



# OTTAWA

# PC NEWS

Volume 39, Number 9

November 2022

## PRODUCT REVIEW

### LibreOffice Draw – A PDF Editor in Disguise

by Alan German

In a recent article (*PDF File Editor – Plus!*), I discussed using Sejda PDF Editor to modify a PDF file noting that this program has a number of limitations on its use. Now, while the program was adequate for my meagre needs at the time, I decided to seek out a more robust solution for possible future use.

Interestingly, whereas I can normally find freeware and/or open-source software to replicate the tasks performed by any proprietary package, initially this didn't seem to be the case for PDF editors. Almost all of the programs that I identified had significant limitations on their use, were purely web-based, or turned out to be limited-time trial versions. Then I came across a possible solution that was already installed on my system – LibreOffice Draw.

I have used LibreOffice Writer and Calc extensively, on both Linux and Windows platforms, for many years. I have also used Impress for some specific purposes, and have dabbled minimally with Base, but have done very little exploration of the suite's other modules, Draw and Math. So, it came as a pleasant surprise when I found on-line reviews showcasing Draw as a free PDF editor.

My testing of Draw was largely based on the tasks that I previously needed to perform in editing an existing PDF file, namely: adding text to data fields, adding form elements (data entry fields), removing (hiding) the entry to a checked box, and adding a signature to a pre-defined data field. Three of these functions are demonstrated in the following screenshot where the name and date fields have been updated, the "Yes, I agree" checkbox has been blanked, and a signature is in the process of being added to the document.

the case even when editing a PDF file. A wide range of such tools is available in a sidebar, or through the icons and menu items in the program's ribbon interface.

The ability to open PDF files, together with the multiplicity of available drawing tools, make Draw a powerful yet intuitive PDF editor. Many users may already have this package in their toolbox since they have the full LibreOffice suite installed. If not, the program is free and is readily available for downloading and installation on both Windows and Linux systems.

#### Bottom Line:

LibreOffice (Open source)

Version 7.3.3

The Document Foundation

<https://www.libreoffice.org>



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Given that Draw is actually a drawing module for the office suite, one might expect that a number of additional tools, providing the ability to include objects such as lines, shapes, and symbols in a document would also be available and indeed this is

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Next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

# Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

## WINDOWS 11, IT'S HERE TO STAY

**Speaker:** Lawrence Patterson, OPCUG

Oh Microsoft, with 75%+ of computer users running your operating system, you would think that people would be clamouring for Windows 11, yet with ~3 years of support life left in Windows 10, most are not bothered thinking about it and heh, Windows 12 is just right around the corner, right?

Understanding that using tech is riding a wave, we're going to delve into Windows 11 as it stands with its latest ~~22H2~~ – sorry those darn Microsoft marketing folks can't stop tinkering – 2022 update and the features it offers to us ordinary Home / Pro users (yes Enterprise users have better protection, at a price mind you).

Come as we explore Windows 11's inner workings and how at least some of us might actually like where Microsoft is taking us (all grumbling to the side).

This meeting will be via Zoom video conference.

Join us at <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting>. The Zoom link will be live at 7:15 pm. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

The above link includes the meeting ID and password. However, if you are prompted for the information, use:  
Meeting ID: **924 9556 0898**  
Password: **opcug**



## Coming Up...

**October 26**

[Weekly Q&A Session](#)

**November 2**

[Weekly Q&A Session](#)

**December 14**

[Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol \(TCP/IP\) Overview](#)

**Speaker:** Stéphane Richard

All scheduled [regular monthly meetings](#), [weekly Q&A sessions](#), and a link to [OPCUG presentations at the OPL](#) are posted on our website at <https://opcug.ca/#upcoming>. All events are via video conference until further notice.

## 2022 CALENDAR

Meetings	Date	Time and Venue
Regular Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm via Zoom video conference: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting">https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting</a> To see all scheduled events, visit <a href="https://opcug.ca/#upcoming">https://opcug.ca/#upcoming</a>
Next Q&A Session	<a href="#">Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup></a>	Until further notice, Q&A sessions are no longer held after regular monthly meetings. Join us on all other Wednesdays for <a href="#">weekly Q&amp;A</a> .
Beer BOF (Wing SIG East)	Wednesday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Enjoy a cold brew or other beverage in the comfort of your home during the video conference.

## ARTICLE

# BrowsingHistoryView

by Chris Taylor

In most browsers, you can access your browsing history by pressing Ctrl-H. But if you want to save a list of your history, not even [Quick Tip 41](#) will help.

Fortunately, *BrowsingHistoryView*, a free program from Nirsoft, will do the trick. It can capture the history from 14 different browsers including all the main ones: Firefox, Chrome, Edge, Opera, Brave, Vivaldi, and Internet Explorer.

Download the utility from [https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/browsing\\_history\\_view.html](https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/browsing_history_view.html). It requires no installation; unzip the file anywhere that is convenient and run *BrowsingHistoryView.exe*

By default, when you load the program, *Advanced Options* opens, where you can choose the major behaviours of the program. You can access *Advanced Options* at any time from the *Options* menu.



The main options are;

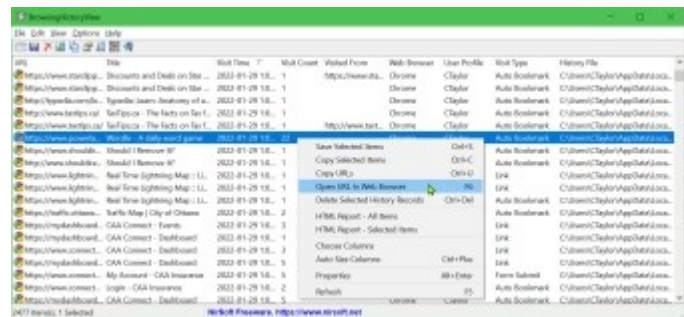
- *Filter by visit date/time*: useful if you are looking for history items from a particular timeframe.
- Include or exclude URLs that contain a given string.
- Load the history for all users on the computer or even another computer across the network (administrator rights are required).

By default, *BrowsingHistoryView* loads the history from the past 10 days, for all users on the local computer, for all supported browsers.

Once the complete list loads—on my desktop computer over 30,000 lines loaded when I chose *Load history items from any time*—you can sort by clicking on any column header. Click a second time to reverse the sort. Drag and drop the headers if you want them in a different order. You can remove columns you don't need from the *View* menu.

A *Find* function on the Edit menu (or F5) allows you to search for text that appears in any history record.

Right-click an entry for a context menu allowing various functions such as seeing the full properties of the history item, loading the web page in your browser, and more.



What drew me to *BrowsingHistoryView* is the ability to export the complete history list. Select all records by pressing Ctrl-A and choose *File | Save Selected Items*. The default—*Text File*—will save each record as multiple lines as follows.

```
URL      : https://www.powerlanguage.co.uk/wordle/
Title    : Wordle - A daily word game
Visit Time : 2022-01-08 7:17:00 AM
Visit Count : 8
Visited From :
Visit Type : Auto Bookmark
Web Browser : Chrome
User Profile : CTaylor
Browser Profile : Default
Typed Count : 1
URL Length : 39
History File : C:\Users\CTaylor\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\History
Record ID  : 291759
```

If you want to post-process the results, it is more useful to choose *Comma Delimited Text File (\*.csv)* from the *Save* dialog box. Each record will be exported as a single line and the results can then be imported into a spreadsheet for further analysis or manipulation.

One thing *BrowsingHistoryView* taught me is that I should trim my history—I don't think I actually need my history of browsing from over 6 years ago! It is a surprisingly difficult task within browsers to delete history older than—say—2 years, often requiring some sort of browser extension. But *BrowsingHistoryView* makes it a breeze—at least for Firefox and Chrome (and other Chromium-based browsers). Start by closing your browser. In *BrowsingHistoryView*, select the history records you want to delete, choose *File | Delete Selected History Records*, and—poof—they are gone!



# THROUGH THE LENS

*A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts. After the click of your camera, you're only half done!*

## Focal length compression – what it is and what it isn't

by Lynda Buske

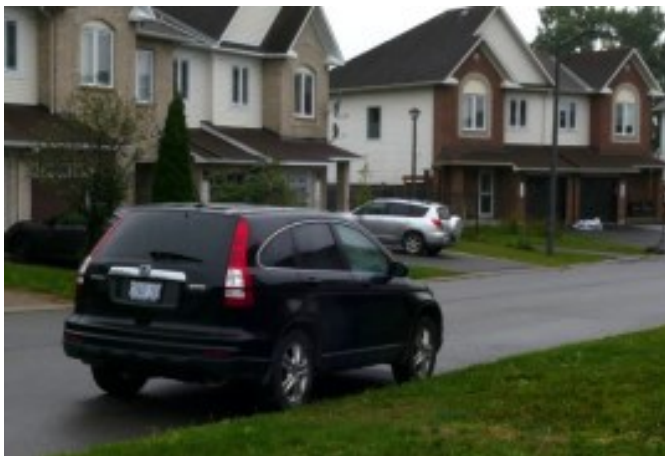
**W**hile we often hear that focal length compression is caused by the use of a telephoto lens versus a wide-angle lens, it is actually only related to the distance you are from the objects of interest. If you are the exact same distance from an object and take a photo with both a wide angle and a telephoto lens, there will be no compression effect, although you will have to crop the wide angle to have the same framing. See example images below.



Wide angle lens (9.1mm)



Slight zoom (27mm) but taken from same position



Wide angle cropped to match zoom shot. No compression visible



Taken much further away with a long focal length (60mm). The rear silver car appears much larger and closer to the black car than in the above photos. This is the compression effect. Note also how close the stop sign appears compared to wide angle shot where it is too far back to even be in the photo!

This article is also in PDF format on the OPCUG website (<https://opcug.ca/digital-photography/>).

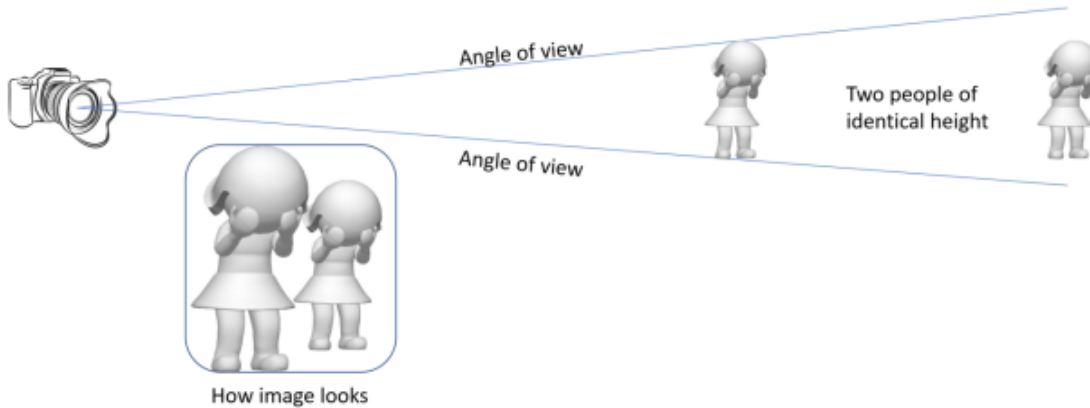
(continued on next page)

## Focal length compression (continued from previous page)

Schematic of the phenomenon below:

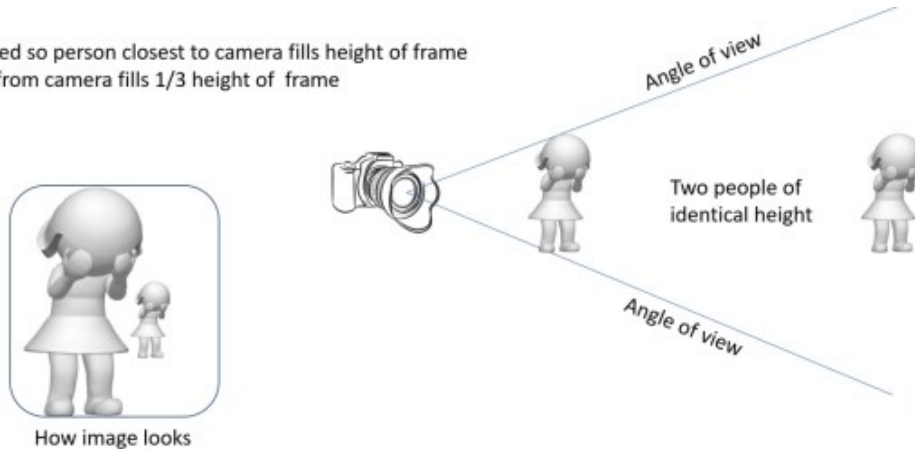
### Telephoto lens

- Camera moved back to fill frame with person closest to camera
- Person furthest from camera fills 3/4 height of the frame



### Wide-angle lens

- Camera positioned so person closest to camera fills height of frame
- Person furthest from camera fills 1/3 height of frame



## Nominations for OPCUG Board for 2023

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.

If you want more information about what is involved, please talk to me or any current or past Board member. Names are listed on the back page of this newsletter and on the web site at <https://opcug.ca/executives/>.

Nominations can be submitted by sending an email to [nominations@opcug.ca](mailto:nominations@opcug.ca).

Nominations must be received by midnight, December 31, 2022.

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

Bob Herres  
Election Chair, 2023



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

This month's blast is from November 1999. See the next page for Bob's retrospective and 1999 OPCUG milestones.



# OTTAWA PC NEWS

Vol. 16 number 10

The newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group

November 1999

## Club News

## Software Piracy

Current estimates suggest that 40 per cent of application software in Canada is pirated.

Since 1990, the Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft (CAAST) has been leading the fight against software piracy. CAAST is an industry alliance of software publishers who share the common goal of reducing software theft through education, legislation and legal enforcement.

With an estimated 4 000+ download sites, the Internet is the fastest growing form for advertising pirated software.

To protect yourself:

- Don't fall for an offer that sounds too good to be true. It's probably illegal. Internet auctions are reputed to sell significant volumes of pirated software.
- Buy or download software from the software publisher or reputable stores and catalogues.
- Don't buy or download "cracks" or "warez." Cracks are programs that make illegal modifications to software to bypass the copy protection. Warez or appz are slang terms for pirated software.
- Do inspect the item promptly and return suspicious items.
- Be suspicious of computer systems that have an operating system (and possibly applications) already installed but lack the source media



and manuals. Yes, some of these are legitimate; however, recent press releases suggest that many more are not.

- Does the appearance of the packaging, attention to artistic and typographic detail, and the presence of holographic or other security seals really support the claim that it is genuine retail product?

Visit [www.caast.org](http://www.caast.org) for more information or call our anti-piracy information line at 1-800-263-9700.



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Next meeting: **WEDNESDAY, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999**

## HISTORY

## Retrospective: Software Piracy by Bob Walker

In the [November 1999 issue](#) of the OPCUG Newsletter (Volume 16, No. 10), there was an article by the Canadian Alliance Against Software Theft (CAAST) titled 'Software Piracy'. Software piracy has been a problem since the early days of computers, and continues to be a problem today.

In the early days of personal computers, you could simply and easily make a copy of most software. As software companies started to develop copy protection technology, software pirates developed ways to get around it. Software with the copy protection removed was a hot commodity on the early internet. To combat this, the software industry formed organizations like CAAST to go after the pirates, and to inform the software buying public about the issues surrounding software piracy and how to avoid unknowingly buying pirated software.

To a certain extent their efforts have been successful, but some of that success may also be due to the competing growth of shareware, freeware, freemium and other low or no cost alternatives to popular commercial software like LibreOffice and Linux. You can have your computer loaded with lots of capable non-pirated software without spending anything.

### Club History - 1999 (taken from <https://opcug.ca/history/>)

- Dec 1999 The Pub gets a new backup system on tape and an upgrade of Wildcat and Listserve. The answering machine is shut down because the meeting information is now available on the web.
- Nov 1999 PUB II is now protected by Black Ice Defender.
- Oct 1999 Terry Mahoney represented the OPCUG group at the Microsoft Developer Days.
- Feb 1999 To help increase membership, the program "Bring a member" is held in March, April, May with the winner announced in June. The member gets one ticket for each guest he brings and 3 more if the guest becomes a member. The prizes are Corel Draw 8, Partition Magic and a one-year membership.
- Jan 1999 Swap meet held at the museum.

### Quick Tip 48: Drag & drop into a program

*by Chris Taylor*

**Y**ou are working on a Microsoft Word document and want to insert a picture. You click on *Insert | Pictures | Insert Picture From - This Device...* (3 mouse clicks) and a dialogue box opens. Browse to find the picture you want, then click the *Insert* button.

There is a faster way. In File Explorer (or your favourite file manager), find the picture you want. Drag it over the document you are editing in Word. Drop it.

Some other examples: drag a photo and drop it on Windows Paint or Photoscape X to edit it; drag an Excel workbook and drop it on LibreOffice Calc to open it there; drag a piece of clip art and drop it on a PowerPoint slide to insert it; or drag a text file and drop it on Notepad to edit it; drag a file and drop it on an email you are creating to add either as an attachment or inline (if it's an image)..

If the program window is covered with other windows, drag the file and hover over the program icon on the taskbar. The program will pop to the foreground. Keep holding the mouse button down and drag the file over the program window and release the mouse button.

Not all programs support drag and drop, but if yours do, it can help speed things along.

# 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.

**To receive the monthly newsletter by email, send an email to:**

[opcug-newsletter+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:opcug-newsletter+subscribe@googlegroups.com) (leave subject and body fields blank)

You do **not** need to create a Gmail or Google Groups account.

To subscribe to other OPCUG Google Groups member services, go to:

<https://opcug.ca/google-groups-how-to/>

## 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. OCTranspo bus #90 stops nearby. Details at <https://opcug.ca/venue/>.

**(NOTE: Due to COVID-19 safety guidelines, all our events are via video conference until further notice. Details at <https://opcug.ca/venue/>)**

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

**OPCUG Membership Fees:** \$20 per year  
**Mailing Address:** 3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6  
**Web address:** <https://opcug.ca>  
**Follow us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/opcug>  
**Follow us on Twitter:** <https://www.twitter.com/opcug>

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## Q&A HAS GONE ON-LINE! WEEKLY!

Because of the pandemic, the OPCUG is holding weekly Q&A sessions in Zoom video-conferences.

Join us every Wednesday (except on regular monthly meeting nights) at 7:30 pm to discuss computer issues. Questions (and answers) on any computer-related issue are welcome. Or, do you have a favourite computer program or topic that you would like to share with the group? Send your questions, answers, or the details of what you would like to share to: [SuggestionBox@opcug.ca](mailto:SuggestionBox@opcug.ca)

Everyone is welcome to attend Q&A sessions and to ask questions about their specific computer-related problems. Join us at: <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting> (if you use the Zoom client, the meeting ID is 924 9556 0898 and the password is **opcug**).

# OPCUG



*Users helping users*  
for over 40 years