



OTTAWA

PC NEWS



An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

Volume 43, Number 9

September 2026

PRODUCT REVIEW

Okular – A Multi-Platform PDF Reader

by Alan German

For some time, on my Linux box, I have been using Okular as a PDF viewer. Given that the program is developed by the KDE community, I had thought that this was exclusively a Linux app; however, I recently discovered that the utility is available for Windows as a download from the Microsoft Store. So, this review is of my recently-installed Windows version of Okular.

This software is free and open source and, as already noted, it is multi-platform so that I can use essentially the same program in both Linux and Windows. The user interface is clean and highly configurable. By default, the menu bar includes controls to toggle the display of page thumbnails, modify the page display, scroll through the pages of a PDF file, select text on a page, and provide a variety of annotations.

Many more options can be activated through the *Tools* and *Settings* items in the menu bar. One interesting accessibility tool is the program's ability to read and speak the text of the document. This feature depends on a speech service being available and I found it necessary to switch from the default winrt to sapi. The program will read a single page or the entire document, with controls in the *Tools* menu to stop or pause/resume the narrative. The text-to-speech engine does a good job of enunciating individual words with a choice of female and male voices. One slightly-jarring feature is that the narrative is delivered one line at a time as though the underlying engine (mistakenly) believes that each line is a sentence. Nevertheless, I am sure that this is a useful tool for the visually impaired, and may even be useful for sighted individuals as a "live" proofreading tool.

(Continued on page 11)

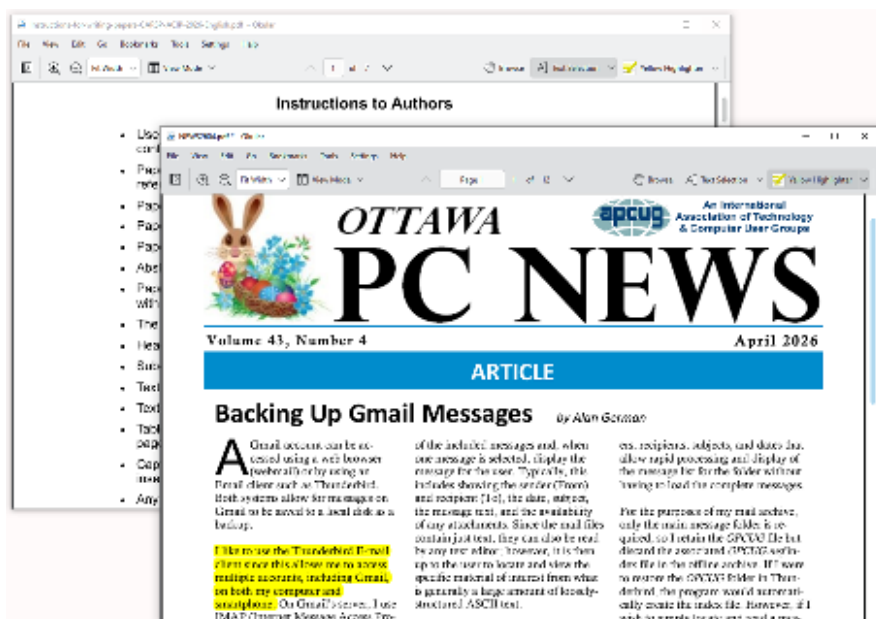


Figure 1. Okular displaying two PDF files in separate windows with a sentence in one file highlighted in yellow

Inside this issue:

Next Meeting / Coming Up / Calendar	2
Okular – A Multi-Platform PDF Reader	1
SPECIAL EVENT: Get-together at Olive Garden	3
Improve your landscape photography	4
Refurbished computer woes: Secure boot	6
How to Live with OneDrive (APCUG)	8
Contact Information	12

Next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY, September 9th, 2026**

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 9th

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Fun and Useful Tips

Speaker: Chris Taylor, OPCUG

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools have exploded over the last few years. They can: supercharge your web searches & help you find the most relevant information; generate images & videos from text prompts; summarize web pages, YouTube videos, & PDF files; help you accomplish tasks in your programs; assist with creative writing; and more.

Chris Taylor from the Ottawa PC Users' Group will show you how easily it can be done and how to avoid dreaded "AI hallucinations".

And you can do it all for free.

This will be a two-hour presentation (7:30 - 9:30 pm).

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...

19 Aug

Next [weekly Q&A session](#)

14 Oct

[Vibe Coding Competition](#) (*The more, the merrier!*, see [page 11](#))

21 Oct

SPECIAL EVENT: [Social get-together at Olive Garden](#) (see [next page](#))

11 Nov

[Get Better results with your Genealogical Searches](#) (APCUG Guest Speaker)

09 Dec

[The Dark Web – Revealed](#) (Alan German, OPCUG)

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

OPCUG Presentations at the OPL:

Monday, 26 Oct, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Armchair travel: Newfoundland (Lynda Buske)
Carlingwood Branch

Monday, 02 Nov, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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

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

Call for articles

My stack of local articles is very thin. I am seeking articles written by OPCUG members to adorn the pages of our monthly newsletter.

Do you have a topic you'd like to share but are too shy to present at our weekly Q&A sessions?

Although I have access to many APCUG articles, these are not unlimited.

Consider writing an article about any computer related topic (smartphone, tablet, non-Windows OS) and submit your magnum opus to newsletter@opcug.ca.

Thank you.

Brigitte Lord



CALENDAR

Event	Date	Time and Venue
Next Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, September 9 th	7:30 pm via Zoom video conference: https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting See all our scheduled monthly meetings here .
Next Q&A Session	Wednesday, August 19th	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, October 26 th	See all our presentations with links to the OPL here .

SPECIAL EVENT

Social Get-Together

The OPCUG board is planning an evening out at the **Olive Garden Italian Restaurant**. Members and non-members are welcome.

- **When:** Wednesday, October 21st starting at 7:00pm.
- **Where:** Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, 675 Kirkwood Ave (Hampton Park Plaza)
<https://www.olivegarden.ca/en/locations/on/ottawa/675-kirkwood-ave>

Wednesday evening was chosen as many members already block off Wednesday evenings to attend Q&A. The location was chosen for several reasons:

- easy to get to:
 - ◇ <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4VE2uNNPELnphg1FA>
 - ◇ just off the 417 Carling Ave exit (Exit 124)
- lots of free parking
- last event (pizza party) was in the west end

While the OPCUG is making the reservation, all attendees will pay their own tab.

We need to let Olive Garden know how many people we expect. If you hope to attend, please send an email to OliveGarden@opcug.ca and let us know the number of people who will be in your party.



Pictures may be taken at the restaurant and then posted on our website. If you do not want to be photographed, please step out of the frame (or duck under the table).



THROUGH THE LENS

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

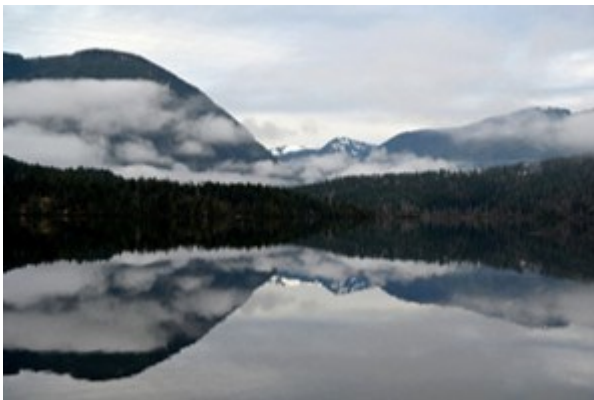
How to improve your landscape photography

by Lynda Buske

The internet suggests that landscape photography is the art of capturing the natural world, outdoor spaces, and sometimes human-made, urban environments. Some definitions even include closeup photos but this article will focus on capturing larger scenes.

A good place to start with any scene is the rule of thirds which suggests including foreground, middle ground and background. Then you create a nine square grid and place objects of interest at the intersection points. Please refer to my travel photography article for a full description: <https://opcug.ca/Photography/TopTwoTipsForTravelPhotos.pdf>. However, in some landscape scenes, it simply doesn't apply. You may be photographing a mountain scene where there isn't a single object of interest (unless a grizzly walks in!). While most landscape photographers do rely heavily on foreground to create a 3-dimensional effect, it may be that your image is more on a single plane. (see fig 1)

Fig 1



I do, however, love foreground and fig 2&3 are examples of how it can add depth and context.

Fig 2



Fig 3



(Continued on next page)

Landscape photography *(Continued from previous page)*

It can also create a leading line (fig 4) and even make it look inviting (fig 5) by showing chairs!

Fig 4



Fig 5



If you are shooting near water, you may wish to consider a longer exposure to create a silky effect (fig 6). This is possible even with many cell phones but with a traditional camera you have more control. However, a traditional camera will require placing the camera on something solid or using a tripod. Some phone cameras can take multiple images and merge them together into a single image and a tripod is not necessary.

Fig 6



Adding humans or wildlife (fig 7, 8) can add interest as well as provide size relativity. In fig 7 you know exactly how big the rocks are. However, be aware that our eye will be drawn to creatures so if you wish to emphasize something else in the image it may be wiser to leave them out.

Fig 7



Fig 8



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

ARTICLE

Refurbished computer woes and: How I learned to stop worrying about Secure Boot

by Brigitte Lord

Well, crap. Again! My latest desktop, a Windows 11 refurb, is reaffirming my warning about older hardware and minimum hardware requirements from Microsoft (see my [April 2024](#) article: *Are refurbished computers any good?*).

Last time, the issue was the release of Windows 11. This time it's 2023 Secure Boot Certificates. I was hoping my Windows 11 refurb wouldn't have any upgrade issues for at least a few more years, was even hoping for a smooth upgrade to Windows 12 (joke's on me: Microsoft confirmed that Windows 12 will require the 2023 boot certificates), but here I am with an end-of-service-life HP system with the requisite UEFI BIOS to which the 2023 Secure Boot certificates have not been applied (via Windows Updates). My BIOS has the last available firmware installed and it doesn't look like HP will be providing any further updates to accommodate the new certificates.

Microsoft kept me hopeful until the end of June with a green icon in Device Security, telling me "...updates are paused while Microsoft and partners work toward a resolution" (Figure 1). The icon changed to amber in July with "...your device does not support the automated update..." (Figure 2). Then in August, the text changed back to "updates are paused...work[ing] toward a resolution" (Figure 3). Welcome to the Secure Boot roller coaster ride.

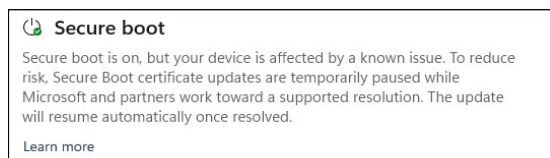


Fig. 1: Microsoft stringing me along before July

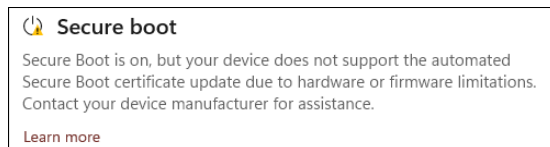


Fig. 2: Microsoft letting me down in July

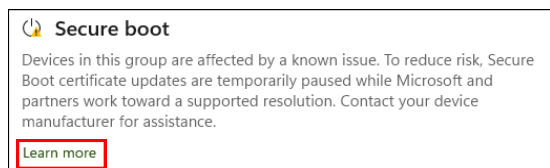


Fig. 3: More false hope in August?

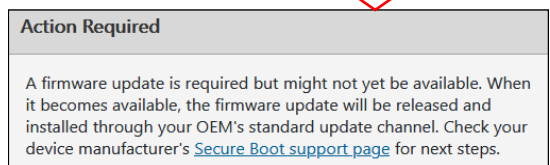


Fig. 4: I'm not holding my breath.

Figure 4 rekindles hope of a forthcoming firmware update from HP, but the HP support page still says my desktop is unsupported.

At this rate, I'm expecting this final message in September:

✖ "Secure Boot is on, but this device can no longer receive required updates for the Windows Boot experience."

Secure boot status categories and icons explained (Microsoft Support): <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/servicing/os/secure-boot/2026/03/secure-boot-certificate-update-status-in-the-windows-security-app>

So how compromised will my system become over time with expired 2011 certificates? Google tells me that boot malware (bootkits, rootkits) doesn't scan the internet seeking outdated boot certificates because these are not exposed or visible to the outside web (unlike malicious bots that continually probe for vulnerabilities in **unpatched Windows**). Rather, boot malware is installed via infected downloads, background downloads from malicious websites ("drive-by-downloads"), or by opening infected email attachments. Symptoms include system instability or slowdowns, disabled antivirus software, or ransomware attacks, to name a few.

So what are my options?

1. Buy another computer.
2. Force the certificate upgrade manually within my BIOS or change some registry keys to allow Windows Updates to install the new certificates. (Windows Updates downloaded the 2023 certificates to `C:\Windows\system32\SecureBootUpdates`, it just didn't install them.) This is risky and can "brick" my system so that it fails to boot (the forced certificates can be reversed in the BIOS, but this doesn't exactly scream "no worries" after a failed installation).
3. Continue using Secure Boot with the expired 2011 certificates. Microsoft says computers will still boot and receive standard Windows Updates.
4. Disable Secure Boot altogether. My refurbished Windows 10 computer with a legacy BIOS does not have Secure Boot capability and is free of boot malware after several years (go figure). Nonetheless, having outdated boot security is better than none.

So I chose to run with expired 2011 boot certificates and I'm not terribly worried. I'm not a gamer, gambler, or power user. The free [CIRA Canadian Shield](#) protects me from malicious websites (including phishing ones). I scrutinize links and attachments in emails before clicking on them. I only download software from secure websites and have probably installed all the programs I will ever need. I'm not saying accidents can't happen, but I believe the chances are small in my case.

Since I'm running with expired boot certificates, I have taken measures to protect Windows once it's loaded (as I did on my Windows 10 computer). My boot process is still vulnerable, but some security measures can mitigate the potential damage should it become compromised. Of course, these are not as secure as updated boot certificates which ensure the integrity of all components in the boot process *before* Windows is launched.

(Continued on next page)

Computer woes (Continued from previous page)

Google outlines them here (they can also be used in tandem with 2023 boot certificates; the more security layers, the better):

Core Isolation / Memory Integrity This feature isolates your computer's core processes in a virtualized environment to prevent malicious software from tampering with your Windows kernel. It protects against attacks that occur **after** the operating system has successfully started. (Figures 4, 5)



Fig. 4

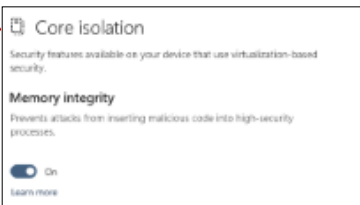


Fig. 5

Use Third-Party AV: Rely on reputable, premium third-party antivirus software to monitor runtime activities and network traffic.¹

Controlled Folder Access (CFA): This feature protects core Windows system folders by default. This built-in Microsoft Defender feature prevents unauthorized or malicious apps from modifying, deleting, or encrypting files in these protected directories. (Figures 6, 7)

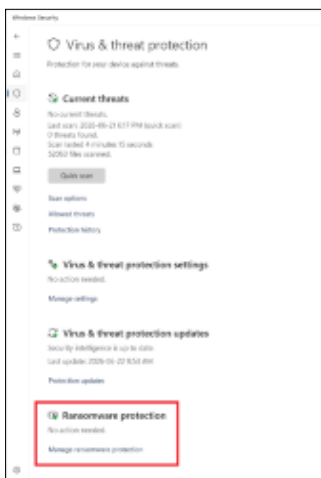


Fig. 6

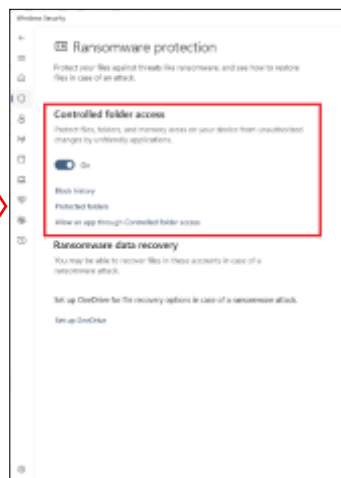


Fig. 7

What is Protected?

By default, **CFA secures: Common System Folders:** Directories critical to the operating system's function, as well as boot sectors.²

User Directories: Folders like Documents, Pictures, Videos, Music, Favorites, and Desktop

CFA can protect any folder of your choosing, but can occasionally be annoying even when installing safe software that is trying to install a component in a protected folder. It will pause the installation and give you the option to allow it or not (a web search can determine if the component is safe).

So, my recent venture into the world of refurbished computers comes to an end with my second unit. After two upgrade issues with two units, my next desktop will be a new one (and it looks like I *will* need a new one for Windows 12). Until then, I will use my Windows 11 refurb to the bitter end and exhaust any and all Windows 11 EoL extensions, if offered (like the ESUs for Windows 10).

And with that, I close with the necessary disclaimer:

I do not encourage the use of expired secure boot certificates and assume no responsibility or liability for any consequences, system instability, data loss, hardware malfunctions, or security breaches that might arise from their use.

References:

- Google searches (AI Overview)
- *Microsoft Support* on Secure Boot certificates: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/servicing/os/secure-boot/2025/06/windows-secure-boot-certificate-expiration-and-ca-updates>
- Some good articles from *Windows Latest*:
 - <https://www.windowslatest.com/2026/06/21/microsoft-reveals-how-to-verify-windows-11s-secure-boot-update-what-to-do-if-your-pc-missed-it/>
 - <https://www.windowslatest.com/2026/05/26/microsoft-reveals-what-happens-to-windows-11-pcs-if-you-ignore-the-secure-boot-deadline-in-june-2026/>
 - <https://www.windowslatest.com/2026/06/08/microsoft-answers-what-you-must-do-as-windows-11-secure-boot-deadline-hits-in-days/>



1. I use the integrated *Windows Defender* on both my Win 10 and Win 11 machines, not a third-party antivirus program.
 2. CFA does not prevent any *existing* boot malware from loading with Windows during the boot process. CFA only prevents malware from writing to boot sectors after Windows is loaded.

APCUG ARTICLE

How to Live with OneDrive – on Your Terms

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

Those of you who are regular followers of the *Gigabyte Gazette* saw last month's article about Windows OneDrive — *the Good, the Bad, the Ugly, and the Real Ugly*.^{*} One reader wrote in with a question that many of you have probably faced:

"I had just been dealing with the issue of all files being only available on the Drive and not on my local PC. It would be even more helpful if an article on how to change the settings for OneDrive can be accomplished."

So, for our second article on OneDrive, let's do exactly that. Let's explore how to live with OneDrive — on your terms.

You DO Have Choices

Most people think OneDrive is a two-state system: either you live with it completely, or you disable it entirely. But that's not true.

There are actually **three** distinct states you can choose from:

1. Let OneDrive do whatever it wants
2. Let OneDrive do some of what it wants
3. Let OneDrive do nothing at all

But before we dive into these states, ask yourself: Do I like OneDrive? Are the things it does that I like? Does it genuinely help me? Or is it just a constant annoyance I'd prefer to shut down completely? Your answers will determine which state makes the most sense for you.

If OneDrive came preinstalled on your Windows 11 machine, completely removing it is... possible, but not easy. Even if you disable it, Windows updates often turn it back on. Why? Because Microsoft now treats OneDrive as a core system component. That means it can re-install itself, it can re-enable folder backup, it can re-enable "Files On-Demand" and it re-adds itself to your startup. Unless you remove every trigger — and there are many — OneDrive will return.

So yes, you *can* surgically remove it (and effectively kill it) with registry edits, service removals, and system-level changes. But that's not for the faint of heart (more on that later). Therefore, for most people, the path of least resistance is to keep OneDrive installed but control it, so it behaves the way *you* want. And that's exactly where an understanding of the three-state model helps you do.

State 1 – The One Microsoft Loves (and The One Most People Do Not)

In this state, you do — quite literally — nothing. OneDrive is installed, it activates itself, and it immediately takes control of your Documents, Pictures, and Desktop folders. What most people don't realize is that this isn't "backup." It's redirection.

Your files are moved into Microsoft's cloud, and the folders on your PC become pointers to those cloud locations. Your computer stops being the home for your files and becomes a terminal into Microsoft's cloud storage system.

For some users, this is perfectly fine. In fact, Microsoft designed Windows 11 so that State 1 feels "normal". All your files are stored in the cloud; everything is automatically backed up; you can share documents and photos easily; you can access your files from any device; and most importantly, you never have to think about where anything lives. For some people this is fine. The users of state 1 are happy campers, and they stay right here.

But for everyone else, State 1 is where the trouble begins. Files appear local but aren't. Offline access becomes unpredictable. Storage fills up in OneDrive instead of on the PC. And the user loses control over where their own data actually lives. That's why most people eventually move to State 2 or State 3 — because State 1 is the state Microsoft loves, not the one most users would choose if they understood what was happening.

State 2 – The One Microsoft does not love but Most people do

State 2 is where most Windows users *should* be living. This is the "co-existence state" — the middle ground where OneDrive is present, but **you** decide what it's allowed to touch. Instead of letting it take over your Desktop, Documents, and Pictures, you keep those folders local and only sync the files you *choose* to put in the OneDrive folder. In other words: OneDrive stops being the landlord and becomes

^{*}Reprinted in OPCUG's June newsletter

(Continued on next page)

OneDrive (Continued from previous page)

just a tenant. This is the state where you regain control.

- Your Desktop, Documents, and Pictures stay on your PC
- OneDrive no longer redirects or moves your files
- You choose which files or folders (if any) go into the cloud
- OneDrive becomes a simple sync folder — nothing more
- Windows updates may still try to re-enable things, but you can easily reset them

This is the “I’ll use OneDrive *when I want to*, not when Microsoft wants me to” state. And here is how to configure it:

1. Turn Off Folder Backup (the redirection mechanism)

This is the most important step.

1. Click the **OneDrive cloud icon** in the taskbar
2. Select **Settings**
3. Go to **Sync and backup**
4. Click **Manage backup**
5. Turn **Off**:
 - Desktop
 - Documents
 - Pictures

When prompted, choose: **Move files back to this PC**. This restores your real local folders.

2. Disable Files On-Demand

Files On-Demand is the feature that makes files *look* local when they’re actually cloud-only. Turning it off forces OneDrive to behave like a normal sync folder.

1. Open **OneDrive Settings**
2. Go to **Sync and backup**
3. Scroll to **Advanced settings**
4. Turn **Files On-Demand Off**

Now, if a file is in OneDrive, it’s actually on your PC.

3. Stop OneDrive from Auto-Starting

This prevents OneDrive from running unless *you* launch it.

1. Press **Ctrl + Shift + Esc** to open Task Manager
2. Go to **Startup apps**
3. Find **Microsoft OneDrive**
4. Set it to **Disabled**

This keeps OneDrive quiet and out of your way.

Now (here in state 2) OneDrive becomes just a normal folder. If you want something in the cloud → put it in the OneDrive folder. If you want it local → keep it anywhere else. No more surprises. No more disappearing files. No more cloud-only icons.

So why does Microsoft not like state 2? Because in this state, OneDrive does not control your folders. In this state, you are NOT feeding everything into the cloud (no more revenue for them storing everything). You stop using files on demand, AND, you are NOT dependent on Microsoft’s storage system. In other words, you’re using OneDrive as a tool, not as a storage controller.

Most people prefer state 2 because it gives them local control, a more predictable behavior, no forced “redirection”, and no surprise after updates. This is the state where your PC behaves like a normal PC — and OneDrive behaves like a normal app.

State 3 – The One Microsoft hates and Some users want

State 3 is where a certain group of users — including me, and some of you — may want. This is the “OneDrive exists, but I refuse to use it” state. You’re not uninstalling it (although some of us would do a state 4: *Kill It With Fire*), but you’re also not letting it participate in your computing life. Think of this as the “Put OneDrive in the corner and let it sit there quietly” state.

In State 3, OneDrive is technically present on your system because Windows insists on installing it. But you disable every feature, every sync mechanism, every redirect, and every background behavior. You keep full local control over your files, and OneDrive becomes nothing more than an unused application taking up a few megabytes of disk space. And honestly? For a lot of users, this is the safest, simplest, and least stressful way to live. State 3 looks like this:

- OneDrive is installed (because Windows won’t take no for an answer)

(Continued on next page)

OneDrive (Continued from previous page)

- OneDrive does **not** sync anything
- OneDrive does **not** redirect your Desktop, Documents, or Pictures
- OneDrive does **not** auto-start
- OneDrive does **not** use Files On-Demand
- OneDrive does **not** run in the background
- You never open the OneDrive folder
- You never sign in
- You never rely on it

Your PC behaves like a normal PC. Your files live where you put them. Nothing is silently moved to the cloud. This is the “I want my computer to be *my* computer” state.

How to Configure State 3**1. Turn Off Folder Backup**

This prevents OneDrive from hijacking your Desktop, Documents, and Pictures.

Settings → Sync and backup → Manage backup → Turn everything OFF Choose **Move files back to this PC** if prompted.

2. Disable Files On-Demand

This stops OneDrive from creating cloud-only placeholders.

Settings → Sync and backup → Advanced settings → Files On-Demand → OFF

3. Disable OneDrive at Startup

This keeps OneDrive from launching unless you manually open it.

Task Manager → Startup apps → Microsoft OneDrive → Disable

4. Sign Out of OneDrive (Optional but Recommended)

If you never intend to use it:

- Click the OneDrive cloud icon
- Open **Settings**

- Go to **Account**
- Select **Unlink this PC**

This stops all syncing activity permanently.

5. Ignore the OneDrive Folder

You don’t delete it. You don’t use it. You don’t store anything in it. It simply exists — harmless and empty.

So why does Microsoft hate state 3? Because in this state you do not feed any data into the cloud. You end up NOT using Microsoft’s storage so they cannot charge you when you go over their limit. You essentially are not participating in their “grand-design” of centralized control. You essentially are not relying (dependence) on OneDrive for anything and Microsoft does not like it! In other words, you’re using Windows without using the cloud-first lifestyle Microsoft wants you to adopt.

Why do some people like state 3? Because it gives them complete local control with zero cloud dependency. It gives predictable file behavior with no surprises after updates. And finally, it gives you a simpler, cleaner computing experience. For users who value clarity, control, and independence, state 3 is the natural choice.

Conclusion and a Note on my “state 4”

So there you have it. How to live with OneDrive on your terms. You pick which state you would like to be in and go for it!

Now, just a note on my personal “state 4” – kill OneDrive by fire! I will confess – I am a bit of a fanatic about system cleanliness. So to me, having OneDrive sitting in the corner staring at me and doing nothing bugged me. So I did a complete exorcism. I completely took OneDrive out. I did registry hacks; I gutted start-up services; I made Microsoft believe that OneDrive did not even exist on my machine – because it didn’t. I tore out every reference to OneDrive and I never looked back. Even Windows update can’t bring it back to life. For those of you who think this is an interesting thing, maybe one day I will write it up, because it was quite a journey! It is possible to eliminate OneDrive forever – but it is definitely NOT easy. There is also another solution and that is to not use Windows at all, move to Linux and never even think about OneDrive again (I did that too!).

But for most normal people (not me), state 2 or 3 will do the trick. Best of luck living with OneDrive on your terms.



(Ken has written an eBook, *Cloud Storage – The Digital Trap that NO ONE Saw Coming*, available on [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) and [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).)

Okular *(Continued from page 1)*

Multiple PDF files can be opened by Okular at the same time and, by default, such files are opened in separate windows. This makes it very easy to compare the contents of two similar files. However, the settings also allow files to use separate tabs inside the main program window. Other options include the ability to display annotation-specific toolbars, set the default parameters for viewing documents, and configuring any of the program's toolbars through the addition or removal of control buttons to suit the user's preferences.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that the main toolbar already featured page navigation controls (forward and back arrows) when browsing through a document, and that the slider controls and scroll bars had good colour contrast. In the Linux version of the software, I had to add the page navigation controls to the main toolbar and create a special style-sheet file to change the colours used on the scroll bars (see: [Changing the Colour of Scrollbars in Okular](#)).

In addition to being an exceptionally capable PDF reader, Okular has two important features for my use of the program. First is its ability to easily annotate PDF files using a coloured highlighter. By default, pressing the *Yellow Highlighter* control button on the right end of the main toolbar highlights any text that is subsequently selected. I use this function to annotate certain records in financial documents to note that the entries have been processed. The second feature that I use extensively is the *Text Selection* control button that allows me to cut and paste specific content from a PDF file into, for example, a Word document.

If you want a highly capable PDF reader, with limited editing capabilities, that is both free and open source, and almost certainly does not attract hackers due to its limited market share, give Okular a try. It's easy to install, configurable to your preferences, and has several features that you may find really useful.

Bottom Line:

Okular - The Universal Document Viewer (Open-source)
Version 25.08.1
KDE-community project
<https://okular.kde.org>



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

([back to Table of Contents](#))

Vibe Coding Competition, Oct 14th *The more, the merrier!*

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.

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



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>)
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 X: <https://x.com/opcug>

President and System Administrator

Chris Taylor chris.taylor@opcug.ca

Treasurer

(Mr.) Jocelyn Doire jocelyn.doire@opcug.ca

Secretary

Gail Eagen gail.eagen@opcug.ca

Meeting Coordinator

Alan German meetings@opcug.ca

Membership Chair

Lynda Buske membership@opcug.ca

Newsletter

Brigitte Lord newsletter@opcug.ca
 (editor/layout/e-distribution)

Public Relations

Vacant PR@opcug.ca

Facilities

Bob Walker bob.walker@opcug.ca

613-489-2084

Webmaster

Brigitte Lord webmaster3@opcug.ca

Privacy Director

Stewart Bruce privacy-opcug@opcug.ca

Special Events Coordinator

Harvey Hope harvey.hope@opcug.ca

Director w/o Portfolio

Karen Wallace-Graner karenwg@opcug.ca

© OPCUG 2026.

Permission is hereby granted* for republication of articles by not-for-profit organizations, journals, or publications, provided publication and author credit is given, the article's content is not modified without permission, and a copy of the publication is forwarded to newsletter@opcug.ca.

*Permission is granted only for articles written by OPCUG members, and which are not copyrighted by the author. See <https://opcug.ca/copyright-and-usage/>.



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).

OPCUG



Users helping users
for over 40 years