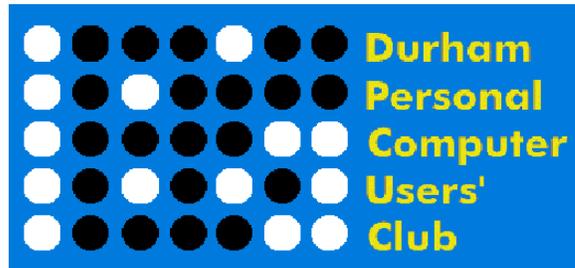


April 2017

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



March Prize List

Lloyd Mosher	\$18.00	Neil Pettyl	Raspberry Pi Zero
Mark Hunter	\$12.00	Jim Smith	128 Gig Flash
		David Hubbard	Keyboard
		Jim Robinson	Cup Holder

Please visit the Club Web Page for all the latest links and information

<http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/>

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Next Meeting

The Making of the MCM / 70 Computer

BY Dr. Zbigniew Stachniak

Faith United Church at 1778 Nash Road, Courtice

Thursday, Apr 13 2017 7:00PM

FYI

- By Dan DeLong

Microsoft Store – free PC tune-up

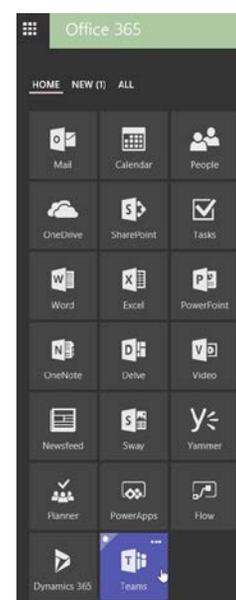
Yorkdale Mall (1 647 777 4580) and **Toronto Eaton Centre** (1 647 775 1480) are the two closest full service Microsoft Stores. If you make an appointment at one of these locations, and, if you are willing to leave your Win7/8/10 computer with the staff, it will be serviced at no charge for labour. Those living far away may try asking for faster, same-day-service. Staff will clean up the hard drive, improve speed, and check battery performance. I get the impression that those still running Win 7/8 will be “up-sold” to purchase and install Windows 10, along with any hardware enhancements needed to run Windows 10. Even so, Win10 customers will still get full tune-up service. The staff will provide an estimate of time needed. They also ask that you bring along the power supplies, cords, and batteries.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/locations/pc-tuneup>



Office 365 Enterprise E2

To fulfill one of my duties with the Durham Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, I have been given an Office 365 login. Amongst the apps available (*see image*), [Teams](#) (highlighted) is the newest. Although I haven't joined any Teams channels yet, Teams appears to be an all inclusive virtual meeting ground, employing many Skype features; like, whiteboards, audio and video chats, group chats, and file sharing, in addition to group projects, blogs and wikis. **Teams** also integrates the group's emails into these channels. In the near future, another new app will appear in the 365 apps list - an app called **Bookings**. Large businesses, like banks, already employ their own interfaces for booking appointment with bank clients. One drawback of such systems, is the following. They require a bank representative to call customers several times – first to make the appointment, and then to confirm, or remind, or change the appointment. Smaller businesses also waste a lot of time on the phone. This is potential profit time lost, unless a more efficient process comes along – that being **Office 365 Bookings**, which takes over by allowing customers to make their own appointments and change them online, without overlapping existing appointments. Therefore, small business owners receive booking notices and changes on all of their devices, immediately. Bookings can also integrate into a business Facebook page. [*Instagram (now owned by Facebook) has started a similar booking service – for hiring skilled photographers, and for booking appointments with business users, all based on geo-marked photos.*] <https://products.office.com/en-us/business/scheduling-and-booking-app>

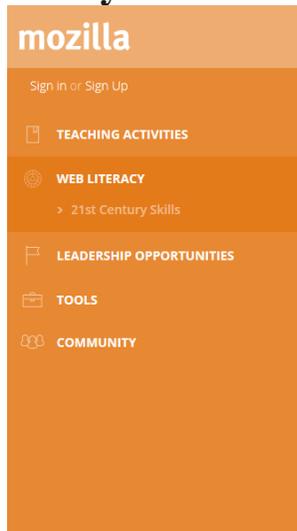


Nokia 3310 Legacy Phone

Almost two decades ago, Nokia made a phone with a similar format to the new 3310 model, candy-bar styled, cell phone. The Nokia 3310 is the modern update to an old, very popular, phone... one that now sells for 50 Euros (*about \$85 with tax here, when, and if, available*). The removable 1200 mAh battery lasts for **22 hours** of talk time, and **31 days on stand by**. The plastic body is available in two bright colours, and dark blue and grey. The game of **Snakes** returns to this phone's, 2.4 inch colour screen, which is curved and polarized for viewing in sunlight. Charging is through a universal micro-USB charging port. On the back is a **2 MegaPixel** camera with flash. Inside one model is a **single SIM** slot, while another has **dual SIM** slots. The 3310 has an FM radio and MP3 player with an audio headphone jack. The cell signal is only at 2G speed. Storage is 16 MB internal, extended to 32 GB with a MicroSD card. Bluetooth is the older 3.0 version. A Nokia operating system runs the phones *functions (might be Android customized)*. Here's a phone that is just a phone; cheap, simple, and safer for kids. https://www.nokia.com/en_int/phones/nokia-3310

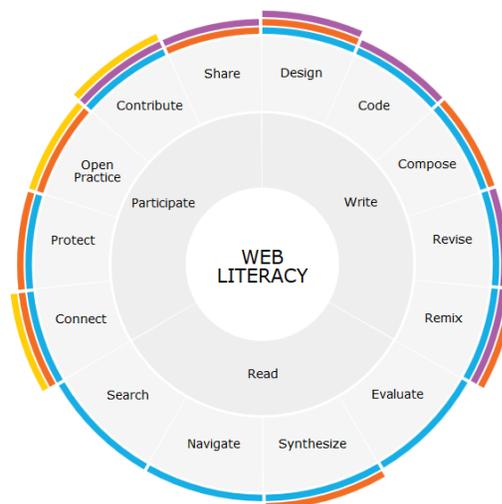


Web Literacy from Mozilla



21st Century Skills

- Problem-Solving
- Communication
- Creativity
- Collaboration



Teach yourself, using tools and guided tutorials, to better understand web design, right down to detailed coding methods. Click on **Tools** for coding. Mozilla also assists in the running of a local community group – **Hive Toronto**.

[\[http://hivetoronto.org/\]](http://hivetoronto.org/)

<https://learning.mozilla.org/en-US/web-literacy/write/design/>

GPX Sky Rider Night Hawk Drone

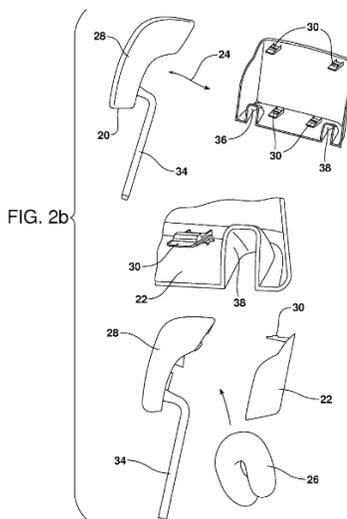
Although the new Ontario drone laws may dampen your enjoyment of glow-in-the-dark blades and decorative LEDs on the underside of this remote controlled **hexacopter**, it's still a great deal. [Reviewers](#) who tried the voice activated controls (using shouted commands), reverted to the much easier, hand-held, joystick controller (or the touch screen on their phone), even though voice instructions did work. The so-so Wi-Fi camera sends continuously to a smart phone, or to a computer, or to VR goggles, or to an SDcard. Flight time, on a two hour battery charge, is 6-8 minutes. An extra battery costs \$10 USD. The whole kit, before shipping, is \$80 USD. <https://gpx.com/night-hawk-hexacopter-drone-with-wi-fi-camera.html>



Ford's non-techie patent

Automobile comforts need not depend on high levels of technology. Ford has [patented an add-on to the passenger seat headrest](#). It is a hidden neck pillow, stored in a compartment that opens from the back of the headrest.

Simple, -right? Storing the pillow in such way does not take away from the vehicle's interior aesthetics, nor does it consume space already claimed for other items. What is not clear to me is the size of the pillow, compared to the space inside the headrest. Perhaps it requires inflation. Maybe the pillow easily compresses to fit the space. This patent claim is 8 pages long, tying up a "novel" idea inside a web of legalese, such that no other company may do likewise. Now, that's "**Innovation**": -



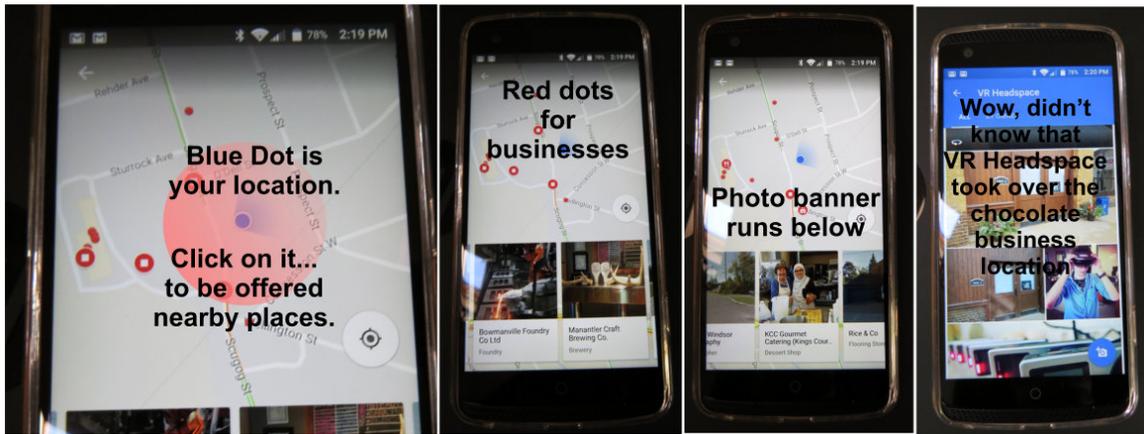
my definition – 'a new idea that makes money'. <http://www.komando.com/cars-trucks-tech/393397/leaked-patent-from-ford-shows-something-strange-hiding-in-the-passengers-seat>

AMD Ryzen – latest processor

Canada Computers has prioritized the new **Ryzen R7 1800X** in recent online ads, as a less expensive gaming processor to the **Intel i7-6900K**. This may prove true, whenever game manufacturers get around to optimizing their newly released games for the Ryzen. Buyers will still get great performance for less than half the price. <http://www.thewindowsclub.com/amd-ryzen-intel>

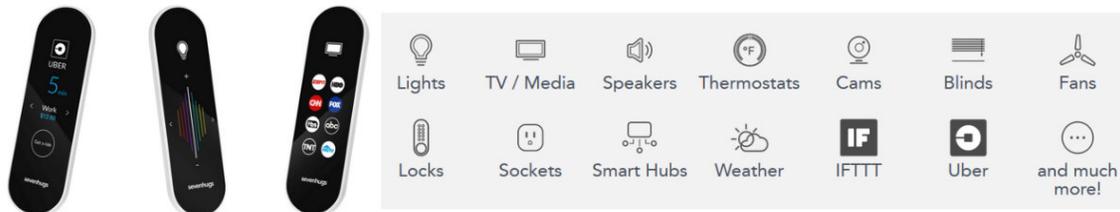


Google Maps – location benefits



Google uses GPS to follow your movements in the real world. There are benefits to this. For example, clicking on the **blue dot** (your current location) brings up a few options, one of which offers to show you **nearby locations** (most are nearby businesses, although some are Streetview photos nearest your current location). I discovered a couple of businesses I had no idea existed in my neighbourhood. Maybe I'll soon walk over and visit **VR Headspace**. Some major urban centres in the United States are reaping the benefits of the latest beta version of Google Maps, downloadable from the Play Store. This version contains an added feature - a **location service** - for relocating (finding) your car in a parking lot. It can also warn you of expiring time on a parking meter. Before walking away from the car, this app will also prompt you to take a photo of the parking area and make a note of which parking level you are on. And, before arriving at the parking area, Google Maps will also predict the availability of parking, based on past usage by other drivers.

Smart Remote – one universal for 25,000 devices



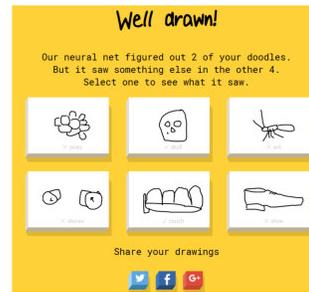
This smallish remote (*all three images show the changing screen of a single **Smart Remote** controller*), becomes aware of the specific device needing control, simply by pointing it toward the device. It works on infra-red, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth. Currently, each room will require one **Smart Remote** controller and the installation of three, sticky, sensors at different spots in the room. This is how the controller “knows” the direction in which it is pointing (*triangulation, I presume*). Users then define several zones within the 360 degree area, each zone being given a clue as to the type of device located inside that zone. When pointed at a zone, the screen instantly changes to a user interface style adapted to that specific device. Cost: \$230 to \$300 USD.

<https://sevenhugs.com/>

Google AI (Artificial Intelligence) Experiments



Can a neural network learn to recognize doodles?



The link below, will take you to a number of **AI experiments** the Google staff have been working on recently. “**Quick, Draw!**” is the one I tried. It employs the same algorithms Google uses to translate handwriting into text. It learns by exposure to many thousands of sketches (some found on the Web), and also by watching the strokes (direction, lengths and sequence) made by users as they draw. Google needs your help. In order to learn from humans, you will be presented with a game, asking you to draw a certain “thing” within a time limit. With only seconds to complete a line drawing, the fun begins. **Quick Draw** will announce its guesses during the drawing process. Since I was trying to draw with a touch pad, not only did I have a hard time drawing accurately (or quickly), but the AI program could guess only a few of my attempts before, “Time’s up!” However, the program will learn from my feeble attempts, and be able to guess correctly when other ‘artists’ scribble similar shapes.

<https://quickdraw.withgoogle.com/#> <https://aiexperiments.withgoogle.com/>

ASUS Chromebook Flip C320CA



Soon to be available in Canada, this convertible 12.5 inch notebook folds completely back to become a flat tablet. A slightly larger 13.3 inch C301SA model does not convert. Although Asus champions the quality of their speakers, and the brightness of the touch screen, one **Verge** reviewer was impressed with neither. However, battery life is 10 hours (7-8 in heavier use), and performance is impressive, with an **Intel Core M3** processor, 4GB RAM, and 32/64 GB solid state storage (*with expansion through a Micro-SD slot, or via one of the 2 USB-C ports*). A beta version of **Android** is pre-installed, in readiness for the full release of Android apps. It weighs about 2.5 pounds, boots instantly, and connects through fast AC wireless, where available. The cost for the base model, with illuminated keyboard, is \$569.00 CDN.

<https://www.asus.com/ca-en/Notebooks/ASUS-Chromebook-Flip-C302CA/>

Windows 10 Creators Update

I have come across a few methods for obtaining the [Creators Update](#) before the official launch on April 11. For early adopters, just join the Windows Insider Program (the safest method). At this writing, the ISO build number is **Build 15058**. <http://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/computing/windows-10/windows-10-creators-update-download-microsoft-11364167254195> For IT specialist, **Network World** delves deeper into changes coming to Windows 10, as well as features being deprecated and eventually dropped from the operating system.

<http://www.networkworld.com/article/3183271/windows/windows-10-creators-update-microsoft-removes-depreciates-features-specific-to-it-professionals.html> Changes to the interface for **sharing** content will be improved, along with better control over updates for Pro and Enterprise users.

With respect to updates, I experienced a troubling and confusing update situation on a Win7 Pro machine a short while ago. A “recommended update” hitch hiked onto my computer, amongst a group of “important updates”. After installation, I looked up **KB2952664**, both on the Microsoft site and generally through a Google search. I found a few other users complaining about the same KB2952664, which had quickly moved from “recommended” to “important” on the same day. Apparently, this update was designed to send telemetry back to Microsoft, supposedly to make sure all new changes would be compatible with that machine. I uninstalled it, with some difficulty. A comparable **KB2976978** update came to Win8.1 computers at the same time. Both seem to have been pulled by Microsoft; but check your systems anyway. <https://superuser.com/questions/1069174/windows-update-kb2952664-compattelrunner-exe-cannot-be-uninstalled-from-window>

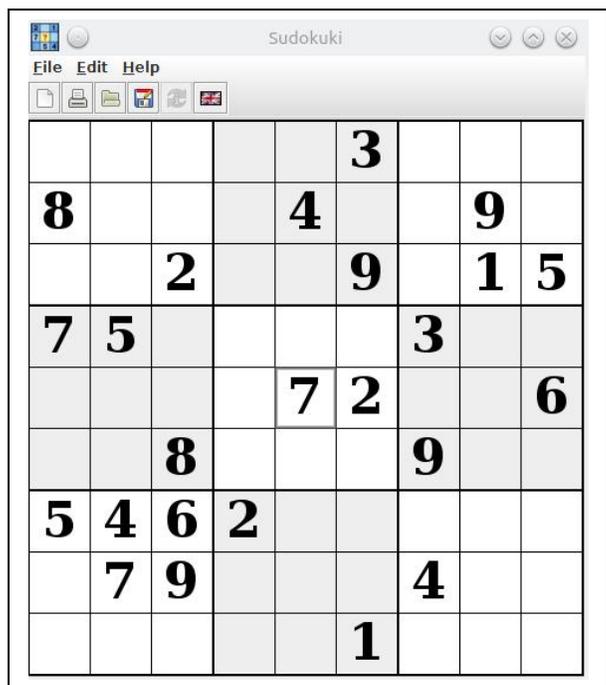
Sudoku

for March 2017

by Alex Morrison



A Challenging Puzzle this month!



Sudoku

The game board on the left was produced using **Sudokuki** on PCLinuxOS 64 Bit running KDE 5 Plasma.

The objective is to fill in the missing numbers ensuring that every 3 X 3 grid has the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats and every full column or row has the numbers 1 through 9 again with no repeats.

If you have trouble solving the puzzle just send an email to me and I will send you the solution.

Have fun! Alex

Linux in the News

By Alex Morrison



From: <http://laxer.com/> & <http://www.linuxtoday.com/> & <http://www.linuxinsider.com/>
<http://www.topix.com/tech/linux>

Sorry Windows, Android is now the most popular end-user operating system

- ZDNet; By Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols (Posted by [bob](#) on Apr 4, 2017 6:38 AM EDT)
- Story Type: [News Story](#); Groups: [Android](#)

The rise of smartphones has led to Android becoming more popular, says StatCounter, but by such a fine margin that not everyone agrees.

[Zorin Desktop Is a Crowd Pleaser](#)

March 1, 2017

Zorin OS developers on Tuesday released Version 12.1, offering Linux users a patchwork of software and hardware updates with some performance enhancements and bug fixes. Zorin 12.1 follows the introduction three months ago of the project's 12 series. It is a minor update, but the amount of tweaking applied makes it worth upgrading to the .1 release. For instance, it has an updated hardware stack. [\[More...\]](#)

Linux Software a Fun Game - Peg-E

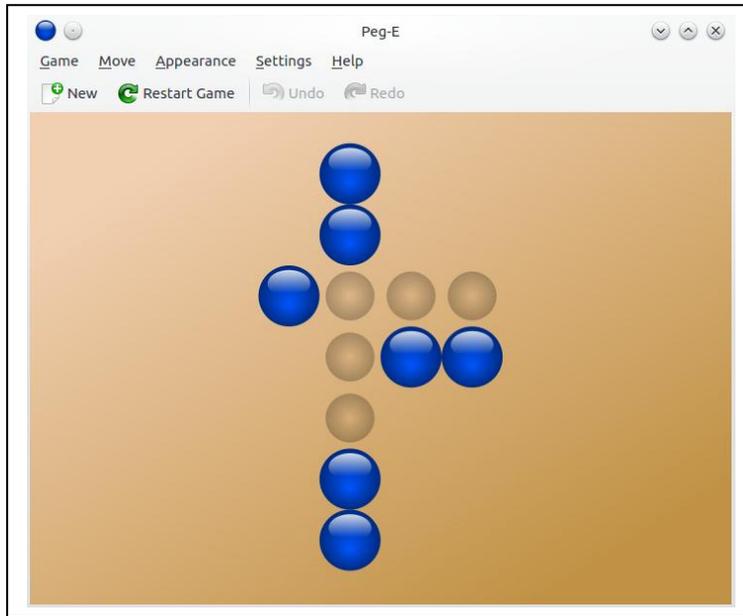
by Alex Morrison

I like a few of the simple Linux games and just recently found one based on an old board game I played as a child.

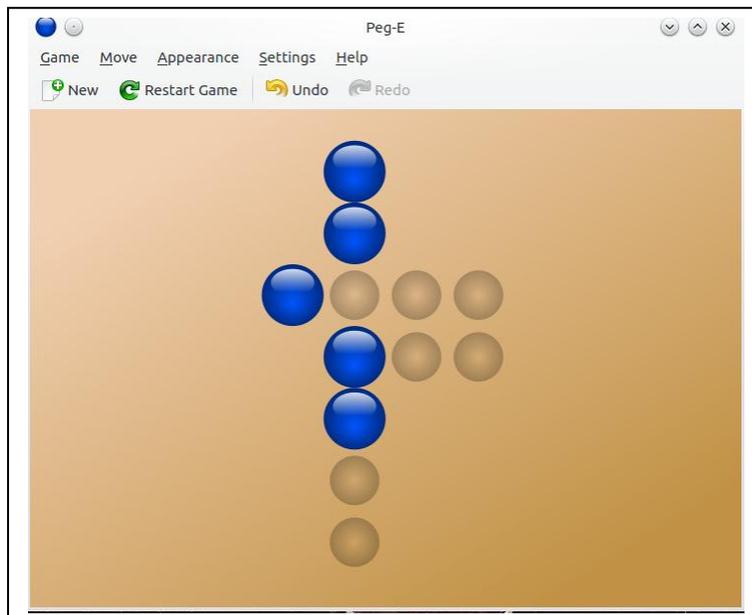
The game I found is called Peg-E. The playing of the game is to move the blue pegs by jumping over one of the adjacent pegs. When you jump over a peg that peg disappears.

The objective is to reduce the board to a single peg.

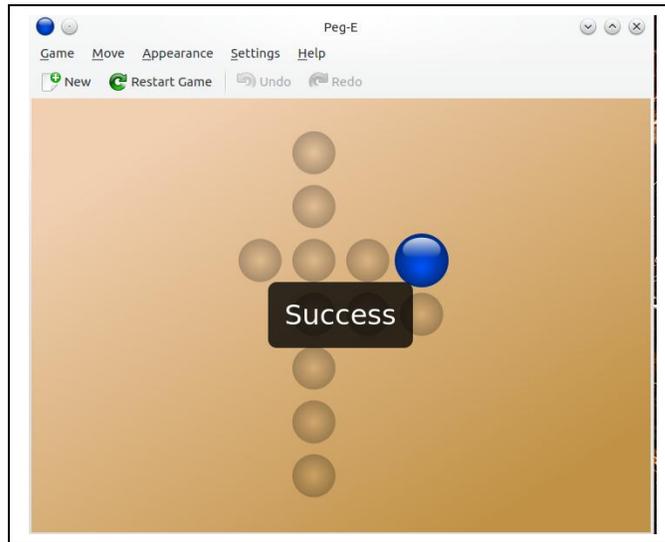
The sample image below is the peg board at the simplest level. Many people can figure out the solution by spending a few minutes looking at the image.



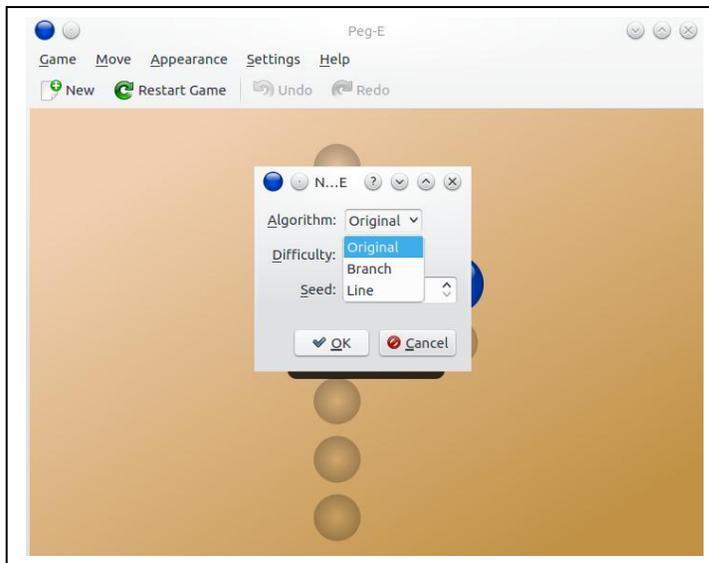
Looking at the image below I have jumped from the bottom and then from the right side. Two pegs are now removed.



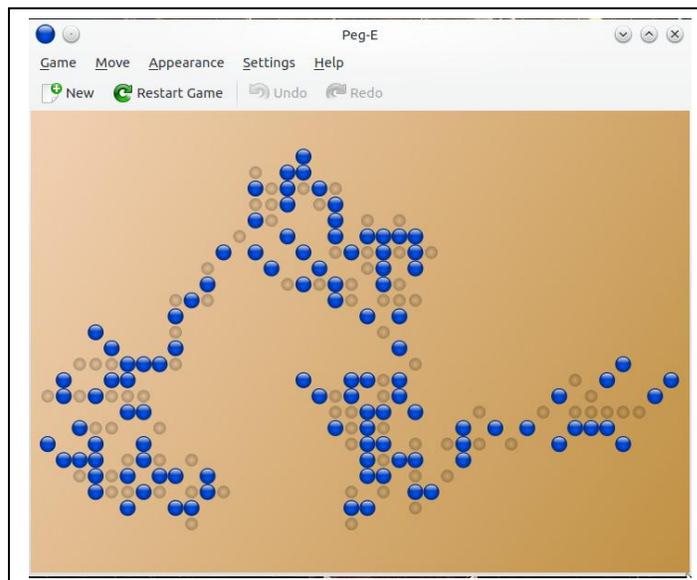
Jumping from the bottom then left then top then right completes the game. We are rewarded with the image below.



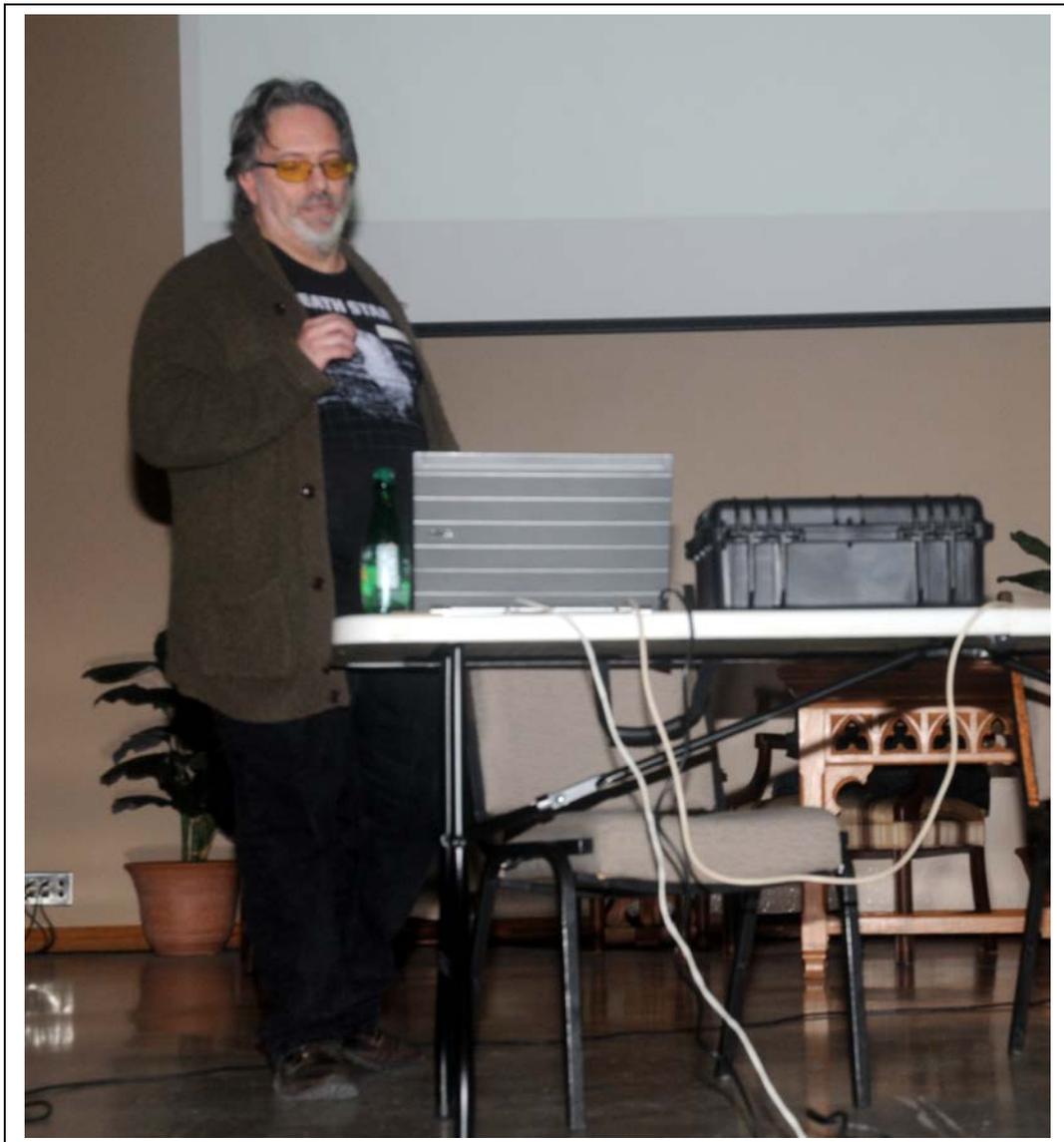
There are many varieties at each difficulty level and there are 3 different play patterns available. The levels are set when you select a new game [levels from 1 to 100]. Difficulty patterns [there are 3] are shown in the next image. There are a lot of challenges waiting if you play. If you fail on a level just press restart game to play the same game from the beginning.



The picture below is level 100 – Good luck with that!



Presentation Images [from February] by Farny LeGresley



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS {SIG's}

Special Interest Groups are for members only.

SIG's are really free monthly seminars with question and answer sessions following the presentation(s)

Members of SIG's enjoy a feeling of community and share common goals and interests.

Most SIG's are informal and members who attend them set the agenda for the meeting based on their own needs.

New ideas for SIG groups are welcome.

Special Interest Groups

Details

BEGINNER

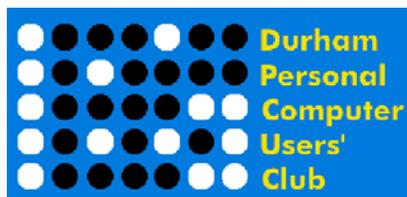
Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: Call for Location
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 3rd Thursday of month 7:00 PM

**LINUX
 Durham Linux User Group**

Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: Call for Location
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 1st Thursday of month 7:30 PM

Digital Camera Group

Location: Call for Location
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30PM



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 EXECUTIVE**

2015-2016

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HOME PAGE --- <http://www.durhampc-usersclub.on.ca/>

**Newsletter
 Information**

PC Monitor is the official publication of the Durham Personal Computer Users' Club and is published monthly at Oshawa, Ontario. The DPCUC mailing address is PMB # 110, 27-1300 King St East, Oshawa, ON L1H8J4. The PC Monitor cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies in the content, although efforts will be made to publish information accurately.

The deadline for articles and information is 10 days following the monthly meeting. Late submissions may not be published due to tight schedules. Submit articles by email to the editor at alexmor@teksavvy.com. Articles should be submitted in Word Format using Times New Roman as the preferred Font.