



Q&A

Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

Follow-up

New Year's Resolution No. 1

(1) I WILL backup my computer - tomorrow!

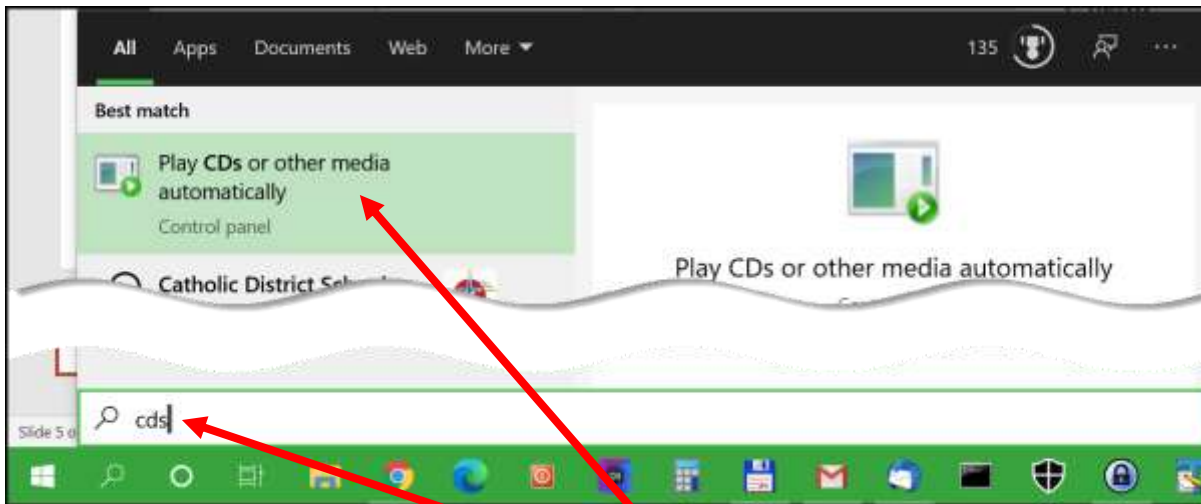
This PC > My Book04 (F:) > z_images > i7_Inspiron

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
i7_Inspiron_31dec20-00-00.mrimg	2020-12-31 9:13 PM	Disk Partition image	87,128,064 ...
i7_Inspiron_25nov20-00-00.mrimg	2020-11-25 3:46 PM	Disk Partition image	85,970,334 ...
i7_Inspiron_21oct20-00-00.mrimg	2020-10-21 3:51 PM	Disk Partition image	88,490,234 ...
i7_Inspiron_16aug20-00-00.mrimg	2020-08-16 3:20 PM	Disk Partition image	87,563,186 ...
i7_Inspiron_07jul20-00-00.mrimg	2020-07-07 3:38 PM	Disk Partition image	88,954,454 ...

Follow-up

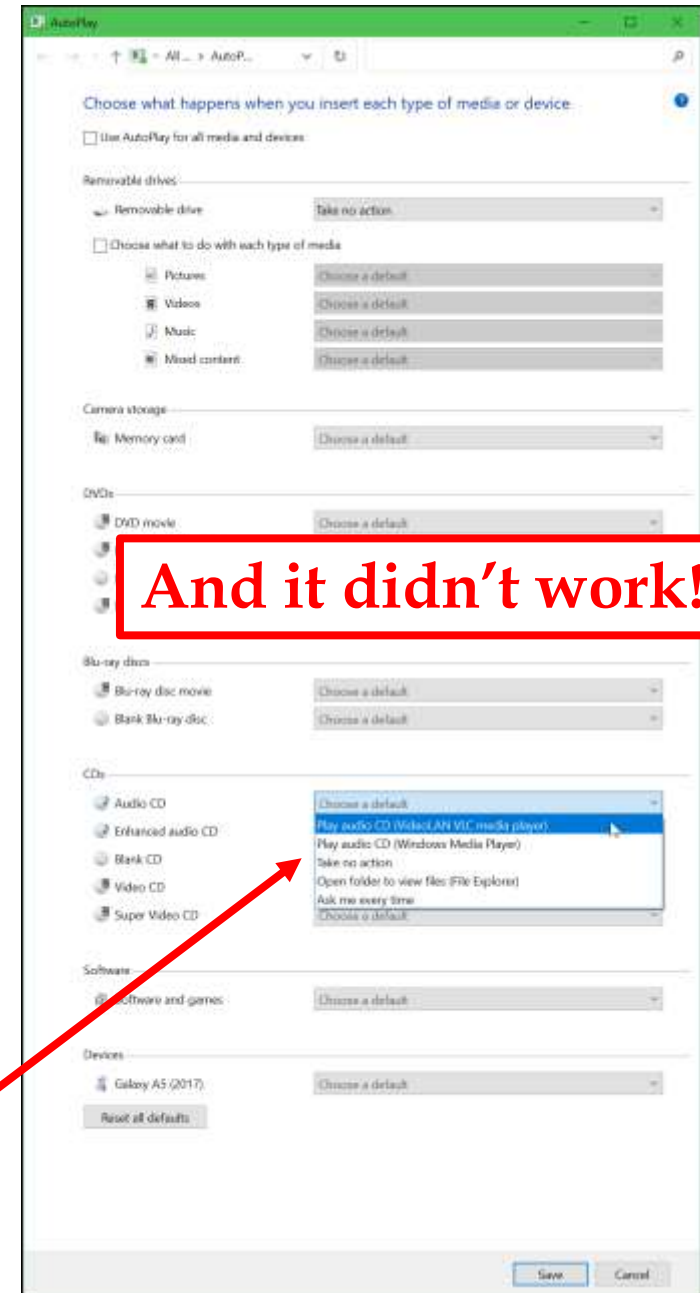
Autoplay Audio CDs

From last week...



Search for "cds"
- aha! Control Panel applet

Autoplay options



And it didn't work!

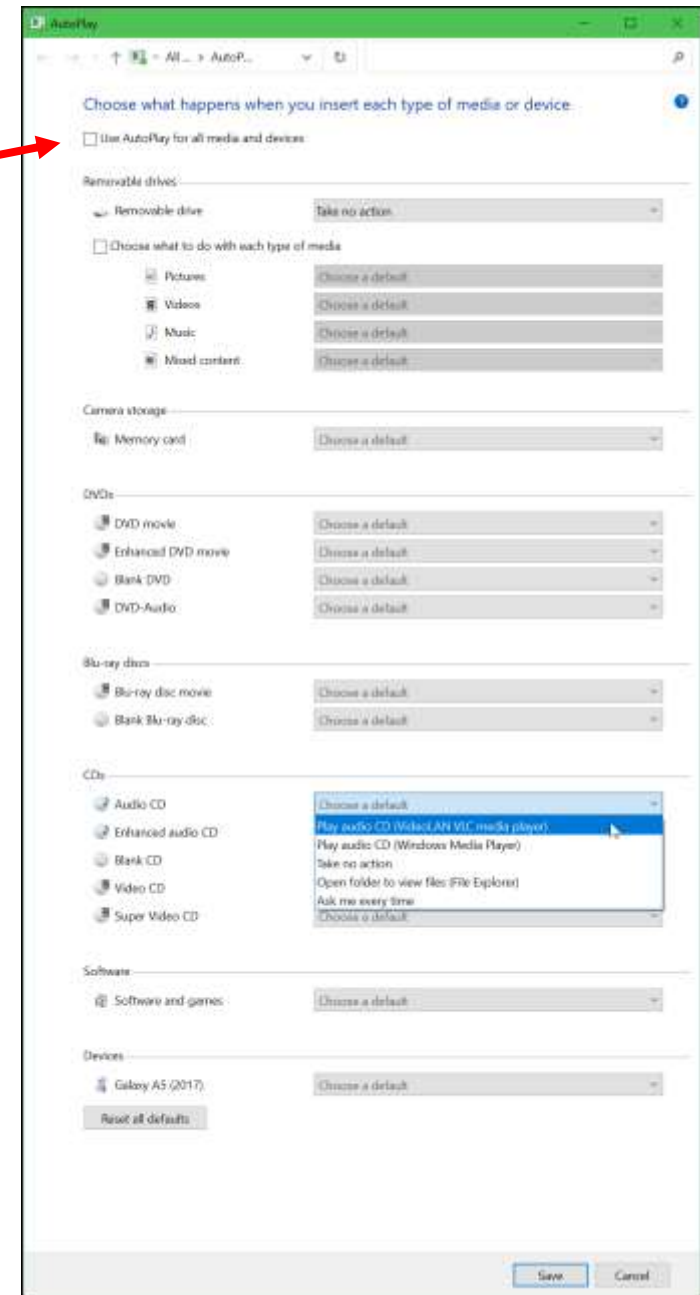
Follow-up

Autoplay Audio CDs

Then I noticed...

Once the box was checked,
it worked ... for me

Caution: Microsoft turned this off by default for a reason: malicious content was being spread by optical media set to autoplay



Follow-up

New Year's Resolution No. 3

(3) I will share my favourite program/app with the group

Our thanks to:

Andrew Webber

Stewart Bruce



Share

Upgrade to Windows 10



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Microsoft Still Really Wants You to Upgrade to Windows 10

Even though the Windows 10 upgrade scheme expired in 2016, Microsoft is still giving people on older versions a free pass.

BY SIMON BATT
6 DAYS AGO



<https://www.makeuseof.com/microsoft-windows-10-upgrade-available/>

Andrew Webber

Share

Securing Wi-Fi at Home

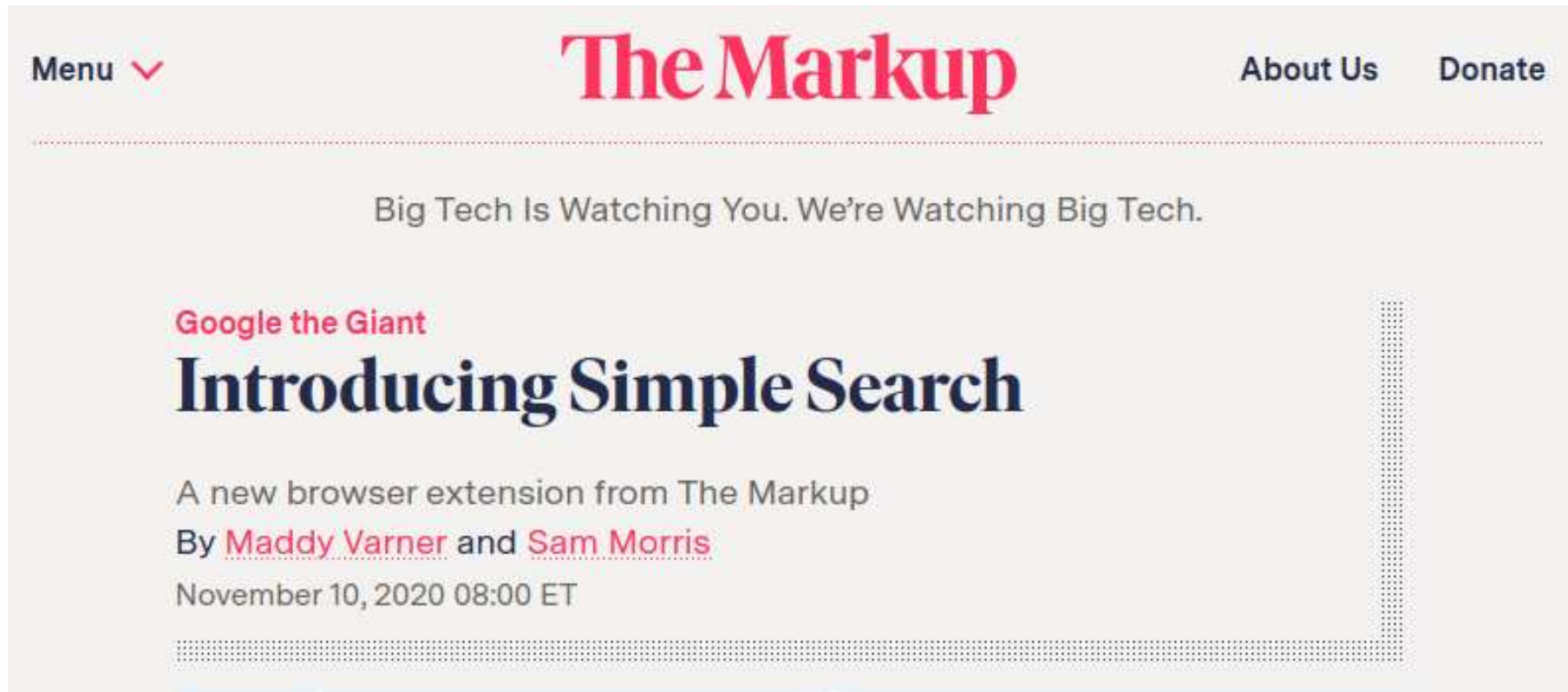
- This month's OUCH! Newsletter
 - The Monthly Security Awareness Newsletter for Everyone
 - Published by SANS
 - The 5 steps necessary to secure a home wireless network



<https://www.sans.org/security-awareness-training/resources/securing-wi-fi-home>

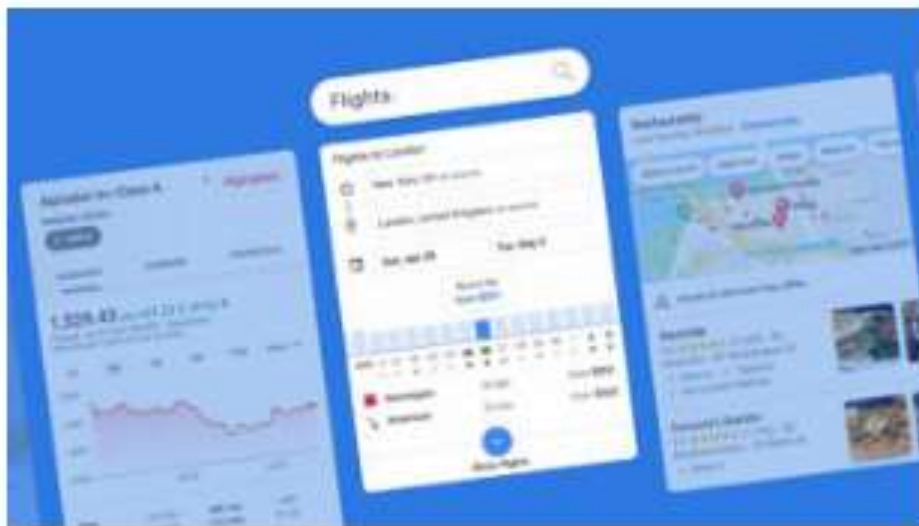
Share

Tech News – Simple Search

A screenshot of the top portion of a news article on The Markup website. The page has a light gray background. At the top left is a 'Menu' link with a downward arrow. In the center is the 'The Markup' logo in a red, serif font. To the right are 'About Us' and 'Donate' links. Below the navigation is a horizontal dotted line. The main headline area features the text 'Big Tech Is Watching You. We're Watching Big Tech.' in a dark gray font. Below that is the sub-headline 'Google the Giant' in red, followed by the main title 'Introducing Simple Search' in a large, bold, dark blue serif font. Underneath the title is a short paragraph: 'A new browser extension from The Markup'. This is followed by the authors 'By Maddy Varner and Sam Morris' in red, and the date 'November 10, 2020 08:00 ET'. On the right side of the article content, there is a vertical dotted line that forms part of a large L-shaped graphic element.

<https://themarkup.org>

Stewart Bruce



Google the Giant

Google's Top Search Result? Surprise! It's Google

The search engine dedicated almost half of the first page of results in our test to its own products, which dominated the coveted top of the page

July 28, 2020 08:00 ET



Simple Search

Simple Search is an extension that highlights the “traditional” or “ten blue link” search results provided by the search engine, laying them over the info boxes and other content. Close the window to view the full results page. Compatible with Bing and Google search engines.

Firefox

Chrome

We built a browser extension, Simple Search, to show you just the “traditional” search results. The extension places them in a box above the plethora of search engine products. You can tab through pages of results, submit new queries, and go back to the full results page easily. It is available for [Firefox](#) and [Chrome](#) browsers and works for both Google and Bing search engines.

Simple Search on Google



john cho



All News Images Videos Books More

Settings Tools

About 216,000,000 results (0.71 seconds)

en.wikipedia.org

John Cho - Wik

John Cho (John Cho

Lee in the Harold & K

Best Cho - Actor, J

Best actor (197)

Quinnipiac Univ. -

www.imdb.com -

John Cho - IM

John Cho, Actor - St

Los Angeles, Califor

The Star Trek

Biography - John Cho

People also a

What nationality

Was John Cho i

How old is John

Single Search by **The Markup**

View Original Results X

en.wikipedia.org - wiki - John Cho

John Cho - Wikipedia

John Cho (Dorn Cho Yi-Han; June 16, 1972) is an American actor known for his roles as Harold Lee in the Harold & Kumar films and Hikaru Sulu in the Star Trek reboot film series.

www.imdb.com - name

John Cho - IMDb

John Cho, Actor - Star Trek. John Yohan Cho was born in Seoul, South Korea, and moved to Los Angeles, California as a child. His father was a Christian ...

John Cho | Grey's Anatomy Universe Wiki | Fandom

Hikaru Sulu portrayed as gay in new Star Trek film, says actor John ...

www.imdb.com - name - bio

John Cho - Biography - IMDb

John Yohan Cho was born in Seoul, South Korea, and moved to Los Angeles, California as a child. His father was a Christian minister. **Cho** was educated at ...

www.southkoreans.com - biography - John Cho



John Cho

John Cho - Biography - IMDb

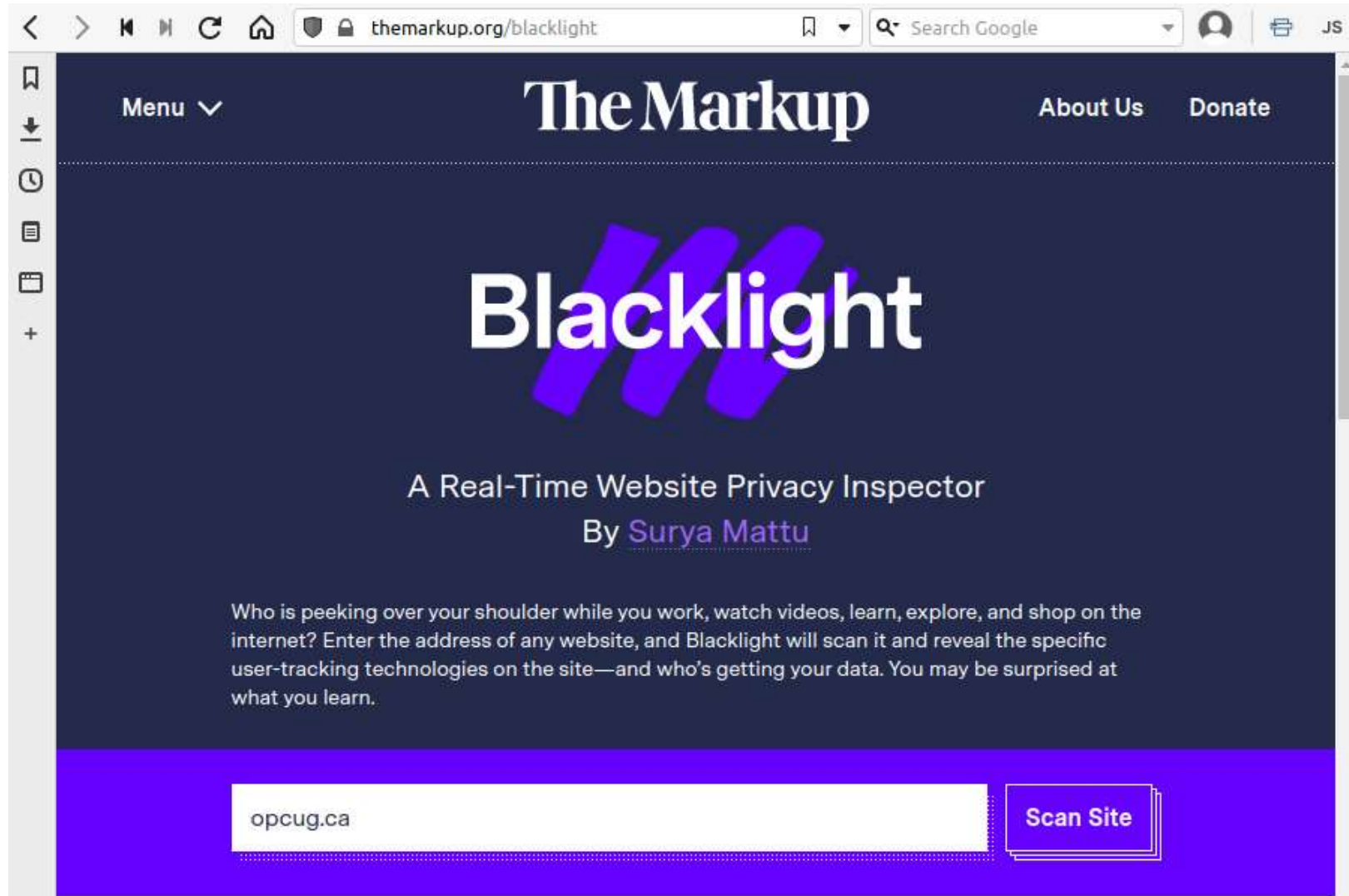
John Cho is an American actor known for his roles as Harold Lee in the Harold & Kumar films and Hikaru Sulu in the Star Trek reboot film series. Early in his career, Cho played a doctor in the Asian American medical drama Luke, Briscoe, Jones, and Donovan. Cho played the role of Sulu in the Star Trek reboot film series.

John Cho (born June 16, 1972) is an American actor.

John Cho

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Tech News – Blacklight



<https://themarkup.org>

Stewart Bruce

Blacklight Inspection Result

Blacklight works by visiting each website with a headless browser running custom software built by The Markup. To learn more read our [methodology](#).

0

No ad trackers found on this site.

This is less than half the average of seven that we found on popular sites.



0

Third-party cookies not found.

This is less than half the average of three that we found on popular sites.



Tracking that evades cookie blockers wasn't found.



Session recording services not found on this website.



We did not find this website capturing keystrokes.



Facebook Pixel not found on this website.



Google Analytics' "remarketing audiences" feature not found.



Share

Proton Calendar

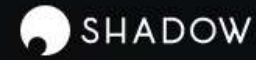
- No comment, except to say, this is coming 😊
- The folks behind the Proton software family have a *Google-free, cross-platform Calendar* in beta development
- It's supposed to be free once it hits final release
- For now it's only available for paid subscribers of ProtonMail or ProtonVPN
- The Play Store says it is compatible with all my devices

Stewart Bruce

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.proton.android.calendar>

Share

Cloud Computer



Your new PC is in
the **Cloud**

- Heard of cloud computing?
- How about a cloud computer?
- Aimed at gaming but, still just a computer that will simply do what you tell it - the *Shadow Cloud Computer*.
- \$11.99/month for a Windows 10 performance experience on the device of your choice.

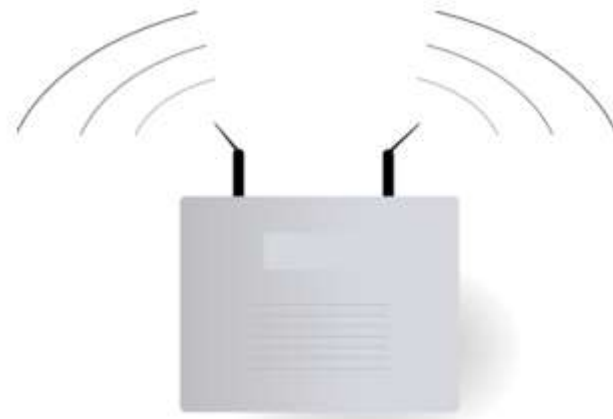
Stewart Bruce

<https://shadow.tech/>



Wi-Fi Extenders

- On the unit we recently installed, there is an adjustment for Wi-Fi coverage with three options – Max, Mid and Min.
- Are there any implications for performance of the extender depending on which option is chosen?



A Our (uninformed) choice

- This seems to be a rather odd system
- Why wouldn't you always want to use the Max setting?
- After all, you are trying to extend your network.





Wi-Fi Connectivity

- I find individual connected devices are sometimes on the 2.4 GHz band and at other times on the 5 GHz band.
- Is there any reason to try to have such devices stay on one of those two bands?



A It depends... (of course!)

- Many devices run at 2.4 GHz so using 5 GHz can avoid interference.
- But, the device has to be able to “see” the router on the 5 GHz band.
- If you want maximum speed, and you are within range, go for 5 GHz.
- If you are iffy on range, you can go 2.4 GHz which will give you lower potential highest speed but better distance.

Follow-up

New Year's Resolution No. 2

(2) I will ask a question at Q&A (and find one that these guys can't answer!)





**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

Share

DNS and security

- Your computer *doesn't know*
 - how to get to a domain name
- Your computer *knows*
 - how to get to an IP address
- Domain Name System
 - translates
domain name to IP address



Share

How DNS works

- Type opcug.ca into browser
- Computer:
 - I *don't know* how to get to a domain name
 - I *know* how to get to an IP address
 - ask DNS server IP address for opcug.ca
- DNS server says 99.79.139.204
- Computer sends browser to 99.79.139.204

Share

Using DNS

Imagine: opcug.ca is compromised

- every visiting computer attacked



Computer:

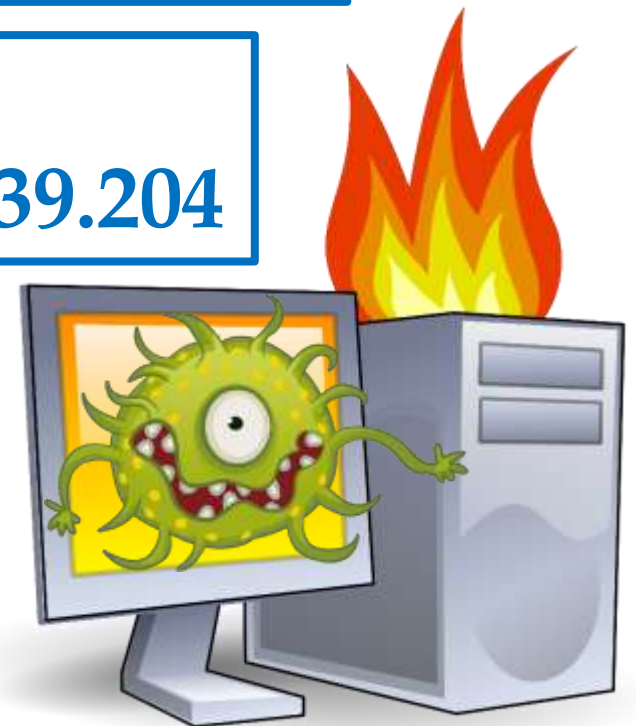
- DNS, what's the IP address for opcug.ca?

DNS:

- IP address for opcug.ca is 99.79.139.204

Computer:

- sends browser to 99.79.139.204
- computer attacked



Share

Using DNS for security

Imagine: opcug.ca is compromised

- every visiting computer attacked



Computer:

- DNS, what's the IP address for opcug.ca?

DNS:

- IP address for opcug.ca is 111.222.111.222 (warning page)

Computer:

- sends browser to 111.222.111.222
- computer safe



Share

Canadian Shield

- Canadian Internet Registration Authority
- Blocks “100,000 new malicious domains every day”
- Partnered with Akamai
- Threat feeds from “top cybersecurity vendors & open-source community”
- Canadian data centres
 - Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal
- Privacy: “no interest in using your data for marketing purposes or in selling it to others”
- 3 protection levels
 - Private: keeps your DNS data private from third-parties
 - Protected: Private + malware and phishing blocking
 - Family: Private + Protected and blocks porn
- www.cira.ca/cybersecurity-services/canadian-shield

Share

Quad9

- CleanerDNS, California non-profit corp
- 60 million daily blocks
- Data from 19 threat intelligence partners
- Over 800 TB of threat intelligence
- Over 150 locations in 88 nations
 - Primarily at Internet Exchange points: time to get answers lower than “almost any other solution”
- Privacy: No personally-identifiable info collected
- One level of protection: malicious threats
- <https://www.quad9.net/>

Share

Neustar UltraDNS Public

- 30 nodes on 6 continents
- “Prevents access to malicious websites known for malware, phishing, spyware and bots”
- 2 levels of protection
 - malware, ransomware, spyware, phishing
 - above + gambling, pornography, violence, hate/discrimination
- <https://www.publicdns.neustar/>

Share

OpenDNS Home

OpenDNS FamilyShield

	OPENDNS FAMILY SHIELD	OPENDNS HOME	OPENDNS VIP HOME	OPENDNS PROSUMER
Faster, more reliable home Internet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Built-in protection for malicious phishing & malware domains	X	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parental controls that protect every device in your home, instantly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Customizable content filtering	Pre-configured to block adult content	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Retain the past year of internet stats			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Restrict internet access to specific allow-listed domains for a "locked-down" environment			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Free email support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Price	FREE	FREE	\$19.95/year	\$20/user (Only for 1-5 users)

Custom Choose the categories you want to block.

<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Fraud	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Themes	<input type="checkbox"/> Advertisements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> Anime/Manga/Webcomic
<input type="checkbox"/> Auctions	<input type="checkbox"/> Automotive	<input type="checkbox"/> Blogs
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classifieds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecommerce/Shopping
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Institutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File Storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Institutions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forums/Message boards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gambling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Games
<input type="checkbox"/> German Youth Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hate/Discrimination
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Fitness	<input type="checkbox"/> Humor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instant Messaging
<input type="checkbox"/> Jobs/Employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lingerie/Bikini	<input type="checkbox"/> Movies
<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> News/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nudity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P2P/File sharing	<input type="checkbox"/> Parked Domains
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photo Sharing	<input type="checkbox"/> Podcasts	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pornography	<input type="checkbox"/> Portals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proxy/Anonymizer
<input type="checkbox"/> Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Reference
<input type="checkbox"/> Search Engines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexuality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Networking
<input type="checkbox"/> Software/Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tasteless
<input type="checkbox"/> Television	<input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video Sharing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Search Engines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weapons
<input type="checkbox"/> Web Spam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Webmail	

No longer recommended

- unless you need 59 categories of filtering

Share

Chris's picks

1. Quad9
 - probably most comprehensive threat intelligence
 - not good for “family-friendly” blocking (eg. porn)
2. Canadian Shield
 - probably quite good protection and trustworthy
 - can do just security or security+porn
 - wave Canadian flag
3. OpenDNS Home / Family Shield
 - no free security protection !
 - good only if you need web blocking by category
4. Neustar
 - two protection levels (threat protection, “family”)

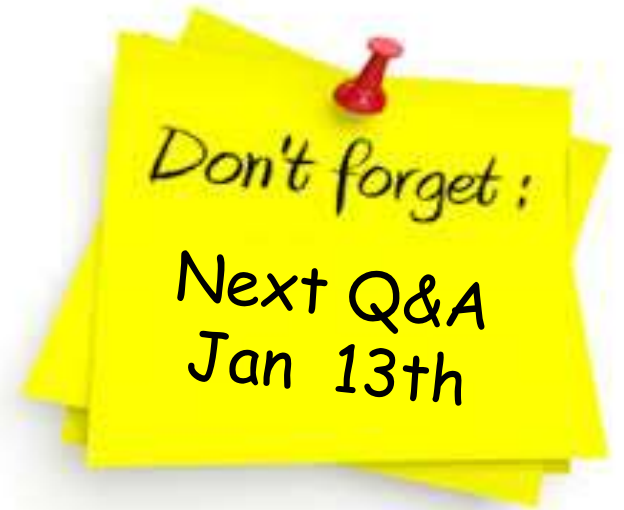
Warning: buyer beware, subject to change without notice, your mileage may vary, batteries not included, may contain nuts, may be written by one, do not use while operating heavy machinery, prices higher west of the rockies, objects in mirror may be closer than they appear.



Create Your Own Blog or Website with WordPress

**Alan German and Brigitte Lord
Ottawa PC Users' Group**

January 13, 2021; 7:30 pm
<https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting>



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

