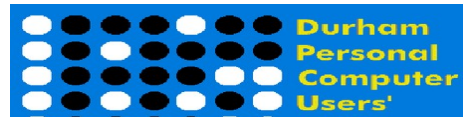


July 2026

PC MONITOR

Durham Personal Computer Users' Club Newsletter



DPCUC General Meeting

**Our Club meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month.
All meetings are currently held using Zoom.**

We hope some day in the future to be able to meet in person again.

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 Topic

Open Question Night

By Peter Camilleri

Thursday, July 9 2026, 7:00 PM

FYI

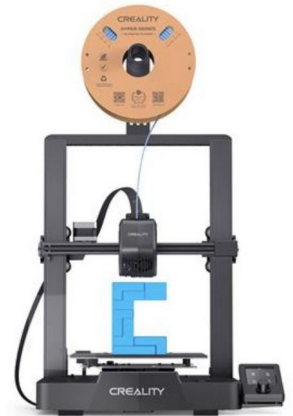
- By Dan Delong

Creality Ender-3 V3 SE 3D Printer

I believe this is the inexpensive '**starter**' 3D printer model that Dave Swain mentioned in his June presentation – now less costly, at \$120CAD. Yes, it does self-level, and it preheats the build pad. Other, more feature rich models are also available at Canada Computers... for more money.

[On my recent visit to a local store, complete aisles were devoted to 3D printers and consumables:- i.e. feedstock.]

<https://www.canadacomputers.com/en/fdm-3d-printer/250005/creality-ender-3-v3-se-3d-printer-ender-3-v3-se.html>



Anker Smart Display Charger

Charging, in the past, was simple. If the plug could be inserted, then all was well... usually – as long as the device receiving the charge was smart enough to handle the output. **Anker's** latest charger puts the 'smarts' into the charger itself. It is small, and can perform normal fast charging – up to 45 watts, but will do so in a measured way, if set on automatic – **Fast** for the first 20%, then **Normal** for 20-80%, then **Trickle** to finish up to 100%. When the **Anker** is charging certain Apple products, it can often identify the exact model and charge it accordingly, automatically, and safely. Feedback is presented on a small screen, which (among its many messages) estimates the time to full charge. Interestingly, the electric prongs, when unfolded, can face in two directions, adapting to either a wall socket or a power bar, while keeping the message screen visible. [\$34USD]

<https://www.anker.com/ca/world-first-45w-smart-display-iphone-charger>

Garmin Fitness and Wellness Watch

This looks like the same watch, shown to me by my brother-in-law (who favours it over a Samsung, which, according to him, fell apart). This **Garmin** comes with his personal recommendation. *(He has a few health problems, including sleep apnea.)* This **Venu 3S** model includes a bunch of wrist sensors for blood pressure, pulse, and sleep recommendations, with step and strenuous exercise tracking. In addition, this one has a screen/mic/spkr for linking to phone calls.

[about \$500CAD]

Other Garmin wrist watch models offer GPS and navigation.

<https://www.garmin.com/en-CA/p/873008/>



Red Tiger 4K Dash Cams

Rising on the 'charts' is the **Red Tiger** brand of dash cameras, especially the 4K front and back model, that comes with a 128 GB micro SD card, good for 16 hours of recording. This model, with a 170 degree field of view, also records audio, and monitors while parked, along with superior night vision. GPS is included, when linked to a phone by fast WiFi, as well as onscreen monitoring on both its large four inch touch screen and the phone's screen.

<https://redtigerscam.com/collections/4k-dash-cam>



Fusion is Not Fission

Both fusion and fission are branches of atomic physics, but one is not the other. Most atomic bombs are designed to explode when neutrons run amok inside enriched heavy uranium and plutonium, “splitting the atoms”. The energy yield follows $E=mc^2$, as described by Albert Einstein. That’s **fission**. **Fusion** is different. It is the way our Sun makes heat and light, by causing hydrogen atoms to fuse together, creating helium. Hydrogen fusing occurs only at very high temperatures – in the tens of millions of degrees. Attempts to harness fusion power, [here on Earth](#), has been attempted, mainly through building smaller prototype reactors that employ strong magnets to contain the hot plasma “furnace”. According to **Tiffany Janzen** – of **TiffTalk** (a social media technology spokesperson) a small fusion reactor in the United States, called [SPARC](#), is 75% built, but not ready to be turned on, until computer simulations (involving **Siemens** and **Nvidia**) have virtually tested the system for points of failure, inside a computer simulation, with millions of variables,. Should these points of failure make themselves known in simulation, further engineering changes may be required before testing in the real world. In the meantime, current nuclear fission reactors – as expensive as they are – produce a lot of the World’s electrical energy.

Why is this research important?

If successful, a fusion reactor could produce cheap, and plentiful, electric power for the demanding AI industry. That still wouldn’t solve the cooling problem, where clean water is required.

[I believe a hydrogen bomb, with unprecedented yield, has been set off in the 1950s, but it required integration with a fission bomb, to achieve the needed high temperature.]

PACTs are Private Access Control Tokens

Since **Captchas** (proving you are a human) have been outsmarted by AI, **PACTs** may take their place, according to **Cloudflare, Microsoft, Mozilla, and Google**. These PAC tokens will still allow both, trusted human operators, and “**Agentic AI**”, to read/upload/download anything on the web. However, such tokens may not be granted to bad actors, be they bots or real people (with a bad reputation). Apparently, Captcha providers can collect a lot of private data on each user; **PACTs** should lessen it.

<https://itsfoss.com/news/cloudflare-pat/>

SonyFX3 camera jumps to a SonyFX5

The Sony FX3 is a five thousand dollar camera. Why so expensive? Although it is smallish (handheld), it takes 12.1 MP image frames, with cinematic colour and resolution, along with interchangeable lenses. A Sony FX5 model, coming in July, will have a much larger sensor (2.2x larger) enabling it to take “open gate” video (full sensor recording), similar to RAW, for still digital images. This feature allows unique framing choices during post edit. The Sony FX5 may be so advanced that it almost competes in quality with the much more expensive professional **Venice camera** used by Hollywood movie makers – a twenty-eight thousand dollar camera.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/cameras/mirrorless-cameras/the-sony-fx5-has-been-confirmed-for-july-with-a-global-shutter-sensor-and-mini-venice-cinema-features>

Folding Mouse

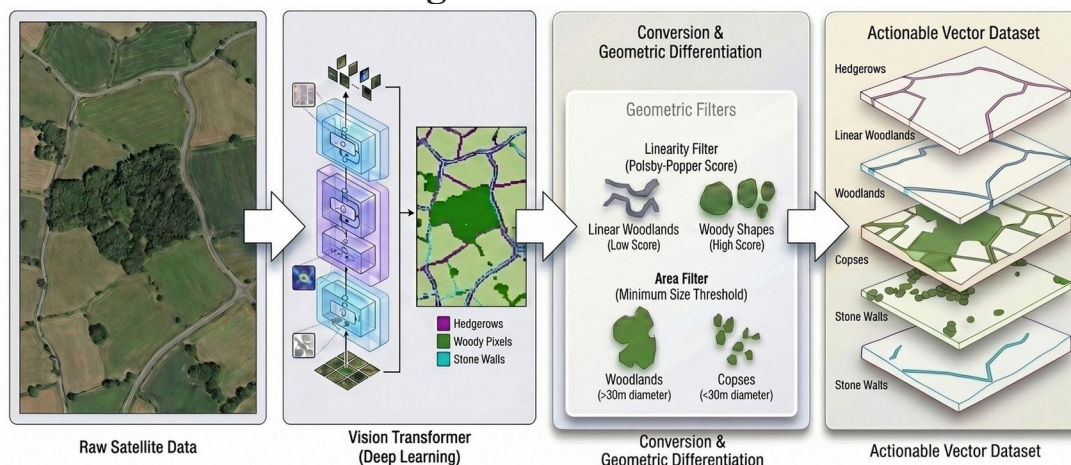
One model comes from Logitech – The **Mobi Fold Ultra-Portable Wireless Mouse** seems to be a more comfortable choice.

<https://www.logitech.com/en-ca/shop/p/mobi-fold-mouse>

MyAirO, or **Origami Mouse**, is a flatter mouse, that can be stored completely flat in a file folder pouch. It is available from several sellers; here’s one...

<https://myair0.com/>

Google Research - Pixels to Planning



No surprise here; Google is using AI to label landscape characteristics from overhead imagery. AI can analyze these images for landscape features, like woodland, stone walls, hedges, creeks, roads, driveways, etc.

Through time, environmental regeneration efforts will be noticed (by AI) as will changes causing degradation to the environment. Carbon sequestration is the aim.

<https://research.google/blog/from-pixels-to-planning-earth-ai-for-nature-restoration/>

Microsoft Research OptiMind

Similarly, Microsoft is tackling factory floor production problems with AI.

OptiMind is a specialized AI small language model for analyzing all aspects of factory production, from delivery on time, to work flow, to floor layout, to machine maintenance, to storage, and including staffing. An employee, with a current job in scheduling optimization, will no longer be needed in that role.

[OptiMind: When the system meets the floor - Microsoft Research](#)

Apple Research

Working with Google (to release a third generation AI assistant) Apple wishes to encourage greater privacy and security for the user (even though most large vendors of AI are forcing it on users by default).

[Introducing the Third Generation of Apple's Foundation Models - Apple Machine Learning Research](#)

Moment Energy – a Canadian startup

Electric vehicles don't last forever. Still, their EV batteries have value, for storing energy, in stationary battery configurations. Moment Energy is the largest company currently building institutional backup batteries, for hospitals, universities, public buildings, and factories. These batteries are quick to install and they can store up energy from any source:- hydro, nuclear, solar, tidal, wind, or, if necessary, coal, gas, and oil. One estimate claims that batteries could replace over half a million dollars worth of down time, each hour, for an otherwise 'downed' data centre.

[The company, now six years old, is located in BC, and is currently hiring (*18 openings*)].

[Moment Energy | Repurposed EV Batteries for Clean, Reliable Energy Storage](#)

Floating Solar Panels in Ontario

Western U. (London) carried out this experiment for almost a year, through one winter, to show that solar energy production could be maintained year long, despite freezing temperatures and snow. The solar panels were special only in that they float on foam and had a bubble system to discourage ice formation. Cooler panels actually make more energy than overheated land based panels. Very little of the energy needed redirection to tamp down ice formation. Ontario has plenty of fresh water lakes for expansion, without causing any damage to aquatic fauna or flora. The pay back period is under five years, at current electricity prices. *[Rural and cottage country prices for electricity are so high; this may be the solution.]*



<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2026/06/10/foam-based-floating-pv-system-for-cold-climates/>

Reflect Orbital

Combine any land based solar panel array (up to a 5 km circle) with mirrors in space, to make energy at night. **Reflect Orbital** is a startup, expecting to begin providing sunlight from space this year, with the first two satellites. In four years, extra satellites will be able to transmit the equivalent of 50 watts per square metre. This service can light up work zones at night, or extend the crop growing season, simply by turning, and focusing, mirrors.

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

[Alternate energy sources may make a good topic for a DPCUC meeting, especially those that supply power for extended periods. Outages are increasingly possible, just when we tend to rely on electronics more and more.]

SanDisk ExtremeFit USB-C Flash Drives

Compared to a typical thumb drive, this one is tiny... and so easy to lose!

But, if your laptop or apple device needs more storage the **SanDisk ExtremeFit** is still an affordable choice, considering current SSD prices.

[\$39 CAD 64GB, \$54 CAD 128GB, \$94 CAD 256GB, \$132 CAD 512GB, and \$346 CAD 1TB]

The **ExtremeFit's** diminutive size (3 grams) does not block nearby ports; read speeds almost reach 400MB/s, while writes reach almost 200MB/s. Samsung provides a [phone app](#) to help with copying, backing up, or just browsing content on its storage devices.



<https://www.sandisk.com/en-ca/products/usb-flash-drives/sandisk-extreme-fit-usb-c>

Botnet in older routers

Certain older D-Link routers (D-Link DIR-850L and DIR-818LW) have likely been infected, along with some NAS devices. Anyone still using such devices are advised to update to newer routers. If not, at least use strong passwords and avoid remote access, using WAN. **AryStinger** is not only dangerous to others, it could steal persona information from owners of these devices. Owners can watch for symptoms, like extra traffic, slow connections, and redirects to surprise locations.

<https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2026/06/thousands-of-d-link-routers-under-control-of-arystinger-botnet>

Windows 10 Gets an extra year of support.

Microsoft may want us to buy brand new computers, but the cost of solid state storage and RAM – has inflated computer prices, beyond the budget of many. This may have encouraged Microsoft to support this Win10 for one more year, until October 12, 2027. As with this year's support, the policy applies only to **Extended Security Updates, or ESU**.

<https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2026/06/microsoft-adds-another-year-to-windows-10-extended-update-program/>

Ubuntu TV

Over a decade ago television manufacturers could have incorporated Ubuntu TV into their sets. Even though Ubuntu TV was ready, they opted to go with their own software. Since then, Linux has become the defacto background OS for these same manufacturers, running on Android/Google TV, LG's Web OS, Samsung Tizen, Amazon Fire TV, and all of the main streaming services.

<https://techmadesimple.net/posts/what-became-of-ubuntu-tv-the-evolution-of-linux-in-smart-tvs>

Remember GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)?

It's a European law that reaches beyond Europe for any person or company doing business in Europe.

The main points of the law are:-

- **Right to access:** You can ask a company to provide a copy of the data they hold on you.
- **Right to be forgotten:** You can request that an organization delete your personal data entirely.
- **Right to rectification:** You can request to have inaccurate or incomplete data corrected.
- **Right to data portability:** You can ask to transfer your data to another service provider. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

But, there are loopholes, as described in this video:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nu0VDhzNI8E>

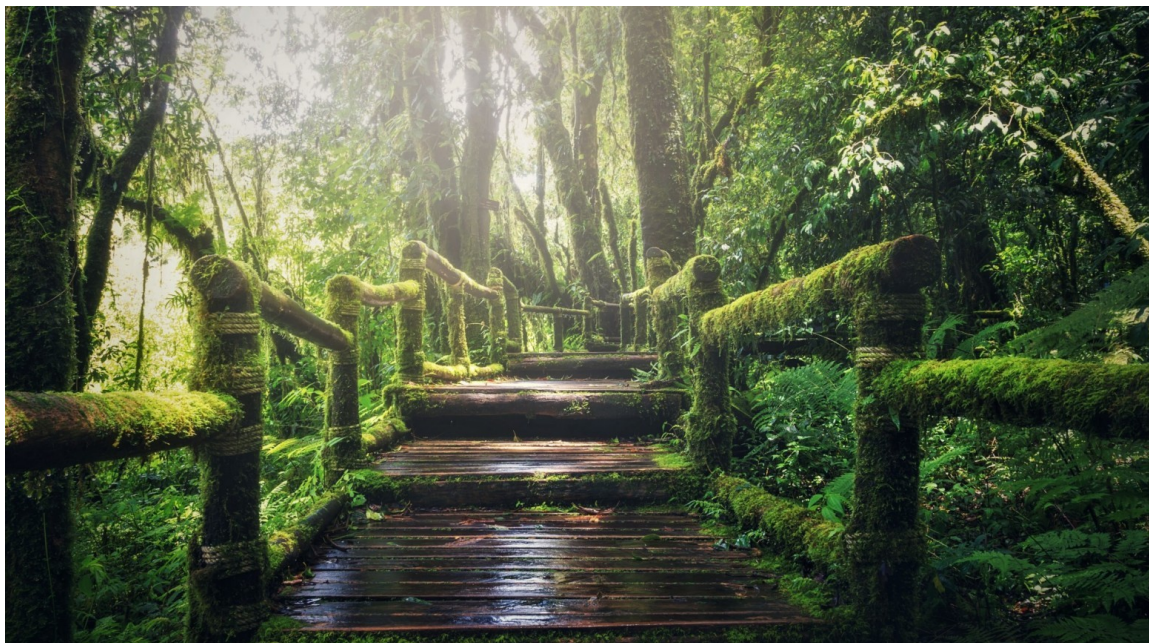
BBC Ended Long Wave

This is a quote from "*The Vintage Radio Repair Shop*" on Facebook.

"BBC Radio 4's Long Wave (LW) service closes permanently at 01:00 BST (00:00 UTC) on Saturday, June 27, 2026. This marks the end of the century-old 198 kHz frequency broadcasts."

These Long Wave antennas were erected in 1934, to cover all of the British Isles (and nearby countries). During WWII radar jamming signals blinded incoming German bombers. During D-Day this station was an essential resource.

A FREE image from BigLinux



DPCUC President's Notes

by Peter Camilleri

As an old Monty Python comedy sketch once famously said:

“And now for something completely different”.

In a surprise move, Microsoft has extended security update support for Windows 10 until October 2027! Here's a report on this good news:

Windows 10 Consumer ESUs Extended to October 2027

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UuxK6WDQoA>

For those of us with old machines that cannot upgrade to Windows 11, or who simply don't want to make the switch, this announcement moves the end 12 months into the future.

For me it means that I've lost the fire under my butt to find alternatives to Windows that do not run like crap on older machines. I will just have to find another way to motivate myself.

This is still an important topic and the club will continue to provide useful information to its membership through the Linux SIG and General meetings that cover this topic.

On a related note, it's not just individuals and corporations that are reconsidering the use of Microsoft "product", whole countries are dropping it. Consider France:

France is Ditching Windows for Linux

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1ccx1U27qA>

In fact, this trend is gaining momentum all across Europe.

So: if you've already switched away from Windows, you may now look down with disdain on the trolls who still put ketchup on their Coq au vin.

Finally, enjoy, Summer is Finally Here!

Peter Camilleri, President DPCUC.

Sudoku Puzzles

July 2026

by Alex Morrison



EASY

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

Sudoku

The game boards on this page were produced using **Sudokuki** on PC Linux 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

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

HARD

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

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

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

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

Linux – Why Run Linux

by Alex Morrison



After watching a video about Microsoft extending Windows 10 end of life for another year I thought an article about running Linux might be in order.

So I went to an AI engine to see what it recommended. For this article I used Perplexity.

Why Run Linux?

Embracing a Flexible, Secure, and Sustainable Computing Platform

Introduction

Linux is more than a single operating system; it's a family of open, community-driven software that powers everything from smartphones to supercomputers. For individuals exploring a robust, customizable, and secure computing experience, Linux offers a compelling alternative to proprietary systems. This article highlights the core reasons people choose Linux, with concrete benefits and practical steps to get started.

1. Control and Customization

- Linux gives you deep control over your software and system behavior. You can choose a desktop environment that fits your workflow—GNOME for a polished, modern experience; KDE Plasma for customization and efficiency; XFCE or LXQt for speed on older hardware.
- Package management streamlines software installation. Distro bundles applications and updates in central repositories, so you install, remove, and upgrade with simple commands or a graphical front end.
- The boot, startup, and even the file system layout are tunable. For power users, this means tailoring performance, aesthetics, and accessibility to match your needs.

2. Security and Privacy

- The Linux ecosystem tends to be less targeted by malware than some other mainstream desktops, thanks to a combination of user permissions, regular security updates, and a strong culture of responsible disclosure.
- Open source transparency means code is continuously reviewed by developers worldwide. You can inspect what runs on your machine and verify it behaves as advertised.
- Privacy-conscious defaults exist across many distros. You can disable telemetry, control data sharing, and choose apps that respect user privacy.

3. Stability, Reliability, and Longevity

- Many Linux distributions are renowned for stability, making them popular for servers, workstations, and embedded devices.
- Long-term support (LTS) releases provide several years of security updates, ideal for users who prefer a “set it and forget it” approach without frequent major upgrades.
- Rolling-release models offer the latest software while maintaining a tested baseline, though they may require more frequent maintenance.

4. Performance on Any Hardware

- Linux runs well on a wide range of hardware, from old laptops to modern desktops. Lightweight distributions (e.g., Xubuntu, Linux Mint Xfce, MX Linux) breathe new life into aging machines.
- For newer hardware, driver support is extensive across major components, with many drivers included in the kernel or available via simple extra packages.
- Resource efficiency means better battery life on laptops and more responsive systems on modest setups.

5. Developer and IT Professional Friendliness

- A rich ecosystem of development tools, languages, and environments is readily available. From Python and Rust to JavaScript, you'll find solid tooling, editors, and environments tailored to Linux.
- Containers and virtualization are native strengths. Docker, Podman, and Kubernetes integrate smoothly, enabling consistent development, testing, and deployment workflows.
- Networking, scripting, and automation are built into the system. Bash, Python, and systemd-based services provide powerful ways to automate tasks at scale.

6. Open Source Philosophy and Community

- Linux is built on collaborative principles. Contributing—whether fixing a bug, translating software, or writing documentation—helps the project evolve and improves software quality.
- The community offers abundant learning resources: forums, tutorials, official documentation, and local meetups. It's common to find mentors who will help you grow from beginner to proficient user.

7. Cost and Vendor Independence

- Most Linux distributions are free to download and use. You're not locked into a single vendor or licensing model.
- If a hardware vendor discontinues support for a product, Linux users often find community-supported drivers and workarounds, extending the life of their devices.

Getting Started: A Practical Path to Linux**1. Pick a target use case**

- Everyday computing: Consider user-friendly options like Ubuntu, Linux Mint, or Fedora Workstation.
- Lightweight or older hardware: Try Lubuntu, Xubuntu, or MX Linux.
- Privacy-focused: EndeavourOS with optional privacy hardening, or Ubuntu with mindful app selection.
- Developer workstation: Fedora Workstation or Ubuntu LTS (Long-Term Support) with your preferred dev tools.

2. Try without installing (live and test)

- Most distros offer a live mode you can boot from a USB stick to test hardware compatibility and user experience before making changes to your system.

3. Dual-boot or replace

- Dual-boot if you want to keep your current OS as a fallback. Make sure you back up data and understand partitioning basics.
- Replace entirely if you're ready to move on. Backup first, then follow the distro's installer prompts.

4. Essential steps after install

- Update immediately: keep the system patched with the latest security updates.
- Install essential software: a good browser, office suite, media player, and a software center/app store for easy management.
- Enable backups: use simple tools like Deja Dup, Timeshift, or rsync-based solutions to protect your data.
- Learn basic commands: navigation, package management, and system information commands build a foundation for troubleshooting.

8. Common myths debunked

- "Linux is hard to learn." Modern distributions emphasize user-friendliness; most tasks are discoverable with search and community help.
- "Games don't work." The gaming landscape on Linux has improved dramatically with Proton and Steam Play, though support varies by title.
- "I'll lose my files." With careful backups and a plan, data safety is manageable. Start with a non-destructive approach and test before committing.

Illustration: The Linux Ecosystem as a Tux Toolkit

- Picture a modular toolkit where each component is interchangeable. The hammer (kernel) provides structure and access to hardware. The screwdriver (package manager) fits various software components. The blueprint (documentation) guides any user from rookie to expert. The user is free to assemble a setup that matches their needs, whether a fast-boot workstation, a secure server, or a playful desktop for creativity.

Conclusion

Running Linux unlocks greater control, security, and customization, all while supporting open-source values and a thriving community. Whether you're reclaiming old hardware, building a resilient server, or exploring development workflows, Linux offers a wide, welcoming landscape. Start with a beginner-friendly distribution, test in live mode, and gradually tailor your system to your needs. The journey from curiosity to competence is rewarding—and it often begins with one simple installation and a supportive community nearby.

Linux the News

by Alex Morrison



[Kali Linux 2026.2 Released with GNOME 50, KDE Plasma 6.6, and New Tools](#)

[0 Comments](#)

Kali Linux 2026.2 ethical hacking and penetration testing distribution is now available for download with GNOME 50 and KDE Plasma 6.6 desktop offerings, new tools, Kali NetHunter uUpdates, and more.

[Kodi 22 Beta Improves Linux Support for Remote Keys and HDR Profile Support](#)

[1 Comment](#)

Kodi 22 “Piers” open-source media center is now available for public beta testing promising HDR on Wayland support for Linux systems and many other new features and improvements.

[Calibre 9.10 Open-Source E-Book Manager Brings New UI to the Content Server](#)

[0 Comments](#)

Calibre 9.10 open-source e-book management software is now available for download with a new “modern” interface for the Content Server that features a sidebar for easier navigation and other changes.

[Xsnow "protestware" in Debian](#)

[Distributions] Posted Jun 29, 2026 15:13 UTC (Mon) by jzb

The [xsnow](#) application, which generates an animated snowfall effect (and other pleasant diversions) for X11 desktops, does not seem like an obvious channel for political statements. Nevertheless, xsnow's maintainer seems to have included a political protest in the program: an Easter egg that is triggered when the program's language is set to Russia ("ru"). One user has complained that this functionality should be removed from the Debian [xsnow package](#), but Debian does not seem to have any rules that forbid such a feature outright.

[Full Story](#) ([comments: 11](#))

[Shotcut 26.6 Open-Source Video Editor Released with Vulkan on Linux Support](#)

[0 Comments](#)

Shotcut 26.6 open-source video editor is now available for download with initial support for OpenFX plugins, Vulkan on Linux support, initial support for VST2 and LV2 audio plugins, and more.

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.

Special Interest Groups

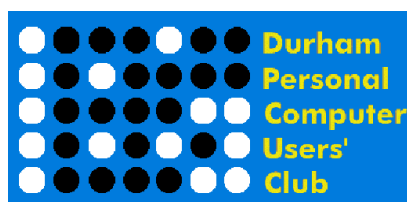
Durham Linux User Groups

Coordinator: Ed Goudge

Our Linux group meet on the first Thursday of every month.

All meetings are currently held using Zoom.

We hope some day to meet again in person.



DPCUC EXECUTIVE

2022-2023

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