



Q&A

**Chris Taylor and Alan German  
Ottawa PC Users' Group**

Share

## Shares wanted

Two-dimensional scanners where an entire page can be processed in less than a second

How to choose security software (PC & smartphone)

The different kinds of USB ports.



USB hardware

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USB\\_hardware](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USB_hardware)



USB 4 Will Make USB Even More Confusing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qBy0YJM3co&t=289s>

Video link courtesy of:  
Stewart Bruce

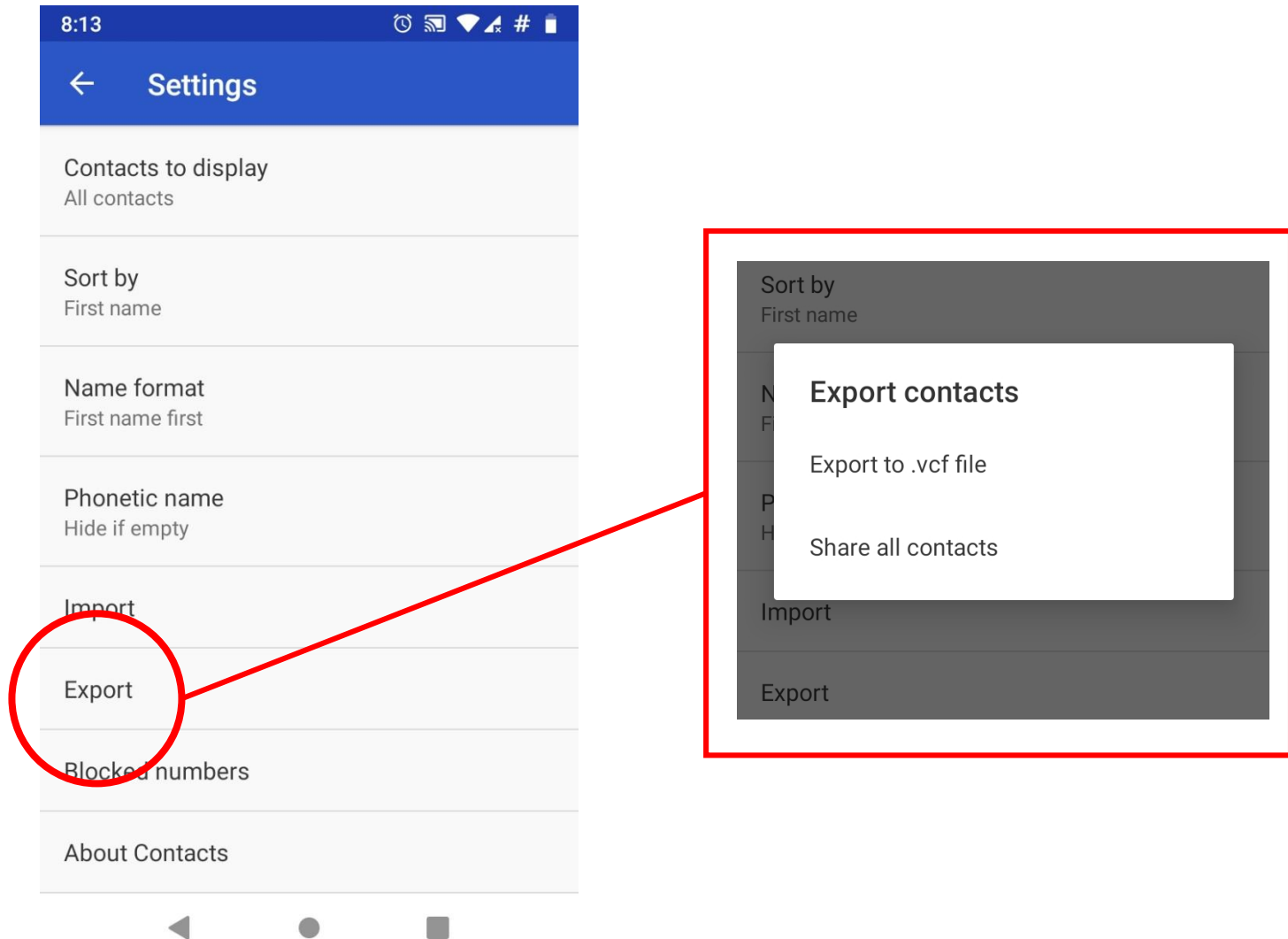


I wanted to create a .VCF file with the contacts from my smartphone to have as a back up. However, the file that was created only contains the information for the first contact that's stored in my phone. Has anyone encountered this issue?



# A

Normally, contacts can be exported using  
*Contacts - Settings - Export*





OTTAWA

# PC NEWS

Volume 37, Number 2

February 2020

## PRODUCT REVIEW

### Managing Smartphone Contacts

by Alan German

In a previous article (*Managing Email Addresses* in the January newsletter) I looked at how to synchronize contacts in the Thunderbird Email client across multiple devices and users. A similar situation occurs for

However, there is a much simpler solution - use VCF Import v3.085.xlsm, an Excel spreadsheet developed by Greg Hadlock. As Greg notes: "This is an Excel based VBA script used to import bulk .VCF files that contain more than

columns in one of the resulting Excel files will be readily apparent and easily accommodated.

(see Figure 2 on page 7)

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2002NEWS.pdf>

Free VCF file to CSV or Excel converter

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/bulkvcftocsv/files>

CSV to vCard

<http://www.csvtovcard.com>

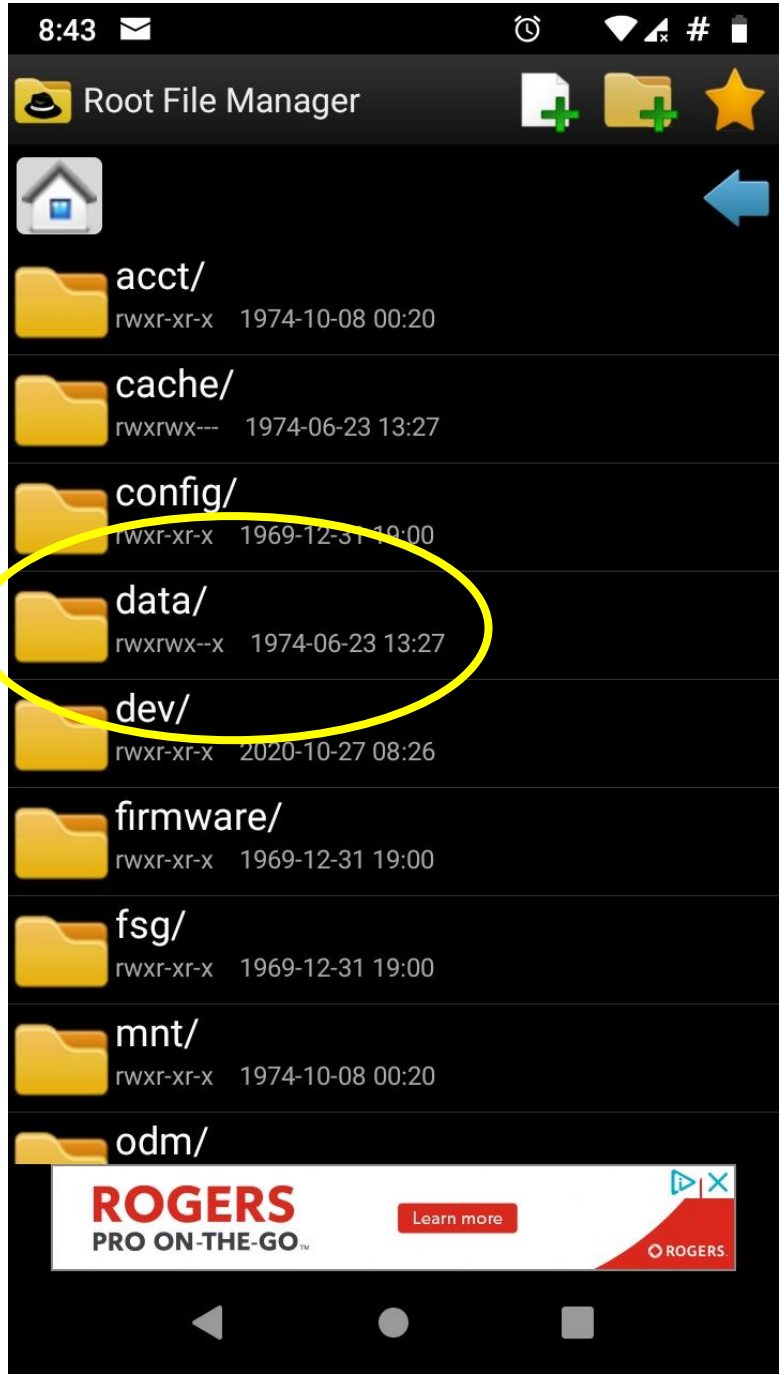
The exact location of the contacts database might depend on your manufacturer's specific customization

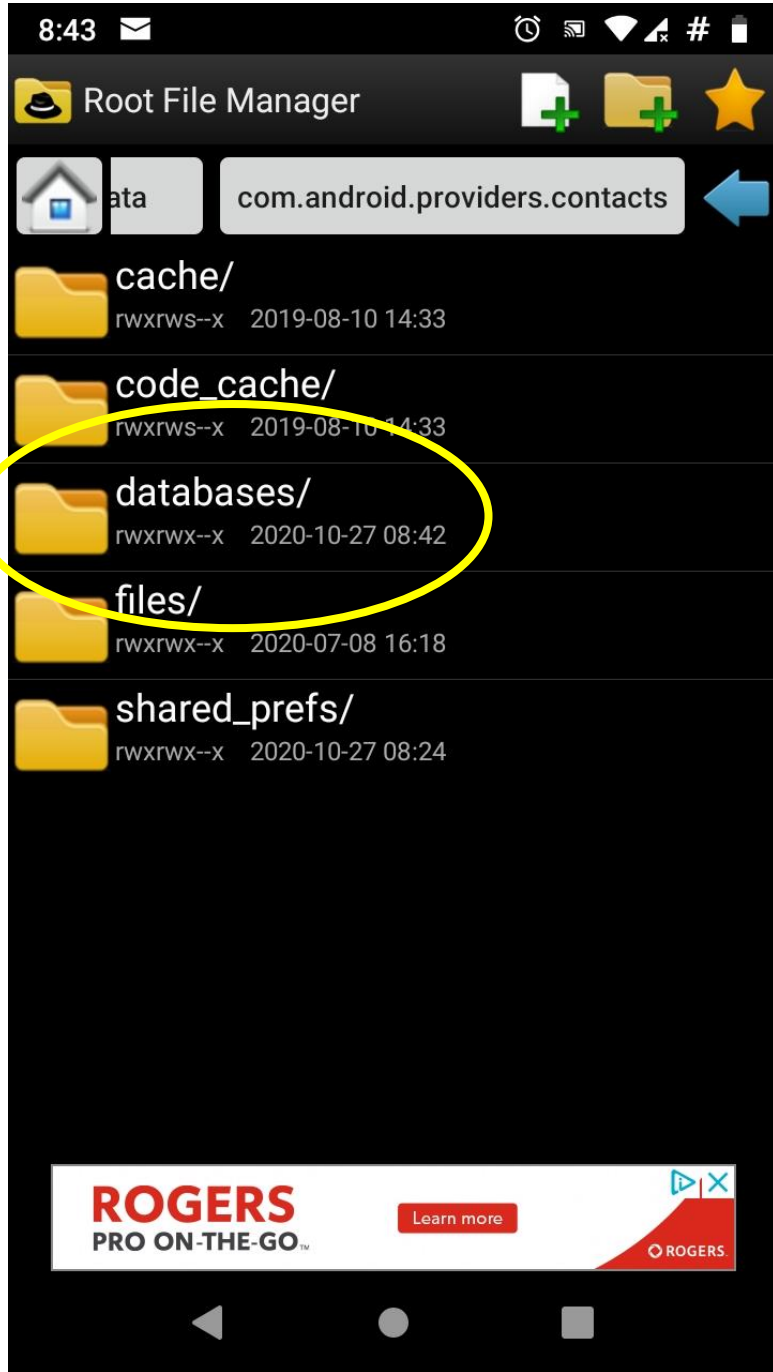
“Plain Vanilla Android” has them in */data/data/android.providers.contacts/databases*

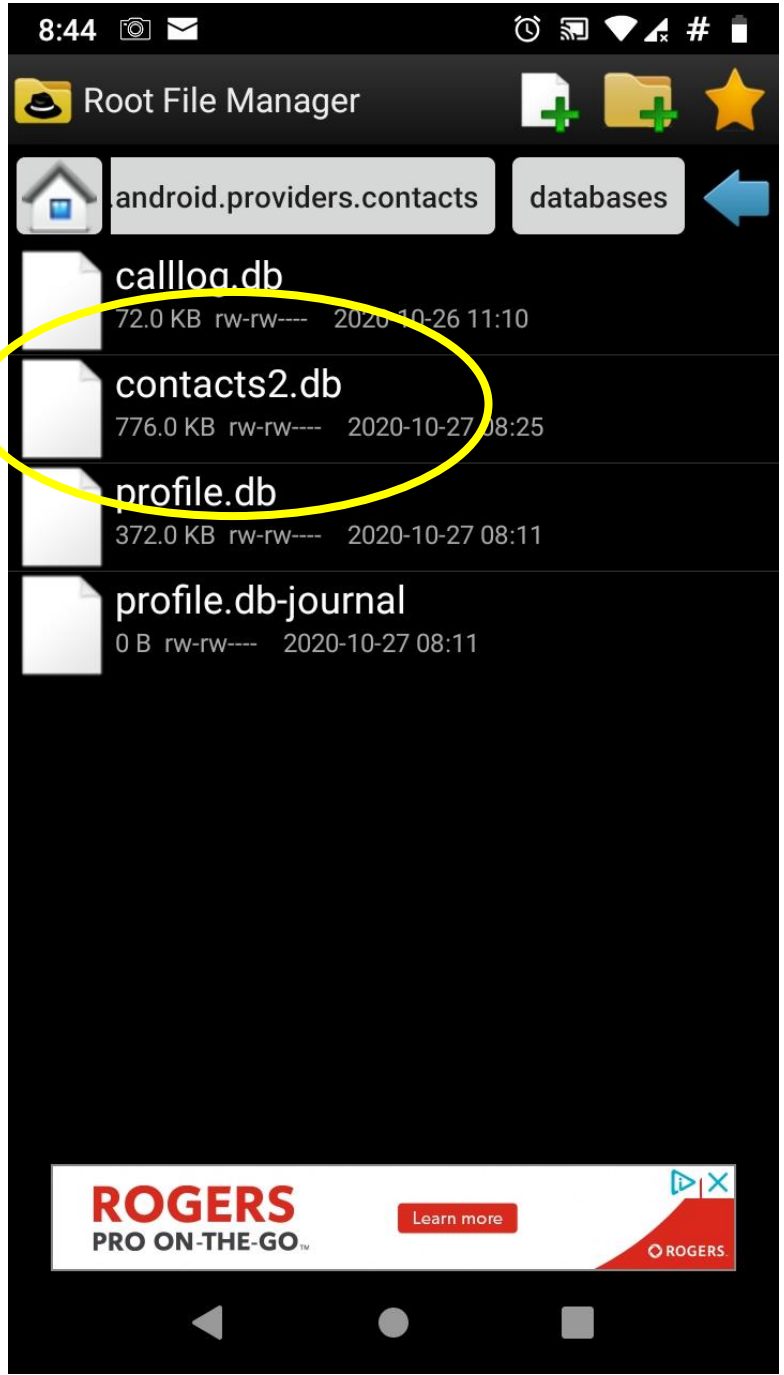
Navigating to this folder needs root access

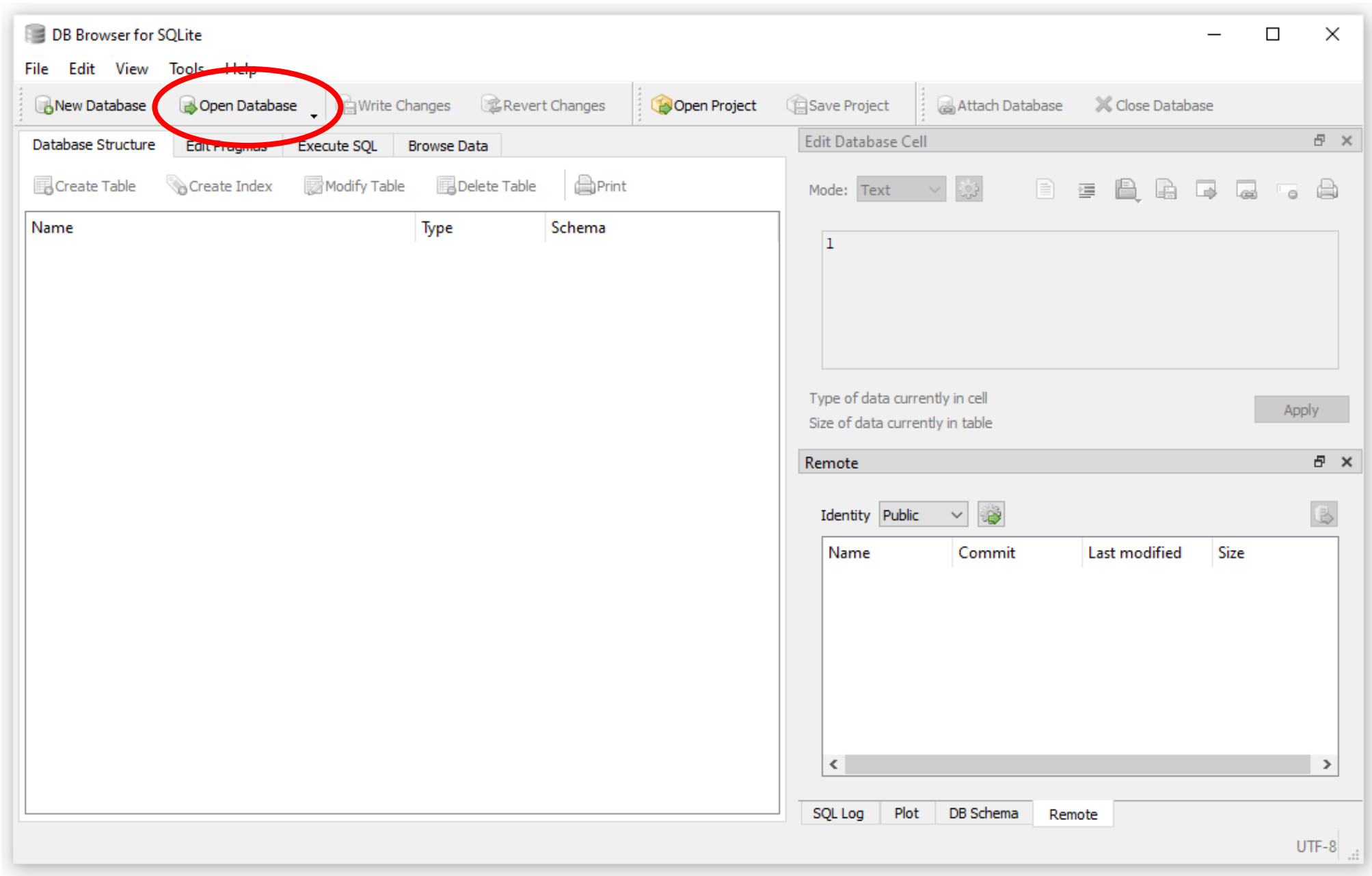
The database file is named *contacts2.db*

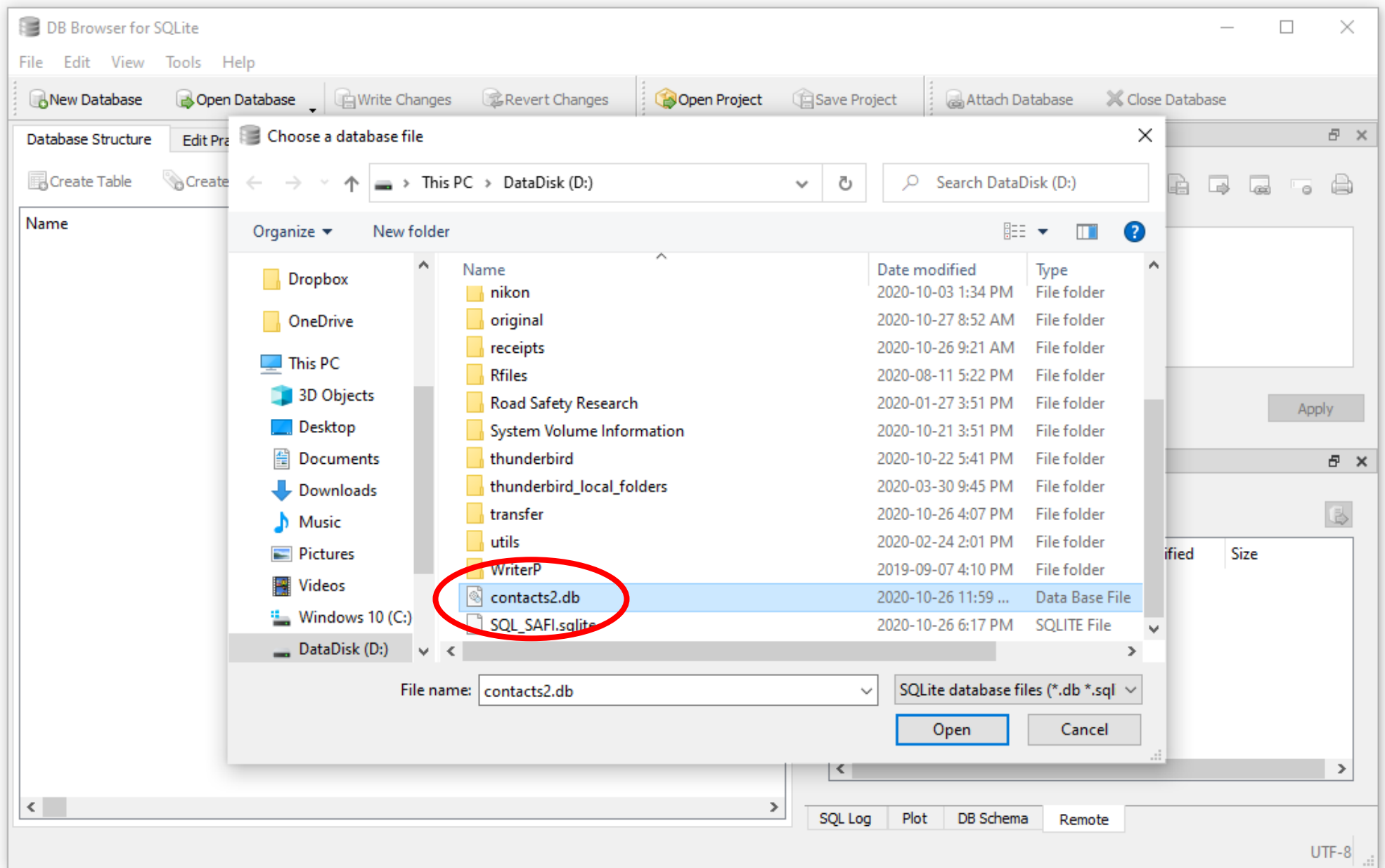
The file is in *SQLite3* format, and can be accessed on a PC with *SQLiteMan* or *DB Browser for SQLite*

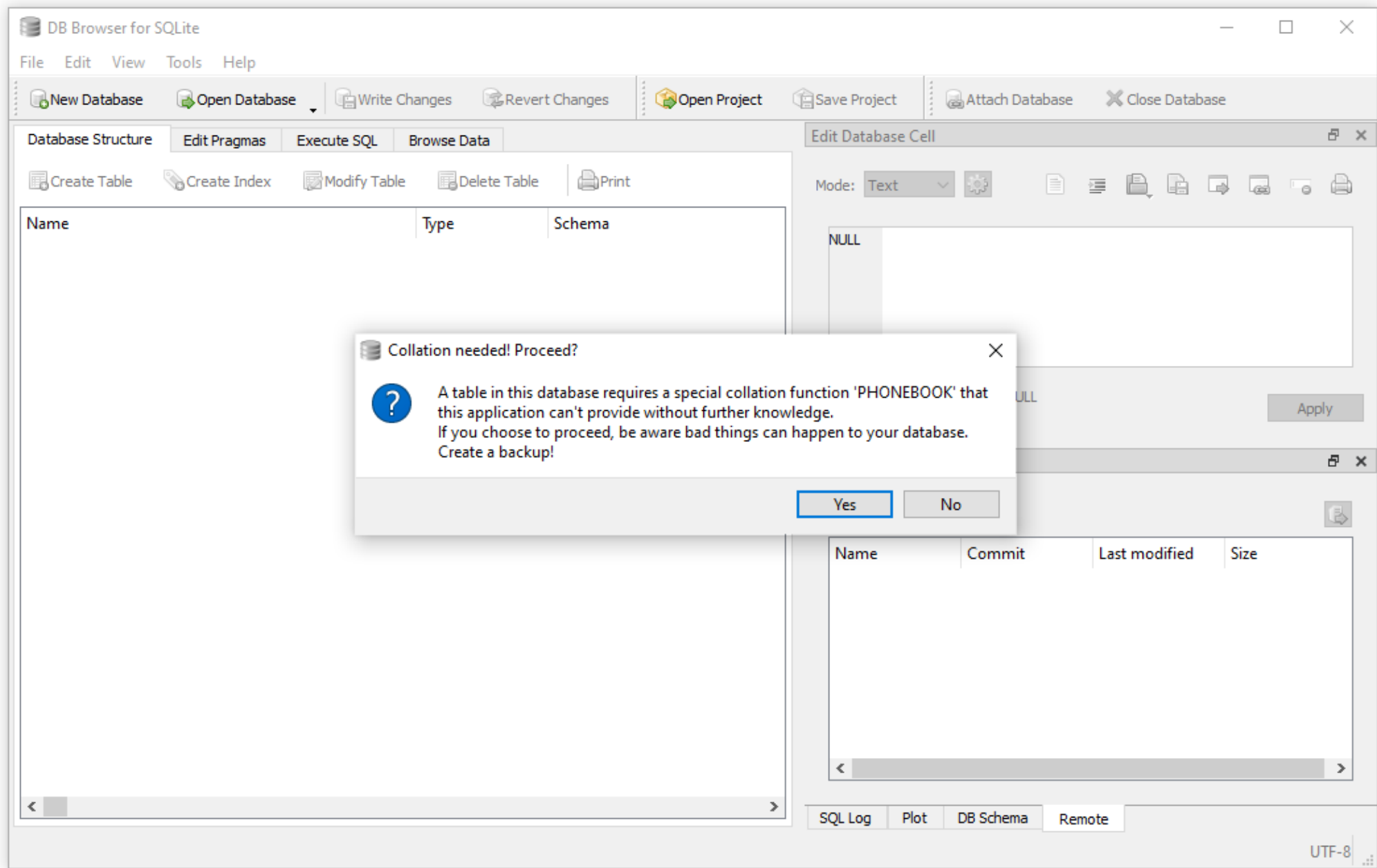


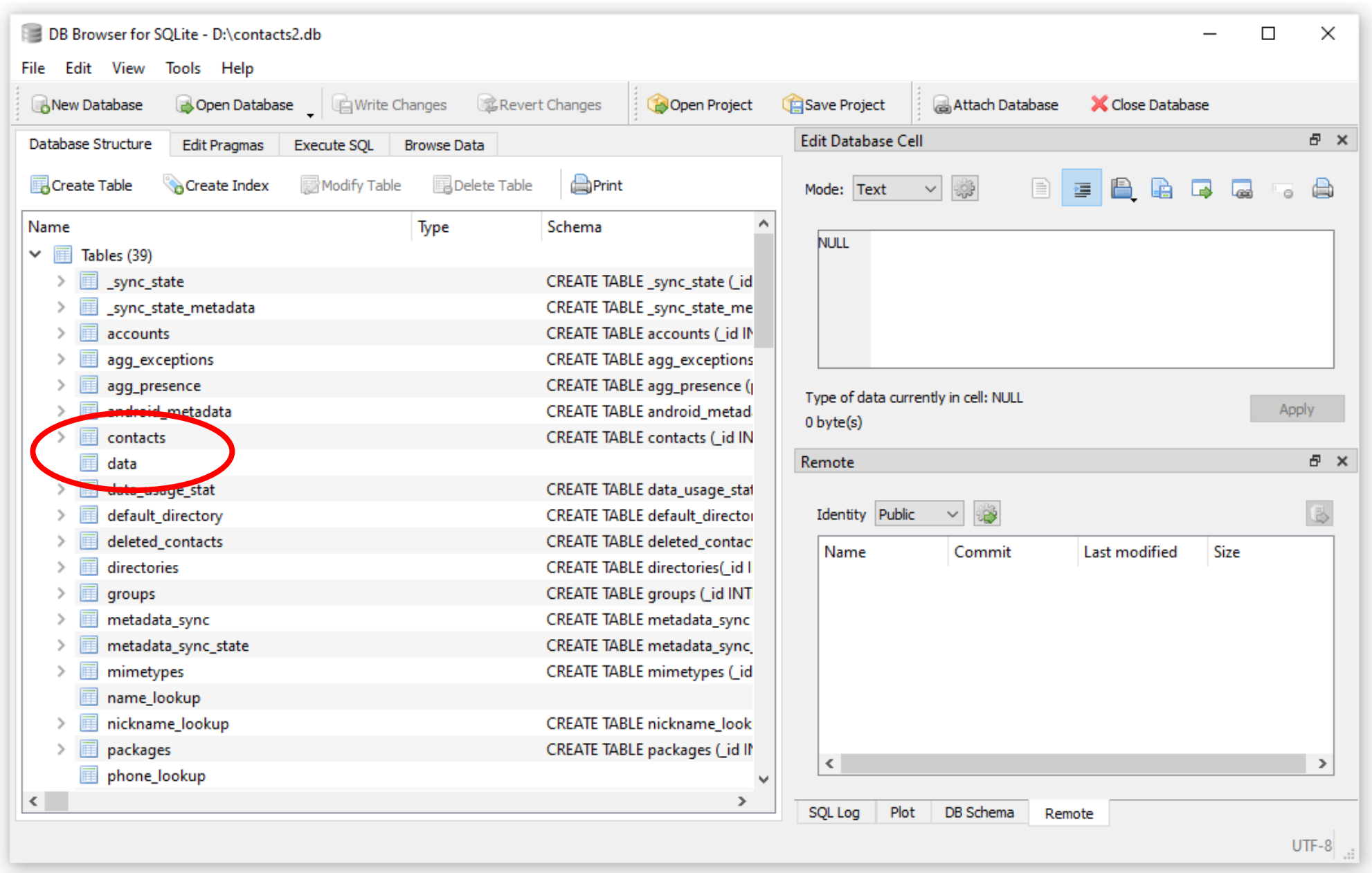




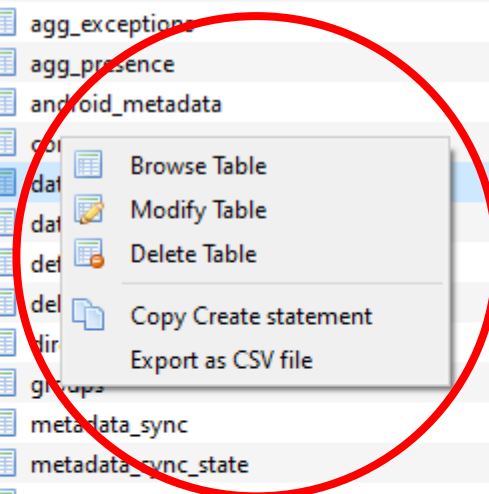








Name	Type	Schema
Tables (39)		
> _sync_state	CREATE TABLE	_syn
> _sync_state_metadata	CREATE TABLE	_syn
> accounts	CREATE TABLE	acc
> agg_exceptions	CREATE TABLE	agg.
> agg_presence	CREATE TABLE	agg.
> android_metadata	CREATE TABLE	andr
> contact_data	CREATE TABLE	cont
> data	CREATE TABLE	data
> default	CREATE TABLE	defa
> deleted	CREATE TABLE	dele
> directory	CREATE TABLE	dire
> groups	CREATE TABLE	grou
> metadata_sync	CREATE TABLE	met:
> metadata_sync_state	CREATE TABLE	met:
> mimetypes	CREATE TABLE	mim
> name_lookup	CREATE TABLE	



1 888

Type of data currently in cell: Text / Numeric  
3 character(s) Apply

Name	Commit	Last modified	Size
------	--------	---------------	------

Table: data Filter in an...

	is_read_only	is_primary	is_super_primary	data_version	
	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter
437	0	0	0	0	NULL
438	0	0	0	0	NULL
439	0	0	0	0	NULL
440	0	0	0	0	NULL
441	0	0	0	1	4
442	0	0	0	3	NULL
443	0	0	0	1	613-323-54
444	0	0	0	1	Chris.Taylor
445	0	0	0	1	christopher.
446	0	1	1	2	Chris Taylor
447	0	0	0	0	gprofile:418
448	0	0	0	0	gprofile:473

Mode: Text

1 888

Type of data currently in cell: Text / Numeric  
3 character(s) Apply

Identity Public

Name	Commit	Last modified	Size

data.csv - Excel

FILE HOME Injury New Tab INSERT PAGE LAYOUT FORMULAS DATA REVIEW VIEW DEVELOPER

Normal Page Break Preview Page Layout Custom Views Workbook Views

Ruler  Formula Bar  Gridlines  Headings Show

Zoom 100% Zoom to Selection

New Window Arrange All Freeze Panes Unhide

Split Hide Window View Side by Side Synchronous Scrolling Reset Window Position

A1 :

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	_id	package_i	mimetype	raw_cont	hash_id	is_read_o	is_primar	is_super	data_vers	data1	data2	data3	data4	data5
441	1540		12	353		0	0	0	0					
442	1541		11	355 UX01mlm		0	0	0	1	4				
443	1542		10	355 Mrogkbd		0	0	0	3					
444	1543		5	355 ZOpvzbX		0	0	0	1	613-323-5	2		1.61E+10	
445	1544		1	355 AiGKsV69		0	0	0	1	Chris.Tayl	1			
446	1545		1	355 a4d8i+nn		0	0	0	1	christophe	3			
447	1546		7	355 YTJYej8G		0	1	1	2	Chris Tayl	Chris	Taylor		
448	1547		9	355 A1bdtcv		0	0	0	0	gprofile:4	com.google			
449	1548		9	355 FwVMATA		0	0	0	0	gprofile:4	com.google			
450	1549		3	355 xpTQBHIJ		0	0	0	0		1			
451	1550		12	355		0	0	0	0					



What can I do with a digital helper such as Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant?



A

**Hey Google... What time does the LCBO at College Square open tomorrow?**

*The LCBO at 1363 Woodroffe Avenue Unit A opens at 10 AM*

**Hey Google... Play the sound of rain (or "forest sound" or "ocean sounds" or "babbling brook sounds" or...)**

*Plays pleasant white noise to help you fall asleep*

As a bonus, once it is playing you can say **Hey Google, set a sleep timer for 15 minutes** to have it turn off automatically

You can also say:

**Hey Google... Set a timer for 20 minutes**

and then ask

**Hey Google, How much time  
is left on the timer?**



**Hey Google... Find my phone**

*Makes your mobile phone ring*

**Hey Google... How do you say "I must go to work" in French**

*Translate phrases into many languages*

**Hey Google... call 613-nnn-nnnn**

Make a phone call from  
your Google Home device



In the Google Home app on your phone, you can define routines.

For example, when I say

**“Hey Google, I’m leaving”**

It tells me the current time and weather, turns off my lights, stops any streaming music I have going, gives me a traffic report, lists my upcoming appointments, and tells me a joke



For lighting control, I use Wemo smart plugs in my living room and bedroom.

There are much cheaper smart plugs around than Wemo. Just look for "*works with Google Home*" (or Amazon Alexa if that's what you use)



An interesting smart device I came across is a "*Kasa smart power strip*". It has three independently controllable, surge protected outlets plus two always-on USB charging ports.

**Hey Google, remember that my lock combination is 24 13 06**

and you can then say

**Hey Google, what is my lock combination?**

However that is not too secure, because anyone could say:

**Hey Google what are you remembering for me?**



I'm up to my elbows in flour,  
trying to adjust a recipe.  
I can ask Google Home...





I just read an article about a Ransomware protection feature that is built into Windows. Is this of any use or, are there better practices?



October 25, 2020

**How to enable and configure Ransomware Protection in Windows Defender**

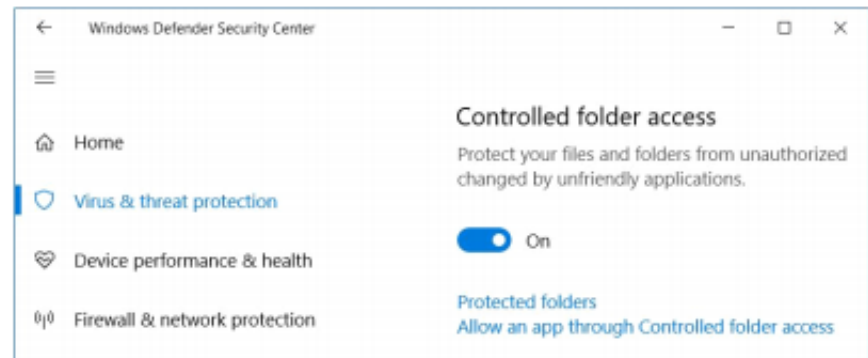
**<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/ransomware-protection-in-windows-defender>**

# A

Controlled Folder Access only allows specific programs to modify files stored in specific locations. A nice concept with some rough edges...

## Controlled folder access *by Chris Taylor*

I tend to be a little paranoid about computer security. But as the adage goes – just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get you. One of the most significant threats is file encrypting malware which will encrypt your data files and then demand a hefty fee for the decryption key. The best defence is a good backup, which I certainly have. But my main backup drive is connected to my computer 24x7 so automated backups can run



You can modify the way the feature acts in two ways; by adding protected folders,

Center app or by using the associated PowerShell cmdlets. You shouldn't need

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/1804.pdf>

Check out *ConfigureDefender* for more protection more easily.



<https://github.com/AndyFul/ConfigureDefender>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ep\\_25HIArXc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ep_25HIArXc)

Information courtesy of:

**tOM Trottier** <http://TomTrottier.com> BBO:"0 carbon"

+1613-860-6633 [tOM@Abacurial.com](mailto:tOM@Abacurial.com) [Skype:Abacurial](https://www.skype.com/Abacurial)

MD5 Fingerprint 27:B8:BA:91:70:E5:44:20:8F:29:EE:46:1E:52:F6:81

SHA1 23:3A:53:18:AB:83:B1:CA:07:33:AF:10:11:24:27:95:22:98:4E:7E



I received different recommendations to ensure good battery life:

- 1- keep laptop connected all the time.
- 2- disconnect power overnight.

What is the correct approach?



# A

It's not a good idea to keep the battery always connected. That can shorten its life.

Disconnecting the battery, at least every couple of weeks, or once a month, and draining the battery down to maybe 30 % is a good idea.

*For long-term battery health today, the best tactic is to avoid charging it all the way to 100 percent or letting it run down to zero, says Antonette Asedillo, who oversees Consumer Report's computer testing. "Ideally, you want to keep your battery charged between 20 and 80 percent."*

<https://www.consumerreports.org/laptop-computers/preserve-laptop-battery-life/>



I usually run into trouble taking pictures with my cell phone in bright sunlight where I am unable to see the object I am shooting clearly.

I have to step back into some shade to better view the screen.

Is there an adjustment to overcome this problem?



A

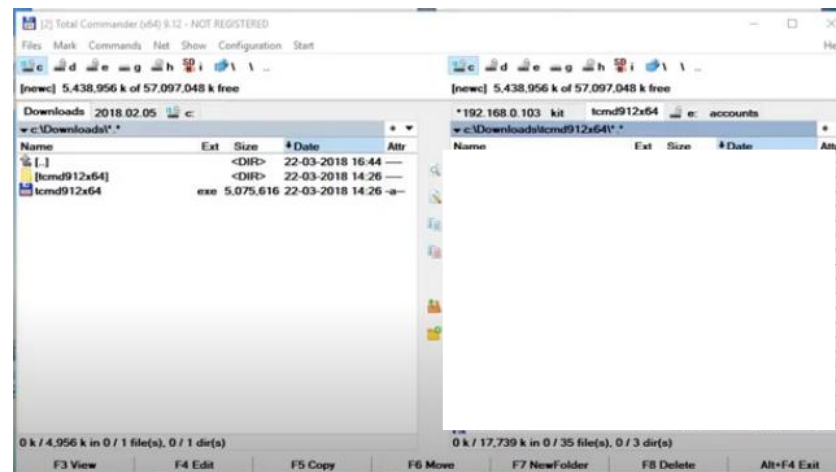
The only thing I can think of is to brighten the screen to its maximum.

Or, I suppose the old technique used with 8x10 film cameras - putting a blackout cloth, or a coat, over your head and the camera.





Does anyone have experience maintaining a web site using Total Commander's FTP client? I'm having difficulty getting access to the files on my web host's server. The window that is supposed to show the contents of the remote server is empty of files or folders.



A

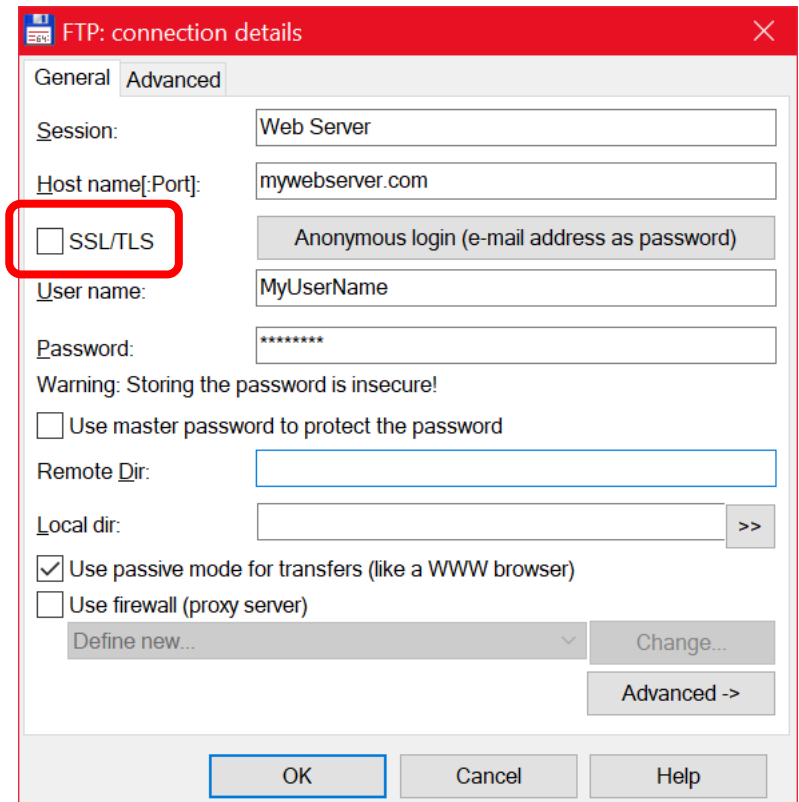
Don't think it is specifically a problem with the FTP client in Total Commander

More likely it is a problem with configuring the FTP parameters

# A

## FTP protocol problems – authentication

- The site you are trying to access may need authentication to be done over SSL/TLS



The screenshot shows the 'FTP: connection details' dialog box with the 'Advanced' tab selected. The 'SSL/TLS' checkbox is highlighted with a red box. The dialog box contains the following fields and options:

- Session: Web Server
- Host name[:Port]: mywebserver.com
- SSL/TLS
- Anonymous login (e-mail address as password)
- User name: MyUserName
- Password: \*\*\*\*\*
- Warning: Storing the password is insecure!
- Use master password to protect the password
- Remote Dir: [Empty field]
- Local dir: [Empty field] >>
- Use passive mode for transfers (like a WWW browser)
- Use firewall (proxy server)
- Define new... [Dropdown menu]
- Change... [Button]
- Advanced -> [Button]
- OK [Button]
- Cancel [Button]
- Help [Button]

# A

## FTP protocol problems – PASV

The screenshot shows the 'FTP: connection details' dialog box with the 'Advanced' tab selected. The 'Use passive mode for transfers (like a WWW browser)' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box. Other fields include 'Session: Web Server', 'Host name[:Port]: mywebserver.com', 'User name: MyUserName', and 'Password: \*\*\*\*\*'. A warning message states 'Warning: Storing the password is insecure!'. The 'Remote Dir:' and 'Local dir:' fields are empty. The 'Define new...' dropdown is set to 'Define new...'. The 'Advanced ->' button is visible at the bottom right.

FTP: connection details

General Advanced

Session: Web Server

Host name[:Port]: mywebserver.com

SSL/TLS Anonymous login (e-mail address as password)

User name: MyUserName

Password: \*\*\*\*\*

Warning: Storing the password is insecure!

Use master password to protect the password

Remote Dir:

Local dir: >>

Use passive mode for transfers (like a WWW browser)

Use firewall (proxy server)

Define new... Change...

Advanced ->

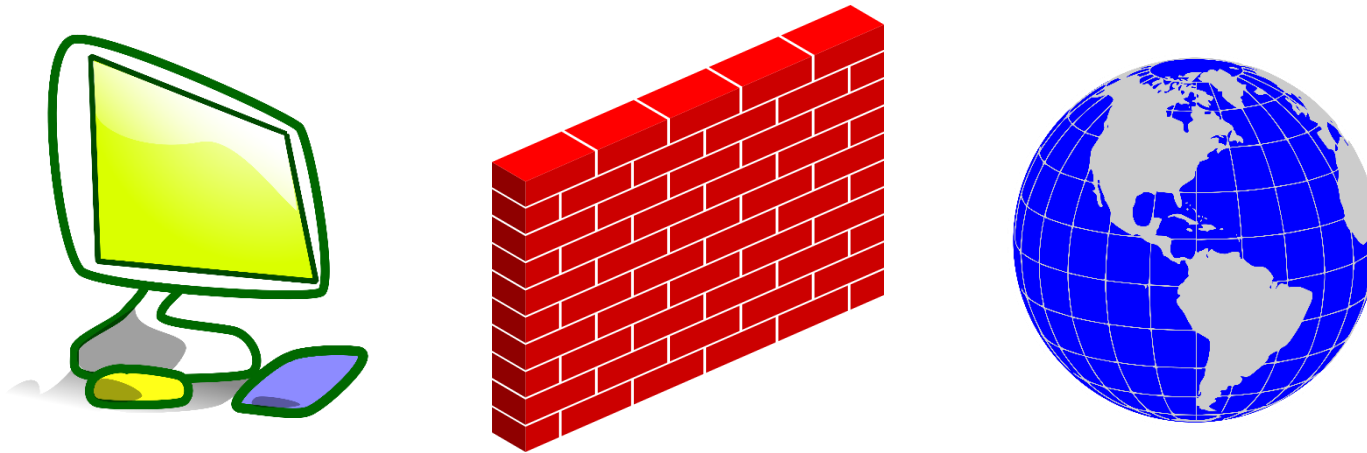
OK Cancel Help

# Firewall **Allows** connections **from** your computer

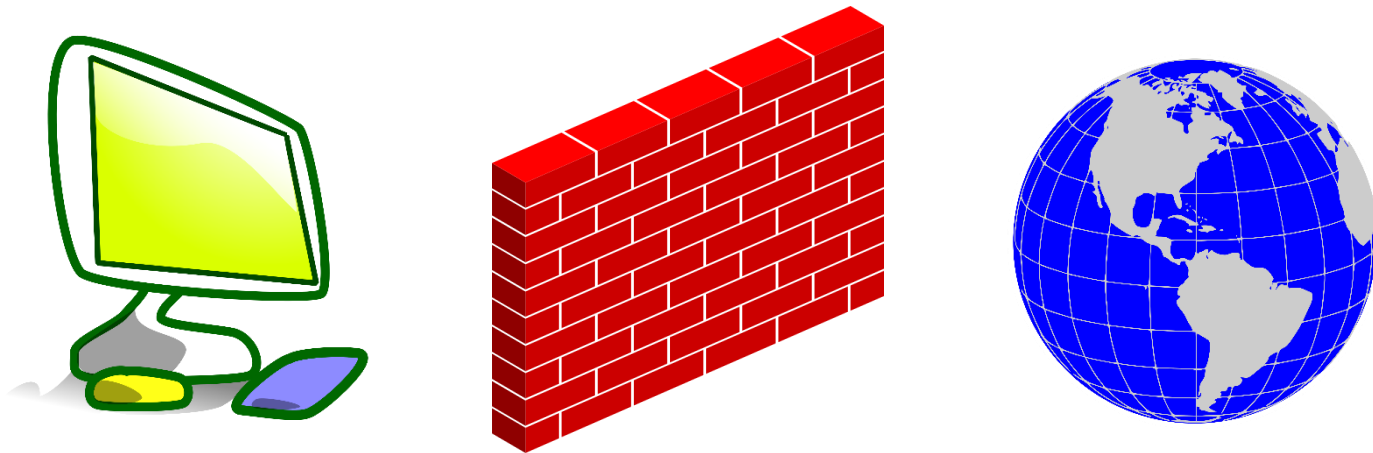
You initiate connection



Data can flow back



Firewall **blocks** connections **to** your computer



You didn't initiate connection  
**Blocked** by firewall



## FTP protocol problems – PASV

- Normal operation
  - Client initiates connection to server (default: port 21) (*control channel*)
  - Client sends *PORT* command
  - Server opens a *data channel* connection to client on port specified (default 20)
  - Problem: *data channel* connection is **initiated** by server and may be blocked by client's firewall

# A

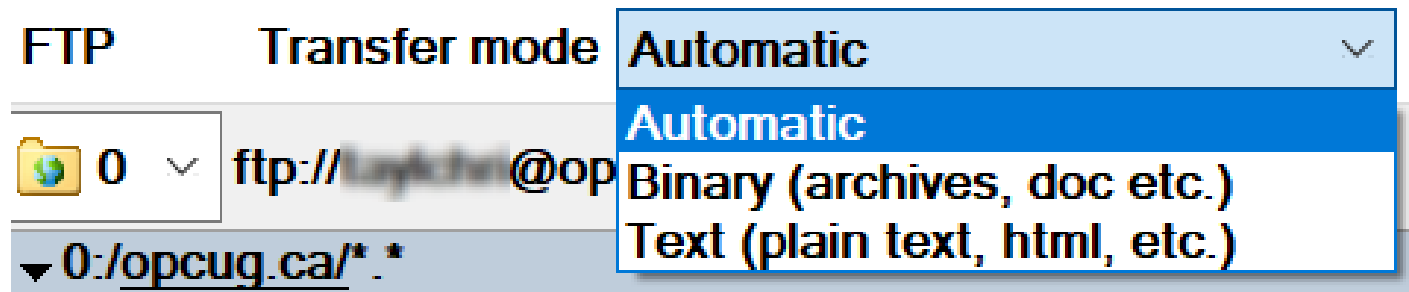
## FTP protocol problems – PASV

- PASV mode
  - Client initiates connection to server (default: port 21) (*control channel*)
  - Client sends *PASV* command asking server what port should be used for *data channel*
  - Server sends to client (on *control channel*) port to use for *data channel*
  - ***Client*** opens a *data channel* connection to client on port specified

# A

## FTP protocol problems – transfer mode

- FTP developed in early days of UNIX
- Text file end-of-line
  - UNIX: single character LF (line feed)
  - DOS/Windows: 2-character pair CR–LF (carriage return–line feed)
- When transferring
  - Text files: use text mode (ASCII)
    - may be able to use binary
  - Other files: always use binary



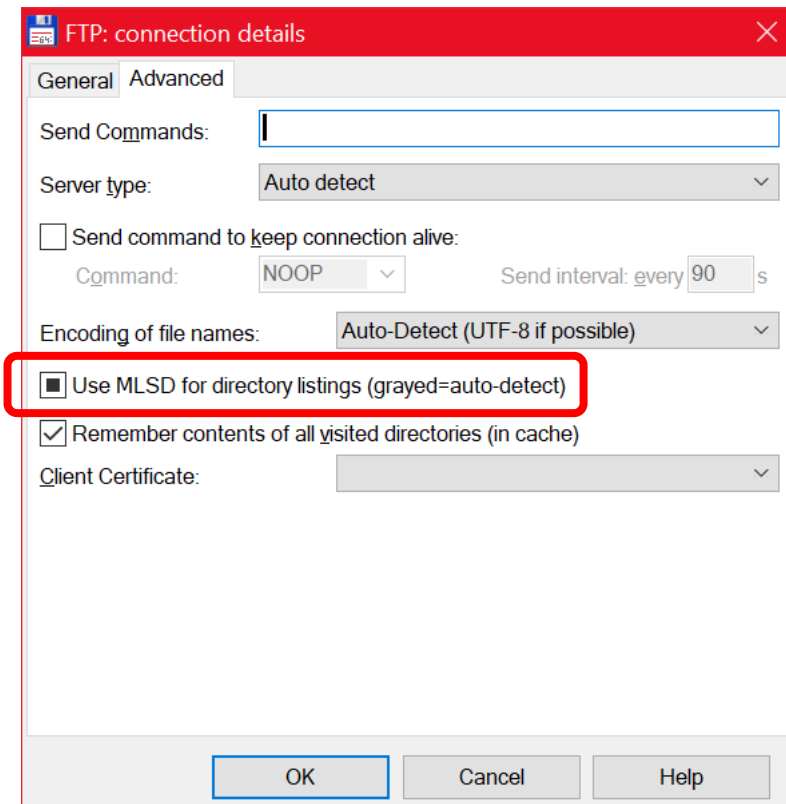
# A

## FTP protocol problems – listing files

There are differences in the way UNIX and DOS/Windows list files

Most FTP clients can handle this automatically

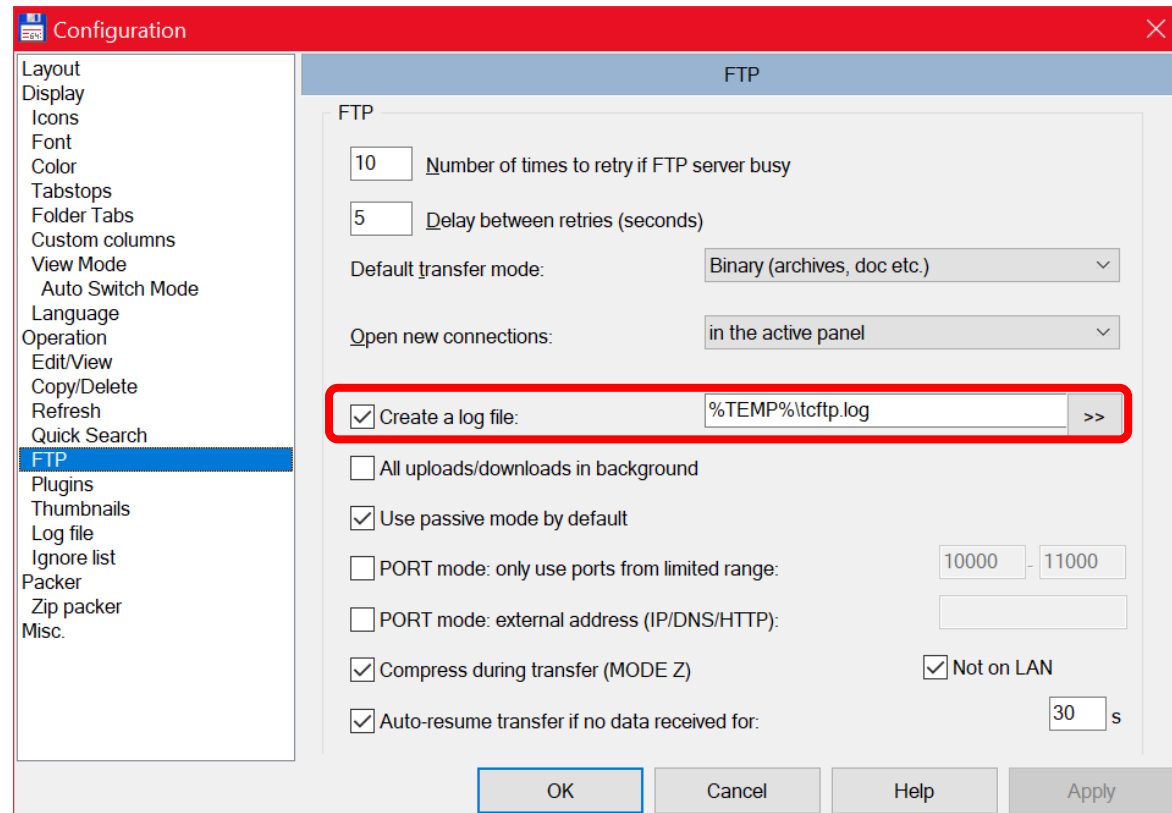
Total Commander allows you to specify



# A

## FTP protocol problems – trouble-shooting

- Turn on logging
- Try toggling previously mentioned settings
- Look for errors in log file





**Any Other:  
Questions?  
Comments?  
Shares?**



**If we have time...**

## Awesome Icons

*Customize the icons on your Android smartphone*



*Alan German*



**OPCUG Monthly Meeting**  
**November 11, 7:30 pm**

**Computers at War**

*Bob Walker, OPCUG*



*Details at: [opcug.ca/events/computers-at-war/](http://opcug.ca/events/computers-at-war/)*



**Tech Café, OPL**  
**November 23, 4:00 pm**

**Scam Avoidance**  
**and Trust**

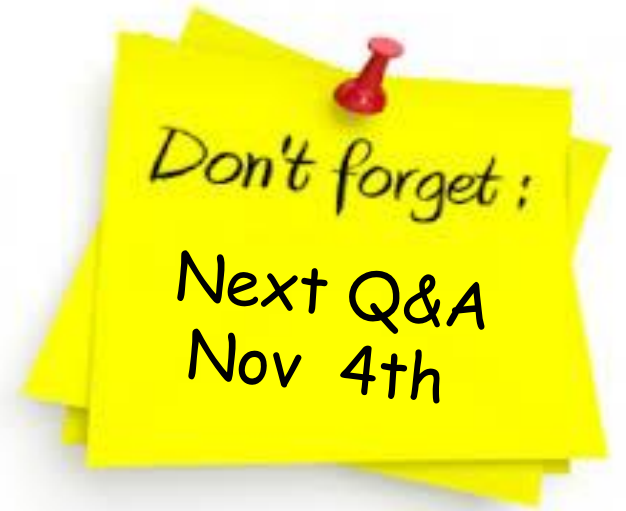


Lawrence Patterson

*Register at:* [opcug.ca/opl-presentations/](http://opcug.ca/opl-presentations/)



# Questions



**Send your questions, answers, and topics you wish to share to:**

**[SuggestionBox@opcug.ca](mailto:SuggestionBox@opcug.ca)**

