COMPUTER CLUB

This meeting was held on Saturday, 11 Aug 2007.

Members were invited to attend "Kick a Goal for KIDS" on Friday 17 August, 2007 at 7pm - in the showroom. Some members showed an interest, however there were not enough to have a table of 10.

Feature Topic: Linux – presented by John Nicholls.

A definition of an Operating System (OS) – "a set of computer programs that manage the hardware and software resources of a computer" (Wikipedia).

Why use Linux OS – "For those who were looking for some excitement and enjoyment in using their computer, the defacto operating system just doesn't cut it. We want to tinker, we want control, we want power over everything". Said by Con Kolivas who is a prominent developer on the Linux kernel and strong proponent of Linux on the desktop. By day Con Kolivas works as an anaesthetist at a hospital in Melbourne. Linux kernel hacking is just one of his hobbies.

The Linux desktop looks familiar but is actually quite different. One can use one of the many graphical interfaces including: xfce, gnome, KDE, compiz fusion or beryl. One of the features is that they generally provide 4 workspaces, allowing different programs to run independently and simultaneously.

One of the reasons Linux is popular with the programmers is that it is "Open Source" ie "the source code of software that is available to the general public with relaxed or non-existent intellectual property restrictions. This allows users to create software content through incremental individual effort or through collaboration" (Wikipedia). Therefore, there are many individuals that can work on improving a programme.

Some of the more popular programs that run on Linux are: Open Office, Thunderbird, Gimp and Firefox.

Although Linux isn't on most home computers, it is on most servers that host the internet.

One big positives for Linux is that it cannot be infected by a virus.

You may wish to run Linux on your computer without actually installing it, by running it off a DVD, however if installed onto a hard disk it will run much faster.

There are a few versions of Linux one is "Ubuntu". You can download this or order a free disk from www.ubuntu.com/

The meeting ended at 5:05 pm. Our next meeting is Saturday, 8 September at 3pm. Everyone is welcome.