Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

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Spy vs. Spy

MUO TECH NEWS PC & MOBILE LIFESTYLE HARDWARE FREE STUFF

HOME › SECURITY

How to Find Hidden Cameras Using Your Mobile Phone

Concerned about surveillance? Here's how to scan for hidden cameras using your mobile phone.

BY CHRISTIAN CAWLEY
UPDATED 3 DAYS AGO

https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/use-smartphone-detect-hidden-surveillance-cameras/?utm_source=MUO-NL-RP&utm_medium=newsletter

Stewart Bruce

MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE HOUSE.
I SAID I WAS AFRAID MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS LISTENING!
SHE LAUGHED.
I LAUGHED.
ALEXA LAUGHED.
SIRI LAUGHED.

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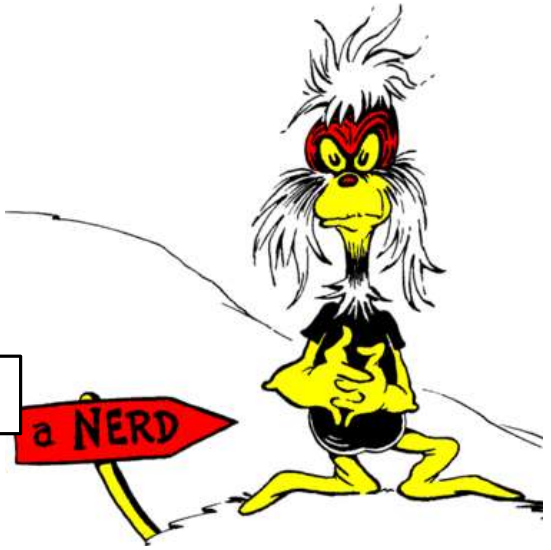
Links in browser

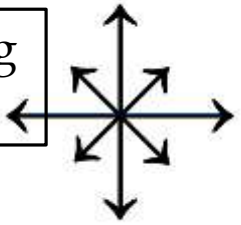


Did you ever go to click a link and pause for a second…

I am not sure where this link will take me…

is it a malicious site?

how can I be sure the link is going where it says it is going?



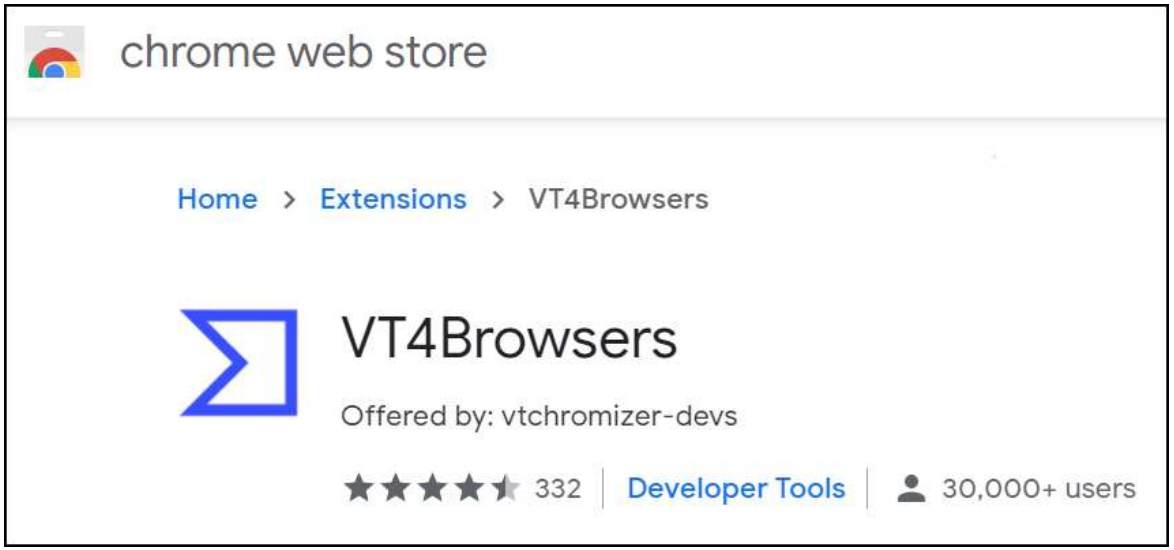
will my identity be stolen?

how can I be sure ?

Share

VT4Browsers

From the folks at VirusTotal.com
- checks URLs using 84* up-to-date malware engines
  * number may vary



For Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge
- details at
https://support.virustotal.com/hc/en-us/articles/115002700745-Browser-Extensions

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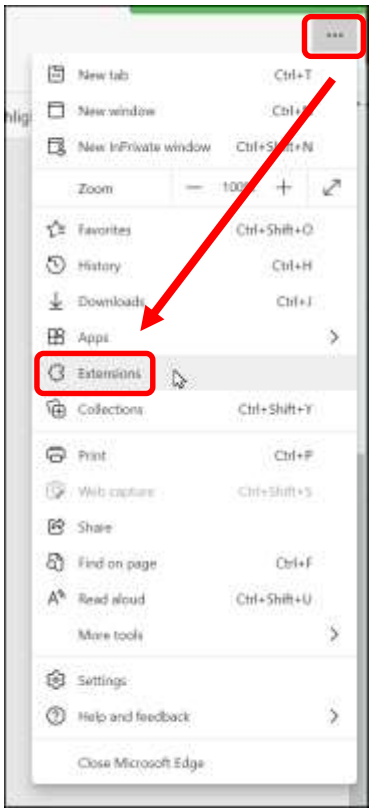
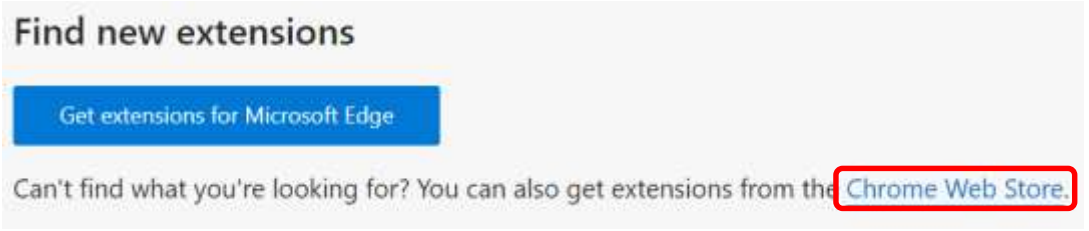
Microsoft Edge is…*special*



Click
- three dots in top-right of Edge
- *Extensions*

Under *Find new extensions*
select *Chrome Web Store*



First time you access Chrome Store from Edge
you must enable extensions from a non-Microsoft source
at top of page

At the Chrome Web Store
… using Microsoft Edge
… clicking *Add to Chrome*
… the extension will be added to **Edge**

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Using VT4Browsers

FancyZones
by Chris Taylor

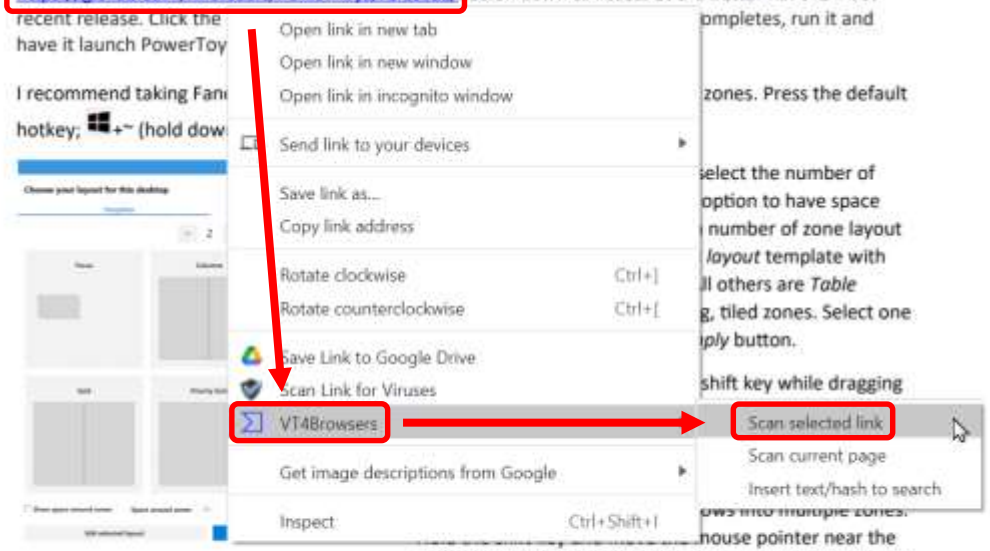
About Chris Taylor: Chris is on the Community Review Board for SANS's OUCH! security awareness newsletter designed for everyone. He is President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group and a Microsoft Windows Insider MVP.

In the ancient history of Windows 95 and XP, Microsoft released an unsupported suite of tools for the operating system called *PowerToys* that added nifty functionality to Windows. On May 8, 2019, Microsoft launched the open source project *PowerToys for Windows 10* on GitHub. The September 5, 2019 release included an especially useful module: FancyZones.

FancyZones lets you define various zones on your desktop and have program windows fill the zones. For anyone who likes to have multiple programs visible at the same time, FancyZones is great. It's like Windows Snap on steroids.

Windows Snap can arrange application windows and works pretty well. But it has annoyances like not remembering where you had programs snapped, difficulty getting multiple programs to snap into the same section of the screen, only permitting 2, 3, or 4 areas, and only allowing easy resizing of screen areas when using 2 areas. FancyZones overcomes all those and more.

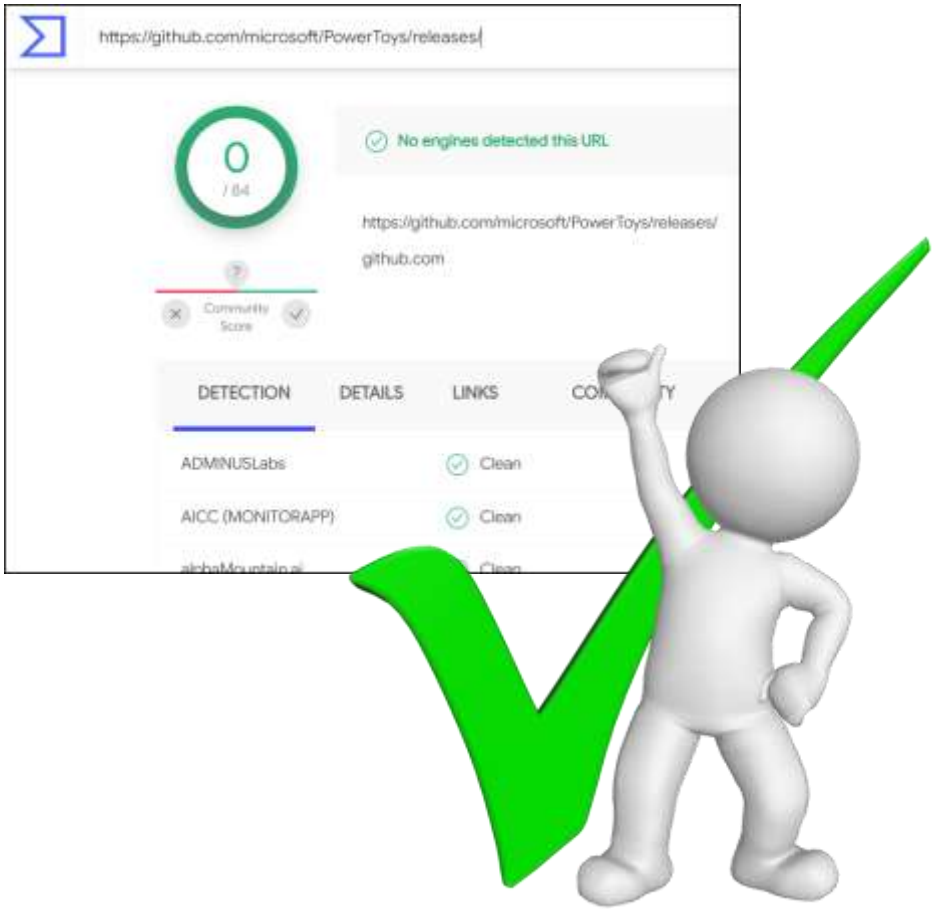
To get FancyZones, install the *Windows 10 PowerToys*. Browse to the repository on GitHub at https://github.com/microsoft/PowerToys/releases/ Scroll down to *Assets* at the bottom of the most recent release. Click the



common edge of two adjacent zones. Both zones will turn blue and releasing the mouse at that point will drop the window into both zones. You can also hold Shift+Ctrl keys to select multiple zones as you drag.

FancyZones sounds cool, but …
Why would anyone trust this guy?

- right click link to web site
- *VT4Browsers*
- *Scan selected link*



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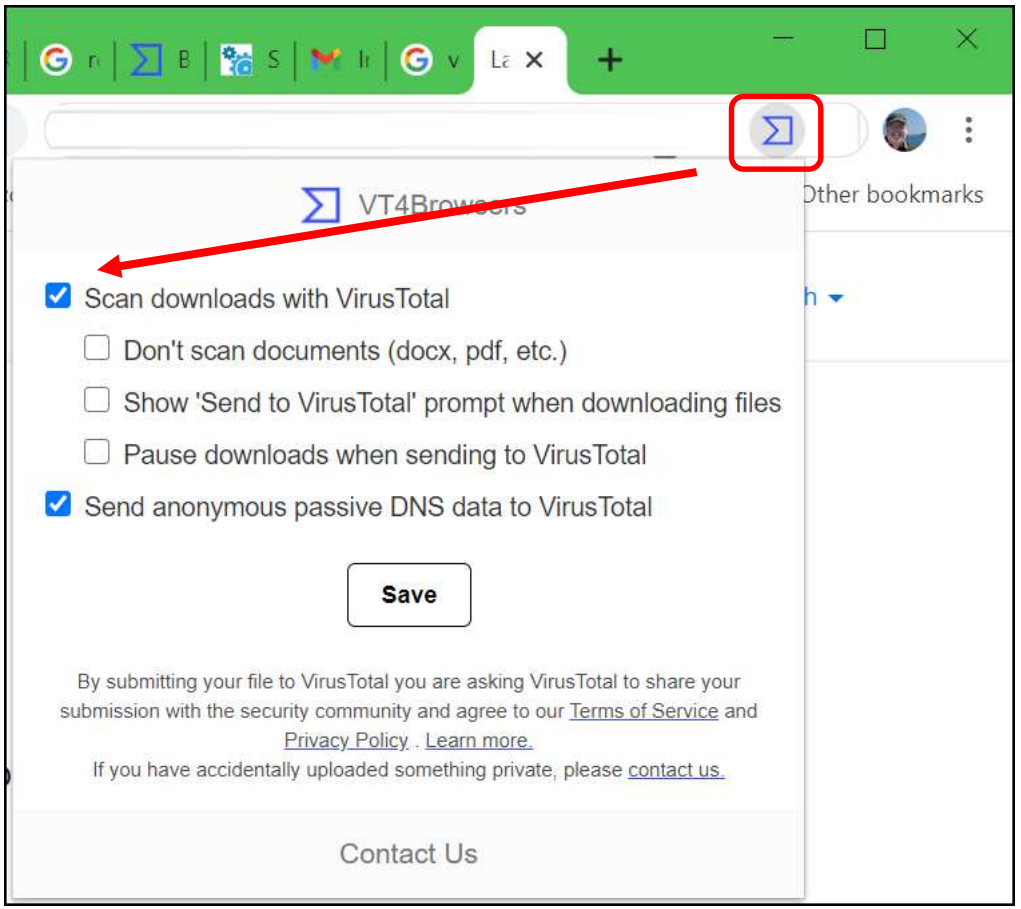
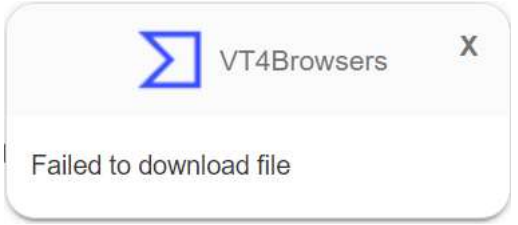
VT4Browsers fail



When downloading files
- have VT4Browsers send file to VirusTotal automagically!

Cool!

… if it worked



if you have a solution, please let us know

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The Taxman Cometh!

The tax man cometh... and here comes the Taxman

by Alan German

It's that time of year. Once again, you have to dig out all those slips and receipts, spread out a raft of paper forms over the kitchen table, sharpen your pencil, and dig into the preparation of your tax return. Well, of course, nobody actually uses pencil and paper any more – do they? – everyone uses the computer. But, it still irks to have to pay out good money for a commercial tax package just so you can send even more of your hard earned cash to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Ottawa PC News
March, 2009
https://opcug.ca/Reviews/taxman.htm

T1 General Software for All Canadian Residents

Free! No Limitations!

But No Netfile and No Quebec TP-1-V

Taxman 2020

Version 1.1 is Ready!

This early-bird version only comes as an Upgrade so you must already have the full Taxman installed on your computer — it doesn't matter which year just so long as it works.

http://taxman.coolpage.biz/2020.htm

This early-bird version only comes as an Upgrade so you must already have the full Taxman installed on your computer — it doesn't matter which year just so long as it works.

Need a fully-loaded Canadian T1 General income tax program? (no Netfile)

Tax year 2020:	***Go to Taxman 2020...***
Tax year 2019:	***Go to Taxman 2019...***
Tax year 2018:	***Go to Taxman 2018...***
Tax year 2017:	***Go to Taxman 2017...***
Tax year 2016:	***Go to Taxman 2016...***
Tax year 2015:	***Go to Taxman 2015...***
Tax year 2014:	***Go to Taxman 2014...***
Tax year 2013:	***Go to Taxman 2013...***
Tax year 2012:	***Go to Taxman 2012...***
Tax year 2011:	***Go to Taxman 2011...***
Tax year 2010:	***Go to Taxman 2010...***
Tax year 2009:	***Go to Taxman 2009...***
Tax year 2008:	***Go to Taxman 2008...***
Tax year 2007:	***Go to Taxman 2007...***
Tax year 2006:	***Go to Taxman 2006...***

T1 General Software for All Canadian Residents

Free! No Limitations!

But No Netfile and No Quebec TP-1-V

Taxman 2020 is an income tax preparation program for all of Canada **except for Quebec's Provincial return**. It should be used along with the Revenue Canada guides and forms for your area.

This early-bi
already have the full Taxman installed on your computer — it doesn't matter which year just so long as it works.

http://taxman.coolpage.biz/2020.htm

Taxman Help

Hide | Back | Print | Options

Contents | Index

- The Basics
  - Provisos - License Agreeme
  - How to Complete a Tax Ret
  - Sending in a Tax Return
  - Forms: Getting Around
- Forms
  - Persons Form
  - T1 General Pages 1-4
  - Worksheet
  - Investments
  - Schedules 1-14 and Provinc
  - Split Pension Election T103
  - Pension Splitter
  - Foreign Tax Credits T2209
  - Business Forms
  - Farming Forms
  - Rental Forms
  - Employment Expenses For
  - GST/HST Rebate Forms
  - Child Care Expenses Form
  - Request for Loss Carryback
  - T1 Adjustment Request
- Taxman Features
  - Special Taxman Forms
  - Shortcut and Function Keys
  - Menus
  - Error Messages
  - System Requirements
  - Calculator
  - Calendar
  - Sounds

How to Complete a Tax Return

In a Nutshell

Click on *Records* and then *New Person/Record* and fill in a new person. Next *Open T1-General*, go to and complete the Worksheet and hit *Update*. Exit Worksheet and complete the federal forms, followed by the provincial forms, just as would fill in a paper return. Should you need to use a form not included with Taxman, you must complete the form by hand and transfer any required numbers into Taxman. You then print the Taxman forms; add all other forms, slips and receipts; assemble everything in the right order; sign where required and mail to the government. If what you enter is out of the ordinary and further elaboration is required, attach a note or write on the paper return. Explain everything — it's the safest way.

There are 5 examples to illustrate how the forms can be filled out. Double-click either the *First Name* or *Last Name* control on Persons to review the scenario for that example.

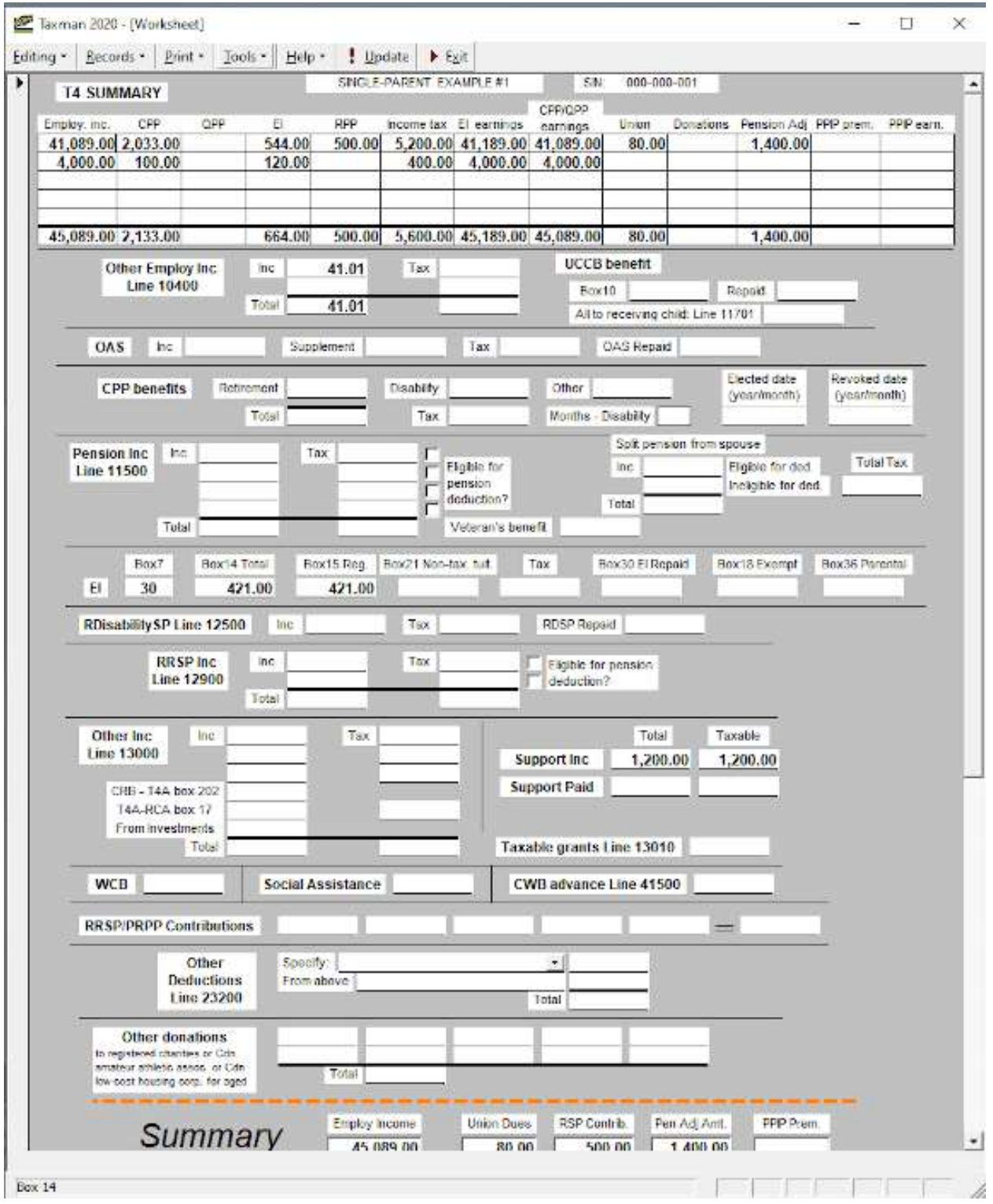
Step 0: How the Forms Work

The data-entry boxes on Taxman forms are called controls. Just place your cursor in a control and type away. If Taxman can't make sense of what you've entered, you'll receive a message. If you ever get stuck, press <Escape> to clear the control; but remember that if you hit <Escape> twice your form returns to the last saved state, possibly wiping out more than just the last entry. The status bar at the bottom left of the screen gives you the control's basic facts and tells you where double-clicking the control will get you. Some controls are locked because they receive their value from a related form (double-click to go there).

Taxman forms aren't identical to the paper forms you'll get at the Post Office. Since the computer is doing the math, all the areas where you'd be pencilling in the numbers and doing some arithmetic have been removed. Conversely, the program is sprinkled with controls not on the paper return where you can add a note and explain yourself. You can tell they're for notes because they aren't numbered and when you're in them you will see "Note" in the status bar.

CRA asks that if there is nothing to be entered in a control, then leave the control blank. This makes data-entry for them easier. The exception to this is if you are making a claim that requires the net income of a dependant or your spouse be entered. In this case you are making a declaration and so you **must** enter something – even if only "0.00".

Most controls work as mini calculators and will solve a valid mathematical expression before updating. If you type *(1000+1)*2*, the control will evaluate this to *2002*; *1,000+1*2* will give *1002*; and *=1000+1*2* blows up because the control will not accept the equal sign. In evaluating the expression, all commas are ignored and brackets ( ) are not seen as designating a negative value. Taxman also provides a tape calculator that can directly update a control


Taxman 2020 - [Worksheet]
Editing
Records
Print
Tools
Help
Update
Exit
T4 SUMMARY
SINGLE-PARENT EXAMPLE #1
S/N 000-000-001
Employ. inc. CPP QPP EI RPP Income tax EI earnings CPP/QPP earnings Union Donations Pension Adj PPIP prem. PPIP earn.
41,089.00 2,033.00 544.00 500.00 5,200.00 41,189.00 41,089.00 80.00 1,400.00
4,000.00 100.00 120.00 400.00 4,000.00 4,000.00
45,089.00 2,133.00 664.00 500.00 5,600.00 45,189.00 45,089.00 80.00 1,400.00
Other Employ Inc Line 10400
Inc 41.01
Tax
Total 41.01
UCCB benefit
Box10
Repaid
All to receiving child: Line 11701
OAS
Inc
Supplement
Tax
OAS Repaid
CPP benefits
Retirement
Disability
Other
Total
Tax
Months - Disability
Elected date (year/month)
Revoked date (year/month)
Pension Inc Line 11500
Inc
Tax
Eligible for pension deduction?
Veteran's benefit
Split pension from spouse
Inc
Eligible for ded.
Ineligible for ded.
Total
Total Tax
Box7 Box14 Total Box15 Reg Box21 Non-tax. tut Tax Box30 EI Repaid Box18 Exempt Box36 Parental
EI 30 421.00 421.00
RDisability SP Line 12500
Inc
Tax
RDSP Repaid
RRSP Inc Line 12900
Inc
Tax
Eligible for pension deduction?
Total
Other Inc Line 13000
Inc
Tax
CRB - T4A box 202
T4A-RCA box 17
From investments
Total
Total Taxable
Support Inc 1,200.00 1,200.00
Support Paid
Taxable grants Line 13010
WCB
Social Assistance
CWB advance Line 41500
RRSP/PRPP Contributions
Other Deductions Line 23200
Specify:
From above
Total
Other donations
to registered charities or Can. amateur athletic assoc. or Can. low-cost housing corp. for aged
Total
Summary
Employ Income 45,089.00
Union Dues 80.00
RSP Contrib. 500.00
Pen Adj Amt. 1,400.00
PPIP Prem.
Box 14

Net limited or non-active partnership inc.			12200	
Registered disability savings plan inc.			12500	
Rental income	Gross 12599		Net 12600	
Taxable capital gains			12700	4,350.00
Support received	Total 12799		Taxable amt. 12800	
RRSP income			12900	
Other income	Specify:		13000	
Taxable scholarship, fellowships, bursaries, artists' grants			13010	
Self-employment inc.				
Business income	Gross 13499		Net 13500	
Professional inc.	Gross 13699	50,000.00	Net 13700	33,615.75
Commission inc.	Gross 13899		Net 13900	
Farming income	Gross 14099		Net 14100	
Fishing income	Gross 14299		Net 14300	
WCB payments		14400		
Social assistance payments		14500		
Net federal supplements		14600		
		▸ 14700		
total income		15000		37,965.75

5006-R

Page 3 of 7

	5400		•
	5600		•
	5700		•
	6900		•
	7555		•
Tax paid by installments	47600	1,200.00	•
Prov./terr. tax credits	47900		•
total credits	48200	3,900.00	▸ 3,900.00

(251.94)

Refund 48400 251.94 •

Balance owing 48500 •

Attach to page 1 a cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General, or go to canada.ca/payments. Payment is due April 30, 2021.

Ontario Opportunities Fund

You can help reduce Ontario's debt by donating some or all of your refund.

Refund		251.94	1
Your donation	46500		• 2
Net refund	46600	251.94	• 3

I certify that the information given on this return and in any documents attached is correct, complete, and fully discloses all my income.

Sign here

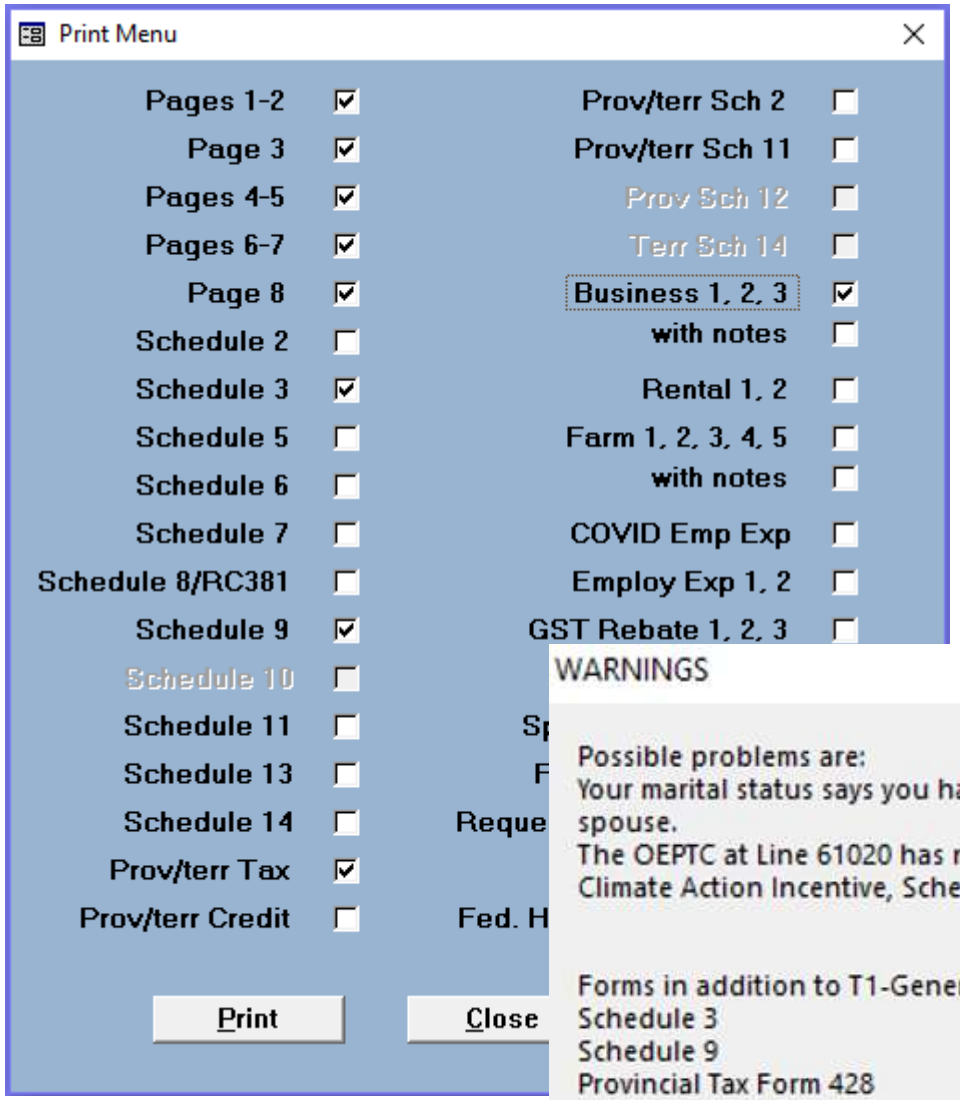
It is a serious offence to make a false return

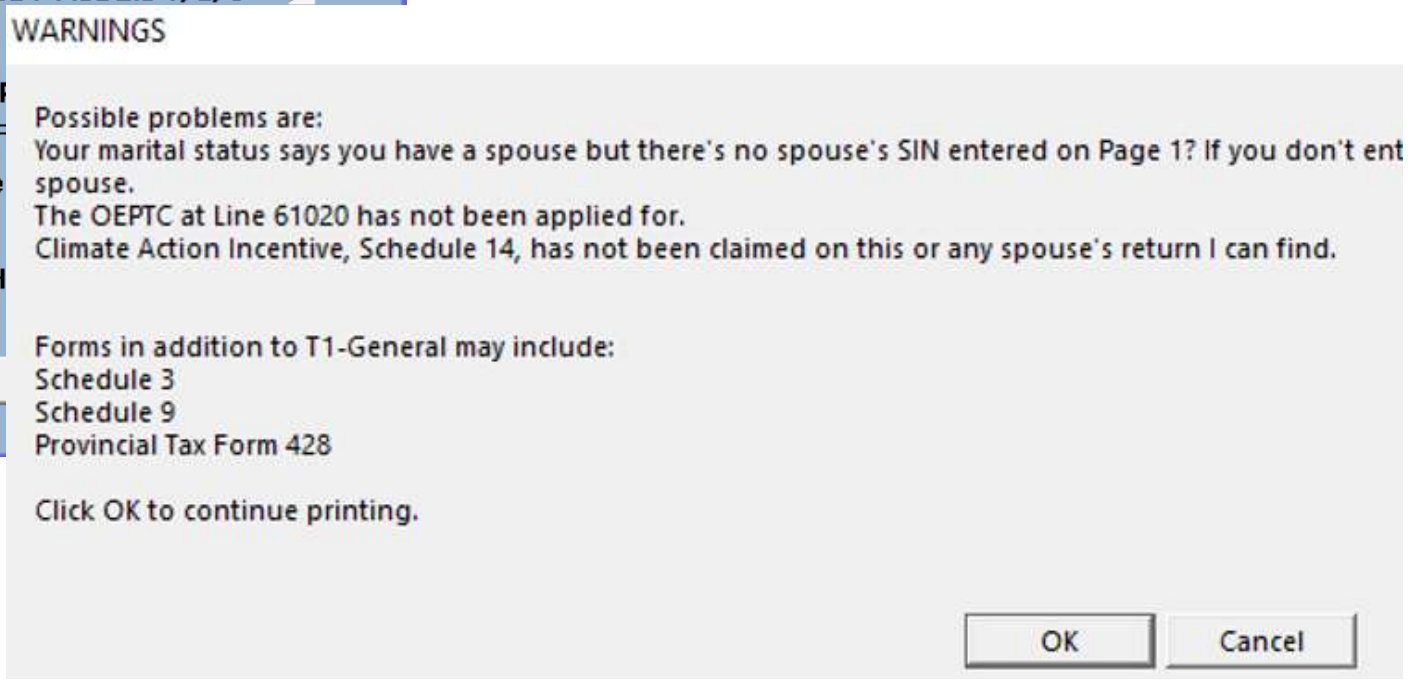
If completed by a tax professional:

49000 Was a fee charged? Yes 1 No 2

48900 EFILE no. (if applicable):

Preparer's name:


Print Menu
Pages 1-2
Page 3
Pages 4-5
Pages 6-7
Page 8
Schedule 2
Schedule 3
Schedule 5
Schedule 6
Schedule 7
Schedule 8/RC381
Schedule 9
Schedule 10
Schedule 11
Schedule 13
Schedule 14
Prov/terr Tax
Prov/terr Credit
Prov/terr Sch 2
Prov/terr Sch 11
Prov Sch 12
Terr Sch 14
Business 1, 2, 3
with notes
Rental 1, 2
Farm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
with notes
COVID Emp Exp
Employ Exp 1, 2
GST Rebate 1, 2, 3
Print
Close


WARNINGS
Possible problems are:
Your marital status says you have a spouse but there's no spouse's SIN entered on Page 1? If you don't ent
spouse.
The OEPTC at Line 61020 has not been applied for.
Climate Action Incentive, Schedule 14, has not been claimed on this or any spouse's return I can find.
Forms in addition to T1-General may include:
Schedule 3
Schedule 9
Provincial Tax Form 428
Click OK to continue printing.
OK
Cancel

Donations?

Some crazy fools have actually emailed and wanted to send me money! I immediately suspected something was up and have always refused their offers.

But… it has occurred to me that maybe there are those who are wracked with pangs of guilt. Maybe the immense debt they owe me prevents them from getting a good night's sleep?

And if that were so, it would be heartless of me not to allow these poor souls to lessen their load.

So if you feel inclined, then be sure to make all cheques payable to G. Thompson, and mail to 1424 Craddock St., Victoria, BC, V9A 5K2

So if you feel inclined, then be sure to make all cheques payable to G. Thompson, and mail to 1424 Craddock St., Victoria, BC, V9A 5K2

I promise to spend the money only on Scotch and cigars — nothin' wasted.

▼ Free products and products with pay what you want model

Filter items

Showing 1 to 14 of 14 entries

Tax software	Certified tax years	Platform	Company information
TurboTax Free for iPhone, iPad	2020, 2019, 2018	Mobile app	Intuit Canada
StudioTax for Android	2020, 2019	Mobile app	BHOK It Consulting
StudioTax for iPhone, iPad	2020, 2019	Mobile app	BHOK It Consulting
GenuTax Standard for Windows	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017	Desktop	GenuSource Consulting Inc.
WealthsimpleTax	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017	Online	SimpleTax Software Inc.
CloudTax for iPhone, iPad	2019, 2018	Mobile app	CloudTax Inc.
WealthsimpleTax for iPhone, iPad	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017	Mobile app	SimpleTax Software Inc.
TurboTax Free for Windows	2018, 2017	Desktop	Intuit Canada
TurboTax Free	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017	Online	Intuit Canada
H&R Block Online	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017	Online	H&R Block Canada Inc.
CloudTax for Android	2019, 2018	Mobile app	CloudTax Inc.
TurboTax Free for Android	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017	Mobile app	Intuit Canada
CloudTax	2019, 2018	Online	CloudTax Inc.
TaxTron for Web	2020, 2019, 2018	Online	Taxtron Inc.

https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-individuals/netfile-overview/certified-software-netfile-program.html

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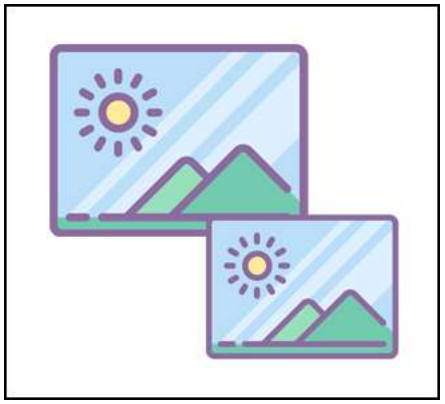
Microsoft PowerToys Image Resizer

- Powerful tool to resize images
  - easy-to-use
  - free
- Flexible options
  - output resolution
  - rename options
  - more



Share

Why resize images?

Don't share images
- 24 megapixel (6,000×4,000)
- 20 megabyte

Sharing by email

- mail servers will reject oversized emails
- you will fill mailboxes
- most people will view on HD (1920×1080) or less
  - 2 megapixels
  - image will be downsized to screen res for viewing

Recommendation
- *unless you verify otherwise*
  - **max** 1920×1080 resolution
  - **under** 1 MB size

Sharing for use on a web page

- most people view the web at HD (1920×1080) or less
  - 2 megapixels

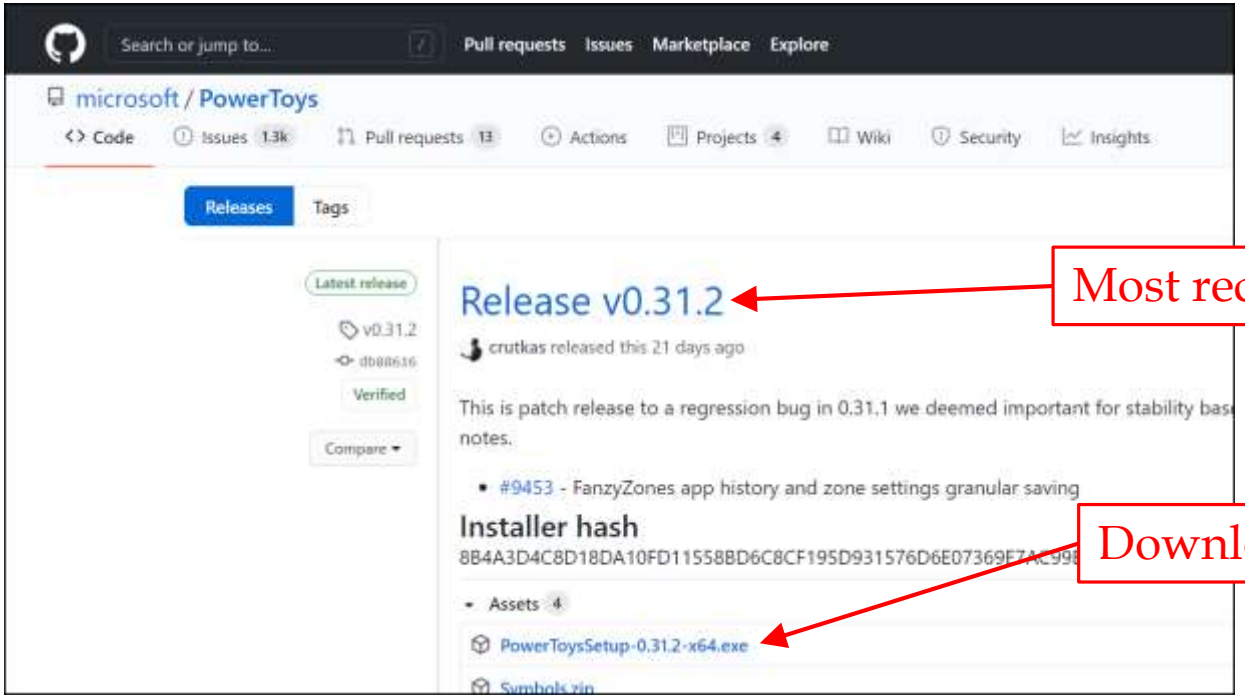
Sharing for use in a printed document

- a half page image (6.5"×4.5“) printed at 300 dpi
  - 2.6 megapixels

Share

Microsoft PowerToys Install

Download PowerToys from
https://github.com/microsoft/PowerToys/releases/



Most recent release at top

Download .exe

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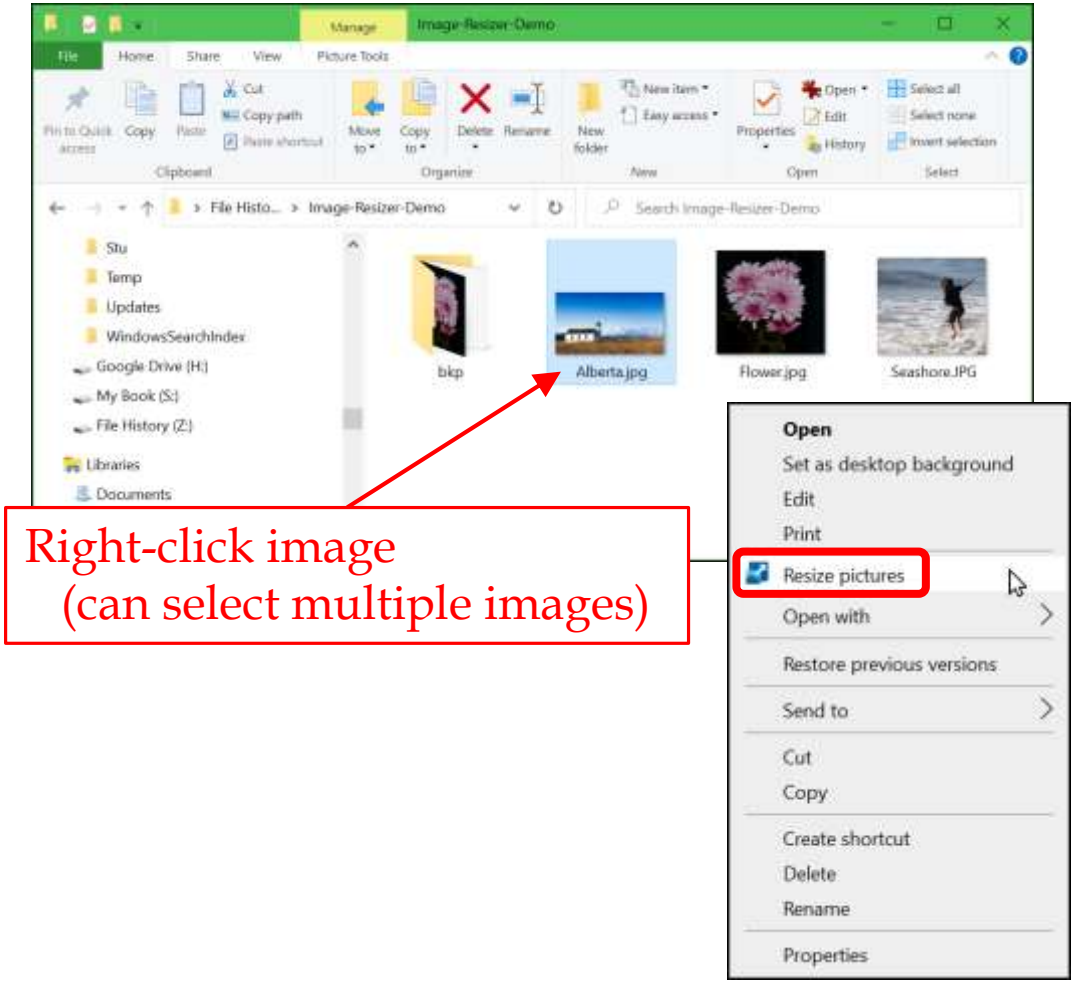
Image Resizer in use



Right-click image
(can select multiple images)

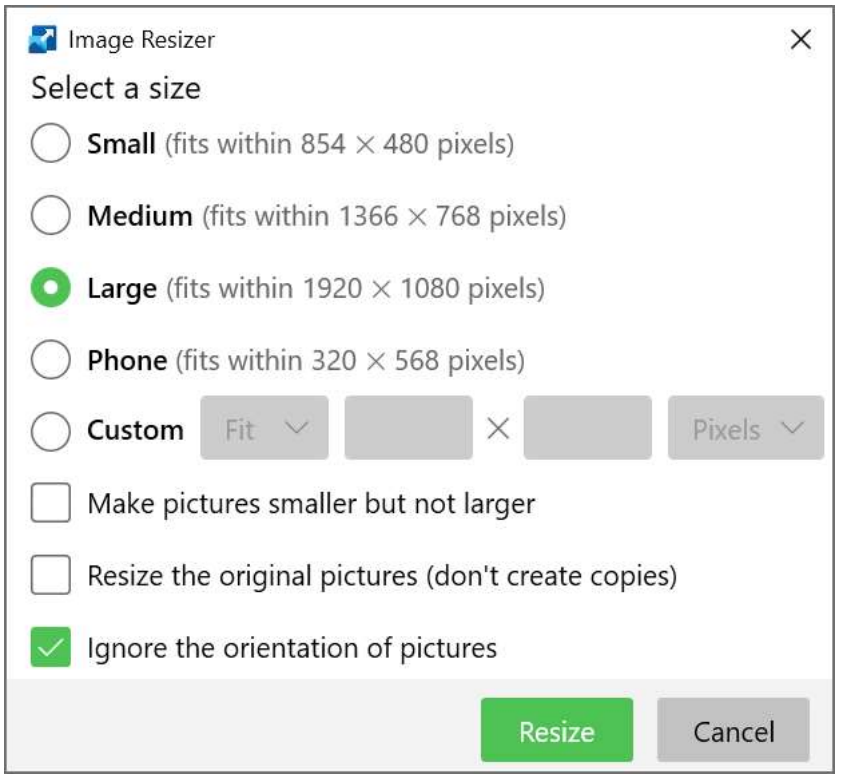


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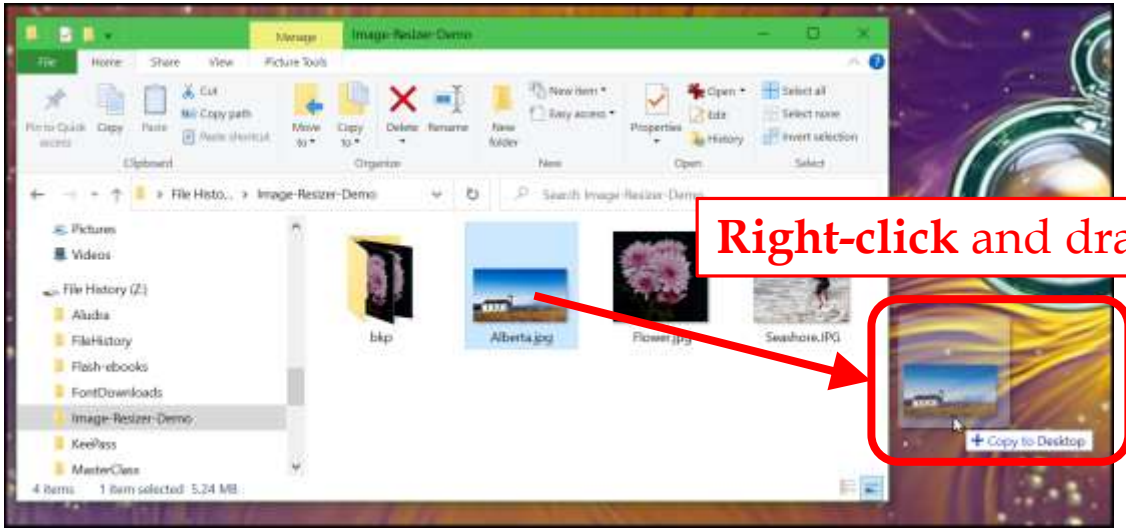
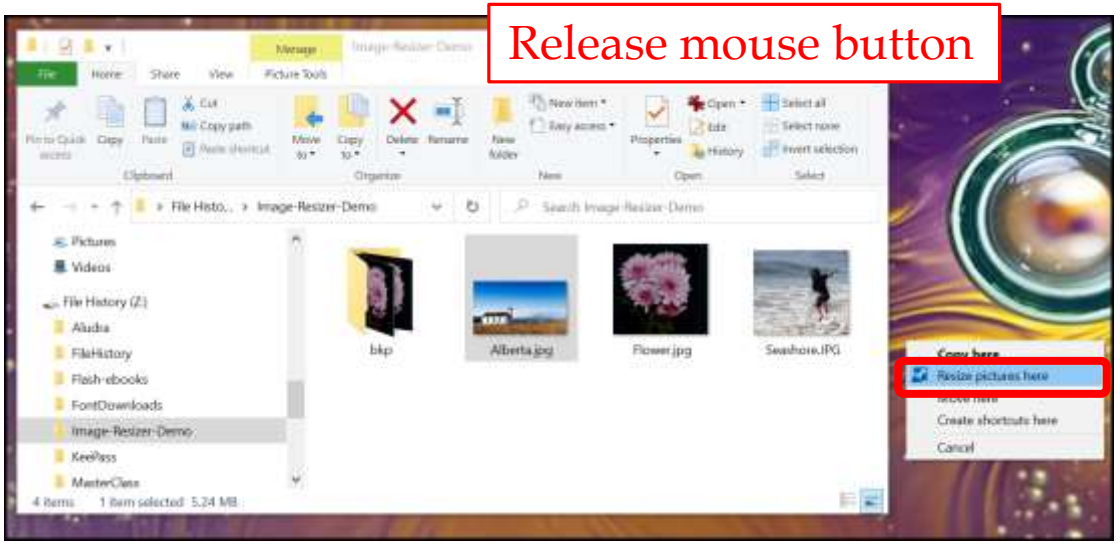
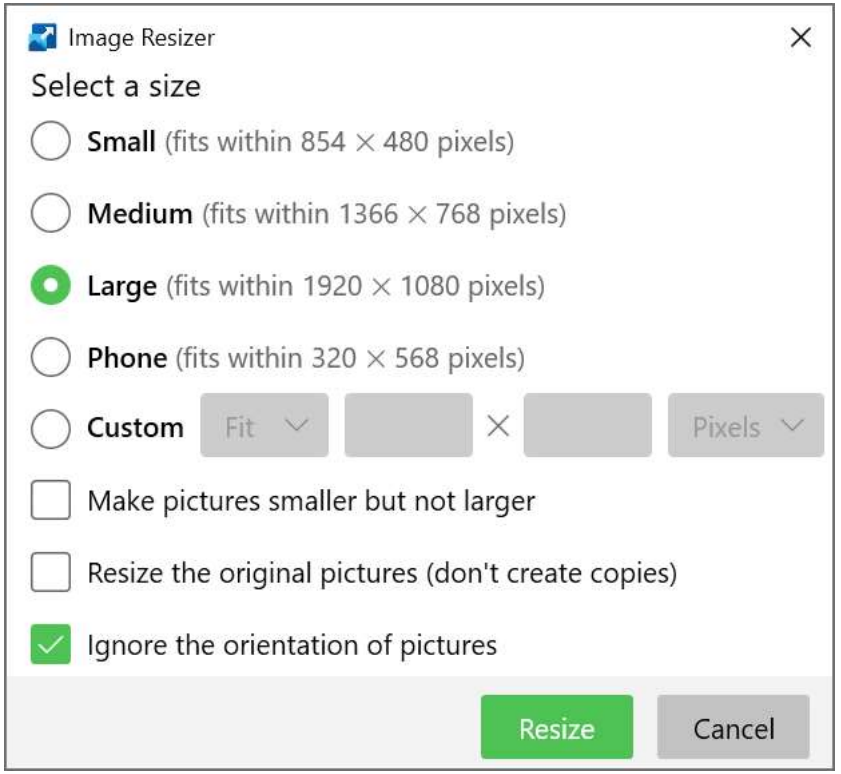
Image Resizer in use
(alternate method)







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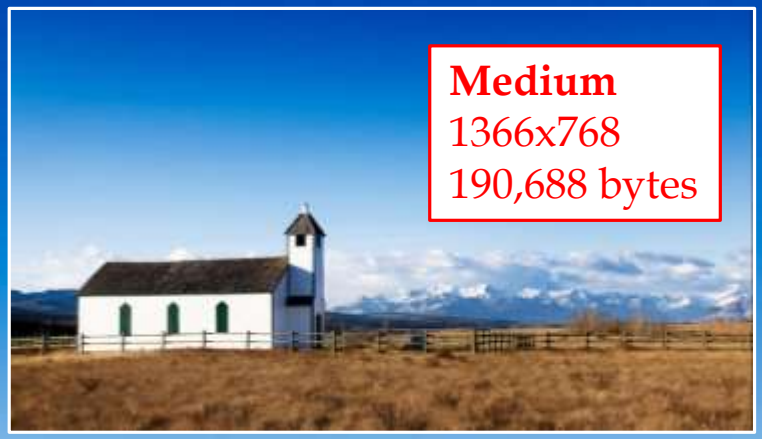
Examples

Sizes are relative due to how images are resized for *your* screen

Phone
320x568
40,996 bytes

Small
854x480
79,598 bytes

Medium
1366x768
190,688 bytes



Original
4029x2282
5,500,769 bytes

Large
1920x1080
339,393 bytes

Share

Image Resizer customization

Click PowerToys icon

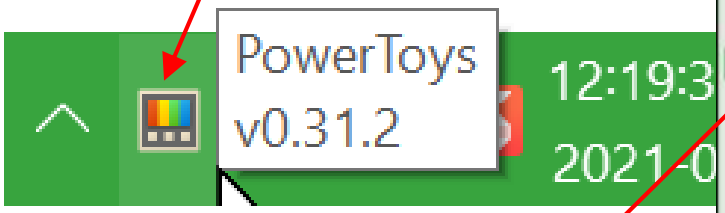
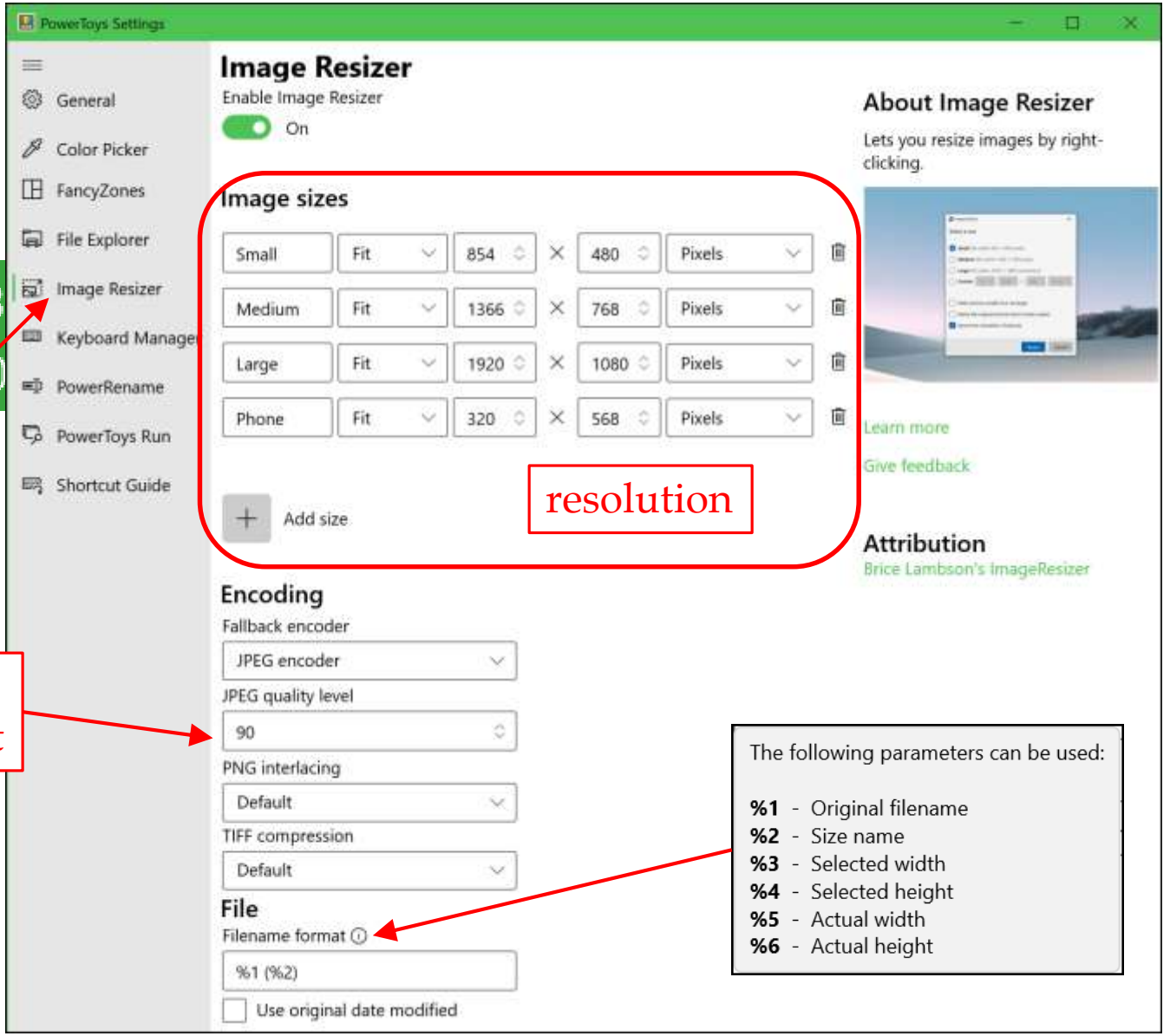


Image Resizer

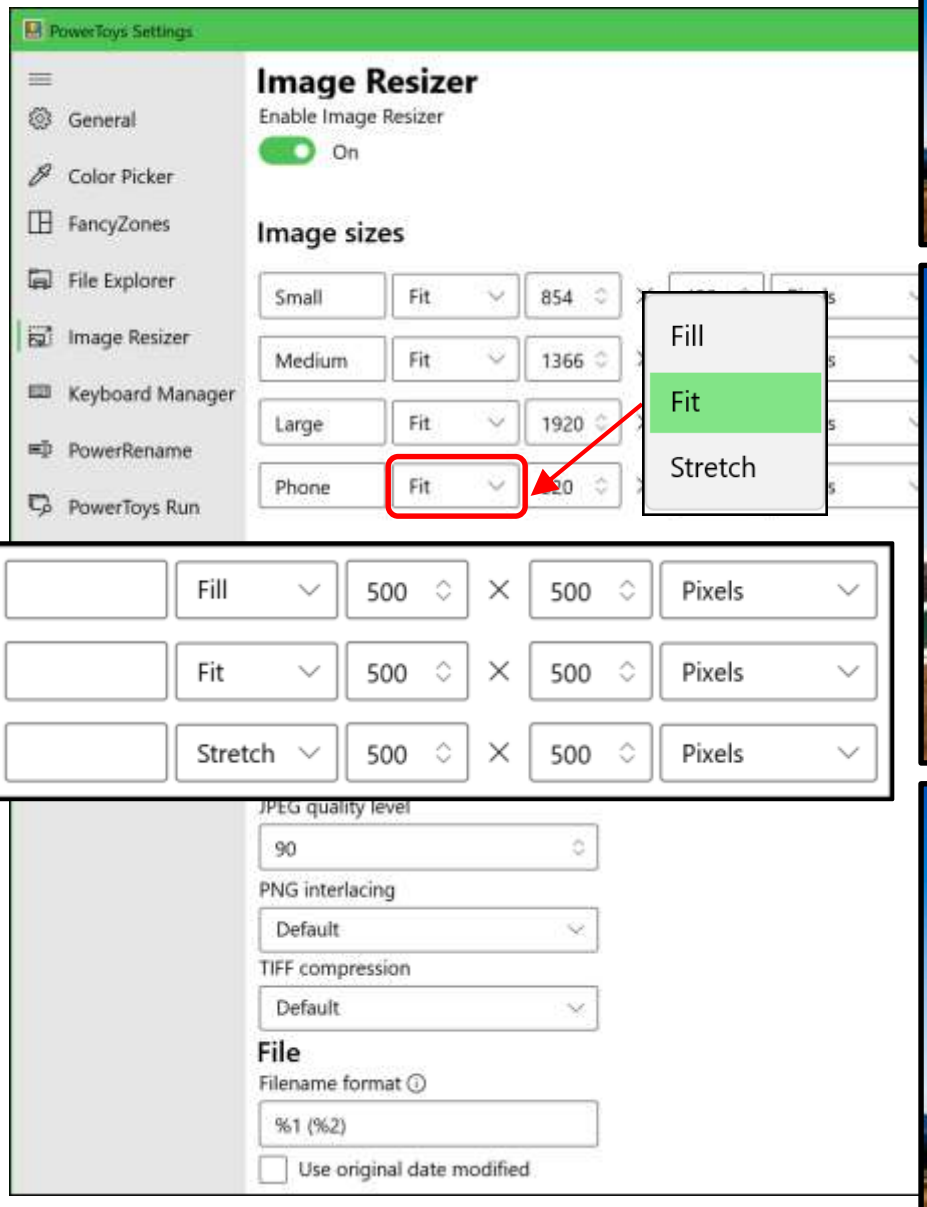
Quality
- 90 good default

File size depends on
- jpeg quality
- image size (resolution)



Share

Image Resizer customization



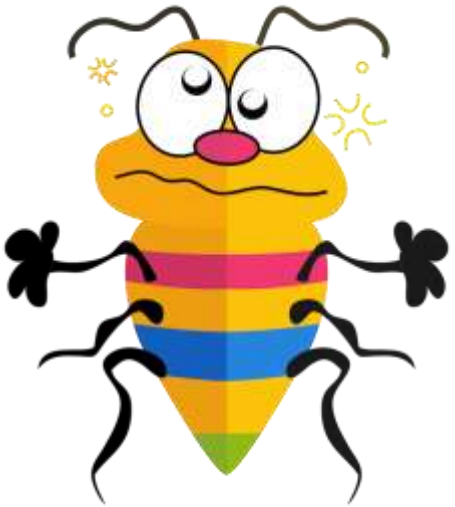
Fit
- **no cropping**
- **no stretching**

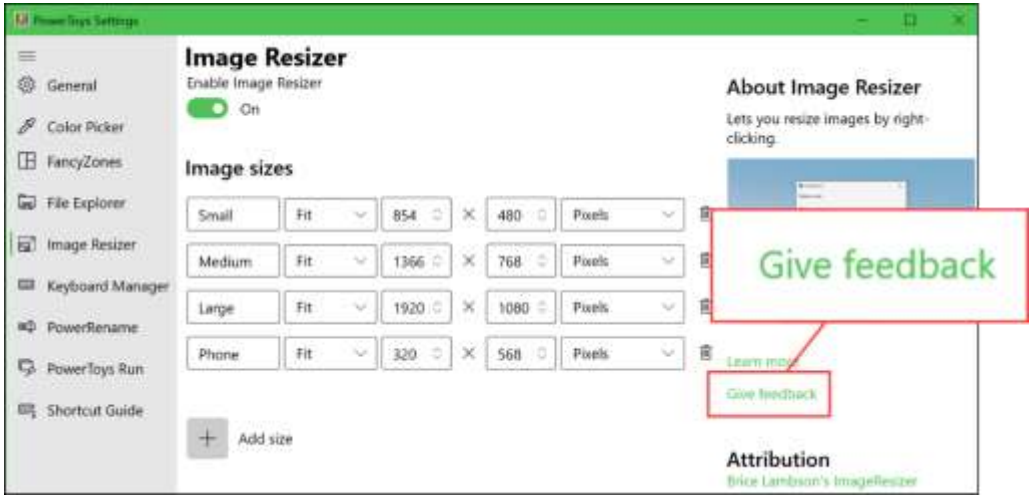
Fill
- fills selected dimensions
- **crops** to fit

Stretch
- fills selected dimensions
- **stretches** to fit

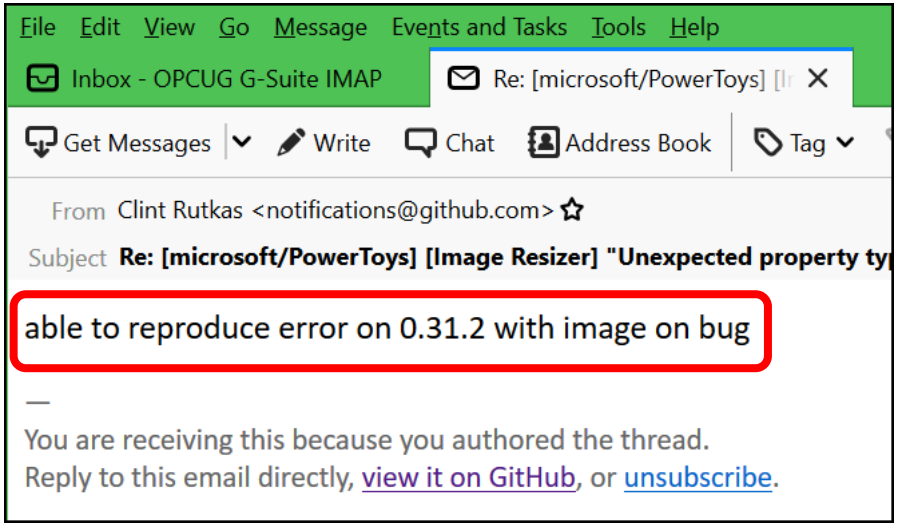
Share

Image Resizer bug





Within hours of reporting bug



Surveillance Cameras

- I am thinking about buying an outdoor video surveillance camera
- There seems to be a real plethora of options
- I want to install it where there is no power so it needs to be battery operated with perhaps a small solar collector
- It also needs to have reasonable Wi-Fi connectivity (about 80m away from house)
- Security and privacy are also concerns
- Anybody been through this analysis before?

Home Surveillance Cameras

By our very-own webcam guru

Bob Herres

Home Security Cameras

amazon
Prime

Many Choices

Very Worthy, but Costly

【2TB Hard Drive】SMONET 8-Channel 1080P Wireless Surveillance/Security Camera System,8PCS 2MP Outdoor Waterproof IP Cameras,P2P,Night Vision,White

Brand: SMONET

4.4 out of 5 stars 216 ratings | 141 answered questions

Price: CDN$ 539.99 prime FREE One-Day

WYZE CAM

Wyze Cam v2 1080p HD Smart Home Camera with Night Vision, 2-Way Audio, Free Cloud, for iOS and Android

$39.99

Wyze Cam v2 detects sound or motion...

14 days of saved video with sound...

* Video Clips are 12 Seconds each *

NO Monthly Fees!

Optional

$10.00 Extra

Continuous Recording (about 3 days)

WYZE CAM

$39.99

Indoor

Wyze

Cam

Controlled by:

Receive Notifications on your Smart Phone from anywhere

Delay is usually less than 15 to 30 seconds

Outdoor use is easy...

Weatherproof Protective Cover

Cover Only
$12.99 each

Are Cameras possible in locations without Power?

“Wyze Cam Outdoor Bundle”

(Includes Base Station and 3 Cameras)

Weatherproof!

Battery Powered!

“Rechargeable Batteries will last 3 to 6 months”

$228.20

amazon

“Wyze Cam Outdoor Bundle”

$228.20

* Check reviews

“Mount on trees etc.. without running wire or searching for outlets?”

Claim is: “2x-2,600 mAh integrated rechargeable batteries, will last from 3-6 months based on normal usage”

Wyze Cam V3 is even better! currently available in USA...

(Requires Power)

Brighter, bolder, and better than ever.

Video Reviews

Wyze Cam v3:
Unbelievable Night Vision for $20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwP7p2Z7hOA

Wyze Cam Outdoor - Move it. Mount it. Record it. Anywhere, wire-free.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzmmcR4Uy24&feature=push-u-sub&attr_tag=NRTeEncZyudAbLS3%3A6

SMILE!

YOU'RE ON CAMERA

Share

Are eBooks taking over the book marketplace?

Bob Walker

Two Good to Miss!

- Join OPCUG before March 31st
- Pay the annual membership fee of $20.00
- Receive a free-year's membership

Two years for the price of one!

https://opcug.ca/join-or-renew/

Any other:

Questions

Comments

Shares?

Ottawa Public Library / Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

Tech Café

Making a Hard Copy Book from Digital Photos

Lynda Buske

Monday, March 8, 2021

4:00 pm

Register at https://biblioottawalibrary.ca/en/program?text=tech+cafe

Share

Is your password safe?

https://www.pcworld.com/article/3605688/how-to-create-strong-secure-passwords.html

Lawrence's Thoughts

Password Experts vs an old sage

By Lawrence Patterson
lawrence@opcug.ca

Thought I would warm up the crowd to Chris's upcoming presentation "KEEPING PASSWORDS SAFE" this March 10th, with a review of current experts' password advice and my impressions of the practicalities of what's being proposed.

Let's start off with the following humorous definition of the word Expert: "*A person with more data than judgment*". A perfect example of this is the infamous Windows 8 upgrade from Windows 7. As we're all aware now, it was a flop, not because of the intentions of well meaning experts analyzing years of how we used Windows, but because it was those same experts not realizing that just because the majority didn't use the Windows 7 menu as intended, didn't mean we wanted the menus to be replaced. And it didn't help that it took those same experts many months to finally realize how much we wanted the start menu to stay the way it was presented in Windows 7.

A further word to the wise, as we peruse the advice below, do consider that the baddies can be just as lazy and such are looking for the low hanging fruit (i.e. people who don't patch their systems or who use the same passwords over and over again). As such, following most of the recommendations below will provide sufficient protection from being hacked.

Do not use personal information. https://us.norton.com/internetsecurity-how-to-how-to-secure-your-passwords.html

- Ok, in one sense this is good advice, but having a secure password doesn't mean it can't be personal and therefore something unique and easy for you to remember. Just don't make it obvious and don't overuse it (if everything you wear has the colour pink in it, I would advise against making the word pink part of your password regimen).

Don't Recycle. https://www.consumerreports.org/digital-security/tips-for-better-passwords/

- Yes, practical advice. Although it is advised not to re-use any password you have ever created, we humans can be pretty stubborn when it comes to keeping things easy. There's nothing wrong in keeping things fresh by mixing up or misspelling the same phrases in a way that can be remembered.

Avoid common words and character combinations in your password.
https://www.cnet.com/how-to/9-rules-for-strong-passwords-how-to-create-and-remember-your-login-credentials/

- Those of you that are wordsmiths won't have a problem with said advice. Many of us are not. This is where password phrasing is useful in that stringing together many common words (mixing up the occasional characters with a numeric or symbol helps) will make it easy to think up new passwords as we go through life's experiences.

Don't tell anyone your password.
https://www.mcafee.com/blogs/consumer/family-safety/15-tips-to-better-password-security/

- Whatever your data is (and password - login credentials are just more data) you need a good backup plan. You do not want to be the fellow that forgot the password to his now very valuable bitcoin vault. Yes, make sure you absolutely trust whomever, but remember, it's just as important to make sure your passwords (and the device that contains them) are accessible by **someone** if not by you (and "passing on" is just one factor to consider).

Use a password manager and a random password generator. https://blog.avast.com/strong-password-ideas

- No problems with the first part of this advice - the 2nd part is what I have concerns with. As much as password managers provide good support for most login needs, they won't work with all. And I don't know about you, but trying to type in a totally random set of characters can be frustrating. Like most things in life, don't be lazy about your password generation, and use life experiences to create unique sayings that can be remembered.

Avoid using two factor text - SMS (short message service) authentication. <various>

- This is technically true, especially with SIM swapping a major concern. Unfortunately, not all websites use an Authentication service (Google & Microsoft being prime examples) and if all that is offered is text - SMS, take it, as it is better than password alone.

Remember that using a unique, memorable, funny phrase for your password phrasing will help keep you ahead of the baddies.

Take care.

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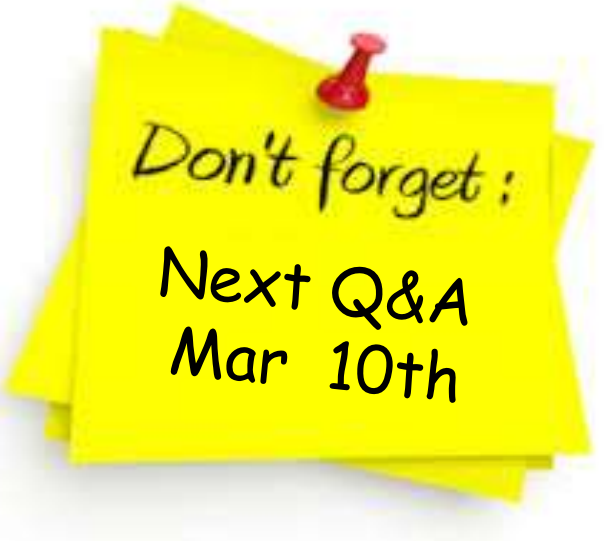
OPCUG
Users helping users

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