



Iceni Newsletter November 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 Wednesday 16th November 2022

Stills and Video Evening – All

This is your opportunity to show us what you've been up to photographically speaking. This is usually a very relaxed evening and is part of our tradition now.

Our Last Meeting Wednesday 19th October 2022

Networks and NAS updates

We had a new recruit in the form of Aidan who wanted to join in since Gareth had been told not to use his Office for the meeting!

Our meeting saw 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. Although we had trouble trying to stay on topic.

Peter started by showing us his Synology NAS DS418, which has 4 x 8TB drives in RAID formation giving 24TB of storage. (1 redundant drive). The main control of the NAS is the DSM (Disk Station Manager). This is updated frequently. There is quite a lot of software available to install from the Package Center (American Spelling I am afraid!) . For installed software you will then be notified when a new version is available. Peter's difficulty is in knowing which applications to use. He did not want to use up all the space with applications. Michael and Duncan liked the clean interface of the Synology system. Peter admits to being very much a novice when it comes to use of the NAS. After Duncan's tips on Sunfish Peter has been able to upload a lot of his older photos from his RISC PC to the NAS, which was very helpful. His NAS is divided into 6 Volumes in order to keep some separation of work areas. The health of each volume , its size and how much space has been used is easily shown and one can also set up a report generator which produces a daily email report. This is useful to tell you when applications need updating for example.

He hasn't yet made use of the Photo organiser or multimedia and he doesn't use it yet for security cameras.

Duncan also has a QNAP drive. We had some discussions about backing up NAS. Duncan had a holster dock into which you can add a bare hard drive for use as a backup from the NAS. It all seemed to get rather expensive ; you can backup to a cloud service as well. We noted that Exabyte drives are unreliable.

Michael has several NASs of both Synology and QNAP TS212 , a budget model about 10 years old. He also has his main one. And also a Synology DS220z with a 14TB drive used as backup with only a single drive for under £200. Most of his data was Video and not very important and he probably only has a few TB to back up. When Michael moved into his new house he had not internet access to begin with and thought he could watch stored videos but found it needed to download software updates before he could use it.

Duncan showed his QNAP QTS5.01 with an irritating animal icon reminiscent of MS Paper clip. The dashboard showed current drive status, health etc.

Similar to Synology there was an App station and indications of what needed an update. There were various backup systems. Photostation uses its IP address with 80/80 tacked onto it.

Peter thought it might be cheaper if one only backed up once a week but learnt that if use a Cloud system it is only the storage quantity which is charged for not frequency of access. They have their own Cloud service which you have to sign up for. His has an HDMI socket on the back for Multimedia. A model 653. Michael's is a 453 and he also has HDMI facilities. Duncan showed stored photos in Photostation 6.

You can build a website and run it on the NAS. [OK if you are happy with external access to the internet. Ed.]

As a side topic it was noted that there were now lots of new internet service providers in Ipswich, including CityFibre, Gigaclear and LightSpeed and Trooli 300MHz for £20 /month. Mostly broadband only. If you want a phone line that's extra. This was a common trend now as few people wanted a landline. An interesting website was on roadworks.org now called One.Network. The towns are well served but the villages are struggling to get any usable bandwidth. The roadworks map is very useful as it shows all the companies who are working, their scheduled timeslot and the roadworks location; causing quite a lot of chaos in Ipswich.

Peter had a new device for bluetooth generation to use with his new hearing aids but was not able to get it to work so he could not tell whether it was really working or not. Hearing aids are a special case of use of Low energy bluetooth. It seems you need a third device in order to make the connection but these are quite expensive. He had also had to purchase a new printer (Brother MFC- L2750DW Laser printer) since his old Canon All -in-one MX885 had packed up.

Duncan had some problems installing Linux on one of his machines and needed to use VNC to install it. Paul looked up VNC and found two packages, VNC Viewer and VNC Server.

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

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

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

