East SIG Report – July 2024

After welcoming members to the July meeting of East SIG, host Frank Maher outlined the nights agenda below:

Presentation 1: **Q&A** by George Skarbek
Presentation 2: **Best Samsung Screen recorders** by Trevor Hudson
Presentation 3: **Firefox** by Peter Carpenter
Presentation 4: **Firefox Extensions** by Peter Carpenter
Presentation 5: **Controlling Windows 10 & 11** by Dave Botherway
Presentation 6: **Digital Legacy** by John Hall

Q&A
by George Skarbek

As no questions were forthcoming. George replied "we must have a very knowledgeable group here, so it's over to you Frank".

Best Samsung Screen Recorder
by Trevor Hudson

Samsung "Screen recorder" is a new feature in Samsung smartphones, that allows users to make a screen recording video easily without having to download any external applications. This screen recorder adds extra features not found in the standard Android screen recorder. In this presentation Trevor Hudson demonstrated how to use the various features of Samsung's screen recorder on his Samsung A55 smartphone.
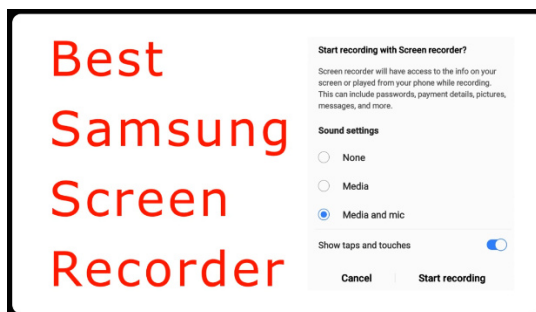

Figure 1 – Trevor's YouTube banner

To locate the screen recorder app (icon), simply swipe down from the top of the phones home screen until the menu opens and then swipe down again to open up the control panel. From the Control Panel find and select "Screen recorder". If you don't see it on this first screen, you may have to swipe to the right or failing to find it there, select the plus button to locate the app.

Once the "Screen recorder" icon is found, Trevor selected it and the app opened, where 2 potential settings need to be selected before recording can start. The first selection is made under "Sound", where you choose what sound will be included in the video. The options are:
- ***None:*** No sound is recorded
- ***Media:*** Records sounds made internally within the phone, such as music or games.
- ***Media and mic:*** Records internal sounds in the phone and sounds from the microphone

Below the heading "Sound", there is an on/off toggle labelled "Show taps and touches". This control would be set to "on" for showing others where you tap and touch on your screen. This is useful when demonstrating how to use a feature on the phone or use an app.

Once Trevor confirmed the various settings were as intended, he selected "Start recording". A countdown timer then appeared in the centre of the screen that counts down 3 seconds before recording starts. When the timer finishes, a small control menu appears at the top of the phones screen that displays the following controls:

- **Pencil:** Selecting the pencil icon adds a coloured circle to the menu and represents the currently selected colour. Selecting the circle brings up a colour palette, with the option to choose one of 8 colours to draw on the screen. Clicking on the pencil icon again deletes the screen drawing.
- **Portrait:** Selecting the head and shoulders icon allows the recording of the screen with a video overlay of the phone's user, taken with the selfie camera.
- **Pause:** Allows you to pause (represented by 2 vertical bars), record (represented by a red circle) & stop (represented by a Black square) the screen recording.
  When selecting stop, the recording is saved in the default location under My Files → Internal storage → DCIM → Screen recordings.

Figure 2 – Samsung Screen Recorder

Trevor demonstrated each of the 3 recording options above in a single recording. He then replayed the resulting screen recording to confirm and display the finished version.

The video of Trevor's demonstration can be viewed at the following URL
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6L-iNadIV0 .

Firefox
by Peter Carpenter

Window Updates

Peter began by informing members about the latest Windows update, highlighting that a security flaw, allegedly exploited by Chinese hackers for the past year, has been addressed. He recommended allowing "Windows Updates" to run in the background and to update their computers whenever the update symbol shown in Figure 3 appears in the taskbar.

Figure 3 – Windows Update icon

However, Peter sets the "Get the latest updates as soon as they're available" toggle to off, to allow a week to go before loading the update, to ensure others on the bleeding edge can test the updates stability. Windows updates come out every second Tuesday of the month, American time, which is our Wednesday.
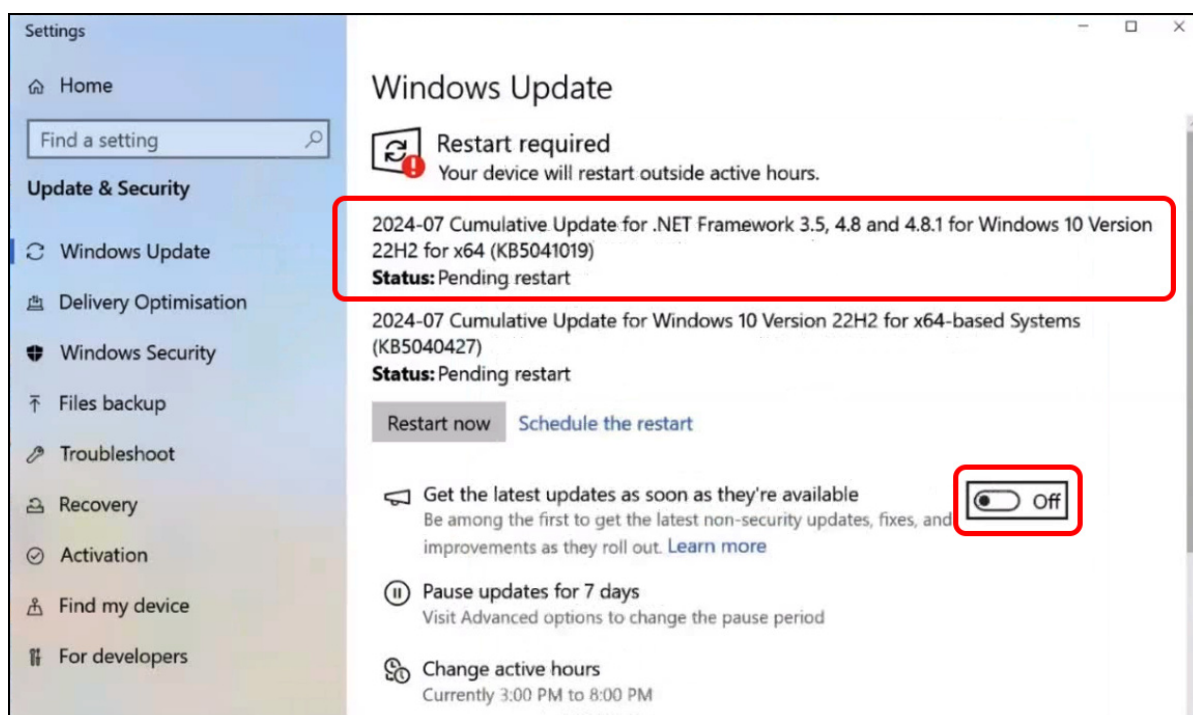

Figure 4 – Windows Update Setting screen

Firefox browser

History

Mozilla is the company currently developing Firefox. Its original name, Mosaic, was given by its developer Marc Andreessen in 1993. In 1994, Andreessen and others formed a company called Netscape and released a competing browser called Netscape Navigator.

Mozilla was originally the code name for the Netscape Navigator web browser, a combination of "Mosaic and Godzilla". The name represented "Mosaic killer," reflecting the company's goal to surpass Mosaic as the dominant browser. Mozilla coordinated the development of the Mozilla Application Suite, the free software version of Netscape's internet software, Netscape Communicator. The company was later named Mozilla and eventually created the Firefox browser.

Browser market share

Peter found it concerning there is a lack of diversification and competition in the browser field, with Chrome holding 2/3 of the market share. More concerning is that over 80% of the major browsers Chrome, MS Edge, Opera, and lesser-known browsers Vivaldi, Brave and Arc, all use Chromium as their underlying engine, with their own user interface on top. Apart from Apple's Safari (9%) and Firefox (6.5%), Googles Chromium is ruling the roost.

Figure 5 – Desktop Browser market share 2024 according to statcounter

Google, as an advertising company, uses its dominant Chrome browser to deliver ads, distorting the advertising market globally. Classified ads in newspapers have vanished, and podcasting is being consolidated by major players, significantly impacting the industry. Peter believes major players of the likes of Google, Meta, Amazon and Microsoft's dominance, creates an unhealthy situation.

Statista.com reveals that in 2012, Firefox trailed Chrome by only a few percentage points, with a market share of 23% compared to Chrome's 26%. However, by 2024, Firefox's market share has plummeted, while Chrome's has surged, largely due to the strength of Google's search engine.

As of February 2024, Google Chrome accounted for 66% of the global market share for internet browsers. Apple's Safari was the second most popular browser worldwide, with an 18% market share. No other browser, including Edge, Firefox, Vivaldi, Brave, Opera, and Arc, controlled more than five percent of the overall market share. Refer to Figure 6 depicting the global browser market share from 2012 to 2024.
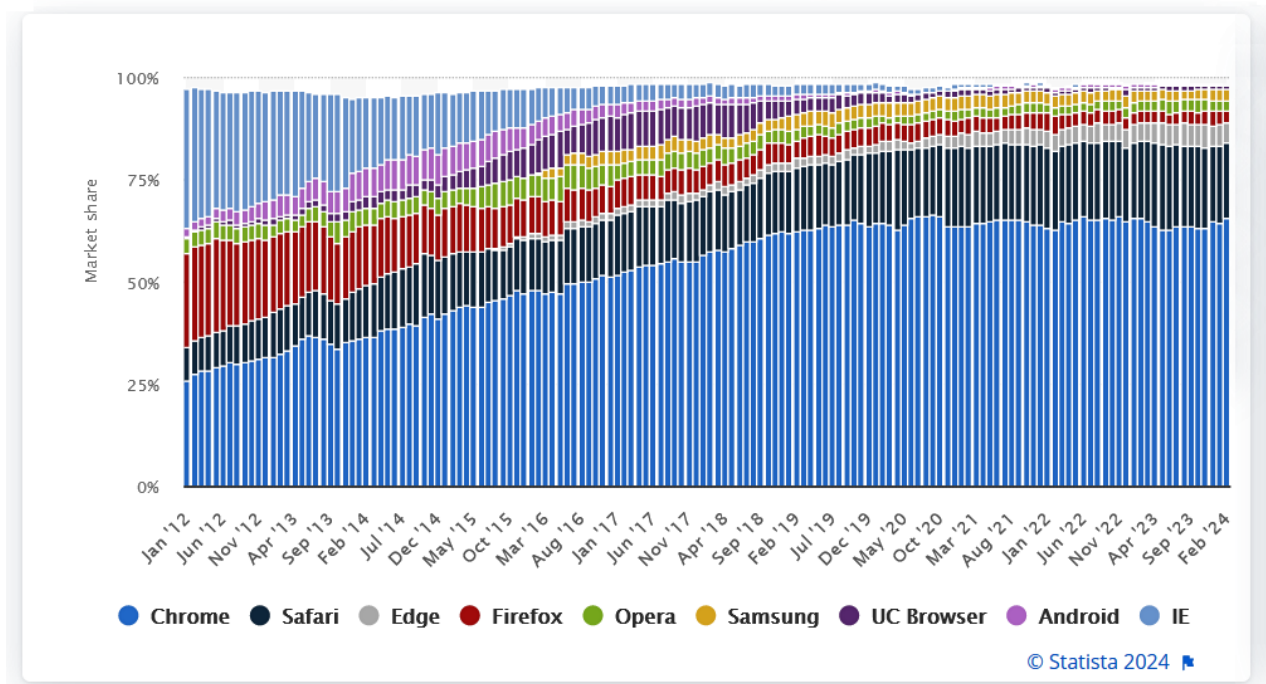

Figure 6 – Global browser market share

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Why use Firefox

Firefox is open-source software like Linux, with a reputation for keeping its users private online. It doesn't collect as much user data as Chrome and allows you to block trackers by default.

Extensions can enhance Firefox's security even further, but it's important to choose reputable ones. Listed below are different types of extensions that can make Firefox more secure:

1. **Ad Blockers**: Extensions like *uBlock Origin,* block ads and trackers, reducing exposure to malicious ads.

2. **Privacy Tools**: Extensions such as *Privacy Badger* and *DuckDuckGo Privacy Essentials* help block tracking scripts and improve privacy.

3. **Password Managers**: Using extensions like LastPass or Bitwarden can enhance security by generating and storing strong, unique passwords.

4. **HTTPS Enforcers**: *HTTPS Everywhere* forces connections to use HTTPS, improving the security of your browsing sessions.

5. **Anti-Phishing**: Extensions like *Netcraft Anti-Phishing* can warn you about potential phishing sites.

6. **NoScript**: *NoScript* blocks potentially malicious scripts from running on websites, giving you control over what is allowed to execute.

When installing extensions, ensure they come from reputable sources and have positive user reviews, as some malicious extensions can pose security risks themselves.

Mozilla generates the majority of its revenue from Firefox through its major search partners including Google, Bing, Yahoo, Amazon, Ebay and others. The primary source of this capital is Google, which pays Mozilla to be the default search engine on the Firefox home page.

Mozilla (Firefox User) account

With a Mozilla account, you access Mozilla Services with the Firefox browser by simply signing in on any device. Any data you store on Mozilla's servers is encrypted with your password, making it impossible for anyone without your password to read your data, even Mozilla.

To setup an account, select the icon on the toolbar. That opens a window where you add your email address and password. Peter stressed that the password is your Mozilla password, not your email password.
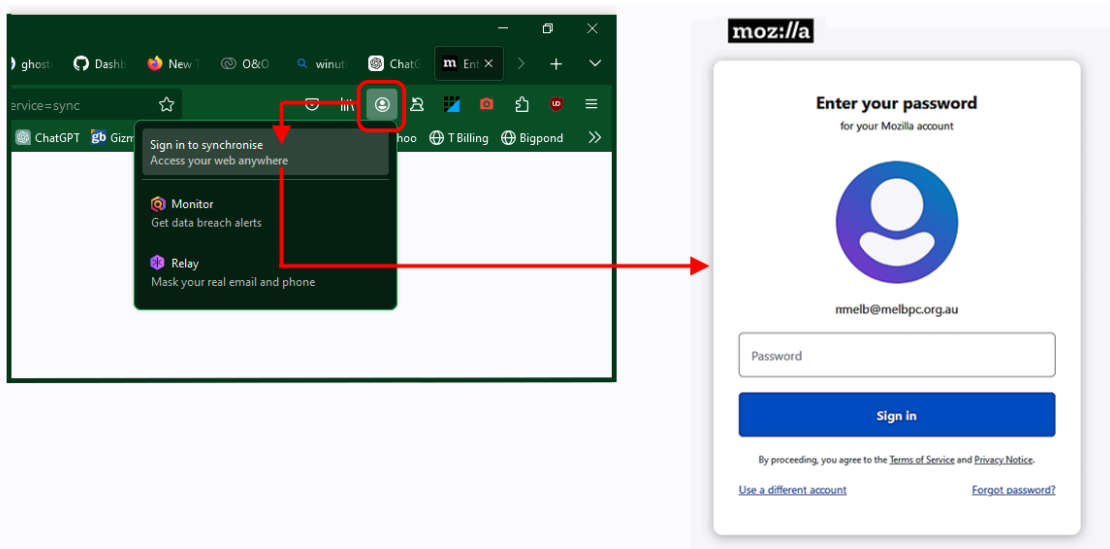

Figure 7 – Mozilla Account sign in

The Mozilla Account icon (also known as the User Profile icon) represents the built-in Sync feature present in the Firefox browser. The Sync feature can be used to synchronize bookmarks/favourites, browser history, tabs, passwords, add-ons/extensions, preferences across all devices.

The colour of the Mozilla Account icon indicates the status of your account.
- If the icon displays a black user avatar on a white background, it means you are not using the Sync feature and are not signed in to your Mozilla Account.
- Conversely, if the icon shows a white user avatar on a black background, it means you are using the Sync feature and are signed in to your Mozilla Account.
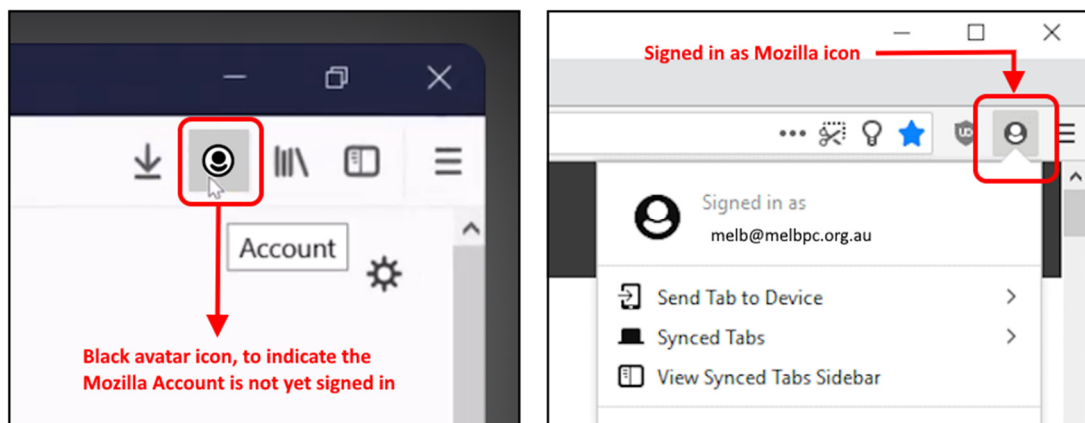
Figure 8 – The different Mozilla Account icons

The Sync feature also becomes useful if you want to format and clean install Windows or another operating system in your computer. Before formatting your PC for a fresh Windows installation, just sign in using your Mozilla Account and sync your browser data. After the fresh installation, sign in to Mozilla again using the same Mozilla Account in Firefox. It'll then restore all your browser data and you can start using Firefox without any need to setup it again from scratch.

With a Mozilla account and Sync, you can:
(1) See your bookmarks across devices.
(2) Use a secure password manager that goes with you wherever you are.
(3) Shop securely across devices with credit card autofill.

Firefox User Interface - Toolbar
Peter demonstrated how to add items to the Firefox toolbar, to add extra features and to increase functionality.

Click the *Menu* (3 horizontal bar icon) → *More Tools* → *Customize toolbar* or right click on the toolbar and select *Customise toolbar* in the menu. A new tab opens which allows you to drag and drop items in or out of the overflow menu and the toolbar.
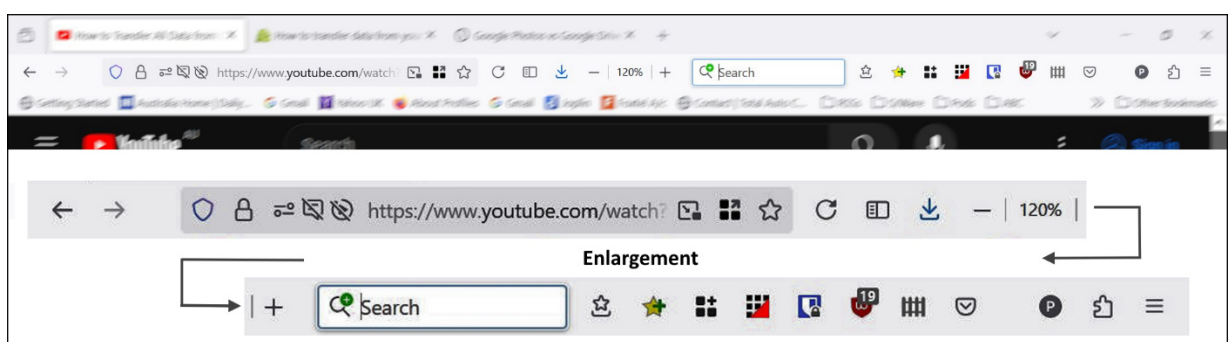

Figure 9 – Enlargement of Peter's Firefox Toolbar

For those who may wish to emulate Peter's toolbar, the Firefox layout icon list is as follows.:
Header Layout: Back-arrowhead, Forward-arrowhead, [Shield], [Lock], URl/URI, [Reader Mode], (Always open in a Container (Extension)), Bookmark this page, Refresh, Show Sidebar, Downloading, - Zoom, Zoom Default, + Zoom, Search (Always visible, repeatable), Multi-Account Containers (Extension), Simple Tab Groups (Extension), BitWarden (Extension), UBlock Origin (Extension), Activate Reader View (Toggle) (Extension), Facebook Container (Extension), Spacer, Extensions, Account [Customise Toolbar]

Some icons appear [...] as sites invoke them.
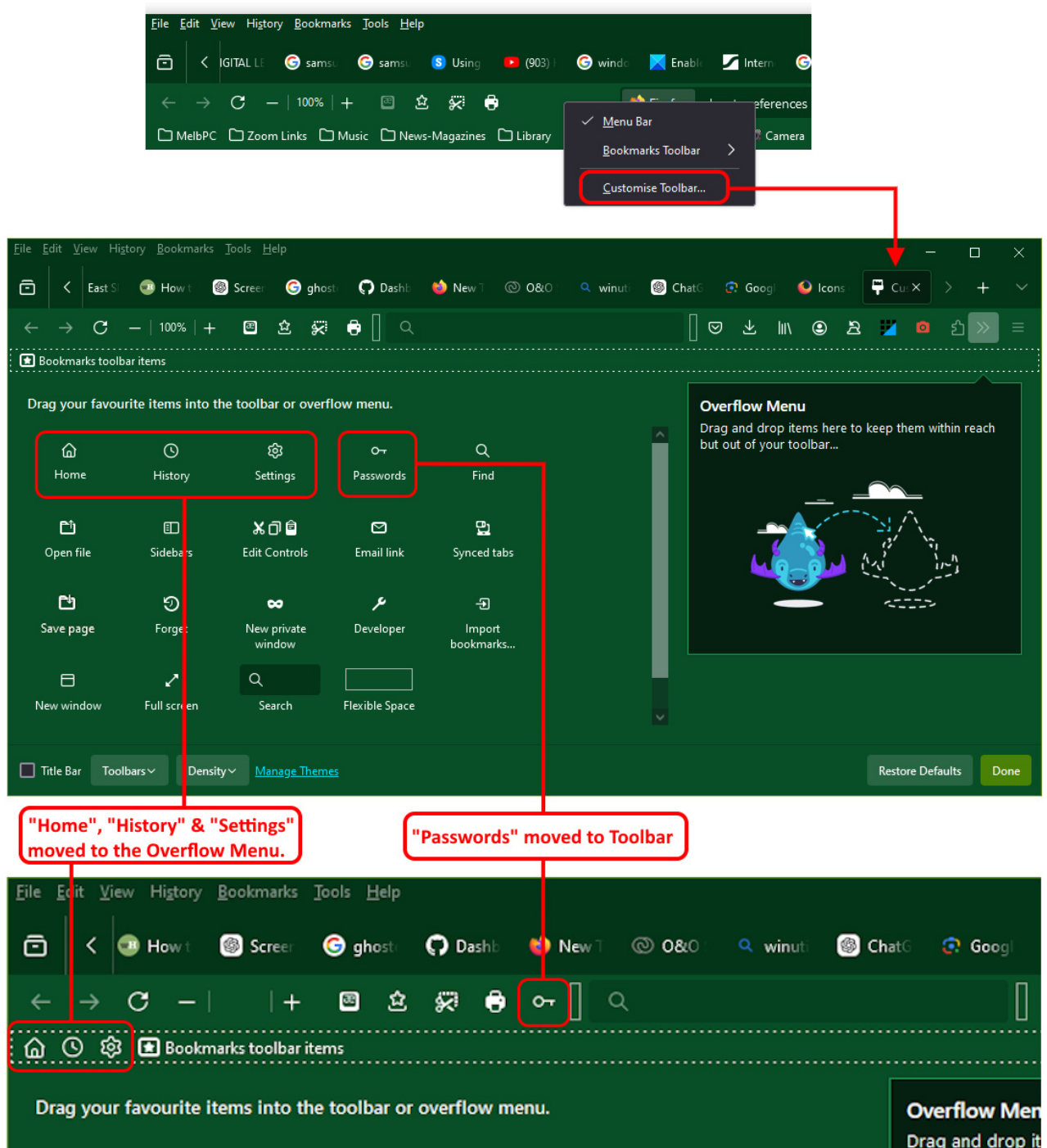
Figure 10 – Customise Toolbar

In the demonstration shown in Figure 10 above, items have been added to both the main toolbar and the overflow toolbar.

Firefox Extensions

by Peter Carpenter

Extensions, also known as Firefox Add-ons, are extra features you can download and install to add more functionality and tools to your Firefox browser. Add-ons allow you to customize your Firefox browser by adding their icons to the toolbar to enhance the way you use the web.

Before demonstrating a number of Firefox add-ons Peter has found useful, he first presented how to install an add-on, to illustrate the process involved. The installation began by selecting the menu represented by the three horizontal bars icon at the top right of the Firefox toolbar. A drop-down menu appeared, from which he selected "Add-ons and themes." This opened a Firefox tab where you need to select "Extensions." At the top of the page is a search box labelled "Find more add-ons", where you can enter your search criteria.
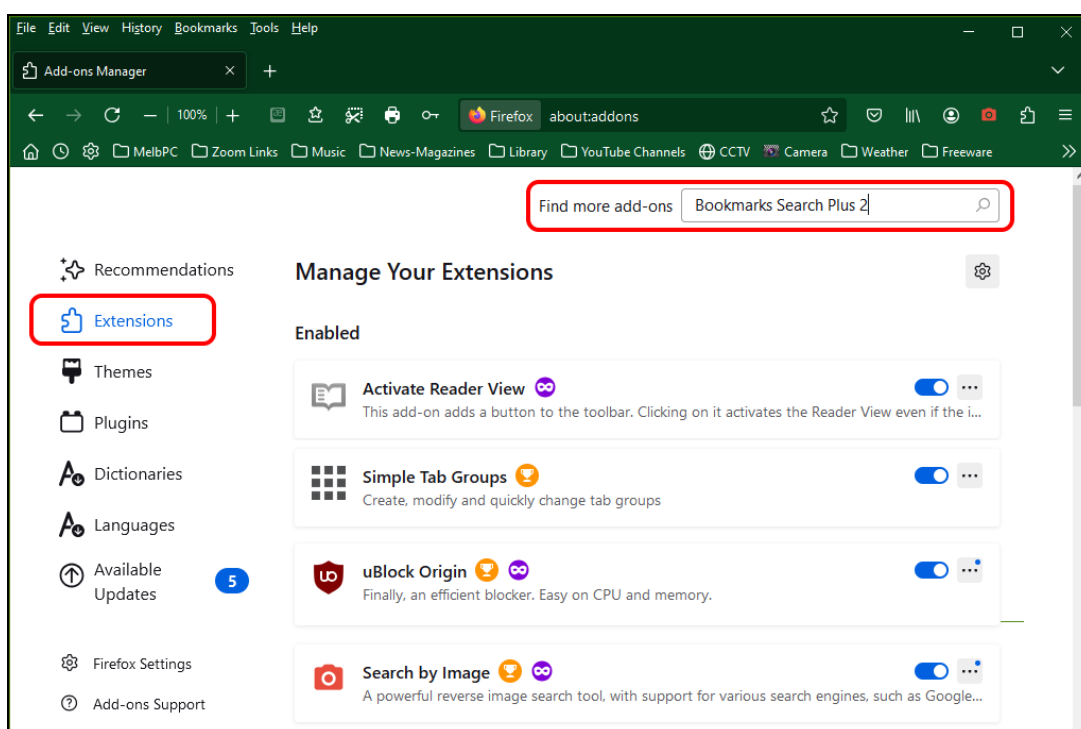
Figure 11 – Adding Extensions

Bookmark search plus 2

With the default Firefox search, you can find a search term but it doesn't indicate where the bookmark is located. This can make it difficult to store your bookmarks in a logical folder structure.

The extension *Bookmark Search Plus 2* searches for both bookmarks and folders containing the search term, displaying and filtering them based on the search string. This add-on shows the parent folder, enabling you to find the exact location in the bookmark tree so you can save a current bookmark with others that are similar or on the same topic.
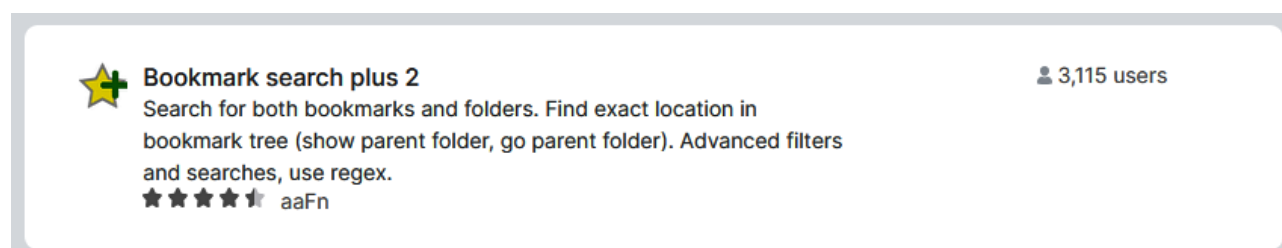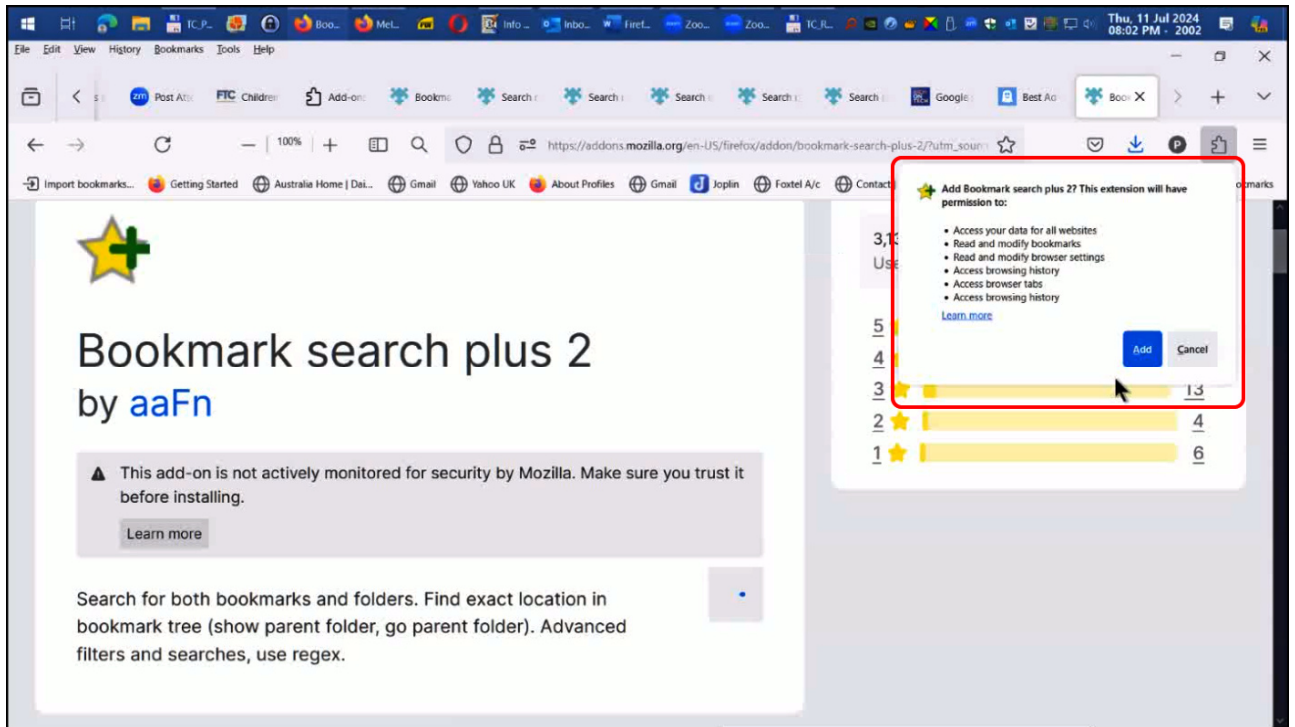

Figure 12 – Extension "Bookmark Search Plus 2"

Figure 13 – Adding the Extension "Bookmark Search Plus 2"

In a demonstration of this add-on, Peter selected *Bookmark search plus 2* to conduct a search of his current bookmarks. He entered the search term "Firefox" and found the entry "Firefox Privacy…". By clicking on the right margin beside "Firefox Privacy…", it was highlighted in blue (Figure 14) and a panel below the search results opened. This panel shows the folder tree and displayed where "Firefox Privacy…" is located. Peter then saved the current tab relating to privacy under the "Firefox privacy …" folder.

As Peter demonstrated, this add-on allows you to quickly find where a bookmark or folder is located in the bookmark tree. It shows under which folder the selected result is, focusing on it and automatically expanding folders along the path, showing the full chain from the top.

Figure 14 – Searching "Firefox" with *Bookmark Search Plus 2*

Multi-Account Containers

Firefox containers let you separate your browsing activities into color-coded tabs such as for banking, work and personal browsing. This allows you to always open new tabs in containers of your choosing for more private browsing.

Figure 15 – Extension *Firefox Multi Account Container*

The advantages of containers are:
- Being able to sign in to multiple accounts on a single website (e.g. personal and work email accounts).
- Protect browsing with a VPN (e.g. shop abroad and check your bank account from a home country server).
- Prevent tracking and security attacks (e.g. harmful clicks stay within a container).

Firefox extension *Multi-Account Containers* lets you keep parts of your online life separated into color-coded tabs. Cookies are separated by container, allowing you to use the web with multiple accounts and integrate Mozilla VPN for an extra layer of privacy.

If you have more than one account, such as multiple email accounts with Google, normally you have to close your tabs and sign out, or start another instance of your browser, then sign back in, to use another account. With *Multi Account Containers* you can have multiple tabs open side by side with different email addresses.

Peter demonstrated how he uses the extension *Multi-Account Containers,* to have 2 different Outlook accounts with their tabs sitting side by side, in the same browser. This is a feature I have detailed in Figure 16, as many might be unfamiliar with it, or unsure how it is used. The procedure is as follows:

- Select the *Multi Account Containers* extension icon
- When the menu open select "Manage Containers"
- Select "+ New Container"
- Give the new container a name e.g. Outlook Address 1
- Select a colour for the container
- Repeat the previous 2 steps to add a second new container Outlook Address 2
- Now with 2 new containers created, Peter is now able to login to the 2 different outlook addresses in the same browser instance.
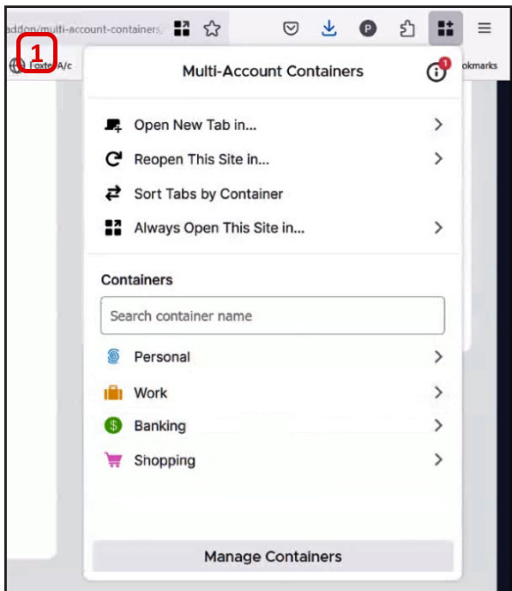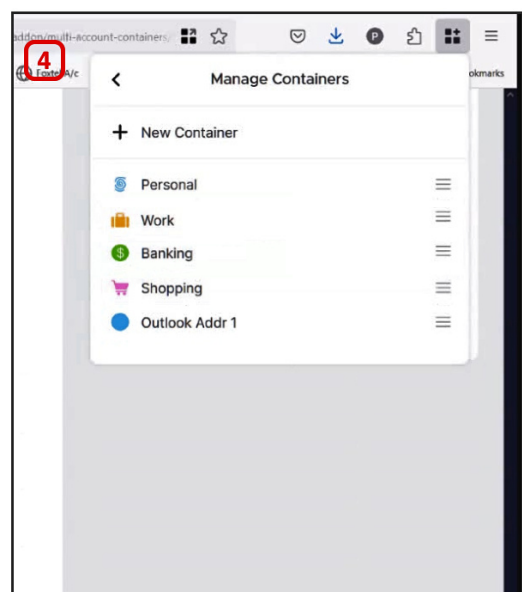
Select the Multi Account Containers extension icon
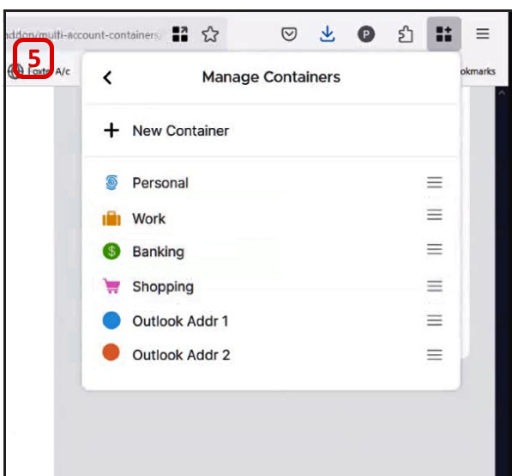**From menu select "Manage Containers"**
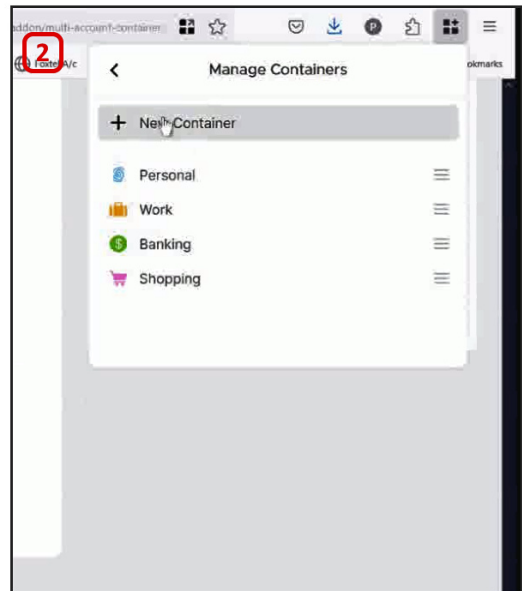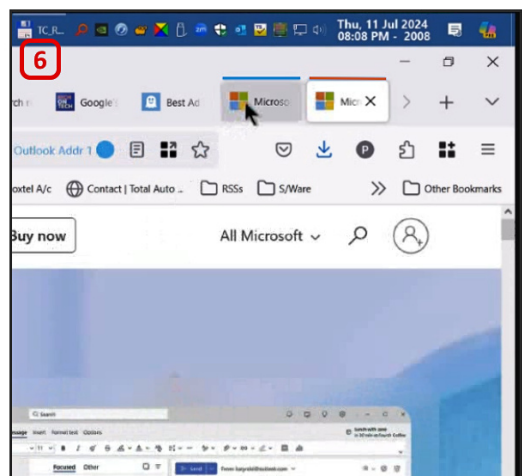

Select "+ New Container"
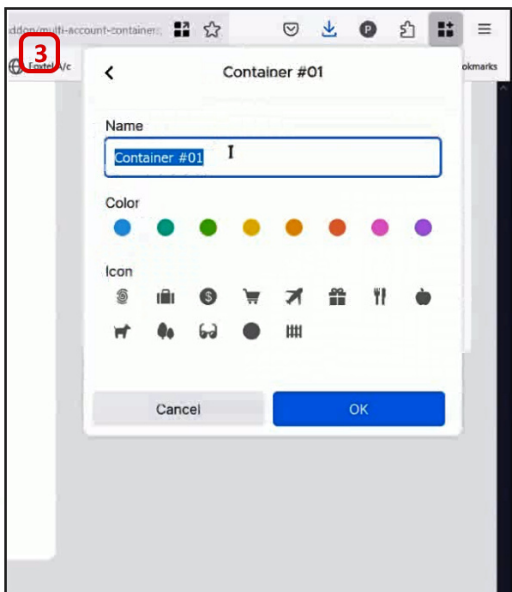
Name new container a name e.g. Outlook Addr 1
Select a colour for the container, Press OK

Container Outlook Addr 1 added

Repeat previous steps for new container
Outlook Addr 2

Peter now logged into the 2 different outlook
addresses in the same browser instance.

Figure 16 – Creating Multi Account Containers for different email accounts

Facebook Container

Facebook Container is a Firefox add-on that helps you set boundaries with Facebook and other Meta websites. This extension isolates Meta sites (including Facebook, Instagram, and Messenger) from the rest of the web, to limit where the company can track you.
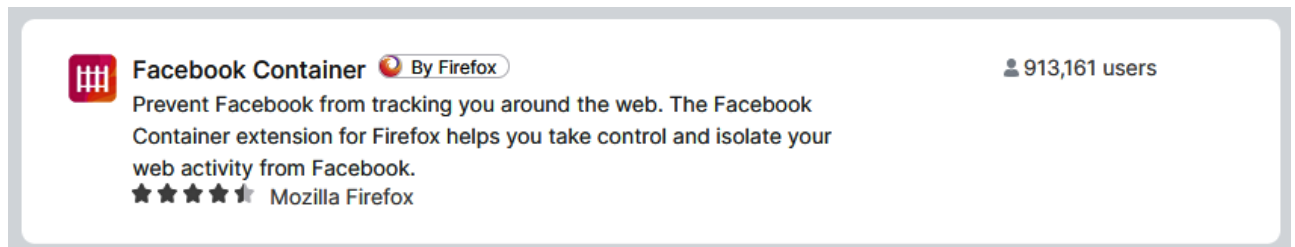

Figure 17 – Extension *Facebook Container*

Peter has installed this extension and notes that it runs unobtrusively in the background and blocks information that Facebook would normally trawl from you.

This add-on prevents Facebook from tracking your activity on other websites, so you can continue to use Facebook while protecting your privacy as it isolates your web activity from Facebook.

uBlock Origin

uBlock Origin is a free and open-source browser extension for content filtering, with several features to block ads, tracking, malware, and other annoyances. It was created by Raymond Hill in 2014 and continues to be maintained and actively developed by him. It is low on CPU and memory.
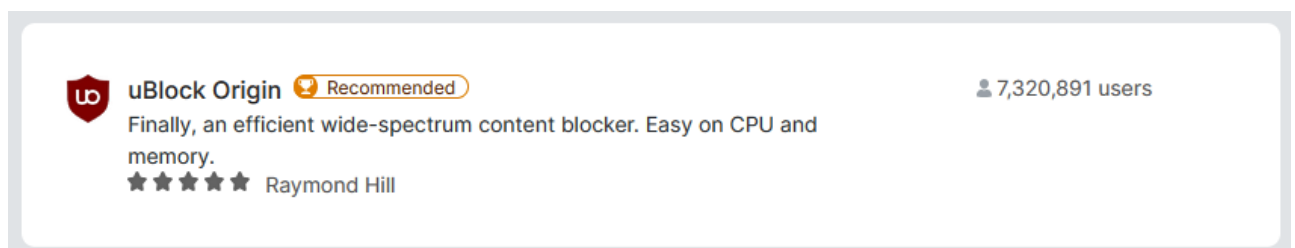

Figure 18 – Extension *uBlock Origin*

uBlock Origin does not collect any data of any kind as it has no home server and doesn't embed any analytic or telemetry hooks in its code.

Content filtering is set by the Filter lists pane. This is where you subscribe to filter lists that feed into uBlock Origin's static filtering engine. You can add more or remove some filter lists from *uBlock Origin*'s default selection of filter lists. Most other blockers only enable EasyList.

Some websites will not load if they detect *uBlock Origin* is installed. In these instances, Peter demonstrated how to overcome this by clicking on the *uBlock Origin* icon and turning the extension off as shown in Figure 19. This has the effect of temporarily allowing ads through and allowing the website to load.

If you want to get the best possible ad blocking browser extension, *uBlock Origin* is the one to go for, with configurable filter lists and a completely free, open-source approach. It is rated by Firefox as highly recommended and is available for other Chromium browsers such as Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Brave, Opera, as well as versions of Safari before 13.
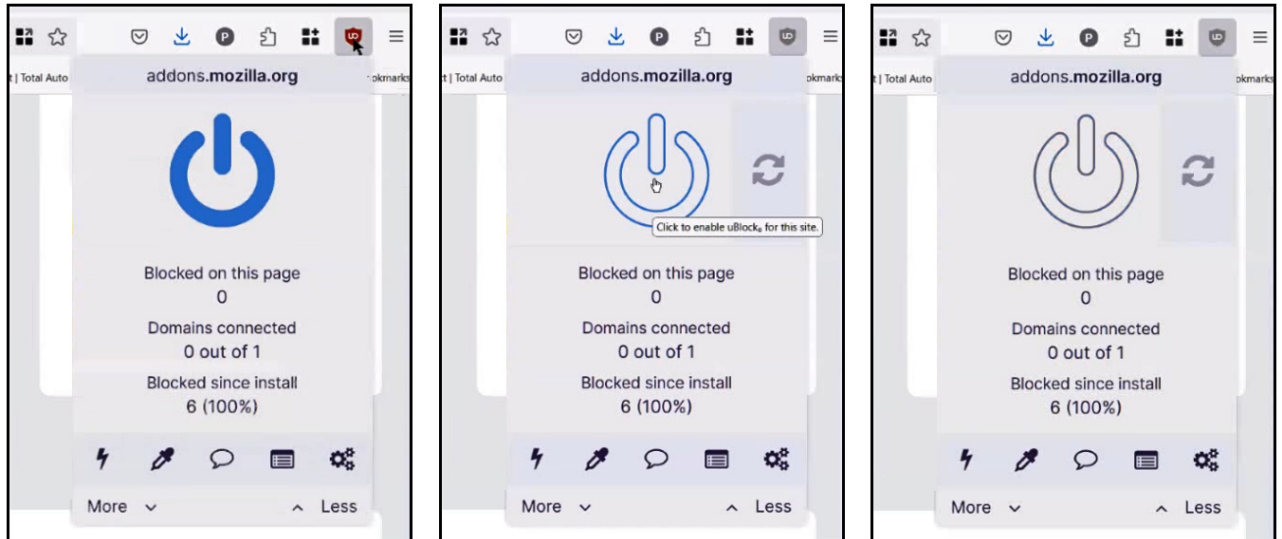
Figure 19 –*uBlock Origin* enabled & disabled status

Privacy Badger

Privacy Badger is an install-and-forget browser add-on that stops advertiser's trackers from secretly tracking where you go and what pages you look at on the web. It is not an ad-blocker, although it may still block some of them once activated. Instead, it is a third-party tracker blocker that prevents unwanted sources from following you around the web. While Privacy Badger can block some ads, its primary purpose is to stop trackers from collecting your data.
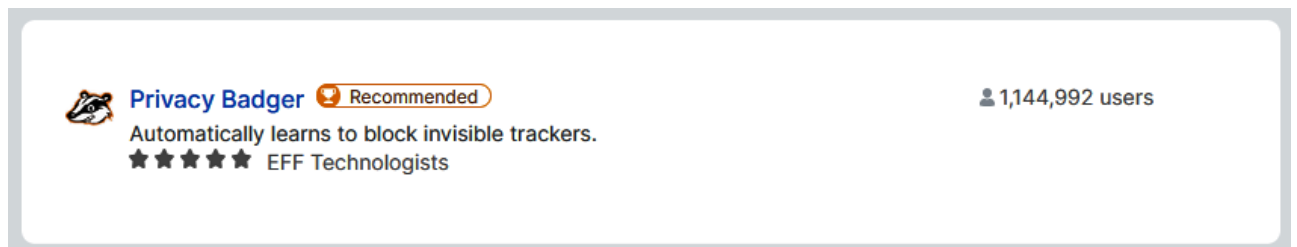

Figure 20 – Extension *Privacy Badger*

Privacy Badgers purpose is to promote a balanced approach to internet privacy between consumers and content providers by blocking advertisements and tracking cookies that do not respect the Do Not Track setting in a user's web browser. Privacy Badger automatically learns using heuristics.

Peter noted *Privacy Badger* will pop up every now and then on his computer, alerting him that the number of traces and ads that have been blocked. Peter is not sure how effective this extension is, though it's rated by Firefox as Recommended, with over a million users. It automatically learns to block invisible trackers.

Ghostery

Peter recently installed *Ghostery*, an extension he's currently experimenting with. He heard about it on the "Rich on Tech" podcast, where the CEO of Ghostery discussed it, impressing him enough to try it out.
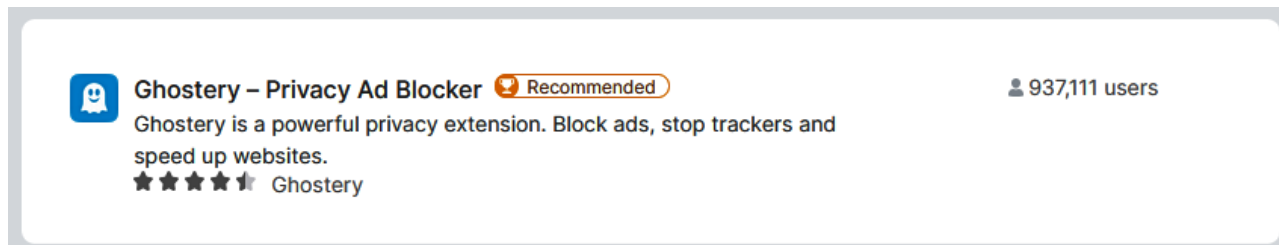
Figure 21 – Extension *Ghostery*

Ghostery is a free extension for Firefox that provides full ad block functionality. It also stops trackers from accessing your personal data and annoying cookie consent pop-ups. Like all ad blockers, *Ghostery* provides safe, fast web loading and clutter-free browsing by reducing the number of ads that have to be downloaded and displayed.

Ghostery is a reliable and effective ad blocker against pop-ups, banner ads, YouTube ads, and more. It can also automatically decline cookies, saving you from having to do so manually, and gives you control over whether to block or allow ads or trackers on specific websites. A reference on the internet suggests *Ghostery m*ay be better at blocking ads, but Privacy Badger may be better at blocking third parties from tracking you.

Simple Tab Groups
Simple Tab Groups is a Firefox add-on that helps organise and manage browser tabs by grouping them into categories. This makes it easier to navigate and manage a large number of tabs on different topics.
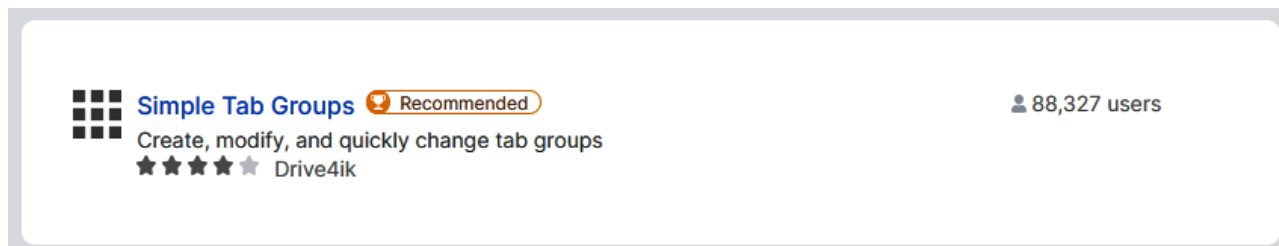

Figure 22 – Extension *Simple Tab Groups*

Simple Tab Groups creates and organises tabs into groups, providing an easy way to declutter your browser tab bar and make webpages easier to find. It offers more than just combining tabs into groups, including a search function, automatic backup, and the ability to locate which tab a sound is coming from. Neil Muller demonstrated this extension at the East SIG meeting in February 2021 (Reference: Feb 2021 East SIG Report).

Key Features:
- Grouping Tabs: Allows users to create different groups for various topics or tasks.
- Switching Groups: Users can switch between tab groups, which helps keep related tabs together and reduces clutter. Only tabs from the current group are displayed, with all other tabs in hibernation and hidden from view.
- Customisation: Users can rename groups, change their colours, and upload custom icons.
- Management: Tabs can be moved between groups, and new tabs or groups can be created as needed. Lists of all tabs within a Simple Tab Groups are searchable and visible under "Manage Groups"
- Convenience: The add-on makes browsing more efficient by maintaining organised tab sets.

An excellent introduction Youtube video is "Simple Tab Groups My new favorite Firefox addon…?" by Percy Jules at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6m09F312soQ

Controlling Windows 10 & 11
by Dave Botherway

O&O Shut Up10++- is a free anti-spy tool designed for Windows 10 and Windows 11. It gives you full control over which comfort functions you want to use, allowing you to decide when data sharing goes too far. With a simple interface, you can disable features and services that might compromise your privacy.

Key features:
1. *Privacy Control:* You decide how Windows respects your privacy by disabling unwanted functions.
2. *No Installation Required:* O&O ShutUpl0++ runs directly on your PC without installing or downloading unnecessary software.
3. *Customizable Settings:* Access important privacy settings in one place without needing IT knowledge.

Windows 10 and 11 often collect more data than users prefer. O&O ShutUp10++ empowers you to strike the right balance between comfort and privacy. For instance, it allows you to disable telemetry for Microsoft Office, control location services, and protect your user data and diagnostics.
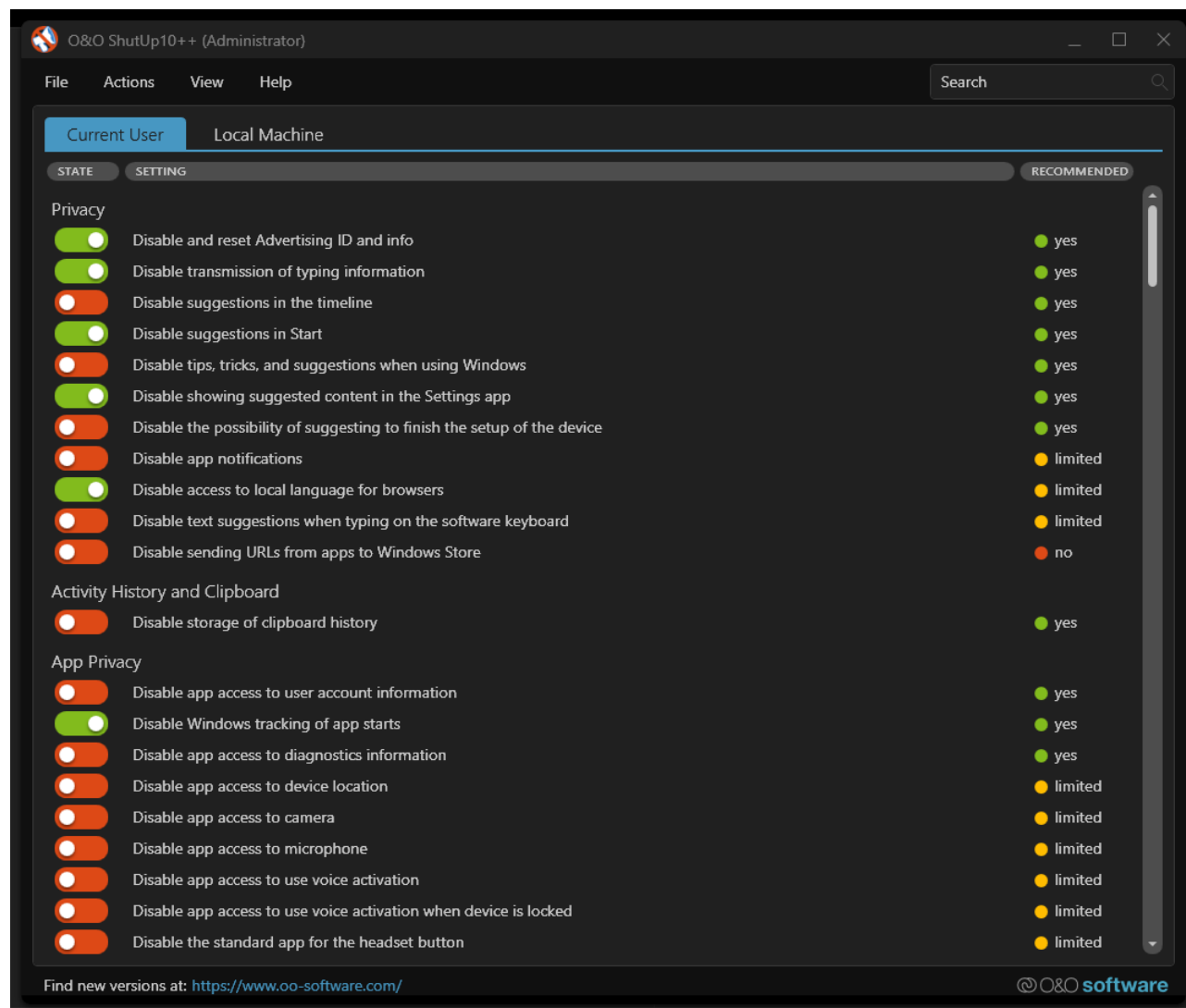

Figure 23 – O&OShutUp10++ User Interface for the Current User

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When demonstrating O&OShutUp10++, Dave ran the downloaded exe file which loaded straight to the "Current User" screen shown in Figure 23. The "Current User" screen opens in a simple 3 columns view, with the following headings:

- *State:* represented by a toggle switch for either On or Off
- *Setting:* shows a brief description of what the setting does e.g. "Disable suggestions in start". Click on its heading to see a detailed description of the change you're about to make.
- ***Recommended:*** status indicators of green, amber and red icons next to each setting indicate the recommended actions:
  green for recommended, amber for optional, and red for not recommended.

The *Settings* list displays a comprehensive list of settings divided into categories like Privacy, App Privacy, Security, MS Edge, MS Office, Windows Update, and many more.

For users unfamiliar with which settings to change, the "Actions" menu tab offers the option to "Apply all recommended settings."

Digital Legacy
by John Hall

As John Hall explained in his introduction, Digital Legacy is an important topic, particularly for many MelbPC members. Rather than summarising John's presentation in this report, I have included the full PDF of his presentation, along with a reference web link for those MelbPC members who would like to view the video.

To view John's video, MelbPC members will need to log in then go to the Wadham House SIG webpage at https://www.melbpc.org.au/sigs/whsig-homepage/wh-presentations/ then click on the bar titled "2024 WHSIG" and then select "Digital Legacy" from the list.

Neil Muller

DIGITAL LEGACY

JOHN HALL

WADHAM HOUSE SIG

MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP

MARCH 2024

What is a Digital Legacy?

▶ Personal data e.g. photos, memoirs or anything else you have created such as Family Tree Data, personal correspondence etc.

▶ Legal Data such as Insurance policies, Banking access, Funeral provisions.

▶ Medical details including on-line access to "Mygov" in case of stroke etc.

▶ Data stored online or on files such as in hard drives on your PC (Where) ???

▶ On-line accounts, Messenger, Whatsapp, Outlook, GMAIL

▶ Assets such as domain names, websites, access codes for Password Managers etc.

Think about others

▶ Who is the most likely to be your "Digital Executor" ?

▶ Would they have the technical ability ?

▶ Would they want the responsibility ?

▶ What information will they need ?

▶ Who would they need to assist with access to this information ?

Research Resources

- https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/articles-and-tips/how-to-prepare-your-digital-legacy-plan

- https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/how-to/digital-legacy

- https://accan.org.au/consumer-information/consumer-resources/1554-how-to-prepare-your-digital-legacy

- https://www.choice.com.au/electronics-and-technology/internet/using-online-services/articles/digital-estate-planning

- https://digitallegacyassociation.org/

The Digital Legacy Association

DIGITAL ESTATE CHECKLIST

1. If you have a security password on a mobile phone or any other electronic device, you may want to think about how best to manage your passwords.

2. If you have a social media account (like Facebook) you may want to download your photos and videos from the service and pass them onto your next of kin. You may also want to provide administrative access of your social media accounts to someone you trust.

3. If you have online subscriptions or online bank accounts you may want to make suitable plans for each.

4. If you have photos or videos stored on electronic devices or in the cloud you may want to make a folder of your favourite photos and share them with a friend or family member. Sharing can occur through various internet services or by using an external memory stick or a hard drive.

ABOUT THE DIGITAL LEGACY ASSOCIATION

The Digital Legacy Association supports the general public, healthcare and social care professionals with areas relating to digital estate planning, digital legacy and bereavement.

Our website's for the public section includes a range of tutorials to help empower the general public when making decisions about their online accounts.

Our free framework was created to educate and increase conversations by social care and healthcare professionals with patients about digital asset planning and digital legacy.

- AWARENESS
- EDUCATION
- RELEVANT CONVERSATIONS
- IMPROVED DECISIONS
- BETTER OUTCOMES
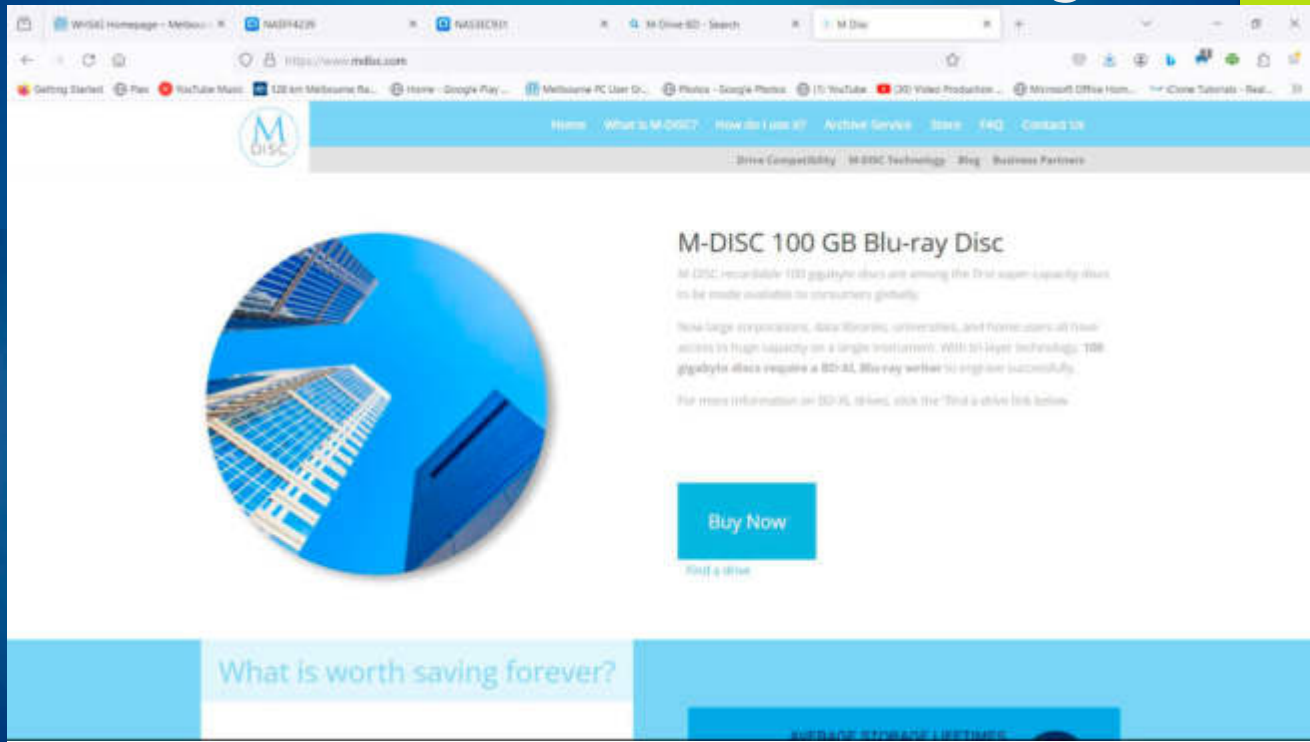
For more information visit: www.DigitalLegacyAssociation.org

DO IT NOW !!!

- Password Manager Emergency Access
  - BITWARDEN
- Social Account
  - FACEBOOK
- Photos and Cloud Storage
  - GOOGLE
  - APPLE
  - MICROSOFT
- Emails
  - Private GMAIL
  - MelbPC GMAIL

Network Attached Storage
NAS

* Can Synchronise with "CLOUD"

* Storage can be added

  * Internally – Upgrade Disks

  * Externally - USB Drives

* Can be securely accessed

* Can be relocated

What about USB and DVD Storage ?

Get started now !!!