



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

August 26, 2026

The Last Ten...



The last ten minutes of our Q&A session will not have any prepared material - so, give some thought to the question that you want to ask!



Belarc Advisor

- Just a caution about trust/verification.
- Belarc said I was missing a security update:
Q5122106 Important Microsoft security update (KB5122106)
- I followed that up and found it to be inaccurate.
- I ran it through Claude.ai and got this summary:

"So this is the same category of Belarc mismatch you've run into before with CCleaner detection bugs — Belarc is checking for a KB registration path that a WinGet-installed runtime never populates in the first place. Your system is patched; Belarc's just looking in the wrong place for confirmation. Nothing to fix here."

Steve Parker



Self-publishing – More research needed!

- Lynda checked with a friend (next item) who has self-published a book previously
- I too have a friend with a self-published book
- He didn't recommend a specific publishing service
- He is a member of two Facebook groups:
 - Canada Writes
 - Self-published Authors Canada
- He notes that there are lots of posts about publishing services

- Many are referred to as scams. Some are!
- Some just charge a lot of money and many commenters think that's being predatory
- My friend thinks it's mostly just free enterprise
- But the point is prices and quality vary tremendously!
- He recommends joining the two Facebook groups and searching the page for key words like "children's books"
- This will generate posts for services for children's books, and also posts from authors of children's books



- Gather information by contacting authors of children's books as some are willing to share their experience
- It is also informative to attend book fairs or markets with children's authors in attendance where these individuals will answer questions
- The process can go in many directions and there is indeed a need for caution whatever route you take
- As much as possible, try to learn from the experience of others who have published similar material



BEYOND NUMBERS

Stories From An Immigration Insider

NEIL COCHRANE

» TORONTO STAR «

Proudly

World Opinion Life Sports Real Estate Entertainment Business Po

Ontario British Columbia Alberta Quebec Nova Scotia

A look at the workings of Canada's immigration system — through the eyes of a longtime insider

Neil Cochrane's memoir describes a time when dealing with applicants was often very personal — especially when marriage fraud was suspected.

Jan. 3, 2026 | Updated at 6:12 p.m. | 4 min read |    24



Neil Cochrane spent 24 years with the federal Immigration Department, both as a front-line officer and later a manager in the headquarters. His book tells stories from his work that he has carried close to his heart.

Follow Up Self publishing

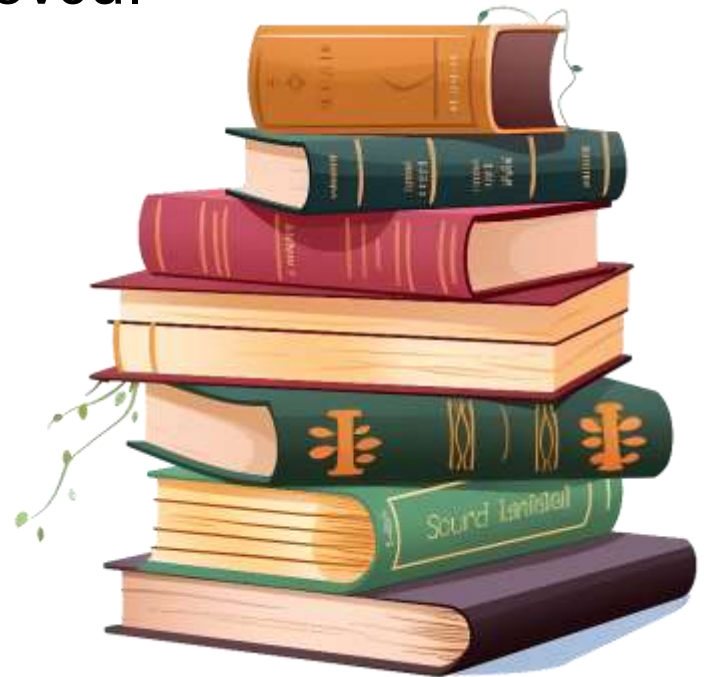
- Amazon allows self-publishing with Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP).
- Authors can publish ebooks, paperbacks and hardcovers.
- No upfront publishing fee.
- For ebooks, Amazon pays royalties of 70% (book costs \$3-\$10) or 35% (if book costs more than \$10).
- For print books, royalty is 50% if priced at \$9.98 or less and 60% if priced at \$9.99 or more. Amazon deducts printing costs from royalty.



Follow Up Example

A 300-page black-and-white paperback priced at \$14.99 will generally earn more than the same book priced at \$8.99, because the higher price qualifies for the 60% rate rather than 50%. Amazon's printing-cost calculator is what gives the exact payout after the page-based print cost is removed.

Source: Diane Armstrong
and Perplexity AI



Follow Up Posting from Tom

- Tom posted a lengthy entry in the OPCUG Member Forum
 - What is a good way to self publish a book with illustrations in Canada?
 - High-level recommended path
 - What about print on demand? Who offers that?
 - Quick pointer list (best starting links)
 - What “print on demand” actually means
 - Global POD platforms used by Canadians
 - Dozens of links to more information

<https://groups.google.com/g/opcug-member-forum/c/BJZYm3mGImg>

- you must be a member of the OPCUG to access the OPCUG Member Forum
- to subscribe to the forum, send an email request to Chris.Taylor@opcug.ca



YouTubeTech

Matt Johansen



- I've been following info. from Matt Johansen
- He has a long history in application security and cybersecurity
- He's got a YouTube Channel and a newsletter
- He also had a short-lived (14 episode) podcast that ended in 2023

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@VulnerableU/featured>

Newsletter site:

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



YouTubeTech

Marine Traffic

- This website uses satellite tracking to monitor ships all over the world
- And this is not just Salties, it also shows boats travelling through the lakes and rivers around the globe
- The free version lets you track 5 vessels and gives basic information and a few ways of viewing the globe (satellite view is cool)
- There are a boatload of features locked behind the paid subscription models

<https://www.marinetraffic.com>

Stewart Bruce

Share

File Signature Verification

- *sigverif* is Windows' signature verification utility
- It checks whether system files and drivers are digitally signed, which helps you spot unsigned or potentially altered drivers
- It writes the results to a log for review.
- It is useful as a quick integrity check, but it is not a full malware scanner
- In practice, people run it when troubleshooting crashes, driver problems, or suspicious system behaviour.

Jeff Dubois



File Signature Verification



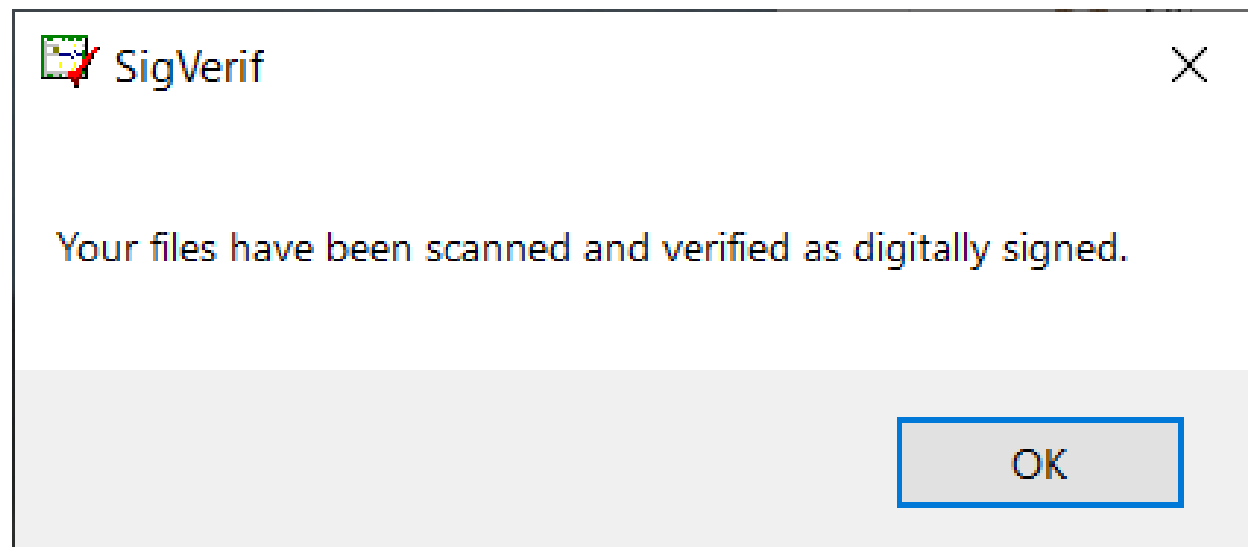
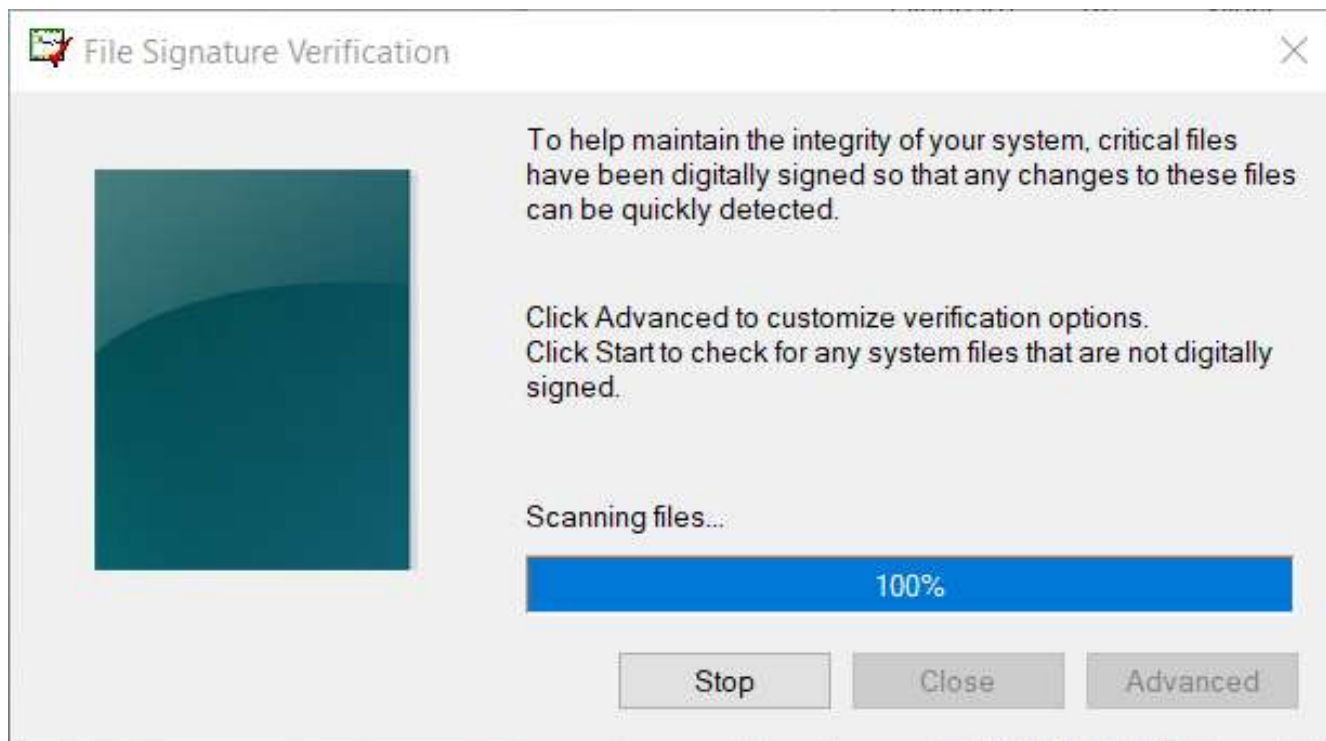
To help maintain the integrity of your system, critical files have been digitally signed so that any changes to these files can be quickly detected.

Click Advanced to customize verification options.
Click Start to check for any system files that are not digitally signed.

Start

Close

Advanced





File Signature Verification



To help maintain the integrity of your system, critical files have been digitally signed so that any changes to these files can be quickly detected.



Advanced File Signature Verification Settin...



Logging

☒ Save the file signature verification results to a log file.

Logging options

☐ Append to existing log file.

☒ Overwrite existing log file.

Log file name:

SIGVERIF.TXT

View Log

OK

Cancel

C:\Users\Public\Documents\SIGVERIF.TXT - Notepad++

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

SIGVERIF.TXT

1

2

3

Microsoft Signature Verification

4

5

Log file generated on 2026-08-19 at 9:51 PM

6

OS Platform: Windows (x64), Version: 10.0, Build: 19045, CSDVersion:

7

Scan Results: Total Files: 506, Signed: 505, Unsigned: 0, Not Scanned: 1

8

9

FileModifiedVersionStatusCatalogSigned By

10

11

[c:\program files (x86)\common files\intel\opencl]

12

llvm_release_license2016-10-06NoneSignedki110993.catMicrosoft Windows

Hardware Compatibility Publisher

13

readme.txt2016-10-06NoneSignedki110993.catMicrosoft Windows

Hardware Compatibility Publisher

14

version.ini2016-10-06NoneSignedki110993.catMicrosoft Windows

Hardware Compatibility Publisher

15

[c:\program files (x86)\common files\intel\opencl\bin\common]

16

clbltfnshared.rtl2016-10-06NoneSignedki110993.catMicrosoft Windows

Hardware Compatibility Publisher

17

[c:\program files (x86)\common files\intel\opencl\bin\x64]

18

__ocl_svml_e9.dll2015-10-073.4.0.0Signedki110993.catMicrosoft Windows

Hardware Compatibility Publisher

19

__ocl_svml_h8.dll2015-10-073.4.0.0Signedki110993.catMicrosoft Windows

Hardware Compatibility Publisher

20

__ocl_svml_19.dll2015-10-073.4.0.0Signedki110993.catMicrosoft Windows

Hardware Compatibility Publisher

21

clang_compiler64.dll2015-10-075.2.0.10094Signedki110993.catMicrosoft Windows

Normal text file

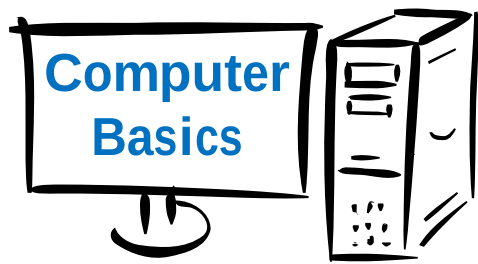
length: 75,920 lines: 547

Ln: 1 Col: 1 Pos: 1

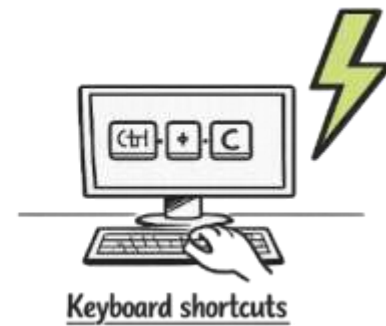
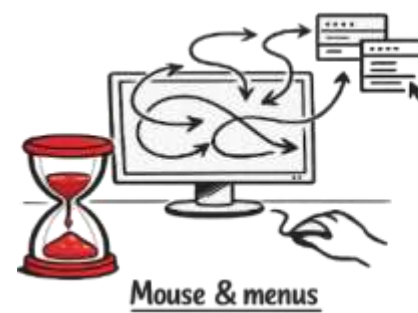
Windows (CR LF)

UTF-16 LE BOM

INS



Keyboard shortcuts #18



Moving windows around the screen



Alt+Space M

- arrow keys to move window
- Enter to drop at current position



Win+left/right arrow keys

- snaps window to fill left/right half of screen



Win+up arrow

- maximizes window



Win+down arrow

- restores window if maximized
- minimizes window if not maximized

Multi-monitor



Win+Shift+left/right arrow key

- move window to left/right monitor

Doesn't work?



Settings
System
Multi-tasking
Snap windows



Laptop Overheating

- Has anyone dealt with an overheating laptop/notebook?
- In addition to cleaning fans, another reason stated by AI Overview:

"Consensus from tech communities indicates that if external cleaning fails, the internal thermal paste between the processor and the heatsink has likely dried out and needs to be reapplied, or the internal cooling fan needs replacement."

Carol Pearson





The Usual Suspects

- Cleaning the laptop interior, as well as, cleaning the heatsink/CPU with alcohol/Qtips and reapplying quality thermal paste should control laptop temperature.
- However, the laptop fan and vent need to be checked to ensure all is functioning properly.
- Suggest the laptop be taken to The Trailing Edge for assessment and service.



Other Checks

1. Limit Max Processor State:

In Windows Power Options, capping the "Maximum processor state" at 99% disables CPU boost clocks, immediately lowering peak temperatures under load with minimal everyday performance impact.

2. Power Modes & BIOS Profiles:

Switch Windows Power Mode to "Balanced" or "Best Power Efficiency," and set performance profiles in manufacturer software (e.g., Lenovo Vantage, Dell Power Manager, ASUS Armoury Crate) to Quiet or Balanced.

Maximum Processor Mode

To check Maximum processor state:

- go into Control panel
- Select System and Security, then click Power Options
- Click Change plan settings next to your active power plan
- Click Change advanced power settings to open a small popup window
- Scroll down and click the plus sign (+) next to Processor power management
- Click the plus sign (+) next to Maximum processor state to view the percentage limit (cap at 99%) for battery and plugged-in modes

Power Mode

To check Power Modes and BIOS Profiles:

- Open Settings
- Click on System on the left menu
- Select Power & battery (or Power) on the right
- Locate the Power mode section
- Choose either Balanced or Best power efficiency from the dropdown menu (you can set different preferences for battery use vs. plugged-in state if using a laptop).

3. Elevate the Intake:

Raising the back of the laptop by 1–2 inches off the desk with a stand or small feet increases airflow to the bottom intake vents.

4. Verify Fan Operation & Bearing Fluid:

Fans can spin but fail to reach full RPM due to worn bearings. A failing fan often produces a faint rattling, grinding, or high-pitched whine.

5. Check Heatsink Heat Pipes:

Vapor chamber or heat pipe liquid can occasionally leak or degrade due to micro-fractures, causing the copper assembly to lose heat conductivity entirely even if clean.

General:

Avoid Soft Surfaces: Bedding, couches, and laps block intake vents and trap heat inside the chassis. Use a flat, hard surface.

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Pre-cutting edge computing

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The physics of novel computation: beyond bits and chips to spikes and spins

19 Aug 2026

🕒 Reading Time: 14 minutes

As AI pushes conventional silicon computing towards its physical and energy limits, researchers are exploring radically different ways to process information – from magnetic bits and in-memory logic to optical and brain-inspired machines. **Sidney Perkowitz** investigates how physics could reshape the future of computation

https://physicsworld.com/a/the-physics-of-novel-computation-beyond-bits-and-chips-to-spikes-and-spins/?nbd_source=2159962



Android Backup

How can I backup my Android phone?





What Android can back up

- Google account sync for contacts, calendar, some app data, and device settings.
- Photos and videos through Google Photos or similar cloud services.
- Manufacturer tools like Samsung Smart Switch or Huawei HiSuite on some phones.



What Android can back up

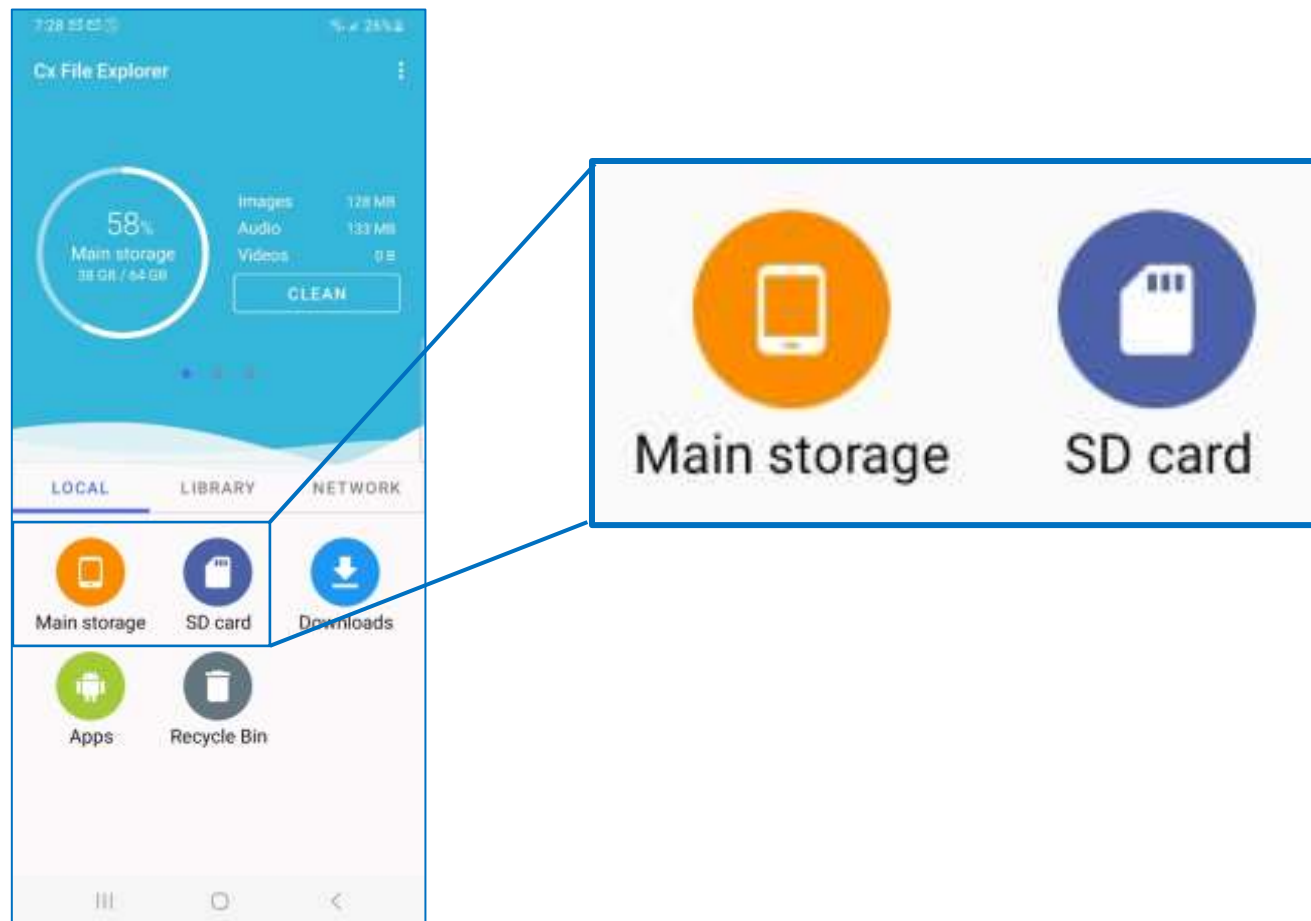
- Google account sync for contacts, calendar, some app data, and device settings.
- Photos and videos through Google Photos or similar cloud services.
- Manufacturer tools like Samsung Smart Switch or Huawei HiSuite on some phones.
- **But, what about user data files? – which are the most important items that I want to back up!**

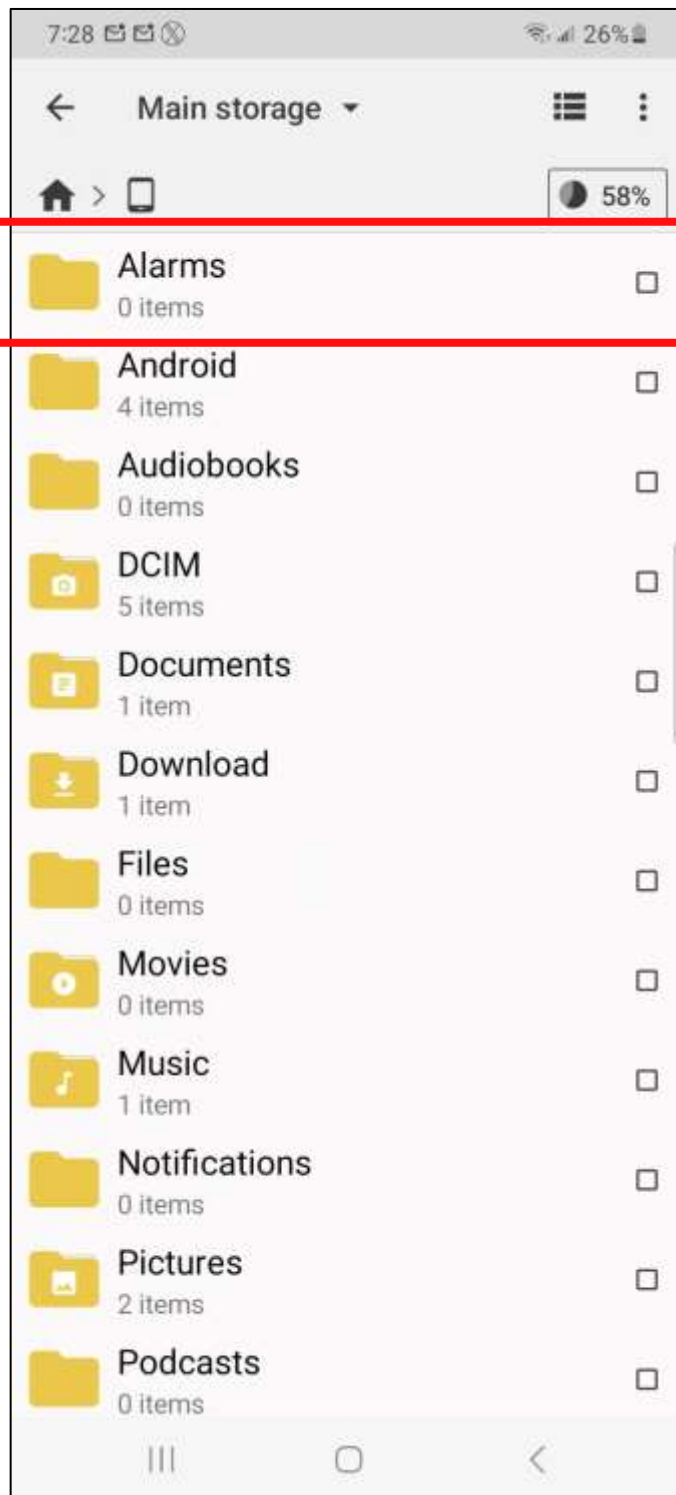


Manual Method

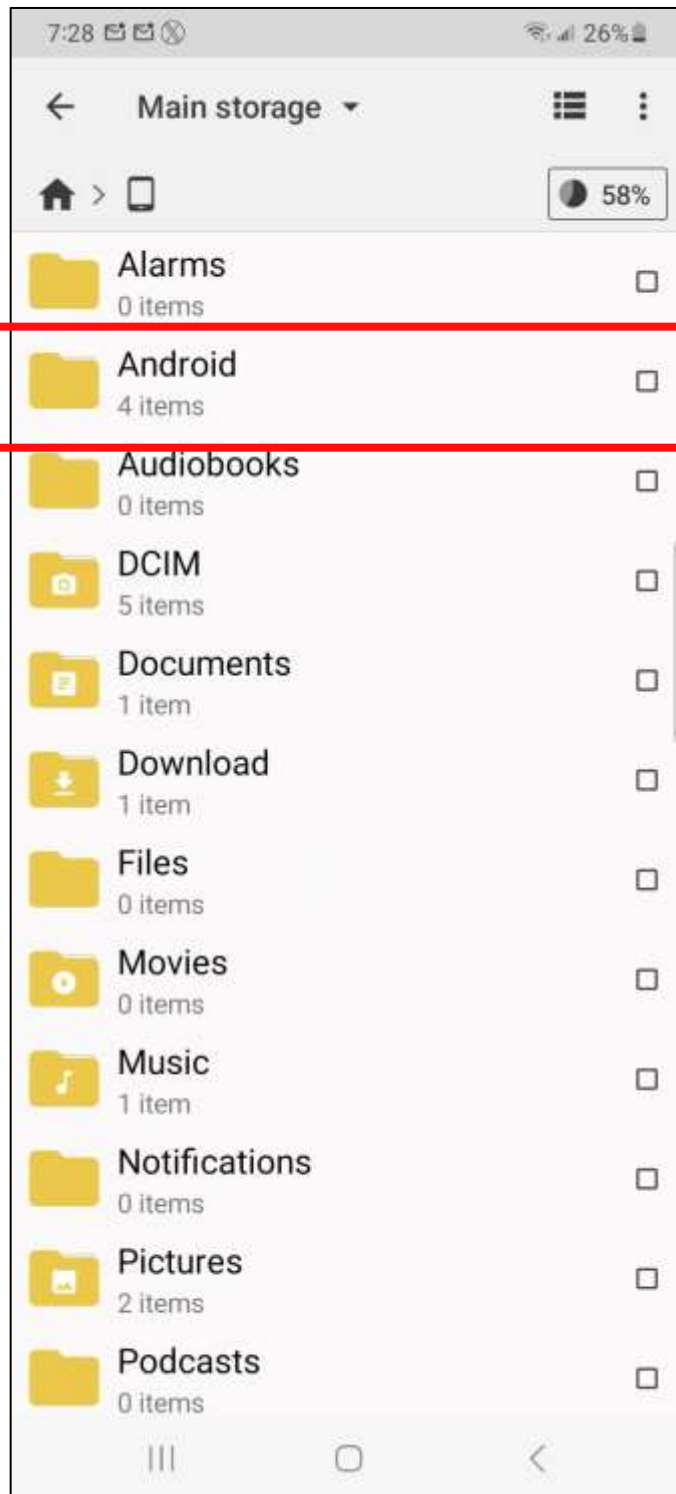
- In general, the Android system files and folders are locked and are not accessible to regular users
- Special software (TWRP) and an unlocked bootloader are required to make system backups
- Consequently, for most of us, backing up will mean making copies of user files such as photographs, documents, and contacts
- These files may be in various folders, especially if the phone has an SD card in addition to the internal storage

- For the most part, you will (should) know where your files are located
- You can use a file manager (e.g. Cx File Explorer) to review the available files and folders

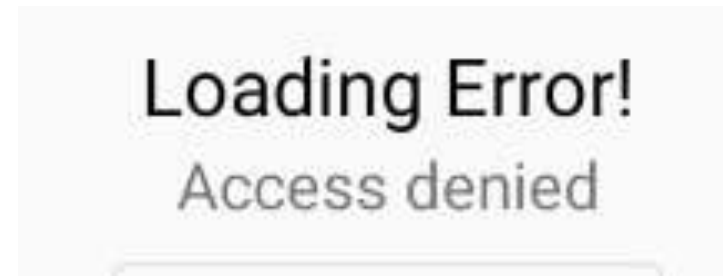




**Several folders are empty
(0 items)**



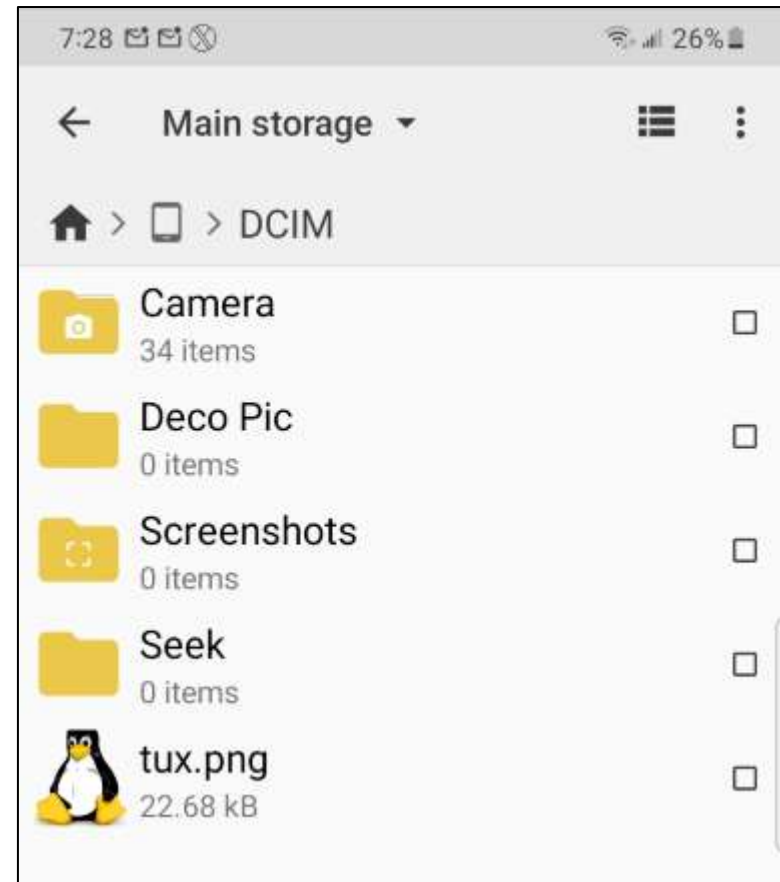
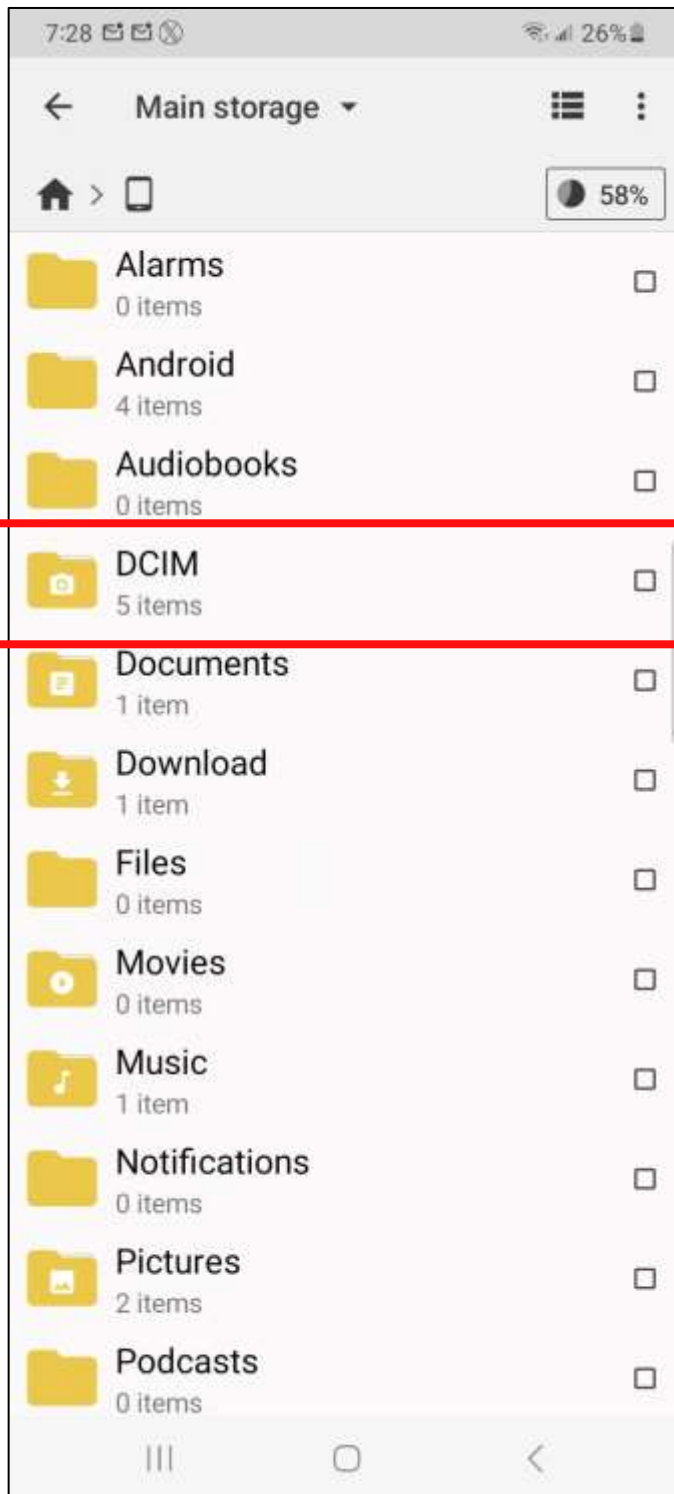
“Android” has four sub-folders but...

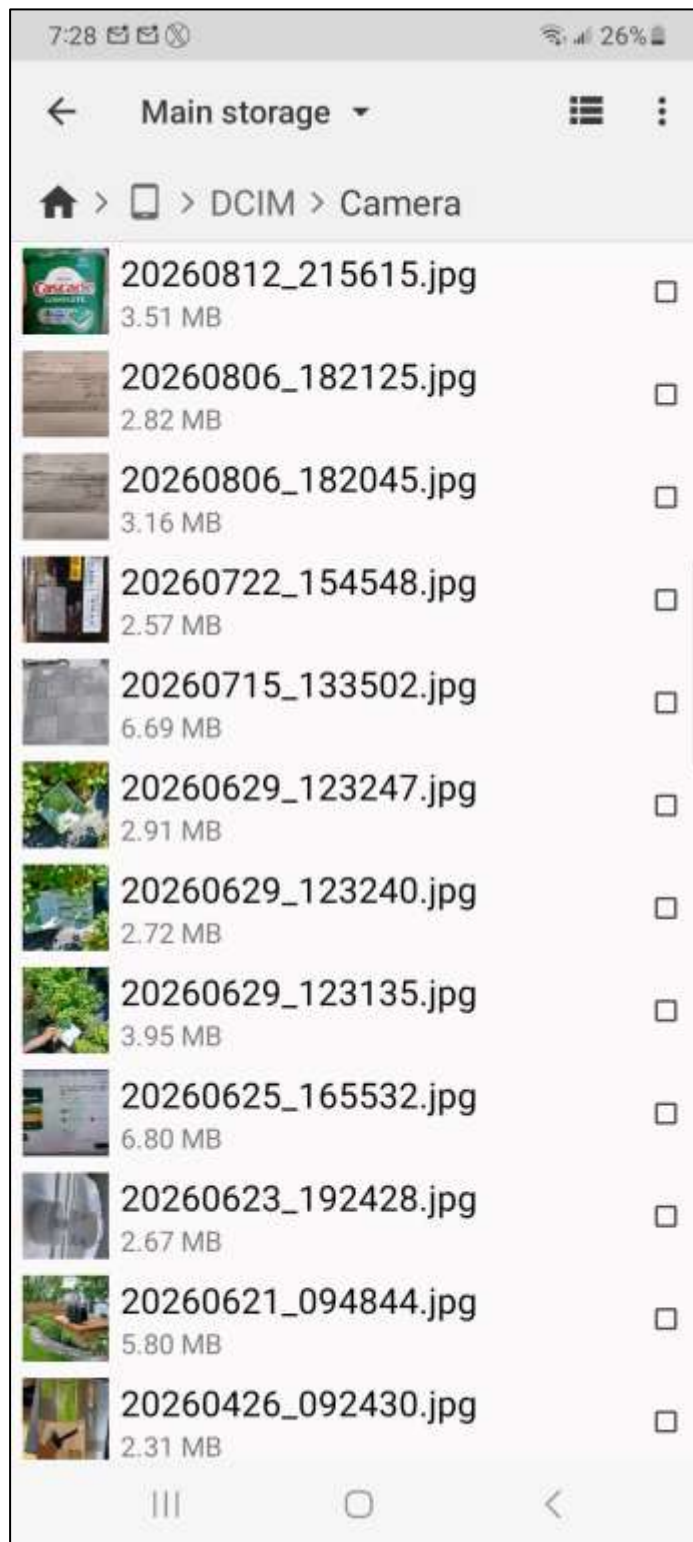


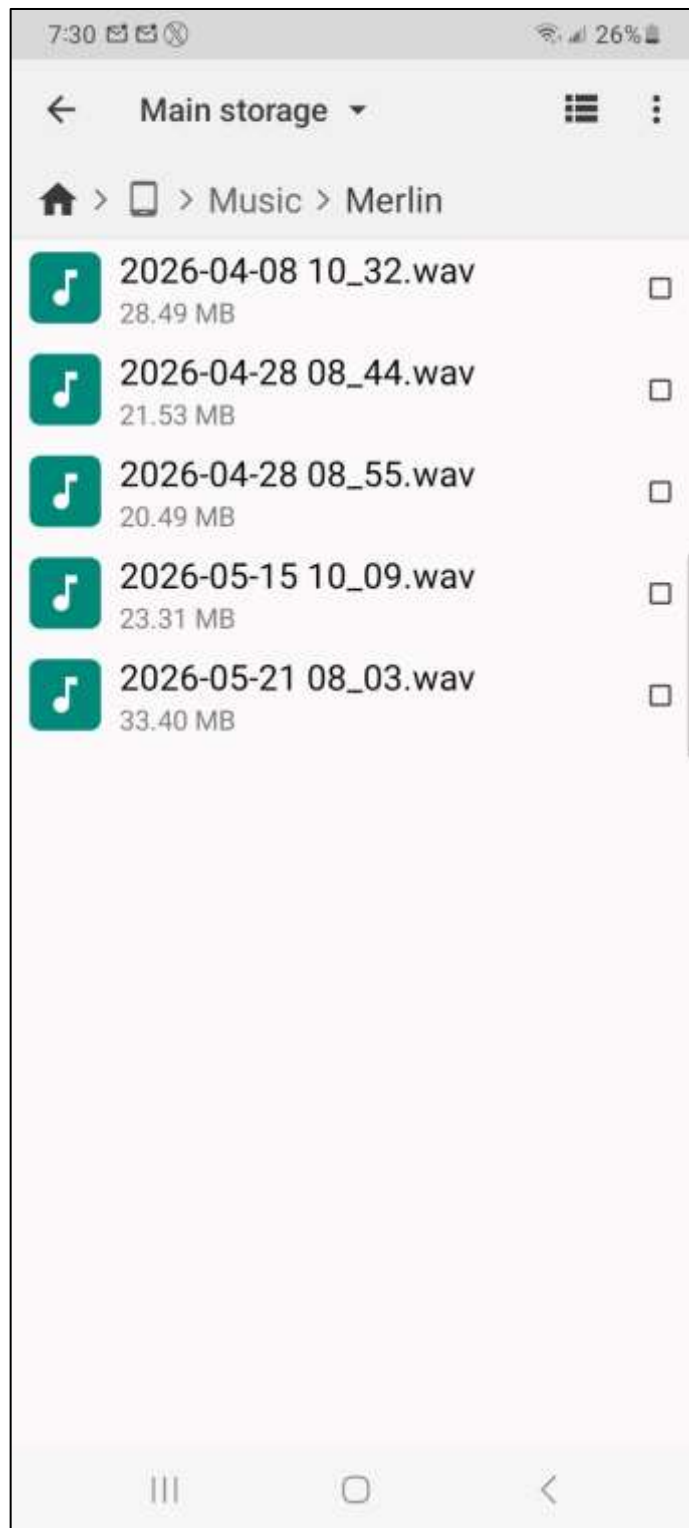
(or the files are meaningless to mere mortals!)

“DCIM” has five sub-folders

**These are digital images,
including photos from the
phone’s camera**







These audio files are sound recordings made by the Merlin app using the Sound ID feature

I don't need these. (I should delete them to save space)

I don't need backup copies



To transfer files, connect the phone to a PC using a USB cable (from the charger)

Authorize the USB connection to access data files rather than only charging the phone

Now, load File Explorer on the PC

Copying files and folders is as simple as drag-and-drop!



On a Samsung Galaxy A36 phone what is the location of the setting for transferring files under Default USB configuration

Aug 25, 9:34 AM

Finished 1 step >

On the Samsung Galaxy A36 (Android 16 / One UI 8), the **Default USB configuration** setting lives inside **Developer options** — it's a hidden menu you have to enable first.

youtube

itechguides

< Developer options

On

Mobile data always active

Always keep mobile data active, even when Wi-Fi is active (for fast network switching).



Tethering hardware acceleration

Use tethering hardware acceleration if available



Network download rate limit

Configure the network bandwidth ingress rate limit that's applied to all networks that provide internet connectivity

Default USB configuration

Show Bluetooth devices without names

Bluetooth devices without names (MAC addresses only) will be displayed



Disable absolute volume

Disables the Bluetooth absolute volume feature in case of volume issues with remote devices such as unacceptably loud volume or lack of control.



Turn off AVC block list



< Default USB configuration

- ☒ Transferring files
- ☐ USB tethering
- ☐ MIDI
- ☐ Transferring images
- ☐ Charging phone only

This setting will be applied when your phone is unlocked and connected to another device. Only connect to devices that you trust.



This PC\Alan's A32\Internal storage\Pictures\Screenshots

File Home Share View

Pin to Quick access Copy Paste Cut Copy path Paste shortcut Move to Copy to Delete Rename New item Easy access New folder Properties Open Select all Select none Invert selection

Clipboard Organize New Open Select

← → ↕ ↑ << Alan's A32 > Internal storage > Pictures > Screenshots

Search Screenshots

This PC

3D Objects

Alan's A32

Desktop

Documents

Downloads

Music

Pictures

Videos

Windows 10 (C:)

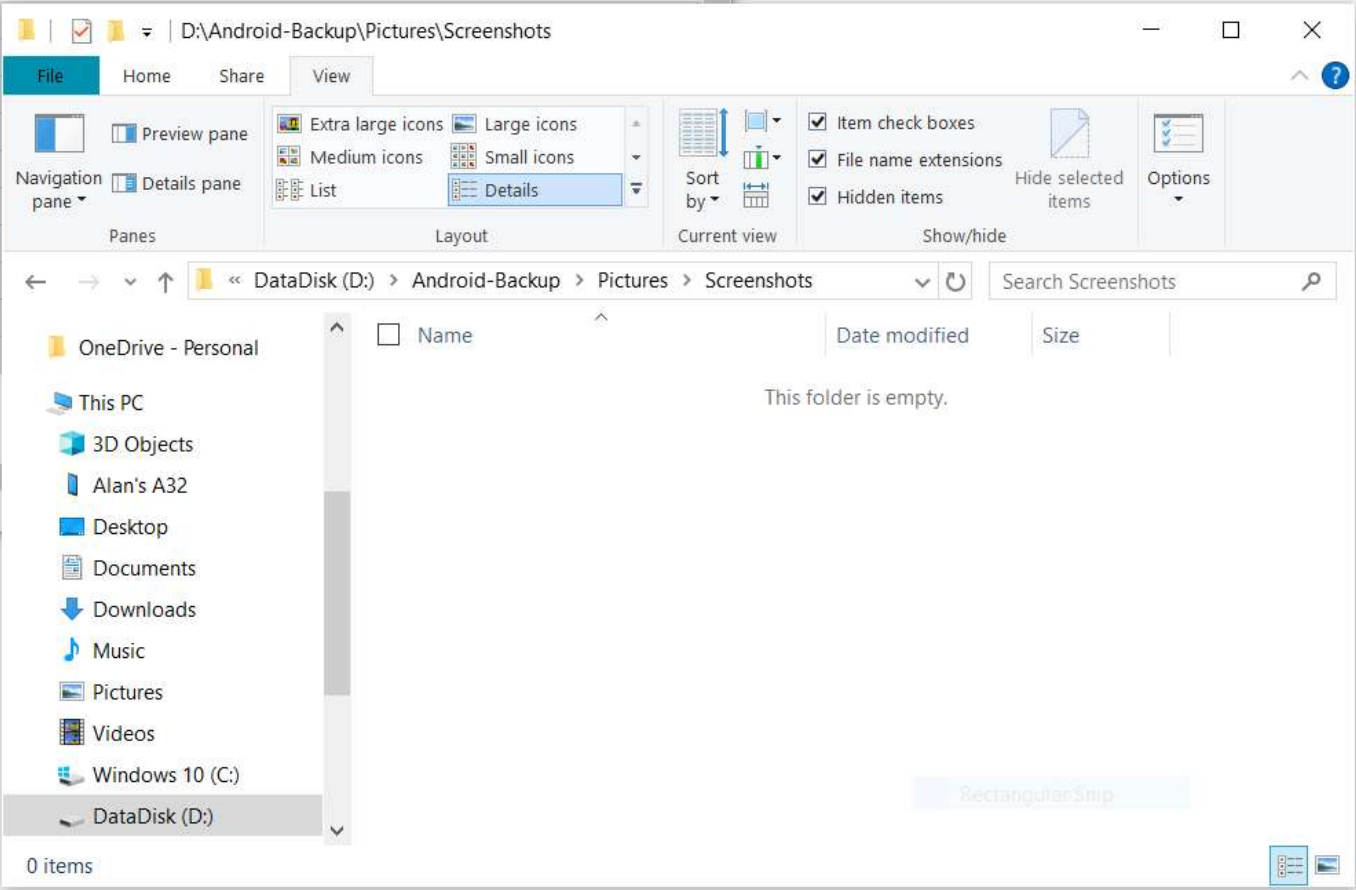
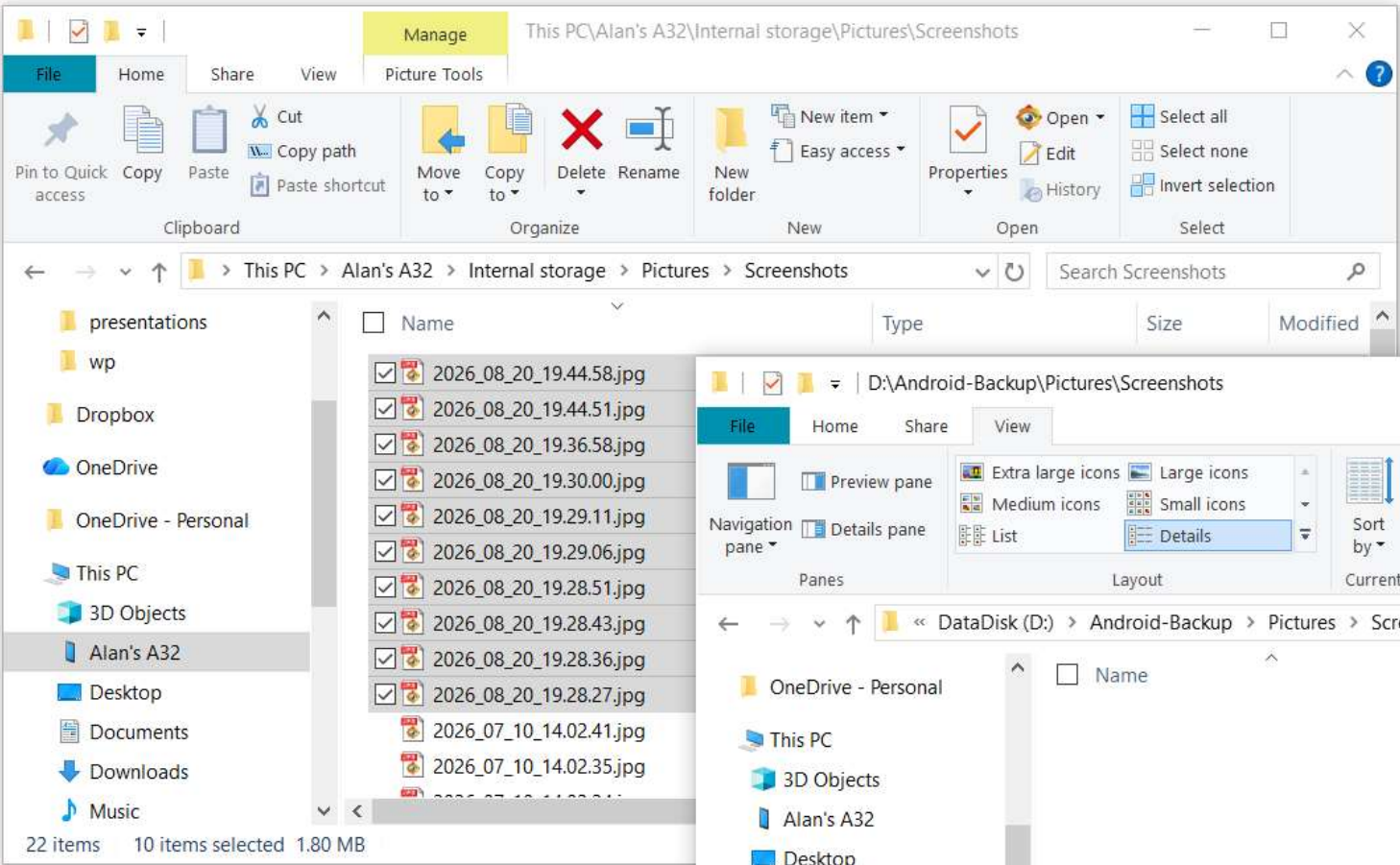
DataDisk (D:)

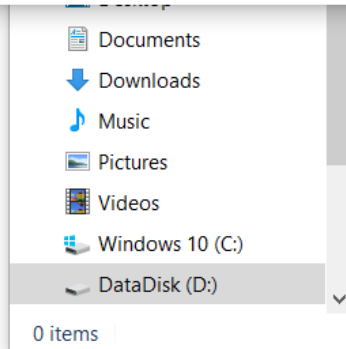
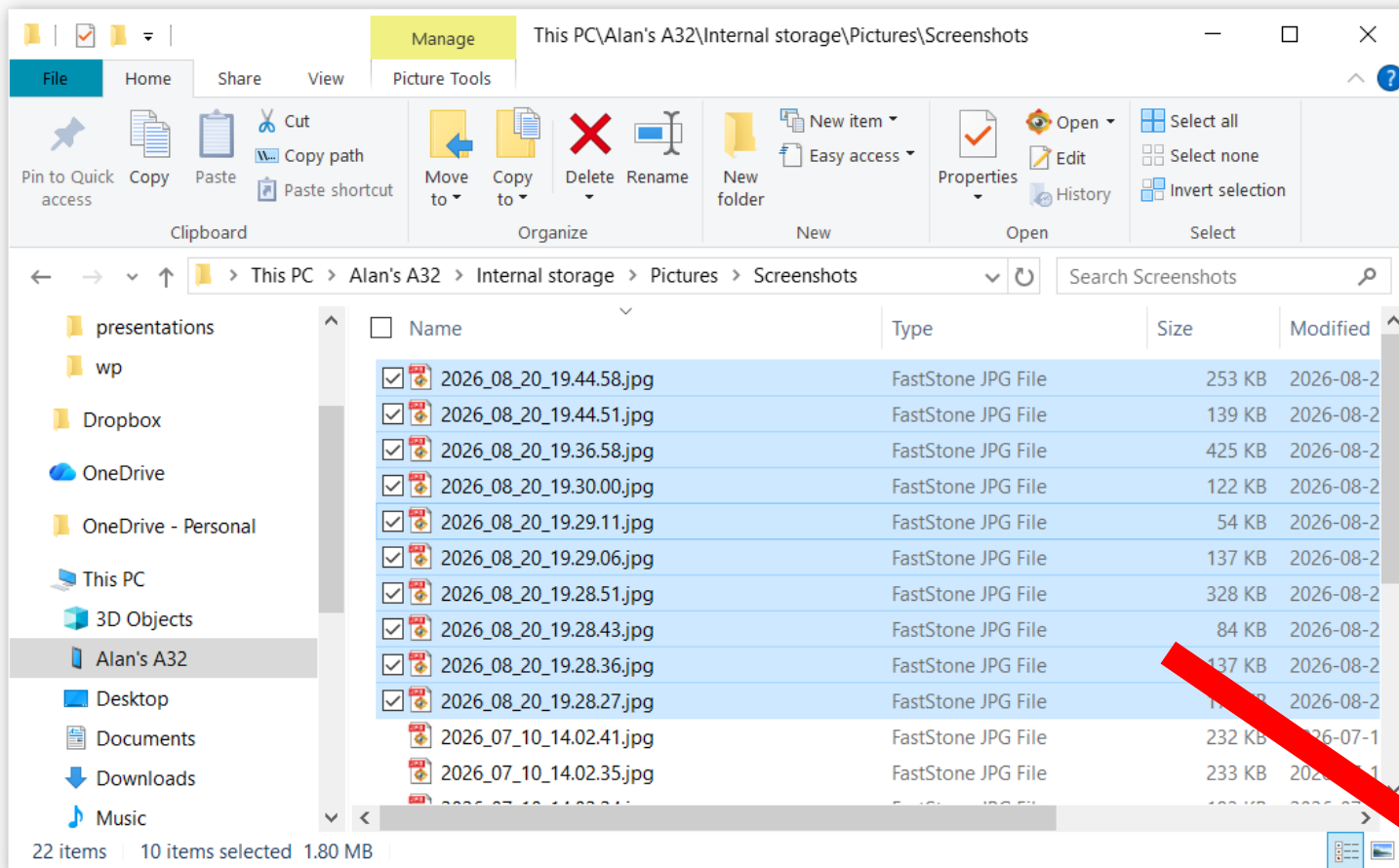
USB Drive (F:)

SD 20GB-NITES (G:)

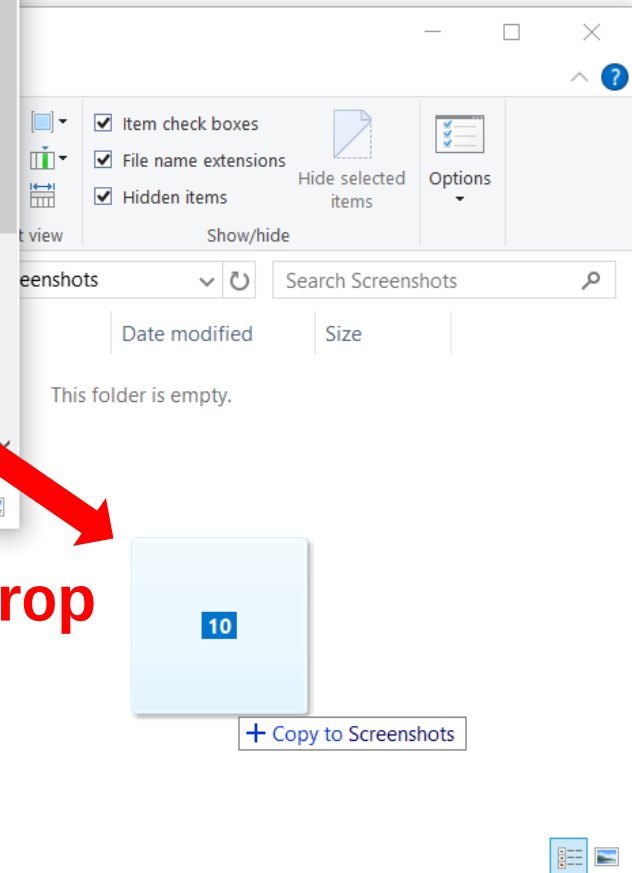
22 items

☐	Name	Type	Size
☒	2026_08_20_19.44.58.jpg	FastStone JPG File	253 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.44.51.jpg	FastStone JPG File	139 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.36.58.jpg	FastStone JPG File	425 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.30.00.jpg	FastStone JPG File	122 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.29.11.jpg	FastStone JPG File	54 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.29.06.jpg	FastStone JPG File	137 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.28.51.jpg	FastStone JPG File	328 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.28.43.jpg	FastStone JPG File	84 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.28.36.jpg	FastStone JPG File	137 KB
☒	2026_08_20_19.28.27.jpg	FastStone JPG File	175 KB
☒	2026_07_10_14.02.41.jpg	FastStone JPG File	232 KB
☒	2026_07_10_14.02.35.jpg	FastStone JPG File	233 KB





Drag and drop



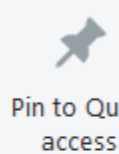
D:\Android-Backup\Pictures\Screenshots

File

Home

Share

View



Pin to Quick access



Copy



Paste



Cut

Copy path



Paste shortcut

Clipboard



Move to



Copy to



Delete



Rename

Organize



New folder



New item

Easy access



Easy access

New



Properties



Open

Edit



History

Open



Select all

Select none



Invert selection

Select



DataDisk (D:) > Android-Backup > Pictures > Screenshots



Search Screenshots



This PC

3D Objects

Alan's A32

Desktop

Documents

Downloads

Music

Pictures

Videos

Windows 10 (C:)

DataDisk (D:)

USB Drive (F:)

SD CARD (G:)

10 items

Name

Date modified

Size



2026_08_20_19.28.27.jpg

2026-08-20 7:28 PM

175 KB



2026_08_20_19.28.36.jpg

2026-08-20 7:28 PM

137 KB



2026_08_20_19.28.43.jpg

2026-08-20 7:28 PM

84 KB



2026_08_20_19.28.51.jpg

2026-08-20 7:28 PM

328 KB



2026_08_20_19.29.06.jpg

2026-08-20 7:29 PM

137 KB



2026_08_20_19.29.11.jpg

2026-08-20 7:29 PM

54 KB



2026_08_20_19.30.00.jpg

2026-08-20 7:30 PM

122 KB



2026_08_20_19.36.58.jpg

2026-08-20 7:36 PM

425 KB



2026_08_20_19.44.51.jpg

2026-08-20 7:44 PM

139 KB



2026_08_20_19.44.58.jpg

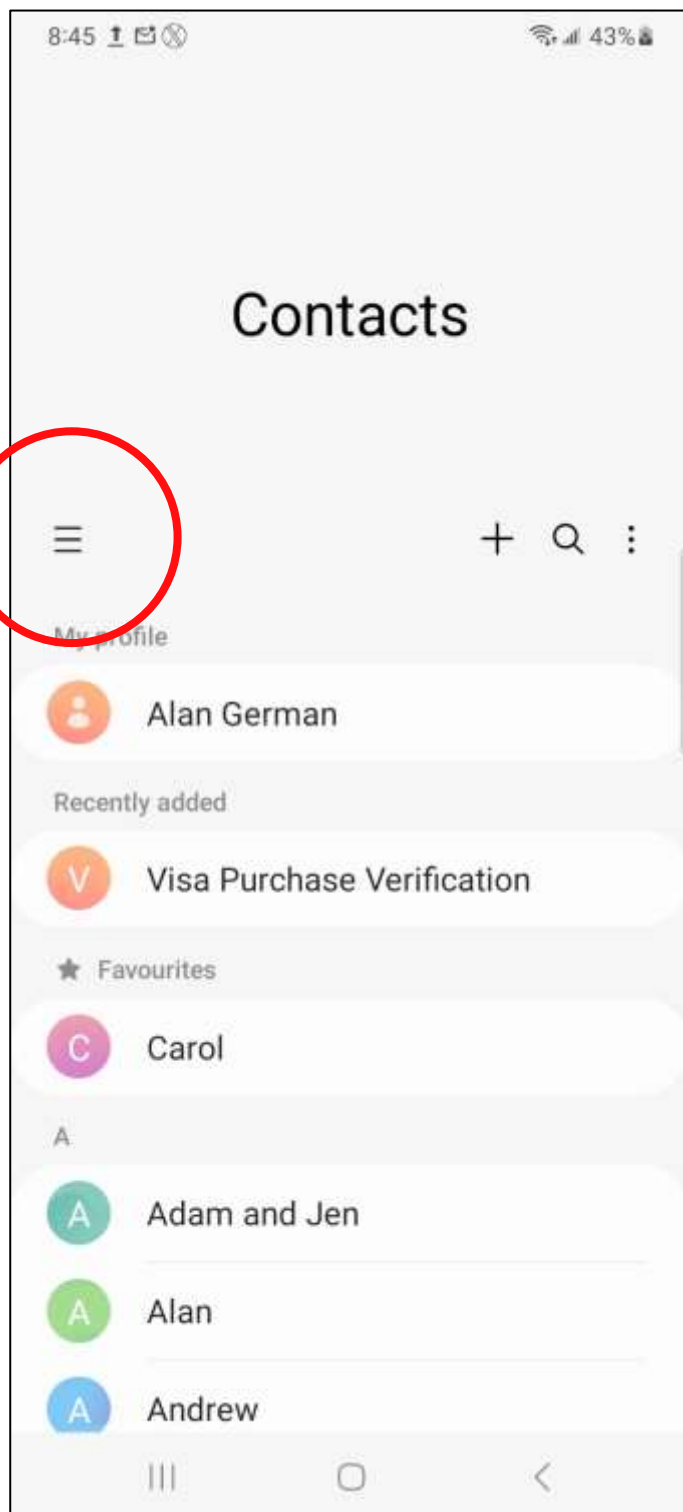
2026-08-20 7:44 PM

253 KB

Contacts is a special case

- Contacts (names, phone numbers, E-mail addresses, etc.) are stored internally and don't appear as a regular file
- Export the contacts to Contacts.vcf
- It isn't obvious where this file is stored (export doesn't say!)
- On my phone the file is stored in the Downloads folder





Open the app's menu

Then, select...

Manage Contacts >

Export Contacts >

To Internal storage

< **Export contacts**

Contacts.vcf has been
exported to your internal
storage.



File Explorer window showing the path: D:\Android-Backup

File Explorer ribbon tabs: File, Home, Share, View

File Explorer ribbon groups:

- Clipboard: Pin to Quick access, Copy, Paste, Cut, Copy path, Paste shortcut
- Organize: Move to, Copy to, Delete, Rename
- New: New item, Easy access, New folder
- Open: Properties, Open, Edit, History
- Select: Select all, Select none, Invert selection

Address bar: This PC > DataDisk (D:) > Android-Backup

Search bar: Search Android-Backup

File Explorer sidebar showing the left pane with the following items:

- This PC
- 3D Objects
- Alan's A32
- Desktop
- Documents
- Downloads
- Music
- Pictures
- Videos
- Windows 10 (C:)
- DataDisk (D:)
- USB Drive (F:)
- SD CARD-NOTES (G:)

2 items

File Explorer main pane showing the contents of the Android-Backup folder:

Name	Date modified	Size
Pictures	2026-08-20 7:56 PM	
Contacts.vcf	2026-08-20 8:46 PM	143 KB

Excel Alan German AG

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer Add-ins Help Tell me

Clipboard Font

Text Import Wizard - Step 1 of 3

The Text Wizard has determined that your data is Delimited.
If this is correct, choose Next, or choose the data type that best describes your data.

Original data type

Choose the file type that best describes your data:

- ☒ Delimited - Characters such as commas or tabs separate each field.
- ☐ Fixed width - Fields are aligned in columns with spaces between each field.

Start import at row: 1 File origin: 437 : OEM United States

☐ My data has headers.

Preview of file D:\Android-Backup\Contacts.vcf.

```
1 BEGIN:VCARD
2 VERSION:2.1
3 N:Eagen;Gail;;;
4 FN:Gail Eagen
5 TEL;CELL;
6 END:VCARD
```

Cancel < Back Next > Finish

Ready 10%

File

Home

Insert

Draw

Page Layout

Formulas

Data

Review

View

Developer

Add-ins

Help



Tell me

Share

Paste

Clipboard

Calibri 11

B *I* U **A** *A*

Font

Alignment

General

\$ % ,

Number

Conditional Formatting

Format as Table

Cell Styles

Styles

Cells

Editing

Add-ins



L20

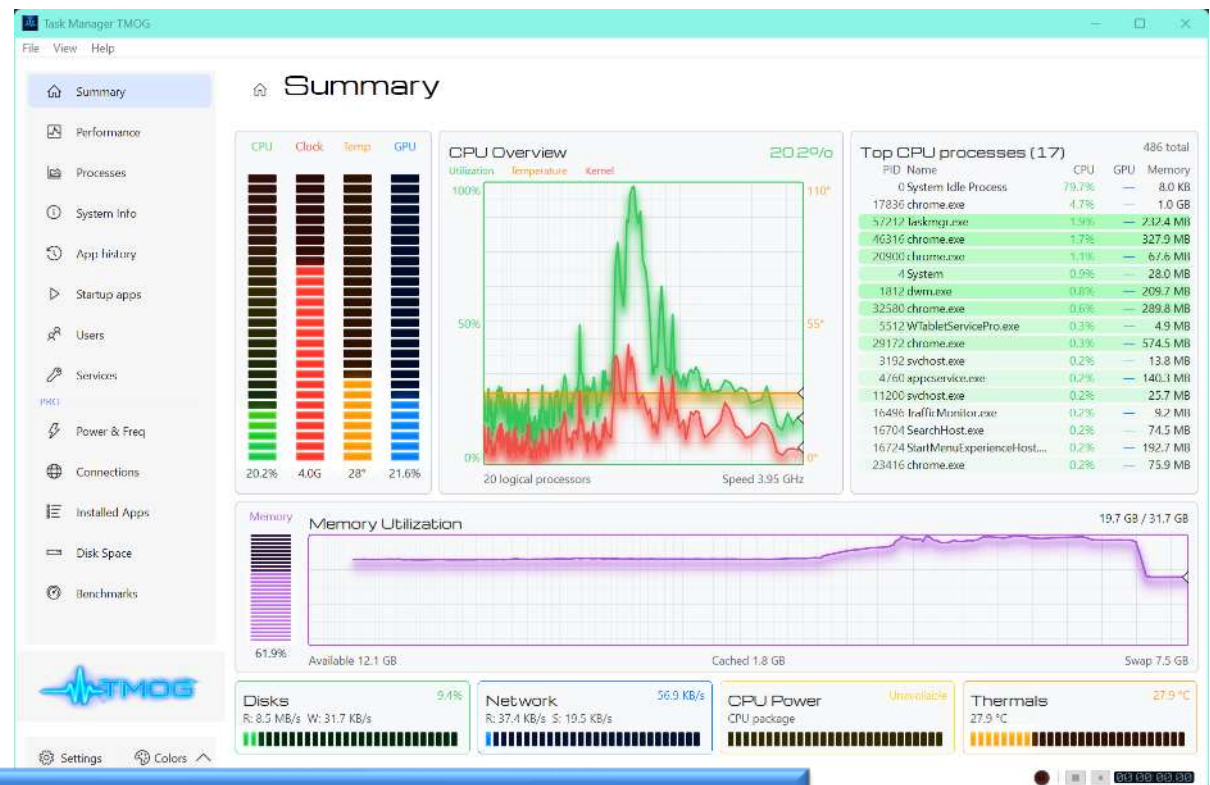
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	BEGIN:VCARD												
2	VERSION:2.1												
3	N:Eagen;Gail;;;												
4	FN:Gail Eagen												
5	TEL;CELL:XXXXXXXXXX												
6	END:VCARD												
7	BEGIN:VCARD												
8	VERSION:2.1												
9	N:Comeau;Jean-Louis;;;												
10	FN:Jean-Louis Comeau												
11	TEL;CELL:XXXXXXXXXX												
12	EMAIL;HOME:XXXXXXXXXXn												
13	PHOTO;ENCODING=BASE64;JPEG:/9j/4AAQSkZJRgABAQAAQABAAD/4gIoSUNDX1BST0ZJTEU												
14	AAQEAAAIYAAAAAAIQAABtnRyUkdCIFhZWIAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABhY3NwAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA												
15	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAQAA9tYAAQAAAADTLQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA												
16	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAlkZXNjAAAA8AAAAHRyWFlaAAABZAAAABRnWFlaAA												
17	ABeAAAAABRiWFlaAAABjAAAAABRyVFJDAAABoAAAAChnVFJDAAABoAAAAChiVFJDAAABoAAAACh												

Contacts

Share

A new task manager

- *Windows Task Manager's Creator Rebuilt It 30 Years Later*
 - Dave Plummer, retired Microsoft operating system programmer
- Currently in beta for Windows, macOS, Linux
- Free
- Paid version coming with added features
 - benchmarks
 - connections
 - disk space analysis
 - more



- Shop Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3EEs-O3bGE>
- details & downloads: <https://tmog.org>



**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!)



What do you need to know about computer applications, operating systems...?

Let us know by sending your question to:

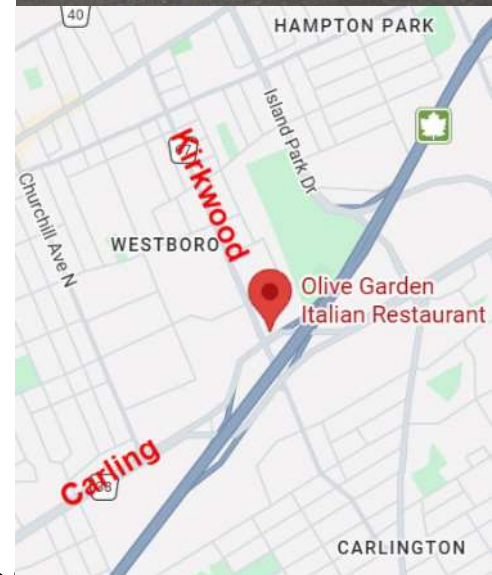
SuggestionBox@opcug.ca



Share

OPCUG Social Get-Together

- Wednesday, October 21st starting at 7:00pm
- Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
 - 675 Kirkwood Ave (Hampton Park Plaza)
 - just off the 417 at Carling Ave
 - lots of free parking
- OPCUG is making the reservation
- All attendees will pay their own tab
- If you hope to attend
 - send an email to OliveGarden@opcug.ca
 - let us know the number of people who will be in your party
- Members and non-members are welcome



- <https://www.olivegarden.ca/en/locations/on/ottawa/675-kirkwood-ave>
- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4VE2uNNPELnphg1FA>

- pictures may be taken at the restaurant and posted on our website
- if you do not want to be photographed, please step out of the frame



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca