

**Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.**

**Supporting inexperienced users with local expertise**

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## **SDCUCI NEWS**

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**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 computer users will be most warmly welcomed**



### **The Brownpaddock Chatter**

**Ever noticed how things change?**

E.G. When different Windows versions came out . .

W1.0 1985                      W95    1995

W2.0 1987                      W98    1998

W3.0 1992                      XP      2007

Vista    s                      W10    2016 .

How car makes and models come and go as time goes on?

How about communications through the ages? There has been many and here are a few!

Cave paintings:

Radio/TV:

Smoke signals:

Computers:

Flags between hills:

Internet:

Carrier Pigeon

Facebook/messenger:

Telephone/Morse Code:

Smart phones:

So here we are.

As things change so we must consider change!

I feel change is upon us as the use of computers shrink with the advances in tablets and smart phone technology. We are all aging and with the slowing of direct computer use and newer technologies taking over, become more and more relevant to the community as time goes on.

Consider the above as we as a club have been and are ever decreasing in size and relevance.



## Gmail Collects What!




We have never known just what information Google collects from users of its services such as **Gmail** and **Google Drive**, among others. Thanks to the App-Tracking Transparency feature Apple wants to bring to iOS and to Google's recently updated the Gmail app for iOS we now have official disclosure from Google allowing you to understand what kind of data you trade with Google while using its free email service. Some entries on the list may surprise a few of us.

According to the internet giant's disclosure, the Gmail app for iOS collects data for three purposes in general. It contains a precise location and user ID so that it can offer you a better experience with third-party advertising.

Second, the app collects analytical data, such as the purchase history, email address, photos, videos, audio data, search history, user ID, device ID, crash data, performance data, advertising data, etc. It uses this data only for analysis and not for personalized advertising.

Third, Gmail may collect your name, rough location, photos, videos, user ID, usage data, advertising data, crash data, performance data, search history, text messages, and some other unspecified data types. Clearly, Google knows a lot about your identity and life before it offers a custom-made webmail experience via Gmail.

It is also worth noting that the data collection policy mentioned above applies to Gmail for personal use only. Companies may have their preferences as to what kind of data G-Suite can collect from employees. It is finally good to know just how much an app, as popular as Gmail, has been tracking users. 

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## Microsoft Edge to Replace Microsoft's Edge Legacy

Microsoft Edge Legacy, Microsoft's first attempt to bring out the new browser experience, will finally be phased out. After the release of Microsoft Edge based on Chromium, it was clear where Microsoft was heading. The first announcement of its discontinuance was in August 2020, with support ending on March 9, 2021. Microsoft has confirmed that Edge Legacy will be replaced completely with April's Windows 10 Update Tuesday release.

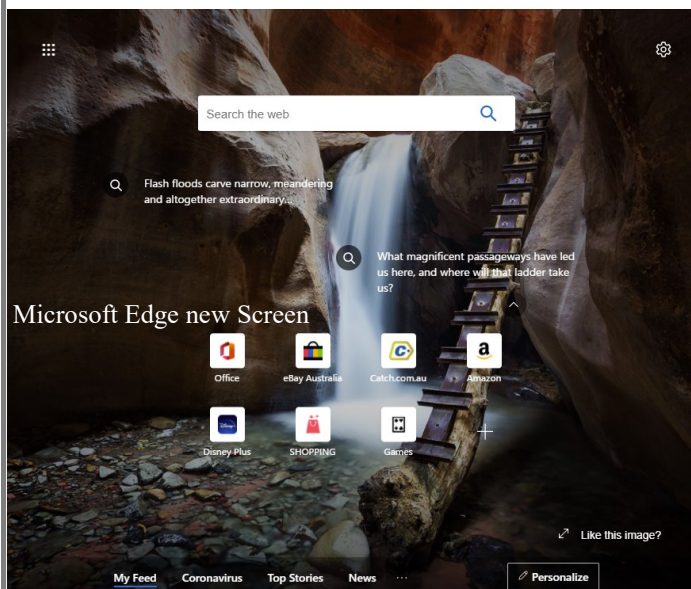
The update will be part of the Win10 cumulative monthly security update (B Update) on 13 April, 2021. Post-installation, Edge Legacy will be uninstalled, and those who haven't installed Edge should see it under the recently installed applications list. The replacement will also occur if you apply the optional Windows 10 March Preview (or "C") release.

Those who have been using Edge know how well done the browser is and that it uses the same Chromium engine as Google's Chrome browser, and Edge offers the same set of features and extension support.

If you are not using the latest version of Windows, the plan is to replace all the supported versions of Windows. Below is the complete list:

- Windows 10, version 1803, all editions (April 2018)
- Windows 10, version 1809, all editions (October 2018)
- Windows 10, version 1903, all editions (May 2019)
- Windows 10, version 1909, all editions (October 2019)
- Windows 10, version 2004, all editions (May 2020)
- Windows 10, version 20H2, all editions (October 2020)

Since Windows 10H2 already uses the Edge legacy, no new installation will happen, but Microsoft Edge Legacy will be removed.



While you can skip the update to skip this replacement, it is not recommended. Microsoft Legacy will not be supported to run side-by-side, and with that, there will be unforeseen security issues.



## Google Photos comes under a 15GB storage cap

Google Photos has announced new storage policy changes. These changes will allow Google Photos users to receive only a limited 15GB of free storage. Beyond that, Google One members can purchase additional storage to store more photos and media. The updated policy will go into effect starting **June 1, 2021**.

Every Google account is eligible for 15GB of free cloud storage, shared across services such as Google Drive, Gmail, and Google Photos. With changes to its unlimited High-quality storage policy, Google Photos hopes to keep pace with the growing demand for cloud storage.

*“Starting June 1, 2021, any new photos and videos you upload will count toward the free 15 GB of storage that comes with every Google Account or the additional storage you’ve purchased as a Google One member,” [said Shimrit Ben-Yair](#), Vice President, Google Photos. “We know this is a big shift and may come as a surprise, so we wanted to let you know well in advance and give you resources to make this easier.”*

More than five years ago, Google Photos emerged as a way to store and organize photos and videos easily. Over the years, the app has evolved into a service that preserves memories. Google Photos has more than 4 trillion photos in storage. Meanwhile, the app hosts 28 billion new pictures and videos every week. Android users rely on Google Photos to preserve their memories in large numbers.

Photos or videos uploaded to Google Photos before June 1, 2021, will not count toward the initial 15GB of free storage. Meaning, images and video files you have backed up before the deadline will still be considered free and exempt from the storage limit. If you want to verify your backup quality, all you need to do is open the Photos app and navigate to the backup and sync option in Settings.



Why not register for

**Be Connected**

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



## When is a scam not a scam? – That is the question.

(Main article by member Lorraine Loader. Red comments by the Editor.)



Alarm bells  
ringing in  
your head.

Very recently I received a call on our mobile – from eBay Customer Services, stating that they were aware of a suspect transaction on eBay using our phone number. Someone had purchased a gift card from J B HiFi for \$299. Was this our transaction? If not press ‘1’ now. *Possible mistake No. 1. Pressing “1” on the keypad could have been pre-programmed to open a program to take over your computer or some other mischievous action.*

Before I could locate the keypad on the phone they had hung up. So I rang them back. It was not a private or silent number, so I thought it would be OK. *Possible mistake No.2. ALWAYS look up the phone number of the organisation that called you and ring that number, if you can find it, NEVER the number they give you. That phone number could lead to anywhere or anything, including opening a rogue program.*

I then spoke to James. I explained that someone from that number had phoned me, he checked and got my details, then said that the transaction may not have gone through yet, but I would need to fill in a request to cancel. Fair enough, I thought.

He asked did I have an app called ‘Teamviewer Quick Support’. As I did not, he led me to the app store and told me how to download it. Once downloaded, it opened and James sent me an ID number which I gave to him to open the cancellation document. *Possible mistake No.3. Teamviewer Quick Support”, “Quick Assist”, “Go to Assist”, “Instant Remote Desktop”, Thinfinity Remote Desktop”, “AeroAdmin”, “Real VNC”, “Chrome Remote Desktop”, “Bomgar”, “Lite Manager”, “R Hub”, “Supremo”, “Any Place Control” and many, many, more are all programs that allow a third party to completely take over your computer. The first three mentioned, however, tend to be the most popular of which “Go to Assist” is exclusively a Microsoft product.*

I was very suspicious, and told him so. He told me his mother had had a similar problem recently, these scammers were everywhere! Ever so nice he was! He even gave me the name of the building and street in Sydney where he worked on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor, and gave me his employee number. *Possible mistake No. 4. If they give you an address, check it — perhaps on Google Earth or do a search on it. Is it at least a 10 storey building?*

On the first page of the cancellation form there was the usual request for name, address, phone number, email, date of birth. I once again hesitated then I

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thought that most likely this info was readily available if someone wanted to access it. I told him I wasn't happy about filling in the form and he said, 'well, that is OK, but how can we cancel this transaction if you do not give me your details?'. Sounded logical, so I did. *These people are always VERY professional and have all the answers at their fingertips. It is often very hard not to be sucked in!*


Next page. Of course you can guess what came next. A request for bank details. 'If your transaction has gone through, we'll need to refund your money' So more warning bells rang, very loudly this time. I said I would not give him this info. He replied "OK, as long as I realized that I would not get reimbursed for this transaction. I said I understood and would phone my bank to inform them and hung up. *Well done! Right move!*

I immediately rang my credit card provider and explained what I had been through. Yes, she said, it was a scam, but as long as I did not hand over my bank details and did not do any on-line banking, everything should be OK.

I am usually very careful and wary of fake phone calls and emails, but this chap sounded so professional and caring that, even though I was really quite reluctant to do what he requested, (and told him so several times), he was reassuring and had all the answers.

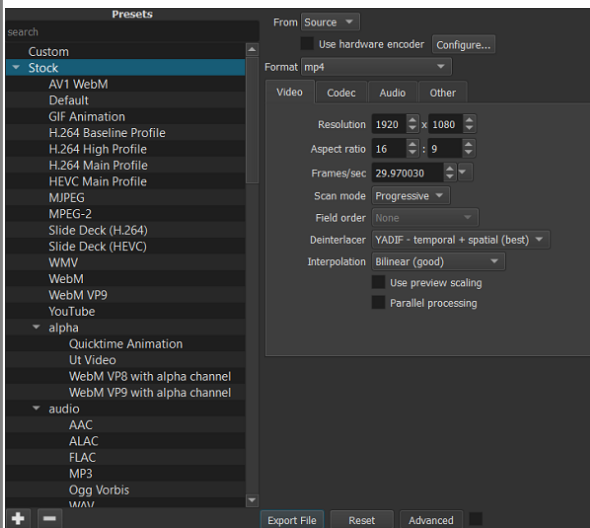
If you have suspicions about the authenticity of a phone call, then of course hang up. However, I have since been advised that if I do take a call that I am not too sure about, then never press a number when requested and, whilst it is very hard, try not to say the word "YES" to a question, because this affirmative answer can be recorded on a voice recorder and used to indicate agreement to a totally different question that they may not even physically ask you. These people are very tech savvy. Also, check their phone number rather than just calling back and check the scam watch page too. I did look up Scamwatch, but there was no phone number, and I really wanted to talk to someone, not just send them an email.

I have also deleted the app from my phone. *Well done!*

You all might think how gullible I was, how silly, dumb, even stupid, but can you understand that I was really scared to give out the information but also scared not to. This experience has shown me just how clever these people are, and it has made me very aware of what is going on out there in the land of scammers. *No Lorraine, you are not any of those things you refer to at the start of this paragraph. These people are so professional, any of us can get caught out and sometimes do! Try and listen to those first little alarm bells ringing in your head.* 

# Enable/Disable Edge Download Flyout

The new Download Flyout in Microsoft Edge provides an easy to manage download of the user without visiting bookmark pages in the web browser. In this article, I will try to guide you how to enable or disable this new download flyout in Microsoft Edge. Microsoft Edge browser is available with new and improved browsing features, better privacy and security, and offers more value with customization property.



The new Download Flyout in Microsoft Edge, below, is to encode a video and compress its data. Different codecs give different compression ratios, depending on the contents of the video. For example, the H.265 codec offers a 50% better compression ratio than the H.264 codec.

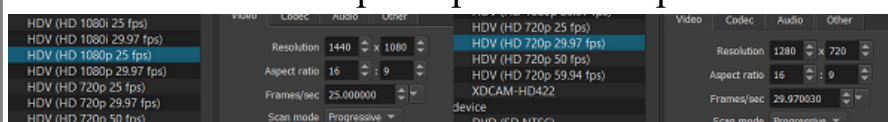
## How to reduce video file size in Windows 10

You can reduce video size without losing quality. Using this free video compressor software or online tool you can make video size smaller.

ShotCut (<https://shotcut.org>) is a full-fledged video editing tool used by people far and wide to efficiently cut down on the size of their videos. In order to edit a video on ShotCut, you have to follow the steps mentioned below:

Download and install ShotCut. Open it and import a video file using the 'Open File' option.

On the top-right corner, you'll find an option by the name of 'Export,' clicking on which will open a plethora of options.



Using an H.264 profile is good enough to cut down on the video size without giving up too much on its quality, and it is what ShotCut itself claims, to have done the job for most of its users.


It is in the export settings that you will find options to compress your videos. You can play around with the resolutions and the aspect ratios. You should keep in mind that you make proportionate changes to your configurations lest you want a distorted video.

Changing output automatically modifies the attributes of the video, suppose you shift from HDV (1080p HD film at 25 fps) to HDV (720p HD film at 29 fps). Your FPS and resolution will change automatically, and so will your corresponding size. Going smaller than the preset resolution, however, will require you to calculate the appropriate dimensions manually.



## **Wow! What an Experience**

I recently had the most horrible dream, waking me at 0500 the other morning. Standing, with only a pair of briefs on, this ginger haired and bearded man with a mad look in his eyes threatened me with something like “This is your last day on this earth”. I threw a pillow at him to distract him whilst I got up. Before I could move, he was standing on the end of the bed and again threatened me. I threw my other and much heavier pillow at him, trying to knock him off the bed. Next thing, he had jumped up to the chandelier. I only had one weapon left — my bedside clock radio. I hurled this at him with every bit of strength I could muster. It must have hit him because he disappeared .... but the chandelier was not so fortunate (see picture).

No, I am not on drugs or anything. I have no idea what gave rise to that dream — but I can now relate to how realistic a druggie’s hallucinations must appear! It clearly was a dream, but at the time it was totally real to me. 

## **Reducing Video File Size in Windows 10?**

The way videos are made and shared these days has come a long way. Unless you are a professional YouTuber, high video qualities like 2K, or 4K can seem wasteful and a bit of an overkill, since most videos are used for casual recreational and sharing purposes. If you do come across a video that is too big to be shared or uploaded, you can reduce its size. Below are some hassle-free ways in which you can do this using both freeware and a free online tool.

### **What impacts a video’s size?**

The two most common ways in which you can reduce a video’s size without impacting its quality, is either by trimming the footage down or removing audio from the video. You can also bring down your video’s resolutions, but that is going to take a toll on its quality, although tools and software try their best to make the impact as minimal as possible. The resolutions that you choose to go with largely depend on the device that your video will be broadcasted on. The bigger the screen of your device, say television or a home projector, the higher the resolutions you will need. Accordingly, make modifications to your videos accordingly.

There are several other factors that can play a role in the varied video sizes like video codec and the bitrate. Video bitrate is the amount of data that is used by the video per second. Different videos require different bitrates to stream without losing their quality, depending on their resolution and frame rates. The video codec is used to encode a video and compress its data. Different codecs provide different compression ratios, depending on the contents of the video. For example, the H.265 codec offers a 50% better compression ratio than the H.264 codec.

You can reduce video size without losing quality. Using this free video compressor

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your corresponding size. Going smaller than the preset resolution, however, will require you to calculate the appropriate dimensions manually.

The great thing about Shotcut is the large range of tutorials available. Here are just a few of them together with links to their addresses.

	<p><b>How to use Shotcut Free Video Editor</b> 203,569 views • Mon, 02 Nov 2020</p> <p>In this step-by-step tutorial for beginners, learn how to use the Shotcut video editor. Shotcut is a free, open source, cross-platform video editor that works ...</p>
	<p><b>Shotcut Video Editor - Tutorial for Beginners in 10 MINUTES!...</b> 714,433 views • Sat, 25 Jan 2020</p> <p>Get into a new Way of Learning Shotcut Video Editor in 10 minutes, one of the best and free video-editing solution for everyone! Getting started, basics.</p>
	<p><b>Learn EVERYTHING about Shotcut I Full Master Class</b> 518,691 views • Mon, 07 Jan 2019</p> <p>Individual Lessons 0:27 Getting Started I Shotcut Master Class (Part 1) 6:00 Tools and Shortcuts I Shotcut Master Class (Part 2) 11:56 Video Effects and ...</p>


## Editorial



My life at the moment is what you might call “a bit hectic”. Apart from all my not inconsiderable normal duties, I am in the process of moving to a retirement village down at Camden Park. Sounds simple? Well it sort of is but there is the huge job of “Decluttering”.

In my case, this consists of removing nearly 200 pictures from the walls, moving a huge collection of books into storage, and, generally getting my current house into a condition ready to sell it.

At the same time, I am designing the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom furniture in my new villa unit. Thankfully I have been granted permission to store all my “stuff” in the garage at my new home. I am actually writing this at 0143 hours (that is a quarter to two in the morning).

I hope you find some of the articles in this month’s issue interesting. I am afraid I have not had the time to research into quite as broad a spectrum of articles as would have liked. I do highly commend the article by Lorraine Loader in relation to her very nearly being caught up in a scam. Do not snigger, you would not believe how professional these scammers are and also highly technical. 



**Jest a Minute**

### Politician’s Promises


A politician was visiting a remote little rural town in Australia and asked the local community what the Government could do for them.

*“We have two big needs,” the Mayor replied.*

*“First, we have a hospital but no doctor.”*

The politician whipped out his cellphone, spoke for a while and then said, *“I have sorted that out.*

*A doctor will arrive here tomorrow. What is your other need?”*

The mayor continued....., *“We have no mobile phone reception in our town.....!”* 

**~THIS MONTH's Topic ~**

**“BE CONNECTED”**

**Presenter: ANNE LEDDRA**

*— For Your Notes —*


### **Our April Members' Meeting**

The indefatigable James Brownpaddock will enlighten us all about how to apply a little tender loving care to our PCs and Laptops. How often we just assume that they will look after themselves. Unfortunately they don't.



### **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?

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Repairs

Virus removal

New software & Upgrades

Peripheral units:

Wireless Keyboard Mouse

Sound Boards & Systems

External & Internal Hard Drives



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