

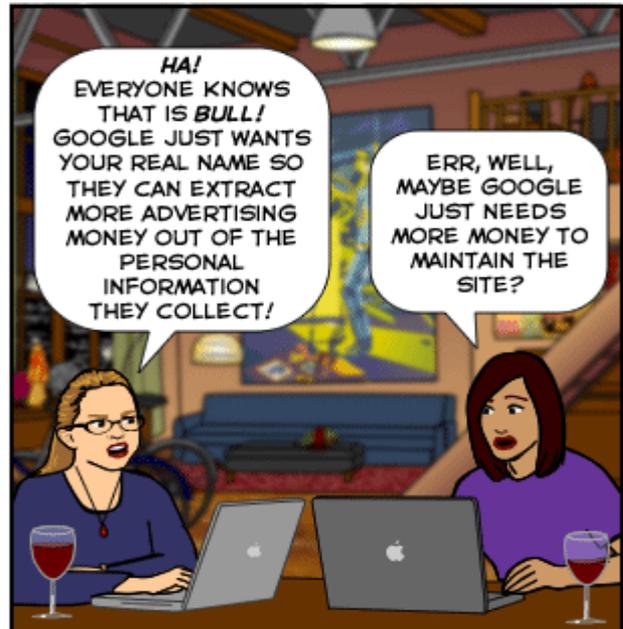
Hamilton Computer Club

Exchange information and share skills



The Joy of Tech™

by Nitrozac & Snaggy



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joyoftech.com

<http://tapastic.com/episode/22641>

THE ROM

December 2013

INDEX

1. President's Report, December meeting, Next workshop
2. Security, News/Trends
3. Privacy
4. Resources
5. Next meetings and contact details

President's Report

This month's meeting will be the last for the year, and in the tradition of many other December meetings we'll have a buy and sell where members can unburden themselves of equipment they no longer use and/or buy something useful that the previous owner no longer wants.

Our first meeting for next year will be the Saturday Workshop and club BBQ.

My New Years Resolution for the club is that we will all be more tolerant and accommodating of each other. There are very few computer clubs left and if we want our club to survive we need to accept that some of our members are happy with Windows and some like to promote Linux. Some of our members need a lot of help, others are highly skilled. Some of our members have disabilities or odd personalities and we need to allow for that. And for the club to grow we need to accept and welcome new, younger members too.

Looking forward to a great 2014 year,

Bruce Kingsbury, Club President.

December meeting

Venue: 'Te Whare o Te Ata' Community House, 60A Sare Crescent, Fairfield, Hamilton

Date: 12th December 2013

Topic: Members show their favourite computer activities and discoveries:

Devices – smartphone, tablet, accessories

Applications – desktop, mobile, web apps

Social networking features

Websites – information, useful services, special interest

Anything else of interest

So bring your computing device, USB stick or use the club PC and join in.

We will have a Buy, Sell or Exchange table. Please make a gold coin donation to the club for each transaction

There will be no Saturday Workshop in December, it's too close to Christmas!

Next workshop:

Venue: 'Te Whare o Te Ata' Community House, 60A Sare Crescent, Fairfield, Hamilton

Date: 11th January 2014

Security

2M Passwords For Facebook, Twitter And Others Stolen In Massive Data Breach

Researchers at cyber security firm Trustwave recently discovered a [hacker database](#) that contains more than 2 million stolen passwords associated with a variety of popular services including Facebook, Gmail, Twitter and Yahoo. These services and more have been resetting account credentials since news of the theft started making the rounds.

Yet another reminder of the need for security. strong passwords, unique passwords for each purpose, updated software, safe computing practises, etc.

It would be wise to change your passwords if you use any of these services.

Source: [ReadWriteWeb](#) [Techspot](#)

News/Trends

US Supreme Court to hear software patent case

Grant Gross (IDG News Service) 06 December, 2013

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a controversial software patent case after a federal appeals court ruled that an abstract idea is not patentable simply because it is tied to a computer system.

This could be the most significant recent legal case on software patents.

Source: [PC World NZ](#)

Unlock phones or we'll unlock them for you, FCC chair tells carriers – CSMonitor.com

The chair of the Federal Communications Commission, Tom Wheeler, has called upon US carriers to unlock smart phones.

By Matthew Shaer / November 15, 2013

Unlocked phones amount, essentially, to choice. And in an interview with All Things D, Wheeler, who only took the chairmanship of the FCC this fall, said he hoped "to be the most effective advocate [American consumers] could hope for."

Source: [Christian Science Monitor](#)

BBC News - Google wins digital library legal battle

Google has defeated a legal action mounted to stop it scanning and uploading millions of books.

In 2005, the US Authors Guild sued Google alleging that its plans to create a digital library amounted to massive copyright infringement.

In its defence, Google said its plans constituted "fair use" because it was only putting excerpts of texts online.

US judge Denny Chin has now sided with Google and dismissed the case brought by the Guild. Judge Chin accepted Google's argument that its scanning project was "fair use" adding that the project provides "significant public benefits".

Source: [BBC News](#)

REVEALED: How YOU PAY extra for iPHONES - even if you DON'T HAVE ONE

Everyone is paying for unsold 5Cs right now

By [Andrew Orłowski](#), 29th November 2013

Apple's secret deals with mobile operators are squeezing smaller companies out of the market and driving up costs even for those who don't use their products, according to *Register* sources across the industry.

Apple's terms include rigid and non-negotiable purchase commitments which commit an operator to making a given number of sales of a forthcoming Apple handset, typically without even seeing the handset first, say our sources.

Source: [The Register UK](#)

Privacy

Lightbeam: Mozilla releases add-on that reveals online data tracking

The tool aims to highlight both the first- and third-party companies that people interact with as they travel across the Web. It shows a map of the websites you visit and highlights the third parties that are also active on those pages. It will analyze the relationships between various first- and third-party sites that are stored in your online data.

Source: [Ars Technica](#)

BBC News - NSA 'tracking' hundreds of millions of mobile phones

The data is said to help the NSA track individuals, and map who they know, to aid the agency's anti-terror work.

The "dragnet surveillance" was condemned by digital rights groups who called for the NSA's snooping efforts to be reined in.

The news comes as Microsoft plans to use more encryption to thwart NSA spying on it and its customers.

The huge database built up by the NSA (National Security Agency) keeps an eye on "hundreds of millions" of mobile phones, said the Post, adding that it let the agency map movements and relationships in ways that were "previously unimaginable".

It added that the vast programme potentially surpassed any other NSA project in terms of its impact on privacy. Information about the programme was in papers released to the Post by whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The spying agency is said to have accumulated so much data, about 27 terabytes according to leaked papers seen by the Post, that it was "outpacing" the NSA's ability to analyse the information in a timely fashion.

This is the system that New Zealand Security Agencies are linked to (see the October ROM and [Tech Liberty NZ](#))

The steady flow of information about the NSA's surveillance work has led Microsoft to take steps to protect itself and its customers from unwarranted scrutiny, [it said in a blogpost](#).

Brad Smith, Microsoft legal counsel, said government snooping was now as much of a security problem as computer viruses and other cyber-attacks.

In response, Mr Smith said, Microsoft was expanding its use of encryption; would fight legal orders that stop it telling customers when their data is being sought and would allow a closer look at the code it develops to show there were no backdoors built in.

Source: [BBC News](#)

Resources

Wired Magazine's list of best information sources.

101 Signals

These are the best reporters, writers, and thinkers on the Internet—the people who understand what’s happening. Compiled and annotated by WIRED staff.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/magazine/2013/08/101signals/>

Makeuseof's list of best apps

The best apps, games or tools for just about every platform

Source: [Makeuseof](#)

Techlogon's List Of Antivirus Removal And Uninstall Programs

Find Out Who's Eating Your Bandwidth With These Tips

Source: [Techlogon](#)

Find Out Who's Eating Your Bandwidth With These Tips

In this article, I'm going to give you a hand and walk you through the process of tracking down that bandwidth hog and shutting him down.

Source: [Makeuseof](#)

Two sites for comparing broadband plans

<http://www.internetchoice.co.nz/index.php>

Internet Choice let's you compare broadband plans from 15 of the top Internet Providers.

<http://broadband.t5.co.nz/>

Here you can compare broadband plans and also read and submit real New Zealand customer broadband provider reviews online.

The Hamilton Computer Club website is hosted by:



December meeting

Next meeting: Thursday 12th December 2013, 7:30 pm.

'Te Whare o Te Ata' Community House, 60A Sare Crescent, Fairfield, Hamilton, New Zealand

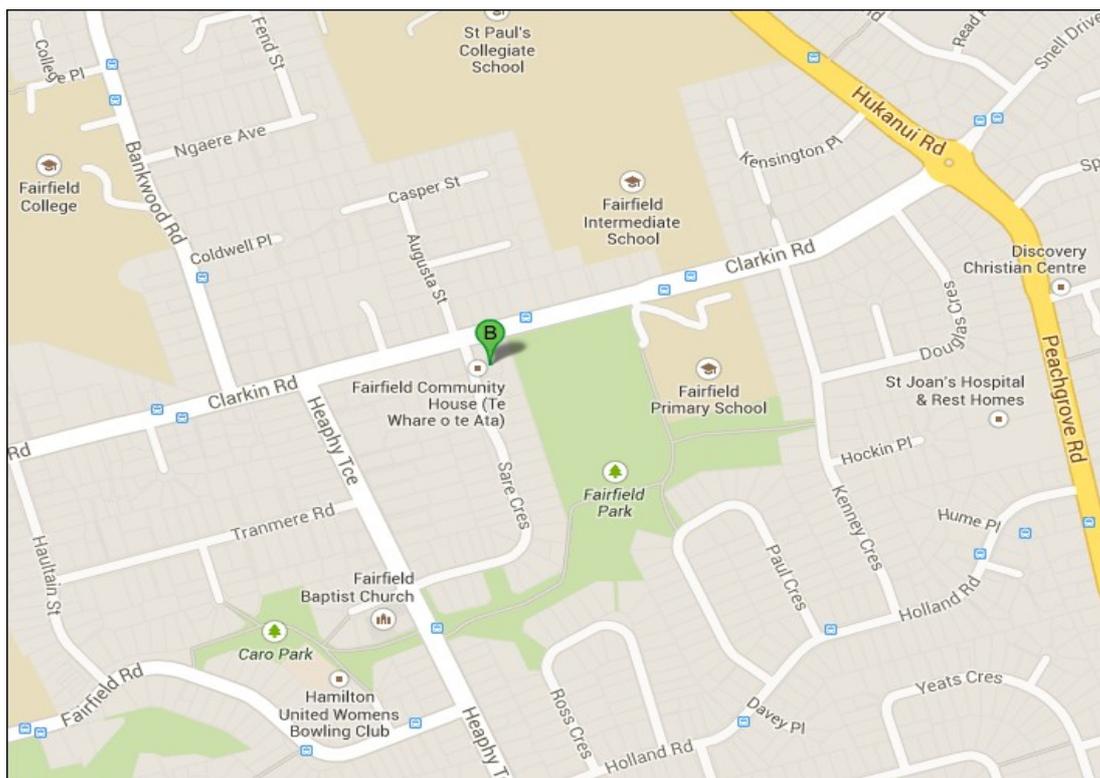
Topic: Members show their favourite computer activities and discoveries:

We will have a Buy, Sell or Exchange table. Please make a gold coin donation to the club for each transaction

Next workshop: Saturday 11th January 2014

Time: 10:00am – 3:30 pm.

Venue: 'Te Whare o Te Ata' Community House, 60A Sare Crescent, Fairfield, New Zealand.



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