East SIG Report - October 2015

The meeting opened with Paul Woolard welcoming all members present and guest John Bain.

The first session as always was Q&A with George Skarbek.

Q: When I install a new operating system such as Windows 10, I usually wait for all the bugs to be out before upgrading. However all those I've spoken to are delighted with Windows 10 so I wonder what your experience is with Windows 10?

A: My experience is not as positive as things went bad and I had to ring MS when upgrading one laptop. Other friends have also had trouble, one needing to install 5 times before rolling back to his earlier OS. However 80-85% updates will work. To most people the OS is not important. What is important to most people is their browser, email, office and photo editing programs etc. You should look at the risk and reward of upgrading and "if it ain't broke don't fix it".
If you want Windows 10 there will be a substantial upgrade in December so I would wait till early next year before upgrading.

Q: My daughter upgraded to Windows 10 and after a month the PC stopped at the flash screen. Could this be related to Windows 10?

A: This is difficult to answer given what you have told me. It could be hardware or software. If the laptop doesn't POST (Power On Self Test) then the problem is hardware. If the operating system starts to load after the POST is completed, that means the POST is okay. If you see the flash screen that usually indicates the PC is ready to load the operating system.

Q: I want to transfer large DXF files (an AutoCAD drawing format) and wonder which of the two formats Binary or ASCII format is the better to use?

A: Generally I'd go with the Binary files as they will be very much smaller and load much faster. With ASCII the file will be physically large and take longer to save and longer to load. All information should be the same with either format.

Q: The initial Windows 10 download is saved on your computer waiting until you wish to install it. When Windows 10 gets upgrades presumably those upgrades don't go into the file that is sitting there. When you finally come to install Windows 10 in the first instance, won't it install the initial download that's been sitting there from day 1?

A: I would expect that is correct and it would then find all the upgrades and load them.

Q: I wonder what your opinion is of the cloud version of Office365 versus the PC based Office365ProPlus?

A: Office365 is free with your MelbPC membership and runs in a browser window, against Office365ProPlus which is a yearly subscription that you load onto your PC. The choice is up to each individual. My opinion is that the differences between Office 2010 and 2013 are very small. You need to have a reason to upgrade over what you are using at present, as recent changes to Office programs are more relevant to corporations.

Q: I use webmail for my email. I used to be able to take a group of about 25 email addresses from a Word document and paste them into the send box. When I do this now I receive an error message saying the addresses may not be correct. Can you help?

A: Is there anyone in the audience that can help Ken as I use Eudora for my email.
(Clem Pratt answers) I have found it impossible to turn a group of email addresses into a single list. No one else was able to give a solution to this problem.

Our next presentation was by Dave Botherway on "Windows 10 Issues (Those not discussed at the General Meeting)". As a member of the MicroSoft Insider Program Dave is running 5 copies of Windows 10, not all are running 100% but that is partially due to the multiboot systems and hardware Dave is running. Dave's presentation covered privacy and licencing issues associated with Windows 10. Topics covered were:

- Automatic Windows 10 downloads
- Telemetry used to collect and share user information
- Sharing of Windows updates
- WiFi password sharing
- Window licence changes

In summary Dave believes MicroSoft is being proactive with future updates being tested prior to release through the Insider program. There is more openness and publicity about privacy issues than before. However the default settings in Windows 10 may leave people exposed so check through the setting options and adjust these as necessary.

Dave's experience with Windows 10 so far is that it is an easy install, 30 minutes for a clean install and 2 hours for an upgrade. Windows 10 has proved 100% stable with faster startup and better security. There has been some problems with nVidia video drivers initially but these are gradually being fixed by nVidia.

After the break George Skarbek gave an insight on "How to Root an Android Phone". On a friends recommendation George installed an App that soon began to download multiple large advertisements that were quickly using up his data allowance. The App when uninstalled kept reappearing so another course of action was needed. A factory reset was one option but after studying internet articles George decided "rooting" the phone was his preferred option. Kingo was used and the rooting was not without its problems as the rogue App proved difficult to remove, with Kingo twice failing to remove it. Success was achieved through good detective work and George now has a phone that is ad free with the bloatware removed. His apps now start faster and the phones battery life has been increased. George still does not have root access to his phone, but "Super User Access". This is not true root access but George decided the benefits of true root access was not worth the risk as he had achieved what he originally set out to do and that is to remove the rogue app and remove the bloatware.

Neil Muller