



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

May 3, 2023



Easy Website Creation

- My condo group needs a website where residents can share information
- Can you recommend a simple website that we can use?





Start Free

WordPress



<https://wordpress.com/>

Google Sites

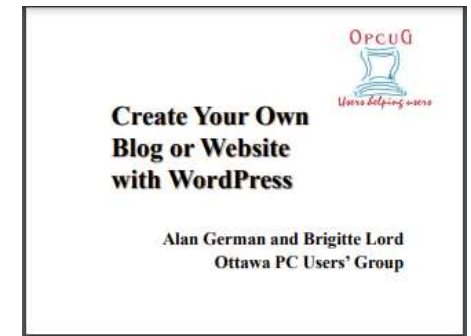


https://workspace.google.com/intl/en_ca/products/sites/



Any other suggestions?

WordPress.com



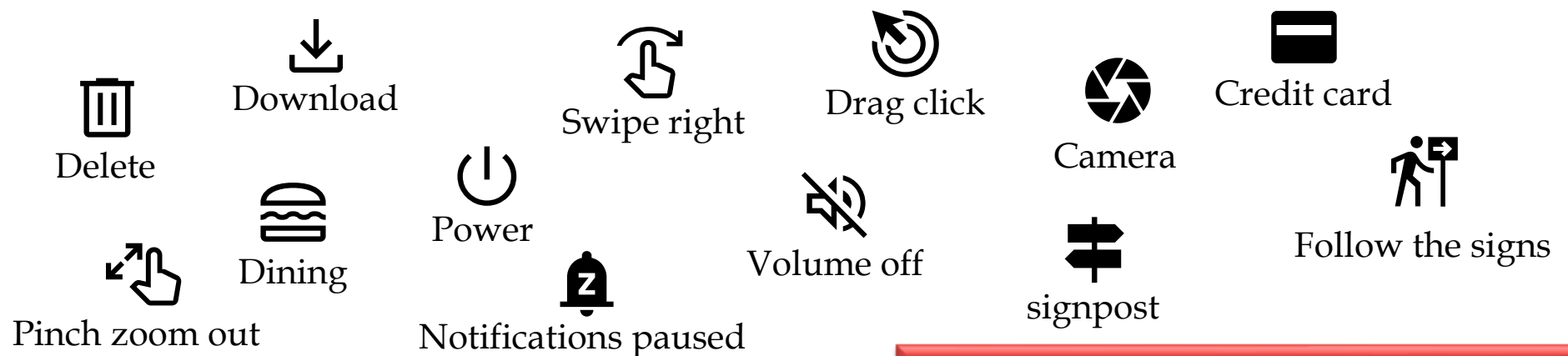
- Website or blog
- Selection of page templates/themes
- WYSIWIG editor with multiple tools
- Upload images, audio and video files, and documents
- Well-established platform with on-line help, video tutorials, etc.
- Not an inconsequential learning curve
- Wordpress places ads on “free” sites
- Encourages updates to paid plans

https://opcug.ca/presentations/20210113-make_blog_opcug.pdf

[Share](#)

Symbols galore

- Looking for symbols for a document or presentation?
- Google Fonts - Icons
 - over 2,860 free glyphs



* just the symbols – no words

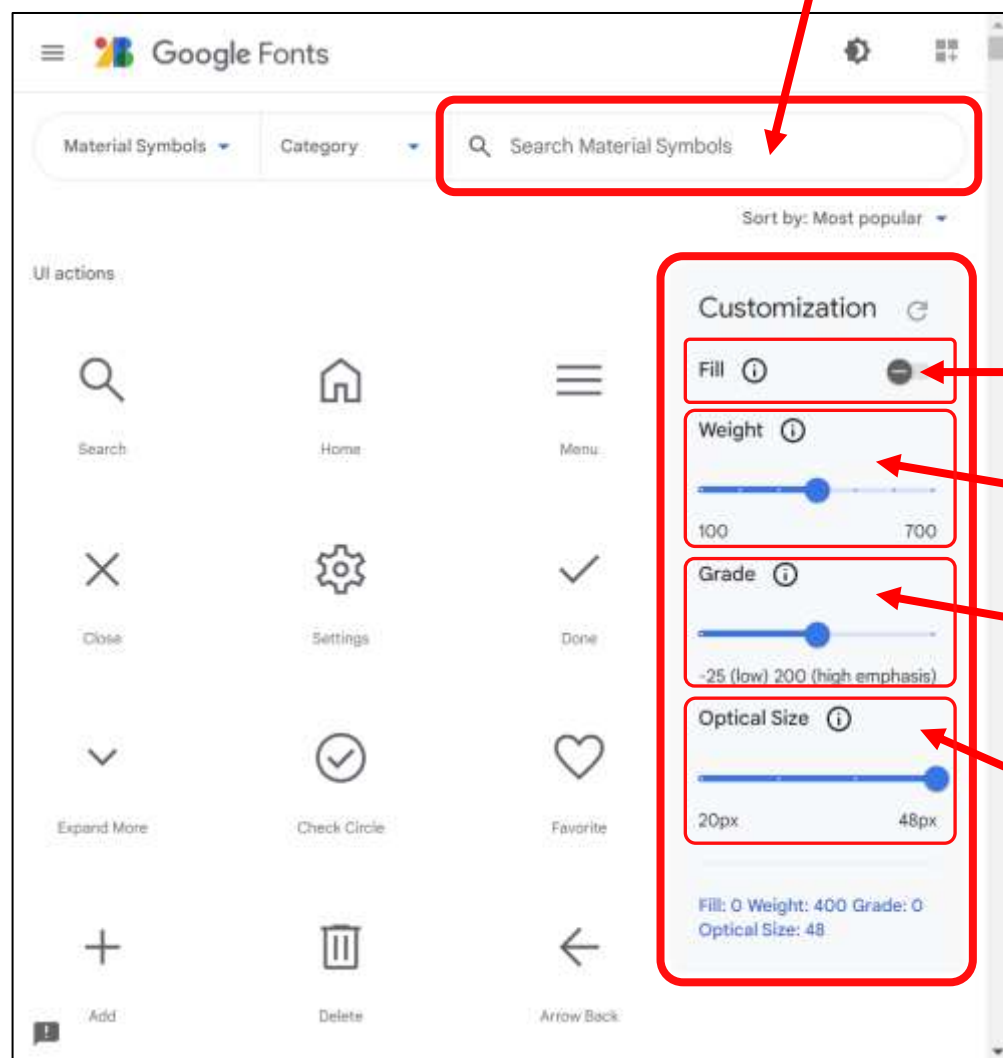
Download as PNG or SVG graphics with transparent background

<https://fonts.google.com/icons>

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<https://fonts.google.com/icons>

Search by keyword or scroll to browse



Adjust appearance

- symbols change as you adjust sliders

🏠 vs. 🏠

Stroke weight

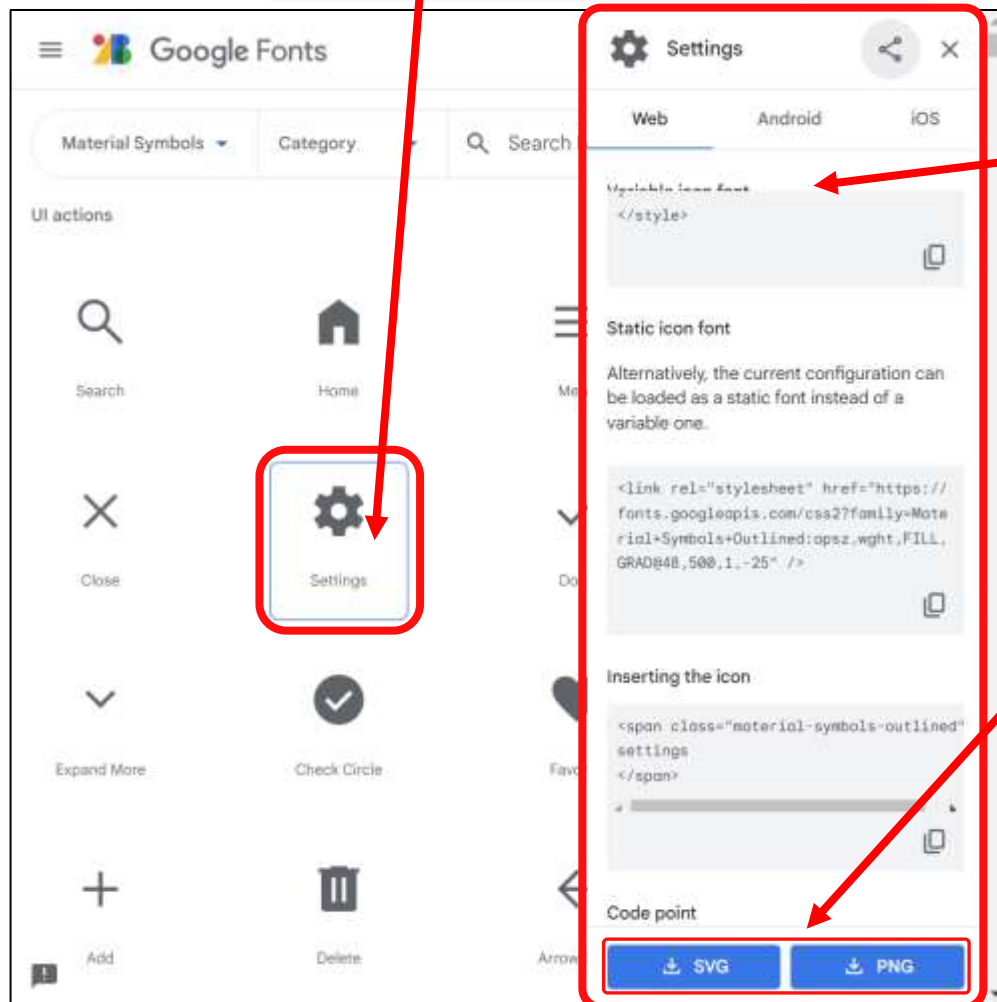
Finer adjustment of stroke weight

Adjust stroke weight as
symbol size changes

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Downloading symbol

Click on symbol you want



Settings panel opens

Click to download

- choose SVG if your program can handle it
- otherwise choose PNG

Insert in your document/program as a graphic

- SVG can be scaled without losing quality

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Microsoft Store Updates

- The Microsoft Store has a built-in app updater
- Load the Store
- Go to Library
- There may (or may not) be a blue button at the top of the screen right that says “Get updates”
- I loaded the Store for the first time and updated three Microsoft apps!

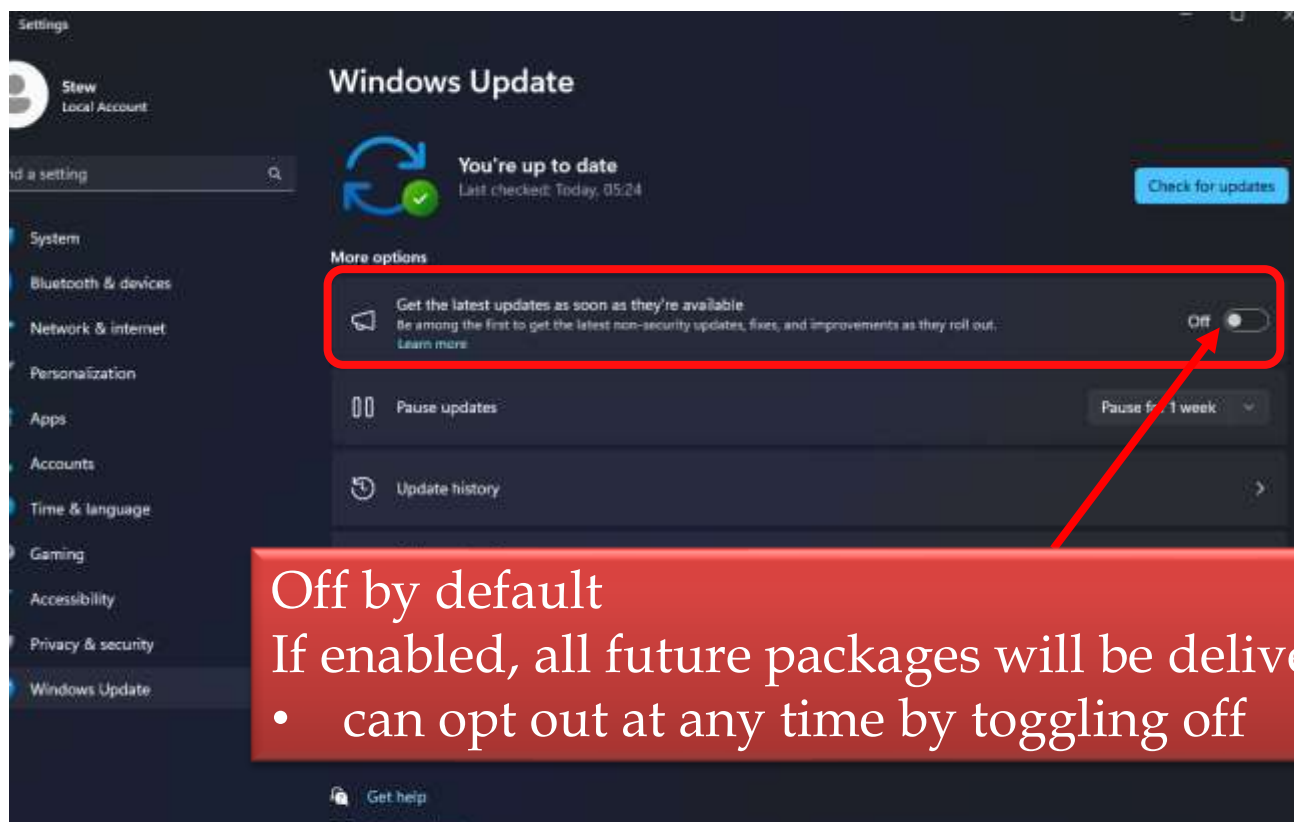


Stewart Bruce

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Faster updates from Microsoft

- New option for updates on Windows 11, 22H2
 - started with build 22621.1635



Off by default

If enabled, all future packages will be delivered “as they roll out”

- can opt out at any time by toggling off

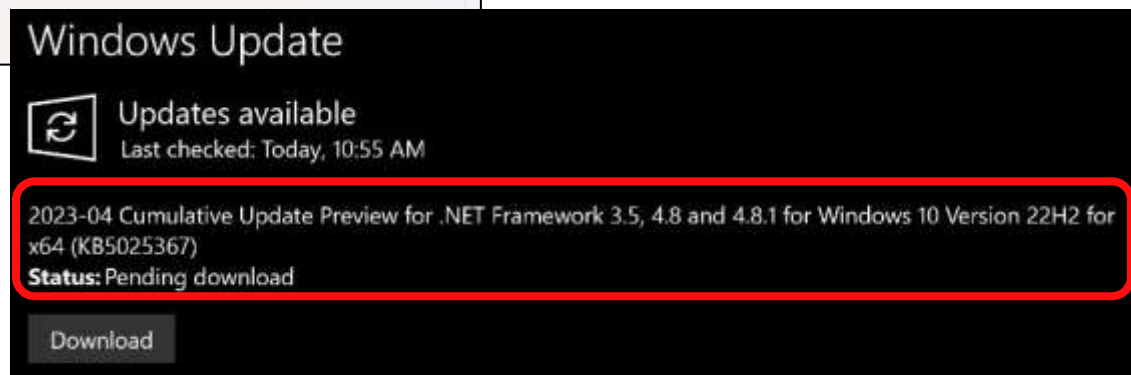
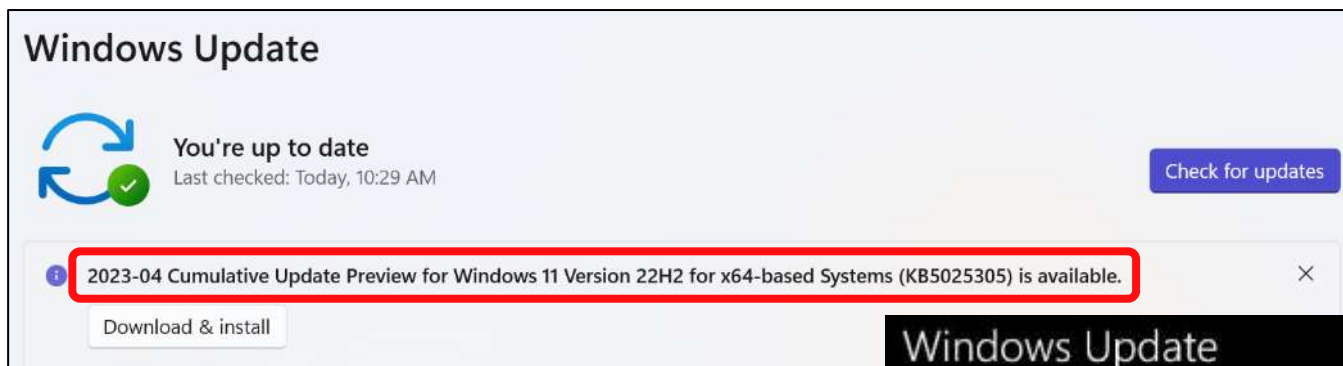
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/get-windows-updates-as-soon-as-they-re-available-for-your-device-cad7b32b-001e-435b-9110-f18309b54168>

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Other early update options

- Cumulative Update Previews
 - available for the last few years on Windows 10 & 11
- Only found by *seekers* by actively going to
 - Windows 11: Settings > Windows Update
 - Windows 10: Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update



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Should you?

- That depends
- These are not exactly beta updates
 - should be well-tested
 - probably not as well tested as the “final” release
- All “preview” packages will eventually have “final” versions ~~offered~~ forced onto your computer
- For the brave who always want the latest & greatest
 - why not?
- For the rest of us
 - wait for the final release

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End of the line for feature updates

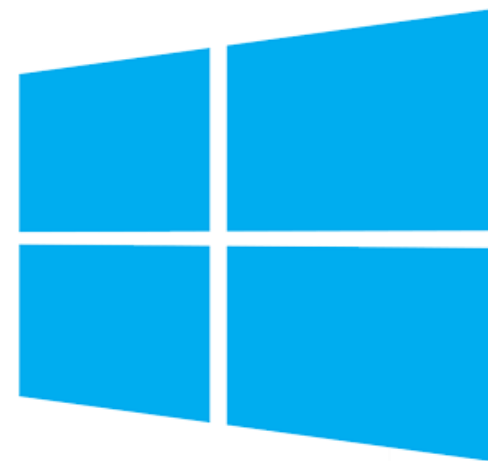
Windows client roadmap update

By  Jason Leznick

Published Apr 27 2023 10:00 AM

👁 52.1K Views

 Listen



Windows 10 support lifecycle

As documented on the [Windows 10 Enterprise and Education](#) and [Windows 10 Home and Pro](#) lifecycle pages, Windows 10 will reach end of support on October 14, 2025. The current version, 22H2, will be the final version of Windows 10, and all editions will remain in support with monthly security update releases through that date. Existing LTSC releases will continue to receive updates beyond that date based on their specific lifecycles.

<https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/windows-it-pro-blog/windows-client-roadmap-update/ba-p/3805227>

So, what does this mean?

- No more feature updates for Windows 10
- All security patches and bug fixes (Patch Tuesday) will continue until EOL in 2025
- Microsoft is encouraging users to switch to Windows 11
- No changes announced for hardware requirements (CPU and TPM)
- Have a nice day!



the windows Preparing to abandon~~ship~~

To-do list:

- ✓ (1) Install Linux
- ✓ (2) Identify the c
- ✓ (3) Identify Linu
- ✓ (4) Find workarc



https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20210915_PowerPoint.pdf



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

Volume 40, Number 3

March 2023

ARTICLE

Exploring Linux – Part 28: Three Ways to Try Linux – Live USB *by Alan German*

Those of us whose computers aren't supported by Windows 11, either because of an old CPU or the lack of a TPM chip (or perhaps both!), can still run Windows 10 until October 14, 2025. And, we can do so secure in the knowledge that patches to the OS will be provided on a regular basis until this end-of-life date. So, there is no need to panic: we have al-

from a USB drive rather than only from a CD/DVD.] This will enable us to boot a live version of Linux that will run directly from the USB drive.

There are lots of Linux distros that we could use but, for me, a tried and tested option is Linux Mint. At the time of writing, the latest release is Version 21 (Vanessa). Most users will want the 64

the SELECT button and browse to the Linux distro file (*linuxmint-21-cinnamon-64bit.iso*).



<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2303NEWS.pdf>

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Browser market share

- 28 years of web browsers
- Market share from 1994–2022

Lynda Buske found this neat video that depicts browser usage over time!



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Cribbage JD



- The Microsoft Store is, for the most part, a digital wasteland with only a modicum of useful apps
- But, I have to say Cribbage JD is an awesome crib game



Jeff Dubois

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Cribbage JD

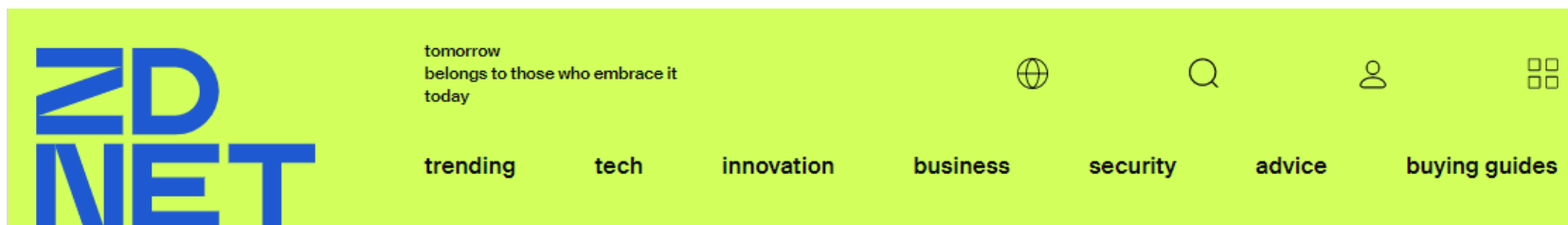
- Play solo against the computer or online against an opponent
- Your opponent can be a stranger or you can Email an invite code to one of your friends
- I've been playing it on Windows 10 for a while and, if you like crib (something I was raised on back on the farm), then this one is a must have
- The app is cross-platform - available on Google Play (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.jdsoftwarellc.cribbage>)



This morning, I was playing a game as I sipped my morning coffee. I snuck a winning game out of the hole with a 28 hand! If you're a crib player, you know that 29 is the highest score you can get. It's very rare and 28 is just as rare. I've only ever had a 28 hand TWICE in my life and I've been playing for half a century. (My late father only had a 28 hand ONCE in his life.)

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HuggingChat



/ innovation

What is HuggingChat? Everything to know about this open-source AI chatbot

Hugging Face's answer to ChatGPT has a lot to offer but it's still work in progress. You can sign up to help train it.

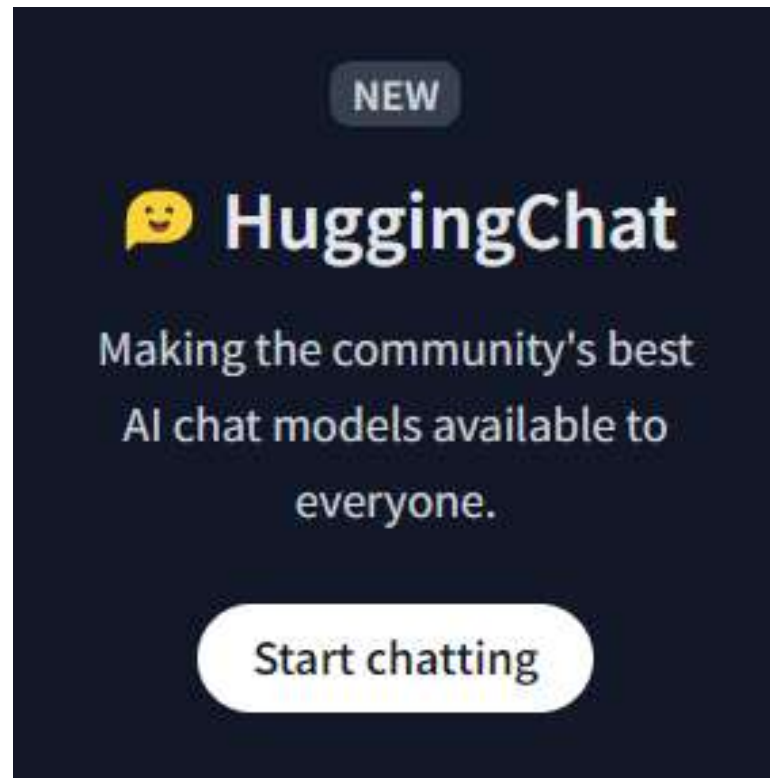


Written by **Maria Diaz**, Staff Writer on April 27, 2023

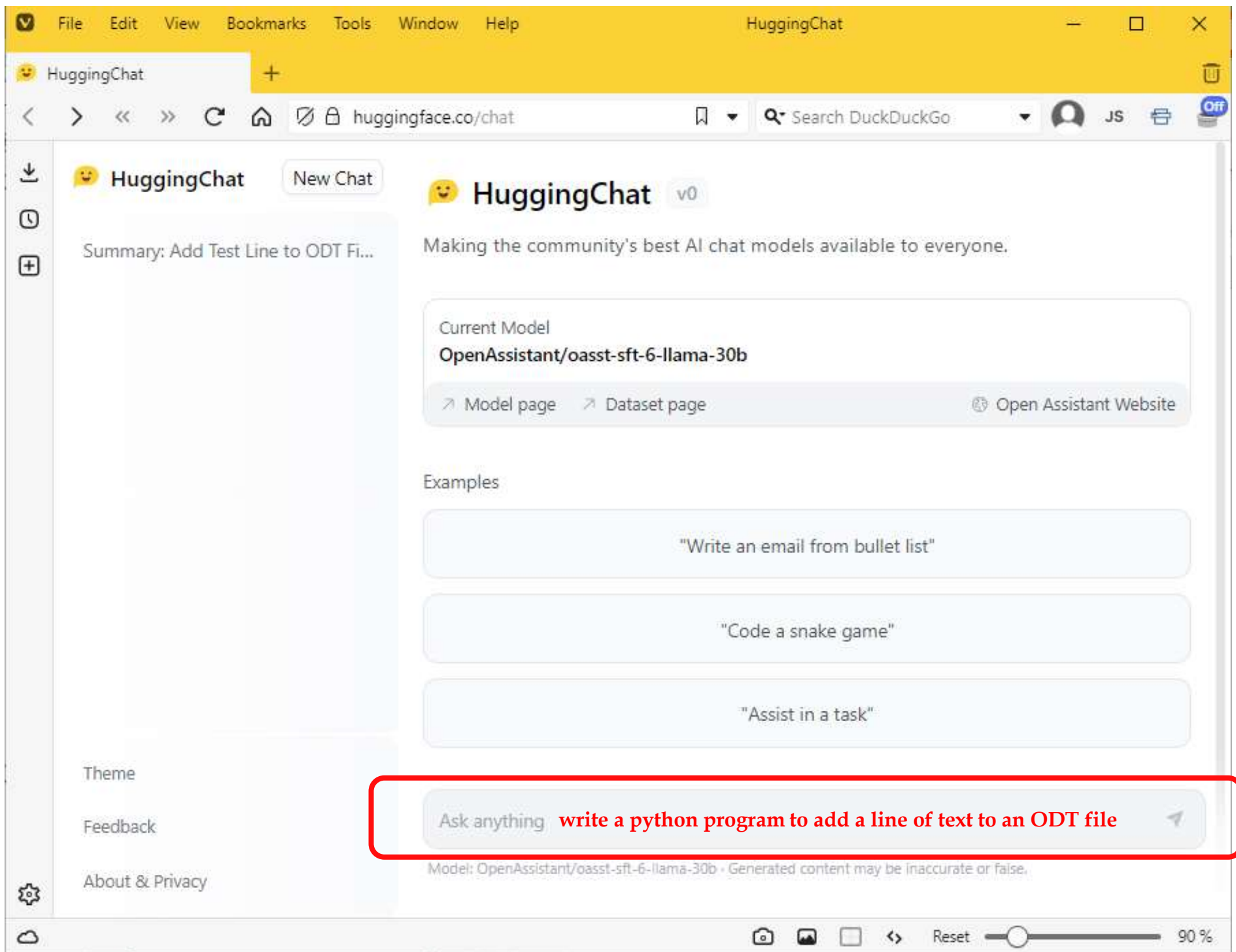
<https://www.zdnet.com/article/what-is-huggingchat-everything-about-the-new-open-source-ai-chatbot/>



HuggingChat



<https://huggingface.co/chat/>



write a python program to add a line of test to an ODT file

Summary: Add Test Line t...  

Sure! Here is some Python code that can modify an ODT (OpenDocument Text) file by adding a new line of text:

```
import odfpy

# Open the existing document for reading only
with open('input.odt', 'rb') as f:
    doc = odfpy.load(f)

# Find the place where we want to insert the new line
element_tree = etree.fromstring(doc.xml) # This converts the raw XML into an ElementTree object
for paragraph in element_tree.findall('.//text:p'):
    if paragraph.get('styleid').lower() == 'heading1':
        # Insert the new line at the end of the heading
        paragraph += '<w:r w:rsid="0">new text</w:r>'
        break
    else:
        # If there was no heading, just put the new line in the first paragraph
        element_tree.find('.//*[@1]/*[1]/*body/*div/*p').append("<w:r>new text</w:r>")

# Write the updated document to disk
with open('output.odt', 'wb') as f:
    odfpy.save(f, doc=document)
```

Note that this assumes you have installed `odfpy` library which allows parsing and generating documents in the native formats of LibreOffice or Microsoft Office, including both .ODT and .DOCX files. You can install via pip using `pip install --upgrade odfpy`. Also note this script modifies an input file called "input.odt" and saves the modified output to a file called "output.odt". You would need to change those names to match your own files. Let me know if there is anything else I can assist with.



HuggingChat

“HuggingChat...is an open-source technology developed collaboratively by its parent company, Hugging Face.”

Maria Diaz, ZD NET

Felix 1 day ago

Except that it is not open source (though it is still better than "all rights reserved").

The license of the model is non-commercial

<https://huggingface.co/OpenAssistant/oasst-sft-6-llama-30b-xor>

https://github.com/facebookresearch/llama/blob/main/MODEL_CARD.md#model-details

Some people like to call open source anything that is source available, often knowing that it's not the same thing, open source is more marketable.

<https://news.itsfoss.com/huggingchat-chatgpt/>

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Loonie Bits



- So many technical sites
 - describe latest & greatest products only available in USA, Korea, or the EU
 - have pricing nowhere near what we'll be paying in Canada
- What if we could share info about web sites, YouTube channels, etc. with info pertinent to Canadians?
- Can you help fulfill our motto *Users helping users?*
 - do you know of Canadian sites with interesting info?
 - you could speak to the items or just submit the info for inclusion at a future Q&A

or *Users helping users*

Stewart Bruce

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Let me start



- Government of Canada's App gallery
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/mobile.html>



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

- General mobile news site
 - <https://mobilesyrup.com/>

MobileSyrup 

- Similar site, from an Apple perspective
 - <https://www.iphoneincanada.ca/>





Smartphones and Custom ROM's

- I am thinking of installing a custom ROM on my aging Samsung Galaxy A50 smartphone before the security updates for this phone are finally halted.
- Are custom ROMs secure enough to use the phone to safely do online banking while travelling etc?
- I wasn't able to find a ROM for my Galaxy A50 at:
<https://www.xda-developers.com/most-popular-custom-roms-android/>
- I investigated all of the most popular ROMS as well as the "Honorable mentions" listed on the site.
- Can you recommend other reputable websites that might have custom ROMs for my Galaxy A50?
- I would want a source that gives reasonably regular security updates to the custom ROM.



Custom ROM's and Security

- Most custom ROM's are based on Google's Android Open Source Project (AOSP) so the baseline code is likely secure
- The ROM code is open source BUT who, if anyone, is checking it for included backdoors, etc?
- My preference is always to use a wired connection on a PC and trust the encryption and 2FA systems that are made for connections to banks



source



Installing a custom ROM is not necessarily a trivial task

- A search on Google for: *custom rom A50* generates a number of hits, including:
<https://forum.xda-developers.com/f/samsung-galaxy-a50-roms-kernels-recoveries-ot.8683/>
- LineageOS (<https://wiki.lineageos.org/devices/>) is a useful resource, but the A50 isn't currently listed as supported
- Look for ROM's that have a track record in terms of historical postings and especially monthly updates
- The problem with custom ROM's is that they will only be available if (a) a developer owns a specific phone and (b) will only be really useful if the system is maintained
- Check what's required and how to install a custom ROM; it's not necessarily easy!



Facebook Messenger



- When I try to open Messenger, either via Facebook or directly via the Messenger icon, I get a screen saying:
"Running security checks. This may take a few seconds."
- The screen quickly changes to:
"Create a PIN for your end-to-end encrypted chats. Soon, some of your chats will be end-to-end encrypted and will be backed up remotely. If you ever lose or replace this device, you'll need a PIN to restore these chats."

Margery Wardle

- My only options, at the bottom of that screen, are "**CREATE PIN**" (highlighted in blue), or "*ADVANCED OPTIONS*"
- I cannot get past this screen, unless I have a notification of a new message from someone else
- **Is this legitimate?**
- I did not seek to create a PIN, nor to have my chats encrypted



- I'm particularly concerned because this began while I was on Wi-Fi in Costa Rica, chatting on Messenger with someone whose approach to security is less than robust
- Just today, these same screens popped up on Facebook, when I tried to send a Facebook-generated "memory" to a friend.
- However, on Facebook, I was able to return to my Facebook page and continue scrolling, whereas I cannot get around the screens on Messenger

Any Facebook/Messenger users out there?

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Typing

WHO LOVES TYPING?



Share

Typing

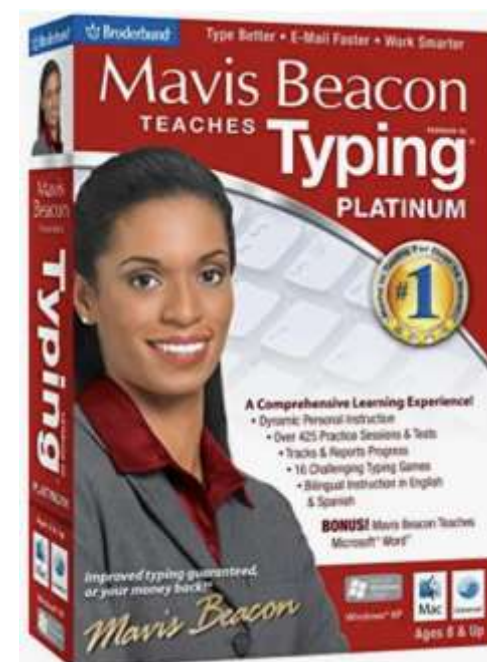
- How are your Keyboard Skills?
- Do you type quickly, using all fingers?



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Typing

- You could spend days and hours, typing the same words over and over again until your fingers cramp, and your eyes glaze over...
- Or you could activate



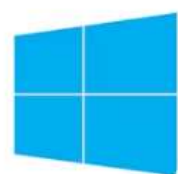
Windows®

Windows Speech Recognition

Share

Windows Speech Recognition

- If you use Windows
- You don't have to type everything
- You have options



Windows®

Windows Speech Recognition

Share

Windows Speech Recognition



**IT'S MUCH EASIER
THAN YOU THINK!**

Share

Windows Speech Recognition

- Microphones have become very affordable



This is
what I use

USB Desktop Microphone



You should consider a
Headset Microphone

Share

Windows Speech Recognition

- Microphone setup is very easy...
- In Windows Search:
- Type: “Windows Speech Recognition”

 Set up Speech Recognition

Welcome to Speech Recognition

Speech Recognition allows you to control your computer by voice.

Share

Windows Speech Recognition

- Setup is quick and easy, follow the prompts...

What type of microphone is Microphone (2- USB Audio Device)?



☒ **Headset Microphone**

Best suited for speech recognition, you wear this on your head.



☐ **Desktop Microphone**

These microphones sit on

Set up your microphone



Proper microphone placement

- Position the microphone
- Do not breathe into the microphone
- Make sure the microphone is not blocked

Adjust the volume of Microphone (2- USB Audio Device)



Read the following sentences aloud in a natural voice.

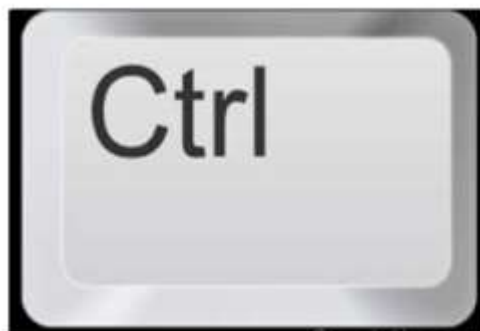
"Peter dictates to his computer. He prefers it to pen and paper."



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Windows Speech Recognition

- Quick Tip!
- If you ever want to return to Speech Recognition Setup...
- Type: **Win Key, Ctrl, S**



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Windows Speech Recognition

- Once your microphone is setup
- Turn it on
- When you want Windows to Hear you...
- Type: **Win Key, H**



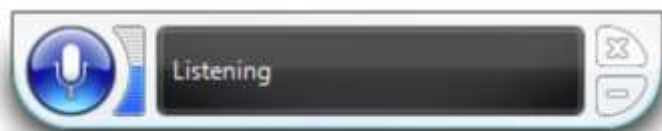
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Windows Speech Recognition

- Mic “On” ... Win Key, H



- You’ll know when Windows is Listening...



 Windows 10

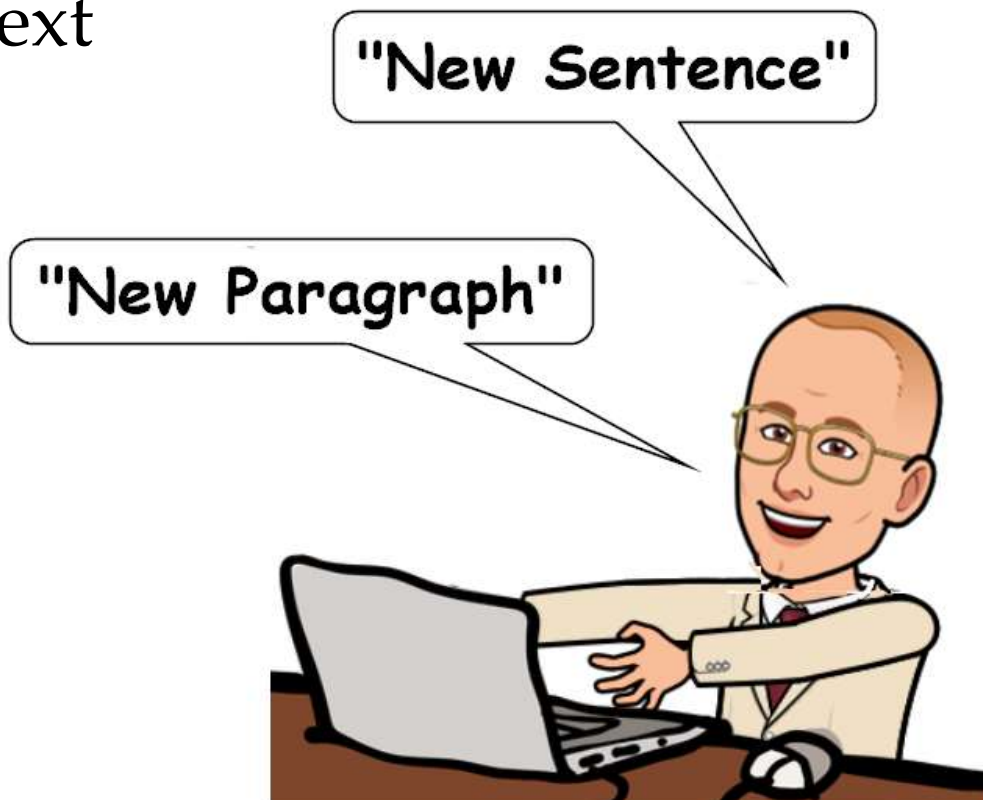


 Windows 11

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Windows Speech Recognition

- There is an endless list of commands that will allow you to control your entire document, and your entire PC, with Windows Speech Recognition
- I only use it to enter text
- Sometimes I use:



Share

Windows Speech Recognition

LET'S GO FOR A
TEST DRIVE



Share

Windows Speech Recognition

TEST DRIVE

IN PROGRESS...



Windows®

Windows Speech Recognition

Share

Windows Speech Recognition

THANK YOU



Windows®

Windows Speech Recognition



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**

Members' Favourites

May 10, 2022

Share any computer-related item with your fellow members

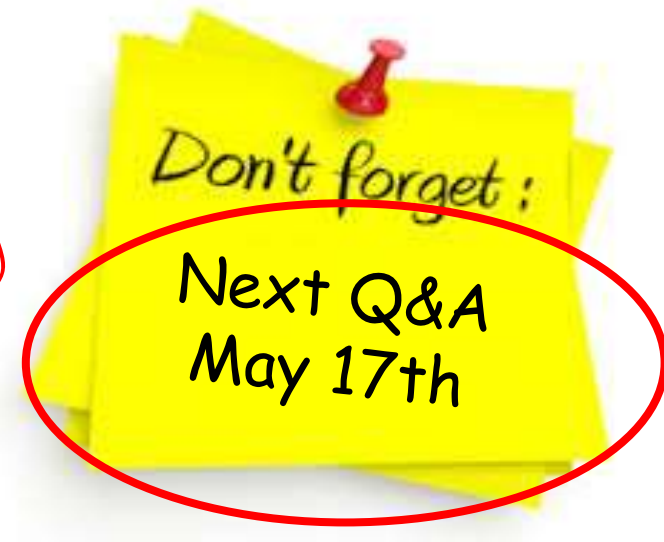
10-20 minute presentation

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





No Q&A on
May 10
(Monthly Meeting)



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca