

OPCUG

Users helping users
for over 40 years

Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

November 4, 2026



Starting a Podcast?

- I am interested in starting a podcast
- I am looking for someone to guide or help me start
- Do you know of anyone who might be able to assist?

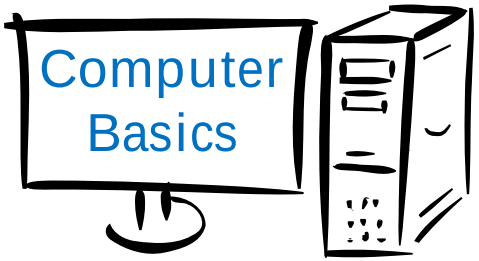


Laila

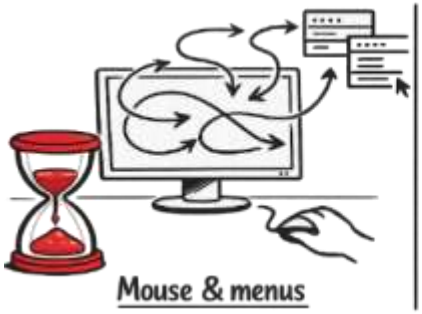


Android Updates

- My Samsung phone recently updated to Android 17 and One UI Version 9.
- There was also a long list of apps (in the notification list) that I could choose to update.
- Is it best to simply let all of them be updated through the system?
- Some of the updates are large, and some newer app versions may change significantly. However, I don't want to risk vulnerabilities.
- Is there an easy way to see what the updates will include/how they will affect the apps listed?
- I don't have the time or patience to check on each one individually.



Keyboard shortcuts #19



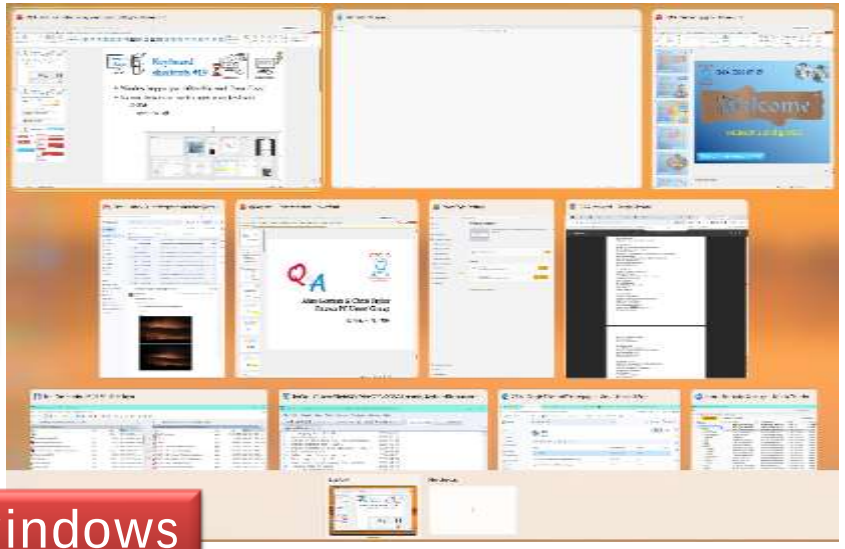


- Normal keystrokes to switch apps using keyboard



Alt+Tab

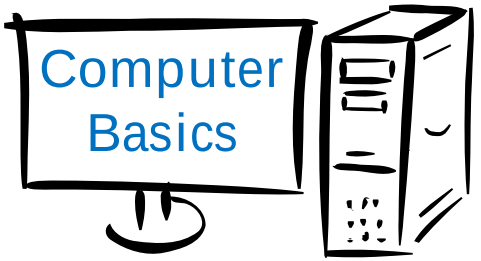
- keep holding Alt
- tap Tab to move to next window
- Shift+Tab to move to previous window
- release Tab to switch to highlighted window



Win+Tab

- release keys
- arrow to window you want
- press Enter to switch to highlighted window

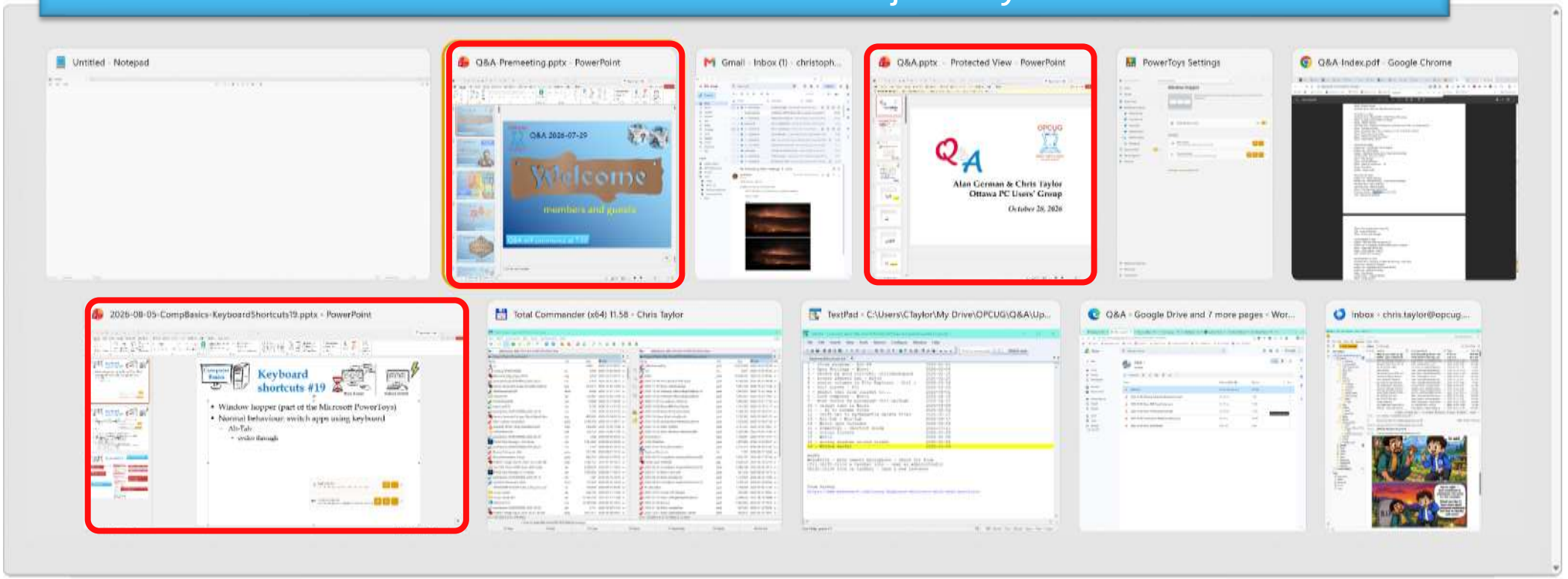
Can be difficult to find what you want in sea of windows

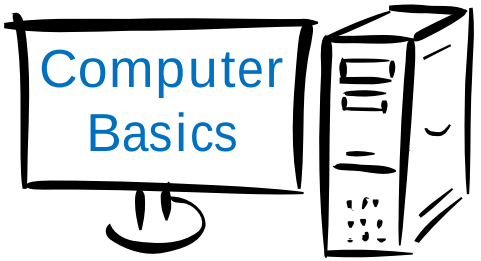


I frequently need to switch to a *different windows* of the *current app*

- e.g. working in several PowerPoint files
  - while I have many other programs open

Alt+Tab and Win+Tab make it difficult to find just my PowerPoint windows





Solution: PowerToys *Window Hopper*

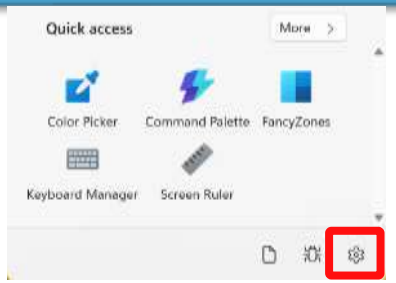


Install Microsoft PowerToys

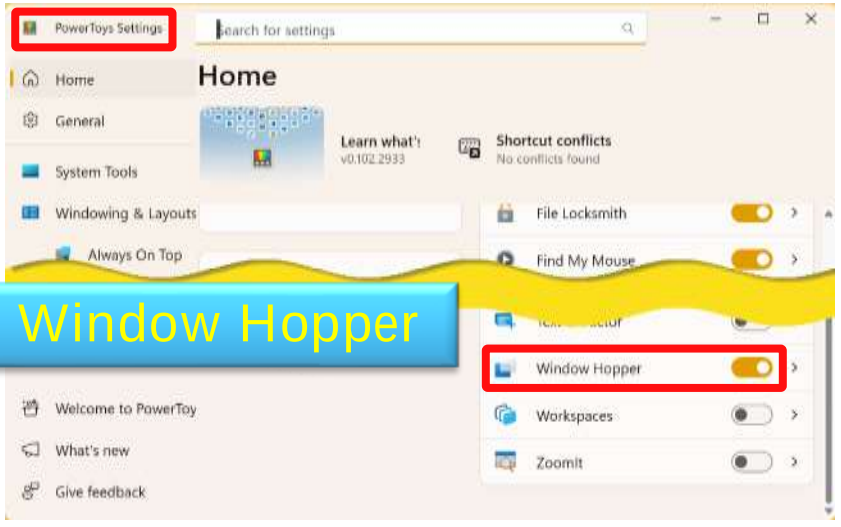
- search Microsoft PowerToys in Microsoft Store
  - always installs for Current user only
- or install from GitHub
  - choose installation file for Per user or Machine wide
    - https://github.com/microsoft/PowerToys/releases
- or install from PowerShell
  - to install for current user
    - `winget install --id Microsoft.PowerToys --source winget --scope user`
  - to install for the all users
    - `winget install --id Microsoft.PowerToys --source winget --scope machine`

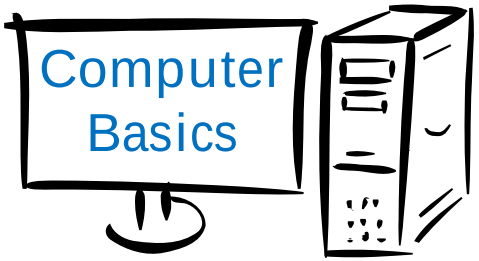
Open PowerToys Settings

- double-click PowerToys icon in system tray , or
- single-click PowerToys icon & click gear



Toggle on Window Hopper





Press

Next window
Cycle to the next window of the focused app
Alt `

Previous window
Cycle to the previous window of the focused app
Alt ⇧ `

- release keys to activate highlighted window

Backtick key
- option: change key in PowerToys Settings



Only windows of application with the current focus appear
- keep holding Alt and tap backtick to cycle through windows
- release Alt key to activate highlighted window





Smartphone Basics

Switching Phones

- Android phones have (had?) short EOL dates
- Often 3 years after release of a specific phone
- Discounted phones usually have at least one less year of support (hence the discount)
- Now, some manufacturers are providing 6-7 years of security updates
- A discounted phone may have 6 years of support
- A newer phone may not offer enough/must-have new features to justify the price differential
- It's the end-user's choice

Google Pixel Phones

- Pixel phones get very good reviews
- 7 years of support from new
- Specifications/Pricing:
  - Pixel 11 Tensor T6, 12 GB, 128 GB $ 1,250
  - Pixel 10a Tensor T4, 8 GB, 128 GB $ 850
  - Pixel 9a Tensor T4, 8 GB, 128 GB $ 500 ***

*** *Gorilla glass (3 vs. 7i)*

Slower charging (23 vs. 30 W)

Less bright display (2700 vs. 3000 nits)

$ 450 cheaper!





Applications

- Combination of
  - Pre-installed/default applications
  - applications installed from the Play Store
- My preferences, feel free to suggest alternatives

Google Play

Default Applications

- Calendar – Day and date (I'm retired; I don't know!)
- Clock – Timer (countdown/alarm)function
- Calculator – Four functions are sufficient
- Weather – Quick consultation for the day
- Play Store – More apps
- Contacts – Phone numbers/E-mail addresses
- Messages – SMS text
- Camera – Photos
- Settings – Customize operations
- Phone – Scam calls (are all I receive!)

Play Store Applications

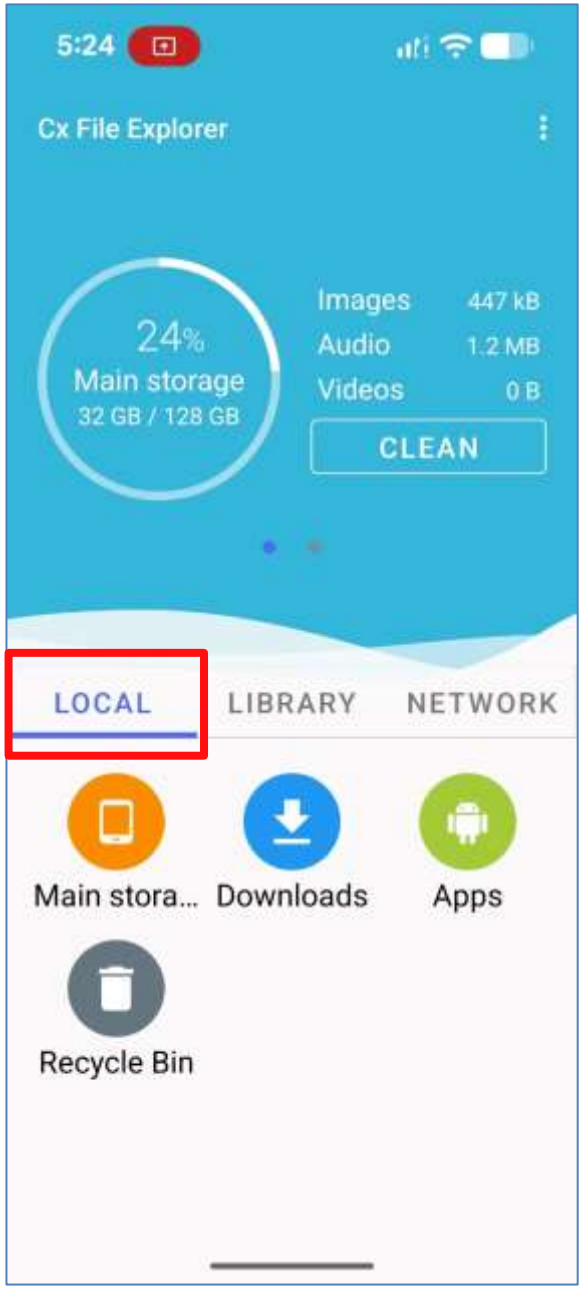
- Cx File Explorer – File manager, photo viewer, file transfer over Wi-Fi
- To Do Reminder – Task list, alarms
- Thunderbird – E-mail client
- X-Plore – File manager, "two-panel" display
- Vivaldi – Web browser, custom speed dial items, access local HTML files
- WhatsApp – Group messaging, video conferencing
- Seek – Identify plants using the camera
- Merlin – bird field guide, photos, songs, range maps, sound ID, world bird packs

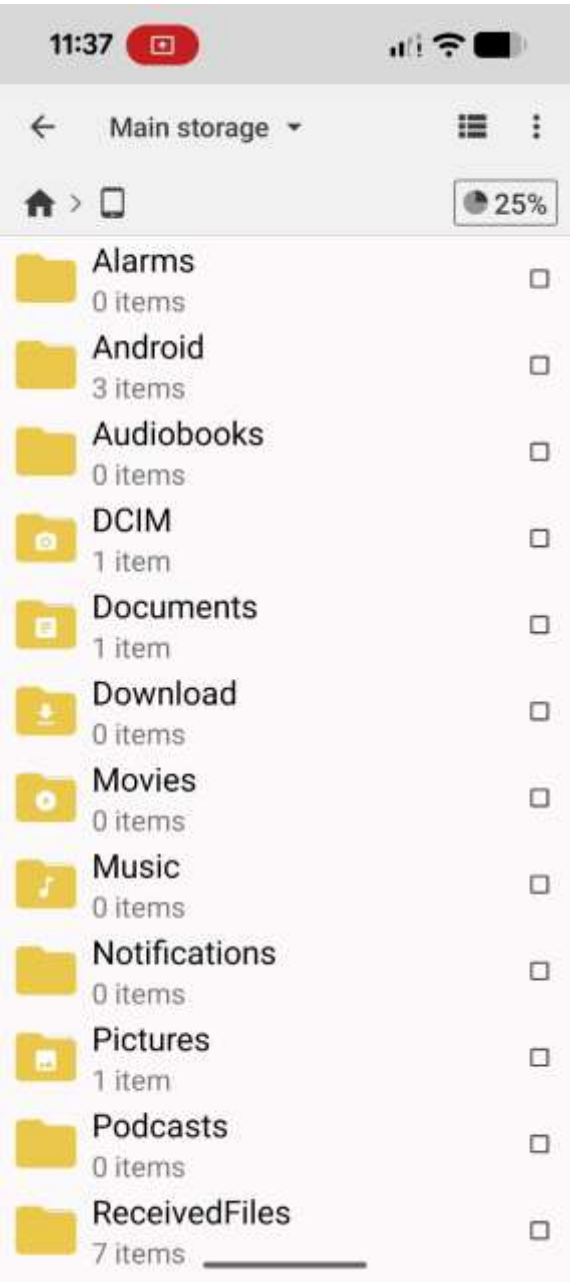
Play Store Applications

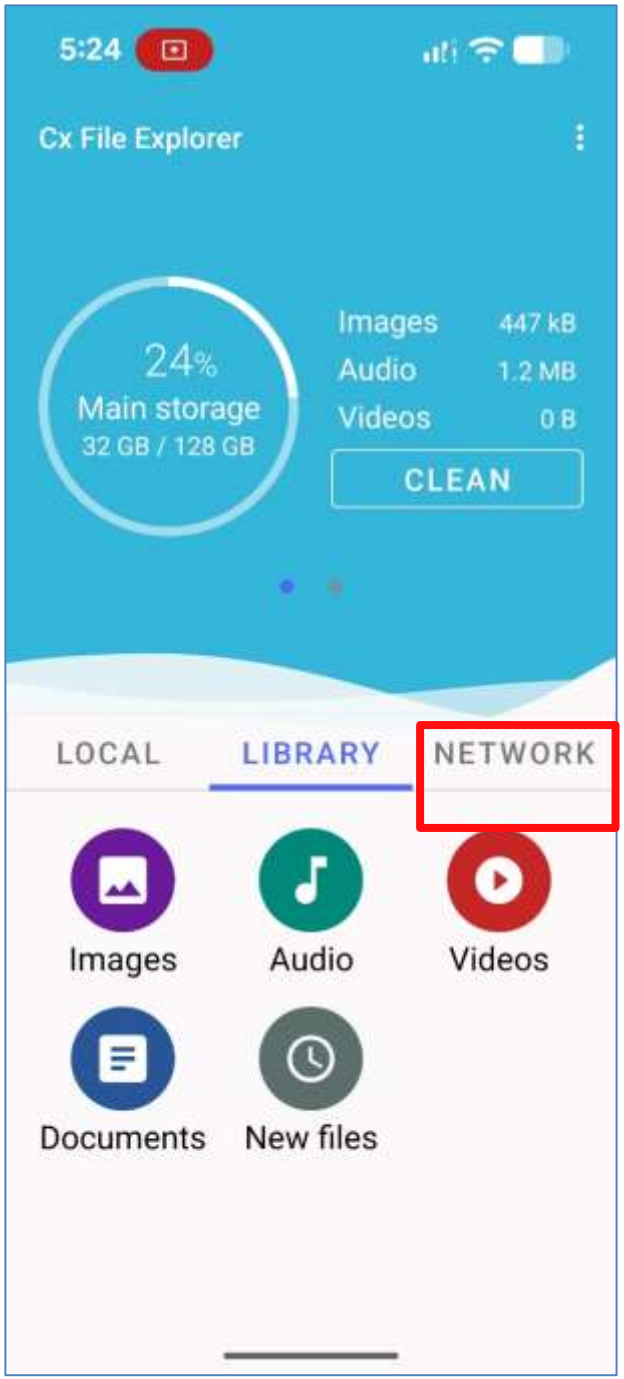
- Map Factor Navigator – GPS-based maps and route directions
- Screenshot Easy – Screen capture
- Markor – Simple text editor, notes
- Sophos Intercept X for Mobile – Antivirus scanner, QR code reader, custom authenticator
- TD Authenticator – TD Bank specific *
- Shutdown – On-screen shutdown/restart

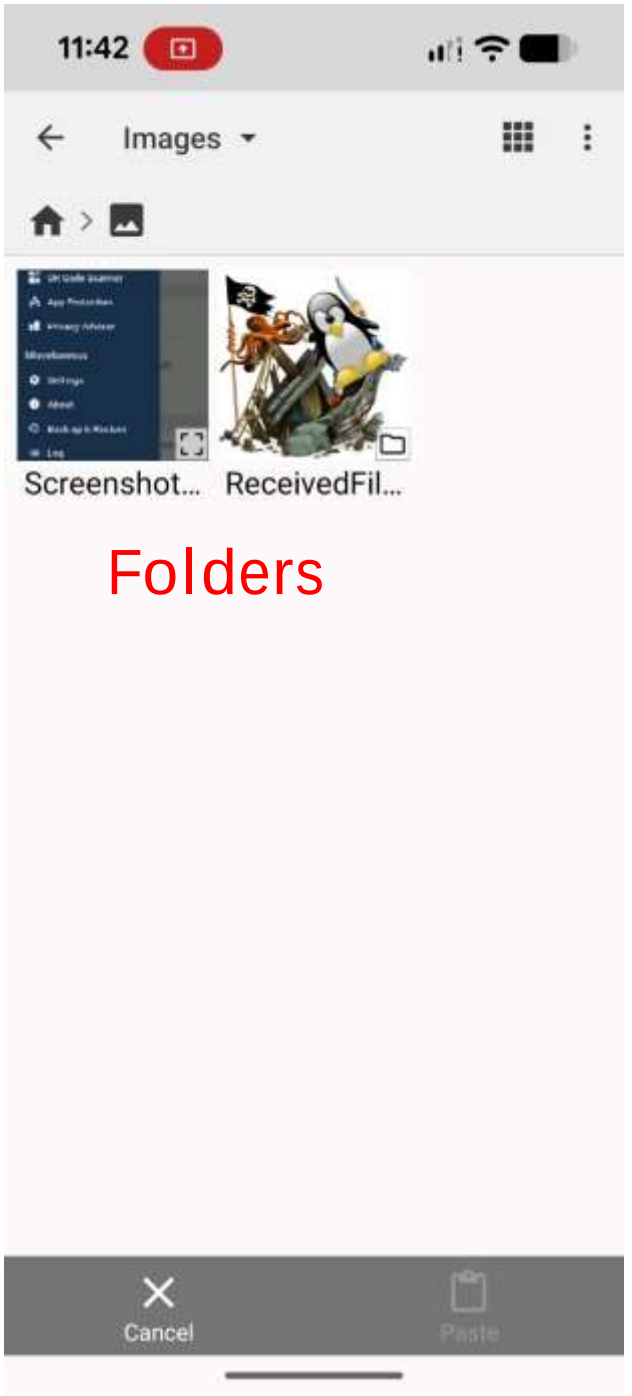
* *App is available on the Play Store but TD Bank won't currently allow new users to activate it*

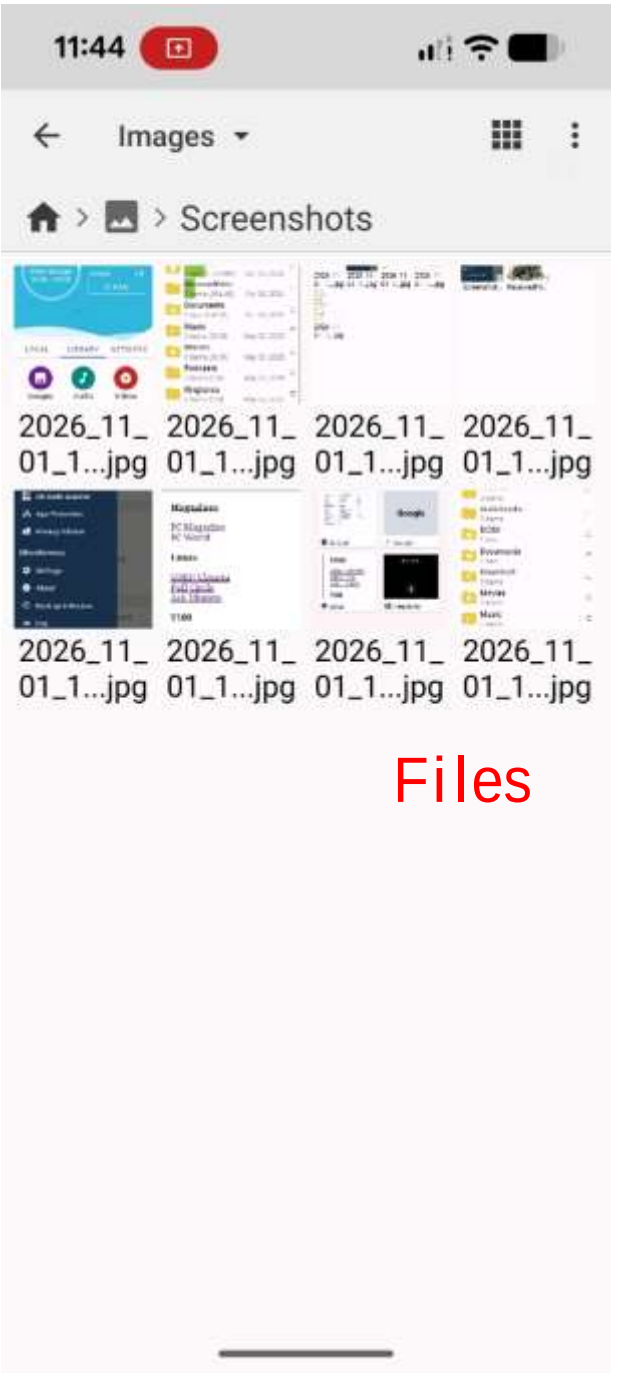
Cx File Explorer

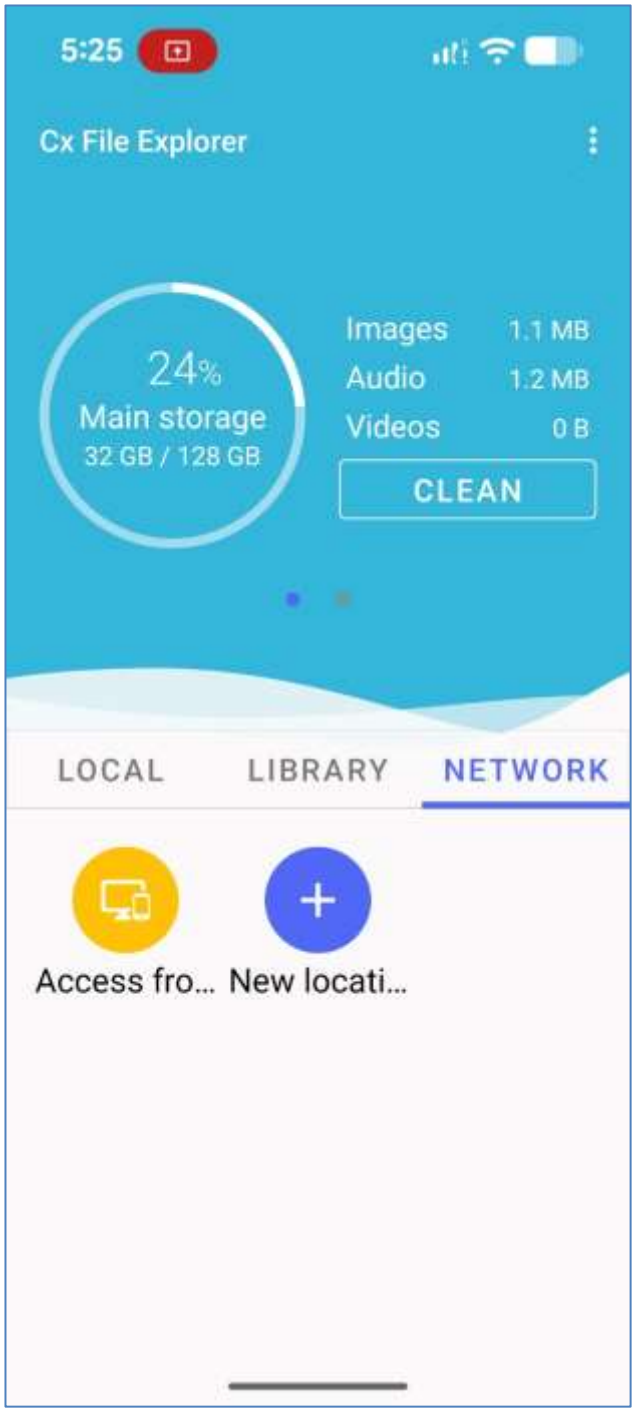


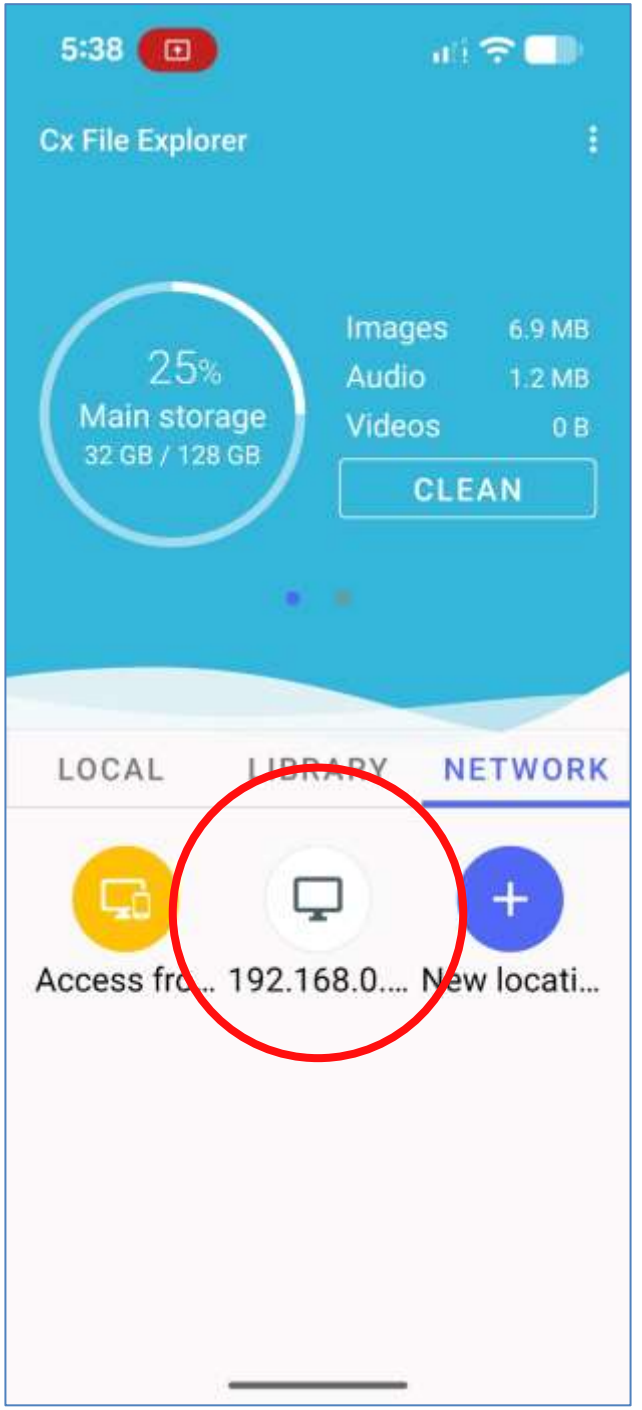


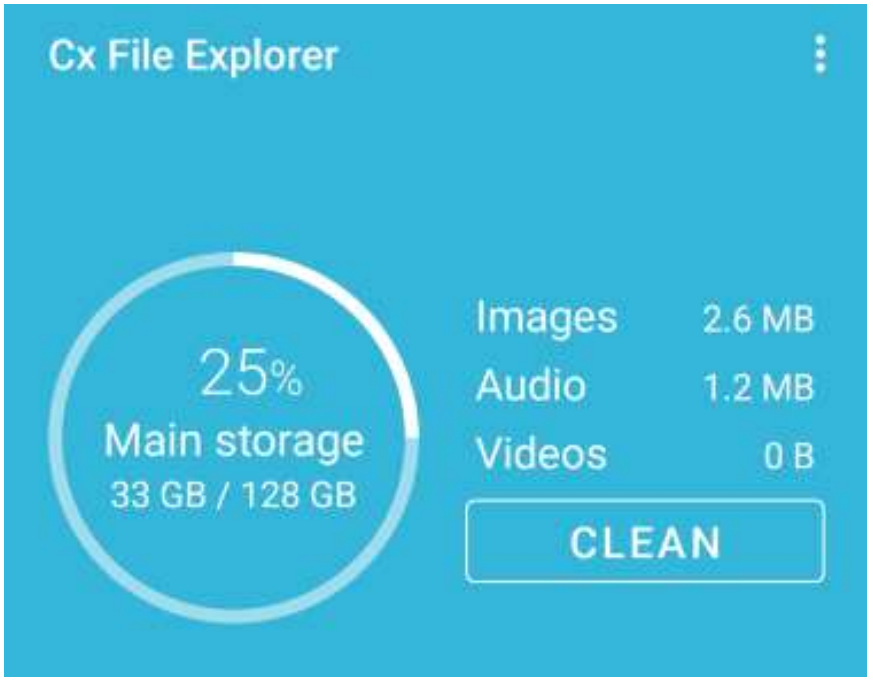

5:24
Cx File Explorer
24%
Main storage
32 GB / 128 GB
Images 447 kB
Audio 1.2 MB
Videos 0 B
CLEAN
LOCAL
LIBRARY
NETWORK
Images
Audio
Videos
Documents
New files

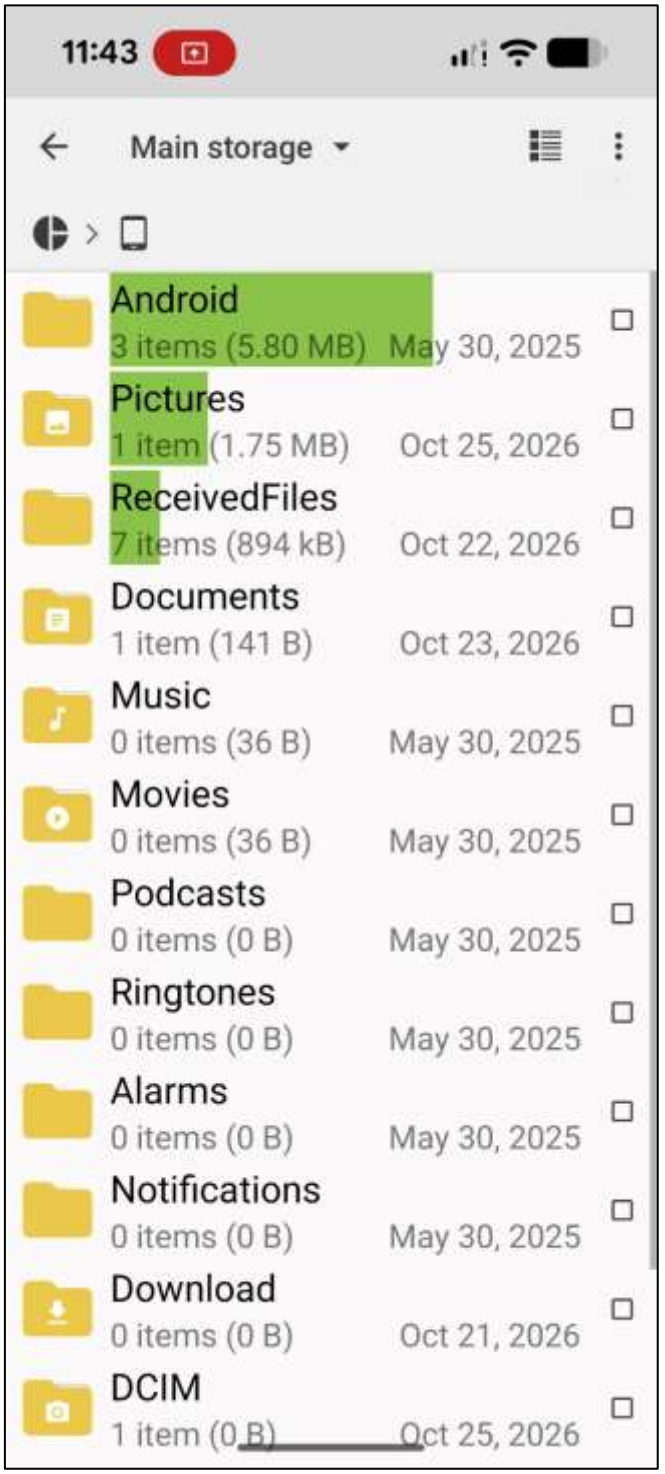

11:42
Images
Screenshot...
ReceivedFil...
Folders
Cancel
Paste


11:44
Images
Screenshots
2026_11_01_1...jpg
Files

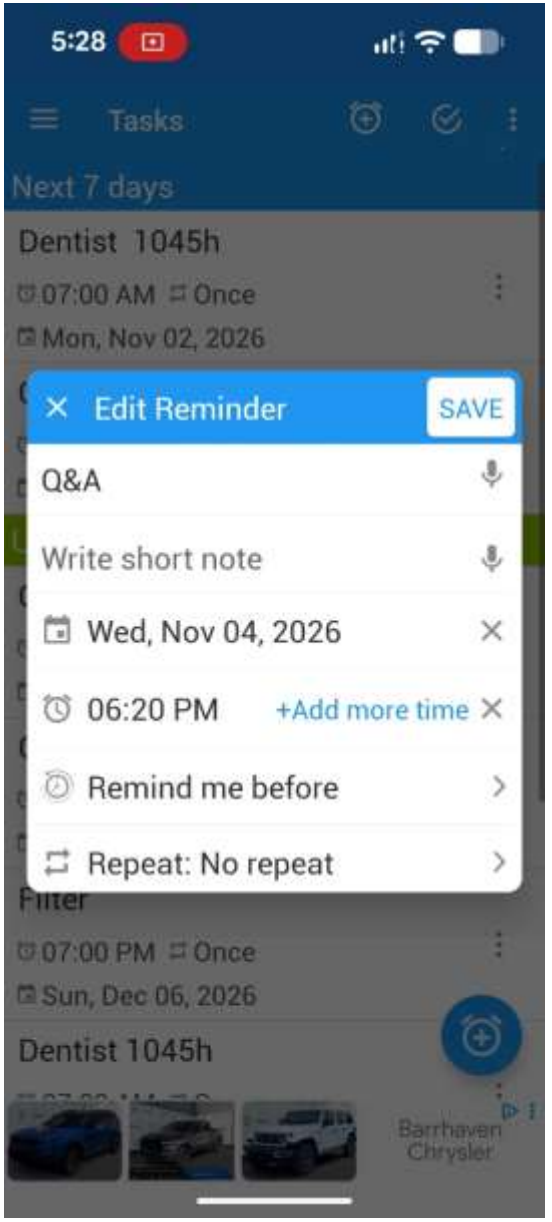

5:25
Cx File Explorer
24%
Main storage
32 GB / 128 GB
Images 1.1 MB
Audio 1.2 MB
Videos 0 B
CLEAN
LOCAL
LIBRARY
NETWORK
Access fro...
New locati...


5:38
Cx File Explorer
25%
Main storage
32 GB / 128 GB
Images 6.9 MB
Audio 1.2 MB
Videos 0 B
CLEAN
LOCAL
LIBRARY
NETWORK
Access fro...
192.168.0....
New locati...

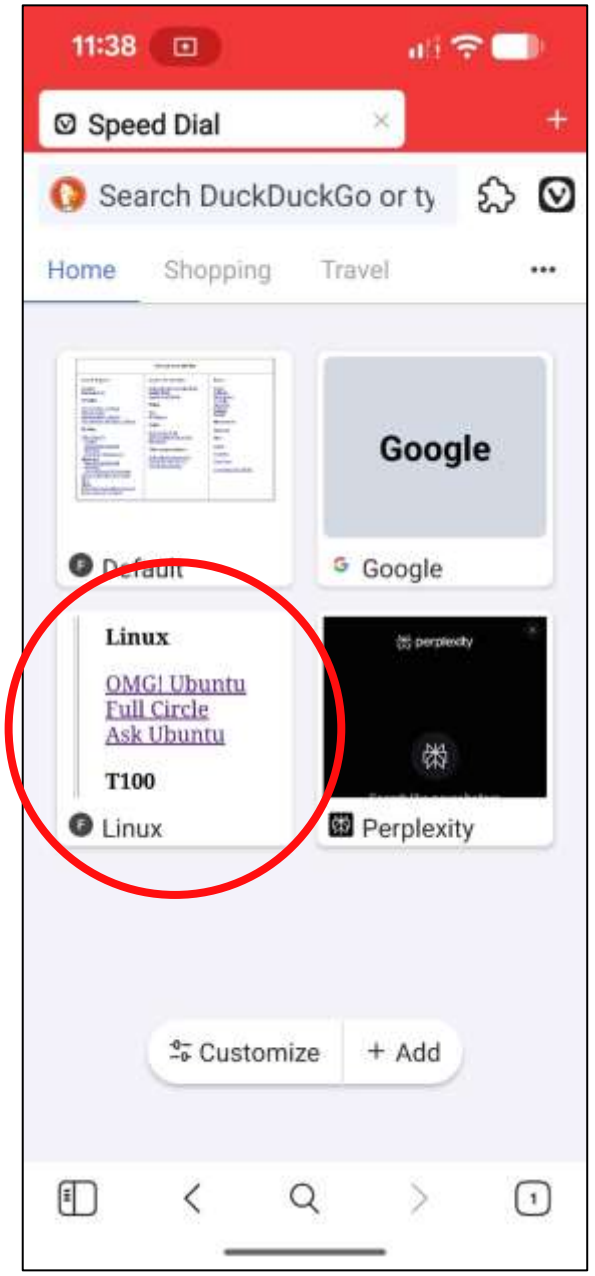

Cx File Explorer
25%
Main storage
33 GB / 128 GB
Images 2.6 MB
Audio 1.2 MB
Videos 0 B
CLEAN


11:43
Main storage
Android
3 items (5.80 MB) May 30, 2025
Pictures
1 item (1.75 MB) Oct 25, 2026
ReceivedFiles
7 items (894 kB) Oct 22, 2026
Documents
1 item (141 B) Oct 23, 2026
Music
0 items (36 B) May 30, 2025
Movies
0 items (36 B) May 30, 2025
Podcasts
0 items (0 B) May 30, 2025
Ringtones
0 items (0 B) May 30, 2025
Alarms
0 items (0 B) May 30, 2025
Notifications
0 items (0 B) May 30, 2025
Download
0 items (0 B) Oct 21, 2026
DCIM
1 item (0 B) Oct 25, 2026

To Do Reminder

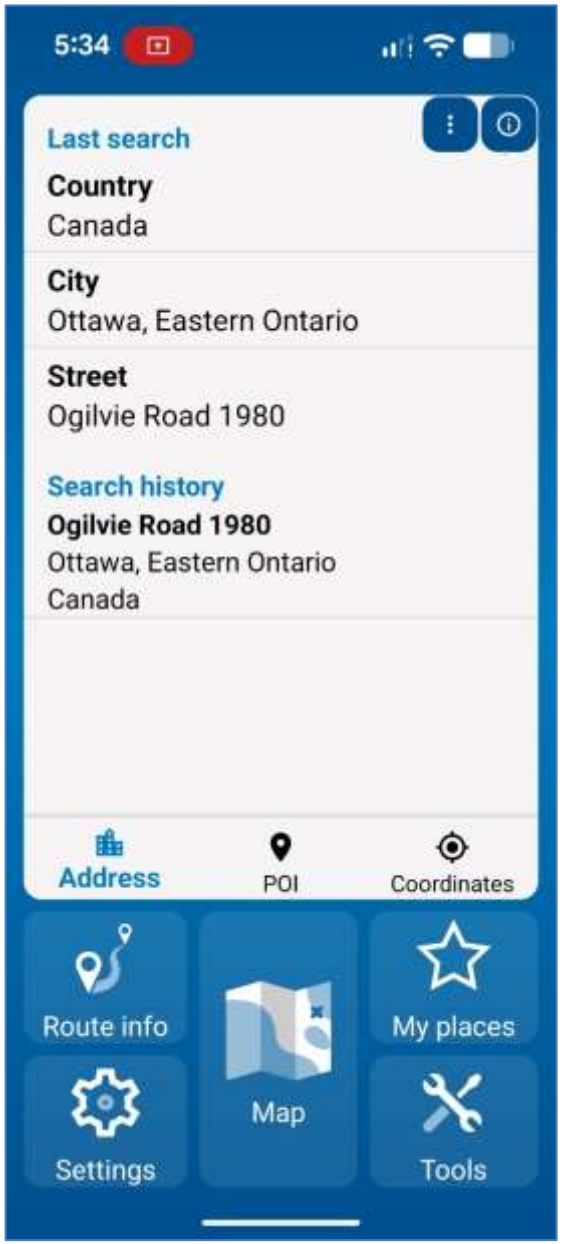


Vivaldi


11:38
Speed Dial
Search DuckDuckGo or ty
Home
Shopping
Travel
Google
Google
Linux
OMG! Ubuntu
Full Circle
Ask Ubuntu
T100
Linux
Perplexity
Customize
+ Add

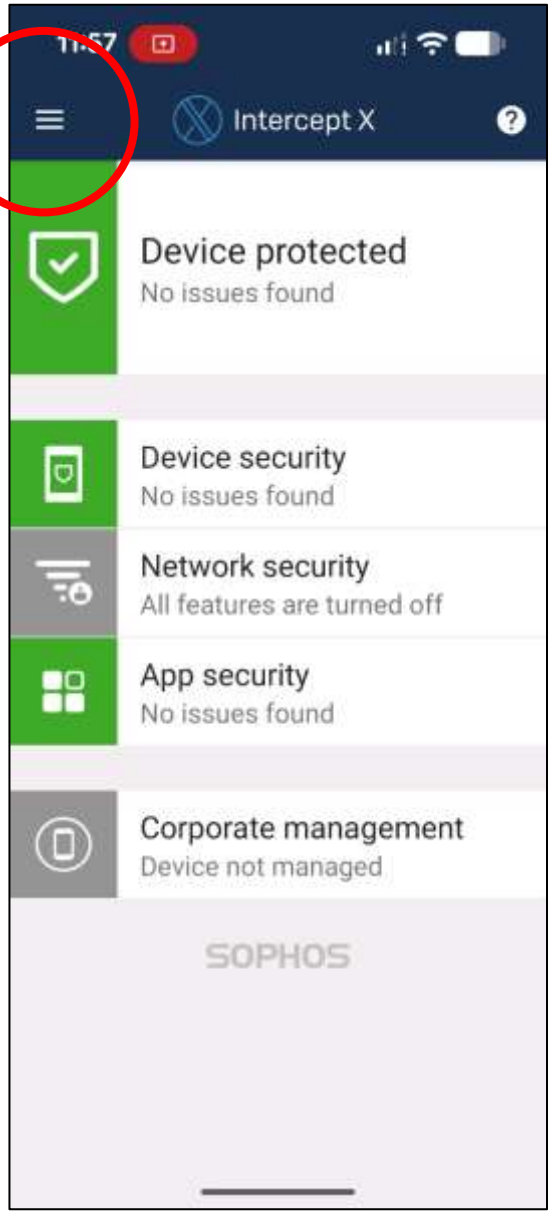

11:38
Linux web site list
file:///storage/emula
Linux web site list
Magazines
PC Magazine
PC World
Linux
OMG! Ubuntu
Full Circle
Ask Ubuntu
T100
Linux on Asus T100
Blogs
Wordpress.com

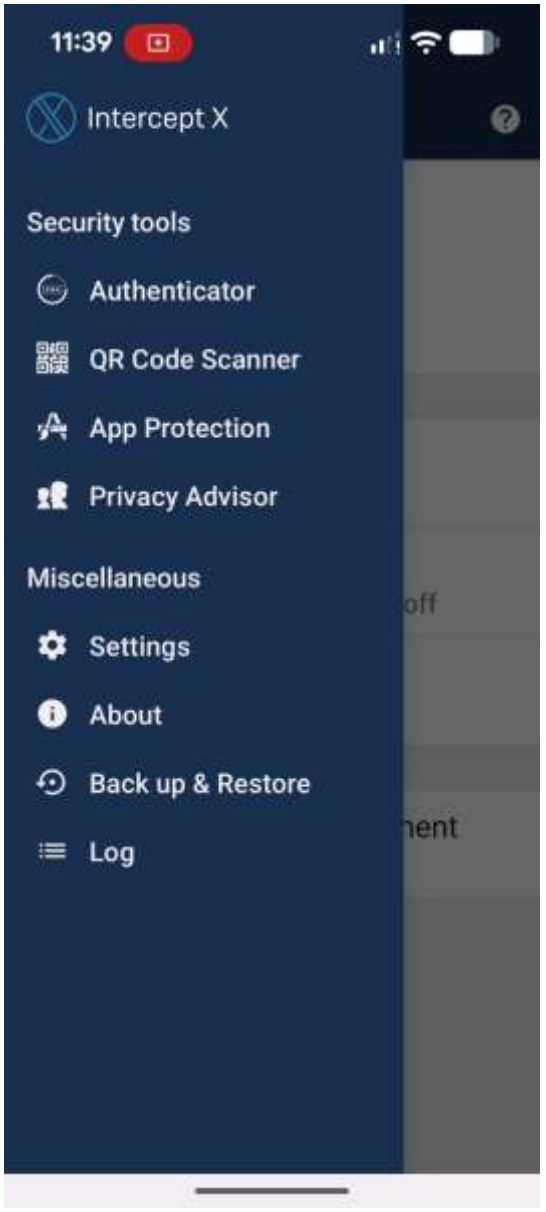
Map Factor Navigator





Sophos Intercept X for Mobile





Share

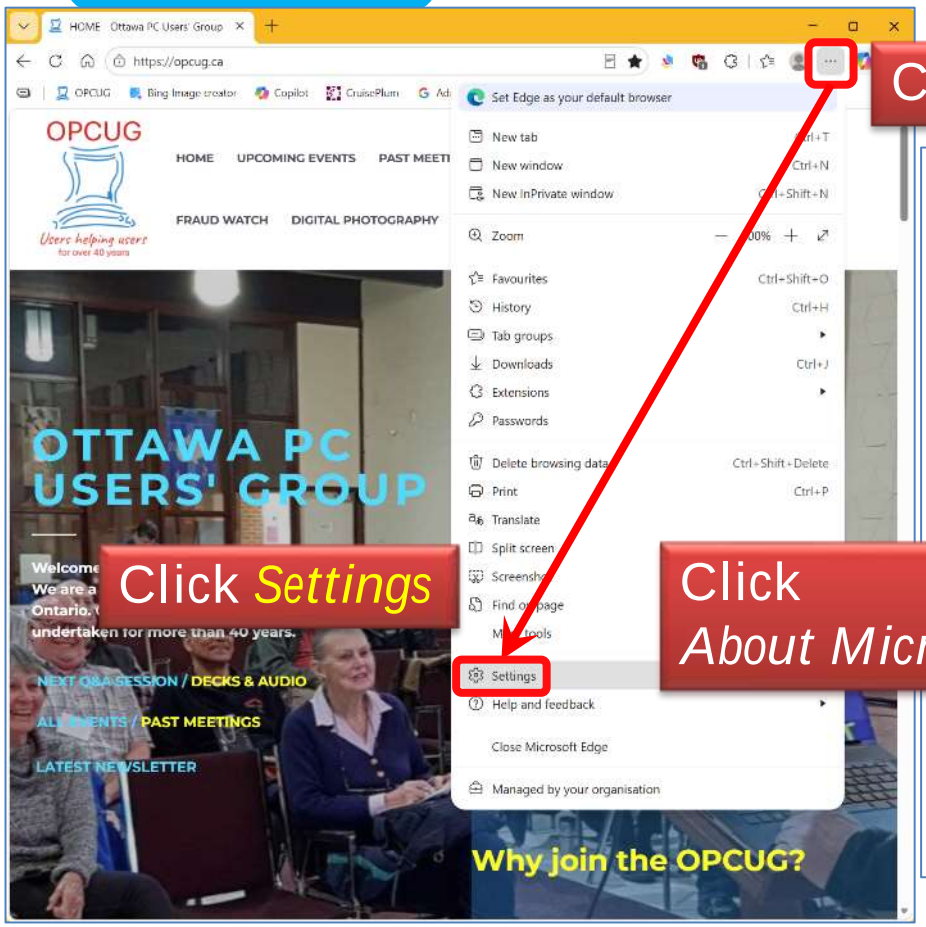
Updating Microsoft Edge

- When an update is available
  - update occurs in the background
  - restart of the browser is required to finalize the update
    - update security-related?
      - *you are still vulnerable until browser restarts*
  - usually get notice in top-right to restart Edge
    - when was the last time you noticed it??
- There is now a better way!



Share

Restart to update on idle



Edge restarts:

- automatically when Edge is idle for 15 minutes
  - *with no active wake locks*
- shows a notice, then relaunches after 5 minutes
- all your tabs are reopened automatically
- does not operate in *InPrivate* mode

Potential for data loss

- e.g. you are filling out a form online

YouTubeTech

What is JPEG XL? – Everything You Need to Know



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIgg1T2KXbk

Share

Fraud Watch Reminder

Warning signs of a cyber scam

Scams can arrive by email, text message, phone call, social media, online advertisement, or messaging app. Fraudsters often try to create fear, excitement, or urgency so that the recipient acts before confirming the request.

Be cautious if someone:

- Asks for money, gift cards, cryptocurrency, account access, or a verification code.
- Pressures you to act immediately or keep the request secret.
- Claims that an account has been compromised and directs you to an unfamiliar link.
- Requests personal or banking information unexpectedly.
- Asks you to move a conversation to another messaging platform.
- Offers a price, prize, investment, or refund that seems unusually generous.
- Sends a password-reset notice or login alert you did not request.
- Contacts you from a slightly altered email address, web address, or social media account.

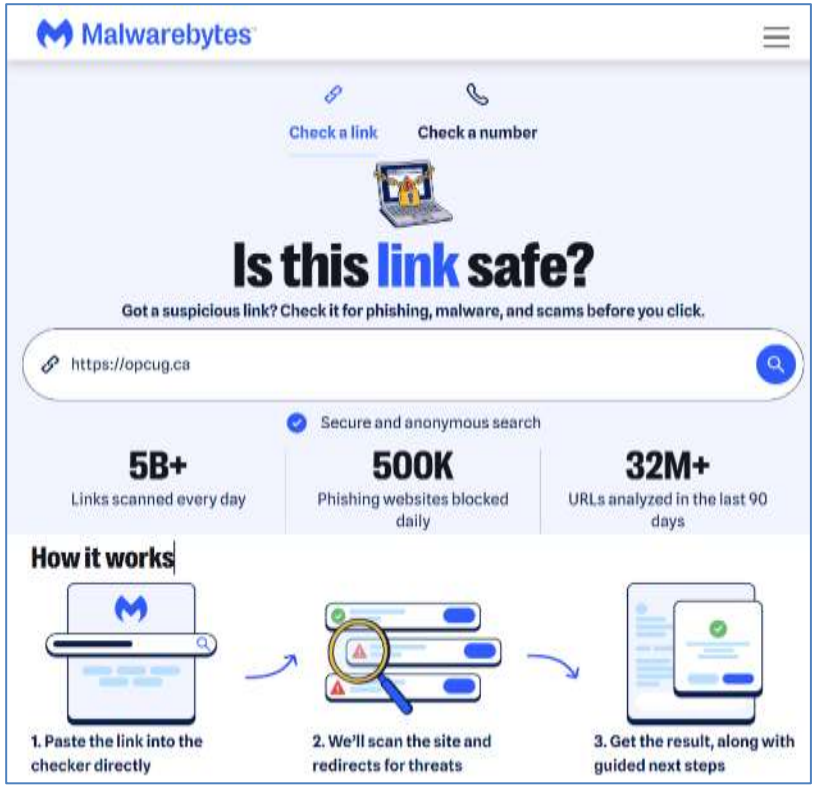


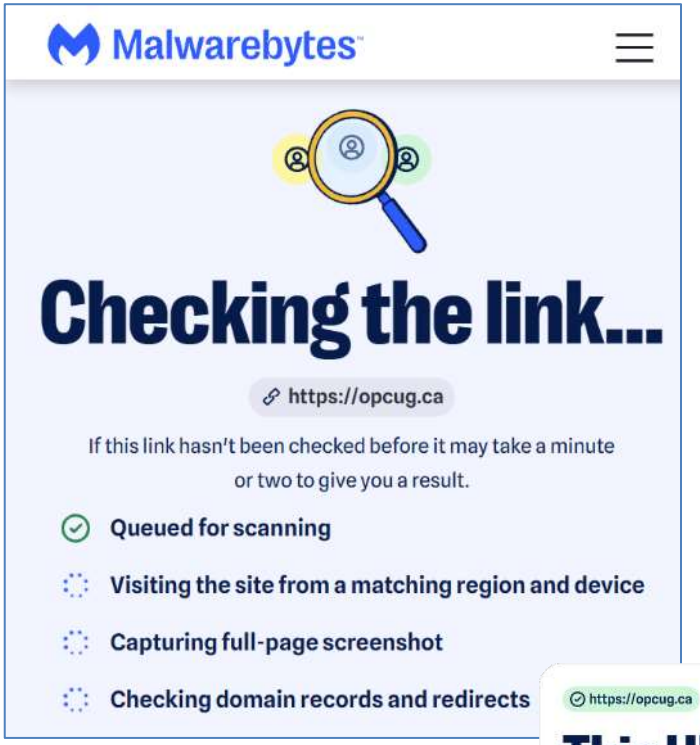
https://opcug.ca/fraud-watch/

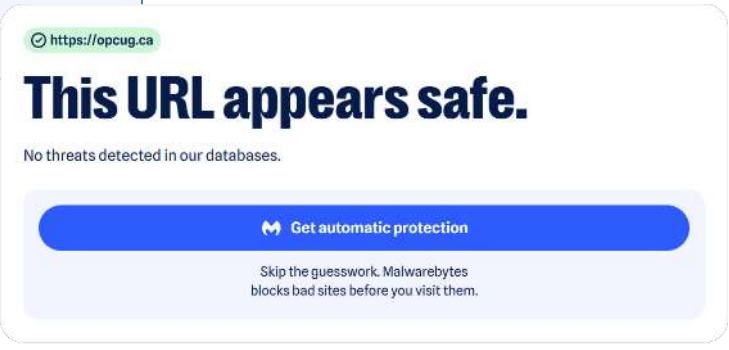
Share

Scam link check

- Free service from Malwarebytes
  - check sites before you visit them







https://www.malwarebytes.com/scam-check/link

Share

What we checked

- **Threat Intelligence**
  No known threats found
- **Domain Age**
  Well-established domain
- **Page Behavior**
  No suspicious behavior
- **Navigation**
  Direct link, no redirects
- **Connection Security**
  Valid certificate

Statistics

Page load
0.3s

Traffic
1 req · 100% HTTPS
↑ 789 B ↓ 12.1 KB total

Server location
Toronto, Canada ASN: 62563 (GLOBALTELEHOST Corp.)

Network footprint
1 domains 1 IPs 0 links 1 TLS certs 0 cookies 0 files

Frequently asked questions about Scam Link Check

- How can I check if a link is safe before clicking it? +
- What should I do if I've already clicked a suspicious link? +
- How can I tell if a website is a scam? +
- Is it safe to scan a QR code from someone I don't know? +
- How do I check where a shortened URL actually goes? Can I trust shortened URLs? +
- How do I know if a link in a text message is safe?
- Can links in emails give my device a virus?
- How do I check a suspicious link on my phone?
- Is HTTPS enough to know a website is safe?
- Can a legitimate website be spoofed? How can I tell if a website is fake? +
- Can clicking a malicious link infect my device? +
- Is it safe to paste suspicious links into a link checker? +
- How can I copy a link from an email button without clicking it? +

No guarantee, but

- not a bad idea to check any site you think may be suspicious

Share

Tweakers



- This site is based in the Netherlands so you'll have to run translation software
- General tech product reviews & pricing from a European perspective
- A good place to compare prices with what we're getting at home (wherever that may happen to be)
- A good source of news that may not be mentioned locally
- There are also notifications of various software application updates with links to official download sites
- All in all, an interesting site to browse
- And really, such a. cool name. . .

https://tweakers.net/

Stewart Bruce



Google Calendar

- Android update to Version 17 on my Samsung Galaxy A36 phone
- Now, I can't access anything dated before May 30, 2025 on the Google calendar app from my phone
- When I search for anything, I get a message stating: *Some items before May 30, 2025 might be missing*
- However, when I search using Google calendar on my PC, everything is visible
- Online suggestions (clearing the cache, checking date/time, etc.) didn't help

- The last-resort recommendation was uninstalling and reinstalling the app
- I don't know if this is a good option
- Any thoughts on going ahead with a reinstall, or using another way to access all my Google Calendar entries using the app on my phone?





Google Calendar Backup

- Is there a way to back up Google calendar entries?
- If so, is there a way to do it that's not linked to Google Drive?
- I don't want to use the limited Google account space if that would count as double (Google Calendar and Google Drive).



Share

New Secure Boot Certs and emergency recovery disks

- Side effects of the new Windows Secure Boot Certificate
  - need to create new emergency/recovery bootable disks
- From Google AI
  - why you need a new recovery disk
    - outdated Boot Files: Older recovery drives contain boot files signed with the expiring 2011 certificates
  - secure boot blocking
    - if your PC's firmware blocks old signatures or revokes them via DBX updates
    - old recovery USB may fail to boot & trigger a Secure Boot violation
  - updated WinRE
    - recreating the media ensures the Windows Recovery Environment (WinRE) image matches the new 2023 certificates

Stephane Richard via OPCUG Member Forum

Share

OPCUG Member Forum

Much more than Stephane's advice is posted on the Member Forum



Share

OPCUG Member Forum

- Some recent postings and discussions
  - Alan: APCUG Wednesday Workshops for members
  - Tom: how everything is being reverse-engineered
  - Simon: some memory he had for sale
    - *it must have been a good price: it sold in less than a day!*
  - Jeff: split-second auctions for online ads
  - Brigitte: advances in mathematics due to AI
  - Natalie: free Media Literacy Week presentations
  - Alison: how to contact someone without a cell phone

- Want to join in this member-only benefit?
  - send an email to Chris.Taylor@opcug.ca





Any other:

Questions

Comments

Shares?

One-on-One Remote Assistance



One-on-One
Remote Assistance
(members only) *

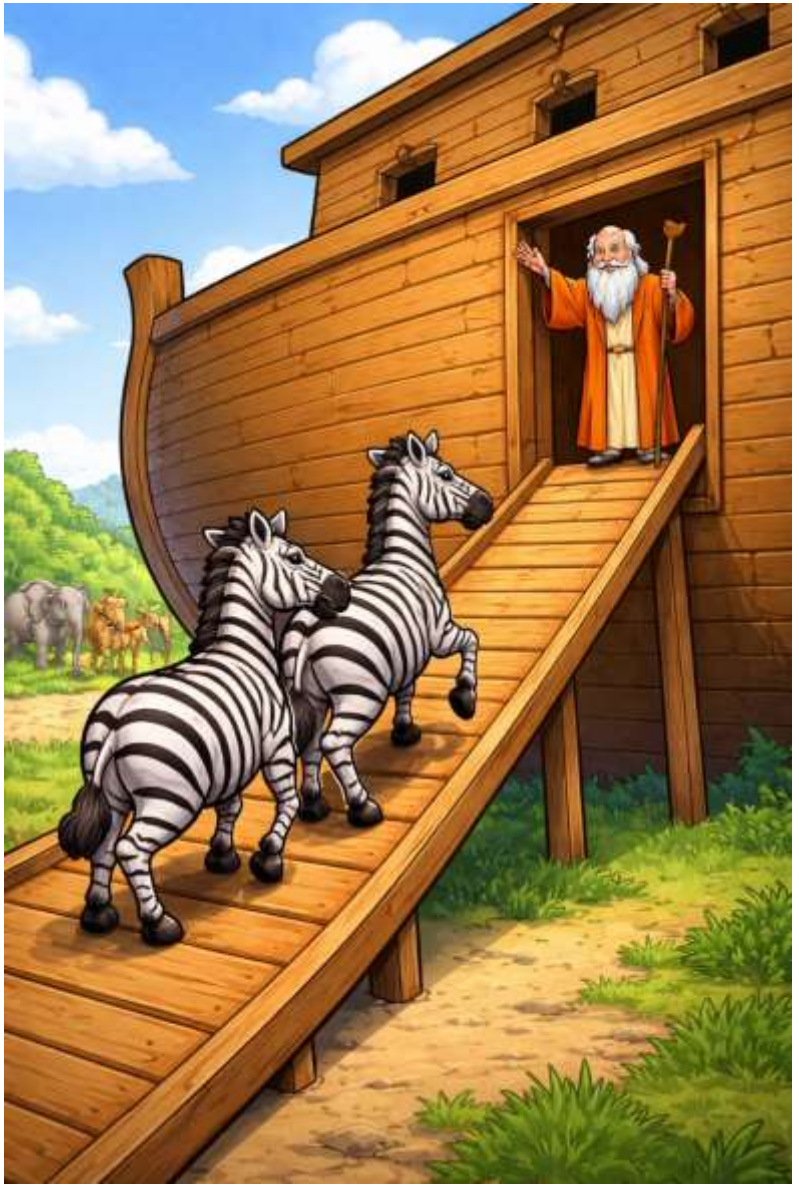
- The details of our **One-on-one remote assistance programme** are posted at:

  https://opcug.ca/one-on-one-remote-assistance/

- If you need help on any computer-related issue, send a request for assistance to:

  1on1request@opcug.ca

* https://opcug.ca/join-or-renew/



Two-By-Two

- Brief reviews of two apps that perform the same task
- Compare and contrast their main features
- Open discussion of other apps in the same category
- Your suggestions and shares wanted!

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

OPCUG

Users helping users for over 40 years

OPCUG PRESENTATIONS AT THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Protecting your PC
Chris Taylor
Emerald Plaza, Monday Nov 9, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Restoring old photos
Lynda Buske
Centrepointe, Saturday Nov 21, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Keeping Passwords Safe
Chris Taylor
Centennial, Friday Nov 27, 2026 at 2:00 pm

All presentations are drop-in

No registration required

https://opcug.ca/mec-category/opl-presentations/

November Meeting

Getting better results with your Genealogical Searches

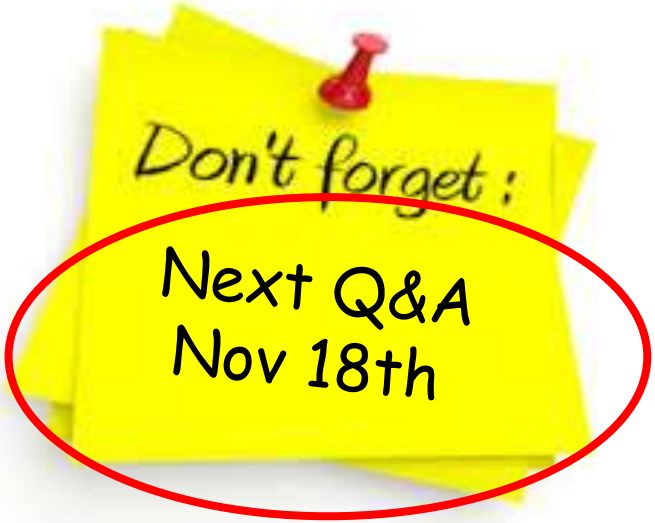
Sue Mueller
Computer Users of Erie

November 11, 2026
7:30 pm





No Q&A on
November 11
(Monthly Meeting)



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca