



Alan German & Chris Taylor
Ottawa PC Users' Group

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Share

Tweaking File History



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

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ARTICLE

File History by Chris Taylor

Most people in the OPCUG know I am a huge fan of multiple backups of important files. My defense against data loss from malware, hardware failure, fire, theft, and accidental

assigned a different drive letter. Right-click the Start button and choose *Disk Management*. In the list of drives, right-click the drive you will use for File History and choose *Change Drive Let-*

Every hour. You can change this to between *Every 10 minutes* and *Daily*.

Keep my backups: How long File History keeps old versions of files before automatically deleting them. Default is

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2003NEWS.pdf>

File History

- Near-real-time backup of new and changed files
- Version control – potentially for years
- Easy to recover files





Microsoft

| Community

Products ▾

Get Started ▾

I would like to let you know that once the **File History** is up and running it is ready to begin protecting your data. By default, every hour File History will go to work and create backup copies of any file that has changed since the last backup. To do so, File History takes advantage of a feature of the **NTFS file system**, called the **Change Journal**.

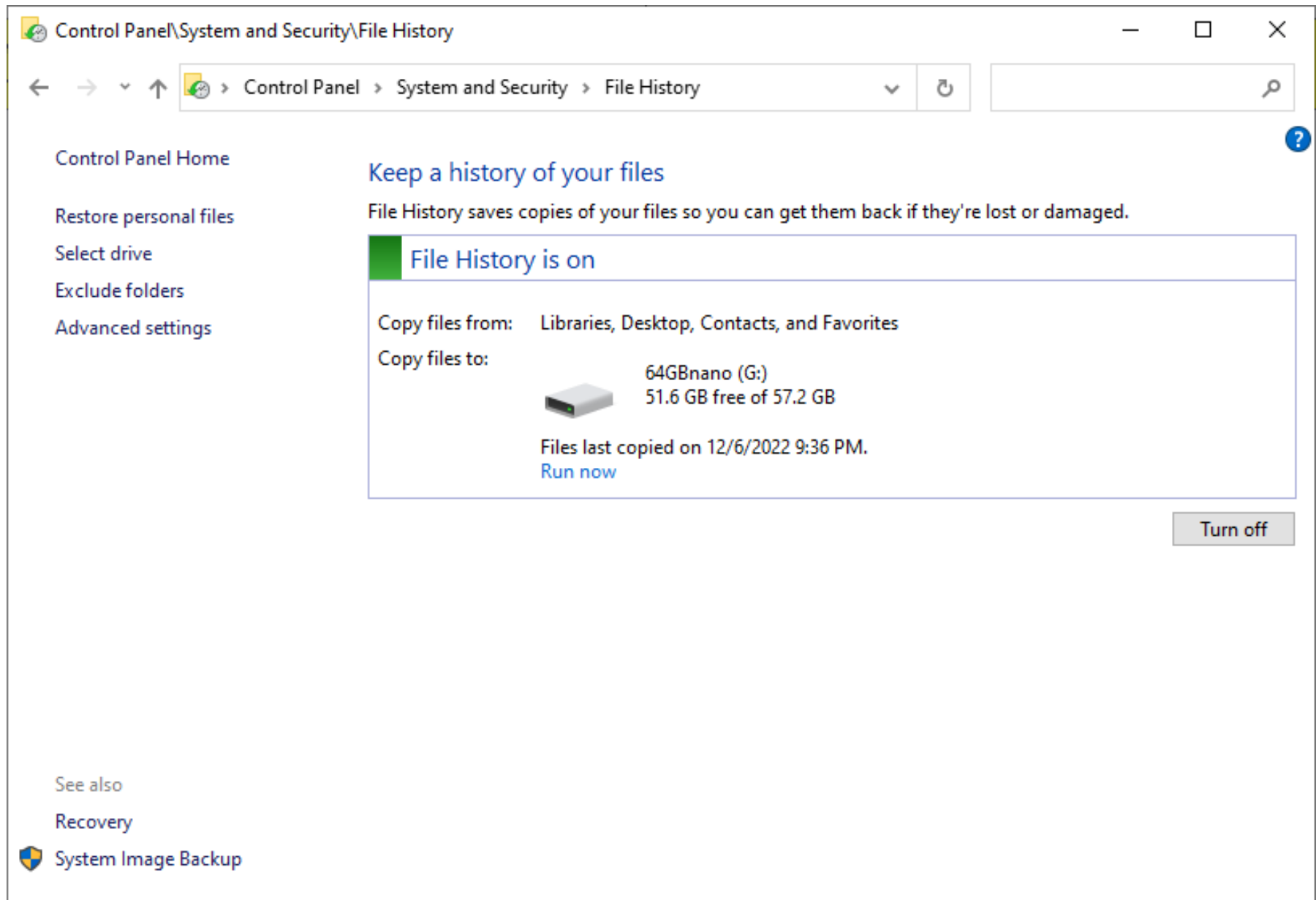
Essentially, when any **change is made to a file or folder** on your hard disk, the **change journal is updated** with a description of the change and the name of the file or folder. So, in order to determine which files need to be backed up, **File History simply consults the NTFS change journal**, discovers which files or folders have changed, and backs them up. Using the change journal is fast and efficient and won't suck up tons of system resources like running a conventional backup routine does.



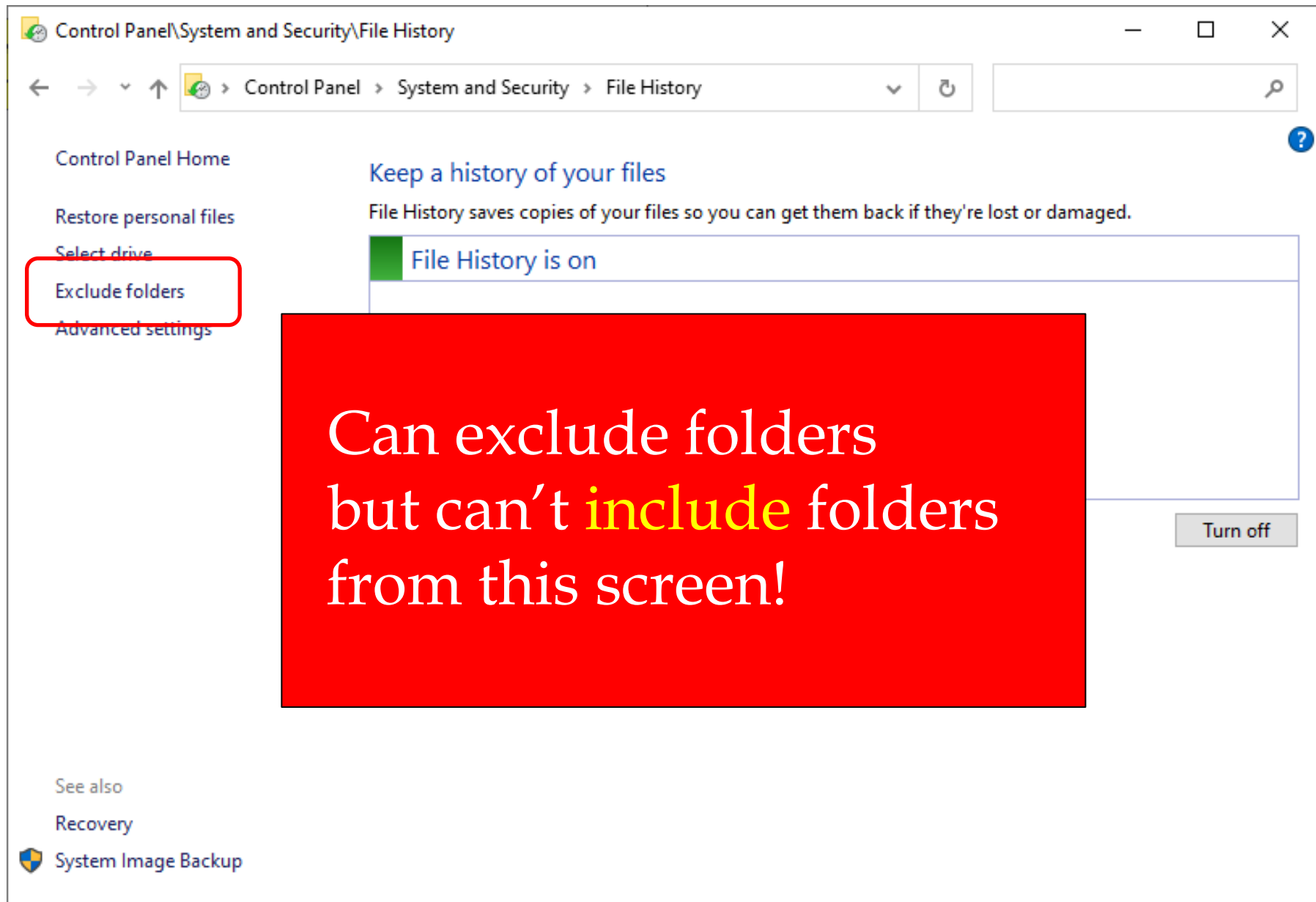
Srimadhwa B

<https://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/all/setting-time-for-file-history/fec15bef-c151-4c50-a71e-3802200fd8c8>

Control Panel - System and Security - File History



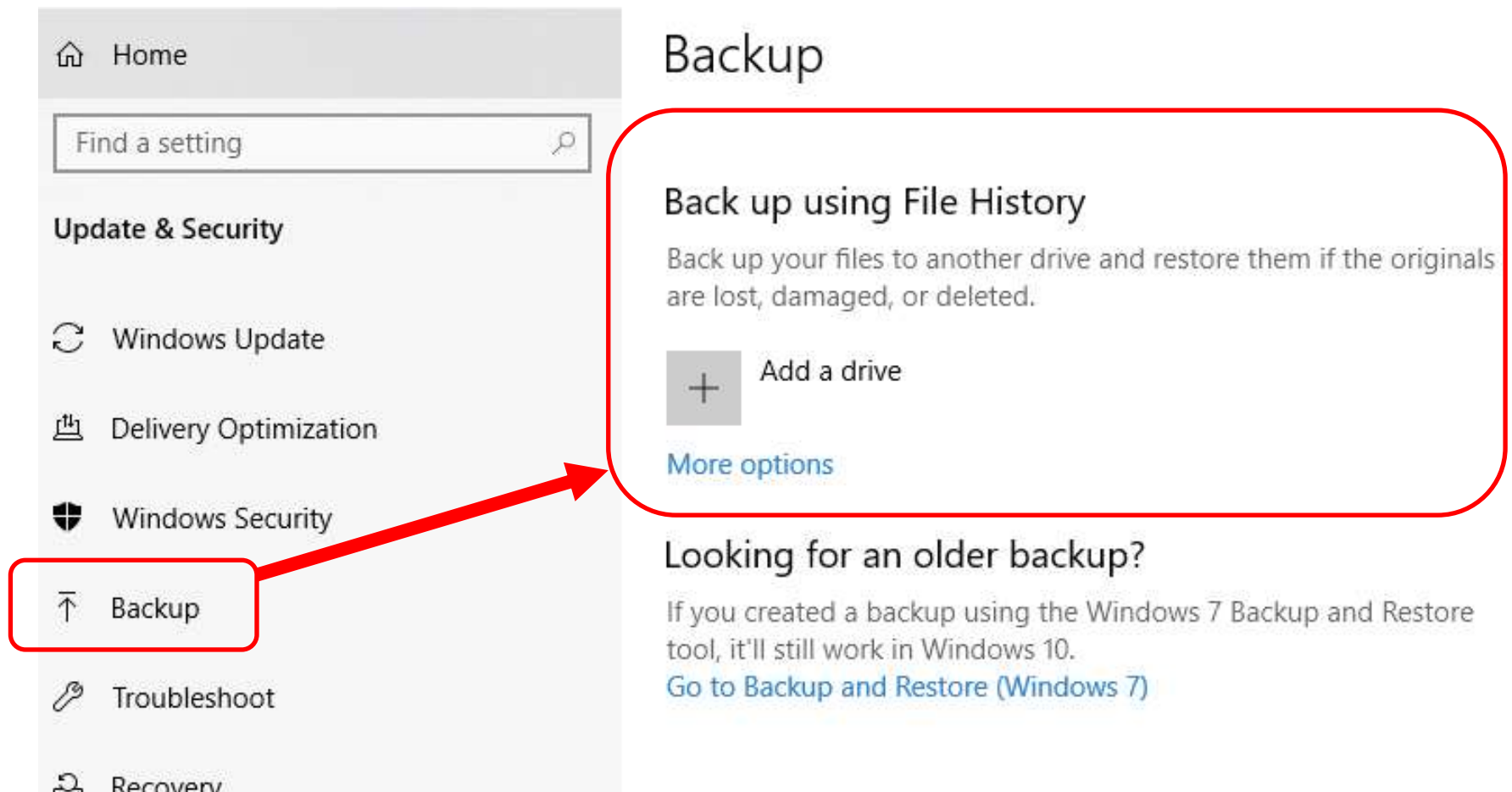
Control Panel - System and Security - File History



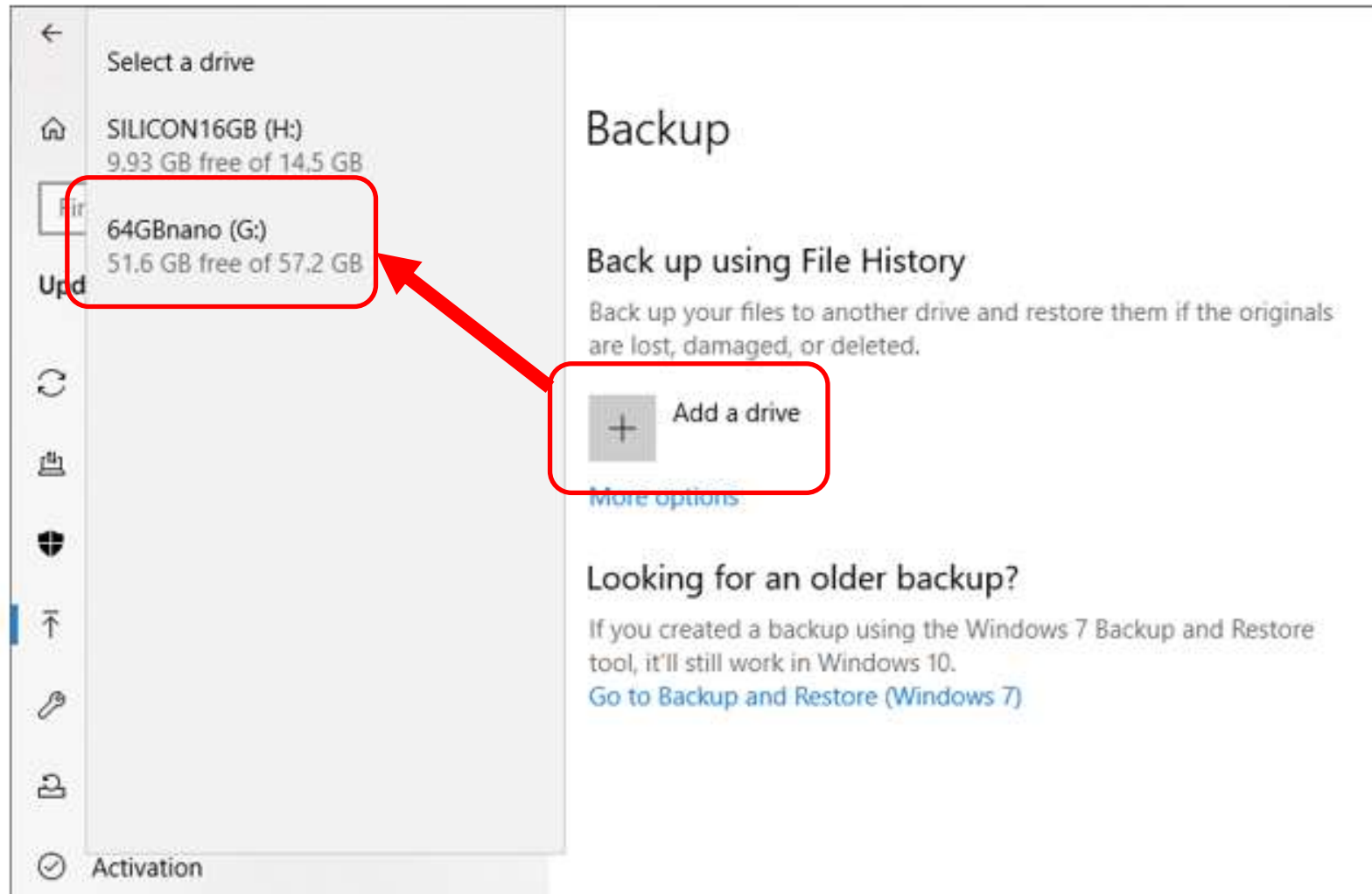
Can exclude folders
but can't **include** folders
from this screen!

Configure target drive and folders

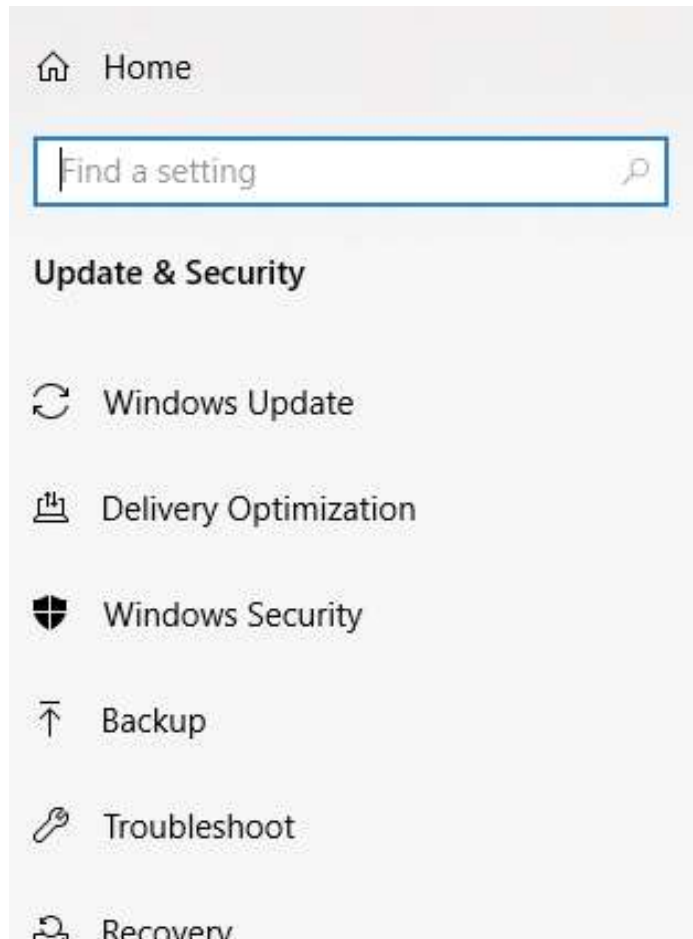
Settings - Updates and Security - Backup



Select target for backups



Configure backup folders



Backup

Back up using File History

Back up your files to another drive and restore them if the originals are lost, damaged, or deleted.

Automatically back up my files

☒ On

[More options](#)

Looking for an older backup?

If you created a backup using the Windows 7 Backup and Restore tool, it'll still work in Windows 10.

[Go to Backup and Restore \(Windows 7\)](#)

Backup options

Overview

Size of backup: 0 bytes

Total space on 64GBnano (G:) (G:): 57.2 GB

Your data is not yet backed up.

Back up now

Back up my files

Every hour (default) ▼

Keep my backups

Forever (default) ▼

Back up these folders

+ Add a folder

Saved Games
C:\Users\toaster

Links
C:\Users\toaster

Really long list!

Favorites
C:\Users\toaster

Contacts
C:\Users\toaster

OneDrive - Personal
C:\Users\toaster

Desktop
C:\Users\toaster

3D Objects
C:\Users\toaster

Searches
C:\Users\toaster

VirtualBox VMs
C:\Users\toaster

opera autoupdate
C:\Users\toaster

amaya
C:\Users\toaster

.VirtualBox
C:\Users\toaster

etc.

Backup options

Overview

Size of backup: 0 bytes

Total space on 64GBnano (G:) (G:): 57.2 GB

Your data is not yet backed up.

Back up now

Back up my files

Every hour (default) ▾

Keep my backups

Forever (default) ▾

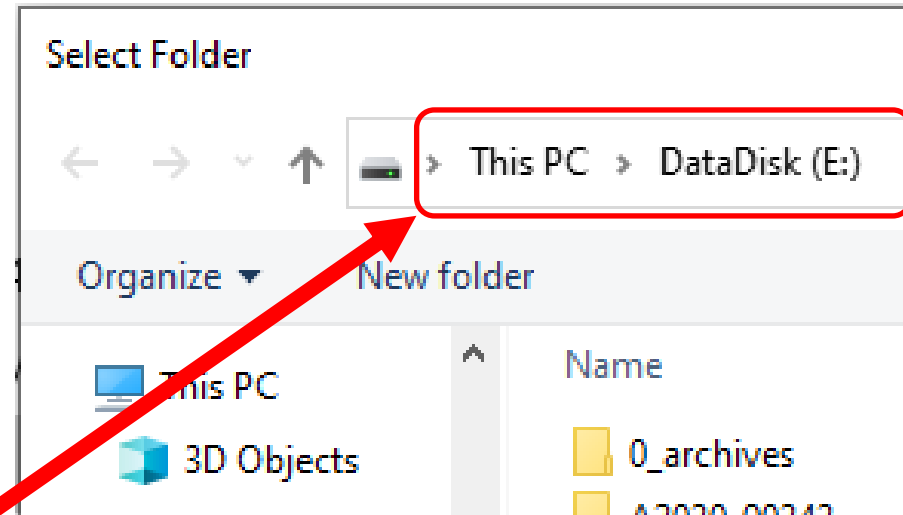
Back up these folders

+ Add a folder

 Saved Games
C:\Users\toaster

 Links
C:\Users\toaster

Include folders



Exclude folders

Backup options



Videos

C:\Users\toaster



Saved Pictures

C:\Users\toaster\Pictures



Public Music

C:\Users\Public



Music

C:\Users\toaster

Exclude these folders

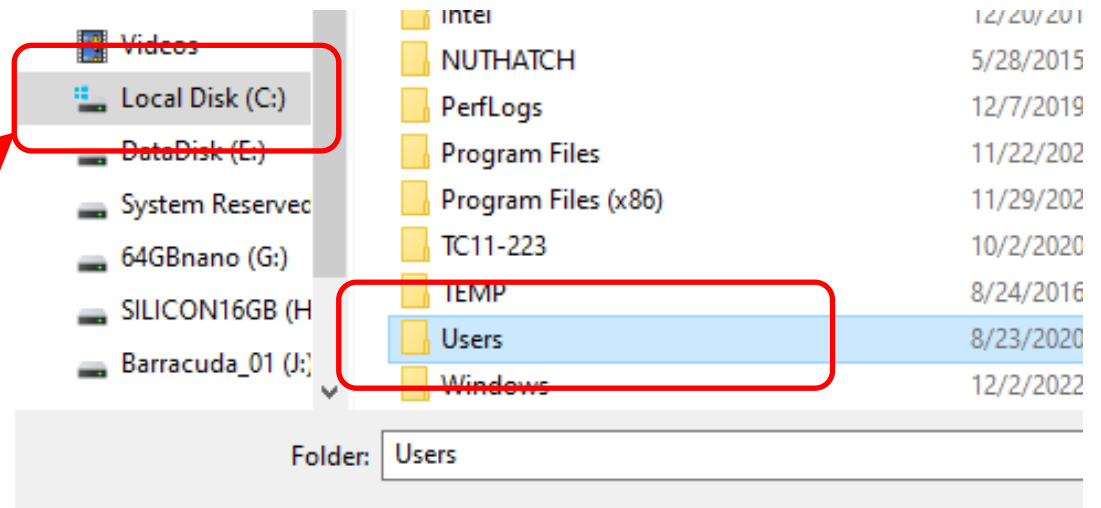


Add a folder

Back up to a different drive

You'll need to stop using your current I a new one. This won't delete any files f drive.

Stop using drive



Backup options

Overview

Size of backup: 0 bytes

Total space on 64GBnano (G:) (G:): 57.2 GB

Your data is not yet backed up.

Back up now

Back up my files

Every hour (default) ▼

Keep my backups

Forever (default) ▼

Back up these folders



Add a folder



DataDisk (E:)
E:\

Exclude these folders



Add a folder



Users
C:\

Configuration

Backup drive
64GBnano (G:)

Include
DataDisk (E:)

Exclude
C:\Users

Backup options

Overview

Size of backup: 0 bytes

Total space on 64GBnano (G:) (G:): 57.2 GB

Your data is not yet backed up.

Back up now

Back up my files

Every hour (default) ▾

Keep my backups

Until space is needed ▾

Back up these folders

+ Add a folder

DataDisk (E:)
E:\

Exclude these folders

+ Add a folder

Users
C:\

Configuration

Default:

Backup every hour

Change:

Keep my backups until
space is needed

Backup options

Overview

Size of backup: 0 bytes

Total space on 64GBnano (G:) (G:): 57.2 GB

Your data is not yet backed up.

Back up now



Overview

Size of backup: 4.56 GB

Total space on 64GBnano (G:) (G:): 57.2 GB

Last backup: 12/8/2022 2:50 PM

Back up now

Control Panel - System and Security - File History

File History is on

Copy files from: Libraries, Desktop, Contacts, and Favorites

Copy files to:



64GB nano (G:)

47.1 GB free of 57.2 GB

Files last copied on 12/8/2022 2:50 PM.

[Run now](#)

Adam's Code Blog

eat. sleep. code.



File History Command Line Tool

There's a command called `fhmanagew.exe` that comes with Windows 10 (not sure about Windows 8.1, but I assume so). The full path is

`c:\windows\system32\fhmanagew.exe`. This tool is used for managing certain aspects of File History, and contains a few undocumented features.

From what I can tell, Microsoft has only mentioned the `-cleanup` argument which is used like: `fhmanagew.exe -cleanup <# days> [-quiet]`

<http://blog.bitcollectors.com/adam/2017/07/file-history-command-line-tool/>

I used strings.exe by sysinternals (a Windows port of a handy *nix tool for extracting raw strings from a binary file) to analyze fhmanagew.exe and found the following arguments are available:

Argument	Description
-autoplay	Bring up the File History UI
-backupnow	Run backup
-checktarget	
-cleanup <days> [-quiet]	Cleanup files older than a certain number of days on your File History destination drive.
-migrate <path>	Seems to be used for migrating your file history to a new destination. Destination must be added to File History first.
-stop	Stop File History



Command Line Commands for Control Panel Applets

List of Control Panel Commands in Windows 8, 7, Vista, and XP

By [Tim Fisher](#) Updated on March 4, 2021

✓ Reviewed by [Ryan Perian](#)

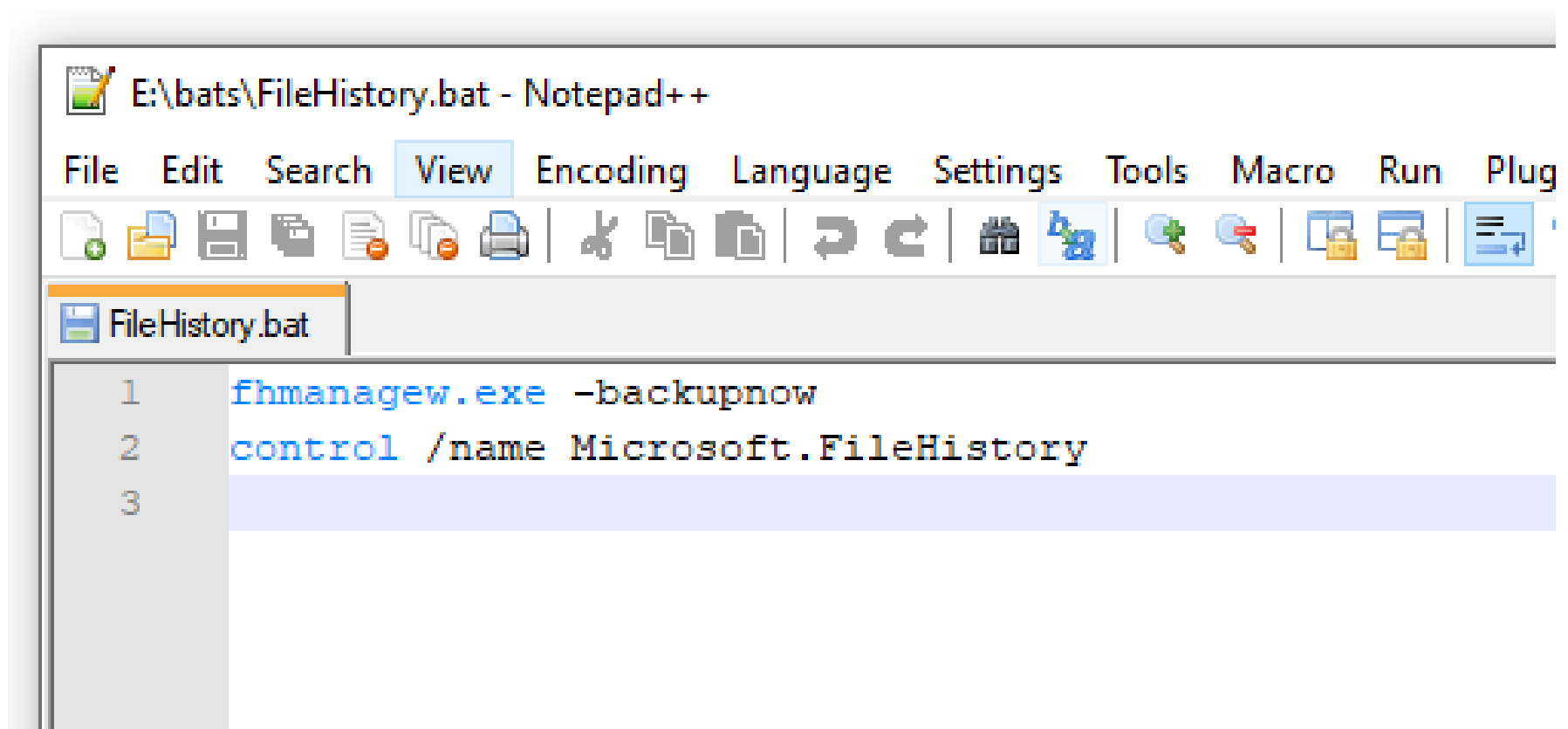
Did you know that each Control Panel applet in Windows can be opened by executing a specific command? It's true! You just have to know what that command is.

<https://www.lifewire.com/command-line-commands-for-control-panel-applets-2626060>

Control Panel Command Line Commands in Windows

CMD Commands for Control Panel Applets

Applet	Command
File History	<code>control /name Microsoft.FileHistory</code>



E:\bats\FileHistory.bat - Notepad++

File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plug

FileHistory.bat

```
1 fhmanagew.exe -backupnow
2 control /name Microsoft.FileHistory
3
```

FileHistory.bat

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

E:\bats>fhmanagew.exe -backupnow

E:\bats>control /name Microsoft.FileHistory
```

Control Panel\System and Security\File History

← → ▾ ↑  > Control Panel > System and Security > File History ▾ ↻

[Control Panel Home](#)

[Restore personal files](#)

[Select drive](#)

[Exclude folders](#)

[Advanced settings](#)

Keep a history of your files

File History saves copies of your files so you can get them back if they're lost.

 **File History is on**

Copy files from: Libraries, Desktop, Contacts, and Favorites

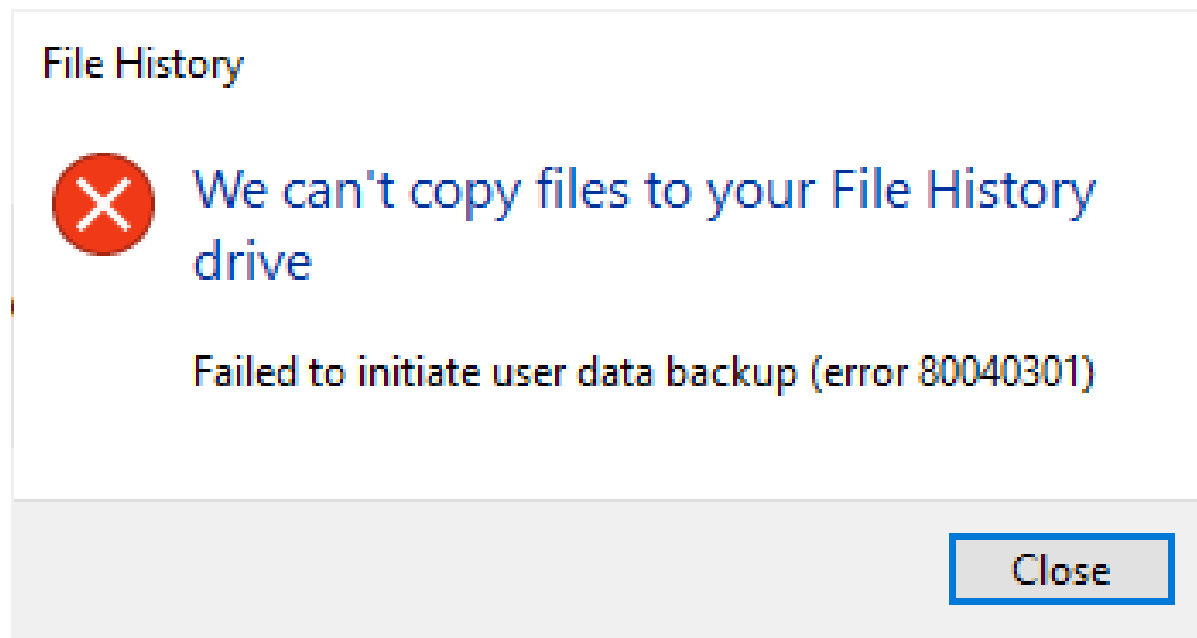
Copy files to:



64GBnano (G:)
47.0 GB free of 57.2 GB

Files last copied on 12/8/2022 3:16 PM.
[Run now](#)

But...

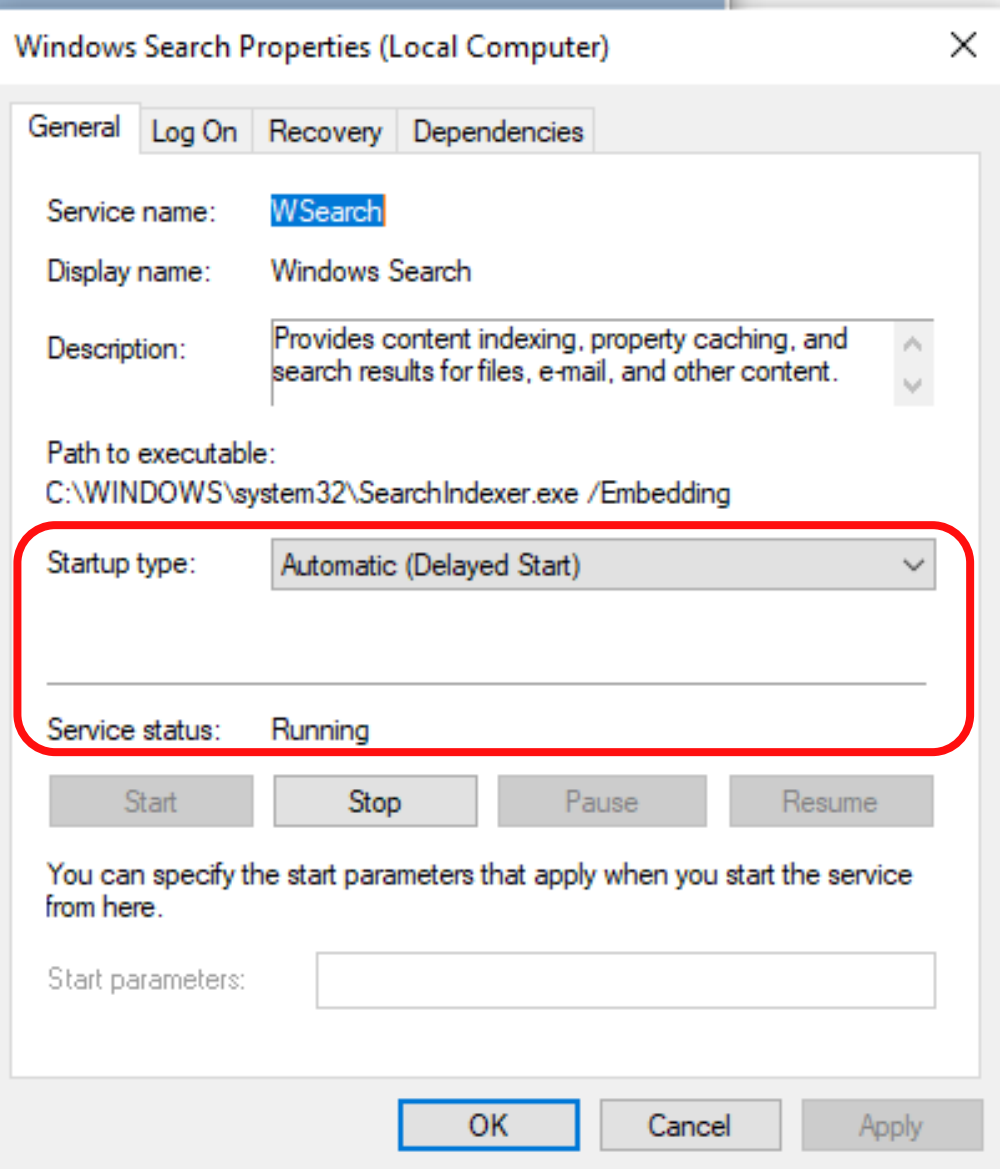
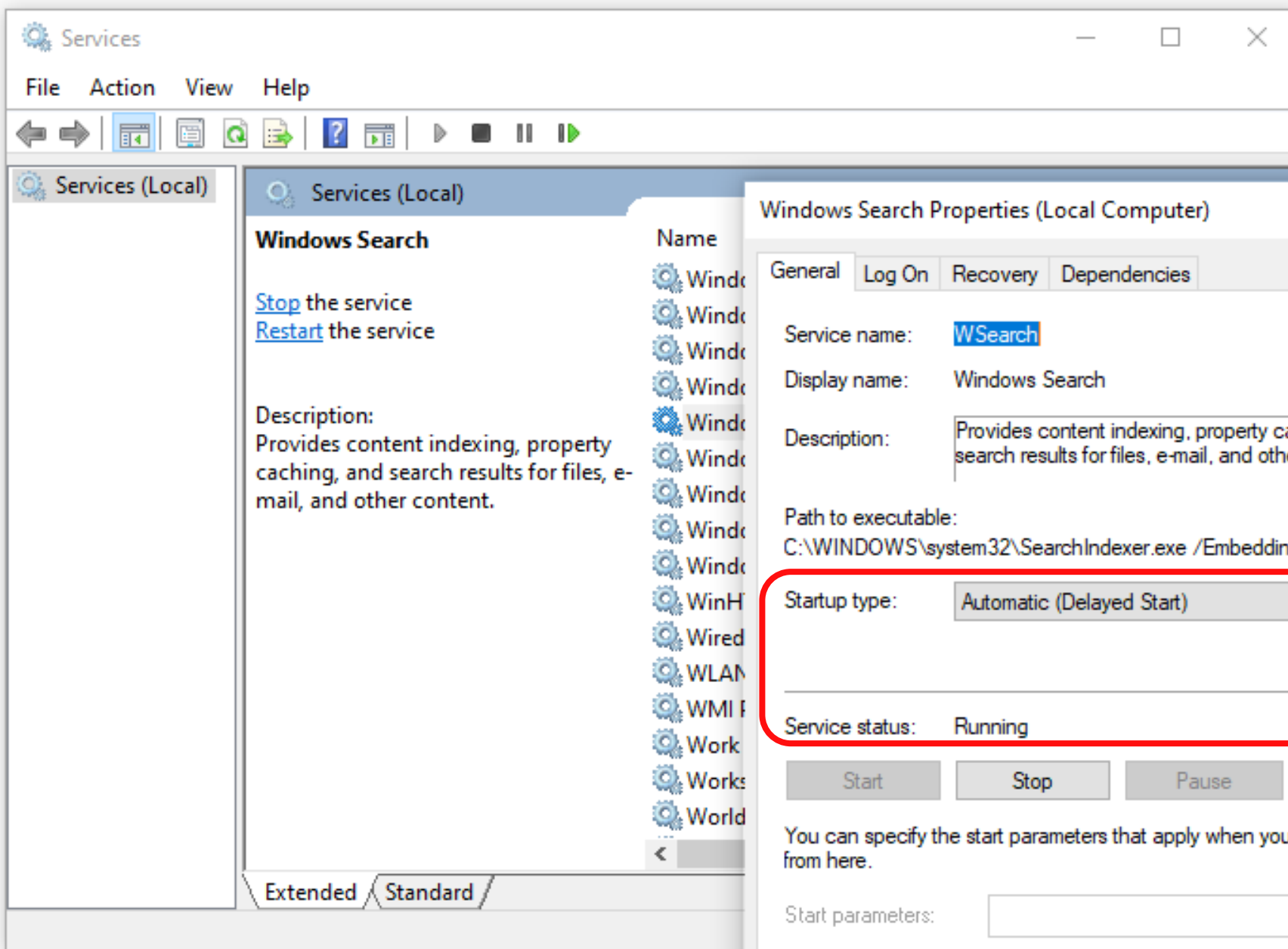


'Mike P

Seems file history uses the search index so it needs to be working properly.

<https://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/all/error-80040301-in-file-history/4016d208-a551-4ba4-b132-a5288be71313>

Services > Windows Search > Properties
Startup type = Automatic (Delayed start)
Service status = Running



File History



- Provides near-real-time backup of new and changed files
- Can be run manually (Run now) from *Control Panel - System and Security - File History*
- Can be activated from a batch file *

* *Can run other Control Panel Applets in the same manner*

And, those of us who have shiny new hardware may be interested in...

“Moving your File History to a new computer”

<https://www.glasswire.com/blog/2022/08/24/moving-your-file-history-to-a-new-computer-by-chris-taylor/>



Are our outreach efforts working?

How did you find out about

- the OPCUG or
- specifically this meeting?

If it was *other than*

- OPCUG newsletter or
- Announcements list...



friend

Please let us know in the Chat
...or by email to chris.taylor@opcug.ca

Do you have ideas for outreach?

Share

Microsoft Edge & AI



- Microsoft investing \$10B in OpenAI
 - bringing AI into products, beginning with search engine Bing



- 50-minute video of a presentation Microsoft gave on what it is doing to integrate AI in Bing

<https://news.microsoft.com/the-new-Bing/>

- Get on the wait list to try the new AI-powered Bing
 - <https://www.bing.com/new>

Share

Not all roses at Bing AI

- Simon Willison's Weblog
 - The demo was full of errors
 - It started gaslighting people
 - It suffered an existential crisis
 - The prompt leaked
 - And then it started threatening people



<https://simonwillison.net/2023/Feb/15/bing/>

Share

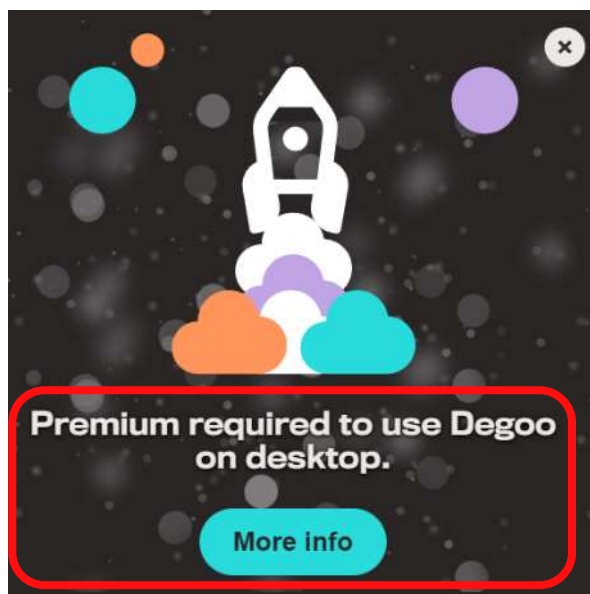
Changes at Degoo

100 GB free cloud storage

- sign in every 90 days or files could be deleted
- access from desktop or mobile app

February 2nd

- pop-up appeared after signing in



<https://degoo.com/>

...it gets worse

- now only 20 GB free

Free 20 GB cloud space	Pro 500 GB cloud space	Ultimate 5000 GB cloud space
✓ 3 devices [1] ✓ Access to web app [2] ✓ 5 GB referral bonus ✓ 250 MB per referred friend ✓ 100% encrypted communication ⚠ 90 days account inactivity ⚠ Basic storage replication - No ads - Zero knowledge encryption - Photo storage maximizer	✓ 10 devices [1] ✓ Access to web app [2] ✓ 20 GB referral bonus ✓ 1 GB per referred friend ✓ 100% encrypted communication ✓ Files stored forever ✓ Enhanced storage replication ✓ No ads ✓ Zero knowledge encryption - Photo storage maximizer	✓ Unlimited devices ✓ Access to web app [2] ✓ 20 GB referral bonus ✓ 1 GB per referred friend ✓ 100% encrypted communication ✓ Files stored forever ✓ Enhanced storage replication ✓ No ads ✓ Zero knowledge encryption ✓ Photo storage maximizer
Choose this plan	Choose this plan	Choose this plan
Free	\$2.99 / 1 month	\$9.99 / 1 month

Share

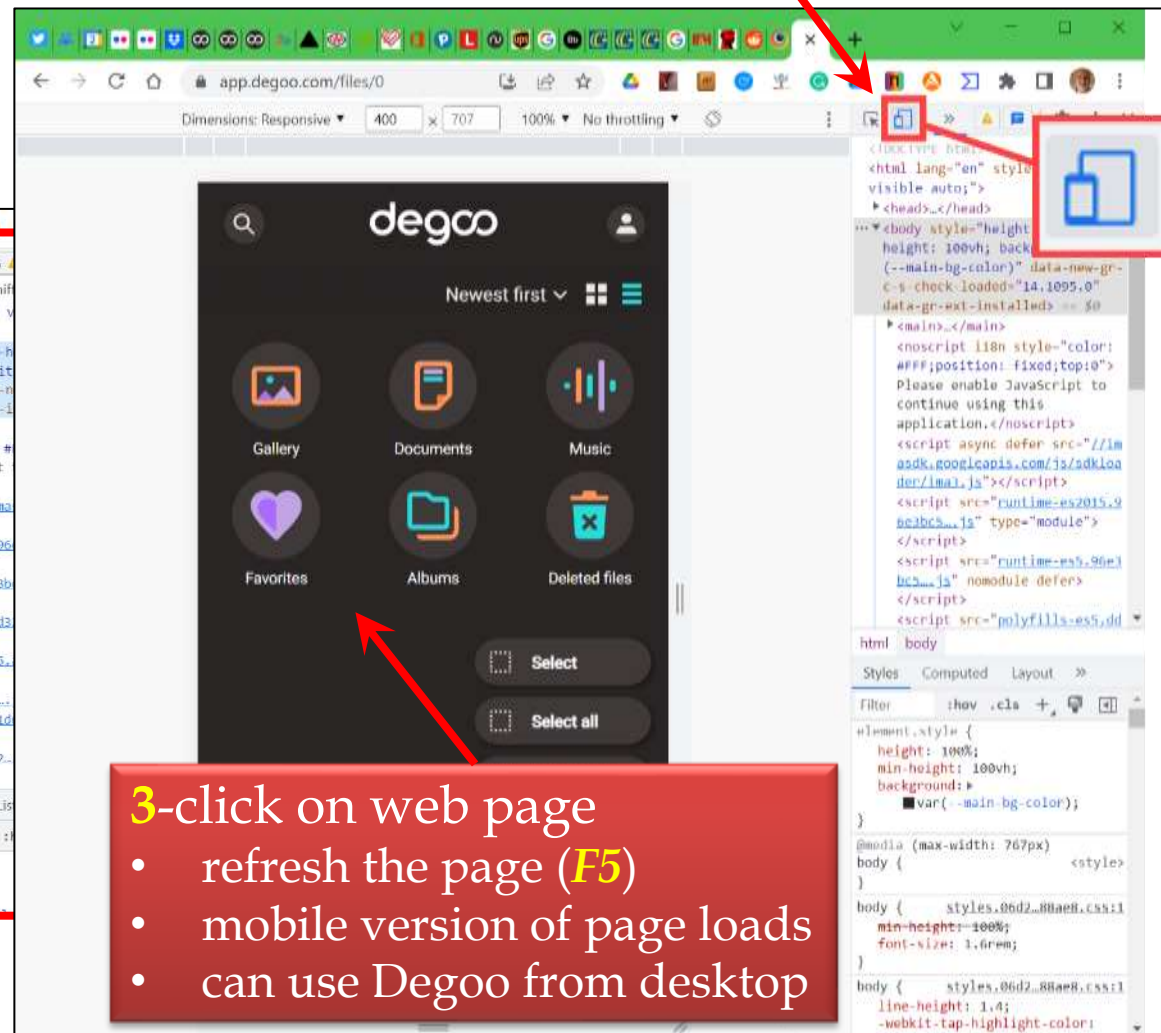
Avoiding desktop limitation

Tell Chrome you want the mobile version of the web page

2-click **Toggle Device Toolbar**

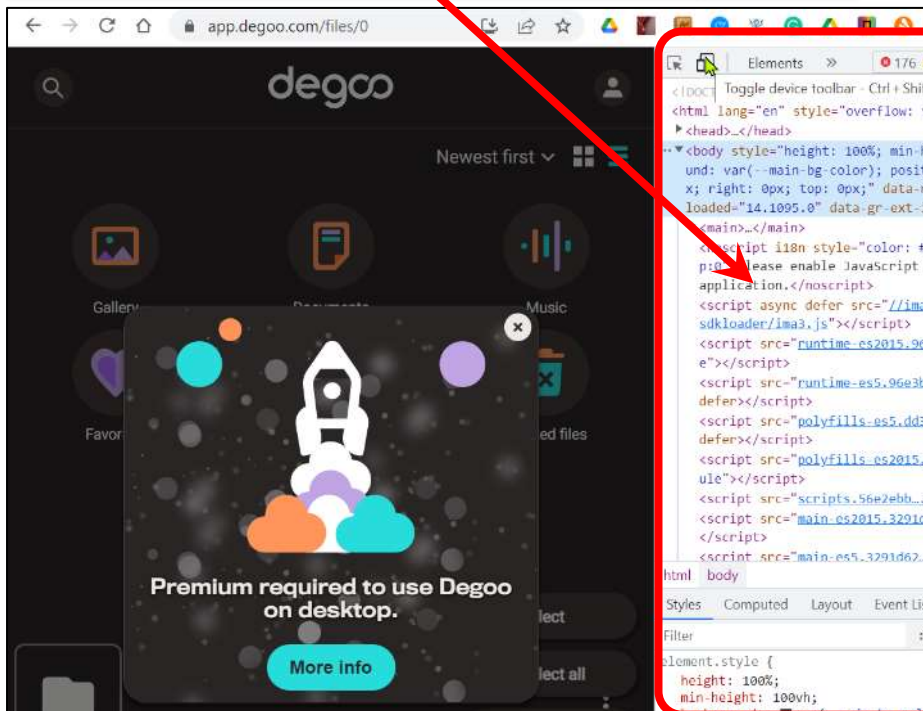
- icon turns blue when active

1-press **F12** to get developers tools



3-click on web page

- refresh the page (**F5**)
- mobile version of page loads
- can use Degoo from desktop



Share

Is it worth it?

Can bypass restriction

- and use on desktop with free tier...

...but free accounts

- now limited to 20 GB

Can get *Google Drive*

- free 15 GB without the hassle
- don't have to sign in every 90 days



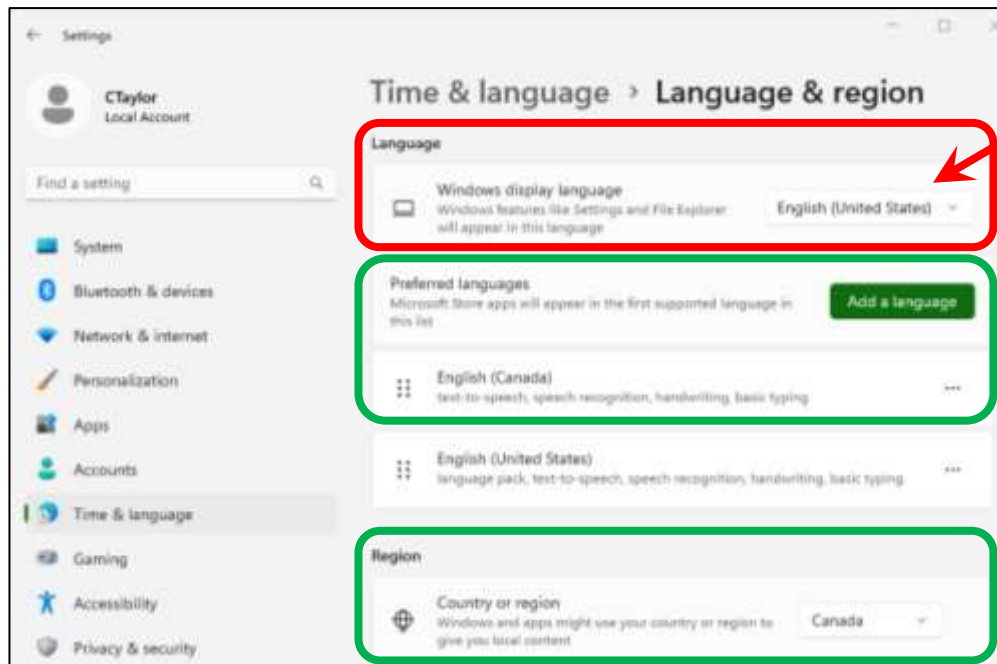
Free 20 GB cloud space	Pro 500 GB cloud space	Ultimate 5000 GB cloud space
✓ 3 devices¹ ✓ Access to web app² ✓ 5 GB referral bonus ✓ 250 MB per referred friend ✓ 100% encrypted communication ⚠ 90 days account inactivity ⚠ Basic storage replication - No ads - Zero knowledge encryption - Photo storage maximizer	✓ 10 devices¹ ✓ Access to web app² ✓ 20 GB referral bonus ✓ 1 GB per referred friend ✓ 100% encrypted communication ✓ Files stored forever ✓ Enhanced storage replication ✓ No ads ✓ Zero knowledge encryption - Photo storage maximizer	✓ Unlimited devices ✓ Access to web app² ✓ 20 GB referral bonus ✓ 1 GB per referred friend ✓ 100% encrypted communication ✓ Files stored forever ✓ Enhanced storage replication ✓ No ads ✓ Zero knowledge encryption ✓ Photo storage maximizer
Choose this plan	Choose this plan	Choose this plan
Free	\$2.99 / 1 month	\$9.99 / 1 month

For me...I think it is Adios Degoo!



Windows Display Language

- Windows 10 & 11 default to *English (United States)*
- Even if you set (*Settings > Time & Language > Language*)
 - *Region* to *Canada*
 - *Preferred language* to *English (Canada)*
- *Windows display language* remains
 - *English (United States)*

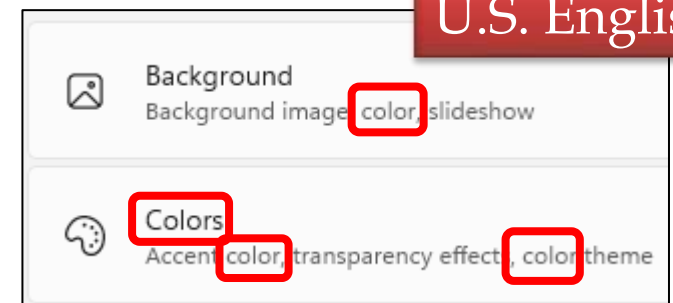


No option for *English (Canada)*

Preferred language & Region

- both set to Canada

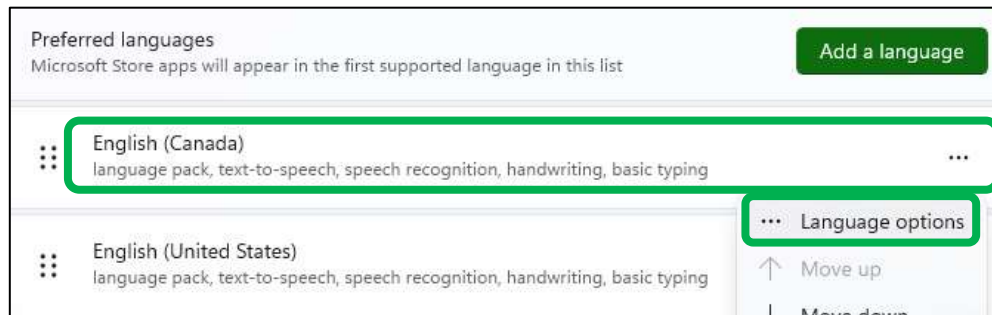
U.S. English





Missing *Language pack*

- Language pack for *English (Canada)* not installed by default
 - *Settings > Time & Language > Language > Preferred languages*

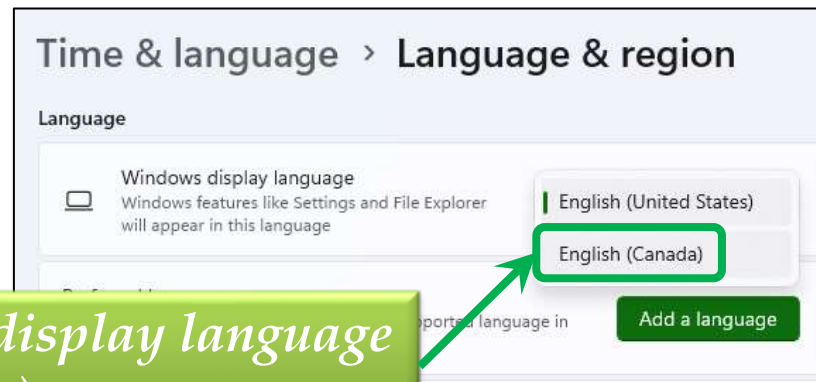


Click ellipsis for *English (Canada)*

Click *Language options*

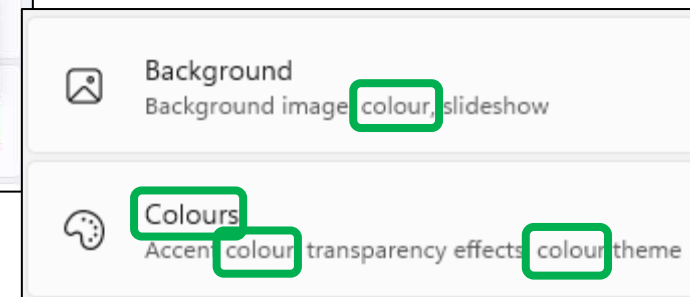


Download *Language pack*



Change *Windows display language*

- *English (Canada)*



Local accounts in Windows

- Microsoft *really* wants you to use a *Microsoft Account*
- There are benefits...and drawbacks over *Local accounts*
 - *Setting Up a New Computer – First Things* (May 2021)
 - <https://opcug.ca/Articles/2105NEWS.pdf>
- Microsoft Account
 - user's profile folder uses first 5 letters of Microsoft Account
 - C:\Users**chris** for **chris.taylor**@opcug.ca
 - C:\Users**beast** for **bea.stjohn**@example.com
 - C:\Users**irate** for **ira.teller**@example.com
 - used **CTaylor** for *many* years & *many* versions of Windows
 - scripts, synchronization routines, & muscle memory depend on it
- Local Account
 - only way to have control over the profile folder name
 - folder name matches the local account name
 - C:\Users**CTaylor** for local account **CTaylor**

There are other reasons why you might want a local account

Share

Local account creation

The image is a collage of Windows 10 screenshots illustrating the process of creating a local user account. Red boxes and arrows highlight the key steps:

- Settings** (top left)
- Accounts** (left sidebar)
- Family & other users** (left sidebar)
- Other users** (right pane)
- Add someone else to this PC** (button)
- I don't have this person's sign-in information** (link)
- Create account** (Microsoft dialog)
- Add a user without a Microsoft account** (link)
- Create a user for this PC** (Microsoft dialog)
- Who's going to use this PC?** (text box)
- Make it secure.** (password fields)

Can choose *Administrator* or *Standard User*

- click account & choose *Change account type*

***Local account* will be created**

- will be *Standard User*

Share

But what about the 1st account?

- Microsoft makes it *exceeding* difficult to make first account a *local account* when installing Windows
 - especially in Windows 11
- Old technique of disconnecting network during installation (*as mentioned in Alan & Chris's article*) no longer works

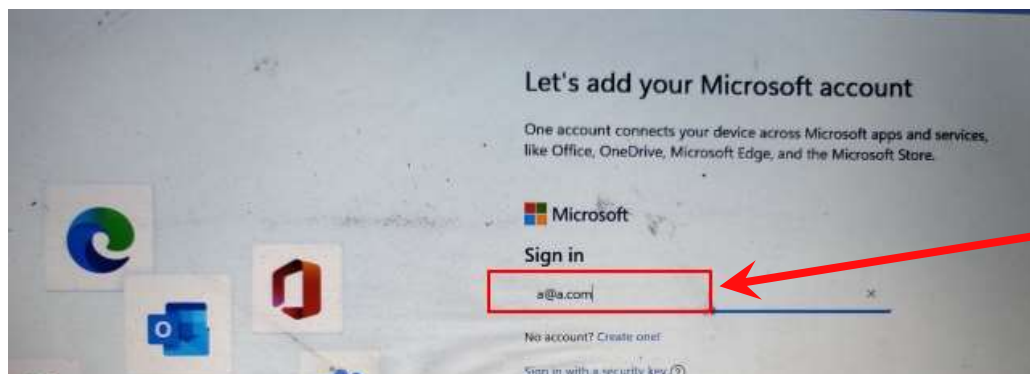


But there is an easy way!

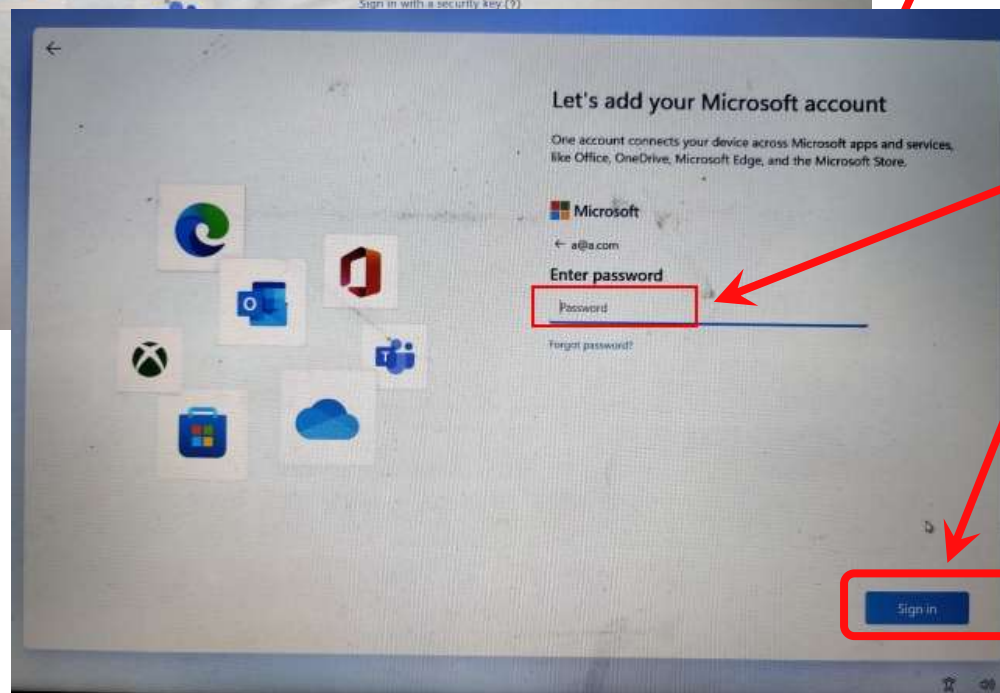
Share

Creating first account

When you get to *Let's add your Microsoft account* screen



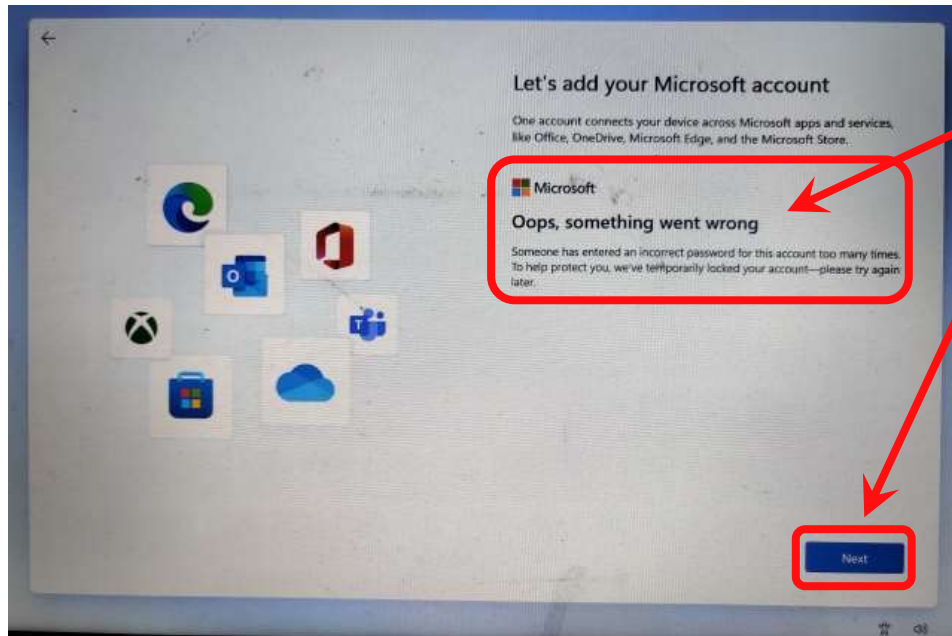
Enter *a@a.com* as the account name
• this is a locked Microsoft Account
Click *Next*



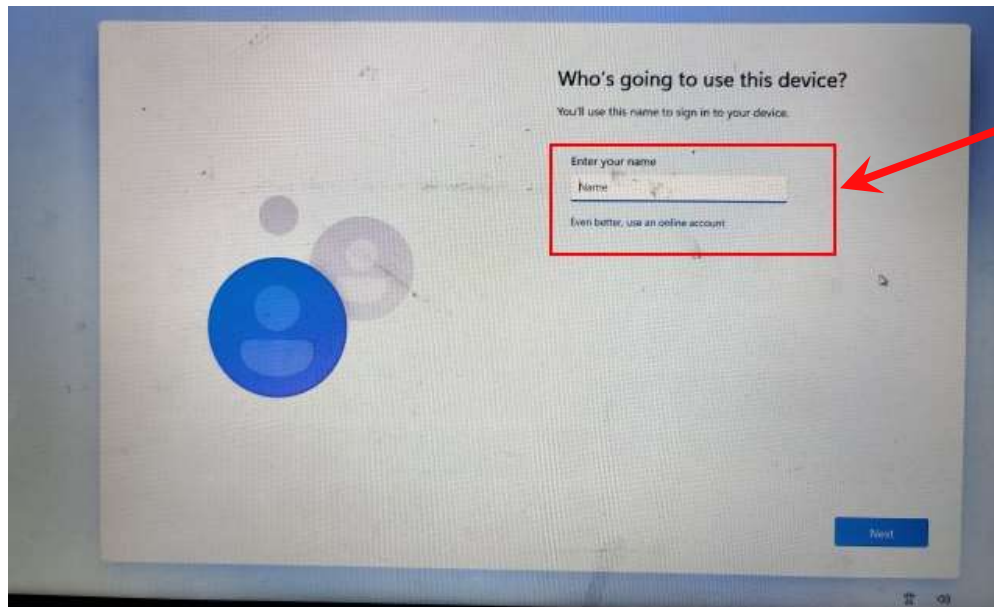
Enter any password you want
Click *Sign in*

Share

Creating first account



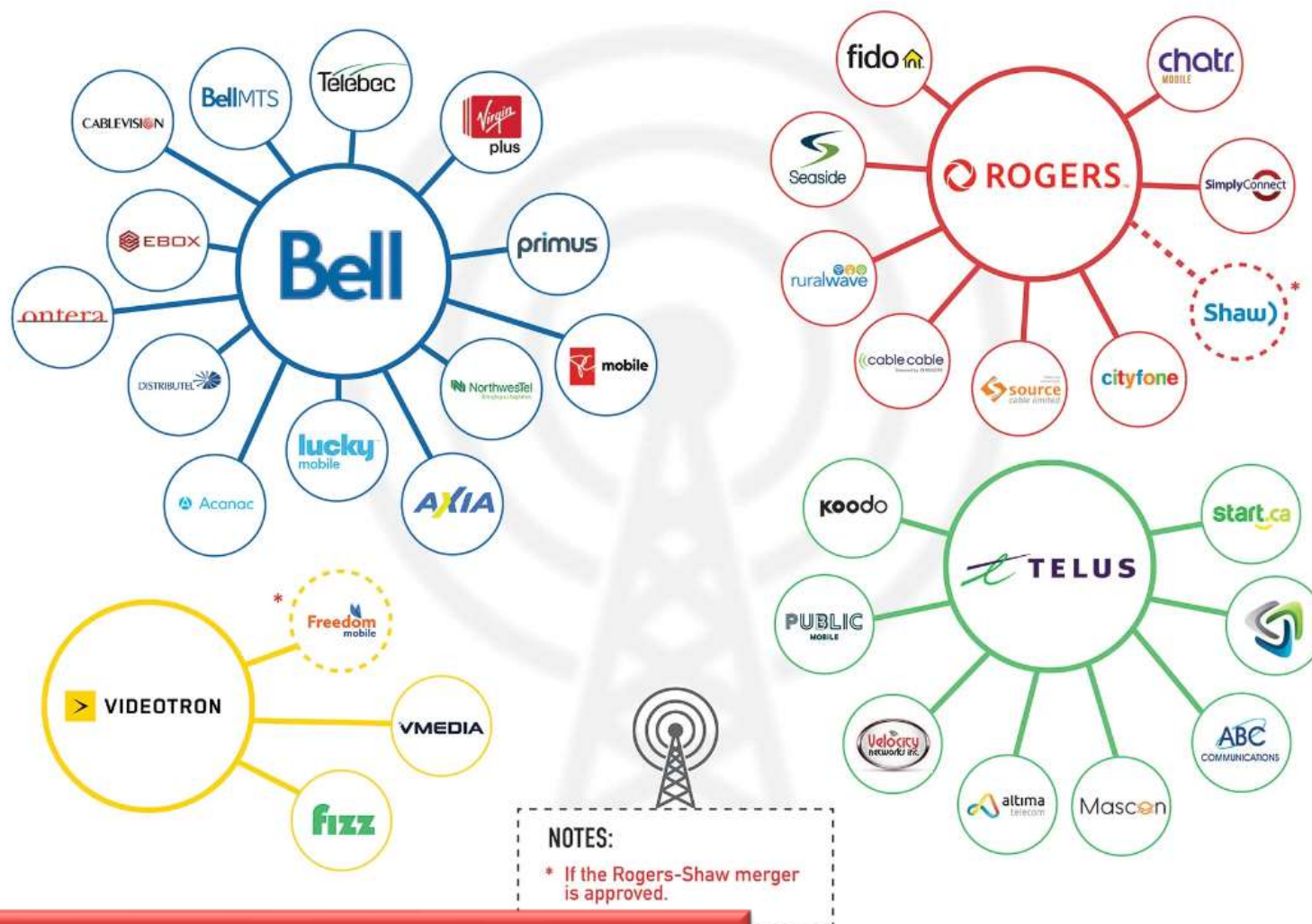
Fails because **a@a.com** account is locked
Click *Next*



Creates a local account

Share

Canadian telecom big picture



In case you were wondering why prices are high...

BIG TELECOM'S WEB OF BRANDS

<https://blogs.teksavvy.com/carnage-in-canadian-telecom-more-competitors-eliminated>

Share

Internet Explorer ...going, going, gone



Internet Explorer 11 desktop app retirement FAQ

By  Eric Van Aelstyn

Published May 19 2021 08:55 AM

👁 1.4M Views

The out-of-support Internet Explorer 11 (IE11) desktop application is scheduled to be permanently disabled on certain versions of Windows 10 on February 14, 2023, through a Microsoft Edge update, not a Windows update as previously communicated. All remaining devices that have not already been redirected from IE11 to Microsoft Edge are scheduled to be redirected on February 14, 2023.

Update: The retired, out-of-support Internet Explorer 11 desktop application is scheduled to be permanently disabled through a Microsoft Edge update on certain versions of Windows 10 on February 14, 2023.

IE11 visual references, such as the IE11 icons on the Start Menu and taskbar, will be removed by the June 2023 Windows security update ("B" release) scheduled for June 13, 2023.

We highly recommend setting up IE mode in Microsoft Edge and disabling IE11 prior to this date to ensure your organization does not experience business disruption. [Learn how >](#)

The Microsoft Edge update will be delivered to all devices—both commercial and consumer—at the same time, and users will be unable to reverse the change. Additionally, redirection from IE11 to Microsoft Edge will be included as part of all future Microsoft Edge updates.



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

Suggestions wanted
for presentation topics at:



Monthly
meetings

and

Q&A

What would you like to hear about?

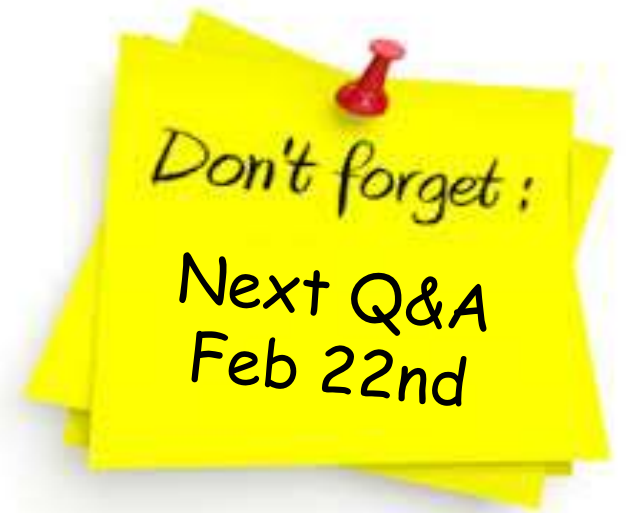
Special Offer!

Two-for-one Membership!

- Join OPCUG now (or before March 31, 2023)
- Annual membership fee is only \$20.00
- But, you will receive **two-years** of membership for the price of one!

<https://opcug.ca/join-or-renew/>





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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca