

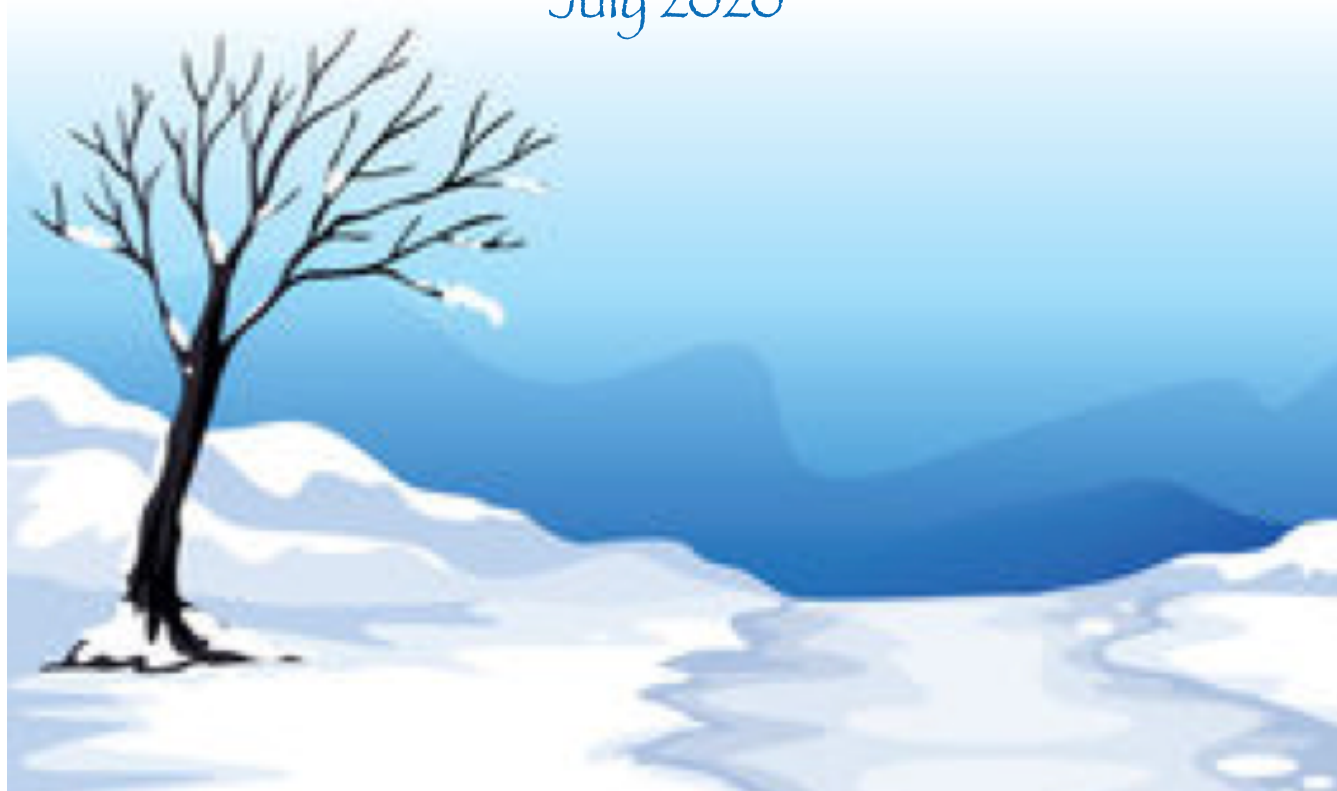
# The Southern Highlands Computer Users Group Inc.

Assisting all members to explore and enjoy the benefits of Information Technology.

Monthly Newsletter

## " Keyword

July 2020



### 2020 Committee

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Please note: We are not computer professionals and our expertise is limited.

## Scott Hall

Our weekly meeting place for activities for PC and Apple users.



HarbisonCare, 2 Charlotte St, Burradoo, 2576, NSW.

[www.shcug.org.au](http://www.shcug.org.au)

### How to join SHCUG.

Visit our Education Centre and drop in at one of our weekly activities to collect an application form. Payment can be made in cash or by cheque and handed to a tutor. Fees are \$40 single or \$60 couple. Alternatively use EFTPOS transaction IMB Bank: BSB number is: 641 800 and the account number is: 200456000, or send the application form and cheque, made out to SHCUG, to following address: The Treasurer, SHCUG, c/- HarbisonCare, 6/2 Charlotte St, Burradoo, NSW, 2576.

### Renewing memberships.

Renewal forms are sent out each year in early December to all current members by email, with all the relevant information needed to renew membership for the upcoming year.

Correspondence: Letters to the committee can be addressed to [shcugcontact@gmail.com](mailto:shcugcontact@gmail.com)

### Weekly activities held in Scott Hall, all members welcome.

Monday all day "Members Helping Members" sessions.

### Contact

J & M Oprey 4862-1584

### Upcoming events.

Our weekly help sessions are now conducted in Scott Hall. Due to social distancing rules, members must book a place into one of our time slots. These are as follows; 10 am to 12 noon, 12 noon to 2 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm. Email your preferred time slot to [shcugcontact@gmail.com](mailto:shcugcontact@gmail.com)

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By your committee

By Brian Graham

By Brian Graham

By Martina Oprey

By Martina Oprey

## From your committee

On Monday 6 July we had our first full day in Scott Hall. John and Martina arrived early to set up the two Apple computers and the coffee, tea and biscuits in the kitchen. The heater thankfully was still in the hall to keep us warm as the air conditioner has not been fixed yet. Nine people had booked in for the first session, five for the middle one and another five dropped by for the last session. It all went better than expected. Joseph was kept quite busy during the day. We also welcomed a new member, Patricia Day.

Unit 56 is now completely empty. John and Martina shifted the last load to their place on 30 June in order to keep to the deadline given by HarbisonCare. Over the next few weeks the remaining items will be sorted and what has no value will be taken to the recycle centre. There are still two good office chairs if someone is interested and also a foldable table, all in good condition.

A cupboard was purchased as SHCUG was given permission to put this in the hall for things needed every Monday. A lock was also fitted to it, to keep our equipment safe. All SHCUG now processes fits in the cupboard besides two Apple computers and an iPad packed away in boxes until required. It will take time to become used to this but we can still operate.

Brian Graham did send a few articles which Window users might find off interest. For Apple users there is an article about Pages and the new features that came with the latest update.

From your committee.

## **Microsoft to resume optional Windows 10 updates in July.      By Brian Graham**

Back in March, Microsoft temporarily suspended the delivery of optional updates to Windows 10 users to help out during the pandemic. But this week the firm revealed that it will resume delivery of these updates starting in July. It's also changing the way it identifies optional updates.

“Based on feedback and the ongoing stabilisation of business continuity, we will presume optional releases in July of 2020 for Windows 10 version 1809 and later, to once again provide you with the ability to test planned non-security fixes targeted for next month's Update Tuesday release,” Microsoft's Chris Morrissey writes. “We are instituting a few changes to simplify the update process and help you continue to stay current with Windows 10.”

Microsoft now refers to its optional, non-security updates as “C” and “D” releases, as opposed to Patch Tuesday updates, which arrive in the second week of each month and referred to as “B” releases. Based on feedback, Microsoft is changing this naming schema. Now, these “C” and “D” releases will be referred to as “Preview” releases “for clarity” (which is a hilarious term when you consider how poorly Microsoft typically communicates). Users will see the naming change reflected in the release title on the Windows Update page in Settings. So an update that might normally have been identified as “2020-07 Cumulative Update for Windows 10 version 2004 for x86-based Systems (KB1234567)” will now be named as “2020-07 Cumulative Update Preview for Windows 10 version 2004 for x86-based System (KB1234567).”

Also, these Preview updates will now be delivered in the “C” ( or third) week of each month, though security updates will of course still be delivered whenever needed.

## **Edge Memory Usage Improvements are Coming to Chrome Too**

Yesterday, Microsoft revealed that the new Edge uses up to 27 percent less RAM when running on Windows 10 version 2004. But the underlying improvement comes from Windows 10, not the browser. And it looks like Chrome users will soon benefit from this as well.

“With Windows 10 [version 2004], Microsoft Edge has leveraged the Windows segment heap memory improvements now available for Win32 applications to manage memory more efficiently,” Microsoft's Kim Denny [explains](#). “Early internal testing results of devices on [Windows 10 version 2004] are showing a memory usage reduction of up to 27 percent when browsing with Microsoft Edge. Individual device performance will vary based upon configuration and usage, but the lower memory usage is expected to create a better experience

As Chrome users well know, high memory/resource usage is the number two issue with the browser, right behind the fact that it is inherently designed to be a privacy-leaking sieve designed to appease advertisers. But this problem, at least, will soon be partially solved, albeit only for those users running the browser on Windows 10 version 2004 or newer.

“Adding a SegmentHeap entry to the chrome.exe manifest will tell recent-enough versions of Windows (20-04 and beyond) to opt chrome.exe into using the segment heap instead of the legacy heap,” a Google Chromium commit [says](#), in reference to the technical change that now benefits Microsoft Edge. “Details are in the bug but it appears that the default Windows heap is tuned for server workloads where throughput is what matters most, and Chromium (especially due to its multi-process architecture) also has to care about memory footprint. Experiments with per-machine opting-in to the segment heap for chrome.exe suggests that this could save hundreds of MB in the browser and Network Service utility processes, among others, on some machines. Actual results will vary widely, with the greatest savings coming on many-core machines.”

So, yes, this should benefit any Chromium-based browser, I believe. Either way, don't use Chrome. You should be using any other browser instead, and my recommendation is Microsoft Edge.



## Microsoft Consolidates Skype on Windows.

By Brian Graham

Back in March Microsoft was getting ready to kill off Skype for Windows 10. This week, it's finally happening.

“Starting in June 2020, Skype for Windows 10 and Skype for Desktop are becoming one so we can provide a consistent experience,” a Skype support document [notes](#). “This lets us give the newest updates and improvements regardless of where you get Skype, from the Microsoft Store or from skype.com.”

What's odd is that both apps will still be available and will offer consistent feature sets. This means that the “Store app,” i.e. Skype for Windows 10, has been reimplemented as an Electron app, just like the desktop version. (Previously, it was a React Native app, which is a type of UWP app on Windows 10.)

Thanks to this shift, Skype for Windows 10 is temporarily losing two features: Share integration and Outlook contact synchronisation. But Microsoft notes that the latest versions of Skype for Windows 10 (Store) and Skype (desktop) both have the following new features:

- Updated close options so you can quit Skype or stop it from starting automatically
- Improved Tray icon, informing you about new messages and presence status
- Share files directly from your File Explorer
- 9 videos in a video call
- Background Replacement
- Moderated Chats
- Meet Now Improvements
- Improved Call Controls

Confused? Welcome to the club. I prefer(ed) Skype for Windows, just as I prefer(ed) OneNote for Windows, over the desktop alternatives. But with UWP no longer the future, Microsoft is apparently scaling back its in-house efforts, which I guess makes sense. Ah well.



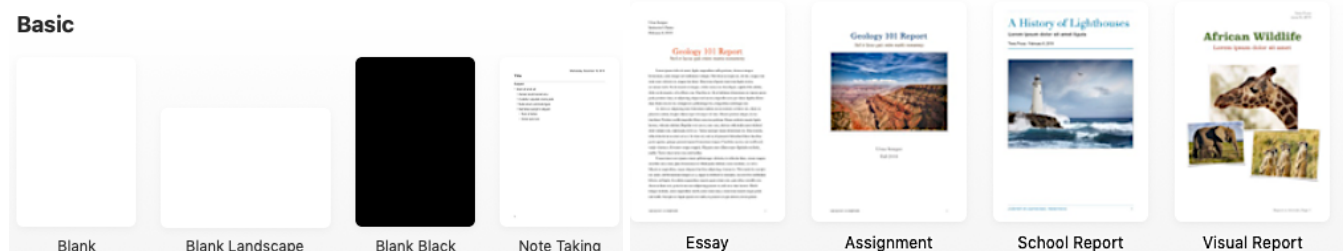
Occasionally I come across a few Apple users who are not yet familiar with the free word processing and page layout program *Pages* that is preinstalled on all Apple desktop computers and iPads. It is Apple's equivalent of Microsoft Word and Pages does everything Word can do.

You can use Pages to create just simple documents such as reports and letters. These documents have a *body text* area where you type. The text flows from one page to the next, with new pages automatically added as you need them. When you open a new document or a template, you can just start typing. If you want to add text that is separated from the main body text, you can add a text box for this. You can also add images, graphs, shapes and other objects.

Besides simple word processing Page also can do *page layout* which is a bit more complicated. Used mainly for the creation of more imaginary designs, such as posters, newsletters and even books. A page layout document is like a blank canvas to which you add text boxes, images and other objects and arrange these objects whichever way you like best. When you open a page layout document or template, you will find no body text area: to add text you need to add a text box and type in it. You can drag the text box by its handles to fit the page or just to hold a few sentences. You can also set the height and width of a text box than contain it so that it does not move. You can also *lock and unlock* a complete page and/or individual text boxes on a page.

To create a document you must choose a basic or blank document or a template. See picture below.

### Reports



When you have chosen your document and it has opened on your screen you must decide whether you want to stay in the *basic word processing mode* or want to convert to *page layout*. To convert to page layout you go to *File* then scroll down to *convert to page layout and click*. Now your document is clear of any formatting.

Pages is also a free app on iPads and iPhones. The interface is quite different and I have found that it takes a bit of learning to use it. People that work only with an iPad have shown that you can be just as creative with Pages on the iPad then on a computer. Pages on the iPad supports the Apple pencil also.

Since its introduction in 2013 the new Pages version has seen regular updates and new features (and sometimes old ones) added to give it more capabilities. The latest update makes it possible to play YouTube and Vimeo videos right in your documents. Easily add captions and titles to images, videos, shapes and other objects and will import an iBook Author book to work on in Pages.

Members with Apple devices who want to learn more about the Pages program can come and see me at Scott Hall on any Monday and nominate a time slot to get some lessons. Members who haven't got a laptop to bring along can have the use of SHCUG's newest Apple desktop that has the latest version of Pages installed.

Martina Oprey





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## Wanted

Have you got an article that you wish to publish in Keyword.

Or you might have a suggestion for an article.

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