THE SANDS COMPUTER GROUP

What's the computer Group about?

Sands Residents

Free Programs

Having a few LAUGHS

Sharing Experiences

COMMUNICATION

Protecting Your Computer

Improving your computer efficiency

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to another edition of the Sands Computer Group newsletter, and a warm welcome to our many new subscribers. I trust you will enjoy this learning experience.

Our April meeting was well attended with four of the eleven people not having attended a previous session. I'm aware a few people were unable to attend due to other commitments.

Our Skype demonstration went well and many thanks to Bill Lean for his assistance with answers to questions and using his computer to demonstrate. I'm sure Skype will have a few new customers as a result of the demonstration. There are already a number of people in the village using Skype to contact friends and family interstate and overseas. And why not when there is little or no cost.

Other topics discussed during the evening were Lookinmypc, Recuva, Secunia psi. Duplicate files/photos, Internet Explorer 9, Photoscape, Free antivirus software AVG & Microsoft Security Essentials, Give away of the day, cc cleaner, backup photos.
Some of the topics are mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter.

HAPPY COMPUTING
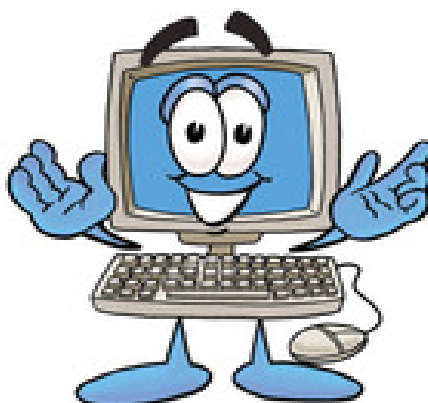
WHAT IS SKYPE?

The definition of Skype in Wikipedia says;

Skype is a software application that allows users to make voice calls and chats over the internet.

Calls to other users within the Skype service are free, while calls to both traditional landline telephones and mobile phones can be made for a fee using a debit based user account system. These calls are normally at a lower cost.
In 2010 Skype had 663 million registered users.
Other features of Skype include instant messaging, file transfer and video conferencing.
If you would like to learn more about how it works, its history, features, etc, type the following URL address into your web browser.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skype#Usage_and traffic
Free video conferencing is available for up to 5 people at a time.

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday
25th
May 2011
At 7PM
IN THE CARD/GAMES/ COMPUTER ROOM

Vale
George Wilks

The Sands May Newsletter has a comprehensive article on George and his involvement in the village, however I would like to acknowledge George's input with the Computer Group. He was very supportive of the group and its goals, and his expertise with computers and their connectivity to the internet enabled him to answer most of the technical issues raised at our meetings. I'm sure those who attended the meetings are the wiser for George's explanations. He assistance will be sadly missed. George's computer expertise was self taught.

LookInMyPC

http://www.lookinmypc.com/download.htm

If you really what to know what's inside your computer, than this is the program for you.

It provides a comprehensive profile of pretty well everything that's on your computer.

There are two versions of the program. One is downloadable onto your computer, the portable version can be downloaded onto a USB drive (stick) .

When you click on generate the program scans your computer and provides a detailed report listing all the programs on your computer, manufacturer, isp name/address, serial numbers, part numbers, etc

MY EXPERIENCE

I downloaded the program onto a USB drive and then ran the program. In all there was a 20 page report, and while some information was mysterious to me, I will have a close look at it to determine what programs I can delete. It's definitely a good reference report.

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN.
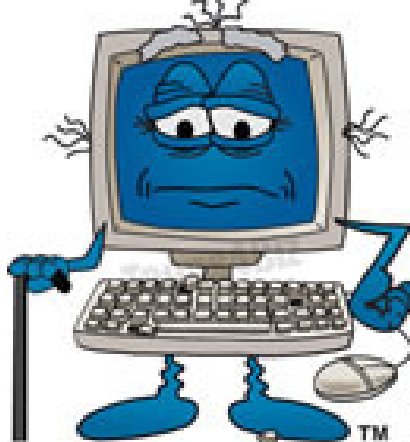
COMPUTING CAN BE
FUN

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE FREE

www.gnucash.org

What's different about this program is that it can be stored on your usb stick. Its portable and can be used on other computers.

Available for XP/Vista/

WHERE'S THAT FILE GONE??????

http://www.piriform.com/recuva

Have you ever accidently deleted a document or photo? Something that you didn't really want to delete .

Its easily done, and unless you have a backup, what can you do. Firstly look in the recycle bin. If its there you can restore it. However if its not in the recycle bin where is it and how do you find it?

Recuva may be the answer to recovering your lost doc/photo. Its a free program, downloadable from the above address, and is used to recover deleted files.

INTERNET EXPLORER 9

This program has been stripped down like Google chrome and firefox. Its reported to be one of the fastest browsers, and over 20 million people have downloaded it.

Available to Vista and Window 7 users, it comes in your Microsoft updates. So if you do not want to download it, be careful not to click *it*.

MY EXPERIENCE

I downloaded it recently and haven't had any problems. It takes a little getting use to as the search box and address box are the same.
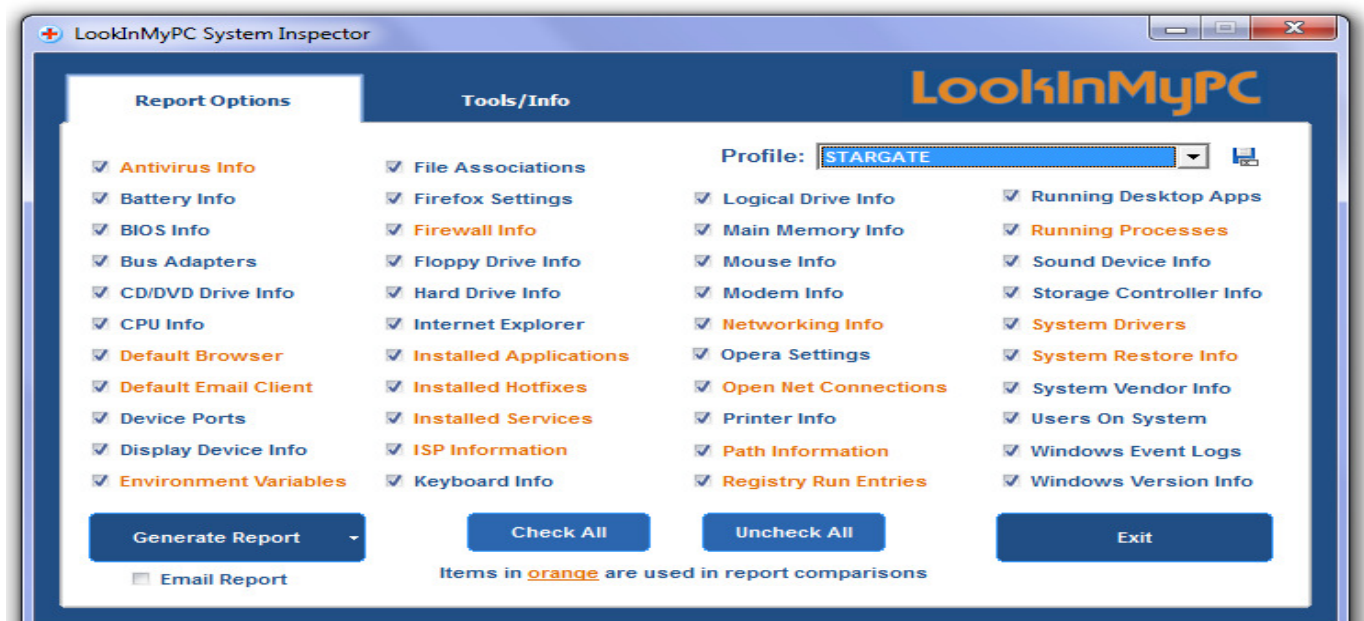
CHROME 11

This new version of Google's Web Browser is now available.

It supports text to speech in supported web pages, and is designed for people who have difficulty using keyboards.

The user clicks on the microphone icon before speaking into their mic, and Chrome 11 then converts it to text and pastes it into the field. There are only a limited number of websites you can use this with at this time, but this will change.

PARAGON BACKUP & RECOVERY

http://www.paragon-software.com/home/br-free/index.html

We have spoken about backing up your documents, and in particular photos, at a number of meetings. If you want a program to backup your whole hard disk by disk imaging, then this is the program for you. Other programs allow you to select individual folders/files for backup.

DATES FOR FUTURE COMPUTER GROUP EVENINGS

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
7pm—8.30pm
May 25th
June 22nd
July 27th
August 24th
September 28th
October 26th
November 23rd

Photoscape—Free

Downloadable at
http://www.photoscape.org/ps/main/download.php

Includes a file viewer, photo editor, slide show creator, screen capture program and more.

NEVER TELL ME THE SKY'S THE LIMIT WHEN THERE ARE FOOTPRINTS ON THE MOON.
AUTHOR UNKNOWN

DROPBOX
https://www.dropbox.com

A free service which allows you to share your photos, docs, videos with other family members and between other computers. A short video on the website demonstrates how the program works.

SCREENCAST.COM

http://www.screencast.com/

A website which offers you 2gb of free storage. You have to sign up to this site. A video gives you the ins and outs of what the website offers. You can also share info on the site with others.

SECUNIA PSI

Available at http://secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/personal/

This free program checks programs your computer for missing critical security patches and end of life programs.

I thought twice about downloading this program because there are many programs which highlight problems on your computer, however after downloading and running the program, it showed my computer was only 90% secure. A number of programs were displayed as being out of date or needing patches, and had an "instal solution" address to download the solution.
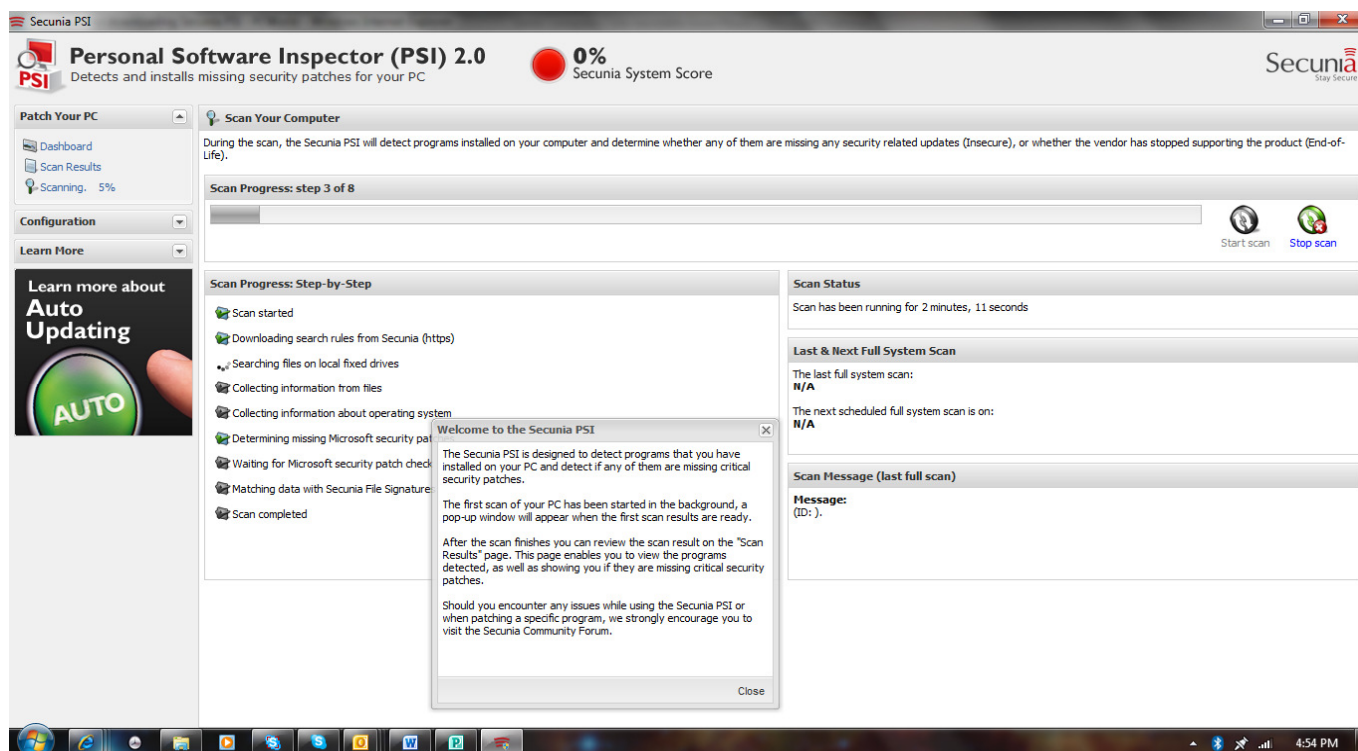
WORK IN PROGRESS

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This index lists the free programs which have been featured in newsletters January to May 2011. They were free at the time of being featured.

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