



## *Iceni Newsletter October 2022*

### **Coronavirus Impact Covid-19.**

Although we are no longer in lockdown there are still uncertainties. So for the present we are continuing to hold our meetings online.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and will be able to join us online.

Contact Gareth ( or to [iceni@woolridge.org.uk](mailto:iceni@woolridge.org.uk) ) if you don't think you are on our meeting list of participants for online meetings if you are interested in joining in; since he is sending out the links prior to each meeting. Just follow the link and follow on-screen instructions.

There is nothing to download or install. We still meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Jitsi.org Video conferencing. If using a Mac IOS the Safari Browser works correctly for screen sharing your own screen, but this doesn't work for Firefox.

## **Our Next Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **Networks and NAS updates - All**

Our next meeting will see us revisit home networking and network attached storage (NAS). Between us we have a number of brands of routers and network switches as well as internet service providers to discuss and compare in the networking space.

For NAS we certainly have users of QNAP and Synology for storage, and can hopefully discuss their pros/cons and the various applications available to extend their functionality beyond simple file storage.

# Our Last meeting September 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

## DigiKam and AI software. Auto face detection.

Duncan had hoped to show a demonstration of DigiKam. This is a photo storage, indexing and editing program that is available on Linux, Windows and Mac.

However, as he usually uses Windows for the Jitsi session, and uses DigiKam under Linux, and these exist as one dual-boot machine, he had a problem that might have been solved by sharing the Linux machine via VNC and connecting to the meeting on a Raspberry Pi instead of Windows. Unfortunately he had been unable to get VNC to work between Linux and the Raspberry Pi.

The DigiKam website shows the current version is 7.8. He is running 7.1.0 as this is the version issued with the current Mageia Linux distribution. He tried loading the version installed under Windows, which was 5.9.0 and pointing it to some non-critical image files, but it performed to usual trick of Windows software of "not responding". He was able to explain one limitation of DigiKam - the path to the image files is stored as a field in the program database. This effectively means that DigiKam offers a single-user single machine service, even if the files are on central storage; the path would be expressed differently between Linux and Windows, even if the files had not moved. The database under DigiKam, which can be flat file or use MySQL/MariaDB as preferred - does have one big advantage over other photo filers, the default Windows one being an example. DigiKam stores picture descriptions in the database, and can optionally (which is a good idea, as it provides a partial backup) write that information into each picture's EXIF data. Many other programs extract the EXIF into "sidecar" files which are some form of xml. This doubles the number of files on the disc, which may generate issues of storage capacity. It also means that when these programs are run for the first time, it may be hours before they complete setting themselves up and start to function as intended.

He was able to show the "canway" GPS tracking software that moves GPS .gpx files from a small USB stick sized tracker. These can then be synchronised using DigiKam with photos taken on a camera that does not have a GPS receiver. The files can also show the route travelled on compatible mapping software, including not just the software supplied with the device, but also with RiscOSM under RISC OS. This he demonstrated, as he had just updated his version of RiscOSM. The VNC connection between his ARMX6 and Windows was functioning, and he was also able to show another feature of the new version of RiscOSM, an app called BusWatch that tracks

the position of local bus services and updates the map with the current position of each bus.

Since the meeting, he has been able to share the ARMX6 with the Raspberry Pi, thus showing that the problem is not with the Raspberry Pi but with the lack of a working VNC Server on his Linux machine. Suggestions as to a remedy are welcome!

Duncan also showed the website for a photo storage system that can be hosted on a web server, by the name of Photoprism. (photoprism.app). It does not have anything like the facilities of Digikam, but might be useful for some people. When he first viewed the online example, it appeared in Russian, but during the meeting it only appeared in English.

Duncan Breckels

Thank you Duncan for all your work on this topic it has saved me a lot of time on this Newsletter.

As an aside:-

Duncan also advised Peter on how to set up connectivity between his RISC PC and NAS. On RiSCOS to link to the NAS need to put !Sunfish in the Run Option under Boot which will make it run Sunfish every time it boots up.

## ICENI Future programme

We can be flexible and rearrange topics if the need arises, so if anyone would like to present a talk or suggest a topic to be covered please let us know. Now we are once more able to have social evenings we are always looking for suitable venues. We would like to hold these in a restaurant in the area between Ipswich and Colchester so that friends from Essex can join us without having to travel too far.

It has been suggested that we alternate our meetings between online and in-person meetings, although online meetings have been quite convenient for several of us to avoid going out and also saving travelling time. Since now the cost of fuel has rocketed it may also be more prudent to stay online only. Gareth suggests this may need a decision at the AGM.

Peter

## ICENI Future programme 2022/2023

2022

October 19th	Networks and NAS updates.	All
November 16th	Stills and Video Evening	All
December 21st	Gadgets and Party Evening	All

2023

January 18th	Winter Social Evening - Venue TBA or this may be a Jitsi meeting.	All
February 15th	Audio Processing.	All
March 15th	Raspberry Pi and Arduino, USB-C - single board computers and RISC OS.	All
April 19th	Computer Surgery / Firewalls and Computer Security.	All
May 17th	AGM + Extras	All

**MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD ONLINE BUT STILL ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED..**

## **Special Notice - Insurance**

"ICENI does not have any Insurance cover for computers or other equipment so please be advised that you bring machines to the club at your own risk."

However many household insurance policies will include cover away from home often with no increase in premium. (Ed.)

## **Our Website and Email**

Our website URL is

<http://icenicomputerclub.org.uk>

Email to: [iceni@woolridge.org.uk](mailto:iceni@woolridge.org.uk)

I am open to suggestions on what people would like to have included in the website.