Nov 2018

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter
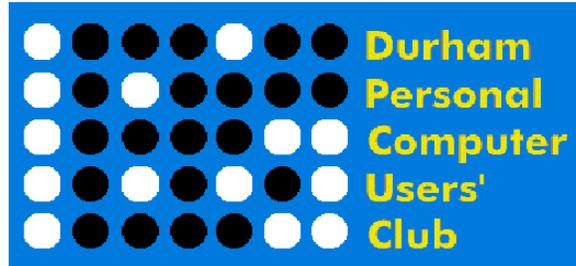
October Prize List

Lloyd Mosher	$17.50	Mike Weaver	Toolkit
John Alford	$10.00	John Lacombe	10 Velcro Ties
		John Sylvestervich	Butane Lighter
		Alex Morrison	2 Storage Boxes

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Next Meeting

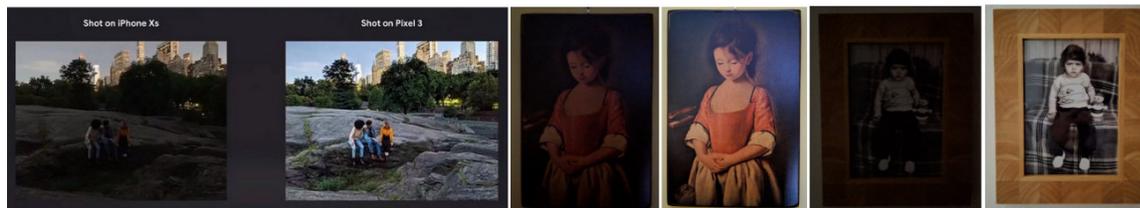## History of the Computer

By David Mackey

Faith United Church at 1778 Nash Road, Courtice

Thursday, Nov 8, 2018   7:00PM

FYI

- By Dan Delong

Pixel 3's Low Light App

Flash and fill-flash photography, whether using a phone or an expensive single- purpose camera, may not yield photos as good as those taken with the **Night Sight** app's algorithm, which needs no tripod, or reflectors, or diffusers. The effect is dramatic. But, you first have to own a Pixel 3 or Pixel 3 XL (maybe a pixel 2 or Pixel). Even without **Night Sight**, Pixel phones rank tops in image quality. These most recent Google Pixel phones will set you back $1000 CDN and $1130, respectively. On another note, Google makes frequent updates to Android on modern phones, and will now require all manufacturers to make updates possible for at least two years, after release of any future Android based smart phones.
https://www.theverge.com/2018/10/25/18021944/google-night-sight-pixel-3-camera-samples

Rocket Piggy

A small Toronto team has come to the aid of parents who are rearing young children, with a novel device and some strategies for learning about money and for developing money related math skills. Rocket Piggy fits comfortably in a child's hands, comes in a variety of food-safe plastic colours, and contains a touch screen. Success in completing learning games and in performing tasks/chores will earn the child some instant virtual money. This 'pretend' money (some of which may be received as an allowance) will become real money when deposited in a real bank account (by the parent), or handed out in cash. Meanwhile, an app on the parent's phone(s) not only keeps track of earnings and task completion, but is the device upon which tasks/chores are assigned to each child and the cash value of each. That way, compensation for, say, a child of 5, could be different than that for a child of 8. The money recognition lessons use images of Canadian currency! Yeah!
https://rocketpiggy.ca/

LTE-M1 (Long Term Evolution Category M1)

Telus is first among the big three Telcos to upgrade to this newer, low-power, wireless system, which is designed to allow IoT devices, like agricultural sensors, to work continuously and intermittently at low power, sending data to a collection point. M1 is a two- way cellular connection, faster than 2G and 3G. Also, Telus recently presented their rational for door-to-door sales to the CRTC, despite concerns over pressure tactics during contact with potential customer. Compensation to these sales people is based solely on commissions.
https://mobilesyrup.com/2018/10/25/telus-lte-m-network-live-canada/

PetChatz and Paw Call

Pet Chatz is a wall mounted screen and camera/microphone for 'home alone' pets, to see and hear their owners. This way, owners can keep tabs on the movements of their pets in silent mode, or make a video call to let their pet also hear a familiar voice. Treats can be dispensed by clicking a screen icon (on the owner's phone, only). Pet friendly movies can also be shown on the same screen. With the addition of Paw Call, a companion device, your pet can call you by placing a paw on the key pad. https://petchatz.com/

Nebula CapsuleII

Considering its size, this HD digital projector has a lot going for it. The battery lasts for about 4 hours of up to a 100-inch diagonal display, at 200 Lumens, before recharging. Multiple inputs (HDMI, USB, and screen sharing over a few flavours of wireless), along with auto key-stoning and 360-degree sound, are just some of its other features. Lay the projector on its back for ceiling projection, including photo files, YouTube, and Netflix videos. When playing just music, playtime extends to 30 hours. The company also carries other models; including the first generation Capsule *[Retail is $560 CDN.]*. https://seenebula.com/ Kickstarter, is the only source for the upgraded CapsuleII at this time [$400 early bird and $600 USD retail]: https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2099924322/nebula-capsule-ii-worlds-first-android-tvtm-pocket

Emit Smartwatch

Anyone with a busy lifestyle, or a tendency to forget/procrastinate, will appreciate this Kickstarter project. I also like the big screen, with its clear display of each 'timely' reminder, including a view of regular time. Although a smart phone may be used to synch calendars stored therein, the watch still offers manual settings for reminders that matter to you. The first production units of **Emit** will be out in May 2019. https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/thush/emit-smartwatch-change-your-perspective-on-time
For the musician, whether at a professional level or not, here's another well-backed Kickstarter watch, almost ready for delivery… an amazing multi-tasker, called the "**Soundbrenner**"! https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/352439100/soundbrenner-core-the-4-in-1-smart-music-tool

Tesla Powerbank

This is the second Tesla phone charger to be offered to those who want some kind of association with the Tesla brand, but who may not yet own the car. This device is nothing special, as chargers go, except for its unique design and logo, and the fact that the cylindrical lithium battery is identical to that used in Model S and Model X cars. It costs, $45 USD. These chargers must be popular, since the Canadian link now returns a **404 error**, when trying to buy it. A fully charged Powerbank sends out 5V, at only 1.5 Amps, and with a capacity of 3350mAh. It connects via micro USB or USB C/Thunderbolt. The other, more expensive model, with a larger battery, offers wireless charging.
https://shop.tesla.com/us/en/product/apparel/powerbank.html

Pocket Lint's Budget Phone Choice

The Motorola G6 takes first place in the well-appointed budget smart phone field, according Pocket Lint, a UK website. If purchased on Amazon USA, the cost will be about $200 for a phone with 3GB RAM and 32GB storage, expandable with a micro SD. Bumping RAM to 4GB, and storage to 64GB, puts the price around $320. Other specs are:

- Qualcomm Snapdragon 450 1.8 GHz Octa-Core processor, fast 4G LTE speed, and Android 8.0
- 12 MP + 5 MP Dual rear cameras for studio-quality portraits and 8 MP front-facing Camera with LED flash for wide-angle selfies
- 5.7" full HD+ Max vision display with an 18: 9 Aspect ratio. All-day battery + TurboPower charging: 3, 000 mAh battery, hours of power after minutes of charging with TurboPower charging
- Fingerprint sensor to easily unlock your phone

Once again, the US site has stock, but Amazon CA is still waiting.
https://www.pocket-lint.com/phones/buyers-guides/131905-best-budget-smartphones-and-cheap-mobile-phones-for-under-200

Mother's Voice and Smoke Alarms

Unfortunately, I can sleep right through a blaring smoke alarm, something inherited from my father, perhaps. While the claxon sounded onboard his frigate during WWII, calling 'all hands' to stations, he slept through the whole thing. His hammock, in the mess, was far too noisy for sleep. So, in mild weather, he found a better location on deck, snuggled against a Carley float (an early floatation raft). Forward, fifty or sixty years, to modern times, when smoke detectors became installed in most rooms. And, yet, the same problem still exists for many sleepers, including children. However, an experiment with children has found that a mother's voice, saying, '"Wake up!" to be much more effective in forcing arousal; hence, showing that 86 out of one hundred children would have escaped, rather than the 51 out of one hundred indicated by standard alarms. If Alexa and Google Home – members of a family of increasingly common devices - can be programmed to link up with (or listen for) smoke alarms, that might be the quickest way to upgrade to this kind of 'mom's voice alert'. https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/newsroom/news-releases/2018/10/smoke-alarm-study
For those with Toronto Star online access - https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/smoke-alarms-mother-voice-faster-1.4871813

Winamp will "Kick Ass", so the developers claim.

Download Winamp 5.∞

A leaked version of Winamp 5.8 recently spread over the Internet. Consequently, we have decided to make this new version available to you, revised by us.

Remember this audio player from decades past (21 years ago, to be exact)? Well, it's about to make a return as your player of choice, fully featured, and with just about everything you'll need in the audio realm, as a competitor to services like iTunes. In other words, it'll be the VLC for both audiophiles, and videophiles (with a video player as bonus). Until then, a recent Winamp 5.8 update will do, as it also plays videos. However, this upcoming release version (after 5.8) won't be coming out until early 2019. If you'd like to run the current updated version, made for the modern Windows operating systems, download 5.8 while you can. It can still organize your music collection in custom playlists, provide labelling and logos, and more [including the ability to rip without paying for the Pro version]. Do you also remember the artistic wave patterns generated while music played? It's still there.
https://www.winamp.com/

Ghostbusters World

Google invited game developers to use Maps and Streetview to create adventure games. Sony came up with a "Pokemon GO"-like game, Ghostbusters World, in which individual players roam an area looking for malevolent spirits. When found, a player uses a power pack to Zap'em. More powerful ghosts may require a team effort, whereupon a player calls on others to join the hunt. The game is free, and available at both Google Play and the App Store. The Android version includes augmented reality.
https://www.blog.google/products/maps/bust-ghosts-newest-game-built-mapsghostbusters-world/

DELL EMC

EMC is a mysterious acronym for 'something', which I have yet to discover. Still, it is satisfying to know this much about it - DELL offers big businesses a data protection service and data recovery system that protects them from cyber attacks, including the most dangerous ransom ware attacks. Once a server system has been successfully attacked, it takes only minutes to encrypt all of the storage media and demand a ransom. Protection by DELL's EMC system appears to work by making frequent, full, backups. The technique is described as both a vault (for storage) and an air gap (for time isolation). In other words, each back-up appears to go into a separate virtual vault, then disconnect, leaving a 'temporal air gap', when a connection no longer exists between the originating and destination servers. Each time the process runs, storage is in a different vault location. EMC is able to tell which back-ups are safe for restoration, should an alert appear indicating an attack occurred. Operating this system must be quite expensive, for it requires lots of bandwidth and storage. However, it must beat the price of ransom attacks by a long shot, or clients like banks and credit unions would not be using it. This is a simple explanation of a far more complex work flow. I do not understand how EMC stops a repeat of the same attack vector, but it does.
https://www.dellemc.com/en-ca/solutions/data-protection/isolated-recovery-solution.htm

Linux in the News   by Alex Morrison

From: http://lxer.com/ & http://www.linuxtoday.com/ & http://www.linuxinsider.com/
           http://www.topix.com/tech/linux

How the cloud wars forced IBM to buy Red Hat for $34 billion

- ZDNet; By Larry Dignan (Posted by the_doctor on Oct 30, 2018 3:07 PM EDT)
- Story Type: Editorial, Video; Groups: Cloud, Developer, Linux, Red Hat

IBM's purchase of Red Hat is a big bet on the hybrid and private cloud and the ability of Big Blue to manage multiple public cloud providers. Here are a few dynamics to ponder.

- Full story
- Read more
- 0 threads and 0 posts

Lakka - Transform Your Old PC into a Retrogaming Console
(Oct 27, 2018, 10:00) (0 talkbacks)

Fossmint: Lakka is a free, lightweight, and open-source Linux distro that turns a small PC into a full-blown game console.

Machine learning with Python: Essential hacks and tricks

(Oct 30, 2018, 19:00) (0 talkbacks)

Master machine learning, AI, and deep learning with Python.

Announcing the release of Fedora 29

- Fedora Magazine (Posted by bob on Oct 30, 2018 5:36 PM EDT)
- Groups: Fedora; Story Type: News Story

[This message comes directly from the desk of the Fedora Project Leader. — Ed.] In just one week, it will be fifteen years since we announced the release of Fedora Core 1. Now, we're announcing the release of Fedora 29 — now not just "core", but Workstation, Server, Atomic Host, a whole collection of desktop Spins […]

- Full story
- Read more
- 0 threads and 0 posts

Sudoku

Nov 2018   **by Alex Morrison**

A Hard Puzzle this month

					4			
	8	9	2			6		1
			3				8	
7					5			
8		2			9			
1			6	4	5			
		7					2	
	2	6				8	4	
			9					

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 troubles solving the puzzle send an email to me and I will send you the solution.

Have fun! Alex

Do you want an extra month added to your Membership – FREE!

All you need to do is to write an article for the newsletter. It can be as small as a single page!

If you write an article every month for 12 months you will end up getting a full year free membership.

Topics can be anything you think might be of interest to the general membership.

President's Message

The DPCUC Executive would like the members to give their input on this important topic.

We are asking the DPCUC members to provide suggestions for next year's meeting presentations.

There are a lot of possible presentations we might be able to provide if you give us a few ideas. The executive would like to know what YOU want to see presented.

Think about it and offer ideas at the next meeting.

We will discuss this after the next meeting presentation.

Presentation Photos   by   Farny Le Gresley and Robert T. Bell

Last Month featured.......

A Telmax Communication presentation
     by Frank Alatalo

   Telmax provide Internet, Television and Phone service at a reasonable cost.

https://www.telmax.com/#!/

Sometimes we just have fun!

# Linux   Neofetch   by Alex Morrison

Linux has many useful tools for providing information about your hardware and PC in general.

This program is a command line tool that I introduce. It works well and some may like it better than the graphical options.

 Neofetch can be downloaded from Github ... https://github.com/dylanaraps/neofetch

A PCLinux forum member provided a precompiled version that is easy to install on PCLinux. I will be showing that version to the Linux group.

Here is an image showing the results of running the Neofetch command on my home laptop.
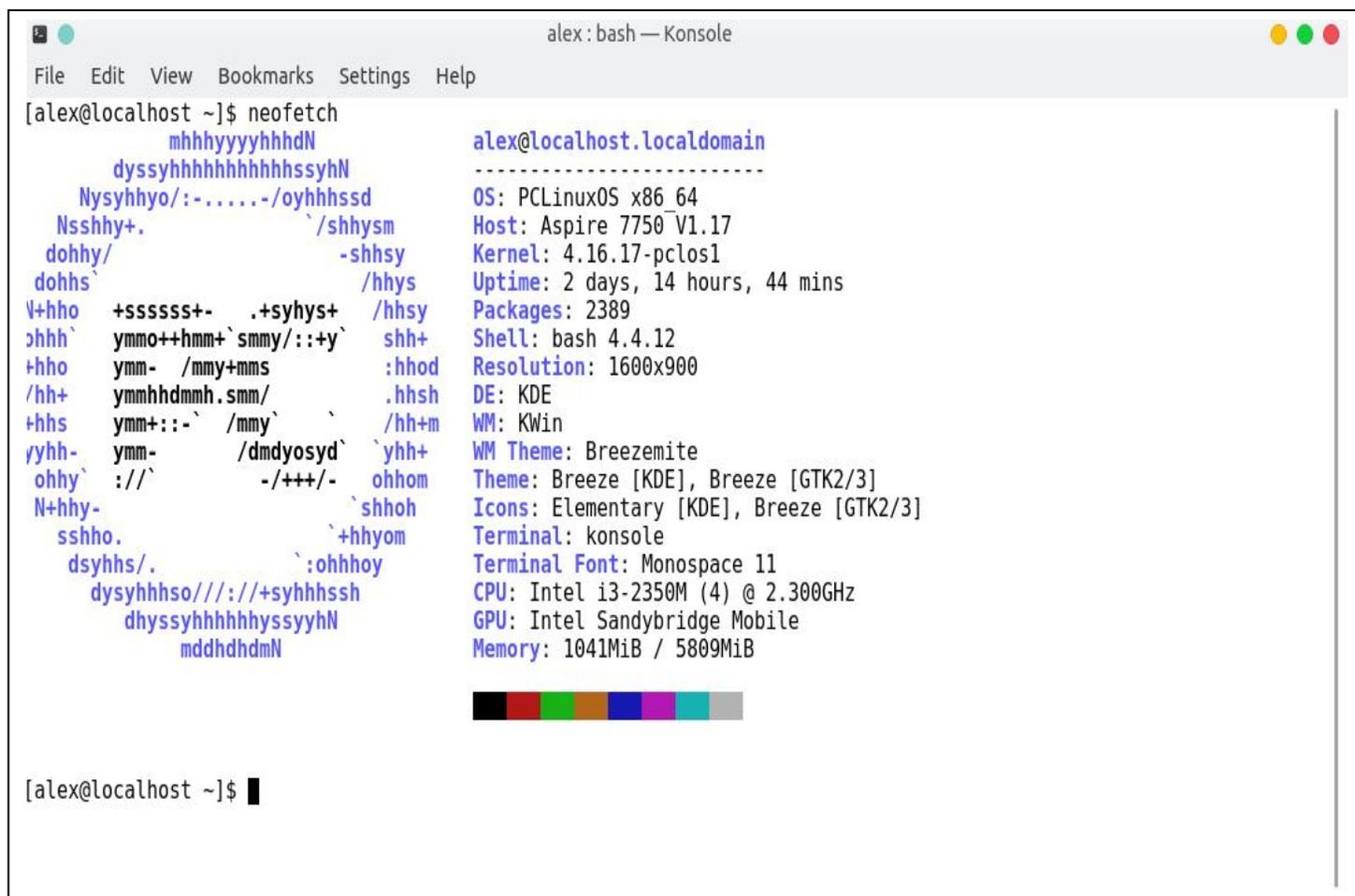
Our Linux group meets now on a regular basis at the Oshawa John Street Senior center. The meeting takes place first Thursday of every month at 7:00PM at the South east corner of John St and Center Street in Oshawa.

Please drop by for a visit if you want to learn about a free and powerful operating system.

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	**Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge**
Durham Linux User Group	**Location: Call for Location**
	Telephone: 905-926-9003
	Date: 1st Thursday of month 7:00 PM
Digital Camera Group	**Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge**
	Location: Call for Location
	Telephone: 905-926-9003
	Date: 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00PM
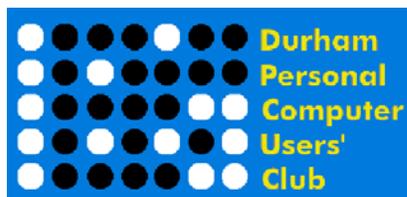
DPCUC EXECUTIVE

2017-2018

President	**Fred Fernbach**	frederic_fernbach@outlook.com	**905-410-0053**
Vice-President	**Anne Delong**	annedelong@timetraces.com	**905-623-6975**
Secretary	**Mark Hunter**	mark.s.hunter@bell.net	**905-419-6605**
Treasurer	**Allan Francis**	alelainef@sympatico.ca	**905-576-0481**
Membership	**Linda Netten**	linnetten@idirect.com	**905-623-2787**
Librarian	**Dan Delong**	dandelong@timetraces.com	**905-623-6975**
Program Director	**Fred Fernbach**	frederic_fernbach@outlook.com	**905-410-0053**
Advertising Director	**Brent Streeter**	bstreeter04@gmail.com	**647-327-2954**
Newsletter Editor	**Alex Morrison**	dpcuc@teksavvy.com	**905-579-1560**
Director at Large	**David Swain**	david@swainracing.com	**905-985-5201**
Director at Large	**Bob Bell**	bob@rgbell.ca	**905 -571-6748**

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

Newsletter Information

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.