

Issue 196

JANUARY 2017

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER
GROUP



HOT KEY

WINTER 2017



November's meeting saw David Groom,
assisted by Richard Burkill, give a talk on
remote computer management using the
Team Viewer software.

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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**

We also have an e-group discussion area on

Yahoo groups: **iwpcusers@yahoo.co.uk**.

Details of how to join are on page 10.



FUTURE MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
4 January 2017	Evolution of Home Software	Jonathan Burt
1 February 2017	AGM & talk	
1 March 2017	Mini Talks	

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP COMMITTEE

Chairman : David Groom

Treasurer : Phil Roger

Secretary : Susanne Bone

Membership and Database Secretary : Roger Skidmore

Committee Member : Steve Sutters

Committee Member : Soren Johanson

HotKey Editor : Bob Groom

Committee Member : Mike Hoar

Committee Member : Judy Thaxter

Note: Committee members 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

Firstly an apology if this edition of Hotkey arrives later than usual, it has been difficult this year to prepare it and get it to the printers in time for them to print before the start of the new year.

Despite advertising some of our more promising talks on Facebook we still struggle to attract new visitors to our meetings. The one exception being the talk given last summer by Judy and Steve on the subject of trading online.

The more encouraging news is that we have had some excellent talks recently, and in view of this it is particularly disappointing that more people do not come along and listen, and learn something!

One recent addition to our monthly meetings has been an “articles for sale table”. At the last AGM John White was suggested that we have a special event where we had a table top sale of surplus equipment. The committee canvassed local retailers to see if they might come along, but without much positive feedback. After consulting our members on how much surplus equipment they might have, the committee decided that there was not enough to warrant a special event, but that we would trial a table top sale at each meeting. This does seem to be quite popular, with a reasonable selection of good quality items being brought in over the last few months. Quite a number of these have ended up being sold, and so it is likely to become a regular feature of our meetings. So if you have any computer related items which you wish to dispose of then bring them along, you now have the option of putting them either on the “articles for sale” table, or on the “freebies” table.

I have been asked to do a write up for HotKey of my November talk on TeamViewer. I hope to do this in time for the next issue, apologies that it did not make it into this issue.

David Groom

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 1st February 2017 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. Consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM, held on 3rd February 2016, (www.iwpcug.org/secure/minutes/AGM16ver1.pdf).
2. Receive reports:
 - 2.1 Chairman
 - 2.2 Treasurer, including approval of the Club Accounts
 - 2.3 Secretary
 - 2.4 Membership Secretary
 - 2.5 Other activities: Computability, HotKey, Website, Egroup, Facebook
3. Elect a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Secretary.
4. Elect other Committee members (up to a maximum of eight persons).
5. Set the Annual Subscription.
6. Appoint an Independent Examiner.
7. Any Other Business.

Joining the Yahoo Group

Send an email to: **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**

Don't Let Strangers into your House

You wouldn't let a stranger into your house, so why allow unfamiliar emails in? People do, you know, and it causes all sorts of trouble.

A lot of people have those sorts of wide-angle peepholes or CCTV things in their front doors so they can see who's knocking, but did you know you can do the same with email?

A program called "Mailwasher" (free version) will do just that. It allows you to see your emails on the server before you download or open them properly. It can also classify them as Junk, Spam, malicious etc. in its own judgment, allowing you the final say. You can classify known senders as Friends and it will high-light them in green so you know at a glance that they are OK; all this before downloading them properly.

It is so easy to download malicious emails without thinking and let all sorts of junk, viruses, malware etc. onto your precious PC. I don't do this - I make a habit of always checking what's waiting with Mailwasher first. Well, sometimes I forget and then I'm in trouble.

Search for and download Mailwasher free, and it will usually find your normal email settings and start to screen out all those strangers who would do you harm.

Roger Skidmore.

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.

Adventures with qwerty keyboard mobile phones

I have always loved real keys with a button for each letter and a lot less chance of typos (spelling mistakes) using a touch screen. My first qwerty keyboard mobile was a Nokia C3-00. This was faster to type on than my previous 10 digit phones and it was so easy to use. However I found the screen small at 2.4” and the keyboard cramped. It also became patchy light grey after spilling lager on it so I decided to look for another. Had about 7 years use of it and still works great which shows how tough they are.

Next phone was a Sony Experia Pro I found on ebay. Last made in 2011. Had a real slide out qwerty keyboard with a big bright LED screen. Like everything I have bought from China I have not had to pay import duty, it arrived 1 or 2 weeks sooner than they said it would, the seller has been extremely polite and the price has been about 25% less than I would have had to pay for one from GB.

Last September was a bad year for losing valuables for me. Lost / had stolen my newish Sony phone and wallet (luckily only about £10 inside). Fortunately my current account was not hacked and no expensive calls were made on the phone. The phone was on a contract from TalkTalk If someone nasty enough had found it they could have given me a massive bill doing something like by ringing up the speaking clock from America. I was sad to lose it so thought I would write a little ode for it:

*My phone with screen 4 inch and keyboard of qwerty,
was so nice to use, so eyes are now squirty.*

I do not think qwerty mobiles are still made but there are still plenty of new and second hand ones for sale on ... you guessed it ebay. I wanted one with the biggest screen and keyboard for a budget of about £100. Also hopefully a better battery life than the Xperia which I had to charge up every 2 days (and that was with all wireless connections turned off). After investigating mobile phones I came up with extra considerations

Far better to get an unlocked phone than one locked to a specific service provider if you wanted to change service providers. It can take months or be impossible to unlock a mobile phone judging by internet forums. Imagine the frustration!

I wanted to use the free sim card that TalkTalk mobile gave to me. Free calls texts and data downloads if not used too much. Lovely to get a bill of £0 every month!

Also better to get one with a removable battery as battery's can stop holding their full

charge in as little as a year of average use. Most non removable battery phones can have their battery's replaced but this is an awkward and fiddly job with a danger of the phone being 'bricked' (broken). Possibly best left to a professional. Get the feeling that manufacturers would rather we threw our old phones away and buy new ones? I have always hated built in obsolescence. Also want to do a hard reset? you have to wait a day or so for the battery to go flat. My how tedious

After much enjoyable phone spec. comparison reading I settled on a Blackberry Q10. This is similar in layout to the Nokia C3-00 but has a 3.1" screen (surprising what a difference 0.7" makes), bigger clearer keyboard and better spec. In fact it has the most advanced spec. for any qwerty phone which someone can buy new for £108

They are made in black or white and since I much prefer black text on white background that is the model I looked for. Found a new one for £108 from a Chinese seller. The exciting day of unboxing came and what a classy looking phone! It was love at first button press with those great feeling and well spaced keys. Considering they were £500 in 2013 when they came out it is a great value phone.

The operating system and controls do take some getting used too though. It's a smart phone but not as we know it I guess you could say and the least straight forward phone I have ever used. There are no curser up, down and sideways keys. Also no back key and so navigating is done by a series of swipes from different directions and curser placement by tapping the screen and using a bubble that you move about with fingers or thumbs. Strange!

I do miss those common keys but I am getting used to Blackberry's way of doing things and after a few hours can now make calls, text and use it as a mini word processor. Today I could see my spoken words being turned into text and got my Q10 to speak to me. I suppose if I got really lonely... (ho ho ho)

Best qwerty mobile?

Fastest learning curve Nokia C3-00 simple O.S. but small screen and tidily keyboard

Most intuitive Sony Eriksson Xperia pro this also has a 3.7" screen so more text per line

Highest spec. and most features Blackberry Q10

Best overall is a hard choice between the Sony and Xperia. At the moment I would rather have the Sony back because it is more intuitive with a bigger screen but I predict I prefer the Blackberry in time when I get more used to its wacky user interface. Nearly forgot the good quality photos and 1080p videos it can take at 30 frames per second

Overall the more sophisticated our friends electric get the steeper the learning curve and the more they can do. Problem is when only basic functions are needed and these functions get lost in a maze of un necessary options, features and sales gimmicks



The left hand phone is my first Motorola phone, the right hand 3 are myqwerty mobiles with a picture of the lost one in the middle

Will end with an ode to the new phone:

*If you want to get a mobile and love a keyboard qwerty,
The Q10 has a good one but the O.S. ain't half qwerky*

Stephen Sutters

Android File Manager: What should I use?

There are a lot of good file manager apps available for Android but the most popular choice has always been ES File Explorer. It had great features and best of all was free! However since the original developer sold the product around August/September 2015, it has started to lose its shine.

The new developers have started to add in extra “bloatware” features, for example a built-in web browser, "junk cleaner" notifications, and "recommended apps" (i.e. ads), among other bells and whistles that no one really asked for in a file manager. The product has now become rather resource hungry, has a flunky UI, a rather dodgy lock screen “feature”, and a lot slower than it used to be!

To make matter worse, there are various reports of ES File Explorer adding spyware to devices, which is not confirmed and the developer denies it but it surely makes me sceptic!

The developer has also now released a new ES File Explorer Pro version which you can purchase for £2.99, which seems to remove some, but not all, of the bloatware features in the free version.

Because of this, I have looked around for an alternative product. So what other options are there?

Just doing a search for File Manager in the Play Store will come up with a big list of alternatives. After doing some research on the Internet, I came up with a shortlist of four:

Solid Explorer File Manager (14-day Trial/£1.49)

You will love the easy to use and beautiful Material Design UI on Solid. It brings most of ES File Explorer’s important features like cloud support, network sharing, Recycle bin, root explorer, compressed file support etc. It also includes ability to hide or encrypt files & folders and like ES, it includes viewer for most file types.

One cool feature is the dual pane multitasking, which splits the screen in landscape mode, so that you can easily drag & drop files between two

windows. Solid Explorer also supports plugins for more functionality like casting using Chromecast, USB OTG and unlike ES, you can customize the app's look as well.

However, it's only a 14-day trial version, and then you have to purchase it to use it onwards. It does have a selection of paid add-ons ranging from 59p to £1.40 for some extra features.

FX File Explorer (Free/£1.59)

Firstly, the UI is decent with slight touches of Material Design and one thing I like is the ability to increase/decrease size of folder previews through pinch to zoom. FX File Explorer lets you open most file types and supports features like gestures, visual clipboard, app management etc.

The app also supports various add-ons and while the app is free, it has a paid FX+ add-on, which brings added functionality like cloud sync support, app management, ability to hide or encrypt files etc.

File Commander (Free/£3.96)

File Commander is another feature rich file manager app. It brings usual features like file categorization, cloud sync support, network file sharing, USB OTG support, file compression along with some cool advanced features. However the free version does use a lot of Ads, which is annoying!

The app is available in a free version but it's the Premium version where all the action lies. The Premium version brings advanced features like hide & encryption of files, Recycle bin, Storage analyser, file bookmarking etc.

Amaze File Manager (Free)

Amaze feels like fresh air, coming from the fairly overwhelming ES File Explorer. While it does not match some of the other feature-rich apps, the minimalistic UI should work for people who are looking for a simple file manager. The app is Open Sourced and still in development with more features to follow, due to its development status it's technically still in BETA (yet stable).

Conclusion

Both Solid File Manager and FX File Explorer are really nice to use and have

many useful features, however if I had to choose between the two I would most probably go for FX.

However, as my needs are rather simple, i.e. manage files on Android device; connect to and browse my home network (NAS); and utilise a built in FTP client so that I can easily transfer files. I decided to use Amaze File Manager.

Jonathan Burt BSc Cert Mgmt HND FIAP IEng MBCS CITP

Backup! Backup! Backup!

All computers crash; all data is vulnerable. Most valued and most mourned are pictures and your email address book. There are various ways of backing up your email address book but here we are mostly looking at backing up data. Windows 7 and above encourages you to store your data in five distinct places - Documents, Pictures, Music, Video and Downloads. These are folders typically stored under C:\Users\Roger\...

These folders contain a lot of valuable (and not so valuable) stuff. There are various ways of copying these files by way of backing up. Everyone should have a way of doing this. I have two ways - one is from time to time to do a whole disk clone using Acronis Disk Clone (paid for). To do this, when the computer is powered down, I insert an extra physical hard drive into the system (by using a SATA caddy although you can do it by USB) and an Acronis boot disk choosing Clone option. With Solid State Drives (SSD) the whole process takes about 10 minutes. This gives me the best backup of all - a duplicate cloned hard drive.

More frequently I use Syncback (free). Google will find this program for you. With Syncback you set up a simple copy routine, such as "copy My Documents to the folder MyDocsBackup" which can be on the same hard disk or more likely a USB stick (or drive). You can set up another similar routine for Pictures, etc., or more specific routine of just IWPCUG folder to a destination folder of your choice.

You can then Group several routines to run at once.

The normal settings are to copy only new and changed files - which after the initial run makes it extremely fast. You can also choose to set it to "Mirror", the routine which will delete files in the destination folder which have already been deleted in your working folder.

Most often I use an external USB SSD and then put it away in a drawer - or "Restore" using another copy routine on to a second laptop. It is important to verify backups so this is a good way of doing this.

I'm a bit of a backup junky but have learned through my bitter experience and that of others that the saying "Backup! Backup! Backup!" is so true. Also bear in mind that you could still be backing up bad work... Oooops!

Roger Skidmore

Share and Share Alike

One of the more interesting innovations brought on by the Internet and smartphones that connect through it is the "sharing economy." You can share cars, bicycles, vacation accommodations, clothes, books, toys, tools, computer software, and -- believe it or not -- heifers, often without paying.

Even when you do have to pay, you typically pay less than conventionally. It's a strange, strange world we live in. Some people don't trust it. As you might expect, the younger the crowd, the more willing they are to experiment and accept.

Different monikers are used to describe this new economy. Along with the sharing economy, also used are peer economy, access economy, peer-to-peer exchange, collaborative consumption, and uberization. Some academics feel that "sharing economy" is misleading because profit making is often still the primary motivation. The term is still commonly used even when the only sharing that's happening is the use of portable digital technology to make transactions more efficient and less expensive.

The term uberization stems from the ride-hailing service Uber. Uber Technologies, headquartered in San Francisco with operations around the world, develops the Uber smartphone app that makes it possible to flag rides from Uber drivers, who use their own personal cars, which can be considerably less expensive than taking a taxi.

A new survey by ReportLinker (www.reportlinker.com) sheds light on the phenomenon of ride hailing, which in turn sheds light on the sharing economy. Ride-hailing services are one type of shared mobility service.

Others include car-sharing services, which let users lease an automobile for a few hours a day, ride-sharing services, which let users share trips with others going the same way, and bike-sharing services, which let users pay nominal fees to rent a bicycle for an hour or so.

Millennials -- generally those born between the early 1980s and the early 2000s -- have the highest comfort level with the sharing economy.

Among ride-hailing services, Uber (www.uber.com), Lyft (www.lyft.me), and ZipCar (www.zipcar.com) are mentioned the most frequently in unaided questions from this ReportLinker survey.

About why they liked ride-hailing services the most, 64 percent of respondents mentioned the ability to quickly open an app and request a driver to come to you, 35 mentioned the efficiency of the experience, and 28 percent mentioned the reduced cost.

Shared mobility services have affected not only the taxi industry but also the automobile industry in general as a result of the potential for a reduced need of car ownership. Established car manufacturers such as Toyota as well as automobile startups such as Tesla have plans to enter the shared mobility market.

All is not honky-dory in the world of Uber, the largest of the car-hailing services. Uber has been criticized, and sued, for treating drivers as employees without giving them health, vacation, retirement, or other benefits. In order to thwart competition, Uber employees have been caught, in the hundreds, ordering rides from competitors only to cancel them.

Along with transportation, another major aspect of the sharing economy is hospitality. The two most well-known players are Couchsurfing and Airbnb.

Couchsurfing (www.couchsurfing.com), originally a nonprofit based in New Hampshire before converting to for-profit status, lets users arrange over the Internet to stay in other users' homes, typically for a small number of days, for free. Users can optionally elect to be "verified" by paying Couchsurfing an annual fee.

With Couchsurfing hosts open their homes to travelers without receiving payment, with the only expectation that guests will do the same with someone else when they're in the position to do so. Couchsurfing's goals, according to its website, are to create educational encounters, to facilitate cultural understanding, and to spread tolerance.

Airbnb (www.airbnb.com), a for-profit company based in San Francisco, also lets users arrange over the Internet to stay in other users' homes, also typically for a small number of days, but for a bill paid to those users, with Airbnb charging a transaction fee. Some Airbnb hosts have a Couchsurfing profile to advertise their Airbnb hosting profile.

Other hospitality-exchange organizations include BeWelcome (www.bewelcome.org) and the Hospitality Club (www.hospitalityclub.org).

What about heifers, or young cows? Heifer International (www.heifer.org), based in Little Rock, Arkansas, is a nonprofit sharing economy organization. It describes itself as an economic development charity that seeks to eradicate hunger and poverty through distributing farm animals and training on how to use them to families in need around the world.

Recipients of heifers and other animals agree to "pass on the gift" by sharing animal offspring and the skills of animal husbandry with other impoverished families.

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