

# ESSENCE

SENIORNET NORTH SHORE (SNNS) NEWSLETTER

October 2020

No. 289

## Next Sunday Meeting 11 October 10 am

[Railways, Golf Carts and a Vision - Ian Balme from Taranaki shares his story](#)

followed by

[Westpac Speaker on Banking with Confidence](#)

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**CLASSES:** Learning Centre, Suite 3, St John Ambulance Building, 2 Shea Terrace, Takapuna.  
**MEETINGS:** 2nd Sunday of each month, 10am in the Hall, St John, 2 Shea Terrace, Takapuna.  
**CONTACT:** The Secretary, SeniorNet North Shore Inc. PO Box 65357 Mairangi Bay, Auckland 0754

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### October Newsletter – Chair Report

How does it feel to be double isolated? Now there is difficulty getting over the harbour bridge. Check an online visual traffic report before you leave home. Might save you a lot of hassle.

We have just launched a survey asking you to help us present the sort of sessions, programmes and information you have a need or desire for. Our current restrictive life style may provide the opportunity and time to complete our survey form – truly it will only take 5 minutes and it can all be done online – no paper no printing ink.

Go to our website and on the front page there is a large green oblong button called “Complete Our Survey”. One click will take you to a short explanatory paragraph and a second click straight to the form. Or select <https://form.jotform.com/202576445550052> which will also lead into the form.

**COMPLETE OUR SURVEY**

Now all you have to do is enter your name and email address (neither is compulsory) then click on any of the boxes that reflect your interests. You can end with a comment if you wish then click on the red Submit tab and it is all done. We are planning our direction for next year so this information is vital and we would like your response by 31 October please.



Ian has introduced a new layout for sharing the information and apps he illustrates at his iPad iPhone sessions. From our website Home page go to Knowledge – iPad & iPhone Sessions. There are a number of buttons relating to the use and enjoyment of your Apple devices. Each month he will add new helpful and interesting apps - not just a list but the actual icons which help to identify the correct app in the Apple Store. Ian concentrates on the “free” apps and while there may be no cost when listed they sometimes change and require a small payment, usually not excessive and the site will always say if there is a cost involved.

From midnight 23<sup>rd</sup> September Auckland reverts to level 2 of COVID restrictions which should enable our club to resume normal operations including our October Sunday Meeting. We will continue with a careful cleaning regime.

**Lois Kay**

PS If you would prefer to complete a hard copy of the survey a form will be available in our clubroom.

**Advanced Windows : Bill Howell**

This covers WinXP onwards to Win10 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings each month and features a lively discussion group.

You ask the questions and we all participate in trying to solve the problems.

If all else fails "AG"! The answer will be revealed to those who attend the sessions

**Ask Me How : Toby Malcolm**

Expand your knowledge of all types of technology. Come along to this ask anything session and submit your questions – whether it be about Windows, Macs, the internet, smartphones, tablets (Apple or Android) or some other topic. Each session will be different depending on the questions asked.

**Special topic this month** (30 minutes or so):

**Facebook** - how to download the free app and how to work your way through the good and the bad aspects. This is quite a large subject and will possibly occupy one full hour.

**Ask a Tutor : Barbara Anderson, Glen Plaistowe****MUST BOOK**

For this class, you will be booked with a tutor to help you solve your problem. One hour is sufficient for concentrated work. Bring with you :

Your device, plus power leads and mouse (remember to charge it beforehand).

A list of the problems you are having. The user name and passwords you need. If it is an Apple device you may need your passwords and your user name - also, if you are working on email you need that password. If it is Google you may need your Google Account or Microsoft Account for Microsoft. You may not need to use them but be a good scout and Be Prepared.

You will need paper and pen to record the steps you take so that you can fix it should it happen again.

If you have a PC or your laptop or device is too heavy for you to carry you will work on a Club computer.

You must book in with the Tutor in the week prior to the class as only 3 or 4 Tutors are available to help and they need time to prepare for your session.

**Booking is essential** so we know how many will be in the room. There will only be room for 4 or 5 people to attend. Select the most important items that you need help with so that they can be dealt with as quickly as possible.

**Card Playing Group : Campbell Stanford**

What a fun time cards can be! For raw beginners and card-sharps alike. We'll explore various relatively short, simple games like Euchre, Cribbage and 500. Great camaraderie and team spirit, as well as one-on-one games. Come and try it. Beats Solitaire any day!

**1st Friday Genealogy : Barbara Anderson**

I hope that all is going well with you all as we continue with lockdown 2.5.

At this meeting following our Treasures, we will look more into tips for scanning and settings for scanning that we touched on last time. Perhaps too, the taking of one person out of a group and checking the resolution that you need has not changed and ways to increase the resolution slightly also putting a new background behind them. These are things that often bother us when we crop or change the photo in any way.

Apart from that let me know if there is anything that you would especially like to be covered or searched for and we will see what we can do. I have a few other odds and ends as well. I look forward to seeing you again.

**Genealogy Workshop : Lois Kay**

The beauty of being a Genealogist is that we never seem to run out of ideas and discoveries to be made. One of the highlights for our October session will be Glen Plaistowe guiding us in the use of the British National Archives. It is so much easier when we are shown how to access and make best use of these sites. Hopefully by the 16 October Genealogy Workshop we can recombine into one group

**iPhone and iPad : Ian Handricks**

This forum is for anyone using Apple's iPad and/or iPhone. Ian will cover everything from first time iPad and iPhone users' problems, issues and knowledge right through to experienced users. He will talk about exciting developments, new apps, tips and tricks. You will learn how to manage and run your iPad/iPhone and at each session Ian will introduce new information on how the devices can be used effectively. A great opportunity to get answers to your questions.

**Photo books : Bernice Hyde**

The main website we use is Kroma to create a photobook and now we can access with an iPad. and they have new seamless book options. So come along and join our group for some tips and tricks.

**Photography : Rex Oddy**

Photography tutorials will include practical instruction on aspects of photography and the discussion of members photographic work. Each month members' are invited to bring along digital images or videos for review, that are either based on a set subject or are general interest images or both. For the technical part of the October session we will continue with our look at photography using mobile phones. But this month, we will concentrate on panoramas and any other tricky outcomes that your phone will allow you to do. Surprise us.

The image display theme for October will be photographs taken with your mobile phone again with an emphasis on panoramas and your experimentation. As always, the set topic isn't compulsory. You may bring along any photos that you would like to display. Images limited to ten per person.

**Travel Memories : Glen Plaistowe**

With Covid clipping our wings, we are exploring the amazing scenery and activities available in our own country. We also have time for nostalgia viewing the photos of our previous overseas travel.

**Tips and Tricks : Ian Handricks**

A tutorial and discussion forum where you can ask questions and get answers and also learn tips and tricks for a wide range of computer/ipad/iphone/laptop situations. Ian will endeavour to provide solutions for your questions and will introduce you to a bevy of useful tips, shortcuts, hidden features, useful tools, actions and ways to achieve results on your computer and technology devices. Each session, Ian will provide you with a hot list of new ideas, tips and tricks to explore and use.

**WIX newsletter : Ian Handricks**

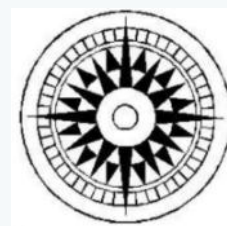
Last year Ian introduced us to WIX and taught us how we can make our own websites. WIX is a powerful, yet easy to learn and use website creation package. Many of our members have now mastered the art of making a website using this platform. Ian will run a tutorial on WIX – how it works and what's new in the system since last year. WIX continues to add some really useful and clever functions to the package and this session will be interesting for experience and those that want to discover how to make websites for themselves. No previous experience is required to attend the session.

**Zoom and Team Viewer : Ian Handricks**

This session will cover two separate topics, the nitty gritty of Zoom and the benefits of using Team Viewer. Ian has been using both of these for some time and is keen to share the benefits.

**Tech Home Help**

- Independent pre-purchase technical advice
- Installing and configuring your new PC, printer or device
- Transferring data over to your new PC & clearing out your old one
- Help getting photos/scans off your camera, scanner or phone
- Email, email accounts and setting email up on your mobile device
- PC 'housekeeping' to reduce program-clog and unwanted pop-up messages
- Checking your security against Viruses Spyware is current & working correctly
- Sorting files and photos, and organising an appropriate backup procedure to protect your data files



I am a former PC Direct & Gateway service technician and trainer, covering the greater Auckland area, and supporting SeniorNet North Shore members since 2000.

**Standard rates \$65/hr Discounted rate \$60/hr to current SeniorNet North Shore members**

**Rowan Cammell, Personal Computer Service, Ph 027 266 8941 rapid.start@xtra.co.nz**



## 20 Chrome Browser Settings You Should Change.

These are the 20 Google Chrome settings you should change... The Google Chrome browser with a 65% market share is the most popular internet browser. While it's user friendly, there are tweaks you can do to make it work better for you. In this video, I'll show you 20 settings you can change along with a few features you might not know about that will help to improve your overall experience using Chrome.

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

## Smartphone fast charging technology – myths and facts

Smartphones today are marketed with a very important feature that promises lightning fast charging speeds compared to the older generation phones. The battery charging technology that phone makers rely on for delivering quick charge to the devices is based on Programmable Power Supply (PPS) and USB Power Delivery (USB-PD) 3.0 standards. These technologies deliver power at the right amount of voltage and current to minimize battery degradation issues.

<https://www.slashgear.com/smartphone-fast-charging-technology-myths-and-facts-05627664/>

## iPhone 12 blown away by Samsung Galaxy S20 Fan Edition leak

The Galaxy S20 FE's cameras and battery give Samsung an edge over Apple. The Samsung Galaxy S20 Fan Edition is coming, and it looks like it should stand out from the iPhone 12 in at least two big ways. According to a new report from Galaxy Club (via SamMobile), the Galaxy S20 Fan Edition will sport a 4,500 mAh battery, which is a larger capacity than anything we've seen for the upcoming four iPhone 12 models. And the cameras on the Galaxy S20 FE should be more versatile.

<https://www.tomsguide.com/news/samsung-galaxy-s20-fan-edition-leak-blows-away-iphone-12>

## 5.4-inch iPhone 12 just leaked — and it's the perfect size

If you think phone display sizes are getting out of hand — literally — we have some good news. The iPhone 12 is expected to come in a very compact 5.4 -inch size, and now someone has purchased an iPhone 12 dummy unit to show how it stacks up to other iPhones.

<https://www.tomsguide.com/news/iphone-12-leak-reveals-it-could-be-the-perfect-size>

## How to wipe your Android phone before selling it or trading it in

Before you give your device away, delete your personal data. About to buy the latest Samsung phone or save a bit of money on a Google Pixel 4A? Whether you plan to trade in your old Android phone for a discount on your new phone, sell it on eBay, give it away to a friend, or drop it off for recycling, you're going to want to wipe it of all your data first by resetting it to factory conditions. Luckily, that's pretty easy to do. Before you start, be aware that these instructions were originally meant for a Pixel 3 XL running Android 9, and were recently checked on an original Pixel running Android 10. But the process for most current Android phones should be pretty much the same. Needless to say, first make sure that all of your data is transferred to your new phone, backed up, or both. Once your old phone has reset, there's no going back.

<https://www.theverge.com/21419919/delete-data-android-phone-sell-trade-how-to>

### NEW AND INTERESTING TUTOR SESSIONS

September, 2020

Session	Description	Tutor	Date	Time
Ask Me How	Special Topic - <b>Zoom and Skype</b> . Toby will draw a comparison between the two and illustrate how to download and use these apps and what equipment you will need. If we go back into lockdown you will be better prepared to keep in contact with family and friends.	Toby Malcolm	22 September 2020	10.00am
Pdf's	All you need to know about handling pdf files. How to convert, how to alter, how to reduce in size. Very versatile programme and invaluable. At some stage we all need to deal with pdf files.	Ian Handricks	2 September 2020	1:00pm
Ask A Tutor	These are run twice a month with several Tutors available for one on one assistance. Please refer to our schedule for contact information. Must Book \$5.	Organisers: Barbara Anderson & Glen Plaistowe	See Schedule - Thursday 10 and Wednesday 16 September.	1.00pm
WIX - website	For Beginners and those already familiar with this great website making tool. Some recent advances and special features.	Ian Handricks	21 September 2020	1.00pm
Card Group	New Session - our second month - come and join us. Don't forget to register with Campbell Stanford. For beginners as well as card sharps. Must Book \$5.	Campbell Stanford	24 September 2020	1.00pm

## HOW TO BOOK A CLASS

Read through the Tutors' Pages and select something that appeals to you. Then look at the Schedule and see whether it is a Tutorial or Discussion Group.

Follow the procedure for what you have selected from the next column

## FREE REFRESHMENTS

at all Discussion Groups, Tutorials, and Monthly Sunday Meetings

**T = TUTORIALS**  
**FIRST email or phone**  
**tutor**  
**BOOK at least a week**  
**ahead**  
**Pay at the door**

**D = DISCUSSION**  
**GROUPS**  
**All welcome**

SENIORNET tel 486 2163  
**TIMES AM = 10.00 to 12.00**  
**PM = 1.00 to 3.00**

## NAME TAGS

Please wear your name tag to all sessions to put a face with a name.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS HELD IN THE HALL

10am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month  
 Come along and listen to some interesting speakers

**Gold coin donation appreciated**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**

5

		Schedule -		October	2020			
Day	Date	Time	Session	Tutor	Phone	Email	D/T	Cost
Thu	1	am						
Thu	1	pm						
Fri	2	am	First Friday Genealogy	Barbara Anderson	479-6242	b.c.anderson@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Fri	2	pm						
Sat	3	am	Tips & Tricks	Ian Handricks	029 477 4491	ianhandricks@gmail.com	D	\$3
Sat	3	pm						
Mon	5	am	Zoom & Team Viewer	Ian Handricks	029 477 4491	ianhandricks@gmail.com	D	\$3
Mon	5	pm						
Tue	6	am	Advanced Windows	Bill Howell	478-5530	howell.trust@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Tue	6	pm	<b>Committee Meeting</b>					
Wed	7	am						
Wed	7	pm						
Thu	8	am						
Thu	8	pm	Ask a Tutor (Must Book)	Barbara Anderson	479-6242	b.c.anderson@xtra.co.nz	T	\$5
Fri	9	am						
Fri	9	pm						
Sun	11	am	Monthly Meeting	10am in hall		All Members Welcome		
Sun	11	pm						
Mon	12	am	Photo books	Bernice Hyde	483-5825	bernice52@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Mon	12	pm						
Tue	13	am	Photography	Rex Oddy	479-3105	rex.oddy@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Tue	13	pm						
Wed	14	am						
Wed	14	pm						
Thu	15	am						
Thu	15	pm						
Fri	16	am	Genealogy Workshop	Lois Kay	478-3587	lois.kay@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Fri	16	pm						
Sat	17	am	iPhone and iPad	Ian Handricks	029 477 4491	ianhandricks@gmail.com	D	\$3
Sat	17	pm						
Mon	19	am	WIX Newsletter	Ian Handricks	029 477 4491	ianhandricks@gmail.com	D	\$3
Mon	19	pm						
Tue	20	am	Advanced Windows	Bill Howell	478-5530	howell.trust@xtra.co.nz	D	\$3
Tue	20	pm						
Wed	21	am						
Wed	21	pm	Ask a Tutor (Must Book)	Glen Plaistowe	027 541 2241	glenp19925@gmail.com	T	\$5
Thu	22	am	Travel Memories	Glen Plaistowe	027 541 2241	glenp19925@gmail.com	D	\$3
Thu	22	pm	Card Playing Group	Campbell Stanford	021 717 008	camstan69@gmail.com	T	\$5
Fri	23	am						
Fri	23	pm						
Mon	26	am	Labour Day					
Mon	26	pm	Labour Day					
Tue	27	am	Ask me How	Toby Malcolm	021 148 1834	toby@techtutors.nz	T	\$5
Tue	27	pm						
Wed	28	am						
Wed	28	pm						
Thu	29	am						
Thu	29	pm						
Fri	30	am						
Fri	30	pm						

*Editor speak : Here is another contribution from Tutor Bill Howell. Thank you again Bill. Your contributions are always welcome.*

**'Gorgeous' new Government satellite map gives ultra-clear view of NZ from above**

A new mapping software offering a high-resolution aerial view of New Zealand is being praised online. In August Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) released [Basemap](#) - but it's recently popped up on social media, with people saying it goes above and beyond other tech, like Google Maps.

LINZ Acting Chief Executive Kathy Mansell said the mapping tool will be of great use to anyone interested in exploring New Zealand "in exquisite detail".  
"Its full potential is unlocked in the hands of geospatial information specialists and web developers who can add more data about our country over the basemap to create a story or message, or make decisions."

To enter, click on Basemap shown in blue in the above text or <https://basemaps.linz.govt.nz/> At the moment I cannot see where to enter a search box to enter an address. To view a particular location, open the full view of New Zealand then zoom in to any location that you wish to view close up.  
Guess where this is.



#####



I said my name is Mark with a "c".



Two speakers this month, the first is all the way from Taranaki, so here's hoping for a big SeniorNet attendance to show him it has been worth his while. He is Ian Balme. Title of his Talk :

### Railways, Golf Carts and a Vision - Ian Balme shares his story



When farmer Ian Balme told people he was going to start a travel attraction in central North Island, running golf carts on the unused railway line between Stratford and Taumarunui, they scoffed. Nine years later, that travel attraction – Forgotten World Adventures – now includes tours by rail cart, jet boat, pushbike, canoe and helicopter. It attracts over 9000 visitors a year, 75% Kiwis and 25% international tourists.

As a horizontal integration, Ian opened the Forgotten World Adventures Motel, giving visitors an accommodation option that encouraged them to stay longer in the area. Plans are afoot for a restaurant and bar to launch this year. Today, Forgotten World Adventures employs around 35 seasonal staff and last year, the popular attraction won the New Zealand Tourism Awards People's Choice category for the second year in a row.

It's fair to say that those who initially scoffed at Ian's idea may now have a different view. Through vision, innovation, and sheer determination, Ian Balme has turned his far-fetched idea into a leading tourist attraction.

Aware that people are interested in his business journey and how he created a successful travel attraction in just a few years, Ian now travels the country, talking to groups and sharing his story.



**Second Speaker** is (to be advised) from Westpac Bank. Title of talk :

### Banking with confidence



This will cover how to keep yourself online and gain confidence with alternative forms of payment in a digital world. Particularly relevant now that cheque books are being phased out.



"I'M SORRY, MR JONES HAS JUST STEPPED AWAY FROM HIS DESK."

#### *Editor speak :*

Recommended to you, a library book "Mother Tongue" by Bill Bryson, a comprehensive look at our words and from where they derived.

Lots of well written interesting bits in it.

For example :

"Other words underwent changes, particularly those beginning with "n" where there was a tendency for this letter to drift away from the word and attach itself to the preceding indefinite article. The process is called metanalysis. Thus a *napron* became an *apron*, a *nauger* became an *auger* and an *ekenname* became (over time) a *nickname*. By a similar process, the nicknames Ned, Nell and Nan are thought to be the corruption of mine Edward, mine Ellen and mine Ann."

There is a chapter on swearing and rude words and this bit amused me.

Samuel Johnson was congratulated by a woman for leaving indecent words out of his 1755 dictionary. To which he devastatingly replied : "So you've been looking for them, have you, Madam". Great stuff

*Editor speak : Another contribution from Tutor Bill Howell. Thank you Bill. Contributions from other members would be most welcome.*

Free Windows 10 upgrades are still available

[Gordon Kelly](#) Senior Contributor Consumer Tech Feb 4 2020

Yes, this is no joke. Despite Microsoft ending its free Windows 10 upgrade offer to all users on July 30, 2016, the company has (in my opinion, knowingly) left open a loophole. There's just one snag: you will need a legal copy of Windows 7 or Windows 8 to do this.

*Tip: if you don't have one, you can buy a legal copy of Windows 7 or Windows 8 at third part retailers for a fraction of the cost of a Windows 10 licence. Home licences update to Windows 10 Home, Pro licences update to Windows 10 Pro, so choose carefully.*

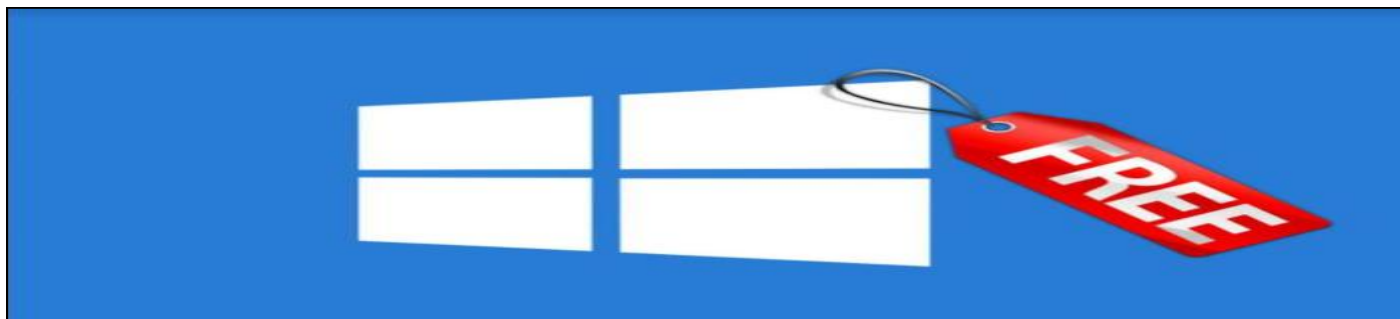
With that caveat out the way, here's how you get your Windows 10 free upgrade:

1. Click on the Windows 10 download page link [here](#)
1. Click 'Download Tool now' - this downloads the Windows 10 Media Creation Tool.
2. When finished, open the download and accept the license terms
3. Choose: 'Upgrade this PC now' then click 'Next'
4. Choose 'Keep personal files and apps'
5. Click 'Install' (note this takes some time and involves multiple restarts)
6. Once installed, open: *Settings > Windows Update > Activation* to activate your Windows 10 digital license...
7. OR enter your (genuine) Windows 7 or Windows 8/8.1 product key if you haven't previously activated your old version of Windows

If you'd like to check your licence has successfully been activated afterwards, open: *Settings > Update & Security > Activation*.

Note: a Windows 10 licence is tied to your hardware. As such, if you need to format your computer for any reason Windows 10 will reactivate automatically.

Tip: if you change multiple components in your PC as part of a device upgrade, Windows 10 may mistakenly think you've bought a new PC and refuse to register the licence automatically. Thankfully, Microsoft has [a simple process you can follow](#) if that happens.







Spring is just around the corner, and you know what that means – it's time for spring cleaning. As you prepare to scrub your home from top to bottom, consider tackling your technology, too. If it's been a while since you've cleaned out your computer, you may want to add your laptop or desktop to the list of things to declutter. Here are seven tips on spring cleaning your computer.

**Tip 1: Make sure your antivirus is still active.**

If your computer came with a free trial of an antivirus program, it may have expired. Keep your computer in optimal shape by ensuring your antivirus software is always up to date and active. Scan your computer often for bugs, viruses, or malicious files and remove them as soon as they're caught to keep your computer running smoothly.

**Tip 2: Backup your files**

You don't want to be caught by surprise when your computer crashes and you're unable to recover important information or precious photographs. If you aren't storing backups of your photos, documents, and important files, you're putting yourself at risk of losing everything if something happens to your computer. Purchase an external hard drive to store duplicate copies of your files or consider saving everything to the cloud. There are lots of free online backup available, so there's no excuse!

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- Smart Phones
- Digital Cameras
- and more



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Our North Shore branch has moved

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instant discount for SeniorNet members and referrals till end of this month.

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CENTRAL - 67 STATION RD, PENROSE P 525 0240

**FREEPHONE** 0508 PC SERVICE (727 378)

[www.advancedcomputers.co.nz](http://www.advancedcomputers.co.nz)

### Tip 3: Uninstall programs you aren't using

If your computer takes ages to start because it's busy booting up a million programs, you might want to remove a few. Scroll through your list of installed programs and see when you last used them. Remove any files you clearly don't need. Be careful and don't delete anything that looks important, but if you find games you haven't played in years or out-of-date programs taking up valuable memory, clean them out. You'll be amazed how much quicker your computer runs after freeing up a considerable chunk of memory.

### Tip 4: Clean up your email

It can be easy to let your inbox get a little out of control – especially if half the stuff you receive each day is spam or simply unimportant. Spend some time sorting through your inbox manually or use a tool like Unroll.Me to cancel any email subscriptions adding clutter, not content, to your email inbox. To make life easier later on, create a few folders to keep your inbox organized and easy to maintain. At the very least, I recommend separate folders for personal correspondence, bills, and work-related emails, but you should structure yours to suit your needs.

### Tip 5: Sort out your desktop

You should strive to keep your desktop relatively clean and organised. It can be tempting to quickly save files to your desktop when you're in a rush, but if you spend five extra seconds filling it away in the appropriate place, you (and your computer) will be more organized. Delete any shortcuts you aren't using, files you haven't opened in years, or icons taking up clutter.

### Tip 6: Update everything

It's easy to ignore the updates your computer tries to push, especially if you're in the middle of something when you're prompted to pause and reboot. However, it's important to keep your system up to date. Most updates help protect your computer against vulnerabilities to viruses or add new functionality. Take some time to make sure everything is running on the most recent version.

### Tip 7: Don't forget about the exterior

You shouldn't forget to physically clean your computer, too. Clean out your keyboard, wipe down your monitor, and sterilize your mouse or trackpad. If you have a desktop, consider removing the case and using a can of compressed air to clear out the dust. You'll be amazed how much accumulates, and too much build-up can cause your computer to overheat and crash.

By end of Oct, instant \$20 discount will be available when you mention you are from SeniorNet for your computer cleaning at Advanced Computers.

**From 1 Sep 2020, our North Shore branch office has moved to 7C Triton Drive, Rosedale. Please feel free to contact Advanced Computers team at 094448823 for more details. We open 6 days a week (Mon-Fri 9:30am – 6pm, Sat 10am – 4pm).**

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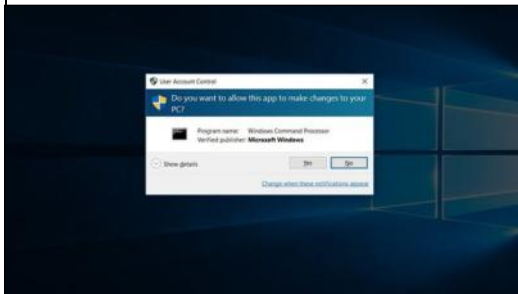
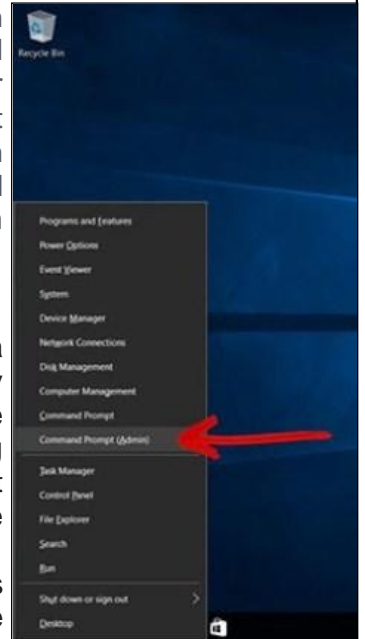
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Windows provides a utility tool known as *chkdsk* that can correct most errors on a storage disk. The *chkdsk* utility must be run from an administrator command prompt to perform its work. In this article, we will learn what *chkdsk* does and how to use it to overcome hard drive and file system issues. How does a hard disk become corrupted? Another good question. Anytime Windows shuts down abnormally or has a system crash, it can cause corruption. Over time, you can expect that you will experience such corruption. Running *chkdsk* as part of a normal maintenance routine is good practice if you wish to do so. Enough of the technical stuff, let's see what we can do with the *chkdsk* utility.

### Running CHKDSK on Windows 10

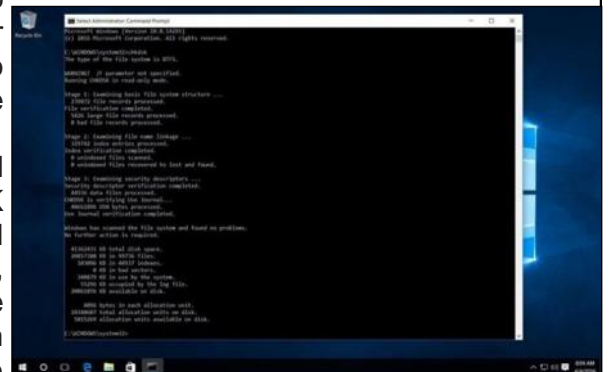
Although there are several different ways that you can invoke CHKDSK on a Windows 10 machine, by far the most common and ordinary place to run the utility is via a command prompt known as the Windows PowerShell. However, because CHKDSK talks directly to drive hardware, it requires a special level of operating system permission known as administrative privileges. This just means that CHKDSK is allowed to run as though it was the account that is in charge of the computer.



To launch the Windows PowerShell, press the Windows Key + X. This brings up the power users menu in the start menu area, where you will see several options. You can release the Windows Key + X combination and type the A key (short for Admin) to launch the Windows PowerShell in administrative privilege mode. You can also simply move the mouse to the Windows PowerShell (Admin) line and click to launch the shell that way.

The next screen to appear is a User Account Control (UAC) window which will ask for permission to launch the Windows Command Processor and let it make changes to the PC. Select "Yes."

The Windows PowerShell will now launch a familiar black and white box with a text command-line interface. To run CHKDSK in a mode where it will fix problems that it encounters, you need to add several parameters. In a Windows PowerShell program, parameters are additional commands added to the end of the program name, with "/" characters before each parameter. In this case, to get CHKDSK to do a full scan and repair pass, we would want to type "*chkdsk c: /f /r /x*" and press Enter then wait. It might take sometimes to finish, so please be patient.



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# Follow-up Concerning DNA Information and Ancestry.com's Sale to Blackstone in a \$4.7 Billion Deal

[Dick Eastman](#) · [August 7, 2020](#) · [Business News](#), [DNA](#) ·

I published an article 2 days ago (at <https://bit.ly/31lm9sL>) containing an announcement that *Ancestry.com* and all its subsidiaries are to be sold to the *Blackstone Group Inc.* for \$4.7 billion (US) including debt. The announcement was brief and contained very few details.

As you might expect, the announcement has generated a lot of questions amongst genealogists asking questions about the future of the company and how the services might change. Many of those questions concern the privacy of DNA information presently held by Ancestry.com.

An article this morning by Kevin Truong in the Vice.com web site answered a few questions concerning the company's DNA business. He writes:

"Ancestry is known for its genealogy and home DNA testing services. According to its website, the company has 3 million paying subscribers, 27 billion records, and 100 million family trees. The website also says that over 18 million people have been DNA tested through the company.

"To be crystal clear, Blackstone will not have access to user data and we are deeply committed to ensuring strong consumer privacy protections at the company,' a spokesperson for Blackstone told Motherboard in an email. 'We will not be sharing user DNA and family tree records with our portfolio companies.'

"A spokesperson from Ancestry also said the company's relationship with its users would remain the same.

"Ancestry's terms and conditions and privacy statement that is in effect for our users remains the same and Ancestry's commitments to protect our customers' personal data has not changed,' the spokesperson said."

The full article at [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/akzyq5/private-equity-firm-blackstone-bought-ancestry-dna-company-for-billions](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/akzyq5/private-equity-firm-blackstone-bought-ancestry-dna-company-for-billions) goes on for much longer. However, I found it interesting the final paragraph provides interesting advice for genealogists and others:

"Ultimately, the multi-billion dollar trading of Ancestry between investment companies is another reminder that when you hand over your DNA, you never know who might eventually own it. "

