

MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

March 2012

On 8th March at 2 pm in the Manly Library Room
Bridget Mahoney will give a demonstration of eBook readers.



She says, "I will show two types of electronic reader. Each has separate desktop apps and file formats for their relevant online bookshops. Local libraries are now lending to your iPad and eReader. Audio books can be borrowed by the reader with an MP3 player. No more late fees for books. We are not getting younger and never know when we will need this convenience."

As usual we will have afternoon tea and the pleasure of chatting to fellow members and tutors.



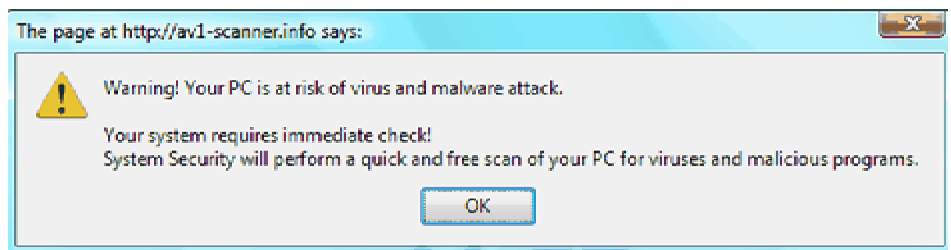
Ted Hulbert started the year well at our February function by giving us a picture of the future of computing especially this year. He warned us against installing Windows 8 at this stage even though the Beta will soon be released. He has already tried it and says it is very different from Windows 7 and previous operating systems. The version Ted was using was far from finished and severely upset his computer. However, the final version will be ready by the end of the year and computers will be sold with Windows 8 installed. He went on to discuss Cloud Computing where all data is stored on massive secure computer systems on the internet. 2012 will be the year of changes particularly mobile devices. Smartphones will change most of all with bigger screens and more powerful processors capable of playing high definition content, making them true mobile computing devices in their own right. The success of the iPad in 2011 led to tablets being the hottest products last year. Laptop use may decline due to the convenience of smartphones and tablets. However, businesses will still require powerful desktops which still outnumber any other form of computer.





Rogues are the most common form of malicious attack you're likely to encounter these days.

Fig 1. "System Security" sounds like it's a Windows function. It is not. It's a deception. Do not click the "X" and do not click "OK". Press ALT+F4. If ALT+F4 does not work, follow the steps outlined below.



Calmly right-click on an empty place on your taskbar and right-click it. Select Task Manager. When Task Manager opens, click the Processes tab and locate your Browser's exe file. Internet Explorer is called iexplore.exe and Firefox is called firefox.exe. Right-click on the browser's exe and choose "End process tree". Ignore the warning and proceed. This will close your browser immediately regardless of whatever tricks the site may be playing. If you have more than one instance of your browser running you may have to individually close each instance. Simply repeat the steps above. If all else fails - turn your computer off at the switch.

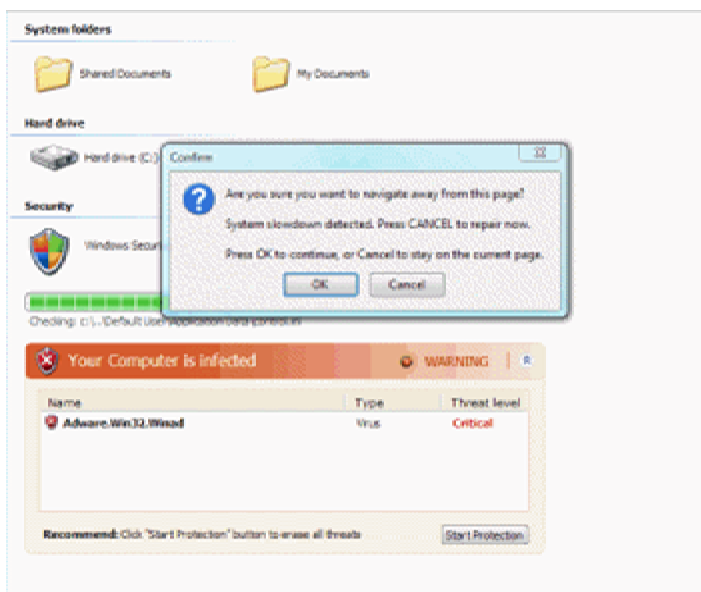


Fig 2. Tricky, tricky, tricky. See how it looks like your own computer. It's not. We did this on Vista on a computer with 4 hard drives. This is just a clever reproduction that could be anyone's Windows XP computer. It couldn't be a Vista or Windows 7 computer. Look at the folders and look at the name "My Documents". On Vista and Windows 7 "My Documents" are called "Documents". Again, never click the "X" or "OK" or "Cancel", if you do the installation will start. Never click anything on these kinds of pages. Use ALT+F4. If that fails to close the browser use Task Manager to end the process and terminate your browsing session.



Seniors Week: The club will be open on Thursday afternoon 22 March for non members to come and see what we do. Tell your friends.



Bogus call centres fleece retirees in sophisticated scams.

Organised crime gangs are targeting retirees with increasingly sophisticated scams that may have cost thousands of elderly Australians more than \$100 million.

Police and the Australian Crime Commission told the *Herald* fraudsters we are going to extreme lengths to "backstop" their scams by manning multiple phones with informed, convincing associates.

The scams begin with a phone call, inviting the victim to invest in a scheme offering massive returns. The victim is sometimes then directed to a website, which looks "official".

The Australian Federal Police Assistant Commissioner, Neil Gaughan, said it was when the victim rang the numbers supplied by the criminals that the sophistication of the schemes becomes apparent.

"All the way through, the crooks have the ability to think what the question will be, and they put in place a process to make the exercise sound legitimate."

Investors had been promised a 30 per cent return over six months, but the scammers were allegedly withdrawing money from bank accounts. Although no charges have been laid, police have asked anyone who worked for the companies West Trade and Atlas Lead Generation, and any investors, to contact them. *This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/bogus-call-centres-fleece-retirees-in-sophisticated-scams-20120215-1t6rk.html>*

What's in your computer?

The **Belarc Advisor** builds a detailed profile of your installed software and hardware, network inventory, missing Microsoft hotfixes, anti-virus status, security benchmarks, and displays the results in your Web browser. All of your PC profile information is kept private on your PC and is not sent to any web server. http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

Speccy will give you detailed statistics on every piece of hardware in your computer. Including CPU, Motherboard, RAM, Graphics Cards, Hard Disks, Optical Drives, Audio support. Additionally Speccy adds the temperatures of your different components, so you can easily see if there's a problem!

If you need to add more memory to your system, for example, you can check how many memory slots your computer has and what memory is already installed. Then you can go out and buy the right type of memory to add on or replace what you've already got.

If you're going to be selling your PC, you can use Speccy to quickly list out the components. Or, if you're buying a PC, you can use Speccy to check that the computer has what the label says it has. Also, Speccy comes in handy for support. If you're on the phone with technical support and they want to know what video card you have installed, there's no need to hunt around Windows. Speccy has all the information on one easy-to-understand screen.

You can get more information and/or download Speccy from <http://www.piriform.com/speccy/>

What is a CAPTCHA? A CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing Test To Tell Computers and Humans Apart) is used as a challenge-response test in computing to ensure that a human and not a computer is typing the information into a Website form. CAPTCHAS are used to prevent unauthorized logins and spam. Computers and bots are becoming so sophisticated some can defeat single CAPTCHAS and some Web sites are now using double-CAPTCHAS. *Cloudeight*





The predictions being made by climate scientists are indeed terrifying, but what can one person do?



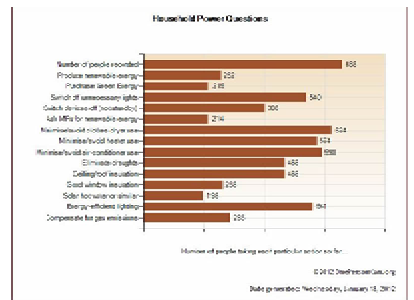
One person can actually do a lot - our survey contains many examples of climate-friendly things people are already doing - but we're all much more likely to join in and help if we see that "everyone else is doing it too".



There IS quite a lot of safe-climate action going on, but often it's not obvious. Perhaps you always switch off lights when they are not needed, for example, or grow your own vegies, or take public transport, or buy Green Energy, but how many people know that?

Please make your safe-climate actions visible by taking the Survey of one Person Actions. <http://onepersoncan.org/survey/surveystart.aspx> This survey is not a test! It's all about making your actions visible. Practically everyone would already take at least some climate-friendly actions. Even if you think you don't do much, we want to add your actions to the survey results. Of course we want people who take lots of actions to take the survey too! Perhaps you've seen plenty of climate-related websites, but this one is a little different - it gives you a mechanism for telling everyone what you do.

We add together the actions taken by everyone who completes the survey, and generate national and local graphs showing the "results so far". We then publish those results as widely as we can. Those who think, "Well, I *could* do such-and-such, but why bother - it won't make any difference unless millions of other people do that too", might change their mind and join in and help when they see these result graphs! Around 3 million Australians use renewable energy, either rooftop solar or Green Energy. Probably many more people take the simpler and cheaper actions in the survey, but we won't know until you all take the survey and tell us.



View results graph

This is a copy of the Home Page of One Person Can. If you would like to fill in the survey go to the Web Page <http://onepersoncan.org/> If you need help ask your tutor.

iPad Tip If you tap and hold down certain keys on the keyboard you will be presented with a number of different character options. Here are some examples. Experiment on your own to find special characters you may find useful.





Retired Husband

After I retired, my wife insisted that I accompany her on her trips to Target. Unfortunately, like most men, I found shopping boring and preferred to get in and get out. Equally unfortunate, my wife is like most women - she loves to browse.

Yesterday my dear wife received the following letter from the local Target:

Dear Mrs. Harris,

Over the past six months, your husband has caused quite a commotion in our store. We cannot tolerate this behaviour and have been forced to ban both of you from the store. Our complaints against your husband, Mr. Harris, are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras:

1. June 15: He took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in other people's carts when they weren't looking.
2. July 2: Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.
3. July 7: He made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the women's restroom.
4. July 19: Walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, 'Code 3 in Housewares. Get on it right away'. This caused the employee to leave her assigned station and receive a reprimand from her Supervisor that in turn resulted with a union grievance, causing management to lose time and costing the company money.
5. August 4: Went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of M&Ms on layaway.
6. August 14: Moved a 'CAUTION - WET FLOOR' sign to a carpeted area.
7. August 15: Set up a tent in the camping department and told the children shoppers he'd invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the bedding department to which twenty children obliged.
8. August 23: When a clerk asked if they could help him he began crying and screamed, 'Why can't you people just leave me alone?' EMTs were called.
9. September 4: Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose.
10. September 10: While handling guns, he asked the clerk where the antidepressants were.
11. October 3: Darted around the Store suspiciously while loudly humming the 'Mission Impossible' theme.
12. October 6: In the auto department he practiced his 'Madonna Look' by using different sizes of funnels.
13. Hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through, yelled 'PICK ME! PICK ME!'
14. October 22: When an announcement came over the loudspeaker he assumed a fetal position and screamed 'OH NO! IT'S NOT THOSE VOICES AGAIN!'
15. Took a box of condoms to the check out clerk and asked where is the fitting room?

And last but not least:

16. October 23: Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited a while, and then yelled very loudly, 'Hey! There's no toilet paper in here.'

One of the clerks passed out.

Thank you, Bob.



Lyn—Progress Report

Lyn is getting on well and we might be seeing her again in March.



Welcome to new members:
 Warren BRADLEY; Dorothy BURNS;
 Charles KLENSCH; Noelene
 MOTTRAM; June YOUNG.
 If you are not listed here you will be next
 month.

Tutors' Roster (subject to change)

Monday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Graham Clark and Hugh Walker Arthur Johnson and David McAdam
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Philip Bratel and Wally Gore Lyall McNeish and Tony Wu
Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Ted Hulbert and Jack Newton Harry Agüero and Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Bridget Mahoney and Judith Timpson
Friday	9 am - 1 pm 9 am - 5 pm	Ern Cohen John Brooks Bob Bellini Mac only

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

And a very special warm welcome
 back and thanks to Jan Schoots who
 is now tutoring again. Jan was a tutor for
 many years but was unable to do much
 tutoring while caring for her husband,
 Tom, who died after a long and painful
 illness. Our sympathy goes to Jan for her
 great loss. You may not know that Jan is
 also a quilter and has won countless
 prizes. Last year she won First Prize at
 the Royal Easter Show for this computer
 software generated quilt.



The bad news is you've got advanced-
 stage humans. The good news is
 they've just about run their course
 and you should be on the mend soon.



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.

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

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