



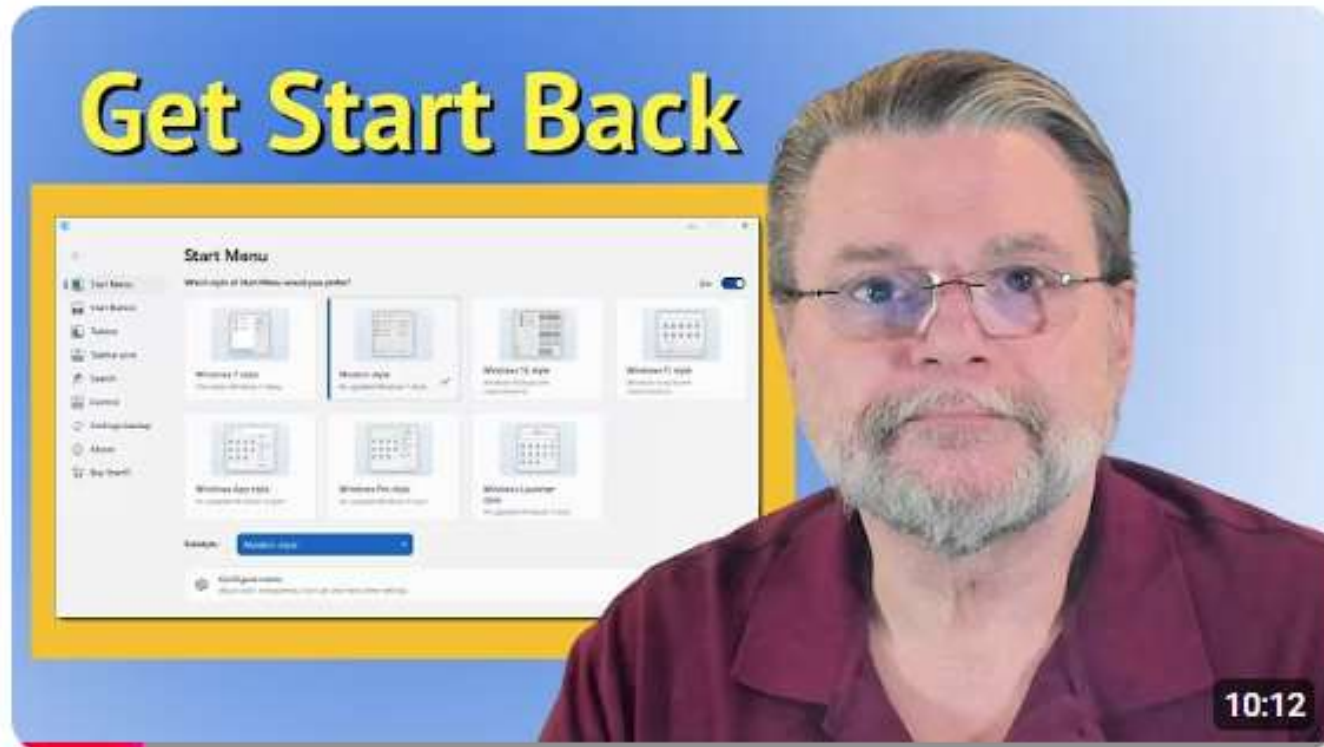
**Alan German & Chris Taylor**  
**Ottawa PC Users' Group**

*July 29, 2026*



YouTubeTech

# Start 11 – Get Start Back



**Start11: The Start Menu Replacement That Windows Users Need**



Ask Leo! ✓

293K subscribers

Subscribe

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wYLy4C\\_K8U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wYLy4C_K8U)



# I have a number of electronic devices...

- My problem is that I am not using them
- Please help!





# 2015 Tablet



- I have a Samsung tablet
- Circa 2015
- Lovely, but rarely used
- What should I do?



# Power adapter

- I have a 2006 laptop that was used until 2020
- I left the power cord dangling out of my car!
- The laptop would work perfectly if I could charge it
- None of m 10-12 multi-tip adapters fit the computer
- Where can I obtain an appropriate charger?





# Synchronize headset

- I have a headset
- I have never synchronized it to my smart TV
- How do I do this?





# Microsoft OS

- I have a never-used Microsoft Surface Laptop Go 2 without an operating system.
- I had heard that even in 2023, one could buy a simple operating system that was compatible with Microsoft devices.
- Which operating systems are compatible with Microsoft devices and can be purchased outright?





# One option is Linux

- But, where did Windows go?
- Microsoft computers come with Windows installed
- A free replacement could be a Linux distro (e.g. Linux Mint)

Running Linux Mint from a Live-USB

<https://linuxnorth.wordpress.com/running-linux-mint-from-a-live-usb/>

Linux on a Microsoft Surface Tablet (GO 2) - Installation and basic setup

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEh4nF-Z6hs>

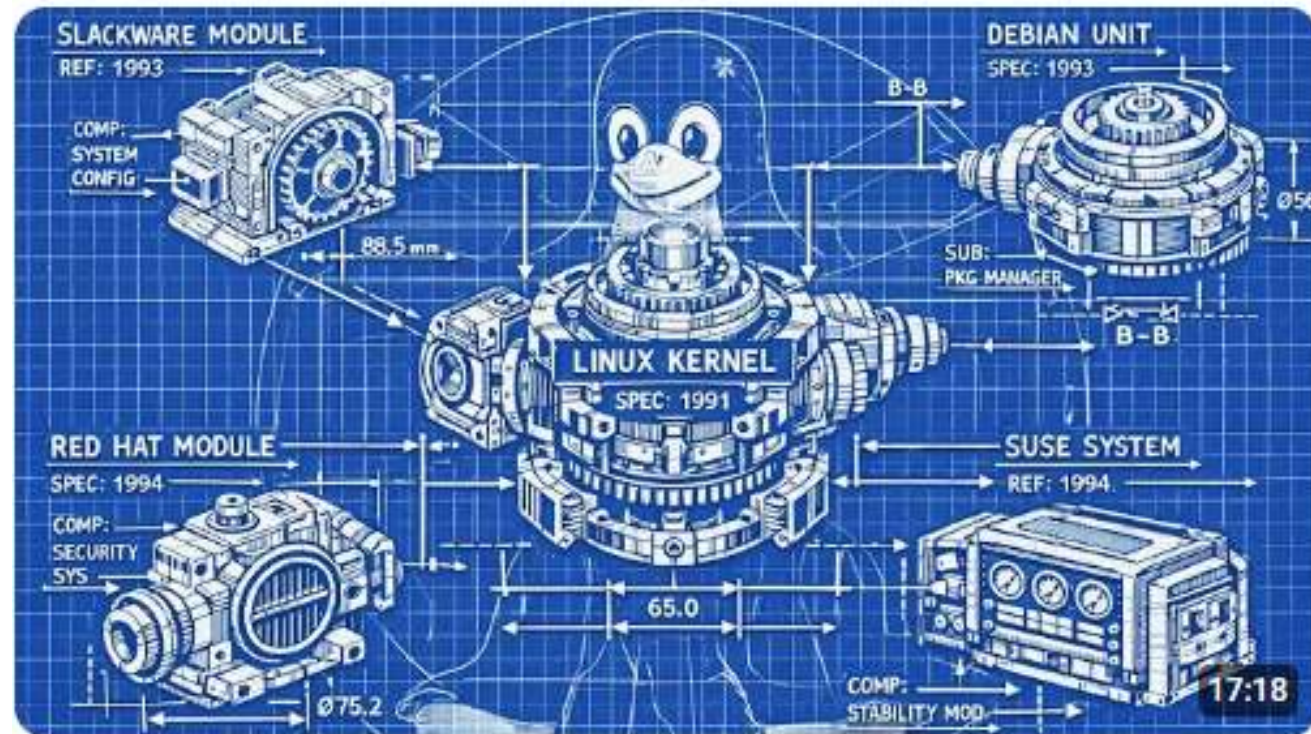
- Any other suggestions?





YouTubeTech

# How Linux Distributions Were Born



## From Kernel to System: The Birth of Linux Distributions



YouTux Channel  
24.8K subscribers

Subscribe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwR9lZVlAL8>

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# Anatomy of a scam

This email appears in my inbox today.  
I suspect the attachment is a trap  
Peter Kwan

**From:** TMs- Online Payment <ponelooperationsdesk@pds.cesuporte.com.br>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2026 3:02 PM  
**To:** noreply\_emails44@pymnt44asddsvce.com <noreply\_emails44@pymnt44asddsvce.com>  
**Subject:** New payment confirmation #123244

Hello,

We've received your payment.

#### Payment Details

Date: July 24, 2026  
Reference: 123244  
Amount: \$227.50

Your receipt is attached for your records.

Need assistance? Call +1-806-236-1385.

Thank you,  
Support Team

> 1 attachment: Receipt\_CLC3949\_07222026.pdf (1.9 KB)

From: top-level domain **br**  
• Brazil

To:  
• BCC'd: if legit, would have been sent to one recipient

Generic greeting

Phone number:  
• not toll-free  
• 806 area code: Texas  
• but email came from Brazil?

Attachment  
• often used to infect recipient computer  
• pdf files very commonly used as infection vector

Share

## Although sure it is a scam...

- Saved attachment to disk & submitted to VirusTotal
  - not reported as malicious
- Submitted to online service: convert PDF to plain text
  - no way I would load PDF into any program on my computer

### Transaction Receipt

Thank you for your payment.

We confirm that your payment has been successfully received and applied to your account.

#### Transaction Details:

- Transaction Date : July 24, 2026
- Amount Received : USD 227.50
- Status : Paid in Full

Please retain this document for your records.

Thank you for choosing McAfee\_TM.

We appreciate your continued trust in our security solutions.

This is an official receipt.

### Conclusion

- probably trying to get you to call phone number
- then the scam would take place

### But really...

- enough evidence the email was not legit
- just delete it

### OPCUG Fraud Watch page

- <https://opcug.ca/fraud-watch/>



# Disposable email addresses

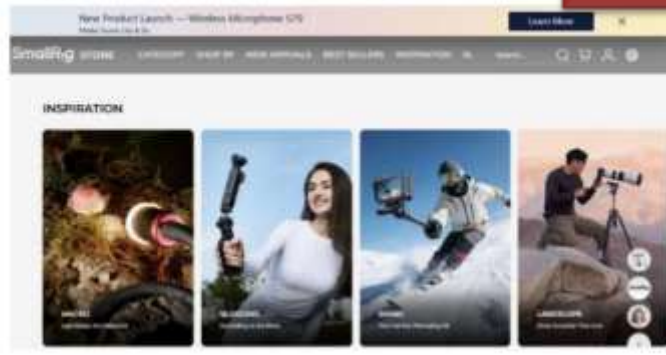
- Feb 11, 2026 OPCUG general meeting  
*The ins and outs of electronic mail*

## Disposable E-mail Addresses

- Chris wants to get create an account at SmallRig Canada
  - get emails about products & specials
- He doesn't want to use [chris.taylor@opcug.ca](mailto:chris.taylor@opcug.ca)
  - he doesn't necessarily trust SmallRig (Don Title)
  - what if SmallRig sells his address to spammers?

If you don't trust someone you have to give your email address to:

- give them a disposable address that delivers emails to your real address
- recipient never knows your real address
- delete disposable address if you never want to hear from recipient ever again





- February OPCUG presentation showed using National Capital Freenet (NCF) for disposable email addresses
  - easy to set up
  - unlimited number of disposable addresses
  - email-only NCF account: \$12/year
- Content updated for presentation given at Ottawa Public Library:
  - *Taming the inbox: organize and stay safe*



Share

# When trust is lacking

- Services often require you to provide an email address
  - to download a report
  - to access a restricted area of the website
  - to use a service
- You may not trust the company
  - they may:
    - sell your email address to spammers
    - spam you much tons of junk
    - not honour unsubscribe requests
- If you use your real email address
  - could get inundated with spam
  - could be impossible to get them to stop sending spam

Share

# National Capital Freenet

- Unlimited number of disposable email addresses
  - NCF assigns a unique ID to your account
    - e.g. **pu9z**
  - you assign a unique prefix for a service
    - e.g. **BobsEmporium** (or **BE**, **BobE**, or **Fe3q**, or ...)
  - email address created combining prefix & unique ID
    - e.g. **BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca**

<https://www.ncf.ca/en/>

- \$12 per year for an NCF email-only account



National  
Capital  
**Freenet**

Share

# Creating disposable address

## Email

On NCF Startpage

NCF WebMail **1 unread** 0% full

YellowMail **0**

YellowMail Preferences

Disposable Email Addresses

Create an Email Alias

### Disposable Email Aliases

Disposable email addresses are ideal for maintaining privacy, or when you are required to provide an email address, but don't wish to provide your real email address for fear of receiving spam.

#### CREATE DISPOSABLE ADDRESS

Prefix

BobsEmporium

Enter your choice of prefix or leave blank for a random prefix.

Description

used at bobsemp.com

Optional description to identify what you are using this alias for.

CREATE  
ALIAS

Enter Prefix & Description

#### Your Aliases

| Address                  | Description         | Created          | Actions |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------|
| BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca | used at bobsemp.com | 2026-03-20 07:09 | Delete  |

Disposable address



Share

# Using disposable email address

- When asked for email address at Bob's Emporium
  - give them **BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca**
- All email sent to **BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca**
  - delivered to your mailbox
  - you can create rules based on who email was sent to
    - e.g. move to a folder called **Bob's Emporium**
- Use forever if Bob turns out to be trustworthy



**Bonus for signing up** March 20, 2026 11:3

From: Bob

To: BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca

Spam score: -0.069

Just for signing up at Bob's Emporium, reply to this email to enjoy 50% off your first order at our store

Bob

From: Primary Account (Chris Taylor <[redacted]@ncf.ca>)

To: Bob

Cc:

Subject: Re: Bonus for signing up

From: Primary Account (Chris Taylor <[redacted]@ncf.ca>)

Primary Account (Chris Taylor <[redacted]@ncf.ca>)

BobsEmporium.bpu9z@ncf.ca ( <BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca>)

Please sign me up for 50% off

To: "BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca" <bobsemporium.pu9z@ncf.ca>

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 11:31:2

Subject: Bonus for signing up

Send the email

First email from Bob's Emporium

- still not sure I trust Bob...
- but hey, that sounds like a good deal

Reply in order to get discount

- by default, will expose my real address

Drop-down on *From*:

- choose disposable address



From: bobsemporium.bpu9z@ncf.ca

To: Bob

Please sign me up for 50% off

To: "BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca" <bobsemporium.pu9z@ncf.ca>  
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 11:31:20 AM  
Subject: Bonus for signing up

Just for signing up at Bob's Emporium, reply to this email to enjoy 50% off your first order at our store

Bob

Share

Oh oh...



Welcome to Bob's Emporium

March 20, 2026 11:16 AM

From: Bob

To: BobsEmporiumpu9z

Spam score: -0.07

Bob's Emporium **not** trustworthy

- going to spam me 10 times a day
- for at least a month

Thanks for signing up at Bob Emporium

You can expect 10 emails every day with our latest specials. If you want to unsubscribe from our emails, click the link below. Note that it will take 30 days for us to remove you from our mailings

Email

On NCF Startpage

NCF WebMail **1 unread** 0% full

YellowMail **0**

YellowMail Preferences

Disposable Email Addresses

Create an Email Alias

#### Your Aliases

| Address                  | Description         | Created          | Actions       |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| BobsEmporium.pu9z@ncf.ca | used at bobsemp.com | 2026-03-20 07:09 | <b>Delete</b> |

Will no longer receive email from Bob's Emporium

Share

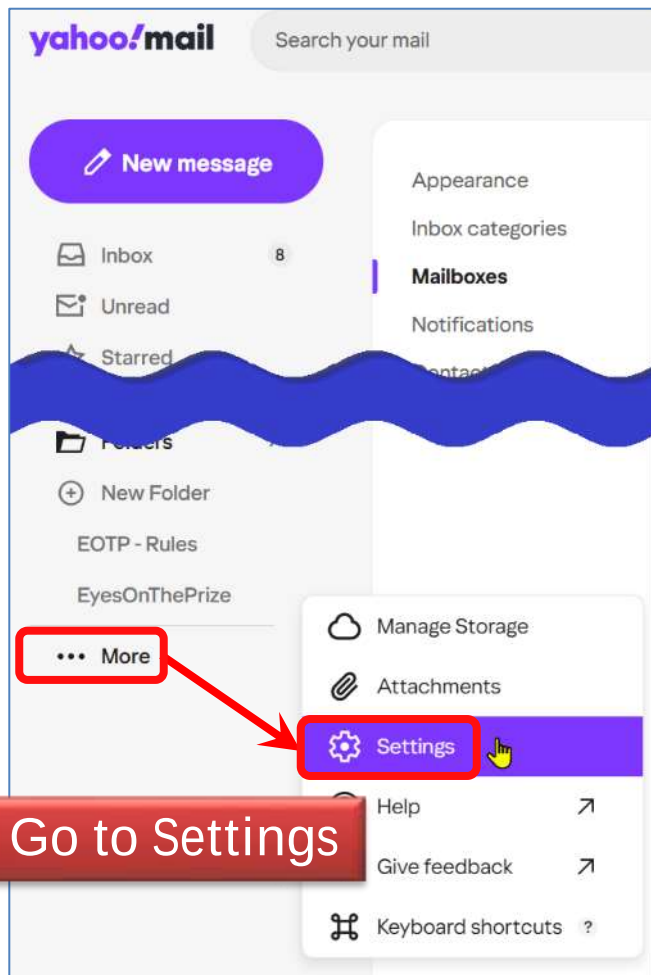
# Free email services with disposable address

- Yahoo email
  - free accounts: maximum of three disposable addresses
  - Yahoo Plus (CA\$6.49/month): up to 500 disposable addresses
    - other benefits: ad-free, 200 GB, tech support, auto-forwarding...

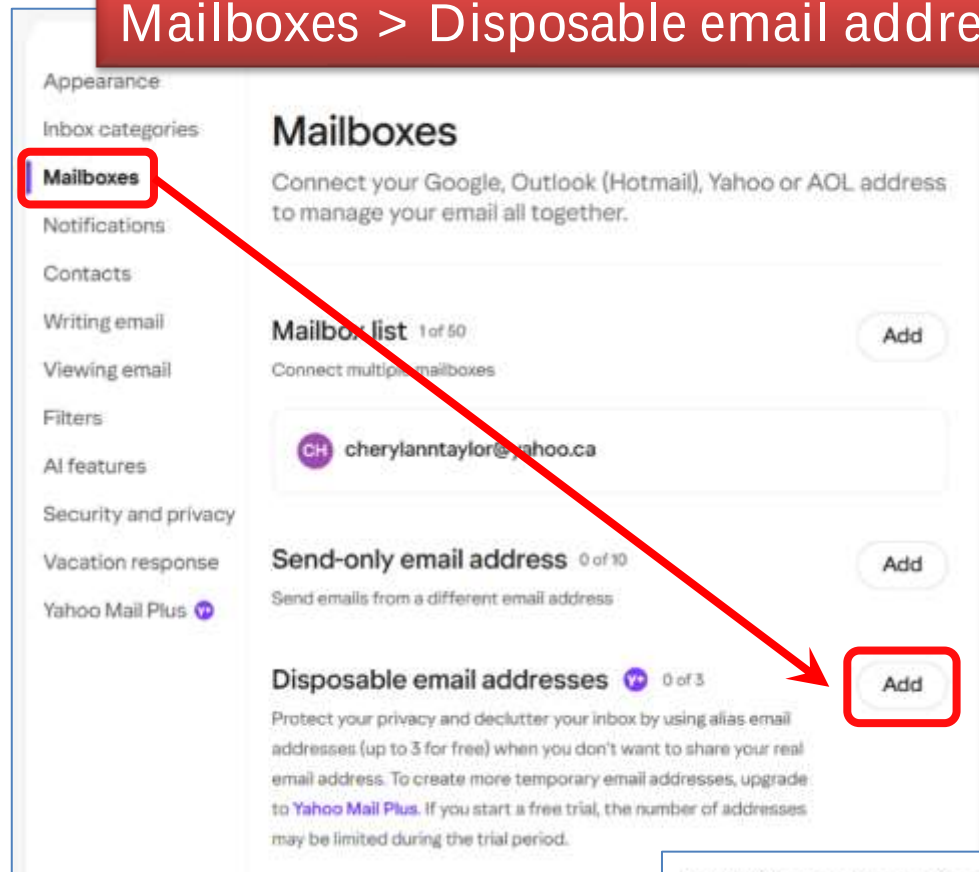
# Share

# Yahoo email

Mailboxes > Disposable email addresses > Add



Go to Settings



**Add disposable email address**

Each disposable email address includes the combination of a permanent nickname and a keyword variation: for example, **nickname-keyword@yahoo.com**

**Create permanent nickname**

-keyword@yahoo.com

Nicknames are unique and subject to availability. Once you create a nickname, it's locked to this account and can't be edited or removed.

Nickname: one-time creation

- will be combined with keyword later

Share

# Yahoo email

## Add disposable email address

Each disposable email address begins with the permanent nickname, **mail56lsfde**.

Add any keyword to your nickname to create a disposable email address: for example, mail56lsfde-keyword@yahoo.com

### Add a keyword

mail56lsfde - **BobsEmporium** yahoo.com

(eg. newsletter, shopping, promos)

### Name (optional)

**For Bob's Emporium**

The name shown in emails you send.

### Description (optional)

**Bob's Emporium website**

What is this disposable email for?

Save

Cancel

## Create keyword

- combined with nickname for a disposable email address

Max 3 with free Yahoo accounts

## Disposable email addresses

y+

1 of 3

Add

Protect your privacy and declutter your inbox by using alias email addresses (up to 3 for free) when you don't want to share your real email address. To create more temporary email addresses, upgrade to **Yahoo Mail Plus**. If you start a free trial, the number of addresses may be limited during the trial period.

**mail56lsfde-BobsEmporium@yahoo.com**

Bob's Emporium website

## First email from Bob's Emporium

- shows in mailbox as sent to disposable address



## Bonus for signing up

Inbox

Bob

To: mail56lsfde-bobsemporium@yahoo.com · Tue, Jun 30 at 8:25 a.m. ▾

Just for signing up at Bob's Emporium, reply to this email to enjoy 50% off your first order at our store

Bob

50% off if I reply



Share

# Yahoo email

Reply to Bob's Emporium to get discount

- defaults to being **From** your real address
- click to change **From** address

Re: Bonus for signing up

Bob

From

Re: Bonus for signing up

Please sign me up for 50% off my first order.

Re: Bonus for signing up

From CT Cheryl Taylor <cherylanntaylor@yahoo.ca>

Re: Bonu

Please si

CT cherylanntaylor@yahoo.ca

FE mail56lsfde-BobsEmporium@yahoo.com

Choose disposable address

Re: Bonus for signing up

From FE For Bobs Emporium <mail56lsfde-BobsEmporium@yahoo.com>

Bob

Re: Bonus for signing up

Please sign me up for 50% off my first order.

Never want to hear from Bob's Emporium again?

- delete the disposable address
- Bob **never** knew your real address



Share

# Outlook.com

- Outlook.com free email
  - disposable email addresses called *aliases*
- Alias limits
  - maximum of 10 active aliases at any given time
  - limited to creating 10 new aliases per year
  - add a maximum of 2 new aliases within a rolling 7-day period
  - once deleted, alias can never be reused



Share

# Free Tutorials

| Speaker            | Link                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kevin Stratvert    | <a href="https://kevinstratvert.com/free-tutorials/">https://kevinstratvert.com/free-tutorials/</a>                   |
| Christofer Barnatt | <a href="https://www.explainingcomputers.com/">https://www.explainingcomputers.com/</a>                               |
| Leo A. Notenboom   | <a href="https://askleo.com/">https://askleo.com/</a>                                                                 |
| tutorialspoint     | <a href="https://www.tutorialspoint.com/tutorialslibrary.htm">https://www.tutorialspoint.com/tutorialslibrary.htm</a> |



<https://kevinstratvert.com/2026/04/27/how-to-transcribe-audio-to-text-for-free-on-your-pc/>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFBxIMqGVPo&t=12s>

José Costa

|                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Data Refresh for Long-Term Storage                                | <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B7yg7LWiik">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B7yg7LWiik</a>                                                                                               | 22:57 |
| Linux Adobe CC Alternatives (Photo Editing, Illustration & Video) | <a href="https://youtu.be/laKstMnXhqw">https://youtu.be/laKstMnXhqw</a>                                                                                                                             | 21:10 |
| Windows 10: Four Months to Go (Again)                             | <a href="https://youtu.be/lFBxIMqGVPo">https://youtu.be/lFBxIMqGVPo</a>                                                                                                                             | 13:26 |
| How to Set Up 3 Monitors on a Laptop (Step-by-Step Guide)         | <a href="https://youtu.be/f80Enp6WGt0">https://youtu.be/f80Enp6WGt0</a>                                                                                                                             | 05:39 |
| Free AI Voice Generator on Your PC (Clone Any Voice)              | <a href="https://youtu.be/sisnzgc73zc">https://youtu.be/sisnzgc73zc</a>                                                                                                                             | 05:50 |
| How to Transcribe Audio to Text for Free on Your PC               | <a href="https://kevinstratvert.com/2026/04/27/how-to-transcribe-audio-to-text-for-free-on-your-pc/">https://kevinstratvert.com/2026/04/27/how-to-transcribe-audio-to-text-for-free-on-your-pc/</a> | 02:04 |
| How to Use Claude Projects (Full Tutorial)                        | <a href="https://youtu.be/w7_yWjYyxjE">https://youtu.be/w7_yWjYyxjE</a>                                                                                                                             | 06:35 |
| Google Maps Just Changed Driving Forever (New 3D Navigation)      | <a href="https://youtu.be/iDcGQMx66Vg">https://youtu.be/iDcGQMx66Vg</a>                                                                                                                             | 03:40 |
| How to Use Google Gemini AI (Full Tutorial)                       | <a href="https://youtu.be/PDMcpthR88U">https://youtu.be/PDMcpthR88U</a>                                                                                                                             | 10:03 |
| Claude AI Tutorial for Beginners (Step-by-Step)                   | <a href="https://youtu.be/r2vYObllqJU">https://youtu.be/r2vYObllqJU</a>                                                                                                                             | 08:37 |
| How to Use OBS Studio to Record Screen (Beginner Tutorial)        | <a href="https://youtu.be/xoe9ZOzlfmQ">https://youtu.be/xoe9ZOzlfmQ</a>                                                                                                                             | 11:43 |
| How to Use Google NotebookLM (Full Tutorial)                      | <a href="https://youtu.be/uSVBfyHBiDU">https://youtu.be/uSVBfyHBiDU</a>                                                                                                                             | 07:56 |
| How to Get Transcript from YouTube Video (Step-by-Step)           | <a href="https://youtu.be/qXfPsEHFQpQ">https://youtu.be/qXfPsEHFQpQ</a>                                                                                                                             | 02:32 |

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|  <b>Docker</b> #9              |  <b>Spring Boot</b> #10       |  <b>HTML</b> #11               |  <b>CSS</b> #12                   |

<https://www.tutorialspoint.com/tutorialslibrary.htm>

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# Samsung Battery Health Tips

- Many folks support Samsung's plan for world domination by purchasing their devices
- One of the best way to slow down the takeover is to extend the life of these devices so we don't have to replace them as often as Samsung would like
- To that end, here is an article with a few tips on extending battery life for these mobiles

<https://www.xda-developers.com/stopped-samsung-galaxy-phone-draining-battery-changing-hidden-settings/>

Stewart Bruce

- We tried the third recommendation, *"Stopping unnecessary apps from running in the background"* with my wife's Galaxy
- We found it very simple and straightforward.



*Chris reviewed the XDA article – details and results follow...*

Share

# Saving your phone battery

- *I stopped my Samsung Galaxy phone from draining battery in hours by changing these hidden settings*
  - *watched the percentage drop far too quickly*
  - *found myself reaching for a charger before the day was over*
- Tweaking Always-on display behavior
  - a nice battery boost
- Changing the performance profile
  - light mode was enough for me
- Stopped unnecessary apps from running in the background
  - a handy trick
- Switched off 5G in weak-signal areas
  - an often overlooked setting
- Controlled syncing and background activity
  - disabling unused accounts

<https://www.xda-developers.com/stopped-samsung-galaxy-phone-draining-battery-changing-hidden-settings/>



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# Results

- *My Galaxy S25 Ultra did not have one obvious battery problem*
  - *instead, several small UI settings were quietly adding up throughout the day*
- *None of these changes ruined the experience or stripped away features I actually use*
- *That said, every step is different*
  - *would not recommend copying every setting blindly*
  - *start with the features you rarely need*
  - *monitor the results*
  - *switch anything back if it affects your daily workflow*
- **Probably good advice for any phone**

Share

# WhatCable Mac App

- This one is for the Mac users only
- A great utility that tells you the capabilities of the cable plugged into your port(s)

<https://www.whatcable.uk/>

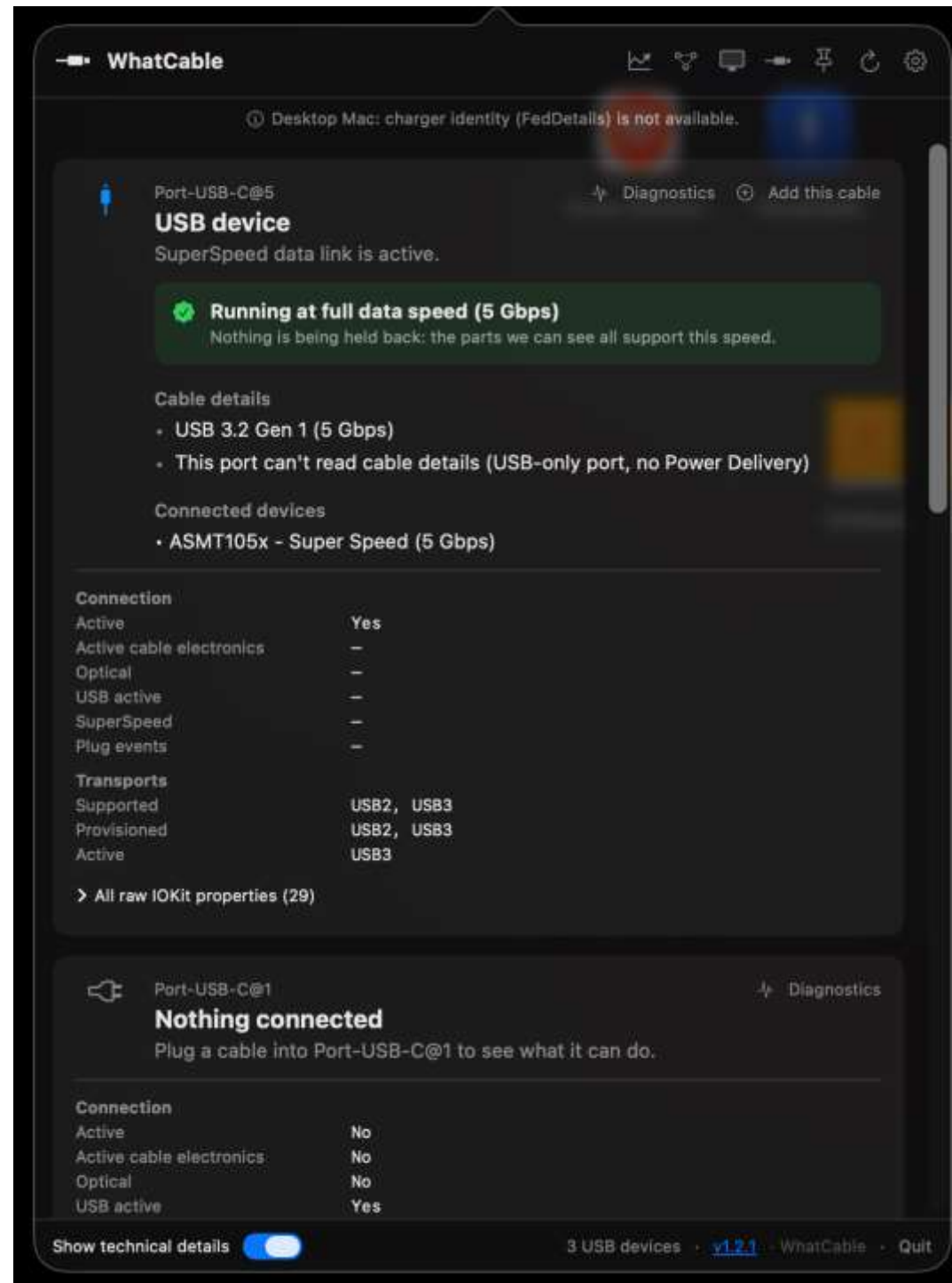
**Know what your  
USB-C cable can  
really do.**

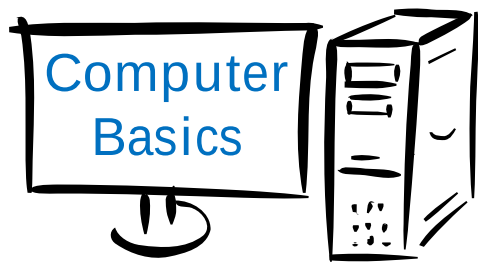
Plug in a cable. WhatCable shows its speed, power capability, display path, and the weak link in your connection, using what macOS reports, not what the packaging promises.



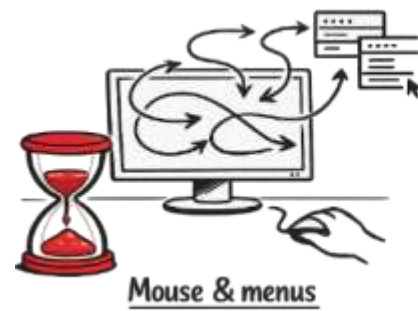
**WhatCable**

- Here is a screenshot from my Mac with a Sata3 SSD, mounted in an external enclosure, plugged into a USB port
- I could probably get a faster connection with a better cable but right now I'm dealing with a hodge-podge of cables of unknown origins.





# Keyboard shortcuts #16



- *Colour filters*
- Alters screen colours—easier to distinguish colours
  - especially helpful for those with colour blindness
    - red-green (green weak, deuteranopia)
    - red-green (red weak, protanopia)
    - blue-yellow (tritanopia)
  - greyscale
  - greyscale inverted
  - inverted (colour)



Ctrl

C

Colour filters off by default

- must enable in *Settings*

## Settings > Accessibility > Colour filters

### Computer Basics

Can't show effects in screen captures

- screen captures grab actual colours
- not adjusted colours

Preview colour adjustment

Toggle on

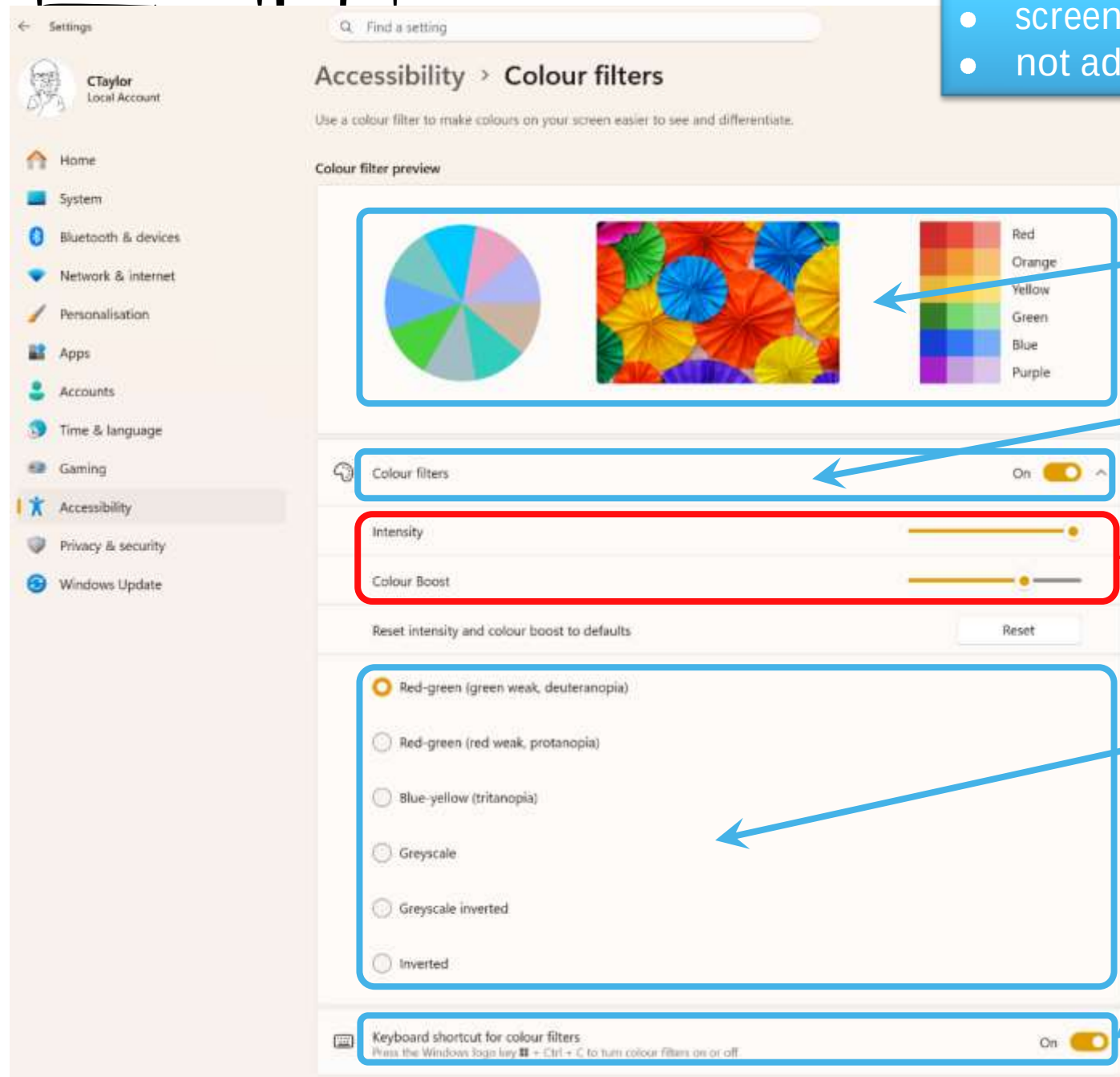
Available in recent versions of Windows 11

Choose colour adjustment

- as soon as you choose one
- entire screen colour adjusted

Hotkey:

- if hotkey off
- can only toggle colour filter on/off in *Settings*







# Some examples

Photographs of my screen



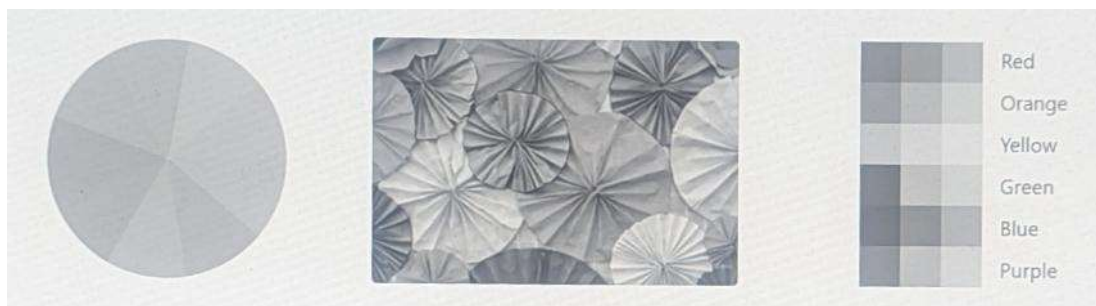
no colour filter



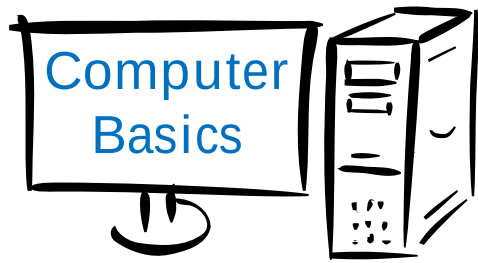
red-green (red weak, protanopia)



inverted



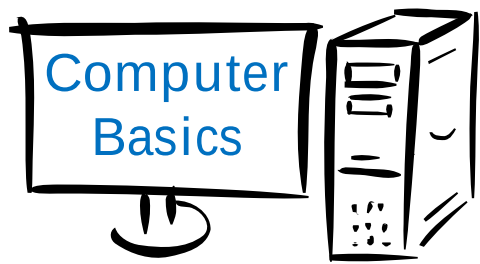
greyscale



# How I use *Colour filters*

- As a photographer
  - set *Colour filters* to *Greyscale*
- Quickly toggle on and off
  - see how photo looks if all colour removed
- Does colour
  - enhance the photo
  - detract from the photo
- Worth noting
  - simple greyscale desaturates all colour equally
  - colour conversion to B&W can be much more sophisticated
    - e.g. reds can be converted to light grey while blues converted to dark grey
  - but *Colour filters* allows for a quick assessment

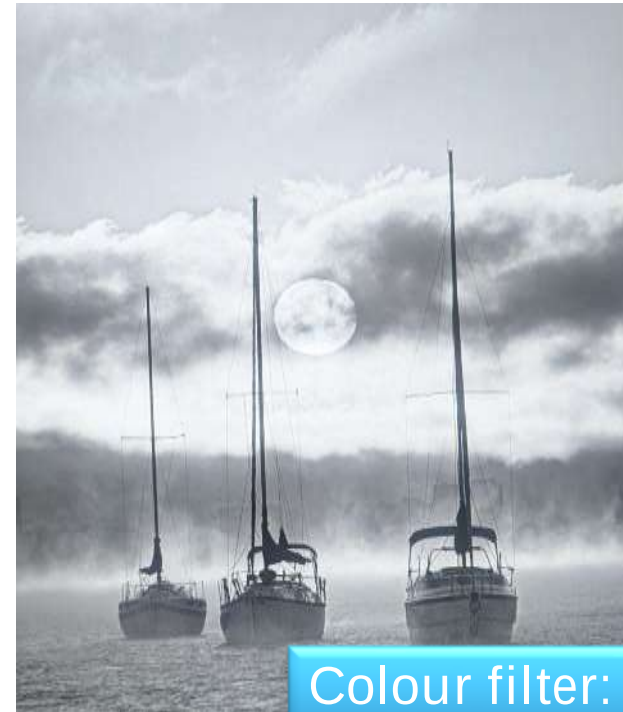




# When colour enhances photo

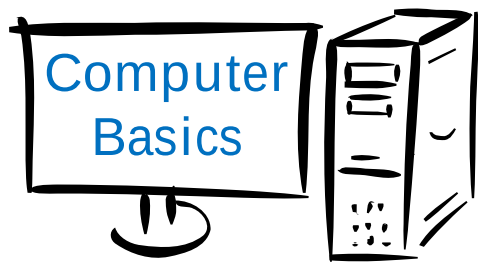


Colour filter: off



Colour filter: greyscale





# When colour distracts



Colour filter: off



Colour filter: greyscale







# Geoblocking

- Could you give an overview about geoblocking?
- Why does it happen?
- What are the reasons?
- What are the methods used?
- How can it be bypassed?





# What is geoblocking?

- Internet service providers may not want to allow people around the world to access their information or services
- Barriers are established based on the user's IP address (location)
- Content (e.g. videos) may only be licensed for consumption in a given country
- Commercial restrictions may involve market segmentation and pricing
- Access to restricted webpages, videos, etc. may be blocked

# How do they know my location?

- The target web service may check the user's IP address against GeoIP databases
- Countries typically have several IP address blocks assigned to them
- Databases linking IP address blocks to specific countries provide location
- The location for mobile devices may come from GPS, cell tower triangulation, etc.
- Account details such as shipping address, language, & time zone may identify location

# Geoblock Example

- Netflix streaming content in Canada
- Canadian viewers will see some US-only material blocked
- Netflix can stream the content in the US but doesn't have Canadian distribution rights for the content
- Netflix checks your location, sees you're in Canada, and then compares that against the territory where it is licensed to show the content
- If Canada is not included, it denies playback and/or shows a message.

**NETFLIX**

# Can I circumvent geoblocking?

- A Virtual Private Network (VPN) may workaround geoblocking
- Choose a server in the country of interest so that you appear to be located in that country
- Content or services will normally be accessible
- Possible problems:
  - legal/moral - you are circumventing rules, terms of use, etc.
  - VPN may not work - IP addresses used by the VPN may be known and themselves subject to geoblocking!





Any other:  
Questions  
Comments  
Shares?



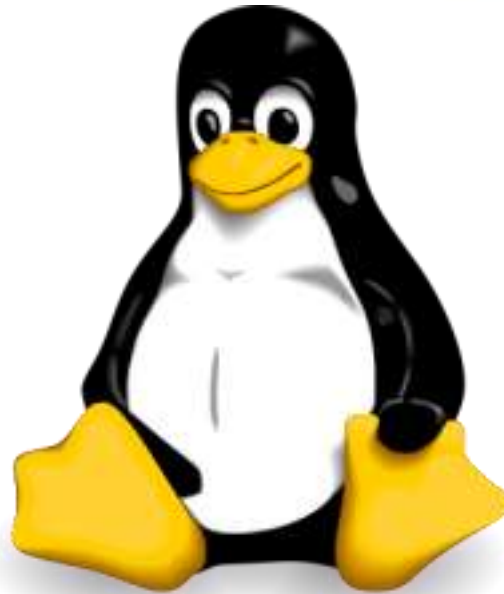
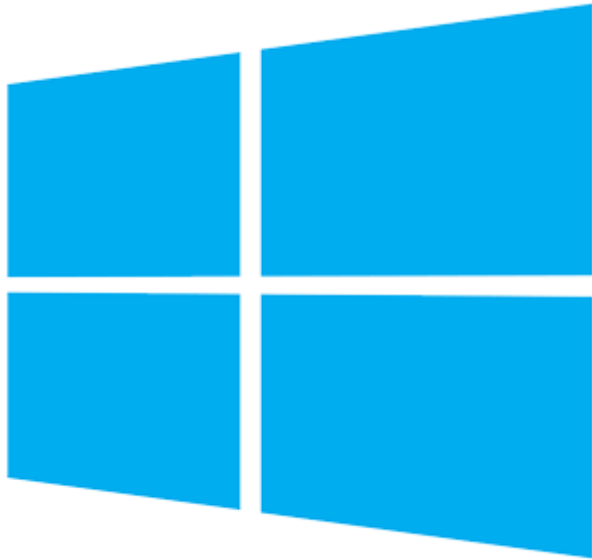
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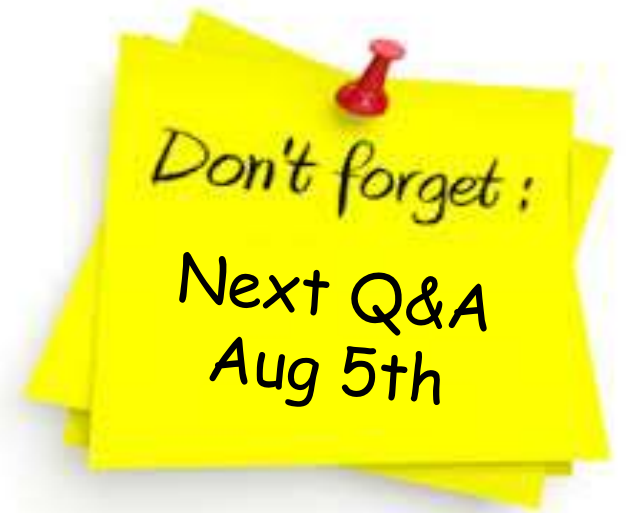
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