

Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.

Supporting inexperienced users with local expertise

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SDCUCI

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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 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



May 2020

South Australia is doing well amidst the Covid 19 “lockdown”. It has been a learning experience for us as a Club to come to grips with conducting meetings via Zoom and I am pleased to say

that, overall, it has been well received by members.

In the last month, we experienced a great example of good Customer Service. A cartridge in the Club printer needed to be replaced. An email order was placed to Sydney on Tuesday and it was received in 2 days. i.e. Thursday. Unfortunately, the unit was faulty. That same

day a phone call was placed to the company to notify of the fault. A replacement cartridge was received on the Friday afternoon! !!



“Howz zat” for good service in these difficult times.

The company is **Inkstation** in Sydney and they supply inkjet and laser printer supplies at a really good price. Google them to see their range!

Take care! Be Safe!

Jim Greenfield



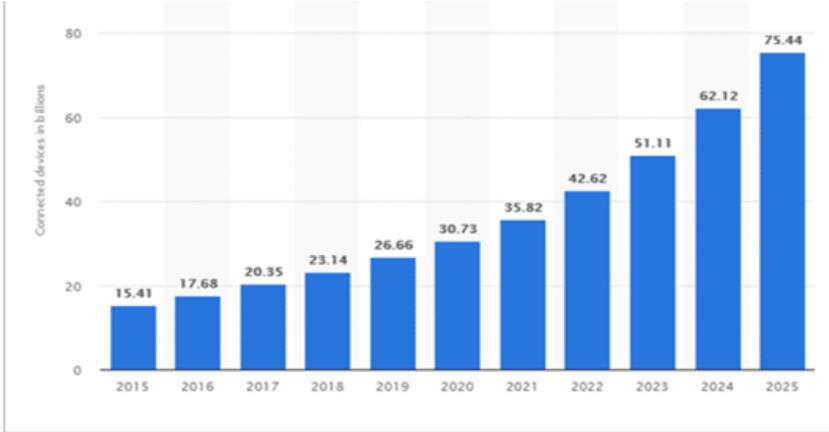
During the restrictions, meetings are being held via Zoom



IoT Devices — an Introduction

The Internet of Things, or IoT, refers to the billions of physical devices around the world that are connected to the internet, all collecting and sharing data.

Thanks to the arrival of super-cheap computer chips and the ubiquity of wireless networks, it is possible to turn something as small as a pill to something as large as an aeroplane, into a part of the IoT.



There are around 7.62 billion humans on our planet, but by the year 2021, it is estimated that there may be around 20 billion IoT smart devices with an increase in the availability of the 5g network.

IoT products include laptops, smartphones, smart gadgets, smart watches, smart and digitalized vehicles.

What makes device into an IoT depends on two things being present:

1. Having the ability to connect with the internet in any way; and
2. Being integrated with technology-like sensors, functional software, or some inbuilt technology that supports network connections and actuators.

When both factors are combined an IoT device is formed. Watches were used simply to tell the time and date. Now, smart IoT watches allow a user to monitor heartbeat rate, calorie count, steps walked etc. as well as tell the time.

IoT devices are rapidly becoming more popular due to the number of people who want them.



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Disable ‘Auto Backup Your Files to OneDrive’ in Win10

As applicable, every story — except this one — in each SDCUCI NEWS has been successfully tried on one of my computers I don't have OneDrive, so I hope this one works OK for you. Ed



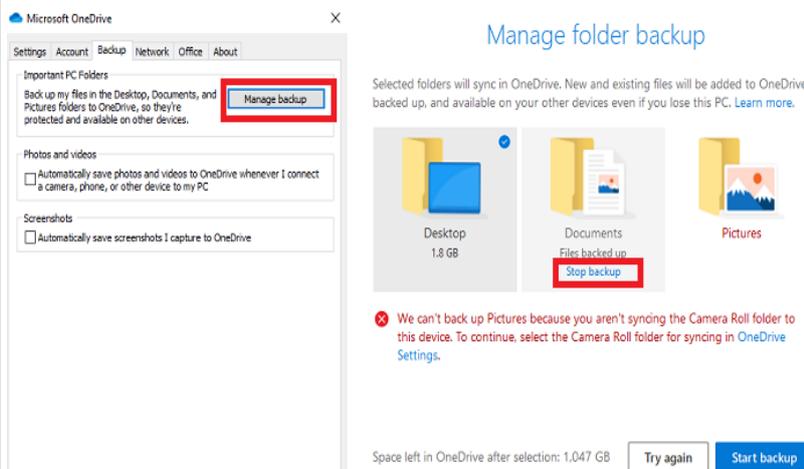
If you have trouble with One Drive offering its “Auto Backup files” feature that doesn’t go off, and if you keep skipping it, it will reappear every time you turn on the computer. Here is how you can

finally disable the Auto backup your files to OneDrive notification.

Disable ‘Auto backup your files to OneDrive’ notification

First, close all notifications to access OneDrive, then you need to interact with it to either **enable** or **disable** the backup. If you disable it, the warning will never reappear.

- Click on the Start button or right-click on OneDrive icon on the system tray, and select Settings
- Switch to Backup tab, and click on Manage backup button
- You will have three folder options for backup — Desktop, Documents, and Pictures
- Select the one you want to sync. If you do not wish to use this feature, choose the one with the smallest size. Let it sync.
- Later if you do not want to use this feature, go back to the Manage backup section, and this time choose to stop the backup.



If you selected only one or two folders, then you can find the Stop backup button on those folders only. Click on it, and then close the window.

Once you have made your choice, you will not be prompted about the auto backup feature again.

It is an excellent feature of OneDrive, which everyone should be using. You can back up your files and whatever you have on Desktop and then sync it across multiple computers. Since everything is saved on OneDrive, even if you format your computer, the files will not be deleted.



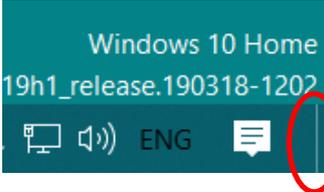
Getting to the Desktop on Windows XP to Win10 PC

I have always said that there is more than one way to do almost everything in Windows. The same thing applies to getting to the Desktop. Some of the following may not work in earlier versions

1) Use Keyboard Shortcut

Pressing the  (Win)+D keys together will take you to the desktop, no matter how many other screens you have open. The only problem with this is, to get back to any of those screens, you will have to open them one by one.

2) Use Mouse to Show Desktop

 Clicking the mouse cursor in the extreme right of the Taskbar (circled in red, left) on or past that thin vertical bar called “Show desktop”, minimizes all windows to get to the Desktop. Clicking it again, restores those windows.

That’s a completely new one to me. I never even knew it was there. (Ed).

3) Windows Desktop is Missing

If you cannot see the Desktop or even the Taskbar, restart File Explorer. Simply click on (Win)+E.

4) Windows Desktop Icon is Missing

If you can access your Desktop and see the wallpaper, but not the icons, then right-click on the Desktop and in the context menu, select *Show desktop icons*

This will only happen if you had one in the first place.

5) Add Show Desktop Icon

Windows XP had a show desktop icon that did the same as **Win+D** shortcut.

Right click on the desk top and select **New>Shortcut>** give it a name like “Show Desktop” then browse to `%windir%\explorer.exe shell:::{3080F90D-D7AD-11D9-BD98-0000947B0257}`. Name it *Show Desktop*, then change the icon of the shortcut using “Properties” of the shortcut. When done, drag it to the Taskbar, and pin it. When you next click it, it will show you the Desktop. Clicking it again, will open all the minimized windows. It works the same as the Taskbar method, but it is easy to use.

Getting to the Desktop in Tablet Mode

When using Tablet Mode, the Start menu expands and hides the Desktop in the rear. To access the Desktop, either create a Show Desktop icon in the Taskbar or open File Explorer, then access the Desktop folder. It’s not going to like the Desktop, but it’s going to be decent enough to access the files to open the

Desktop. 



Buying a Computer — Factors to Consider

Buying a computer is a confusing process. There are so many options out there, especially if you have a budget. I will try to make things simple by talking about a possible list of factors to consider when buying a laptop or desktop computer especially one powered by Windows 10.

Your budget is likely to increase by a margin of 10% to 20%, whenever you go to buy a computer. You can get a powerful machine at a lesser price if you choose a desktop over a laptop. However, it depends on the nature of your use for it. Here is a list of some of the main factors to consider:

1] Where are You Going to Use It?

The first question you need to ask yourself — Do you need to take it to the office every day? Do you need it for your kids? Are your family members going to use it along with you? How intensive is the nature of your work? Is it high, such as gaming or editing graphics files, or is it about casual browsing?

Those are probably the most crucial questions to consider. If it is about casual browsing, you can get a great PC with very good hardware at a lower price.

2] Desktop vs. Laptop

A rule of thumb is: “if it is for more than one or two users, get a desktop, otherwise a laptop should do”. Whilst Laptops offer **portability**, too many users can result in mishandling and possible damage to the computer. If you are going to use the computer for **extended periods**, then a desktop computer would be the best for ergonomic reasons. Two other things to add to the advantages of owning a Desktop are that you can easily **upgrade** a desktop set up and changing it every few years will be less expensive. On the other hand, if you choose an all-in-one computer and screen set up, any repair means the hassle of taking the whole unit to the service centre.

When it comes to Laptops, **battery**, and **weight** are crucial. Make a note of how long the battery lasts and how quickly it charges up. Anything with a USB Type C **charging port** will charge up quickly. The next consideration is weight. If you need to carry it a lot, buy a lightweight.

3] Storage: Space vs. Speed

There are two types of storage device Solid State Disks (SSD) and Hard Disk Drives (HDD). Hard drives win on price and capacity. SSDs work best if speed, ruggedness, form factor, noise, or fragmentation (technically, a subset of speed) are important factors to you. If it weren't for the price and capacity issues, SSDs would be the hands-down winner. Perhaps, go **Hybrid!** Get a 256 to 512 GB (Gigabyte) SSD drive on which you can install Windows and apps. Since an SSD offers better read-write speed, Windows can boot up in less than 10 seconds, shutdown even faster, and applications can launch and process more quickly compared to an HDD. Along with the SSD, invest in a high-storage HDD for your data, create backups, and more. It all depends on your budget and the use to which you will put your computer.

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4] RAM/Memory

Again, it depends on what kind of applications you are going to use, but make sure you get a minimum of **8 GB of Double-Data-Rate synchronous dynamic random-access memory** to give it its full name but generally referred to simply as **(DDR)4 of Random Access Memory (RAM)** at the minimum. They are fast and even a casual user would need this amount of RAM. If your motherboard allows, get it in multiples of 4GB RAM instead of multiples of 8GB, this makes it more flexible when adding more memory to your computer.

5] Dedicated GPU

Even if you do not have Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) intensive work, you should probably get a GPU card with 4GB of RAM. It will make sure that, if you install any utility that works better on a dedicated GPU, it will help.

6] Motherboard Features

Windows Operating System (OS), has evolved a lot, and it now supports Sandbox which needs support for virtualisation. Further, getting a Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) is a specification that defines a software interface between an operating system and platform (Windows or whatever) firmware. A UEFI supported Motherboard is better compared to Basic Input Output System (BIOS).

Apart from these, if you plan to upgrade your PC, make sure it has expansion slots (spaces on the back of the computer) to add dedicated GPU, and more.

7] CPU/Processor

Get the latest version; make sure it has more GHz and Central Processing Unit CPU cores. The higher they are, the more they will cost, so, depending on your budget and market review, get the best you can afford.

8] Keyboard/Mouse/Touchpad

When you choose to buy a laptop, you need to live with whatever it comes with. If you plan to use it for a longer time, keep that in mind for factor and touchpad experience. A backlit keyboard makes sense!

With Desktops, you have a plethora of choices. You can get a decent mechanical keyboard, a mouse that offers a lot of gestures, may be a gaming mouse and a keyboard with LED.

Make sure to take peer reviews, ask people on social media, and if someone has the first-hand experience, there is nothing better.



Why not register for

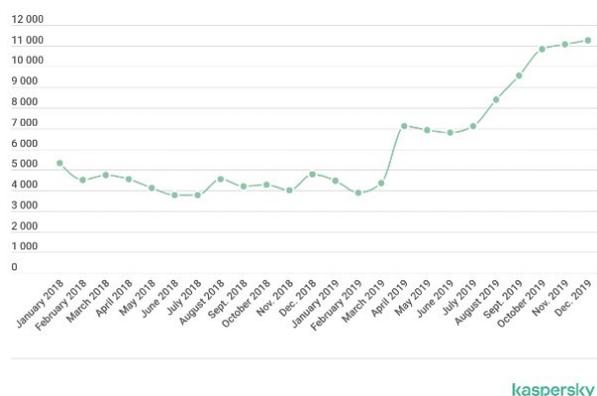
Be Connected

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

Stalkerware Tracking Apps to Become Mobile Nightmare

Attackers are more interested in your personal data than anything else.

Researchers discovered that the number of attacks on users' personal data had increased exponentially. There's no sign of relief as attacks become more advanced, with new techniques to invade your online privacy and sensitive



data. Kaspersky has released a new report titled **Mobile Malware Evolution**. It sheds light on various factors that have contributed to the rising number of attacks on users' personal data in 2019. One of the main highlights of the report is the rising frequency of attacks on users' personal data, courtesy of the growing number of stalkerware-related mobile apps.

In 2019, the number of users affected by attacks on their personal data reached 67,500. Meanwhile, the number of users affected by such attacks in 2018 was 40,386. In what could be even more surprising, these attacks were not carried out by traditional techniques like Spyware or Trojans but stalkerware!

Researchers have further explained that Stalkerware primarily belongs to two major categories of smartphone apps — Trackers and Apps that enable full-fledged tracking.

While the primary focus of tracker apps is to track victims' coordinates and intercept text messages, full fledged-tracking apps behave more like commercial solutions that enable extensive spying. Thankfully, no such extensive spying apps seem to be readily available to download for general users. However, one should always be careful when it comes to installing less trustworthy or suspicious mobile apps.

Kaspersky malware expert Victor Chebyshev warns the stalkerware issue could become more serious in 2020:

“Also in 2019, attacks involving the use of mobile stalkerware became more frequent, the purpose being to monitor and collect information about the victim. In terms of sophistication, stalkerware is keeping pace with its malware cousins. It is quite likely that 2020 will see an increase in the number of such threats, with a corresponding rise in the number of attacked users.”

Google constantly keeps a check on suspicious app activities on Play Store and actively cracks down on potentially troublesome apps. Towards the end of 2018, Google brought in some serious policy reforms to Play Store. In the end, this led to the removal of many stalkerware apps.



Pirated & Counterfeit Software — Consequences & Risks



How many of us have been tempted to buy a pirated program? Yes, they may be cheaper, but there is a cost. Consumers buying such software are at risk of privacy intrusion, loss of sensitive data, substantial financial losses and costs and a big waste of time trying to fix system problems.

No amount of savings can protect you from the potential issues facing using illegal software. Avoiding paying for software may cost you more than what you refused to pay.

1] It's just not right

You could pay a considerable fine if you are caught with pirated software in your possession. Nowadays, many software developers are adding tools to determine if persons have paid for the privilege.

2] No support

Perhaps not a huge problem as it is fairly easy to find freely available help on the web for popular tools. There are some situations which only the developer can fix, and if you do not have a license key, then you are out of luck!

3] No new updates

One of the biggest issues with pirated software is that there is often no update process. A valid license key is usually required for the software to go online and automatically download updates.

4] Virus and Malware

Pirated software is usually infected with some form of virus or malware. Over time, many Windows users have had their computers made useless due to these activities. Whilst Windows Defender in Win10 is more secure than ever, anti-virus and anti-malware tools are not perfect. Eventually, something will slip through the cracks, and let's hope it's not ransomware.

5] You are not supporting the developers

Let's be blunt, you are stealing their work. Software creators put lots of effort into their work. If you want to take advantage of what they have created, then pay for it. If you are not sure if the tool is worth using, then, if available, use the trial version. When there is no trial version, read multiple reviews on the web to help you decide.

6] Possibility of legal action

If you are caught using illegal or stolen software, you could be facing legal action.

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Some years ago, Microsoft did a wee experiment, it bought a total of twelve counterfeit software disks from different sellers (six **Office** and six **Windows**). These pirated disks were then put to the test. The results were worrying.

Five out of the six **Microsoft Office** disks were infected with malware while six out of the twelve disks were duds (could not be installed and run). Of the six disks that could be run and tested successfully, the following was observed:

- Two were infected with malware;
- All the six copies had Windows Update disabled;

All six copies had the Windows Firewall rules changed.

Of the total of the twelve counterfeit software copies that could be installed successfully and tested, the following was affirmed:

- Seven copies (58%) were infected with malware.

A total of 20 instances of six different types of malware code was found.

This means serious trouble for users who unsuspectingly work on such counterfeit Microsoft software, especially while dealing with confidential information like financial statements, sensitive passwords, and personal media items et al.

These findings were backed up by an International Data Collection (IDC) study then done on *The Dangers of Counterfeit Software*, commissioned by Microsoft, which found that:

- One in three consumer's PCs with counterfeit software will be infected with malware;
- Consumers globally will waste US\$22 billion and 1.5 billion hours dealing with the issues, such as recovering data, and dealing with identity theft as a result;
- 26% of consumers who installed counterfeit software had their PC infected with a virus;
- 78% of counterfeit software programs downloaded from pirate internet sites or P2P networks installed tracking cookies or spyware.

Whilst counterfeit or pirated software might be cheaper, or even free, but it is not worth the risk of using it. As has been demonstrated in the foregoing, it could end up landing the user in a heap of serious trouble!

Go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/howtotell/default.aspx> to learn if any of your Microsoft software is genuine and to report counterfeit. Scroll down to the "Key" symbol. 



This month's edition of the SDCUCI NEWS is a wee bit full of doom and gloom (perhaps in sympathy with the Coronavirus that has infected rather a large part of our planet).

Actually, it has nothing to do with that damned virus. It has more to

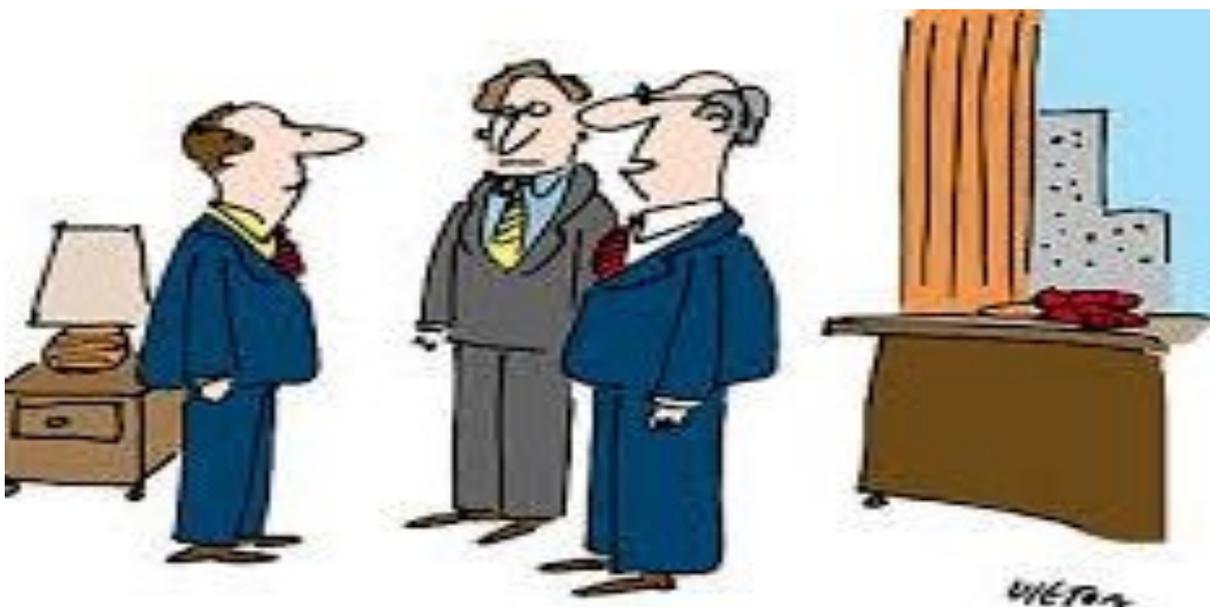
do with what actions we should all be taking in defence of the security of our own computers.

One of the first disappointments relates to CCleaner getting infected with malware. If it can not avoid getting infected, how on earth can we mere mortals hope to avoid doing so?. Each of us users (yes, I use CCleaner — it actually means CrapCleaner) has to make a choice — whether to stick with CCleaner or use an alternative. There are a great many out there on the web, possibly hundreds. I am not going to make a recommendation or tell you what I propose to do. If you use CCleaner, you must make your own mind up.

Finally, I hope you find these newsletters of interest. If you don't tell me , I will never know whether I am being helpful or just wasting my own and your time! Let me know what you would like to see or not see included. Ed.



Jest a Minute



"Just among us we goofed. But officially it will go down as computer error."

~ May's Topic ~
“SETTING UP WINDOWS”
Presenter: JIM GREENFIELD

— For Your Notes —

Our June Members' Meeting

I expect nearly everyone of us has, at some time, purchased something over the Internet for which we are required to make a “donation” to the sender to cover costs. The subject of our June meeting we will be all about the wonders of PayPal and EBay, two of the several ways of making payment. 

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. 

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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