

Issue 201

SPRING 2018

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER  
GROUP



HOT KEY

APRIL 2018

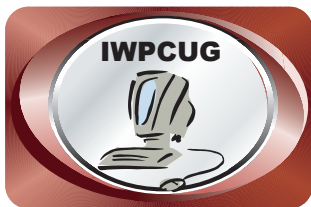


At our March meeting James Pilcher (from the Tech Store in Scarrots Lane, Newport) took apart a PC and discussed the various components inside it.

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# The Isle of Wight Personal Computer User Group

We welcome anyone who has an interest in computers and related technology and what you can do with them.

We are a group which seeks to exchange ideas and new information.

**Membership is £12 per annum**

Our meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at

**The Riverside Centre, Newport** from 7.30 to 9.30 pm

*Visitors are always welcome.*

**A charge of £2 is made per meeting, which includes tea or coffee during the break.**

**If you would like to know more about us, you are most welcome to come along to one of our meetings, or you can contact one of our Committee Members listed on page 3.**

The Club web site address is **[www.iwpcug.org](http://www.iwpcug.org)**

We also have an e-group discussion area on  
Yahoo groups: **[iwpcusers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:iwpcusers@yahoogroups.com)**.

Details of how to join are on page 6.



## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Speaker</u></b>
<b>4 April</b>	<b>The Dark Web</b>	<b>Jonathan Burt</b>
<b>2 May</b>	<b>GDPR - What it means for you</b>	<b>Chris Court</b>
<b>6 June</b>	<b>Photography</b>	<b>Andrew Collins</b>
<b>4 July</b>	<b>TBA</b>	

## ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP COMMITTEE

**Chairman :** David Groom

**Treasurer :** Phil Rogers

**Secretary :** Susanne Bone

**Membership and Database Secretary :** Roger Skidmore

**Committee Member :** Steve Sutters

**Committee Member :** Soren Johanson

**Committee Member :** Mike Hoar

**Note:** contact details removed prior to publishing on the internet

Suggestions for new events, topics or speakers for talks are always welcome.  
Please contact Steve Sutters, or any committee member, with your ideas.  
If necessary we may be able to find a speaker for your subject.

## **Chairman's Report**

Since the last issue of HotKey we have had the AGM, a summary of this can be found on page 8, and full minutes are available on our web site.

Thanks to the efforts of Steve and Roger our monthly calendar is filling up, the online version is of course always available for you to look at between editions of HotKey.

At the AGM Roger reported that we had 39 members, and one new member has joined since then. Approximately half of our members do not attend meetings, and so HotKey is a vital way of keeping in touch with that section of our membership, as of course is the Yahoo Group.

Sorry for the rather brief report this time, I'm rushing to get this edition to the printers bearing in mind the long bank holiday weekend immediately before publication date!

**David Groom**

### **Car Sharing / Lifts**

It is possible that a number of our members do not attend our monthly meetings because they find transport to Newport difficult and the committee have wondered if it might be possible to arrange lifts for those members. With a membership as large as ours it is not always obvious who might like to attend but has difficulty with transport, and secondly, who might live nearby and be able to offer them a lift.

As a first step, if you would like to attend the meetings, currently can't get to the Riverside Centre on a Wednesday evening and would like to see if there is a nearby member who might offer you a lift, then could you please get in contact with me. We will then try and find a member who might be willing to give you a lift.



The Domain Name Service is the process of translating human readable domain names such as iwpcug.org into IP addresses such as 5.10.29.105 which is the way that internet traffic is routed around the internet infrastructure. Essentially DNS is a database of all domain names which tells your computer which remote computer to send requests to for an internet based resource.

Because most consumer hardware connected to the internet is set to automatically use the DNS of their ISP the majority of people use their ISP's default DNS, especially when using an ISP-issued router. But you don't have to stick with that. There are now several Domain Name Service (DNS) providers out there, all vying for your attention and internet traffic.

You have a choice of Google Public DNS, OpenDNS, FreeDNS, and many more, including a newcomer called Quad9 DNS.

The Quad9 Domain Name System (DNS) is a free security service developed by IBM Security in collaboration with non-profit research bodies Packet Clearing House and the Global Cyber Alliance - with the latter group including some law enforcement and government agencies. It helps to protect users from common cyber threats and improves system performance by automatically blocking access to known malicious sites, helping protect users from the theft of their personal information, infection with ransomware and malware, and other online fraud and crime.

It does this using threat intelligence feeds from IBM's X-Force security service and 18 other partner organizations, Quad9 compiles a constantly updated blacklist of known bad websites — ones that contaminate visitors with malware or are used to control infected computers. If a user clicks on a link, for instance in a phishing email, Quad9 will block the move.

Setting up Quad9 requires just a simple configuration change, requiring you to change your DNS settings to 9.9.9.9, hence the name Quad9. Most organizations or home users can update in minutes by changing DNS settings in their internet router which will update all clients, and connected devices, in a few minutes with no action needed at end devices at all. The service is and will remain freely available to anyone wishing to use it.

A short video which explains DNS, how Quad9 can help you, and how it can be set up can be seen here <https://tinyurl.com/iwquad9> .

More information can be found on the Quad9 web site [www.quad9.net](http://www.quad9.net)

It should be noted that a similar, and a longer established service is operated by OpenDNS using their “OpenDNS Home” offering, though this does appear to require you to sign-up to their service before you can use it. It’s not clear how the robustness of its protection compares with Quad9, but some people prefer it because it is not supported by “law enforcement and government agencies” as Quad9 is.

I moved my DNS settings away from my ISP to Quad9 in January once I became aware of its existence.

**David Groom**

### **Joining the Yahoo Group**

Send an email to: **[iwpcusers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:iwpcusers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)** with “join” in the subject line.

All members are encouraged to join this group (it’s free and private to club members) so you can keep in touch with events and join in with the discussions.

You can also keep in touch by regularly visiting **[www.iwpcug.org](http://www.iwpcug.org)**

## **HotKey - a Look Back in Time**

The fact that the last issue of HotKey was issue number 200, quite a milestone, and it I thought it might be interesting to write a little more about the publication.

Issue number one was produced in October 1991, and consisted of four sides of A4 paper (half the size of today's edition) and was printed in black and white. It's interesting to note that contributors were requested to send in their articles on a floppy disk, there was no email back in those days! I have scanned a copy of it and it can be seen at [www.iwpcug.org/hotkey/HotKey\\_issue1.pdf](http://www.iwpcug.org/hotkey/HotKey_issue1.pdf), and the first page of that issue is also included on the back page of this issue. Until January 2004 it was a monthly publication, but since then it has been produced quarterly.

Looking at the first edition I am sure it was just produced on word processing software. It later switched to being produced in Microsoft Publisher, and since July 2007 has been produced using various versions of Serif PagePlus software.

Over the years there have been various editors, and countless contributors.

There are sixty seven editions available to read on our web site. It would appear that it was not decided to place HotKey on the web site until January 2002, and regrettably due to changes in editor or webmaster a few issues since then have not been put on the web site. However paper copies of all editions do exist, and it would be possible (though time consuming) to scan all of these and create PDF's.

Over the years there have been many useful articles, and I often think what is needed is an index, so we can refer back to them. It would be another time consuming task to compile this. If anyone feels up to the challenge then please contact me.

At various AGMs we have soemtimes discussed ceasing production of HotKey, but it has always been felt that it does provide a benefit to members, particularly those who are unable to come along to our monthly meetings.

As ever, contributions from members are most welcome, just a look through some of the past issues to show you what a wide range of topics we cover.

**David Groom**

## **News From The AGM**

Our AGM was held in February, the committee remains largely unchanged except Bob Groom has stepped down as HotKey editor after undertaking this role since 2007. I will be editing Hotkey from now on.

Reports from the various committee members on their responsibilities were received.

The committee had recommended no change to the subscriptions. One member present suggested a £24 annual subscription but no meeting fee. Although it was recognised that this would simplify our monthly meetings some felt it would penalise those members of long standing who were not mobile enough to attend meetings but liked to still be members of the club and receive the magazine. It was also pointed out that such a move would mean that members who were unable to attend meetings would be subsidising attendees' coffees. The matter was put to the vote and it was decided to keep the subscription the same.

**David Groom**

## **How 11 Open Source Projects Got Their Names**

Like many well-known brand names we take for granted, such as "Kleenex" or "Pepsi," the open source world has its own unique collection of strange names that meant something to someone at some time, but that we simply accept (or mispronounce) without knowing their true origins.

Let's take a look at the etymology of 11 such open source names.

### **Arduino**

Arduino derives its name from one of co-founder Massimo Banzi's favourite bars in Ivrea, Italy, where the founders of this "hardware and software ecosystem" used to meet. The bar was named for Arduin of Ivrea, who was king of Italy a bit more than 1,000 years ago.

### **Debian**

First introduced in 1993 by Ian Murdock, Debian was one of the first operating systems based on the Linux kernel. First released as the "Debian



Linux Release," Debian's name is a portmanteau (a word created by combining two other words, such as "[mo]dulator [dem]odulator"—so that's what "modem" means!). By combining the first name of Murdock's then-girlfriend, Debra Lynn and his own name, Ian, they formed "Debian."

## **Kubernetes**

The open source system for automating deployment, scaling, and management of containerized applications, also called "K8s," gets its moniker from the Greek for "helmsman" or "pilot." Kubernetes traces its lineage to Google's Borg system and was originally codenamed "Project Seven," a reference to Star Trek Voyager's previously assimilated Borg, Seven of Nine. The seven spokes in Kubernetes' logo—a helmsman's wheel—are a visual reference to Seven.

## **openSUSE**

openSUSE gets its name from Germany. SUSE is an acronym for "Software und System-Entwicklung" or "software and system development." The "open" part was appended after Novell acquired SUSE in 2003 and when they opened distribution development to the community in 2005.

## **PHP**

PHP started as a simple set of CGI binaries written in C for helping its creator, Rasmus Lerdorf, maintain his personal homepage, thus the project was abbreviated "PHP." This later became an acronym for what the project became—a hypertext preprocessor—so "PHP: hypertext preprocessor" became the new meaning of "PHP" (yes, a recursive backronym).

## **PostgreSQL**

Originally just "postgres," PostgreSQL was created at the University of California-Berkeley by Michael Stonebraker in 1986 as a follow-up to the "Ingres" database system. Postgres was developed to break new ground in database concepts, such as object-relational technologies. Its pronunciation causes a lot of debate.

## **Python**

When he began implementing the Python programming language, Guido van Rossum was a fan of Monty Python's Flying Circus. Van Rossum thought he needed a short name that was unique and slightly mysterious, so he settled on

Python.

## **Raspberry Pi**

Raspberry Pi co-founder Eben Upton explains: "Raspberry is a reference to a fruit-naming tradition in the old days of microcomputers," such as Tangerine Computer Systems, Apricot Computers, and Acorn. As the Raspberry Pi was intended to be a processor that booted into a Python shell, "Py" was added, but changed to "Pi" in reference to the mathematical constant.

## **Red Hat**

Red Hat was founded out of a sewing room in Connecticut and a bachelor pad in Raleigh, N.C., by co-founders Bob Young and Marc Ewing. The "red hat" refers to a red Cornell University lacrosse cap, which Ewing wore at his job helping students in the computer lab at Carnegie Mellon. Students were told: "If you need help, look for the guy in the red hat."

## **Ubuntu**

Ubuntu's About page explains the word's meaning: "Ubuntu is an ancient African word meaning 'humanity to others.'" It also means "I am what I am because of who we all are," and the operating system intends to bring "the spirit of Ubuntu to the world of computers and software." The word can be traced to the Nguni languages, part of the Bantu languages spoken in Southern African, and simply means "humanity."

## **Wikipedia**

To get the answer to this one, let's turn to Wikipedia! In 1995, Howard G. "Ward" Cunningham developed WikiWikiWeb, "the simplest online database that could possibly work." The word "wiki" is Hawaiian and means "quick" and "pedia" means, ummm, "pedia."

Acronyms, portmanteaus, puns, foreign words—these are just some examples of the etymology of open source labels. There are many others. What other strange and alien words have you encountered in the open source universe?

**First published at the open source web site the article is CC-BY-SA**

**<https://opensource.com/article/18/3/how-11-open-source-projects-got-their-names>**

## **Dealing With the Glut of Information**

As easy as it is to access information these days with your smartphone, your tablet, or your personal computer, it's equally easy to get swamped by it.

There's Facebook, Twitter, Google News, Wikipedia, blogs, email, texts, and more. Not to mention such traditional sources as magazines, newspapers, newsletters, journals, reports, books, and more.

Information overload may seem like a new problem, but it's not. In the eighteenth century the English poet Alexander Pope lamented the "deluge of authors cover[ing] the land."

Going back far further, the ancient Roman philosopher Seneca wrote, "What is the use of having countless books and libraries, whose titles their owners can scarcely read through in a whole lifetime? The learner is not instructed but burdened by the mass of them, and it is much better to surrender yourself to a few authors than to wander through many."

But the Internet has greatly intensified the problem. Since 2009 the Oxford English Dictionary has included the term "information fatigue."

Much here has to do with overcoming the mindset that bigger is better. You can always find more data. But according to information scientists using the conscious mind to try to uncover more and more information can thwart the involvement of the subconscious mind in decisions about what to do with that information.

The goal shouldn't be sheer information accumulation but making the best possible organizational, family, or personal decisions using that information. Creative thinking and sound judgment are needed. This necessitates integrating new information you uncover with the existing information you have in order to discover connections and patterns. Intuition and emotion can be as important here as reason and logic.

In 1956 Herbert A. Simon, who later won the Nobel Prize in economics, coined the word "satisficing." A portmanteau, it combines satisfy and suffice. It means seeking a satisfactory solution rather than an optimal one by

recognizing the practical limitations in decision-making of time, available information, and cognitive capacity.

James Gleick in his 2011 book *The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood*, agrees. He makes the case that there comes a point when the sheer amount of information compromises wisdom and when the trivial overwhelms the meaningful. Data needs to become information, information needs to become knowledge, and knowledge needs to become wisdom.

You can be proactive here. You should periodically reevaluate your information sources to determine whether there are valuable new ones you should add and outmoded ones you should drop.

Filter the info-wheat from the into-chaff. With email for instance, you can set up filters to automatically direct important messages into folders where they'll get your immediate attention.

Consider setting aside one or two times a day when you check for new email messages rather than feeling compelled to check every few minutes. If people need to get in touch with you in a hurry, they can phone, text, or stop by.

If you're searching for information on the Web, you can save time by taking a little time to learn the advanced search procedures.

You should try not to add to the information overload of others by practicing good information hygiene. Don't forward joke or other irrelevant messages to those who may not have the time for them. Cc your own messages thoughtfully.

Keep your email messages to one screen when possible and use an informative subject line. Use other technologies instead of email, such as the telephone, when you expect a lot of back-and-forths -- it will be a lot quicker.

Selectively respond to email, and match the length of your response to how eager you are to converse. A short, polite response indicates you've received the other person's message but need to move on.

If you're involved in creating Web pages, try to keep each page to a screen or two, and put the most important information up front. Break up pages with

informative subheads so readers can get the gist of what you're saying with a quick scan.

When creating business documents, use executive summaries when possible. Choose clear, concise language to communicate, not bureaucratised to impress and confound.

Avoid time-wasting temptations. Surfing the web can be both valuable and the ultimate information timesink, with ever more intriguing but ever less relevant links beckoning you on.

Along with deliberately seeking out the best sources of information for your purposes in a reasonable amount of time, you should allow for serendipity, for seeing the unforeseen, hearing the unheard. Randomly open a book, leaf through a magazine, or pick up a newspaper.

**First published in Purchase Area family Magazine**  
**<https://issuu.com/purchasefamilymag>**

## **How to Manage Your Passwords with Bitwarden, a LastPass Alternative**

Do you ever feel you have more passwords than you can keep track of? It's probably more than just a feeling. Like most of us, you probably have a hard time remembering all those passwords, no matter how simple or complex they are.

Many people turn to popular services like LastPass and Dashlane to help them wrangle their passwords. While solid, those services are also proprietary and closed source. So where can an open source enthusiast turn to find an alternative?

Enter Bitwarden, an application that's aiming to become the go-to open source password manager on the web. Let's take a quick look at how to use it.

Note: I'm not going to cover all Bitwarden's features in this article, just its core password management ones. You've been warned.

## Getting started

Sign up for an account. It's free (although there are also paid plans). Your account gives you access to a secure space (called a vault) to store your passwords.

When you're signing up, you'll be asked to create a master password. That's the one that will keep your other passwords safe. It's in your best interest to make your master password as strong and complex as you can—and as you can remember.

If you want a little more control and to embrace your inner geek, you can grab the source code on GitHub and install Bitwarden on your server. There's even a Docker image.

Once you've set up your account, grab the Bitwarden extension for one of the supported browsers (you probably use at least one of them): Chrome, Firefox, Opera, Edge, Safari, Vivaldi, Brave (you can install the extension from within the browser), or Tor Browser.

## Using Bitwarden

You've got your Bitwarden account set up and the browser extension installed. Now what? Head over to a website that you want to sign up for or where you already have an account. When you enter your username and password, Bitwarden will ask you if you want to save your login information. Click *Yes, Save Now*.

Congratulations! That login is now in your vault. That was easy, wasn't it?

The next time you want access to that site, head on over to the site's login page. Click the Bitwarden icon on your browser's toolbar, then click on the login to fill in your information.

The browser extension has a setting that automatically fills in your username and password. You can enable that by clicking the Bitwarden icon, selecting Settings, and clicking Options. From there, click Enable Auto-fill On Page Load. I don't use that feature—I've run into sites where it didn't work.

Anyway, an extra click isn't going to do me any harm.

## **Importing your passwords from another service**

What if you're using another password manager and want to move to Bitwarden? You definitely don't want to type in all those logins again, do you? Bitwarden has an import function that you can use to import passwords from a couple dozen other tools, including LastPass, DashLane, 1Password, KeePass, and several web browsers.

To get started, you'll need to export your passwords as a CSV, HTML, XML, or JSON file (depending on which password manager you're using). Then, log into your Bitwarden vault. Click Tools and Import Data. Select the application you're importing passwords from, then upload the file containing the passwords. Click Import.

The import is surprisingly quick, even with a large number of passwords. Just remember to securely delete the import file after you've done the deed. You don't want to leave the keys to your various kingdoms lying around, especially if they're not encrypted.

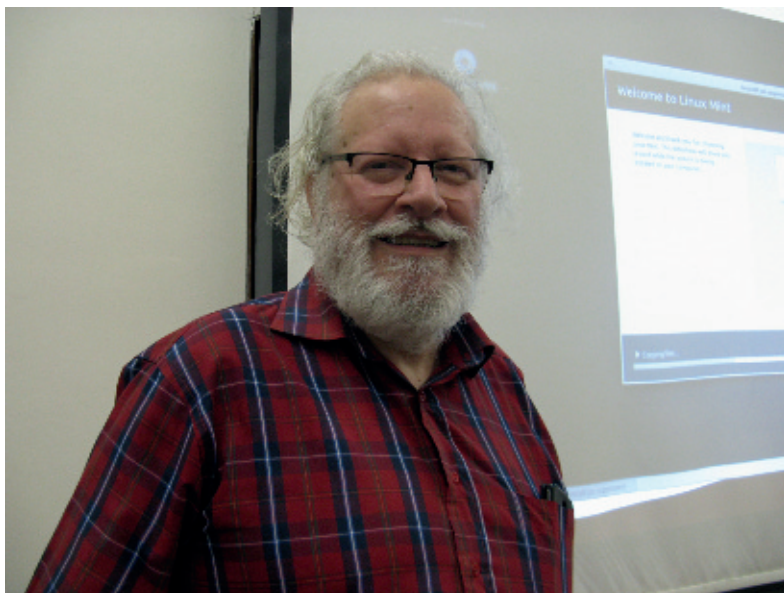
## **How safe is it?**

How safe is anything, really? The folks behind Bitwarden try to make it as secure as possible. Things can happen, though, and someone could breach your account.

It always helps, as I mentioned earlier in this article, to have a strong, complex master password. You can also set up two-factor authentication to further harden your account.

If you decide to use Bitwarden, the only advice I can give you is to not store logins to financial institutions or other sites that contain sensitive information. In the end, it's up to you to decide how and with what you use Bitwarden.

**First published at the open source web site the article is CC-BY-SA**  
**<https://opensource.com/article/18/3/managing-passwords-bitwarden>**



Mike Hoar led us into an "An Exploration of Linux" at our January meeting.



## HOT KEY

Journal of the IW PCUSER GROUP - (IBM COMPATIBLE)

October 1991 - Issue 1

this expanded. It looks like we are going to have a considerable number of professional exhibitors as well as the all domain clubs joining in. It's on Sunday 24th November, all day, at the Royal York Hotel, Ryde. There will be more prizes and information on problems we can solve. We will also have a special prize for the person who comes along with the most interesting solution. We will have a prize for the person who comes along with the most interesting solution. We will have a prize for the person who comes along with the most interesting solution.

*Roger Skidmore*

### EDITOR'S NOTES

This is the first issue of a new split User Group magazine edited by David Broughton and put together for everything by Roger Skidmore. It combines the Secretary's regular news with the Magazine/Forum.

Contributors are needed. We would like articles, news, views, and particularly reviews of software. What is your favourite software? We would like to know about it! Advertisements are also welcome.

Please send all contributions to:

HOT KEY Editorial, IT Quality Hub, Freshwater, H19, PO40 9JH  
Tel: 01754 56006

Contributors are welcome - in ASCII format on floppy disk please.

### THE EDITOR'S PROGRAM OF THE MONTH:

This month's program is a small utility which reduces those waiting or other messages that come out of back files. This program is BEO and it replaces BEO30 in batch files to make the messages they display appear in colour. It is a small utility which reduces those waiting or other messages that come out of back files. It is a small utility which reduces those waiting or other messages that come out of back files. It is a small utility which reduces those waiting or other messages that come out of back files.

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### SECRETARY'S NOTES

Just to update you on the programme for the next few months. The programme for the next few months. The programme for the next few months. The programme for the next few months. The programme for the next few months. The programme for the next few months.

The forthcoming programme is as follows (all at 7.30pm, Riverside Centre):

Wednesday 23rd October and all subsequent Wednesdays: Informal meeting preceded by David Broughton's BASIC class

Wednesday 6th November Talk on DES/Drive by Camoo

Wednesday 20th November Informal meeting

Wednesday 4th December A.G.M. and all subsequent Wednesdays: Informal meeting preceded by Mike Paterson

Wednesday 18th December Informal meeting and Christmas Party

Desay Llanur (199707) is our new membership secretary and will be responsible for collecting attendance sheets, organising social events, and managing subscriptions and enquiries. He will be assisted by a number of volunteers. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated.

This note may be taken as formal notice of the AGM in December. AGM's are a time for reporting what's gone on in the past year and what projection are for the next. Also for all change needed on the committee. If you like the way things are run, please come along and vote for the committee. If you don't like the way things are run, please come along and vote for the committee. If you don't like the way things are run, please come along and vote for the committee.

Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated. Any non-attendance is greatly appreciated.

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The front page of HotKey issue 1. An A4 format black and white 4 page publication.

We try to publish HOTKEY quarterly in April, July, October and January  
This edition was produced using Serif PagePlus X9  
and printed by Island Digital Printers, East Street, Ryde.

No responsibility can be accepted with respect to any advice or suggestions in this journal, and the views expressed are those of the contributors.