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Buderim Meeting Friday 12.9.2025 Time - 12 pm to 3 pm

100 Buderim Pines Drive, Goodlife Centre Buderim

Admission - \$4

Nevil Eyre Android Phones & Tablets & Home automation

Tutorial Room Bill Maxwell

1. Q&A
2. New Program - PDF Toolbox.
3. Windows 11 Settings you should change NOW!

Discussion on iPad and iPhone functions.

Limited help with basic Apple Mac computers.

Sat. 13.9.2025

8.30 to 11.30 am

Meridan Plains

70 Springs Dr. QLD 4551

[here](#)

Hands on Help - Windows, Linux and Chromebooks

Please wear your Name Tag.

Windows Security Is Great

Despite the fact that it is completely free, Microsoft Defender Antivirus is actually fantastic.

It provides both real-time protection, which scans downloads and apps as you open them, or they run for malware, and provides the ability to run a traditional virus scan whenever you want.

When you look at data from AV-Test that analyzes how effectively it detects and blocks viruses compared to competitors, it is usually at least on par, and regularly nudges them out to claim top place.

Critically, the performance impact on most PCs is pretty negligible. I quickly shut it off and played a few games, Windows Security also makes all the usual important settings, like setting up exclusions and your preferred default actions if malware is detected, quite easy.

If you want to run a scan, all you need to do is head to Virus & Threat Protection and hit "Scan."

If you want more control, you can customize what files, folders, and drives are included in the scan, and how thoroughly it'll go through files by clicking "Scan options."

Though you won't usually need it, it also provides the ability to run a malware scan at boot time,

which can be invaluable if you find you have a particularly difficult piece of malware, like a rootkit, on your PC.

Of course, there are some times where third-party antivirus can be helpful.

If you need something with more granular control, or if you just dislike the interface for Windows Security, then some of the third-party options might appeal to you more. Additionally, while Windows Firewall is perfectly functional, interacting with it feels like fighting with a Windows XP computer—clunky. Many third-party antivirus solutions also include packages that provide a more helpful, intuitive interface for Windows' integrated firewall.

Additionally, some antimalware software functions well just as an extra scanner if you want "another set of eyes" to check your PC after an infection. Malwarebytes has been my go-to option for a second opinion for years, and it is completely free to use that way.

DuckDuckGo is now [expanding its paid subscription](#) with access to several of the most advanced AI models on the market.

Subscribers can now access OpenAI's GPT-4o and GPT-5, Anthropic's Claude Sonnet 4, and Meta's Llama Maverick via the Duck.ai service.

To protect privacy, Duck.ai hides the user's IP address from the AI model providers, and chat logs are saved locally and

aren't used to train the AI models. In addition, there's a special "Fire Button" that lets users instantly delete previous conversations and chat histories.

The price of the subscription remains unchanged at \$9.99/month or \$99/year. In addition to the new AI features,

the subscription also includes a VPN service, tools to remove personal information from the web, and identity theft assistance.

The free (basic) version of Duck.ai remains unaffected and can still be used without logging in or paying.

When it comes to backups, it's easy to think bigger is better—but I've started going smaller.

I'm done with bulky spinning disks and rarely even reach for an external SSD. I'm now all about flash drives.

USB-C devices just work. Drives with a traditional USB-A cable merely need a USB-C hub to work as expected.

By contrast, a flash drive merely sticks out the bottom. Files can transfer while I'm writing, scrolling through an ebook, or doing whatever else.

The beauty of a flash drive is that it is a self-contained unit.

This is because a flash drive doesn't need a separate USB-C cable the way external SSDs and hard drives do.

This isn't even a matter of making sure I have everything I need when I leave the house. .

Flash drives have a few weaknesses compared to other forms of external storage. One of those is transfer speeds.

Most external SSDs will read and write files much faster than most flash drives.

Newer flash drives are hitting store shelves with speeds possibly exceeding those of the external SSD you might have bought just last year.

That's a huge leap from the speeds on the SanDisk Luxe drives I'm currently using.

That's even a step up from the Samsung and SanDisk SSDs I bought a few years back.

That said, if you're considering carrying around sensitive data, it's worth refreshing up on how to encrypt your USB drive.

LiFePO4 Is Far Less Likely to Catch Fire

Batteries are ways of storing high amounts of energy in a small amount of space. While they're not as easy to ignite as a tank of gas,

they do still come with the risk of fire. When lithium-ion batteries catch fire or explode, it's usually the result of short-circuiting, which can happen for various reasons.

When mishaps happen, lithium-ion batteries can experience what's known as thermal runaway. This leads to a fire that is self-generating until the battery fully discharges.

This is why when some electric cars catch fire, firefighters focus on containing rather than extinguishing the fire.

LiFePO₄ batteries are many orders of magnitude safer than other types of lithium-ion batteries. Not only are they unlikely to catch fire, but they release so much less energy that even if they're punctured, they're more likely to release smoke than flames.

As mentioned, most lithium-ion batteries don't like to be fully charged. While you can charge batteries to 100%, most prefer to be at 80% or lower (but not too low—

they don't like to sit around at under 20%, either). This means that if you buy a 1024Wh portable power station with lithium-ion batteries, it's best stored with a capacity of 819Wh. If the power goes out unexpectedly, you don't actually have access to as much power as you might have expected when buying the unit.

A LiFePO₄ battery can be stored at 100% just fine. This is because the battery is constructed out of different materials that respond differently when holding that many electrons.

LiFePO₄, safety and longevity have largely been addressed.

That's not to say these batteries are perfect. If nothing else, they're expensive, which is reason enough to keep an eye on

other emerging battery chemistries like sodium-ion. Yet until then, LiFePO₄ is the way to go.

Regularly Back Up Data for Peace of Mind

Aussies are being warned about a [new email scam](#) doing the rounds, which claims to be sent by an online security software company.

If you feel you have fallen for a scam, contact IDCARE, a free government-funded service which will work with you to develop a

specific response plan to your situation, and support you through the process.

<https://www.idcare.org/>

1. Phishing Emails: In a phishing scam, the attacker will send their target a message claiming to be an official, trusted party.

This kind of urgent communication works well in pressuring the recipient to comply with the senders request.

2. Remote Desktop Protocol. Simple: **Don't allow Remote Connections.**

3. Flash Drives. **Don't allow strange Flash Drives to be used on your PC..**

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