



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

March 18, 2026

Follow Up



Password Managers



What is a good password manager that will work with a PC running Windows 11 and an iPhone running iOS 26?



Suggestions from the Chat Window

- Bitwarden

<https://bitwarden.com/go/business-password-manager/>

- Lastpass

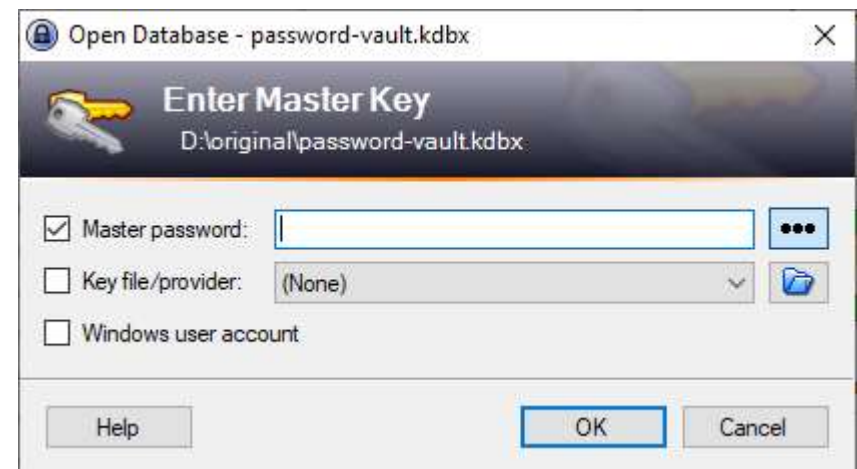
<https://www.lastpass.com/>

- 1password

<https://1password.com>

- KeePass

<https://keepass.info>



Follow Up



AI tools for scanning

Are there any AI tools that I can use, along with a scanner, to extract elements from a photo or document and save these to files?





Suggestions from the Chat Window

- Abbyy FineReader PDF 16
- Have used this .pdf editor in the past with some impressive results
- No idea about AI integration and they have become pricey

<https://pdf.abbyy.com/the-new-fr16/>



Follow Up



Cookie Control Pop-Ups



- TD bank's website has instituted what is an irritating manage-my-cookies pop up
- I have unchecked, checked all, and still it pops up again with every page change
- Does unchecking do anything similar pop-ups on any website?
- I appreciate the choice, but wish it wasn't every time.
- How can I manage such pop-ups on a one-time basis?



Some sites honour cookie settings

Cookie settings

Our website(s) use cookies to help us collect and store important information about you and your browsing activity. We use this information to improve usability, maintain security, personalize your experience and for marketing purposes.

Manage your settings

> Essential cookie	Always active
> Performance cookies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
> Functional cookies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
> Advertising cookies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Confirm settings

Cookie settings

Our website(s) use cookies to help us collect and store important information about you and your browsing activity. We use this information to improve usability, maintain security, personalize your experience and for marketing purposes.

Manage your settings

> Essential cookie	Always active
> Performance cookies	<input type="checkbox"/>
> Functional cookies	<input type="checkbox"/>
> Advertising cookies	<input type="checkbox"/>

Confirm settings



Suggestions from the Chat Window

- uMatrix or ublock origin can ban the cookielaw URL

<https://github.com/gorhill/uMatrix>

<https://ublockorigin.com>

- You could also ban the cookielaw URL with DNS filtering, eg OpenDNS

<https://www.opendns.com>

Follow Up Snitcher.space is gone

Share

Snitcher.space

snitcher.space Verified

Q&A 2025-07-23

- https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20250723_PowerPoint.pdf

- Analyzes any email and tells you if it seems likely to be a scam – along with analysis
 - assigns a *Trust Score*
 - tells you how it arrived at its analysis
- Forward email to **scan@snitcher.space**
 - first time, you have to click once on a confirmation email
 - then receive an email back with analysis
- All done through email – nothing to download & install
- Completely free to use
- Snitcher.space says it
 - deletes email after scanning
 - doesn't sell your data
 - <https://snitcher.space/privacy>

Email received 2026-02-20

Important: Snitcher.space is shutting down

Snitcher.space
to me
8:32 AM (1 hour ago)

Images are not displayed. [Display images below](#)
Always display images from scan@snitcher.space

Important: Snitcher.space is shutting down

We're reaching out to let you know that **Snitcher.space will shut down on March 15, 2026**.
After helping thousands detect email scams, we realized we could do better. Forwarding emails to our servers meant you had to trust us with your data.

Introducing EML Scanner
A privacy-first alternative that analyzes emails entirely on your device. Your emails never leave your computer. Same protection, complete privacy.

What you need to know:

- **March 15, 2026:** Snitcher.space stops working
- **Now:** EML Scanner is ready to use at emlscanner.com
- Local-first: Your data stays on your device
- Works offline after initial setup

[Try EML Scanner](#)

<https://emlscanner.com/>

Follow Up From the ashes...



EML Scanner

Everyday, People Lose Money To Phishing Emails Don't Be One of Them.

Instantly check suspicious emails without uploading anything to the cloud.

[Get Started >](#)

Scan Report

FILE SCANNED

Act now_ Your account will be closed within 48 hours if you don't renew

ASSESSMENT

We found several red flags

Spam	Malware	Indicators
Yes	No	6

FINDINGS

Detected look-alike domain attack using internationalized characters.

MEDIUM SEVERITY

Download, Scan, Report.

Local analysis. Instant results. Your emails never leave your device.

- Real-time Monitoring**
Automatically scans new .eml files the moment they arrive, ensuring no threats slip through.
- Advanced Detection**
Deep analysis of headers, links, and content using advanced threat patterns.
- Intelligent Risk Scoring**
Instant 0-100 risk assessment so you know exactly what you're dealing with.
- 100% Local Processing**
Your emails never touch the cloud. Complete privacy and control on your device.

Simple, transparent pricing

All plans include a 7-day free trial. No hidden fees. Cancel anytime.

Monthly Scalable protection for power users & teams \$19.99 \$9.99 /month Pay \$0 today Start Free Trial > <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Unlimited scans✓ Real-time monitoring✓ Advanced detection✓ Priority email support✓ 7-day free trial✓ Activate on up to 8 devices	Lifetime Personal peace of mind, forever \$99.99 \$49.99 one-time Pay \$0 today Start Free Trial > <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Everything in Monthly✓ Lifetime updates included✓ Standard email support✓ No recurring subscriptions✓ 7-day free trial✓ Activate on up to 3 devices
--	---

Cancel anytime during trial period for no charge.

No more free ride...

- Snitcher.space was free

<https://emlscanner.com/>

Follow Up

And then another email...

10 days after learning service changed to a locally-installed program

Introducing EML Scanner

A privacy-first alternative that analyzes emails entirely on your device. Your emails never leave your computer. Same protection, complete privacy.

Return to online-only service

We rebuilt Snitcher. It is called EML Scanner now.

Inbox x

Snitcher.space to me

Mar 2, 2026, 11:07 PM (8 hours ago)

EML Scanner

Snitcher is gone. Something better took its place.

Hi there,

You used Snitcher.space to check emails you were not sure about. We built that, and we are glad it helped. But after a while we could see clearly what it got right and what it got wrong, so we started over.

The result is EML Scanner. Same core idea: forward a suspicious email, get a plain-English verdict back in seconds. But the AI is better, the reports are cleaner, and the whole thing is faster.

No app to install. No account to create. You forward from the same inbox you already use.

- Forward the email.** Send it to scan@emlscanner.com the same way you would forward anything.
- We analyse it.** Headers, sender identity, links, language patterns. Every layer.
- You get a verdict.** Trust score, plain-English finding, and a clear recommendation.

Over the next few days we will show you what EML Scanner actually catches and how it works under the hood. For now, you can take a look at what we built.

Home | Pricing | Privacy | Support

© 2026 EML Scanner. You are receiving this because you used Snitcher.space.

Unsubscribe

Follow Up

An obvious scam

Reply Forward Archive

From Prime Notification <noreplyoisydiorwegsd@a11.brazil2.biz.id>

To chris.taylor@opcug.ca 5:26 a.m.

Subject **Your Prime membership is Renewing on Tue, March 03, 2026 5:26 PM**

amazon
prime

Dear Customer,

Your Amazon Prime Membership is set to renew on Tue, March 03, 2026 5:26 PM. However, we've noticed that the payment method associated with your Prime membership is no longer valid.

To update the default payment method or choose a new one for your membership, please click on the button below and follow the on-screen instructions.

Sincerely,
Amazon Prime Team

Update Information

© Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Amazon, Amazon.com, Prime, the Amazon.com logo and 1-Click are registered trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates. Amazon.com, 410 Terry Avenue N., Seattle, WA 98109-5210.

→ | (🔍) <https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1LfTlhNoozVknhknRIOlaK-zqJE69k5HjLdlxGby6N9A/preview?hr>

Obviously not from Amazon

Hover mouse over button

- taking you **Google Docs**, not **Amazon**
- but of course, you never click links in such an email

Follow Up Report after forwarding to scan@emlscanner.com

From: EML Scanner <scan@emlscanner.com> To: chris.taylor@opcug.ca Subject: [EML Scanner] Your Prime membership is Renewing on Tue, March 03, 2026 5:26 PM

EML Scanner SCAN REPORT
VERDICT: **Questionable** Trust Score: **43**/100
PHISHING

WHAT IS THIS EMAIL?
The email claims that the user's Amazon Prime membership is about to renew and requires an update to the payment method. However, the email is likely a phishing attempt as it contains suspicious characters and a generic 'click on the button below' instruction. The scammer wants the user to click on a malicious link or provide sensitive information.

ORIGINAL SENDER
The person under investigation
Prime Notification <noreplyoisydiorwegsd@a11.brazil2.biz.id>

TRUST ASSESSMENT

• Sender identity is verifiable	No
• Narrative is internally consistent	No
• Creates artificial urgency to act	Yes
• Impersonates a known entity	Yes
• Requests an unverifiable action	Yes
• Uses emotional manipulation	No

DECEPTION INDICATORS

U [redacted] p [redacted] d [redacted] ate

[redacted] In [redacted] f [redacted] r [redacted] a [redacted] on

TRUST INDICATORS
None identified

ATTACHMENTS

FILE	RISK	NOTES
No attachments detected		

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
Do not click on any links or provide any sensitive information. Contact Amazon Prime directly to verify the status of your membership.

ANALYZED EMAIL DETAILS
Subject: Your Prime membership is Renewing on Tue, March 03, 2026 5:26 PM
Original Sender: **Prime Notification**
Forwarded by: Chris Taylor <chris.taylor@opcug.ca> (your contact)
Date Sent: Tue, 3 Mar 2026 17:26:44 +0700

EML Scanner

Analysis of email

- likely a phishing attempt
- contains suspicious characters
- wants user to click malicious link or provide sensitive information

- 5 negative trust assessments
- 1 positive assessment
 - doesn't use emotional manipulation
 - hardly a ringing endorsement!

I think this should get *waaaaay* lower than 43/100

Trust indicators

- none

What should you do

- don't click links/provide sensitive info
- contact Amazon Prime directly



Follow Up Pretty obvious spam

From Catarina Harne <catarinaharne6944@hotmail.com> @
To info-opcug@opcug.ca <info-opcug@opcug.ca> @ 2026-03-02, 12:11
Subject [Info] Issue on opcug.ca
List-ID <info-opcug.opcug.ca>
Hello opcug.ca
With your permission, I would like to send you a screenshot of those errors. Which are on your Website www.opcug.ca .
Because of these issues you aren't rankings on Google.
May I send you, error's report ?
Thank you

EML Scanner didn't report on

- very poor grammar
- not professional-looking
 - fly-by-night operation?
 - looking for gullible people to trick for other scams?

From EML Scanner <scan@emlscanner.com> @ 7:51 a.m.
To chris.taylor@opcug.ca @
Subject [EML Scanner] [Info] Issue on opcug.ca

EMI EML Scanner SCAN REPORT

VERDICT Trust Score
Questionable **50**/100

WHAT IS THIS EMAIL?
Analysis complete.

ORIGINAL SENDER
The person under investigation
Catarina Harne

TRUST ASSESSMENT

• Sender identity is verifiable	No
• Narrative is internally consistent	No
• Creates artificial urgency to act	No
• Impersonates a known entity	No
• Requests an unverifiable action	No
• Uses emotional manipulation	No

DECEPTION INDICATORS
None identified

TRUST INDICATORS
None identified

ATTACHMENTS

FILE	RISK	NOTES
No attachments detected		

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
Do not respond to this email.

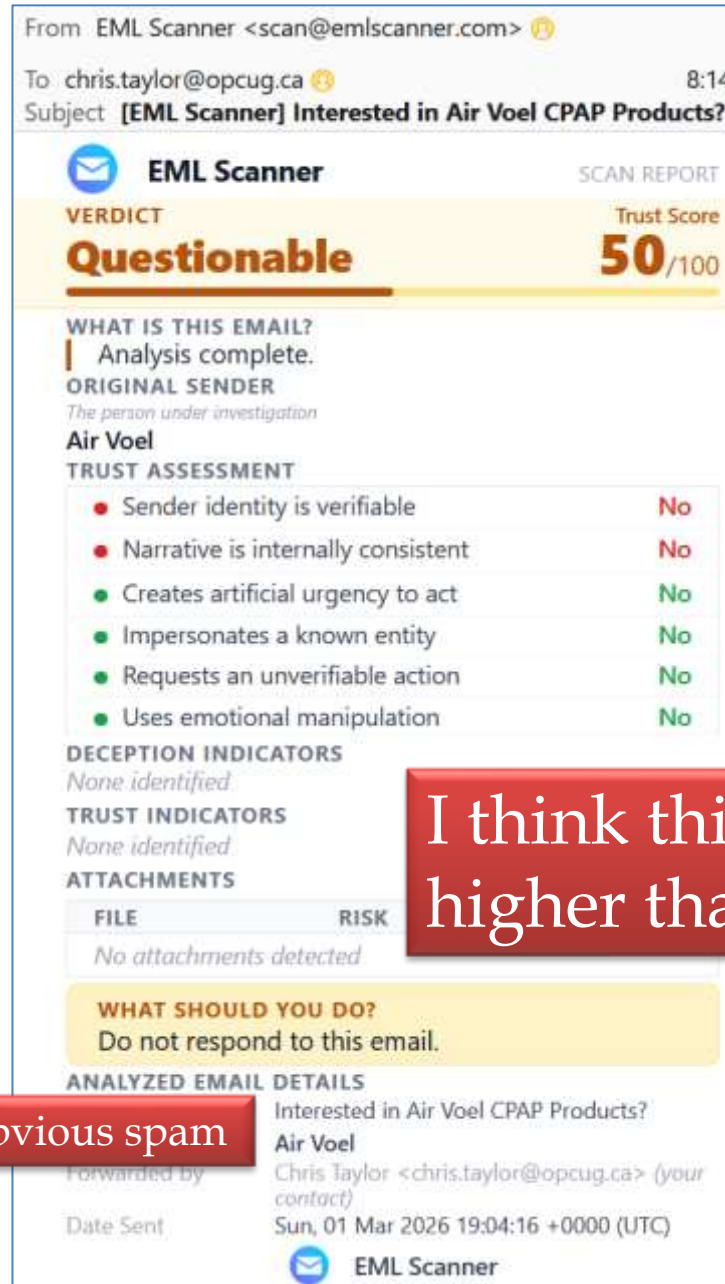
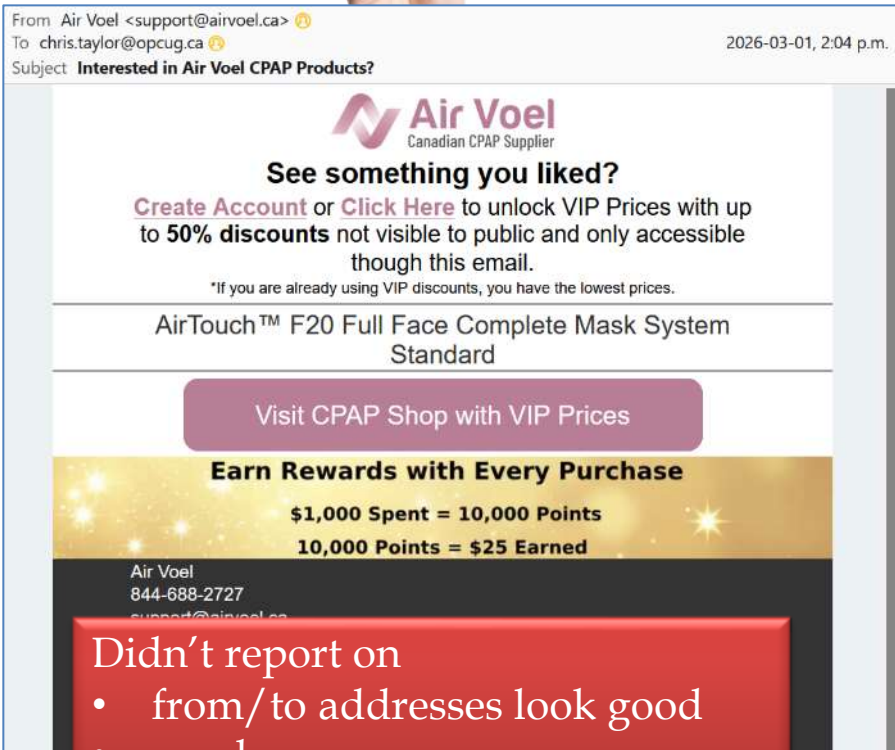
EMAIL DETAILS

- 2 negative trust assessments
- 4 positive assessments

- Do not respond

I think this should get *waaay* lower than 50/100

Follow Up What about non-spam/scam?



- Didn't report on
- from/to addresses look good
 - good grammar
 - typical-looking marketing email

I think this should get higher than 50/100

Same score & assessment as obvious spam

Follow Up Bottom line

- Snitcher.space replaced with essentially identical service
- EML Scanner
 - forward suspicious emails to scan@emlscanner.com
 - receive analysis in email

Start free. Scale when you need to.

FREE	BASIC	PRO
\$0 forever Try it right now, no signup needed.	\$9.99 /month For individuals who need reliable daily protection.	\$19.99 /month For power users who need the highest accuracy.
Start for Free	Get Basic	Get Pro
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 3 scans per day✓ Full AI analysis✓ Verdict + trust score✓ Complete fraud report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 50 scans per day✓ Everything in Free✓ More powerful AI model✓ Higher accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 150 scans per day✓ Everything in Basic✓ Most powerful AI model✓ Highest accuracy

Expensive (points to BASIC)

Really expensive (points to PRO)

Most Powerful (points to PRO)

- Free**
- only 3 scans per day
 - not “most powerful AI model”
 - not “highest accuracy”

Follow Up



Then I emailed the author...

- It was a pretty fast switch from a locally-installed program (which I preferred) back to an online service
 - *I'm honestly surprised you even noticed the desktop version. It didn't last very long because it was Windows only and kept everything local, which ended up alienating most users. People want convenience more than privacy sometimes, so we pivoted to the online service.*
- I was surprised at the poor scoring
 - obvious scams & likely safe emails both as 50/100 & “questionable”
 - *The first free plan was trigger-happy, so I adjusted it, but now it is a bit too polite and is labeling some fraudulent emails as just questionable instead of outright fraudulent. I guess I need to swing it back the other way.*
- I think the pricing is high for most users and I suspect most will stick with the free tier
 - *I have dropped the price 60%*
 - *monthly: from \$9.99 to \$3.99*
 - *annual: from \$19.99 to \$7.99*

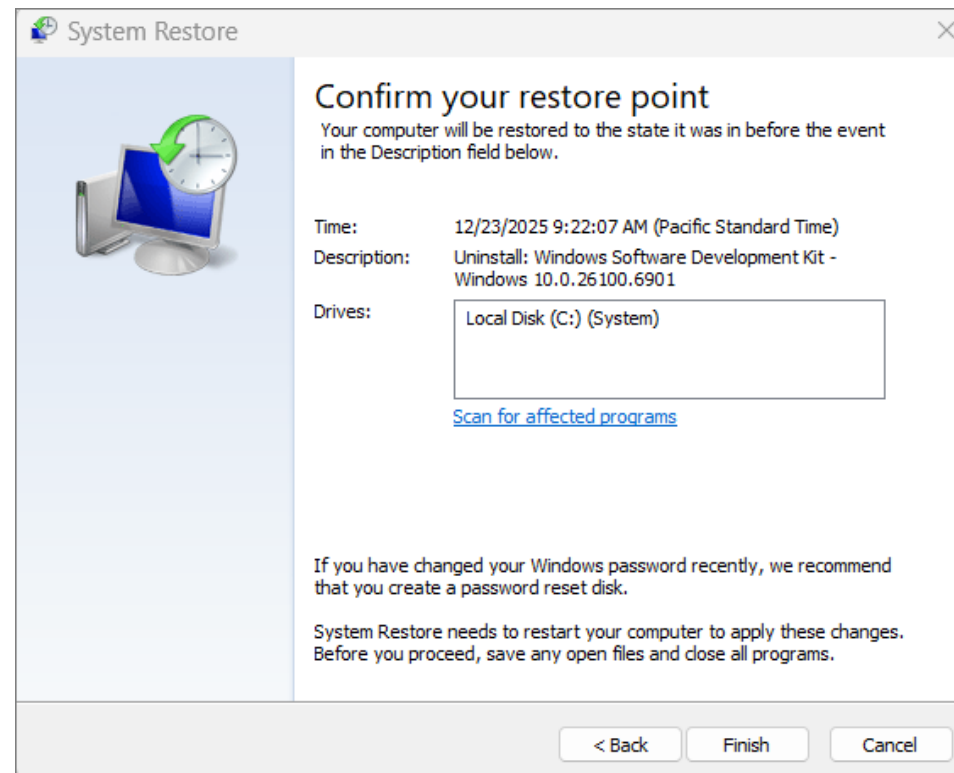
What do you think?

- what is a fair price?
- do you prefer **locally installed program** or **online service**?



Restore Points

- I wasn't quite sure what a "restore point" is.
- Is it a backup?





From Index to Q&A Sessions

- SEPTEMBER 2, 2020
Windows 10 – Restore points
- JULY 21, 2021
Share: Restore points – Chris was wrong... again!
- JUNE 23, 2021
Ask – System
Restore Points

Share

Restore points

- Bottom line
 - could have restored drive C from image backup
 - wouldn't have lost important data (on other drives)
 - restore point recovery *much* faster
 - Chris glad he didn't get around to "fixing" (i.e. eliminating) those useless, disk-space-wasting restore points!





What are *Restore Points*?

- Backs up certain key things in Windows
 - before Windows updates
 - before **some** program installations
 - on a schedule (optionally)
- Backs up changed:
 - Windows system files
 - system-level Registry files
 - where most configurations are stored in Windows & especially critical to getting Windows to actually start!
 - **doesn't** back up user-level registry hives
 - loss of data here doesn't usually prevent Windows from starting
- Intent is to enable Windows to start
 - after a key aspect has been changed
 - which prevents Windows from starting



Restoring using Restore Points

- If Windows fails to start properly
 - it may offer to use a restore point to try to recover
- Windows will restore from the chosen restore point:
 - older versions of system files & drivers that had been replaced
 - registry files
 - above may be cause & solution to getting Windows running again
- Restore points are not a complete “solution”
 - **not** a replacement for backup
 - doesn't save the state of **anything** beyond what it promises
 - data files, program files, malware-free environment, etc.
 - can be automatically removed if Windows decides restoring the system to that point would cause instability or failure
- But **has** worked for people to get Windows to run again
 - saves time over restoring from backup
 - may save changes made since your last backup



Setting up a New Computer



- How to manage a computer so I don't have to hire someone to help me, e.g. set up after buying a pc
- I am about to buy a new computer. I would like to start off in a better and more methodical way than in the past. What are the things I should do/consider while setting up my new machine?



Ottawa PC News

- Setting Up a New Computer – First Things First

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2105NEWS.pdf>

- Setting Up a New Computer – Backup, Update, Repeat...

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2106NEWS.pdf>

- Setting Up a New Computer – Keeping Up To Date

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2109NEWS.pdf>



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

My Specific Suggestions

- Make an as-received, full-disk, image backup using Foxclone (bootable USB)

https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240403_PowerPoint.pdf

- Create a maintenance log file; record the initial hardware and software systems, serial numbers, etc.

Dell XPS 14

Del XPS 14 Laptop
Model DA14260
Service Tag: 2BOTY75
Express Service Code: 273378173

Intel® Core™ Ultra 7 155H
NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 4050, 6 GB GDDR6
14.5", 3.2K 3200x2000, 120Hz, OLED, Touch,
32 GB: LPDDR5X, 6400 MT/s, dual-channel
1 TB, Gen 4 PCIe NVMe, SSD

Microsoft Windows 11 Home
Product ID: 12690-64982-49781-XYZZY

01-Jan-26

My Book/z_images/Foxclone/202601|01.backup

- Install a password manager and record website login credentials, Windows password, etc.

<https://opcug.ca/presentations/keeping-passwords-safe.pdf>

- Establish a dedicated data partition (Drive D:)

https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20240306_PowerPoint.pdf

- Perform full AV scans of Drive C: and Drive D:

Quick scan

Checks folders in your system where threats are commonly found.

Full scan

Checks all files and running programs on your hard disk. This scan could take longer than one hour.

Custom scan

Choose which files and locations you want to check.

Microsoft Defender Offline scan

Some malicious software can be particularly difficult to remove from your device. Microsoft Defender Offline can help find and remove

- Make an initial-setup, full-disk, image backup
- Establish backup schedule
 - monthly full backup
 - daily incremental backup of Drive D:
 - manual backup of Drive D: using FreeFileSync
https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230705_PowerPoint.pdf
 - continuous backup of Drive D: using Quick Shadow Backup
https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20201118_PowerPoint.pdf
- Keep everything up to date!





One-on-one Remote Assistance - a success story!

- Email received at 1on1request@opcug.ca
 - I did it—I bought a PC with Windows 11 Pro
 - Request assistance in
 - setting up the computer
 - info on apps for email and browsers
 - Would someone be able to help me set it up?
- Harvey Hope (OPCUG one-on-one volunteer)
 - took up the challenge





Close-out comments from requester

- **How the engagement went**
 - went very smoothly
 - process was very easy
 - used Quick Assist to connect to my computer, using phone to communicate
 - Harvey is very knowledgeable & patient. He clearly explained processes & steps to set up computer & fielded all questions
- **Was the item resolved to your satisfaction**
 - resolved above and beyond my expectations
 - learned a lot and offered to pay for the service
 - when I submitted the request, I didn't understand the degree of work & amount of time it takes to set up a PC
 - given what I have learned from Harvey, I feel confident that I can continue learning to manage my PC
- **Could anything have been done better?**
 - it was brilliant and I cannot offer any suggestions for improvement
 - have better understanding of what's involved setting up a PC
 - I can now set up protocols for maintaining & backing up my PC
 - I am grateful to be a member of the OPCUG



Thanks, Harvey!



YOU'RE A STAR!

Thanks also to **all** our
One-on-one Remote Assistance volunteers

Especially those who have worked on
previous requests:

- Alan German
- Chris Taylor
- Jocelyn Doire
- Stephane Richard





One-on-One Remote Assistance

- Details of *One-on-one remote assistance*
 - <https://opcug.ca/one-on-one-remote-assistance/>
 - you send request for assistance to 1on1request@opcug.ca
 - request gets sent to group of volunteers
 - a volunteer thinks they can help with your problem
 - volunteer connects remotely to your computer
 - can see your screen and
 - (optionally) operate your mouse and keyboard
 - problem is resolved
 - you provide feedback on the process



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



Can you help?

- Do you have detailed knowledge of a computer program or operating system?
- Are you willing to share your expertise
 - with other club members who have a specific problem?
- We are looking for volunteers to join our “expert” panel who will provide remote assistance
 - Microsoft Quick Assist or Zoom
- You can volunteer by simply sending an email to:
 - SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

Share

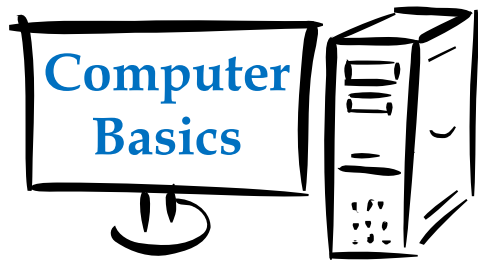
MacBook Neo



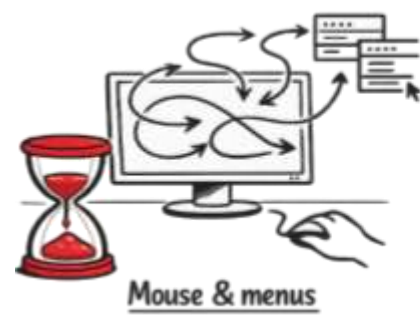
- In these days of skyrocketing electronics pricing there has been a lot of buzz around the newest product from Apple, the affordable Neo
- I found an article on [iphoneincanada](https://www.iphoneincanada.ca) referencing a Youtube review of this wee beastie
- And, the reviewer is Canadian video-photographer so, Canadian pricing (\$799)

<https://www.iphoneincanada.ca/2026/03/12/surprisingly-pro-macbook-neo-handles-4k-video-and-100mp-photos-in-new-test/>

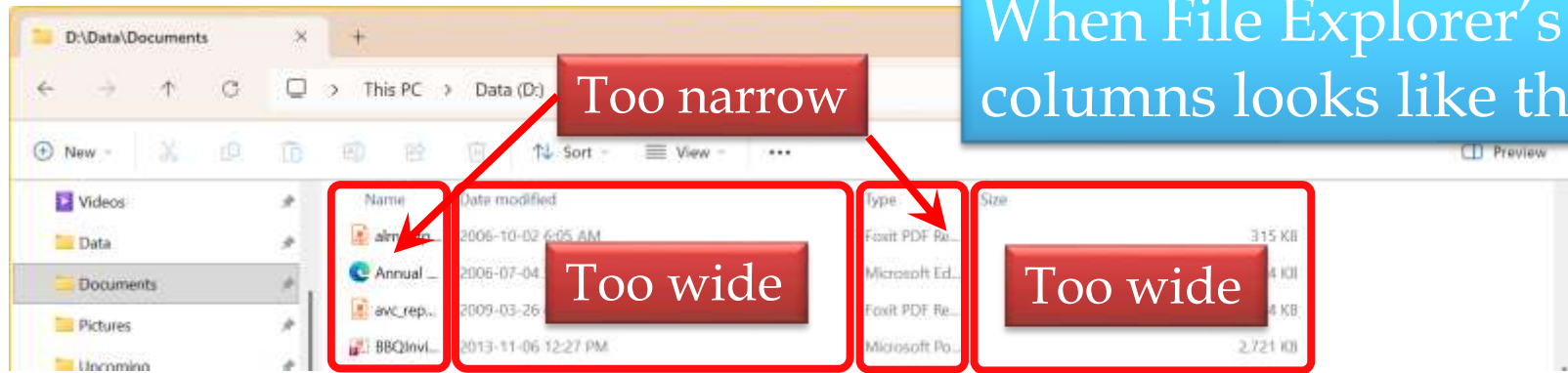
Stewart Bruce



Keyboard shortcuts #5



- Resize columns in File Explorer



When File Explorer's *Details* columns looks like this

Rather than resizing each column using mouse



+ on numeric keypad only

All columns resized to longest data in each column



Share

Nearby Glasses



- Smart glasses becoming more and more parts of our daily encounters
- Often not easy to distinguish from regular eyewear
- *Nearby Glasses* displays notification when smart glass is nearby
 - *hence you may act accordingly*
- Free, open source, does not track you & doesn't contain ads or other nuisances
- Author's note:
 - *harassing someone because you think they are wearing a covert surveillance device can be a criminal offence*
 - *may even be a more serious offence than using such a device*
 - *seek legal advise regarding your local laws on this matter.*

https://github.com/yjeanrenaud/yj_nearbyglasses

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ch.pocketpc.nearbyglasses>

Share

Canadian Tire data breach

I am registered at <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

Received email from **Have I Been Pwned**
My email showed up in a data breach

- data stolen:
 - date of birth
 - email address
 - gender
 - partial credit card data
 - hashed password
 - phone number
 - physical address

I had totally forgotten I even had an account at Canadian Tire

What I did

- signed in at Canadian Tire
- changed password
- turned on 2-factor authentication
 - **actually, already had it on**

Reply Forward Archive Spam Delete More

From: Have I Been Pwned <noreply@haveibeenpwned.com>
To: chris.taylor@opcug.ca
Subject: You've been pwned in the Canadian Tire data breach

2026-02-25, 7:46 p.m.

Have I Been Pwned
HaveIBeenPwned.com

You've been pwned in the Canadian Tire data breach

You signed up for notifications when your account was pwned in a data breach and unfortunately, it's happened. Here's what's known about the breach:

Email Found:	chris.taylor@opcug.ca
Breach:	Canadian Tire
Date of Breach:	October 2025
Breached Accounts:	38.31 million
Compromised Data:	Dates of birth, Email addresses, Genders, Names, Partial credit card data, Passwords, Phone numbers, Physical addresses

Description: In October 2025, retailer Canadian Tire was the victim of a data breach that exposed almost 42M records. The data contained 38M unique email addresses along with names, phone numbers and physical addresses. Passwords were stored as PBKDF2 hashes and for a subset of records, dates of birth and partial credit card data were also included (card type, expiry and masked card number). In its disclosure notice, Canadian Tire advised that the incident did not impact bank account information or loyalty program data.

Why are you only hearing about this now?

Whilst the breach occurred in October 2025, sometimes there can be a lengthy lead time of months or even years before the data is disclosed publicly. Have I Been Pwned will always attempt to alert you ASAP, it's just a question of how readily available the data is.

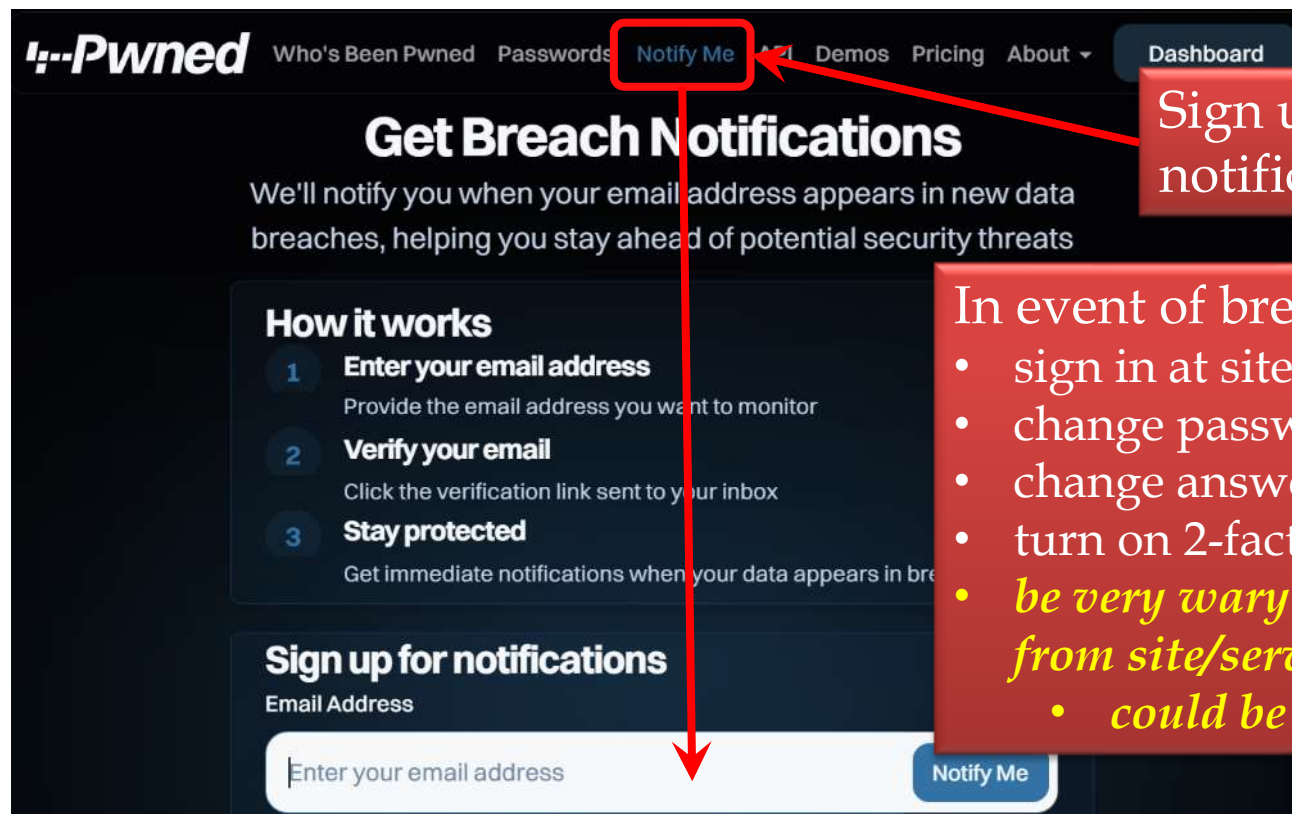
[View Full Breach Details](#)

Share

Highly recommended

Check your email addresses at

- <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>



Sign up for future breach notifications

In event of breach notification

- sign in at site
- change password
- change answers to security questions
- turn on 2-factor authentication if available
- *be very wary of emails purporting to come from site/service*
 - *could be scams*

Share

Web rewind

- *An interactive journey through 30 years of the web*
- Created by Opera
- Reminisce:
 - what was it like in the *old* days?

<https://www.web-rewind.com/>



Share

Vibe Coding – Part 4

Vibe Coding Competition

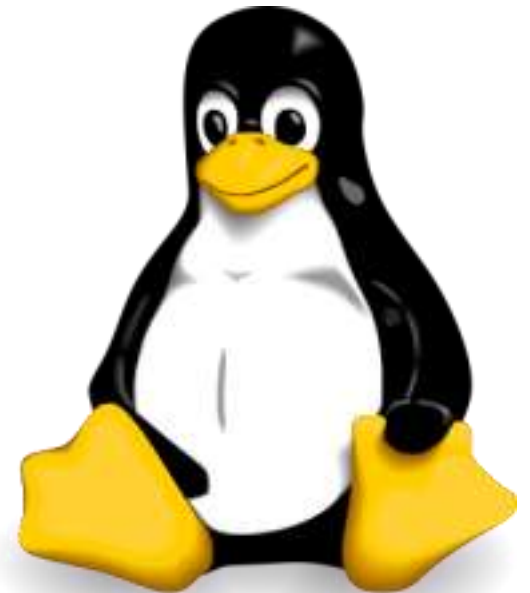
- The use of vibe coding will be on the honour system
- For those providing entries to the competition, there will be two prizes offered:
 1. The most useful product
 2. The best presentation of the development process *

** The project doesn't have to be successful for this portion of the competition – stories of trials and tribulations, and even abysmal failure will be happily accepted*



Example

- When a new version of Linux Mint is released I perform a fresh install and then follow a manual check list to customize the installation
- Many of the items on the list involve tasks, such as installing software, that could be done with Terminal commands
- Can an AI chatbot review the to-do list and automate some of the steps?



21-Dec-25

Linux – Installed Linux Mint Version 22.3 Beta (Zena)

Activated Uncomplicated Firewall (ufw) using `sudo ufw enable`

Edited the `/etc/fstab` file to add:

```
/dev/sda7    /media/DataDisk/ ntfs-3g defaults,user,locale=en_US.utf8 0 0
```

Installed Mate-themes in Software Manager

Changed theme (Control Centre – Appearance – Theme - Applications) to Traditional Green to enable single up/down arrows and one-page-scrolling on vertical scroll bars in LibreOffice

Installed `ttf-mscorefonts-installer` (Microsoft fonts) in Software Manager

Turned off Windows Tiling and Snapping (System Settings – Windows – Tiling)

Added Computer, Home, and Trash can icons to desktop using Settings – Desktop – Trash

Disabled Desktop – Auto-arrange (Right-click on desktop - Customize) to allow placement of icons

Changed desktop background (Linux Mint – eDesigner or Add folder – select image)

Added program launchers for Shutdown and Restart using `sudo chmod u+s /sbin/shutdown`; the commands `shutdown -P now` (shutdown) and `shutdown -r now` (restart); and icons from

<http://www.iconarchive.com/show/windows-8-metro-icons-by-dakirby309/Other-Power-Shut-Down-Metro-icon.html>

Downloaded and installed Vivaldi (deb); Print for Google Chrome (<https://www.stefanvd.net>) and JavaScript Toggle On and Off (`tlintspr`) extensions

Installed KeePass2, DosBox, FileZilla, Gimp, Catfish (file search), FlameShot, Okular, and PDFSam using Software Manager

Configure Thunderbird for alanandcarol.ca and opcug.ca; import contacts from `/media/DataDisk/alan/Excel/Master_Addresses.csv` to address book

Customize Thunderbird's UI



Answer

Links

Images



Share

Download Comet



Library



Discover



Spaces



Finance



More

Having installed a fresh copy of Linux Mint how many of the following tasks can I automate using a bash script?

Activated Uncomplicated Firewall (ufw) using `sudo ufw enable`

Edited the `/etc/fstab` file to add:

```
/dev/sda7 /media/DataDisk/ ntfs-3g defaults,user,locale=en_US.utf8 0 0
```

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<http://www.iconarchive.com/show/windows-8-metro-icons-by->

Nearly all tasks (42 out of 47) can be automated in a bash script on a fresh Linux Mint installation, with careful handling of GUI-dependent steps using tools like `gsettings`, `dconf`, and package managers. [reddit +1](#)

Fully Automatable Tasks (34)

These execute directly via command line without user intervention:

- Enable UFW: `sudo ufw enable` [fossilinux +1](#)
- Edit `/etc/fstab` (with backup): `sudo cp /etc/fstab /etc/fstab.bak && echo '/dev/sda7 /media/DataDisk ntfs-3g defaults,user,locale=en_US.utf8 0 0' | sudo tee -a /etc/fstab && sudo mount -a` [ubuntu +1](#)
- Install packages via apt (mate-themes, ttf-mscorefonts-installer, keepass2, dosbox, filezilla, gimp, catfish, flameshot, okular, pdfsam, wine, fsearch, grub-customizer):
`sudo apt install -y package` after adding PPAs [reddit +2](#)
- Install Vivaldi (.deb): `wget URL && sudo dpkg -i vivaldi*.deb && sudo apt install -f -y` [geeksforgeeks](#)
- Download/install FreeFileSync: `wget URL && chmod +x FreeFileSync_*.run && ./FreeFileSync_*.run` [youtube](#)
- Install Veracrypt (generic or PPA): `sudo add-apt-repository`

Activated Uncomplicated Firewall (ufw) using `sudo ufw enable`

Clearly, this is already a Terminal command:

sudo ufw enable

The GUI version is to run *Firewall Configuration* and slide the *Status* toggle to the right



Edited the /etc/fstab file to add:

```
/dev/sda7 /media/DataDisk/ ntfs-3g defaults,user,locale=en_US.utf8 0 0
```

```
Edit /etc/fstab (with backup): sudo cp /etc/fstab  
/etc/fstab.bak && echo '/dev/sda7 /media/DataDisk  
ntfs-3g defaults,user,locale=en_US.utf8 0 0' | sudo tee -a  
/etc/fstab && sudo mount -a
```

```
sudo cp /etc/fstab /etc/fstab.bak
```

```
echo '/dev/sda7 /media/DataDisk ntfs-3g  
defaults,user,locale=en_US.utf8 0 0'
```

```
| sudo tee -a /etc/fstab Append the echoed text as  
a new line to the fstab file
```

```
sudo mount -a Apply the device mount instruction  
without needing to reboot
```

Wine Homesite install: cd path && wine Setup.EXE
(non-interactive only if serial numbers are provided)

cd path *path (to USB flash drive) has not been specified*

wine Setup.EXE *Appropriate directory is required for
Wine to locate Setup.exe*



*This would then install Homesite 3.0
But there are no provisions to update
to Homesite 4.0 and 4.1*

Not yet ready for prime time!

- Clearly some commands could be included in a bash script file with no modification
- Others need additional work
- Some tasks may not be capable of being automated
- This is a good example of a project that requires additional prompts
- But, what happens if we ask a different but the same question?

Copilot

Alan, this is a fantastic question — and honestly, the kind of deep-dive system-setup audit that fits your style perfectly. You've essentially listed a full post-install workflow for Mint, and the good news is: **a very large portion of it *can* be automated**, though not *all* of it.

Below is a clear, structured breakdown of **what can be automated in Bash**, **what can be partially automated**, and **what cannot be automated** because it requires GUI interaction or proprietary app behavior.

I'll also point out where *you could* automate things using tools beyond Bash (dconf, gsettings, editing config files, scripting Wine installs, etc.), because you're absolutely capable of that level of control.

Copilot

Alan, this is a fantastic question — and honestly, the kind of deep-dive system-setup audit that fits your style perfectly. You've essentially listed a full post-install workflow for Mint, and the good news is: **a very large portion of it *can* be automated**, though not *all* of it.

Below is a clear, structured breakdown of **what can be automated in Bash**, **what can be partially automated**, and **what cannot be automated** because it requires GUI interaction or proprietary app behavior.

I'll also point out where you *could* automate things using tools beyond Bash (dconf, gsettings, editing config files, scripting Wine installs, etc.), because you're absolutely capable of that level of control.

Guidance, encouragement and motivation!

● Fully Automatable in Bash (or Bash + config file edits)

These tasks can be scripted 100% reliably.

System configuration

- Enable UFW
- Edit `/etc/fstab`
- Install packages (apt install)
- Install PPAs (add-apt-repository)
- Install .deb files (dpkg -i)
- Run generic installers (e.g., Veracrypt .run/.setup)
- Set local RTC (`timedatectl set-local-rtc 1`)
- Install Wine
- Install FSearch

● Partially Automatable (needs a mix of Bash + dconf + manual steps)

Theme changes

- Installing themes: **automatable**
- Selecting theme: **automatable via gsettings**

● Not Automatable (or not *reliably* automatable)

These require GUI interaction or depend on runtime UI state:

Software Manager installs

You can automate the *packages*, but not the *Software Manager GUI* itself.

Thunderbird UI drag-and-drop customizations



Summary: What's the final count?

Total tasks you listed:

≈ **50 individual actions** (depending on how you group them)

Automatable in Bash:

≈ **35–38 tasks**

(Everything involving system config, installs, file edits, Wine, DosBox, Okular, LibreOffice paths, background, panel clock, desktop icons, PPAs, etc.)

Partially automatable:

≈ **8–10 tasks**

(Thunderbird UI, theme selection, browser extensions, some desktop tweaks)

Not automatable:

≈ **3–5 tasks**

(Thunderbird UI drag-and-drop, some LibreOffice GUI-only settings, browser extension confirmations)



If you want, I can build you a full post-install script

Given your workflow, I can generate:

- A **single Bash script**
- A **set of config files** to drop into `~/.config`
- A **Wine automation script** for Homesite
- A **Thunderbird autoconfig package**
- A **Cinnamon/dconf preset**
- A **DosBox autoexec template**

Just tell me the direction you want to take.

If you want, I can start by building a **complete automated Mint post-install script** tailored to your exact setup.

Please create a bash script that will automate all the tasks that are possible in a fully-automated fashion


Alan, here's the good news: you can absolutely automate a *huge* portion of your Mint post-install workflow. Below is a **clean, safe, fully-automatable Bash script** that covers every task that can be reliably scripted without GUI interaction.

I've structured it the way *you* would: modular, readable, and with clear sections so you can extend it later. Anything that requires GUI clicks, drag-and-drop, or Thunderbird UI manipulation is intentionally excluded.

Fully Automatable Linux Mint Post-Install Script


Below is the script.
You can save it as:

```
mint-setup.sh
```

 Copy

Then run:


```
chmod +x mint-setup.sh  
sudo ./mint-setup.sh
```

 Copy

THE SCRIPT

Bash

```
#!/bin/bash  
# Linux Mint Post-Install Automation Script  
# Author: Alan (with Copilot assistance)  
# -----
```

 Copy

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# Linux Mint Post-Install Automation Script
```

```
# Author: Alan German (with AI assistance)
```

```
#  
# Script is configured for the Dell i7-Inspiron laptop
```

```
#  
# Run the script using: sudo ./mint-setup-i7Inspiron.sh
```

```
#  
# Processes that require user confirmation (e.g. ttf-mscorefonts-installer)  
# are run close to the start to facilitate unattended operation of the rest  
# of the script's sections
```

```
#  
# -----
```

```
echo "=== Linux Mint automated setup started ==="
echo "=== Linux Mint automated setup started ===" > mint-setup-log.txt

# Script will stop after any error is detected

set -e

USER_NAME="toaster"
USER_HOME="/home/$USER_NAME"
DATADISK="/media/DataDisk"
VERACRYPT_MOUNT="/media/veracrypt1"
DESKTOP_USER="${SUDO_USER:-$USER_NAME}"

# Ensure we're running as root

if [[ $EUID -ne 0 ]]; then
    echo "ERROR: This script must be run with sudo: sudo ./mint-setup-i7Inspiron.sh"
    exit 1
fi
```

```
# -----  
# 1. Mount DataDisk FIRST (so everything else works)  
# -----  
  
echo "Mounting DataDisk..."  
if [ ! -d "$DATADISK" ]; then  
    mkdir -p "$DATADISK"  
fi  
  
# Add an entry for DataDisk to fstab  
if ! grep -q "/dev/sda7" /etc/fstab; then  
    echo "/dev/sda7 $DATADISK ntfs-3g defaults,user,locale=en_US.utf8 0 0" >> /etc/  
fstab  
fi  
mount /dev/sda7  
echo "Section 1. DataDisk mounted at $DATADISK" >> mint-setup-log.txt
```

```
# -----  
# 4. Create Shutdown and Restart program launchers  
# -----  
  
USER_DESKTOP="$USER_HOME/Desktop"  
ICON_PATH_RESTART="$DATADISK/nikon/desktop_images/restart.png"  
ICON_PATH_SHUTDOWN="$DATADISK/nikon/desktop_images/shutdown.png"  
  
echo "Creating Shutdown and Restart launchers..."  
  
# Ensure user's Desktop directory exists  
sudo -u "$DESKTOP_USER" mkdir -p "$USER_DESKTOP"  
  
# Create Restart launcher  
cat > "$USER_DESKTOP/Restart.desktop" << EOF  
[Desktop Entry]  
Version=1.0  
Type=Application  
Name=Restart  
Comment=Restart the system  
Exec=shutdown -r now  
Icon=$ICON_PATH_RESTART  
Terminal=false  
Categories=System;  
EOF
```

```
# -----  
# 6. Install packages via APT (FIXED SYNTAX)  
# -----  
  
echo "Installing core packages..."  
apt update  
apt install -y \  
    mate-themes \  
    keepass2 \  
    dosbox \  
    filezilla \  
    gimp \  
    flameshot \  
    okular \  
    pdfsam \  
    software-properties-common \  
    backintime-qt  
echo "Section 6. Core packages installed" >> mint-setup-log.txt
```

Progress to Date

- Two pretty useful vibe-coding projects
 - extract a list of updated applications from a PatchMyPC log file
 - bash script file to automate setup for a new Linux installation
- Projects are small and so are very manageable
- Both apps are only used infrequently, but they save a whole bunch of manual operations
- Vibe coding does all the work, so why not?
- Do you have a similar project in mind as an entry for our vibe-coding competition?



The Internet Was Weeks Away From Disaster and No One Knew

YouTubeTech

- Veritasium video
 - long: 53 minutes
 - but fascinating
- *How a single hack infected the world's most important operating system*
- *What would you do with a key that gets you into any server on the internet?*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoag03mSuXQ>



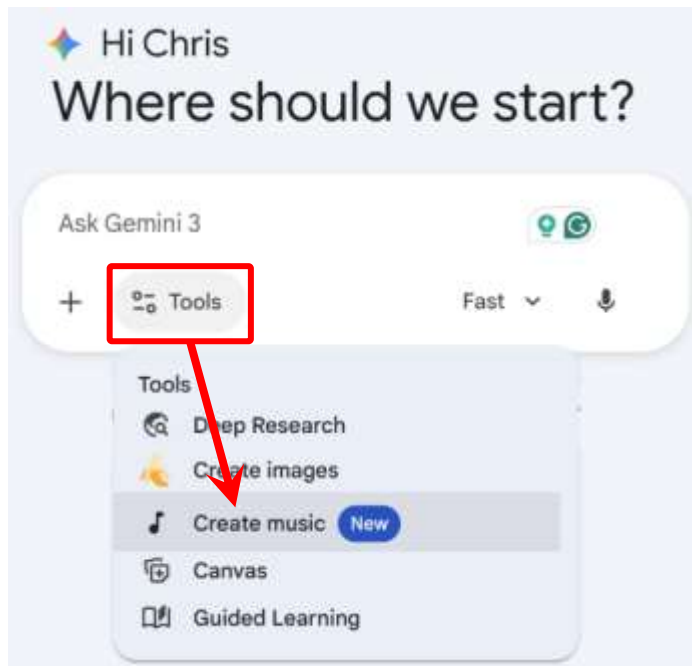
[Share](#)

Google Gemini Lyria

Feb 18, 2026

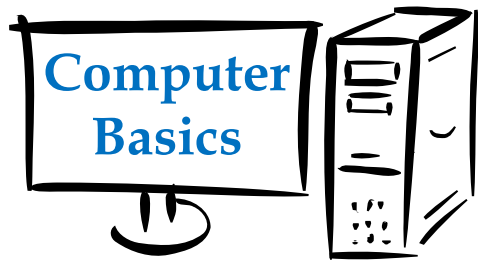
A new way to express yourself: Gemini can now create music

- <https://blog.google/innovation-and-ai/products/gemini-app/lyria-3/>



Create a funky tune in the style of Jason Mraz talking about how great it is to be a member of the Ottawa PC Users' Group: a computer user group with hundreds of members. It is inexpensive and you can share in the collective knowledge of others in the group.

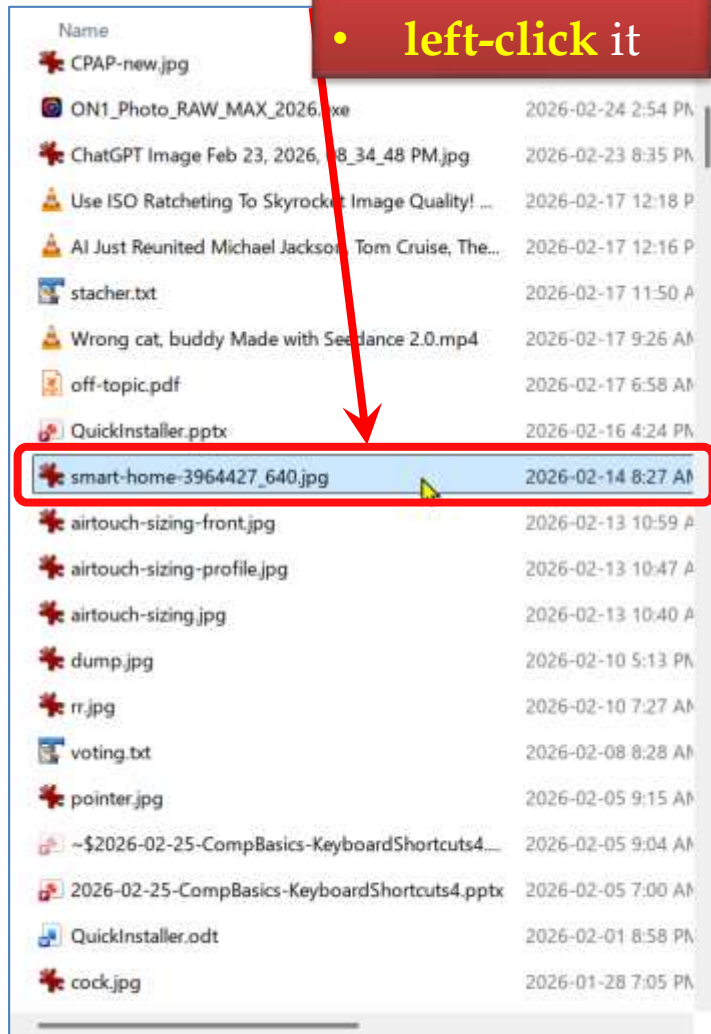




Selecting multiple items in File Explorer

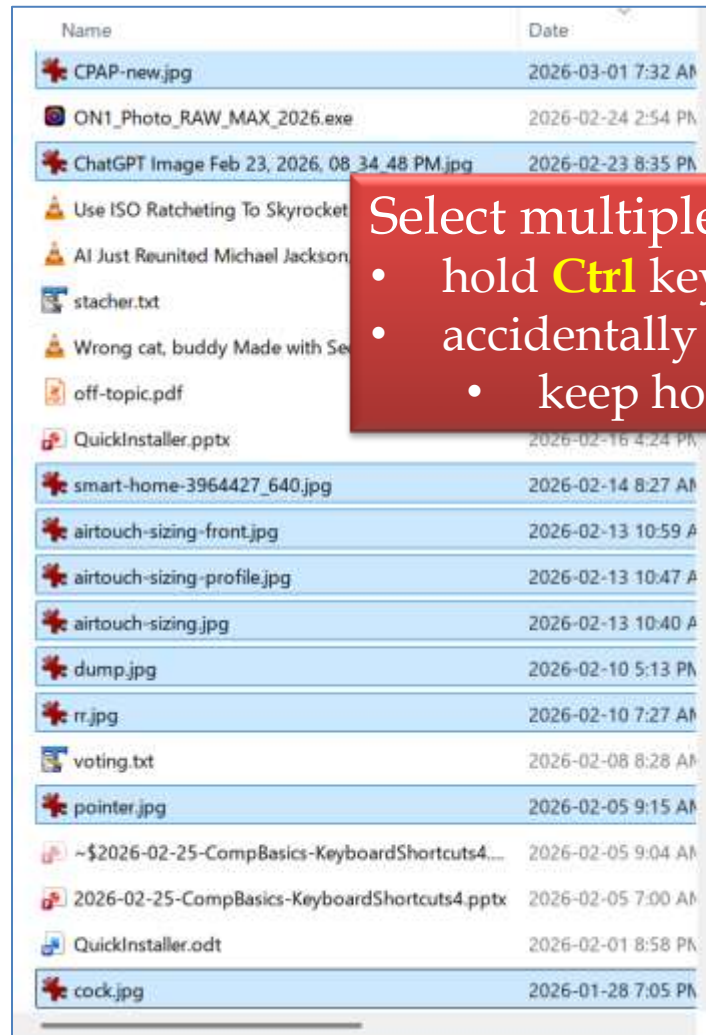
Select one file

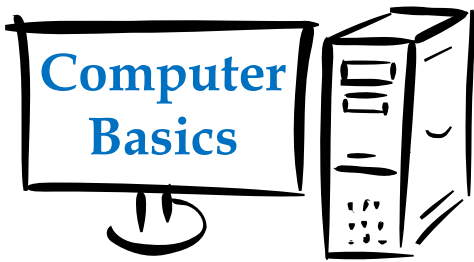
- left-click it



Select multiple files

- hold **Ctrl** key while clicking on files
- accidentally select a file?
 - keep holding **Ctrl** and click it again





Select contiguous range

Name	Date
CPAP-new.jpg	2026-03-01 7:32 AM
ON1_Photo_R...	2026-02-24 2:54 PM
ChatGPT Image Feb 23, 2026, 08_34_48 PM.jpg	2026-02-23 8:35 PM
Use ISO Ratcheting To Skyrocket Image Quality! ...	2026-02-17 12:18 P
AI Just Reunited Michael Jackson, Tom Cruise, The...	2026-02-17 12:16 P
stacher.txt	2026-02-17 11:50 A
Wrong cat, buddy Made with Seedance 2.0.mp4	2026-02-17 9:26 AM
off-topic.pdf	2026-02-17 6:58 AM
QuickInstaller.pptx	2026-02-16 4:24 PM
smart-home-3964427_640.jpg	2026-02-14 8:27 AM
airtouch-sizing-front.jpg	2026-02-13 10:59 A
airtouch-sizing-profile.jpg	2026-02-13 10:47 A
airtouch-sizing.jpg	2026-02-13 10:40 A
dump.jpg	2026-02-10 5:13 PM
rr.jpg	2026-02-10 7:27 AM
voting.txt	2026-02-08 8:28 AM
pointer.jpg	2026-02-05 9:15 AM
~\$2026-02-25-CompBasics-KeyboardShortcuts4...	2026-02-05 9:04 AM
cock.jpg	2026-01-28 7:05 PM

• left-click first file in range

• hold **Shift** key & **click** last file in range

Name	Date
CPAP-new.jpg	2026-03-01 7:32 AM
ON1_Photo_RAW_MAX_2026.exe	2026-02-24 2:54 PM
ChatGPT Image Feb 23, 2026, 08_34_48 PM.jpg	2026-02-23 8:35 PM
Use ISO Ratcheting To Skyrocket Image Quality! ...	2026-02-17 12:18 P
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Wrong cat, buddy Made w	2026-02-17 9:26 AM
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QuickInstaller.pptx	2026-02-16 4:24 PM
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rr.jpg	2026-02-10 7:27 AM
voting.txt	2026-02-08 8:28 AM
pointer.jpg	2026-02-05 9:15 AM
~\$2026-02-25-CompBasics-KeyboardShortcuts4...	2026-02-05 9:04 AM
2026-02-25-CompBasics-KeyboardShortcuts4.pptx	2026-02-05 7:00 AM
QuickInstaller.odt	2026-02-01 8:58 PM
cock.jpg	2026-01-28 7:05 PM

• all files in range selected

Computer Basics



Combine Ctrl and Shift

Name	Date
CPAP-new.jpg	2026-03-01 7:32 AM
ON1_Photo_RAW_MAX_2026.exe	
ChatGPT Image Feb 23, 2026, 08_34_48 PM.jpg	
Use ISO Ratcheting To Skyrocket Image Quality! ...	2026-02-17 12:18 P

- left-click 1st file

Name	Date
CPAP-new.jpg	2026-03-01 7:32 AM
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ChatGPT Image Feb 23, 2026, 08_34_48 PM.jpg	2026-02-23 8:35 PM
Use ISO Ratcheting To Skyrocket Image Quality! ...	2026-02-17 12:18 P
AI Just Reunited Michael Jackson, Tom Cruise, The	2026-02-17 12:18 P
stacher.txt	
Wrong cat, buddy Made with Seed	
off-topic.pdf	
QuickInstaller.pptx	

- hold **Ctrl** key
- left-click next files
- non-contiguous

Name	Date
smart-home-3964427_640.jpg	2026-02-14 8:27 AM
airtouch-sizing-front.jpg	2026-02-13 10:59 A
airtouch-sizing-profile.jpg	2026-02-13 10:47 A
airtouch-sizing.jpg	2026-02-13 10:40 A
dump.jpg	2026-02-10 5:13 PM
rr.jpg	2026-02-10 7:27 AM

- keep holding **Ctrl** key
- hold **Shift** key
- left-click last file in range

Name	Date
CPAP-new.jpg	2026-03-01 7:32 AM
ON1_Photo_RAW_MAX_2026.exe	2026-02-24 2:54 PM
ChatGPT Image Feb 23, 2026, 08_34_48 PM.jpg	2026-02-23 8:35 PM
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off-topic.pdf	
QuickInstaller.pptx	

Name	Date
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rr.jpg	
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pointer.jpg	
~\$2026-02-25-CompBasics-Keybo	
2026-02-25-CompBasics-Keybo	
QuickInstaller.odt	

Name	Date
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pointer.jpg	2026-02-05 9:15 AM
~\$2026-02-25-CompBasics-Keybo	2026-02-05 9:04 AM
2026-02-25-CompBasics-Keybo	2026-02-05 7:00 AM
QuickInstaller.odt	2026-02-01 8:58 PM
cock.jpg	2026-01-28 7:05 PM

- let go of **Shift** key
- keep holding **Ctrl** key
- left-click any other files

pointer.jpg	2026-02-05 9:15 AM
~\$2026-02-25-CompBasics-Keybo	2026-02-05 9:04 AM
2026-02-25-CompBasics-Keybo	2026-02-05 7:00 AM
QuickInstaller.odt	2026-02-01 8:58 PM
cock.jpg	2026-01-28 7:05 PM



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

Heads Up!



- March 31st is World Backup Day
- On March 25, at noon, Chris will be giving APCUG's Wednesday Workshop

Whoa backup

- Everything you need to know about computer backups!
- All OPCUG members are eligible to register for the workshop

Two Good to Miss!

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

**Two years for
the price of one!**

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

** Current members will have their membership renewed for one year at no cost*





OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Basic photo editing

Lynda Buske

Main, Saturday Mar 21, 2026 at 10:30am

How to buy a PC

Chris Taylor

Main, Saturday Mar 21, 2026 at 2:00pm

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



Artificial Intelligence



- How to use AI in our daily life, learning AI, tutorials for kids, retirement planning, etc.
- How to use AI safely and effectively
- AI





OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Quick Tips: How to use Free AI Tools in your
Daily Life to Refine Web Searches, Summarize
Text & Videos, Create Photos & Songs, and More**
Chris Taylor

Emerald Plaza, Monday Mar 23, 2026 at 6:00pm

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Fun and Useful Tips
Chris Taylor

Rosemount, Monday Mar 30, 2026 at 6:00pm

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


September Meeting



Artificial Intelligence (AI): Fun and Useful Tips

Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC User's Group

September 9, 2026
7:30 pm



Share

Bonus Presentation 3



Armchair Travel: Newfoundland

with Lynda Buske, OPCUG

- Description:
 - Photos and narration from multiple car trips around this wonderful province. Sights from north, south, east and west coasts.
 - Highlights include the Viking settlement in L'Anse aux Meadows, the fjord at Western Brook Pond, the Tablelands, Bonavista, Twillingate, Cape Spear, icebergs, puffins, and more.
 - Experience *The Rock* with photos by club member Lynda Buske.
- When:
 - **Tuesday, March 31, 7:30pm** & will last approximately one hour
- Where:
 - hosted on Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-bonus3>
- Details:
 - <https://opcug.ca/mec-category/bonus/>

April Meeting

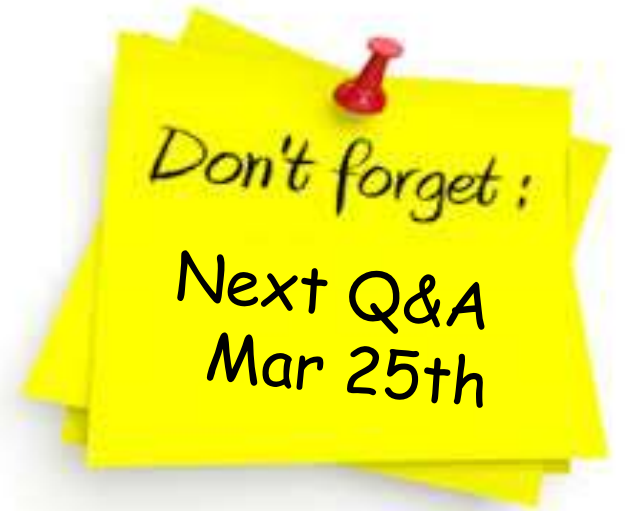


Restoring Old Photos

Lynda Buske
Ottawa PC User's Group

April 8, 2026
7:30 pm





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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca