New Emoji coming this year

Watch out for this one if you use Microsoft Office 365

Phishing attacks aimed at the users of Microsoft 365 claim the recipient must renew their Microsoft 365 subscription. Abnormal Security advise there are two phishing campaigns, both impersonate actual notices from Microsoft. One campaign involves sending an email out advising that Office 365 is now Microsoft 365 and tells the user to renew by a certain date. It has a link to renew your subscription wanting your name, address and credit card details. The second campaign tells users their Microsoft 365 subscription has already expired and to renew now at the link (in the email). Both campaigns steal your details.

Editor:

Hi, and welcome to another newsletter. Do you like a challenge or want to improve your short term memory? Brain workshop may be the answer. See details on page 4.

Excel has a personal finance spreadsheet template however if you don't use excel HomeBank is an option for keeping track of your Income and expenses. See page 4.

More issues with W10 version 2004 see page 3 re Notepad/Paint/Wordpad.

Happy Computing

RANSOMWARE ATTACKS

121 MILLION WERE RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2020

SonicWall Capture Labs report this is an increase of 20% with 79.9 million in the US and 5.9 million in the UK. These figures are up to July 2020.

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.

Observe Social Distancing

Beware TikTok - Apple Users

Reference: MacRumors, Digital Trends, The Verge

The Beta version of iOS14, Apple's new operating system will send alerts to users when an app tries to copy clipboard information. TikTok has been mentioned in the media as an app that is using this technique, however it isn't the only app doing this. Linkedin has advised it will stop the practice. When the iOS14 beta version is released to the public shortly more apps are likely to be identified carrying out this sort of behaviour. AccuWeather, AliExpress, Call of Duty Mobile, Google News, Overstock, and Patreon are all apps identified.

Apple releases iOS13.6

Reference: 9to5Mac

New features in this update include—improved support for downloading and installing system updates, Apple news + Audio content (professionally narrated audio stories from the Apple News team) and car key feature. A new option in the software update > automatic updates section has two toggles. You can choose to automatically download iOS updates and to install updates overnight. This update also includes bug fixes. There's a caveat, some features may not be available in all regions.

Also released macOS 10.15.6, tvOS 13.4.8, watchOS 6.2.8 and audios 13.4.8 for homePod.

Google and Battery Drain

Google Chrome is known to be a resource hog on mobile devices like laptops and is linked to battery drain. So its good news to hear that Chrome version 86 is testing a new feature that limits Javascript timer wakeups for background websites to just once a minute. This will have the effect of extending battery life by just under two hours. Apple's Safari already uses this technique. *Editor: I continue to see devices which have anywhere up to 20 tabs open, especially on tablets and smartphones. Hence your battery drains. So don't forget to close the tabs when you have finished viewing the website.*

 ## *Emails*

Its been a while since I'd had a phishing email and then two in two weeks. A timely reminder not to be complacent when dealing with your emails.

Both emails displayed the name of a friend in my contact list. One had a link hinting that I click on it, and the other requesting I purchase an item. When I looked closely at the email addresses they were not the ones in my contact list. The content looked suspicious.
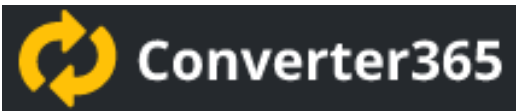

Keep up with the latest Apple information

https://9to5mac.com/

For Apple fans this website is worth bookmarking. Also follow news updates on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. There's exclusive stories, reviews, how-tos and the YouTube channel at this link https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChjRM_qQAaOAiLNbOGbYcRA Grab a tea or coffee, and sit back while you watch one of the many videos available.

Reference: Gizmodo

https://www.converter365.com/

There are times when you have to convert a file but don't have a file converter installed. An example, you have a music video and want to convert it to MP3. Converter365 is a **free online converter** which converts over 1000 different formats. Easy to use. Simply drag your file and drop it into the upload box. The file must be less than 200MB and is deleted thirty minutes after conversion.

Microsoft Edge—Updated version 84.0.522.40

Reference: Windowscentral

New features include;

Improved site list download times for internet Explorer mode.

Users can now sign-into the browser when running as administrator on Windows 10

Online purchase improvement. You can add nicknames to saved debit or credit cards. You can distinguish and differentiate your credit cards when making online purchases.

Collections improvements:

A note capability is added. You can add a note or comment to an item in a collection.
Change the background color of notes in collections. Use color coding to help organise information and increase productivity.
Noticeable performance improvements that let you export your collections to Excel in less time than in previous versions of Microsoft Edge.

PDF improvements

Read Aloud PDF lets users listen to PDF content while doing other tasks.
PDF file editing is improved. Save an edit made to a PDF back to the file instead of having to save each time you edit.

Microsoft Edge now enables Translation in the Immersive reader. Ie When a user opens the Immersive Reader view they get the option to translate the page to their desired language.

Notepad/Paint/Wordpad
Windows 10

Reference: Gizmodo
Do you use the above apps?
Updating to Windows 10 version 2004 seems to automatically uninstall them. Microsoft has classified these apps as optional and available in the Microsoft Store. However some users with 2004 installed have reported they have been unable to download the apps from the store and receive a message that the apps are already installed when they are not.
DON'T INSTALL WINDOWS 10 VERSION 2004

Stop website Notifications in Chrome

Do you get tired of seeing notifications when you visit websites? Its no longer just one or two websites, more and more are pushing notifications, all wanting your permission to you allow or deny the request before you can continue. Chrome's browser allows you to block website notification prompts. To do this *Left click the three vertical dots* top right hand corner > Left click *Settings* > Left click *Site settings* > notifications. You can stop sites asking to send notifications or allow them to ask. There are a range of actions under Block and Allow which give you control over what a website has access to and can do. These include location, camera, microphone, images, popups, Ads, sound, USB devices, motion sensors, to name a few.
Editor: Preparation of this article used the Chrome version 84.0.147.105 build.

Coming later this year
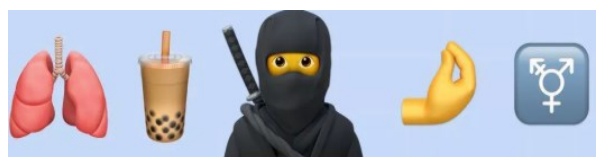### New Emoji

Some in dark mode   **Android**

Reference: cnet
Google and Apple have both announced new emoji to choose from. The emoji will be available with Android 11 and Apple iOS14. There will be 117 to pick from including animals, (bison, beaver, polar bear) food and drink (tamale, boba tea, teapot) and people. Google redesigned some of its previous animal emoji so they look friendlier. Something to look forward to if you want to bring your text messages to life.

Apple

Be Connected

Lorem Ipsum
What does it mean?

Ref: Gizmodo (Leah Williams)

"Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum."

I've seen this phrase from time to time and deleted it without considering what it meant.
The phrase is used in placeholder graphics, text bodies (ie in Word) and website pages. It's actually gibberish but it has an origin and a purpose. Designed to resemble Latin, it's a made up phrase used by typographers to fill blank spaces and draw viewers' eyes towards a website's layout. In the 1960's typeface Letraset sheets included it. In the 1990's computing software integrated it in publishing software. Its believed to date back to the 1500s and is a mis translated or reinterpreted by a printer who began using the phrase in templates for type-setting text.

*New Financial Year *

Time to Track your finances

HomeBank

Free

http://homebank.free.fr/en/index.php
HomeBank is Free personal finance software program which has been around for over 22 years.
Operating systems—Windows 7, 8 and 10, Linux and via 3rd party packages for MacOS
Supports file formats QIF, OFX, QFX, and CSV.
Features include;
- Its friendly
- Analyses your finances using filtering tools and charts
- Has a Month/Annual budget
- Provides powerful reports with charts
- Has transaction register
- Allows planning for months ahead.
- The program detects and identifies duplicate transactions.

BRAIN WORKSHOP

Want to improve your working memory (short term memory) and your fluid intelligence?
Brain Workshop—a Dual N-Back game Involves remembering a sequence of spoken letters and sequence of positions of a square at the same time and identifying when a letter or position matches the one that appeared earlier.
- Its an Open source program and has
- Optional extended game modes ie Triple N-Back and Arithmetic N-Back
http://brainworkshop.sourceforge.net/

**PAST SANDS COMPUTER GROUP NEWSLETTERS can be found here
at this link.** https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ajl7M4b3DZWxgTgA5lpSIR4cn5cT