

DPCUC General Meeting

Our Club meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month.  
All meetings are currently held using Zoom.

We hope some day in the future to be able to meet in person again.

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

Email Types and Email Software

by Anne Delong and others

On ZOOM – Thursday, Aug 8 2024, 7:00PM

# FYI

- By Dan Delong

## Tattle Tale Cars Are Coming

Actually, most cars already reveal incriminating data (after an emergency) by revealing speed, acceleration, steering, and braking data from the OBD2 port. In addition, some insurance companies reduce premiums for customers who install a customized dongle into the OBD2 port, which can inform about safe vs. unsafe driving habits. At least one American car manufacturer is hinting at a further step... the ability to detect other unsafe drivers, in real time (via 360 degree cameras) and send proof to nearby police cars, so they can apprehend offenders more quickly. The primary target is speeders. But, what threshold determines speeding? In some countries, tickets are issued by radar cameras for as little as a few mph over.

<https://supercarblondie.com/ford-tech-would-tell-cops-if-someone-speeds/>

<https://www.f150gen14.com/forum/threads/ford-pass-app-360-cameras.3611/>

## Vespa Elettrica

Vespa now sells this 72kph bike (faster than a 32kph e-bike) for about \$10,000, in Canada. At that speed, it is not suitable for many highways. The 4.2kWh battery should last for 62 hours. Extra carrying racks and a second seat backrest are options. Riders will need a helmet, motorcycle license, bike license, and insurance.



Details are here - <https://www.vespatorontowest.com/service/general-terms-conditions/>

*[400 series highways require at least 250cc engines.]*

*[Vespa started scooter production in 1946, selling over 60,000 in 1950 alone.]*

<https://storeusa.vespa.com/elettrica/vespa-elettrica-45-mph.aspx>

## HDMI Cables Leak Data

Club member, Dave O., alerted us to espionage attempts related to EM pulses that radiate from HDMI cables. AI has been used to interpret text characters travelling along such cables, with an accuracy of 70%. Passwords for office workers and home workers may not be safe, if they use UN-shielded HDMI cables.

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/2413156/hackers-can-wirelessly-watch-your-screen-via-hdmi-radiation.html>

## Dual Monitor Stand with Storage

Monitor stands, like this, lift the monitor(s) a little higher, without needing to remove the existing table stand from the base of the monitor(s), as would be required for mounting on articulating arms. The empty space under it makes for a great organizer, and a place for small device storage [\$45 CAD]. Similar stands are available for single monitors.

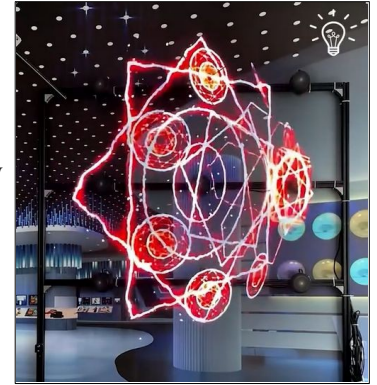


<https://www.amazon.ca/Simple-Houseware-Monitor-Stand-Drawer/dp/B0BS9RB6J7>

## 3-D Holograms—De-mystified

Warren Lee is a YouTuber who explains, and reviews, technology. In this (2-year old) video, he explains how 3-D coloured holograms are created by LED ‘fan’ blades, programmed via Wi-Fi. He also explains why the higher quality fans do a much better job. If you haven’t yet seen other video examples of 3-D holographic displays, especially the larger displays (using multiple interconnected fans) the YouTube sidebar should suggest many other examples.

*[Warren Lee’s video camera did not synchronize well with the fan speed, so you will see some ‘propeller’ effects.]* However, for those on Facebook, this other example (below) is highly impressive.



<https://www.facebook.com/BeePaintings>

[https://youtu.be/9H-f7PG\\_p48](https://youtu.be/9H-f7PG_p48)

Another 12 minute YouTube video collates all known holographic methods into a countdown..

<https://youtu.be/ikuSPBZjkhw>

## SSDs in High Demand

**Hynix**, a South Korean manufacturer of solid state drives, nearly doubled its shipments this year (to accommodate AI and data centre demand). These drives store vast quantities of quickly accessed data. When installed in data centres, in large numbers (along with GPUs and CPUs) they also require vast quantities of electricity—to the point that some cities in the States are feeling the ‘pinch’.

<https://www.tweaktown.com/news/99629/sk-hynix-exports-of-ssds-rose-84-in-1h-2024-big-increases-for-ai-data-centers/index.html>

By 2025, Hynix will ship SSDs that are even faster, as the company works on introducing more layers to their devices.

<https://www.tweaktown.com/news/99644/sk-hynix-says-hbm3e-expected-to-make-up-more-than-half-of-hbm-shipments-in-2024/index.html>

## Potassium Silicate in Solid State Batteries

Although ‘dry’ lithium is now used for some solid state batteries, they are, as with conventional ‘wet’ lithium batteries, sensitive to moisture, both during production and after final manufacture. A post doctorate researcher at **Denmark Technical Institute**, has carried out some promising research using **potassium silicate**, instead of lithium. If this pans out, a readily available replacement for lithium, with no hindrance to stability during and after production, may be installed in the next wave of electric cars. Perhaps this is a far out claim, but such batteries may gain enough charge in ten minutes to provide 1000 km of travel.

<https://forecourtrader.co.uk/latest-news/danish-researcher-patents-new-material-that-could-replace-lithium/693651.article>

Wikipedia contributors have been updating K-Ion research at the following link.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potassium-ion\\_battery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potassium-ion_battery)

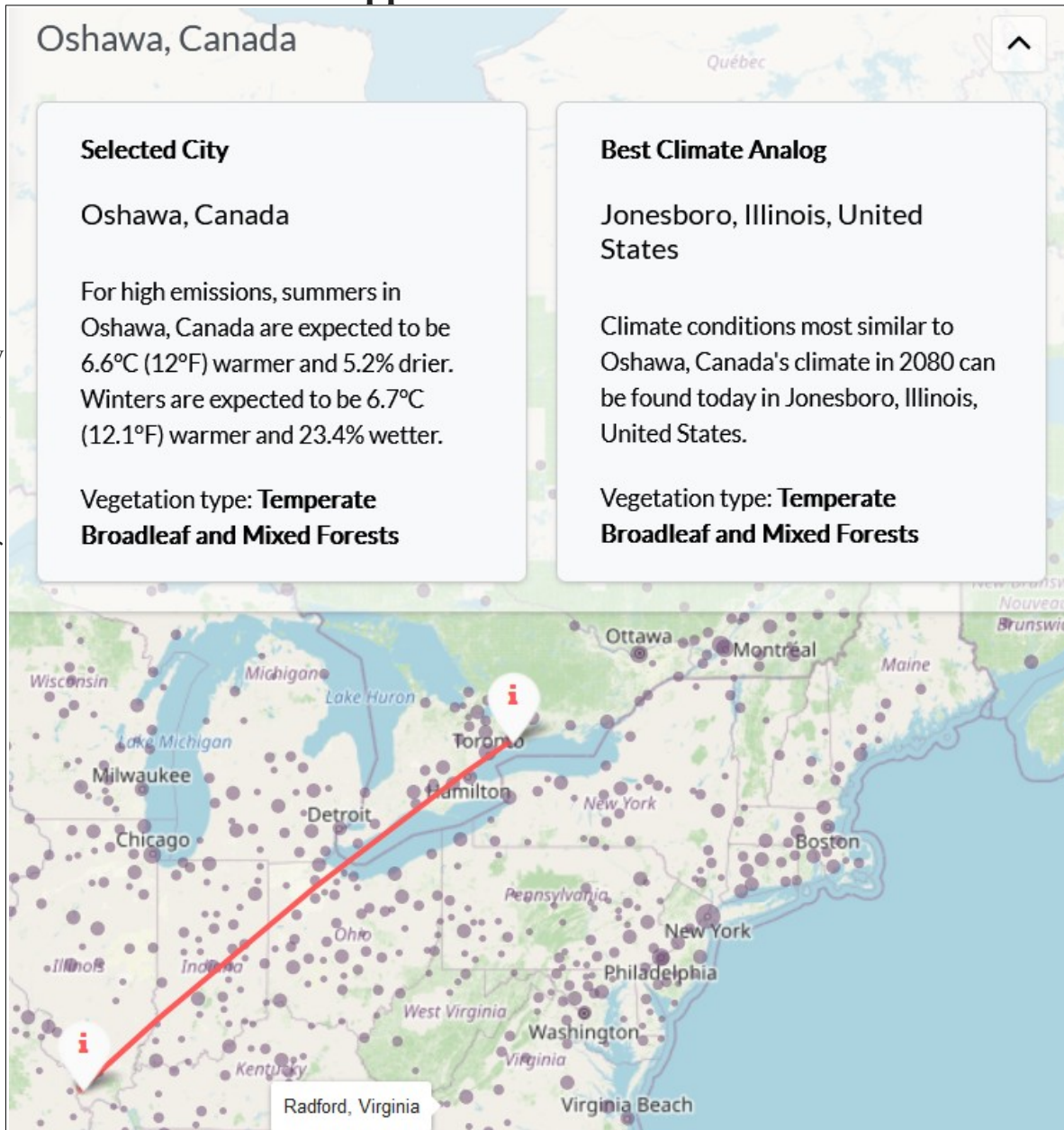
## Yoshino Solid State Power Stations

For those who wish to own a longer lasting, faster charging, and lighter, power station look into the **Yoshino** brand. *[The \$300 USD 330 watt B330 SST model is out of stock. The next model up is the \$700 USD 660 watt B660 SST model, which can power a 60 watt CPAP machine for over 8 hours.]*

<https://yoshinopower.com/>

## Future Urban Climates – new app

The place you now live in will undergo climactic changes in the future decades. If you wish to know by how much, try this predictor from a research team at the University of Maryland Center for



Environmental Science. Click on the World Map marking your current location, to be informed about expected temperature and rainfall, as well as vegetation, in the next 60 years. A change in settings will allow the prediction to re-calibrate for a world in which some effort has been made to lessen climate change. The example above shows the Oshawa will have a climate comparable to Jonesboro, Illinois.

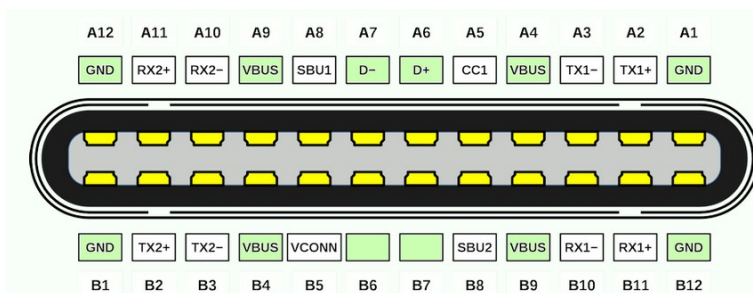
<https://fitzlab.shinyapps.io/cityapp/>



## Kim Komando is Still Publishing

Kim's latest advice concerns security of the person and of devices. Regarding phones and computers, plugging into a public recharge port may invite surreptitious installation of unwanted software. To prevent this, she advises using a cable that does not include the ability to transfer data; use one that supplies charging voltage only. *[The two outside connectors on USB cables, at least the older ones, transmit power, while the two inside connectors are for data*

*transmission. USB-C (shown) still has 'ground' on the outside, and data somewhere in the middle, again. An adapter or special cable may be needed for ultimate security.]* She also mentions a microphone blocker, a Faraday cage for car key fobs, personal safety alarms, indelible ink pens, privacy screens, and simply shredding paper documents containing name and address.



<https://www.komando.com/shopping/9-gadgets-to-keep-you-safe-and-secure/>

**Native Union** gives their charging cables lots of star ratings, but these cables could also carry data unless tested first.

<https://www.nativeunion.com/collections/eco-cables>

## Synesthesia – more details

A senior reporter at the [MIT Technology Review](#) (also a newsstand magazine) **Melissa Heikkila**, delved more deeply into Synesthesia's talking avatar business, by visiting the London, UK studio and allowing herself to become a Synesthesia avatar.

*[This happened before the July 29<sup>th</sup> showing of a totally convincing faked Kamala Harris video on X, and after the Taylor Swift deep fakes.]*

Melissa's article appears in the [July/August 2024 issue](#) of the magazine. In case your access to this link requires a subscription, I will attempt to summarize it here.

Normally, Synesthesia hires actors (225 of them, since 2020) for digital cloning. An exception was made for this reporter. Surrounded by cameras and lights, after okaying her black sweater and tidying her hair and makeup, she went through calibration movements of her eyes, head and mouth. Remember, the aim here is to create a flawless digital talking head, from the waist up. Even the tiniest limb movements and facial micro-expressions are captured. Voice capture is also done in a training session, involving a script narrated in several vocal tones. The final result is a digital persona, capable of saying just about any passage, in many languages, so convincingly that only the real person (or a very close friend) might suspect fakery. Synesthesia also watermarks content and monitors any videos produced by clients, such that terms of service violators can be cut off.

The [MIT Technology Review](#) has so much more to explore.

## Free High Speed Internet for All Kansas City Residents

Gambling tax revenue helped to pay for it, despite lots of opposition from powerful business interests and needing to dodge government policies. Finally, the citizens of Kansas City do not pay a monthly bill for Internet services, except for the one-time \$300 equipment installation fee. It is included in local taxes, like water and sewer (as it should be).

*[Peterborough City, at one time, provided free downtown Wi-Fi Internet... not sure if it still applies. However, a map of free Wi-Fi locations is available. <https://www.wifimap.io/map/513-peterborough-free-wifi/>]*

<https://thebeaconnews.org/stories/2024/07/29/north-kansas-city-free-internet-municipal-broadband/>

## Guaranteed Photo Provenance – almost



Professional photographers, in the past, retained physical possession of negatives and slides, in order to prove ownership. The Leica M11-P camera is the first to incorporate **Content Authenticity Initiative (CAI)** which embeds this proof of ownership into digital photo files, by including an encrypted thumbnail of the original image along with camera details and the name of the photographer. If the photographer edits the image in Photoshop, this ‘watermark’ information is also carried to the edited version. No one else can change it. As this feature becomes accepted by other camera makers, photo viewers and photo editors, the use of copied digital images without accreditation, will lessen. Now that PhotoShop can manipulate images with AI, a notice to that effect will also accompany the file from that point on.

*[The Leica M11 -P body, by itself, costs almost \$10,000 USD... lenses cost just as much. However, it is an amazing camera.]*

[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1792197-REG/leica\\_m11\\_p\\_rangefinder\\_camera\\_silver.html/overview](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1792197-REG/leica_m11_p_rangefinder_camera_silver.html/overview)

## Charred Vesuvius Scrolls Scanned with AI

Ancient library scrolls, baked into blackened carbon by volcanic activity, have long been inaccessible to researchers due to fragility. So far, eight hundred such scrolls have been found, with about 200 having been ruined by early attempts to unroll them. Now, X-ray tomography, a non-destructive way to look inside scrolls, along with AI, can be applied to interpreting the ancient symbols. Prize money has been offered to accelerate discovery of the contents of more Herculaneum documents. The scroll referred to in the article has uncovered the word “purple”, which has biblical significance.

[\[https://scrollprize.org/\]](https://scrollprize.org/)

<https://www.popsci.com/technology/ai-scroll-scan-vesuvius/>

## 3-D Printed Human Tissues

In the weightless environment of space, cell growth can be encouraged to retain a desired shape before transport back to Earth. An earlier mission used specialized print heads to bio-fabricate knee replacement tissue, called the meniscus. The next experiment will attempt to fabricate liver tissue that can grow its own circulatory channels.

<https://redwirespace.com/newsroom/redwire-to-test-3d-bioprinted-liver-tissue-in-space-reinforcing-the-companys-focus-on-transforming-the-future-of-organ-transplantation-on-earth/>

## Mixed Reality from Meta

The latest **Meta Quest 3** goggles are 4K and come with two hand controllers, and a 6 months trial account for games, fitness, entertainment, in addition to offers for both the premium and regular subscription services. The previous **virtual reality** version, **Meta Quest 2** goggles, are still available for \$280 CAD, while the **Quest 3 4K mixed reality** model costs \$650 CAD.



<https://www.meta.com/ca/quest/quest-3/>

## Reliable Electric Power From Space

**Caltech** researchers have proven that a satellite, equipped with solar panels to gather power, can transmit that power, via a focused microwave beam, to another satellite, or to any place on Earth. This method uses solar panels in space to collect sunlight with eight times greater efficiency, night and day. This means that power can be sent to remote locations without using wire transmission lines... in theory. Implementation may take at least a decade. The article also explains how energy beams are steered and focused, without mechanical parts.

<https://www.caltech.edu/about/news/in-a-first-caltechs-space-solar-power-demonstrator-wirelessly-transmits-power-in-space>

## Logitech Pro X 2 Lightspeed Gaming Headset

This is the first over-the-ear headset to employ **graphene** for the driver diaphragm, instead of Mylar. Distortions from drum movements are eliminated. When used wirelessly, the battery should last a couple of days. Or, plug it in, for continuous use. The price is about \$350 CAD.

<https://www.logitechg.com/en-ca/products/gaming-audio/pro-x-2-wireless-headset.981-001262.html>

## Leviton Decora Edge Duplex and Switches

Home plumbing and electrical fixture suppliers have continually improved products for **do-it-yourselfers**. Leviton has added a new item to the Decora line, calling it the “**Edge**” design. This makes installation of wall switches and duplex outlets a breeze. The Edge handles both 12 gauge and 14 gauge wire, eliminating the danger of accidental shocks with a secure and simple ‘click lever’ snap.

Home Depot is just one of the Canadian distributors carrying this product.

<https://www.homedepot.ca/search?q=leviton%20decora%20edge#!q=leviton%20decora%20edge>



## Long Covid App

The “**Visible**” app keeps track of physical symptoms consistent with **Long Covid**, so that patients can be forewarned about personal triggers that bring on over fatigue, or other causes for energy crashes. Data is accumulated by the app in order to improve accuracy and expand research. So far, about 80,000 users benefit. Indicators of Long Covid are:- breathlessness, forgetting, headaches, pain, tiredness, and difficulty thinking. Some of these are also symptoms of myalgic encephalomyelitis, or chronic fatigue syndrome, which the Visible app can help to manage as well. The free Visible app (without the wearable appliance) is still quite useful, based on reporting from users.

<https://www.makevisible.com/>

## Bambu Lab 3-D Printers

Although Canada Computers does not currently stock **Bambu Lab** printers, I noticed that the local store does stock another recommended brand, **Creality**. Tom’s Hardware made the Bambu Lab **P1P** model its Editor’s Choice... a model that is fast and can feed multi-colour strands on separate hot heads. [\$630 CAD]

<https://ca.store.bambulab.com/>





## Municipal Speed Cameras in Durham

Not only has Bowmanville (in Clarington) posted 30km speed limit signs near schools, but the Region of Durham is installing automatic speed cameras in these, and other 'safety' zones, operating even when students are not at school. This already highly taxed area of Ontario will make a 'killing' in fines, since many cameras are located on major roads, designed for faster traffic, just inviting drivers to travel at 50 km., or better.

<https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/automated-speed-enforcement.aspx>

Some current locations are:-

- |      |   |            |
|------|---|------------|
| G020 | River Street Eastbound, West of Rynard Street                       | Sunderland |
| G020 | River Street Eastbound, West of Rynard Street                       | Sunderland |
| G021 | Simcoe Street, Westbound, East of Madill Street                     | Beaverton  |
| G021 | Simcoe Street, East of Madill Street                                | Beaverton  |
| G004 | Bayly Street East, Eastbound, West of Burcher Road, Ajax            |            |
| G005 | Harmony Road North, Northbound North, of Eastbourne Avenue, Oshawa  |            |
| G006 | Regional Highway 2, Westbound, West of Darlington Boulevard, Oshawa |            |

Microsoft outages continue, up to the due date of this newsletter, in some service areas – mainly 365.

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## Free Linux Wallpaper from PCLinux [A Hobbit home]





## **Linux in the News**

by Alex Morrison



### **[PeaZip 9.9 Open-Source Archive Manager Adds Internal Drag and Drop Features](#)**

PeaZip 9.9 open-source archive manager is now available for download with internal drag and drop features, revamped task launcher GUI, and more. Here's what's new!

### **[Linux Kernel 6.9 Reaches End of Life, Users Must Upgrade to Linux Kernel 6.10](#)**

Linux kernel 6.9 reached end of life and all users are now recommended to upgrade their systems to the latest Linux 6.10 kernel series as soon as possible.

### **[First Arch Linux ISO Release Powered by Linux 6.10 Is Now Available for Download](#)**

Arch Linux 2024.08.01 is now available for download as Arch Linux's ISO release for August 2024 powered by Linux kernel 6.10 and featuring an improved installation experience.

### **[Streamline your schoolwork with Firefox's PDF editor](#)**

- The Mozilla Blog; By Gianluca Mangione (Posted by [Scott Ruecker](#) on Aug 3, 2024 11:53 AM EDT)
- Story Type: [News Story](#); Groups: [Mozilla](#)

As a student pursuing a master's degree, I've spent too much time searching for PDF editors to fill out forms, take notes and complete projects. I discovered Firefox's built-in PDF editor while interning at Mozilla as a corporate communications intern.

[Full story](#)

[Read more](#)

[0 threads and 0 posts](#)

### **[Play Classic Video Games With RetroArch on Ubuntu 24.04](#)**

In this guide, learn how to install the RetroArch emulator on Ubuntu and other Linux distributions and play your favorite classic games on your PC.

I encourage all to read the full articles on the Websites by clicking the hyperlinks in each above post!

## **DPCUC President's Notes**

**by Peter Camilleri**

You may have heard that Microsoft has been getting a lot of bad press lately. So much has gone wrong for them. Not one, but two security programs are crashing machines and causing widespread service interruptions. Then there is the awful idea of putting advertisements into the Start Menu. Ongoing is the fact that to please greedy chip makers Intel and AMD, Windows 11 has severe hardware requirements intended to force many users to waste money buying new computers in order to bolster their bottom lines.

Things are so bad that after three years, Windows 11 is *still* installed on fewer machines than Windows 10.

Despite this, Windows 10 support will end in 2025. This is cause for alarm. I don't like being alarmed or ripped off by greedy corporations.

As a result, it is hardly a surprise that a little cottage industry has sprouted up with people making videos about moving from Windows to Linux. Here are just three such recent videos:

Linux Mint 22: Excellent Distro for Windows Users

[https://youtu.be/\\_qZI6i21jB4?si=K4SiH7P0ybZXpJ5S](https://youtu.be/_qZI6i21jB4?si=K4SiH7P0ybZXpJ5S)

Should you switch to Linux from Windows? Know this first!

<https://youtu.be/8MomG-aVgkQ?si=YjxfOpSHFtJVavmb>

Linux Gaming 4 Noobs - Choosing a Distro in 2024

<https://youtu.be/byz8YPzczxg?si=ZiNME4A8u0snTVgB>

Finally, it is such a source of pain to me that the insane wars in Gaza and Ukraine continue, unabated. Pray for Peace.

Peter Camilleri, President DPCUC.

## Linux – Kodo



Kodo is a simple but useful ebook reader and ebook organizer.

If you download ebooks of any form for your ebook reader [kobo or kindle for example] you will not need Kodo.

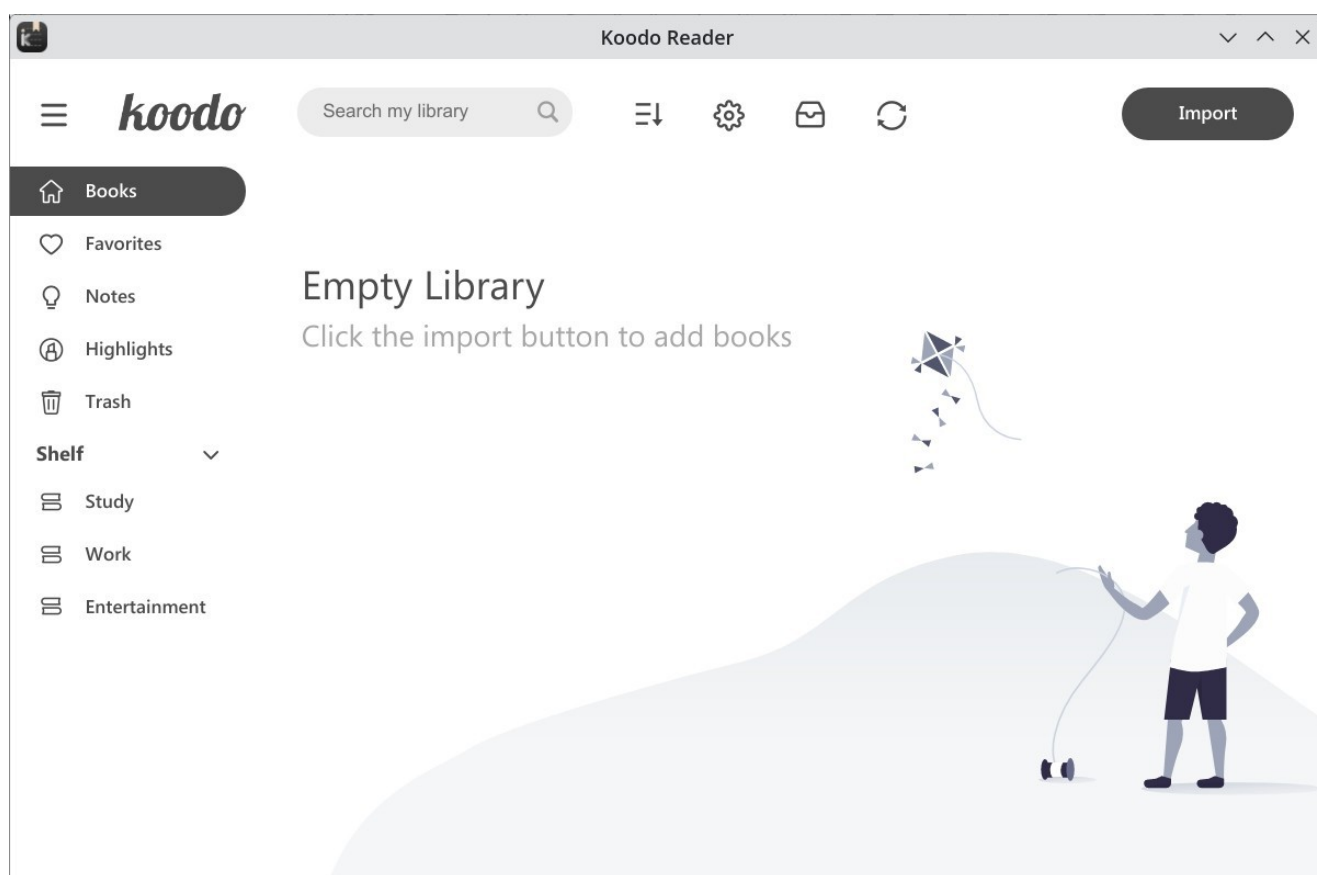
But not everyone has an ebook reader. This article is for people who do not own an ebook reader.

The easiest way to read the books on your computer is with Kodo.

Kodo is in the repository of most Linux systems.

Kodo is also available here for other systems. ---> <https://www.kodoreader.com/en>

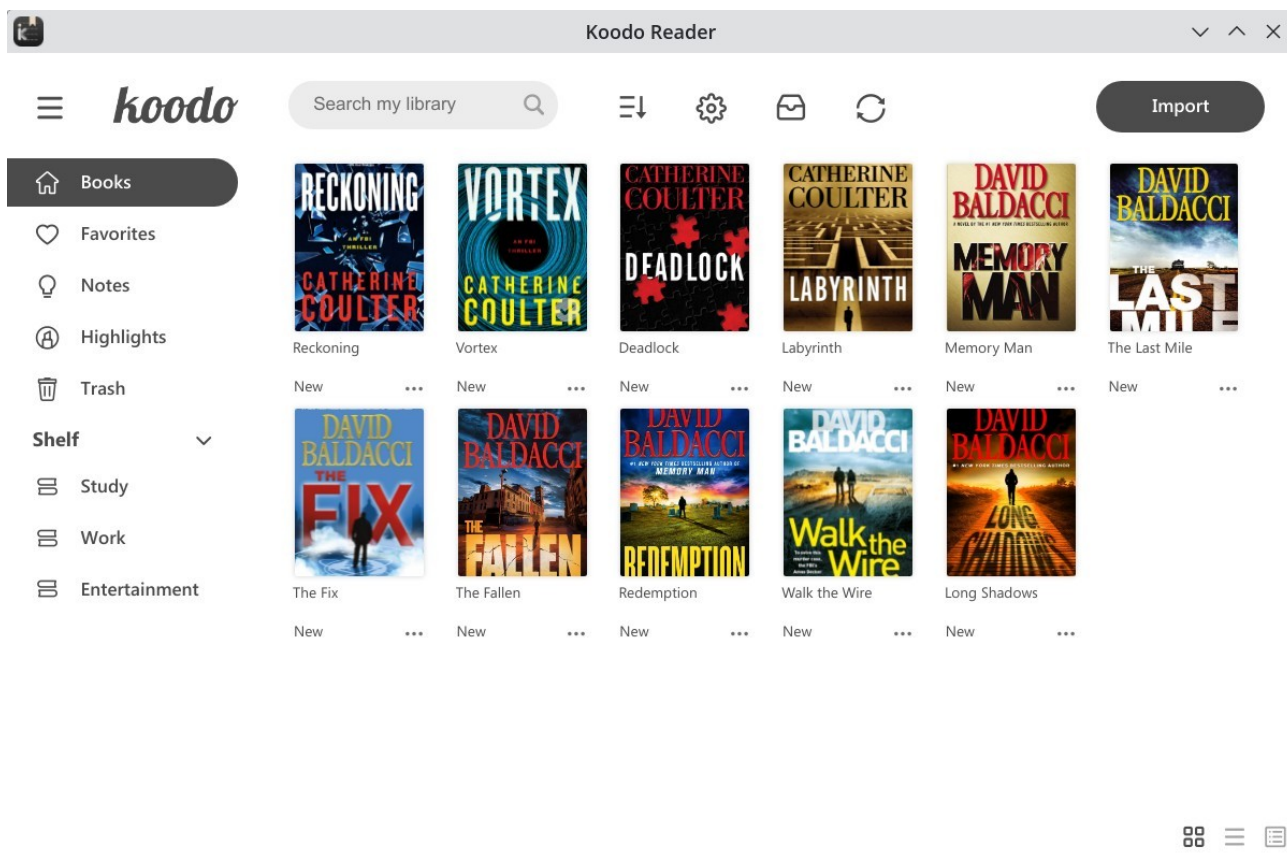
This is what Kodo looks like when first opened.



Just click on the Import button to bring 1 or more ebooks into your library.

I clicked on 2 different Authors that I like to read [from my folder where I store ebooks] and added them to Kodo.

The image below shows the result of importing the books. They all now are listed in the sections called Books.



When you Right Mouse click on any book brings up several options including Add to an existing Shelf or a New Shelf of your naming.

When you put a book in a Shelf it is like an index card in a Library. The book will show there and can be deleted at any time. The book in either case will still be listed in the Books category as that contains all the Books you imported. Any books imported can also be deleted to remove them from Koodo without actually deleting them from your PC.

When you left mouse click on any Book in Koodo from any Shelf position it will open the book for you. See the next image for a book that Koodo opened.

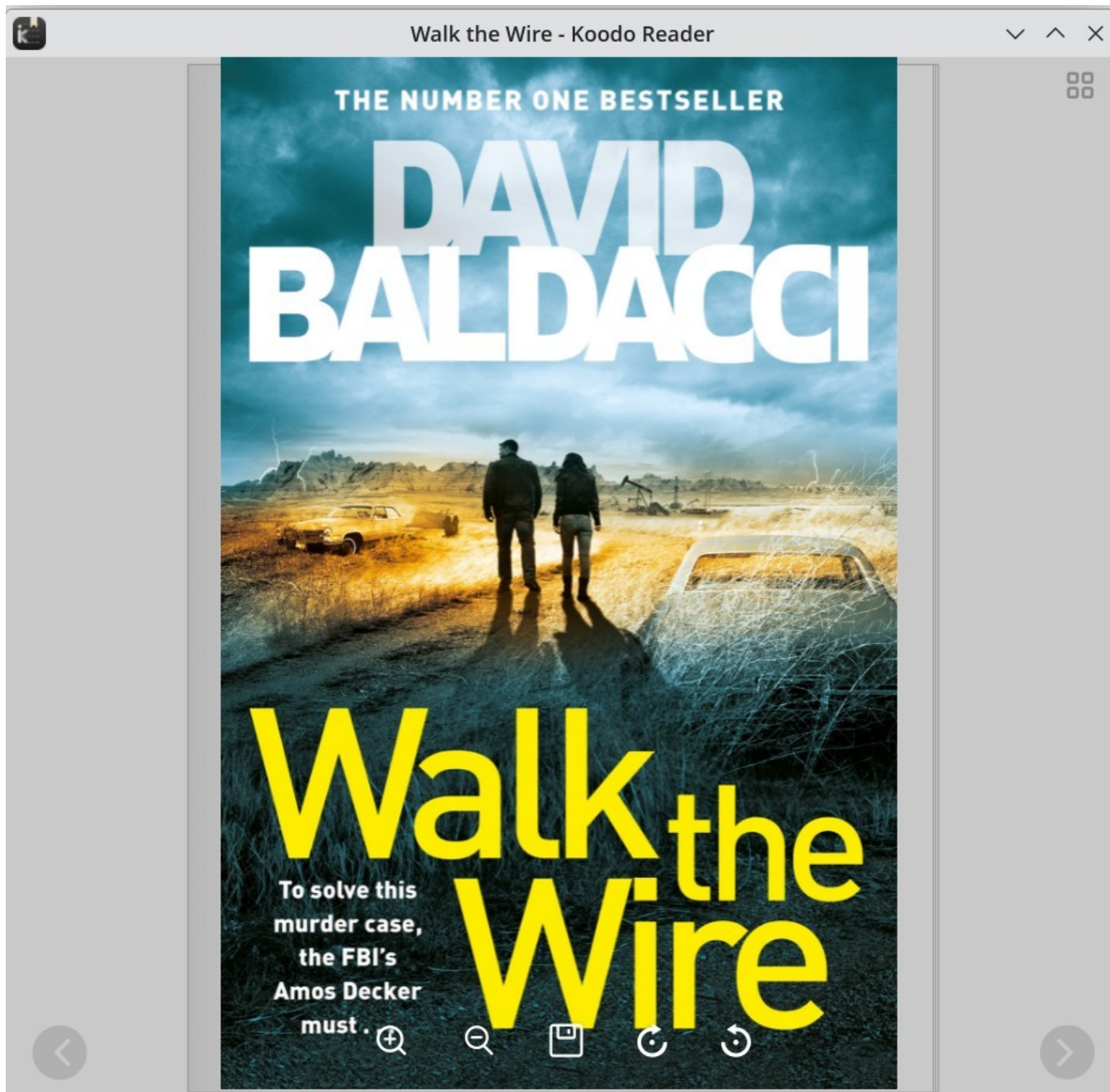
When a book is open moving the mouse to the top bottom or side of Koodo brings up more menu items.

The left side shows chapters, The right side shows page layout[1 or 2 pages at a time] and font options [colour and size].

Top and bottom show minor options.

Koodo is very easy to customize!





Koodo is an excellent ebook reader designed for a PC! Now go ahead and borrow ebooks from your local library and enjoy them on your PC!

# Sudoku

Aug 2024

by Alex Morrison



## EASY

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

## Sudoku

The game boards on this page were produced using **Sudoku** on MxLinux 64 Bit running KDE Plasma.

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 troubles solving the puzzles send an email to me and I will send you the solution.

Have fun! Alex

## MED

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

## HARD

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

If you don't Like Sudoku puzzles – try these pages

<https://www.boatloadpuzzles.com/playcrossword>

<http://www.freegames.net/puzzle-games.html>

<https://www.cryptograms.org/play.php>

## 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

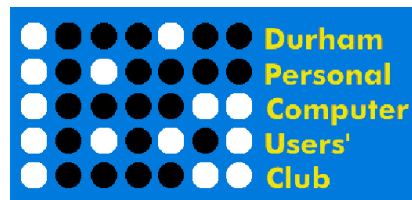
#### Durham Linux User Groups

**Coordinator: Ed Goudge**

**Our Linux group meet on the first Thursday of every month.**

**All meetings are currently held using Zoom.**

**We hope some day to meet again in person.**



### DPCUC EXECUTIVE

**2022-2023**

<b>President</b>	<b>Peter Camilleri</b>	<a href="mailto:peter.c.camilleri@gmail.com">peter.c.camilleri@gmail.com</a>	289-928-1579
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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 [dpcuc@live.com](mailto:dpcuc@live.com)

The PC Monitor cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies in the content, although efforts will be made to publish information accurately.