



Q&A

Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

Share

Find Windows 10 release dates

- Many sources of release dates
 - e.g.. Wikipedia
- *Best* source - Microsoft Docs site
 - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/release-information/>
 - availability date of every major build
 - latest revision date (never seen this elsewhere)
 - end of service date (end of life)

Share

Microsoft autofill

- *Simplify and secure your life with Microsoft's autofill solution for passwords*
 - Passwords stored in Microsoft Account
 - Works with and syncs across
 - Windows (Microsoft Edge & Google Chrome)
 - Android
 - iOS
 - <https://blogs.windows.com/windowsexperience/2021/02/05/simplify-and-secure-your-life-with-microsofts-autofill-solution-for-passwords/>
- I still prefer KeePass
 - March OPCUG meeting

Share

SIM Card Hijacking

- SIM card hijacking or swapping is a type of fraud where an attacker assigns the number of your SIM card to a telephone number that they control
- Your service provider should alert you to the number port, but you will not be able to call them from your phone!

<https://mobilesyrup.com/2021/02/06/public-mobile-sim-swap-fraud-explainer/>

Stewart Bruce

Share

Troubleshooting hardware

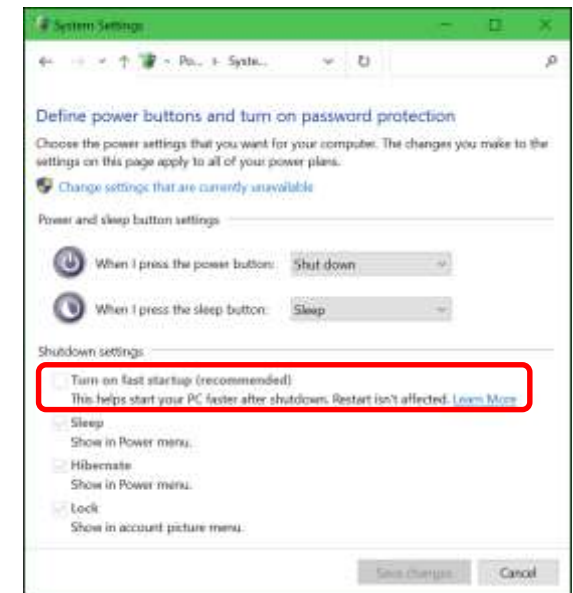
- Hardware device stops working properly?
 - turn device off and on
 - still doesn't work properly
 - hit *Start* | *Power* | *Shutdown*
 - because a *shutdown* will allow a device to more completely re-initialize than a *restart*
 - restart your computer
 - still doesn't work properly
 - suspect the hardware has failed
 - ...but wait!!!!



Share

“Fast startup” can be a problem

- *Control Panel | Power Options | Choose what the power buttons do | Shutdown settings*
- If *fast startup* is enabled
 - what happens with
 - *Shut down vs Restart*
 - is reverse of (my) expectations



Share

My expectations

- *Restart*
 - all hardware is kept powered on
 - in event of problem
 - hardware won't be completely reset
- *Shut down*
 - all hardware completely powered off
 - in event of problem
 - hardware is completely reset when computer rebooted

Share

I was wrong!

Share



Share

Shut down (*fast startup* enabled)

- *Start | Power | Shut down*
 - all apps are closed
 - user is logged off
 - **current state of computer written to hibernation file**
 - Windows kernel
 - current state of drivers
 - computer is turned off
- When restarting
 - hibernation file read and memory **returned to that state**
 - Windows kernel
 - all drivers
 - User prompted to logon
- *If a hardware driver was misbehaving before you shut down, it will be misbehaving when you restart!*

Share

Restart (*fast startup* enabled or not)

- *Start | Power | Restart*
 - all apps are closed
 - user is logged off
 - Windows is shut down
 - Windows restarts automagically
 - Windows kernel loads from disk
 - drivers get loaded from disk and initialized
 - user prompted to logon
- *The big difference:*
 - *Windows kernel and all drivers are re-initialized by reading the files from disk!*

Share

Bottom line

- If hardware device that is misbehaving
- If you want to *truly* reinitialize hardware devices on next Windows boot
- Paradoxically:
 - Start | Power | Restart
not
 - Start | Power | Shutdown

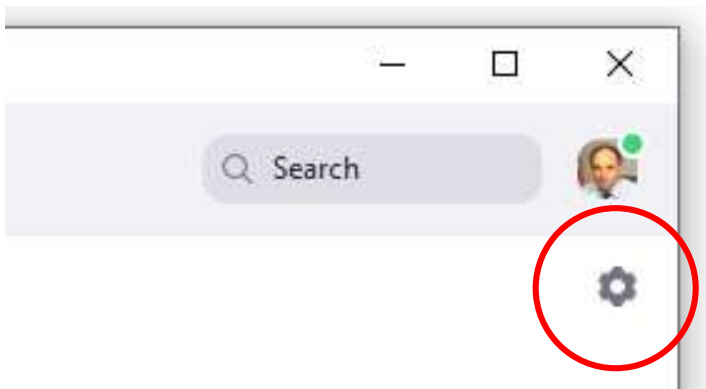


Follow-up

Backgrounds, filters and profiles in Zoom

- How do I add a virtual background to my Zoom session?
- What are filters?
- How do I display my profile picture instead of using a webcam?






Settings

- General**
- Video
- Audio
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Background & Filters**
- Recording
- Profile**
- Statistics
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility

- Start Zoom when I start Windows
- When closed, minimize window to the notification area instead of the task bar
- Use dual monitors ?
- Enter full screen automatically when starting or joining a meeting
- Automatically copy invite link once the meeting starts
- Always show meeting controls ?
- Ask me to confirm when I leave a meeting
- Show my connected time
- Remind me minutes before my upcoming meetings
- Stop my video and audio when my display is off or screen saver begins
- Integrate Zoom with Outlook ?

Reaction Skin Tone



[View More Settings](#)

- General
- Video
- Audio
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Background & Filters
- Recording
- Profile**
- Statistics
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility



Alan German •

ala***@opcug.ca 🌐

Edit My Profile

Change My Subscription

View Advanced Features


My Profile - Zoom

us04wrb.zoom.us/profile

zoom SOLUTIONS PLANS & PRICING CONTACT SALES

PERSONAL

- Profile
- Meetings
- Webinars
- Recordings
- Settings



Alan German

Alan German

Change Delete

Change Picture



Please select a jpg/jpeg, gif or png image file with size smaller than **2M** to upload and crop an image to be your profile picture.



Upload

Save

Cancel

Change Picture

Please select a jpg/jpeg, gif or png image file with size smaller than **2M** to upload and crop an image to be your profile picture.



Upload

Settings

- General
- Video
- Audio
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Background & Filters
- Recording
- Profile**
- Statistics
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility



Alan German •

ala***@opcug.ca

Edit My Profile

Change My Subscription

View Advanced Features

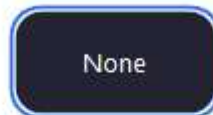
Settings



- General
- Video
- Audio
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Background & Filters**
- Recording
- Profile
- Statistics
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility



Virtual Backgrounds Video Filters



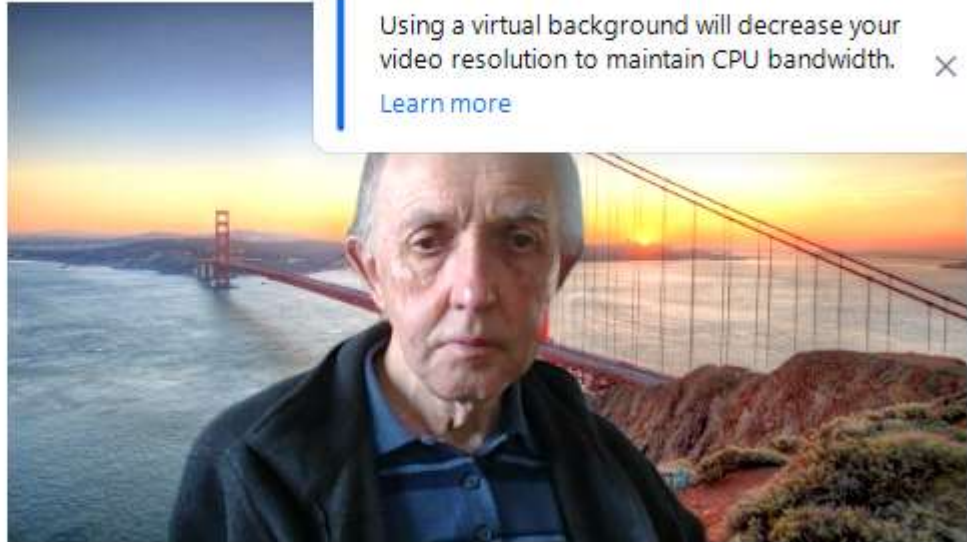
I have a green screen ?

Mirror my video

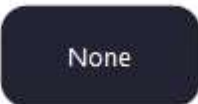
[Studio Effects \(Beta\)](#)

- General
- Video
- Audio
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Background & Filters**
- Recording
- Profile
- Statistics
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility

Using a virtual background will decrease your video resolution to maintain CPU bandwidth. [Learn more](#)



Virtual Backgrounds Video Filters



I have a green screen ?

Mirror my video

[Studio Effects \(Beta\)](#)

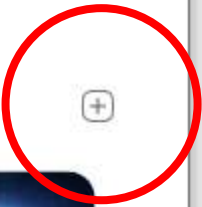
Settings



- General
- Video
- Audio
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Background & Filters**
- Recording
- Profile
- Statistics
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility



Virtual Backgrounds Video Filters



- I have a green screen ?
- Mirror my video

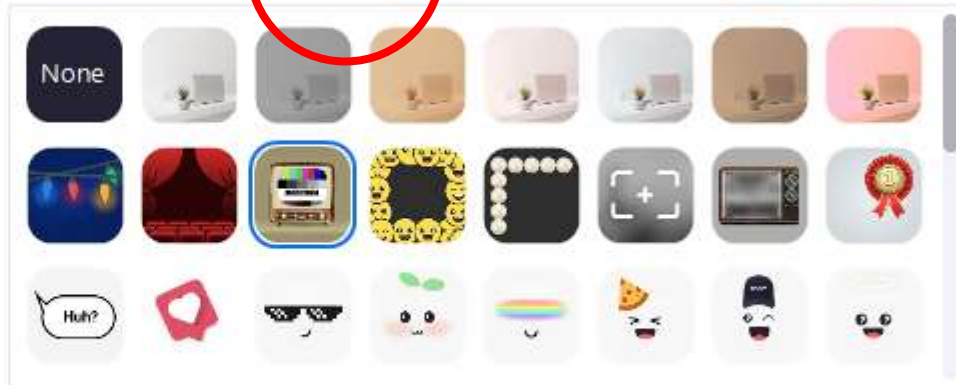
[Studio Effects \(Beta\)](#)

Settings

- General
- Video
- Audio
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Background & Filters**
- Recording
- Profile
- Statistics
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility



Virtual Backgrounds Video Filters



Mirror my video

Studio Effects (Beta)

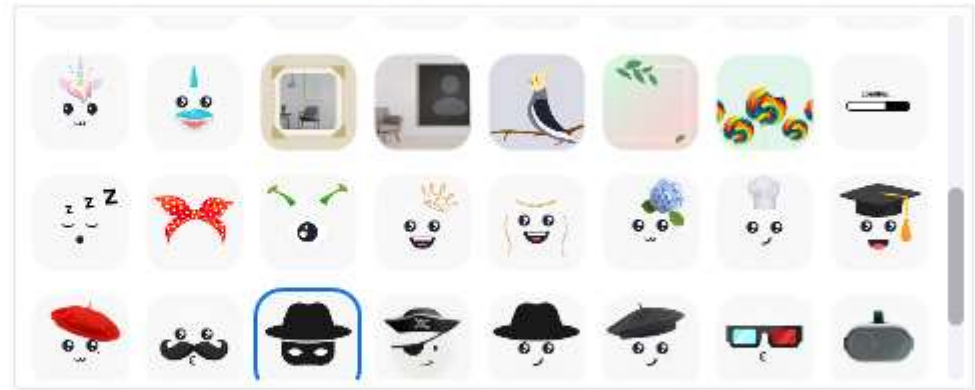
Settings



- General
- Video
- Audio
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Background & Filters**
- Recording
- Profile
- Statistics
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility



Virtual Backgrounds Video Filters



Mirror my video

Studio Effects (Beta)

Share

Free security audits in Windows

- Security Space
 - free (and paid) security audits
 - free account required
 - <https://secure1.securityspace.com/smysecure/index.html>
 - *Basic Security Audit*
 - https://secure1.securityspace.com/smysecure/basic_index.html
 - scans 1,500+ known-service ports for open ports & possible trojans
 - detailed and comprehensive information on open ports found, along with the steps on how to fix
 - takes 30 seconds to 10 minutes to run
 - maybe simpler: ShieldsUP
 - <https://www.grc.com/x/ne.dll?bh0bkyd2>

Tom Trottier

Chris Taylor

Share

Free security audits in Windows

Tom Trottier

- *No Risk Security Audit*
 - https://secure1.securityspace.com/smysecure/norisk_index.html
 - scans 1500+ known-service ports for open ports & possible trojans
 - examines system with 86,218 vulnerability tests
 - can be run only once/month for any given IP
 - takes 1 to 3 hours to run

Share

SmartApps

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



SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

*Can also be a
program for
your PC*



Follow-up

Modifying Pages in PDF Files

- How can we add, delete, and extract pages from PDF files?
- Easy, we use PDFsam!

<https://opcug.ca/Reviews/PDFsam.pdf>



- Let's suppose we want to compile all the pages of OPCUG's *Free Software Guide* in a single PDF file
- We can find out when these were published in the newsletter by looking at the index:

https://opcug.ca/history/FreewareGuide/freeware_guide.htm

OPCUG Free Software Guide—Part 1



WinDirStat
 IrfanView
 Defraggler
 VirtuaWin
 ZoneAlarm
 CDBurnerXP
 EditPad Lite
 VLC Media Player

[Ottawa PC News; p.5; December 2008 \(296 KB PDF\)](#)













 **Split**
Split a PDF document at the given page numbers. 



 **Merge**
Merge together multiple PDF documents or subsections of them. 

 **Rotate**
Rotate the pages of multiple PDF documents. 

 **Split by bookmarks**
Split a PDF document at bookmarked pages by specifying a bookmark level. 

 **Extract**
Extract pages from PDF documents. 

 **Alternate Mix**
Merge two or more PDF documents, taking pages alternately in natural or reverse order. 

 **Split by size**
Split a PDF document in files of the given size (roughly). 



Split

Split a PDF document at the given page numbers.



Merge

Merge together multiple PDF documents or subsections of them.



Rotate

Rotate the pages of multiple PDF documents.



Split by bookmarks

Split a PDF document at bookmarked pages by specifying a bookmark level.



Extract

Extract pages from PDF documents.



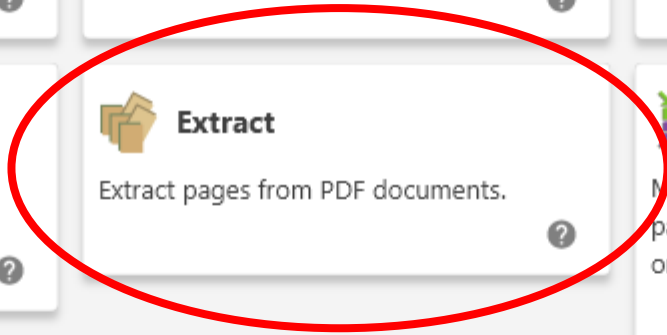
Alternate Mix

Merge two or more PDF documents, taking pages alternately in natural or reverse order.



Split by size

Split a PDF document in files of the given size (roughly).



Add ▾ Clear ▾ Remove



#	Name	Size	Pages	Modified
1	0812.pdf	295 KB	6	February 7, 2021, 4:34:14 PM

▼ Extract settings

Extract pages: ?

▼ Output settings

D:\free_software

Overwrite if already exists ?

▶ Show advanced settings

▼ File names settings

Generated PDF documents name prefix: ?



Add Clear Remove

#	Name	Size	Pages	Modified
1	0812.pdf	295 KB	6	February 7, 2021, 4:34:14 PM

▼ Extract settings

Extract pages:

▼ Output settings

D:\free_software

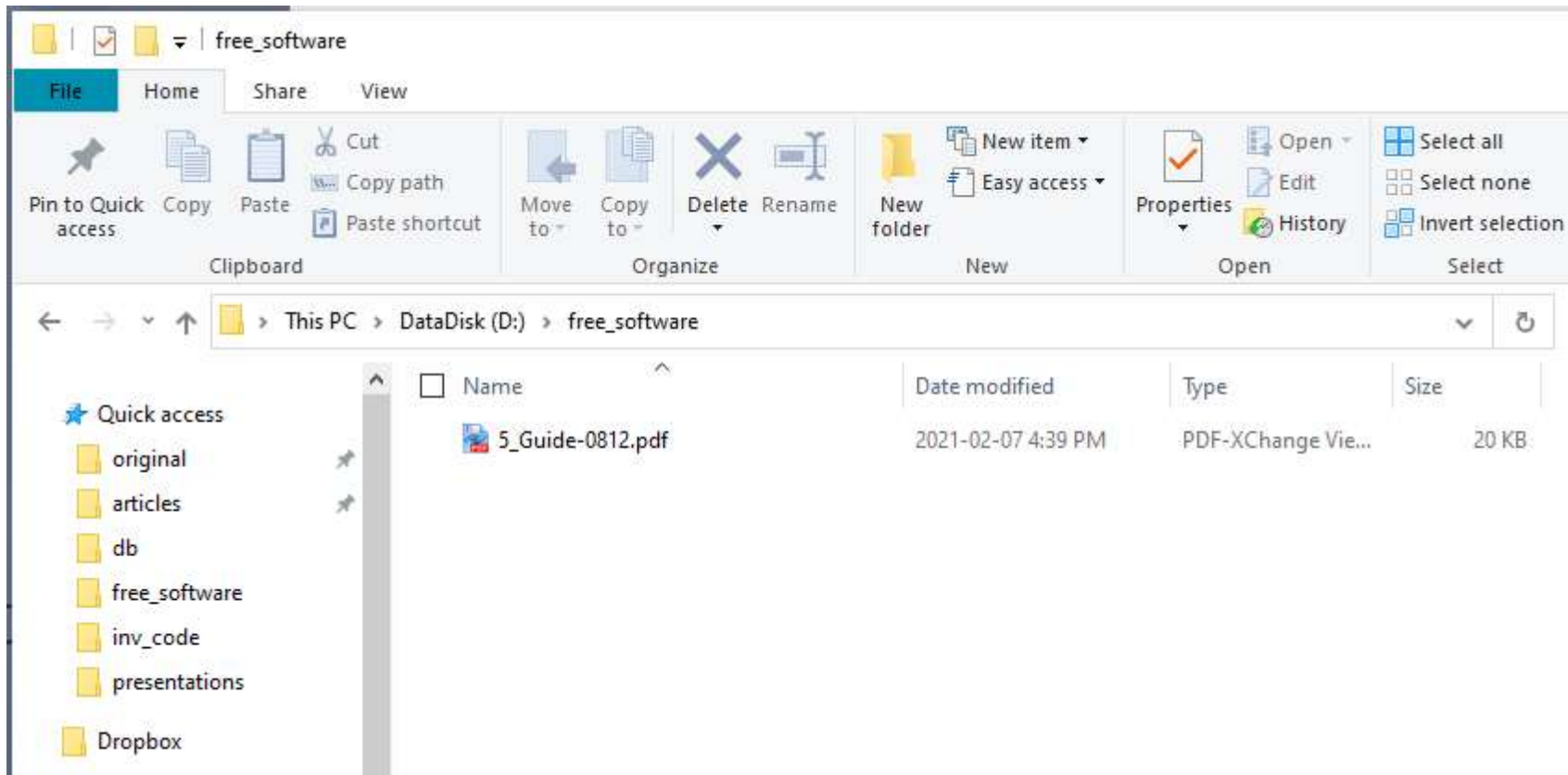
Overwrite if already exists ?

▶ Show advanced settings

▼ File names settings

Generated PDF documents name prefix: ?

File = 0812.pdf
Extract = p.5
Folder = D:\free_software
File name prefix = Guide-



**Surprise! The file name is prefixed
by the page number
5_Guide-0812.pdf**

Add ▼ Clear ▼ Remove

#	Name	
1	0901.pdf	340 KB

▼ Extract settings

Extract pages: 3-4



Another surprise awaits!

Add ▼ Clear ▼ Remove

#	Name	
1	0901.pdf	340 KB

▼ Extract settings

Extract pages: 3-4



- Name ^
-  3_Guide-0901.pdf
 -  5_Guide-0812.pdf

Add Clear Remove

#	Name	
1	0901.pdf	340 KB

Extract settings

Extract pages: 3-4

- Name
-  3_Guide-0901.pdf
 -  5_Guide-0812.pdf

3_Guide-0901 - PDF-XChange Viewer

File Edit View Document Comments Tools Window Help

Open... OCR Zoom In 47%

3_Guide-0901

Pages

1 2

Page 3

OPCUG Free Software Guide—Part 2

Compiled by Alan German

This guide features an annotated list of free computer programs. The software mentioned has not been reviewed (except where noted) nor have any tests necessarily been conducted. Consequently, no guarantees are provided that the individual programs will perform as described. Rather the list of available software is provided for the information of our members who may find one or more of the programs useful. If you try one of the listed items, you are encouraged to share your experience, good or bad, by providing a brief review of the program for a future issue of the newsletter.

DoubleKiller
DoubleKiller searches single or multiple directories for duplicate files by comparing any combination of file name, size, modification date and content. When the scan is finished a list containing all duplicates found is displayed and you can manually or automatically select the files to be removed. DoubleKiller does not need to be installed, just extracted from the downloaded ZIP file and run. It does not alter the system in any way without the user's prior permission. The basic version of the program is free for private use.
Current Release: Version 1.6.2.82
Web Site: <http://www.tajtan.com/programas/doublekiller/>

OpenOffice.org
This open-source office software suite includes word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more. It is available in many languages. It stores data files in an international open standard format, but can also read and write files from other common office software packages. For example, the current version supports the new docx file format used by Microsoft Word 2007. OpenOffice can be downloaded and used completely free of charge for any purpose.
Current Release: OpenOffice.org 3
Web Site: <http://www.openoffice.org>
Previous Reviews: Another Day at the Office (Review of OpenOffice 2.0), Alan German, <http://www.opcug.ca/public/Reviews/openoffice20.htm>

CCleaner
CCleaner is a freeware system optimizer, privacy and cleaning tool. It removes unused files from your system - allowing Windows to run faster and freeing up valuable hard disk space. It also cleans traces of your on-line activities, such as your Internet history, and contains a fully featured registry cleaner. But the best part is that it's fast (normally taking less than a second to run) and contains no spyware or adware.
Current Release: Version v2.14.503
Web Site: <http://www.ccleaner.com/>
Previous Reviews: CCleaner, Joselyn Dorn, <http://www.opcug.ca/public/Reviews/ccleaner.htm>

GIMPshop
Do you want a powerful photo-editor? Would you like it to work just like Adobe Photoshop? But, do you want the program to be free? Look no further. GIMPshop is a modification of the free open source GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP), and is intended to replicate the feel of Adobe Photoshop. Due to the changes to the interface, many Photoshop tutorials can be followed in GIMPshop unchanged, and most others can be adapted with minimal effort. GIMPshop is available for many different operating systems, including Mac OS X, Windows, Linux, and Solaris.
Current Release: Version 2.2.8 (Windows)
Web Site: <http://www.gimpshop.com/>

Edison
Produced by Veridian, this utility is billed as the PC energy management tool for everyone. Edison will let you choose the level of energy savings you want to achieve from your PC, implement appropriate power management policies, and calculate your estimated savings in electricity costs. The program runs under Windows XP or Vista.
Web Site: <http://www.veridian.com/edison/>

PDF Redirect
This free PDF writer from EUP Systems lets you create universal, standard, reliable and secure PDF files from any Windows application by simply selecting "Print" and choosing the PDF xDirect virtual printer. You can optimize quality and file size, extract pages from existing PDF files, merge PDF files, encrypt your files, create clickable hyperlinks, set permissions to lock a PDF file, and much more.
Current Release: Version 2.2.8
Web Site: <http://www.eup-systems.com/>

Vista Transformation Pack
Are you running Windows XP but wish you had the new look of Vista? You need the Vista Transformation Pack. Cas.com says that this program "has loads of little details that can make your XP computer look as if it's running Vista, without the hassle (or cost) of upgrading."
Current Release: Version 9.0.1
Web Site: <http://www.windowsvista.net>

© Download by page 41

Volume 16, Number 1

Pages 21.59 x 27.94 cm 1 of 2



Split

Split a PDF document at the given page numbers.



Merge

Merge together multiple PDF documents or subsections of them.



Rotate

Rotate the pages of multiple PDF documents.



Split by bookmarks

Split a PDF document at bookmarked pages by specifying a bookmark level.



Extract

Extract pages from PDF documents.



Alternate Mix

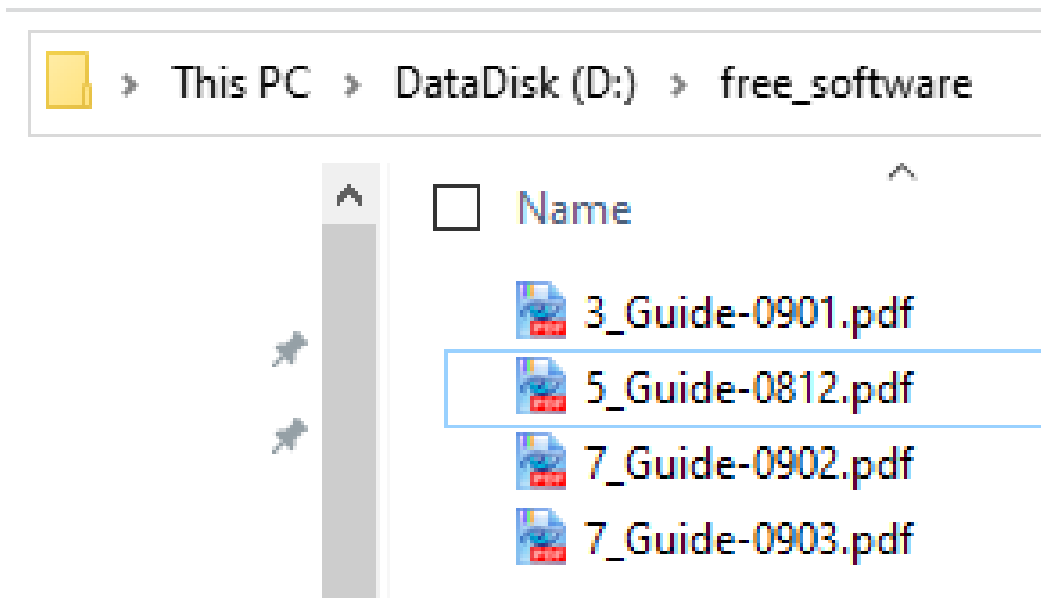
Merge two or more PDF documents, taking pages alternately in natural or reverse order.



Split by size

Split a PDF document in files of the given size (roughly).





Note that the inclusion of the page number prevents the files from being listed in chronological order - but, PDFsam has a fix for this!

Add ▾

Clear ▾

Remove

Move Up

Move Down




#	Name	Size	Pages
1	3_Guide-0901.pdf	86 KB	2
2	5_Guide-0812.pdf	19 KB	1
3	7_Guide-0902.pdf	53 KB	1
4	7_Guide-0903.pdf	54 KB	1




Add Clear Remove Move Up Move Down


#	Name	Size	Pages	Modified	Page ranges
1	5_Guide-0812.pdf	19 KB	1	February 7, 2021, 4:39:32 PM	
2	3_Guide-0901.pdf	86 KB	2	February 7, 2021, 5:09:48 PM	
3	7_Guide-0902.pdf	53 KB	1	February 7, 2021, 5:15:32 PM	
4	7_Guide-0903.pdf	54 KB	1	February 7, 2021, 5:17:19 PM	

▼ Merge settings

- Add a blank page if page number is odd 
- Add a footer 
- Normalise page size 

Interactive forms (AcroForms): Merge fields 


Bookmarks handling: Retain bookmarks 

Table of contents: Don't generate 

▼ Destination file

D:\free_software\FreeSoftwareGuide.pdf

Browse

- Overwrite if already exists 

► Show advanced settings

▶ Run

FreeSoftwareGuide - PDF-XChange Viewer

File Edit View Document Comments Tools Window Help

Open... Zoom In 55%

FreeSoftwareGuide

Pages

1

2

3

Pages 21.59 x 27.94 cm 1 of 5

Page 5

OPCUG Free Software Guide—Part 1

Compiled by Alan German

This guide features an annotated list of free computer programs. The software mentioned has not been reviewed (except where noted) nor have any tests necessarily been conducted. Consequently, no guarantees are provided that the individual programs will perform as described. Rather the list of available software is provided for the information of our members who may find one or more of the programs useful. If you try one of the listed items, you are encouraged to share your experience, good or bad, by providing a brief review of the program for a future issue of the newsletter.

WinDirStat (Windows Directory Statistics)
WinDirStat is a disk usage statistics viewer and cleanup tool for all versions of Microsoft Windows. It shows disk, file and directory sizes in a treeview, as well as graphically in a treemap, much like KDirStat (Linux/Unix) or SeqouiaView (Windows). WinDirStat is free software published under the GNU General Public License (GPL).
Current Release: Version 1.1.2 (Sep-07).
Web Site: <http://windirstat.info>

IrfanView
IrfanView is a graphic file viewer for Windows. It's small, very fast, and is released as freeware for non-commercial use. Some of its many features include support for multiple file formats (e.g. GIF, JPG, RAW), thumbnail previews, image editing, batch processing and slideshows.
Current Release: Version 4.20 (Jul-08).
Web Site: <http://www.irfanview.com/>
Previous reviews: IRFANVIEW32 Graphics Utility, Dave Bumside, <http://opcug.ca/public/Reviews/irfanview32.html>

Defraggler
From Piriform, the company that brought you CCleaner, Defraggler is a file defragmentation tool. It differs from other defrag tools on the market, by enabling you to quickly and simply defrag the files you want to, without having to process the whole drive. Defraggler is completely free for both corporate and individual use.
Current Release: Version 1.02.085 (Aug-08)
Web Site: <http://www.defraggler.com/>

VirtuaWin (The Virtual Desktop Manager)
Tired of Linux geeks boasting about their multiple desktops? Now you can have the same functionality under Windows. VirtuaWin is a virtual desktop manager that lets you organize applications over several virtual desktops (workspaces). VirtuaWin is a freely distributed program and is licensed under the GNU GPL.

Current Release: Version 4.0.1 (Apr-08).
Web Site: <http://virtuawin.sourceforge.net/>

ZoneAlarm
ZoneAlarm Free Firewall blocks hackers from infiltrating your home PC by hiding your computer from unsolicited network traffic. By detecting and preventing intrusions, the firewall keeps your PC free from viruses that slow down performance, and spyware that steals your personal information, passwords, and financial data. ZoneAlarm Free Firewall is free for individual use.
Current Release: Version 7.1.254.000 (Aug-08)
Web Site: http://www.zonealarm.com/atom/content/catalog/products/zonealarm_free_firewall.jsp
Previous reviews: Personal Firewalls Revisited, Chris Taylor, <http://www.opcug.ca/public/Reviews/zonealarm.htm>

CDBurnerXP
CDBurnerXP is a free application to burn CDs and DVDs, including Blu-Ray and HD-DVDs. It also includes the ability to burn and create ISOs, as well as having a multi-language interface. Everyone, even companies, can use it for free. It does not include adware or similar malicious components.
Current Release: Version 4.2.1.919 (Aug-08)
Web Site: <http://www.cdburnerxp.se/>

EditPad Lite
EditPad Lite is a general-purpose text editor, designed to be small and compact, yet offer all the functionality you expect from a basic text editor. EditPad Lite works with Windows NT4, 98, 2000, ME, XP and Vista. The program is free for non-commercial use.
Current Release: Version 6.4.3 (Aug-08)
Web Site: <http://www.editpadpro.com/editpadlite.html>

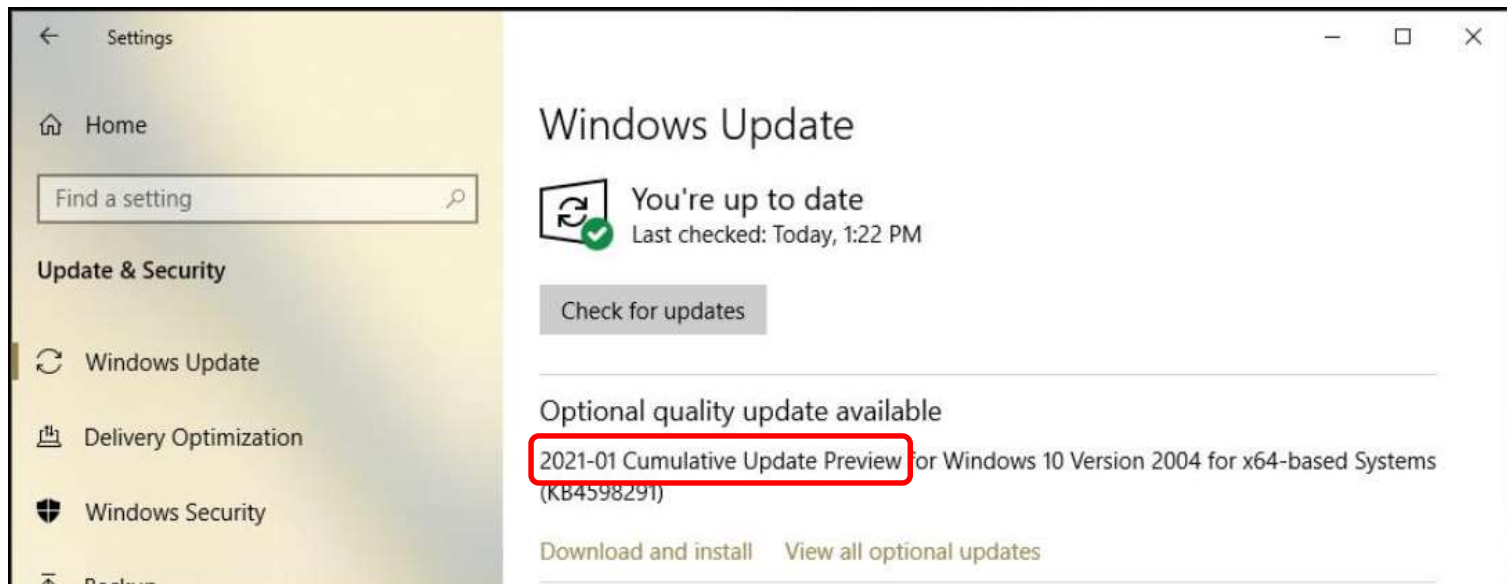
VLC Media Player
VLC media player is a highly portable multimedia player for audio and video files, and various streaming protocols. It supports a large number of formats (including MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4, DivX, and MP3, as well as DVDs, VCDs) without the need for additional codecs. VLC media player is open source software released under the GNU GPL.
Current Release: Version 0.8.6i (Jul-08)
Web Site: <http://www.videolan.org/>

Volume 25, Number 10



What's a *Cumulative Update Preview*?

- When checking for updates, sometimes a *Cumulative Update Preview* is offered
 - what is it?
 - should I install it?



A

What's a

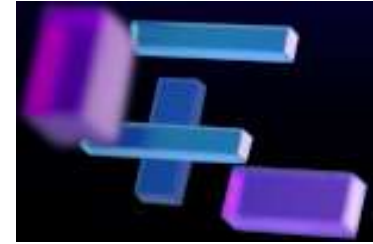
Cumulative Update Preview?

- Microsoft releases cumulative updates
 - normally second Tuesday of the month
- Previews *can* come out 3rd or 4th week of the month (typically)
 - non-security updates
 - full testing *not* completed
 - *here be dragons* ... maybe
- I generally take a pass



Share

Microsoft Ignite



- Microsoft Ignite will be held on March 2-4
- It's on-line and free
- There will be hundreds of sessions, many with a developer focus, but also on Windows, Office, security, etc.
- The keynotes are often very interesting
- The session list isn't available yet

Register - <https://myignite.microsoft.com/home>



**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>



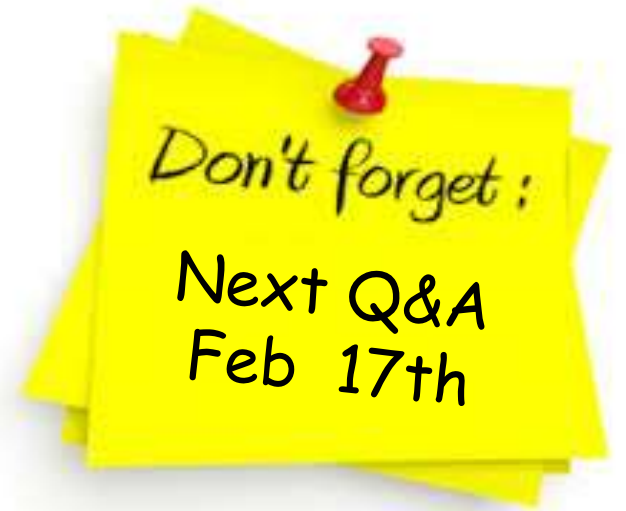
Keeping Passwords Safe

Chris Taylor

March 10, 2021

7:30 pm





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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

