0Patch - A Lifeline for Windows 10 Users

by Neil Muller

As the end of support for Windows 10 approaches on October 14, 2025, users are faced with critical decisions about how to maintain the security and functionality of their systems. With the final version of Windows 10, 22H2, already released, Microsoft will no longer provide security updates after this date, leaving millions of PCs increasingly vulnerable to new threats. While there are several options available, one notable solution is 0patch, an unofficial security patch provider that has become a vital resource for users of unsupported Windows versions.

The Windows 10 Challenge

When Microsoft ends support for Windows 10, the operating system will continue to function, but it will become increasingly insecure as new vulnerabilities are discovered and exploited. There are currently 240 million Windows 10 PCs worldwide that cannot upgrade to Windows 11 due to hardware limitations, leaving a significant user base in need of continued protection.

While Microsoft may offer Extended Security Updates (ESUs) for business users at a steep cost, up to $427 for a three-year subscription, it has not yet announced pricing for home users. Other options include running Windows 10 offline, switching to Linux, or purchasing a new PC, but these may not be practical or desirable for all users.

Figure 18 – Windows 10 Extended support business pricing

Enter 0patch

0patch, a Slovenia-based software company, offers a unique solution for users who want to continue using Windows 10 without the risk of unpatched vulnerabilities. Known for providing unofficial security patches, or "micropatches", 0patch has a proven track record of supporting systems after official updates cease. They have already extended security support for Windows 7, Windows Server 2008, several versions of Windows 10, Windows Server 2012, and even Office 2010 and 2013.

0patch plans to offer extended security updates for Windows 10 for at least five years after Microsoft ends support. These micropatches are designed to address critical vulnerabilities and are applied directly to running processes in memory. This approach avoids the need to modify original files or reboot the computer, ensuring that users experience no downtime or disruption.

Figure 19 – 0Patch Blog page

How 0patch Works

0patch's micropatches are small pieces of code that are deployed to fix software vulnerabilities without requiring a full system update or reboot. This makes 0patch an attractive option for users who are concerned about the potential risks of large updates or the downtime associated with traditional patching methods. If a micropatch causes any issues, it can be uninstalled quickly and easily, also without a reboot.
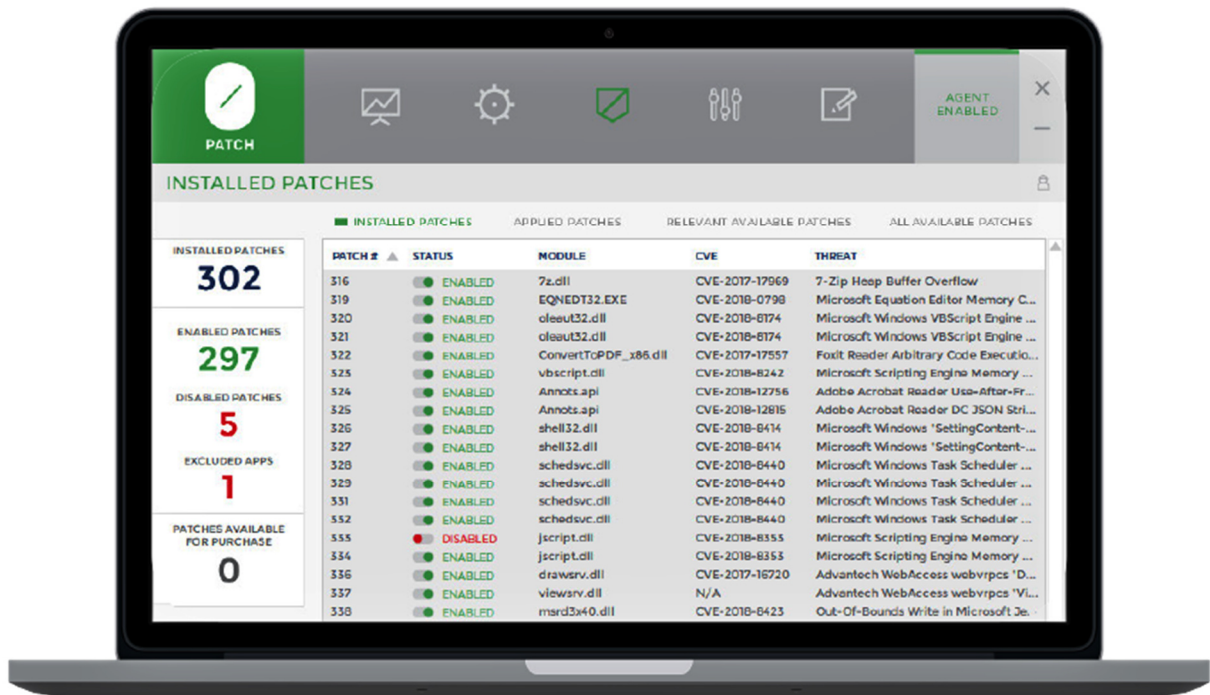
Figure 20 – 0Patch User Interface

Cost and Accessibility

Signing up for 0patch is straightforward, and the service is reasonably priced at approximately A$45 per computer annually, or about $1 per week. Unlike Microsoft's extended support, the cost does not double each year, making it a more affordable option for small businesses and individual users.

Conclusion

For Windows 10 users facing the end of official support, 0patch offers a practical and cost-effective solution to keep their systems secure. With its history of supporting unsupported systems and its innovative micropatch technology, 0patch is poised to become an essential tool for those who want to extend the life of their Windows 10 PCs without compromising security.

For more information, users can visit the 0patch website (https://0patch.com/) and explore their blog (https://blog.0patch.com/) for updates and detailed discussions on how 0patch can help extend the life of Windows 10.

East SIG Website & Meeting Reports overview
by Neil Muller

To access the East Group meeting reports on the East SIG website you first have to log in as a member of MelbPC.

The steps for members to login to the MelbPC website are:
1. Goto the Melbourne PC Users group website at www.melbpc.org.au
2. Select "Member Logon" from the top menu.
3. From the drop-down menu select "Member Login" (Figure 21)
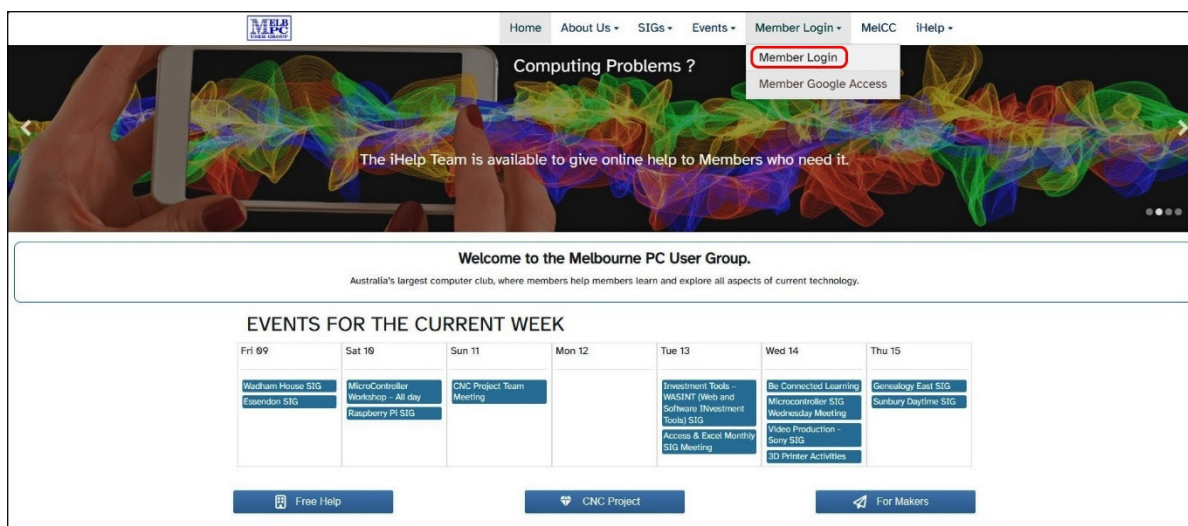

Figure 21 – MelbPC Member Login

4. You will then be directed to a list displaying your various email address. Here you select your MelbPC Google Workplace login account. i.e. xxxx@melbpc.org.au
5. Enter your MelbPC password and select "Next"
6. On acceptance of your password, you are returned to the main MelbPC.org.au "Home page"

After logging in as a MelbPC member in step 6 above, the East SIG website is accessed from the MelbPC "Home page" as follows:
1. Select "SIGs" from the main MelbPC menu.
2. From the drop-down menu select "SIG-List – all SIGs Details"
3. From the "SIG – Manage your Subscription" page select "East SIG"
4. From the text box select "Click here for SIG Website" (Figure 22)
5. The East SIG meeting reports can now be accessed from the East SIG menu.
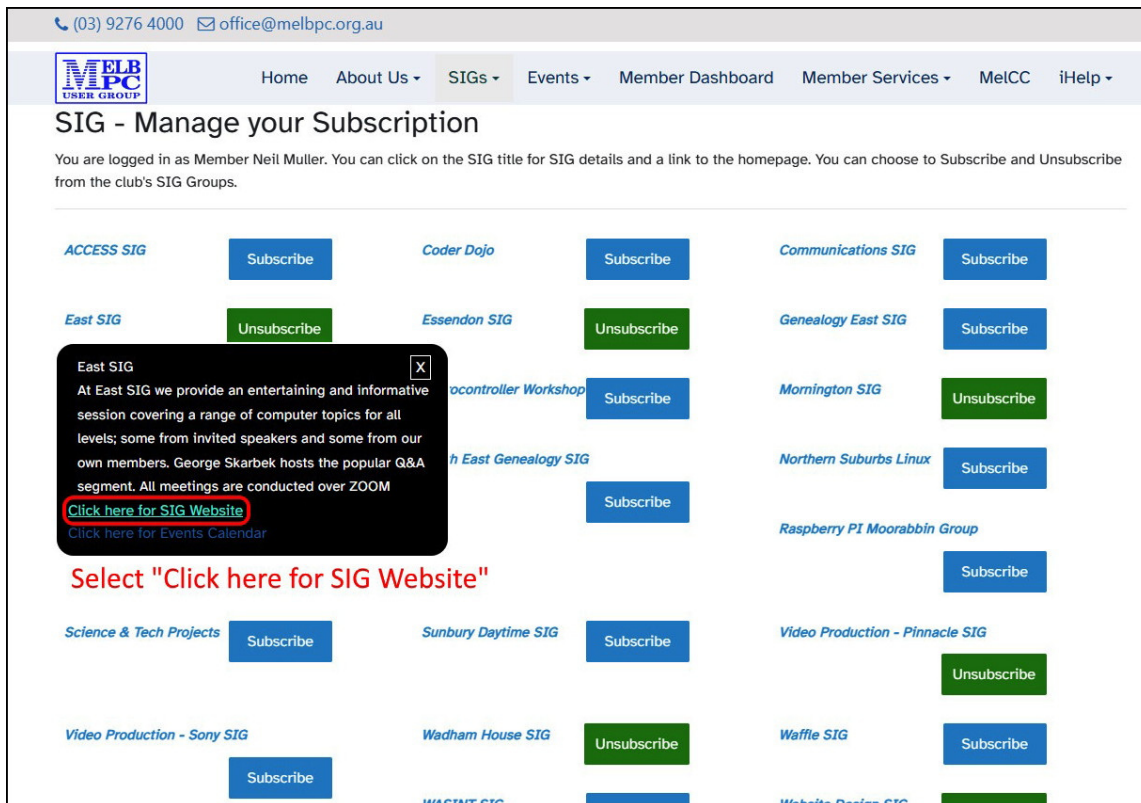
Figure 22 – MelbPC Link to East SIG website

After demonstrating how to access the East SIG website, Neil navigated to the "Past Meeting Reports" section from the East SIG home page menu. He selected "2024" and then clicked on "July" to display the 26-page report for the July East SIG meeting. Neil then scrolled through the report, highlighting several of the topics covered.
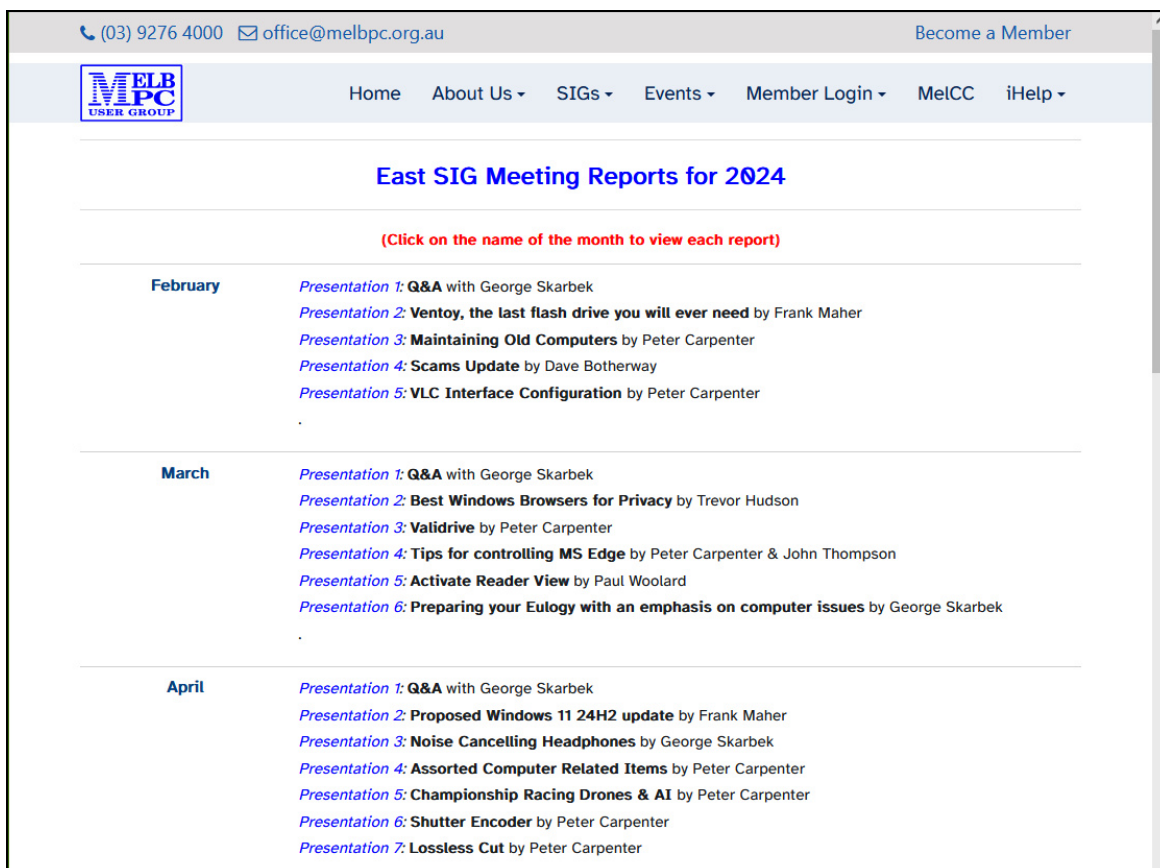

Figure 23 – MelbPC Link to East SIG website

Swapping video and audio between files using Shotcut
by Peter Carpenter

Following a visit from friends who had recently returned from England, Peter was inspired by their conversation about navigating tractors on the narrow English country roads. This discussion reminded Peter of the poem "The Rolling English Road" by Gilbert Keith Chesterton, sparking his interest in finding versions of the poem on YouTube.

Peter discovered numerous versions of the poem, some with excellent visuals and others with impressive oratory, but none that combined both elements effectively. He decided to use the video editor Shotcut to merge the high-quality video from one YouTube video, with the superior audio narration from another. This presented an opportunity for Peter to demonstrate the capabilities of Shotcut to MelbPC members and to show the finished video to his friends.

Shotcut is a free, open-source video editing program available for Windows, macOS, and Linux. It offers a user-friendly interface with a wide range of features, including support for numerous video formats, multi-track editing, filters, and transitions. Shotcut is ideal for beginners and more experienced users alike, with its simple drag-and-drop functionality and advanced tools like keyframing and colour grading. It's regularly updated and provides a good option for those looking for a versatile, cost-effective video editor.
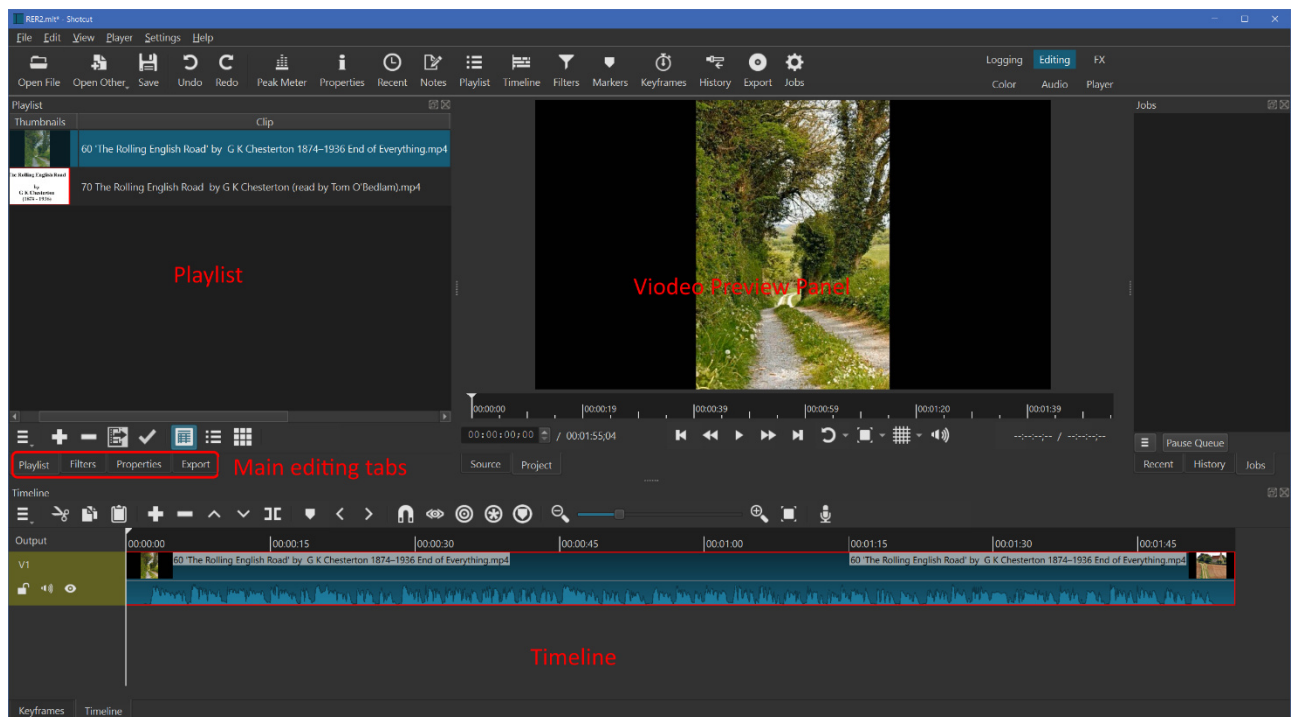

Figure 24 – Shotcut User Interface

Peter demonstrated his process step by step, using Shotcut to combine the video and audio from different YouTube videos, showcasing the versatility of the free Shotcut software. He has provided this writer with an extensive series of images detailing the necessary steps of the editing process, some of which I have used in this report. I plan to take the complete set of images and instructions provided by Peter to compile a more comprehensive report that includes instructions for those interested in following the same approach.

Shotcut Process Overview

Peter started by downloading two YouTube videos, one with the desired visuals and another with better oratory. He then used Shotcut to merge them. Below is the process he followed.

1. **Creating a New Project**: Open Shotcut and create a new project. Peter named his project "RER", short for *The Rolling English Road*.

2. **Shotcut Layout**: The Shotcut screen is similar in layout to most other video editors which should make it familiar to most new users. The main area Peter focused on was the "Playlist," "Filters," "Properties," and "Export" tabs, located middle left of the Shotcut screen. Above the Playlist tab, is the Playlist panel where files for editing are dragged and dropped. (Figure 24)

3. **Using the Playlist**: While Shotcut has a menu at the top of its window, Peter found most of the editing he needed is done using the series of tabs below the Playlist, located in the middle left of the Shotcut window. He commenced the editing process by dragging the two videos from his File Manager into the playlist panel.

4. **Adding to the Timeline**: Peter then dragged each video from the Playlist onto the Timeline located on the bottom of the Shotcut window. The Timeline displays both the video and audio components of each file. (Figure 25 & 26)
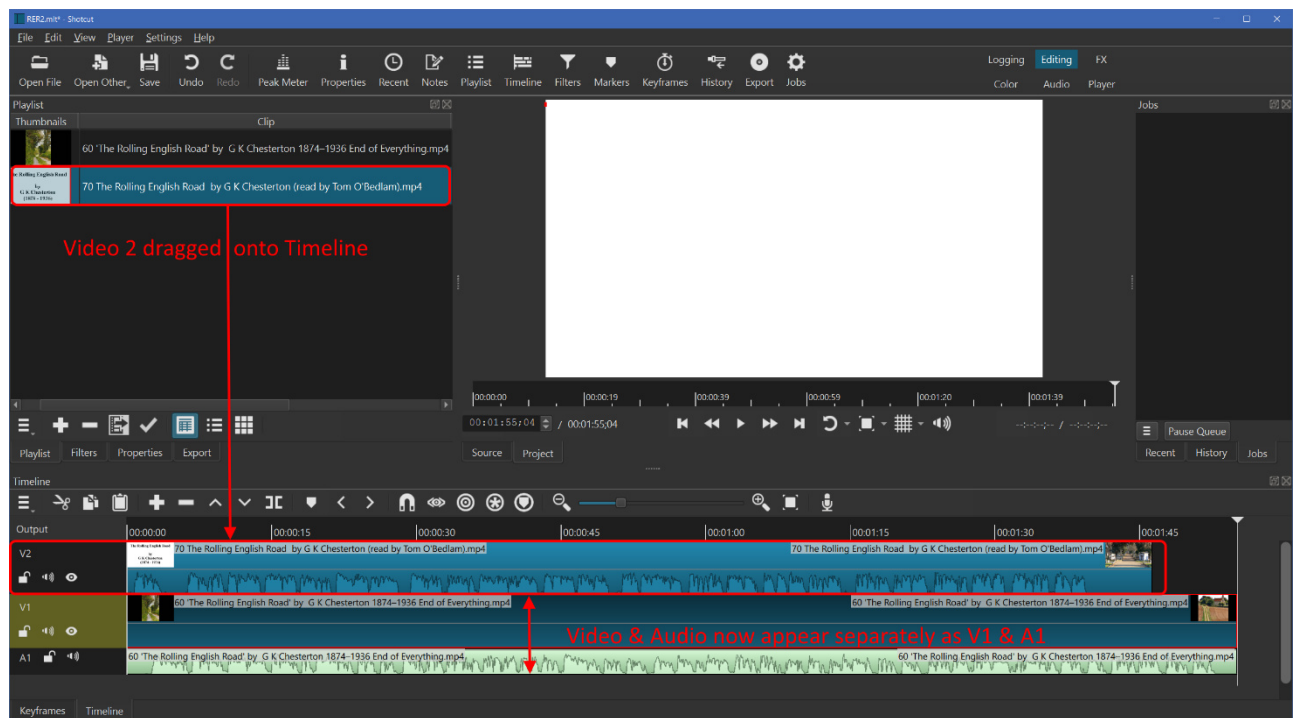

Figure 25 – Dragging videos from the Playlist to Timeline

5. **Detaching Audio from Video**: Since video files contain both video and audio data, Peter needed to detach the video from the audio in each file. To do this, he right-clicked on the video in the timeline and selected "Detach Audio" from the right click menu that appears. He repeated the process for both videos, separating their video and audio tracks

6. **Deleting Unwanted Tracks**: Peter deleted the audio track from the first video by selecting the audio track and clicking "Delete." Similarly, he removed the video track from the second video, leaving only the video from the first and the audio from the second.
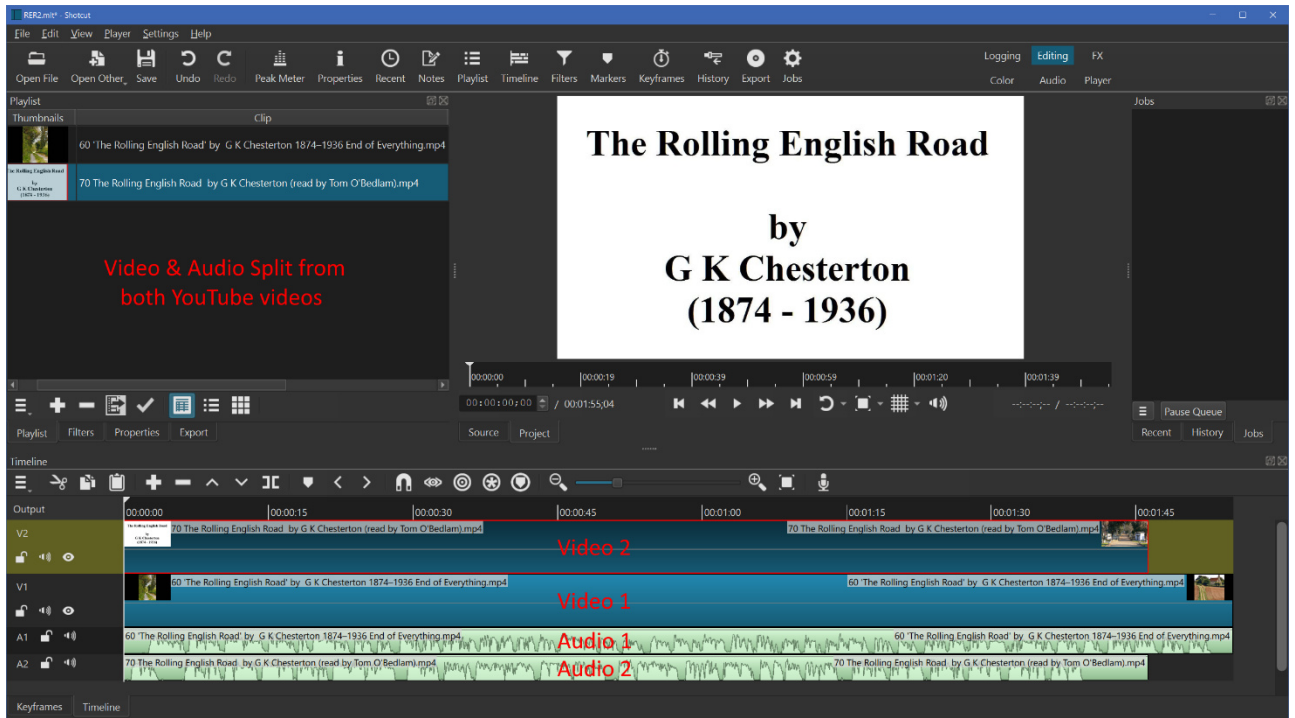
Figure 26 – Original videos split into both video and audio data

7. **Synchronising Video and Audio for Length**: As the two YouTube videos had different durations, Peter adjusted the video length to match the longer audio by selecting "Properties" and then using the "Speed" control from the popup Properties panel. The timeline visually reflected any speed changes, with the box surrounding the video shrinking or expanding based on the selected speed. For example, reducing the speed made the video longer. This process ensured the video aligned perfectly with the audio. (Figure 27).

Peter then followed by inserting a Fade In at the beginning and Fade Out at the end of the new video. (Figure 28)
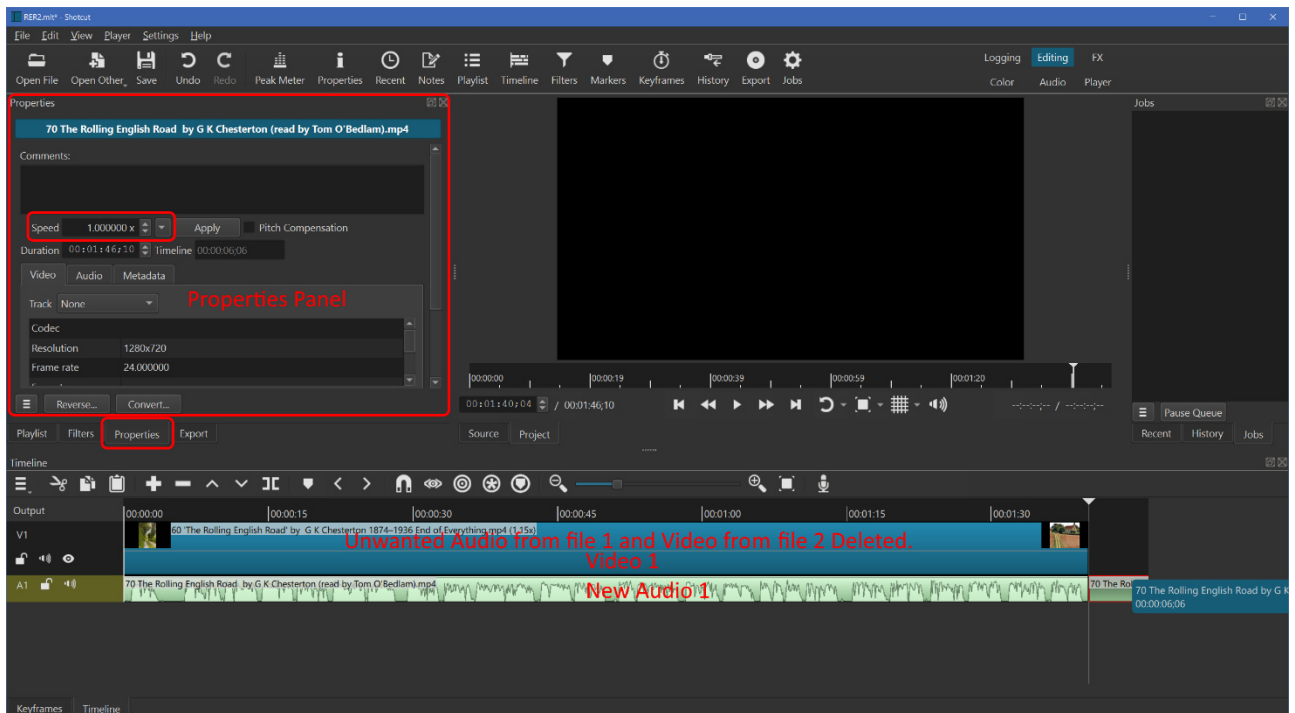

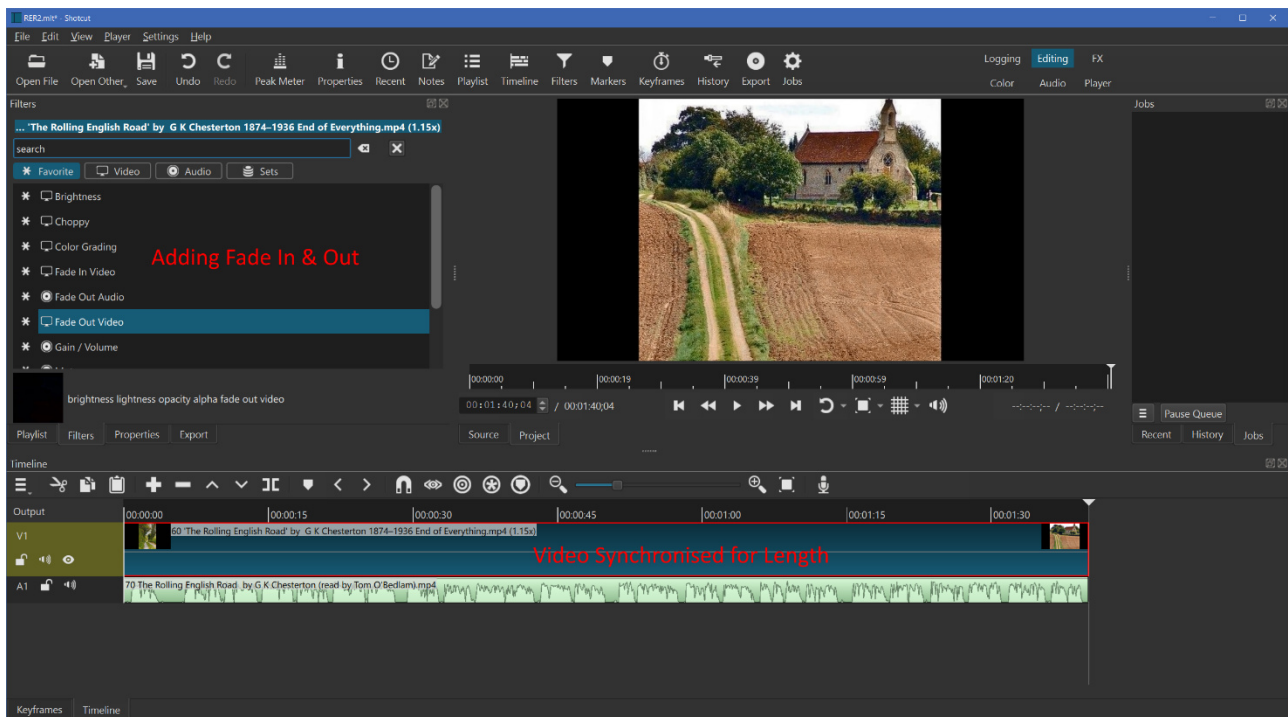Figure 27 – Properties panel, Speed control

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Figure 28 – Properties panel, Fade In & Out control

8. **Exporting the Final Video**: Finally, Peter used the Export tab to set the output resolution, aspect ratio, and frames per second for the final video.
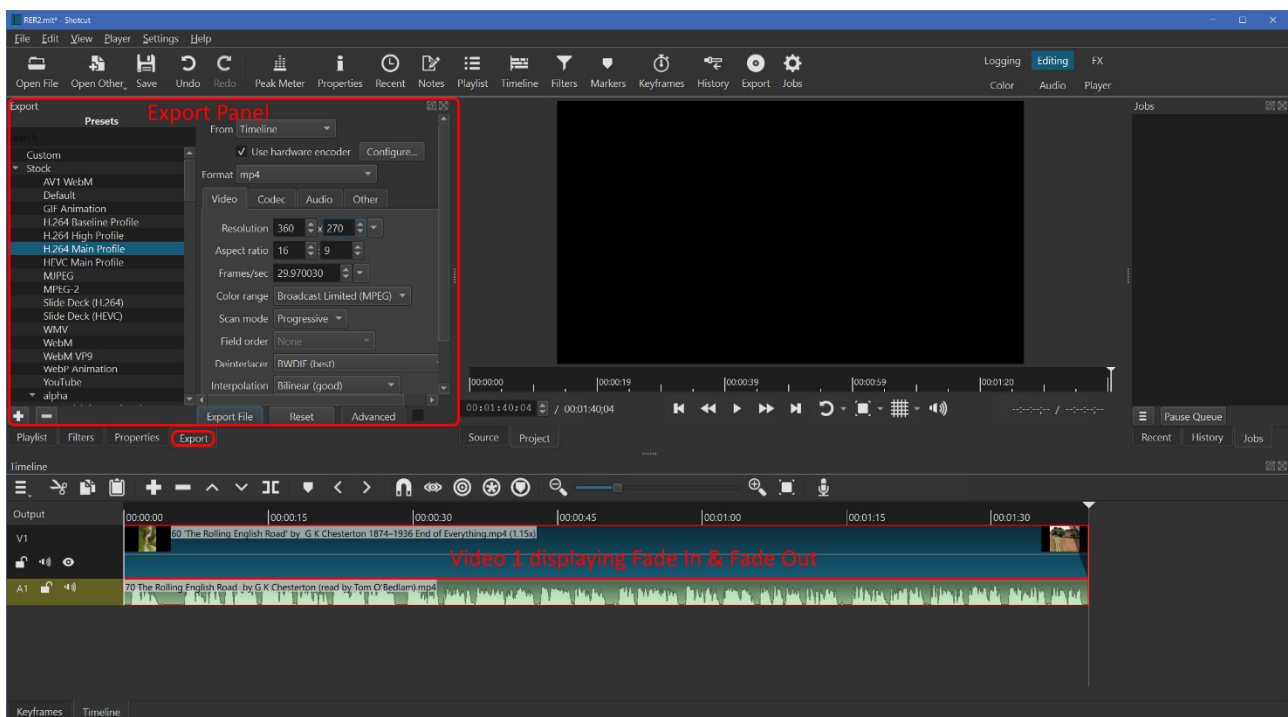

Figure 29 – Export panel

This process allowed Peter to successfully combine the visuals from one video with the audio of another, demonstrating the powerful editing features of Shotcut. Those interested in replicating this method can refer to the detailed report with images for further guidance on the East SIG Presentations webpage.

Neil Muller

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