



BROWSER NO. 232

JULY 2026

Return address:

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Busselton Senior Citizens' Club
email address: manager@bscc.net.au
Web maintained by kg@kgweb.au

The Busselton Constitution is available on the Busnet website:
busnet.org.au

This is a very useful and interesting site with lots of up to date information about our Club.

Busnet Clubroom Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
afternoons from 1:00 to 3:30 PM
(Except Public Holidays)

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Cyril Head	Margaret Hammond
Napier Ritchie	Diana Bouteloup
Leone Rowell	



Got any suggestions for inclusion in future editions of you Browser?

Email: publicity.busnet@gmail.com

MICROSOFT QUIETLY EXTENDS WINDOWS 10 SUPPORT

Microsoft have quietly extended the support for Windows 10 until 12 Oct 2027

For more information refer to the link under resources on our website:
<https://busnet.org.au/resources.html>

Editorial:

Welcome to the July 2026 edition of your Browser.

This month we are very grateful to one of our club members for providing us with their real life experience of transitioning off the Windows platform, the insights are invaluable to anyone that may be thinking about it.

Do you have old photos laying around in boxes, ever thought about digitising them, some mobile app options are discussed that may peak your interest.

And for those who sometime fear technology we have included some simple tips that may help.



Alex (a.k.a. Grumps)
Editor

Moving on from Windows – A real users story.



Still considering what to do if you have a Windows 10 machine, then follow a real life experience of moving on from Microsoft Windows. Peter takes us on his journey and gives us an insight to his experience.....[Read More](#)

Am I a Technophobe?

Despite the fact that the population of older tech users has grown significantly in recent years, some older adults still face barriers to technology use. One of these is technophobia.....[Read More](#)



Digitise Your Memories with Free Photo Scanning Apps



Deep inside a closet, attic, or under a bed, you likely have them: cardboard boxes stuffed with decades of family history. Are those old photos gathering dust, ever thought about digitising them.....[Read More](#)

Club News

Volunteers needed, if you can spare some time please reach out to treasury.busnet@gmail.com

Our next social morning tea will be held at The Good Egg at 10:00am on Tuesday 7th July. RSVP to Pam at pamela.shanks44@gmail.com no later than Friday, 3rd July.

[View our June 2026 Volunteer Roster](#)

July Trivia: Moon landing, IVF, foundation for the internet, just a few things that happened in the month of July.



Moving on from Windows – A real users story.



Peter Quinby

Thanks to one of our members, who also just happens to be our current President for the following real life experience of moving on from Microsoft Windows. Peter takes us on his journey and gives us an insight to his experience.

This is Peter's story:

In early 2025, faced with two laptops that could not run Windows 11 and a desktop PC that was struggling on Windows 11, I decided to look at my options.

Given that I did not have the budget to buy a new PC, laptop, or Apple machine and that I dislike scrapping otherwise perfectly good equipment, I started to look at the Linux operating system.



Linux has been around for many years and most web site servers are running Linux. It is generally known for it's stability and security but until recently not so much for "user friendliness".

However recent distributions have addressed that and there are now Linux distributions that are easy to use in a home or office environment.

The first question was "what software do I use for which there is no Linux version or alternative?". It came down to:

- VCDS, an Audi diagnosis tool
- Garmin Express, to update my GPS maps (especially annoying as Garmin will not support this on Linux even though their GPS units actually run Linux...)
- Kia software update system, to update firmware and GPS maps on my wife's car

For those uses I have retained a Windows laptop that only gets occasional use, mostly in the workshop.



The next question was "which Linux?". I landed on **Linux Mint**, a distribution with a "Windows-like" user interface.

By "Windows-like" I mean the on-screen look and feel is not a huge leap from what I

was used to after 30 years of using Windows in its various versions.

Installation was simple, easier than I'd been expecting. I downloaded Linux, created an installation USB stick, and after about 20 minutes I was booting up my laptop and running Linux Mint.

Linux Mint comes with a range of pre-installed software including Firefox browser, LibreOffice (word processor, spreadsheet, etc.), and Thunderbird (e-mail client).



As installed this would meet the regular needs of most users.

Using the built-in software manager I added a range of software that I use regularly: Brave (my preferred browser), digiKam (picture tagging and management), Evolution (e-mail client that I prefer to Thunderbird), FreeFileSync (backups), Google Earth, and a few others. Any time I needed another application I searched online and easily found a Linux version or an equivalent application.

Initially I installed Linux Mint on my laptop, to try it out and see if it would work for me. After using it for a little while I took the plunge and installed Linux Mint on my main desktop PC. Over the next few weeks, as Linux proved reliable and easy to use, I installed it on all of our household computers and laptops, except for that workshop laptop.

My system is used every day for a range of applications and I would not go back to Windows for a number of reasons, including:

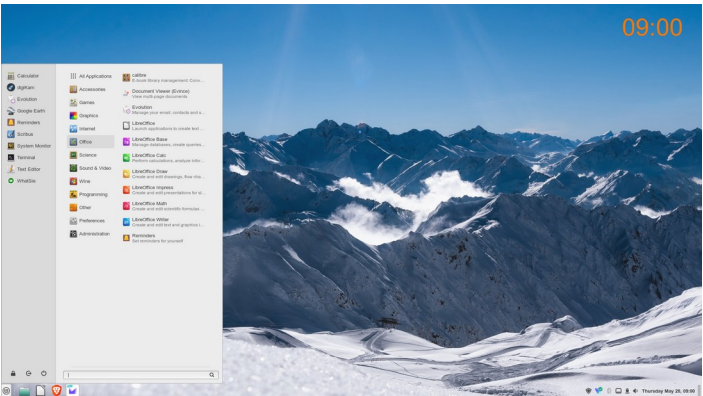
- The system runs faster than it did on Windows, even with 8GB of memory.
- There is no "bloat" as installed – none of those annoying apps that you never use but are scattered across the start menu and desktop.
- You do not need an online account to install or run, just a local user-id and password.
- There are no ads, suggestions, or recommendations.
- Support until late 2029.
- There are regular updates but they never take as long as Windows updates.

- The updates do not turn on things that you’ve previously turned off. They don’t change your default browser, they don’t turn on or off OneDrive, etc.
- The updates do not randomly change toolbars, start menus, etc.
- My data remains on my computer unless I choose otherwise.

File sharing has been a bit more difficult - I use it mainly to access videos on my PC from our TVs, but that was always a bit flaky under Windows so no real loss there. Apart from that my experience has been entirely positive.

I’ve continued to run applications that handle my daily requirements and also been able to continue occasionally running the file and format conversions (VHS to MP4, reading old disk types, scanning negatives, converting cassette to MP3, etc.) that I sometimes do for people.

The user interface is similar to Windows but no more different than, say, moving from Windows 10 to Windows 11:



Linux Mint Desktop

More recently I installed another Linux distribution aimed at former Windows users – **Zorin OS**.

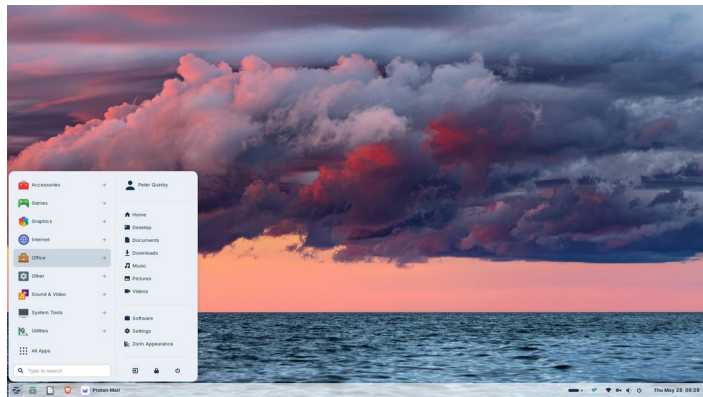


Using an old, spare desktop I installed Zorin and my preferred applications and a copy of my data. So far (about 6 weeks) it too is a system easy to adapt to.

The user interface is even more Windows-like. Zorin has all of those desktop style features like rounded corners on windows which are apparently indispensable to Windows users.

However, I think that’s what is leading me back to my Linux Mint system. Zorin works really well, even on an older machine, and shares all of the advantages over Windows of the Linux Mint system, but I’m

personally just more comfortable with the Mint interface, especially the start menu.



Zorin OS Desktop

The icons on the left of the start menu are for applications that I use often but not every day - Zorin’s menu lacks that facility. I suppose you could add them to the desktop instead but as I’ve always preferred as little as possible on my desktop this was a negative for me.

At present our household computers include:

my desktop	Linux Mint, for daily use
my wife’s desktop	Linux Mint, for daily use
spare desktop	Zorin OS, backup machine
Lenovo laptop #1	Linux Mint, for use when we travel
Toshiba notebook	Zorin OS, for use when we travel
Lenovo laptop #2	Windows 11, for the workshop

So we are handling all of our daily browsing, banking, e-mails, documents, spreadsheets, etc. from Linux systems without loss of function or capability.

Through this experience we have found that “*you don’t actually need Windows*”.

Considering your options:

So if you need to get off of an unsupported version of Windows but don’t want to spend money on a brand new machine, or you’re on Windows 11 but getting tired of all of the ads and recommendations that seem to go with Windows 11 either of these Linux systems could suit your needs.

At Busnet we have a Linux Mint system that we can demonstrate and when we get another donated machine we’ll set that up with Zorin. In the meantime if you come in on Mondays I’ll have my old Toshiba notebook running Zorin with me.

Am I a Technophobe?

According to research, about 90% of people age 65+ used the internet in 2025 compared to just 75% in 2021.

Yet despite the fact that the population of older tech users has grown significantly in recent years, some older adults still face barriers to technology use. One of these is technophobia.



What is technophobia?

In simplest terms, technophobia is an overwhelming fear of new technology. Older people are more prone to technophobia. It seems to be forced upon us, it changes so quickly, and a lot of us grew up without 21st century innovations like email, the internet, and artificial intelligence (AI) tools. This fear goes beyond a reluctance to learn new technologies. People with technophobia may:

- Resist using technology of any kind, even cell phones
- Become preoccupied with thoughts of technology
- Worry about being forced to use technology
- Criticise new or upgraded technologies
- Reluctant to update software on a device

How can I overcome my fear of technology and build technical confidence?

Adapting to new technologies may feel daunting and it won't happen overnight. The key to reducing your anxiety is to ease yourself into it.

The following are some practical tips to overcome technophobia and reap benefits from a digital world.

Break it down and set realistic goals: Remember that you don't have to master everything there is to know all at once. Don't rush; it's better to set small, manageable goals. A good rule of thumb is to focus on just one device, program, or task at a time.

Focus on what's useful to you: While some technologies may catch your interest, ask yourself, is this tool or skill going to provide value to me?

Buy simpler digital products: The hype around fancy gadgets can be difficult to resist. But you'll be better served by going with basic-model, user-friendly devices.

Be patient with yourself: Mastering new technology has a learning curve, and it's not always smooth sailing. Keep a positive mindset and have faith in yourself, you're bound to hit roadblocks and get frustrated along the way.

Take a class: Check with your local community like the local library, schools, or senior citizen centre. Many of these places regularly offer no-cost or low-cost classes on basic computing. This will give you hands-on experience and is also a great way to meet new people.

Teach yourself: Overcoming a fear of technology often starts with simple curiosity. If you have a new tablet, smartphone, or computer, don't shy away from exploring it and seeing where it takes you.

Ask someone for help: If you have a tech-loving spouse or grandchild, or a neighbour who always has the latest high-tech gadgets, don't be afraid to ask them questions or request their assistance when you get stuck.

Drop in to Busnet: At Busnet we aim to assist where we can, so if you feel like the digital world is passing you by and would like some help drop in and see us.



More information on this along with some links to other useful information can be found on the National Council for Aging website [here](https://www.ncoa.org/article/how-to-build-your-technical-confidence-strategies-for-older-adults/):

<https://www.ncoa.org/article/how-to-build-your-technical-confidence-strategies-for-older-adults/>

Digitise Your Memories with Free Photo Scanning Apps

Deep inside a closet, attic, or under a bed, you likely have them: cardboard boxes stuffed with decades of family history. Faded polaroids, glossy vacation snaps, and black-and-white portraits of ancestors from the 50s, 60s, 70s, and so on.



While traditional flatbed scanners offer incredible resolution, they are slow, cumbersome, and expensive. Thankfully, you don't need high-end hardware to rescue your physical photos from the ravages of time. If you have a smartphone, you already have a powerful preservation tool right in your pocket.

Here is how free photo scanning apps work, the best ones to use, and how to get professional-looking results.

Why Use a Scanning App Instead of Just a Camera?

It is tempting to simply lay a physical photo on a table and snap a picture of it with your standard smartphone camera. However, this usually yields disappointing results. Standard camera apps often introduce glare from overhead lighting, perspective distortion (making the photo look tilted), and unwanted backgrounds.

Dedicated photo scanning apps solve this by using advanced computer vision pipelines that perform several automated tasks:

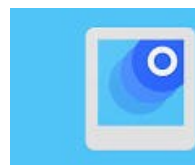
- **Edge Detection:** Automatically identifying where the photograph ends and the tabletop begins to crop out the background.
- **Perspective Correction:** Real-aligning the edges so that even if you held your phone at a slight angle, the final image looks flat and rectangular.

- **Glare Reduction:** Merging multiple angles of the same image to digitally stitch out reflections and bright hotspots.

Some of the better free photo scanning apps:

Depending on what your specific project needs—whether it is fighting harsh glare or blasting through hundreds of loose photos quickly—there is a free app tailored for it.

Google PhotoScan (Best for Defeating Glare)



Platform: iOS and Android

Price: Completely Free

Why it's great: Google PhotoScan is the gold standard for removing annoying reflections from glossy prints or framed photos. Instead of taking just one picture, the app instructs you to hover your phone's camera over four white dots positioned across the photo. It takes multiple angles and intelligently stitches them together, effectively erasing any glare. It also integrates seamlessly with Google Photos for instant cloud backup.

Note: On some newer devices, the PhotoScan app may be deprecated (unable to add it to your phone) as its core features have been integrated directly into the default camera app.

Photomyne (Best for Speed and Bulk Scanning)



Platform: iOS and Android

Price: Free basic tier (with premium upgrades available)

Why it's great: If you have entire albums to get through, Photomyne is incredibly efficient. Its powerful AI allows you to scan multiple photos at once, even a whole page of an album. The app detects the individual boundaries of each picture, crops them automatically, and saves them as separate digital files.

- **The Catch:** The free version contains ads and places strict limits on the number of photos you can scan or share before requiring a premium upgrade.
- **Best For:** Speed-scanning dozens of physical photos at a time to review them before choosing what to archive long-term.

Adobe Scan (Best for All-in-One Versatility)



Platform: iOS and Android

Price: Free

Why it's great: While technically designed as document scanners, Adobe Scan feature highly advanced edge detection and perspective correction. If you choose their "Photo" mode, it does an excellent job of flattening out prints, cleaning up shadows, and sharpening details.

Tips for the Perfect Digital Scan

To get the highest fidelity out of a free scanning app, the environment you scan in matters just as much as the software you use.



Ditch the Flash, Find Indirect Light: Never use your phone's built-in flash, as it creates a massive hot spot right in the middle of your photo. Instead, set up near a bright window during the day, but out of direct sunlight.

Watch Your Shadow: It's easy to accidentally block your light source with your hands or phone. Position yourself so the light falls evenly across the image without casting a shadow over it.

Keep It Flat: If an old photo is curled or warped, it can distort the scan. If safe to do so, gently weigh down the corners, or place a clean sheet of heavy glass over the photo to flatten it out before scanning.

Clean the Lens: Our phone lenses accumulate a shocking amount of pocket lint and fingerprints. Wipe it down with a microfiber cloth before you begin to avoid hazy scans.

Your History, Secured

(or just stored digitally and in a box)

Digitising your family archive doesn't just save physical space; it protects your memories from fire, water damage, and natural fading. Once your photos are safely digitised by these apps, you can easily share them with relatives via messaging apps, organise them

into private cloud (or local) folders, or even print them out for a fresh, modern photo album.

Grab a box of old photos this weekend, download an app, and start preserving your history!



CLUB News



If you are technically minded and don't mind helping others with challenges with their systems and devices, or if you are even able to assist as the receptionist welcoming and noting those who are seeking assistance on the days we could use your help as a volunteer technical support.

If you can spare the time on any of our open days even if it's only a couple of hours a month please reach out to our treasurer Peter Ralph via email treasury.busnet@gmail.com it is the volunteers that make it possible to provide the support we provide.

Our Next Social Morning Tea.

Book it in, lock in the date, where else would you possibly want to be than having a great cuppa and good conversation with a great bunch of people.

Our social group has organised the next morning to get together which will be held at The Good Egg in Busselton on Wednesday the 7th July at 10:00 AM

Please RSVP to Pam at pamela.shanks44@gmail.com no later than Friday, 3rd July for booking numbers.



Busnet Volunteer Roster

BUSNET COMPUTER CLUB INC								
2026 ROSTER			JULY	2026				
DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician
	Monday			Wednesday			Friday	
29/06/26		Peter Quinby	1/07/26		Bill Whipp Heather Maclean	3/07/26		Bill Whipp Trevor Gray
6/07/26	Monday		8/07/26	Wednesday		10/07/26	Friday	
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Alex Ashton			Michelle Chaplin			Patricia Lee
13/07/26	Monday		15/07/26	Wednesday		17/07/26	Friday	
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Maureen King			Pam Shanks			Jane Buckley
20/07/26	Monday		22/07/26	Wednesday		24/07/26	Friday	
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Kerry Mclements			Heather Maclean			Ursula Hillman
27/07/26	Monday		29/07/26	Wednesday		31/07/26	Friday	
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Lois Ralph			Peter Ralph			Sheila Higham
Any changes to the Roster contact Peter on 0429 185 066 OR email treasurer.busnet@gmail.com								
Busnet Opening Times : Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM Closed Public Holidays								

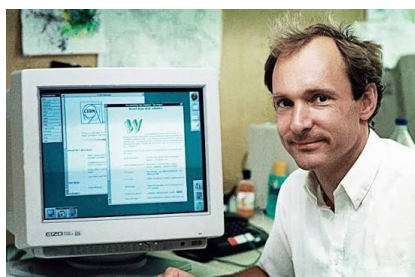
July Trivia

20 July 1969: American astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human to step onto the lunar surface during the Apollo 11 Mission. The event was televised live to an estimated 530 million to 650 million viewers worldwide, supported heavily by tracking stations like Australia's Parkes Observatory. It's a fair bet the for those who remember you probably know exactly where you were at the time.



25 July 1978: The world's first successful In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) resulted in the birth of Louise Joy Brown. She was born on July 25, 1978, at Oldham General Hospital in Greater Manchester, United Kingdom. The groundbreaking procedure was pioneered by reproductive biologist Dr. Robert Edwards and obstetrician Dr. Patrick Steptoe.

01 July 1970: Melbourne Airport at Tullamarine was officially opened on July 1, 1970, by Prime Minister John Gorton. While international flights commenced immediately on July 1, 1970, domestic carriers (such as Ansett and TAA) continued to operate out of Essendon for another year. Domestic operations were officially transferred to Tullamarine in July 1971.



06 July 1990: Sir Tim Berners-Lee published a foundational memo at CERN that circulated the specifications for his proposed "WorldWideWeb" project. This memo detailed the initial designs for HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), and Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), laying the groundwork for the modern Internet.

Coffee Break

SUDOKU

				5		8		
9	5				2	1	3	
4				1	3		6	9
					7	4	1	
1	6	5				7	9	2
	4	3	9					
6	9			2	8			5
	3	4	7				8	1
		2		3				

Fill the blank squares with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, each column and each smaller 3 x 3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9.

WORD MAKER

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters below, with each work containing the letter in the centre? Don't include proper names or plurals.

K	P	C
C	S	A
E	A	B

June 2026 Answer:
afar, fain, fair, fame, fane, fare, farm, fear, fern, fine, fire, firm, firn, frae, naif, rife, afire, faena, feria, fermi, finer, frame, infer, infra, mafia, fainer, famine, farina, fraena, infare, fireman, MAINFRAME



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JULY 2026



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