

# East SIG Report – August 2024

---

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

Presentation 1: **Q&A** by George Skarbek

Presentation 2: **How to “Uninstall things that won’t!”** by Frank Maher

Presentation 3: **Sources of Free Software** by Dave Botherway

Presentation 4: **OPatch - A Lifeline for Windows 10 Users** by Neil Muller

Presentation 5: **East Website review** by Neil Muller

Presentation 6: **Swapping video and audio between files using Shotcut** by Peter Carpenter

## Q&A

*by George Skarbek*

Q1: You recently mentioned that you've installed additional solar panels at your residence. I have a question regarding electricity costs and the feed-in tariff offered for solar panel owners. Currently, I'm paying a peak rate of \$0.325 per kWh, while my feed-in rate is \$0.033 per kWh. With a difference of \$0.29 per kWh, I'm curious to know who is actually profiting from the energy generated by my solar panels that I don't use?

A1: Surplus power generated goes back into the national energy grid. At that rate you are paying, you are being “ripped off”. Every 6 months I shop around to compare plans. I typically save at least \$150, if not more every time I do that. I recommend everyone does the same.

To compare electricity prices, head to the Government's energy comparison website. To find the internet address, simply search for "compare electricity prices," and you'll find the link about five entries down the search list. You'll be asked a few questions, and then you'll need to enter your NMI (National Meter Identification) number. The site will access your energy usage data from the past 12 months, broken down into half-hour intervals, and list the best deals available. George recommends finding your NMI number on your electricity account beforehand, as it significantly speeds up the comparison process.

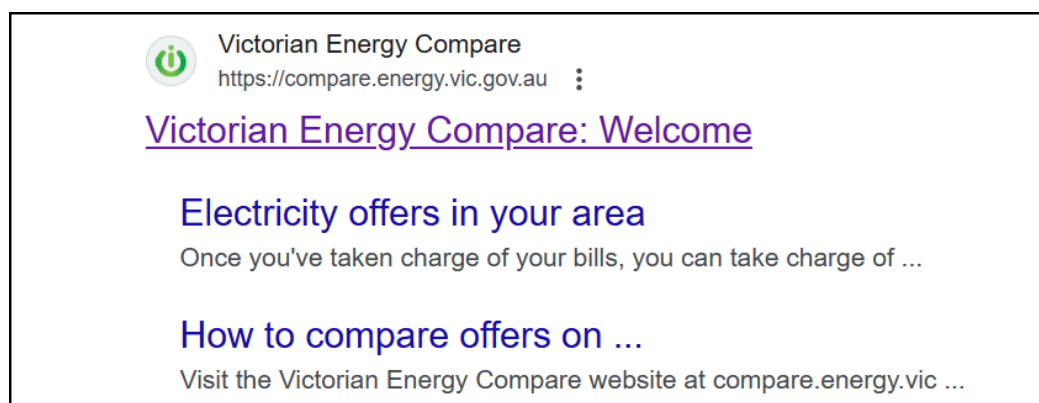


Figure 1 – Google search - Victorian Energy Compare website

George followed by demonstrating the Energy Compare website.



WE'RE BRINGING  
BACK THE SEC.



Start



Your energy profile



Consumption



Available Offers



Compare Offers



Contact Retailer

## Welcome to Victorian Energy Compare

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

An independent Victorian Government energy price comparison site

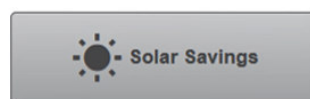
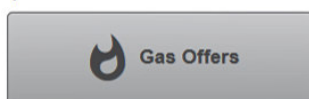
To get the most out of this tool, you need a recent energy bill or smart meter data file.



In your language

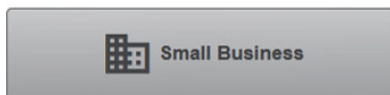
### Get started

#### What are you looking to compare?

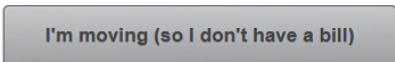


To compare both electricity and gas select an energy type on this screen and then add the other energy type when you get to the Available Offers screen.

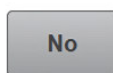
#### Where do you need your energy?



Select small business if you are on a business plan, not a residential plan. This information will be on your bill.



#### Have you been at your address for the last 12 months?



#### Who is your current retailer?

#### What is your postcode?



There are multiple distributors that supply electricity for the postcode you have provided. Please confirm the correct distributor has been selected. If you have a bill handy, you can do this by matching the telephone number below to the faults and emergencies telephone number on your bill.

AusNet Services (electricity) (1300 360 795 / 13 17 99)

United Energy (1300 131 689 / 132 099)

How would you like to build your energy usage profile?

[Continued next page](#)

## How would you like to build your energy usage profile?

Continued from previous page

Get my data for me  
(recommended) ⓘ

Upload a data file ⓘ

Complete an energy  
questionnaire ⓘ

Using "Get my data for me" is the quickest and most accurate way to get your electricity comparison. However, you can also proceed using one of the other options above.

### What is your NMI? ⓘ

Your National Metering Identifier (NMI) can be found on your electricity bill.

example: 6407000000

 ✓

### Collection Statement

[Read the full collection statement](#)

I have read and agree to the collection statement.

By agreeing to the collection statement and providing your NMI, we can retrieve your smart meter data and provide you with more accurate results.

Get my data

[Skip this step](#)



VICTORIAN ENERGY  
**COMPARE**

This will be used to accurately estimate what each energy retailer's offer will cost you, based on precisely how much electricity you use day to day.

100%

Usage data was successfully fetched. **Please continue.**

Do you currently receive an  
energy concession? ⓘ

Yes

No

[Am I eligible?](#)

What is your solar feed-in tariff  
type?

Tariff type:

Current Feed-in Tariff / I don't know

For the best results, please confirm your feed-in tariff type with your retailer. The rates shown are examples and yours may differ.

### Disclaimer Agreement


[Read the full terms and conditions](#)

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions



NEXT →


This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

Figure 2 – Victorian Energy Compare website



**WE'RE BRINGING  
BACK THE SEC.**







Start 
Your energy profile 
Consumption 
Available Offers 
Compare Offers 
Contact Retailer

## Electricity offers in your area

Energy concessions: **Yes** | Average daily usage: **8.9kWh**



[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[In your language](#)

\$ \_\_\_\_ /year

Add your current rates to help you compare offers.

What am I currently paying?

**Filters** 1

---

**Results** -

Offers sorted by discounted price 1

Only show the top offer for each retailer

**Rate type** -

Single rate / flat

Time of use 1

Flexible pricing 1

**Features** +

**Energy retailers** +

**Go Green** +

**Reset filters** ≡

Compare Selected

View more offers

Top Offer

[why this offer?](#) | [how is this calculated?](#)

**Estimate includes solar credit of \$170**

\$ 660

Est. yearly price


Without conditional discounts **\$880**

[view offer](#)

Eligibility criteria

**1st Energy**

ID: 1ST577083MR



**Estimate includes solar credit of \$160**

\$ 680

Est. yearly price


Without conditional discounts **\$720**

[view offer](#)

Eligibility criteria

**GloBird Energy**

ID: GLO577835MR



**Estimate includes solar credit of \$540**

\$ 710

Est. yearly price


Without conditional discounts **\$710**

[view offer](#)

Eligibility criteria

**EnergyAustralia**

ID: TRU556406MR



**Estimate includes solar credit of \$170**

\$ 730

Est. yearly price


Without conditional discounts **\$730**

[view offer](#)

Eligibility criteria

**Kogan Energy**

ID: PO2557690MR



**Estimate includes solar credit of \$170**

\$ 730

Est. yearly price


Without conditional discounts **\$730**

[view offer](#)

Eligibility criteria

**Powershop Australia**

ID: POD557826MR



✓

Compare gas offers as well

Calculate your solar savings


✉ - email these results 🖨 - print these results 📄 - export these results

Once you've taken charge of your bills, you can take charge of your energy use.

**For more ways to save, visit [energy.vic.gov.au](http://energy.vic.gov.au).**

**1800 000 VEC (832)**

**Contact Us**





Current retailers | VEC Energy Updates | Embedded Networks | Top tips for saving money | Hot topics | Solar Savings | Instructional Videos | Energy and Water Ombudsman of Victoria (EWOV) | Essential Services Commission (ESC) | CHOICE

Page last updated 18 August 2024

Copyright 2024

Privacy | Disclaimer | Copyright | Accessibility | Sitemap | Provide Feedback

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Figure 3 – Victorian Energy Compare website, Electricity offers

### Tips:

- Some companies offer very attractive initial rates, but they often increase without notifying you. So you need to carefully read the contract conditions.
- Recently, the government reduced the solar feed-in tariff to \$0.033 per kWh, but I managed to find a deal offering \$0.05 per kWh. I'm currently paying \$0.27 per kWh, with a daily supply charge of around \$0.73. As I have an electric powered car that uses my surplus solar generation, I don't use much electricity from the grid. Therefore, the daily supply charge is what affects my electricity costs the most. These charges can vary significantly, from as low as \$0.75 to as high as \$1.35 per day.
- I make it a point to switch providers every six months, and each time I do, I save money. That's the key message I want to share.

[Audience member] Bring back the SEC.

[George] The government has brought back the SEC, but not as a retailer. They have a board and a few staff members. They are currently looking at recycling old solar panels. The SEC is focusing on investing in renewable energy and storage projects that accelerate the change to clean energy

Q2: You mentioned adding extra solar panels, where do you go to add more panels to an existing system?

A2: The first step is to determine the optimal position for your solar panels, which ideally should be north-facing. However, I don't have a north-south rooftop option because there's a large tree to the north of my house, so I'm left with either east or west. East is actually 1% more efficient than west, making it the better choice. The optimal efficiency for solar panels is at 20°C, with efficiency now dropping by 0.5% (previously 1%) for each degree increase in temperature. For instance, on a 40°C day, the efficiency could drop by about 10%. Therefore, with an east-west facing house, the morning temperatures are typically cooler in summer, which can result in a higher power yield.

Another important consideration is shading on your solar panels. If any part of your panels is shaded during the day, it's best to opt for microinverters. With a standard single string inverter configuration, shading on even a small portion of one panel affects the output of all panels, not just the shaded ones. For example, if you have 10 x 200-watt panels, and half of one panel is shaded, the output for all panels could drop to 100 watts for as long as that panel remains shaded. However, with microinverters, only the output of the shaded panel is reduced, while the others continue to operate at full capacity. Although microinverters are slightly more expensive than a single inverter, they offer better long-term economic benefits by maximizing your system's overall efficiency.

If you're planning on buying an electric car, definitely put in solar panels. Some models, including the car I have, can act as a solar battery and use energy from the car's battery instead of the grid.

[Audience member] Many local Councils have joined with Solar Savers to offer subsidies and discounts for their homeowners. Solar Savers is a regional partnership of Councils supported by the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA). The program aims to help homeowners save money and reduce carbon emissions. Check your Councils website to see if they are involved in the program or Solar Savers at <https://solarsavers.org.au>



A Local Government initiative making solar easy

Figure 4 – Solar Savers



## How to “Uninstall things that won’t!”

by Frank Maher

**Revo Uninstaller**, available in free and paid versions, is a solution for incomplete or failed software uninstalls. It goes beyond standard uninstalls by scanning for leftover files and registry entries. It can also uninstall Windows built-in apps.

Revo Uninstaller removes programs by first running the program’s built-in uninstaller and then scanning for leftover data, which can include files, folders, and entries in the Windows Registry, that may still exist and potentially cause various issues.

Revo Uninstaller is available from <https://www.revouninstaller.com> and is an essential tool to have on hand when dealing with any uninstallation problems.

The YouTube video "Revo Uninstaller - Uninstall Things That Won't" by Leo Notenboom from Askleo.com, provides a detailed guide on how to effectively uninstall applications on Windows, especially when the standard uninstallation process fails. Leo recommends Revo Uninstaller, a third-party tool that can help users remove stubborn programs that don't uninstall completely through the usual Windows settings.



Figure 5 – YouTube banner - "Revo Uninstaller - Uninstall Things That Won't"

The process begins with Leo explaining the typical method of uninstalling applications via the installed apps list in Windows settings. However, this method can sometimes fail, leaving behind traces that you wish to completely remove or can cause future issues. To address this, Leo recommends using Revo Uninstaller, a free tool that offers a more thorough uninstallation.

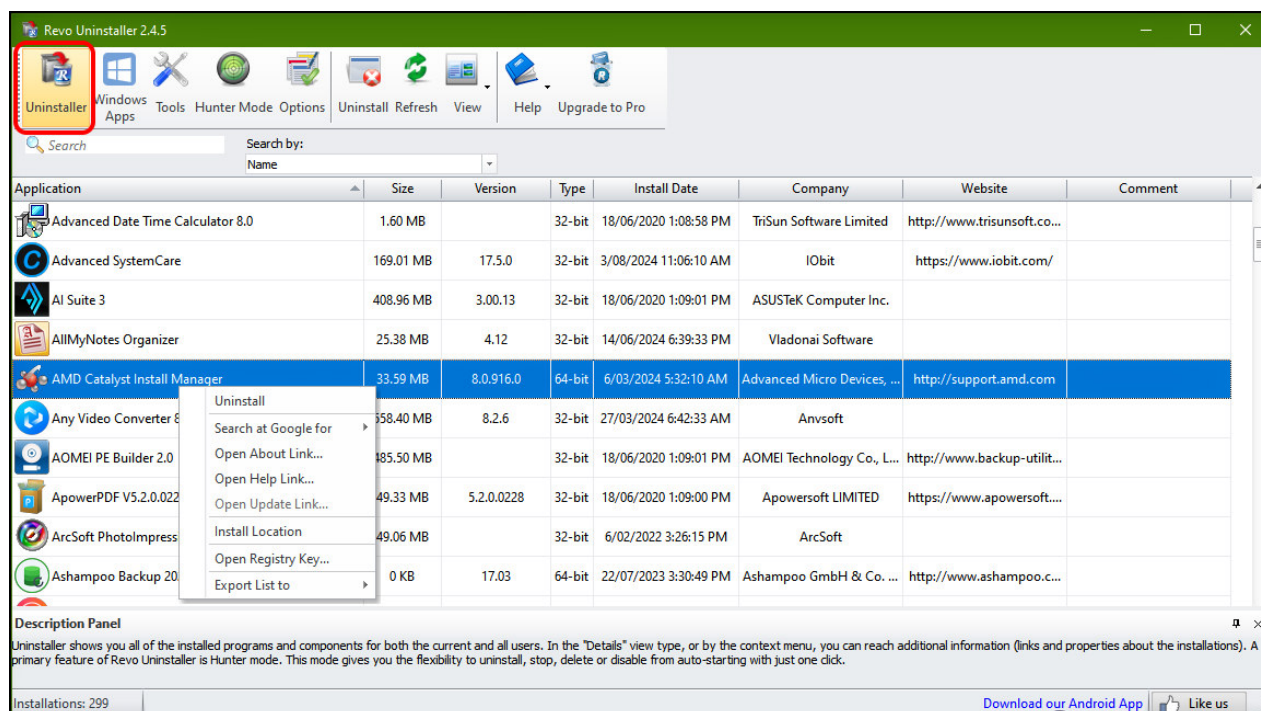


Figure 6 – Revo Uninstaller

Leo demonstrates how to download, install, and use Revo Uninstaller. (Figure 6). He explains that the tool first runs the program’s own uninstaller, just as Windows would, but then goes a step further by scanning for leftover files, folders, and registry entries. Users can choose between different scanning modes “safe, moderate, or advanced” depending on how thorough they want the cleanup to be. Leo typically selects the moderate option and advises users to back up their system or create a restore point before running an advanced uninstaller, just to be safe. (Figures 7)

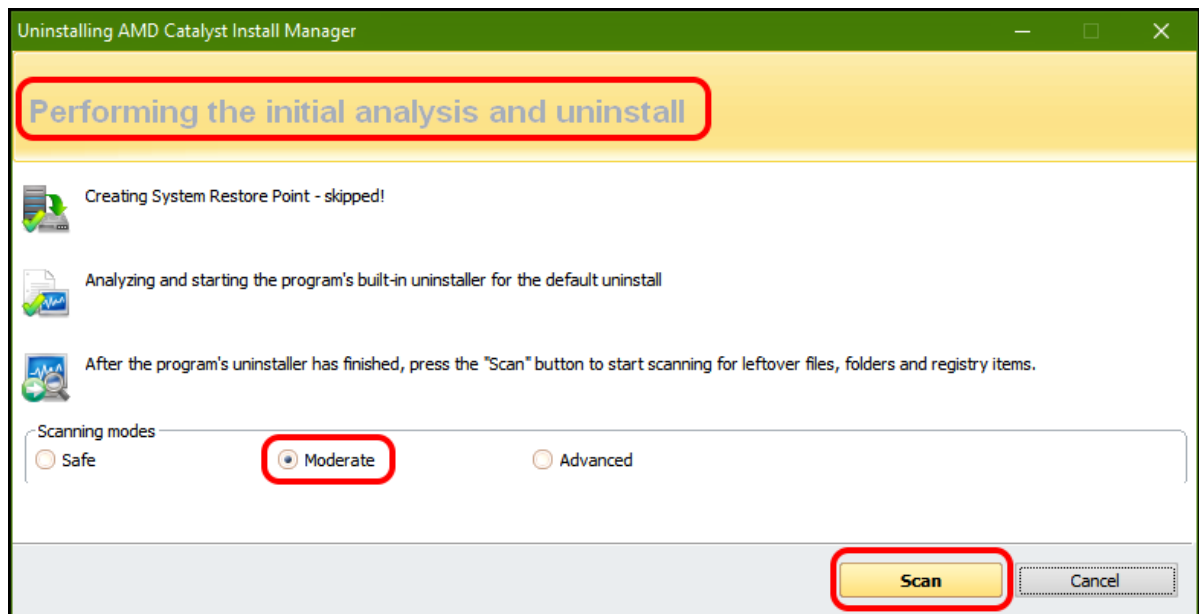


Figure 7 - Revo Uninstaller – Performing Initial analysis

Leo points out that Revo Uninstaller can handle the removal of leftover registry entries and files, that are often left by the program’s uninstaller, ensuring a complete cleanup. These traces are often left by the software in case a reinstallation of a program is required. (Figures 8)

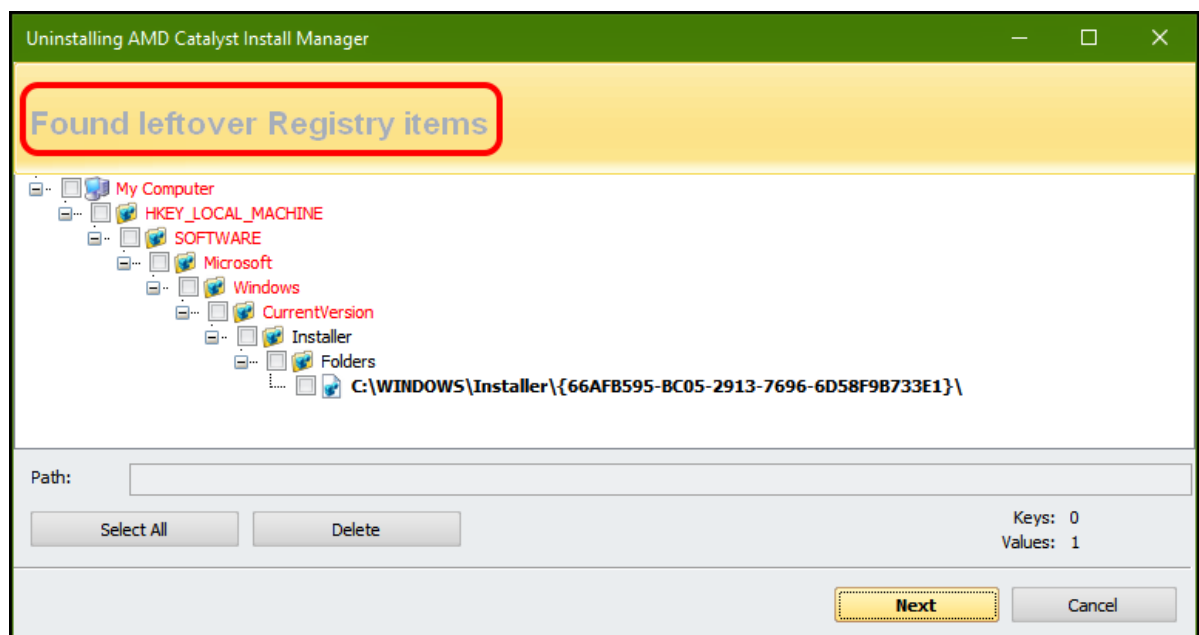


Figure 8 - Revo Uninstaller – Leftover registry items found.

Leo also highlights how Revo Uninstaller can remove built-in Windows apps that are otherwise difficult to uninstall, like the Xbox Game Bar which he demonstrates in the video. This is achieved via the “Windows Apps” button, located to the right of the “Uninstaller” icon on the menu bar shown in Figure 6.

Finally, Leo suggests that Revo Uninstaller is a valuable tool to have on hand for uninstalling problematic programs.

The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s7gFg3TngU>.

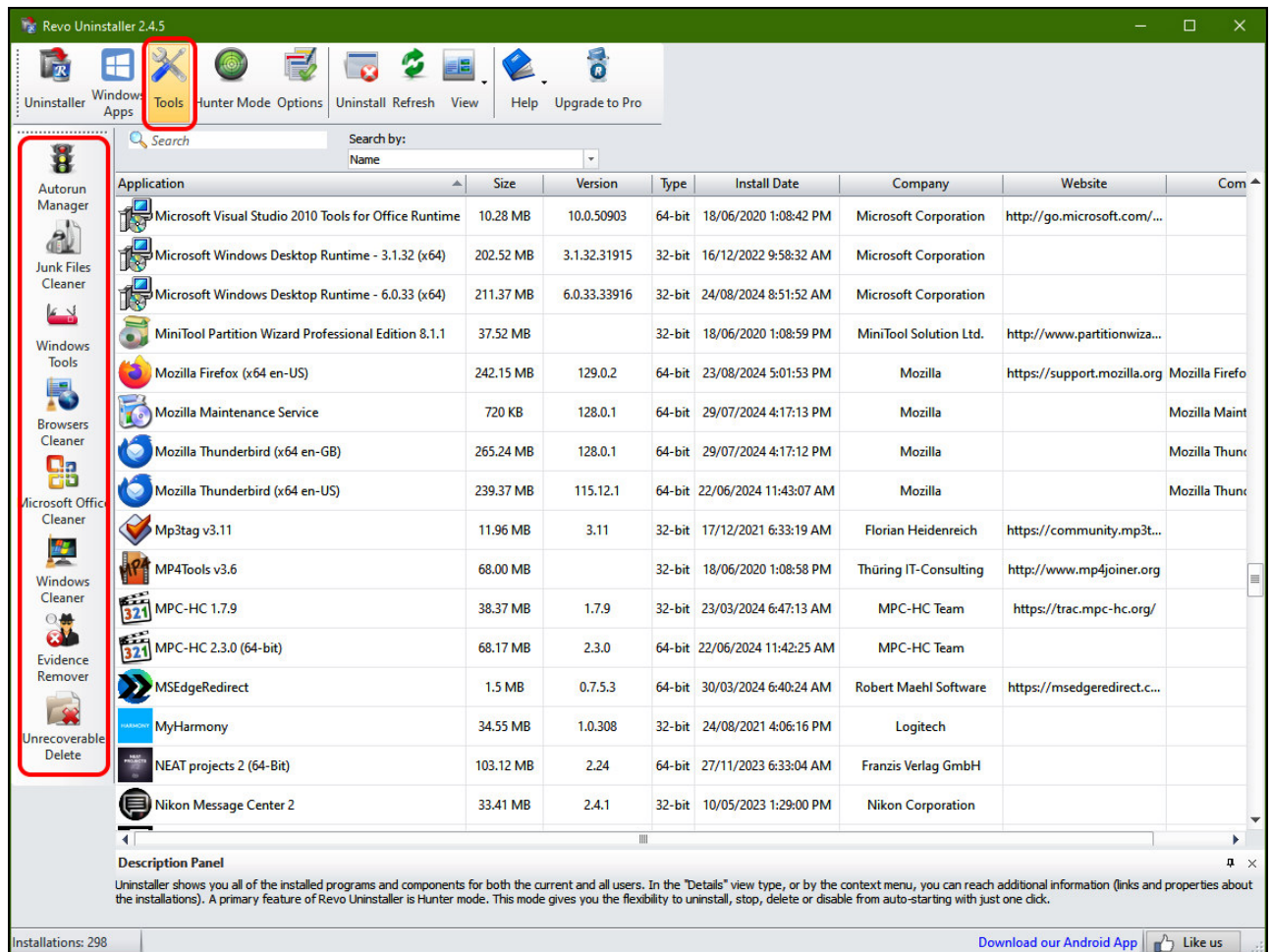


Figure 9 - Revo Uninstaller – Tools menu.

After the video, Frank discussed and displayed several additional features in Revo Uninstaller that weren't covered in the video. Under the "Tools" menu, options available include "Junk File Cleaner," "Windows Tools," "Browser Cleaner," "MS Office Cleaner," "Windows Cleaner," and more. Frank agreed with Leo's view that the free version provides most of the essential functions you'll need.



# Sources of Free Software

by Dave Botherway

The catalyst for this presentation was feedback from viewers asking presenter Dave Botherway where to find free software. Dave explored several sites that offer free software, along with a look at the Wayback Machine and a YouTube video from Ask Leo. These resources are presented and summarised below.

**MajorGeeks** <http://majorgeeks.com>

A website Dave frequently uses is MajorGeeks.com, which has been around for at least 20 years. The panel on the left, labelled “Files,” lists various software categories. While the site is cluttered with ads, that's how they generate revenue so is a necessary evil. When downloading software, you need to be cautious to avoid accidentally downloading unwanted programs, such as driver updates. There’s plenty of free software available on the site, but it’s important to carefully select the correct download button.

To demonstrate how to download software from MajorGeeks, Dave selected “Internet Tools” from the “Files” panel. The centre panel then updated to display a list titled “Internet Tools Sub-Categories,” where Dave chose “Password Managers.” Once “Password Managers” was selected, the central panel updated again to show a long list of password managers ranked by ratings. Dave then selected “LastPass Password Manager,” and the central panel displayed details including Author, Date, Size, License details, Operating System requirements, number of downloads, download links, a brief description, and features. See Figure 10 for reference.

The screenshot shows the MajorGeeks.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, TUTORIALS, DONATE, WEB TOOLS, YOUTUBE, NEWSLETTER, DEALS, FORUMS, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a logo for MajorGeeks.com and a tagline: "MajorGeeks.com - We know you're out there, and we're coming to get you." The main content area is titled "MajorGeeks.Com » Internet Tools » Password Managers » LastPass Password Manager 4.133.0 » Download Now". The software name "LastPass Password Manager 4.133.0" is highlighted with a red box. The page provides details such as Author (LastPass), Date (08/12/2024), Size (Size Varies), License (Freemium), and Requires (11|10|8|7|Linux|macOS). It also lists download links for various operating systems and browsers, including Universal Installer, Linux, Mac, Chrome, Firefox, Edge, and Opera. A "Rate This Software" section shows 4 (155 votes) and a "Vote" button. A "TIP" section suggests clicking a link to repair or restore missing Windows files. The main description states: "LastPass Password Manager - The last password you'll ever have to remember. This easy-to-use password manager will make your browsing a lot easier and much more secure without having to remember multiple passwords." Below this, it lists "LastPass Password Manager Features:" and describes the benefits of using LastPass, such as generating strong passwords, logging into favorite websites, and sharing logins. A "Similar" section lists "The 6 Best Password Managers" and "How to View, Edit, and Manage Your Google Chrome Passwords". A "Version History for LastPass Password Manager" section provides a link to the upgrade page. An "Editor's Note" states that version numbers vary by extension or installer. A "Screenshot for LastPass Password Manager" section shows a screenshot of the LastPass website. The sidebar on the left includes a "FILES" menu with categories like All In One Tweaks, Android, Antivirus & Malware, Appearance, Back Up, Browsers, CD/DVD/Blu-Ray, Covert Ops, Drivers, Drives (SSD, HDD, USB), Games, Graphics & Photos, Internet Tools (highlighted), Linux Distros, MajorGeeks Windows Tweaks, Multimedia, Networking, Office & Productivity, and System Tools. Below the "FILES" menu is an "OTHER NEWS" section with links to various articles. At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a "SPREAD THE WORD" section with links to YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, and RSS/XML Feeds, as well as a "Subscribe to our mailing list" section with an email address input field. The right sidebar features a "TOP DOWNLOADS" list with 10 items, including Smart Defrag, Macrium Reflect FREE Edition, Avast! Free Edition, Sergei Strelec's WinPE, McAfee Removal Tool (MCPD), Defender Control, Visual C++ Runtime Installer (All-In-One), K-Lite Mega Codec Pack, OpenCore Legacy Patcher, and Visual C++ Redistributable Runtimes AIO Repack. Below this is a "TOP READS" section with links to various articles, including "Skip the Ads: A Clever Trick to Watch YouTube Ad Free", "32-Bit versus 64-Bit Computing and Why it Matters", "How to Tell the Difference Between a Virus and a False Positive", "How to Fix Your Number Pad Not Working on Windows 10 & 11", "What Is a Portable App and Why You Should Use Them", "How To Code a Space Shooter Game Using ChatGPT", and "Boost Your PC Speed with ReadyBoost: How a Thumb Drive Can".

Figure 10 – LastPass Password Manager download page.

**FileHippo** <http://filehippo.com>

FileHippo.com is a popular software download website that offers a wide range of free software and updates for Windows and Mac users. The site features a clean, easy-to-navigate interface, with software categories such as antivirus, browsers, utilities, and more. Users can find both popular and lesser-known programs, along with previous versions of software.

FileHippo is known for providing safe, malware-free downloads and regularly updates its software library to ensure users have access to the latest versions. The site also offers a software update checker tool to help keep your programs up to date.

Dave noted that many programs on the most popular download list (Figure 11), were anti-virus and security programs. He felt this was a little surprising as free Windows Defender, once considered rubbish, is now up with the best of them.

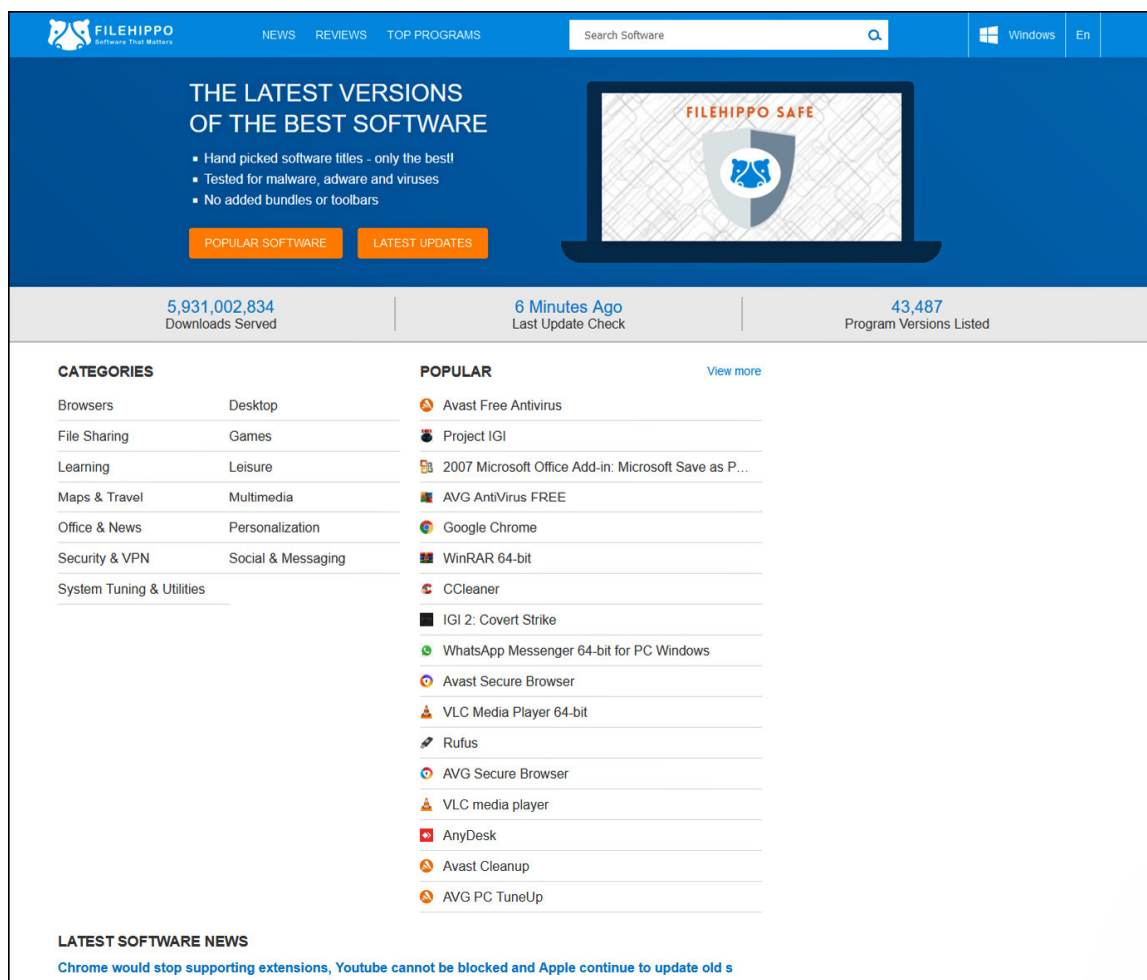


Figure 11 – FileHippo homepage.

**SoftPedia** <http://softpedia.com>

Softpedia.com is another well-known website that offers a vast collection of software downloads, including freeware, shareware, and open-source programs for various platforms like Windows, macOS, Linux, and mobile devices.

In addition to software, Softpedia provides technology news, reviews, and articles on a wide range of topics, including software updates, industry trends, and tech innovations. The site is popular for its extensive software catalogue, user reviews, and detailed descriptions of each software program, making it a valuable resource for users looking for reliable software downloads and tech information.

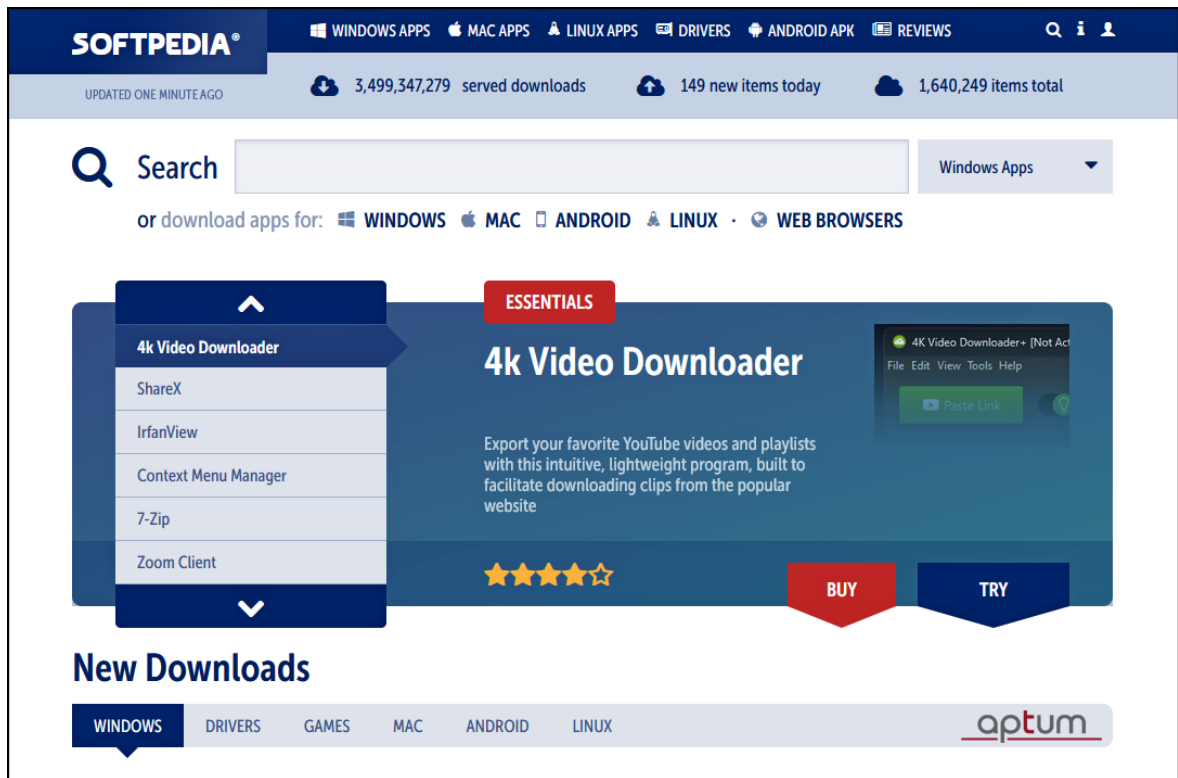


Figure 12 – Softpedia homepage.

**The Windows Club** <http://thewindowsclub.com>

is a popular website that focuses on providing tutorials, tips, news, and reviews related to Microsoft Windows operating systems and other Microsoft products. It covers a wide range of topics, including troubleshooting guides, software recommendations, and how-to articles for both novice and advanced users. The site also features content on Windows security, customisation, productivity tools, and various tech-related updates.

Dave stressed TheWindowsClub.com is like previous download sites, if users are not careful, it's easy to download the wrong PC program due to deceptive download buttons.

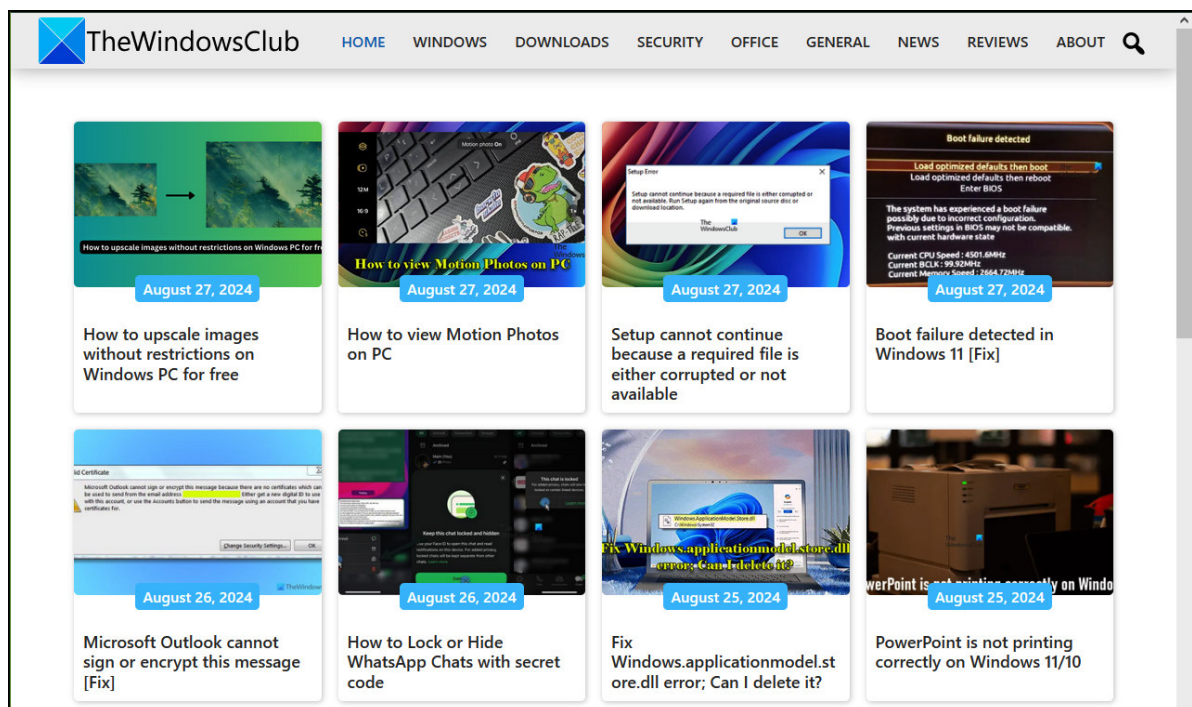


Figure 13 – TheWindowsClub homepage.



**TechRadar** <http://techradar.com>

TechRadar.com is a leading technology news and review website that covers a wide range of topics, including consumer electronics, computing, mobile devices, gaming, and home entertainment. The site provides in-depth product reviews, buying guides, and comparison articles to help users make informed purchasing decisions.

In addition to reviews, TechRadar offers the latest news on tech developments, trends, and innovations, along with tutorials and how-to guides. It is a go-to resource for tech enthusiasts and consumers looking to stay updated on the latest gadgets and tech news.

Dave particularly likes TechRadar.com because it offers detailed comparisons of various software versions as well as hardware.

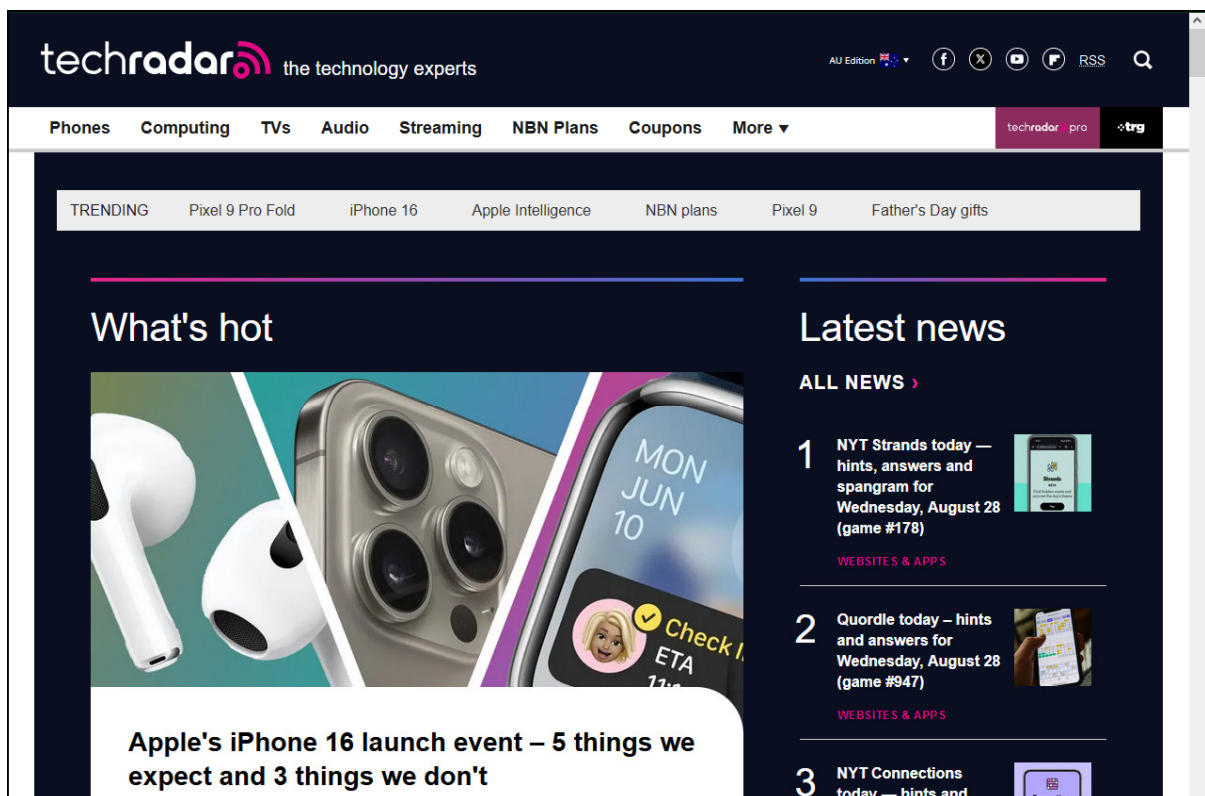


Figure 14 – TechRadar Australian homepage.

**Wayback Machine** <http://waybackmachine.org>

The Wayback Machine, accessible at [WaybackMachine.org](http://WaybackMachine.org), is an online service provided by the Internet Archive that allows users to browse and view archived versions of websites. It captures snapshots of web pages at various points in time, enabling users to see how websites looked and functioned in the past. This tool is valuable for research, historical reference, and accessing content that may no longer be available online. The Wayback Machine is widely used for preserving digital history and provides access to billions of web pages from across the internet.

In a demonstration of the Wayback Machine, Dave entered MelbPC's website address. (Figure 15) The site displayed a calendar indicating that the site had been archived 902 times. Dave chose the oldest available record, dating back to 1997, and viewed an online edition of the club's magazine, *PC Update*. (Figure 16)

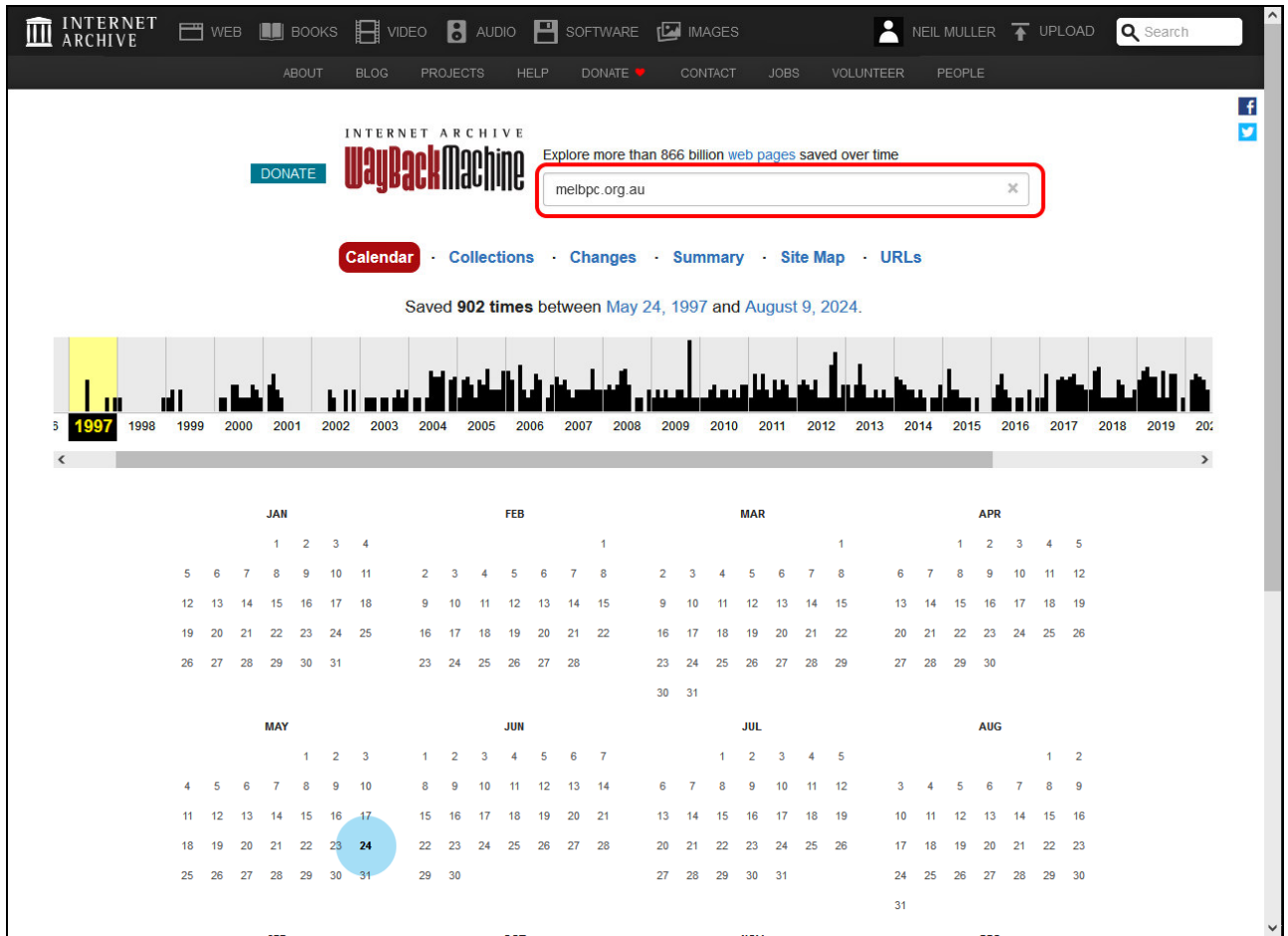


Figure 15 – The WayBackMachine .



Figure 16 – MelbPC website homepage 24<sup>th</sup> May 1997.



## Where Can I Download Old Software Versions

To conclude his presentation, Dave played a video by Leo Notenboom of AskLeo.com titled “Where Can I Download Old Software Versions?”. The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFfOKqb1-88>

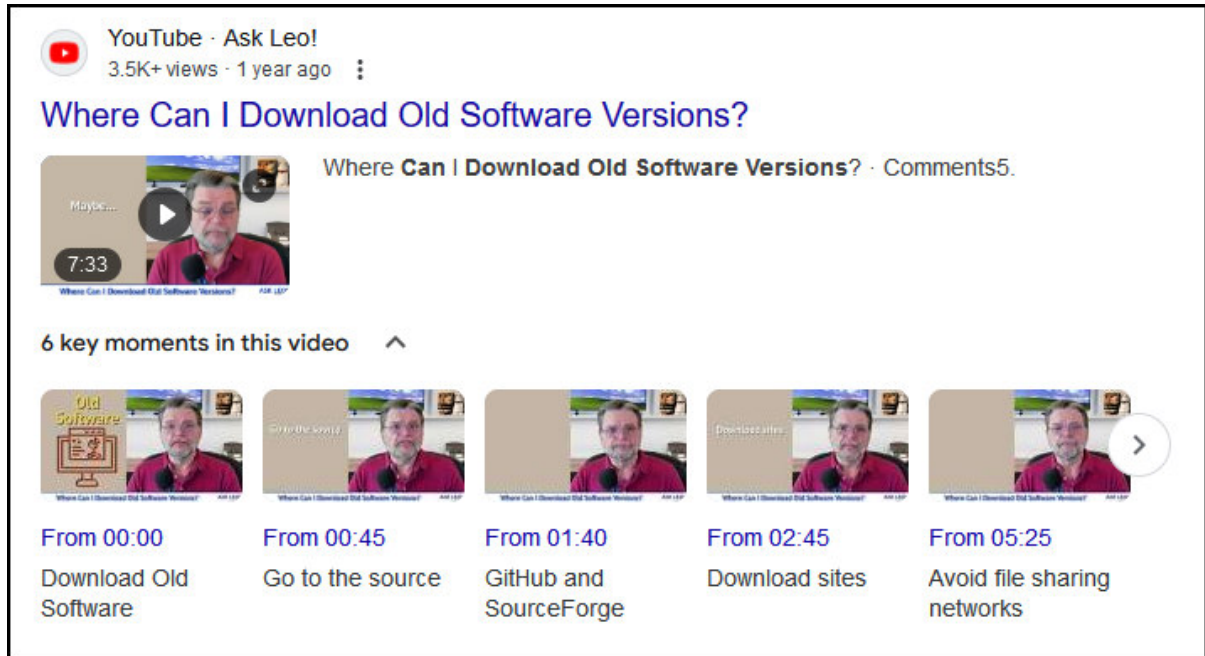


Figure 17 – Ask Leo “Where can I Download Old Software Versions”, YouTube banner.

### ***Introduction:***

In the video “Where Can I Download Old Software Versions?” Leo Notenboom of AskLeo.com, covers various methods and resources to find older software versions, emphasizing the risks and precautions associated with downloading and using outdated software.

### ***Key Points:***

#### ***1. Going to the Source:***

- Primary Recommendation: Leo advises that the best place to start when looking for old software versions is the original software vendor. Many companies maintain archives of previous versions, primarily to help users who encounter issues with the latest version.
- However, these archives are not always easy to find. Leo suggests reaching out to the vendor's support team if the archives are not readily available on their website. This method is deemed the safest and most accurate way to obtain an older software version.

#### ***2. Open-Source Platforms (GitHub and SourceForge):***

- Secondary Suggestion: For open-source software, GitHub and SourceForge are excellent resources. These platforms often host archives of previous versions, making them a reliable source for older software.
- These are reliable sources because they offer the most accurate copies.

### 3. *Download Sites:*

- Caution Advised: While third-party download sites may offer old software versions, they carry significant risks, such as outdated or compromised sites, and misleading ads that can lead to malware.
- Risks: Use these sites only as a last resort and with precautions, like scanning for malware. Many of the popular download sites are cluttered with deceptive download buttons, which could easily mislead users.
- Precautions: Leo strongly advises users to download software in a controlled environment, such as a virtual machine, and to scan files for malware before installation.

### 4. *Avoiding Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Networks:*

- Peer-to-peer file-sharing networks are strongly discouraged due to the high risk of downloading compromised files
- If the software cannot be found on a legitimate site, it may be better to seek an alternative program rather than risk downloading from an unsafe source.

### 5. *Compatibility Concerns:*

- Potential Issues: Even if an old version is found, it may not work properly with modern systems due to technological changes or unresolved security flaws and vulnerabilities.

### *Conclusion:*

Overall, Leo Notenboom emphasizes safety and suggests exploring alternatives if a trusted source for the old software version cannot be found.