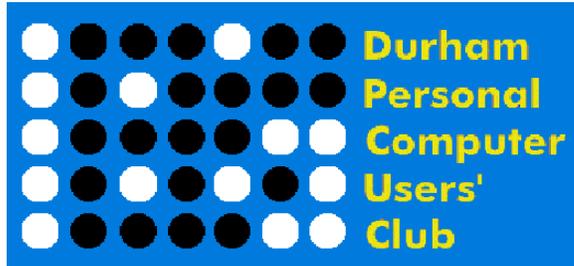


March 2019

# PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



### February Prize List

John McRae	\$10.50	Bob Bell	Phone Sticky Pads
Glen Goslin	\$6.00	David Swain	Phone Sticky Pads
		Mike Roche	USB-12V Charger
		Brent Streeter	Air Pressure Gauge

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

#### Veridian Connections

#### Home Energy Efficiency

By Gail Lawlor

Faith United Church at 1778 Nash Road, Courtice

Thursday, Mar 14, 2019 7:00PM

# FYI

- By Dan Delong

## WiFi 6 – Time to Buy?

**WiFi 6 (802.11 ax)** can maintain eight simultaneous connections, while the previous WiFi 5 (802.11 ac) can maintain five connections. The speed of WiFi 6 is also about 30% greater. But, unless your home is getting pretty full of connected devices, things like thermostats, lights, locks, speakers, or multiple tablets and phones (all using WiFi), you may be fine with your current WiFi 5 or WiFi 4 router. Since my home is still on DSL, a faster WiFi 6 router would be of little benefit, except for internal file transfers. WiFi 6 is designed to work in channel

congested situations, like arenas and libraries, with fewer drop outs. And it will wake up devices less often, saving battery life. Receiving devices (including IoTs), that do not already have WiFi 6 compatible firmware, may be upgradable to WiFi 6. The same is not true if the device is lacking essential hardware. [...[details from the WiFi Alliance](#)] My MU-MIMO, WiFi 5 router is only a year old, so I could get around the five simultaneous connections limit by plugging in another wireless access point router. They cost as little as \$30.

<https://www.consumerreports.org/wireless-routers/wifi-6-router-is-it-time-to-buy/>



## Eleven Apps Sent Data to Facebook

A **Facebook** supplied software development kit, or **SDK**, used by many app developers for inclusion with devices like fitness trackers, was found to be sending data directly to Facebook, despite the owner of these devices not having a Facebook account, nor having given permission to share such data. One app analyst noticed that his pulse rate was sent via the data stream, almost immediately. Ovulation trackers did the same. Some app developers have fixed this problem, while others have been warned by Facebook. I recently purchased a smart wrist band. Upon reading its verbose EULA, I became concerned about all of the data collected by the required app – much of it having nothing to do with health information. So, I took it back for a refund. <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/some-apps-send-data-about-menstruation-home-buying-facebook-wsj-n974711>



## Librem 5 – a secure phone

Blackberry phones were once sought after by politicians and business people, largely because they were secure. With the loss of much of Blackberry's systems, and the discontinuation of the Symbian OS and Windows on phones, Android and Apple are the only two choices left. However, both of them harvest data directly, or they may certify third party apps that also invade privacy. Although still in development (for release in summer), **Librem** phones will use a **Debian Linux** based OS, named "**PureOS**". Not only will the code be open source (open to inspection), but the phones come with kill buttons for camera, microphone, and wireless. Message encryption will be via the well-established Matrix system. HTML5 web apps will be sandboxed, such that, unless you make an account on Chrome or Firefox, for example, browsing will be relatively free of data mining. Topping off the list of hardware: - a replaceable battery, and an audio jack. Who cares about folding screen phones? This is the one I want! [As written in an earlier newsletter, the [Brave browser](#) is far more secure and it works with Windows and Linux.]

<https://puri.sm/products/librem-5/>



## Propaganda App

Would you download an app called, “*Make Canada Better*”, or “*Make America Great Again*”, or “*Study to Make China Strong*”? Well, I wouldn't... because they all sound like brain washing efforts, and you don't need an app for that; you just need ownership of all the media outlets, and jails for opponents. However, the “**Study to Make China Strong**” app is real! Those who do not download and use the app are penalized points in the **Sesame** loyalty system. As a result of low Sesame scores, tens of millions of Chinese are prevented from travelling. The article warns about a future in which neural interfaces (implanted devices) will replace phones and their apps. These neural interfaces might be able to insert “correct thoughts” along with, perhaps, reinforcing pleasure and punishment signals - whatever the government sees fit.



<https://medium.com/futuresin/china-is-forcing-citizens-to-download-an-app-made-by-alibaba-2fde60d8e6f4>

## DNA Databases are Linking

Family History buffs have made heavy use of DNA testing to reveal patrimony and other genealogical patterns. Some results are both, enlightening, and concerning. In the United States, police have successfully matched criminals to their nearest non-criminal relatives. [Innocent contributors to the DNA database are unlikely to complain about this new use of their genetic information, (*unless it leads to the arrest of a close relative*).] Solving cold cases and catching criminals this way involves very little investigative effort on the part of police. Hence, it is a very attractive method for cutting costs. In fact, Arizona State is readying a bill to force anyone who is in custody, or who needs to undergo a police check to get a sensitive job (teachers, police themselves, real estate agents, and appraisers), – anyone who is finger printed – to provide a DNA sample and pay for the report themselves, at a cost of \$275 USD per citizen.



<https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2019-02-20/arizona-bill-forces-people-submit-dna-and-pay-it-states-connect-fbi-database>

## CRTC - MVNO and Cell Service Competition

I had a \$10 per month mobile phone service with Sugar Mobile, including roaming and an accumulating 500 MB of data each month. Why was it so cheap? It was because most of the calls and data transfers were made on WiFi, both at home and on open WiFi connections. I also have a Skype account for outgoing phone calls in North American, costing only a couple of cents per minute. This phone technology has been around for a long time, to the displeasure of the Big Telcos. Rogers killed it, because Sugar roaming was done on their towers through a legal contractual agreement with Ice Wireless in Canada's North, where this kind of technology is allowed. MVNOs (Mobile Virtual Network Operators) may be brought back into the market, if a new directive of Minister Bains is followed, related to competitiveness in the wireless communications market.



<https://mobilesyrup.com/2019/02/28/crtc-review-mobile-wireless-market-choices-affordability/>

## Firefox – my message!



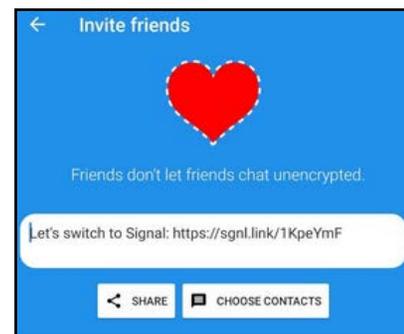
Eyeball experts suggest you look away from your screen every 20 minutes. Time to get outside and feel the breeze!

---

This is new! While writing this article, using the Firefox browser, a helpful message appeared at the bottom of my laptop screen. So, “*I'm taking your advice... MOM! But, it's cold outside!*”

## Signal – Private Messenger

I use **Messenger** (*Facebook*) and **Messaging** (*Microsoft*) without concern for privacy. But, I may switch to **Signal**, just on principal. It uses encryption, end-to-end. Yes, Signal does need your phone number, your contacts, and phone storage, in order to work. *[This is the bare minimum set of permissions needed for any message system.]* After entering a verification code (sent during registration), the app asks for the usual picture (selfie or avatar), which you can optionally supply. If you then choose Signal as the default for SMS, you'll still be able to get messages sent to the old Android messaging apps. And, for convenience, when you send with the old app, text messages will contain an additional link inviting the recipient to install Signal. *[To be clear, recipients do not have to install Signal. However, the point is made, that only messages between Signal users are truly private.]* Backups for Signal text messages are kept on the phone, not in the Cloud, and are transferable to a new phone. **Voice calls and video calls are another neat feature of Signal.**



<https://smartphones.gadgethacks.com/how-to/beginners-guide-using-signal-private-messenger-0193812/>

## VPNs – Virtual Private Networks

Best VPN for iPhone & Android			
CyberGhost	ExpressVPN	NordVPN	VyprVPN
\$63/year	\$99.95/year	\$83.88/year	\$80/year

**VPNs** came up in conversation during our last executive meeting. The free ones employ ads or data mining to finance their operation, and are, therefore, less trusted/secure. For users who wish to simply view television shows from blocked countries, a free VPN might serve the purpose. Paying for a VPN increases the likelihood that speed will be better and that security updates will protect the servers from hackers. Running a VPN involves paying for equipment, paying for staff expertise, and paying for broadband service plans in many scattered global locations. That's what the monthly fees are for. Some allow for a free trial period so you can test them for average speed, and speed at different times in the day (since the load on servers varies by number of simultaneous users). The link below claims to have tested and thoroughly reviewed **4 of the best VPNs: - CyberGhost (Romania), ExpressVPN (British Virgin Islands), NordVPN (Panama), and VyprVPN (Switzerland)**. The use of VPNs by activists in politically regressive countries is the main reason for such countries attempting to find, and ban, IPs used by VPNs. Russia and China are considering severing the World Wide Web, to limit browsing to a Russian Web, or a China Only Web. *[The link below is primarily aimed at Android phones and iPhones.]*

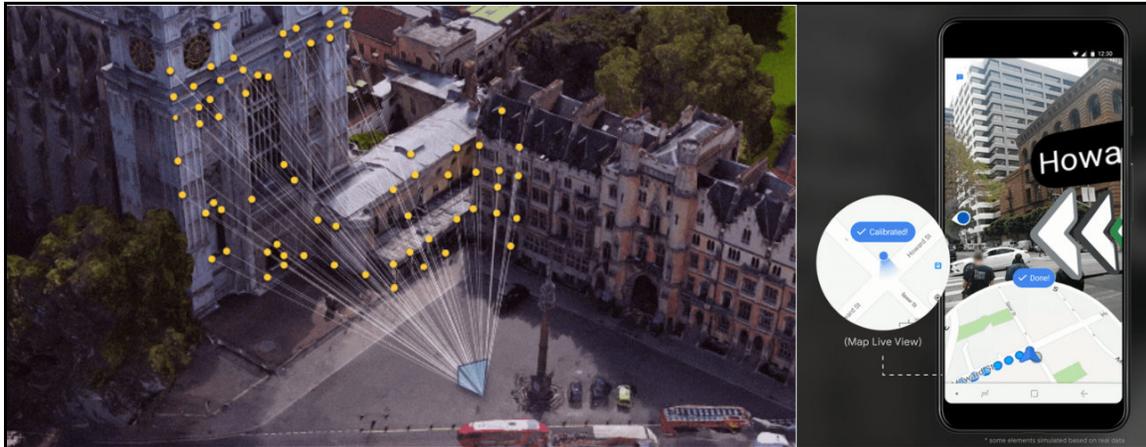
<https://smartphones.gadgethacks.com/how-to/4-best-vpn-apps-for-iphone-android-0193781/>

## The Worst Job in Technology

B. F. Skinner, long ago, noted that the worst jobs pay the least. Think hotel cleaner, taxi driver, honey truck driver, or any non-union replaceable job. It's now happening in Tech, where jobs were once well paid. The worst employer of them all seems to be Facebook, by "jobbers" doing the essential work of removing deplorable content. Despite working in a comfortable chair, in a climate controlled office, the constant barrage of human depravity takes a toll on workers in this field, just as it probably does for better paid vice squad officers. When gross content has been found by Facebook users, they can mark it for deletion. But, the content must be viewed by a Facebook censor first. Read this article at your peril, to find out how these temp workers handle their jobs, and how the agencies putting them to this task cope with the aftermath. <https://www.cnet.com/news/facebook-content-moderation-is-an-ugly-business-heres-who-does-it/>



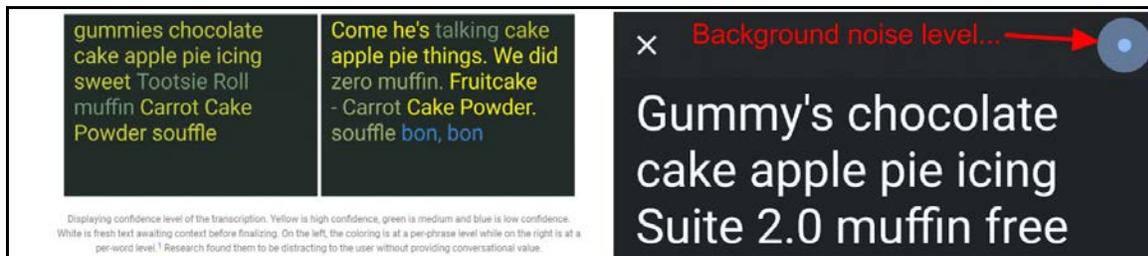
## VPS – Google’s Visual Positioning Service



Smart phone use both **GPS** (satellites) and **compass** (magnetism) to place that **blue dot** on Google Maps – the dot that indicates your phone’s current position. Sometimes, the blue dot positions perfectly, yet, at other times, it may be off by tens of metres. This is due to interference from weather conditions (including outer space weather) and tall buildings in large cities. Magnetic fields are also warped by surroundings. If you allow the phone **camera** to scan your surroundings, Google’s visual positioning system will try to find matches to **Streetview**. This process happens in the Cloud and uses AI to identify key elements in both your camera’s views and those stored in Streetview. When, and if, this deep learning activity concludes, the map view changes to your current street level camera angle, but with further location information superimposed on the image. That information will include direction arrows and street names. While not yet perfected, testing has been quite promising.

<http://ai.googleblog.com/2019/02/using-global-localization-to-improve.html>

## Live Transcribe



Other speech-to-text apps are out there, but this one may be the best. *[I am one of the lucky ones, able to download **Live Transcribe** while still in development.]* As long as the speaker enunciates clearly, accuracy is quite good. It’s great for anyone hard of hearing. Coping with hearing loss may first encourage sufferers to use a higher television volume, or better still, closed captioning. *[In fact, I may experiment with Live Transcribe – let it compete with closed captioning on a TV program.]* Since I am fluent in only English, I could not try Live Transcribe with any of the other 69 languages it is currently programmed for. Additions to the app will include the ability to separate individual speakers (and maybe use text colours to show this), and do more of the translation processing right on the device (in order to speed things up a little more). *[The above screen captures show an earlier attempt to give feedback to the user, via text colours, to indicate the level of confidence the AI has in each segment of the translation. The size of the blue, upper-right circle varies according to the level of background noise. These features were deemed distracting to the user.]* When I tried the app, all text was in white on a black background.

<http://ai.googleblog.com/2019/02/real-time-continuous-transcription-with.html>

# Sudoku

Jan 2019

by Alex Morrison



A Trio of Puzzles again this month – Happy New Year

## EASY

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

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

## HARD

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

IF you don't Like Sudoku puzzles – try these pages

<https://www.boatloadpuzzles.com/playcrossword>

<http://www.freegames.net/puzzle-games.html>

<https://www.cryptograms.org/play.php>

# 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/>

## [How to forward port using iptables in Linux](#)

(Mar 02, 2019, 14:00) ([0 talkbacks](#))

Learn how to configure port forwarding in Linux using iptables.

## [Addressing Security Issues on Linux Home Computers](#)

(Mar 01, 2019, 14:00) ([0 talkbacks](#))

DarkDuck: Linux is known for being a safe and secure operating system, but it's not impervious to attacks

## [How to Use 'fsck' to Repair File System Errors in Linux](#)

(Mar 01, 2019, 13:00) ([0 talkbacks](#))

Filesystems are responsible for organizing how data is stored and recovered.

## [Securing privacy with Mycroft, an Open AI voice assistant](#)

(Mar 01, 2019, 11:00) ([0 talkbacks](#))

Open source voice-assistant technology aims to avoid the privacy and security vulnerabilities seen in proprietary tech.

## [Developer Releases Windows 95 OS as an App For Windows 10, macOS and Linux \(betanews.com\)](#)

Mark Wycislik-Wilson, [writing for BetaNews](#): Last year, developer Felix Rieseberg released [Windows 95 as an Electron app](#) to let 90s computer users relive their younger years. Now he's back with a [second version of the Windows 95 app](#), and it's even better than ever -- gaming classics such as Doom and Wolfenstein3D are now included, for starters! Based on the Electron framework, [Windows 95 2.0](#) is written in JavaScript, and is essentially a 500MB standalone virtual machine. The original release was lacking in a number of areas -- such as no sound or internet access. This second release is described as a "big update" and includes a web browser in the form of Netscape Navigator 2.0.

## Wikipedia - Summary of the February 2019 presentation

by Anne Delong

[Wikipedia](#) is the world's fifth most visited website, and the largest encyclopedia in the world. It is available in more than 300 languages and attracts about 17 billion page views each month.

Wikipedia was created in 2002 by [Jimmy Wales](#) and [Larry Sanger](#), who wanted to create a free online encyclopedia. Paper and disc-based encyclopedias at the time were expensive and quickly outdated, and the few online encyclopedias charged annual subscription fees. Wales and Sanger developed a software platform called [MediaWiki](#) which allowed editors to work together to write articles. They decided that the articles would be written from a neutral point of view, and only include facts, not opinions, logical arguments or new ideas.

Wales and Sanger planned to support the website by selling advertising, but soon decided to create a non-profit foundation, the Wikimedia Foundation, and accept donations. The articles would be written by volunteer editors; money from donations keeps the servers running and pays for space and salaries for technical, office and administrative staff.

Wikipedia is divided into separate databases according to language; by 2007 there were 160 languages, and the English Wikipedia had more than two million articles. Since then Wikipedia has continued to expand, but at a slower pace because the idea of using wiki software to create free information databases has spread, and some editors left to create mirror sites or their own "pedias".

In 2019 the English Wikipedia has nearly 6 million articles. Because it's written by volunteers who aren't necessarily experts in the subject of the articles they edit, articles are required to have citations to reliable sources written by those who are. Those using the information in Wikipedia for a purpose where accuracy is important can check the reference section to find expert information.

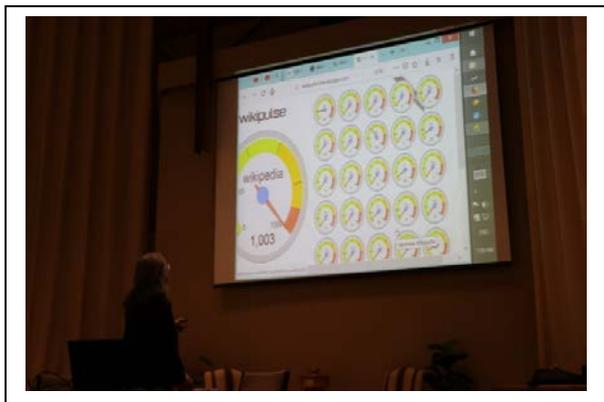
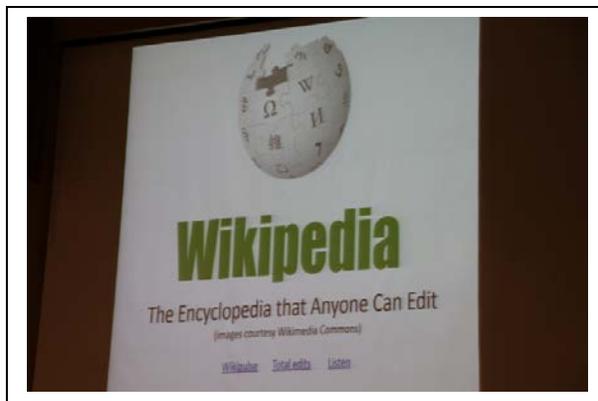
When articles are new, they could have errors or lack relevant information; because of this, experienced editors rate the articles to help readers judge their reliability: new, short articles are called "stubs"; ones that have basic useful information are labeled "start". More developed articles go through levels "C", "B", "A", "Good article" and sometimes "Featured article".

Anyone who has access to the internet can edit Wikipedia articles by clicking on the EDIT tab at the top of each article, and millions of people have done so. No account is needed, but by logging in editors get access to editing tools, a user page, a talk page, and a watchlist for keeping track of changes to particular articles. There are also discussion boards where the editors help each other and give advice to the inexperienced. Editors should realize that their text can be copied, altered, and freely used by anyone.

The Wikimedia Foundation has also created a number of other [free information projects](#), including [Wikibooks](#), [Wiktionary](#), [WikiVoyage](#), [Wikiversity](#), and [Wikidata](#). One of the largest is [Wikimedia Commons](#), a collection of more than 50 million donated, free-to-use images. The Foundation also organizes conferences and workshops for its editors, and advocates for free access to information around the world.

# Presentation Photos

by Robert T Bell



Last Month we had an excellent presentation on Wikipedia by Anne Delong.

We learned about the history and how to create and edit Wiki data.



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.

# Linux

# gcompris

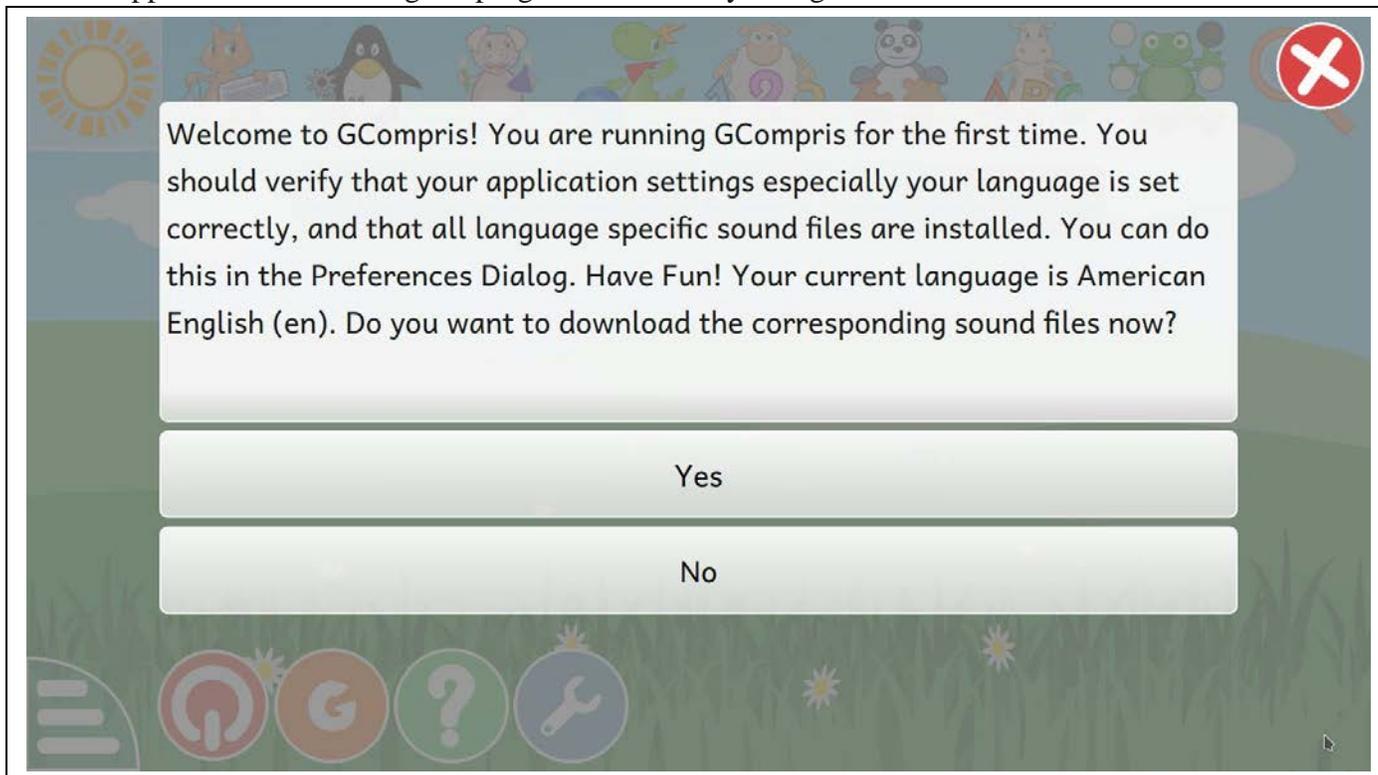
by Alex Morrison



I wrote about the following software a while ago but it has been updated and is worthy of another mention.

The program gcompris is actually a suite of clever games for your young children or grand children.

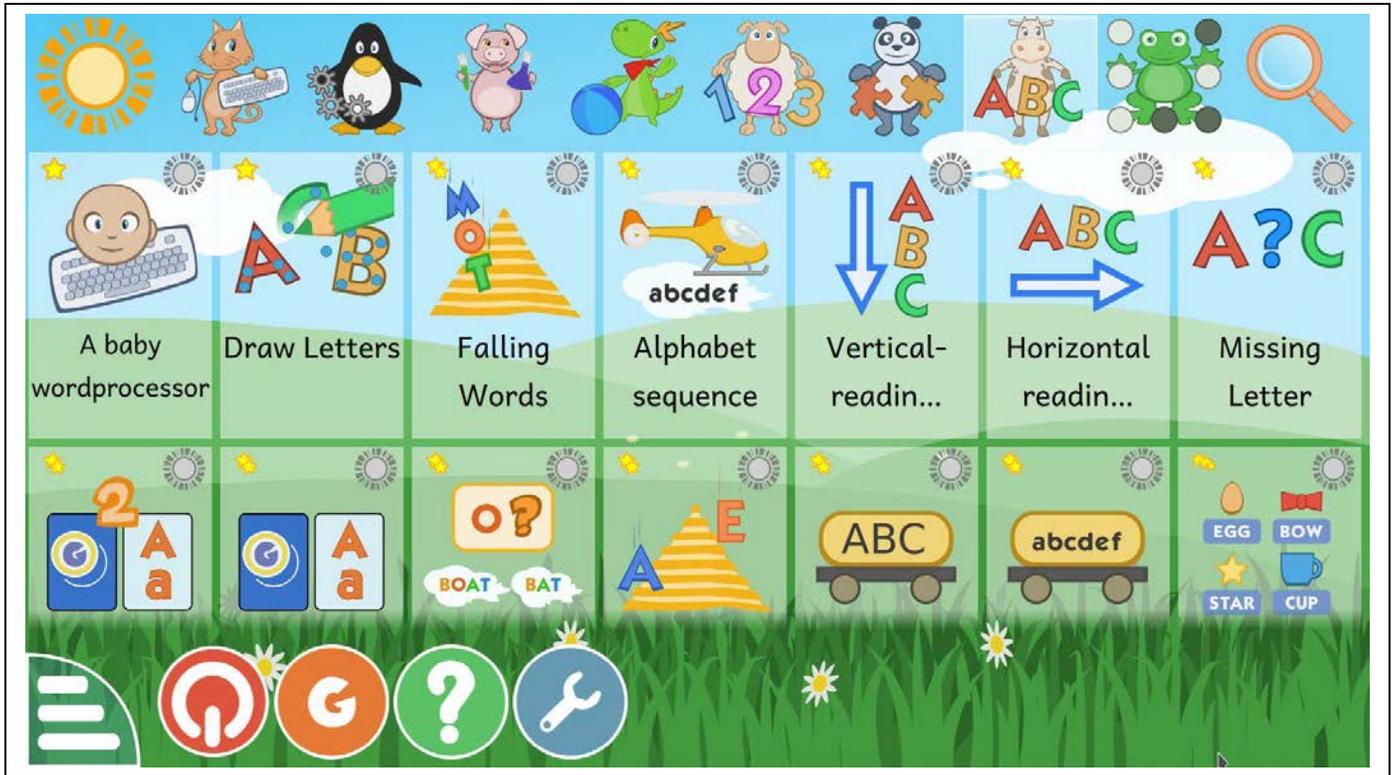
This is what appears on first running the program. Just click yes to get the latest sound files.



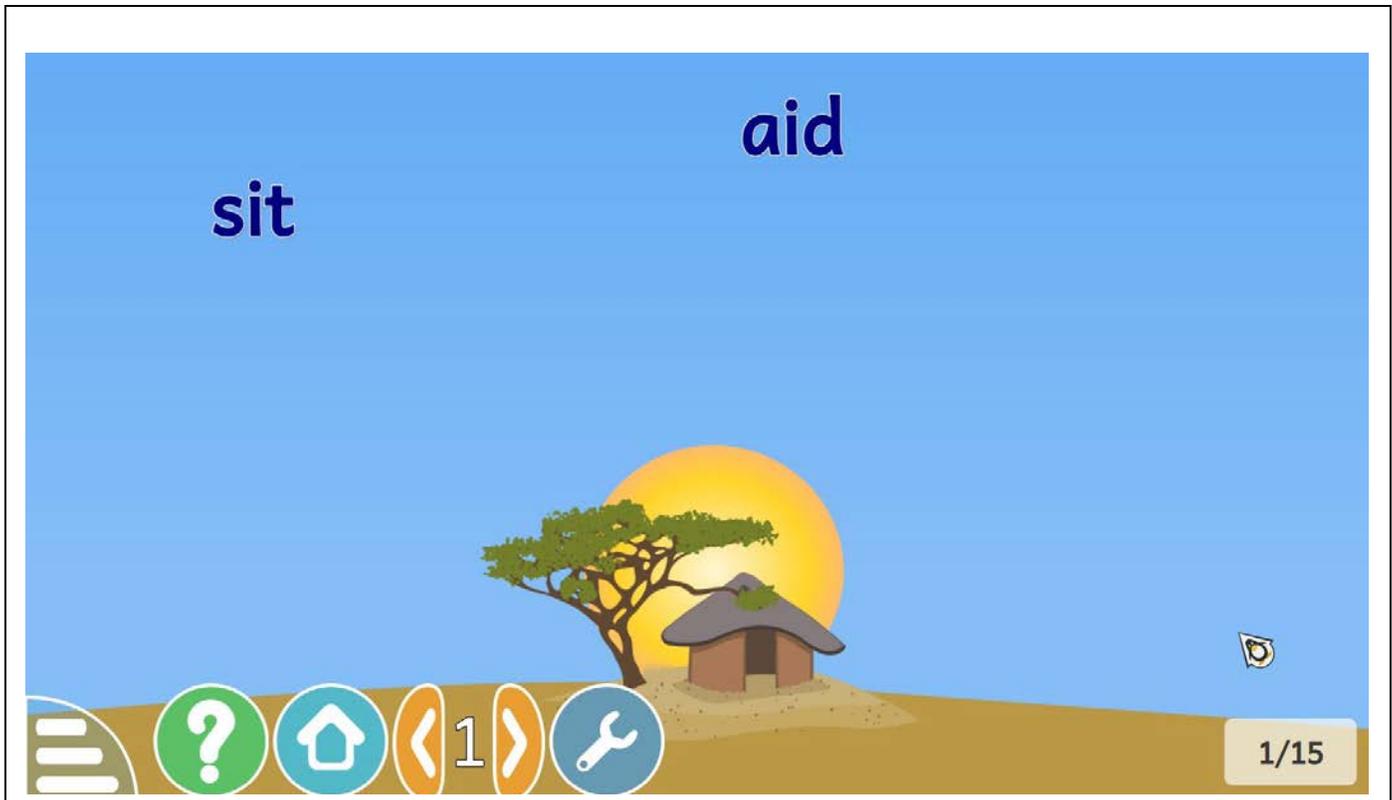
Here is the start screen. Click on any of the images at the top to select a collection of related games.



I clicked the icon third from the top right and the following screen appeared.



I selected the falling words game and the idea is for the child to type the word before it hits the bottom of the screen.



Pressing the ESC key will exit any screen and then exit the program.

Gcompris is available for Linux Windows and Mac. <https://gcompris.net/index-en.html>

Your young children and grand children are sure to enjoy this game and it is free!

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

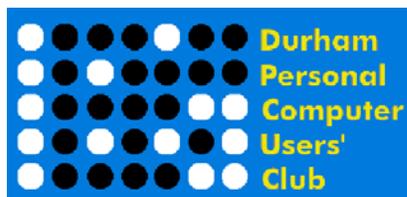
#### LINUX

#### Durham Linux User Group

**Co-ordinator:** Ed Goudge  
**Location:** OSCC 43 John St W  
**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

**2018-2019**

<b>President</b>	<b>Fred Fernbach</b>	<a href="mailto:frederic-fernbach@outlook.com">frederic-fernbach@outlook.com</a>	<b>905-410-0053</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Anne Delong</b>	<a href="mailto:annedelong@timetraces.com">annedelong@timetraces.com</a>	<b>905-623-6975</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mark Hunter</b>	<a href="mailto:mark.s.hunter@bell.net">mark.s.hunter@bell.net</a>	<b>905-419-6605</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Allan Francis</b>	<a href="mailto:alelaine@sympatico.ca">alelaine@sympatico.ca</a>	<b>905-576-0481</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Linda Netten</b>	<a href="mailto:linnetten@idirect.com">linnetten@idirect.com</a>	<b>905-623-2787</b>
<b>Librarian</b>	<b>Dan Delong</b>	<a href="mailto:dandelong@timetraces.com">dandelong@timetraces.com</a>	<b>905-623-6975</b>
<b>Program Director</b>	<b>Fred Fernbach</b>	<a href="mailto:frederic-fernbach@outlook.com">frederic-fernbach@outlook.com</a>	<b>905-410-0053</b>
<b>Advertising Director</b>	<b>Brent Streeter</b>	<a href="mailto:bstreeter04@gmail.com">bstreeter04@gmail.com</a>	<b>647-327-2954</b>
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<b>Director at Large</b>	<b>David Swain</b>	<a href="mailto:david@swainracing.com">david@swainracing.com</a>	<b>905-985-5201</b>
<b>Director at Large</b>	<b>Bob Bell</b>	<a href="mailto:bob@rgbell.ca">bob@rgbell.ca</a>	<b>905-571-6748</b>



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.