



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

*May 21, 2025*



**Britannia Park  
Trolley/Picnic Station**

June 11, 2025

6:00 pm



*Note - If you want to be fed and watered, you must*

**Register by E-mail to: [pizzaparty@opcug.ca](mailto:pizzaparty@opcug.ca)**



# Windows 10 is dead!

- Q&A May 7
  - Dave's Garage: *Microsoft's dirty secret your old PC is now trash!*
- Dave's back!
  - *Windows 10 Is DEAD! What You NEED to Know Now!*
- Still on Windows 10?
  - why should you be concerned?
  - what are your options?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jN3ShDRoQvQ>

# Follow Up Key messages from Dave

- Windows 10 turning 10 years old
  - Microsoft follows their *modern life cycle policy*
    - each major OS version gets a decade of support
- Windows 11: a security-first operating system
- October 2025: what happens if you don't upgrade?
- Like driving a car that still runs fine but...
  - you've been told brakes may stop working any time
  - there is no fix available

# Follow Up What to do?



- If your machine supports it
  - upgrading to Windows 11 is path of least resistance
- Upgrade hardware
  - may not be possible
- Switch to Linux
  - pretty similar for Windows users
  - doesn't suffer from forced updates or telemetry *out the wazoo*
  - not for everybody
    - especially if you rely on software that doesn't run on Linux
  - for many it's more than enough

# Follow Up What to do?



- Do nothing & stick with Windows 10
- Beyond the security risks eventually...
  - new apps will start to throw errors
  - drivers won't be available for certain things
  - one day you'll go to install a printer or game and it won't work
- If you do nothing
  - do it with your eyes open
  - keep it offline & use it for legacy tasks
  - don't run your banking app or store your tax records
- *Is it time to treat yourself to a machine that was built for the present day?*

# Follow Up Microsoft extending support?

- Hoping Microsoft might change their mind at the last minute and extend support for Windows 10?
- Don't count on it
  - they have been clear in their messaging

Don't wait until October 13th to figure out what to do

- the cliff edge will be awfully close

OPCUG meeting September 10<sup>th</sup>

- Windows 10 end-of-life
  - Alan German



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# Windows Product Key

**I asked Copilot  
“How do I find my Windows Product Key?”**

## **Command Prompt/PowerShell Method**

- Open Command Prompt or Powershell as an Administrator.
- Type `wmic path SoftwareLicensingService get OA3xOriginalProductKey`
- Press Enter to Run the command.
- Your license key should appear on the screen.

**It worked for me!**

In the newest versions of Windows 11, the cmdlet `wmic` has been deprecated, meaning no longer installed by default. It is a long install & restart from:

Settings – Apps – Optional Features - Add

Phil Logan for OPCUG

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# Windows Product Key

WMIC has been replaced by more powerful cmdlets:

CimInstance & WmiObject (capitals C, I, W, O)

Microsoft plans to enhance the power and utility of the Powershell.

Note: WmiObject is being deprecated.

Instead of adding wmic, ask Copilot:

“What is the command to get my Windows 11 Product Key using CimInstance?”

- You can use either WmiObject or CimInstance, both work for now.
- You will get a text box with the command line & press the COPY button.
- Open Powershell as an Administrator.
- Paste the command line (CTRL-V) & press ENTER to Run the command.
- Your Windows 11 Original Product Key should appear.

**See Screen shot from Copilot next slide!**

Phil Logan for OPCUG

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# Windows Product Key

## Screen Shot from Copilot

What is the command line to get my Windows 11 Product Key using CimInstance?

You can retrieve your Windows 11 Product Key using PowerShell and `CimInstance`. Open PowerShell as Administrator and run the following command:

```
Powershell
```

 Copy

```
(Get-CimInstance -Query "SELECT * FROM SoftwareLicensingService").OA3xOrig
```

This will display the original product key stored in your system firmware. Keep in mind that this key might not match the one used for activation, especially if your device was upgraded from a previous version of Windows or activated with a digital license.

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# Planta

- I have been using Planta's IOS app for a few months now in the hope it will help manage the care and feeding of my houseplants
- At the moment I only have one plant but it is in 5 pots, as it has been split a few times over the years
- This is a hardy beast of a plant, popularly known as "Snake Plant" or "mother-in-law's tongue"
- It requires minimal care but I thought I might want to see if I could improve my maintenance routine as I was only guessing what to do!

Stewart Bruce

- There are a multitude of features locked away for paid subscribers but the free version covers the basics nicely
- You get to take a photo of each plant (and name it too if you like), and specify things like pot size, distance from windows and your geolocation
- The app will specify a watering schedule and make suggestions about improving lighting for whatever you have plugged into it
- It turns out I was slightly over watering my plants but not by very much.



- If you want to shell out for the Premium version, please let me know what you think of it
- One month is \$7.99, 3 months are \$17.00, and one year is \$35.99 (US \$ even if it is a Swedish creation)
- If you seriously garden this might be worth it
- There doesn't seem to be a desktop version of Planta - only mobile apps as well as community presences on Fudgebook and Instagram

[https://www.makeuseof.com/  
app-to-keep-houseplants-alive/](https://www.makeuseof.com/app-to-keep-houseplants-alive/)

<https://getplanta.com/>





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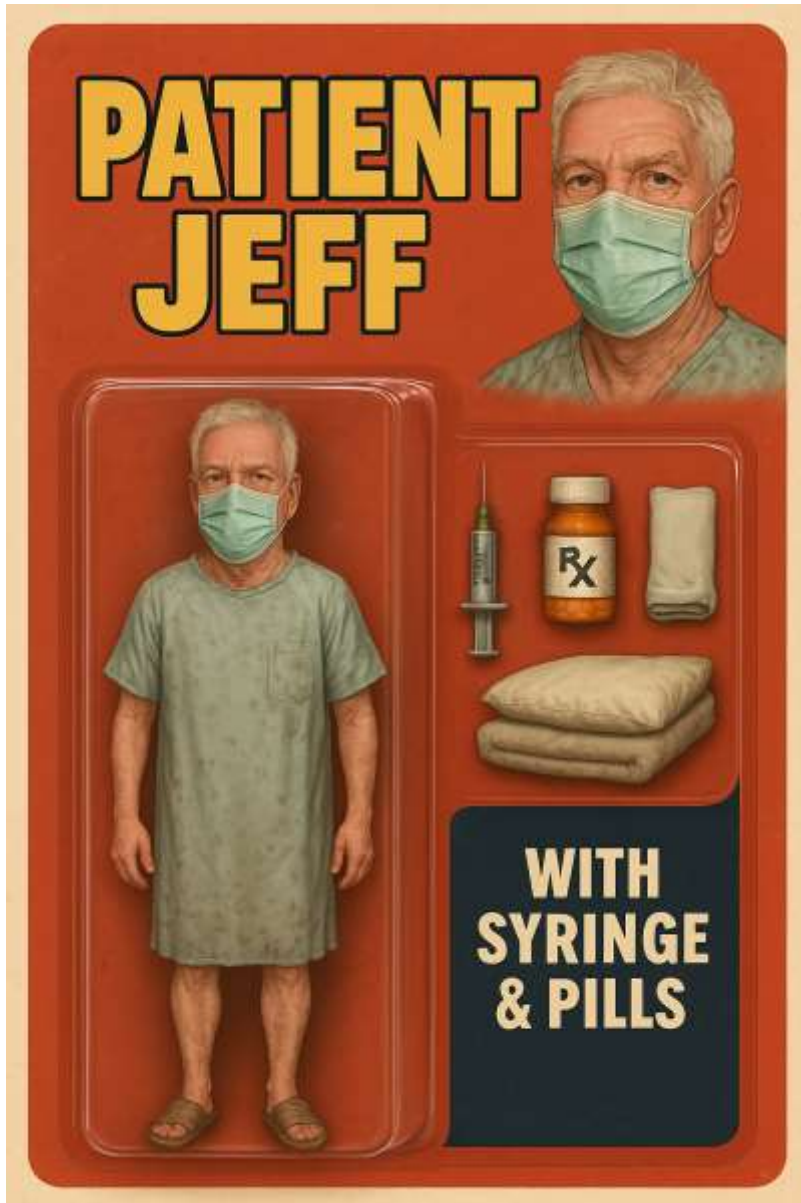
**Register by E-mail to: [pizzaparty@opcug.ca](mailto:pizzaparty@opcug.ca)**

# More fun with ChatGPT's Image Generator

At a Q&A last month, Chris spoke briefly on using ChatGPT to create these funny personalized action figure images.

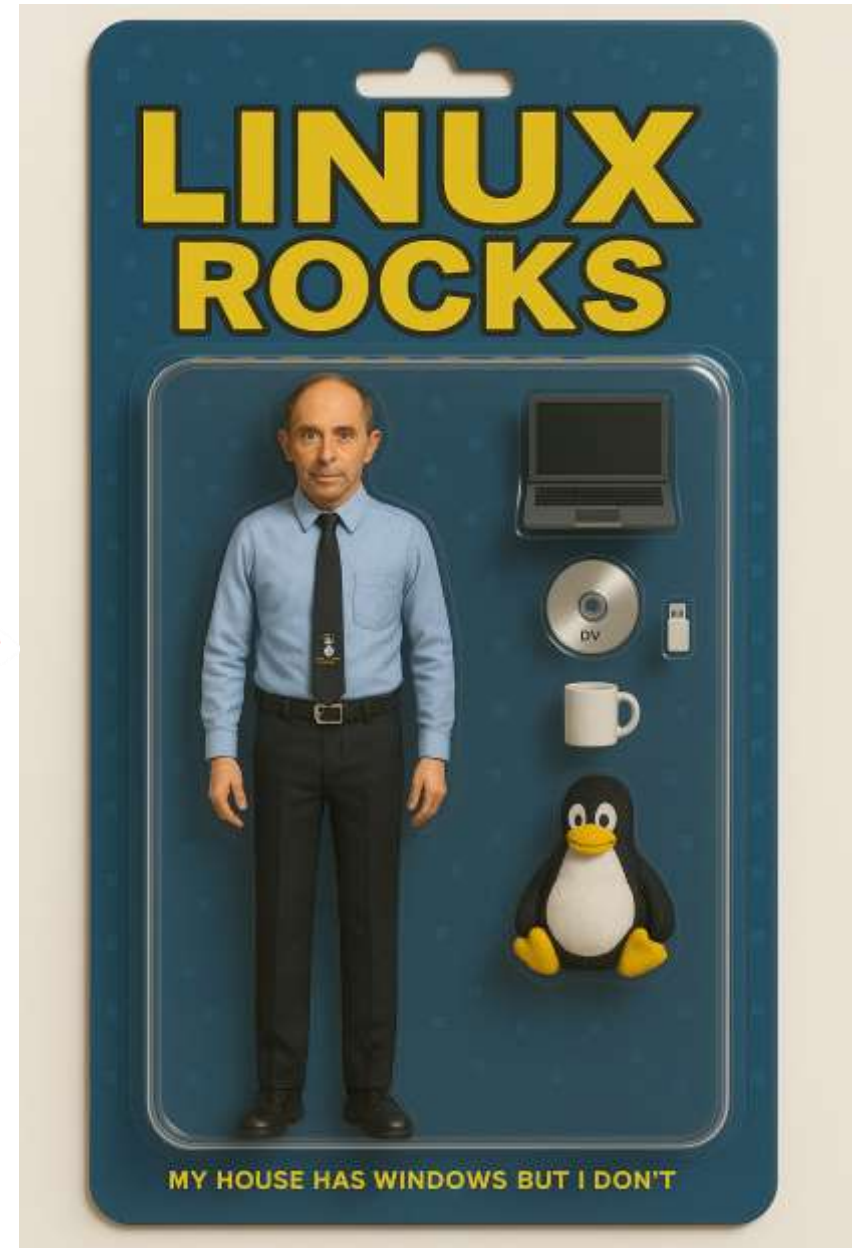
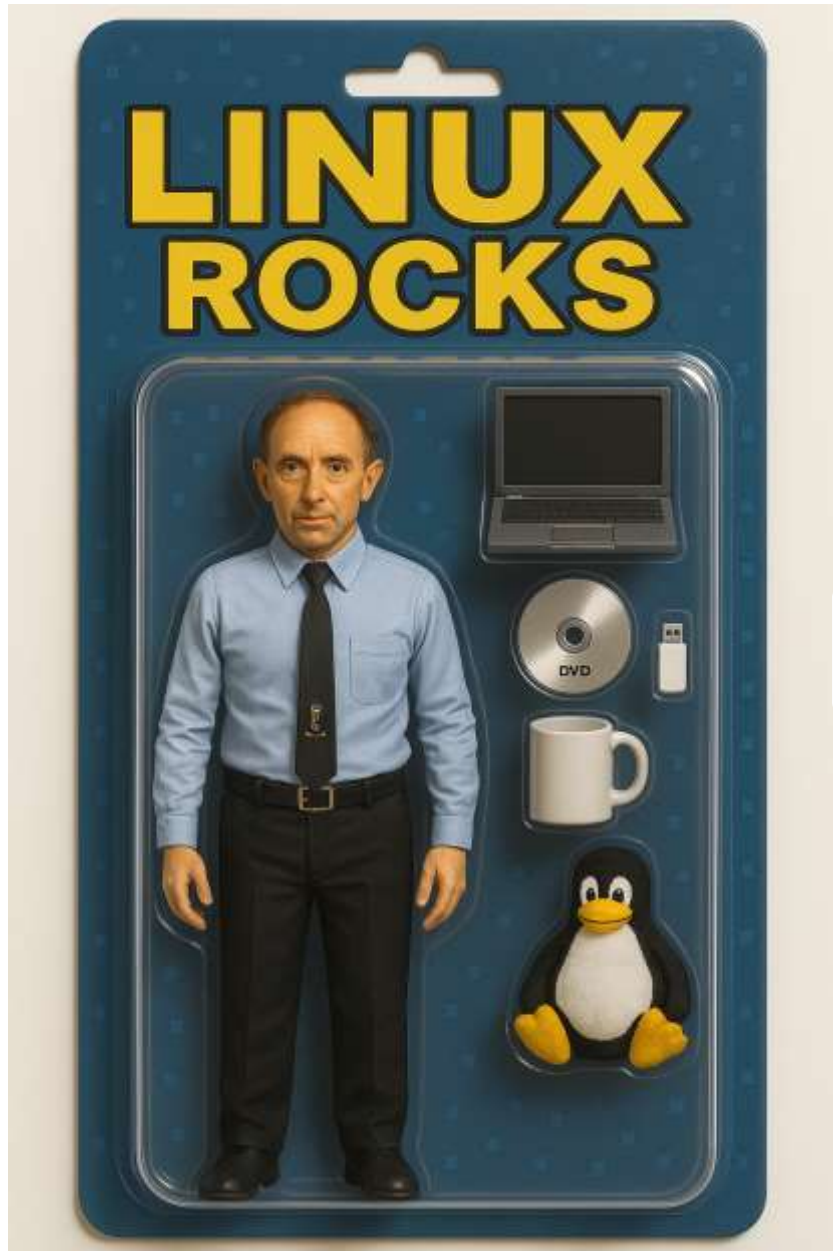


# ChatGPT's Image Generator



Albeit a somewhat delayed segue into ChatGPT's Image Generation tool, this evening's short talk will provide a little deeper dive into its other capabilities.

# Meet the “Linux Rocks” Action Figure



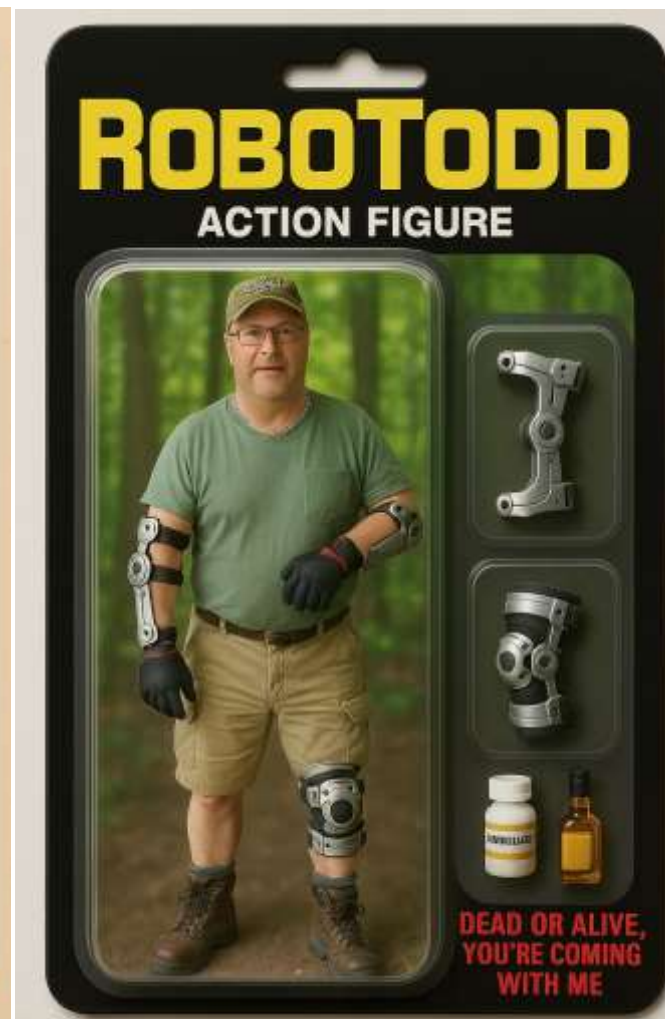
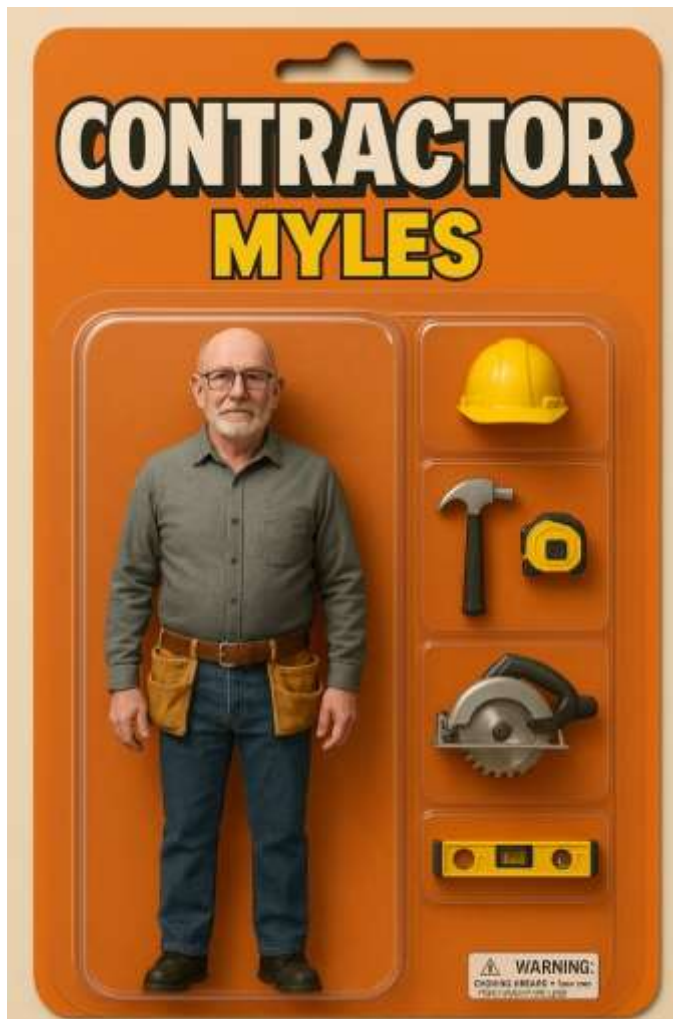
# How about G.I. Jeff?



Some topics could violate ChatGPT's terms of service.

(Guns & grenades seem to be out.)

Friends, neighbours or just having fun.



The possibilities are endless.

# Speaking of Kennebec Sasquatch



The possibilities are endless.

# Create logos



The possibilities are endless.

But there's much, much more!



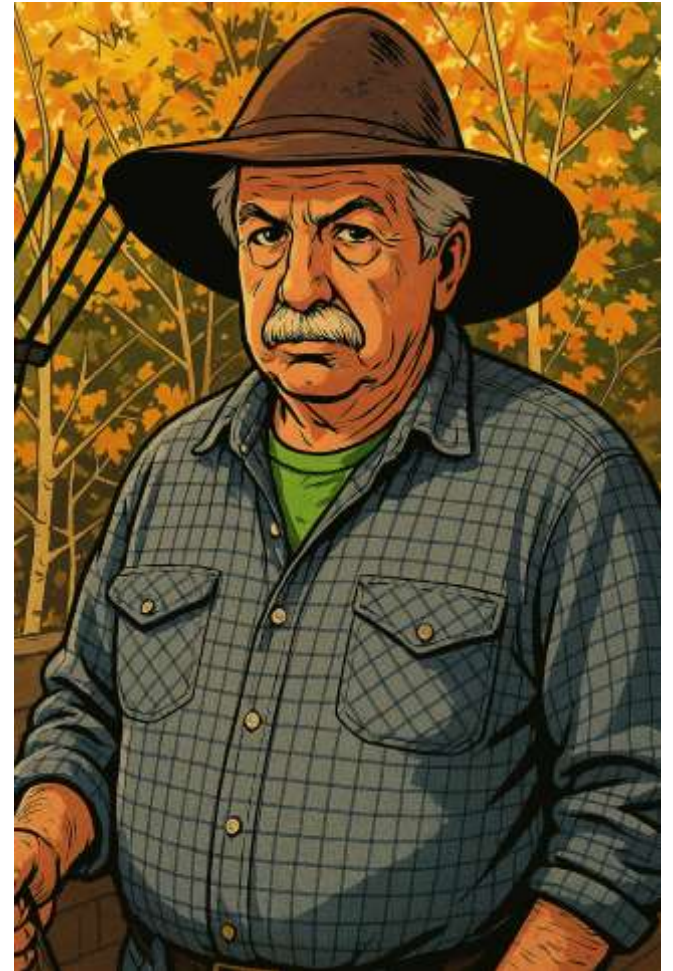
Cartoonize existing photos.

But there's much, much more!



Cartoonize existing photos.

# But there's much, much more!



## Cartoonize existing photos.

# Colour-me Nancy Colouring Book



# Colour-me Orange Colouring Book

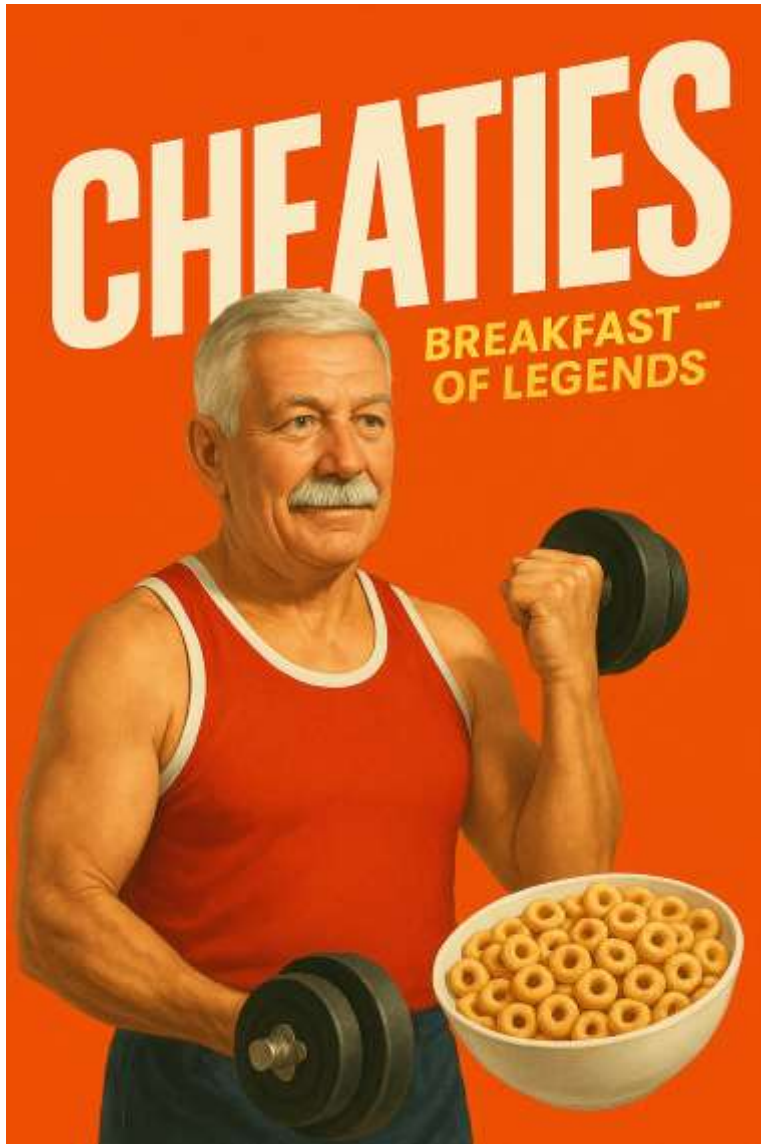


I may not be playing with a full deck...



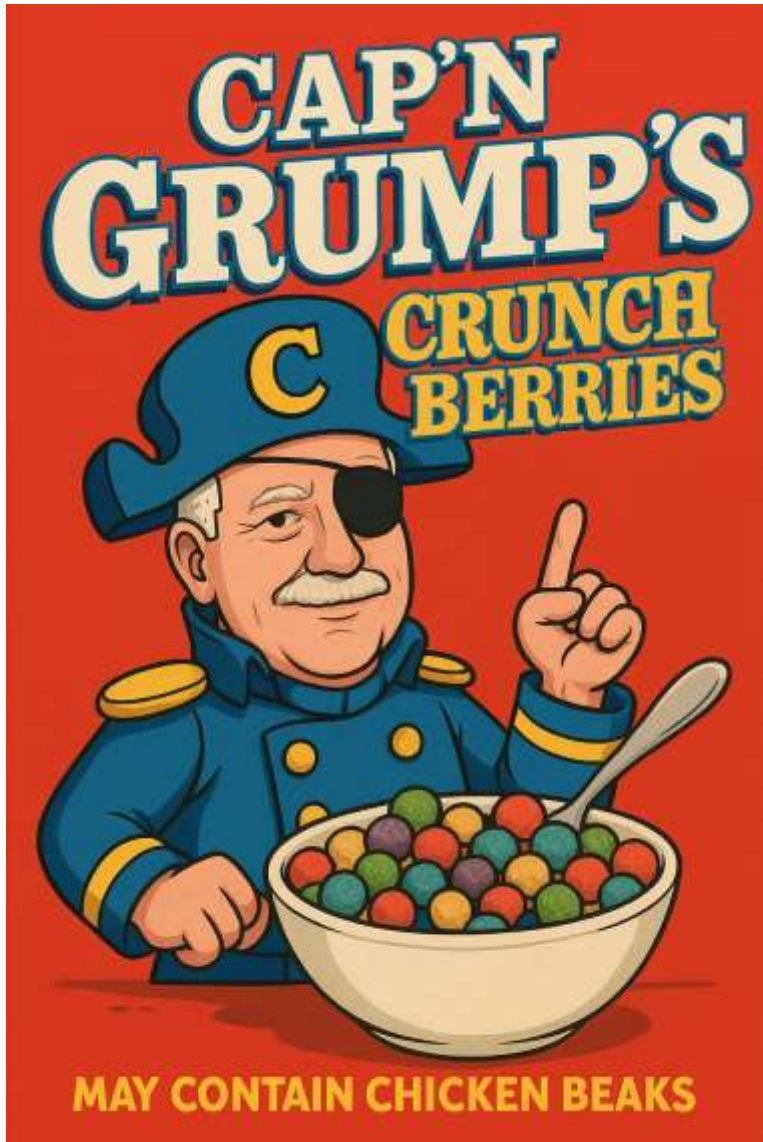
But I can be a real card!

Would you like a bowl breakfast cereal?



Cheaties: an excellent source of thiamine, niacinamide, riboflavin and giggles.

Would you like a bowl breakfast cereal?

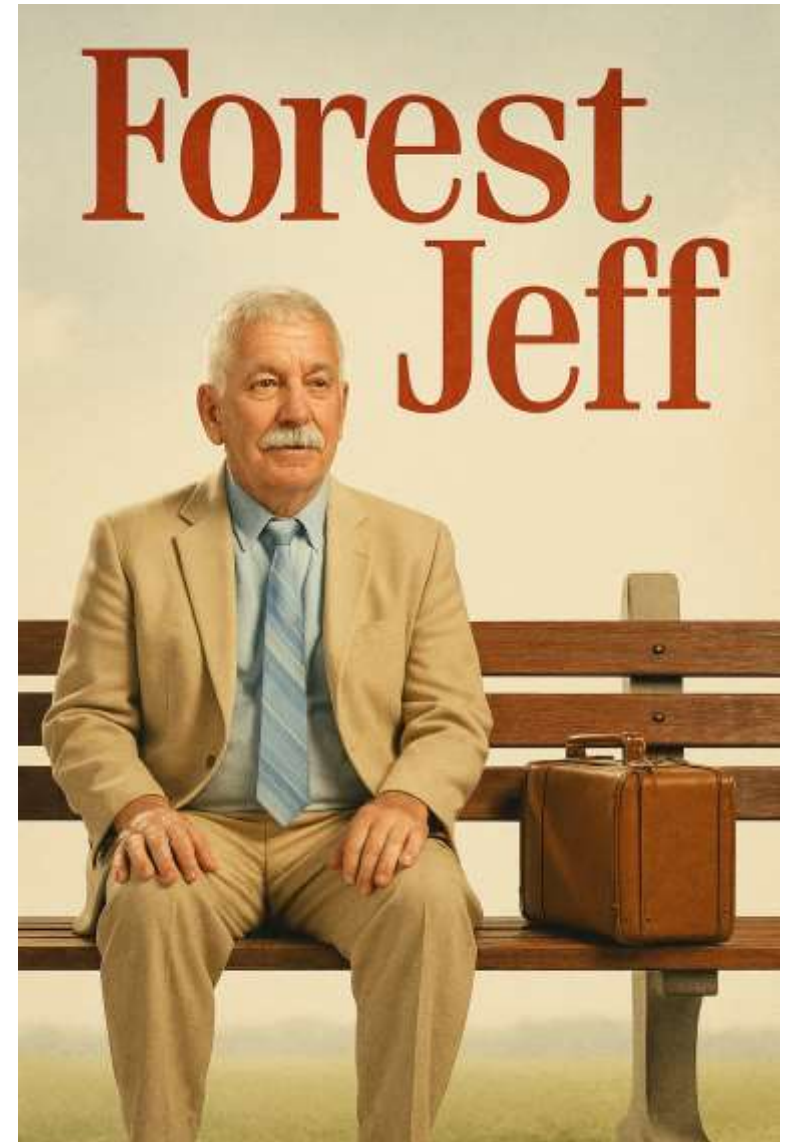


Arrrr, ye scurvy dogs. Sally forth!

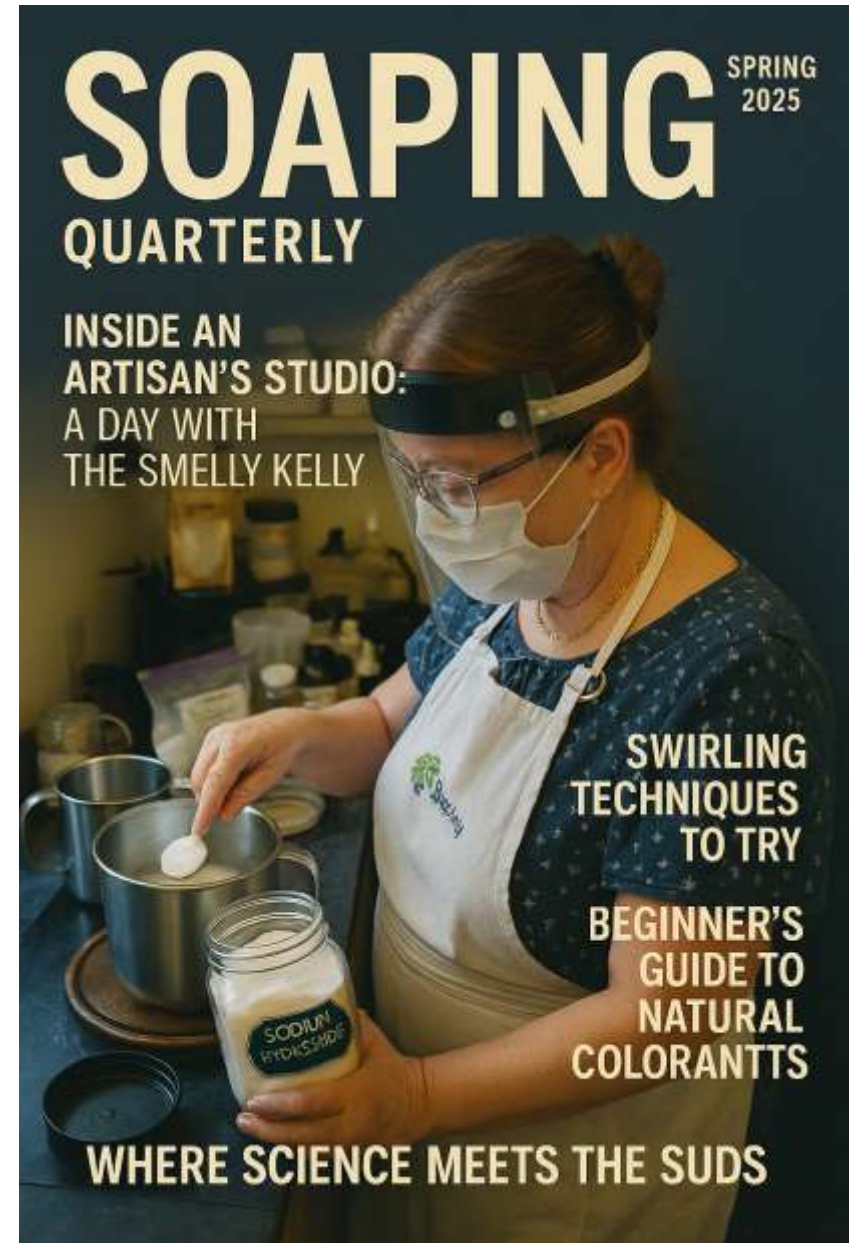
Cap'n Grump's:  
Perhaps no  
nutritional value  
whatsoever.

Coming to a theatre near you...

Mama always  
said "*Life is like  
a box of AI....  
You never know  
what you're  
gonna get.*"



# Coming to a newsstand near you...



Coming to a newsstand near you...

This stuff looks real. And you don't have to work very hard to make it look totally believable.



# Humour on Social Media Posts



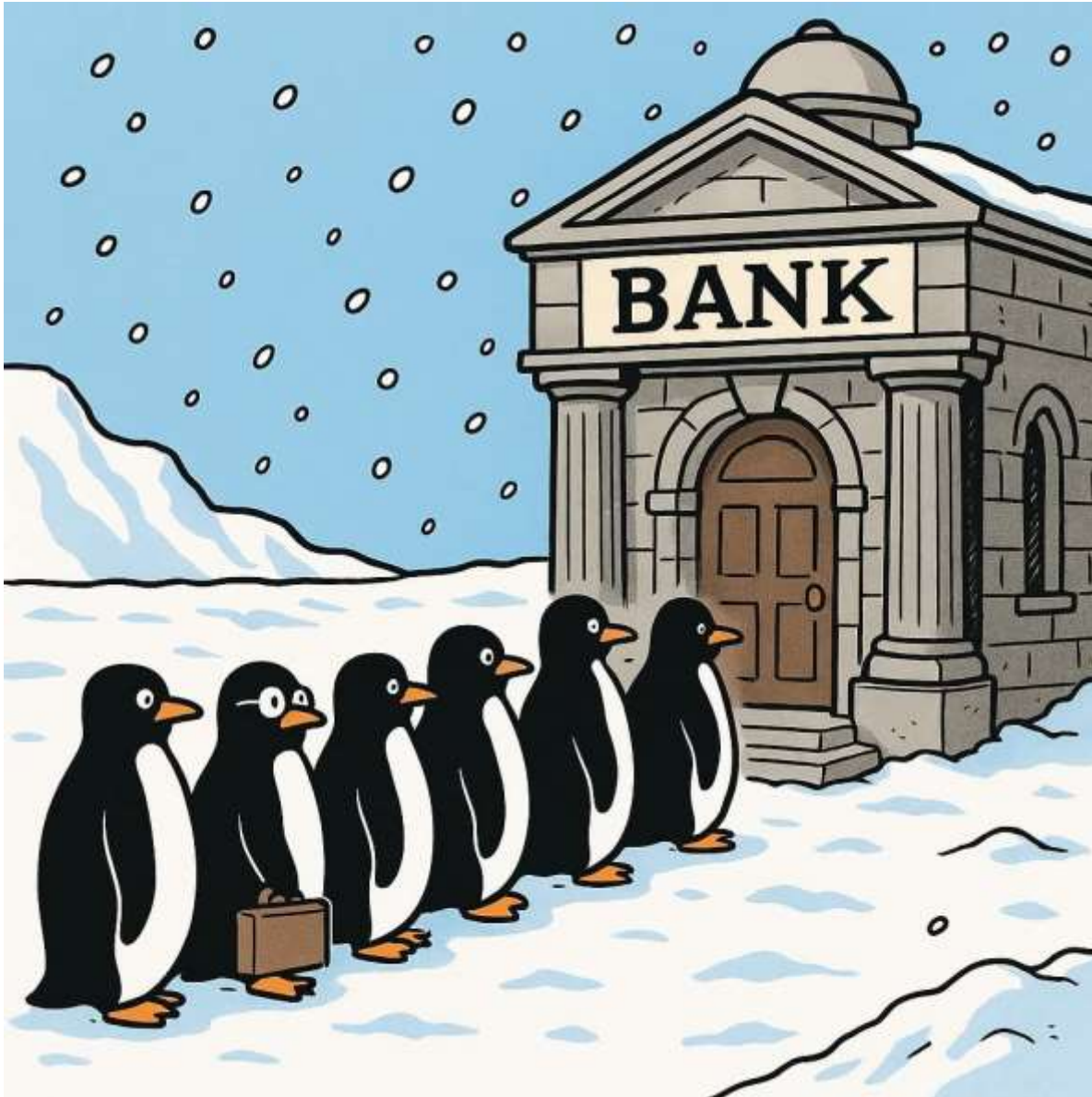
Choose your bobblehead.

# Humour on Social Media Posts



During an interview, Linda McMahon, U.S. Secretary of Education referred to AI as A1. This seemed apropos.

# Create a single frame cartoons



More humour on my social media.

Heard Islands residents form queues at banks in response to exorbitant Trump tariffs imposed.

# Create a single frame cartoons



Qatar has given the U.S. administration a flying palace to, ostensibly, replace Air Force 1.

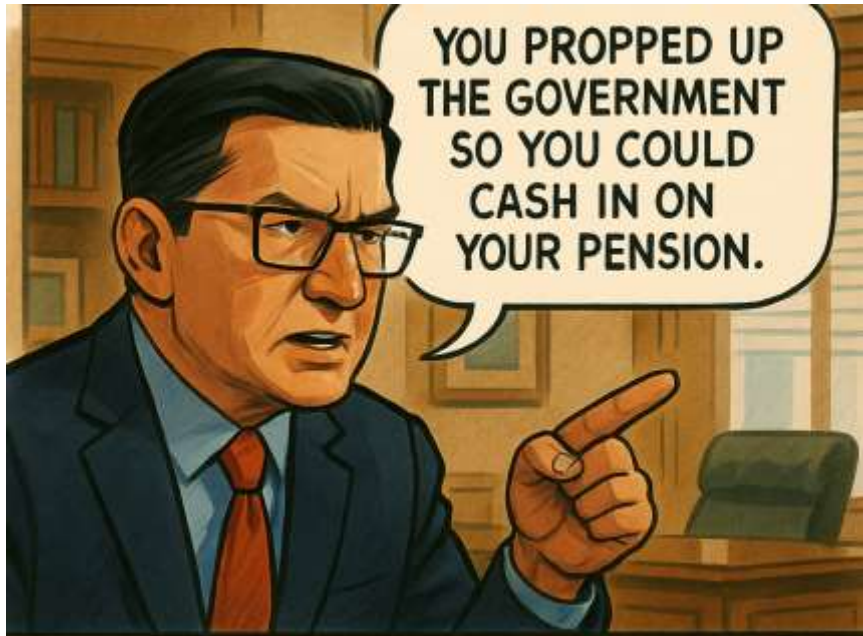
What could possibly go wrong with that?

# Mooses & Geese



Canada can offer a much more secure alternative.

# Create Comic Strips



This was a very, very easy comic strip to create.

I uploaded the two images, then simply entered the desired dialogue.

ChatGPT Image Generator may not accurately reproduce faces.



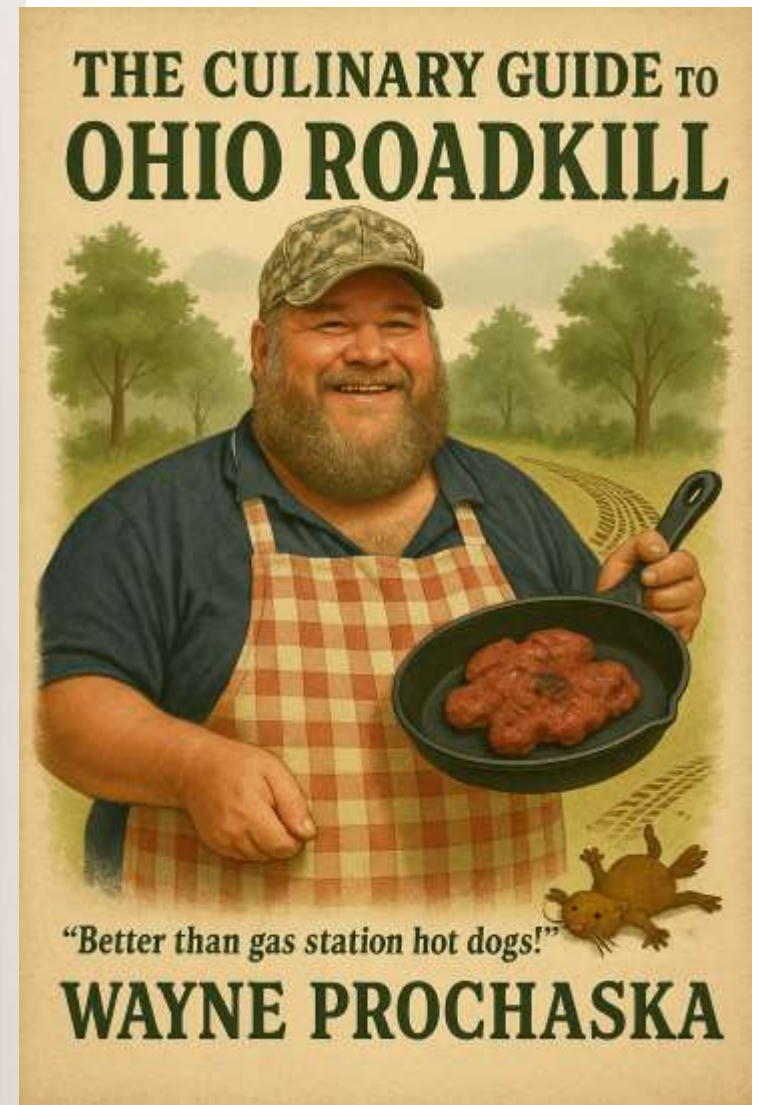
Rovers Return – Coronation Street

# ChatGPT Image Generator may not accurately reproduce faces...



but funny as hell making Muppets.

Lots of fun with family...



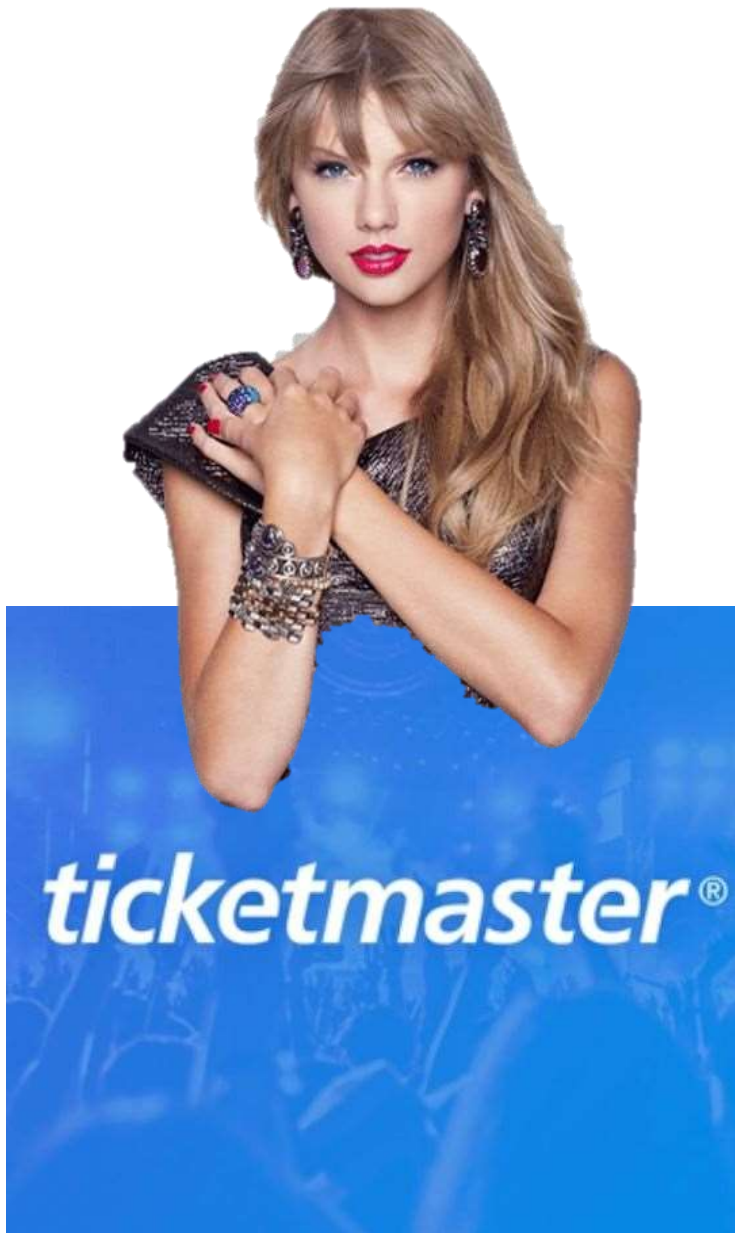
Limited only by your imagination.

# Lots of fun with family



Limited only by your imagination.

# Final notes in conclusion...



As AI continues to advance exponentially, criminals will capitalize on those advances and prey on unsuspecting victims.

Taylor Swift will not be performing this year at the OPCUG Pizza-Q...

**Be aware and beware of deep fakes.**

but you might be able to catch:

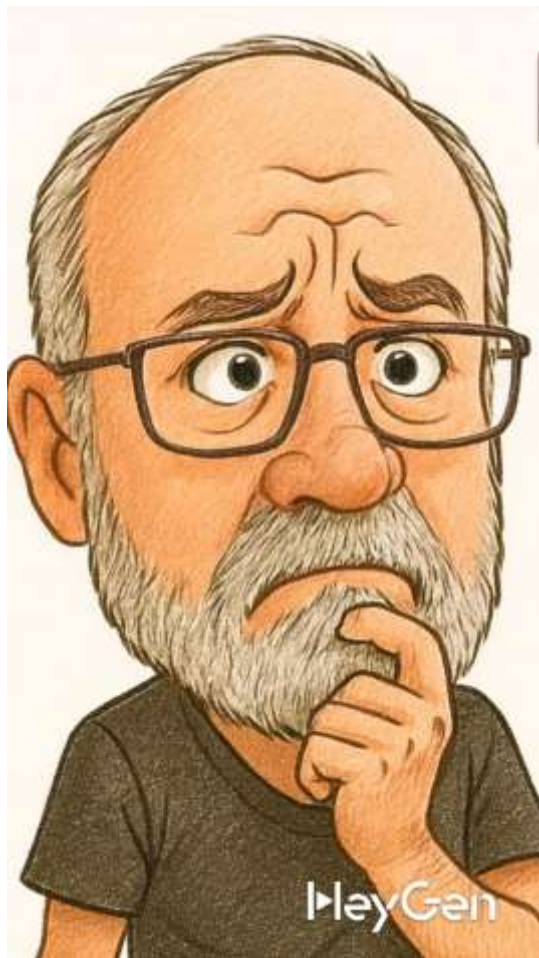


**More AI fun  
from this guy!**



Share

# Today's AI fun



Took a photograph



Generated a caricature using ChatGPT  
• <https://chatgpt.com/>

Video posted as:  
**20250521-AI-Fun-01.mp4**



Used caricature to generate video using HeyGen  
• <https://heygen.com>

**All for free!**

Share



Video generated  
from original  
photograph

**Video posted as:  
20250521-AI-Fun-02.mp4**

HeyGen limits on free accounts

- 3 videos per month
- 15 second time limit
- 720p video export
- selection of voices
- <https://heygen.com>



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# Calibre eBook library



# Calibre ebook library

- **Open source, continual updates over 15 years**
- **Multiplatform / multiformat**
- **Import/Export from/to many devices**
- **eBooks, news, magazines**
  - **(hereafter called “books”)**
- **Edit metadata, tags, books**
- **Can Remove DRM for backup**
  - **(Digital Rights Management)**

## Groups of Books you can act on

**01. Virtual  
Libraries**

**03. Saved  
Searches**

**02. Marked  
Books**

**04. Tags /  
Categories**

# Search & Sort & Select by

> **01.**  
Metadata



**02.** <  
Dates

> **03.**  
Data presence

**04.**  
RegEx –  
Regular  
Expressions

**05.** <  
Book content  
via a created index  
(optional)



# Quickview for a book

- Authors list for the book
- Books by chosen author



# Viewer

**View – read the book**

**Bookmarks – saved in book file**

- Last position, and
- Create bookmarks

**Highlights**

- Highlight text
- Can see list of all highlights  
“browse annotations”

**Text can be read aloud**

**Hint mode to see, choose links on page**

**Flow mode for tables**

**Text search...**



# Text search

Usually ignores punctuation,  
accents, spaces

Case Sensitive switch

Contains – finds every instance

Whole words – finds every  
instance

Nearby words – 2+ words

Nearby, within 60 characters,  
Not as a phrase

RegEx – regular expressions





# Conversion

- + Inputs most book formats
- + Converts to XHTML to store (eXtensible HyperText Markup Language)
- Converts XHTML to output format when desired
- Can control output in detail...

# Output detail control

Fonts, line height

Justification

Smart punctuation

Character encoding

Layout: paragraph spacing, indents

CSS styles (Cascading Style Sheets)

Page setup

Heuristic processing...

Search & Replace...



# + Output Heuristic processing

**Text wrapping**

**Chapters, subheadings**

**Combine sequential**

**multi-line headings**

**Hyphens**

**Italics**

**Convert non-breaking spaces**

**to CSS indents**



# Output Search & Replace



**Regular  
Expressions**



**Handle  
intruding PDF  
footers/header**

**s**



**Other native  
problems**

# Output miscellaneous edits

Generate Table  
Of Contents  
(TOC) if none

01

+

02

Insert metadata  
at book start

Structure detection

Chapters  
Page breaks  
Headers, footers...

03

+

04

Remove first  
image from text  
file - usually keep  
as separate file

+

# Editing



- Compare books
- Choose cover image
- Merge HTML or CSS files
- Check broken external links
- Add CSS file links to HTML files
- Rename component files, change order, split HTML files, reorganize



- Metadata – e.g. Title, Author, About
- Can edit one or many books at once, e.g. To standardize author name
- Edit source with WYSIWYG beside Search & Replace e.g. Change Huckleberry Finn to Huckleberry Swede...



# Content server

Access your books from  
anywhere

If internet access allowed  
(vs home only) add  
Username and Password &  
choose obscure port.





Kindle KFX input & output  
Find duplicates  
Kindle collections  
Kobo KePub input & output  
DeACSM  
Goodreads  
Count pages  
DeDRM –

<https://www.epubor.com/calibr-e-drm-removal-plugins.html>



# Plugins



And many more



Quality check  
Various metadata retrievers  
Kindle hi-res covers  
Annotations  
TTS to MP3  
FanFicFare  
EpubCheck  
Read MP3 AudioBook metadata  
Ebook Translator  
Reading List

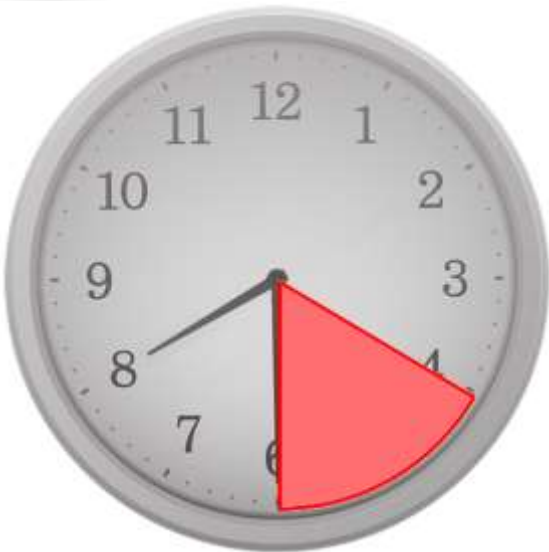
# Summary

Powerful manager  
Powerful ebook editor  
Many tools  
Can use simply or ....



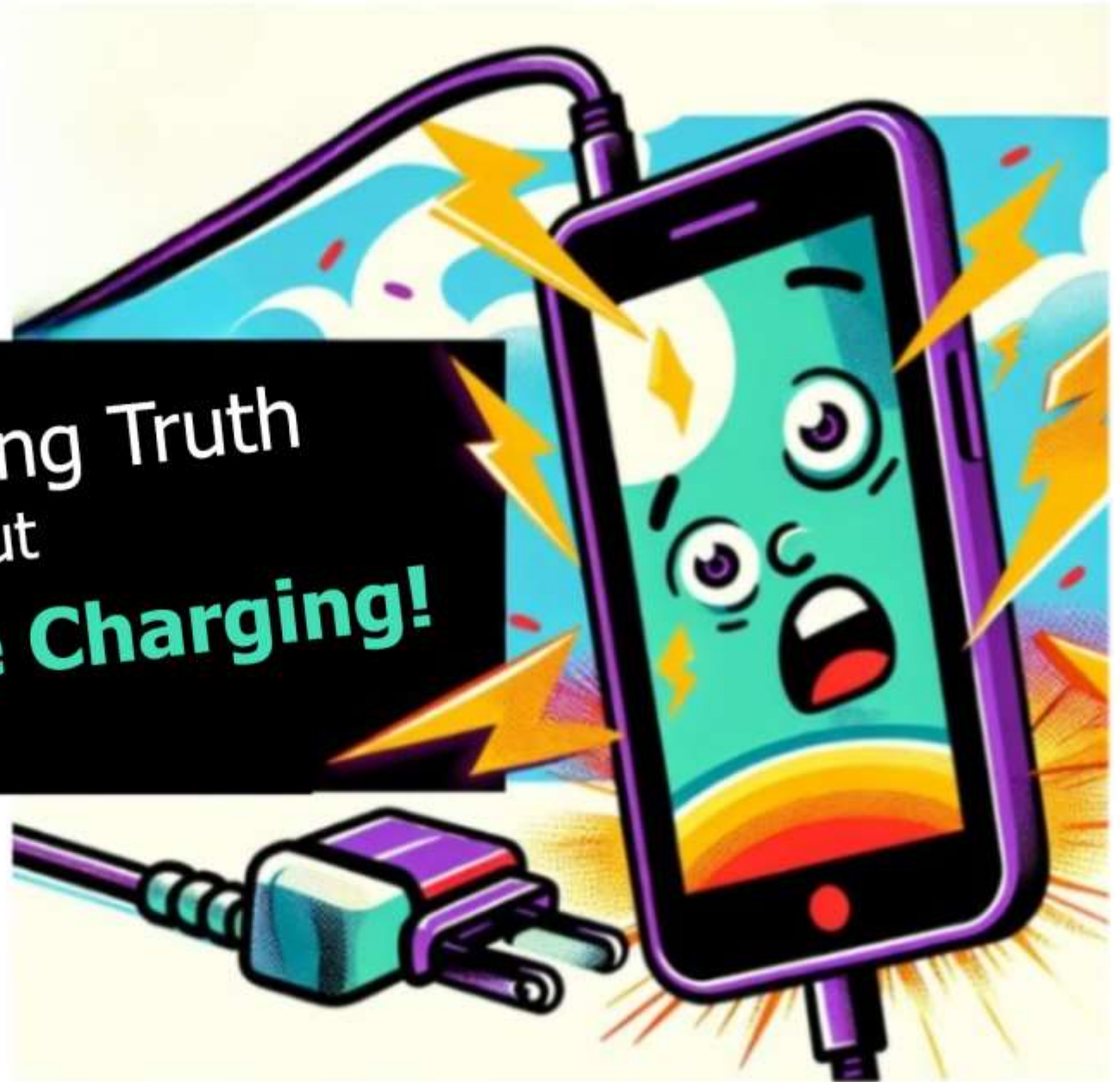


**Any other:  
Questions  
Comments  
Shares?**



Share

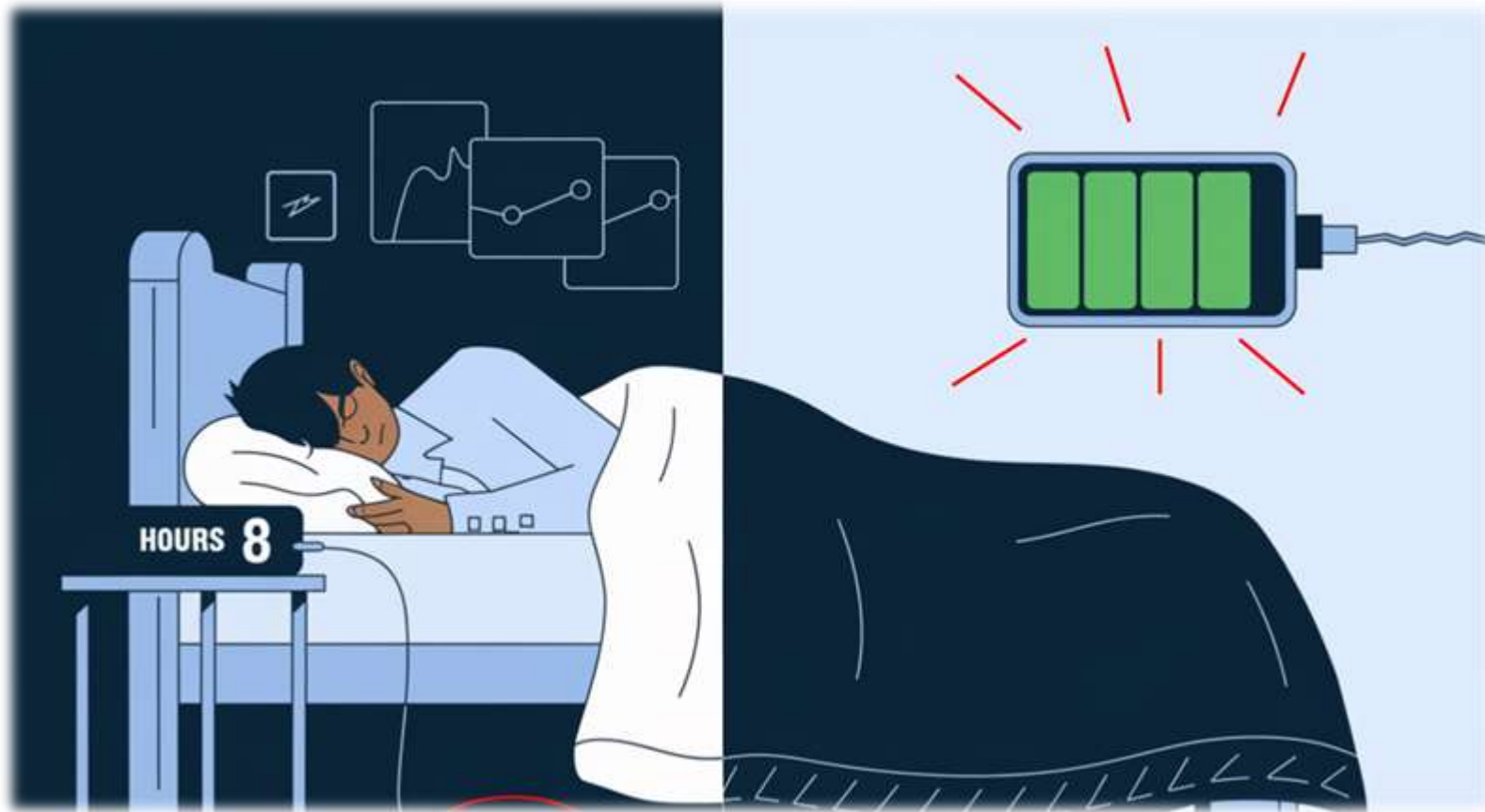
The Shocking Truth  
about  
**Cell Phone Charging!**



- Today we're discussing something that affects all of us...
- **The hidden dangers lurking in your charging habits**



# The Overnight Charging Problem



# Battery Stress Syndrome

Lithium-ion batteries *Degrade Faster* when:

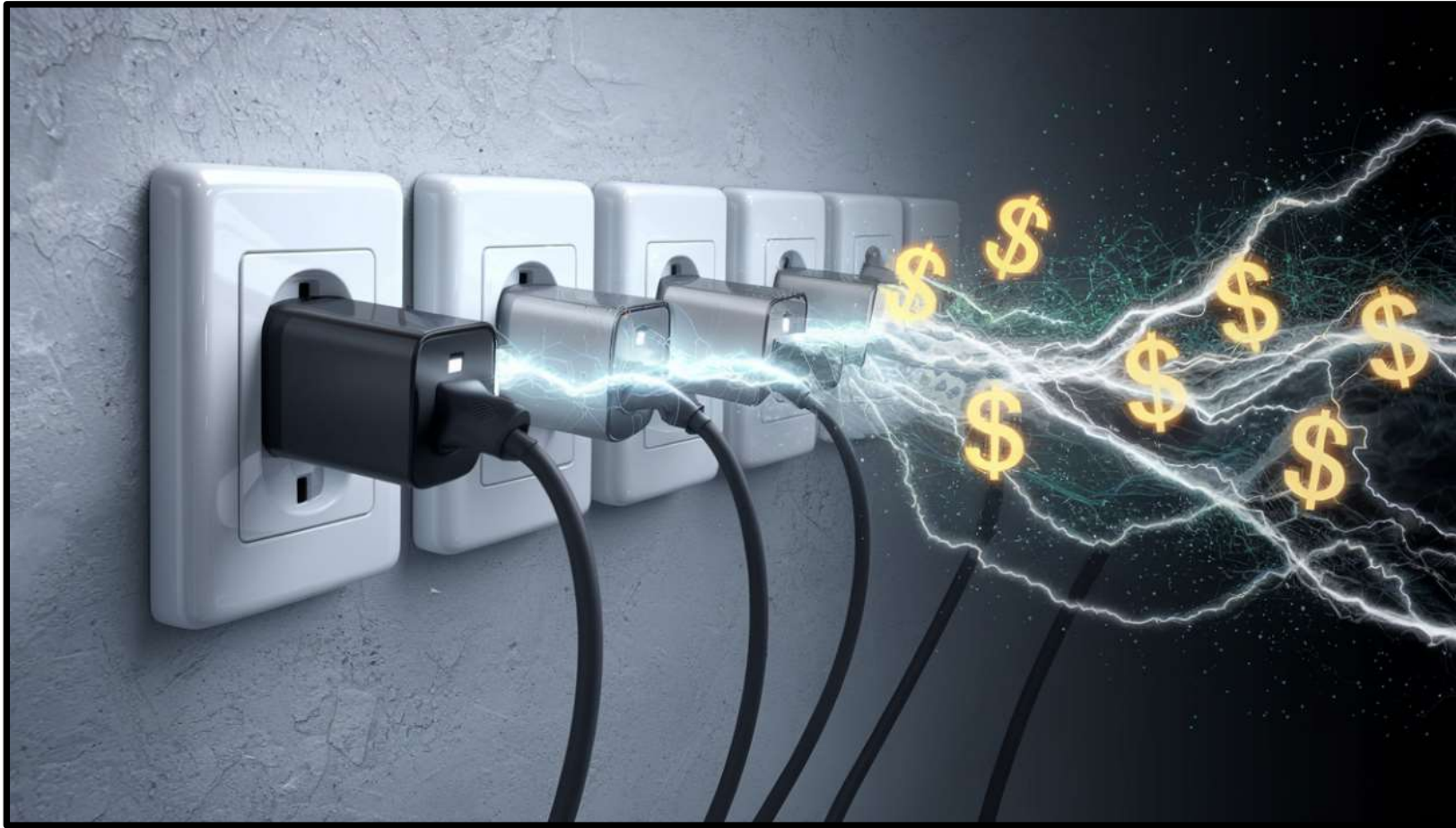
- **Kept at 100%** charge for extended periods
- **Exposed to heat** from continuous charging
- **Subjected to "trickle charging"** cycles



**Translation:**

**Your overnight charging habit is *Battery Abuse!***

# The **Cost** of Forgetting



Your charger draws about 0.5 watts,  
even when it's not charging!  
That may sound tiny—but it adds up over time...

# But Who Can Remember to Unplug?

“I’ll just unplug it in the morning.”

“I’ll set an alarm to unplug after 2 hours.”

“I’ll remember next time.”



We need a solution that works even when our memory doesn't!

**Introducing:**

# The Power Saver **Timed Charger!**



- Automatically shuts off after 3 hours
- Prevents overcharging and battery stress



# The "Power Saver Timed Charger"!



- Reduces phantom power draw!
- Extends battery lifespan!
- Saves money on electricity bills!



# How Does It Work?

## It's Almost Too Simple...

**Plug** your Charger into the Power Saver...

Press the **Timer** Button

The device automatically cuts power after 3 hours!



# Now **The Technical Specs** (For You Nerdy Types)

- 4W Power Saver Timed Charger
- 1 always-on outlet + 3 timed outlets
- 120 VAC / 10A rating
- Auto-shutoff after 180 minutes
- Compact design: 7.2 x 4.2 x 2.7 inches
- **Weight:** Less than a slice of pizza! (0.7 lbs) 🍕





# How Can You Get One of These Magical Devices?



# The Big Reveal: **OPCUG Pizza Party!**

**3 Power Saver  
Timed Chargers  
will be won!**





**Plus 3 Ultra-durable,  
Roll-up Keyboards will also  
be won at the Pizza Party!**





- Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 6-9 PM
- Britannia Park Trolley Station
- FREE for members and guests
- Pizza, Drinks, Desserts, and Prizes!
- Register by email: [pizzaparty@opcug.ca](mailto:pizzaparty@opcug.ca)





## OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **Quick Tips: AI Tools**

Chris Taylor

Nepean Centrepote, Friday May 23, 2025 at 2:00pm

### **Organizing your photos**

Lynda Buske

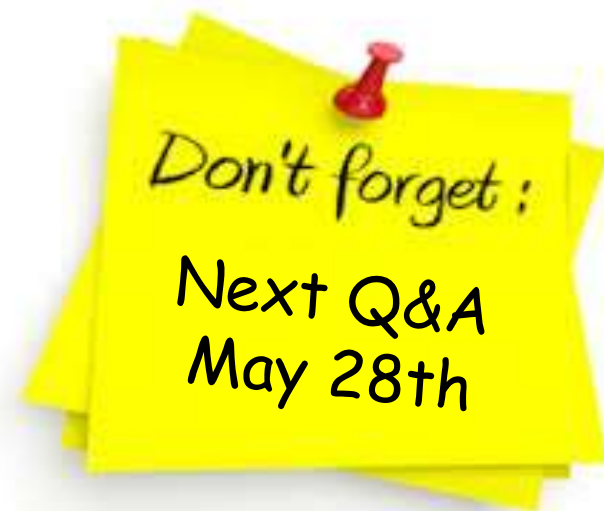
Beaverbrook, Thursday May 29, 2025 at 6:00pm

### **Quick Tips: Enhancing Capabilities and Performance with Free Tools**

Chris Taylor

Cumberland, Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 2:00pm

[https://booking.bibliottawalibrary.ca/program?body\\_value=pc+user](https://booking.bibliottawalibrary.ca/program?body_value=pc+user)



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

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