



Q&A

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

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# Money back on Windows

## Microsoft Software Class Action Settlement

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FRANÇAIS

By Top Class Actions  
November 30, 2020



Microsoft and Microsoft Canada have agreed to pay up to \$409,936,100 CAD to settle several class action lawsuits over allegations they were involved in a conspiracy to inflate the prices of certain Microsoft products.

If you purchased PC versions of Microsoft products such as MS-DOS, Windows, Office, Word and/or Excel between 1998 and 2010, you may be entitled to a cash payment from the Canada Microsoft class action settlement.

<https://ca.topclassactions.com/lawsuit-settlements/open-lawsuit-settlements/microsoft-software-class-action-settlement/>

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# RTX Voice

## About RTX Voice

NVIDIA RTX Voice is a new plugin that leverages NVIDIA RTX GPUs and their AI capabilities to remove distracting background noise from your broadcasts, voice chats, and remote video conferencing meetings. This allows users to "go live" or join a meeting without having to worry about unwanted sounds like loud keyboard typing or other ambient noise in noisy environments. RTX Voice also suppresses background noise from players in loud environments, making incoming audio easier to understand.

<https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/geforce/guides/nvidia-rtx-voice-setup-guide/>

# Requirements

**A new version of RTX Voice is available as 'Noise Removal' in the NVIDIA Broadcast app!**

For NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2060, Quadro RTX 3000, TITAN RTX or higher, [NVIDIA Broadcast](#) requires [NVIDIA Display Driver version 456.38 or higher](#).

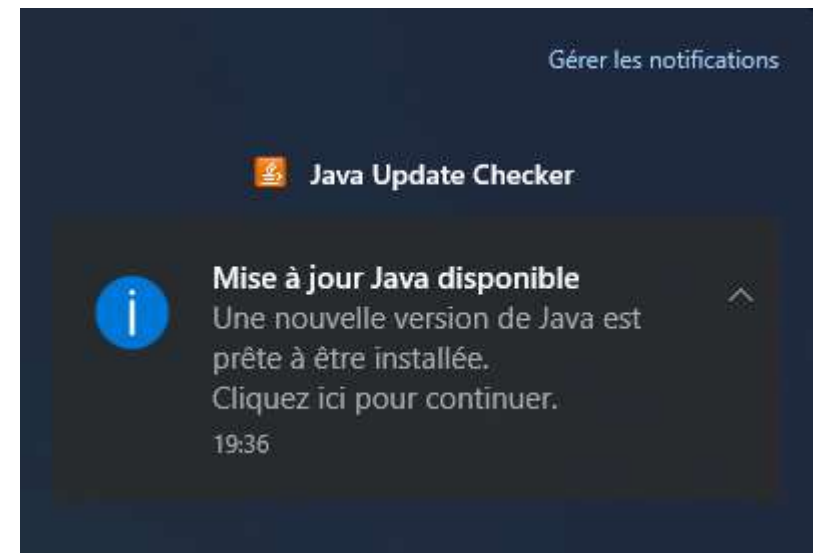
To use RTX Voice, you must be using an NVIDIA GTX or RTX graphics card, update to [Driver 410.18 or newer](#), and be on Windows 10.



Follow-up

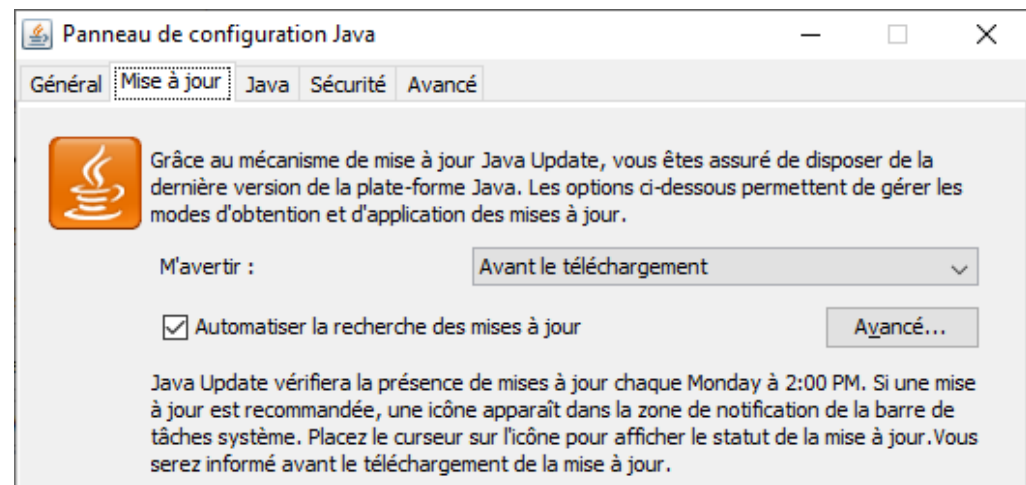
# Java (not) updating

- At last week's Q&A
- Prompt to update Java
  - clicked anywhere in notification
  - nothing happened
- Suggestion:
  - update manually at [java.com](http://java.com)



# Solution found

- Typed *Java* in Taskbar search box
- Results:
  - Java Control Panel applet
- Search for updates worked



Follow-up

## But do you need Java?

- Java has frequent security problems
- You probably don't need Java
- Recommendation: uninstall Java (*Settings | Apps*)
  - also look for
    - J2SE, Java 2, Java SE, Java Runtime Environment
  - if you ever need it
    - you will be prompted
    - reinstall it then

### Reducing the attack surface by Chris Taylor

A basic tenet in securing computers is to reduce the [attack surface](#): the different ways an attacker can try to gain entry. This is normally achieved by maintaining security for example by not exposing a router's configuration interface to the Internet, keeping antimalware up-to-date, and protecting accounts with unique, strong passwords.

#### Unknown vulnerability

However, even the most secure configuration can fail when it comes to a [zero-day](#) vulnerability. For example, an attacker finds an unknown vulnerability in Adobe Reader. They craft

Follow-up

## What's up with Whatsapp?

If you're a WhatsApp user, pay attention to the changes in the privacy policy that you're being forced to agree with.

In 2016, WhatsApp gave users a one-time ability to opt out of having account data turned over to Facebook. Now, an updated privacy policy is changing that. Come next month, users will no longer have that choice.

*CRYPTO-GRAM from Bruce Schneier*

<https://www.schneier.com/crypto-gram>



Some of the data that WhatsApp collects includes:

- User phone numbers
- Other people's phone numbers stored in address books
- Profile names
- Profile pictures
- Status message including when a user was last online
- Diagnostic data collected from app logs

# Musings...

- If something from a commercial entity is free, maybe you are the product!
- Maybe Signal is looking better...



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[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Mobile Apps](#)

# 4 WhatsApp Alternatives for Those Worried About Facebook Snooping

WhatsApp's updated privacy policy covers messages between users and businesses, not chats with your friends, but the Facebook panic is real. If you're spooked, give these encrypted messaging apps a try.

By [Chandra Steele](#) January 13, 2021 [f](#) [t](#) [...](#)

Last week, WhatsApp began alerting users to a [privacy policy change](#) that they had to accept by Feb. 8 or lose access to the app. The change pertains to how the app handles messages between users and businesses, not private messages, but poor communication about it from WhatsApp left some confused about how much of their data will be shared with Facebook.

WhatsApp has a rundown on that here, and it issued an FAQ intended to clear up any misconceptions about the most recent policy update, but for some, tighter integration with Facebook in any form is a no-go, end-to-end encryption notwithstanding. If that's you, these alternatives offer secure messaging without a connection to Facebook.

(Note: If you're ditching WhatsApp, make sure to delete your WhatsApp account and *then* delete the app from your phone.)

## Alternatives suggested:

Signal

Telegram

Viber

Threema (\$2.99)



# GOOGLE GROUPS HOW-TO

- To subscribe to OPCUG-Announcements, send an email to;  
[opcug-announcements+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:opcug-announcements+subscribe@googlegroups.com)
- To subscribe to OPCUG-Newsletter, send an email to;  
[opcug-newsletter+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:opcug-newsletter+subscribe@googlegroups.com)
- To subscribe to OPCUG-Member-Forum, send an email to;  
[opcug-member-forum+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:opcug-member-forum+subscribe@googlegroups.com)



<https://opcug.ca/google-groups-how-to/>

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# Newsletter

- OPCUG-Newsletter
- Google Groups' listserver
- Brigitte creates the monthly newsletter and sends an E-mail message to the listserver with the PDF file attached
- The listserver relays this message to everyone who is subscribed to the list



## September 2020 Newsletter 17 views



**OPCUG-Newsletter** <opcug-newsletter@googlegroups.com>  
to OPCUG-Newsletter

Aug 13, 2020, 12:35:08 PM

Hello,

This OPCUG Newsletter is sent at your request.

You can send comments/suggestions regarding the emailed newsletter to [brigitte lord@@opcug.ca](mailto:brigitte lord@@opcug.ca).

Any comments regarding the content of this newsletter should be sent to the newsletter editor directly or to the author(s) of the article.

The PDF newsletter has links to help with navigation.

I hope that you will enjoy this service.

Brigitte Lord  
Newsletter Editor



# Other ways to get the newsletter

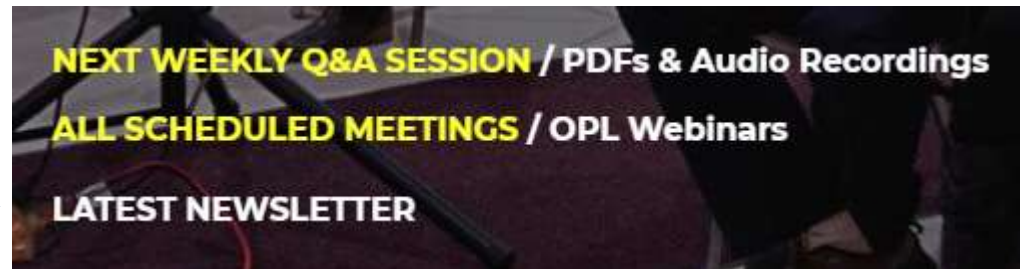
- Browse the OPCUG-Newsletter on Google Groups (logon required)

<https://groups.google.com/g/opcug-announcements>



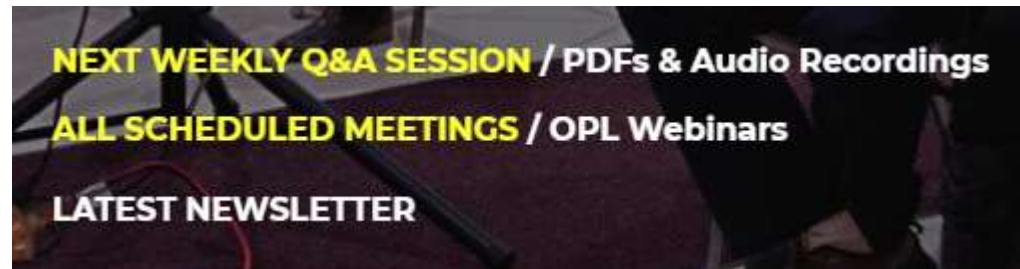
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<https://groups.google.com/g/opcug-announcements>
- Click on the “LATEST NEWSLETTER” link on the home page



# Other ways to get the newsletter

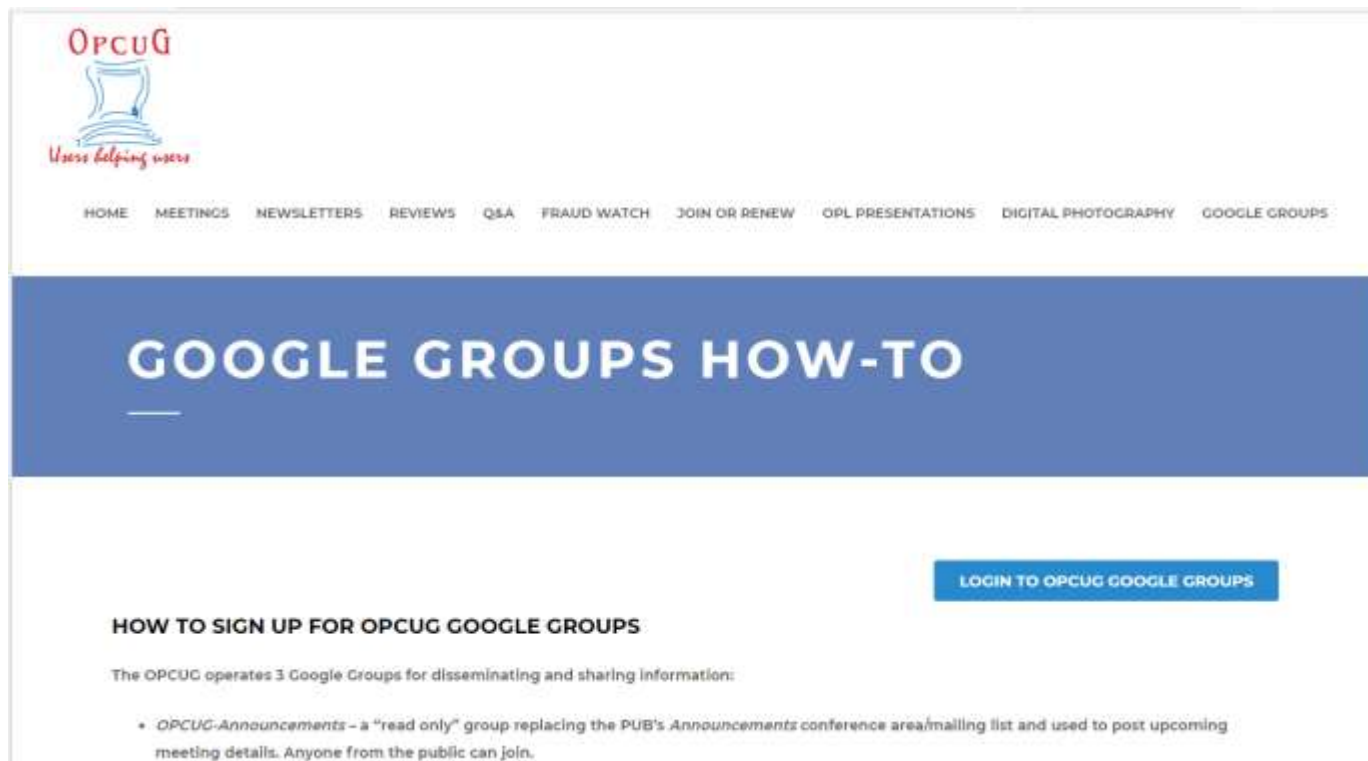
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<https://groups.google.com/g/opcug-announcements>
- Click on the “LATEST NEWSLETTER” link on the home page



- Download any past issue from:  
<https://opcug.ca/newsletters/>

# Newsletter List

For full details see our web page:



<https://opcug.ca/google-groups-how-to/>

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# Omnicalculator

Stewart Bruce

Here's a website I found the other day through a newspaper article about finding out when I would be eligible for "The Jab". This is a collection of calculators for all kinds of oddball things.



<https://www.omnicalculator.com/>

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# SmartApps

- Useful apps for Android smartphones and tablets
- What are your favourites?



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

*Can also be a  
program for  
your PC*



Share

# VirtualBox

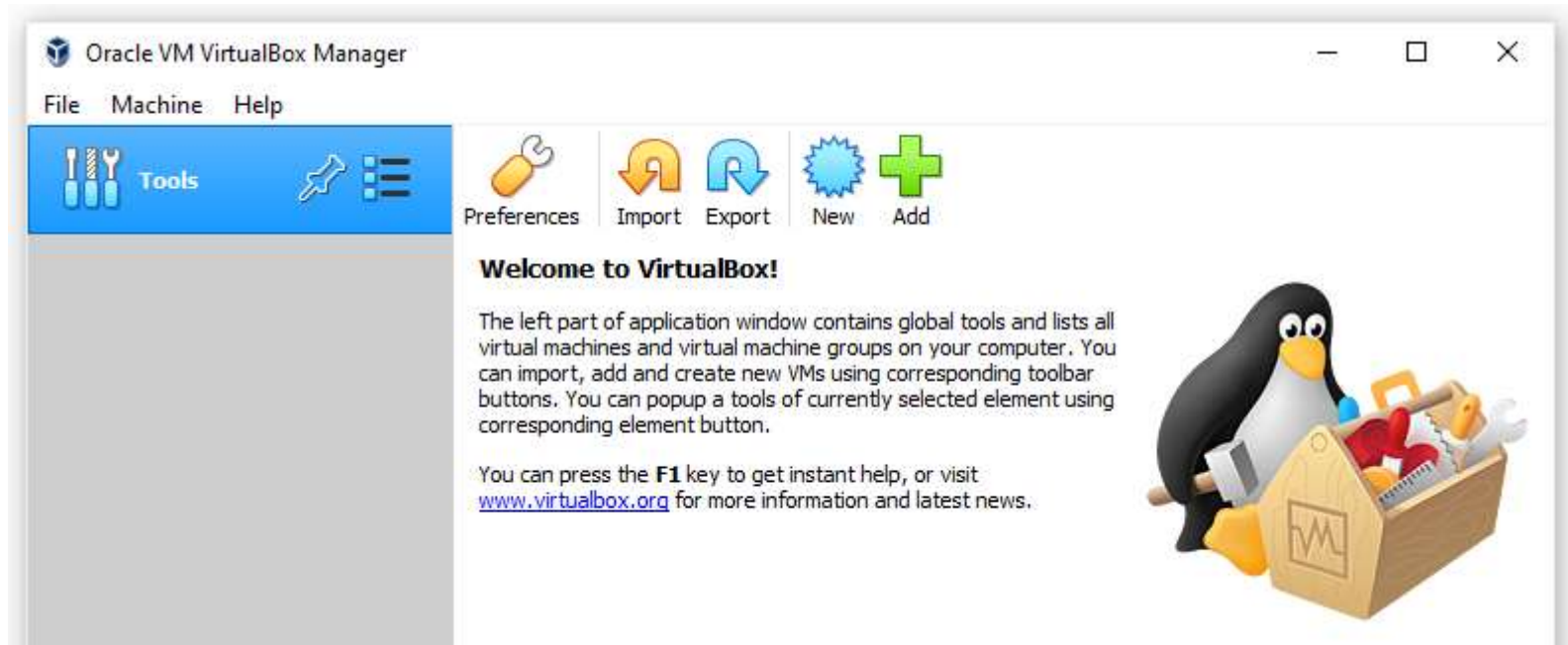
- Run virtual machines (VM) on x86 hardware
- Run Linux on the Windows desktop
- Run Windows on a Linux desktop
- Run DOS on either desktop  
(but, why would you?!)



**VirtualBox**  
Download VirtualBox

- Download and install VirtualBox
- Version 6.1.18

<https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads>



- Download and install the Extension Pack (USB support)



The screenshot shows the VirtualBox website's 'Download VirtualBox' page. The page features a navigation menu on the left with links for 'About', 'Screenshots', 'Downloads', 'Documentation', 'End-user docs', 'Technical docs', 'Contribute', and 'Community'. The main content area is titled 'VirtualBox Download VirtualBox' and includes a search bar, 'Login', and 'Preferences' links. The 'VirtualBox binaries' section contains information about downloading binaries and links to 'VirtualBox 6.0 builds' and 'VirtualBox 5.2 builds'. A red box highlights the 'VirtualBox 6.1.18 platform packages' section, which lists links for Windows hosts, OS X hosts, Linux distributions, Solaris hosts, and Solaris 11 IPS hosts. Below this, there is a note about GPL version 2 terms, a changelog link, and a note about SHA256 checksums. The 'VirtualBox 6.1.18 Oracle VM VirtualBox Extension Pack' section is also visible, listing a link for 'All supported platforms' and providing details about USB support and the PUEL license.

**VirtualBox**  
Download VirtualBox

Here you will find links to VirtualBox binaries and its source code.

**VirtualBox binaries**

By downloading, you agree to the terms and conditions of the respective license.

If you're looking for the latest VirtualBox 6.0 packages, see [VirtualBox 6.0 builds](#). Please also use version 6.0 if you need to run VMs with software virtualization, as this has been discontinued in 6.1. Version 6.0 will remain supported until July 2020.

If you're looking for the latest VirtualBox 5.2 packages, see [VirtualBox 5.2 builds](#). Please also use version 5.2 if you still need support for 32-bit hosts, as this has been discontinued in 6.0. Version 5.2 will remain supported until July 2020.

**VirtualBox 6.1.18 platform packages**

- [Windows hosts](#)
- [OS X hosts](#)
- [Linux distributions](#)
- [Solaris hosts](#)
- [Solaris 11 IPS hosts](#)

The binaries are released under the terms of the GPL version 2.

See the [changelog](#) for what has changed.

You might want to compare the checksums to verify the integrity of downloaded packages. *The SHA256 checksums should be favored as the MD5 algorithm must be treated as insecure!*

- [SHA256 checksums, MD5 checksums](#)

**Note:** After upgrading VirtualBox it is recommended to upgrade the guest additions as well.

**VirtualBox 6.1.18 Oracle VM VirtualBox Extension Pack**

- [All supported platforms](#)

Support for USB 2.0 and USB 3.0 devices, VirtualBox RDP, disk encryption, NVMe and PXE boot for Intel cards. See [this chapter from the User Manual](#) for an introduction to this Extension Pack. The Extension Pack binaries are released under the [VirtualBox Personal Use and Evaluation License \(PUEL\)](#). *Please install the same version extension pack as your installed version of VirtualBox.*



- Download and install the Extension Pack (USB support)





# VirtualBox

Download VirtualBox

Here you will find links to VirtualBox binaries and its source code.

[About](#)  
[Screenshots](#)  
[Downloads](#)  
[Documentation](#)  
    [End-user docs](#)  
    [Technical docs](#)  
[Contribute](#)  
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search...  
[Login](#) [Preferences](#)

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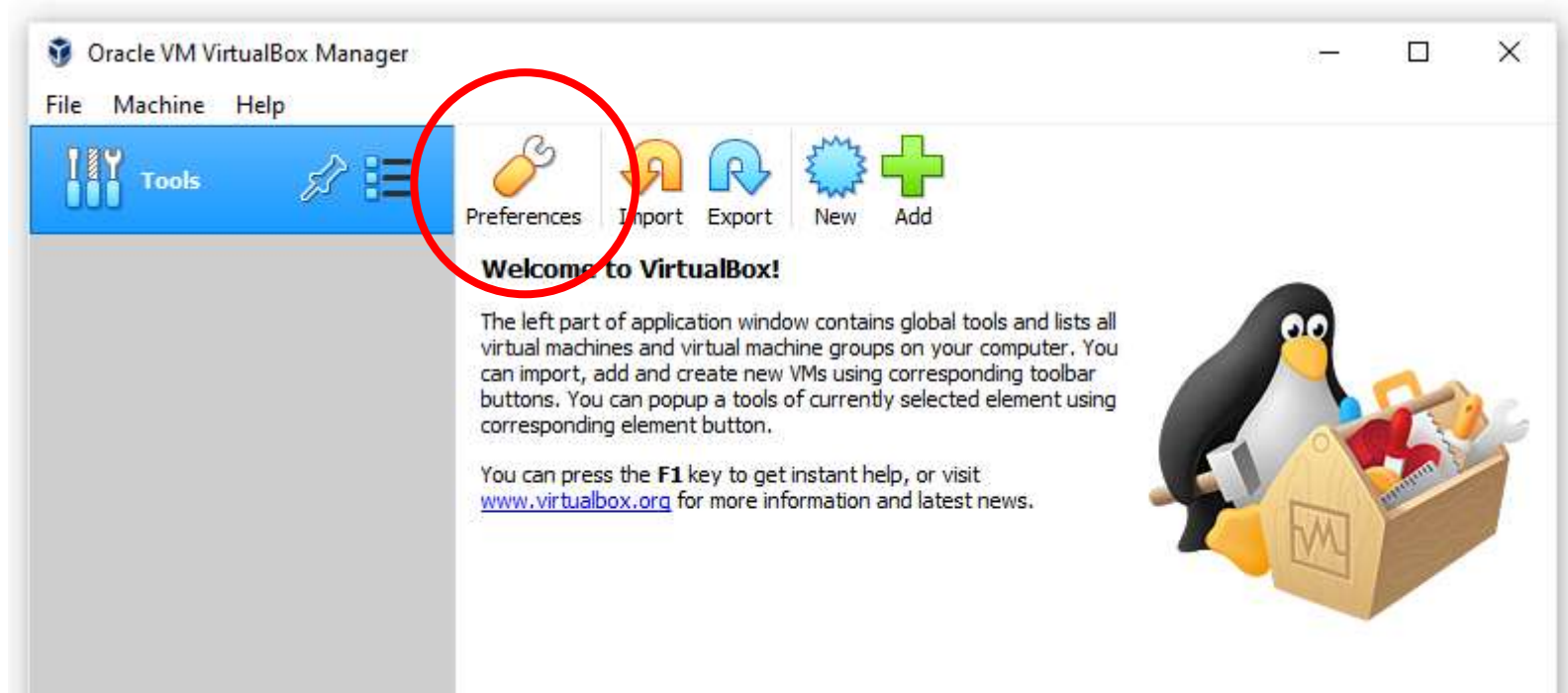
- [SHA256 checksums, MD5 checksums](#)

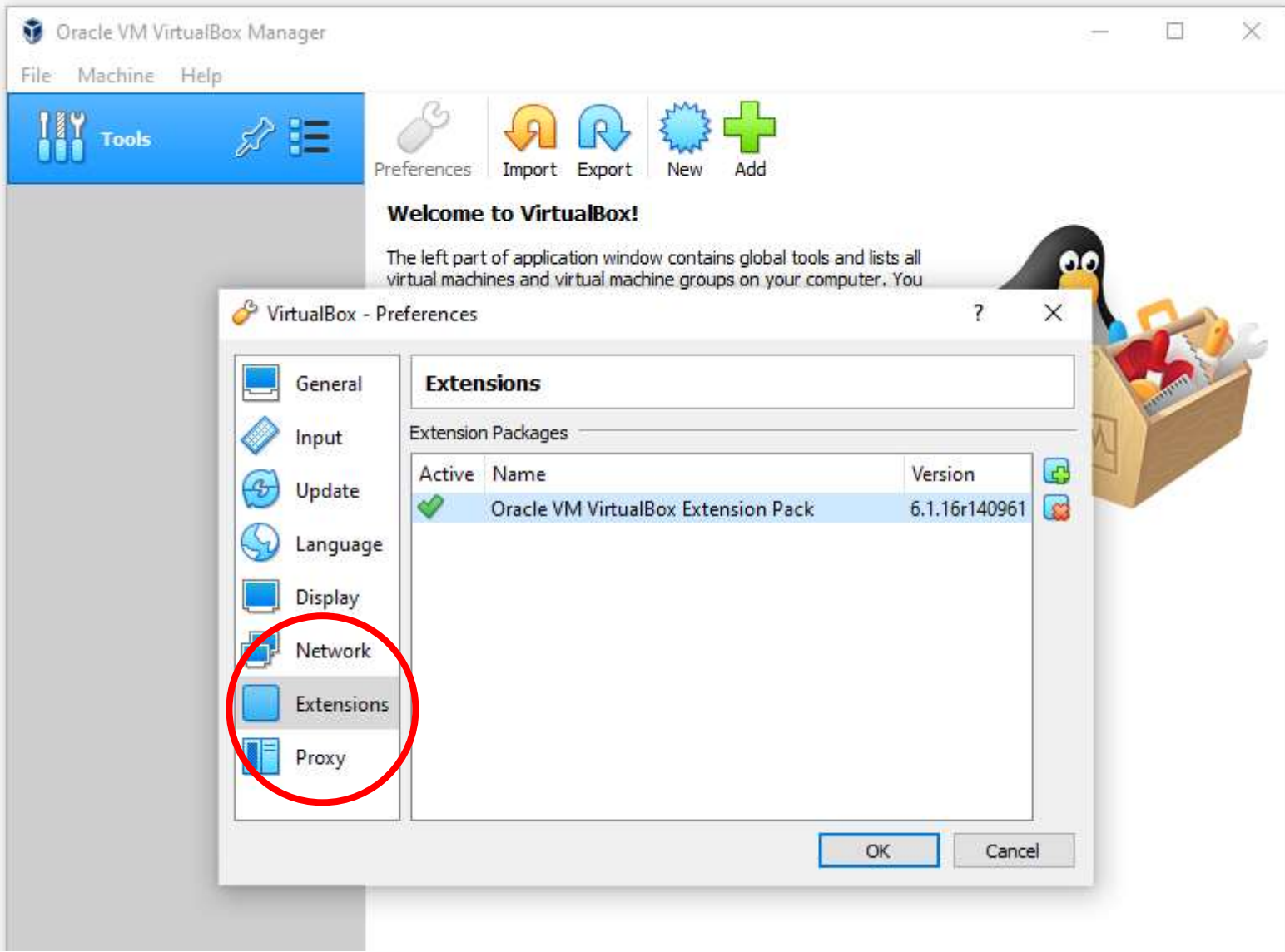
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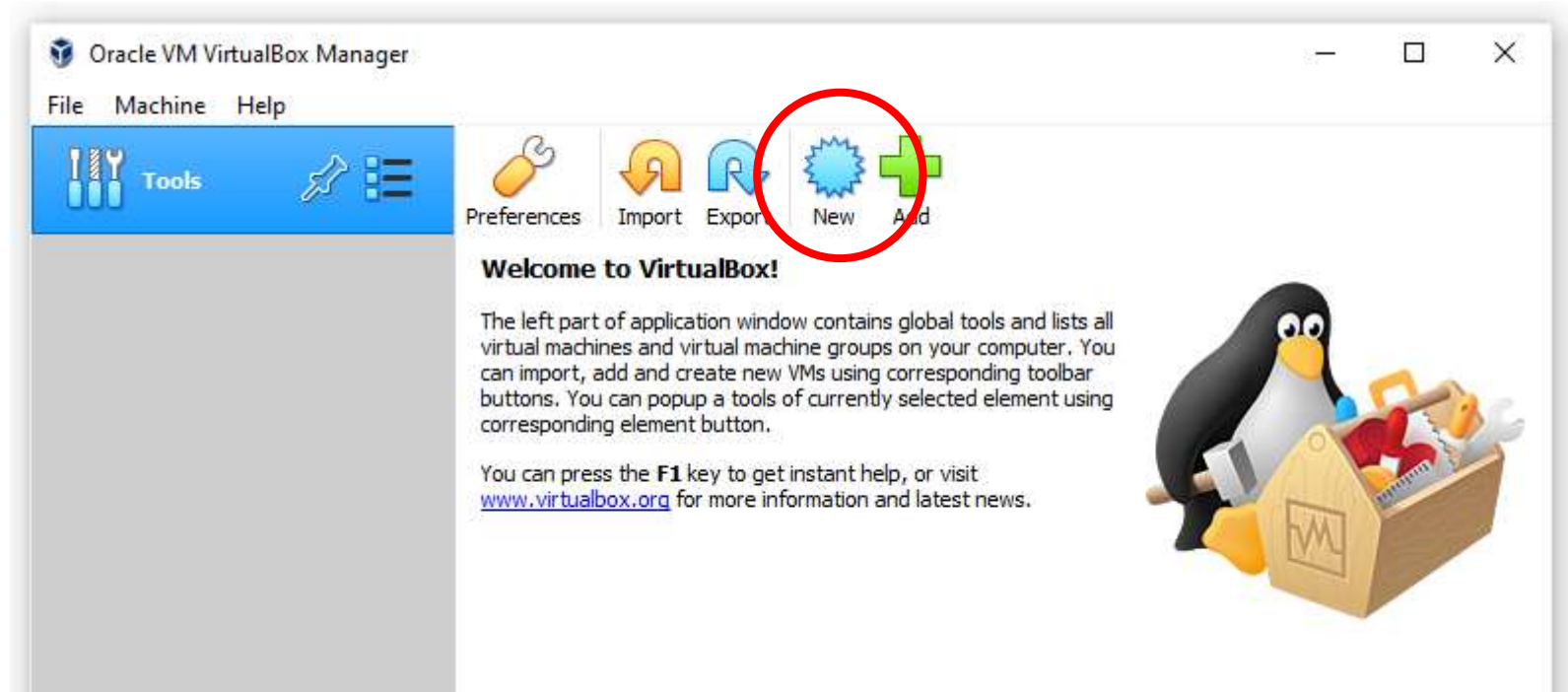
## VirtualBox 6.1.18 Oracle VM VirtualBox Extension Pack

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Create a new Virtual Machine



### Welcome to VirtualBox!

The left part of application window contains global tools and lists all virtual machines and virtual machine groups on your computer. You



← Create Virtual Machine

### Name and operating system

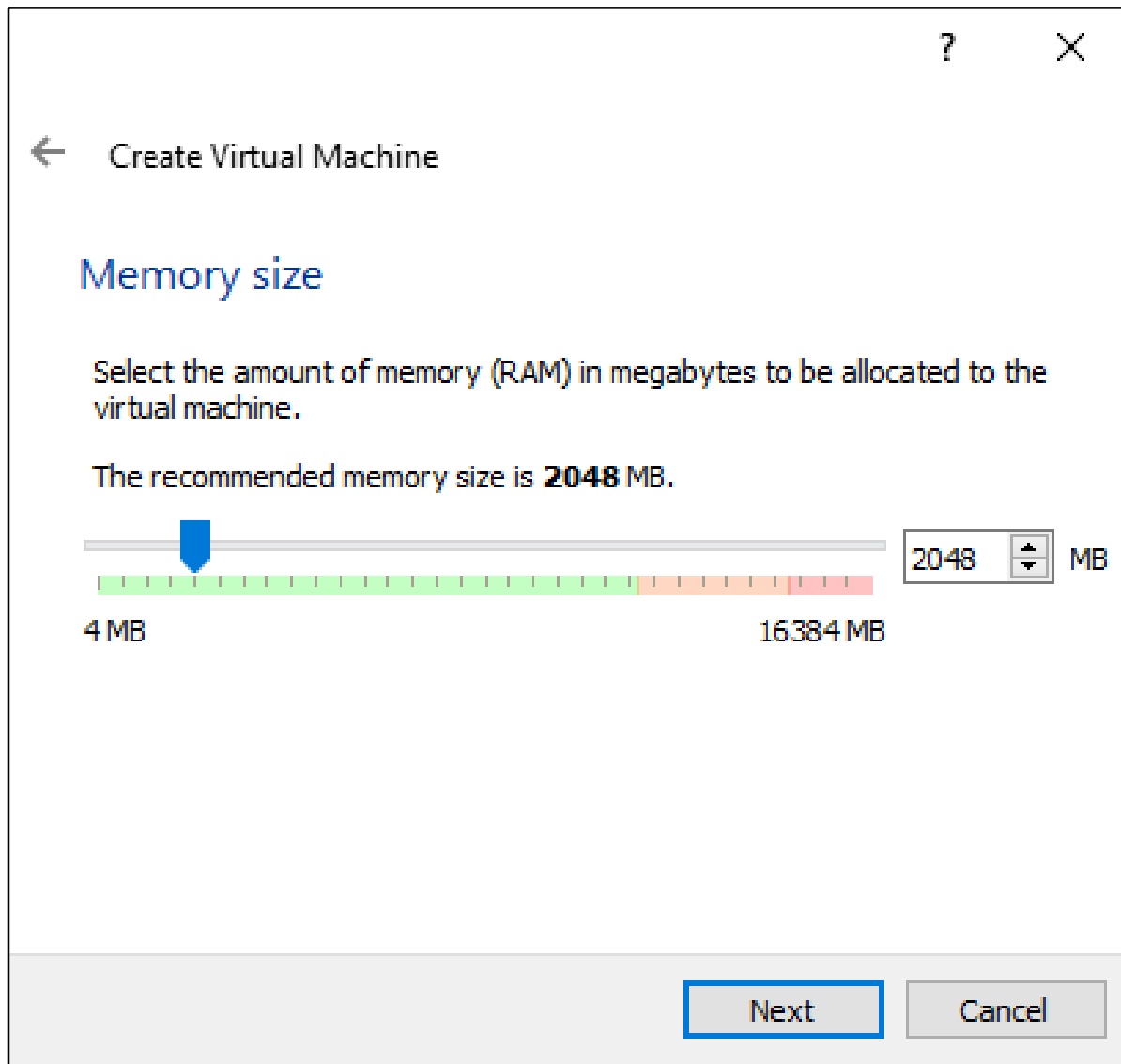
Please choose a descriptive name and destination folder for the new virtual machine and select the type of operating system you intend to install on it. The name you choose will be used throughout VirtualBox to identify this machine.

Name:

Machine Folder:

Type:

Version:



Select all the defaults...

## Hard disk

If you wish you can add a virtual hard disk to the new machine. You can either create a new hard disk file or select one from the list or from another location using the folder icon.

If you need a more complex storage set-up you can skip this step and make the changes to the machine settings once the machine is created.

The recommended size of the hard disk is **50.00 GB**.

- Do not add a virtual hard disk
- Create a virtual hard disk now
- Use an existing virtual hard disk file

Empty



## Hard disk file type

Please choose the type of file that you would like to use for the new virtual hard disk. If you do not need to use it with other virtualization software you can leave this setting unchanged.

- VDI (VirtualBox Disk Image)
- VHD (Virtual Hard Disk)
- VMDK (Virtual Machine Disk)

## Storage on physical hard disk

Please choose whether the new virtual hard disk file should grow as it is used (dynamically allocated) or if it should be created at its maximum size (fixed size).

A **dynamically allocated** hard disk file will only use space on your physical hard disk as it fills up (up to a maximum **fixed size**), although it will not shrink again automatically when space on it is freed.

A **fixed size** hard disk file may take longer to create on some systems but is often faster to use.

- Dynamically allocated
- Fixed size

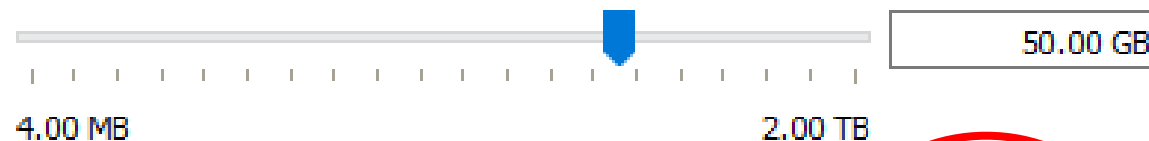
### File location and size

Please type the name of the new virtual hard disk file into the box below or click on the folder icon to select a different folder to create the file in.

C:\Users\toaster\VirtualBox VMs\Windows 10\Windows 10.vdi



Select the size of the virtual hard disk in megabytes. This size is the limit on the amount of file data that a virtual machine will be able to store on the hard disk.



Create





Tools



New



Settings



Discard



Start



Windows 10

Powered Off



**System**

Base Memory: 2048 MB  
Boot Order: Floppy, Optical, Hard Disk  
Acceleration: VT-x/AMD-V, Nested Paging, Hyper-V Paravirtualization

**Display**

Video Memory: 128 MB  
Graphics Controller: VBoxSVGA  
Remote Desktop Server: Disabled  
Recording: Disabled

**Storage**

Controller: SATA  
SATA Port 0: Windows 10.vdi (Normal, 50.00 GB)  
SATA Port 1: [Optical Drive] Empty

**Audio**

Host Driver: Windows DirectSound  
Controller: Intel HD Audio

**Network**

Adapter 1: Intel PRO/1000 MT Desktop (NAT)

**USB**

USB Controller: xHCI  
Device Filters: 0 (0 active)

**Shared folders**



None

**Description**

None

**Preview**



You have the **Auto capture keyboard** option turned on. This will cause the Virtual Machine to automatically **capture**  



?

×



← Select start-up disk

Please select a virtual optical disk file or a physical optical drive containing a disk to start your new virtual machine from.

The disk should be suitable for starting a computer from and should contain the operating system you wish to install on the virtual machine if you want to do that now. The disk will be ejected from the virtual drive automatically next time you switch the virtual machine off, but you can also do this yourself if needed using the Devices menu.

Empty  

Start Cancel

You have the **Auto capture keyboard** option turned on. This will cause the Virtual Machine to automatically **capture**  



?

×



← Select start-up disk


Please select a virtual optical disk file or a physical optical drive containing a disk to start your new virtual machine from.

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Empty  

Start Cancel

You have the **Auto capture keyboard** option turned on. This will cause the Virtual Machine to automatically capture  

 Optical Disk Selector ? X

Mediums

    
Add Create Refresh

Name	Virtual Size
------	--------------

Search By Name   

Windows 10 [Powered Off] - Oracle VM VirtualBox

File Machine View Input Devices Help

You have the **Auto capture keyboard** option turned on. This will cause the Virtual Machine to automatically **capture**

Optical Disk Selector

Please choose a virtual optical disk file

ClickUSB (E:)

Search ClickUSB (E:)

Organize New folder



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Windows.iso	2021-01-09 7:58 PM	Disc Image File	4,784,256 KB


3D Objects  
Desktop  
Documents  
Downloads  
Music  
Pictures  
Videos  
Windows 10 (C:)  
DataDisk (D:)  
ClickUSB (E:)  
8GBSDCARD (S:)  
8GBSDCARD (S:)  
ClickUSB (E:)  
Network

File name:

All virtual optical disk files (\*.dr)

Open Cancel



You have the **Auto capture keyboard** option turned on. This will cause the Virtual Machine to automatically **capture**  

 Optical Disk Selector ? ×

Medium

    
Add Create Refresh

Name	Virtual Size
▼ Not Attached	
Windows.iso	4.56 GB



Search By Name ▼   



Windows 10 [Powered Off] - Oracle VM VirtualBox



File Machine View Input Devices Help


You have the **Auto capture keyboard** option turned on. This will cause the Virtual Machine to automatically **capture**  

? X

← Select start-up disk

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Windows.iso (4.56 GB) 

Start

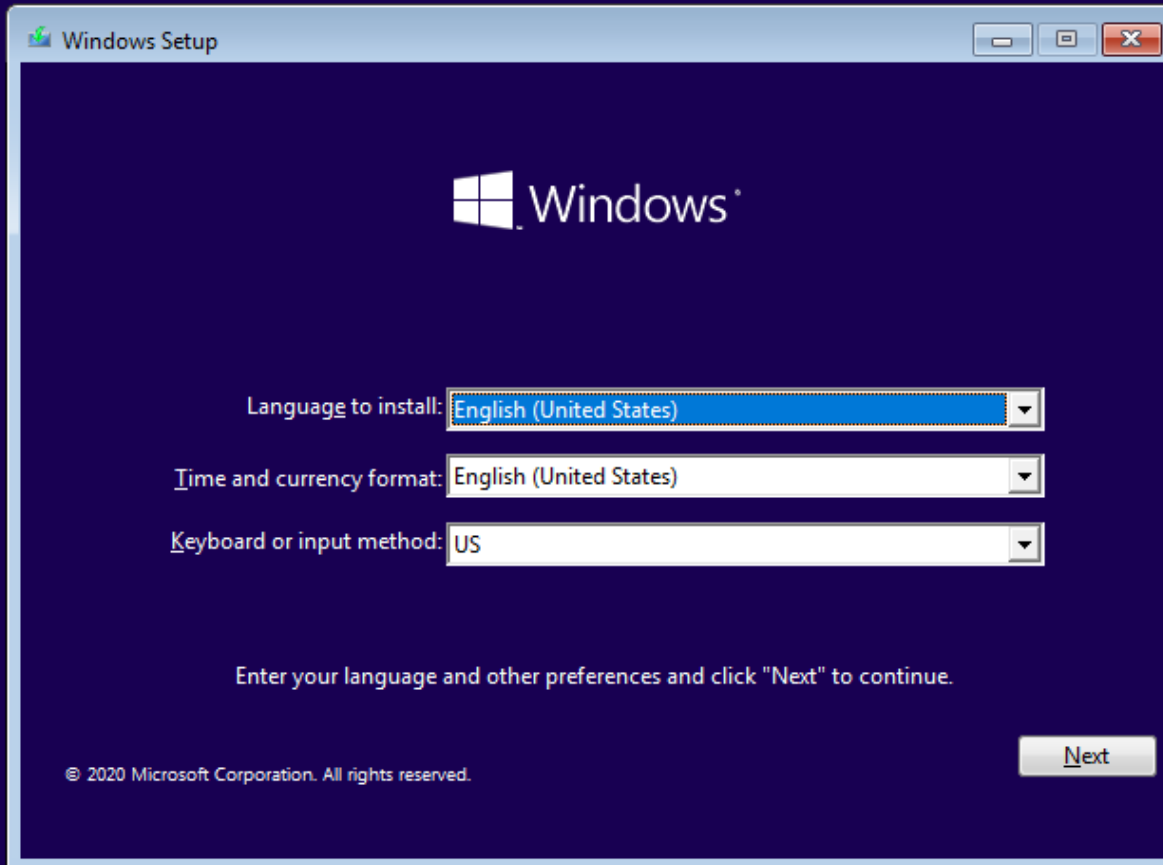
Cancel

 Right Ctrl 

You have the **Auto capture keyboard** option turned on. This will cause the Virtual Machine to automatically **capture** the keyboard every time the VM window is activated and make it unavailable to

The Virtual Machine reports that the guest OS supports **mouse pointer integration**. This means that you do not need to *capture* the mouse pointer to be able to use it in your guest OS -- all mouse

Windows Setup



The image shows a Windows Setup window with a dark blue background. At the top, the title bar reads "Windows Setup" and includes standard window controls. The main content area features the Windows logo and the word "Windows" in white. Below this, there are three dropdown menus for configuration: "Language to install:" with "English (United States)" selected, "Time and currency format:" with "English (United States)" selected, and "Keyboard or input method:" with "US" selected. A line of text below the menus reads "Enter your language and other preferences and click 'Next' to continue." At the bottom right, there is a "Next" button. In the bottom left corner, the copyright notice "© 2020 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved." is visible.

Windows

Language to install: English (United States)

Time and currency format: English (United States)



Keyboard or input method: US



Enter your language and other preferences and click "Next" to continue.

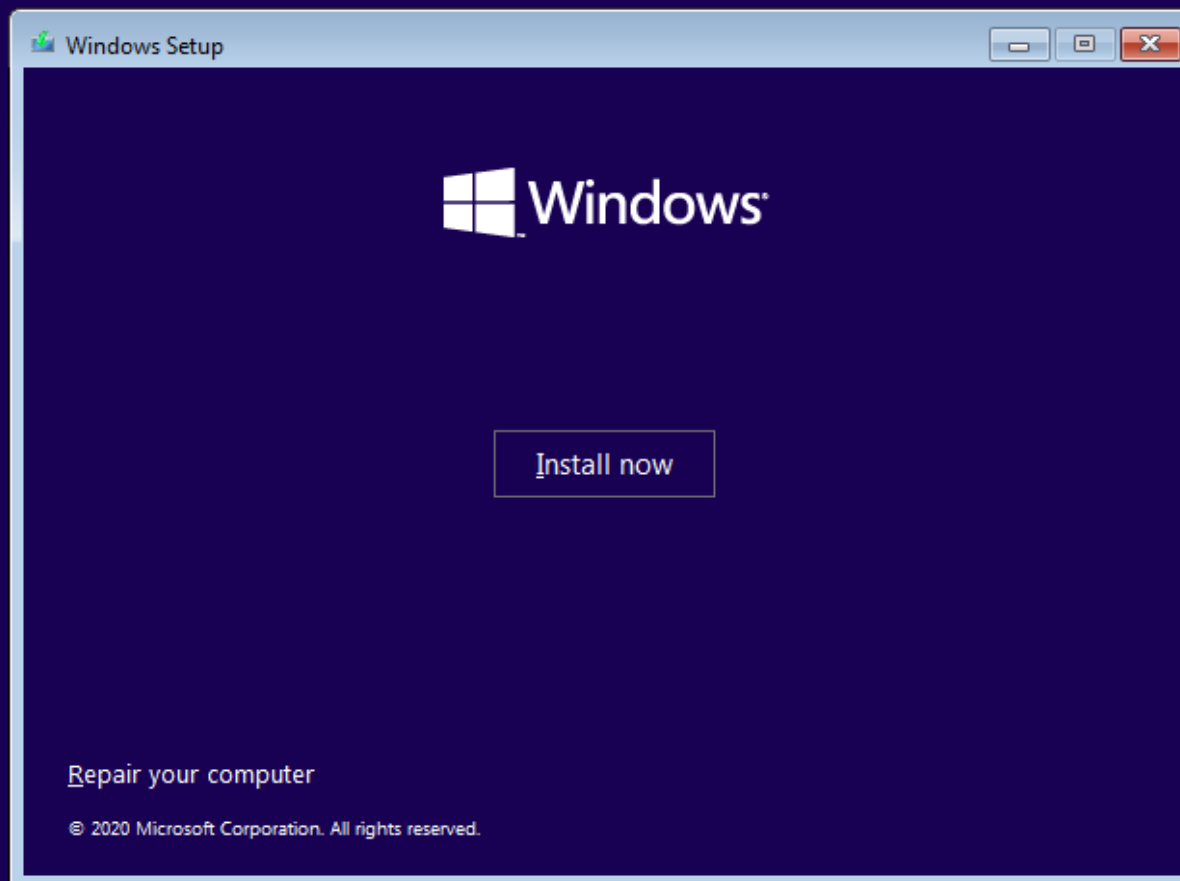
Next

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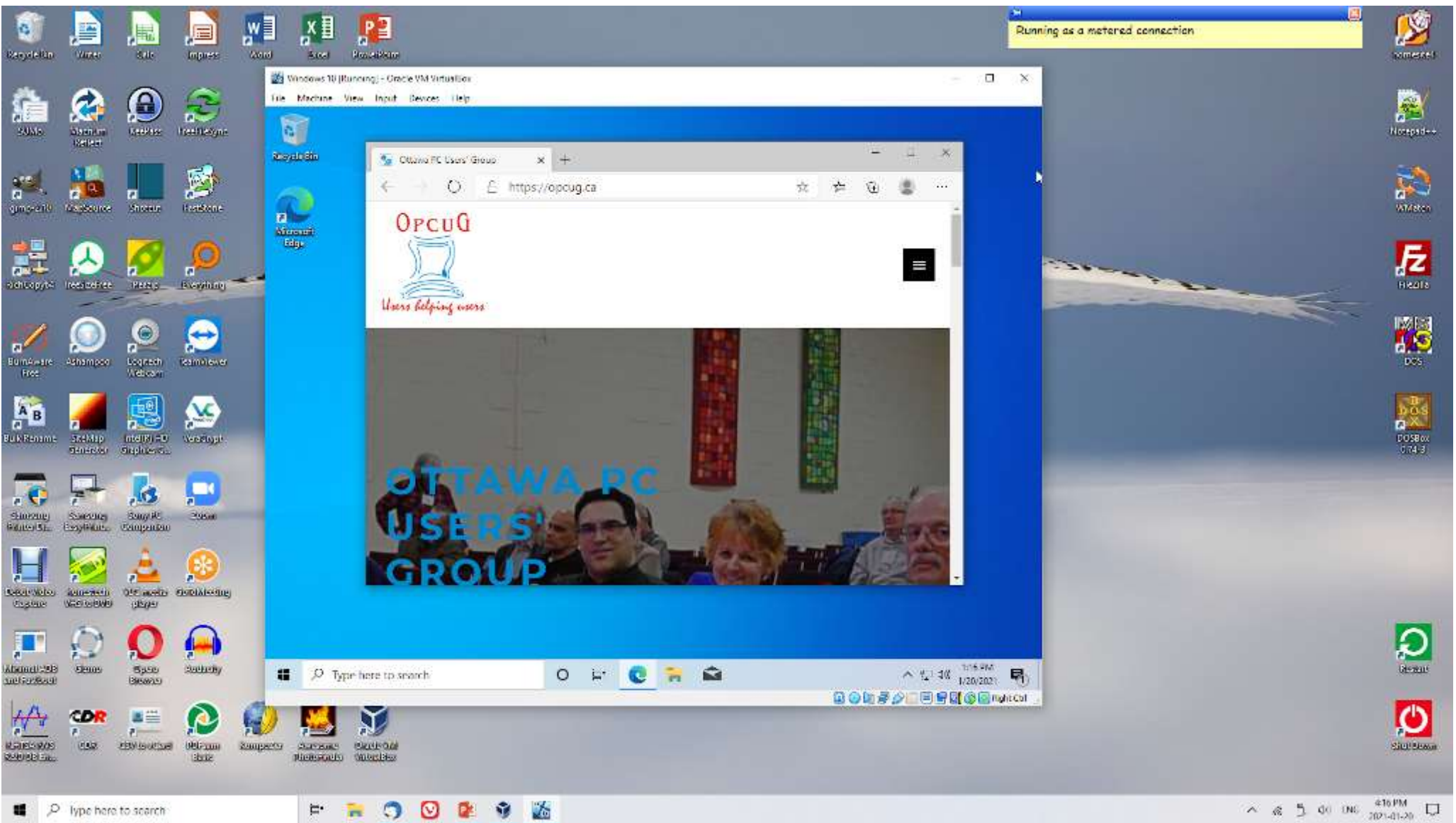


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The screenshot shows a 'Windows Setup' window with a dark blue background. At the top left is the title bar 'Windows Setup' with standard window controls. In the center, the Windows logo is followed by the word 'Windows'. Below this is a large, light blue button labeled 'Install now'. At the bottom left, there is a link for 'Repair your computer' and a copyright notice: '© 2020 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.'

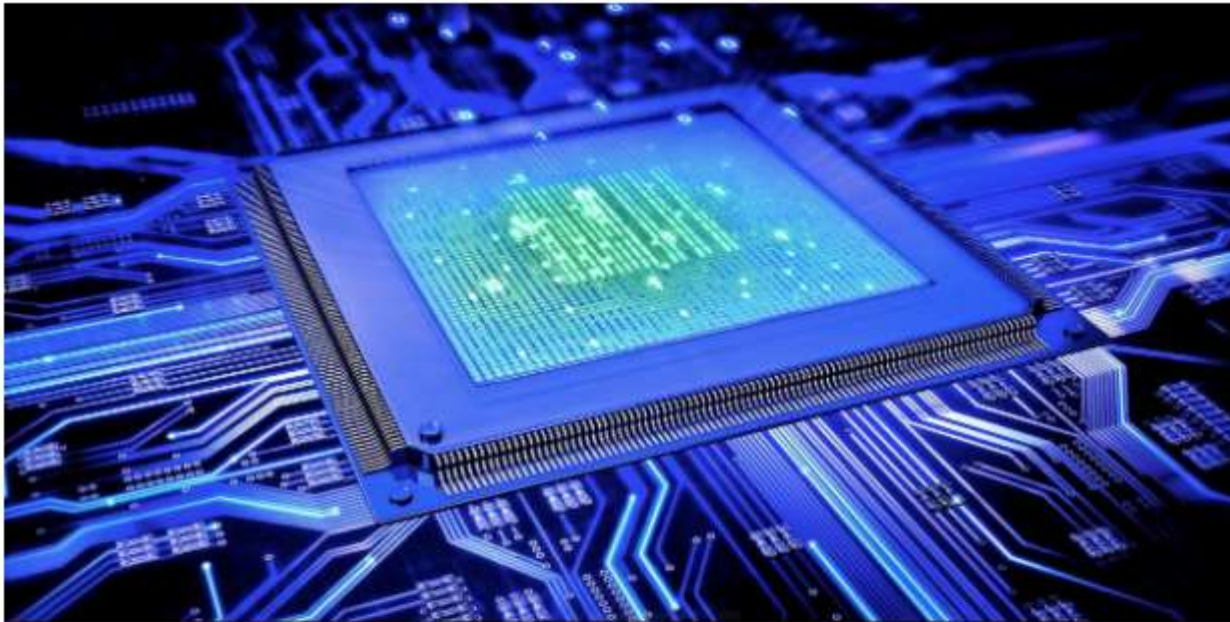


Windows 10 running on Windows 10 !

My mind is like my  
internet browser  
19 tabs are open  
3 of them are frozen  
and I have no idea where  
the music is coming from

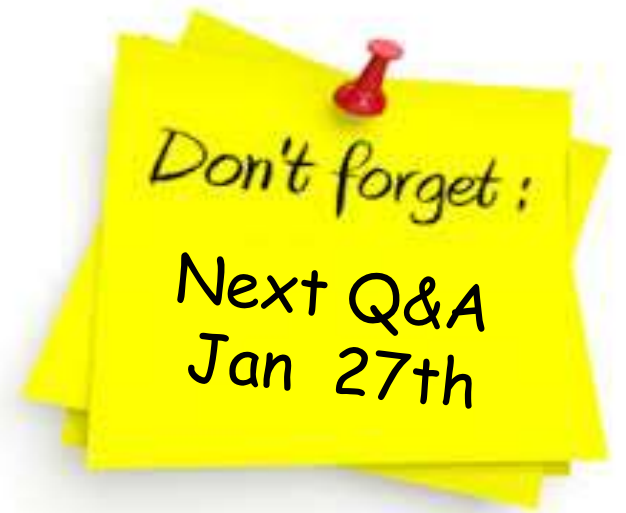


**Any other:  
Questions  
Comments  
Shares?**



## MICRO CONTROLLERS AND THE INTERNET OF THINGS

Deid Reimer  
Victoria Pi Makers  
February 10th, 2021  
7:30 pm



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

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

