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Next Meeting
Wednesday 6th July
Final preparations for Show
Demonstrations of
BVS Solitaire Collection
The Ultimate Troubleshooter
Show Rosters 7 Pm
Demonstrations 8 PM

Newstream Articles

Deadline : 10 Days before Meeting

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Membership

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RON'S RAMBLINGS

Well the show is almost on us. If you haven't already volunteered for a session at the Open or LCG stand you can do so by ringing Judy. If you don't wish to volunteer please attend the show as a paying customer. You may find just the technology Computer related or not that you need. The Sessions on Wednesday Open and LCG will finalise the rosters.

Also on Wednesday night I will demonstrate a couple of programmes that we have received for evaluation. BVS Solitaire Collection has a shareware version with a number of different Solitaire games while the registered version that we have contains 390 different versions. With the bonus pack we can change the backgrounds, card backs etc. The other programme is "The Ultimate Troubleshooter" or TUT for short.

This programme was offered to us for review but there was a long delay in sending the full version so we were given 50 free full versions. Some of our members have already taken advantage of this offer.

If you want to have one of these free full versions let me know as all requests have to be processed through me. So if you can't get along on Wednesday evening see me at the Show.

Launceston Computer Group SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Dated 1st July 2005

DISK 1000 - Your Library on Disk

Have you received your copy of Disk 1000? The disk holds a complete listing of programs available in our PC shareware library. This disk is free of charge to all new members. (will be available on CD soon!)

DISK COPY PRICES - CLUB MEMBERS \$1.00 per disk

Disk Prices - Box of 25 = \$12.00 Members Only

CD Prices - Box of 10 = \$10.00 Members Only

Julie Hjort, Shareware Librarian

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY

The Shareware Library is available in-between meetings from the following person. Please telephone first to arrange a suitable time.

The library is also available at the venue - Studioworks most Wednesdays 9am to 3pm. Email:

opencomputingtas@hotmail.com

LAUNCESTON

Julie Hjort Phone 6344 5686

Flat 2, 115 Penquite Road, Newstead

Email: jhjort@intas.net.au

Monthly Workshops

Graphics – Advanced

Paint Shop Pro 7

Next class

Wednesday July 20th

1pm – 3.30 pm

\$4.00 fee - Numbers limited to 8 please register on noticeboard or call **OPEN** on

0413 698.610

Family History Online

Next Classes

Wednesday July 13th

1 pm to 3.30 pm

Wednesday July 27th

9 am to 12 noon

\$4.00 fee Numbers limited to 8 people

Please register on noticeboard

Independent Living Centre

DEMONSTRATION

Wednesday July 20th

10 am – 12 noon

The Independent Living Centre will discuss and demonstrate equipment designed to assist people with special needs to enjoy their computer activities. If you have difficulties with 'standard' equipment this special session may provide solutions to your problems.

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Mobile Phone Number is now available to all those wishing to contact OPEN during working hours. The number is

0413 698 610

OPEN Session Times

Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions (All sessions \$4.00)

Monday	10 am -12	E-Learn & Beginners
Monday	1pm – 3pm	Basics & Beyond
Tuesday	10am – 12	PC & Mac Support for Beginners
Tuesday	1pm – 3pm	E-Learn & Beginners
Wednesday	9am –12	Special sessions or Meetings)
Wednesday	1 pm – 3.30 pm	As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am – 12	Beginners or E-Learn (Mac p.m.)
Thursday	1pm - 3pm	
Friday	10am -12	E-Learn & Begin'rs
Friday	1pm – 3pm	Embroidery Class
3rd Sat	9 am - 12	NT Camera Club

Special July Sessions

Wednesday 6th July	9 am- 12 noon	Computer Show Final Planning
Wednesday 6th July	1 pm onwards	OPEN Monthly meeting
Wednesday 13th July	9 am –12 noon	Microsoft Word "Magic"
Wednesday 13th July	1 pm – 3.30 pm	Family History (regular class)
Wednesday 20th July	10 am –12 pm	Independent Living Centre
Wednesday 20th July	1 pm – 3.30 pm	Graphics PSP7 (Advanced)
Wednesday 27th July	9 am –12 pm	Family History
Wednesday 27th July	1 pm – 3.30 pm	Print Artist
Saturday 30th July	10 am – 2	Printing on Fabric

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What's Happening at OPEN Next Monthly Meeting July 6th at 1 p.m.

FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

Over the next couple of weeks most of our focus will be on the **July 9 Computer Show at Archer's Manor, Alanvale Road**. This is a major fund-raising effort on behalf of OPEN so anything that you can do to assist will ultimately benefit the membership through improved facilities and equipment.

Session Fees

Could members participating in classes please ensure that they are paying the correct amount for each session. We have had a few shortages in the past month or two, and this can affect our ability to provide services.

Free Software

The cover CDs on computer magazines are often a source of valuable **free programs**.

These include small utilities such as the graphics viewer **IrfanView**, the photograph organiser **Picasa2**, music conversion programs **FreeRip** and **LP Recorder**, and a complete office suite, **Open Office**, which has similar features to MS Word and MS Excel.

Some of our members and tutors have had experience using these programs so please ask if you are interested.

Dennis Murray

L.C.G. Meeting

Wednesday July 6th

7 pm – 9.30 pm

The meeting will be devoted to finalising arrangements for the **Computer Show** on July 9. If you have volunteered to assist on set-up day (Friday July 8) or show-day (Saturday July 9) please check the roster to verify the times that you will be attending. We are still looking for volunteers to assist us with setting up the stands on **Friday, July 8**, or helping to perform a variety of functions on the actual show day.

Saturday, July 30. 10 am – 2 pm

OPEN's Monthly Meetings

This months meeting on **July 6th 2005** will also include Computer Show planning. Check the LCG notice above for more details.

Free Copy of Newsletter

Don't forget to submit your Email address if you wish to receive the LCG/OPEN newsletter via Email. If you have not yet received the newsletter via Email tell your tutor.

E-Learn

A few of our 'student members' have submitted their final E-Learn assignments with others very close to completing the course. I hope that everyone who has participated has gained something from the course. Please take the time to submit your comments to TAFE – the feedback may help those who take part in the course next year.

NORTHERN TASMANIAN CAMERA CLUB

The next meeting of the Camera Club will be held at the OPEN clubrooms on **Saturday, July 16th**. If you are interested in learning more about digital cameras and related subjects contact Kai Johnson on 6326 2358.

SPECIAL SESSION Printing On Fabric

This session is being conducted by **Fran Cox** who will arrange all the materials needed for the activities involved. The session charge of \$20 includes printing of 3 A4-sized pieces of fabric and morning tea. Please contact Fran on 6326 2525 or (mobile) 0417 109 689.

“VICTOR”

Members are again reminded that the Volunteer ICT Outreach program is available to assist members who may be having computer problems that can't be solved in the classroom.

For a donation of \$5 per hour one of our tutors will come to your home to help you with problems, such as virus detection and removal, or installing a new program.

VICTOR cannot undertake major equipment repairs but we may be able to assess problems and recommend how you can overcome them.

@ Incredimail

You've probably all seen the web ads for Incredimail, either on web sites or on emails you've received. We've received many emails from readers with opinions for and against Incredimail.

In this issue and the next of Email Essentials we'll have a look at this email program.

The feedback on Incredimail is very polarized. We get people saying how wonderful Incredimail is, balanced by those who bitterly complain about it. It's rare to see such extremes of opinion about what is, after all, just another computer program

@ Incredi Galore

We've looked at the free *Incredimail* version available from Incredimail but the Incredimail download is only the beginning of an 'Incredi' range of add-ons.

There is *Incredimail Premium* available for \$29.95 which has no ads, improved spam filtering and mail download, voice recorder and 'skins' to change the look of your Incredimail.

The *Gold Gallery* is separate from the premium version. It is a subscription system for access to more email backgrounds, animations, sounds, emoticons and notifiers plus 3D effects. Prices start at \$25.95 for a year to \$48.55 for a 'lifetime' subscription.

Letter Creator is \$39.95 for yet another way to enhance your emails. It lets you add pictures, logos etc within Incredimail.

There is an *IncrediBundle* – a combination of *Incredimail Premium* and *Letter Creator* for \$49.95

Then there's *IncrediDate*, *IncrediGame* and presumably soon IncrediMan, IncrediBoy, IncrediGirl, IncrediDog and IncrediAardvark <g>.

@ The Program

The installation of Incredimail is simple, perhaps too simple, giving you no options for configuration.

There appears just a fancy display (or ad?) about *Incredimail*. It creates

many shortcut links to the program on the desktop, quick launch and start menu. So many seems unnecessary, especially since the 'Incredimail gallery' just goes to the *Incredimail* web site, not to the specific gallery page at all.

When first opening *Incredimail*, you have to complete a survey, asking for your age, gender and country. There is also a checkbox on this survey – an opportunity for *Incredimail* to send you email updates... I unchecked it. Even without the email, *Incredimail* lets you know of updates from a flashing bell that appears on the system tray – it is unlikely you need both. Before you can use *Incredimail*, you have to set up an email account. To create an account, select 'Tools' | 'Accounts' and select 'Add'. If you have the details (ie incoming and outgoing mail servers), you can configure the settings yourself. Otherwise, *Incredimail* can use the information from another email program (such as Outlook) to create the account itself. The overall display is similar to Outlook, with a few obvious differences. One is the clock in the top right corner. I thought this was a cute idea, and a nice feature, until it turned into an ad. Whether you like to read your email with flashing casino ads to distract you is up to you. This little area also displays your 'send and receive' results.

Incredimail has the same basic features expected of any email program, including some basic junk email settings and message rules, but they're not the reason *Incredimail* is used. So let's move on to the fancy stuff!

@ Cute Features

Incredimail prides itself with its decorative features:

- email styles (ie different backgrounds)
- animations
- emoticons
- 3D effects
- email notification

All these features are for creating an amazingly fancy emails, except for the notification of new messages arriving.

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Where Outlook or other programs would play a sound to notify you of a new email, *Incredimail* goes all out. To select your notifier, click 'Tools' | 'Select Notifier'. Here you can select whichever little creature you want to notify you of a new email, and also how often you want to check for emails. A neat trick is the Smart Notifier, which you can set up so certain senders get certain notifiers – you won't even have to open the program to know who your email is from.

Incredimail bases its email designs on styles. Each style includes a background, font style, and 3d effect. To change your email's style, click on the tab with the green arrow on it (on the left side of the email window). Here you can change the style, as well as add sounds and animations. Select 'Letters' up the top of this tab, and simply click on the background you want. The backgrounds are entertaining, some gorgeous, some I would never use, but overall not that many. In the next issue we'll talk about how to get some more styles.

The 3D effect is just how the email will 'disappear' when it is sent – no real use for it, possibly done just because they can.

To add animations to your email, select 'Animations' on the top of the Styles tab. Just click on any animation and it will be added to your email at your cursor place. The Blue Man is a cute animation. Not enough for you? One of the best features for *Incredimail* is that it lets you add any image to the style box as an animation. Simply by right-clicking any image on your computer or the internet, and selecting 'Add animation to *Incredimail* Style Box', you will be able to use the image in any email you want. If you want to remove an animation from your email, just select the image and hit 'delete' on your keyboard. To remove it from your style box, right-click the image and select 'Delete'.

Each option in the styles box has 'Get More' underneath it. Clicking here will take you to the *Incredimail* gallery website where you can download a few extra styles and animations etc. I say only a few because most require 'Gold' membership. If you are not a gold member, *Incredimail* will allow you to download these styles, and even install them for you. Don't get too

excited though, because when you try to actually use them in an email, you will be told you do not have permission to, and only gold members can. Another way *Incredimail* tries to get more money off you.

To add emoticons to your email, click 'Emoticons' next to the font size on the formatting toolbar. A wide range of emoticons will be displayed for you. Very cute! I love the googly spider under Nature... It is good to see some area of *Incredimail* without any 'Get More' links about.

Incredimail allows you to also create your own signature (hand signed, not that boring text stuff), and record your own voice message. Oh wait, they don't, you need to be a premium member for the voice message (which you only learn at the last minute when you press record on the feature). At least you can have your own signature on emails.

Each email you send gets an extra line added to the bottom of it, stating "Free Emoticons for your email! Click Here" which links to the *Incredimail* site, as well as 6 quite large animated emoticons beneath it. It is very distracting and annoying for the receiver to have an ad sent to them each time, and annoying for you to send these ads without knowing it. It is bad enough when other web mail programs put a line of text ad underneath your email, but *Incredimail* takes the cake with unwanted animated emoticons!

Incredimail makes your emails look good, not only when creating them, but the whole set up. From the small size of the window, to the simple display of To, CC and Subject on the top, with the background behind them, to having type-writer sounds when you type, to the fancy way it is removed from the screen. Why would you want any less?

@ WYSIAWTS = What you send isn't always what they see.

You know your emails look good, but what about other people who don't have *Incredimail*? What do they see when they receive your emails?

The biggest fault with *Incredimail* could be here, when others receive your email.

It's a mistake to think that messages you send will look the same at the

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receiver's end (the same applies to web pages). Variations in screens, software, available fonts and other factors can change the look of a message or web page.

As a general rule the fancier the messages get the more likely there will be a problem at the receiver's end.

A significant number of the messages we get from *Incredimail* users are almost unreadable. The biggest mistake is poor contrast between the text color and background – what may have been clear on the sender's machine is a blurry mess to the receiver.

(The solution is to open the message and select the area where the text should be. Selection should change the text color enough to be read.)

Even if the message is readable – the reply may not be. When you click on Reply, most email programs are unable to work out the right color for the reply text against the colored background. We've had more than a few confused readers give up and send a new message in reply instead.

This can be a problem with any email program but the features and promotion of *Incredimail* is such that fancy emails are more likely to be sent.

From Email Essentials #3.11

@ Incredimail 2

Our two-part look at Incredimail concludes in this issue with a look at how messages are received by other email programs, the spyware allegations, uninstall woes and how to export your Incredimail messages.

Incredimail still generates an amazingly polarized and vehement range of opinions. There are messages from devoted Incredi-users with fulsome praise. On the other side we've received abusive messages questioning why we've even bothered to review Incredimail -- according to this view we've taken money to review the program (totally false, of course) or we're wrong to even "give this piece of c@#p oxygen".

Like it or not, Incredimail has its supporters and we felt it was time to have a look at the program for the benefit of existing and prospective

users. We'd not be serving our readers if we didn't review this program to the best of our ability. We've presented our findings and opinion -- the decision (really) is yours

@ Receiving Incredimail

Here are what other programs see when receiving your Incredimail:

Outlook sees the style, background and fonts, emoticons and animations all in their proper place. No detail is lost on Outlook, as it is the same as viewed in IncrediMail, without the coloured background around the 'To', 'CC' and 'Subject', with the added line of emoticon ads.

Yahoo Mail sees all the emoticons and animations in their proper place, but the style is lost completely. The font remains the same, but the background is not there at all. The emoticon ad is seen perfectly.

Hotmail sees all the emoticons and animations in their proper place, even though they are still sent as attachments. The background colour and font style remains, but the background image is sent as an attachment. The emoticon ad is seen perfectly.

Outlook Express is like Outlook, and sees the style, background and fonts, emoticons and animations all in their proper place. No detail is lost, and the emoticon ad is seen perfectly.

Gmail sees all the emoticons and animations in their proper place, but the style is lost. The background is received as an attachment, the background colour is lost, and the fonts lose their type and colour. The emoticon ad is seen fine.

Incredimail When an email from IncrediMail is received byto IncrediMail, this unwanted emoticon ad at the bottom is not displayed. In all other programs they are. Maybe this is because there are ads in the IncrediMail program anyway?

@ Spyware?

There are a few rumours out there that Incredimail is spyware.

IncrediMail's response to this is 'No, it is not'. It goes on to say that it does not install any third party software. It also says it only collects non-

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Inside Intel Inside

Peter Carter

So, future Macs will use processors from Intel, the firm that invented the microprocessor, and is now the largest manufacturer. The invention at Intel was briefly described in the March issue (page 32). The first microprocessor was the 4-bit 4004 for calculators (1970), followed by the 8-bit 8008 (1972). The first personal computer on the market, the Altair (and its clones), used the 8080, also an 8-bit device (1974). By this time, other manufacturers were making microprocessors, including Zilog with the Z80, Motorola with its 6800, and MOS Technology with the 6502, all of which found their way into early personal computers. Intel's first 16-bit processor, introduced in 1979, was the 8086. A version with 8-bit data and address buses was the 8088, and it was that chip that IBM chose for its PC in 1981. Intel struggled to keep up with demand, and subcontracted firms such as Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) and Cyrix to produce them. The 8086 and 8088 evolved into the 80186 and 80188, and in turn into the 80286, the processor used in the IBM PC-AT. Further development led to the 80386 (1985), first used in PCs by Compaq. AMD, Cyrix, and others soon had their own versions: the clone wars had begun, and have continued, despite the (sometimes underhand) efforts of Intel. The term 'x86' was now well established, and Intel's next was, naturally, the 80486, with the main advance over the 80386 being the incorporation of the mathco-processor. What started out as the 80586, with more than one execution unit, became the Pentium, after Intel found that they could not trademark numbers. Further developments have kept the Pentium name, rather than Sextium, Septium, etc. P6 became Pentium Pro, followed by the Pentium II (a Pro with MMX extensions). The Celeron is a cheaper version of the Pentium, while

the Xeon is a version with a faster L2 cache, intended for servers. Pentium II was followed by Pentium III, and then the Pentium 4, with a new architecture that has not been altogether successful. The Pentium M, intended for laptops, was based on Pentium III. Some have suggested that a dual core Pentium M (codenamed 'Yonah') might be the processor for future Macs. Pentium D is a dual-core version, while Itanium, developed with Hewlett-Packard, is a 64-bit processor. Most PC laptops bear a 'Centrino' label. This refers not to the processor (a Pentium M), but to the chipset, which includes 802.11b or bg networking.

Differences PowerPC and x86 processors are rather different inside, and have different instruction sets. For programmers working with modern programming environments, such as Apple's Xcode, the differences are largely irrelevant, as the compilers will generate the necessary code and memory management. One difference that may lead to problems with data in memory and on file is byte order: the PowerPC is *big-endian* while x86 is *little-endian*. A big-endian system stores data most significant byte first. (And yes, the terms come from *Gulliver's Travels*.) Probably the best source of information on the relevant differences for developers is in *Universal Binary Programming Guidelines*, available from Apple's Web site as a 106 page PDF.

Meanwhile, at Apple... When Woz designed the Apple I he based it on the MOS Technology 6502 (virtually a clone of the Motorola 6800), which he had bought for \$20, a fraction of the price of the 8080. The Apple II likewise used the 6502. The initial choice for the processor in the Mac was the Motorola 6809E, but the more expensive (and powerful) 68000, as used in the Lisa, was substituted. Successive generations of Macs used the 68020, 68030 and 68040 processor, but its development could not continue for ever. Apple, IBM, and Motorola teamed to develop the PowerPC processor, the most recent version being the 970FX (G5). Apple's view now is that development has stalled, with IBM, the principal

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developer, more interested in other things, and that the time is right for a change to processors with more development potential. It's now well known that OS X has been running on Intel chips from its inception. What is less well known is that Apple developed an Intel-based Mac in 1992, when John Sculley based the 'Star Trek' team at Novell to keep the work secret. The team succeeded, but the project was abandoned.

Further reading A good place to start is www.x86.org

Intel itself is at www.intel.com

From *Apple Sauce the Newsletter of the South Australian Mac Users Group* July 2005 edition



Instant Word tables?

Put that mouse away – create a table and enter your data easily with a few quick key strokes.

Did you know there's a fast way to build a table, without fiddling around pulling down menus and moving the mouse all over the place? It's especially useful when you have a small table to create, such as one or two rows.

On a new line simply key ++ and [Enter] (the plus and minus signs may be keyed from the numeric pad for convenience). This will generate a single cell. If you wish to create a row of five cells, use five plus signs to the right of the minus sign.

If you want several rows you can generate the next row by tabbing from within the rightmost cell.

WORD identifies this table-building exercise as a function of AutoFormat.

After creating your row of cells (by striking the [Enter] key) you'll find the cursor in the leftmost cell, ready to enter data into it.

When I create a table I usually use Autofit to enter contents at first, then tidy up sizes of cells in columns after all the data has been inserted. If, when you last used tables, the Autofit was set to a constant size you may have problems filling your new table; no problem, just hit [ALT] + [A] followed by [A] and [F] to create the desired effect.

Another tip: if you're in the middle of filling a table when you realise a drastic rethink is in order, you can hold down the [ALT] key and press [A], [D], [T] (the [ALT] key need be held only with the [A] key, but it is smoother to keep it held through the sequence). There is no secret about this sequence of letters: they constitute the finger/keyboard method of running the menu options, and will delete the table you're creating. You can also use just a few keys to create certain border effects. If you start on a new line and key three consecutive hyphens (that is, minus signs) followed by [ENTER] you'll produce a single line across the page, occupying all positions defined between the margins. An exception is if you're working in columns; in this case the line will go only across the current column.

PC Plus

This article first appeared in PC Plus Issue 215 - May 2004

LangaList Articles**Who Thought Of "Recovery Partitions," And Why?**

Hi Fred. I have recently run into a question that has piqued my interest. The question is how the advent of recovery disks and recovery partitions came about. Many that I have talked to believe it was instigated by the computer manufacturers and others are of the belief that it was the doing of Microsoft.

This is trivial to most people but of interest to many in the business of helping people with their "broken" computers. Recovery disks and partitions seem to be quite limited in their usefulness, whereas the Windows install disk was very useful..

Another question revolves around the use of external hard drives for storage and use. What is the average life of one of these drives?

I had purchased one 14 months ago (two months out of warranty). The drive will no longer remain powered on but shuts itself down after about 5 minutes of being powered on. There is no power switch on the unit.

When I inquired of the manufacturer, I was told to buy a new one. End of tech support and any good ideas as to what the problem is. I was wondering if you have had any experience with these external drives, good or bad, which might enlighten some of us who use or contemplate using external HDD's.

Thanks so much for the great newsletter and the helpful, informative knowledge you continue to pass on to the rest of us. ---

Eric R Matthews Several factors brought about the rise of the "recovery partition." Yes, part of it is Microsoft's anti-piracy kick: By placing the setup files on a system's hard drive, the casual CD-swapping of yore came to a halt.

Part of it is simple finances: It's cheaper for a vendor to ship bits on a capacious hard drive than to pay for separate CD manufacturing, packaging, literature and shipping.

And part of it is more complex finances: When a whole raft of tech support issues can be cured by having end-users trigger an on-disk recovery option (no CDs to misplace or software keys to lose), support

costs go way down.

Of course, this kind of "repair" is brute force, and risks losing user data, but it does get the PC's software back to factory configuration in a jiffy. So, it's really a variety of factors, all accelerated by the rise of cheap, gigantic hard drives. Put them all together, ignore the downsides to the end user, and to a bean-counter mentality, a Recovery Partition seems like a really good idea. <g>

As for hard drive life, you have to consider the design life, which manufacturers spec as MTBF, or "mean time between failures." You can think of this as an average life for a hard drive.

Some individual drives will last longer, some will die sooner, but on average the MTBF will give you a rough idea of how long a particular kind of drive will last--- probably---before it succumbs to normal wear and tear.

You usually can find MTBF data on the detailed spec sheets for a drive (or other electronic component) at the manufacturer's site.

Note that some external drives are really just ordinary hard drives in external housings. These drives aren't designed for external use, and so may die a premature death compared to a drive used in the safe, stable, and (hopefully) well-cooled interior of a PC case.

In fact, as your drive works for a short time and then dies, I'd wonder about a heat-related problem there.

Finally, a weird trend of late is for manufacturers to spec a long MTBF, but back their products with a short warranty. When you come right down to it, only the warranty really matters, because that's the length of time the vendor will absolutely stand behind their product. So: Let the warranty be your primary guide, and use the MTBF only for general planning.

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identifiable personal information, such as age, gender, country (from that first survey), and may sometimes share that with other third party companies for statistical purposes. (<http://www.IncrediMail.com/english/privacy.html> - check out the privacy details of IncrediMail here).

To be sure, we ran our spyware detection agents on our computers (which everyone should have), and none were found. There was also no unwanted toolbars or anything of the sort (besides the many unnecessary shortcuts to the IncrediMail program).

Doing a quick search, there seems to be as many sites saying it IS spyware as saying it ISN'T, though not many with proof of either side. To be sure, IncrediMail IS adware – with those annoying ads added to each email as well as the one in the corner, and the constant reminders that everything is better with premium.

IncrediMail DOES send out information it collects from your computer. IncrediMail claims it isn't spyware because the information isn't personal. In either case, take a look at the information it collects, and decide for yourself whether or not it is personal. This information includes the anonymous personal information of age, gender and country (from that original survey) and information like:

- The number of Messages that a User sends;
- The number of Messages that are read;
- What elements of the Service are most often used;
- User log-in dates and time
- Message size data
- A user's computer user's operating system,
- IncrediMail and browser versions used,
- Various communication parameters,
- Other information related to the operation and interaction of the Software,
- IP addresses to: Facilitate system administration, Diagnose system problems, Report aggregate User information, Avoid hacking attacks on the IncrediMail server.

It may use cookies to save certain information about users and others who visit the IncrediMail Web Site, but does not use cookies to retrieve information from a computer that is unrelated to the IncrediMail. The ads IncrediMail uses may, however, create cookies.

Some complain that IncrediMail crashes their system. Some in turn blame this on the third party 'spyware' that IncrediMail installs, or the high computer usage. This is a case of user beware – IncrediMail on my system did not crash or upset it, the only time it slowed was once when the notifier was loading. Some complain of pop-ups. My system did not get any, though that could be because of my pop-up blocker.

On the other hand there are so many reports of computer problems that are related to IncrediMail that it's hard to believe there isn't some real basis for the concerns. The range of complaints about the stability of IncrediMail do seem to indicate there are technical problems with the program across the wide range of platforms and individual computer setups. This is a concern for all developers but IncrediMail doesn't seem to handle variations very well.

@ Uninstall Woes

The main problem for most, is the inability to Uninstall IncrediMail easily. A simple remove via the Windows Control Panel does not do the trick! Files still hang around and cannot be deleted simply. This may explain why IncrediMail inspires accusations of spyware and slowing down computers.

The general consensus of how to uninstall IncrediMail is described here: <http://old.rayshaw.com.au/default.asp?article=0000000319> Be aware, it is not an easy process, and includes registry editing.

The fact that this process is not easy may alone make you want to rethink using IncrediMail. It is not too much to expect software to properly uninstall itself – the process and tools to do that are commonly available to developers.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

@ Exporting Incredimail

We've had many readers asking how to escape from Incredimail. The program doesn't have any 'export' function to let you save email messages for importing into other programs.

There is a program out there to help. It saves your Incredi-messages to .eml format, one message per file. We've not tested this program and can't give any assurances as to it's suitability.

IncrediConvert <http://rauno.com/IncrediConvert.zip>

Just the download is available from the developers web site. There's a good explanation of IncrediConvert at <http://www.incredimail.com/article222.html> - the text is in French but the screen shots seem self-explanatory.

You have to then import the messages individually into any email program that supports .EML format. Make sure you have enough disk space because individual message files can take up a lot of room compared to the same messages in a single file.

@ Support

Technical support is another area that provoked quite varying responses from Email Essentials readers. Some praised Incredimail for their prompt tech support, but it has to be said that the majority were scathing (if not downright abusive) about the company's failure to respond.

Mind you, the direct support for most email clients is pretty bad too.

An interesting site is <http://www.incredimail.com/> -- a French support site for Incredimail. You can pick through it with your old school French or use one of the online translation services.

@ Incredi or not?

Incredimail isn't a bad email client but it is really a 'style over substance'

program. Plenty of frills to attract people – but there's a price to be paid in constant suggestive selling.

As long time email users, the novelty value of Incredimail doesn't appeal to us. Give us a more staid but effective email client any day. For the occasional fancy email (birthday wishes etc) you can do that in almost any email program.

The concerns about spyware, incomplete uninstall and variable support are also worth keeping in mind.

Incredimail definitely has a place for the occasional user or someone you're trying to entice into the world of email. It clearly has a group of devoted users who don't mind telling the world about it.

From Email Essentials #3.11 and #3.12



How to...Using a spreadsheet to determine the date of Easter Sunday

When is Easter? Chris Marlow

The date of Easter Sunday is related to the Jewish Feast of the Passover, which is determined by the phases of the moon, not by a fixed calendar date. The early Christian church grew up scattered and fragmented, and different places celebrated Easter on different dates, according to the formula that they used. Early in the fourth century, the Emperor Constantine established Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire.

He then found that he needed to call a Great Council of the church in the year 325CE at Nicea, (now Iznik, in Turkey) to unify the different doctrines and practices. One of these was how to determine the date of Easter Sunday.

The rule that they agreed on was (and still is) that Easter Sunday shall be the first Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or after 21 March. The best astronomical advice that they had at the time was that the northern spring equinox occurred on 21 March, but actually back then it was on 22 March. This means that the earliest possible date for Easter Sunday occurs when there is a full moon on Saturday 21 March, and thus Easter Sunday is on 22 March. The latest possible date for Easter Sunday occur when there is a full moon on 20 March.

We have to wait for the next full moon, on 18 April, and if this happens to be a Sunday then Easter Sunday is on 25 April. Phases of the moon repeat on the same date of they ear after 19 years (with a slight complication due to the addition of an extra day every fourth year: some cycles contain four leap years and some contain five). Our calendar repeats in a regular cycle of 28 years ($28 = 7 \times 4$, from the number of days in a week and the cycle of leap years), as long as

the period of 28 years does not straddle a non-leap-year century year such as 1900.

The full 'Solar Cycle' for the Gregorian calendar is 400 years. Because of this, the calculation of the date of Easter is rather complicated.

Firstly, it requires the Golden Number, which is $(\text{year mod } 19) + 1$. (Mod 19 means divide by 19 and consider only the remainder.) The Golden Number for 2005 is 11.

Secondly, it requires the Epact, the age of the moon in days at the start of the year. The Epact for 2005 is 19. For more details about this, see Tondering, 'Frequently Asked Questions About Calendars'. Determining the date of Easter Sunday by hand was a long, laborious task. Tondering gives the algorithm shown below for determining the date of Easter Sunday:

$$G = \text{year mod } 19$$

For the Julian calendar:

$$I = (19G + 15) \text{ mod } 30$$

$$J = \left(\text{year} + \frac{\text{year}}{4} + I\right) \text{ mod } 7$$

For the Gregorian calendar:

$$C = \frac{\text{year}}{100}$$

$$H = \left(C - \frac{C}{4} - \frac{8C+13}{25} + 19G + 15\right) \text{ mod } 30$$

$$I = H - \frac{H}{28} \left(1 - \frac{29}{H+1} \times \frac{21-G}{11}\right)$$

$$J = \left(\text{year} + \frac{\text{year}}{4} + I + 2 - C + \frac{C}{4}\right) \text{ mod } 7$$

Thereafter, for both calendars:

$$L = I - J$$

$$\text{EasterMonth} = 3 + \frac{L+40}{44}$$

$$\text{EasterDay} = L + 28 - 31 \times \frac{\text{EasterMonth}}{4}$$

(Continued on page 14)

It should be noted that the 'official' full moon as determined within this calculation may differ from the actual full moon by up to three days. There was some consternation among the faithful in 1845 when a full moon was seen on Easter Sunday.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Year	G	C	H	I	J	L	Month	Day
2	2005	10	20	4	4	5	-1	3	27

To put the Gregorian calculation on to a spreadsheet, set up the column headings in Row 1, as shown above. In Row 2, enter the year, 2005, in A2, and the formulae in the cells B2 to I2.

In B2, enter =MOD(A2,19)

In C2, enter =INT(A2/100)

In D2, enter =MOD((C2-INT(C2/4))-INT((8*C2+13)/25)+19*B2+15),30)

In E2, enter =D2-INT(D2/28)*(1-INT(D2/28)*INT(29/(D2+1))*INT((21-B2)/11))

In F2, enter =MOD((A2+INT(A2/4)+E2+2-C2+INT(C2/4)),7)

In G2, enter =E2-F2

In H2, enter =3+INT((G2+40)/44)

In I2, enter =G2+28-31*INT(H2/4)

The results of the calculations are shown in the screen shot so that you can check each one as you go. All being well, H2 and I2 should tell you that this year Easter Sunday occurred on March 27. If you prefer your months to be named, rather than numbered, we can get the spreadsheet to do this in Column J.

In J1, enter the heading 'Month' again. In J2, enter the formula =IF(H2=3, "March", "April") This formula tells the computer to look at the number in cell H2. If it is equal to 3, enter the word 'March'; otherwise enter 'April'. (The only 'otherwise' should be a 4.) You can then hide columns B to H, which contain the steps of the calculation, and show only the year and the date of Easter Sunday.

By using the Fill Down procedure, you can now generate a table of

the dates of Easter Sunday for centuries. Remember that this spreadsheet has been set up for the Gregorian Calendar, and so it is valid for 1583 and later in parts of Europe, and for 1753 and later in England and its colonies.

Some dates to check and to try What was the date of that Easter Sunday, which coincided with a full moon, in 1845? The last time Easter Sunday occurred on 22 March was in 1818. The next time it will happen will be late in the 23rd century (in the 2280s). Which year? The last time Easter Sunday occurred on 25 April was in 1943, as some members will recall.

It will occur again within the next 50 years. When? It's interesting to note that within the next ten years we will have one Easter Sunday on 23 March, and another on 24 April. Which years? Start lobbying the Government now, because when Easter Sunday is on 24 April, then Easter Monday and Anzac Day will be on the same day. Do you want to lose a public holiday?

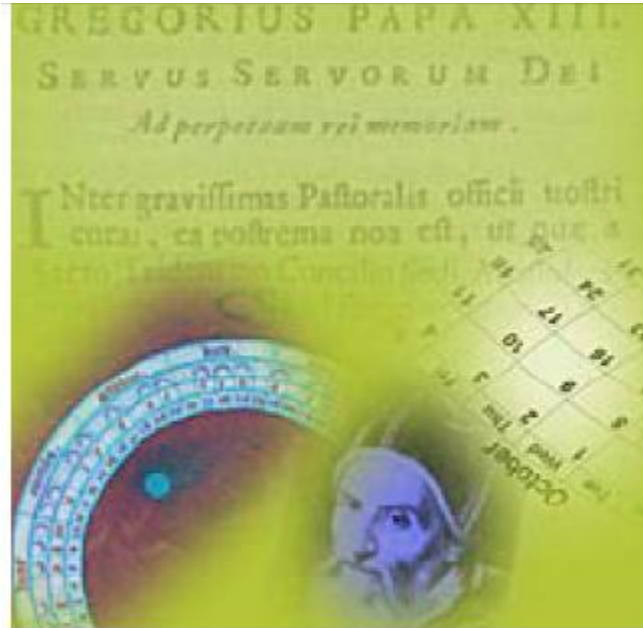
The formula for the date of Easter Sunday in the Julian Calendar, given by Tondering in the first screenshot, is simpler and doesn't require calculating the values of C and H. Setting up a spreadsheet to determine the Julian calculations is left, as they say in the classics, as an exercise for the reader. So that you can check that you have the Julian formulae right, here are some dates given in the Diary of Samuel Pepys: 14 April 1661, 30 March 1662, 7 April 1667. The dates of Easter Sunday in the Julian calendar repeat in a cycle lasting 532 years ($532 = 19 \times 28$). The dates of Easter Sunday in the Gregorian calendar repeat in a cycle lasting 5 700 000 years, which is $19 \times 400 \times 25 \times 30$. See Tondering for the explanation.

References

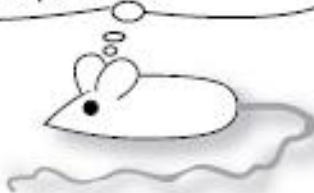
Duncan, David Ewing (1998), *The Calendar*, Fourth Estate, London
 This is a very readable account of the development of the calendar
 Richards, EG (1998), *Mapping Time*, Oxford University Press, New York

A more technical and mathematical account Tondering, Claus (2005), 'Frequently Asked Questions About Calendars',

www.tondering.dk/clus/calendar.html>This is an excellent Web site. It contains a 58 page PDF document as a 279 KB download.



It must be easier simply to celebrate the solstices and equinoxes



Airline cabin announcements?

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in flight "safety lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some examples that have been heard or reported:

1. On a Southwest flight (SW has no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"
2. On a Continental Flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."
3. On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."
4. "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane"
5. "Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."
6. As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Ronald Reagan, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"
7. After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

8.???? From a Southwest Airlines employee: "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight 245 to Tampa. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."

9. "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."

10. "Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

11. "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."

12. "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

13. And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

14. Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City: The flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the

flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."

15. Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

16. Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

17. An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the Passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

18. After a real crusher of a landing in Phoenix, the attendant came on with, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."

19. Part of a flight attendant's arrival announcement: "We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal

tube, we hope you'll think of US Airways."

20. Heard on a Southwest Airline flight. "Ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to smoke, the smoking section on this airplane is on the wing and if you can light 'em, you can smoke 'em."



Was she a blonde?

Two Irishmen were standing looking up at a flagpole when a woman came up and asked what was going on. One of the Irishmen said "We've got to measure this flagpole, but we haven't got a ladder long enough". The woman pulled a spanner out of her handbag, removed a bolt from the bottom of the flagpole, lowered to the ground, produced a tape measure, measured the pole and said "It's 18 feet".

She assembled the flagpole and went on her way.

One Irishman turned to the other and said "Isn't that just like a woman!!

We wanted the height and she gives us the Length"



Hearing

A man feared his wife wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family Doctor to discuss the problem. The Doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the Doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. Here's what you do," said the Doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens."

Then in a normal tone he asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?' No response. So the husband moves to closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Still no response.

*Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, Honey, what's for dinner?" Again he gets no response. So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again there is no response. So he walks right up behind her. "Honey, what's for dinner?"
(I just love this)*

"Earl, for the FIFTH time, CHICKEN!"

... and did you know?

Judith Watts

Once upon a time it was necessary to use multiple sheets of typing paper with carbon paper inserted between to make several copies of documents. I typed architectural specifications six copies at a time using fine quality quarto and five sheets of carbon paper. If a typing error was made it was necessary to place a small piece of paper behind each sheet of carbon to save smudges when these errors were corrected with an eraser. A good incentive to encourage typing accuracy.

In our office, IG & LG Anderson, Architects, plans were drawn on tracing paper and copies were made using a Dyeline printer. The tracing paper and printing paper were fed through the printer together and a light would transfer the images from the tracing paper onto the plan printing paper. To develop the copies the papers could be wiped with a Dyeline solution or alternatively placed in a tube where ammonia fumes brought the ink on the plans to life.

In the 1960s things progressed. Offices then had Gestetner printing machines. Our office (National Fitness Council) created programmes, fliers, etc. for sporting events. The typing was done on a Gestetner stencil, a wax covered tissue which had a panel of cardboard at the top with locator holes for attaching the stencil in the machine for printing. The ribbon on the typewriter would be disengaged and as the type face hit the waxed sheet on the platen it would create an impression in the wax. Stencils had carbon paper placed back to front to enable us to see the text as we typed.

Cover pages for the programmes were made using Gestetner tools, a stylus to make lines or drawings, and plastic lettering guides for

large lettering. People were then able to sign documents and have multiple copies printed with their signature. Hundreds of copies of programmes were produced, some even with coloured cover pages.

I guess most architectural plans and specifications are now created on computers, and creating programmes for any event is now a breeze, especially so if you have a Mac.



Gestetner and his machine



Late model Gestetner duplicator, electrically driven



Gestetner tools: shading plates, lettering guides, and styli

From Apple Sauce June 2004

