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Buderim Meeting Friday 17.10.2025 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. Windows 10 End Of Support is here
3. Watermark Remover
4. Libre Office

Discussion on iPad and iPhone functions.
Limited help with basic Apple Mac computers.

Sat. 18.10.2025

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.

The Illusion of Permanence

Everything is relative, and compared to vinyl records and cassette tapes, CDs are *much* more durable.

I remember demos from the early days when someone would drill a 2mm hole through a CD, and it would still play.

Of course, this was a bit of a trick, since the CD would still audibly skip, but these discs were marketed as being tough and long-lived.

In theory, they absolutely are long-lived. A factory-pressed CD (not a writable disc) should last longer than the average human lifespan, assuming it's kept under ideal conditions. However, we don't live in ideal conditions, so you can't assume your

CDs will just be around for the next 100 years without any input from you!

To understand where the weaknesses in these optical discs lie, we need to take a second and explain how they work.

Each disc consists of layers: a clear polycarbonate substrate, a thin reflective layer (usually aluminum or gold), and a protective lacquer coating.

The data is stored as a series of microscopic "pits" and "lands" that a laser reads by measuring how light

reflects off those surfaces. The pits and lands represent binary code.

Recordable discs swap out the metal layer for a special dye that changes state with the application of heat from a laser.

These discs can last many years, but are orders of magnitude less stable than factory-pressed discs.

The biggest cause of disc errors is scratches. If the outer layer is scratched, that can prevent the laser from reading the data in the metal layer.

Special disc buffing tools can sometimes remove these scratches, but there's only so much surface you can remove before the CD or DVD is destroyed.

If a scratch is deep enough to hit the metal layer where the data actually lives, that data is destroyed.

However, even if you keep your discs completely scratch-free, there are other maladies that can affect them.

Disc rot is the one you're most likely to hear about. This happens when the metal layer of the disc slowly oxidizes, rendering the surface unreadable by the laser. This isn't supposed to happen, because the disc is sealed in plastic and lacquer.

However, damage to the disc, such as chipped edges, can expose the metal layer to the outside atmosphere.

In some cases, this could be thanks to a defect in the manufacturing process, but the issue would only become apparent years later.

The plastic layers can also delaminate or cloud up as adhesives break down. Heat, humidity, and UV exposure speed up the process.

Writable discs have a different issue, where the dye simply degrades with age.

It can fade, shift color, or chemically react with the bonding agents holding the disc together.

Predicting how long physical media will last is hard for many reasons. For one thing, not enough time has actually passed to know

whether a disc that claims a 100 or even 1000-year lifespan will live up to it.

Conveniently, everyone involved in making that claim will be pushing up daisies by the time the expiration date rolls by.

What we can observe is that lifespan varies from disc to disc, and so there are discs that are perfectly fine after 40+ years, and some that died in less than 10.

Anecdotally, many of my parents' CDs from the '90s and late '80s are still fine, and disc attrition there has been largely down to accidents or poor handling.

I've burned hundreds, if not thousands, of writable CDs and DVDs in my life, and assuming they survived the first few months, they've all been thrown away because I didn't need them anymore, not because they failed.

High heat and humidity are the main killers of basically all physical media, so if you handle your discs properly and store them in a cool, dry place, chances are they'll outlast your need for them, if not outlast you.

Saving Your Data Before It's Too Late

That said, in reality, I think you should check your discs for signs of oxidation or discoloration at least once a year.

The good news is that, unlike vinyl records and cassettes, it's simple and convenient to make backups of your optical media with zero loss of quality.

Hard drive storage is cheap these days, and investing in, for example, a **large external drive**,

will let you make backups of your discs in case something goes wrong with them.

If you use the backups to consume your content, it also reduces the wear on your physical media, so that's a win-win in my book.

Qantas is one of a number of companies globally that has had data released by cyber criminals following a cyber incident in early July,

where customer data was stolen via a third party platform. With the help of specialist cyber security experts, we are investigating what data was part of the release.

Through the NSW Supreme Court, we have an ongoing injunction in place to prevent the stolen data being accessed,

viewed, released, used, transmitted or published by anyone, including third parties.

We have also put in place additional security measures, increased training across our teams and strengthened system monitoring and detection since the incident occurred.

In July Qantas proactively advised all impacted customers of the types of their personal data that was contained in the impacted system and this has not changed.

We will continue to share updates on qantas.com and through our 24/7 support line on 1800 971 541 or +61 2 8028 0534

where customers have ongoing access to specialist identity protection services.

Qantas continues to work closely with Australian Government agencies, including the Australian Cyber Security Centre and the Australian Federal Police.

We recommend that customers continue to remain vigilant to any misuse of their personal information:

- **Remain alert**, especially with email, text messages or telephone calls, particularly where the sender or caller purports to be from Qantas.
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- Always independently verify the identity of the caller by contacting them on a number available through official channels;
- Where available, use two-step authentication – such as an authentication application – for personal email accounts and other online accounts;
- Stay informed on the latest threats by visiting the [Australian Cyber Security Centre](#) and the National Anti-Scam Centre's [Scamwatch](#) webpage;

- Visit [IDCARE's Learning Centre](#) and the [Office of the Australian Information Commissioner](#) website for
- further information and resources on protecting personal information; and
- Do not provide your online account passwords, or any personal or financial information.
- Qantas will never contact customers requesting passwords, booking reference details or sensitive login information.

Customers who believe they have been targeted by scammers should report it to Scamwatch.

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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