



Iceni Newsletter March 2023

Coronavirus Impact Covid-19. We are continuing to hold our meetings online as this seems to suit everyone and saves travelling during the dark Winter months.

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

If you wish to join us just follow the link or paste into your browser:-

<https://meet.jit.si/IceniComputerClubMeeting> and follow instructions to allow camera and microphone access. We have found some problems with screen sharing on the Mac if using Firefox, but using Safari or Chrome is ok as is using Windows.

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.

Our Next Meeting Wednesday 15th March 2023 Raspberry Pi and Arduino, USB-C - single board computers and RISC OS.

It is sometime since we covered this topic and we will have to see what new developments there are. We hope this will be an interesting evening; but not sure I'll have anything to show here as I haven't had much opportunity to touch the Arduino stuff for several years.

Many Congratulations to Michael and Gemma on the birth of their son, Jack, at the end of January. We are sure you are both delighted.

Our Last Meeting Wednesday 15th February 2023 Audio Processing.

Duncan showed the leading free editing program, Audacity. He had shortly before downloaded the most recent version to discover that the interface had been changed and that new plugins had appeared. The interface changes include superimposing the volume control over the meter display, and moving the flat effects menu into a

hierarchical menu behind a button. There was some discussion about controversy surrounding recent changes to Audacity and opinions expressed in some quarters that it was no longer as free as it had once been.

Duncan thought it unlikely that his machine would manage an online conference and audio recording at the same time, and found this to be the case. However, he had recorded some files in advance to show a few of the things the package can do, and started with a copy of a rather old classical record to show how clicks can be automatically removed, and how other defects in the recording can be repaired after manually isolating each one. He then loaded a recording made from a 1958 cardboard record to demonstrate how levels of background noise, in this case surface noise, can be reduced using one of the filters provided by Audacity. There was also a demonstration of how one of the new plugins can be used to add echo to a recording.

There was also some discussion about OBS, the "Open Broadcast Studio" (obsproject.com) which combines most of the functions of a TV studio control room into one desktop application. The input can come from video and audio sources, slides or presentations, games, or the computer screen among others and the output can be recorded, live streamed, sent to monitors, or a combination. Camera and other presets can be defined, and the package is extremely capable, though complex to set up. Thank you Duncan for this report.

Peter mentioned that video editors usually had an audio processing module and in addition to the feature mentioned above by Duncan there was also a way to eliminate single clicks by cutting a small piece out of the timeline for the audio track and then stretching the two sides of the track to close up the gap. It is not not discernable by the viewer that this has been done.

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.

We are going to need a meeting to decide on next year's programme soon so please let us have a few ideas.

Peter

ICENI Future programme 2023

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

The website is where you will find copies of the Newsletter from Previous years and also where you will find our Committee Members and future programme.

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