

# East SIG Report – November 2016

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The November meeting commenced as usual with Q&A conducted by **George Skarbek**.

Q: My ADSL Wi-Fi modem keeps dropping off the internet. I can't work out why it's doing it as it seems to be random. Can you suggest anything?

A: The first thing you should do is contact your ISP. They can do numerous tests to resolve this type of issue. By looking at the logs they can determine whether your line into your house or your device is failing. As your connection is ADSL, it's possible that the rain we've had recently is the cause. It's possible that water in the Telstra pit has effected the connections.

Q: I've been copying files onto CDs for presentations and I find on the bottom of the screen a message tells me I've still got files to burn. I can't get rid of this message so what should I do?

A: This comes up in most Windows system so just delete it. The cause is probably one, but possibly more ini files which are not important.

Q: What is the maximum speed for the NBN? The top range for Telstra I read is a consistent 100 megabits/second so can I match that with the NBN and at what cost?

A: I see negligible difference between 25 and 50. The problem is the server you are talking to is not going to give you 25 megabits/second when there are a thousand people talking to it. Uploads however are much quicker. When overseas data is cached locally by your ISP, its then you will see the faster speeds.

Q: I often take my Samsung Android mobile phone to the library and use their free Wi-Fi. To use the libraries Wi-Fi I have to enter my library card number and then pin number. When I take my Android tablet and try to do the same thing it won't connect. The librarian said to go to yahoo.com and it will then connect to Wi-Fi. Can you explain what is going on?

A: As both are running Android they both should behave in the same way. (No one in the audience was able to explain this unusual behaviour)

George then discussed his experience following his recent connection to the NBN.

When the NBN arrives you should do nothing. You will almost certainly be contacted by numerous ISPs wanting your business. Look for the best deal and play one ISP off against the other to get the best deal. You should be aware that your existing phone will be connected to the NBN through the back of the modem. Unlike the old landline, when the power goes out you won't have a "landline" phone. Mobile phones will not be affected. I was surprised to find that I no longer had Caller ID displayed on my phone. Instead of the incoming phone number or caller being displayed, the display only showed "private number". This was changed back to Caller ID by contacting my ISP.

As George was one of the first from this SIG to be connected to the NBN, a number of questions relating to his NBN experience followed:

Q. Are you connected to the NBN via your Optus cable?

A. Although I'm with Optus, the NBN connection was via the Telstra cable. This probably came about as I didn't nominate my preferred supplier when the NBN was connected. I had both cables to my house, Telstra underground and Optus above ground.

Q. Is there a new cable in your house?

A. No, there were no new cables run to the house however new connectors were needed in the house. The old connectors were 30 to 40 years old so they needed to be changed. The installers ran 20 minutes of tests in the house to ensure all was working correctly. The system was signed off and activated before the installers left the driveway.

Q. Is your internet connection any better than before?

A. The deal I got was twice as fast for downloads and 5 times faster in upload speed. So the answer is yes.

Q. What about the cost difference?

A. Optus gave me \$250 off my annual bill. I still get free landline and mobile calls throughout Australia.

Q. I'm surprise they didn't use Optus' aerial cable to the house?

A. I had both a Telstra and Optus cable to the house. When the NBN was connected the connection was via the Telstra pit in the street which I assume is more secure.

Q. Is the cable fibre?

A. No, the existing cable into my house is coaxial cable. This is not the phone cable which was copper. Fibre is the cable that terminates at the various hubs with other cables branching out from those hubs.

Q. I thought they used copper for the last connection to a house?

A. I had an existing cable connection to my house in addition to the copper phone line so the coaxial cable is what was used for the connection to the house.

Q. Did your package include FetchTV?

A. No, because we already had FetchTV. Interestingly Optus gave us a free FetchTV box. As this box was not near the modem, they included 2 powerline carriers all this at no extra cost, so I can run Ethernet over 240 volt cables.

Q. What is your monthly limit?

A. It was 500GB /month but is now unlimited.

Q. What are you paying now?

A. I'm paying \$80/month now for high speed unlimited phone calls and no line rental.

Following Q&A **Trevor Hudson** gave a video presentation on "Things to consider when purchasing another monitor". Having just purchased a new PC, Trevor wanted to buy the best 24" 16:9 LED monitor with speakers he could for under \$200, to go with the new PC.

Trevor's video lists 16 features & specifications to look for when selecting a monitor. Using this list, Trevor narrowed his search for a monitor down to 3 models requiring further evaluation: an ASUS VP247H, a Viewsonic VX2457-MHD and an Acer G237HL. Trevor compared these 3 monitors against his key criteria shown in tabulated form in the video. Trevor's finally selected the Viewsonic VX2457-MHD which had just been reduced in price at MSY. Trevor's video presentation can be found on YouTube or Vimeo by searching for the presentation title above.

Before purchasing the Viewsonic, Trevor ran a dead pixel tester on the monitor in store to ensure there were no dead pixels. This was a key criterion for his new monitor. Trevor developed his tester which can also be found on YouTube or Vimeo by searching for the title "Dead pixel colour tester".

After the break **Stewart Bedford** presented “3D Touring with Google Earth Pro”. Google Earth Pro is now a free product and a separate program from Google Earth. The Pro version is particularly suited for education, tour planning or for ones personnel memories. With Pro you can tour the earth, moon, Mars or the universe. For 3D touring you need a fast internet connection and a PC with a fast video card. There is no Linux version of Google Earth Pro.

Stuart then demonstrated how to fly around Melbourne in 3D, stopping at key Melbourne landmarks such as Flinders Street Station, St Pauls Cathedral, MCG, The Palais Theatre etc. To view these landmarks from different perspectives Stuart demonstrated the various keyboard and mouse controls available. 3D buildings shown in many of these flyovers are computer generated so may not always be a true representation of the real building. According to Brian Heywood, a number of cities, and Melbourne is one of the lucky ones, have been generated in true 3D using multiple image sources and rigorous photogrammetric techniques.

Neil Muller