



OTTAWA

# PC NEWS



An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

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## ARTICLE

### Linux Phones *by Alan German*

Most of us use Android smartphones but how many of us know the update policy that applies to our specific device? The situation across the industry is nothing short of a mess. The level of support that is provided varies widely by manufacturer, and even by model, ranging between 3 and 7 years. Not surprisingly, the longest support periods are associated with the most-costly, premium phones while budget phones are normally at the other end of the spectrum.

Even so, the cost of a budget Android phone, at around \$100-150, is not inconsequential and the hardware is likely to be still perfectly functional when it will no longer receive over-the-air security patches from the manufacturer. So what is the poor user supposed to do – send perfectly good hardware to E-waste – purchase yet another short-lived Android device?

Does this seem reminiscent of the Windows 10 end-of-life scenario where many perfectly-good computers were placed on the scrap heap as a result of an arbitrary decision by a tech giant? It certainly should as there are clear similarities in the way in which the operating system software has been implemented.

Android, while being developed by Google, is built on the Linux kernel

and so is nominally open-source software. In practice; however, both Google and individual device manufacturers have constructed proprietary ecosystems around their Android implementations. As a result, bootloaders are locked, access to large portions of the file system is restricted, essential device drivers are proprietary binary “blobs”, and security updates are tightly controlled. These constraints severely limit the ability of regular users to customize, modify and control how their smartphones function.

Wouldn't it be great if a phone could use native Linux rather than the limited functionality provided by Android? This scenario closely parallels the PC world where being confined by the limitations of the closed Windows operating system is contrasted with the flexibility offered by running that same computer with Linux.

Fortunately Linux phones do exist, with hardware devices having only a tiny market share, and software options frequently limited by constraints imposed by proprietary hardware components.

Even more surprising is the fact that Linux phones were implemented more than 20 years ago! The first commercial Linux phone is usually taken to be the Motorola A760, released in 2003, and running Mon-

taVista Linux. This was followed in 2007 by the OpenMoko Neo 1973 and in 2009 by the Nokia N900. The availability of such devices was short lived as manufacturers found that using Android was less expensive than in-house development of a Linux operating system and its applications.

Nevertheless, today there are a number of commercially-available Linux phones and several Linux distros that can be installed on existing phones that were originally released as Android devices. Prices for Linux phones vary considerably at US \$150 - \$2199. Most are available only online and many are subject to shipping charges and import duties. One important feature to check before purchasing any such device is its compatibility with Canadian cellular networks. Similarly, many available Linux distros currently support only

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**ANNUAL PIZZA PARTY: Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM**

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM

### ANNUAL PIZZA PARTY

ONLY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

**Where:** Britannia Park Trolley Station  
(see [next page](#) for directions)

Once again we are approaching the end of an OPCUG season, and once again we'll celebrate with pizza, drinks (pop, water) and dessert. **This is free for OPCUG members and their guests.**

The event will be on June 10 at 6 PM. It will be at the **Britannia Park Trolley Station** which is sheltered in case of rain and has free parking in an adjacent lot.

To help with planning, we're asking you to **register by email** at [pizzaparty2026@opcug.ca](mailto:pizzaparty2026@opcug.ca). Tell us how many guests you are bringing and your pizza preference (e.g. combo, special, meat lover, vegetarian, gluten free, etc.). **If you have trouble climbing into a picnic table, please let us know in the email and we will try to make accommodations** (we can provide card tables & chairs and ask the park if it can re-orient some picnic tables to expose more end-of-bench seating spots).

We look forward to seeing you and your guests!



## Coming Up...

27 May

Next [weekly Q&A session](#)

09 Sep

[Artificial Intelligence \(AI\): fun and useful tips](#) (Chris Taylor)

14 Oct

[Vibe Coding Competition](#) (**participants needed**, see [page 5](#))

See all our scheduled events [here](#).

## OPCUG Presentations at the OPL:

**Monday, 25 May, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Macro (close-up) Photography (Lynda Buske)  
Carlingwood Branch

**Tuesday, 26 May, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

How to Secure a Home Wireless Network (Chris Taylor)  
Ruth E. Dickinson Branch

**Tuesday, 27 May, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

The ins and outs of electronic mail (Chris Taylor)  
Wednesday, Rockcliffe Park Branch

**Saturday, 30 May, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

Quick PC Tips: Enhancing Capabilities and Performance with Free Tools (Chris Taylor), Nepean Centrepointe Branch

**Sunday, 31 May, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

How to make a hard copy photo book (Lynda Buske)  
Orleans Branch

**Monday, 01 Jun, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

Armchair travel: Newfoundland (Lynda Buske)  
North Gloucester Branch

**Monday, 01 Jun, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

Protecting your PC (Chris Taylor)  
Richmond Branch

See all our presentations with links to the OPL [here](#).

This will be our last monthly meeting until September. You can still join us all summer on Wednesdays for [Q&A sessions](#).

## CALENDAR

Event	Date	Time and Venue
Annual Pizza Party	Wednesday, June 10 <sup>th</sup>	6 PM at the <b>Britannia Park Trolley Station</b> (see <a href="#">page 3</a> for details) See all our scheduled monthly meetings <a href="#">here</a> .
Next Q&A Session	<a href="#">Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup></a>	Q&A sessions are held weekly except on monthly meeting nights. Join us most Wednesdays at 7:30 pm for <a href="#">weekly Q&amp;A</a> .
Next OPL Presentation	Monday, May 25 <sup>th</sup>	See all our presentations with links to the OPL <a href="#">here</a> .

# SPECIAL EVENT



Map of Britannia Park ([open in Google Maps](#)):



Britannia Park Trolley Station ([see more photos](#)):



## ANNUAL PIZZA PARTY

### FOR OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

**When:** Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 6 PM

**Where:** Britannia Park Trolley Station ([see images at right for directions](#))

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The event will be on June 10 at 6 PM. It will be at the **Britannia Park Trolley Station** which is sheltered in case of rain and has free parking in an adjacent lot.

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We look forward to seeing you and your guests!

Sky view of Trolley Station and parking ([view larger](#)):



# THROUGH THE LENS

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

## My top two tips for better travel photos!

by Lynda Buske

It's that time of year when many folk go on road trips or fly to far away places. When travelling, you do not always have the ability to choose the time of day, type of light and weather to shoot your images as you would at home. But with two important tips, you can take good photos in all sorts of weather and time of day.

For me, the most important thing is to have my photos tell a story. This makes it fun to share them with friends/family without the need for captions plus it's a lovely story for you to relive some years down the road.

So, my top two tips are using the rule of thirds and emphasizing foreground to provide context and a fuller story.

### Tip 1: Utilize the rule of thirds

I want my images to have a 3-dimensional effect so that you want to walk into them and through the scene. The easiest way to achieve this is with the use of foreground, middle ground and background. This is especially important if you are using a cell phone with a limited ability to zoom. Make use of what is close to you. The rule of thirds splits your image into nine squares and recommends placing objects of interest near one of the intersection points, not the middle. This applies to people too! In Figure 1 & 2, the boathouse and boat are points of interest so placed near an intersection point.

### Tip 2: Use foreground to tell the tale

The examples at right show images that would require a lot of explaining (or captions) as well as images that tell much more of the story simply with including foreground. These types of images are not typically what you would frame and put on your wall but they are great for travel photography. It is hard for most folk to know what Figure 3 is even if I said my trip was on the Danube River. Figure 4 makes it clearer that it's a lock and includes the excitement of fellow tourists as we went through the biggest lock on the river!

*(Continued on next page)*

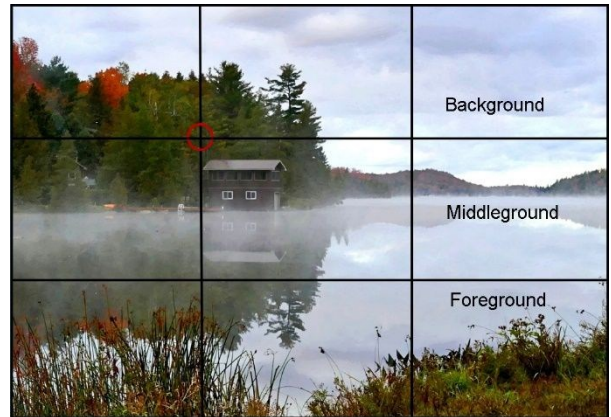


Figure 1

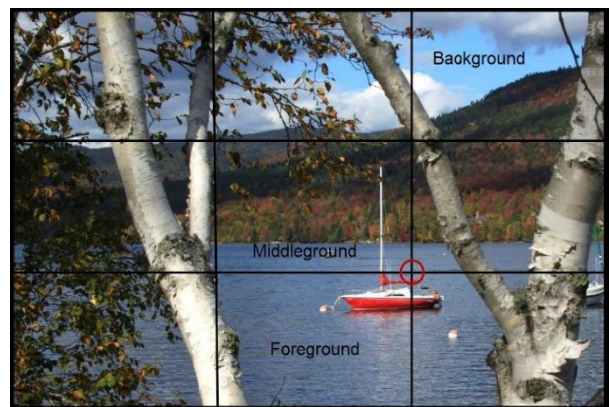


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

(Continued from previous page)

Figure 5 gives very little information beyond a canal in the distance and an ugly chip shop. Where am I shooting from? Figure 6 on the other hand shows you that I'm on a boat and about 100 feet off the ground. Now you are interested! Figure 7 of the Falkirk Wheel then shows how I got down from my lofty perch!



Figure 5 – no story



Figure 6 – shows context



Figure 7 –  
Final step



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

### Vibe Coding Competition, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> **Participants needed!**

OPCUG will offer two prizes for submissions using vibe coding in a competition to be held at the club's monthly meeting in October. **Holding the competition will be subject to having multiple entries submitted.** The use of vibe coding will be on the honour system. For those providing entries (**non-members welcome!**), there will be two prizes offered: (1) the most useful product, and (2) the best presentation of the development process. Note that the project doesn't have to be successful for this second portion of the competition. Stories of trials and tribulations, and even abysmal failure will be happily accepted. So, get started on your vibe-coding project. You have lots of time to refine both the code and the associated presentation. When you are ready, submit your entry to the competition to: [SuggestionBox@opcug.ca](mailto:SuggestionBox@opcug.ca).

(See the article "You Too Can Be A Programmer" in the [March Newsletter](#).)



# APCUG ARTICLE

## HEIC File Type – Should I care about this file type?

By Phil Sorrentino, Secretary & Newsletter Contributor  
Sun City Center Computer Club  
<https://scccomputerclub.org/>  
philsorr (at) yahoo.com

**HEIC** is the name of the file format that Apple uses for images taken with an iPhone or iPad. Even if you don't have Apple equipment, you may have received a picture with the .heic file type from someone with an iPhone. I got one just a few weeks ago. (Though I have read that when a photo is sent or exported from an iOS device to a non-iOS device, the image is typically converted from an HEIC file to a JPEG file.)

HEIC stands for High Efficiency Image Container. Advanced, modern compression methods allow photos to be created in smaller file sizes while retaining a higher image quality than JPEG. Since Apple's release of iOS 11 in 2017, the iPhone has, by default, produced images in the HEIC format, so it's been around for quite a while. HEIC, also known as HEIF, is a more efficient format than JPEG because it creates smaller files, in some cases up to half the size, even though the quality of the images is about the same. (Similarly, High-Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC) is the default video file type for video files for some Apple products.) In switching from JPEG to HEIC, Apple has lowered the space needed to store the image files so they can keep up with the increasing quality and resolution of their smartphone cameras. This has led other manufacturers, including Microsoft and Canon, to embrace the HEIF format. The Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) is the developer of the original HEIF and HEVC technologies and JPEG.

An HEIC file contains one or more images saved in the High-Efficiency Image Format (HEIF) and metadata describing each image. HEIC files are most commonly saved with the .hemic extension but may also use the .heif extension. This newer standard offers 25% to 50% better data compression at the same quality level. HEIC allows you to store multiple images in one file. If your phone has burst mode functionality, you can capture multiple high-quality action shots of a moving subject with a single click. Then, with multiple images in a file, you can convert HEIC files into GIFs to make moving animations from your stored sequences of images. (The GIF file type is an animation created from a sequence of still images.)

A brief technical review shows two main types of digital image files: raster and vector. JPG, JPEG, and JPE are all file extensions that refer to the same file format: JPEG is probably the most common name. Each refers to the Joint Photographic Experts Group "Raster Image" file type. Raster Image file types are images produced when scanning or photographing an object. The image is compiled using a matrix of pixels, or tiny dots containing unique color and tonal information, organized into rows and columns, or a grid, that creates the image. Other common Image file types are bmp, png, tiff, and raw (raw being the largest of all the file types). Wikipedia provides a comparison between JPEG and HEIF.



### Can you tell the difference?

And just for completeness, Vector images are made up of points, lines, curves, and shapes based on mathematical formulas. When you scale up a vector image file, there is no loss of quality, so it can be sized to however large or small you need it. When you scale up a raster image, it can become pixilated, blocky, and possibly unrecognizable.

Remember that iOS is Apple's mobile device OS (iPhone and iPad), and MacOS is the Apple computer OS. When Apple added HEIF support to iOS, they also added HEIF support to MacOS. Then, in 2018, Google followed suit by adding HEIF support to Android (smartphones and tablets), and Microsoft added HEIF support to Windows. To open HEIC files in Microsoft applications, however, users may have to manually install the Microsoft HEIF Image Extensions and HEVC Video Extensions packages from the Microsoft Store, though that was not my experience.

If you have an .heic image on a Windows 10 system that you want to view, locate the file with File Explorer and then double-click the image; if it opens, great. If it doesn't open, right-click the image and select "Open With > Photos." If the Photos app prompts you to download the HEIF Image Extension, click the "Download and Install it now" link to get it free from the Microsoft Store. But if your Windows 10 is up to date, the .heic file will probably open with Photos. Although the Extension software for Images (HEIC Image Viewer, Converter) is free, there is a one-time cost of \$0.99 for the Video Extension software (HECV Video Extensions). (Note that photos here refer to Microsoft Photos, not Google Photos.) If you have Windows 11, you might not notice that the .heic image is any different than any other picture on your system, most likely because .heic support is included in the Windows 11 Photos App. You will not notice a difference if you don't have the Show "File name extensions" option checked" because then the file type part of the file name (the part after the ".") is not shown, and you won't see the type of file you are viewing.

HEIC and JPEG have advantages and disadvantages depending on their intended use. The OS developer's and a computer user's point of view may differ. HEIC files take up less space than JPEG files and still produce the same –if not better– quality images. However, HEIC is currently limited to specific platforms and software due to its lack of compatibility and acceptance. In these instances, you may first have to use a converter to convert the HEIC files to JPEG. In the long run, you may not need to care much about the HEIC format, but it will not be a mystery if you find one on your system.



# APCUG ARTICLE

## Windows OneDrive

### The Good, the Bad, the Ugly – and the Real Ugly

By Ken Pyzik, Contributing Member  
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club  
<https://www.scscc.club>  
pyz01 (at) outlook.com

Has this happened to you on your Windows 11 machine? You save a file. You know you saved it; it's in your Documents folder. You go back later to open it ... and it's gone! Not moved. Not renamed. Just gone. You're staring at the screen thinking, "I'm not crazy. I put it right here."

Or how about this? You spend an hour editing a document. You save it. You take a break. You come back, open what you think is the same file ... and none of your changes are there. Not one. Suddenly you're questioning your memory, your sanity, and whether you've entered some kind of digital Twilight Zone. What is going on?

Welcome to Windows OneDrive, the "helpful" assistant that was supposed to protect your files but instead leaves you wondering if you're losing your mind.

#### The Evolution of OneDrive: From Optional Tool to Windows Enforcer

Windows OneDrive began life in 2007 as SkyDrive, a simple, optional cloud-storage service. You signed in if you wanted it. You chose what to upload. You controlled what lived in the cloud. It was a straightforward, user-driven backup tool — nothing more.

But as Windows shifted toward a cloud-centric model — and as large corporations demanded tighter control over local files (they didn't want branch offices storing "important documents" on random C:\ drives) — Microsoft slowly reshaped OneDrive into something far more aggressive.

Fast-forward to Windows 11:

- OneDrive is preinstalled.
- OneDrive is auto-launched.
- OneDrive redirects Desktop, Documents, and Pictures into the cloud.
- And unless you explicitly stop it, it assumes ownership of your user folders.

Yes, you *can* avoid this... but Microsoft has made the opt-out path so convoluted that most people never realize they "opted in" *in the first place!*

So, does that make Microsoft and OneDrive some kind of villain? Not exactly. It's more like Microsoft is trying to satisfy its biggest customers — enterprise IT departments — by giving them maximum control over user data.

But for everyday Windows users? That's where the story gets a little more complicated. So, let's break it down honestly and clearly: what's good, what's bad, what's ugly... and what's really ugly.

#### OneDrive – The GOOD Stuff

Let's be fair: OneDrive *does* have strengths, and when it works the way Microsoft originally intended, it does one thing extremely well; it protects your files.

If you accidentally delete something, OneDrive has your back. A copy is sitting safely in the cloud, ready to restore. That alone has saved countless people from losing school papers, work documents, family photos, and everything in between.

And sharing? That's where OneDrive genuinely shines.

You can share documents, photos, spreadsheets, and entire folders with friends, family members, coworkers, committees, peer groups, club members and any other social club.

You choose what to share, and you control who can see it. For collaboration, it's simple, clean, and effective. In other words: As a cloud backup and sharing tool, OneDrive is genuinely good. If that's all it did, this article wouldn't need a "Bad," "Ugly," or "Real Ugly" section.

#### OneDrive – The BAD Stuff

But here's where things start to go sideways. Microsoft got ... let's call it ambitious. They didn't want OneDrive to be something you chose to use. They wanted it to be something you couldn't avoid. So, they slowly shifted it from an optional cloud tool into something that feels "almost mandatory."

They took away your ability to choose.

If you want OneDrive? Great! It installs itself, launches itself, and happily takes over your user folders. But if you don't want OneDrive? Now you're in trouble. You have to dodge it during setup. You have to decline it in multiple places. You have to know exactly which screens to avoid. And most people don't, so they end up with OneDrive whether they wanted it or not.

Then Microsoft added a little psychological pressure: "If you don't enable OneDrive, you might break Windows. Your files won't be safe. You're doing something risky." And once it's installed? Good luck removing it. Even if you uninstall it, disable it, and rip out every hook you can

*(Continued on next page)*

**OneDrive** (Continued from previous page)

find... Windows updates have a habit of quietly resurrecting it. Suddenly it's back, running in the background, reclaiming control of your folders, and acting like it never left. This isn't "helpful." This is persistent and "pushy".

And it's the beginning of why OneDrive goes from "bad" to "ugly" very quickly.

**OneDrive – The UGLY Stuff**

Today, when installed, OneDrive stops being merely "pushy" and starts taking over parts of your computer that most people assume are sacred. Microsoft has designed OneDrive to seize control of three of the most important locations on your system: your Documents folder, your Desktop and your Pictures folder. Why those three? Because that's where almost everyone stores almost everything. Think about your own computer: Where do your letters, spreadsheets, tax files, photos, screenshots, and personal documents live? Right there in those three folders.

OneDrive doesn't just back up those locations. It redirects them. It takes command of those folders and forces everything inside them to be synced to the cloud. And here's where things get truly unsettling. To "save space" (and to give Microsoft more control), OneDrive doesn't simply copy your files to the cloud, it often *moves* them there. Your local machine is left with tiny placeholder icons that look like files but aren't real files!

You think your files are on your computer. You think they're safe and local. But in reality, they may exist only in the cloud, and you're just seeing pointers that pretend to be files.

This is the moment where people start losing work, losing track of where their data lives, and losing confidence in their own memory. The system is no longer behaving like a normal computer; It's behaving like a cloud terminal attached to Microsoft's cloud environment. You are not controlling your documents anymore – Microsoft is. And that's not just bad. That's ugly.

**OneDrive – The Real UGLY Stuff**

So, after all the confusion, after all the disappearing files, and after finally discovering that your "local" documents are actually living in the cloud, Microsoft then delivers the final blow: Cloud storage limits.

Because here's the truth: Microsoft can't store everyone's files forever. They can't give unlimited space to millions of users. So, they do what every cloud company eventually does: they cap your storage. You get 5 GB of cloud storage and 15 GB of email storage for free. That sounds generous ... until you realize what's actually being stored there. Remember:

- OneDrive has taken over your Documents.
- OneDrive has taken over your Desktop.
- OneDrive has taken over your Pictures.
- OneDrive is syncing everything you touch.
- And if you use Microsoft 365's Outlook, your email is also eating into that same quota.

Add in: backups, autosaves, version histories, attachments, photos, screenshots, and every file you didn't even know was being redirected, and suddenly that "free" storage evaporates. Then comes the message: "You're out of OneDrive storage. To keep syncing your files, you need more space." And guess what? **1 TB more space costs \$10 a month (\$100/year).**

Not because *you* chose to store your files in the cloud. Not because you intentionally uploaded anything. But because OneDrive quietly moved your files there, filled up your quota, and now holds your own data hostage. This isn't convenience anymore. This isn't safety anymore. This is a business model — and you end up paying for something you never really wanted in the first place.

**OneDrive – The Moral of the Story**

I don't want you to think I hate OneDrive (though to be honest, I really do). To each their own. Some people genuinely love the convenience of the collaboration features, the file sharing, the automatic backups, the ability to access documents from anywhere. And for those people, OneDrive is fantastic.

But here's what you need to remember. OneDrive is no longer the simple, optional backup tool it started out to be. It used to be a nice little add-on — something you could choose to use if you wanted a safe place to store or share files.

Today, OneDrive has morphed into something very different: intrusive, controlling, deeply embedded into the system, confusing for novices and nearly impossible to avoid.

Microsoft didn't evolve OneDrive out of kindness. Maybe in the beginning it was a helpful bonus. But now? OneDrive is a core part of Microsoft's cloud-centric business model — a model that guarantees future revenue from users who never intended to store their entire digital life in the cloud. And that's the real moral of the story:

OneDrive isn't just a tool anymore. It's a strategy. And unless you understand how it works, you're the one being managed — not your files.



## Linux Phones *(Continued from page 1)*

a limited number of makes and models of smartphones so these too are not yet a universal solution.

At US \$149, the Pinephone 64 (<https://pine64.org/devices/pinephone/>) is the least-expensive option among recently-released Linux phones. However, the utility of this phone is hampered by outdated hardware with, for example, the main processor being more than 10-years old. A second version, the Pinephone Pro, featured updated hardware components and a consequent higher price (US \$399) but sales were slow and this device was discontinued in August, 2025.

Purism (<https://puri.sm>) has a premium range of Linux phones, from the Librem 5 (US \$799) to the Liberty Phone (US \$1999+). Even so, these devices are based on hardware components that are now more than five-years old. The Furi Labs FLX1s (<https://furilabs.com>) is a mid-range (US \$499) Linux phone with modern hardware. A number of current phones are also available, from international or crowd-sourced developers. These include the Volla Phone (Germany), Jolla Phone (Finland), Fairphone (The Netherlands), and BraX3 (United States).

One interesting aspect of Linux phones is that many are positioned as convergence devices, with docking stations included with the initial purchase or at least available as an optional accessory. These docks typically feature USB, HDMI, and Ethernet ports so that the phone can be connected to a keyboard, mouse, and monitor to function as a lightweight PC.

A related but different option is illustrated by the Nex-Phone (<https://nexphone.com>) which runs Nex OS, a multi-boot operating system that can launch Linux (Debian), Android, or Windows 11. Currently offered in pre-sale mode at US \$549 (\$199 deposit with a \$350 balance), the phone will include a five-port USB-C hub when it ships later this year.

The most well known Linux distro that can be installed on existing Android-based smartphones is Ubuntu Touch (<https://www.ubuntu-touch.io>). Originally developed by Canonical as a companion to Ubuntu Linux, the company's goal was to create a single operating system that could be used across all devices. The project was eventually cancelled in 2017 due to low user demand and a lack of partnerships with equipment manufacturers. The project was subsequently adopted by the community with the UBports Foundation being established in 2019. Open-source developers extended support to additional devices but even so only 31 phones are supported.

This lack of hardware support is a feature of many mobile Linux distros. For example, the website for Mobian (<https://mobian-project.org>), a derivative of the widely-adopted Debian distribution, lists only a dozen supported phones. Other distros with similar limitations include Sailfish OS (Volla) and PureOS (Purism).

Much broader coverage is offered by postmarketOS (<https://postmarketos.org>), a distro that is based on Alpine Linux. This distro lists more than 700 devices as having some degree of support available. The distro features Stable (point release) and Edge (rolling release) channels, and offers a number of user interfaces including Phosh and KDE Plasma. Main and Community devices are generally well supported with pre-built, ready-to-install images being available. Other devices, in the Testing or Downstream categories, require users to build installable images using software tools with source code that is specific to their devices.

One major limitation for this latter methodology is that open-source drivers for certain hardware components are not always available such that critical user features, e.g. the ability to place telephone calls and to send and receive text messages, may not be functional. This is recognized in the introductory material provided by postmarketOS that states *“In its current stage, post-marketOS is for Linux enthusiasts... If you are looking for an OS that is as usable as iOS or Android, this project is currently not for you”*

A recent announcement by the Open Software Foundation (<https://librephone.org>) aims to fill the software gap by reverse engineering the proprietary binary code that controls phone hardware components, such as modems and cameras, and provide open-source equivalents. Rob Savoye, a developer who previously worked on Gnash and OpenStreetMap, is the lead for the LibrePhone project. Initially the scope of the project will be limited to one or two devices that need the least amount of work. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that this will be a long-term project.

The current state of Linux phones is less than satisfactory with many reviewers finding the associated hardware and software to be somewhat lacking in terms of using these devices as daily drivers. Almost all of the devices and distros are noted as being suitable for those interested in tinkering with Linux on phones with requests for assistance in their future development. Notwithstanding such limitations, Linux on smartphones has come a long way and no doubt even more progress will occur over time. I will certainly be following the developments - and may even try tinkering a little in the interim!



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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](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

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>)  
**Mailing Address:** 3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6  
**Web address:** <https://opcug.ca>  
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**Follow us on X:** <https://x.com/opcug>

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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](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



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for over 40 years