

A close look at the Mac's Finder was one of the main topics at the October Mac Group. This included a closer look at the new Catalina operating system which has brought quite a few improvements to the Finder, along with other developments. A MacMost video also showed how there are many clever little tricks in the Finder to make it easier to move, copy and reorganise files and folders. The Finder's Search tool also came in for some study.

Some good questions from folk, as well --- why the "spinning beach ball of death" sometimes appears, how to use the Force Quit command to end a misbehaving program, and the hidden trap with USB thumb drives: after deleting items off one, then empty the trash before doing anything else. Otherwise although the listings on the thumb drive disappear, the space the items used remains "reserved" and unavailable on the drive.

That is why sometimes folk delete everything from a thumb drive and then find they still do not have any space available on it.

The problem of the Mail program "hanging" was reported by two people – a Google search showed this is a known problem and has been for some time, but the cause seems to be unknown, and the only answer is to Force Quit the program and re-open it.

Plainly a bug in the software, but what triggers it, nobody seems to know. Luckily it is not common.

If you're a Mac user, come along to a group meeting and tell us of your ideas, tricks and problems. You will undoubtedly learn quite a lot --- that's the benefit shared knowledge.

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