

April – June 2019

Hi Guys

Hope you're doing well. This is just another general information newsletter to keep you up to date about various computer related topics.

Reminder - Microsoft Windows 7 Support Ends

If you have an older computer and you're still using Windows 7, this is just another reminder that all support for the aging operating system ends in **January 2020**. You can still use it; however, Microsoft will no longer release updates and security patches for it. Upgrading your computer or upgrading to Windows 10 (if possible) is the best option moving forward.

Reminder - Microsoft Office 2010 Support Ends

If you're still using Microsoft Office 2010, this is just another reminder that all support for the aging productivity suite ends in **October 2020**. You can still use it; however, Microsoft will no longer release updates and security patches for it. Upgrading to Microsoft Office 2019 (retail) or Microsoft Office 365 (yearly subscription) are the best options moving forward.

Coming Soon – Microsoft Windows 10 November Update

Be prepared for the next minor release of Windows 10 (version 1909). It will be automatically downloaded and installed with the usual performance enhancements, bug fixes, security updates and user interface updates. This will be a smaller update this time around, primarily focusing on performance and bug fixes. It will download as a **Cumulative Update** rather than a **Feature Update**, which is a change from the normal.

Coming Soon - Intel 10th Generation Core Technology

Intel will soon release the 10th generation of their Core technology for both laptops and desktops. You should see laptops with the new technology released by the Christmas holiday season, with desktop components released in quarter 1 of next year.

Apple Killing iTunes App on MacOS

Apple will shut down and discontinue their iTunes app on Apple MacOS computers (for now) and move people on to their new Music, T.V. and Podcasts apps. This will not affect Windows users at this stage. If you use an Apple device and this affects you, then click on the links below for more information, if interested.

<https://www.techradar.com/au/news/itunes-shutting-down-when-and-why-its-happening>

<https://www.windowcentral.com/itunes-windows-will-remain-better-or-worse>

Mozilla Firefox Blocks Tracking Cookies by Default Now

The newly released version 69 of Mozilla Firefox (web browser) will now block tracking cookies by default to help protect you more online. This setting can be changed in the **Options > Privacy & Security** section of Firefox if needed. Click on the link below for more information, if interested.

<https://www.windowscentral.com/firefox-now-blocks-tracking-cookies-all-users-default>

Reminder – BACKUP, BACKUP, BACKUP

Over the last couple of months, people have lost all their data due to complete hardware failure and not having a back-up on another device. This is just another reminder to everyone that you must have an automatic data backup routine setup in case of hardware failure. The easiest setup to have is an external USB hard disk drive plugged into your computer with the Windows 10 **File History** program turned on for automatic daily data backups. Keeping all your data on only 1 device is not recommended.

Coming Soon – USB Ports (Version 4.0)

The USB ports on your computer and devices will be getting even faster soon. Version 4.0 of the USB connection standard will be available in devices next year. Version 4.0 will be backwards compatible with older devices with versions 3.1, 3.0 and 2.0. Click on the links below for more information, if interested.

<https://www.pcgamer.com/au/theres-officially-a-new-and-faster-usb-standard-now-we-wait-for-actual-devices/>

<https://www.tomshardware.com/news/usb-4-usb4-spec-specification-speed-released,40306.html>

NBN & Home Telephone

If you have changed to the NBN recently and find that your home telephone no longer works, you will need to move it and plug it into the back of your newly installed modem router. Your old home telephone wall sockets will no longer work. The telephone system now works via VOIP and works differently to the old system.

If you have an old telephone and require multiple handsets, you will have to purchase a new telephone system package with as many handsets that you require. The main base station plugs into the back of your new modem router with the included handsets communicating wirelessly to the main base station. All that is required are power sockets to power each handset, no telephone cable needed apart for the main base station.

Computer Service & Maintenance

I generally recommend that you have your computer serviced, checked and updated every **3 to 6 months** or so, to keep it running well. Computer software and hardware drivers are updated regularly to improve performance, fix problems and/or add new features for your computer to utilise.

In addition, as a constant reminder to everyone, make sure to back-up your data regularly onto an external hard disk drive or to cloud storage in case of internal hardware failure. Keep your data on at least two devices minimum.

Refer to my website for Handy Hints, FAQ's, Downloads and other information.

Business Hours & Contact Information

My contact details are located above, with business hours being between **9am and 5:30pm Monday to Saturday**. My mobile phone will be turned off outside of these hours but please leave a short message and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. If you prefer to email me, please do so and I'll reply to you as soon as possible.

If you require anything, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope that you find this information useful.