



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

October 22, 2025

Follow Up OPCUG social get-together

- Date: **Wednesday, Nov 26th**
 - starting at 7:00pm
- Location: **Big Rig in Gloucester Centre**
 - Blair & Ogilvie
 - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8rdtztXyvbHVzVCt9>
 - driving: north on Blair off the 174 just east of the split
 - plenty of free parking
 - O-train: Blair station
- OPCUG making arrangements
 - each participant on their own for paying
- If planning to attend
 - email SuggestionBox@opcug.ca by **Wednesday, November 12th**



Share

Android Lockdown?

- Starting next year, Android will require all apps to be registered by verified developers in order to be installed by users on certified Android devices
- Developers will have the same freedom to distribute their apps directly to users through sideloading

Conflicting statements?

No – but sideloading will only be available for apps that have been created by registered developers

<https://android-developers.googleblog.com/2025/08/elevating-android-security.html>

Android developer verification

Requirements:

- Legal name, address, email address, and phone number
- Organization's D-U-N-S (Dun & Bradstreet) number and verify the organization's website
- May also need to upload official government ID
- App package name and app signing keys
- \$25 fee for the full distribution account
- Free developer account type that will allow teachers, students, and hobbyists to distribute apps (limited)



DISCOVER OUR SITEFINDER APP



SITEFINDER APP

The OPCUG SiteFinder app offers Android users a way to access the club's web site through a single click on their phone's screen. The app will handle both portrait and landscape orientations on your smartphone, and it also supports zooming of the display window.

Since this app is not posted to the Play Store, Google is very likely to warn you against installing "third-party" apps. But, rest assured, you have downloaded the APK file directly from OPCUG's web site so it is perfectly safe. However, you need to install the app through a process known as "sideloading".

Essentially, this means telling your phone's security system that it is OK to "Allow installation of apps from unknown sources". All this means is that the source is unknown to Google, it's not unknown to you!

The specific manner in which this setting needs to be modified is dependent on your model of smartphone and its version of Android. You may be able to navigate to Settings – Security – Unknown sources to find the toggle. If not, check your phone's user's manual or seek specific instructions through a web search.



Download SiteFinder
App for Android

- Requirements will go into effect in Brazil, in September 2026 for Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand
- The requirements will be rolled out globally in 2027 and beyond
- After September, 2026 apps from developers who have not registered will be unavailable for new installation on certified Android devices in applicable countries.





The End of Android Freedom: Google's 2026 Plan



Techlore ✓
269K subscribers

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



Google's 2026 Rules Have Developers Worried - Here's Why



Better Stack
77.3K subscribers

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8NBKx-6DOc>



DON'T PANIC! 🔥 Why Google Is Not Banning Sideloading? 🔥



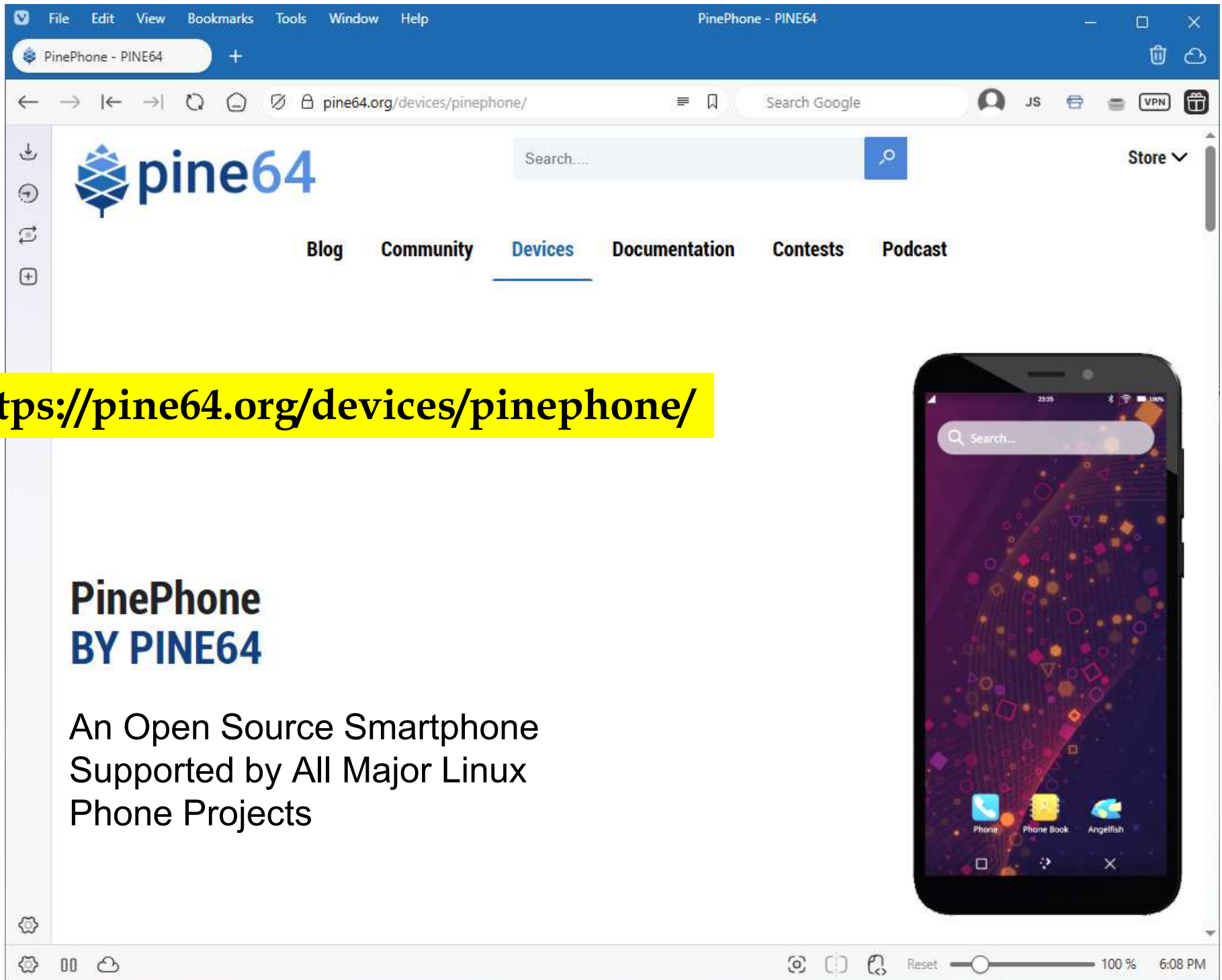
Chris Waite ✓
124K subscribers

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kXQbpwwL2s

Time for a Linux phone!





<https://pine64.org/devices/pinephone/>

PinePhone BY PINE64

An Open Source Smartphone
Supported by All Major Linux
Phone Projects



File Edit View Bookmarks Tools Window Help postmarketOS // real Linux distribution for phones

postmarketOS // real Linux +

postmarketos.org Search Google JS VPN

 postmarketOS

Home Install Blog Explore Team Donate

The Linux distribution for mobile devices and beyond...



<https://postmarketos.org>

User Interfaces

 GNOME™  KDE  Phosh  SXMO [and more...](#)

00 Reset 100 % 8:38 AM



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FSF announces librephone project

by [Free Software Foundation](#) — Published on Oct 14, 2025 03:09 PM

BOSTON, Massachusetts, USA (Tuesday, October 14, 2025) — The Free Software Foundation (FSF) today announced its project to bring mobile phone freedom to users. "Librephone" is an initiative to reverse-engineer obstacles preventing mobile phone freedom until its goal is achieved.

Librephone is a new initiative by the [FSF](#) with the goal of bringing *full* freedom to the mobile computing environment. The vast majority of software users around the world use a mobile phone as their primary computing device. After forty years of advocacy for computing freedom, the FSF will now work to bring the right to [study, change, share, and modify](#) the programs users depend on in their daily lives to mobile phones.

<https://www.fsf.org/news/librephone-project>

Share

UniGetUI



- Package manager manager for Windows
 - not a typo
- UniGetUI: a **manager** for **package managers** for Windows
- What is a package manager?
 - software tool that automates:
 - installing, upgrading, and removing software programs
 - connects to software repositories
 - manages bundled files containing programs as well as metadata like version, dependencies, etc.

<https://www.marticliment.com/unigetui/>
<https://apps.microsoft.com/detail/xpfftq032ptphf>

Share

Repositories used by UniGetUI

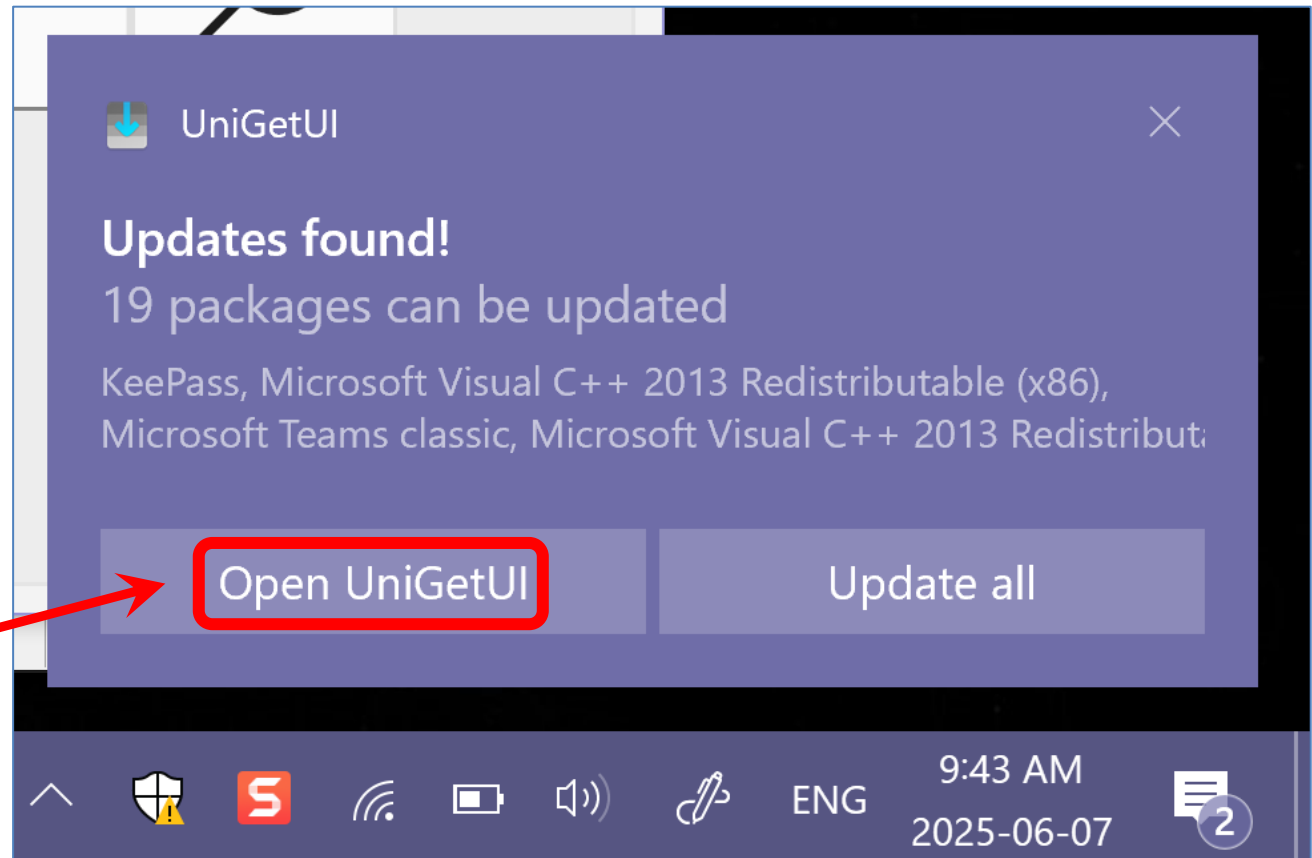
- WinGet: Windows Package Manager
 - Microsoft's free & open-source command-line tool designed for Windows
 - source for many Windows packages (includes most Microsoft Store apps)
 - **over 9,000 packages available**
- Chocolatey Repository
 - well-known repository for Windows packages
- Scoop Repository
 - repository for portable applications and command-line tools
- Pip, Npm, and .NET Tools
 - package sources for Python, Node.js, & .NET utilities

Share

Notified when updates available

Pop-up tells you when updates are available

Click to open UniGetUI



Share

All (mostly) about updates!

Installed programs with updates available

- expect large number when first installing UniGetUI

Click to update

Software updates

19 packages were found, 19 of which match the specified filters. (Last checked: 2025-06-07 9:43:37 AM)

Search for packages

Order by: Name View mode: [List] [Grid]

Update selected packages

Package Name	Package ID	Version	New version	Source
Foxit PDF Reader	Foxit.FoxitReader.Inno	2023.2.0.21408	2025.1.0.27937	WinGet: winget
Intel® Driver & Support Assistant		24.6.49.8	25.2.15.9	WinGet: winget
IrfanView	Iranskijandmanview	4.44	4.72	WinGet: winget
KeePass	DominikReichl.KeePass	2.53.1	2.58.0	WinGet: winget
LibreOffice	TheDocumentFoundation.LibreOffice	7.2	25.2.4.3	WinGet: winget
LockHunter	CrystalRich.LockHunter	Unknown	3.4.3.146	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Edge	Microsoft.Edge	137.0.3296.62	137.0.3296.68	WinGet: winget
Microsoft OneDrive	Microsoft.OneDrive	25.085.0504.0002	25.091.0512.000	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Teams	Microsoft.Teams	23306.3314.2555	25094.310.3616	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Teams classic	Microsoft.Teams.Classic	1.5.0.8070	1.8.00.12555	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 Redistributable (x64)	Microsoft.VCRedist.2013.x64	12.0.30501.0	12.0.40684.0	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 Redistributable (x86)	Microsoft.VCRedist.2013.x86	12.0.30501.0	12.0.40684.0	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2022 Redistributable (x64)	Microsoft.VCRedist.2015+.x64	14.32.31332.0	14.44.35208.0	WinGet: winget
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2022 Redistributable (x86)	Microsoft.VCRedist.2015+.x86	14.40.33816.0	14.44.35208.0	WinGet: winget
Mozilla Firefox (en-US)	Mozilla.Firefox	125.0.3		WinGet: winget

Installed version

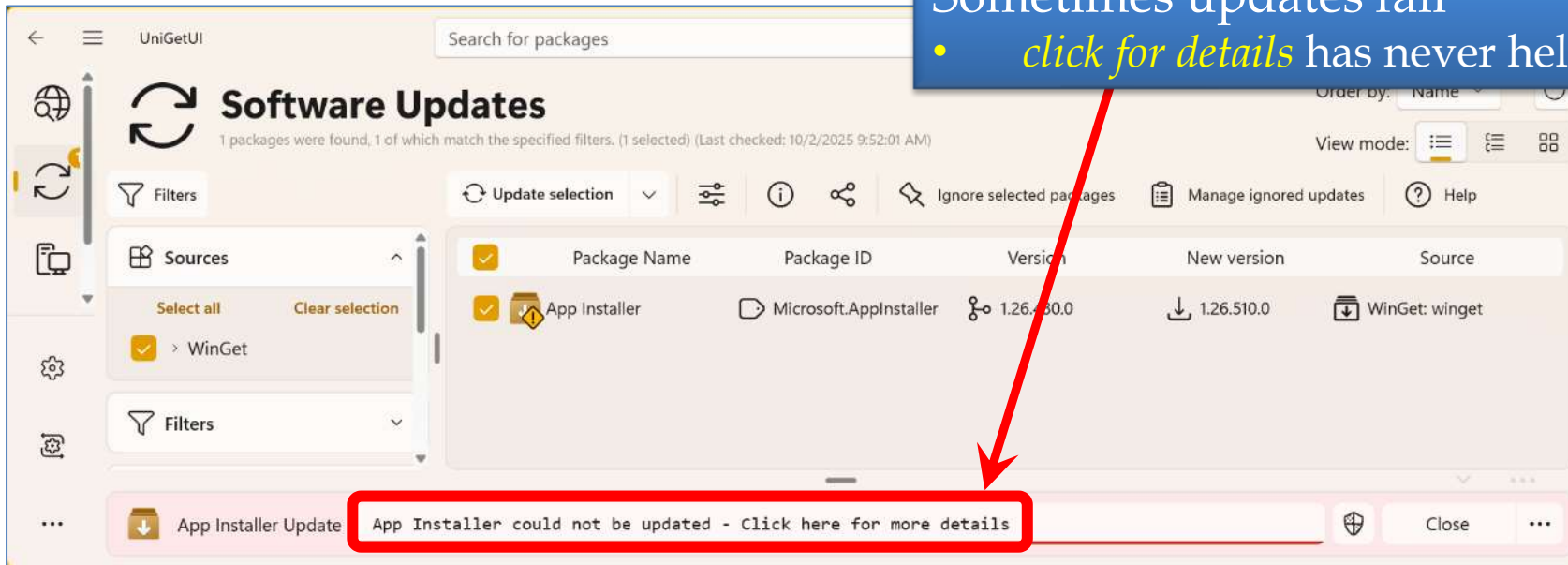
Version available

Share

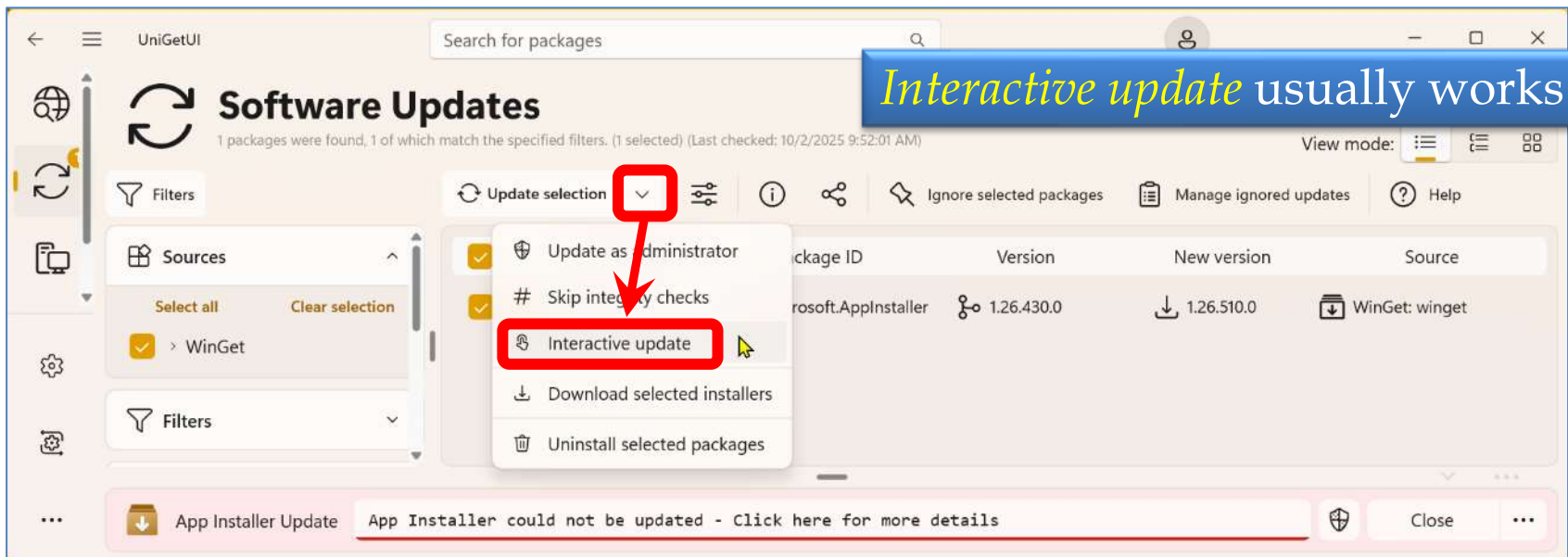
Update failures

Sometimes updates fail

- *click for details* has never helped me



Interactive update usually works



Share

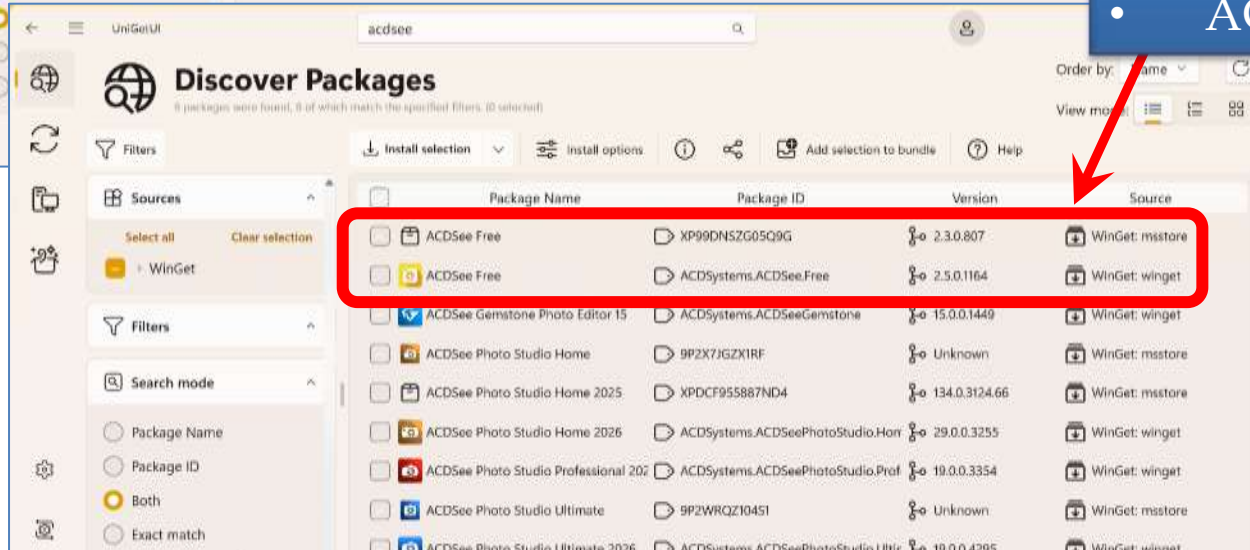
Install new programs

Discover Packages



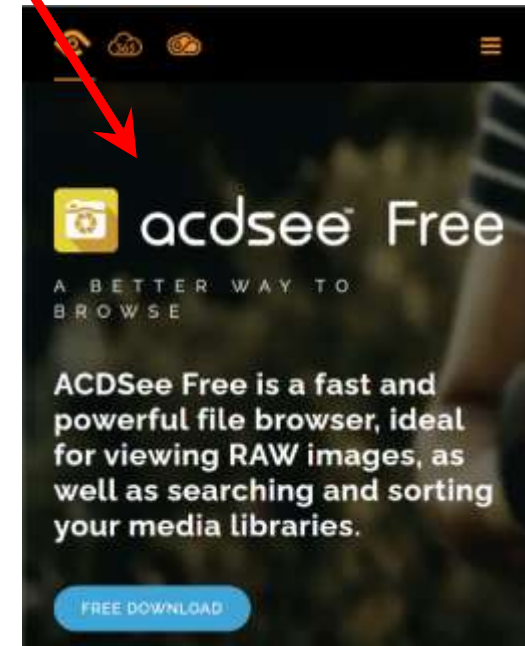
ACDSee Free can be installed from

- Microsoft Store
- WinGet
- ACDSee website



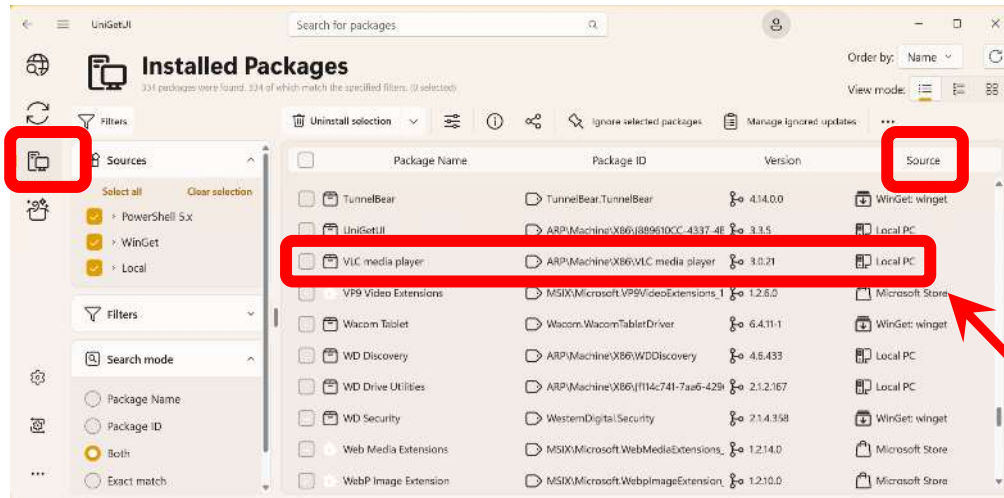
What are the differences for "ACDSee" installed from Winget, Microsoft Store and the ACDSee website?

- <https://www.perplexity.ai/search/what-are-the-differences-for-a-nQVNeSH9RUWr5DbE9kHvpw#0>



Share

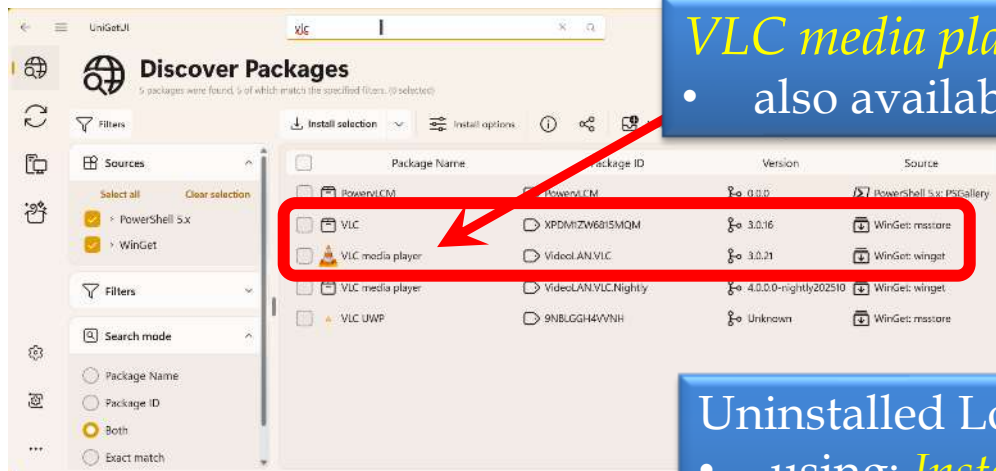
Software already installed



Installed Packages shows source

- WinGet & Microsoft Store (& other repositories)
- updated by UniGetUI
- **Local PC**
- **not** updated by UniGetUI

VLC media player — Local PC



VLC media player

- also available through **Microsoft Store** and **WinGet**

Uninstalled Local PC version

- using: *Installed Packages*
- Used *UniGetUI* to install **Microsoft Store** version
- now kept up-to-date through *UniGetUI* or *Microsoft Store*

Share

Settings

- Lots of options: you might want to change some
- *Administrator rights and other dangerous settings > Ask for administrator privileges once for each batch of operations*
- *Package operation preferences > Try to kill the processes which refuse to close when requested to*
- *Package update preferences > Check for updates every:*
 - default is **10 minutes!**
 - maybe **a day** is more reasonable
- Package manager preferences (enable/disable repositories)
 - Alan found he was getting prompted to update hundreds of Python scripts he was not concerned about
 - maybe just leave **WinGet**, **Scoop**, and **Chocolatey**

Share

UniGetUI a panacea?

- Not really
- Likely have a lot of programs not updated by UniGetUI
 - for those, whatever update checking/processes currently used
 - *Help > About > Check for updates* in program
 - Glarysoft Software Update
 - <https://www.glarysoft.com/downloads/?p=su-page>
 - Patch My PC
 - <https://patchmypc.com/home-updater>
 - Secteer VulnDetect
 - <https://vulndetect.com/#/>
 - vendors' websites

UniGetUI a panacea?

- UniGetUI: an *update manager*, not *vulnerability manager*
 - only free vulnerability manager I know is **Secteer VulnDetect**
- Some software does a good job up keeping up-to-date
- Most repositories deal with free software
- Some commercial software also in repositories
 - especially freemium software
 - CCleaner, EaseUS Todo Backup, GlassWire, Malwarebytes...
- UniGetUI is an incomplete solution to keeping software up-to-date
 - but it certainly can help
 - more complete than most update managers for Windows
 - **little reason not to use it**

Share

Bird ID with Merlin

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Merlin Bird ID website. At the top left is the Cornell Lab logo with a bird icon. To its right are links for 'CONTACT US' and a red 'DONATE' button, followed by a language dropdown set to 'English'. A navigation bar below the logo contains links for 'Home' (highlighted), 'The Story', 'Sound ID', 'Posters and Resources', 'Help', and 'Download'. The main content area is split: the left side has a dark background with the text 'Identify the birds you see or hear with Merlin Bird ID' and 'Free global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps, and more.', along with 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play' buttons. The right side features a large photo of a Yellow-throated Warbler with its beak open, perched on a branch with pink blossoms. A green 'Contact Us' button is overlaid on the bottom right of the photo. A caption at the bottom of the photo reads 'Yellow-throated Warbler by Ryan Sanderson/Macaulay Library'.

Cornell Lab
Merlin

CONTACT US DONATE English ▾

Home The Story Sound ID Posters and Resources Help Download

Identify the birds you see or hear with Merlin Bird ID

Free global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps, and more.

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

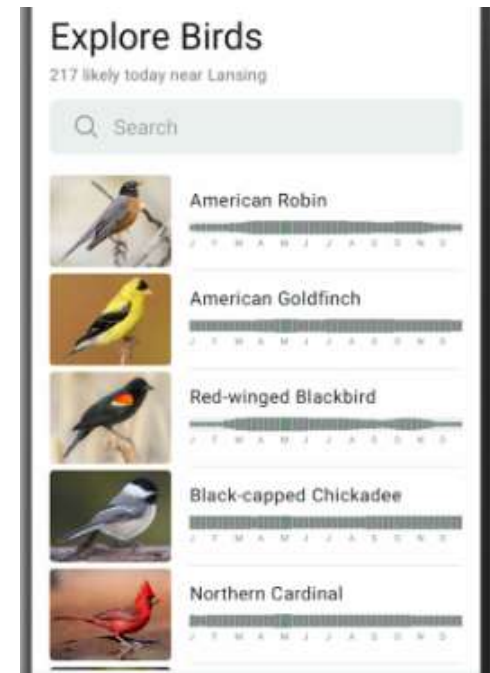
Yellow-throated Warbler by Ryan Sanderson/Macaulay Library

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>

Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab



- Available for Android and iPhone
- Field Guide
 - Descriptions
 - Photographs
 - Range Maps
 - Songs
- Expert ID (multiple questions)
- Photo-ID (image recognition)
- Sound ID (microphone listens for bird songs/calls)
- Life List









Explore Birds

All offline birds (383 birds)

Search



Graylag Goose



Greater White-fronted Goose



Lesser White-fronted Goose



Taiga Bean-Goose



Tundra Bean-Goose



Pink-footed Goose



Identify



Explore



Life List



Settings



Please enable location services

Location is essential for bird ID. For Merlin to work properly, location services must be enabled.

[Learn more](#)[Go to settings](#)

35,506 listening now



Step by Step



Sound ID



Photo ID

My Sound Recordings

Identify

Explore

Life List

Settings

1 of 5



Where did you see the bird?

 Current Location Map

Recent

Nice, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, FR

(45.463, -75.635)

Ottawa, Ontario, CA

Lagos, Faro District, PT

(45.391, -75.510)

(45.404, -75.559)

(45.487, -75.534)

Mountain View, California, US



7:42 📶 🔒

📶 🔒 19%

← 2 of 5



When did you see the bird?



Today Oct 01

Change date

Next



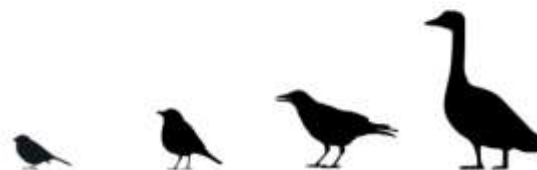
7:42 📶 🔒

📶 🔒 19%

← 3 of 5



What size was the bird?



Sparrow-sized or smaller

Next



7:42

19%

← 4 of 5



What were the main colors?

Select from 1 to 3



Black



Gray



White



Buff/Brown



Red/Rufous



Yellow



Olive/Green



Blue



Orange

Next



7:42

19%

← 5 of 5



Was the bird... ?

☐ Eating at a feeder

☐ Swimming or wading

☒ On the ground

☐ In trees or bushes

☐ On a fence or wire

☐ Soaring or flying

Next



Nice, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, FR—October 01



Breeding male (Eurasian)

1 of 10

Northern Wheatear



● Rare

Small thrush-like bird with distinctive black-and-white tail pattern best seen in flight. Throughout most of range, breeding male is overall pale with gray back and buffy throat, ...

This is my bird



7:43

19%

← Results



1 of 4

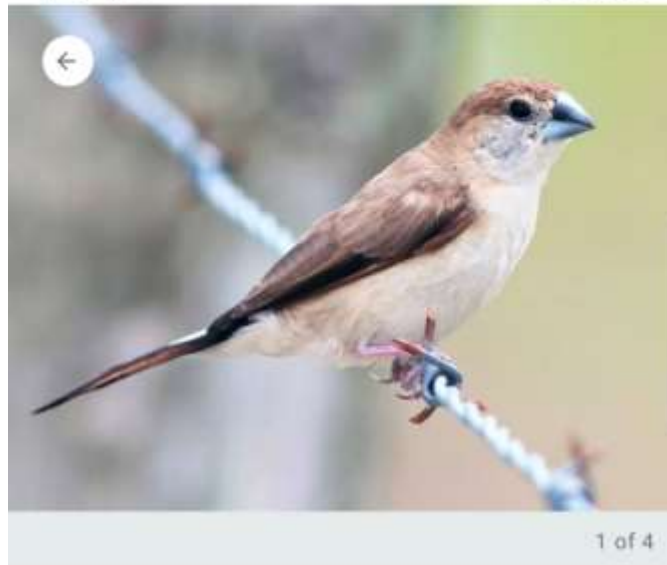
Indian Silverbill



Small, long-tailed finch with a chunky body and short, stout bill. Gray-brown above and pale below with a whitish rump and black-pointed tail. Highly sociable throughou...

This is my bird





Indian Silverbill



Euodice malabarica

Small, long-tailed finch with a chunky body and short, stout bill. Gray-brown above and pale below with a whitish rump and black-pointed tail. Highly sociable throughout the year. Found in semidesert, scrub, and dry woodland but also proliferates in urban areas. Distribution is centered on the Indian subcontinent, but it is a popular cage bird and feral populations are widespread. Gives sharp "tsik" and "tseet" calls.

This is my bird



7:25

24%



Please enable location services

Location is essential for bird ID. For Merlin to work properly, location services must be enabled.

Learn more

Go to settings

35,506 listening now



Step by Step



Sound ID



Photo ID

My Sound Recordings

Identify

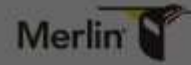
Explore

Life List

Settings

7:26

24%



Please enable location services

Location is essential for bird ID. For Merlin to work properly, location services must be enabled.

Learn more

Go to settings

35,506 listening now



Step by Step



Sound ID



Photo ID

Take photo

Choose photo

7:26

24%

1 of 2



Zoom until your bird fills the box



Choose different photo

Next



7:26

24%

1 of 2



Zoom until your bird fills the box



Choose different photo

Next



Confirm location and date

Please confirm where and when you took the photograph.



📍 Nice, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, FR

📅 October 01

I don't know

Identify

Nice, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, FR—October 01



1 of 4

Indian Silverbill



Small, long-tailed finch with a chunky body and short, stout bill. Gray-brown above and pale below with a whitish rump and black-pointed tail. Highly sociable throughou...

[This is my bird](#)

Can't find your bird?

Try adjusting your answers



Share

Oh Behave!



**NATIONAL
CYBERSECURITY
ALLIANCE**

- *The Annual Cybersecurity Attitudes and Behaviors Report 2025-2026*
- 142 pages!
- Survey conducted May 2 – 27, 2025
- U.S., U.K., Germany, Australia, India, Brazil, & Mexico
- 7,000 respondents
- Ages 18+ (average age 45)



<https://www.staysafeonline.org/articles/oh-behave-the-annual-cybersecurity-attitudes-and-behaviors-report-2025>

Share

Key Findings

- AI is still a concern
 - 65% believe AI makes it easier for criminals impersonate others
 - 58% report receiving no training on security or privacy risks
- Cybercrime is hitting wallets harder than ever
 - 44% reported experiencing cybercrime with data or monetary loss
 - 59% of Gen Z & 56% of Millennials reported losses from scams
- Security habits show ongoing weaknesses
 - 62% creating unique passwords, a decline from 2024
 - 41% never use a password manager
 - 77% recognize multi-factor authentication – 41% use it regularly
 - 56% update software frequently
 - only 47% consistently back up important data

Share

Worried about hackers...

≡ PCWorld

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HOW-TO

Worried about hackers, viruses, and fraud? Ask yourself these 10 questions

New attacks, new security technologies, new questions: In this article, we provide answers to current problems in PC and internet security.



By [Arne Arnold](#)

Contributor, PCWorld

OCT 21, 2025 3:30 AM PDT

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/2924220/hackers-viruses-fraud-10-security-questions-every-user-needs-to-know.html>

1. What is search parameter injection?

2. Is Defender enough?

PCWorld

3. Are passkeys really more secure?

4. How do I protect myself from crypto miners?

5. How dangerous are AI attacks?

6. Why are zero-day vulnerabilities so dangerous?

7. Where can I find an online virus scanner?

8. Can I recover files encrypted by ransomware?

9. How do I protect myself against ransomware?

10. Are my files safe in the cloud?

Share

Best Vacation and Travel Cybersecurity Tips



**NATIONAL
CYBERSECURITY
ALLIANCE**

- Common-sense tips for travelling with tech
 - before you go: prepare your tech
 - while you travel: stay smart on the go
 - welcome home: wrap up your trip safely
- Additional resources
 - links to travel tips at Federal Communications Commission, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, Consumer Reports, AARP, State Department, & more
- Can download a toolkit with
 - tip sheet, infographic, on-demand webinars, & more

<https://www.staysafeonline.org/articles/vacation-and-travel-security-tips>



The Minds Behind Windows: Raymond Chen

YouTubeTech

- Dave's Garage interview
- Raymond Chen
 - has worked for Microsoft since early 90's
 - affectionately referred to as *legendary developer* within Windows development community
 - respected for his efforts in bridging old and new generations of Windows software.



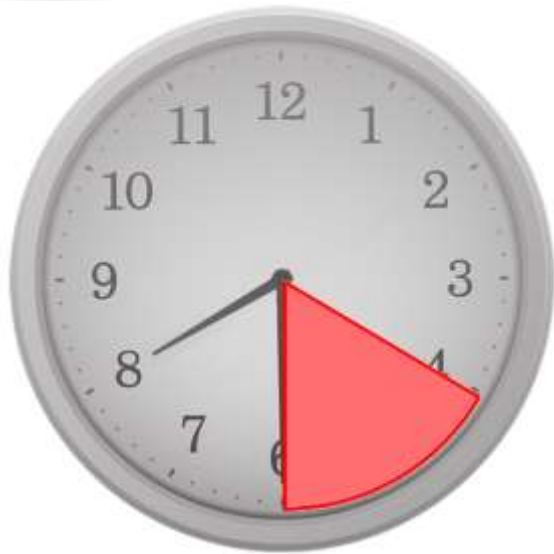
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vJQv4rgHYE>



Interesting tidbits

YouTubeTech

- Some of the general...as well as pretty geeky stories
 - why no 64-bit *Pinball* ships with Windows
 - why registry files are called hives
 - think the time zone map in Windows is simple? Nope!
 - why grouping Task Bar buttons is complicated
 - early testing of USB devices using the *USB cart of death*!
 - origin & evolution of *PowerToys*
 - backward-compatibility is not easy
 - why compressed files are no longer displayed in blue & encrypted files no longer in green
 - how Microsoft circumvented *security violations* in IBM's Boca Raton facility in order to continue to enjoy coffee
 - what keeps Raymond coming back to work after over 35 years



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

OPCUG IDEA GENERATOR



Anything computer-related

OPCUG IDEA GENERATOR



Hardware/software question
Share on topic of interest
Details of a useful program
Interesting YouTube video/channel
Basic computer usage
Recommended Loonie Link
Smartphone/tablet app
Operating system tweak
Windows, Linux or Android

Anything computer-related

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:
- If you need help on any computer-related issue, send a request for assistance to:

<https://opcug.ca/one-on-one-remote-assistance/>

1on1request@opcug.ca

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



OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Quick PC Tips: Enhancing Capabilities and Performance with Free Tool

Chris Taylor

Orléans, Thursday Oct 30, 2025 at 6:00pm

Restoring Old Photos

Lynda Buske

Cumberland, Saturday Nov 1, 2025 at 2:00pm

Artificial Intelligence (AI): fun and useful tips

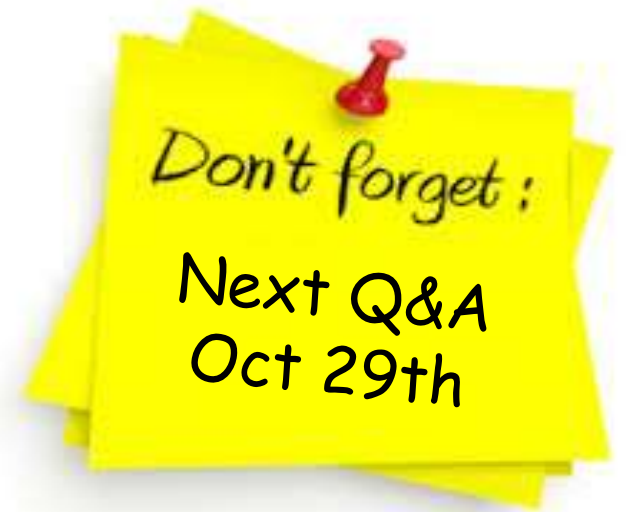
Chris Taylor

Sorry this event is full

But...

Greenboro, Tuesday Nov 4, 2025 at 2:30pm

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



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca