



ICeni Newsletter May 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 on Wednesday 17th May 2023 ICENI Annual General Meeting

Once more on Jitsi.org for convenience.

7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the last Meeting
3. Matters Arising.
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers and Committee.
7. AOB.

Minutes of last year's Meeting will be sent out beforehand. This may be followed by some extras but I don't know what these may be yet.

Our Last Meeting on Wednesday April 19th Computer Surgery / Firewalls and Computer Security.

We were very pleased to see Gareth again having recovered from his stomach sickness. There was further discussion about the problems of recording the jitsi meetings. Peter tried this time to use Chrome as the browser which did show the Recording option however when he tried to use it there was still an error message and the recording was not set up. So he had once more to go back to recording on his iPhone. [Ed. This is giving a lot more trouble since he is running out of space there too. He has to upload to Dropbox and then set the synchronisation to make the files online only so that they do not take up any space on the iPhone or the MacBookPro.]

Paul also mentioned that it was necessary to make sure one had the latest version of the Chrome software because of the risk of Zero Day exploits. Peter did not understand what this jargon term meant. He has since looked this up and apparently it refers to software vulnerabilities where the developers are either unaware of their existence or have not had time to work on resolving them i.e. they have spent Zero Days in fixing them and a hacker has exploited the vulnerability. So one should ensure one is as up to date as possible. The latest version of Chrome at the time was 111.0.1 64 bit on my MacBookPro. Paul had 112.0.1. Gareth was on the beta version.

The Zero Day exploit in the latest case involved Javascript. It did affect all hardware and Operating systems so was quite serious.

There was also Dentoy Format USB Stick with a Boot partition + DOS part . It will boot any ISO from a huge list available. [Not sure about the name of this. Ed]

There was also a little discussion on computers being a bit more secure now since they did not use magnetic drives so travel on London Underground used to be hazardous as discs could be wiped by strong EM fields under the carriages.

Raspberry Pi included Ubuntu 22.10 LTS 64 bit and RISCOS 5.28. Apparently RISCOS 6 is imminent and it was also expected that all versions of RiSCOS would merge soon.

Peter mentioned that one of his friends, John, from the bowling club had had his email attacked in that some one took over and sent out an email suggesting that he was ill in hospital and needed me to purchase Apple cards for his Niece who had a birthday coming up and he had promised her a present. He would settle up with me when he was home.

Seemed odd as he had been fine a day or two before. I tried phoning him but only got an answer machine. Asked another member of the bowling club if John ok and he immediately said “oh we’ve all had those messages – it is a scam.”

Having replied to the first message before I had become suspicious I got a reply from the email address but with it changed from Johnxxxx@btinternet.com to Johnxxxx@outlook.com and saying would I buy 3 £100 Apple cards and open them to send him the codes by email and he would pass them on to his Niece!

Needless to say there was no further communication between us.

I asked Paul in the meeting whether he thought my friend John’s mailbox had been breached and he thought not. He said that mail servers need to authenticate properly to prevent this, but this guy knew of one where this did not happen. I later copied over some of the headers to Paul to have a look at and also tried reporting it as fraud online. Paul reckoned that if John was able to get into his account and change the password then no one else would have been there because a hacker would have changed the password immediately.

It was also pointed out to me that there was also a correction I should make in that sending out group emails with all addressees listed is a security issue if the email is intercepted. I should instead be sending them to bcc. Just put my own address in the to: field.

Duncan mentioned the Raspberry Pi imager <https://www.raspberrypi.com> which is open source and uses a .JSON file to download the latest version of all the latest options for Operating Systems for programming the SD card. It then downloads it automatically from the website.

ICENI Future programme

We are have not been able to hold a Committee meeting to discuss next year's programme yet so please let us have a few ideas. We are currently choosing topics for the meetings. 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 would like to consider changing our meeting evening from a Wednesday, which is one of his regular outdoor bowling nights. Would this make it easier for anyone or would it inconvenience anyone if it were say a Tuesday or a Thursday?

Peter

ICENI Future programme 2023

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.