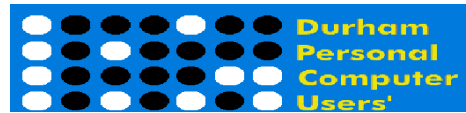


Sept 2026

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

Windows 10 End of Life?

by Alan German

Thursday, Sept 10 2026, 7:00 PM

FYI

- By Dan Delong

High Temperature Transistors

Current chips can't take overheating, especially if caused by overclocking. Kyoto University researchers have made a silicon carbide transistor that operates at 600°C, and can be made using current fabrication machinery. That's over one thousand degrees Fahrenheit! A full technical explanation is at...

<https://www.tomshardware.com/tech-industry/kyoto-university-demonstrates-a-sic-transistor-that-runs-at-600c-using-standard-ion-implantation>

Your Old PC Can Run In Virtual

And, this includes being able to run the old software, on the new PC, in a window. This technique, for the pro versions of Win11, re-creates the whole machine in a virtual environment, making it available at all times. This goes for older 32-bit programs, as well. The steps are complex and detailed, as described in a Make Use Of article (*linked below*) for downloading a Microsoft Sysinternals utility and making a Windows Volume Shadow Copy. There is no cost, if you already have a suitable extra hard drive.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/keep-old-pc-running-after-hardware-fails/>

FAQArena

Decades ago a few expert advice websites appeared – contributed to by academics and others, qualified volunteers in the field – hence; able to authoritatively answer questions from/for the public. (*Ask Jeeves comes to mind.*) Since then, AI has taken over the task. That's why, on my first visit to [FAQArena](#), suspicion arose as to its provenance. Was it created by AI, or not? Here's AI's response to that query.

"FAQArena is a standard content and blog website rather than an official artificial intelligence model or tool. While it may use automated writing assistants or standard content generation software like many modern blogs do, it is not an AI-native product, platform, or creator organization."

[If this site had been created and maintained by AI, I would, in future, avoid using it, due to its hidden cost in electrical energy and the wastage of water.]

This unique site covers topics in areas like; Home & Garden, Vehicles, Travel, Real Estate, Pets & Animals, Tech & Gadgets, along with a search field, and thousands of sorted articles on almost any subject. Although this site is supported (to some degree) by AI, it appears to be maintained by real human minds. It has another presence as a website, and as a Facebook account.

[Of interest so some club members might be the FAQArena article about keeping an old and slow computer running longer.]

<https://faqarena.com/tech-gadgets/everyday-devices/before-you-toss-that-slow-computer-try-these-steps-first/>

The Document Foundation – Libre Office, sans AI

Libre Office works offline quite well; and, it does not communicate with outside AI servers during use. Collabora Office, on the other hand, has issued releases that allows opting into AI on remote servers. The Document Foundation (Libre Office) has had to disengage from Collabora staff, in order to maintain their AI-free status.

<https://itsfoss.com/news/libreoffice-26-8-release/>

CPU with Glass Substrate

Glass distorts less, both when heated and when being photo or laser printed. Furthermore a layer of substrate glass can be thinner than silicon; and, it uses less power, which is important for AI data centres. Such chips can also store data, as memory. Fabricators claim that existing production lines can be adapted for this technology, yet delays persist.

Current silicon substrates (referred to as 'organic' for some reason) are less dense in their circuitry.

<https://eng.sk.com/perspectives/absolics-how-glass-substrates-are-powering-the-ai-revolution>

VLC on Win11

Although many complaints have come in, claiming that a recent Win 11 update caused long load times when trying to play media files—and, only those that VLC had always been able to play before. VLC claims that Windows Defender had somehow quarantined the VLC codec cache (solved by reinstalling VLC or by refreshing the cache). If Microsoft has tried to sabotage VLC, it may not be provable, as demonstrated by my 5 year-old Win 11 laptop, which now plays every video file located on this computer, in either the default Microsoft Media Player App, or in VLC.

(I must have told VLC (likely during installation) to default on about one third of the over one hundred codecs on this machine.)

In order to make VLC the default for all media on this computer, I would now need to change the default setting for each and every codec (even those already accepted by Media Player) one-by-one... a laborious process.

My Windows 10 laptop works differently. Once the default media player had been set (in Settings) to VLC, as the alternative to Media Player (an option not available in Win11) all video file thumbnails immediately got an additional label – that being the logo for VLC – *the orange and white striped road cone; meaning that VLC would be the default player for ALL media, from now on.*

https://youtu.be/R_NMySNYx3s

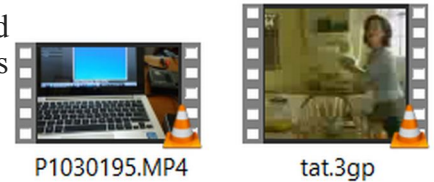


Figure 1: VLC icons added by Win10

NVIDIA Vera Rubin

What is NVIDIA doing with all those graphics chips? The company is making billions of dollars, selling Vera Rubin Pods, which, in groups, can create a super computer for AI data centres. Recently, the company has instituted a PAC, for funding political actions favouring Nvidia business endeavours. *"Money talks!"*

<https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/data-center/technologies/rubin/>



Commodore Callback 8020 Flip Phone

Those who revere Commodore products may wish to support this new flip phone – the Callback. Case designs vary, but they all retain elements of the Commodore brand. This phone runs most Android apps, but without social media. One model carries a “gold” theme (*which may appeal to the American King, after his Trump phone failure*) while another case is transparent, in addition a few other colours and a “PET White” model. Other features include a 48 MP Sony camera, 32 GB SD card, an FM radio, high definition audio, Commodore themed accessory ear buds, and a removable battery.

(from \$399 USD/\$554 CAD, on pre-orders)

<https://commodore.net/callback/>



Implanted Malware in Chinese Routers.

“ENDLESSDOORS” is the apt name given to one of the firmware implants discovered in at least 20 models of Chinese routers, all coming from one factory. This implant can let a hacker execute as root. This goes for WiFi routers as well. Two other implants are named “DARKLANTERN” and “SPEAKINGTONE”.

[Since these are three implants (discovered, so far) could there be more?]

<https://www.tomshardware.com/tech-industry/cyber-security/security-researchers-find-surveillance-implants-in-chinese-made-routers-sold-worldwide-three-different-backdoor-like-implants-hidden-in-firmware>

Anna's Archive wants books

Since AI companies are destroying scanned books, this open library (*with over 33 million books, and approaching a billion articles*) wants more of them (*before propagandists can alter historical content*). If this library has the book you want, but it is too new for immediate release, at least you can view full publisher information and some reviews for each title. A special “request code” for a book can be used by those with a free account (*to download the item*).

<https://annas-archive.cc/>



Samsung Gaming Monitors

‘Gamers’ want great colour, fast refreshes, and quick response time, as well as lots of real estate. They get all of this, and more, with the Samsung 49" Odyssey G9 Gaming Monitor. This high definition screen is curved enough to enter your most peripheral vision, with a 240 Hz refresh, and 1 millisecond response time. Not only will it perform Picture-in-picture and Picture-by-picture, with twin HDMI 2.1 & 2.2 ports; it allows showing two independent displays from two computers at the same time.

[about \$1300 at Canada Computers – Samsung also makes a 360Hz version for some markets.]

<https://www.samsung.com/ca/monitors/gaming/odyssey-g9-g95c-49-inch-240hz-curved-dual-qhd-ls49cg952enxza/>



Drone Detectors for US Army

At about \$5000 each, a \$99 million order has gone out for thousands of MOTH detectors, supplied by Heaveside Industries, of Marina del Rey. Soldiers equipped with this tough, weather proof, device can trace radio signals in the 5 MHz to 6 GHz range, which catches most walkie-talkie and drone signals. It will also show the direction to the signal. *[Through triangulation, it might be possible to rain death upon enemies from an even greater distance, as is common in modern warfare.]*

[Ukrainian drone operators counter by directing some drones, not by radio, but by wire – a very long and thin wire – up to a few kilometres in length.]

<https://defence-blog.com/u-s-army-orders-99-million-worth-of-drone-detecting-gadgets/>

Bionic Chip Restores Partial Vision

Age Related Macular Degeneration greatly hampers reading ability. So far, one patient has received this 2 mm wide microchip, inserted behind the retina. A digital camera “sees” the words, then AI converts these signals into a suitable image for a small infrared projector beamed into the eye such that it causes the small chip to emit identical pulses that stimulate retinal cells from behind. The resultant nerve signals to the brain are recognized as letters, sufficient allow reading to occur.

<https://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/news/revolutionary-bionic-chip-inserted-in-moorfields-patient-s-blind-eye>

Flock Sock

Actually, this kind of sock is not made of knitted yarn; it is made of 3-D printed plastic, designed to block the view of Flock cameras. Privacy has become of great concern, in the USA “Land of the Free”. Governments use these cameras to collect vehicle information during traffic flow, which can then track movements of anyone the government wishes to follow – for any reason. Police personnel are known to abuse the system. Since most Flock cameras are mounted fairly high, this sock is designed to reach up to the camera by use of a long pole, or broom handle. Only one model of camera can be covered, as yet... until 3-D printer designs have been created, by “makers”, for the other two camera styles. Design plans are in the link, below.



<https://makerworld.com/en/models/3107766-flock-sock-flock-camera-cover#profileId-3503879>

Google Research

As with other big tech companies, Google is going all in with AI – to solve human problems in medicine, predictions related to weather and disasters, as well as for social and military planning. If, in future, AI predicts a serious problem that results in great loss of life, it is doubtful Google would report it. Law enforcement agencies have access to Gemini, for both classified and unclassified advice.

<https://research.google/>

Microsoft Research

Microsoft, has eight research labs around the World and still touts that they are staffed by smart people, rather than AI. Those same smart people are also expected to employ AI in their research.

[Microsoft Research – Emerging Technology, Computer, & Software Research](#)

Google Search Has Changed

After 26 years, and trillions of annual queries, Search users no longer get back responses they wanted, or expected. Instead, results contain AI generated content that “thinks” you may like what you see, which is often an ad or an offer to buy something from Amazon. Furthermore, those of us who have been using Google Search for ages, have allowed Google to build a detailed profile about our individual habits... useful for further marketing.

[Furthermore, requests for that personal data, from the US government, are easily granted.]

[According to an [article in the Synology blog](#), GDPR privacy violations in Europe, mainly by big US companies, have resulted in fines totalling over 2.7 billion Euros.]

The original motivation for creating Search, Google claims, was “*Information wants to be free*”. Google carried this idea to such an extreme that both personal privacy and copyright can be considered ‘dead’.

Europe tries to defend itself against US domination in this field by developing it’s own search engine, called, “[Qwant](#)”. Although Qwant may use AI for search results, it does not present ads or track people.

“Qwant is a privacy-focused search engine based in France that differs from Google primarily by refusing to track users or build advertising profiles.”

Qwant is also available as a browser extension, making it the default (optionally) just like “Duck Duck Go”.

Canada, in an effort to assert its own sovereignty, could also develop its own “safer” search engine.

https://www.thestar.com/business/technology/google-used-to-be-magic-heres-why-canada-should-follow-europe-and-build-something-better/article_c40a5e97-06b1-4608-9be8-5b9d91ea4fca.html

Ransomware Defence

Synology – the NAS People – claim ransom attackers try to erase, or encode, the victim's backup files first, before going after the live file systems. The damage happens so quickly, that even if administrators are alerted, they do not have enough time to shut things down. This article explains how various cloud backups may, or may not work, and how Synology supplies a third offsite option that is "immutable", including the administrator's apps and credentials. *[This hardware and software solution is meant for companies and agencies with financial means.]*

<https://blog.synology.com/immutable-backup/>

Ontario Tech University Human Machine Lab

Among the many research initiatives at OTU-Oshawa, see this "tarted-up" Boston Robotics robot dog, now programmed to assist blind people, who are waiting for their own trained guide dog. The sightless human learns to respond to the dog's movements and signals, which simulate that of a real guide dog's behaviour. The wait for obtaining a guide dog could be several years. Such training prepares the blind person for the real thing, thereby shortening the mutual training part of the program. A robot dog is not intended to replace a real guide dog; its behaviours are still somewhat limited. This initiative is student led, although supervised by heads of departments in the [Human Machine Lab](#), and supported by the [CNIB](#). Future iterations of this robot may allow it to guide a person through a virtual reality setting.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/toronto/video/2026/07/21/ai-enabled-robot-dog-helping-canadians-prepare-for-guide-dogs/>

No Pre-install of Windows 11

When you first turn-on of a new computer usually starts installing the OS, and brings up a check box for agreeing to install Windows. But what if you'd prefer Linux. Asking the right questions, at purchase time, might get you a \$175 refund for the Windows you'll never use. That is the policy described by Refund4Freedom. But, take this advise. Obtain screen photos of the EUA (End User Agreement) and don't erase the drive or install Linux, yet. Fill out and mail in the refund form. One site suggest using an LLM to hallucinate a few legal precedents that support your claim. Since this is a project started in Italy, it may not translate to North America. Some manufacturers reimburse and some don't. Those that don't may ask for a return of the computer instead.

<https://en.refund4freedom.org/>

OukitelWP63

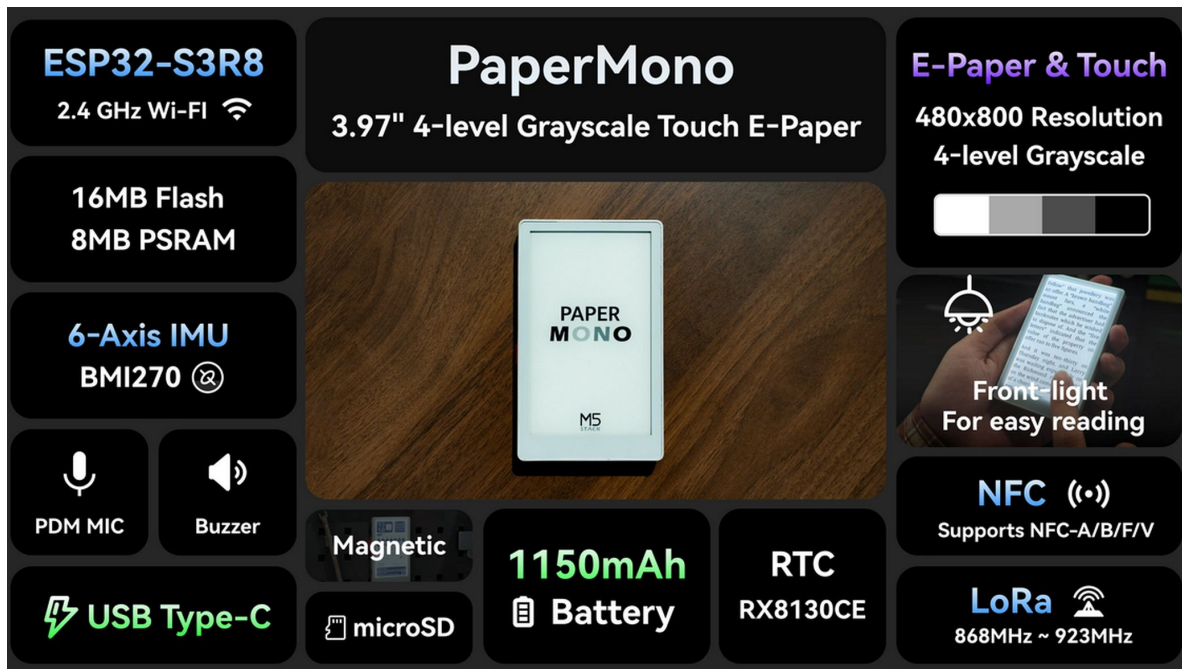
What's an Oukitel? This is a phone brand I've never known about, until now. This tough, beefy, phone has features unavailable in other phones, like the 20,000mAh battery, a pop-out electric igniter (fire starter), 18 watt USB-C device charging, and four cameras. It can be dropped, or sprayed with water and dust to no effect. That yellow panel is a very bright flash light. The circular bezel shields a large and powerful speaker. It was selling for about \$400 USD, but the Oukitel store no longer lists it, perhaps due to popularity or a recall. Other unique phones (and tablets) are available from the store, with many of the same features, like the [WP1000 5G](#), with a 33,000mAh battery and 66 watt charging... highly useful for campers.

<https://oukitel.store/>



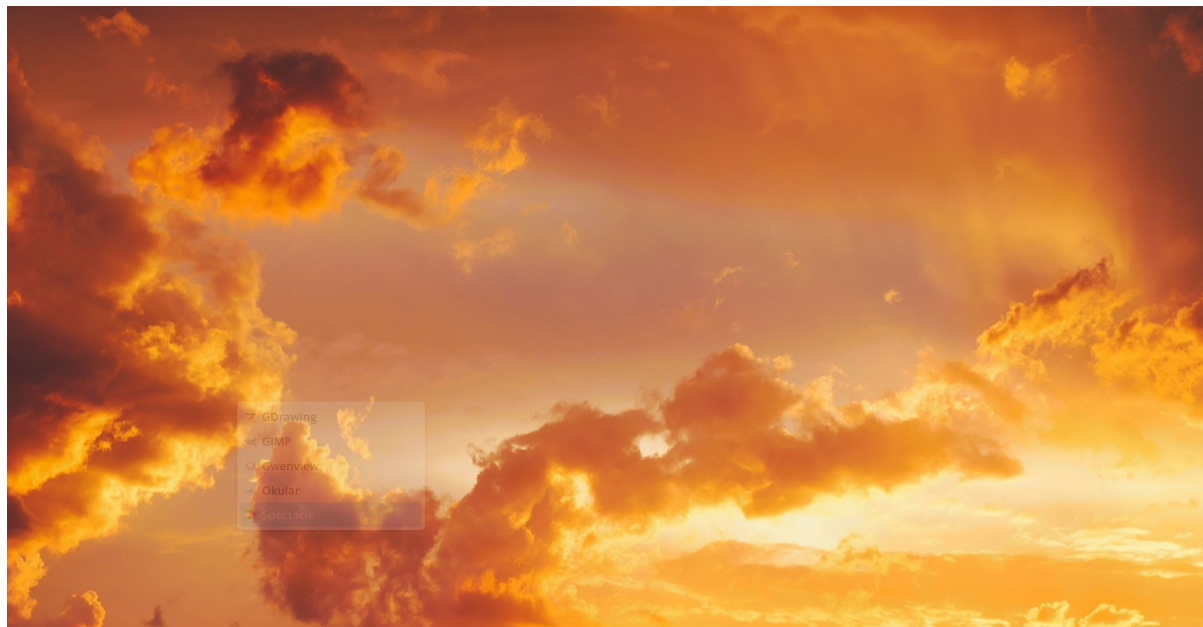
E Ink terminal screen for developers

This touch display is meant for developers, who need both input and visual feedback, from an inexpensive device.



<https://shop.m5stack.com/blogs/news/m5stack-launches-papermono-a-compact-e-ink-development-terminal-for-connected-projects>

A FREE image from PCLinuxOS [Sunset]



DPCUC President's Notes

by Peter Camilleri

For this month we take a look at a bunch of useful, interesting, silly, and useless websites. They are described in this video:

10 Websites You'll Wish You Knew Years Ago

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XdYiQv4LYE>

I'll leave the silly stuff, but here are the most interesting ones:

A Free Online Photo Editor.

Photopea: <https://www.photopea.com>

Beautiful free images:

Unsplash: <https://unsplash.com>

Analyze suspicious files, domains, IPs and URLs to detect malware and other breaches, automatically share them with the security community.

VirusTotal: <https://www.virustotal.com>

A weather display tool. I tried this during a major storm and it was cool to see the individual lightning strokes

Windy: <https://www.windy.com>

A vast library of mathematical and scientific tools

WolframAlpha: <https://www.wolframalpha.com>

A tool for moving a file to a computer in the same room.

PairDrop: <https://pairdrop.net>

Install and Update All Your Programs at Once. I've always been jealous of those application installers in Linux. This next website is for a tool that does just that for a wide selection of useful programs.

Ninite: <https://ninite.com>

I found this list useful and I hope you do too.

Peter Camilleri, President DPCUC.

Sudoku Puzzles

Sept 2026

by Alex Morrison



EASY

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

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

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

HARD

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

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

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

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

Linux – Kubuntu

by Alex Morrison



This page is a copy of the Kubuntu web page where you can download Kubuntu.

About

Kubuntu is a community-developed and supported [official flavour of Ubuntu](#) that brings together the best of Ubuntu and KDE. Since its launch in October 2004, Kubuntu has grown into one of the most respected Linux distributions, serving millions of users worldwide.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a stable, secure, and user-friendly Linux distribution that combines:

- The rock-solid foundation of Ubuntu
- The beautiful and powerful KDE Plasma desktop environment
- A comprehensive suite of KDE applications
- Regular updates and security patches

Release Cycle

We release every 6 months, releases are number year.month e.g 25.04, following Ubuntu's release schedule:

- April releases (YY.04 'LTS') - Feature or Long Term Support versions
- October releases (YY.10) - Latest features and improvements

LTS or 'Long Term Support' releases are published every two years in April. LTS releases are the 'enterprise grade' releases of Kubuntu and are used the most. An estimated 95% of all Kubuntu installations are LTS releases.

Free and Open Source

Kubuntu is and will always be:

- Free to download
- Free to use
- Free to distribute
- Free to modify

Community-Driven

Kubuntu thrives on community participation. Whether you're a developer, designer, tester, or user, there are many ways to contribute to the project. Join our vibrant community and help make Kubuntu even better.

I am currently installing Kubuntu on a spare hard drive. I liked what I watched on a YouTube video when the lady was talking about Kubuntu.

Here is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7hY7slYnNk>

Linux the News

by Alex Morrison



First Arch Linux ISO Powered by Linux Kernel 7.2 Is Now Available for Download

[1 Comment](#)

Arch Linux 2026.09.01 is now available for download as Arch Linux's ISO release for September 2026, powered by Linux kernel 7.2 and featuring the latest Archinstall 4.4 text-mode installer.

Audacity 3.7.9 Open-Source Audio Editor Released with FFmpeg 9 Support

[0 Comments](#)

Audacity 3.7.9 open-source digital audio editor and recording software is now available for download with support for the latest FFmpeg 9 multimedia framework and various bug fixes.

Debian Project Formalizes Responsible Use of Generative AI

[11 Comments](#)

The Debian Project has voted to adopt a formal position on the use of generative AI within the project, with "Responsible Use of Generative AI" winning out in the general resolution.

OpenShot 4.0 Open-Source Video Editor Officially Released, Here's What's New

[0 Comments](#)

OpenShot 4.0 open-source video editor is now available for download with screen/webcam recording support for Linux on Wayland, new Recording View, new effects, and more AI features.

Frame Is a New Linux X11 Server Written Entirely in Assembly

Frame is a new dependency-free X11 server written from scratch in x86-64 Assembly, using direct system calls, DRM/KMS, and evdev.

California's Age Attestation Bill to Exclude Linux and All Open Source OSes

[0 Comments](#)

California's Digital Age Assurance Act will exempt open source operating systems and applications from its age-verification requirements.

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

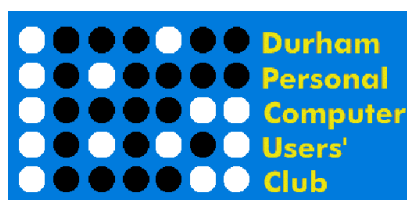
Durham Linux User Groups

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

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The DPCUC mailing address is dpcuc@live.com

The PC Monitor cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies in the content, although efforts will be made to publish information accurately.