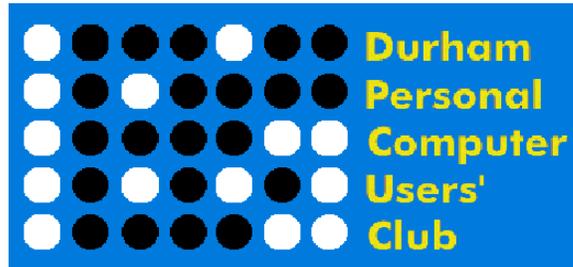**Jan 2020**

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter

Dec Prize List

David Odynski	$16.00	Lloyd Lindsay	Tool Kit
Lloyd Lindsay	$ 8.25	Mike Weaver	Mobile 1 Oil
		David Swain	2.5 to 3.5 Drive Adaptor
		David Odynski	Mobile 1 Cup
		Mike Roche	Mobile 1 Oil
		Glen McNight	Mobile 1 Oil

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Next Meeting

Ham Communication

By Laird Solomon   VE3LKS

Faith United Church at 1778 Nash Road, Courtice

Thursday, January 9, 2020   7:00PM

FYI
- By Dan Delong

Better LiDAR for Cars

In bringing back to mind one of our meeting topics of a few years ago, regarding self-driving cars, our speaker mentioned the prohibitive cost of **LiDAR,** at that time. Now, **Velodyne** has developed a range of LiDAR devices, specifically for auto manufacturers; all are less conspicuous and able to integrated better into the car's body design, and they provide necessary supplementary information to the car's computer and camera systems. The "**Alph Prime**" and "**Puck**" models, intended for a 360 panoramic view, are much smaller roof-top scanners, smaller even than those old police roof-top 'cherries. Another model, the "**Velarray**" would scan for road variations, creating data points for objects like sign posts, bushes, and curbs. "**Veladome**" appears to cover a fisheye view, with a smaller form factor, suitable for blind spot monitoring. Velodyne does not leave autonomous driving solely to this hardware, having partnered with many software developers. *[LiDAR is known as Laser 3D scanning.]*
https://gadget.co.za/ces-lidar-breakthrough-will-advance-driver-safety/

Nissan Leaf Car of the Year

Actually buying this car, the **Nissan LEAF**, from a dealer, may be a bit of chore - for several reasons; Ontario incentives are gone, the Canadian price starts at $42,298.00, and Nissan cannot import them fast enough. *(i.e.- Delivery times cannot be guaranteed.)* (*Maybe that is why, when you visit the website, Leaf is listed at the bottom of the page.*) However, "Renewable Energy Magazine" also awarded the Leaf its "*Car of the Year*" designation, in appreciation of a full complement of useful gadgets, and its 219 mile range. Leaf is an entirely electric vehicle (or 'appliance', if you prefer) although not yet all-wheel drive. It comes with standard with emergency braking, and offers some additional, optional, Nissan smart driving features included on other models. *[I'm still a little wary of buying a car that cannot be fixed at the local garage, due to closely guarded repair information available only to dealerships.]*
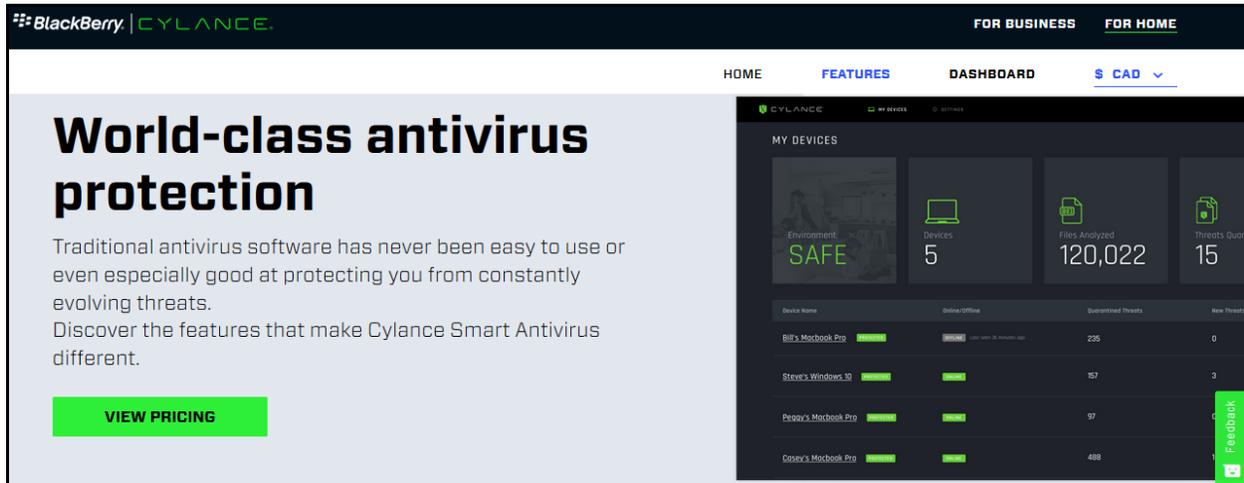https://www.nissan.ca/en/electric-cars/leaf/features/

Pizza Robot – output is 300 per hour

Working near a hot pizza oven must be difficult at times for employees. This machine makes up to 300 twelve inch pizzas per hour, or 180 eighteen inch pizzas per hour. Employees need only fill the ingredient bins periodically, similar to filling ink cartridges for a colour printer. **Picnic**, the maker, claims better uniformity in all orders. *[Pizza vending machines in large cities are able to re-heat frozen pizzas, similar to supermarket freezer products.]*
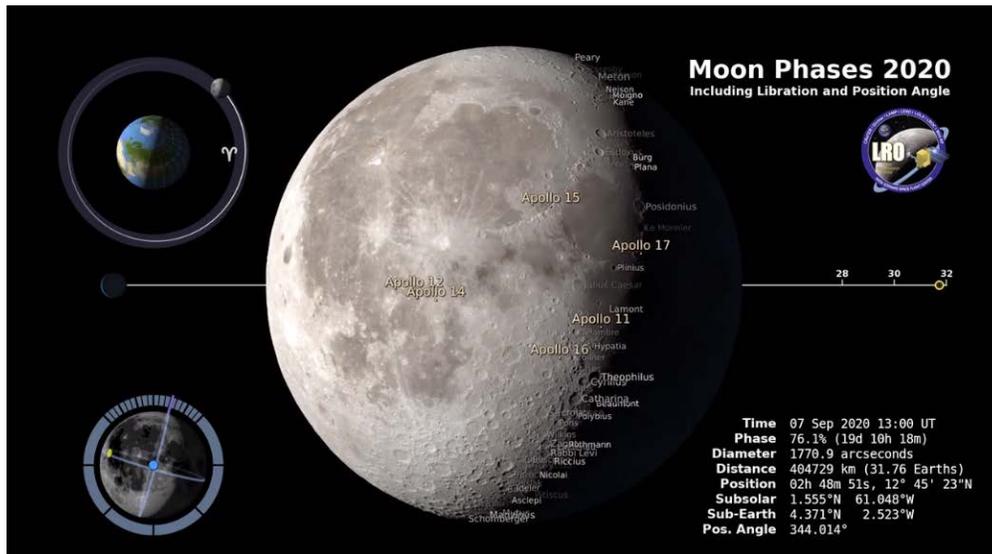https://mashable.com/video/automatic-pizza-maker/

Blackberry

Blackberry is back… this time in the autonomous vehicle sphere. With the purchase of **Cylance** (creators of a threat protection method based on AI, and integration with Blackberry's own QNX) any possible road hazard dangers during self-driving operation are protected from hacking. Since all of our future cars and trucks will likely be in constant contact with the Internet, such AI & Cloud integration is essential for keeping the bad guys out. Canadian annual pricing for **Cylance home users** are as follows: - one computer $39, five computers $49, and ten computers $59 (CDN*). [For those who wish to keep using Windows7 after January 14, this may be the better solution (rather than an expensive Win10 upgrade).]*
https://gadget.co.za/ces-blackberry-back-with-transport-security-solutions/

All 2020 Views of the Moon

Without powerful computers, and their data crunching ability, an animation like this would not be possible. The Weather Network is hosting this fascinating video, and many others. So much is going on here: - every known spot on the moon is labelled and constantly updated, with distances, orbital paths, and earth's spin. *[You'll see all views of the moon, from earth, for the entire year, **in five minutes**.]*
https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/videos/gallery/see-every-view-of-the-moon-for-2020-in-less-than-5-minutes/videosearch/6118066904001

2020 Tech Resolutions

I don't make them… resolutions, that is. But you might. In any case, I already follow some of these 'recommendations'! For example, repairing and re-using older devices – even buying cheap, refurbished, older generation, devices – would be my favourite recommendation. Also, being safe, online with a credit card, is a challenge, as is turning off bothersome app notifications. In the arenas of political opinion, we should all be careful to be clear about what is opinion and what is fact, and try not to propagate fake news. Subscribing to, and paying for, unbiased news *(if such is possible)* is a good way to encourage healthy investigative journalism. For travellers to countries with online censorship, subscribing to a VPN will help in sourcing unfiltered content.
https://www.techlicious.com/blog/tech-resolutions-for-2020/

Huawei Watches

Surprise! The **GT 2** model is not available in Canada or the USA. Perhaps worry persists over Chinese government spying through Huawei devices, or maybe the company is angry with our two countries over the retention of their executive. However, the **GT** model, with GPS, health and exercise features, and phone answering, is available from The Source ($260) and Visions Electronics ($228*). [I once tried a couple of no-name health bands, but found them unsuitable, as they needed installation of a phone app that called "home" to a central database, after requiring me to make a user account. I don't know if these Huawei wearable devices work the same way.]* This is where Edge Computing comes in. **Edge Computing** is a form of machine learning/AI not needing the Cloud to perform computations. Perhaps wearables and self driving cars will soon be able to make decisions without a constant *(or even occasional)* connection to the Internet. Western Digital also provides a comprehensive description of Edge Computing.
https://consumer.huawei.com/en/wearables/

FBI Warning Re Smart TVs

Remember those VCR cassette movies that started off with an often disregarded scary warning from the FBI not to copy the tape? Here's a recent reminder of an FBI warning that should not be disregarded. Smart TVs usually come with both a camera and a microphone, which (when connected to the Internet) can offer a two-way communications pathway, into your home, for hackers. The first prudent step to take is a good password on the wireless router. *[Plugging in an Ethernet cable will connect the TV to the Internet without using a password. I that case, the only way to prevent the TV from using the camera and microphone would be through the user interface supplied by the manufacturer of the television set.]*
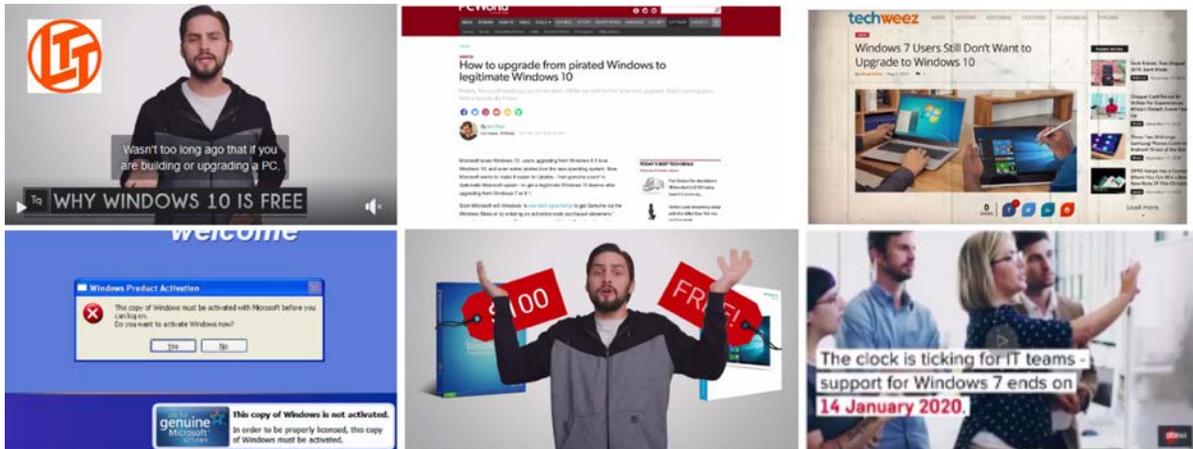https://techviral.news/smart-tv-spying-on-you/

Dell Makes Nice with iPhones

Newer Dell laptops running Windows10 will now be able **to connect with a nearby iPhone,** to share the screen and transfer files with drag'n drop. Android phones have been able to do this for over a year, on all Win10 computers. This degree of cross platform compatibility is welcomed by many users.
https://www.thestar.com/business/technology/2020/01/02/dell-to-let-apple-users-control-iphones-from-their-laptop.html

Win10 - Still Free?

According to **Linus Tech,** *(a Facebook video)* the downloaded version of Win 10, despite popping up reminders to register, along with watermark branding, is perfectly functional. Other sites claim Windows 7 users can still upgrade for free. Since my laptops use both Win 7 Pro and Win 7 Ultimate, I'm wondering if such an upgrade attempt will result in at least a Win 10 Pro level OS. So far, I've installed Zorin Linux on the oldest laptop; this one has a Celeron processor and 4GB RAM, and Win 7 Pro. It starts up with a dual boot option. *[When watching the boot-up screen, I have only seconds to select Win 7, else the system goes to Zorin. Alex suggests a **'grubcustomizer'** program to fix this issue. Stay tuned for further news on (my) progress and, please, considers bringing your experience adapting to the Jan 14 deadline to the next Club meeting. I've already loaded a USB key with the needed Win 10 installation files.]* My main concerns are in terms of data retention, old program functionality, robustness of my old hardware, and the ability to avoid a log-in and lock screen. *(Avoiding the creation/use of a Microsoft account seems hopeless.)*
https://www.facebook.com/LinusTech/

Pervasive AWS (Amazon Web Services)

Amazon's almost seventy AWS server installations around the World aren't there just to sell Amazon products. You'd be surprised by the number of big name companies now using AWS for data storage and for their web presence, including some government law enforcement departments. Amazon now makes more money selling AWS than from its retailing operations.
https://www.facebook.com/LinusTech/videos/419190672276690/

MIXXTAPE – The Cassette Returns

Our 1995 GMC van's AM/FM radio includes a cassette player and equalizer – no CD, AUX, or Bluetooth. To modernize it, I can now buy a $100 USD **MIXXTAPE**. The MIXXTAPE looks like a cassette, plays like a cassette, but is much more than a cassette. It includes memory for songs (8GB, plus optional 256GB on micro-SD), Bluetooth 4.0, 5-hour battery, headphone jack, USB-C port, and a small OLED screen. However, this device may lack compatibility with some 'smart' cassette players, those that make use of a tape movement sensor to turn on signal reception. Fortunately, a cassette player is not really needed for listening, since you can operate a MIXXTAPE via Bluetooth or headphones. Think, "Walkman*" (with nostalgia thrown in)*. https://mixtapeboss.com/products/mixxtape-1 *[By the way, Reader's Digest has assembled a list of old technology that may be worth some decent cash.]*

Dell – latest laptops

According to **The Verge**, Dell's new XPS 13" laptop is markedly improved over last year's model. The screen ratio is 16:10, processors are more powerful, battery life is longer, and while keys are bigger, key travel is… well, 'different'. Keep an eye on news from CES 2020 for more details. *[Dell will offer a pre-installed Ubuntu 18.1 LTS Linux version for developers.]*
https://www.theverge.com/circuitbreaker/2020/1/2/21046472/dell-xps-13-design-ice-lake-intel-keyboard-trackpad-display-windows-ces-2020

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 https://fossbytes.com/ https://www.techradar.com/

Remix Could Bring Some Cinnamon Lovers Back to Ubuntu

Ubuntu Cinnamon Remix arrived just in time for the holidays. Its first stable version is based on Ubuntu 19.10 Eoan Ermine. It utilizes Linux Mint's Cinnamon desktop environment on top of Ubuntu Linux's codebase. Work on several release candidate and beta versions stretches back to 2013. The efforts stayed under the radar until the announcement of the new distro's debut stable release. [More...]

KaOS Linux's First 2020 Release Adds Linux Kernel 5.4, Nvidia PRIME Improvements

- Softpedia; By Marius Nestor (Posted by hanuca on Jan 8, 2020 4:44 AM EDT)
- Story Type: News Story; Groups: Distributions, KDE

The KaOS project has kicked off the new decade by releasing the first ISO snapshot of their rolling and transparent GNU/Linux distribution build from scratch for the modern desktops.

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

New Feren OS Does Plasma Better

Feren OS now is built around Ubuntu Linux 18.04 and the KDE Plasma desktop instead of Linux Mint. The Cinnamon desktop version could retire later this year. The Feren OS community has released a mostly maintenance snapshot update for the Feren OS Cinnamon version. This new Feren OS release meets the goal of mixing the Cinnamon desktop with the more capable KDE Plasma 5 to make a better distro. [More...]

Linux For All Shines on LXDE Desktop

Linux For All very well could be a unifying Linux distribution that provides a common computing platform. LFA comes in just one flavor, the LXDE environment. However, LXDE is an inviting option that eliminates confusion and complexity in favor of a powerful desktop that is lightweight enough to run on low-powered aging hardware. A major advantage is better hardware support for Nvidia graphics. [More...]

Sudoku

Jan 2020   **by Alex Morrison**

A Trio of Puzzles again this month – Enjoy

EASY

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

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

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

HARD

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

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

Linux – Linux for All   by Alex Morrison

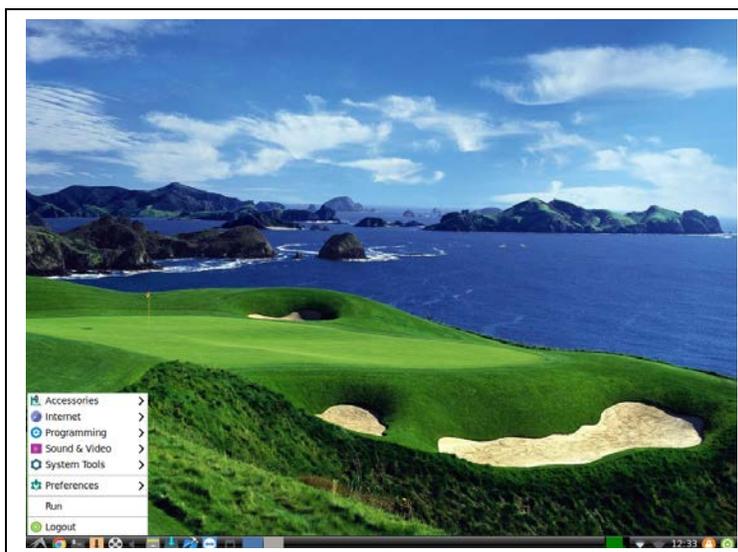.Linux for All is an interesting new distribution that includes a few very nice tools.

Teamviewer, Refracta Snapshot and Chrome Browser are built in.
Teamviewer is an excellent tool to allow you to use Linux for All to connect and control a Windows PC or in reverse use a Windows PC to connect and control Linux for All.
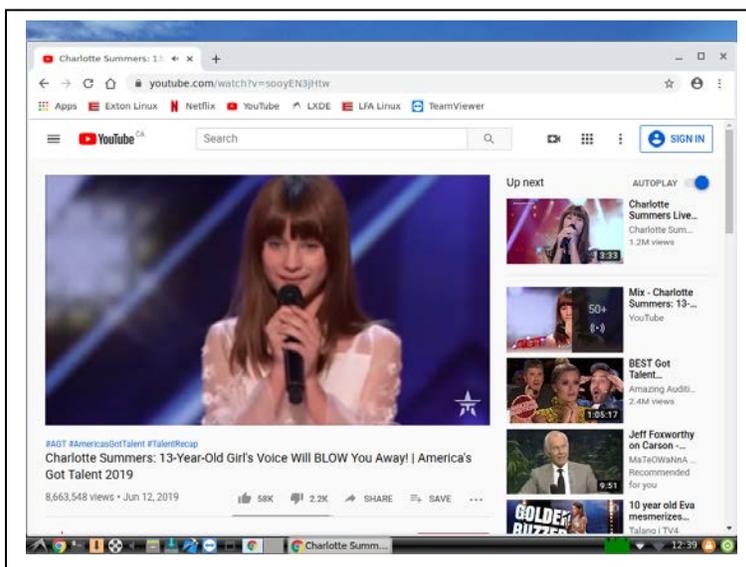Refracta Snapshot takes an image of your installation or live DVD and lets you create your own installation media to suit your personal needs.
Chrome browser has bookmarks to Youtube and Netflix among other items. And yes Netflix runs on Linux for All using Chrome [if you have an account].

This image is what the live DVD shows and if you enjoy Golf you will like the wallpaper it provides.

The following image shows that YouTube plays correctly without adding any other software.
The view of the Chrome browser is what you see when you open it on Linux for All.

The link in the Linux News section is a good place to go for more info about Linux for All.

https://www.linuxinsider.com/story/Linux-For-All-Shines-on-LXDE-Desktop-86396.html

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
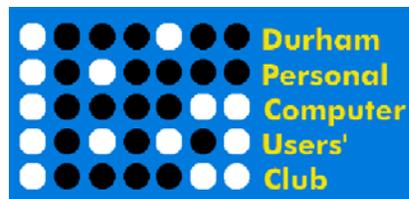Date: 3rd Thursday of month 7:00 PM

LINUX
Durham Linux User Group

Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: OSCC 43 John St W
Telephone: 905-926-9003
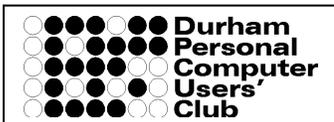Date: 1st Thursday of month 7:00 PM

Digital Camera Group

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

DPCUC EXECUTIVE

2019-2020

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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.