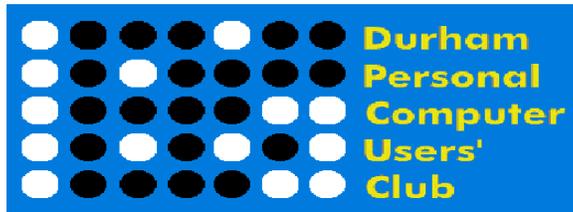


Sept 2022

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



Aug Prize List

Our Prize list is of course missing this month due to our inability to have a general meeting at the church.

Hope all are doing well and staying safe in this COVID infection time!

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

F Y I	2
Linux in the News	7
Linux – More on PC Linux	8
Sudoku Puzzles	10
Special Interest Groups	11

Next Meeting

Open Meeting

Bring Your Ideas

On ZOOM – Thursday, Sept 08 2022, 7:00PM

FYI

- By Dan Delong

Scanners Review

As promised, here's a look at my new 24 megapixel, camera-based, document/presenter scanner, slightly disappointing in its resolution, but with impressive software and intuitive user interface.

Since my main interest, in terms of scanning, is in preserving old photographs (colour and b/w), as well as books and documents (as OCR'd pdf files). Certain scanner features are more desirable than others, depending on your aims.

For portability, you can't beat a cell phone with a good camera, and image correction software, like the "**Microsoft Lens – PDF Scanner**" app. *[Club member, Robert Bell, has had great success using his cell phone's camera, along with Google Docs, to capture and OCR the text from books, page by page.]*

For those who own a flat bed scanner, digitizing sharp photos at the highest resolution yields the best quality blow-ups. *[Older fluorescent bulb models take longer to warm up for the first scan, with follow-up adjustments often needed for fixing fading and for colour correction, achieved with the supplied editing software, or a personal choice of favourite commercial or free photo editor.]*



Figure 1: Two CZUR Models



Now, back to the heavily (online) advertised **CZUR scanner/presenter**. *[Full Title: "[CZUR Shine Ultra Pro Portable Scanner](#), 24MP Document Scanner, Max DPI 440, USB Document Camera, A3 Large Format Book Scanner, Adjustable Height Mobile Scanner, for Windows & Mac" (24MP High-Quality Auto-Focus Camera, Resolution upgraded to 5696*4272, DPI 440(A4 8.268 x 11.693)/ 320(A3 11.693 x 16.535))]* Pricing, for some reason, varies considerably, from \$250 to over \$600.

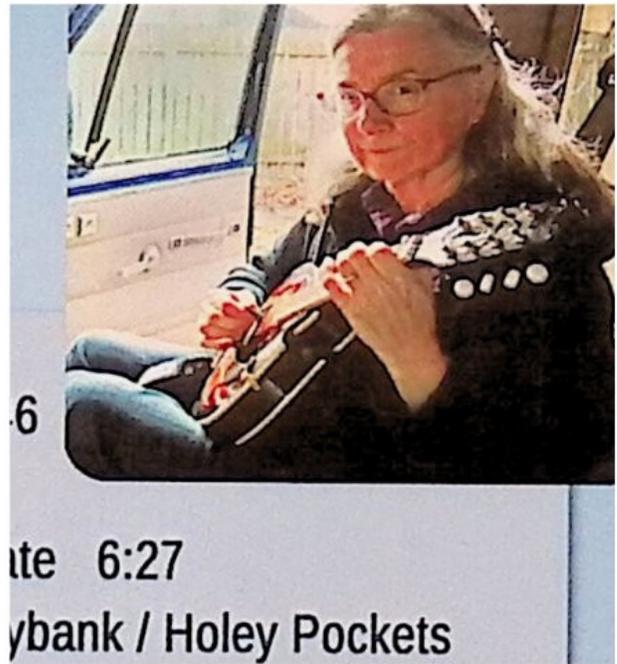
To test the Shine Ultra Pro, I scanned an old, faded, comic book, and also an opened music CD, stored in a shiny plastic case. The double page comic book scan created a file size about 1.6MB. These first test scans were done at the higher camera height to cover the entire A3 paper size. Lowering the camera to the A4 height, concentrated the camera field of view to a smaller area, yielding a CD case scan size of 5022x2194 (2.01MB) as a crop of the full A4 scan size of 5696x4272. The **Shine Series** software, supplied with this unit, was feature packed and easy to use, identifying and outline-boxing the intended scan item in real time, as shown on the computer view screen. This scanner also folds up for transport and functions as a presentation camera for lecturers, who can place items (flat or 3-D) under the camera for viewing on a large screen, or for viewing online with conferencing software, like Zoom.

[At the time of ordering CZUR was working on a better scanner, the ET24Pro, but its current price is \$629 USD. See above.]



Figure 2: Subject matter for test scans... using both the CZUR and a Fujitsu SV600 scanner.

CZUR Shine Ultra Pro Portable



SV600 Fujitsu

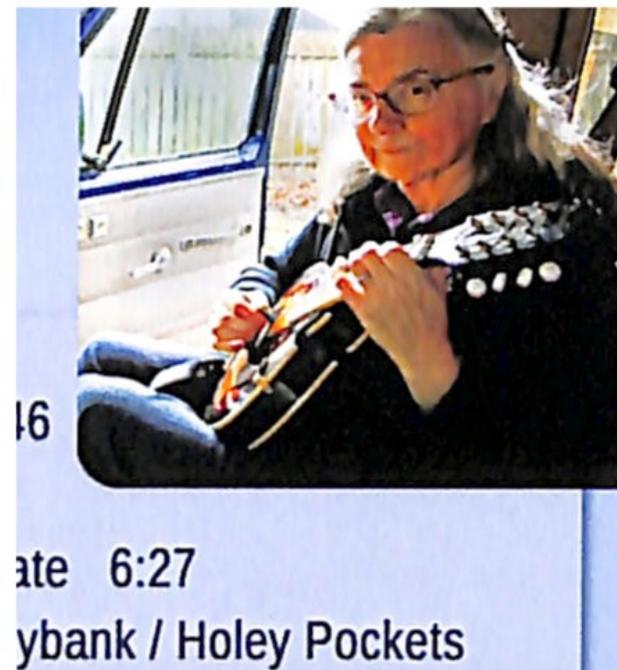


Figure 3: Cropped areas from both scanners. Colour balance easily corrected with a photo editor.

A few years ago, I purchased a [Fujitsu SV600 document scanner](#) (no longer sold by Fujitsu Canada – now almost \$800 on Amazon.ca). After upgrading its software, and hooking it up to an often painfully slow old laptop, I was impressed this newer, upgraded, SV600 operation. That double page comic book scan came out at a much larger 6.49MB (8700x6402), and the Loon Call music CD at 2.19MB (6874x2992). [I believe that my old, original, scans with this USB2.0 scanner were not that high in resolution; this upgrade to software may be the reason.] The SV600 angles its internal lighting, during each pass, to minimize reflection from shiny surfaces. The accompanying software could digitally flatten open books, not quite as efficiently as the CZUR, but at a higher resolution. I believe both used a version of ABBY for OCR'ing. The complete SV600's scan operation was not significantly slower than the CZUR scanner.

Overhead scanning made simple
Scan newspapers, magazines or books directly without cutting or damaging them.

Preserve delicate documents or books
Some things can't be scanned through a feeder so ScanSnap SV600 operates by taking an elevated view altogether.

Scan business cards to large A3 size (double-letter) documents
ScanSnap SV600 breaks free from typical flatbed limitations by scanning content larger than just letter size. Simply position the document on the A3 scan mat and press scan.

Save time, save effort
Make it an easy job by scanning not only books or magazines but all types of content restrained in binders, spirals, folders, or clear sleeves... just flip the page and scan.

VI Technologies (Versatile Imaging)
Combining high quality CCD optics and advanced LED illumination, ScanSnap SV600 uses advanced capture technologies to maximize field of depth and minimize unevenness page after page.

FUJITSU

Figure 4: Fujitsu SV600 document scanner... Note, the moving bar of light, emitted during scans.

For fewer dollars, [IPEVO](#), a Taiwanese company, sells a number of more economical document/presentation scanners, ranging from a simple mirror reflector clipped onto a laptop computer, to articulating arms for holding a smart phone, or to fully articulated arms with cameras installed, similar to the CZUR in design, but far more flexible in usage. *[Their V4K Ultra High Definition USB Camera is a good example.]*



Figure 5: IPEVO articulated camera scanners

Finally, when it comes to flatbeds for book scanning, I have found the [Plustek Optic Pro A320](#) large format scanner and the [Plustek Opticbook 3800](#) to be solid performers. Their accompanying software can crop, straighten, auto rotate, adjust density, split pages, and OCR (optionally), along with a variety of speeds (depending on resolution chosen) and some macro programmable buttons.

Very few scanners take advantage of USB-3 or USB-C speeds. Cost increases with the level sophistication of the included software.

USB-C Mini-docks



USB-C add-on equipment has become so useful and common, especially if your phone, tablet, or laptop has only one C port. By 2024, European law will make USB-C a universal charging device. IOGear sells a few multi-port docks that add up to 10 legacy ports. Their highly useful, less expensive model – a tiny [GUD3C460](#) hub– has five ports. When plugged into a device’s USB-C port, it becomes fully powered and has an earphone jack, a legacy USB port (for keyboard, mouse, microphone and SD card adapters), an HDMI port, and a 60watt USB-C power pass through (when plugged into an adequate power supply). Fifty dollars is the recommended retail price. Canada Computers has the larger, 10-port, [GUD3C03](#) model for about double the money.

<https://www.iogear.com/>

Canairi - Fresh Air Monitor

Miners once used live canaries to alert for toxic/explosive, gases in coal mines, to the detriment of these little birds. The **Canairi fresh air monitor** does not do this, nor does it monitor carbon monoxide. It tests only for stuffy, drowse inducing, CO2 laden air, potentially found in theatres and classrooms, where re-breathed air is a common problem; modern homes may gather CO2 as well, because they are rather air tight.



“Canairi drops (tips over) when the level of CO2 is higher than 1.000 ppm for more than 10 minutes. When the level of CO2 drops down to below 1.000 ppm again the Canairi will return to standing position. After coming back up Canairi activates a cool-down period of 2 hours to remain in the background and not disturb the user more than necessary.”

The rechargeable battery lasts about 3 months.

[Created with recycled materials, and shipped from Denmark, add about \$10 to \$20 for shipping a [Canairi to Canada, as a Kickstarter pre-order](#). (\$134 CAD)]

<https://www.canairi.io/>

VLC Banned in India

Commentators remain uncertain as to the reasons for this ban, which came about unannounced in about February of 2022. **Videolan** is French, in pedigree, not Chinese. But it may have been caught up in a ban on several dozen Chinese programs. If VLC contains new malware, you’d think virus checkers would have found it by now. *[I downloaded and ran it last week, on a Win11 laptop, with all its updates. No warnings have since appeared.]* Videolan.org has made no announcements either.

<https://www.videolan.org/>

Security Cameras

		
5GHz 2.4GHz Wireless Light Security Camera, Miebul Home/Outdoor 1080P 5G WiFi 360 D...	2K HD Outdoor Security Camera with 360° Pan-Tilt Motion Tracking, DEKCO Home Camera...	WiFi 5G Bulb Camera, Wireless PTZ Light Bulb Camera, 1080P Surveillance 360...
\$49.99 (\$17.63/100 g) ✓prime	★★★★★ 815 \$69.99 ✓prime	★★★★☆ 19 \$55.99 ✓prime

The image (above) is just a recent screen grab of a two light bulb wireless cameras for indoor use, and one dedicated for outdoor use. According to the ads, just screw it into a regular light socket (for power) and synchronize with an app on your phone (or up to 16 phones). Most have two way sound (microphone and speaker) while some can pan and tilt over a wide angle of view, including a full 360 degrees. Some record the video at high definition on an SD card when motion is detected, and sound an alarm; all are in the same price range as shown. *[This is the search term, “light bulb security camera system wireless” that brought up pages of offerings on Amazon Canada.]* Local specialty shops might be a little more expensive, but will have greater knowledge about their products. Outdoor versions need special wiring for a power supply, unless there is a light socket that is well protected from inclement weather.

Hands Free Pillow

Cars have phone holders; why not



pillows? **Hammaker Canada** places a retail dollar value of \$40 CAD on this shaped pillow, great for the couch, or a bus/car/plane passenger seat. Phone are taking over some of our computing tasks, and much of our entertainment hours. This pillow keeps the phone in view and controls close by.

[The Hands Free Smartphone Comfort Pillow - Hammacher Schlemmer](#)

Sonic Bomb Alarm Clock with a Bed Shaker

There may not be enough time, before school starts, to take advantage of the Sonic Boom's/BedShaker's American sale price, but this powerful wake-up team should get the kids up in time for breakfast and for school. However, if left at the highest sound level (sonic boom level 113 dB) it may wake up the neighbours too. Fortunately, the alarm volume is adjustable. Batteries keep it powered through outages. The Bed Shaker, requiring more electrical power, needs to be plugged into its 12 volt power supply.

[The Sonic Bomb Alarm Clock with Super Shaker- SBB500SS \(sonicalert.com\)](http://sonicalert.com)



Free Linux Wallpaper



Editor Note:

At time of this newsletter writing I do not know what our DPCUC Club Zoom Meeting is about.

I will notify everyone as soon as possible when I find out.

Linux in the News

by Alex Morrison



[Google Invites Bug Hunters to Scrutinize Its Open Source Projects](#)

Google wants to improve the security of its open source projects and is offering rewards for bugs found by bug hunters. Learn more here.

[7 Minimalist Linux Distributions Featuring Openbox](#)

Openbox is a lightweight, configurable, stacking window manager. Here are a few distros that provide Openbox preconfigured.

[Crystal Linux: Emerging Arch Linux Spin for GNOME Fans](#)

- [debugpoint.com](#); By arindam (Posted by [arindam1989](#) on Aug 31, 2022 6:09 AM EDT)
- Story Type: [Reviews](#); Groups: [Arch](#)

Meet Crystal Linux, a unique Arch Linux Spin with stock GNOME experience, comes with a homegrown GTK4-based Arch installer!

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

[Converseen the Image Converter for Linux is now Available as AppImage](#)

- [Fasterland.net](#); By Francesco Mondello (Posted by [Faster3ck](#) on Aug 30, 2022 9:23 PM EDT)
- Story Type: [Editorial](#); Groups: [Linux](#), [Ubuntu](#)

Converseen, the image converter and resizer for Linux, is now available as AppImage in order to be easily distributed and run on any Linux distribution without installing any kind of dependency

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

[MX Linux 21.2 Released with Linux Kernel 5.18, Based on Debian GNU/Linux 11.4](#) [0 Comments](#)

MX Linux 21.2 distribution is now available for download. This release is based on Debian GNU/Linux 11.4 and bumps the kernel to Linux 5.18 for the AHS edition while also addressing some issues.

[ED Note: I will be installing this on my test machine]

Linux – Wine

By Alex Morrison



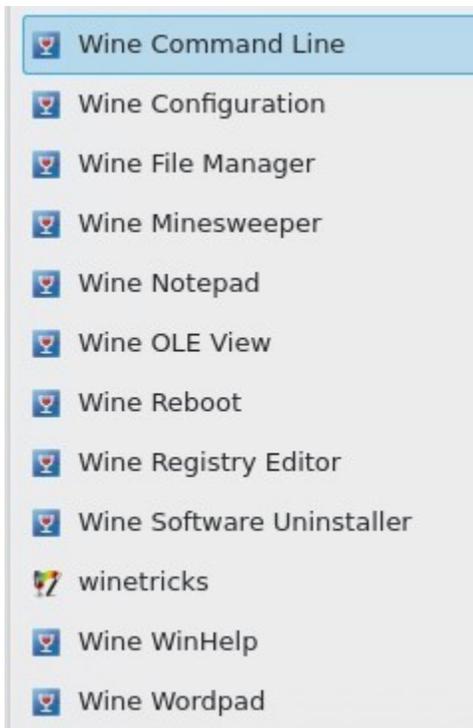
Wine is a program designed to run Windows programs on Linux.

Wine was originally an acronym for “Wine is not an Emulator”

Wine offers a compatibility layer providing needed support for Windows programs to be executed on Linux [Or Mac or BSD]

I use PCLinux as my main Operating System and when I install Wine I add winetricks. Winetricks adds additional support for needed libraries used to run Windows software on Linux.

<https://www.winehq.org/> The Wine web page allows systems to download Wine if they do not have the program in their repository.



The image at left shows the menu options that appear after installing Wine and winetricks.

Note – we get File Manager, Minesweeper, Notepad, Wordpad and a Registry Editor.

I have a device attached to my antenna called a Tablo. The Tablo is a wireless device that captures Over the Air TV broadcasts and is plugged in to a small TV in what I call my home office.

The advantage of the Tablo is that it is Wireless and can stream the TV to any PC or WiFi enabled TV elsewhere in my home.

The Tablo can record TV shows to its hard drive. Rather than removing the hard drive from the tablo to plug it in to my PC when I wish to save something I use a Windows program called TableRipper.

Wine lets the Table Ripper work on Linux and it works wirelessly.

Sudoku

Sept 2022

by Alex Morrison



EASY

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

Sudoku

The game boards on this page were produced using **Sudokuki** on PCLinux 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

MED

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

HARD

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

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>

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

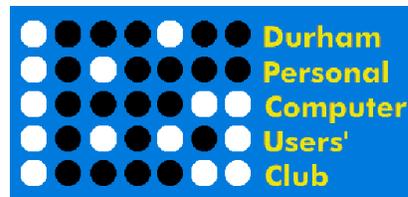
LINUX

Durham Linux User Group

Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: 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 month at 7:00PM



**DPCUC
EXECUTIVE**

2021-2022



President	Peter Camilleri	peter.c.camilleri@gmail.com	289-928-1579
Vice-President	Anne Delong	annedelong@timetraces.com	905-623-6975
Secretary	Mark Hunter	mark.s.hunter6605@gmail.com	905-924-2196
Treasurer	Allan Francis	alelaine@sympatico.ca	905-576-0481
Membership	David Odynski	odynskid@sympatico.ca	905-576-6325
Librarian	Dan Delong	dandelong@timetraces.com	905-623-6975
Program Director	TBA		
Advertising Director	TBA		
Newsletter Editor	Alex Morrison	dpcuc@rogers.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
Director at Large	Ed Goudge	edgoudge@yahoo.com	905-926-9003

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 alexmorr@rogers.com. Articles should be submitted in Word Format using Times New Roman as the preferred Font.