

January/February 2019



# *gizmoe*

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This is the first edition of *gizmoe* in 2019. Happy New Year!

*gizmoe* will also be posted on [www.seniornet.co.nz](http://www.seniornet.co.nz) from 4<sup>th</sup> February.

An exciting year of new technology awaits us. For sure very little in the tech world stands still and our Learning Centres with their willing volunteers will be bracing themselves for the challenges to arrive – and that not just the new people coming our way - but of course the trickiness of new technology.

According to the technology pundits here's some of their thoughts on what might forge ahead over the next 12 months:

- Blockchain – Not just a form of artificial intelligence (AI), but it will transform the way we handle things like finance, and real estate, to name but a couple of everyday applications.
- Quantum Computing AI Applications - Quantum technology just became available for the public on the cloud. It's now ready to have a large impact providing answers to problems that couldn't be solved before. Major applications are expected in health care, trading and in cybersecurity.
- 5G mobile networks – Both Vodafone and Spark have announced they will be forging ahead with the high speed fifth generation mobile network. 5G is theoretically 100 times faster than 4G and its supposed to be faster than a typical home cable internet connection today!
- Flexible Smartphone – It seems after many broken promises the bendy smartphone will become available in 2019, Galaxy F from Samsung appear to have their heads above the water!
- Wearable technology – not just the smartwatch but keep an eye out for smart shoes and smart belts!

I'll include more detailed articles on these topics in future Gizmoe editions, starting with Flexible Smartphones in this edition.

All the very best for the year ahead and please put your name forward to help at your local SeniorNet Learning Centre.

Enjoy the read and.....

Learn something new every day!

Grant Sidaway Executive Officer



## **Search engines – more than just Google**

Most people don't want to have lots of search engines to use. Research tells us people stick to just one and often don't explore other alternatives, to be fair almost everyone defaults to Google! Here is a brief look at some of the other popular search engines available – after reading you may decide to have a dabble!

### **1. Google**

Google is without doubt the king of internet searching. It is the most used search engine in the world. Google is recognised as fast, appropriate, and boasts the largest single catalogue of web pages available. There is no doubting it with associated aspects like "images" and "maps" Google appears to have it all.

However, this "King" also tracks its "subjects" and gains an unbelievable amount of information that most of us don't realise, or if we do pay scant regard.

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)



### **2. DuckDuckGo**

It looks a lot like Google, however it has some pretty clever features of its own. For example, 'zero-click' information - all your answers are found on the first results page. Plus, it has clever prompts to help simplify what question you are really asking. Also, the ad spam is much less than Google. Their greatest claim to fame and point of difference is they say they will never track your search history and in doing so provide higher levels of privacy.

[www.DuckDuckGo.com](http://www.DuckDuckGo.com)

### **3. Dogpile**

Perhaps not such a charming name! but, believe it or not many years ago, Dogpile headed Google as being fast and efficient for web searching.



Dogpile is making a comeback, with an increasing index with a clean, quick appearance. It has what some describe as a pleasant presentation with helpful crosslink

results. It's considered to be family and children friendly plus the "Local Tab" makes it somewhat unique in producing local only results on a search.

[www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com)

#### 4. **Yahoo**

For some of us Yahoo was the “go-to” search engine back in the early 1990s’, then it slipped off the radar. After many years of being on-sold and rehashed its starting to make fresh bids to become a contender in the world of Search Engine ranking. It looks a bit ho-hum but according to Wikipedia as of October 2018 it was number two in preference at 2.32%.



[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

#### 5. **Bing**

It's Microsoft's attempt at dethroning Google. Bing used to be MSN search until it was updated in 2009.



It tries to support your researching with suggestions in the leftmost column, while also giving you various search options across the top of the screen. Bing is touted at doing a few things better than Google, like video, but they fall short on Google's ability to search things out of the darkest corners of the internet. Its fair to say Bing is not about to knock Google off its perch anytime soon!

[www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com)

#### 6. **Webopedia**

Webopedia is an encyclopaedic facility which is dedicated to searching technology terminology and computer definitions.



So, during a wet Sunday afternoon, when nothing else captures your attention, it might be worthy of a look as its designed for non-technical people to make more sense of computers!

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

## 7. The Internet Archive Search

Again a “wet Sunday afternoon” activity! It’s not the search engine to use for general searching on the Web but it does specialise in archives, as it’s been taking snapshots of the entire World Wide Web for many years, allowing you and me to travel back in time to see what a web page looked like in the 1990’s. It’s also a great place for millions of free books, movies, software etc and it’s a not for profit group.

<https://archive.org/>



In a technology world seeming run by Google, we sometimes forget there are other search engines available.

Google is King of search and commonly used, but there is still plenty of room for searching to evolve and become more specialized, keep an eye out for the little guys who are finding other ways to do it. For what is worth my favourite alternative to Google is DuckDuckGo!

### More Movie tickets to give away!

We are lucky to have four double passes to give away again. Congratulations to the winners of the December give away. I hope you enjoyed the movie “Vice”.

This time around the movie is Stan & Ollie is – it will be in NZ cinemas from February 21.

About the movie:

Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly star in this touching portrait of Laurel & Hardy as they set out on their now legendary 1953 tour of Britain. From acclaimed screenwriter Jeff Pope (*Philomena*), *Stan & Ollie* pays homage to the original kings of comedy, celebrating a unique friendship and brilliant working partnership with humour and warmth.

You might to take a look at the trailer:

<https://youtu.be/RE5xbDTkzQQ>



To go in the draw to win a double pass to the movie Stan and Ollie email: [grant@senior.net.co.nz](mailto:grant@senior.net.co.nz)

**Be sure to put in the subject title of your email “Stan and Ollie Movie” also, include your address in the email.**

**Entries close on 15<sup>th</sup> February**

## DeedVault

Thanks to all the SeniorNet members who took part in the DeedVault survey. The draw for the \$250 prezzie card took place in December at the Pakuranga SeniorNet Learning Centre.

Congratulations to Pauline, the winner, who is a member of Whanganui SeniorNet.

Representatives from DeedVault will continue to visit SeniorNet locations in this new year with several scheduled in February.

DeedVault will soon be available to your solicitor and so if you are unsure of the management of your affairs, ask your solicitor if you can sign up through them.

They are also in the process of adding a section for your personal history – facts and interesting information about yourself that can be recorded for your legacy.

Any ideas you may have for what needs to go into this section, please let them know at [hello@deedvault.com](mailto:hello@deedvault.com)

The enhancement of a couple's subscription with the ability to share common data will be introduced in the near future.

We thank DeedVault in partnering with SeniorNet in 2018 and look forward to ongoing mutual co-operation in 2019.



Figure 1 Members of DeedVault at Pakuranga SeniorNet

To learn more about DeedVault go to: <https://www.deedvault.com/>

## The plugged-in look

It seems a lot of people were lucky enough to get really neat technology Christmas gifts this year. What has been really noticeable has been the upsurge in people wearing the nifty Bluetooth Apple AirPods! They are a bit pricy, retailing at around \$250. Many of us have discovered you can get the same look for a lot less using the OralB power toothbrush, though it's not hard to spot the real one, and don't try using the AirPod to clean your teeth!



## **Bendy Smartphones are on their way!**

The Samsung Galaxy F (F for foldable) launch has been rumoured for a few years – it's the firm's foldable, flexible, bendable smartphone. Back in 2011 it was thought they were "nearly" ready to launch the product but now "those in the know" are suggesting a world-wide launch may occur in February. Portable devices bulk-up up our pockets and handbags and because the screens are getting bigger then the more awkward they have become. Hence its only natural that manufacturers have been working hard to find ways to bend or fold them.

These bendy phones are likely to be fairly expensive, possibly even as much as \$3,000 – the price you pay to be an early adopter! Apparently, the Samsung phone is a clamshell-style and it flattens out for a tablet-size display. The Infinity Flex Display, as the tech is called, is a new direction for Samsung smartphones - that required development of new materials and processes to make it functional. Of course, they are keeping tight lipped about the detail, but this could be the start of a new phase for these portable devices and perhaps another further step away from larger so called tethered home and office computers. As soon as they arrive I will do my best to unravel the ins and outs of the new device, though at the suggested price tag it may be a while before I am able to purchase one. If you want a glimpse take a look at likely phones for 2019 click on this link:

[https://www.tomsguide.com/us/foldable-phones-release-date\\_news-28705.html](https://www.tomsguide.com/us/foldable-phones-release-date_news-28705.html)



## No Response

How often are we faced with no response to the messages we send? Did they get the message? Why no reply? Are they okay? Apparently, we are not alone with this, as it's a very common aspect of life in the TXT world today. A father in the UK has developed a smartphone app which may help. It's called ReplyASAP! The dad was frustrated that after buying his son a smartphone it thought he would be more in touch with the Lad – as it turned out the Lad more often than not ignored the father's message, preferring to play games on the device instead!



ReplyASAP allows you to send messages to people you've connected with via the App. The message will appear on their phone over what-ever they are doing, and make a noise until they interact with it, even if the phone is on silent. You will then get notification that it has been read and their location, so in many ways it will provide a sense of relief for frustrated parents and even partners! Its early days yet but over 100,000 downloads have occurred and its being upgraded with other features.

## 2019 Federation AGM and Symposium.

Registrations forms are been sent to all Learning Centres for the upcoming combined event. This year its being held at The Coachman Hotel, Palmerston North. The AGM kicks off at 3.00pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> May with a dinner that evening and on the 9<sup>th</sup> May we will hold the Symposium. AGM documents will be sent to all Federation Learning Centres along with the Symposium Agenda early in April. We are still finalising the Symposium Agenda, but you can be assured as with previous years there will a range of interesting, motivating speakers and presentations.

If you would like to attend, please get in touch with the secretary of your Learning Centre as they will have the registration forms.

