



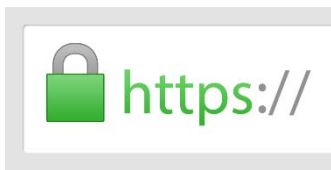
ARTICLE

What does *https* really mean?

by Chris Taylor

At the Q&A Session on November 14th, I mentioned I had written an article for a security newsletter about some *https* misconceptions and that I could repurpose the article for the OPCUG. Here is that article.

We deal with sensitive information when using the web for things like accessing bank accounts and entering passwords. While doing so, most people know it is important to see “s” in “https” in the URL, along with the lock next to the URL. Some people believe it means everything is *secure*. Well, that depends on what you mean by *secure*.



By itself, *https* only means that you have an encrypted session with a web site. It does not tell you anything *about* the web site. To find out more about who you are connected to, you have to dig into the site’s security certificate. Most of the details in security certificates are gobbledygook to me, but there is one certificate field with information mere mortals like me can understand; *Subject*. It has details about who the certificate was issued to, such as company name, city, and country.

Click the lock next to the URL in the address bar, then;

- In Google Chrome, *Certificate (Valid)*, *Details* tab, *Subject* field
- In Firefox, > next to the top section, *More Information*, *View Certificate*, *Details* tab, *Subject* field.
- In Microsoft Edge, *View certificate*, the *Subject* fields are right there.
- In Internet Explorer, *View certificates*, *Details* tab, *Subject* field.

Does the *Subject* field data seem reasonable? If you think you are on Facebook and *O (organization)* is listed as *Fakebook, Inc.*, or if you think you are on the Bank of Montreal web site and *C (country)* is *KZ (Kazakhstan)*, beat a hasty retreat!

If the *Subject* data in the certificate looks legit, that’s about all I check. But regardless, don’t think of a certificate as a guarantee of security.

CAs (Certificate Authorities – those who issue digital certificates) have issued certificates to fraudsters. <https://preview.tinyurl.com/lscxqg8>, <https://preview.tinyurl.com/yahy594d>, and <https://preview.tinyurl.com/ybndyxdu>

As well, there is *https* spoofing <https://preview.tinyurl.com/y7pcgulg>

How much checking is done by a CA before they issue a certificate? *Let’s Encrypt* is a CA trusted by browsers. They issue free certificates. If you think they are as diligent as CAs like *Entrust*, *GoDaddy*, and *GlobalSign* (who charge for certificates) in ensuring certificates are not issued to fraudsters, I may have a bridge to sell you.

That’s not to say *Let’s Encrypt* is evil or useless. A free *Let’s Encrypt* certificate ensures traffic is encrypted. But it doesn’t validate *with whom* you are exchanging encrypted traffic. At a site using a *Let’s Encrypt* certificate, such as <https://digital.canada.ca>, the certificate’s *Subject* field only shows the domain name of the site; *CN = digital.canada.ca*. *Let’s Encrypt* does not assert to *whom* the certificate was issued.

Perhaps the lesson here is; “A secure connection to an untrustworthy website doesn't mean it's safe to use” - <https://preview.tinyurl.com/yczf8w33>.



Inside this issue:	
Calendar / Coming Up / Raffle	2
What does https really mean?	1
Club Life	3
Back to Basics	4-5
OPCUG Free Software Guide—Part 84	6
Contact Information	7

December Raffle

Courtesy of Glasswire, we have a license for **Glasswire Elite Edition**.

Glasswire is a sophisticated firewall product that shows who or what your PC is talking to. It allows you to detect malware, badly behaving apps, and bandwidth hogs, then block their connections. It warns you of network related changes to your PC that could indicate malware. Glasswire can also alert you when new unknown devices join your WiFi.

For a review of Glasswire, see <http://opcug.ca/Reviews/GlassWire.html>

Glasswire Elite edition can be installed on up to 10 computers.

Tickets are \$1 for one, \$2 for three, or \$5 for ten.

Coming Up...

→ Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Topic: Home Security Technology

Speaker: Mike Stallabrass, owner of Safeguard Security Systems

Mike Stallabrass is a respected home security expert, with over 30 years of experience. There are many new and exciting advancements in wired and wireless home security technologies. Learn all the essential do's and don'ts everyone must know before purchasing a security system. Mike will offer the insider tips about the best add-ons and features now available for existing security systems.

For meeting updates and additional details, visit <http://opcug.ca/regmtg.htm>.

IN MEMORIAM

Our President, Chris Taylor, received the following sad news about one of our former members. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his son Bill and his family.

Hi Chris,

I'm Bill Palamar, son of Bill Palamar who was a former member of the Ottawa PC Users Group. (How's that for confusing.)

I'm writing to let you know that my father passed away in early June at age 92. He had heart surgery in the winter, and seemed to be on his way to a full recovery, when he had a relapse due to a serious infection. I recently came across the group's April renewal notice, and thought that I should write.

My father spoke often about how much he enjoyed the OPCUG; particularly his discussions with other members. (And he also never failed to mention free pizza nights, or occasionally winning the monthly door prize.) Please pass along my thanks to the entire group for the friendship they extended to my father, he valued it greatly.

All the best,
Bill

Have a **CDTT** at December's Meeting

December bringing in the chill?

Looking to have a hot beverage while enjoying some down to earth geek talk?

OPCUG has just the thing, as we'll be having **Coffee, Decaf, Tea and Timbits** and we'll see if that'll warm your heart and mind as we try **CDTT** to see if it's something our members & guests are interested in continuing.

Look forward to sharing a **CDTT** with you all in December.

November Prize Winner

I hope **Gail Eagen** bought a lottery ticket after she won both our raffle and door prizes at the November meeting of the OPCUG.

Enjoy the Bluetooth speaker as well as the "multi season" scraper Gail.

2018 CALENDAR

Meetings	Date	Time and Venue
OPCUG General Meeting	Wednesday, December 12 th	7:30 p.m. at the Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. Parking is free. OC Transpo bus #87 stops nearby. Visit http://opcug.ca/regmtg.htm for directions.
Q&A Session	Wednesday, December 12 th	Immediately following the OPCUG General Meeting.
Beer BOF (Wing SIG East)	Wednesday, December 12 th	10:00 p.m. (after the Q&A) at the Riverside Pub, 3673 Riverside Drive. Turn left onto Riverside Dr. from the Church.

CLUB LIFE

December Auction for the Ottawa Food Bank

The OPCUG had a backup computer for its online presence, but now that we have switched to the cloud, we no longer need it and offer it for auction, with the proceeds to go the Ottawa Food Bank.

The computer needs to be picked up at the OPCUG December 12th meeting. If the online winning bidder is not there, then it will be offered to a person in attendance with the highest bid. You must be a member of the OPCUG.

The online auction ends at 5pm, and bidding can continue in person at the meeting until the end of the meeting's presentation.

Register your bids at:

<https://www.32auctions.com/OPCUGSilentAuction>

Computer specs:

Acer AX3475-ER30P
 AMD quad core A8-5500 3.2 GHz with Radeon 7560D graphics
 HDMI and VGA ports
 8 GB RAM (can go to 16 GB)
 2 TB, 7200 rpm hard drive
 DVD optical drive
 Card reader
 7 USB 2 (4 in back, 3 in front)
 4 USB 3 (2 in back, 2 in front)
 Windows 7 Home Premium
 Keyboard
 Extreme model JS555 15" LCD monitor

Nominations for OPCUG Board for 2019

Once a year, the OPCUG holds elections for the 9-member Board of Directors. We are once again coming up to this annual event.

We encourage all members to consider running for a board position or getting involved in some other manner in the operations of the OPCUG.

Nominations can be submitted to nominations2019@opcug.ca or in person at the December club meeting

If you want more information about what is involved, please talk to a current or past Board member. Board members are listed on the back page of this newsletter and on the web site at <http://opcug.ca/exec.htm>.

Nominations must be received by midnight, December 31, 2018.

Please get involved. Please help the OPCUG continue in its role of *Users Helping Users!*

*Election Chair,
 Mike Pereira*

Notice of Motion

The club's recent move to a new meeting venue resulted in an increase in annual expenditures of approximately \$1000.00. In contrast, switching our web presence to external hosting services, and eliminating printing and mailing costs for the hard-copy newsletter, will reduce expenditures by approximately \$2000.00 per annum. The net result of these actions is projected to be an annual increase in capital assets of about \$1000.00. Since OPCUG is not-for-profit corporation, the Board of Directors takes the view that we should adjust our on-going fiscal position accordingly by reducing income and/or increasing expenditures. One of the actions that the Board is proposing is to reduce the annual membership dues. Under the terms of our constitution, this requires the approval of the membership at a general meeting. In consequence, the following motion will be presented at the club meeting to be held on December 12, 2018:

Motion: Resolved that membership dues be reduced from the current level of \$25.00 to \$20.00 with effect from January 1, 2019.

ARTICLE

Back to Basics

by Alan German

I have been using LibreOffice, the open-source office suite, for quite a few years, but until recently I had never tried using the software's macro capabilities. An idea for a project to use macros was to develop a double-entry accounting system using Calc (LibreOffice's spreadsheet module) which could be used to maintain our club's financial records. Macros would be used to accept the details of financial transactions as user input, and automatically post these to the requisite ledgers.

The starting point was identifying that the macro programming language used by the office suite was LibreOffice Basic. My first thought on learning this was – no problem – I know some Basic from years back. However, there is a problem. LibreOffice Basic is nothing like the Basic of old; it's a modern, object-oriented language, much closer in syntax to Visual Basic.

So, there is a considerable learning curve involved in the macro-programming process. And, this is not greatly helped by the relative paucity of information available on LibreOffice Basic. Sure, there are some programming guides available but, if you will pardon the pun, these are somewhat basic. One can very quickly exceed the limits of the code samples provided. Furthermore, web-based searches for examples of macros, and snippets of code, don't necessarily produce a plethora of relevant hits. Nevertheless, with a little perseverance, and a lot of research, sufficient knowledge of LibreOffice's macros can be developed.

Initially, there are some fundamental programming items that need to be understood. Firstly, a macro has to be able to access a specific worksheet. Secondly, the macro needs to be able to read values from cells on that worksheet and/or write values to the worksheet's cells. For example, at the club's January meeting, \$125.00 was received in membership renewals. This transaction is entered into the club's accounts as a credit of \$125.00 to our Member-

ship Income account, and as a corresponding debit against our Cash Account. So, we need to be able to read in the amount of \$125.00 from a data-entry worksheet, and then write this amount to two worksheets which maintain records of the income and cash accounts, respectively.

Anyone familiar with basic accounting procedures will recognize this as part of the process of double-entry accounting. However, they will also realize that several other data elements need to be recorded, namely the date and a brief description of the transaction. In addition, the accounting system uses numbers to define the individual accounts, so we need to capture the account numbers for both the credit and debit accounts.

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		Transaction Entry			
3					
4					
5		Transaction No.		5	
6					
7		Date		10-Jan-2018	
8		Credit Account		2200	
9		Debit Account		1000	
10		Amount		125.00	
11		Description		Membership 10-Jan-2018	
12					
13				Save	
14					
15					

Figure 1. Data Entry Screen

Figure 1 shows a screenshot of the Data Entry worksheet with the various elements of our membership income transaction entered. Note that the Transaction Number (5) is determined automatically by the macro as one greater than the last transaction number recorded. Account No. 2200 is our Membership Income Account, and 1000 is the Cash Account.

As noted previously, in order to read in these values, we need to "activate" the Data Entry worksheet. We do this by linking a pointer – `dataSheet` – to the worksheet using the code:

```
dataSheet = ThisComponent.Sheets.getByNamed("Data Entry")
ThisComponent.CurrentController.setActiveSheet(dataSheet)
```

We can now read the values stored in any of the cells of the Data Entry worksheet using a range command. For example, to read the transaction amount of \$125.00 stored in Cell D10, and the description stored in Cell D11, we use the commands:

```
trans_amount = dataSheet.getCellRangeByName("D10").value
trans_desc = dataSheet.getCellRangeByName("D11").string
```

(Continued on page 5)

Back to Basics *(Continued from page 4)*

Here, we are using variables named `trans_amount` and `trans_desc` to temporarily store the values that we obtain from the associated cells. Note the use of the `.value` and `.string` properties of the `getCell RangeByName` function which differentiate the numerical and character inputs.

Writing these values to the appropriate account worksheets follows a similar pattern. For example, to write the transaction amount as a credit to the Membership Income Account, we need to use the following commands:

```
accountSheet = ThisComponent.Sheets.getByname(credit_name)
ThisComponent.CurrentController.setActiveSheet(accountSheet)
accountSheet.getCellRangeByName("E" + Cstr(count)).value = trans_amount
```

Now, our macro has become a bit more sophisticated. We are using several variables to make the recording process general so that we can use the same code for a number of different accounts and data elements. We have set a variable (`accountSheet`) to act as a pointer to an account worksheet, and yet another variable (`credit_name`) to temporarily store "Membership Income" as the name of the specific worksheet on which we wish to record the data. A counter (`count`) is used to identify the first blank row (Row 6) after the last entry of a balance amount. The range command is used "in reverse" to assign the value of `trans_amount` (our \$125.00 income) as a credit entry to Cell E6.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	2200	Membership Income				Credit
2						
3	Date	Trans. No.	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
4						
5	01-Jan-2018					0.00
6	10-Jan-2018	5	Membership 10-Jan-2018		125.00	125.00
7						

Figure 2. Membership Income Worksheet

Macro programming is a very powerful tool for automating repetitive tasks in any office document. In the present case, the macro code takes care of posting the data associated with the transaction to the relevant worksheets (i.e. the General Ledger, Membership Income and Cash Account). The programming can also automatically calculate and store items such as the running balance for any given account. In addition, our general ledger system can include data entry validation (e.g. an account worksheet must exist for any given account number), the Cash Account can be assigned automatically as the debit account for an income transaction or the credit account for an expense amount, and income statements and balance sheets can be produced based solely on the structure of the accounts. All that is required is to learn a few more macro commands!



CRT Class Action Settlement

Siskinds LLP, a law firm based in London, Ontario, have released details of a \$49.8 million class-action law suit alleging price fixing by a number of manufacturers of cathode ray tubes (CRT's). If you purchased CRTs, CRT televisions, and/or CRT computer monitors (regardless of the manufacturer or brand) in Canada between March 1995 and November 2007, you may be eligible to receive a payment under the terms of the settlement. Full details are posted at: <http://www.crtclassactioncanada.ca>



Graphics for the Holidays

By Lawrence Patterson
lawrence@opcug.ca

If you like the idea of being able to do simple graphics in Word (or other Office programs) and create holiday cheer I have just the thing.

Keep in mind, if you're comfortable using a graphic program, then the built in Office tools will seem not great, yet it does the job.

Let's start with <http://clipart-library.com/free-christmas-graphics.html> to grab three images, by either copying and pasting into a separate word document or use your favourite screen snipping tool to grab & paste each graphic.

On each of three images, click to select then go to the "Picture Tools", *Format, Arrange* section, click on "Wrap Text" and then in the drop down select *Through*. This will allow you to move and place each of the graphics over top each other.

Next select and resize each graphic into a workable size.

In my example, I've cropped the image to select the one wreath. Select the image with three reefs, go to the "Picture Tools", *Format, Size, Crop* and narrow down to one wreath.

At this point you'll want to move the graphics into position, by selecting, then dragging each graphic till they're layered over each other.

Note; you'll want to go "Picture Tools", *Format, Size, "Bring Forward"* so that the layers will display properly (otherwise they may disappear in behind another image).

Last, you'll want to go to the *Home, Editing, Select, "Select Objects"* then your cursor will change to an arrow allowing you to select all three graphics.



Copy and paste, the selected graphic as a picture (to keep the layout, and resize if necessary) as per this example, then save your original Word file containing the graphics for further edits.

I encourage to try the other "Picture Tools" features and experiment, as there are many options available to create simple but effective festive graphics.

Let me know if you have a Microsoft Office question and we'll turn it around into an additional article.

Take care.

OPCUG Free Software Guide—Part 84 Compiled by Alan German

This guide features an annotated list of free computer programs. The software mentioned has not been reviewed (except where noted) nor have any tests necessarily been conducted. Consequently, no guarantees are provided that the individual programs will perform as described. Rather the list of available software is provided for the information of our members who may find one or more of the programs useful.

TagScanner

This utility provides a powerful tool for organizing and managing your music collection. It can edit tags of most modern audio formats, supporting ID3v1/v2, Vorbis comments, APEv2, WMA and MP4 (iTunes) tags. Get album information and download covers from on-line databases. Create playlists in one click and export your collection to HTML, Excel or any user-defined format. The program has an easy-to-use interface and a built-in audio player.

Current Release: Version 6.0.28

Web Site: <https://www.xdlab.ru/en/index.htm>



RidNacs

A free - and very fast - disk space usage analyzer that provides a multi-column tree view of your hard disk. A configurable percentage bar-chart shows the largest files and folders. Easily run RidNacs from the Windows Explorer context menu by right-clicking on either a folder or a drive. This utility will identify the space hogs on your drive and assist in the clean-up.

Current Release: Version 2.0

Web Site: <https://tinyurl.com/ybrsndxy>

DaVinci Resolve 14

Do you need a professional-quality video editor? The free version of DaVinci Resolve has all of the professional editing, legendary color correction and Fairlight audio tools you need for SD, HD and Ultra HD work at up to 60 frames per second.

Web Site: <https://tinyurl.com/y9mkl2dg>

CLCL

Use this tiny utility to cache and manage multiple clipboard items. The program launches a tray icon that can be used to quickly access any stored text snippet or image.

Current Release: Version 2.0.3

Web Site: http://www.nakka.com/soft/clcl/index_eng.html

GetDiz

A replacement for Notepad that offers a wide range of features while maintaining incredible speed, ease of use, and small size. Automatically resize the text window when loading files to accommodate the text width, and remove leading/trailing spaces from selections when you copy them to the clipboard. You can even configure different fonts for different text file types!

Current Release: Version 4.91

Web Site: <https://www.outertech.com/en/notepad-replacement>



Icecream Screen Recorder

This tool enables you to capture any area of your screen either as a screenshot or as a video file. The software offers a complete suite of tools and options for professional screen capture with audio. You can record webinars, games and Skype videos in HD, and much more in a quick and hassle-free way.

Current Release: Version 5.64

Web Site: <https://icecreamapps.com/Screen-Recorder/>

TinyResMeter

This small tool displays useful information about system resources in real time, but it also gives much more detail when you right-click on the displayed fields

Current Release: Version 0.97

Web Site: http://pesoft.com/trm/us_trm.html

Secret Maryo Chronicles

Three guesses as to the inspiration for this game! This is an open-source version of the classic two-dimensional platform game. It's multi-platform (Windows, Linux and Mac) and uses an accelerated open graphics library to give great graphics and performance.

Current Release: Version 1.9

Web Site: <http://www.secretmaryo.org>



OTTAWA PC NEWS

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July and August. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members.

Member participation is encouraged. If you would like to contribute an article to Ottawa PC News, please submit it to the newsletter editor (contact info below). Deadline for submissions is three Sundays before the next General Meeting.

Group Meetings

OPCUG meets on the second Wednesday in the month, except July and August, at the Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. Parking is free at the church. OC Transpo bus #87 stops nearby. Details at <http://opcug.ca/regmtg.htm>.

Meetings are 7:30–9:00 p.m. followed by a Q&A Session until 10 p.m.

OPCUG Membership Fees:	\$25 per year	
Mailing Address:	3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6	
Web address:	http://opcug.ca	
Follow us on Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/opcug	
Follow us on Twitter:	https://www.twitter.com/opcug	
President and System Administrator		
Chris Taylor	chris.taylor@opcug.ca	613-727-5453
Meeting Coordinator		
Lawrence Patterson	meetings@opcug.ca	
Meeting Coordinator Co-chair		
Bob Herres	meetings@opcug.ca	
Treasurer		
Alan German	alan.german@opcug.ca	
Secretary		
Gail Eagen	gail.eagen@opcug.ca	
Membership Chairman		
Mark Cayer	mark.cayer@opcug.ca	613-823-0354
Newsletter		
Brigitte Lord (editor/layout/e-distribution)	brigitte lord@opcug.ca	
Public Relations		
(vacant)	info@opcug.ca	613-366-7936
Facilities		
Bob Walker		613-489-2084
Webmaster		
Brigitte Lord	webmaster3@opcug.ca	
Privacy Director		
Wayne Houston	privacy2@opcug.ca	
Special Events Coordinator		
(Mr.) Jocelyn Doire	jocelyn.doire@opcug.ca	

© OPCUG 2018.

Reprint permission is granted* to non-profit organizations, provided credit is given to the author and *The Ottawa PC News*. OPCUG requests a copy of the newsletter in which reprints appear.

*Permission is granted only for articles written by OPCUG members, and which are not copyrighted by the author. Visit <http://opcug.ca/opusage.htm>.

How to get the OTTAWA PC NEWS by e-mail



Here's how to get the OPCUG newsletter by email:

Create a Google Account

Any valid email address can be used as a Google Account. Pick an email address you want to use and browse to <https://accounts.google.com>. Click *Create account* and follow the instructions.

Make sure your new Google Account is functioning properly by going to <https://accounts.google.com> and signing in.

Sign up for the OPCUG Google Groups

Browse to <https://groups.google.com>. If you are not signed into your Google Account, click the *Sign in* button at the top.

1. In *Search for groups or messages*, type *OPCUG*. The top of the search results will show Groups matching OPCUG. Click on *See all 3*.

2. Click on *OPCUG-Newsletter*, then click the *Join group* button. In the resulting dialog box, you can opt to change some preferences, such as;

- If *My display name* shows as your email address you can change this to something like *firstname lastname*
- Email preferences can be changed to only send daily summaries or not email you at all when new postings are made (meaning you must manually check at the web site to see if there are any new postings)

3. Click the *Join this group* button.

4. You will then see the list of postings that have been made to the group. Click on any entry to see the actual posting.

More detailed instructions on how to join this and other OPCUG Google Groups are found here:

<http://opcug.ca/GoogleGroups.html>

There are no issues of the newsletter published in July or August.