

Return address:
Busnet Computer Club Inc.,
22 Peel Terrace
busnet.org.au treasurer.busnet@gmail.com

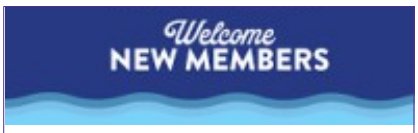
Busselton Senior Citizens' Club
email address: manager@bscc.net.au
Web maintained by kg@kgweb.au

The Busselton Constitution is available on the Busnet website: busnet.org.au

This is a very useful and interesting site with lots of up to date information about our Club.

Busnet Clubroom Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:30 PM *(Except Public Holidays)*



Kerry Antney	John Buckley
Sheila Higham	Barbara Croft
Ross Croft	Beverley Hall
Jenny Day	Peter Upperton
Barbara Deeks	Merrilyn Shirley
Tracy Evans	Cherie Costello



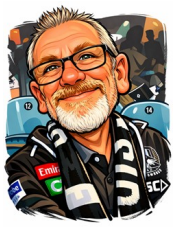
Got any suggestions for inclusion in future editions of you Browser?

Email: publicity.busnet@gmail.com



Editorial:

Welcome to the November 2026 edition of your Browser.



Alex (a.k.a. Grumps)
Editor

Ever thought about changing your email account but been put off by the hassle, our article may help you.

Did you know that Apple have their own photo file format that sometimes may have issues being viewed on other platforms like older versions of windows.

Smart Glasses seem to be getting a lot of negative commentary around privacy lately but they also have some valuable uses.

How to switch email providers



Ever thought about switching email accounts. Email can be one of the stickiest services to shift away from since so many online accounts get tied to it. The longer you have an account, the harder it gets to switch providers. Getting started can be easier than you might think..……Read More

What is a HEIC file?



Ever wondered what the HEIC extension is on photos taken on an iPhone, this editor did when helping a customer, having never come across them before. They may pose some challenges for some Windows PC users…….Read More

Smart glasses benefit and challenges



Smart glasses have been in the news a lot lately mainly around privacy related concerns, however there are also a groups of people where these devices help with their day to day activities. We attempt to look at both sides of the argument..……..Read More

Club News

General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 01 December 2026 at 1:30 PM at BSCC in the cafeteria area, with light refreshments afterwards. Current members are encouraged to attend.

Busnet closed over Christmas from 15-Dec-2026 to 05-Jan-2027 inclusive.

View our latest Volunteer Roster

November Trivia: What happened in history this month.

How to switch email providers

Source: Cyber Shack (Sep) by Scott Hunt



Email can be one of the stickiest services to shift away from, since so many online accounts get tied to it. The longer you have an account, the harder it gets to switch email providers.

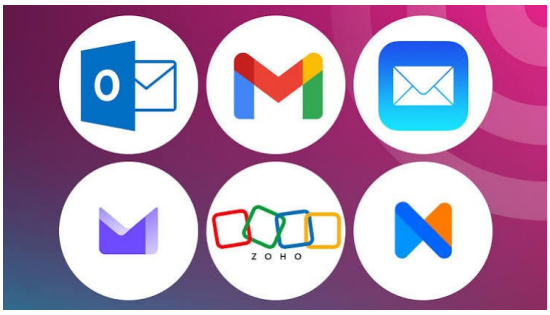
TPG group telcos like TPG, iiNet, Internode and Westnet, and Vocus group's iPrimus and Amnet email addresses have all handed email hosting to The Messaging Company. So what was included in your internet subscription service suddenly became an additional paid subscription, initially with a so called special introductory offer.

The original paid service for these addresses began in September 2024, so a lot of users are hitting a renewal and finding that the fee has more than doubled from the original $30 per year to $69.99 per year.

There's no one-button solution to switch email providers. No matter which way you cut it, there will be some manual work involved to update your information with online accounts, and depending on how many you have it could take more or less time.

However, getting started is easier than you might think.

1. **Keep your old email address active for a couple of months.** While you make the move to your new account, it can be helpful to have access to the old one for recovery information. For The Messaging Company, that might mean paying for a few extra months.
2. **Select a new provider and set up new account**, such as Google Workspace, Microsoft 365, Gmail, Outlook, or Proton Mail. Take some time to evaluate which one suits your needs best. When you decide set up your new account with your new provider.



3. **Use your new provider's import tool.** All the big email providers offer an import tool that can bring your old messages and contacts across. Proton offers Easy Switch that walks you through importing emails, contacts, and calendar events. Gmail provides similar access, but Outlook doesn't have as simple instructions.
4. **Set up an auto-responder on your old email address.** Most major providers offer this functionality somewhere in Settings – for The Messaging Company addresses, follow this guide. In the auto-response, state your new account and that the old one will be unmonitored.
5. **Update your most sensitive accounts.** Services like myGov, active social media accounts, utilities, and subscriptions are worth shifting over straight away. This is the hard work part that takes time. You'll have to check each account's settings and update your contact information.

As you live with the two addresses side-by-side for a few months, start changing over accounts that you want to keep with companies who continue to contact your old address. After a while, all the accounts you actually use should be using the new email and you can finally ditch the old one.

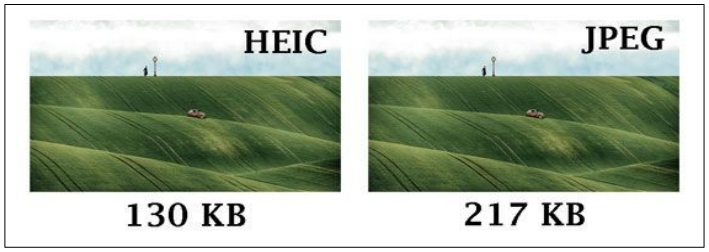
With this method, you don't have to worry about getting overwhelmed since you can keep the old email until you're sure you've moved all your important contacts across.

What is a HEIC file?

While your editor was helping a customer at Busnet they came across photo files with a HEIC format for the first time. Given the HEIC format files have been around since 2017 Apple users are probably already familiar with this file format.

The customer however had the combination of an Apple phone and a Windows laptop and photos taken on the iPhone were being stored in the iCloud.

A HEIC file (High Efficiency Image Container) is a modern image file format used primarily by Apple devices. It stores photos captured on iPhones and iPads using advanced compression technology.



For those with an Apple phone and a Windows PC you may have experienced problems transferring photos from you iPhone or iCloud storage to your PC.

Things to know about HEIC files:

- **Smaller File Sizes:** HEIC files typically take up about half the storage space of traditional JPEG files while maintaining image quality.
- **Advanced Features:** Unlike standard JPEGs, a single HEIC file can store multiple images (such as Live Photos or burst shots), transparency, and image editing sequences without overwriting the original photo.
- **Compatibility:** Apple devices have natively supported HEIC files since 2017, but older Windows PCs, Android devices, and some web browsers may not open them directly without third-party software or conversion.
- **Automatic Conversion:** When you share photos from an iPhone via email, text, or to social media, Apple devices **usually** convert to JPEG automatically to ensure compatibility.

For Windows users, HEIC files can sometimes be frustrating to work with due to a lack of native, out-of-the-box support on older systems.

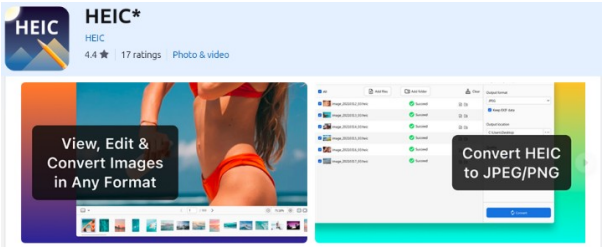
Main HEIC relates issues Windows users encounter:

Key Issues with HEIC on Windows

- **Lack of Native Thumbnail Previews:** Out of the box, File Explorer on many Windows versions will not show image thumbnails for HEIC files, making it hard to browse or find specific photos visually.
- **Inability to Open Directly:** Double-clicking a HEIC file often results in an error or prompts you to open it in an unsupported app, as the default Windows Photo Viewer cannot read the format natively without additional codecs.
- E**xtra Steps Required for Editing:** Popular editing software or web-based tools (like older versions of Photoshop or web upload forms) may reject HEIC files, requiring users to manually convert them to JPEG or PNG first.
- **Codec Paywall/Installation Hurdles:** While newer versions of Windows 10 and Windows 11 can support HEIC **with** Microsoft's official extensions, the required HEIF Image Extensions or HEVC Video Extensions sometimes require a separate download or a small fee from the Microsoft Store.

Quick Workarounds for Windows Users

- **Install Microsoft Apps:** Download the HEIF Image Extensions from the Microsoft Store to enable native viewing. There are a number of Apps to choose from, below is just one that seems to have a reasonable rating.



- **Change iPhone Settings:** You can prevent your iPhone from saving photos as HEIC entirely by going to Settings > Camera > Formats and selecting Most Compatible instead of High Efficiency.
- **Use Online Converters:** Quickly drag and drop HEIC files into free web converters to turn them into JPEGs before transferring them to your PC.

Smart glasses benefit and challenges

Smart glasses have been in the news a lot lately mainly around privacy related concerns, however there are also groups of people where these devices help with their day to day activities. Everyone seems to have their own opinion, in this article we attempt to present information on both sides of the argument.



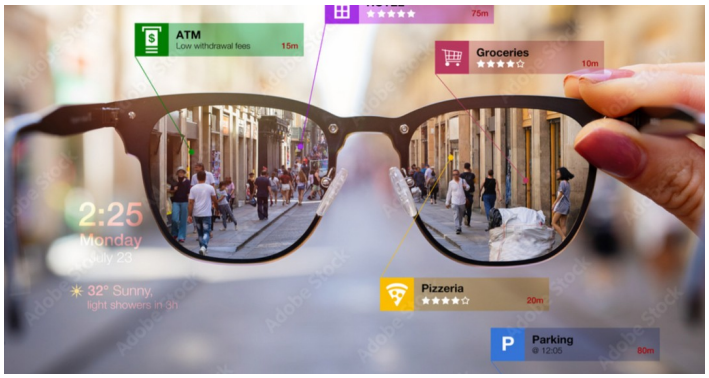
How Smart Glasses help those with disabilities.

Smart glasses are transforming accessibility, serving as a powerful bridge between technology and physical independence. By combining high-resolution cameras, spatial sensors, real-time artificial intelligence, and heads-up or audio displays.

They help people with disabilities, especially those who are blind, have low vision, or experience physical and cognitive conditions by providing hands-free assistance and real-time environment descriptions.

The following are some ways how smart glasses empower people with various types of disabilities:

Vision Loss and Blindness



For individuals who are blind or living with low vision (such as macular degeneration or retinitis pigmentosa), smart glasses act as artificial eyes:

- **Real-Time Scene Description:** AI models analyse what the camera sees and speak descriptions into the user's ear identifying objects, people, hazards (like low-hanging branches), and physical spaces.
- **Reading & Document Scanning:** Tapping the frame allows users to instantly read printed text out loud—including street signs, restaurant menus, product labels, and handwritten letters.
- **Currency and Object Identification:** Glasses can read paper bills, recognise colours, scan barcodes to identify store items, and help locate specific objects like keys or a dropped item.
- **Visual Magnification & AR Contrast:** Devices like eSight or Onyx re-project live video into the wearer’s remaining peripheral field of vision or amplify contrast, enabling individuals with central vision loss or tunnel vision to see clearly again.

Hearing Impairments and Deafness

Smart glasses provide crucial auditory-to-visual conversion for people who are deaf or hard of hearing:

- **Live Closed Captioning:** Microphones capture surrounding conversations and display real-time speech-to-text captions onto the glass lenses.
- **Subtitled Real-World Interaction:** They allow individuals to read face-to-face dialogue without needing sign language interpreters or relying solely on lip reading.
- **Environmental Sound Alerts:** Visual cues or subtle haptic (vibrational) feedback can alert wearers to ambient sounds like a ringing doorbell, an approaching car horn, or an emergency alarm.

Physical & Mobility Disabilities



For individuals with limited hand dexterity, paralysis, or conditions like ALS and cerebral palsy:

- **Hands-Free Control:** Smart glasses are operated via voice commands, micro-head movements, or eye-tracking technology, letting users control their

smartphone, answer calls, or navigate menus without needing their hands.

- **Obstacle & Spatial Mapping:** Sensor arrays map surrounding terrain and alert users using wheelchairs or motorised scooters to upcoming curbs, steps, and uneven surfaces.

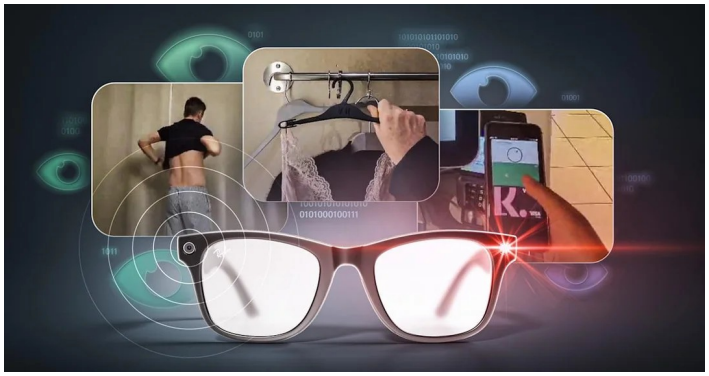
Cognitive & Neurodivergent Support

Smart glasses offer step-by-step guidance for individuals with cognitive conditions, brain injuries, memory loss, or autism:

- **Task Guidance & Routines:** Glasses can display or whisper simple, sequential prompts for daily routines (e.g., how to prepare a meal, take medication, or follow a work procedure).
- **Facial Recognition:** Wearers who struggle with memory or prosopagnosia (face blindness) can receive subtle prompts identifying familiar people, family members, or colleagues.
- **Social and Sensory Assistance:** AI can provide subtle cues during social interactions, helping non-verbal or autistic users interpret non-verbal social cues or tone.

The Privacy debate:

Source: Cyber Shack (Oct) by Scott Hunt



Smart glasses allow the wearer to record video, photo, and audio hands-free with little more than an LED to show it's happening. So there is small wonder, then, that the technology is at the centre of a privacy debate around Australia.

Despite public calls for an outright ban, the federal government isn't currently planning one. Instead, the technology has prompted some state-level and council-level restrictions, retail space bans, and a probe into Privacy Act reform.

Why smart glasses are controversial

High-end smart glasses like Meta Ray-Ban models cost around $500 and up, but the tech has been trickling down in cost. Kmart's Anko version now sells for $89, and sold out rapidly.

The eSafety Commissioner has flagged behaviour by "pick-up artists" using the glasses to film women without their knowledge and post the footage online. This behaviour has led to the term "pervert glasses".

"The harms linked to covert recording are not hypothetical," says the commissioner's report, which points to image-based abuse, cyberbullying, and non-consensual live-streaming as current risks.

What authorities are doing already



Brisbane City Council was one of the first local authorities to deliver policy on the glasses, banning non-consensual filming with any camera device, including smart glasses, at its 21 public pools.

Other councils have introduced similar restrictions at their own facilities, and Attorney-General Michelle Rowland has encouraged councils around Australia to look at where similar policies can be implemented.

Melbourne's Yarra Council, the City of Sydney, and Canterbury-Bankstown have introduced bans at local pools and leisure centres.

What the government proposes

The Attorney-General has written to the Privacy Commissioner asking for smart glasses to be treated as a priority. At the same time, she has released draft reforms to the Privacy Act open for consultation.

The reforms themselves would introduce a "fair and reasonable" test on data collection, a right to erasure from large digital platforms, tightened consent

standards, and limits on trading personal information without permission.

Separately, Finance Minister Katy Gallagher has asked the Australian Public Service Commission whether smart glasses should be prohibited in public sector workplaces altogether.

Greens propose stronger restrictions

The Greens are pushing a 12-month import ban on camera-enabled wearables like Meta and Anko glasses, with an exemption for disability aids.

“These covert wearables are a disturbing technology,” said Greens leader David Shoebridge, who also noted that the party’s bill would make filming, storing, and sharing smart glasses footage without consent a breach of the Privacy Act.

The Greens cite a Monash University study on undisclosed recording and their own polling, which shows that roughly a third of Australians want the devices banned altogether.

The legal gap smart glasses exploit



Currently, Australia’s Privacy Act merely regulates businesses and government agencies, not individuals. A person filming someone else with smart glasses isn’t currently covered by the Act.

State law fills the gap in some cases. In Queensland, for example, recording someone without consent in a location where a reasonable adult would expect privacy is a criminal offence. Outside Queensland, a statutory tort applies for civil cases, allowing anyone to sue over serious invasions of privacy.

Smart glasses’ privacy reform

Public consultation on the reforms ended in the middle of September, and the government is expected to introduce legislation before the end of the year. eSafety has recommended measures like default face blurring without consent, delayed live-streaming, visible recording indicators, and automatic shutoff.

Unfortunately, every recommendation on the list is voluntary for now. Manufacturers have no commercial incentive to limit the main feature these devices are sold for, and until that changes, smart glasses will continue to sell faster than the law can keep up.

CLUB News

General Meeting (01-Dec2026).

Our next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 01 December 2026 at 1:30 PM at the Busselton Senior Citizens Club (BSCC) in the cafeteria area.

Current members are encouraged to attend and enjoy a cuppa and some light refreshments with your colleagues after the meeting.

Silly Season Closure

Can you believe it the silly season is once again coming up fast. The BSCC will be closed from 18-Dec-2026 and reopen on 04-Jan-2027.

Busnet Computer Club will be operating:

- Last day Wednesday 16-Dec-2026
- Reopen Wednesday 06-Jan-2027



Volunteers always welcome



Even if you can only spare a couple of hours a month we are always on the look out for volunteers for reception or technical assistance.

Please reach out to our treasurer Peter Ralph via email treasurer.busnet@gmail.com

Busnet Volunteer Roster

BUSNET COMPUTER CLUB INC								
	2026	ROSTER	November	2026				
DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician	DATE	DAY	Reception & Technician
2/11/26	Monday	Alex Ashton	4/11/26	Wednesday	Peter Ralph	6/11/26	Friday	Trevor Gray
		Peter Quinby			Bill whipp			Bill Whipp
					Tony Hill			Tony Hill
9/11/26	Monday	Maureen King	11/11/26	Wednesday	Heather Maclean	13/11/26	Friday	Jane Buckley
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Alex Ashton			Tony Hill			Tony Hill
16/11/26	Monday	Lois Ralph	18/11/26	Wednesday	Patricia Lee	20/11/26	Friday	Ursula Hillman
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Alex Ashton			Tony Hill			Tony Hill
23/11/26	Monday	Kerry Mclements	25/11/26	Wednesday	Michell Chaplin	27/11/26	Friday	Sheila Higham
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Alex Ashton			Tony Hill			Tony Hill
30/11/26	Monday	Peter Ralph	2/12/26	Wednesday	Heather Maclean	4/12/26	Friday	Trevor Gray
		Peter Quinby			Bill Whipp			Bill Whipp
		Alex Ashton			Tony Hill			Tony Hill
	Any changes to the Roster contact Peter on 0429 185 066 OR email treasurer.busnet@gmail.com							
	Busnet Opening Times : Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM Closed Public Holidays							

November Trivia

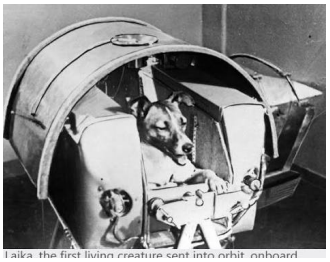


29 November 1972: Atari announces Pong Game, an early video game popular both at home and at video arcades. Despite simplistic graphics, Pong started a craze. Atari, founded by Nolan Bushnell, sold video games as well as computers on which to play the games.



06 November 1980: Microsoft signs contract with IBM to create an operating system for the new IBM PC. The PC ignited the personal computer market, making home computers popular among more than just hobbyists. Microsoft co-founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen developed the Microsoft Disk Operating System, commonly known as MS-DOS, using existing software from a Seattle company as a foundation.

09 November 2004: Firefox 1.0 introduced, Firefox was Mozilla's next generation browser and included such features as tabbed browsing and popup blocking. Mozilla Firefox became a popular alternative for Microsoft Internet Explorer users who sought alternatives that could prevent spyware as well as other Firefox features.



03 November 1957: The Soviet Union launched Sputnik 2 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, carrying a stray Moscow dog named Laika, who became the first living creature to orbit Earth. Due to a thermal control system failure, cabin temperatures exceeded 40°C (104°F), and Laika died from heat exhaustion and panic within hours of launch. The spacecraft orbited Earth for 162 days (roughly 2,570 orbits) before re-entering the atmosphere and burning up on April 14, 1958.

Coffee Break

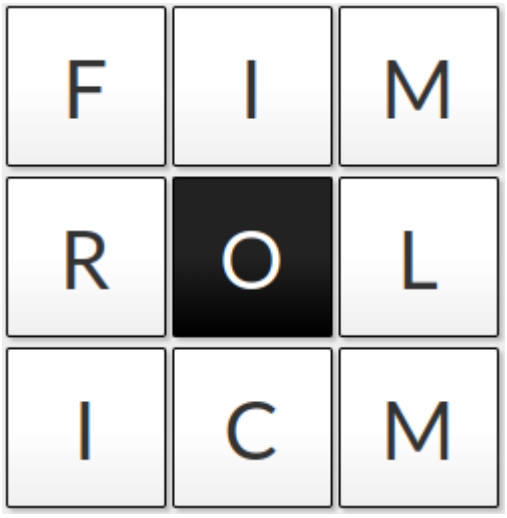
SUDOKU

9				2	6			3
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1	7				2	6	8	
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4	9		2	8		3		
2			6	1				9

Fill the blank squares with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, each column and each smaller 3 x 3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9.

WORD MAKER

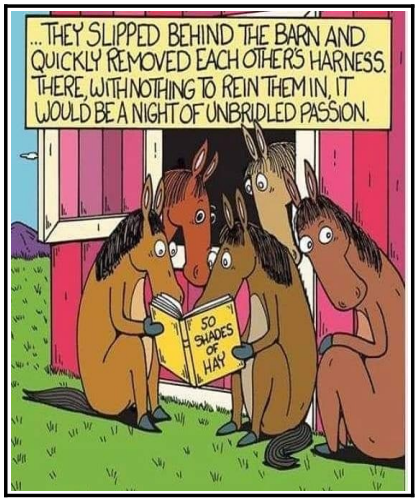
How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters below, with each work containing the letter in the centre? Don't include proper names or plurals.



October 2026 Answer:
ghat, goth, hail, hair, halm, halo, halt, harl, harm, hart, hilt, hoar, holm, holt, hora, lath, moth, oath, rath, tahr, thar, garth, girth, grith, horal, ihram, lathi, light, loath, might, mirth, ogham, right, thiol, alight, aright, harlot, mohair, righto, thoria, alright, ALGORITHM, LOGARITHM









BROWSER NO 236

NOVEMBER 2026

BUSNET COMPUTER CLUB INC



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LIONS INTERNATIONAL

Busselton SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

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