East SIG Report - November 2014

Paul Woolard welcomed members to the November meeting, including two attending for the first time.

Q&A with George Skarbek
Questions asked of George this month covered a wide range of topics, most of which were answered or suggestions given.

Q. A member is having difficulty with an old version of Quicken that is now playing up on Win 7 & 8. Quicken had previously been working on a Windows XP PC.
A. Run Quicken from a virtual machine running Win XP.

Q. A member finds that MS Livemail 2011 & 2012 does not send emails to all people in his contact list. Other members indicated they have had similar problems.
A. George suggests using Mozilla Thunderbird to send emails from contact lists.

Q. How is the time stamp on emails derived.
A. The time stamp on an email is the time displayed on the senders PC when the email is sent.

Q. A member is concerned about security in Firefox version 32 and thought addons loaded may present a risk.
A. George recommends using the latest version of Firefox (33.1) and view the excellent tutorial on privacy that appears when the new update to Firefox installs.
To view Firefox settings type about:config in the URL bar and a long list of Firefox's settings is displayed. e.g. If the Ask Toolbar is listed, right click on its entry and select "modify" to stop Ask from loading. If Conduit appears this is nasty and needs to be removed although it is not actually an addon.

How to Upload Videos to YouTube or Vimeo.
Trevor Hudson spoke to two videos he prepared on how to upload files to internet sites YouTube and Vimeo. The videos show all steps necessary from setting up an account with the video site, the best way to utilise tags so others can find your videos, uploading your files and to making changes to descriptions at the final check.

The videos titled "How to upload your own video to Youtube" and "How to upload your own video to Vimeo" can be easily found on the internet by typing the videos title above and his name "Trevor" into Google.

Venue Change
Dave Botherway alerted members that the management of the Vermont venue may not renew our Wednesday booking in 2015. Discussions are currently taking place and any members who know of an alternate venue should contact the SIG committee or Dave.

How to Show Pictures, Videos or Music from an Android Phone, Tablet or PC onto a TV screen.

Dave Botherway commenced this topic outlining a number of adapters that when inserted into the HDMI port on a TV, wirelessly connects to an Android phone, tablet or PC to view pictures, videos or music from the device onto a TV screen.

Adapters mentioned include:
* Netgear Push2TV model PTV3000 ($59)
* DX iPush adapter ($19 eBay)
* Google Chromecast ($49 JB HiFi)
* Kaiser Baas ScreenShift (MelbPC Special $49)
* Measy / Miracast ($20 eBay)

Netgear Push2TV demonstration

John Swales demonstrated the Netgear Push2TV. It's a small black box about the size of a cigarette packet with HDMI and USB ports and a mode button. Power comes from the USB port which can be connected to USB on the TV. A cable, which needs to be purchased separately, connects between the HDMI on the Push2TV box and HDMI on the TV. If using the Push2TV with a PC it must support WiFi direct (WiDi) or an Android device that supports WiDi and Miracast. Wi-Fi Direct is what allows two devices to connect to each other, and Miracast is what allows the contents of the screen to be sent over that connection.

John purchased the Push2TV to display the contents from his smartphone onto a TV or through a projector. The Push2TV uses a peer-to-peer approach, is not brand dependent (eg as are Apple and ChromeCast), doesn't require the use of a router and the required WiFi direct software is included with Win 8.1. John found this adapter very easy to setup and would recommend it to members.

Measy MiraCast adapter demonstration

Following on Dave Botherway demonstrated the Measy MiraCast adapter. It's smaller than the Push2TV and resembles a large USB TV adapter. It also is inserted into the HDMI port on a TV and gets its power from the TVs USB port. Because of its size the Measy may cover the adjacent HDMI slot so a cable may be needed. It requires EzCast software to run which is a free download but not included. After connecting the Measy to the TVs HDMI port, turn on your TV and tune to the source you plugged the Measy into. The SSID and Password for the Measy will then be displayed. Next install and run the EZCast software. The EzCast app will ask you for the SSID and the password above. Next go into settings and tell the Measy how to connect to your home network. From there you use the EzCast app to play the contents of your PC, Smartphone or tablet onto a TV screen.

Dave found the major advantage the Measy had over other adapters is its price and that it doesn't take over the internet connection. The Measy performed well and for the price was a good investment. One member indicated the installation of the Measy was not as easy as he hoped.

Neil Muller