

# Keyboard & Mouse

Newsletter of the Hobart Computer Users Group Inc.

Linux for laptops continued

Turn off antivirus when installing applications

Using your Gmail space

Summer precautions

Upgrade Firefox and OpenOffice.org

Improved file management

Broadband speedup

Change your browsers default fonts

Windows shortcut keys



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Produced using StarOffice 8.0 from <http://www.sun.com> running under Xandros Linux 4.0 from <http://www.xandros.com>

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**Our cover:** The heat of summer requires special precautions. Photo from the Australia collection on Webshots.

## Linux for my laptop (cont.)

### Zenwalk 4.0

Next of the several distros I tried was Zenwalk 4.0.

“Input! More input!” the installation program seemed to scream at me like a demented Number Five robot. That should have put me off, but I pushed on and finished with a system that couldn’t connect to the Internet or my local network. I’ve found that this is often the case when installing a distro that presumes that you know what you are doing. LinuxGeek is very much alive!

Zenwalk used the Xfce interface and had various obscurely named utilities loaded. Hardly do for a Win98 replacement, I thought, looking at it.

Enough said.

### SUSE 10.0 and OpenSUSE 10.1

Next I dug up a magazine disc from January 2006 and ran the live version of SUSE 10.0 from Novell. Very nice look, but no sound or network. I tried to find the network and succeeded in finding the network card and the inbuilt Broadcomm wireless link, but still couldn’t get the network

going. As I also had a copy of OpenSUSE 10.1 and a magazine disc with OpenSUSE Slick, I thought I would try them before giving up. Neither would install – the screen just blanking out – and neither offered a Live CD option.

The search went on.

### Defective disc

Next I tried a magazine discs with PCLinuxOS and CentOS 4.3 on it. Defective! Arrgggg! (What’s all that hair on the floor?)

### Fedora Core 5

Sponsored by RedHat, this is the free version of their business-oriented distro. It uses the Anaconda installer and allows you to do a default installation, or to choose from broad groups of applications that you would like installed. My copy was a magazine DVD so it included most applications that I would be likely to use.

During the installation I chose to install almost everything. I also chose the KDE desktop rather than the default GNOME. The installation process warned that it would take “several minutes” and, in fact, took almost as long as a Windows XP installation. When it was finished, though, I didn’t have to add various drivers for the video chip, sound chip and

motherboard, as I would have had to do with Windows. However, there was no wireless driver nor the NDISwrapper that enables the use of Windows drivers.

Installing NDISwrapper into Fedora Core is not an easy task and requires some Linux expertise. Guess that's another distro that fails the “easy-for-someone-with-a-Win98-background” test. Pity, because otherwise it is an excellent distribution with easily understood menus and a sufficient Windows-feel for the novice user to adapt quickly.

I pushed on and decided to update Fedora with all the updates that were available. Several hours later, I went to bed with the laptop still grinding away installing updates from the Internet! I would hate to do all that updating with dialup!

## Knoppix

Knoppix is another LiveCD Debian-based Linux distro. It was, I think, the original “run from the CD” distro. The version I tried was a games-oriented version. Some of the games were as primitive as early DOS games and the menus were untidy and confusing. The version of Knoppix used, however, was not the latest.

## Morphix

Derived from Knoppix is Morphix. This is divided into

modules so that you can build your own LiveCD. The example that had been compiled by *Linux Format* magazine was neat with attractive colours and icons and well-sorted menus. However, it did not recognise my wireless gear and I couldn't see how to add the wireless drivers. It remains on the back burner for further investigation.

## Linux Mint

This is a LiveCD Debian-based Linux with an install option. It is based on Ubuntu and uses the Gnome desktop, which is not my favourite desktop, often (to my eye) having muddy colours and unattractive icons. This distribution, however, has attractive colours and icons. With some reconfiguration of the desktop, I was happy enough with this to leave it on the laptop for a while. Sound, clock and Broadcomm wireless link were all recognised. To get the TP-Link PCMCIA card going I had to add the Windows driver to the already installed NDISwrapper, using the easy-to-follow method provided. Once this was done, a connection to my wireless router and my desktop computer was readily established.

The next job was to update the installation and add some applications. Unlike the Kubuntu I tried, the Add/Remove Programs application listed just about everything you could want and my selections downloaded and installed without problems. Mint also has the Synaptic package manager for use where dependencies need sorting out. Adept and

Kpackage can also be added and used.

A peculiarity I noticed with installing and uninstalling was that OpenOffice.org-base and OpenOffice.org-draw could not be installed because of a clash with already installed software. Add/Remove Programs advised switching to the Advanced mode to sort it out, but there was not way to switch to Advanced mode! Attempting to remove OpenOffice.org-Writer, Presentation or Calc was greeted with advice that they were not installed! Yet the latest version 2.1 of those three modules from the OpenOffice.org office suite are, in fact, installed!

One exclusive Mint feature is the MintDesktop. This creates folders in the users directory for downloads, projects etc. It also allows the user to save disk space by removing unwanted languages.

The designers of Mint have also gone to extra effort to accommodate wireless cards with MintWiFi. However, I didn't have occasion to use this.

One thing I noticed with Mint was a tendency for my wireless link to cut out usually after it had been running for some time. It was easily restored, however, by going into Networking and switching from automatically finding the address of the router to a static address and, occasionally, switching back to automatic.

All in all, Mint is an interesting rework of Ubuntu and might well suit former Windows' users, provided they are prepared to adapt to the Gnome interface.

## **KateOS**

This is a light-weight Polish distribution which claims to combine the advantages of desktop and server Linux. It comes as both a LiveCD and an installable disc. The LiveCD uses the Xfce desktop. I was not happy with the performance of the LiveCD and didn't bother downloading the installable version.

## **From Russia with love**

Although not free of charge, the Russian distribution called Linux XP sounded interesting, with just the right philosophy with regard to the inclusion of proprietary drivers etc. I obtained a trial copy and found that the philosophy hadn't been applied in practice. The default video was so poor that the initial splash screen could hardly be read, there was no proprietary driver for my ATI video and no support for wireless devices. Disappointing.

## **Why drivers aren't always included**

Anyone can put together a Linux distribution (distro) using the freely distributable components that are available from a

number of sources. As a result more than 500 distros of Linux exist.

Some of these distros do not include proprietary drivers, even when these are freely distributable. This may be purely a philosophical stand or it may be a copyright issue as drivers are added to the kernel, which is distributed on quite specific terms under what is known as the GPL.

Technically there is a problem with knowing what areas of memory a proprietary driver is overwriting. However, the proprietary hardware drivers are written by competent Linux engineers and those engineers would be aware of what areas of memory they can use.

In my opinion, distros that do not include them suffer as a result and I have never seen any problem that could be blamed on the use of proprietary drivers.

Some proprietary drivers – and other additions – are not freely distributable and may even involve a licence fee and this is another reason that they might not be included in a particular distribution.

If you want a distribution that includes components that are subject to licence fees, you will usually have to pay for it. Part of the payment goes towards the licence fees. Distribution costs, a printed manual, selling through resellers,

and support are other reasons why you may end up paying for “free” Linux.

Remember that “free” can mean “free of cost”, but usually means “freely available”. Those who take the philosophical stance mentioned earlier define “free” as including “freely modifiable” and have even objected to being required to submit changes to Firefox for Mozilla's approval, even though they are free to make such changes and distribute them if they don't use the Firefox branding and name.

## Summing up

Linux is about choice. However, choice obviously means that you have to choose the distribution, components, etc. that most suit your equipment and that can require some expert knowledge and some experimentation.

To simplify the process a number of distributions are now available as LiveCDs. This allows you to run the distro from the CD and check whether it works with your setup. If it does, you can then opt to install it. Not only do you know it will work, but the installation will probably require less expertise. And – one last word – don't let the experimentation put you off. You could learn a lot about Linux and the choices available.

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## Turn off antivirus

When installing new applications you will often be advised to turn off your antivirus protection. However, once you turn it off, you are not protected from any malware that may be trying to access your computer from the Internet. This article endeavours to resolve the quandary that that poses.

During the installation of a new application, the setup program will write to the hard drive. It may also write to the boot sector of that drive. Such actions may trigger your antivirus and cause it to display an error message.

Also, if your antivirus is running, it may decide to start an automatic scan of the drive making writing to it slower, or impossible. Any antivirus worth its salt will scan compressed files before allowing the contents to be opened, again slowing down your installation.

It is therefore clear why you are advised to disable the antivirus while carrying out an installation. But what of the exposure of your computer to unwanted nasties? If you have broadband and are worried about what might happen during the few minutes that the installation takes, disable it, turn it off, or disconnect the modem cable or power.

To disable most forms of antivirus, right-click on the icon in

the System Tray (near the time display). Choose Disable, Stop, Quit or Exit (depending on what your particular brand requires). By disabling your antivirus from the System Tray, you need only reboot your computer (often required after an installation anyway) to restart it.

Reconnect or re-enable your modem before rebooting and all should return to normal.

If for some reason the installation has caused problems and you are running Windows ME or XP, use System Restore to return your computer to the state it was in before the installation and try installing again.

Note 1: Although turning off your antivirus while installing applications is good practice, I have not yet encountered any problems leaving AVG running. Occasionally, a program has refused to install until I turned it off, but that is all. Your mileage may vary, so disable it and to ensure a smooth installation process without unwanted hiccups.

Note 2: Thanks to Kevin for raising the subject. He encountered the disable antivirus request when installing Internet Explorer 7. As Internet Explorer is interwoven with Windows and provides services in addition to Internet browsing, regard turning off antivirus and rebooting after the installation as mandatory.

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## Using your Gmail space

Google's webmail service, Gmail, has been turned into a de facto file storage and backup system by some ingenious users. Meanwhile Google is reportedly beavering away creating an infinite storage system called "Gdrive".

One way that users have converted Gmail to storage is to send the files as attachments to an email addressed to your Gmail address. While this is relatively primitive, you do not need any extra programs and your files should be just as safe as your Gmail.

"Rahul Jonna/tnarik" has developed this process further so that your Gmail space appears as a drive named "gs:". This Firefox extension allows you to use your Gmail Space (2.5 GB and growing) for file storage. It acts as a remote machine. You can transfer files between your hard drive and Gmail. After you install, you get an option called "GSpace" in your "tools" menu clicking on which opens the window for transfer of folders/files.

This storage works well for photos and music files less than 14MB. Rahul's extension opens an FTP-like interface that logs on to your Gmail space and allows you to drag-and-drop files to and from your "gs:" drive. You can also create directories, nominate a batch of files to be uploaded, delete

files and so on.

Those of you who don't (yet) use Firefox, but do use Windows XP, may care to take a look at Gmail Drive. Gmail Drive is a free namespace extension ("add-on") for Microsoft Windows. It allows a user to access a virtual drive stored in a Gmail e-mail account by causing the contents of the Gmail account to appear as a new network share on the user's workstation. In order to use this add-on, a user needs a Gmail e-mail account. The add-on enables a user to use the normal Windows desktop file copy and paste commands to transfer files to and from the Gmail account as if it were a drive on the user's computer.

Neither of these programs are endorsed by Google and could fail at some time in the future should Google alter their Gmail system. They should not therefore be used for vital data, but are useful for extending the available space on your computer for such things as music files.

To use Gmail as file storage space, you first need a Gmail account. Originally to get a Gmail account you needed an invitation from an existing user. Now you can sign up for Gmail by going to <http://gmail.google.com>. You'll be automatically redirected to a secure site where you can sign up for Gmail and other Google services.

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## Summer precautions

After a computer has been running a while, it may lock up unpredictably, or just get slower. If you turn it off and go and watch the cricket for a while, it may then run normally again when you return. If so, instead of blaming your software, you may need to look at your hardware and where it is situated, especially in the warmer weather that is now upon us.

According to an article on <http://www.antec.com> that I was reading recently, more computers suffer heat-related problems that their users realise. Heat is generated by a number of computer components, particularly the CPU and your whizz-bang graphics card. If this heat is not dissipated, it can affect the stability and speed of your computer as well as the life of the components affected, leading to premature failure.

Even if you are not a computer guru, there are several things you can do to help your computer beat the heat. These can be broadly divided into environmental factors and internal factors.

### The computer's environment

1. **A cool spot:** Heat rises, sun streams into the room, heaters and radiates warm things up.

These are the things to avoid when placing your computer. The best spot is on the shady side of the building (or the one which gets only morning sun. Then, within the room try to place the computer against an inside wall, if possible.

2. **Room to breathe:** If your computer is in an enclosed desk or cubby hole, move it to where more air can circulate around it. However, don't place it directly on the carpet as this may block air intakes on the bottom of the case. Make sure that all other case vents are unobstructed.
3. **Ventilate the computer room:** This means moving hot air out of the room. Simply pointing a fan at the computer will not achieve anything. The reason that we feel cool when sitting in the path of a fan is the evaporation of moisture from our skin. Computers don't receive that same benefit, so blowing air over the computer won't help. What you want is to draw air in from the coolest point (downstairs, south side, etc.) and push the hot air out of the computer room through an open window or door.
4. **Consider air conditioning:** Large mainframe computers live in air conditioned comfort. Your personal computer will benefit from the same

treatment. If you have air conditioning in only part of the house, then that's where your computer should be located. Or maybe you could install a small air conditioner (not an evaporative cooler that works by increasing the humidity of the air) in the computer room and use it only when you are using the computer.

5. **Lighting:** The coolest running lights are those energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, the hottest are halogen lights. Not only do hot lights heat up the room and your computer, but they also use more electricity. The answer's obvious, use compact fluorescent lights in the computer room, both in desk lamps and for the main lighting.

### Internal changes

6. **The environment is not enough:** Perhaps, even more important than where the computer sits, is how well it cools itself. You can enhance its performance by regular maintenance and some changes.
7. **Clean the inside regularly:** Dust builds up inside your computer due to the way the cooling system works and that dust insulates your

electronic parts making the dissipation of heat less efficient. Buy a can of pressured gas and blow as much dust away as possible. Don't be tempted to wipe it off sensitive parts with a cloth; the risk of static is too great.

8. **Add or upgrade fans:** There are several types of fans to consider when improving the heat dissipation in your computer :-
  - a) Many cases have provision for one or more fans to expel air, but may not have them fitted. They are inexpensive and easily fitted, if the case is already set up for them.
  - b) Your BIOS may allow you to check how hot the CPU is. If it is overheating, consider replacing the heatsink and fan with a more efficient one. A word of caution: AMD CPUs are thermally tested and their warranty is subject to you using an approved fan.
  - c) Hard drives, especially large capacity ones, tend to get quite warm and, in some cases, fitting more than one can only be done by packing them close together. If your case doesn't require you to cram the drives

together, put them in every second slot so as to leave a gap between them. To overcome heat problems, try fitting cooling fans that force air over the drives. These may consist of a "flat" fan that fits underneath, or, in a 5.25 inch drive bay, may be fitted across the front of the case.

- d) You could also fit slot mounted fans. These often mount in the slot next to your video card to improve its cooling.
  - e) If your case doesn't have room for additional fans and your computer is overheating, you may be able to fit the works into a new case and then add extra fans. "Brand name" computers are less suitable for this treatment as the motherboard and/or other components may have been custom designed to fit in a particular case. However, the more generic computers can easily be rehoused.
9. **Proper air flow:** In most cases, good air flow will come in from the front near the bottom of the case and exhaust from the upper rear of it. This reflects the natural tendency of warm air to rise. In old designs this flow was produced by

the power supply fan. As designers concentrated on the reduction of noise, power supply fans were slowed, only working at full capacity when the power supply became warm. To restore the proper flow in such cases it may be necessary to fit a separate case fan. Depending on what provisions have been made by the designer of the case, this fan can be fitted at the rear near the power supply, or may be fitted to the side of the case blowing air directly on to the video card and CPU heatsinks. You could even have both. To ensure that the fans can do their job, do not leave off the side panels of the case and secure cables and cords out of the way. You may even need to get the newer rounded cables instead of the typical flat cables usually fitted. Remember, though, that no extra fans and cable replacement will work properly if the intake vents are blocked.

10.

### Using your computer

11. **Screensavers:** If you leave your screen on, usually a screensaver will start after a short period on non-use. While it is running, your screen will continue to generate almost maximum heat. Either use a blank screen setting, or set your power saving to blank the

screen after, say, 15 minutes.

12. **Power saver settings:** In hot weather it is best if to set your operating system power saving settings to suspend the computer after a reasonable period of idleness. Not only does this allow the system to cool, but it also saves electricity. With the rising cost of power, every little saving helps.
13. **Turn off the computer when not in use:** If you use the computer several times a day, or need it running as a fax or answering machine, at least turn off the monitor, especially CRT monitors as these generate quite a bit of heat. If you only use your computer once or twice a day and don't need to leave it running in between times, turn it off, especially in hot weather. You'll save power and reduce the risk of fire, too.

By following the advice above, you will save electricity and extend the life of your computer. Both actions save money and help the environment. Actions, not slogans, are what count and these are actions we can all take with perhaps a little help from someone familiar with the insides of a computer to implement the internal changes.

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## Print A5 on A4

Last month I asked for a volunteer to do the cut-and-paste needed to produce a reformatted A4 version for printing. The request has been greeted with a deathly silence and, accordingly, no A4 version will be produced of this, or any subsequent newsletters.

Feedback that I have received is that few people print the newsletter out and only some of them file the printout for future reference. This renders the A4 version somewhat superfluous. However, all may not be lost for those who do wish to print the newsletter out. Both Adobe Reader and Foxit PDF Reader have a multiple page to a single sheet printing option when used on Windows XP and may also do so when used on other versions of Windows. However, print settings vary with different operating systems and printer drivers and you will have to examine your system to see what options it offers. These examples show what to look for.

### Adobe Reader 7 – Windows XP

#### *Epson Stylus Photo 700*

- Click on File/Print Setup
- Click Properties

- Set 2 pages per sheet
- Set Landscape

### ***Hewlett Packard F380***

- Click on File/Print Setup
- Click Properties
- Choose the Features tab
- Set 2 pages per sheet
- Set Landscape

### **Foxit Reader 2 – Windows XP**

### ***Epson Stylus Photo 700***

- Click on File/Print Setup
- Click Properties
- Choose Layout tab
- Set 2 pages per sheet
- Set Landscape

### ***Hewlett Packard F380***

- As for Adobe Reader 7

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## **Firefox 1.5 support ends**

Mozilla Corporation has announced that it will not support version 1.5 of Firefox from April 2007 and urges Firefox users to upgrade to 2.0. As 2.0 has been out for long enough for any serious bugs to surface and includes a number of improvements, I can see no reason for not upgrading as soon as Firefox 2.0 is available for your particular operating system/Linux distribution.

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## **OpenOffice.org 2.1 released**

OpenOffice.org has announced the release of version 2.1 of the popular office suite. It is described as “a significant improvement over all previous versions.” Improvements include:

- Multiple monitor support for Impress
- Improved Calc HTML export
- Enhanced Access support for Base
- Even more languages
- Automatic notification of updates
- Extensions

As it is a large download, look out for it on magazines.

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## Installing OpenOffice.org 2.1

### Installing OpenOffice.org 2.1 on Windows NT/2000/XPSP1/XPSP2

OpenOffice.org works best with Java installed on your system. Hence, you should begin by downloading the latest version of the Java Runtime Environment from <http://www.java.com/en/download> and installing it onto your system. Next, download OpenOffice.org from <http://download.openoffice.org> by saving the self-extracting archive *OOo\_2.1.0\_Win32Intel\_install\_en-US.exe* into your Download folder. You are now ready to install it.

Double-click *OOo\_2.1.0\_Win32Intel\_install\_en-US.exe* and select a destination folder for unpacking the OpenOffice.org installation files. When prompted, choose Complete as the setup type. Select the file types Microsoft Word Documents, Microsoft Excel Spreadsheets and Microsoft PowerPoint Presentations to be opened with OpenOffice.org. Click Finish to complete your OpenOffice.org installation.

If you are going to use OpenOffice.org as a complete MS Office substitute, go to Tools/Options and set it to save documents in the appropriate MS format.

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## Improved file management

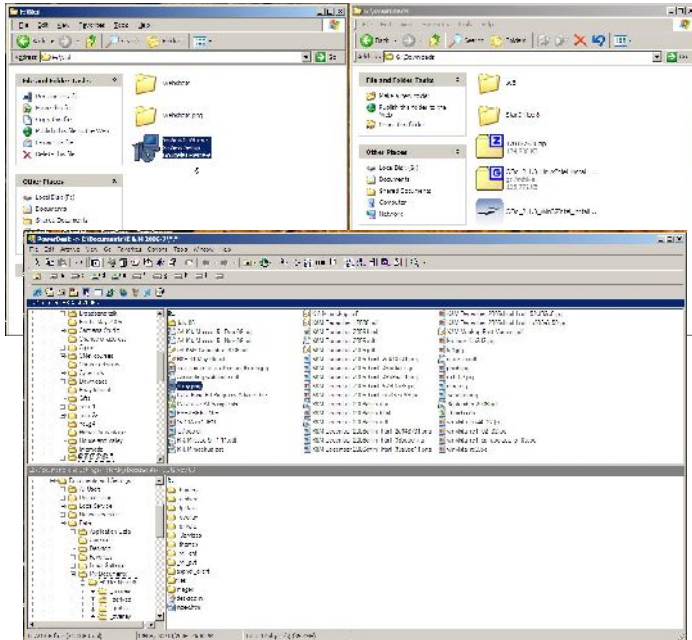
In Windows XP you have two file managers – My Computer and Windows Explorer. Many people add PowerDesk, or some other file manager so that they can drag files from one pane to another, such as copying files from a CD on to the hard drive. But you don't need to buy PowerDesk to be able to do that.

Open My Computer to the source drive or folder (e.g. the CD drive). Resize it to half the screen's width and position it to one side of the screen. Now open My Computer to the destination drive or folder (e.g. the hard drive), resize the window to half the screen's width and position it alongside the first My Computer window. Note: This second copy may open on top of the first one. If this happens, just reposition the top copy. Minimise the two windows when not in use and hibernate your computer instead of shutting down and you will have an improved file manager at your fingertips whenever you need it.

This method can be adapted to other versions of Windows and also to Linux distros that use Konqueror or Nautilus as their file browser.

If you don't want to fiddle around opening and resizing windows and you don't want to buy PowerDesk, there are

free Windows file managers that offer improved file management. Try FileAnt or Explorer XP, both of which are free for personal use and offer features that Windows Explorer and My Computer don't.



*Two windows or two panes - the choice is yours*

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## Broadband speedup

Recent announcements by Telstra and various broadband providers mean that you may soon be able to access faster broadband speeds. Around Christmas Telstra announced that, while it would not be offering wholesale ADSL 2+, it would be lifting the artificial 1500k speed limit on its ADSL 1 services. Customers who live near ADSL-activated exchanges will now be able to get up to 8Mbps speeds. Those who live further away may still be able to get speeds above 1500k, depending on the distance out.

Meantime NetSpace has put its plans to offer ADSL 2+ in the Hobart metropolitan area on hold until it is able to offer fast transfer from ADSL 1 to ADSL 2+. This should happen in time for a February launch of the new service. Without rapid transfer customers would be without broadband for up to two weeks during the transition. Once the transfer problems have been ironed out, NetSpace will be offering ADSL 2+ with speeds up to 24Mbps and ADSL 1 with speeds up to 8Mbps throughout Hobart. Other providers, including iiNet and iPrimus plan to, or currently, offer ADSL 2+ in limited areas.

Telstra says about 70% of customers on the 8Mbps plan can access speeds around 6Mbps or more. About 50% of customers on the 20Mbps plan can access speeds around 10Mbps or more on its network. Compared to the typical

dialup speed of 48 – 50k, ADSL 1 at 6Mbps is around 120 times faster, while users who are fortunate to get the full speed on offer, will find their Internet usage will be as much as 400 times faster.

However, actual speeds depend on many factors including plan selected, customer location (including State), method of data transmission (protocol), internet traffic, capacity and popularity of websites, and modem and computer hardware and software configuration.

If you have been using ADSL 1 for a while, you may need a new modem to move to ADSL 2+, but the “up to 8Mbps” speeds should be within the capabilities of your present modem.

## Selecting a provider

Advantages of ADSL (of whichever variety) over dialup include freeing up of the phone line, no local call fee when you connect and much greater speed.

There are hundreds of plans available. Check the fine print by going to <http://www.whirlpool.net.au> to compare plans. Whirlpool allows you to specify what speed and capacity you require, whether your phone service is to be bundled with broadband etc. and then will show only those plans that meet your criteria. Then check the websites of the companies

offering the plans you are interested in to get further details.

For example, you might want to change providers (churn) at 512/128, minimum 8GB download and costing no more than \$40 per month. I put those details in the Plan Search (found under Broadband Choice) and it gave me a list of only those plans that meet those criteria – in this case 21 plans were shown. Of these one is restricted to NSW and 9 charge excess usage. Of the 21 there were only three that I knew much about – AAPT, Exetel and Internode. The cheapest was Wild Internet and Telecom. Two of these are shaped (slowed if quota is exceeded) and two charge an excess.

From the four associated websites I learned that AAPT requires me to place my telephone service with them (not a problem as AAPT is already my telephone service provider). So too does Wild, which would mean switching telephone providers. Exetel and Wild charge excess usage, but Wild is capped at \$18. AAPT offers 12 GB with no unmetered content and no contract. Exetel offers up to 36 GB of unmetered usage between midnight and noon, but Wild doesn't offer unmetered content. Internode has a number of unmetered services, including a huge range of files, a few dozen music radio channels, anything available from the ABC and their own gaming servers.

With that information, I can switch to a service that suits me.

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## Internode boosts capacity

### Internode boosts US capacity ahead of new plans

As a consequence of the opening up of 8Mbps services, Internode – an Internet service provider used by a number of our members - will boost its network capacity to the US by 40 per cent immediately, using a fully redundant route via Asia provided by Australia-Japan Cable (AJC). The new link goes live this month and will initially boost capacity by 40 per cent. However, this can more than double when required. It adds to the nearly 3 gigabits per second of dedicated capacity to the US that Internode has via the Southern Cross fibre-optic link.

During 2006 Internode doubled its size and the extra capacity is needed to maintain performance, especially with many customers expected to move to the 8Mbps service when it becomes available. Internode managing director Simon Hackett said the AJC deal gave Internode both extra capacity, which could grow as needed, and route redundancy, through the South Pacific and Asia. *“Our sign-up rate continues to grow, unabated, at rates higher than we’ve ever had before. Once the AJC link goes live, we will release our upgraded ADSL1 plans, which will create even more demand,”* he said.

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## Change the default Firefox font

When viewing many websites, such as our own and others constructed with basic FrontPage techniques, you can override the designers chosen font.

Fonts fall into two basic categories, *serif* such as the one used in the text of this newsletter and *sans serif* such as the one used in the headings in this newsletter. Research conducted in the 1980s suggests that most people find serif fonts easier to read on the printed page. However, this is not necessarily true of computer screens because of differing screen resolutions.

Where a website designer has not locked in a particular font, changing the default font in Firefox will allow you to change between serif and sans serif fonts at will. You can even experiment with fancy fonts, though the results will usually be disappointing. Mostly you will get best results by choosing the generic *serif* or *sans serif* settings.

To change the default font used by Firefox go to Tools/Options (Edit/Preferences in the Linux version) and click on the Content tab. You can change both the font style and its size. On our website, using Trebuchet MS, Arial, or another sans serif font works well.

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## Change the default IE font

Internet Explorer also offers the ability to change the default font in a webpage. However, its use is more involved.

Fonts fall into two basic categories, *serif* such as the one used in the text of this newsletter and *sans serif* such as the one used in the headings in this newsletter. Research conducted in the 1980s suggests that most people find serif fonts easier to read on the printed page. However, this is not necessarily true of computer screens because of differing screen resolutions.

Go to Tools/Internet Options and look for the Accessibility button. In the Accessibility window tick the three formatting options. This sets Internet Explorer to ignore the designer's choices of font style and colour. OK that and return to the General tab.

Click on the Fonts button. In the lefthand column of the windows that opens, choose the font you want to use. The fonts in the righthand column are only for plain text, not the general webpage fonts.

Try using Trebuchet MS on our website. If you have a high resolution screen, try a serif font such as Times New Roman.

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## Windows shortcut keys

Windows shortcut keys provide you with a quick way of opening windows and menus.

In the following list [WIN] is the Windows key, that key on your keyboard that has a little Windows flag on it. You should press all the keys at one time for the feature you wish to activate. Hitting just the [WIN] key will Display your Start Menu. When you hit the [WIN] key and the [E] at the same time it will launch Microsoft Explorer.

[WIN][BREAK]	System Properties
[WIN][D]	Desktop
[WIN][E]	Launch Explorer
[WIN][F]	System Find window
[WIN][CTRL][F]	System Find Computers Window
[WIN][L]	Lock computer (Windows XP)
[WIN][M]	Minimise all windows
[WIN][Shift][M]	Restores minimised windows
[WIN][R]	RUN dialog box
[WIN][F1]	Display Windows Help
[WIN][U]	Utilities Window

While these keys may not work in Linux, other combinations do work in various desktops. Check your manual.

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