



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

May 31, 2023



Lo-n-g Boot Time

- Last year, I purchased a laptop with Windows 10/11
- Norton was installed in December 2022
- Since January, I have been experiencing problems
- It takes a very long time for Windows to open
- Similarly, accessing YouTube is also very slow
- I also do banking with this device
- I wonder what's the problem and whether the computer is secure?





Security not likely an issue

- With an antivirus program active and, presumably, a firewall running (either in the Norton Security Suite or through Windows), the computer should be secure against malware attacks





Spring cleanup required?

Tech Talks
Spring Clean-up



Ten tips to remove those digital cobwebs

1. Make a disk image backup; schedule incremental backups
2. File and folder synchronization using File History for Documents, Music, Pictures, Videos
3. Update Windows and all installed software, Sumo
4. Check your security settings, anti-virus, firewall
5. Run a full virus scan with alternative (third-party) software
6. Check and update passwords, KeePass password manager, set two-factor authentication
7. Remove any unused applications, Control Panel
8. Tidy up your E-mail, folders, filters
9. Tweak system performance, startup programs
10. Run disk cleanup to free up space

ARTICLE

Spring cleanup

by Chris Taylor

At last spring's Tech Talks, one session was *Ten tips to remove those digital cobwebs*. If you haven't stayed on top of things, it is time to revisit this important task.



Don't get compromised

Check that your operating system and programs have the latest security updates and all auto-update functions are working properly.

Review the settings in your anti-virus. Make sure it's updated to the latest program and signature files. Run a full on-demand

backup can be achieved for free with Windows's built-in File History. For image backups, there are many free and paid programs. Be careful if choosing a cloud backup provider: the features, limitations and costs vary wildly!

Review your backup strategy to make sure all threats are covered. Test your backups: we don't back up for backup's sake, we back up so we can recover.

Make sure you have at least two accounts on your computer that have *Administrator*-level access to aid in recovery should your main account become corrupted.

Drop stuff you don't need

Check your password manager for sites and services you no longer use and delete your accounts from those services. If a service is compromised, it may provide a foothold to an attacker.

Use the Windows tools Disk Clean-up and Storage Sense to get rid of dross clogging your drive and making your backups bigger than they need to be. There are also 3rd party tools available that can help you clean up your storage.

Uninstall programs that you no longer use. Not only do they use up space, but they also represent potential vulnerabilities.

If you are getting rid of old computing devices, make sure to sanitize them by securely erasing all personal information. If you can't be sure data is unrecoverable, it might be best to destroy rather than discard.

Review all your online subscriptions. Get rid of those you don't need. It can not only reduce your email load, but in the

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

Startup Timer

- Freeware application
- Developed by *Macecraft Software*
- Measures exactly how long it takes for Windows to fully boot
- Identifies which system processes and installed third-party apps make Windows startup slower
- Desktop and portable versions
- Lightweight. No bells and whistles. No nonsense.

<https://startuptimer.com>



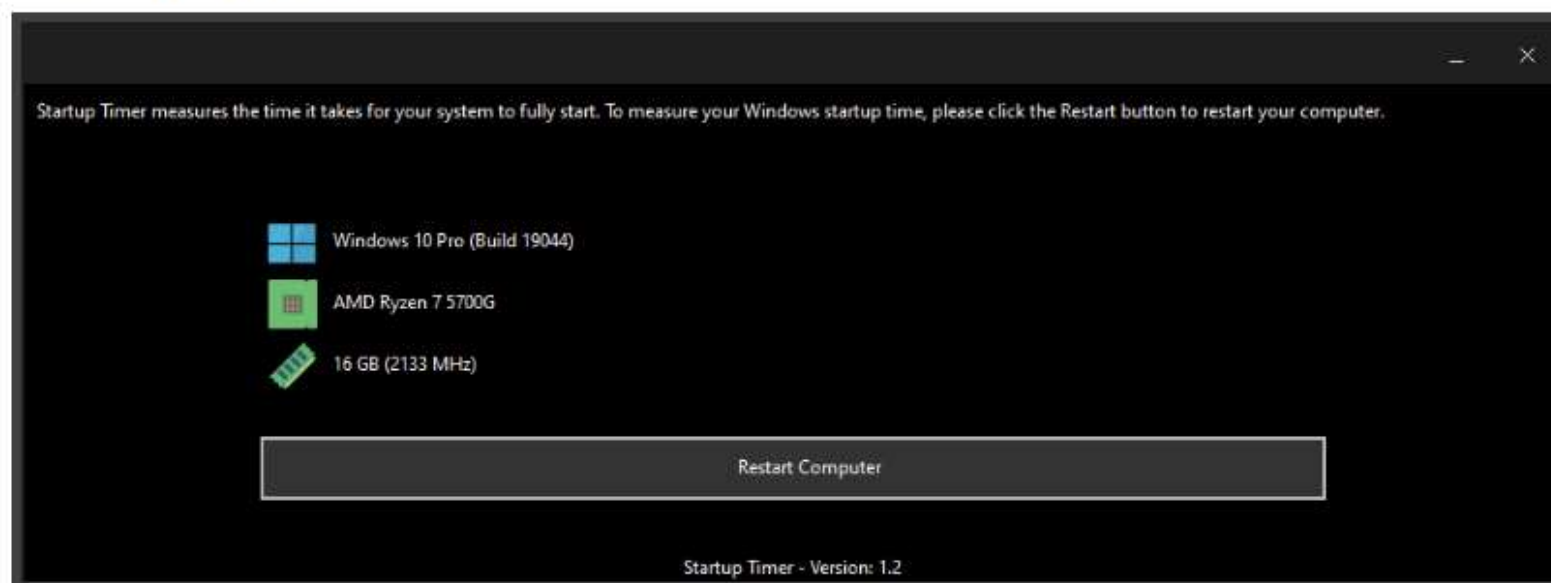


Startup Timer

Startup Timer is a freeware app that measures exactly how long it takes for Windows to fully boot and which apps make your Windows startup slower.

To make your Windows start faster, you need to know which apps are slowing down the startup the most. Startup Timer allows you to do just that: benchmark Windows start time and detect which software are making your computer start slow.

Screenshots



Screenshot 1 - The main app screen. Screenshot from Windows using Dark Mode.

Download

We are offering Startup Timer in two equally tasty flavors: *Portable* and *Setup*.

The Portable version means that the app is a single executable file that you can simply download and run. There is no installation needed, and when you are done, to uninstall the app, all you need to do is delete the executable file from your computer. That's it.

👉 [Click here to download the Portable version.](#)

The Setup version means that the app comes as a normal setup executable file that you can double click to install to your system. It will install the app to C:\Program Files (x86)\Startup Timer\, it creates an icon to your Windows Desktop which allows you to start it, and after you are done, you can run its uninstaller to remove it.

👉 [Click here to download the Setup version.](#)



StartupTimer_Setup.exe

Submit downloaded file to virustotal.com



Analyse suspicious files, domains, IPs and URLs to detect malware and other breaches, automatically share them with the security community.

FILE

URL

SEARCH



Choose file

2

/ 70



Community Score

⚠ 2 security vendors and no sandboxes flagged this file as malicious

↻ Reanalyze

⬇ Download

≈ Similar to

More

7fb7f07ce45d78d9faf0928b75d86c6e255b5a1a778af2fe26aa73...

StartupTimer_Setup.exe

Size

1.17 MB

Last Analysis Date

5 days ago



peexe

overlay

checks-cpu-name

runtime-modules

signed

calls-wmi

direct-cpu-clock-access

persistence

Security vendors' analysis ⓘ

Do you want to automate checks?

CrowdStrike Falcon	❗ Win/grayware_confidence_70% (D)
SecureAge	❗ Malicious
Acronis (Static ML)	✅ Undetected
AhnLab-V3	✅ Undetected
-	
Avast	✅ Undetected
AVG	✅ Undetected
Avira (no cloud)	✅ Undetected
Baidu	✅ Undetected
BitDefender	✅ Undetected
BitDefenderTheta	✅ Undetected
Bkav Pro	✅ Undetected
ClamAV	✅ Undetected
-	

Also undetected by:

ESET-NOD32, Google, Kaspersky, Malwarebytes, McAfee, Microsoft, Panda, Sophos, Symantec, TrendMicro...

Virustotal flags Startup Timer as malware

Post Reply



Search this topic...



2 posts • Page 1 of 1

Virustotal flags Startup Timer as malware

by **OPCUGmember** » Fri May 19, 2023 7:06 pm

Version info: The latest version of Startup Timer is: 1.2.
Last updated: 27th October 2022.

Virustotal report:

2 security vendors and no sandboxes flagged this file as malicious
7fb7f07ce45d78d9faf0928b75d86c6e255b5a1a778af2fe26aa73cdf0b42016
StartupTimer_Setup.exe

I see that other products have been similarly tagged in the past. Is this also a false positive?



OPCUGmember

New user

Posts: 1

Joined: Fri May 19, 2023 7:02 pm

Re: Virustotal flags Startup Timer as malware

by **jv16** » Thu May 25, 2023 1:16 pm

It's a false positive. Unfortunately, VirusTotal includes some antivirus products which get rarely updated, so these false positives take quite some time to get fixed.



jv16

Developer

Posts: 6735

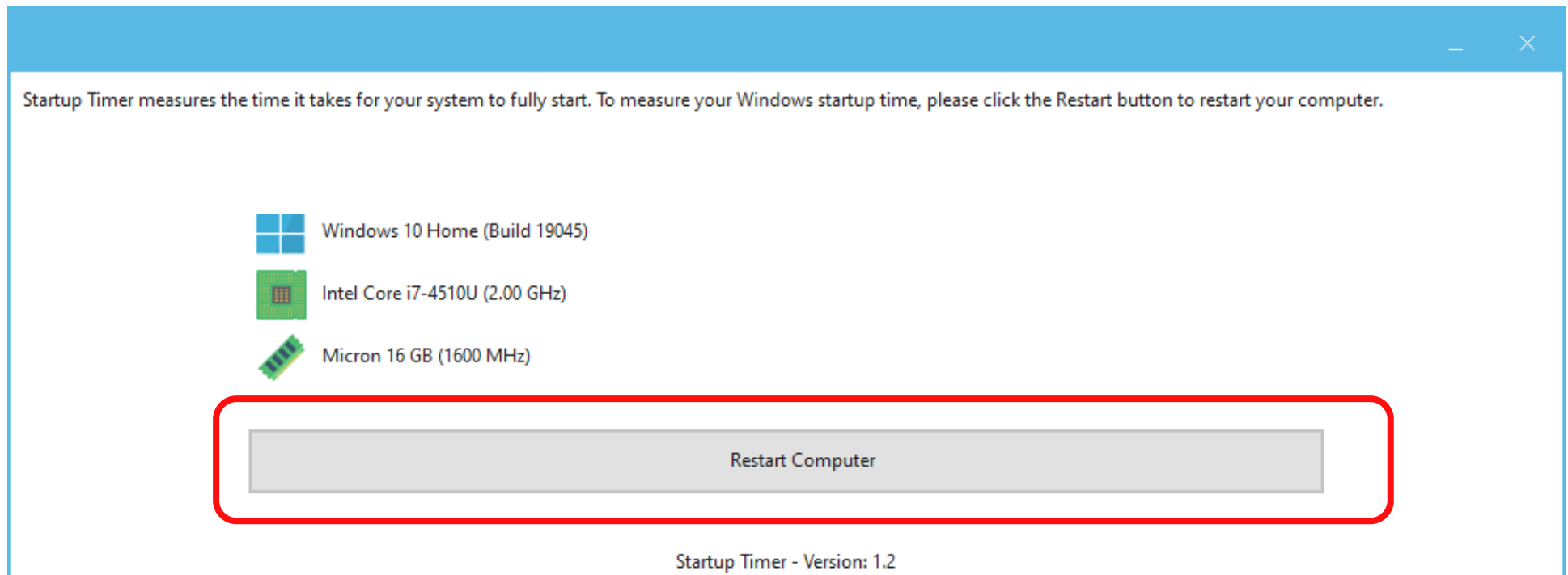
Joined: Sun Mar 13, 2005 7:57 pm

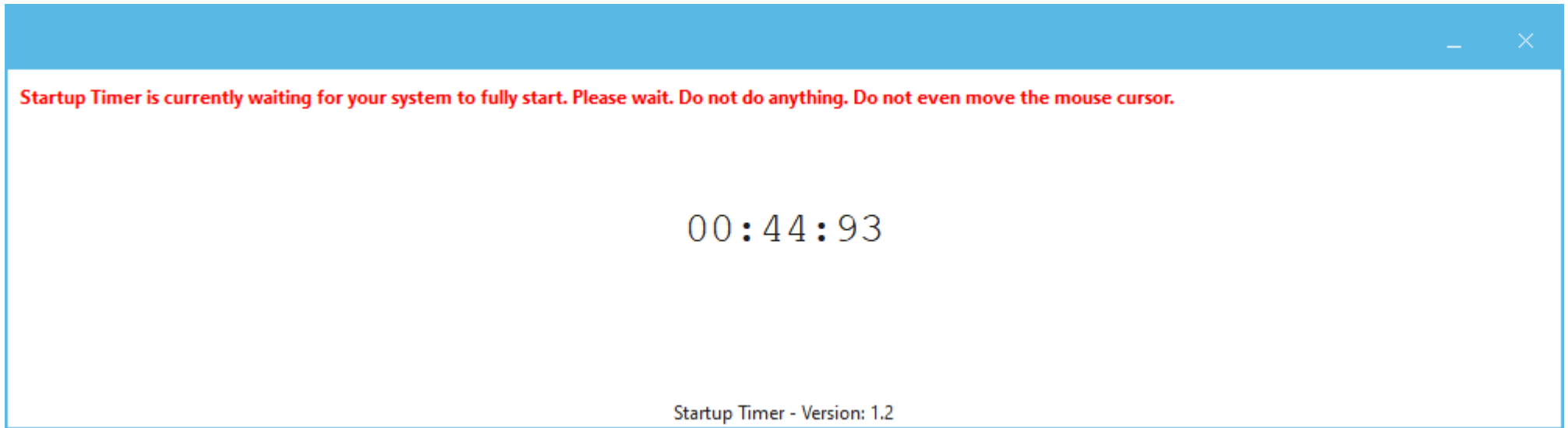
Post Reply



2 posts • Page 1 of 1

- (1) Create disk image of hard drive (restore if necessary)
- (2) Install Startup Timer
- (3) Run the program...





Startup Timer is waiting for your system to fully start

Please wait. Do not do anything

Do not even move the mouser cursor



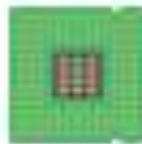
Windows fully started in: 56 seconds *



Desktop first shown in: 50 seconds



Windows 10 Home (Build 19045)



Intel Core i7-4510U (2.00 GHz)



Micron 16 GB (1600 MHz)

** Fully start = Windows started up
Average CPU usage < 5%
(Everything loaded)*

These processes were detected to slow down your system startup the most.

```
App - Glasswire : 76.89%  
System - Explorer.exe : 17.36%  
App - Stickies : 1.57%  
System - Searchapp.exe : 1.15%  
System - Runtimebroker.exe : 1.11%
```

These processes were detected to slow down your system startup the most.

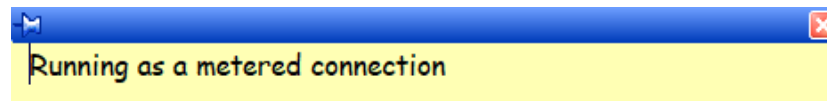
```
App - Glasswire : 76.89%  
System - Explorer.exe : 17.36%  
App - Stickies : 1.57%  
System - Searchapp.exe : 1.15%  
System - Runtimebroker.exe : 1.11%
```

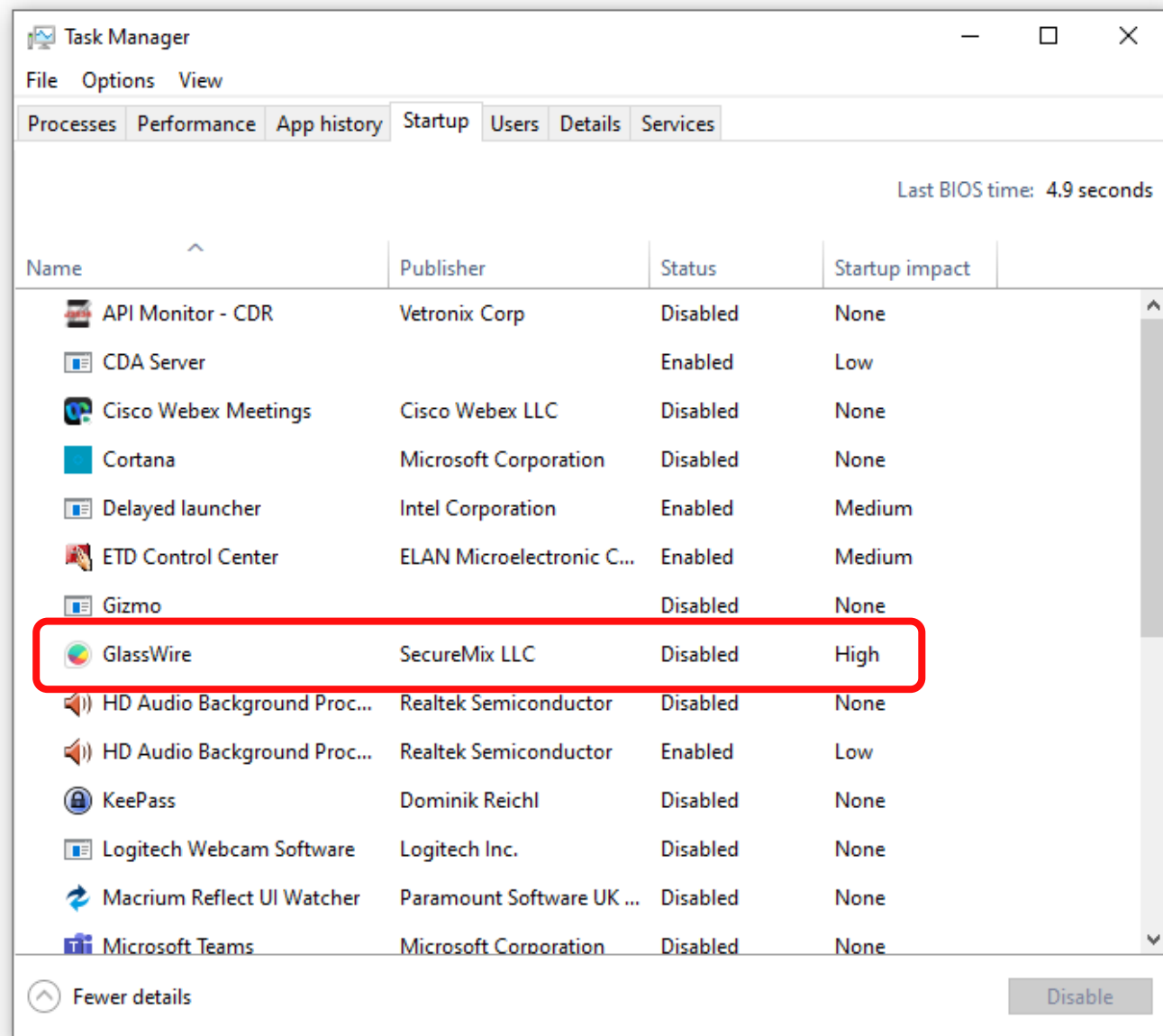
Third-party applications:

Glasswire - Firewall software



Stickies - “Sticky notes” on desktop





*** Unable to disable *Stickies* and so uninstalled the app**



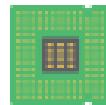
Windows fully started in: 49 seconds



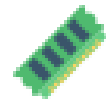
Desktop first shown in: 44 seconds



Windows 10 Home (Build 19045)



Intel Core i7-4510U (2.00 GHz)



Micron 16 GB (1600 MHz)

These processes were detected to slow down your system startup the most.

```
System - Eed_sl.exe : 63.17%
System - Explorer.exe : 14.14%
System - Svchost.exe : 7.37%
App - Elan : 5.77%
App - Realtek Audio : 1.89%
System - Searchapp.exe : 1.79%
System - Runtimebroker.exe : 1.59%
System - Textinputhost.exe : 1.05%
```

Original boot time = 56 s *

Revised boot time = 49 s

Shaved off a whole 7 s !



** Where Glasswire was reported to be almost 77% of the problem*



Unused printer



- Helping reorganize an apartment
- Discovered an HP printer
 - several years old
 - never opened
 - compatible with Windows 11
- Any suggestions for an agency or charity we might approach for donating it?



CompuCorps



- Jan 9, 2019 OPCUG presentation by Zeina Osman
 - co-executive director of CompuCorps
- *Donate to our TechYouth, TechMentor and TechReuse programs and make a real difference in the lives of those at risk and most in need across Canada. Your donation, whether it's cash or hardware, will provide valuable resources and support. So, if you're ready to give back and make an impact, click the "Hardware" button to donate hardware or the "Cash" button to make a cash donation.*

<https://www.compucorps.org/>



Other options

- Getting rid of any old tech gear?
- Trash Nothing
 - <https://trashnothing.com/beta/full-circles-ottawa>
 - *Want free stuff? Got stuff to give away? Over 8 million people around the world are giving and getting free stuff in their local communities*
 - **but not a charity**
- eWaste
 - <https://recyclemyelectronics.ca/on/>
 - drop-offs at Best Buy & Staples
 - **maybe last resort**
 - **will be scrapped albeit in an environmentally friendly way**





Any others?

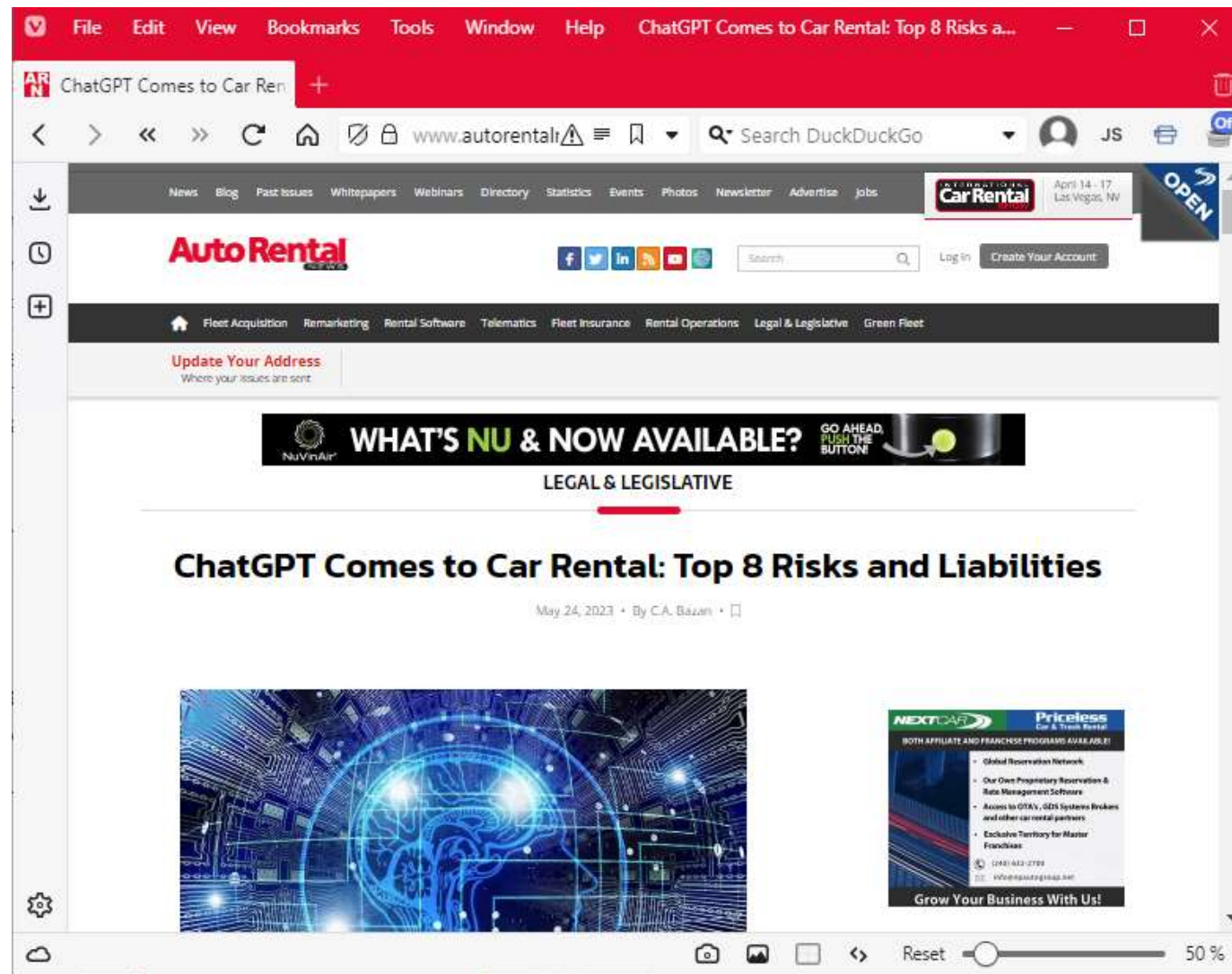
- Do you have any other ideas for charities that could use tech donations?
 - new?
 - used?
 - how used?



Too long, didn't read

- ChatGPT has an additional feature – TL;DR
- This will summarize the contents of a massive webpage
- Use the prompt:
 - TL;DR (or tl;dr)
 - Cut and paste a massive block of text from any website (even very current websites)
 - Any included graphics seem to be ignored
 - ChatGPT will produce a short summary

Auto Rental News



<https://www.autorentalnews.com/10199398/top-8-risks-and-liabilities-with-ai-tools>

Actual use in ChatGPT:

tl;dr Meet Leading Car Rental Management Systems/Software Solution Providers
CarTrawler

[View Profile](#)

CarHopper Inc.

[View Profile](#)

Carcloud

[View Profile](#)

ChatGPT is already in automotive. Rental car companies are beginning to use AI tools into their systems and processes to ensure a smooth customer journey. But despite the benefits, integrating advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Neural Networks (NN), and Semantic Search (SS) into a single platform like the Generative Pre-

2+ pages of text
975 words

CHAT GPT (replied below-Bob)

(I used Ctrl Shift V to paste without attributes)

Car rental companies are increasingly integrating AI tools into their systems, but this raises legal, ethical, and regulatory concerns. Some of the risks and liabilities associated with using AI technology in the car rental industry include:

Data privacy: AI systems rely on data, and rental companies must ensure compliance with data protection regulations such as GDPR to avoid penalties and reputational damage.

Regulatory compliance: Car rental companies need to stay updated with regulations governing the use of AI in transportation, such as guidelines from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Vehicle accidents: If an AI-powered rental car causes an accident, the rental company may be held liable for damages. Malfunctioning AI systems can increase the risk, and rental companies must ensure the safety and proper maintenance of their AI systems.

Reputation damage: Accidents or malfunctions involving AI-powered rental cars can harm the company's reputation, leading to loss of business and negative publicity.

Customer dissatisfaction: If AI systems do not meet customer expectations, it can result in dissatisfaction, negative reviews, and loss of business. Car rental companies must ensure user-friendly and reliable AI systems.

Increased maintenance costs: AI systems require regular maintenance and updates, which can be costly. Car rental companies need to allocate resources for proper inspection and maintenance of AI systems.

Technical expertise: Implementing and maintaining AI systems requires technical expertise. Car rental companies may need to hire additional staff or outsource the work if they lack the necessary skills.

One significant risk to consider is cybersecurity. Part II of this article series will explore the cybersecurity risks associated with AI technology and how rental car agencies can protect their systems against breaches.

0.5+ pages of text
275 words

Share

Loonie Bits



- Highlighting Canadian sites with information of interest to Canadian consumers
- 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

Share

Loonie Bits



Everything tick related

- With all the interest in protecting ourselves from disease carrying blood sucking parasites there is a website for tracking & identifying these creatures
- No, I'm not talking about lawyers!
- I'm talking about the spread of ticks in Canada and the potential for contracting Lyme disease from a bite
- Website: <https://etick.ca/>
- Mobile apps also available



Hot off the wire



- Ever heard the phrase?
- Well, here's the website for it:
 - <https://www.newswire.ca/>
- Also known as Cision this is a bigger resource for Canadian news & journalists than I can begin to describe
- I just scroll down to "*Browse all news stories*" and go from there
- This is the Canadian branch of a global news disseminator. (I think)

CISION

CCTS/CPRST



- Gotta beef with your Internet provider?
- Who ya gonna call? Not the Ghost Busters, for sure!
- How about: <https://www.ccts-cprst.ca/>
- The Canadian Commission for Complaints of Telecom-Television Services wants to hear from you!
- Open the page, go to "*Consumers*" then "*Complaints*" and then "*File a Complaint*"
- There is a great amount of other information available
- Right now, the Commission is encouraging people to help them drill into our country's network problems



Raspberry Pi

CanaKitTM
Electronic Kits, Modules & Parts

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HOME

RASPBERRY PI

ARDUINO

EMBEDDED ELECTRONICS

KITS & MODULES

PARTS & COMPONENTS

Catalog : **Raspberry Pi**

Pi 4 Kits



Pi 400



Pi 3 A+ Kits



Pi 3 B+ Kits



Pi 3 Kits



Boards



Pi Zero 2 W



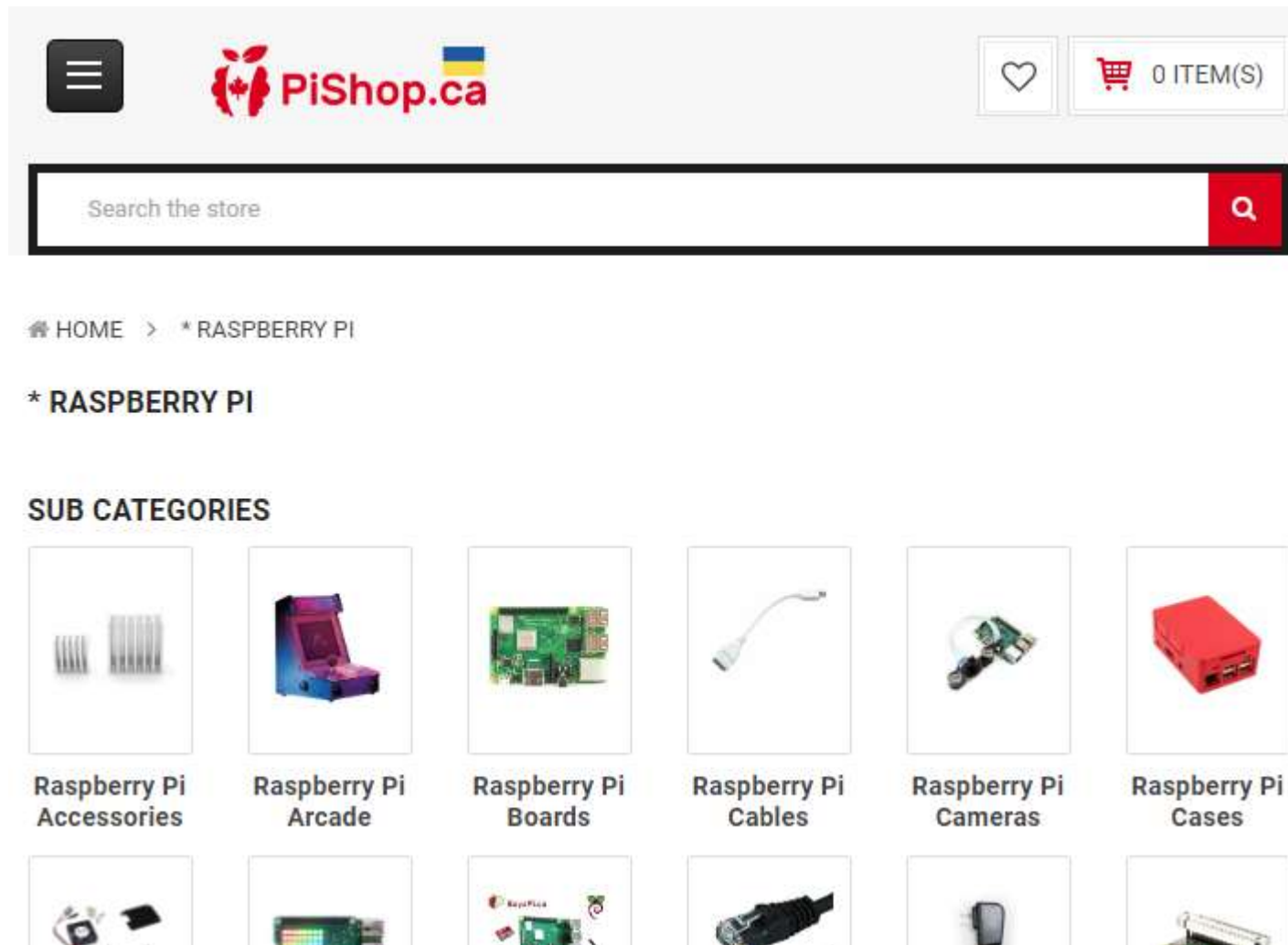
Pi Zero W



Cana Kit Corporation
North Vancouver, BC V7H 0A2

<https://www.canakit.com/raspberry-pi>

Raspberry Pi



PiShop.ca
9-190 Colonnade Rd.
Ottawa ON, K2E 7J5

<https://www.pishop.ca>



New PowerToys



- Great set of free utilities for Windows 10 & 11
- Frequently covered at Q&A and newsletter
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230315_PowerPoint.pdf
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20210303_PowerPoint.pdf
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20211103_PowerPoint.pdf
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20200715_PowerPoint.pdf
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20200805_PowerPoint.pdf
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20200909_PowerPoint.pdf
 - <https://opcug.ca/Articles/2012NEWS.pdf>
- Now at v0.70.0
- Two new PowerToys
 - Mouse Without Borders
 - Peek

UPDATE



Mouse Without Borders

- Interact with other computers
 - from the same keyboard and mouse
- Share clipboard contents between the machines
- Copy files between the machines

UPDATE



Mouse Without Borders

Main computer

- will use mouse & keyboard to control both computers

Second computer

- note: mouse and keyboard here still function but only on this computer

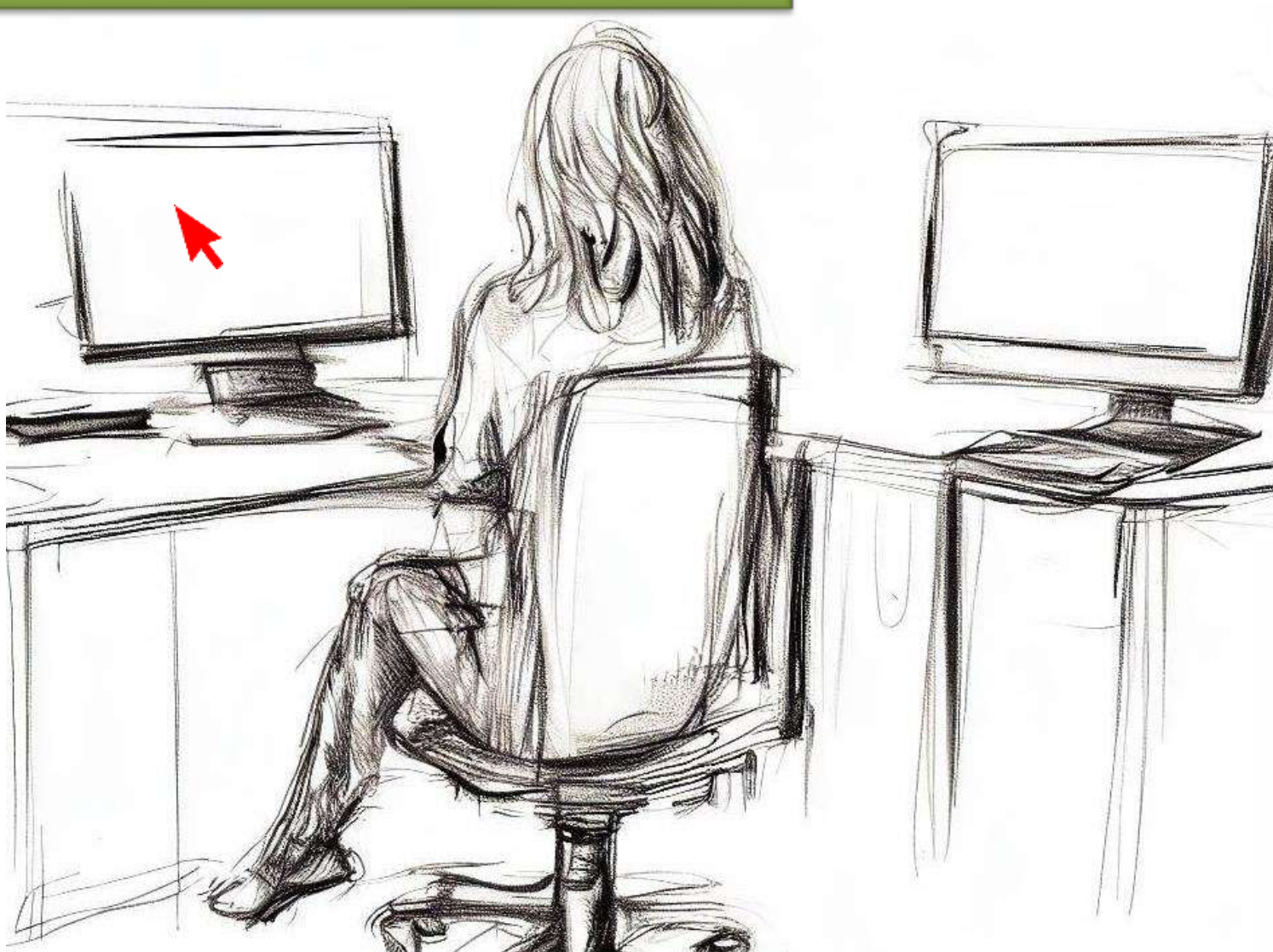


UPDATE



Mouse Without Borders

As soon as the mouse cursor hits the edge of the screen...



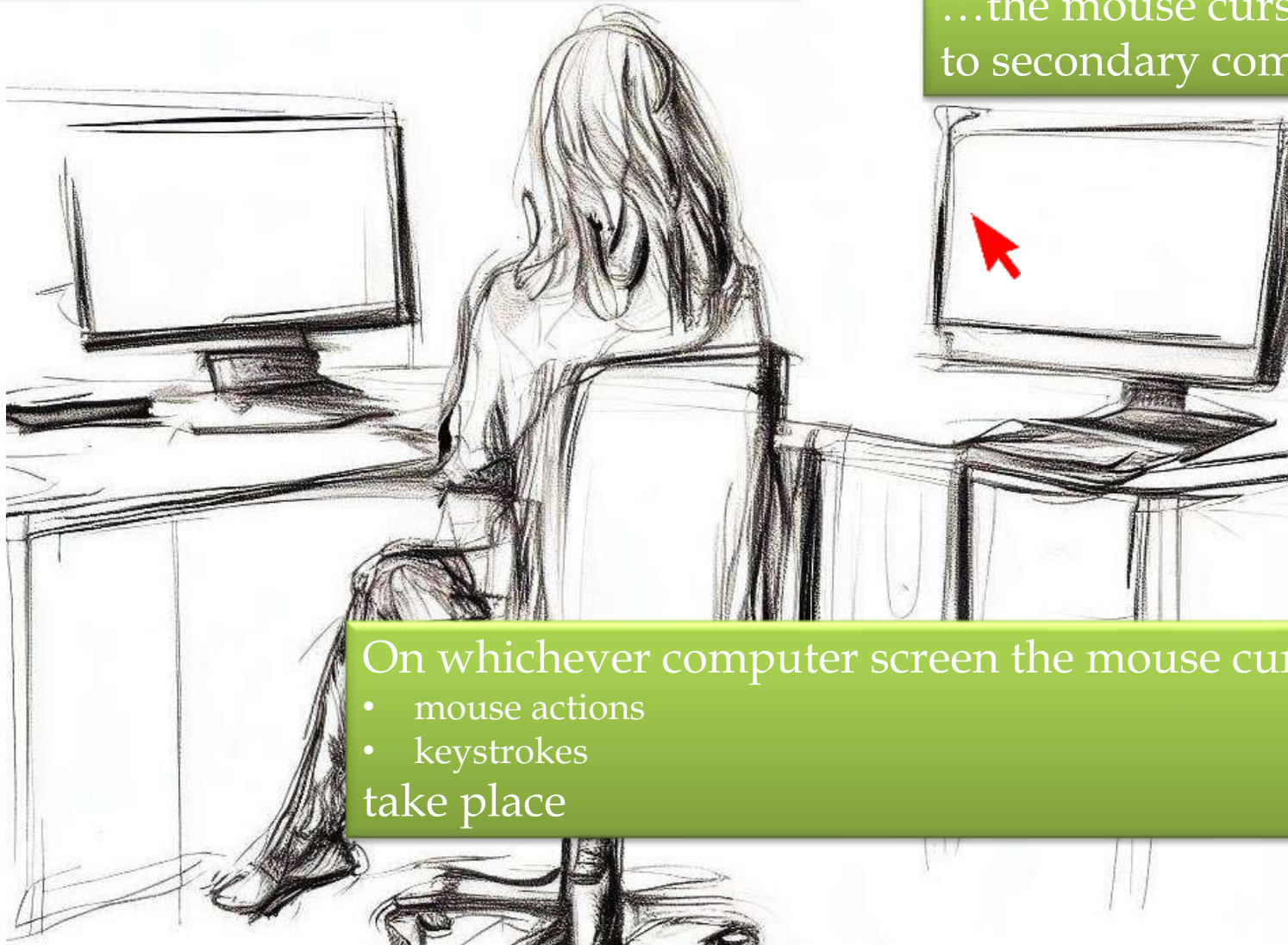
UPDATE



Mouse Without Borders

As soon as the mouse cursor hits the edge of the screen...

...the mouse cursor pops over to secondary computer



On whichever computer screen the mouse cursor appears

- mouse actions
- keystrokes

take place



Copying clipboard

- On main computer
 - in any program, copy content to clipboard
 - Ctrl-C
 - right-click and choose Copy
 - use toolbar or menu Copy option
- Move mouse to second computer
 - place cursor in document where you want content
 - paste clipboard
 - Ctrl-V
 - right-click and choose Paste
 - use toolbar or menu option to Paste
- Clipboard contents are pasted in document on second computer



Copying files

- On main computer
 - copy one or more files in File Explorer
 - Ctrl-C
 - right-click and choose Copy
 - use toolbar Copy option
- Move mouse to secondary computer
 - paste file in File Explorer
 - Ctrl-V
 - right-click and choose Paste
 - use toolbar Paste option
- File is copied from main to secondary computer



Many options

- Control up to four computers
 - main and up to three secondary
- Move mouse to other computer only if holding down Shift or Ctrl
- Hotkey to lock secondary screen or all screens
- Hotkey to switch between computers
 - rather than manually moving the mouse to other computer
- More...
- Tutorial
 - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/powertoys/mouse-without-borders>

UPDATE Peek

- Preview file content
- Various file types
 - *including images, web pages, Markdown files, text files, and developer files*
 - I found it also works with PDF files
 - doesn't work with Microsoft Office file types
- Not sure I see the point
 - unless your default program takes a long time to open
- Tutorial
 - <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/powertoys/peek>



Peek

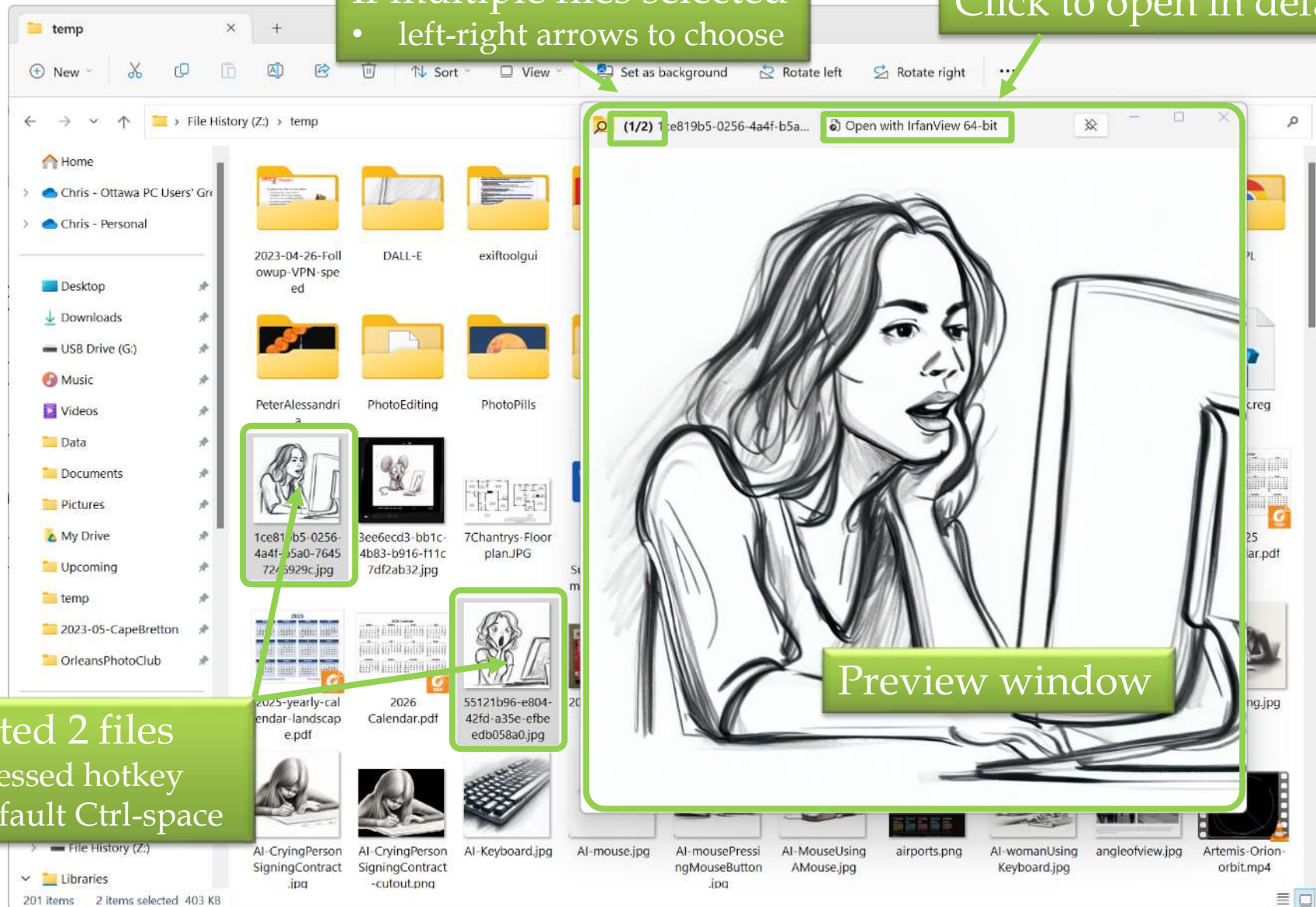
If multiple files selected

- left-right arrows to choose

Click to open in default app

Selected 2 files

- pressed hotkey
- default Ctrl-space





Getting the PowerToys

- One monolithic installation
 - all 21 PowerToys
 - can enable or disable any of them
 - <https://github.com/microsoft/PowerToys/releases/>

Most recent release at top

Release v0.70.0 Latest

Scroll down to **Assets**

- make sure you don't scroll to an older release

▼ Assets

PowerToysSetup-0.70.0-x64.exe

Download & install
PowerToysSetup-#.##.##-x64.exe



AOMEI Backupper

- I am thinking of installing and using the AOMEI Backupper standard backup program.
- Chris gave this program a favourable review in February 2016 at:
<https://www.opcug.ca/Articles/1602.pdf>
- As far as you know, is the current 2023 version of AOMEI Backupper still a good program?
- Do you know typically how much of a performance increase the paid version of this program might offer over that of the free version?



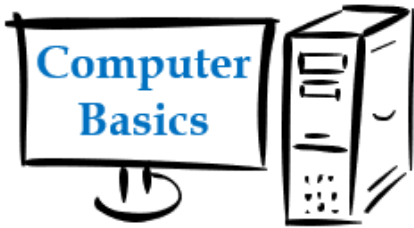
**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



**Britannia Park
Trolley/Picnic Station
June 14, 2023**



New this year! If you want to be fed and watered, you must
Register by E-mail to: pizzaparty@opcug.ca



A member wants to know about cookies

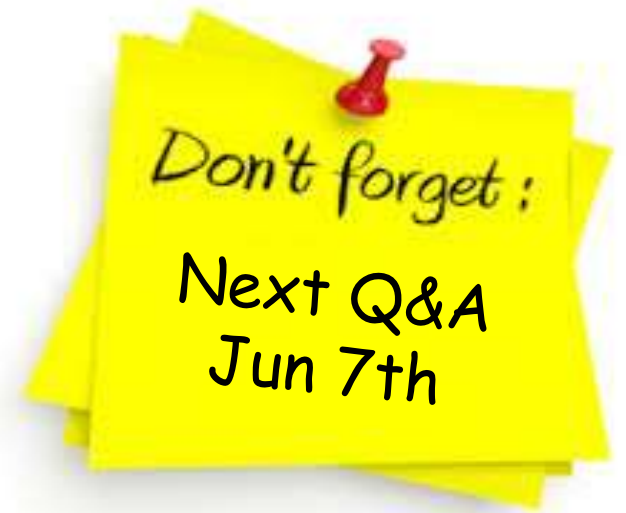
- What cookies are being used?
- What do they do?
- Which are required?
- Which can be refused?
- How?

CBC lists 73 cookie types!
<https://www.cbc.ca/mycbc/viewcookies>

Can you answer (some of) these questions?

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca





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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca