Member of apcug An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

OTTAWA PC NEWS

Volume 43, Number 9 November 2026

PRODUCT REVIEW

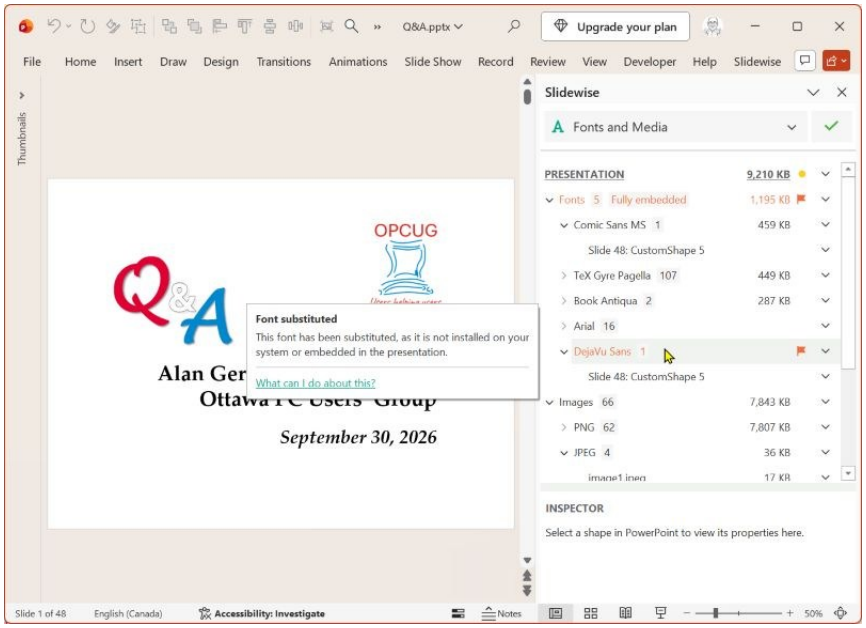
Slidewise—an update

by Chris Taylor

In January 2024, I wrote a review of the PowerPoint add-in Slidewise 2.0 from neuxpower (https://opcug.ca/Articles/2401NEWS.pdf) and in March of that year, I wrote an update for version 2.1 (https://opcug.ca/Articles/2403NEWS.pdf) when they introduced a *freemium* version.

For anyone like me, who does a lot of work in PowerPoint, Slidewise is a god-send!

What attracted me most to Slidewise was its ability to expose what fonts (another obsession of mine) are used in a presentation, where they are used and easily replace fonts throughout a presentation. Slidewise can also let you know when fonts have been embedded, missing and substituted. This is most helpful when you have input from multiple PowerPoint users and the combined presentation is a hodgepodge of inconsistency. Slidewise goes well beyond font prowess: analysing graphics usage; finding non-theme colours; controling slide masters and layouts; finding external links to content; exposing hidden content; and more.



Finding inconsistencies in fonts

Neuxpower has continued to refine Slidewise, which now stands at version 3.1, with features including;

- much faster font replacement and much improved font handling capabilities;
- improved handling of masters and layouts;
- replace selected instances of a repeated image instead of replacing every occurrence;
- find broken links to external web content;
- review and delete empty placeholders;
- export selected slides as images or a standalone PowerPoint file;

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Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, November 11th, 2026

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 11th

Get Better results with your Genealogical Searches
Speaker: Sue Mueller, Computer Users of Erie

Enhance your research with this potpourri of free genealogy sites that you'll wonder how you've missed. Genealogy Potpourri, out-of-the-box genealogy resources: useful websites that may not be on your radar: From finding county and family history books, going beyond Cyndi's list (https://www.cyndislist.com/), to using obituaries to find living people, learn about free sites that will enhance your genealogy research. One website that will be especially featured in this presentation is Ancestry that can be accessed in Ottawa through the public library. [more info]

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…

21 Oct
SPECIAL EVENT: Get-together at Big Rig K&B, 2750 Iris St. *(see next page)*

22 Oct (**Thursday**) Bonus Presentation:
Experiences aboard the family's boat in the 60s (Lynda Buske, OPCUG)

28 Oct
Next weekly Q&A session

09 Dec
The Dark Web – Revealed (Alan German, OPCUG)

13 Jan
Touring the Web (JB Burke, Prescott Computer Society) (details to follow)

10 Feb
3D Printers (David Swain, OPCUG) (details to follow)

10 Mar
Members' Favourites Night
We'll be looking for presenters! (details to follow)

See all our scheduled events here.

OPCUG Presentations at the OPL:

Friday, 30 Oct, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Artificial Intelligence (AI): fun and useful tips (Chris Taylor)
Centennial Branch

Monday, 09 Nov, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Protecting your PC (Chris Taylor)
Emerald Plaza Branch

Saturday, 21 Nov, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Restoring old photos (Lynda Buske)
Nepean Centrepointe Branch

See all our presentations with links to the OPL here.

CALENDAR

Event	Date	Time and Venue
Next Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, November 11th	7:30 pm via Zoom video conference: **https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting** See all our scheduled monthly meetings here.
SPECIAL EVENT	Wednesday, October 21st	Social get-together at Big Rig Kitchen and Brewery, 2750 Iris St. (must register)
Bonus Presentation	**Thursday**, October 22nd	Experiences aboard the family's boat in the 60s (Lynda Buske, OPCUG)
Next Q&A Session	Wednesday, October 28th	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	Friday, October 30th	See all our presentations with links to the OPL here.

SPECIAL EVENT

Social Get-Together

The event will be at the Big Rig Kitchen and Brewery, **2750 Iris Street**, in the west end.

There will be no Zoom Q&A session that night.

Members and non-members are welcome.

- When: **Wednesday, October 21st** ; arrive early, starts at 7:00 pm.
- Where: **Big Rig Kitchen and Brewery**, 2750 Iris St, Ottawa, ON K2C 3C9
  https://bigrigbrew.com/restaurant/locations/ottawa-iris/

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

- easy to get to:
  - https://maps.app.goo.gl/CqedFSipSHTr5bqXA
  - just off the 417 at Greenbank Road South exit (Exit 129), go south to Iris St.
- lots of free parking

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

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

Pictures might 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 hide under a Halloween costume).

PRODUCT REVIEW

Rename Multiple Files

by Alan German

My main task in renaming multiple files is to change those incomprehensible 20240913_143401.jpg filenames that come out of digital cameras and smartphones into text and numbers that I can understand. Renaming one such file is easy; renaming 352 files not so much. What is needed is a simple file-renaming utility program and a good choice for the job is Inviska Rename.

This open-source software was developed by Mirosław Żylewicz, a Polish programmer, who released the program under the GPL-2.0 license. He clearly believes that the program has been completely debugged as there have been no changes made since June, 2022. Furthermore, the Github repository was archived on September 30, 2023 and is now read-only.

The software is available for Windows, Linux and MacOS. The Windows version is downloaded as a 7Zip archive, InviskaRename12_x86.7z, from which a single executable file, InviskaRename.exe, can be extracted. No installation is necessary. Just double click on the exe file to run the program.

The program initially displays the disk drives that are available on the system. Navigating to a specific folder then lists the files present in that folder. By default all the files are selected for processing but this may be changed by using a radio button to select any combination of files and folders in the current directory.

A simple, two-step process can now be used to rename a group of files with names in the form of 20240913_143401.jpg to something more useful like PizzaQ-012.jpg, etc.

At the bottom of the window are three tabs labelled *Name, Extension and Numbering*. Since we are not going to change the file extensions, we only need to modify the filenames and add a number sequence.

Under the *Name* tab, while there are multiple options for assigning a new base filename, the simplest approach is to check the radio button labelled *Replace Name with* and type *PizzaQ-* (or any base filename) into the text box (Figure 1).

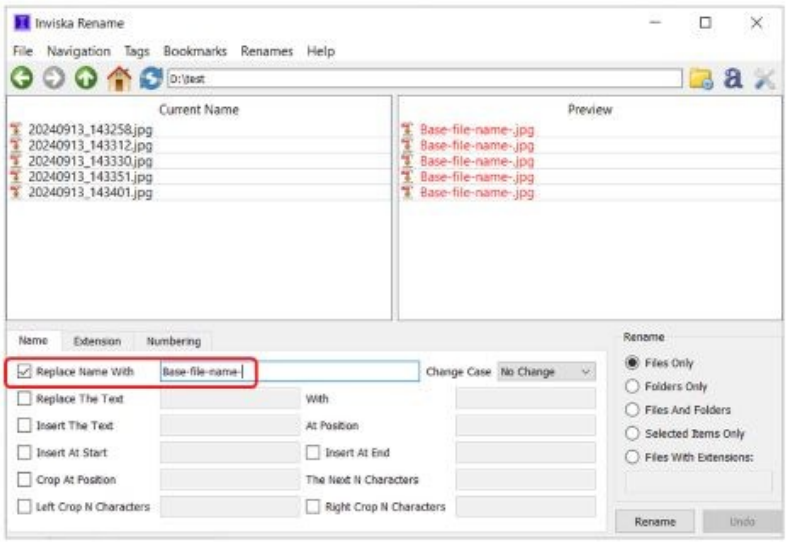


Figure 1. Options for changing the filename

Note that, in the right window, not surprisingly, the preview shows all the files as having the same name. However, the process is only partially complete. So, next, we move to the *Numbering* tab (Figure 2). Here we can check the radio button to add a number *After the filename*, select the *Start number* as 1, the *Increment* as 1, and set the *Zero Fill* to be *Specified* as 2.

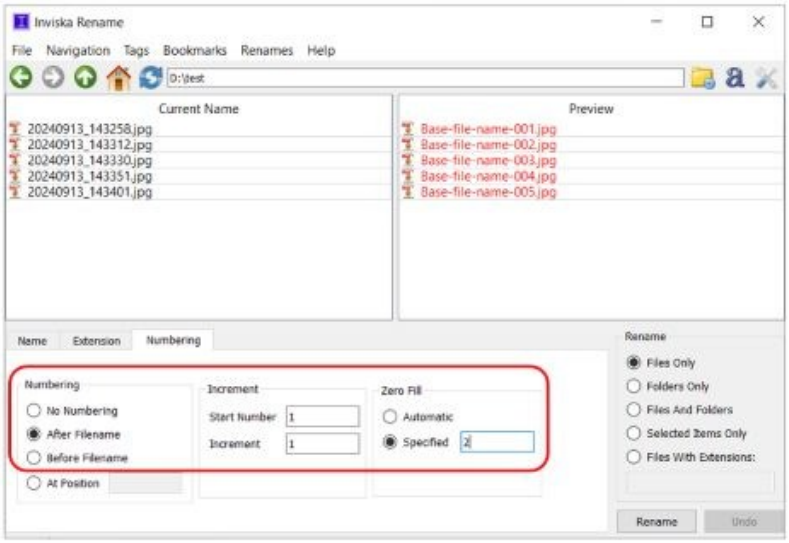


Figure 2. Options for adding a number sequence

(Continued on next page)

Rename Multiple Files *(Continued from previous page)*

The latter setting means that, rather than the number sequence appended to the filename being 1, 2, 3..., they will actually be written out as 001, 002, 003... So, our PizzaQ pictures will be renamed as PizzaQ-001.jpg through PizzaQ-352.jpg.

With the new filename format having been determined and checked in the preview window, we can go ahead and click on the *Rename* button. A warning pops up asking if we wish to proceed with the operation and selecting the *Yes* button results in all of our files being renamed as desired.

Inviska Rename is simple to use but very flexible when it comes to batch renaming both files and folders. It works extremely well and is both free and open source. So, what's not to like?

Bottom Line:

Inviska Rename (Open-source)
Mirosław Żylewicz
Version 12.0
https://github.com/miroslaw-zylewicz/InviskaRename

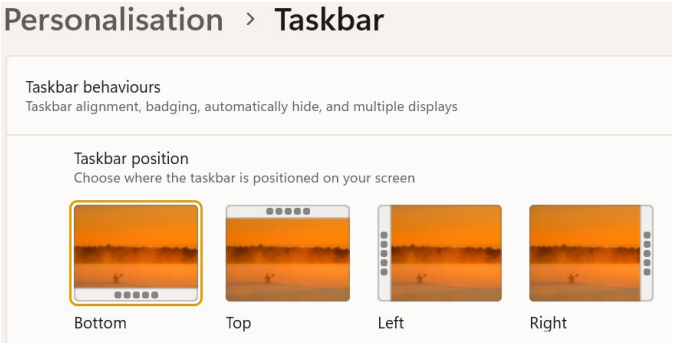
*(read all OPCUG reviews **here**)*

Quick Tip 84: Repositioning the Windows taskbar

by Chris Taylor

A lot of people were upset when Microsoft removed the ability to position the taskbar anywhere but the bottom of the screen in Windows 11.

Released in September, Windows 11 26H2 returns the ability to position the taskbar on any of the four edges of the screen: bottom, top, left, or right. But how you move the taskbar has changed. Go to *Settings* > *Personalization* > *Taskbar* > *Taskbar behaviours* > *Taskbar position*.



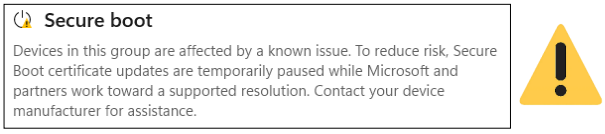
While you are there, consider changing *Taskbar alignment* to *Left* as it was always meant to be! And if you run a lot of programs simultaneously, or pin a lot of programs to the Taskbar, consider changing *Taskbar size* to *Small*.

Refurbished Computer Woes Update

by Brigitte Lord

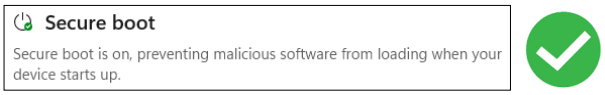
(see my first article in the September newsletter)

In August, my Windows 11 refurb was displaying the following amber warning in Device Security:



I was expecting the final red X of shame to eventually rear its ugly head (it didn't):

Instead, after a Windows Update in October, I got a green badge of health with text that did not include the usual warning about my system's "known issue":



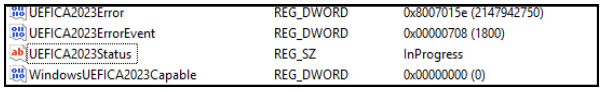
So, are the 2023 secure boot certificates finally installed?

A quick fetch in Powershell (or Terminal) for the 2023 certificates returned "False":

PS C:\Users\blord> **[System.Text.Encoding]::ASCII.GetString((Get-SecureBootUEFI db).bytes) -match 'Windows UEFI CA 2023'**

False

Windows Registry says the 2023 Certificate Authority status is "InProgress", shows an 1800 error, and a value for "UEFICA2023Capable" of (0) (not capable).



The 1800 error means a reboot is needed. A reboot did not install the new certificates. A look in Event Viewer tells me why: the KEK 2023 component (one of four parts to the 2023 Boot Certificates) update was blocked due to a "known firmware issue on this device" (aaand we're back).

Unexpectedly, Event Viewer now says my machine is in the "High Confidence" bucket, an upgrade from "Temporarily Paused" in June. This probably means that several machines like mine survived the 2023 update. I could follow HP's instructions (and cautions) for installing the 2023 certificates on its EoSL computers, but I'm not willing to risk it. And I'm not overly worried about my expired 2011 certificates, anyway.

After all that prodding, Device Security was triggered back to amber, warning me that my device has a known issue. Gee, thanks. How's that red X coming?

APCUG ARTICLE

Am I the Only One? Part 2

By Tom Kuklinski, Webmaster at Computer Users of Erie
CUE Newsletter, May 2026
Grimcyber (at) yahoo.com

(Part 1 appeared in the October issue of Ottawa PC News.)

A while back, I shared how I've built up a massive collection of photos over the years and the steps I took to keep them safe. This included a huge batch that I organized in 2014. Since then, I have scanned more and, of course, snapped many more. Yes, massive is well termed. This collection includes 38,265 photos. Today, let's talk about the next big challenge: actually organizing all those digital photos so they're safe, easy to find, and not a complete headache.

Sounds simple, right? Yeah… it took me many weeks. Many days I did the work across a real mix of devices and operating systems because that's my life: Windows 11 Pro, Linux Mint 22.2, an iPhone, and my Google Pixel 10 Pro XL. I used an old 10-year-old Toshiba 2TB external hard drive, a bunch of USB sticks (more on those later), and Firefox as my main browser.

My Favorite Phone App for Old Paper Photos

One tool that made a huge difference is an app called Photomyne (photomyne.com) on my Pixel smartphone. It's fantastic. You point it at old, printed photos, it scans them, straightens them up, and even fixes crooked or sloppy shots into nice, clean digital versions. You can colorize, crop, and tweak them right there. It also lets you store photos on their site if you want. The app is fast, surprisingly good, and available on both Android and iPhone. Highly recommend it if you have boxes of old family pictures lying around.

Where I Store My Photos

I had spread my collection across a few services:

- Google Photos (my main go-to)
- Amazon Photos
- I tried iCloud but bailed once I saw the paid storage price.
- Microsoft OneDrive used to be free-ish, but they tightened things up, and I didn't like how they handled files, so I moved on.

Here's the quick reality check on free storage options:

- Amazon Photos: Unlimited full-resolution photos if you're an Amazon Prime member (videos use a small 5 GB allowance). This is a fantastic perk if you already have Prime.
- Google Photos: 15 GB free (shared with Gmail and Drive). Pretty generous for light users.
- Apple iCloud: 5 GB free — fills up fast.
- Microsoft OneDrive: 5 GB free now.

I ended up buying a paid Google One Plan because it gave me plenty of room plus some nice extras.

Why Google Photos Won for Me

My household is a total mixed bag: my wife lives in the Apple world with her iPhone and iPad, while I bounce between Android, Windows, and Linux. I needed one service that worked smoothly everywhere without constant headaches. After testing everything, Google Photos came out on top for my setup.

Here's why I like it so much:

- It works beautifully on Android (native and seamless).
- The iPhone app is excellent too.
- On Windows and Linux, the web version (photos.google.com) is fast and powerful.
- The AI search is ridiculously good — you can type "beach photos with the kids in 2024," and it actually finds them.
- Automatic face grouping, location tags, and "Memories" make browsing fun instead of frustrating.

For about 50 GB of photos, the 100 GB Google One plan is cheap and gives me breathing room.

The Runners-Up

- Microsoft OneDrive (through Microsoft 365) is a strong second if you live in Windows and use Office apps. It feels very native on a PC, but the organization tools aren't quite as smart as Google's.
- Apple iCloud is fantastic if you're all-in on Apple devices, but it feels clunky on Android, Windows, and especially Linux.
- Amazon Photos is great for unlimited storage if you're a Prime member, but the search and organization features are pretty basic compared to Google.

(Continued on next page)

Slidewise *(Continued from page 1)*

- export selected original images;
- bulk set *Autofit* settings across boxes, shapes, & placeholders to *Do not Autofit*, *Shrink*, or *Resize*;
- finer control over colours used in the presentation.

In short, Slidewise is a powerful tool, especially for those who must clean up inherited PowerPoint presentations.

When you install Slidewise, you get the full set of features for 30 days, after which it switches to Slidewise Free. Even if your use of PowerPoint is limited, Slidewise Free brings some really nice capabilities to the table, in particular its ability to ferret out font inconsistencies in your presentations. For details about Slidewise Free features, see https://support.neuxpower.com/hc/en-us/articles/21741589503377-What-can-I-do-with-Slidewise-Free

Bottom line:

Slidewise PowerPoint add-in
https://neuxpower.com/slidewise-powerpoint-add-in
Price: US$79 per year
System requirements: Windows 8.1 or greater
32-bit or 64-bit Office 2016 or greater,
or installed (not web) Office/Microsoft 365
XML versions of PowerPoint data files (e.g. pptx and potx)

*(read all OPCUG reviews **here**)*
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Am I the Only One? *(Continued from previous page)*

The USB Stick Disaster (Lesson Learned)

Oh, and about those "2TB" USB SSD sticks I bought… they turned out to be complete frauds. I tested them with two free Windows tools: H2testw (from h2testw.org) and Validrive (from grc.com/validrive). Both confirmed the sticks were lying about their capacity. Three of them went straight into the trash. Expensive lesson: cheap bottom-feeder deals can bite you.

So… Am I the Only One?

- I now keep my photos in three places for peace of mind:
- Google Photos (for quick searching and easy access anywhere)
- Amazon Photos (thanks to my Prime membership)
- And on a real, trustworthy external hard drive

I happily pay for the Google storage because the convenience and fast retrieval are worth it. Google Photos is compatible with Android, iOS, iPadOS, Windows, macOS, and Linux. Having everything organized and backed up gives me real peace of mind. Now you know my full story.

Am I the only one who's gone through all this hassle just to keep family memories safe and findable? I really don't think so. What about you? How do you handle your photo collection across different devices? I'd love to hear your tips too!

♦♦♦

Nominations for OPCUG Board for 2027

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 **nominations2027@opcug.ca**.

Nominations must be received by midnight, December 31, 2026.

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

Lynda Buske
Election Chair

APCUG CONTENT

Tech Trivia Quiz

by Sharon Walbran
Twin Cities PC Users Group (https://tcpc.com)
sharon.walbran (at) gmail.com

1. What does the ZIP in ZIP code stand for?
2. What college did Bill Gates graduate from?
3. Who invented the Python programming language?
4. In what year was the first installment of the Mario Party franchise released?
5. What was the top selling video game ever as of 2023?
6. What 2006 home video game console pioneered the use of motion sensors?
7. What was the first Pixar film to be released on Blu-Ray?
8. What British computer scientist is widely credited with inventing the World Wide Web?
9. What app has a green owl as a mascot?
10. What was the most downloaded app of the 2010s?
11. How long do Snapchat stories stay online before they disappear unless archived?
12. What is the name for a computer virus which replicates itself and uses up all a computer's processing space?
13. Which one of these kinds of malware disguises itself as legitimate software before its true intent is discovered?

    a. Spyware b. Trojan Horse c. Virus d. Keylogger

14. Which of these was the first emoji created?

a.
b.
c.

Answers

1. Zone Improvement Plan
2. None
3. Guido van Rossum
4. 1998
5. Minecraft
6. Wii
7. Cars
8. Tim Berners-Lee
9. Duolingo
10. Facebook
11. 24 hours
12. Worm
13. b
14. b

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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Stewart Bruce	**privacy-opcug@opcug.ca**	
Special Events Coordinator		
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Karen Wallace-Graner	**karenwg@opcug.ca**	

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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**).