



# **Alan German & Chris Taylor**

## **Ottawa PC Users' Group**

*February 1, 2023*

# Future Topics



11. In Windows 11, where do I find programs such as Windows Accessories?

~~12. Disk Cleanup, safe to delete everything?~~

~~13. Multiple firewall interactions~~

~~14. Is cloud storage safe?~~

15. Do I need a VPN?

16. Google Groups/Google Drive management

~~17. Sharing video files~~

18. Saving passwords/auto-fill in browsers

19. Are apps and programs different?

20.



**As usual – it depends...**



## **What's the use case?**

- Add an extra layer of security
  - Public web access (e.g. coffee shops)
- Evade geoblocking
  - “Unlock” services not available in your country of origin

## **Any downsides?**

- False sense of security (VPN's have their limits)
- Have to trust the VPN provider
- Usually pay-for services (some limited free connectivity)
- Can slow down Internet access, lock online accounts

# Q&A References

- A quick look at VPNs, Chris Taylor, 29-Apr-2020  
<https://opcug.ca/qa-2020/>
- Which VPN?, Bob Walker, 15-Nov-2022  
[https://opcug.ca/qa\\_recordings/20211215\\_PowerPoint.pdf](https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20211215_PowerPoint.pdf)
- More On VPN's, Bob Walker, 12-Dec-2022  
[https://opcug.ca/qa\\_recordings/20211222\\_PowerPoint.pdf](https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20211222_PowerPoint.pdf)



# Future Topics



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# Windows 11 Accessories



- Windows 10 had separate folders for Windows Accessories, Windows Administrative Tools, Windows System, etc.
- Windows 11 combines all the system utilities in a single folder named Windows Tools
- Navigate to:

*Start Menu - Windows Tools*

or

*Control Panel - System and Security – Windows Tools*

Harvey Hope



# Podcast Addict: Podcast player

- Manage Podcast, Radio, Audiobook, Live stream, YouTube, SoundCloud channels and RSS News feeds from a single app
- 10M downloads, 500K reviews, and an average rating of 4.7/5



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

Share

# Podcast Addict

- The most popular android podcast app
- Very configurable, general & per podcast
- Speed up or slow down playback
- Skip intro/extro to avoid ads
- Customizable in-podcast skipping
- Handles chapters in big podcasts like the Economist
- Update podcasts on a schedule
  - From every 30 minutes to every day
- Saves listened-to podcasts for a day, unlistened-to podcasts for a customizable period, e.g., 2 weeks

Share

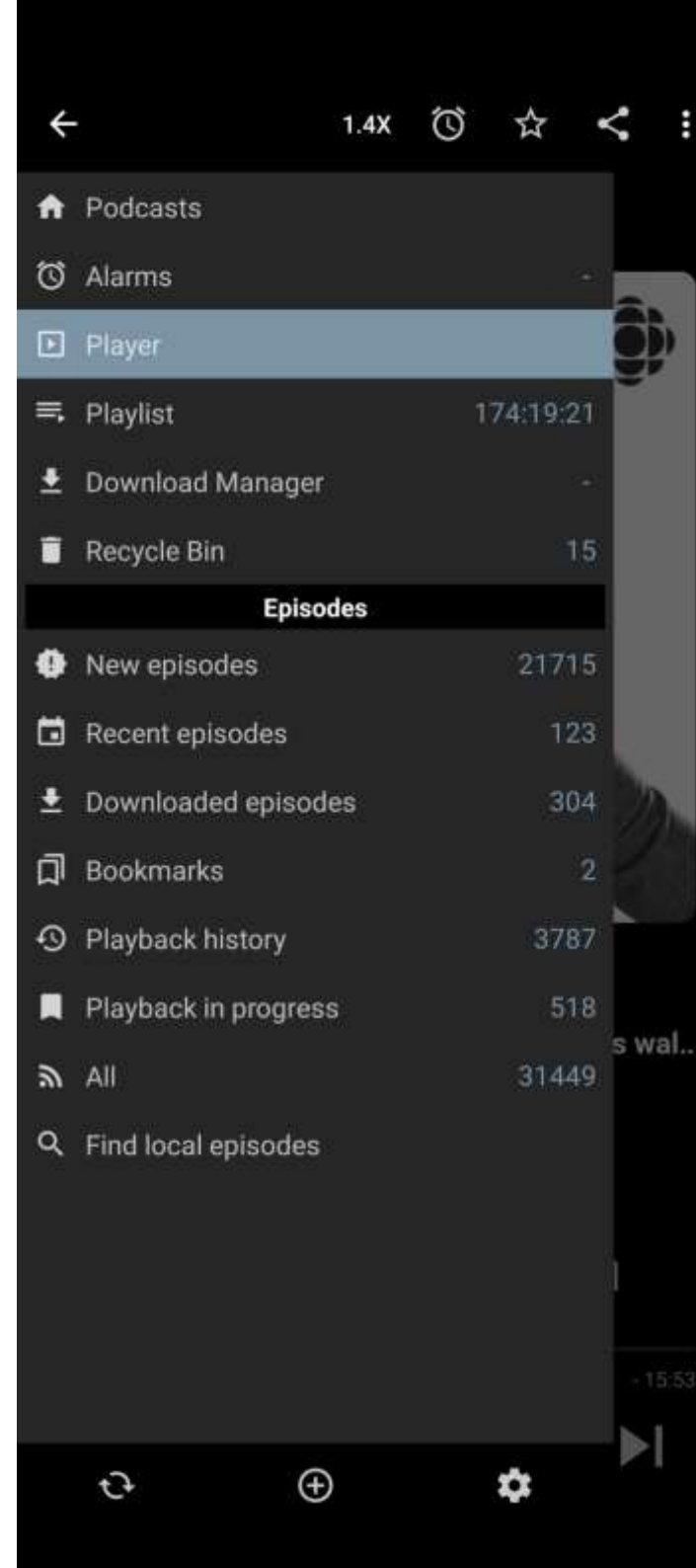
# What is a podcast?

- An audio file to be played, usually after downloading
- Many radio shows have a podcast version
- Individuals & companies (media & otherwise) create podcasts
- Often ads before, within, or after an episode
  - CBC radio has ads in their podcasts
  - ABC(Australia) does not
  - PBS(US) has “announcements”
- Most podcast episodes are 2-30 minutes
- Each issue of the Economist is a 7-hour podcast with chapters for each article
- Fact/Opinion/Stories/Reviews....

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# Main Menu

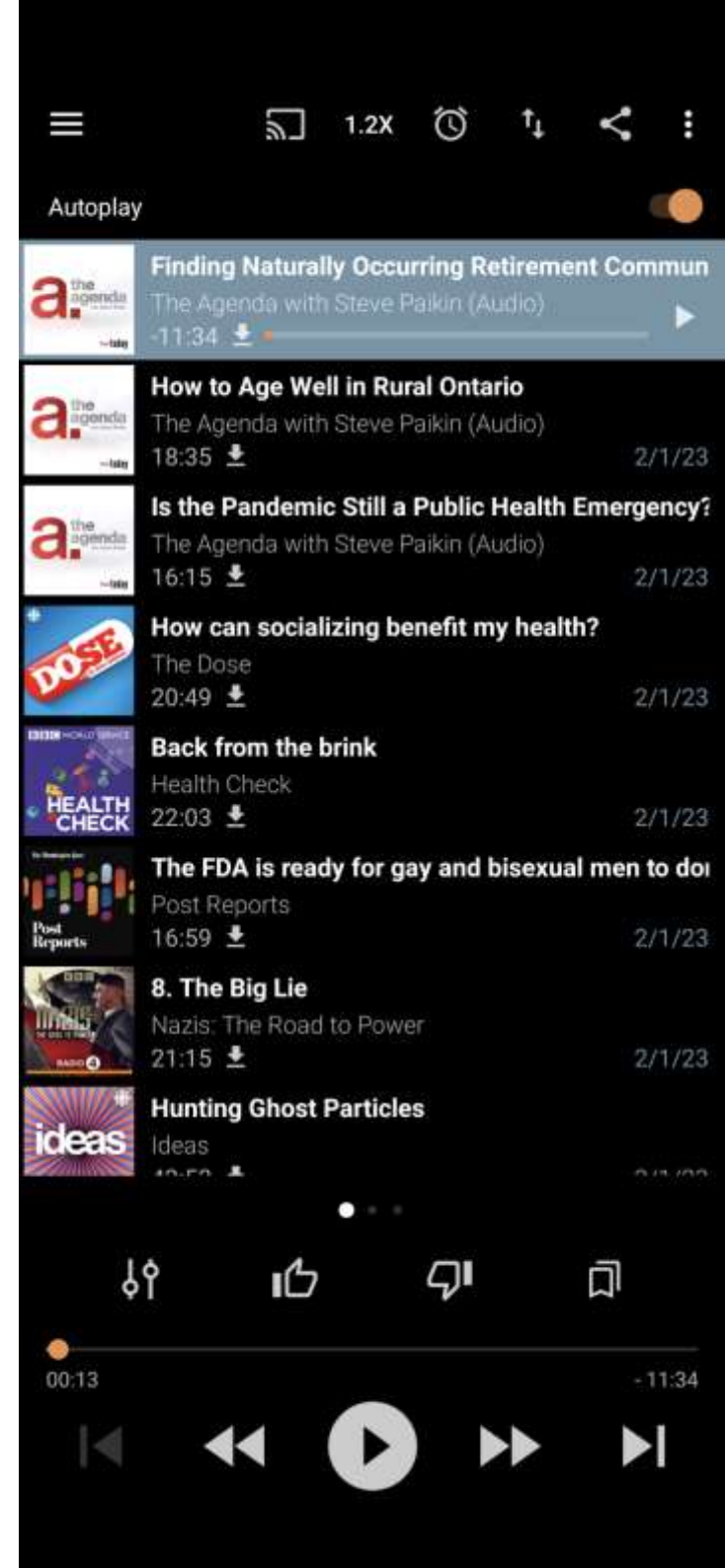
- Playlist number is
  - 174 hours, 19 minutes, 21 seconds
- Playlist is updated as new episodes download
- Recycle bin is for listened-to podcasts
  - retained for a user-specified period (me:24 hours)
- New Episodes means “unlistened-to episodes” in index
- Unlistened-to podcasts deleted after user-specified period(me: 2 weeks)
- Index to every podcast downloaded is kept forever



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# Playlist

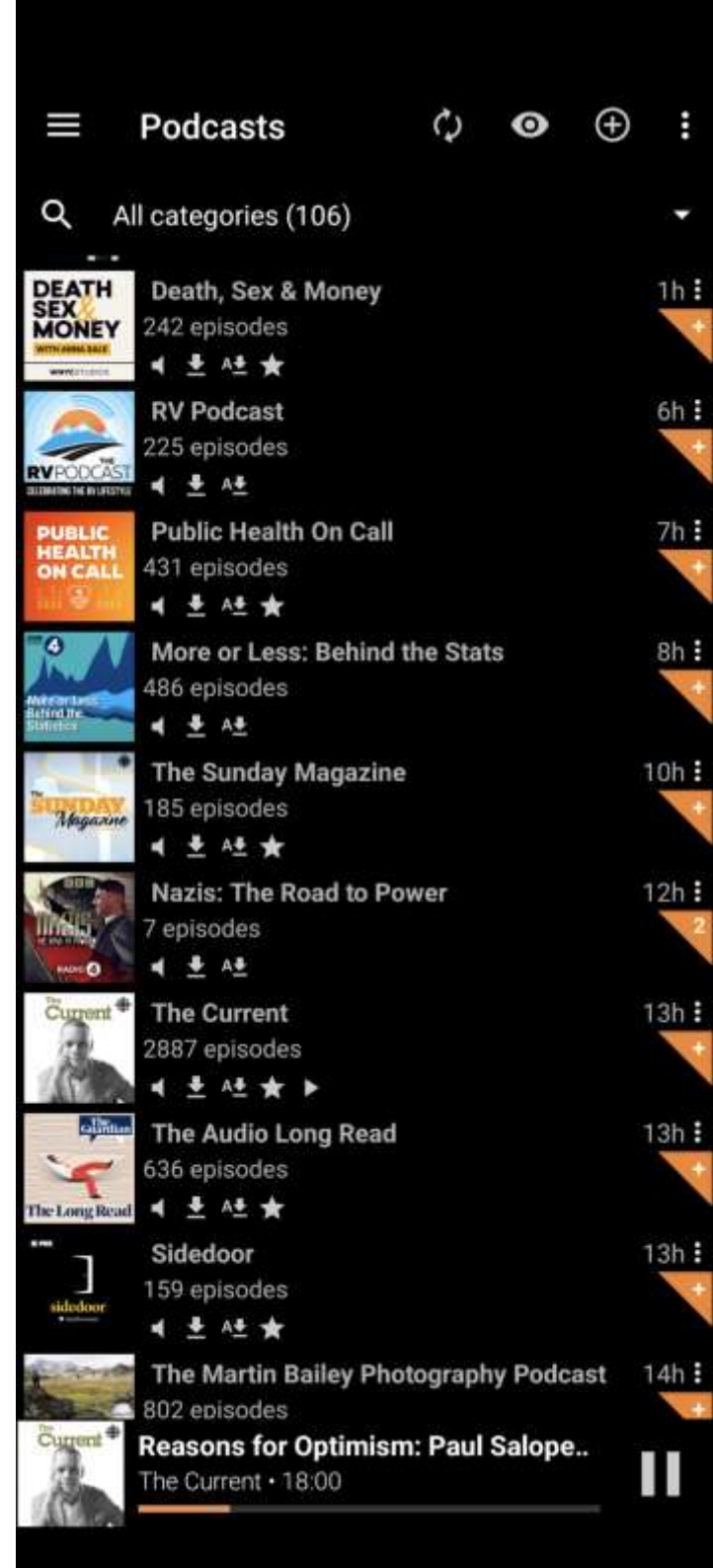
- Populated as episodes are downloaded
- Episodes deleted when
  - Heard (after a period in recycle bin)
  - Deliberately deleted
  - Too old (configurable)
- Can sort various ways
- My usual way to listen to episodes



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# Podcast list

- Shows your subscribed podcasts
  - You can turn off new downloads
- Use the **+** button to search for new podcasts OR episodes
- The “--h” is how recently a podcast was downloaded in hours
- You can sort by various parameters, including user-set priority. Here by latest date.



Share

# Podcast Info

- Basic information
- Can choose to see
  - Reviews
  - Episodes
  - Privacy – shows ad inserters

The screenshot shows the interface of a podcast app. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for menu, refresh, copy, settings, share, and more. Below this, the podcast 'The Current' by 'CBC Radio' is displayed with its cover art and an 'UNSUBSCRIBE' button. A date '1/25/23' and language 'English' are shown. Statistics include '2887 episodes (23 mins) • 791 MB • Twice a day' and '3.3 K subscribers'. There are three circular icons for 'Reviews', 'Episodes', and 'Privacy'. Below these, a link 'Other podcasts by CBC Radio' is provided. A descriptive paragraph follows: 'CBC Radio's The Current is a meeting place of perspectives with a fresh take on Issues that affect Canadians today.' A URL 'https://www.cbc.ca/podcasting/includes/current.xml' is listed. A section 'You may also like' features three recommended podcasts: 'As It Happens from CBC Radio', 'Front Burner', and 'Planet Money'. At the bottom, a player bar shows the current episode 'Reasons for Optimism: Paul Salope..' with a progress bar and a pause button.

≡ ↺ 📄 ⚙️ ➦ ⋮

 The Current  
CBC Radio

UNSUBSCRIBE

📅 1/25/23 🗣️ English 📁 News

2887 episodes (23 mins) • 791 MB • Twice a day  
3.3 K subscribers

Reviews Episodes Privacy

[Other podcasts by CBC Radio](#)

CBC Radio's The Current is a meeting place of perspectives with a fresh take on Issues that affect Canadians today.

<https://www.cbc.ca/podcasting/includes/current.xml>

You may also like [More »](#)

|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>As It Happens from CBC Radio<br>CBC Radio | <br>Front Burner<br>CBC Podcasts | <br>Planet Money<br>NPR |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

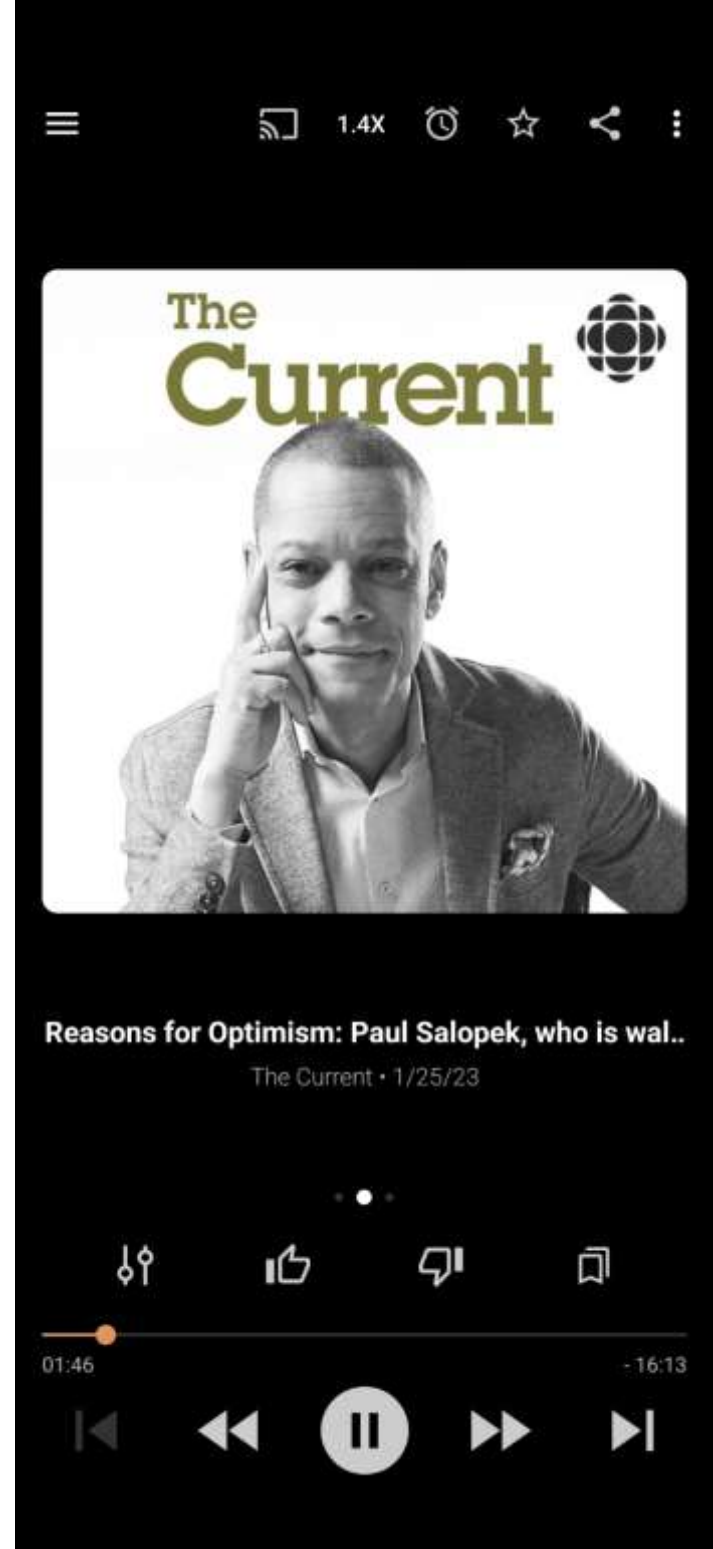
 **Reasons for Optimism: Paul Salope..**  
The Current • 18:00

⏸

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# Podcast playing

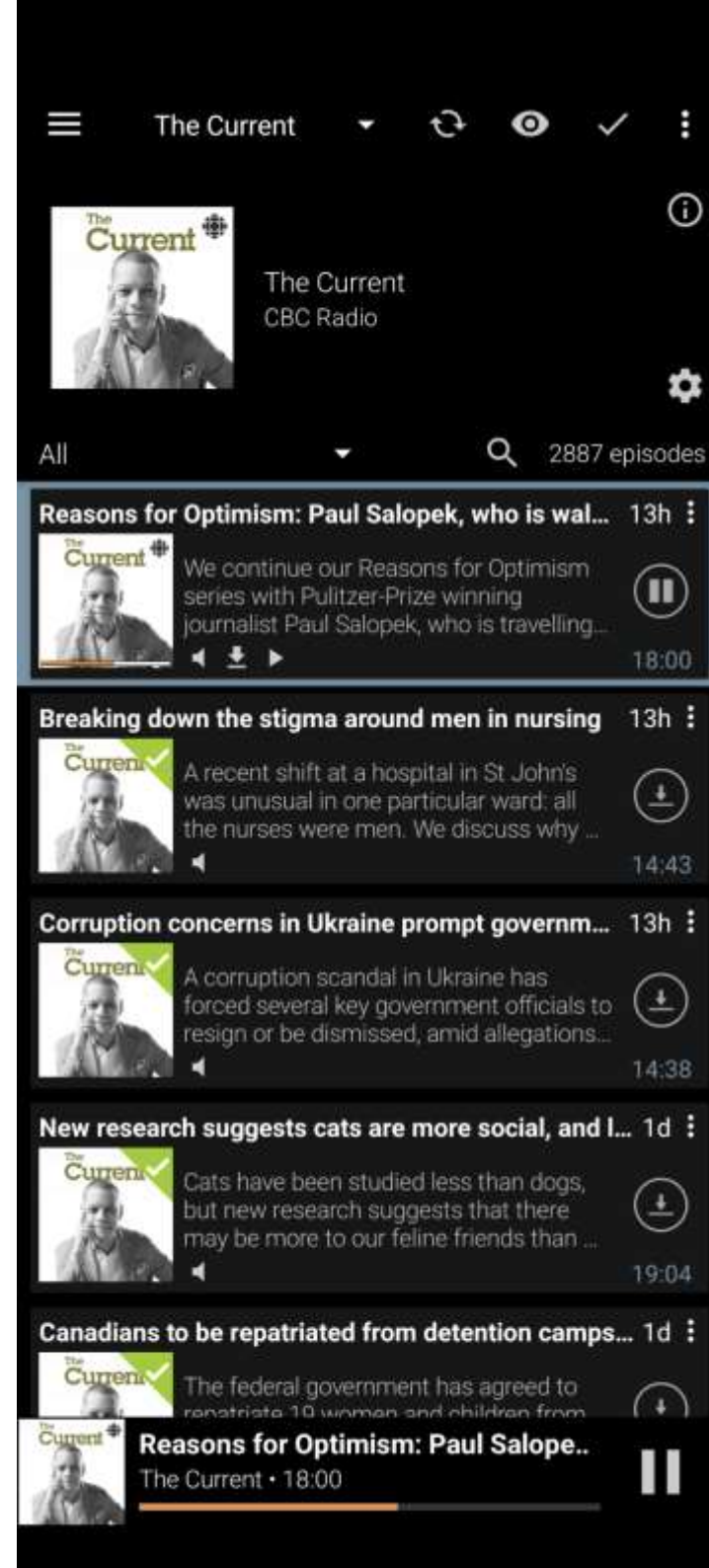
- Can skip forward or backward
  - By choosable seconds
  - Choosable for each direction
- Can go to previous or next podcast
- Can delete podcast by holding down “next” podcast button
- Can adjust audio
  - Speed (here 1.4x button)
  - Skip silences
  - Equalizer
  - Volume boost
  - Mono



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# Podcast Episodes

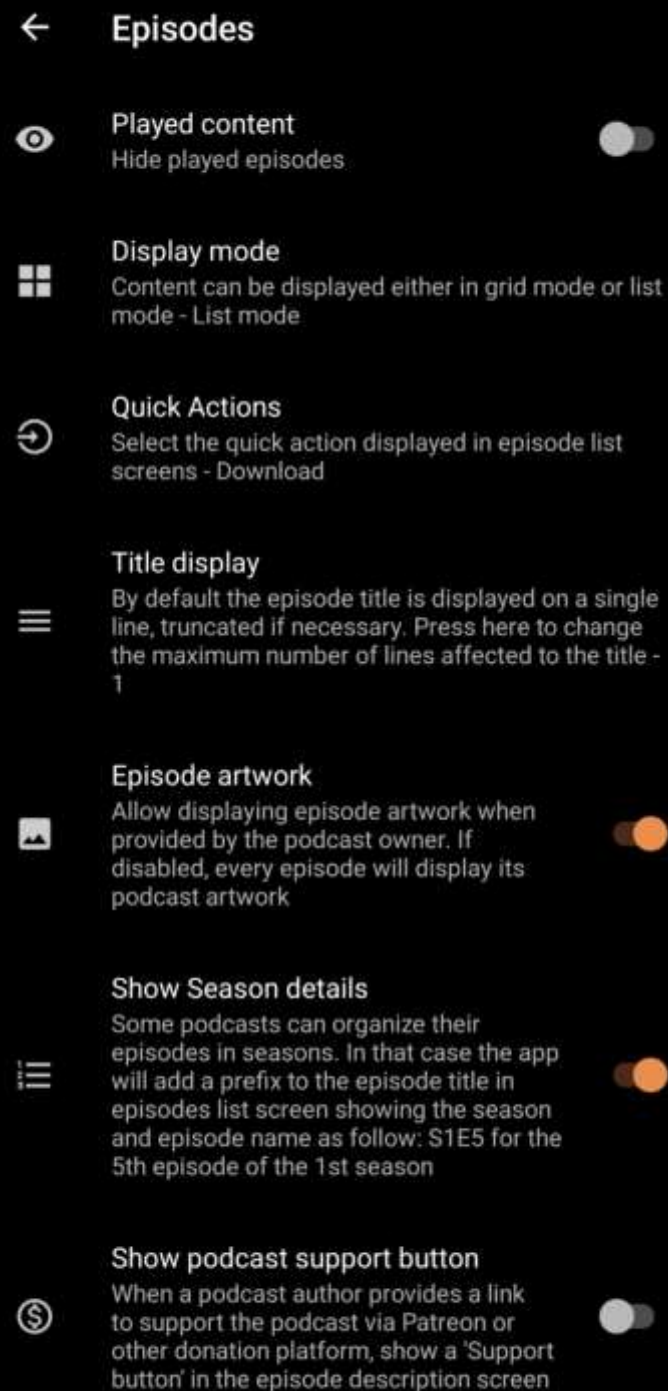
- The green  shows which you have listened to
- The eye  at the top will toggle showing those you have already heard



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# Episode list commands

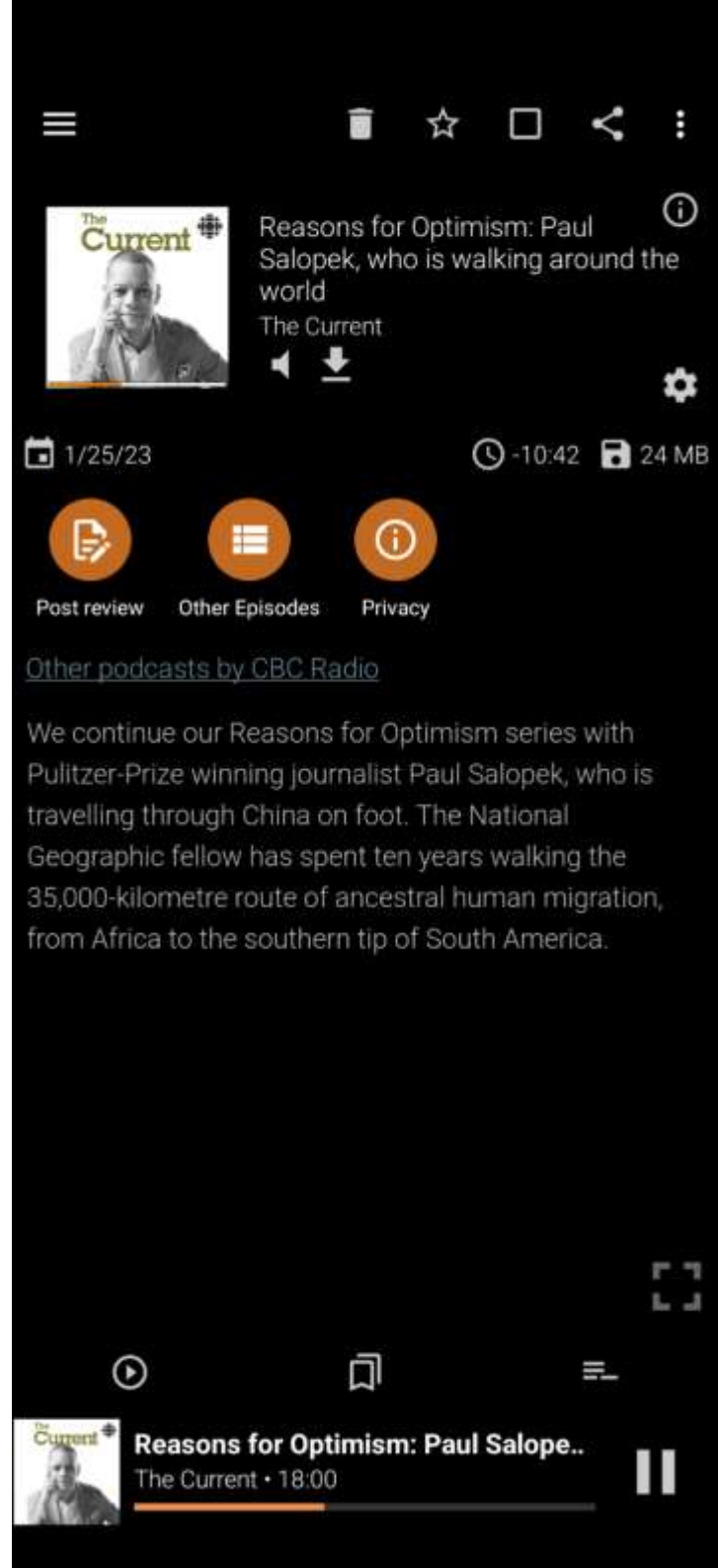
- Very customizable to suit your desires



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## Episode Info

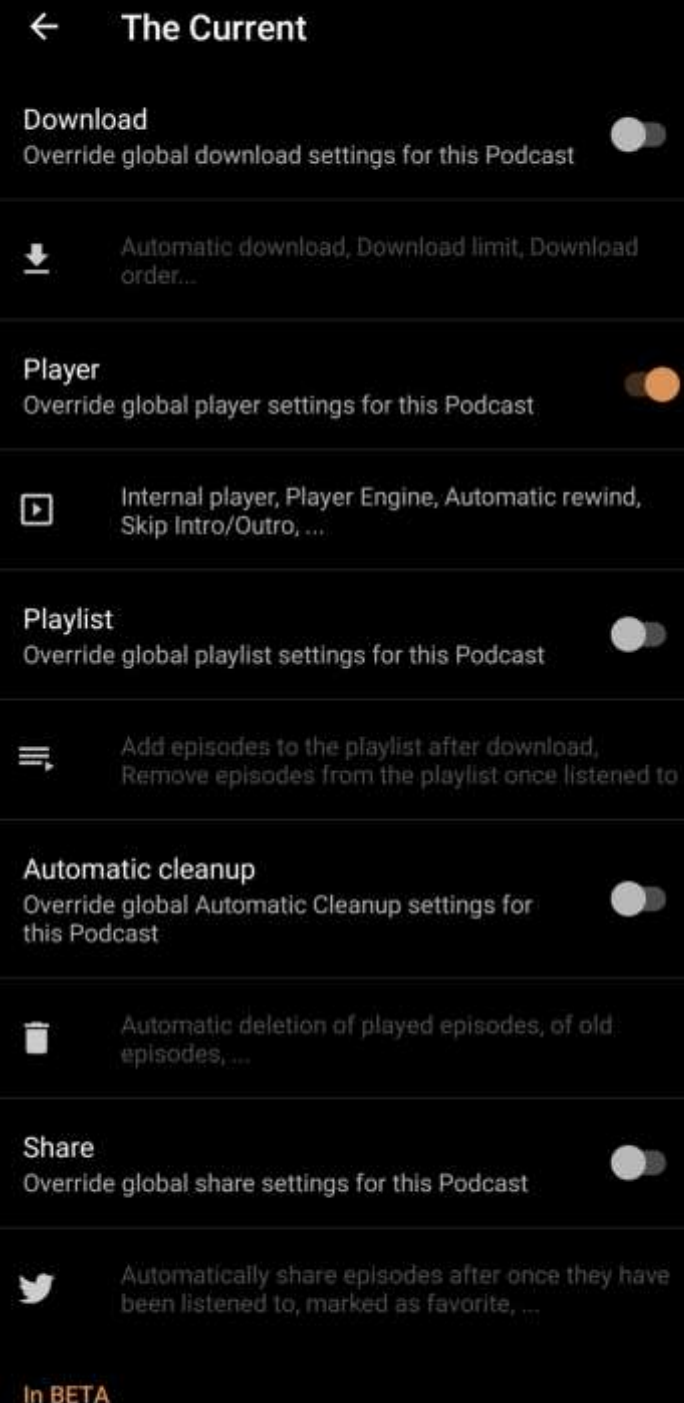
- The ↓ shows that the episode has been downloaded & available to listen to immediately
- At bottom of many pages are the controls for listening to the current podcast



Share

# Podcast controls

- You can control the default settings in main settings
- Here you can automate your sharing!



Share

# Player controls

- Set how you want the skips/jumps to work
- Often set podcast by podcast since they have different formats.

## Internal player

Use the internal player for this podcast



## Player Engine

Select which player to use for playback - ExoPlayer (Default)

## Jump Backward

16 seconds

## Jump Forward

25 seconds

## Skip Intro

Number of seconds to skip when starting playing a new episode (ie: skip opening credits) - 32

## Skip Outro

Number of seconds to skip at the end of the episode (ie: skip ending credits). The app can take up to 5s to detect this threshold - Use global setting

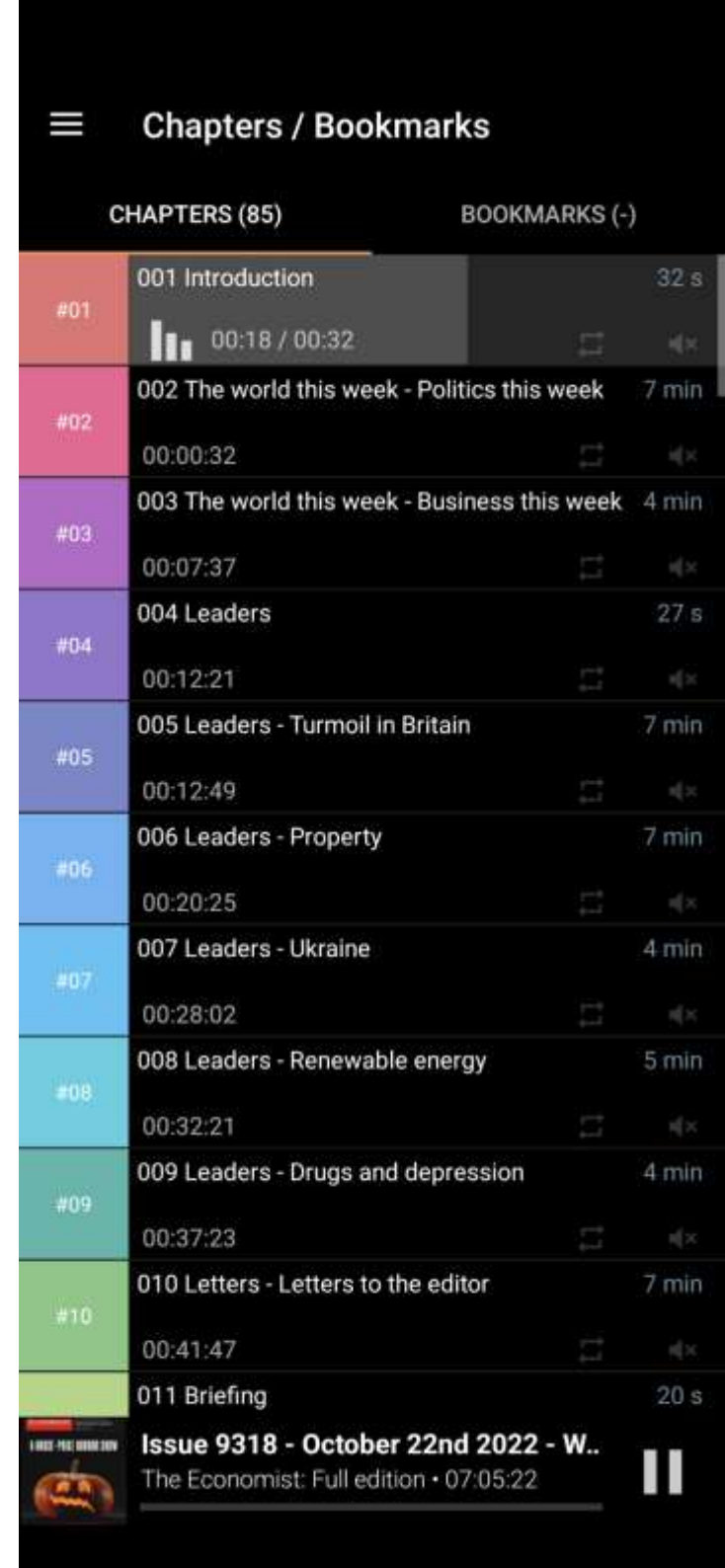
## Automatic rewind

Select the number of seconds of automatic rewind when resuming playback (take playback speed into account) - 5s

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# BIG podcasts

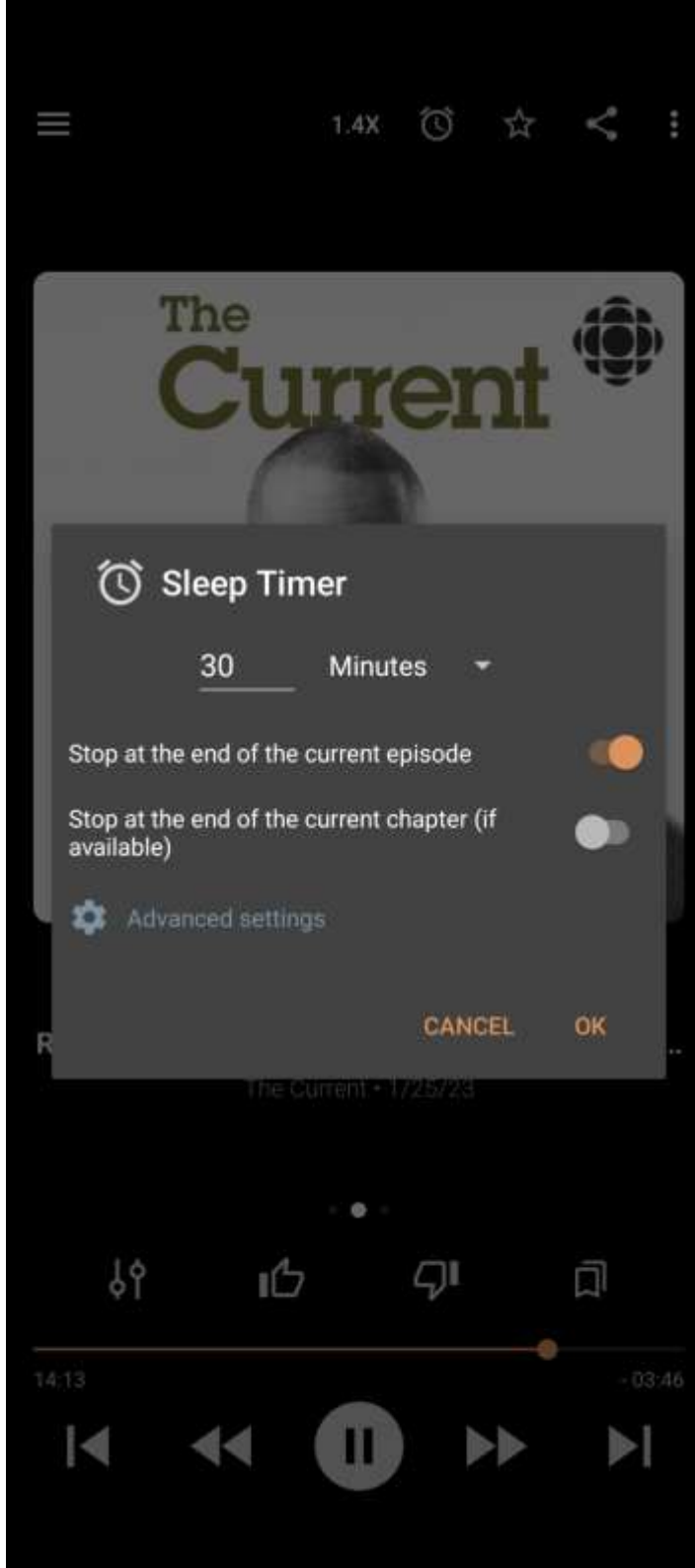
- Some podcasts have “chapters”
- You can choose which you wish to play or replay
- This is The Economist – about 7 hours to listen to each magazine issue



Share

# Sleep timer

- Yes, you can go to sleep listening to podcast(s)



Share

# Podcast addict

- Very configurable, general & per podcast
- Indexes your subscribed podcasts
  - Can download episodes later, even after deletions
- Indexes many podcasts & episodes
  - Easily search for subjects you are interested in
  - A supplement to ChatGPT & Google!
- Developer is responsive. I have made a bug report and suggestions. S/He always responds.
- **Great if you want:**
  - **To control what you listen to & when**
  - **To listen faster or slower, depending on the content**
  - **To be able to go back to previous episodes easily**
  - **To search out new podcasts/episodes**
  - **You learn better aurally**



Bob Herres

We all know the feeling...

You have just taken a Great Photo, of a Good Friend.



Then, later you realize there's a  
Giant Bird Feeder in the way!



**Don't  
Worry**

**The  
Future of  
Photo  
Editing  
has  
Arrived!**



# A Great Photo ruined by a Giant Bird Feeder?

**No  
Problem!**

just

**Google  
Cleanup  
Pictures**



Share

# What is “Cleanup Pictures?”

- It's an “**AI Powered Magical Genie,**” that will whisk away any unwanted objects in your photos faster than you can say Photoshop!



- With just a wave of a wand, you can edit your photos in seconds, and make your all pictures look like a million bucks!

Share

# Cleanup Pictures

<https://cleanup.pictures>



**Remove any unwanted  
object, defect, people or  
text from your pictures in  
seconds**



Click here or drag an image file

Share

# Cleanup Pictures

Simply use  
your green  
brush, to  
remove the  
bird feeder!



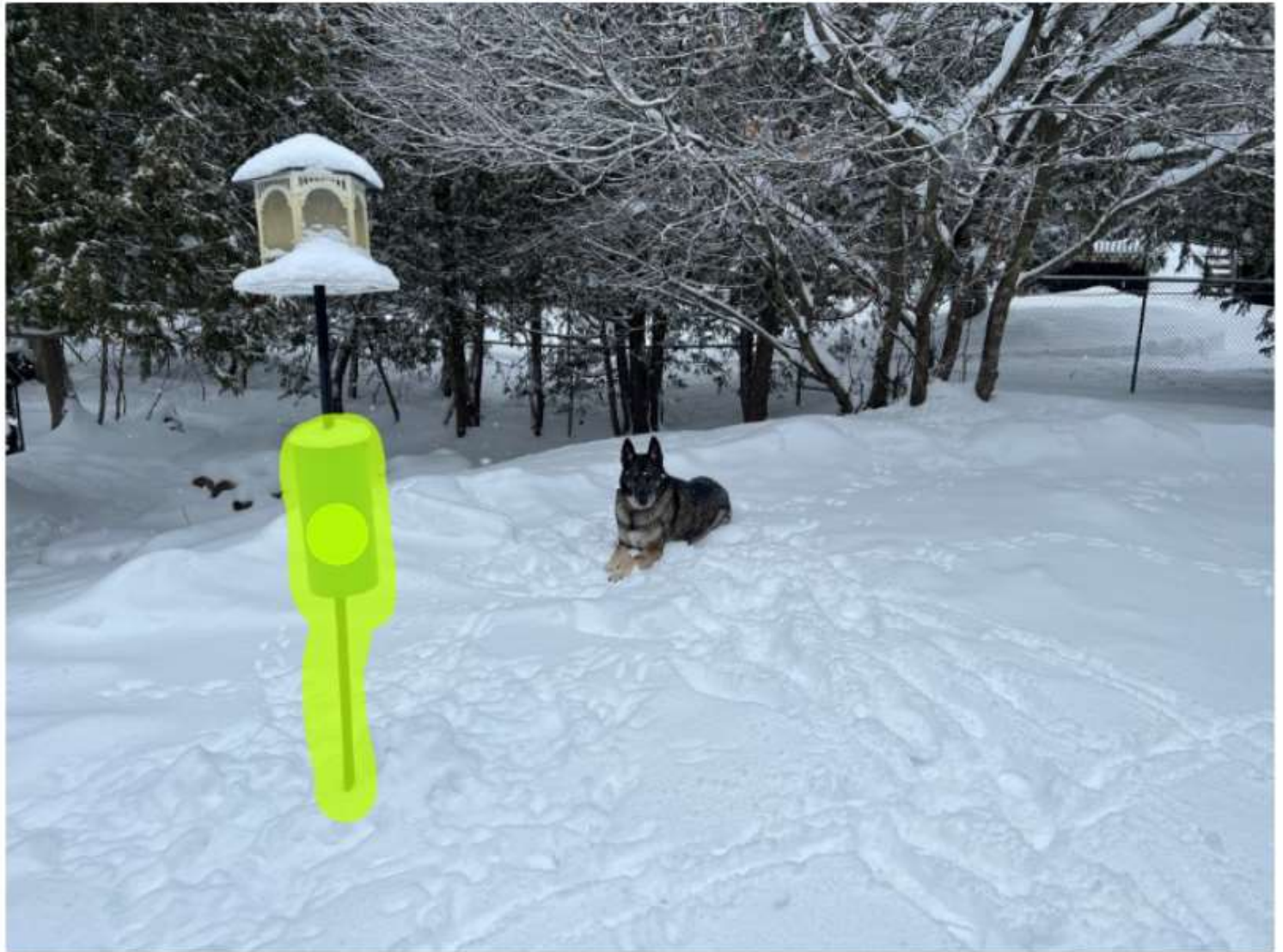
Brush



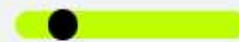
< Re-size  
your brush

Share

# Cleanup Pictures



Brush

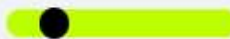


Share

# Cleanup Pictures



Brush



Share

# Cleanup Pictures

Yes, it  
Really is  
that easy!



Brush



Share

# Cleanup Pictures

**Before**



**After**



Share

## Cleanup Pictures

Please allow me to introduce you to a very good human buddy, who was kind enough

to let me use this photo of him picking crabapples...



Share

## Cleanup Pictures



Now, I know what you're thinking, "Wow, that's a great shot, but what about that pole, and all the wires!"

Don't worry

I'll show you  
how to get rid  
of that stuff in  
mere seconds!



Share

# Cleanup Pictures

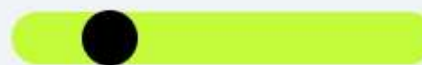
<https://cleanup.pictures>

Here we have  
uploaded our  
photo to the  
website.

Now we use  
our mouse, to  
control the  
removal brush.



Brush



Share

# Cleanup Pictures

Using the  
brush...



I resized our  
brush so it is a  
little smaller.

Let's start with  
the wires.



Brush



Share

# Cleanup Pictures



We have used the  
brush on most of  
the wires

Share

# Cleanup Pictures

Let's use a  
smaller  
brush for  
these wires.



**Most of the  
wires have  
been removed.**

Share

# Cleanup Pictures



Share

# Cleanup Pictures

The small  
wires are  
gone  
and  
because  
we used a  
smaller  
brush, all  
branches  
are still  
there! 😁



Now we remove  
both the pole, and  
the last wire.

Share

# Cleanup Pictures

We resized  
our brush, a  
little larger  
than the pole.



Share

# Cleanup Pictures



Share

# Cleanup Pictures



Share

# Cleanup Pictures

**Before**



**After**

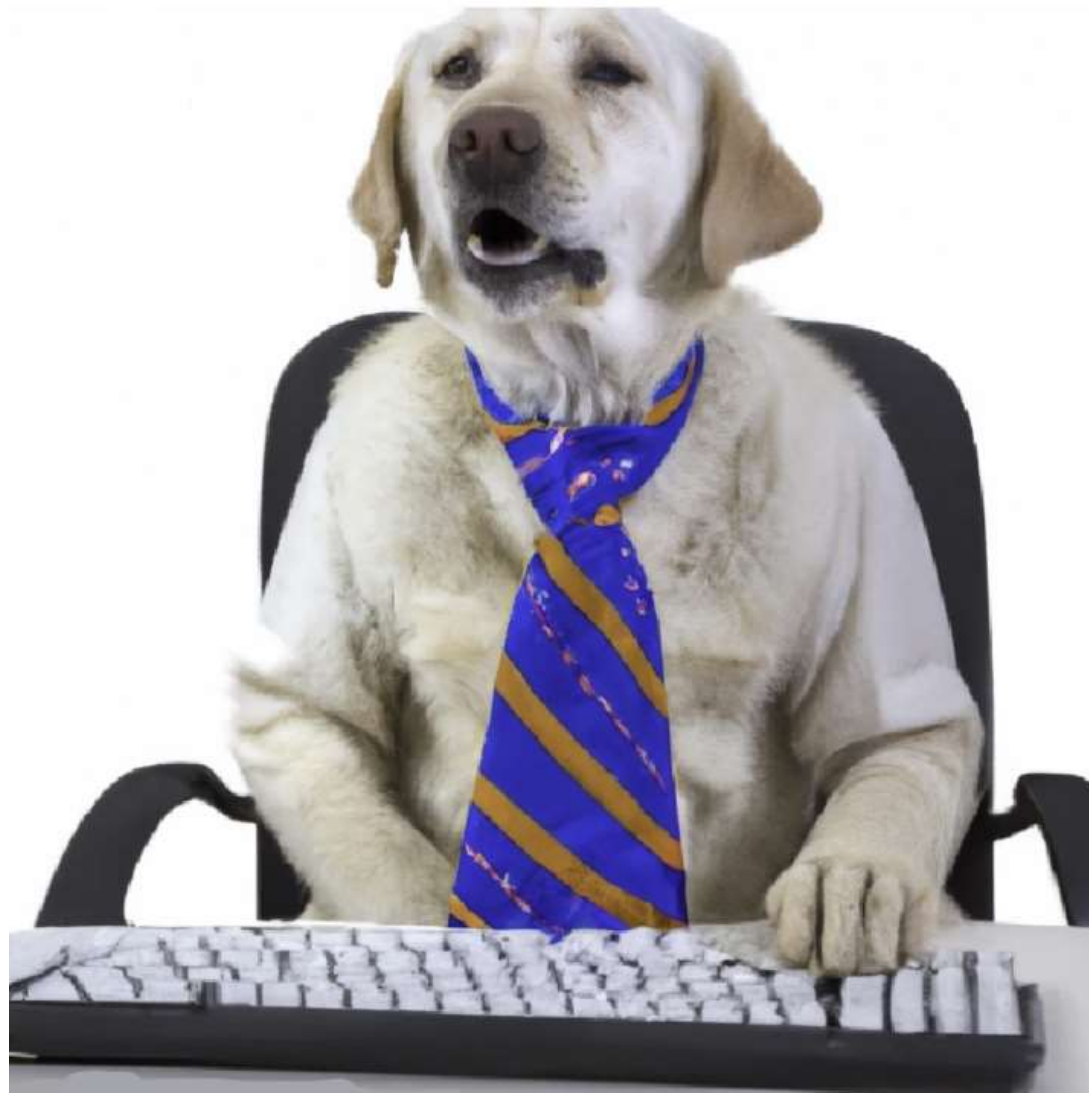


Share

# Cleanup Pictures

As you can see,  
it's all quite easy.

Here are two  
ways I upload  
my images...



Share

# Cleanup Pictures

## Uploading Images

“Click here”  
method



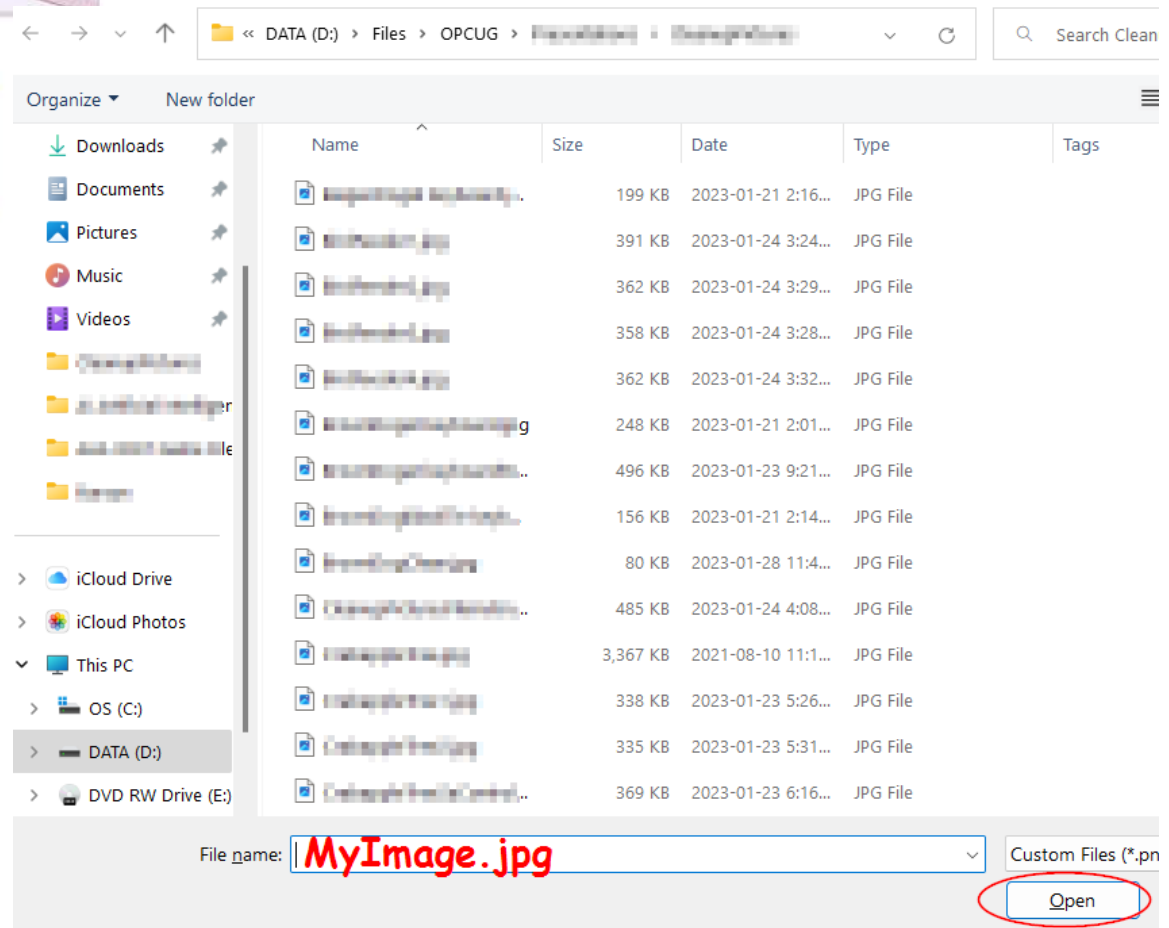
Remove any unwanted  
**object**, **defect**, **people** or  
**text** from your pictures in  
seconds



Click here or drag an image file

This will open  
your Folder, then  
type your file  
name...

Then click “Open”



Share

# Cleanup Pictures

## Uploading Images

“Drag File”  
method



Remove any unwanted  
**object, defect, people** or  
**text** from your pictures in  
seconds



Here *you* open “File  
Explorer” in New  
Window.

Click here or drag an image file



BirdFeeder2.jpg

This PC > DATA (D:) > Files > OPCUG > Presentations > CleanupPictures

| Name            | Size   | Type                         |
|-----------------|--------|------------------------------|
| ~ [blurred] ..  | 1 KB   | Microsoft PowerPoint Pres... |
| B [blurred] ..  | 199 KB | JPG File                     |
| B [blurred] ..  | 391 KB | JPG File                     |
| BirdFeeder2.jpg | 362 KB | JPG File                     |
| B [blurred] ..  | 358 KB | JPG File                     |
| B [blurred] ..  | 362 KB | JPG File                     |
| B [blurred] ..  | 248 KB | JPG File                     |
| B [blurred] ..  | 406 KB | JPG File                     |

And before you know it, you  
will be editing your photo!

Share

## Cleanup Pictures



Now, if you are a “Photo Editing Pro, and you know how to use your program, Cleanup Pictures won’t be your top choice for editing photos.

But I’m no Pro, and I’m quite comfortable with the 720p photo quality. These photos print very nicely on my inkjet printer.

Cleanup Pictures does offer “Pro Quality... but it will cost you \$3 to \$5 per month!

~~\$\$\$~~

**Before**



**After**

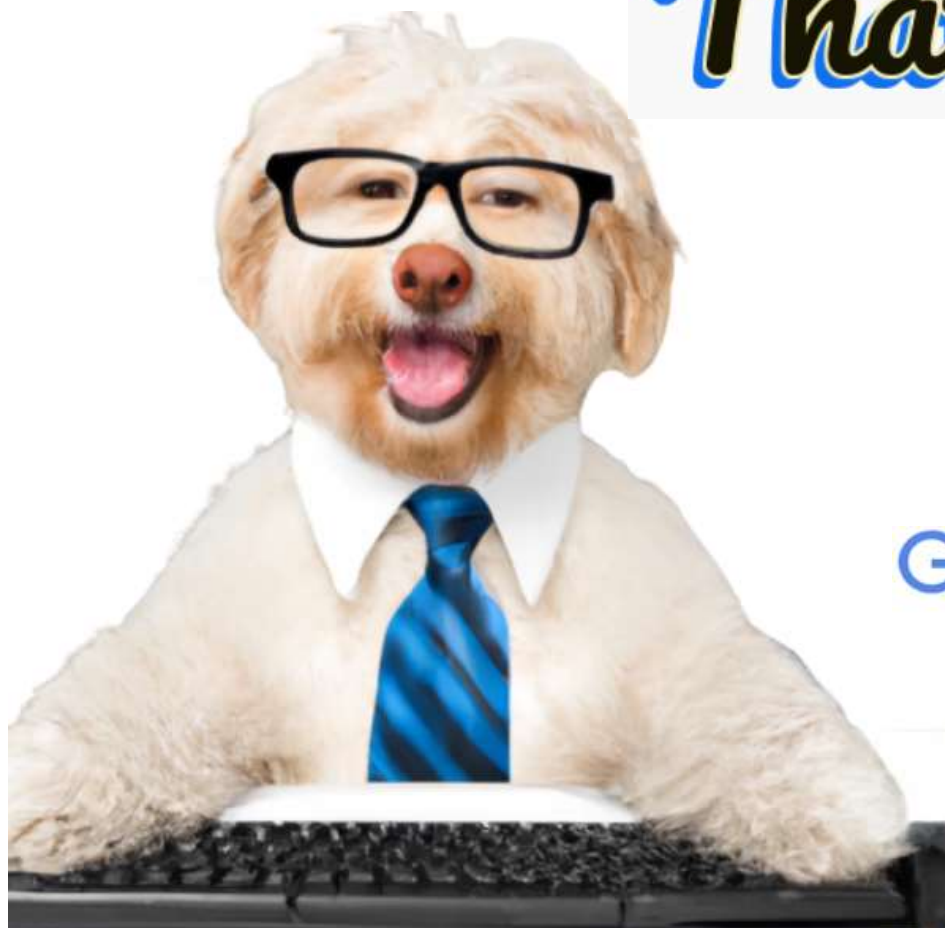


Share

# Cleanup Pictures

*That's all Folks!*

*Thank You!*



Google Cleanup Pictures  
to find

**Cleanup.Pictures**

Credits will be presented on the following slide.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my very kind human friend, and all the wonderful dogs that contributed to this presentation.

Most of the dogs you have seen here were created using **DALL-E 2 OpenAI**

<https://openai.com/dall-e-2>



Thank you Chris Taylor, for sharing DALL-E 2 in November 2022.

Share

# Extended warranties



- Some companies make a *lot* of money selling extended warranties
  - 15% to 55% cost of the computer for 3 years
    - the less expensive the computer, the higher the percentage
    - laptops typically more expensive than desktops
- Personally
  - always found extended warranties expensive & rarely of value
    - TV – never used
    - car – one brake adjustment...on a \$1,700 extended warranty!
    - computers – have bought a couple over the years – never used
- And then...

Share

# Lenovo gaming computer

- Last week I bought an expensive gaming computer
- Default: 1-year, ship-it-back-to-Lenovo warranty
- Deal: 3-year, onsite warranty
  - regular price: \$89
  - on sale: \$75.65
- Inexpensive insurance policy (for me)
  - 3.1% the cost of the computer
- Note:
  - no statement on how long it takes for onsite repair person to arrive
    - more expensive *Next business day* option
  - *If repairs cannot be completed onsite, Lenovo sends the device to a local service center for repair or replacement, then returns it to you.*

Share

# Warranty considerations



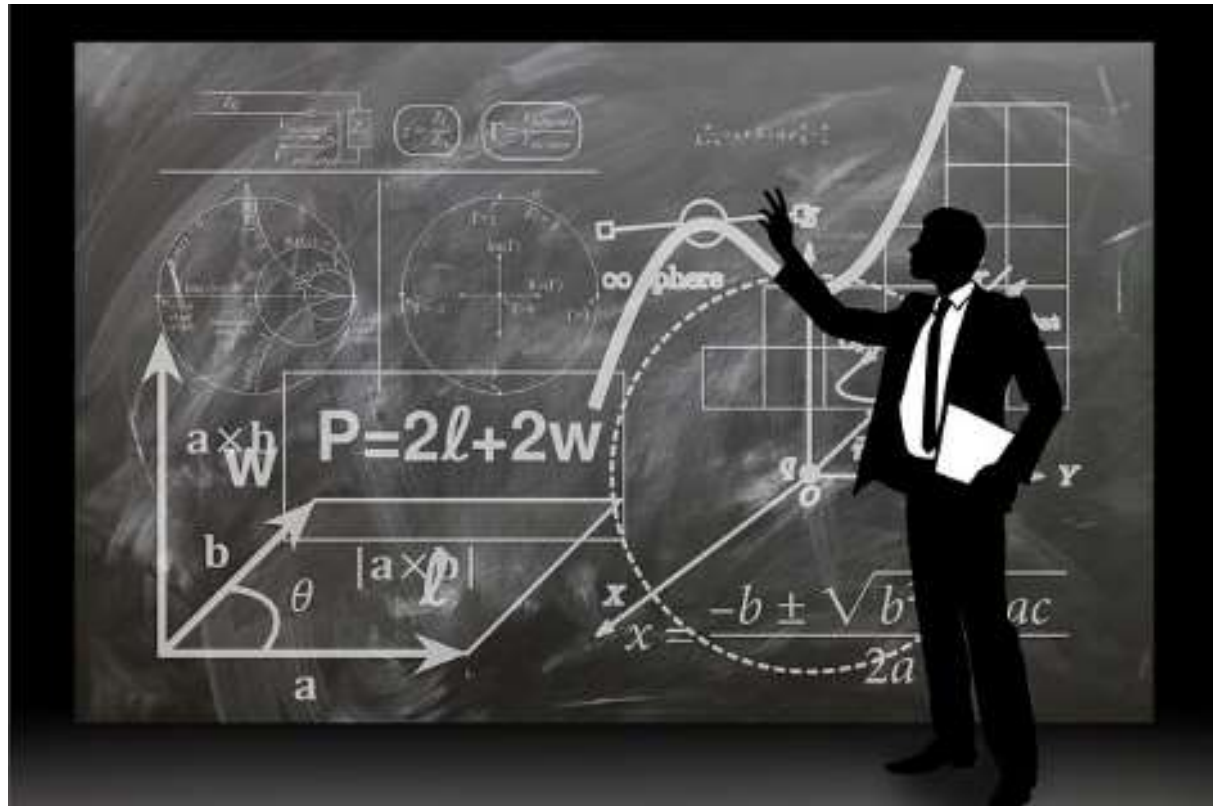
- **Insurance policy**
  - you have to decide if it would be better *for you* to “self insure”
- How long afford/willing to be without your computer
  - ship back to manufacturer *typically* longest time-frames
- Some standard “ship it back” warranties
  - you pay to ship it to them, they pay to return it
- Some credit cards double the manufacturer’s warranty
- Costco doubles the manufacturer’s warranty
- Prices vary *wildly*
  - check every sales outlet
  - check every make/model
  - check every set of terms & conditions



**Any other:  
Questions  
Comments  
Shares?**

**SPECIAL  
OFFER!**

**2 for 1**



Our membership offer isn't that hard

Buy a one-year membership (\$20) and  
get an additional year absolutely free!

(But, only until March 31<sup>st</sup>)

# February Meeting



## How to get paid software daily for free... totally legally!

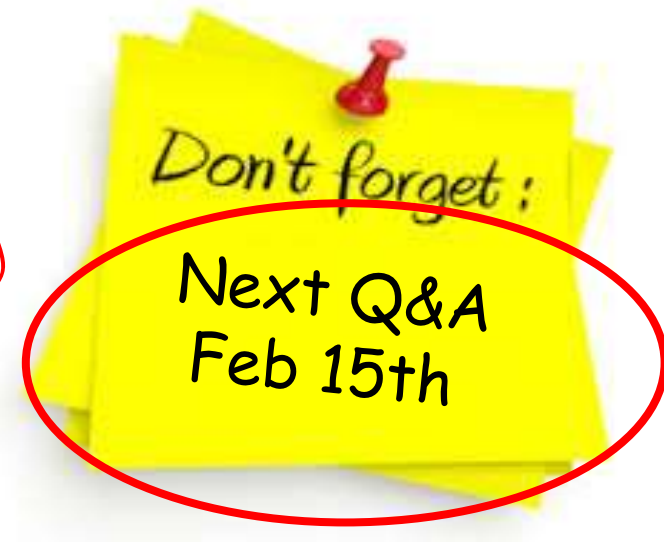
Serge-Érik Thériault  
*Ottawa PC Users' Group*

February 8, 2023  
7:30 pm





No Q&A on  
February 8  
(Monthly Meeting)



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

**[SuggestionBox@opcug.ca](mailto:SuggestionBox@opcug.ca)**