

SENIORNET COG MEETING, 11th OCTOBER, 2017

(NOTES ON SOME TOPICS RAISED AT THIS MEETING - Prepared by Ricky Berg)

These Notes have been prepared and distributed in the hope that they will be useful for all Senionet members.

Vodafone NZ closing all email services: This matter is still being raised by members. Vodafone NZ Ltd is closing all its associated email services as of November 30th 2017.

Best information is available on Vodafone's website at <https://www.vodafone.co.nz/email>

Interesting Win 10 features: A couple of useful features are –

Copy-Paste-Go is a great 'shortcut' that is available when using many different web browsers. When you highlight and *Copy* some text or a web address, then right-click in the browser's URL bar you will get a drop-down menu that includes a "*Paste and go*" option. Clicking that option obviates the several-steps otherwise needed to *Paste* and then subsequently click the *Search* icon.

Night light is a simple click-command that invokes a "blue light filter" and makes your display use warmer colours at night to help reduce eyestrain. To use, click on the *New Notifications* icon on the right-hand side of the *Task Bar* ... then click the *Night light* icon/square.

Speech recognition is available to Win 10 users, which lets you control your PC with your voice alone, without needing a keyboard or mouse. There's a wizard to help you get started. Just plug in your microphone, and then, in the search box on the *Taskbar*, type **Speech Recognition**, and select **Windows Speech Recognition**.

After you complete the wizard, you can go through a tutorial to learn voice commands and train your PC to recognize your voice.

For additional options, type **Control Panel** in the search box on the *Taskbar*, and select **Control Panel**. Then select **Ease of Access > Speech Recognition**.

SpeechTexter: An interesting speech recognition web site that provides real-time online speech to text conversions. *SpeechTexter* allows you to create text for any purpose, such as writing documents, essays, creating emails, blog posts, tweets, etc, just by talking.

Currently, only works with Chrome browser. No download, installation or registration needed.

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

(Thanks to Alan Royal for the pointer).

'Half-Windows' screen displays: Sometimes, users experience the situation where a *Window* is suddenly half the size of the screen, and when using the maximize button it does not expand to fill the whole screen again.

This anomaly mostly happens when running two or more applications/programs at the same time, and the graphics capabilities of the computer cannot "keep up" with the multiple screen resolutions that have been created by one of the programs ... this is not the users fault, but a quirk of the combination of programs being used at the time.

Many times this can be fixed by grabbing the corner of the half-sized *Window*, and dragging it back to full-screen, BUT with *Windows 10* there is an easier way to restore the *Window* by using the **Windows Snap** feature. Restoration is as simple as clicking and dragging its title bar to the top of the computer screen.

Windows Snap can be useful in other situations too, so take a look at <http://www.techrepublic.com/article/snap-a-truly-slick-feature-in-windows-10/>

Windows activation after re-install: Sometimes, a computer needs to have its *Operating System* completely re-installed, perhaps after a hard disk failure or where the system files have become irretrievably corrupted. There even may be the rare occurrence where a virus or malware infection suggests a complete disk re-format.

In the *June 2017 COG Notes*, System recovery options and recommendations were set out, and this means that one can use the original copy of Windows that came on the computer, and therefore don't need to revert to older versions and try and upgrade sequentially (never a good thing anyway).

However, in some cases of re-installation, the need to re-enter the Product Key and then Activate, becomes necessary, and not everyone has that information on hand in these days of no longer getting a separate CD/DVD with the Operating System on it, or even Microsoft's holographic licensing sticker on the computer itself.

There are a few programs available that will extract the Product Key of the various software on your computer (Producekey, Magical Jelly Bean, Winkeyfinder), and it pays to write these Keys down, and keep somewhere safe.

Re-activation is something that takes place once the software has been re-installed, at Microsoft's end of your internet line, and don't be surprised if it gets refused. Non-recognition of a Product Key or Activation request can happen for a number of reasons, mostly centred on the number of times each program has been detected as having been previously installed.

However, not all is lost because Microsoft are very amenable to assisting you with new Product Keys or Activating software, provided they are convinced it is a genuine request. In such cases you need to have, at least, a description of the computer concerned, an explanation as to what has happened (e.g. new hard drive, reformat after virus infection, etc), and able to cite receipts for it and/or the software purchase.

Contact information is –

Microsoft NZ 0800 800 004 or 09 368 5680

Home wifi reception: This matter has been raised before, so refer to *September 2017 COG Notes* for advice.