

MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

June 2010

We're in luck! Because of a cancellation Graham Clark has generously stepped into the breach to give us a talk called Windows 7 Explored at our next meeting on Thursday 10 June at 2 pm in the Manly Library Meeting Room. Although many of you are not yet using Windows 7 this is an opportunity to find out what it is like to use and how it differs from XP and Vista. Graham uses Windows 7 all the time now and has it on his laptop which he will bring to the meeting. So we will be able to have a look at Windows 7, see how good it is and explore its many new and updated features! Come along and learn some tips and tricks on the latest operating system. There will be door prizes and the usual afternoon tea but Lyn will still be away. (You'll find the reason why on page 2.)



At the May meeting Graham Clark showed us that Windows Live Mail is everything he told us it would be - and more. Graham demonstrated Windows Live Mail which is the latest email client from Microsoft. He showed us some really cool features including text messaging, enhanced security, easy search, automated junk email filtering and coordinating an excellent calendar with your email program to get reminders about birthdays and appointments. The part of Live Mail he liked best was Photo email. It allows you to send high resolution photographs as email attachments without cluttering up the inbox of your recipients. Instead of attaching the entire image or images with the email message Photo email lets you send only thumbnails. Thumbnails are smaller versions - both in file size and physical dimensions of the digital photographs and thus do not clog the inbox of the recipients. The recipients get to see only the thumbnails. When they click on one of these, expressing a desire to see the "bigger picture", the larger version is displayed to them from a private location on the web. So when you use Photo email to send large images as thumbnails over email, the large versions of the photographs are quietly stored online (without your knowledge) and are displayed from there to recipients. Like everything else on Windows Live Mail, you control the layout, format and look of the thumbnails. You can even add several frame effects on the smaller versions of your photos. And Windows Live Mail is free and compatible with XP, Vista or Win 7.

By the way, Dave Johnson of PCWorld says Windows Live Photo Gallery has one of the best panoramic stitching tools in the world.





The ultimate iPad - for \$200,000

Be first in the Club to buy one of these!



Golden delicious ... The gold-plated iPad Simon Hughes has for sale.

While Australia waits with twitchy fingers for their regular iPads to turn up, a UK designer who caters for the mega-rich geek has unveiled his latest creation.

Behold the solid-gold iPad Supreme Edition, worth around \$215,000, which gives you Wi-Fi, 3G, 64GB - and a whole lot more.

Encrusted with 25.5 carats of flawless diamonds, 53 of the gems "dwell beautifully in their solid 22ct Apple logo", according to seller Simon Hughes.

The rear and screen surround are made from a single piece of solid 22ct gold, weighing 2.1kg.

"A magnificent combination of top-of-the-industry technology and unrivalled craftsmanship was involved in creating this masterpiece", is how the creation is described on Hughes' website.

Only 10 of the units will be made.

The ultimate iPad follows some of Hughes' other creations, which include the [world's most expensive phone](#) - an iPhone reputedly worth more than \$3 million.

Tim Clark watoday.com.au

Change email font, save money (If you print your emails!)

A US university has found a new way to cut costs with email - by changing the font. The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay has switched the default font on its email system from Arial to Century Gothic. It says that while the change sounds minor, it will save money on ink when students print emails in the new font.

Diane Blohwiak is the school's director of computing. She says the new font uses about 30 per cent less ink than the previous one. That could add up to real savings, since the cost of printer ink works out to about US\$10,000 (AS\$11,070) per gallon. Blohwiak says the decision is part of the school's five-year plan to go green. She tells Wisconsin Public Radio it's great that a change that's eco-friendly also saves money.

Club news

Special Courses: Two more weeks of Digital Photography Course - 3 June & 17 June.

Picasa Course - 24 June, 1 July & 15 July. Booking list on board in club room.

Former president Jack Newton is recovering well from his operation.

Acting president Bob Bellini is home again.

Now we know why Lyn went to Memphis on the way to Alaska.



Elvis Lives!



Julian Assange, the man behind Wikileaks

They seek him here, they seek him there, but the founder of the whistleblowing website Wikileaks is as elusive as a modern-day Pimpernel.

He is an Australian, with boltholes in Sweden, east Africa and Iceland. Assange is the founder of Wikileaks, a website that cheekily dubs itself the "uncensorable Wikipedia for untraceable mass document leaking and analysis". Designed as a digital drop box, the site is a place where anyone can anonymously post sensitive information.



His caution — some would say paranoia — is understandable: he has made many enemies since launching Wikileaks three years ago. He claims the Pentagon is out to destroy the site after a series of exposés, notably the US rules of engagement for Iraq, Nato's plans for the Afghan war and the operations manual for the US detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which revealed it was American policy to hide some prisoners from the International Committee of the Red Cross and use dogs to intimidate inmates.

The release of the military footage and recordings of US air crew mocking the dead has deeply embarrassed the Pentagon, outraged Iraqi journalists and enhanced the aura of mystery surrounding Assange, a figure so elusive that he even refuses to confirm his age: "I prefer to keep the bastards guessing."

Wikileaks published a confidential Australian blacklist of websites to be banned under the Australian government's proposed internet filter. The list as published by Wikileaks blocked links to YouTube clips, sites on voluntary euthanasia, fringe religions, and traditional pornography - as well as the websites of a tour operator and a dentist. The government says the intention is to block extreme sites depicting such things as child pornography, bestiality and rape.

The one secret Wikileaks has failed to divulge is Assange's early background. He is reported to have said that his parents ran a touring theatre company in Australia and that he went to more than 30 schools. However, The Australian newspaper has unravelled striking parallels between Assange and a character named Mendax in a book called *Underground*, which details the exploits of teenage Melbourne computer hackers. Assange, who collaborated with Suelette Dreyfus, the author, has not denied that he was Mendax.

According to *Underground*, Mendax was a prodigiously intelligent child who never knew his father and spent much of his youth travelling across Australia. As a teenager, Mendax invented a computer program that enabled a group of hackers called the International Subversives to invade computers at the Pentagon, NASA and other top-secret organisations.

Mendax/Assange supposedly left home at 17 after being alerted to a police raid, fathered a child at 18, and had a breakdown after he was charged by police. "Briefly hospitalised, he lived rough in the hills outside Melbourne for a period," the publication summarised.

Assange preaches a "radical democracy" that is taking online activism into new and uncharted territory. Wikileaks is essentially an outlaw operation, creating a viral or word-of-mouth buzz with arresting secret intelligence. It has forced itself to the forefront of journalism in the digital age, where sites such as the Drudge Report once ruled supreme.

"Full source material is what helps keep journalism honest," Assange told The New York Times. "It's independently checkable in a way that a scientific paper is checkable. It's time that the media upgraded its capabilities along those lines."

He travels light to stay ahead of his foes, having lived for spells in Kenya and Tanzania. "He's a weird guy," said a former associate. "He seems to be quite nomadic, and I don't know how he lives like that, to be honest. He turns up with a rucksack, and I suspect that's all he's got." From The Sunday Times



Microsoft has announced (again) that July 13, 2012 is the day that support for Windows 2000 and XP SP2 will end. Microsoft also announced that online support such as Microsoft online Knowledge Base articles, FAQs, troubleshooting tools, and other resources will be available for only one year. If you're using Windows 2000, you are out of options - except to upgrade to Windows 7 (or find a copy of Vista on the Web still available for sale - usually cheap.) So all you Windows XP users listen up! You can extend Microsoft's support for XP until April 2014 simply by installing Service Pack 3 - available from Windows Updates. Service Pack 3 is free and we suggest if you have not installed it yet, you do so right now. You'll get almost 2 more full years of free support from Microsoft, by installing Service Pack 3. So install it, it's worth it. Cloudeight

The Enemy Within. When the Conficker computer "worm" was unleashed on the world in November 2008, cyber-security experts didn't know what to make of it. It infiltrated millions of computers around the globe. It constantly checks in with its unknown creators. It uses an encryption code so sophisticated that only a very few people could have deployed it. For the first time ever, the cyber-security elites of the world have joined forces in a high-tech game of cops and robbers, trying to find Conficker's creators and defeat them. The cops are failing. And now the worm lies there, waiting.



million computers.

Once created, botnets are valuable tools for criminal enterprise, botnets are also potentially dangerous weapons. If the right order were given, and all these computers worked together in one concerted effort, a botnet with that much computing power could crack many codes, break into and plunder just about any protected database in the world, and potentially hobble or even destroy almost any computer network, including those that make up a country's vital modern infrastructure: systems that control banking, telephones, energy flow, air traffic, health-care information—even the Internet itself. The key word there is could, because so far Conficker has done none of those things. If yours is one of the infected machines, you are unaware that you have a hidden rival, or that you are part of this vast robot fleet. The worm in-

ASCCA Working for Seniors **CYBER SECURITY** **FORUM for Members and Friends**

7 June 2010

10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

9.30 am Doors open for registration

10.00 am Welcome – Nan Bosler

Roll Call

10.10 am Warren Perumal, Executive Manager, Online Banking Support, Commonwealth Bank

10.40 am Speaker from Australian Federal Police

11.10 am Morning tea

11.30 am Kate Reynolds, Security and Privacy Initiatives Lead, Microsoft

12.00 noon Clubs speak out! Questions from the floor

12.30 pm Close

This event is free but bookings are required. Ring 9286 3871 or email

office@ascca.org.au

Overnight, it was everywhere. It was quietly slipping into personal computers worldwide—an estimated 500,000 in the first month.

The first job of a worm like Conficker is to infect and link together as many computers as possible. Thousands of botnets exist, most of them relatively small—a few thousand or a few tens of thousands of infected computers. More than a billion computers are in use around the world, and by some estimates, a fourth of them have been surreptitiously linked to a botnet. But few botnets approach the size and menace of the one created by Conficker, which has stealthily linked between 6 million and 7



side your machine is not idle. It is stealthily running, issuing small maintenance commands, working to protect itself from being discovered and removed, biding its time, and periodically checking in with its command-and-control centre. Conficker has taken over a large part of our digital world, and so far most people haven't even noticed.

The struggle against this remarkable worm is a sort of chess match unfolding in the esoteric world of computer security. It pits the cleverest attackers in the world, the bad guys, against the cleverest defenders in the world, the good guys (who have been dubbed the "Conficker Cabal"). It has prompted the first truly concerted global effort to kill a computer virus, extraordinary feats of international cooperation, and the deployment of state-of-the-art decryption techniques—moves and countermoves at the highest level of programming. The good guys have gone to unprecedented lengths, and have had successes beyond anything they would have thought possible when they started. But a year and a half into the battle, here's the bottom line:

The worm is winning. The Atlantic. By Mark Bowden Image: Alex Ostroy

PM slams Abbott's plan to scrap NBN

The opposition's plans to scrap the national broadband network will drag Australia "back to a horse and cart past", Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says.

In his budget reply speech, Opposition Leader Tony Abbott said the coalition would scrap the national broadband network (NBN) if elected.

The building of the NBN has already begun in Tasmania, with Smithton, Scottsdale and Midway Point to be connected to the high-speed network from July. Primus has announced its pricing for broadband plans in the three towns.

The Tasmanian Liberals have defied Mr Abbott and have thrown their support behind the federal government's plan.

At a community cabinet meeting in Burnie, in northwest Tasmania, Mr Rudd said the NBN was a critical infrastructure program. "Broadband here in Australia, frankly, is backward and overpriced," he told the meeting. "It's slower and it's more expensive than what is available in most competitor economies. We are in grave danger of being left behind ... (but) we have a chance to actually leapfrog the rest of the world." Mr Rudd said the opposition's threats to scrap the NBN would be disastrous for the country. "It seems that Mr Abbott has a different view, which is to drag us back to a horse and cart past," he said.

Communications Minister Stephen Conroy said the NBN would benefit Tasmania in particular. "In Tasmania, you have had the slowest and most expensive broadband anywhere in Australia," he told the meeting. "One of the reasons we decided to start here in Tasmania was because of that." Patrick Caruana AAP

The Australian Medical Association has weighed in on the new Rudd health care proposals.

The Allergists voted to scratch it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Government had a lot of nerve.

The Obstetricians felt they were all labouring under a misconception.

Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Paediatricians said, "Oh, Grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.



The Internists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow, and the Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter...."

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

The Anaesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and the Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

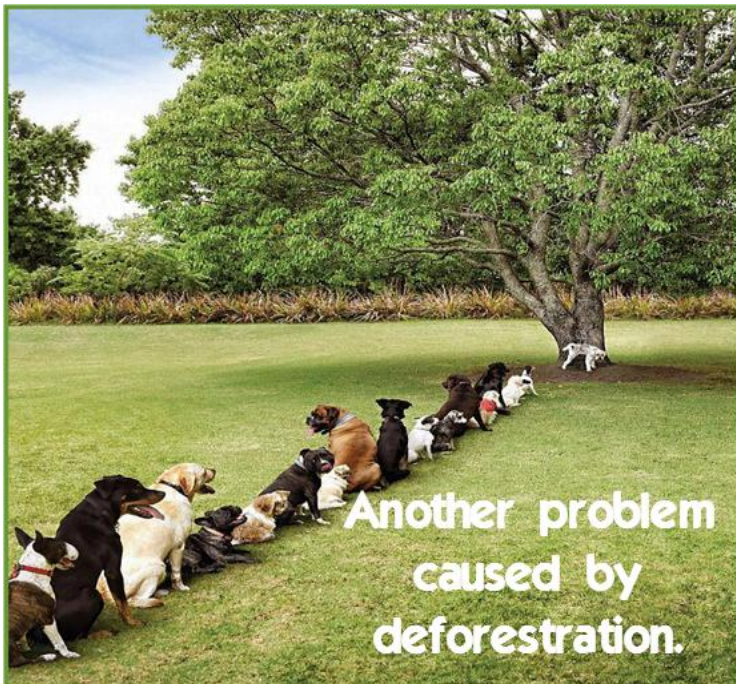
(In the end, the Proctologists won out.)

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)		
Monday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Graham Clark & Lyn Nicholls Arthur Johnson & David McAdam
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Philip Bratel & Wally Gora Lyll McNeish & Tony Wu
Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Ted Hulbert & Bridget Mahoney Harry Agüero & Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Dorothy Peters & Tony van de Walle Special Courses
Friday	9 am - 1 pm 9 am - 5 pm	Ern Cohen & Hugh Walker Bob Bellini Mac only

Important Notice.
Those members who do not receive the Manly Mouse by email will be able to read it on our website www.manlycompals.org.au/ Send your email address to gwyneth@bigpond.net.au .

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND A CLASS PLEASE PHONE THE CLUB 9976 0930 AND ADVISE THE DUTY TUTOR TO ALTER LIST AND ALSO PLEASE TELL YOUR TUTOR.

The assistance provided by Manly Council to Manly Computerpals is gratefully acknowledged.



Welcome to new members:
John CHOBOCKY; Barbara KOUDRIN; Helen PHOKOS
If you are not listed here you will be next month.

Our Website is kept up to date by Graham and includes photos, latest news and recent and earlier copies of the Manly Mouse.

www.manlycompals.org.au

Disclaimers
Members who bring equipment such as a laptop computer or digital camera to the Club do so at their own risk and Computerpals accepts no responsibility for damages or loss.

This newsletter is provided "As Is" without warranty of any kind. Each reader of the Manly Mouse newsletter assumes complete risk as to the accuracy and subsequent use of its contents.