Significant Bits

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Meeting Timetable

Mitchelton Library Helios Parade Mitchelton

9:30am	Q&A	Keith
11am	Look at other backup Hasleo and more	Fred
!2 noon	Lunch -- GM - Report to the Club	Keith
1:00pm	Linux	Keith

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

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SIGNIFICANT BITS

the Journal of

BRISBUG PC USER GROUP INC.

A Computer Club for users of PC-type computers

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The Members' Web Page

Meeting Days

20 December 2026

17 January 2027

21 February 2027

21 March 2027

18 April 2027

16 May 2027

20 June 2027

Magazine

Editor

Chris Haydock

Please use e-mail if possible

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From the President's CPU

Keith Catts — President

Hi All,

AI is powering on and offering many advantages but with some, much unknown risks to our way of life.

I personally fear for the society we are becoming. Already there is evidence of wide job losses attributed to the use of AI and again leading to large off shoring of Australian jobs.

This shows a disconnect with the social impacts from rising unemployment and creation of a much wider and growing those with much higher wealth and those with ever diminishing wealth.

Do any of you use AI? if so can you tell us how you use it and what it delivers.

I am unsure where we are with the look at Linux as an alternative. We still have the capacity to run a workshop with hands on with trying it out.

Do you want to turn to a different version i.e. Mint and Zorin?

We are awaiting the outcome of our application to use the meeting room at Mitchelton Library.

All for now.

Cheers

Keith

PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL VIA DIRECT FUNDS TRANSFER

Brisbug PC User Group Inc

BSB No: 034-083
Account No: 185711

Remember to enter your name and membership number in the comment field

Reports

Presentation and Education

9:30am: Q&A

11am. Fred will do comparison demos of a couple of back up apps.

Lunch and Club Report.

1pm: Continue with Linux.

Membership Report - Gary Woodforth

We had 9 members attended in October.

Treasurer's Report

October 2026

Opening Balance at 1/10/26	**1882.65**
Income	
New Member	0.0
Total Income	**0.0**
Expenses	
Fee to OFT for Annual Return	64.25
Total Expenses	**64.25**
Month's loss	**-64.25**
Balance at 31/10/26	**1818.40**

Eric Maronese

Treasurer

Vale John Tacey.

John passed away on the 2nd November.

John is a very long-term member of the Club joining in its halcyon days with a large membership and dealing with the many new aspects of computing and personal computers. The club brought together those venturing into computer ownership coding and such to get a system working.

He has contributed to our group taking up the Q&A role and providing his "John's Jots" for the magazine and sharing his knowledge for those many years.

We will miss him at our monthly meeting as he called for questions to get our meeting started.

John's Jots

By John Tacey

Q&A – October Meeting

Question on linking an Android Phone and taking off photos.

It looks like previous process of connecting the phone to the computer and selecting "trust this computer", is not working and there is a push to use an app.

Macrium Reflect (Free Version)

Last month I noted my concern about the advice that the use of the free Version would not work as the Restore function would not function.

I said I would be trying it and report result.

While I have images of current computer. I was not prepared to run the restore and possible crash the computer if the restore failed and corrupted the computer in the process.

I made an old computer for the test. An Acer laptop that would not support windows 11. Imaged it and then restored it from the image.

Did it work YES. Happy days.

When Macrium free was discontinued I saved the latest free install down load to keep for future use.

I built the old computer with windows 10.

I then used that free install programme to install Macrium on the computer.

I DID NOT run any update of Macrium offered.

I then created an image of the hard drive.

To test the restore I deleted the 2 of the small windows partitions on the hard drive.

I then closed and restarted the computer using an old Macrium Restore USB.

This open as usual. I did note that selection appeared to be a bit different for selecting the restore option. While I wondered why I put it down to the fact, I had not used it for a while.

The restore ran without issue and completed successfully and I closed it and removed the USB.

I did a reboot and waited for the result. The Computer opened and looked normal and indeed it ran and update that was waiting when I ran image.

On opening the computer had all the partitions and as I had changed them (just to prove that the original disk had been over written).

I suppose not ultimate proof but I am encouraged to continue to trust the Macrium image from the old free version. One thing I could not test was if using on a Windows 11 build would be OK. Keith.

For Interest

From Teck Republic they provide a list of privacy settings you might want to set.

https://www.techrepublic.com/article/news-windows-11-privacy-settings-to-change/?email_hash=7038bc024333ce1011d77065359f1217&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Microsoft%20Weekly_10.21.26_HP%20Pageviews_86bc0k15z&utm_content=A&utm_term=microsoft-active-weekly#1-turn-off-optional-diagnostic-d

Windows 11 collects diagnostic information, remembers certain activities, and allows apps to request access to personal data. Some of these features are useful, but you may not need every permission or personalization option enabled.

You can limit optional data collection; control what apps can access, and delete certain information Microsoft has already collected. These seven Windows 11 privacy settings are worth reviewing, particularly if you use your PC for work or handle sensitive information.

1. Turn off optional diagnostic data
2. Disable inking and typing personalization
3. Review location permissions
4. Turn off clipboard synchronization
5. Disable personalized offers and recommendations
6. Delete diagnostic data already collected
7. Review your Microsoft account privacy dashboard

What to check on a work-managed PC

Which Windows 11 privacy settings should you change first?

Follow up on the site for details on adjusting the settings.

Reviews – PC Mag

3 Simple Tricks to Create a Password You'll Never Forget (and Hackers Can't Touch)

Updated Oct 13, 2026

Don't Let Your Passwords

Die with you. Here's how to share account access safely Updated May 07, 2026

Digital legacy features make it easier to transfer account access to family members without sharing passwords up front. I'll show you how to get set up in minutes.

Forget painful gibberish like &!pR8B>5.

Here's how to build a single, bulletproof master password using Shakespeare, random words, and simple padding

The Best Outdoor Home Security Cameras for 2026, Updated Sep 29, 2026

The best smart outdoor security cameras we've tested can withstand the elements and record clear footage any time of the day or night.

The Best Wireless Earbuds for 2026

Updated Oct 03, 2026

Apple popularized the wireless earbud category with the AirPods, and now the market is teeming with alternatives.

We've tested hundreds of earphones and narrowed them down to this list of the very best.

The Best Portable Monitors for 2026

Updated Sep 16, 2026

Whether you're a traveling exec, a graphic designer, or a gamer, a portable second monitor can add an extra dimension to your work or play.

We've tested most of the major models and have recommendations for every type of user.

Best computer jokes

Why do computers wear glasses? To improve their web-sight.

How does a computer get drunk? It takes screenshots.

What do you call a computer mouse that swears a lot? A cursor.

Why was the computer so angry? Because it had a chip on its shoulder.

Why can’t an IT guy keep a girlfriend? He turns them all off and on again.

What do you call a computer superhero? A Screen Saver

Why did the computer sneeze? It had a virus.

Chris

APCUG ARTICLES

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Can machines achieve artificial general intelligence (AGI)?

By Joel Ewing, President, Bella Vista Computer Club October 2026 Bits & Bytes
https://bvcomputerclub.org/president

There is an interesting article by Peter J. Denning in the September 2026 issue of The Communications of the ACM, *Tacit Knowledge and AI*, Denning argues that human-level artificial general intelligence is unlikely, because it is unlikely that machines can ever be taught human tacit knowledge. Tacit knowledge includes not only what we call common sense, but knowledge and skills we don't know we have until we use them -- things we can't precisely explain how they were learned from interactions with others, interaction with our physical environment, and interaction with our social and historical culture.

Past attempts to improve expert systems by trying to codify common sense has proved elusive. After amassing millions of facts over decades, many became convinced that completing such a process is impossible. Significant parts of human intelligence lay outside our conscious thought -- in physical structures of the human body, and in the social networks to which we belong. Observations of complex behaviours of other living creatures suggests that some common sense knowledge we possess may even be inherited rather than learned. So many of the things we "know" have been shaped by the way our senses perceive the world and by the need for personal survival, societal acceptance, and the common needs of our species. A machine which lacks our sensory perceptions and physical vulnerabilities could be taught to mimic certain human behaviours, but assuming that such behaviour implies an understanding why such behaviour is important to humans is extremely dangerous.

An AI machine, when presented with a situation for which it was not trained, or presented with a situation with conflicting goals or a choice between imperfect outcomes, may make choices that are either impractical or in conflict with human morality or judgment. AI machines have already demonstrated that they can mimic some of our less-desirable human behaviours in such situations.

The recent rapid advances in creating machines with narrow super intelligence (super intelligence in some specific narrow field) has made some people optimistic about the possibility in the near future of AGI. Denning argues against that view.

The article includes a cautionary quote from AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio at a 2025 TED talk about AI Agents (AI machines designed for independent action, not just interaction with humans): "lacking understanding of human concerns, they are profoundly unsafe when allowed to take actions where human understanding and judgment are essential".

Depends on subscriptions; Quicken is pricey.

Simplifi is the only cost.

Why I use an email reader

If you use email, chances are you already have an email reader—even if you didn't know that's what it was called. Gmail, Outlook, Thunderbird, Apple Mail, and many other programs and apps are email readers. They are the tools that bring your email to your computer, phone, or tablet and give you a convenient way to manage it. So why should you care about using one? Because a good email reader can do a lot of the work for you! Imagine that you receive 40 or 50 emails a day. Some are from friends and family. Some are bills or receipts you want to keep. Others are newsletters you enjoy. And then there are the emails you never asked for: advertisements, phony package delivery notices, fake bank alerts, and messages telling you that you've supposedly won something. Sorting all of that yourself would be a nuisance. Fortunately, your email reader can become your personal sorting assistant email services use spam filters that examine incoming messages for signs that they are unwanted or dangerous. They look at things such as the sender, the content of the message, suspicious links, and patterns found in millions of other spam messages. When something looks suspicious, it may automatically be placed in your Spam or Junk folder instead of your Inbox. And here's the really clever part: your email system can learn from you,

Suppose an unwanted advertisement gets through to your Inbox. You click "Report Spam" or "Junk." You're not just getting rid of that one message—you are providing feedback. Your email service can use that information to become better at recognizing similar messages in the future. For example, if you

keep receiving unwanted messages from a particular company or group of senders and consistently mark them as spam, future messages that look similar may be filtered automatically.

Eventually, you may notice that you are seeing fewer of them in your Inbox. It's almost like teaching your email reader, "I don't want this!" The opposite can happen, too. Occasionally, a legitimate message may mistakenly land in the Spam folder. If you move it back to your Inbox or mark it as "Not Spam," you're providing useful feedback in the other direction: "I want this!"

An email reader can help in many other ways. You can search for an old message instead of scrolling through hundreds of emails. You can create folders for things such as travel, medical appointments, purchases, or family.

You can open attachments such as photographs and PDF documents, and you can reply or forward messages with just a few clicks. Before long, your email reader will know a little more about what you want—and a little less about what you don't. Having your own digital assistant sorting your mail, that's a pretty nice benefit of modern technology!

Cool Tips and Sites Microsoft

Plateau Users Group

Microsoft made an app just to force Bing into your browser.

You expect this kind of thing from shady free software, not from Microsoft itself. But here we are. Microsoft has quietly released a standalone app called "Microsoft Recommended Search Settings" whose entire purpose is to switch your browser's search engine to Bing. It's a roughly 22MB download hosted on Microsoft's own servers, and it works on Chrome, Firefox, and Brave. Once run, it installs a "Microsoft Bing Homepage & Search" extension with the switch-toBing toggle already ticked, then sends you off to Microsoft Rewards. The cheeky part: if you later try to set Chrome back to Google, it pops up a nag overlay begging you not to.

The big picture: To be fair, this isn't malware and it isn't forced on you through Windows Update. Microsoft's line is that it's optional and needs your consent. But it behaves exactly like the browser-hijacking adware we tell people to avoid, and it's the kind of thing that lands on a PC because someone clicked a "recommended settings" prompt without reading it. When the company that makes your operating system starts shipping software like this, it's worth knowing how to undo it.

Here's how to get rid of it. First, open your browser's extensions page (Chrome, Firefox, or Brave) and remove the "Microsoft Bing Homepage & Search" extension. Then reset your search engine and homepage back to what you want in your browser settings.

Finally, check Settings, Apps, installed apps in Windows and uninstall "Microsoft Recommended Search Settings" if it's there. Done. Your browser is yours again.

How to Fix Outlook - Keeps Asking for Your Password

Dellenny by John Edward Plateau PC Users Group

There are few things more frustrating than opening Outlook, getting ready to check your email, and seeing the same password prompt again and again. You enter the correct password, click Sign in, and everything seems fine until Outlook asks for your password once more.

If this keeps happening, you're not alone. The "Outlook keeps asking for your password" problem can happen in Microsoft Outlook on Windows for several reasons.

Sometimes it's caused by incorrect saved credentials, an outdated Outlook installation, a damaged profile, authentication problems, or issues with your Microsoft 365 account.

The good news is that you usually don't need to reinstall everything to fix it. In this guide, we'll walk through practical solutions, starting with the easiest ones and moving toward more advanced fixes.

Why Does Outlook Keep Asking for Your Password?

Before changing anything, it helps to understand why Outlook might repeatedly request your password. One common reason is that Outlook has stored an outdated password. For example, if you

recently changed your Microsoft account or email password, Windows may still have the old credentials saved. Outlook tries to use them, fails authentication, and asks you to sign in again.

Other possible causes include: Corrupted Windows or Outlook credentials

· An outdated version of Outlook

· Problems with your Outlook profile · Incorrect account settings

· Microsoft 365 authentication issues · Cached login information

· Network or connectivity problems

· An account password that has expired

· Security software interfering with authentication

· Problems with modern authentication

The right solution depends on what's causing the repeated prompt, so it's worth working through the fixes one at a time

Check Your Internet Connection

Start with something simple: make sure your internet connection is working properly. Outlook needs to communicate with your mail server or Microsoft 365 services to authenticate your account.

If your connection keeps dropping, Outlook may repeatedly ask you to sign in. Try opening a few websites in your browser. If your connection appears unstable, restart your router or switch to another network temporarily. If the internet works normally and Outlook still keeps asking for your password, move on to the next step.

2. Make Sure Your Password Is Actually Working

It sounds obvious, but it's worth checking whether your email password works outside Outlook. Open your email provider's official sign-in page and try logging in with the same email address and password. If you can't sign in there either, the issue probably isn't Outlook itself. You may need to reset your password or resolve an account-related problem first. If you can sign in successfully through the browser but Outlook continues asking for your password, the problem is more likely related to Outlook, Windows credentials, or the local account profile.

3. **Remove Old Credentials from Windows** One of the most common reasons Outlook repeatedly asks for a password is an outdated credential stored in Windows. Windows Credential Manager stores login information for various applications and services. If Outlook is using an old password, removing the saved credential can force Outlook to request fresh authentication.

To check your credentials:

1. Close Outlook completely.

2. Open Control Panel.

3. Select Credential Manager.

4. Click Windows Credentials.

5. Look for entries related to Outlook, Microsoft Office, Microsoft 365, or your email account.

Remove the relevant outdated credentials. 7. Restart your computer.
Open Outlook again and sign in when prompted. Be careful when deleting credentials. Don't remove unrelated entries unless you know what they are used for. Once Outlook has a chance to authenticate again, the repeated password prompt may disappear.

4. **Update Microsoft Outlook**

Running an older version of Outlook can sometimes cause authentication problems. Microsoft regularly releases updates that improve security, compatibility, and account authentication. If Outlook hasn't been updated for a while, check for available updates.

If Outlook opens:

1. Open Outlook.

2. Select File.

3. Choose Office Account.

4. Select Update Options.

5. Click Update Now.

Allow the update to finish and restart Outlook. If you're using Microsoft 365, keeping Office applications updated is particularly important

because account authentication methods and security requirements can change over time.

5. **Restart Outlook and Your Computer**

It may sound like a basic suggestion, but don't underestimate it. Outlook and Windows can occasionally get stuck with an authentication session that isn't behaving correctly. Closing Outlook and restarting Windows can clear temporary processes and refresh your connection. Make sure Outlook is completely closed before restarting. If necessary, check Task Manager to confirm that no Outlook process is still running. After restarting your computer, open Outlook and check whether the password prompt appears again.

6. **Check Outlook's Account Settings** Incorrect account configuration can also lead to repeated password requests Open Outlook and go to your account settings. Depending on your Outlook version, the exact menu names may differ. Check that the email address and account information are correct. If you're using a company or Microsoft 365 account, your organization's administrator may have specific authentication requirements. Avoid changing server settings randomly, especially if you're using a work or school account. Incorrect settings can create additional connection problems. If your organization manages your Outlook account, contacting the IT administrator may be the quickest way to confirm whether there are account-side authentication changes.

7. **Create a New Outlook Profile**

If your current Outlook profile has become corrupted, creating a new profile can often resolve persistent login problems. A profile contains account and configuration information that Outlook uses to connect to your mailbox. If that information becomes damaged, Outlook may behave unpredictably—including repeatedly asking for your password.

To create a new profile:
1. Close Outlook.
2. Open Control Panel.
3. Search for Mail.
4. Open the Mail settings.
5. Select Show Profiles.
6. Choose Add.
7. Give the new profile a name.
8. Add your email account.
9. Set Outlook to use the new profile.
10. Open Outlook again.

If the new profile works normally, your original profile may have been the source of the problem.

8. Repair Microsoft Office Another option is to repair your Microsoft Office installation. Windows provides built-in repair options that can fix damaged Office files without requiring you to completely uninstall the software.

Go to: Settings → Apps → Installed Apps Find Microsoft 365 or Microsoft Office, select the available options, and look for Repair. Depending on your installation, you may see options such as Quick Repair and Online Repair.

It's generally sensible to try Quick Repair first. If the problem continues, Online Repair may provide a more thorough repair, although it can take longer and may require an internet connection.

9. Check Whether Your Password

Has Recently Changed Did you recently change your Microsoft, Microsoft 365, or email password? If yes, this is an important clue. Other Microsoft applications on your computer may still have cached authentication information from before the password change. Outlook could therefore continue trying to authenticate with an outdated session. Signing out of Microsoft applications and signing back in can sometimes refresh the authentication process. If this is a work or school account, your organization's security policies may also require additional verification, such as Microsoft Authenticator or another multi-factor authentication method.

10. Check Multi-Factor Authentication Modern Microsoft accounts often use multi-factor authentication (MFA). If MFA is enabled and the authentication process isn't completing correctly, Outlook may appear to be stuck in a sign-in loop. Check whether you are receiving authentication requests on your phone or authentication app. Also make sure your account isn't waiting for an approval or verification step. If your organization uses Microsoft Entra ID or another managed identity system, the IT administrator may need to check the account's authentication status.

11. Run Outlook Without Add-Ins Sometimes an Outlook add-in can interfere with normal operation. You can test Outlook in Safe Mode to determine whether an add-in is contributing to the issue. Press Windows + R, enter: outlook /safe and press Enter. If Outlook works normally in Safe Mode and stops repeatedly asking for your password, an add-in may be involved. You can then disable unnecessary add-ins and restart Outlook normally

12. Remove and Add the Account

Again If you've tried the previous solutions and Outlook still keeps asking for your password, removing the affected account from Outlook and adding it again may help. Before doing this, make sure you know your account credentials and understand whether your mailbox is hosted on Microsoft 365, Exchange, IMAP, or another service. For business accounts, it's also a good idea to confirm the correct configuration with your IT administrator before removing the account,