

East SIG Report – May 2016

The May meeting started with **Paul Woolard** welcomed everyone and the meeting then commenced as usual with **George Skarbek** conducting Q&A.

Q: After an upgrade, the next day when I turned my PC on I found most of Windows Services had been turned off. How could that have happened?

A: There was a big upgrade to Windows 10 a few days ago. I had to wait a long time for everything to work. However after the computer restarted everything worked. Other than the upgrade being the cause, I have no idea what could be the reason for your problem.

Q: On my Windows 10 PC my internet connection often disappears. When I checked the modem and other devices everything was fine. My provider reports no problems. What could cause this?

A1: Unfortunately a lot of things can cause that to happen. If it is a wired connection first start by checking your Ethernet cables are connected properly. Your router is also a very good place to start. Firstly I'd check whether your Ethernet is recognised by going into your network settings. I saw this last week so that's why it came to mind. I'd also check whether your DNS has stopped or changed. To check this from DOS you type "Ping www.google.com" to see if it is recognised. Both of these are rare and most unlikely the cause, but are a good starting point. Your router may be working, your ISP may be working but you're not getting out. There are a number of other checks you can run.

Our first presentation was by **Stewart Bedford** on "How to Mirror your Smart Phone".

Demonstrated on an Android phone, Stewart used "Mobizen" to display and manipulate files stored on his smart phones on the screen of his Windows PC. With the phone connected via USB, files can be moved in both directions. i.e. Phone to PC or PC to phone, by dragging and dropping from the PC with a mouse. WiFi can be used in place of a USB cable if wished. Mobizen is ideal for easily moving photos from one device to the other and works without the need to root the phone.

To setup "Mobizen", the software needs to be loaded on both the Android phone and PC. Alternatively a web browser can be used instead of loading software on a PC. When using a web browser it is necessary to log into the Mobizen website with a password before files from your phone can be viewed on screen. Files can then be dragged and dropped between devices. The only requirements are that the phone needs to run Android version 5 and USB debugging needs to be enabled via the settings in the phone. Setup is explained in the following YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC5njEyWSOU>

Something that is often confused by Smart phone users is the difference between an app and a widget. Stewart explained that a widget is a program that is always running e.g. a clock, and is continuously using bandwidth and battery. An app on the other hand is a program that needs to be activated before using memory and power. To maintain a clean home screen Stewart recommends the use of folders and explained how to create these.

Finally Stewart outlined his 3 most useful and must have Android apps. These were:

1. Scanbot – For scanning any paper documents and saving these as jpg or pdf files
2. Automatic Call Recorder – Automatically records all phone calls made or received for later playback.
3. ColorNote – For entering random information Stewart wishes to recall or review later.

By request, our next presentation was by **Brian Heywood** who showed how he created the Google Earth Tour presentation that he gave at our February SIG meeting and later at the main Melbourne PC Monthly meeting. In this presentation Brian used Google Earth Pro, although the

same features demonstrated are available in the standard version of Google Earth. When making a tour the first decision is to decide whether to select Record a Tour or use a manual approach. To demonstrate how to put together a Google Earth Tour Brian used a trip he made to Edinburgh to attend the Edinburgh Tattoo. Features demonstrated were:

- Creating and naming a folder under My Places to store all tour information
- How to insert Placemarks on a Google Earth image to start your tour e.g. at Edinburgh Castle
- How to place and edit Placemarks on a Google Earth image (including removing the Pin icon from an image to create a cleaner looking image)
- Using balloons (balloons open up and contain information you wish to display on screen)
- Using hyperlinks in the balloons to link to a webpage
- Use of simple html code to enhance the text displayed in the balloons.
- How to add links to images or photos to display as part of your tour.
- To insert data from the internet.

Once again Brian gave a very informative and well-presented demonstration of the use of Google Earth.

Neil Muller