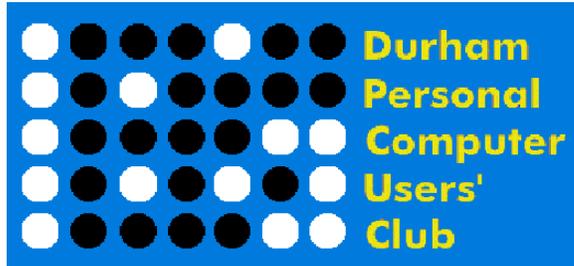


Dec 2018

# PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



November Prize List			
Ed Goudge	\$14.50	Hugh Crawford	Phone Card Reader
Michael Lee	\$8.00	John McRae	CD Case
		Alan Francis	USB Cable
		Allan Oliver	Keychain Light
		David Odynski	Card Reader

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

### Android Studio

By Fred Fernbach

Faith United Church at 1778 Nash Road, Courtice

Thursday, Dec 13, 2018 7:00PM

# FYI

- By Dan DeLong

## Drones and Racing

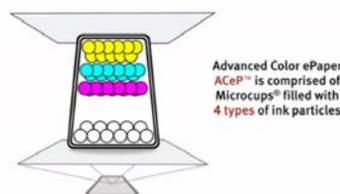
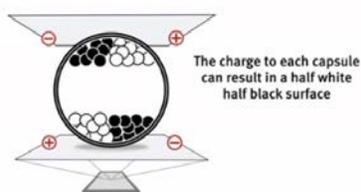
No matter the age of the recipient, many a 2018 Christmas gift may turn out to be a drone. And, they are getting better and better. Drone quality, as with most devices, tends to follow price. A really decent and safe drone can still be purchased for around \$100 - the [SkyCam](#) being one such example. There are rules, of course... especially for drones equipped with a camera. In Canada: - "at least 30 m away from vehicles, vessels and the public (if your **drone** weighs over 250 g and up to 1 kg) at least 76 m away from vehicles, vessels and the public (if your **drone** weighs over 1 kg and up to 35 kg) at least 5.6 km away from aerodromes (any airport, seaplane base or area where aircraft take off and land)"

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/drone-safety/flying-drone-safely-legally.html>

Really serious drone operators wear augmented vision goggles while operating their high speed drones, during indoor competitions. The DRL ([Drone Racing League](#)) now advocates using AI control for some racers, similar to self-driving cars. To win a race, these high speed drones, whether under manual or AI control, must navigate a difficult course faster than other competitors. This year's prize – one hundred thousand dollars – was won by a Colorado lad. To get a feel for drone racing, watch his CNN video report: - <https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/19/sport/drone-racing-league-finals-spt-intl/index.html>



## E-Ink (Electrophoretic Ink)



Non-paper sketch pads are just another one of those great products, still in development, that we'd like to have today. **E-Ink** is one that beats all the others for speed, palm rejection, and screen size. Their demo photo shows a drawing (above) that uses a medium line size (and some pressure sensing). Since these screens requires very little power (no capacitive touch or TFT), E-Ink panels should be cheap to make. [So, why is the \$700 [reMarkable](#) tablet so costly, when it is based on the same technology?]The pen, however, does need power, because it is the driver for these contrast changes as illustrated in the other two images (above). The E Ink company makes a wide variety of low power displays, from small signage, to displays up to three feet wide (some in colour).

<https://www.eink.com/e-ink-film.html>

<https://www.theverge.com/2018/11/30/18119353/e-ink-justwrite-low-latency-electronic-paper-whiteboard>

## Blackberry Key2 LE

This **Light Edition of the Key2** is cheaper (about \$500-\$600, depending on seller and configuration), yet it retains much of capability of the non-LE version. The **Key2 LE** is for those who prefer a keypad, a Canadian name, and better security. Mobile Syrup has a full review (link below). Here are a few highlights. The keypad is slightly bigger; the cameras are still pretty good (13MP, dual lens, and 5MP front), a dual SIM option, and power under usage that will last well over a day. The convenience key and spacebar fingerprint reader have also been kept.

<https://mobilesyrup.com/2018/11/20/blackberry-key2-le-review/>



## Canadian Cell Plan Rates – updated



The link accompanying this paragraph, from Mobile Syrup, covers all carriers in Canada and their recent changes, most of which involve offering more data, and if not, some slight reduction in monthly fees. The duration of this update is from November 26th to December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and may be different (in a good way) by the time this newsletter arrives.

Remember, it is no longer legal for the Big Three Telcos to refuse cancellations, charge cancellation fees, or refuse to transfer your number to a new carrier. (*Although, I hear this does not always go well*). Unlike Sugar Mobile, now shuttered by Rogers, these data plans do not allow banking of unused data. Except for Freedom Mobile (*Wind*) the less expensive plans piggy-back onto the Big Three tower networks.

<https://mobilesyrup.com/2018/11/26/google-freedom-rogers-canada-telus-bell/>

## 90 Billion USD wasted

The waste discussed here is not just a reflection of the recent attempt by Amazon to woo dollars from any city willing to pay sufficient taxpayer money for its new H2 facilities, but is the total for all companies operating in a similar manner to Amazon. There are many! Why are cities vying against each other to attract companies that openly request bribes? Well, if they don't accede, some other city will. Fortunately, Toronto is out of the running for Amazon's 'favours'. This 90 billion dollar waste is an annual event, taking money out of public projects, and putting it into company hands, which, theoretically, will return in some way to the winning city after taxes. It never does! In the opinion of a Citylab/Atlantic writer, this practice should be illegal.



<https://www.citylab.com/perspective/2018/11/amazons-hq2-spectacle-isnt-just-shameful-it-should-be-illegal/575617>

## Donald Knuth

Who is he? For those grew up with computers from the very beginning, he's the guy who created the first mathematically described and digitized fonts, Metafont, TeX, LaTeX, and he published "[The Art of Programming](#)" in 1968, his first among many other books. The **Web of Stories** website (link below) hosts video autobiographies of many famous people, including eminent scientists like Donald Knuth. He's now 80 years old, and having gone through treatment for prostate, he has an interesting take on life and death. His stories have had almost 200,000 views to date.



<https://www.webofstories.com/play/donald.knuth/1>

## LG Gram (980 grams, to be exact)

December, according to a well-known consumer publication, is the best time to buy a computer, since Competition drives the prices down, especially on last season's models. When I looked for a Canadian seller for the LG Gram – winner of the battery longevity and weight challenge – the first available order date was January 17, 2019. So, to avoid buyer remorse and a higher cost for Canadians, I'll wait. Still, the specs for these 13, 14 and 15 inch laptops looks impressive. With four lithium batteries (lower voltages) the working time between charges is about 16 hours!



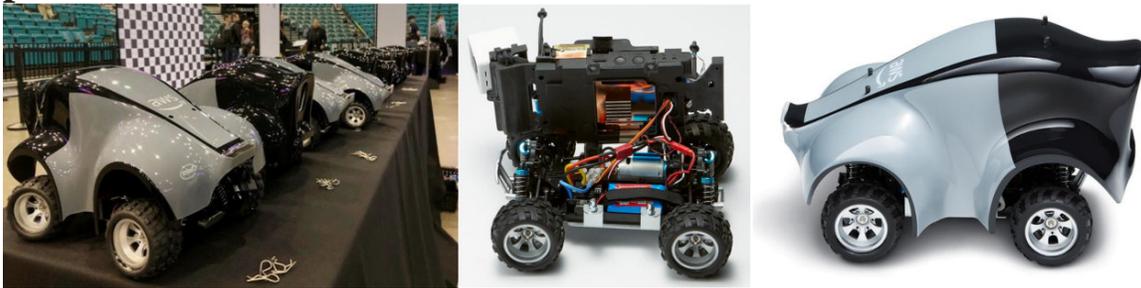
## **Automoose**

Although the name is deceiving, **Automoose** does exist, and lives quite happily in a laboratory/garage in Waterloo, Ontario. In fact, **Automoose** (better known as a **Lincoln MKZ Hybrid**) has been equipped with an “eye” (aka, hardware) and software controls developed by **WatCAR** (Waterloo Centre for Automotive Research). For fewer than 10 million dollars, and some impossible to evaluate Waterloo University talent, trials of this car in inclement weather (rain and snow), and at night, have outdone autonomous driving cars developed by major manufacturers. It probably uses the same array of sensors (8 cameras, GPS, and Lidar), but “understands” its environment better as a result of its unique software. Some driving decisions are made within two milliseconds, while full solutions may take 10-20 milliseconds. That’s fast! Human drivers may not stop at an intersection for a full 3 seconds, as this car does, because it needs to assess pedestrians fully, which may take a few seconds (that is, to see if a person might suddenly and inadvertently step off the curb). As with all self-driving cars, Automoose might get stuck behind a disabled vehicle, thinking that vehicle is just waiting for a ‘Go’ signal. Such events will cease to occur when all cars are autonomous, as the stranded vehicle would have been able to announce its condition to all other approaching vehicles. *[My \$50 car camera can only record HD video and generate a sound when it ‘sees’ a stop signal.]*



<https://www.automoose.net/>

## **AWA Deep Racer – for adults**



After developing **Deep Racer**, Amazon decided to sell it to outside coders, who are interested in improving the performance of self-driving cars. It is not clear to me, which is the front and which is the back end of these 1/8 scale models, or even how much of the “eye” technology, typical of full sized cars, is still installed in these models. Perhaps Amazon is focussing more on autonomous behaviour in densely packed lanes of traffic, where each car talks to the others, and uses Cloud information for street guidance. (\$400 USD)

<https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2018/11/29/amazons-latest-gadget-a-self-driving-toy-car-for-coders/>

## **Exoskeleton – for soldiers and the disabled**



While we may not know what is going on regarding genetic manipulation in government labs with respect to developing super-soldiers, the US and Soviets are both working on ‘below-the-waist’ motorized assistance devices, to increase carrying loads and reduce fatigue. For those who have lost full use of legs through a medical condition, such devices are now available at a cost equal to a mid-priced automobile.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2018/11/30/pentagon-looks-to-exoskeletons-to-build-supersoldiers/>

**PayPal Holiday Gift Cards – containing Money!**



Although PayPal has long allowed sending merchandise gift cards and money, this is the first time for sending seasonal e-cards *containing just money*, which is far more useful for the recipient than money meant just for certain merchants. I do not have a PayPal account, so cannot testify as to its ease of use, but in the short demo provided by PayPal, the whole procedure seemed easy enough. PayPal believes these card designs will make P2P transfers of money more personal. I believe the service fee is about 3%.

<https://venturebeat.com/2016/12/06/paypal-now-lets-you-send-designed-cards-when-gifting-money-this-holiday-season/>

**Huawei Mate 20 Pro**



This Chinese company has been flagged by some governments as a risky buy, since suspicion persists regarding hidden spyware in more of the hardware originating from an antagonistic and secretive Chinese government. However, this newly introduce phone will be hard to resist, with impressive features not yet available in other phones, and at price of about \$1300 (when available in Canada). In addition to three amazing rear cameras, the **Mate 20 Pro** can take remarkable photos in near darkness. The battery charges to 60% or 70% in about one half hour, and lasts at least a day on that amount of charge. The Mate 20's additional wireless charging circuitry is also able to charge another phone with similar wireless charging circuitry, when the two phones are "mated" back to back.

[https://www.gsmarena.com/huawei\\_mate\\_20\\_pro-9343.php](https://www.gsmarena.com/huawei_mate_20_pro-9343.php)

Our DPCUC Executive would like to wish you all a  
Happy and Safe holiday season!!!



# 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> <https://fossbytes.com/>

## Gift a book: 8 Linux and open source recommendations

- Opensource.com; By Jen Wike Huger (Posted by [bob](#) on Dec 3, 2018 10:12 PM EDT)
- Story Type: [Editorial](#), [Roundups](#); Groups: [Community](#), [Linux](#)

Chances are many of you are thinking about what to get others for the upcoming holiday season as well as what to add to your own wish list. Regardless of the reason or the season, though, these eight books are ones our writer community recommends to give and receive for any occasion or time of the year.

- [Full story](#)
- [Read more](#)
- [0 threads and 0 posts](#)

## [What to expect of Linux in 2019](#)

(Dec 03, 2018, 11:00) ([0 talkbacks](#))

NetworkWorld: Linux is poised to have a very exciting 2019.

## [Drive a locomotive through your Linux terminal](#)

(Dec 03, 2018, 15:00) ([0 talkbacks](#))

Using the sl command, you can train yourself to get on track with a fun command-line experience.

## Necuno To Launch Linux-Based Smartphone With KDE Plasma Mobile

The world of smartphones is largely divided by two OS: Android and iOS. But now, open source enthusiasts who are unhappy with those two choices will soon get a third option with the upcoming GNU/Linux-based phone.

Necuno has [unveiled its plans](#) of releasing an open-source alternative to iOS and Android phones. The company has teamed up with KDE, maker of the Plasma desktop for Linux and Plasma Mobile interface, to make the Linux based smartphone.

# Sudoku

Dec 2018

by Alex Morrison



A Trio of Puzzles this month – Merry Christmas

## EASY

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

## Sudoku

The game boards on this page were 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 puzzles send an email to me and I will send you the solution.

Have fun! Alex

## MEDIUM

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

## HARD

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

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.

# Presentation Photos

by Robert T. Bell



## November 2018 - David Mackey - A History of Computers

David Mackey took our audience from the time of conceptualisation of computers, before electronic digital devices, and into a possible quantum computer age.

December is our Annual Pot Luck

Bring snacks and or drinks [non-alcoholic]

Hope to see you all in attendance!

# **Learn with edX - Lynda – Udacity**

by Fred Fernbach

If you consider understanding something that is a hobby or keep learn new things, I would recommend going for free to [udacity.com](http://udacity.com) and learn different courses.

Udacity has a variety of topics to learn from and very user friendly to watch with YouTube and you can reproduce what the instructors tells to do. It is fun and educational to lean what it out there.

Using your Public Library card to access your local Public Library you can get free courses from Lynda.com. Lynda.com has different courses to choose and learn for free to gain more knowledge and to occupy your mind. edX.org is also a free online course to learn new subjects from and gain more knowledge.

With Udacity, Lynda, edX you can learn online courses such as Android Developer, Python, IOS Developer, Visual Studio, Java, Mobile Web Specialist, Web Developer, Autonomous Driving, Autonomous Systems, Blockchain, WordPress, Adobe Suites, Microsoft Suites, IT Specialist, Digital Marketing, Windows System Admin, etc. You can learn at your own time and no need to be pressure with a classroom. The leisure of being at home or in the Public Library to learn online with your own personal time to gain knowledge. The freedom of telling others what you are learning and be a group or individual to learn new things. Learning online courses stimulate your mind and helps you exercise your memories by solving problems when you cannot figure out or you retry many times the same projects to get it right.



**lynda.com**



UDACITY



## **This Month December at DPCUC** **The President presentation of the month.**



This December I will present about how to create apps via Android Studio and show my team second place app on the tablet. I will show a brief how to install, what hardware you need to operate Android Studio. I will have a live app created by Android Studio and how to extract to an Android Tablet on the screen. I will mention where to get the colours, part of codes, etc from an Android Development website. I will mention where to get free education to learn basic Android Studio.



OpenShot is a free, open-source, cross-platform video editor. It was recommended to me by my husband Dan, who discovered it while looking for information for his software column in the DPCUC newsletter.

I was looking for a replacement for my favourite but outdated editor, Wax 2.0, which was becoming unusable as the resolution of newer video cameras resulted in much larger file sizes. I was pleased to see that the OpenShot interface was similarly organized, which made it easy for me to get started. It has the features that I use a lot, including the ability to overlay multiple video and audio tracks, to scale and crop video clips on the fly, and to create special effects with chroma key background removal.

OpenShot can handle multiple large files, and it doesn't make any changes to your original media (video clips, audio files, still shots, titles, etc) . This is a good feature, but it means that you have to decide where the media files will be stored before you begin a project so that OpenShot can find them while you are editing. Built-in resizing and stretching features let you easily deal with mismatched resolutions.

OpenShot has some titling options, but I found that I preferred to make my own title pages with a graphics program (I use Elements) and save them with a transparent background (I use PNG). Either way, you can use the built-in scaling, animation and transitions to make your titles or other still pictures look interesting.

At some point the OpenShot developers decided to start over from scratch with more efficient code, and there is at least one feature missing from the version I am using which is expected to be ported in later: the ability to turn off individual tracks temporarily. You can turn off the video and/or audio of each clip on the track, but it's handy to be able to disengage a whole track with one click, especially with a complicated project.

Because I work a lot with music, I need to line up several tracks which all had similar audio, for example video of a concert taken with multiple cameras. OpenShot lets you zoom in very closely to move tracks just a tiny bit; however, two problems caused some frustration: if there were several tracks, the audio would stutter. (I have a Core I7 and 16 GB of memory, so it's not a resource problem.) An option that should make synchronization simple, displaying audio waveforms so that they can be lined up visibly, doesn't work reliably. One feature that does help is the ability to scale video clips – you can shrink two videos temporarily and then play them beside each other to line up motion.

Another handy feature is the ability to easily capture and save frames from your video project, which could include overlays from various video clips or still shots.

All in all OpenShot is a pretty good program, it's free, and it works on MAC or LINUX as well as Windows. There was a new version as of October, and an active bug-reporting and testing community, so the few items that I found in need of improvement will likely be resolved.

OpenShot downloads for Windows, Mac or Linux ..... <https://www.openshot.org/>

OpenShot is available for easy installation by the package manager in most Linux distros.

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

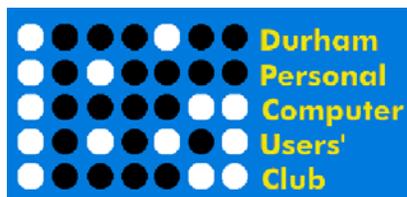
#### LINUX

#### Durham Linux User Group

**Co-ordinator:** Ed Goudge  
**Location:** Call for Location  
**Telephone:** 905-926-9003  
**Date:** 1st Thursday of month 7:00 PM

#### Digital Camera Group

**Co-ordinator:** Ed Goudge  
**Location:** Call for Location  
**Telephone:** 905-926-9003  
**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00PM



## DPCUC EXECUTIVE

**2017-2018**

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

## Newsletter Information

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 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.