



Technology Corner - Teaching Old Technology New Tricks Broadcast date - 25 July 2023

Hello, I'm Cam Stirling from [Technology Connections](https://www.technologyconnections.com.au). Welcome to this Technology Corner discussion called "Teaching Old Technology New Tricks". If you have any topics that you'd like me to cover in future Technology Corner segments, please phone Golden Days Radio on 9572 1466 or you can text us on 0447 096 472.

Do you have an old computer which seems to have slowed down a bit? Are you curious about "streaming" services like Netflix, ABC iView or Kayo which allow you to watch movies and sport when you want to watch them but you perhaps don't have a new "Smart TV" which allows you to stream? Keep listening and I'll tell you about solutions to each of these technology challenges which cost around \$100 each. That's much less expensive than buying a new computer or smart TV!

You have probably noticed that as computers get older, they seem to slow down. If your computer is a few years old, it's probably taking longer to start up and shut down than it did when you first bought it "way back when". There might be a way that you can speed up your old computer for around \$100. In the past few years, the technology used for computer "storage", the "hard drives" which contain our files, photos, documents etc, has improved dramatically. "Hard Disk Drives" have now been replaced by "Solid State Drives" which are much faster and most recently have become inexpensive too. If your old computer has a hard drive with capacity of 240 Gigabytes, you could purchase a replacement [Solid State Drive for about \\$20](#). Some older computers have hard drives which are 3.5 inches in physical size, as opposed to the 2.5 inch Solid State Drives, so a small adaptor kit may be required, which typically cost around \$10. Of course, in order to use the faster Solid State Drive, you need to copy across the files and information from your existing hard drive and install the new Solid State Drive in your computer which, unless you have the skills and experience to do so, may cost you some money (perhaps \$50-\$70) to have done.



Having your files and information copied onto a Solid State Drive will not only speed up your computer, but you can keep the old hard drive with your files on it as a “backup copy” in case anything ever goes wrong with your computer. Not bad for around \$100, depending upon the size of your current hard drive and number and size of files and information that you need to store.

If you are interested in watching a broad range of movies and TV series at times when you would like to watch them, rather than when Free To Air television stations decide to air programs, or if you are keen to watch a wide range of sports programs that are not available to view on Free To Air television, then you might benefit from “streaming services”. Examples of streaming services include Netflix, Kayo (for sports), Amazon Prime, Disneyplus, Binge and many others. All of these streaming services I've mentioned require paid monthly subscriptions - Netflix starts at \$11 per month, Kayo starts at \$25 per month. There are free streaming services such as ABC iView and SBS On Demand which allow you to watch many movies and TV series at no cost, after you set up a login for those systems, requiring your email address and a password. For all of these streaming services, paid and free, you need to be connected to the internet, usually via wifi. You might watch these streaming services from your computer or an iPad, phones also, but the screen can be a bit small for some people to use for streaming. Or you might wish to watch these streaming services from your TV, especially if you're watching sports or movies, to take advantage of the larger screen and perhaps to watch with other people.

If you have a relatively new TV, a “smart TV”, then it will connect directly to wifi if you set this up. Some older TV's may not connect to wifi and the internet. However, it is possible with some of these older TV's, if they have a “High Definition Media Interface” connection, which many of them do, to purchase a “[Google Chromecast](#)” device for about \$70 which can allow these older TV's to connect via wifi to the internet. Again, setting up these Google Chromecast devices and getting them running takes a little effort and technical know-how, but for a total cost of around \$100, it is possible to purchase one and have it set up so that you can stream movies, TV series and sports to an older TV without having to purchase a new Smart TV.



I'm Cam Stirling, from [Technology Connections](#) and if you would like any help buying, installing, fixing or upgrading computers, smartphones, iPads or smart TV's, please phone me on 0414 482 542.