



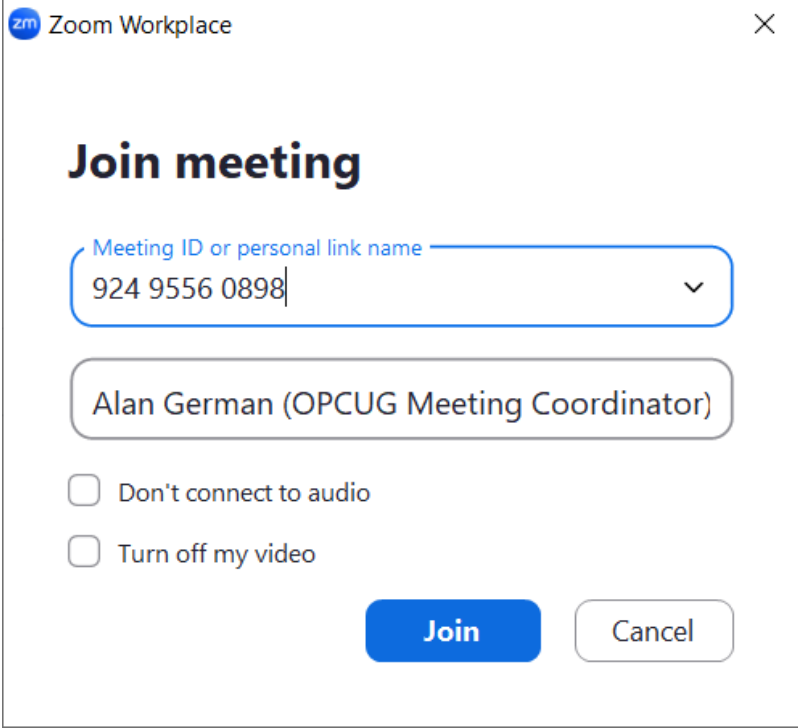
Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

August 5, 2026

Follow Up

Signing in to Zoom

- I find it easiest to use the Zoom desktop client
- Zoom Workplace
- Version 7.1.5



The screenshot shows the 'Join meeting' dialog box in the Zoom Workplace application. The window title is 'Zoom Workplace'. The main heading is 'Join meeting'. Below this, there is a text input field labeled 'Meeting ID or personal link name' containing the text '924 9556 0898'. Below the input field is a name field containing 'Alan German (OPCUG Meeting Coordinator)'. There are two checkboxes: 'Don't connect to audio' and 'Turn off my video', both of which are currently unchecked. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Join' (in blue) and 'Cancel' (in white with a grey border).

<https://zoom.us/download>

zoom



Download Center

Get the most out of Zoom by downloading our apps



Zoom Workplace for Windows

[Version 7.1.5 \(43453\)](#)

Unlock the full suite of collaboration with Team Chat, Whiteboard, Notes and more - included with your Zoom Meetings account.



Whiteboards

Chat

Notes

Home

Meetings

Canvas

NEW

More

Settings

11:08 AM

Thursday, July 30, 2026



New meeting ▾



Join



Schedule



Share screen



My Notes



Today, Jul 30 ▾



Today



No meetings scheduled.

[+ Schedule a meeting](#)

[Open recordings >](#)

Whiteboards



Chat



Notes



Home



Meetings



Canvas

NEW

More



Settings

11:09 AM

Thursday, July 30, 2026



New meeting



My Notes



Today



Zoom Workplace

Join meeting

Meeting ID or personal link name

Alan German (OPCUG Meeting Coordinator)

☐ Don't connect to audio

☐ Turn off my video

Join

Cancel

[+ Schedule a meeting](#)[Open recordings >](#)

Tonight's Q&A session - Reminder 2 views



OPCUG-Announcements

<opcug-announcements...

Jul 29, 2026,

6:27:44 PM (17 hours ago)



to OPCUG-Announcements

Tonight's Q&A session starts in about one hour - at 7:30 pm. Your questions are welcome.

Join us at: <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting> * (if you use the Zoom client, the meeting ID is 924 9556 0898 and the password is opcug)

Preliminary Agenda:

YouTube Tech - Start 11 – Get Start Back

Ask - I have a number of electronic devices...

YouTube Tech - How Linux Distributions Were Born

Share - Anatomy of a scam

Update - Disposable email addresses

Share - Free Tutorials

Share - Samsung Battery Health Tips

Share - Saving your phone battery


Whiteboards
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Settings

11:11 AM

zm Zoom Workplace

Join meeting

Meeting ID or personal link name
924 9556 0898

Alan German (OPCUG Meeting Coordinator)

☐ Don't connect to audio

☐ Turn off my video

Join

Cancel

No meetings scheduled.
[+ Schedule a meeting](#)

Open recordings >


Whiteboards
Chat
Notes
Home
Meetings
CanvasNEW
...

More


Settings

7:14 PM

Wednesday, August 5, 2026



New meeting



My Notes

Zoom Workplace

Join meeting

Meeting ID or personal link name 

OPCUG meeting (general or...	924 9556 0898
APCUG Learning Linux Work...	842 5984 1796
Alan German (OPCUG Meeti...	728 9173 7928
APCUG Wednesday Worksho...	811 8959 5291
APCUG Wednesday Worksho...	878 1929 3079
OPCUG BoD	885 2255 5148

[Clear history](#)

 Today

Open recordings >



Whiteboards



Chat



Notes



Home



Meetings



Canvas

NEW

More



Settings

11:13 AM

zm Enter meeting passcode ✕

Enter meeting passcode

Meeting passcode

Join meeting Cancel

New meeting



Today



My Notes



No meetings scheduled.

+ [Schedule a meeting](#)

[Open recordings](#) >

Whiteboards



Chat



Notes



Home



Meetings



Canvas

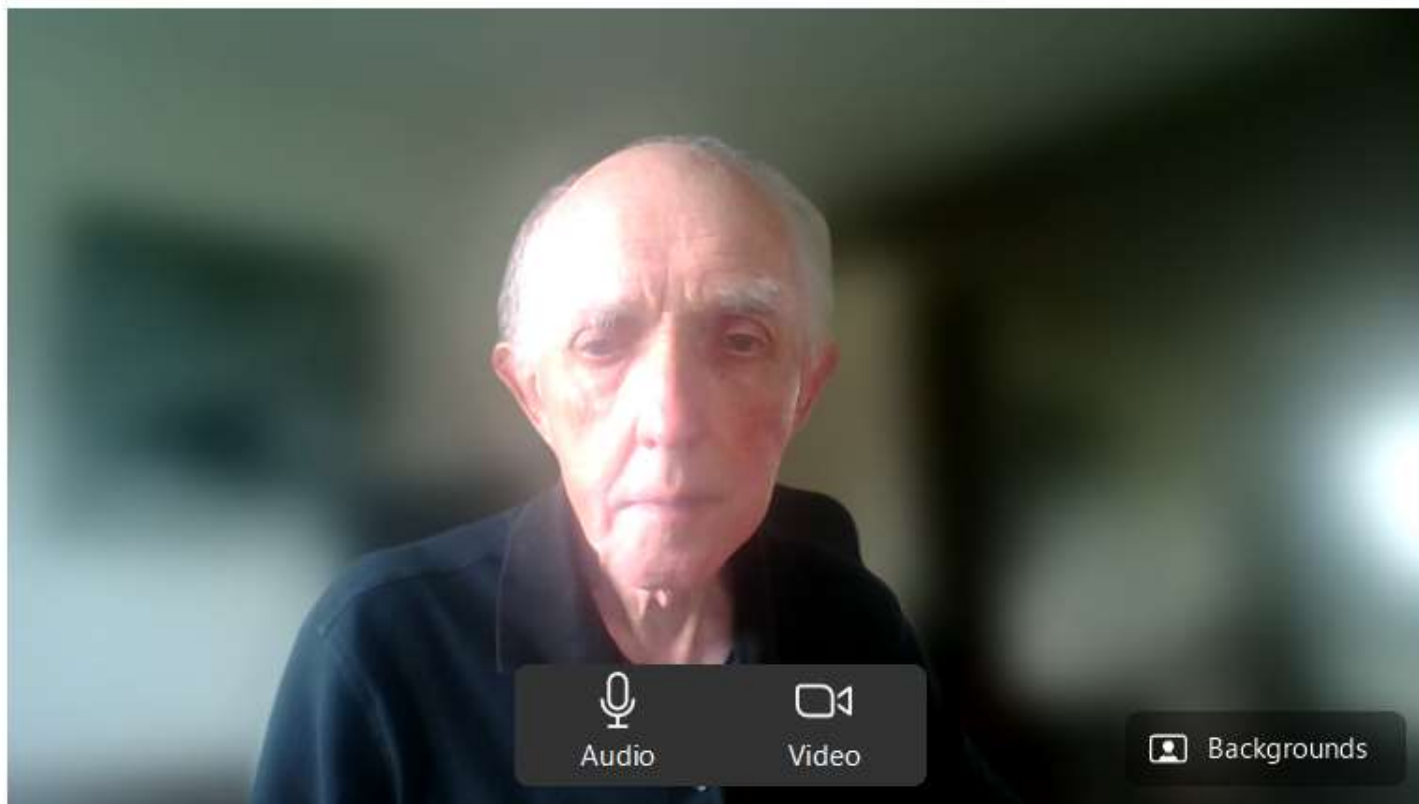
NEW

More



Settings

zm OPCUG meeting (general or Q&A)



Audio



Video



Backgrounds



Custom combination



Integrated Webcam



Always show this preview when joining ⓘ

Join

Open recordings >

Whiteboards



Chat



Notes



Home



Meetings



Canvas

NEW

More



Settings

PRO TIP

Make the most out of your meetings with My Notes! Automate note-taking, summarize action items, and more with My Notes!

✕

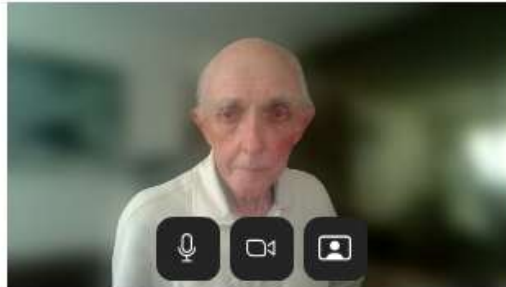


Zoom Workplace

-

□

✕



OPCUG meeting (general or Q&A)

Scheduled: 7:00 PM

Waiting for the host to start the meeting. ⚙

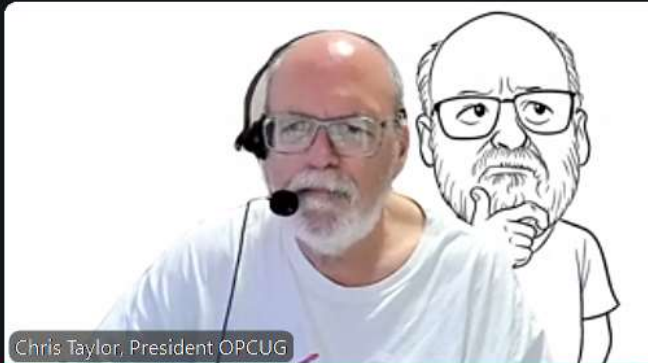
Test speaker and mic



Meet ZoomMate

Your AI teammate that searches, orchestrates,
and completes work on your behalf.

Open recordings >



Chris Taylor, President OPCUG



Alan German (OPCUG Meeting Coordinator)

Brian Pagniello



Lynda

This meeting is being recorded.

Anyone with access to the recording or transcript may view or share them with others.

OK

Diane's iPhone

Bob Walker



Dementia Society



Audio



Video



Participants



Chat



React



Share



More

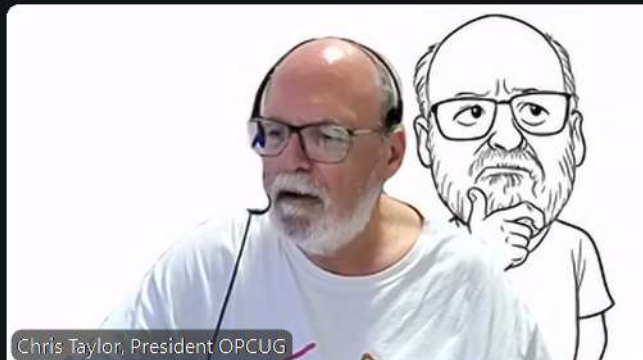


Applicat

Zoom



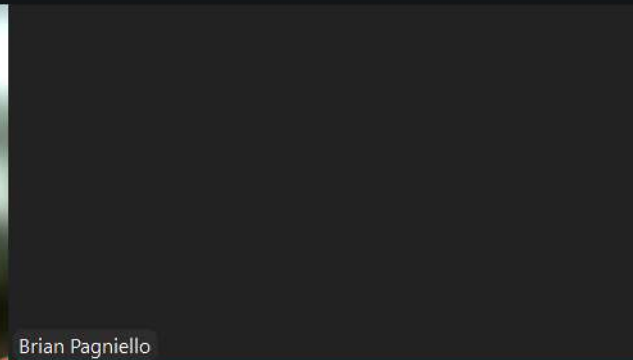
Leave



Chris Taylor, President OPCUG



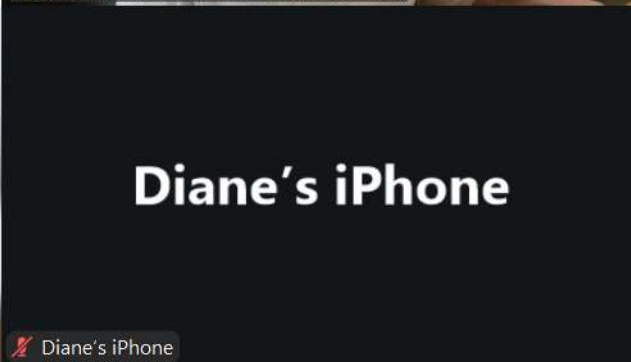
Alan German (OPCUG Meeting Coordinator)



Brian Pagniello

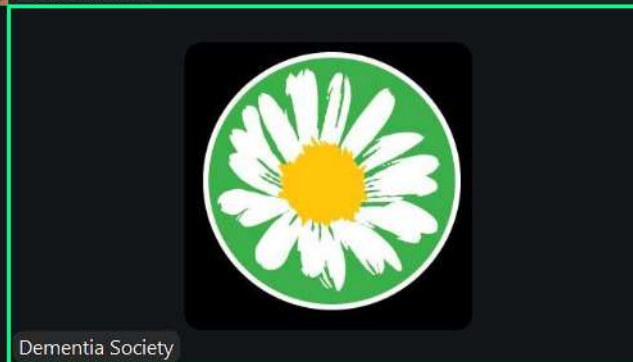


lynda



Diane's iPhone

🔴 Diane's iPhone



Dementia Society

Timothy

🔴 Timothy



Audio



Video



Participants



Chat



React



Share



Host tools



More



Leave

Share

What are email *tracking pixels*

- Tiny images in email
 - typically a tiny (1 pixel x 1 pixel) image
- When your email app or browser loads the image
 - makes a request to the sender's server to display image
 - includes details e.g. email address, date/time, location, etc.
- Commonly used for
 - marketing analytics
 - conversion tracking
 - did an email or weblink bring about a result (click or sale)
 - spammers can tell when an email has been opened
- Privacy concerns—they may process personal data

Share

Example of tracking pixels use

- Retailer sends promotional email with *Shop now* button
 - email includes a tiny invisible image
- When you open the email
 - your mail program loads that image from the sender's server
 - server records the email was opened
 - with details like the time, your device, and sometimes your approximate location or email client
- If you click the *Shop now* button
 - can log that as an engagement event
 - company can measure which subject lines, offers, or segments performed best
 - company can compare two versions of the same campaign
 - see which one got more opens or clicks
 - use that to improve the next send
- This is why tracking pixels are popular in email marketing
 - even though privacy features can reduce how accurately they work
- Of course, same techniques can be used by spammers/scammers

Share

Good or evil?

- Sounds like tracking pixels are evil, right?
- Spammer can detect that you opened their spam
 - your email address is valid: you will get more spam
- Criminal sends a fake invoice email
- They learn
 - your address is active
 - what device you use
 - what time you read mail
 - can use that information to send more targeted phishing email

- Received an email
 - *as part of commitment to transparency*
 - *in accordance with recommendations of French Data Protection Authority*
 - *inform you about our use of tracking pixels in email communications*
- Les Echos Le Parisien Group uses tracking pixels to:
 - detect when emails are opened in order to
 - measure their performance and improve the relevance of the content we provide;
 - adjust the frequency of our email communications according to your level of engagement;
 - automatically unsubscribe users, where applicable, after an extended period of inactivity;
 - create preference profiles in order to better tailor our content to your interests, both in our emails and across our digital services
- You may object to the use of these tracking pixels at any time
- You can change your mind at any time using link in each of our emails
 - you will no longer receive emails personalized based tracking pixels
 - tracking pixels will continue to be used
 - so that we can unsubscribe you after an extended period of inactivity
- Maybe not evil
 - but if you block tracking pixels, you will probably, be unsubscribed eventually!

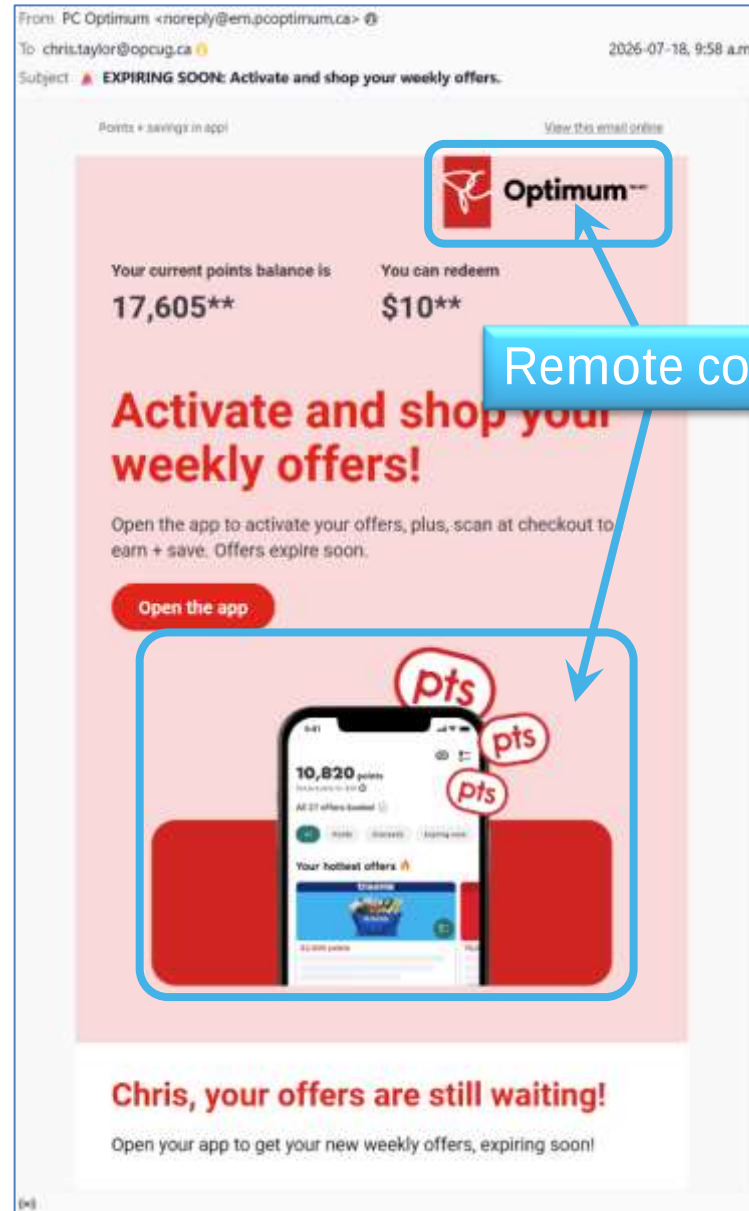
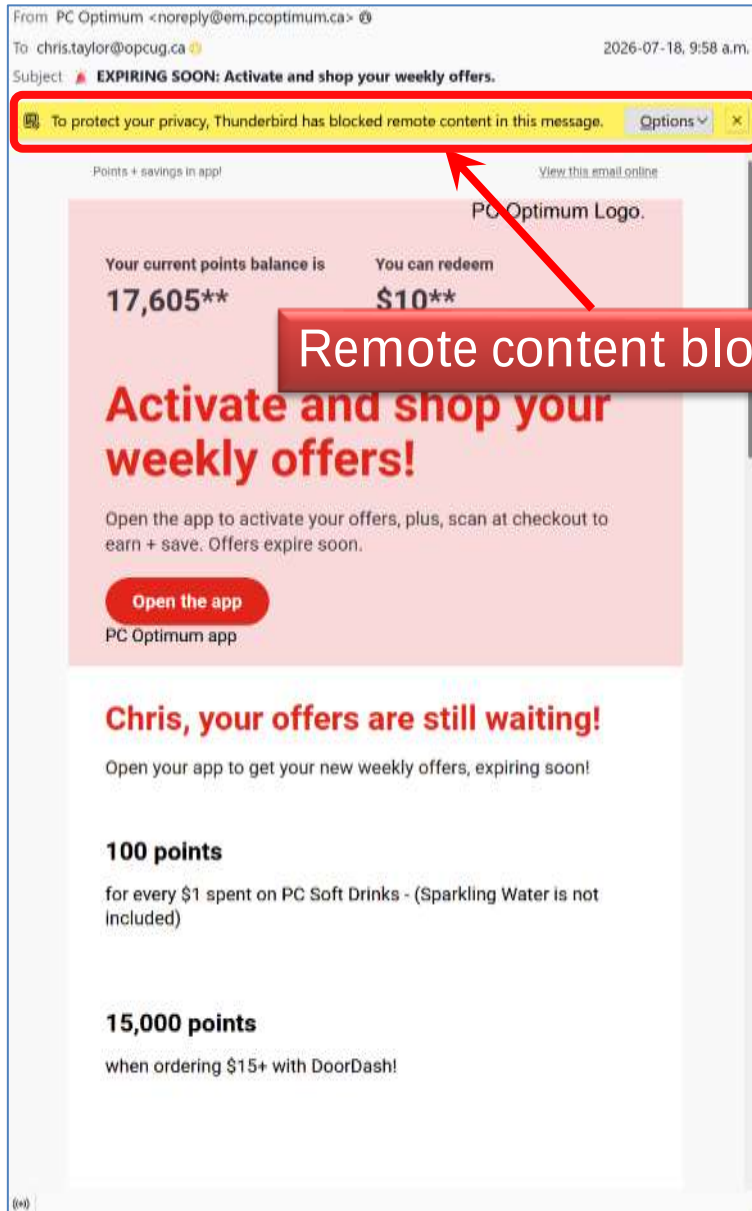
Share

Blocking tracking pixels

- Thunderbird
 - *Tools > Settings > Privacy & Security > uncheck Allow remote content in messages*
- Gmail
 - *Settings > See all settings > General tab > Images: Ask before displaying external images*
- Yahoo mail
 - *Settings > Viewing email > Show images in messages > Ask before showing external images*
- Outlook.com
 - *Settings > Junk email > Security options > Block attachments, pictures, and links from anyone not in my Safe senders and domains list*
- AOL mail
 - *Settings > More settings > Viewing email > Show images in messages > Ask before showing external images*

Share

Remote content



Share

Remote content blocked

From Canada Revenue Agency <john.babic@reeflex.ca> @

To chris.taylor@opcug.ca @

2026-07-16, 4:05 a.m.

Subject **Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) sent you new mail**

 To protect your privacy, Thunderbird has blocked remote content in this message.

Options ▾



English version *** La version française suit ***

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) sent you new mail online called:
NOTICE OF COLLECTION

This mail may require your attention.

If you have My Account, sign-in and click on "Mail" to read your mail.

[View Document Here](#)

Examples of remote content
you should leave blocked

- scam emails

From Insha Iqbal <insha@amanah.com> @

To chris.taylor@opcug.ca @

2026-07-15, 10:08 a.m.

Subject **Internet where the cable doesn't reach**

 To protect your privacy, Thunderbird has blocked remote content in this message.

Options ▾



Hi Chris,

It's summer in Toronto. The ferries are packed, the marinas are full, and half the city is out on the island, all of them online without a second thought.

We wanted to share a build we're proud of, because it doesn't happen without vendors like you. The island has **no fiber**. None.

Yet our client ETBdotTV runs a full wireless internet service out

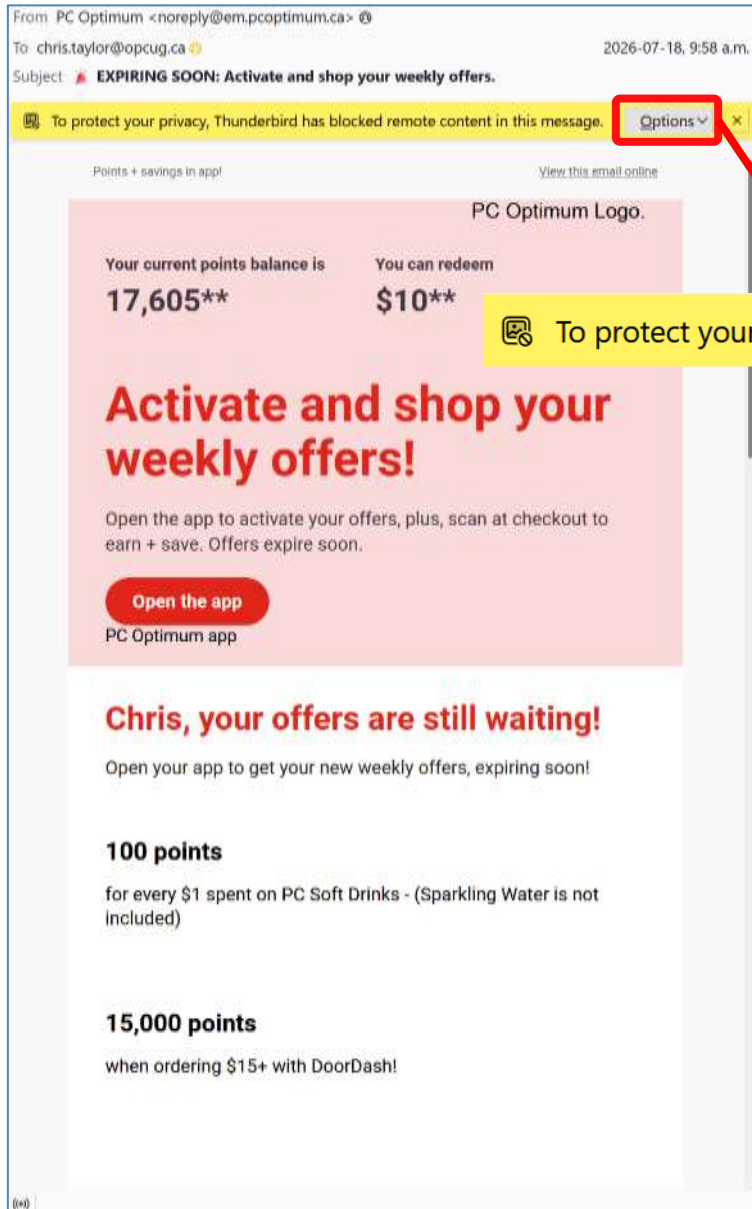
Share

Remote content allowed

Example of remote content you may want to allow

- known sender
- probably not a scam

Show remote content one-time only



To protect your privacy, Thunderbird has blocked remote content in this message.

Options ▾ ×

Show remote content in this message

Edit remote content options...

- Allow remote content from <https://clickncollect.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com>
- Allow remote content from <https://u46805862.ct.sendgrid.net>
- Allow remote content from <https://link.pcoptimum.ca>
- Allow remote content from all 3 origins listed above
- Allow remote content from noreply@em.pcoptimum.ca

Allow now & in future

- maybe not clickncollect.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com
- maybe from noreply@em.pcoptimum.ca

Share

Totally eliminate threats?

- Maybe not
- Perplexity alludes to other methods that could be used to tell you opened an email
- Couldn't find any details
- Does anyone know?

Share

Franz - One app to message them all

- I wish I could review this app but I would need multiple e-mail and messaging accounts and a much more active social life than I currently have!
- But maybe someone in this group has that sort of situation going on and this might organize their chaotic communications effectively
- Franz is a European-based communications aggregator for the desktop be it Windows, Mac or, Linux
- With the app, the user can have all their favorite messaging services available in one window with AI to help them manage their busy workflow
- Sounds pretty good, if you need it

Stewart Bruce

<https://meetfranz.com/>

Settings

General

Services 8 +

Workspaces 1 +

AI Assistant

Appearance

Account

Privacy & Security

Analytics

Your Services

+ Add Service

Search services...



Email
email



WhatsApp
WhatsApp



Signal
signal



Slack
<https://teamspace.slack.com>



Instagram
instagram



Discord
Discord



Franz Assistant



Catch me up on ACME since Friday.
What changed, what is blocking
signature, and draft Nina a reply.

✓ Check Email

✓ Check WhatsApp

✓ Check Signal

✓ Check Todos

Found 6 messages across Email,
WhatsApp, and Signal.

ACME is close, but legal redlines are
still blocking signature.

What changed

Finance approved revised pricing and
the updated renewal draft is ready.

Blocker

Legal still wants one last pass before
Friday's signature window.

Next step

Send Nina the draft today and confirm
legal can finish Friday morning.



Share

Franz - One app to message them all

- The free tier lets you use 3 messaging services and 1 workspace
- The paid tiers start at \$60/year (US I assume) and gives the same services but for an unlimited number
- There is also a \$96/year level with access to a EU based cloud and a \$149 lifetime option.



Share

WiFi Hotspot



See: 20260805_Hotspots.pdf

Tom Trottier

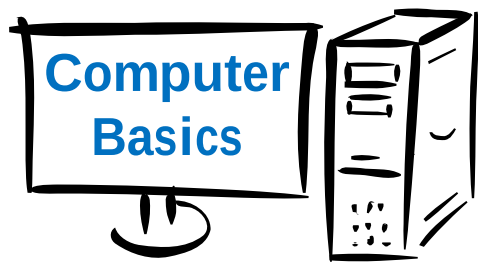
Share

WiFi guard

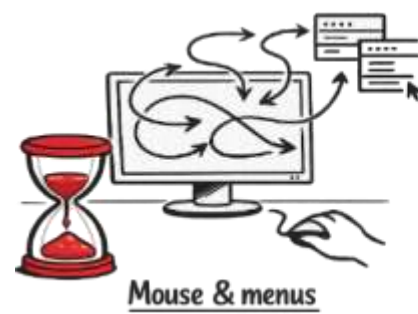


See: 20260805_WiFiGuard.pdf

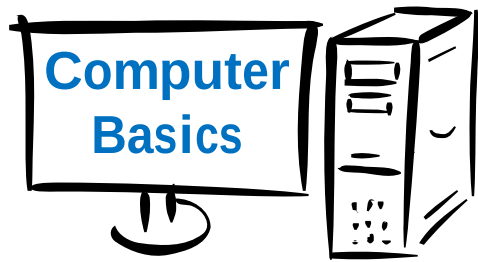
Tom Trottier



Keyboard shortcuts #17



- Win+x  
- Handy menu of options buried elsewhere
- Press Win+X to open pop-up menu above Start button
- Press underlined letter on pop-up menu
 - or arrow to option you want & press Enter
- Oddly, no official name
 - Microsoft has referred to it as **Windows-X menu**
 - others have referred to it as **Win+X menu** or **Power User menu**
- Can also right-click Start button
 - *but that is hardly a keyboard shortcut!*



Press Win+X

All options available other
(often much slower) ways

Settings > Apps >
Installed apps

Settings >
Network & internet

Good idea to get familiar with
options available

Installed apps

Power Options

Event Viewer

System

Device Manager

Network Connections

Disk Management

Computer Management

Terminal

Terminal (Admin)

Task Manager

Settings

File Explorer

Search

Run

Shut down or sign out >

Desktop

Settings > System > Power

Settings > System > About

Control Panel > Windows
Tools > Computer
Management

- right-click Taskbar > Task Manager
- Ctrl+Shift+Esc



Share

Broken Mouse

- My Logitech M325 wireless mouse(s) drives me crazy when it:
 - “double-clicks” on single click
 - selects only part of a line using left-click and drag



Perplexity AI says...

- The M325 is known to develop the phantom double click issue over time
- This is because the internal micro switches wear out
- Often, it's the left button that is affected
- Intermittently selecting only part of a line
- Dropping the selection mid-drag
- Classic symptoms of a worn or failing left- button micro switch.

Replacement mouse



iCAN Black 2.4G/Bluetooth Wireless Office Mouse, 1600 DPI, 6 Buttons

★★★★★ 5.0 (1 Reviews)

15-day Low Price Guarantee

Qty 1

\$8.88

- Mouse abruptly stops working
- Can revive by switching it off and then on again
- Battery-saver feature
- BUT, eventually (and fairly quickly) it refuses to turn back on!
- A newly charged NiCAD battery doesn't help
- This used to work just fine with the Logitech M-325



Perplexity AI says...

- Non-rechargeable AA cells are usually 1.5 V
- Rechargeable AA NiMH cells are usually 1.2 V
- A device that expects standard AA alkalines may still work fine with 1.2 V NiMH rechargeables
- Very voltage-sensitive devices may prefer 1.5 V cells



Replacement mouse



Logitech M325s Wireless Mouse - Blue

Item: 3121526 Model: 910-007526

[Shop All Logitech](#)

★★★★☆ (4792)

Each

\$19.99

Reg: \$29.99

Save: \$10.00

Expires: 07/30/2026 11:59 PM

Eco Fee: \$0.60



YouTubeTech

What are Data Removal Services?

- Companies that try to remove your personal information from data brokers and people-search sites
 - usually by sending opt-out or deletion requests on your behalf
- What they do
 - scan data broker sites to find where your name, address, phone number, and similar details appear
 - submit removal requests, often repeatedly, because the same data can reappear later
 - may also monitor for new listings & keep requesting removals



YouTubeTech

Do *Data Removal Services* work?



- Do they work?
 - *yes and no*
 - *but mostly no*
- Why services that say they will scrub personal information from the web are **limited at best**
 - *impossible to remove everything, no matter what marketing materials imply*
- **Why online data persists** despite removal efforts
 - *Troy Hunt from <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>*
 - *putting information anywhere on the internet is kind of like peeing in a swimming pool*
 - *you know it's in there, but removing it just isn't realistic*
- Data removal services can't undo a data breach
 - *My take is that data removal services are ineffective at removing the data we really want removed and thus **not worth it***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVJbmwfo4AI>



YouTubeTech

How to better manage digital footprints



- Assume your data is in the wild & act accordingly
- Be skeptical
 - your data can be used to create amazingly realistic phishing attempts
- Watch your bank and credit card statements
- All we can do is be aware & take control of what we can
 - *if you feel removing your data from **legit data brokers** is worth it*
 - *then it might be*
 - ***not something I would personally prioritize***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVJbmwfo4AI>



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



YouTube Tech

- Many OPCUG members use YouTube and can identify gems that would be of interest to others
- What YouTube videos or channels would you recommend?
- Restrict suggestions for Q&A to tech items (no cute cats or babies!)



Share

Loonie Links



- Highlighting Canadian sites with information of interest to Canadian consumers
- Can you help fulfill our motto *Users-helping-users?*
- Do you know of Canadian sites with interesting info?
- You could speak to the items or just submit the info for inclusion at a future Q&A

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca



**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

Monthly Meetings

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Fun and Useful Tips

September 9th

Vibe Coding Competition

October 14th

Genealogy Websites You May Have Been Missing

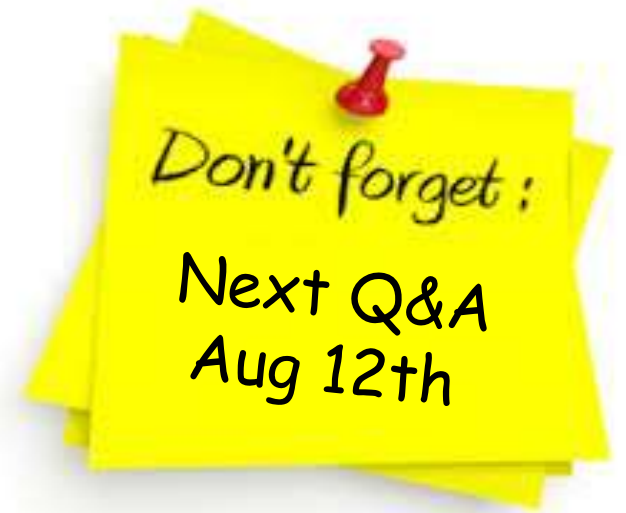
November 11th

The Dark Web – Revealed

December 9th



<https://opcug.ca/#upcoming>



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca