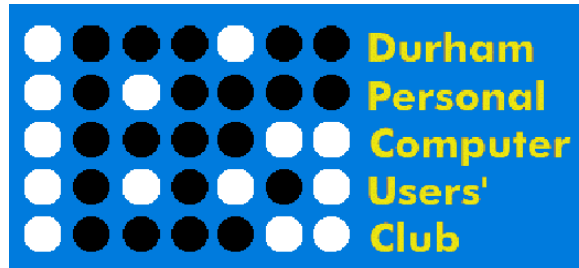


February 2012

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



January Prize Winners

Bob McMeekin	\$19.00	Ralph Day - Glue Gun
Mark Hunter	\$11.00	Robert Daub - Work Gloves
		Ed Warner - Drill Bit Set
		John McRae - Bungee Cord

Please visit the Club Web Page for all the latest links and information

<http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/>

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Next Meeting

The World of Linux

Presentation by Ed Goudge,
Alex Morrison, Tom Jakabfy

Faith United Church at 1778 Nash Road, Courtice
Thursday, Feb 9, 2012 7:00PM

Please be sure to check out our Club Forum

<http://www.durhamtechs.com/phpbb/>

FYI

- By Dan Delong

WiPNET Wi3

Rewiring your house in order to provide reliable and fast service in all rooms may not be necessary. Anywhere that coax runs in the house, this Wi3 device can piggyback Ethernet signals (up to 175 Mb/s), on top of television signals. Each device also broadcasts strong Wi-Fi into parts of the house that may have suffered from weak signal. At least one of these Wi3 devices must be plugged into an Internet router. Then every Wi3 device can provide wired and wireless access simultaneously to each location. Up to sixteen rooms (device locations) can be wired this way, with each device automatically configuring itself to be part of the household mesh network. To keep data from spilling out into neighbouring buildings, each installation comes with a back filter device. Wi3 units require power from a typical charging brick (supplied). Models may be inserted or flush mounted, and may be equipped with one or two Ethernet ports. <http://www.wi3inc.com/>

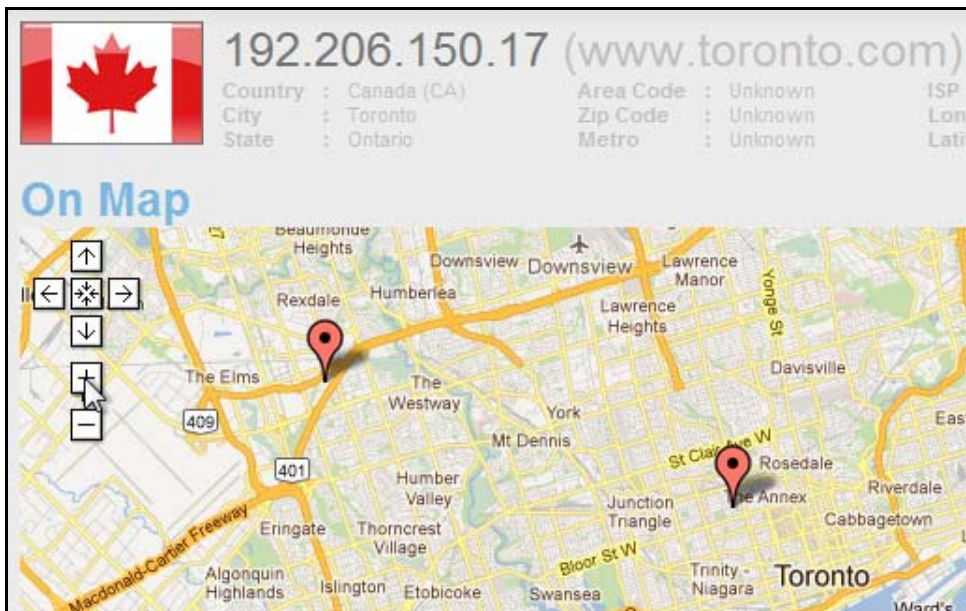


TEXT-IMAGE

Remember that clever trick with old impact printers. They could print low resolution graphics using just letter and symbol characters. The results were usually quite recognizable, say, the face was someone famous, like Evis or John Lenono. The Text-Image site does something similar. Send them an image and it will come back to you as a text image in your chosen size, using colours and a font of your choice as well. The result could be an html file, or an ASCII file, or a Matrix (made of Japanese characters). <http://text-image.com/convert/>



IPFingerPrints



This website is able to locate a domain, or an IP address, using two different look-up services. **IP FingerPrints** attempted to locate my ISP (a Chatham based company), but gave its location as Etobicoke. (*Perhaps my ISP actually does operate a server at this location.*) For my second attempt, I inserted the domain name for the Toronto Star newspaper (*thestar.com*). IPFingerPrint found this domain really belongs to <http://toronto.com>, and pinpointed two locations for this domain in metro Toronto. The best use for IPFingerPrint might be for researching on-line file download and billing sites. Certain countries are notorious for hosting fraudulent domains. <http://ipfingerprints.com/>

PriceMyRide

Here we have another Ontario based start-up service. **PriceMyRide** will show you the true cost of owning and operating a vehicle. You must input information about your current vehicle, and the one you plan to buy or lease.

The site has already built in a lot of data regarding insurance costs, fuel usage, resale value, as well as financing options. Maintenance costs are coming soon. You will be presented with the final “all-in” cost for the chosen new/used vehicle (minus optional trade-in). Fine tune the details with a slider bar. (Comparing insurance quotes is one such detail.) This site hopes to become profitable by referring users to dealers and insurers. <http://pricemyride.com/>



Sortable

Waterloo, home of the Blackberry, is also home to this new “decide-before-you-buy” service. A visit to **Sortable** is a must for those in the market for a new TV, phone, camera, tablet or laptop. Real people review and itemize product features, while an algorithm sorts the best choice for you, based on your preferred set of features. If you’d rather see side by side comparisons of products, Sortable accommodates. Registered users (in particular, those who know a lot about these products) may add directly to the database. And, since price is such an important factor, a price slider bar sets the maximum price you are willing to pay, and presents only products below that price. I asked for the best camera under \$500. Sortable presented the highest scoring camera – a *Panasonic Lumix DMC-LX3* – along with a list of other camera choices with poorer scores. It also gave me many more options for modifying the search – beyond just the price. I selected a better zoom feature. Sortable changed its recommendation to a *Canon Powershot SX40*. <http://sortable.com/>



SafePlug

Although making a safer wall outlet has been this company’s main object in the past, a new SafePlug Smart Energy device is coming soon. This new wall receptacle measures the energy usage of each appliance, and turns them off when not needed. The SafePlug, by itself, is able to protect against fires, shock and electrical faults. It simply plugs into a normal duplex and will not deliver power until certain conditions are met. One of those conditions is the safety of the house wiring itself. Another condition:– each plug must be equipped with a slip-on label that is subsequently read by the SafePlug when the device is plugged into the receptacle. Power is delivered according to the wattage demands allowed by the special label for that device. Only then, will electricity flow to the appliance. <http://www.safeplug.com/>



Tobii Gaze (aka PCEye)

At \$7000, this eye tracking device is still worth it for those who cannot (or should not) control a computer with any other input methods. Medical screens could stay touch free; hence, germ free. By staring at, blinking, and moving one’s eyes, cursor movements and selections can be made, along with help from a touch pad, if needed. The Gaze input panel can be attached just below a monitor, which then (like a mouse) is plugged into a USB port. Additional driver software must be installed. The high resolution cameras inside Gaze are used to track eye movements no matter what the eye colour or lighting conditions happen to be. Since this device has its own internal processor, computer performance is not impacted. When used with Windows8’s large tiles, eye movements are able to find and control them easily. Gamers claim that Gaze is almost able to read their minds. <http://www.tobii.com/gaze-interaction>



Leonar3do

Leonar3do is a virtual 3D modeling kit. Instead of inputting with a mouse, the developers have designed a special device they've named, the "Bird". Projections on the Bird allow video receivers to sense various movements in space. Buttons on the Bird actuate virtual drawing in space... extruding... rotating... colouring... texturizing... etc. But, for a user to see actually see these models in realtime, realistic 3D, the kit also includes a set of 3D goggles. This way, head movements are tracked, causing the 3D model to make matching perspective movements. To understand the amazing power of Leonar3do, check out their demo videos. Since their SDK is made available to programmers, it is hoped that Leo API will be incorporated into lots of existing design software, and even some entirely new apps. <http://leonar3do.com/>

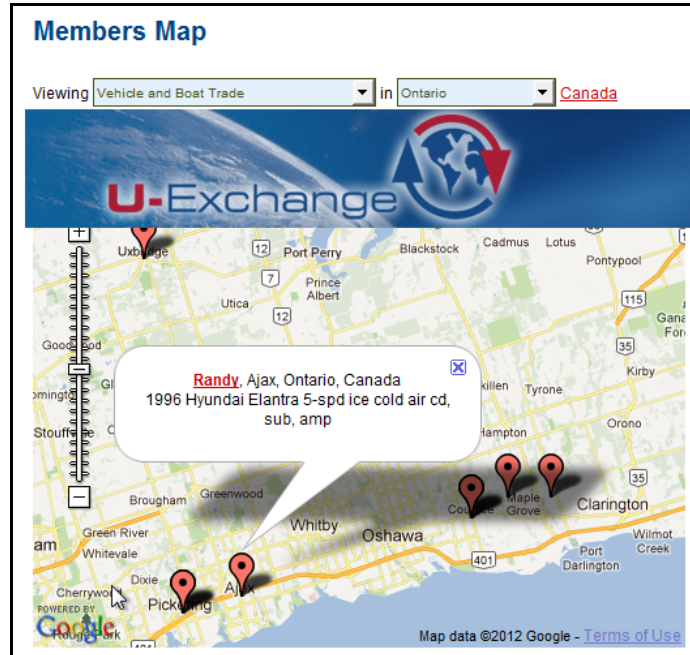


Cocoon

This Firefox add-on becomes your security blanket while on the Web – an important concern now that Google, Facebook, Live, and Twitter facilitate more ways to invade ones privacy. Cocoon employs many techniques. For example, if a site demands a valid email address, Cocoon provides a temporary account. Encryption of data over the Cacocon network, along with their proxy servers, ensures that no one learns your IP address. This is particularly important when using wireless service in a public area. Also, your browsing history is relocated to your Cocoon account and is not kept on any computer you may have used while surfing. While connected through Cocoon, users are fully protected against viruses and Trojans, or any other methods attempting to invade your computer. <https://getcocoon.com/>



U-Exchange



At U-Exchange, you may swap goods and services, locally or internationally. Members describe what they have to offer and what they wish to gain by a swap. Not only can you barter objects and services, you can also trade houses on a permanent or temporary basis. This is ideal for those seeking accommodation during extended vacations. The most popular countries are USA, UK, Canada and Australia. For those who wish to see where traders are located, a Google map marks each listing with a descriptive pin. Choosing the list view (rather than the map view) puts the most recent postings first. Here's an example: *Sault Saint Marie resident is offering home made chicken soup and minor clothing alterations in exchange for the services of an electrician.* Members can post up to three photos with each listing. It's all free (ad supported). <http://www.u-exchange.com/>

Magic Frog Pad



Yes, "Pad" suggests Apple! As a PC Club, we avoid referring to such products. But, since a PC version is forthcoming, and since the Magic Frog Pad is such a important development, why not cover it? What you see here is an Apple Trackpad with a Qwerty alternative, thin, plastic, overlay. The Trackpad normally functions like a large multi-touch glide pad. When the Frog Pad icon is activated, additional software takes over, making the Trackpad into a **one-handed keyboard**. After watching the video tutorial, I think it would be an easy skill to learn. For left-handers may use a reverse overlay. Pre-orders for the Mac version are \$100. An upcoming Bluetooth version will be \$140 (USD). <http://www.frogpad.com/>

Linux in the News

by Alex Morrison



From: <http://laxer.com/> & <http://www.linuxtoday.com/> & <http://www.linuxinsider.com/>

[Miro Internet TV: Internet TV for Ubuntu Desktop](#)

Linuxaria: "Miro, first launched in 2005 then revamped in 2007 (it was first launched as Democracy Player), is written in Python."

[Webopedia Term of the day: What is Linux Mint?](#)

Webopedia: "Linux Mint users can select the GNOME 3 environment with the option of two new GNOME 3-based desktop environments -- Cinnamon and Mint GNOME Shell Extensions (MGSE) -- or they can choose the GNOME 2-based MATE environment."

[Command-line programs for everyday use in Linux](#)

I must admit, I'm a command line geek. Whenever I have the chance, regardless of desktop environment or distribution, I open a terminal and start fiddling something. This does not mean everyone must be like me, of course. If you're the person who is mouse and GUI-oriented, no problems. However, there are situations when all you have at your disposal for a while is the command line. One of those situations might be an upgrade of your kernel/graphics drivers that leave you high and dry until the bug is reported and the developers look at the issue. You have to send a very important e-mail or you have to check the evolution of prices of your favorite laptop. All the essential desktop tasks (with some exceptions, though) that you do on a GUI-enabled machine can be done on a CLI-only machine as well, so if you're interested...

- [Full story](#) [Read more](#)

Linux Software – WordPress

- By Alex Morrison



Would you like to develop your own web page? Do you have the required skills? Getting started is EASY!

After the recent excellent presentation about WordPress [by Aaran Duncan and Glenn McKnight] and a few illustrations of what it is able to do I thought I would see how hard it would be to get it working using Linux.

Thanks to the presentation I heard about a utility called XAMPP. XAMPP is a tool to allow you to set up a virtual Apache Server and add SQL and PHP support as well. XAMPP works on Mac, Windows and Linux.

Here are the steps I took to set up WordPress using Linux. I will use my name in the examples when typing commands. I was using OpenSUSE when setting up XAMPP and WordPress. Ubuntu users need to add “sudo” to the commands.

1: Download XAMPP for Linux. [http://sourceforge.net/projects/xampp/files/XAMPP Linux/1.7.7/](http://sourceforge.net/projects/xampp/files/XAMPP%20Linux/1.7.7/)

The download called → xampp-linux-1.7.7.tar.gz is the one to use.

2: Open a terminal/konsole window and log on as root by typing su and pressing ENTER and your root password. If you downloaded XAMPP using Firefox the file would be in the user's Downloads folder.

Type → cd/home/alex/Downloads in order to get to the Downloads folder after you have logged on as the root user. Type this command to extract the folder to the correct place → tar xvfz xampp-linux-1.7.7.tar.gz -C /opt

3: To test the install Type → /opt/lampp/lampp start

If it worked you will see a response like this

```
Starting XAMPP 1.7.7...
LAMP: Starting Apache...
LAMP: Starting MySQL...
LAMP started.
```

4: Open Firefox and try this link → <http://localhost/>

The LAMP web page on your local server will open if everything worked.

5: Now we need to set up the security for our installation of XAMPP Type → /opt/lampp/lampp security

You will be prompted to enter all of the required passwords. Type ‘yes’ each time when asked and type a password. When finished you will have the security requirements completed.

6: Now we will install WordPress. Download the latest WordPress from here →

<http://linux.softpedia.com/progDownload/WordPress-Download-2119.html> Click the “tar.gz” download arrow.

7: Now we need to extract the downloaded WordPress file to the LAMP server folder.

We should still be in the konsole session as root [unless you closed it]. If you closed the konsole follow step 2 to get to the Downloads folder as root again.

Type → tar xvfz wordpress-3.3.1.tar.gz -C /opt/lampp/htdocs/ This will extract WordPress to the correct location.

8: Now we need to edit a file. In the root konsole Type → dolphin

Browse to here → /opt/lampp/htdocs/wordpress/

9: Find the file called wp-config-sample.php and rename it as wp-config.php

10: Now right mouse click on wp-config.php and select to open the file using kwrite.

11: Look for the lines below and modify them as shown.

A: `define('DB_NAME', 'putyourdbnamehere');` **change it to** `define('DB_NAME', 'mywork');`

B: `define('DB_USER', 'usernamehere');` **change it to** `define('DB_USER', 'root');`

C: `define('DB_PASSWORD', 'yourpasswordhere');` **change it to** `define('DB_PASSWORD', '??????');`
Use the password you like where I put ????????

12: Now open Firefox and go to → <http://localhost/phpmyadmin>

The first user name is lampp and the password is what you entered in step 5.

The second user name is root and the password is again from step 5.

13: When the admin window open in Firefox click on the Databases tab and type in a new Database name “mywork”
Click Create to set it up.

14: Now in Firefox go to <http://localhost/wordpress> and you will be prompted to continue the Wordpress setup.
Fill in the spaces in the example [I used DPCUC and set a password and put in an email address]
Lastly Press “Install WordPress”

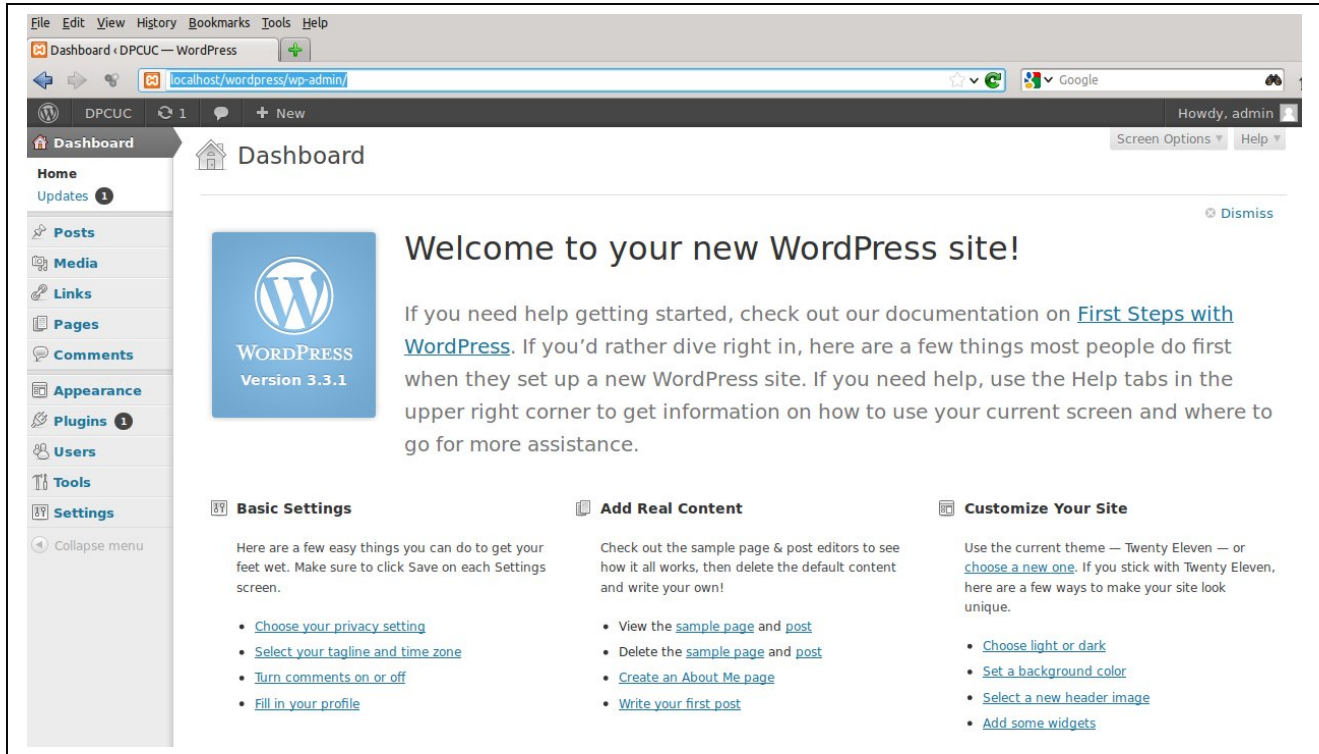
The screenshot shows the 'Information needed' form for WordPress installation. It includes fields for Site Title (DPCUC), Username (admin), Password (twice, with a strength indicator set to Medium), and Your E-mail (dpcuc@teksavvy.com). There is a checkbox for 'Privacy' and an 'Install WordPress' button at the bottom.

This page should appear.

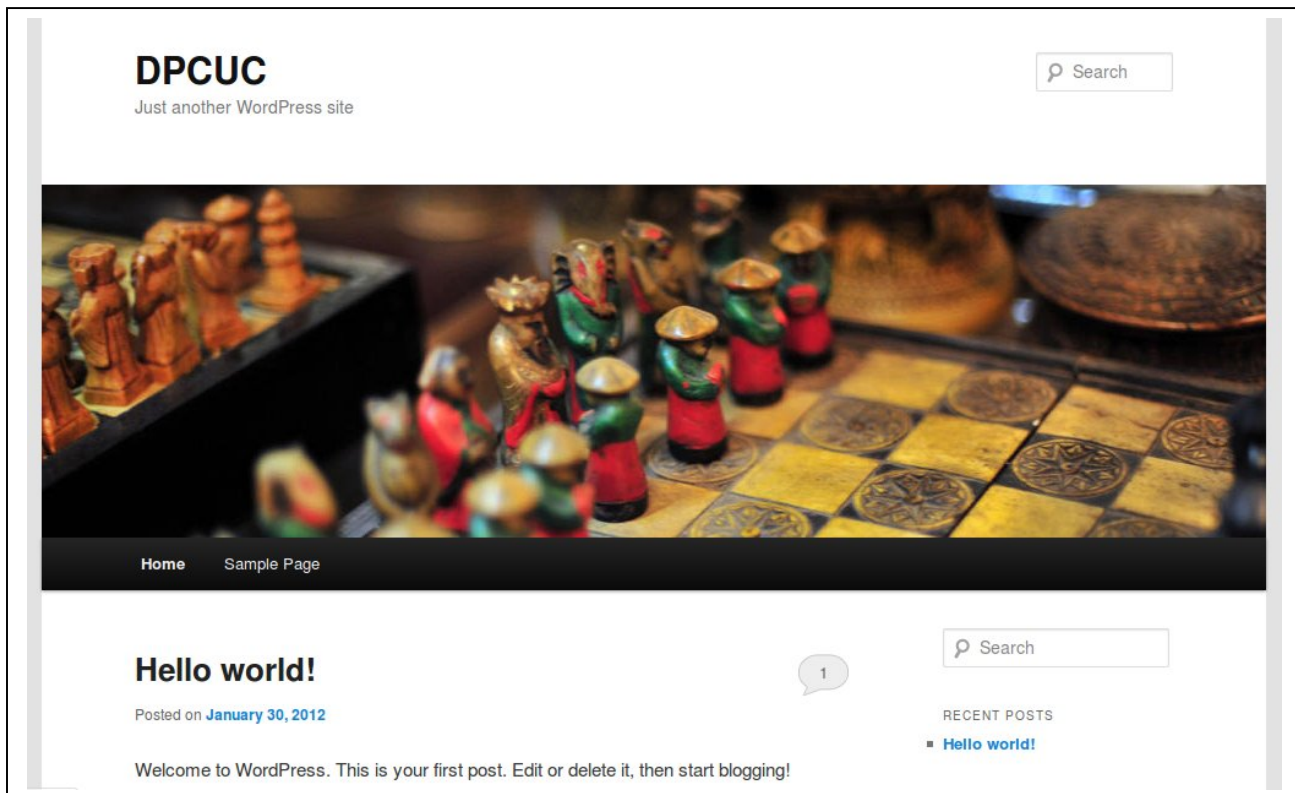
Click the button “Log In”

The screenshot shows the 'Success!' page after WordPress installation. It displays the WordPress logo and the text 'WordPress has been installed. Were you expecting more steps? Sorry to disappoint.' Below this, it shows the Username (admin) and Password (Your chosen password.) with a 'Log In' button at the bottom.

15: After clicking the “Log In” button we see the admin screen.
Here we are able to make changes to our WordPress web site.



16: Now here is a portion of the sample page that was created by default during the installation.



This is a very easy way to get started on building a web page. Hope all the Linux users try it out!

Sudoku

For January 2012

- By Alex Morrison



Sudoku

The game board on the left was produced using **KSUDOKU** on Kubuntu 11.10 64 Bit.

The objective is to fill in the missing numbers ensuring that every 3 X 3 grid has the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats and every full column or row has the numbers 1 through 9 again with no repeats.

If you have trouble solving the puzzle just send an email to me and I will send you the solution.

Have fun! Alex

December Presentation Photos

-Photos By Farncomb LeGresley



Glenn



Aaran

WordPress is the world's most popular blogging software with over 50 million websites using WordPress for content management.

Aaran Duncan, winner of the Best WordPress designer site at WordCamp 2009, along with Glenn McKnight, demonstrated the features and benefits of using WordPress and some of the key elements to enhance a website's popularity on the Internet.

<http://www.slideshare.net/DurhamPCusers/durham-pcusergrouppresentation2>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS {SIG's}

Special Interest Groups are for members only.

SIG's are really free monthly seminars with question and answer sessions following the presentation(s)

Members of SIG's enjoy a feeling of community and share common goals and interests.

Most SIG's are informal and members who attend them set the agenda for the meeting based on their own needs.

New ideas for SIG groups are welcome.

Special Interest Groups

Details

BEGINNER

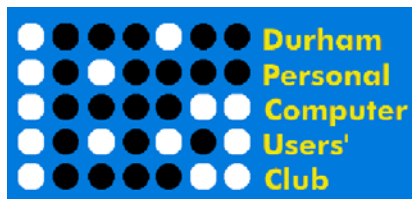
Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: Call for Location
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 3rd Thursday of month 7:00 PM

LINUX
Durham Linux User Group

Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: Call for Location
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 1st Thursday of month 7:30 PM

Digital Camera Group

Co-ordinator: Jim Desormeaux
Location: Faith Place, 44 William St, Oshawa
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30PM



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2011-2012

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HOME PAGE --- <http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/>

Newsletter
Information

PC Monitor is the official publication of the Durham Personal Computer Users' Club and is published monthly at Oshawa, Ontario. The DPCUC mailing address is PO Box 2463, Oshawa, ON L1H 7V7. The PC Monitor cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies in the content, although efforts will be made to publish information accurately.

The deadline for articles and information is 10 days following the monthly meeting. Late submissions may not be published due to tight schedules. Submit articles by email to the editor at alexmor@internet.look.ca. Articles should be submitted in either Word or WordPerfect using Times New Roman as the preferred Font.