



Q&A

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

Share

Who's making all those scam calls?

- *Every year, tens of millions of Americans collectively lose billions of dollars to scam callers. Where does the other end of the line lead?*
- Interesting article with interviews with scammers, police and more...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/27/magazine/scam-call-centers.html>

The New York Times Magazine

Follow-up

Movie file conversion

- The guide for VLC to do file conversion is:
<https://www.thewindowsclub.com/how-to-convert-videos-using-vlc-media-player-on-windows-10>
- I have also used MakeMKV
<https://www.makemkv.com>

Stewart Bruce



Follow-up

Movie file conversion

- I like “Any Video Converter – Free”

https://www.any-video-converter.com/products/for_video_free/

Dan Byrne

- I use Handbrake to convert videos
e.g. from DVD

<https://handbrake.fr>

Tom Trottier

Follow-up

eReading Resources

“BookBub Plus” brought
to you by:



Bob Walker



eReading Resources



BookBub <https://www.bookbub.com/>

- Last week our look at the BookBub 'book discovery' site focused on their daily email service which gives the eBook deals of the day.
- However, if you're just looking for new books to read in any interest category, you can go anytime to the BookBub site to search by category, author or other criteria.
- Pricing of the eBooks through BookBub is often better than at other sites like Amazon or Kobo, even though the latter are often the end retailers that BookBub links you to.

goodreads

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

- GoodReads is arguably the leading online community for book lovers and is one of the leading online review and recommendation sites.
- As well as editorial reviews & recommendations there are lots and lots of actual reader reviews and recommendations
- They have resources like online sessions with popular authors, blogs, recommendation lists, etc.

goodreads

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

- Like BookBub, you can buy the eBooks through links to several retailers, and often the price through GoodReads is better than going directly to the retailer's site.



<https://www.amazon.ca/>

- While Amazon isn't the best site to go to in order to 'discover' a new book, if you search for a book you've heard about elsewhere, there are editorial reviews, customer reviews, and sampling (i.e. flip through some pages of the book).

<https://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en>

- The Ottawa Public Library offers eBooks, Digital Newspapers, Digital Magazines and other products online
- They have a collection of popular fiction and nonfiction eBooks, usually with a seven day loan period
- You have to be an Ottawa resident to get a library card and access these resources



<https://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en>

- They also host online presentations by the OPCUG

<https://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en>

- They also host online presentations by the OPCUG
- (Next one "*Is Free Software Really Free*" on Monday March 1 at 4 PM)

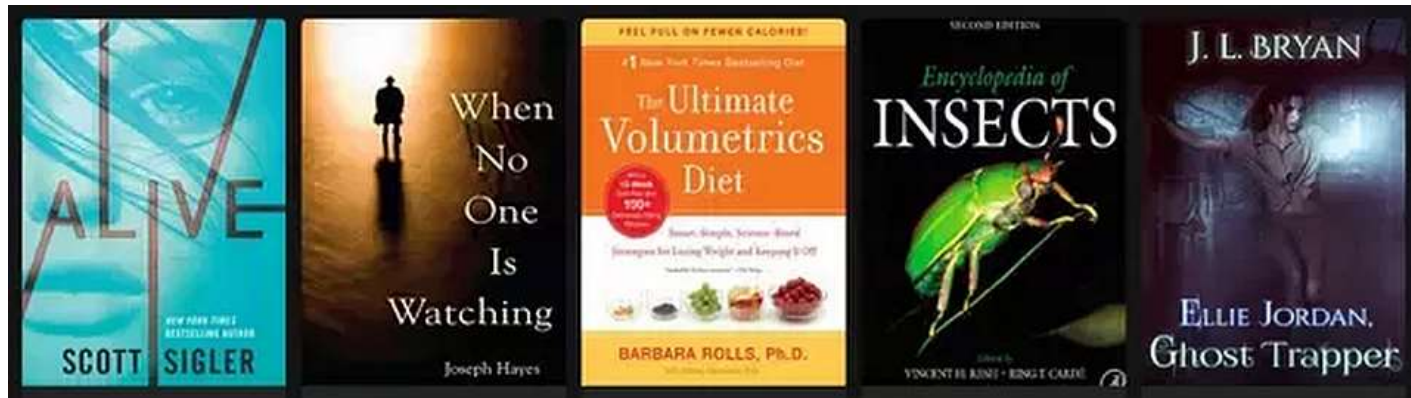


<https://www.thefussylibrarian.com/>

- A service similar to BookBub where you can sign up for a daily email or go direct to the site for “*Free & Bargain*” eBooks

29 Best Websites to Download Free eBooks

[https://www.tckpublishing.com/
websites-download-free-ebooks/](https://www.tckpublishing.com/websites-download-free-ebooks/)





<https://calibre-ebook.com/>

Calibre is a free, powerful and easy to use e-book manager:

- Manage your e-book collection
- Windows, Apple, Linux, Android and iOS versions available
- Comprehensive e-book viewer
- Download news/magazines from the web
- Share and backup your library easily
- Edit the books in your collection
- Convert between eBook formats
- You can also link to books in your Amazon Kindle and other libraries



Posting Reviews - To-ID or not to-ID?

- I am thinking of posting a Google review (Google Maps) about a business.
- What are your thoughts, concerns and recommendations with regard to posting online reviews?
- Can you give us advice about privacy and security pitfalls to avoid?



- In the Google Ratings and Review input window Google warns: *“Your content will appear publicly in Google's services across the web with your profile name and photo....”*
- Can readers of my review get access to my Gmail address?
- I do not want my Gmail address published or available worldwide for spammers to harvest.



Alan German

Posting publicly ⓘ

Your content will appear publicly in Google's services across the web with your profile name and photo. It must comply with Google's policies. [Read more](#)

Share details of your own experience at this place

- Would changing my “*About Me*” Google Account email privacy setting from “*Visible to anyone*” to “*Visible only to you*” help shield my Gmail address from readers of Google reviews?
- Would changing that setting also have the adverse side effect of preventing my email address from being visible to recipients of my Gmail messages?

← About me

Manage your personal info and control who can see it across Google services. [Learn more](#)



Only you



Your organization



Anyone

A

Example of a Google review

The image shows a screenshot of a Google review for RamaKrishna Indian Restaurant. The restaurant's logo, featuring two red elephants and a yellow temple gopuram, is displayed in the top left corner. The restaurant's name, "RAMAKRISHNA INDIAN RESTAURANT", is written in white text on a black background. The review itself is displayed in a dark-themed interface. At the top of the review, the restaurant's name "RamaKrishna Indian Restaurant" is shown, followed by a 4.5-star rating (represented by five stars, with the fifth star partially filled) and "297 Reviews". Below this, three individual reviews are shown in white boxes. Each review includes a circular profile picture, a five-star rating, the review text, and the reviewer's name and date. The first review is by Shashank Srinan, dated 2021-01-23, with the text "Enjoyed the food!". The second review is by Maïa Claire Harvey, dated 2021-01-16, with the text "First time ordering here and not the last for sure. Amazing food !...". The third review is by Nicole Savage, dated 2021-01-15, with the text "The staff I've interfaced with here are always polite and socia...". The background of the review interface is a dark, blurred image of the restaurant's interior.

RAMAKRISHNA INDIAN RESTAURANT

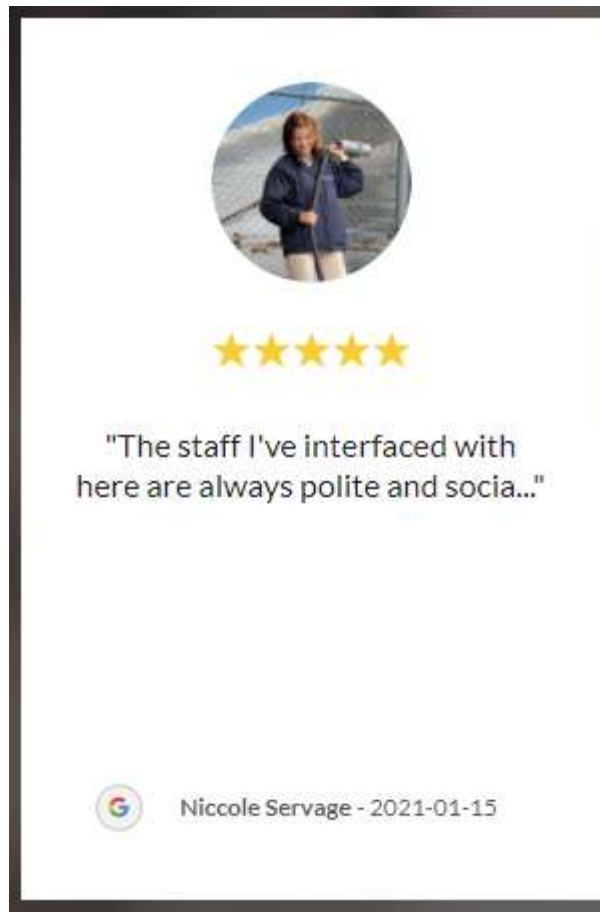
Home Menu Order Online Contact Us About Us

RamaKrishna Indian Restaurant
4.5
297 Reviews

★★★★★
"Enjoyed the food!"
Shashank Srinan - 2021-01-23

★★★★★
"First time ordering here and not the last for sure. Amazing food !..."
Maïa Claire Harvey - 2021-01-16

★★★★★
"The staff I've interfaced with here are always polite and socia..."
Nicole Savage - 2021-01-15




The staff I've interfaced with here are always polite and sociable. It's a warm reception, which is appreciated. And then.....THE FOOD!!! Ya kiddin' me??? TO. DIE. FOR. This is my splurge when the need hits. Totally worth the money, as it is truly a "moaning and groaning with delight" kind of experience whilst eating their dishes. We typically order the Beef Biryani, Chicken Tikka Masala, Butter Chicken, MULTI LAYER BUTTER NAAN BREAD (omg it will make you be okay with weight gain!!), and we have had a few others dishes as well. ALL were delightful. For me, I can't imagine Indian food that tastes any better.

**Shared Information from
Google Account:
Name = Nicole Servage
+ Profile photo.**

What others will see

All reviews are public, so anyone can see what you write. You can't add an anonymous review.

Here is some more info that others will see:

- The name on your [About me](#)  page
- Other reviews you've written on Google Maps
- Photos you've added to Google Maps

The name from your profile will be shown. What about the photo?



Choose what info to show

Your name and profile picture can be viewed by other people who use Google services, including when you communicate or share content.

Tip: For other info that you add, you can choose if it's private or visible to anyone.

1. Go to your [Google Account](#) .
2. On the left, click **Personal info**.
3. Under "Choose what others see", click **Go to About me**.
4. Below a type of info, you can choose who currently sees your info.
5. Choose one of the following:
 - To make the info private, click **Only you** .
 - To make the info visible to anyone, click **Anyone** .

**Your name and profile photo
will always be shown**



Choose what info to show

Your name and profile picture can be viewed by other people who use Google services, including when you communicate or share content.

Tip: For other info that you add, you can choose if it's private or visible to anyone.

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5. Choose one of the following:
 - To make the info private, click **Only you** .
 - To make the info visible to anyone, click **Anyone** .

**You can turn off everything else
in your profile**

A Google Review Options

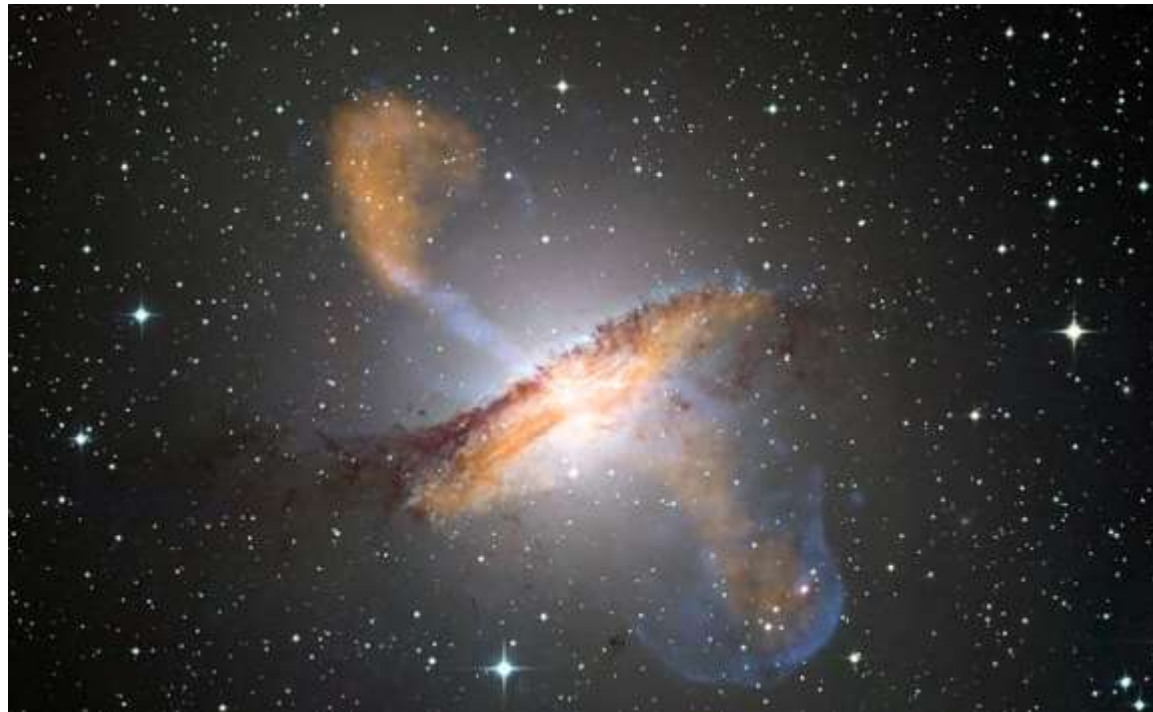
- Post with your name and profile photo.
- Don't post reviews if you have any privacy concerns over your name and photo appearing on the Internet
- Remove the profile photo and go with the default icon, leaving just your name
- Use a name such as "A. German" (or perhaps "Michael Mouse" {but what's the point of the review?} or "A. Vedec" for an anonymous Google account)

General E-mail Considerations

- I have a domain name and a web hosting service; let's say it's xyz.ca
- I can create as many E-mail, addresses as I wish using this domain
- I use **mail@xyz.ca** only for friends and family
- I use **mailbox@xyz.ca** for “trusted” businesses and organizations
- I use **centaurusa@xyz.ca** as a throw-away address for contacts that I really don't trust!

Centaurusa A

Centaurus A is a black hole!



*Colour composite image courtesy of the
European Southern Observatory (ESO)*

CentaurusA@xyz.ca has a couple of cousins:

CygnusX1@xyz.ca

m1@xyz.ca

However, you can't establish

centaurusa@gmail.com



Create your Google Account

to continue to Gmail

First name Michael	Last name Mouse
-----------------------	--------------------

Username centaurusa	@gmail.com
------------------------	------------

That username is taken. Try another.

Available: [michaelmouse932](#)

Password 	Confirm
--------------	---------

Use 8 or more characters with a mix of letters, numbers & symbols




One account. All of Google working for you.

So, you need to be a little creative

[Note that *alanthelinuxguy* is already taken - guess who!]

But, you probably want use something a little more meaningful to you



Create your Google Account
to continue to Gmail

First name Last name

Username @gmail.com

You can use letters, numbers & periods

Available: [michaelmouse932](#)

Password Confirm

Use 8 or more characters with a mix of letters, numbers & symbols

Show password



One account. All of Google
working for you.



Windows 10 File History

- Since a Windows 10 “upgrade”
 - (I think this is a feature update, not an upgrade from Windows 7 or 8)
 - File History is not working

Backup

Back up using File History

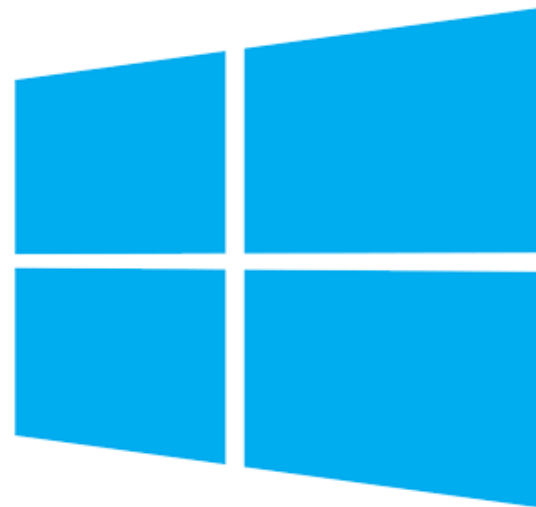
Back up your files to another drive and restore them if the originals are lost, damaged, or deleted.

Automatically back up my files



On

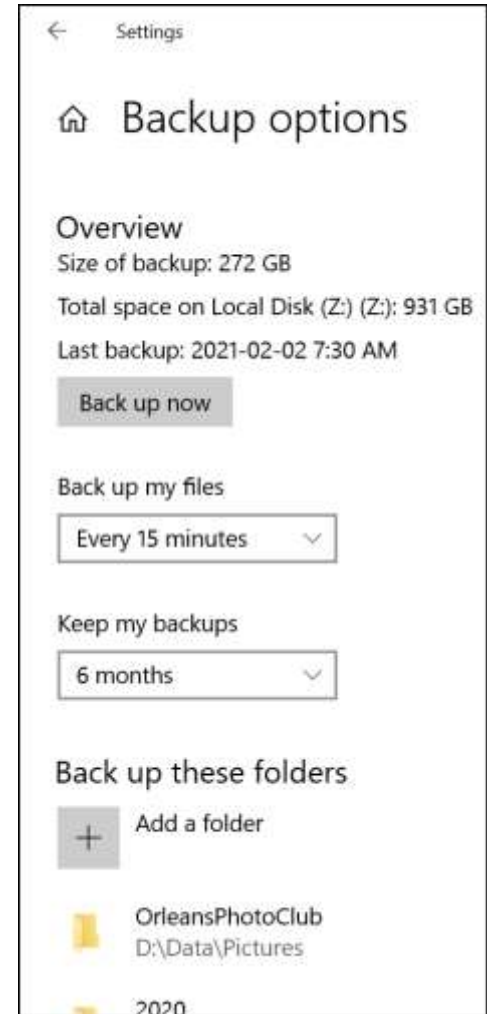
[More options](#)



A

Broken File History

- *Settings | Update & Security | Backup*
 - More options
 - what does it say for *Last backup*?
 - does *Total space on disk* make sense?
 - drive letter exists, space on disk, etc.
 - *Back up these folders* make sense?
 - what is setting for frequency?
 - what happens if you click on *Back up now*?



A

Broken File History

- Check the service
 - Right-click *Start* | *Computer Management* | *Services and Applications* | *Services* | *File History Service*
 - Stop and start the service
 - Then try *Backup now* in *Settings* | *Update & Security* | *Backup* | *More options*

A

Broken File History

- *Settings | Update & Security | Backup | More options*
 - what happens if you add another folder?
 - and then create a new file in that folder

A

Broken File History

- Check event logs for errors
 - Right-click *Start* | *Event Viewer*
 - Navigate to
 - *Applications and Services Logs* | *Microsoft* | *Windows* | *FileHistory-Core* | *WHC*
 - *Applications and Services Logs* | *Microsoft* | *Windows* | *FileHistory-Engine* | *File History backup log*
 - Check for level *Error* events
 - *I wouldn't worry about occasional errors*

A Broken File History

- Re-initialize File History
 - *Settings | Update & Security | Backup | More options*
 - click on *Stop using drive*
 - rename the folder *FileHistory* on the backup drive
 - don't delete folder
 - it has all your backed up files that you can still access
 - at;
 - `C:\Users\[USERNAME]\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\FileHistory`
 - rename *Data* and *Configuration* folders
 - back in File History, set up the drive again

Back up to a different drive
You'll need to stop using your current backup drive before you add a new one. This won't delete any files from your current backup drive.

Stop using drive



Acrobatics



- The Adobe license is quite expensive
- I am looking for a free and safe way to edit PDF files (mostly to markup and comment when working on a document with another party)
- Any suggestions?



A

PDF-XChange Viewer

I use Tracker's PDF-XChange Viewer to add the source URL in text to the top of PDF's that I store.

Micheline Johnson



Home » Products » PDF-XChange Viewer

PDF-XChange Viewer

The smallest, fastest, most feature-rich PDF reader/viewer available.

- View, modify, and annotate PDF files.
- Free OCR included.
- Please note that this product has been updated and replaced by [PDF-XChange Editor](#).

Current version: 2.5.322.10

Supported Operating Systems: Windows XP or later

<https://www.tracker-software.com/product/pdf-xchange-viewer>

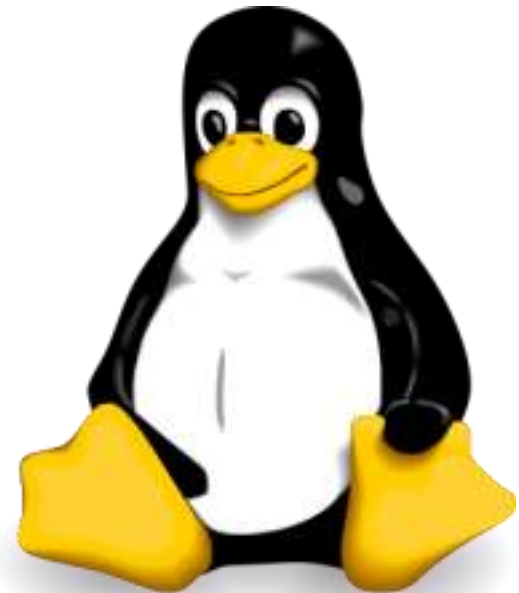
The simplest way to edit PDF files in Linux

February 1, 2021 - by Magesh Maruthamuthu - 4 Comments.

PDF stands for Portable Document Format which is widely used among general users for documentation purpose and its usage is primarily for printing, sharing and for large documents.

By default, all Linux distributions comes with a PDF viewer, but not ideally with PDF editor like Adobe Acrobat.

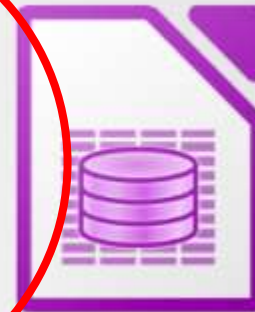
To edit PDF's, LibreOffice Draw can be used as basic PDF editor which is readily available with most of the Linux distributions, as part of the LibreOffice



<https://www.2daygeek.com/edit-pdf-files-in-linux/>



LibreOffice
The Document Foundation



Draw module

<https://www.libreoffice.org>



Pages



OTTAWA PC NEWS

Volume 38, Number 2

February 2021

ARTICLE

Getting help from Microsoft *by Chris Taylor*

Many of the configuration screens in Windows 10's *Settings* app include a link to *Learn more*. Click it and you get a web page with further information about that particular setting.

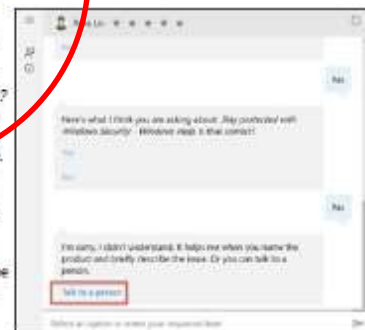
I recently noticed a *Get help* link on a *Windows Security* screen for *Controlled Folder Access*. I was in the midst of writing an update article on this feature and needed some background information, so I clicked the link

A *Virtual Agent* window opened where I was prompted to describe my issue.

Add text at this point

I typed: *To use Controlled Folder Access, do I need to be using Windows Defender as my real-time anti-virus?* I was given some automated suggestions that might resolve my issue. None of them helped. Then I was presented with a link to *Talk to a person*.

OMG! I was going to be able to connect with a real person???



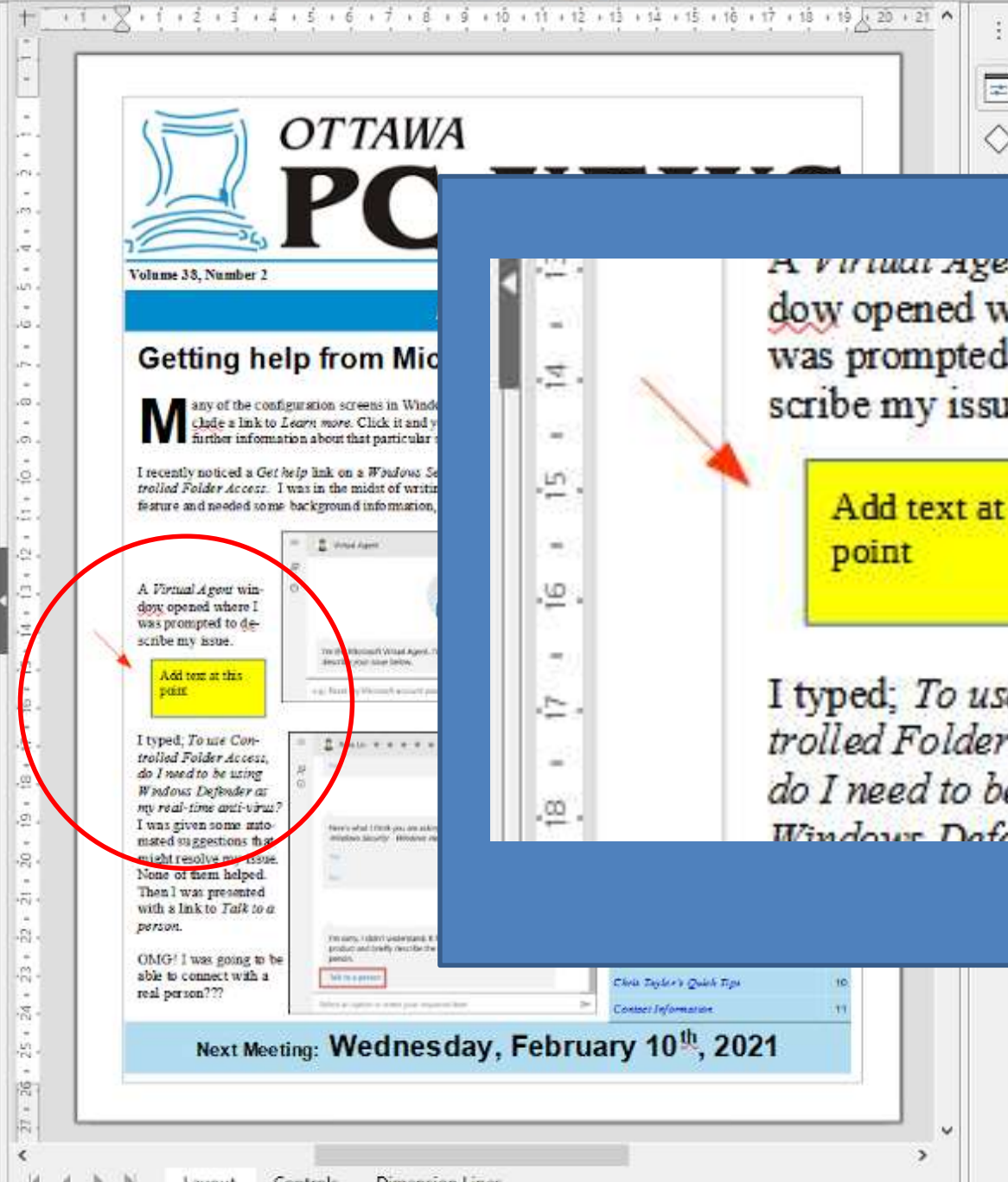
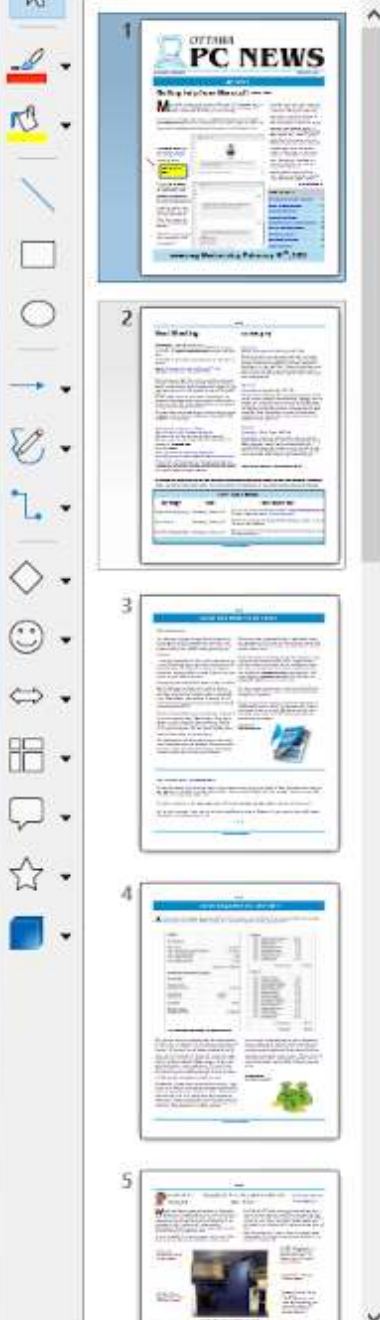
I clicked it and was given some options including getting a call-back (tweet!) or asking the community (which will load the web page for Microsoft's *community windows.com* forum. I chose the option *Message a Windows Advisor*. A chat window told me *Our current position is low is: 592*. I figured I might hear from someone by next Wednesday but decided to leave the window open while I did other things. Surprisingly, in less than 5 minutes, "Sargavan" joined the chat. He promptly answered my question and gave me a link to a very useful article at docs.microsoft.com that has a wealth of current information about using *Controlled Folder Access*.

(Continued on page 5)

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Next Meeting: **Wednesday, February 10th, 2021**



OTTAWA PC NEWS

Volume 38, Number 2

Getting help from Mic

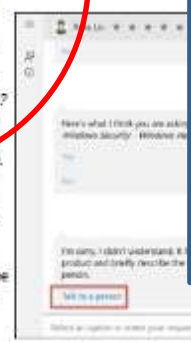
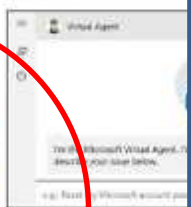
Many of the configuration screens in Windows include a link to *Learn more*. Click it and you get further information about that particular feature. I recently noticed a *Get help* link on a *Windows Security* screen for *Controlled Folder Access*. I was in the midst of writing about this feature and needed some background information,

A *Virtual Agent* window opened where I was prompted to describe my issue.

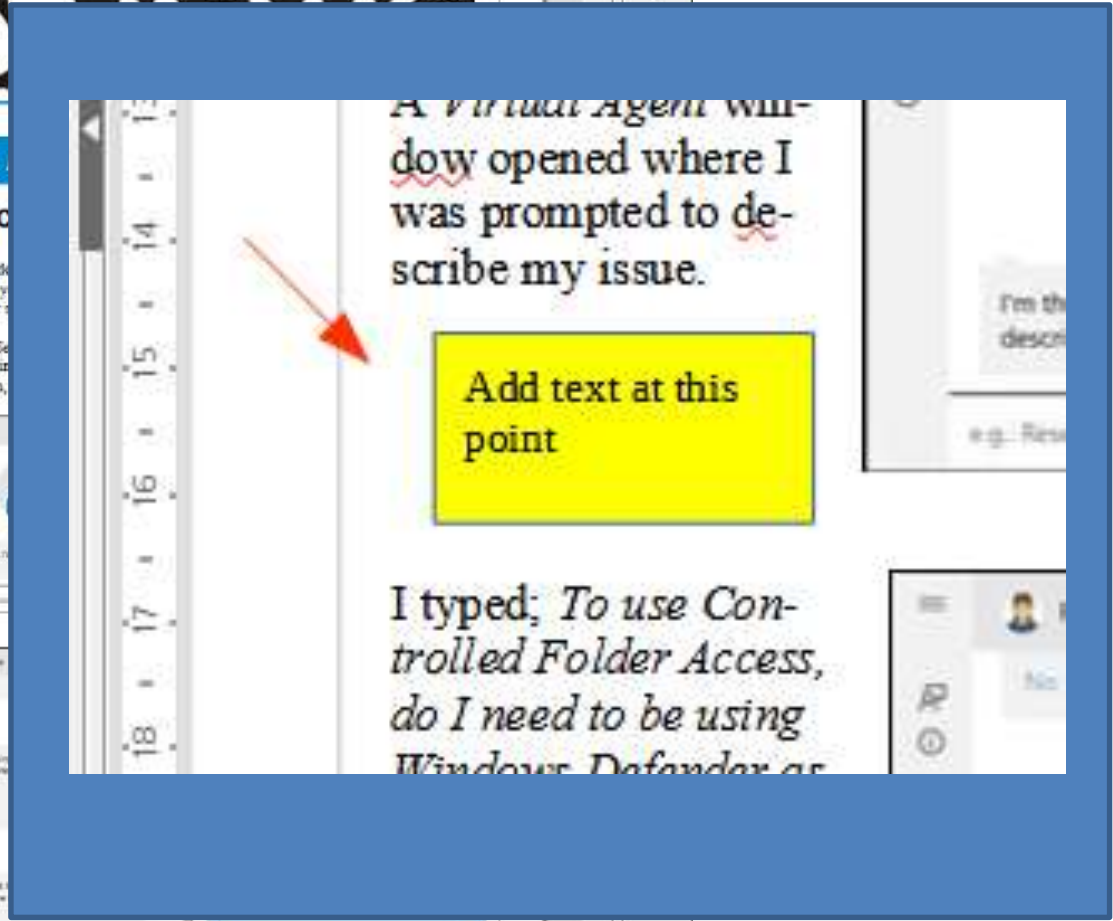
Add text at this point

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OMG! I was going to be able to connect with a real person???



Next Meeting: **Wednesday, February 10th, 2021**



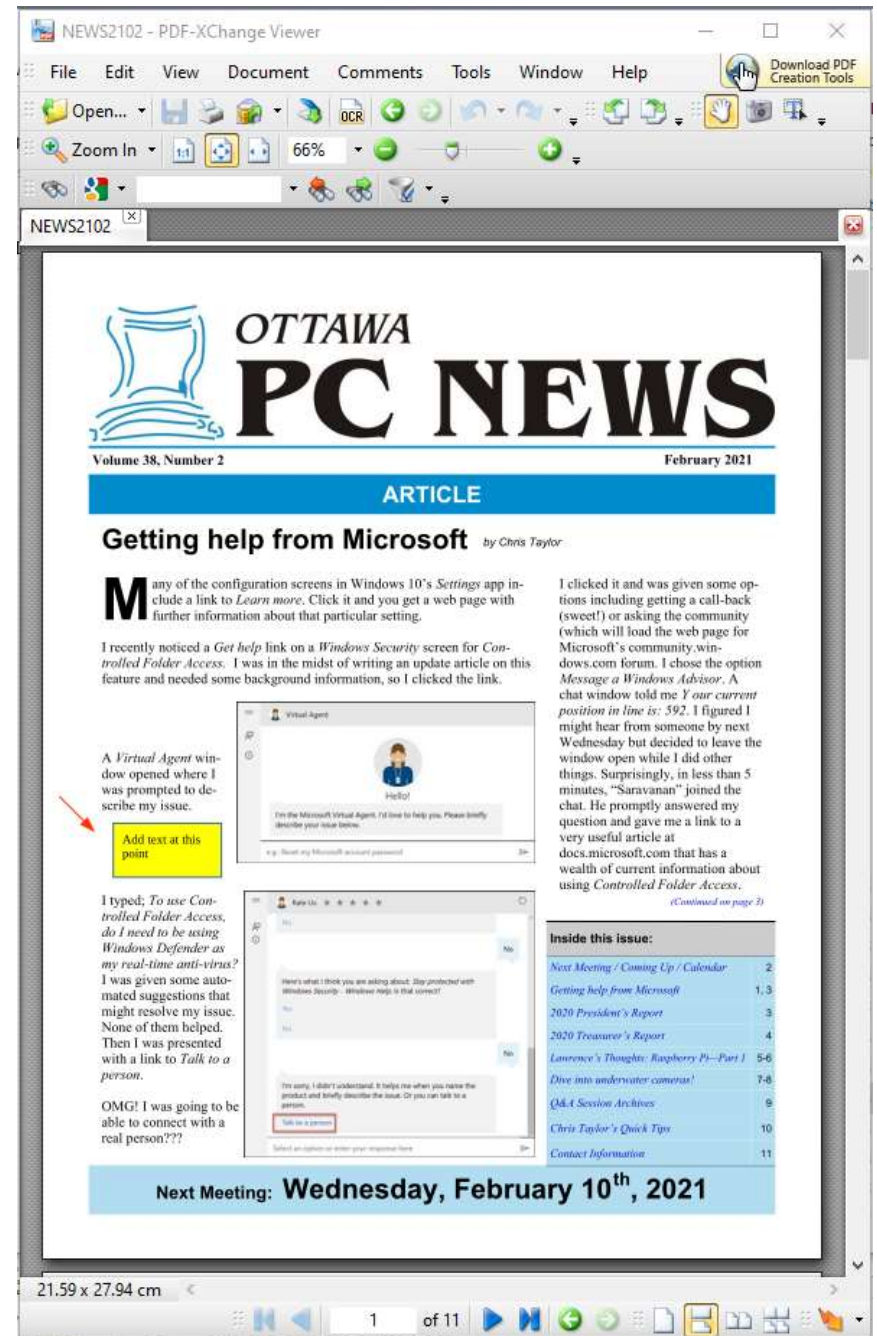
A *Virtual Agent* window opened where I was prompted to describe my issue.

Add text at this point

I typed: *To use Controlled Folder Access, do I need to be using Windows Defender as*

- Open PDF in LO Draw
- Annotate the pages with the drawing tools
- Export file to .PDF

*Annotated file displayed
In PDF-XChange Viewer*





Buy New or Upgrade?

- My desktop computer is over 7 years old
- Should I start looking for another desktop or can I prolong the life of my computer?
- How could I do this?
- Of course, I would favor the more economical solution.



A As usual, it depends...

- How old, what operating system, what don't you like about the current system?
- SSD's are quite cheap and can dramatically increase performance for boot times, loading files and applications
- More RAM can also speed up older systems
- Switch from Windows to Linux!



Share

Understanding Genetics

- If you have shared genetic material with one of those genetic analysis companies, you may be befuddled by some of the results.
- I have not, and do not plan on doing this, but it seems to be popular at the moment
- I just read an article which gives links to secondary analysis sites that offer to help with your understanding of the first site's report.
- Cool. Getting a little weird now.

Stewart Bruce

<https://www.makeuseof.com/23andme-raw-data/>



E-mail Scam



- I received a “*I need a little help... write me back*” message from a friend’s Hotmail account
- I checked the detailed message headers (*Thunderbird: View -Headers - All*) but there was no indication of a hacker’s “reply-to” address
- My friend could send messages but didn’t receive any replies/other messages on Hotmail
- How does the scam work?
- How can it be fixed?
- What else should my friend be cautious about?

A

Email Account Hack

- Check the account and see if someone set forwarding on all emails (and delete the original)
- Check other sites that might use the Hotmail account as a recovery email address
- Check the settings on any associated bank account – if a money E-transfer is “received”, the attacker will get the email and make off with the money!



Expanding Q&A's Reach

- Our weekly Q&A sessions have proven to be quite popular
- We have even answered some of the questions posed!
- Would future sessions benefit other individuals and groups (e.g. seniors)?
- How could we promote the sessions to non-OPCUG members?



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

Is Free Software Really Free?

And, if it is free, is it any good?

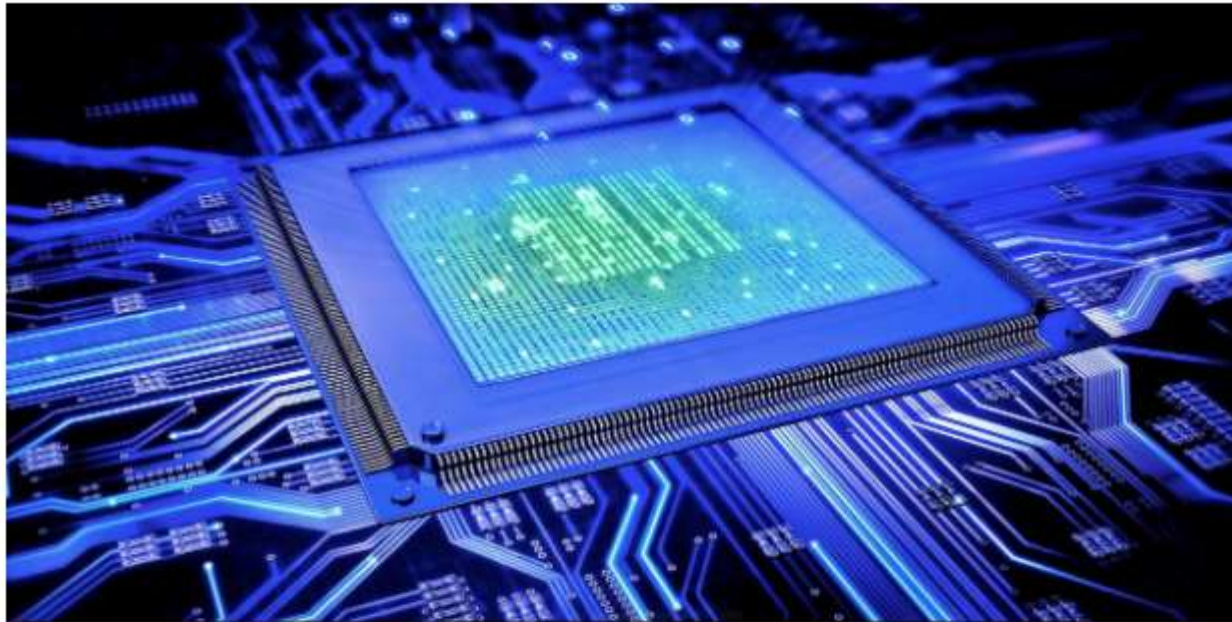
Alan German

Monday, March 1, 2021

4:00 pm

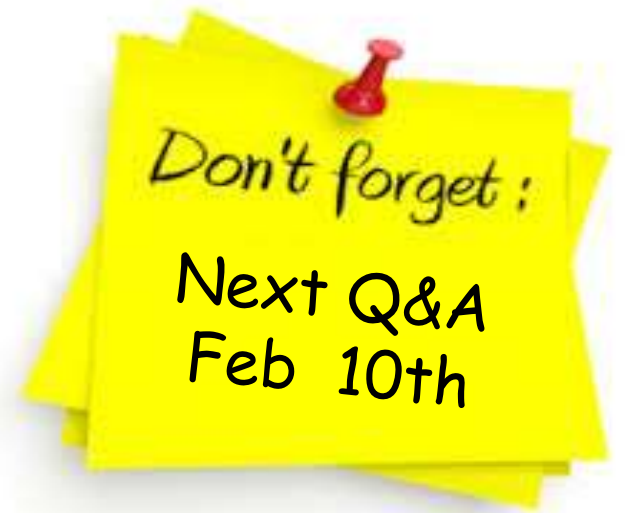


Register at <https://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/program?text=tech+cafe>



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

