



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

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APP REVIEW

OurGroceries *by Jeff Dubois*

“Can you pick up milk, green olives and sour cream for the baked potatoes on your way home?” I printed the email Nancy sent me before I headed out the door, and then promptly forgot the document on the printer’s paper tray. Three hours later, in the grocery store adjacent to the transit station that I passed through on the way home, I placed milk, cream and stuffed olives into the cart, then proceeded to the cash. As a result, we did not have baked spuds and sour cream as a side with our dinner that evening. We did, however, have extra cream in the fridge for our coffee.

I don’t know how many times I have forgotten to pick something up that Nanz had asked for. Nor, conversely, how many times she has arrived home, only to assert: “I knew I forgot something.” With all the technology in our household, I knew there had to be a simply and pragmatic tool for keeping something as simple as a grocery list synchronized between our two phones.

Not surprisingly, there are a wealth of alternatives to choose from. After much consideration, I finally settled on one which met our needs: “OurGroceries” is the simplest way to keep your grocery lists instantly synchronized on all the smartphones in your household - and it’s a free app!

When you use OurGroceries, you will never leave home without your shopping list again. (Unless you leave your phone at home!) Moreover, shared shopping lists are synchronized in real time so it’s ideal for household use.

One other feature I really liked was the ability to access your shared shopping list using a web browser by logging into your account on the OurGroceries website. This has proven to be real handy in the summer when I’m at the cabin. Nanz generally does the shopping in the city (where prices are better) and comes up on the weekend so the list of needed items are at her fingertips.

OurGroceries is a creation of HeadCode, a software company headquartered in San Francisco, California, with an R&D office in Waterloo, Ontario. Though the app is free on Google Play (and iStore) it is ad-supported.

If, you’re like me, and you not only find ads annoying but you also like to support software development outside the advertising stream, you can purchase OurGroceries Key from the Play Store for \$4.99.

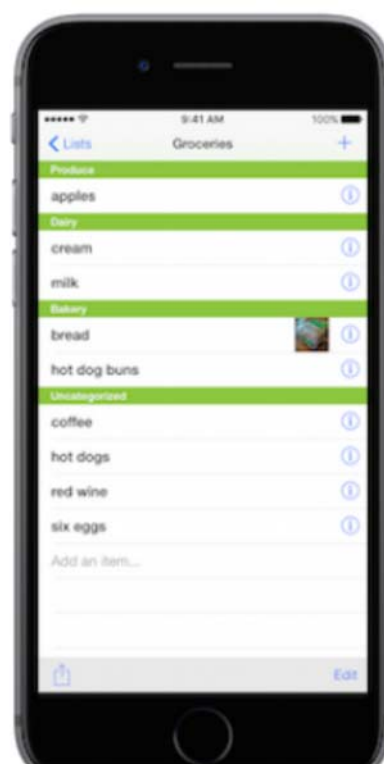
Bottom Line

OurGroceries Shopping List
(Freeware)

Version 2.7.4

HeadCode

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.headcode.ourgroceries&hl=en>



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Next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY, May 10th, 2017**

May Raffle

The May raffle prize is an **Xtreme Red Mini Bluetooth Speaker**.

For smartphones, tablets, PCs, MP3 players or any Bluetooth equipped device. Use as an external speaker or to answer calls. Built-in mic, includes an auxiliary input, mini USB cable, and an SD Card port.

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



April Prize Winners

Richard Aylesworth is now the proud owner of a copy of ON1 Photo 2017 as well as four ON1 Training courses, having won our April raffle.

Mike Stallabrass and **Gerald Larocque** capped off their attendance at our April meeting by each taking home one of our coveted "Goup" Mugs.

Congrats to you all.

Coming Up...

→ 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

With the advent of IoT (Internet of Things) and Big Data, more and more personal information is being collected and shared online. But how can we be sure our personal information is kept safe? In this presentation, Malcolm will discuss the current digital landscape and provide tips and advice on ways to better protect personal information.

Wednesday, June 14th, 2017

5:30 - 7 pm: eWaste Event ([see article next page](#))

6 - 7:30 pm: Annual Pizza Night (free for members and their guest(s))

7:30 pm: **Presentation**

Speaker: Dr. Beth Robertson, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies, Carleton University

Topic: Omeka: An Open-source web publishing platform

Envisioning Technologies: Historical Insights into Educational Technologies was created by Carleton University's Disability Research Group, for people who are blind or partially sighted in Canada, 1820 – Present.

Omeka is a free, flexible and open-source web-publishing platform for the display of library, museum, archives and scholarly collections and exhibitions.

Dr. Beth Robertson will discuss the Envisioning Technologies project and the use of Omeka to facilitate the project's objectives.

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, May 10 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	Wednesday, May 10 th	Immediately following the OPCUG General Meeting.
Beer BOF (Wing SIG East)	Wednesday, May 10 th	10:00 p.m. (after the Q&A) at Liam Maguire's, St. Laurent Blvd. at Innes Rd.

CLUB LIFE

APRIL WORKSHOP

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/>



eWaste Event 2017

Once again, the OPCUG will have its annual eWaste collection in June. If you have electronic items that you no longer need, please bring them to the tent in front of the museum; they be taken to a processing plant and properly disposed of safely and responsibly with respect to OES guidelines. The eWaste event will be from 5:30pm to 7pm near the tent beside the Canada Aviation and Space Museum, 11 Aviation Parkway. For more information about our meeting please visit <http://opcug.ca> and check our **MEETINGS** and **CALENDAR** web pages.



OPCUG website to be optimized for mobile devices

Last month, we told you about the OPCUG website undergoing a “Spring Cleaning” in the form of updating content, adding new navigation buttons, and offering a mobile viewing app (see the download button on our [HOME page](http://opcug.ca) at <http://opcug.ca>). On that last item, we will be removing the left frame (purple column on the left with buttons) to facilitate viewing our site on mobile devices. The buttons currently occupying the left frame will be moved to each, individual webpage. Each page will undergo a slight redesign to optimize space. We anticipate the job to be done by September.

Keep your mobile devices at the ready!

APP REVIEWS



Just Remind Me!

by Alan German

Do you need a simple calendar-alarm app for your smartphone? Would you like to just set a given event, on a specific date and time, and have your phone automatically fire off an alarm at the appointed moment? If so, then Just Reminder, from AppHouze Co., may be the app for you.

Setting an alarm is really easy. Just tap on the big green plus sign on the app's main screen. If you wish, you can categorize your reminder under entries such as ToDo or Call (a contact), add a telephone number, or optional notes. The main parameters to set are the date and time of the event, with an option to specify a number of minutes, hours or days prior to the event that the reminder should be issued. It's also possible to set the type of alarm (with or without vibration) and a variety of repeat intervals.

Scheduled events are listed on the app's main page in chronological order. As you might expect, when an event comes due, the phone's ringer sounds and a notification pops up on the screen. One tap on the notification's mute button silences the alarm. If you don't dismiss the reminder, it will go into snooze mode for ten minutes and then trigger the alarm again.

The app has a number of other features, and the free version has some ads but, so far, its mode of operation suits my purposes admirably.

Blocking those Da*n Telemarketers

by Alan German

It's 6:05 pm; now who is that calling? You're right, it's the duct cleaning company from India, or it's the Captain wanting to give me that free cruise. I don't get that many telemarketing calls on my cellphone, but the ones that do arrive are really annoying. So, currently, I am trying Call Control, a call-blocking app from the Kedlin Company.

It's very easy to use. I hang up on a scam telephone call. I simply bring up the list of recent calls and tap on the listing for the call in question. I select the Block & Report option and the caller's telephone number is added to the Blocked List.

The same app can also be used to block text messages. You know the ones – become mystery shopper, your credit card has been deactivated – and so on. On my smartphone, using the text-blocking service means using Call Control as my default SMS app. It seems to work just fine in this capacity so, at least for the moment, that's what I'm doing.

The free version of the software advertises – amongst other things – Call Control Premium. The features of the paid version, and the limitations of the free version, are not clear. It appears that the paid version of the app uses crowd sourcing to identify spammers and add their contact information to a community blacklist. A user comment on Google's Play Store suggests that the number of free personal blacklist entries is limited. So, for now, the ultimate utility of the free version of Call Control remains in question. The evaluation process continues!



FAVOURITE APPS

My (Current) Favourite Apps *by Bill Bradwin*

As an avid tablet user I routinely access a wide range of Android apps to accommodate my needs with respect to playing audio-visual files, viewing and editing digital photographs, accessing the Internet, and even for such mundane tasks as word processing.

The good thing about a lot of Android apps is that they are free. So, I am constantly changing up the apps that I use. If they don't cut it, they're gone! Here is a selection of my current favourites:

AUDIO:

YouTube mp3 (<http://www.youtube-mp3.org/>)

I download many songs from YouTube. With this little app, you simply copy the URL of the video from the YouTube search bar and paste it into the search bar of the app. This will automatically download the song within about 4 seconds. This particular app is only useful for single songs.

VidToMP3 (<http://www.vidtomp3.com/>)

If you want to download a complete album, use VidToMP3. This app will capture both singles and full albums.



iTag - Music Tag Editor (<https://tinyurl.com/zrk8cm4>)

Once I have downloaded the song, I run this app which allows me to edit all the meta data. It will also search for album art. If it fails to find the art, I just Google the artist, download the JPG, save it to the gallery, and put it into the app.

MP3 Cutter Ringtone Maker Free
(<https://tinyurl.com/zrzlezzr>)

Should I not like the beginning or ending of any song, I copy the sound file into this app and, just like with Audacity, I can edit the track.

TuneIn Radio (<https://tinyurl.com/7bjvjyq>)

I like to use TuneIn Radio to listen to music or untelevised hockey and baseball games.

VIDEO:

ADV Screen Recorder
(<https://tinyurl.com/jap6hnn>)

If I want to capture a video running on my display, I use ADV Screen Recorder



AndroVid - Video Editor (<https://tinyurl.com/puuc8qr>)

As noted above, I can easily edit sound files. If I want to edit

a video clip, I use AndroVid. This handy app has many functions and makes it very simple to edit any video.

Google Home (<https://tinyurl.com/kprqhnu>)

I use this Chromecast controller app to stream video from my tablet to my television. I can stream movies and use the TV as a mega-monitor!

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo Editor (<https://tinyurl.com/nn9fyg>)

To edit the photographs from my camera while travelling, or the images on my tablet's on-board camera, I use Photo Editor. This app will do anything and everything, from adding text to changing gamma, resizing, etc.

Costco (<https://tinyurl.com/heaqqzw>)

This app comes in handy when you want to send in some photographs for processing. It saves going in to the store, standing in line, picking the images, their size, glossy or no gloss, selecting the numbers to print - and all that waiting around! Just use the app, upload the JPG's, then drive over and pick up the prints. Really slick!

INTERNET:

Opera Browser (<http://www.opera.com/mobile>)

I like to use Opera as my web browser, although I also have Chrome on my main page. With Opera, you can categorize all your favourites into folders. A nice touch!

WiFi Analyser (<https://tinyurl.com/8yqxge9>)

I use this app to check which channel my modem is using, and how many people in the area are using the same channel, so that I can change it if necessary. It's interesting, when you move from room to room, to watch the intensity of your signal drop off. This

feature comes in very handy when deciding on the placement of your modem/router.

Speedtest.net (<https://tinyurl.com/6upww67>)

I use Ookla's Speedtest app to check the speed of my Internet connection.



Skype (<https://tinyurl.com/bj5pocd>)

So, who doesn't use Skype for free voice telephone calls and video conferencing over the Internet?

(Continued on page 7)

Free Software Guide—Special Tablet and Smartphone Issue

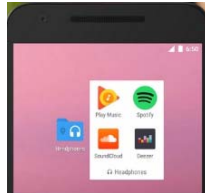
Compiled by Alan German
and Jeff Dubois

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.

Contextual App Folder

Creates a widget on your home screen that looks like a regular folder. However, the contents of this folder will change according to some trigger. For example, the folder will contain your music apps once you plug in your headset, or all of your work apps when you reach the office..

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



ReeBee

Browse all of the flyers from your favourite local stores right on your smartphone or tablet and use them to build shopping lists with personal notes and reminders. Search for products and ReeBee will show you where they are on sale.

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

Kore

A simple, easy to use - and beautiful - remote control app that lets you take charge of your Kodi media center from any Android device.

Current Release: Version 2.1.0

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/nu3t6xj>

PhotoScan

Want to convert your print photographs to digital images? Take a picture of your print with your phone's camera. This utility from Google will automatically crop, straighten and rotate such images. It will also create glare-free copies through post-processing of the scanned photos.

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/ht7dux7>

Wifi Analyzer

Use this app to turn your Android smartphone into a Wi-Fi analysis tool. The app will show details of nearby wireless access points. Or, check out the signal strength from your router at different points in your house.

Current Release: Version 3.10.1-L

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/8yqxge9>



Native Clipboard

Use a floating clipboard to seamlessly access anything you have copied. Choosing a clip will automatically paste it. Swipe a clip away to delete it.

Current Release: Version 4.7.2

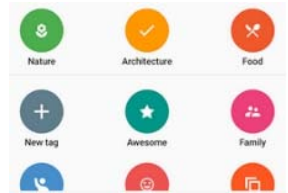
Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/jv3l2ts>

Focus - Picture Gallery

Focus is an incredible new kind of gallery for your Android phone that is perfectly tuned for speed, efficiency, and ease of use. It features a powerful tagging mechanism so that all your pictures, videos, and albums will be easily accessible.

Current Release: Version 1.2.1

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/gm29eh3>



QR Scanner

An all-in-one QR code scanner and bar code reader. Scans all standard 1-D and 2-D code types. No Internet connection is required for scanning.

Current Release: Version 0.28

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/zz7c9at>



Pocket

The next time you find a web page or video that you want to view later, just save it to Pocket. The app will sync across your phone, tablet, and computer so you can come back to the item whenever you'd like, even when you are off-line.

Current Release: Version 6.4.7.0

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/bj6qlxw>

Pushbullet

Create a bridge between your smartphone and your computer. Push files and links between devices with as little as two clicks. Never miss an important phone call again - you'll get notification on your computer before your phone even rings!

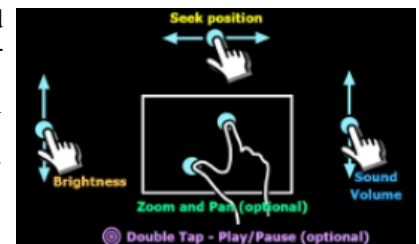
Current Release: Version 17.7.1

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

MX Player

This is the first Android video player which supports multi-core decoding. You will see much better performance on your phone with a dual- or quad-core processor. MX Player also has advanced hardware acceleration, sub-title support, pinch-to-zoom and pan.

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/6o34ajg>



Text Fairy

Use OCR on a photo of a printed page on your smartphone. Text Fairy will convert the contents of a digital image to text, correct the viewpoint, and will even copy the extracted text to the clipboard for use in other apps.

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/m7t37bv>

(Continued on page 7)

Free Software Guide-Special Issue (Continued from page 6)**GO SMS Pro**

Do you want a more powerful SMS client than the one bundled with your phone? GO SMS Pro includes a private message box with encryption; message blocking using whitelist, blacklist, and contacts-only options; message backup to the cloud, and much more.

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/c8bk9xu>

Greenify

Is your phone running slower than it did when you first purchased it? Perhaps you have installed a bunch of apps which are still running in the background even though you are no longer using them. Greenify will speed up your phone's performance, and extend battery life, by identifying such misbehaving apps and putting them into hibernation.

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/lfj3cqg>

CM Security AppLock AntiVirus

The program's developers, Cheetah Mobile, claim that their "lite" anti-virus product offers the lowest power consumption and memory usage in the smallest installation package. Scan your installed apps, system, and SDcard; schedule scans; or scan new apps as they are installed, with this AV solution.

Current Release: Version 1.0.1

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

Air Control Lite

Are you up to the demanding task of becoming an air traffic controller? In this simple, yet surprisingly addictive, drawing game it is your job to direct airplanes to runways while avoiding collisions.

Web Site: <http://tinyurl.com/d68melh>

**Chrome Remote Desktop**

Would you like to be able to access your home computer from anywhere using your smartphone? This app, direct from Google provides secure access to your computer. Simply set up remote access on your computer using the PC-version of Chrome Remote Desktop (obtainable from the Chrome Web Store at: <https://chrome.google.com/remotedesktop>). Then, using this app installed on your Android device, simply tap on your on-line computer to connect!

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

**My Favourite Apps** (Continued from page 5)**MISCELLANEOUS:****Audubon Birds of North America**

(<https://tinyurl.com/laxy7y4>)

When I have some down time and see some birds at my feeder, I use the free version of Audubon Birds to help with the ID's

**PressReader**

(<https://tinyurl.com/q954237>)

And, of course there is always PressReader for my E-newspaper. A chair in front of the fire, a freshly brewed pot of coffee, and the choice of stories from thousands of magazines and newspapers in their original image-rich layout.

WPS Office (<https://tinyurl.com/cpj3d8d>)

However, when I have to do some real work (perish the thought!), I turn to WPS Office, Kingsoft Office Software Corporation's all-in-one free office suite. This package is fully compatible with Microsoft Office, Google Docs, and Adobe Acrobat Reader.

µTorrent (<https://tinyurl.com/cuhgkma>)

µTorrent, from BitTorrent, is my choice of app for torrent downloads.

Dropbox (<https://tinyurl.com/7qlb8q3>)

For sharing multiple and/or large files with friends and family via the cloud, I find Dropbox to be very convenient. The free account gives me 2 GB of on-line storage. I can synchronize files between my computer and the cloud, and I can share an individual file or an entire folder with individuals who I choose..

GasBuddy (<https://tinyurl.com/o6bojtr>)

To find the best gas prices in town (the location being customizable), I use Gas-Buddy.

**Meetup** (<https://tinyurl.com/gn8nqnc>)

And last, but by no means least, there is Meetup. This app lets me keep track of events for a whole whack of local hiking clubs, card-playing groups, dances, etc.



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
Mailing Address: 3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6
Web address: <http://opcug.ca>
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Within a couple of minutes you will receive a confirmation message from the listserver.

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