

Issue 180

JANUARY 2013

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP



HOT KEY

WINTER 2013

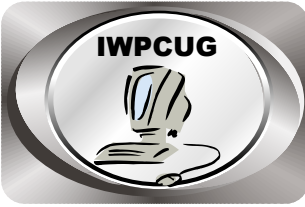


Roger Skidmore holding his Raspberry Pi
which he demonstrated at our December
meeting

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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 it.

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

Membership is £12 per annum

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

The Riverside Centre, Newport from 7.30 to 9.30 pm

Visitors are 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 Website address is **www.iwpcug.org**

We also have an e-group discussion area on
Yahoo groups: **iwpcusers@yahoogroups.com**.



FUTURE MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
January 2	Wordpress	David Groom
February 6	AGM / Claymation	Steve Sutters
March 6	Social Media	Antony Luxton
April 3	TBC	
May 1	Mini Talks	Various Speakers

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP COMMITTEE

Chairman : David Groom

Treasurer : Phil Rogers

Secretary : Susanne Bone

Membership & Database Secretary : Ray Boote

Committee Member : Roger Skidmore

Committee Member : Steve Sutters

Committee Member : Soren Johanson

HotKey Editor : Bob Groom

Note:

Contact details removed prior to
publishing on the internet.

Suggestions for new events, topics or speakers for talks are always welcome.

Please contact any committee member with your ideas.

If necessary we may be able to find a speaker for your subject.

Chairmans Report

As I'm writing this it's difficult to appreciate that in less than two weeks we will be gathered again for our January meeting, and Christmas and New Year will be but memories.

Our autumn meetings have been well attended by members, and have covered a variety of topics, as will the talks we have already planned for 2013.

I note that a number of members have already purchased Raspberry Pi's, it will be interesting to see what they do with them, maybe we can have a combined talk later in the year where they all demonstrate what they have been doing!

Next month is our AGM, and I would remind you that there is always the opportunity for new members to come on to the committee, so please do consider if this is something you would be able to undertake. If you have any questions about what is entailed then please either ask me, or one of the other committee members.

In the last issue of HotKey Steve Sutters raised the possibility of a change of name for the club. The committee have put this on the Agenda for the AGM, so please do consider the implications prior to the AGM, and if you have any strong views either way then make sure you either attend the AGM or let our Secretary know in advance.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year.

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.

NOTICE OF AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Wight PC User Group will be held on Wednesday 6th February 2013 at 7:30 PM at The Riverside Centre, Newport.

Nominations are requested for the positions of: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and up to eight other committee members.

Please send your nominations to the Secretary, Su Bone. Seconders are not necessary at this stage.

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Approve the minutes of the previous AGM, held on 1st February 2012, (<http://www.iwpcug.org/secure/minutes/AGM2012v1.pdf>)
2. Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Receive reports:
 - 3.1 Chairman
 - 3.2 Treasurer, including approval of the Club Accounts
 - 3.3 Secretary
 - 3.4 Membership Secretary
 - 3.5 Other activities: Computability, HotKey, Cover Disk, Website, Egroup, Marketing, Riverside Liaison
4. Elect a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Secretary.
5. Elect other Committee members (up to a maximum of eight persons).
6. Set the Annual Subscription.
7. Appoint an Independent Examiner.
8. Consider a name change for our club.
9. Any Other Business.

IWPCUG Computability Report January 2013

For over ten years the IWPCUG has run a project to link together people who like playing with computers and who like helping people and then those who could benefit from these two interests. These latter are usually people who are less enabled by circumstances which life thrusts upon us all from time to time. Some are disabled one way or another and some are not doing well in other ways, e.g. find themselves in social housing, on probation, in drug rehab etc. Even the government now considers Internet access a human right so this further enhances our role in bringing computers to all. We don't charge for this service but do sometimes receive donations

Of the thousands of computers which must be sold each year on the Isle of Wight, probably only a relative handful find their way into our project and then, when refurbished, on to our clients. Probably just as well because refurbishing a computer can take quite a lot of time and resources.

We receive a few computers each month and of these about half are viable; printers we tend to reject as they are almost all dried-out desk-jets which people are loath to take to the tip and are not cost effective to re-ink (or risk re-inking in case they are dead anyway). Computers we reject or cannot use are either older than about six years or simply non-functional. These of course keep us in spares so we rarely run out.

Laptops are easily stored by their owners so tend not to come our way until they are so obviously old that they really are of no use. We try to allocate computers to clients according to their computing needs, but so many people ask for a laptop that this becomes a problem when we actually have one in stock. Much easier when we only have desktop machines in stock (by "desktop" we mean any traditional large one.)

When we find a machine boots up OK we always reinstall Windows XP over an old hard disk which for security is good enough for most people. For total forensic security we recommend removal of the hard disk before bringing it to us. Windows almost always connects straight away to the Internet and by using Microsoft "keyupdate" tool the product code on the case (or a spare one) can usually be applied with automatic activation. Typically then AVG free edition anti-virus is installed and then Windows Updates. DriverGenius really is genius at finding all the remaining hardware drivers and finally a basic suite of free

software is installed, comprising OpenOffice.org and some basic utilities. This takes about a morning, but one can escape for coffee when updates are being installed.

We have a stock of rescued memory, CD drives, power supplies, loudspeakers etc so can circumvent most hardware inadequacies and other problems. At the moment we are receiving enough flat screens especially as people upgrade from their original prized 15" ones. We don't supply printers, but a printer is a complication clients can deal with later once they get their system sorted, and they have to fund this themselves.

We receive recommendations for clients from various sources, typically friends, word-of-mouth, carers and housing association contacts. We now use an application form which helps us to learn about the client and their needs, helps us maintain proper records and informs the client of things they need to think about. They need to know where to put the computer (not that elementary) and have enough power sockets; probably need to have a technical buddy who can help out (we do not have the resources to do tutoring) and mostly need to know about an Internet connection which will they will probably have to pay for - even if it is a human right nowadays.

The Computability website is via the club's website www.iwpcug.org or direct link www.cfd-iw.org.uk and this includes an anonymised list of disability clients we have helped over the years. Many disabilities don't fall into specific categories but all represent life-limiting events where in some way we hope to make a difference.

Roger Skidmore

Joining the Email Group

Send an e-mail to: **iwpcusers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com** with "join" in the subject line.

All members are encouraged to join this group (which costs nothing and is private to club members) in order to keep in touch with events and to join in with the discussions.

You can also keep in touch by regularly visiting **www.iwpcug.org**

Cover Disk

New This month:

Calibre - a free and open source e-book library management application

IrfanView - IrfanView is a very fast, small, compact and innovative graphic viewer for Windows 9x, ME, NT, 2000, XP, 2003, 2008, Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8

VideoPad - a feature packed video editor that lets you import directly from your camcorder, trim, add effects, add music then burn to DVD.

Wireshark - a network packet analyzer. A network packet analyzer will try to capture network packets and tries to display that packet data as detailed as possible

E book links - links to resources about Ebooks

Major updates as follows:

Firefox updated from ver 13 to ver 17

AVG FREE updated from 2012 to 2013

Adobe Reader updated from 10 to 11

SpyBot updated from ver 1.62 to ver 2 (no longer supports win 98)

One interesting point occurred to me when I was putting together this months cover disk - as some of us move to 64 bit operating systems there will be a dilemma as to what we do about the cover disk, and how we support both 32 bit and 64 OSes.

Possible Name Change

So far only one suggestion for a new name for the club has been put forward. Steve Sutters suggested the "Isle Of Wight Computer and Technology Club". Another obvious candidate would be the "Isle of Wight Computer Club", though this is probably far too similar to an existing group called the "Wight Computer Club"! Thoughts on a possible name change will be considered at the AGM.

Exposed online! Cyber safety for the whole family.

It's the New Year and I am sure many of you are dealing with the onslaught of new technology devices you and your family received as presents. So, here's a timely article to help you protect your 'online kids' throughout the year.

Today's families have multiple electronic devices that can access the internet. It's very easy for our children to find anything they want online and sometimes things we don't want them to see show up on the computer monitor or smart phone screen. As children are now exposed to technology at a very young age they are not afraid of it. But they may be unaware of the inherent dangers waiting for them on webpages, chat rooms, Facebook, online games or any other social media. As a parent it is our job to protect and educate our children on how to use technology safely.

Our first responsibility as a parent is to protect our children from predators, cyber bullies, pornographic material and any other content you may feel is inappropriate and you want to restrict. Some of the things a parent should consider when protecting their children is the amount of time they are allowed to be on the internet, the time of day the internet is available, what content is appropriate and what activities children are engaged in on the permitted sites. A single parental tool cannot monitor the vast number of pages being published on a daily basis. The best way to protect your children is to monitor the sites they are visiting, utilize the applications to restrict content, and talk to them about the dangers of social networking.

Parental Controls

There are many tools available to help you provide the protection your child deserves. Microsoft has parental controls built-in to the operating system of your computer. It can be configured to restrict websites, limit internet availability, content constraints and applications they are allowed to run. Parental controls can be found in the control panel of recent Windows operating systems under User Accounts and Family Safety. Click on 'setup parental controls' and follow the prompts. The controls can be assigned to a single user or all users. This is a convenient way to protect your child while not limiting the access you as a parent can have.

OpenDNS

OpenDNS is a free web filtering service that will work with every internet

connected device in your household. This is a very important fact since we do not always have control over what our children's friends bring into the household. OpenDNS will allow you, the parent, to make preset levels of protection or you can fully customize the content that is allowed. OpenDNS will help protect your children from accidentally typing in the wrong address and going to a site that has sexual content. How many people know that www.whitehouse.gov is different from www.whitehouse.com? Teach your children to understand the different website extensions like .com, .net, .edu, and so on. A description of website extensions can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains.

OpenDNS will work on all of children's devices that can access the internet. Examples of devices that you will need to monitor are iPad's, iPod's, smart phones, and gaming stations such as Xbox, PlayStation and Wii. These devices all have the ability to browse the internet.

Social Networking

It's obvious how popular social networking is today. While most sites have usage agreements that everyone must agree to, once the account is setup and your child is using the site, it is harder for that agreement to be enforced. It is highly recommended that parents follow their children's and their friends' social networking and gaming site accounts for inappropriate content. We may not be able to control what other people post, but we can block, delete, hide or remove people, or content, we deem inappropriate so our children do not continually see this material.

Popular websites with teenagers are Facebook, Twitter, Myspace and Keek.com. These sites are relatively safe for your children to communicate with family, friends, and relatives. There are also new sites aimed at "tweens" and younger such as Imbee, Miniclip, Girlambition, and Girlslife. Many children blindly accept friend requests so they can boast they have XXXX number of friends. (The number of friends you have on a social website is a status symbol.) Children also chat with other game players they meet online but do not physically know. It's difficult to monitor who your children consider friends online. What kids don't realize is some of these "friends" may be predators looking to find information about them.

It's extremely important to monitor the information your kids put on these sites. This personal information could be used to pinpoint your child's location, school, home address, interests and other facts.

Cyber Predators

Predators that use on-line media are known as cyberstalkers. Cyberstalkers lurk in chat rooms or on line game sites portraying themselves as kids with similar interests to the victims they are often trying to 'groom'. Here are some statistics you will want to know and that you should talk to your children about:

- One in five U.S. teenagers who regularly log on to the Internet says they have received an unwanted sexual solicitation via the Web. Solicitations were defined as requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk, or to give out personal sexual information. (Only 25% of those told a parent).
- About 30% of the victims of Internet sexual exploitation are boys.
- Internet sexual predators tend to fall between the ages of 18 and 55, although some are older or younger. Their targets tend to be between the ages of 11 and 15.
- 75% of children are willing to share personal information online about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services.
- In 100% of the cases, teens that are the victims of sexual predators have gone willingly to meet with them.

As you can see by this list above, teenagers are the primary target and can be easily convinced to provide personal information. Making them aware of who and what is out there will help them recognize when they should tell a parent what is going on. Use current events of abduction and sexual abuse to drive the fact home that predators can strike in any time at any location.

Safe Sites

There are safe websites that your children can go to where they can have fun and be safe on the internet. They include:

www.freerice.com
www.20q.net
www.brainpop.com
www.lego.com
www.hasbro.com
www.barbie.com
www.Clubpenquin.com
www.nick.com

There are other sites that can be safe as well. These sites will be trusted by your parental control software.

Game Sites

Most on line game sites such as Minecraft and Lego for instance, include “chat” or “message board” features. These allow players to communicate with each other either by typing in a chat window or on a message stream, using a headset with mic, or by making gestures with their avatar. For instance, you can type/wave, and your avatar will wave at another player. These games should have a maturity rating. There are profanity filters built-in to these games, but must be turned on. These games should be treated like any other social media website as you cannot filter the content.

Cyberbullying

Another important topic to discuss with your children is cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is the use of the Internet and related technologies to harm other people, in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner. With the rise in popularity of social media sites cyberbullying has become more prevalent today. Educating our kids on the harm and danger this type of behavior can cause will help to eliminate this awful trend. The only tool you can effectively use to protect your kids is communication. You have to talk them about cyberbullying and let them know this is not acceptable, and anyone that is treating them this way will be punished. Schools and legislators have worked together to try and create laws to protect against this, but they can't change or create effective laws if our children don't communicate to us when this is happening.

Online communications are permanent

It's not just children that fail to realize our online messages and postings are a permanent record. A trend in several businesses and colleges is to investigate applicants by viewing their social media accounts. This information is easily accessed and printed. Items that are displayed publicly are documents of record and can be used in any legal proceedings. Talk to your children and make them aware of the long term ramifications of their postings.

Talking to our children and educating them on the dangers of the internet is the best way to protect them from falling prey to predators. Monitoring their internet usage, time on-line and on-line relationships will help you keep in touch with who, and what, your children are getting involved with. Just like we restrict our children from dangerous activities or guide them away from questionable choices, their internet use needs to be supervised and monitored as well.

By: Fred DiPrete, Owner - Technology Corner
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Windows 8 and the Depersonalization of PCs

The recent release of Microsoft's latest computer operating system, Windows 8, brings to the forefront a long trend in PCs. Over time, personal computers have become less personal.

Companies by nature, generally speaking, want to control things, including the way consumers buy and use their products. The personalization of PCs at the time of their birth was as much accident as design.

PCs hit mainstream when IBM introduced the first IBM PC in 1981. It used an operation system, DOS, developed by a different company, Microsoft. Because of IBM's eagerness to get its PC out the door quickly, other components were also developed by other companies.

This ushered in the era of IBM compatibles, and mixing and matching hardware components as well as software, for better or worse, became a pastime of both computer vendors and users. It kept prices low and allowed for great freedom of choice, but it led to more compatibility and other glitches.

In contrast, Apple from its inception kept much tighter control over what its suppliers, retailers, and users could do. Thus, Apple users have always paid more, had less choice, and suffered through fewer bugs.

Fast forward to now, to the October 26, 2012 release to the public of Microsoft Windows 8, the latest version of the most popular personal computer operating system on the planet. Since the release of its predecessor, the highly regarded Windows 7, three years ago, much has changed in the computer world.

The most prominent change is the ever increasing popularity of non-PC computerized devices such as smartphones, tablets, portable media players, and e-readers. Apple has been at the forefront here with its iPhone, iPad, and iPod, and Microsoft has consequently been losing ground with revenue and market share in the digital world.

As a way of fighting back, Microsoft made the radical decision to fashion its current personal computer operation system, Windows 8, not primarily as a personal computer operating system but as a touchscreen tablet operating system. With tablets, instead of typing and manipulating a mouse to get things done, you press the screen. Microsoft's vision is for users to see the same Microsoft interface on their PCs, tablets, smartphones, and other devices.

This consistency by itself isn't necessarily a bad idea, potentially aiding ease of use, provided that Microsoft offers users options in how they interface with their computers. The fatal mistake Microsoft has made with Windows 8 is not offering these options.

Consumers who buy Windows 8 laptop and desktop PCs, and those owning older devices who have chosen to upgrade to Windows 8, see an interface with gaudy playschool colors consisting of tiles you press, which is more appropriate for a tablet or smartphone than a PC. Unlike with previous versions of Windows, you can't boot to a desktop with a start menu to launch programs and access information about your PC, and Windows 8 doesn't include an option to change this.

Microsoft is also pushing its Windows 8 "apps" for PCs, which are small tablet- and smartphone-style programs that Microsoft makes available only through its own Windows Store. Also annoying to many users is seeing apps that you've already bought, by buying a Windows 8 PC or buying a Windows 8 upgrade, hit you with advertising.

Tellingly, PC usability guru Jakob Nielsen (www.useit.com) called Windows 8 a "misguided" product. As expected, others online have used stronger words.

To its credit, Windows 8 boots and shuts down PCs faster than its predecessor and makes it easier to sync information across multiple Windows 8 devices.

Workarounds exist for some of Windows 8's limitations. For instance, Stardock's highly recommended Start8 (www.stardock.com/products/start8), which costs \$4.99 to download, lets you boot to a desktop with a start menu. [another alternative is Classic Shell, which David Groom demonstrated at the December 2012 meeting. Ed.]

Many laptop and desktop PC buyers are opting instead to buy new machines not with the new operating system but with the tried and true Windows 7. Reportedly Microsoft is allowing this until October 2014. Windows 7 PCs are more difficult to find, however, particularly in brick-and-mortar stores.

The bottom line with Windows 8 is that PCs, tablets, and smartphones are different types of devices used for different purposes. Instead of letting users personalize how they use these devices, Microsoft is trying to foist the same interface on all of them.

Just as many users continued using Windows XP instead of the poorly received Windows Vista, many PC users today and in the months ahead will undoubtedly stick with Windows 7 until Windows 9 corrects the deficiencies of Windows 8 sometime down the road.

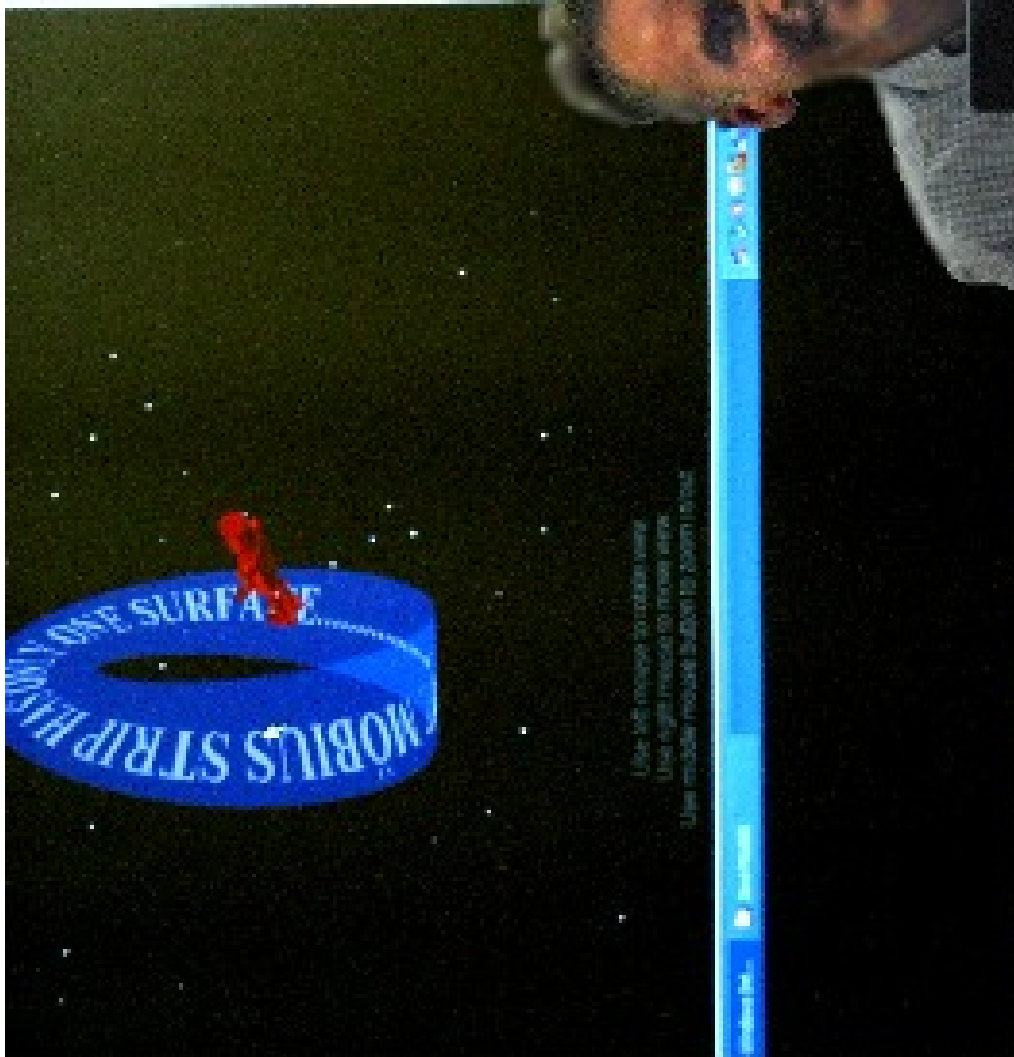
Karren Hammond

David Pogue writing in the January 2013 edition of Scientific American, writes about the trouble with using touch screens with a traditional desktop machine. He points out that there are big differences between using a touch screen on a mobile phone or tablet, and using one at a desktop. The difference is due to the angle the screen is at relative to the user; the distance between the user and the screen; and the length of time we tend to use desktop machines for. Using a touch screen for extended periods of time, while holding our arms out horizontally and at a distance, can lead to arm ache, which has apparently been given the name “Gorilla Arm”.

However on the plus side, you don’t have to use the touch screen, there is a traditional desktop behind Windows 8. As I mentioned to the members present at our December meeting, I have purchased a copy of Windows 8. This is the first Microsoft product I have brought since purchasing Windows XP many years ago, and for many years I had fully expected that rather than moving to a new version of Windows I would simply move across to one of the free Linux OS’es. Given the attractive pricing of Windows 8, particularly as a download it seemed stupid not to upgrade at least one of my machines to the OS.

David Groom

At our November meeting Richard Burkill gave a talk entitled "Modeling the world in Java". This picture shows an animated robot walking around the surface of a Mobius strip. Using the mouse it was possible to zoom in / out and to change the point from which you appeared to be viewing the animation.



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