

May 2017



# Gizmoe

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This is the third edition of *Gizmoe* in 2017.

*Gizmoe* will also be posted on [www.seniornet.co.nz](http://www.seniornet.co.nz) from 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Yes, I know it's only been a month since the last Gizmoe, but I wanted to stay ahead of the game and keep everyone up-to-date following the Federation AGM and Symposium which was held in Nelson on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May. On all accounts, it was a successful two days with a total of 83 people attending from 34 Learning Centres – slightly under half the total number of current Centres. Many attending from out of town took the opportunity to stay additional days to enjoy the hospitality of the Marlborough/Tasman region, it's certainly a beautiful part of New Zealand.

The venue was terrific, even being close to the landing flight path of Nelson airport didn't deter the various speakers!

The minutes from the AGM can be viewed and downloaded by clicking on banner "2017 AGM" on the homepage of [www.seniornet.co.nz](http://www.seniornet.co.nz). At this location, you will also find a list of the presentations delivered at the Symposium by the various speakers, plus a range of photographs kindly taken by Pat Fuller from Nelson SeniorNet.

The 2017/18 Federation Committee elected at the AGM:

Ray McDonald	Chairman and representative for the Auckland region
Rex Fowler	Deputy Chairman and representative for the Wellington region
Pat van der Mass	Secretary/ Treasurer and representative for the Waikato/BoP region
Duncan Fuller	Minute Secretary and representative for the Top of the South Island
Dorothy Davis	Representative for the North of Auckland region
Paul Hopewell	Representative for the Canterbury region
Bruce Smart	Representative for the Otago/Southland region

At present, there is a vacant position on the committee, as no nominations were received for the Central North Island region upon the retirement of Gwen Harvey who represented the region exceptionally well for many years, thanks so much Gwen.

If you were unable to attend the AGM please be sure to bring yourself up-to-date by reading the items posted on the SeniorNet website.

Remember, learn something new every day!

Grant Sidaway Executive Officer.



## **Ransomware – Beware!**

Last week, you would of heard a lot of commentary about ransomware and in particular the latest “nasty” called WannaCry.

The WannaCry ransomware attack is worldwide and ongoing, which targets computers running the Microsoft Windows operating system by encrypting data and demanding ransom payments in the Bitcoin cryptocurrency (see the article in this edition about Bitcoin).

The attack started on Friday, 12 May 2017, it’s been described as unprecedented in scale, infecting more than 250,000 computers in over 150 countries. Parts of Britain's National Health Service, FedEx and Deutsche Bahn were hit along with many other countries and companies worldwide.

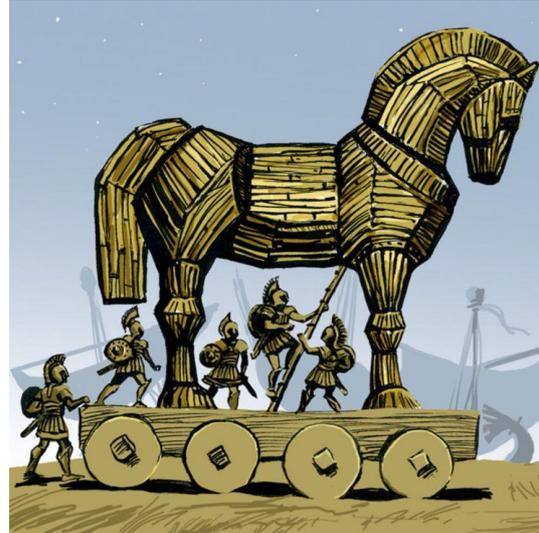


WannaCry spread over local networks and the Internet to systems that had not been updated with recent security updates, to directly infect any exposed systems. Those still running exposed older, unsupported operating systems such as Windows XP and Windows Server 2003, were initially at risk but the day after the outbreak Microsoft took the unusual step of releasing updates for these operating systems too, though to date almost all victims (98%) are running Windows 7.

Shortly after the attack began, a web security researcher discovered an effective kill switch which greatly slowed the spread of the infection, but new versions have since been detected that lack the kill switch.

So, what is Ransomware? It’s a type of malicious software that blocks access to the victim's data or equally worse threatens to publish or delete it until a ransom is paid. More advanced versions use a technique called cryptoviral extortion, this encrypts the victim's files, making them inaccessible, and demands a ransom payment to decrypt them. Ransomware attacks are typically carried out using a Trojan which is disguised as a legitimate file.

The word Trojan is derived from the Greek tale of the Trojan War. The Greeks constructed a huge wooden horse, and hid a force of men inside it, then left the horse outside the gates of Troy. The Greeks pretended to sail away, and the Trojans pulled the horse into their city as a victory trophy. That night the Greek force crept out of the horse and opened the gates for the rest of the Greek army, which had sailed back under cover of night. The Greeks entered and destroyed the city of Troy, which effectively ended the 10-year siege. Trojan is therefore a perfect name for the malicious software which is discussed as a harmless file that when opened in your computer sets about capturing your files.



A few basic rules to try and keep yourself safe and free from ransomware.

**1. Back up your files**

The greatest damage people suffer from a ransomware attack is the loss of files, including pictures and documents.



The best protection against ransomware is to back up all of the information and files on your devices in a completely separate system. A good place to do this is on an external hard drive that isn't connected to the internet. This means that if you suffer an attack you won't lose any information to the hackers. Backing up files to the cloud is also good, but this involves using the internet. Scheduling regular computer updates

creates peace of mind because you don't have to worry about lost files.

**2. Be suspicious of emails, websites and apps**

For ransomware to work, hackers need to download malicious software onto a victim's computer. This is then used to launch the attack and encrypt files.

The most common ways for the software to be installed on a victim's device is through phishing emails, malicious adverts on websites, and questionable apps and programs.

Always exercise caution when opening unsolicited emails or visiting websites you are unfamiliar with. Never download an app that hasn't been verified by an official store, and read reviews before installing programs. Put simply would you open your door to a stranger?

**3. Use an antivirus program**

It's an age-old computer security tip, antivirus programs can stop ransomware from being downloaded onto computers and can find it when it is.

Most antivirus programs can scan files to see if they might contain ransomware before downloading them. They can block secret installations from malicious adverts when you're browsing the web, and look for malware that may already be on a computer or device.

My advice is to use an antivirus program that requires payment. Call me old fashion if you like but if something is free then in my mind it's not as good as the same item if you had to pay for it!

#### 4. ***Always install updates***

Companies often release software updates to fix vulnerabilities that can be exploited to install ransomware. It is therefore important to always download the newest version of software as soon as it is available.

To check for Microsoft Windows updates, follow these steps:

- Open Windows Update by clicking the Start button. In the search box, type Update, and then, in the list of results, click Windows Update.
- In the left pane, click Check for updates, and then wait while Windows looks for the latest updates for your computer.
- If any updates are found, click Install updates.



**Windows Update**

Fortunately, if you only have Macs or iOS devices, you're completely safe from this ransomware. But don't rest on your laurels and assume you're safe because of that, since malware does happen on Macs as well. Macs do have some integrated protection against malware, but it isn't perfect!

#### **Wanted: Health Research Interviewers**

CBG is a large research company undertaking the New Zealand Health Survey on behalf of the Ministry of Health. They have opportunities for Health Interviewers to join the national team completing face-to-face household surveys for this ongoing project.

The role offers the following:

- Complete flexibility - work when and where you want
- Full training and all required equipment
- Uncapped earning potential
- Fantastic support network
- Opportunity to meet new and interesting people every day

They are looking for enthusiastic people who can demonstrate the following:

- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work independently and be self-motivated
- Availability to work flexible hours including evenings and weekends
- Access to a reliable vehicle and be open to travel

If you are interested please call 0800 478 783, email [recruitment@cbg.co.nz](mailto:recruitment@cbg.co.nz) or txt the word 'SURVEY' and they will be in touch.



**New Zealand Health Survey**

### **An opportunity with Operatunity**

Operatunity Daytime Concert Series has been bringing fun, informal, top quality concerts to 24 centres across NZ for over 15 years. Upcoming highlights include:

**May-June** *From Phantom to Les Mis*: 5 seasoned Musical Theatre performers sing hits from modern musicals including Phantom of the Opera, Evita, My Fair Lady, Cats, and more!

**June-July** *It's Rainin' Men*: Four fabulous men sing some of the greatest songs ever written from Rat Pack, 50's tunes, famous ballads and more. They'll sing songs from Frankie Vallie and the Four Seasons, The Beatles, The Platters, The Everly Brothers, and more!

**August-September** *Last Night of the Proms*: Classical music meets hilarity! A flag waving, toe tapping Proms concert full of old favourites like Jerusalem, Rule Britannia, Land of Hope and Glory and all your favour British and Irish folk songs and ballads.

**September-October** *Fabulous 50's*: Join phenomenal star Suzanne Lynch (The Chicks) and Pat Ulrich (Peking Man) as we pay tribute to great artists of the 50s like Elvis Presley, Doris Day, the Everly Brothers, and more.

**November-December** *Merry Little Christmas*: Much loved Christmas favourites, both old and new bring back some of the nostalgia for Christmas' past. Our Christmas tour is always a sell-out, so be sure to book early.

**Discounts available for groups of 10+, and SeniorNet members. Call 0508 266 237 and mention that you're a member when booking for access to \$31 ticket prices.**



### **Bitcoin a different currency**

Bitcoin is a form of digital currency, created and held electronically. No one controls it. Bitcoins aren't printed, like dollars or British pounds – they're produced by people.

It's the first example of a growing category of money known as cryptocurrency.

Bitcoin can be used to buy things electronically. In that sense, it's like conventional, traditional currency which are also traded digitally.

However, bitcoin's most important characteristic, and the thing that makes it different to conventional money, is that it is decentralized. No single institution controls the bitcoin network. This puts some people at ease, because it means that a large bank can't control their money.

Conventional currency has been based on gold or silver. You knew that if you handed over a dollar at the bank, you could get some gold back – in theory! But bitcoin isn't based on gold; it's based on

mathematics. If you are really interested in the maths check this out:

<http://www.coindesk.com/math-behind-bitcoin/>

Around the world, people are using software programs that follow a mathematical formula to produce bitcoins. (The term they use is mining) The mathematical formula is freely available, so that anyone can check it.

The software is open source, which means anyone can look at it to make sure that it does what it is supposed to.



Bitcoin can be used to purchase goods from a growing number of merchants (including recognizable companies like Expedia and Overstock.com) that accept Bitcoin payments. It can be exchanged with other private users for services performed, or to settle outstanding debts. It can be swapped for other currencies, on electronic exchanges that function similar to forex exchanges. Plus, unfortunately, it can be used to facilitate illicit activity, such as the purchase of illegal drugs on “dark web” marketplaces like the infamous Silk Road, or to pay ransoms if your computer has been hacked by ransomware!

Bitcoin exchanges allow users to swap Bitcoin units for traditional currencies, such as the U.S. dollar and euro, at variable exchange rates. Most Bitcoin exchanges take a cut, typically about 1%, of each transaction’s value. Bitcoin exchanges ensure that the Bitcoin market remains liquid, setting their value relative to traditional currencies – and allowing holders to profit from speculation on fluctuations in that value. Bitcoin users must understand that Bitcoin’s value is subject to wild swings – weekly moves of 50% in either direction is not uncommon. Such swings are unheard of among stable traditional currencies.

You can get bitcoins by accepting them as a payment for goods and services or by buying them from a friend. You can also buy them directly from an exchange with your bank account.

Before you race off and cash in your dollars for Bitcoin, remember that Bitcoin has a long way to go before it’s a legitimate currency on par with the U.S. dollar, euro, or pound. There’s no guarantee that Bitcoin – or any other decentralized, virtual currency, not controlled by a national bank – will ever be a viable alternative to traditional currencies. For the time being at least, treat Bitcoin as you would any speculative asset: Move carefully, or not at all, and never invest money that you can’t afford to lose.

**A terrific home phone and internet offer from Vodafone**

Vodafone's best value Home Phone bundle, just \$39.99 per month

**Exclusively for seniors:**

Vodafone's best value Home Phone bundle, just \$39.99 per month.

With this 12-month term, you'll get:

- Free twin cordless phones
- Free calls to national landlines
- 20GB Internet data for browsing your favourite sites
- Free modem (\$14.95 P&H applies)

Bring your existing phone number with you.

Click the banner below or visit [www.vodafone.co.nz/seniors](http://www.vodafone.co.nz/seniors) for more detail.



**Call 0800 533 018 to sign up today.**

**Offer ends 31/07/17.**

The banner features a red background. On the left, there is an image of two black Panasonic cordless phones on their charging base. A yellow circle with black text says "Free Panasonic twin cordless phone". To the right of the phones, white text reads: "Pay less with our best value home phone bundle with 20GB of internet data for only \$39.99 per month". Below this, smaller white text says "Available on a 12 month term" and "Includes free calls to national landlines ^". At the bottom left of the banner, it says "Call 0800 533 018" and "See vodafone.co.nz/seniors for terms". A small Vodafone logo is in the bottom right corner of the banner.

*Unavailable with other offers. Select areas only (rural areas specifically excluded). Sufficient 4G coverage & capacity required. 4G available where 94% of Kiwi's live and work. Ask us to check your address. Modem must only be used at location nominated. Early termination fee applies. Up to 2 hrs per call. Price includes 99c telecommunications levy. Terms: [vodafone.co.nz/home-wireless-broadband](http://vodafone.co.nz/home-wireless-broadband)*

### **Noel Leeming Special offer ends Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

Our partner Noel Leeming is having a week-long extra special discount for SeniorNet members. It ends 5.00pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

This is generally a “once a year” special event so don’t miss the opportunity to purchase, televisions, computers, whiteware, mobile phones, appliances etc. at greatly reduced prices.

You will need to download and print the flyer from the link below, take it to any Noel Leeming store and present it when making purchases. There is a barcode on the brochure that will be scanned by sales staff that will ensure you get the extra discount.

Link to flyer:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/m97wqfhzokokoey/Noel%20Leeming%20Voucher.pdf?dl=0>



### **Sound system for sale**

I need to downsize and quit some of my presentation equipment. Sure, it’s second hand but in excellent condition. The system specifications:

- Mackie powered speakers with tripod stands x two (300w RMS)
- Spirit Notepad 4 Channel mixer
- Lapel mics x two (wireless)
- Shure hi spec performers mic (wired)
- Complete with all audio and power cables



This complete system is suitable for audiences between 25 – 200 people.

Also, available, 1 x large tripod mounted projector screen (screen width approximately 2500mm)

If you are interested to purchase please email me [grant@seniornet.co.nz](mailto:grant@seniornet.co.nz)

### **Calling all Genealogists – this may be what you are looking for?**

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists has recently released a new research resource in DVD format. It contains a name searchable index of land transaction records held for the Land Districts of North Auckland, South Auckland and Taranaki between the years 1871–1991.

This resource is particularly appealing because Land Records in New Zealand are held by Land Lot and DP and not by proprietorship. This can be time consuming and costly because it usually depends on knowing an address and then using an authorized Agency to find the Title reference.

A nominal index of this nature cuts through that requirement and allows researchers to locate a land record by proprietorship and to order those records directly from LINZ.

There are literally millions of Land Records. But, the NZSG project team focused on indexing only those document types where proof of identity was required to support a change in Proprietorship because of their value to family historians. These included applications that were used to transfer land records over from the Deeds system to the Title system and Transmissions that arise from an event such as Death, Marriage, Bankruptcy or Deed Poll. The land title itself is not included in the document set but, the reference number of all of the titles that are affected by the 'events' in question are.

The specific information on the DVD includes; Name, Place, Occupation, Event, Date, Source and the Land Record Reference Number. If there are multiple owners of a single property, all of the names associated with that property will be shown. Likewise, if a single event involves multiple lots of land, these too will be shown, so long as the land is located within the specific Land Districts involved. Not all owners of land live within the Land District of the property they own.

Consequently, this index includes the names of people living all over New Zealand and overseas. Search results indicate whether the file is holding other records such as Wills, Birth, Death or Marriage Certificates or other.

For those who are looking at saving costs, the flat fee of \$15.00 per land document is far more attractive than the cost of obtaining individual certificates.

The DVD includes an Instruction Manual and has live web links. Once installed, it allows users to electronically order the source document from their search result, pay on line and to receive copies electronically.

It's a great resource!

Available now for \$45.00 plus p & p

Orders can be made via the NZSG website shop at [http://www.genealogy.org.nz/Sales\\_11.aspx](http://www.genealogy.org.nz/Sales_11.aspx)

or from the Family Research Centre in Panmure, Auckland. Ph: 09 570 4248.

**New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.**

FAMILY HISTORY - PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE



### **Addendum**

In the May edition of Gizmoe my brain appeared to be "Windows wired". In my article "Microsoft lost its Edge" I stated that the browser, Safari, was only available for Mac users, this is indeed incorrect as Safari can be downloaded to a Windows computer. Here is a link to show you how: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNYQXfle7MY>

Also in the same article, I wrote: "Microsoft has been knocked of the perch as being the most preferred operating system in the world" Whilst this is correct in common comparison to Android, if you take into account the complete Linux Kernel (of which Android is a part thereof) then Linux has a market share of approximately 40.41% compared with the Microsoft kernel of 36.84%. On that basis, as Bill from Kawerau, suggested to me, it could be Microsoft may never have had OS dominance at all!