INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

OPEN's monthly meeting for November will be held on Wednesday the 5th at 1:00 pm

New members of the club are invited to attend as we are always looking for new ideas and feedback on how the club is performing.

There won't be a Launceston Computer Group (LCG) meeting in November. The next LCG meeting will be at 7:15 pm on Wednesday December 3rd.

LCG Committee 2014/15

President: Janet Headlam

Vice President: Ivan Turmine

Secretary: Iris Meek

Treasurer: Dennis Murray

Ass. Treasurer: Laraine Rist

PC Librarian: Vacant

Mac Librarian: Vacant

Newstream Editor: Ron Baker

<mailto:editor@lcg.org.au>

Public Officer: Judy Hall

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen

<mailto:webmaster@lcg.org.au>

Auditor: Ron Baker

Publicity Officer: Iris Meek

"V.I.C.T.O.R." Co-Ordinator: Robert Tierney

LCG Committee: Glenn Gilpin, Reinhard von Samorzewski,Eleanor Horder, Bruce Dineen

OPEN Committee 2014/15

O.P.E.N. Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney.
Responsible for the smooth running of the Centre on a daily basis

O.P.E.N. Chairperson: Laraine Rist.
Chair all meetings of OPEN and ensure that they run smoothly

O.P.E.N. Vice Chairperson: Robert Tierney.
Chair meeting when the Chairperson is unavailable.

O.P.E.N. Minute Secretary: Heather Loffel.
Handles all incoming and outgoing communications
Responsible for the documentation and distribution of all meeting minutes

Treasurer: Dennis Murray.
Responsible for all monies and banking

Assistant Treasurer: Laraine Rist.
Help the Treasurer where necessary.

Newsletter Editor: Dennis Murray.

Publicity Officer: Iris Meek.
Responsible for all advertising

Membership Co-ordinator: Eleanor Horder.
Keep Membership database up to date.

Co-ordinator O-learn: Eleanor Horder

Tutor Co-ordinator: Laraine Rist, Robert Tierney & Dennis Murray.
Keep regular contact with Tutors to bring ideas and concerns to meetings

Maintenance Co-ordinators: Dennis Murray.
Responsible for the maintenance and repairs to all computer equipment

"V.I.C.T.O.R." Co-ordinator: Robert Tierney.

Webmaster/Content: Tom Olsen. <mailto:webmaster@lcg.org.au>

OPEN Committee: Janet Headlam, Karia Wicks, Sandra Viney, Kay Dawson.

OPEN NEWSLETTER — November 2014

DIFFERENT DEVICES …
BUT A SIMILAR STORY

Although I make no secret of the fact that my computing interests are focused almost entirely on Windows-based systems there are occasions when I receive requests to help members with Android or iPad queries.

"How do I connect my tablet to the OPEN wireless network?", "How do I set up my smart-phone to be a wireless hotspot?", and perhaps the most frequent, "How do I transfer photos from my portable device?"

Though the techniques and the settings will differ from device to device my capacity to help with these tasks often boils down to understanding the basics of networking and file-systems.

Transferring photos from a smart-phone to a PC or laptop will usually require the two devices to be able to communicate with one another either by a physical connection or some sort of 'wireless' transmission.

In a recent exercise we were able to physically connect an Android smart-phone to a laptop using a micro-USB to standard USB connection but initially we were unable to see the desired photos. Why? Because we first needed to install 'driver' software to enable the two devices to communicate. **Fortunately that software was included in a folder that we could see on the smart-phone.**

Having installed the required software we could then see the folder structure of the smart-phone on our PC and begin the search for the elusive photos. More often than not there will be a DCIM folder (Digital Camera IMages) that contains the photos but in the this instance the member concerned was adamant that there were more photos 'somewhere' on the smart-phone.

I then employed the old Windows trick known as a **wild-card search -** typing in '***.jpg**' in the Windows Explorer Search box found every JPEG image on the smart-phone irrespective of which folder it was located in. ***Continued>***

DIFFERENT DEVICES ... BUT A SIMILAR STORY

And once the images were found they could then be copied to a folder on the PC or laptop.

Another 'physical' method of moving photos from a smart-phone to a PC is to use a micro-SD card as an additional storage area for your smart-phone. Firstly you need to change the Settings for your phone's camera so that all pictures taken are directed to the microSD card and not to Internal Storage.

It should be then a simple matter to remove the card from the phone and insert it into a card-reader slot on a PC. **But be careful** as the microSD cards are very small and could be easily lost when ejected from your portable device.

The most common form of 'wireless' communication between portable devices and computers is Bluetooth. For transfers to be made both devices need to have Bluetooth capability and Bluetooth needs to be ON in the Settings.

When first establishing a Bluetooth link each device will display a validation code that needs to be 'accepted' before the devices can communicate with each other.

From there it should be a fairly straight-forward process to 'send via Bluetooth' from a portable device to a computer. (*However there may be instances when it doesn't work!*)

If a computer does not have Bluetooth as a standard feature you can purchase a small USB Bluetooth adapter for around $25.00.   ***Dennis***

VENUE TELEPHONE NUMBER

The club telephone is available during class hours**.**

***** 6343 4928 *****

Members and tutors can be contacted at the

clubrooms **during class hours** by telephoning the number shown above.

Monday to Friday 10am – 3pm

Tuesday evenings 7pm—9 pm

VICTOR PHONE NUMBER 0408 174 235

Contact the Coordinator Rob Tierney for

assistance with computer problems at home

(Bookings are subject to availability of tutors.)

BOOBY-TRAPPED SOFTWARE

It would be nice if I get though just one newsletter without having to **grizzle and grumble** about garbage programs being installed on club computers.

Time and time I have tried to advise tutors and members of the types of traps that can be encountered when downloading software from the Internet but it seems I am wasting my time and my breath.

There is no point in finding out about a booby trap after you have been 'blown up' by it. You need to read and heed the advice given through this newsletter, and you need to be vigilant when installing software.

I'll hazard a guess that the person/persons who installed a video-downloading program on a club computer didn't intend to install the other five (5) annoying programs that piggy-backed their way on to the computer at the same time. Lesson? **You need to read the installation instructions carefully** and un-tick any pre-selected additional software options that are listed.

Please spare a thought for those of us who have to spend several hours of our own time removing obstinate programs and running malware checks.   ***Dennis***

PORTABLE DEVICES TRICKS AND TIPS

If you're using your SIM card to connect to the Internet or you're using an 'app' that doesn't require an Internet connection, **turning off Wi-Fi can preserve your battery life.**

The device shown in the pictures below is a dual USB flash-drive.

It has connections at each end with sliding covers to help protect them from damage. Picture 1 shows the standard USB connection, while on the other end (Picture 2) is a micro-USB connection that enables it to connect to a tablet or smart-phone.

This could be a very easy way to move files from your portable device to a computer or vice-versa.

Picture 1

Picture 2

The 16-Gigabyte version costs around $18, while the 32-GB version costs around $30.

NOTE You may need to install an app to enable these USB drives to be recognised by your tablet or phone.

OPEN NEWSLETTER – November 2014

POWERPOINT SESSIONS

There will be two (2) PowerPoint sessions in November, continuing the new series that Robert Tierney started in late October.

Wednesday November 5th, 2014

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

And

Wednesday November 19th, 2014

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

PowerPoint is a handy tool for doing instructional presentations and for organising your photos into a continuous slideshow that can be used to document a trip or major event in your life.

Please note that a minimum of five (5) students will be required for this course to proceed.

ANDROID TRAINING SESSION

Wednesday, November 19th

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Bruce Dineen will be back on deck this month for another Android information and instructional session.

This will be the last Android session for 2014.

Bruce usually sends out an email to regular session attendees to advise what 'apps' will covered and what you may need to download prior to November 19th.

New members who are not yet on Bruce's mailing list can contact one of the senior tutors at the club to arrange a copy of the information.

LEVEL 2 & 3 GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8

Wednesday November 12

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

ADVANCED GRAPHICS

With Paint Shop Pro XI

Beginners

Wednesday November 26

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

FAMILY HISTORY 2014

Wednesday November 12

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Wednesday November 26

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

New information is being added to our resources on an on-going basis to help you trace your family's origins. Contact the club for more information.

Classes limited to 8 people.

Judy Hall will be back 'on deck' with regular tutors Margaret G and Sandra V for these informative sessions.

BEAT THE EMAIL ATTACHMENTS LIMIT with POWERPOINT

Most Internet Service Providers (ISPs) impose a limit of 10 files when sending photo attachments with e-mails. But you can send more than 10 if you insert them into a PowerPoint slide show. You don't have to have fancy backgrounds etc.—just the photos! Make sure that the 'PP' file isn't larger than 10 Megabytes and that the recipient can open PowerPoint documents.

OPEN Session Times

At Studioworks, 1 Pipeworks Rd, L'ton

Standard Sessions $6.00

[Some special tutorial materials may incur additional charges]

Monday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	**Basics and Beyond**
	3:30 pm — 5:30 pm	**Beginners Class**
Tuesday	10 am –12	O-Learn & Beginners [all day]
	1 pm – 3 pm	**Mac [all day]**
	7 pm—9 pm	Basics (Night Class)
Wednesday		Special sessions or Meetings
		As for mornings (see rosters)
Thursday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	General & Beginners
Friday	10 am –12	General & Beginners
	1 pm – 3 pm	Beginners Class

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Please register on the sheets – numbers may be limited

Date			
November 5	10 am—12 noon	Microsoft PowerPoint	Robert Tierney will conduct the second session of the course on how use Microsoft's presentation program.
	1 pm onwards	**OPEN Monthly Meeting**	**Presentation of Financial Reports and General Business.**
		NO LCG Meeting this month	
November 12	10 am—12 noon	Level 2 and 3 Graphics Class	Graphics using Paint Shop Pro 7 and 8
	1 pm—3.00 pm	**Family History**	**Judy, Margaret G and the team will help you trace your ancestors.**
November 19	10 am—12 noon	Microsoft PowerPoint	Robert Tierney will conduct the third session of the current PowerPoint course.
	1 pm—3.00 pm		**Bruce Dineen returns for another of his informative sessions on Android tablets and smart-phones**
November 26	10 am—12 noon	Family History	Use our extensive range of resources or use Ancestry.com on-line to research your Family History.
	1 pm—3.00 pm	**Advanced Graphics PSP XI**	**This course enable users at all levels to learn Graphics skills.**
December 1	Subscriptions due		Annual subscriptions remain at $15 per annum for 'singles' and $20 per annum for couples.
December 19	**Christmas Lunch 12 noon onwards**	Please note the change of venue	The Christmas Lunch will be held at the re-opened Sunny Hill hotel at Ravenswood - $25 for a buffet-style meal.

SENIORS WEEK REPORT

This year's Seniors Week was one of the most successful in recent times with a total of 75 attendees for the 5 special afternoon sessions, with many being first-time visitors.

We have gained new members in the area of iPads and MAC computers and increased interest in Family History classes.

Thanks to the tutors who presented the special sessions and to those club members who volunteered catering and 'meet and greet' support for the week.

It takes about 6 months from initial planning to the actual event so it is very pleasing from a personal point of view to see so many visitors and members attend, and go away with appositive view of OPEN.

Robert Tierney, Coordinator

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Although it was originally planned to have our Christmas Lunch at last year's venue we have heard recently that one of our past venues has re-opened.

So this year's lunch will be held at the **Sunny Hills complex in Ravenswood on Friday, December 19th at 12:00 noon.**

Although there will be a little more travel involved I think most of you who attend will find that the on-site parking will make life somewhat easier.

The cost will be $25 per person for a buffet-style meal with Christmas trimmings.

Registration sheets will be available at the clubrooms around mid-November, and bookings will close on December 10th.

Rob

OPEN NEWSLETTER – November 2014

WINDOWS 10 PREVIEW

In the October newsletter I mentioned that Windows 8 was celebrating (?) it's 'second birthday'. With the 'Modern' or tile-style interface not being well-accepted by the wider computer-using population Microsoft appears to have learned some lessons by listening to what users have been saying.

Officially called 'Build 9841' the **Windows 10 Technical Preview** brings back the traditional Start Menu—although it does have a smaller version of the tiled 'Modern' screen tacked on to its right-hand side. (*see picture at right*)

So 'modern' applications such as Weather and the Windows Store can be accessed from the Desktop view.

If you want to have a 'play' with the new operating system it is installed on one of our 'lop-top' computers near the Brother printer at the front of the clubroom.

(Lop-top? This is a term I have coined for lap-top computers that have suffered damage to their built-in screens. By 'lopping' or removing the damaged screen and connecting the base of the laptop to a normal monitor the lop-top can still perform useful functions.)

The Technical Preview will function until mid-April 2015 by which time I assume Microsoft will have another preview version available prior to releasing the final product late in 2015.

If you're wondering why Microsoft is jumping from Windows 8 to Windows 10 there are plenty of theories circulating on the Internet. So rather than have me make a judgement I suggest that if you have a few spare hours you can go on-line and see for yourself.

My initial personal theory was that the word 'Nine' sounded similar to a foreign language translation of the word "NO".

Imagine Microsoft's competitors using the catch-phrase "Windows? NO!" in their advertising.

Dennis

SNIPPETS

Check that you are burning your CD or DVD data to the right 'device'.

A member was perplexed when the Audio CD she thought she had burned came out blank.

As well as the 'physical devices' most burning programs display in the settings box, there may also be a 'virtual device' called the Image Recorder. If you inadvertently select this device your data will be 'burned' to an image-file located on the hard disk not to the CD or DVD you have placed in the drive.

In fact this is exactly what happened. Because the member's ultrabook (*a thin lightweight laptop)* did not have a built-in CD/DVD burner the Image Recorder was the default device.

When the external USB CD/DVD burner was attached it should have been selected as the target device in the settings.

And although the image-file' on the hard-drive had the potential to streamline the re-burning of the CD, in this instance is was not useable because its size exceeded the CD limit of 700 Megabytes. In practical terms you should only select 75 minutes of music on Audio CD. *Dennis*

Ron's Ramblings

I have been thinking lately about the time I have been editing the Newsletter. I took over in my first year as a member of the Launceston Computer group in 1993. The Newsletter was caller "Reset" and was printed out on a dot matrix printer and posted to members. In 2000 the Launceston Computer Group and the Mac Group "LaMUG" amalgamated and for a while the Newsletter was published as "WYSIWYG" (What You See Is What You Get"). A competition was run to get a suitable name and the winning entry was "Newstream", I apologise for forgetting the winners name.

The newsletter began to be sent out as an email attachment, but with the adoption of OPEN as our Senior Special Interest Group, the changes in email addresses resulted in numerous "Bounce Backs" that it was decided to put the newsletter on the web site and Tom Olsen became our Web Master.

In the firdt years I was a member we used to meet in the Adult Education Building in York Street. A Club Computer was always set up and Judy Hall and July Hjort used to copy Shareware programmes onto 3.5" floppy disks. Glenn Gilpin was Treasurer and collected entry fees at the door. Each Month ther would be a speaker on a subject related to computing and some members would also bring ther Desk Top Machines in to demonstrate programmes or abilities of their machines.

For ten years the club organised and ran the Launceston Computer Show at Elphin Sports centre and in the final tear at Archers Manor.In fact The Printer Cartridge Company was one of the first companies to exhibit with a table and chairs as their stall. In comparison Raju Rowe used to spend $5000 on his display.

The content of the Newsletter have changed over the years, previously I included articles on such things as Computer Chips and mother boards that could run at a Gigahertz speeed, and RAM Modules that could hold 10 megabytes.

The access to the Internet becoming so easy, that the shareware distribution by the Club has virtually disappeared.

With all this preoccupation with the past it seems to me that I might be getting old!! So I have decided that I will not seek election as the Editor next year.

Protecting yourself from POODLE attack

By Susan Bradley

No, this isn't about Fluffy gone rogue. To keep our online browsing safe, we rely heavily security protocols — the "S" in HTTPS.

But a new exploit — POODLE — shows that commonly used security protocols aren't as secure as we thought; websites and browsers will both need an upgrade.

Pulling a new trick on a very old dog

By now, it might seem that an exploit is serious only if it has a catchy name attached to it. (I won't go down the list of clever names; doing so might get Windows Secrets blocked by overly cautious ISPs.) The latest threat is Padding Oracle On Downgraded Legacy Encryption — POODLE, for short. That's not a name that immediately brings viciousness to mind. As a poodle owner over the years, my greatest worry was being licked to death. But the recently revealed weakness in the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol that allows the POODLE exploit has the digital-security world worrying about a new round of nasty malware bites.

Perhaps most problematic, there's no quick patch or easy fix; the flaw is hard-coded within SSL 3.0. As Scott Helme explains on his blog, the "attack, specifically against the SSLv3 protocol, allows an attacker to obtain the plaintext of certain parts of an SSL connection, such as the cookie."

A note on terminology here: SSL and TLS (Transport Layer Security) are often referred to simply as SSL. However, TLS officially replaced the SSL 3.0 protocol over a decade ago. But like most things on the Web, the SSL 3.0 protocol lives on and is still in widespread use. (See the Wikipedia "Transport Layer Security" page for more details.) In short, the SSL protocols are all vulnerable; the TLS protocols, as far as we know, aren't.

The POODLE exploit compromises the SSL protocol by forcing the server/browser connection to downgrade its TLS connection to SSL 3.0. That change allows leaks of cookie information, which could then lead to the disclosure of sensitive, personal information.

Fortunately, POODLE is not an easy exploit. It might take an attacker several hundred HTTPS requests before successfully forcing the Web server and a client browser to downgrade to a vulnerable SSL connection. On the other hand, the Web's patchwork nature gives POODLE exploits an extremely large kennel to work in.

Protecting browsers from POODLE attacks

Most of us have two or more browsers installed on our systems. Unlike a Windows fix, there's no one patch that will protect our browsers from POODLE. Instead, we must make adjustments within each browser; with Firefox, we must also download and use a Mozilla add-on until a new version of Firefox arrives in a month or so.

Be aware: After making these adjustments, you might find that business websites don't work properly. So I recommend making the following adjustments to one browser and leaving another browser for those sites that are still waiting for the changes needed to protect themselves from POODLE. (Again, the fix for this exploit has to happen on both ends of Internet connections — the client and the server.)

The following changes force your browser to not use SSL 3.0. Here's what to adjust in the top three browsers.

(Continued from page 8)

Chrome:

In Google's browser, edit the shortcut that launches the browser, adding a flag to the end of the Shortcut path. Start by selecting the icon normally used to launch Chrome. Right-click the icon and select Properties. Under the Shortcut tab, find the box labeled "Target" and insert --ssl-version-min=tls1 immediately after chrome.exe" (see Figure 1). It should look something like this (note the space between .exe" and --ssl-):

"C:\Program Files (x86)\Google\Chrome\Application\chrome.exe" --ssl-version-min=tls1

(Note: If your original Chrome path doesn't start and end with quotes, don't add one after chrome.exe.)
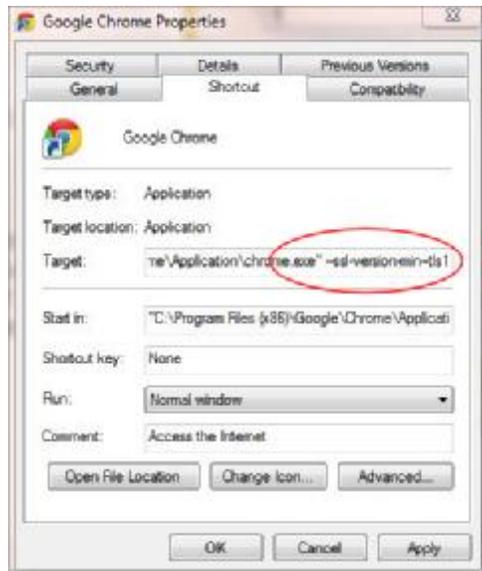Chrome TLS flag

Figure 1. Disable SSL 3.0 support in Chrome by adding a flag at the end of the Properties/Target path.

From now on, launch Chrome only with this edited shortcut. Launching the browser from any unedited launch icons won't provide protection from POODLE. Consider clicking on the General tab in the Chrome Properties dialog box and giving the edited shortcut a unique name — such as "Chrome - no SSLv3" or something similar. Then you'll always know you're using the right shortcut.

Firefox:

As noted in the Oct. 14 Mozilla blog post, Firefox 34, due to be released on Nov. 25, will disable SSL 3.0 support. In the meantime, Mozilla recommends installing the add-on (download site), "SSL Version Control 0.2" (see Figure 2), which will let you control SSL support within the browser. (Some websites have recommended adjusting Firefox settings in the configuration file, but Mozilla recommends using the add-on instead.)
Firefox SSL add-on

Figure 2. To disable SSL 3.0 support in Firefox, Mozilla offers a browser add-on.

Internet Explorer:

In IE, click the gear (settings) icon, open Internet options, and then select the Advanced tab. Scroll down the Settings list to the Security category, and then look for Use SSL 3.0. Uncheck the box (see Figure 3), click OK, and then relaunch IE.

Network admins can make this change to all PCs on the local network via Windows' Group policy. Go to the Internet Explorer settings and modify the Turn off encryption support object (Windows Components\Internet Explorer\Internet Control Panel\Advanced Page).
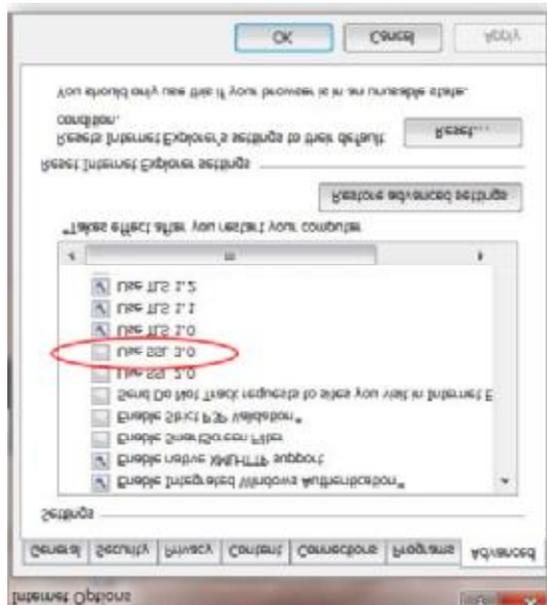
Disable SSLv3 in IE

Figure 3. In IE, uncheck "Use SSL 3.0" in the advanced settings dialog box.

Microsoft released an initial security advisory on this topic; expect to see additional guidance in the near future.

How to test your browser's TLS/SSL protection

Several websites test whether your currently open browser supports SSL 3.0. For a simple test, Poodletest.com displays a poodle dog if your browser still supports SSL 3.0, and a Springfield terrier if it doesn't. On the other hand, Qualys SSL Labs (site) provides a more detailed analysis of the SSL protocols your browser supports.

As noted above, some business sites such as online banking might still need SSL 3.0. Again, I recommend leaving SSL 3.0 support on one browser; it'll be faster and safer than repeatedly adjusting browser settings. If you're running a Web server or small-business server, you should disable SSL 3.0 support to better protect connected workstations and Internet-based phones.

An InfoSec Community Forums Incidents.org page lists how to block SSL 3.0 on various Web-based platforms.

For example, in Windows Server, create (or modify) a Registry DWORD value as follows:

In your Registry editor, go to:

HKey_Local_Machine\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SCHANNEL\Protocols

Under the Protocols, create a key called "SSL 3.0." Then, under that key,

create another key called "Server."

Create a DWORD called "Enabled" and give it a value of 0.

Reboot the server; you and any connected clients will now be protected from POODLE exploits.

Compromised cert highlights a system in doubt

POODLE is a clear indication that the TLS/SSL system we rely on needs work. In fact, the entire system of security protocols and certificates could well be a house of cards. For example, HP recently announced that one of its certificates has been used to sign malware. As noted in a Krebs on Security post, HP will revoke on Oct. 21 the certificate it has used for some of the software that shipped with older products. Unfortunately, HP isn't completely sure what impact that change will have on the ability to restore some HP computers. Look for my future updates on that topic.

Another round in the dogfight over Internet security. As has been widely noted, POODLE effectively kills the SSL 3.0 protocol. Following the aforementioned steps, let's make sure POODLE's bark is worse than its bite (sorry, I couldn't help myself). However, there's a silver lining to this latest security mess — it should now force everyone on the Internet to finally abandon a dated, insecure protocol