

## Notes on Meeting 17/12/2021

1) **We reviewed** the notes and attachment from the October meeting (previously circulated). The pdf regarding Explorer view options had proved very useful to some, and the notes on Windows 11 lead onto our first discussion today, **Windows 11**. Around the 'table'.....

- Dave - up and running W11, seems to be more a facelift of W10 rather than a radical upgrade. Easy to use without any major problems.
- Ann - all ready to go, just waiting for this discussion before proceeding
- John - has W11 running on a laptop that in theory is not compatible. Only difference is the new Windows logo does not display correctly.
- Rick - has no current need for anything different.
- Peter - has 7 year old PC and a 3 year old lap top, neither of which is compatible. Sees no need to upgrade at the present time, and
- Sandie - has a new W10 Lenovo Think Pad which can be upgraded to Windows 11. She will report back at the next meeting!
- Jean has been told that her machine is not compatible. She is happy to wait until 2025 before making a decision!

### 3) **Reminder about the Jit.si screen....**

- Keyboard short cut '**S**' - gives full screen, removing all browser address bars.
- Toggle the '**Tile View**', (4 square boxes) to get everyone on the screen at the same time. When 'off' only the current speaker is seen.

### 4) **Best back-up software with disk clone/image backup**

- Rick queried [EaseUS Todo](#) as recommended in CA for making a Clone/Image of his operating system.
- Looking at the comparison of the various versions the free one does not allow disk cloning. The Home version, which does, is \$19.99 per month subscription.
- Others discussed and generally recommended in the CA magazine are, [Acronis](#) (£34.99/year) which Ann uses, and [Macrium Reflect 8 Free](#)
- I've used a paid for (not very much) commercial programme, Ashampoo Backup Pro 11, for several years now. I have three lots of backup, a) a daily incremental backup of my data files (to an external HDD which is timed to come on and off 6pm-7pm each evening, b) a manual incremental backup of the data to another HDD once a month or so and c) a clone/disk image, again every two or three months. The current version is [Ashampoo Backup Pro 16](#) - this presently costs £22.49 (3 machines) - note this is a purchase not a recurring subscription.

### 5) **Still Photos from Videos**

- Most are aware that screen shots from videos are possible but the quality is usually not up to much.
- Ann uses VLC media player, just pause then 'click take a snapshot' (bottom LHS). You can click frame by frame until you get the one you want.

- I discovered recently that this can be done very effectively using the built in (Windows 10) 'Films and TV' app (not Windows Media Player)
- Unless you have another player such as VLC set as default, most videos will open automatically in the 'Films and TV' app. On the bottom RHS you will see a pen icon. Click this and a new screen opens with an options box at the bottom RHS; from this select 'Save photo from video'.
- Now another screen opens where you can scroll through frame by frame then 'Save a Photo' at the top RHS.
- I demonstrated this and it was agreed that the picture chosen was of very good quality. I've since checked and found that it is 3320x 2496 and 4.13 Mb.

#### 6) Successor to Windows Movie Maker

- Movie Maker (part of the Windows Essential tools) was, for many years, an integral part of all Windows editions until its demise in Windows 10 and is no longer available as a Microsoft download.
- MM is a very simple but powerful programme allowing you to make videos and slide shows from photo and video clips. I managed to keep my now unsupported copy using it both for family and U3A videos.
- In recent times I've switched to ['MiniTool MovieMaker 3.0'](#) as recommended by CA a few months ago. A very easy to learn free programme with a much updated design, intuitive interface and functionality compared to WMM .
- I demonstrated this at the meeting and can highly recommend it to anyone who is into this kind thing.
- Whilst on the MTMM site it's worth having a look at the other tools they have. We had a quick trial of their 'YouTube downloader' and proved that it did exactly as stated.

#### 7) More on the 'Right Click'.

- As we discussed at length in a recent meeting, the 'Windows right click' or 'context' menu is very useful but inflexible in that without going into the registry it's impossible to add new items or remove unwanted ones.
- A recently discovered free programme from Gear Up Windows, ['Easy Context Menu'](#) does just that. Again recommended by CA, I haven't used it yet but we had a look at it on line and it indeed looks very useful. It would be good to hear at the next meeting if anyone has tried it out.

#### 8) Another Technology research site.

- We had a look at the 'howstuffworks' [Internet Technology page](#) which carries a wealth of information on its title subject.

#### 9) My PC has been running slowly for a while but now it has slowed down dramatically...effecting both my programmes and internet (Rick)

- Dave ran through the options for 'Reinstallation' of Windows, too many to record here but you can find the [Microsoft instructions here](#)

- In the context of this subject we also looked at [Belarc Advisor](#) in relation to programme licence keys/serial numbers
- .... and discussed 'clean-up' options, '[Windows Clean Up](#)' and '[Glary Utilitie](#)'

**10) I'm in a group and we want to move away from Zoom because of the 40 minute limit (Sandie)**

- Using <https://meet.jit.si/> I set up a new group on line which Sandie can use for her Mindfulness group and she will report back at the next meeting

**11) I raised a problem I was having with my Sky+ box in that the download option repeatedly failed**

- No one else in the group uses Sky so that couldn't be pursued but Dave gave a lot of useful information about Free Sat and the Humax box
- Recently, Jean had had a problem with her Humax but was able to contact them on line and they were able to talk her through the steps to correct it. She was very pleased.
- We went onto have an interesting and useful discussion how to get around the obligatory adverts on All4 and the ITV Hub and TV issues in general.
- BBCi Player allows totally free streaming and is always available on smart TVs irrespective of the main viewing platform.
- **P.S.** Later, I contacted Sky to tell them I was going to cancel - but after negotiation, came away with a free installation of a new Sky Q box (normally £100) and a much reduced cost on my subscription!

**12) This discussion lead onto the subject** of Strictly Come dancing which involved the deaf dancer and then onto sign language. A discussion ensued about our childhood recollections of our first experiences of technology in its various forms.

- As an aide memoir for these notes I record the audio of the meetings and, whilst somewhat off piste, found this section to be most amusing and entertaining.....
- ....so much so, I've extracted the section and attached a copy of the mp3 for you to enjoy. This is what the U3A is all about!

Next meeting

Agreed, Friday 25th February, 3 pm, <https://meet.jit.si/stowmarketu3a/CandT>

I will send a reminder closer to the time

Regards

Peter