



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

June 21, 2023

Follow Up Donating old tech

- Q&A 2023-05-31
 - options for getting rid of old tech
 - charity or for profit
 - sell or donate
 - reuse or recycle
 - Martin Rice was looking to
 - *donate to a charity that would reuse*



- Jan 9, 2019 OPCUG presentation by Zeina Osman
I – 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.compu corps.org/>

Ideas added to Chat window

- <https://www.freecycle.org> or kijiji
- craigslist
- facebook groups
- <https://www.hwfottawa.org/>
- <https://cciottawa.ca/finding-computers-for-newcomers/>



- 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





National
Capital
FreeNet

- Partners with VALORITEC
 - registered e-waste recycler & work-creation social enterprise
- Drop off old electronic items
 - [1305 Richmond Road, Suite 206, Ottawa K2B 7Y4](#)
 - computers/computer parts, modems & routers, printers, monitors, TVs, VCRs & DVD players, cell phones, scanners, cables, & old computer disks during office hours
 - don't leave things in lobby or in front of door
- Can specify “recycle” or “reuse”
- Donating a modem or router?
 - they provide as affordable modem for other NCF members
- Unsure if they can recycle something?
 - email SUPPORT@NCF.CA or call 613-721-1773 ext. 0.



Are E-mail security alerts valid?

A security alert for my "PC id" account reads as follows:

This email is a new security alert to help you monitor the activity on your "PC id" account. You will continue to receive these alerts for any new device that accesses your account in the future.

You recently signed into your "PC id" account from a new device. If this was you or someone in your household, or if you recently registered a new account with us, you can ignore this notification.

- **Login information:** <Correct E-mail address>
- **Time:** The date and time I had accessed my account were correct.
- **Device: Chrome 11, Windows 10**
Not correct - I use HP Pavillion laptop, Windows 11
I do not own Chrome 11
- **Location: Etobicoke, ON, (approximate, can vary if you are on VPN).**
I am not on VPN. The device and location were the same for both "PC id" and PayPal alerts).
- **If this wasn't you, we recommend you change your password.** I changed my passwords right away.

Are these genuine alerts?

If not, why am I getting these alerts?



Genuine warnings

- Such warnings often occur when two different devices (e.g. a Windows computer and an Android smartphone) are used to access the same account at different times
- Note the portion of the message that says: *You recently signed into your "PC id" account from a new device.*
- The browser may not be reporting itself (Chrome) or the operating system (Windows 10) accurately
- “Etobicoke” probably refers to the location of your ISP’s web server rather than your physical location (Ottawa)
- Sometimes a service will ask you to confirm “*Is this you?*”



A new sign-in on Windows



alan.german@opcug.ca

We noticed a new sign-in to your Google Account on a Windows device.
If this was you, you don't need to do anything. If not, we'll help you
secure your account.

[Check activity](#)

You can also see security activity at
<https://myaccount.google.com/notifications>

You received this email to let you know about important changes to your Google Account and services.

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Hi Alan,

A new web browser just signed in to your Dropbox account. To help keep your account secure, let us know if this is you.

Is this you?

When:

Jun 16, 2023 at 8:26 am (EDT)

What:

Chrome on Windows

Yes

No

[I'm not sure](#)

Learn more on how to [protect your account](#).

Thanks,

- The Dropbox Team

Yep, that's you.

Thanks for confirming! That's all we need to know. This information helps keep your account secure. Really.

Interested in other ways you can keep your account secure?



Use the Security
Checkup Tool



More ways to protect
your account



YouTube Tech

- Some OPCUG members must use YouTube and can identify gems that would be of interest to others
- What YouTube videos or channels would you recommend?
- Restrict suggestions for Q&A to tech items (no cute cats or babies!)



A

ExplainingComputers

- Weekly videos on computing and related topics
- Building and upgrading PC hardware
- Linux and other operating systems
- Raspberry Pi and other single board computers
- Hot topics such as RISC-V and quantum computing



ExplainingComputers ✓

@ExplainingComputers • 933K subscribers

Weekly videos on computing and related topics. ExplainingComputers is produced and presented by Christopher Barnatt, who ...

<https://www.youtube.com/@ExplainingComputers>

Explaining Wi-Fi: 802.11 Standards & Generations



Year	IEEE Standard	Freq (GHz)	Maximum Speed
1999	802.11b	2.4	11 Mbps
1999	802.11a	5.0	54 Mbps
2003	802.11g	2.4	54 Mbps
2008	802.11n	2.4 & 5.0	600 Mbps
2013	802.11ac	5.0	6,933 Mbps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSq1TYTiESA>

A

xxx in 100 seconds

A series of short videos on programming languages and other aspects of computer technology

<https://www.youtube.com/@Fireship>



C in 100 Seconds

Fireship ✓

2M views • 1 year ago

Python in 100 Seconds

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7X9w_GIm1s

Linux Directories Explained in 100 Seconds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42iQKuQodW4>

A



Where GREP Came From

Grep was written overnight, but why and how did it get its name? Professor Brian Kernighan explains



Why C is so Influential
How TOR Works
Holy Grail of AI

How to Choose a Password
Quantum Computing 'Magic'
The Blockchain & Bitcoin

<https://www.youtube.com/@Computerphile>

A

Dave's Garage



- A somewhat geeky channel from Dave Plummer, a former Microsoft operating systems programmer
- Lots of interesting tidbits on the history of Windows
- DIY info and practical step-by-step tutorials
- From hobbyist to engineer, everyone is welcome!

<https://www.youtube.com/@DavesGarage>



Lon Reviews Tech Channel

- *"I try before you buy!"*
- A gadget guy who reviews consumer electronics concisely and honestly
- One of the most unbiased, independent, general tech reviewers I have found

Stewart Bruce



<https://www.youtube.com/@LonSeidman>

A MrMobile



- The latest and greatest in the mobile world
- Mobile technology videos for the discerning gadget enthusiast, brought to you by Michael Fisher
- Writer, sailor, podcaster and recovering actor whose childhood obsession with science fiction never ... quite ... faded



<https://www.youtube.com/@TheMrMobile>

Stewart Bruce

Consumer Report – A Tale of Three Laptops

INCLUDING

- **A review of the HP ENVY X360 15 Laptop**

AND

- **A report on HP Envy and HP Pavilion Laptop Hinge Problems**

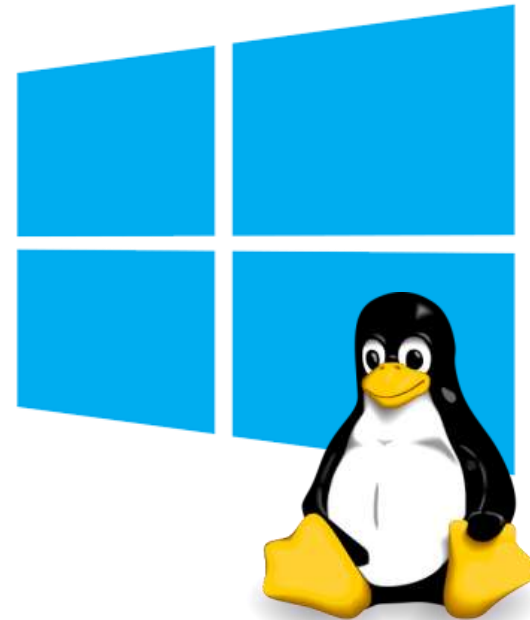


Bob Walker



Windows Subsystem for Linux

- What are the uses of Windows Subsystem for Linux?
- Is it better or worse than:
 - dual booting
 - virtual machine(s)



<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/wsl/install>



Bob's friend says...



What are the uses of Windows Subsystem for Linux?

The Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) is a compatibility layer that enables running Linux distributions natively on Windows operating systems. It provides a way to leverage the power of both Windows and Linux environments simultaneously.

- **Development Environment:** Access a wide range of Linux utilities, command-line tools, and scripting languages
- **Command-Line Tools:** Run Linux commands/scripts
- **Web Development:** Tools and frameworks, such as Node.js, Ruby, Python, and PHP, have better support and performance on Linux systems
- **Testing and Porting:** Developers can ensure the compatibility of their Linux software with Windows
- **Learning Linux:** Learn and experiment with Linux
- **DevOps and Containerization:** Docker, Kubernetes, and other containerization technologies can utilize WSL to run Linux containers seamlessly on Windows systems.



Bob's friend also says...

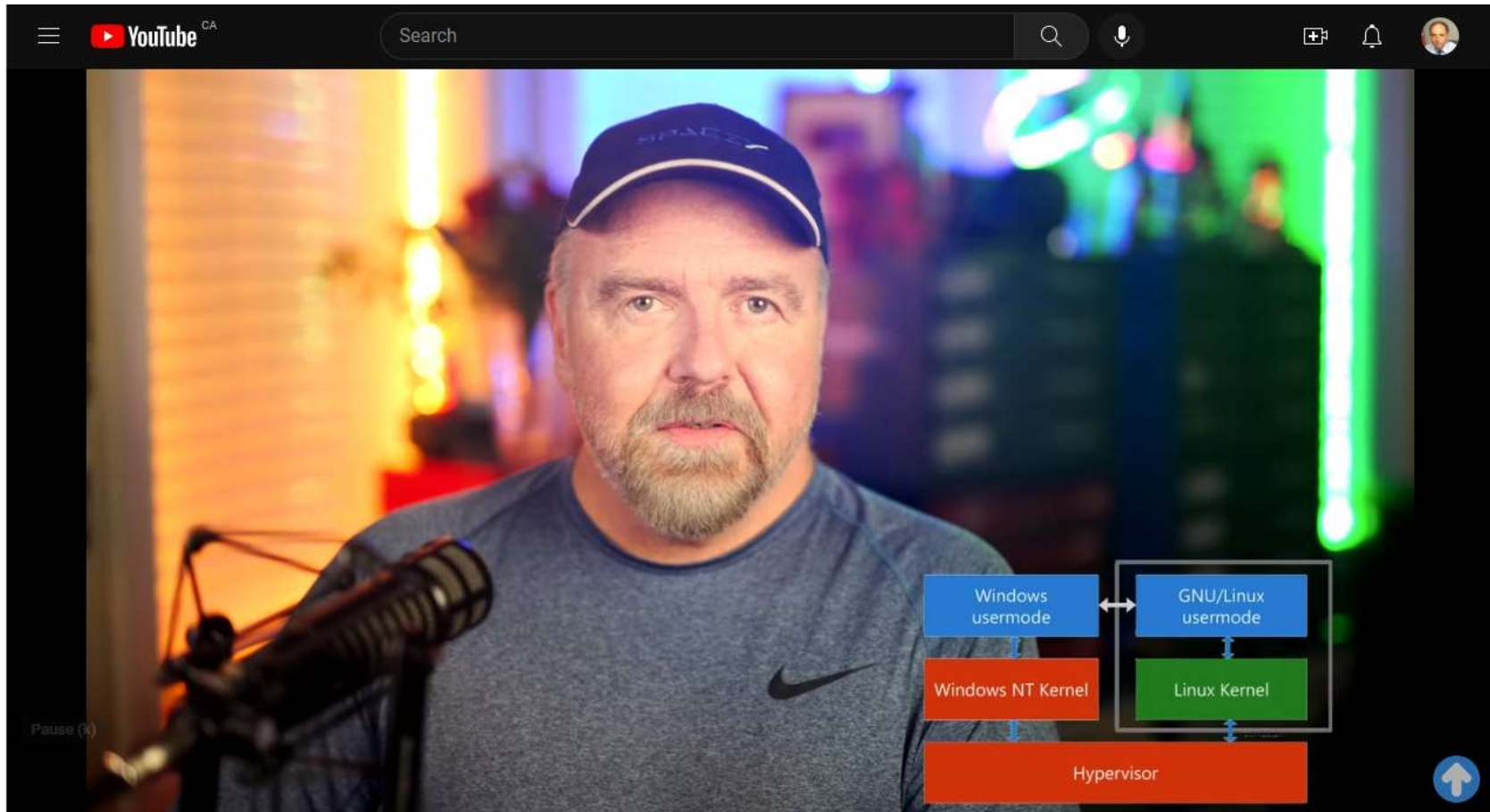


Is WSL better or worse than dual booting or using a virtual machine?

Whether WSL is better or worse than dual booting or using a virtual machine depends on your specific needs and preferences.

- **Convenience:** Seamlessly switch between Windows and Linux environments without the need to reboot
- **Performance:** Comparable or better performance than virtual machines
- **Compatibility:** Running Linux distributions without the need for a separate installation or virtualization
- **Isolation:** Virtual machines provide a higher level of isolation compared to WSL
- **Resource Usage:** WSL generally consumes fewer system resources compared to running a full VM
- For apps requiring GPU acceleration, low-level access to hardware or specific kernel features, dual-boot or a VM may be more suitable
- The choice depends on your specific requirements

And, Dave Plummer says... it uses a Hypervisor!



Windows and Linux: Together at Last?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clZCrVZH4Gg>



Which free VM manager is recommended?

- Is there a free VM manager that you recommend for Linux and Windows?





VirtualBox



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

Volume 40, Number 5

May 2023

ARTICLE

Exploring Linux – Part 30: Three Ways to Try Linux – VirtualBox Configuration

by Alan German

In the previous article in this series we created a virtual machine (VM) running Linux Mint 21 Cinnamon Edition using VirtualBox in Windows 10. The program window is shown in the screenshot. The Mint desktop, with a black background, should look familiar since it is almost the same as when we ran Mint as a live-USB. The exception is the *Install Linux Mint* icon which is no longer visible as we have now installed Mint as the operating system for our VM.

One thing that those who are running their computer on a Wi-Fi connection might have noticed when the VM booted up was a *Connection Established* pop-up message that indicated *You are now connected to "Wired connection 1"*. Despite the wording,

<https://opcug.ca/Articles/2305NEWS.pdf>

VMWare Workstation 2.0

by Chris Taylor

I have been running Windows 2000 for over a year now and think it is by far the best operating system I have used. However, being built on the NT kernel, there are some programs that won't run and vendors have been slow to come out with hardware drivers. Worms Armageddon is a great game I have, but it won't run under Win2K. I also have a digital camera. The vendor does not supply a Win2K driver.

For these reasons, I have my machine set to dual boot with Windows ME. But I really hate to reboot into another operating system.

Then I heard about VMWare Workstation 2.0. It is designed to run on Windows NT, Windows 2000 or Linux and allows you to configure virtual machines (the VM in VMWare). Those VMs can run DOS, Windows 3.1/95/98/NT/2K, FreeBSD 2.2.x/3.x or Linux (currently supported are Red Hat 5/6, Caldera 1.3/2.x, SuSE 5.3/6.x, TurboLinux 6.0, and Corel Linux).



Was this to be the nirvana I was looking for - never having to reboot and simply run another OS from within Win2K? I just had to find out.

<https://opcug.ca/Reviews/vmware2.html>

VMware

Mar 9, 2016	Members' Favourites	<i>Jeff Dubois presented VMware Player & Wearable Technologies. Chris Taylor explored remote desktop options. Jocelyn Doire discussed computer-aided design (CAD) options. Bob Walker examined the reasons, advantages, disadvantages for upgrading to a Solid State Drives (SSD).</i>
Apr 8, 2015	Brian White, VTSP, VCP-DCV, Senior Systems Engineer, VMWare Canada	<i>Virtualization 101 End User Computing: Access at the Speed of Life</i>
May 2001	Chris Taylor, OPCUG	VMWare and Microsoft Office XP



Multi-Cloud
Services

Products

Products > VMware Workstation Player

Local Virtual Machines

VMware Workstation Player

Easily run multiple operating systems as virtual machines on your Windows or Linux PC with VMware Workstation Player.

DOWNLOAD FOR FREE

<https://www.vmware.com/content/vmware/vmware-published-sites/us/products/workstation-player.html.html>

Best virtual machine software of 2023

By Mark Pickavance | Contributions from Brian Turner last updated February 01, 2023

Run different operating systems on your PC



1. VMware Workstation Player
2. VirtualBox
3. Parallels Desktop (Apple)
4. QEMU
5. Citrix Hypervisor
6. Xen Project
7. Microsoft Hyper-V

Share

File History recommendations

- Windows 10 edition

- *File History* provides two levels of protection
 - near-realtime backup of important – *mostly data* – files
 - easy versioning of files
 - potentially years of versions
- Not a substitute for image backup of complete computer
 - image backup provides much easier disaster recovery
- Not a substitute for offsite backup
 - offsite backup provides protection against some disasters
- All three work together to provide comprehensive recovery capabilities

Share

Previous *File History* info

- 2020-03 newsletter - *File History*
 - <https://opcug.ca/Articles/2003NEWS.pdf>
 - if you are new to *File History*, be sure to read this one
- 2023-02-15 Q&A - Tweaking *File History*
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230215_PowerPoint.pdf
- 2022-05-25 Q&A - *File History*: upgrading to a new computer
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20220525_PowerPoint.pdf
- 2021-02-03 Q&A - Broken *File History*
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20210203_PowerPoint.pdf
- 2023-02-22 Q&A Chris's Rant - **Windows 11** and *File History*
 - https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230222_PowerPoint.pdf

File History defaults

- Backup new/changed files: *Every hour*
 - options: many options between *Every 10 minutes* and *Daily*
 - recommended: frequent to give best near-realtime protection
- Keep backups: *Forever*
 - options: many options between *1 month* and *2 years*, *Until space is required*, and *Forever*
 - recommendation: anything but *Forever*
 - *Forever* will eventually fill the drive and require manual intervention
- Folders to backup: **long** list including *Documents, Pictures, Downloads, Desktop, Music*, **some** folders in *Public* profile, *OneDrive, AppData\Roaming*, etc.
 - options: any folders you want
 - *don't forget – this week I am only covering File History in Windows 10*
 - recommended: ...it's complicated

Folders to back up

- Microsoft *Answers* forum
- Which directories does File History backup?
 - Answer: File History will be set to back up back up **important** folders in your user account's home folder. This **includes** the Desktop, Documents, Downloads, Music, Pictures, Videos folders. It also **includes** the Roaming folder where many programs store application data, your OneDrive folder, and **other folders**.
 - Response: I've read the marketing stuff and the help pages on File History and from what I can tell it is far from clear exactly how it is choosing which folders and files to back up. The list you, and the marketing material, quote is far from definitive AND it does not agree with what I see in practice.

Share

Folders to back up

- Include only default folders where your important data files are stored
 - folders containing files where you want:
 - near-realtime backup
 - version history so you can recover old versions of file
- Remove default folders not meeting the above criteria
- Add folders meeting the criteria not included by default
 - e.g. a folder with data files stored on a different drive

Back up these folders



Add a folder

Defaults on my laptop

Saved Games	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Links	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Downloads	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Favourites	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Contacts	C:\Users\CTaylor	
OneDrive - Personal	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Desktop	C:\Users\CTaylor	
3D Objects	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Searches	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Utils	C:\Users\CTaylor	
My Drive	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Intel	C:\Users\CTaylor	
ansel	C:\Users\CTaylor	
.QtWebEngineProcess	C:\Users\CTaylor	
.dotnet	C:\Users\CTaylor	
.android	C:\Users\CTaylor	
.AdvertisingPopup	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Pictures	C:\Users\CTaylor\OneDrive	
Pictures	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Documents1Drive	C:\Users\CTaylor\OneDrive	
Documents	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Camera Roll	C:\Users\CTaylor\Pictures	
Videos	C:\Users\CTaylor	
Saved Pictures	C:\Users\CTaylor\Pictures	
Music	C:\Users\CTaylor\OneDrive	
Music	C:\Users\CTaylor	

Folders to remove from being backed up

Don't use OneDrive

Don't need

Probably don't need

Left with

- C:\Users\CTaylor\My Drive
- C:\Users\CTaylor\Pictures
- C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents

If you see **C:\Users\username\AppData**

- you might want to remove it
- it's huge
- it probably doesn't include any files you are ever going to try to recover

Share

Next week

Another *Chris's Rants*

File History in Windows 11

Hint: it's a mess

...and it's likely to get worse

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

SALTWIRE



- Are you a displaced Newfoundlander missing the salty kiss of the cod?
- Fret no more, here's your...
- Regional News!

<https://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador/>



- Are your Irish or Scottish roots actually native to the Ottawa Valley?
- Do you still recall the nuances of the Ottawa Valley brogue?
- Want news from “home”?
- InsideOttawaValley.com plays a key role in the community, delivering news and information that's important to you.

<https://www.insideottawavalley.com/>



Reliable VOIP?

- I use Fongo for making and receiving occasional VOIP phone calls for free while travelling
- Fongo is sometimes unavailable when I want to make or receive calls
- Does Fongo Plus (\$9.99/month) improve the reliability of the Fongo service or does it only add US calling, etc. with the same reliability as the free service
- I need occasional service for 3 months in Canada on my Galaxy A54 Android smartphone
- Can you recommend an inexpensive, more reliable month-to-month service?



Two possibilities

Not free

- Glen might be better off using ~~Skype~~ or WhatsApp for calling while traveling
- WhatsApp – Messaging, telephone call, video conference



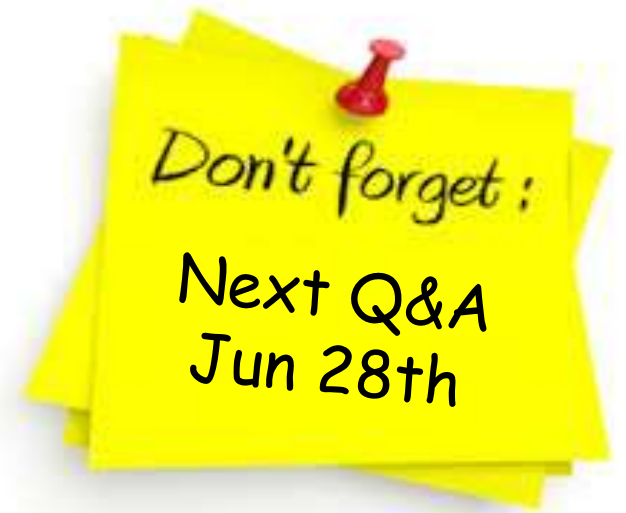
Simple, reliable, private messaging and calling for free, available all over the world

<https://www.whatsapp.com>

Bob Walker



**Any other:
Questions
Comments
Shares?**



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

SuggestionBox@opcug.ca