Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

Scripts/Programs to Compress PDF files

- One of the lines of code in *spe.sh* in the file *compressingpdf.pdf* that was linked in last week's slide deck is truncated

```
# IFS='
# '
gs -sDEVICE=pdfwrite -dCompatibilityLevel=1.4 -dPDFSETTINGS=/ebook -dNOPAUSE -dQUIET -dBATCH -sOutputFi

grep "**** Error" tmplog.txt > tttt
size=$(wc -c <"tttt")
```

- The Linux Bash script will not work unless the code is corrected

  gs -sDEVICE=pdfwrite -dCompatibilityLevel=1.4
  -dPDFSETTINGS=/ebook -dNOPAUSE -dQUIET
  -dBATCH -sOutputFile=out.pdf $1 >tmplog.txt

Follow-up **Scripts/Programs to Compress PDF files**

ghostscript®

- Tristan provided John Nash with a PowerShell script that works in Windows

Well done Tristan!

Share **SmartApps**

- Useful apps for Android smartphones and tablets
- What are your favourites?

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

Can also be a program for your PC

Podcast Addict

- Sleep timer with warnings; resume by moving phone
- Sorting flexibility, searching
- Backup of feed URLs in OPML file (e.g. Google Drive)
- Scheduled updates & deletions, even every 30 min.
- Up to 5 concurrent downloads
- Tempo (i.e. speed) control
- Chapter support, e.g. Economist 7-h podcast weekly
- Episode lists, download before subscribing
- General settings, by podcast, e.g. skip forward times, introduction skip, …

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bambuna.podcastaddict

CHAPTERS (79)   BOOKMARKS (-)

#31		02:15:52	
#32	032 Europe - Charlemagne	6 min	
	02:20:41	
#33	033 Britain	25 s
	02:27:35	
#34	034 Britain - Covid-19	6 min
	📊 04:47 / 06:34	
#35	035 Britain - Unionism and social attitudes	4 min
	02:34:36	
#36	036 Britain - The Marble Arch mound	3 min
	02:39:23	
#37	037 Britain - Bagehot	5 min
	02:42:57	
#38	038 International	19 s
	02:48:54	

sue 9276 - December 18th 2021 - Ch
The Economist: Full edition • 08:35:08   ▶

Cloud Library

- Ottawa Public Library (OPL)
- Download and enjoy free eBooks, audiobooks, and Express titles
- Browse and save titles; mark titles to read
- Sort/search by title or author
- Filter content by format, availability and language
- View additional titles by author or series
- Customize homepage bookshelves
- Display preferred genres
- Receive reading recommendations

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.txtr.android.mmm

Cloud Library

- Speed and sleep controls.
- Select font size, margins and background colors
- Search eBooks for a specific phrase
- Bookmark pages and add notes
- Return titles early when you're finished

TV Kill

- Point at a TV to turn it off
- Phone transmits a variety of off-signals for different TV's
- One of them will turn off the TV
- Good for waiting rooms with noisy TV's!
- Only works if you have an InfraRed emitter in your phone
- Includes a widget

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.redirectapps.tvkill

Preparing to abandon ~~ship~~ *the windows*

To-do list:

✓ (1) Install Linux on the last remaining computer

✓ (2) Identify the current uses of Windows 10

✓ (3) Identify Linux-based alternatives

(4) Find workarounds if no alternatives exist*

* Are there any show-stoppers?

- ✔ Microsoft Word (correspondence, newsletter articles, Treasurer's reports)
- ✔ Microsoft Excel (macro programming)
- ✔ Microsoft PowerPoint (Q&A sessions)
- ✔ Text editor (Notepad++)
- ✔ Disk image backups (Macrium Reflect)
- ✔ Digital image management (FastStone Image Viewer)
- ✔ File search (Everything)
- ✔ HTML editor (Homesite)
- Garmin GPS (MapSource)
- Income tax preparation (Taxman)
- Bosch Crash Data Retrieval Tool (CDR)
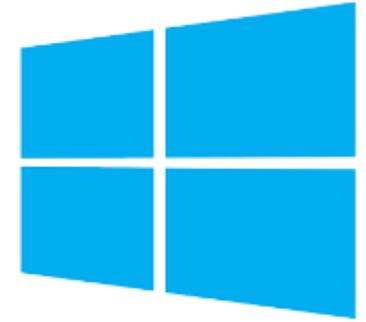
Alternatives

Garmin 60 CSx

- Stand-alone GPS unit
- Route-finding/recording for hiking
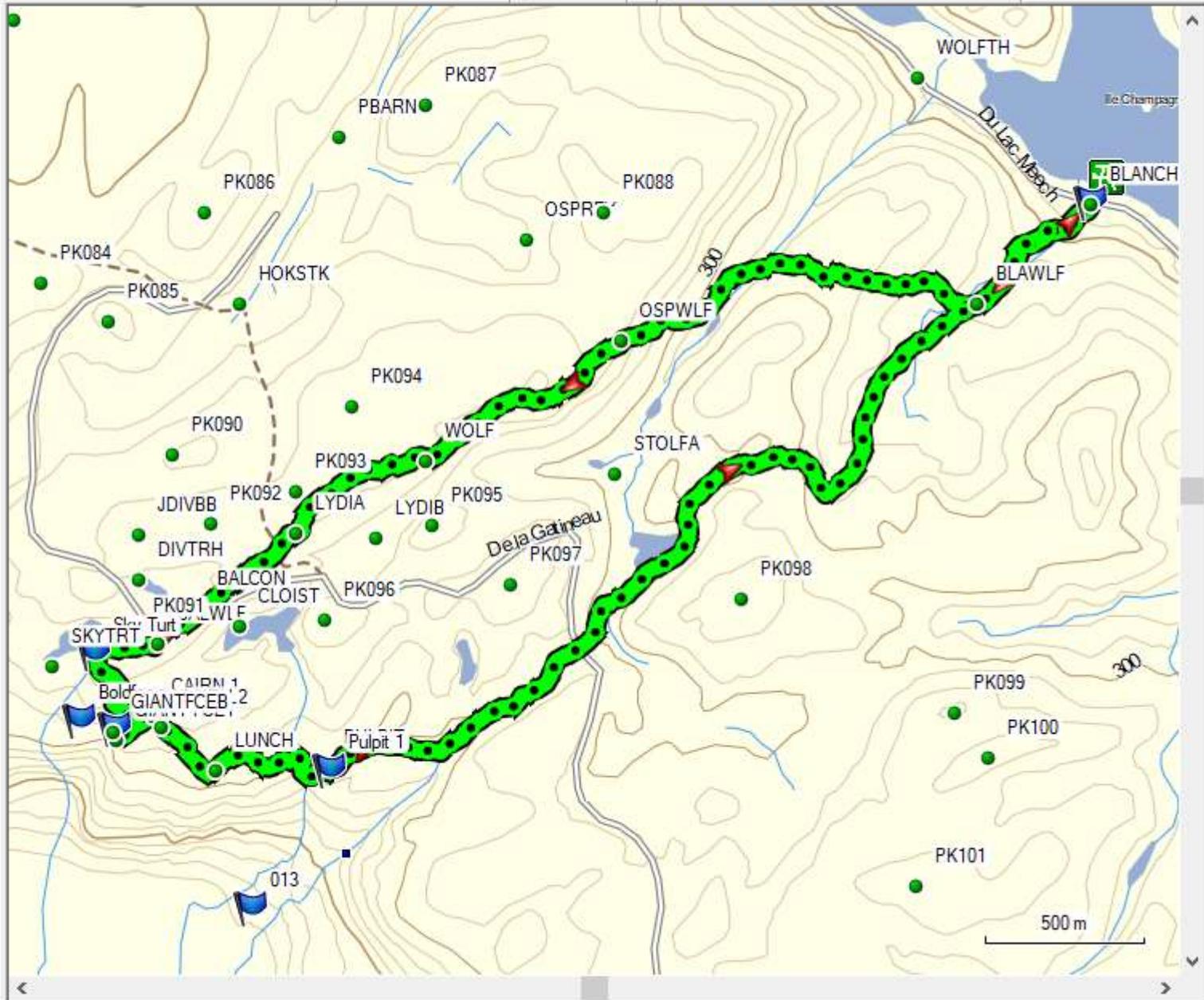- MapSource software accesses topographical maps for Canada and worldwide, including OpenStreetMaps

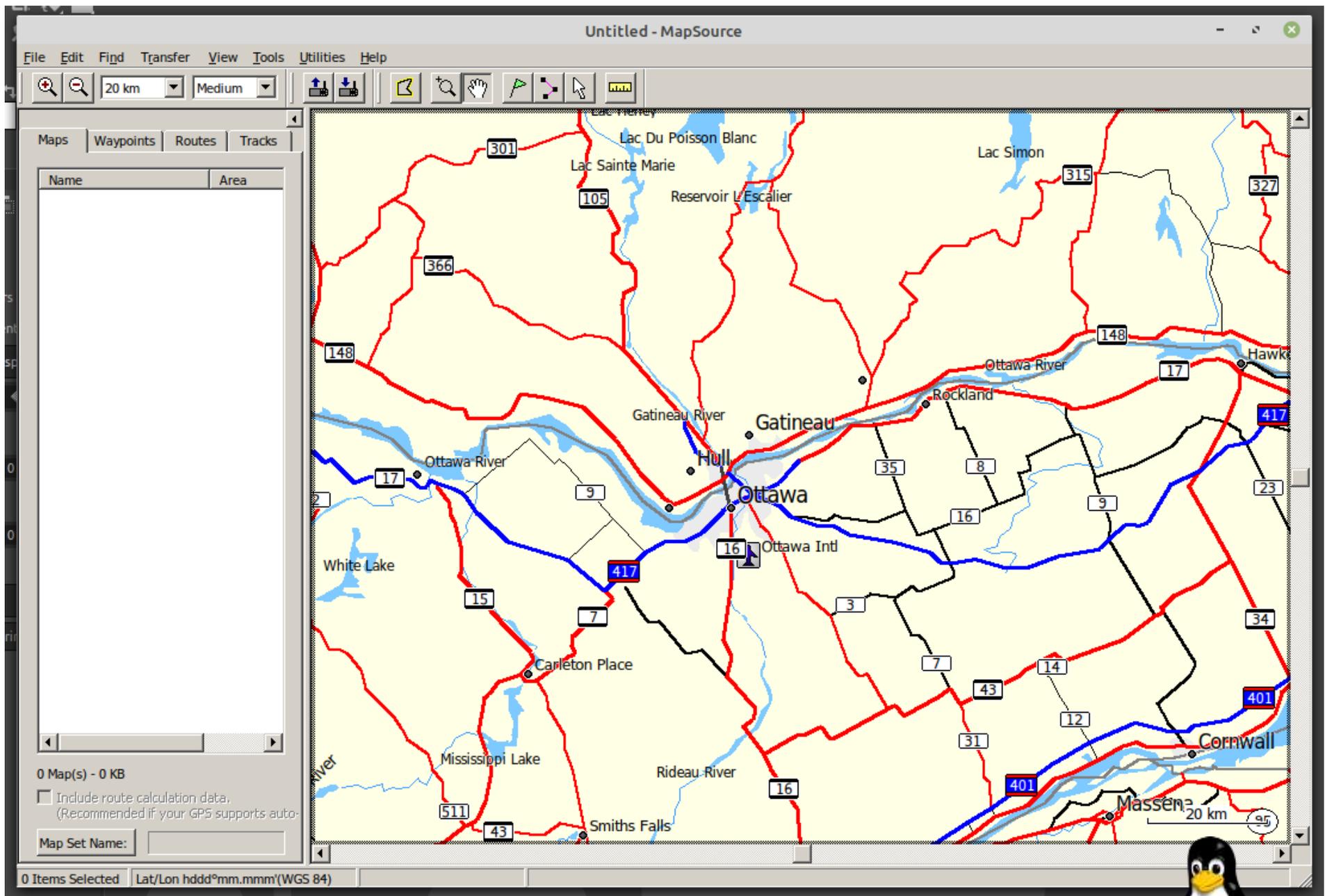MapSource under Wine displaying the base mapset

GARMIN.

Topo Canada™

Install Topo Canada

View MapSource Tutorial

Visit Our Website

Select this option to install your
MapSource Topo Canada software

Contact Garmin

Update Unit Code

Exit

MapSource - Topo Canada v2

MapSource - Topo Canada v2

Setup Status

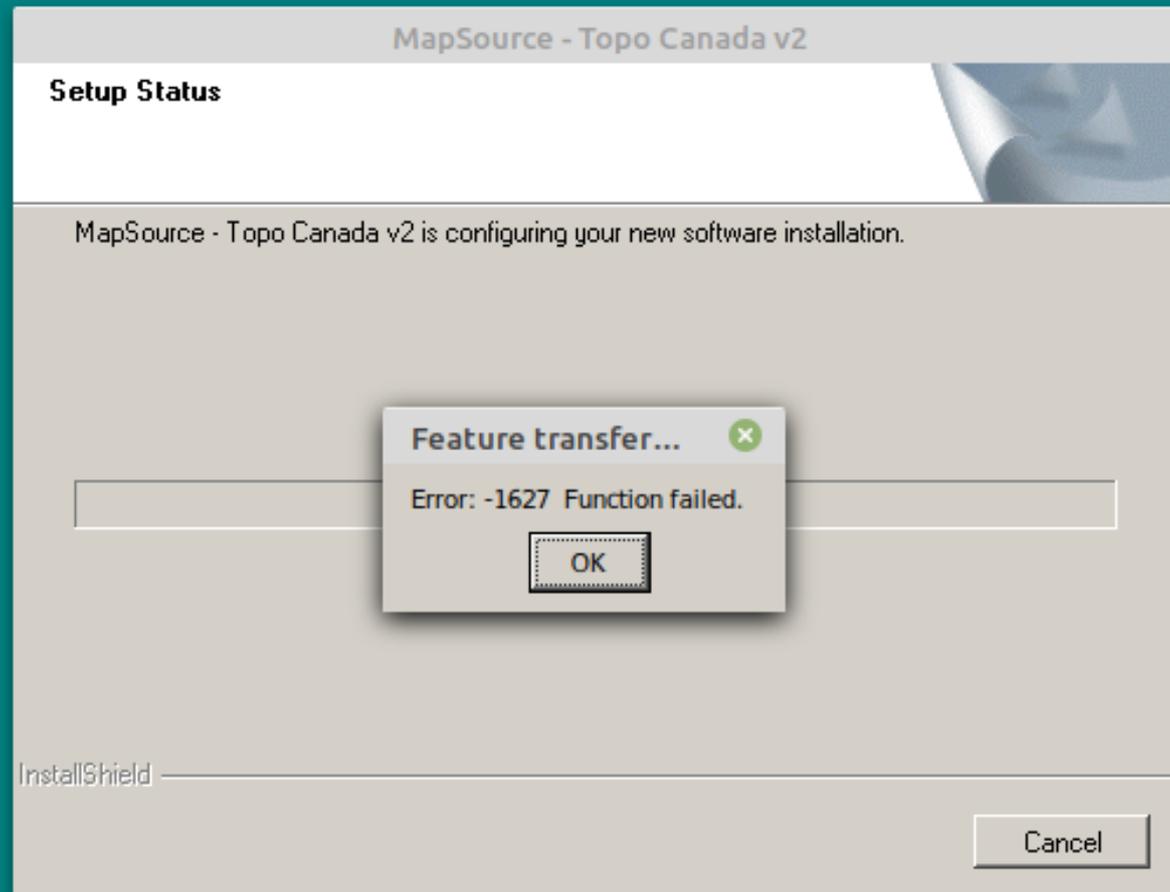MapSource - Topo Canada v2 is configuring your new software installation.

Feature transfer...

Error: -1627 Function failed.

OK

InstallShield

Cancel

OSM Map On Garmin/Download

< OSM Map On Garmin

OSM Map On Garmin/Download - Other languages
Deutsch · **English** · español · français · italiano · Nederlands · русский ·
Other languages · Translate

Here are maps in Garmin image file format people have created from OSM data. Sites are listed by continent, then by country alphabetically, then by suspected usefulness (eg. sites which cover a whole continent and are updated regularly are listed first.) Maps offered worldwide or for a continent are often offering country downloads - hence they are only listed once and not for each region again. As OpenStreetMap is changing fast - only maps updated during the last 6 month should be listed. Permanently Dead links - please remove the entry.

Maps are offered in different formats. As .exe for Mapsource and Basecamp and Qlandkarte GT installation (.exe can usually be unpaved with 7-zip or other programs). As .gmapi for Mac OSx Roadtrip/Basecamp. As gmapsupp.img for direct copying to a Garmin GPS device.

Page | **Discussion** · Read | Vi

Main Page
The map
Map Features
Contributors
Help
Blogs
Shop
Donations
Wiki discussion
Recent changes

Tools

What links here
Related changes

https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/OSM_Map_On_Garmin/Download

North America

Country	Provider	Updated	Routable	BaseCamp / MapSource installer (Windows - .exe)	BaseCamp file (Windows / Mac OS - .gmap)	Notes
United States, Canada, México	OpenMapChest • Canada⮺ • Mexico⮺ • United States⮺	biweekly	yes	yes	yes	Generated by Ben Konrath⮺ using mkgmap. There is no Windows installer for the US map but there is a gamp file available that works with BaseCamp on Windows and Mac OS. The US map includes updated address data from the US Census Bureau (TIGER).
United States	OSM dev server user daveh⮺	About bi-monthly. Follows Lambertus⮺	yes	no	no	Generated by Dave Hansen. If you have questions about these maps, please ask the talk-us@lists.openstreetmap.org mailing list instead of asking Dave directly.
United States Topo	gmaptool.eu⮺	3-4 month	yes	.bat	yes	Hiking trails, contour lines 25m, DEM data, marine objects, depth contours. Full map divided into 8 parts.
United States Auto	gmaptool.eu⮺	3-4 month	yes	no	no	Map designed for automobile devices.
United States	moongate.ydns.eu⮺	annually	yes	no	no	Generated by Patrick Simmons⮺ using mkgmap; download each .img file starting with us- to get the whole country (don't mess with texas.img). Maps include dramatically enhanced street address routing ability by integrating non-OpenStreetMap street address data from the US Census Bureau (TIGER). Maps are still somewhat experimental. The goal of this project is ultimately for me to be a provider of OSC change files to other US mapmakers rather than to be a provider myself, but I see no reason not to share my work while that goal is realized. Thanks to Ben Konrath⮺ for his assistance with this project.

OpenMapChest

🇨🇦 Canada

❝ I just downloaded your map of Canada and tried it in my Garmin Montana 610. The map routes perfectly and I think it is superior to many other products I have used since I began using Garmin GPS in 1995.

Paul - New Brunswick, Canada

Features

✓ Driving directions

✓ Address search

✓ Searchable POIs

✓ Updated biweekly

Download Map for SD Card

BitTorrent • Sept. 10, 2021 • 1.1 GB

Improve this Map

Correct errors in the OpenStreetMap data

Other Downloads

Installer for BaseCamp and MapSource
BitTorrent • 1.1 GB

- Microsoft Word (correspondence, newsletter articles, Treasurer's reports)
- Microsoft Excel (macro programming)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (Q&A sessions)
- Text editor (Notepad++)
- Disk image backups (Macrium Reflect)
- Digital image management (FastStone Image Viewer)
- File search (Everything)
- HTML editor (Homesite)
- Garmin GPS (MapSource)
- Income tax preparation (Taxman)
- Bosch Crash Data Retrieval Tool (CDR)

Alternatives

OPCUG Share Backup Batch File

STEPHANE RICHARD

Key'n'Strokes
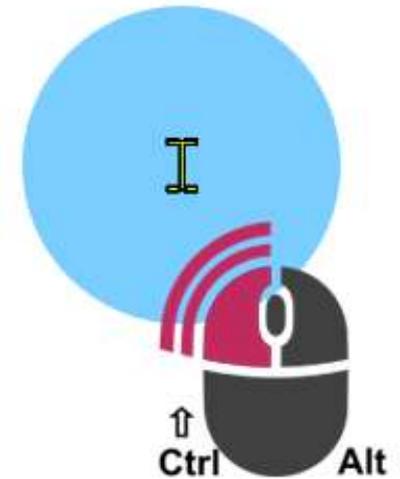
- Mouse pointer highlighter
- Great presenter's tool
- Audience can easily see
  - location of the mouse pointer
  - if modifier keys (Ctrl, Alt, Shift, Windows key) held down
  - if left/right mouse button clicked or double-clicked
  - if scroll wheel is pressed or rolled – & in what direction
  - keystrokes you press
- Highly customizable
- Free and open-source

https://github.com/Phaiax/Key-n-Stroke/tree/master/Releases
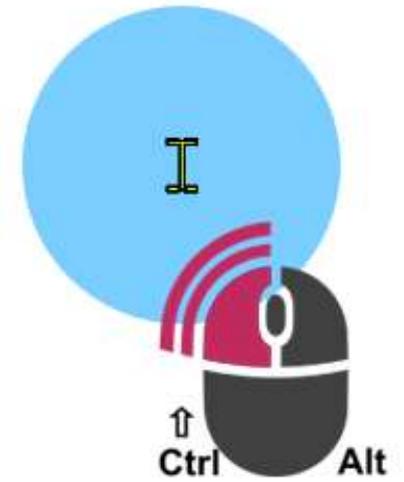
Key'n'Strokes

Demo

Key'n'Strokes
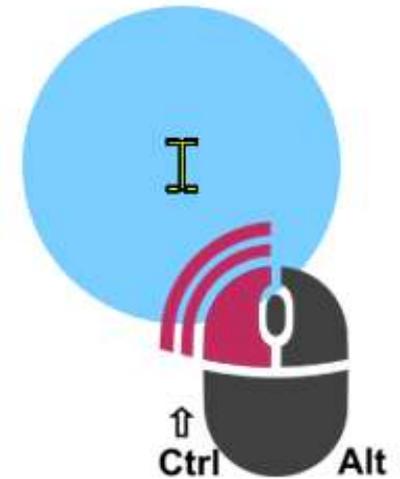
- Wish list
  - hotkeys for toggling
    - *Indicate cursor position*
    - *Show icon on click*
    - *Show keystroke history*
  - hide circle *Indicate cursor position* when mouse pointer disappears (eg. when watching a YouTube video)
  - option to *Load when Windows starts*
    - even though it is fairly easily added manually
- All have been submitted to the GitHub project

Ctrl   Alt

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

At last week's Q&A we answered some specific questions that were asked about VPN's.

This week we'll give some general information on VPN's.

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

- VPN software creates a private encrypted connection (tunnel) between your computer, tablet or smartphone and a remote VPN server. The server puts you on the internet in whatever geographic location the server is located in. The VPN software will usually let you choose a server location, and the locations can be anywhere in the world.

- A VPN can be used to access internet services not available in your location (a practice called '*Geo Hopping*'). Note that some sites that require you to be in a specific geographical location (e.g. United States) can detect if you are using a VPN and block you anyway.

- A VPN can slow down your internet connection, so you may have to turn the VPN off when using some services (e.g. Zoom).

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

Some VPN's offer:

- Multihop, where your connection goes from one server to another to another to make your connection more difficult to trace

- Split-tunneling, which allows separate VPN connections (tunnels) to different end destinations

- TOR connections. TOR (The Onion Router) is free and open-source software for enabling anonymous communication. It directs Internet traffic through a free, worldwide, volunteer overlay network, consisting of more than six thousand relays, for concealing a user's location and usage from anyone conducting network surveillance or traffic analysis. Using Tor makes it more difficult to trace the Internet activity to the user. Tor's intended use is to protect the personal privacy of its users, as well as their freedom and ability to conduct confidential communication by keeping their Internet activities unmonitored.
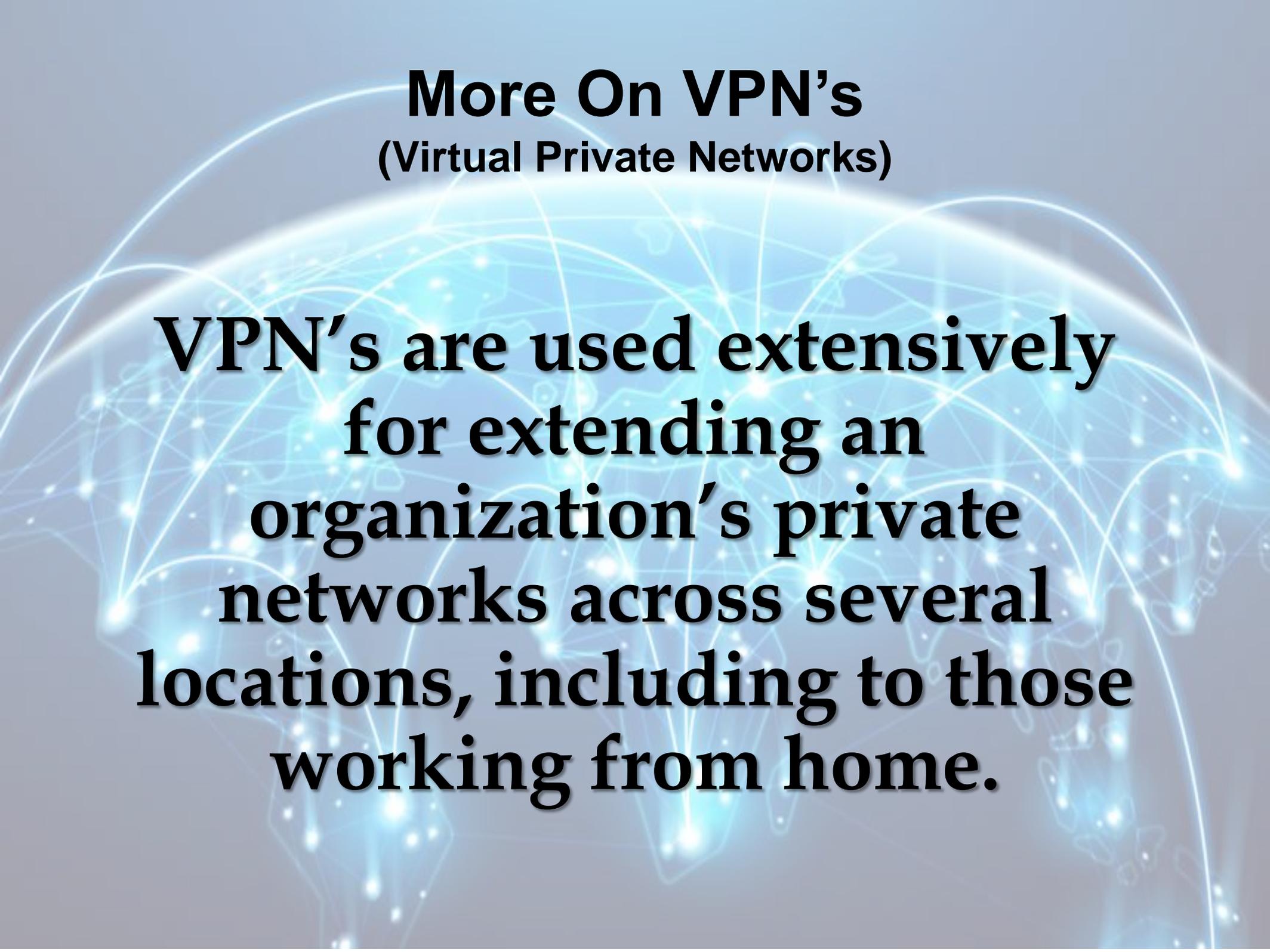
More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

- On public Wi-Fi (e.g. Tim Hortons, Starbucks, the hospital, your car dealer service waiting room, etc.), others on the Wi-Fi network can view your communications.

- A VPN's main role in *SECURITY* is when you are using public Wi-Fi because the VPN encrypts your communications (emails, banking, shopping, etc.) between your device (computer, tablet, smartphone, etc.) and the VPN server.

- Using a VPN on a reasonably secured home network doesn't really do a lot for security unless you're in a high density location like an apartment building. It's mainly an extra layer for *PRIVACY*. Even then, it's only one of many steps towards protecting your privacy. Like security, privacy must be done in layers.

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

- Some websites don't work properly with a VPN.

- At various times I've had problems with Costco, Loblaws, Home Depot and a few others (although Costco is OK now) and had to turn the VPN off to use them.

- I've come across a couple of sites that detected I was using a VPN and told me to turn it off if I wanted to connect. The same applies with add blocking and anti-tracking software.

- Sites that ask to know your location will get the wrong info if you use a VPN, especially if you're geo hopping.

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

VPN's are used extensively for extending an organization's private networks across several locations, including to those working from home.

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

- There are several good paid for VPN's such as NordVPN and ExpressVPN.
- The Avast SecureLine VPN comes free with the very good Avast Premium and Avast One (formerly Avast Ultimate) security packages, but if you have to pay for it separately then NordVPN and ExpressVPN are probably better choices. *
- There are also some good free VPN's like Proton.
- Beware the VPN company's privacy policy. Some companies sell your browsing information.
- Before acquiring ANY software you should look at SEVERAL reviews to make sure it is the right choice for you and to weed out bogus reviews designed to *'make a silk purse out of a sows ear'*.
- A good review on VPN's is PC Magazines "*The Best VPN Services for 2022*".

* - I gave a mini-presentation on Avast at the July 8, 2020 Q&A session. You can get it at https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20200708_Avast.pdf .

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

If your internet activity is pretty vanilla then privacy (as opposed to security) might not be a big concern for you. But if you:

- Use Facebook or other social media a lot
- Are involved in any political, human rights or protest activities,
- Download pirated music, movies, etc.
- Go to adult websites
- Etc., etc., etc.

Then you should use a VPN, AND take additional privacy measures.

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

- A VPN provides *some* tracking protection because you get a different IP address, sometimes every time you connect to the VPN. For sites that track by IP address, that will throw them off the scent.

- A VPN on its own doesn't do anywhere nearly as much to protect your privacy as the commercials would have you believe. There are several ways to get around a VPN to track you including:
  - Cookies,
  - Fingerprinting,
  - Supercookies and Evercookies,
  - Beacons (AKA 'tags' or 'tracking pixels'),
  - Malware.

More On VPN's
(Virtual Private Networks)

For maximum privacy protection you need to also consider:

- A VPN that has multihop, split-tunneling, and TOR connections

- What browser(s) you use.

- What your browser privacy settings are.

- Which search engine(s) you use.

- Using anti-tracking and add blocker software.

- How you use social media like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tick-Tock, Pinterest, YouTube, etc. These sites get a substantial part of their revenue by tracking you and selling your personal information to advertisers and others.

- etc., etc., etc.

We'll cover some of this during upcoming Q&A sessions.

Project Assistance Wanted

- Authorities are overwhelmed with the task of contact tracing for Covid victims

- What if contacts could be notified automatically?

- Tom Fotheringham a retired systems analyst and programmer has an app in mind

- He is looking for anyone who would like to assist with the project

Contact:
tom.fotheringham@gmail.com

Any other:

Questions

Comments

Shares?

SPECIAL OFFER!

Two-year Membership
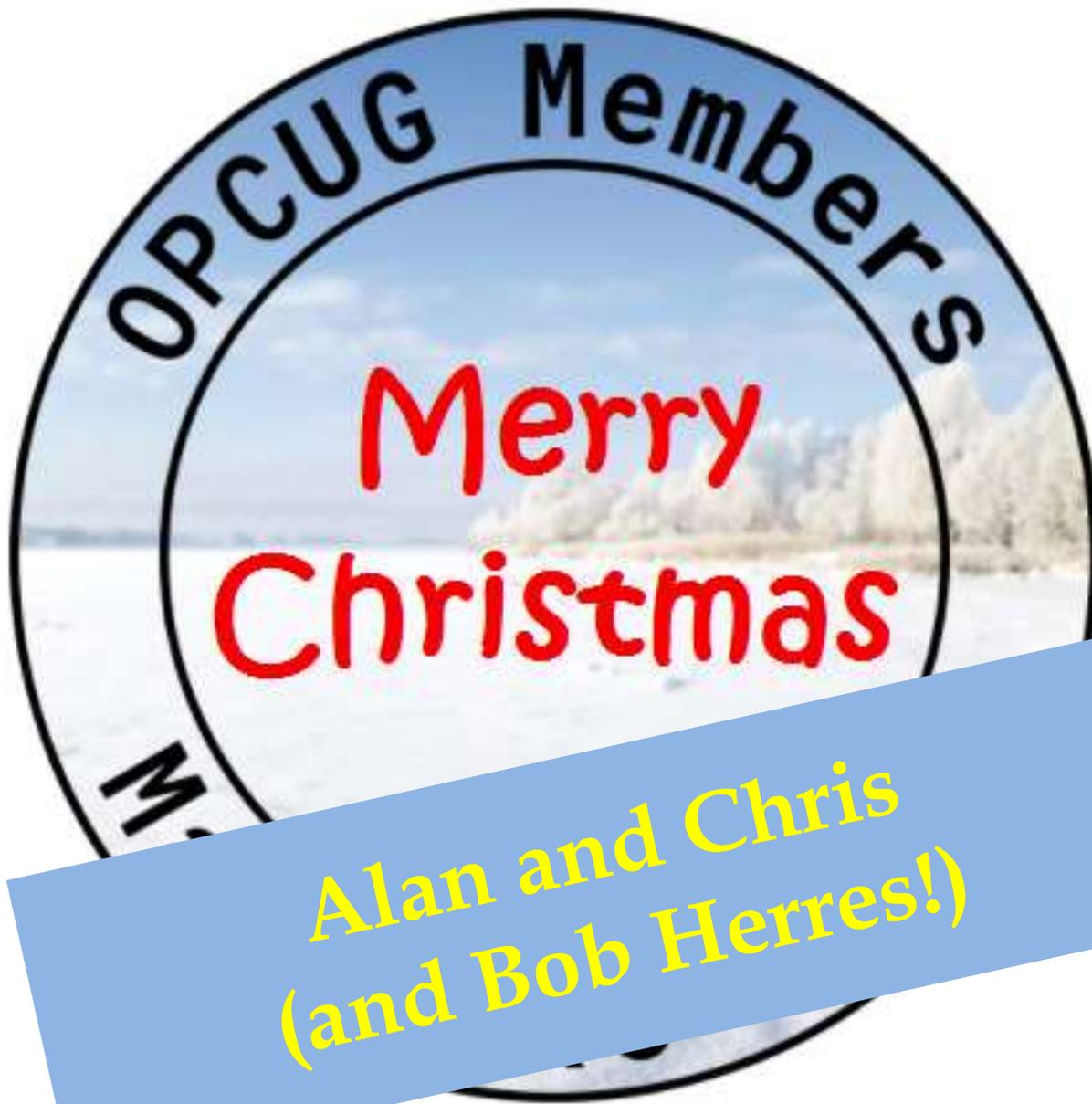# for the Price of One
(but only for a limited time)

Are you thinking of joining OPCUG? Right now, we have a very special membership offer. If you pay the annual $20.00 membership fee before March 31, 2022 we will give you an additional year of membership absolutely free.* That's right - buy one year of membership in our club and get two years of membership at no extra charge. So, take action now. Join OPCUG today and obtain all the benefits of membership for a full two years!

* Note to current members – Do not renew your membership until you receive a renewal notice. This special offer also applies to you in that we will extend the expiry date of your current membership by a full year without you having to pay the annual fee.

Don't forget :

Next Q&A
Dec 29th
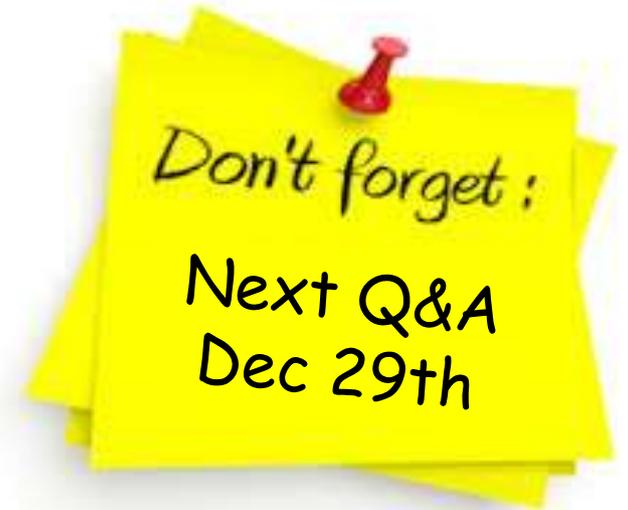
Send your questions, answers, and topics you wish to share to:

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca