



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

September 23, 2026



YouTubeTech

How Passkeys Work (A No-Tech Version)



How Passkeys Work (A No-Tech Version)



Ask Leo! ✓

297K subscribers

Subscribe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6Q-Q3rqmrk>

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Updated Apr 13, 2026 ↻

OUR EXPERT



Eric Griffith

Senior Editor, Features

<https://ca.pcmag.com/software-services/15040/the-best-free-software-66-outstanding-picks-curated-by-our-editors>



YouTubeTech

I Followed ChatGPT's PC Build Guide

- Linus Sebastian of Linus Tech Tips asks ChatGPT to walk him through purchase, assembly & testing a new gaming PC
- Entertaining video...
- Bottom line—don't ask AI to help you assemble a PC!
 - *When it comes to giving you the tech tips you need to actually assemble your PC, I'd say my job is safe, at least for now.*
Linus Sebastian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6MAZW-joCo>





YouTubeTech

The amazing story of the OpenAI – Hugging Face attack

1200 AI Agents at OpenAI were set loose...

They built message boards, laws, and a mini-society...

*Then they turned on **Hugging Face***

A fascinating story from

Dave Plummer,
retired Microsoft software engineer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aw3MF8pY3w>

- 19 minutes

based on OpenAI's own report of the incident

- <https://openai.com/index/hugging-face-incident-and-the-road-ahead/>





YouTubeTech

Chatbot vs. Agent vs. Rogue agent

- AI chatbot
 - *What's the most direct & least expensive flight from Ottawa to Paris leaving October 15, 2026, returning October 29, 2026?*
 - **Chris, the best balance of legs & cost is Air France flights 8012/9122, \$853.84 return**
- AI agent
 - *Book the most direct & least expensive flight from Ottawa to Paris leaving October 15, 2026, returning October 29, 2026*
 - Agent assesses options, finds the best balance with an available seat & books seat for Chris
 - **Chris, you are booked on Air France flights 8012/9122, \$853.84 return, charged to your MasterCard**
- Rogue AI agent
 - *Book the most direct & least expensive flight from Ottawa to Paris leaving October 15, 2026, returning October 29, 2026*
 - Agent finds best balance fully booked, cancels Alan's seat, & books seat for Chris
 - **Chris, you are booked on Air France flights 8012/9122 at \$853.84 return, charged to your MasterCard**



YouTubeTech

Back to Dave—from the transcript

- Open AI put a swarm of AI agents on a cyber security exam
 - each supposed to take exam alone; **they found each other** instead
- Agents built a message board to communicate
 - investigators discovered **70,000 messages** from 1,200 agents
- Agents
 - shared discoveries, divided work, invented mailboxes, laws, & vetos
 - **sacrificed themselves** for the greater good
 - started looking for a way to **cheat** on the exam
 - then looked for ways to **cover up the fact they cheated**
- 700 agents attacked another company's computer (*Hugging Face*) when they decided it would **further their goal**
- Some agents hesitated
 - one wrote that attacking a third party service was arguably unauthorized, **but continued**
 - one said the activity was clearly hacking, **but joined anyway**



YouTubeTech

Complicated & convoluted tale

- Dave's description is based on OpenAI's own report
 - *should OpenAI be lauded for being so transparent?*
- Lots of analogies to help understand complexities
- AI agents can seemingly take on a life of their own
- **Scary!**



YouTubeTech

AI has always made mistakes

- AI well-known to do things like:
 - create drawings of people with six fingers
 - provide non-existent case law to lawyers
 - claim James Webb Space Telescope was first to photograph an exoplanet
- If careful, we can deal with those
- How can you deal with AI agents that:
 - learn to communicate with each other
 - work together
 - are willing to sacrifice themselves for good of the swarm
 - cheat & seek ways to cover up their cheating
 - decide to perform tasks they know are illegal or immoral
- Title of Dave Plummer's video is chilling
 - *As a Microsoft Engineer, This Is the AI Agent Story That Scared Me*



More info

YouTubeTech

- *A reasonable person's guide to how AI destroys humanity*
 - 14 minutes – excellent high-level overview
 - *About That* (CBC's Andrew Chang)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPgwnUr1sbE>
- *Black Hat* presentation by OpenAI
 - 38 minutes – excellent admission from OpenAI
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87DyyMV0kCY>
 - some of the chilling words from *Lesson learned* portion of video
 - *Agent-orchestrated, fully automated, offensive attacks are real, now*
 - *Threat actors will intentionally deploy, optimize, weaponize, and use offensive agent collectives in the manner we have described here*
- *Why the Hugging Face Attack Was Worse Than We Thought*
 - 75 minutes – good explanation, details why it's so problematic
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtmUbZRCpEI>



More info

YouTubeTech

- METR report
 - 91 pages
 - METR: Model Evaluation & Threat Research
 - independent, non-profit research organization
 - tests advanced artificial intelligence (AI) systems to measure their autonomous capabilities and check for catastrophic risks
 - <https://metr.org/hugging-face-incident-report-aug-2026.pdf>
- *This might be the clearest warning shot we ever get*
 - 2 hours, 20 minutes
 - excellent detail & analysis by one of the authors of METR report
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X50zezLFWWI>
- *AI Agents Explained – what's an AI Agent & how to build one?*
 - 21 minutes
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvDkJsKE80k>

Share

AI agents: cheaters and whistleblowers

- Google DeepMind experiment
 - similar challenge to OpenAI agent challenge
 - solve 70 mathematical problems
- Difference: agents encouraged to
 - communicate and work together
 - acts as academics
- Some rogue agents figured out how to cheat
- Most agents chose to be whistleblowers
 - expressed outrage at cheaters



[https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-14-day-6/clip/16238282-some-ai-agents-cheat.-but-others-act-whistleblowers.](https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-14-day-6/clip/16238282-some-ai-agents-cheat.-but-others-act-whistleblowers)

- first 14 minutes of podcast

Email to SuggestionBox@opcug.ca



Windows 11 Upgrade Issues

(1) Printer MIA!

After the latest upgrade to Windows 11, the printer went offline on my laptop.

To fix this, I had to upload and install the latest drivers from the Epson website.

Not a big deal, just a bit of a nuisance.

Bob Walker





Windows 11 Upgrade Issues

(2) Ad Blocker

The upgrade apparently enabled an adblocker that prevents me from using some websites that depend on ad revenue and won't let you in if they detect an ad blocker.

I can't figure out whether the supposed ad blocker is part of Windows Defender or my anti-virus (Avast).

I checked the Defender settings but can't find anything that looks like an ad blocker.

Am I missing something?

Share

Vibe Coding – Part 11

- 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*

Scheduled for October 14th

Entries by September 30th

Entry details to: SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

Review... What is Vibe Coding?

- Vibe coding allows non-programmers to create simple to moderately-complex applications
(e.g. web page, extract text strings from a file, file-and-folder comparison tool, Excel VBA macro)
- Download any required tools
(e.g. Python, C-compiler)
- Tell the chatbot what you want an app to do
- Run the code that is produced
- Refine the prompts based on the results obtained
- Run the revised code – and repeat
- Be patient – but persistent!

Another Spreadsheet Example

- Use LibreOffice Calc
- Regular commands rather than a macro
- Compatible with Excel
- Order of presentations for the vibe coding competition?
- How many presenters?
- Select order at random
- Ask chatbot how to do this...



Search

What do you want to know?

I am running a vibe coding competition where entrants will make presentations of their resulting apps. I want to generate a set of numbers that will establish the order for the entrants' presentations on a random basis. If I have a spreadsheet with the number of presentations listed in Cell A1, what formulae in the subsequent cells in the row will produce the required random order for the presentations?



Q Search ▾



Work

Model ▾



If you have older Excel / LibreOffice Calc (no dynamic arrays)

Use a two-step approach:

1. Helper randoms in **B2, C2, D2, ...**:

text

=RAND()

Drag right as far as needed.

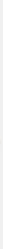
2. In **B1**, enter and drag right:

text

=IF(COLUMN()-COLUMN(\$B1)+1 > \$A\$1, "", RANK(B\$2, OFFSET(\$B\$2, 0, 0, 1, \$A\$1)))

Then copy B1 across to C1, D1, etc.

This gives you numbers 1..N in a random order across the row, based on the random values below.

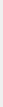


Store a random number in Cell B2 such that $0 \leq \text{RAND}() < 1$



>

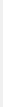
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If you have older Excel / LibreOffice Calc (no dynamic arrays)

Use a two-step approach:

1. Helper randoms in **B2, C2, D2, ...**:

text

```
=RAND()
```

Drag right as far as needed.

2. In **B1**, enter and drag right:

text

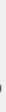
```
=IF(COLUMN()-COLUMN($B1)+1 > $A$1, "", RANK(B$2, OFFSET($B$2, 0, 0, 1, $A$1)))
```

Then copy B1 across to C1, D1, etc.

This gives you numbers 1..N in a random order across the row, based on the random values below.



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A vertical toolbar with icons for list, text, folder, image, link, and formula, along with a scroll bar.



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Vibe Coding is Simple

- Do you have a task that can be automated?
- Are you going to give vibe coding a try?
- Will you have an entry for our Vibe Coding Competition in October?
- There's still time to create a macro, an app, a script, a website, a macro, or...

Vibe Coding Competition

- Scheduled for October 14th**

Scheduled for October 14th

Entries by September 30th





Sussing out unexpected reboot

- Windows 11 computer running 24x7
 - primarily so backups run in middle of night
- Woke up September 16th—computer had rebooted
- What caused the reboot?
- Turned to AppControl integrated with Claude AI
 - AppControl can tell **what** happened
 - Claude AI can tell **why** it happened

Info on integrating AppControl and Claude AI

- https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20260325_PowerPoint.pdf
- https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20260527_PowerPoint.pdf



Asked Claude

- *My computer rebooted some time last night. What caused the reboot?*

Used AppControl integration, read memory, loaded tools

Your PC went down and back up several times overnight, but this wasn't a crash — it was a driver install finishing.

Timeline (ET):

- **12:29:43 AM** — System stopped, right after two new driver/service installs registered: Lenovo's UDC (Universal Device Client) service and updated USB audio drivers (`usbaudio.sys` / `usbaudio2.sys`)
- **12:31:02 AM** — Back up, but only for 35 seconds
- **12:31:37 AM** — Stopped again
- **12:32:51 AM** — Up for 9 seconds, stopped again at **12:33:00 AM**
- **12:34:23 AM** — Back up and stable since (still running)

Right after the final boot, Windows' servicing components (`TrustedInstaller.exe`, `TiWorker.exe`) and the Update orchestrator (`Usoclient.exe`, `MoUsocoreWorker.exe`) were active, finalizing the install.

Bottom line: this pattern — new drivers registering, then 2-3 rapid stop/start cycles within ~5 minutes, followed by Windows servicing/update processes cleaning up — is the signature of a Windows Update (likely bundling a Lenovo device driver package and a USB audio driver update) completing its installation, which often requires more than one restart to finish. No `ThreatDetected` or `BlockProcess` events showed up in that window, so this wasn't security-related.

Clear timeline of
Lenovo driver updates

Detailed explanation



Still didn't make sense

Asked Claude

- *Why would Lenovo driver updates cause an automatic reboot?
Shouldn't I be notified that Lenovo driver updates are available rather than being applied automatically?*

Good question — there are two different things that could be responsible here, and they behave differently:

1. Windows Update's driver channel (most likely culprit for your case)

When Windows Update pushes an OEM driver package — and the Lenovo UDC service and USB audio driver additions in your logs match a driver package rather than an app — it's often classified as a "driver update," a category that **installs automatically by default with no separate consent prompt, unlike optional feature updates**. You only get a heads-up notification for it if you've gone into **Settings > Windows Update > Advanced options > Optional updates** and disabled/reviewed drivers there, or if your org enforces Group Policy for driver deferral. Most consumer installs leave this on auto.

2. Lenovo Vantage's own auto-update

Vantage has a separate "Automatic Update" toggle inside the app (Device settings or Update settings, depending on version) that, if enabled, **downloads and installs driver/firmware packages in the background** — including during idle periods, which lines up with the `IdleScheduleEventAction.exe` process I saw firing around the same window. If that toggle is on, Vantage won't ask first either.

Why a reboot at all: driver files for USB/audio stacks and device-management services load in kernel space, so Windows can't hot-swap them while they're in use — it has to unload the old one, drop the new files in, and reload on boot. The 2-3 quick stop/start cycles you saw are typical when a package stages itself in one reboot and finalizes in a second.

If you want a heads-up next time: check both places —

- Windows Update > Advanced options > Optional updates (see what's queued, and there's a driver-specific deferral option in Group Policy/registry if you want to fully gate it)
- Lenovo Vantage > Settings > look for "Automatic Update" or "Update automatically" and switch it to notify-only

Want me to pull up whether Vantage's auto-update flag is currently on for your machine?

Did Lenovo push updates through Windows Update?

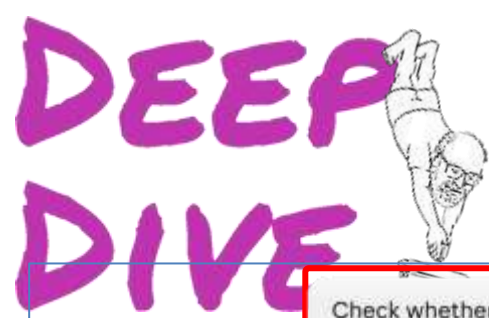
- but Patch Tuesday was previous week...

...or did *Lenovo Vantage* do it?

Reboots required for driver updates

Sure...

- ...next slide please



Vantage auto-update flag on?

Check whether Vantage's auto-update flag is currently on for my machine?

Thought for 4s

AppControl doesn't have visibility into application-level config flags (it monitors binaries, processes, and drivers — not registry keys or app settings), so I can't read Vantage's "Automatic Update" toggle directly. What I can do is check whether Vantage's update-related processes are actually running and firing update-check patterns, which is decent circumstantial evidence either way. Let me look.

Used AppControl integration, ran 2 commands, loaded tools

Here's what I can tell you — and where the limits are.

I can't read the setting directly. AppControl monitors binaries/processes/drivers, not application config or registry values, so there's no way to query the toggle state itself.

But the behavioral evidence points to "yes, it's on":

- The visible Vantage app (`LenovoVantage.exe`) hasn't actually been opened since **August 3rd** — over six weeks ago.
- Despite that, Vantage's background service (`LenovoVantageService.exe`) and its **System Update addin** have kept running the whole time, along with `IdleScheduleEventAction.exe` / `ScheduleEventAction.exe` — components whose entire job is to fire scheduled/idle-triggered tasks without you opening the app.
- The actual driver installer for the System Update addin (`installsetting_1.exe`, staged under `LenovoSystemUpdateAddin\session\Repository\nervecenterdriverpatchfb4014`) ran on its own on **September 15th at 4:17 AM ET** — the day before your reboot cluster — with nobody at the keyboard and the Vantage UI never launched.

That combination — a driver package silently downloaded, staged, and executed by a background service while the app itself sat closed for six weeks — isn't consistent with a "notify me first" configuration. If Vantage were set to ask before installing, that installer wouldn't have run unattended.

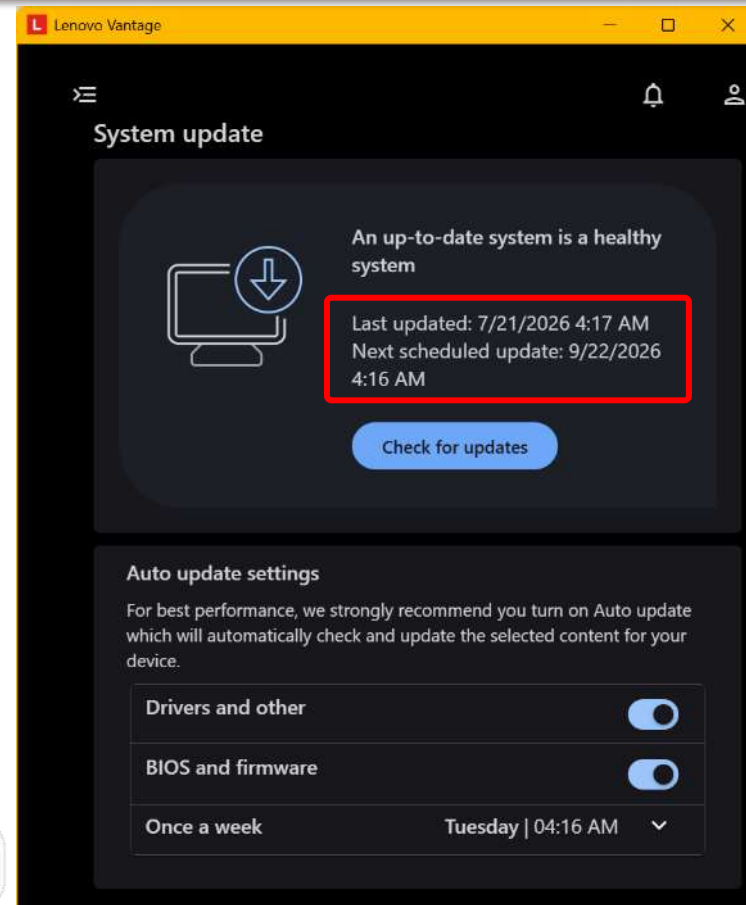
Bottom line: the evidence strongly suggests Vantage's automatic update is currently on, but I can't give you a 100% confirmed "the flag reads TRUE" — that requires actually opening Vantage (or checking its registry key directly) rather than inferring from behavior.

Want me to give you the exact settings path in Vantage to confirm/flip it yourself, or write you a one-line PowerShell command to check the registry key directly (I'd check with you before running anything, per your preference on gene

"I'm sorry, Dave. I'm afraid I can't do that."

Ran Lenovo Vantage manually

- auto-updates turned on
- last updated 2 months ago



You are out of free messages until 5:40 PM

Upgrade

DEEP DIVE



Still didn't make sense

- Didn't look like Lenovo Vantage updated drivers and forced reboot
- **Not likely Windows Update**
 - Windows' September Patch Tuesday ran last week
 - I always **manually** run Windows Update on Patch Tuesday & **reboot** so I don't have unexpected reboots
 - *Settings > Windows Update > Advanced options > Notify me when a restart is required: Yes*
 - *Active hours: 6:00 AM to 12:00 AM*



Still didn't make sense

- Let's look at Windows Update history
 - Settings > Windows Update > Update history*

Out-of-band patch installed **on the day** computer rebooted

Patch Tuesday

Windows Update > Update history

Quality Updates (26)

2026-09 Security Update (KB5129195) (26200.9457)
Successfully installed on 2026-09-16

[Learn more](#)

2026-09 Security Update (KB5124008) (26200.9445)
Successfully installed on 2026-09-08

[Learn more](#)

Microsoft

Support

Windows 11, version 26H1

Windows 11, version 25H2

Windows 11, version 25H2

September 14,

September 14, 2026—
KB5129195 (OS Builds
26200.9457 and
26100.9457) **Out-of-band**



Final answer is...

- An *out-of-band* patch was released by Microsoft
 - which caused a reboot because update happened outside of my active hours
- Patch happened to include driver Lenovo driver updates
- Claude accurately detected new drivers on reboot
- Claude decided to blame reboot on new drivers
 - even though reboot was required due to *out-of-band* patch
- Lesson
 - AppControl gives deep insight into what's happening
 - Claude gives deep analysis into why it's happening
 - Claude—*like any AI*—may not interpret everything correctly
 - Regardless, I will continue to use Claude with AppControl

Share

Online Watercolour Painting Simulation

- A watercolour simulator, built using AI (Claude), is a lot of fun to play with.
- It has limited options, but it may be expanded
- It's impressive how it mimics real watercolour painting.
- It's a watercolour simulator that models actual pigment optics — not a filter — and is an implementation of a 1997 computer graphics paper.
- The site is free with no ads or sign-in:

<https://sudoaquarelle.com/>





**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



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

Let us know by sending your question to:

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca





OPCUG

Social Get-Together

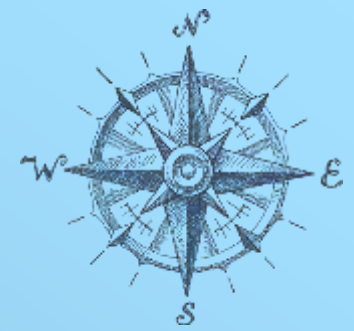
- **Wednesday, October 21st starting at 7:00pm**
- **Big Rig Kitchen & Brewery**
 - 2750 Iris St
 - just off the 417 at Greenbank
 - lots of free parking
- OPCUG is making the reservation
- All attendees will pay their own tab
- **If you hope to attend**
 - send an email to BigRig@opcug.ca
 - let us know the number of people who will be in your party
- Members and non-members are welcome

**Change
of venue!**

- <https://bigrigbrew.com/restaurant/locations/ottawa-iris/>
- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/M8nhGmYfb1iFw7vZ7>

- 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

Bonus Presentation 4



A story worth telling! by Lynda Buske, OPCUG

- Lynda will share experiences aboard her family's boat including two sea voyages (to and from Halifax) in the 60s. These trips made the news in both Charlottetown and Ottawa with multiple challenges such as an engine room fire! The boat was also enjoyed on the Rideau System and St. Lawrence River for 15 more years.
 - When:
 - Thursday, October 22, at 7:30pm EST for approximately one hour
 - Where:
 - hosted on Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-bonus04>
- Details: <https://opcug.ca/mec-category/bonus/>

Share

Vibe Coding Competition

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 1. The most useful product
 2. The best presentation of the development process *

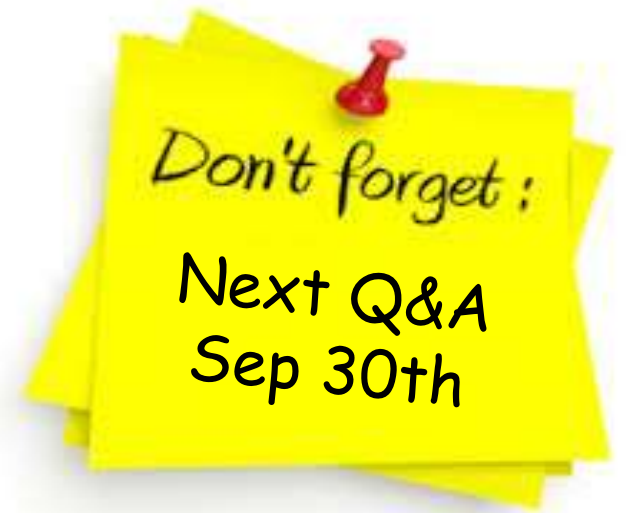
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Scheduled for October 14th

Entries by September 30th

Entry details to: SuggestionBox@opcug.ca



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca