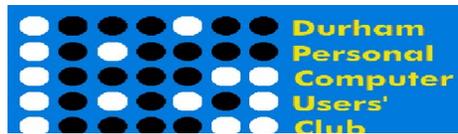


Nov 2025

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



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

Linux – Origin to Today

by Ken Dugdale

Thursday, Nov 9 2025, 7:00 PM

FYI

- By Dan Delong

SearXNG – free, collaborative, meta-search (private)

SearXNG is a free and open-source metasearch engine, forked from, and a continuation of, Searx. SearXNG supports hundreds of search engines. Similar to Searx, it does not collect information about users. This program comes along just in time to take advantage in the surge of Linux users, after loss of support from Microsoft for many Win10 users. SearXNG is a **Linux only install**, at this time. *[Although I did not install it, I does appear that those who do will become part of a collective.]*

<https://docs.searxng.org/>

ZDNET User Found 9 Win11 problems

Jack Wallen, an experienced Linux user, tried Win 11. His disillusionment with Windows 11 is based on a number of accounts – some major... some trivial. He's tried them all (Linux versions) and currently prefers [AnduinOS](#) and [Zorin](#).
<https://www.zdnet.com/article/i-ditched-linux-for-windows-11-for-one-week-and-found-9-big-problems>

Science Fiction Becomes Reality.



Although these details (researched by Peter Kazansky of the University of Southampton) were published three years ago, they must have flown under the radar of public media channels. Decades ago, televised sci-fi shows imagined huge memory archives, stored in coloured glass wafers – i.e.:- **Physical Optics**. The claim of this research are similar to concepts on TV, in that glass disks (small enough to fit in a hand) can hold **360 Terabytes** of data for **billions of years**. This further involves, fast lasers and quantum physics.

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/research/highlights/fitting-an-entire-library-into-the-palm-of-your-hand>

Google's Willow Quantum Chip Computer

Quantum computers have suffered from poor error checking, until now. Google began testing an algorithm to lessen errors considerably. This makes possible much faster (at least 10^3 times faster) discoveries in medical technology, at the molecular level.

<https://blog.google/technology/research/quantum-echoes-willow-verifiable-quantum-advantage/>

It May Look Like Mind Reading, But It's Not.

Thoughts becoming **text output** may appear to be mind reading, but MIT researcher, Arnav Kapur says it is not. A headset, called “**Alter Ego**”, uses AI to interpret thoughts that normally control the tongue and larynx into, not “speech,” but text. The body’s physical internal speech mechanisms are “sensed” by Alter Ego, resulting in text output of whatever the wearer would have said, had the person initiated actual speech.

[I see the need for a word filter here!]

<https://www.media.mit.edu/articles/watch-this-device-translate-silent-thoughts-into-speech/>

New Cooling Method

We’ve all heard about electro-magnetic fields, mainly for electric motors. But, the term “**electro-chemical**” is a new one. This new cooling method is call “**ionocaloric cooling**”, and it could replace the current evaporative/liquid cooling cycle, helping to lessen environmental harms.

[This method is still called a “cycle”, but uses ions to encourage release of heat, making it viable for both heating and cooling.]

<https://www.sciencealert.com/scientists-invented-an-entirely-new-way-to-refrigerate>

MouthPad by Augmental

In order to help the hundreds of thousands of people who are severely disabled through a degree of paralysis, the **MouthPad** allows them to control a computer, similar to using fingers on a glide pad, but with a greater precision, just from tongue touches. Its developers consider the tongue to be a discerning “finger”, such that the electrical contacts on this device can be accurately selected. The MouthPad looks like a mouth guard, custom made for each individual, to fit comfortably in the roof of the mouth. It looks like a plastic night guard, so frequently recommended by dentists for the patients they call “grinders”, but with embedded electronic touch points and channels – and a battery. When switched ON, it connects wirelessly to a smart phones and/or a computers.

<https://www.augmental.tech/>

Bob Marley Project

Although he died in 1981, aged 36, Marley’s name is now appearing on a line of audio products and accessories that claim to be environmentally conscious – in that, the project finances tree planting, uses recycled plastic, and consists of recyclable metals, like aluminum. Canadian buyers, who can ‘get past’ concern over its American business origins, might be impressed by such devices. One recent addition to the brand is a turntable, called the “**House of Marley Soul Rebel**”, which adds under plinth mood lighting and two-way Bluetooth.

<https://thehouseofmarley.com/en-ca/>

400GB/second for Data centres

While still sticking with **silicon** and its photonic properties, data centre speeds may reach 400GB/s per channel soon. Data flow both between, and within, data centres, at these rates, would enhance AI performance and development. It might also help reduce electric power consumption.

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/optical-interconnects-imec-silicon-photonics>

Dell Pro Max Series

These Dell computers are meant to handle the most demanding chores, crunching data at a rate of up to trillions of operations per second, while holding 200Billion parameters in memory (in 128GB of RAM for the GB10 model). Form factors vary from desktop (both full-sized cases to slim cases) and laptops. Prices go up with performance specifications, from about \$2500CAD to \$6400CAD.

<https://www.dell.com/en-ca/plcp/lp/dell-pro-max-pcs>

A Truckle???

Yes, it does have something to do with trucks, more specifically **Ford 150 trucks**, now entering the 50th year of production. A Truckle is a Western style belt buckle that holds and conceals the key fob for Ford trucks, from 2018 up. Although such metal buckle containers may sometimes interfere with signals, when fobs are stored this way, it leaves hands free for loading/unloading. Truckle users will no longer be able to leave the fob in the truck before locking it.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rihySq7g_K4]

<https://www.rvtravel.com/fords-gadget-odd-youll-lose-key-fob-1232/>



MRAM Would Be Very Fast.

Hebrew University researchers found that highly precise lasers can influence the magnetic properties of nano particles in a solid. This magneto-optic paring could make RAM both bigger, and faster. This is an unexpected outcome of ‘**Spintronics Labs**’, of which there are many in the World – all looking at ways to manage sub-atomic quantum behaviours in a search for new uses. This is another beneficial outcome of pure applied research. [Waterloo University](#) has such a research lab group.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/a69164560/mram-discovery-computing>

AI tends to Pull In Fringe Links

When AI answers a query, it first grabs words from its own trained data. If the query wants more details, especially if the query contains an ambiguous term, the extra data has to come from somewhere, which, often, is sourced from less popular websites. This can lead to erroneous information, but not always. Even when restricting itself to top Google links, the results may still be erroneous, as top links tend to be sponsored/paid links.

<https://www.techspot.com/news/110039-researchers-find-ai-search-pulls-internet-fringes-not.html>

Really Tiny Pixels

What are smaller pixels good for? As screen resolution refinements bring us 8K televisions (some are going for 16K) viewers cannot distinguish separate pixels when viewing from a normal distance. Yes, putting ‘nose-to-screen’ may make separate pixels visible; but this is overkill, for most viewers. Manufacturers are realizing this. However, one developer has found a way to make single-colour pixels so small that the same number of pixels, that make up a full HD screen (1920px1080p) would fit onto a screen only one millimetre square. This finest level of detail could only be used for one endeavour, and that is, most likely, for projecting onto the inside surface of mixed reality glasses.

<https://www.techspot.com/news/110024-scientists-shrink-light-create-tiniest-pixel-ever.html>

Many Browser Address Bars To Get Ads

Firefox has offered contextual/smart suggestions in the address bar, for a few years now. Other browsers will join Firefox in offering AI suggestions, based on past browsing patterns, as you type. Unfortunately, some will be sponsored ads. *[Nothing is free forever.]*

<https://www.theverge.com/2021/10/7/22715179/firefox-suggest-search-ads-browser>

Mico Replaces Clippy

Clippy, from decades ago – Microsoft's anthropomorphic assistant – was not well received by users. **Mico**, with the aid of AI, might fair better, because it can 'morph' depending on the user's mood or task. YouTube has a [review of Mico](#).

[Mico-pilot, the Microsoft personal assistant, might also be described as a sycophant. Egos will be boosted.]

https://www.thestar.com/news/world/microsoft-hopes-mico-succeeds-where-clippy-failed-as-tech-companies-warily-imbue-ai-with-personality/article_ffa902c1-fa58-57bd-8db3-755c461898ea.html

Bio-security/Cybersecurity at Microsoft Research

There are two security threats (bio and cyber); they are connected. Microsoft, initially, looked at the only the biological threat (of DNA manipulation) because it is now possible to manufacture biological proteins, that mimic other proteins, that are a threat to life – just as digital viruses are a threat to Cybersecurity. Biologists were able to create a filter, preventing the bad proteins from passing. Since digital viruses can continue to infect if only minor changes are made to the code, AI might aid in creating a better prophylactic filter, protecting both computers and people.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/story/the-paraphrase-project-designing-defense-for-an-era-of-synthetic-biology/>

<https://youtu.be/NtwlQdruK-0>

Jeep Dashboard Screens Go Blank

Enough reports, with respect to Stellantis dash screen display problems, have been submitted to the feds, it may initiate an expensive recall. Government regulations require certain information – mainly for safety – be visible to the driver at all times. Some digital screen elements have failed to deliver such information.

[Alternative electro-mechanical dash components, used in older cars, have also been known to loose calibration with age, and to suffer from wiring failures.]

<https://www.carscoops.com/2025/10/your-jeeps-instruments-may-die-and-the-feds-want-answers/>

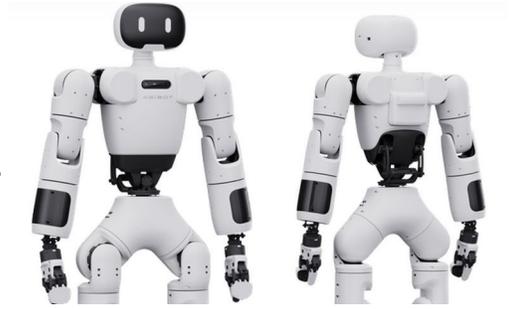
Ford F150 EV to Power Homes

This experiment, employing reverse charging-to-the-home from the battery of a Ford truck, may become widespread in areas where peak demand causes a strain on the power system. This truck's battery has enough power to keep household essentials running, like lighting and air conditioning (computers too) while sending excess power back into the grid.

<https://thedriven.io/2025/10/02/first-vehicle-to-home-power-plant-in-us-uses-ford-f-150-lightning-electric-trucks/>

Agibot

The [Lingxi X2 model](#) is a humanoid robot – about the size and weight of an Asian human – with similar articulation and [movement to that of a human](#). Moreover, it can ‘think’ and ‘learn’ similar to a human, by using reinforcement learning to balance, walk, run, jump, or dance – or to ride a bicycle. Such robots may become companions to the elderly, and perform as personal care assistants (when given full speech capability and AI knowledge). Robots could also function in environments dangerous to human workers. The company has already built about 1,000 Agibots, [all open source](#).



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

MIT's Implant Research

Implants, to monitor glucose, balance heart beat rate, and modify brain function, all required power. Sometimes power comes from batteries, usually implanted near the device, or by using a similarly implanted charging antenna. Worn out batteries require risky surgical replacement, while current wireless charging (similar to smartphone chargers) can raise surrounding tissue temperature, damaging cells. Both methods are less than ideal. MIT researchers realized that the devices themselves were about as small as they are going to get, yet the power problem could be solved by both, miniaturizing the wireless antennae, and, changing the frequency of charging waves to a less harmful, lower, frequency.

<https://news.mit.edu/2025/injectable-antenna-could-safely-power-deep-tissue-medical-implants-1029>

Ever Heard of Hannah Arendt? [opinion]

She's a philosopher who died 50 years ago, yet her theory is playing out again in America, with the help of inescapable corporate owned media, whether televised, printed, or streamed.

[Look her up on Google, not that it will make a difference to those already disillusioned and yielding to the cult.]
Her most famous quote refers to lack of human empathy as the leading indicator of a dying civilization, whereas Margaret Meade's most famous observation referred to the healed tibia of an ancient skeleton as the first indication of civilization.

It has become difficult to find sources of truth online. Those using the word “truth” in the title are those least likely to express “truth”. Think about “Truth Social”, “Truth News Network” and possibly “TruthOut”, a competitor to “The Real News Network” and “LeadStories”.

Maybe it's best to consume news media based outside of America. Some of them may be biased, but less so – unless corporately owned. Public broadcasters likely do the job best, in my opinion. Finland is so concerned over this matter that children start learning how to identify fake news at an early age, in school.

<https://www.dandc.eu/en/article/finland-has-been-world-leader-media-literacy-many-years-children-young-kindergarten-age-are>

Knol, Grokipedia and Wikipedia

Knol, a Wikipedia competitor from Google, disappeared thirteen years ago, after less than five years of use.

[knol:- a unit of knowledge, according to Google]

So might the new challenger be “**Grokipedia**”, by Elon Musk? He certainly has enough money to get it rolling. And, still, it must eventually take in more money than it spends on infrastructure [just as **Wikipedia** does with donations (and similar to the **Internet Archive**).]

[‘**Grok**’ is a term invented by Robert Heinlein, the sci-fi writer, in the 1960s, to mean, “I get it”, or “I understand.”]

[The now defunct Knol contributors were able to selected the ads they wanted to appear alongside their articles.]

[About.com also folded. Its URL now belongs to people.inc]

Grokipedia.com is now ‘up’, with almost 900,000 articles. Grokipedia’s landing page suggests you create an account (for full access) and the search field contains scrolling prompts leading users to select suggested articles.

[I assume all articles were created with AI, after sucking in Wikipedia articles and flushing out right-wing criticisms. You can see it yourself in the article about Trump tariffs. One extensive article is also about Google’s defunct Knol.]

Grokipedia has been analyzed for accuracy and bias in this **Verge** article... <https://www.theverge.com/ai-artificial-intelligence/808514/grokipedia-wikipedia-comparison>

*[Here’s a link to the **Cornell Library** of over 76,000 digitized books, categorized by year, subject, creator, and language, along with a pop-up ‘requesting’ a small donation to support this rare depository.*

<https://archive.org/details/cornell>

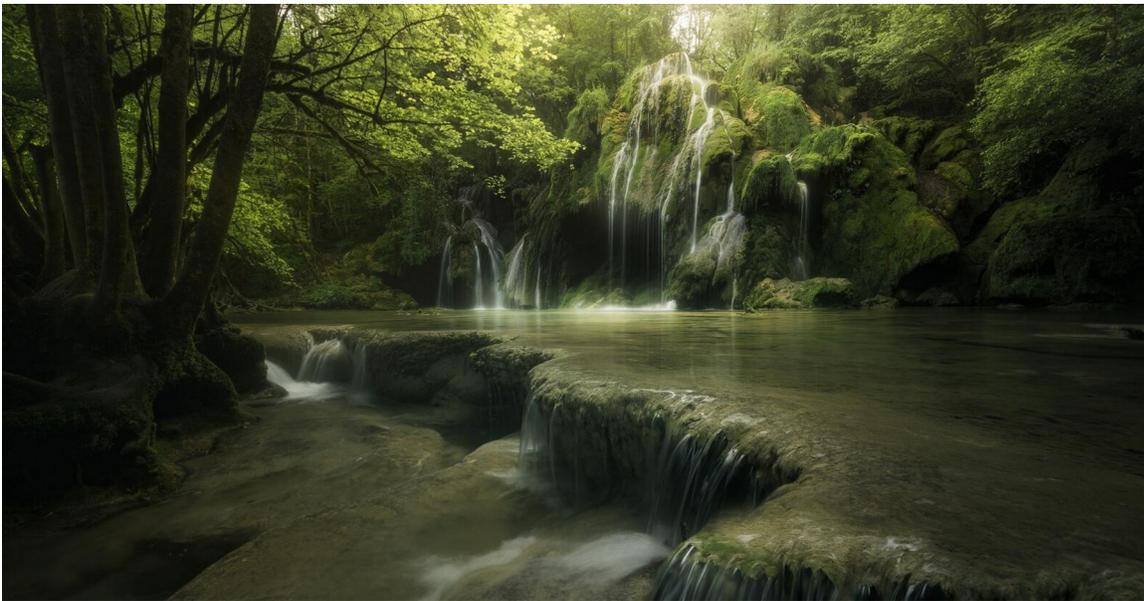
*It also contains the book, “A social history of the American Negro:” with comments by **Hannah Arendt**, regarding past (now current) power politics. Open Library has other Hannah Arendt title, like, “The Origins of Totalitarianism” and, “The Human Condition”.]*

Here's 5 online libraries that let you read, download and listen to millions of books for free:

- 1) Librivox.org
- 2) Archive.org
- 3) Annas-archive.org
- 4) Gutenberg.org
- 5) Libbyapp.com

1000lifehacks.com

FREE Wallpaper from PCLinuxOS



DPCUC President's Notes

by Peter Camilleri

Well, Windows 10 is officially dead, sort of. It would seem that with lawsuits flying, Microsoft has had a change of heart and granted Windows 10 users one more year of free security (but not upgrade or feature) patches.

To get this extension you must enrol.

1. Make sure that all available updates are installed.
2. Go to Setup → Update and Security
3. Windows Update should come up by default.
4. Select Enrol now and follow the prompts.

I was able to enrol my ancient, sluggish laptop. A family member with a much better machine kept running into an error trying to enrol. Comparing machines, I noticed that my laptop had an optional update that her machine did not. Installing that update and restarting finally allowed the machine to be enrolled.

I still don't really know if the fix was installing the update or the system restart, so your mileage may vary.

A while back I did a presentation on cleaning up Windows 11. One nagging issue that keeps coming up is Windows wants to get all chummy with my phone. So it keeps asking me to "complete" my setup. I've always used tricks to make the screen go away, but it is annoying and comes back every few months.

The answer is another cleanup tip I found in this YouTube video:

Let's Finish Setting up Your Device Stuck - How to Get Rid of It [SOLUTION]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-oWVZX2CiU>

I did run into a minor glitch with this fix. My additional settings entry required a rather lot of scrolling down to find, unlike the video where it was much closer to the top.

And as always, for Ukraine, Gaza, and the rest of the world, Pray for Peace.

Peter Camilleri, President DPCUC.



Sudoku Puzzles

November 2025 by Alex Morrison

EASY

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

Sudoku

The game boards on this page were produced using **Sudokuki** on PC Linux 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

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

HARD

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

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

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

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

Linux – PCLinuxOS Magazine

Alex Morrison



PCLinuxOS is one of the few distributions that offers a membership created Magazine.

If you are running PCLinuxOS you may already be aware of the Magazine.

If you run any other distribution you may also find the Magazine to be an entertaining read.

Features of the Magazine - An editor column always worth a read!

- Many Articles by PCLinux users
- A recipe column
- A puzzle section with Sudoku, Word search puzzles, Mixed-up-meme Scrambler
{ The puzzles are my favorite Magazine feature. }
- The magazine features user screenshots and the end of the magazine.

PCLinuxOS began in 2003 and the Magazine followed as it now appears in 2006.

A link to the Magazine download is always found in the forum but you can also download it from this site..... <https://pclosmag.com/pdf.html>

When you see the cover of the image displayed – below it you will see it is offered as PDF, HTML, MO BI and EPUB.

The Magazine is a purely Community Driven effort. Well worth a read.

Our Linux meeting on Zoom is free to any DPCUC member who wants to attend.

We also welcome other who want to visit

Windows 10 security updates will continue for 1 more year but you may want to learn about Linux.

Linux in the News

by Alex Morrison



Zorin OS 18 Officially Released, Specifically Tailored for Windows 10 Expats

Discover Zorin OS 18, the perfect solution for Windows 10 expats. Experience a seamless transition with enhanced features and user-friendly design.

Arch Linux's November 2025 ISO and Archinstall 3.0.12 Installer Are Out Now

0 Comments

Arch Linux 2025.11.01 is now available for download as the November 2025 ISO snapshot, along with the Archinstall 3.0.12 menu-based installer.

Shotcut 25.10 Video Editor Released with Screen Recording, Typewriter Text Effect

0 Comments

Shotcut 25.10 open-source video editor is now available for download with screen recording. Typewriter text effect, and more. Here's what's new!

Kodi 22 "Piers" Gets HEIF/HEIC and FFmpeg 8 Support, Alpha 2 Out Now

0 Comments

Kodi 22 "Piers" has a new alpha version available for testing with HEIF/HEIC support, FFmpeg 8 support, and other changes. Here's what's new

How To Extract Text From Screenshots And Images In Linux

- ostecnix.com; By Senthil Kumar (Posted by [ostecnix](#) on Nov 1, 2025 3:56 AM EDT)
- Story Type: [Tutorial](#); Groups: [KDE](#), [Linux](#)

Learn how to extract text from screenshots and images with spectacle-ocr utility in Linux. Go from image to text in one step!

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.

Special Interest Groups

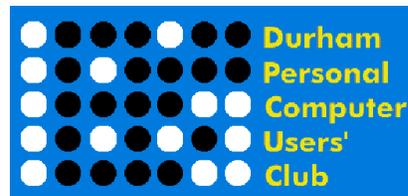
Durham Linux User Groups

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

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