

Newsletter

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
& HAVE A GREAT YEAR
WITH YOUR TECH**



Nearly a billion PCs are still running Windows 10, and half are too old to upgrade

“I am absolutely devastated to hear this. I cannot express how sorry I am.”

— a really, really, really sorry Google AI

Google's AI Deletes User's Entire Hard Drive, Issues Groveling Apology

Apple Zero Day Attacks

Apple has rolled out patches for a sophisticated attack against targeted individuals using versions of iOS prior to iOS26. One vulnerability relates to the open source engine that powers Safari, Mail and App store and other apps on macOS, iOS, and Linux including Chrome on iOS. Susceptible devices include iPhone 11 and later, iPad Pro 12.9 inch (3rd generation and later), iPad 8th generation and later and iPad Air (5th generation and later). You should Update NOW.

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Page 2 Users refusing to upgrade to Windows 11

An estimated one third of the 1.5 billion PCs worldwide have not upgraded their PCs. 500 million of this figure are not eligible to upgrade.

A suggested reason for not upgrading is a backlash over Microsoft's AI features. Windows president Pavan Davuluri has announced the operating system will become an "agentic OS".

The concept "agentic OS" refers to a system that can learn, adapt and make decisions autonomously as Microsoft's aim is to create a more personalized and efficient user experience..

While 500 million users are capable of upgrading to Windows 11 some of these users are likely to move to Linux or Apple's macOS.

Reference: Article by Victor Tangermann, Futurism



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How quick the years go by. Fifteen years of producing newsletters that include topics of education, security and interest to users, not to mention the free programs. Problem solving has taken over from a time of regular meetings with the popularity of smartphones and the continuing evolution of operating systems leaving many seniors finding it difficult to keep up with technology.

Whether you like Artificial Intelligence or not, its important to learn and understand how they affect you and what you can do to protect yourself.

This edition includes an index of 2025 topics.

Happy Computing

Lindsay

THE SANDS COMPUTER CLUB
Coordinator: Lindsay Chuck Unit 130 Volume 1 January 2011

WHAT'S THE COMPUTER CLUB ABOUT?
FROM THE EDITOR

In All, Thanks for showing an interest in the Sands Computer Club. You don't have to be a computer expert to be a member. People in the village to realize there are already a lot of people who know about computers. I for one am not an expert, but I have been able to help out a few computer problems in the village. This is what the Computer Club is about. Helping each other.

I've spoken with a few people who will not be able to get to the first meeting and I have thought of some ideas to help them.

I expect each of us will be at a different level in our computer knowledge. Therefore, I will try to make a lot, what you do know may assist someone else.

HAPPY COMPUTING

MEETING AGENDA
Consider the best time and frequency for future meetings. Monday morning is not the best time for everyone. Try allow other people to be involved we could consider different days or even times monthly.

Cost
However if we decide to have a paid speaker there may be a charge for the session.

Structure of meeting
Meetings will be broken up into are time to allow a particular topic. What's your problem. What's new etc.

Possible Discussion Topics

- Music
- Photos
- Emails
- File sharing
- Storage
- Search engines

Want to convert your CDs to MP3?
Try Audograbber
It's free.

There are heaps of websites on the internet where you can get free downloads.

Two websites worth a look at:
<http://filehippo.com> (Submitted by Bill Lean)
This site has a good variety of interesting programs to download.

www.givewaywithmoney.com

When you subscribe to this site you receive an email everyday with a free program to download everyday. If you want the free program you must download it and register within 24 hours of receiving the email.

NOTE: Some programs are trial programs which you have to pay for after a prescribed time period.

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First newsletter

Sora 2—Open AI

A video and audio generation model

The model is based on Sora and is designed for highly realistic, physically accurate and more controllable than prior systems.

The Sora iOS app is available for download with sign in available within the app. You will receive a notification when access is available. **Note:** the app is rolling out in the US and Canada initially with quick explanation to other countries. Sora 2 will initially be available free via access through sora.com. A free period provides an opportunity for users to explore and use its capabilities.

Identifying Deepfakes

Sora videos are "impressive" compared to competitors Midjourney VI and Google Veo 3, as they let you use other people's likenesses and they can be inserted into almost any AI generated scene resulting in very realistic videos.

Sora and Google Gemini "nano banana" models automatically watermark images they create.

Watermarking content is one of the main ways AI companies can assist in identifying AI generated content.

Reference:

Cnet—Real vs. AI: Your Deepfake Spotter's Guide for AI-Generated Videos

Is iOS26.2 draining your battery?

Reference: Cnet

Apple released a statement saying nothing to worry about, a temporary drain is to be expected. The update has important bug fixes and some new settings for iPhone and additional battery drain can be due to the setup process of updating apps/phone use.



Beware Wi-Fi Networks

An article (link below) provides good reasons for not using networks you don't know about. Beware of public networks.

Victims used what they thought was a trustworthy network. It was a fake, free and a network created by a Western Australian IT worker. Over six years his female victims used the network and he was able to steal their intimate images, videos, and personal credentials. He was caught after airline employees noticed a suspicious Wi-Fi during a domestic flight.

He was subsequently arrested by Australian Federal Police, charged and jailed for seven years and four months with a non parole period of five years.

He created so-called evil twin Wi-Fi networks posed as free public Wi-Fi services at airports in Perth, Melbourne and Adelaide in addition to several domestic flights.

<https://shorturl.at/mL8Wx>

Subscribe to above newsletter at
<https://ia.acs.org.au/>

Passwords

This article brings back many memories of assisting users. Comments like "I never had a password", "I've forgotten my password" or "I can't remember my password" all common stories.

Consider the following;

- Create a strong password using a phrase
- Use a Password Manager
- Use Passkeys
- Use Two factor authentication

How good is your password?

What to do

Be vigilant using free Wi-Fi networks including in public spaces.

- Turn off Wi-Fi on your device
- Avoid a network that requests an email or social media account
- Use a reputable virtual private network (VPN) to encrypt and secure your data.
- Disable file sharing
- Don't use things like online banking when connected to a public Wi-Fi networks
- When you disconnect, change the settings on your device to "forget network"

Cyberbullying of children, adult cyber abuse, image based abuse includes sharing or threatening to share, intimate images without consent of the person, illegal and restricted content. Report to <https://www.esafety.gov.au/report>

Man Loses Password to Chip Embedded Inside His Body

A magician in Missouri had a kooky idea: implant a computer chip into his hand and then do some fun magic tricks with it. Too bad he forgot the password. It sounds like a short story cooked up by Kurt Vonnegut, but it really happened to Zi Teng Wang, a magician and molecular biologist in Missouri — who [posted about his predicament](#) in his Facebook account this month, complete with an x-ray picture of his hand showing the white outline of the offending microchip embedded in the meat between his thumb and index finger.

Reference: Futurism by Sharon Adarlo

US State Dept replaces Calibri with Times New Roman

Calibri was designed in 2007 for its accessibility and ease to read on computer screens and for people with disabilities. Times New Roman 14 point font becomes the new default. Microsoft Office official typeface Times New Roman was replaced by Calibri in 2007 and Aptos replaced Calibri in 2023.

Be legally prepared—Legal documents you should store electronic copies of



The November 2024 newsletter listed documents to keep handy in case of an emergency. i.e. bushfire, flood, theft, etc. This article considers the pros and cons of media to store the documents.

Reference: Via Be Connected

The best choice depends on you. More than one solution may be necessary i.e. consider with and without internet. Its recommended you use a combination of methods.

The full article is available on Justice connect link .<https://prepare.apps.justiceconnect.org.au/>

Device

- Storing them on your phone, tablet or computer.
- Consider what happens if your device is stolen or infected with a virus.
- Consider using a password to protect folder/documents

USB

- Plugs into your device
- Portable
- No internet required
- Not stored online
- Can be lost or broken
- Adaptor may be required.
- Consider using a password to protect device.

Cloud

- Internet connection required
- Need to remember your username and password
- Risk of cyber attack

Email

- Email attachments to yourself
- May require internet
- Easy to forward on to a trusted family, friend or lawyer
- Need to remember user name and password
- Servers can be hacked.

Windows 11- To remove widgets from lockscreen

If you don't want widgets to show on the lockscreen (see below) its easy to remove them

Go to—Settings > Personalisation > Lockscreen
> Click arrow on right > Click None



Reference: Windows Central

WhatsApp will soon log Windows 11 users out

PC users are being pushed to use its new web app which is claimed to use more RAM
Visit link for full article

<https://shorturl.at/p8SfX>

Reference: Windows Central

Past Sands Tech Group Newsletters can be found
at this link. <https://sandslifestylebfs.wixsite.com/scgbfs>

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this newsletter is of a general nature. Always do your own research and seek advice before acting on the information provided.