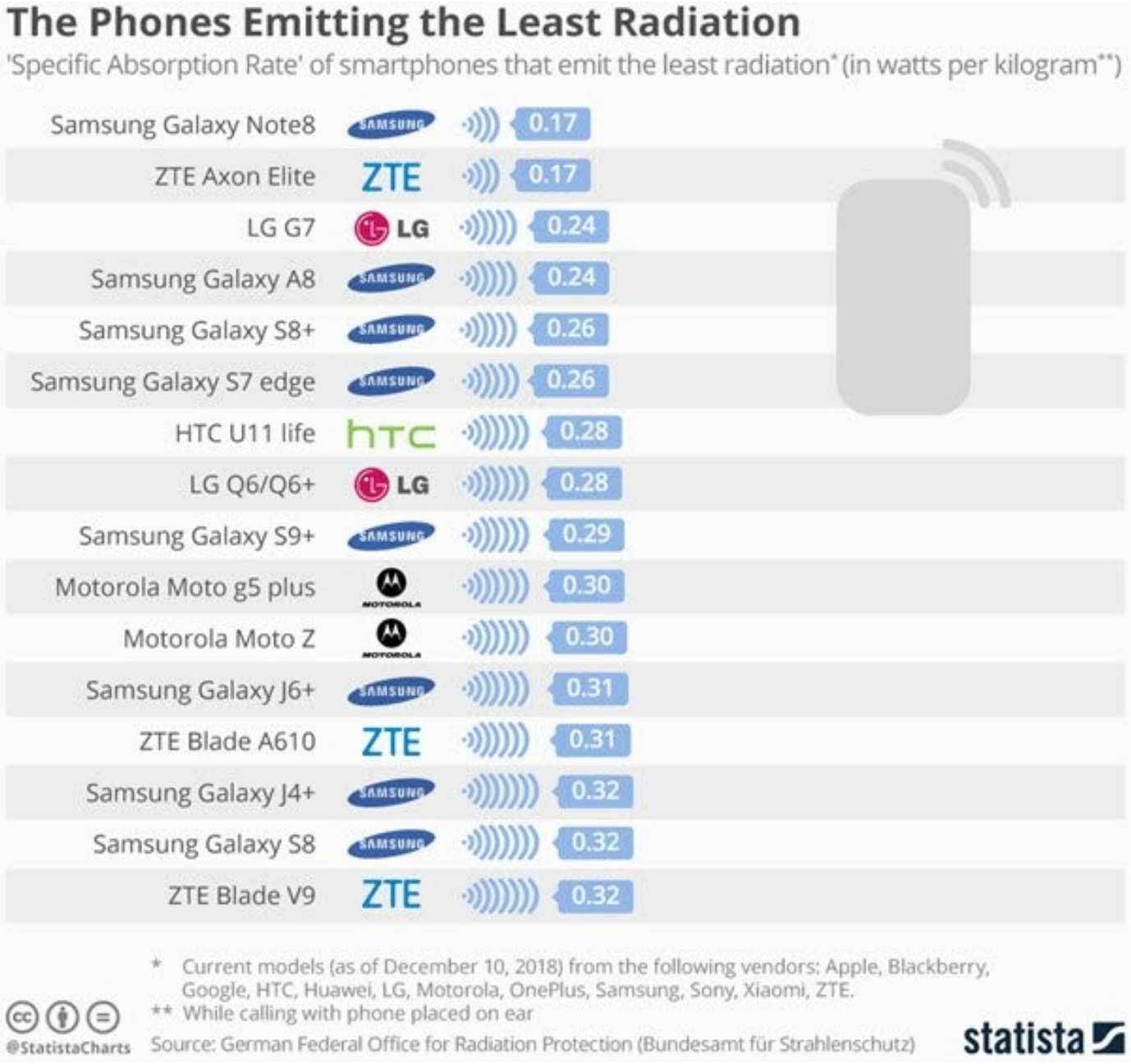
Please note that these ratings were collected by them while phones were in use. A Bluetooth headset used with the high emission phones can bring down the phone's emission radioactive risk ranking.



Different phones in different places can act differently. Cellphone towers make a good impact on both the phone and the human using it, but not only that, it affects the whole ecosystem of living-beings. In a way, we have to acknowledge that radio waves (harmful emissions) will be around until the scientists find another type of carrier that is not harmful. Here's a post to inform you about [how data can be passed using audio waves]().

Why not register for

Be Connected

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

Windows 7's support deadline may expire in July, if you don't apply this patch

The following was submitted by Lindsay Chuck.

If you're running Windows 7 and regularly update your PC, you should be fine. Windows 10 users aren't affected.

Based on the 12 members who responded to the recent survey, possibly about 14 of our members are still running Windows 7. If you are one of them, please take particular not of the following:—

By Mark Hachman — Senior Editor, PCWorld | — 19 FEBRUARY, 2019

Windows users still running Windows 7 already face a deadline of Jan. 14, 2020, when Windows 7 support expires. But if you routinely block updates, break that habit briefly to allow an upcoming March patch. Otherwise, Windows 7 support will effectively stop in July.

Here's what's going on: Microsoft delivers updates using either the SHA-1 or SHA-2 encryption algorithm for security's sake. But the company recently decided to phase out support for SHA-1 entirely in an upcoming security update, due to begin delivery on March 12. That update will mark Windows' shift to using the more secure SHA-2 hash algorithm. In July, Microsoft will begin delivering Windows 7 security updates using SHA-2. The upshot: if your Windows 7 PC hasn't installed the March 12 update enabling SHA-2 support by July 16, your Windows updates will effectively end.

(Microsoft hasn't released a name yet for the patch in question, but the solution is a simple one: ***Make sure Windows updates are enabled****.)*

How to Scan E-mail Attachments Online for a Virus

Hopefully, most of us have antivirus software resident on our computers to protect our files from malware. We are also taught not to open attachments from unknown email addresses. But what if you want a second opinion about a suspicious email attachment? Can you scan the attachment online for virus? Here is how to do that.

How to scan email attachments for virus online

Should you receive a fishy email from someone, contact VirusTotal to screen the attachment. VirusTotal Online Virus Checking is their attempt for a better Internet.

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Scan email attachments using VirusTotal

You can send the attachment to: scan@virustotal.com (see 3. and 6. below).

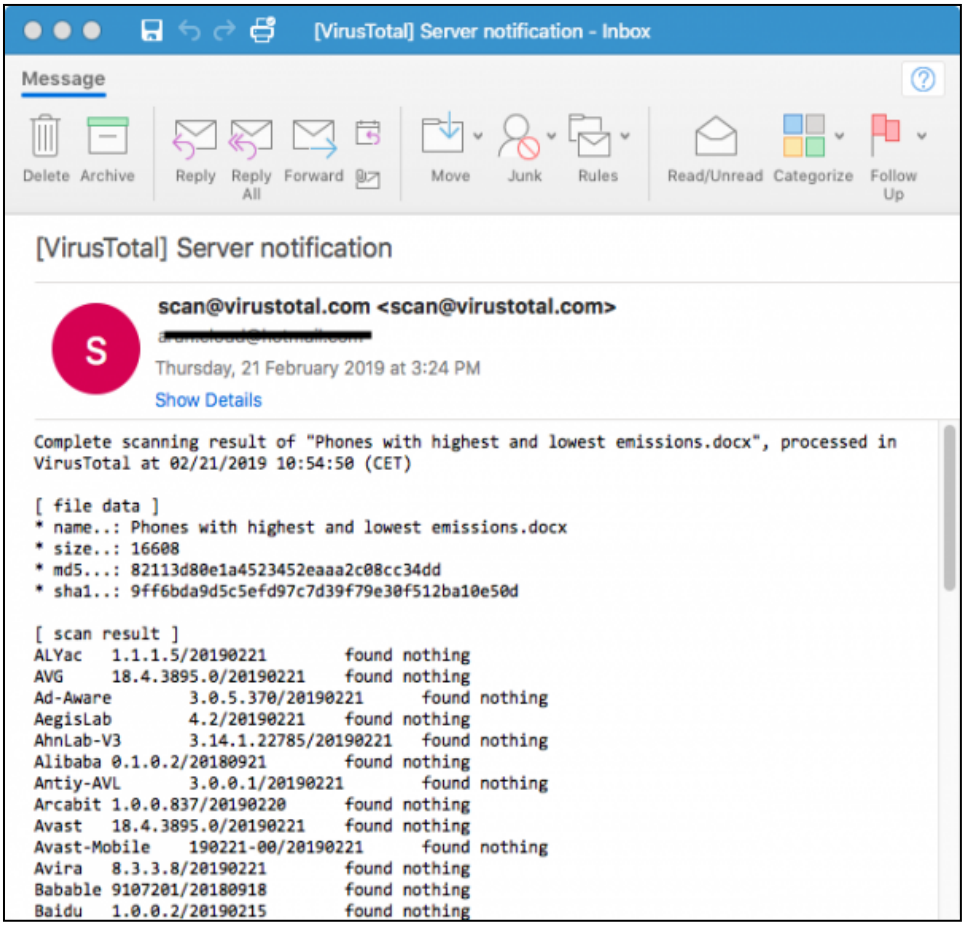
VirusTotal will scan the attachment using many different anti-malware software and send back to you information as a reply to your email which includes results from their various anti-virus programs.

Sending attachments to VirusTotal

Here is a step by step guide to scan an e-mail attachment online for a virus:

1. Save the suspected e-mail attachment (I suggest to your desktop). In Outlook, right click on the item and select **Save as Attachment** and then select where you want to store the email
2. Create a new e-mail message **"To" scan@virustotal.com**.
3. If you want the VirusTotal Online Scanner results in plain text, in the **"Subject"** line, write **SCAN**; if you need an XML version too, write **SCAN+XML**
4. Attach as an attachment, the suspect e-mail that you saved.
5. Hit the Send button.
6. Alternatively, "**forward**" the whole suspect email together with the attachment to ***scan@virustotal.com*** with *SCAN* in the subject line.

The Reply from VirusTotal will show you the results in the format you asked for (see diagram, left, for an example).

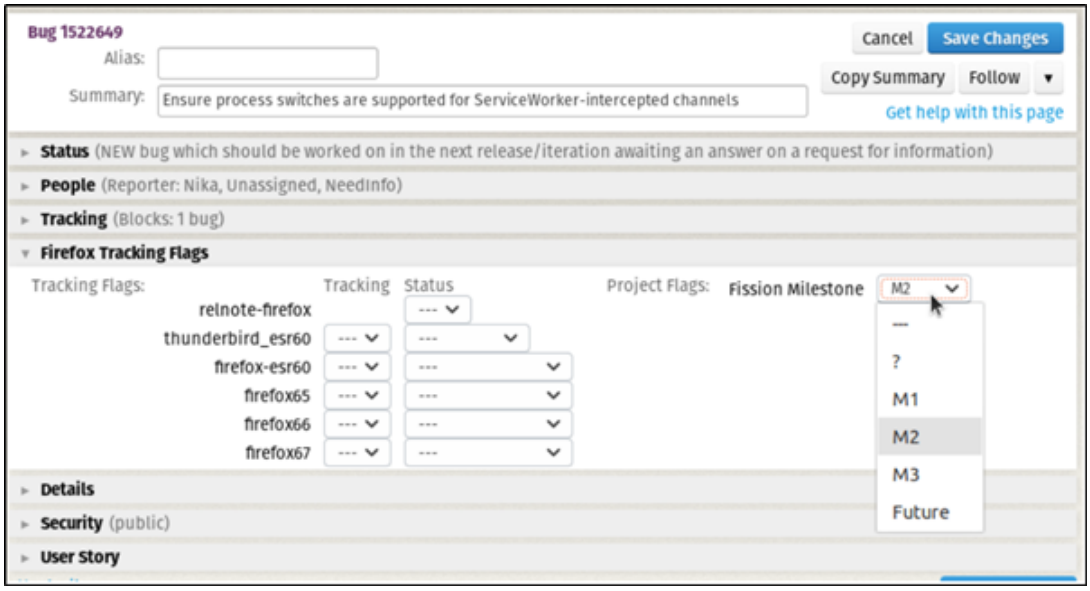


It may take some time to reply if the load is high on their server and, if you opted for XML, it might take a few moments longer to process, so be patient.

You can see details in the e-mail. If you selected SCAN+XML, you will get a plain text message and an XML coded page as well.

Firefox Fission will avert nasty Spectre-style attacks

One of the most widely feared and an unpopular, unpleasant instance experienced in the online world was the discovery of Spectre. The vulnerability affected nearly every computer chip (modern processors) manufactured in the last 20 years and impacted system performance significantly. Fortunately, this tragedy was reversed by the combined efforts of security researchers. Fast forward a year; we learn Mozilla is working on a project – **Firefox Fission** to keep your computer safe from the nasty Meltdown and Spectre CPU security flaws.



Firefox Fission will offer better security

Mozilla is aiming to build a more robust browser that would not only offer protection against known security vulnerabilities but also feature layers of built-in defence against potential future vulnerabilities. To accomplish this, the developers have already started to revamp the architecture of Firefox and support full Site Isolation.

> *"Over the last year, we have been working to lay the groundwork for Fission, designing new infrastructure. In the coming weeks and months, we'll need help from all Firefox teams to adapt our code to a post-Fission browser architecture.*
>
> *Fission is a massive project, spanning across many different teams, so keeping track of what everyone is doing is a pretty big task. While we have a weekly project meeting, which someone on your team may already be attending, we have started also using a Bugzilla project tracking flag to keep track of the work we have in progress, said Nika Layzell, a Firefox platform engineer, in a blog post."*

The makers of the browser haven't yet set a deadline for the completion of the project. However, they have undertaken to complete the shipping of its elements in the Firefox Nightly test version when it's ready.

Spectre-style attacks are potentially dangerous as they can be used to steal highly sensitive personal information not just by exploiting web browsers but via processors too.

Android Apps to Help Control your Windows 10 PC Remotely

Microsoft allows users to access Windows PC on their smart phones. Multi-platform access is a great way to be securely connected full time to your work or whatever. It also goes beyond that — there are several Android apps which can control Windows 10 through a smart phone, via Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or any internet connection available, enabling you to do anything you would do on your Windows 10 PC from anywhere you can use your Android.

There are basically two kinds of applications. One does so through transferring the screen of your PC onto your phone. Whilst the other uses a mouse, which is similar to a remote control. Here are some of the best apps.

PC Remote

This Android app uses Bluetooth or Wi-Fi to control your Windows 10 PC. Its remote has quite a number of useful features. Besides a regular keyboard and mouse, there are programs like PowerPoint and Excel. The app uses the Remote Desktop feature to let you view the home screen of your Windows 10 system. It has more than 25 console games which you can play with the touchpad. It also has several layouts for gamepads letting you make up your own game. This app can be downloaded from *https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.monect.portable&hl=en.*

Chrome Remote Desktop

This app lets you control you PC from your Android phone. It is accessed through a remote, and you need a Google account to use its features. One of the best features of this app is the flawless screen sharing. Users have found this app to be most helpful as well as being very practical and user-friendly. You can use it with a touchpad, like on your phone, or you can get a mouse. You do need to be signed into Google Chrome with your Google id. This app can be downloaded from *https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.chromeremotedesktop&hl=en.*

Some of the further apps you can use include: **KiwiMote** (*https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=wowappz.kiwimote&hl=en);* **TeamViewer** *(https://play.google.com/store/apps/developer?id=TeamViewer&hl=en);* **Unified Remote** *(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.Relmtech.Remote&hl=en);* **VNC Viewer** *(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.realvnc.viewer.android&hl=en);* **Splashtop Personal** *(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.splashtop.remote.pad.v2&hl=en)* and several others.

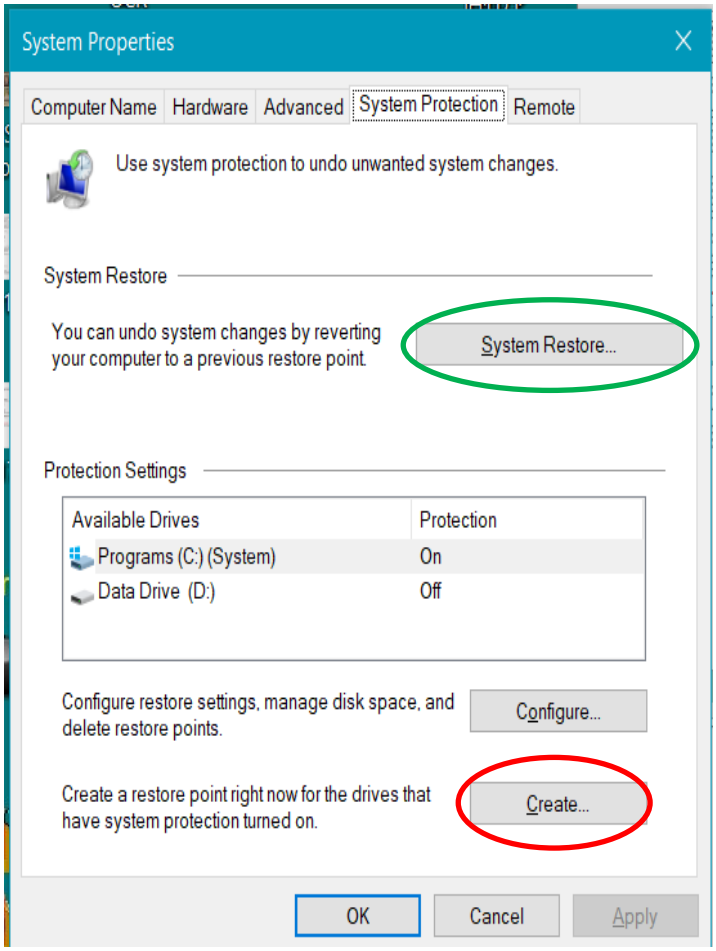
Don't forget to create a **Restore Point** before you install each one you want to try — just in case!!

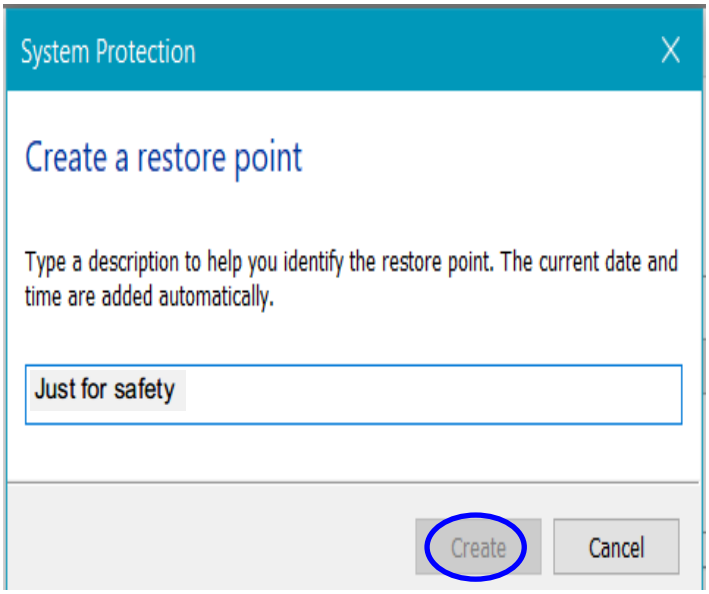
Creating a System Restore Point

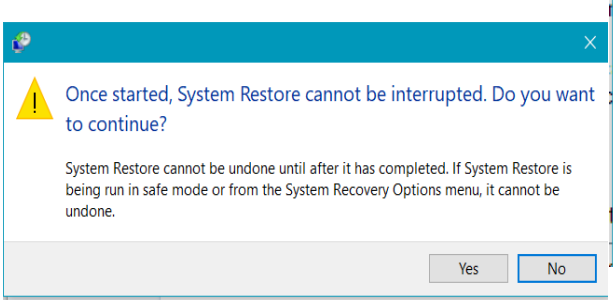
If you go onto the Web looking for how to create a System Restore Point in Windows 10, you will get answers from the "complicated" to the "very complicated" I won't bore you with the details.

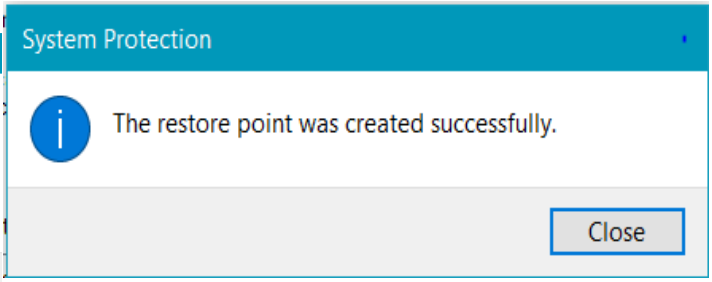
Before Windows 10, it used to be relatively easy — and it still is but you need to know the trick.

1. If you have a Search Box on your Task Bar, simply key in the word "create" (with or without a capital "C").
2. If you don't have a Search Box on your Task Bar, right-click the "Start" button and click on "Search".
3. In the resultant Search Box, simply key in the word "create" and click "Enter". Either way, the callout box (right) will appear.
4. Click on the "create" key (circled in red) and "OK".
5. Another callout box will appear (right). Key in a name (I've used "Just for safety") and click on the "Create' key (circled in blue).
6. After the short appearance of a "Progress Bar", a confirmation callout box (below right) will appear stating that the restore point has been created.
7. Note the warning below.









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8. Should you need to restore your computer to an earlier Restore Point, proceed as in paragraphs 1. to 3. on the previous page. The callout box (*fig. 1* right) will appear. Click the "System Restore" button which will be highlighted in blue.
9. On the "System restore callout box, *(Fig.2)* click "Next".
10. Select the **most recent known working restore point** "Just for Safety" that will help you to fix the current problem *(Fig. 3)* .
11. If you want to, click the **Scan for affected programs** button (*see figure 3 circled in red)* to see the applications that will be removed, if they were installed after the restore point was created.
12. Following the appearance of the "Affected Programs Report", Click "Close"
13. Then Click **"Next"**
14. After the short appearance of a "Progress Bar", *(Figure 4)* a confirmation callout box will appear stating that the computer has been restored. Click "Finish"

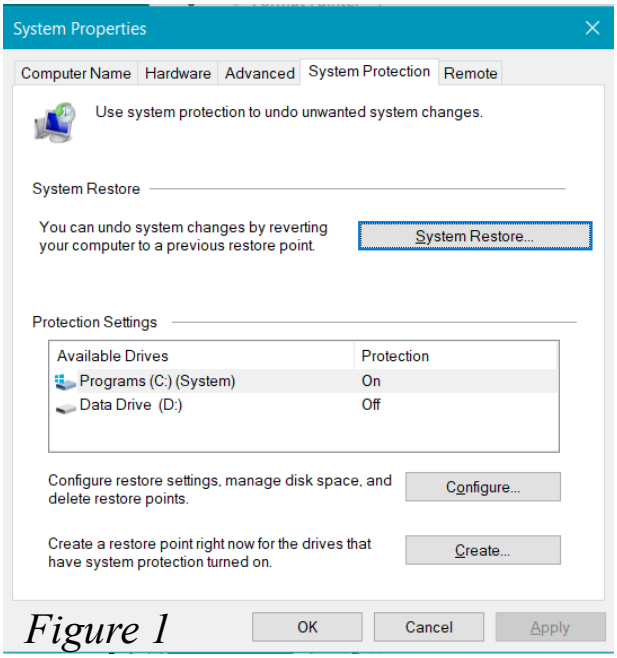


Figure 1

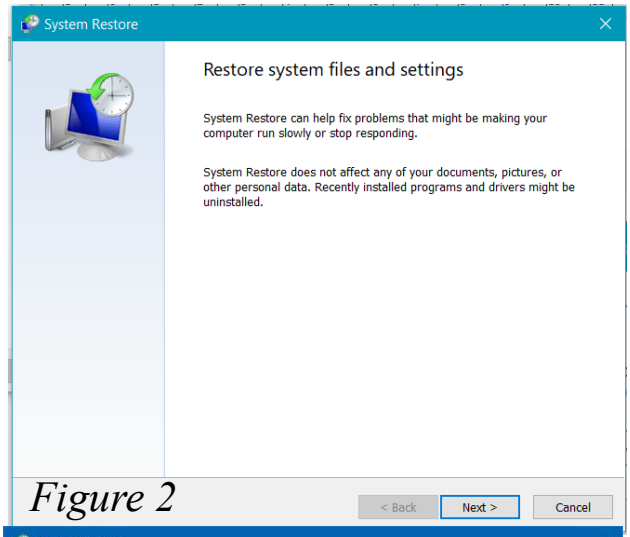


Figure 2

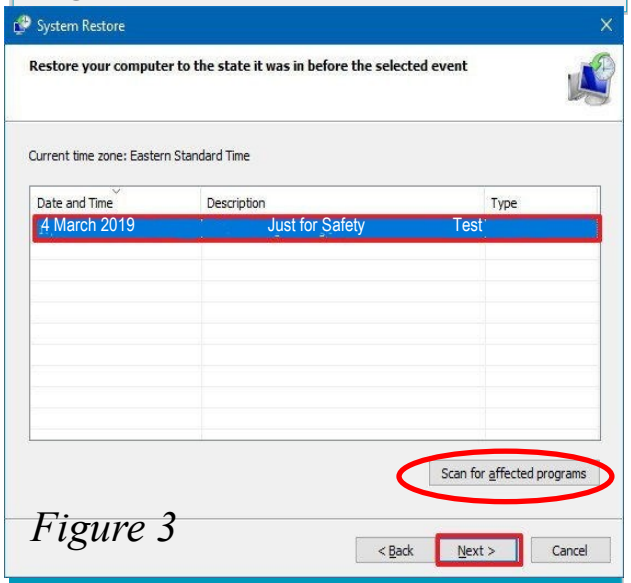


Figure 3

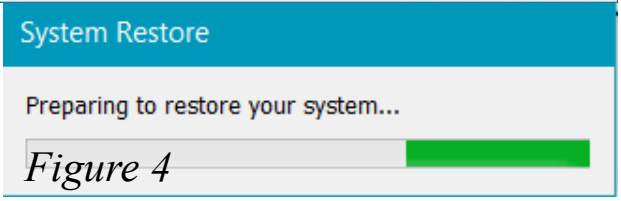
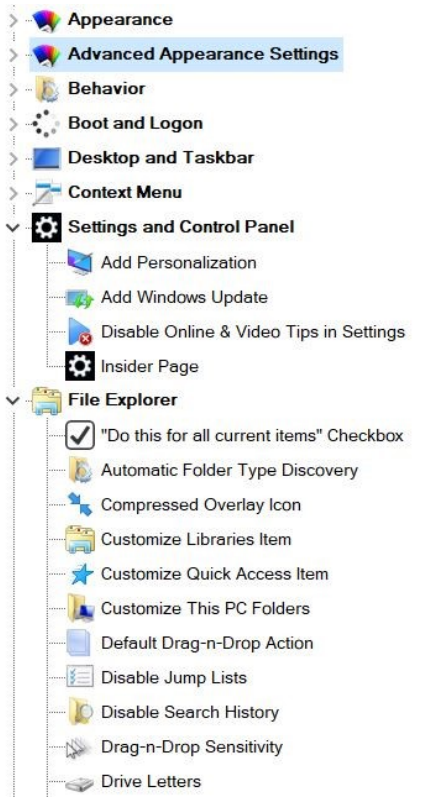


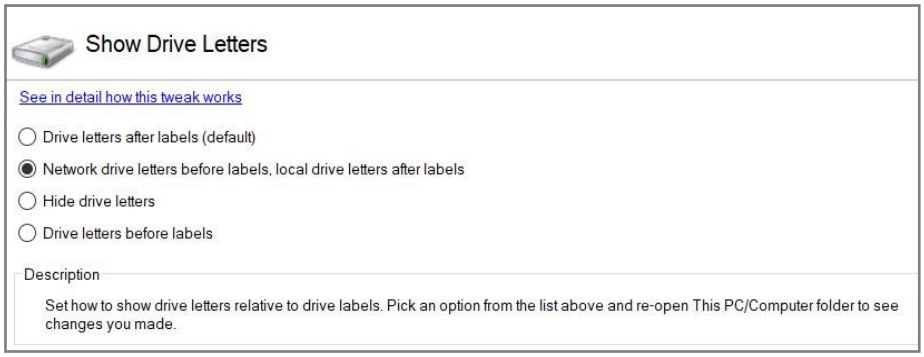
Figure 4

Winaero — Windows Tweaker

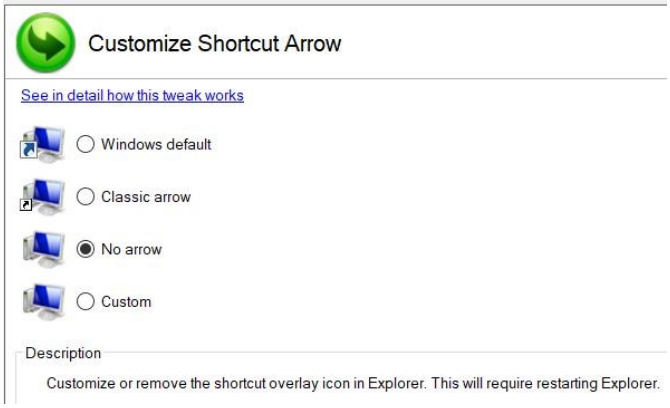


Are you completely happy with how your computer operates? If you have a few niggles, Winaero may be able to help you out. It works with several versions of Windows going back at least as far as Windows 7. It includes possibly a hundred or more tweaks. However, here a word of warning — do one tweak at a time so that you can see whether you like it or not. If you do more than one at a time and you don't like the result, it will be very difficult for you to work out which one caused what you don't like and in clicking umpteen "Undo's", you might end up losing lots of tweaks that you liked until you come to the one that you don't. **You have been warned!**

The latest version of Winaero Tweaker version, 0.12.1.0, (is available from *https://winaero.com/downloads/* and, what's more, it is free.



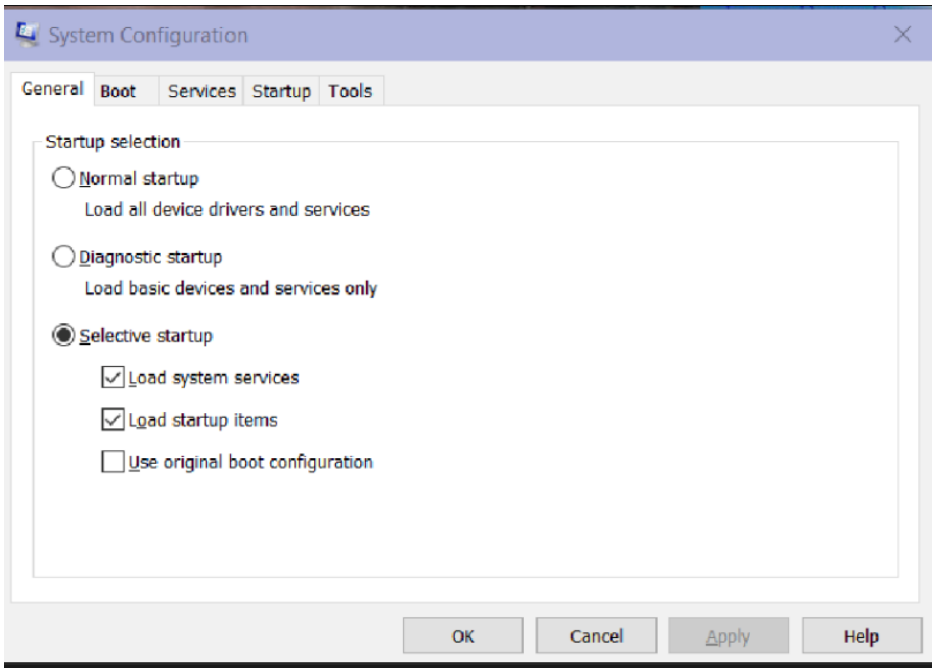
Winaero's various tweaks are sorted into categories which are listed down the left hand side. See top, right for a very small sample of Winaero's abilities. Selecting "Drive Letters" (above) as an example, indicates the general format followed in each tweak. They all follow the same pattern, enabling one to see how the tweak works and providing a comprehensive description of what the particular tweak does.



One that I particularly like, is the ability to get rid of is the "Shortcut Arrow": from desktop shortcuts (see above, left). One used to be able to get rid of it by personally making a tweak to the Registry, but Winaero has made it very easy. Making changes to the Registry is always fraught with peril if you don't get it EXACTLY right. If you are one to dabble in the Registry, ALWAYS but ALWAYS make a backup first as well as having a Boot Disk ready just in case you can't re-boot Widows from your hard drive!

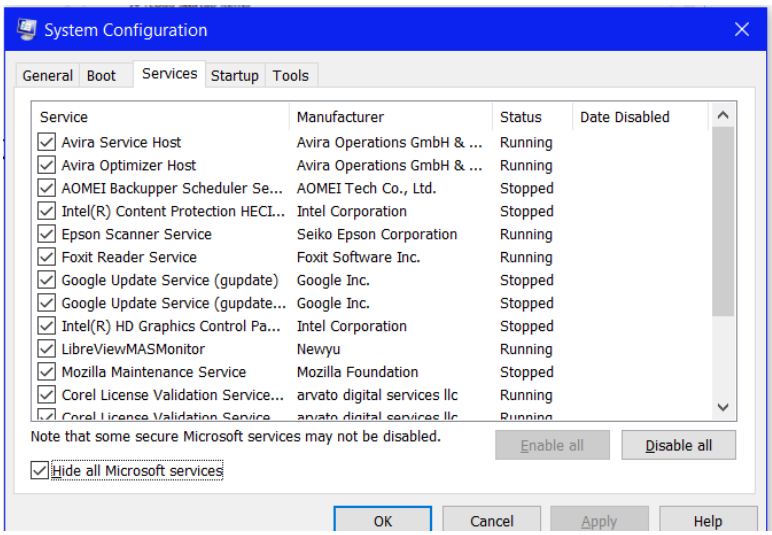
Performing a Clean Boot in Windows 10, 8 or 7.

A **Clean Boot** is used to troubleshoot advanced Windows problems. If your computer is not starting normally, or if you receive unidentifiable errors when you start, you could perform a "clean boot". A **Safe Mode** boot uses a minimal pre-defined set of device drivers and services to start Windows. In a **Clean Boot**, the computer uses a pre-selected minimal set of drivers and startup programs, and consequently some programs may not work as you expect.



Always create a system restore point first!

To perform Clean Boot troubleshooting, you must take certain actions, restarting the computer after each. You should manually disable one item at a time to try to pin point the one that is causing the problem. Once you have identified the offender, you can remove or disable it.



To Perform a Clean Boot

1. To enter a Clean Boot state, "right click" Start and, in the search box, type "**msconfig**" and hit "Enter" to open the System Configuration Utility.
2. Click the General tab, and then,
3. Click "Selective Startup".
4. Clear the **Load Startup Items** check box;
5. Ensure that **Load System Services** and **Use Original boot configuration** are checked.
6. Click the Services tab.
7. Select the **Hide All Microsoft Services** check box.
8. Click "**Disable all**".

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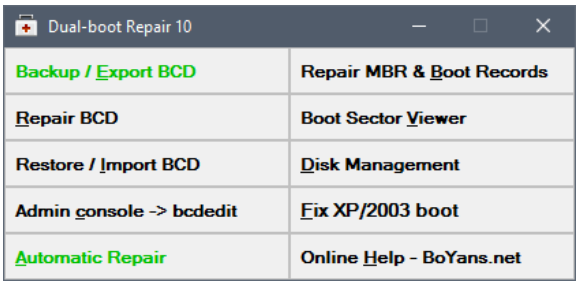
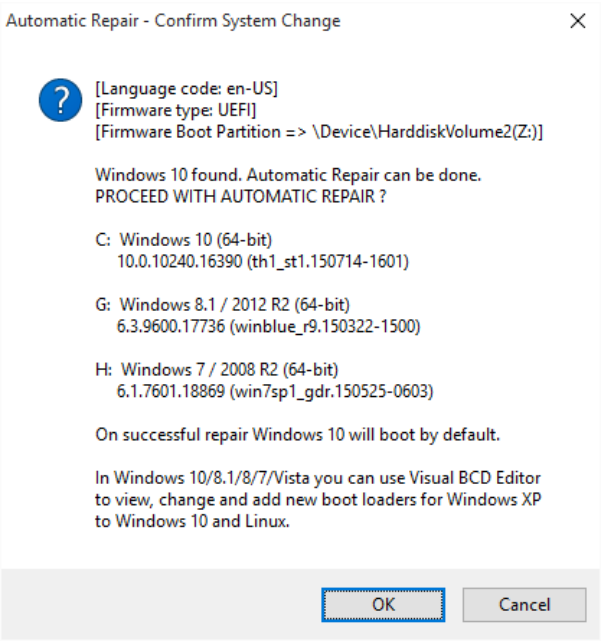
(Continued from page 12)

9. If the clean boot failed to fix the error, in the General tab, Click to clear the Load System Services check box.
10. Click **"Apply/OK"** and restart.
11. To configure normal startup in Windows 10, simply undo the changes.
12. If the "Use original boot configuration" is greyed out in Windows 10,
13. Download Dual Boot Repair Tool from *https://www.boyans.net/dual-boot-repair-windows-10.html* . It is freeware that allows you to repair Boot Use the Automatic Repair option which is much safer compared to the other commands. Once you have downloaded this tool and run its executable file, you will see the call out box (right).



14. Click on the green **Automatic Repair** option. You will be shown the screen (right) and asked to confirm your decision.



15. Click on OK. This will start the repair process.
16. Once the job is done, you will see a Automatic Repair Successful message.
17. Restart your computer and see the results.

The problem should be resolved and the *Use original boot configuration* no longer greyed out!

Windows 10

For obtaining Windows 10 installation/recovery media for free you can use Windows 10 Media Creation tool from Microsoft in 32-bit and 64-bit variant. The tool allows creation of bootable Windows 10 installation DVD/USB or allows the download of a Windows 10 ISO which you can burn later to DVD/USB or use for fast image deployment with dism utility (I recommend this method of installation as it has several advantages).

Windows 8.1

If you have a Windows 8.1 retail key, you can download free and create Windows 8.1 installation(and recovery) media using Windows 8.1 Media Creation tool from Microsoft. The tool allows creation of bootable Windows 8.1 installation(and recovery) DVD/USB or simply a Windows 8.1 ISO.

Windows 8

9. If you have a Windows 8 retail key you can download Windows 8 for upgrade/installation.

I have had one request since the last issue: present the instructions in dot point format rather than narrative.

By the way, did you notice that this issue is four pages longer, larger font and more open space.

I can reliably assure you that it was. There were 16 pages in lieu of 12, the font was still Times New Roman but 16 point instead of 14 point and the distance between paragraphs has increased from 4 point to 6 point and I have also added an index. Together with the move to dot point procedure instructions, they make a marked change (I hope improvement). **Please let us know what you think, together with any suggestions on how to improve your monthly tome — no subject is verboten — content, presentation, physical size (A5, as at present, A4 single double-sided page stapled together, or A3 folded in half, effectively an A4 sized booklet. Emailed versions would be A4.**

Jest a Minute

Life as a Senior Citizen isn't getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun.

Yesterday my son e-mailed me, again; asking why I didn't do something useful with my time. Like sitting around the pool, drinking wine, isn't a good thing?

Talking about my ‘doing-something-useful" seems to be his favourite topic of conversation.

“I’m only thinking of you," he said, and suggested, I go down to the Senior Centre and hang out with the fellas.

So, I did and when I got home, decided to play a prank on him. I sent him an email saying that I had joined the Senior Parachute Club.

He replied, "Are you nuts? You're 73 years old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?"

I told him that I even had a Membership Card and emailed a copy to him.

Immediately, he telephoned me and yelled, "Good grief, Dad, where are your glasses? This is a membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club."

"Oh man, am I in trouble," I said, "I signed up for five jumps a week!"

The line went dead.

~ Tonight's Topic ~

SOME OF THE MYSTERIES OF WORD

by David Porteous

— 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.

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