



Alan German & Chris Taylor

Ottawa PC Users' Group

July 26, 2023

Share

FreeFileSync – Part 4

Replacing
Windows *File History*
with
FreeFileSync

Part 4 – adding folders

Share

Our *FreeFileSync* journey

Want to replace *File History* with *FreeFileSync*

- Why? https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230628_PowerPoint.pdf

Q&A 2023-07-05

https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230705_PowerPoint.pdf

- mirror *C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents* to *E:\Backup\Document*



Q&A 2023-07-12

https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230712_PowerPoint.pdf

- automate the process



Q&A 2023-07-19

https://opcug.ca/qa_recordings/20230719_PowerPoint.pdf

- preserve old versions of files



This week

- add more folders



Share

Backup situation so far...

PART 1

- **E:\Backup\Documents**
will always have exactly the same files as
C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents

PART 2

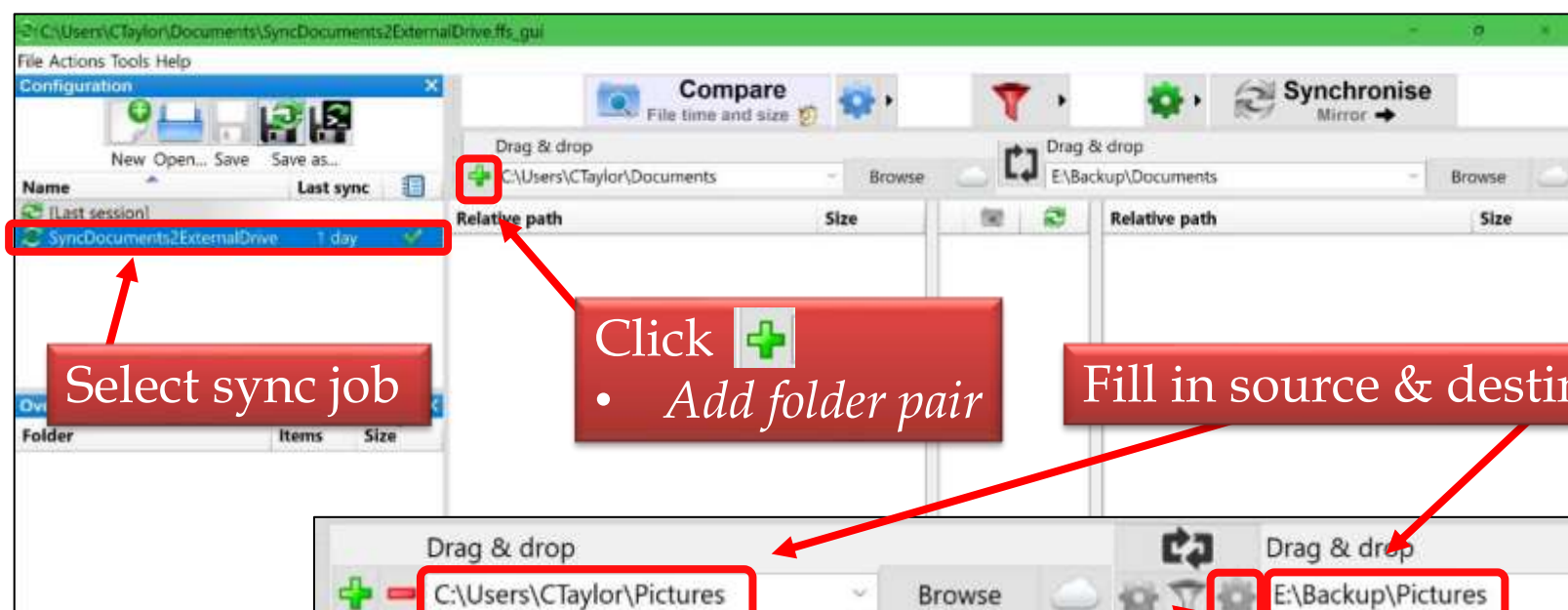
- Checked every 5 minutes for changes

PART 3

- **E:\Versions\Documents**
 - has old versions of files

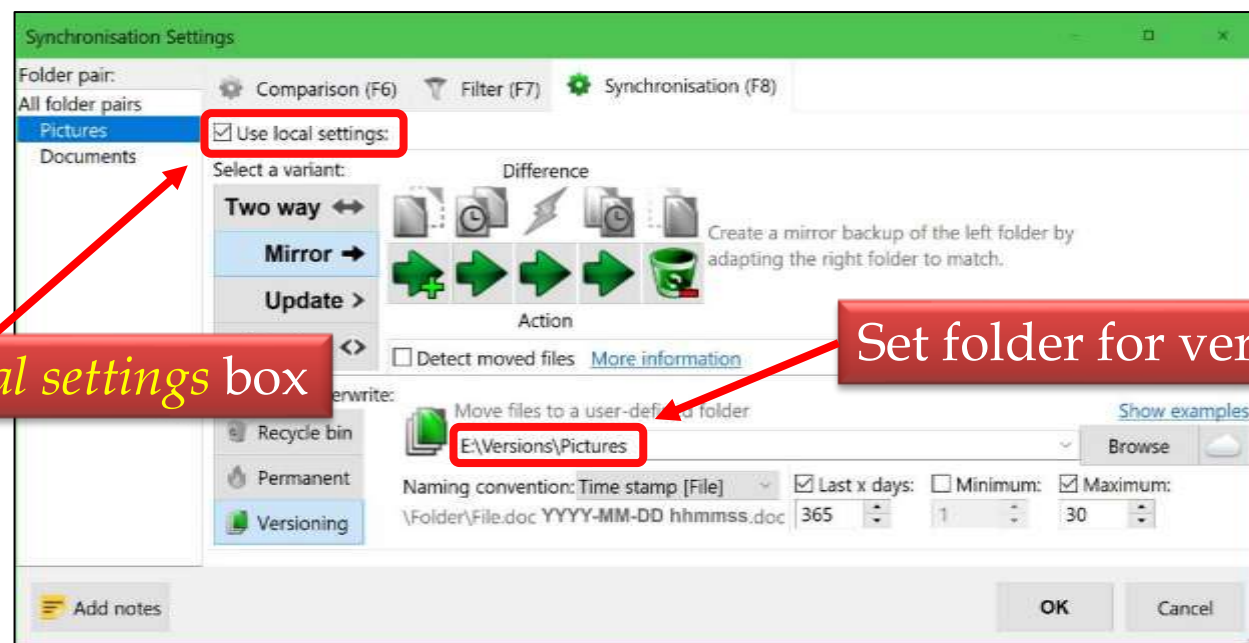
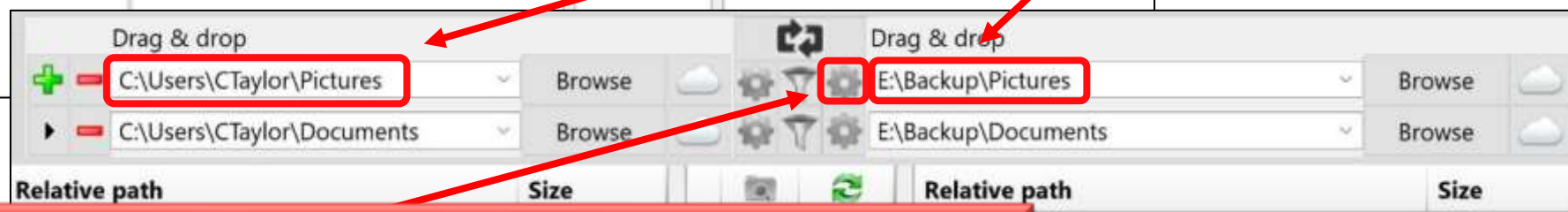
Most people have more than one location with files they want to back up





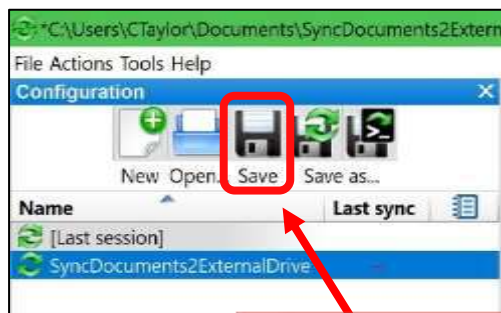
Select sync job

Fill in source & destination

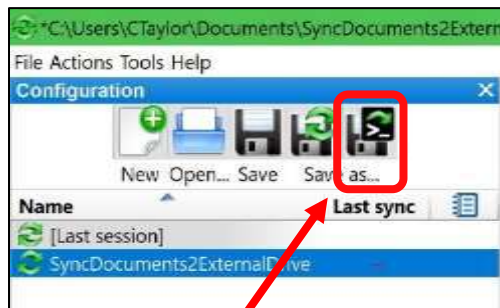


Check **Use local settings** box

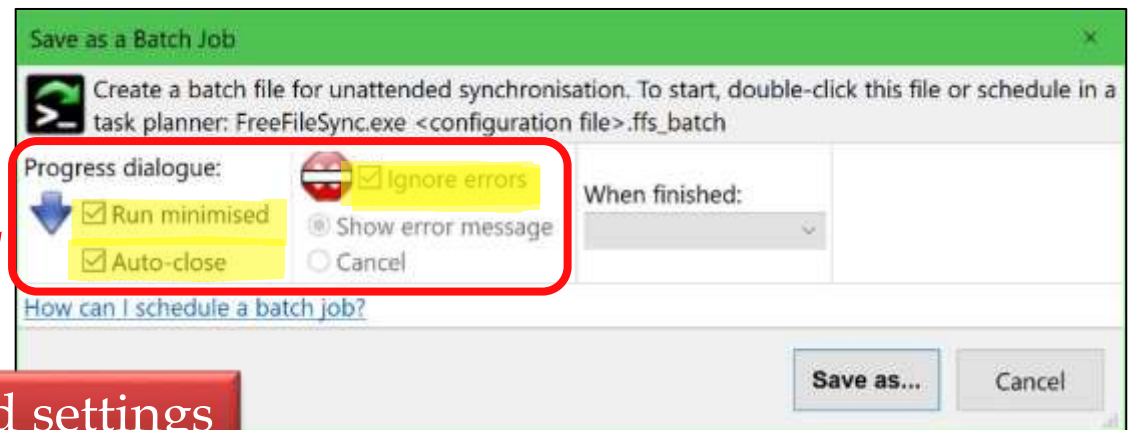
Set folder for versions



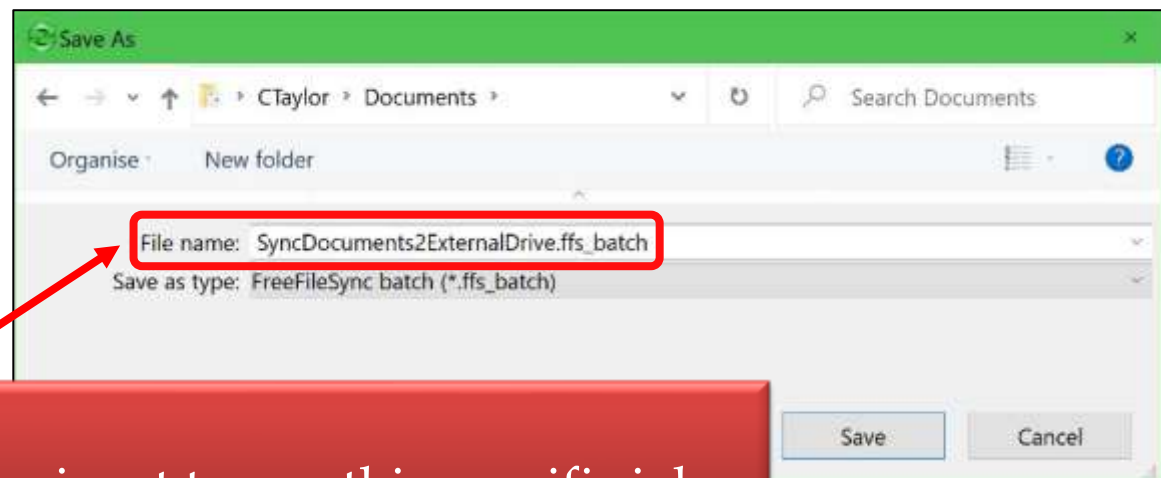
Save the sync job



Save as batch job



Keep old settings



Keep same filename

- Windows Task Scheduler is set to run this specific job

Share

Results

- **E:\Backup\Documents**
will have exactly the same files as
C:\Users\CTaylor\Documents
- **E:\Backup\Pictures**
will have exactly the same files as
C:\Users\CTaylor\Pictures
- checked every 5 minutes for changes
- **E:\Versions\Documents**
- **E:\Versions\Pictures**
 - will have old versions of files

NEW



NEW



AND WE'RE DONE!

Share

FreeFileSync – More Options

FreeFileSync 12.4 is available! ★

Compare
File time and size

Synchronize
Two way

Drag & drop
D:\

Drag & drop
U:\

Relative path	Size	Date
temporary_screenshot.png	42,132	2023-07-22 11:57:43 AM
AFAI Final Report	630,857	2023-07-22 11:10:33 AM
AFAI Draft Final Report - Appendix ...	1,743,044	2023-07-22 11:19:59 AM
Jean-Louis 2023-07-14_Draft Case Review text - JLC ...	126,762	2023-07-22 10:56:11 AM
alan\opcug presentations 0_index.txt	41,849	2023-07-22 11:47:15 AM
z_freefilesync.pptx	568,810	2023-07-22 12:38:16 PM
-Sz_freefilesync.pptx	165	2023-07-22 5:02:48 PM
fpc a_linux_progress.txt	1,690	2023-07-22 11:46:47 AM
form01_code.txt	626	2023-07-21 3:28:56 PM
project1	26,010,744	2023-07-22 9:11:04 AM
project1.ico	65,738	2023-07-22 9:09:26 AM
project1.lpi	1,884	2023-07-22 9:11:00 AM
project1.lpr	402	2023-07-22 9:09:28 AM
project1.lps	1,014	2023-07-22 9:27:52 AM
project1.res	67,820	2023-07-22 9:27:52 AM
unit1.lfm	550	2023-07-22 9:11:00 AM
unit1.pas	574	2023-07-22 9:11:00 AM
transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt	389,907	2023-07-22 11:50:12 AM

Relative path	Size	Date
AFAI Final Report		
AFAI Final Report Jean-Louis		
alan\opcug presentations 0_index.txt	41,847	2023-07-19 9:42:46 PM
fpc a_linux_progress.txt	1,681	2023-07-18 9:37:54 AM
transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt	389,127	2023-07-20 9:36:50 AM

18 files (28.3 MB)

Showing 18 of 5,048 items

3 files (423 KB)

Select view: = 5,030

Statistics: 0 0 0 28.3 MB 15 2 0

FreeFileSync – Two-Way Synchronization



e.g. Files on DataDisk that may have been created, updated, or deleted - in either Linux or Windows - on my desktop or on my laptop!

FreeFileSync – Update* Synchronization



UpdatedFiles-2
NewFiles

**New/updated
files only
(no deletions)**



OldFiles-1
OldFiles-2
OldFiles-3

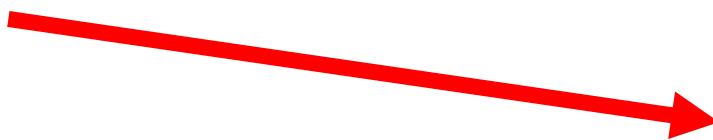
** Option can be called “Contribute” as
files only get added to the backup drive*

FreeFileSync – Update Synchronization



UpdatedFiles-2

NewFiles



OldFiles-1

OldFiles-2

OldFiles-3

NewFiles

Disk Management

File Action View Help

← → ? [Icons]

Volume	Layout	Type	File System	Status	Capacity	Free Spa...	% Free
(Disk 0 partition 1)	Simple	Basic		Healthy (E...	500 MB	500 MB	100 %
(Disk 0 partition 2)	Simple	Basic		Healthy (...)	40 MB	40 MB	100 %
(Disk 0 partition 4)	Simple	Basic		Healthy (R...	2.00 GB	2.00 GB	100 %
(Disk 0 partition 6)	Simple	Basic		Healthy (R...	529 MB	529 MB	100 %
(Disk 0 partition 8)	Simple	Basic		Healthy (R...	11.18 GB	11.18 GB	100 %
(Disk 0 partition 9)	Simple	Basic		Healthy (P...	58.67 GB	58.67 GB	100 %
(Disk 0 partition 10)	Simple	Basic		Healthy (P...	3.83 GB	3.83 GB	100 %
DataDisk (D:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (B...	16.66 GB	11.89 GB	71 %
Windows 10 (C:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS	Healthy (B...	139.38 GB	10.82 GB	8 %

Windows Drive C:

Disk 0
Basic
232.76 GB
Online

500 MB Healthy	40 MB Healthy	2.00 GB Healthy	Windows 10 (C:) 139.38 GB NTFS Healthy (Boot, Pa...	529 MB Healthy	DataDisk (D:) 16.66 GB NTFS Healthy (Basic	11.18 GB Healthy (Recc	58.67 GB Healthy (Primary	3.83 GB Healthy (Pri
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■ Unallocated ■ Primary partition



Disk Management

File Action View Help

Volume

Layout

Type

File System

(Disk 0 partition 1)	Simple	Basic	
(Disk 0 partition 2)	Simple	Basic	
(Disk 0 partition 4)	Simple	Basic	
(Disk 0 partition 6)	Simple	Basic	
(Disk 0 partition 8)	Simple	Basic	
(Disk 0 partition 9)	Simple	Basic	
(Disk 0 partition 10)	Simple	Basic	
DataDisk (D:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS
Windows 10 (C:)	Simple	Basic	NTFS

Disk 0

Basic

232.76 GB

Online

500 MB Healthy	40 I He:	2.00 GB Healthy (R	Windows 10 (C:) 139.38 GB NTFS Healthy (Boot, Pa	529 MB Healthy	DataDisk (D:) 16.66 GB NTFS Healthy (Basic	11.18 GB Healthy (Recc	58.67 GB Healthy (Primary	3.83 GB Healthy (Pri
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Unallocated

Primary partition

Windows:

Drive D:

Volume label DataDisk

Linux:

DataDisk

Mount point /media/DataDisk

D:\bats\OPCUG_website_reset.ffs_gui

FileActionsToolsHelp★ FreeFileSync 12.4 is available! ★

Compare

File time and size

Synchronize

Two way

Drag & drop

D:\

Browse

Drag & drop

U:\

Browse

Relative path	Size	Date
1 temporary_screenshot.png	42,132	2023-07-22 11:57:43 AM
2 AFAI Final Report	AFAI Draft Final Report - 2023-07-22...	630,857 2023-07-22 11:10:33 AM
3	AFAI Draft Final Report - Appendix ...	1,743,044 2023-07-22 11:19:59 AM
4 ... Jean-Louis	2023-07-14_Draft Case Review text - JLC ...	126,762 2023-07-22 10:56:11 AM
5 alan\opcug presentations	0_index.txt	41,849 2023-07-22 11:47:15 AM
6	z_freefilesync.pptx	568,810 2023-07-22 12:38:16 PM
7	~Sz_freefilesync.pptx	165 2023-07-22 5:02:48 PM
8 fpc a_linux_progress.txt	1,690 2023-07-22 11:46:47 AM	
9	form01_code.txt	626 2023-07-21 3:28:56 PM
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13	project1.lpr	402 2023-07-22 9:09:28 AM
14	project1.lps	1,014 2023-07-22 9:27:52 AM
15	project1.res	67,820 2023-07-22 9:27:52 AM
16	unit1.lfm	550 2023-07-22 9:11:00 AM
17	unit1.pas	574 2023-07-22 9:11:00 AM
18 transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt	389,907	2023-07-22 11:50:12 AM

18 files (28.3 MB)

Showing 18 of 5,048 items

3 files (423 KB)

Select view:

= 5,030

15

2

1

Statistics:

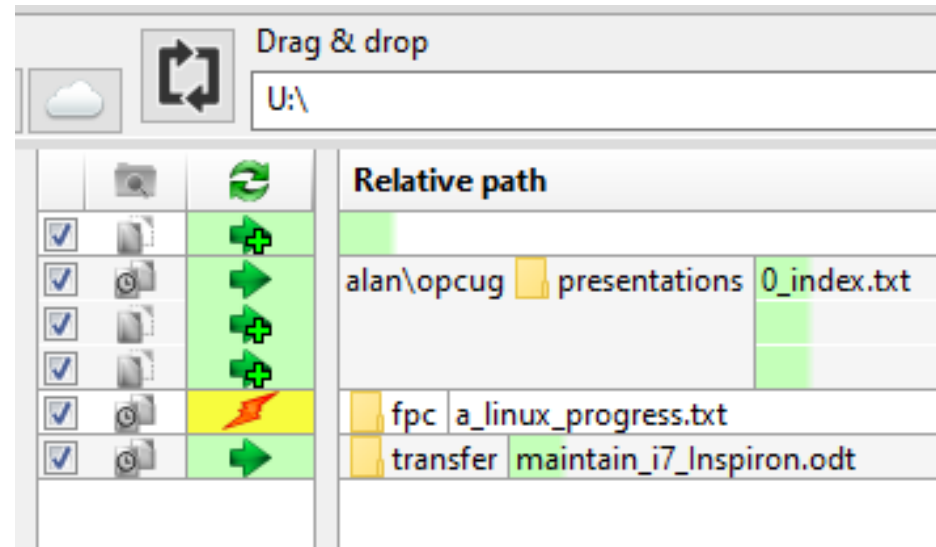
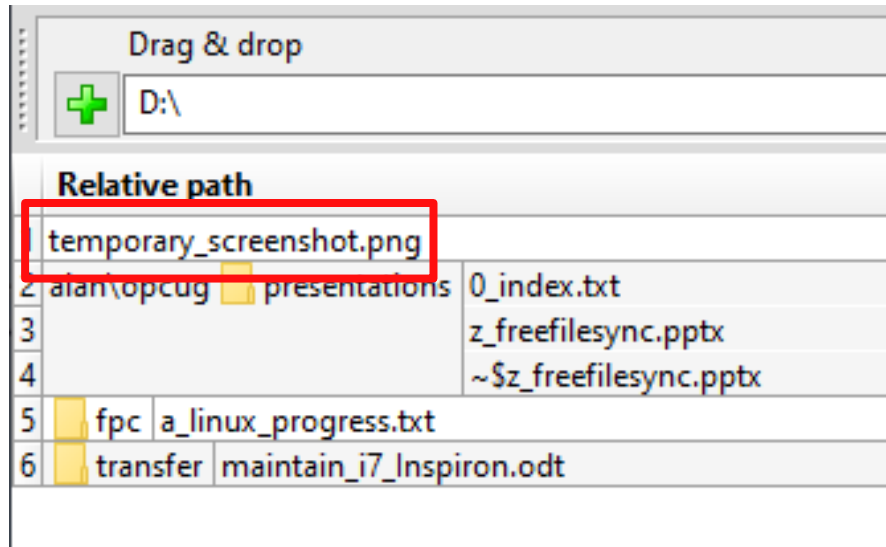
0 0 0 28.3 MB 15 2 0

Drag & drop		
D:\		
Relative path		
1	temporary_screenshot.png	
2	AFAI Final Report	AFAI Draft Final Report - 2023-07-22...
3		AFAI Draft Final Report - Appendix ...
4	... Jean-Louis	2023-07-14_Draft Case Review text - JLC ...
5	alan\opcug presentations	0_index.txt
6		z_freefilesync.pptx
7		~\$z_freefilesync.pptx
8	fpc	a_linux_progress.txt
9		form01_code.txt
10		project1
11		project1.ico

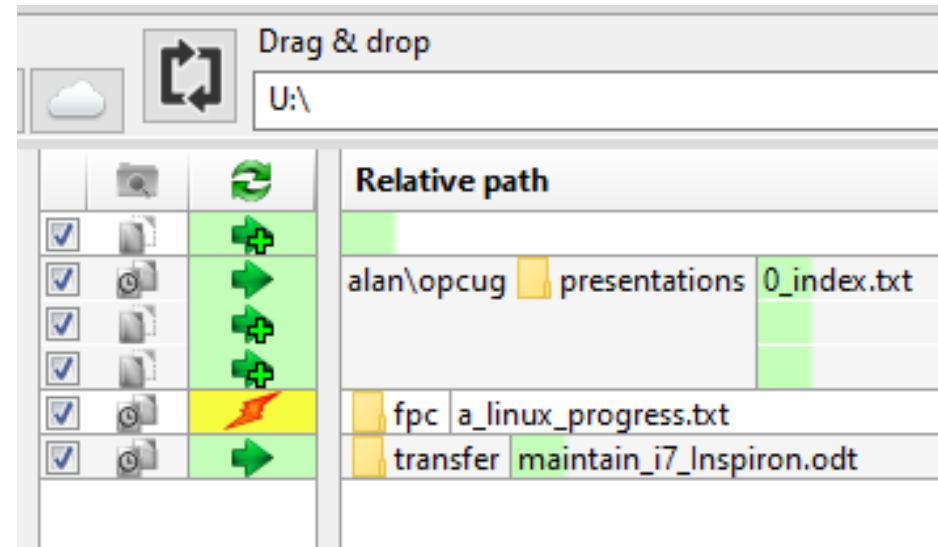
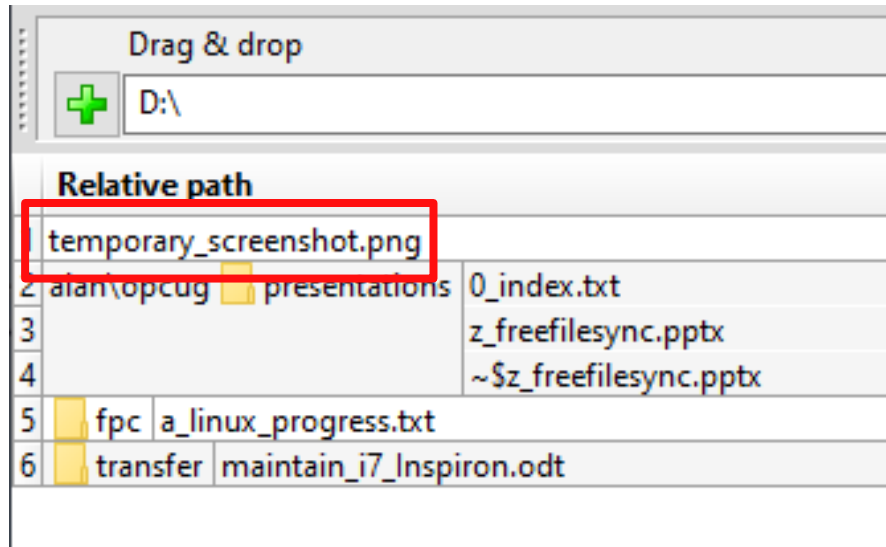
Drag & drop		
U:\		
Relative path		
	AFAI Final Report	
	AFAI Final Report	Jean-Louis
	alan\opcug presentations	0_index.txt
	fpc	a_linux_progress.txt

Drag & drop			Drag & drop		
D:\			U:\		
Relative path			Relative path		
1	temporary_screenshot.png				
2	AFAI Final Report	AFAI Draft Final Report - 2023-07-22...		AFAI Final Report	
3		AFAI Draft Final Report - Appendix ...			
4	... Jean-Louis	2023-07-14_Draft Case Review text - JLC ...		AFAI Final Report	Jean-Louis
5	alan\opcug	presentations 0_index.txt		alan\opcug	presentations 0_index.txt
6		z_freefilesync.pptx			
7		~\$z_freefilesync.pptx			
8	fpc	a_linux_progress.txt		fpc	a_linux_progress.txt
9		form01_code.txt			
10		project1			
11		project1.ico			

Green right-arrow with plus sign
 New files – Exist on D: but not on U:
 Files will be copied to backup

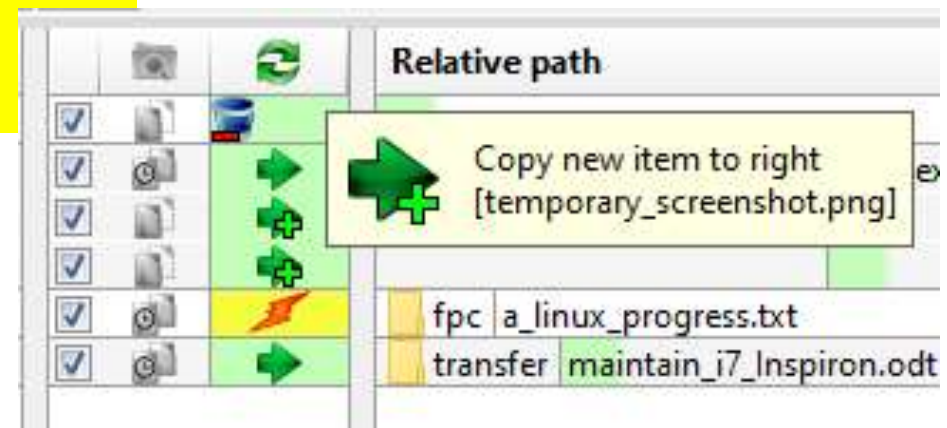


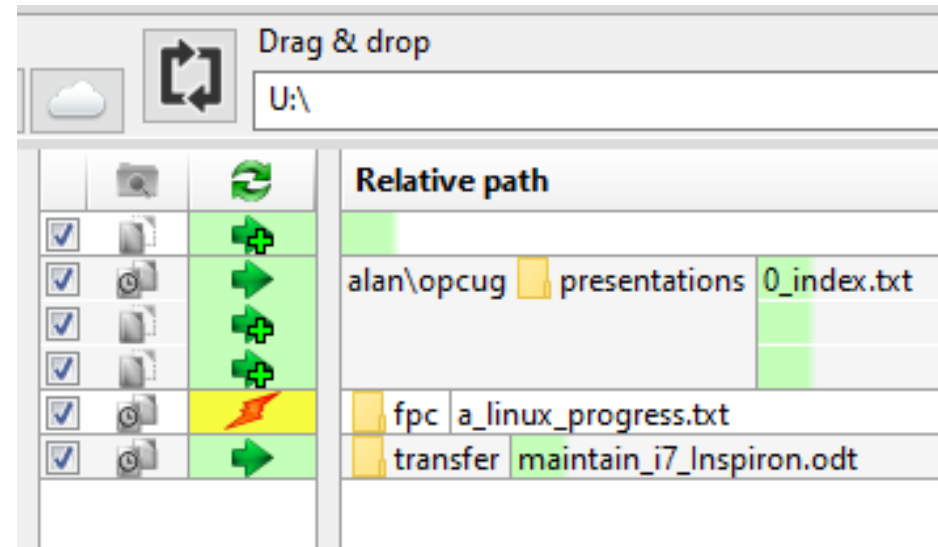
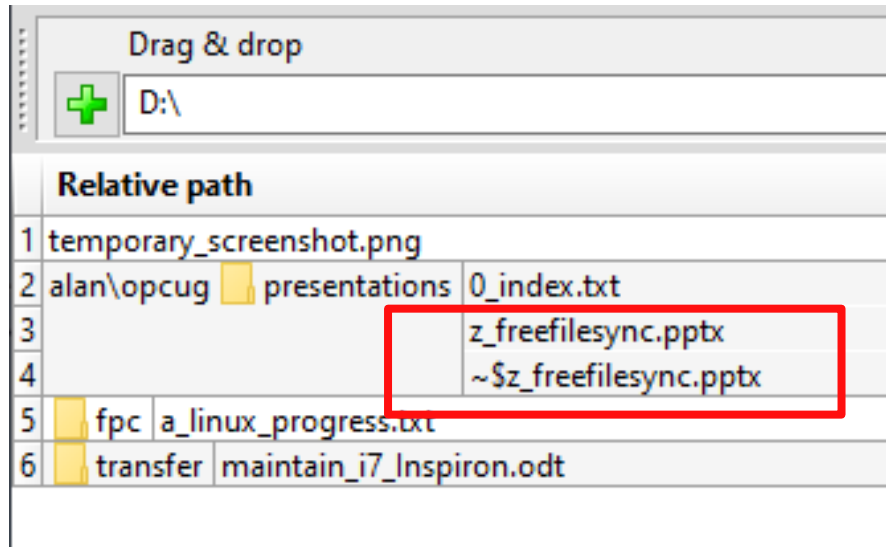
Screenshot file – one-time use
No longer required
Delete rather than backup



Screenshot file – one-time use
 No longer required
 Delete rather than backup

Hover the mouse over the
 right-arrow, scroll to the
 left to select **Delete**

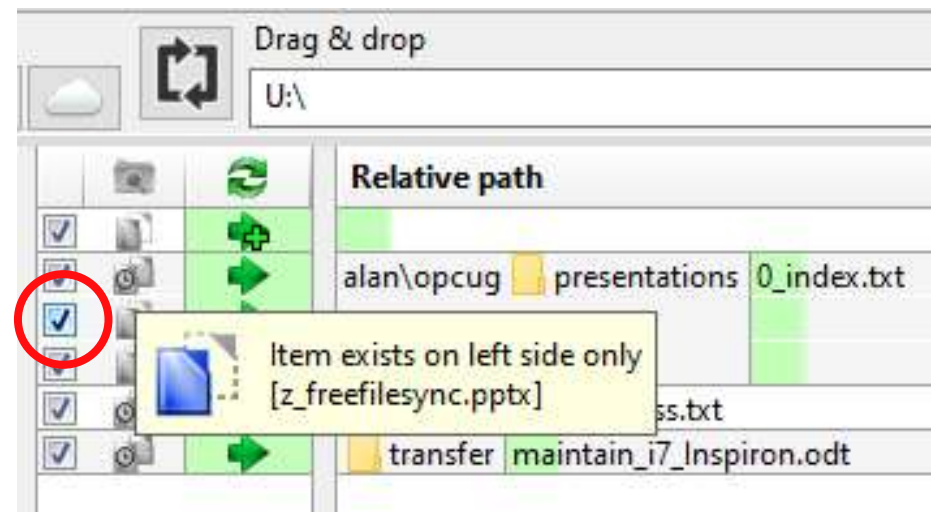




Z_freefilesync.pptx

Slides being developed for the current presentation!

Uncheck the checkboxes to deselect the files from synchronization



Drag & drop	
	D:\
Relative path	
1	temporary_screenshot.png
2	alan\opcug presentations 0_index.txt
3	fpc a_linux_progress.txt
4	transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt

Drag & drop	
 	U:\
Relative path	
 	
 	
 	
 	

Green right-arrow (no plus sign)

Files exist on D: and U:

File on D: is the most recent

Copy file on D: to backup

Overwrite file on backup

The screenshot displays the FreeFileSync interface with two panels: 'D:\' on the left and 'U:\' on the right. Both panels show a list of files under the 'Relative path' column. A red rectangular box highlights the file 'fpc a_linux_progress.txt' in both panels. In the 'D:\' panel, this file has a yellow lightning bolt icon. In the 'U:\' panel, it also has a yellow lightning bolt icon. A tooltip box with a lightning bolt icon and the text 'Both sides have changed since last synchronization. [a_linux_progress.txt]' is positioned over the file in the 'U:\' panel. Other files listed include 'temporary_screenshot.png', 'alan\opcug presentations 0_index.txt', and 'transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt'.

Relative path
temporary_screenshot.png
alan\opcug presentations 0_index.txt
fpc a_linux_progress.txt
transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt

Relative path
alan\opcug presentations 0_index.txt
fpc a_linux_progress.txt
transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt

Both sides have changed since last synchronization.
[a_linux_progress.txt]

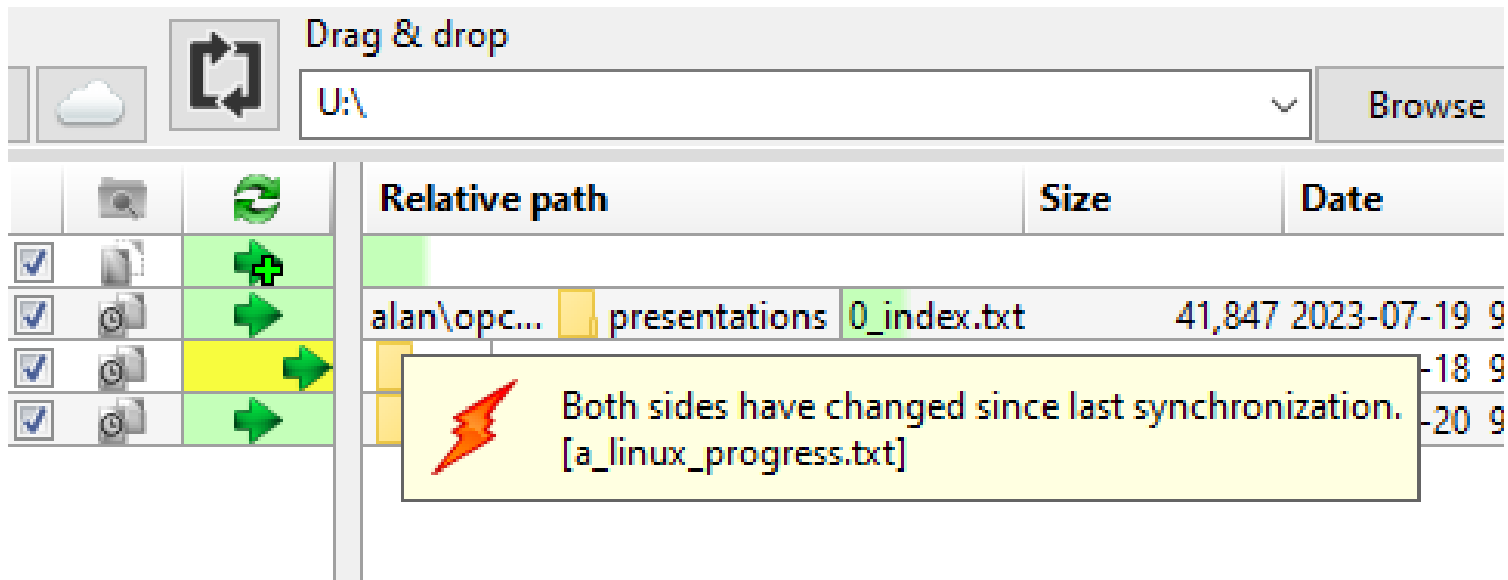
Lightning flash

File has been updated on **both D: and U:**
FreeFileSync needs confirmation

Relative path	Size	Date				Relative path	Size	Date
1 temporary_screenshot.png	42,132	2023-07-22 11:57:43 AM	☒					
2 ... presentations 0_index.t...	41,849	2023-07-22 11:47:15 AM	☒			alan\opc... presentations 0_index.txt	41,847	2023-07-19 9:42:46 PM
3 fpc a_linux_progress.txt	1,690	2023-07-22 11:46:47 AM	☒			fpc a_linux_progress.txt	1,681	2023-07-18 9:37:54 AM
4 transfer maintain_i7_Insp...	389,907	2023-07-22 11:50:12 AM	☒			transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt	389,127	2023-07-20 9:36:50 AM

	Relative path	Size	Date
1	temporary_screenshot.png	42,132	2023-07-22 11:57:43 AM
2	... presentations 0_index.t...	41,849	2023-07-22 11:47:15 AM
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4	transfer maintain_i7_Insp...	389,907	2023-07-22 11:50:12 AM

	Relative path	Size	Date
	alan\opc... presentations 0_index.txt	41,847	2023-07-19 9:42:46 PM
	fpc a_linux_progress.txt	1,681	2023-07-18 9:37:54 AM
	transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt	389,127	2023-07-20 9:36:50 AM



Hover the mouse over the lightning flash, scroll to the right to **Right-arrow**

Relative path

 D:\bats\OPCUG_website_reset.ffs_gui

File Actions Tools Help ★ FreeFileSync 12.4 is available! ★

 **Compare**
File time and size   

Drag & drop  D:\    Drag & drop U:\

	Relative path	Size	Date				Relative path
1	Ecuador_2010_239.jpg	1,172,594	2010-02-18 6:02:08 PM	☒			
2	alan\opcug presentations 2023-07-19-Q&A.pdf	3,114,392	2023-07-22 6:09:19 PM	☒			alan\opcug presentations
3	transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt	389,680	2023-07-22 6:07:43 PM	☒			transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt

D:\bats\OPCUG_website_reset.ffs_gui

File Actions Tools Help ★ FreeFileSync 12.4 is available! ★

Compare
File time and size

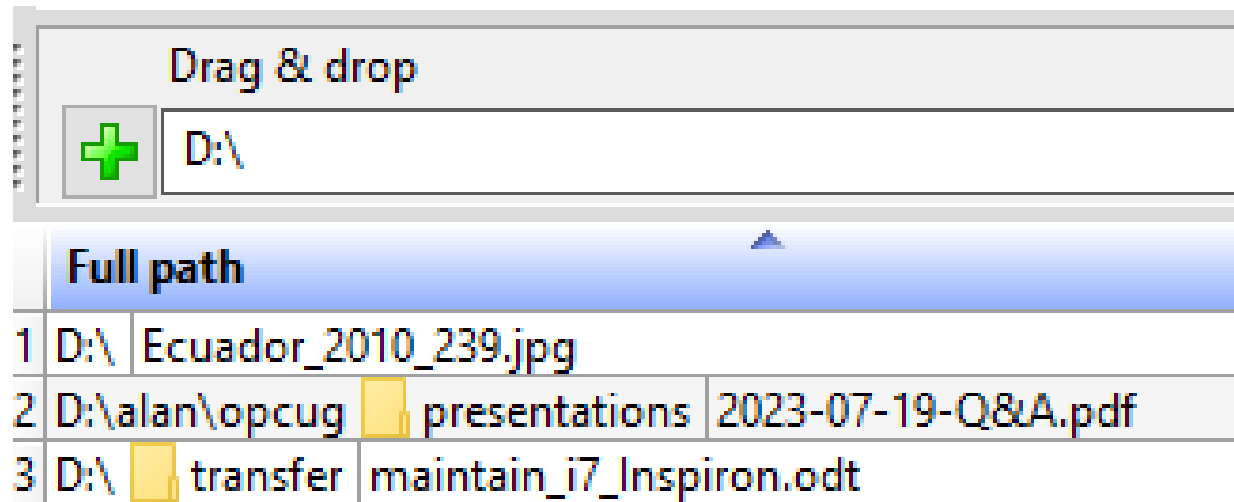
Drag & drop

+ D:\ Browse

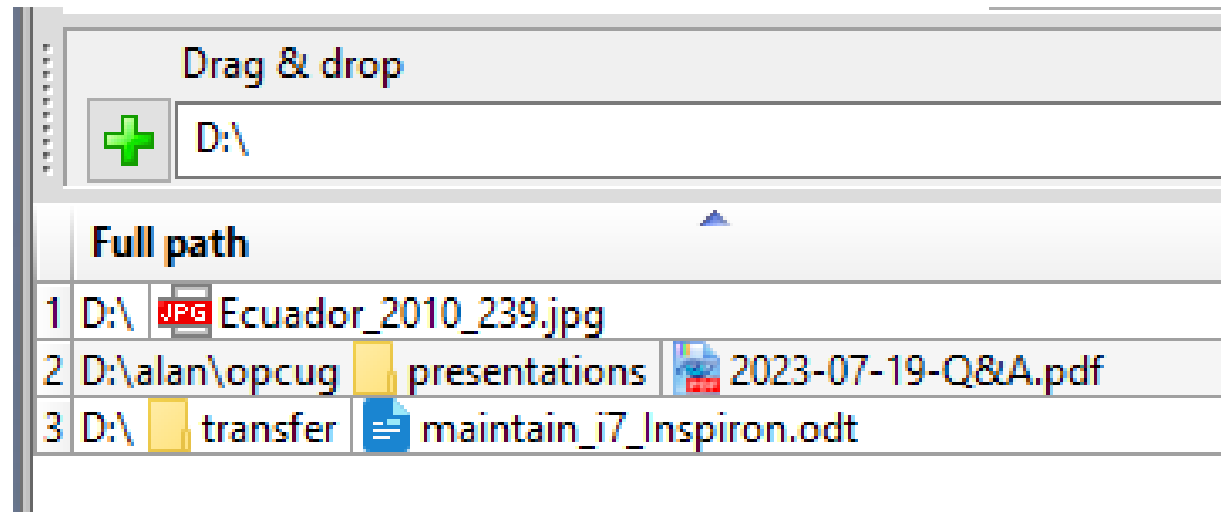
	Relative path	Size	Date	
1	Ecuador_2010_239.jpg		-18 6:02:08 PM	☒
2	alan\opcug presentations 2023-07-19-Q&A.pdf		-22 6:09:19 PM	☒
3	transfer maintain_i7_Inspiron.odt		-22 6:07:43 PM	☒

Right-click on titles to display context menu

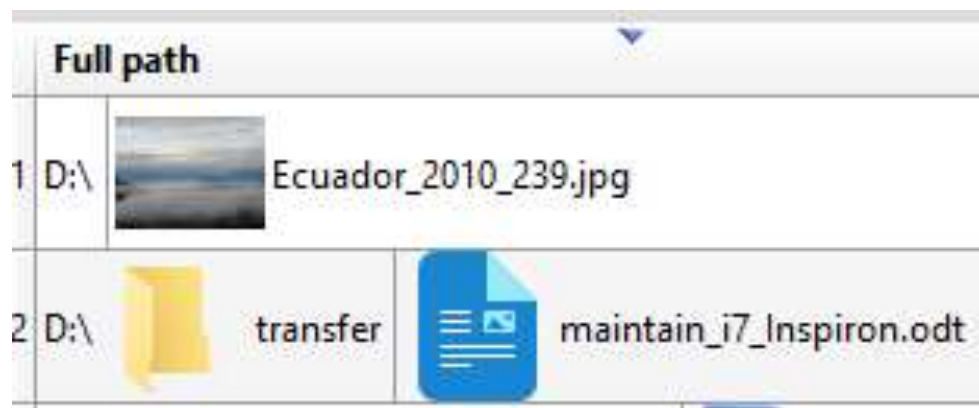
- ☒ Relative path
- ☐ Extension
- ☒ Size
- ☒ Date
- ☐ Item name
- ☒ Relative path
- ☐ Full path
- Show icons:
 - ☐ Small
 - ☐ Medium
 - ☐ Large
- ☒ Default
- Select time span...



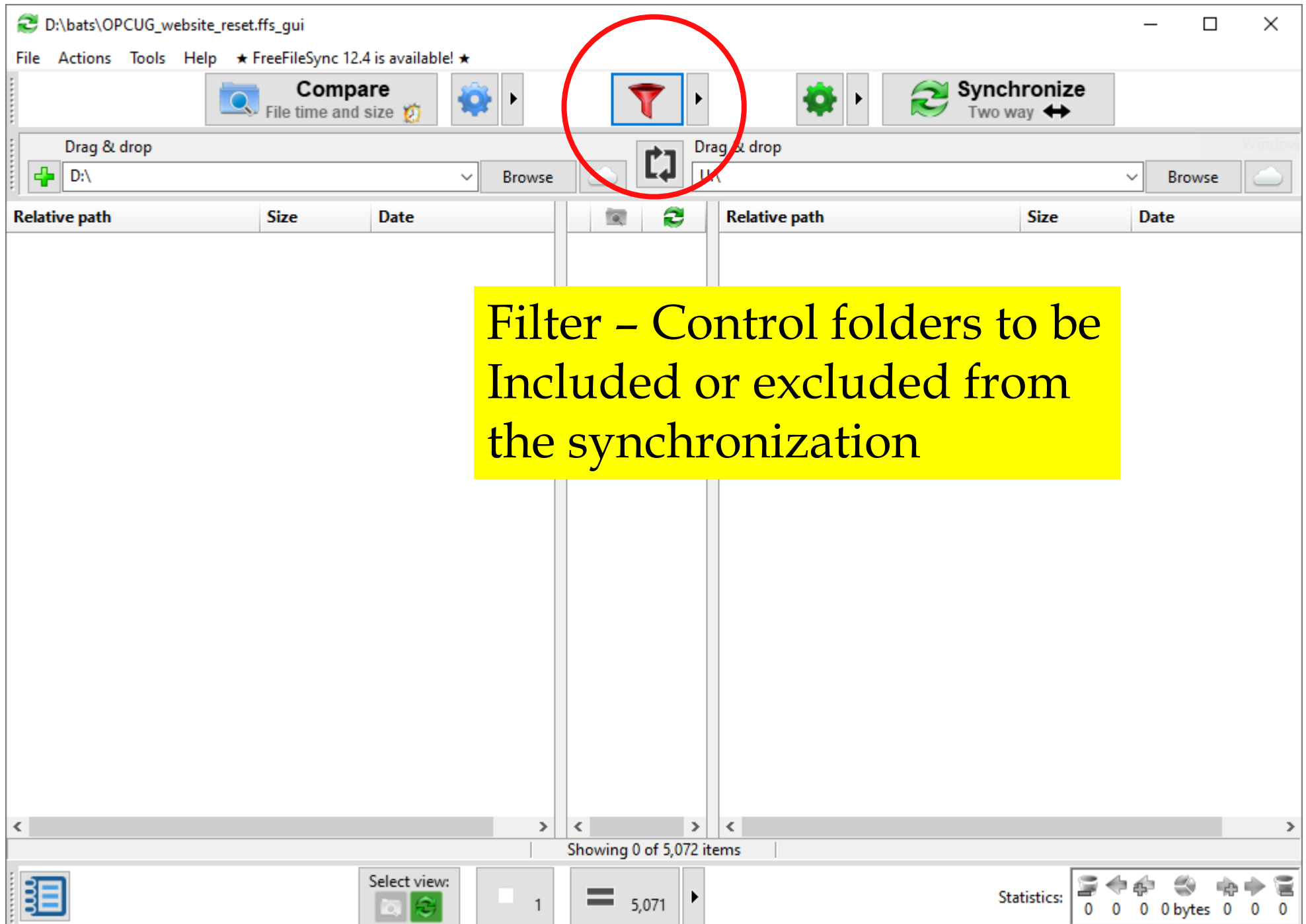
Full path



Show icons –
Small



Show icons –
Medium



Synchronization Settings

Comparison (F6) Filter (F7) Synchronization (F8)

Include: *

* => Include all except for

Exclude:

\System Volume Information\
\\$Recycle.Bin\
\RECYCLER\
\RECYCLED\
.Trash-1000
thunderbird*

e.g. thunderbird*
(thunderbird
thunderbird_local_folders)

File size:
Minimum: 0 (None)
Maximum: 0 (None)
Time span: (None) 0

Select filter rules to exclude certain files from synchronization. Enter file paths relative to their corresponding folder pair.

Default Clear

OK Cancel

D:\bats\OPCUG_website_reset.ffs_gui

File Actions Tools Help ★ FreeFileSync 12.4 is available! ★

Compare
File time and size

Synchronize
Two way

Drag & drop D:\ Browse

Drag & drop U:\ Browse

Relative path	Size	Date
1 alan\opcug presentations Q&A.pptx	3,906,994	2023-07-24 7:28:49 PM

Relative path	Size	Date
alan\opcug presentations Q&A.pptx	3,820,939	2023-07-24 4:44:20 PM

1 file (3.73 MB)

Showing 1 of 5,071 items

1 file (3.64 MB)

Select view: = 5,070 1

Statistics: 0 0 0 3.73 MB 0 1 0

REALLY

AND WE'RE DONE!

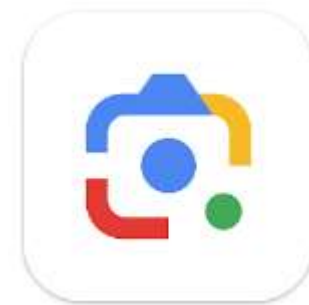
Stewart on



Android

Google Lens

- Is your Android feeling bloated?
- Need to shed an App or two?
- Here's a quick tip to free up a few MB and feel free & sprightly again
- Delete the Google Lens app



Stewart on



Android

Google Lens

BUT – don't lose the functionality!

- One of Google's more useful tools has been incorporated into Google search
- On the Google search page, beside the microphone icon, there should be a Lens icon
- Hit that and you have Google Lens without the standalone app!
- Take a few more photos with all the free space you now have!

Google



Share

Loonie Bits



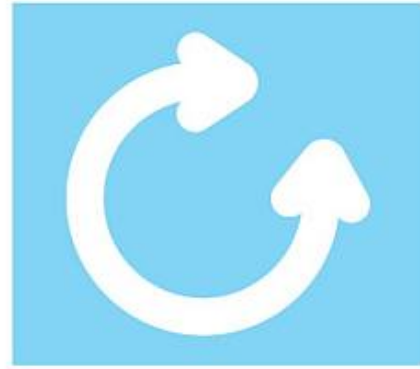
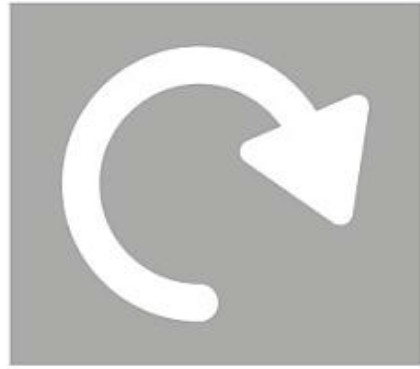
- Highlighting Canadian sites with information of interest to Canadian consumers
- Can you help fulfill our motto *Users helping users*?
 - do you know of Canadian sites with interesting info?
 - you could speak to the items or just submit the info for inclusion at a future Q&A

Stewart Bruce



Bicolline

- In the hills north-west of Shawinigan exists a small village straight out of Medieval fantasy
 - *But it is no fantasy!*
 - Famous internationally, Bicolline is a role-playing game brought to life with costume, food, drink, weapons, wenches and battles
 - Activity peaks in August-September so, even if one doesn't attend the events, there are all sorts of oddly-dressed folks popping into the stores in Shawi for supplies
 - A truly unique experience for the summer vacation!
- <https://bicolline.org/en/>



UPDATES



Video DownloadHelper and iTunes



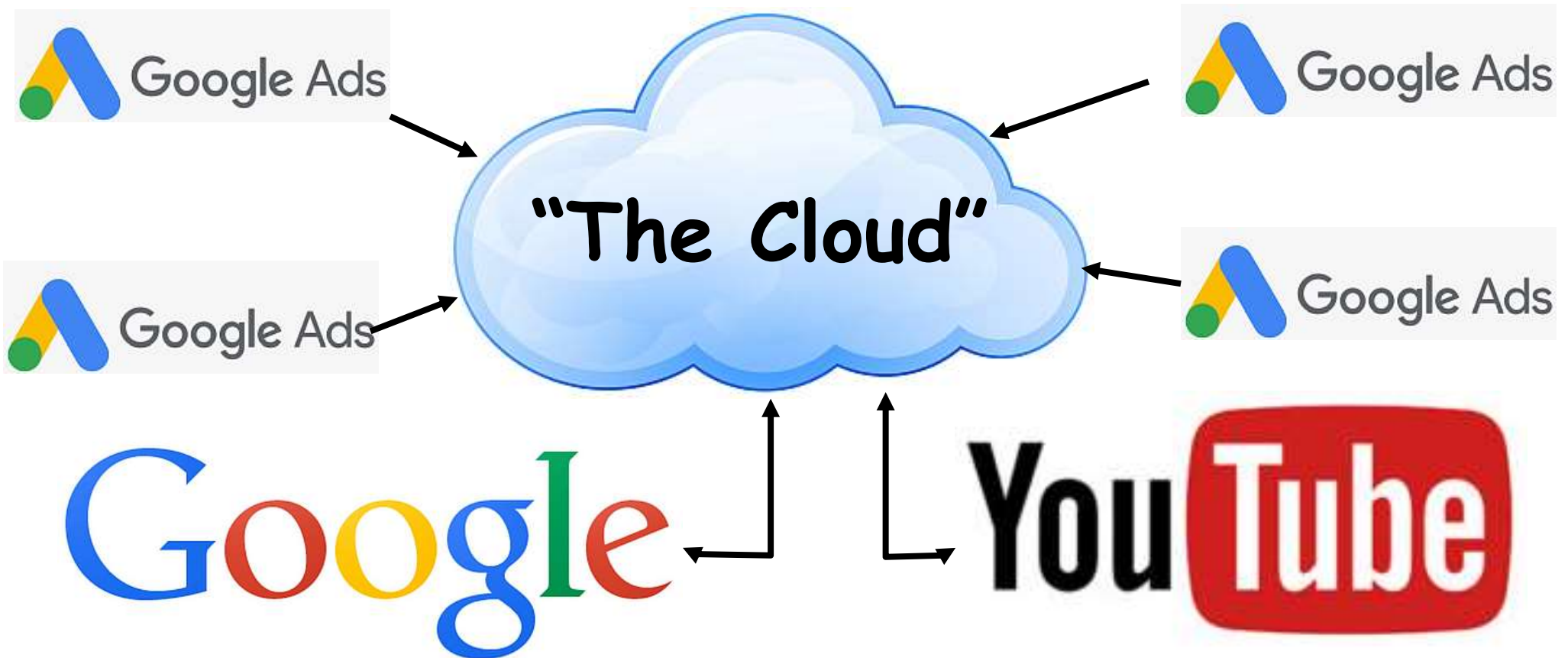
UPDATE - Video DownloadHelper

- We looked at the Video DownloadHelper (VDH) 'Browser Extension' and its 'Companion App' for the Firefox and Google Chrome web browsers back on May 4, 2022. It allowed the user to VERY EASILY download videos, or just the audio portions of videos, from sites like YouTube that stream videos through HTTP, HLS, DASH and other similar formats.
- We focused on the Firefox version because at the time Google (owner of YouTube) blocked VDH and other download apps from downloading YouTube videos when using Google Chrome (although they didn't mind you downloading videos from other company's sites through Chrome).



UPDATE - Video DownloadHelper

Google, the owner of YouTube, wants you to live your Google life online and in the cloud so that they can track and monetise whatever you do. Once you download something, they lose that ability and any control.



UPDATE - Video DownloadHelper

The best features of VDH are:

- It is very quick and very easy to use.
- It downloads the entire video cleanly, without the extraneous material at the beginning and end of the video that you can get using video screen capture tools.
- It filters out any of those really incredibly very annoying ads you often get in the middle of many YouTube videos.
- It can download several videos concurrently.



UPDATE - Video DownloadHelper

- A few months ago VDH stopped working for many users. It is not entirely clear whether this was due:
 - to a Windows update,
 - to some other problem, OR (the most likely culprit)
 - to Google now blocking VDH and other download tools even when using other browsers like Firefox.

The latest release of VDH (8.0.0.0) only partially fixes the problem. Version 8.0.0.1 is in beta release but it reportedly doesn't entirely fix the problem either.

- About the same time, the ability of the VLC Media Player to download YouTube videos also stopped working for many users.



UPDATE - Video DownloadHelper

- As much as SOME VDH YouTube downloads will now work, part of the problem seems to be related to the 'Subscribe' button.



- If you see this button, the VDH download is LESS likely to work. If you DO subscribe to that channel, that MIGHT allow the download to work.
- If there is no 'Subscribe' button, VDH is much more likely to work.

UPDATE - Video DownloadHelper

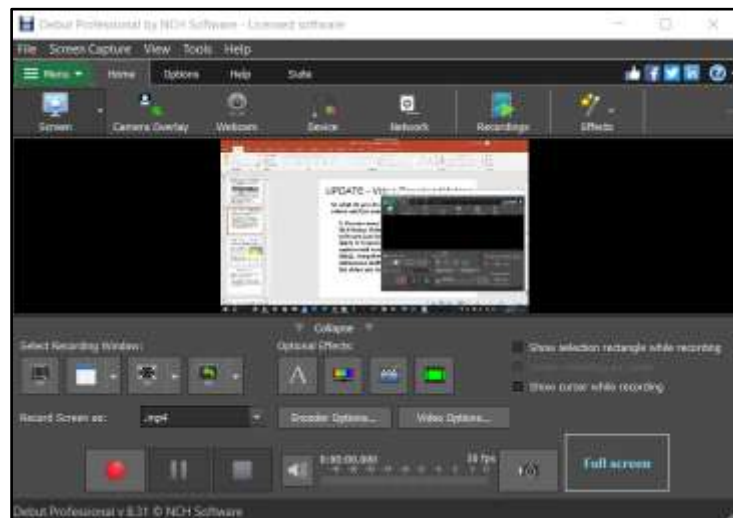
The bottom line, for the time being at least, is that the ability of VDH to download YouTube videos is not consistent. I hope this will be fixed at some point in the future.



UPDATE - Video DownloadHelper

So what do you do if you want to download blocked YouTube videos until (or if) VDH is completely fixed?:

1. You can use a video screen capture app like NCH Debut Video Capture and Screen Recorder software (we looked at this in the May 18, 2022 Q&A) or ScreenHunter Pro All-In-One Screen Capture and Screen Recording software (May 25 Q&A) to get the videos VDH won't get. Using these often results in a bit of extraneous material at the beginning and/or end of the video that you may want to edit out. They also don't filter out commercials in the middle of the video.



UPDATE - Video DownloadHelper

So what do you do if you want to download YouTube videos until (or even if) VDH is fixed?:

2. You can use a video download tool that still works with YouTube like WonderFox Soft's HD Video Converter Factory Pro or EaseUS MobiMover.

These apps are often multi-functional (e.g. convert formats, download and edit videos and audios, transfer files to/from phones, etc.) so are usually somewhat complicated to use.

These apps are usually 'free to download', but a fully featured non-limited version will cost \$\$\$ (often subscription based so that you have to pay monthly or annually to keep using it unless you pony up even more \$\$\$ for the 'lifetime' version).



UPDATE - iTunes

- **We looked at iTunes at the August 17 and 24, 2022 Q&A's. At the time, Apple was pushing you to download the Windows version from the Microsoft store.**
- **The Windows version from the MS Store updates automatically in the background, whereas the version you could still (at the time) download from the Apple site still had the nag screens when it was time for you to manually start the update process.**

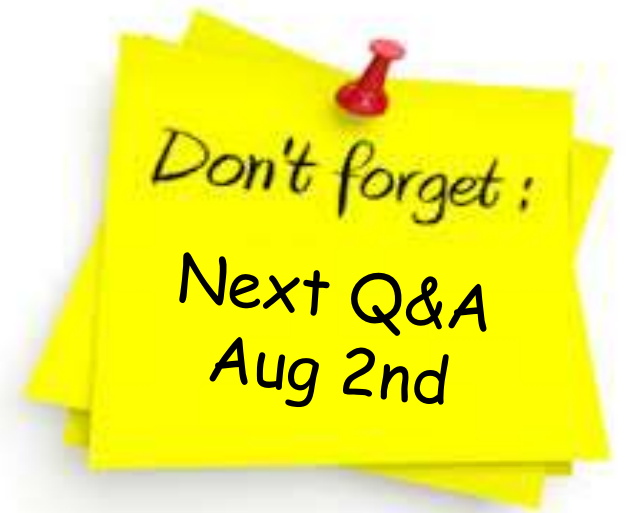


UPDATE - iTunes

- Since then, Apple has gone back to primarily offering the download of the Windows version of iTunes from Apple. The MS Store version with the automatic updates is still available if you go directly to the MS Store site.
- I could not verify if the Windows version direct from Apple now updates automatically or whether it is still a manual update with the nag screens, but if you manually update an older version of iTunes it does not update iTunes to an automatically updating version.
- iTunes is getting a bit outdated. If you have used iTunes for a while and you have a large music, movie and other media library in the iTunes cloud, so you may want to stay with iTunes, but there are better paid media download sites.
- Most music, movies and other media is available for free on the internet if you look hard enough (although some of this is illegal and infringes on copyrights). The advantage of using a paid source is that you get consistent high quality.



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