

U3A Stonnington

# Exploring Computers and Tablets

A short course presented by

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## “Victorian Tech Savvy Seniors”

DVDs produced by Telstra



- Available to borrow from public libraries
- Content accessible online:  
Google: “Victorian Tech Savvy Seniors”

### Session #1: Some Basics

- Getting connected to the Internet
- Web browser usage and online services summary
- Downloading documents, images and other files
- Desktop organisation (shortcuts, wallpaper, etc)
- Backing up your data (incl. app data, bookmarks, email)
- Operating Systems with “GUI” and/or “CLI”
- E-mail options (which is best?) and access
- E-mail attachments, esp. photos
- Recommended PC software (mostly free)
- Software download & installation (demo)
- PC performance issues – what causes slowdown?
- Transferring files between PC and tablet or phone
- Printers – do you really need one?

### Internet/Web Browsers

- Examples:
  - Microsoft **Internet Explorer** (Windows PC)
  - Mozilla **Firefox** (Windows, Mac-OS, Android)
  - Google **Chrome** (Windows, Android)
  - Apple **Safari** (Mac-OS, iPad, iPhone)
- Options:
  - Default browser
  - Home Page URL
  - Search “engine” (Google, Yahoo, Bing, etc)
- Downloads:
  - Beware of ads, “sponsored links”, pop-ups, etc, when downloading and installing software (app’s)

## Internet Facilities

- Humour (e.g. cat videos, jokes)
- Finding Information (Google, Wiki-pedia)
- Dictionaries, Language Translation
- News (e.g. ABC) and Weather (e.g. BOM)
- Banking & Investment management
- Government services (e.g. Centrelink, ATO)
- Maps (e.g. Melways, )
- Shopping (e.g. eBay, Gumtree, Alibaba)
- Music and Video (e.g. YouTube)
- Property Inquiry (Landata, Titles office)
- Self Education – Tutoring sites
- Health and Medical services

## Operating Systems

- Most prevalent examples:
  - Microsoft **Windows (XP, 7, 8, 10)** (PC)
  - Ubuntu, etc **Linux** (PC & Mac)
  - Google **Android** (Phones, Tablets)
  - **Chrome-OS** (Chromebooks)
  - Apple **Mac-OS (X)** (iMac, MacBook)
  - **iOS** (iPhone, iPad, iPod)
- User Interfaces:
  - **GUI** – Graphical User Interface
    - Pointing device (e.g. mouse) or Touch-Screen
  - **CLI** – Command-Line (user) Interface
    - Text-based “console/terminal” screen

Most operating systems incorporate both a GUI and a CLI, but in consumer devices the CLI is rarely used for “end user” applications.

## “Essential” Software

- Web browser (Internet Explorer, **Firefox**, Chrome, etc)
- Email client (Outlook, Thunderbird, **Gmail**, web-mail)
- PDF Reader (Adobe, etc)
- Media Player (Windows MP, **VLC**)
- Office Suite (MS Office, Libre Office, Open Office)
  - Word Processor + Spreadsheet + Presentation App.
- Photo/Image Editor (**IrfanView**, Photoshop, etc)
- Photo Organizer (Photo Gallery, Google Photos)
- PDF Creator (v1.7.x) – Virtual Printer Driver

## “Application-Specific” Software

### 1. Visual Arts & Graphics

- IrfanView (simple image editor - free)
- Ulead Photo Impact (up to rev.8)
  - Get v8 cheap on eBay, v5 free from MJB!
- Sketch-Up Pro (Google, free)
- Picasa (obsolete, but still available)
- PhotoShop (Adobe, not free)
- Inkscape (free drawing app.)
- FreeCAD (free 3D CAD package)

## “Application-Specific” Software

### 2. Audio, Music

- Audacity (audio recorder/editor - free)
- Free Sound Recorder
  - Beware: Spyware, Adware & other Malware!
- VLC Media Player
- PreSonus “Studio One” --
  - Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)
  - Professional Recording Studio
  - “Prime” version is free!

## “Application-Specific” Software

### 3. Video, Movies, DVDs

- VLC Media Player (free)
- Windows Movie Maker --
  - incl. in “Windows Essentials” package
- Power Director (not free!) --
  - “high-end” app. for slick productions
- DVD Flick (make DVD from video)
- Roxio Creator Home (CD/DVD)
- WAX (?)

## “Application-Specific” Software

### 4. Website Authoring

- Komposer (free, simple HTML editor)
- FileZilla (FTP client, for uploading)
- Expression Web (v4, Microsoft)
- WordPress (for “blogs”)
- Web Designer (by Google)
- Coffee Cup
- Digital Pacific (Aust. Web Hosting)

## “Application-Specific” Software

### 5. More.....

- Astronomy –
  - **Stellarium** – free planetarium simulation!
- Games
- Others...

**Just Google your interests!**