



OTTAWA

# PC NEWS

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 2022

## PRODUCT REVIEW

### Screen Video Recording Made Simple

by Alan German

**H**ave you tried talking a friend or relative through a series of computer steps over the telephone? It can be difficult, can't it? Another way to provide the instructions is to record a video of your computer monitor as you perform the actions, complete with your running commentary as you do so.

The best way to accomplish this is to use a video recording app that can access your video and sound cards to provide a quality picture and an associated sound track. And, what could be better than a piece of free software that does all of the above exceptionally handily?

At the club's Q&A session on February 17, 2021, Chris Taylor briefly described *OBS (Open Broadcaster Software) Studio*, noting that it was free, open-source, cross-platform (Windows, Linux and MacOS), powerful, flexible, and highly configurable. With such a resounding recommendation, this just has to be a good starting point for anyone needing to undertake a little screen video capture.

For those new to OBS, the installation process suggests checking out a four-step Quickstart Guide. This loads a web page that is one of a series of on-line guides and information on the use of the program. The four steps are to run the Auto-Configuration Wizard, set up the audio and video sources, and test the

settings that have been established for recording.

The Auto-Configuration Wizard is accessed from the Tools menu and asks how the program is going to be used. Note that the radio buttons for the various options are counter-intuitive. When "lit up" the button is not selected. I selected *Optimize just for recording, I will not be streaming* as my test was going to be a simple screen capture. The next screen was to set the picture resolution and the frames per second (FPS). I left these at their default values as these seemed to be appropriate choices.

Interestingly, the auto-configuration wizard didn't provide any options for audio and video sources. These can be selected by clicking on the plus sign in the *Sources* section of the program's main window. Once again the options have those bizarre radio buttons so, taking care, I selected *Add Existing – Mike/Aux* which was then duly displayed as a blue panel under *Sources*.

The choices for video sources were not particularly clear. Did I want *Display Capture, Video Capture Device, Window Capture*, or something completely different? I didn't locate any useful information on this aspect of the program from the available help menu but a search on Google suggested that *Display Capture* was the likely candidate. Making this selection suggested the *Capture*

*Method* as automatic, at full-screen resolution, and including capture of the cursor.

The result of this setup process was quite encouraging as shown in the screenshot. An image of my display screen was outlined in red, showing that this was the area to be recorded. And, the levels on the Mic/Aux display were flickering showing that the microphone was indeed live.

Making a test recording is very simple. Just click on *Start Recording* in the *Controls* section. Then, open a folder and select a file using the mouse, while giving a verbal description of the actions being taken. Finally click on *Stop Recording* and a message in the status bar at the bottom of the program window indicates *Recording saved to 'C:\Users\toaster\Videos\2022-09-20 21-19-29.mkv'*.

(continued on page 4)

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Next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

# Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

## TCP/IP OVERVIEW

Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol Overview

**Speaker:** Stéphane Richard

This presentation provides an overview of the protocols that power the internet. The Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) is a suite of communication protocols used to interconnect network devices on the internet. These protocols are used when you are surfing the internet using a browser, getting your emails from a server, accessing your IP security camera, etc. This presentation won't make you a network engineer but will give you a "look-behind-the-curtain" on how the internet works.

### About the presenter

Stéphane Richard is now retired after serving Canada for 35 years as a Communications and Electronics Officer for 20 years in the Canadian Armed Forces and in the federal public service for 15 years including 11 years as an executive. During his career in the Canadian Armed Forces, he mainly worked on the definition and implementation of multi-millions dollar capital projects. During his career in the public service, he worked in the Department of National Defence, Passport Canada, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Shared Services Canada, and finally Public Services and Procurement Canada. In his last appointment before his retirement, he was the contracting authority for the \$9 billion acquisition and in-service support contracts for the Maritime Helicopter Project.

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

The above link includes the following meeting ID and password. However, if you are prompted for the information, use:

Meeting ID: **924 9556 0898**

Password: **opcug**

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.



## Coming Up...

### January 11, 2023

How to buy a PC

**Speakers:** Chris Taylor, Alan German (OPCUG)  
(details to follow)

### February 8, 2023

How to get paid software for free daily... totally legally!

**Speaker:** Serge-Érik Thériault (OPCUG)  
(details to follow)

### June 2023

Annual Pizza Night  
(details to follow)

## 2022 CALENDAR

Meetings	Date	Time and Venue
Regular Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, December 14 <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, November 23<sup>rd</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, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Enjoy a cold brew or other beverage in the comfort of your home during the video conference.



## ARTICLE

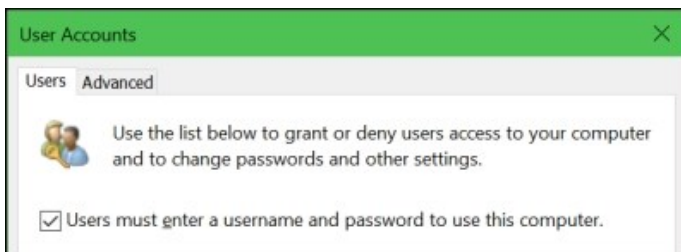
# Disabling automatic sign-in to Windows by Chris Taylor

Microsoft has, more or less, continually improved security in Windows. One important layer of security is the sign-in to the computer, which helps secure your information and identity.

We have progressed from Windows 95, where hitting the **Esc** key at the login prompt allowed you to access all locally stored information. But even in Windows 11, Microsoft still allows you to configure automatic sign-in and local accounts with no password. If you have taken advantage of either of these features and have become concerned about the security of your information and identity, you might want to fix them.

## Disable automatic sign-in

Press   (Windows key +R), type in **netplwiz**, and press Enter. If you are not currently signed in using an account with administrative privileges, you are prompted to provide credentials for a local admin account. Control Panel's **User Accounts** loads. Put a check mark in the box **Users must enter a username and password to use this computer**. Click the OK button and restart the computer.



## Set a password on every local account

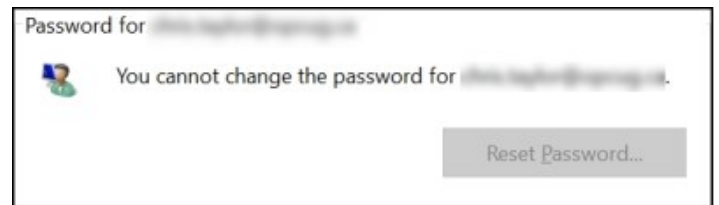
An account with no password allows anyone to sign-in, so it is best to ensure all local user accounts have a password. Load **netplwiz** as above and click on each account listed.

For your current account, if it is a local account, you will see the following:



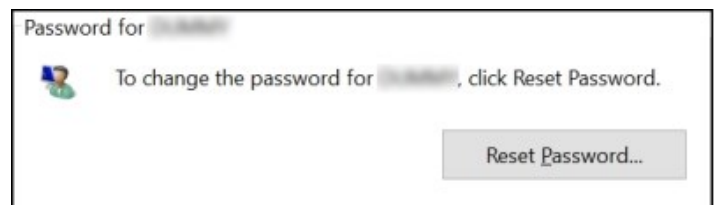
If you have no password on your account, follow the instructions to set a password.

For accounts using a Microsoft Account for authentication, you will not be able to change the password and will see the following:



That's fine as they have a password. You can change the password for your Microsoft Account at <https://accounts.microsoft.com>.

For other user accounts, you cannot see if a password has been set, but you can force a password by clicking the **Reset Password** button.

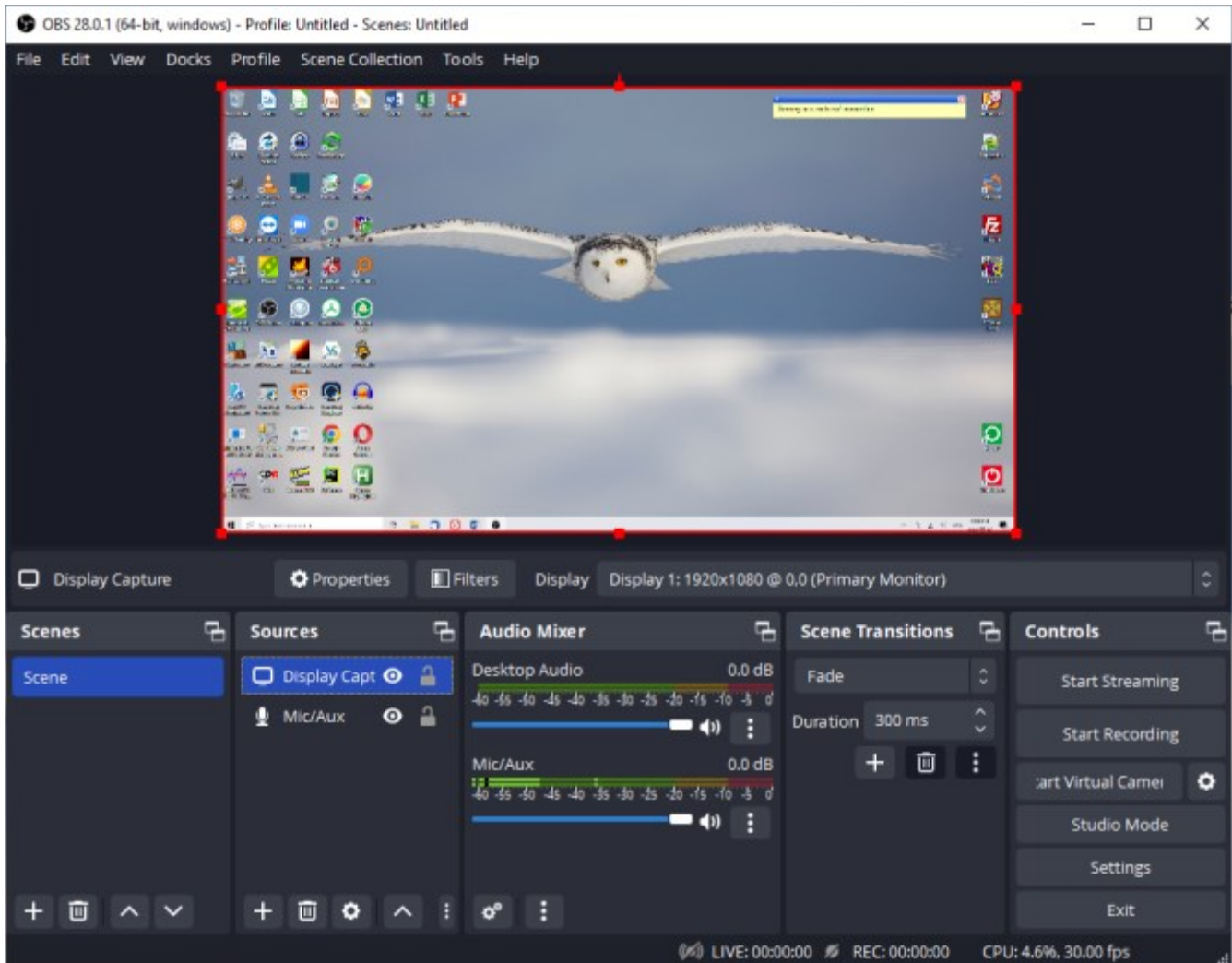


If this is an account used by someone else, you might want to try signing in under this account to see if you are prompted for a password and then speak with the person before you force a password on the account.

For advice on choosing a good password, see my article *Password strength* in the May 2022 issue of Ottawa PC News <https://opcug.ca/Articles/2205NEWS.pdf>.



## Screen Video Recording *(continued from page 1)*



Perhaps an unexpected feature of OBS Studio is that it stores videos by default as Matroska Video (MKV) files. MKV is an open-source format with container files that support unlimited picture, audio, and subtitle tracks. Alternative output file formats, e.g. MP4 or MOV, may be specified by navigating to *Settings – Output – Recording format*.

So, if you have a use for a video recording of your display screen, or want to record streaming video from an on-line source such as YouTube, it may be well worthwhile to give OBS Studio a try. As noted, it's simple and it's free!

### Bottom Line

OBS Studio (Open source)  
Version 28.0.1  
<https://obsproject.com>



This review is available in PDF format at <https://opcug.ca/reviews/>.

# THROUGH THE LENS

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

## How to photograph moving objects

by Lynda Buske

There are a variety of ways to use the shutter speed setting on your camera to photograph moving objects. All these methods will depend on the light you have available so you need to think of it in combination with your aperture (size of the opening in the lens) and ISO (sensitivity) settings. For instance, you may need a wide-open aperture (low number) to get a fast shutter speed or you may need a very small aperture (high number) to achieve a slow speed. A high ISO will allow you to use a shorter shutter speed for any given lighting condition and a low ISO will do the opposite.

The most common way we see motion captured is with a "stop action" image. In this case, you are focused on the object and have set your camera to a shutter speed that freezes all motion. This will of course, depend on how much light you have in the scene. Depending on how fast the object is moving (e.g., someone waving) you may not need a shutter speed faster than say 1/200<sup>th</sup> of a second to freeze the action. But if you want to catch a bird in flight, you may need a shutter speed that is a lot faster than that. My general rule of thumb is at least 1/1500<sup>th</sup> sec but as you can see from Chris' hummingbird, he used 1/2000<sup>th</sup> sec and even at that, there is a small amount of motion in the wing. [Note: In this instance, the background appears blurred not from movement but from a short depth of field.] A heron or a hawk would not require as fast a shutter speed since their wings flap at a much slower pace than a hummingbird!



Chris Taylor - OPCUG

The second method is to pan with the object of interest while taking the shot. This means moving your camera along the same path as the object while the shutter is activated. In the example below, the Volkswagen remains in focus while the background appears to be whizzing by. For this type of shot, you need an exposure time that is long enough to achieve the

amount of background blur you want. This may mean choosing a third to half of a second. Even with a bright day, a DSLR will probably allow you to get such a shutter speed with a combination of a small aperture and low ISO. If your camera does not have a smaller aperture than f/8, you may have difficulty unless it is an overcast day. You may get an over-exposed photo because your camera has let in too much light at that particular shutter speed. If this happens, try a faster shutter speed like a quarter of a second.



Matthias Meyer - Unsplash

A third method is to depict the action by having the moving object blurred and the background sharp. This is shown in the train photo. Again, you need an exposure long enough that it does not freeze the motion but not so long that the train is completely blurred and unrecognizable. For this photo, I used 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a second.



Lynda Buske - OPCUG

Depending on the lighting conditions, you may not be able to achieve the shutter speed that gives you the effect you want. Be prepared to experiment with different settings or even think about additional gear such as a neutral density filter that cuts out light and allows for a longer exposure time. You may wish to consider a lens that has a wider range of apertures which would allow for either longer or shorter shutter speed options.



Lynda regularly gives presentations for the OPCUG at the **Ottawa Public Library** (<https://opcug.ca/opl-presentations/>). This article is also in PDF format on the OPCUG website (<https://opcug.ca/digital-photography/>).

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Along with a review of a screen-pivoting software, this month's blast includes an announcement of our annual BBQ before it morphed into Pizza Night in 2008. The entire June 2004 newsletter is here: <https://opcug.ca/Articles/0406.pdf>.

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# BBQ BBQ

**J**une is our wrap-up meeting before we break for the summer. Continuing with tradition, we will be having our annual barbeque. It will take place under the big tent near the main doors to the museum. There will be cold drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs and dessert. Make sure you let Tim Mahoney know at [timothy.mahoney@opcug.ca](mailto:timothy.mahoney@opcug.ca) how many will be in your party, whether you prefer hamburgers or hot dogs and whether you are a big eater or little eater. If you can help out with the running of the BBQ (bringing a grill or flipping burgers and dogs) please let Bob know.

The barbeque will start at 6:00 and run until about 7:45. After that we will head into the museum for our regular meeting which will start around 8:00 pm.

Date: June 16, 2004 (third Wednesday in June)



## PRODUCT REVIEW

### Pivot Pro – A New Twist on Computer Displays

by Alan German

**I**n the good old days, when I used to read PC Magazine from cover to cover, I seem to recall seeing advertisements for pivoting CRT monitors. Using my word processing software with a standard monochrome monitor in landscape mode, I could only ever see part of the page I was working on, and I drooled at the thought of being able to spin the screen through 90 degrees and display the entire page. Well, now, with LCD monitor technology, and a copy of Pivot Pro, I can do exactly that, and it's great!

Once installed, Pivot Pro's icon is visible in the task bar and actuating the program provides options to rotate the display to 0, 90, 180, or 270 degrees. Selecting the 90 degree option instantly switches the screen into portrait mode.

Rotate the screen to the vertical and Microsoft Word, running on a 17-inch LCD monitor (1280 x 1024 resolution), can now display a full page of text at pretty much full (8.5x11") size. Similarly, one can view full pages of OPCUG's newsletter using Adobe's Acrobat Reader (see figure). And, with Internet Explorer, you can view more of your favourite web site without having to scroll down the page.

Pivot Pro works with the Windows 98 SE, 2000, NT 4.0, ME, and XP operating systems, and with Internet Explorer 5.0 as a web browser. All major brands of graphic cards are supported (check the web site for details), and there no limitation on supported resolution or refresh rate.

If you have a pivoting LCD monitor (or are prepared to stand your fixed monitor on its side!), Pivot Pro may just be the driver you have been looking for. A number of computing tasks are just so much easier when you can view information in a more convenient format.



#### Bottom Line:

Portrait Displays, Inc.

US \$ 39.95 (download)

Free 30-day trial version

[http://personalcomputing.portrait.com/us/products/pp\\_overview.html](http://personalcomputing.portrait.com/us/products/pp_overview.html)

## 2004 RETROSPECTIVE

### Retrospective: Pivot Pro - A New Twist on Computer Displays

by Bob Walker

In the June 2004 issue of the OPCUG Newsletter (Volume 21, No. 6), there was an article by Alan German titled 'Pivot Pro - A New Twist on Computer Displays'. Alan reviewed a software product called Pivot Pro that allowed you to view letter sized (8 ½" x 11") documents full sized on a special 'pivoting' monitor, or on a regular monitor if you were willing to turn it on its side. At a time when large monitors were prohibitively expensive, this was great for people that really needed to view an entire page full sized to avoid eye strain. The product was relatively short lived as larger monitors became cheaper or people adapted to partial page views or shrunken full page views. Another example of a piece of specialized computer software that had its brief place in the sun before being overtaken by technology.

That said, a quick search reveals a current product called Pivot Pro that is a Remote Client Software package. I'm not sure whether the original Pivot Pro morphed into this, or whether it's a separate product that shares the same name.

### Club History - 2004 (taken from <https://opcug.ca/history/>)

- Nov 2004 Vince Pizzamiglio organises the second successful [workshop](#).  
Bought 75 "Calendar Calculators" for \$967.81. They will be sold for \$20, or given to presenters as a token of our appreciation. A new manual is written to replace the poorly written original.  
Jocelyn Doire [reworks](#) the [OPCUG logo](#) to improve how it looks on a web page and in a PDF file.
- Oct 2004 Creation of the [IT Pro SIG](#).
- Jun 2004 3rd OPCUG BBQ
- Feb 2004 The PUB II hardware for the OPCUG's on-line presence was upgraded from a 200 MHz Pentium MMX with 64MB RAM and a 4GB hard drive to a 2.8GHz Pentium 4 with 1GB RAM and a 80GB hard drive (we kept the monitor). For about half the price of the old computer (\$941.85 vs. \$1,926.25 in March 1998), we got 14 times the clock speed, 16 times the memory and 20 times the disk space. Oh, and a CD-ReWriter.

### 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

# 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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Newsletter		
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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