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Newsletter JUNE 2021

SeniorNet News

Pam Fletcher, Chairperson

Greetings and welcome to our new look Newsletter.

I am a relative newbie to SeniorNet, joining shortly after I retired because I thought it was about time I learned a bit about IT beyond the word processing and basic spreadsheets I had used at work. I particularly wanted to keep up with the rapid developments in tablets and smart phones, even though I could best be described as a late, rather than early, adopter of new technology. SeniorNet has not disappointed.

I want to pay tribute to Allan Chee, who has stepped down after 5 years as Chairperson. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his tireless work, not only as Chairperson but also as Chair of the Education Committee and his technical expertise in maintaining our IT equipment. Allan now has a role as Immediate Past President as well as retaining his position as Chairperson of the Education Committee. He will continue to coordinate a team that brings you stimulating and informative workshops and courses, as well as guiding me in my new role.

This Newsletter has been a while coming but we have taken the opportunity to try out a few changes. Franci Stapleton valiantly shouldered responsibility for editing the Newsletter when the role became vacant in 2019. It is challenging for one person and we are very grateful for her tenacity in sticking with it and producing the Newsletters that she did. We now have a small editorial team consisting of Ricky Berg, Mary Newman and myself.

We will be refining the style and content of the Newsletter over coming issues but, before getting too carried away, we want to check how interested members are in hearing about what is going on in SeniorNet and/or short articles produced by fellow members. Please let us know your thoughts. Comments, ideas and constructive criticism can be emailed to wellingtonseniornet@gmail.com with 'Newsletter' in the subject line. Offers to provide short articles would be particularly welcome.

That is enough about the Newsletter. Now on to some news.

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The Federation

Since we joined the Federation of SeniorNets in December 2020 we have been busy getting to know our new colleagues. In March, thirteen of our members attended the Wellington Regional Meeting hosted by Hutt City SeniorNet. It was a great opportunity to meet other SeniorNets, to share experiences and to hear their issues and how they are tackling them. Two of the biggest issues that we share with others are: how to grow and retain membership and recruitment of tutors.

Allan Chee and I attended the Federation of SeniorNets' two day AGM and Symposium in Dunedin in early May. This started with a series of round table discussions on topics generated by local SeniorNets. These included: how could smaller SeniorNets be helped to grow membership (a really difficult question with no easy answers) and demonstrating a prototype membership management system. This was very interesting, but we are well served by our database developed by George Barna and Allan Chee.

The Symposium was on the second day, with some fascinating presentations including Joy Liddicoat talking about the latest in artificial intelligence and machine learning; David Sutcliffe from Westpac, on online scams, including the sad outcomes of romance scams; and Emma Gilmour, a Suzuki dealer on the technological improvements in new (Suzuki) cars, which included some impressive safety features as well as the latest in entertainment.

At both the Regional and National meetings we were made very welcome. To show our appreciation of such a warm welcome, Wellington SeniorNet will be hosting the next Wellington Regional Meeting in November. Details yet to be confirmed.

Finally, probably the most exciting news to come out of the Federation recently is the development of SeniorHangouts, a direct result of philanthropic funding during the Covid lockdown. This is a series of half hour zoom sessions led by SeniorNet tutors across the country and available to all SeniorNet members. The trial finished in May and the final version will be rolled out this month. Details will be provided on the SeniorNet website www.wellingtonseniornet.co.nz and in the Weekly News to members.

Wellington News

We had our first visitors' session on 12 February with 10 people attending, of which 9 signed up as members. We are relying on members inviting friends and neighbours along, and on posters in shops, community centres and halls to publicise these sessions. So far the response has been more cost effective than the adverts in the Dominion Post, but it does rely on members helping out. The second session will be on Friday 11 June.

Our AGM, held at Anvil House on 21 April was attended by 27 members in person (plus 3 from the Federation) and 8 members via zoom. The arrangement worked well for those of us at Anvil House, and there did not appear to be any problems for those 'zooming in', apart from the disadvantage of having to supply their own tea and biscuits during the break. If anyone did experience any difficulty we would like to hear from you so we can look to

improve things for next year. Please email wellingtonseniornet@gmail.com

Many of us will have fond memories of AGMs at the Boatshed, however the cost was not insignificant. We have good financial reserves, but our typical annual deficit is around \$11,000 so the Committee does need to look at conserving funds where we can. Consequently this year's arrangement or something similar is likely to be the 'new normal'.

Your Committee for 2021 is: Pam Fletcher, Chairperson; Graeme Munro, Deputy Chairperson; Allan Chee, Immediate Past Chairperson; Derek Smith, Secretary; Keryn Campbell, Treasurer; and Committee members: Les Dyne, Ray Heenan, Peter Moon, Michael Munro, Bruce Ralph and Celia Simpson. We were sad to lose Franci Stapleton from the Committee, but she is joining the Office Volunteers so is still actively involved.

This year we will be focusing on reviewing the alignment between the way we have traditionally operated and the way the Federation operates, and assessing what we want to change and what to keep. This includes a review of membership administration proposed at the AGM.

Wellington SeniorNet is on Facebook are you?



We've been using Facebook to promote SeniorNet. We want our page to be seen by potential members and the younger generation who will then tell their older relatives about the place to go to get help with technology.

Here's what you can do to promote us on Facebook

If you're on Facebook you can 'Like' our page so that your friends will see your 'Like'; then in turn your friends can 'Like' us or share to others. In this way we can spread SeniorNet like tentacles.

If you're not a Facebook user, but have family and friends who are, please get them to 'Like' us.

Here's how to Like our page

- Log in to Facebook
- In the search box at the top left of the page type in 'Wellington SeniorNet'.



- Underneath the banner photo of Wellington city look for the 'Like' button.
- Click the 'Like' button.



It's as easy as that! We look forward to seeing lots more 'Likes' on our page.

Mary Newman and Bruce Ralph are our Facebook editors.

Articles

Keeping private on Facebook

by Mary Newman



Facebook has both good and bad aspects. At its best it's a great way to keep in touch with family, friends and interest groups, and share news, stories and photos. But on the flip side you might be sharing information that you'd rather keep

private, having your data mined, opening your account up to being hacked or risking identity theft.

The good news is that you can mitigate these risks by using Facebook's Privacy Settings. This is where you choose who can see your posts, who can send you Friend requests and who can find you on Facebook. You can block people from seeing your account or contacting you and hide information such as your birthday, relationship, and location. You can determine who can see your Friends and much more.

There is a very straightforward way to get started and that is by doing Facebook's Privacy Checkup.

On a computer click on the little downward arrow at the top right hand of your page.







In the drop-down list choose 'Settings and Privacy' and then 'Privacy Checkup'. Click on each of the five 'modules' and find out what your current settings are and confirm or change them. They cover:

- Who can see what you share
- How to keep your account secure
- How people can find you on Facebook
- Your data settings on Facebook
- Your ad preferences on Facebook

Also under 'Settings and Privacy' you will find other options: 'Privacy Shortcuts' will take you into more depth, and 'Settings' where you can delve even further into privacy details.

← Settings & Privacy

-  Settings
-  Privacy Checkup
-  Privacy Shortcuts
-  Activity Log

If you're on a phone you can access the Privacy settings by tapping the three horizontal lines at the bottom of the phone's screen then scrolling down to 'Settings and Privacy' and choosing 'Privacy Shortcuts'.



Facebook is apt to change things seemingly randomly so even if you've done a Privacy checkup in the past it's good to repeat the exercise.

What happens to my Google account data when I pass on?

by Alan Royal



This may be a rather insensitive question! Google has controls that let you manage what happens to your account when you pass on. It shows you how to delete your account data from Google (or alternately allow designated people to retain access to part or all of your account data), when you pass on.

Credit: Image by Fossbytes

Inactive Account Manager is a way for users to share parts of their account data or notify someone if they've been inactive for a certain period of time. To set it up, go to your [Inactive Account Manager](#) page and click *Start*.

There you can decide ahead when Google should consider your Google account inactive. You tell Google how long they should wait before they deactivate your account(s). Before they take any action, they will contact you multiple times by SMS and email. You will need to add a contact phone number and email. If you have a 'recovery' email that can also be added as a contact point.

Once that is done Google will ask you who they should notify and what (if anything) you want to share. You can choose up to 10 people for Google to notify if your account becomes inactive. You can also give them access to your data.

If you use Gmail, you can also set up an AutoReply that will be sent after your account becomes inactive. This will inform anyone who emails you that you are no longer using this account (you can add a hilarious message if you desire!).

After your Google Account becomes inactive, you will be asked whether Google should delete it and all its content. If you've decided to allow someone to download your content, they'll be able to do so for 3 months before it gets deleted. If you choose to delete your Google Account, this will include your publicly shared data (for example, your YouTube videos, or blogs on Blogger).

Help for the partially sighted

View, run or control your mobile phone from your PC, laptop or tablet

by Lindsay Rollo and Ricky Berg

People with eyesight problems commonly have trouble using the small keyboards displayed on portable phones.

At home, or the office, this disability can be reduced using a utility called SCRCPY. It projects an enlarged touch-sensitive phone face to a PC or laptop, and responds to all the standard keyboard and mouse actions including scrolling, swiping, clicking etc.

It also provides for voice communication if speakers are available. It works with Windows, iOS, and Linux.

An extended item about SCRCPY is attached, including program source and a reference to a web item. If appropriate, alert family members or friends to this app.

Wikipedia: the world's online encyclopedia

by Mary Newman



Once upon a time the word encyclopedia meant Britannica or Encarta. Now it's [Wikipedia](#). A quarter of the world's population have never known a world without Wikipedia. The English Wikipedia has over 6 million articles and there are over 300 Wikipedias in other languages including te reo Māori and Latin.

When Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger set up Wikipedia in 2001 their aim was to make the world's knowledge freely available and accessible. Jimmy Wales was interviewed on RNZ by Karyn Hay on [Wikipedia's birthday](#). Wikipedia is free to access, use, edit and distribute and is not restricted by copyright. A crucial word is 'free'. Wikipedia is run by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit body with a very small number of employees. No one makes money out of Wikipedia, there are no ads exhorting readers to buy, sell or sign up to anything; it is refreshing that one of the world's top 10 websites is ad-free.

A unique feature of Wikipedia is that articles are written and edited by anonymous volunteers, and content is policed by volunteer administrators. Many would be suspicious of this model asking how can one be sure the information is correct and there is no vandalism.

Firstly Wikipedia has guidelines and policies about content. Like any other encyclopedia it

must contain verifiable information from reliable sources. It is not a place for the promotion of self or others, or advocacy. Information must be supported by already published sources such as books, journals, magazines, and newspapers. Individuals or companies may not write their own Wikipedia pages. Wikipedia's notability criteria require topics or subjects to have at least three reputable sources published about them.

Secondly content is policed. There are bots (computer programmes) constantly on the hunt for bad language and other potential vandalism. Then there are vigilant editors and administrators monitoring for vandalism either by running computer scripts or by receiving alerts on their watchlist notifying them of changes to articles. Most editors like to be notified of edits to pages they have created. Articles that do not meet Wikipedia's standards may be tagged for deletion.

Editors are worldwide but there has been a bias towards North America, Europe and males; about 18% of editors are women. NZ editors are seeking to redress this imbalance by improving the number and quality of articles about NZ, and by recruiting more editors, especially women. Because Wikipedia does not collect demographic information we estimate from surveys and other sources that there are about 60 active editors in NZ.

Most of us are not experts in any particular field but we all find some area that interests us. Mine is NZ's medical history and I have written and edited biographies of nurses and doctors, and hospitals. Another of our editors has a legal background but has become a biodiversity specialist; another is an engineer interested in NZ politics. It's not hard to find something to write about. Many of us are joining a collaborative project to improve coverage of performing arts and we have two Wikipedia conferences in 2021; one in Wellington in November where new editors will be very welcome.

Wikipedia editing can easily become addictive but it's enjoyable and rewarding to be contributing to the sum of the world's knowledge, albeit in a small way.

The latest Apple accessory - the AirTag

What you lose AirTag can find

Personal opinion by Bruce Ralph



We all see the tantalising news articles 'Apple is manufacturing the Apple car', 'Apple is designing fantastic Apple Glasses'. Then in April, out of the blue and not even publicly discussed, Apple announced AirTags!

So, what is this AirTag product? It is coin shaped, 1.26 inches diameter (32.004 mm) and can be attached to your car keys, your hand bag, camera case, suitcase, whatever. It works in conjunction with an App, already installed on your Mac or

iPhone/iPad, called 'Find My'. The Tag is constantly connected to your computer or device by the App which is always tracking them and should be able to locate the item the AirTag is attached to.

Why are AirTags so important to consider? Well, they will reduce your stress levels at home when, once again, those darn car keys have simply disappeared. Simply ask 'Siri' to find your car keys; assuming an AirTag is attached then it will 'beep' or 'play a little tune'. They'll help avoid insecurity, high levels of stress - that constant background thought, 'where is that ..', 'where are they ..', 'what happens if ..'.

When travelling overseas (overseas travel will happen again, sometime) AirTags will be indispensable. Let's imagine that you have just returned from an overseas holiday. You have many, many high res photos. Great! But when you check all suitcases and bags there's no camera case. Where is it?

Luckily you purchased an AirTag and attached it to the expensive camera case handle, just in case! Because you have your MacBook you can quickly flick open the screen and click on the 'Find My' App.

Great! The 'Find My' App straight away shows the location for your MacBook and iPhone, which are also on the desk. Simply by clicking on your camera case AirTag icon indicating that it is 'Lost', 'Find My' App initiates the search.

Now, in the background and not shown on screen, several things are happening. Apple iCloud has received a data message sent from your MacBook (or iPhone if you are using that). That data message unscrambled would say 'AirTagID12345' is lost, has to be located'. iCloud would then send out a tiny bit of data to all iPhones, iPads, and Mac computers. 'Send a reply to iCloud if 'AirTagID12345' has been connecting to your device's Bluetooth'.

Meanwhile somewhere in Japan, a lonely camera case is waiting to be found.

The attached AirTag is quietly sending out a tiny 'data message' via Bluetooth, which translated means 'AirTagID12345 is here' waiting to be found.

When a person carrying an iPhone walks past the missing camera case their iPhone will capture that 'Tiny data message' and recognise that it is the AirTag that iCloud is looking for. iCloud reports on your 'Find My' map 'AirTag Located' and confirms the actual location.

Further iCloud reporting will be via an email with the subject heading 'Your AirTag has been located' and then on the 'Find My' App, iCloud will update the (Apple) Map showing the street location, and any nearby buildings where the AirTag with your camera case is located. Your camera case has been located!

There are nearly 1 billion iOS and MacOS devices around the globe and, if most of these devices have access to the internet, then most would have Wi-Fi and Bluetooth turned on. Therefore, Apple has actually created a Mesh network around the globe; a tight mesh in

cities, wider mesh in country areas. However importantly, as all iOS devices are mobile, all of this makes the 'Global Mesh' very mobile and constantly very fluid and efficient. Only Apple iCloud can coordinate the search to find your missing products so easily.

If you are the lucky owner of an iPhone 11 or 12, those models and later model iPhones have a U1 chip installed, which is designed to assist with this 'tracking' and would allow a more accurate 'Precision Tracking'. This allows 'triangulation' to accurately pinpoint an AirTag and means more detailed information can be provided on your 'Find My' App.

Available now, the New Zealand price is \$55.00 GST incl., packets of 5 are available. Maximum number allowed is 18 AirTags (iCloud account restriction).

Finally, I have purchased a customised AirTag from the Apple online website. Only by ordering at the Apple Store online, can the AirTag be personalised with an engraving on the back of the case. My AirTag will arrive around 3 June, which is too late to test for this article. However I will be able to add further to my little story above at my next MacOS SIG on 21 June.

Editor's Note: There are a number of Smart Tags (sometimes called Tiles), now readily available, ranging in cost from \$4 upwards that are compatible with a range of Android phones. Samsung produce a Smart Tag that operates with the app already built-in to many of their phones.

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Planned Workshops and Courses

by Allan Chee, Chair Education Committee

The Education Committee met in May to plan courses and workshops for the rest of this year. Here's what's planned so far.

A new initiative is the start of a series of monthly workshops featuring different Apple apps. These will usually be on the first Wednesday of the month and will be run by Bruce Ralph, Allan Chee and/or Peter Chik. The first in the series was held on 2 June and was on the **Notes** app. The second workshop in the series will be on Tuesday 6 July and cover the **Keynote** app. Subsequent meetings will revert back to the first Wednesday of the month. If there is sufficient interest in a particular app we will look at putting on a hands-on course so you can really get an understanding of the application.

We will be holding two more Westpac banking sessions. The first, on Thursday 1 July will be a repeat of the hands on Confidence with Internet Banking course where you

can practice internet banking using Westpac's demonstration site for Westpac One. The second session will be a workshop, Confidence to Stay Safe Online, on Friday 13 August. While these sessions are run by Westpac the skills and tips will be generic for anyone using another bank's services.

As a result of demand from our survey at the end of 2020 we have scheduled a series of basic computer skills workshops and courses including: two **Word processing** courses on 17 June and 19 August, two **Spreadsheet** courses on 29 July and 16 September plus **Organising Files and Folders** across a range of platforms on 16 July. We'll also have a **WhatsApp** workshop on 5 August.

Keep an eye on our website and the weekly Notices for updates on these and other workshops and courses.

Waiver: Advice provided by members in this Newsletter is given in good faith. It is taken solely at the recipient's risk and imposes no responsibility or liability of any kind either on those providing such advice or on SeniorNet Wellington.

We acknowledge the support of our sponsors:

Attachment

View, Run, or Control Your Mobile Phone From a PC, or Laptop, or Tablet

WHY WOULD YOU WANT to control your phone from a PC or laptop?

For a start, many people find it easier to use a keyboard and touchpad or mouse than trying to enter, select, or delete on a phone's tiny digital keypad.

This is particularly so for anyone with diminished or impaired eyesight.

It would definitely be helpful with dialling, preparing and sending texts, adding new contacts and all their details, as well as manipulating files such as pictures that you want to move off the phone and to another storage media.

Another good use would be when teaching or demonstrating the functions or usage of a mobile phone by allowing more people to see what is happening on a larger screen.

THE PROGRAM is called SCRCPY and mirrors your phone screen onto your PC , laptop, or tablet and responds to standard keyboard and mouse actions including scrolling, swiping, clicking etc.

Also, you can capture existing information on the phone that is preferably organised another way, sort it, and then paste it back, for example music, shopping lists, or installing additional Apps from Play Store or App Store.

Whilst there are other programs available for displaying a phone screen to a PC, they usually require significant installations on both the client and host devices, and in some cases even an internet connection. SCRCPY is a stand-alone application that leaves no residues (files etc) on any device when closed.

Because the only additional hardware is a USB data-capable cable, a bonus is that while in use, the smartphone battery also gets top- ped up.

SCRCPY COMES as a zip file, available in both 32-bit and 64-bit formats, and is an Open Source program that can be used on either Windows, Apple Mac, or Android devices. It can also be run off a

flash drive, or any external storage device, making it very portable.

Apart from ensuring that the USB cable is data capable (some are used only for charging device) the program requires your phone to have USB Debugging active (see * below)

Most phone apps will run as expected, and are displayed vertically, just like holding your phone. A few may display horizontally.

You can still use your computer and/or run programs if you wish or need to while SCRCPY is also running (see screen capture)

*USB Debugging is a Development Tool and found in a hidden portion of your phone. This feature is reached on many phone brands by tapping Settings, About Phone, Software information, and pressing Build number 7 times. Scroll down to USB debugging and activate. Note, there is no need to turn debugging off, as this feature consumes no power—just gives access to other functions or activities.

Your phone may also ask for Debugging confirmation each time SCRCPY is used, and to select Transfer Files as the desired process.

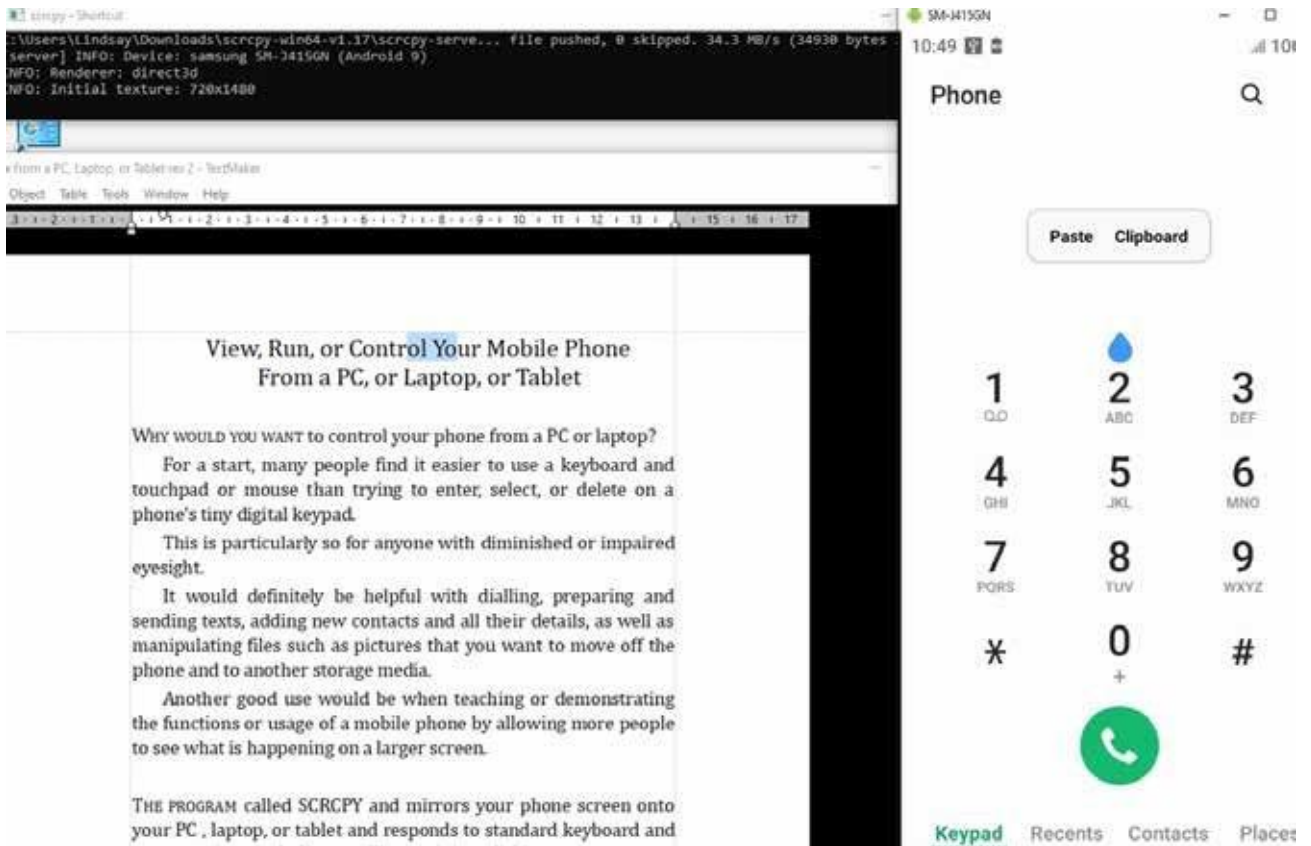
With iOS phones USB debugging is reached via Settings > Touch ID and Passwords > USB accessories.

This program has been tested using a Windows PC, and a Samsung smartphone, and two models of Samsung tablets. It is assumed that it works with other devices and operating systems as stated on the creator's website.

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/scrcpy/mirror/>

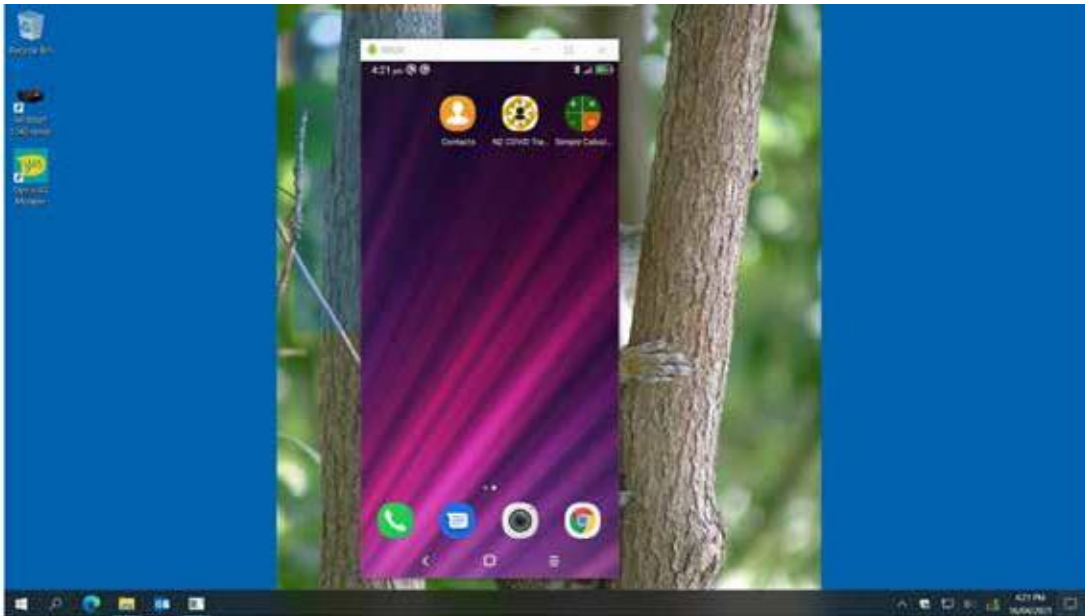
https://www.phonearena.com/news/How-to-mirror-your-Android-phone-to-PC-for-free-with-full-keyboard-and-mouse-support_id124118

see illustrations below



In this image the SCPCRY panel is shown reduced; it can also be held in the taskbar and so provide additional workspace on the desktop. The active phone has been relocated to the right and a sample document opened. With appropriate apps displayed on the phone, you can cut and paste etc between the phone and the adjacent document.

see another illustration below



Here the SCRCPY panel has been minimized to the taskbar and the phone is ready to respond to whatever function is required. If it is to be used for a call, make sure the speaker/headphones volume is maximized.

Project initiated by Lindsay Rollo :: reviewed and greatly expanded by Ricky Berg. One illustration from each author.