



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

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REVIEW

Patching My PC with Patch My PC

by Alan German

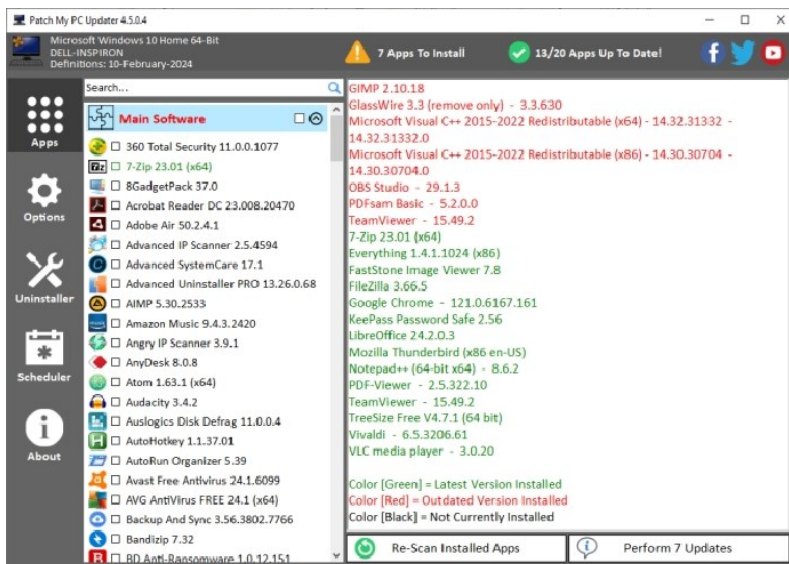
With the demise of both Secunia's Personal Security Inspector (PSI) and Software Update Monitor (SUMo), I have been looking for an alternative vulnerability scanner or at least an update manager to help keep my applications up to date. As usual, my preferred option is for open-source software or freeware; however, almost all the relevant scanners are commercial products. One program that I tried recently is Patch My PC Home Updater, the freeware version of a commercial offering. While the free package is somewhat limited in terms of the specific applications that are supported, many of the programs that I frequently use are included in the list.

Patch My PC can be downloaded from the developer's web site as the file Patch-MyPC.exe. It's portable software and no installation is required. So, it's sufficient to simply run the executable which then scans the computer's system drive and reports on the status of the supported applications that it finds.

Note that PatchMyPC is only looking at version numbers and determining if any given package has a newer version available. So it is not a vulnerability scanner. Some of the software updates may well include patches for vulnerabilities, while others may be just feature updates. Nevertheless, bringing all the listed applications up to date will ensure that at least these packages will receive any available vulnerability patches.

Starting the updating process for the listed applications in red is simply a matter of pressing the button labelled *Perform 7 Updates*. PatchMyPC then downloads and "silently" installs the updated software. A progress report indicating successful downloads and installations is displayed in the window below.

(Continued on page 9)



The user interface is pretty easy to understand. By default, the Apps icon in the left sidebar is enabled and the list of applications is displayed. The left window lists all the applications that are supported. If an application is installed, the colour of the listing indicates its status. So, for example, 7-Zip Version 23.01 is installed and this is the current release of this utility. The right window displays any issues that have been identified. The applications listed in red are out of date and should be updated, while no action is required for those listed in green which are the currently-available versions.

Inside this issue:

Next Meeting / Coming Up / Calendar	2
Patching My PC with Patch My PC	1
OPCUG Joins APCUG	3
OPCUG Annual General Meeting	4
Secretary's Report for 2023/2024	5
Are refurbished computers any good?	6
Mirrorless versus DSLR	8
Is Your Life Boring?	9
Contact Information	10

Next Meeting: **WEDNESDAY, April 10th, 2024**

Next Meeting

Wednesday April 10th, 2024

Unlocking Creativity with an AI Image Generator

Speaker: Bob Herres (OPCUG)

Despite having only basic graphic skills, Bob Herres (OPCUG) loves using images in emails, homemade greeting cards, personalized gift tags, labels, cartoons, and much more. As a result, he's always on the lookout for simpler software and easy-to-use websites.

In this presentation, Bob will introduce you to what he believes is the latest, most advanced, AI Photo Generator online. He will highlight the user-friendly design that makes it readily accessible to all users. Bob will also share how this tool has enhanced his Internet experience, providing a faster, more efficient alternative to traditional graphic searches.

Bob will guide you through the interface, showcasing all the key features and demonstrating the ease and speed of generating images. To ensure everyone leaves with the confidence to try out this tool, he will end with an interactive group session—a fun live online test drive! We'll create cool photos and images together in real-time, and you'll learn fantastic tips and tricks that you can use right away.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the latest AI Photo and Image Generator. This informative and captivating event will transform the way you use and experience images and graphics!

This meeting will be via Zoom video conference.

Join us at <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting>. The Zoom link will be live at 7:15 pm. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

The above link includes the meeting ID and password. However, if you are prompted for the information, use:

Meeting ID: **924 9556 0898**

Password: **opcug**

Coming Up...

May 8

Free Software: What Can It Do For You?

Speaker: Adam Hunt (Full Circle Magazine)

June 12, 6 PM

Annual Pizza Night (see article next page)

September 11

Building a Website – No Coding Required!

Speaker: Alan German (OPCUG)

OPL Presentations:

Mar 25

WHOA, BACKUP! EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR KEEPING YOUR COMPUTER FILES SAFE (OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY)

Rosemount Branch

Mar 26

HOW TO SECURE A HOME WIRELESS NETWORK (OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY)

Carp Branch

Apr 12

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL: THE BALTICS (OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY)

Rosemount Branch

Apr 20

HOW TO BUY A DIGITAL CAMERA (OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY)

Centennial Branch

Visit <https://opcug.ca/mec-category/opl-presentations/> for the full list of OPL presentations.

2024 CALENDAR

Meetings	Date	Time and Venue
Next Monthly Meeting	Wednesday, April 10 th	7:30 pm via Zoom video conference: https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting To see all scheduled events, visit https://opcug.ca/#upcoming
Next Q&A Session	Wednesday, March 27th	Until further notice, Q&A sessions are no longer held after regular monthly meetings. Join us on all other Wednesdays for weekly Q&A .
Next OPL Presentations	(see Upcoming Events)	Visit https://opcug.ca/mec-category/opl-presentations/ for the full list of OPL presentations.

CLUB LIFE

Annual Pizza Night Wednesday, June 12, 6 PM

Once again we are fast approaching the end of our OPCUG season, and once again we'll celebrate it with pizza, drinks and desserts. This event is free for OPCUG members and their guests.

The event will be, as always, on the second Wednesday of June, that is June 12, 2024, starting at 6 PM. It will be at the **Britannia Park Trolley Station** under a sheltered area in case the weather does not cooperate, with free parking and bathroom access.

Unfortunately, for those who like beer or wine with their pizza, **alcohol is not permitted** in the park. Pop and water will be provided.

To help with planning, we're asking you to **register by email** at pizzaparty@opcug.ca. Tell us if you are bringing guests and how many, your pizza preference (e.g. combo, special, meat lover, vegetarian, gluten free, etc.), and if you need a ride or can offer a ride.

We look forward to seeing you all in great numbers!

Visit <https://opcug.ca/events/annual-pizza-night/> for details.

OPCUG joins APCUG

by Alan German and Chris Taylor



OPCUG has recently joined the International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups (APCUG). APCUG has member organizations across the US, and a number of computer user groups in both Canada and Australia. They offer a variety of services to participating user groups and some specific benefits to user group members.

The main reasons for our joining APCUG are the difficulties we experience in obtaining speakers for our monthly meetings and articles for the newsletter. APCUG has a Speakers' Bureau where members of participating clubs offer original presentations to other affiliated groups. Indeed, Chris has already given his typography presentation to a user group in Madison, WI and we anticipate that OPCUG will access the list of speakers and topics for some of our future meetings.

APCUG also offers a push service for articles that have been published in user group newsletters such that these articles may be reprinted in the newsletters produced by member groups. If you paid attention to the March edition of *Ottawa PC News*, you may have read the article on charging smartphones and tablets by Kurt Jefferson, the newsletter Editor for the Central Kentucky Computer Society. Brigitte had obtained this article through APCUG and will likely use some material from them in future newsletters.

Individual members of OPCUG may take advantage of several of APCUG's activities, including participating in on-line Wednesday Workshops or joining the regular meetings of other clubs.

The workshops are conducted in a similar format to our Q&A sessions but generally focus on a specific topic. They are also much longer – two to three hours, starting at noon. The third Wednesday of each month is dedicated to Learning Linux and Alan has recently provided a presentation on backing up Linux systems. You can add your email address to receive invitations to these meetings by filling out the form

at <http://eepurl.com/hp90DP>. For the *Name of Computer Club*, be sure to use the full name, i.e. Ottawa PC Users' Group. APCUG will send you notices of upcoming events a couple of days in advance. If you register using the instructions provided in the notice, you will receive a link to the on-line Zoom session.

The details of meetings of other clubs can be obtained by searching on APCUG's web site (<https://apcug2.org>) using the link labelled "Groups Sharing Meetings" on the left side of the home page. Member groups are conveniently listed by time zone together with the associated URL's. Like OPCUG, many clubs provide details of up-coming meetings and a link to join their on-line sessions.

OPCUG's Board of Directors intends to take advantage of the services offered by APCUG over the coming year. Club members are similarly invited to see what they can obtain in terms of member benefits from our new affiliation. Let [Chris](#) and [Alan](#) know what you find!

Two-for-one Offer on New Memberships (last call)

If you know anyone who is not a current member but who wishes to join our club, now is the perfect time. The Board of Directors has voted to repeat our special, two-for-one offer for individuals joining the club. New members can pay the regular, annual fee of \$20 by **March 31, 2024** and receive two-years of paid-up membership! Tell all your friends, colleagues, and relatives to sign up at <https://opcug.ca/join-or-renew/> before March 31st. **Note that current club members do not need to renew their membership.** Your membership will be extended by a further year – at no charge – automatically!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the OPCUG 2023/2024

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2023/2024 was held on February 14, 2024 at the beginning of the February OPCUG Monthly Meeting. Minutes were taken by the Secretary, Gail Eagen. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

1. Election Results

Chris Taylor, President, announced that there were eight nominations received by the deadline of December 31, 2023 and thus the Board was acclaimed with no Election required. The newly elected Board for 2023/24 was announced as follows:

Jocelyn Doire
Gail Eagen
Alan German
Wayne Houston
Brigitte Lord
Chris Taylor
Bob Walker
Karen Wallace-Graner

Chris thanked Bob Herres for again taking on the role of Election Chair.

Chris noted that the Board would be looking to appoint someone as the ninth Board position. Chris asked members interested in joining the Board as Program Chair to talk to any existing Board member. Contact information for current Board members

2. President's Report

Chris said that his **President's Report** was published in the February 2024 Newsletter.

3. Treasurer's Report

Chris stated that the **Treasurer's Report** was published in the February 2024 Newsletter.

Alan provided highlights of the report for the period January 1 to December 31, 2023.

The current Club net income was **-\$1052.67**. The current Assets were \$14,892.82 so were in good financial shape.

Income was down due to providing free membership for current members in March 2022 and again in March 2023. After offering new members 2 years of membership for the price of one, the Membership Income was \$260 and Bank Interest received was \$274.74. Thus, Income was \$534.74 in total.

Expenses were \$1,587.41. Major Expenses included the web site at \$280.23 and Meeting expenses (Zoom software and honorariums to external and non-Board member speakers) at \$857.96 and the Pizza Q at \$377.58 for a total of \$1587.41

In summary, Income for 2023 was \$534.74 and Expenses for 2023 were \$1587.41 for a Net Income of **-\$1052.67**.

Alan indicated that the Board's financial plan was to reduce our capital and we were meeting our goal. Thus, this deficit was planned, as were those of the previous few years. The OPCUG was in a strong financial position.

Chris asked if anyone had any questions on the Treasurer's Report.

Mark Cayer asked if the membership expenses were for PayPal. Alan responded that that was correct. PayPal fees were \$.88 for each \$20 membership.

Alan reminded current members that their membership fees would be waived for the coming year so there was no need to renew their membership. New Members could join before March 31, 2024 and receive two year for the price of one.

4. Secretary's Report

Chris said that the Secretary's Report would be published in the March Newsletter along with the minutes of the AGM.

5. Notes of Thanks

Chris included a slide in his deck thanking 2023 Board Members; Assistants to the Board (Mark Cayer for his membership work, Richard Aylesworth for performing the financial review, Bob Herres for taking on Election Chair); presenters both from the Club and from outside; and Newsletter contributors. He also thanked contributors to the weekly Question and Answer Sessions and members who participated and shared. He then thanked the membership for being a part of it all.

6. Questions and Answers

Chris asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Carol Peterson asked what the current Membership count was. Alan responded that we had 170 members.

7. Meeting Adjournment

Chris adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM. He reported that there were 29 participants.

Submitted by

*Gail Eagen,
Secretary, OPCUG*

SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2023/2024

2023/24 Election

Bob Herres agreed to be Election Chair in August 2023. Calls for nominations were done in the newsletter and at OPCUG monthly meetings throughout the fall. Eight nominations were received by the due date of December 31, 2023. Since there were only eight nominations, no election was required.

Board Members

The Board of Directors for 2023/2024 was acclaimed on February 8, 2023 at the Annual General Meeting. The Board selected positions at their next meeting on February 13, 2023 resulting in the following slate of officers:

Chris Taylor, President and Systems Administrator
Jocelyn Doire, Special Events
Gail Eagen, Secretary
Alan German, Treasurer
Wayne Houston, Privacy
Brigitte Lord, Webmaster and Newsletter
Bob Walker, Facilities
Karen Wallace-Graner, Board Member without Portfolio

The Board agreed to search for a ninth Board member but was unsuccessful.

Board Meetings

The Board met 11 times on Feb 13, Mar 13, April 17, May 15, Jun 19, Aug 12, Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 13 and Dec 18 in 2023 and Jan 15 in 2024.

Most of the discussion at meetings related to creating the program for the meetings; ensuring articles for the newsletter; publicizing club meetings and events using Facebook, Twitter, the OPCUG web site and press releases to targeted audiences; and monitoring the financial situation. There were discussions about resuming in-person meetings or having a mix of in-person and video-conferencing Monthly OPCUG meetings. The Board continued online video-conferencing of the Board and Monthly meetings using Zoom. Weekly Question and Answer sessions were continued through Zoom.

Major discussions, decisions made and actions taken:

- To accept Richard Aylesworth's comments and recommendations on the review of the Treasurer's financial records for 2022
- To continue investing funds in the TD bank account into staggered GICs
- To ensure provincial Business Registry records were up to date according to the latest Provincial guidelines
- To hold the June 2023 Pizza-Q outside at Britannia Park, renting a covered location
- To require registration for the Pizza-Q's to determine the amount of food and drinks to be ordered
- To select an Election Chair to run the nomination and election process for 2023/24 (Bob Herres again agreed to be Election Chair.)
- To produce a poster advertising the OPCUG Questions and Answers sessions

- To offer presentations at the Ottawa Public Library and include them in the calendar of events on the OPCUG web site
- To ask Richard Aylesworth to review the Treasurer's financial records for 2023
- To offer a complimentary one-year membership to Stewart Bruce in appreciation of his contributions to Question and Answer Sessions.
- To extend free membership for one year to members of good standing as of March 31, 2024 and offer new memberships between January 1, 2024 and March 31, 2024 2 years for the price of one
- To join the APCUG, "an International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups" and investigate how the OPCUG could benefit from their services.

Submitted by

*Gail Eagen,
Secretary, OPCUG*

ARTICLE

Are refurbished computers any good?

by Brigitte Lord

“Well, crap.” It was 2021 and I had just found out that my latest computer, a refurbished Windows 10 desktop, would not pass the Windows 11 sniff test. Microsoft had upped the ante with stricter CPU requirements and mandatory security hardware. Squeaking by with more RAM wouldn’t cut it this time. Alas, for many of us, replacing computers every few years is standard fare with Windows (I, for one, am on my 6th). If you have finally had enough of this (or are just plain broke!), check out Alan German’s multi-part Q&A series: [Preparing to abandon the Windows ship](#) and his extensive [Exploring Linux](#) series (most recent articles in our March - June 2023 [newsletters](#)).

I bought my refurbished Win 10 desktop in 2020 to replace a Win 8.1 machine that was really struggling some years after a Windows 10 upgrade (at which point I was not willing to troubleshoot with more RAM or a clean install). I’m not sure if we were yet on COVID lockdown, but rather than risk exposure, I started looking on Amazon for a new Windows 10 desktop. Instead, I was presented with mostly refurbished units in excellent condition for \$300-\$400. If you’re plugging your nose at this point, know that many refurbished computers on Amazon are business class units that are built to endure heavy use with more resilient components than consumer grade units. And, to boot, they have Windows Pro installed, whereas consumer units typically come with Windows Home.

After reading many favourable reviews, I bought a 2018 **HP Flagship Pro Desktop** with Windows 10 Pro for \$310 (before taxes). It was sold by TecnoCanada through Amazon Canada and arrived within a few days. It still runs like a charm, but every Windows Update comes with a stubborn reminder that it is not fit for Windows 11. I *could* have waited until 2025 to replace it (Windows 10 end-of-support is Oct 14th, 2025), but FoMO had me back at Amazon in Spring 2023 looking at refurbished Win 11 desktops, lest there be a mad rush on them in 2025 (you never

know). I found some nice Win 11 desktops from the same vendor and when prices dipped below \$400 in September, I bought a **HP ProDesk 600G4 Desktop** with Windows 11 Pro for \$379. Like its refurbished Win 10 predecessor, it runs flawlessly and I expect it to do so for several years (especially if it upgrades smoothly to Windows 12).

Refurbished units are returned to their factory settings and all data are thoroughly wiped. If a new version of Windows is available, capable units are upgraded. Hardware is sometimes upgraded such as a hard disk drive (HDD) being replaced with a solid state drive (SSD). Desktops without a WiFi network adaptor have one added. After refurbishment, each unit is tested by a technician before being resold, greatly improving its odds of running smoothly for many years (and leaving its typical 90-day to 6-month warranty in the dust). By comparison, new consumer grade units are checked at random off the assembly line.

Granted, components in business class computers might not be the latest and greatest, but they are solid. The SSD probably doesn’t have the fastest connection to the motherboard, but even the slowest SSD will be faster than a typical HDD (this is especially nice at startup and when opening large files or programs). And the graphics and sound are integrated and not on separate cards. But these computers are work horses and have much life left in them. They will easily perform everyday home tasks or just as easily return as beasts of burden in a home office or small business.

As for refurbished Li-ion devices, I have no experience buying these, but when it comes to rechargeable batteries in various devices, you have to consider remaining battery life. All rechargeable batteries gradually deteriorate until they can no longer hold a charge. This can happen within a few years or several, depending on how the battery was handled (see **Don’t Charge Your**

Smartphone or Tablet Overnight in the [March newsletter](#)). Exposure to heat or cold will also hasten battery death. Refurbishers usually state the remaining capacity of the battery (most units I’ve seen are 80% or better).

There is also an abundance of Mini PCs on Amazon. These are small boxes, many priced between \$200 - \$400 (new). I looked at several units, but rejected these after seeing complaints about them overheating (I already have an Android TV box that crashes unless I put an ice pack on top of it). After a Q&A session in January, I suspect someone in our club has one when they seemed somewhat surprised that their unit had passed a “genuine Intel” processor test. Maybe they wouldn’t mind sharing their experience at an upcoming Q&A session.



Mini PC:



Amazon is certainly not the only place that sells refurbished devices. Big box stores have their share of them, and smaller local shops, like The Trailing Edge (whose owners have given two presentations to our club), sell them as well. You might feel more comfortable with a local shop (big or small) where a defective device can be brought back easily for exchange or repair.

(Continued on next page)

Refurbished computers *(Continued from previous page)*

One drawback with refurbished computers is that they can contain older components that won't run the next Windows release. Such is the case with my Win 10 machine with a 3rd generation Intel CPU (i5-3470). Windows 11 requires a minimum 8th gen Intel CPU (or other brand equivalent) and that's what's in my Win 11 desktop (i5-8500). For the sake of upgrading, it might be wise to wait until later generation CPUs are available in refurbished units. (If you want to know which CPU and other components are in your computer, type **System Information** in the taskbar search box.)

In summary: refurbished desktops are solid performers at a great price, but be prepared to replace them for the next Windows release, especially if Microsoft throws another Windows 11 style curve ball. Even so, at only a few hundred dollars, they still offer significant savings.

My two refurbished units:



Windows 10 Desktop, \$310, vendor: TecnoCanada (refurbisher: Hi Tech Bay, Inc., Arnprior), through Amazon Canada

2018 HP Flagship Pro Desktop Computer, Core i5 up to 3.6GHz, 8GB DDR3 RAM, 512GB SSD, WiFi, DVD, DP, VGA, USB 3.0, Windows 10 Pro 64 Bit (Renewed)



Windows 11 Desktop, \$379, vendor: TecnoCanada (refurbisher: Hi Tech Bay, Inc., Scarborough), through Amazon Canada

HP ProDesk 600G4 Desktop Computer | Hexa Core Intel i5 (3.2GHz) | 16GB DDR4 RAM | 500GB SSD Solid State | Windows 11 Professional | Home or Office PC (Renewed)

Two good articles on refurbished computers:

<https://www.ricksdailytips.com/buying-a-refurbished-pc/>

<https://www.newegg.com/insider/tips-before-buying-refurbished-pcs/>

Disclaimer: I am not, in any way, affiliated with Amazon, TecnoCanada, Hi Tech Bay, Inc., or The Trailing Edge.

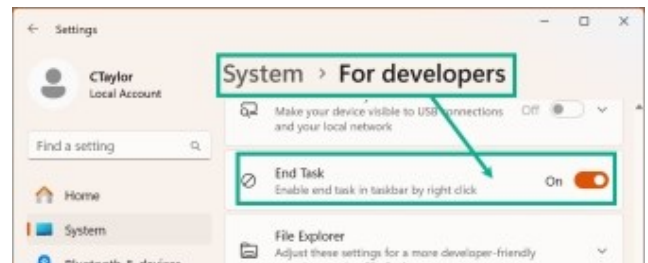
Quick Tip 62: End task

by Chris Taylor

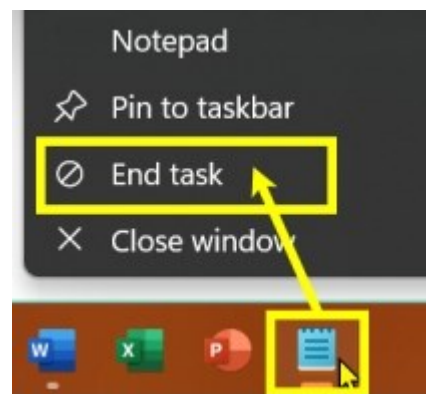
For many years and versions of Windows, it has been possible to rudely terminate a program by running Task Manager (Ctrl-Shift-Esc), right-clicking on the process on the *Processes* tab, and choosing *End Task*. This is sometimes required if a program is hung and can't be closed by normal means such as the red X in the top-right corner of the program, pressing Alt-F4, etc.

Starting with Windows 11 2023 Update (23H2) there is an easier way.

Load *Settings* by pressing Win+i (hold down the Windows key and press the i key). Choose *System* > *For developers*. Toggle on the option *End Task*.



Then, if you have a hung program, right-click its icon on the taskbar and choose *End task* from the pop-up menu.



The program will be terminated. Any unsaved data in the program will be lost. But typically *End task* is only done if the program is not responding anyway.



THROUGH THE LENS

A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts. After the click of your camera, you're only half done!

Mirrorless versus DSLR

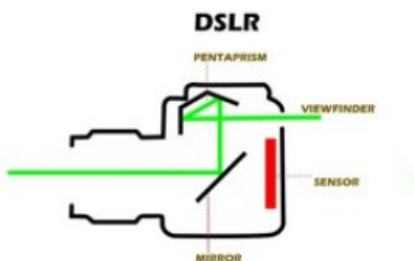
by Lynda Buske

If you are on the fence about upgrading to a mirrorless camera, this comparative article of selective features might be helpful. There are pros and cons to each type of camera but like so many equipment related matters, it often boils down to your personal preferences and the type of photos you take.

Any camera that does not have a reflex mirror (i.e. not a DSLR) is technically a mirrorless camera including point and shoot, bridge or cell phone cameras. For the purposes of this article, the comparison will be between a DSLR and higher end interchangeable lens mirrorless camera.

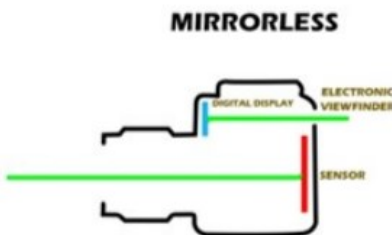
DSLR

Light blocked from sensor by mirror. When shutter released, mirror flips out of the way & sensor exposed to light

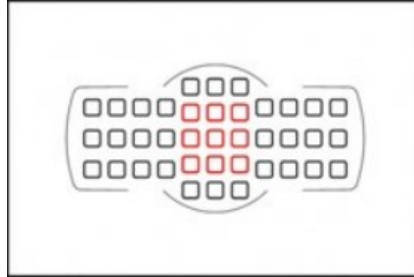


Mirrorless

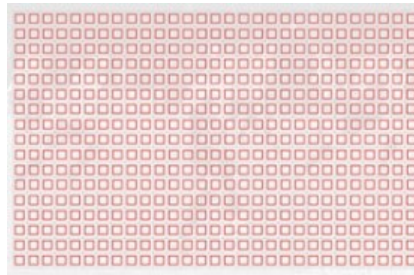
Sensor always exposed to the light



DSLR focus points



Mirrorless focus points



All cameras have distinct auto-focus points where you can choose a single point, matrix etc. However, a mirrorless camera has complete coverage which can help with subject tracking.

A mirrorless camera allows you to shoot as quietly as possible once factory set beeps have been silenced. While there is slight mechanical shutter noise on either type of camera, the sound of the mirror flipping up in a DSLR is not insignificant and can possibly disturb wildlife before you get the shot.

One strong advantage of a mirrorless camera is having multiple features associated with the electronic viewfinder such as live histograms, seeing exposure effects, being able to zoom in for details. None of these are available with a DSLR viewfinder although a few features might be available in the live view (LCD screen). Being able to review your image in the electronic viewfinder of a mirrorless camera is also an advantage since you can zoom in and check sharpness

or improperly exposed areas more easily than trying to do so with an LCD screen on a sunny day.

If you are interested in wildlife or sports photography, the mirrorless cameras are superior in their subject detection and tracking abilities. You can actually tell the camera what type of image you are trying to track such as people, animals, cars, planes, etc. They are very good at eye detection which is so crucial for a good wildlife image.

With respect to lenses, the mirrorless camera does not need space for a mirror so has more design options. The selection of lenses for DSLRs is currently very large and with adaptors, most of these lenses can be used on a mirrorless camera. The inverse, however, is not true. If you have both kinds of cameras, you cannot use a mirrorless lens on a DSLR. The selection of mirrorless lenses will no doubt rapidly expand in the next few years.

When it comes to price, DSLRs are generally less expensive and there currently exist some great deals in the used market as people shift to mirrorless. With respect to batteries, the mirrorless uses more power (for features such as the electronic viewfinder) resulting in shorter battery life.

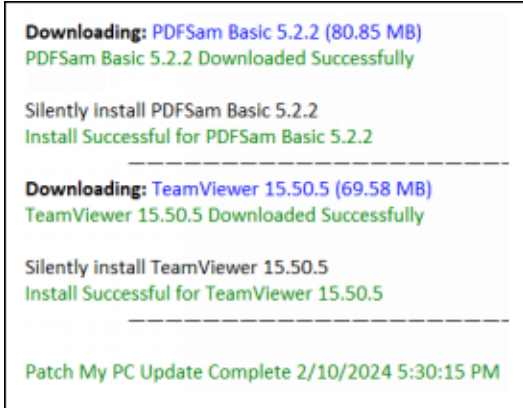
While the body of a mirrorless can be lighter since there is no mirror assembly required, in actual fact, it is the lenses (both on the camera body and perhaps an additional one in your camera bag!) that tend to determine most of a camera's overall weight so we don't consider this to be a significant advantage.

All indications are that camera manufacturers are focussed squarely on mirrorless and future advances will be made on mirrorless and not on DSLR cameras.



Lynda's presentations on photography at the Ottawa Public Library are included in this [list](#). See all of Lynda's articles [here](#).

Patching My PC *(Continued from page 1)*



More details of the update process are written to a log file, named PatchMyPC.log, that is stored in the folder in which the PatchMyPC program is located.

Interestingly, following the updates to my system, the header row in PatchMyPC indicated 19/20 Apps Up to Date. The log entry showed the reason as "Skipping install for GlassWire 3.3.664 based on user input not to close GlassWire.exe". I imagine this was a result of the "silent" update where I was not prompted to close GlassWire so that the update could proceed.

PatchMyPC has many customization features, based on the categories listed as icons down the left sidebar. The Options tab includes customization for downloading software, changing the display, managing the update process and the log file. The Uninstaller tab allows installed programs to be removed, while the Scheduler tab allows specification of the timing and frequency for running PatchMyPC automatically. It's also worth noting that, under the Apps tab, clicking the checkbox for any application in the list in the left window causes this application to be marked for installation next time software is updated.

So, PatchMyPC isn't a true vulnerability scanner but it is a very useful tool for keeping various installed applications up to date and it makes this process extremely easy.



Bottom Line:

Patch My PC Home Updater
 Patch My PC, LLC
<https://patchmypc.com/home-updater>

(see all OPCUG reviews [here](#))

Is Your Life Boring? Spice it Up By Becoming a Victim of Scammers and Thieves!

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

<https://ckcs.org/>
 lextown2 (at) gmail.com

(APCUG PUSH article. Reprinted with permission)

If you're bored to tears, why not put more excitement into your life by becoming a victim?

Follow the tips below, and you're sure to find yourself quite busy as you try and dig yourself out of trouble. But at least you won't be bored!

Write your PIN number on the back of your ATM and credit card! How else are you supposed to remember that vital number to tap into your finances?

Why waste time by shredding documents? Just toss those financial statements, online credit card notices you printed, and your retirement account papers into the green bin. I mean, it's filled with cat litter, coffee grounds, and tea bags. Who would dig into your garbage to retrieve a few slimy documents?

Don't be stingy when someone using an unrecognizable phone number calls you and asks for a donation! Instead, make sure you open your heart by making sure the person on the other end has correctly typed your credit card number. It's a good cause, and you're helping out in a big way. I mean, doesn't it feel good to share your credit card number with the \$20,000 account limit to a charity you've never heard of before? Sure! You're a big sweetheart.

Why in the world would you waste your time by bothering to monitor your banking account online? Jeeze. The sun is shining. Go outside and have fun! No need to bother yourself with numbers on a website or an app. Even though there might be a few purchases you can't identify - heck - it's no big deal! No reason to contact the bank and speak to that helpful customer service rep that you cannot understand, anyway.

Sarcasm is a powerful tool to get across a message. We've been using it throughout this article to get your attention. Now that you're reading this —

What's currently the leading cause of financial loss by fraud? Romance scams. There's big money being lost here by thieves targeting the lonely.

In 2020, more Americans of all ages lost more money through romance scams than any other means.

Wow. That is an eye-opener!

Talk about the way to rob someone in the 21st century. In 2020, victims of romance scams lost \$304 million — and people 70 and older had more money stolen that way — on average, \$9,475 — than any other age group. Whew!

Here's how it's done. First, the scammer creates a fake profile on social media or dating sites and tries to start a relationship through texting or chatting.

Romance scammers usually make one excuse after another why they cannot meet their victim, um, "loved one," in person. For example, romance scammers often ask their "loved ones" for money by requesting gift cards. But instead, they never share their real photos, opting for faked headshots cropped from Instagram, Facebook, or even models displayed on websites.

Don't be gullible. Don't become a victim.

Be smart. Be aware. Be vigilant.

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.

To receive the monthly newsletter by email, send an email to:

opcug-newsletter+subscribe@googlegroups.com (leave subject and body fields blank)

You do **not** need to create a Gmail or Google Groups account.

To subscribe to other OPCUG Google Groups member services, go to:

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

Group Meetings

OPCUG meets on the second Wednesday in the month, except July and August, at the Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa. Parking is free at the church. OCTranspo bus #90 stops nearby. Details at <https://opcug.ca/venue/>.

(NOTE: Until further notice, all our events are via video conference. Details at <https://opcug.ca/venue/>)

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

OPCUG Membership Fees: \$20 per year
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Q&A HAS GONE ON-LINE! WEEKLY!

Because of the pandemic, the OPCUG is holding weekly Q&A sessions in Zoom video-conferences.

Join us every Wednesday (except on regular monthly meeting nights) at 7:30 pm to discuss computer issues. Questions (and answers) on any computer-related issue are welcome. Or, do you have a favourite computer program or topic that you would like to share with the group? Send your questions, answers, or the details of what you would like to share to: SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

Everyone is welcome to attend Q&A sessions and to ask questions about their specific computer-related problems. Join us at: <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting> (if you use the Zoom client, the meeting ID is 924 9556 0898 and the password is **opcug**).

OPCUG



Users helping users
for over 40 years