

# An OPCUG Product Review

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## Transferring Files Over Wi-Fi

By Alan German

It's often useful to be able to transfer files between a Windows computer and an Android smartphone. Normally, I use the combination of Software Data Cable and FileZilla to achieve this task. Software Data Cable establishes a link from my smartphone to my Wi-Fi network. The Filezilla FTP client on my computer is then used to make the connection and transfer files between the two devices. For those who are not familiar with the use of FTP, there is now an alternative Wi-Fi program – *LocalSend* – that makes a direct connection between instances of the app running on multiple devices.

LocalSend is open-source software that is released under the MIT license. This license permits unrestricted use of the software but, in contrast to the GPL, does not require modified versions of the code to be released into the public domain. For most of us, this means that we can just download and use the program as it is provided.

LocalSend is multi-device and multi-platform. It is installed on the devices between which files are to be transferred, e.g. a smartphone and a PC. Versions of the software are available for Windows, Linux, Android, macOS and iOS.

Once installed the basic choices are Receive and Send. There is also the option to customize the file transfer operations through a variety of settings. These include choices for themes and colours, file download location, and device name.

The basic choices when selecting the Send option on a device are to specify the files or folders to be transferred using a file manager. The program scans for nearby devices and will display any that are available. On my system, my smartphone has the default name of *Patient Pumpkin*, and my PC is named *Special Blueberry*. Figure 1 shows the program window with the image file *user\_penguin.jpg* selected to be sent. Simply clicking the mouse on the *Patient Pumpkin* tile in the display window starts the file transfer process.

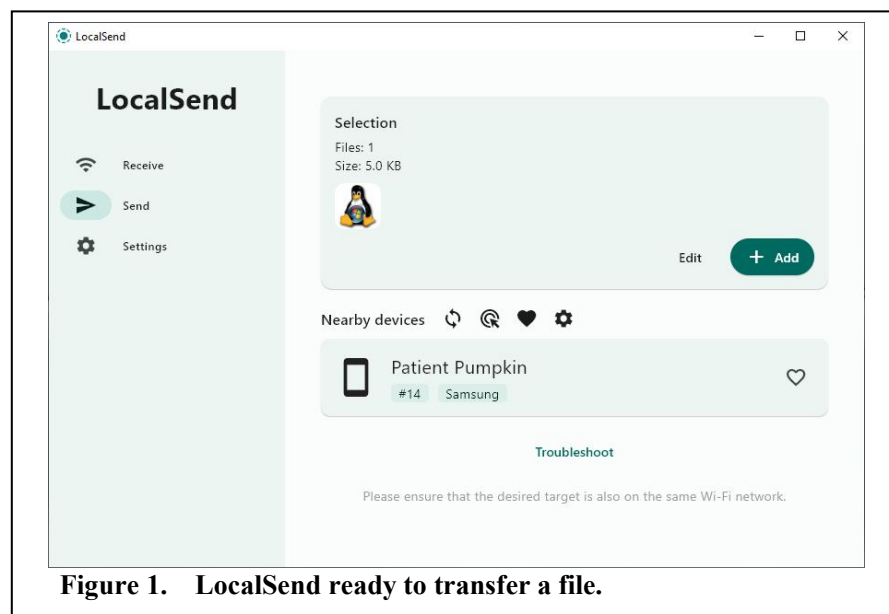


Figure 1. LocalSend ready to transfer a file.

On the smartphone, a dialogue box (Figure 2) requests permission to accept the transferred file, which is followed by confirmation that the file transfer has been completed.

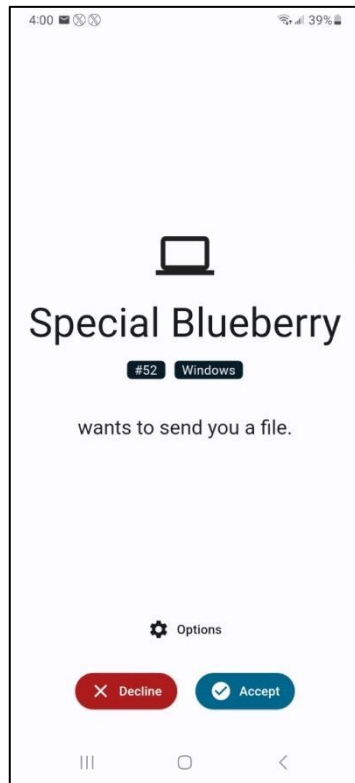


Figure 2. Accept/Decline the file transfer.

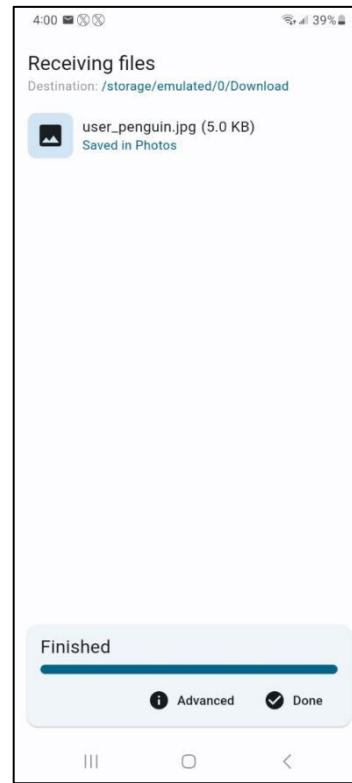


Figure 3. File transfer complete.

The transferred file is stored in the default download folder for the receiving device (unless otherwise specified in the optional settings).

LocalSend makes file transfer between a smartphone and a PC very simple. No more searching for that hardware data cable or needing to know how to drive an FTP client. Just run this app on the two devices and point-and-click to transfer files between them.

#### Bottom Line

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LocalSend (Open source)  
Tien Do Nam  
<https://localsend.org>

