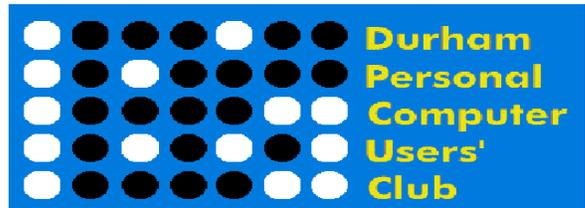


Jan 2023

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



Dec 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/>

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Next Meeting

Canada Talks Electric Cars

by Tim Burrows

On ZOOM – Thursday, Jan 12 2023, 7:00PM

FYI

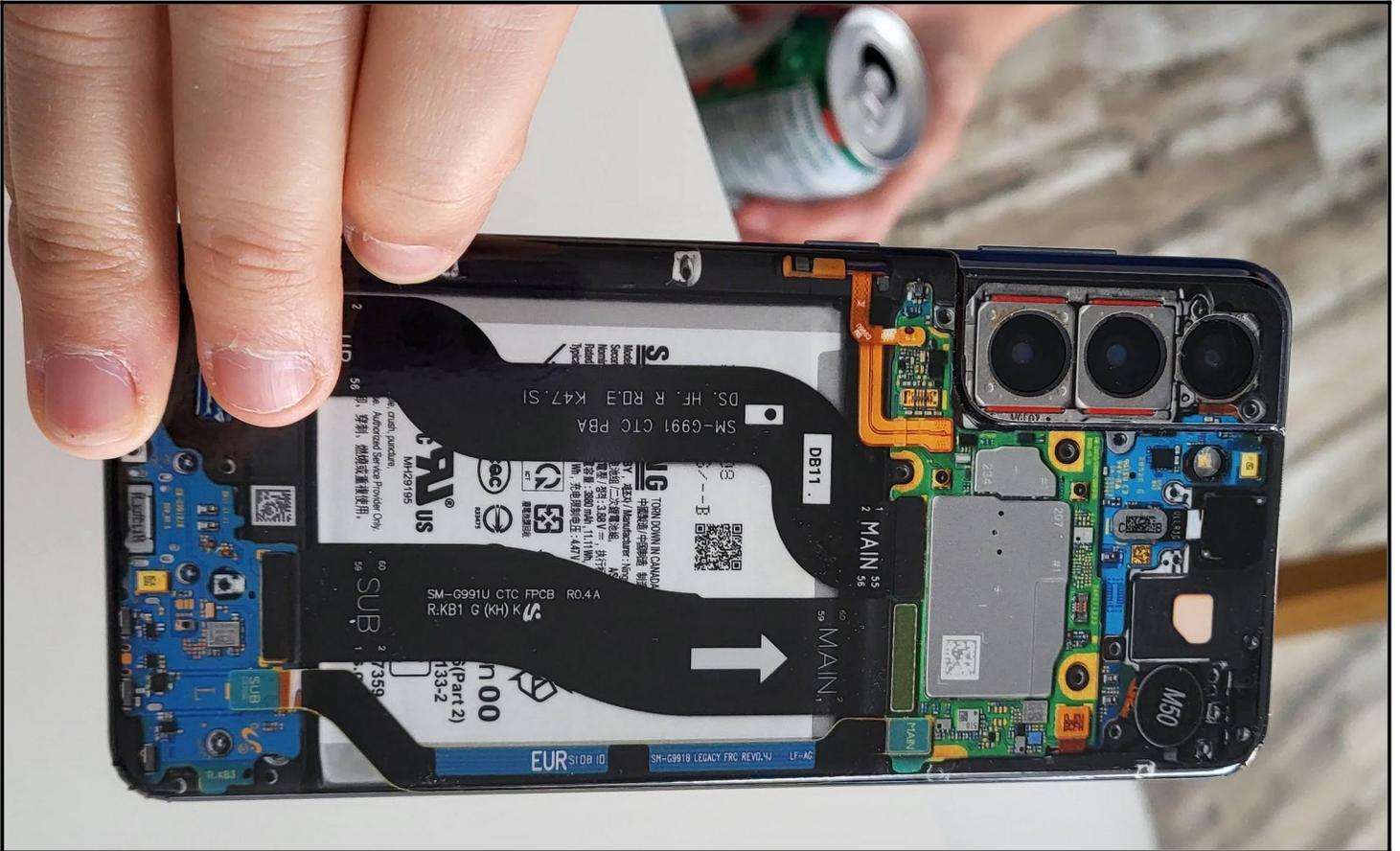
- By Dan Delong

Pluto TV reaches Canada—free



This is not to say that Canadians could not, in the past, view free **Pluto** programming coming from the States; just that it had to be done over a VPN service. As of December 01, 2022, **Corus Entertainment** (in Canada) has taken on the job of filling advertising slots (at least for the ads that are targeted toward a more accepting Canadian audience). *[Expect about four ads per half-hour episode.]* I first tried this streaming service on an old Android tablet. After installing the Pluto app, both **Live** and **On Demand** channels worked flawlessly. On Android, and other platforms, I assume viewers could also choose to use only a web browser, rather than an app, to stream the same content. **Live** content streams from over 100 channels (same as those viewable over an antenna.) However, distance and weather can play havoc with antenna viewing. So, if your broadband service is both good and unlimited, this may be a way to cut the cord from cable and antenna, with little fallout. Yes, the content may change without notice, and the ads may take away your viewing pleasure, just as happens with over the air viewing. You can choose to pay a modest fee to remove ads. **CBC Explore** has been added to the roster, as have many sports and news channels. Of course, **Live TV** cannot be rewound, or fast forwarded, but the **On Demand** shows and movies can be paused and jumped. A companion app for the phone function as a remote controller for large smart screens. Registered users (free or paid) can compile a list of favourites, or those to avoid. *[When running in Firefox, on a Linux OS, Firefox presented a warning that a DRM plug-in may need to be installed, in future, in order to run media controlled by a Digital Content Module—DCM (planned for some future streaming material).]*
[Pluto TV Action Movies on Pluto TV](#)

dbrand



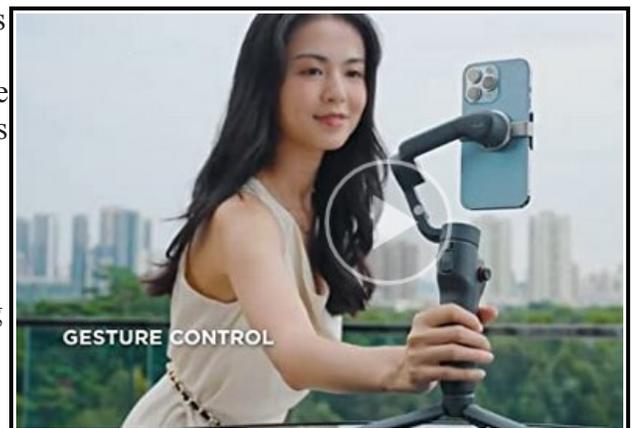
Here's a Toronto company that provides protection and bling for all kinds of electronic devices, in the form of cases, screen protectors, and skins. Some of these skins are “**Teardowns**”, a term used to describe a very high definition, colour accurate, print. When applied to the back of the phone, it gives the impression that it has no back. Our son got one for Christmas, for his Samsung S22 phone, as shown here. *[Note: - The skin does not cover the cameras.]*

<https://dbrand.com/shop/special-edition/teardown>

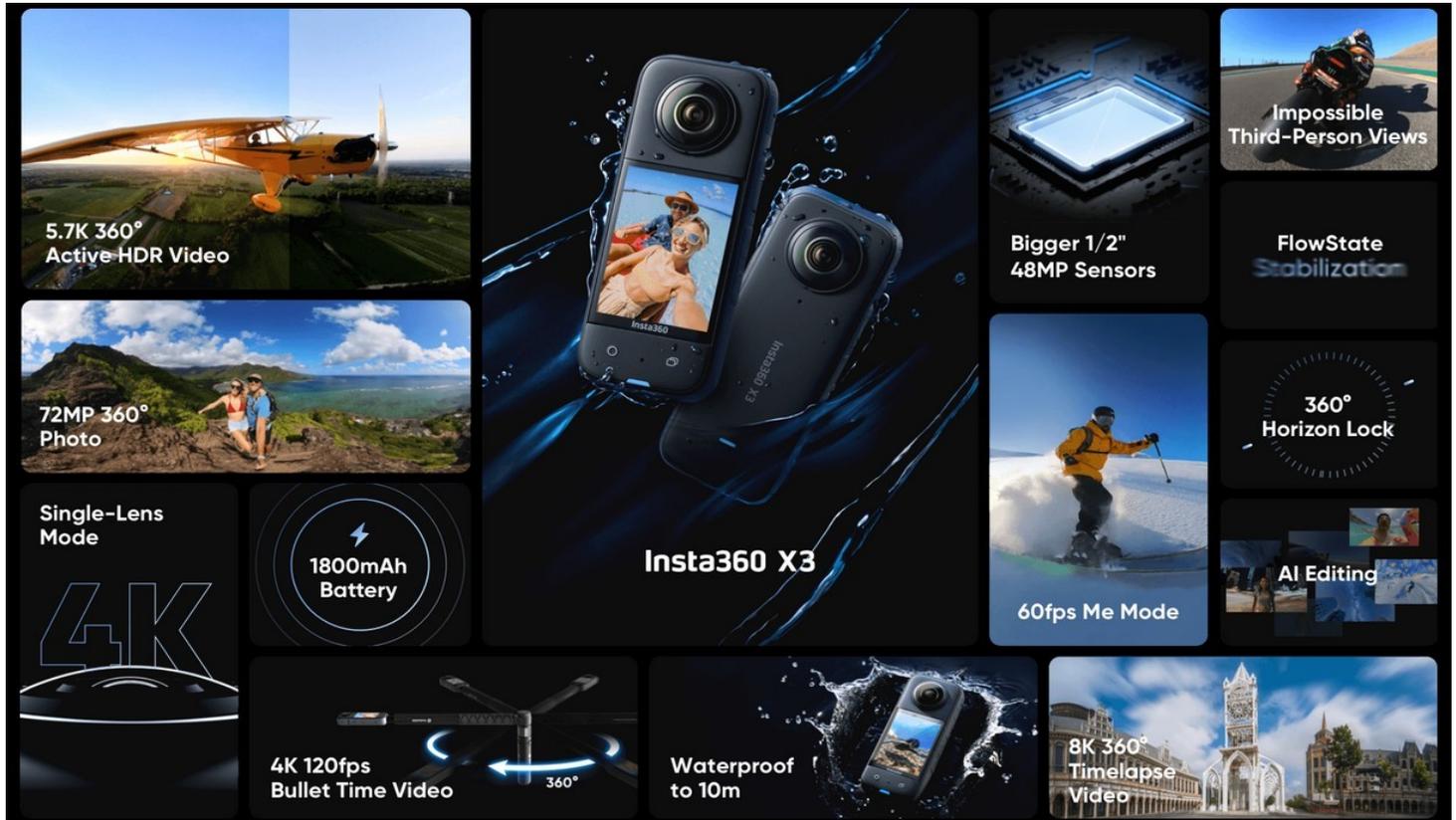
DJI Osmo Mobile 5 or Model 6 Smartphone Gimbal Stabilizer

Camcorders, largely replaced by cell phone cameras for both still shots and video, all suffer from abrupt camera movement when hand-held. One way to improve stabilization – get a 3-axis stabilizer with a handle and a holder for the phone. The standout performer, in this field, seems to be the **\$150 DJI Osmo 5** or the **\$216 DJI Osmo 6**, although cheaper models are available. Both of these models can track a person (using the **DJI Mimo** app on the phone), and they both have a built-in tripod stand. Both also include an extension pole for reaching out or higher up. No mention was made of the battery life, or of any charging system for the electrically powered gimbal motor. A scroll wheel in the handle contains controls for zoom and focus.

<https://www.bestbuy.ca/en-ca/category/stabilizers/592470>



Insta 360 X3



This **X3 Model** is **Insta's** latest consumer camera, able to take high resolution, stabilized, wide angle (up to 360 degree) video. Even more impressive is the software that stitches frames together such that the selfie pole is eliminated from the final 4K video, giving the impression that the action was taken with a drone. Further editing software can assemble subjects caught from various angles into a linear frames for a final video output, or change the sky from clouds to underwater, or to desert... just for effect. This camera, and most Insta cameras, are water-proof. It excels as a conferencing camera; when set on a table, as it sees everyone. Users revealed two weaknesses; one is the 80 minute battery life; the second is weak low light recording. The cost – about \$600 CAD (with all accessories, add about \$100 CAD more).

<https://www.insta360.com/>

Flu or Covid, or something else?

A Norwegian scientist, performing basic research, has used germanium— i.e.; element 32 (as in early diodes) —to create a minuscule 'optical echo chamber'. If I understand the scientific jargon correctly, this discover may lead to making much smaller and cheaper devices for identifying certain molecules that resonate under certain wave lengths; these are the molecules of pathogens and others, which currently need hardware too expensive to use in the field. The article compares the wave behaviour of light at these longer wavelengths, to sound waves in an echo chamber. *[Do you remember the red and white parabolic sound reflectors at the Science Centre? Whisper into one and your buddy, 50 feet away, could hear you just fine, no matter how noisy the rest of the room was.]* Using long light waves, at the microscopic level, echoing them in this new, tiny, germanium environment, can make pathogenic molecules stand out, for quick identification in the field, as to flu or Covid.

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/975410>

AV1 Codec is free and spreading

H.265/HEVC is a widely used, modern, codec for 4k video streaming; it is now in competition with the free **AV1** codec. Both employ GPU hardware acceleration, yet not all of the newest GPUs run it, nor has software been written for all streaming services... yet.

<https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2022/12/handbrake-video-transcoder-adds-official-av1-codec-support-in-latest-release/>

Dell CAMM DRAM vs. SODIMMs

Dell designed this new, thinner, patented **RAM** but does not take royalties for it. Hence, as a new manufacturing process, the slightly higher cost for each GB. Once it is certified by the **Joint Electron Device Engineering Council (JEDEC)** and mass produced, the price should decline. So far, Dell has installed **CAMM** memory in one model – the new **Precision 7670** mobile workstation, with 128 GB of RAM. Upgrading to an equivalent level of **SODIMMs** would have involved removing the keyboard, and possibly the main-board, since SODIMM chips are installed on the top and bottom sides of the mainboard, and they require stronger air flow to cool them adequately. The new CAMM memory is a few millimetres thinner, are a single layer of chips, and dissipate heat better. The board is held firmly in place with six screws, making secure contact with an array of pins similar to the underside of a CPU. Should CAMM RAM become widely used, all laptops incorporating it must reconfigure the main-board to accommodate this new form factor.

<https://www.storagereview.com/review/dell-camm-dram-the-new-laptop-standard>

Glut of Chips

According to an item from **Slashdot** (a source of today's constantly updating stream of technological news) global chip supplies have outstripped demand in many areas, mostly for PCs and gadgets, leaving more products unsold this past year. If so, why hasn't new vehicle production and sales jumped back up? New car lot inventories are thin; leaving new customers waiting for many months to receive orders. Chip makers are laying off staff, no longer needing them to fill orders.

<https://slashdot.org/story/22/12/27/1415219/chip-inventories-swell-as-consumers-buy-fewer-gadgets>

Chat GTP

In the infancy of computer programming, what a thrill it was to type “print” or “load” or “run” and see the result appear instantly. After a time, playing an **Infocom** game, with a seemingly infinite number of responses, almost felt like there was an intelligence was in the mix. *[I still find spell and grammar checkers, let alone translators, to be magic.]* With recent advances in AI's real-time natural language processing, we now can now read machine language generated compositions that challenge our belief in the limits of computing. *[These uncannily convincing compositions from Chat GTP easily pass the Turing test.]* **Chat GTP** has been composing articles, like those in magazines, essays, and sales brochures—activities which can be quite taxing on the brain—quickly and easily. I recently read a long passage, in *Wired Magazine*, written almost entirely by Chat GTP. And now, Chat GTP is being challenged to write ad copy for **Fulfilled By Amazon** sellers.... with amazing success. I get the feeling that **Retro Devices** (one such seller) might be an example Amazon project for automating such business activities, one that is now trying Chat GTP in this way. You may have noticed, when scrolling through Amazon ads, that they tend to follow a template, making AI's job a little bit easier. If you read the article linked below, be aware that most of it has been written by Chat GTP. *[Furthermore, AI content is no longer restricted to text; it can now generate videos, with commentary...]*

<https://techcrunch.com/2022/12/30/quickvid-uses-ai-to-generate-short-form-videos-complete-with-voiceovers/>
<https://www.carbon6.io/blog/can-chatgpt-help-fba-sellers-write-amazon-listings>

Retro Devices making a comeback

Here's one of them, a cassette player/recorder (\$99 USD/\$135 CAD) that runs on two AA batteries or USB-C power, accompanied by **Koss** headphones, with both an **AUX Out** and an **AUX In** (for recording). Encasement in clear plastic makes all of the innards visible. This is not the only cassette player at [Retrospekt](#), which carries many more, older electronics (reproductions and old stock). Be forewarned, money conversion and import duties might increase prices.

<https://retrospekt.com/collections/audio/products/retrospekt-cp-81-portable-cassette-player>



Luxexcel – 3D printed prescription lenses, with AR

Apparently, refractive plastic lenses can be 3D printed with clarity equal to moulded versions and with an internal, invisible refractive wave guide layer that allows small projectors to insert images in front of the field of view—also with amazing clarity. Since **Luxexcel** is a leader in the designing and the manufacturing processes, along with miniaturizing the electronics, this has attracted the attention of deep pockets at **Meta**, probably to enhance their virtual reality headsets. Meta actually bought Luxexcel! In future, a normal looking pair of reading glasses will be able to take photos/videos, play photos/videos, and take phone calls, all under voice control, while doubling as adaptive sunglasses.



<https://techcrunch.com/2022/12/30/meta-acquires-luxexcel-a-smart-eyewear-company/>

Samsung to add Satellite Connectivity

Current Samsung phones are installed with cameras of superior image quality, and may join Apple and Huawei in making phone calls through satellites. This may be the best way to overcome dead zones, especially in terms of emergency calls. **Globalstar**, rather than Musk's **Starlink**, may become Samsung's partner. National military, as well as unofficial militias, also have a stake in the game.

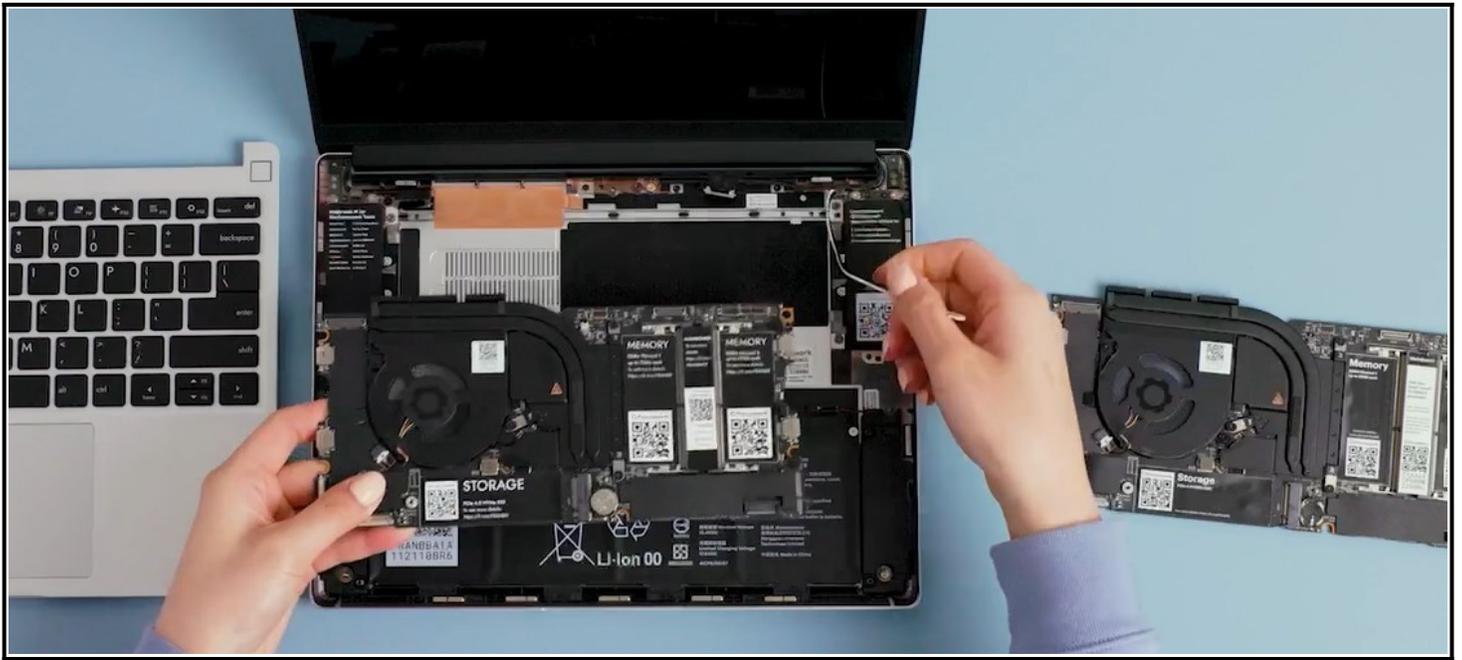
<https://techviral.net/samsung-planning-satellite-connectivity/>

Furniture Bank Charity using AI imagery

If the “poverty porn” ‘fake’ images, appearing in fund raising ads, tugging at the heart strings in order to inspire greater giving, are effective in uplifting a worthwhile charity, is that ethical? Artists and photographers, who would otherwise be paid for their services, don't think so. However, fund raisers like saving donated money, by using today's computing power to create royalty free images they would never imagine asking clients to pose for. However, the images came from somewhere; from a creator, now made anonymous. To see a few of these images, visit the link.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2022/12/31/this-image-is-raising-money-for-a-toronto-charity-the-only-problem-its-not-real.html>

Framework Laptops – an update



DIY laptops from Framework, have been keeping up with the latest component advances; they are either plug-'n-play parts or parts easily installed by the consumer. I priced out a very nice unit, with 32GB RAM, 1TB SSHD, comparable to a 13-inch Dell, which came in at under \$2,000.00 CAD. Just about every part can be replaced/upgraded easily... even the main board and CPU.

<https://frame.work/ca/en/products/laptop-diy-12-gen-intel/configuration/edit>

FREE Linux Wallpaper



DPCUC President's Notes

Well it's a bright, fresh new year. I hope all of you have enjoyed a happy holiday season.

I want to start a discussion that is a sore point for every club I've ever been involved with. That topic is elections and the people who serve the club as its executive members.

The DPCUC was supposed to hold elections for the executive last year. I admit that a large portion of the blame falls to me, partly because I was so new to my role as president and the dates to get things done came and went without any fanfare or action on my or anyone's part.

The other, more serious problem was the lack of any response from people willing to take part in keeping the club running. Perhaps part of this can be put on a general lack of notice.

Not this year. If you're reading this, you've been notified! The elections are in May but I am starting now to make sure nobody is "surprised". The club is not a place, or a building, or a corporate entity, it's people! Before May we are going to need people (that includes you) to step up and get involved.

To make the next step, email me or one of the other executive members expressing your interest. Alternatively, ask to attend the next executive meeting so you can see how things work or express your thoughts.

Never forget: An overlooked upside in being in the executive is that you get to shape the club. No more passive sitting around! Make this your club with your ideas!

And again; As always; Please, Pray for Peace in Ukraine.

Peter Camilleri, President DPCUC.

Linux in the News

by Alex Morrison



[Arch Linux's First ISO Release in 2023 Is Out and It's Powered by Linux Kernel 6.1](#)

[0 Comments](#)

Arch Linux 2023.01.01 is now available for download as Arch Linux's first ISO release in 2023 powered by the latest Linux 6.1 kernel series. Also includes updated core components and security patches.

[Meet the Slimbook Kymera Ventus AMD Black Limited Edition Linux Gaming PC](#)

[1 Comment](#)

Slimbook Kymera Ventus AMD Black Edition Linux PC is now available with AMD Ryzen 7000 or 13th Generation Intel processor series.

[Gentoo-Based Calculate Linux 23 Is Out with Xfce 4.18, Cinnamon 5.6, and LXQt 1.2](#)

[0 Comments](#)

Calculate Linux 23 distribution is now available for download based on Gentoo Linux. This release features the Xfce 4.18, LXQt 1.2, Cinnamon 5.6, MATE 1.26, and KDE Plasma 5.25 desktop environments.

[VirtualBox 7 on Linux Mint 21: A Complete Installation Guide](#)

This guide will walk you through each step of installation of VirtualBox 7, a widely-used and popular full virtualizer app, on Linux Mint 21.

[5 Linux Distros for Steam Gaming](#)

There are hundreds of Linux distros on the internet, all of which are different and made for their own purposes. Here are the five best for Steam gaming.

[HandBrake 1.6 Open-Source Video Transcoder Finally Brings AV1 Video Encoding](#)

[0 Comments](#)

HandBrake 1.6 open-source video transcoder is now available for download. This major release comes with AV1 video encoding, as well as numerous other new features and improvements.

Linux – Nostalgia

By Alex Morrison



This is a departure from my usual Linux topics as I thought you might all enjoy the info below!

I subscribe to a number of YouTube channels and today I found info about sites that emulate old PC's Mac's and several other devices.

I encourage all of you to check out this channel and subscribe to it!

<https://www.youtube.com/@ExplainingComputers> --- is the Channel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kTa37_UunI --- is the link to the video about the following links

Many of the following links bring back fond memories to me!

PCjs Machines: <https://www.pcjs.org/>

Windows 1.0 (1985): <https://www.pcjs.org/software/pcx86/s...>

Space Invaders (1978): <https://www.pcjs.org/machines/arcade/invaders/>

VisiCalc spreadsheet (1981): <https://www.pcjs.org/software/pcx86/app/other/visicalc/1981/>

CP/M-86 (1983): <https://www.pcjs.org/software/pcx86/sys/cpm/1.1b/>

Windows 3.1 (1992): <https://www.pcjs.org/software/pcx86/sys/windows/3.10/>

Windows 95 (1995): <https://www.pcjs.org/software/pcx86/sys/windows/win95/4.00.950/>

Infinite Mac project: <https://blog.persistent.info/2022/03/blog-post.html>

Mac OS 8 (1997): <https://macos8.app/>

Mac System 7 (1995): <https://system7.app/>

Mac OS 9: (1999) <https://macos9.app/>

VIC-20 (1980 as test in Japan, 1981 Europe/US): <http://www.mdawson.net/vic20chrome/vic20.php>

Commodore 64 (1982): <https://c64emulator.111mb.de/>

Atari ST (1985): <https://jamesfriend.com.au/pce-js/atari-st/>

ZX81 (1981, as T/S 1000 in 1982): <http://www.zx81stuff.org.uk/zx81/jtyone.html>

ZX Spectrum (1982): <https://jsspeccy.zxdemo.org/>

JSSpeccy 3 GitHub: <https://github.com/gasman/jsspeccy3>

Sudoku

Jan 2023

by Alex Morrison



EASY

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

Sudoku

The game boards on this page were produced using **Sudokuki** on PCLinuxOS 64 Bit running KDE 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

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

HARD

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

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

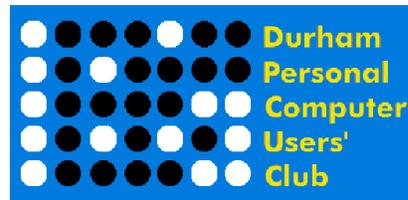
Co-ordinator: Ed Goudge
Location: Call for Location
Telephone: 905-926-9003
Date: 3rd Thursday of month 7:00 PM

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

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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.