



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

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Follow Up

Ripping DVD's



Ripping DVD's

I'm hoping for advice and input on (preferably free) programs that can be used to transfer DVD's to digital files so that I can clear my collection from my bookcases.



Jan Rourke

- Encouraged to know the idea of converting my DVDs was reasonable and workable
- Suggestions of Handbrake and VLC were unsuccessful due to copy protection
(*But, I am a variation of a computer Luddite*)
- Further research identified *VideoProc Converter AI*
- Free version worked like a charm
- Three paid options, selected one-year, \$35.00
- Nothing worked; it wouldn't convert anything!
- Manual indicated need for non-NVIDIA option
- Success! DVD's scanned, converted (at a decent speed) and viewable
- Thanks to all!



Follow Up

OneDrive's worst annoyances



- Chris Hoffman @ Computerworld
- *5 ways to fix OneDrive's worst annoyances on Windows*
 - enable local file storage
 - turn off folder backup
 - stop automatic image syncing
 - disable Office defaults
 - eliminate OneDrive entirely





Cell service during power outage

I'm about to give up copperwire (landline)

- it works perfectly during a power outage
- slight quality superiority

I will have a Fongo Home Phone

- won't work during power outage

Also want a phone that will work during a power outage

- think that means cell



Does anyone have an opinion about the reliability of various cell services during a power outage?

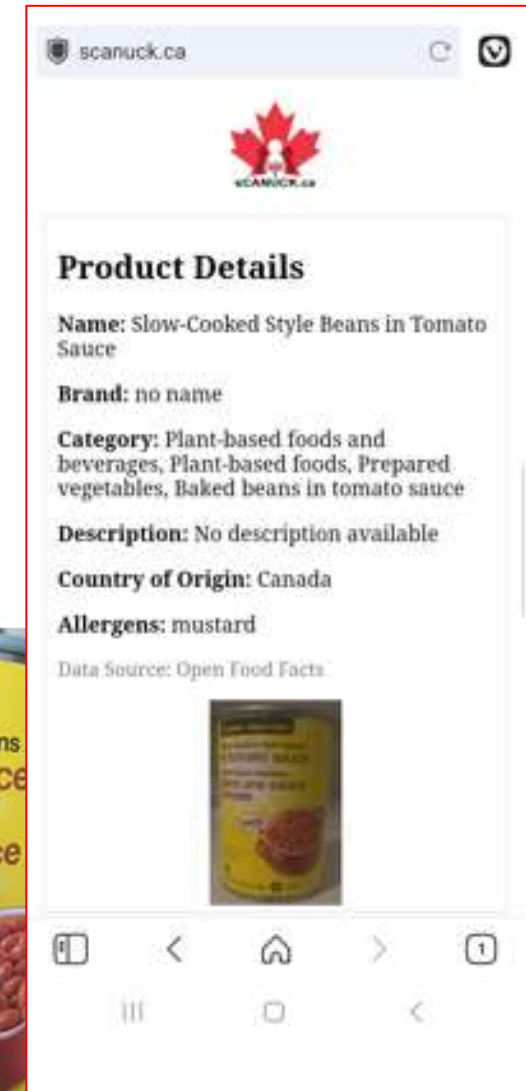
- leave comments in the chat
- we will summarize things towards the end of Q&A

Share

sCANUCK.ca



- Canadian barcode scanner
- Scan UPC codes
- Quickly identify if products are made in Canada
- Support local businesses!
- Wil McReynolds
- CEO, KP9 Interactive, Owen Sound
- App Developer



Follow Up *PowerToys FancyZones*

OPCUG meeting 2025-02-12



How to buy a PC



Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group
Chris.Taylor@opcug.ca

The presentation is available for downloading as a PDF file
<https://opcug.ca/presentations/2025-02-BuyPC.pdf>



In the Chat from Bob Herres

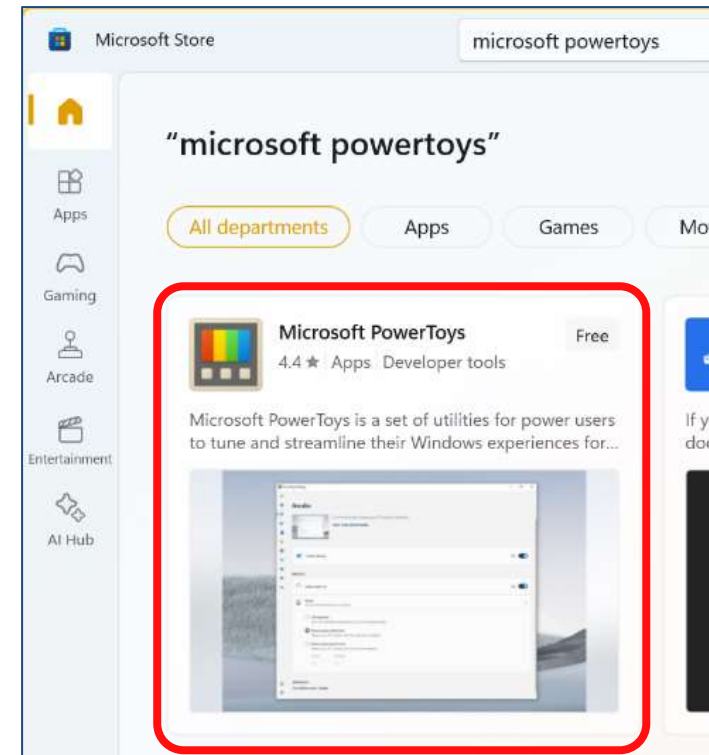
- *Chris: what is your "fancy monitor divider"?*

Didn't realize at the time

- question related to my comment that I use *FancyZones* on a single 34" 4K monitor to keep things organized on desktop

Follow Up Microsoft PowerToys

- Collection of free utilities designed to enhance Windows
- Started by Microsoft programmers
 - distributed as open source with many more contributors
- Currently 27 utilities providing a broad array of capabilities
- Run *Microsoft Store*
 - search for *Microsoft PowerToys*
- Must install all PowerToys
 - can disable any you don't need
- All activation keys customizable



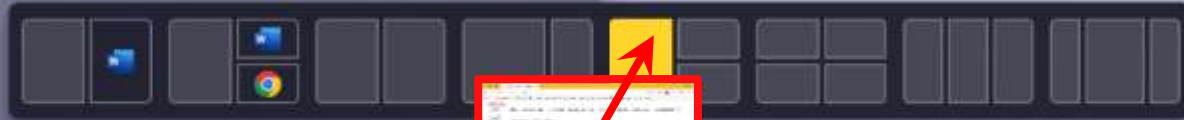
Follow Up FancyZones



- Window manager: organize programs on your screen
- **Incredibly** customizable version of Windows 11's *Snap Layouts*
- Works in Windows 10 & 11
 - *Snap Layouts* only works in Windows 11

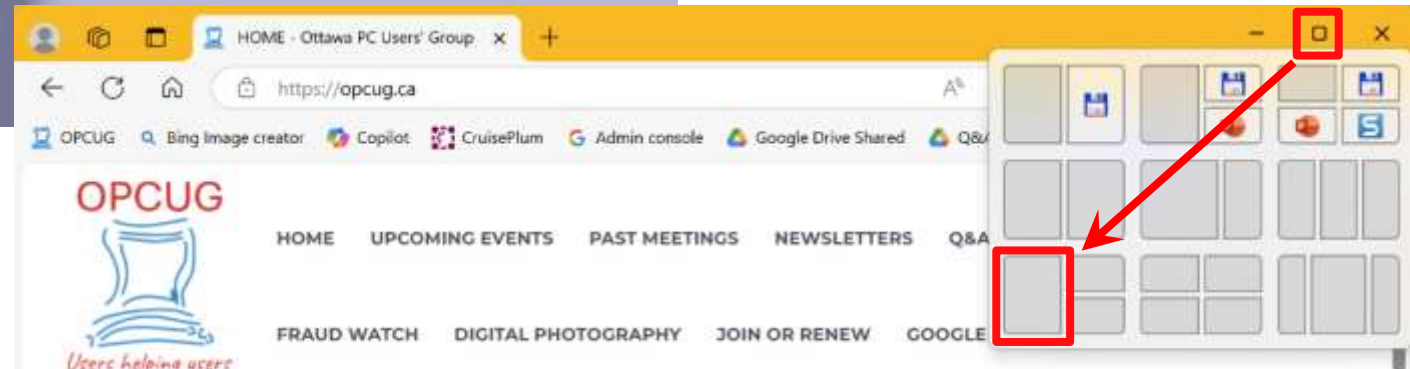
Follow Up Snap Layouts

Non-customizable layout feature built into Windows 11



Drag a window to top-centre of screen

- layouts appear
- drop window to have it fill defined area



Or hover mouse over *Maximize* button of any window

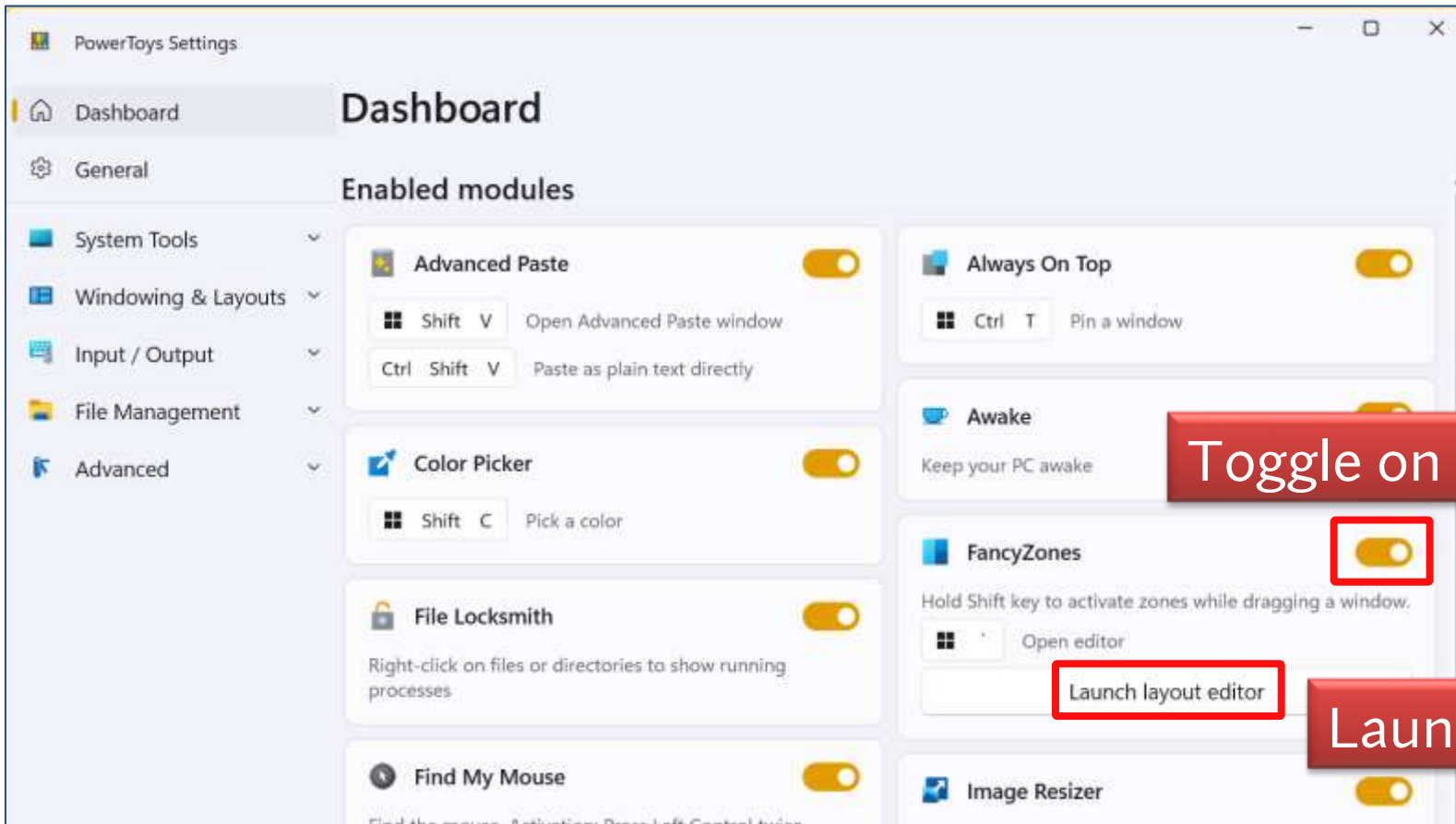
- layouts appear
- click area you want
- window fills that area

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Follow Up Setting up FancyZones

Double-click *PowerToys* icon in system tray

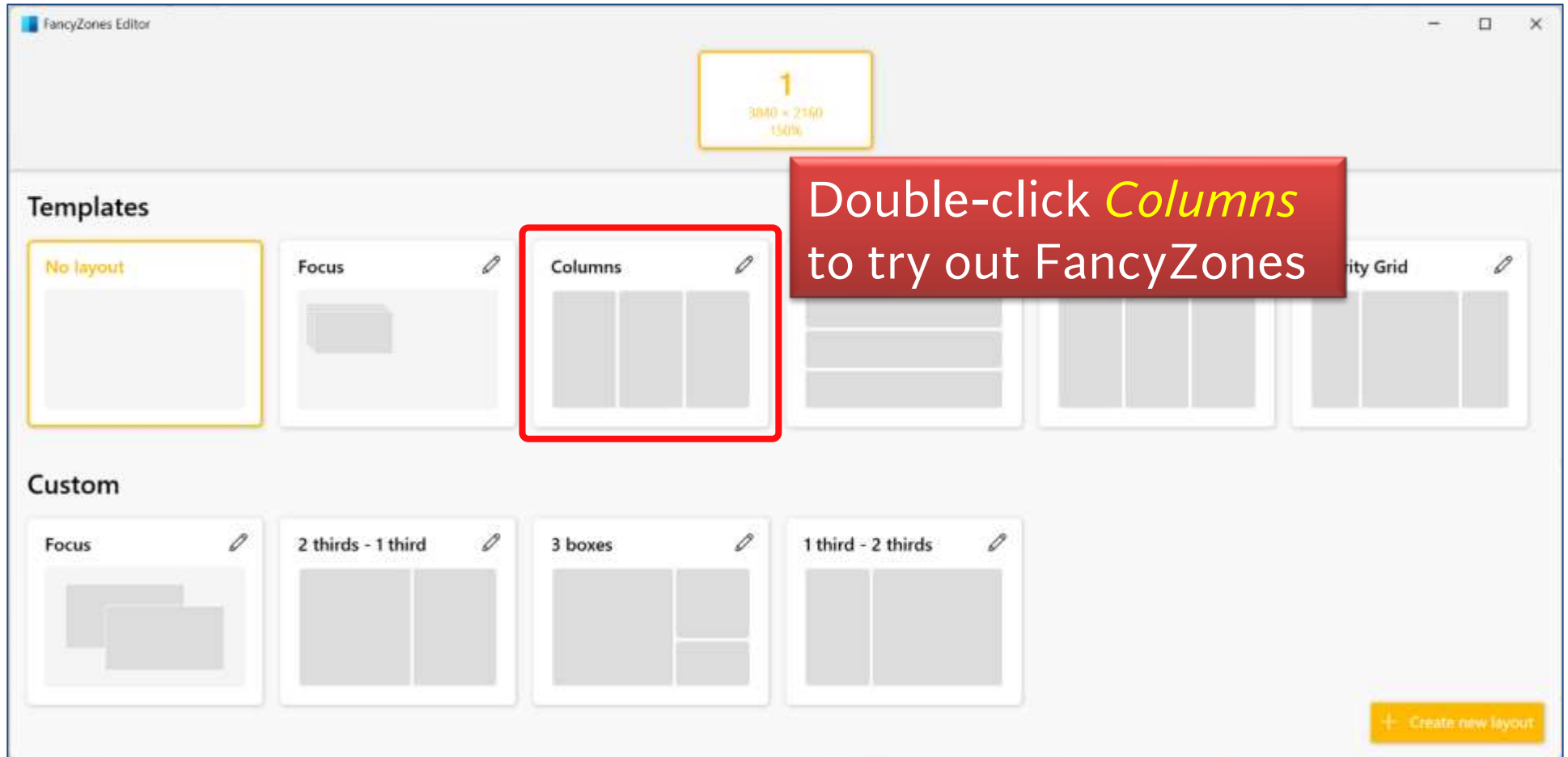
- may be hidden under ^



Toggle on *FancyZones*

Launch layout editor

Follow Up FancyZones Editor



Follow Up Basic operations

Want **Word** to snap into a zone

- click (and hold) mouse button on title bar of **Word**

Hold down Shift key while dragging **Word**

- zones highlighted as you pass over them

Release mouse button

- **Word** snaps into zone
- Release shift key

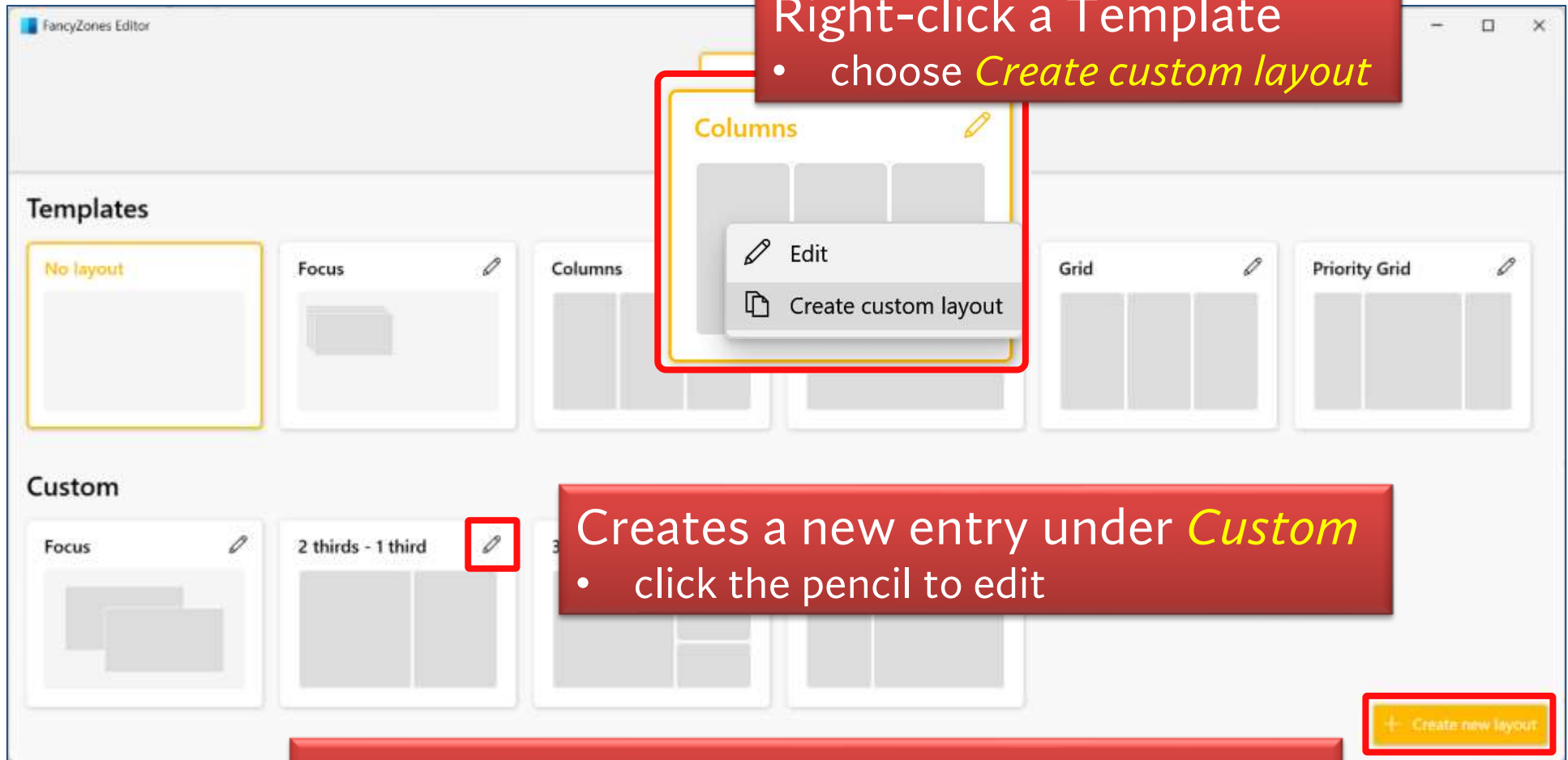
Follow Up

Create your own layouts

Press **Win+** to load *FancyZones Editor*

Right-click a Template

- choose *Create custom layout*



Creates a new entry under *Custom*

- click the pencil to edit

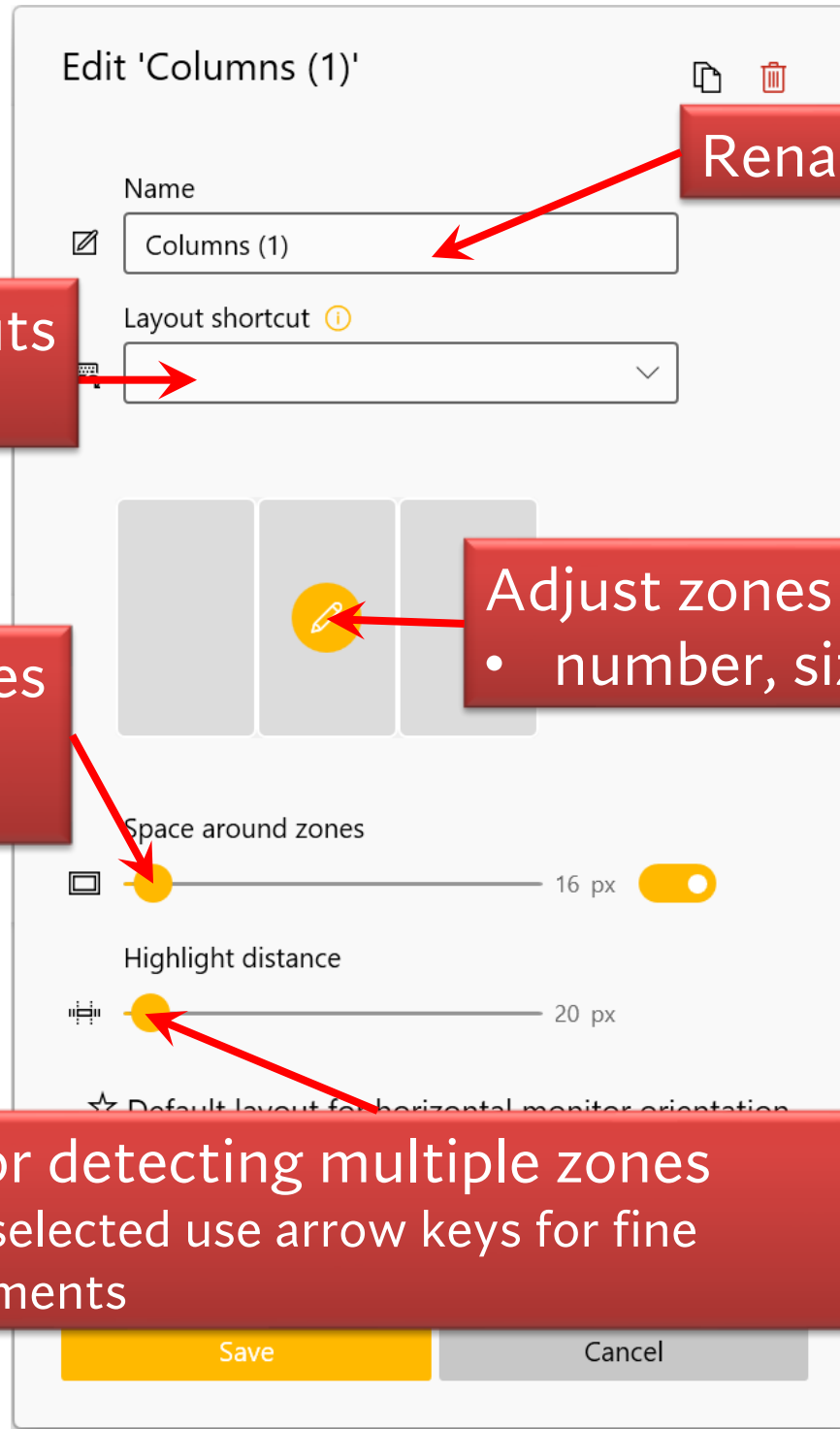
Or *Create new layout* to create a blank layout

Follow Up



Easy switching between layouts

- *Win+Ctrl+Alt+[number]*



Rename layout

Adjust zones

- number, size, position

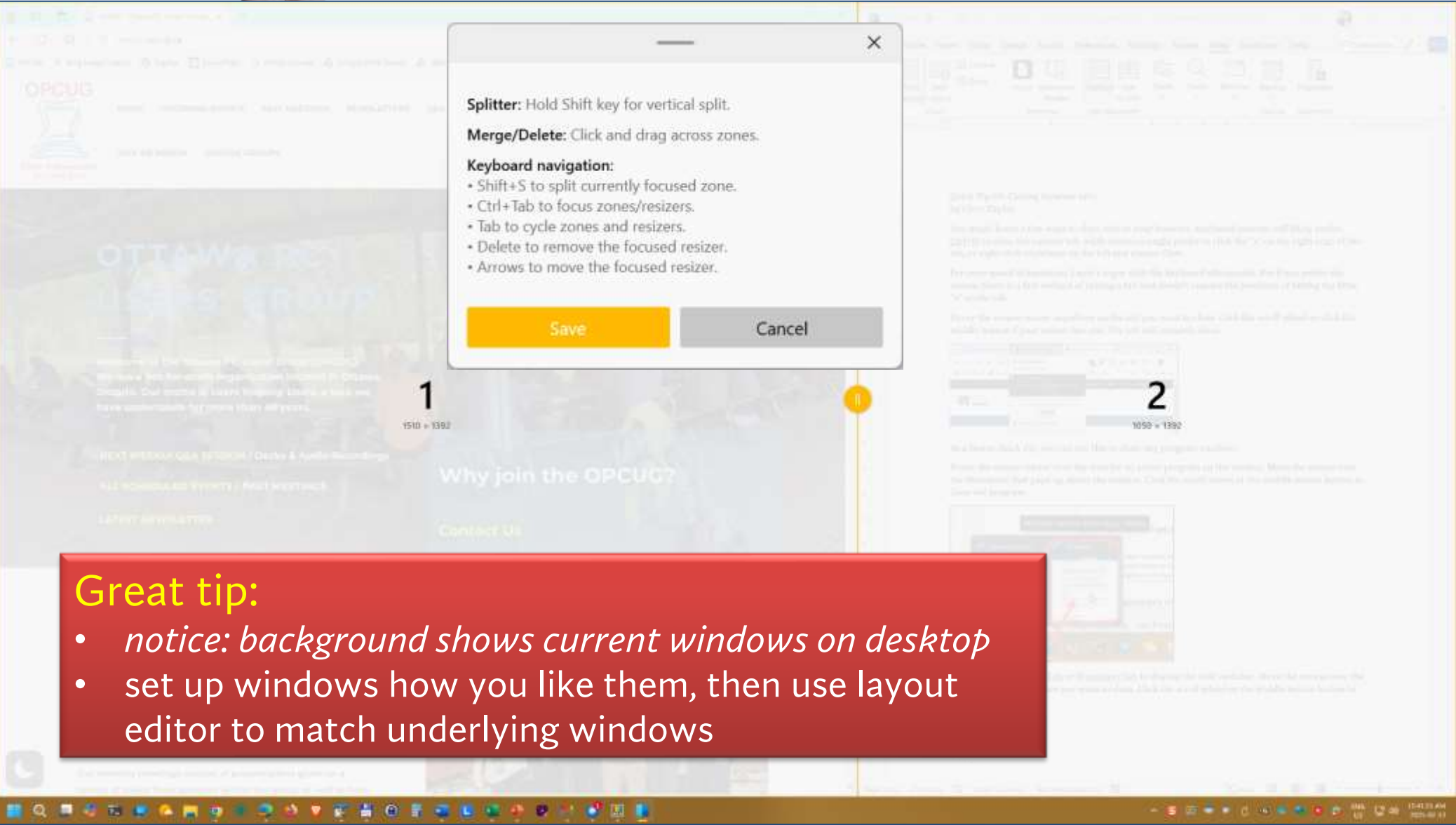
If you want space between zones

- when selected use arrow keys for fine adjustments

Space for detecting multiple zones

- when selected use arrow keys for fine adjustments

Follow Up Adjusting zones



Splitter: Hold Shift key for vertical split.

Merge/Delete: Click and drag across zones.

Keyboard navigation:

- Shift+S to split currently focused zone.
- Ctrl+Tab to focus zones/resizers.
- Tab to cycle zones and resizers.
- Delete to remove the focused resizer.
- Arrows to move the focused resizer.

Save Cancel

The background shows a window layout editor with a central dialog box. The editor displays a webpage layout with various zones and resizers. A vertical splitter is visible, and a yellow circle highlights a resizer. The dialog box contains instructions for using the splitter, merge/delete actions, and keyboard navigation. The 'Save' button is highlighted in yellow.

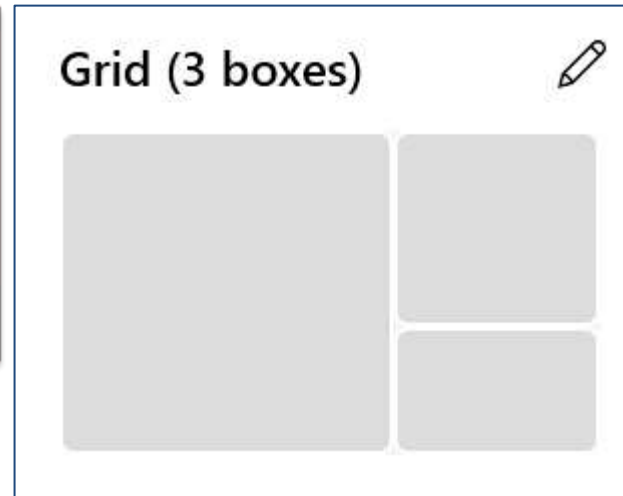
Great tip:

- *notice: background shows current windows on desktop*
- set up windows how you like them, then use layout editor to match underlying windows

Follow Up Two types of Zones

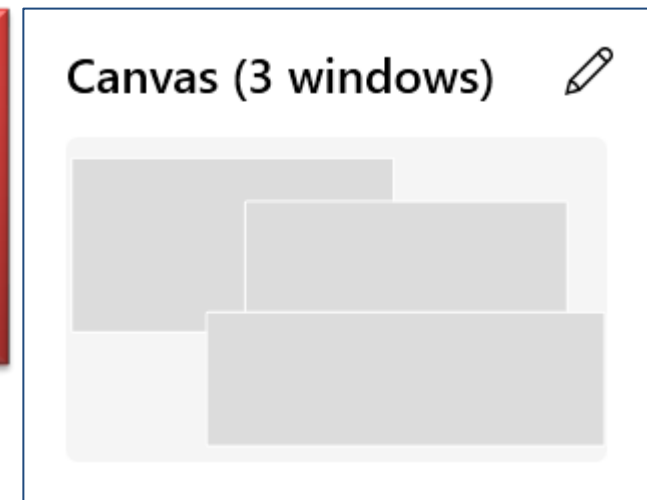
Grid

- starts with a three-column grid
- create zones by splitting zones
- merge zones
- zones can't overlap



Canvas

- starts with one zone
 - add as many zones as you want
- zones can be moved and resized
- zones in canvas model may overlap



Follow Up **Finer points using FancyZones**

- When dragging a window to different zones
 - as you pass over two adjacent zones, both zones highlighted
 - drop window to have window snap to both zones
- Setting: Override Windows Snap
 - allows use of **Win+[arrow key]** to snap windows to zones
- If multiple windows are snapped to same zone
 - **Win+PgUp/PgDn** to cycle between windows
- Lots of options dealing with multiple monitors
 - zones can span monitors, show zones on all monitors, & more
- Tons more configuration options
 - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/powertoys/fancyzones>



Google Fingerprinting?

- What is Google doing now?
- What is digital fingerprinting?
- Is that new?





Fingerprints not Cookies

- Google intends to phase out tracking cookies
- But, it is implementing digital fingerprints
- A digital fingerprint is a unique ID based on several parameters, e.g. OS, browser, IP address, plug-ins, time zone, language
- Websites will recognize you from your “user profile” (fingerprint)
- You can remove cookies but you can’t (yet) remove fingerprints



Countermeasures

- Switch from Chrome and look for a browser that resists fingerprinting (e.g. Firefox, Brave)
- Seek out anti-fingerprinting plug-ins
- Use a VPN to hide your IP address
- Disable Javascript to reduce data capture (temporarily using a plug-in)

<https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2025/02/google-now-allows-digital-fingerprinting-of-its-users>

Settings

Brave brave://settings/shields

Shields

Block trackers and ads which follow you across the web.

These are the default Shields settings. They apply to all websites unless you change something in the Shields panel on a particular site. Changing these won't affect your existing per-site settings.

This will block most ads on websites.

Show the number of blocked items on the Shields icon

Trackers & ads blocking Standard

Upgrade connections to HTTPS Standard

Block scripts

Block fingerprinting

Block cookies Block third-party cookies

Forget me when I close this site

Close cookies and other site data when you close a site

- Get started
- Appearance
- Content
- Shields**
- Privacy and security
- Web3
- Leo
- Sync
- Search engine
- Extensions
- Autofill and passwords
- Languages

Share

Solving problems using AI

- When asking AI for help
- Sometimes:
 - it can be difficult to explain *exactly* what you need
 - AI may ignore some of your instructions/requests
 - it may be an iterative process
 - solve a problem in successive chunks

Share

An Excel problem

	A	B	C	D	E
1	FirstName	LastName	Street	City	Phone
2	Emma	Thompson	123 Maple Ave	Ottawa	613-123-4567
3	Liam	Garcia	456 Oak St	Ottawa	987-6543
4	Olivia	Chen	789 Pine Rd	Nepean	613-234-5678
5	Noah	Patel	321 Elm Ln	Orleans	
6	Ethan	Kim	987 Cedar Blvd	Toronto	416-765-4321
7	Sophia	Martinez	159 Willow Way	Ottawa	613-456-7890
8	Mason	Taylor	753 Spruce St	Vancouver	672-654-3210
9	Isabella	Brown	852 Aspen Ct	Nepean	
10	Mia	Wilson	357 Sycamore Ave	Ottawa	678-9012
11	James	Anderson	159 Chestnut St	Gatineau	819-432-1098
12	Charlotte	Thomas	753 Magnolia Ln	Ottawa	789-0123
13	Benjamin	Jackson	951 Poplar Dr	Nepean	321-0987
14	Amelia	White	246 Dogwood Rd	Ottawa	
15	Harper	Martin	579 Beech St	Nepean	613-901-2345

Want to normalize phone numbers so I can sort or query by area code

- some have area codes
- assume 613 if no area code
- thousands of records

What I need

- any phone number without an area code, add **613-** to the start

Share

First attempt

	A	B	C	D	E
1	FirstName	LastName	Street	City	Phone
2	Emma	Thompson	123 Maple Ave	Ottawa	613-123-4567
3	Liam	Garcia	456 Oak St	Ottawa	987-6543
4	Olivia	Chen	789 Pine Rd	Nepean	613-234-5678
5	Noah	Patel	321 Elm Ln	Orleans	
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15	Harper	Martin	579 Beech St	Nepean	613-901-2345

Ask Perplexity.AI

- Perplexity.AI probably won't understand *without an area code*
- In Excel, if cell E2 has content that is 3 numbers, followed by "-" followed by 4 numbers, reformat to be "613-" followed by the current contents of cell E2

Perplexity.AI's answer

- To reformat the content of cell E2 in Excel so that it begins with "613-" followed by its current contents, you can use the following formula:
- **=CONCATENATE("613-", E2)**
- Explanation:
- **CONCATENATE Function:** This function is used to join multiple strings into one. In this case, it combines the string "613-" with the existing content of cell E2.
- **"613-":** This is the static string that you want to prepend to the content of E2.
- **E2:** This refers to the cell whose content you want to append after "613-".

Share

	A	B	C	D	E
1	FirstName	LastName	Street	City	Phone
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14	Amelia	White	246 Dogwood Rd	Ottawa	
15	Harper	Martin	579 Beech St	Nepean	613-901-2345

=CONCATENATE("613-", E2)

F
613-613-123-4567
613-987-6543
613-613-234-5678
613-
613-416-765-4321
613-613-456-7890
613-672-654-3210
613-
613-678-9012
613-819-432-1098
613-789-0123
613-321-0987
613-
613-613-901-2345

replicate F2 down

Wrong

- sometimes E2 already has an area code. I don't want to add an area code for those
- if there is no phone number, I want it left blank (more on this later)

From initial query

- In Excel, **if cell E2 has content that is 3 numbers, followed by "-" followed by 4 numbers**, reformat to be "613-" followed by the current contents of cell E2

Add condition

- Only do the concatenation if the current contents of E2 are 3 numbers followed by "-" followed by 4 numbers

Share

Add condition

Add condition

	A	B	C	D	E
1	FirstName	LastName	Street	City	Phone
2	Emma	Thompson	123 Maple Ave	Ottawa	613-234-5678
3	Liam	Garcia	456 Oak St	Ottawa	987-6543
4	Olivia	Chen	789 Pine Rd	Nepean	613-234-5678
5	Noah	Patel	321 Elm Ln	Orleans	
6	Ethan	Kim	987 Cedar Blvd	Toronto	416-765-4321
7	Sam	Martin	150 Mill St	Ottawa	613-456-7890

- Only do the concatenation if the current contents of E2 are 3 numbers followed by "-" followed by 4 numbers

• Answer

- Certainly! To perform the concatenation only if the content of E2 matches the pattern of 3 numbers, a hyphen, and then 4 numbers, you can use an IF statement combined with an ISNUMBER and MATCH function. Here's the formula:
 - **=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(--LEFT(E2,3)), ISNUMBER(--RIGHT(E2,4)), MID(E2,4,1)="-"), "613-" & E2, E2)**
 - Here's a breakdown of how this formula works:
 - AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(--LEFT(E2,3)), ISNUMBER(--RIGHT(E2,4)), MID(E2,4,1)="-"): This checks if:
 - The length of E2 is 8 characters
 - The first 3 characters are numbers
 - The last 4 characters are numbers
 - The 4th character is a hyphen
 - If all these conditions are true, it concatenates "613-" with the original content of E2.
 - If any of these conditions are false, it just returns the original content of E2 without modification.

St

=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(--LEFT(E2,3)), ISNUMBER(--RIGHT(E2,4)), MID(E2,4,1)="-"), "613-" & E2, E2)

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F
613-123-4567
613-987-6543
613-234-5678
0
416-765-4321
613-456-7890
672-654-3210
0
613-678-9012
819-432-1098
613-789-0123
613-321-0987
0
613-901-2345

replicate F2 down

Better

- only phone numbers without area codes had "613-" added
- but cells with no phone numbers have "0"

Share

One more special case

	A	B	C	D	E
1	FirstName	LastName	Street	City	Phone
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Add condition

- if cell E2 is currently blank, leave it blank

- Answer
- To ensure that the formula also handles the case where cell E2 is blank, you can modify the formula to include a check for an empty cell. Here's the updated formula:
- `=IF(E2="", "", IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(--LEFT(E2,3)), ISNUMBER(--RIGHT(E2,4)), MID(E2,4,1)="-"), "613-" & E2, E2))`**
- Explanation:
 - `IF(E2="", "", ...)`: This checks if E2 is blank. If it is, the formula returns a blank string ("").
 - `IF(..., "613-" & E2, E2)`: This part is executed only if E2 is not blank. It checks whether the content of E2 matches the specified pattern (3 numbers, hyphen, 4 numbers). If it does, it prepends "613-" to the content. Otherwise, it returns the original content of E2.
- This formula now handles all specified conditions: it reformats the content if it matches the pattern, leaves it unchanged if it doesn't match, and keeps it blank if E2 is initially blank.

Share

=IF(E2="", "", IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(--LEFT(E2,3)), ISNUMBER(--RIGHT(E2,4)), MID(E2,4,1)="-"), "613-" & E2, E2))

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F
613-123-4567
613-987-6543
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416-765-4321
613-456-7890
672-654-3210
613-678-9012
819-432-1098
613-789-0123
613-321-0987
613-901-2345

replicate F2 down

Perfect

- only phone numbers without area codes had "613-" added
- empty cells left blank

Share

Final steps

- Column F (normalized phone numbers) had formulae
 - wanted phone numbers as plain text
 - selected all column F
 - Copy (Ctrl-C)
 - “Paste values” back over it
- Deleted column E
 - original phone number
- Renamed new phone number column to *Phone*

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15	Harper	Martin	579 Beech St	Nepean	613-901-2345

Result

- exactly what I wanted
- accomplished in about 5 minutes
- would probably have taken me hours on my own!

Share

Can a different AI do better?

- The new Wonderkind: DeepSeek R1
- Took headlines by storm a few weeks ago
 - advanced open-source language model
 - powerful reasoning model designed to excel at tasks requiring advanced problem-solving and logical inference
 - more cost-effective than some competitors
 - excels in coding, mathematics, and explaining complex scientific concepts
 - can articulate its reasoning process, enhancing explainability
 - matches or surpasses some of most advanced language models

Share

Asking DeepSeek R1

- Posed exact same problem:

In Excel, if cell E2 has content that is 3 numbers, followed by "-" followed by 4 numbers, reformat to be "613-" followed by the current contents of cell E2

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Answer in 1,391 words

In Excel, if cell E2 has content that is 3 numbers, followed by a hyphen, and then 4 numbers, the content should be "613-" followed by the current contents of cell E2.

Okay, let's tackle this Excel problem. The user wants to prepend "613-" to the content of cell E2 only if the content follows a specific pattern: three numbers, a hyphen, and four numbers.

First, I need to figure out how to check if the content in E2 matches the pattern. So, the total length should be 8 characters (3 numbers + 1 hyphen + 4 numbers). I can use the LEN function to check the length. But also, each part needs to be verified. I can use the MID function to extract parts and check if they are numbers.

Alternatively, maybe using a formula with AND, ISNUMBER, and VALUE functions. I can check if the left three characters are numbers, the fourth is a hyphen, and the last four are numbers. The formula would be: `=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,1,3))), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,4,1))&"-"), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))),"613-"&E2,E2)`

But wait, if the user's data is stored as text, using VALUE might not work. Hmm. Maybe instead of checking if they are numbers, I can use COUNTIF with wildcards. Like using the COUNTIF function with a wildcard pattern: `=COUNTIF(E2,"###-####")` would count if the cell matches three digits, a hyphen, and four digits. Wait, no. In Excel, the asterisk (*) matches any number of characters, and the question mark (?) matches any single character.

Alternatively, maybe a better approach is to use the ISNUMBER function. I can check if the first three characters are numbers, the fourth is a hyphen, and the last four are numbers. The formula would be: `=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,1,3))), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,4,1))&"-"), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))),"613-"&E2,E2)`

So the formula would need to be something like: `=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,1,3))), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,4,1))&"-"), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))),"613-"&E2,E2)`

But how to check the pattern in Excel. One way is to use the LEN function to check the length. Another way is to use the ISNUMBER function to check if the content is numeric.

1. Check that the length of E2 is 8 characters
2. Check that the first three characters are numbers
3. Check that the fourth character is a hyphen
4. Check that the fifth to eighth characters are numbers

To check if the first three characters are numbers, I can use the ISNUMBER function. Similarly for the last four: `ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))`. The formula would be: `=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,1,3))), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,4,1))&"-"), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))),"613-"&E2,E2)`

Putting it all together in an IF statement:

`=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(E2,3))), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))),"613-"&E2,E2)`

But wait, what if the value in E2 is text that looks like "012-3456". The VALUE function would convert "012-3456" to a number. When we prepend "613-", it would be "613-012-3456". But if the cell is formatted as text, the VALUE function won't work. Hmm, but the original content is probably numeric. The formula works.

Alternatively, to avoid using VALUE, which might not work for text, perhaps use the SUMPRODUCT and MID functions. I can check if each of the first three characters is a number.

Another approach is to use the TEXT function to convert numbers to text. I can check if the first three characters are numbers.

Alternatively, use a regular expression-like approach. I can use the COUNTIF function with wildcards. Like using the COUNTIF function with a wildcard pattern: `=COUNTIF(E2,"###-####")` would check if the content matches three digits, a hyphen, and four digits. But that doesn't check if they are numbers.

So, the formula could be:

`=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, COUNTIF(E2,"???-????")=1, MID(E2,5,4)), "613-"&E2, E2)`

But the "-" converts the text to a number. If the number would be 12, but the original text is "012", they are numeric, not their actual value. So if the content is "000", that's still a number. So the formula ensures the structure. But maybe that's redundant. Alternatively, the COUNTIF is not necessary if we use the ISNUMBER function.

Wait, the COUNTIF with "???-????" would check if the content matches three digits, a hyphen, and four digits. But since we already check the length, the COUNTIF is redundant.

So the formula could be:

`=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(E2,3))), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))),"613-"&E2, E2)`

But what if the cell has leading or trailing spaces? The formula would not trigger. So assuming the data is clean, the formula works.

Testing with E2 as "123-4567" would return "613-123-4567".

If E2 is "12A-4567", then LEFT(E2,3) is "12A", which is not numeric. So the formula returns E2 as is.

Another test case: "abc-defg" would fail because the first three characters are not numbers.

Now, what about numbers stored as text with apostrophes? The formula would fail because the apostrophe makes the length 9, so it would fail the length check.

So this formula should work.

Alternatively, maybe use TEXT functions. For example, I can use the TEXT function to convert numbers to text. But that might not be reliable.

Another way is to use the IF function with the COUNTIF function.

So the final formula would be:

`=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(E2,3))), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))),"613-"&E2,E2)`

But to handle cases where the conversion to VALUE fails, we should use IFERROR. Because if LEFT(E2,3) is not numeric, the formula would break. So to prevent that, I can use IFERROR.

So modifying the formula:

`=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, IFERROR(VALUE(LEFT(E2,3)), IFERROR(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)), FALSE))<=>FALSE),"613-"&E2,E2)`

This way, if any part is not numeric, it returns FALSE. So the formula returns E2 as is.

Alternatively, using ISNUMBER with VALUE:

`=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(E2,3))), ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))),"613-"&E2,E2)`

But again, if LEFT(E2,3) is not numeric, VALUE returns an error. So to prevent that, I can use IFERROR.

In Excel, you can use IFERROR to return a default value.

`=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, IFERROR(ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(E2,3))), FALSE), IFERROR(ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4))), FALSE))<=>FALSE),"613-"&E2,E2)`

This way, if VALUE(LEFT(E2,3)) causes an error, the formula returns FALSE.

So putting it all together:

The formula checks if E2 has length 8, the first three characters are numeric, and the last four are numeric. If all true, prepend "613-".

Each change in colour is a separate, expandable section of the response as DeepSeek R1 reasoned through the problem ...which took over 5 minutes!

Share

And the final answer?

- To reformat the content in cell E2 as specified, use the following formula:

```
=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8,  
ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(E2,3))), MID(E2,4,1)="-",  
ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4)))), "613-"&E2, E2)
```

- But is it right?

Share

```
=IF(AND(LEN(E2)=8, ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(E2,3))), MID(E2,4,1)="-", ISNUMBER(VALUE(MID(E2,5,4))), "613-"&E2, E2)
```

	A	B	C	D	E
1	FirstName	LastName	Street	City	Phone
2	Emma	Thompson	123 Maple Ave	Ottawa	613-123-4567
3	Liam	Garcia	456 Oak St	Ottawa	987-6543
4	Olivia	Chen	789 Pine Rd	Nepean	613-234-5678
5	Noah	Patel	321 Elm Ln	Orleans	
6	Ethan	Kim	987 Cedar Blvd	Toronto	416-765-4321
7	Sophia	Martinez	159 Willow Way	Ottawa	613-456-7890
8	Mason	Taylor	753 Spruce St	Vancouver	672-654-3210
9	Isabella	Brown	852 Aspen Ct	Nepean	
10	Mia	Wilson	357 Sycamore Ave	Ottawa	678-9012
11	James	Anderson	159 Chestnut St	Gatineau	819-432-1098
12	Charlotte	Thomas	753 Magnolia Ln	Ottawa	789-0123
13	Benjamin	Jackson	951 Poplar Dr	Nepean	321-0987
14	Amelia	White	246 Dogwood Rd	Ottawa	
15	Harper	Martin	579 Beech St	Nepean	613-901-2345

F
613-123-4567
613-987-6543
613-234-5678
0
416-765-4321
613-456-7890
672-654-3210
0
613-678-9012
819-432-1098
613-789-0123
613-321-0987
0
613-901-2345

replicate F2 down

Still entered 0 when phone number is blank

- didn't have patience to refine further
 - it took over 5 minutes to generate this answer!
- it would have gotten a proper solution in 2 iterations rather than 3 with Perplexity.AI

Share

Final(?) Conclusions

- AI can come up with very reasonable-sounding solutions to complex problems
 - ...that are wrong
- You have to be sceptical and check that the results
 - make sense
 - are correct
- Will I continue to use AI tools?
 - you betcha!

Share

AI missteaks

Wanted graphic to illustrate slide

- *Cell service during power outage*

Could AI generate an appropriate graphic?

Chris Brown talked about moving from a landline to a cell phone

I thought about a graphic with two people:

- one using a cell phone and one using a landline

ChatGPT: Pencil sketch of a woman talking on a cell phone. She is facing a man who is talking on a landline



Here is the pencil sketch of a woman talking on a cell phone while facing a man who is talking on a landline. Let me know if you'd like any modifications!

Make the woman's phone a cell phone

The woman's phone in the sketch is already a cell phone. Let me know if you want any adjustments to its design or if you'd like a different style for the image!

make the woman's phone a mobile phone, not a handset for a landline

Here's the updated sketch with the woman using a mobile phone instead of a landline handset. Let me know if you'd like any further refinements!

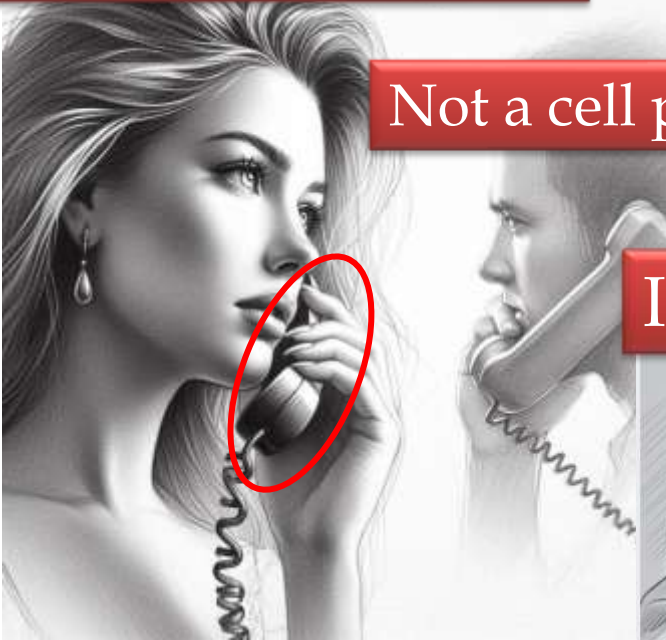


Handset glued to his head???

Could other AI tools do better?

Pencil sketch of a woman talking on a cell phone. She is facing a man who is talking on a landline

Microsoft Copilot



Not a cell phone

Ideogram



Two phones???



Where is this handset plugged in ???

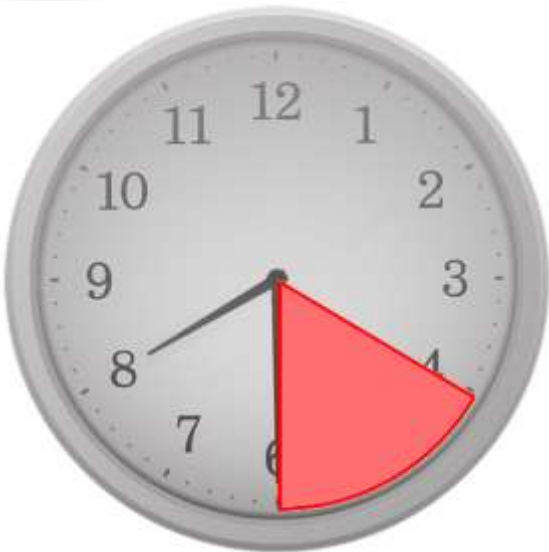


Landline on the street???





**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



One-on-One Remote Assistance



**One-on-One
Remote Assistance**
(members only) *

- The details of our **One-on-one remote assistance programme** are posted at:

<https://opcug.ca/one-on-one-remote-assistance/>
- If you need help on any computer-related issue, send a request for assistance to:

1on1request@opcug.ca

* <https://opcug.ca/join-or-renew/>

Join your local computer club

Join OPCUG before March 31st

Pay the annual membership fee of \$20.00

We will give you a second-year's membership at no extra cost!



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

Already an OPCUG Member?



Do not renew your membership !

Your membership expiry date will be extended by another year at no cost



OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Baltics with Lynda Buske

Rockcliffe Park, Thursday Feb 27, 2025 at 6:00pm

Quick PC Tips

Chris Taylor

Rosemount, Monday Mar 3, 2025 at 6:00pm

Armchair Travel: The Danube

Lynda Buske

Sunnyside, Tuesday Mar 4, 2025 at 6:00pm

<https://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/program?text=pc+users>

SMARTPHONE ESSENTIALS

All the Best Apps for your Smartphone

- March 12, 2025 monthly meeting
- Useful apps for smartphones and tablets
- Android or iPhone/iPad
- Showcase your favourite app
- Send the name of the app to:
SuggestionBox@opcug.ca
- First come – first served
- No duplicates!

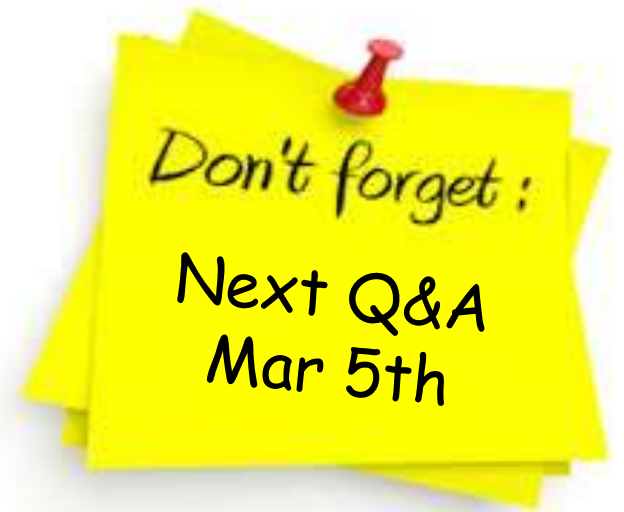




Tell me about
your favorite
cell phone app.

Is this something
that you might
share

Does anyone harbour even a **hint** of interest in presenting at our Smartphone Favourites meeting on March 12th? Do you need any information or a little assistance? **Hang on, or linger a little longer** at the end of the meeting – maybe an extra **5 to 7 minutes** – so we can discuss!



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca