A Word from your President

Hi Folks,

Well, this is the last newsletter for the year, and an excellent year it has been for our SeniorNet.

I would like to sincerely thank you all for your support in attending courses and meetings, and I hope you have enjoyed them. We've had some interesting speakers and courses. The tutors and committee have worked extremely hard and done a good job. We've received some great feedback from you.

Now our thoughts will be turning to Christmas, the holidays and all the preparation this involves. It'll probably be time to spend less on the hardware and software and spend more time with human ware, (note to self).

Some will be looking forward to sharing Christmas with family and friends while for others it will be a time when loneliness really makes itself felt, especially those who have lost loved ones. I hope we can give a thought for these people and spend time with them.

Next year we have some good things planned including three new interest groups. These are a Modern Media Interest Group (MMIG), a Countries & Cultures Interest Group (CCIG), and an Android Devices User Group (ADUG). Where would we be without initials eh? Other good courses are also planned.

It only remains for me and Polly (my first lady) to wish you all a Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and safe travel if you are going away. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Regards

Clive

Free Virtual Private Network.

Are you blocked out of a website because of where you are? Some websites use a technique called geo-blocking, and it can be frustrating when this appears for no good reason.

In most cases geo-blocking is easily overcome. I use a browser add on to bypass geo-blocked websites.

SetupVPN lets you access any blocked website around the world. Bypass any website that has been blocked by your government, internet busybody or company (or by the website owner) with just a single click. SetupVPN comes with UNLIMITED bandwidth and it is completely FREE for everyone!

Here is a link to SetupVPN website so you can check this out. If the list of servers doesn't suit you can upgrade your account (for a fee) to get more servers.

This VPN is an add on for Firefox web browser. Ask me how next time I'm running my Firefox workshop. SetupVPN is also available for Chromium and Google Chrome browsers.

Bear in mind that SetupVPN records your IP address, so if you're using this service for illegal or antisocial activities you could be traced. Also, it only covers the datastream for your browser, not email or any other programmes or apps you may use. So use a more secure VPN service to plot the overthrow of the Government.

Take a look at https://setupvpn.com to find out some more.

[Source = Hutt City SeniorNet newsletter, article by Peter Andersen]

"SeniorNet is a community training network that supports & motivates people aged 50+ to enjoy & use technology in their everyday lives."

MIG Report, *Anton Petre*
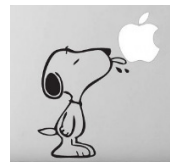
One of the best turnouts of the year for the Mac Group meeting at the end of November …the last of the year. Next meeting is on Friday January 24, 2.30pm.

We talked about security (don't click on links in emails unless you are VERY sure) and Roger Pitman gave an interesting talk and demonstration on making your own podcasts.

We then looked at the Photos app – and discovered that the main Mac had not yet been updated to the latest (Catalina) operating system…soon fixed that! We also checked out a MacMost video or two on Safari and on Photos. Then a look at some tricks to make Safari even more useful, and a hint from Roger on the need to check you don't forget to close programs and have a heap of them open and using up memory.

We also checked out how to get the Mac to read out the latest club newsletter… the trick is to open the newsletter in Preview, highlight the passage you want read to you, then click on the EDIT menu item, go to SPEECH and click on "start speaking". Most PDF files will work directly with speech after a passage is highlighted. Using the same highlight and speak system, you can also have the content of most web pages read out to you.

After 12 years running the Mac Group, Anton said he was handing over to Clive Dyson in the new year for family reasons, and because he also felt a fresh approach would be good for the group. But he'll still be a member and contribute when he can.

Have you heard the one about …..

Two brooms were hanging in the closet and after a while they got to know each other so well they decided to get married. One broom of course was the bride broom, the other the groom broom. The bride broom looked very beautiful in her white dress. The groom broom was handsome and suave in his tuxedo. The wedding was lovely. After the wedding, at the wedding dinner, the bride broom leaned over and said to the groom broom "I think I am going to have a little broom!" "Impossible!" said the groom broom "We haven't even swept together!". Did you laugh? or groan ? Sounds to me like she's been sweeping around.

JANUARY

MEMBERS' MEETING:
No meeting in January
HELP & SUPPORT "one-on-one" SESSION:
Sat 25 Jan 2-4
INTEREST GROUPS:
Fri 24 Jan 2.30pm Mac
None of our other interest groups meet in January

FEB dates for your Diary

MEMBERS' MEETING:
Mon 3 Feb 10am:
HELP & SUPPORT "one-on-one" SESSIONS:
Every Saturday 2-4pm
INTEREST GROUPS:
Thurs 6 Feb 2.30pm: *Modern Media*
Fri 7 Feb 2.30pm: *Digital Photography*
Thurs 13&20 2.30pm: *Countries & Cultures*
Fri 14 Feb 2.30pm: *Genealogy*
Fri 16 Feb 2.30pm: *iPad & iPhone*
Thurs 27 Feb 2.30pm: *Android devices*
Fri 28 Feb 2.30pm: *Mac*
Tues 25 Feb 7.30pm: *Genealogy*

iPhone Tips & Tricks [Source=Eden Roskill SeniorNet newsletter]

1. Make the screen significantly dimmer

If you find that the iPhone screen's lowest possible brightness is still too bright for your eyes in a dark environment, you can dim the screen below its normal threshold. Go to Settings → Accessibility → Zoom → Zoom Filter Low Light. Now with a simple triple- press of the Side/Power button, you can quickly switch between normal and dimmed appearance. For quick triple-press access, don't forget to include the Low Light filter in the accessibility shortcut menu under Settings → Accessibility → Accessibly Shortcut.

2. Swipe-to-delete in Calculator

If you use Apple's Calculator app, you know how frustrating it can be when you accidentally hit that one wrong key and it throws off your whole calculation. To delete the last type digit, simply swipe from right to left over the results section. You can do this multiple times in a row to sort of undo your last steps.

3. Turn your iPhone into a loupe

If your eyesight isn't as it used to be, but you need to read small type like a prescriptions or product spec, use Magnifier. No, it's not the same as zoom in the Camera app: Magnifier applies various optimizations so you can take a really closer look at things that can sometimes be too small to see. You have a slider bar for adjusting the zoom and buttons to toggle the LED flash, lock the focus and access the filters (use them to improve visibility or enhance details). You can also adjust the exposure and saturation separately, plus invert the colors in the image. To enable or disable this feature, go to

General → Accessibility → Magnifier.

4. Quiet notification delivery

New in iOS 12, Instant Tuning lets you manage notification delivery. Simply press the notification on the Lock screen or slide over and tap Manage. This will display a new menu on the Lock screen with relevant options, the most prominent being Deliver Quietly. The next time you get nudged by a notification you don't want to see, press it and select the option Deliver Quietly. From now on, all notifications from that app will be delivered silently (without making a sound or vibrating your device) to your Notification Center without putting up a banner or popping up on the Lock screen.

5. Lyric search

If you know that lyric but don't know that song, you can type in the lyric into the search field in the Music app or iTunes and it will pull up that song if it recognizes it.

6. Search shortcuts

You don't need to go to the Contacts app in order to type in a person's name in the search filed and find their card nor do you have to fire up Safari just to Google something. That's because iOS's Search feature (formerly known as Spotlight) can detect certain types of queries and offer to automatically run a relevant search in the right app. Copy a link from Messages and you will see a shortcut at the bottom of the Search interface offering to open the link in Safari. Other shortcuts like Search Web, Search App Store and Search Maps appear depending on the context of your query.

7. Multi-keyword search in Photos

Photos app takes advantage of computer vision to automatically recognizes objects, people and scenes on your photographs, allowing you to easily surface things such as all the beach images or only the shots with your Dad in them. But did you know that Photos lets you be really specific by chaining multiple keywords together? Begin by typing in your first search term—for example, the word "beach." Now select the term from the drop-down suggestions you see in Photos. Next, type in a second word, like "sunglasses," and select it from the suggestions, too. You should now see both keywords in the search box and any relevant results below it.

This is your pilot speaking. I'm working from home today

8. DND at Bedtime

If you hate waking up to a deluge of missed notifications, use Do Not Disturb at Bedtime. This handy new feature in iOS 12 does a few things on your behalf to minimize distractions that may disrupt your sleep. Not only does it silence all calls and texts but also dims the Lock screen and routes all the alerts to Notification Center until DND ends. When using the Bedtime feature with scheduled Do Not Disturb mode, you will wake up to a weather forecast on your Lock screen, which is totally cool. Once you unlock the phone, the weather widget won't be seen again until the device enters another Do Not Disturb cycle.

7 Ways to Make Windows 10 Easier on The Eyes

If you're struggling to see what you're doing in Windows 10, or just want to make the mouse and keyboard easier to use, find out how its Ease of Access options will help. Just like earlier versions of Microsoft's OS, Windows 10 has a wide range of built-in 'ease of access' settings that make it much easier to use by people with a physical impairment of some kind.

Some of the settings are also invaluable for the able-bodied, though, particularly if your eyesight just isn't what it used to be, or your fingers aren't fast enough to use certain Windows 10 features. Let's take a look at what's on offer.

1. Make everything bigger
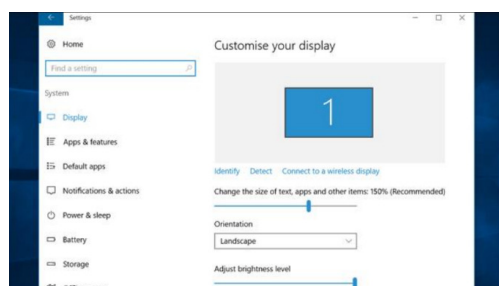
Big monitors are great, but the high resolutions they work best with can make everything on them too small to see for some people. Fortunately, this is easily fixed.

Go to Start > Settings and click System in the window that opens. Click Display in the list of options on the left and use the slider on the right to increase the size of text, apps, Desktop icons and other parts of Windows in 25% increments. How far you can move the slider depends on your monitor resolution — high resolutions have lots of adjustment.

Click the Apply button, then log out and back into Windows to see the full effect. You might need to experiment a bit to get the best results.

2. Hear a description of everything on screen

For even more options, go to Start > Settings and click Ease of Access in the window that opens. These options are designed for people with disabilities and won't all be useful for everyone, but we'll look at each in turn. The first, Narrator, gives a computerised voice-over for what you see and do in Windows 10. Use the two toggles to enable Narrator and to Start Narrator automatically, and you'll hear a computerised voice describe what's happening on-screen. You can change the sound of the voice and what it applies to using the options below.

The Windows 10 T Rex and Ninja Cat

## 3. Use a virtual magnifying glass
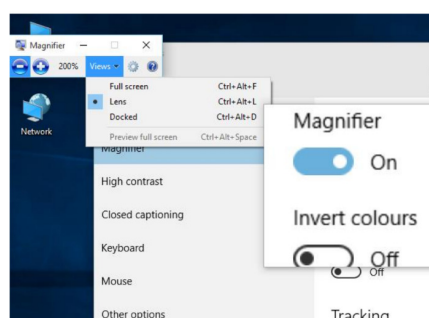
Magnifier switches on a virtual magnifying glass to make everything on your monitor appear much bigger. The default is to magnify the entire screen by following the mouse pointer around, but this can be disorientating. So, click the magnifying glass at the top left of your screen to display its options and select Views > Lens to switch to a magnified rectangle that follows the mouse pointer.

4. Switch to a high-contrast theme

High contrast switches the Windows 10 theme to one of several designed to be easier to see for people with severe visual impairment. None are really suitable for people with normal eyesight, but feel free to try them out.
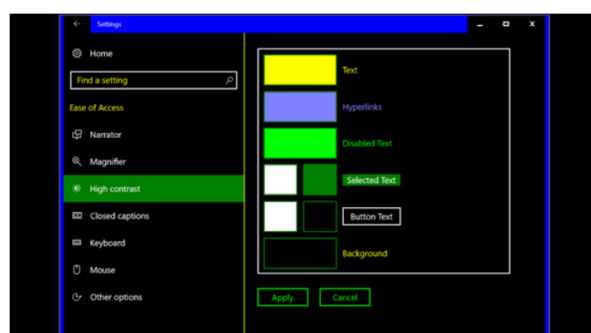
[...Continued from page 4]

5. Change how the keyboard works

Keyboard offers multiple options, including one to display an on-screen keyboard— useful if your keyboard stops working and all you have is your mouse.

Other options worth investigating here are Sticky keys, which means you don't need to keep the [Ctrl], [Alt] or [Shift] key pressed when using a keyboard shortcut; and Filter keys, which helps avoid accidental multiple key presses. It's also worth noting that pressing the [Alt] key in most places in Windows 10 will reveal all available the keyboard shortcuts for that window or application.
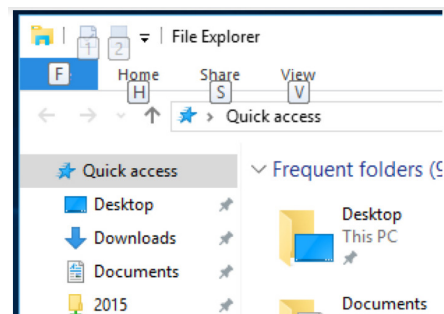
6. Make the mouse pointer bigger

Mouse is one of the most useful Ease of Access settings, since you can use it to make the mouse pointer much more visible by changing its size and colour. There's also an option to use the keys on the numeric keyboard (on the far right of most keyboards) to control the mouse, which is useful if your mouse doesn't work.

7. Make the blinking cursor more obvious

You'll find sundry other settings under Other options, including one to change the thickness of the cursor and how long to display on-screen notifications for. This can help if they always disappear from view before you've read them, though they're always available in the Action Centre.
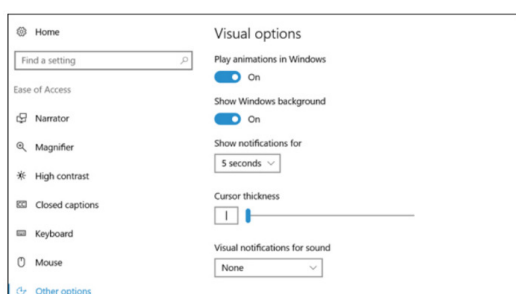
[The Windows 10 tips in this article are from the Eden Roskill SeniorNet Newsletter. The Ninja Cat graphics from Sandra - found in an odd moment!!]

The Windows 10 Ninja Cat

Your committee for 2019-2020

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEWSLETTER READERS WHO GET TO THE BACK PAGE!!
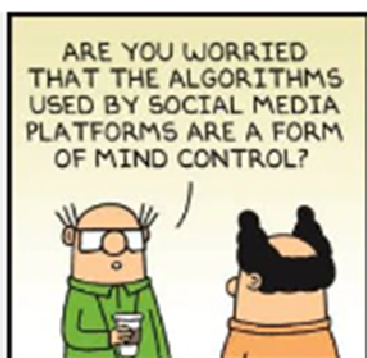
NEXT ISSUE WILL BE OUT IN FEBRUARY 2020.   Sandra

Why not try Bing?

Microsoft's search engine Bing is the second most popular search engine in the world, with 15.8% of the search market. But why should you use Bing instead of Google or DuckDuckGo?
Plus points include:

1. Bing's video search is significantly better than Google's, giving you a grid of large thumbnails that you can click on to play or preview.
2. Bing often gives twice as many autocomplete suggestions than Google.
3. Bing can predict when airfares are about to go up or down if you're searching for flights.
4. Bing also has a feature where if you type **linkfromdomain:[site name]** it will highlight the best ranked outgoing links from that site, helping you figure out which other sites your chosen site links to the most.

N.B. Bing is often set as the default search engine in the Microsoft browser on new PCs. Also note that Bing powers Yahoo's search engine.