Iceni Newsletter August/September 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) 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 21st September 2022 DigiKam and AI software. Auto face detection.

This is expected to cover use of DigiKam for photoediting.

Our Social Evening August 17th at the Stratford Anchor.

After being unable to meet because of COVID finally met up face-to-face on a rather wet day to have what turned out to be a very enjoyable meal with old friends. We were delighted to see Anne, Gerald and Daniel after 3 years alongside our usual Jitsi group who we had not met in person for a while. Although we had pre-ordered our food at the request of the Restaurant and arrived at 7p.m. in order to be served quickly we did not get food until 7:50. However when it came although not large portion the food was delicious and very well presented. We enjoyed the surroundings which were above all quiet and comfortable and had a great evening and it was very reasonably priced.

I for one look forward to going again.

Here is a picture of us all.

Our Meeting *Wednesday 27th July 2022.*
Ubuntu 22.04 LTS release and flavours like Mint Windows 11 update and MacOS 12.

Gareth writes:-

At the this meeting we will look at a number of Operating System updates, with what is new in Ubuntu 22.04 , Windows 11 and MacOS 12 (Monterey) and time allowing the beta of MacOS Ventura.

Pre-topic discussions on :-

3D Printing notes

Gareth is hoping to print some shelf catches for his model of freezer which is not covered by Thingiverse.com designs. Duncan mentioned some old scanners parts which people had 3D printed.

Short Cuts on Jitsi.org

There seem now to be several new short cuts which could be useful.

Main Topic – Operating System Updates

Ubuntu 22.04 Jammy Jellyfish

Gareth began with the Ubuntu 22.04 LTS release. LTS is a Long Term Support which is normally for 5 years and now it is also possible to purchase extended support an extra 5 years. Wayland meant as replacement for old X server, Gnome42 still used for the desktop, but people expect fast screen response even on distanced systems. So as a consequence there have been many different areas of improvement throughout the release. Dark mode is now more consistent. Firefox is now SNAP whether you want it or not and is written by Mozilla. SNAPs are versions which allow the installation of packages. It was an Apple idea so that SNAPs are easier to make than a big application. Paul thought they ran more slowly onUbuntu although on other systems they were faster. One downloader and an executable file. Flat pack is a similar idea. SNAPs can update automatically which can be controversial. The release also has a new kernel version,. You needed at least a 4GB Pi4 although Paul had read that it ran quite well on a 2GB Pi4.

There was lots of work on making apps run faster. Libre Office 7.3.4 and 7.3.5.2. Gareth showed the ARM version. ARM 64 is not yet supported. They now have better written software which runs on multiple systems. VNC works but is a bit slow. Gareth had to write on for Claws mail. As an aside Paul said that Thunderbird were going to be rebranded as K9 and would become a super mail app.

Windows 11

Michael said some updates would be available until 2025 for Windows 10 with a yearly update at around October/November called 22H2 in 2022. Not released a version for more than a year as they expect people to go to Windows 11. Steve hacked his version to get fewer updates as the Education version. Wikipedia has a useful table of versions.

Now Windows 11 from October 2021 so 22H2. Michael did not have this version to show but listed new gestures, animations, resizable pinned areas start menu, drag and drop on the task bar ; he thought you could do that already. New spotlight wallpaper feature, new voice access accessibility feature, new task bar manager app, new suggested action feature, tabs in windows explorer, etc.

Windows shell is being introduced replacing power shell. There is to be an extra layer of pinned apps.

A small action feature which presents the user with a date and phone number. It is just a helper.

A snap menu which drops down when you move an app around the screen. Some of these features need to be seen to be understood. Some of these were really designed to demonstrate the touch features. 3 finger swipe on the centre of the screen minimises your open windows. The requirements for Windows 11 were quite strict and really are only feasible for newer machines (<5 yrs old) with a second generation processor. There were also attempts to deliver updates at off peak periods to reduce energy; we thought this a bit far fetched.

Additional rolling stars and number of inbox apps. We thought having more tabs made it more difficult to find things. Sharing more with one drive from local devices.

File explorer shows favourite files can be pinned. The task manager will be given a new layout. There is a new sound recorder app. Trip app and family safety app.

What follows Windows 11? There will a new version Windows 12 in 2023 (so they seem to have gone back to releasing a new Windows every 2 years). They have cancelled Windows 11 23H2.

Steve said they were just copying Apple. Michael thought they could make a lot of improvements in particular he disliked the two versions of Control panel and the newer one missed out a lot of the options.

MacOS 12 (Monterey)

Updated now to Ventura. Gareth went through changes to mail which he said Apple were always making changes here. He said that sometimes these changes did not include sending mail receipts and he had to resort to Thunderbird extensions to make it return receipts. [I hope I got that right Ed.]. He thought sending receipts should be what a normal Mail protocol allowed without resorting to extensions. Further extensions of protocol allowed searching for images and could be useful for cataloguing things. There were more features and security with improved performance in Safari. Some people hated Safari because it lagged on features which other browser manufacturers e.g. MS with Edge introduced. See https://www.apple.com/uk/macos/macos-ventura-preview/

Safari features now included tab groups, share tools to watch appleTV, photos in iCloud and a shared photo library.

You can now have more than one window on iPads. All nice features but not groundbreaking.

Continuity camera was interesting and would allow adding say an iPhone camera to Jitsi sessions which would be good.

His killer feature was Virtualisation(see https://desktop.apple.com/documentation/virtualisation/)

running INTEL binaries in Linux-vms with roseta. The libs are already native. So you can run ARM-Linux with Parallels + VM Ware, but he wondered why they were doing it. Steve said could you use ARM64 on the Mac – Yes. He thought it very interesting. It could give Docker support [Ed?].

Android - Fedora 36 Linux distribution

Steve talked about Fedora which was released every six months. He does not use it as he doesn't trust the developers. It was a way of looking at technology features but it ships with GNOME 42 , rebranded just '42', which he has grown to like. It is better using the keyboard rather than the mouse which is quicker anyway. If you hit the windows key it comes up with a blank screen and if you type "set" it comes up with all the settings.m The main difference now is that the virtual desktop now goes from left to right instead of up and down which is an improvement and makes you wonder why they ever did it up and down. Light and dark mode is very good; Fedora and Ubuntu just use a vanilla GNOME with no tweaks and uses Wayland as well. There is a problem with Wayland and certain versions of GNOME messing up the keyboard localisation since it affects Fedora, Ubuntu and other distributions. The problem is that it keeps going back to theUS keyboard. He can be using UK keyboard in setting and Chrome quite happily and then suddenly gets problems with the @ symbol.

The other problem with Wayland was that it doesn't work with everything and some of the extensions have not been ported for that version yet. He compared it to X but not everything in X is compatible, like the X screen saver which is unlikely to be ported, also "plank" which he likes which is sort of macos type doc. He likes doc to dash which takes a lefthand doc and turns it into an app. There is a port which works under GNOME42. It uses a default file system. It uses GTK4. BatchFS now works but RAID doesn't. He runs this on a low spec Cloudbook machine with Windows S but puts Ubuntu on it and it is very snappy. WiFi needs a proprietary driver and he had to use another stick to get Ubuntu on it and then could select the file he needed. The Fedora installer is not easy to use. He prefers appget instead and uses Flatpack to get video codecs installed. He would not trust it as a daily machine. The Cloudbook is an ASUS E210 11.6 in Celeron 4GB Cloudbook (Argos £149.99 3930823). Battery life is 12 hours.

ICENI Future programme

We have now had a Committee meeting and updated our future programme. However 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. We are hoping the Covid restrictions will now allow us to have Social Evenings. If anyone has a favourite restaurant suitable for our Social Evening please let us know. We like to hold these in the area between Ipswich and Colchester so that friends from Essex can join us.

Also once the restrictions allow in-person meetings 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

August 17th	Summer Social Event - The Stratford Anchor - see separate email	All
September 21st	DigiKam and AI software. Auto face detection.	All
October 19th	Networks and NAS updates.	All
November 16th	Stills and Video Evening	All

December 21st 2023	Gadgets and Party Evening	All
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..

~~Our meetings are held at the Bourne Vale Social Club, Halifax Road,~~

~~Ipswich IP2 8RE ,~~

~~for a map and other details please see the website. http://icenicomputerclub.org.uk~~

~~Membership fee currently £15, visitors free.~~

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

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