

East SIG Report – April 2016

The April meeting started with **Paul Woolard** welcomed regulars plus 6 new faces. The meeting then commenced as usual with **George Skarbek** conducting Q&A.

Q: I had a problem with Google Earth and used a utility that when run, found hundreds of problems. I exited out as I feared it may be a scam. What should I have done?

A: As you indicated the utility took time to find the problems it could be worth trying if the problem you have is serious. As it also didn't ask for payment, it is possible it is genuine. If your system is backed up it could be worth trying. If the utility had found hundreds of problems in a very short time I would avoid it as it's probably some type of malware.

Q: When backing up my PC to an external disk I received a message that I may not be able to restore the backup as it's a dynamic disk. What should I do?

A: This is probably too technical to explain now so I will talk you during the break.

Q: I'm looking at buying a laptop and have found a Gigabyte Laptop which I like. I am wondering whether this is a good brand?

A: Gigabyte has been making motherboards for years and has a very good reputation. I'd do a search in Google for the model you are thinking of buying and see if there are any reviews.

Q: I have purchased an Android tablet and wonder whether I need any security?

A: Personally I don't worry as there is nothing on my Android tablet that is of interest to anyone. As the Android OS is based on Linux it requires someone with extensive knowledge to crack. However I would recommend good WiFi encryption such as WPS or the even better WPS2.

Q: When backing up my PC, how can I stop someone from accidentally interrupting the backup which can take a long time to complete?

A: The easiest way would be to set a password on your screen saver. You could also create a Guest user in Windows for another person to use the PC while the PC is backing up.

Next **Charles Adams** gave a short presentation on his experience since re-joining the MelbPC committee last year. Charles believes the committee is getting bogged down on technical issues as opposed to priority being given to attracting new members. Some of the key issues are how much data should we keep in the cloud, where the data should be stored (Google or MicroSoft), the potential high cost of this cloud storage, updating the Membership Management System and finding presenters for monthly meetings.

Our next presentation was by **Tim McQueen** on Yammer, which Tim likened to Facebook. Tim does not attend any SIGs but gets benefits from his Melbourne PC membership online. With Yammer he can get answers almost immediately on any subject. To get onto Yammer you need a MelbPC address (e.g. member@melbpc.org.au) and password from which you can log into Office365. When logged in you are presented with icons for the entire range of programs available through Office365, including Yammer. Clicking on the Yammer icon takes you to your Yammer homepage. On the left top are 3 icons for Home, Mail and Notifications. Below this is displayed "MELBPC.ORG.AU GROUPS". Clicking on this will open a window where you can select which groups you wish to join. On the top right of the Yammer screen are 5 more icons. These are from left to right; a drop down set of icons to access other Office 365 programs, Notifications, Settings, Help and your avatar. At the top centre of Yammer you can start a new message and once completed click on the "Post" icon to send the message to others in the group. When viewing posts from another member, you can "Like", "Reply" or "Share" the message.

Below these options there is a text box where you can “Write a Reply”. However you must be a member of the group to post a reply.

After a short break **Dave Botherway** gave another of his excellent presentations, this one on Backups, with reference to the free program “Macrium Reflect”. Topics Covered where:

- What is a Backup – Copy of a user’s key data
- How can I lose my data – PC stolen, fire, HDD failure, virus, encryption (crypto locker), brownout damage to PC, malcontent (unhappy staff or family member) or accidental deletion of a file.
- Reasons for having copies of your data – To recover data, transfer to another PC, sync (duplicate) data, archive data or go back to another version of a document.
- The two types of data – Operating System & programs and personal data (photos, documents, emails, music etc.)
- Media to back up data on – CD, DVD, USB sticks, portable HDDs, NAS box, cloud storage.
- Copy types – Restore points, file copy, incremental copy, file synchronisation, image copy and incremental images.
- Storage locations – Restore points (on your PC), critical data stored offsite, online cloud backup.
- File History – Available in Windows 8 & 10 only, but needs to be turned on.
- File synchronisation – Copy data to a second system. Dave recommends the program “frefilesync” which can do 2 way sync or mirror data.
- Image Backups – Faster, backs up a whole HDD or partition, allows full or incremental backups, can recover to a different PC, can recover whole partition including the operating system, can open (mount) as a standard directory and extract individual files, the latter is now available in Macrium Reflect..
- Partition Split – Dave recommends the C drive for the OS and programs only (to be backed up monthly) and the D drive for data (to be backed up weekly)
- Macrium Reflect free will Clone a HDD (used to copy to a replacement HDD) or Image a disk (one large file) for backups.

In conclusion Dave notes it is important to understand the different types of backup, segregate the OS and programs from data, use an external HDD, have image backups of C and D drives and store data offsite if at all possible.

Neil Muller