

# Newsletter

## URGENT

Update to Chrome 138.0.7204.157/.158 on Windows & macOS, and .157 on Linux & Android.

Expect Edge, Brave and other Chromium browsers to follow.

See page 2 *Reference: TechRepublic*

## In This Newsletter

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## Microsoft Movies & TV



Microsoft no longer offers new entertainment Movies & TV shows

Refer P4

## Linux Workshop

Linux is an open source operating system and a consideration if you want to retain Windows 10 support comes to end and you do not want to purchase a new computer.

A workshop is being considered for anyone interested in Linux. Contact Lindsay before 8th August. A date will be advised when sufficient registrations have been received. →

## Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc

<https://sdcuci.com>

Topic: **Linux— A no cost alternative for Windows 10?**

Presenter: **Jim Greenfield**

Date: **Wednesday 20th August 2025 at 7.30pm**

St Mary's Catholic Church Hall,  
Cnr South and Bains Roads, Morphett Vale  
**Entry \$3 per person includes super.**

## AI terms



**Slop** means low quality media, including writing and images made using generative intelligence technology, characterised by an internet lack of effort, logic, or purpose.

**AI hallucinations** are incorrect or misleading results that AI models generate. These errors can be caused by a variety of factors, including insufficient training data, incorrect assumptions made by the model, or biases in the data used to train the model.

## Apple considers alternative AI

<https://tinyurl.com/czyah6du>

Apple is considering replacing its own AI with ChatGPT or Anthropic's Claude and has asked its rivals to create models that could run on its cloud infrastructure. Testing will determine what happens next.

There is a big push to ensure the new Siri is released in 2026.

*Reference: PCMag*

## Updated Chrome lately?

<https://tinyurl.com/yurxd5kn>

While you have internet security on your computer, are you fully protected.

Google rushed out an emergency patch for a High Severity Bug in July, the fifth time this year.

To ensure you are updated in Chrome

Left click on the *three vertical dots* top right hand corner of the screen > Left click *Settings* > Left click *About Chrome*. If Chrome isn't up to date it will automatically check for the latest version and update. More information at

*Reference: TechRepublic*

## The First Spam Email

After reading this article you will know how and who to thank for spam emails.

On May 3, 1978, a man named Gary Thuerk, a marketing manager for the now-defunct Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), sent the very first spam email. He didn't know it would one day inspire billions of annoying inbox invaders.

His message wasn't selling cheap sunglasses or suspicious health pills. It was a promotional email inviting hundreds of users on ARPANET (the early version of the internet) to attend a product demo for new computer systems.

Thuerk sent it to 393 recipients. ....almost every ARPANET user on the West Coast. And it didn't go over well. Many were furious.

Not only did it clog inboxes (email had limited storage back then), but it also violated ARPANET's acceptable use policy, which strictly prohibited commercial use. One recipient even scolded Thuerk in a reply, saying, "This was a flagrant violation of the use of ARPANET as a communication medium."

Despite the backlash, the campaign was oddly successful. Thuerk later claimed the email helped sell \$13 million worth of DEC products.

So, in a way, he was both the father of spam and a pioneer of digital marketing. We've been hitting "delete" ever since.

*Reference: Get organized Now*

- *Man with one chopstick go hungry*
- *Man who drive like hell bound to get there*



Hi everyone, welcome to the August newsletter.

If you don't know anything about QR codes the article on page 3 will provide an understanding. They are used in numerous situations and you can make your own.

I find AI headlines interesting as they provide an insight into what's happening. See page 4.

E: [sandslifestylebfs@outlook.com](mailto:sandslifestylebfs@outlook.com)

*Lindsay*

## QR codes

Researching QR codes for a presentation in July highlighted the benefits and many uses of QR codes.

Most people were exposed to QR codes during covid, and they are commonly used in the media.

- **What does QR stand for?** Quick Response.
- **What are QR codes used for?** Their main purpose is to provide quick access to information to allow users to retrieve data instantly by scanning.
- **Uses**
  - **Wi-Fi Access**—Public places like hotels and cafes use them to provide easy access to Wi-Fi connections.
  - **App Downloads**—QR codes can directly link to app store pages making it easy to download an app.
  - **Public Transportation**—QR codes on tickets and boarding passes to streamline the check-in process.
  - **Bill payment**—Services like Bpay allow users to pay bills by scanning the QR code.
  - **Contactless Payments**—QR codes facilitate secure and convenient cashless payments in stores and restaurants, and are used by mobile wallets like Apple Pay or Google pay.
  - **Marketing and Promotions**—Product packaging—QR codes have detailed information like ingredients, how to guides, discounts and coupons, contests and giveaways, and loyalty programs.
  - **Menus in restaurants and cafes.**
  - **Event information**—Tickets, schedules, concerts, festivals and conferences.
  - **Education and learning**—qr codes can link supplementary resources, videos or interactive content.



## QR Code Generators

There are many QR code generators on the internet. Both pay and free. Do research the generator you choose, and beware of trial versions as the qr code generated may stop working if you don't pay for the product.

QRcodeMonkey— Free and popular.  
<https://www.qrcode-monkey.com/>

Adobe Express—Free—Sign in required.  
<https://www.adobe.com/express/feature/image/qr-code-generator>

Canva— Free  
<https://www.canva.com/qr-code-generator/>

Google extension in the chrome web store.



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### QR codes for yourself

- Convert a current web page to a QR code.
- Organise and store — Storage box >Take photos of box contents and save to cloud i.e. Google Drive/OneDrive or in an app OneNote/Google Notes > Create a hyperlink > Create a qr code > Print qr code and fix to outside of box. When you want to know what is in box use smartphone to scan qr code.
- Instruction manual— Save PDF to cloud or app > create a hyperlink > create a qr code.
- Video—Same instructions as above
- Recipes—Same instructions as above

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### Fun Facts About QR codes

- ◆ The largest QR code was created in Canada and is scannable from the air.
- ◆ QR codes are used on tombstones in China to share memorials.
- ◆ Over one-fourth of scanned QR codes were by 35-44 year olds,

## Microsoft has closed its Movies & TV storefront

New entertainment content (movies and TV shows) can no longer be purchased on Microsoft.com, Microsoft store with a Windows PC or Xbox. Effective from July 18th 2025.

*Reference: Windows Central*

## PDFs are being used to impersonate big brands

Cyber criminals use PDFs to impersonate brands including, Microsoft, DocuSign, Dropbox, Paypal, and Adobe.

Telephone Oriented Attack Delivery (TOAD) as it is known, is where PDFs are used to entice victims to phone specific numbers to resolve an issue or confirm a transaction.

'Callback phishing' combines the use of trusted brands and attackers using direct voice communication to exploit the victims trust in phone calls. QR codes are also used.

These attacks focus mainly on businesses, however don't be complacent. Think before you phone a number in an email and give out your personal information.

*Reference: ITPro*

## BeConnected

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/>

**Man who run behind car get  
exhausted**

# What's Trending in AI

*Reference: Futurism/Futurist*

**Robots Are About to Outnumber Humans At  
Amazon Warehouses**

**OpenAI Says It's Hired a Forensic  
Psychiatrist as Its Users Keep Sliding Into  
Mental Health Crises**

**A couple tried for 18 years to get pregnant. AI  
made it happen**

**Delta Announces New System Where  
AI Makes Up the Price for Your Ticket  
on the Spot**

**Hertz Deploys AI Scanner That's Charging  
Hundreds of Dollars for Tiny Scratches on  
Rental Cars**

**Scientists can tell how fast you're aging  
from a single brain scan**

**Google's Gemini refuses to play Chess  
against the mighty Atari 2600 after  
realizing it can't match ancient console**

**A Staggering Proportion of Teens Say Talking  
to AI Is Better Than Real-Life Friends**

**OpenAI Engineer Quits, Says Company Is  
Pure Chaos Inside**

**Angry Callers Accusing Real Customer Support  
Staff of Being AI**

**Past Sands Tech Group Newsletters can be found  
at this link. <https://sandslifestylebfs.wixsite.com/scgbfs>**

### Disclaimer:

The information contained in this newsletter is of a general nature. Always do your own research and seek advice before acting on the information provided.