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Ottawa PC Users' Group

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Upgrade to Windows 11?

- I am wondering if it's time for me to upgrade to Windows 11
- I won't be using any of the specific visual/graphic benefits that I see advertised
- However, for overall smooth functioning, do you think is it a good idea?

We will return to this question later





Tiny and Big Issues

1. The screen is too small
2. The icons at the top are too small to de-cypher and to click on with my finger [finger bigger than icon]





Tiny Screen

- Phones are designed to be portable; miniaturization is king
- Tablets come with larger screens (and larger icons) - but you need a huge pocket!
- You can make phone and video calls using VOIP (e.g. Fongo, WhatsApp)
- Some tablets support phone calls using a SIM card or Wi-Fi
- Samsung Galaxy phone tablets have a *“Call & text on other devices”* option

A Tiny Icons

- These are notification/ status (only) icons; they are not active
- There is a setting to increase their size *

Value	Description
<code>status_bar_system_icon_size</code>	Changes the size of the system icons.

** Unfortunately, this requires developing a custom ROM and changing the default setting in the program code*

Icon ID and Options

SOLVED: The Complete Guide To Icons on Android Devices

<https://www.urtech.ca/2020/08/solved-the-complete-guide-to-icons-on-android-devices/>

How to Remove Android Status Bar Icons

<https://www.lifewire.com/what-are-android-status-bar-icons-4774877>



Vertical bars getting larger to the right –
Cellular signal strength indicator



Horizontal Left and Right Arrows – Voice
over LTE as opposed to voice going over
a 3G network



Triangle with up and down arrows – Data
limit has been reached according to your
service provider



Satellite dish with Curves to the top right
icon – Devices GPS is active

Finally... a really BIG issue!

5. The logic of the OS hierarchy defeats me.
I guess like Windows 10, you "search" for everything
21. It took me about 40 years to get a working knowledge of Windows; I don't have another 40 years to acquire a working knowledge of the Android OS.



- You don't have to search for everything
- The display is highly customizable (e.g. icons for selected apps, shortcuts to specific files, etc.)
- A file manager can create custom folders, organize files by category (e.g. images), etc.
- You can create multiple pages (swipe left) of custom icons
- In fact, by default, there is no search command (but you can search in Settings and in the file manager, etc.)

ARTICLE

Exploring Android's File System – Part 1 by Alan German

There is no doubt that Android is a complicated operating system and, in particular, its file system is hard to fathom. For example, many end users on the web want to know why the amount of storage available on their smartphone is so much less than the nominal amount of the phone's disk

tions was not the only downside to the MBR partitioning scheme. It was first introduced with DOS and was limited to disk sizes no greater than 2TB. Now, while the latter limitation was fine when disks were just tens or hundreds of megabytes in size, clearly with today's much larger drives a different approach is pref-

smartphone has 42 partitions on its main storage device, an 8 GB eMMC flash (non-volatile) memory chip! But, more on this later.

When Windows boots, we can take a look at the contents of the C: drive us-



Part 1 – November, 2021
Part 2 – December, 2021
Part 3 – January, 2022
Part 4 – February, 2022

... This series of articles has attempted to provide some details of Android's extremely complex file system that can be quite confusing to end users.

<https://opcug.ca/newsletters/>

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CIRA Canadian Shield Browser Extension

- *An even easier way to surf safely* - CIRA
 - block hundreds of thousands of malware & phishing sites
- Free
- Available for
 - Google Chrome (and other browsers based on Chromium)
 - Firefox
- *Privacy is paramount*
- *CIRA does not store or sell your website browsing data*



CIRA Canadian Shield

Share



CIRA Canadian Shield

- For domains engaging in malicious, phishing, & scam
 - blocks access to domain
 - present the user with a block page
- To install
- Browse to <https://www.cira.ca/cira-canadian-shield-browser-extension>
 - using browser you want to install extension to

Chromium-based browsers

- Google Chrome
- Edge
- Vivaldi
- Brave
- Opera...



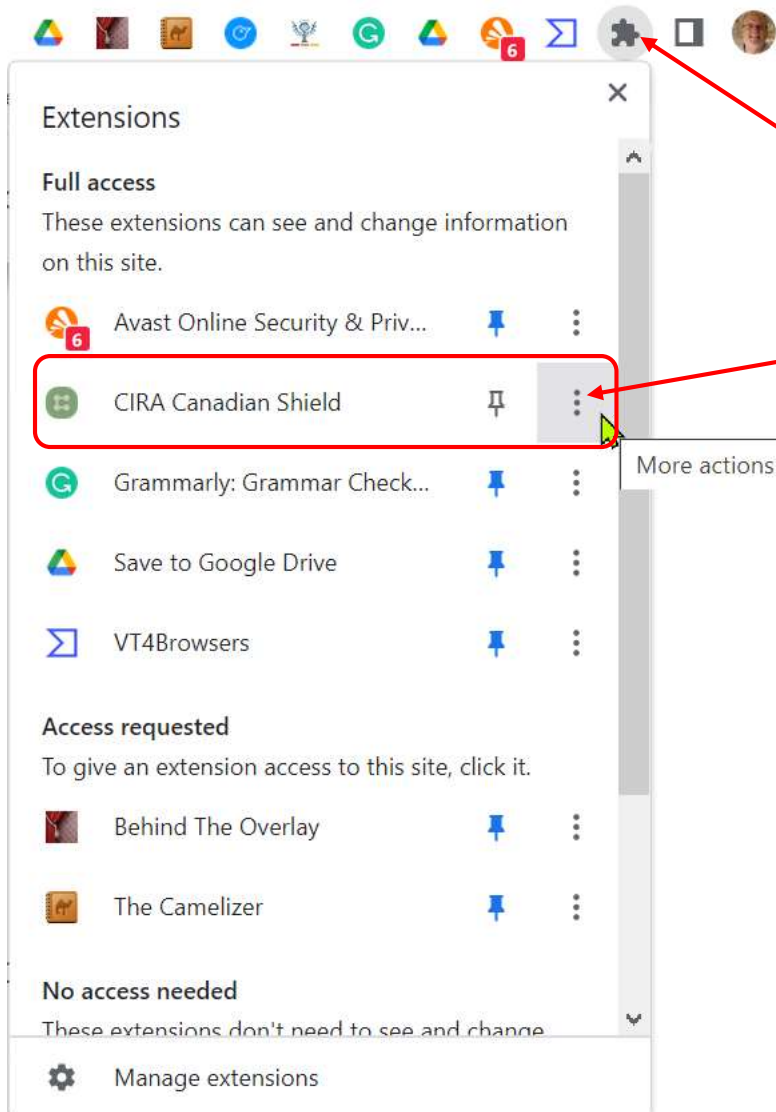
Firefox

When you get to *chrome web store*

Add to Chrome

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Configuring extension



Click *Extensions* icon

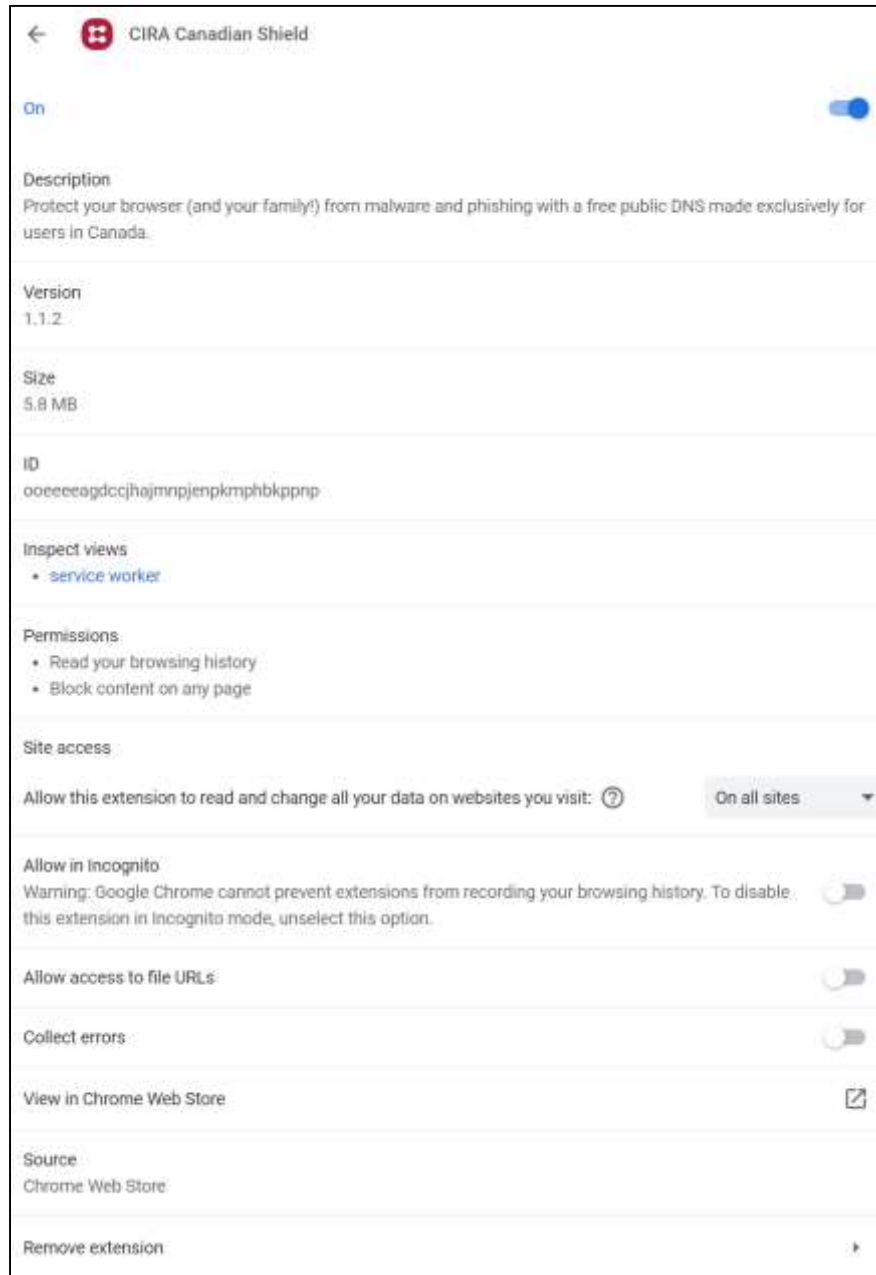
- (right of address bar in browser)

- click *More actions*

- choose *Manage extension*

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Manage extension



Toggle on/off

Info about extension

Configuration options

Remove (uninstall)

Share

Canadian Shield

- CIRA Canadian Shield *Browser Extension*
 - powered by *CIRA Canadian Shield*
- CIRA Canadian Shield
 - DNS-based protection
 - Replace normal DNS server in your config with CIRA's
 - your computer looks up an IP address
 - CIRA's DNS knows about a lot of malicious sites
 - blocks you from going to known malicious sites
 - we looked at *CIRA Canadian Shield* January 6, 2021

https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20210106_PowerPoint.pdf

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Canadian Shield

- Can easily use CIRA Canadian Shield
- Could use both CIRA Canadian Shield and CIRA Canadian Shield Browser protection
- Afterall, computer security all about layers

Browser-based protection

DNS-based protection



If one layer fails

- hopefully another layer works

Share

Layered security

- But wait a sec...
 - CIRA Canadian Shield
 - uses DNS-based protection
 - CIRA Canadian Shield *Browser Extension*
 - uses CIRA Canadian Shield
- So they are providing *identical* protection
- No advantage to identical protection done twice

Canadian Shield

- There are alternatives for DNS-based protection
 - Quad9
 - <https://www.quad9.net/>
 - Neustar UltraDNS Public
 - <https://www.publicdns.neustar/>
- Why not use
 - alternative DNS service for low-level protection of everything
 - CIRA Canadian Shield Browser Protection for browsers
- Two alternative services may provide enhanced protection

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Don't forget other layers

If one layer fails

- hopefully another layer works

Be suspicious



Browser-based protection

Account management



Firewall



DNS-based protection

Patch management



Anti-virus



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ReasonLabs: State of Consumer Cybersecurity 2022



- Data from 2021 (over 180 countries)
- Key takeaways
 - 2021 “year of the miner”
 - phishing via documents and email still popular
 - top 5 countries (average detection per user)
 - Russia, Indonesia, Egypt, China, Poland
 - decrease in number of threats leveraging ‘COVID-19’
 - infostealers very popular
 - 2022: expect shift in hackers’ focus from enterprises back to consumers
- Very good explanations of
 - types of malware
 - threats



Internet outages

- What possible explanations might there be for the Rogers outage?
- Could the same thing happen to Bell?
- Have other countries experienced similar issues?



A Rogers outage



- *We now believe we've narrowed the cause to a network system failure following a maintenance update in our core network, which caused some of our routers to malfunction*
 - Tony Staffieri President & CEO, Rogers Communications
- Michael Geist's take on it
 - <https://www.michaelgeist.ca/2022/07/responding-to-the-rogers-outage-time-to-get-serious-about-competition-consumer-rights-and-communications-regulation/>



A Single Beaver Caused Internet Outages in Canada



CORBIN DAVENPORT [@corbindavenport](#)

JUN 14, 2022, 3:58 PM EDT | 1 MIN READ



<https://www.howtogeek.com/811604/a-single-beaver-caused-internet-outages-in-canada/>



Shutting Down the Internet to Shut Up Critics

© 2020 Brian Stauffer for Human Rights Watch

Available In: English | العربية | 简体中文 | Français | Español

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/global-5>

5 of the world's biggest network outages

By [Michael Rabinowitz](#) last updated December 03, 2021

1. Dyn cyberattack (2016)

Countries affected: United States and Europe

...multiple distributed denial-of-service attacks targeted systems operated by Managed Domain Name Systems (DNS) provider Dyn

2. British Airways IT failure (2017)

Countries affected: United Kingdom/global

An IT maintenance contractor accidentally switched off an 'uninterruptable power supply' at a key data centre, damaging the server during the subsequent power surge.

3. Amazon Web Services (2017)

Countries affected: Global

Amazon's S3 web-based storage service experienced high error rates, leading to either partial or full outages

5. A whole country without connection (2011)

Countries affected: Republic of Armenia

...a 75-year-old woman digging for scrap metal damaged land cables

And, saving the best for last!

4. Vodafone data centre (2011)

Countries affected: UK

**...thieves broke into its
Hampshire-based data
centre using sledgehammers...**

Vodafone
Group





Microsoft Services Agreement

- What is the update to Microsoft Services Agreement starting August 15th?
- Notice arrived in my spam folder
- Wanted to confirm that it is real



Did you read the full agreement whenever you agreed to it?

- 34 pages, 15,485 words





How did I know email was legit?

Legit-looking *from* domain

- ends in *microsoft.com*
- but *from* can be easily faked

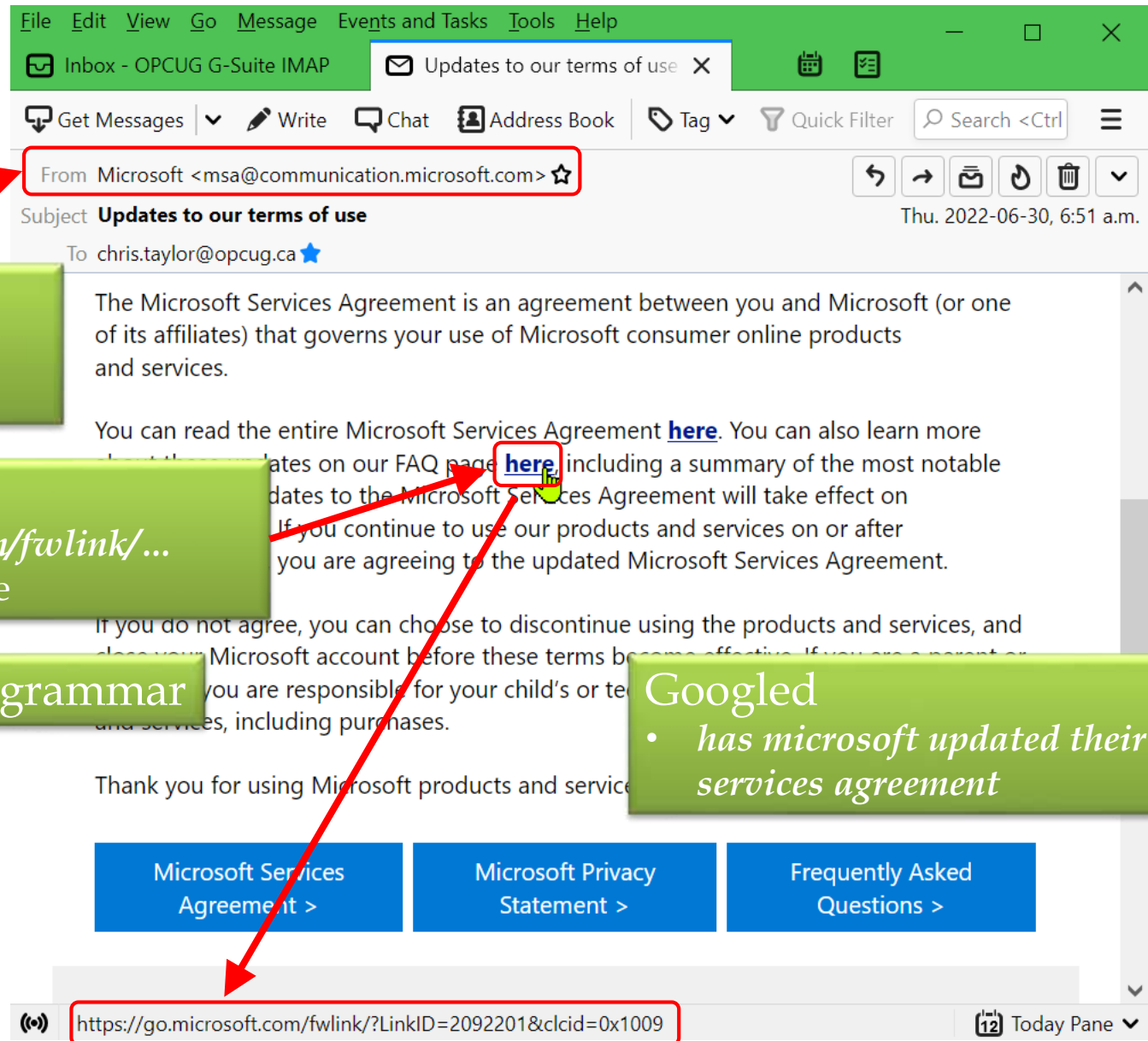
Hover mouse over link

- Legit-looking: *go.microsoft.com/fwlink/...*
- Microsoft uses these all the time

No other red flags e.g. poor grammar

Googled

- *has microsoft updated their services agreement*





Your Services Agreement made clearer

- Highlights as I see them (IANAL – I Am Not A Lawyer – read for yourself)
 - clarified Microsoft Start has guidelines applying to user conduct
 - Republic of Korea users may have certain rights that can't be limited by contract
 - **Xbox Services: sharing data with industry partners and not just game developers**
 - Xbox Subscriptions Terms & Conditions more prominent/easier to find
 - Xbox Service Subscriptions new policy: Microsoft may turn off recurring billing if you do not use your applicable Xbox Services subscription for a period of time
 - **Skype, Teams: Microsoft's obligations to offer access to Emergency Services (e.g. 911)**
 - Service-Specific Terms removed: Microsoft Band – applications & services discontinued, & web-connected features no longer available
 - clarifies Microsoft Soundscape is a general-purpose consumer service
 - Notices section: update the notice status of certain licenses & patents
 - changes to improve clarity and to address grammar, typos, and other similar issues
- Looks pretty innocuous to me
- From email:
 - *If you do not agree, you can choose to discontinue using the products and services, and close your Microsoft account before these terms become effective*

Share

Dead Man's switch

- This website offers free & \$50 (lifetime) service for Email notifications that you set in the event you do not respond to one of their checkup queries
- Could be handy for some of us "mature" types

*Bad things happen.
Sometimes, they happen to you.*

<https://www.deadmansswitch.net/>

...from good OLD Stewart Bruce



Upgrade to Windows 11?

- I am wondering if it's time for me to upgrade to Windows 11
- I won't be using any of the specific visual/graphic benefits that I see advertised
- However, for overall smooth functioning, do you think is it a good idea?



A NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

...more details when I get on a keyboard

Andrew Webber

A

Not on your life!

One reason NOT to go to 11, for me, is that 11 does not support a left-hand task bar like:

Tom Trottier





Almost there...

- My upgrade from Windows 10 Pro to Windows 11 Pro went very smoothly and all of my many programs worked without issues
- A batch file that contains a command string to disable BitLocker on a drive did not work and I have to find the equivalent command
- The one thing I did not like in Windows 11 was the new start menu, so I installed Start11 from Stardock and it allows for better control of the menu

Andrew Petrovic

A Maybe not necessary (for now)

- Upgrading to Windows 11 on a machine currently running Windows 10 can be complex topic
- I would state the following:
 - Microsoft will continue to support at least one Windows 10 release until October 14, 2025
 - So if you're happy with Windows 10, stick with it, as it's likely the system you're working on will be replaced by then with a machine built around Windows 11
 - Yes, I'm assuming you're not holding on to the same machine for greater than 4 years!

Lawrence Patterson

A But, why not try?

- Microsoft has flagged that your Windows 10 machine is ready for Windows 11
- You have a Microsoft account and are not using any unique or unusual software
- Make sure your Anti-virus and other utilities are Windows 11 ready
- Do a full backup
- Go ahead with the update



A Yes (eventually!)

- I'm using Windows 11 now on a new laptop
- Still working out things with Dell due to BSODs for various issues, which I realize isn't a selling point
- But I had to get a feel for Windows 11 at some point as I will be running/supporting Windows 10 on my work machines
- Am I wowed either way? No!
- I'll be presenting more detail in the fall, but Windows 11 is coming whether we like it or not
- So, if we want to stick Windows, it'll be our reality, eventually



Share

Organizing your music files



Bob Walker

Video and Audio Tools Series

- How to download videos and audio from YouTube using Video DownloadHelper
- How to download or capture videos using Debut Video Capture and Screen Recorder Software
- How to do still and video screen capture using ScreenHunter Pro all-in-one screen capture and screen recording software
- How to capture (rip) audio from a video file and how to take a screenshot of the current video frame using GOM Player
- How to rip your CD's to MP3's using Express Rip CD Ripper
- How to edit the tags (metadata) for your MP3's
- ➔ • **Organizing your songs and music videos, part one**
 - Organizing your songs and music videos, part two
 - Organizing your songs and music videos, part three
 - Some iTunes tips, tricks and glitches

Video and Audio Tools Series

So far in this series we've seen:

- How to download videos or just the soundtracks of those videos from YouTube (using Video DownloadHelper),
- How to capture videos (using Debut Video Capture and ScreenHunter Pro),
- How to capture (rip) the audio from a video file (using GOM Player),
- How to rip your CD's to MP3's (using Express Rip CD Ripper),
- How to edit the tags (metadata) for your MP3's (using Music Tag),

AND

You can also download lots and lots more videos, songs and even movies from many places on the internet including iTunes, and you can get stuff from friends too.

So now that you have all these great songs and associated videos, how do you organize them and keep track of them?

In this session we'll start to look at organizing your songs and music videos.

Media Management Software

One way to manage your collection is to use Media Management software.

Depending on the features of the particular app, they can:

- Automagically detect and catalogue all the music and other media files on your computer, sometimes while leaving them where they are, sometimes by moving them into the database.
- Allow you to search and sort by artist and/or song title and/or album and/or genre and/or other criteria.
- Synchronize your libraries between your computer(s), your smartphone and other devices.
- Some can do the ripping, tagging and burning that we've used separate software for so far.
- All include media player functionality.

Media Management Software

As much as media management software can do a lot of things for you, the learning curves are quite steep if you want to do much beyond the most basic functions, and you must be disciplined and diligent about using it or you'll just add extra layers of disorganization to any already existing chaos and disorganization.

There is a great review of some of these at <https://windowsreport.com/music-library-software/>

Let's have a quick look at some choices.

MediaMonkey

- MediaMonkey is arguably the best music library software for Windows 10. It also has Android and iOS versions.
- MediaMonkey provides a very comprehensive range of features and tools that covers virtually any media situation imaginable. It is very customizable, including different skins.
- Unfortunately, the more powerful the tool, the steeper the learning curve. I tried MediaMonkey but was unwilling to put in the time and effort to learn it.
- The free version is very capable, the full-featured paid version is ~US\$25.
- Official website <https://www.mediamonkey.com/>
- Comprehensive review <https://www.softwarehow.com/mediamonkey-review/>

MusicBee

- MusicBee is another top-rated Windows 10 music library software app.
- It allows you to integrate with notable music apps and hubs like podcasts, SoundCloud, web radio stations, and so on.
- The most noticeable feature of MusicBee is that it offers complete installation and administration help on its official website.
- It has plenty of other cool features like lyrics support, tag editing, scrobbling* with last.FM, theatrical mode, UI customization, and stylish skins and visualizers.
- MusicBee is freeware funded by donations.
- Official website <https://getmusicbee.com/>

* - Scrobble (verb) - On an online music service, to record a listener's musical preferences and recommend similar music that he or she might enjoy.

Other Apps to Consider

- [Windows Media Player](#) has powerful sets of music organizing and media player features. Still around, and still buggy as h*ll after all these years.
- [iTunes](#), from Apple, is a media player and music library app. Available for Windows and macOS computers. Focuses more on the store and media provision side than on the media management side.
- [foobar2000](#) is a versatile music library software, designed for Windows PC and Android. The software is one of the most widely used music library tools and players, with a global client base of about 30 million users.
- [iMusic](#) (NOT from Apple) is good but expensive (US\$40 *per year* per computer, US\$60 lifetime for one computer, US\$150 lifetime for up to 5 computers) (Note: The term 'iMusic' is used by other organizations for other things).

Media Management Software

When you are using a software app for a specific purpose (e.g., screen capture, video editing, CD ripping) and you want to change, it is relatively easy.

However, if you are using a database app, changing over to a different database app can be much more involved.

So music/media management apps are great
IF

you are willing to spend the time and effort
required to learn and use them. Is there an
easier way?

Yes there is:

Good File Management

It's FREE and it's EASY, and if you get behind
with music and music video files running
wild all over your devices it's easy to get
caught up again.

Database vs File Management

With a database application, you can sort and search on any one of several criteria (e.g. artist, song title, album title, genre, etc.) separately or several at a time.

Using just basic file management, you have to choose what the **MOST IMPORTANT** criteria is to sort or search on, and then organize the directories and files accordingly.

For a music collection, the most important criteria is usually *'Artist'*, so we'll choose that as the key criteria to organize the music collection around.

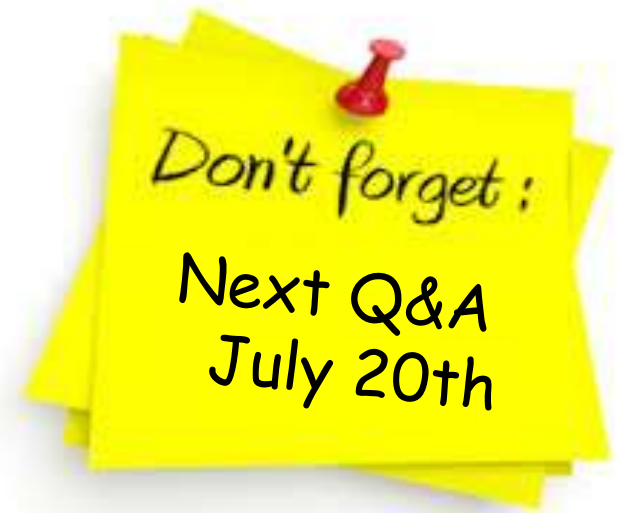
We'll also look at a few workarounds ('cheats') to get around these limitations.

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- Organizing your songs and music videos, part one
- ➔ • **Organizing your songs and music videos, part two**
- Organizing your songs and music videos, part three
- Some iTunes tips, tricks and glitches



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

