



Iceni Newsletter July 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 19th July 2023

Interesting Websites – All

This is I hope is going to be a very intriguing evening. It is a bit of a departure from more technical subjects however should be illuminating. Just be prepared to demonstrate and talk about your favourite websites which others may not be aware of.

Our Last Meeting on Wednesday 21st June 2023

Ubuntu 23.04 “Lunar Lobster” – Gareth

This is the latest version of Ubuntu issued in April. It is available as a desktop image so you can try it out before installation.

Before the meeting proper we were treated to a visit by Aidan to “his” office. Lovely to see him again. During the hot weather the family had all moved into Gareth’s air conditioned office. Aidan did agree that he had been using his lawnmower.

Peter mentioned the helpfulness of Airdrop from his i-Phone to his MacBook Pro which was very fast. The files appear in downloads on the Mac, he then copies them to dropbox and makes them on-line only so that they do not use up any local space. They can be accessed from the local view of dropbox.

Gareth had been using Photosync which was available for most platforms. He uses it to send photos to his cloud photo storage and found it very useful although it claims to use in App purchases but he has not succumbed to this. Gareth is feature level Pro but not Premium.

Peter doesn't like the way Photos grabs all images and tries to stop it.

Peter remembered the days when the airport security wanted you to turn on a computer and he got confused couldn't remember where the on/off switch was and had to have it pointed out to him. Gareth wondered what what the border force made of John Rye's special computer system he used to take abroad.

On to the the main topic the Ubuntu version 23-04. Gareth was going to try Google Chrome, which was an open source project which is Chromium and is open-source linked to proprietary and other software. You can use it on the Mac. There are other features like desktop sharing. He has a virtual machine running. Because he has a virtual machine running on his ARM laptop. It installs 1100 packages to get a Lunar Lobster on Arm. There is no other desktop version for ARM. He was hoping it would be available for the Raspberry Pi later. Duncan was also trying to load it on his RPI. Error msg - "No support for OpenGL support" when trying to play video files.

Duncan was also trying Audacity on it but it could not find his hardware device. He has made some changes and can now see the device but won't capture anything from it. Gareth's had been installing from the ARM but it has taken 45 mins. The text has a login problem. Gareth was using parallels to do the install. It now shows the official lobster wallpaper. It was a very minimal install. Gnome based. Ubuntu has icons on left hand side and they have tried to retain this. The trend is to go for a flatter 2-D look to desktops now. Firefox is a SNAP – Controversial ;Canonicals way of

getting way from Debian. It includes all the dependencies it needs. They tend to pull in security updates but maybe older feature list.

It detaches you from OS system libraries. They are a bit more locked own and can't access other parts of your system without permission.

Lots of shared libraries. They are containerised and sandboxed.

Duncan said RPI wanted to be restarted after being updated.

Snap only includes a few of the packages available. Small apps like calculator are included. Mozilla are themselves releasing SNAP for Firefox.

Other changes included a new version of LibreOffice, Gareth's company tend to use Googledocs instead. Thunderbird included. There is a changed sound system with HiFlyer [?] rather than pulse Audio. Rather than older audio daemons and hardware. Default is now Wayland after 10 years development. Designed to be secure. X11 was not encrypted so would no longer be acceptable. In 23.10 CUPS is moving to a SNAP on Ubuntu. You won't be able to use a Printer Definition file for an odd printer. Most printers will be covered. Most printers nowadays have driverless printing. They will all accept pdf files. A piece of software called "Pdf arranger" will let you reorganise pages and their order etc. [See the next meeting. Ed.]

Peter wanted to know how printer profiles for colour printing would be handled but that was not known.

The support for ARM on the Mac is slowly being developed and supported by driver manufacturers. Linux support is much better now. AR64 used with Parallels software. Duncan was using his Pi400 running Ubuntu more a windows type desktop than Linux. Osagi Audio is not live yet and you need a headset and external displays are not yet supported but it will get finished. The audio support would introduce software to ensure that speaker coils are not damaged by high currents. Gareth had been using USB display modes with a dual booting of his Mac M1 for work in London to save having to take two machines. He thought battery power was better since Apple have special schemes for Close and Suspend and was a lot more hibernating than MS Windows.

He was also able to convince his managers that security patches worked just as well on ARM or Ubuntu. Wayland is the default kernel now. SNAP is an apps menu and allows users to select what is being connected to. Camera/CUPS access is to have a directory.

Duncan has had some problems At the moment Audacity doesn't allow connection. There are still issues with screen sharing too.

The next Ubuntu "Mastic Minator" sees a new installer and continues the trend for a flattened look to the desktop. Open VPN and Flatpacks (similar to SNAPS) have new settings and use a single file with dependencies a bit like the RISCOS approach. A configuration R/W allows for flexibility.

Peter

Extras

Since we had been unable to have a Committee meeting before the AGM we decided to use the "Extras" slot following the AGM as an impromptu Committee meeting and arrange the future programme. [Sadly there was no custard available.Ed]

ICENI Future programme

ICENI Future Programme 2023/2024 2023	Title	Presenter
19 July	Interesting websites	All
16 August	Summer Social Evening Venue TBA	All
20 September	Maria DB and MySQL	Paul et al
18 October	3D printing update	
15 November	Stills and Video Evening	All
20 December	Party and Gadgets Evening	All
2024		

ICENI Future Programme 2023/2024	Title	Presenter
17 January	Social Evening Venue TBA	
21 February	Open for Steve and Sue	
20 March	Mac Evening IOS updates	
17 April	Raspberry Pi and Arduino etc.	All
15 May	AGM + Extras TBA	All
19 June	Open	

This programme is open to changes as the year unfolds.

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 and Jitsi meetings

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.

JITSI Meetings

I am repeating this here from the top of the document.

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