



PRODUCT REVIEW

Making an EaseUS Todo Backup Rescue Disk

by Alan German

Your computer is working just fine. You use EaseUS Todo Backup, make regular full disk image backups, and store the backup files on an external USB drive. Now is the time to make a rescue disk in preparation for a time when your computer experiences a catastrophic failure and refuses to boot.

With EaseUS Todo Backup running, recovering a specific file or folder, or even an entire disk partition (other than the current system partition) is a simple process. The *Browse to Recover* option allows selection of the backup drive and navigation to a specific backup (.pbd) file. There are then options to use *Disk/Partition mode* or *File mode* with further navigation options to browse for a specific disk partition, file or folder to be restored. If you only want to recover a file or a folder, there's an even easier way. Just open the .pbd file in File Explorer. The files and folders on the backup volume are listed just as they were on the original drive.

However, the full Windows partition (Drive C:) cannot be restored using Disk/Partition mode since this would mean overwriting the system files for the operating system that is running. It is also clear that this would not be possible should the computer fail to boot, and not be able to load Windows, so that the EaseUS software could not be started. In either of these cases it is necessary to boot the computer from a rescue disk.

The EaseUS Todo Backup rescue disk uses Windows PE (Windows Preinstallation Environment) which boots a lightweight version of the Windows operating system and automatically runs the backup software. So, when the rescue disk is booted, the computer's screen displays the main window for EaseUS Todo Backup just as if the program had been started from the Windows desktop.

EaseUS Todo Backup can utilize just about any USB flash drive for a bootable rescue disk as it requires a drive with a capacity of just 512 MB (or larger.) Note that the drive should be empty, or at least not contain any files that you wish to keep. The drive will be formatted before the rescue software is written to it and this will delete any files present on the drive.

With the backup program running in Windows as usual, navigate to *Tools > Create Emergency Disk*. The *Boot disk location* dialogue box displays three disk icons. Select the middle icon, a graphic of a USB flash drive inside a circle, browse to select the USB drive that is to be used to create the rescue disk, and press *Create* (Figure 1).

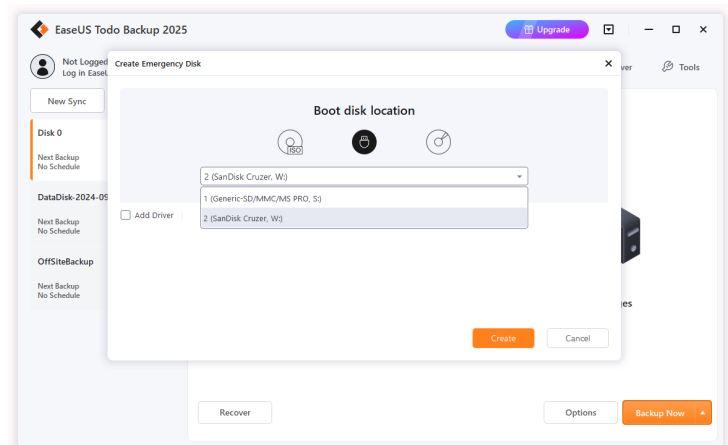


Figure 1. Select the flash drive to be used as the rescue disk

A subsequent dialogue box indicates that *WinPE created with Free version does not support Clone and System Transfer*. Since we will not be using either of these functions, click *Create Now* to continue. A new pop-up dialogue box indicates: *Selected device needs to be formatted. Do you want to continue?*

Press *OK* to authorize formatting the USB drive.

(Continued on page 7)

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Next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY, October 8th, 2025**

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 8th

Wi-Fi Extenders, Wi-Fi Routers and Wi-Fi Mesh

Speaker: Francis Chao, Tucson Computer Society

Most of the improvements in Local Area Networking and routers have been on the wireless Wi-Fi part of the equation. Using a live demo consisting of a Fixed Wireless Access Internet connection, Wi-Fi extenders, and a two-router mesh, he will demonstrate how the latest Wi-Fi 7, 6E, and 6 technologies improve the use of computer, tablets, cell phones, cameras, and other “Internet of Things” devices.

Francis Chao is a volunteer for the Speakers’ Bureau of the APCUG organization. He has been presenting for them for the past 16 years. He is currently a member of the Tucson Computer Society where he maintains an online presence via Zoom since he now lives in California. Francis is an avid user of Windows., macOS, and Linux computers. His current list of presentations is available at <https://aztcs.apcug.org/fchao.pdf>.

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.



Coming Up...

24 Sep

[Next Q&A session](#)

12 Nov

[Home Automation – An Introduction](#)

Speaker: Bill James (APCUG)

10 Dec

VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) *(details to follow)*

Speaker: Jeff Dubois (OPCUG)

14 Jan

[Music and its ever-changing delivery](#)

Speaker: Ray Baxter (APCUG)

11 Feb

[The Ins and Outs of Electronic Mail](#)

Speakers: Chris Taylor and Alan German (OPCUG)

Visit <https://opcug.ca/#upcoming> to see all scheduled events.

OPCUG Presentations at the OPL:

Monday, 22 Sep, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Protecting your PC (Chris Taylor)

Carlingwood Branch

Monday, 22 Sep, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Windows 10 end-of-life – what’s next? (Alan German)

Video Conference (must register)

Tuesday, 23 Sep, 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Artificial Intelligence (AI): fun and useful tips (Chris Taylor)

Ruth E. Dickinson Branch

Visit <https://opcug.ca/mec-category/opl-presentations/> for the full list of presentations with links to the OPL.

2025 CALENDAR

Event	Date	Time and Venue
Next Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, October 8 th	7:30 pm via Zoom video conference: https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting Visit https://opcug.ca/mec-category/regular-monthly-meetings/ to see all scheduled monthly meetings.
Next Q&A Session	Wednesday, September 24 th	Q&A sessions are held weekly except on monthly meeting nights. Join us most Wednesdays at 7:30 pm for weekly Q&A .
Next OPL Presentation	Monday, September 22 nd	Visit https://opcug.ca/mec-category/opl-presentations/ for the full list of our presentations with links to the OPL.

CLUB LIFE

One-on-one remote assistance

This is a reminder that we launched the *One-on-one remote assistance* program a year ago— <https://opcug.ca/Articles/2410NEWS.pdf>. If you have been struggling with a problem, we always recommend you start with resources such as the OPCUG-Member-Forum or Wednesday evening Q&A sessions.

But, if you have ever muttered: “*If someone could just see my screen, they might understand my problem.*”, then *One-on-one remote assistance* may be just the ticket to problem resolution. Through the program, we can pair you up with one of our many volunteers. If they think—from your description of the problem—they may be able to solve your problem, a remote session can be arranged where they can see your screen and (optionally) take control of your keyboard and mouse.

Since launch, the program has dealt with 8 issues. Six were resolved. The remaining 2 were tricky issues, one of which was determined to be something only the software vendor in question could solve, and the other was an odd-ball problem that multiple volunteers were unable to solve.

Members who brought forward the problems were universally impressed with the program, with comments like: *Yet again, I experienced excellent, clear and easy-to-understand explanations and diagnosis of my problem.; Big thanks to [those] who volunteered their time and made many good suggestions, as well as showing me a couple of tricks I didn't know.; I am very satisfied with the outcome and grateful for [volunteer's] extreme patience and time spent helping me understand how to get computer commands to work. and; I so appreciate ALL the help [volunteer] offered me!*

For details on how you can take advantage of this great member benefit, see <https://opcug.ca/one-on-one-remote-assistance/>.



Nominations for OPCUG Board for 2026

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 in the Newsletter and on the web site.

Nominations can be submitted via email to Lynda Buske, Election Chair, at nominations2026@opcug.ca.

Nominations must be received by midnight, December 31, 2025.

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

Lynda Buske
Election Chair



THROUGH THE LENS

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

Creating an on-line photo album at Flickr

by Lynda Buske

While there are many sites that allow you to create an on-line photo album, often they are limited in how you can arrange the photos, caption them, etc. Five years ago, I wrote an article promoting the use of Shutterfly.com to create your own personalized photo sharing site. It was simple and had unlimited space. Unfortunately, the company stopped offering this feature a few years ago even if you were willing to pay.

One of the oldest sites is Flickr.com and a few years ago, I created an account and have been using it regularly ever since. I typically use it to post my latest travel photos so the limit of 1,000 images with the free version is not a big issue. If I need space, I simply remove my oldest trip that is no longer being viewed by friends and family. [Note: You can also produce hard copy photo books through their partners at Blurb].

Once you have created your account, it will prompt you to load photos from your computer or you can drag and drop photos onto the webpage. These then appear in your *PhotoStream*. This is the easiest place to select the images for the creation of an album but it is also where you upload new images on future site visits as you will not get that initial prompt. Simply go to your *PhotoStream* tab and click on the cloud icon at the top. This will take you to your computer *Pictures* folder.

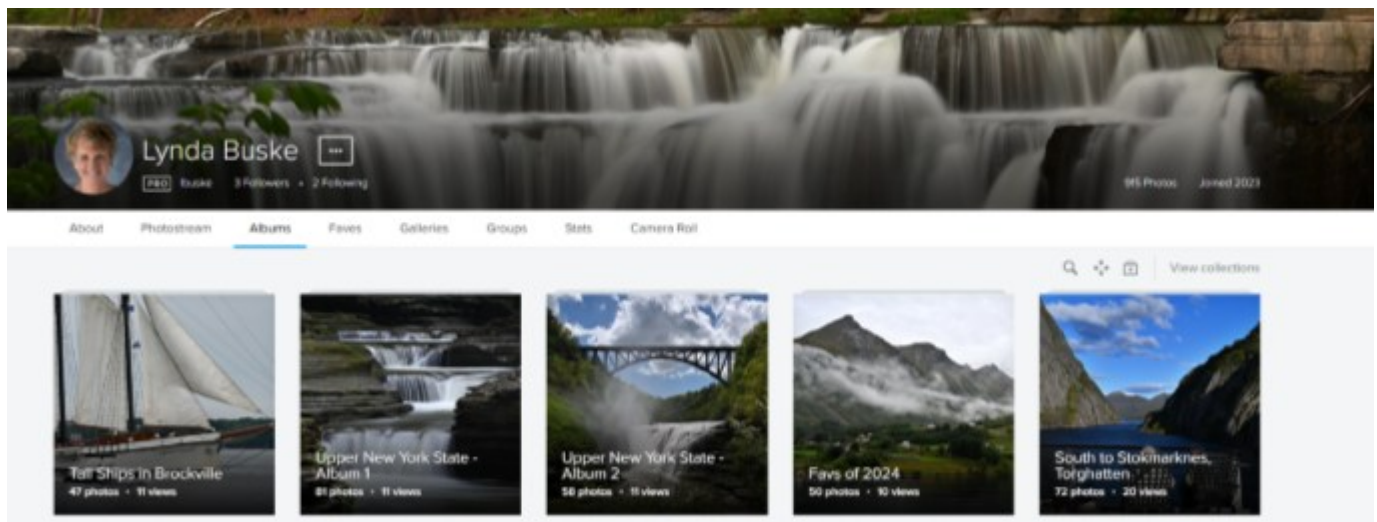
For detailed instructions on using Flickr, click the presentation link below and go to slide 50.

<https://opcug.ca/opl/organizingphotos.pdf>

When you *Edit in Organizer* [sic] you can sort the images in whatever order you wish. I really like this feature as sorting by name or date is not always how I want to tell my story. You can also select an image and drag it to your album cover. It will not show right away even with a refresh but it will be visible the next time you open the Flickr site.

After you have edited and saved your album, you can go to the main *Album* tab and hover over your album to reach the share icon. Copy the link or post directly to Facebook, X, etc. I usually copy the link and then send it to friends & family by email.

Flickr defaults to taking you to the home page. Click on *You* and save that link for easy access.



Read all of Lynda's articles [here](#). See her [presentations](#) at the Ottawa Public Library (select **Lynda Buske** as **Organizer**).

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THE ROAD TO UNICODE (Part 2)

By Joel Ewing, President, Bella Vista Computer Club

Bits & Bytes, July 2024

<https://bvcomputerclub.org>

president (at) bvcomputerclub.org

(read Part 1 in [September's newsletter](#))

Unicode To The Rescue

The Unicode Consortium was started in 1988 with the job of coming up with a single character codeset that would be universal (covering all letters, punctuation, and technical symbols used by all world languages), uniform for efficiency, and unique (each bit sequence only has a single meaning). For example, rather than one single quote mark there are unique codes for left single quote, right single quote, and apostrophe, because in formal printing they all have distinctly different uses and appearances.

Version 15.1 of the Unicode standard in 2023 defines 149,813 unique Unicode characters, and additional characters are being added as the need arises. Obviously, this requires more than just 8-bits (1 byte) to represent this many unique characters. The basic design is based on 32-bit values, but the possible combinations of bits are cleverly restricted so that all Unicode characters can be represented by one 32-bit value (UTF-32), by one or two 16-bit values (UTF-16), or by one to four 8-bit values (UTF-8). The restrictions on valid bit patterns make it possible to identify whether the next character consists of a single 16-bit or 8-bit value, or if multiple values must be grouped to form one character. A maximum of 1,112,064 valid Unicode code points could potentially be supported, and each code point can be uniquely represented by a 31-bit hex value in the range from 0 to 0x7FFFFFFF. Only a small percentage of those over 2 billion possible hex values map into possible Unicode characters in order to make it easy to distinguish single-byte from multiple-byte character encodings. The rules for taking a Unicode hex value and producing the corresponding UTF-8 or UTF-16 hex values that would actually be stored are simple for a computer but tedious for a human. Except for the first 128 characters (just like the old ASCII), humans would more likely describe a Unicode character by its hex value rather than the actual byte values that would be stored in a computer memory.

An arbitrary Unicode character can be represented by its hex value using the notation U+xxxx, where "xxxx" is a specific hex value for the symbol. For example, if you do a search for a "Unicode math summation symbol" you will find it is "U+03A3". If you follow your word processor or Operating System rules for entering an arbitrary Unicode character and specify the hex value "03A3", you will get the character "Σ".

The default character codeset in use on the most devices prior to Unicode was one of the ANSI codesets, whose first 128 characters are identical to the original 7-bit ASCII standard.

Unicode was designed so that the first 128 values of UTF-8 encoding of Unicode are identical to those in 7-bit ASCII and are represented by a single byte in UTF-8. This means that the most commonly used characters are represented by an identical 8-bit value in the ANSI code variants and in UTF-8 encoding of Unicode, so very little space penalty is paid for converting existing English data into UTF-8; and applications designed to support the basic 7-bit ASCII characters could work with UTF-8 by default.

MS Windows started supporting Unicode in Windows NT and in Windows 2000 (as UTF-16 internally). Unicode support for all applications in MS Office was introduced with Office 2000, with partial support as early as Office 97. In 2019 MS began de-emphasizing UTF-16 in favor of UTF-8 for internal API interfaces.

The original FAT¹ file system only supported 6.3 file names in 7-bit ASCII. The VFAT² files system extension introduced with Windows 95 supported long file name in Unicode, in addition to a munged 6.3 file name for backwards compatibility. Some characters are still disallowed in file names (\ / . ? * ¥)³

Almost all web pages are now encoded using UTF-8. The email protocols and email clients now by default use UTF-8. This greatly simplifies global communication of data including all symbols and markings that are important in other languages. It also means you can now receive SPAM written in Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Russian, etc. and have the characters correctly displayed. Sometimes I find it entertaining to feed some of that foreign SPAM to Google Translate just to see what foreign scams look like.

Current versions of Windows and Linux support UTF-8 by default. Some Windows applications implement ways of inserting Unicode characters not on the keyboard by selecting the desired character from a table of more commonly used symbols, or provide a special way to input the hex value for the Unicode character. Both MS Word and Wordpad allow entering a Unicode hex value and then using ALT+x to toggle the hex value into a Unicode character; but that technique isn't available in many other applications, including File Manager, which makes it difficult to use arbitrary Unicode characters for naming folders or files.

(Continued on next page)

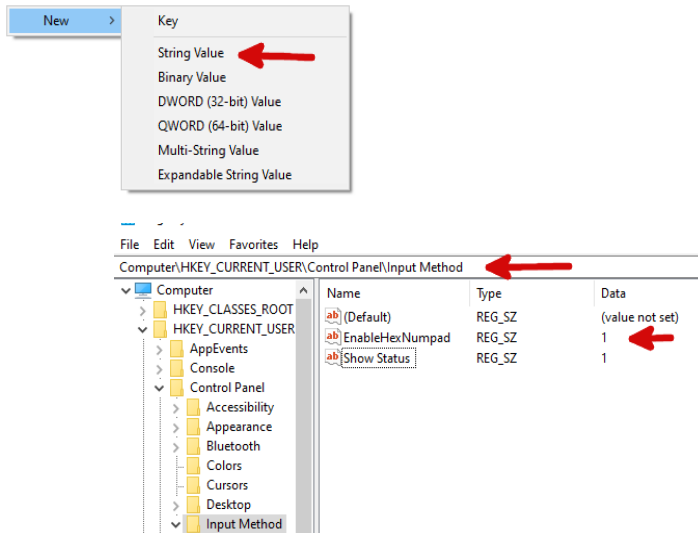
¹ File Allocation Table

² Virtual File Allocation Table

³ The Yen symbol is disallowed because on some Japanese computers the Yen symbol replaced the / symbol in the codeset, causing some ambiguity in how to properly translate that codepoint into Unicode when dealing with legacy data.

UNICODE (Continued from previous page)

There is an alternative Unicode entry method in Windows that doesn't require support in each application, but it does require editing the Windows Registry, which is potentially dangerous if you are prone to finger checks or typos. It requires using the Registry Editor to create a string value under "HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Control Panel/Input Method" for EnableHexNumpad" and setting its value to "1", and then rebooting.



I tried this out on Windows 10, and was then able to enter an arbitrary Unicode value in a text field by holding down the ALT key, pressing + on the numeric keypad, typing the hex characters value for the Unicode character, and then finally releasing the ALT key. It appears to work everywhere I tried it, but the need to hold down ALT for a long time is awkward and precludes using touch typing skills. Still, it's the only practical entry technique in some contexts in Windows. I rather prefer the Linux approach, which only requires a brief CTRL+SHIFT+U multi-key combination which is released before keying the hex Unicode value followed by a space.

Even if you are using an application like MS Word which has a fairly large table of special symbols to select, you may find it faster to enter a frequently used Unicode character just by using its hex code rather than using a lot of mouse manipulation to select from a large table of symbols.

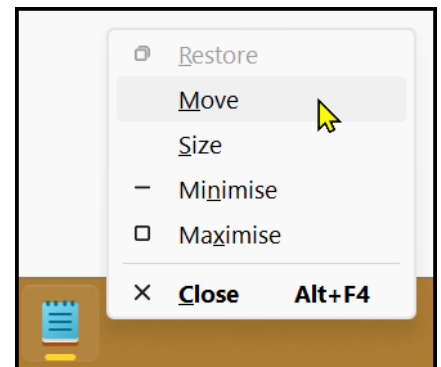
If you have reason to believe, or hope, that a special Unicode character exists and can describe it, a Google search combined with "Unicode" will probably get you to the corresponding Unicode hex value and an image of the character's appearance. "Unicode solid left arrow" will find all sorts of Unicode arrow characters, including U+2190 ← and U+1F844 ➡. "Unicode pile of poo" will locate U+1F4A9 💩. "Unicode Halloween pumpkin" locates U+1F383, or 🎃. "CJK" is the set of unified ideographs used in modern Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese characters. A search for "CJK Unicode home" finds the ideograph U+5BB6 meaning a home: 家. Going to "Google Translate" in the Edge browser and using the ALT+ technique to enter the U+5bb6 Unicode character in the "Enter text" field, Google recognizes it as "Chinese (Simplified)" with a translation of "Home". You may have to search for a font that supports a specific Unicode character as some lesser used characters are not supported by all fonts.

**Quick Tip 76: moving windows**

by Chris Taylor

Sometimes an application window can disappear from view completely. You click the taskbar icon and it changes its look to show it is the active window, but the application is MIA. The program window is open, but is located outside of the visible area of the screen.

- hold down the shift key and right-click the taskbar icon for the wayward application.



- in the pop-up menu, click Move
- a 4-headed arrow will appear at the edge of the screen closest to the missing program window
- use the arrow keys on the keyboard to move the window onto the visible screen
- press Enter



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MANY FUN AND FREE GOOGLE APPS

A **MONITOR Back to Basics** article (June 2025)

by Jim Cerny, 1st Vice President,

Sarasota Technology Users Group (<https://thestug.org/>)

jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com

I am always amazed about all the free Google apps you can use when you have a Google account. If you have a Gmail address, well, that IS your Google account. This opens up a world of fun and useful apps you can use for free. When you open your Google account (or Gmail) look for a small grid of nine dots (3 dots by 3 dots) and click on it. This opens the long list of free Google apps.

Many of these apps are great for businesses and organizations, but here is my personal list of favorites that I think most of you will enjoy. Remember you can always “Ask Google” how to use any app and get videos to help you!

1. Google Maps – can be used to explore or plan your trip. It will estimate the time of travel based upon current traffic condition. It can even show you where you parked your car.
2. Google Calendar – Keep track of all your appointments and dates. A calendar can be shared with others and each user has their own color for appointments.
3. Contact List – Keep all your contacts in one place. Works with your smart phone too.
4. Google Earth – Explore the entire earth. Zoom in on cities, canyons, and parks. Even golf courses! Works with Google Maps and you can zoom all the way down to “street level view” to look around as if you are standing on the street in that location.
5. Google Drive (with Google Docs and Sheets – see below) – allows 15 GB of free storage space on the Google “cloud” for your account. Save any files you like to Google Drive and SHARE these files with anyone. You can give your friend permission to just view the files (or download them) or to allow them to edit and change you files.
6. Google Docs – Works just like Microsoft Word. Create new documents and download them into Word on your computer if you want.
7. Google Sheets – Works just like Microsoft Excel. Create new spreadsheets, share them if you wish with others, download them into Excel if you want.
8. YouTube – Full free endless entertainment. Old movies, music, bands, stars, game shows, documentaries, news, sports, etc., etc. It’s all here. Search for whatever you like to see many videos on your favorite star, music group, etc. Newer movies and more current TV shows are available too if you pay a fee. But there is so much for free you probably do not need to pay.
9. Google Voice – Get your free phone number; Works just like a regular phone.
10. Google Meet – Great for group meetings, works like Zoom. But there is unlimited video calls for one-on-one conversations.

Why not try something new? Learn more by searching and watching video instructions on how to use any Google app. It’s all free and you will never run out of things to watch!



Rescue Disk *(Continued from page 1)*

Progress will be indicated by changing values for the estimated time remaining and the elapsed time until the message *WinPE OS has been successfully exported* is displayed. Press *Finish* to exit the process.

Now, a note of caution. Viewing the contents of the rescue disk in File Explorer will display *This folder is empty*. However, this does not mean that the creation of the rescue disk was unsuccessful. In fact, the drive is not empty but contains hidden system files and folders. Looking at the properties of the USB drive will show 612 MB of used space.

In any case, the viability of the rescue disk should be tested by using it to boot the computer and making sure that you can access the stored backup files. You can determine how to boot your specific computer from a USB flash drive through a Google search.

In my case, pressing F12 when the machine is rebooting loads a boot menu from which the EaseUS rescue drive can be selected. Then, as described earlier, the computer boots directly into EaseUS Todo Backup and the component(s) to be restored can be selected.

Bottom Line:

EaseUS Todo Backup Free (Freeware)

Version 17.5.0

<https://www.easeus.com/download/tbf-download.html>



(read all APCUG reviews [here](#))

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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).

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

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

The OPCUG holds its regular monthly meetings on the second Wednesday in the month via video conference (details at <https://opcug.ca/venue/>).

OPCUG Membership Fees: \$20 per year (<https://opcug.ca/join-or-renew>)
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Q&A IS ON-LINE! Weekly!

Since the pandemic, the OPCUG has been 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

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**).

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Users helping users
for over 40 years