



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

September 21, 2022

Follow-up

Correction

I was wrong!

Adobe Digital Editions
will install in 32-bit
Windows 10 on an
Asus T100 hybrid
computer



Follow-up

Photo restoration with GFPGAN and beyond...

- Restore old photos using photo restoration application, built with Baseten and powered by the [GFP-GAN](#) model.
- https://app.baseten.co/apps/QPp4nPE/operator_views/RqgOnqV

Follow-up

Photo Restore with Baseten



Original from 1910



Restored by me with Photoscape X



Restored by Baseten



Original from 1910



Restored by me with Photoscape X



Restored by Baseten







1966 Cornerbrook, Newfoundland





Before

After

Follow-up

Demo to remove spots/lines after restore process

Using **free**
photo editing
software,
Photoscape X



Follow-up

Rogers Update

- Spoke at Q&A before about my experience with Rogers pricing and loyalty bonuses
- Recap: August 2020 switched to Rogers Ignite from
 - Bell phone
 - Teck Savvy cable Internet
 - which uses Rogers infrastructure
 - Rogers cable TV
- Since then I have had interesting experiences with Rogers *Loyalty Department*



July, 2020

- **Bell** phone
 - no long distance
 - \$61.12
- **Tech Savy** Internet
 - 30 mbps
 - \$56.44
- **Rogers cable** TV
 - PVR
 - \$54.44
- ***Total monthly bill***
 - ***\$172.00***

August, 2020 **Rogers Ignite**

- Home phone
 - Canada-wide calling
- Internet
 - 150 mbps
- TV
 - cloud PVR
- \$25/month loyalty bonus for one year
- ***Total monthly bill***
 - ***\$118.64***

August, 2021 **Rogers Ignite**

- no more \$25/month loyalty bonus
- now \$30/month loyalty bonus for one year
- ***Total monthly bill***
 - ***\$112.99***

August, 2022 **Rogers Ignite**

- price increase
- could give me \$50/month loyalty bonus for two years
- ***Total monthly bill***
 - ***\$107.34***

Follow-up

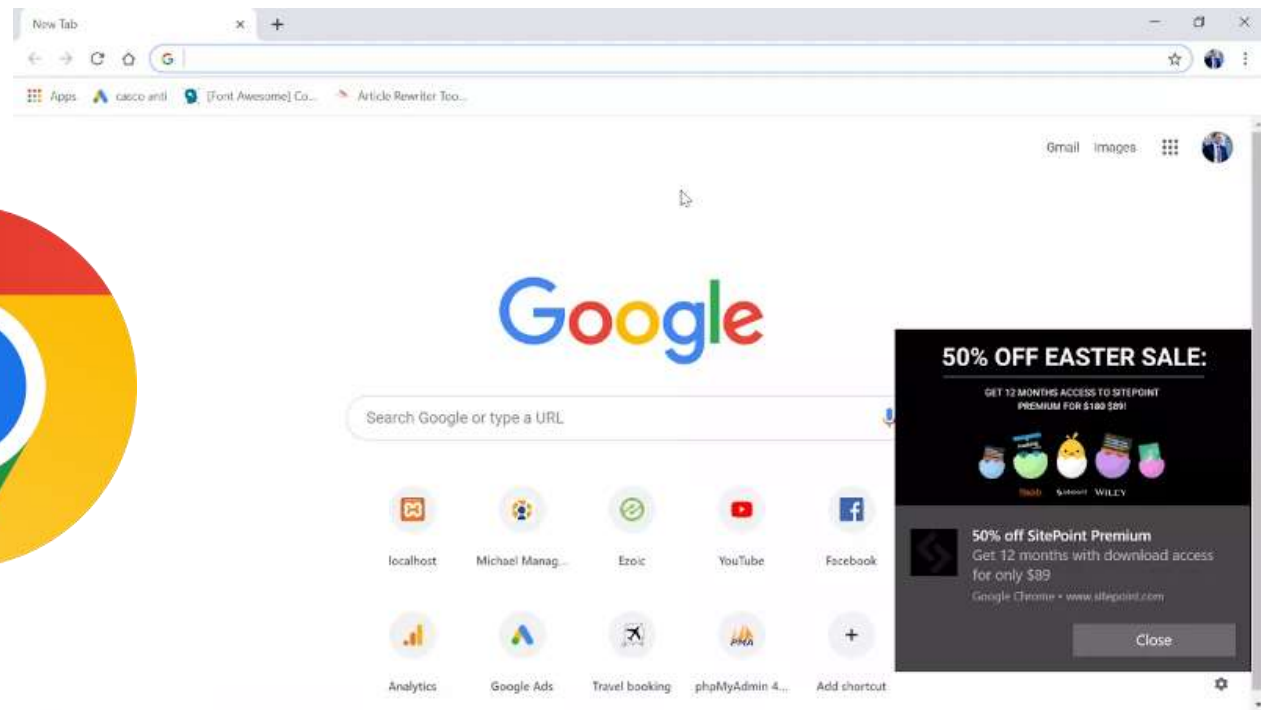
Take-aways

- Bundling services with one provider can save lots
- If a long-term customer
 - ask to speak with their *Loyalty Department*
- Be polite
 - happy with service
 - would like price break
- If the front-line service rep says they can do as well as the *Loyalty Department*
 - in my experience, they can't
 - insist on speaking with the *Loyalty Department*
- Base price is going up for me
 - if loyalty bonus goes away, it will be a major price hike!
 - for now, big savings



Notifications on Chrome

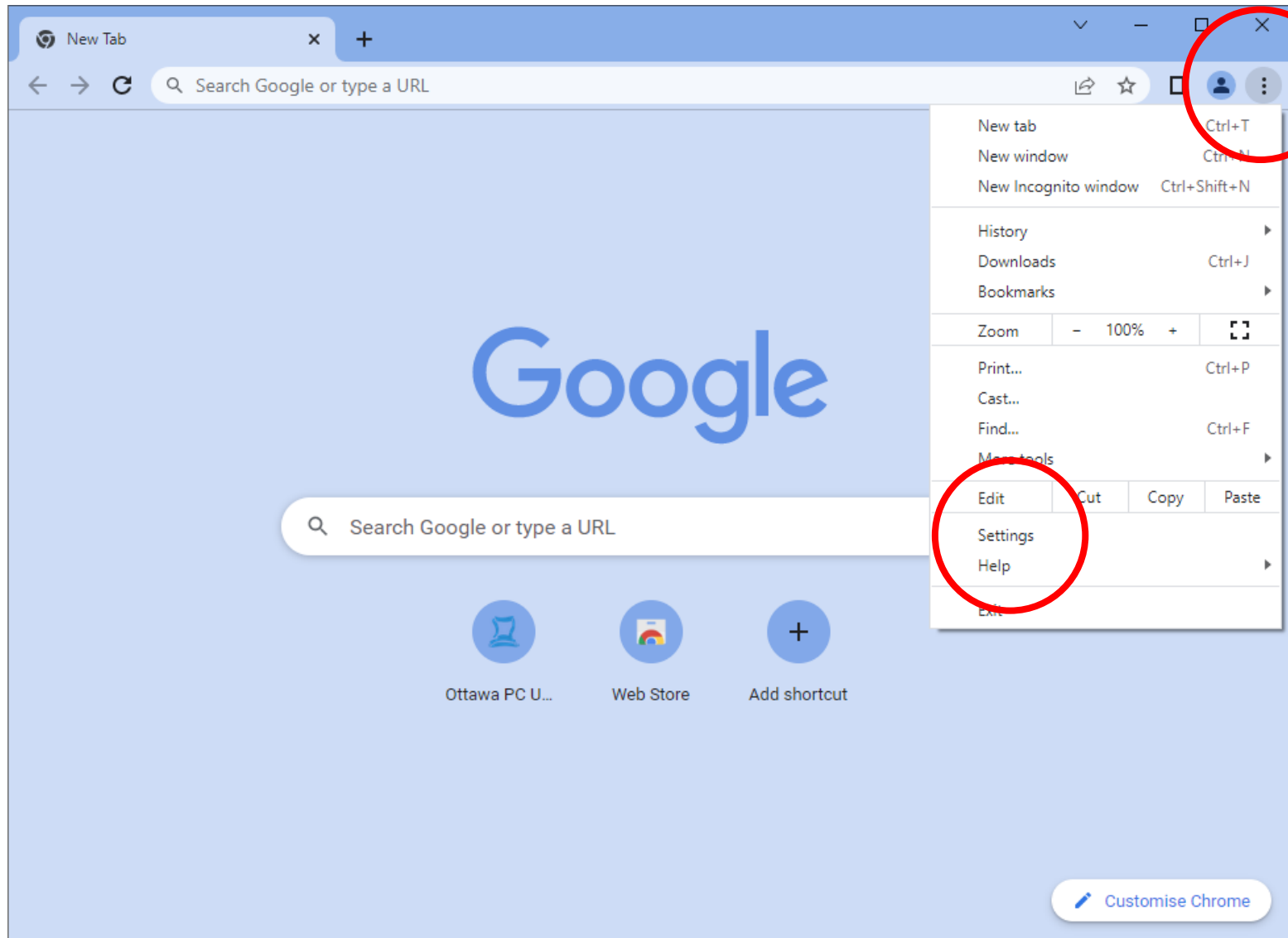
- Message boxes are continually popping up in the Chrome browser. How do I turn these off?

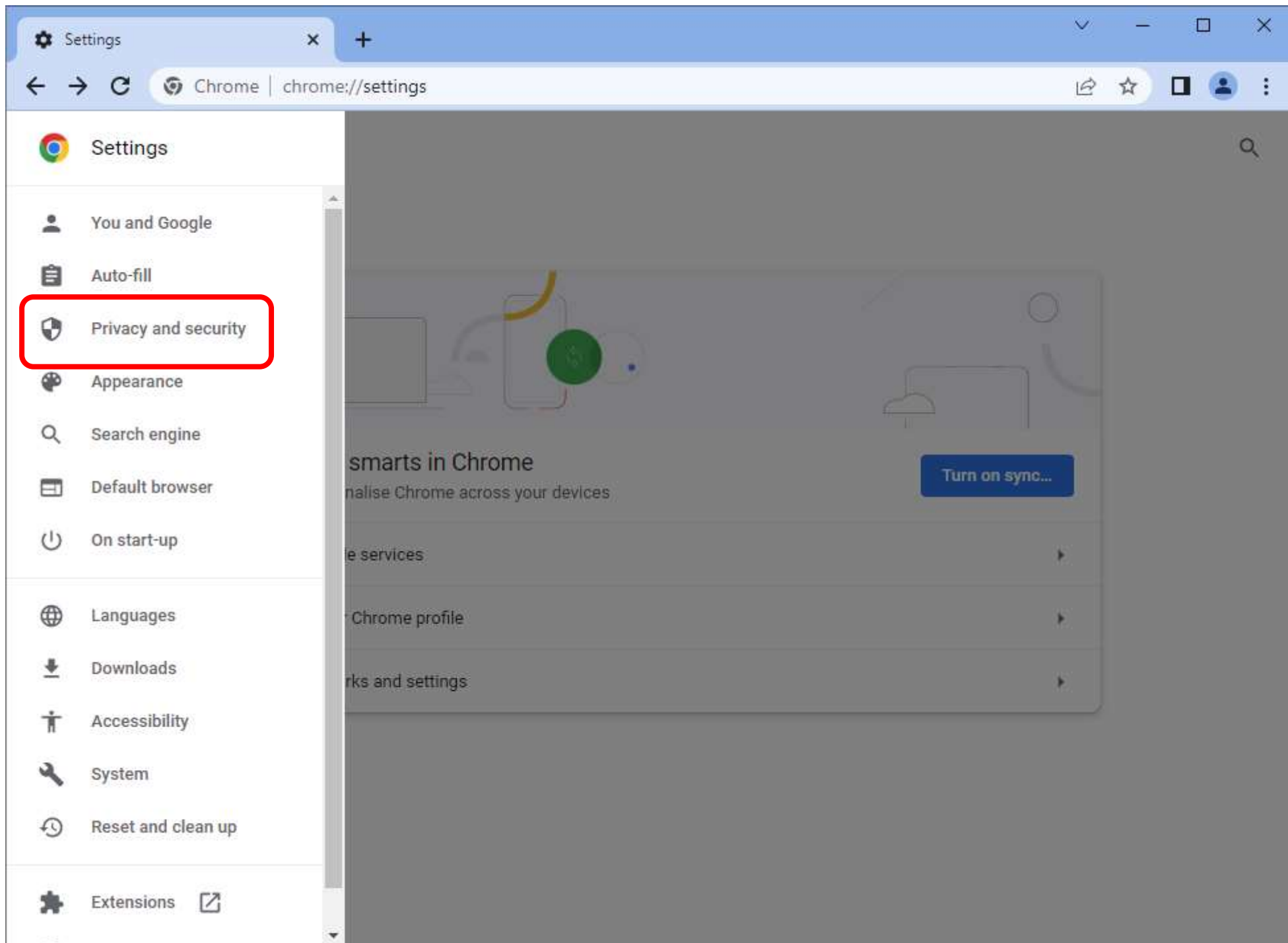


A

“Hidden” in Settings

Menu





Settings

chrome://settings/privacy

Settings

Safety check

 Chrome can help keep you safe from data breaches, bad extensions and more

Check now

Privacy and security

 Clear browsing data
Clear history, cookies, cache and more

 Privacy guide
Review key privacy and security controls

 Cookies and other site data
Third-party cookies are blocked in Incognito mode

 Security
Safe Browsing (protection from dangerous sites) and other security settings

 Site settings
Controls what information sites can use and show (location, camera, pop-ups and more)

 Privacy Sandbox
Trial features are on

Settings – Site settings

Chrome | chrome://settings/content

Settings

Permissions

-  Location
Sites can ask for your location
-  Camera
Sites can ask to use your camera
-  Microphone
Sites can ask to use your microphone
-  Notifications
Sites can ask to send notifications
-  Background sync
Recently closed sites can finish sending and receiving data

Additional permissions

Content

-  Cookies and site data
Third-party cookies are blocked in Incognito mode

Settings – Notifications

Chrome | chrome://settings/content/notifications

Settings

Notifications

Search

Sites usually send notifications to let you know about breaking news or chat messages

Default behaviour

Sites automatically follow this setting when you visit them

☒

 Sites can ask to send notifications

☐

 Use quieter messaging
Sites are blocked from interrupting you when they ask to send notifications

☐

 Don't allow sites to send notifications
Features that need notifications won't work

Customised behaviours

Sites listed below follow a custom setting instead of the default

Not allowed to send notifications

Add

No sites added

Menu > Settings > Privacy and security > Site settings > Notifications

Default behaviour

Sites automatically follow this setting when you visit them



Sites can ask to send notifications



Use quieter messaging

Sites are blocked from interrupting you when they ask to send notifications



Don't allow sites to send notifications

Features that need notifications won't work

Follow-up

News & Interests (for seeing current temperature)

- Q&A August 31, 2022
 - Chris's rants – News and interests
 - *News and interests* stopped reliably providing me with current temperature
- Time to find a replacement tray app for current temp.

Alan suggested possible options found on Google



8GadgetPack



Follow-up

Weatherbug

- Weatherbug
 - desktop app
 - full windowed program – not interested
 - taskbar weather info
 - *okay, I'm interested*

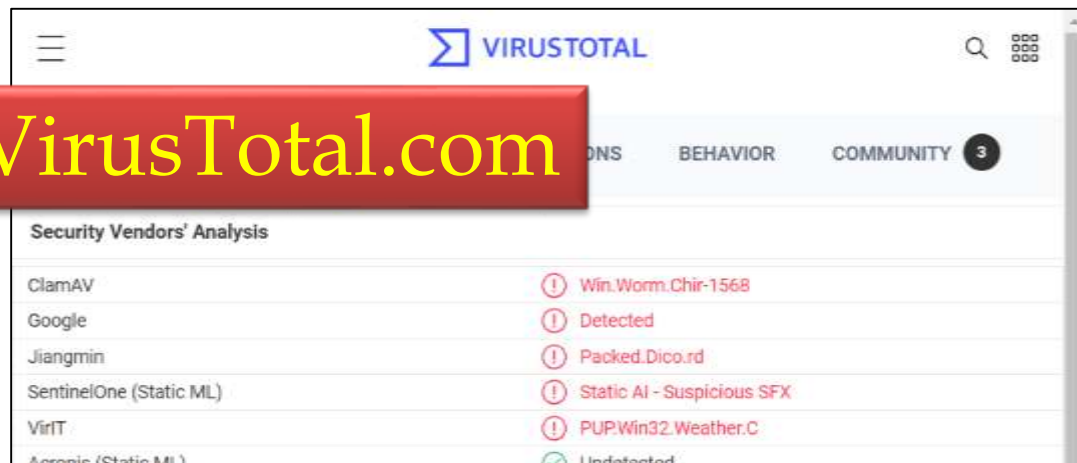
<https://www.weatherbug.com/appdownload/>



WeatherBug®

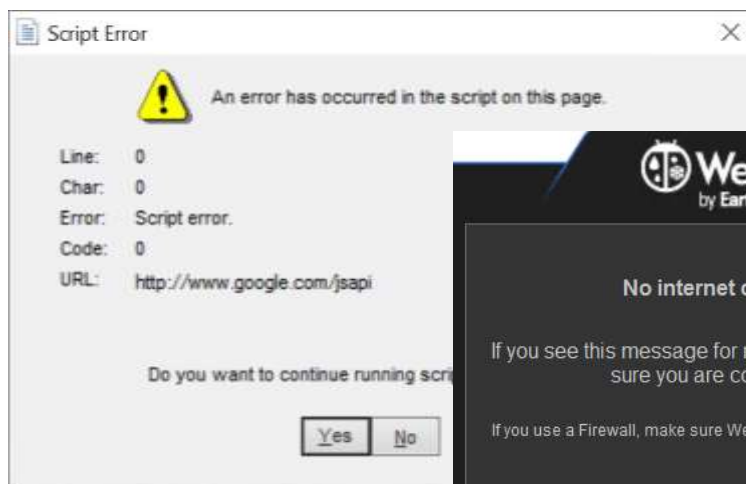
Follow-up Weatherbug

Sent installation file to **VirusTotal.com**



Installed to
Windows Sandbox

- couldn't get it to work
- lots of other users with same problem



Gave up on Weatherbug

Follow-up

8GadgetPack

- Windows Gadgets removed from Windows
- 8GadgetPack allows you to use Gadgets
 - comes with *WeatherCenter* gadget
 - many other weather gadgets available
 - *Chameleon Weather, Accuweather, My Weather, WeatherEye, Yrweather*
- Not sure I really wanted Gadgets
- But maybe...
 - installed in *Windows Sandbox*
 - less to clean up if I don't like it

<https://8gadgetpack.net/>

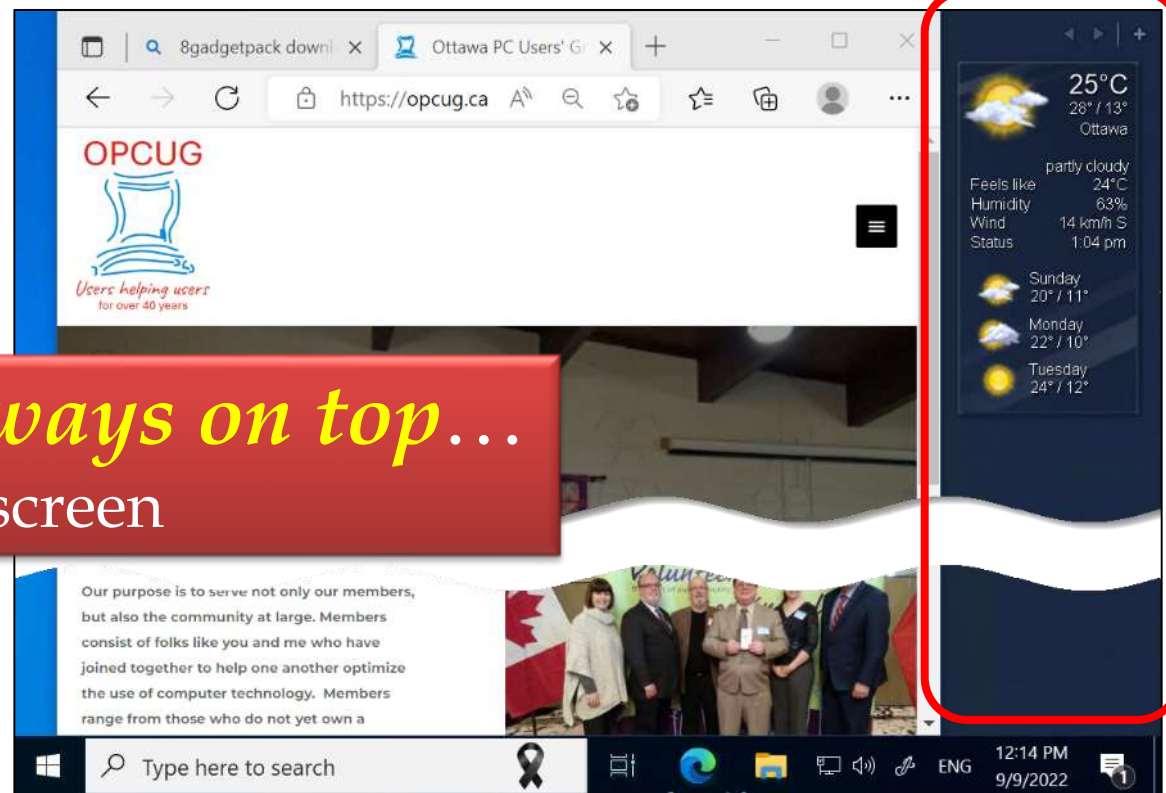
8GadgetPack



Follow-up

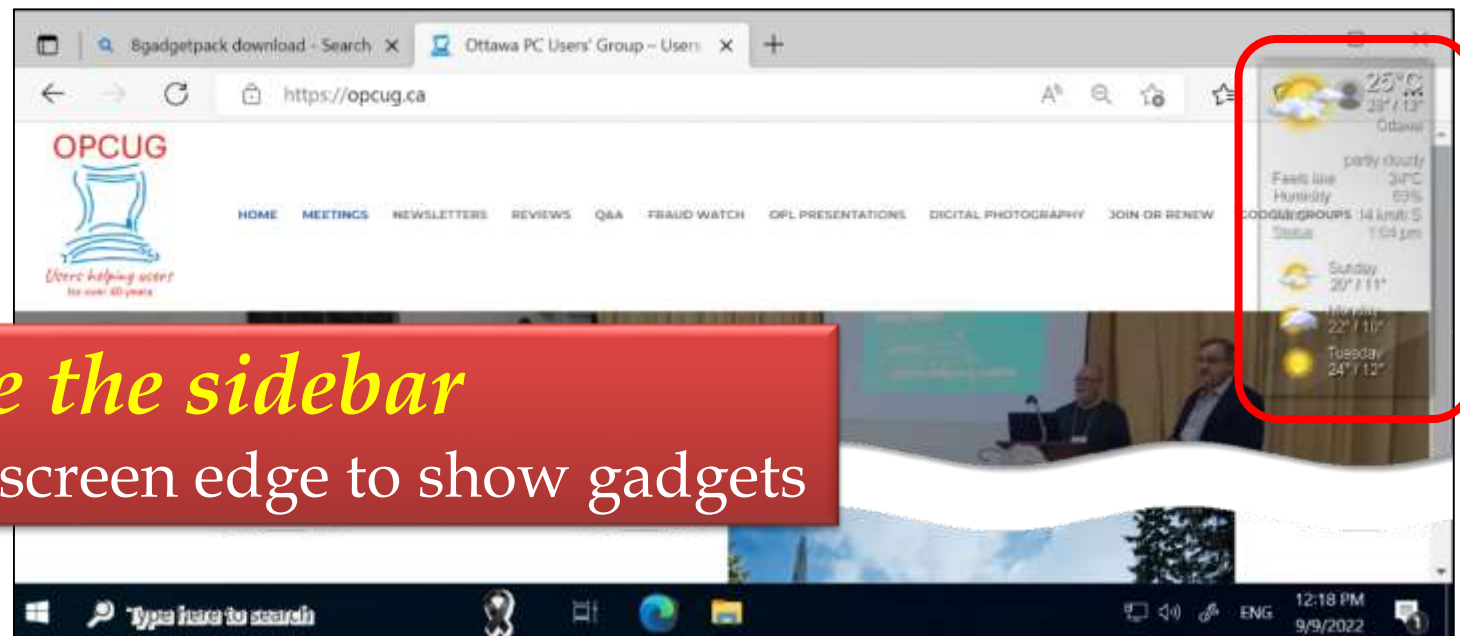
Can *Show sidebar always on top...*

- takes up space at side of screen



...or *Auto-hide the sidebar*

- move mouse to screen edge to show gadgets



Follow-up

If you really want gadgets

- There are alternatives to *8GadgetPack*

	Rating (1 to 5)	Free/Paid	Customizable	Add new gadgets	Automatic update
Desktop.com	5	Free	Yes	Yes	No
8 GadgetPack	5	Free	Yes	N/A	Yes
Gadgets Revived	4.5	Free	Yes	No	No
Rainmeter	4.5	Free	Yes	No	Yes
Win10 Widgets	4	Free	Yes	Yes	No
Gadgetarian	4	Free	Yes	Yes	N/A

<https://windowsreport.com/windows-10-desktop-gadgets/>

Follow-up

And so...

- Couldn't get WeatherBug to work
 - even if I trusted it when 5 anti-malware engines didn't!
- Didn't like widgets option
 - either stole a bunch of desktop real estate, or
 - had to move mouse to screen edge to see current temperature
 - might as well have a desktop app like *Windows Weather*
 - click taskbar icon to show full window
 - click again to minimize

So kept looking...

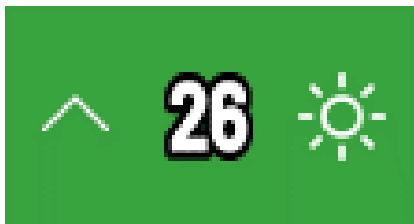
Follow-up

Tray Weather

- Tray Weather
 - free & open source

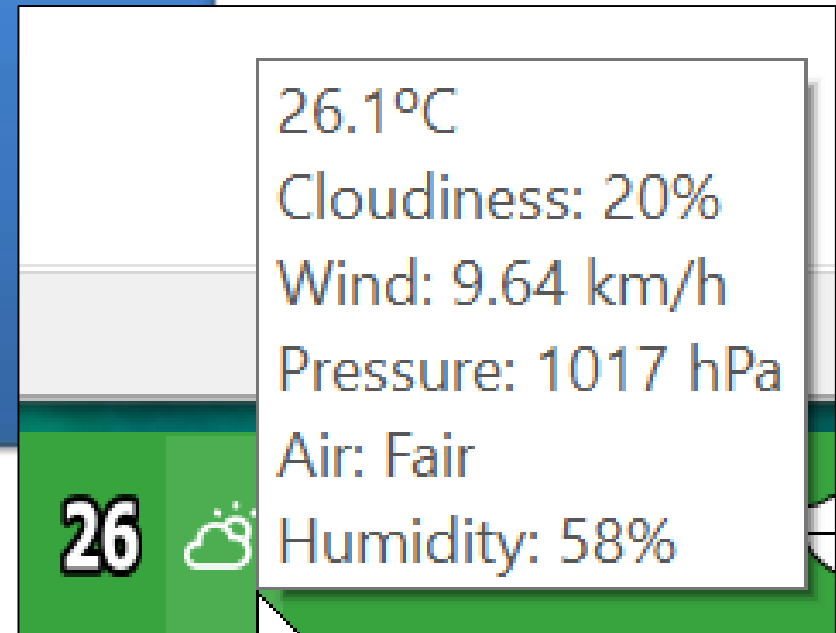
System tray icon for

- current temp
- weather conditions



Tooltip for

- temperature
- cloudiness
- humidity
- pressure
- air quality
- wind speed
- sunrise
- sunset

A detailed weather tooltip window. It has a white background with a thin border. At the bottom, there is a green bar containing the number '26' and a small white cloud icon. The main content area is white and lists the following weather data:

26.1°C
Cloudiness: 20%
Wind: 9.64 km/h
Pressure: 1017 hPa
Air: Fair
Humidity: 58%

<https://github.com/FelixdelasPozas/TrayWeather>

Follow-up

Tray Weather

One fiddly thing

- have to get an *OpenWeatherMap API Key*
- it's free

OpenWeatherMap Configuration

To obtain weather forecast data from OpenWeatherMap for your location an API Key must be obtained from the [website](https://openweathermap.org/appid). It's free.

API Key:

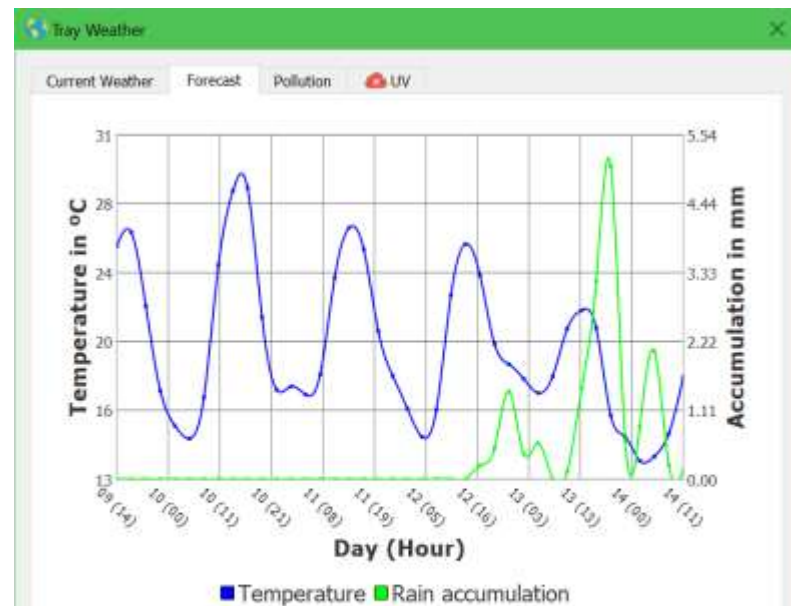
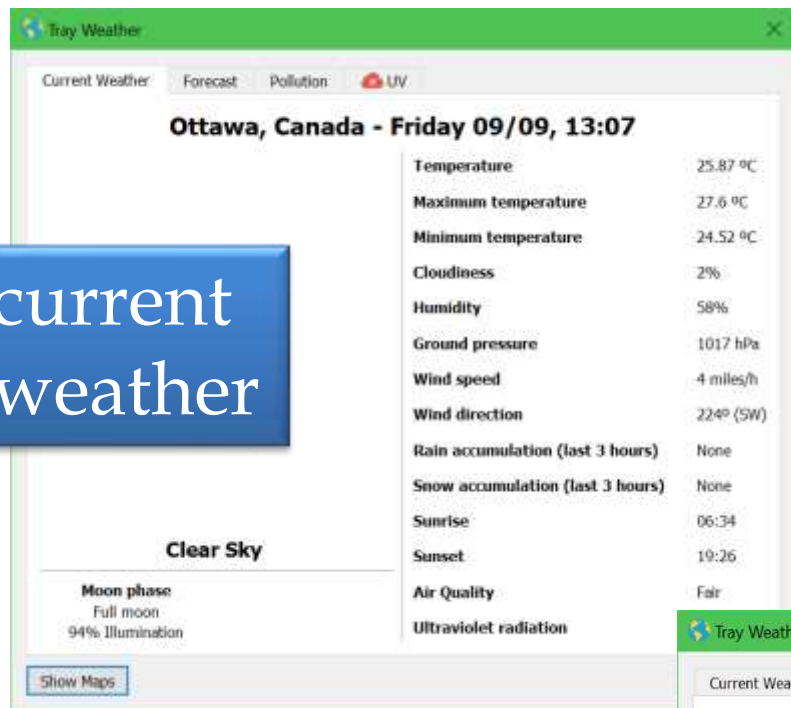
The API Key is valid!

<https://openweathermap.org/appid>

Follow-up

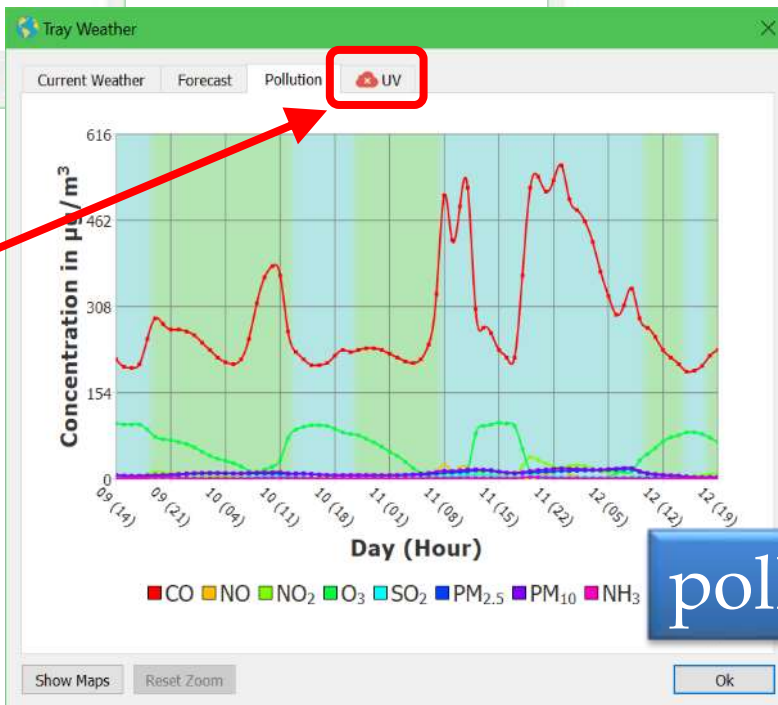
Double-click tray icon

current
weather



5-day forecast
(temp & rain)

UV index
(couldn't get data)

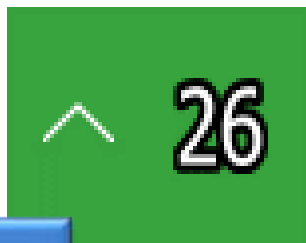


pollution

Follow-up

Changed defaults

- Icon
 - changed *Temperature text font* from
 - MS Shell Dlg2 to
 - Barlow ExtraBold
 - change *Icon type* from
 - *Temperature icon* to
 - *Weather icon & temperature icon*



before

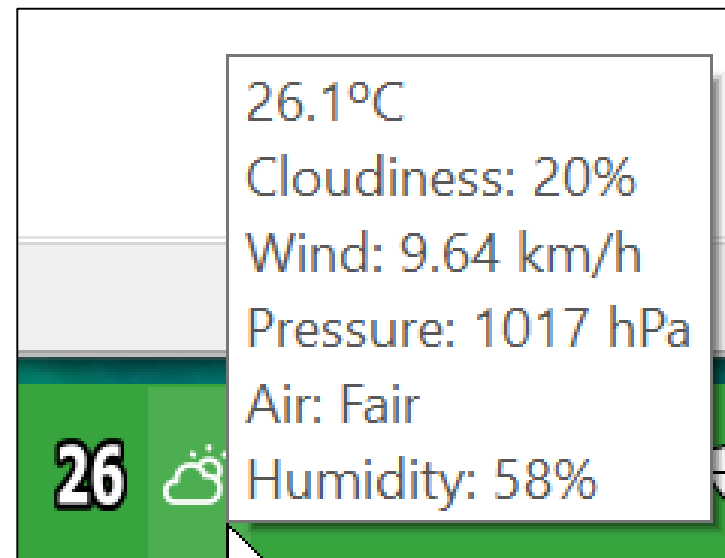


after

Follow-up

Changed defaults

- Icon Tooltip
 - removed *Location*
 - my desktop computer doesn't move
 - added *Cloudiness, Wind Speed, Ground Pressure, Air Quality* and *Humidity*
 - would have added *Sunrise & Sunset* but my watch has those



Follow-up

So what's the temperature?

Tray Weather



18

News & Interests

WTF???

Tray Weather



17°C Sunny



21

News & Interests

a little later

Segal's law

A man with a watch knows what time it is
A man with two watches is never sure

Follow-up

Tray Weather

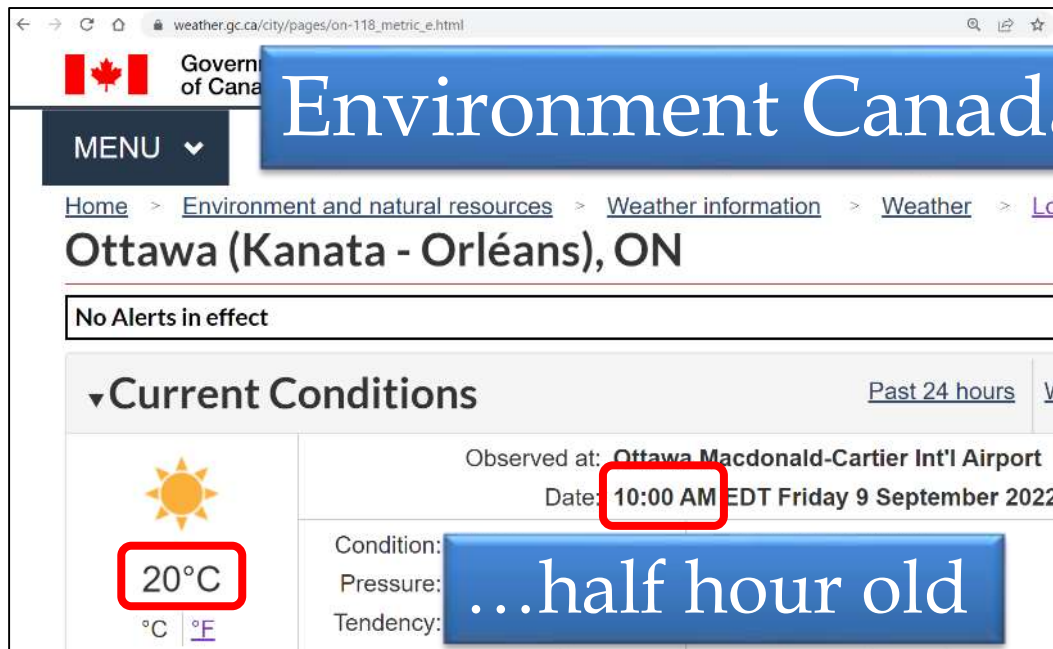


News & Interests

Windows 10 Weather app



Environment Canada



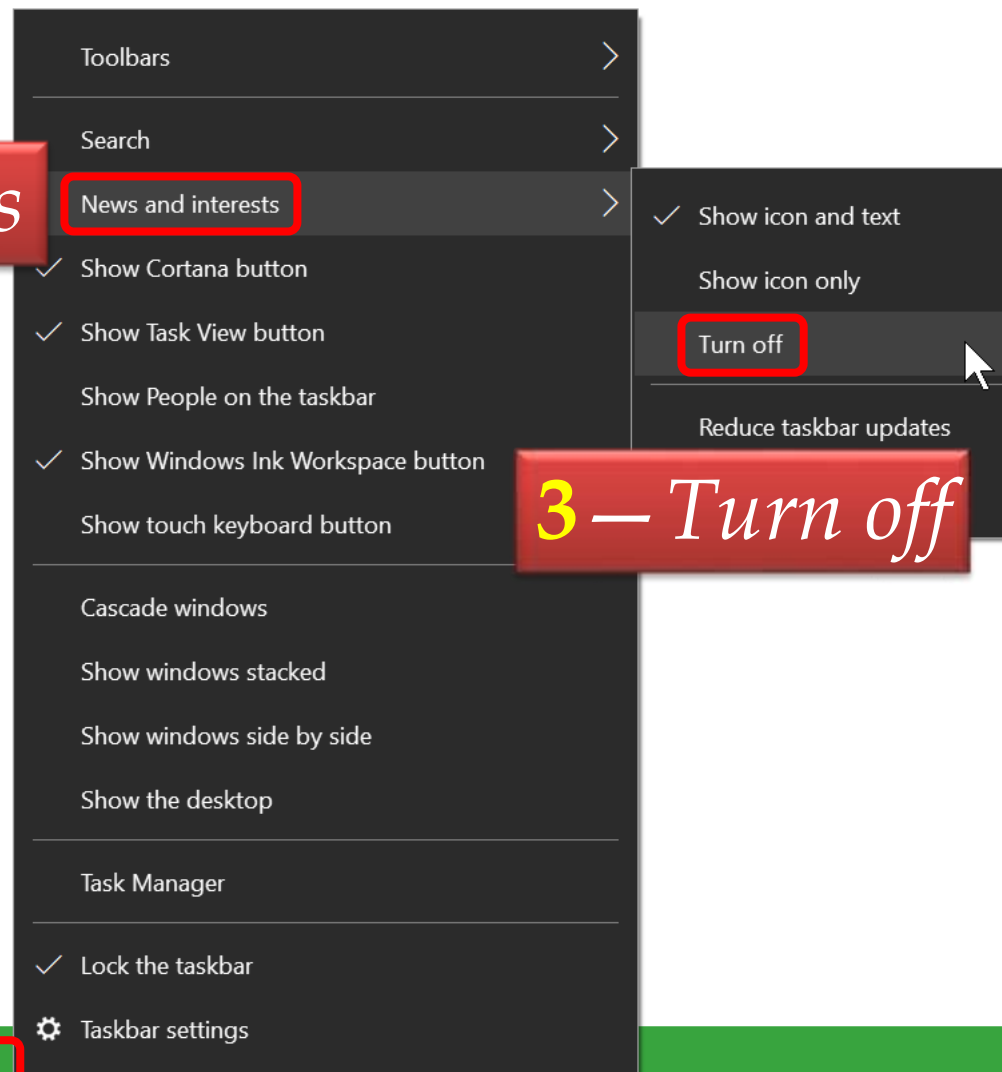
Hey Google, what's the temperature?

- *the temperature in Nepean is 21 degrees*

Follow-up

Goodbye *News and interests*

2 — *News and interests*



3 — *Turn off*

1 — right-click taskbar

Share



cira

Canadian Shield

- DNS-based protection
 - set your DNS server to CIRA Canadian Shield
 - when your computer looks up a domain name
 - if CIRA thinks it is a malicious site, you are blocked
 - otherwise Canadian Shield passes you the IP address
- At CIRA's 2022 AGM
 - Indications they are *considering* a change
 - *blocking ads & trackers*
- Personally, I doubt they will do it
 - but if they do...wow!

<https://www.cira.ca/cybersecurity-services/canadian-shield>



Sweet Home 3D – Part 2



Ottawa PC Users' Group

Q&A Session



Sweet Home 3D

Presentation 1

**Preparation – Physically &
Electronically**

OPCUG



*Users helping users
for over 40 years*



Physical Preparation

Tools:

- A half-decent / affordable “Tape Measure”
- Pencil(s), sharpener & eraser



STANLEY 25 ft. Tape Measure
Model # 30-452L | Store SKU # 1000165368
★★★★★ (129)

\$5.98 / each





Physical Preparation

Tools continue:

- Graph paper - pad
- Patience, time & a partner
(there's going to be moving of furniture, holding the tape, reminding you what you measured, etc.)





Physical Preparation

Now this wouldn't be a true geek fest without a little technology indulgence:



atolla Laser Measure up to 60m / ± 2 mm
Digital Measure Tool Laser Distance Measure
with Bubble Level and Large LCD Backlit and
Waterproof IP54

Visit the ATOLLA Store:

★★★★★ 373 ratings

#1 Best Seller in Arc Welding Stick Electrodes

\$34⁹⁹

Get a \$35 Amazon.ca Gift Card instantly, plus up to 5% back for 6 months after approval.

Size : 196Ft

196Ft

\$34.99

328Ft

\$39.99

Brand ATOLLA

Are batteries included? Yes

-the atolla was the perfect tool for my constant, what that can't be it, oh yes or oh right type of quick

https://www.amazon.ca/gp/product/B085KWKVB2/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o06_s00?ie=UTF8&h=1



atolla quick video

https://www.amazon.ca/vdp/09243ebd7111422b9355c81f1e58c6df?ref=dp_vse_ibvc0



Sweet Home 3D Requirements

Sweet Home 3D may be run under Windows 98 to Windows 11, Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger) to macOS 12 (Monterey), various Linux systems and Solaris. Your computer should have at least a processor running at 400 MHz, 256 MB and a graphic card with its driver updated (it runs slowly but successfully on an iMac DV). <https://www.sweethome3d.com/faq.jsp>

Acquired / Purchased from:

- eTeks (software's author) free or for a donation - <https://www.sweethome3d.com/download.jsp>
- Amazon; \$15 <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00NLVKPDM>
- Microsoft Store; \$19 <https://apps.microsoft.com/store/detail/sweet-home-3d/9NBLGGH2SMTQ?hl=en-ca&gl=ca>



Sweet Home 3D in action

Let me introduce you to John Gingerich, as he's accepted my challenge to work together on Sweet Home 3D.

As such, he used the program a number of years ago and created the following video of his kitchen in 2014. He is interested to see what changes have been brought to SH3D in the intervening years.



Sweet Home 3D in Action





Our plan

- Every two Q&A's we'll be gradually introducing you to Sweet Home 3D (SH3D);
- At our next scheduled Q&A we'll take 10 minutes and go over John's and my simple but elegant, dream home, showing off the many features of SH3D;
- At following meetings, we'll start from the beginning on how we obtain the final product (taking several sessions; walls, rooms, furniture, etc.)
- While that's happening, I'll be working on my home and will be providing updates / overviews.



Conclusion

- Let me know if you have any questions / experiences;
- If you happen to catch the SH3D bug, please share your experiences and, if you're willing, share with the group.

Till next time.....

Interested; email Lawrence@opcug.ca

The Microsoft Store





The Microsoft Store



We're going to look at the Microsoft Store over three sessions:

- Part One: What Is the Microsoft Store?
- ➔ • **Part Two: Desktop Apps vs Microsoft Store Apps A.**
- Part Three: Desktop Apps vs Microsoft Store Apps B.
- Part Four: The Best Microsoft Store Apps for Windows 10.



The Microsoft Store



- Last session, we looked at how the Microsoft Store is a digital distribution platform operated by Microsoft for apps, games, fonts, digital videos (mainly movies and TV shows) and more for Windows 8, 10 & 11, Windows Server, and Xbox OS's.
- We focused mainly on the apps from the Microsoft Store.
- In this session, we're going to take a closer look at Desktop Apps vs Microsoft Store Apps.



The Microsoft Store



- Historically, you downloaded Windows software (mostly desktop apps) through an EXE file from its official website or from a third-party download site.
- Starting in Windows 8 and now with Windows 10 & 11, you also have the option of downloading some apps directly from the Microsoft Store.
- Many apps are available as both traditional desktop apps and modern Store apps. Given the choice, which should you download? We'll take a look and try to answer that question.



The Microsoft Store



Universal Windows Platform Apps

- Microsoft is pushing the Universal Windows Platform (UWP) apps (called Metro apps during Windows 8) pretty hard. The idea is to offer apps that work on desktop Windows as well as Windows Phone.
- Now, even after the collapse of Windows 10 Mobile, apps on the Store often run across Windows, Xbox One, HoloLens, and other platforms.
- In theory, the UWP lets developers create an app that's usable across multiple devices.



The Microsoft Store



Depending on who you listen to, the term '*Microsoft Store Apps*' can refer to:

- ANY app from the Microsoft Store,
- OR
- A UWP app from the Microsoft Store.

For the sake of consistency and clarity, in this presentation the term '*Microsoft Store Apps*' will refer to ANY app from the Microsoft Store, and UWP will refer specifically to a UWP app from the Store.



The Microsoft Store



Apps from the Microsoft Store, whether they're normal desktop apps or UWP apps, are curated and certified for compatibility and content, including (for most):

- Being able to update automatically in the background
- Being free from bloatware and PUPS (Potentially Unwanted ProgramS), even though Microsoft otherwise installs plenty of bloatware and PUPS with Windows.
- Being free from viruses and other security issues.
- Installing directly from the Store instead of using a downloadable install file.
- Uninstalling cleanly (no leftover garbage or registry entries) and should uninstall without the need for a separate uninstall app.



The Microsoft Store



Desktop Apps vs. UWP Apps: Security

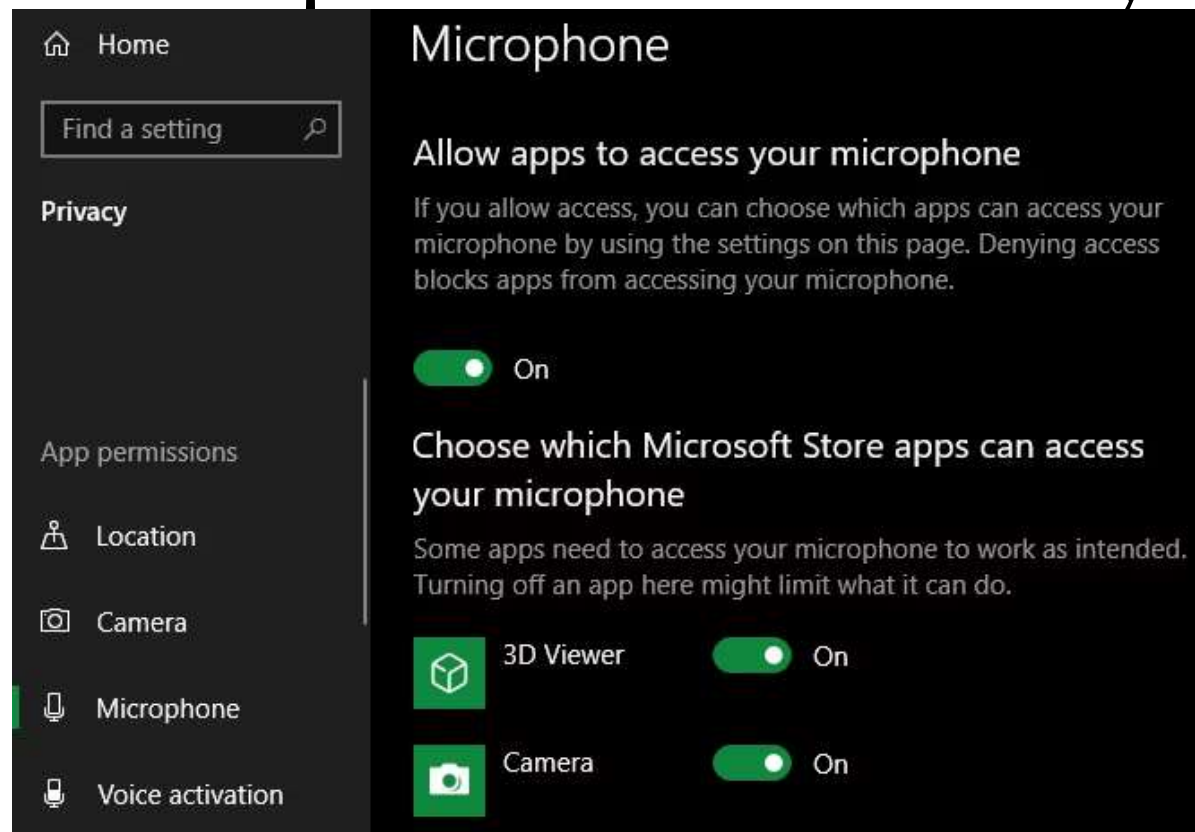
- All UWP apps have the advantage of coming from a trusted source.
- When you install a desktop app, it often requires permission to run as an administrator to install. While this is a normal part of installing software, providing admin rights to a program gives it permission to do whatever it wants to your computer.
- If you grant admin privileges to a malicious app, it has free reign to install malware, trash your data, record your keystrokes, or otherwise do harm to your PC. Most apps don't do this, of course, but this is how infections often spread.
- In contrast, UWP apps have limited permissions. They run in a sandbox, meaning they're confined to a certain part of Windows. Since these apps don't ever run as an administrator, they don't have nearly as much potential to damage your system.



The Microsoft Store



UWP apps also list out all the permissions they use. This lets you see exactly what functions they utilize in the background. In addition, you can block apps from using individual permissions in the Privacy section of





The Microsoft Store



**Universal Windows Platform Apps
sound pretty great, so why would
you NOT want to use them?**

- Many UWP Apps need to operate on devices with small screens, so the user interface must be simplified to be usable on these small screens.
- The simplified user interfaces can also result in limitations on the UWP App's functionality.
- We'll cover these issues in more depth next session.



The Microsoft Store



Coming up next:

- Part One: What Is the Microsoft Store?
- Part Two: Desktop Apps vs Microsoft Store Apps
A.
- • **Part Three: Desktop Apps vs Microsoft Store Apps
B.**
- Part Four: The Best Microsoft Store Apps for Windows 10.



URL's



The web version of the Microsoft Store is at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/>

Info on Microsoft's Universal Windows Platform

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Windows_Platform_apps

Info on the Microsoft Store

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Store

What Is the Microsoft Store and How Do I Use It on Windows 10?

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/microsoft-store-windows-10/>

The best apps in the Microsoft Store.

[t https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/best-windows-10-apps/](https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/best-windows-10-apps/)

A closer look at OneNote's version differences

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/switch-onenote-windows-10/>

VLC's other hidden tricks

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/7-top-secret-features-free-vlc-media-player-si/>

How to check the integrity of the installer you download for any desktop app with one of these free hash checkers.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/free-hash-checkers-file-integrity/>



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



If we have time...

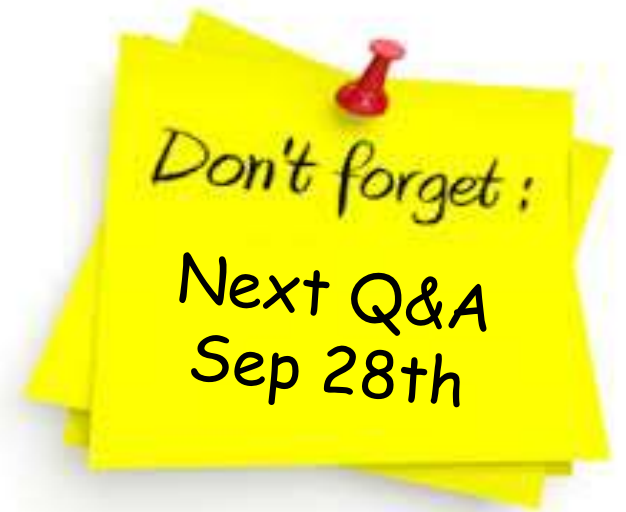
Where is that mouse?

Helpful hints on rodents...



Keyboard Shortcuts

Shortcuts allow you to do a lot more, in less time



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca