

Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

November 19, 2025

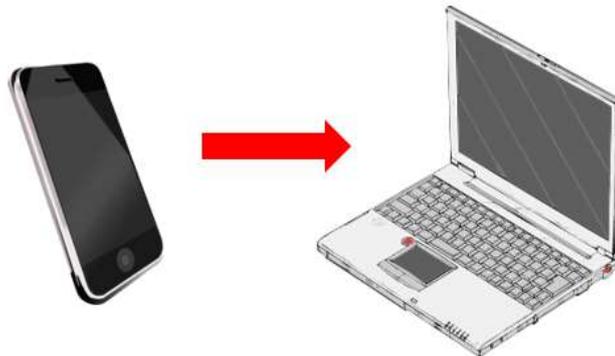
Follow Up

iPhone to PC



iPhone to PC

- A friend wants assistance with a number of computing tasks
- One of these is transferring lots of photos from an iPhone to a PC
- I know nothing about Apple products
- What is the best method for file transfer from an iPhone to a PC?



My thanks to all those who provided suggestions.

A fine example of Users - Helping- This User!

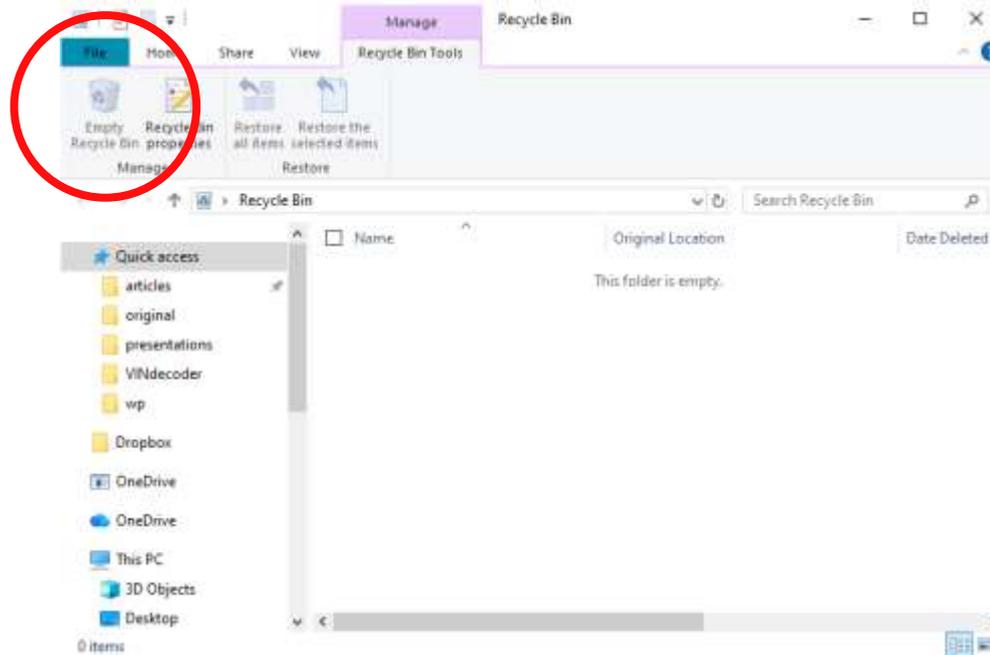
Options:

- I download the photos from iCloud
- I did a presentation on transferring photos from an iPhone to a PC a couple of years ago
(https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20221207_PowerPoint.pdf)
- I use "Send Anywhere" to move files from my iPhone to my computer
- For photos, you can upload to iCloud or Google photos
- I simply use a cable (Lightning to USB-C) and copy from the Photos app to the desired folder on my PC
- Connect the phone to the PC; copy files from DCIM on the iPhone to the PC

Follow Up Recycle Bin

- Where do I find my recycle bin?
- “An easy way to empty the Recycle Bin in Windows 10”

<https://opcug.ca/qa-2016/>



AN EASY WAY TO EMPTY THE RECYCLE BIN IN WINDOWS 10

Open the Recycle Bin and click on Manage. Now, click on the inconspicuous chevron in the top-right corner of the Recycle Bin window. This is a toggle that allows you to expand or minimize the ribbon.

If you expand the ribbon, Windows will remember your preference. So, next time you want to empty the trash, double click on the Recycle Bin icon on the desktop, and simply click on Empty Recycle Bin in the ribbon.



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



No Zoom session on the 26th
Ask your questions at the Big Rig!



1980 Ogilvie Rd #115

Google Maps

Follow Up Testing USB cables



Share

USB charging

- How many different chargers do you have?
 - for phones, tablets, laptops, watches, flashlights, etc.
 - charge a single device each
 - different connectors, output voltages and amperages
 - many obsolete – too weak to charge a modern device

What we need is a single charger that can charge all our devices!

Q&A 2025-10-29

Share

Risk using non-e-marked cables

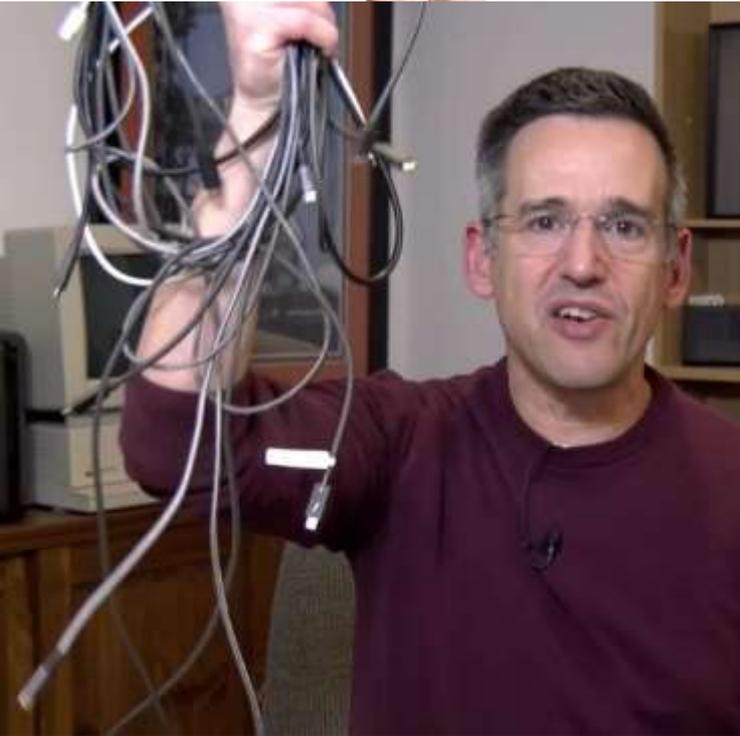
- No embedded chip that communicates cable's power capabilities to the charger and device
- May experience
 - voltage drops
- Charger may stop working or can't safely handle
 - can cause the charger to overheat
 - increase risk of fire or damage to devices due to overcurrent
- Bottom-line
 - certified e-marked cables tested to ensure safe power delivery
 - safer choice especially for high-wattage GaN chargers
 - any charger that can provide 100 watts or higher
 - be sure to use e-marked cable if connected device draws 100+ watts

Discussion about how to ensure your cables are what they claim to be

- data transfer speeds
- power delivery (amperage & voltage)

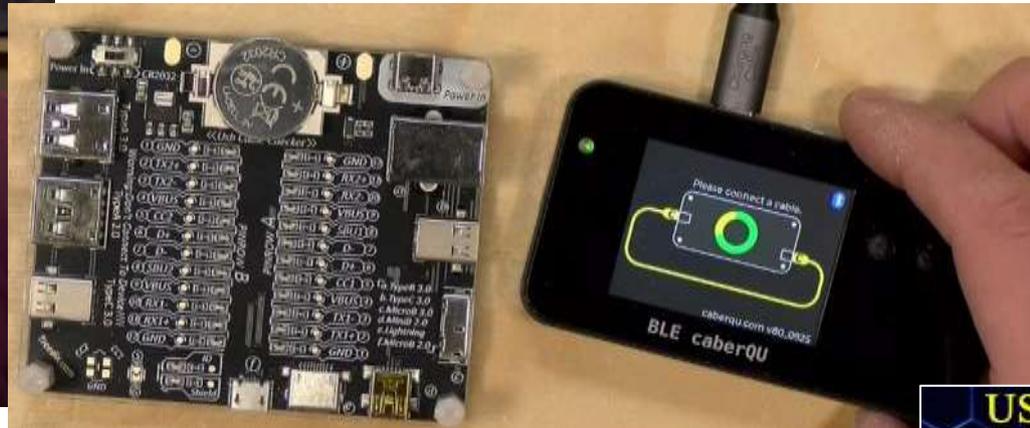
Chris Taylor is **not** an electrical engineer
• he accepts **no** responsibility for a *negative outcome*

Follow Up Lon.TV to the rescue!



Lon Seidman: use cable testers to get detailed insight into the capabilities of your cables

- ~ \$25+ at Amazon.ca
- couldn't find "BLE caberQU"



Found Treedix

- recommended in comments
- \$60 at Amazon.ca



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

Stewart Bruce



Security, privacy, & scam prevention



Elder Abuse
Prevention
Ontario

Loonie Links

- Archive of webinars covering many topics
 - Navigating Online Privacy and Security
 - Discover Online Safety
 - Consumer Protection Ontario : Know Your Rights!
 - Protecting Seniors from Financial Harm
 - It's Tax Time: Be Aware of Tax Scams
 - How to Be #UnHackable:
Learn to Think Like a Scammer
to Improve Your Cybersafety Skill
 - Think before you Click!!
Staying Safe Online
 - *Lots more, including non-security*



<https://eapon.ca/webinar-archive/>



Report Cybercrime and Fraud

Loonie Links

RCMP launches national cybercrime and fraud website to report incidents

Hopefully this helps more Canadians report incidents of cybercrime



Dean Daley @thedaleydean

NOV 7, 2025 | 2:58 PM EST | 0 COMMENTS

The **Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)** is launching the Report Cybercrime and Fraud website, a new system for individuals, businesses and organizations to report incidents of fraud and cybercrime.

MobileSyrup

<https://mobilesyrup.com/2025/11/07/rcmp-cybercrime-fraud-website-canada/>

Stewart Bruce



Report Cybercrime and Fraud

Report a scam, fraud or cybercrime online, whether you are the victim, were targeted or are a witness.

[Report Online](#)[Update a report](#)

In case of an emergency

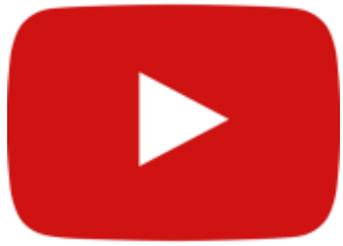
Contact your local police

Why report online?

Reporting a scam or computer crime online helps the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police \(RCMP\)](#), the [National Cybercrime Coordination Centre \(NC3\)](#) and the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre \(CAFC\)](#) learn more about the nature of these incidents.

You can report quickly and even anonymously if you wish to share helpful information without being identified.

<https://reportcyberandfraud.canada.ca>



YouTubeTech

Windows "SUCKS": How I'd Fix it by a retired Microsoft Windows engineer



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTpA5jt1g60>

When you purchase through links in our articles, we may earn a small commission. This doesn't affect our [editorial independence](#).

Home / News / Windows News

NEWS

'Windows sucks': How the dev who created Task Manager would fix things

A veteran of Windows development takes Windows to task in his latest YouTube video.



By [Hans-Christian Dirscherl](#)
 Managing Editor, PC-WELT | NOV 12, 2025 9:11 AM PST



Image: David Plummer



TD Partial Shares:
 Access top stocks,
 and ETFs, affordably,
 from \$5.

[Learn More](#)



<https://www.pcworld.com/article/2969844/windows-sucks-how-the-dev-who-created-task-manager-would-fix-things.html>

Share

Window Swap

- People from around the world record the view from their window and post it online

<https://www.window-swap.com>

- The location, time and date are shown at the top right of the screen
- There's everything from back yards to cityscapes to beaches, from apartments, homes, boats...
- The paid version allows you to watch ad-free with unlimited access (\$5/month or \$50/yr)
- There's a compilation video of 50 windows set to music (about 3.5 mins) on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/522685321?fl=pl&fe=vl>

Share

Google NotebookLM

The screenshot shows the Google NotebookLM web interface. At the top, there's a browser window with the URL 'notebooklm.google.com'. Below the browser, the NotebookLM logo is on the left, and 'Settings' and a user profile icon are on the right. A navigation bar contains a checkmark, a grid icon, and a hamburger menu icon. To the right of this bar is a 'Most recent' dropdown menu and a prominent black '+ Create new' button, which is pointed to by a red arrow. Below the navigation bar, there are two tabs: 'All' (selected) and 'Featured notebooks'. The 'Featured notebooks' section displays three notebook cards:

- Our World in Data: Trends in Health, Wealth and...**
Apr 15, 2025 · 24 sources
- The Atlantic: How To Build A Life, from The Atlantic**
Apr 22, 2025 · 46 sources
- The Economist: The World Ahead 2025**
Jul 7, 2025 · 70 sources

At the bottom right, there is a 'See all >' button.

Share

Google NotebookLM

- Starting a notebook

The screenshot shows the Google NotebookLM web interface. At the top, there are two browser tabs: 'Untitled notebook - NotebookLM' and 'Your Health Act, 2023, S.O. 2023, c. 4 - Bill'. The address bar shows the URL 'notebooklm.google.com/notebook/b5fba47b-dcea-4da7-8df5-...'. Below the address bar, there are several bookmarks including 'Government - Provincial Ti...', 'Imported', 'Ottawa, ON - 7 Day Foreca...', and 'CBC Music Playlists | CBC Li...'. The main content area is titled 'Untitled notebook' and has three tabs: 'Sources', 'Chat', and 'Studio'. The 'Chat' tab is currently selected. In the center of the page, there is a large blue circular icon with an upward arrow, followed by the text 'Add a source to get started' and a button labeled 'Upload a source'. At the bottom of the page, there is a text input field with the placeholder text 'Upload a source to get started' and a button with a document icon and '(0)' next to it. A footer note at the very bottom states: 'NotebookLM can be inaccurate; please double check its responses.'

Share

Google NotebookLM

- Sources

NotebookLM

Add sources

[Discover sources](#)

Sources let NotebookLM base its responses on the information that matters most to you. (Examples: marketing plans, course reading, research notes, meeting transcripts, sales documents, etc.)

 Upload sources

Drag & drop or [choose file](#) to upload

Supported file types: PDF, .txt, Markdown, Audio (e.g. mp3)

 Google Workspace  Link  Paste text

NotebookLM can be inaccurate; please double check its responses.

Share

Google NotebookLM

- Sources from internet

Discover sources

What are you interested in?

Bill 60 ontario

Find sources from:

Web

Google Drive

I'm feeling curious

Submit

Share

Google NotebookLM

- Sources output

The screenshot shows the Google NotebookLM interface. At the top, there are browser tabs for 'Untitled notebook - NotebookLM' and 'Your Health Act, 2023, S.O. 2023, c.4 - Bill'. The address bar shows the URL 'notebooklm.google.com/notebook/cc6b7b7a-5632-4597-...'. Below the browser, the notebook title is 'Untitled notebook'. The interface has three tabs: 'Sources', 'Chat', and 'Studio'. A modal window titled 'Discover sources' is open, displaying a list of sources related to 'Bill 60 Ontario'. The sources are:

- Bill 60, Your Health Act, 2023 - Legislative Assembly of Ontario** (checked) - Establishes the two distinct uses of Bill 60 in the 43rd and 44th Parliaments.
- Ontario passes health-care bill allowing private clinics to conduct more surgeries** (unchecked) - Details the 2023 'Your Health Act' passage and its focus on private surgery expansion.
- Ontario Health Coalition Analysis of Bill 60, Your Health Act** (checked) - Provides critical analysis of the 2023 healthcare bill's key changes and public servant oversight issues.
- Ontario Nurses' Association Submission on Bill 60, Your Health Act, 2023** (checked) - Presents the Ontario Nurses' Association's concerns about privatization and staffing shortages.

At the bottom of the modal, it says '3 sources selected' and has an 'Import' button. Below the modal, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Upload a source to get started' and a file upload icon. At the very bottom, a disclaimer reads: 'NotebookLM can be inaccurate; please double check its responses.'

Share

Google NotebookLM - Chat

The screenshot shows a web browser window with two tabs: "Ontario's Bill 60: Health Act Analysis and Concerns" and "Bill 60, Your Health Act, 2023 - Legislative". The address bar shows the URL "notebooklm.google.com/notebook/cc6b7b7a-5632-4...". The browser's bookmark bar includes "Government - Provincial Ti...", "Imported", "Ottawa, ON - 7 Day Foreca...", and "CBC Music Playlists | CBC Li...".

The NotebookLM interface has a title "Ontario's Bill 60: Health Act Analysis and Concerns" and three tabs: "Sources", "Chat", and "Studio". The "Chat" tab is active, displaying a summary of the sources:

3 sources

The provided texts offer contrasting perspectives on **Bill 60, Your Health Act, 2023**, focusing on the establishment and regulation of **integrated community health services centres** in Ontario. The legislative excerpts detail the **licensing requirements** for these centers, including considerations for patient experience, quality assurance, and staffing models, while also outlining rules for **financial accountability** and prohibiting charges for insured services or granting preferential access. Conversely, the analyses from the **Ontario Health Coalition** and the **Ontario Nurses' Association** express significant concerns, arguing that the bill grants **excessive and unregulated power to the Director** (potentially a private entity) over health system planning and licensing, increases the risk of **corruption** due to lack of transparency, and **deregulates various health care professions** through new regulation-making powers.

Below the text is a "Save to note" button and a "Start typing..." input field. To the right of the input field is a document icon with "(3)" and a right-pointing arrow. Three example prompts are shown in rounded boxes:

- What are the key changes and new regulatory powers established by Bill 60?
- How does Bill 60 alter financial accountability and payment regulations for health services?
- What are the implications of oversight, transparency, and

At the bottom of the interface, a disclaimer reads: "NotebookLM can be inaccurate; please double check its responses."

Share

Google NotebookLM

- Asking questions

- **Question to NotebookLM:** Does the following quotation from Bill 60 mean people formerly restricted from using the title of doctor will now be able to present themselves as a doctor?
“Ministerial Exemption Powers: New power is granted to the Minister of Health, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to make regulations exempting people from restricted title provisions (e.g., using titles like "physician" or "nurse") under several regulated health professions acts.”
- **Answer from NotebookLM:** The provisions within Bill 60, *Your Health Act, 2023*, suggest that the new regulatory powers **could potentially** allow individuals formerly restricted from using the title "physician" or "doctor" to use such titles, depending entirely on future regulations made by the government

Share

Google NotebookLM - Studio

The screenshot shows the Google NotebookLM Studio interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL `notebooklm.google.com/notebook/cc6b7b7a-5632-4...`. The notebook title is "Ontario's Bill 60: Health Act Analysis and Concerns". The interface is divided into three main sections: Sources, Chat, and Studio. The Studio section is currently active and displays a grid of interactive tools: Audio Overview, Video Overview, Mind Map, Reports, Flashcards, and Quiz. Below this grid, a list of notes is visible, including "Bill 60: Licensing, Accountability, and Health System Concerns" and "Bill 60: Regulation of Physician Titles and Scope", both marked as "1m ago". A prominent "Add note" button is located at the bottom center of the interface.

Share

Google NotebookLM

- Reports

The screenshot displays the Google NotebookLM interface. The browser tabs include 'Ontario's Bill 60: Health Act', 'Search results - NotebookLM', and 'Bill 60, Your Health Act, 2023'. The address bar shows the URL 'notebooklm.google.com/notebook/cc6b7b7a-5632-4...'. The main content area is titled 'Ontario's Bill 60: Health Act Analysis and Concerns'. A 'Create report' dialog box is open, showing two sections: 'Format' and 'Suggested Format'. The 'Format' section includes 'Create Your Own', 'Briefing Doc', 'Study Guide', and 'Blog Post'. The 'Suggested Format' section includes 'Policy Analysis', 'Stakeholder Communication', 'Explanatory Article', and 'Comparison Report'. Each format option includes a brief description and an edit icon. At the bottom of the dialog, there is an 'Add note' button.

Ontario's Bill 60: Health Act Analysis and Concerns

Sources Chat Studio

Create report

Format

- Create Your Own**
Craft reports your way by specifying structure, style, tone, and more
- Briefing Doc**
Overview of your sources featuring key insights and quotes
- Study Guide**
Short-answer quiz, suggested essay questions, and glossary of key terms
- Blog Post**
Insightful takeaways distilled into a highly readable article

Suggested Format

- Policy Analysis**
An in-depth analysis of Ontario's Bill 60, focusing on its legislative implications.
- Stakeholder Communication**
A strategic communication plan for an organization responding to Ontario's Bill...
- Explanatory Article**
Learn about the key terms and definitions introduced in Ontario's Bill 60.
- Comparison Report**
Explore the main arguments for and against Ontario's new healthcare law, Bill 60.

Add note

Share

Google NotebookLM

- Remarks

- Notebooks reside on notebooklm.google.com – I expected my Bill 60 notebook to appear under my Google account
- Overall very impressive tool. If accurate, it saves a lot of work. Buyer beware though; it is so convincing it might tempt one skip checking the output

Share

AutoHotKey



See: 20251119_AutoHotkey.pdf

<https://www.autohotkey.com>



Scam email addresses

- Malicious subdomains:
 - can a scammer create malicious email address by prepending a fake user name & subdomain name to the domain name of a trusted, legitimate business?
- Example:
 - I receive an email & address ends in **rbc.com**
 - rbcroyalbank@service.**rbc.com**
 - **rbc.com**: trusted domain name
 - is email legitimate because it ends in **rbc.com**





Yes...probably

- If you trust **rbc.com**...
 - all subdomains of **rbc.com** controlled by whoever controls DNS for **rbc.com**
- But...
 - the subdomain **service.rbc.com** may be managed separately and could be poorly managed or compromised
 - trust in the main domain doesn't guarantee a subdomain is managed properly, is safe, or legitimate
- While there is no absolute
 - in the absence of some way of validating that **rbc.com** is or isn't managing its subdomains properly
 - I would trust the subdomain



Unicode characters in domain names

- Are unicode characters permitted in URLs?
- Example:
 - could a scammer register a fake malicious domain containing some unicode characters that looks like a legitimate domain
 - e.g. substituting the Cyrillic “a” (U+0430) for the ascii “a” in **apple.com**
- How can we detect malicious websites containing unicode characters?



Unicode characters in domain names

- Most DNS servers don't directly support Unicode characters
 - Punycode used to encode the Unicode characters to ASCII
 - Cyrillic “a” (U+0430) followed by **ppl.e.com** would be converted to **xn--ppl-e-43d.com**
- If you click such a link, modern browsers will show **xn--ppl-e-43d.com** in the address bar
 - do you examine the address bar every time you click a link?
 - do you catch it before being taken to the (malicious) site?
 - some browsers may warn *Deceptive site ahead*
- If not
 - maybe best to manually retype URLs
 - *really, Chris?*
 - if you are **waaaay** more paranoid than I am, yes

Share

Comparing “text” files

- **Notepad++**
 - Edit txt files in multiple tabs
 - *Compare plugin*
- **LibreOffice Writer**
 - Open Document Text (odt)
 - *Edit → Track Changes → Compare Document*
- **Microsoft Word**
 - docx files
 - *Review > Compare > Compare...*
- **PDF Files**
 - pdfdiff

Two files open

Compare plugin

The screenshot shows the Notepad++ interface with two instances of '0_index.txt' open in the top-left pane. The 'Plugins' menu is open, and the 'Compare' option is selected, which has opened a sub-menu. The sub-menu contains several options, with 'Compare' (Ctrl+Alt+C) and 'Detect Moves' (checked) highlighted. The main text area contains a list of text entries, including dates and various share/ask entries.

U:\alan\opcug\presentations\0_index.txt - Notepad++

File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?

0_index.txt 0_index.txt

1 | October 29, 2025

2

3 Follow-up - OPCUG social get-together

4 Ask - Google Password

5 Ask - kagi.com

6 Ask - Zip files

7 Share - Photo Ephemeris

8 Share -USB charging

9 Share - NotebookLM

10 Share - Housecreep

11

12 October 22, 2025

13

14 Follow-up - OPCUG social get-together

15 Share - Android Lockdown?

16 Share - UniGetUI

17 Share - Bird ID with Merlin

18 Share - Oh Behave!

19 Share - Worried about hackers...

20 Share - Best Vacation and Travel Cybersecurity Tips

21 Share - The Minds Behind Windows: Raymond Chen

22

23 October 15, 2025

24

25 Follow-up - Yet Another Update on Extended Security Updates (ESU)

26 Share - Huxe AI-news done differently

27 Share - DDoS Botnet Aisuru

28 YouTube Tech - Linux Desktop Security

29 Ask - OPCUG social get-together

30 Share - Sysinternals

Normal text file length: 69,678 lines: 2,456 Ln: 1 Col: 1 Pos: 1 Windows (CR LF) UTF-8 INS

D:\alan\opcug\presentations\0_index.txt - Notepad++

File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?

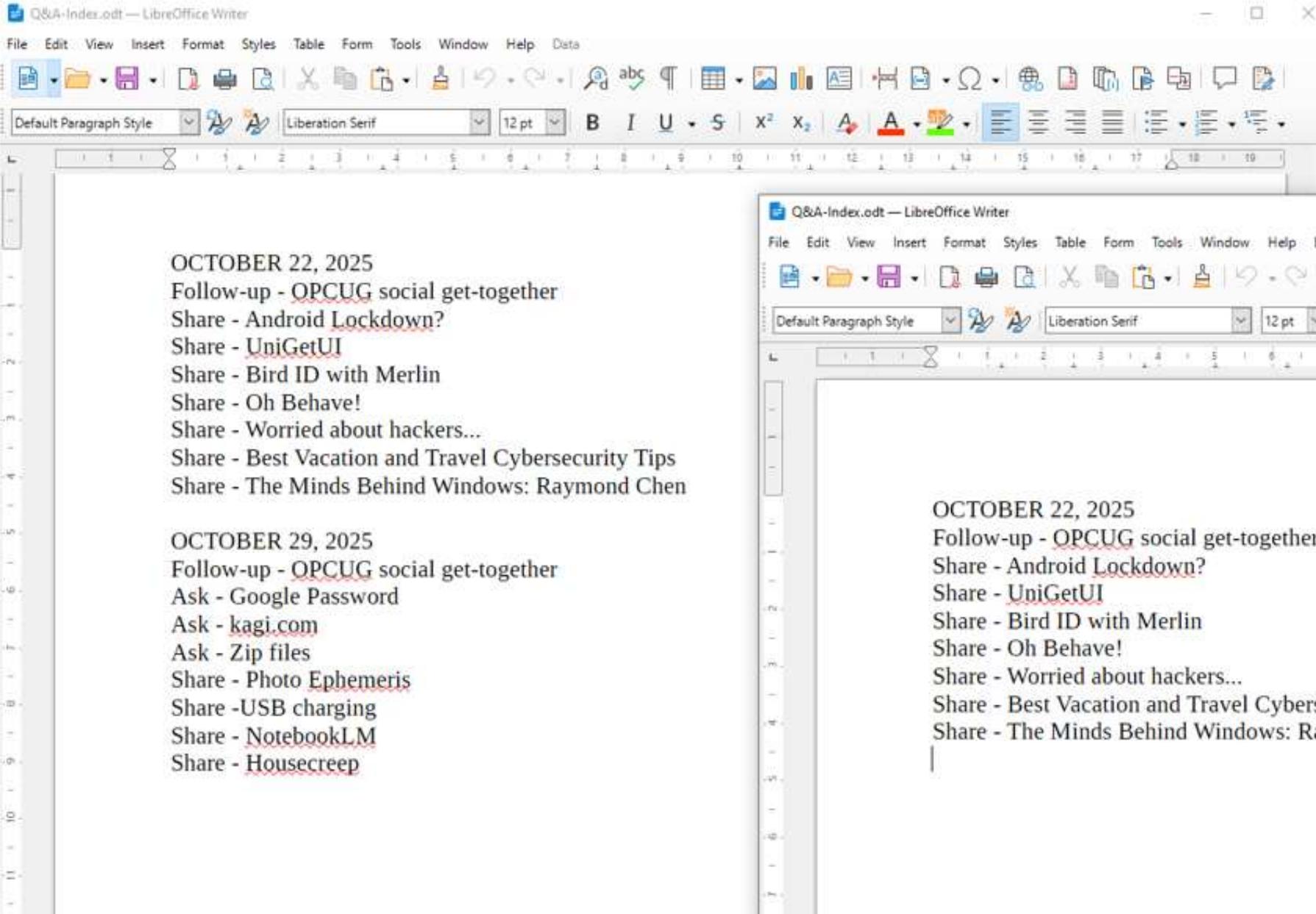
0_index.txt

```
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17 October 29, 2025
18
19 Follow-up - OPCUG social get-together
20 Ask - Google Password
21 Ask - kagi.com
22 Ask - Zip files
23 Share - Photo Ephemeris
24 Share -USB charging
25 Share - NotebookLM
26 Share - Housecreep
27
28 October 22, 2025
29
```

0_index.txt

```
1 +November 5, 2025
2 +
3 +Follow-up - OPCUG social get-together
4 +YouTube Tech - Double Your Android Phone's Battery Life
  By Changing These Settings
5 +Share - Easier hyphens and dashes
6 +Computer Basics - My most-used apps - Part 2
7 +
8 +
9 +
10 +
11 +
12 +-----
13 +Customize cmd
14 +Compare files (txt. docx, odt)
15 +-----
16 +
17 October 29, 2025
18
19 Follow-up - OPCUG social get-together
20 Ask - Google Password
21 Ask - kagi.com
22 Ask - Zip files
23 Share - Photo Ephemeris
24 Share -USB charging
25 Share - NotebookLM
26 Share - Housecreep
27
28 October 22, 2025
29
```

Normal text file length: 70,029 lines: 2,472 Ln: 1 Col: 1 Pos: 1 Windows (CR LF) UTF-8 INS



Q&A-Index.odt — LibreOffice Writer

File Edit View Insert Format Styles Table Form Tools Window Help Data

Default Paragraph Style Liberation Serif 12 pt B I U S x² x₂ A A ab

OCTOBER 22, 2025
Follow-up - [OPCUG social get-together](#)
Share - [Android Lockdown?](#)
Share - [UniGetUI](#)
Share - [Bird ID with Merlin](#)
Share - [Oh Behave!](#)
Share - [Worried about hackers...](#)
Share - [Best Vacation and Travel Cybersecurity Tips](#)
Share - [The Minds Behind Windows: Raymond Chen](#)

OCTOBER 29, 2025
Follow-up - [OPCUG social get-together](#)
Ask - [Google Password](#)
Ask - [kagi.com](#)
Ask - [Zip files](#)
Share - [Photo Ephemeris](#)
Share - [USB charging](#)
Share - [NotebookLM](#)
Share - [Housecreep](#)

Find Find All Match Case Match Diacritics

Page 49 of 49 11,222 words, 67,680 characters Default Page Style English (Canada) 135%



Default Paragraph Style

Liberation Serif

12 pt

B*I*U~~S~~ x^2 x_2

OCTOBER 22, 2025

Follow-up - OPCUG social g

Share - Android Lockdown?

Share - UniGetUI

Share - Bird ID with Merlin

Share - Oh Behave!

Share - Worried about hacker

Share - Best Vacation and Tra

Share - The Minds Behind W

OCTOBER 29, 2025

Follow-up - OPCUG social g

Ask - Google Password

Ask - kagi.com

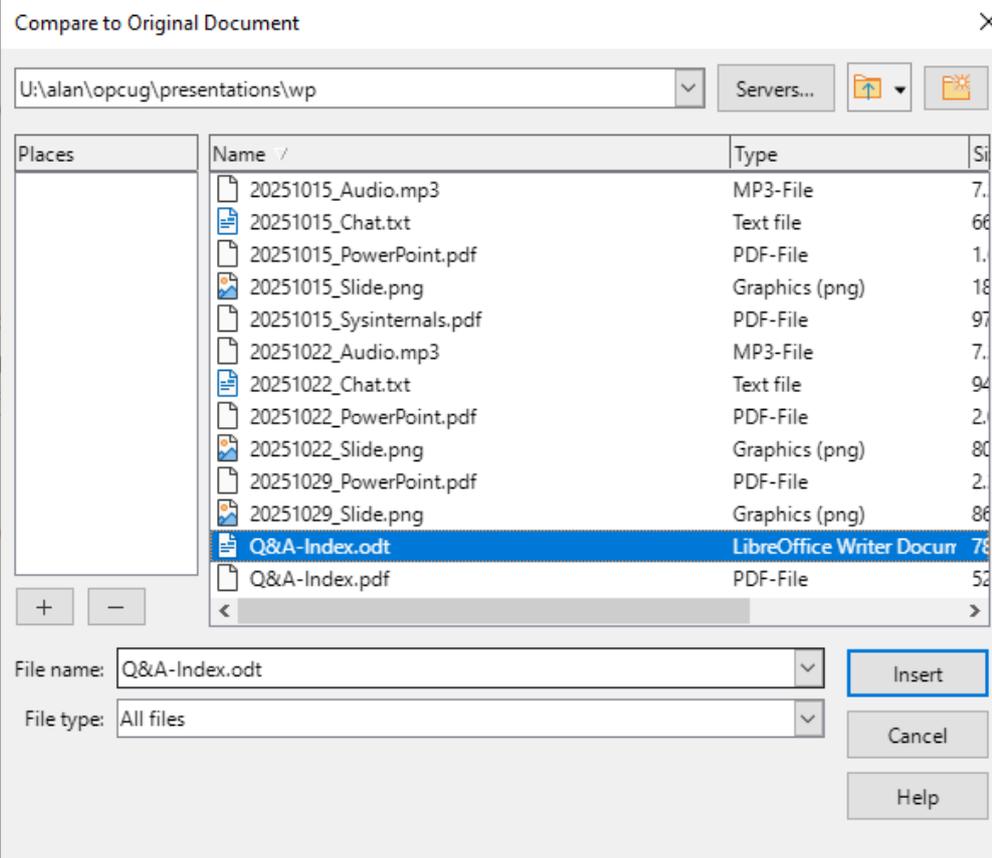
Ask - Zip files

Share - Photo Ephemeris

Share - USB charging

Share - NotebookLM

Share - Housecreep





[Follow-up - OPCUG social get-together](#)
[Share - Android Lockdown?](#)
[Share - UniGetUI](#)
[Share - Bird ID with Merlin](#)
[Share - Oh Behave!](#)
[Share - Worried about hackers...](#)
[Share - Best Vacation and Travel Cybersecurity Tips](#)
[Share - The Minds Behind Windows: Raymond Chen](#)

[OCTOBER 29, 2025](#)
[Follow-up - OPCUG social get-together](#)
[Ask - Google Password](#)
[Ask - kagi.com](#)
[Ask - Zip files](#)
[Share - Photo Ephemeris](#)
[Share - USB charging](#)
[Share - NotebookLM](#)
[Share - Housecreep](#)

VINdecoder

The VIN decoder programs use VBA macros in Excel that access the stand-alone vPIC database (<https://vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/api/>) using Microsoft SQL Server 2012.

October 27, 2025

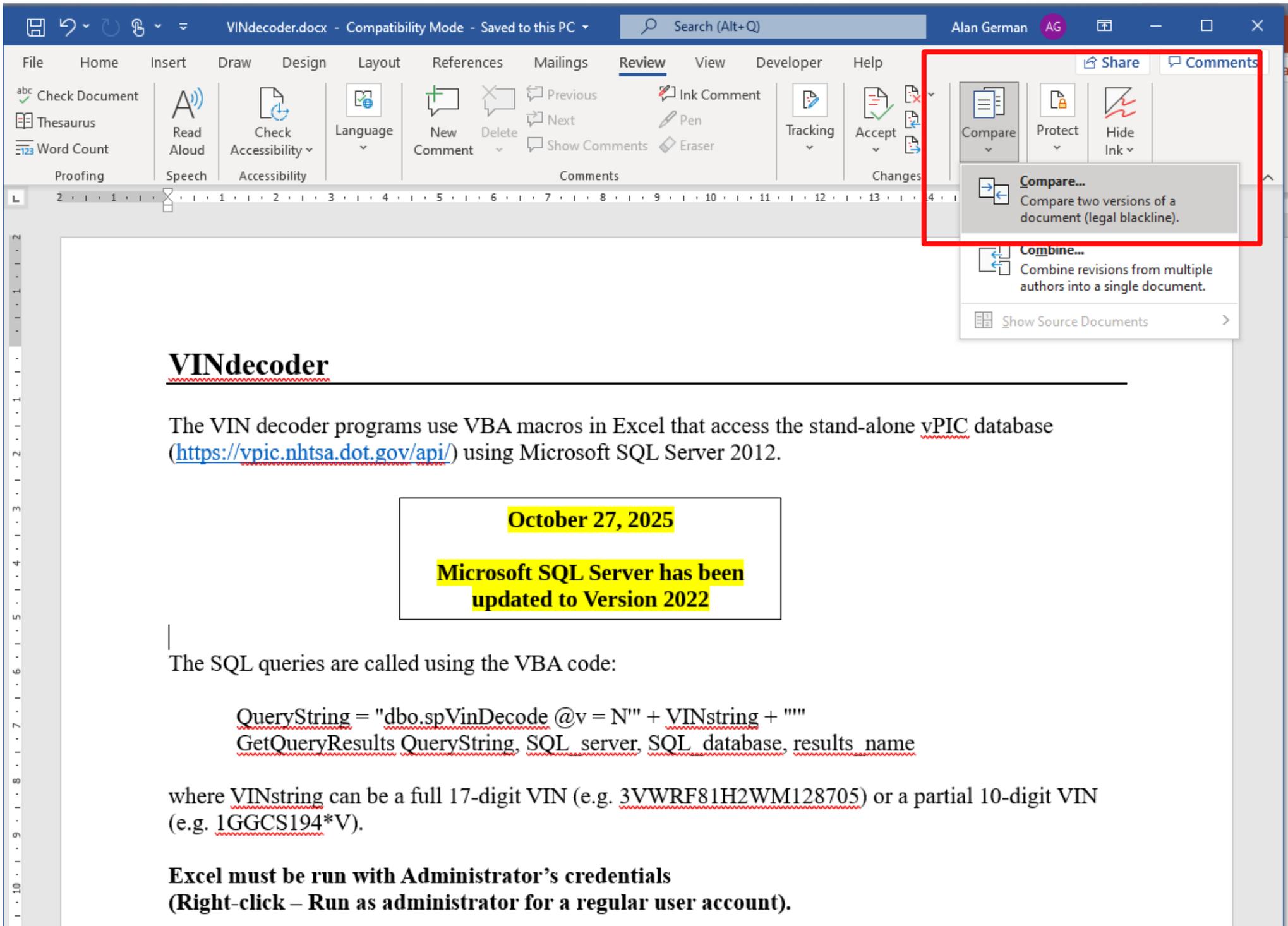
Microsoft SQL Server has been updated to Version 2022

The SQL queries are called using the VBA code:

```
QueryString = "dbo.spVinDecode @v = N" + VINstring + ""  
GetQueryResults QueryString, SQL_server, SQL_database, results_name
```

where VINstring can be a full 17-digit VIN (e.g. 3VWRF81H2WM128705) or a partial 10-digit VIN (e.g. 1GGCS194*V).

**Excel must be run with Administrator's credentials
(Right-click – Run as administrator for a regular user account).**



VINdecoder

The VIN decoder programs use VBA macros in Excel that access the stand-alone vPIC database (<https://vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/api/>) using Microsoft SQL Server 2012.

October 27, 2025

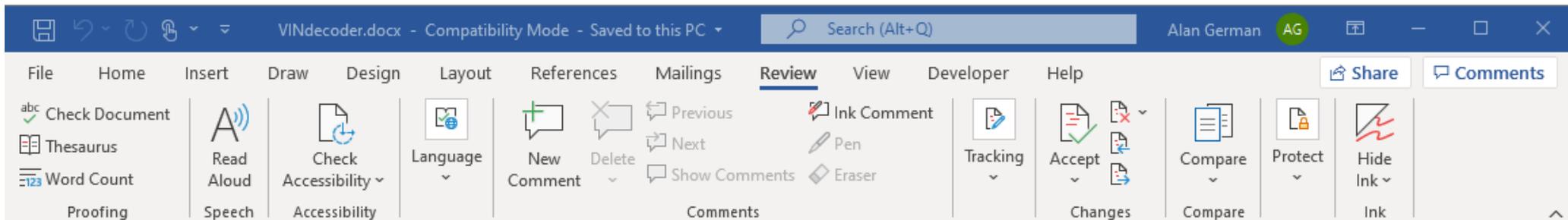
Microsoft SQL Server has been updated to Version 2022

The SQL queries are called using the VBA code:

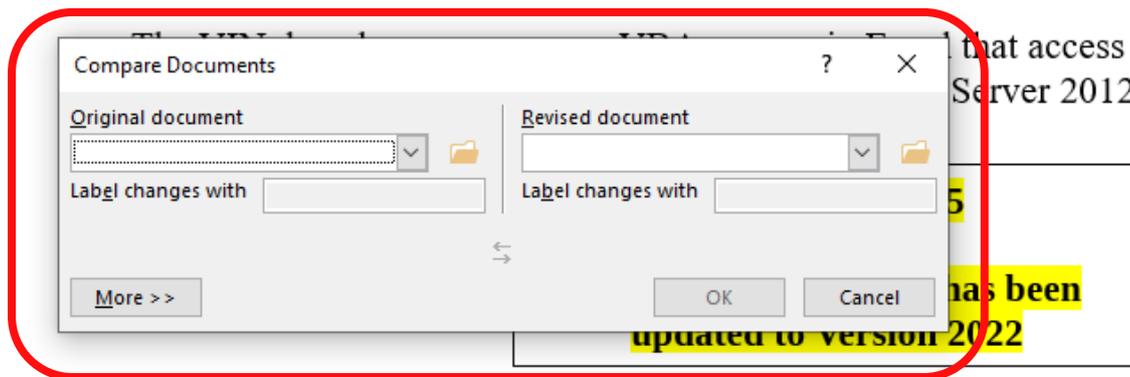
```
QueryString = "dbo.spVinDecode @v = N" + VINstring + """  
GetQueryResults QueryString, SQL server, SQL database, results name
```

where VINstring can be a full 17-digit VIN (e.g. 3VWRF81H2WM128705) or a partial 10-digit VIN (e.g. 1GGCS194*V).

**Excel must be run with Administrator's credentials
(Right-click – Run as administrator for a regular user account).**



VINdecoder



that access the stand-alone vPIC database Server 2012.

The SQL queries are called using the VBA code:

```
QueryString = "dbo.spVinDecode @v = N" + VINstring + ""  
GetQueryResults QueryString, SQL_server, SQL_database, results_name
```

where VINstring can be a full 17-digit VIN (e.g. 3VWRF81H2WM128705) or a partial 10-digit VIN (e.g. 1GGCS194*V).

**Excel must be run with Administrator's credentials
(Right-click – Run as administrator for a regular user account).**

VINdecoder

Compare Documents

Original document Revised document

Label changes with

More >>

el that access the stand-alone vPIC database Server 2012.

Open

This PC > SILICON16GB (U:) > alan > djd > VINdecoder

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
VINdecoder.docx	2025-10-26 12:06 ...	Microsoft Word D...	113 KB
VINdecoder_dbUpdate.docx	2025-10-26 11:51 ...	Microsoft Word D...	54 KB
VINdecoder_instructions.docx	2022-09-10 4:46 PM	Microsoft Word D...	14 KB

File name: VINdecoder.docx All Word Documents (*.docx;*.i...)

Tools Open Cancel

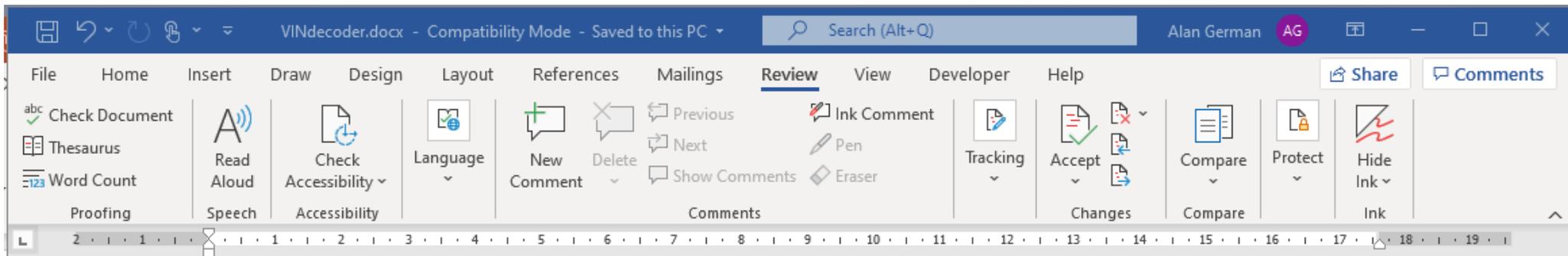
The SQL que

Quer
GetQ

where VINst
(e.g. 1GGCS

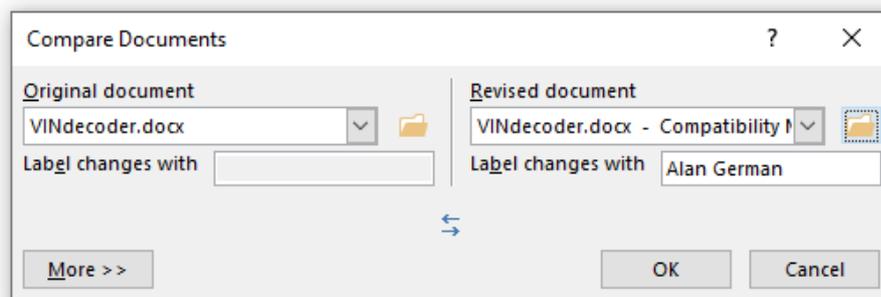
Excel must l
(Right-click

Instructions v
Excel VBA I
<https://www.>



Both files selected

VINdecoder



Excel that access the stand-alone vPIC database
Server 2012.

25

has been

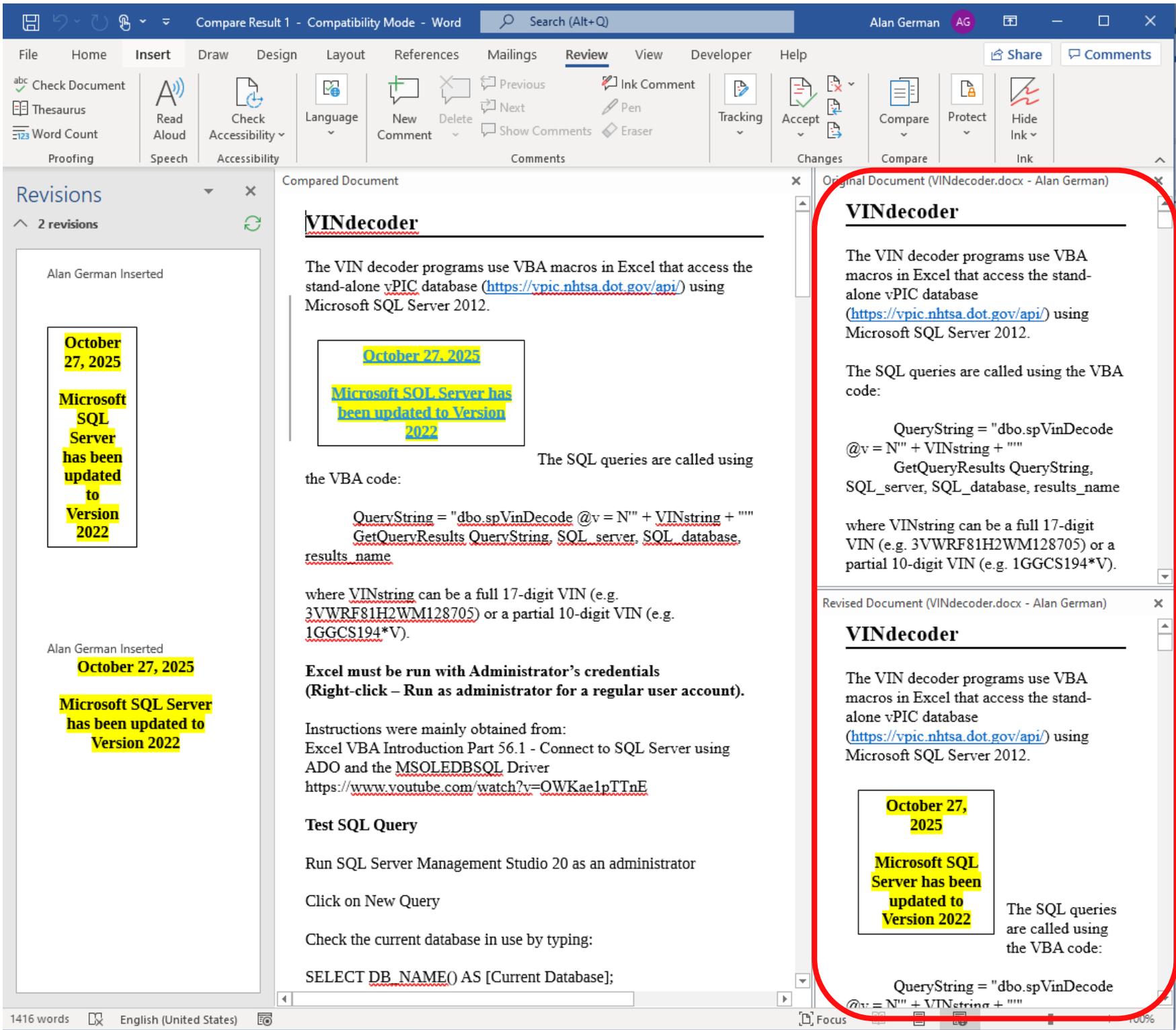
updated to Version 2022

The SQL queries are called using the VBA code:

```
QueryString = "dbo.spVinDecode @v = N'" + VINstring + """  
GetQueryResults QueryString, SQL server, SQL database, results name
```

where VINstring can be a full 17-digit VIN (e.g. 3VWRF81H2WM128705) or a partial 10-digit VIN (e.g. 1GGCS194*V).

**Excel must be run with Administrator's credentials
(Right-click – Run as administrator for a regular user account).**



Revisions

2 revisions

Alan German Inserted

October 27, 2025
Microsoft SQL Server has been updated to Version 2022

Alan German Inserted

October 27, 2025
Microsoft SQL Server has been updated to Version 2022

VINdecoder

The VIN decoder programs use VBA macros in Excel that access the stand-alone vPIC database (<https://vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/api/>) using Microsoft SQL Server 2012.

October 27, 2025
Microsoft SQL Server has been updated to Version 2022

The SQL queries are called using the VBA code:

```
QueryString = "dbo.spVinDecode @v = N" + VINstring + """  
GetQueryResults QueryString, SQL_server, SQL_database,  
results_name
```

where VINstring can be a full 17-digit VIN (e.g. 3VWRF81H2WM128705) or a partial 10-digit VIN (e.g. 1GGCS194*V).

Excel must be run with Administrator's credentials (Right-click – Run as administrator for a regular user account).

Instructions were mainly obtained from:
Excel VBA Introduction Part 56.1 - Connect to SQL Server using ADO and the MSOLEDBSQL Driver
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWKae1pTTnE>

Test SQL Query

Run SQL Server Management Studio 20 as an administrator

Click on New Query

Check the current database in use by typing:

```
SELECT DB_NAME() AS [Current Database];
```

VINdecoder

The VIN decoder programs use VBA macros in Excel that access the stand-alone vPIC database (<https://vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/api/>) using Microsoft SQL Server 2012.

The SQL queries are called using the VBA code:

```
QueryString = "dbo.spVinDecode @v = N" + VINstring + """  
GetQueryResults QueryString, SQL_server, SQL_database, results_name
```

where VINstring can be a full 17-digit VIN (e.g. 3VWRF81H2WM128705) or a partial 10-digit VIN (e.g. 1GGCS194*V).

VINdecoder

The VIN decoder programs use VBA macros in Excel that access the stand-alone vPIC database (<https://vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/api/>) using Microsoft SQL Server 2012.

October 27, 2025
Microsoft SQL Server has been updated to Version 2022

The SQL queries are called using the VBA code:

```
QueryString = "dbo.spVinDecode @v = N" + VINstring + """
```



APCUG SPEAKERS BUREAU PRESENTATIONS As of May 2025

If you want one of the below presentations at your meeting, go to www.apcug2.org/speakers-bureau and complete the request form. Receipt of the form will be acknowledged, and you will hear from the requested presenter on their availability.

RAY BAXTER, COORDINATOR, PAYSON COMPUTER MEET-UP CLUB

Technology Always Seems to be Changing the Way We Listen to Music at Home and in the Car. We've all experienced the changes technology has provided over the last several decades in almost every facet of our lives. I think how we listen to our favorite tunes at home and in our cars has probably seen the most changes. I'll review how we've listened to the music we choose in our homes, starting with the 78-rpm record and all the devices in between, bringing us up to date with today's various streaming options. Then, the focus will move to how we consume music on the road, starting with when it was so "cool" to have a push-button AM radio in the car. I'll also focus on utilizing your existing Compact Disc collection now that new cars no longer have a CD player and streaming from an online service, using Bluetooth, flash drives, smartphones, and more.

This is a presentation Ray is constantly updating, so there is always something new to present.

APCUG-Speakers-Bureau-Jun - PDF-XChange Viewer

File Edit View Document Comments Tools Window Help

Open... Zoom In 79%

APCUG-Speakers-Bureau-Jun

CHRIS TAYLOR, PRESIDENT, OTTAWA PC USERS' GROUP

Fun with Fonts - the art and science of typography. Dive into the fascinating world of typography with Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group. Chris will demystify the terminology of typography and explore its rich history. Learn what makes a typeface readable or distracting, how to effectively combine multiple typefaces, and the emotions different fonts can evoke.

Whether your next project is a greeting card, poster, newsletter, business card, logo, or anything else that incorporates text, Chris can help you avoid common typographic pitfalls. Practical tips on choosing the right typeface and creating visually appealing and readable text will be shared. For the design novice or seasoned pro, this presentation will enhance your appreciation and understanding of typography's powerful impact. (90 minutes)

How to Buy a Digital Camera. When buying a digital camera, you face a bewildering array of choices. Chris Taylor, Ottawa PC Users' Group President and Orleans Photo Club Vice-President, will help "focus" your search for the ideal digital camera to fit your budget and suit the style of



APCUG-Speakers-Bureau-Jun

CHRIS TA

Fun with f
with Chris
typography
effectively

Whether y
that incorp
choosing t
design nov
typography

How to Bu
choices. C
will help "fr



CHRIS TAYLOR, PRESIDENT, OTTAWA PC USERS' GROUP

Artificial Intelligence (AI): fun and helpful tips. Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools have exploded over the last few years. They can supercharge your web searches & help you find the most relevant information, generate images & videos from text prompts, summarize web pages, meetings, YouTube videos, & PDF files, assist with tasks in your programs, and help with creative writing, among other

things. Chris Taylor from the Ottawa PC Users' Group will demonstrate how easily it can be done and how to avoid the dreaded "AI hallucinations." And you can do it all (well, most of it) for free.

Fun with Fonts - the art and science of typography. Dive into the fascinating world of typography with Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group. Chris will demystify the terminology of typography and explore its rich history. Learn what makes a typeface readable or distracting, how to effectively combine multiple typefaces, and the emotions different fonts can evoke.

Whether your next project is a greeting card, poster, newsletter, business card, logo, or any other design that incorporates text. Chris can help you avoid common typographic pitfalls. Practical tips o

DiffPDF

DiffPDF is used to compare two PDF files—textually or visually.

[Home](#) • [DiffPDF](#) • [comparepdfcmd](#) • [Books](#) • [Site Map](#)

[DiffPDF](#) • [Screenshots](#) • [Example comparison](#) • [Changes](#)

This software is no longer for sale.

DiffPDF v6.2.0-pe is provided with a comprehensive [manual](#) (690KB). There is also the [Perpetual Edition License](#) (36KB).

Use DiffPDF to compare PDF files quickly and easily:

Click to choose one PDF; click to choose another PDF; click Compare.

The changes are shown as if you'd used highlighter pens to show added, changed, or deleted text.

This Windows application is our easiest to use and most affordable and popular product. Some customers report it as superior in functionality and far faster than Adobe Acrobat's Diff tool. Your PDFs are safely compared on your own computer without the size or page limits of online tools.

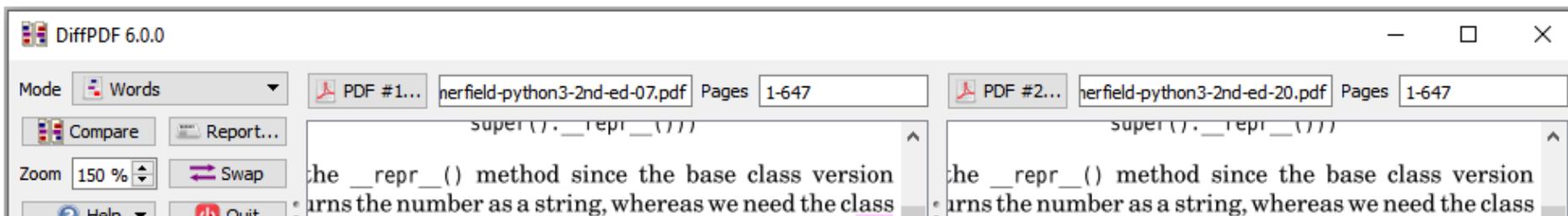
Comparisons can be made based on the text regardless of layout, or based on appearance (which accounts for fonts, colors, layout, diagrams, images, etc.)

DiffPDF is useful for anyone who needs to compare PDFs, reports, books, or labels—for example, archivists, engineers, journalists, linguists, packagers, publishers, researchers, software testers, and translators. DiffPDF is used in a wide range of contexts, from book authors to banks, insurance companies, and Government. ([Screenshots](#).)

If you require a console-based command line tool, use [comparepdfcmd](#).

Screenshots

The first screenshot shows how easy DiffPDF is to use: choose the two PDFs to compare, then click the Compare button. ([Top](#))



Internet Privacy. Do you think your Internet activities are safe from prying eyes just because turned on your browser's Privacy Mode? Think again. Learn what's safe and what's not and cover your tracks and keep your Internet activities secure and private, especially when using Wi-Fi hotspots.

Microsoft PowerToys. PowerToys is a free collection of small, useful Windows utilities that make life with Windows easier and more productive in various ways. Each PowerToy addresses a straightforward task, but often with very useful results. This presentation reviews all the PowerToys available in 2025.

Preserving Digital Photos. Digital photos ought to last forever. Digital images don't fade and can protect against natural disasters like fire and floods. That's the theory, anyway. And you're one of the millions of people with a digital camera, the chances of your great-grandchild ever seeing your digital photos are slim. Find out why the odds are stacked against you and can do to increase the chances your family historian 200 years from now will be able to enjoy photos you're taking now.

Virtualization. Want to be able to try Linux without committing to giving up Windows? Want to run Windows on your Mac? Like being able to go back to Windows 7 or XP whenever you want, but still have Windows 10 most of the time? Want to test out the next version of Windows? Want to try things that might be dangerous without fear of messing up your computer? Then, you're a candidate for virtualization. Free virtualization software enables you to create a computer within your computer -- a simulated world in which you run different operating systems, try new software, and experiment without worrying about affecting your computer.

CHRIS TAYLOR, PRESIDENT, OTTAWA PC USERS' GROUP

Fun with Fonts - the art and science of typography. Dive into the fascinating world of typography with Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group. Chris will demystify the terminology of typography and explore its rich history. Learn what makes a typeface readable or distracting and how effectively combine multiple typefaces, and the emotions different fonts can evoke.

Whether your next project is a greeting card, poster, newsletter, business card, logo, or any other design that incorporates text, Chris can help you avoid common typographic pitfalls. Practical tips on choosing the right typeface and creating visually appealing and readable text will be shared. Whether you're a design novice or seasoned pro, this presentation will enhance your appreciation and understanding of typography's powerful impact. (90 minutes)

How to Buy a Digital Camera. When buying a digital camera, you face a bewildering array of choices. Chris Taylor, Ottawa PC Users' Group President and Orleans Photo Club Vice-President, will help "focus" your search for the ideal digital camera to fit your budget and suit the style of photography that interests you. (60 minutes)

How to Buy a PC. When buying a PC, you are faced with many choices: laptop or desktop, many cores in the processor, Intel or AMD processor, size of storage, how big a monitor, what type of mouse, keyboard, and so on. Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group, will help sort out the choices so you can buy the right computer for your needs. (90 minutes)

How to Secure a Home Wireless Network. Many wireless routers do not default to the most secure configuration. Make sure you are not the "low-hanging fruit" that someone will decide to attack.

methods to use email to exchange information securely. He also covers encryption, disposing of old hard drives, addresses, and secure email services.

Keeping Your Data Private with VeraCrypt. VeraCrypt is one of the most popular "on-the-fly" encryption programs. It enables you to store sensitive data on your PC in an encrypted form allowing you to access it without constantly worrying about encrypting and decrypting it. VeraCrypt is based on the older TrueCrypt application and is both free and open source.

Topics in this presentation include:

- Creating and using encrypted containers
- Encrypting flash drives
- Encrypting your laptop's hard drive
- Backing up your encrypted data
- Caching passwords
- Using hidden containers

Encryption Software. Losing a laptop or flash drive might mean you're out of money, but it also means that your private data leaks into the world. Learn how to use encryption software to protect your private data on a PC, laptop, external hard drive, or USB flash drive.

Internet Privacy. Do you think your Internet activities are safe from prying eyes just because turned on your browser's Privacy Mode? Think again. Learn what's safe and what's not and cover your tracks and keep your Internet activities secure and private, especially when using Wi-Fi hotspots.

Microsoft Power Toys. Power Toys is a free collection of small, useful Windows utilities that make life with Windows easier and more productive in various ways. Each Power Toy addresses a straightforward task, but often with beneficial results. This presentation reviews all the PowerToys available in 2025.

Preserving Digital Photos. Digital photos ought to last forever. Digital images don't fade and can protect against natural disasters, such as fire and floods. That's the theory, anyway. And you're one of the millions of people with a digital camera, the chances of your great-grandchild ever seeing your digital photos are slim. Find out why the odds are stacked against you and can do to increase the chances your family historian, 200 years from now will be able to enjoy photos you're taking now.

Virtualization. Want to try Linux without committing to giving up Windows? Want to run Windows on your Mac? Like being able to go back to Windows 7 or XP whenever you want, but still have Windows 10 most of the time? Want to test out the next version of Windows? Want to be able to try things that might be dangerous without fear of messing up your computer? Then, you're a candidate for virtualization. Free virtualization software enables you to create a computer within your computer -- a simulated world in which you run different operating systems, try new software, and experiment without worrying about affecting your computer.

CHRIS TAYLOR, PRESIDENT, OTTAWA PC USERS' GROUP

Artificial Intelligence (AI): fun and helpful tips. Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools have exploded in the last few years. They can supercharge your web searches and help you find the most relevant information, generate images & videos from text prompts, summarize web pages, meetings, videos, & PDF files, assist with tasks in your programs, and help with creative writing, among

Comparison Mode:

Text

View:

10 vs. 10 • 10

Zoom:

100 %

14 differ 14/14 compared

Compare

Options...

Help

About

Quit

Author: Judy Taylor.
 Creator: Microsoft® Word for Microsoft 365.
 Producer: Microsoft® Word for Microsoft 365.
 Created: Thu Nov 13 20:47:08 2025.
 Page count: 15.
 Page size: 612pt x 792pt (216mm x 279mm).
 Comparing: 1 vs. 1.
 Comparing: 2 vs. 2.
 Comparing: 3 vs. 3.
 Comparing: 4 vs. 4.
 Comparing: 5 vs. 5.
 Comparing: 6 vs. 6.
 Comparing: 7 vs. 7.
 Comparing: 8 vs. 8.
 Comparing: 9 vs. 9.
 Comparing: 10 vs. 10.
 Comparing: 11 vs. 11.
 Comparing: 12 vs. 12.
 Comparing: 13 vs. 13.
 Comparing: 14 vs. 14.
 Files differ on 14 pages (14 pages were compared).



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



**Have the desire
to be an author?**

The Editor of
Ottawa PC News
would like to
hear from you...

All computer-related articles welcome!

brigitte lord@opcug.ca



OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Fun and Useful Tips

Chris Taylor

Nepean CentrepoinTE, Saturday Nov 22, 2025 at 2:00pm

Armchair Travel: Iceland

Lynda Buske

North Gloucester, Saturday Nov 22, 2025 at 2:30pm

Protecting Your PC

Chris Taylor

Emerald Plaza, Monday Nov 24, 2025 at 6:00pm

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



No Q&A on
November 26
(Ask your questions
at the Big Rig!)



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca