

Hamilton PC Computer Club Inc.



<http://www.hamiltoncomputerclub.co.nz/>

WIKI WORLD[®] by Greg Williams

DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

is a technological innovation, product or service that eventually overturns the existing dominant technology or status quo product in the market. For example, automobiles displaced horses for transport. Early roads were designed for horses, not cars. Nevertheless, the potential for greater convenience, reliability and speed offered by the motor car meant that the road system was eventually redesigned in its favor.



Text excerpted from the Wikipedia article *Disruptive technology*. 21 May 2007

September

THE ROM

INDEX

- 3 President's Report
Software Freedom Day
- 4 Tips and HOWTOs
- 6 From New Zealand PC World,
From PCMag, Kelly's Korner, Infoworld
- 7 Glimpses of the future
- 8 eBook readers and tablets are getting better
- 9 Security
Truth or Scam
- 10 Facebook
- 11 Next Meeting
Next Workshop
Club Officers and CERT Team

President's Report

Maintaining our PCs in good working order seems to be an ongoing theme this year. Is your PC running slower than it should? This month the topic is

Optimising your PC - how to setup/restore your PC to get the best performance.

Smart PC IT Sales Manager Zachari Anderson-Smith sets up PCs for Smart PC so he knows just how to choose the best hardware and software settings to get your PC running the way it should.

Which programmes and services you need and which ones clog up your PC or do things you don't want like tracking your browsing.

Software Freedom Day

The international website: <http://softwarefreedomday.org/>

Software Freedom Day (SFD) is a worldwide celebration of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). The goal is to educate the worldwide public about the benefits of using high quality FOSS in education, in government, at home, and in business -- in short, everywhere!

Free and open source software (FOSS) is software is written cooperatively for everyone to use and share. Examples you may already use include Firefox Web browser, Thunderbird email, Open Office suite, GIMP Image editor, and VLC Media player.

Hamilton event: Saturday 18th, all day

Centreplace Mall, opposite Whitcoulls bookshop.

See demonstrations. Try out programmes for yourself. Collect a free DVD of Free and Open Source Software for Windows. Enter to win prizes.

Tips and HOWTO's

From Computer Hope

All Computer Hope's email Tips

<http://www.computerhope.com/tips/email.htm>

Including:

Top 10 tips for keeping your e-mail inbox clean

<http://www.computerhope.com/tips/tip88.htm>

Top 10 steps in writing an effective e-mail

<http://www.computerhope.com/tips/tip89.htm>

Eliminate most if not all spam e-mail

<http://www.computerhope.com/tips/tip133.htm>

Internet e-mail questions and answers

<http://www.computerhope.com/emailqa.htm>

From New Zealand PC World

How to Rescue a Crashed PC

By: Eric Griffith

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2365200,00.asp>

“We've put together a rundown of the solutions for these issues, from basic fixes to tackling the dire straits of a totally dead hard drive.”

From their Press F1 forum

<http://pcworld.co.nz/pcworld/pcw.nsf/ht/secure-your-network-p2>

Safe but sociable

How do I protect my network but let visiting friends access the internet?

Anne Nomand

Before you worry about guarding your network from friends, you need to secure it from strangers. This involves password-protecting your Wi-Fi network. Since I don't own your router, I can't tell you how to do this – check your manual. Your router will probably offer several encryption options. Go with WPA2; it's secure, and unless someone visits with a very old laptop, your friends' PCs should have no compatibility problems. If they do, WPA is your second-best option. Don't use WEP unless you absolutely can't avoid it.

Whatever encryption you pick, choose a strong password. Of course, you'll have to share that password with your visitors. Keep it in a text file on a flash drive – then you can just plug the flash drive into your friend's laptop and copy and paste the password. (Why not use a utility like Password Safe? Because your friend might

have a Mac or a Linux PC that can't run Windows software.) Your friends can now get onto your network and thus onto the internet. So how do you keep them from accessing the other computers on your network (assuming that asking them nicely isn't sufficient)? One solution is to turn off file sharing on your computer. On XP, click Start, right-click My Network Places, and select Properties. From the top menu, select Advanced, and then Advanced Settings. Uncheck File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks.

In Vista, click Start, right-click My Network Places, and pick Properties. Under 'File sharing', choose Turn off file sharing. Click Apply.

For Windows 7, click Start, type advanced sharing, and pick Manage advanced sharing settings. Select Turn off file and printer sharing.

Manage Your photos with metadata

I have a large collection of photos. How do I organise the pictures by category?

Tom Guthrie

Organise your photos with metadata. In Windows, you can get to a file's metadata (assuming the file format supports it) by right-clicking the file, selecting *Properties*, and clicking the *Details* tab. The most important field for organising photos is the Tags field. Here you can enter names, places, events, or whatever will help you group your photos. Then you can search by the tags.

Vista and Windows 7 make tagging easy. In Windows Explorer, click the file and look in the window's bottom pane for the Tags field; select it and start typing. Separate multiple tags with semicolons.

To find photos, go to any search field (such as the one in Windows Explorer) and type tag: plus the tag name. Or, click the Tags column heading near the top of the Explorer window, wait for a list of available tags, and check the ones you want. If you don't see headers, right-click a blank spot in the folder and select View•Details.

XP users should grab a photo organiser – and frankly, so should Vista and Windows 7 users who have a lot of photos. The best ones are free, including my favourite, Microsoft's Windows Live Photo Gallery (bit.ly/d8E7LH). The program lets you assign tags by dragging and dropping items into a folder-like panel; it makes tags hierarchical, too. An inferior but still quite good version of the app, Windows Photo Gallery, came with Vista.

The procrastinator's guide to PC maintenance

<http://pcworld.co.nz/pcworld/pcw.nsf/ht/the-procrastinators-guide-to-pc-maintenance>

Sure, you want to keep your PC running well, your apps updated, and your data safe – but you're lazy. Here's how to keep your PC healthy while expending the minimum amount of effort possible.

By Patrick Miller / Tuesday, August 31 2010

From PCMag

For Office 2010

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2365826,00.asp>

10 Expert Tips For Microsoft Word 2010

By: Edward Mendelson

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2363867,00.asp>

Microsoft Office 2010: 10 Tips and Tricks

By: Edward Mendelson

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2364668,00.asp>

Microsoft Office 2010: 10 More Tips and Tricks

By: Edward Mendelson

Kelly's Korner: Troubleshooting Windows XP

“I have put together a lot of information from various sources, to help you find answers to the problems some users have with Windows XP. I have also put together some commonly requested tweaks and tips to make XP work the way you want it to.”

Use the search facility to find what you need. e. g. “system restore” finds

http://www.kellys-korner-xp.com/xp_restore.htm

Follow the explanation to see what settings to use so you will be able to roll back to a usable system when you strike trouble.

Peter Wayner of Infoworld suggests how to customise your browser to suit your purposes.

<http://www.infoworld.com/d/applications/hacking-your-web-browser-in-7-easy-steps-702>

Hacking your web browser in 7 easy steps

Customise your Web via add-ons, extensions, jetpacks, personas, plug-ins, and themes

Subtle differences in features, flexibility, and performance set some browsers ahead of the pack for particular uses.

Glimpses of the future?

Will phone calls become just another internet communication channel?

ZDNet: Google launches new disruptive phone feature

<http://www.zdnet.com/blog/google/google-launches-new-disruptive-phone-feature/2400>

Google has made it so you can make free local and long distance calls (to US and Canada), and cheap international calls from directly inside Gmail. If that wasn't cool enough, you can even receive phone calls right inside Google Talk if you are either away from your phone, or you simply don't have one.

You can now feasibly get phone service anywhere in the United States for absolutely nothing. You get a Google Voice number, and a Gmail account, and you magically have unlimited inbound and outbound calling — free.

You don't need a physical phone to use Google Voice anymore, and that is big news. The technology behind this feature comes partially from the acquisition of Gizmo5 not so long ago.

InfoWorld:

<http://www.infoworld.com/t/collaboration/googles-melding-voice-and-mail-offers-lessons-cisco-and-microsoft-450>

Google Voice is now integrated with Gmail. Gmail users are now able to call their contacts directly on their phones via Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP). That's on top of the ability to communicate with peers via email, chat, and video using a single Google sign-in, not to mention being able to collaborate on projects via Google Docs, which is just a click away. . Thus, Unified Communication (UC) on the go -- be it from your laptop, tablet, or smartphone -- becomes a viable possibility. Sweetening the deal, Google is leveraging its cloud power so that users don't need to worry about storing and managing all that UC-related data.

It is only available in the US and Canada at the moment, but will surely be extended. However a British user found that he could make calls to the USA. <http://www.pcpro.co.uk/blogs/2010/08/27/how-to-make-free-calls-to-the-us-on-google/>

I have my Gmail language settings set to US English, because the company traditionally releases new features to US customers first. Lo and behold, this morning my Gmail was upgraded with Google Voice and it appears there is no geographical IP blocking on the service.

So if you've got friends, family or business contacts in the US or Canada, change your language settings and fill your boots – at least until Google notices and cuts the international service off. (It may take a couple of days for the Google Voice to appear, as it's a staggered rollout.)

Another sign of the times.

http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/oxford_english_dictionary_may_never_be_published_a.php

Nigel Portwood, chief executive of Oxford University Press, which publishes the OED, told the London Sunday Times that dictionaries sales have been falling off at a rate greater than 10% a year for the last few years. So the [next edition may be online only](#).

eBook readers and tablets are getting better.

Books are still the easiest and most convenient way to read text and pictures in most situations, but we are increasingly using alternatives. ebook readers like the Kindle, tablets like the iPad, smartphones and notebooks are all getting better displays, getting lighter and cheaper, storing and accessing more data. Meanwhile whether you use one of the new breed of gadgets or your PC there are lots of books and documents available for a price. A good many especially classic and older books are available free.

Makeuseof shows how to find free books.

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/the-best-6-sites-to-get-free-ebooks/>

The Best 6 Sites to Get Free Ebooks by [Aibek](#)

You might be surprised by how many good free ebook sites there are out there. Nowadays, you can find pretty much any popular (and not) book online. You just need to know where to look. Here are my favorite free ebook sites.

There are many more sites listed in the comments.

You can also search Google Books <http://books.google.co.nz/bkshp> for “free ebooks”

Or you could get audiobooks to listen on MP3 player

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/easy-listening-pleasures-10-websites-free-audio-book-downloads/>

10 Best Websites For Free Audio Books by [Saikat Basu](#)

With the explosion of personal media players like iPods and even mobile phones which can carry media files, even a routine walk can be turned into an education.

Again there are many more sites listed in the comments.

Security

Keepass free/open-source password manager

<http://keepass.com/>

Truth or scam?

Not sure whether to believe the latest item of “news” you have found?

Check it out on <http://www.snopes.com/> the database of urban legends. If it is not on the list of Top Scams put a key phrase into the search box or try the “Submit a Rumor” button.

David Pogue of the New York Times says:

As Internet veterans know, there’s only one place to go for debunking or confirming the latest bit of rumor that just came into your e-mail box: Snopes.com, where 300,000 people a day drop in to find out if indeed Bill Gates is sending out free laptops, if President Obama is a Muslim or if Mikey from the Life commercials really died.

David and Barbara Mikkelson run this essential clearinghouse for truth out of their home in California, and I recently had the chance to interview Mr. Mikkelson for a “CBS News Sunday Morning” segment. Here’s an edited excerpt.

<http://pogue.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/07/15/at-snopes-com-rumors-are-held-up-to-the-light/>

Facebook

Facebook Places: How it works, and how to turn it off

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Innovation/Horizons/2010/0819/>

Facebook Places lets users announce where they are and who they're hanging out with – whether real or made-up.

Prepare for all kinds of useful applications and unforeseen consequences. A friend could tag your whereabouts – true or untrue – ruining your white-lie alibi. Facebook could warn you that the acquaintance you're avoiding just arrived at the same party, better think fast. Or, in theory, you could tell Facebook Places that you've hit the beach this weekend, corroborating your story.

Read on to find out how to turn it off or you may be like [Kunur Patel](#), a writer for [Advertising Age](#) who [learned the hard way](#) how not to check other people in.

<http://gawker.com/5618608/how-not-to-creep-out-your-friends-using-facebook-places>

Next meeting:

September 9th 7PM, at Te Whare o te Ata, the Fairfield/Chartwell Community House, 60A Sare Crescent

Topic: **Optimising your PC** - how to setup/restore your PC to get the best performance.

Smart PC IT Sales Manager Zachari Anderson-Smith shows how to choose the best hardware and software settings to get your PC running the way it should..

Next Workshop:

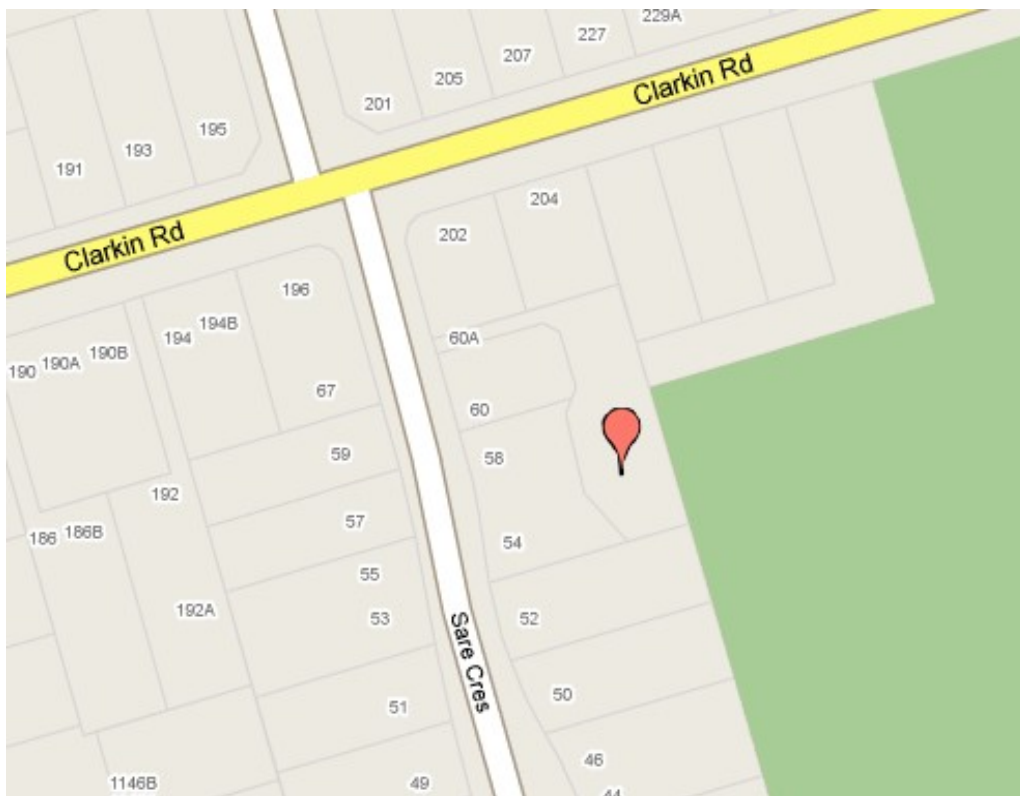
September 11th 10AM – 4PM Saturday, also at Te Whare o te Ata

Club Officers:

- Rod Aldridge (President), <rod-aldridge@xnet.co.nz>, Ph 856-5113
- Tony Templer, (Treasurer) <ttmplr@gmail.com>, Ph 855-2249
- Chris Galbraith, (Secretary) <chris_galbreath@hotmail.com>, Ph 849 2471
- Brian Sunderland <tribri@maxnet.co.nz>, Ph 843-8308
- Noreen Waddington <noreenwaddington@gmail.com>, Ph 856-7445
- Ken Jenner <kenjen@kol.co.nz>, Ph 843-3396
- David Sellens <davidsellens@value.net.nz> Ph 07-889-0513

Cert team:

- Bruce Kingsbury,
<zcat@zcat.geek.nz>
Ph 021-2141196
- Rod Aldridge,
<rod-aldridge@xnet.co.nz>,
Ph 856-5113
- Kevin Wingate,
kwingate@wave.co.nz
Ph 07-826-7876



Website:

<http://www.hamiltoncomputerclub.co.nz/>

Email: hamiltoncomputerclub@gmail.com

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