



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

October 7, 2026

The
Q&A
cupboard
is
bare!



Members Only!

OPCUG-Member-Forum

- Google Group where members can post questions or anything of general interest to other members
- Accessible 24/7/365 (always-on Q&A!)
- Only members of the OPCUG will be authorized to access the group



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

<https://opcug.ca/google-groups-how-to/>



Telephone calls by laptop

- I am looking for options to be able to call someone when one or both people do not have a cell or landline available but both have laptops.
- Both people may have Wi-Fi access or, if one does have a cell phone, they have a data plan if there is no Wi-Fi.
- In particular, one person may not be in Canada (or the US).
- I know of online meeting options such as Zoom or Google Meet but, as far as I know, you can't actually call someone, so that their cell or laptop "rings" from those apps.

- I would prefer to be able to do this through a browser on the laptop rather than an app.
- I think Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp web will work.
- Are there any other ideas or experience with this situation?



Feedback

- Have you tried WhatsApp? I talk to family in Germany on their cell phone using WhatsApp. I think you may be able to get it for a PC.
- Apps like WhatsApp, FaceTime, or Session let you talk over Wi-Fi for free
- Apps like Google Voice or TextFree give you a digital phone number over Wi-Fi. You can call regular landlines & mobile phones that do not have the app.
- Services like HelloAirDial let you dial a standard phone number straight from your web browser using an internet connection.
- You can get a free phone number with Fongo and use it to make and receive calls over Wi-Fi:

- Jitsi allows for Zoom-like teleconference. It can be used in a browser or on a mobile device.
- TextNow (SMS text only), available for Windows and Android, will send text messages to real telephone numbers.
- I can call someone else who is on Facebook through Messenger. No phone number needed.
- I use KeepCalling to make international long-distance calls to any telephone number. They have reasonable rates. I call mainly Spain, for 1.2 cents per minute.
- I use WhatsApp with my regular contacts.

Progress to date

- Messenger seems to be our best option we've found so far.
- It will ring on both the laptop and phone as long as you have Facebook open.



Share

Digital information Website - Digitimes

- Based in Taiwan, this news site is hot on the heels of all the players in the digital computing world.
- Unfortunately, many of the articles are behind a paywall but there is a great deal of information freely available.
- That's a good thing as subscriptions are \$189/quarter or \$550 annually (US \$, of course!)
- I'll stick with the free information for now.

<https://www.digitimes.com/index.asp>

Stewart Bruce

Share

Flightradar24

- An alternative to ADS-B Exchange and its app Tailvision
- Track aircraft world-wide
- Flightradar24 has two main distinctions
 - it is Swedish based so European privacy laws apply to its treatment of users
 - it has both IOS and Android apps
- Now everyone can point their phones at the sky to learn more about the activity above.



<https://www.flightradar24.com/>



YouTubeTech

Robtech



Robtech

@Robtech • 83.9K subscribers • 635 videos

Tech channel focusing on in-depth mini PC reviews. ...more

[X](#) and 1 more link

Subscribe

<https://www.youtube.com/@Robtech>

- From the land down under, we have Robtech.
- This fellow has an interest in mini-PCs and reviews quite a few of them.
- In fact, he's even built a website comparing test results to help out folks with a curiosity about these devices.
- It's a work in progress, of course but a good place to start if one is interested in the multitude of devices in this form factor which are storming the market these days.



Stewart Bruce



YouTubeTech

What's the Best Registry Cleaner?

- Leo Notenboom (of Ask Leo fame)
- *Many people feel they're valuable, important tools to keep your system running smoothly*
 - *I disagree strongly*
- *I've rarely had issues, and when I did, registry cleaners weren't the solution*
- *reports of cleaners making things worse*
 - *people have had to reinstall Windows after running a registry cleaner*
- *To be honest, while there are horror stories, most of the time, cleaners don't do any damage*
 - *may not do any good, but reputable ones aren't going to harm your system unless there's some other underlying problem*



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



YouTubeTech

Microsoft on registry cleaners

- Does not support the use of registry cleaners
- Not responsible for issues caused by using a registry cleaning utility
- Cannot guarantee that problems resulting from the use of a registry cleaning utility can be solved
- Serious issues can occur when you modify the registry incorrectly using these utilities
- Might require users to reinstall the operating system

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/answers/questions/2461833/does-microsoft-have-a-software-that-cleans-repairs>



YouTubeTech

5 CHEAP Phones That Will Still Be Supported in 2032



5 CHEAP Phones That Will Still Be Supported in 2032 (Secret Goldmines)



The Top Tech Insider
5.25K subscribers

Subscribe

👍 592



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0671O_pDi0

Important numbers!

- End of operating system support
- Number of Android version upgrades
- Number of years of OS security patches
- Clock starting points
 - phone manufacturing date
 - phone release date
(can be 1 year later)
- Discounted phones may well be downstream of the clock starting point
- 6 years of support may be down to 4 or 5!



RIP Microsoft Publisher

- What is Microsoft Publisher?
 - desktop-publishing program
 - design page-layout documents such as:
 - newsletters, brochures, flyers, business cards, labels, calendars
 - template-based with precise control over placement of text, images, & other page elements
- First released in September 1991—35 years ago
- Removed from Microsoft 365 as of October 1, 2026
 - <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/publisher/microsoft-publisher-will-no-longer-be-supported-after-october-2026>
 - *not yet removed from my Microsoft 365*
- Those with perpetual licenses to Office or Publisher
 - no longer supported after October 13, 2026
 - 5 years after release of last perpetually-licensed version—2021

Share

Options

- **Microsoft's** recommended Publisher replacements:
 - *Word or PowerPoint*
- Likely reaction from Publisher users: **WTF????**
- Some may opt to get a copy of Microsoft Office Professional 2021
 - last version to include Publisher
 - not included in Office 2024
 - just keep using after support ends
- Some might look for a 3rd party page layout program

Share

3rd party solutions

- Affinity Page Layout
 - free
 - can import Publisher files
 - Windows, macOS
 - <https://www.affinity.studio/page-layout-software>
- Scribus
 - free
 - can import Publisher files
 - Windows, Linux, macOS
 - <https://www.scribus.net/>
- Adobe InDesign
 - CAD \$359.88 per year before tax
- Articles on best desktop publishing programs
 - <https://www.pcmag.com/explainers/rip-microsoft-publisher-as-a-pro-designer-the-8-alternatives-i-recommend>
 - <https://thatpainter.com/best-desktop-publishing-software-of-2025-indesign-affinity-scribus-and-more/>

Do you have a recommendation for page-layout software?

Share

Computer Tools

Websites that offer useful tools:

- GetHuman – Free tools that help you talk and write to companies and government agencies
<https://gethuman.com>
- FilePizza - Peer-to-peer file transfers in your browser
<https://file.pizza>
- SunCalc - Interactive map for calculating/visualizing the sun's position at a specific location and time
<https://www.suncalc.org>



José Costa

- JustDeleteMe - Direct links to delete your account from a number of web services
<https://justdeleteme.xyz/en>
- Cover Your Tracks - Test your browser to see how well you are protected from tracking and fingerprinting
<https://coveryourtracks.eff.org>
- PDF24 Tools - PDF tools that make you more productive both online and offline.
<https://tools.pdf24.org/en/>
- Namech_k - Check the availability of a username or domain name within seconds
<https://namechk.com>



- TinEye – Reverse Image Search
<https://tineye.com>
- Cobalt Tools - Helps you save anything from your favorite websites
<https://cobalt.tools>
- photex.shop – Edit/remove text in a picture/headshot generator
<https://photex.shop>
- privnote - Send notes that will self-destruct after being read
<https://privnote.com>





Namechk_k



CHECK OVER 30 DOMAINS

AND MORE THAN 90 SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

opcug.ca



I'm not a robot

This site is exceeding reCAPTCHA
Enterprise free quota.



reCAPTCHA

Web

Domain

Website



Reset



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Namechk plugin - search results +

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opcug.me **BUY**

opcug.org **REGISTERED**

opcug.us **BUY**

opcug.info **BUY**

opcug.la **BUY**

opcug.asia **BUY**

.com !!!

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Secure Your Domain Now!

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Go to Usernames ↓

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Reverse Image Search

Search over 86.1 billion images and find where images appear online. Using TinEye is private and we do not save your search images.

📶 Paste, drag, or upload an image here

or

Search by image url

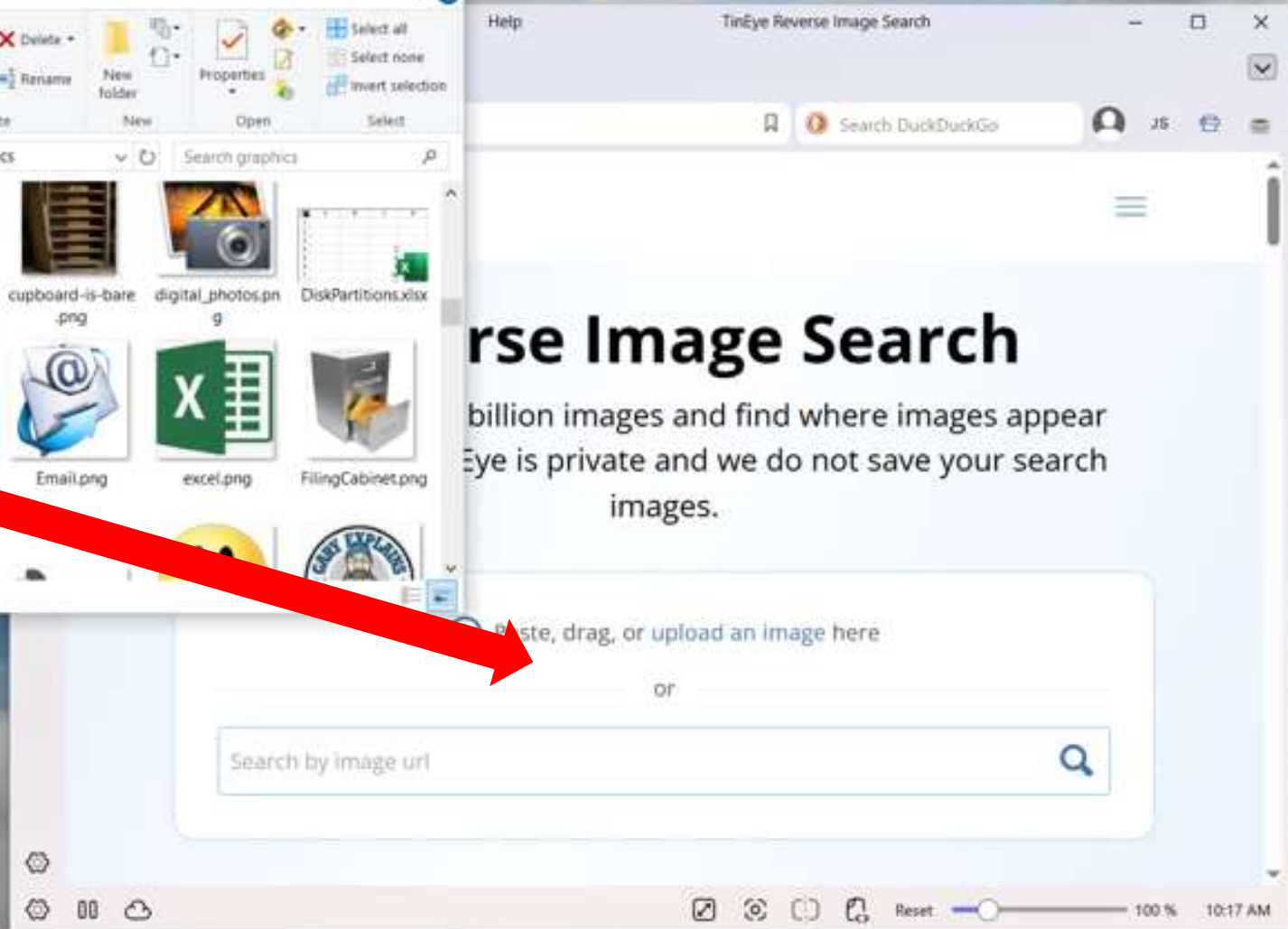
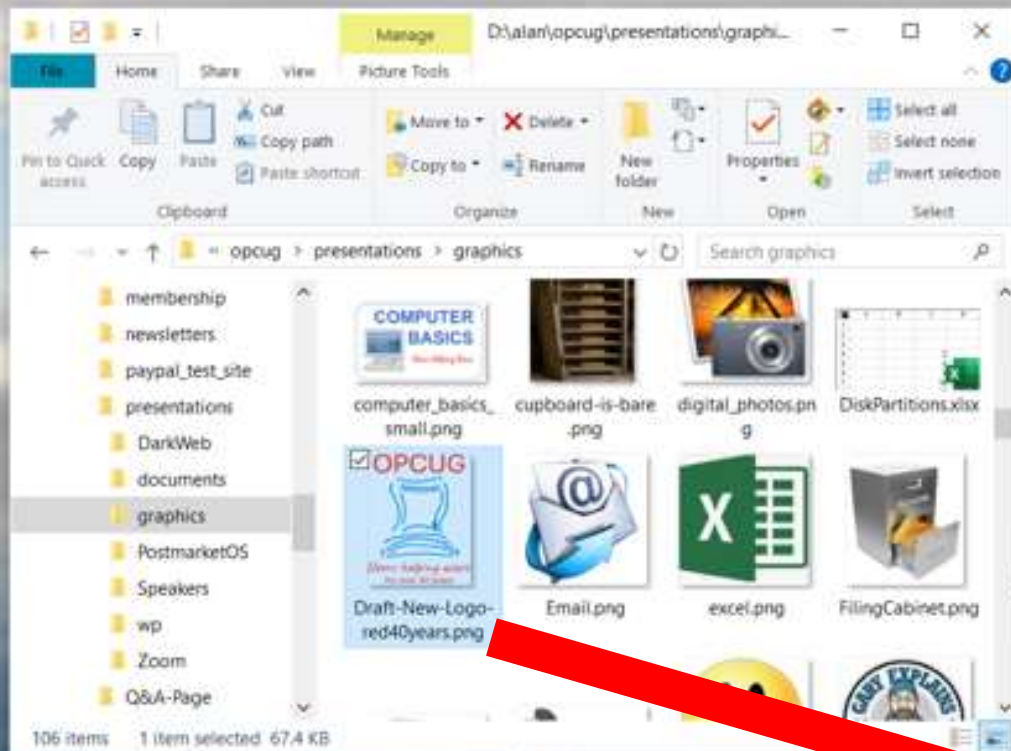


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TinEye - Search

File Edit View Bookmarks Tools Window Help

TinEye - Search

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JS

 TinEye

Upload

Search by image URL



OPCUG

Users helping users
for over 40 years

4 results

TinEye searched **86.1 billion images** for: Draft-New-Logo-red40years.png

First indexed by TinEye on **September 7, 2010**

Best match

Filter by website



OPCUG

Users helping users

bibliottawalibrary.ca

Filename: **opcug_68_12_1_11.png** - 180 x 180, 34.7 kB

[fr/node/31229](#) - Jun 8, 2016

[fr/node/31172](#) - Jun 8, 2016

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OPCUG



4 results

TinEye searched **86.1 billion images** for: Draft-New-Logo-red40years.png

First indexed by TinEye on **September 7, 2010**

Best match 

Filter by website

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Filename: OPCUG_24.png - 133 x 200, 15.7 kB

en/node/23140 - Jun 3, 2016

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Filename: OPCUG_68_20_0.png - 133 x 200, 16.3 kB

fr/staff-blogs/come-get-your-free-presto... - Jun 7, 2016

en/staff-blogs/small-business-week-lunc... - Jun 5, 2016

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Filename: opcug150.gif - 150 x 136, 5.5 kB

public/Workshops/2007/workshop_2007.... - Jun 24, 2012

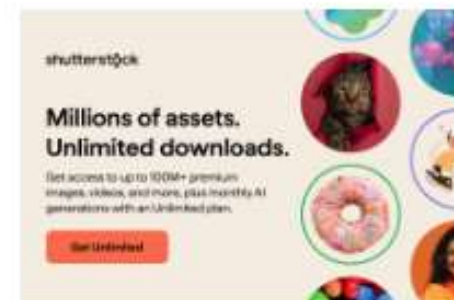
public/history/workshop/2005/index.html - Jun 24, 2012

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Chrome/Firefox Extension

Contribute on GitHub

Tweet JDM

Visit Just Get My Data

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1Password	1Point3Acres	1xBet
EASY	HARD	HARD
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280daily	2Captcha	2K Games
EASY	EASY	HARD
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Expo	ExpressVPN	Extra
EASY	HARD	MEDIUM
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HARD	EASY	MEDIUM
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Fairphone	FalixNodes	FamilySearch

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MEDIUM

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Facebook



MEDIUM

While you can delete your account easily, some of the data including messages, are there to stay forever, just as stated in the website's privacy policy.

HIDE INFO...



Facile.it





Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?

October Meeting



Vibe Coding Competition

Four OPCUG members
*(Applications and presentation
order to be determined)*

October 14, 2026
7:30 pm



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Social Get-Together

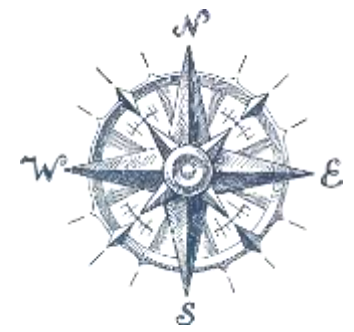
- **Wednesday, October 21st starting at 7:00pm**
- Big Rig Kitchen & Brewery
 - 2750 Iris St
 - just off the 417 at Greenbank
 - lots of free parking
- OPCUG is making the reservation
- All attendees will pay their own tab
- **If you hope to attend**
 - send an email to BigRig@opcug.ca
 - let us know 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/>

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

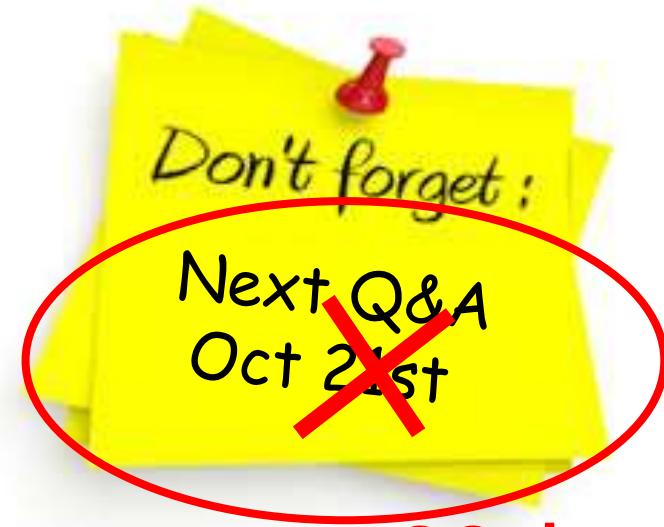
Let us know by sending your question to:

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca





No Q&A on
October 14
(Monthly Meeting)



28th

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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca