

Newsletter

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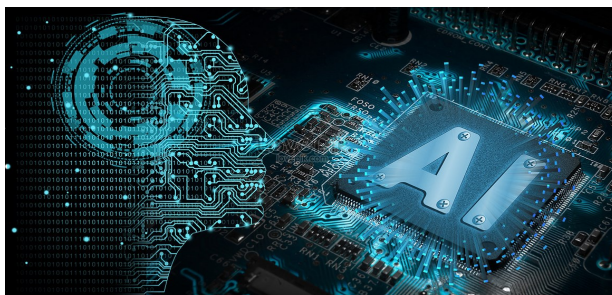
March 2021

Editor:

Its been an interesting month. The Google and Facebook saga re Australian news ruffled a few feathers. However another bill, the Online Safety Act which will significantly increase the government appointed eSafety Commissioner's powers is raising concerns from not just Google and Facebook. The bill will give the Commissioner power to force web services to remove online content in some situations.

Animate your family photos on page 2 using AI is worth a try. Soon you won't know what is real and what is not.

Until next time **Happy Computing**



What's Trending

Microsoft will uninstall its old Edge browser from Windows PCs on April 13th. Edge Chromium will be installed if you don't have it already.

Microsoft announces two new versions of office, a consumer Office 2021 and Office LTSC for commercial customers. They will be available later in 2021 and will be available for Windows and macOS.

Hackers use Google Alerts to help spread malware. Cyber criminals have targeted Google alerts to push fake updates to the now defunct Adobe Flash Player. If you click on the fake story you are redirected to a page that states the user's Flash Player is outdated and needs to be updated.

DON'T CLICK ON THE STORY

Reference: ITPro

Microsoft announces that Word for Windows will soon support test predictions. This new feature is claimed to help you type faster and is expected to roll out in March. It will be possible to disable the option.

Reference: Windows

Apple now lets you automatically transfer your iCloud photo library to Google Photos. This is achieved by going to privacy. Apple.com and going to transfer a copy of your data.

Google is testing a dark mode for desktop search. If your system is set to dark mode the background of Google Search pages will be dark gray.

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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.

E: sandslifestylebfs@outlook.com

W: <http://sandslifestylebfs.wixsite.com/scgbfs>

Check if your data has been leaked

Reference: cybernews

<https://cybernews.com/personal-data-leak-check/>

Hackers have posted over 3 billion user credentials online as part of a massive data breach. CyberNews provides a searchable database which allows an easy check by just entering your email address. No cost is involved. The database has 15.2 billion breached accounts and is very quick to determine whether your account has been breached. If your account is on the database the consequences are hackers may start sending you phishing or harassment emails or try to steal your identity.

Test Your Skills at spotting a real or a scam email

<https://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/view-all-content/programs/stay-smart-online/scam-messages/quiz>

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has a short quiz (4 questions) which will help you protect yourself against a phishing attack. The quiz is at the link above.

They also provide the following tips

- Think before you click on a link
- Never provide your details via a link in a message
- Contact the person or business to check if they sent the message

Nero Streaming player

This app connects your phone/tablet to your TV.

You can see your photos and videos on your TV screen and also play music from your phone/tablet through your TV.



The app is free but does have adverts.

A priced pro version is available.

Your TV and phone/tablet must be on the same network.

Available for Android and Apple devices, the app can be found in the Apple store and Play store.

Nero Streaming player is compatible with the latest Nero MediaHome 2021.

Editor: After I installed the app, I watched the short video on how to use it, then followed the instructions. I was able to watch photos from my Google photos app on the TV screen.

Thank you to David for mentioning this app.

Microsoft's unified Office is now available for iPad

Reference: ZDNet

Now available in the Apple Store, this app combines Word, Excel and Powerpoint and provides some of the most commonly used features. Users can create PDFs, convert screenshots to PDF or PPT, insert notes into PDFs, etc. You will need iOS 13.0 or later to use it for iPad. Users can get full Office functionality by subscribing to Microsoft 365 personal or Microsoft 365 Family.

Another Search engine to think about

I covered some alternative search engines to Google in the February newsletter. The advantage of this search engine is it doesn't record your search history and blocks advertising trackers. You are also likely to receive different search results.

Qwant

[Qwant - The search engine that respects your privacy](#)

Made in France - 2.6 billion requests in 2016 — 26 interface languages.

Animate your family photos

Reference: *The Verge*

<https://www.myheritage.com/deep-nostalgia>

Genealogy company, My Heritage is using Artificial Intelligence licenced from D-ID to create an effect that a still photo is moving. Called "Deep Nostalgia" it will only handle headshots .

To give this a try you will need to register for an account which will allow you to upload 5 photos for free. You have to pay for more.

Editor: If you have a few minutes why not give it a try.

LastPass Free—Password Manager

Users of this program from 16 March 2021 will have to make a choice. You will only be able to use it for free on either your phone or your computer. NOT both. This program has been popular and recommended by the experts. Email support will not be available for non playing customers, however you will still be able to rely on their online support centre. An article on IT-Pro covers exporting your data ie passwords via a CSV file to your PC and moving to Bitwarden. Other password managers include 1Password, Dashland, KeePass and others.

Microsoft Edge Version 88

Reference: TechRepublic

This latest version of Microsoft Edge offers some added features;

Password generator (Built-in)

After **Sync and Offer to save passwords** has been enabled you can create strong and secure passwords and (you can receive suggestions for strong passwords),

Password monitor that alerts you if any of your saved passwords may have been compromised in a data breach,

The **InPrivate browser mode** offers a strict setting to block ad trackers following you. You can also change the DNS provider for Edge for greater security.

Facebook alternatives

With all the bad media in Australia about Facebook, not to mention the number of people that have decided to close their Facebook accounts and move to an alternative platform. What are some alternative platforms.

 <https://mewe.com/>

Social platform. No ads, you must be over 16 years old, no spyware. Available for Android and Apple. They do not sell your data. 8 million users. Live voice and live video. Personal cloud storage. Private and open groups. Unique custom camera and more.

LITT

Western Australian app. It pays users to watch apps about local businesses. You can earn money to spend in that business. Available in Google Play and Apple stores.



Vero

Free

Users must be over 17 years old, Users pass and collect their favorite photos, links, videos and music. Needs a working phone number and the app accesses your contact lists and location. Ad free, doesn't sort your timeline using algorithms.



Supercookies-What are they?

Reference: ITPPro

According to Google—a supercookie is a type of tracking cookie inserted into an HTTP header by an internet service provider (ISP) to collect data about a user's internet browsing history and habits.

Another definition is a supercookie is a general term for a wide range of technologies used to permanently track a user by placing 'flags' on the browser or device.

Why should we understand their impact?

Security and Privacy

What is the difference between a normal cookie and a supercookie?

- Supercookies are not stored on user devices.
- Supercookies can recreate a user's online behaviour from data on their internet connected devices. Tracking takes place through the HTTP headers.
- Supercookies are difficult to block and delete.
- They don't use the same approach as cookies.
- Malicious actors can potentially extract private information from supercookies and use them to impersonate or tamper with user requests to another website sharing the same top level domain or public suffix eg .com or .net
- Supercookies are legal, however there was a legal case in the US in 2016 between the government and Verizon Wireless settled out of court and the GDPR stipulate that you cannot track users without their consent.
- Normal cookies are stored on user's devices and can be removed.

Free Bing Games you can play Online

Click on the link → [Bing Fun](#)

Reference: MUD

[Quiz](#)

[Jigsaw](#)

[2048](#)

[Matching Cards](#)

[Chess](#)

[Crossword](#)

[Put in Order](#)

[Sliding Tiles](#)

[Sudoku](#)

Older Games can be found at msn games
<https://zone.msn.com/en-us/home>

BeConnected

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

New Courses

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/introduction-to-mobile-banking>



Getting started with mobile banking

[View activities >](#)

We look at what mobile banking is, how a banking app differs from their website and what you need to get started.



Setting up mobile banking

[View activities >](#)

We show you how to safely find and download your own bank's app onto your smart device and how a typical mobile banking app looks and behaves. Using our own pretend bank, Squirrel Bank, we provide examples of what to expect when using an app to bank for the first time.



Mobile banking basics practice area

[View activities >](#)

Covering basic mobile banking tasks, such as:

- logging on and off
- checking a transaction
- downloading a statement and more.

We have our Squirrel Bank practice tasks ready for you to hone your skills on your smartphone or tablet in a safe environment.



Managing funds with mobile banking practice area

[View activities >](#)

Building on the skills learned in the Mobile banking basics practice area course, we look at more advanced mobile banking tasks, including:

- transferring funds
- paying bills
- setting transaction limits.

The Squirrel Bank practice activities in this course allow you to perfect these more advanced mobile banking skills on your smartphone or tablet – at your own pace and in safety.

PAST SANDS COMPUTER GROUP NEWSLETTERS can be found here at this link. <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AjI7M4b3DZWxgTgA5lpSIR4cn5cT>