East SIG Report – March 2017

The meeting commenced with **Paul Woolard** welcomed members followed by Q&A conducted by **George Skarbek**.

Q: Do you know of a free pdf editor? I've looked on Google and haven't found any so far.
A: Generally pdf editors are not freeware. The cost of a pdf editor is usually a guide to the quality of the conversion from the original pdf. There are free programs that will convert a pdf to Word and when finished editing you can save that file back to a pdf.
A member suggested MS Word 2016 will convert pdf files to Word. However he's found the conversion to Word is not always perfect. The edited Word file can then be saved as a pdf eliminating the need for any additional software.

Q: The taskbar on my PC is set to drop down out of sight but intermittently disappears completely. Do you have any idea what may be causing this?
A: An audience member commented that when certain programs are open his taskbar will stay hidden. The taskbar however returns when the program is minimised or closed.

Q: Can to suggest a popular free photo editor that can add text or lines to images?
A: I use and recommend Faststone Image Viewer. It can do a reasonable amount of editing, has many other useful features and will add simple text or text with drop shadows to an image. When opening an image in full screen, by moving the cursor to any edge of the screen reveals different menu options. When the cursor is moved to the top, a thumbnail browser of other images in the folder appears. Moving the cursor to the right edge displays image properties, to the left edge displays a drawing board with various editing options and to the bottom further editing options including your requirement to add text to an image.
Another popular image viewer that will allow you to add text to an image is Irfanview.

Q: For a number of years I've been using Photoshop and Lightroom which I love. Currently I'm paying the monthly subscription for both and find this to be an expensive option for the little I use them. As the cost is getting higher, is there any way I can buy a copy of Photoshop or Lightroom outright?
A: You can no longer buy the current version of Photoshop outright. You may still be able to find an older version of Photoshop from a few years ago to buy. Lightroom is a lot cheaper and can still be purchased outright. Adobe Camera Raw is a free add-on to Lightroom and it is constantly updated for new cameras and lenses.

Q: On my Windows 10 PC a command (cmd) box arrears every hour with a message that Windows cannot open a number of programs it needs to update. The command box only displays for a short time and then disappears. I don't have any of the programs Windows is looking for and cannot find where the file or instruction is coming from. Obviously a program is running in the background that is set to check for an update every hour, so how can I find what is causing this and stop it?
A: When the command box appears on screen open Task manager to see what programs are running. Then go to Add or Remove Programs and remove the program. As the command box only appears briefly it may be hard to find. It's also possible the program is running as a service, so open services and have a look there. It could also be a registry entry causing the program to run. If all that fails send me a screen capture of the command box and I'll see if I can help.

Q: I use MS Excel 2010 and lately it's been acting strangely. For example on occasions if I enter a character to a cell, the whole screen just wipes and I have to go back to where I started from. How can I fix this?

A: Go to Add or Remove Programs or Program & Features (Windows 10) and click on Uninstall Excel or Office. That will then give you the option to Repair Excel. If Repair doesn't fix the problem continue to Uninstall and then reinstall Excel from your CD.

Q: On all my 4 computers when printing I get a popup screen on the right saying can't find printer however it will print whatever is on the screen. How do I get rid of this message? Would reinstalling the printer drivers help?

A: The first thing to do is go to your Print Spooler. It's under Windows\System32\Spool\Printers to see what is printing. Occasionally something gets stuck and you can't delete it. What you need to do is stop the spooling service and delete whatever is stuck in the queue and restart the service. That is the most likely solution but there could be other problems causing that behaviour.

Q. I had a printer problem recently and found the spooler wasn't running. I reinstalled the drivers and it worked until the next time I used it. I then uninstalled the printer and went onto the web and loaded the current drivers and the printers been working correctly ever since.

A: That's probably the best way to solve a problem like that.

After Q&A the next presentation was "**How to Use a Smart TV to Watch YouTube**" by **Stuart Bedford**. Due to the constant advertisements on free to air television Stuart has started using YouTube as an alternative for his entertainment. Connecting to YouTube is easy to do if you have a smart TV. However for those without a Smart TV (one that can't connect to the Internet) Stuart gave a number of options on how you can connect a conventional TV to the internet.

There is almost nothing you can't find on YouTube from the very good to the very bad. Stuart gave numerous examples of both. Suggested YouTube channels Stuart views for computer related information are:
https://www.youtube.com/user/explainingcomputers by Chris Barnnett
https://www.youtube.com/user/ThioJoe by Thio Joe
https://www.youtube.com/user/LinusTechTips

After a short break **John Hall** gave a presentation on "**Office365 for Melbourne PC User Group Members**". One of the little appreciated benefits of being a MelbPC member is having free access to Office365 Enterprise edition, from any computer or mobile device anywhere in the world. Along with the Office365 apps, membership includes 1 terabyte of OneDrive cloud storage.

To demonstrate the many programs available in Office365 John fired up Firefox web browser on a laptop and ran his PowerPoint presentation from his Office365 cloud storage.

To log into Office365 you need to click on "Portal" on the MelbPC website and log in with your MelbPC email address. Members only need a MelbPC email address to log into Office365 and can continue using their preferred email address for all their mail.

John briefly covered most of the 19 Apps available to members with emphasis on the major ones such as Mail, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Yammer, Video and Sway. Many members are unaware that Sway can be used to create a website which is stored on their OneDrive. Office365 is also where videos from the monthly meetings can be viewed.

Neil Muller