

MANLY MOUSE

Newsletter of Computerpals for Seniors - Manly Inc.

April 2011

April General Meeting will be presented by **David McAdam** at 2 pm on **Thursday 14 April** in the Manly Library Meeting Room. David titles his talk **An Overflow of Computers, subtitled A Ramble through the last 50 Years of Computing**. David says, rather than boring the audience with details about the computers I have known/seen/used, I am using the photos as a reminder of the human stories - "war stories" - that I associate with these machines. Some humorous, others, perhaps, just of interest to me. I may be able to bring along an artefact or two from some of these computers to the meeting - don't know yet. But as I realised, with something of a start, that I wrote my first computer program back in 1960, I thought that the progress in computers that has occurred since might be of interest to the members. Tea, coffee and biscuits will follow as usual with a chance to talk to fellow members and tutors. Door prizes too!



Bob Bellini presented **The 2010/11 Oscars** for our March Meeting. There was a good turn-up of members for a very instructive, interesting and amusing talk. Here's what he said:

In late 2010/early 2011 around 150,000 people were surveyed on their satisfaction with their PCs. They were surveyed on satisfaction in up to 15 categories. The surveys were conducted by major US, UK and Oz magazines, plus a couple of commercial survey companies, and a major US PC Repair company who published statistics on problems by vendor. I have aggregated the results to produce a list of winners in the following areas for Laptop PCs.

<u>Most Reliable</u>	<u>Best Support</u>	<u>Buy/Recommend</u>	<u>Top Overall</u>
1) <i>Apple Mac</i>	1) <i>Apple Mac</i>	1) <i>Apple Mac</i>	1) <i>Apple Mac</i>
2) <i>Asus</i>	2) <i>MSI</i>	2) <i>Asus</i>	2) <i>Asus</i>
3) <i>MSI</i>	3) <i>Asus</i>	3) <i>MSI</i>	3) <i>MSI</i>
4) <i>Toshiba</i>	4) <i>Lenova</i>	4) <i>Toshiba</i>	4) <i>Toshiba</i>
5) <i>Acer</i>	5) <i>Compaq</i>	5) <i>Dell</i>	5) <i>Lenova</i>
6) <i>Sony</i>	6) <i>Toshiba</i>	6) <i>Lenova</i>	6) <i>Acer</i>
7) <i>Lenova</i>	7) <i>Dell</i>	7) <i>Sony</i>	7) <i>Sony</i>
8) <i>Compaq</i>	8) <i>Sony</i>	8) <i>Acer</i>	8) <i>Dell</i>
9) <i>HP</i>	9) <i>HP</i>	9) <i>Compaq</i>	9) <i>HP</i>
10) <i>Dell</i>	10) <i>Acer</i>	10) <i>HP</i>	10) <i>Compaq</i>



The results for the Desktop categories I have omitted, mainly because many brand names are generally unknown (Alienware, Chillblast, Cyberpower, etc.) and also include self built and local PC shop builds. However, the top Desktop Vendor over all brands was again Apple.

What You Need To Know to Understand the Results

Firstly, with the exception of MSI, none of the above vendors actually BUILD their PCs. In fact, very few even DESIGN their PCs. This is done by a whole bunch of Chinese companies called ODMs (Original Design Manufactures). Names like Quanta, Compal, Wistron, Pegatron, etc. ... ever heard of them? I thought not. These companies have been building your Dells, HPs, Compaqs, etc. for YEARS. Often the name you know doesn't ever touch the PC ... the ODMs will even ship it!

So obviously much of the stuff is just cheap Chinese junk manufactured by unskilled labourers! Wrong!!!! The ODMs have superb quality control, and their manufacturing is to Sigma 6 ratings (look that up on Google). So then, why the difference in the vendor products?




Well, it's all down to dollars (surprise, surprise!). The way it works is that a Vendor (Dell, HP, etc.) come up with functions and features they'd like in a new PC model, and set a price on what they will pay to an ODM to produce it. They then put the specs out to tender with the all the ODMs.

The ODMs then work out what components they will need to match the required functions and features, and select them within the price set by the Vendor (light coming on now?).

So the higher the price allowed by the Vendor, the better the components.

There is also the design function, which most Vendors have done by the ODMs. This means the Vendors' people have very little to do with the internals and little "hands on" until someone calls up for support !!!

So it will not surprise you to discover that the Vendors who do their own development and design and set higher price limits for components are ... wait for it

Apple	Asus	MSI
		

You would also not be surprised to hear that the 2nd overall Desktop award went to Alienware ... which is a high end and high price gaming PC designed and built by Dell!

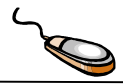
And it would be obvious to you that the more expensive HP and Dell business range of Laptops fared much better in the survey results.

As Mother told you ... you get what you pay for.

Bob Bellini



Thank you, Dorothy, for these pictures.



Microsoft has officially released the final version of Internet Explorer 9. After years of haemorrhaging market share to rival web browsers like Firefox and Google Chrome, Microsoft feels it finally has a browser capable of fighting back.

Microsoft would like Internet Explorer 9 to be known as fast, clean and trusted.



The interface for IE9 is radically different from its predecessors, boasting a streamlined design to maximise the amount of screen space for displaying websites. Firefox 4 has also been designed in a similar way, while both must tip their hat to Google Chrome which pioneered such a minimalist user interface. Tabs can also be “torn” off the main IE9 window, allowing two or more websites to be compared side-by-side (Windows 7 users will gain most from this feature in conjunction with Aero Snap).

There’s a new Download Manager tool that allows you to both pause and resume downloads, plus it provides additional protection against malware by comparing the downloaded file to a database of known trusted files - if the file isn’t on this database, you’ll be warned that it’s suspicious.

The new Add-Ons Manager is also geared towards performance, with an Add-Ons Performance Advisor letting you know which add-ons are responsible for slowing IE’s boot time. One major new feature introduced in the RC was Tracking Protection, which is designed to prevent websites from tracking your browsing - it can be found under the Safety menu, while other changes from the beta releases included performance and usability improvements, plus better support for HTML5 standards.

Internet Explorer 9 is available now for both Windows Vista (32-bit and 64-bit) and Windows 7 (32-bit and 64-bit), and should soon appear as an option in Windows Update as well as a separate download - regardless of whether or not you use Internet Explorer as your primary browser, it should be considered an essential update. Windows XP users will have to stick with Internet Explorer 8 or consider switching to an alternative web browser. Download: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/internet-explorer/downloads/ie-9/worldwide-languages> This article originally appeared at softwarecrew.co.uk *PC & Tech Authority*

iPad 2

With the unveiling of the iPad 2, Apple is pulling further ahead, with improvements that make an already excellent tablet even more enticing. It goes to show that when it comes to tablets, Apple refuses to be bested.

The iPad 2 launched in Australia on March 25. It is in Apple shops now or online with free delivery. Price range \$579 to \$949 depending on configuration.

The new iPad is skinnier, faster and slightly lighter. It comes with cameras for video chatting and snapping photos. It looks much like the first iPad, though it has a sleeker, lighter body with a curved back. Among the most noticeable changes is the inclusion of cameras, one on the front and one on the back.

The new iPad has Apple’s new dual-core A5 chip, which helped applications open more quickly than on the older iPad.

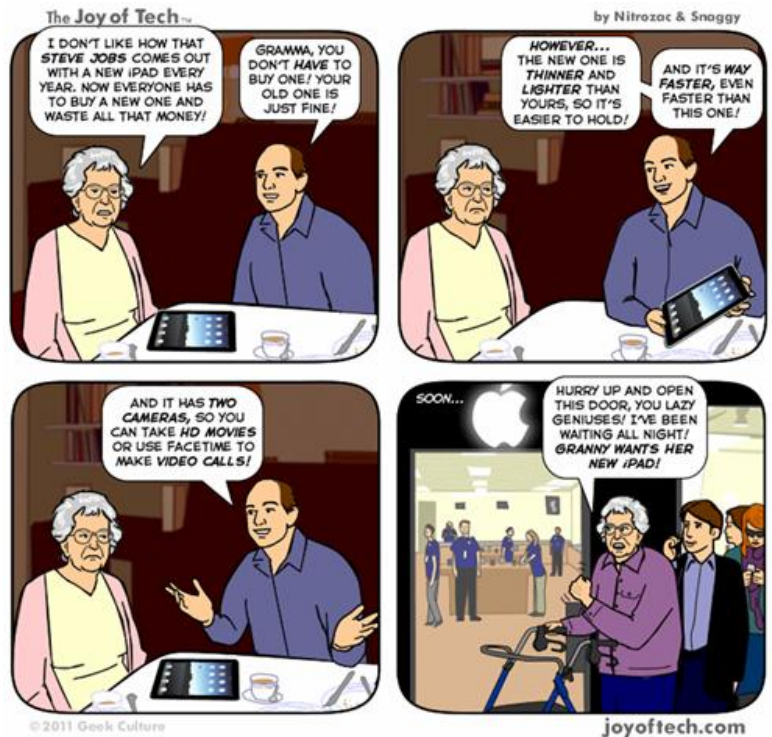
Like the first iPad, the iPad 2 is rated for up to 10 hours of battery life, and it performed like a champ. Playing a mix of videos streamed from YouTube over Wi-Fi and saved on the iPad itself, you get a bit more than 10 hours of entertainment.



You can buy versions that work with 3G networks. The cheapest iPad connects only through Wi-Fi, however. You can also get it in black or white – before, your only option was black.

Without question, the iPad 2 is a great tablet. Still, this doesn't mean the first iPad is ready for the trash can. It's still a stellar gadget, and now it's cheaper (while supplies last) with the arrival of a successor. Should you feel the urge to have the latest and greatest, however, go for it. Chances are, it will be the best tablet in town – at least until the arrival of the iPad 3.

SMH Digital Life AP Rachel Metz, AP technology writer



To Make your Cursor Easy to Find.

1. Click Start then Control Panel (switch to “Classic View” in XP or Vista - or list view in Windows 7)
2. Click On “Mouse”
3. Choose Pointer Options
4. Select “Show location of pointer when I press the CTRL key.”

Search tips. We'll use an example to show you some favourite tips: Let's say you're looking for sports cars and all you're getting is information on football, baseball, basketball and all kinds of cars. Try some of these tips for defining your search.

1. Search for: sports + cars

Most search engines will interpret this as meaning you only want results that have both the word “sports” and “cars” in them.

2. Exclude terms: sports+cars -football.

The minus sign tells the search engine to exclude the term with the minus sign preceding it. Just be sure you don't put a space after the minus sign. As in the example above, if you want to exclude “football” from your results type -football.

3. Most search engines have an “advanced search” option that gives you a web-style way to help you accomplish the same thing as the tips above. The “advanced search” option gives you multiple choices via drop-down menus and other choices to help you narrow your search so that your results are more targeted to what you're looking for. Although the advanced search option is easier, using + and - in your search terms is almost always faster and produces much the same result as the search engine's “advanced search” option.

4. You can also try being more specific. Instead of typing sports cars , try using specific names. For example sports+cars+mercedes or sports+cars+vintage (you get the idea). The possibilities are



virtually endless. The more you narrow your search terms the more likely it is you'll find exactly what you are looking for the first time and on the first or second page of search results. If you narrow your terms it's unlikely you'll find yourself scrolling through eighty pages of irrelevant search results to get to results you want.

5. Another good tip. Quotes will often help search engines define your terms. If you're searching for sports cars, try typing "sports cars". The words between the quotes are interpreted as a phrase by most search engines. If you're looking for knitting supplies, try typing "knitting supplies". Try it both ways. Many times you'll see different results. You should only get results that match your exact phrase in the exact order you typed them. So type them in the order that is most likely to give you the results you want.

Remember too, that the above tips work with most, but not all search engines. These tips work well in Google and probably in your favourite search engine too. It's worth a try. If these tips work for you, you'll find yourself using them all the time. It's great to get the results you want the first time rather than having to go through pages and pages of irrelevant search results to find whatever you're looking for. *Cloudeight*

Scammers think you're gullible - enjoy proving them wrong

Warning signs

- You receive a scam call out of the blue claiming there is a problem with your computer.
- The caller claims to be from a large computer company/brand, bank, financial institution, or legitimate technical service provider.
- They will request remote access to your computer and if you say yes will run a 'scan' that shows up a fake virus.
- The scammer will pressure you into buying unnecessary software or a service to 'fix' the computer.
- The scammer may be very persistent and use abusive or inappropriate language.
- The scammers may sound professional and knowledgeable.
- If you fall victim to the scam you may receive a follow up call falsely claiming to be from an overseas government or law enforcement body pretending they can recover the money you initially lost to the scam - Beware this is another scam!

Protect yourself

- If you receive a phone call out of the blue about your computer system's security status and requesting remote access - hang up - even if they mention a well-known company or product.
- Check the SCAMwatch site for updates on known frauds and scams. Telstra

Ted has seen more examples of these scams in the last month.

Congratulations and thanks to Graham Clark who has rebuilt our club's website to a fresh new look. Click on

and see for yourself.

www.manlycompals.org.au

Tips & Hints is especially useful.

There you will find WebWise, a brilliant FREE training site for beginners which has been put out by the BBC. It covers all areas

- Computer Basics
- Internet Basics
- Webwise online course - a step by step guide
- Social Media Basics



Welcome to new members:

Wendy Bolton, Lois Williams, Robyn Gandy, John De Coque, Sue Terry, David Pryce-Jones .If you are not listed here you will be next month.

Upgrades!

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend to Husband and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewellery applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend.

In addition, Husband uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance and Personal Attention and then installed undesirable programs such as Rugby, Football, Sailing and Continuous TV. Conversation no longer runs, and Housecleaning simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?
Signed, Desperate

Dear Desperate,

First keep in mind, Boyfriend is an Entertainment Package, while Husband is an Operating System. Please enter the command: 'http: I Thought You Loved Me.html' and try to download Tears.

Don't forget to install the Guilt update. If that application works as designed, Husband should then automatically run the applications Jewellery and Flowers, but remember - overuse of the above application can cause Husband to default to Grumpy Silence, Garden Shed or Beer. Beer is a very bad program that will download the Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT install Mother-in-law (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources). Also, do not attempt to reinstall the Boyfriend program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband.

In summary, Husband is a great system, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. It also tends to work better running one task at a time. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Food and Hot Lingerie.

Good Luck, Tech Support

Thank you, David

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 & Nora Takats Lyll McNeish & Tony Wu
Wednesday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Ted Hulbert Harry Aguero & Elaine Johns
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm 1 pm - 5 pm	Bridget Mahoney & Tony van der Walle
Friday	9 am - 1 pm 9 am - 5 pm	Ern Cohen John Brooks & Sally Bennett Bob Bellini Mac only

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.

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.

