



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

Volume 34, Number 2

February 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2016 in Review

by Chris Taylor

The 34th year of the Ottawa PC Users' Group has wrapped up. Thanks to all who helped make it a success, including board members, Mark Cayer (who took care of membership), Bert Schopf (who allowed the board to use his office for meetings), Richard Aylesworth (who reviewed the financial books), our presenters who kept us informed & entertained, and our members (who took part in discussions on the PUB & at the Q&A, attended workshops, helped out at meetings, wrote articles for and read the newsletter, and came out to meetings).

In May, Mike Pereira resigned from the board due to time pressures of having a newborn baby. Nick Patterson was appointed to the board and took over as Program Chair. Jeff Dubois had been doing double-duty as Program and Publicity Chair. He retained the position of Publicity Chair.

Jeff is also always looking for and finding new, innovative ways to make the OPCUG even better. Among other things this year, he arranged a fun *Night at the Races*—an evening at Rideau Carleton Raceway—where a great time was had by all who came out. Jeff also conceived, developed, and delivered the special 35th anniversary polo shirts.

Jeff and Alan put together a very successful *Understanding Email* workshop in the spring that attracted 36 participants. Six of the participants became new members when they won memberships in the door prize draw.

Our fall *Computer Security* workshop was also a success with 15 in attendance.

Since 2008, the OPCUG has been giving presentations at branches of the Ottawa Public Library. On April 27th, we gave the 300th OPL presentation.

Lynda Buske joined the team giving OPL presentations with the very successful *How to Take Better Travel Photos*.

EaseUS generously agreed to a give-away of their US\$29 *Todo Backup Home* program for all members of the OPCUG. Fifty-four members took advantage of the offer, with a total value of US\$1,566. Thanks EaseUS!

Here's to a successful 35th year for the Ottawa PC Users' Group.

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Next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY, February 8th, 2017**

February Raffle

For the February raffle, we have the **Delux Q12 Wireless Bluetooth Speaker** which provides superior sound quality to your Bluetooth connected phone, tablet or PC. Featuring a built-in lithium battery, the Q12 also doubles as a hands-free telephone when connected to your phone. Available in black or white.

Tickets are \$1 for one, \$2 for three or \$5 for ten.



January Prize Winners

Nick Patterson was our raffle prize winner and took home the Coby DP843 Digital Photo Frame.

Our two door prize winners each won one of our PC Users "GOUP" Mugs. Enjoy them **Mike Pereira** and **Chris Taylor**.

Coming Up...

→ Wednesday, February 8th, 2017

Speaker: Scott Murphy, IT Consultant

Topic: Static Site Generation

Scott relocated to the NCR in the early '90's, taking a position at BNR managing the implementation of their new firewalls, continuing with Nortel following their merger. After leaving Nortel, he worked for several IT companies over the next decade. Seeking new challenges, Scott pursued a career in IT as an independent consultant, where he continues to be employed to the present. Scott's computer background is primarily Unix/Linux based and he's primarily involved with virtualization (VMWare) and automation.

Why would we want to use static web sites when we have so many features offered by several web platforms? The short answer is security. It is difficult to compromise the back end of an HTML file or many of them. Other reasons? You can write your content in something like markdown and have the generator produce all the HTML coding for you. Need more reasons? Come to the January presentation to find out more.

Wednesday, March 8th, 2017

Topic: Members' Favourites (*see article next page*)

Speakers: TBA

Wednesday, April 12th, 2017

Speaker: Terry Billingsley, CEO AppYourWay

Topic: With the evolution of Apps, is the web dead?

Terry Billingsley, AppYourWay CEO, will examine this intriguing question which is amongst one of the most relevant to businesses and developers alike. And while US and European businesses were quick to embrace the value of apps, Terry offers some interesting insights into accessing the Canadian marketplace. What then, is the potential impact to Canadians?

Wednesday, May 10th, 2017

Speaker: Malcolm Townsend, Information Technology Research Analyst, Technology Analysis Branch, Office of the Privacy Commissioner

Topic: Privacy in a Digital World, in a world of big data, meta-data and social media

Wednesday, June 14th, 2017

Speaker: Nick Quain of CellWand

Topic: TBA

For meeting updates and additional details, visit <http://opcug.ca> and click on the **MEETINGS** button.

2017 CALENDAR

Meetings	Date	Time and Venue
OPCUG General Meeting	Wednesday, February 8 th	7:30 p.m. Bush Theatre of the Canada Aviation and Space Museum , 11 Aviation Parkway. http://casmuseum.techno-science.ca/en/index.php
Q&A Session (<i>see next page</i>)	Wednesday, February 8 th	Immediately following the OPCUG General Meeting.
Beer BOF (Wing SIG East)	Wednesday, February 8 th	10:00 p.m. (after the Q&A) at Liam Maguire's, St. Laurent Blvd. at Innes Rd.

CLUB LIFE

Understanding E-mail 2017

This spring, we will repeat last year's very successful *Understanding E-mail* workshop. If you, your friends, or relatives, need to know some of the basics about how E-mail systems work, or wish to make your system more efficient, this half-day workshop will provide all the answers.

Topics for discussion will include webmail and mail clients, POP and IMAP, E-mail security, folders and filters, transferring address books and messages, and portable E-mail addresses. All this in a concentrated half-day session with a registration fee of only \$10 !

The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017 (12:30 pm to 4:30 pm) at the Carlingwood Branch of the Ottawa Public Library. Full details are posted on the club's web site at http://www.opcug.ca/public/workshops/email_2017.



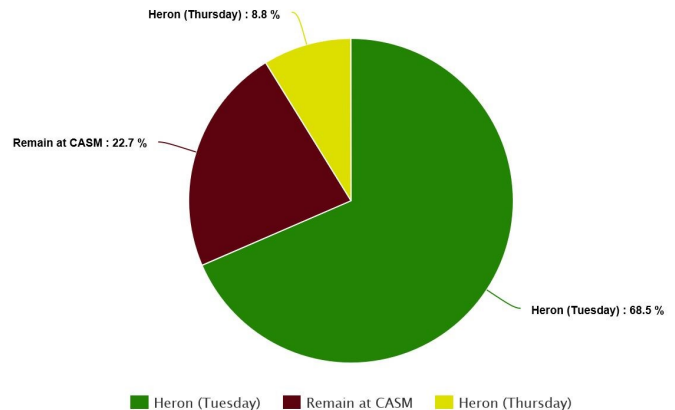
Image courtesy of
<https://clipartfest.com/>

Change of Venue Survey Results

Over the past two months, OPCUG members were asked to provide their opinion on a hypothetical venue change. To reiterate the Board's position, we remain hopeful that a return to the Science & Technology Museum in our conventional Wednesday night time slot is both possible and financially viable however, we simply do not know. In the event a return to Science & Tech is not possible, the Board felt it prudent to solicit the members' views on whether they favoured remaining at the Canada Aviation Museum, or changing venues to another viable location: the Heron Road Community Centre. The data from the survey was informative.

Responses were received from 79 of the 141 canvassed, representing an overall response rate of about 56% rendering the data valid. In the event a return to Science & Technology is not possible, 22.7% of our membership favour remaining at the Canada Aviation & Space Museum. 21.75% of our membership favour moving to the Heron Road Community Centre on Tuesday evenings and 8.8% of our membership favour a move to the Heron Road facility on Thursday evenings. The largest group, 46.75% of our members, still favour a move to the Heron Road facility are fine with either Tuesday or Thursday evenings.

As we consider the data in its entirety, about 68.5% of our members would favour a move to the Heron Road Community Centre on Tuesday evenings in the event a return to Science & Technology is not possible. This does NOT mean we are pulling up stakes and moving. It simply provides the Board with direction on this issue. We thank all those who participated for your input and guidance.



	Burning an ISO File You know how to download an ISO file (don't you?) But, do you know what to do with such a file once you have downloaded it? At our next Q&A session, we will have a live demo of how to burn an ISO file to a CD to create a bootable disk	
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Each year, the OPCUG sets aside one meeting to give members an opportunity to share interesting programs, tips, tricks, tools or web-based resources they have found with other members. This year, we have set aside our March 8th meeting for a *Members' Favourites* night. If you have something to share, please contact Nick Patterson or Jeff Dubois so your name and topic may be added to the list of presenters. The OPCUG's primary philosophy is "Users helping users!" Please consider helping by putting your name forward and participating. The success of this event can only be measured by the members willing to share.

MEMBERS'
Favourites

TREASURER'S REPORT—2016

by Alan German

As was the situation in 2015, the club continues to show a modest excess of income over our expenses for the 2016 fiscal year. In addition, we will continue to carry forward a healthy capital balance into the next fiscal period.

The asset picture for the past financial year is shown on the following balance sheet:

Current Assets			
1000	Cash Account (TDCT)		1,774.78
1100	Investment Account (ING)		19,257.93
1200	Membership Float		40.00
1210	Petty Cash Float		8.50
1300	Membership Account (PayPal)		23.97
	Total Assets		21,105.18
Equity			
	OPCUG, Capital December 31, 2015		20880.32
	Total revenue		4792.48
	Total expenses		4567.62
	Net income		224.86
	OPCUG, Capital December 31, 2016		21105.18

Figure 1. Balance Sheet for the 2016 Fiscal Year

The income statement for 2016 is shown in [Figure 2](#). The individual income and expense accounts for 2016 are shown, together with their equivalents for fiscal year 2015 in order to provide a comparison. A number of items are worthy of special mention.

The total income derived from membership fees in 2016 was \$730.00 (almost 25%) less than was received in 2015, indicating a considerable reduction in the number of members of the club over the past year.

Newsletter expenses were reduced by more than \$370; however, the total of such expenses was \$2545.00 which represents almost 30% of the club's total expenses for the year.

The totals for merchandise and miscellaneous income were both elevated, largely due to the sale of specially-designed polo shirts to mark the club's 35th anniversary and registration fees for the Night at the Races event. However, as with many of our special projects, these items were intended to be revenue-neutral and so are also associated with increased expense amounts.

(Continued on page 5)

TREASURER'S REPORT—2016

(Continued from page 4)

				2016	2015	Variance
Revenue						
2100	Bank Interest (ING)			93.61	127.31	-33.70
2200	Membership Income			2,295.00	3,025.00	-730.00
2300	Raffle Income			684.00	526.00	158.00
2400	Merchandise Income			291.00	56.00	235.00
2500	Workshop Income			660.00	620.00	40.00
2900	Miscellaneous Income			646.87	175.55	471.32
2910	Donation Income			122.00	330.00	-208.00
	Total Revenue			4,792.48	4,859.86	
Expenses						
3100	PUB II Expense			661.65	695.01	-33.36
3200	Newsletter Expense			1,296.78	1,668.97	-372.19
3300	Office Supplies Expense			80.53	107.69	-27.16
3400	Bank Charges (TDCT)			59.40	59.40	
3500	Barbecue Expense			779.16	819.89	-40.73
3600	Facility Rental			0.00	180.00	-180.00
3700	Workshop Expense			273.95	248.27	25.68
3800	Merchandise Expense			312.42	138.97	173.45
3900	Miscellaneous Expense			946.71	291.62	655.09
3910	Donation Expense			122.00	330.00	-208.00
3920	Membership Expense			35.02	25.75	9.27
	Total Operating Expenses			4,567.62	4,565.57	
	Net Income			224.86	294.29	

Figure 2. Income Statement for the 2016 Fiscal Year



ARTICLE

Blocking updates in Windows 10 by Chris Taylor

Microsoft wants so badly for all Windows 10 users to be up-to-date, that they have eliminated the ability for you to choose if and when updates get downloaded to your computer.

If there were *never, ever, ever* any problems with updates, I would not object.

Sorry, Microsoft, but I have to object. Problems with updates happen on a somewhat frightening frequency.

My experience with update problems have always left me with a working computer, thankfully. Sometimes an update fails to install properly and Windows 10 promptly and correctly rolls things back to the state they were in before the update started. Other times the update installs, but then there are weird things happening and I am left wishing the update had not installed and things had rolled back.

It is pretty straightforward to uninstall an update. Press Win+I to load *Settings*. Click on *Update & Security* | *Windows Update* | *Update History* | *Uninstall updates*. For some strange reason, Windows 10 loads *Control Panel* | *Programs and Features* | *Installed Updates* (hey Microsoft, when are you going to have one unified place—presumably *Settings*—to do all configuration?). You can then uninstall the update.

Have you heard the one about the software engineer who is in a car going down a hill and it crashes? The joke ends with the suggestion that the problem might be fixed by pushing the car back up the hill to see if the crash happens again.

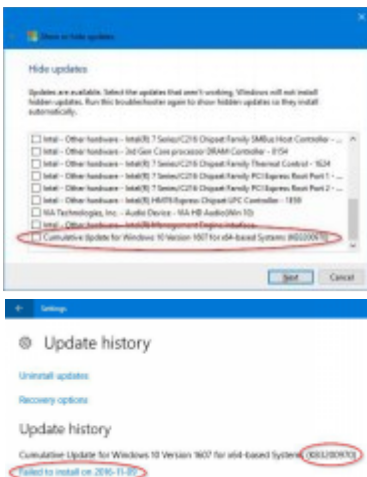
I guess Microsoft never heard the joke. Because the next time Windows Update runs, it will re-install the update.

And surprise, surprise, the results are likely to be exactly the same.

Microsoft does not make it easy, but you can block updates. But you can't just block all future updates. You have to wait until Microsoft has decided an update is right for your computer. Generally, you don't know about this until after an update occurs...and by then it is too late.

Well, sort of. As long as your computer is still working, there is hope.

Before you need it, download the “*Show or hide updates*” troubleshooter package from <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/3073930> and save it somewhere for the day when you need it.



After an update has been removed, either using the manual method above or automatically by Windows when it failed to install an update, it will be listed under *Settings* | *Update & Security* | *Windows Update* | *Update History*. Look for the update that failed or is causing a problem and note the *KB* number of the update. If there is no *KB* number, note the complete name. Run the “*Show or hide updates*” troubleshooter package. It will list all the updates Microsoft wants to install on your computer, including the one that is causing you grief. You can then block it from being reinstalled using the troubleshooter.

The troubleshooter can also be used to unblock any update you have blocked, should you want to push the car back up the hill to see if it crashes again.



OPCUG Free Software Guide—Part 69

Compiled by Alan German
and Chris Taylor

This guide features an annotated list of free computer programs. The software mentioned has not been reviewed (except where noted) nor have any tests necessarily been conducted. Consequently, no guarantees are provided that the individual programs will perform as described. Rather the list of available software is provided for the information of our members who may find one or more of the programs useful.

Long Path Fixer

Got a "Path Too Long" error in Windows? Try this free utility for moving, copying, renaming and deleting files and folders with Very Long Paths. Can run as a portable program.

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/lcav9l6>



TurboTop

This small program sits in your system tray and brings up a menu that displays all windows that are currently visible on the screen. Click on any item and set the corresponding window to be "always on top". The window will "float" above other windows even when it doesn't have the focus.

Current Release: Version 2.0

Web Site: <http://www.savardsoftware.com/turbotop/>

EaseUS USB Recovery Software

This free software offers an easy USB file recovery solution. You can use it to easily recover lost data from USB flash drives resulting from accidental deletion or formatting, virus attacks, power surges or electro-static discharge, and not properly removing the USB flash drive from a computer.

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/6kuns9l>

Lammer Context Menu

Right-click one or more files or folders, the desktop or the window background for instant access to very handy context-sensitive features. Options include move, copy, and delete based on advanced wildcards; batch renaming; touch files, and much more.

Current Release: Version 1.0.3.19

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/jlecnfv>

GlassWire

GlassWire is a free network monitoring and security tool with a built in firewall.

Current Release: Version 1.2.79

Web Site: <https://www.glasswire.com/>

7+ Taskbar Tweaker

This utility allows you to configure various aspects of the Windows taskbar. Most of the configuration options it provides can't be tweaked using the taskbar properties or the registry. The tweaker is designed for Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, and Windows 10.

Current Release: Version 5.2.1

Web Site: <http://rammichael.com/7-taskbar-tweaker>



Vistumbler

Look around for nearby wireless access points with this utility. List a wide range of parameters including the SSID, signal strength and encryption mode. A GPS mode shows the location of local access points on a map.

Current Release: Version 10.6

Web Site: <https://www.vistumbler.net/>

Pitivi

A free video editor for Linux featuring an intuitive user interface, a clean codebase and a fantastic community.

Current Release: Version 0.96

Web Site: <http://www.pitivi.org/>



USBTreeView

Ever wonder about the USB devices and ports on your computer? Is that USB 3.0 device actually operating at a USB 2 level? Ever have a problem with "Safely Remove" on a USB device? USBTreeView can handle all this and more.

Current Release: Version 3.0.4.0

Web Site: http://www.uwe-sieber.de/usbtreview_e.html



MobaPhoto

Freeware for managing your digital photos. Resize, crop, correct red-eye in all your pictures, very easily, in batch-mode. Create photo galleries and upload them to your web site without any knowledge of web site creation.

Current Release: Version 1.42

Web Site: http://www.mobatek.net/labs_mobaphoto.html

OTTAWA PC NEWS

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July and August. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members.

Member participation is encouraged. If you would like to contribute an article to Ottawa PC News, please submit it to the newsletter editor (contact info below). Deadline for submissions is three Sundays before the next General Meeting.

Group Meetings

OPCUG meets on the second Wednesday in the month, except July and August, in the **Bush Theatre** of the **Canada Aviation and Space Museum**, 11 Aviation Parkway, Ottawa.
<http://casmuseum.techno-science.ca/en/index.php>

Meetings are 7:30–9:00 p.m. followed by a Q&A Session until 10 p.m.

Parking is available at the museum for a flat fee of \$3 after 5pm.

Details at <http://opcug.ca/public/regmtg.htm>

OPCUG Membership Fees: \$25 per year
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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Bring your old computer books, software, hardware, and paraphernalia you want to GIVE AWAY to the General Meetings, and leave them at the table near the auditorium's entrance. Please limit magazines to publication dates under two years.

You may TAKE AWAY any items of use to you.

Any items left over at the end of the meeting have to be taken back home by those who brought them in.

