





Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.



Vol 40 No 7

20 July 2025

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Meeting Timetable

Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	John Tacey
11pm	On the day	Keith
	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
1:00pm	Linux workshop	Fred / Keith All

If you have a question that may need a bit of a look up, let me know before the meeting



Significant Bits

Journal of Brisbug PC User Group Inc.

SIGNIFICANT BITS

the Journal of
BRISBUG PC USER GROUP INC.
*A Computer Club for users of
PC-type computers*
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Proof-reader
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CLUB NOTICES

Notice is given for the
Club's AGM to be held on the
21st of September

All positions are open for
nomination
Nomination forms will be in
the August edition of the
magazine or from the
Secretary.

CLUB INFORMATION LINES

Info Line (07) 3353 3121

The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

20 July 2025
17 August 2025
21 September 2025
19 October 2025
16 November 2025
21 December 2025
19 January 2026

Submission Deadline

Friday 8 August 2025

Please use e-mail if possible

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Hi All,

Had a look at "you Storage is Full" message which comes from online storage. It was during the auto "backup" set by the creators. Had a run through on how to turn off the auto back up and to stop saving auto from office apps to OneDrive. Final fix was if you are not using it then you could uninstall OneDrive.

Fres Stratford has us on track to be able to switch to Linux as Win 10 come to the end of the line. He run through the structure, and how Linux stores data. An important need to know if you want to become proficient.

Hands on in the workshop will reinforce the information this month

June was the end of our Financial year and we will have our AGM in 21 September Meeting. As usual, all positions are declared vacant and members can nominate for the Committee positions. We require three positions, President, Secretary and Treasurer to form the Committee.

See you at the meting

Keith

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Inc**

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Account · No: · 185711

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and · membership · number · in · the ·
comment · field**

Reports

Presentation and Education

Presentation:

Morning 11am. More on Linux.

After Afternoon 1pm: Linux Work Shop

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 12 members at the June meeting.

Treasurer's Report

June 2025

Opening Balance at 1/6/25	2065.80
---------------------------	---------

Income	00.00
--------	-------

Total Income	00.00
	00.00

Expenses

Renewal of Domain name	17.95
------------------------	-------

Total Expenses	17.95
----------------	-------

Month's Loss	17.95
--------------	-------

Balance at 30/6/25	2047.86
--------------------	---------

Ross Skyring



Q&A - June meeting

I forgot my Ubuntu user password

<https://askubuntu.com/questions/753599/i-forgot-my-ubuntu-user-password#753610>

Linux Ubuntu Lost User Password

Search with the string " Linux Ubuntu Lost User Password ".

<https://duckduckgo.com/?t=lm&q=Linux+Ubuntu+Lost+User+Password&ia=web>

Remember that Linux has two passwords:-

1. Administrator
2. User

Home Page / Portal Links Do Not Work

Everything worked fine last Month or Week and now it is No Can Do.

The IT geniuses have been fiddling. The problem is most likely that your browser is no longer capable of working with the page.

Using a Different Browser might Help

Some websites are outdated and are not optimized with the new Chrome browser updates, which is why Chrome fails to open these sites. So, if the URL is not working after certain attempts, you should check it out in a different browser.

Some websites don't get along with certain browsers. This is often the case if you use a browser with a smaller market share, like Safari or Edge. It's always a good idea to install several browsers. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are good choices because they both have a large market share.

If you try to load a website and you see a blank screen, your browser might be the issue. Try to switch browsers the next time you encounter unexpected behavior in web apps, inconsistent scrolling, or elements that don't display correctly.

If the website you want to access is particularly old, you might want to see if it opens in Internet Explorer.

Add DuckDuckGo to Chrome Browser

<https://duckduckgo.com/duckduckgo-help-pages/desktop/chrome>

How to Make DuckDuckGo the Default Search Engine in Chrome

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-DuckDuckGo-the-Default-Search-Engine-in-Chrome>

MAJOR Known Issues with Ubuntu 25.04 Installs and Upgrades

Issue <https://meta.askubuntu.com/questions/20681/maj>

or-known-issues-with-25-04-installs-and-upgrades-known-active-issue?cb=1

When searching the Web it may be necessary to vary the Search String if you are having difficulty in finding what you want or use a different Search Engine.

Note: This record of the Q&A session topics relies on my biological volatile memory (a.k.a. the 'forgettory').

Gleanings from e-newsletters and other sources.

Reviews

Nvidia GeForce RTX 5060 Ti vs. AMD Radeon RX 9070:

Which Midrange Graphics Card Is a Better Buy?

By Michael Justin Allen Sexton Apr 19, 2025

Ready for a new GPU for 1440p play? Let's stack up Nvidia's new GeForce RTX 5060 Ti 16GB against the AMD Radeon RX 9070 to see how they run.

<https://au.pcmag.com/graphics-cards/110641/nvidia-geforce-rtx-5060-ti-vs-amd-radeon-rx-9070-which-midrange-graphics-card-is-a-better-buy>

The Best PC Cases of Computex: 15 Unmissable New Chassis for Your Next Build

By John Burek May 25, 2025

There was plenty of outrageous tech to behold in Taipei this year, but these 15 PC cases are the ones that really cranked the creativity dial to 11.

<https://au.pcmag.com/pc-cases/111228/the-best-pc-cases-of-computex-2025-15-unmissable-new-chassis-for-your-next-build>

High-End Headphone Throwdown! Sony WH-1000XM6 vs. Bose QuietComfort Ultra vs. Apple AirPods Max

By Christian De Looper May 16, 2025

We've lab tested the three best pairs of noise-cancelling headphones you can get and are here to tell you how they stack up on ANC, audio quality, comfort, connectivity, and more.

<https://au.pcmag.com/headphones/111034/high-end-headphone-throwdown-sony-wh-1000xm6-vs-bose-quietcomfort-ultra-vs-apple-airpods-max>

The Best Malware Removal and Protection Software for 2025

By Neil J. Rubenking Apr 17, 2025

We've tested more than 100 anti-malware apps to help you find the best malware protection and removal software for all your devices.

<https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/48370/the-best-malware-removal-and-protection-software>

New Releases

Adobe Air

License: Freeware

File name: 51.2.1.3

File Size: 6.00 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: HARMAN

URL: [http://www.](http://www.essentialpim.com/)

Essential PIM 12.2.2

License: Free

File name: Essential PIM.exe

File Size: 71.18 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: URL: <https://www.essentialpim.com/pc-version>

Glary Utilities 6

License: Freeware

File Name: Glary_Uilities_v 6.25.0.30.exe

File Size: 27.00 MB

Platform: Windows 8, 7, 2000, XP, Vista. 32/64bit version.

Publisher: Glarysoft Ltd

Languages: 44 Languages [Help Translate]

URL: <http://www.glaryutilities.com/>

Release Notes:

Optimized Disk Cleaner: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Tracks Eraser: added support for 'Corel VideoStudio Pro x9' and 'SketchUp Make 2014'

Optimized Software Update: optimized the version comparison algorithm, and increase the comparison speed by 30%

Optimized Empty Folders Finder: add folder delete validation to prevent accidentally deletion of non-empty folder

Minor GUI improvements

Minor bug fixes

Glary Utilities is a freeware with registry and disk cleaning, privacy protection, performance accelerator and amazing multifunctional tools. It can fix dogged registry errors, wipe off clutters, optimise Internet speed, safeguard confidential files and maintain maximum performance.

It is designed for both novice and professionals. User-friendly interface shows clear & detailed directions. For novice, all work can be done with just 1 or 2 clicks, while for professionals, abundant options are available.

Key features:

Optimise, clean and boost the speed of your Windows.

Protect your privacy and security.

Block spyware, trojans, adware, etc.

Fix certain application errors.

Simple, fast and user friendly interface.

For private use only.

URL: <http://www.glaryutilities.com/>

Google Chrome (32bit) 137.0.7151.56

License: Free

File name: ChromeSetup.exe

File Size: 115.43 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Google

URL: <https://www.google.com/chrome/>

LibreOffice

License: Freeware

File name: LibreOffice_25.2.3_Win_x86.msi

File Size: 331 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: The Document Foundation

Comments: Contains the functions:-

Writer

PDF

Presentation

Spreadsheet

URL:

https://mirror.freedif.org/TDF/libreoffice/stable/6.2.0/win/x86/LibreOffice_24.84.4_Win_x86.msi

Mozilla Firefox 139.0 65.32 MB

License: Freeware

File name: Mozilla_Firefox_(32bit)_v139.0.exe

Update

File Size: 65.32 MB

O/S: Windows 7 to 11 Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

Comments:-

To force a manual update:-

Menu Button > ? Button > 'About Firefox'

URL: <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>

Mozilla Thunderbird

License: Freeware

File name: Thunderbird Setup 139.(GB).exe

File Size: 66.75 MB O/S: Windows XP SP2 to 10

Publisher: Mozilla Corporation

URL: <http://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/thunderbird/>

NotePad++ (32bit)

License: Freeware

File name: NotePad_v8.8.1.exe

File Size: 6.35 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Notepad++

URL: <https://notepad-plus-plus.org/>

The Sage VII English Dictionary and Thesaurus

Category: English Dictionary and Thesaurus

License: Non-commercial users can use the evaluation license indefinitely.

Release Date: May 2024

File name: TheSage_Setup_7.66.2820.exe

File Size: 81.2 MB O/S: Windows

Publisher: Sequence Publishing

Note: Also available as portable version

URL:

<https://www.sequencepublishing.com/1/thesage/thesage.html>

WordWeb

WordWeb Version: 10.5

Category: Dictionary - Thesaurus

Languages: English, Spanish, German, Indonesian, Italian, Portuguese, More.

License: All users may use WordWeb for 30 days for evaluation purposes.

After 30 days you may use it only if you take fewer than three flights in any 12-month period (i.e. at most one return flight per year).

If you fly more than this you must purchase WordWeb Pro to continue using the software after 30 days.

See licensing for details. See wordweb.info

File name: wordweb10.exe File Size: 26.9 MB

O/S: Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows 10

Publisher: WordWeb Software

URL: <https://wordweb.en.downloadastro.com/>

Want more? See the New Releases list:

<http://ct.com.com/>

Tips etc.

6 Simple Tricks I've Learned That Make My Windows PC Boot Faster

By Whitson Gordon May 21, 2025

Does Windows take a long time to start up? Don't wait forever! I've learned six tips that will speed up your computer's boot process.

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/86691/how-to-make-your-windows-pc-boot-faster>

Signal Slams Microsoft's Recall, Disables Screenshots on Windows 11

By Jibin Joseph May 22, 2025

Signal says it was forced to devise its own method to block Recall screenshots.

<https://au.pcmag.com/team-messaging/111166/signal-slams-microsofts-recall-disables-screenshots-on-windows-11>

Microsoft Adds Gen AI Features to Paint, Snipping Tool, and Notepad

By Will Mccurdy May 25, 2025

Windows Insiders can generate AI stickers in Paint and text in Notepad by entering prompts.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/111233/microsoft-adds-gen-ai-features-to-paint-snipping-tool-and-notepad>

Microsoft Finds Password-Stealing Lumma Malware on 394,000 Windows PCs.

By Jibin Joseph May 24, 2025

The malware often hides behind fake CAPTCHAs and has been used to commit financial fraud. Microsoft took down 2,300 domains that ran it and updated Defender to identify it.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/111196/microsoft-finds-password-stealing-lumma-malware-on-394000-windows-pcs>

Lose the Trackers: The Best Private Browsers for 2025

By Michael Muchmore May 25, 2025

When you access the internet with a standard web browser, marketers can mine your data and target you for sales. The best private browsers help you foil their efforts with tracking protection and more.

<https://au.pcmag.com/browsers/88452/stop-trackers-dead-the-best-private-browsers-for-2021>

Huge Breach Exposes 184M Logins for Apple, Google, and Many Others. Here's What You Need to Do.

By Emily Forlini May 24, 2025

Security researcher Jeremiah Fowler tells us the dataset is 'one of the most dangerous discoveries I have found in a very long time.' He shares his advice for how to keep your info off similar lists.

<https://au.pcmag.com/security/111175/security-nightmare-researcher-finds-trove-of-184m-exposed-logins-for-google-apple-more>

What Is a Computer Virus, Really?

By Neil J. Rubenking May 23, 2025

You've heard the term, but what does it actually mean? Learn from our expert how these self-replicating programs sneak in, spread, and slow your system down, plus what you need to know to stay ahead.

<https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/111173/what-is-a-computer-virus-really>

How to Stop Your Smart TV From Spying on You

By Lance Whitney May 27, 2025

Your internet-connected TV has Automatic Content Recognition (ACR) features that track what you watch. Here's how to disable it, along with smart privacy advice from the FBI and three security experts.

<https://au.pcmag.com/dvd/66546/how-to-stop-smart-tvs-from-snooping-on-you>

Want a Better PC Experience? 14 Quick Ways to Tweak Your Windows Taskbar

By Lance Whitney May 27, 2025

The Windows Taskbar provides quick and easy access to your favorite apps, but it also offers several settings you can customize to change how it works.

<https://au.pcmag.com/migrated-15175-windows-10/111257/want-a-better-pc-experience-14-quick-ways-to-tweak-your-windows-taskbar>

Microsoft's AI Weather Model Is More Accurate, Less Expensive Than Traditional Forecasting

By Adrianna Nine May 23, 2025

That's according to a research paper written largely by Microsoft employees, at least.

https://www.extremetech.com/computing/microsofts-ai-weather-model-is-more-accurate-cheaper-than-traditional-forecasting?utm_source=email&utm_campaign=whatsnewnow&zdee=gAAAAABjNL8ST42l80nl07cPB3qfRUi6ntgUgOTESELeSDIZFhs8z4qnm0Ls_AknqwLVhZpQWW_IdjicVkNAoSbZ5eIt2gM0-Tu64aKwciwXzXGx5QU6ZfE%3D&lctg=24359534815

Want More Privacy Online? Change These Browser Settings

By Kim Key Apr 02, 2025

A few simple tweaks to your browser can reduce the amount of personal information you give up to advertisers and other tech companies. Here's what to change in Chrome, Edge, Firefox, and Safari.

Kim Key

<https://au.pcmag.com/browsers/110368/want-more-privacy-online-change-these-browser-settings>

What to Do When You Get Hacked: Follow These Steps Now

By Neil J. Rubenking Apr 02, 2025

It can be a nightmare when someone hacks your credit card, email, or identity. Knowing what to expect can help; knowing how to head off the hackers is even better. We're here to guide you through both.

<https://au.pcmag.com/antivirus/49662/what-to-do-when-youve-been-hacked>

Google's Futuristic Beam Tech Almost Made Me Forget I Was on a Video Call

By Rob Pegoraro May 23, 2025

A Google I/O demo of the system HP is about to bring to market shows an uncanny fidelity, with some amusing glitches, bringing us all a lot closer to the Holodeck.

<https://au.pcmag.com/video-conferencing-software/111187/googles-futuristic-beam-tech-almost-made-me-forget-i-was-on-a-video-call>

I Gave Gemini Access to My Gmail, and It Weirds Me Out

By Ruben Circelli May 23, 2025

When I signed up, Gemini didn't ask for permission to embed itself in my email. Now, Google's chatbot knows way more about me than I want it to. Here's how to opt out.

<https://au.pcmag.com/ai/111169/i-gave-gemini-access-to-my-gmail-and-it-weirds-me-out>

Find My Car: How to Locate Your Vehicle With a Smartphone

By Lance Whitney May 28, 2025

Can you never remember where you parked your car? These apps let you mark its location and provide directions back.

<https://au.pcmag.com/news/47463/how-to-use-a-smartphone-app-to-find-your-car>

This Is the Only Way I Share Passwords, and Why You Should Too

By Jill Duffy, Kim Key May 29, 2025

Still writing down your passwords or sending them via email or text? That's a bad idea. It's safe and simple to share your login details, as long as you use the right tool for the job.

<https://au.pcmag.com/password-managers/93805/how-to-share-passwords-safely>

Here Endeth John's Jots

APCUG ARTICLES

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Firefox Browser

What is new and improved

By Jasmine Blue D'Katz

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

<http://www.lcace.org/>

During a Zoom meeting with one of my Milwaukee computer clubs and Senior Planet "Lunch and Learn," there was a discussion about the Firefox web browser. I do not personally use Firefox as my primary browser, but I decided to give it a quick look to see what is new.

Firefox constantly receives updates with new features and improvements, so some new features might depend on which version you are using. Here are some noteworthy features recently added to Firefox:

ENHANCED PRIVACY

- **Copy Link Without Site Tracking:** This feature ensures that copied links no longer contain tracking information attached by websites. This is a handy tool for preventing your browsing activity from being monitored across different platforms.
- **Global Privacy Control:** This opt-in feature allows you to inform websites that you do not want your data shared or sold. It is enabled by default in private browsing mode and helps you take control of your online privacy.
- **Enhanced Canvas Fingerprinting Protection:** Firefox's private windows and ETP-Strict privacy configuration now includes improved protection against canvas fingerprinting, a technique used to track users based on their unique browser configurations.
- **Cookie Banner Blocker:** This feature automatically blocks cookie banners and refuses cookies for supported websites in private browsing mode. It is currently being rolled out for users

in Germany and might become available in other regions soon.

- **URL Tracking Protection:** This feature removes unnecessary tracking parameters from URLs, making it harder for websites to track your browsing activity across different platforms. It is enabled by default in private windows for all users in Germany and might be expanded to other regions later.

IMPROVED PERFORMANCE AND FUNCTIONALITY

- **Hardware decoding support for AV1 video codec:** This feature enables smoother playback of AV1 videos by utilizing your computer's graphics hardware. It requires the Microsoft AV1 Video Extension on Windows systems.
- **Voice Control commands on macOS:** Mac users can now control Firefox using voice commands, making browsing more convenient and hands-free.
- **Wayland compositor on Linux:** Firefox on Linux now defaults to the Wayland compositor when available, leading to improved touchpad and touchscreen gestures, swipe-to-navigate functionality, better graphics performance, and more.
- **Larger and clearer focus indicator:** The focus indicator highlighting the currently active element in Firefox has been improved with increased size, contrast, and a white box shadow for better visibility.

These are just some of the recent new features in Firefox. The browser is constantly evolving, so be sure to keep an eye out for future updates that might bring even more exciting improvements and privacy protections.

I hope this gives you a good overview of some of the cool new things you can find in Firefox! Let me know if you have any questions.

Using the Windows Start Button

By Jim Cerny, 1st Vice President

Sarasota Technology Users Group

<https://thestug.org/>

All editions of Windows have a Windows icon in the lower-left corner of your desktop screen, sometimes known as the Start button. The “start” button on Windows is a very useful way to access any app or controls on your computer! (This article is for Windows 10, but the information is relevant to all Windows versions.) Left-clicking your mouse on the Start button brings up, among other things, a list of all your apps in the left column that are installed on your computer. Windows has many free apps, and you may have installed others. They ALL will be on this list.

One difficulty with scrolling down this list is that the scrollbar is almost invisible on the right side of this column. Gently move your mouse icon to the right side or edge of the column, and at just the right place, the vertical scrollbar will appear in normal size so you can use it. Note that many apps are stored in “folders” containing several apps since there are so many apps. All folders will have a yellow icon and a small arrow “>” on the right. Clicking your mouse on this arrow will open the folder and display the apps contained in it.

Practice scrolling down this list and finding the apps you have been using. You will also see many apps you have no idea were on your computer! There are lots to explore here when you have time, or “Ask Google” about any of them.

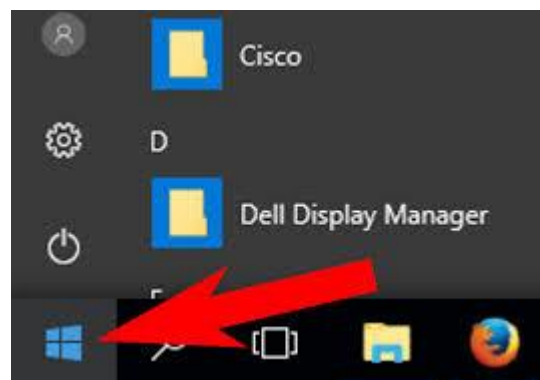
You can also find any app by typing the app name into the search bar just to the right of the Windows icon. When you use this search bar, it will search not only your computer but also the internet and your files and folders, so you will see many things related to whatever you searched for.

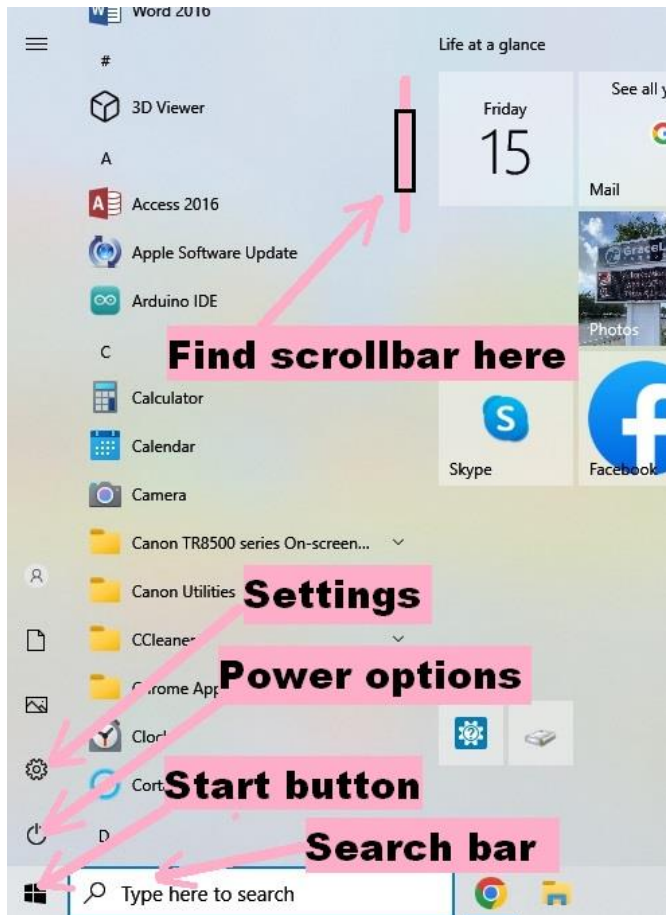
Back to the app list; what can you do after you find an app on the list? Well, you can right-click your mouse on the app to get a short list of what you can do. You can UN-install it -- that is, remove the app from your computer. You can also “pin” the app to the Taskbar at the bottom of your screen or the start menu. When you “pin” something like this, it will remain in that location

until you delete or move it somewhere else. You can choose “pin to taskbar,” then move or “drag” the app icon from the Taskbar to your desktop.

You can also “drag” any app directly from this list to your desktop. To do this, place your mouse arrow on the app, HOLD down the left mouse button, and move your mouse to any blank area on your desktop. Let up the mouse button, and the app is on your desktop! An app icon on your desktop is a “link” that lets you open and use the app just by double-clicking your left mouse button. If the app icon is on your Taskbar, you only left-click it once.

In addition to displaying a list of all your apps when you click on the start button, you also get a short list of icons on the very left of this window. One is “settings” (which looks like a gear wheel), which gives you all the set-up options and controls for your computer. Another option you always use is the “power” option to turn off your computer or put it into “sleep” mode. You can look up or “Ask Google” what each menu item can do for you or information about any app. The Start button and the Search bar are always handy and helpful in finding apps and files on your computer, so don’t be shy about using them.





Two-Factor Authorization Fiasco

Greg Skalka, President

[Under the Computer Hood Users Group Home \(uchug.org\)](http://uchug.org)

If you are accessing a personal account or app on the web, you should be concerned about that account's security. Bad actors (and I don't mean those who can't get a job in Hollywood) constantly search for our login credentials, hoping to access our accounts and steal money or personal information. The best ways to protect online accounts include using strong passwords and protecting them, resisting attempts by others to gain access to those accounts through scams and phishing communications, and using two-factor authentication on those accounts.

Two-factor authentication, or 2FA, requires at least two identification items of different types to log into an account. It is a subset of multi-factor authentication (MFA). This can be enabled for most online accounts; some account providers now require it. It typically requires providing two

or more identifying items from three categories for account access. These categories are something you know (like a password, birthdate, or the answer to a security question), something you have (could be a specific phone, computer, or email account, or a security key, fob, or dongle), and something you are (a biometric like a fingerprint).

To get money from an ATM (assuming you are not trying the big truck with a chain approach), you must provide something you have (an ATM card) and something you know (a PIN). With a 2FA-enabled online account, to gain access, you would typically need something you know (a password) and something you have (either a smartphone or computer that can receive a security code through text message or email). Entering the correct code sent to the device that presumably only you have validates your identity in a second way (in addition to the password).

Your account provider may be using 2FA, and you don't even realize it. Even if you only enter a password for access, the provider may look at the IP address or other identifying information from your device's connection to validate that it is really you (something you have). If you usually log in from one device and then suddenly use another, the account provider may ask for additional verifying information, like the answer to a security question.

It should be evident that trying to make it more difficult for others to access your accounts could also make it more difficult for you. Going through additional steps, like entering a six-digit code you were sent through a text message, takes time and opens up the possibility of being denied access. If you lose your phone, have phone communication problems, have a malfunction in your fingerprint scanner, or lose control of your email account, you may not be able to get timely access to your accounts.

I was a little apprehensive about 2FA at first due to concerns about my being denied access due to some problem outside of my control. I don't remember if I started using 2FA because I enabled it or if some account I already had started requiring it. I have used 2FA for several years on

most of my critical accounts. Whenever I am asked to enable it, I look to enable it on some accounts (I have found some that did not support it then; I'm starting to think less of those companies). I typically use my phone as the second form (something I have); I need to ensure I have my phone handy when I want account access on my computer. Receiving a code as a text on a phone is supposed to be more secure than receiving it in an email. It may be a little more work, but I have had a few problems with it denying me access when I needed it.

Recently, however, I have had a few instances of being denied access to accounts through 2FA. My first instance was about a week ago when I was trying to access my Scripps online medical account on my computer to perform an electronic check-in for a medical appointment. Of course, I was in a hurry, trying to do this late at night, just before bed for an appointment the next day, and I would not have time to do it later.

After successfully entering my username and password on the MyScripps web login page, a page was provided to select the method for sending a code: email or text. I have found that my phone usually receives the text in just a few seconds. This time, however, the text did not come right away as expected. I waited maybe 60 seconds (remember, I wanted to finish this and go to bed) and then clicked "Send code again." Again, I waited, this time a little longer. I checked my phone to see that it was on and not in airplane mode or something else that would turn off reception.

After waiting longer than I wanted, I finally selected email to deliver the code. Then, I had to start Thunderbird (my email program) to access my Juno email on my computer. Fortunately, the email with the code was there, and I successfully logged into Scripps and completed my task. At the time, I thought it was strange, but I didn't consider the problems I had any further. The following day, I found that the texts had come in at night.

A few days later, I tried to log into my US Bank online banking account from my computer; I again needed to check my account balance with some urgency. The US Bank 2FA code enter

screen comes up right after entering a valid username and password; I may enable only texts to my phone for this. Again, I was used to having the text with the code pop up on my phone immediately, but I waited several minutes without receiving the text message. I now remembered my Scripps incident. There was no email delivery selection on the 2FA code entry screen on the US Bank website, but there was a link to "verify another way." I had hoped it would lead to verification through an email, but instead, it asked me to enter my debit card PIN.

I don't use a debit card for any of my accounts; I may have been sent one by the bank years ago, but I never activated it and had no way to get its PIN. This lack of access to my account was beginning to make me angry.

I cancelled out of that screen (the only option) and tried going into the login page to get another code sent, but no code text message came to my phone. Finally, the bank locked me out of online access for too many unsuccessful attempts. I would need to change my password to get access again, and the first step for that was to send me a code that I'd need to enter. Good grief! I searched their website and finally found a number to call for online access support (they don't make things like this very obvious on their site).

While still on their site, I called the number and started my way down their automated phone menu system. Suddenly, while listening to the next set of options, I heard the sound of text messages being received on my phone. I found a bunch of texts from US Bank with 2FA codes that had just come through on my phone. I hung up the call and returned to the web page, but after entering the code from the last text, it said the code had expired, and a new one would be sent. Again, no code text was received. I called the US Bank support number again and found that action again appeared to trigger the receiving of text messages on my phone. Again, I was too late to enter these codes, but I now saw a pattern.

I returned to the bank website and asked for a code to change my password. I then immediately called the US Bank support number, and after a few entries in their audio menu, a text arrived on

my phone. I could enter this code in time, change my password, and regain access to my online accounts.

I finally got the information I needed off the website, but I was concerned about what I had to go through to get it. Why were my texts not coming through right away? It seemed like making the phone call (or pressing phone keys) triggered the reception of texts that appeared stuck somewhere.

This seemed like a problem, so I cycled power on my phone and then tried logging into my US Bank online account. This time, the text message with the 2FA code was received right after my password was accepted, just as it had been.

Something in my phone went awry, and cycling the power fixed it. I try to remember to do that periodically; I need to be better at making that a part of my tech management routine.

I still understand that online security is essential, but I also know how it feels to be locked out due to some malfunction in the system. The lesson in resiliency to take away is not to decrease security to prevent being affected by such a failure. Still, instead, I plan so I'm not doing things at the last minute and making myself vulnerable to problems when something inevitably breaks down.

Do you need to fill a small area in your newsletter? Perhaps one of these three mini-articles will work. Don't forget about attribution.

Three little articles

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

<https://newsite.ckcs.org/>

Unplug Your Laptop. The Battery Will Thank You.

Unplug your laptop. Stop plugging it into the wall. You are killing your battery. That's the Cliff Notes version of an article published by Gizmodo. This also applies to iPads and smartphones. These devices were made to run on batteries.

Here's how Gizmodo explains it. "Do you want to be chained to an outlet for the rest of your life? Of course not. That's why you got a laptop in the first place. Somewhere down the line, many of us got the idea that

our laptops should always be plugged in to improve their performance. This is a myth that's slowly killing your laptop. Once your laptop is charged, you need to unplug it, or you might be tethered to the wall forever."

If your tech devices are constantly plugged into the wall, the batteries will die much faster than if you unplug and use battery power. Gizmodo spoke to Kent Griffith, an assistant professor at the University of San Diego in California. Here's his warning: "When your laptop battery is sitting in this worst condition – 100% charge – for weeks or months at a time, that can be pretty damaging to it...So when you take it off and expect it to last for 8 or 10 hours, it might only give you half of what you expect because it degraded a lot during that time."

The article notes that Apple's newest M3 MacBooks sport 18-hour battery lives. But if you keep them plugged in constantly, the battery life in those laptops will be cut in half in only a few short years.

Save Your Apple Watch Battery Courtesy: Apple Inc.

Got an Apple Watch? Tom's Guide recommends you start by using a setting engineered by Apple to make its smartwatch batteries last longer. It's called Optimized Charging and helps keep your Apple Watch battery healthy. Plenty of us are overcharging the batteries by leaving the watch plugged in after the batteries are fully charged.

You can switch to Optimized Charging to protect your Apple Watch battery on all models running watchOS 7 and later. On a new Apple Watch, Optimized Charging is automatically turned on. But if you have an older Apple Watch or it's turned off, here's how to activate it, according to Tom's Guide:

- Open Settings
- Open the battery settings menu
- Select battery health
- Use the green slider to turn on Optimized Battery Charging. If you own an Apple

Watch Ultra, you can use Optimized Charge Limit instead, which stops, instead of pauses, the charging of your watch.

Here's how Apple explains Optimized Battery Charging. "When the feature is turned on, your watch delays charging past 80% in certain situations. The

watch's battery level remains between 75% and 80% in these situations.

Your watch uses on-device machine learning to learn your daily charging routine, so Optimized Battery Charging activates only when your watch predicts it will be connected to a charger for an extended period of time. The algorithm aims to ensure that your Apple Watch is still fully charged when you remove it from the charger.

Spring Cleaning: Organize Your Desk

PCMag offers several tips for organizing your work area and desk. Spring cleaning is underway, and this doesn't just apply to your yard or closet. It's time to tackle your desk, too.

First, PCMag recommends buying anything you might need for your workspace, whether a laptop or a new keyboard.

Next, clear all objects off your desk. This includes any cables plugged into a wall outlet or surge protector, lamps, coasters, mugs, and everything else. Then, use a micro-fiber cloth that is slightly damp with water. You can use other products, but don't spray your computer monitor or desk with chemicals containing ammonia or other harsh cleaners. PCMag recommends getting out the vacuum if you need to clean off your desk chair.

PCMag notes you should start placing your items back on the desk, but don't plug in any items yet. Check to make sure the feel is right, your monitor is at the right level, and you're practicing good ergonomics.

Once you are ready, get your cables under control. Use Velcro cable ties or some other method to contain all of those excess cables.

BRISBUG PC USER GROUP INC
4 Bacall Place Stafford Heights , QLD 4053
NOMINATION FORM

Please return completed form to "The General Secretary" at the above address

NOMINEE I,hereby accept nomination to serve on the Management Committee of **BRISBUG PC USER GROUP INC** for the term commencing from the next Annual General Meeting of that group and ending at the Annual General of the following year. I understand that this nomination will only be valid if I am a "fully paid-up" financial member of BRISBUG (as defined in its Constitution) PRIOR to the official commencement of the Annual General Meeting, at which the vote for election to the position for which I am nominating is taken.

POSITION FOR WHICH I AM BEING NOMINATED

NOMINEE'S SIGNATUREDATE

NOMINATOR

I, hereby nominate the above-named for election to the requested position on the Management Committee of BRISBUG for the term indicated. I acknowledge this nomination will be void if it is found that I am not a "fully paid-up" financial member of BRISBUG as at the closing date for acceptance of written nominations in accordance with the BRISBUG constitution.

NOMINATOR'S SIGNATUREDATE

SECONDER

I, hereby second the above nomination for election to the requested position on the Management Committee of BRISBUG for the term indicated. I acknowledge this nomination will be void if it is found that I am not a "fully paid-up" financial member of BRISBUG as at the closing date for acceptance of written nominations in accordance with the BRISBUG constitution.

SECONDER'S SIGNATURE..... DATE

NOTE: Persons nominating for a position who have not had their membership formally accepted at a BRISBUG Management Committee Meeting shall be deemed to have had their application for membership formally accepted should they be elected to the position for which they have nominated.

OFFICE USE ONLY

MEMBERSHIP STATUS NAME	MEMBERSHIP NO	FEES PAID TO	RECEIPT NO
NOMINEE			
NOMINATOR			
SECONDER			