



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

August 3, 2022

Follow-up

Cassette to digital media

- What's the best way to copy from a cassette tape to digital media?
- Several methods; the best one may be the one that works for you (and your equipment)
- Other/similar needs:
 - capture tracks from vinyl records
 - record audio from the Internet
- Possible hardware/software requirements:
 - audio recording software
 - cable to connect media player to the computer

A blast from the past!



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

Volume 22, Number 5

May 2005

PRODUCT REVIEW

Copying vinyl to CD for less than five bucks *by Alan German*

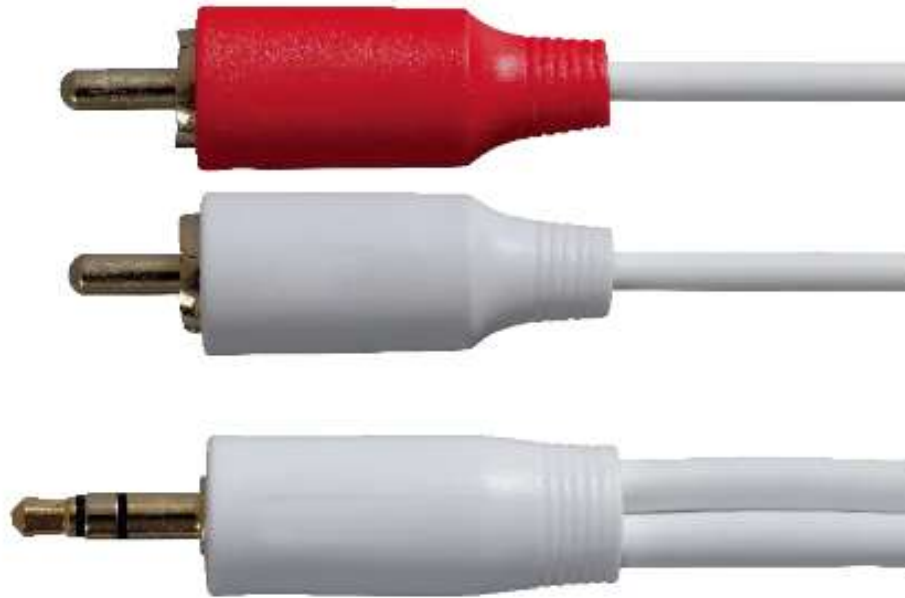
Do you know what a tone arm is? Do you think that a stylus is only used with a tablet PC? If you have a stylus, mounted in a cartridge, installed on a tone arm, and connected to a hi-fi system, you probably

The cable we need (assuming your sound system is like mine) will provide two RCA jacks on one end and one stereo mini co-axial jack at the other end. The best buy that I found on the required cable was at Canadian Tire -

Y-adapter cable between the amplifier output of your sound system and an input on your sound card. The latter may take the form of "Line-in" or "Microphone". Different sound cards seem to have a variety of different in-

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/0505.pdf>

3.5mm to RCA stereo adapter \$ 7.99 (2022)



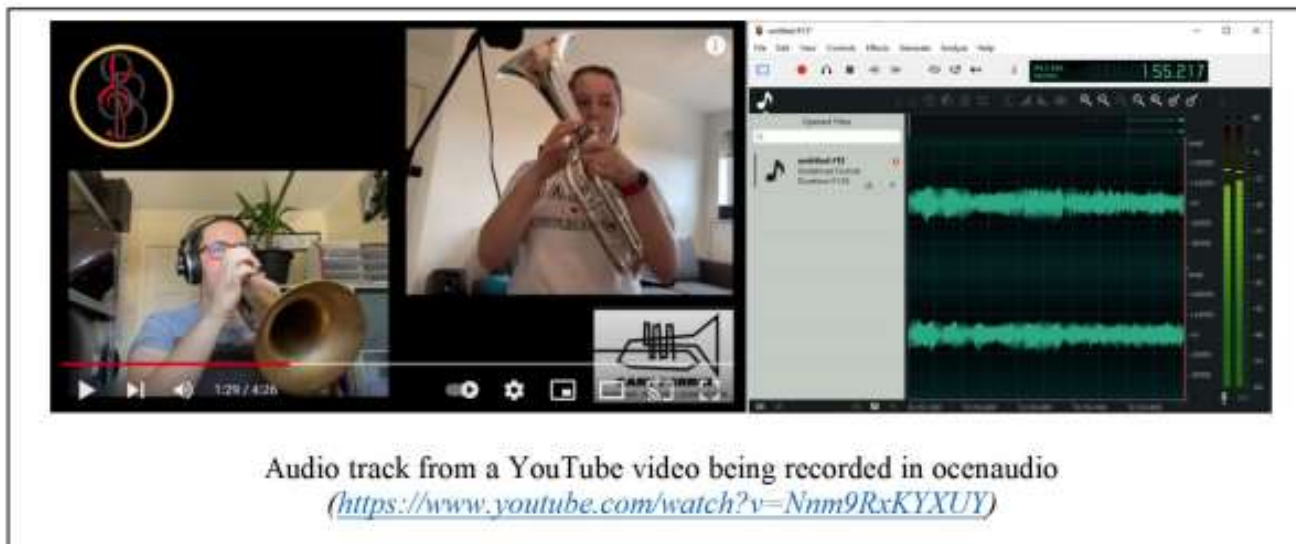
<https://www.canadiantire.ca/en/pdp/jensen-rca-cable-3-5-mm-3-ft-0452841p.html>

PRODUCT REVIEW

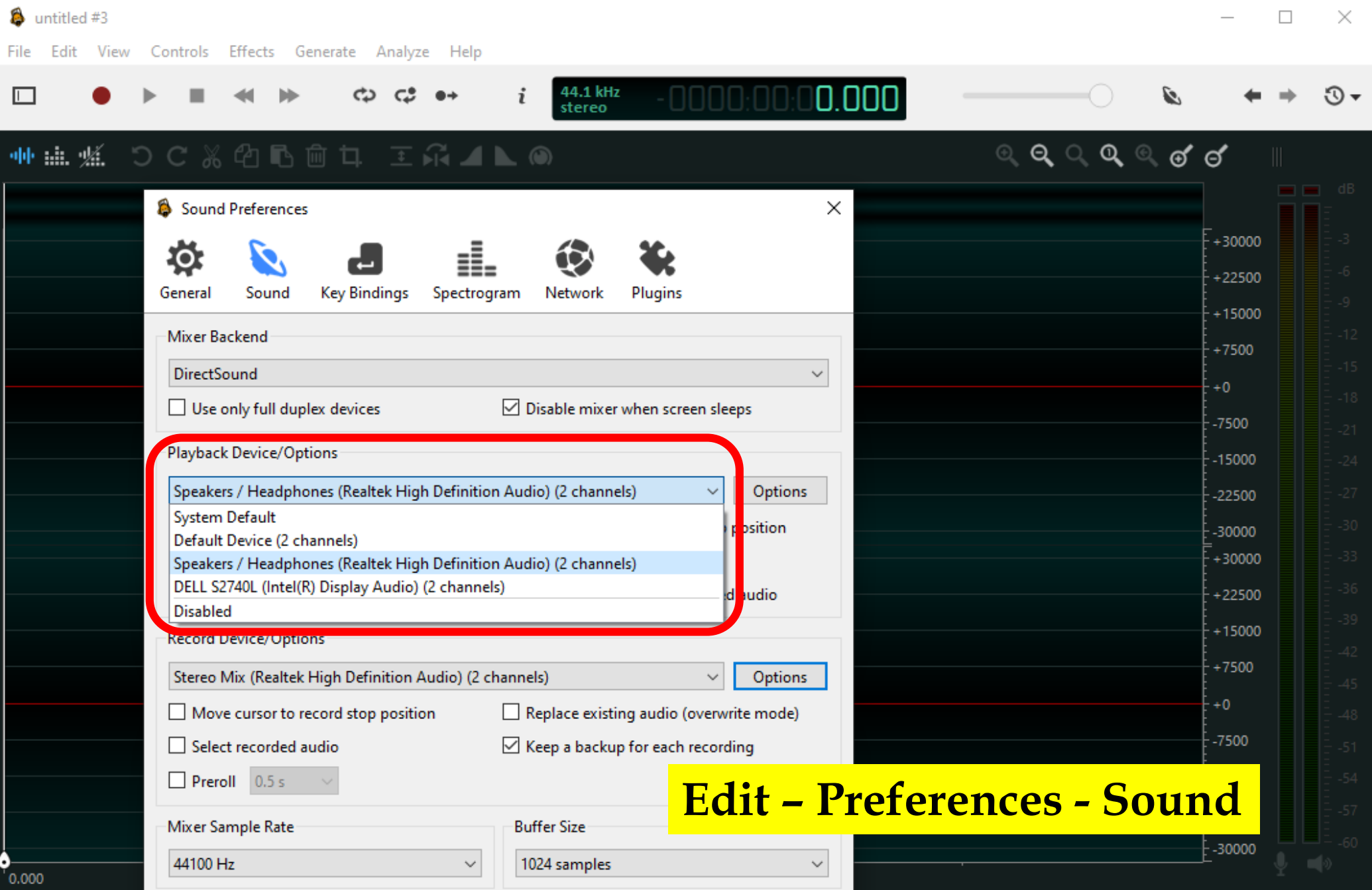
Ocenaudio - An Alternative Sound Editor *by Alan German*

Those of you who have attended some of our past Q&A sessions will have followed the discussions about Audacity, an open-source sound editor that ran into some controversy when it was acquired by the Muse Group. The issue was that the program's privacy policy was changed to allow certain data elements relating to the user to be collected and transmitted back to home base. This raised a number of privacy concerns among members of the open-source community and, as a result, the program code was forked to create

icon on the left side of the menu, in order to focus on the recorded waveform. Two useful items are displayed immediately above the waveform. A number of editing tools may be accessed using the groups of black-and-white icons. The series of magnifying-glass icons on the right allow zooming the waveform in and out, both horizontally and vertically. In addition, a timeline below these icons allows a specific section of the waveform to be displayed by clicking the mouse on the timeline and scrolling to the left or right.

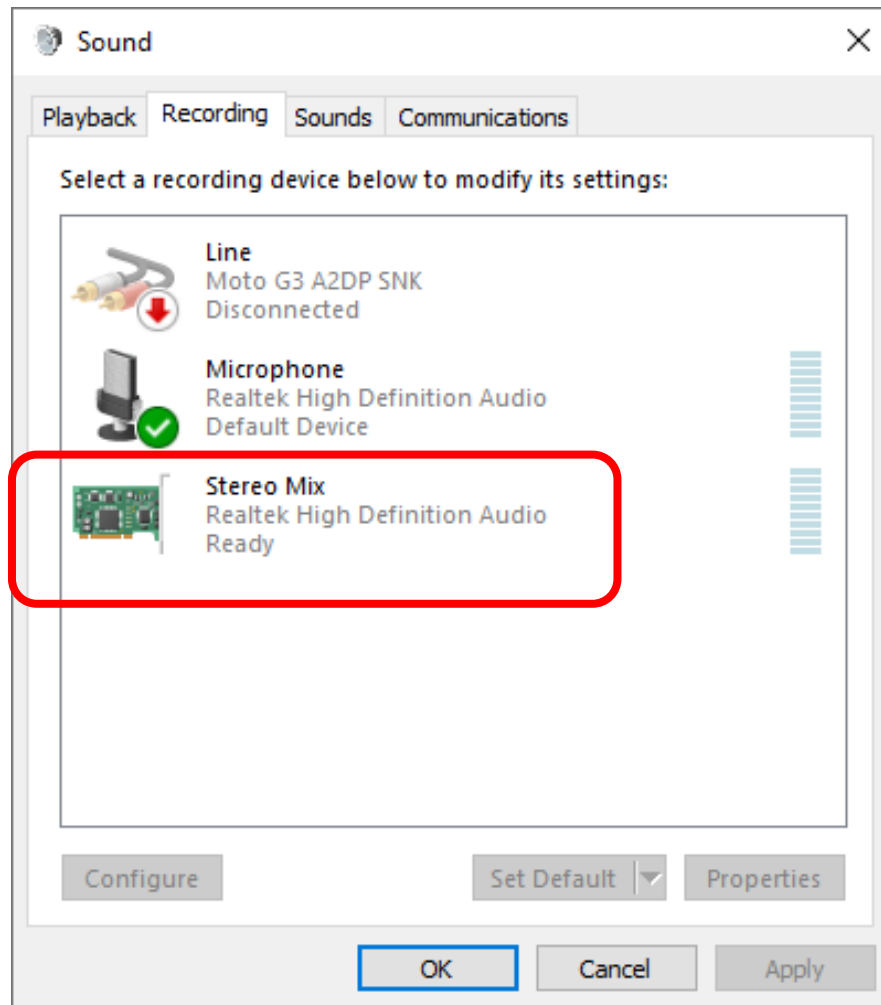


<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2204NEWS.pdf>



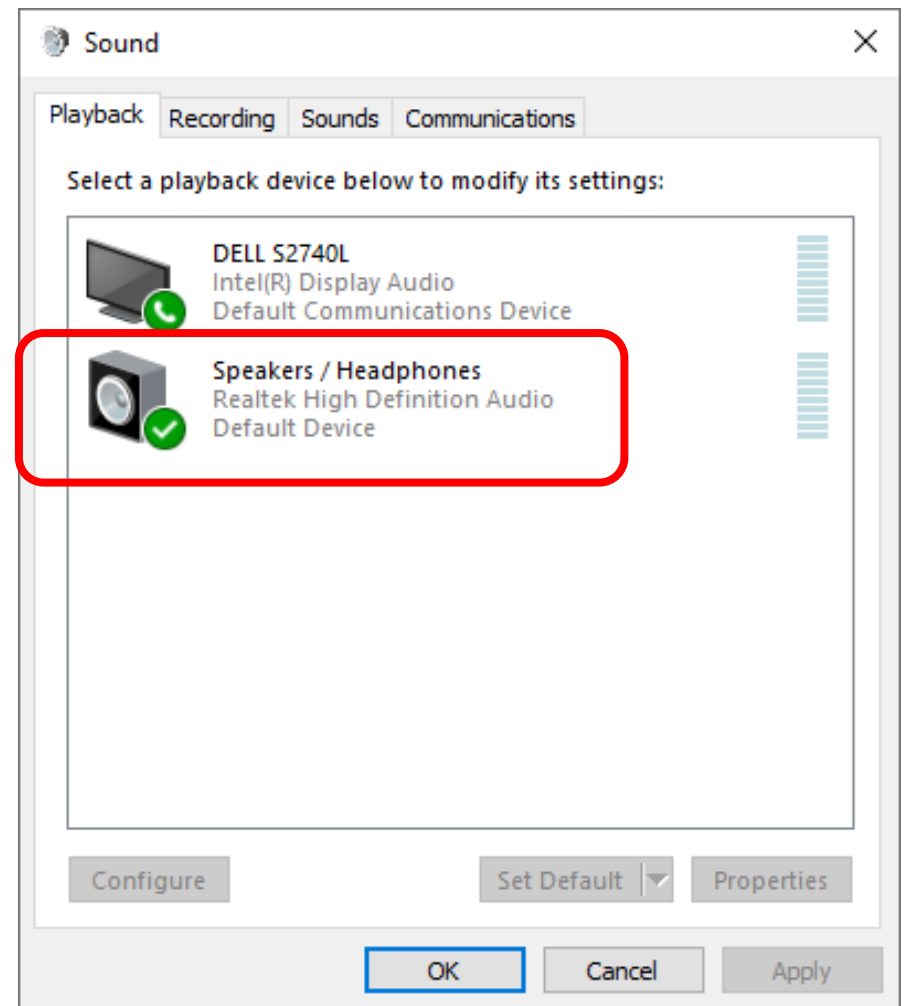
Edit – Preferences – Sound

Recording (Input)



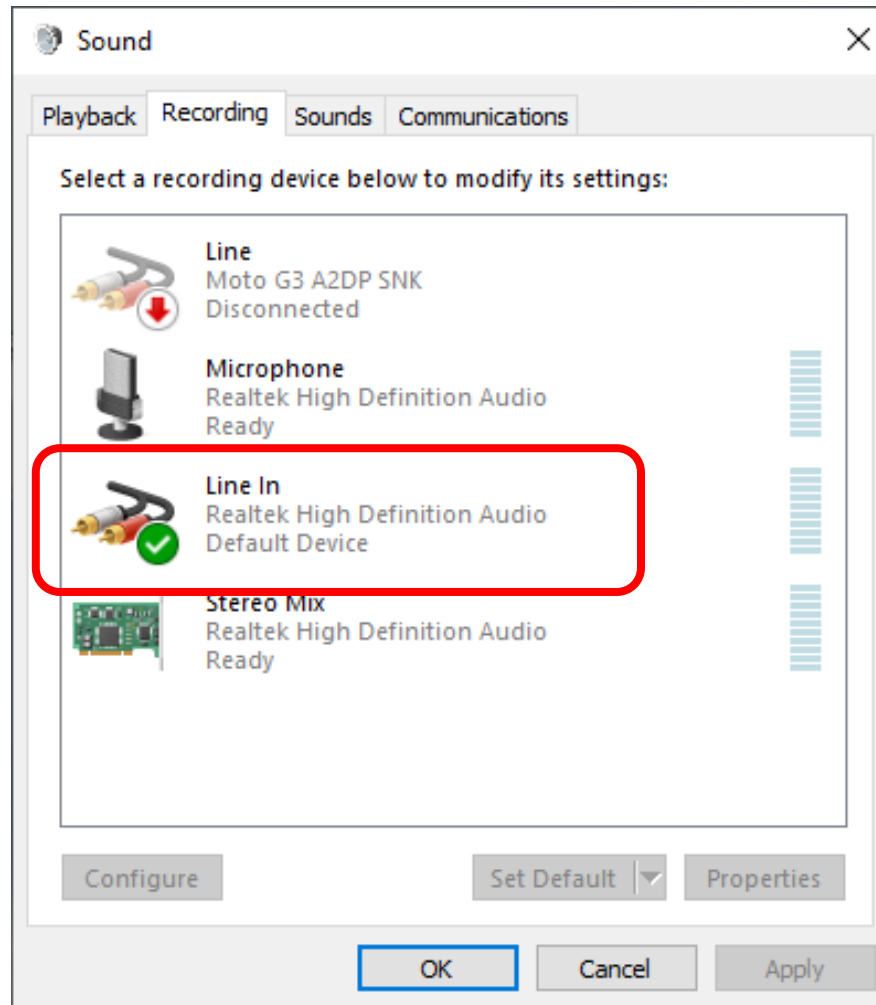
Connected to the Internet

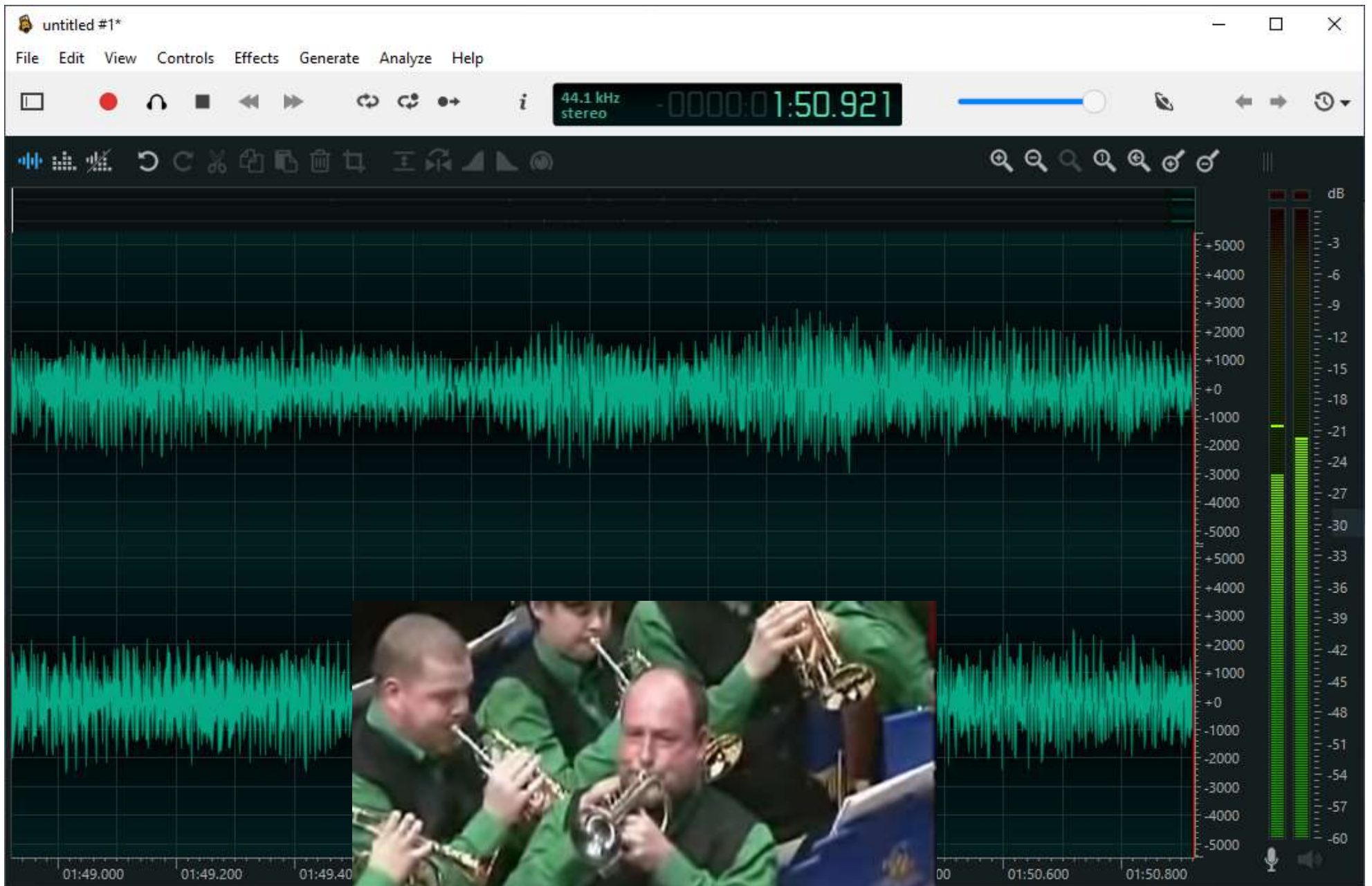
Playback (Output)

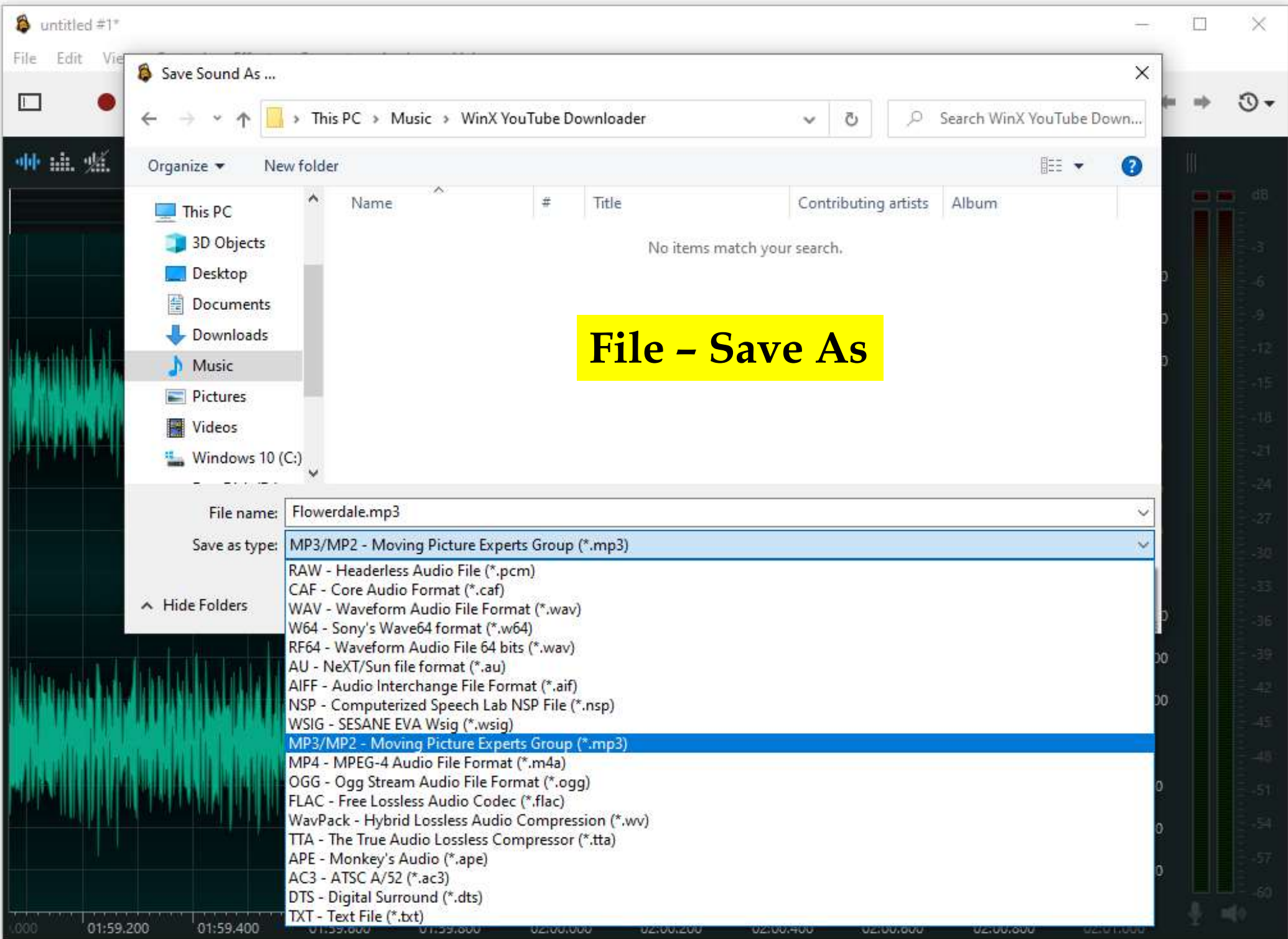


Connected to Hi-Fi System

(using that \$5 cable!)







File - Save As

FOLLOW UP

Last week there was a question about digitizing cassette tapes and the app I had mentioned a few weeks before. I didn't have that info at hand at the time, but here it is with even more info.

The app is NCH's Golden Records.



NCH Golden Records

- NCH Golden Records can convert vinyl records & cassette tapes to digital audio (CD, MP3 and more).
- Golden Records can:
 - Remove hiss, clicks and pops from old tapes or scratched records.
 - Normalize the volume of recordings when converting to CD.
 - Automatically detect silence to split audio into tracks.
 - Apply phono RIAA equalization so no special phono pre-amplifier is required. You can connect a turntable directly to the computer.
 - Convert 78 RPM records being played on a 45 RPM player.
 - Record ('burn') the music to CD's.

<https://www.nch.com.au/golden/index.html>

NCH Golden Records

Assuming you already have a good turntable and/or cassette deck, you will need the appropriate cables and adapters to connect them to your computer.

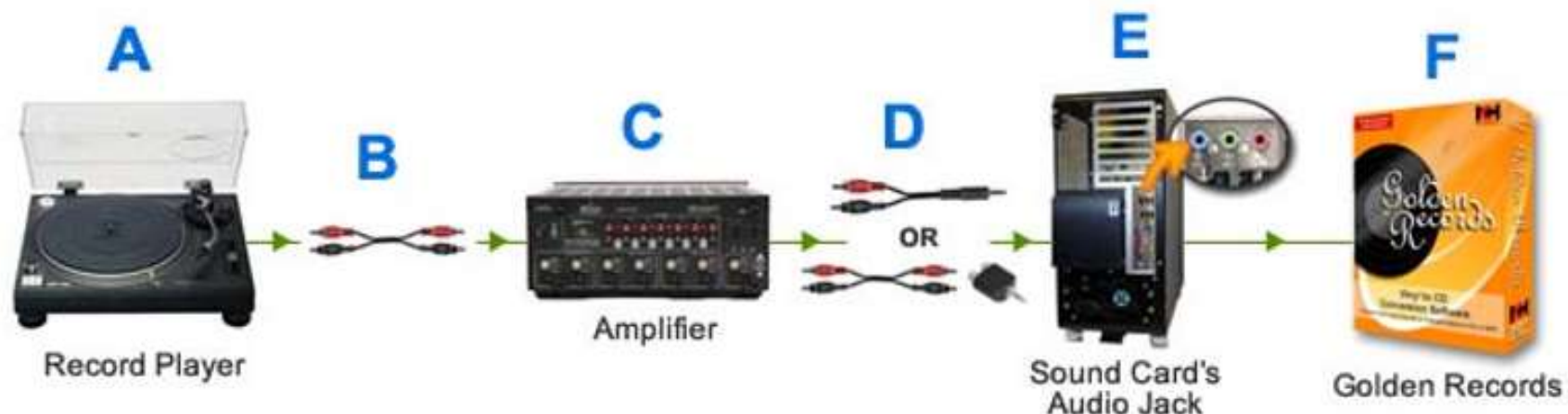
For more information see the Golden Records Hardware Setup Guide at

<https://www.nch.com.au/golden/setup.html>

You can also get a turntable with a USB output.

You can also recover music from any 8-Tracks provided you have a suitable 8-Track player, but the quality may not be very good.

Golden Records Hardware Setup Guide for Record Players using an Amplifier



Hardware Requirements

A - A record player capable of playing 33 or 45 RPM records.

B - A Stereo RCA to Stereo RCA cable. [More info on required cables here](#)

C - An amplifier

D - A Stereo RCA to 3.5mm Stereo cable, **or** a Stereo RCA to Stereo RCA cable with a Stereo RCA to 3.5mm Stereo Adapter. [More info on required cables here](#)

E - A computer with a sound card and CD Burning Drive if wanting to copy to CD.

F - The Golden Records vinyl to CD conversion software. [Download Here](#)

Setup Guide

1. Make sure the record player, amplifier and computer's power is switched off.
2. Using the cable described in **B** above, connect the record player to the amplifier.
3. Using the cable described in **D** above, connect the amplifier to the sound card's audio jack in the back of the computer.
4. Download and Install the [Golden Records vinyl to CD converter](#) onto the computer.
5. You are now ready to convert your vinyl records!

Using an amplifier is the preferred way of connecting a phono turntable to a computer.

Golden Records Hardware Setup Guide for Record Players



Hardware Requirements

A - A record player capable of playing 33 or 45 RPM records.

B - A Stereo RCA to 3.5mm Stereo cable, **or** a Stereo RCA to Stereo RCA cable with a Stereo RCA to 3.5mm Stereo Adapter. [More info on required cables here](#)

C - A computer with a sound card and CD Burning Drive if wanting to copy to CD.

D - The Golden Records vinyl to CD conversion software. [Download Here](#)

Setup Guide

1. Make sure the record player and computer's power is switched off.
2. Using one of the cables described in **B** above, connect the record player to the sound card's audio jack in the back of the computer.
3. Download and Install the [Golden Records vinyl to CD converter](#) onto the computer.
4. You are now ready to convert your vinyl records!

This is a workaround if you don't have the proper amplifier.

Golden Records Hardware Setup Guide for Cassette Player with Amplifier



Hardware Requirements

A - A cassette player with amplifier.

B - A Stereo RCA to 3.5mm Stereo cable, **or** a Stereo RCA to Stereo RCA cable with a Stereo RCA to 3.5mm Stereo Adapter. [More info on required cables here](#)

C - A computer with a sound card and CD Burning Drive if wanting to copy to CD.

D - The Golden Records vinyl to CD conversion software. [Download Here](#)

Setup Guide

1. Make sure the cassette player and computer's power is switched off.
2. Using the cable described in **B** above, connect the cassette player to the sound card's audio jack in the back of the computer.
3. Download and Install the [Golden Records vinyl to CD converter](#) onto the computer.
4. You are now ready to convert your cassettes!

Golden Records Cable Guide



A Stereo RCA to 3.5mm Stereo cable



A Stereo RCA to Stereo RCA cable



A Stereo RCA to 3.5mm Stereo adapter

‘Line Level’ is the most standard way to move analog sound signals between devices (e.g., between a cassette deck and an amplifier). It is nominally 0.5 to 0.7 of a volt.

Pretty much all sound cards for computers have ‘Line In’ and ‘Line Out’ (sometimes referred to as ‘Audio In’ and ‘Audio Out’) connections, but as far as I know they aren’t as common in current laptops.

Microphones put out a much weaker signal than line level, so devices that can use microphones have separate 'Microphone In' or 'Mic In' connections, including most computer sound cards and many laptop computers.

Laptop computers can have a separate 'Mic In' jack, or a 'Unified' jack that handles 'Mic In' (mono, not stereo) and 'Headset Out' (stereo) for a headset with a built-in mic.

The device that amplifies a microphone signal to 'Line Level' is called a 'Pre-Amp', and this is usually built in to any device designed to use mics. Most microphones in a consumer environment use some type of 'phone' connector.

Most phonograph cartridges have a very low output level and require a preamp.

Typically, a home stereo integrated amplifier or receiver will have a special 'Phono' input. This input passes the signal through a phono preamp, which applies RIAA equalization to the signal as well as boosting it to line level.

Most turntables use RCA connectors.

- ‘Line Level’, ‘Microphone’ and ‘Phono’ signals most often use the same two families of connectors, RCA and Phone.
- RCA connectors are all the same size, and are all mono only, so a stereo cable has two connectors at each end.
- Phone connectors come in three common sizes ($\frac{1}{4}$ ", mini (3.5mm) and sub-mini (2.5mm)), and can carry one signal (mono), two signals (stereo) or three signals (headset).
- Just to confuse things even more, these same connectors are also widely used for video signals, especially RCA in home theater applications, and there are several other connector types for both audio and video signals (e.g., HDMI, S-Video).
- Oh yeah, the term ‘Phone Connector’ can be used for many other types of connector in telephone applications.
- And of course there is a dizzying array of adapters to adapt from one type of connector to another.

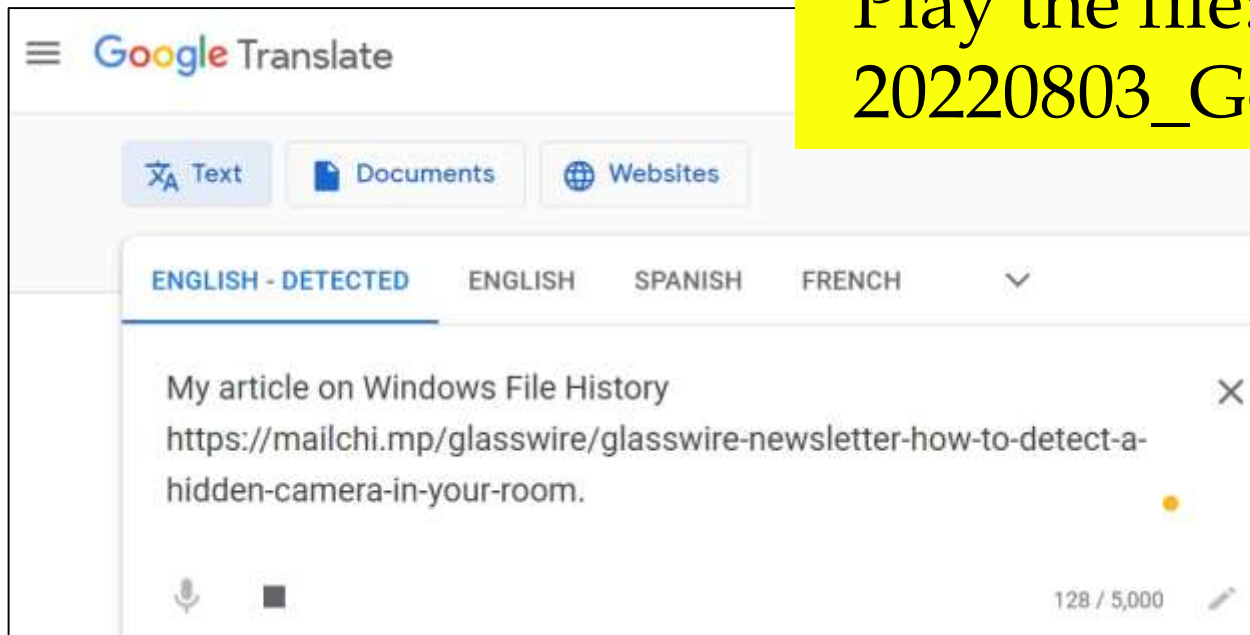


Follow-up

Google Translate's read aloud

- Bill Bradwin had great tip to have Google Translate help proof text by reading it aloud
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20220720_PowerPoint.pdf
- Google Translate will indeed read *everything*
- I had to chuckle...

Play the file:
20220803_GoogleReads.mp4



Follow-up



Windows 11



Paul Thurrott
@thurrott

Um, what the F is this?

This Home icon just appeared
on my Windows 11 desktop.
And I can't delete it.



Recycle Bin



Darran Gange @darrangange
Replying to @thurrott
What happens when you click it?



Paul Thurrott @thurrott
Replying to @darrangange
Well, it opens File Explorer to the
Home view. It's the same icon.



Hania Wanke @HaniaWanke
Replying to @thurrott
I had the same situation and not even
after the update. this icon has
appeared and disappears after
reboot. 🤔

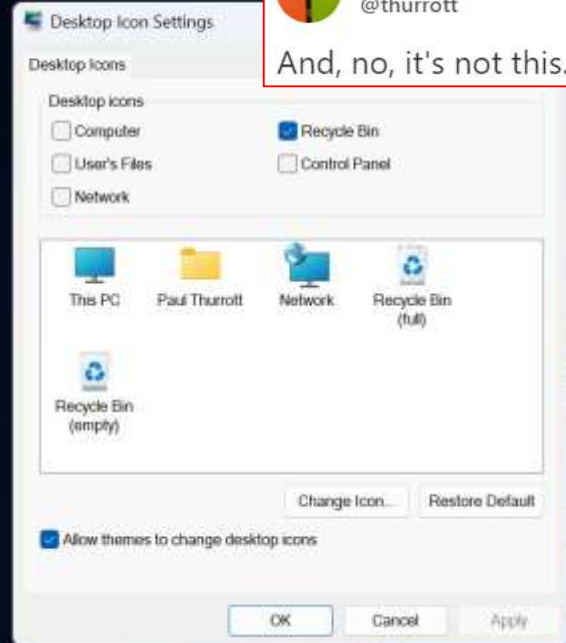


Recycle Bin



Paul Thurrott
@thurrott

And, no, it's not this.



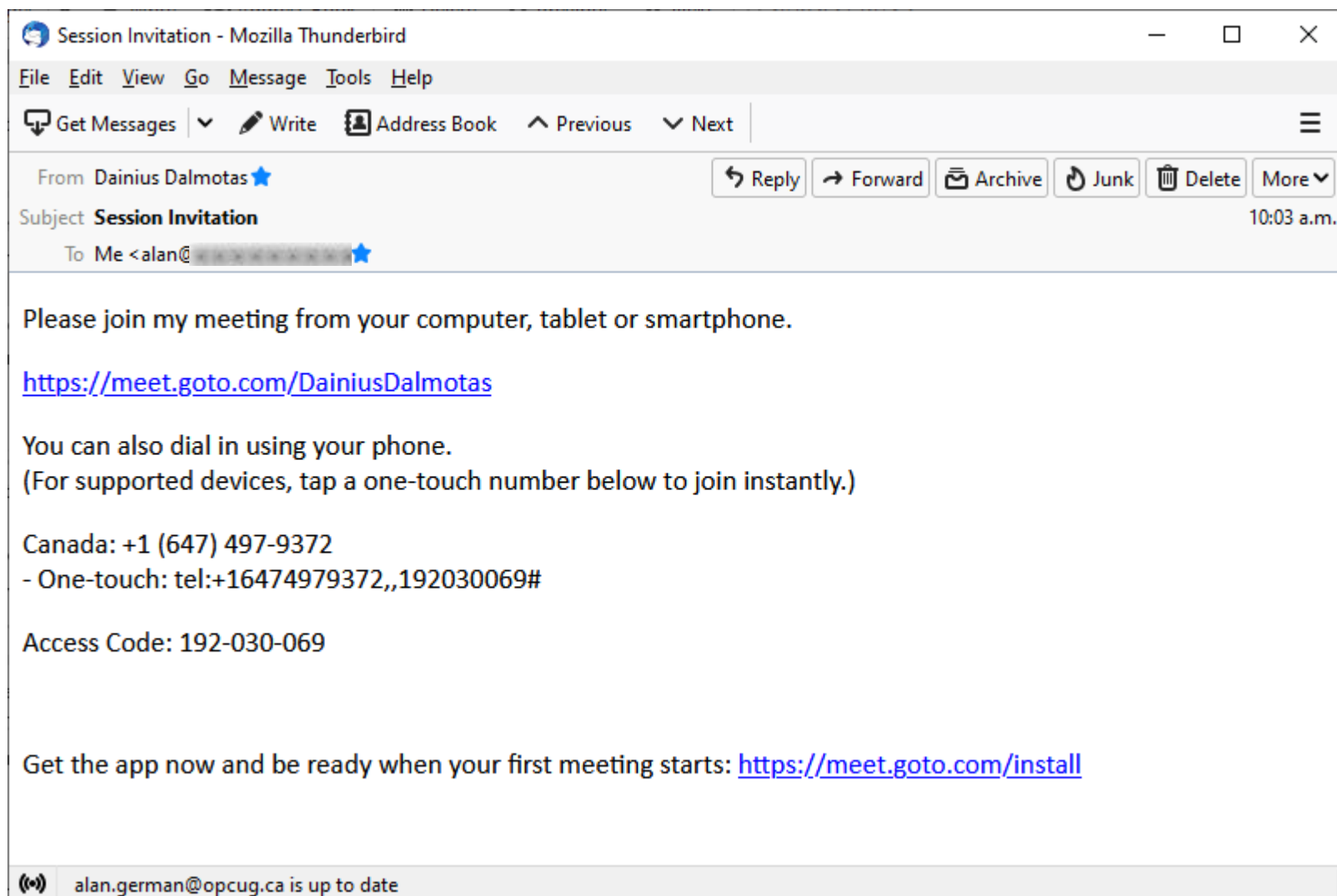
Home

To be fair – Paul Thurrott is almost certainly running an Insider build

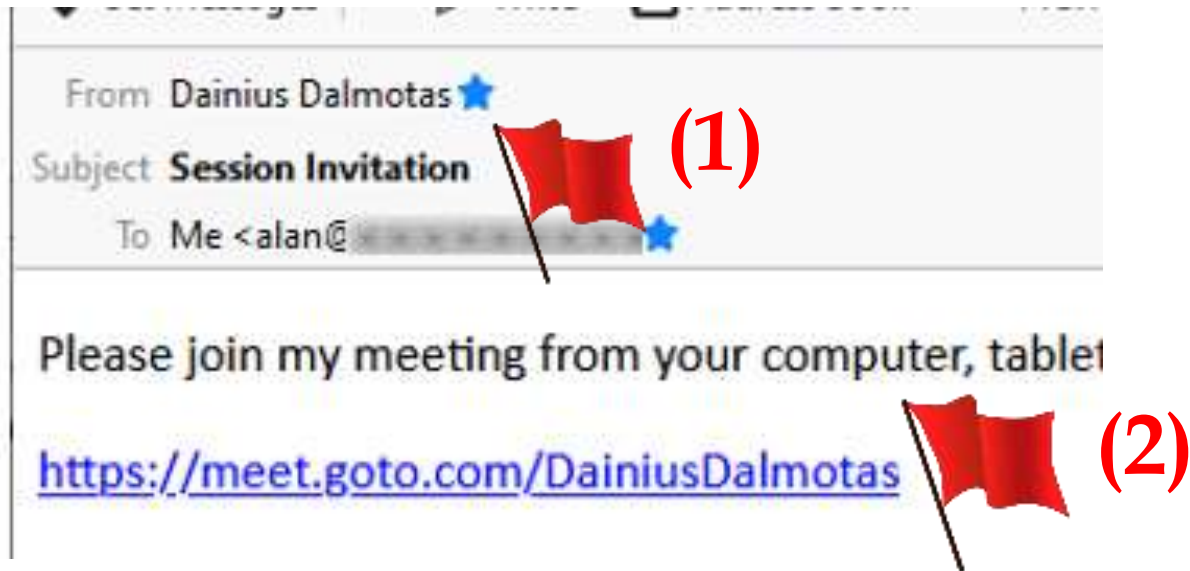
- Insider builds: Microsoft's way of beta testing
- strange things can *and will* happen somewhat randomly
- to join Insider program: *Settings* | *Update & Security* | bottom left

Share

New Goto Meeting Scam



Red Flags



The Email address for my colleague is 'correct', but:

- (1) he always contacts me by Email
 before setting up a video conference
- (2) he **never** uses custom meeting tags

Security Alert | Spam Emails Containing Suspicious Links From GoTo Webinar Trial Account Users - Goto Meeting



July 30, 2020 Gerry Beuchelt

These e-mails are being sent by a bad actor abusing GoTo Webinar free trial accounts, from the 'customercare@gotowebinar.com' email alias, with varying names associated to the trial user's sign-up information, and using subject lines such as "Game", "New Games", or "Interesting Games." Reports indicate that these e-mails generally ask recipients to click on a suspicious link intended to drive them to a webpage with inappropriate content and a registration form.

<https://www.goto.com/blog/security-alert-spam-emails-containing-suspicious-links-gotowebinar-trial-account-users#>



Clipboard history



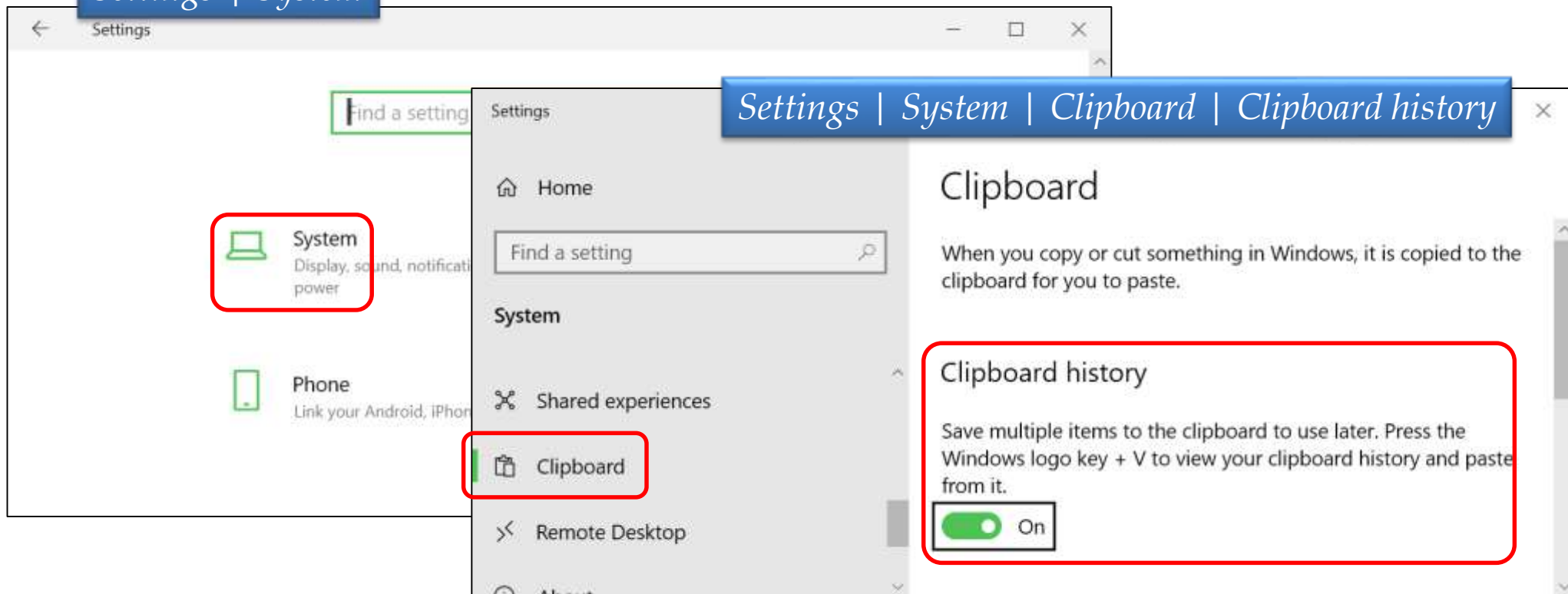
- Normal method of copying or moving information from one document to another (or within same document)
 - in source document: select text or image
 - *Copy* **Ctrl** **C** or *Cut* **Ctrl** **X**
 - in destination document: put cursor at insertion point
 - *Paste* **Ctrl** **V**
- If you copy something new to clipboard
 - overwrites previous information on clipboard
 - leads to back and forth if you want to copy multiple selections
 - leads to frustration
 - when you accidentally copy something new before pasting



Why Clipboard history

- What if copying something new to the clipboard didn't overwrite previous information on clipboard?
- *Clipboard history* is the answer

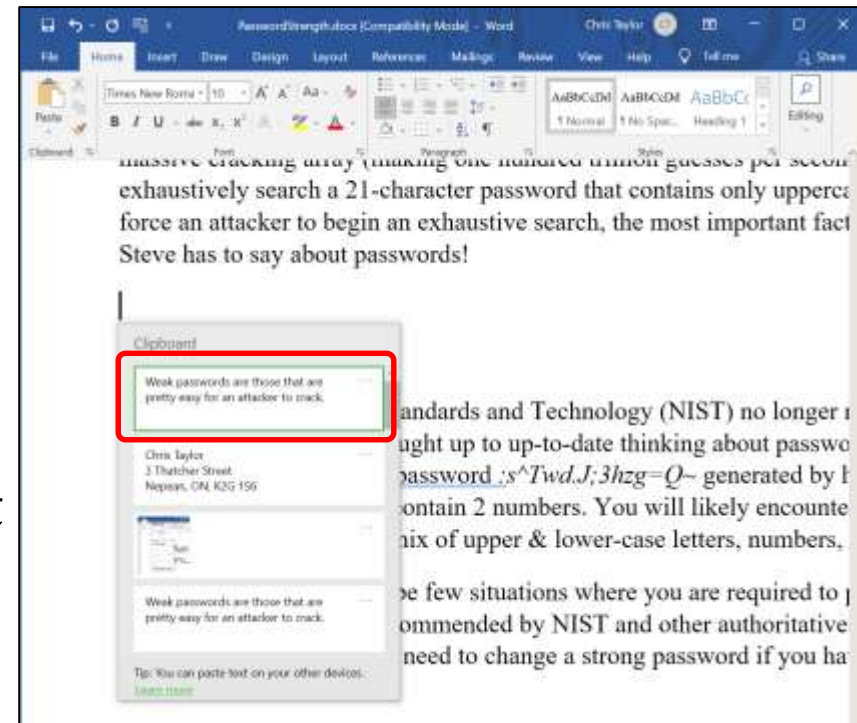
Settings | System





Pasting from Clipboard history

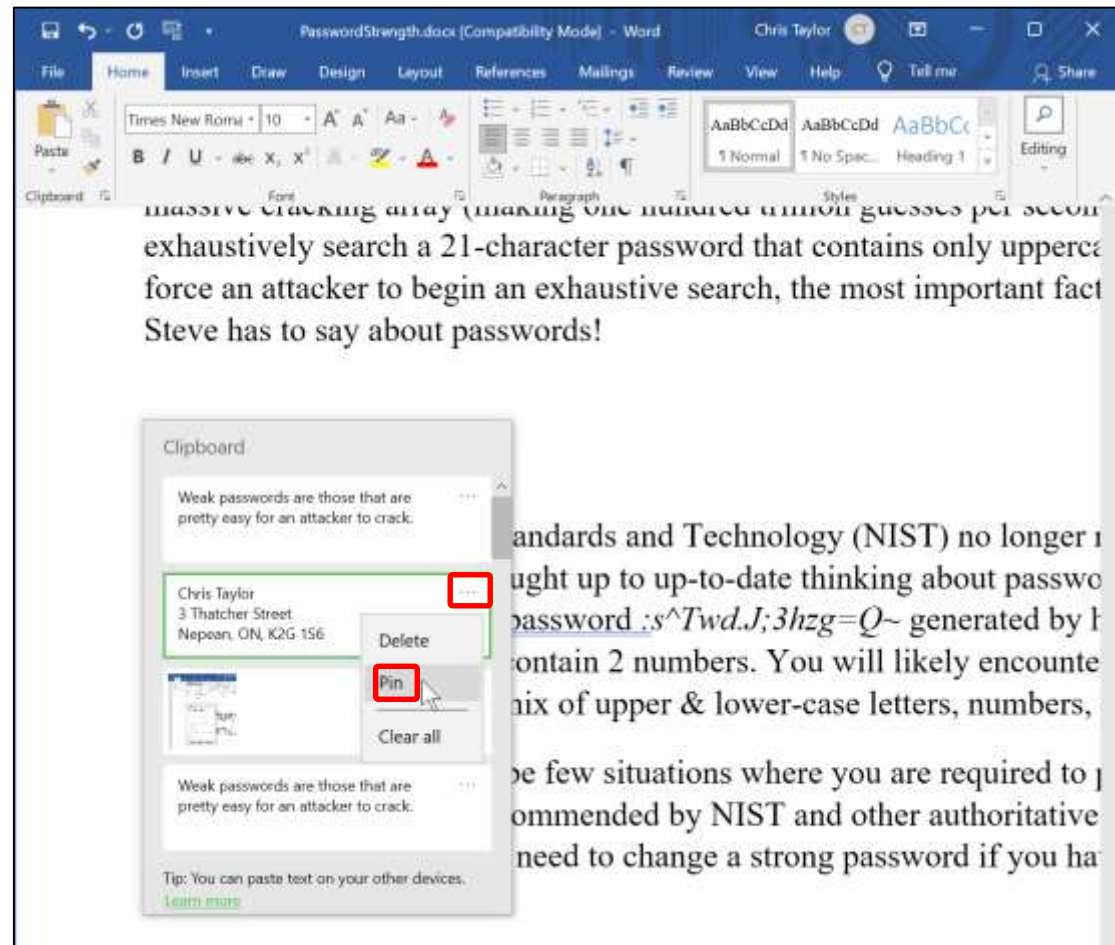
- Put insertion point where you want information pasted
- Press  
- Pop-up window shows last 25 items copied to clipboard (max 4 MB per item)
 - click the one you want
 - use scroll bar if needed
 - arrow & highlight item you want
 - press *Enter* for highlighted item
- Info pasted at insertion point





Keeping Clipboard history

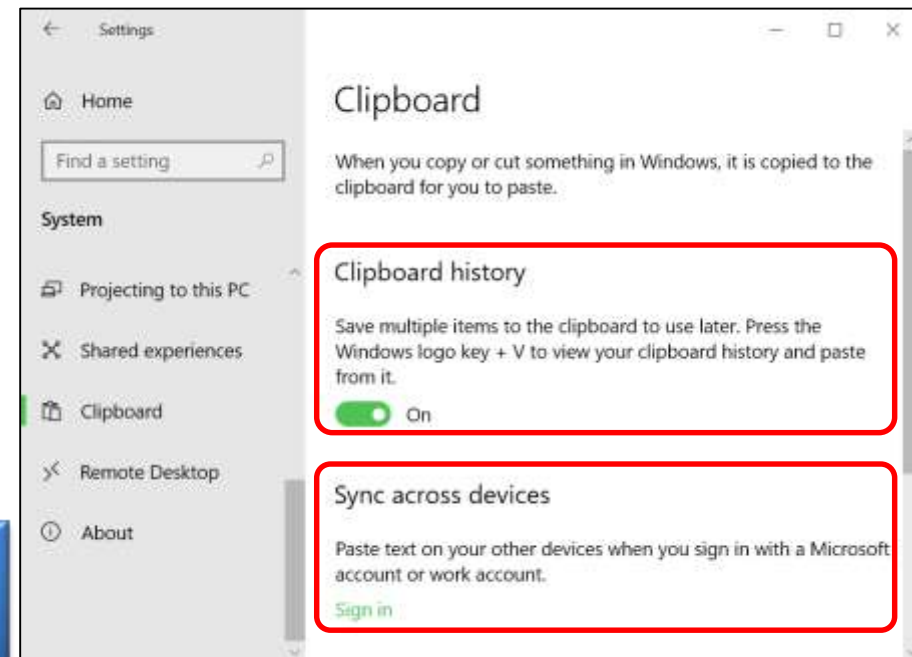
- Clipboard history lost on reboot
- Want items to remain longer?
 - click ... & select *Pin*
- Great for anything you frequently add to documents
 - boilerplate info
 - logos





Sync across devices

- If signed into multiple computers using the same *Microsoft Account* (i.e. not using a *Local Account*)
- Copy clipboard contents across devices
 - *copy* to clipboard on one computer
 - *paste* from clipboard on other computer
- Works only for text
- *Clipboard history* & *Sync across devices* must be enabled on both computers



See also:
<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2009NEWS.pdf>



Outlook mail malfunction

- One of my Outlook accounts displays as “blank”

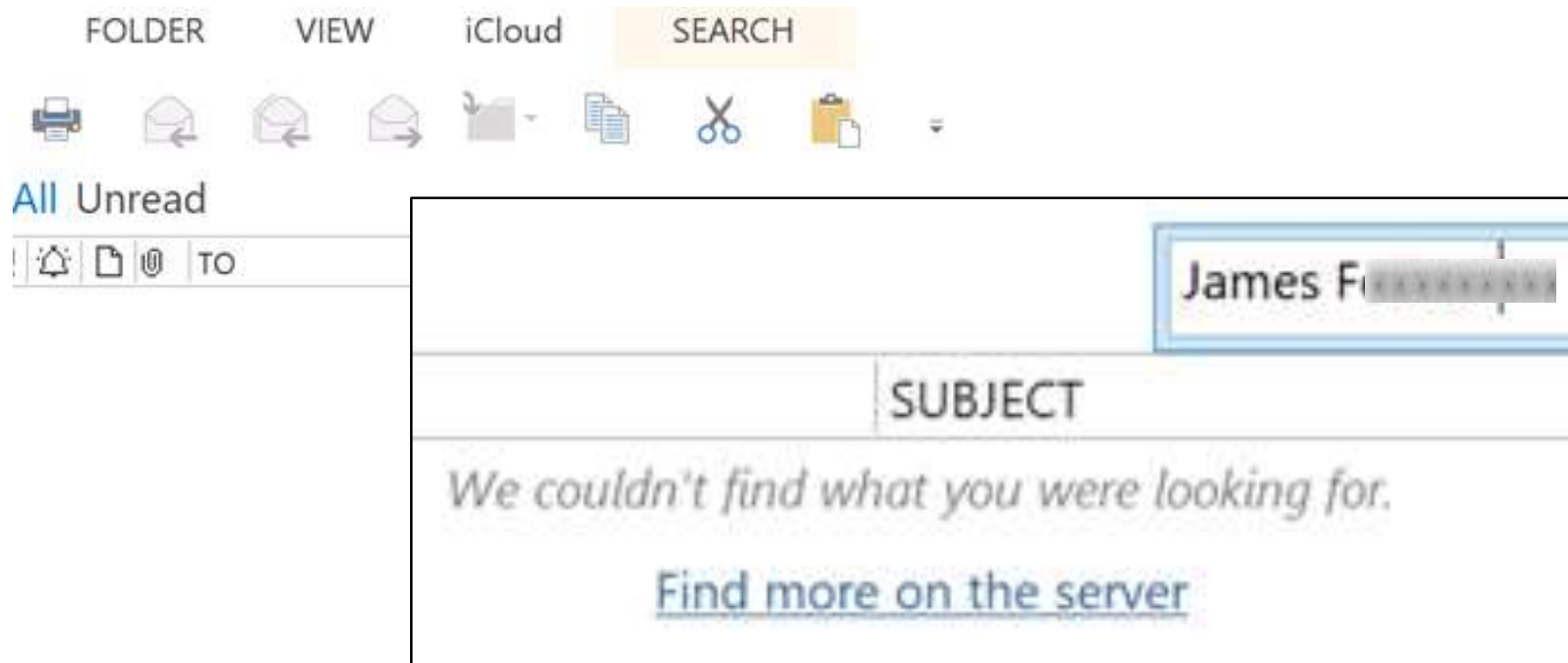
The screenshot shows the Microsoft Outlook application window. The top ribbon includes tabs for FILE, HOME, SEND / RECEIVE, FOLDER, and VIEW. Below the ribbon is a toolbar with icons for New Email, Calendar, Tasks, Undo, Redo, Save, Print, and Move. The main area is divided into two panes. The left pane shows the 'Favorites' section with a list of accounts. One account is highlighted with a red rectangle, indicating it is the primary account. The right pane shows the 'Calendar' view for July 31, 2022, with a list of events.

Should show my primary Outlook account



Outlook mail malfunction

- I can send and receive mail but cannot conduct any searches, e.g. for a sent message or a contact in the address book



A The nuclear option...

- Try removing the account and adding it back in (IMAP will re-populate the folders)



Does any have any better suggestions or sources for troubleshooting assistance?

A But with caution...

- Whenever making changes, always make sure you can recover from a...*negative*...outcome!
- Outlook normally stores all data in each top-most “folder” in a separate data file
 - .PST file (used for POP3 account and extra data files)
 - .OST file (used for IMAP accounts)
- Get the properties to see the filename
 - make a copy of that file
- Create a new data file
 - Copy everything from the problem “folder” to new data file

Share

Organizing your music files

Part 4



Bob Walker

Organizing Your Music Part 4 - Some Final Thoughts

**Organizing your music can be a chore or
an adventure.**

**Music is the soundtrack of your life. You
hear some tune, and you get swept back to
that point in your life.**

**Re-discovering an old favorite while
you're organizing your music can bring
back memories and set you off on some
great side projects.**

For example, I recently found a copy of Toto's song '*Africa*' when sorting through some old USB sticks. It was a favorite of mine when it first came out in 1982 (I'm dating myself here), but like many old favorites it had become just a memory. It was great to hear it again, but the copy I had was so-so quality (it had originally come from a cassette tape).

Coincidentally, a couple of weeks later on CBS Sunday Morning, they did a story on Toto and how '*Africa*' (their biggest hit) had come about. This spurred me on to do a few things.

So first I got a copy of the CBS story using Debut video capture.



Note: The picture is actually a 45RPM special edition

There was some great live concert scenes in the story, so I went to YouTube and found some great live videos of Toto doing some of their best songs, including three different videos of *'Africa'* in three quite unique performances.

Live concert videos are great because you can feel the energy of the crowd even though you aren't there, so I downloaded some, including some audio tracks, using VideoDownload Helper.

Since the MP3 I had of *'Africa'* from cassette wasn't very good, I went to iTunes and downloaded 5 of Toto's best songs using the iTunes app.



I took two of the new M4A's, including 'Africa', and put them on a new mixtape USB stick (along with several other songs from other artists I'd re-discovered) to play in the car.

And of course I put everything into my master 'Music' library.

Music

Toto

The Essential Toto (Remastered)

Toto - I'll Be over You (The Essential Toto) iT.m4a

Toto - Africa (The Essential Toto) iT.m4a

Toto - Rosanna (The Essential Toto) iT.m4a

Toto - 99 (The Essential Toto) iT.m4a

Toto - Hold the Line (The Essential Toto) iT.m4a

Toto - Africa (Live in Lodz, Poland 2013 HD with Lyrics) YT.mkv

Toto - Africa (Live at the Ziggo Dome Amsterdam 2018) YT.mp3

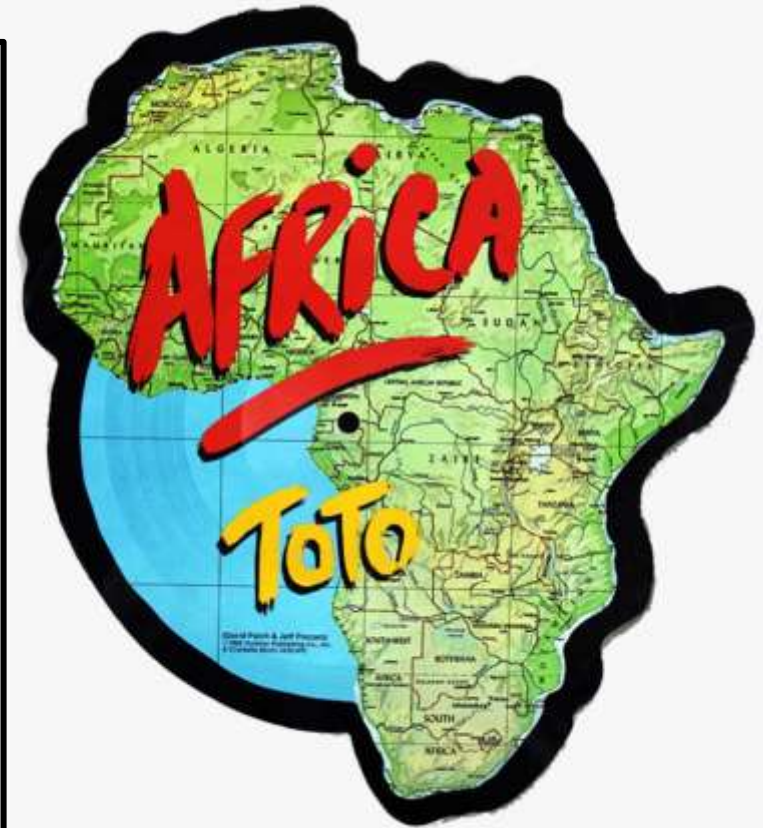
Toto - Africa (Live in Lodz, Poland 2013 HD) YT.mp3

Toto - Africa (Live at the Ziggo Dome Amsterdam 2018) YT.mkv

Toto - Africa (Live in Lodz, Poland 2013 HD) YT.mkv

➡ Toto, To 'Africa' and Beyond - CBS Sunday Morning.mp4

Toto - Rosanna (40 Tours Around The Sun) - YouTube.mkv



Organizing Your Music Part 4 - Some Final Thoughts

In the original presentations, 'Artist' was used as the main sorting and organizing criteria, which works best for most people.

HOWEVER, I was talking to someone a few days ago who has an extensive music collection organized by song title, and that works for him.

**DO WHATEVER WORKS FOR
YOU!!!**

Once you have all the master copies of all your music (or photos or movies or whatever) all in one place, any further organization is a bonus.



Music is a soundtrack for your life. You hear
some tune and you just get swept right back to
that point in your life.

Kevin Bacon - QUOTESTATS.COM



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

Members' Favourites

September 14, 2022

- Any computer-related topic (neat application, awesome hardware, operating system tweak...)
- 10-20 minute presentation

*Reserve your presentation slot:
SuggestionBox@opcug.ca*

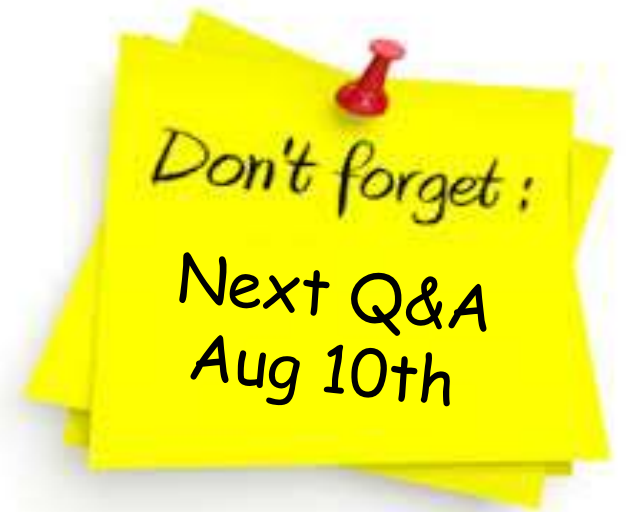




**Suggestions for
topics for
presentations at:**

**Monthly
meetings**

Q&A



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca

